

## **SOAC Part 16 - Unfenced Grassland with Farm Animals**

After a period of little livestock other than sheep being on the hills, cattle grazing is becoming more popular again. Upland sheep grazing has reduced over recent years, but cattle numbers have increased in these areas, at least during the summer. Over the past few years I have passed cattle on the way to Corbetts in Glen Etive and north of the Inverness to Ullapool road.

It is relatively easy to avoid livestock in fields, however it can be more of a challenge on the open hill ground as there is no barrier that you can skirt round. If you are anything like me, you do not need the advice to give livestock a wide berth. It is also important to remember the advice about dogs being under close control. Mostly cattle are well-behaved towards access users, but they are large animals and can present a problem if they become aroused. A number of serious incidents have occurred. This is more likely if there are calves, and especially true if you have a dog with you. In this case and in the event of cattle become aggressive, they are more likely to be concerned about the dog and the advice is to let your dog go while you make your escape.