

Glen Lui – Clach Thogalaich Gleann Laoigh Beag 82kg/180lg

Knowledge of this stone and its location comes to us from the retelling of an incident in 1715 between the Earl of Mar and Grant of Rothiemurchus. Prior to the battle of Sheriffmuir in November 1715, the Earl of Mar mustered his troops in the area surrounding Glen Lui. While waiting for the assemblage of Highlanders from near and far to arrive, an impromptu stone lifting competition ensued.



Stone at Glen Lui

A Giant of Old.

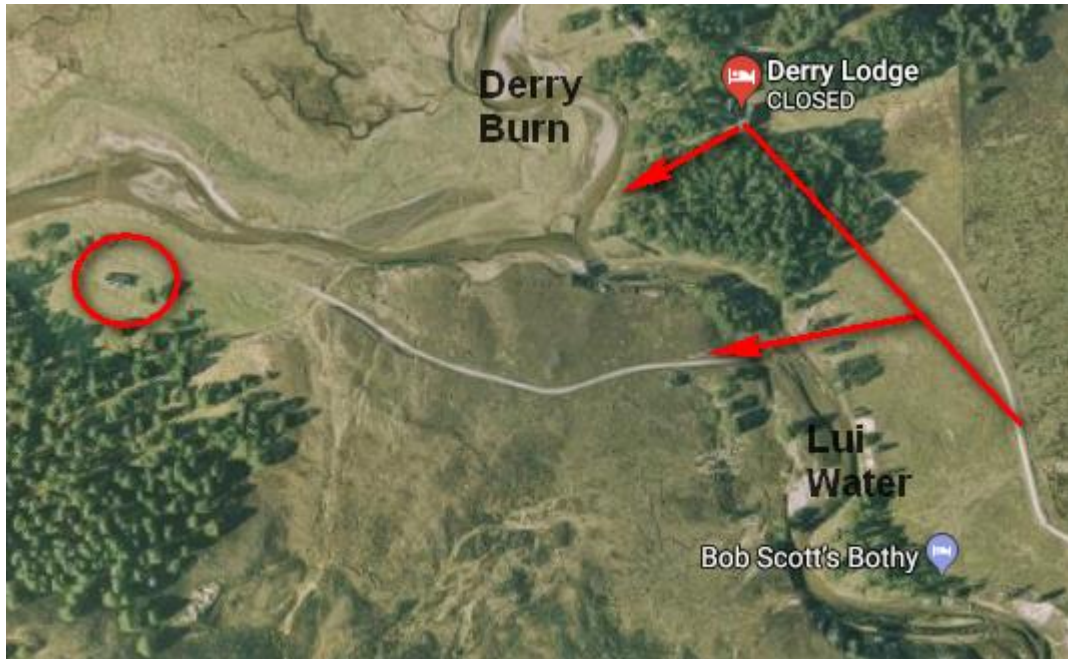
A few hundred yards beyond the stalker's house at Luibeg a large stone lies on the grass below the track and near the burn. This is the tradition connected with it as it is still held in the Braes of Mar:—The men of Rothiemurchus—it may have been the Grants or their predecessors, the Shaws—had been across in Mar lending their aid to the Earl of Mar and his clansmen. They were returning to Aviemore, by way of the Lairig, being accompanied, part of the way by the men of Mar. Rothiemurchus, in order to prove to the Earl the strength of one of his men, pointed to a large stone beside the path, and called upon one of his followers to lift it, which he did with ease. But Mar was able to go one better. He had with him a giant of a man, Fionlaidh Mor by name, and requested him to lift the stone, which he did as a man of lesser strength might raise a pebble. Holding it lightly in his hands, he requested his chief to give him further instructions as to its disposal. "Throw it across the neck of the pony which stands over yonder," said the Earl. This Fionlaidh Mor did, to the astonishment of the men of Rothiemurchus, who found none amongst their number even to approach so astounding a feat.

The Scotsman, Wednesday, September 17, Page 8, 1924. Article by Seton Gordon

...there is a Clach Thogalach, i.e. lifting stone, near the junction of the Luibeg and the Derry

The place-names of Aberdeenshire. William McCombie Alexander, p. 322, 1952

The stone is located near the Old Gamekeeper's Cottage, at the junction of the Derry Burn and Lui Water.



Location of the stone



Old Keeper's Cottage

Peter made multiple trips before finding the stone with the assistance of a local historian. He typically drove to the Linn of Dee carpark. Then it's approximately one hours walk (roughly north) to the stone. Depending on the water level he forded it physically in one of two places (indicated by the red lines). The Old Gamekeeper's cottage is indicated by the red circle. The stone is approximately 100yards northwest of the cottage by Peter's reckoning.



Left: The walk to the Stone, Glen Lui



Right: Peter Robert, first known lift in 300 years