

An elegant peak with an airy high level ridge

START & FINISH: Inverlochlarig car park

DISTANCE: 10.5km; 6.5 miles

TIME: 3hrs 45mins

MAP: OS 51, 57; Harvey LLTOA

TERRAIN: Paths; muddy and rough in places

GRADE: Strenuous



Stob Binnein and Ben More from Stob Coire an Lochain

**S**tob Binnein is one of the finest peaks in the Southern Highlands, as well as one of the highest. The elegant and sophisticated spouse of big, brusque **Ben More [60]** to the north. As befits such peaks, neither summit is reached without significant expenditure of effort and this is particularly so when Stob Binnein is climbed from Inverlochlarig. The ascent from the glen is exhaustingly steep, but the reward is a fabulous high level ridge with panoramic views to Ben Nevis and tantalising glimpses of Ben More.

From the A84 follow the minor road past Balquhiddier, Loch Voil and Loch Doine to the car park near Inverlochlarig, the last home of Rob Roy MacGregor. The path starts at the stile opposite, sign-posted Am Binnean (an older name for Stob Binnein) and Stob Coire an Lochain.

The origins of the Gaelic Stob Binnein appear clear. Stob meaning prominent or pointed and binnein meaning peak. However, as Peter Drummond points out in *Scottish Hill Names*, innean is Gaelic for anvil and Stob Binnein's outline and flattened top do have a striking resemblance to an anvil.

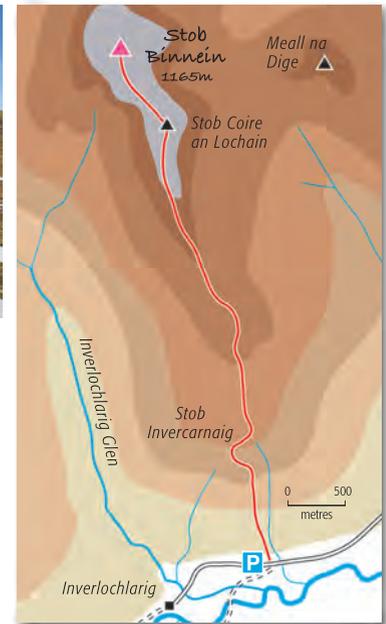
Zigzag up the hillside with increasingly good views of the surrounding lochs and peaks. The going is hard work and the path eroded in places, making this by far the toughest section of the walk. The route is obvious however, and a steady pace will eventually gain a fence and a stile below rocky Stob Invercarnraig, where the route levels out. A rightwards traverse leads to a further short section of steep ascent, from where a more gently inclined shoulder leads to the start of the better defined south ridge of



Stob Coire an Lochain. This gives delightful airy walking with only a slight incline to gain its top and views of Ben More beyond. From here a short descent round the top of Stob Binnein's south east corrie gains steeper grass then rocky slopes leading to the summit cairn.

Ben More looks so close, but the round trip there and back will take a minimum of 2 hours and the descent of Stob Binnein and ascent of Ben More, followed by the descent of Ben More and re-ascent of Stob Binnein can make a gruelling end to an otherwise enjoyable day.

The route of ascent makes for the best



return route, with the steep descent to Inverlochlarig putting as much strain on the knees, as the ascent put on the heart and lungs.



The south ridge of Stob Coire an Lochain