

Ben Rinnes Day Meet - Nov 2022

7 November 2022

[Colin Brown](#)

Thirteen members (including 1 new Interim member) attended the meet on a day that started overcast but ended in pleasant sunshine. We ascended the hill from the south and visited the various Scurrans, the most impressive of which was the Scurran of Well. After getting back to the minibus 4 of the party decided to ascend Meikle Conval and the others went for a drink in the Fiddichside inn in Craigellachie. After picking up the 4 from the Dufftown Golf Club car park we returned to Aberdeen arriving back about 6:30pm. A few pictures of the day. The walk in view of Ben Rinnes



Ben Rinnes on the day of my recce



The climb begins

On a Scurran



The Scurran of Well

The group approaching the Scurran of Well



The Well?



Late afternoon sunshine



The walk out



[Will Ellwood](#)

I didn't take many photos worth sharing, but here are two from late in the day taken on Meikle Convel.



Looking back at Ben Rinnes



The text written for my Tweet on the day and on Strava reads: "Today's hike: Ben Rinnes with Meikle Convel for a pudding. Cairngorm Club trip. Autumnal. 22km. Quite gentle day. Surprised to not be too cooked after this weekend. Beautiful waxing gibbous moon rising at dusk."

Alex Barbour

This was an enjoyable day out.

I think we explored most of what Ben Rinnes has to offer The pit stop



Walkers in the mist



and then the mist cleared



On a 'Scurran'



Woahh. , no selfie stick !!



Garry measures the wind speed



Garry measures the wind speed

Summit photo



Ken Thomson

Good photos, Will! A few of mine are below:
Vay on Scurran of Morinsh:



At the summit: the indicator, and a lunchtime group:





Mike hiding in/under the Lady's Chair:



The well and its contents (a shilling):





View from above the Well:



Poorly designed/bulldozed track below Baby's Hill:



[Mike Duguid](#)

Here are mine



Newtown cottage









Hut at Tarf Moss







Scurran of Morinsh













Looking west over Speyside



Into cloud towards the top - Scurran of Lochterlandoch









A look around some of the outlying outcrops near the summit



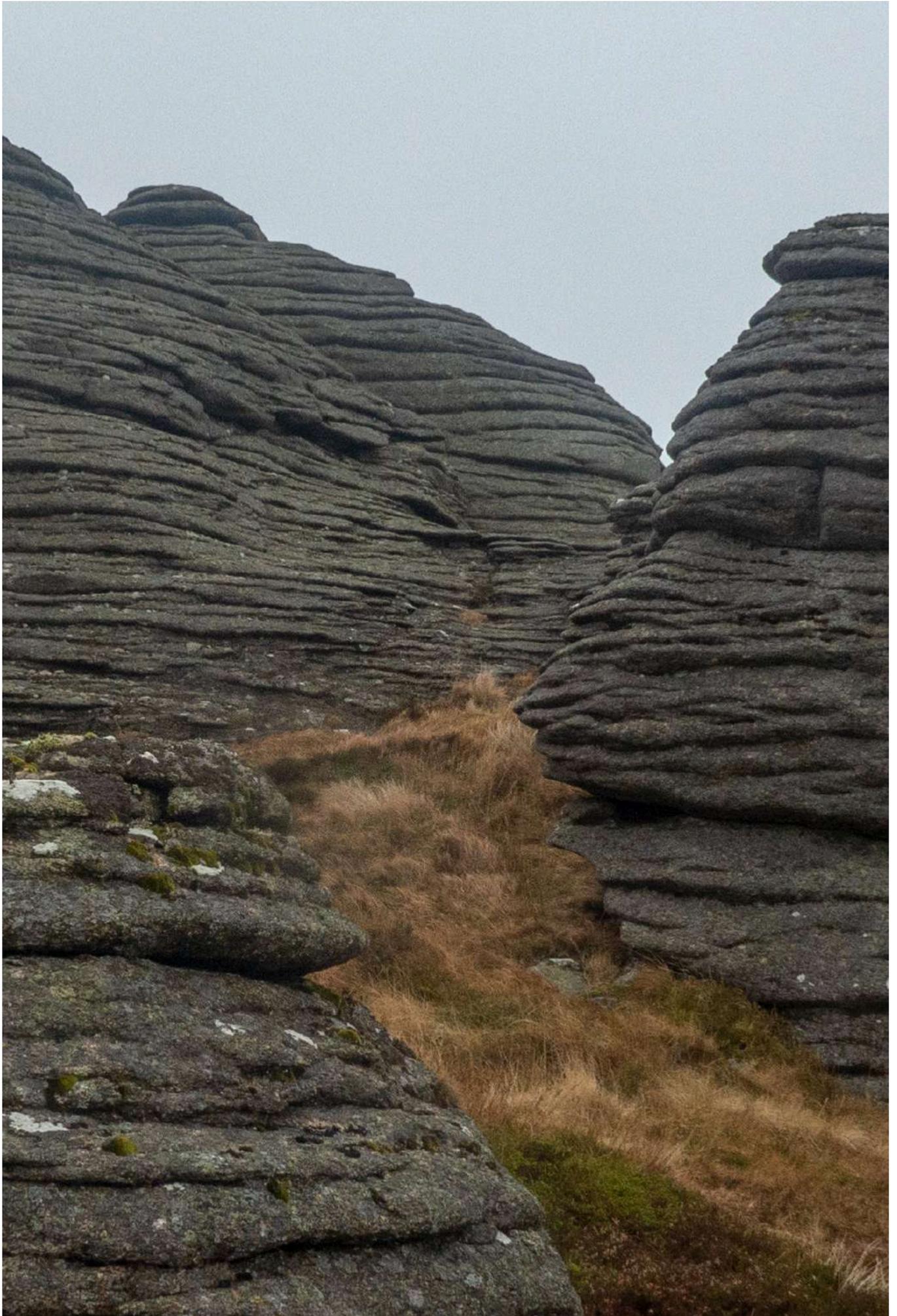


On to Scurran of Well





First through Lady's Chair







Scurran of Well

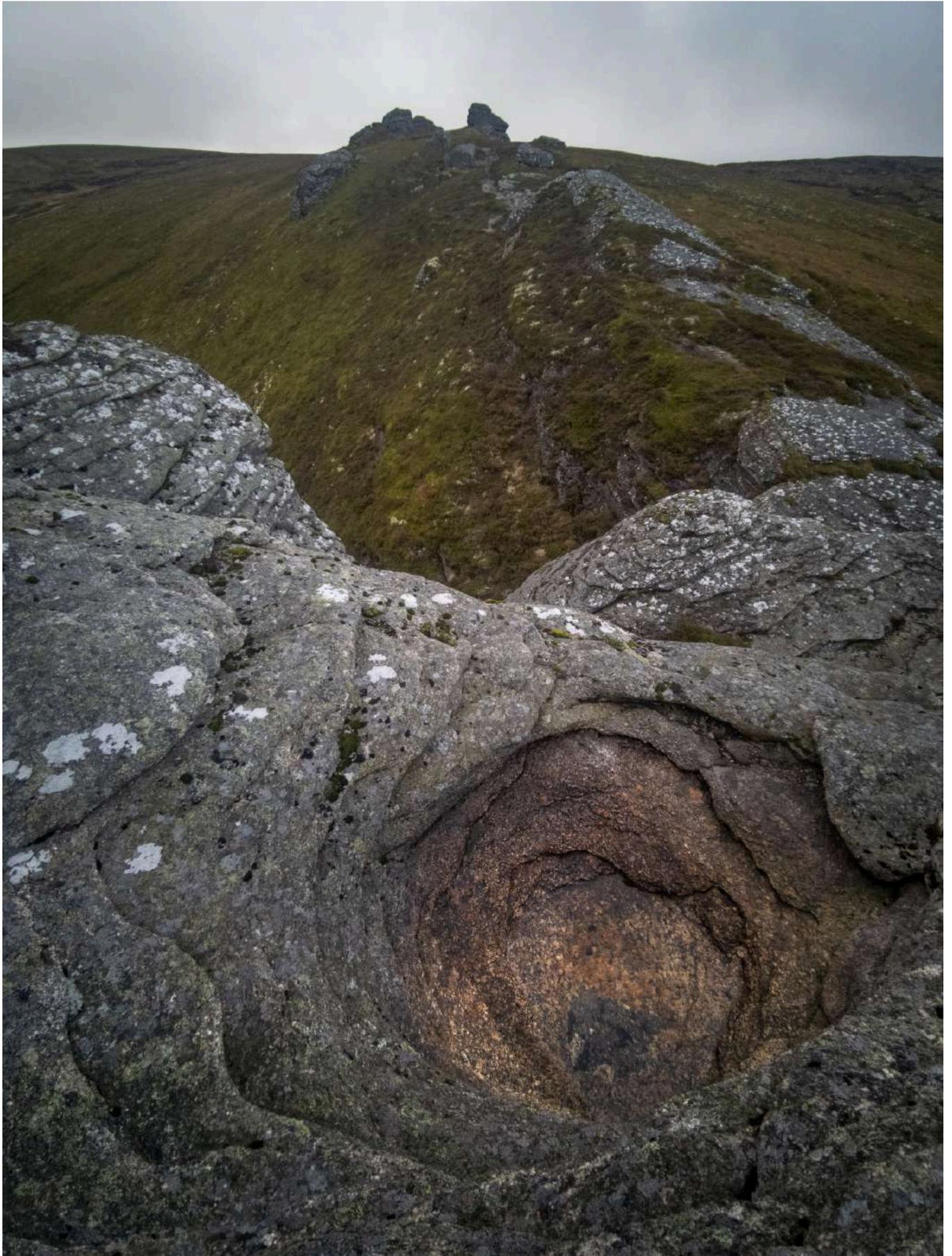








The Well. 'offering' deposited as per tradition













Zooming in on this side no obvious sign of the cave mentioned in Ken's notes







With only a short walk so far, some of the more energetic pressed on to another hill



Singular peat 'mesa'. It had some marked plastic pipes coming out of it, perhaps some science thing









Top of Meikle Conval for sunset









[Will Ellwood](#)

Ken shared some climbing route descriptions from UK Climbing which were a bit vague. I've only just remembered to look up the relevant section of the North East guidebook.

MINOR CRAGS

Three crags where routes have been recorded are described first followed by more minor possibilities. Most of the latter are mentioned to save disappointment. They are detailed in no particular order and left to the adventurous or curious to rediscover and explore further.

BENNACHIE - MITHER TAP

(NJ 682 224) Alt 500m South facing

Like Clach na Beinn, this hill has summit tors of granite. The Mither Tap offers two recorded routes on a south facing wall to the south-west of the summit. The rock resembles uncut diamonds. Other short routes have not been recorded.

Mither Ficker 13m E3 5c * (1984)

Climb the obvious right-hand ramp of the wall until it finishes under a roof, then follow a crack through the left edge of the roof to the top.

Finger Ficker 15m E3 5c

Climb the left-hand of the obvious ramps until it is possible to climb leftwards (mossy) then up to the roof. Traverse right to a niche, then exit here.

BEN RINNES - SCURRAN OF WELL

(NJ 248 366) Alt 650m East facing Map p312

This hill forms a distinct landmark near Dufftown and the routes are located on the prominent granite tor located 150 metres north-west of Ben Rinnes' summit.

The Curse of the Neep 50m HVS 5a (1990)

Start at the toe of the buttress and follow a steep groove and flakes to a niche. Go left over an overlap and up the long easy slab to finish. Treat the flakes like your best bottle of malt.

Unnamed 20m VS 4c (1990)

Climb the open corner near the top of the gully wall, finishing to the right.

The following route is found on the same crag, but its location in relation to the others is unclear. It is south facing and quick drying.

Scurran Dhu 25m E5 6b ** † (2001)

The start is located by descending a grassy gully to the base of the crag. Gain a ramp from the left and move left to the centre of the crag, below a disjointed crackline. Move up to a horizontal break (small wires available in a diagonal crack and a poor Friend in the break itself). Traverse left one metre, then move up and right across a steep wall (crux) to gain the obvious crack. Climb this with good protection through the final wall. The route may require re-cleaning prior to further ascents.

BLACK CRAG

(NO 216 317) Alt 120m South-West facing Map p436

This crag lies on the south-west flank of Black Hill in the Sidlaws, overlooking Dunsinane Hill of Macbeth fame. The sunny aspect is particularly enjoyable when the Southern Cairngorms, usually part of the fine view, are obscured by rain. The crag has long been known to Dundee hillwalkers, but routes were first recorded in the mid-1980s, although some of the routes have since been abandoned.

before then, probably
The rock is fractured
ringy character, but
a large prow, with
up. There are a
Approach: Cars

Tree Root 15
The corner on the
protected route

The left-hand a
Tales of the U
The main face
leading to a re
point, through
lead directly to

Abernyte Co
Climb the slab
corner on its
(good protection
(poorly protected)

The broken
slabs left of
Severe, new
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Mental Cr
Move up a
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The minor
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(NO 431

This minor
to Dundee
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is basalt
the bolts

Approach
track to
and up

There a
Nettle

Ken Thomson

That's a bit better, Will: at least it identifies the correct Scurran - though I don't think much of a guidebook that says of a route: "its location ... is unclear"!

Jump to