



DECEMBER 2022

# HEATHERY HEIGHTS MONTHLY

*Articles, walks and news*



**NEXT ISSUE**  
Ganavan & Dunstaffnage

## **BEINN MHIC MHONAI DH**

*Mountain of the Son of the Moor...*

Argyll has some cracking Munros and Corbetts amongst some of the best scenery in the UK. The rich tapestry of colours throughout the year are softened with lush vegetation – an unkempt array of heather, mosses, lichens, ferns, grasses, forestry and woodlands - kept green most summers by typical west coast weather.

Even many of the higher hills have plenty of life clinging to them; hill goers are well aware that this often means a little bog trotting will be the order of the day. Beinn Mhic Mhonaidh's summit is grassy moorland with only a smattering of exposed rocks and scree, but this belies its much rockier and rugged western aspect.



Ben Lui looms between snow showers



Eas Urchaidh - waterfalls and gorge, Glen Orchy

The ascent does not seem too exciting, but its placement makes it well worth the effort. Sandwiched between Glen Strae and Glen Orchy the open vista from its summit is quite superb. This is a hill to save for a dry, clear day. And it is a good one for those happy to venture into the hills in winter - a crisp white coating will mean less bog!



### **The walk**

1. Leaving the Eas Urchaidh (Orchy Falls) carpark cross the bridge west over the magnificent gorge. Continue up the newly surfaced track for 0.5 km. Ignore the new road veering right and follow the old forestry track veering left, signposted Mountain Access.

2. The forestry track now undulates north and then west for a further 1.5km on the south side of the Allt Broighleachan, before reaching a small junction with your route heading right over the bridge towards the Mountain Access (ahead leads to the Caledonian Forest reserve).

3. Over the bridge a further signpost indicates you go left to continue to the Mountain Access (right goes to the Bridge of Orchy) The grassier track now wends its way west for nearly 3km, crossing the occasional ford (not always passable in spate) with glimpses of the higher hills and Caledonian Pine Forest to your left. Eventually you reach the forest's edge where you can exit through a gate onto the open hillside.

4. Turn right (north) and cross the Allt Chailleach. On the other side a faint path wends its way northwards up the hill's steepening slopes. The ground can be quite boggy but is pleasant enough walking. If the path vanishes just head north, keeping the steeper ground off to your left, until you near an obvious stream which you can keep to your left until quite near the ridgeline itself.

5. Cross either the head of the stream or just before to reach the undulating ridge above and veer west to the summit. It is worth meandering around to the northeast and southwest of the ridge just for the views. On a still sunny day you could sit up here for hours (midge pending!).

6. Return the same way you came, taking care on the quite steep descent.

You can also tackle the hill on a slightly longer 18km route from Glen Strae from the top corner of the B8077, or, if you are able to make a linear day of it, you could go from Glen to Glen.

### **Safety in the Outdoors**

*Please exercise responsibly and use appropriate clothing and equipment for your chosen outdoor activity. Inform a contact about your route/whereabouts and don't forget your phone, snacks, drink, medication and first aid supplies. Check the forecast and mountain weather conditions. Please keep your dog under close control, especially around livestock and wildlife, and be aware some open areas of moorland may have snares in use. Please follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, bylaws and laws that protect areas including National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSIs).*

[www.heatheryheights.co.uk](http://www.heatheryheights.co.uk)



Panorama from the summit plateau towards Ben Lui

## Walk Information

**Route: Beinn Mhic Mhonaidh (Corbett)**

**Distance: 14km (8.75 miles)**

**Ascent: 796m**

**Time: 5 – 5 ½ hrs walking**

**Terrain: Forestry tracks, fords, faint path or pathless, with steep, uneven, boggy sections.**

**Map/s: OS Landranger 50 (1:50 000) OS Explorer 377 (1:25 000)**

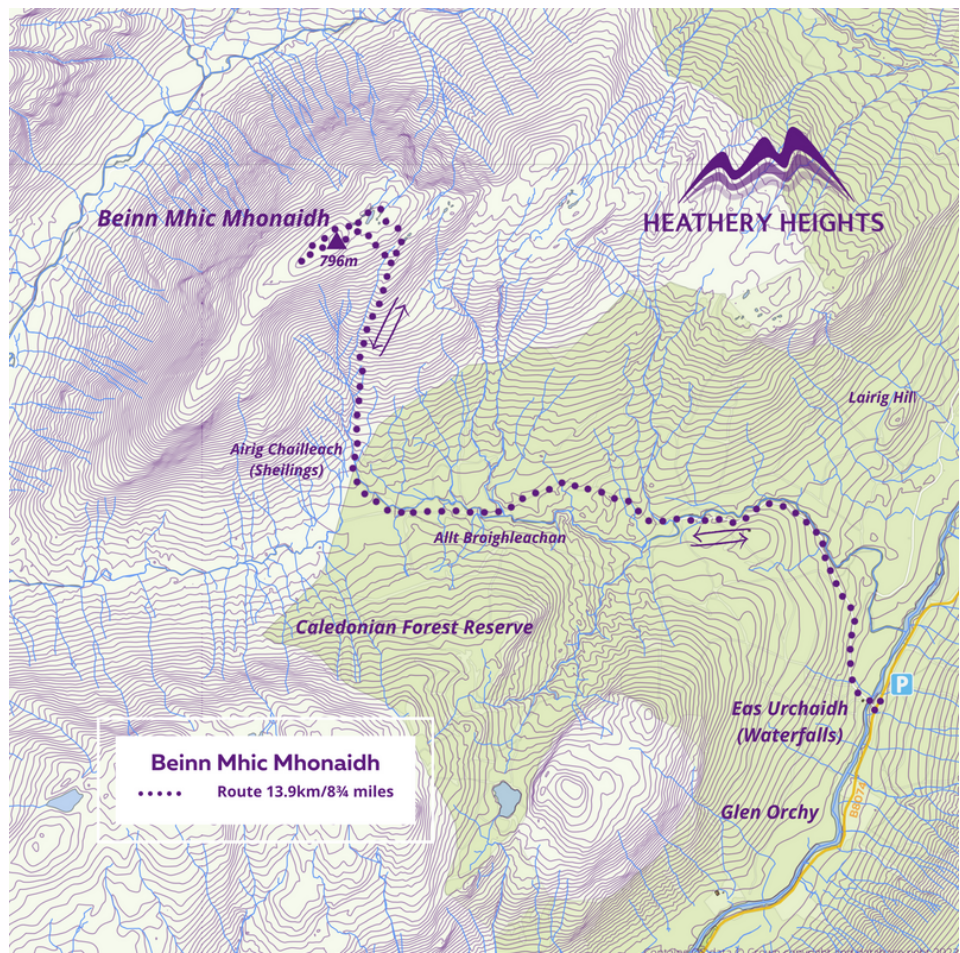
**Start/Finish/Parking: Eas Urchaidh car park**

**Grid reference: NN243320**

**Public Transport: NA**

**Toilets: No**

[OS Map Link](#)



*The described route and accompanying information are there to be used as a guide and do not replace the use of map and compass and the skills required to use them. If walking in winter conditions ensure you have the additional equipment and skills needed for a long day on the hill with potential whiteout and/or severe freezing conditions, avalanche risk & minimal daylight hours.*

*Whilst every effort is made to ensure the route is accurate at the time of going to print please be aware that track and path closures can happen at any time. All walks are undertaken at your own risk. Further information on routes and updates from Forestry & Land Scotland can be found [here](#)*