

The following photos are selected to represent various points on my Fetteresso route. Apologies for the standard of the photography, most of the photos were taken in December and January when light tends to be poor, they were taken using a phone, which I found out at one point had been accidentally set on a low resolution setting and I'm no expert photographer.

Area around Goyle Hill



The electrified deer fence going up to Goyle Hill.



Looking back to the West while going up Goyle Hill. It isn't steep, just difficult terrain. Route finding is simple, that deer fence is unmissable.



View from the Summit of Goyle Hill looking back towards Clachnaben. The peatbog trudging is over.



Goyle hill summit, again looking West



The track down from Goyle hill is very pleasant, a quiet, well surfaced track.



Coming down from Goyle Hill you start getting views of your destination, Stonehaven is on the horizon.



This is the junction near where the route from Goyle Hill and the route from Slack Den meet. It is important to keep left here, the right-hand option seems intuitive but goes to a dead end.

Cairn O'Mount / Clatterin' Brig/Slack Den/Drumtochty option

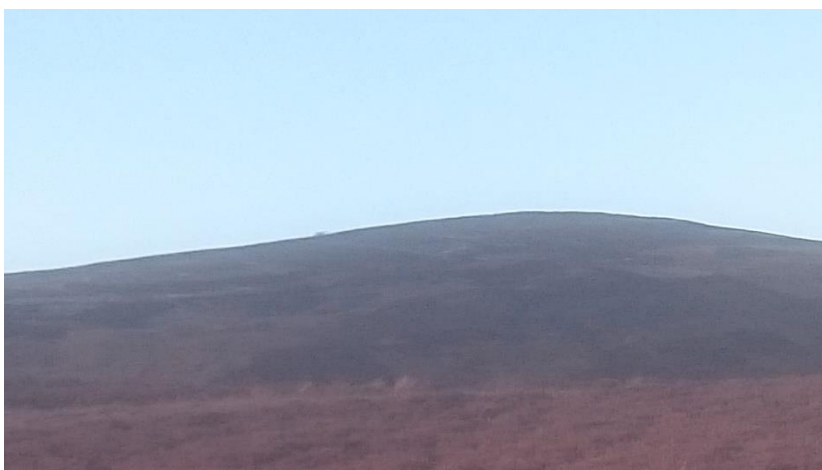
Coming across from the layby near the Cairn o'Mount monument brings you to that electrified deer fence again.



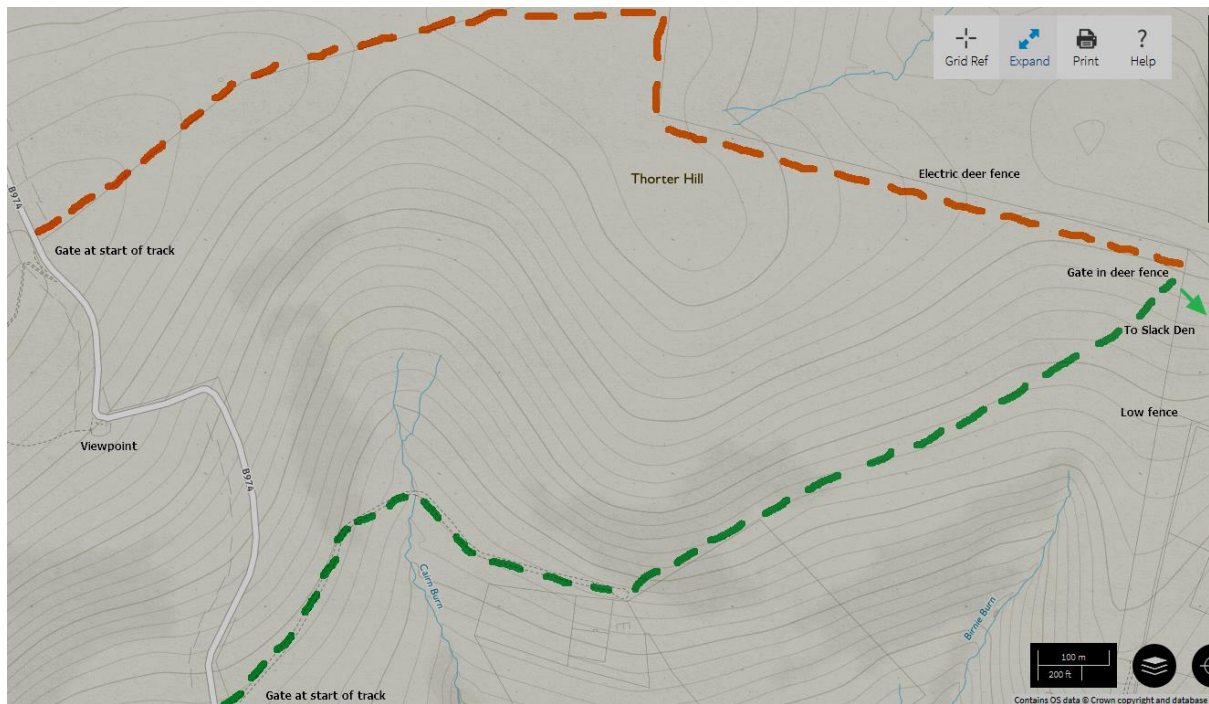
This is the same electric fence come across on the Goyle Hill route. That route follows the line of trees above the fence post in the foreground and climbs up to the summit which is the pimple on the skyline on the right hand side of the photo. To get to Slack Den you need to turn right at this fence and follow it until you get to this gate.



The gate can also be reached by using the landrover track leaving the Co'M road to the south of the viewpoint going round the south side of Thorter Hill.



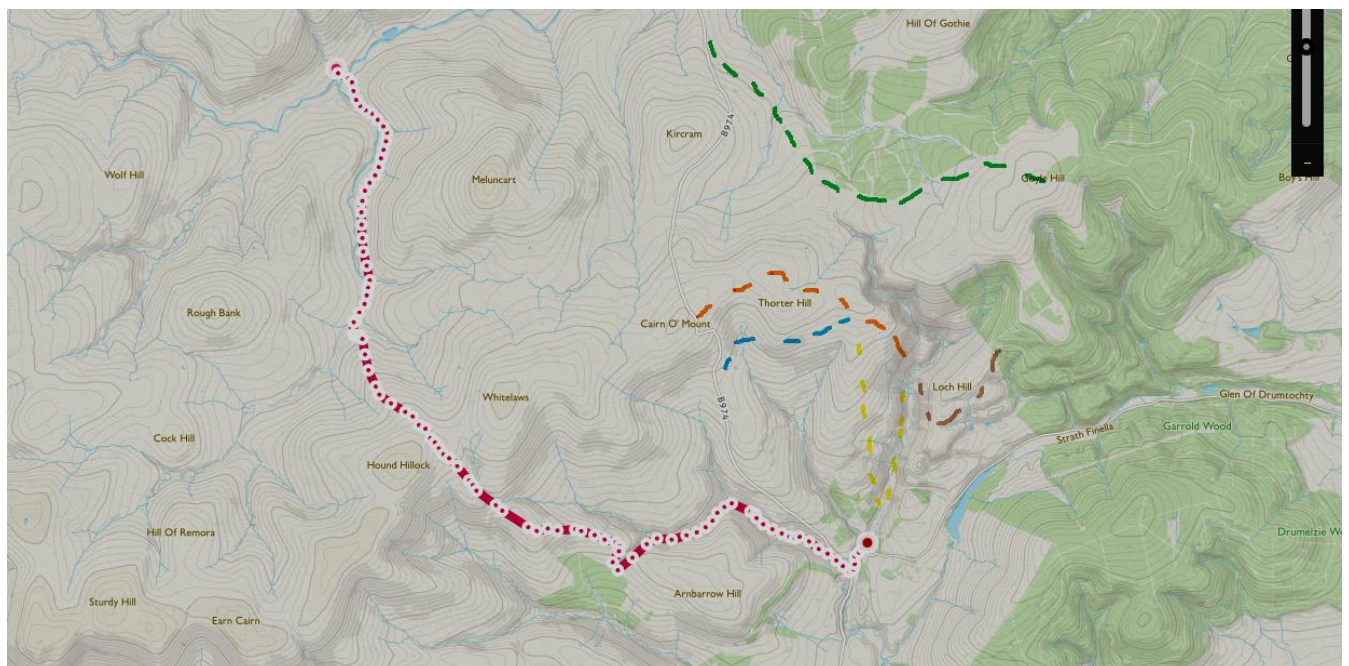
Thorter Hill



Coming up from the southern (green) route there is actually a handy stile over the low fence near a crow trap which saves a couple of hundred metres climb.

Once over the low fence either using the gate or the stile you can either descend the steep sides of Slack Den or take a longer less steep route following a landrover track which follows the shoulder of Birnie Hill. You can then descend using a quad bike track once you reach the trees (an experiment in mixing sheep rearing with forestry) or continue to the bottom of the landrover track where you meet the route coming from Clatterin' Brig.

Personally, I would use this route to get from Glen Dye, using the route up water of Charr from Charr Bothy. It is a very pleasant area with good camping possibilities and of course a café at Clatterin' Brig.



The different routes into the forest Red dot = Water of Charr Route, Green= Goyle Hill Route. Red & Blue= Cairn O'Mount options, Yellow = gentle descent from Thorter Hill. Brown= route into forest from Slack Den



Slack Den provides a great area for camping, the pony track that climbs up out of the valley onto Loch Hill and access to the forest rises diagonally on the far side. The burn can dry up in summer but is fed by a spring downstream near the metal gate which gives reliable flow all year round.



Looking back down into slack den from the pony track across to the steep descent option from Thorter Hill. NB the large area of flat grassy terraces near Slack Burn. A battalion could camp down there.



Gate in the deer fence on Loch Hill looking towards the entrance to the forest. This isn't the best gate to use, it is preferable to follow the fence further to the north for a short distance when you come to another gate.



This is the best gate to use looking back down towards the camping area in Slack Den



Looking back across Slack Den towards Thorter Hill. The gate used to get from Thorter Hill and Cairn O' Mount down to the Den is on the left hand skyline. The Electric deer fence is running down to the left of the gorge.



Again looking across Slack Den towards the west. The summit cairn at Cairn O Mount is on the centre skyline

After going through the gate, follow the deer fence until you come across a group of small deer enclosures, go through the enclosures and you find a track on the other side which leads to the gate to the forest.

The area around the Bervie water and Corsibald

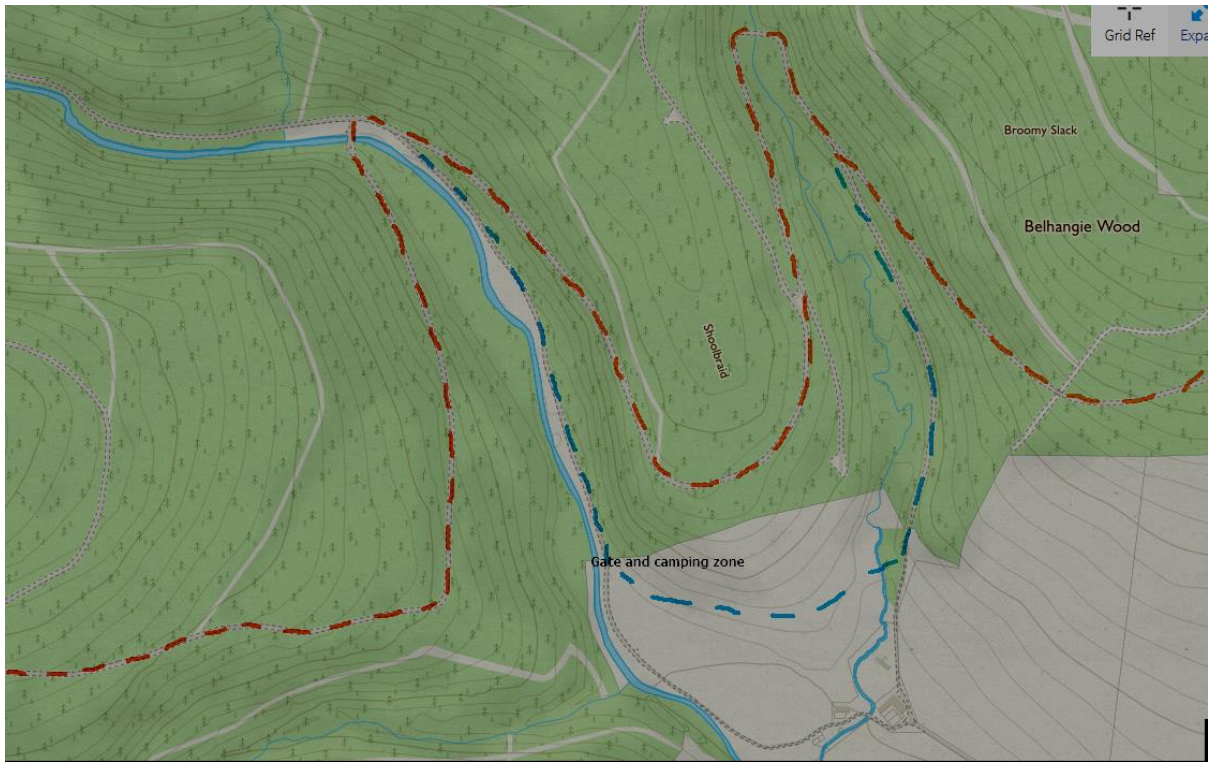
The route from where the Goyle Hill option meets the Slack Den/ Drumtochty option towards the bridge over the Bervie follows a very obvious route along the logging roads. Just after crossing the Bervie you have the option to take a detour off the route, following an ancient route down the East bank of the Bervie. Watch out for a Scotways waypoint marker post at the top of the track.

Travelling down the Bervie there are wide flat areas which could be used for camping, they are however covered in bracken and a bit lumpy. Eventually you come to a gate marking the edge of the FC estate, the other side of this gate the banks of the river are grassy and would make a good camping area.



Above and below the gate.

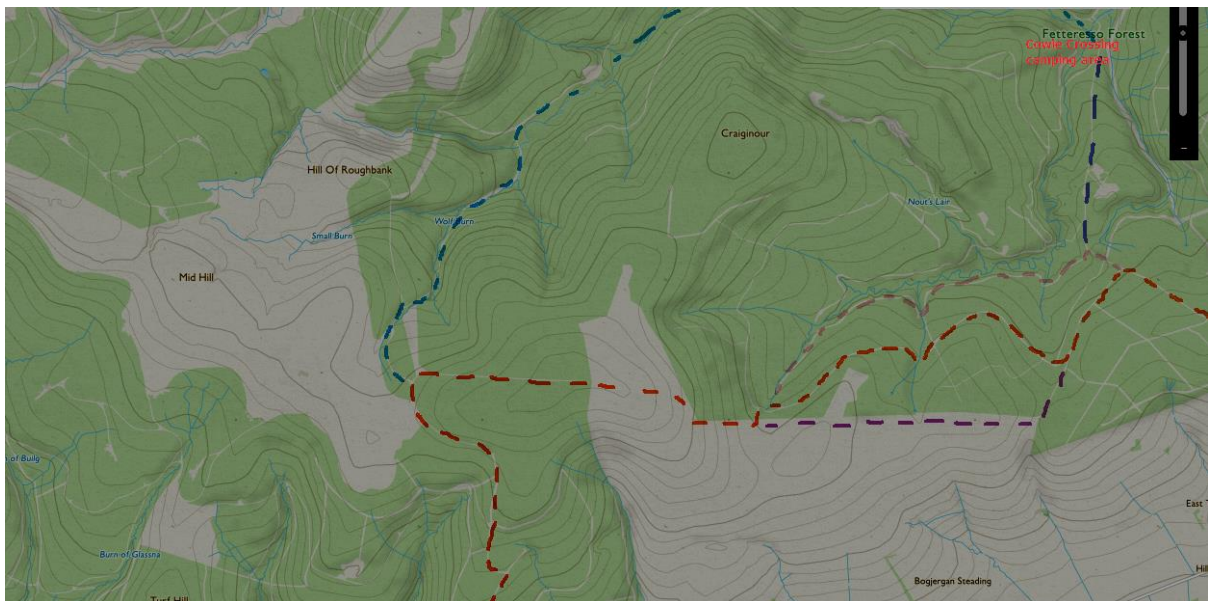
The return route to the main route is by following a track up the Maxie Burn.



Red = main route, Blue =detour to camping area on the Bervie.

Leechie Hill area.

There is a choice at NO 727854 of whether to continue northwards past the windfarm and follow the official trucking route or take a landrover track over Leechie Hill staying on the southern edge of the forest.



Red =main route over Leechie Hill, Blue =windfarm road, passing the Cowie Crossing area, often used for camping. Purple= option to follow cable route further before re-entering the forest. Brown=Finglennie option.

My route follows a nice landrover track which is the route of an underground cable.



Landrover track heading towards Leechie Hil



Eventually the landrover track stops at a fence which marks the boundary of the forest. There is an improvised stile on the fence.

The route then follows the underground cable along the southern edge of the forest



Cable route following the forest boundary.

It is possible to cut the corner by crossing the heather, via the trigpoint on the summit.



Trigpoint looking East towards Stonehaven

Following the cable route will bring you to a point where you can re-enter the forest. For some reason the fence is no longer barbed wire and you can hop over a wooden section easily.



Lexie deciding whether to hop over the fence back into the forest or carry on following the fence further. I recommend going back into the forest.

Once on the logging road you can either stay on it, which is the fastest option or go down through the trees until you come across a lower track which runs parallel to the logging road, but which is much quieter and more attractive.



The logging road



The more attractive lower track following the Finglennie valley



Looking back along the route of the lower track along the Finglennie.

There are some rough camping opportunities along this lower track, not brilliant but usable.

Once you are at the end of the logging road or the lower Fingennie track options you have rather a steep slog up towards the Upper Quithel car park. Turn left at the T junction at the top of the hill following the signs to the SSE Site Office.

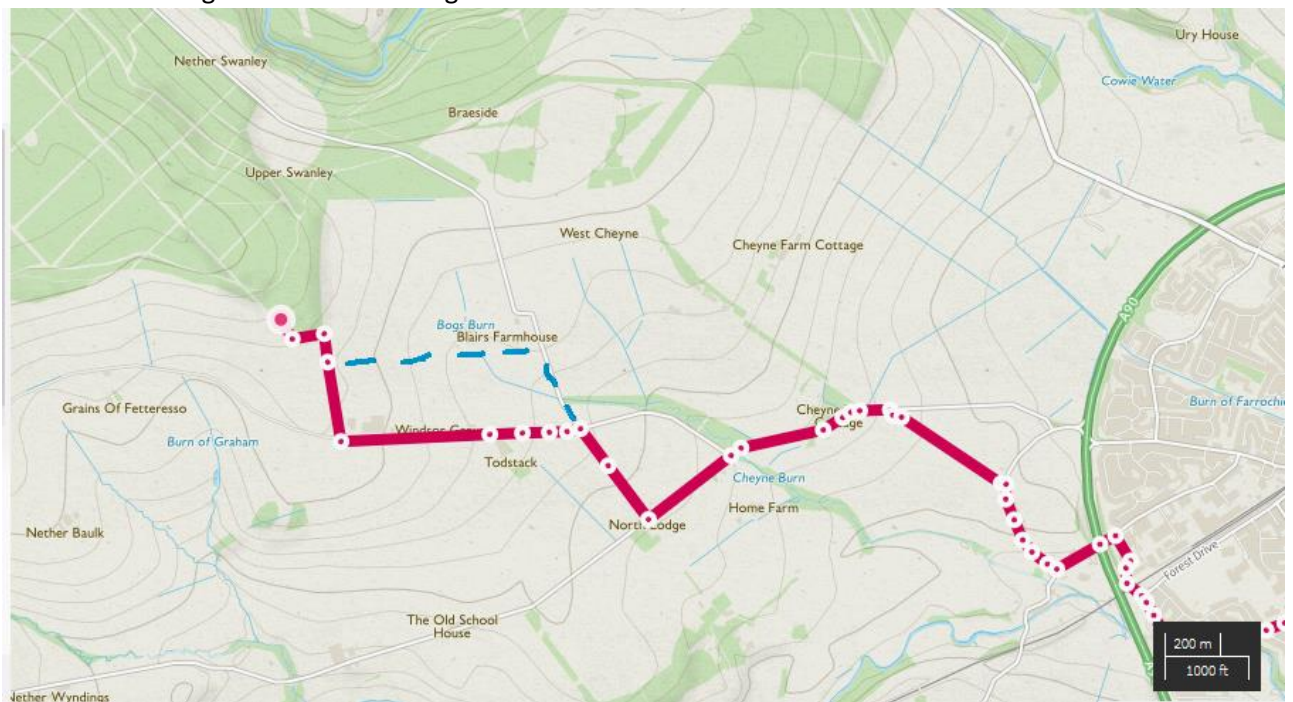


Turning right at the T-Junction allows an exit to the public road at Quithel. Once this climb is over you don't have any more long serious climbs in front of you and it is mostly a simple stroll along the logging roads with views of Stonehaven getting closer and closer. Keep right at the next junction where the power lines meet the road at the head of Annamuick Burn and then stick to the main logging track, ignoring a side road to the right until you see another SSE site office sign, follow this to the right.



Pass along the front of the SSE substation and follow the road sticking to the southern edge of the forest.

You don't need to follow the road all the way to the Upper Swanley carpark. A track kicks off towards Blairs Farm and the single track road leading towards Stonehaven





Top of the track out of the forest as it leaves the logging road



Track as it exits the forest, it goes downhill towards the sheds, a local engineering workshop and the public roads.

You can follow the track down the hill until you get to the road (preferable), or halfway down turn left and go through the farm.