

Meall Reamhar and Meall Reamhar North Top (1C)

Report of surveys carried out by Alan Dawson on 23 May 2012

1. Introduction

The first purpose of this survey was to measure the height and drop of Meall Reamhar, a marginal Subhump with 99m drop, based on a height of 670m and col 571m shown on OS maps. The second purpose was to measure the height and drop of Meall Reamhar North Top, a Subsim with 28m drop, based on a summit height of 616m and col height estimated at 588m. Heights were measured using a Leica Geosystems 1250 GPS receiver and antenna on a one-metre pole, with subsequent processing by John Barnard using OS Rinex data to obtain precise measurements. Conditions for the survey were perfect: clear blue skies, light breeze, good visibility and no midges.

2. Meall Reamhar summit survey

The summit of Meall Reamhar is just west of Glen Ogle and about 2km NW of the village of Lochearnhead. There is a medium-sized cairn at the highest point. 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 west. Sightings in both directions indicated that the top of this boulder was no higher than the ground by the cairn. The summit survey point was at the edge of the cairn. There is no spot height shown on any OS maps, just a small 670m contour ring, so the summit could have been 671m or 672m, but this proved not to be the case. Result:

Meall Reamhar summit: 60 minutes at NN 56966 24726, height 670.53m ± 0.03m

An hour at the summit passed quickly on such a pleasant day. There is another summit about 200 metres to the north, with a drop of 10-15 metres, but this has no 670m contour ring and is undoubtedly lower.

3. Meall Reamhar col survey

The col between Meall Reamhar and Creag Mac Ranaich is about 2km NW from the summit of Meall Reamhar. The col is very narrow so it was fairly easy to determine a suitable survey point in the flat wet channel between peat hags on either side, very close to the 571m spot height shown on OS maps. Result:

Meall Reamhar col: 90 minutes at NN 55848 25814 height 571.27m ± 0.06m

4. Meall Reamhar North Top summit survey

This summit had been listed as 'Creag Mac Ranaich point 616m' with a drop of c28m. However, its name has been changed to Meall Reamhar North Top as the col separating it from Creag Mac Ranaich is lower than the col between it and Meall Reamhar, also the summit position has moved and is no longer 616m. The hill has an obvious small heathery summit featuring a small flat boulder and looks noticeably higher than the old summit to the west. Result:

Meall Reamhar North Top summit: 40 minutes at NN 56187 25714, height 619.16m ± 0.03m

Creag Mac Ranaich point 616m: 55 minutes at NN 56058 25678, height 617.79m ± 0.05m

5. Meall Reamhar North Top col survey

The col between Meall Reamhar North Top and Meall Reamhar is narrow and well-defined, so it was relatively easy to determine a suitable survey point in a small area of peat and flat grass, between the peat hags and tussocks on either side. There is no spot height shown on OS maps, but the col had been estimated at 588m from the position of contour lines. Result:

Meall Reamhar North Top col: 40 minutes at NN 56317 25734, height 587.39m ± 0.1m

6. Summary and conclusions

Hill:	Meall Reamhar, section 1C
Categories:	Sim, Graham Top, Subhump
Summit:	670.5m at NN 56966 24726
Col:	571.3m at NN 55848 25814
Drop:	99.2m
Hill:	Meall Reamhar North Top, section 1C
Categories:	Sim, Graham Top
Summit:	619.2m at NN 56187 25714
Col:	587.4m at NN 56317 25734
Drop:	31.8m

The drop from Meall Reamhar North Top is 31.8m, therefore it is a new Sim and Graham Top. There was no time left to carry out a survey of Meall Sgallachd, another Sim on the way to Creag Mac Ranaich with a drop of just 30m. Altimeter readings on the way up and down indicated that the drop is only 28-29m but this is not conclusive, so it remains a Sim unless it can be proven not to qualify.



Meall Reamhar summit (left)

Survey point on Meall Reamhar summit,
with Meall Buidhe and Ben Lawers beyond



Survey point on Meall Reamhar North Top, with the
old summit and Creag Mac Ranaich beyond

Survey point at Meall Reamhar col

