

Marg Na Craige (9B)

Report of survey carried out by Alan Dawson on 2 May 2012

1. Introduction

The purpose of this survey was to measure the height and drop of Marg Na Craige, a marginal SubMarilyn with 149m drop, based on a height of 834m and col 685m shown consistently on OS maps. 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 excellent: clear blue skies, light wind and very good visibility.

2. Summit survey

The summit of Marg Na Craige is about 3km north of the village of Laggan, on the edge of the Monadhliath plateau. There is a large well-made shelter on the summit, and a small cairn a few metres away that is on slightly lower ground. The summit survey point was on a large flat embedded rock at the east edge of the summit shelter. There is also a large embedded boulder a few metres away that is about 0.5m high but is lower down the slope to the north. Sightings in both directions indicated that the top of the large boulder was no higher than the rock by the summit shelter. It is possible that the top of the boulder could be a few mm higher, but the flat rock by the shelter was selected as the most likely point for the summit survey, and the antenna was placed on this rock, supported by a few loose stones. Result:

Marg Na Craige summit rock: 60 minutes at NN 62069 97329, height 833.54m

An hour at the summit passed quickly on a beautiful day, and it would have been enjoyable to spend two hours there, but there was more surveying to be done in a long day. A further brief survey was carried out by the summit cairn on top of Beinn a'Chrasgain, on the way to the col, as a precaution in order to confirm that it was lower than Marg na Craige. Result:

Beinn a'Chrasgain summit: 20 minutes at NN 60646 98121, height 826.58m

3. Col survey

The col between Marg Na Craige and Carn Dearg is only 3km away from the summit in a direct line NNW, but over 6km by a walking route over the tops of Blargie Craig, Beinn a'Chrasgain and Leacainn Chorrach. The col is located somewhere amongst a broad flat area of tussocks, small peat hags and tiny lochans. The 685m spot height shown on OS maps is at the edge of a small lochan, though this had dried out at the time of the survey. A long time was spent assessing the terrain, the flow of water either side of the col, and the walking route that would require the minimum descent before climbing up the north side of the col. The eventual survey point chosen was slightly to the east of the dry lochan bed and slightly higher than it, not right beside it, as it was judged possible to traverse the col without descending right down to the lochan bed. It proved impossible to identify with certainty the optimum point to carry out the survey, so it is estimated that the col could be up to 0.5m higher or lower than the survey point. In order to check the validity of the location, a second survey point was chosen a little to the north of the first one, on ground that appeared slightly higher, and a further brief survey was carried out there. Results for both col survey points are given here, although the processing of data for the second point was judged to be unreliable, probably owing to the brief survey time. Nevertheless, the resulting reading does confirm that the first col survey point was lower, and that the drop from Marg Na Craige is less than 150m.

Marg Na Craige col: 40 minutes at NN 60558 99995, height 684.48m

Marg Na Craige alternative col: 20 minutes at NH 60573 00073, height 685.25m

4. Summary and conclusions

Hill:	Marg Na Craige, section 9B
Categories:	Submarilyn, Sim, Corbett Top, Hump
Summit:	833.5m at NN 62069 97329
Col:	684.5m at NN 60558 99995
Drop:	149m

The drop from Marg Na Craige is estimated as 149m \pm 0.5m, i.e. between 148.5m and 149.5m. Marg Na Craige is therefore not a Marilyn but remains a Submarilyn.



Marg Na Craige from the public right of way to Glen Banchor

Survey point on Marg Na Craige summit, showing the large boulder down the slope to the north, with Geal Charn beyond



Marg Na Craige summit shelter and cairn



Survey point at Marg Na Craige summit





Marg Na Craige col area from the slopes of Leacainn Chorrach

Survey point at Marg Na Craige col, near the dry lochan bed



Marg Na Craige from Carn an Leth-choin, with Beinn Bheoil and the Ben Alder plateau on the horizon (right half of picture)