

## Top 10 things to see and do in Duchess Wood

- 1 On the right just above the gate where you leave the car park there was once a large sweet chestnut tree. This tree fell in a storm some years ago but has started to regenerate. Several large stems are now growing from the roots and can be identified by their long serrated leaves.
- 2 The lower wildlife pond can be reached by turning left after the gate from the car park and the upper pond is located off the path on the west side of the Wood. Both have enhanced biodiversity in the Wood and at different times frog spawn (spring) and damsel and dragon flies (summer) can be seen as well as bats and different aquatic plants. Next to the lower pond is a small tree nursery where saplings are grown prior to planting out in the Wood.
- 3 The “pony field” is an open area above the rugby pitch where ponies were once exercised. There are information boards, seating and on the north side a native fruiting tree orchard.
- 4 Here there are ancient oaks including an exceptional burr oak with a greatly distorted and swollen trunk over 7m/23ft circumference.
- 5 Very old or “veteran” beech trees in this corner with fallen branches gradually being absorbed back into the soil. Fungi including bracket fungi on the trees and sometimes poisonous fly agaric toadstools appear.
- 6 The path runs besides the West Highland Railway Line at this point. In winter there are views across the Clyde. South of the path is a plantation of 100 oaks planted in 2010 and growing well.

**7** A very large sycamore which fell in a gale in January 2014. Notice how much light there is at this point compared to adjacent areas where sycamore dominates shutting out light and restricting the ability of other plants to grow.

**8** Around the Wood there are many old stone dykes dating back well over 150 years. The stone arch bridge here is mid-Victorian built on a branch of the Highlandman's Way linking Glen Fruin with the coast.

**9** The Duchess Wood gorge-a steep sided ravine carved by the burn that originates in the hills and woods above the West Highland Line. Tall oak and beech trees grow well in the ravine.

**10** The Rookery. Between 70 and 100 pairs of rooks nest in the tops of the pine trees here. There is always something noisy going on up there!

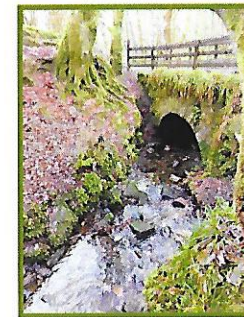
### Advice for visitors

- The Wood is a natural area with fallen trees, steep banks, open edges, ponds, burns and mud; bear this in mind especially when walking with children, but use the Wood to build an understanding of natural play.
- Keep dogs under control, especially near children and horses and leave no waste- bins are available at all entrances to the Wood.

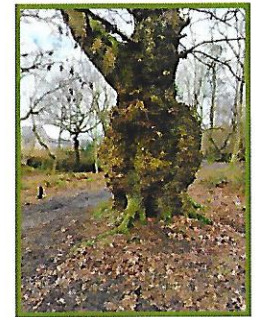
If you spot anything interesting please let us know via the web site [www.duchesswood.org.uk](http://www.duchesswood.org.uk) To join the Friends of Duchess Wood scan one of the QR codes around the Wood or go to [www.duchesswood.org.uk/membership](http://www.duchesswood.org.uk/membership) . Only £10/household per year.



Friends of  
Duchess Wood



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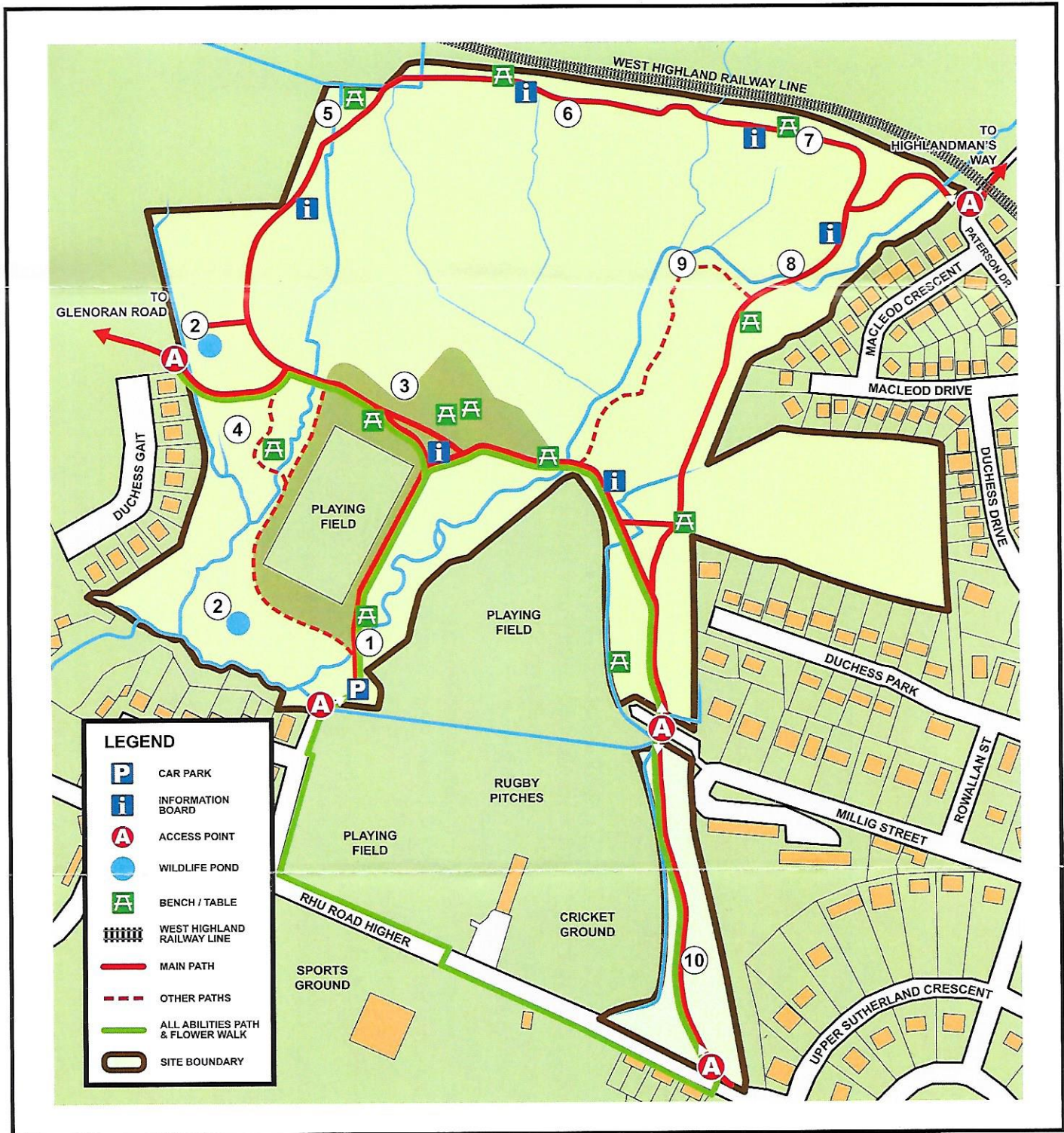






Friends of Duchess Wood

# TOP TEN THINGS TO SEE & DO IN DUCHESS WOOD



## Advice for visitors

The **RED** routes are waymarked with red arrows:

- clockwise from the car park
- anti-clockwise from Rhu Road Higher/Millig Street garages

The **GREEN** all-abilities path and spring flower walk is waymarked with green arrows clockwise from the car park (see separate leaflet for details)

