

Beinn a'Chumhainn (4B)

Report of hill survey carried out by Alan Dawson on 23 April 2012

1. Introduction

The purpose of this survey was to measure the height and drop of Beinn a'Chumhainn, to confirm its status as a Submarilyn (140-149m drop) and a New Munro (900m high with 100m drop). Beinn a'Chumhainn was classed as a Corbett until 1981. The summit is shown as 903m on some OS maps, 901m on others, with a col height of 758m, giving a drop of 143-145m. Heights were measured using a Leica Geosystems 1250 GPS receiver, with subsequent processing by John Barnard using OS Rinex data to obtain precise measurements. Conditions for the survey were mixed: generally clear skies, light wind and good visibility, but with occasional snow showers.

2. Summit survey

The summit of Beinn a'Chumhainn is about 5km east from Corrour Lodge, on the west side of Bealach Cumhann, with Ben Alder on the east side. There is a small cairn on a flattish summit area. The first survey point was at the edge of this cairn, using the antenna on a one-metre pole. The second survey point was on top of a small embedded rock about three metres west of the cairn, with the antenna balanced on top of this rock, supported by a few loose stones. Results:

Summit cairn: 30 minutes at NN 46267 71037, height 901.62m

Rock three metres from cairn: 30 minutes at NN 46265 71036, height 901.90m

As the cairn is quite small and the summit area flat, it is unlikely that higher ground exists beneath the cairn. The difference in height of 0.28m between the two survey points was slightly more than expected, but confirms that the highest point is a small rock near the cairn rather than at the cairn itself.

3. Col survey

The relevant col for Beinn a'Chumhainn is located between Meall a'Bhealaich and Sgor Choinnich, about 3km SW from the summit of Beinn a'Chumhainn. The col is broad and flat, consisting of pleasant dry firm ground covered in short grass. There is a large cairn on the col, marked on the map as Carn a'Bhealaich, but this is several metres SW of the lowest point. The 758m spot height shown on OS maps probably refers to the height of the col at this cairn. It was relatively easy to identify the survey area as being several metres from cairn, but it was not easy to determine the precise point for the survey within that area. However, the ground was so flat and firm within that area of a few square metres that it made little difference which precise point was chosen for the survey. Results:

Beinn a'Chumhainn col: 50 minutes at NN44795 68858, height 756.51m

4. Summary and conclusions

Hill:	Beinn a'Chumhainn, section 4B
Categories:	New Munro, Submarilyn, Hump, Sim
Summit:	901.9m at NN46265 71036
Col:	756.5m at NN44795 68858
Drop:	145.4m

The drop from Beinn a'Chumhainn is confirmed as being less than 150m, so it remains a Submarilyn. Its height has been revised from 903m to 901.9m.



Beinn a'Chumhainn from the north

Ben Alder from Beinn a'Chumhainn



The survey point at the col for Beinn a'Chumhainn, with Iain Brown sitting waiting at Carn a'Bhealaich and Sgor Choinnich behind

Chno Dearg from the summit of Beinn a'Chumhainn

