

## Bishopscourt 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](http://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 – Layby gives a wide space for two vehicles on the busy main road. Another layby further on gives more
- Accessible Parking – No
- Assisted wheelchair access – Yes
- Unassisted wheelchair access – beware of tree roots and stones
- Facilities for the mobility impaired (walking stick, frame) – Yes
- Rest seats for the mobility impaired – Yes
- Toilets – No
- Accessible toilets – No
- Assistance dogs allowed – Yes
- General Comments – Stick to the left hand path. This path is reasonably even, just the odd tree root and stone. However the camber can be a little challenging at times for a wheelchair. The assister needs to be reasonably fit or rest regularly to tackle the slight incline. However just before the pond (our target destination), the incline increases considerably and the camber twists the chair to the right). It took one at the front of the chair to correct the steering and pull, plus one behind the chair to push. Once we got up the short slope it was a pleasure to sit and watch the ducks together, watch the light dance on the arching tree leaves above and small fish jump in the pond.

- The nearest cafe is The Dovecote Tea Rooms in Kirk Michael. Ring 878534 to inquire about accessibility. A large print menu is available on request.
- The right hand path has a flight of steps and is not suitable for wheelchairs.
- Distance approximately 1.5 miles return