



Jenny's Well

Directions

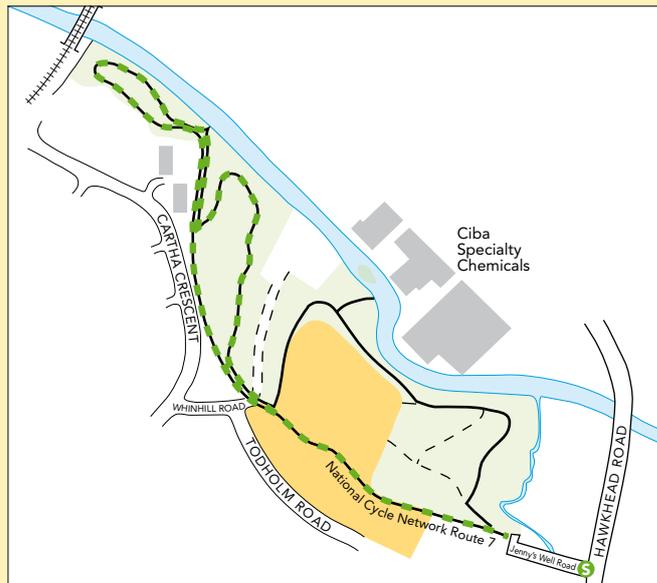
Start at the junction of **Hawkhead Road** and **Jenny's Well Road** opposite the entrance to Ross House. Walk up Jenny's Well Road to the start of the **cycle path**. Follow the cycle path past the **football pitch** on your right. A driveway goes off to the right and just beyond this there is an entrance into the **nature reserve**. Enter the nature reserve and after a few metres take the path off to **your right**. Continue on this path until you rejoin the main path. **Turn right**. (You will see a viewing platform on your right, if you have time pause here to look at the river). Here the path forms a **loop**, continue around the loop passing back past the viewing platform on your left. Continue along the main path until you reach the reserve entrance. Turn left onto the cycle path and follow it back to Jenny's Well Road.



Jenny's Well

walking to health

Distance: 2.2kms Approximate time: 35 mins



A little local knowledge

At the start of the nature reserve look out for **Blackcurrant** bushes, a **Lilac** tree and even the occasional clump of **Rhubarb**, not the plants you would expect to find in a nature reserve. However all becomes clear when it is realised that this area was used in the past for allotments. In summer as you walk closer to the river you will find a large area of what look like huge rhubarb plants. These enormous leaves belong to the **Butterbur** plant. The strange looking pink flowers appear very early in year before the leaves develop. By the late summer the leaves can have grown to almost 1 metre across. In days gone by the huge leaves were used to wrap pats of butter to keep them cool.

The White Cart Water flows along the edge of the nature reserve. Many water birds can be seen in the reserve. A fast moving glimpse of electric blue is a

Kingfisher as it flashes past. **Mallards** take life at a more sedate pace and are much easier to spot. **Grey Herons** stand silently at the edge of the water stalking their prey of frogs, small fish or eels. Or you may see a **Grey Wagtail**, a pretty yellowish bird which characteristically wags its tail when perched on rocks.



The path closer to the river affords good views of the railway viaduct. Now carrying trains along the Canal Line, the bridge was built by Thomas Telford, as an aquaduct to carry the canal from Glasgow to Johnstone. The canal was opened in 1810. Boats were pulled by horses and there were stables every four miles so that the horses could be changed. As the roads improved and railways became faster the canals could not compete. The last passenger excursion was in May 1882. The canal was bought by the Glasgow and South Western Railway Company, they drained the water and laid railway lines on the canal bed. The first train ran along the canal line in 1885.

In the summer you will see a sea of pink flowered **Rosebay Willowherb** in the part of the reserve closest to the railway where the path curves away from the river. The flowers are attractive to insects in particular the **Elephant Hawk-moth** which lays its eggs on the plant. In late summer the air can be filled with the light downy seeds. Those which are not released may be eaten by **Goldfinches** in the autumn.

