

# THE COUNTRYSIDE AROUND HELENSBURGH

## Helensburgh's countryside

Helensburgh enjoys a fine, south-facing setting where the Gare Loch meets the Clyde Estuary. Near to the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, it has accessible countryside around it. From its gentle hills there are stunning views of the River Clyde, Dumbarton Rock, Arran, the Arrochar mountains and, of course, Loch Lomond and Ben Lomond.

## Green Belt

Most of the countryside around Helensburgh is designated Green Belt and nearly half of that is for local nature conservation.

## Local paths

Helensburgh's Access Forum and its Green Belt Group, backed by the Argyll and Bute Council, have developed a footpaths network around the town and beyond. Two footpaths link Helensburgh to the National Park. The map overleaf shows the main paths and the Access Forum has a more detailed paths map (price £1).

## Woodlands

Helensburgh has a "necklace" of woodlands around the town with footpath links. Many of these are marked on the map overleaf.

## Places of interest in the countryside

The Duchess Wood is one of Scotland's 41 Local Nature Reserves. There are several sites of interest for nature conservation, including the Blackhill Mire (north of the town) and Garravy Glen. The Upland Way takes you to the famous Hill House (National Trust for Scotland). Ardmore Point is a recognised bird sanctuary and a site of geological significance, while the shoreline beside it is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Helensburgh's countryside links to the National Park.

## Wildlife and plant life

The quality and range of wildlife and plant life around Helensburgh are exceptional because the area combines water, arable, urban and heathland terrain and because much of the countryside is wild. About a third of Britain's nesting birds and some 800 plant species are found. There is great diversity of butterfly and insect life and a range of animals.

For further information see [www.hgbg.org.uk](http://www.hgbg.org.uk)



## TRAINS

Helensburgh has three railway stations which are marked on the map. There is a regular half-hourly service to and from Glasgow which, together with the West Highland Line, offers links countrywide.



## BUSES

Regular in-town bus services and to nearby countryside.



## PARKING

There is parking and wheelchair access to paths at the Duchess Wood, the Skating Pond and other locations. See the symbol "P" on the map.

## THE HELENSBURGH GREEN BELT GROUP

The Helensburgh Green Belt Group is a voluntary local group set up in 1990 to enhance and to protect the countryside around the town. Its main interests are :

- landscape, wildlife and nature conservation
- creation of a paths network
- community woodlands
- Green Belt protection as appropriate

For further information, see the Greens Belt Group's website: [www.hgbg.org.uk](http://www.hgbg.org.uk)

## THE COUNTRYSIDE AROUND

# HELENSBURGH

## A GUIDE



HGBG

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## KEY TO MAP

-  ALL ABILITIES PATH
-  SURFACED PATH
-  UNSURFACED PATH
-  ROAD
-  PATH ACCESS
-  TRAIN STATION
-  HILL HOUSE PARKING
-  PARKING
-  WOODLAND
-  WATER
-  HELENSBURGH
-  TOURIST INFORMATION



POSSIBLE PATHS IN THIS AREA DEPEND ON FORESTRY PROPOSAL UNDER CONSIDERATION

SUMMIT BEN BOWIE



A LINE ON THIS MAP DOES NOT NECESSARILY INDICATE AN ACTUAL PATH OR IMPLY A PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY OR OTHER SUCH AGREEMENT.