

Leum Uilleim and Leum Uilleim South Top (4A)

Report of hill surveys carried out by Alan Dawson on 27 April 2012

1. Introduction

The purpose of these surveys was to measure the height of Leum Uilleim, given as 909m on recent OS maps but 906m on older maps, and also to measure whether Leum Uilleim South Top has 30m drop; its height is given as 845m on some OS maps and 849m on others, giving a drop of 28m-32m. Heights were measured using a Leica Geosystems 1250 GPS receiver, with subsequent processing using OS Rinx data to obtain precise measurements. Conditions for the survey were very good, with generally clear blue skies and excellent visibility, though with a cold wind and occasional snow showers.

2. Leum Uilleim summit survey

The summit of Leum Uilleim is about 3km SW from Corrou Station, on the west side of the railway line across Rannoch Moor. The summit is marked by a very large cairn and shelter, which rises about 3m above a flattish summit area and provides excellent shelter from the wind. There is an area of small embedded rocks about 20 metres west of the cairn that appears to be the highest natural ground on the hill. The first survey point was the top of one of these small rocks, with the antenna balanced on the rock and supported by small stones. The second survey point was by a large embedded rock at the east side of the cairn, using the antenna on a one-metre pole. Results:

Rock 20 metres from cairn: 60 minutes at NN 33052 64139, height 906.41m

Summit cairn: 60 minutes at NN 33071 64141, height 906.25m

The results indicate that the highest natural summit is a small rock 20 metres west of the cairn. It is possible but unlikely that higher ground exists beneath the cairn, as a long time was spent inspecting the cairn and summit shelter, which consists of numerous large but loose rocks.

3. Leum Uilleim col

The col for Leum Uilleim is near the railway line at NN352668, where there is a 409m spot height on OS maps. This was not surveyed.

4. Leum Uilleim South Top summit survey

Leum Uilleim South Top is about 1km south of the main summit of Leum Uilleim. The summit was easy to identify as it consists of a pointed rock in a small narrow rocky ridge. The survey point was just next to this rock, with the antenna on a one-metre pole embedded in grass by the rock, with the pole marked by sticking plaster to identify the height of the rock above the base of the pole, later measured as 0.56m, so 0.56m was added to the height of the processed data for the south top summit. Results:

Summit rock: 30 minutes at NN 33220 63251, height 847.22m

The results show that the height is between the 845m and 849m shown on different OS maps.

5. Leum Uilleim South Top col survey

The col between Leum Uilleim summit and its south top is an undulating area of tussocky grass, rock and lochan. After careful study, two survey points 50 metres apart were identified as likely possible locations for the lowest point of the col. Results:

Leum Uilleim South Top col: 20 minutes at NN 33148 63461, height 814.67m

Leum Uilleim South Top col: 20 minutes at NN 33149 63516, height 815.24m

The survey times at each point were short, in order to allow much longer time for a survey of the more important main summit, which was carried out after the South Top survey.

6. Summary and conclusions

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| Hill: | Leum Uilleim, section 4A |
| Categories: | Corbett, Marilyn, New Munro, Hump, Sim |
| Summit: | 906.4m at NN 33052 64139 |
| Drop: | 497m |
| Hill: | Leum Uilleim South Top, section 4A |
| Categories: | Corbett Top, Sim |
| Summit: | 847.2m at NN 33220 63251 |
| Col: | 814.7m |
| Drop: | 32.5m |

The summit height of 906m for Leum Uilleim suggests that the 909m height shown on recent OS maps refers to the top of the cairn and not to the highest natural summit of the mountain. Leum Uilleim South Top remains as a Sim and a Corbett Top, with height revised from 849m to 847.2m, and drop of 32.5m.



Leum Uilleim (centre) and Leum Uilleim South Top (left) from Meall Na Lice above Loch Ossian

Survey point on the summit of Leum Uilleim South Top, looking south over Blackwater Reservoir toward Glen Etive and Glen Coe



Survey point on Leum Uilleim summit, 20 metres from the cairn

Survey point next to the cairn on Leum Uilleim, showing the top of the cairn to be about 2m above the top of the pole

