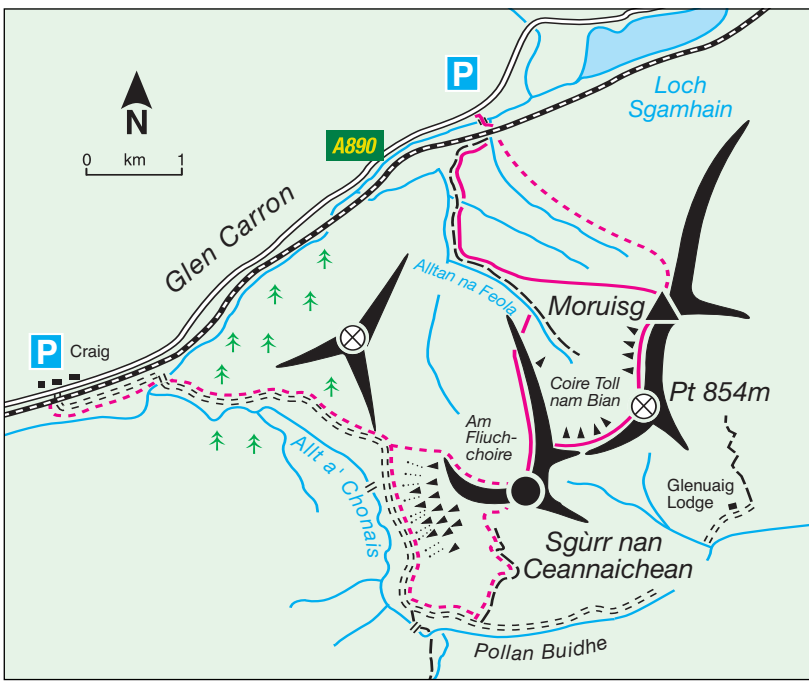




Hamish Brown

Sgùrr nan Ceannaichean from Glen Carron

**Sgùrr nan Ceannaichean; 913m; (OS Sheet 25; NH087481); C2; peak of the merchants or pedlars**



This mountain, demoted from Munro status to that of a Corbett in 2009, together with its adjoining Munro neighbour Moruisg, lies on the south side of Glen Carron near its upper reaches. Although slightly lower than Moruisg (928m), Sgùrr nan Ceannaichean is the more interesting looking hill since it has an impressive rocky west face split by two big gullies which looks impressive when viewed from Craig in Glen Carron. It also has two north-west facing corries; Am Fliuch-choire, then to its east Coire Toll nam Bian, a deep hollow with a steep headwall, which is shared with the long, flat-topped Moruisg.

It is common practice to climb both hills together and if doing so it is perhaps better to climb Moruisg first, although the route can easily be reversed. The traverse starts in Glen Carron, from a layby on the A890 road about 1.5km west of the outflow of Loch Sgamhain. From here a bridge across the River Carron (NH082520) then a low bridge carrying the railway is passed beneath to gain open moorland. The most direct line of ascent to Moruisg is ahead up steepening grass slopes keeping north of the obvious gullies. These slopes ease a bit higher up and the north ridge is reached near the summit. However, it

is perhaps better and easier underfoot to follow the stalker's path which heads south-west then south alongside the Alltan na Feola towards Coire Toll nam Bian. After about 2km turn left off the path and go east well below a cliff, the Creag nan Calman, to climb the grass slopes on its left, steeply at first then more easily to the top (4.5km; 780m 2h 20min).

From here it is about 2.5km to Sgùrr nan Ceannaichean following a broad mossy ridge south over Pt.854m, then descending more steeply south-west to the 730m col at the head of Coire Toll nam Bian to the north and Coire an Tuill Bhain to the south. From here a broad grassy ridge is climbed west for 500m, then south-west to reach the summit of Sgùrr nan Ceannaichean; the cairn is at the south-east edge of a small plateau. (7.5km; 980m; 3h 20min).

Retrace the last part of the ascent route for 500m down the north-east ridge, then bear north down a steep broad ridge, avoiding a rocky bluff halfway down on its left. Cross the Alltan na Feola to reach the stalker's path on its north-east bank, and follow this back to the day's starting point (12km; 5h 30mins.)

Although Sgùrr nan Ceannaichean itself can be climbed up and down its north ridge, if doing it in isolation it is perhaps better to climb the hill from Craig further down Glen Carron, which allows the steep west face of the mountain and its remote southern flanks to be fully appreciated. From the Achnashellach Forest car park at Craig, cross the A890, then the railway via a level crossing and follow a track eastwards into the forest and across the River Carron by a bridge. The track now heads uphill before swinging around to run south beneath Sgùrr nan Ceannaichean's west face alongside the Allt a' Chonais. The south west corner of the hill is cut by a path but the track swings around to meet it again at NH081467. Here a rough stalker's path climbs up the right side of the streamway that runs the almost the full height of the slope and leads to the short west ridge, then the summit. Drop back down west, then swing around above the steep west face and descend steeply down stony slopes to the west side of the streamway in Am Fliuch-choire to regain the track and thence Craig.