

Silverdale Glen Access Review

The Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA) is presently responsible for our lovely Manx National Glens and is keen to make them more accessible. Improvement works are in progress though some glens will never be fully accessible due to their terrain. As part of that initiative, access information has been included in this book. We hope this will help you decide which glen may be suitable for you. Note that everyone's needs are unique according to their limitations and also the equipment at their disposal and any information given is merely a rough guide. However we hope the access information contained will encourage residents and tourists alike to venture out and enjoy these beautiful spaces.

Team work has given us the information included. Shirley Huyton and Beth Martin, volunteers from Disability Networks, reviewed the more accessible glens with a wheelchair. Husband and wife team Ian and Kerry Sharp (MLC) have kindly done on-site research for access including information for the visually impaired in the remainder of the glens. Author Susan Jellis and husband Graham also walked the glens with access in mind for the book. Access icons are included in the book but more detailed information is available online at www.disabilitynetworks.info, giving further insight for suitability.

Remember that this feedback related to one visit one day and circumstances can change, such as path slippage or path improvements by DEFA, cafes opening and closing etc. Our reviewers have tried to take into consideration all of the concerns and questions you may have but a quick call ahead to check on current conditions for any facilities is always a good idea. Many cafes are seasonal. If there is no cafe onsite, we have suggested the nearest facility.

Some glens have only one path but others have options. Our reviewers have tried to give you some idea of walking distance but it is only an approximate figure. All the glens welcome dog walkers including assistance dogs. Seats are available in most of the glens. These can be basic but provide a perching point designed to rest your legs and lungs. Others are very comfortable. Many have a good view from them. We hope that you are inspired to get out and start exploring our glens.

Access Information for the Manx National Glens

- Car Park at both ends.
- Accessible car parking – Yes, in bottom car park
- Assisted wheelchair access – part of the glen
- Non-assisted wheelchair access – part of the glen
- Facilities for the mobility impaired (walking stick, frame) – Yes
- Rest seats for the mobility impaired – Yes
- Toilets – yes
- Accessible toilets – Yes, outside at cafe, radar key required
- Playground – Yes
- Facilities for blind and visually impaired people – No
- Assistance dogs allowed – Yes
- Comments on inclines – started at the top car park. Turned a corner in the path and realised that the slope was too steep for a wheelchair with passenger to go down or return that way. Turned round, back in car and went to other end of the glen where the playground and cafe are based. This area is reasonably level and accessible. The path up the glen from this end is more accessible but fresh loose gravel had been put down in two places, making pushing the chair difficult. I expect these will consolidate in future. Then we came to a muddy spot and my

passenger decreed it was time to go back for an ice cream. By this time I was tired of the challenge and happily agreed.

- Cafe/refreshments on site – Yes, at the bottom entrance. Ice cream parlour is on the level but there is a set of steps up into the cafe with a hand rail. Picnic tables outside by the mill pond provide an alternative to eat your ice cream or ask in the cafe if they could bring food out to you. Tel: 823474
- Restaurant on site – No
- Distance – not sure, failed to get the whole length