

Raeburn Hut 5-7 December 2025

People Attending: Bert Stevenson, Karen Stevenson, Oli Ludlow, Val Ludlow, Barbara Darcy, Anne Lyall

The last meet of the year took place at the SMC Raeburn Hut, Dalwhinnie. 5-7 December 2025.

On Saturday, Bert and Karen drove to the Falls of Pattack car park, and from there crossed the A86 to enter Black Wood. The north easterly ascent through the mostly coniferous and, sadly, non-native forest was steady, reaching a top of 565 metres before a steady descent and short climb to our destination- the significant and magnificent remains of Dun da Lamh Fort. The fort's strategic outlook was incredible, and a break was enjoyed before completing the loop by descending south west towards the valley floor and our starting point.

Val, Oli and Barbara drove to the Allt Iarig Bridge by Newtonmore. The path by the bridge was closed due to serious erosion. The alternative route followed the Wildcat Trail and the Curlew Trail (towards Kingussie). Various paths followed to non-existing bridges, so quite a few crossings over wobbly stones were undertaken. A Burnt Mound and a Hut Circle on OS maps were walked around but never seen! On the way down to the other side of the Allt Iarig Bridge, preparations for a shoot were encountered. The guns were shooting partridge and pheasant. The partridge that avoided the shots was cheered.

Anne visited relatives in Roybridge.

A convivial evening was enjoyed with a communal meal of chilli con carne and vegetarian chilli, followed by a lemon cheesecake.

On Sunday, all six enjoyed a communal walk undertaken from the hut. A short walk northwards along the A889 before taking the path west to Loch Glas-Choire. From there we headed to the lower slopes of Creag na Doire Dubhe before ascending to its summit of 574 metres. A Marilyn for everyone! A short walk along the lower easterly slopes of the ridge before dropping to the valley floor and returning to the hut.

A fine weekend in a very comfortable hut, with no rain on the walks despite an inclement forecast. The hut was shared with a few SMC members on the Friday night.