

GRAIG WEN ACCESS STATEMENT 2024

Sarah and John live on site and are available to assist with advice whenever possible - please do ask if we can help! The details below are subject to change so please contact us and we will be happy to discuss your requirements: 01341 250482 or hello@grraigwen.co.uk.

Our 4 holiday cottages at Graig Wen and the caravan/motorhome site are set on a level terrace overlooking the Mawddach Estuary, five miles West of Dolgellau. A **steep track** drops down through our 45 acres of woodland and sloping fields to the tent camping area, estuary and Mawddach Trail. The rough track down to the Mawddach Trail is approximately 600 metres long with a couple of steep sections of about 150 metres. The upper part of the site is 71 metres above the estuary level. Cars accessing our tent camping fields can drive part way down this track which is rough in places. The final section of the track to the estuary is not accessible by vehicle and is partly on sloping grass which can be slippery when wet.

The vast majority of our guests, ranging from septuagenarians to toddlers, take the hill steady and are fine, with or without bikes. There are benches to catch your breath en route. Some people, including children, sixty year olds and disabled people with adaptive bikes, are known to enjoy the challenge of cycling all the way to the top, but for most of us, it's a bit of a push. E-bikes seem to manage the hill.

For those who find the track down to the estuary too steep, the Mawddach Trail can be easily accessed from various free car parking places within a couple of miles of Graig Wen including Penmaenpool car park and Morfa Mawddach station car park.

Cyclists who wish to access the Mawddach Trail but find our track too steep can ride downhill along the A493 for approx mile and access the Mawddach Trail in Arthog. As Graig Wen is on the brow of a hill there will always be an ascent to negotiate to return to us - whether from the Arthog or Dolgellau direction. Welcome to Wales!

The Mawddach Trail is wheelchair accessible from various points including Penmaenpool car park and Morfa Mawddach station car park.

Lighting

We are in the Eryri Dark Skies Reserve and exterior lighting is kept to a minimum. There are motion sensitive solar lights around areas of the site near to the facilities. We provide lanterns for the glamping units. Campers are advised to bring head torches, particularly for the unlit tent camping fields.

The upper touring camp site

Vehicle access is easy from the A493 from the Dolgellau direction. We advise caravans and larger motorhomes to access us from this direction, as the turning into our drive from the Fairbourne direction is tight.

Pitches are level and there are no steps to access the washing facilities or loos. Ladies and Gents toilets and wash basins are located no further than 50 metres from any of the pitches. We regret these are not accessible by wheelchair users. Two unisex showers are less than 100 metres from the pitches. We regret these are not accessible by wheelchair users.

The terrain is flat with slate waste or concrete paths.

The tent camping fields

Access to the tent camping car park is via the steep track outlined above at the owner's risk. The track part tar and part gravel and is not suitable for camper vans.

The tent camping fields are undulating and wild in nature with some steep sections. Pitches on the estuary field are less than 100 metres from a clean and spacious unisex compost loo and 2 unisex showers. Pitches on the family field are about 200 metres away from this, as are the Pitch and Park pitches. There is a small compost loo and hot shower within approx 100 metres of the family fields. The secluded pitches are also within 100 metres of this.

The conventional loos and a further two unisex showers are approx 100 metres and 150 metres respectively up the steep track from the tent camping car park. Reception is also on this level.

Holiday cottages

We regret that the holiday cottages have no downstairs bathrooms so are not suitable for wheelchair users. There is a standard flight of 11 stairs with a small landing to reach the first floor in each cottage. There is a slight step up to access the front doors of Little Haven, Small Barn and Pine Cottage. Ty'r Adar has level access. Parking is available near to the front door of all cottages.

All cottages have bathrooms with a bath and overhead shower so you need to step over the bath to access the shower. Rubber bath mats are available and grab rails are installed by the baths in Little Haven and Pine Cottage.

Glamping

From March until October, **Jones the shepherd's hut, the large yurt, Tommy yurt and the yurt for two** are sited in a silver birch glade. You can park next to the accommodation. Access to the yurt for two is a down a steepish slope of about 10 metres.

The terrain is uneven with some slate waste paths and other grassy areas.

The **large yurt, Tommy, and Jones the shepherd's hut** each have a private compost loo which steps are used to access, within at most approx 15 metres. Jones and the large yurt also have a hot shower next to the compost loos with level access. Ladies and Gents conventional loos and washbasins are situated approx 100 metres down a gently sloping track. Two further unisex showers are situated about 200 metres away near reception. We regret none of these facilities is wheelchair accessible.

Jones the shepherds hut has a step stool to access the double bed. This folding bed needs to be pulled down or pushed back up to the wall so may be tricky for those with back problems.

Idris yurt from May until the end of September, is sited on a remote area our lower tent camping fields. A compost loo with steps and a hot shower are within 10 metres. Please see the information above about other access. You cannot drive to the yurt and the car park is about 350 metres across grassy fields. We do not recommend Idris is suitable for families with very young children or those with mobility issues.

Our wagons **Empress and Small Duchess** are open from March until early January and are sited on the touring site. Both are accessed by a couple of steps. Both have folding double beds which need to be pulled down or pushed back up to the wall so may be tricky for those with back problems. Both have a step stool to access the bed.

Empress has an en suite flushing loo and hot shower on the same level as the rest of the accommodation.

Small Duchess uses the touring site loos which are less than 10 metres away, and the touring site showers which are approx 100 metres away.

- **Transport**

By bike or foot - direct access from Mawddach Trail through a pedestrian gate. Steep grassy field and rough track 600m up to holiday cottages and camp site washblock.

By train - Morfa Mawddach station 2 miles away with direct access along Mawddach Trail (see above).

By bus – No G21 bus runs between Dolgellau and Tywyn - ask driver to drop you at Graig Wen.

By car – Turn off A470 Dolgellau bypass, and take A493 signposted Tywyn/Fairbourne. From the turn off with A470 we are 4.5 miles on right hand side on brow of slight hill.

- **Assistance dogs** are welcome (as are all well behaved dogs) and can be exercised on the top site as well as the lower fields which are accessed down the steep and rough track.
- **Mobile phone reception and 3/4G** on most networks is available on site (except 02) although there are spots in the surrounding area where coverage is patchy.
- While we do not have an **induction loop** at reception, we will do our utmost to assist people who are hard of hearing/deaf and can provide written guidance.
- We can provide information in **large print and alternative formats** by prior arrangement.
- Explore the woodland and pasture and you can listen to birdsong and the rustle of reeds and leaves, smell the sea air and the bluebells in season, feel the dry stone walls and the bark of ancient oaks. There are benches for rest points around the site.