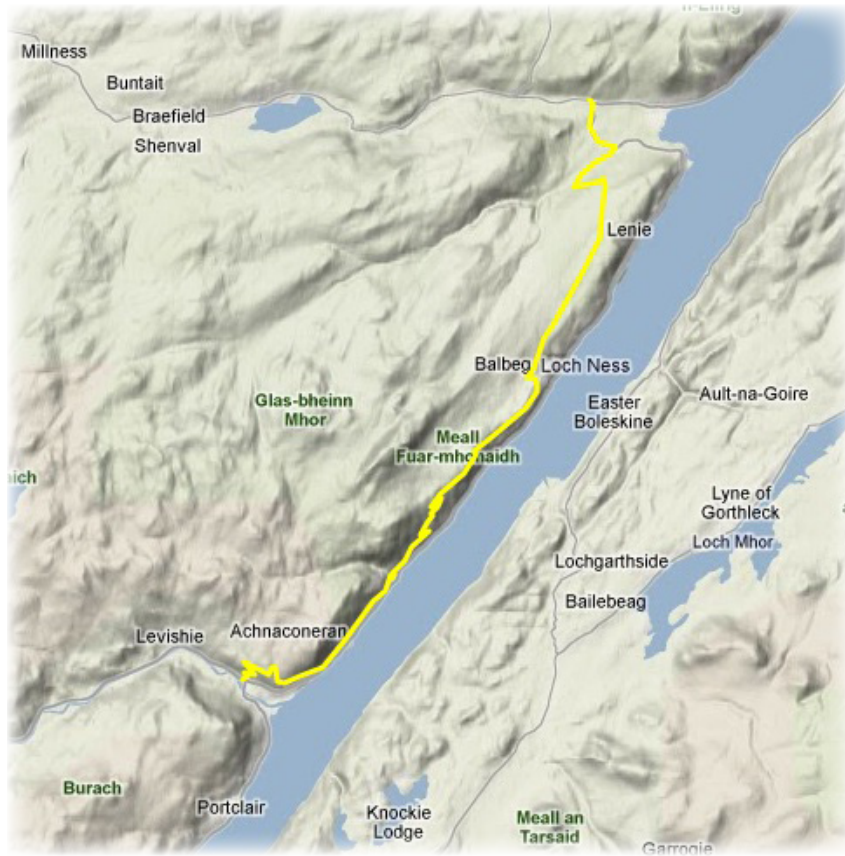


Day 5. Invermoriston to Drumnadrochit 24 Km



Directions: Today's walk is the longest so far and also gains the most in height. However it shouldn't be too taxing as the height gained along the whole of the walk doesn't exceed 1800ft. The walk begins at the Glenmoriston Arms Hotel in Invermoriston. Begin by walking along the Skye road when you will pass a shop and a craft shop. Cross the road at the shop and carry on up the hill passing the manse where you will continue along the track where you will see the Great Gle marker posts. The route now passes through the Creag Nan Eun forest and heads east towards the loch side. The path heads downhill again due south before it turns and runs parallel with the main A82 road heading north east. Continue along the path, crossing

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the bridge at Alltsigh where it then climbs upwards to meet another forest path joining from the left. Still heading north east, you will see the hamlet of Foyers on the opposite bank of Loch Ness. Carry on through Ruskich wood until you eventually come to Grottaig which is just a collection of cottages, but where the path bends left and gains height. The minor road here leads all the way to Drumnadrochit and acts as your guide until you reach where the road enters the woods. A little further on, you will begin to ascend where you should look out for the sign to the left that follows a path via a gate that leads down to Clunebeg lodge. The final part of the the walk follows the river into the village of Drumnadrochit.

Although this section of the Great Glen way is the longest so far, the route is mainly along a forest track that winds through the forest above the lochside. Consequently, there isn't an awful "happening" until you reach the Drumnadrochit itself. Every so often there are clearings in the forest which give views down to the lochside, but in the main the way is just a steady plod through the pine forest. Unfortunately the planners of the way decided to divert the path away from one of the biggest attractions of the highland; which is Urquhart castle which lies on the shore of Loch Ness a mere 2 miles east from Drumnadrochit. The castle is looked after by Historic Scotland and was the third busiest property under their supervision. with over 280,000 visitors in 2009. The visitor centre includes a display on the history of the site, including a series of finds from the medieval period, a cinema, a restaurant and shop. The castle is built on Strome point on a rare piece of flat land that gives an obvious strategic vantage point north and south down the Loch. The castle is ruined now having been blown up by the retreating soldiers in 1692 to prevent it from becoming a Jacobite stronghold.

