

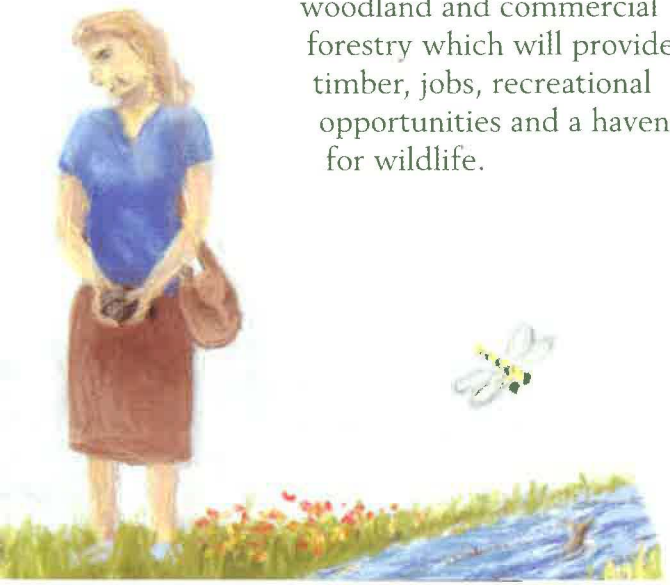


FOREST FOR OUR FUTURE

Bishop's Glen and Dunoon Woodland Park are a Millennium Forest for Scotland project. The Millennium Forest encompasses over seventy projects on nearly four-hundred woodland sites spread across the length and breadth of Scotland.

The Millennium Forest aims to restore and regenerate Scotland's native woodlands and to re-establish the social, cultural and economic links between communities and their local woodlands.

Dunoon Woodland Park and the Millennium Forest for Scotland have a shared vision to regenerate areas of native woodland within a working forest. The end result will be a mosaic of native woodland and commercial forestry which will provide timber, jobs, recreational opportunities and a haven for wildlife.



LEAFLETS

This is one in a series of three leaflets designed to help visitors enjoy their time in Bishop's Glen. A historical leaflet describes the history of the *Waterworks* in Bishop's Glen while the other leaflet is a guide to the Glen for visitors with wheelchairs. These leaflets are available from the Dunoon Tourist Information Centre, Dunoon Library and the Castle Museum.

KEY FOR DISABLED VISITORS' CAR PARK

For a refundable deposit, disabled visitors can obtain a key, which allows vehicular access to the reservoir car park. Keys are held at the Dunoon Tourist Information Centre, Alexandra Parade and at Argyll and Bute Council, Milton House, Milton Avenue, during office hours.

DUNOON WOODLAND PARK

Dunoon Woodland Park Working Group is a partnership between Argyll and Bute Council, Forest Enterprise, Tilhill Forestry and Scottish Natural Heritage. The aim of the partnership is to set up a woodland park running from Toward in the south to the Little Eachaig River in the north. Bishop's Glen, owned by Argyll & Bute Council, forms the heart of Dunoon Woodland Park.

If you would like to speak to us about any aspect of the Glen please contact Argyll and Bute Council Amenity Services on 01369 708600.

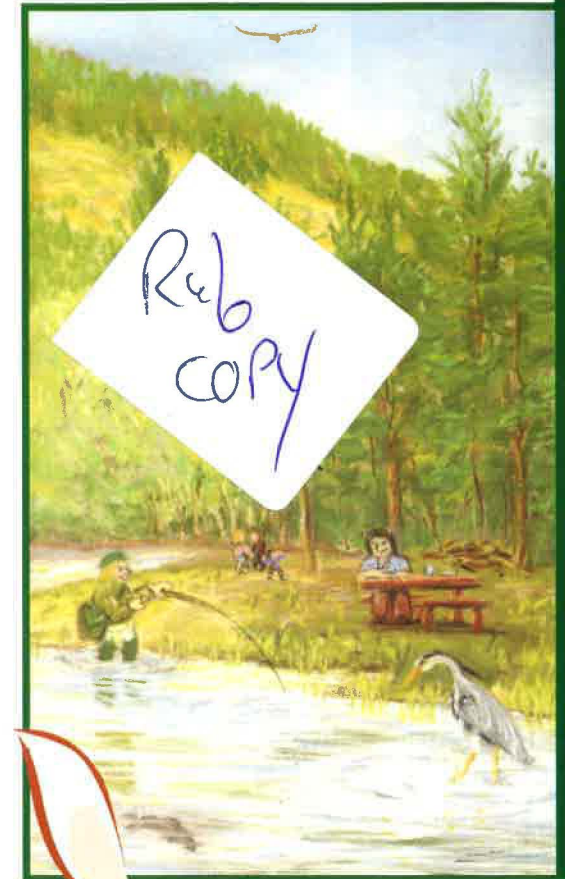
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A guide to...

BISHOP'S GLEN



Dunoon Woodland Park





WELCOME TO THE GLEN

Welcome to Bishop's Glen, the heart of Dunoon Woodland Park. Within the Glen there is a network of paths ranging from broad smooth tracks suitable for wheelchairs to indistinct and challenging trails through the forest. The heart of the Glen is the old reservoir which

Buzzards love soaring above the open hills behind Bishop's Glen

once supplied water to Dunoon. Today it enjoys a new lease of life as a premier fishing spot, regularly stocked with *rainbow trout* by the local angling club. Some visitors are content to walk around the reservoir, while others follow the well constructed paths further up the

Glen. The more adventurous may even climb out of the Glen and up onto Bishop's Seat for grand views over the Clyde and northern hills. To enter the park, follow the street signs to the end of Nelson Street where there is a small visitors' car park.



Treecreepers use their fine curved beaks to probe crevices in the bark for tasty insects

NATURAL WORLD

The Park is not just a wonderful place to visit, it is also home to a wide variety of wildlife. *Gold-ringed dragonflies* hunt along the margins of the reservoir while *herons* stalk the shallows. In the deeper water, *brown trout* rise to snap at unwary insects. *Red squirrels* peer around tree trunks

keeping a wary eye on passing visitors. Beside them acrobatic *treecreepers* spiral up the tree trunks in search of juicy insects. A loud drumming signals the presence of the colourful red and black *great spotted woodpecker*. High above, watching with a hungry eye, soars the majestic *buzzard*. When evening comes *roe deer* and *fox* venture out to graze and hunt. As darkness falls the eerie shriek of *tawny owls* echoes around the park while *pipistrelle bats* patrol the forest rides. Walk softly and you may be rewarded with a glimpse of the wildlife that thrives in Bishop's Glen.

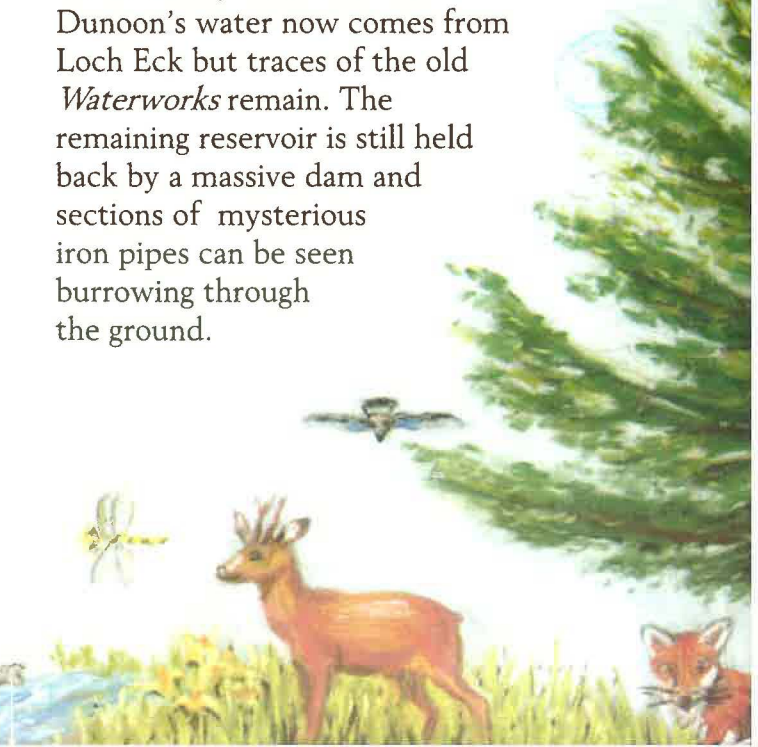
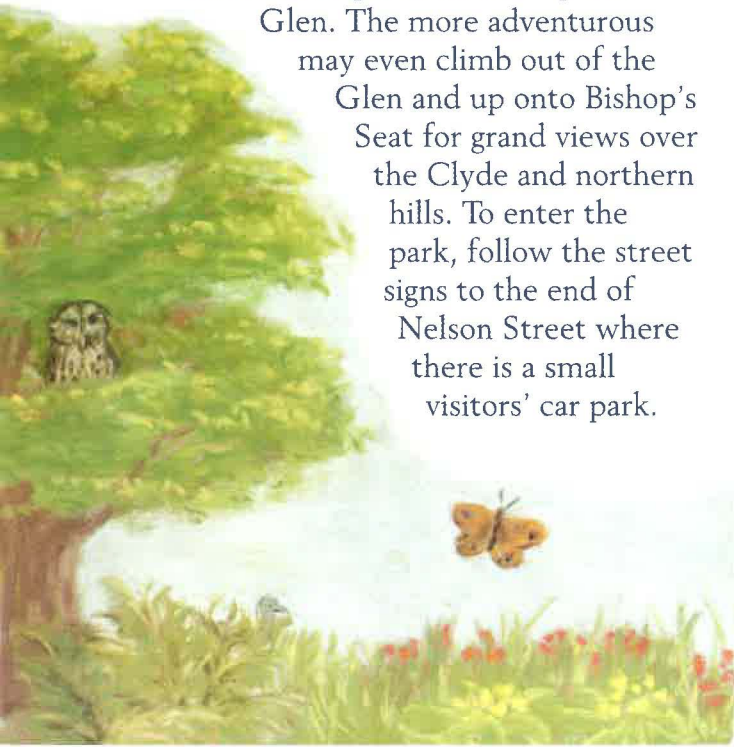


The upper reaches of the Balgaidh Burn haven't changed much since this photograph was taken in the 1920's

STEP INTO THE PAST

The hill above Dunoon has been called *Bishop's Seat* for centuries, named after the medieval Bishop's palace that used to grace the town. However, the name *Bishop's Glen* is recent, dating from a 1950's tourist initiative. Prior to the 1870's the area was known simply as *Balgaidh Glen*. By the late 1870's the first of three

reservoirs had been built. These reservoirs provided the town's water supply for many years and a new name, the *Waterworks*, came into use. Dunoon's water now comes from Loch Eck but traces of the old *Waterworks* remain. The remaining reservoir is still held back by a massive dam and sections of mysterious iron pipes can be seen burrowing through the ground.





Dunoon Woodland Park



KEY TO MAPS

- Bishop's Glen short route
 - Bishop's Glen longer route
 - Bishop's Glen additional footpaths
 - Tilhill Forestry track
 - Tilhill Forestry footpath
 - Forest Enterprise track
 - Forest Enterprise footpath
- Car park for disabled visitors only
- Visitor's car park



Wood sorrel thrives in the shade of the Glen's woodlands. This delicate, low-growing plant folds down its leaves in the cold and at night



BISHOPS GLEN

Dunoon Woodland Park

LOOKING AFTER THE GLEN

Looking after Bishop's Glen isn't just about planting trees and repairing paths. Without your help its all wasted effort! Please remember to:

- ✓ **DOG OWNERS** - Keep your dog under control at all times. Clean up after it or at least make sure any dog mess is well away from the paths and picnic areas.
- ✓ **CYCLISTS AND HORSE RIDERS** - The new paths in the Glen are not designed for hooves or wheels. Please avoid damaging them by staying out of the Glen and using the miles of forest tracks to the south.
- ✓ **TAKE ALL YOUR LITTER HOME** - Litter looks horrible and can injure wildlife.
- ✓ **GUARD AGAINST FIRE** - Fire kills wildlife! Even a dropped cigarette could destroy this place forever.
- ✓ **WORKING FOREST** - Bishop's Glen is surrounded by working forests. Take heed of the warning signs and keep away from machinery.
- ✓ **YOU ARE A GUEST IN THE GLEN** - Treat it as you would an old friend.
- ✓ **TRY WALKING QUIETLY** - You'll see so much more!



A sparrowhawk's diet is made up almost entirely of small birds

Making friends with a tree! Bishop's Glen is an ideal place for guided walks, events and environmental education. Keep your eyes open for activities advertised in the local paper and on posters





EASY WALKING

Short route 1 Km
(Easy Walking 1 hour)

A network of paths surround the old reservoir providing a variety of routes to explore. From the Nelson Street entrance follow the tarmac road alongside the gorge of the Balgaidh Burn. After 400m you will come to the dam.

The heron's dagger shaped beak is an ideal tool for fishing

Continue on the tarmac road as it turns to the right and brings you out at a picnic site overlooking the reservoir. This is a fine place to sit on a summer's day watching the sunlight play on the water. Continue to the end of the tarmac and a well surfaced track will lead you around the reservoir to the mature *Sitka spruce* and *Scots pine* at the western end of the reservoir. Another picnic site here provides a pleasant resting spot where the Balgaidh Burn runs into the reservoir. The stony beach here is a favourite spot for local fly-fishermen. Continue around the reservoir back towards the dam.

Below the dam take any of the paths to the left which all lead back to the tarmac road from where you started.



Poisonous fly agaric toadstools warn the unwary with their bright red and white colouring



The Balgaidh Burn tumbling through the Glen's birch woods

fence and will gently take you further up Bishop's Glen. As you climb keep an eye out for signs of *red squirrels* (chewed cones) and *roe deer* (young trees with their bark partially stripped).

About 500m along the path there is a viewpoint looking down to the burn at the bottom of the gorge with a path on the far side. There used to be a bridge here but tremendous floods washed it away in the 1990's. Even today the bare rock above the placid stream shows how high the water can rise. Eventually the path returns down the other side of the pretty burn which tumbles over smoothed rocks to the Glen and the reservoir below.

LONGER PATH

Longer Route 2.5 km
(Moderate Walking 2 hours)

If you are feeling more energetic keep an eye out for the path which branches to the right just after you enter the grove of mature *Sitka spruce* and *Scots pine* trees at the western end of the reservoir. This path follows the line of an old



If you hear a strange bark in the Glen at dusk, don't worry, it's just a roe deer warning his friends about you



Looking from the reservoir towards Bishop's Seat

From the summit there are a number of possibilities. To the north lies Glen Kin and forest tracks managed by Tilhill Forestry. Alternatively, walkers could head west to Inverchaolain Glen and descend to Loch Striven. The area to the south of Bishop's Glen is managed by Forest Enterprise and the forest tracks allow walkers, horse riders and cyclists to travel as far south as Innellan and Port Lamont.

If you do try these routes some pre-planning will be necessary to avoid long road walks at the end of the day. The maps provided in this leaflet are not intended to be used for navigation.

DOGS

The Glen is an ideal venue for dog walking and every day there are liable to be several people exercising their furry friends. Dogs are welcome but please ensure that they do their stuff off the paths and well away from picnic areas.

FURTHER AFIELD

Bishop's Glen is an ideal starting point for longer walks. Routes can be rough and indistinct in places but anyone proficient with a map should be able to find their way. Several routes run from the Glen up through the forest to Bishop's Seat (504m).