

# Survey of Doune Hill

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## 1) Introduction

Doune Hill (Hill Number 93, Section 01E, OS 1:50000 Map 56, OS 1:25000 Map OL39S, 364S Grid Ref. NS290970) is listed as a Graham, Marilyn and Simm in the Database of British and Irish Hills.

The summit area of this hill has a trig point with nearby rocks and a small cairn 45m SSW that are reported to be as high or higher. The purpose of this survey was to clarify the identity and position of the highest point.

## 2) Equipment used and Conditions for Survey

A Leica NA730 Professional Automatic level (X30 telescopic system)/tripod system and a "1m" E-staff extendable to 5m were used to determine positions and height differences of features in the summit area.

Conditions for the survey, which took place between 12.30hr and 13.15hr GMT, were mixed. The weather was cloudy, but bright, with occasional sunny periods and the cloud base was well above 2000ft. However, a temperature of 3 degrees Celsius and an average wind speed on the summit of 30-40mph, gusting on occasions to 60-70mph, meant that the survey took longer than expected.

## 3) Character of Hill

Doune Hill lies just to the West of Loch Lomond and may be accessed, either from the end of the public road in Glen Luss, or from the road in Glen Douglas to the North. The latter route was chosen for this survey since this was the shortest and there is a convenient parking area at NS329979, about 1km East of Doune Farm. Douglas Water may be crossed at NS320980, where there is a shingle bank and the river widens slightly. If the river is in spate, then the bridge to Doune Farm, a few hundred metres West, provides a more reliable crossing point. From here the most obvious route is over the pastures of the farm to a gate in a barbed-wire fence, which gives access to the hill. The SW ridge may then be followed to the 701m top at NS297974 and then on to the summit of Doune Hill. However, even at a height of 200m it was clear that the strength of the wind would make the going difficult and therefore we chose to seek the shelter of the lee side of the ridge until we were below the bealach between the summit and the 701m top. Once at the bealach a direct line was followed West to the summit. The terrain comprises rough grass and thin heather and is relatively dry, thus making for easy walking.

## 4) Survey of the Summit

The summit area is quite flat and occupies an area of about 50m by 50m after which the ground falls quite steeply on all sides. The trig point is situated on its northern edge and is flanked on either side by rocks that are slightly higher than the base of the trig point. To the South the ground on the plateau appears to dip and then to rise slightly to a small cairn. There were no other obvious high points revealed by a visual inspection.

The Leica NA730 was set up on a tripod at a convenient point about 15m ESE of the trig point. All the potential summit features identified were in view and this position also allowed a view of the whole summit area. Staff readings were taken of the two rocks by the trig point and several readings were taken at and around the area upon which the cairn was sited. Lastly, a final check

was made around the general summit area but, as expected, no other summit candidates were identified.

## 5) **Results**

The staff readings for the three summit features were:

Rock 2m East of trig point = 0.745m

Rock 2m West of trig point = 0.812m

Small cairn = 0.515m

The lower the staff reading then the higher the feature.

An area within 2m to the North, West and East of the cairn gave staff readings between 0.515m and 0.525m. No other features in the summit area gave a staff reading close to this value.

The ten-figure grid references recorded for each of these features are:-

### **Small cairn**

Garmin Montana 600	NS 29055 97088	Accuracy: averaged	Height = 734m
Garmin Etrex 20	NS 29054 97088	Accuracy: averaged	Height = 733m
Garmin Oregon 450	NS 29054 97087	Accuracy: averaged	Height = 739m

### **Rock 2m East of trig point**

Garmin Oregon 450	NS 29068 97130	Accuracy: averaged	Height = 748m
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### **Trig point**

Garmin Montana 600	NS 29067 97131	Accuracy: averaged	Height = 739m
Garmin Etrex 20	NS 29065 97130	Accuracy: averaged	Height = 733m
Garmin Oregon 450	NS 29064 97132	Accuracy: averaged	Height = 750m

No grid references were recorded for the lower rock 2m West of the trig point

## 6) **Discussion**

Of the three potential summit features the highest is the ground by the small cairn. The cairn itself occupies the southern edge of a small area less than 2m by 2m where all staff readings were within 1cm of one another. The rock 2m East of the trig point is 0.23m lower and the rock 2m West of the trig point is 0.30m lower.

## 7) **Summary and Conclusions**

The highest point of Doune Hill is a small cairn 47m SSW of the trig point and at a grid reference of NS 29054 97085.

\* NB average hand-held Garmin GPS grid references are quoted in the summary.

John Barnard and Graham Jackson, 28 April 2017

## Appendix

Small cairn with view of the trig point in the distance



View of trig point with rocks to either side

