

Mountain name(s) and Section :	Lochnagar – Cac Carn Beag	7
Grid reference(s) & height(s) in metres :	N0243861	1155m
Date of ascent :	13th July 2006	
Brief note of route followed : Glen Muick car park; Glen Gelder track; footpath to col below Meikle Pap; followed corrie rim to summit; SSW to bealach @ 240852; contour E to meet path to Glas-allt-Shiel; then back to carpark via Loch Muick tracks.		
Brief note of prevailing weather : Very good, westerly wind 15-20mph in a.m. decreased considerably p.m. – dry, some patchy cloud & spells of bright sunshine, good visibility – cool at times above 2500ft but pleasantly warm by mid-afternoon		

MQI	Notes	Level
1.	Accessibility : access to route good; no evidence of restrictions; much path building/renovation in progress on ascent & descent routes; used Harveys map – very good; car park in Glen Muick £2 per day.	4
2.	Fauna : rather disappointing though for 90% of day on paths – mountain hare, many deer, a few grouse, several wheatear – no raptors or crow family observed, or other high-level birds such as ptarmigan. Reasonable variety of inverts – beetles, spiders, ants, millipedes, caterpillars, slugs. No agricultural livestock seen.	3
3.	Flora : reasonable variety overall esp. below 1500; above 1500 meagre range of flowers – Alpine Lady’s Mantle, Spotted Orchid, Bog Asphodel near plateau springs. Overall a good range of lichens, mosses/clubmosses, liverworts, ferns. Very little regeneration of trees until well down Glas-allt Shiel path.	3
4.	Drainage pattern : natural pattern essentially complete from plateau springs-burns-corrie lochans-streams-waterfalls: good feature of Lochnagar area. Evidence of erosion mainly due to severe weather on cliffs/gullies of N-facing corrie.	4
5.	Past human influence : part of Balmoral estate with 19thC pine plantations, shooting lodges, keepers cottages etc. old estate routes/RoWs; habitat change mainly for maintenance of grouse moor/heath with well-managed muirburn. Overall visual impact of tracks/roads, buildings etc is considerable.	2
6.	Recent human influence : above 1500’ work on paths is very evident but indications are that regeneration of vegetation is being assisted. In areas muirburn is well-managed but regeneration of trees/shrubs negligible when grazing by deer also taken into account. Adjacent to Loch Muick, on N side of estate road from Glas-allt Shiel, recent controlled burning has been done “to assist the regeneration of broad-leaved trees” – it remains to be seen if this will be successful. Now within Cairngorms National Park	3
7.	Degree of wildness experienced : a very accessible mountain & very popular – several parties seen included youngsters enjoying the weather & montane experience. Tourist route not challenging terrain but following the corrie ridge does add a worthwhile feel of wildness! At times aural pollution due to military aircraft training over the area – also machinery for path-making.	2
8.	Degree of aesthetic / physical response : enjoyed a good ascent with my son – his first time on Lochnagar – excellent walking weather made up for some of my pretty rough sorties in the past. Plenty of good views/geological features & resultant photography etc.	3
	***	24
Total MQI Score		

Survey completed by :

☼ denotes plant species observed in flower