

Mountain name(s) and Section :	Geal-Charn (Loch Pattack)		4
OS Map, Grid reference & height :	OS Sheet 42	NN470746	1132 m
Date of ascent :	13 April 2010		
Brief note of route followed : Dalwhinnie to Culra Lodge by bike then WNW bearing directly to summit of Carn Dearg then to Geal-Charn via tops Diollard a Chairn and Sgor Iutharn. (This was part of a traverse of Carn Dearg, Geal-Charn, Aonach Beag and Beinn Eibhinn and their tops and a long walk back over Bealach Dubh to Culra Lodge and bike back to Dalwhinnie)			
Brief note of prevailing weather : Clear, cold, little wind with occasional sunshine. Snow underfoot in parts on the top.			

MQI	Notes	Level
1 Access	Parked at the railway crossing at Dalwhinnie. Notice says residents only but no restrictions on the day. Plenty of parking in Dalwhinnie. Railway crossing does state authorised use only but nothing to prevent its use. Met three vehicles on un-metalled road to Ben Alder Lodge who all gave a friendly wave. Not far from Dalwhinnie there is a Lodge with a substantial gate which looks like it could be locked and prevent progress during presumably the stalking season. Rail station provides public transport. Just past Ben Alder Lodge there is a gate with a notice "no cars beyond this point". Estate Road excellent for bike. Paths of good quality and bridges in good order. Information up to date.	3
2 Fauna	Glens / Lower Slopes : Only fauna seen on cycle to Culra Lodge were plenty of Red Deer and three ponies. Occasional bird at side of Loch Ericht. Mode of transport and estate road route followed precluded chance of seeing much in the way of Fauna. No agricultural livestock. Alpine Zone : Nothing seen on Geal-Charn. Early morning, snow lying, temperature cold. On return saw two grouse and frogs and insects in ponds. Many Red Deer. Fox scats.	2
3 Flora	Glens / Lower Slopes : Estate road to Ben Alder Lodge surrounded by a variety of trees with a lot of non-native pine. Beyond Ben Alder Lodge landscape has a very moorland feel but forestation to the north boundary. Evidence of new planting. Too early in season to see flowering plants. One joint Estate/SNH sign seen directing walkers to avoid an area where dwarf birch was growing. Alpine Zone : Mainly grass, mosses, heather. Terrain quite stony. Too early in season to see flowering plants. No evidence of regeneration.	2
4 Drainage	Natural Drainage patterns complete. Erosions due to natural causes.	4
5 Past Human Influence	Some evidence eg Culra Lodge (now a bothy) of previous human influences. Some evidence of indigenous tree felling from old roots embedded in peaty ground. No evidence of old fences or walls seen on route taken.	3
6 Recent Human Influence	No modern structures on the mountain. No evidence of major habitat changes. No evidence of sheep/cattle. No human influences above 1500 feet. Plenty of evidence of new building of lodges (albeit to a very high external standard) on estate road to Ben Alder Lodge.	3
7 Degree of wildness	Good feeling of remoteness. Culra Lodge is 10 miles from Dalwhinnie. Mountain presented no great challenge but the snow traverse across Diollaid a Chairn to Sgor Iutharn and the two frozen lochans below enhanced the walk. Flora and fauna didn't add anything to the experience.	3
8 Aesthetic / physical response	The quality of experience was good . (Note: this is in contrast to the "whole day" experience which comprised a long approach followed by 4 Munros and 4 tops, deserving of a rating of 4)	3
Total MQI Score		★★★
		23

Survey completed by :

☼ denotes plant species observed in flower