

## **ABRIACHAN to INVERNESS**

Much of the Great Glen Way between Fort Augustus and Drumnadrochit is impassable by wheelchair. For this walk I went from Abriachan. Drive north from Drumnadrochit on the A82 for about 4 miles then turn sharp left on a hairpin bend, where you are advised to wait on the right hand side until the road is clear, then 1 mile later you will reach Abriachan. Fork left and after a mile turn left again where the GGW crosses the road. This forest track will take you to the Car Park for "Abriachan Community Woodland, the Highland Access Network", managed by Abriachan Forest Trust which advertises over 1500 meters of easy access paths suitable for wheelchairs and buggies. I visited in 2004 with Mike Bruton, Chair of Disabled Ramblers from Surrey along with his wife and my husband. We took the wooden walkway and visited the fully scooter accessible bird hide overlooking Loch Laide.



Walkway to bird hide

From there we all walked the GGW to the other minor road north from Abriachan and then I went on my own with a head full of numbers to and through the Aird Estate from Blackfold. A head full of numbers? This was the combination to open the padlocked gates – available from GGW Rangers. Having a sieve of a memory I wrote it down and set off with arrangements to meet the other 3 at Leachin to the west of Inverness. It was a

wonderful experience, travelling occasionally at 6mph through a dank, atmospheric forest and creating my own fantasies en route.

With the reassurance of mobile phone connection I never felt at risk and we were able to meet up half a mile from Leachkin at a small reservoir. This proved to be "sensible" as the descent was challenging in gradient.

Further information from:

Great Glen Way: 01320 366633 [www.greatglenway.com](http://www.greatglenway.com)

A good book: The Great Glen Way by Jacquetta Megarry Publ. by Rucksack Readers

British Waterways Highland Canals: Customer Service Manager 01463 725500

Access Officer (Lochaber) 01397 707050

FACTFILE	
MAP	Ordnance Survey map 26
GRID REFERENCE start/finish	NH 541354/636448
PARKING	Abriachan Community Woodland On road at Blackfold P at Leachkin
TOILETS	Abriachan Cmty. Woodland W/C (L)
DISTANCE	8 miles
LANDSCAPE	Moorland and forest with bird hide visitable on wheels at Loch Laide.