

Walk description:

One of the longest walks in the as yet incomplete network. It makes use of part of the Great Glen Way; but the newly cut and laid-out tracks, largely above the forest level, are the most scenic. From the summit cairn on Carn na Leitire, 435m (hill on the slope to the water, i.e. Loch Ness) there is a superb 360-degree panoramic view; and the recreated shieling (mountain hut) offers a lunch site overlooking Loch Ness. (By the way, there's a Bronze Age hut too, near the car park). Parts of the track can be muddy; boots are necessary. Also, the higher parts of the walk are exposed in bad weather, so extra clothing should be carried.

Note that since this is a new walk, with new paths, the paths are not shown on the Ordnance Survey map.

Access information:

From the A82(T) turn off at the Abriachan sign, about seven miles out of Inverness. Stay on this country road till you reach Loch Laide on your left. A quarter of a mile beyond it, turn off left on a forestry road, at sign 'Abriachan Forest Trust'. The car park is 300m up this road. There is no public transport.

Additional info:

This is a splendid bit of work being carried out by the Abriachan Forest Trust, opening their forest to the public, showing us the many varied habitats and the creatures occupying them... and all in a most friendly and unobtrusive way. A lot of information is provided along the paths, in friendly and artistic ways (e.g. the cry of the roe deer, woodcock, tawny owl, etc, obtained at the press of a button). And of course the reconstructed Bronze Age hut and the shieling. Should be quite something when it's finished...

Start grid ref: NH540353

OS map: Explorer416: Inverness, Loch Ness & Culloden

Walk length: 4.97 miles

Duration: 180 minutes

Height gain: 200 metres

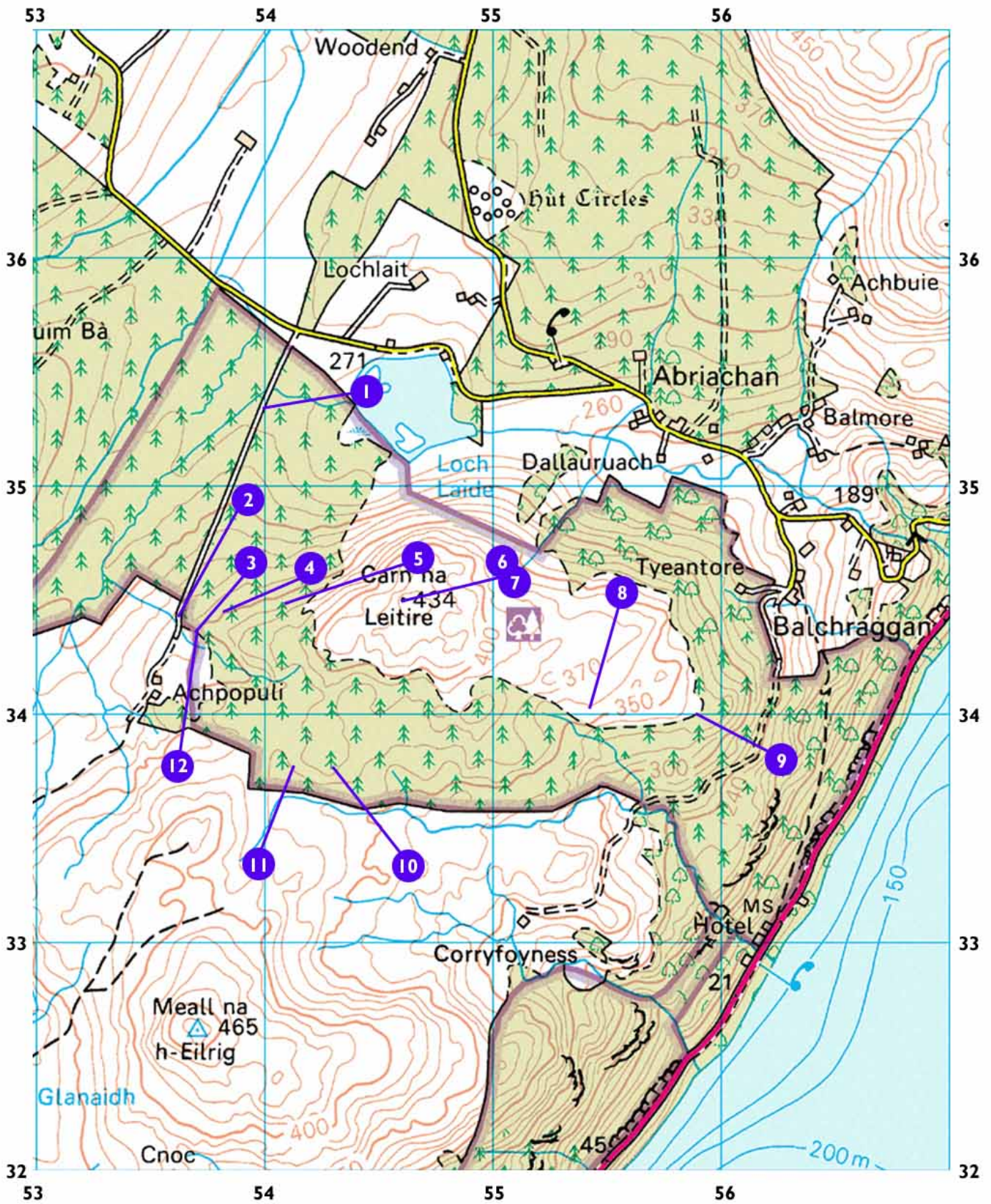
Contributor: D.B. GRANT

Weathercall: Get a local forecast for this walk.

Call 09068 020 525 from your phone or mobile. Or dial 09065 22 45 06 from your fax machine to receive a fax.
09068 calls 60p/min, 09065 calls £1.50p/min.

Features:

- Hills or Fells
- Mountains
- Lake/Loch
- Museum
- Play Area
- Wildlife
- Birds
- Flowers
- Great Views
- Butterflies
- Moor
- Nature Trail
- Woodland
- Ancient Monument



- 1** The car park. To see the Bronze Age hut (it's only a few metres from your car) take the narrow path at the info' board. When you return, leave the car park on to the access road and go left, uphill. Stay on it to its end, where there is a fork. (Grid ref: 540353)
- 2** At the fork keep left (marker-post with the Great Glen Way thistle logo). At the top of the zigzags there's another fork. (Grid ref: 536344)
- 3** Turn left here (marker-post). After 100m there is a narrow track going off left, signposted 'To Summit' etc. (Grid ref: 537343)
- 4** This track can be muddy. It leads through open pinewood on to open moor. You come to a fork. (Grid ref: 538345)
- 5** At this point the left fork leads back to the car park... to continue, go right, to the summit of Carn na Leitire (no, the crag above you is not the summit; there is another half mile to it). (Grid ref: 541345)
- 6** The summit; views! (To return to the car park go back to Waymark 05). (Grid ref: 546346)
- 7** To continue to the shieling take the left path from the summit cairn. At about 0.75 of a mile there is a fork. (Grid ref: 546346)
- 8** Keep left. About 50m on you are relieved to see a marker-post saying that the shieling is nigh. Not far now... (Grid ref: 554340)
- 9** The shieling...low stone wall, support branches and cover of turf, Loch Ness in the background. Retrace your steps to Waymark 08 and turn off left, downhill. This is the only bit of bad path. It parallels Loch Ness, then (when it improves) turns away to follow the edge of a pine-wood. Keep going along the edge of the wood, the track disappearing for a few metres sometimes. At the top of the slope you are toiling up, there is a wide firebreak. (Grid ref: 559340)
- 10** Go into the firebreak and in 25m you reach a broad forestry track. (Grid ref: 543338)

11 Go right at this junction. This is part of the Great Glen Way and takes you back to Waymark 03. (Grid ref: 542337)

12 Waymark 03 on the return leg. Keep left, to the car park. (Grid ref: 537343)