

**Western Highlands**  
**A BEINN BANQUET**

**1 NN136288** The starting point for this jaunt is on the B8077 a couple of miles north-west of Dalmailly (GR137288). Roadside parking near the bridge over the Allt Mhoille is fairly limited but it isn't usually too busy. Leave the road and head north on the rough track passing through a clump of Scot's pines. The icy incline takes you toward the imposingly steep grassy slopes of Stob Maoi, the southern ridge spurring from the summit of Beinn Eunaich. Only a masochist would strive to ascend this slope so early in the day so continue on the Hydro Board road, making a rising traverse north-westwards across the lower slopes. Above to the left, the steep gullies and dark cliffs of Stob Diarmh dominate the panorama with winter snows filling the defts like mortar in a giant stone wall. Continue to climb high above the Allt Mhoille, eventually reaching a junction shortly after the crossing of the Allt Lairig Lanachain.

**2 NN12315** An ill-defined grassy spur now beckons you onto Beinn a' Chocull's south-east ridge. The next hour or so involves putting in some real leg work, the eventual easing of the angle signifying the approach of the summit ridge. As you crest the ridge, the panorama across rugged Glen Lìver towards the Glen Etive peaks will take what's left of your breath away. The final stretch to the summit is a pleasant stroll along an easy-going, snow-plastered ridge. The sunless snow-plastered northern corries (hopefully!) of Ben Cruachan create an impression of a peak far

higher, their slopes sweeping down to the far distant salty waters of Loch Etive.

**3 NN112328** Retrace your steps along the ridge crest but keep to the path which leads down to the grassy bealach above Coire Glas. An icy blast often howls across this lonely col, especially when the wind is in the north. The continuation of the route up onto Ben Eunaich appears to be steep and rocky, but, on approach, it's not as bad, especially under a good covering of snow. The toil to the summit ends abruptly with the cairn perched at the westernmost end of the small plateau. This exposed mountain top is a spacious spot with uncluttered vistas stretching to the east beyond Glen Orchy and onward to Rannoch Moor and the Bridge of Orchy range.

**4** To descend from the summit, you follow the broad south ridge, dropping gradually at first across the mossy slopes. The ground becomes steeper and grassier on descent, culminating in the steep ridge section glimpsed on the outward leg of the journey. To avoid the rocky outcrops, simply stick to the western side of the ridge upon reaching Stob Maoi. There is no well-defined path down this ridge and under winter conditions any traces of a descent route will easily be obliterated so you should keep your compass close at hand. An alternative descent, particularly if you have time, involves a continuation north-east to the summit of Meall Copagach. This undulating ridge is fairly easy-going with a descent route dropping alongside the

**TRAIL Routes ID 170**

**TRAIL Mag Route 11**, February 1999  
Distance 12km (7.5 miles)

**Total ascent** 1250m

**Time** 5-6 hours

**Difficulty** moderate

**Terrain** rough mountain ridge walking

**Region** Southern Highlands

**Area** Western Highlands

**Nearest Town** Dalmailly

**Start GridRef** NN136288

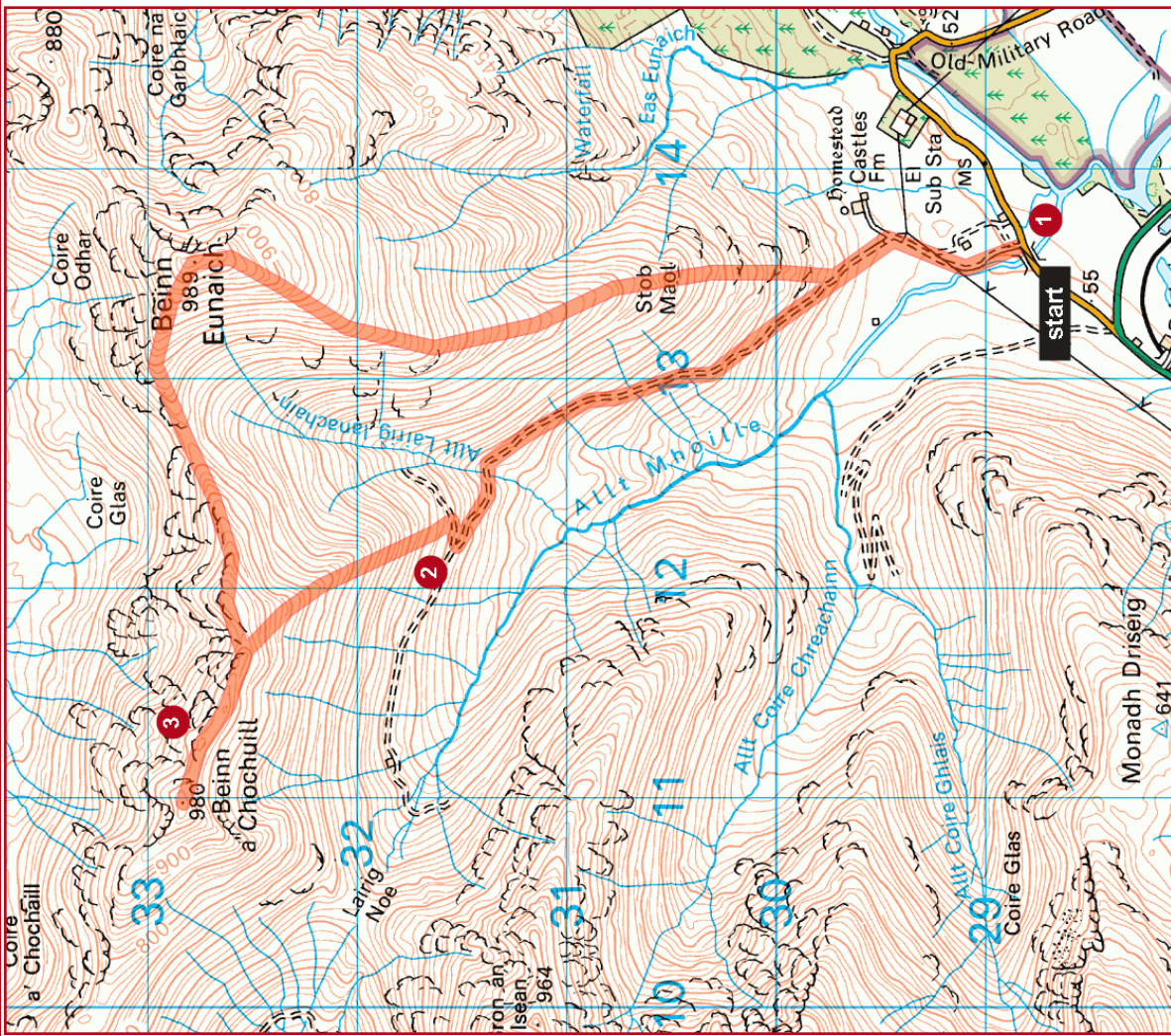
**GPS Route Name** TR170

**Map Information** OS Landranger (1:50,000) 50 Glen Orchy & surrounding area

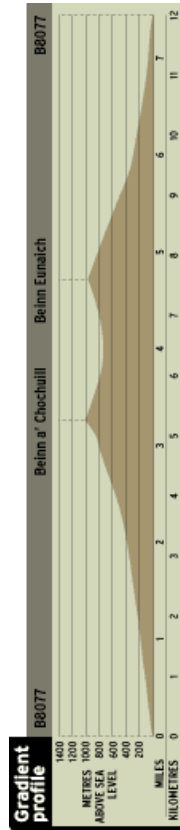
**Public Transport** regular coach - tel. (0890) 505050 and train - tel. (0345) 484950 services to Dalmailly

**Parking Info** B8077 road

PAUL MILLIGAN



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