

A photo-survey of an area of Waun LLech.

This survey was carried out hastily after being informed by Peter Jones that the vegetation was suppressed (this was possibly due to the recent snow) and that the cairns were very easily discerned. I passed on this information to Peter Wakelin, with a request for what information already existed. Knowing that Stephen Briggs had done some work here at one time I sent him a copy of this E-mail and it transpired that he too had been told about the condition of the area and had paid it a visit with Peter Jones. Both Wakelin and Briggs agreed that the area deserved another examination with modern resources but that certainly a photo survey while the weather was good and before the vegetation grew afresh would be useful.

With this in mind I visited the area on the 5th. of March 2010 to carry out a "quick and dirty" survey using a digital camera and a Garmin GPS 12 hand held GPS - clearly this leaves much to be desired with the last digit of the eastings and northings in some doubt. The following points might be noted.

- 1) The only map I had (copy appended) was of too small a scale adequately to discriminate the individual cairns.
- 2) Only a small area of the mountain was examined but the map, despite its limitations, does show the great density of the cairns, this is evident in the background of some of the photos. The cairns photographed are marked on the map with a number code corresponding to the GPS readings on the appended sheet.
- 3) The photographs (see appended DVD) clearly show this density and also the very considerable difference in size from the smallest, which might not be discernable at times with high vegetation cover, and the largest, which are of quite an impressive size. Most cairns had 3 photos taken from different directions and some, which seemed to be particularly large or to have interesting features, might have more.
- 4) This great variation and size and the high density would seem to demand a more thorough survey extending over a much wider area. Stephen Briggs, in an E-mail, suggested that Lidar might be the answer.
- 5) I would suggest that some urgency exists as I found clear evidence of metal detectorist trowel digging. This must be a prime site for such activities as not only is it near a main road but there is even a convenient car park.
- 6) The rocks used to construct the cairns seem to be millstone grit and are generally rounded by what I presume to be glacial action but a look over by a geologist might be worthwhile.

K. A. Martin. 11 04 2010.