

## **WALK 7: CASTLE SPYNIE AND TOR CLUNES**

### **VIEWPOINT**

**Distance:** 6.25km

**Time:** 1 hour 40 minutes

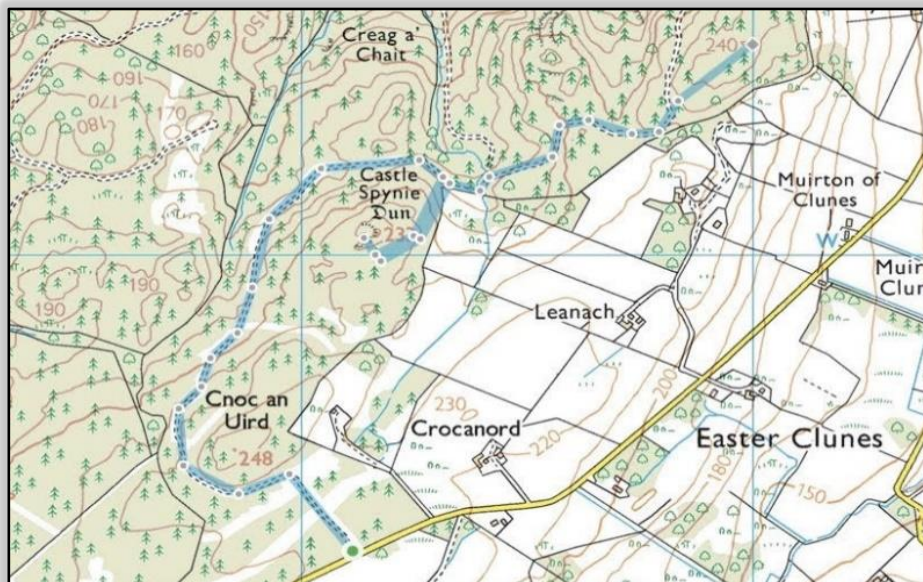
**Ascent:** 161m

**Map:** OS Explorer 416

**Terrain:** Mostly on forestry tracks. Section up to Castle Spynie is on less distinct paths

**Start Point:** Near Easter Clunes - 411541

*This walk combines a visit to the ancient ruins of Castle Spynie (although more of a Dun) with Tor Clunes, a prominent little hill which possibly offers the greatest viewpoint in the entire area*



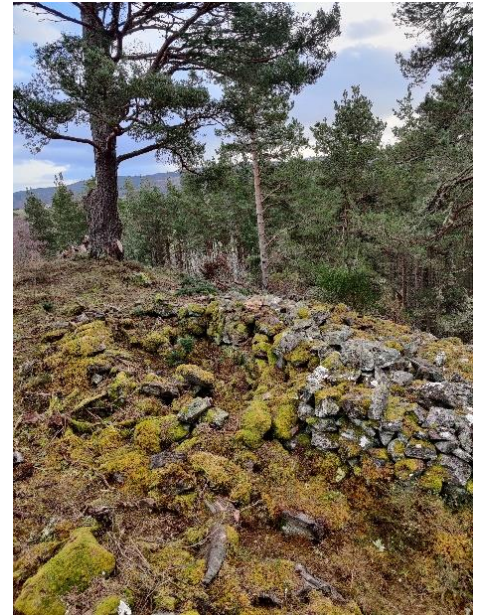
### **STEP 1**

To reach the start of the walk, follow the small minor road opposite Moniack Castle heading uphill towards upper Reelig Glen. At the first junction bear right opposite the car park for upper Reelig Glen. Follow the road for around 2km. There is parking space next to a metal gate on the right-hand side with room for around 3 cars. To start the walk, head around the metal gate onto a forestry track. Ignore a track to the right after 0.5km and continue straight ahead. The track soon goes past a quarry and the views begin to open up. The track then descends slightly before climbing back up and bending to the right.



## **STEP 2**

After a total of 1.5km from the metal gate, as the track begins to level off from the climb, look out for a less distinct and slightly overgrown track on the right side leading uphill towards the forest. Follow the track into the woods where it narrows to a small footpath. The best route up to Castle Spynie is to keep straight on the path, initially ignoring other trodden paths to the right. Keep the rocky outcrops on your right and after passing a fallen down tree bend upwards to the right on a faint path. The path climbs more steeply to the highest point of the hill where the remains of Castle Spynie are found. The castle is thought to be 1000s of years old and the outer wall and doorway are still clearly visible. To continue the walk, retrace your steps back to the main track.



## **STEP 3**

At the main track, turn right and follow as it begins to slowly climb, offering great views back towards Castle Spynie. After around 0.5km, turn right at a Y-junction to climb steadily to the top of Tor Clunes. Walk past the telecommunication masts for the best vantage point. The entirety of the Beaully Firth is in view and beyond into the Moray Firth. It is also possible to see the hills of Glen Strathfarrar and Glen Affric. To finish the walk, simply retrace your steps back to the start, around 2.6km.

