

Loch Moraig to Blair Atholl 7th August 2023

Eight members signed up for a linear walk from Loch Moraig to Blair Atholl. This required leaving a car in Blair Atholl before driving everyone in two more cars to the walk start point at the new carpark beside Loch Moraig.

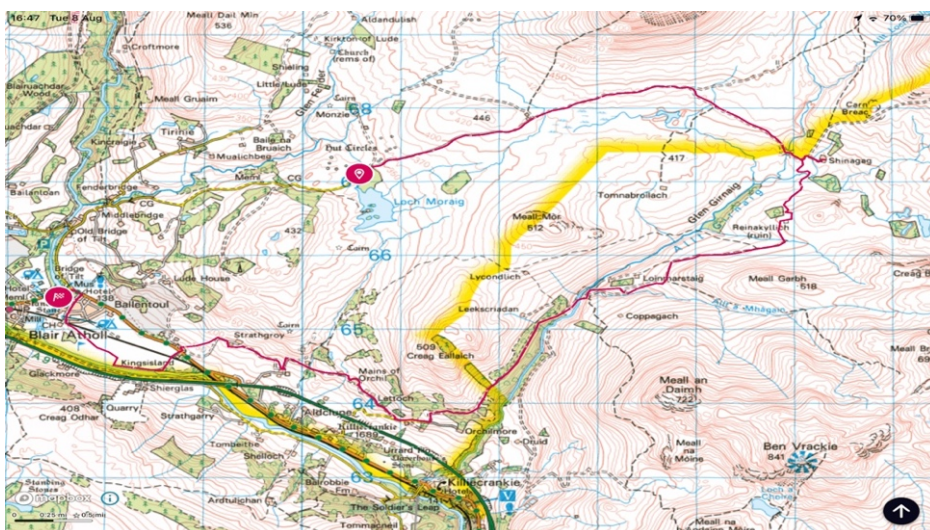
We set off eastwards on a good track with fine views of the Beinn a' Ghlo mountain range towering above us before turning towards the old settlement of Shinigag, where we stopped for coffee. The old sheep shearing shed still appears to be in use and gave insight into the long established process.

Steps were retraced to rejoin the track before negotiating some rougher boggy terrain where some rarer wild flowers including Vipers Bugloss, Lesser Knapweed, Self Heal and the more common Lady's Bedstraw and Meadow Sweet were found. A large ford crossed the route with some members opting to wade through, while others found more innovative ways utilising stones or a wooden fence across the stream. Shortly afterwards a second obstacle of a padlocked gate in a new deer fence had to be climbed before continuing to the ruined remains of Reinakyllich. The forester Thomas McKenzie was granted a life tack (lease) by the Duke of Atholl in 1719 which was passed to family members throughout the 1800s.

We continued to follow a track through Glen Girnaig, negotiating path and bridge changes related to estate developments in preparation for partridge, grouse and pheasant shooting. As we descended towards the Allt Girnaig, a lovely big tree with green chestnut like fruits but different leaves was spotted. This was later identified as an English Walnut.

Lunch was enjoyed beside the Allt Girnaig before navigating our way through woodland and field edges to Orchilmore, Lettoch and Strathgoy farms and descending to Kingsisland where we crossed the railway line before following the River Garry onto Blair Atholl Golf Course. Refreshments were enjoyed in the Golf Club House while taking shelter from a heavy rain shower before the drivers headed off to collect the cars from the starting point and the rest of us ambled back to the Museum Car Park in Blair Atholl.

11miles, 212m ascent, 417m descent Av speed 4.4km/hr





Walking the track at the start of the walk



Ruined Hamlet of Reinakyllich





Reinakyllich

Walking down Glen Girnaig





Alt Girnaig

A splash of colour beside the railway

