

# Jenny's Well



## Directions

### Walk - -

Starts at the junction of Hawkhead Road and **Jenny's Well Road** opposite the entrance to Ross House. Walk up Jenny's Well Road to the end, here the path becomes part of the national **Cycleway Route 7**. Follow the national cycle path for a few metres before veering off on a **minor sloping path** on the right. Take this path. At the top of the slight incline go up the **steps** on the right. (You can avoid the steps by continuing up the slope - if you do this walk around to the top of the steps.) At the top of the steps **bear right** along the path. Keep following the path round. When you come to a junction take the path on the **left**. Continue on this path bearing left until you return to the top of the steps. Return down the slope and via the cyclepath to Jenny's Well Road.

### Walk - -

Starting at the same point as route 1 continue up the **cycle path** passing the **football pitch** on your right. Take the narrow path off to the right around the pitch. (There is a short, steep and sometimes muddy path down to the riverside if you wish to take it). Otherwise carry on along the main path. Continue to follow the path round to **wooden steps** on the left. Taking the steps rejoin the **cycle path** near the start of your walk.

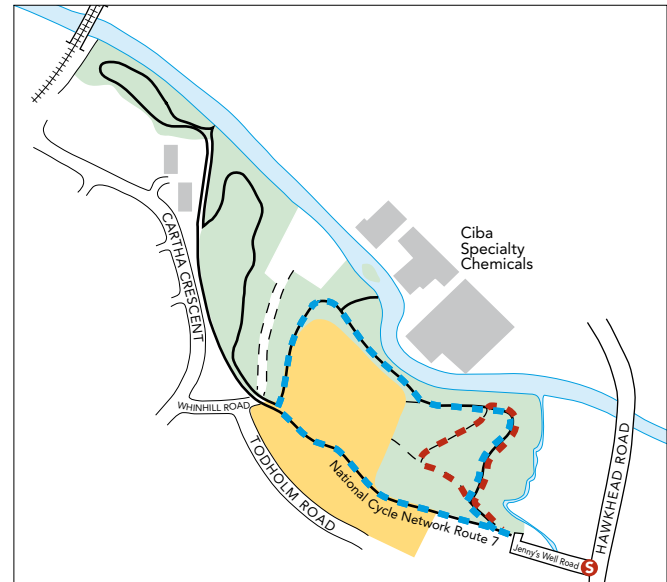


# Jenny's Well

walking to health

Walk - - Distance: 0.75kms Approximate time: 15 mins

Walk - - Distance: 1.2kms Approximate time: 20 mins





## A little local knowledge

It may be hard to imagine that a site that is attractive to wildlife exists less than 2kms from the centre of Paisley. At this site many young trees have been planted to provide woodland in years to come. Near the start of these routes the trees that have been planted are mostly **Oaks**. This type of Oak is native to Scotland and is especially good for wildlife. Some eat it, some live on it and others eat the ones that eat or live on it. Not only are Oak trees good for wildlife they are also very useful for humans. Mature oak timber is very strong and durable. For hundreds of years oak wood was used by man to build his houses and his ships. The wood was used to make steady burning charcoal which was used to feed iron smelting furnaces. The bark was used as a source of tannin, an important ingredient in the production of leather.

Part of the nature reserve is often wet. In fact the path was built to ensure that people could enjoy the site all year round. The soil is sticky, thick clay. The water does not drain through the soil easily and because the land is fairly flat, pools and marshy areas tend to form. In the spring **Frogs** lay their spawn in the water. If any tadpoles survive to adult hood they can be seen crawling into the nearby grass in June or July.

As well as being quite wet here there are lots of spiky **Hawthorn** bushes. In the autumn many birds feed on the berries. You may spot **Redwings** and **Fieldfares**, both of

these birds look a bit like Thrushes. They are both winter visitors from Scandinavia who fly south to Britain to take advantage of our warmer winters!

Looking at the football pitch it is hard to believe that back in the 19th Century men worked here quarrying out limestone and whinstone. Their endeavours left huge holes in the ground which were used as landfill sites in the 1960's. The waste material was compacted down, covered in a thick layer of boulder clay and eventually planted with grass. Below the level of the pitch the path follows a terrace formed from the land fill. The terrace is gradually being colonised by woodland from the bank below. Many small birds flit through the trees pursuing their tiny insect food. You may see **Long-tailed Tits**, as their name suggests you will recognise these small pinkish birds by their disproportionately long tails. If you are lucky you may also spot **Goldcrests**, the smallest of our British birds.

**Gorse** and **Broom** both grow well in the poorer soils away from the landfill sites. The golden flowers of these bushes look similar but the **Gorse** is the one with the very prickly stems. There is an old saying that 'when the Gorse is out of bloom kissing is out of fashion' however there is no cause for alarm as it tends to flowers in every month of the year!

