

# Background Report

## Renfrewshire Open Space Audit

8



**Renfrewshire Local Development Plan  
Main Issues Report December 2011**

# Renfrewshire Council

## Audit of Open Space



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## **Executive Summary**

Scottish Planning Policy 11 "Open Space and Physical Activity" (SPP11) recognises the importance of open space to the social, economic and environmental health of an area. Amongst other things, SPP11 requires local authorities to complete an audit of the open space resource throughout its urban and urban fringe areas and to use the findings of this exercise to produce a corporate strategy on the protection, enhancement and maintenance of open space. This audit has now been completed.

An extensive mapping exercise throughout Renfrewshire's 15 main settlements was carried out. A GIS database was created recording all types of open space regardless of ownership and accessibility. This database adopted a classification system of open space promoted in both SPP11 and Planning Advice Note 65 "Planning and Open Space" (PAN 65).

In addition to the mapping, a field survey of the physical quality of open space was completed. Over 70% of the entire resource mapped was surveyed. From this various correlations can be made.

Community consultation also took place through questionnaires. Over 1600 responses on people's perceptions of open space were received.

The database holds the bulk of the audit information and is capable of various types of analyses on both quantity and quality of open space. Initial analysis has focused on the distribution of natural greenspaces, such as woodlands and Local Nature Reserves, throughout urban Renfrewshire.

This audit has been completed with financial assistance from Scottish Natural Heritage and the NHS.

### **Next steps**

SPP 11 requires local authorities to work corporately to prepare an open space strategy, the purpose of which should be to set out a vision for new and improved open space, appropriate to local circumstances. The findings of the audit should assist this process.

A multi-disciplinary working group is required to advance the strategy. Key tasks to be tackled as part of the Strategy will relate to maintenance and management of existing and new open space, agreeing standards on the appropriate amount of open space for an area, improving the physical quality of open space, and involving the community.

## **CHAPTER ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Benefits of open space**

The benefits of open space are many and varied. Open space can make a positive contribution to an area on environmental, social and economic grounds.

On environmental grounds it can:

- Protect and enhance wildlife and habitats, thereby ensuring biodiversity
- Provide an attractive setting for urban areas
- Provide an environmental education resource
- Create and enhance a local sense of place and aid the distinctiveness of local areas
- Reduce pollution and noise



Socially, open space can help to:

- Encourage healthy lifestyles and promote mental well-being
- Provide opportunities for sport, recreation and play that are accessible to all
- Foster local pride and community involvement
- Provide outdoor educational opportunities



Economically, open space can:

- Attract inward investment, businesses and tourism
- Create a positive image of urban areas and the public realm



The connections between and amongst these benefits are obvious. The quality of the urban environment can have a direct impact on the health and prosperity of the local community and area. However, to realise the benefits of open space, a strategic approach to its provision, protection, management and maintenance is required.

### **Policy Context**

The potential benefits of open space are increasingly being recognised in planning policy and government advice and policy. The most significant recent Scottish Government documents specifically on open space are:

- Scottish Planning Policy 11 “Physical Activity and Open Space” (SPP11) Published November 2007 and
- Planning Advice Note 65 “Planning and Open Space” published January 2003 (PAN65)

while the wider legislative and policy context is set most noticeably by:

- The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 which introduced a statutory right of responsible access to most land and inland water and
- The Scottish Government’s agenda for health improvement and increased physical activity.

SPP11 replaces National Planning Policy Guidance 11 “Sport, Physical Recreation and Open Space” (NPPG11). A shift in emphasis is apparent between the two documents with SPP11 focusing on encouraging all types of physical activity rather than formal sports. One stated key objective of SPP11 is

to ensure that local authorities take a strategic approach to sport and open space provision. While NPPG11 recommended that local authorities carry out an open space audit, SPP11 now establishes that local authorities must prepare an audit of open space which in turn will shape the strategic management of the resource.

### **Definition of open space**

SPP11 defines open space as “**a term which includes greenspace consisting of any vegetated land or structure, water or geological feature within and on the edges of settlements, including allotments, trees, woodland, paths and „civic space“ consisting of squares, market places and other paved or hard landscaped areas with a civic function.”**

From this definition, open space may range from private domestic gardens to formal parks and from woodland to town squares. It may be either publicly or privately owned and may be open to the public or inaccessible. All spaces, regardless of ownership and accessibility, contribute to the amenity and character of an area, and can provide some of the benefits listed above.



For example an area of maintained grass close to houses may provide a place for people to meet and children to play promoting both physical and mental well-being, while an inaccessible riparian route may be a valuable wildlife corridor and be significant in enhancing biodiversity.



PAN65 provides some guidance on how to carry out an open space audit. Most significantly, it provides a typology of open space.



This typology recognises the different types of open space and suggests a classification system to be used in the auditing of open space. This typology, and its application in Renfrewshire, is discussed in greater detail in the methodology chapter. In general it classifies open space into public parks and gardens, private grounds, amenity greenspace, play areas, sports areas, green corridors, natural spaces, functional greenspaces and civic space.



## **Open Space: a cross-cutting issue**

The PAN65 typology illustrates the cross-cutting nature of open space, both in terms of the different agencies involved and also the various functions served. Many different bodies and individuals are involved. A local authority may be one of the lead agencies given that it will own and maintain large areas of open space. Within a local authority, a number of different departments will have an interest in open space including those responsible for planning, transport, housing, parks, cemeteries and education. In addition to this, other agencies such as the local health boards, businesses, advisory bodies, community clubs, voluntary groups, landowners and private individuals are relevant stakeholders.

## **Aims of Renfrewshire's Open Space Audit**

In keeping with Scottish Government policy and advice, Renfrewshire Council recognises the benefits of taking a strategic approach to open space and has conducted this audit as a first step towards achieving this. This meets the requirements and advice of SP11 and PAN65 respectively and provides useful information on the quantity, quality and community aspirations of, and for, open space in Renfrewshire.

The audit will inform a future open space strategy. In keeping with SPP11, the forthcoming strategy will be consistent with other Council priorities as set out in the Community Plan and Renfrewshire Council's Corporate Plan including Social Inclusion, Sustainable Development and Best Value. It will support the aims of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Joint Structure Plan Green Network (the Green Network) and inform the Council's input to it as well as to the Renfrewshire Local Plan, the Local Biodiversity Action Plan, Renfrewshire Council's Access Strategy and the Council's emerging Core Path Plan.



The audit is also intended as a useful tool for other Council departments and external agencies involved in issues such as play equipment and the promotion of healthy living and will help to attract funding from a number of sources.

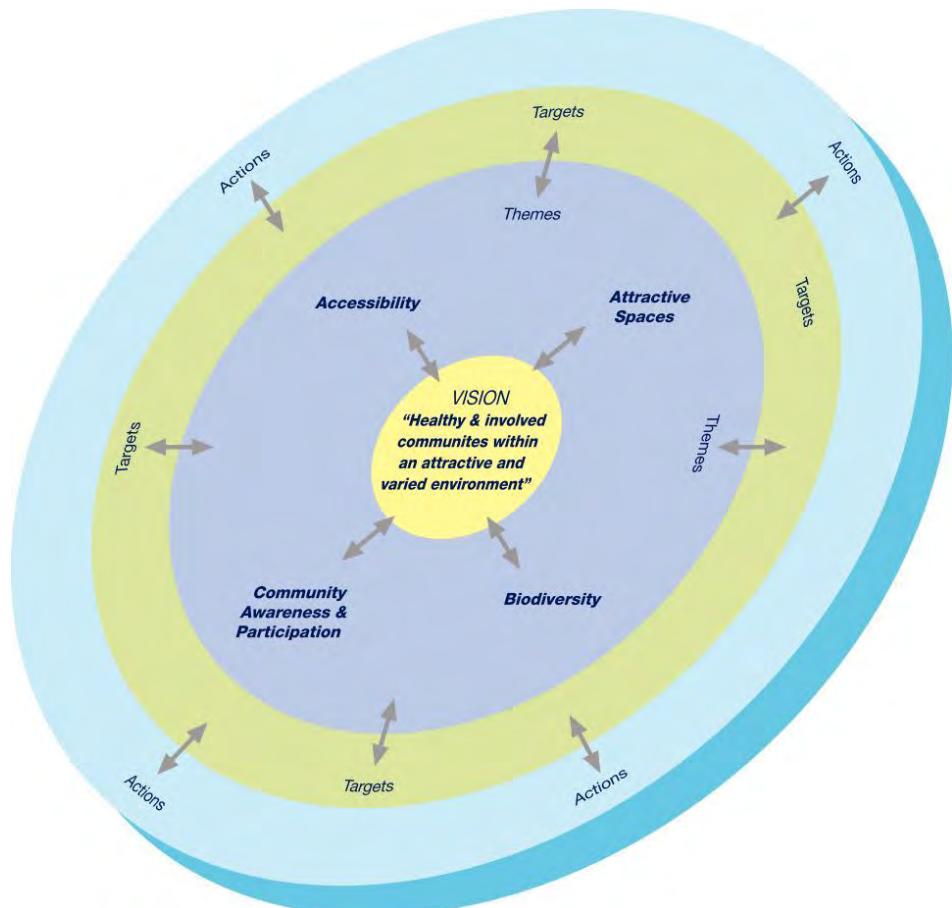
## Renfrewshire's vision for open space

Both the audit and forthcoming strategy are being shaped by a vision for open spaces which is to have **healthy and involved communities living and working in an attractive and varied environment**. To achieve this overall vision, four general themes have been promoted:

- Making open spaces more **attractive**
- Improving and promoting the **accessibility** of open spaces
- Increasing community awareness and **health** through **participation** in open spaces and
- Enhancing the **biodiversity** of open spaces.



Findings from the audit will lead to the setting of strategic targets and the identification of actions. Carrying out these actions will then, in turn, address the identified targets, help meet the general themes and help Renfrewshire achieve its overall vision for open spaces. The diagram below explains this two-way process.



## **Key Outputs**

In keeping with SPP11, PAN65 and also advice provided by Scottish Natural Heritage, the audit has achieved the following key outputs:

- A GIS database of open space categorised according to the typology suggested in PAN65;
- An analysis of existing open space provision in terms of quantity and spatial distribution of open space;
- An evaluation of the physical quality and fitness for purpose of the resource leading to an identification of priority areas or issues.
- An initial examination of levels of use and community perspectives on open space;
- A demonstration of the further potential of the database and
- Conclusions and recommendations based on the above.

The methodology used to produce these various results is summarised in Chapter 2 and described in detail in Appendix A.

## CHAPTER TWO

## METHODOLOGY

The audit process can be broken down into four main steps:

- the mapping exercise and creation of database,
- assessing the distribution of the resource
- establishing fitness for purpose, and
- community consultation.

The details of each of these steps are found in Appendix A, while the findings from each of these steps are set out in chapters three to six respectively.

**NOTE** The largest body of text is found within the Appendices. Not every chapter has an associated Appendix. Chapters Two, Five and Six are supported by Appendices A, B and C respectively. A further Appendix D “Settlement Profiles” combines the main findings of the chapters, and offers a quick reference guide to the quantity and quality of open space within and around each of Renfrewshire’s 15 main settlements.

### Key findings and recommendations

Considerable time and effort was put into creating the database, interpreting the typology and mapping the resource. As a result, a database adaptable to a number of uses and users has been created.

In keeping with the definition of open space in SPP11 and PAN65, all open space was included regardless of possible development aspirations. It is recommended that, for future monitoring, corporate consideration be given to how best to classify land awaiting development. For the time being it has been classified according to its current function and falls mainly within either the residential amenity or semi-natural category. Such decisions will be required prior to further quantitative tests, the aim of which may be to shape future land disposal decisions.



External consultants were appointed to examine and analyse how Fit for Purpose Renfrewshire’s open spaces currently are. Clear priorities at both an authority-wide, and site-specific, level emerged as a result. It is recommended that the scoring system be used again in the future to monitor progress and also to assess sites not included in the sample survey.

Community consultation was kept deliberately simple at this stage and the method adopted proved successful. It is recommended that further detailed consultation be undertaken as and when particular projects and or actions are worked up.

## CHAPTER THREE

## QUANTIFYING THE RESOURCE

While this audit focuses on open space within and immediately adjacent to urban areas as required by SPP11, it is worth considering that, in its widest sense, Renfrewshire's open space includes not just urban parks and areas of residential amenity but also farmland, moorland and coastal areas. In terms of its nature conservation and landscape interest, open space may range from internationally significant resources to vacant and derelict land, some of which may have little habitat interest.

Figure 3.1 shows Renfrewshire, its main settlements and a few key open space and nature conservation sites.

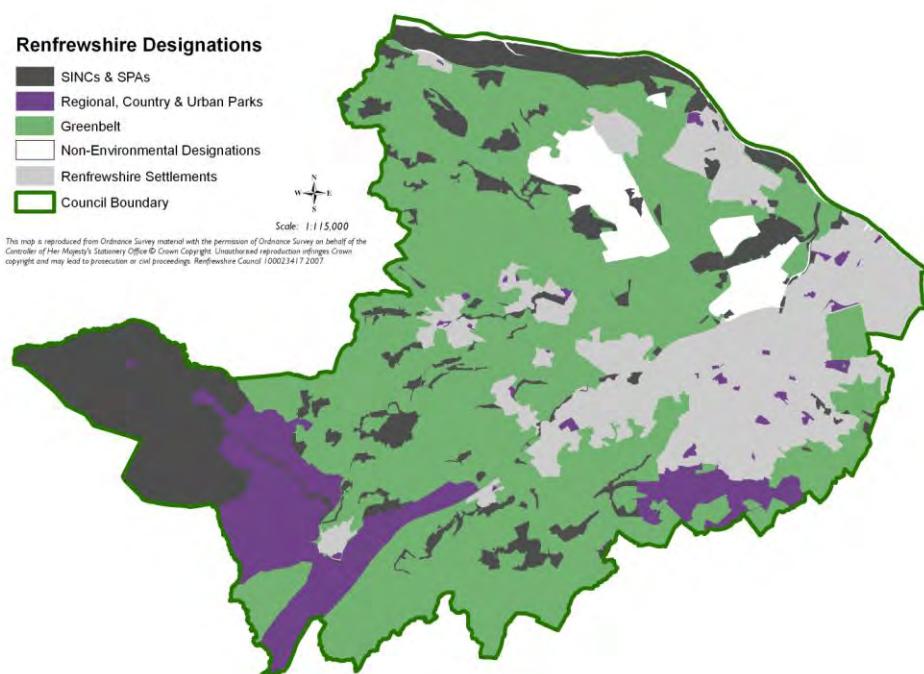


Figure 3.1

While densely populated in parts, the urban area of Renfrewshire makes up only 25% of its total land area. Table 3.2 sets out a few key facts about Renfrewshire, some of which are illustrated on Figure 3.1.

Table 3.2:	Total area	26,968 ha
Renfrewshire	Population	170,000
Key Facts	Urban area (15 settlements)	6,468 ha
	Total non-urban area	20,500 ha
	Regional Parks	1
	Country Parks	3
	SSSIs	10
	Special Protection Areas	3
	Local Nature Reserves (declared)	3
	Local Nature Reserves (proposed)	1
	SINCs	106
	Community Woodlands	2
	TPOs	106
	Vacant and Derelict sites	170

### Access links

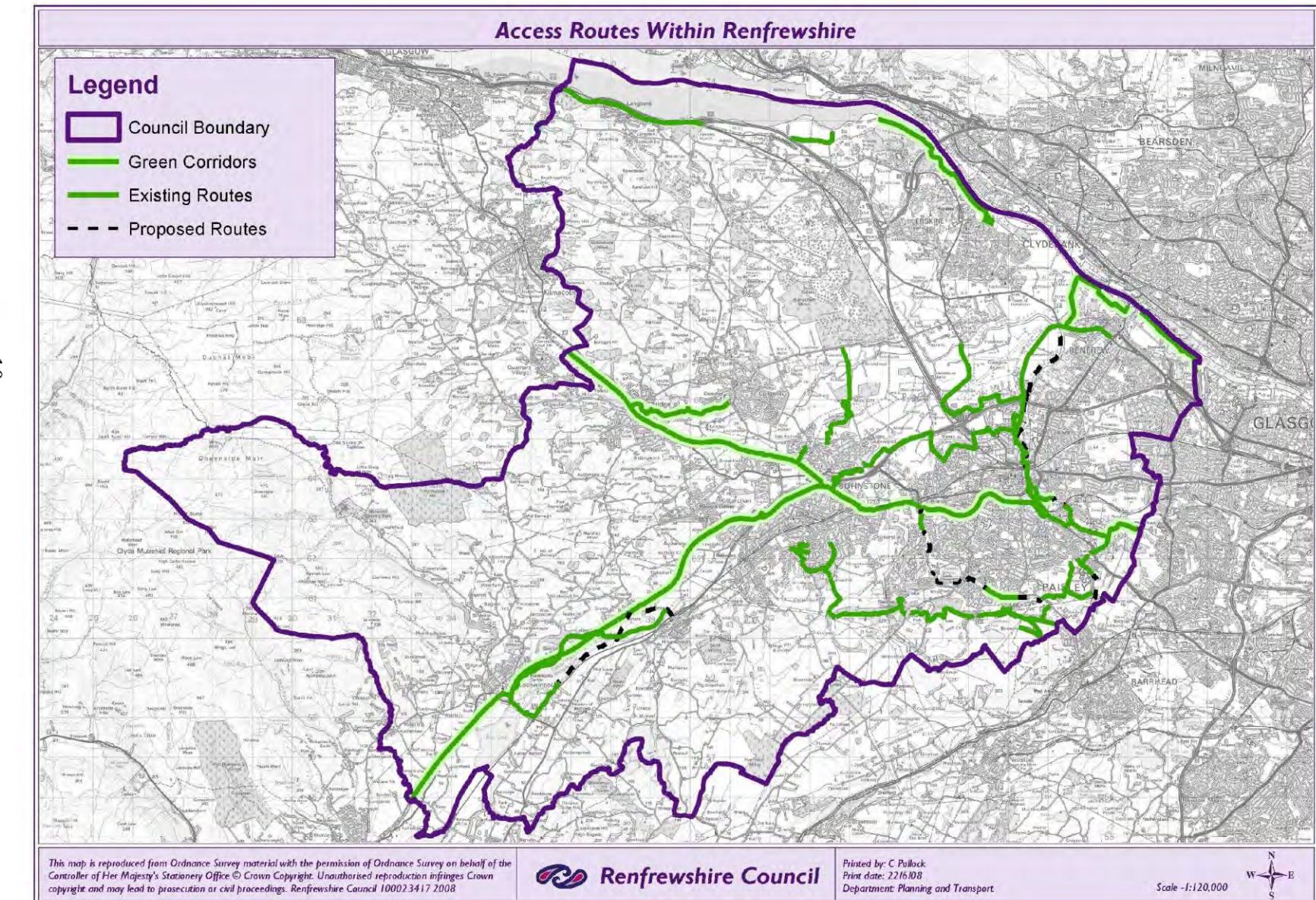
Under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, everyone now has a right to be on most land and water for recreation, education and access provided they act responsibly. There are however some exceptions, most notably private gardens and school grounds, while restrictions apply to golf courses and sports grounds in use.

Long distance footpaths and cycleways, often found along rivers or disused railway lines can provide a green transport route from town to countryside and



may link settlements together. These routes go well beyond the project area of the audit. Figure 3.3 shows the major access routes within Renfrewshire and the level of connection between settlements. It also shows indicative lines for proposed routes, the exact line of which may change as detailed proposals progress. It should be remembered that some of these routes shown are along the side of roads, while

Figure 3.3



others may be through fields. Paths within open spaces can also create local networks and provide links into the wider countryside. The more strategic paths in this category are also shown on Figure 3.3. Of particular note in this latter category are the paths associated with Bluebell and Craigston Woods in Johnstone and Linwood Community Woodland.

Renfrewshire is generally well connected by a number of access routes but variations do of course exist across the authority area.



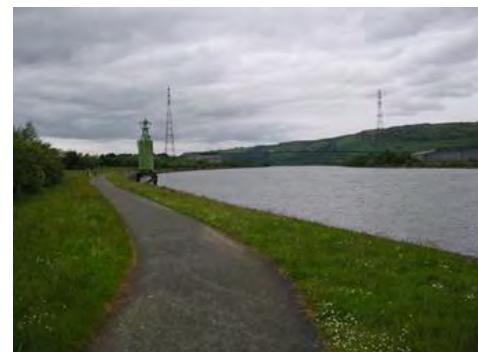
From central Paisley, it is possible to travel west along dedicated green corridors connecting into many of Renfrewshire's rural settlements and beyond to the wider countryside. These routes continue into both Inverclyde and Ayrshire, and provide good strategic connections.

The urban fringe of southern Renfrewshire is also well connected with footpaths linking central Johnstone and

south Paisley via Bluebell Woods and Gleniffer Braes Country Park. An inner access loop connecting west and east Paisley is partially complete. Council commitment exists to complete this important route known as the South Paisley Strategic Link. Progressing this loop will further benefit existing access links between southern Renfrewshire and Glasgow to the east.

Returning to central Paisley, northern access routes are presently less well defined. While signposted routes do connect Paisley with Renfrew, these run largely along roads. Through the Local Plan, commitment is given to establishing the White Cart Walkway, a long-term planning objective to create a green access route between central Paisley and Renfrew. At present, this link only exists in part.

The northern boundary of Renfrewshire is defined by the River Clyde. It is a strategic aim of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership to link Renfrewshire, Glasgow and Inverclyde along the river frontage. Within Renfrewshire this link exists in part. Dedicated green corridors run along the edge of Renfrew and Erskine, while both



on and off road routes link Langbank into Inverclyde. Gaps do however exist between Langbank and Erskine and also between Renfrew and Erskine. Because of nature conservation interests along the Clyde foreshore, sensitivity will be required in bridging the latter gap. Resources will dictate timescales for achieving this strategic aim.

Settlements that are not presently well connected by green access routes are Howwood and Bishopton. Comments returned from the community consultation survey referred to difficulties linking into the existing green corridor between Kilbarchan and Lochwinnoch from Howwood. This is acknowledged. Figure 3.3 does however illustrate an indicative route to make this link.

Walking and cycling within and beyond Bishopton is possible, but does require the use of roads. No dedicated green access route presently links Bishopton with other settlements. A Masterplan does however exist for the redevelopment of the Royal Ordnance Factory site including the creation of a Community Woodland Park extending to over 680 hectares. Footpaths within this Park will greatly improve links from Bishopton to Linwood and Houston respectively, albeit still requiring some on-road activity.

Further information on green links within and beyond each settlement are found in the settlement profiles in Appendix D.

### Urban open space

Turning to the SPP11 definition of open space and to the typology of open space referred to in chapter two and set out in Appendix A, Renfrewshire's urban open space includes town and country parks, domestic gardens and private grounds, community woodlands, sports pitches, cemeteries, play areas, semi-natural greenspaces, golf courses, civic spaces, school grounds and amenity spaces. These spaces may be linked or stand alone. The piechart below (Figure 3.4) shows the general composition of this resource across urban Renfrewshire, while Table 3.5 provides the actual figures.



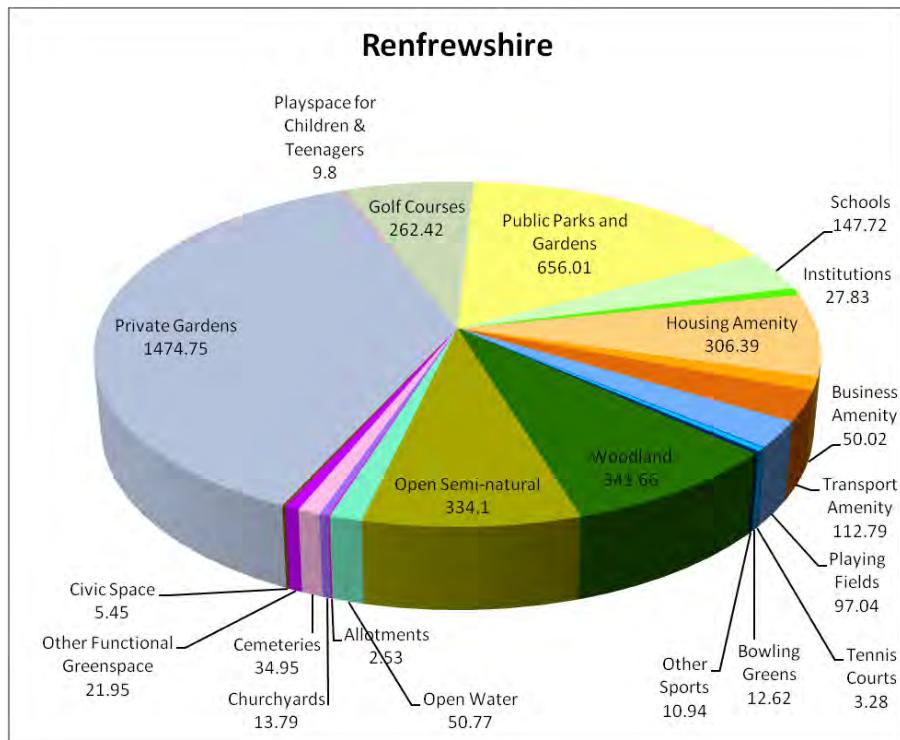


Figure 3.4 Open Space within urban Renfrewshire in hectares

Description	Area (Ha)	% of Total Project Area	% of Open Space Area
6.21 Private Gardens	1474.75	22.79	37.2
6.1 Public Parks and Gardens	656.01	10.14	16.5
6.71 Woodland	341.66	5.28	8.6
6.72 Open Semi-natural	334.10	5.16	8.4
6.31 Housing Amenity	306.39	4.74	7.7
6.52 Golf Courses	262.42	4.06	6.6
6.22 Schools	147.72	2.28	3.7
6.33 Transport Amenity	112.79	1.74	2.8
6.51 Playing Fields	97.04	1.50	2.4
6.73 Open Water	50.77	0.78	1.3
6.32 Business Amenity	50.02	0.77	1.3
6.83 Cemeteries	34.95	0.54	0.9
6.23 Institutions	27.83	0.43	0.7
6.84 Other Functional Greenspace	21.95	0.34	0.6
6.82 Churchyards	13.79	0.21	0.3
6.54 Bowling Greens	12.62	0.20	0.3
6.55 Other Sports	10.94	0.17	0.3
Playspace for Children & Teenagers*	9.80	0.15	0.2
6.9 Civic Space	5.45	0.08	0.1
6.53 Tennis Courts	3.28	0.05	0.1
6.81 Allotments	2.53	0.04	0.1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3967.01</b>	<b>61.31</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 3.5 Open Space within urban Renfrewshire

The figures stated in both Figure 3.4 and Table 3.5 represent the primary use of any space. For example, playing fields found within parks are not included in these figures. This level of information is however held on the database. Detailed maps and figures can be produced for each settlement, particular area or type of space as required.



A point made repeatedly in this document is that open space is a cross-cutting issue affecting, and affected by, various land decisions and agencies. Within the scope of the Planning Department alone, the open space recorded in the database covers much more than simply that which is protected as open space in the adopted Local Plan, or zoned as Local Nature Reserves or Country Parks. Recorded open

space may also cover land that is presently within the vacant and derelict land register or may be land that the Council actively wants to see developed for housing or industry. It must be noted that inclusion within the database alone does not mean that the open space is to be protected as such forever more. It should however help inform future Local Plan decisions as to appropriate designations and help shape future greenspace projects. For example, an area of land that has been on the vacant and derelict register for over ten years may have little developer interest and, over the years may have formed an interesting natural habitat with potential to be a significant greenspace.



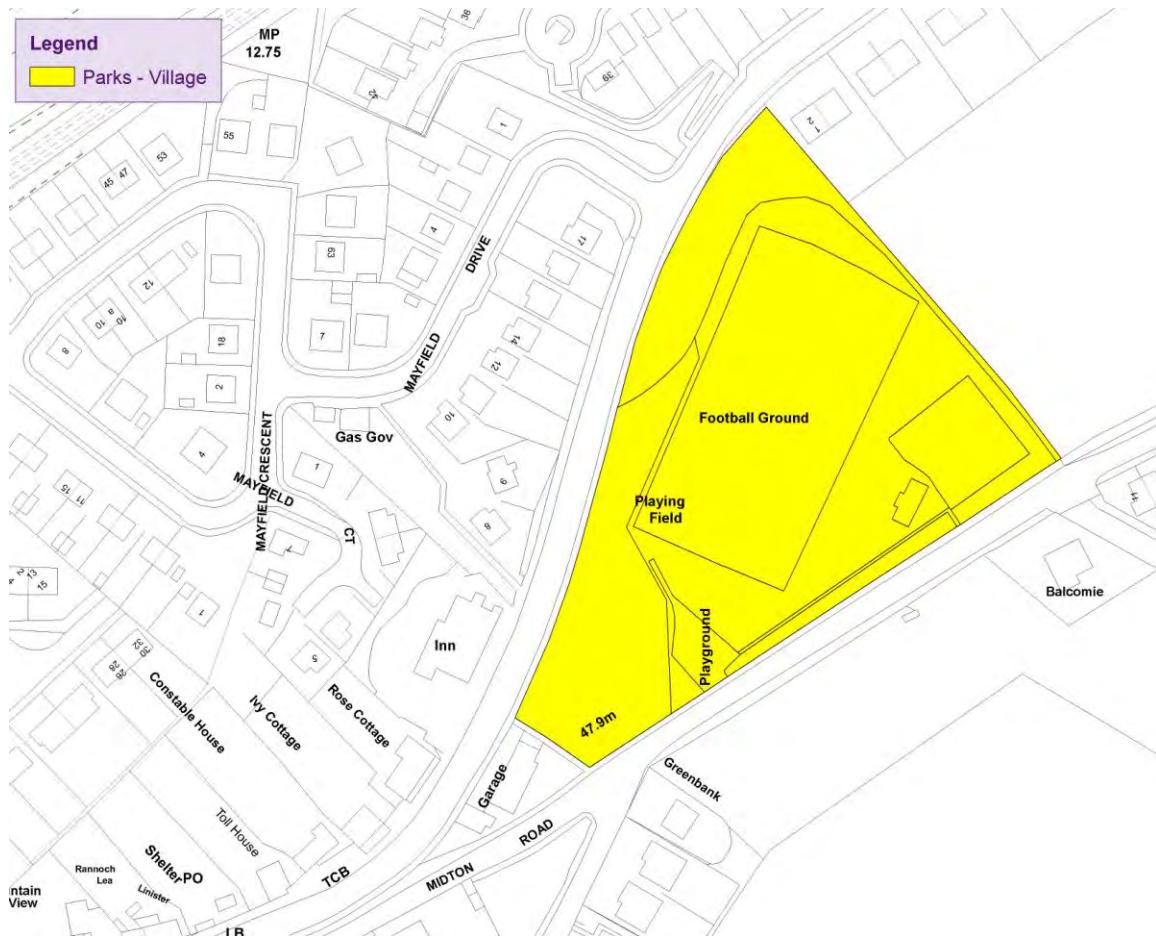
## Settlement Profiles



Brief profiles of the open space resource in each of Renfrewshire's 15 main settlements are found in the Appendix D "Settlement Profiles". These profiles combine findings from the various chapters. They include information on the quantity, distribution and quality of open space, and are intended as a quick reference guide to open space within and around each settlement.

The profiles are arranged alphabetically and, for each settlement, the text is supported by a map, piechart, tables and photographs. Settlement maps can be produced at different levels of detail. The maps accompanying the profiles show the primary classification of a site (see Figure 3.6 as example)

Figure 3.6



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It is also possible to produce maps at a more detailed level showing the breakdown of a particular area of open space. An example map is shown below at Figure 3.7

Figure 3.7



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Similarly, the Settlement Profiles highlight the main issues relating to quality based on the Fitness for Purpose exercise and the scoring of a selection of sites within each settlement. Further interrogation of the database can produce detailed site survey information and recommendations for action on individual sites.

## **Key findings and recommendations**

Open space makes up over 60% of the total area of Renfrewshire's built up areas and their urban fringes. Even once private gardens are taken out of this equation, open space still accounts for almost 40% of the total land area of Renfrewshire's settlements and their environs.

Almost without exception, domestic gardens account for the largest category of open space within each settlement. This is particularly so in the smallest villages. Only Elderslie is different and this can be explained by the size of the golf course compared to Elderslie itself. While the agencies involved in open space do not generally do direct works in private gardens, attempts to achieve the overall vision for open space can still be made by targeting this category. Raising awareness of the health and biodiversity benefits of working in your garden through promotional leaflets, posters and activities would be worthwhile.

Second to domestic gardens, public parks are the most significant type of recorded open space. This category includes both urban and country parks, the management and maintenance of which have different requirements.



Within the combined project boundaries, natural spaces are well represented. Many of these are found on the edge of the built up area and provide an important link between town and country.

The major access links shown on Figure 3.3 are all included in the emerging Core Path Plan. Under Renfrewshire's existing Access Strategy there is a commitment to plug any gaps in access links identified in the text above, as and when resources become available. It is recommended that support be given to this existing commitment as part of a forthcoming Open Space Strategy.

## CHAPTER FOUR

## DISTRIBUTION OF OPEN SPACE

Studying distribution patterns provides information on how well different areas are catered for in terms of open space. The purpose of this chapter is to illustrate the types of analyses that the database is able to do, to show some simple examples of possible tests and to demonstrate how the results of the wider audit can be used to aid future greenspace decisions and actions. Three examples about distribution and provision are shown below. These examples are based on aspirational standards set by Natural England (NE) and the Woodland Trust respectively. These standards are not statutory.

Natural England (then English Nature) commissioned a research report, published in 1995, entitled *Accessible Natural Greenspace in Towns and Cities: A Review of Appropriate Size and Distance Criteria*. This subsequently became the basis for the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt) model adopted by NE. This model is used in the absence of any recognised equivalent Scottish standard. It is aspirational only.



The ANGSt model states:

- that no person should live more than 300m from their nearest area of natural greenspace of at least 2ha in size;
- provision of at least 1ha of Local Nature Reserve per 1,000 population;
- that there should be at least one accessible 20ha site within 2km from home;
- that there should be one accessible 100ha site within 5km;
- that there should be one accessible 500ha site within 10km.

The Woodland Trust's (2004) Woodland Access Standard aspirations were included in "Space for People: Targeting Action for Woodland Access" and state that:

- no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 2ha in size and
- there should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20ha within 4km (8km round trip) of people's homes.



For the purposes of this chapter, only the first three statements of the ANGST model have been considered. This is to be concise and also because these standards are of most relevance to the remit of SPP11 and PAN65 which deal specifically with urban and urban fringe areas. Spaces bigger than 100ha are more likely to be found in the rural area and raise countryside management issues. Further analysis of the remaining standards is entirely possible and may be considered as part of the work programme of a future strategy.

### **Natural greenspaces and Local Nature Reserves**

#### **Natural greenspaces**

Natural England has set a range of targets about access to natural greenspaces based on size of site relative to distance from people's homes. Of greatest relevance to urban areas are the following:

- that no person should live more than 300m from their nearest area of natural greenspace of at least 2ha in size;
- Everybody should have at least one 20 hectare natural Greenspace within two kilometers of home.

The database was used to quantify how well Renfrewshire is currently performing in terms of these aspirations. For the purpose of this exercise, all natural spaces

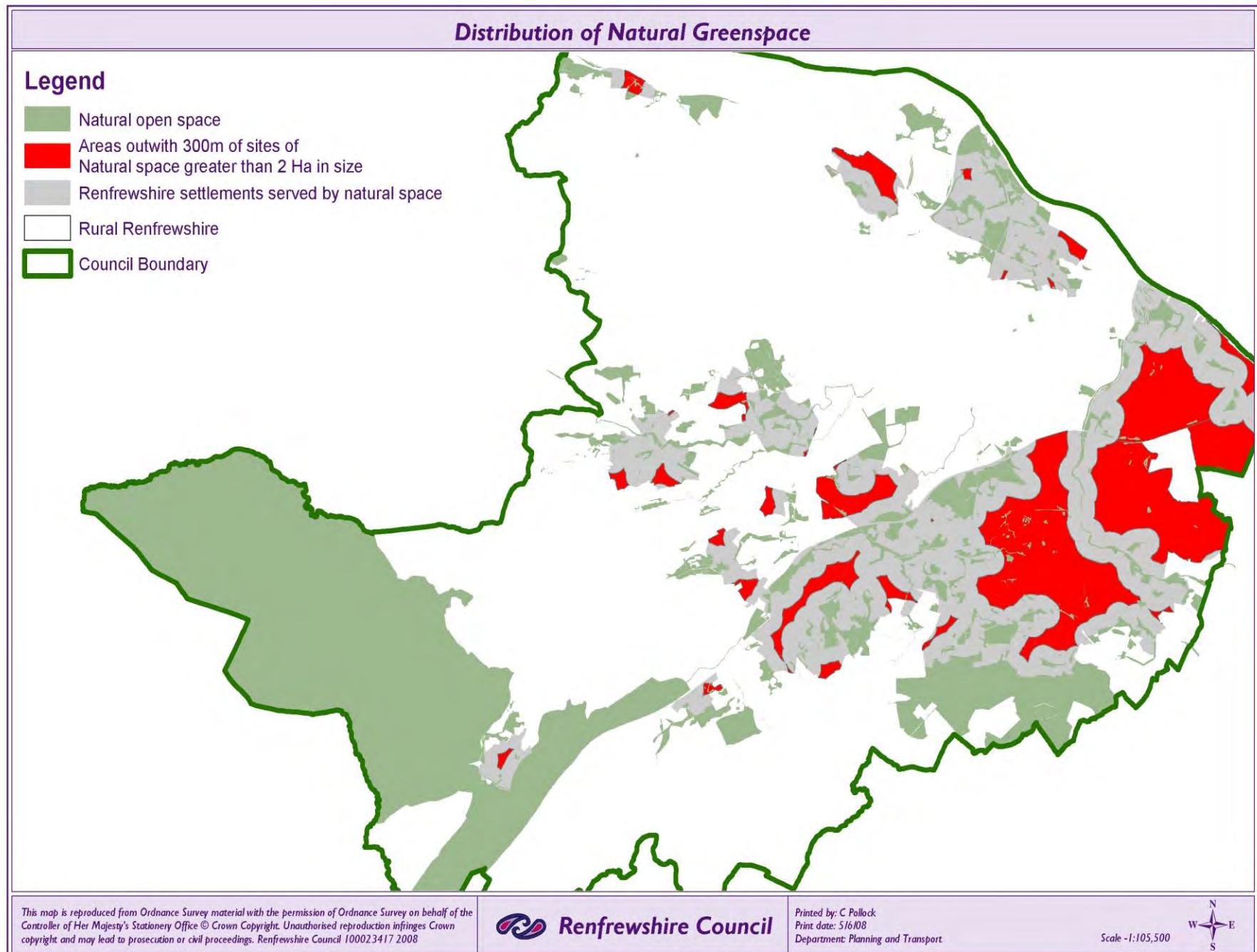


have been considered accessible given the terms of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. The database was interrogated using destination based analysis. All natural and semi-natural spaces (see typology of open space in Appendix A) were identified, regardless of whether they were captured as primary or secondary land uses. Country Parks were also included for this exercise. The relevant size

thresholds were then applied and the appropriate catchment area was created and applied. All residential properties served by these catchment areas were then identified and counted. All land beyond the catchment area (but within the urban area) was shaded red. Appendix A.2 provides fuller detail on this methodology.

Renfrewshire was found to be meeting the latter target 100% but was found to be performing significantly worse in relation to the former target. Just over half of residential properties within the project area were found to have a natural greenspace of the required size less than 300m from their home. This general Renfrewshire figure is broken down into its composite parts in the Settlement Profiles. Knowledge on the geographic distribution of the 45% shortfall can help direct future Greenspace decisions and resources. Map 4.1 shows in red those

**Map 4.1**



areas where no natural greenspace of more than 2ha within 300m from people's homes exist.

While very useful for analysis, local knowledge of the general greenspace resource is required in interpreting this map before deciding where best to direct funding and action. It must be remembered that the map shows land area where there is a deficit in natural greenspaces rather than residential areas that are not served. For example, part of northern Renfrew is shown red on the map but does not actually have a residential population within it.

Renfrewshire's more rural settlements are found to be fairly well served by natural greenspaces. Many of the red areas in these settlements are found on the edges of the built up area. Here the most appropriate course of action may be to improve access links to the wider countryside. Bishopton lacks natural greenspace in its northern part. Creating suitable links to the countryside to the north would be difficult because of the major road forming such a strong boundary. Consideration could therefore be given to "naturalising" one or more of the numerous existing residential amenity open spaces within this part of Bishopton.

Erskine is very well served by natural spaces and the one significant area of shortfall at its eastern edge can be explained by local knowledge. Once the boundary of Newshot LNR is set, it will extend the area of natural Greenspace captured in the database. This will then clarify that the north east of Erskine is in fact well served by natural Greenspace.



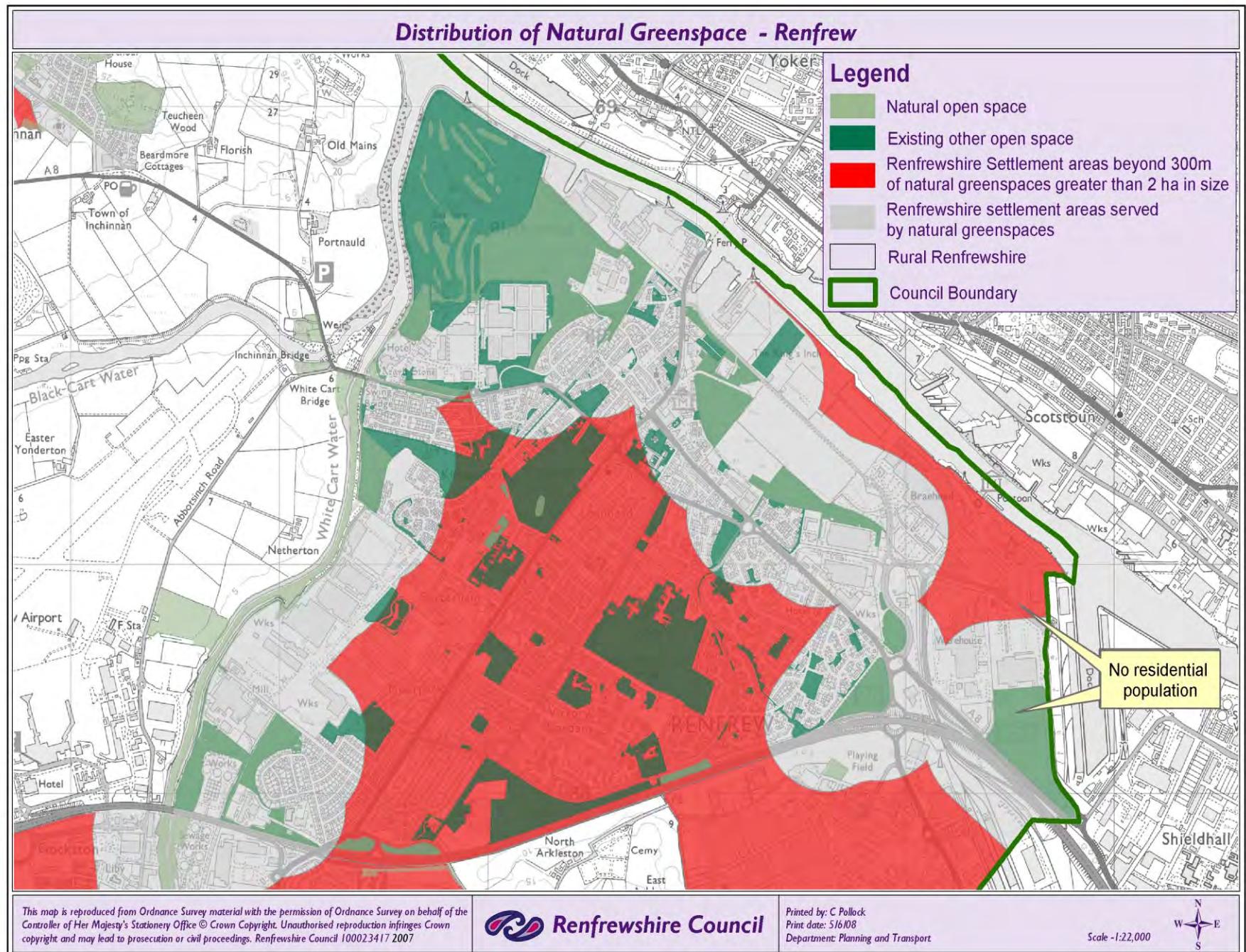
The town of Renfrew is noticeably lacking in natural greenspaces despite a good overall supply of open spaces. While the average Fitness for Purpose score was



above the Renfrewshire average, it is interesting to note that, in terms of biodiversity, Renfrew's open spaces scored below the Renfrewshire average (see Chapter Five, Appendix B and Settlement Profiles). Chapter Five refers specifically to biodiversity being a key theme to be taken forward in Renfrew. Scope therefore exists to "naturalise" one or more of the formal open spaces lying within the area shown red

on map 4.1. By looking "inside" these red areas, scope for targeting action begins to emerge. Map 4.2 demonstrates this. The results of Chapter Five and Appendix C can further assist in determining where best to target resources.

**Map 4.2**



As examples, Cocklehill Park and Kiklandneuk Park in southern Renfrew fall within the red area shown on maps 4.1 and 4.2. Both were surveyed and both scored relatively poorly in terms of biodiversity. While the “naturalisation” of either of these parks would require inter-Departmental working and further community consultation, successful implementation would address both quantity and quality issues by helping meet the target set by Natural England, address a priority issue in Renfrew, and improve both specific site and overall Fitness for Purpose scores.

### Local Nature Reserves

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are also of relevance to urban areas. While LNRs have already been included as part of natural greenspaces, additional analysis can be done when considering them as a separate entity. Natural England has set a target that statutory LNRs should be provided at a minimum level of 1ha per thousand population. To comply with this standard (based on 2006 population figures) there should be 173ha of declared LNR land within Renfrewshire. This aspiration is a long way from being met.

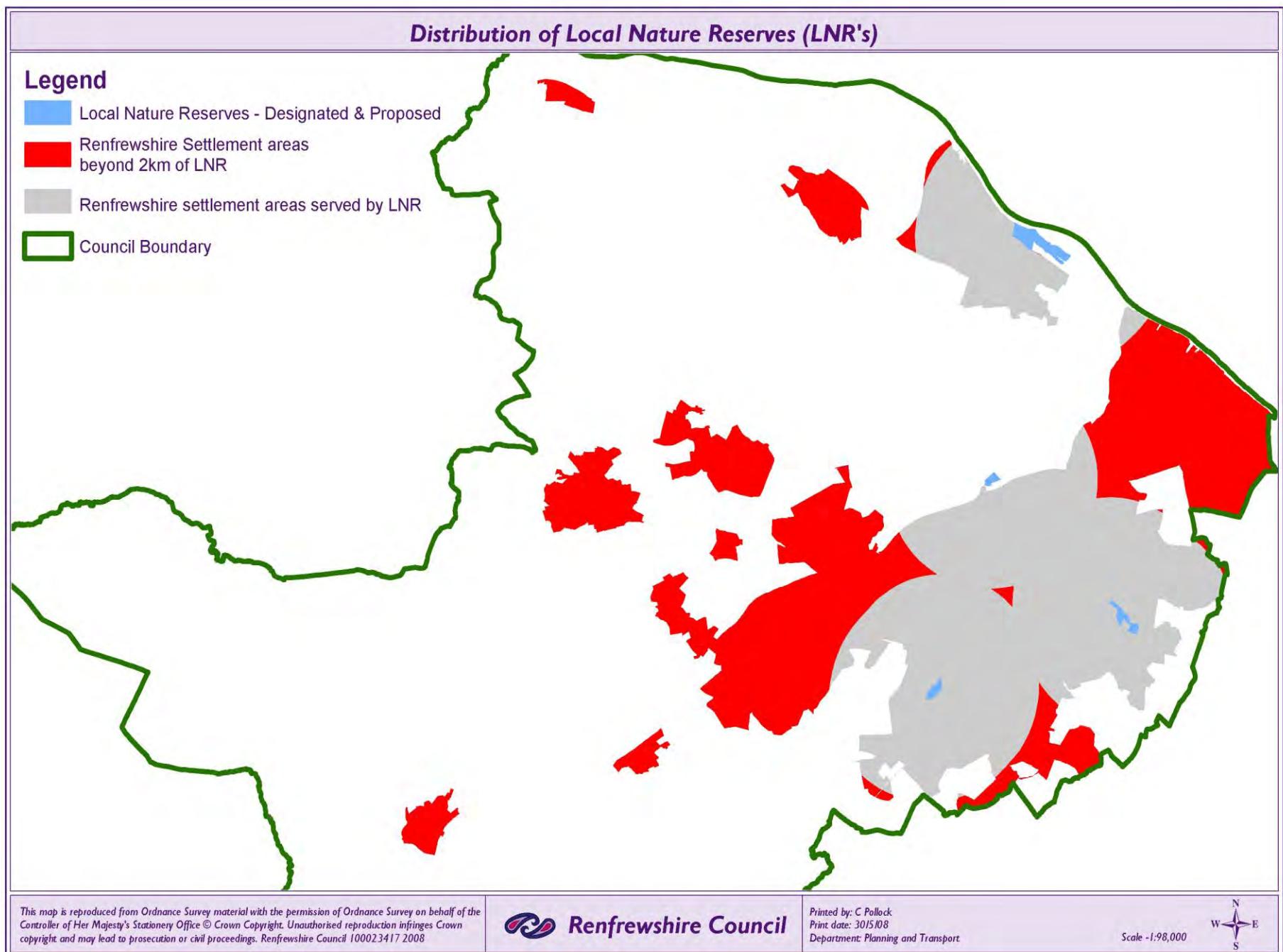
Within Renfrewshire there are currently three declared LNRs and one proposed. Paisley Moss, Jenny's Well and Durrockstock Park in Paisley are declared while Newshot Island in Erskine is currently proposed although functioning as a LNR. (The boundary of Newshot Island is presently unsettled. Council approval currently exists to declare 31 ha

while it remains a strong desire of the Council to increase this to approximately 83ha in the future as and when land ownership issues can be resolved). The combined area of these four reserves is 53.3ha. This represents only 31% of the aspirational figure of 173ha. This figure increases to 61% when the larger area of Newshot Island is counted.

Consideration should therefore be given to selecting additional areas that are appropriate and worthy of LNR designation. In doing so, consideration should be given to the geographical spread of the current LNRs. The database can aid this consideration. Map 4.3 shows the four existing LNRs in blue with a suggested catchment area buffer of 2km around each one. The areas shown in red are those settlements beyond the 2 km buffer and therefore not presently served by an LNR. These include Renfrew, Johnstone, Linwood, Kilbarchan, Bridge of Weir, Houston, Bishopton, parts of Paisley and the more rural settlements of Lochwinnoch, Langbank and Howwood. Map 4.3 demonstrates this.



Map 4.3



Once again, local knowledge is required in interpreting the map. While Langbank, Lochwinnoch and part of southern Paisley are shown in red, in reality these communities have easy access to Finlaystone Estate, Castle Semple centre and Gleniffer Braes Country Park respectively where environmental education opportunities exist. The future plan for a Community Woodland Park will also help address current imbalance in Bishopston.

Having taken account of the above, map 4.3 can once again be honed further and open spaces within these red areas can then be considered for their suitability as an LNR. Some of these may already be semi-natural with existing nature conservation interest such as Linwood Lade, Bluebell Woods in Johnstone, Rashielee Plantation in Erskine and Crosslee wetland site in Houston. Others may be more formal sites but have the potential to be enhanced and naturalised to create an environmental education resource for a local population. Sites falling within this latter category include Maxwellton Park in Paisley and part of Houston Road Park in Bridge of Weir.

### Woodland

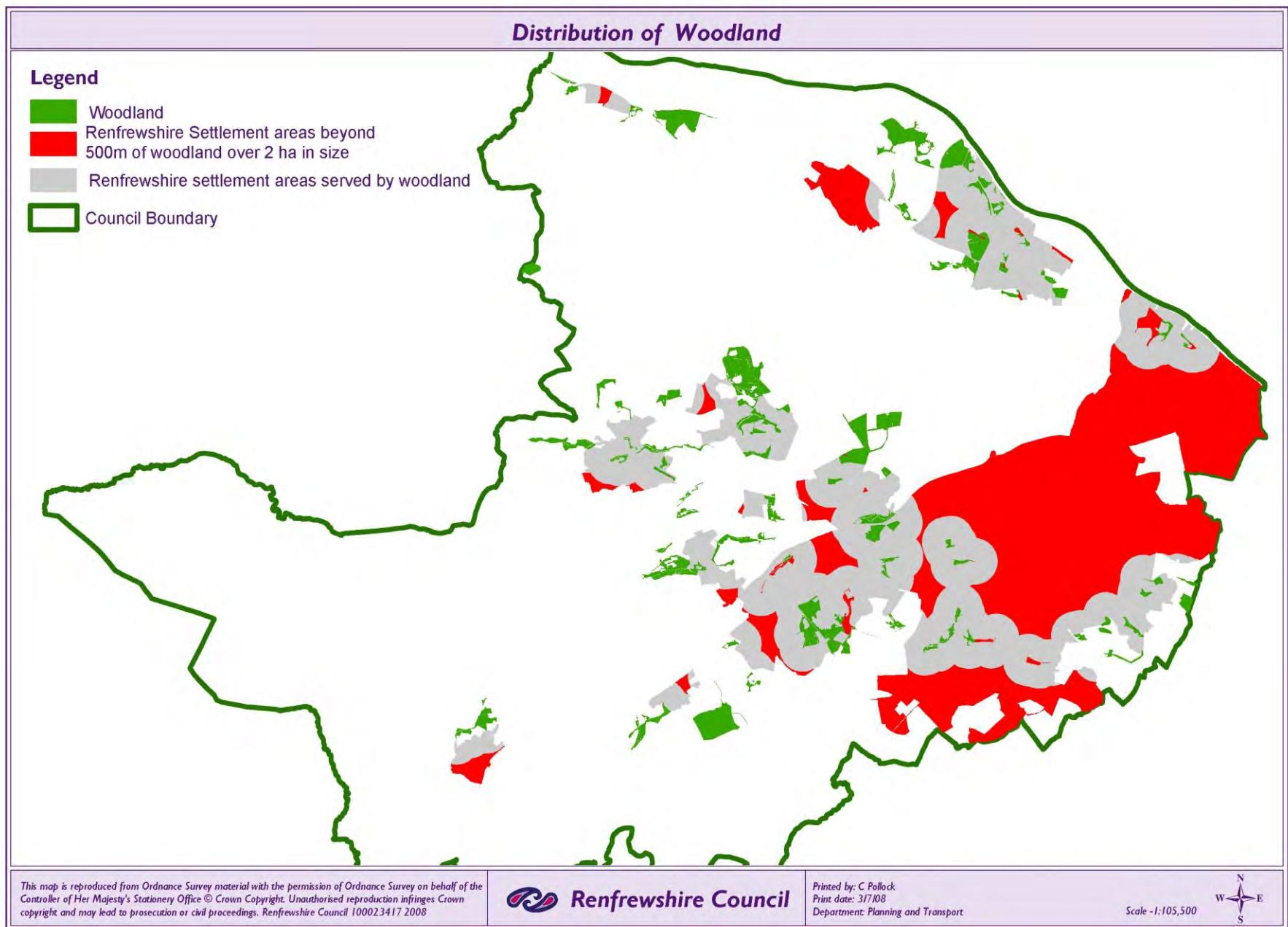
While natural greenspaces, including woodland, have already been considered, it is also possible to look specifically at how well Renfrewshire is doing in terms of access to woodland alone, based on standards set by the Woodland Trust. The Woodland Trust has stated the following aspirations:



- No person should live more than 500 metres from at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than two hectares in size, and
- There should be at least one area of accessible woodland of no less than 20 hectares within four kilometers (eight kilometers round trip) of people's homes.

Methodology similar to that described above for natural greenspaces was applied. As with the larger natural greenspaces, Renfrewshire was found to be performing well in relation to distribution of larger woodlands. However only 51% of residential properties within the project area were found to have access to woodlands of two hectares or above within 500 metres. Map 4.4 shows in red those areas presently not meeting the Woodland Trust's aspirations.

**Map 4.4**



Because of development pressures, it may prove difficult to create “new” woodland sites of no less than two hectares. Consideration should therefore be directed towards assessing existing open spaces for their suitability for large scale tree planting. Gleniffer Braes Country Park is of a scale that may merit consideration, as are some of the larger formal parks or areas of maintained grass. Instead of creating new woodlands simply to meet the stated quantitative target, consideration should also be given to improving the quality of the existing woodland and improving its accessibility. Woodland is specifically mentioned in Chapter Five as an open space type that would benefit from physical improvement to improve its Fitness for Purpose score. Following such improvements, it may be appropriate within Renfrewshire to relax the quantitative standard mentioned above and to increase the catchment area of woodlands. This type of decision should be made as part of an Open Space Strategy.

### Key findings and Recommendations

Renfrewshire is generally performing well in terms of distribution of natural greenspaces. Increasing the amount of woodland and LNRs would however be worthwhile. Significant areas of Renfrew, Paisley, Johnstone and Bishopton are consistently lacking in many types of natural spaces.



The examples above show how the database can illustrate where shortfalls in distribution exist and where potential exists to address these. Coupled with consideration of the Fitness for Purpose of open spaces, the audit can help identify how best to tackle issues of quantity and distribution, whilst also improving quality, in natural, and other, greenspaces. Additional layers of information can also be applied to the analysis to help prioritise often limited resources. It is for example possible to refine the analysis further by adding in known information on areas of social and multiple deprivation

and by using network analysis to take account of real time/distance routes to open spaces rather than simply “as the crow flies” data. These additional layers can help ensure that those communities with the greatest need receive the appropriate level of support and action.

The database could also be used to inform decisions on land disposal using a similar type of standards-based analysis. This will however require further input to the database on ownership and known development opportunities, and also corporate agreement on appropriate levels of provision of various types of open space.

## CHAPTER FIVE

## FITNESS FOR PURPOSE

### Introduction

This chapter sets out the findings from the survey and scoring of the sample 355 open spaces. The findings are based primarily on the results from scoring the physical quality of the spaces, but take other information gathered by the survey into account.



For Renfrewshire, the purpose of any open space site should be to support the overall vision for open space namely to have ***healthy and involved communities living and working in an attractive and varied environment.*** From this, how Fit for Purpose any site is can be measured by how well it meets each component theme of this vision. The results are based on the analysis of scores given to spaces across the four themes of accessibility, biodiversity, attractiveness and community awareness and health. From this an overall 'fitness for purpose' score has been generated.

A more detailed outline of the methodology is provided in Appendix B.

The following sections provide an overview of key issues across Renfrewshire as a whole, followed by discussion of key themes and areas for action by settlement and open space type. The more detailed findings of the settlement analysis are provided in Appendix B.4.

An overview of the scoring is found in the Settlement Profiles in Appendix D and is structured as follows:

- Summary table of open spaces by type included in the site surveys;
- Overview of scores and comparison with Renfrewshire as a whole;
- Summary of how each of the four themes is being met in each settlement, and identification of priority issues.

Maps have been produced showing the open space scores for the spaces for:

- Overall fitness for purpose score;
- Accessibility;
- Biodiversity;
- Attractiveness;
- Community awareness and health through participation.



The maps are presented as thumbnails for each settlement to allow comparison of the different scores across the settlement in relation to each theme. The maps can be found in Appendix B.6.



The maps show the relative scores of the open spaces based on the categories of good, average or poor. This is illustrated using ‘traffic light’ colouring of green, amber or red respectively. Low scoring sites equate to poor sites, which in turn are represented as red areas on the maps. The score bands for each map have been calculated in GIS to display green, amber or red based on the results for each theme or the overall fitness for purpose score. These score bands can be used as a benchmark for future monitoring and are set out in Table 5.1. Because of the scoring system adopted, with sites being scored 1, 2 or 3 for poor, average and good respectively, the lowest scoring sites will still record a score in the low 30s.

**Table 5.1 Open space score bands**

Score	Overall fitness for purpose score	Accessibility	Biodiversity	Attractive	Community
Poor	39-64	33-62	33-50	33-62	33-50
Average	65-80	63-83	51-83	63-83	51-78
Good	81-100	84-100	84-100	84-100	79-100

A number of school sites were under construction at the time of survey both in Linwood and Houston. One of the spaces within Linwood (SS\_192) was still at such an early stage of construction that it was not possible to include the survey results in the scoring because of the incomplete nature of the construction works and the impact of this on the school grounds.



Table 5.2 illustrates the scores for the 355 sample open spaces surveyed across the whole of Renfrewshire, showing the range of scores with the lowest quartile, highest quartile and average (mean) score for each of the overall fitness for purpose and across the four themes.

**Table 5.2 Score ranges for Renfrewshire as a whole**

Renfrewshire	Overall fitness for purpose	Accessibility	Biodiversity	Attractive	Community
Lowest quartile	69	67	67	67	44
Highest quartile	86	91	83	90	83
Inter quartile range	17	24	16	23	39
Mean	77	79	75	79	65

This shows that the inter quartile range for fitness for purpose is quite narrow. This suggests that the ‘fitness for purpose’ score averages out some of the variations in the quality of spaces because it covers a wide range of attributes. Therefore it is also important to take the scores by theme into account in order to highlight areas for action to improve the quality of open spaces.

The widest inter quartile range is found in relation to community scores reflecting a greater level of variation in the quality of spaces in relation to this theme.

### **Renfrewshire-wide findings**

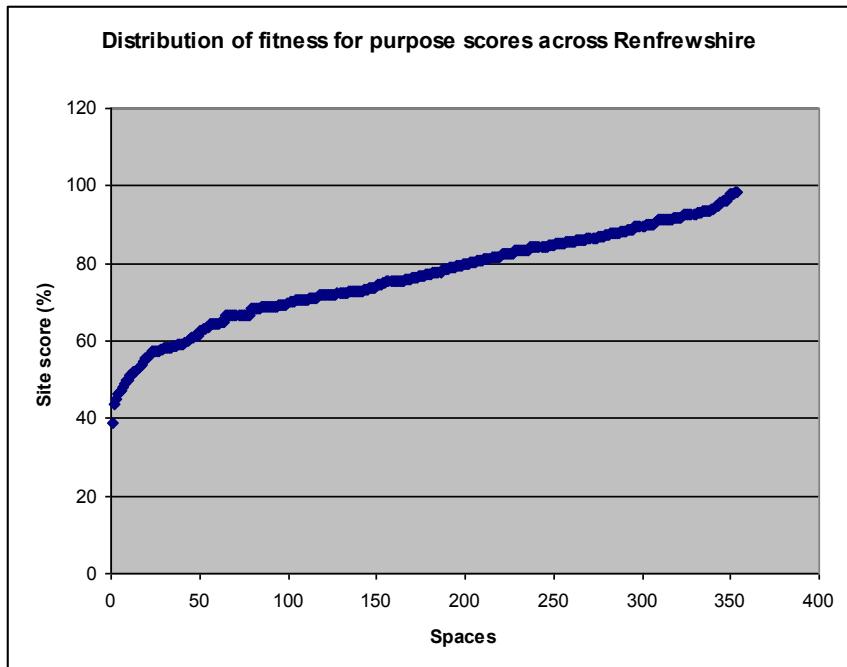
The individual settlement descriptions (Appendix B.4) and maps (Appendix B.6) which illustrate the distribution of space scores across Renfrewshire identify that there is variation in the quality of spaces both within Renfrewshire and at the level of individual settlements. Therefore drawing out findings at a Renfrewshire-wide level can provide indications of the main trends, but hides the local detail which is more important when identifying priorities for action.



Within each settlement there is a mixture of good, average and poor spaces and this tends to even out the mean. The settlement descriptions therefore show a low level of deviation from the mean scores for Renfrewshire so that few settlements stand out as performing significantly better or worse than the others.

The graph below illustrates the distribution of overall fitness for purpose scores across all of the spaces surveyed in Renfrewshire. This shows the relatively low numbers of scores at the lower and upper ranges and that the majority of scores lie within the middle range.





### **Settlement issues**

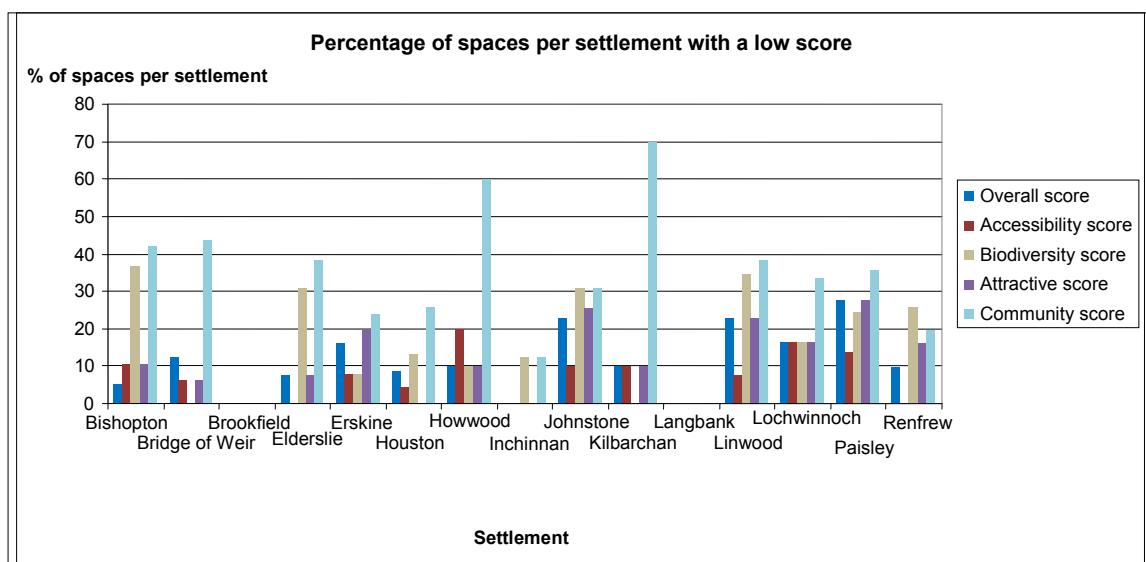
The following graph illustrates the proportion of the spaces within each settlement with a low score.

This shows the settlements where there are a higher proportion of spaces which received a low score and therefore indicates the settlements where action should be targeted. For example, in Bishopton 8 of the 19 spaces received low scores in relation to the community theme. This is illustrated by the community score column on the graph below for Bishopton as just over 40%. Therefore enhancing the community health and participation role of open spaces in Bishopton is an important theme for about 40% of spaces.

The graph illustrates the overall fitness for purpose score and the four themes where lower scores were recorded and action in relation to these themes could be targeted. This graph should be viewed in association with the settlement maps in Appendix C.6 which show the distribution of scores across each settlement.



Settlements such as Brookfield and Langbank are based on very small sample sizes and therefore the results for these settlements should be treated with care to avoid over-interpretation. Additional sites should be surveyed where possible to increase the sample size.



The following summary identifies the settlements which score more poorly in relation to each of the four themes where particular enhancement could be made:

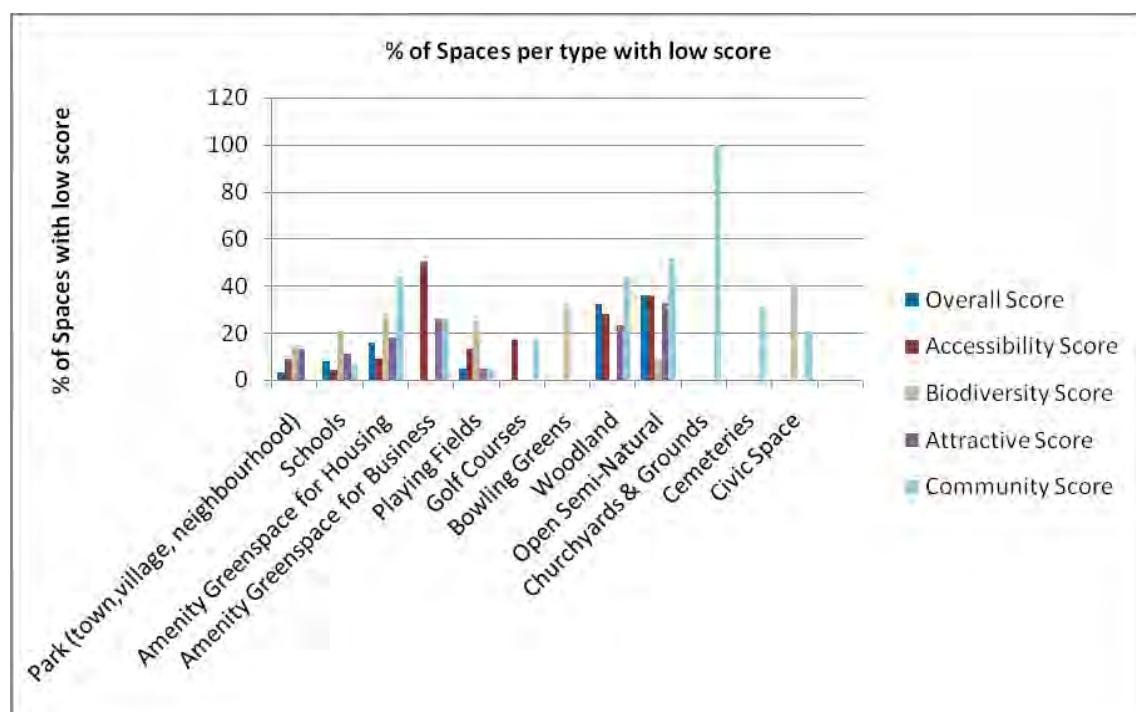
<b>Accessibility</b>	Relatively few spaces scored poorly in relation to accessibility; however Howwood has the greatest proportion of spaces which received a poor score.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Biodiversity improvements should be focused in Bishopton, Elderslie, Johnstone, Linwood, Paisley and Renfrew.
<b>Attractiveness</b>	Measures to improve the attractiveness of spaces for users should be focused in Johnstone, Linwood and Paisley.
<b>Community awareness, health and participation</b>	Activity should be focused on improving the community awareness and health value of the spaces in Bishopton, Bridge of Weir, Elderslie, Erskine, Houston, Howwood, Johnstone, Kilbarchan, Langbank, Linwood, Lochwinnoch, and Paisley.

## Issues by open space type

It is also possible to draw out similar findings to those identified for the settlements in relation to the different types of open space.

The following graph illustrates the percentage of open spaces by type which were in the bottom score band (illustrated as red polygons on the maps in Appendix B.6).

Woodland spaces had the highest percentage of spaces which scored poorly overall.



## Accessibility

Accessibility issues were not a significant concern for many open space types; however this is an issue for woodland spaces. This appears to be for a mixture of reasons across the scoring criteria, and is not focused on one particular feature. The sample of spaces for amenity greenspace for business is based on a small sample which has distorted the representation on the graph. However further survey of additional amenity greenspaces for business would increase the sample size and provide a better representation of the issues for this type of space.



## Biodiversity

Low biodiversity scores are particularly notable within neighbourhood parks, amenity greenspace for housing, and playing fields. This is likely to reflect the fact that these spaces are generally quite intensively managed with areas of



mown grass and little provision of habitat, even where opportunities exist. Although both bowling greens and civic space also stand out these are only based on a very small sample of these open space types and one or two spaces with poor scores distort the representation on the graph. Again, further survey of a larger sample of these spaces will increase the representativeness.

## Attractiveness

A number of spaces were recorded as requiring minor improvements to enhance their attractiveness to users such as provision of additional facilities. Woodlands and open semi natural spaces show a higher proportion of spaces with a low score compared to other open space types. Urban woodlands and semi natural greenspaces can often attract anti social behaviour including problems with litter and vandalism and reducing perceptions of safety which is likely to have reduced the scores on this front.



The illustration for amenity greenspace for business is again a distortion as this is based on a very small sample. Further survey of a larger sample of these spaces will increase the representativeness.

## Community awareness and health through participation

A significant proportion of amenity greenspaces for housing, woodland, open semi natural and churchyards and cemeteries scored poorly in relation to their community value. This may partly reflect the fact that the spaces were not observed in use at the time of survey or it may highlight the lack of features to attract users, which restricts levels of use. Community consultation will identify the most valuable spaces and aspirations which communities may have for their local amenity spaces.

## **Priority open spaces**

Priority open spaces have been identified based on spaces which have a low overall fitness for purpose score by theme (illustrated on the maps in Appendix B.6 as red polygons) and a high level of potential identified for the space. These spaces are listed in Appendix B.5. This includes an explanation of suggested improvements, and is ordered by spaces with the lowest score first. This is not an exhaustive list of priority spaces but provides an indication of where the greatest improvements could be made. It is particularly important that community views on improvements for local spaces are taken into account. This may identify additional spaces for inclusion as priority spaces, or identify spaces in the tables which have low community value due other issues, such as location, which would make them less viable to take forward as a priority spaces.

## **Key findings**

The open space resource within Renfrewshire is of generally good quality; however there is variation between settlements and within settlements themselves. This highlights the importance of taking the characteristics of each settlement into account when developing the open space themes through the strategy.

The scoring exercise identified that there is particular opportunity to enhance open spaces in relation to the two themes of attractiveness and community awareness and health through participation. The spaces could be enhanced through provision of additional facilities or improved maintenance. These two themes are particularly closely related, and should be taken forward together so that they can build on the opportunities provided by each other. In addition, the development of these two themes requires alignment with community needs and aspirations to ensure the open spaces are enhanced to provide a valued resource.

Although access is not a significant concern for a large proportion of spaces, the scoring exercise highlights a number of opportunities to improve accessibility. This includes links between spaces, from the spaces themselves to the wider access network, and path improvements. Biodiversity improvements were also highlighted as an opportunity for some spaces particularly the more formal spaces such as neighbourhood parks, amenity greenspace for housing, and playing fields. This largely reflects the maintenance regimes for open spaces which are frequently intensive, but where management for biodiversity could be enhanced.

The following sections summarise key issues by theme for open space types and settlements in Renfrewshire, and identifies priority areas based on the site survey findings.

### Priority types of open space

Priority types of open space have been identified on the basis of the proportion of open space types which received a low score for each theme. Table 5.3 identifies the open space types where the proportion of low scoring spaces comprises more than 20% of spaces of that type when measured against each theme. A greater number of coloured boxes in a column indicates a higher priority for the theme, while a greater number of coloured boxes in a row indicates a higher priority for the open space type.

This highlights the need to address issues of **biodiversity** and **community awareness and health through participation** in relation to a large proportion of greenspace types. This also identifies **woodland**, **amenity greenspace for business**, amenity **greenspace for housing** and **open semi natural spaces** as priorities across several themes.

**Table 5.3 Priority types of open space by theme**

	Overall fitness for purpose	Accessibility	Biodiversity	Attractiveness	Community
Country park*					
Town park*				Red	
Village park*					
Neighbourhood park			Red		
School grounds			Red		
Amenity greenspace for housing			Red		Red
Amenity greenspace for business*		Red	White	Red	Red
Playing Fields			Red		
Golf Courses*					
Bowling Greens*			Red		
Woodland	Red	Red	White	Red	Red
Open Semi-Natural	Red	Red			Red
Churchyards & Grounds*					
Cemeteries*					
Civic space*			Red		Red

\*denotes open space types where the sample was less than 10

## Priority settlements

Table 5.4 identifies the settlements where the proportion of low scoring spaces is greater than 20% of all spaces within that settlement. This illustrates the relative importance of developing community awareness and health through participation across 11 of the 16 settlements. Biodiversity is an issue for 7 of the 16 settlements and a quarter of settlements are identified as scoring poorly in relation to the attractiveness criteria. Again, a greater number of coloured boxes in a row represent those settlements with most to be gained from improvements. Based on the overall score which represents fitness for purpose, this identifies **Johnstone**, **Linwood** and **Paisley** as settlements which would benefit most from action. Table 5.4 can also be interpreted to prioritise the relevance of the four themes across Renfrewshire as a whole. For this, a greater number of coloured boxes in a column represents those themes most requiring to be addressed at a Renfrewshire-wide level.



**Table 5.4 Priority settlements by theme**

\*denotes settlements where the sample was less than 10

Settlement	Overall fitness for purpose	Accessibility	Biodiversity	Attractiveness	Community
Bishopton			Red		Red
Bridge of Weir					Red
Brookfield*					
Elderslie			Red		Red
Erskine				Red	Red
Houston					Red
Howwood		Red			Red
Inchinnan					
Johnstone	Red		Red		Red
Kilbarchan					Red
Langbank*					
Linwood	Red		Red	Red	Red
Lochwinnoch					Red
Paisley	Red		Red		Red
Renfrew			Red		

## **Recommendations**

Community support and involvement will play a key role in shaping the development of the open space resource to provide more accessible, attractive and valued spaces for people and wildlife. Reflecting the findings from the audit, it is important that open space issues are considered at a Renfrewshire-wide level, and also that the differences between settlements and within settlements are recognised. The development of open space projects and initiatives should seek to ensure the involvement of local people in changes affecting their open spaces and build opportunities for engagement and ownership.



Based on the findings from the Fitness for Purpose exercise, the open space strategy will identify key links with other plans and strategies related to each open space theme. It will draw out the role which open space can play in achieving the aims for each open space theme, and the related actions required. These actions may be Renfrewshire-wide or focused at a settlement

level. Renfrewshire-wide actions for open space will particularly relate to themes which require a strategic perspective such as the access network and habitat networks. At a settlement level, the survey scoring exercise has identified priority settlements and priority spaces in relation to each theme where actions can be targeted.

The audit information and strategy development will facilitate joined up working in the management and development of open spaces across the themes identified. Opportunities for taking forward the development of open spaces in accordance with each of the four themes identified will require involvement of a range of different departments within Renfrewshire Council, and wider organisations. The audit findings highlight key issues for open space within Renfrewshire and provide a basis for decision making in open space management. This will facilitate enhanced integration of open space planning and management across the audit and strategy themes within Renfrewshire.

## CHAPTER SIX

## INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY

A survey was carried out between February and May 2007 to investigate public opinion towards open spaces in Renfrewshire. A total of 1,626 responses were received indicating a high level of interest in the topic. Appendix A sets out the methodology adopted while Appendix C contains the questionnaire.

Open spaces were found to play a significant part in people's daily lives. Over 79% of respondents stated that they used open spaces either daily or more than once a week.

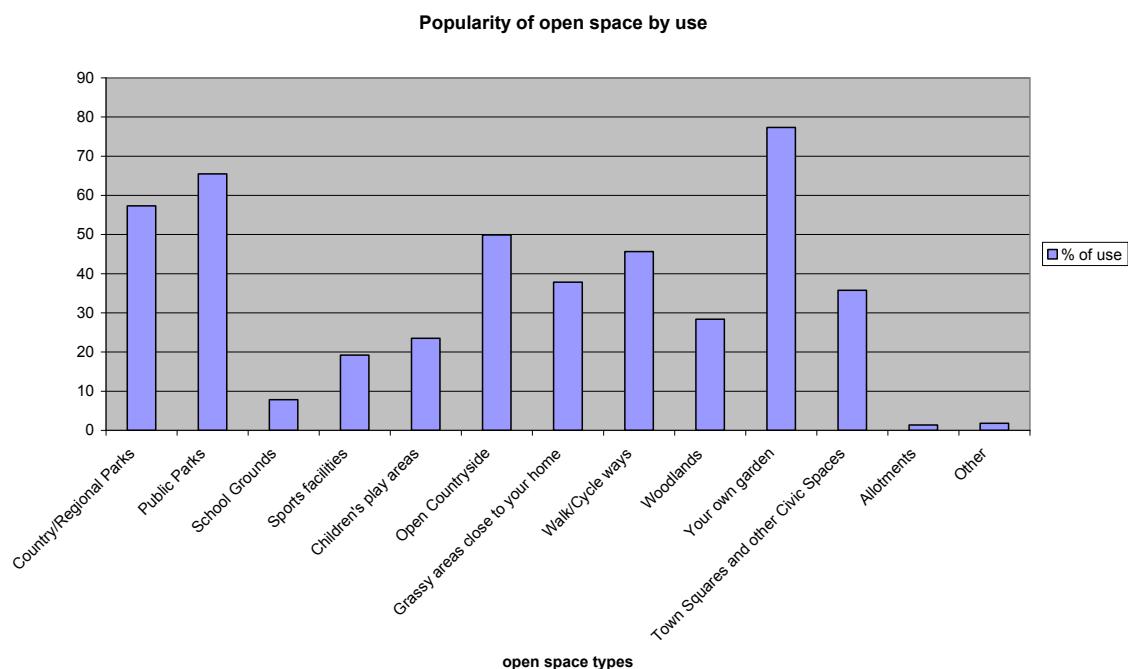


Figure 6.1

Many different types of open space were used and visited. After individuals own gardens, public parks were the most commonly visited spaces, followed by

country and regional parks. Interestingly, when asked what places people would like to visit more but presently found difficult, Gleniffer Braes Country Park and Muirshiel Regional Park (particularly Castle Semple at Lochwinnoch) were repeatedly mentioned. Lack of public transport was cited as the main reason for this. The use of open countryside was a

popular choice, suggesting consideration should be given to providing and promoting links between urban and rural areas. Least visited open spaces included allotments, school grounds, sports facilities and children's play areas. Play areas may however be used as part of a more general visit to a public park.



There were many reasons stated as to why people use open spaces. The most common reason was to walk or cycle, with “to get a breath of fresh air” and “to enjoy nature” also stated as popular reasons.



Surprisingly “to take part in sport” was one of the least popular choices although exercise was commonly mentioned by respondents filling in the “other” box. This suggests that passive recreation is just as popular as active pastimes and supports the multi benefits of open space stated in chapter one.

The majority of respondents walk to their chosen open space, with car travel being a close second. This supports the findings that, whilst people use very local facilities such as their own gardens and nearby parks, the larger but further away Country and Regional Parks with their range of facilities and opportunities are also popular. These larger facilities are generally only available to car owners or people living very near to an accessible entrance. Cycling to open spaces was the least popular choice of travel. Although people stated that cycling was one of the most popular pastimes, it would appear that people rarely use their bikes to get to other types of open space. Public transport was not commonly used as a means of accessing open spaces.



Having ascertained that people do presently use, and are keen to use more, open spaces, it is disappointing to note that only 22% thought Renfrewshire’s open spaces were fine as they are. 64% of respondents consider Renfrewshire’s open spaces to be in need of improvement. Figure 6.2 illustrates the improvements that respondents would like to see.

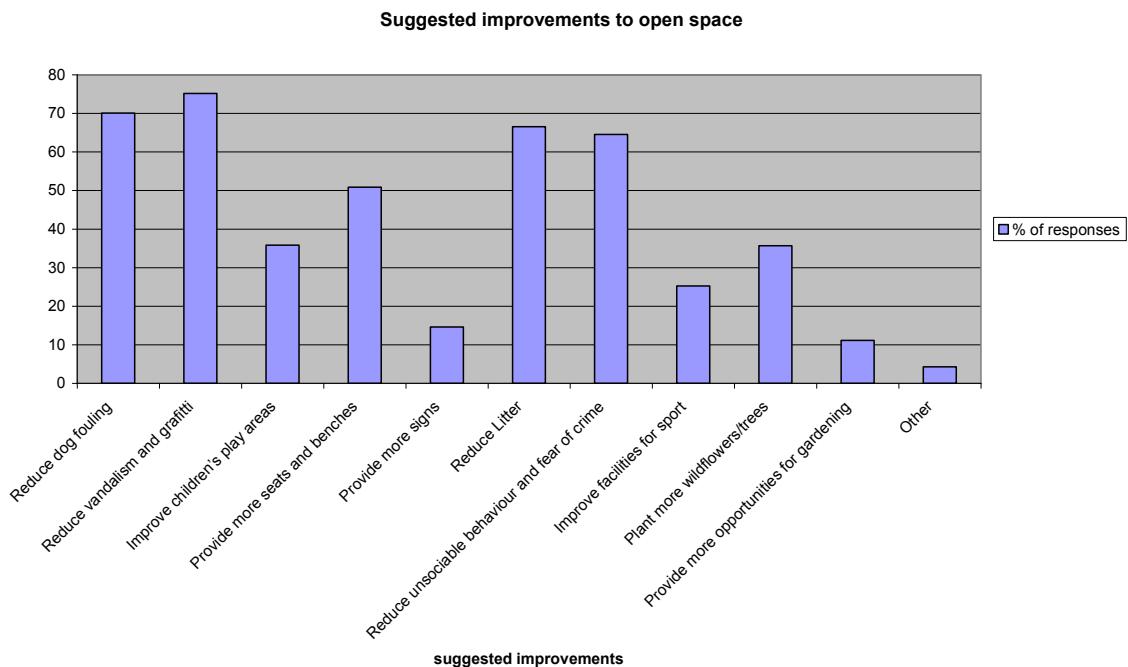


Figure 6.2



In their comments, maintenance issues such as clearing broken glass and litter, providing more dog bins and improving children's play areas were often stated by respondents. People also wanted to see parks upgraded but did not necessarily specify in what way. Promotional events such as community barbeques and music concerts were also stated by a few people as a way to increase the attraction of open spaces and to engage with the community.

The above figures and illustrations represent general responses from residents and visitors to Renfrewshire regardless of their age, gender, mode of transport or use of open space. Further detailed analysis can be done by filtering the results of the survey to enable cross referencing of questions. For example, it is possible to discover the most popular types of open space across different age bands or why people use open space dependent on where they live.



An example is provided below. By filtering the survey results to sort the Renfrewshire residents into the 15 main settlements, as well as those living outside Renfrewshire, a suggestion of residents and visitors satisfaction with their local spaces can be made. Figure 6.3 shows whether respondents think Renfrewshire's open spaces are in need of improvement or not dependant on where they live. Caution should however be taken with these results as a means of representing settlement-wide opinion as some of the sample sizes are very small.

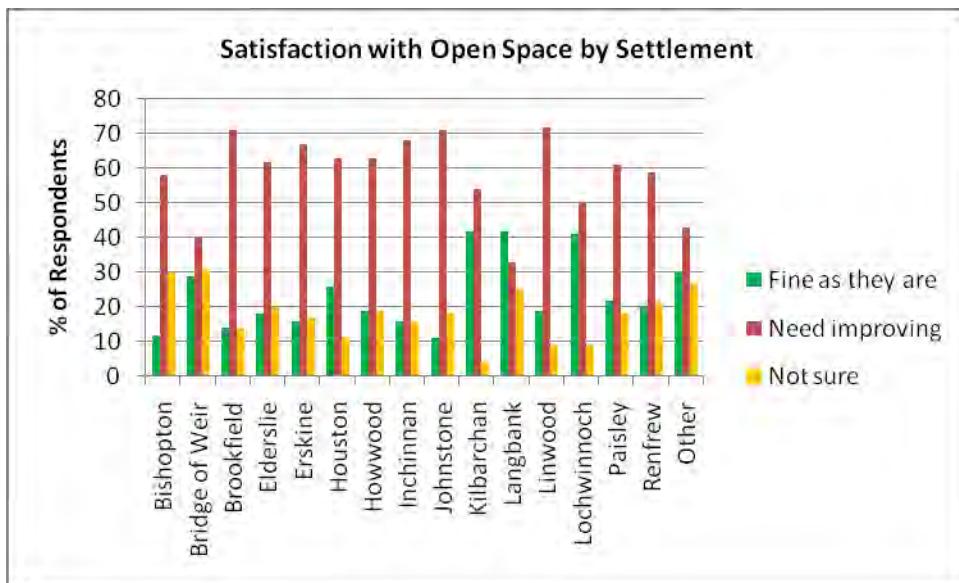


Figure 6.3

## Key findings and recommendations

The high number of survey responses suggests that people use and care about open spaces. In general the public are keen to use both local and more distant spaces for a variety of passive and active recreational uses. With this level of interest, it is therefore important that these spaces are welcoming, attractive and interesting to users.



Both residents of, and visitors to, Renfrewshire expressed disappointment in the current standard of open spaces and suggested what changes they would like to see to improve them. A significant number of these suggestions related to maintenance of open spaces. SPP11 states that maintenance must be considered as part of a strategy on open space.

By considering the results of this chapter with those of both Chapter Four on distribution and Chapter Five on the Fitness for Purpose of Renfrewshire's open spaces, decisions can be made as to where best to direct resources to the maximum benefit of the community. Prior to embarking on direct works it is recommended that further detailed community consultation take place. Focus groups may be a useful means of involving the community and ensuring that suggested works and actions best reflect the wishes of the local population.

## **CHAPTER SEVEN**

## **CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS**

Open space affects people's lives on a daily basis. To be of maximum social, environmental and economic benefit, successful open space requires commitment and action from a number of partners and agencies. As the planning authority, a major landowner and land manager, Renfrewshire Council has a significant contribution to make. It is crucial that this contribution be taken forward at a corporate level in the production and achievement of an Open Space Strategy and associated action plan. Findings from this audit can help shape both strategic decisions and particular work programmes.



All 15 of Renfrewshire's main settlements have been considered in terms of the types and amounts of open space available, local green networks and links to the wider countryside.

Certain targets for the supply of various types of open space have been considered. At this stage, examination has concentrated on the supply of

natural spaces, Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and woodlands based on aspirations set by Natural England and the Woodland Trust respectively. Initial assessment shows that while Renfrewshire is performing well in terms of distribution of larger natural spaces and woodlands, shortfalls begin to emerge at the more local scale. The town of Renfrew consistently shows a shortfall in natural greenspaces as do parts of Paisley, Johnstone and Bishopston. Renfrewshire is currently under performing in relation to Natural England's targets for LNRs. Potential exists to consider further LNRs in Renfrew, Johnstone, Linwood, Kilbarchan, Bridge of Weir and Houston. Addressing these shortfalls should be a consideration of an Open Space Strategy as should the setting and applying of other standards to other types of open space. Knowledge of particular issues can help shape the work programme of specific stakeholders and can help set particular targets of any action plan associated with an Open Space Strategy.



The physical quality of open space across urban Renfrewshire was examined to assess its Fitness for Purpose. The open space resource within Renfrewshire is of generally good quality; however there is variation between settlements and within settlements themselves. This highlights the importance of taking the characteristics of each settlement into account when developing the open space vision and themes through the strategy.

By assessing four key themes, priority settlements and issues emerged. Based on the overall score which represents Fitness for Purpose, **Johnstone**, **Linwood** and **Paisley** were identified as settlements which would benefit most from action on open space.



The audit identified that there is particular opportunity to enhance open spaces in relation to the two themes of **biodiversity** and **community awareness and health through participation**. Site surveys also identified **woodland, amenity greenspace for housing** and **open semi natural spaces** as priorities across several themes.

A schedule of surveyed sites, which scored poorly but showed greatest potential across the various themes, was drawn up. This detailed information, along with the more general findings on Fitness for Purpose, should form the basis of a work programme on direct intervention in environmental improvements. This programme should be worked up as part of an action plan associated with the implementation of an Open Space Strategy. Further analysis of the database, using information on for example SIMDs would further help shape priorities and target resources.

The establishment of a scoring system means that sites can be resurveyed and the results of direct action recorded. Monitoring of the physical quality of sites will enable the Council to keep a record of achievements made.

Public perceptions on the levels of use and satisfaction with open spaces were gathered. A very good response rate was achieved indicating a high level of public interest in the issue. For the vast majority of respondents, open space plays a significant part in their daily lives but unfortunately 64% consider Renfrewshire's open spaces to be in need of improvement. As a major stakeholder, Renfrewshire Council can address this dissatisfaction through inter-Departmental working in the creation and achievement of an Open Space Strategy and associated action plan.



The characteristics of each settlement's open space has been captured on the database and summarised in the Settlement Profiles.

## Next steps

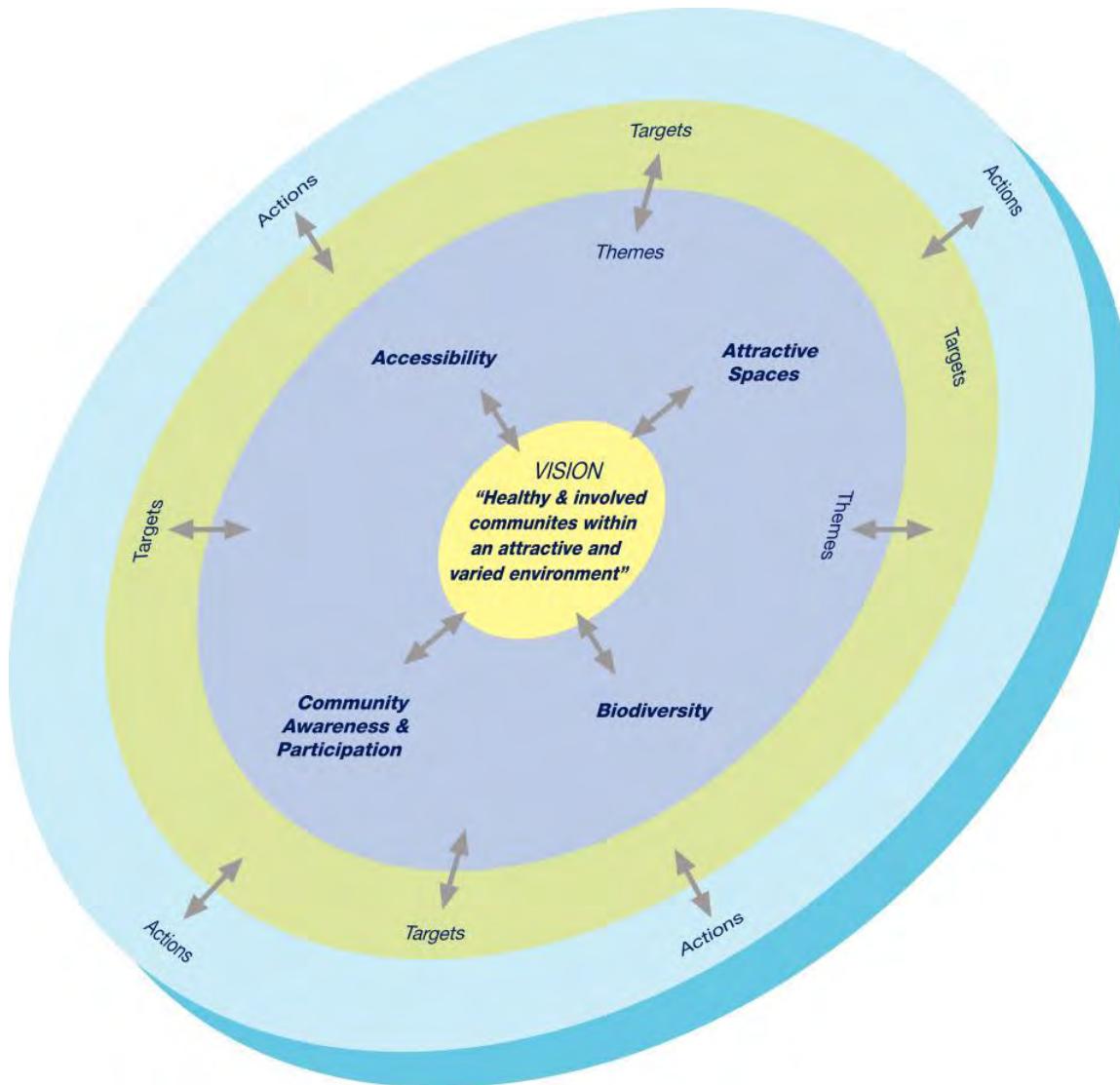


Diagram 7.1

Diagram 7.1 provides a visual framework for corporate and partnership working and suggests a mechanism for various stakeholders to work towards achieving a vision for open spaces across Renfrewshire. The audit has highlighted initial issues to be addressed and has demonstrated the potential for further assessment. In producing an Open Space Strategy, various recommendations and targets will emerge, specific action plans will be drawn up, and particular projects and actions will be implemented, all of which can then feed back into promoting the various themes and achieving the overall vision.

## **Appendices A – D**

**Renfrewshire Council  
Audit of Open Space**

# **Appendix A:**

## **Methodology**

Supporting Chapter Two of  
**Renfrewshire Council**  
**Audit of Open Space**

## **APPENDIX A            METHODOLOGY**

- Appendix A.1      Mapping the resource and creating the database**
- Appendix A.2      Quantitative distribution tests**
- Appendix A.3      Fitness for Purpose**
- Appendix A.4      Community consultation**

## **Appendix A.1**

### **Step 1      Mapping the resource and creating the database**

The first step of the quantifying exercise was to map the resource. The aim of the mapping exercise was to produce a database record that was both robust and adaptable to various types and degrees of analysis. Open space audits must produce a GIS based map of open space categorised according to an appropriate classification system. PAN 65 suggests such a typology and, while draft SPP11 advocates the continued use of this, it suggests that certain categories should be broken down further to better reflect their function. This was done in Renfrewshire.

A recent mapping exercise and dataset completed on behalf of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan (GCVSP) was based on a more detailed PAN 65 typology. This template, with further minor modifications, was used for the mapping of Renfrewshire's open space. It and its interpretative notes is shown below. This typology represents those sites/areas that were actually recorded. In addition to this mapping, results on domestic gardens and transport corridors from the GCVSP work were also counted as part of the quantitative exercise, although not specifically mapped.

TYPE OF OPEN SPACE			DESCRIPTION
<b>6.1 Public Parks and Gardens</b>	6.11	Country	All public parks maintained by Renfrewshire Council plus one privately-owned and maintained (but publicly accessible) park in North Renfrew. The hierarchy reflects that set out in the Council's Sustainable Park Strategy.
	6.12	Town	
	6.13	Village	
	6.14	Neighbourhood	
<b>6.2 Private Gardens or Grounds</b>	6.22	Schools	All school grounds, often with limited public access
	6.23	Institutions	
<b>6.3 Amenity Greenspace</b>	6.31	Housing	Maintained land separating different buildings. It may range from landscaped grounds with a high visual quality through to areas of cut grass. Areas where housing has been demolished and replaced by cut grassland have been included in the residential amenity category.
	6.32	Business	Amenity space of strategic business locations only have been mapped.
<b>6.4 Childrens Play Equipment</b>			Children's play equipment generally found within either residential amenity sites or public parks. Recorded as features of other open space types.

<b>6.5 Sports Areas</b>	6.51	Playing Fields	All public and privately owned sporting facilities. Playing fields are most commonly used for football but may also be for cricket or rugby.
	6.52	Golf Courses	
	6.53	Tennis Courts	
	6.54	Bowling Greens	
	6.55	Other Sports	Includes multi-activity courts and athletics tracks
<b>6.6 Access Routes*</b>	6.61	Green Corridors	Dedicated long-distance walking and cycling routes including routes along disused railways, waterfronts etc. The proposed routes are shown for information only.
	6.62	Existing off road	Significant routes within, and linking, open spaces.
	6.63	Existing on road	Self explanatory. May form part of national routes
	6.64	Proposed off road	As 6.62 but not yet established. Shown for information only.
	6.65	Proposed on road	As 6.63 but not yet established. Shown for information only.
<b>6.7 Natural/Semi Natural Greenspace</b>	6.71	Woodland	Areas of natural habitats whose primary functions are to promote bio-diversity and nature conservation. May include some previously developed land, and all are mapped regardless of ownership or accessibility. The semi-natural category also includes land that has been previously developed and may now be included in the Vacant and Derelict Land Register.
	6.72	Open Semi-Natural	
	6.73	Open Water	

<b>6.8 Other Functional Greenspaces</b>	6.81	Allotments	Self-explanatory
	6.82	Churchyards & Grounds	
	6.83	Cemeteries	
	6.84	Other Functional Greenspace	Includes city farms
<b>6.9 Civic Space</b>			Predominantly hard landscaped areas such as public squares and pedestrian streets.

\*Unlike all other types of open space which were recorded as polygons, access routes were recorded as linear features.

Recommendation: In future monitoring of the mapping, consideration should be given to how best to classify vacant and derelict land. This should be a further layer of information, rather than separate classification, since the current typology is functionally based.

The second stage of the mapping exercise was to decide the project area. PAN65 suggests that open space lying immediately beyond the urban area should be mapped. The project area of the Carts Greenspace team, which extends approximately one kilometre from built up areas was used as a basis. However, in practice it was found that to apply a standard buffer zone around each settlement was flawed. By its very location, much land lying adjacent to urban areas is either natural or semi-natural, or agricultural land. To count this as part of the open space resource would skew any quantifying exercise as it would show Renfrewshire to have vast amounts of natural land, or would suggest that worked fields provide the same recreational resource as, for example, country parks. A „common-sense“ boundary was therefore put around each settlement. Where the open space forms an obvious link to the urban area such as Linwood playing fields and Community Woodland; previously developed land on the eastern edge of Bridge of Weir; or Gleniffer Braes Country Park on the southern outskirts of Paisley, this was put within the project area, and mapped and classified accordingly. Alternatively, where the land was considered to form the start of the countryside this was excluded from that particular settlement’s project area. All 15 settlements identified in the adopted Local Plan were included.

A very thorough mapping of the resource within the project area was then completed. Initially no sites under 0.2 hectares were to be mapped but, given that over 80% of projects completed by Carts Greenspace are on parcels of land often well under 0.2 hectares, to “miss” this resource would be to lose valuable information on future potential projects. More fundamentally, to not count open space under 0.2 hectares (most commonly areas of neighbourhood residential amenity) would be to carry out an incomplete audit. For these reasons, no lower limit on the size of open space site was set. Information on domestic gardens has been gathered although these were not individually mapped.

Various sources of information were used to complete the mapping exercise namely:

- a previous survey of open space completed in 1997 for the now adopted Local Plan
- the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Joint Structure Plan Green Network Dataset
- GIS held records on adopted Local Plan designations
- information held by the Department of Environmental Services on public parks and playing fields
- aerial photographs and
- site visits

While the mapping was done according to the above template, it must be remembered that the mapping can only ever be a „snapshot” in time. While some account was taken of known development opportunities, in general the open space was mapped on current function rather than development potential, ownership or accessibility. This is in accordance with SPP11. To balance this, the mapping was overlain with the boundaries of areas where significant change is likely to occur in the near future, or is already in the process of being redeveloped. These boundaries are known as Area Development Frameworks (ADFs) and Major Areas of Change and are recognised in the Local Plan in policies SS1 to SS7. They are shown hatched on the settlement maps (see Appendix D: Settlement Profiles) and indicate where the mapping of the open space should be treated with caution. It should however be noted that within the ADF's in particular, well-established open-space sites exist and are likely to remain e.g. Jenny's Well Local Nature Reserve in the Blackhall area of Paisley.

One of the most difficult aspects of the quantifying exercise was deciding to what level of detail to map. For example, the ground associated with Linwood Sports Centre amounts to approximately 29 hectares. To map this simply as a sports resource would be one option but it would not give a true account of the very mixed nature of that particular piece of land which includes athletics track, playing fields, amenity space, bowling green, and woodland. On the larger sites where a definite change in primary land use type, and therefore change in function of the space, occurred this was mapped. This was in attempt to build up a truer picture of the overall resource and to enable detailed analysis. For example, playing fields as part of school grounds have been recorded. Analysis of playing fields regardless of where they be found is therefore possible. Another example relates to how much urban woodland exists in Renfrewshire regardless of whether it be a distinct woodland site or a feature of another site, the basic function of which may be sports. This would enable later conclusions to be drawn as to the scarcity, or otherwise of woodland and therefore justify its future protection, and/or support a grant application for a future woodland planting proposal.

Mapping to this level of detail was considered to provide the most accurate picture of the resource, give the greatest potential to various users, and be able to withstand various degrees of analysis. It is considered that the aim of the mapping, i.e. to be both robust and adaptable, has been met.

It should be noted that, for ease of comprehension, any maps shown in this document may show a simplified picture of the level of detail that the database actually holds.

## **Appendix A.2**

### **Step 2**      **Quantitative distribution tests**

Distribution tests are concerned with determining the levels of opportunity and deterrence affecting use of services by a population. They will take into account a specific location, origin and destination and are undertaken to determine the optimum approach for achieving objectives. The type of opportunity available to an individual depends on whether origins or destinations are being considered. Destination based tests consider the catchment area for a destination and relates to the relative ease in accessing the facility, whereas origin based tests consider the opportunities available to individuals in accessing facilities at various destinations.

Destination based measures were implemented using Euclidean distance. Calculating the area within a certain distance of a facility is a fairly basic function of Geographical Information Systems. However, the ability to generate a „buffer“ around a feature simply creates a distance-bounded geometric buffer, failing to take into account the real travel distances or times of the underlying geometric network.

A number of targets established by Natural England and the Woodland Trust were identified and analysed using both Euclidean and network analysis techniques. When analysing distribution using Euclidean distance the ArcGIS Buffer Geoprocessing Tool was utilised. A specified distance is required to create the catchment around the site. After the buffer has been created the number of residential properties that fall within the buffer can be calculated. This allows percentage scores to be calculated.

The findings of Chapter Four have been based on Euclidean analysis. Network analysis would be worth considering as a way of refining this further. Measuring distribution by network distance requires access points for open space sites to be located along the road network. The ESRI Network Analyst extension is used to determine the catchment area for an open space site. The extent of the network captured within the designated catchment zone is then buffered with a 100m straight-line distance buffer. All residential properties located within the newly defined network catchment can be captured and the percentage of the population within suitable accessibility times can be determined. Results are likely to differ significantly depending on whether Euclidean or Network analysis is used.

## **Appendix A.3**

### **Step 3**      **Fitness For Purpose**

Consultants were appointed to develop and apply a qualitative test based on the four themes identified for the audit and forthcoming strategy and to use this to assess a sample of open spaces within Renfrewshire.

For Renfrewshire, the purpose of any open space site should be to support the overall vision for open space namely to have ***healthy and involved communities living and working in an attractive and varied environment.*** From this, how Fit for Purpose any site is can be measured by how well it meets each component theme of this vision i.e.

***attractive and varied spaces;***  
***accessibility;***  
***biodiversity and***  
***healthy living and community participation.***

To study how fit for purpose Renfrewshire's open space is and in attempt to discover well used it is by the community, consultants were employed. While the mapping was done regardless of ownership, accessibility or development potential, the study of fitness for purpose focused on accessible open spaces.

Following the mapping exercise, 355 sites were identified for survey. Each settlement was visited and the sites chosen ranged in size from under 0.1 hectare to over 70 hectares. Almost all categories from the typology were represented with sites as diverse as parks, amenity spaces, golf courses, cemeteries, and Local Nature Reserves being surveyed. With the exception of schools, where access is limited, all sites chosen were publicly accessible albeit constrained by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 to different degrees. School grounds were included. The open space associated with schools can not only be significant in terms of providing a "borrowed landscape" for nearby residents, but it is an educational resource in its own right, providing opportunities for children to discover first hand about the natural heritage and biodiversity through, for example, the creation of wildlife gardens.

Sports facilities were also surveyed, but only those that were accessible to the public and that also made a wider recreational or landscape contribution. As a result, the sports sites chosen tended to be golf courses and Council-owned playing fields. So as not to duplicate existing playing fields strategies, the size or type of pitch, or standard of its surface, was deliberately not considered. Rather, the surveyors focused on the overall quality of the site as a greenspace.

Initially the sites to be surveyed were to be chosen randomly. However it was soon realised that, in attempt to be scientific, this could result in a number of inaccessible sites or private sports grounds within a skewed selection of

settlements being chosen. Once again, a common sense approach was taken. Selection was made to ensure that the different types of open space were represented and that the number and distribution of sites chosen was roughly proportionate to the size and spread of each settlement.

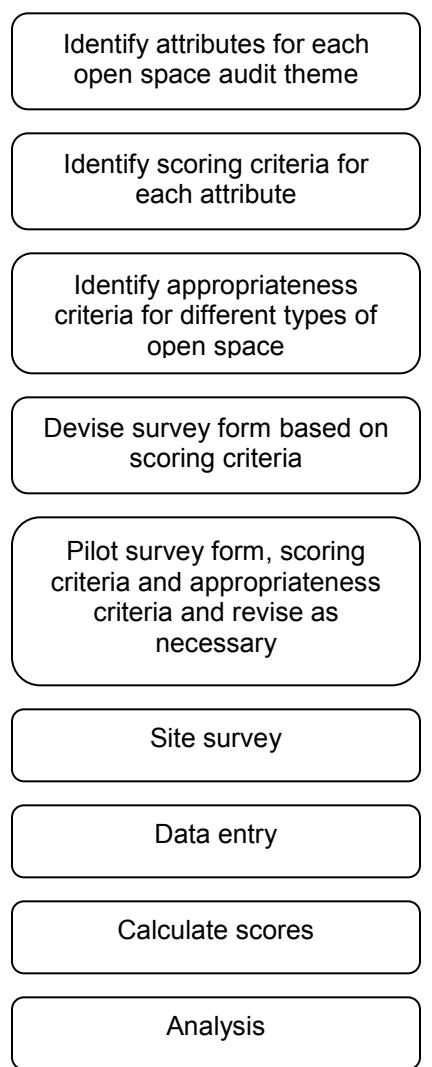
The sites were also chosen to be identifiable on the ground. While the total number of sites is small in proportion to the overall number of records mapped, each site may contain more than one record depending on its range of primary and secondary open space types. When considered according to area, the 355 sites surveyed amount to 71% of the total amount of open space mapped within the overall project boundary. This provides a sound basis for analysis and the drawing of wider conclusions.

In association with the Council, the consultant devised a scoring system to record the fitness for purpose of each site. As stated above, this score reflected how well the overall vision for open space was being met. The vision's four overall themes of accessibility, health and participation, attractive spaces, and biodiversity were broken down into a series of scoring criteria, allowing for an objective study of each site to be made.

To enable surveys, the consultants were provided with a map and list of each site with unique site identifier and suggested land use type based on the most dominant function of the site. To aid analysis, information on various nature conservation designations including SINC's, TPO's and LNR's was also provided.

## Scoring Methodology

The use of a structured scoring system provides a framework within which to compare the overall quality or „fitness for purpose“ of spaces across Renfrewshire. This also allows comparison to be made across each of the four audit themes. In particular this approach allows the survey to be based on a sample and to extrapolate findings for other open spaces in Renfrewshire. This allows a strategic approach to open space management by indicating which locations, types of open space or themes should be priorities. The following diagram provides an overview of the key stages of the scoring methodology:



The development of the scoring system and recording of this information is part of the overall information resource collected and analysed for each open space. The methodology for the development of the scoring is set out in more detail below.

The development of the scoring system is based upon the four themes identified for the audit and forthcoming strategy. The first stage of the process was to identify attributes of open spaces relating to each of the four themes which could be assessed and scored. The table below sets out the attributes which were identified for use in the scoring.

**Table 2.1A Attributes used in open space scoring**

Open space audit theme	Attribute
<b>Accessibility</b>	Provision of paths  On site condition of paths  On site barriers to access such as steps, gates etc.  Connectivity to local off road path network  Accessibility by public transport  Off site barriers to access  Entrances accessible and easy to find
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Role as part of green network  Diversity of habitats
<b>Attractiveness</b>	Appropriate provision of facilities  Quality of facilities including maintenance  Evidence of vandalism (damage, graffiti)  Litter/broken glass  Maintenance of planting  Dog fouling  Safety
<b>Community awareness and health through participation</b>	Levels of use  Mix of uses provided for  History and cultural heritage value  Provision and condition of signage and information

The attributes identified above relate to a wide range of features of open spaces, not all of which are applicable to all types of open space. For example a park will be expected to have paths and seating but a small amenity open space may not be of a suitable size or location to provide any access opportunities.

In order to take the variables between different sizes and types of open space into account in the scoring system, it is necessary to identify the primary features and functions expected for different types of open space.

The main purpose of this is to allow comparison of scores between open spaces with different functions and characteristics by scoring them on what is appropriate for that size and type of space. Outline guidance was drawn up on which attributes would be appropriate to include in the scoring for different types and size of open space. This can be found in Appendix B.3. It is important to note that the appropriateness guidance is not prescriptive and when a site is surveyed additional variables are taken into account.

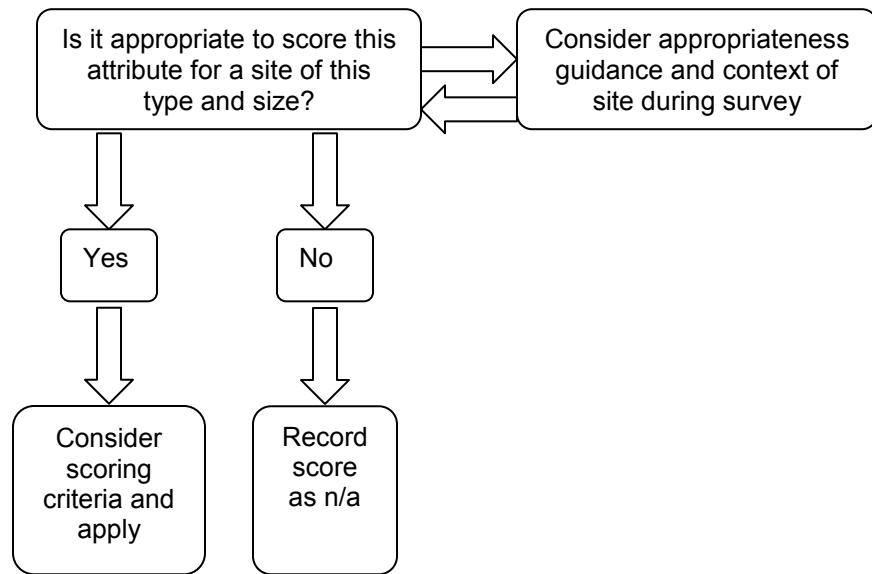
The open spaces were scored using a simple scoring system. This noted if a attribute was not applicable (based on the appropriateness guidance and site survey) or applied a score of Good (3 points), Average (2 points), or Poor (1 point).

To ensure consistency in scoring a set of criteria was drawn up to identify the different characteristics which merit different scores. These are set out in Appendix B.2 and an example is provided in Table 2.2A:

**Table 2.2A Example of detailed scoring criteria**

Score				
Attribute	3	2	1	n/a
Litter/broken glass	Very little or no litter	Some litter apparent	Significant quantities of litter in specific locations or across site/evidence of fly tipping or dumping/large quantities of broken glass on pathways or close to play equipment	Applicable to all sites

The approach to applying a score is summarised below:



### Site survey methodology

The sample of 355 sites identified by Renfrewshire Council was audited by a team of surveyors who visited each site. The survey form used in the fieldwork can be found in Appendix B.1. The form recorded qualitative information on site characteristics, scored key features of the site as set out in the methodology section, and recorded recommendations on potential improvements for each site. Site photographs were taken. The survey also sought to verify the suggested classifications and locations of the mapped site boundaries.

### Calculating Scores

The scoring system has been devised to allow comparison between spaces of different type and size. Scores can be calculated across all four themes of the open space audit, or by individual theme. A worked example comparing two different spaces is set out in Table 2.3A:

**Table 2.3A Worked scoring example**

Open space audit theme	Attribute	Site x	Site y
		Sports pitch	Amenity greenspace
<b>Accessibility</b>	Provision of paths	3	1
	On site condition of paths	2	n/a
	On site barriers to access such as steps, gates etc.	3	2
	Connectivity to local off road path network	3	3
	Accessibility by public transport	n/a	3
	Off site barriers to access	2	n/a
	Entrances accessible and easy to find	3	1
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Role as part of green network	3	2
	Diversity of habitats	3	1
<b>Attractive</b>	Appropriate provision of facilities	2	n/a
	Quality of facilities including maintenance	3	1
	Evidence of vandalism (damage, graffiti)	3	3
	Litter/broken glass	3	3
	Maintenance of planting	3	1
	Dog fouling	3	3
	Safety	3	3
<b>Community awareness and health through participation</b>	Levels of use	3	1
	Mix of uses provided for	3	1
	History and cultural heritage value	n/a	1
	Provision and condition of signage and information	2	1
<b>Number of n/a recorded</b>		2	3
<b>Number of n/a multiplied by 3</b>		(2x3) = 6	(3x3) = 9

<b>Maximum potential score for any site is 3 x 20= 60 therefore the maximum potential score for each site is 60 minus the number of n/a multiplied by 3</b>	(60-6) = 54	(60-9) = 51
<b>Sum of site scores</b>	50	31
<b>Fitness for purpose percentage score (sum of site score divided by the maximum potential score for this site)</b>	(50/54) x 100 = 93%	(31/51) x 100 = 61%

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This approach allows overall comparison of the quality of spaces which have different characteristics.

Using the same approach scores can be calculated across each of the four themes. The results for the two example sites are displayed in Table 2.4A below:

**Table 2.4A Example scores by theme**

	Site x	Site y
	Sports pitch	Amenity greenspace
<b>Accessibility</b>	89	67
<b>Biodiversity*</b>	100	50
<b>Attractive</b>	94	73
<b>Community awareness and health through participation</b>	92	47

\*Only two attributes were identified for biodiversity scoring, therefore conclusions drawn from variations in scores must take this into account.

### Analysis

The scores for each space were recorded and formed the basis for the analysis of the spaces. Individual attributes were scored as good, average or poor receiving 3, 2 or 1 points respectively. In order to make comparisons with the overall score and the scores by theme between spaces, bands were generated in GIS. This takes the range of scores and divides it into three equal bands which equate to a score of good, average or poor compared to all of the survey spaces within Renfrewshire. All spaces were scored on what would be appropriate for a typical space of that type and size. The scoring bands provide a baseline against which future comparison can be made.

**Table 2.5A Score bands by theme**

Score	Overall score	Accessibility	Biodiversity	Attractiveness	Community
Poor	39-64	33-62	33-50	33-62	33-50
Average	65-80	63-83	51-83	63-83	51-78
Good	81-100	84-100	84-100	84-100	79-100

Because of the scoring system adopted, with 1, 2 and 3 being awarded for poor, average and good respectively, the lowest scoring sites will record a score in the low 30s.

### Potential

The survey form also records the potential for improvement in relation to the four main themes. The potential for improvement of a space is recorded as high, medium or low and is based on observation rather than a scoring system. When taken in combination, this allows the identification of priority spaces for action which have both a low score in relation to a theme, and high potential for improvement.

### Evaluation of the scoring method and approach

As can be seen from the survey form in Appendix B.1 and also Table 2.1A a greater number of attributes were identified for scoring against accessibility and attractiveness of spaces, compared to biodiversity and community awareness and health. The scoring approach illustrated in Table 2.5A meant that this is evened out across the three score bands. However this does cause some clustering of the scores. For example for biodiversity, spaces can only score up to 6, but for attractiveness spaces can score up to 21 and are likely to be more widely distributed.

It was originally intended to include designations within the scoring of biodiversity value for spaces. However it was identified that if a score was applied to different levels of designation (e.g. national compared to local) then this would unfairly score a locally designated site when compared to another undesignated site. This is because it is beyond the scope of the survey to apply an appropriateness judgement on designations. Designations only affect a small number of spaces within the survey sample and these can be taken into account in any recommended improvements to spaces.

The identification of attributes to illustrate community awareness and health through participation also presented some difficulties. Due to the nature of the survey, spaces were visited at different times of day and different observations of use were made. The survey also recorded evidence of use, however for some spaces this may be difficult to judge. It is therefore important that the

conclusions drawn in relation to community awareness and health are further validated with community consultation.

The analysis found that across the settlements as a whole the mean scores are generally clustered close to the mean for Renfrewshire as a whole. This is likely to reflect the wide variations in the quality of spaces across individual settlements which include both very high scoring and low scoring spaces. For this reason it is important that the settlement maps (Appendix B.6) illustrating the distribution of scores across the spaces are viewed in conjunction with the text, to illustrate these variations.

The analysis draws out findings in relation to individual settlements and by open space type. However there are examples of very small samples within both of these groups which distort the figures. It is recommended that where possible additional spaces are surveyed for the types of space which are only represented by a small sample size to increase the validity of the findings of the analysis.

Various analysis and findings were then able to be made, ranging in scale from site specific, to settlement basis, to Council-wide. These included:

- how well each site surveyed contributed to the vision for open space
- the fitness for purpose of open space in any particular settlement,
- how well each of the four themes for open space are presently being met across urban Renfrewshire and
- the identification of strategic issues, and priority areas for action.

In addition to recording and analysing the fitness for purpose of open space, the consultants were also asked to complete a site description sheet, provide an indication on levels of use and suggest improvements for each site. These various elements all help to build up the picture of the resource and assist in monitoring, understanding how valued a particular site(s) may be, and the creation of a future action plan respectively.

Further details about the fitness for purpose exercise and its findings are found in Chapter Five and Appendix B.

## **Appendix A.4**

### **Step 4**      **Community Consultation**

In keeping with good practice and advice, community consultation was addressed as part of the audit exercise. A simple and short survey was devised seeking residents and visitors opinions questions including:

- what types of open space do you use?
- how do you get there?
- are there any particular sites that you would like to visit more often but find difficult to get to?
- what do you use open space for?
- how often do you use open space?
- what changes would help you enjoy open space more?

The full questionnaire is found at Appendix C.

To reach as many people as possible, yet ensuring simplicity for analysis, the same questionnaire was sent out via various routes. Use was made of:

- the Public Services Panel (sent out to 2000 residents throughout Renfrewshire)
- an email to all Renfrewshire Council employees including schools
- all established Community Councils
- posting of the survey on the Council's web site
- an electronic bulletin report sent out across the network of Renfrewshire Community Voluntary Services groups
- Renfrewshire Community Planning Fora
- Renfrewshire Council Residents and Tenants Association groups, and
- Sustainable Communities groups

The majority of surveys were completed on-line and collated automatically into a central computer package called SurveyMonkey. Where requested, paper copies were also sent out. Any hand-filled responses, plus those returned from the Public Services Panel, were then gathered in to the same central software package.

Awareness of the audit and survey was raised by publishing a short article in "Renfrewshire", a Council magazine distributed to approx 80,000 addresses throughout the authority area. Background information on the survey was also available on the Council's website.

Community consultation took place between mid-February and early May 2007. A total of 1,626 surveys were completed, the results of which are discussed in Chapter Six.

# **Appendix B:**

# **Fitness for Purpose**

Supporting Chapter Five of  
**Renfrewshire Council**  
**Audit of Open Space**

***APPENDIX B*****FITNESS FOR PURPOSE**

- Appendix B.1      Open Space Audit site survey form**
- Appendix B.2      Attribute scoring criteria**
- Appendix B.3      Appropriateness descriptions for open space types**
- Appendix B.4      Detailed settlement analysis**
- Appendix B.5      Priority open spaces**
- Appendix B.6      Settlement maps**

## Appendix B.1 Open Space Audit Site survey form

Site reference (from map)	
Settlement	
Verify primary type according to code on map polygon	
Sub types	
Observations of current use <i>(Number and type of user and activity)</i>	
Evidence of use ( <i>Levels of wear on e.g. sports pitches, paths, under play equipment, desire lines, rubbish</i> )	
Information and signage <i>(Note provision and if enabling or restrictive)</i>	
Surrounding land use	
Parking provision (cars) <i>(If appropriate for site size and type)</i>	
Parking provision (bikes) <i>(If appropriate for site size and type)</i>	
Access by public transport <i>(If appropriate for site size and type)</i>	
Cultural heritage <i>(from GIS and record any evident features from site survey)</i>	
Note any alteration to site boundary (mark on map also)	
General site description including landscape value	

Type & condition of facilities	Facility (list below)	Condition			
		Good	Average	Poor	
		Good	Average	Poor	
		Good	Average	Poor	
		Good	Average	Poor	
		Good	Average	Poor	
		Good	Average	Poor	
		Good	Average	Poor	
		Good	Average	Poor	
		Good	Average	Poor	
Wildlife Designation					
Wildlife habitats					
A Woodland and Scrub		Broadleaved semi-natural woodland			
		Broad leaved plantation woodland			
		Dense scrub			
		Broad leaved scattered / parkland tree			
		Coniferous scattered / parkland trees			
		Mixed parkland / scattered trees			
		Semi-improved neutral grassland			
B Grassland and Marsh		Improved grassland			
		Marshy grassland			
		Poor semi-improved grassland			
C Tall herb and fern		Continuous bracken			
		Scattered bracken			
		Tall ruderal			
F Swamp, marginal and inundation		Marginal vegetation			
		Inundation vegetation			
G Open water		Open water			
		Running water			
J Miscellaneous		Arable			
		Amenity grassland			
		Ephemeral / short perennial			
		Introduced shrub			
		Intact hedgerows			
		Hedgerows with trees			
		Fence			
		Wall			
		Dry ditch			
		Earth bank			
		Caravan site			
		Buildings			
		Bare ground			
		Other			

<b>Attribute by theme</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Accessibility</b>					
Provision of paths					
On site condition of paths					
On site barriers to access such as steps, gates etc.					
Connectivity to local off road path network					
Accessibility by public transport					
Off site barriers (to play facilities, sports facilities, parks, main access corridors such as rivers and major access routes and large semi natural spaces					
Entrances accessible and easy to find					
<b>Biodiversity</b>					
Role as part of green network					
Diversity of habitats					
<b>Attractive</b>					
Appropriate provision of facilities					
Quality of facilities including maintenance					
Evidence of vandalism (damage, graffiti)					
Litter/broken glass					
Maintenance of planting					
Dog fouling					
Safety					

Community awareness and health through participation					
	3	2	1	n/a	
Levels of use					
Mix of uses provided for					
History and cultural heritage value					
Provision and condition of signage and information					

### Other

Potential	High	Med	Low	n/a	Description				
Does the site have potential to fulfill a more important role in the <b>access</b> network if an additional link was provided? (e.g. a bridge over a stream, a short connecting route through a nearby space)									
Does the site have potential to provide greater <b>biodiversity</b> value without compromising its current function? (e.g. areas of longer grass, additional tree or shrub planting, extension of existing wetland area)									
Does the site have potential to provide additional facilities or landscape enhancement to make it more <b>attractive</b> to users?									
Does the site have potential to fulfil a greater <b>community</b> function by providing additional signage and information to encourage users, or opportunities for additional users?									
Recommendations for action					Tick				
					Accessible				
					Biodiversity				
					Attractive				
					Community				

## Appendix B.2 Attribute scoring criteria

	Score			
Attribute	3 (Good)	2 (Average)	1 (Poor)	n/a
<b>Accessibility</b>				
On site condition of paths	Appropriate path surface, well maintained with no drainage issues	Appropriate path surface with some minor maintenance/drainage issues	Poor quality or inappropriate path surface for location or levels of use. Significant maintenance or drainage issues	No paths expected on a site of this type or size (e.g. waterbody, dense woodland or scrub, small scale amenity space)
Provision of paths	Good network of paths linking site entrances and facilities	Adequate path provision but some desire lines	Paths do not link site features/entrances and many desire lines	No paths expected on a site of this type or size (e.g. waterbody, dense woodland or scrub, small scale amenity space)
On site barriers to access such as steps, gates etc.	No barriers to access to mobility impaired/push chairs etc or alternative access options provided where barriers exist	Minor barriers which may hinder access such as steps with no handrail or very steep steps	Steps/stiles/steps access hinder access for mobility impaired	Applicable to all sites
Connectivity to local off road path network	Local path network runs through or immediately adjacent to site or site easily accessible from safe off road routes	Local path network runs within 400m of site or safe off road routes provide access nearby	Local path network more than 400m from site and no safe off road access nearby	Site of insufficient scale or suitable type
Accessibility by public transport	Bus stop or train station close to site boundary	Bus stop or train station within 400m of site boundary	Bus stop or train station more than 400m from site boundary	Public transport accessibility not expected for a space of this types and size
Off site barriers	No significant barriers to	Minor barriers to access such as	Barrier such as busy road with	Not applicable to spaces other

	Score			
Attribute	3 (Good)	2 (Average)	1 (Poor)	n/a
	access	short walk to crossing for busy road/railway etc	no crossing, railway etc makes access from certain areas difficult	than play facilities, sports facilities, parks, main access corridors such as rivers and major access routes and large semi natural spaces
Entrances	Entrances accessible and easy to find	Entrances adequate	Site entrances difficult to find and uninviting	Open access to site, no entrance
<b>Biodiversity</b>				
Role as part of habitat network	Directly connected to other green spaces with no barriers	Connected to other green spaces with minor barriers (such as local road)	Isolated from other green spaces	Applicable to all sites
Diversity of habitats	Diversity of habitats appropriate to size and type of space	Some variation in habitat type but scope for enhancement	Limited diversity (e.g. only mown amenity grass, dense coniferous woodland etc)	Applicable to all sites except where the site size and type would not allow additional planting without affecting site function
<b>Attractive</b>				
Appropriate provision of facilities	Appropriate range and type of facilities	Adequate provision of facilities but some scope for additional provision	Facilities lacking or inappropriate	No facilities expected for a space of this type or size
Quality of facilities including maintenance	Facilities in good condition with little or no scope for improvement	Facilities in average condition with minor scope for improvement	Facilities in poor condition with significant scope for improvement	No facilities expected for a space of this type or size
Evidence of vandalism (damage, graffiti)	Little or no evidence of damage or	Some areas of graffiti, small scale or localised	Evidence of fire raising, extensive graffiti, severe	Applicable to all sites

	Score			
Attribute	3 (Good)	2 (Average)	1 (Poor)	n/a
	graffiti	damage	damage to facilities or features	
Litter/broken glass	Very little or no litter	Some litter apparent	Significant quantities of litter in specific locations or across site/evidence of fly tipping or dumping/large quantities of broken glass on pathways or close to play equipment	Applicable to all sites
Maintenance and provision of planting	Good quality/appropriate planting provision and maintenance	Minor maintenance or provision issues	Poor quality planting provision / significant maintenance issues	No planting expected for a space of this type and size
Dog fouling	No evidence of dog fouling	Minor issues with dog fouling	Significant problem with dog fouling	Applicable to all sites
Safety	Site open and unenclosed along main access routes. Little or no evidence of anti social behaviour	Some parts of main access routes are enclosed and /or some evidence of anti social behaviour	Enclosed spaces and/or significant evidence of anti social behaviour along main access routes	Not applicable to a site of this type and size
<b>Community awareness and health through participation</b>				
Levels of use	Well used and valued space	Moderate levels of use	Little or no use evident	Not applicable to a site of this type and size
Mix of uses provided for health and physical activity	Range of different user groups accommodated providing opportunities for physical activity	Limited range of uses provided for on site which has potential for wider range of uses	Single use space which has clear potential for additional types of use/facilities do not provide for evident	Not applicable to a site of this type and size

	Score			
Attribute	3 (Good)	2 (Average)	1 (Poor)	n/a
			range of uses required	
History and cultural heritage value	Where historic/cultural heritage features exist they are well maintained and good quality appropriate interpretation provided	Where historic/cultural heritage features exist the feature is in average condition and there is some interpretation of adequate condition provided	Where historic/cultural heritage features exist the feature is in poor condition and interpretation is non-existent, outdated or badly damaged	No historic/cultural heritage features
Signage and information provision	Well maintained signage appropriate to site type and size	Signage provided but scope for improved maintenance or enhancement	Signage not provided or obscured	Not applicable to a site of this type and size

## Appendix B.3      Appropriate descriptions for open space types

Amenity green space for housing	Accessibility (on site)	Size dependent, but hard surfaced paths expected in spaces that connect housing areas. Very small amenity spaces are not likely to have access provision and be for amenity only
	Accessibility (off site)	Linked to pavements No links with local path network expected
	Biodiversity	Amenity grass plus trees expected, there may also be ornamental shrub planting
	Attractive	Provision of bench, bin, dog bin perhaps also lighting and paths dependent on size Well maintained facilities and planting where provided
	Community awareness and health	Amenity function therefore limited community use. Larger spaces may act as access routes or areas for informal play.
Amenity greenspace for housing with play equipment	Accessibility (on site)	Hard surfaced paths with access for prams etc
	Accessibility (off site)	Connected by pavements, and local paths Crossing nearby for any busy roads
	Biodiversity	Amenity grass Some standard trees/ shrub planting
	Attractive	Good quality play facilities Range of play equipment and appropriate safety provision Space for informal play Seating for adults Overlooked by surrounding properties etc Lighting may be provided on paths etc
	Community awareness and health	Located close to housing areas
Amenity green space for transport	Accessibility (on site)	A roadside path or pavement may be provided where this is appropriate
	Accessibility (off site)	Not all spaces will perform an access function depending on location and size of space
	Biodiversity	Potentially amenity grass, scattered deciduous trees and ornamental shrub planting/annual planting
	Attractive	Provision of a bench or bin depending on size and location Well maintained site, facilities and planting where provided
	Community awareness and health	Amenity therefore limited community use. Linear spaces with paths may act as access routes.
Amenity green space for business	Accessibility (on site)	May include a path providing access through planting, although generally access provision is unlikely
	Accessibility (off site)	Not all spaces will perform an access function depending on location and size of space
	Biodiversity	Amenity grass, scattered trees and ornamental shrub planting expected
	Attractive	No facilities are likely to be provided Well maintained site

	Community awareness and health	Amenity therefore limited community use. Larger spaces may act as access routes.
Amenity green space other (e.g. spaces around war memorials, community facilities etc)	Accessibility (on site)	Generally access provision is unlikely
	Accessibility (off site)	Not all spaces will perform an access function depending on location and size of space
	Biodiversity	Amenity grass, planted beds, scattered trees and ornamental shrub planting
	Attractive	Facilities such as a bench may be provided Well maintained space
	Community awareness and health	Amenity therefore limited community use. Larger spaces may act as access routes.
Cemetery	Accessibility (on site)	Well maintained even surfaced paths suitable for access by all abilities
	Accessibility (off site)	Parking provision at cemetery or very close by Should be linked by pavement or path to main settlement
	Biodiversity	Amenity grass and scattered trees or shrubs
	Attractive	Benches, bins Headstones well maintained and safe Well maintained space
	Community awareness and health	-
Churchyard	Accessibility (on site)	Well maintained even surfaced paths suitable for access by all abilities
	Accessibility (off site)	Some parking provision nearby Should be linked by pavement or path to main settlement
	Biodiversity	Amenity grass, mature scattered trees, shrub planting
	Attractive	Benches, bins Headstones well maintained and safe Well maintained space although some opportunity for more natural areas particularly in older churchyards
	Community awareness and health	Interpretation of historic context if appropriate
Corridor - river	Accessibility (on site)	Informal path surface
	Accessibility (off site)	Connected to local path network
	Biodiversity	Marginal vegetation on river bank, amenity grass, trees and shrubs
	Attractive	Open vegetation/clear area around path to ensure safe access
	Community awareness and health	Signage indicating role of access route such as part of longer path network or locations which it links
Corridor - access	Accessibility (on site)	Hard surfaced path or informal path surface (depending on nature of access corridor e.g. access route with amenity function linking built up areas or access route linking built up area with countryside/natural semi natural space )
	Accessibility (off site)	Connected to pavements and local path network

	Biodiversity	Amenity grass, trees and shrubs at periphery
	Attractive	Open vegetation/clear area around path to ensure safe access Lighting as appropriate to location
	Community awareness and health	Signage indicating role of access route such as part of longer path network or locations which it links
Civic space – town squares	Accessibility (on site)	Access for all abilities
	Accessibility (off site)	Connected to pedestrianised areas or pavements
	Biodiversity	Planters with annual flowers, small areas of shrubs or individual trees, dependant on size of space Sculptures or artwork may be present
	Attractive	Spaces to sit Provision of bins Well maintained
	Community awareness and health	Interpretation of historic features or significance of space
	Community awareness and health	Potentially some local involvement in management or conservation or use for health walks Signage provision High levels of use for informal recreation, play, dog walking, relaxation etc
Public parks and gardens (Country)	Accessibility (on site)	Network of surfaced and unsurfaced paths some suitable for all abilities access Parking available on site and accessible by public transport
	Accessibility (off site)	Links to local path network No major off site barriers to access
	Biodiversity	Variety of habitat types (woodland, grass, stream/pond) Significant role in habitat network Areas managed for wildlife
	Attractive	Benches, bins, dog bins, play facilities, informal or formal sports provision Contributes to landscape/townscape High levels of maintenance of facilities
	Community awareness and health	Potentially some local involvement in management or conservation or use for health walks Signage provision High levels of use for informal recreation, play, dog walking, relaxation etc
Public parks and gardens (Town)	Accessibility (on site)	Network of surfaced paths suitable for range of user groups No barriers to access for all Parking available nearby and accessible by public transport
	Accessibility (off site)	Links to local path network No major off site barriers to access
	Biodiversity	Variety of habitat types (woodland, grass, stream/pond)

		Significant role in habitat network
	Attractive	Benches, bins, dog bins, play facilities, sports provision Contributes to landscape/townscape High level of maintenance of facilities and planting
	Community awareness and health	Potentially some local involvement in management or conservation or use for health walks Signage provision High levels of use for informal recreation, play, dog walking, relaxation etc
Public parks and gardens (Neighbourhood)	Accessibility (on site)	Surfaced paths suitable for use by all abilities
	Accessibility (off site)	Short distance to local path network
	Biodiversity	Range of habitats provided by trees, shrubs, grass and planted beds Some role in habitat network anticipated
	Attractive	Benches, bins, dog bins, play equipment High level of maintenance of facilities and planting
	Community awareness and health	Well used for informal recreation, play and dog walking May include features of historic interest and interpretation e.g. interpretation of industrial heritage
Public parks and gardens (Village)	Accessibility (on site)	Surfaced paths suitable for use by all abilities
	Accessibility (off site)	Short distance to local path network
	Biodiversity	Range of habitats provided by trees, shrubs, grass and planted beds Some role in habitat network anticipated
	Attractive	Benches, bins, dog bins, play equipment High level of maintenance of facilities and planting
	Community awareness and health	Well used for informal recreation, play and dog walking May include features of historic interest and interpretation e.g. interpretation of industrial heritage
Natural/semi natural - Open	Accessibility (on site)	Informal path surface. Network of paths. Wetland sites may include boardwalks.
	Accessibility (off site)	Larger sites should have close proximity to local path network
	Biodiversity	Trees, shrub, long grass, water courses, waterbodies as appropriate
	Attractive	Signage, seating Wide clearance around paths giving good visibility Open viewpoints where appropriate
	Community awareness and health	Signage indicating access opportunities and routes
Natural/semi natural - Woodland	Accessibility (on site)	Informal path surface. Network of paths. Wetland areas may include boardwalks.
	Accessibility (off site)	Larger sites should have close proximity to local path network

	Biodiversity	Mixed woodland, shrub, open areas with long grass, water courses, waterbodies as appropriate
	Attractive	Signage, seating Wide clearance around paths giving good visibility Open viewpoints where appropriate
	Community awareness and health	Signage indicating access opportunities and routes Community involvement in conservation activities etc on larger sites
Natural/semi natural - Vacant and derelict land	Accessibility (on site)	Informal network of unsurfaced paths. No relationship with local path network expected Entrance may not be easy to find
	Accessibility (off site)	Off site barriers to access may exist
	Biodiversity	Range of semi natural habitat types provided including long grass, tall herb, scrub and trees May have important role in habitat network
	Attractive	No facilities provided. Informal open space No maintenance anticipated
	Community awareness and health	Medium to low levels of use for informal recreation, informal play and dog walking
Play area (young children)	Accessibility (on site)	Hard surfaced paths with access for prams etc but restricting dogs
	Accessibility (off site)	Connected by pavements, and local paths Crossing nearby for any busy roads
	Biodiversity	Amenity grass Some standard trees/low shrub planting
	Attractive	Good quality play facilities Range of play equipment and appropriate safety provision Seating for adults Fencing/gate/dog gate Overlooked by surrounding properties etc
	Community awareness and health	Located close to housing areas
Play area (older children and teenagers)	Accessibility (on site)	Surfaced paths appropriate for type of facility provided
	Accessibility (off site)	Close to local path network
	Biodiversity	Some mature trees, particularly as boundary features, shrubs and amenity grass possible.
	Attractive	Range of equipment suitable for older children Benches, bins, possible provision of youth shelter Appropriate safety provision if play facilities/skateboarding ramps etc provided Well maintained but some 'artwork' graffiti may be present
	Community awareness and health	Located appropriately to avoid disturbance to neighbouring uses Well used
School grounds primary	Accessibility (on site)	Open access through school yard or tarmac path through amenity landscaping

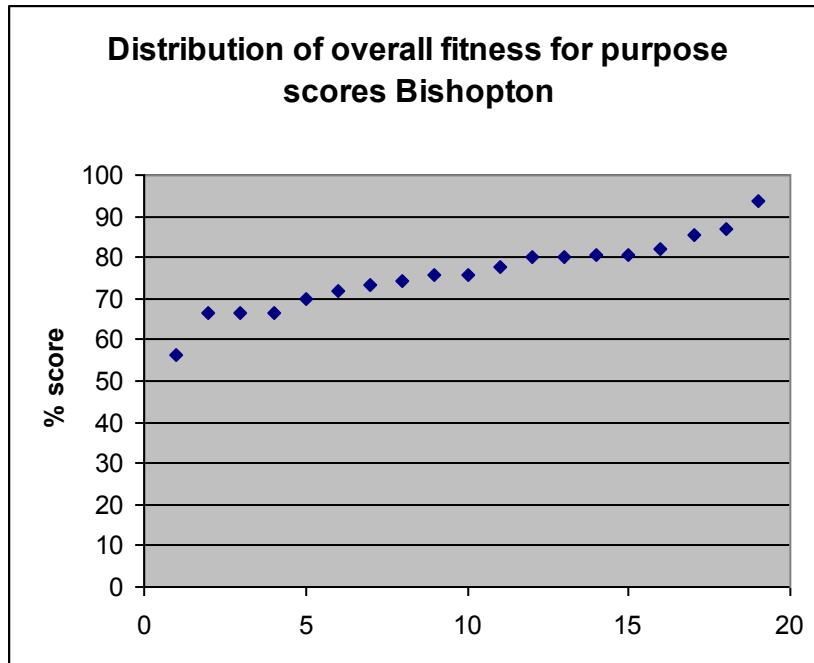
	Accessibility (off site)	Connected to local access routes and pavements
	Biodiversity	Trees, shrubs and amenity grass There may be a nature area dependent on size of school grounds
	Attractive	Hard surfaced play area Some play facilities dependent on size of school grounds Seating Well maintained
	Community awareness and health	Open access out of hours
School grounds secondary	Accessibility (on site)	Tarmac paths with no barriers to access
	Accessibility (off site)	Links to path network, particularly off road routes through nearby housing and areas of green space
	Biodiversity	Trees, shrubs and amenity grass There may be a nature area
	Attractive	Sports pitch provision Well maintained
	Community awareness and health	Open access out of hours to areas as appropriate
Sports pitch (grass) informal	Accessibility (on site)	Surfaced paths may provide access at site periphery
	Accessibility (off site)	Close to local path network/ linked to housing areas
	Biodiversity	Grass Boundary features may include trees and shrubs depending on size of site
	Attractive	No issues with waterlogging Open to observation from surrounding areas
	Community awareness and health	Well used
Sports pitch (grass) formal (may be bookable/used for matches/or by schools)	Accessibility (on site)	Car parking on site or nearby Hard surfaced paths providing access to buildings areas
	Accessibility (off site)	Close to local path network
	Biodiversity	Grass with some standard trees at periphery/possibly hedge as boundary feature
	Attractive	No issues with waterlogging Facilities in good condition appropriate for intended use Spectator provision including benches
	Community awareness and health	Well used
Sports pitch surfaced (may be bookable/used by schools)	Accessibility (on site)	Parking available/nearby
	Accessibility (off site)	Close to local path network
	Biodiversity	Pitch itself will have low intrinsic biodiversity value however if site is of sufficient size surrounding areas should provide some habitat value in terms of tree belts, shrub planting and

		amenity grass at periphery
	Attractive	Well maintained sports pitch appropriate for intended use Spectator provision including benches
	Community awareness and health	Additional participation /activities encouraged Well used
Bowling green	Accessibility (on site)	Car parking nearby. Access on site limited to members
	Accessibility (off site)	Access by public transport nearby
	Biodiversity	Mown grass Hedgerows or trees at periphery
	Attractive	Green of good quality and well maintained
	Community awareness and health	-
Golf course	Accessibility (on site)	Car parking on site Path network may pass through parts of site No signs should prohibit access
	Accessibility (off site)	Access by public transport nearby Close to local path network
	Biodiversity	Mown and rough grass, standard trees, areas of woodland, water courses/ditches, hedgerows
	Attractive	Well used Good quality greens
	Community awareness and health	
Tennis courts	Accessibility (on site)	Surfaced paths to courts
	Accessibility (off site)	Access by local path network, and public transport nearby
	Biodiversity	Surroundings to courts may include trees and shrubs
	Attractive	Nets, courts and surrounding fencing in condition suitable for use
	Community awareness and health	Well used

## **Appendix B.4      Detailed settlement analysis**

### **Bishopton**

#### Distribution of overall fitness for purpose scores



#### Accessibility

The accessibility of the spaces is generally acceptable, although the mean score at 71% is below the mean score for all spaces across Renfrewshire (80%).

Six spaces did not have paths where they would be expected and this relates principally to amenity greenspace for housing, and also to one open semi natural space. Where paths were provided they were generally in average to good condition. The majority of open spaces are reasonably well connected with only space SS\_015 identified as poorly connected. Three spaces were identified as being of a type and size to be accessible by public transport and only SS\_003, an open semi natural space, scored poorly.

Off site barriers to access were only identified for two spaces SS\_013 and SS\_016, a school and an amenity greenspace for housing. There were two spaces where the entrances were not judged to be inviting to users (SS\_012 and SS\_014) both amenity greenspace for housing.

Only one space is identified as having high potential for access improvements by providing paths (SS\_004, playing fields), and three spaces have medium potential for access improvements.

### Biodiversity

The mean biodiversity score for Bishopton is 67% which is below the mean score for biodiversity for all spaces across Renfrewshire of (75%). None of the spaces included in the survey are designated for their wildlife value. Eleven of the 19 spaces included in the survey comprise amenity greenspace for housing which often has scope for biodiversity enhancement without affecting its current function.

Nine of the nineteen spaces were recorded as isolated and therefore scored poorly on connectivity. Three of the amenity spaces scored poorly on diversity of habitats as they consisted only of amenity grass.

The survey identified that two of the spaces had high potential for biodiversity enhancement (SS\_001 and SS\_007), and three quarters of all spaces had some biodiversity potential. The main opportunities for enhancement relate to additional tree or shrub planting and management of the spaces for biodiversity.

### Attractiveness

The mean score for attractiveness for open spaces in Bishopton was 84%, similar to the average for all surveyed sites in Renfrewshire (82%).

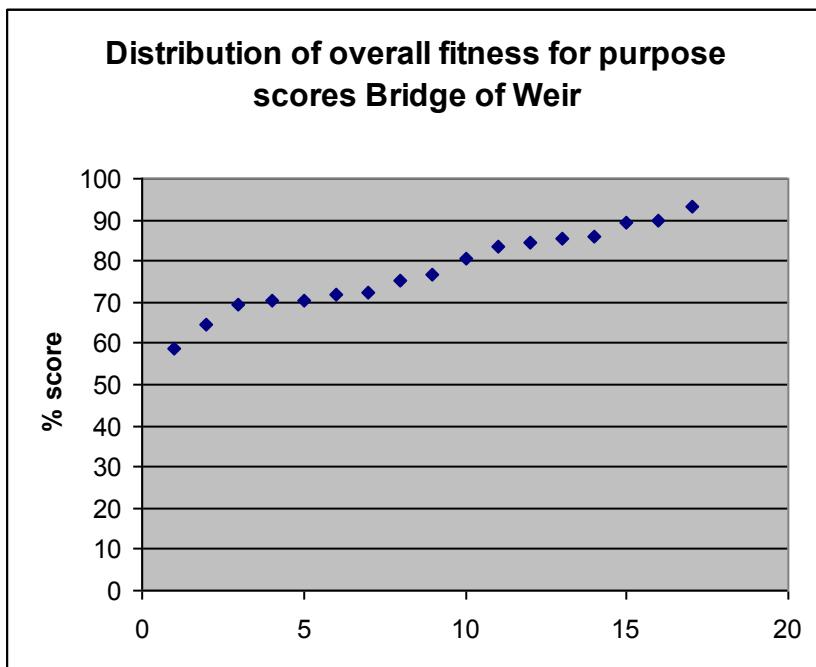
The condition of the facilities is generally good with only two instances where this was recorded as poor. In both instances this relates to football goals, one set on a sports pitch and one set as part of play facilities. The scoring identified some issues with lack of provision of facilities where provision of paths or benches would be appropriate.

Significant problems with vandalism are only recorded on one space where the play facilities were vandalised. There are only two poor scoring spaces for litter which are both open semi natural greenspaces. No particular issues were identified with dog fouling or safety on any of the spaces.

### Community awareness and health through participation

The mean score for community awareness and health through participation for all spaces across Renfrewshire is 64%. The mean score for Bishopton is 62%, with nine of the spaces identified as apparently not well used. Six of these are amenity greenspace for housing, and three are open semi natural greenspace. Only two spaces score poorly on the mix of uses provided for and these are both amenity greenspace for housing. This identifies that there are a number of open spaces where enhancement to encourage greater community use would be beneficial.

## **Bridge of Weir**



### **Accessibility**

The average accessibility score for Bridge of Weir is 81%, similar to the average for Renfrewshire as a whole (80%).

Only one space scored poorly on the provision of paths and this was SS\_020 a neighbourhood park. The condition of paths was also recorded as poor in the village park SS\_029 as the path was waterlogged, uneven and narrow. Two spaces had areas which were fenced off reducing accessibility within the spaces. There are no key issues with connectivity to the access network. However, a neighbourhood park and sports area (SS\_031 and SS\_033) were noted as not easily accessible by public transport. Entrances were generally adequate although an open semi natural space (SS\_028) and woodland (SS\_023) were found to have entrances which restricted access through being uninviting for one space and for the other the entrance is via a stile.

### **Biodiversity**

The mean biodiversity score across Bridge of Weir of 84% is notably higher than the mean score for biodiversity for all spaces across Renfrewshire (75%). This is reflected in the fact that all of the spaces except one are connected as part of the habitat network, and all of the spaces scored well on diversity of habitats except for the village park (SS\_029) which was mostly mown grass with some areas of perimeter trees.

### Attractiveness

The mean attractiveness score for Bridge of Weir is 83% which is slightly above the mean score for Renfrewshire as a whole (82%). Only one space was scored poorly on vandalism issues (SS\_030), however litter was a particular problem in a quarter of the spaces. Planting was generally in good condition, although the open semi natural space SS\_028 was identified as having no obvious maintenance regime. Dog fouling was not a problem on any of the spaces. The only space with safety concerns was the open semi natural space SS\_028 which related to evidence of anti-social behaviour.

### Community awareness and health through participation

With a mean score of 56%, Bridge of Weir is below the average score for Renfrewshire for community awareness and health through participation (64%). The woodland and open semi natural spaces were recorded as not being well used, and many spaces did not facilitate a mixture of uses. There are a number of examples of where signage and information would be expected for the open spaces but was not provided.

## **Brookfield**

### Accessibility

The mean accessibility score is 86% which is slightly above the average for Renfrewshire as a whole (80%). No significant barriers to access were identified in any of the three spaces.

### Biodiversity

The mean biodiversity score for Brookfield was 83%, and the spaces all lie at the perimeter of the settlement and are generally well connected to the surrounding countryside. Some scope for biodiversity improvement was noted for the village park (SS\_038).

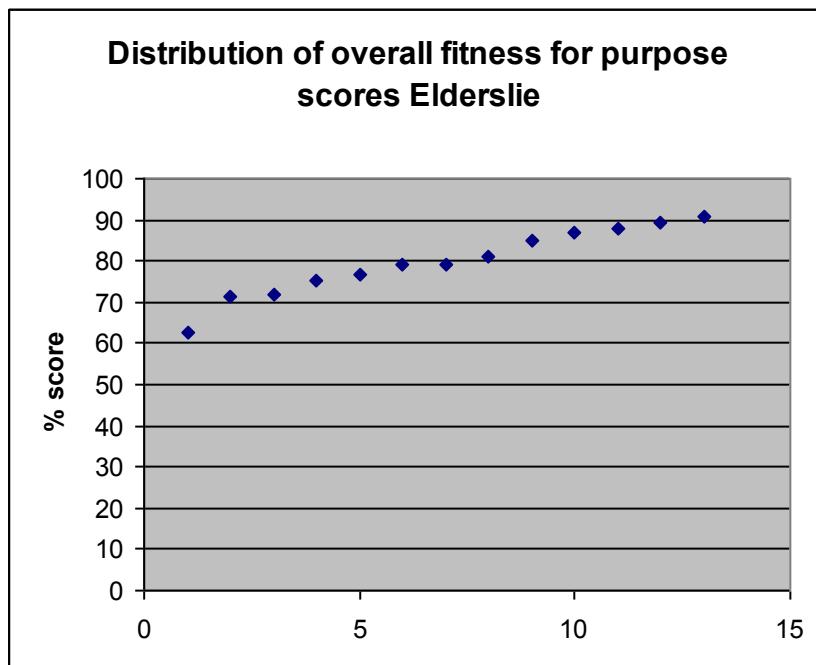
### Attractiveness

Overall the spaces are attractive with the mean score of 95% well above the average for Renfrewshire as a whole. No significant issues were noted for any of the spaces.

### Community awareness and health through participation

The mean score for community awareness and health through participation in Brookfield is 90%, significantly higher than the mean for Renfrewshire as a whole is 64%. All of the spaces were recorded as well used and with limited opportunity for improving levels of use.

## **Elderslie**



### Accessibility

The mean score for accessibility in Elderslie is 88% which is higher than the average for Renfrewshire as a whole (80%). The survey identified very few issues of significance. SS\_052 a sports playing field was identified as having paths which do not link together, and also as having some on site barriers to access by having steps with no handrail. In addition the amenity greenspace for housing SS\_047 also had steps with no handrail. Elderslie is relatively well connected to the off road access network with links providing access to Paisley, Johnstone and Linwood.

### Biodiversity

The mean score for biodiversity for spaces in Elderslie is 72%, slightly below the average across the whole of Renfrewshire (75%). Three spaces, all amenity greenspace for housing, are isolated in terms of the habitat network. Five spaces, again all amenity greenspace for housing were noted as lacking in diversity. There are no wildlife designations covering the open spaces included in the survey in Elderslie.

### Attractiveness

The mean score for the attractiveness of spaces in Elderslie of 82% is equal to the average for Renfrewshire as a whole. Only two spaces were recorded as having inadequate provision of facilities including an amenity space for housing and cemetery (SS\_050 and SS\_048). There are a few minor issues with the quality of the facilities but only one space (SS\_047) was scored poorly on this. Space SS\_047, an amenity greenspace for housing, was the only space which

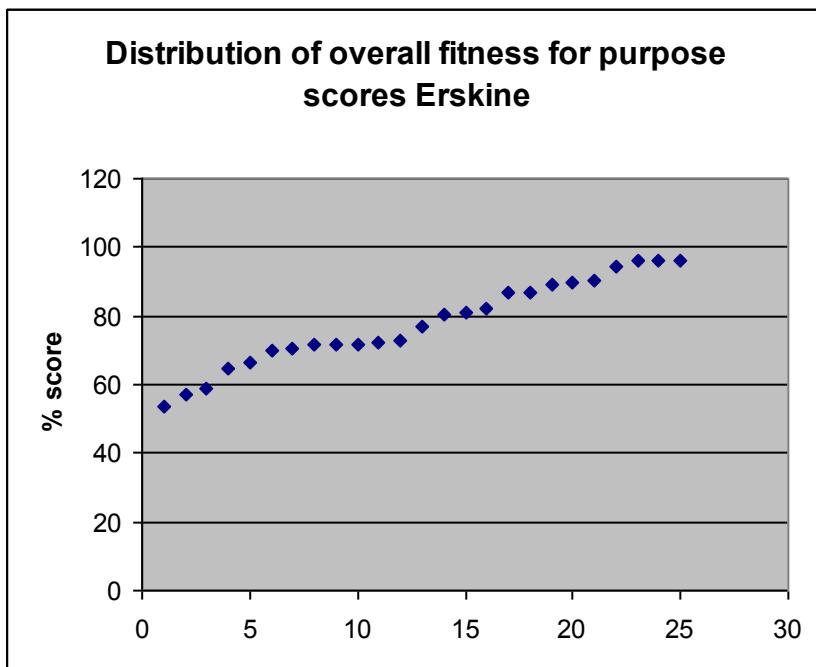
scored poorly in relation to vandalism and also dog fouling. There were no significant issues recorded with litter, planting maintenance or safety on any of the spaces.

#### Community awareness and health through participation

The mean score for community awareness and health through participation is 62% which is slightly below the mean for Renfrewshire as a whole, (64%). Two of the amenity greenspaces for housing were recorded as apparently having low use levels, and nearly half of all spaces were recorded as providing for a limited mixture of uses.

Spaces SS\_044 and SS\_045 have cultural heritage significance in relation to William Wallace. SS\_045 is the traditional location of William Wallace's birthplace and includes remnants of a 15th/17th century building which may have been Wallace's house, a memorial and the 'Wallace' Yew tree at the rear of the space is at least 300 years old. Additional interpretation within SS\_044 would improve the cultural heritage value of the space. A number of the spaces would benefit from additional signage or improvement of existing signage.

## **Erskine**



### **Accessibility**

The majority of open spaces surveyed in Erskine are easily accessible, with the mean score at 81% slightly higher than the mean score for all the spaces across Renfrewshire (80%). Only two spaces were identified as having poor accessibility (SS\_053 and SS\_065), both of these spaces containing large areas of woodland with poor on site footpaths. Connectivity to most spaces was good through a network of off road footpaths, including the Erskine Riverfront Walkway which connects with the Clyde Walkway and a network of paths on Newshot Island (SS\_055) and provides a popular area for walking, dog walking and cycling.

The three spaces with the greatest potential for access improvements are Boden Boo Community Woodland (SS\_053), Craigend Hill Reservoir (SS\_074) and the Rashielee Plantation (SS\_070). All of these spaces already contain existing informal footpaths across parts of the space, but would benefit from more formal footpaths and recognised routes to open up wider parts of the space and encourage greater use. Improved pedestrian access from the town centre to the large open semi-natural spaces along the Erskine Waterfront would also be beneficial. Existing links to the waterfront and other large semi-natural open spaces could also be better promoted and signposted to encourage greater use of this area by the local community.

### Biodiversity

Biodiversity value of the open spaces surveyed in Erskine is high, with the mean score at 83% significantly higher than the mean score for all the spaces across Renfrewshire (75%). In addition, a number of the spaces with high biodiversity value cover large areas, with six of the largest spaces of high biodiversity value covering over 115 hectares.

The open spaces within Erskine also contain several protected areas for nature conservation. Newshot Island (SS\_055) is a proposed Local Nature Reserve (LNR). The space contains a variety of inter-tidal mud, saline reed beds, grassland and scrub habitats. As part of the Inner Clyde Estuary, it has also been designated as a Ramsar site and a Special Protection Area (SPA) because it sustains internationally important numbers of over wintering wildfowl.

Space SS\_054 also falls within the Inner Clyde Estuary Ramsar and SPA.

In addition, Boden Boo Community Woodland (SS\_053), Rashielee Plantation and several semi-natural areas within the Erskine Riverfront Business Park (SS\_054) also provide a valuable local resource for biodiversity. These spaces have been designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs).

As well as their nature conservation value, all of these spaces also provide a good recreational resource.

Despite the high biodiversity value of the open spaces surveyed in Erskine, many of the spaces could be further enhanced to increase their value to wildlife. Those spaces with the greatest potential for improvement include Rashielee Plantation (SS\_070) and Craigend Hill (SS\_070). Collectively, a number of smaller spaces to the south and east of the town could also be better connected by increased planting between spaces to help create a wildlife corridor.

### Attractiveness

The attractiveness of many of the open spaces surveyed in Erskine is average, with the mean score at 76% slightly below the mean score for all the spaces across Renfrewshire (82%). In part this score is a reflection of the type of open spaces found within Erskine, with a large number of open and semi-natural spaces which are not formally maintained and are more susceptible to higher levels of anti-social behaviour such as flytipping. The scoring of the majority of spaces in Erskine also identified the lack of provision of play equipment, sports areas and other facilities such as benches and bins throughout the town as a significant issue.

On the more formal open spaces surveyed, the condition of play equipment was generally satisfactory, with a number of smaller amenity open spaces in residential play areas (for example SS\_067 and SS\_069) providing a variety of attractive play equipment for children. However, at space SS\_065 the condition of play equipment was very poor.

Only a few spaces surveyed within the town contained sports equipment, with the majority of those on smaller spaces being in average to poor condition. However, the condition of sports equipment on the larger spaces, such as Barwood Park (SS\_077), Park Mains High School (SS\_075), St Anne's Primary (SS\_061) and Barsail Primary (SS\_064) was generally average to good.

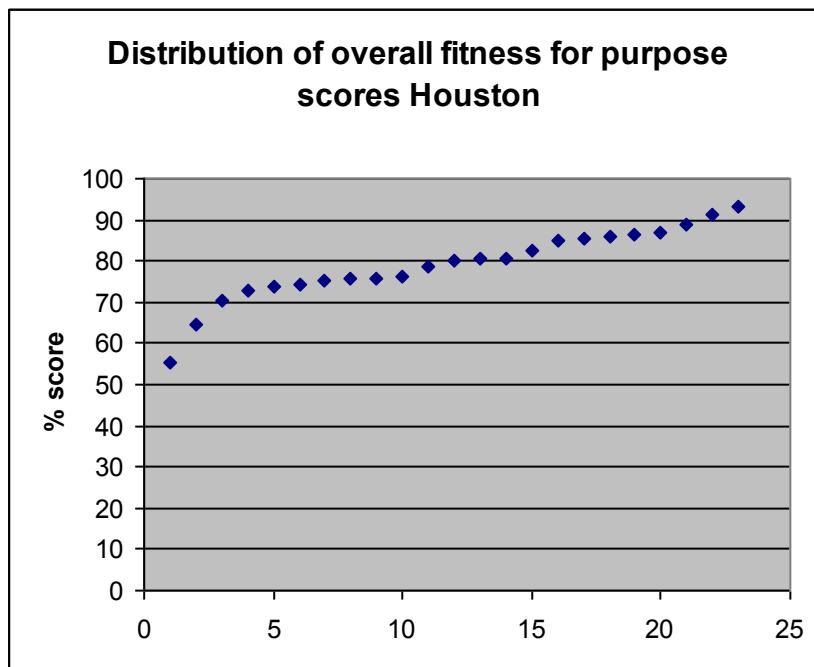
A number of spaces surveyed across Erskine were identified as having high potential to be made more attractive. Perhaps the most important space is Barwood Park (SS\_077) which is the largest formal open space in Erskine. This park includes a play area, a blaes pitch, a grass pitch and a pavilion yet appears underused as the space is unattractive and the pavilion and play areas have not been well maintained. This space would benefit from increased planting and improved landscaping and maintenance. A number of spaces also provide a good opportunity to provide new play and sports facilities, particularly spaces SS\_058, SS\_063, SS\_071, and SS\_072.

#### Community awareness and health through participation

The mean score for community awareness and health through participation in Erskine is 70%, which is above the average for all the spaces surveyed across Renfrewshire (64%). The main uses of the spaces surveyed were for walking and dog walking, whilst the sports facilities provided at schools were also popular for football and basketball. The mix of uses provided on each space was generally appropriate, although opportunities for increased provision of play and sports equipment at Barwood Park (SS\_077) were identified.

In addition to Barwood Park (SS\_077), the other spaces with the highest potential for greater use are Rashielliee Plantation (SS\_070) and Craigend Hill (SS\_074). Although there is already a good provision of semi-natural open spaces for recreational use along the waterfront, these spaces could provide an opportunity for walking and dog walking closer to the town centre through providing improved footpath networks and signage.

## **Houston**



### **Accessibility**

The mean accessibility score for the open spaces of 79% is close to the mean for Renfrewshire at 80%. There is no path provision in either of the neighbourhood parks (SS\_088 and SS\_099), but there are no other significant provision issues across the spaces. Only one space has an issue with path condition which is the amenity greenspace for housing SS\_089 which is unsurfaced, waterlogged and uneven.

Two of the schools spaces surveyed were under construction and it was not possible to identify any potential on-site barriers.

The neighbourhood park (SS\_099) is poorly connected as it does not have an on-site path and neither this park nor SS\_088 are easily accessible by public transport. The woodland space SS\_083 and neighbourhood park SS\_099 do not have clearly defined entrances, which potentially reduces levels of use.

### **Biodiversity**

The mean score for biodiversity for spaces in Houston is 80%, higher than the average across the whole of Renfrewshire (75%). Three amenity greenspaces and the neighbourhood park are identified as isolated from the green network but only three spaces have low diversity and this includes two neighbourhood parks (SS\_088 and SS\_099) and the village park (SS\_096). The linear nature of many of the spaces ensures good connectivity with the green network and open countryside, and the woodland space SS\_084 is a SINC.

### Attractiveness

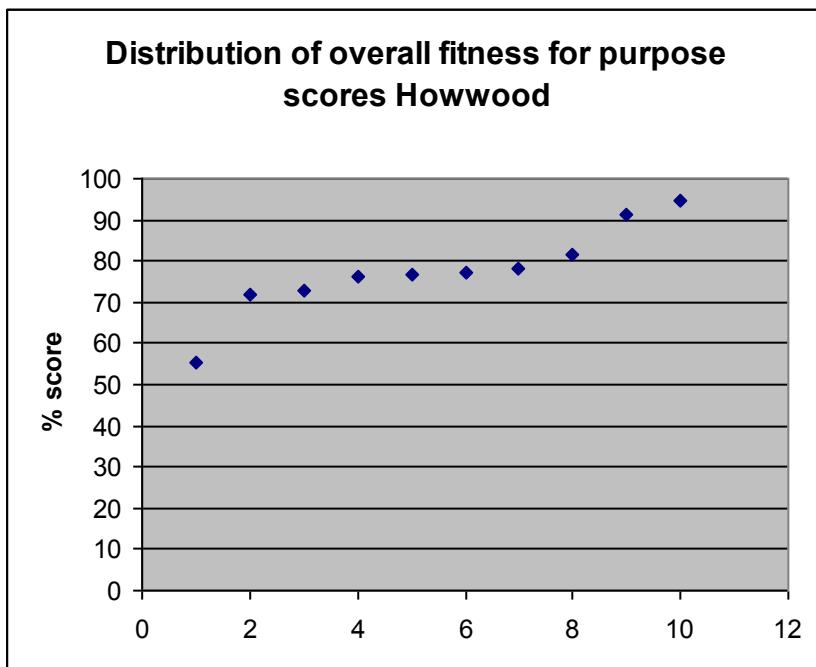
The mean score for attractiveness of the spaces in Houston is 85% which is above the mean for Renfrewshire (82%). There were no significant issues with the appropriate provision of facilities and only one space (SS\_098) had an issue with the quality of the perimeter fence and seating. Two spaces had issues with vandalism (SS\_080 and SS\_086). This included vandalism of the play facilities and damage to trees. Litter was only an issue for two spaces (SS\_080 and SS\_093). The neighbourhood park SS\_088, only included mown grass, when additional planting provision would be anticipated. There were no significant issues identified with dog fouling or safety.

### Community awareness and health through participation

The mean score for the spaces is 69% which is slightly above the Renfrewshire mean score (64%).

Only four of the spaces are noted as having low levels of use. This included one of the woodland semi natural spaces, two amenity greenspaces for housing and a cemetery. Six of the spaces were recorded as not providing for a mixture of uses. One space has cultural significance as the location of the Craigends Yew, estimated at 600 years old. The spaces to the north west of the settlement are noted as having lower community value. Nearly all of the spaces include access routes and therefore signage would be appropriate to indicate to users where the path links through the spaces connect.

## **Howwood**



### **Accessibility**

The overall accessibility score for Howwood is 80% which equals the average score for Renfrewshire as a whole. The village park (SS\_105) lacks sufficient path provision and the existing paths are of poor quality. In addition this space has the on site barrier of steps. The entrances are noted as unclear at the open semi natural space SS\_106 and the woodland space SS\_111.

### **Biodiversity**

The mean score for biodiversity for spaces in Howwood is 80%, slightly higher than the average across the whole of Renfrewshire (75%). However three of the spaces are recorded as isolated from the green network including a woodland , churchyard, a civic space and amenity greenspace for housing (SS\_109, SS\_108). All spaces scored well on diversity with only the amenity greenspace for housing SS\_110 is noted as having limited diversity of habitats.

### **Attractiveness**

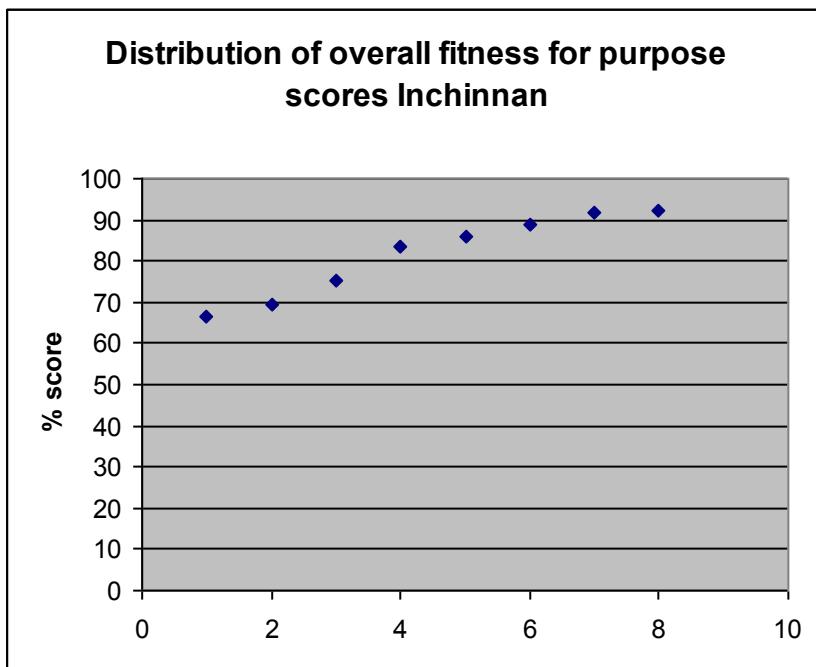
The high mean attractiveness score of 86% (compared to an average for Renfrewshire of 82%) reflects the fact that no spaces had particular issues with facilities provision or quality, and vandalism was not a significant issue for any spaces. Only the woodland space SS\_111 had issues with litter which included dumping and garden waste. Issues with the maintenance of planting are recorded for SS\_104 open semi natural space, where no maintenance regime was apparent. Dog fouling was not a significant issue for any spaces, and the only space with particular safety concerns was the woodland space SS\_111 which is isolated and lacks surveillance.

### Community awareness and health through participation

Levels of community awareness and health at 58% are below the average for Renfrewshire as a whole at 64%. This score is reflected by four of the ten spaces being recorded as having low levels of use, this includes two open semi natural greenspaces, an amenity greenspace for housing and a woodland space. Half of the spaces were recorded as providing for a limited mixture of uses.

The provision of signage and information is noted as lacking for a number of spaces, particularly those amenity greenspaces for housing which provide access routes and open semi natural spaces which may not be clearly defined as public open space. It was noted that no interpretation is provided in the churchyard.

## **Inchinnan**



### **Accessibility**

The majority of open spaces surveyed within Inchinnan are easily accessible, with the mean score at 81% slightly higher than the mean score for all the spaces across Renfrewshire (80%).

All of the spaces surveyed for footpaths contained appropriate path provision, except for Inchinnan village park (SS\_116) where it was considered that a path should be provided to the play facilities from the main footpath. The condition of the footpaths at all spaces was judged to be adequate, with only minor maintenance issues identified, such as repairing cracked surfaces and removing weeds.

All of the open spaces surveyed were connected to local off road footpaths or appropriate pavements, although the Old Greenock Road was identified as a minor barrier between Inchinnan Primary (SS\_114) and Inchinnan village park (SS\_116). Accessibility by public transport to these two spaces was also poor, with no bus stops in close proximity to the site entrances.

### **Biodiversity**

The mean score for the spaces surveyed in Inchinnan for biodiversity is 75%, equal to the mean score for biodiversity for all the spaces surveyed across Renfrewshire. However, five of the eight spaces included in the survey are amenity greenspace for housing which often has scope for biodiversity enhancement without affecting its current function.

None of the spaces surveyed in Inchinnan are designated for their nature conservation value, nor are they connected to the SINC to the north of the village. However, apart from spaces SS\_112 and SS\_113, all of the spaces were directly or indirectly connected to other green spaces.

The diversity of habitats of the spaces surveyed was also felt to be appropriate, except for Inchinnan Playing Fields (SS\_116) which it felt had significant scope for tree and shrub perimeter planting without affecting its function as a village park.

#### Attractiveness

The attractiveness of the majority of the open spaces surveyed in Inchinnan was good, with the mean score at 88% significantly above the mean score for all the spaces across Renfrewshire (82%).

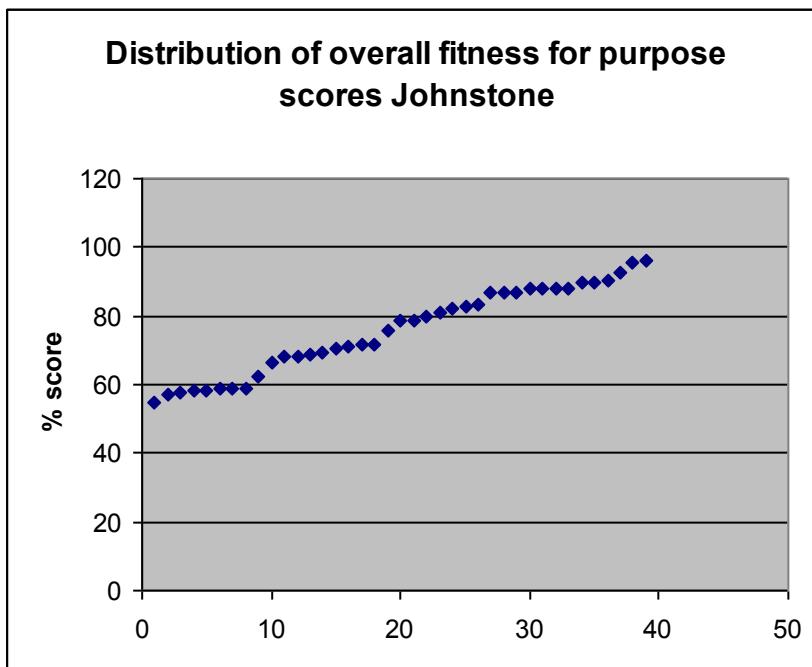
The only space surveyed in Inchinnan where play or sports facilities were provided was Inchinnan village park (SS\_116), and it was felt that these facilities were appropriate and in suitable condition. However, open areas within the village park were identified as having good potential to provide additional facilities, whilst it was also felt that the grass surface below the basketball nets was not suitable. The survey also identified that the area to the rear of the school (SS\_115) offers a good opportunity to provide additional play or sports facilities.

Litter, vandalism, safety and dog fouling were not identified as a significant problem at any of the spaces surveyed. However, the requirement for better maintenance of planting was identified for spaces SS\_115 and SS\_112.

#### Community awareness and health through participation

The mean score for community awareness and health through participation in Inchinnan is 70%, which is above the average for all the spaces surveyed across Renfrewshire (64%). All of the spaces surveyed were judged to be reasonably or well used, with the notable exception of the space to the rear of the school (SS\_115) which is overgrown and lacks appropriate facilities. This space was identified as the main space where improvements could be made to encourage greater community use. Suggested improvements include clearing overgrown vegetation and providing a play or sports area for the primary school and local residents that back onto the space.

## **Johnstone**



### **Accessibility**

The majority of open spaces surveyed in Johnstone are accessible, with the mean score at 80% equal to the mean score for all the spaces across Renfrewshire. A number of spaces surveyed form important access corridors themselves through the town and into the surrounding countryside. However, four spaces were identified as having poor accessibility overall. These include two open semi-natural spaces (SS\_150 and SS\_157) and two small areas of amenity greenspace for housing (SS\_126 and SS\_141).

The provision of paths was identified as poor at six spaces. Three of these spaces were amenity greenspaces for housing where no paths were provided (SS\_132, SS\_139 and SS\_141), one of the spaces was an amenity greenspace for housing where there were no paths from the space entrance to play equipment (SS\_123) and the remaining two spaces (SS\_150 and SS\_157) were semi-natural open spaces where there were numerous desire lines evident but no path provision.

Nine spaces surveyed in Johnstone were identified as having paths in a poor condition. These included Thomas Shanks Public Park (SS\_135) where many of the path surfaces, especially around the periphery of the space, were badly surfaced thus making access difficult for those with reduced mobility. One sports playing field (SS\_138) and one open semi natural space (SS\_150) also had paths that were not well maintained. The remaining spaces with poor path condition were all amenity greenspaces for housing.

On-site accessibility for the majority of the spaces surveyed in Johnstone was generally adequate, with the lack of paths on some spaces the only major problem. Two exceptions to this were spaces SS\_131 and SS\_137 where steps were provided down steep slopes but had not been well maintained.

Another reason for some spaces scoring poorly in accessibility was due to entrances being difficult to find or uninviting. These included access to the part of the National Cycle Route 7 and 75 which links Johnstone with Linwood at space SS\_121. At this space the entrances from Miller Street were uninviting with lots of litter and broken glass, whilst from Ritchie Park and Old Road the entrances were difficult to find.

#### Biodiversity

Biodiversity value of the open spaces surveyed in Johnstone was low, with the mean score at 71% lower than the mean score for all the spaces across Renfrewshire (75%). The main reason for this lower biodiversity score was the high number of amenity greenspaces for housing which were isolated and lacked appropriate planting. However, the majority of these spaces offer good potential for increased planting without affecting their current function.

The only space designated for its nature conservation value in Johnstone is SS\_157, Kilbarchan Road, which has been identified as a SINC in the Renfrewshire Local Plan (2005). This space, which covers around 4 hectares, is an open semi-natural area which includes broadleaved woodland, dense scrub and semi-improved grassland. Although access to the space is difficult due to its topography, this space offers good potential to be developed as a Local Nature Reserve. Rannoch Wood (SS\_147) which cover approximately 50 hectares also provides an important biodiversity resource for the town.

#### Attractiveness

The attractiveness of many of the open spaces surveyed in Johnstone is poor, with the mean score at 77% below the mean score for all the spaces across Renfrewshire (82%). Nearly all of the spaces surveyed with lower attractiveness scores occurred in west Johnstone, in particular in the Cartside area. However, some of the highest scoring spaces surveyed in Renfrewshire also occurred in Johnstone, for example Ludovic Square (SS\_127)

One of the main reasons for spaces scoring poorly was due to the lack of facilities provided. Eleven spaces surveyed were identified as having poor quality facilities provision. Of these, opportunities for new play facilities were identified at three spaces (SS\_132, SS\_139 and SS\_149). The remaining spaces primarily identified the need for more seating, litter bins and dog bins.

Where facilities are provided on the spaces surveyed, the quality of these facilities was generally satisfactory. The exception to this was in the Cartside

area, where a cluster of spaces had play equipment and other facilities that were not well maintained and had been subject to vandalism.

The other main reason for spaces scoring poorly was due to poor maintenance and provision of planting, with twelve spaces scoring poorly on these criteria. Key problems included lack of planting on spaces which could accommodate flowers, shrub or trees, and poor maintenance of grass edging and flower beds.

Litter and vandalism was identified as a problem at six and seven spaces respectively, whilst dog fouling was not identified as a serious problem at any of the spaces. Safety was a concern on two of the open-semi natural spaces (SS\_121 and SS\_150), and two amenity greenspaces in west Johnstone (SS\_130 and SS\_131).

#### Community awareness and health through participation

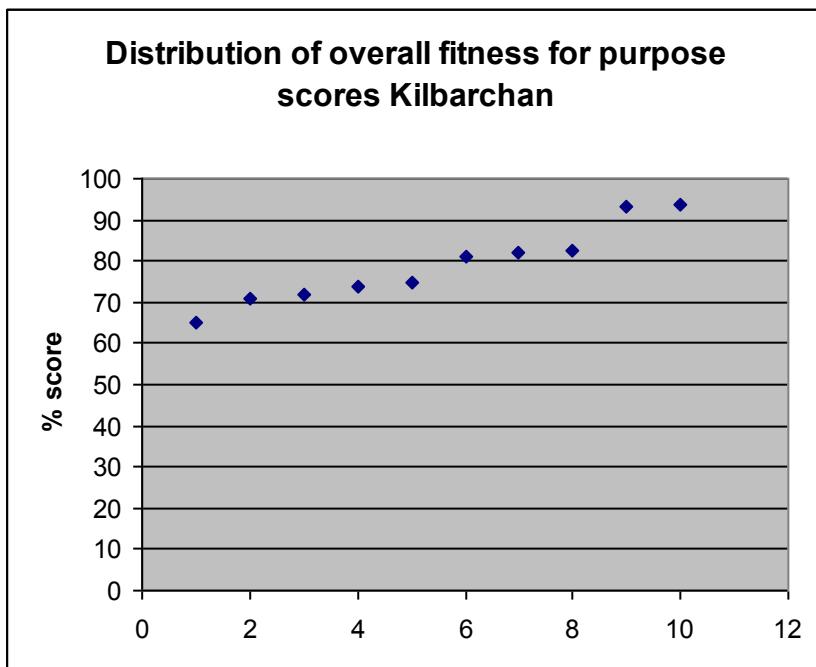
The mean score for community awareness and health through participation in Johnstone is 67%, which is above the average for all the spaces surveyed across Renfrewshire (64%). Around a half of those spaces surveyed in Johnstone which scored poorly on this theme occurred in the Cartside area.

Some of the most important resources surveyed are Thomas Shanks Park (SS\_135), which is a popular access route and playspace, Ludovic Square (SS\_127) and Houston Square (SS\_128) which is well used for informal recreation, and Rannoch Woods (SS\_147) which was popular with walkers.

Eleven amenity greenspaces were identified as not being well used, and this primarily reflected the lack of facilities present on these spaces. One open semi-natural space (SS\_157) also scored poorly as the space is currently difficult to access.

Despite the high community awareness and participation composite score of the open spaces surveyed in Johnstone, many of the spaces offer significant potential to be even better used. Those spaces with the greatest potential include Thomas Shanks Park (SS\_135), where consideration should be given to repairing damaged play equipment and the blaes pitch, Johnstone High School (SS\_152) where the blaes tennis and football pitches should be replaced, and a number of smaller spaces in the Cartside area which have the potential to be used as a playspace or community garden.

## **Kilbarchan**



### **Accessibility**

The majority of open spaces surveyed in Kilbarchan are easily accessible, with the mean score at 83% slightly higher than the mean score for all the sites across Renfrewshire (80%). Spaces SS\_166, SS\_163 and SS\_162 are recorded as having poor path provision (amenity greenspace for housing, churchyard, woodland). The condition of existing paths in the churchyard and woodland is also recorded as poor, and for SS\_161, an open semi natural space. There are no particular issues with on-site accessibility or connectivity. No issues with access by public transport or off site barriers to access. The entrances to the woodland space SS\_162 are noted as poor and overgrown.

### **Biodiversity**

The mean biodiversity score for Kilbarchan of 82% is greater than the average for Renfrewshire as a whole (75%). Only two of the spaces are recorded as isolated from the green network (amenity greenspaces for housing SS\_166 and SS\_167). None of the spaces were recorded as having particular issues with diversity of habitats which was appropriate for the space types and size.

### **Attractiveness**

Kilbarchan scores positively in relation to the mean score for attractiveness of spaces with 84% (compared to the average across Renfrewshire of 82%). Only one woodland space, SS\_162 recorded an issue with lack of appropriate provision of facilities. Across Kilbarchan there are no significant issues with the quality of facilities provided, vandalism, litter or planting maintenance. Only one amenity greenspace for housing (SS\_159) was identified as having an issue with

dog fouling. None of the spaces were recorded as having particular safety issues.

#### Community awareness and health through participation

The mean score for community awareness and health through participation in Kilbarchan is 55%, which is significantly below the average for all the sites surveyed across Renfrewshire (64%). Half of the spaces were recorded as having low levels of use and over half of the spaces are recorded as having poor provision for a mixture of uses. This partly reflects the lack of functionality of the spaces which could be improved. Signage and information was not provided at the churchyard or woodland spaces SS\_163 and SS\_162 where this would be appropriate.

## **Langbank**

### Accessibility

The mean accessibility score of 88% is higher than that for Renfrewshire as a whole (80%). All three of the spaces have good quality paths where provided. No other significant access issues were identified.

### Biodiversity

The mean biodiversity score is of 72% is just below the mean for Renfrewshire (75%). Two of the three spaces (SS\_170 and SS\_169) are relatively isolated from the green network. All three spaces have appropriate diversity

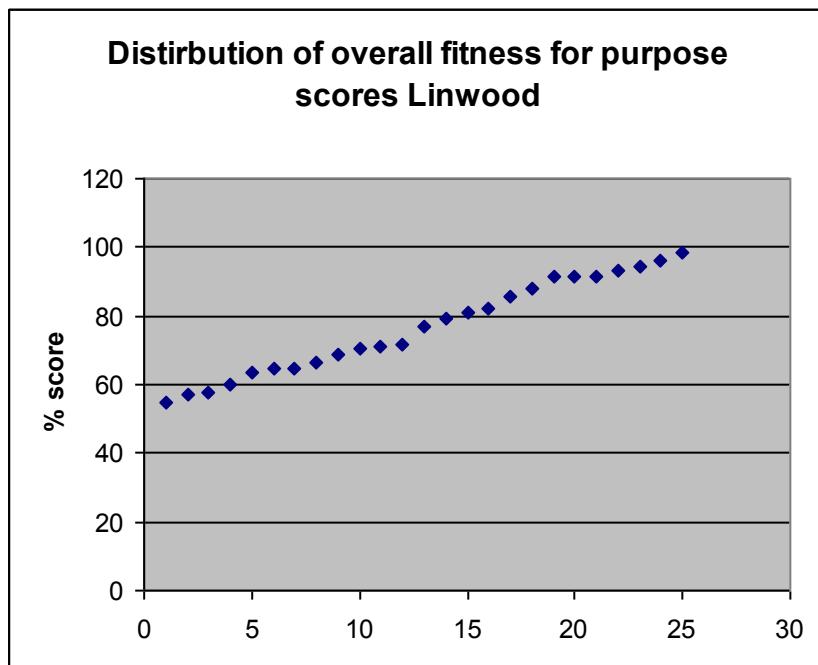
### Attractiveness

The mean score of 83% is comparable to that for Renfrewshire as a whole (82%). There is an adequate range of facility provision across the spaces, although some concerns over the quality were noted at the village park, SS\_169 where the goal posts and fence were in poor condition. There are no significant issues with vandalism, litter or dog fouling. Planting maintenance is an issue for SS\_169 and SS\_170 where low levels of maintenance were noted. The survey recorded no issues with safety.

### Community awareness and health through participation

The mean score for community of 74% is notably higher than the mean for Renfrewshire as a whole (64%). All of the spaces appear quite well used and provide for a mixture of uses. The only issue with signage was the lack of a sign for the village park.

## Linwood



### Accessibility

The mean score for accessibility of 87% is greater than the mean for Renfrewshire as a whole (80%). The majority of spaces are easily accessible from the surrounding area. Three of the spaces did not provide paths where these would be expected. These included two amenity greenspaces for housing and a woodland space. Only four spaces were noted as having poor quality paths and these are all amenity greenspaces for housing. There were no significant issues with on site barriers, connectivity, access by public transport, or off site barriers. Only two spaces, an amenity greenspace for housing and a woodland space (SS\_181 and SS\_197), were recorded as having entrances that are difficult to find.

### Biodiversity

The mean score for biodiversity of 68% is lower than the mean for Renfrewshire (74%). Seven amenity greenspaces for housing were noted as isolated in relation to the green network. The nine spaces recorded as having low levels of diversity were mostly amenity greenspaces and one school. A number of the small amenity greenspaces lack biodiversity value due to their isolation and lack of diversity. The biodiversity value of the sports pitches SS\_173 is particularly notable as a good example. There are extensive areas of tree belts and meadow grass surrounding the main pitches which provide biodiversity value to a type of open space where biodiversity opportunities can be particularly limited. In addition the community woodland SS\_172 provides a range of habitats with mixed deciduous woodland, open rides around the paths and recently created ponds.

### Attractiveness

The mean score for attractiveness of spaces in Linwood at 77% is below that for Renfrewshire as a whole (82%). Some of the spaces in the centre and to the south of the settlement score more poorly in relation to attractiveness. This includes the issue that eleven of the twenty-six spaces lack appropriate provision of facilities. This includes the provision of seating, bins or paths where these would be expected.

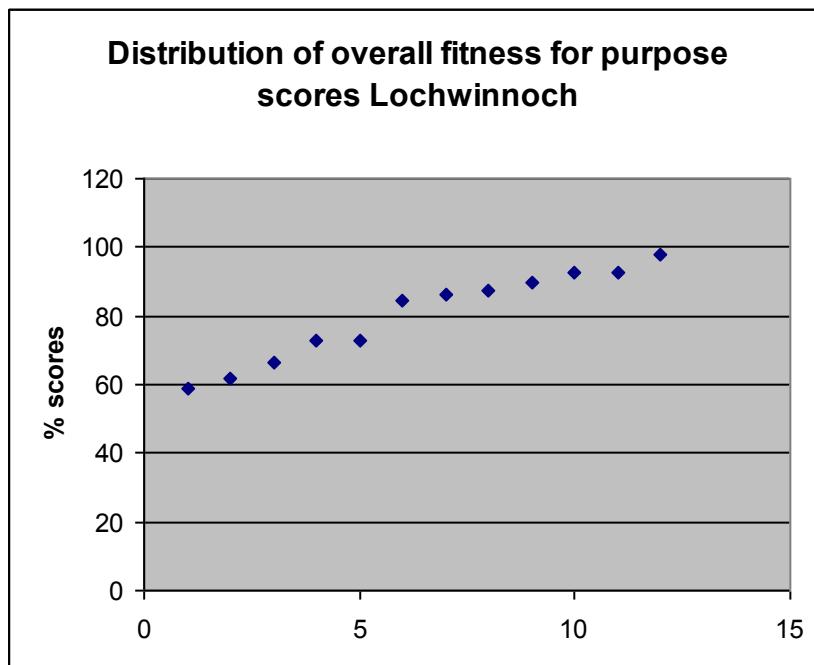
The quality of facilities was generally adequate although the play areas within three of the amenity greenspaces for housing (SS\_174, SS\_185 and SS\_194) were in very poor condition. Vandalism was noted as a particular issue on three spaces (SS\_179, SS\_185 and SS\_191). This included damage to play facilities, fencing and a basketball court. Only two spaces were noted as having particular problems with litter, and these were both amenity greenspace for housing (SS\_191 and SS\_179). Four spaces, all amenity greenspace for housing, were recorded as having issues with poor maintenance of planting. Dog fouling was only a significant issue for one amenity greenspace for housing. Four spaces, all amenity greenspaces for housing were noted as feeling unsafe. This was due to a combination of evidence of anti social behaviour and lack of natural surveillance.

### Community awareness and health through participation

A number of the spaces require improvements to make them score more highly, although the mean score for Linwood of 66% is comparable to that for Renfrewshire as a whole (64%).

Six spaces are recorded as having low use levels. This includes two amenity greenspaces for housing, one open semi natural space and two woodland spaces. Nine spaces did not provide for a mixture of uses and the majority of these are amenity greenspaces for housing and also a woodland semi natural space. Only two spaces had issues with unclear entrances (SS\_181 and SS\_197).

## Lochwinnoch



### Accessibility

The majority of open spaces surveyed within Lochwinnoch are fairly accessible, with the mean score at 79% similar to the mean score for all the spaces across Renfrewshire (80%).

All of the spaces surveyed for footpaths contained appropriate provision, except for space SS\_198, Crook Hill, where there was a clear desire line to the fields to the north east. The condition of paths was identified as poor at three spaces (SS\_198, SS\_199 and SS\_207) where it was felt a formal path surface should be provided. On site barriers were a problem at spaces SS\_198 due to overgrown vegetation and at the foot of space SS\_205 beside the main road where fencing restricted access. Connectivity between spaces is good in the south with the Glasgow to Irvine Cycle Path (NCN7) and footpaths along quiet residential roads providing easy access to walkers and cyclists. However connectivity is less good in the spaces to the north. The entrances to two of the spaces (SS\_198 and SS\_208) were difficult to find.

The space identified with the highest potential for access improvements was SS\_198 at Crook Hill where it was felt improved signage and new paths could be provided to improve access to the surrounding countryside and Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park.

### Biodiversity

The mean score for biodiversity in Lochwinnoch is 76%, slightly above the mean score for biodiversity for all the spaces surveyed across Renfrewshire (75%).

None of the spaces surveyed in Lochwinnoch are designated for their nature conservation value. However, to the south of the village lies Castle Semple Loch which has been designated as a Special Protection Area (a European biodiversity designation) as it is an important habitat for wintering wildfowl. This may offer some potential to link open spaces within the town to the Loch to create a wildlife corridor.

The two spaces with the greatest potential for increased biodiversity value are SS\_199 and SS\_200 which both have space for additional tree and shrub planting.

### Attractiveness

The mean score for attractiveness of spaces surveyed in Lochwinnoch is 86% which is above the average for Renfrewshire as a whole (82%). This may reflect the strong sense of community pride in the appearance of the village by local residents.

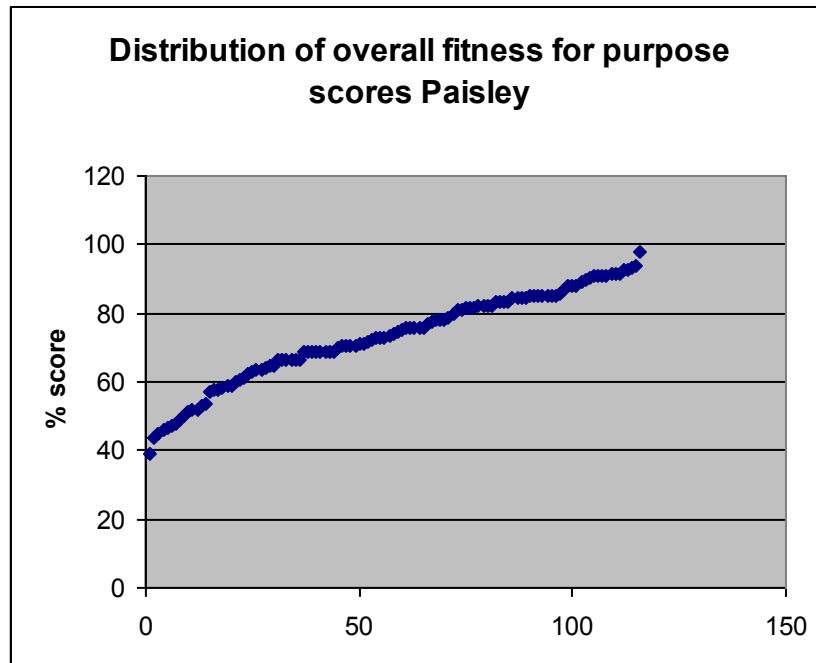
The survey identified very few issues of significance in relation to attractiveness of spaces. On two of the small open semi natural areas (SS\_198 and SS\_208) it was felt that there was significant scope for improved maintenance of planting, with much of the vegetation on the spaces currently overgrown. Also at SS\_198 it was identified that there was a problem with dog fouling.

### Community awareness and health through participation

The mean score for community awareness and health through participation is 67% which is slightly higher than the mean for Renfrewshire as a whole which is (64%). Three spaces (SS\_200, SS\_207 and SS\_208) were identified as having low use levels, whilst two amenity greenspaces (SS\_198 and SS\_200) were recorded as having a poor mix of uses.

The remains of St. Winnoch's church still stand at SS\_207, and the survey identified that the provision of interpretation on the history of the church would improve the cultural heritage value of the space. Signage and information was felt to be appropriate at the other spaces.

## **Paisley and Hillington**



### Accessibility

The audit identifies that many open spaces within Paisley are not easily accessible, with the mean average score of the sites surveyed in Paisley at 75% lower than the average for the sites surveyed across Renfrewshire at 80%. Those areas where overall accessibility to open spaces is poor included the Ferguslie Park area, where six sites scored poorly, the centre of Charelston and the Glenburn area. Overall, the survey also recorded that accessibility to semi natural spaces surveyed within Paisley is noticeably poor.

The main reason for many of the sites surveyed within Paisley scoring poorly for accessibility was due to the poor provision and condition of paths on site. Nearly a quarter of sites were recorded as having inappropriate path provision, and a similar number of sites have paths in a poor condition and that are not well maintained. These included several of the larger open spaces within Paisley, such as Stanley Reservoir (SS\_284), which has considerable potential for recreational use.

Other accessibility problems identified in the audit of Paisley included on site barriers, which were recorded as significant at 17 sites. Examples of these barriers included fencing and locked gates at Ralston Playing Fields (SS\_255), waterlogged and boggy ground at SS\_212 and steep slopes without steps at a number of sites.

Off site barriers were recorded as a less significant problem, although in the Ferguslie Park area busy roads and a lack of crossing facilities were an issue. Connectivity and accessibility by public transport to spaces was also generally good. Entrances to 19 sites were recorded as difficult or uninviting, and these included Stanley Reservoir (SS\_284) and Seedhill Playing Field (SS\_253).

### Biodiversity

The mean score for biodiversity in Paisley is 74%, which is similar to the mean score for all the sites surveyed across Renfrewshire (75%). However, the biodiversity value of the sites surveyed to the north of Paisley (north of the A761) was recorded as significantly poorer than those to the south. The main reasoning for this is that the majority of the spaces to the north of Paisley are isolated, offering little opportunity for wildlife linkages. The diversity of habitats found within open spaces was generally recorded as adequate, although the audit identified significant potential for additional planting on a number of amenity greenspace for housing sites.

Jenny's Well (SS\_322), situated less than a mile from the centre of Paisley, is designated as a Local Nature Reserve. This site is a former landfill which was improved by the local authority in the early 1990's and now provides an important habitat for local wildlife. The site is also designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). The other site which makes an important contribution to the biodiversity value of Paisley is Glennifer Braes (SS\_305). Parts of this site, which is one of the biggest country parks in Scotland, are also designated as a SINC.

### Attractiveness

The overall attractiveness of the sites surveyed within Paisley is 74%, below the mean score for attractiveness for sites surveyed across Renfrewshire at 82%. In addition, some neighbourhoods within Paisley scored particularly poorly, including Ferguslie, Gallowhill and Glenburn.

The most significant problem identified from the audit was the quality of facilities, with nearly a third of sites scoring poorly in this category. The poor quality of facilities was identified as being due to a combination of poor maintenance, neglect and vandalism. The provision of facilities across Paisley was also identified as a significant issue, with the majority of sites surveyed offering considerable potential for more facilities to be provided. In particular, a lack of seating and litter bins across all site types was identified as a weakness.

Vandalism and litter were recorded as being an issue at over twenty sites. Common vandalism and litter offences observed included damage to play and

sports equipment, broken glass and fly tipping. Those sites particularly badly damaged included SS\_261, SS\_235, SS\_212, and SS\_218.

Safety was identified as a problem at around a fifth of sites audited in Paisley, again particularly so at sites in the Blackhall area. Those sites with particular safety issues were those that were isolated and had little surveillance from neighbouring houses or shops. As expected, those sites with high levels of vandalism and litter problems largely corresponded to those with the highest perceived safety concerns.

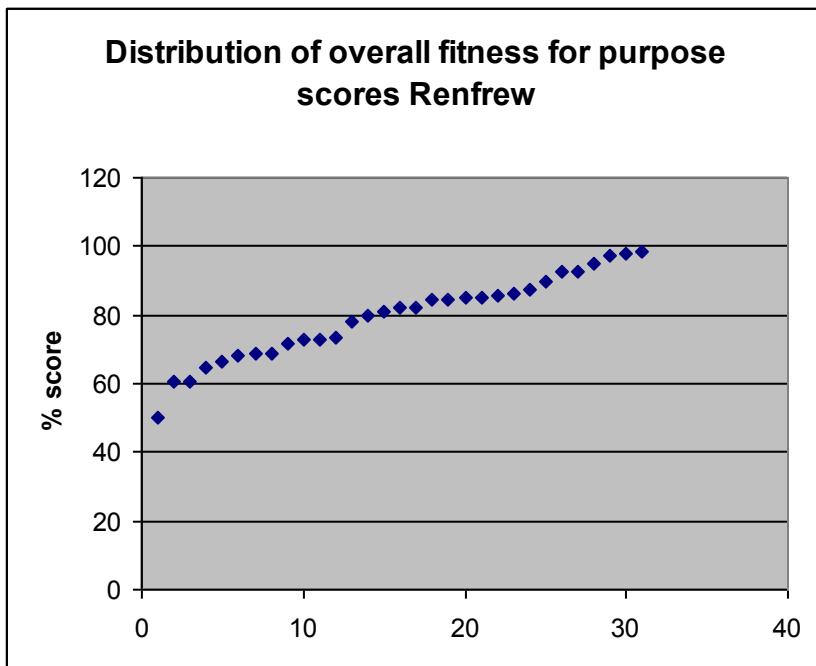
#### Community Awareness and Health through participation

The mean score for Paisley is 64% which is the same as the mean for Renfrewshire. This hides some uneven distribution of scores with a cluster of scores around 33% and also at 65%. Across Paisley there is some clustering of the lower scoring spaces towards the west.

The analysis found that one third of spaces in Paisley scored poorly in relation to levels of use. Equally a third of spaces also scored poorly in relation to the mix of uses provided for within the spaces. Just under 20% of spaces scored poorly in relation to provision of signage and information. History and cultural heritage interest was recorded for a small number of spaces and this identified some opportunities for additional interpretation.

Just under two thirds of the spaces in the lowest score band are amenity greenspaces for housing and a notable proportion of open semi natural spaces and woodland semi natural spaces are also found within this band.

## **Renfrew**



### **Accessibility**

The majority of spaces within Renfrew are easily accessible, with the mean score of the spaces surveyed at 84%, above the mean score for spaces across Renfrewshire (80%).

Five spaces were recorded as having poor path provision. In Cockleshill Park (SS\_326), although a path is provided running north-south, a number of desire lines run east-west along Cockels Loan. At Kirklandneuk Park (SS\_345) no paths are provided along the length of the space. Despite its large size and value as a semi-natural space, only the area closest to the waterfront at Blythswood (SS\_350) is accessible by footpath, with no paths providing links to the town centre. Two other amenity greenspaces for housing, SS\_329 and SS\_340, also had poor path provision.

The survey also identified that the condition of paths was poor at five spaces. These included Knockhill Park (SS\_331) where a path connecting the school to the superstore was not surfaced, and Alexandra Park (SS\_339) where again only an unsurfaced path was provided around the formal gardens. The other three spaces corresponded to amenity greenspaces for housing (SS\_336, SS\_340 and SS\_351).

On site barriers were an issue at Blythswood, with overgrown vegetation and wet areas making access into the woodland almost impossible. A play area at Simons Crescent (SS\_351) was also difficult to traverse due to no steps being provided to the play facilities.

Connectivity to open spaces was good for the majority of the spaces. However, two significant exceptions to this were Renfrew Golf Club (SS\_349) and Blythswood (SS\_350). These spaces were particularly difficult to access from the waterfront due to the lack of footpaths and signage provided through the industrial area to the west of the Renfrew Ferry. Access to these two spaces, and additionally to Knockhill Park (SS\_331) and Kirklandneuk Park (SS\_345), was also difficult by public transport.

#### Biodiversity

Biodiversity value of the open spaces surveyed in Renfrew has a mean score of 70% which is slightly below the mean score for all the spaces across Renfrewshire (75%). Fourteen spaces were also identified as being isolated. Despite this, a number of formal open spaces surveyed did provide a good range of habitats appropriate for their type. A good example of this is Clyde View Park (SS\_352), which contained wetland habitats, areas of meadow and longer grasses, and a range of tree and shrub planting.

Spaces SS\_350 and SS\_344 in Renfrew are designated SINCs. Blythswood (SS\_350), is a large semi-natural woodland which covers over 13 hectares and part of which is a long established woodland. However, much of the ecological value of the space has been compromised by flytipping and lack of active management.

The redevelopment of Renfrew and the creation of further new open spaces will provide a good opportunity to increase biodiversity value and create better habitat links. In addition, Blythswood (SS\_350) was identified as having high potential to be better managed for nature conservation.

#### Attractiveness

The attractiveness of the open spaces surveyed in Renfrew was good, with the mean score of 82% equal to that for Renfrewshire. This high score reflects the number of new play facilities and other facilities that have been provided across the town, although it does mask a small number of individual spaces where facilities were in a very poor condition and litter and vandalism were identified as a problem.

Spaces which scored highly included Robertson Park (SS\_332), which provides an excellent resource for the town. The Park includes a good network of paths, a

boating pond, a bowling green, landscaped gardens and a large play area with a variety of attractive play facilities. However, further opportunities do exist to enhance this space further, including reinstating the tennis courts and repairing the pavilion. Other spaces which scored particularly highly include Clyde View Park, which is attractively landscaped with plants and artwork and contains a diverse range of play equipment and spaces for relaxation.

Those spaces which scored poorly include Ferry Green (SS\_355), which is not well maintained yet offers considerable potential to be developed as a waiting area and viewing area for the Renfrew Ferry. This could be linked to further redevelopment along the Erskine Riverside area to the east. The quality of facilities and maintenance of planting at Kirklandneuk Park (SS\_345) is also recorded as poor, with the visual landscaping of the park uninspiring. The large size of this park also offers a good opportunity for more facilities to be provided, for example a sports pitch. The grounds of St James' Primary (SS\_342) also scored poorly on attractiveness, with the blaes football pitch covered in litter and tipping and the facilities badly vandalised. The landscaping within the school grounds had also been badly damaged.

Overall, five spaces were identified as having poor provision of facilities, and six spaces of having facilities in a poor condition. Vandalism and litter was recorded as a problem at four spaces, and maintenance of planting an issue at five spaces. Dog fouling and safety was not identified as a significant issue.

#### Community awareness and health through participation

The mean score for community awareness and health through participation in Renfrew is 68%, which is above the average for all the spaces surveyed across Renfrewshire (64%). In part this is a reflection of the diverse range of open spaces surveyed across the town, with different types of spaces attracting different user groups. It also reflects the relatively high population of Renfrew, with the least well used spaces recorded to the north of the town along the waterfront where the population is less dense and the spaces therefore less accessible.

Some of the spaces recorded with the highest observed use levels of use were Robertson Park (SS\_322), which was well used as an access route through the town and a place for relaxation, and King George V Playing fields, which was used for sports and by school pupils at lunchtime and after school. The synthetic sports pitches at Renfrew High School (SS\_338) were also popular.

A number of spaces in Renfrew were recorded as offering good potential to be better used. Key projects could include opening up and signposting access to

Blythswood (SS\_350) and improving the play facilities in the north of Renfrew at SS\_351.

## Appendix B.5 Priority open spaces

### High access potential combined with low accessibility site score

Site reference	Town	Primary Type	Access potential text	Accessibility score
SS_219	Paisley	6.72 Open semi natural	Could be linked to the adjacent cycle network and access enhanced in combination with improvements to SS_220	33
SS_321	Paisley	6.72 Open semi natural	Well placed to be part of river walk.	33
SS_284	Paisley	6.73 Open water	Site can be linked as far as ss-278, ss-279, ss-280 and ss-305 with signs and access paths.	38
SS_099	Houston	6.14 Neighbourhood Park	Opportunity to provide better access to and within the site for all user groups.	39
SS_198	Lochwinnoch	6.72 Open semi natural	Scope to provide formal access into the countryside	47
SS_248	Paisley	6.72 Open semi natural	Can be linked all along the White Cart and to SS_322	50
SS_309	Paisley	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Needs paths through the space and signage to help link with the surrounding green spaces	50
SS_222	Paisley	6.71 Woodland	Provide formal path through the site	53
SS_271	Paisley	6.72 Open semi natural	Could be linked to the Lexwell Burn and wood area south of the golf course	56
SS_150	Johnstone	6.72 Open semi natural	Scope to provide a better and higher quality network of paths through site, linking to existing network.	58
SS_314	Paisley	6.72 Open semi natural	High potential to encompass Dykebar Hill, and link through to SS-315 and SS- 316	58
SS_228	Paisley	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Needs safe connection to SS_227	60
SS_105	Howwood	6.13 Village Park	Improve overall circulation through site. Improve desire lines present from SS104. Introduce paths around building. Improve path leading up from Beith Road that forms part of the access network.	62
SS_162	Kilbarchan	6.71 Woodland	Can be linked to Bank Brae as part of access to open space.	62

SS_345	Renfrew	6.14 Neighbourhood Park	Provide a path running along the edge of the site from the primary school to SS_344	62
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### High biodiversity potential combined with low biodiversity site score

Site reference	Town	Primary Type	Biodiversity potential text	Biodiversity score
SS_072	Erskine	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Good opportunity for range of tree, shrub and flower planting.	33
SS_219	Paisley	6.72 Open semi natural	Improve diversity of planting	33
SS_235	Paisley	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Current function is limited and can be improved alongside improving biodiversity	33
SS_296	Paisley	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Improve diversity of planting	33
SS_299	Paisley	6.72 Open semi natural	Clear debris and provide peripheral paths whilst maintaining biodiversity value of core.	33
SS_342	Renfrew	6.22 Schools	Significant scope for additional planting	33
SS_136	Johnstone	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Significant opportunities for tree, shrub and flower planting	50
SS_178	Linwood	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Standard trees would add biodiversity value and still allow space for informal play. Also scope for some areas of shrub planting.	50
SS_195	Linwood	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Improve diversity of planting at periphery particularly tree and shrub planting.	50
SS_276	Paisley	6.22 Schools	Provide nature area, tree planting	50
SS_312	Paisley	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Improve diversity of planting	50
SS_326	Renfrew	6.14 Neighbourhood Park	Scope for significant tree planting along the edge of the M8	50

## High attractiveness potential combined with low attractiveness site score

Site reference	Town	Primary Type	Attractiveness potential text	Attractiveness score
SS_234	Paisley	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Significant opportunities for soft and hard landscaping, with opportunities for focal point around well.	33
SS_235	Paisley	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Good potential for a well placed park adjacent to historic town core and bus service	33
SS_284	Paisley	6.72 Open semi natural	Provide board walks, visitor centre, improved paths and nature trail to enhance recreation value of site.	33
SS_214	Paisley	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Provide play facilities and soft and hard landscaping	38
SS_218	Paisley	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Enhance landscaping and role as an access route. Improve lighting	38
SS_191	Linwood	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	With its location next to two schools and a residential area, this large vacant site offers excellent potential for play and sports facilities.	39
SS_179	Linwood	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Significant opportunities to landscape site and provide a range of new facilities.	43
SS_300	Paisley	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Provision of a formal path would make the space more attractive and functional for users and replace the existing desire line.	43
SS_308	Paisley	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Improve maintenance and create designated paths and seating area.	43
SS_342	Renfrew	6.22 Schools	Significant opportunities for facilities and landscaping enhancements	43
SS_271	Paisley	6.72 Open semi natural	Provide a designated path and seating	44

SS_299	Paisley	6.72 Open semi natural	Can be turned into an orchard for the enjoyment of the community. Community garden or native plantation.	44
SS_324	Paisley	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Site can be opened up, invasive weeds eradicated, paths restored - develop new use for remainder of site.	44
SS_213	Paisley	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Needs to be improved with planting, benches, picnic tables and better paths that link	48
SS_236	Paisley	6.82 Churchyard	Provide paths and benches	48
SS_264	Paisley	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Provide picnic benches. BBQ space for tenants	48
SS_219	Paisley	6.72 Open semi natural	Provide interpretation along with SS_220 along cycle network	50
SS_272	Paisley	6.72 Open semi natural	Provide tree planting, seating, bins, paths	50
SS_152	Johnstone	6.22 Schools	Potential for new football pitches (grass or synthetic grass) and tennis courts.	52
SS_194	Linwood	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Pitches and play area need to be improved. Benches may make the rest of the site more attractive.	52
SS_229	Paisley	6.22 Schools	Enhance external surfaces, edges, fences, planting and pitches	53
SS_063	Erskine	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Site would benefit from hard and soft landscaping	56
SS_133	Johnstone	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Scope for hard landscaping with seating, bins and creation of a focal point.	56
SS_248	Paisley	6.72 Open semi natural	Provide access, remove litter, enhance river boundary for safety, add dog bins, connect to sites along river	56
SS_303	Paisley	6.71 Woodland semi natural	Provide seating and clear glass and undergrowth. Remove graffiti from steps.	56

SS_316	Paisley	6.71 Woodland semi natural	Provision of internal paths	56
SS_047	Elderslie	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Opportunity to make the area more attractive through landscape enhancement and facilities such as new play facilities, benches, bins, picnic tables.	57
SS_134	Johnstone	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Provide play facilities	57
SS_136	Johnstone	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Scope for provision of play and sports facilities	57
SS_185	Linwood	6.71 Woodland semi natural	Provide new play and sports facilities on recreational grounds.	57
SS_250	Paisley	6.14 Neighbourhood Park	Various opportunities for additional facilities such as picnic benches and shelter	57
SS_309	Paisley	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	This is an attractive space and seating and lighting could be provided.	57
SS_208	Lochwinnoch	6.72 Open semi natural	High potential for landscape enhancements at garage area behind housing	60
SS_162	Kilbarchan	6.71 Woodland semi natural	Needs network of paths to open up site to users. Clear dumping. Add seating in cleared areas. Open up clear entrance to site.	62
SS_232	Paisley	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Provide more visually attractive planting layout	62

## High community potential combined with low community site score

<b>Site reference</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Primary Type</b>	<b>Potential for improvement to provide additional community benefits</b>	<b>Community score</b>
SS_132	Johnstone	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Opportunities for development as a community garden for use by surrounding residents	33
SS_133	Johnstone	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Could be used to create a community space.	33
SS_141	Johnstone	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Better signage and interpretation, in addition to facilities, would increase community use of the site.	33
SS_160	Kilbarchan	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Provide gate for children's safety. Include in furthest corner some stand alone pieces of play equipment.	33
SS_164	Kilbarchan	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Could provide seating.	33
SS_178	Linwood	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Improvements to enhance attractiveness such as additional facility provision or development as a community garden will improve community value.	33
SS_197	Linwood	6.71 Woodland semi natural	Provide paths and encourage use.	33
SS_218	Paisley	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Could be improved as a cycle way which would encourage additional users.	33
SS_219	Paisley	6.72 Open semi natural	Could be opened up for the people using cycle path and local residents	33
SS_235	Paisley	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Could be developed as a park and would require additional facilities and signage	33
SS_248	Paisley	6.72 Open semi natural	Provide paths connecting river side areas to enhance the area for walkers and cyclists	33
SS_271	Paisley	6.72 Open semi natural	Could be a green link and part of walking and cycling network	33
SS_275	Paisley	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Could provide open gathering/seating/picnic space for local residents and children as none nearby.	33
SS_296	Paisley	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Provide play facilities as the area provides a safe area for children to play without having to cross road.	33
SS_297	Paisley	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Provision of bins and paths would make the space more valuable for community use.	33

<b>Site reference</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Primary Type</b>	<b>Potential for improvement to provide additional community benefits</b>	<b>Community score</b>
SS_299	Paisley	6.72 Open semi natural	Develop as a community space for the residences that back onto the site.	33
SS_097	Houston	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Restore the monument and interpret its significance and symbolism.	44
SS_162	Kilbarchan	6.71 Woodland semi natural	Scope to open up route to open space/countryside for community and cyclists.	44
SS_255	Paisley	6.51 Sports playing fields	Provide a secure area for teens to play sport	44
SS_316	Paisley	6.71 Woodland semi natural	Enhance path provision to encourage access to the woodland area for local residents.	44
SS_321	Paisley	6.72 Open semi natural	Good opportunity to create Nature reserve and new riverside access bringing walkers and nature enthusiasts to the area.	44
SS_301	Paisley	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	Provide site with football goals to serve housing development.	50
SS_309	Paisley	6.31 Amenity greenspace housing	An attractive site currently in need of enhancement which would encourage greater community use	50

## The Maps in Appendix B.6. (explanatory note)

This is repeated information from Chapter 5 Fitness for Purpose.

The maps are presented as thumbnails for each settlement to allow comparison of the different scores across the settlement in relation to each theme. .

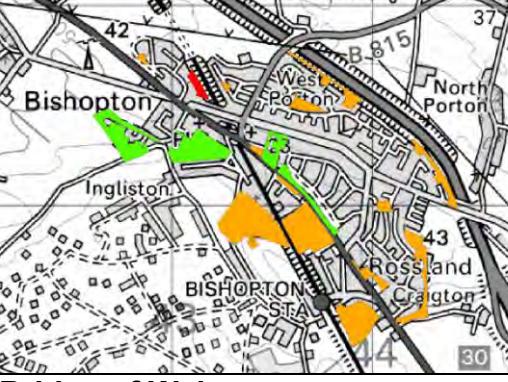
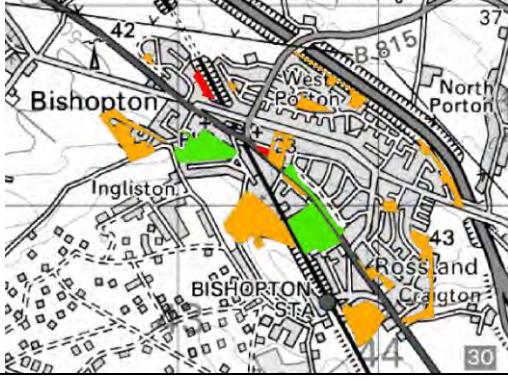
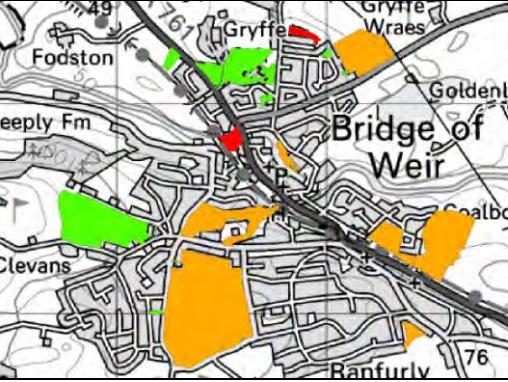
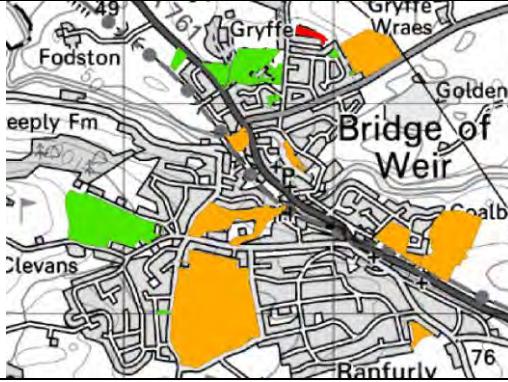
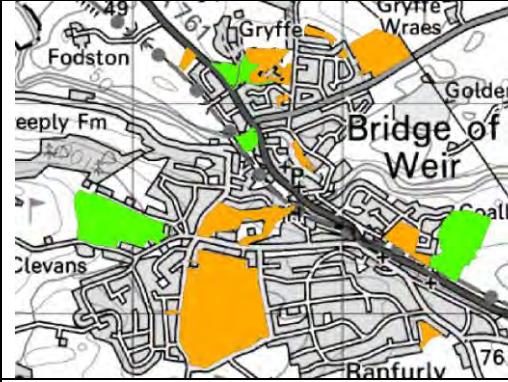
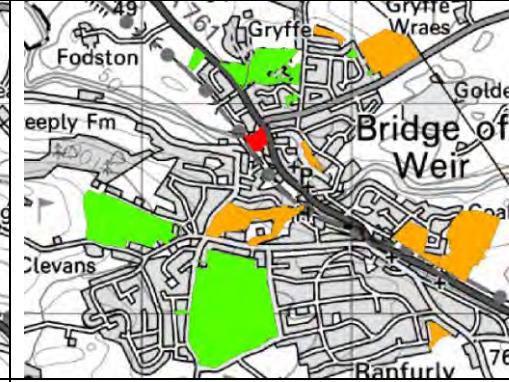
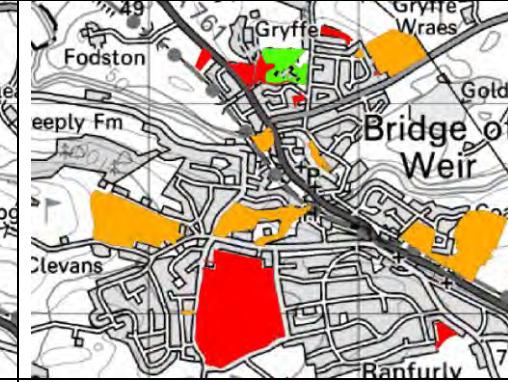
The maps show the relative scores of the open spaces based on the categories of good, average or poor. This is illustrated using 'traffic light' colouring of green, amber or red respectively. Low scoring sites equate to poor sites, which in turn are represented as red areas on the maps. The score bands for each map have been calculated in GIS to display green, amber or red based on the results for each theme or the overall fitness for purpose score. These score bands can be used as a benchmark for future monitoring and are set out in Table 5.1. Because of the scoring system adopted, with sites being scored 1, 2 or 3 for poor, average and good respectively, the lowest scoring sites will still record a score in the low 30s.

### Key for Maps

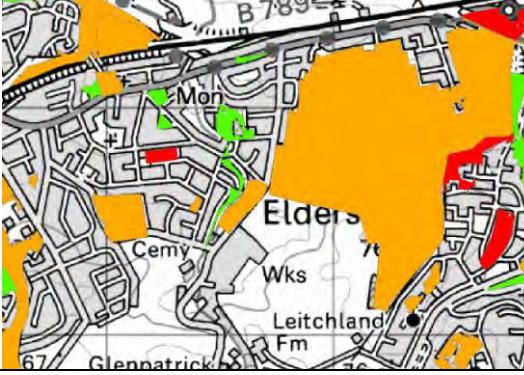
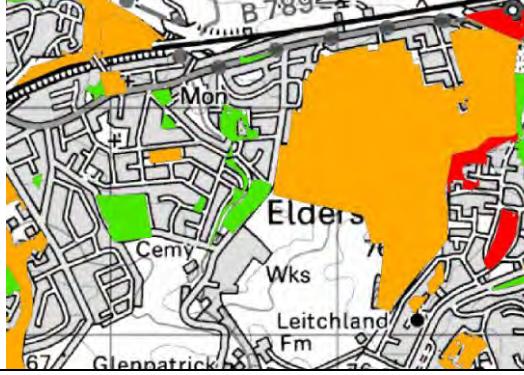
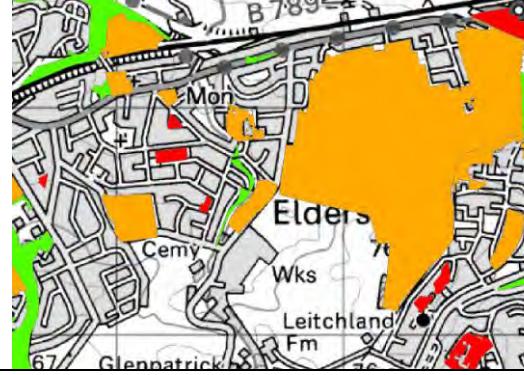
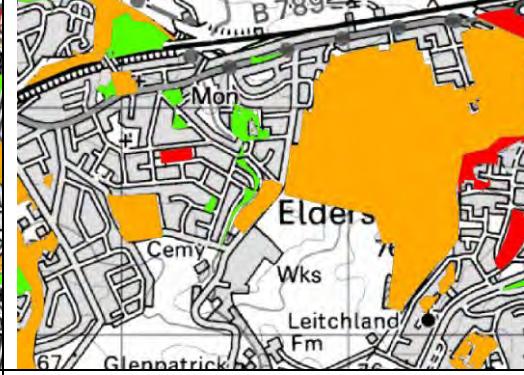
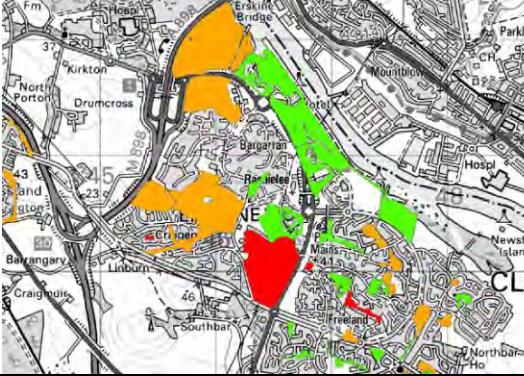
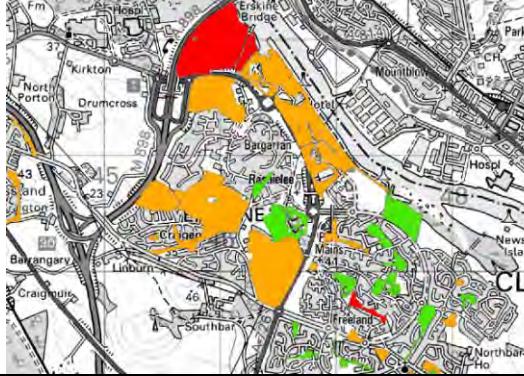
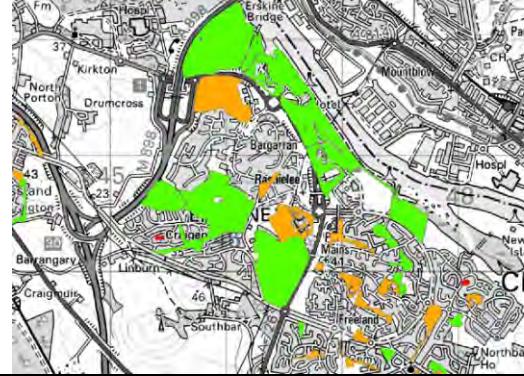
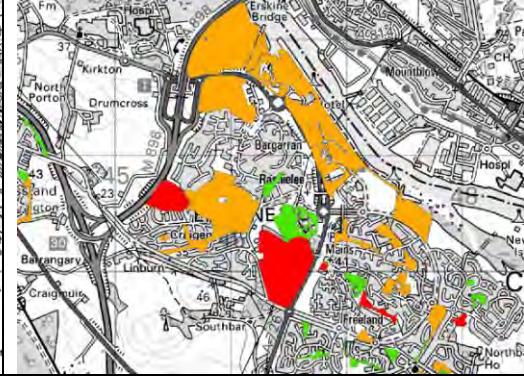
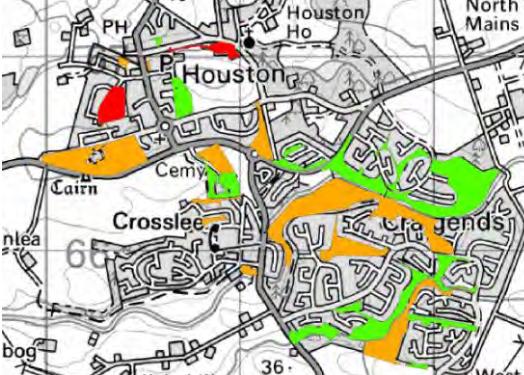
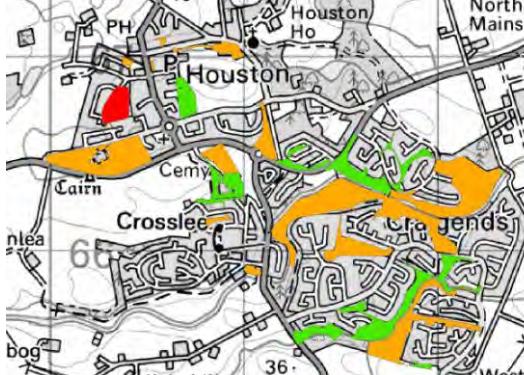
**Table 5.1 Open space score bands**

Score	Overall fitness for purpose score	Accessibility	Biodiversity	Attractive	Community
Poor	39-64	33-62	33-50	33-62	33-50
Average	65-80	63-83	51-83	63-83	51-78
Good	81-100	84-100	84-100	84-100	79-100

## Appendix B.6 Open Space Score Settlement Maps

Overall Fitness for Purpose	Accessibility	Biodiversity	Attractiveness	Community awareness and health through participation
<b>Bishopton</b>				
				
<b>Bridge of Weir</b>				
				
<b>Brookfield</b>				
				

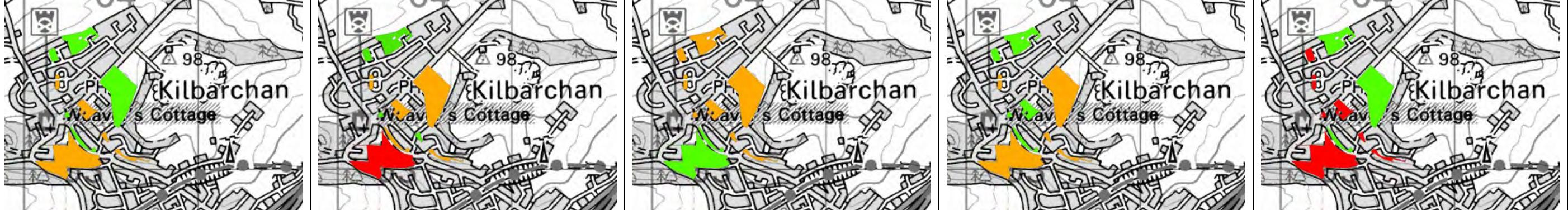
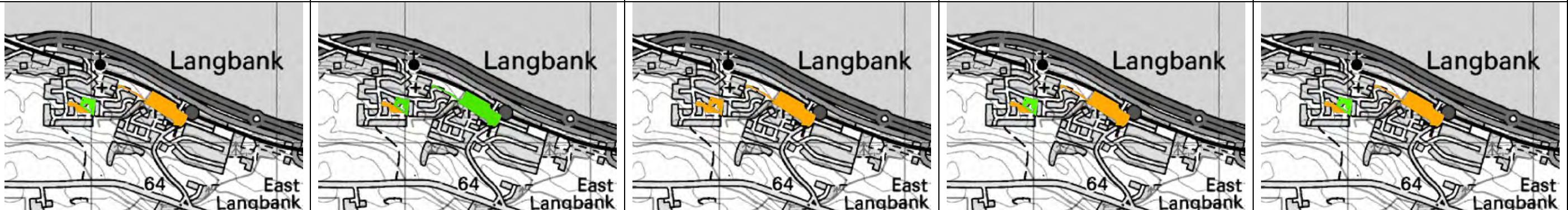
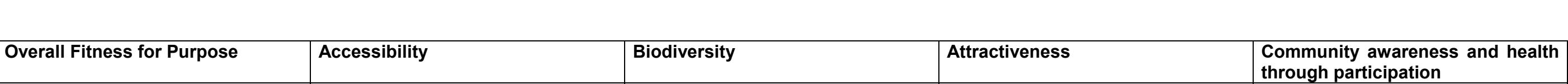
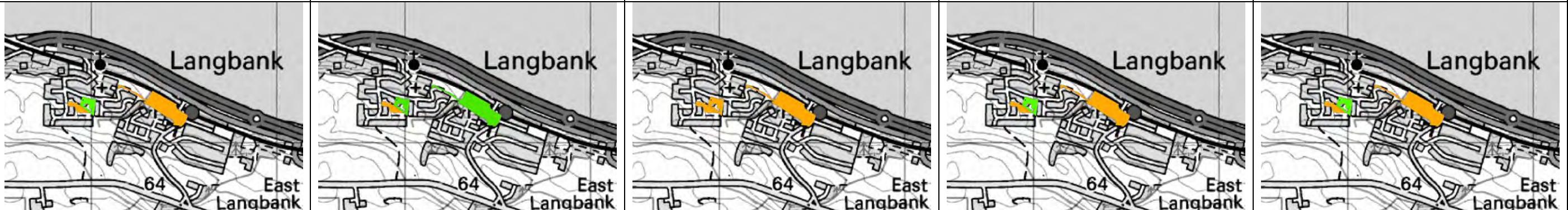
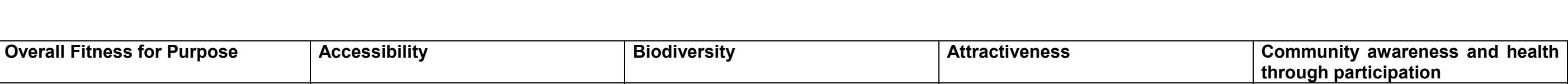
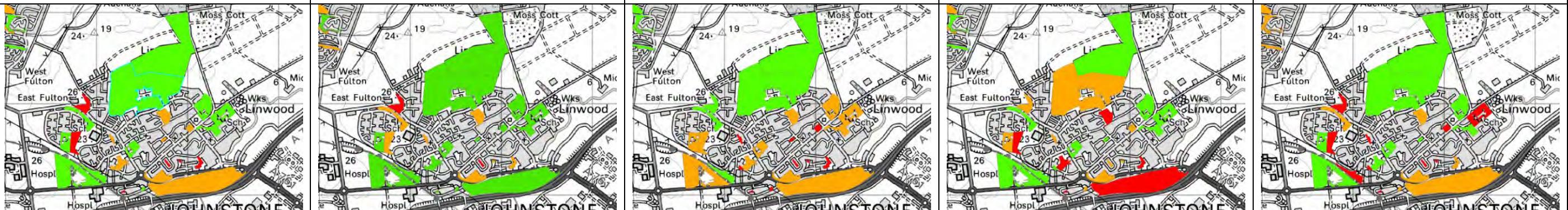
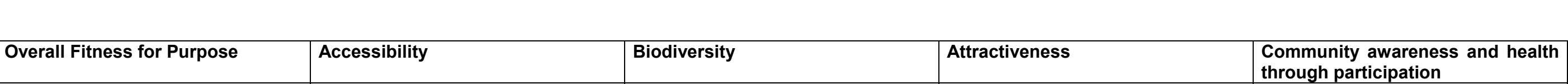
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<b>Overall Fitness for Purpose</b>	<b>Accessibility</b>	<b>Biodiversity</b>	<b>Attractiveness</b>	<b>Community awareness and health through participation</b>
<b>Elderslie</b>				
<b>Erskine</b>				
<b>Houston</b>				

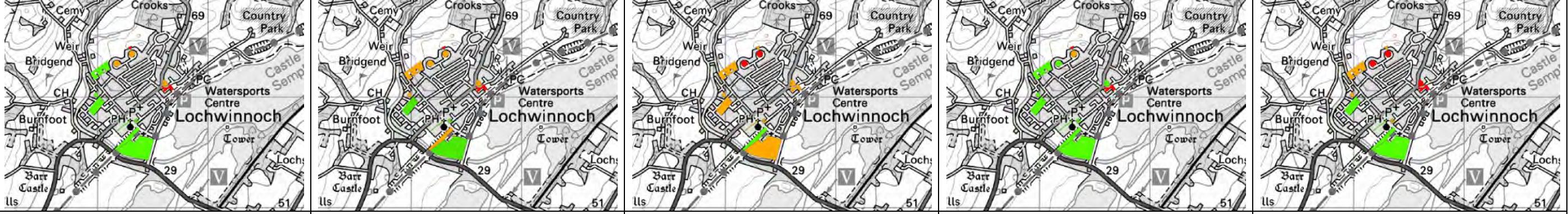
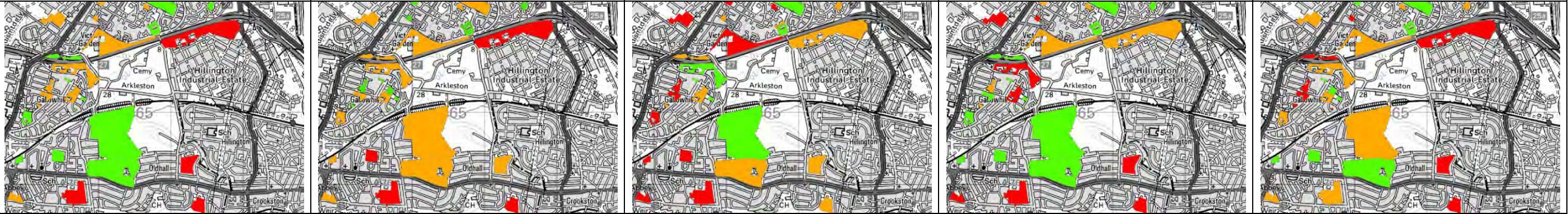
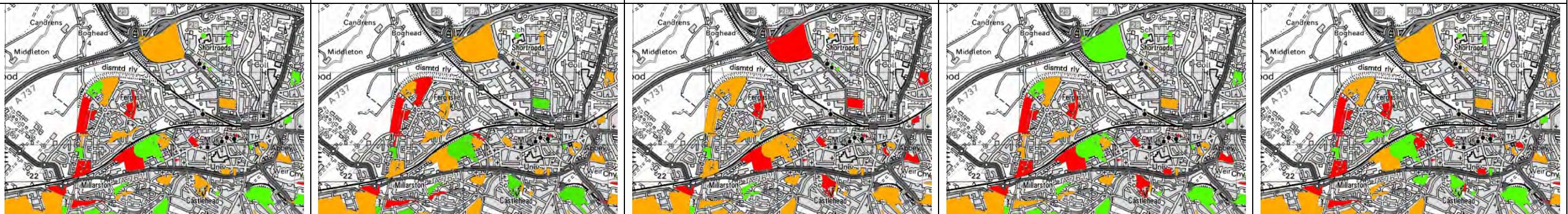
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Overall Fitness for Purpose	Accessibility	Biodiversity	Attractiveness	Community awareness and health through participation
Howwood				
Inchinnan				
Johnstone				

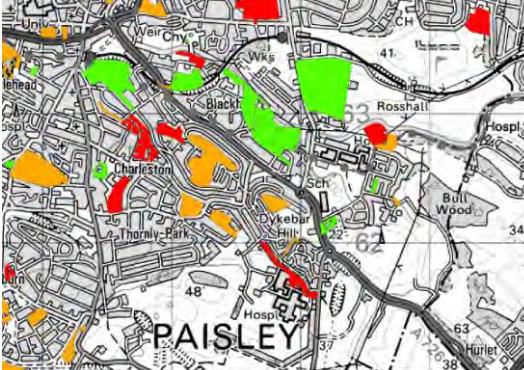
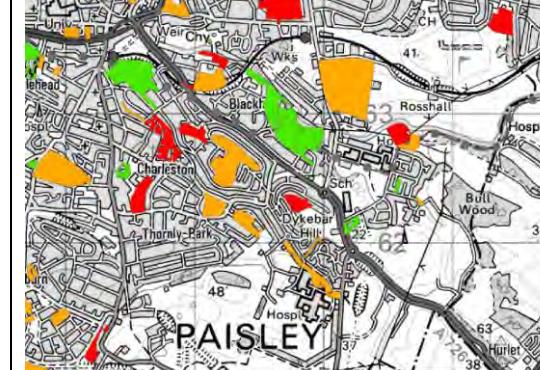
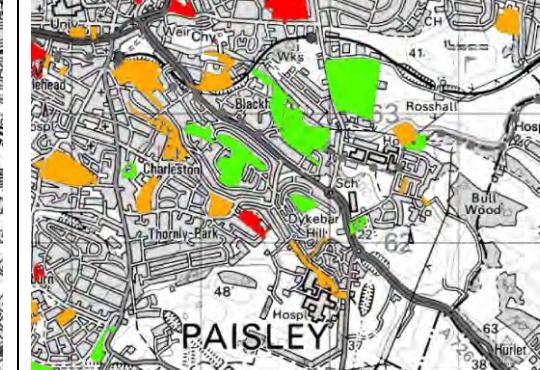
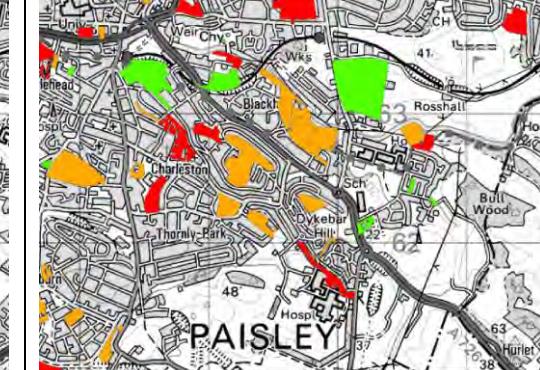
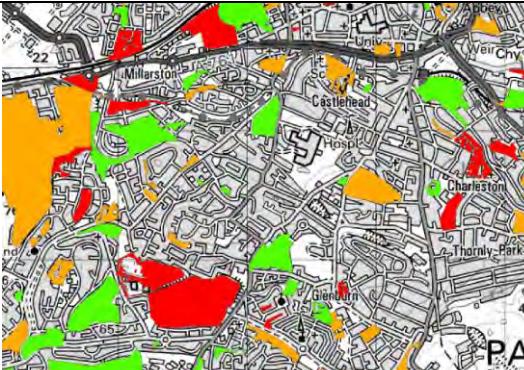
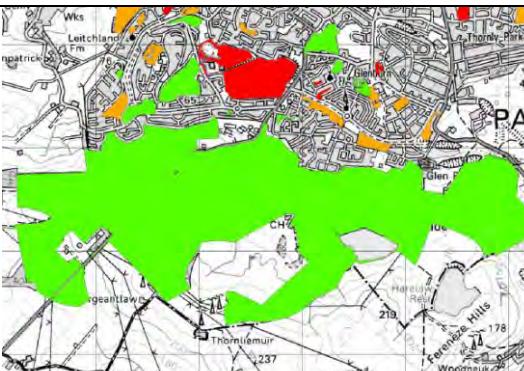
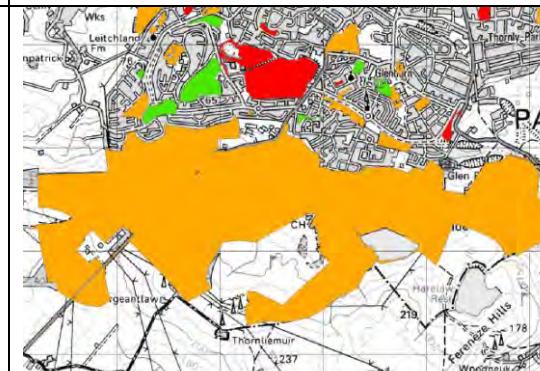
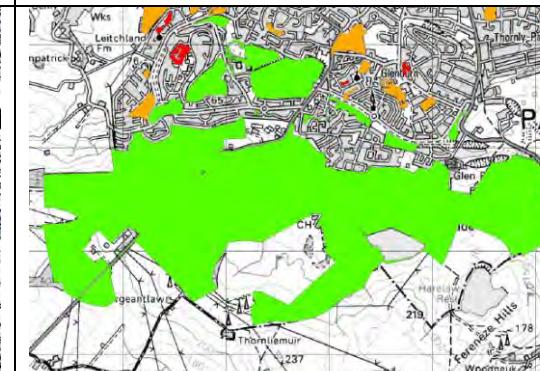
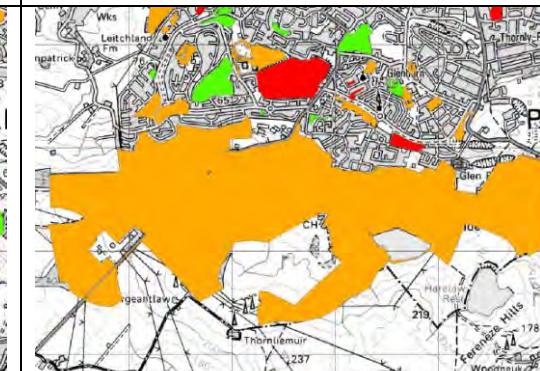
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Overall Fitness for Purpose	Accessibility	Biodiversity	Attractiveness	Community awareness and health through participation
Kilbarchan				
				
Langbank				
				
Linwood				
				

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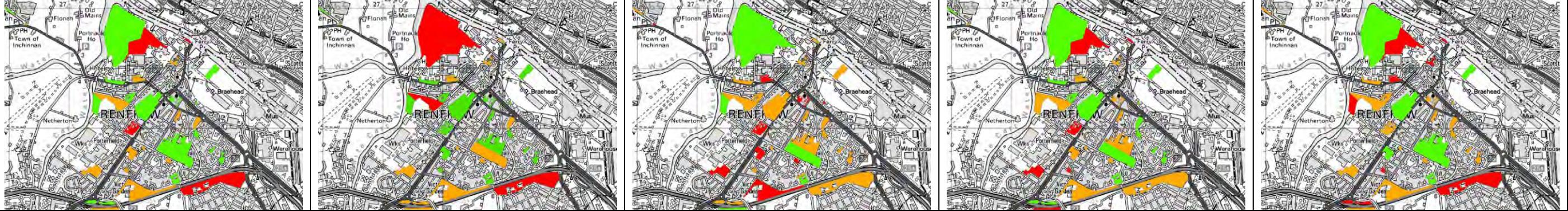
Overall Fitness for Purpose	Accessibility	Biodiversity	Attractiveness	Community awareness and health through participation
<b>Lochwinnoch</b>				
				
<b>Paisley NE</b>				
				
<b>Paisley NW</b>				
				

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Overall Fitness for Purpose	Accessibility	Biodiversity	Attractiveness	Community awareness and health through participation
Paisley SE				
Paisley SW				
Paisley South				

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<b>Overall Fitness for Purpose</b>	<b>Accessibility</b>	<b>Biodiversity</b>	<b>Attractiveness</b>	<b>Community awareness and health through participation</b>
<b>Renfrew</b>				



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# **Appendix C:**

# **Community Consultation**

Supporting Chapter Six of  
**Renfrewshire Council**  
**Audit of Open Space**

**APPENDIX C      COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

**Appendix C.1      Questionnaire**

## **Appendix C.1 RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL – AUDIT OF OPEN SPACE**

Renfrewshire Council is keen to find out what you think about open space across Renfrewshire. By open space, we mean anything from formal spaces like Barshaw Park in Paisley to natural woodland sites, from large golf courses to small areas of grass close to home.

Perhaps you like to enjoy the peace and quiet a riverside walk or a seat in the park can bring, or perhaps you prefer to keep fit and meet friends by playing bowls, football or tennis. Whatever types of open space you use, and for whatever purpose, whether you are a resident of, or visitor to, Renfrewshire, the Council would like to know your views and how we could improve Renfrewshire's open spaces and access to them.

Please take this opportunity to have your say. The survey will only take a few minutes to complete. Your responses will contribute to the development an Open Space Strategy for Renfrewshire. Your answers are confidential.

1. Are you

M

F

2. Are you aged:

0-15    16-24    25-34    35-44    45-54    55-64    65-74    75+  
                           

3. Where do you live (please name city, town or closest village): .....

4. What types of open space do you use?

Country/Regional Parks

Public Parks

School Grounds

Sports Facilities e.g.

Golf Courses,  
Football Pitches,  
Bowling Greens

Childrens Play Areas

Open Countryside

Grassy areas close

to your home

(if you live in Renfrewshire)

Walk/Cycle ways

Woodlands

Your own garden

Town Squares and other  
Civic Spaces

Allotments

Other: Please specify

.....

5. How do you get there?

Walk	Cycle	Public Transport	Car	Other (please specify)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	.....

6. Are there any particular spaces that you would like to visit more but find difficult to get to? If so, please name and state reason: .....

7. What do you use open space for?

Stroll, Walk or Cycle      To visit a children's play area      To walk the dog

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

To take part in sport      To enjoy nature      To get a breath of fresh air

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Other: (please specify) .....

8. How often do you use your open space?

Daily     At least once a week     More than once a week   
2/3 times per month     Other (please specify) .....

9. Do you think that Renfrewshire's open spaces are:

Fine as they are     Need improving     Not sure

10. What changes, if any, would help you enjoy open space more (tick all that apply):

Reduce dog fouling       Reduce vandalism and graffiti   
Improve children's play areas       Provide more seats and benches   
Provide more signs       Reduce Litter   
Reduce unsociable behaviour and fear of crime   
Improve facilities for sport       Plant more wildflowers/trees   
Provide more opportunities for gardening       Other (please specify) .....

# **Appendix D:**

# **Settlement Profiles**

**Renfrewshire Council**

**Audit of Open Space**

## **APPENDIX D**

## **SETTLEMENT PROFILES**

<b>SP1</b>	<b>Bishopton</b>
<b>SP2</b>	<b>Bridge of Weir</b>
<b>SP3</b>	<b>Brookfield</b>
<b>SP4</b>	<b>Elderslie</b>
<b>SP5</b>	<b>Erskine</b>
<b>SP6</b>	<b>Houston</b>
<b>SP7</b>	<b>Howwood</b>
<b>SP8</b>	<b>Inchinnan</b>
<b>SP9</b>	<b>Johnstone</b>
<b>SP10</b>	<b>Kilbarchan</b>
<b>SP11</b>	<b>Langbank</b>
<b>SP12</b>	<b>Linwood</b>
<b>SP13</b>	<b>Lochwinnoch</b>
<b>SP14</b>	<b>Paisley and Hillington</b>
<b>SP15</b>	<b>Renfrew</b>

Brief profiles of open space in and around each of Renfrewshire's 15 main settlements follow. These are arranged alphabetically and are intended as a quick guide to the quantity, distribution and quality of open space within each settlement. Each is supported by map, tables, piechart and photographs.

Each settlement was mapped. The relevant project boundary and location of open space, classified according to its primary function, was recorded. The first table records the amount of open space found in each category, and represents this as a percentage of both the settlement's project area, and the total amount of open space recorded within each settlement. While transport amenity and domestic gardens are recorded on each table, these have been captured separately and, to avoid visual clutter, have not been shown on the maps.

The piecharts represent open space most accessible to the majority of the public. The piecharts simplify the information on the first tables by stripping out all zero values, domestic gardens, golf courses and play areas. Given their combined area and scale of individual course respectively, to include domestic gardens and golf courses would be to visually skew the results. Play areas are not shown on the piechart as they are always recorded as features of another larger open space type, most noticeably public parks and residential amenity. Their location has however been captured and is shown on the relevant map. The percentages shown on the piechart are calculated from the total of only that open space recorded on each piechart. The percentages shown on the piechart and first table are therefore different. The area in hectares remains the same.

The main issues relating to population and distribution are also tabled, as are those on physical quality. The latter are based on the Fitness for Purpose scoring exercise.

## **Appendix SP1      Bishopton**

### Quantity and distribution

Bishopton, situated in the north of Renfrewshire, with a population of almost 5000, is the seventh largest town in the council area. Its urban boundary is well defined along its northern edge by the M8 motorway, and by agricultural land on both its eastern and western edge. To the south of the town, the massive former Royal Ordnance Factory site dominates the urban fringe and beyond. The entire ROF site, plus a former sewerage works site is currently the subject of a masterplan. Only a small part of the former ROF site closest to the town, where a network of path connects Rossland Crescent with Sachelcourt Avenue, has been captured within the audit.

Within the project boundary area, approximately 93 ha of open space has been recorded. By far the most significant amount of open space within Bishopton is to be found in domestic gardens. This accounts for almost 40% of the total project area and just over 60% all open space. Another noticeable feature of Bishopton is the absence of any public parks and gardens. Two playing field grounds exist, one off Rossland Crescent close to the western edge and a second located centrally off Greenock Road.

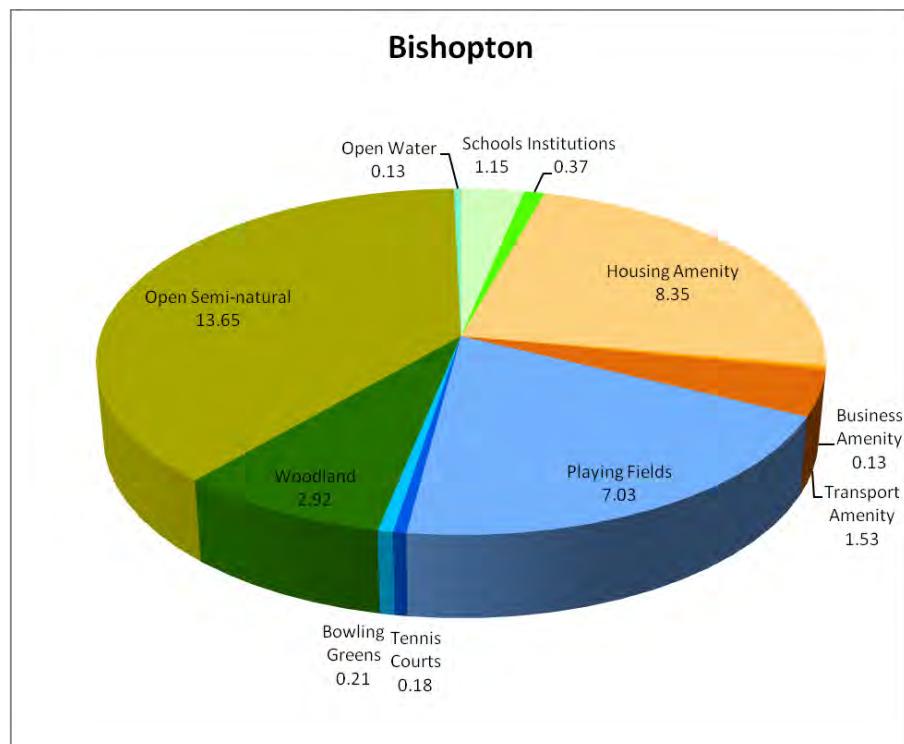
While in area, amenity housing sites only account for 9% of the breakdown of open space, compared to almost 15% classified as semi-natural open space, the map of Bishopton shows that the vast majority of open space sites are within the residential amenity category. From a total of 37 sites, 20 have been classified as housing amenity sites. These are, almost exclusively, the only type of open space to be found north of Greenock Road. All children's play areas are also found north of Greenock Road.

No significant green access route connects Bishopton to other settlements, nor are sites north of Greenock Road particularly well connected. South west of the railway line, however the open space currently forms a local green network linking open countryside off Ingliston Drive, through the playing fields at Rossland Crescent, through the woodland and semi-natural space of the former ROF and along a track to Bishopton Station.

### All Open Space - Bishopton

Classification	Description	Area (Ha)	%Total Area	%OSA Area
6.21	Private Gardens	56.89	39.67	61.47
6.72	Open Semi-natural	13.65	9.52	14.75
6.31	Housing Amenity	8.35	5.82	9.02
6.51	Playing Fields	7.03	4.90	7.60
6.71	Woodland	2.92	2.04	3.16
6.33	Transport Amenity	1.53	1.07	1.66
6.22	Schools	1.15	0.81	1.25
6.23	Institutions	0.37	0.25	0.39
6.54	Bowling Greens	0.21	0.15	0.23
6.53	Tennis Courts	0.18	0.13	0.20
6.32	Business Amenity	0.13	0.09	0.14
6.73	Open Water	0.13	0.09	0.14
6.4	Playspace for Children & Teenagers*	0.06	0.04	0.06
6.1	Public Parks and Gardens	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.52	Golf Courses	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.55	Other Sports	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.81	Allotments	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.82	Churchyards	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.83	Cemeteries	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.84	Other Functional Greenspace	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.9	Civic Space	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>92.56</b>	<b>64.54</b>	<b>100.00</b>

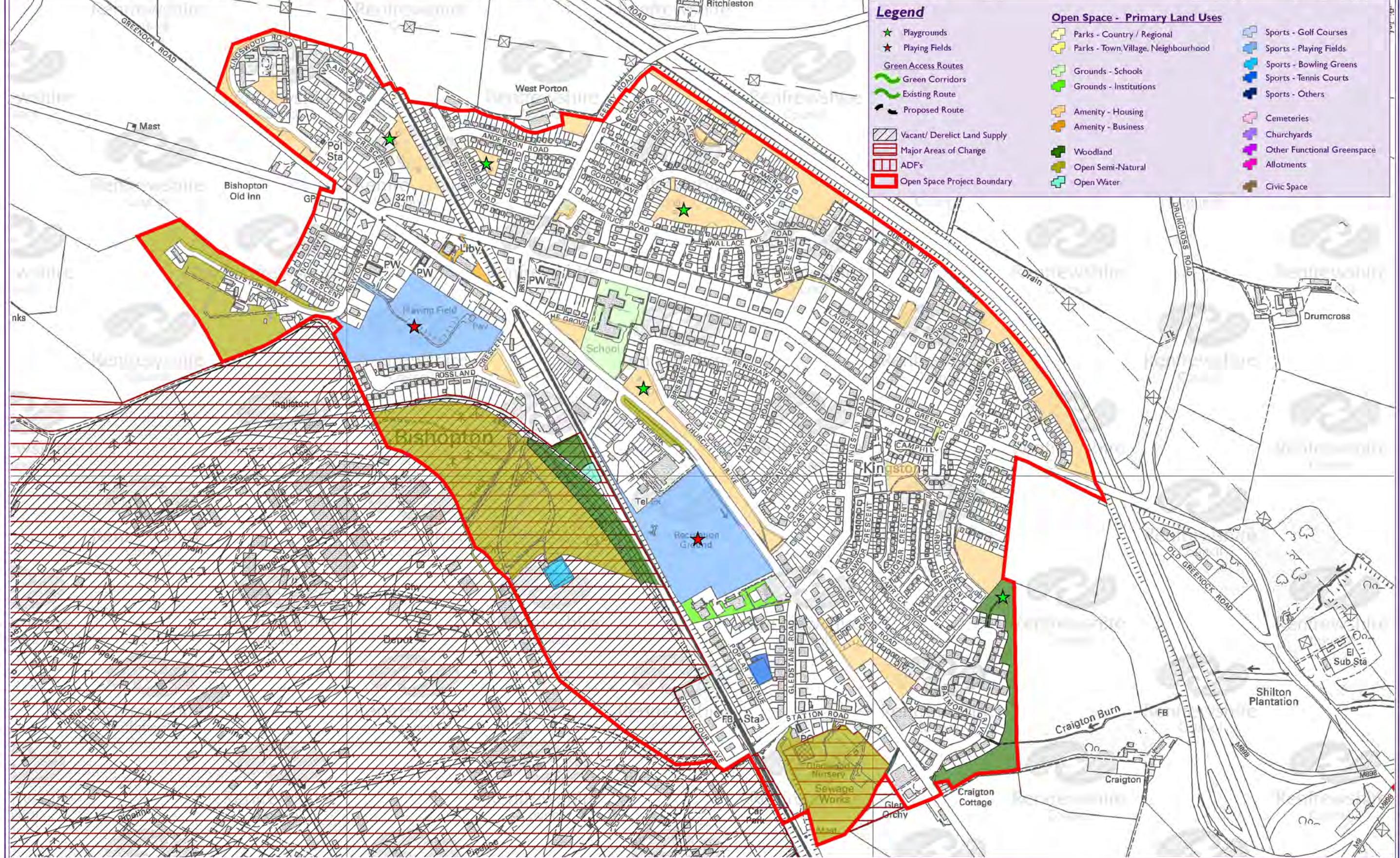
### Accessible Open Space in hectares - Bishopton



### Population and open space statistics - Bishopton

population	4960
total open space	92.6 ha
total open space excl. golf courses + private gardens	35.7 ha
population per ha of open space (excl. golf courses + private gardens)	139
residential properties	1936
%of res properties served by natural greenspaces >2ha within 300m	42%
served by Local Nature Reserve?	no ( but future access to Community Woodland Park)

## Open Space within Bishopton



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 **Renfrewshire Council**

Department: Planning and Transport  
Printed by: C Pollock  
Print date: 30/5/08

Scale - 1:7,000 

## Fitness for Purpose - Bishopton

Type	Spaces surveyed
	Amenity greenspace for housing
	Open semi natural
	Playing fields
	School grounds
	Woodland
Total	19

## Score summary

	Overall fitness for purpose	Accessibility	Biodiversity	Attractive	Community
Renfrewshire	77	79	75	79	65
Bishopton	76	71	67	84	62

Nineteen spaces were surveyed in Bishopton and the overall scores show that this settlement has generally good quality open spaces. The average composite score is 76% which is slightly below the average for Renfrewshire as a whole which is 77%. Appendix B.6 illustrates the relative scores of the spaces in

Bishopton, compared to the rest of Renfrewshire and this shows that the highest scoring spaces are located in the centre of the settlement.

**The open spaces are generally of reasonable quality within Bishopton. The main areas of opportunity relate to biodiversity enhancements and improving the value of spaces for community use. These opportunities include additional tree and shrub planting for biodiversity and providing additional facilities and landscaping to enhance community value of spaces.**

Further detail in relation to each of the four themes can be found in Appendix B.4, and maps illustrating the distribution of open space scores are in Appendix B.6.

## **Appendix SP2      Bridge of Weir**

### Quantity and distribution

Bridge of Weir is situated fairly centrally within Renfrewshire and, with a population of 4670, is the eighth largest settlement. The River Gryfe, a designated SINC, flows east west through Bridge of Weir, cutting the village in two. The River Gryfe is also fed by the Pow Burn and the Glendentan Burn flowing from the south west into the centre of the village. Agricultural land surrounds the settlement along most of its north and eastern boundaries. Ranfurly Castle and Old Ranfurly Castle Golf courses create two significant green wedges. Both are important landscape features in the south west of Bridge of Weir.

Bridge of Weir and Bishopton are similar in terms of size and population and, like Bishopton, the largest proportion of all open space in Bridge of Weir (59.4%) is to be found within domestic gardens. Unlike Bishopton, which has none, Bridge of Weir however has three public parks located in the north, east and centre of the village respectively. Each park contains one of the three play areas found in Bridge of Weir. Given the limited accessibility and amount of other types of open space, these parks are an important local resource. While no stand alone playing field sites exist within Bridge of Weir, public sports pitches are to be found within Houston Road Park and Moss Road Park. Playing fields are also located within the school grounds.

The banks of the River Gryfe are fairly densely wooded and because of their slope are largely inaccessible on the southern side, as is the linear woodland on the eastern edge of the village. Accessible woodland exists in the north of the village within the grounds of the converted Gryffe Castle, and footpaths link these grounds with Mill of Gryffe Road. Woodland also exists at the eastern edge of the village.

Within the project boundary area, 3.61 ha of land are recorded as vacant or derelict. Of this, almost one hectare has been recorded as semi-natural open space over two sites; one at the weir off Main Road and the other at the bottom of Mill Brae. The majority of the vacant/derelict land is the former tannery site at the bottom of Mill of Gryffe Road. This is presently being developed for housing. Open semi-natural land is also to be found at the eastern and western edges of the village all of which forms part of the designated Greenbelt around the village. The site off Bridge of Weir Road extends to almost 8.5 ha of mixed woodland and semi-natural space. The presence of strong leisure lines suggest it is well used by walkers. This space abuts Moss Road Park. Semi-natural space is also to be found off Hazlewood Road and forms an important link between the houses of south Bridge of Weir and the wider countryside. With the exception of Ranfurly Castle Golf Course and three very small pockets of amenity grassland this triangular site is the only recorded open space site south of Kilbarchan Road and Prieston Road.

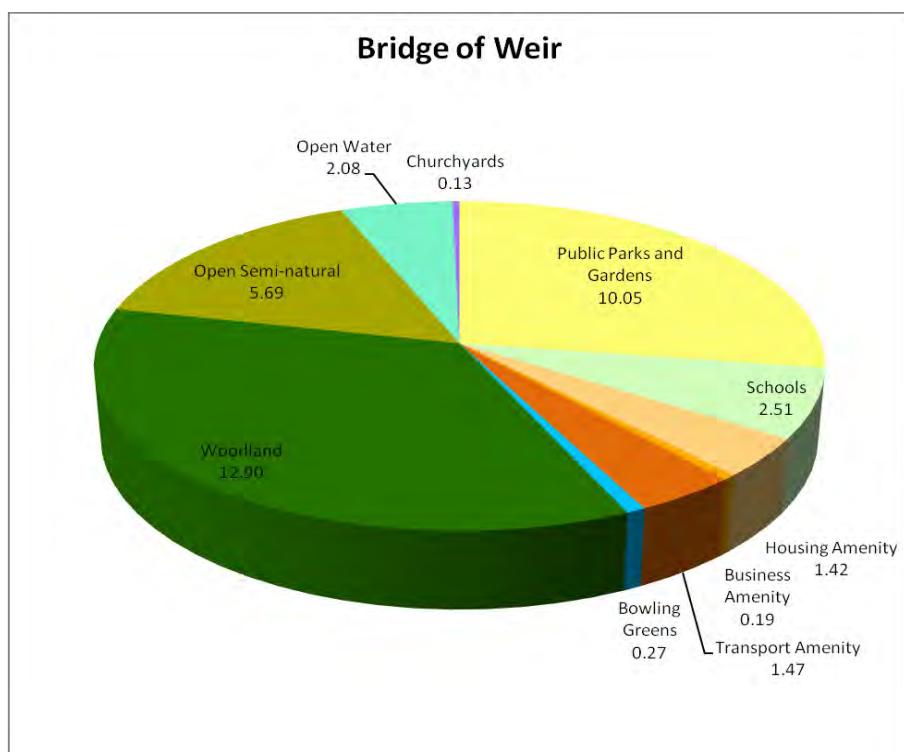
No significant areas of residential amenity land exist within Bridge of Weir. Approximately 15 small pockets of amenity green space exist throughout the village, totalling less than 1.5ha. This accounts for less than 1% of all open space within Bridge of Weir's project boundary.

Bridge of Weir is well provided for in terms of green access routes. The Mill Lade footpath running along the northern bank of the River Gryfe links Bridge of Weir to Houston to its west. The new housing on the former tannery site will incorporate a riverside path, linking the existing Mill Lade footpath with an established path network along the river off Mill of Gryffe Road. Informal access continues eastwards out of Bridge of Weir along the northern banks of the River Gryfe. National cycleway 75 runs through the centre of the village, connecting Bridge of Weir with Linwood and Brookfield in Renfrewshire, and Kilmacolm in Inverclyde. Direct links to both Horsewood and Moss Road Parks exist from this route.

### All Open Space - Bridge of Weir

Classification	Description	Area (Ha)	%Total Area	%OSA Area
6.21	Private Gardens	90.74	41.44	59.44
6.52	Golf Courses	25.19	11.50	16.50
6.71	Woodland	12.90	5.89	8.45
6.1	Public Parks and Gardens	10.05	4.59	6.59
6.72	Open Semi-natural	5.69	2.60	3.73
6.22	Schools	2.51	1.15	1.65
6.73	Open Water	2.08	0.95	1.37
6.33	Transport Amenity	1.47	0.67	0.96
6.31	Housing Amenity	1.42	0.65	0.93
6.54	Bowling Greens	0.27	0.13	0.18
6.32	Business Amenity	0.19	0.09	0.13
6.4	Playspace for Children & Teenagers*	0.15	0.07	0.10
6.82	Churchyards	0.13	0.06	0.08
6.23	Institutions	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.51	Playing Fields	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.53	Tennis Courts	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.55	Other Sports	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.81	Allotments	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.83	Cemeteries	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.84	Other Functional Greenspace	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.9	Civic Space	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>152.65</b>	<b>69.71</b>	<b>100.00</b>

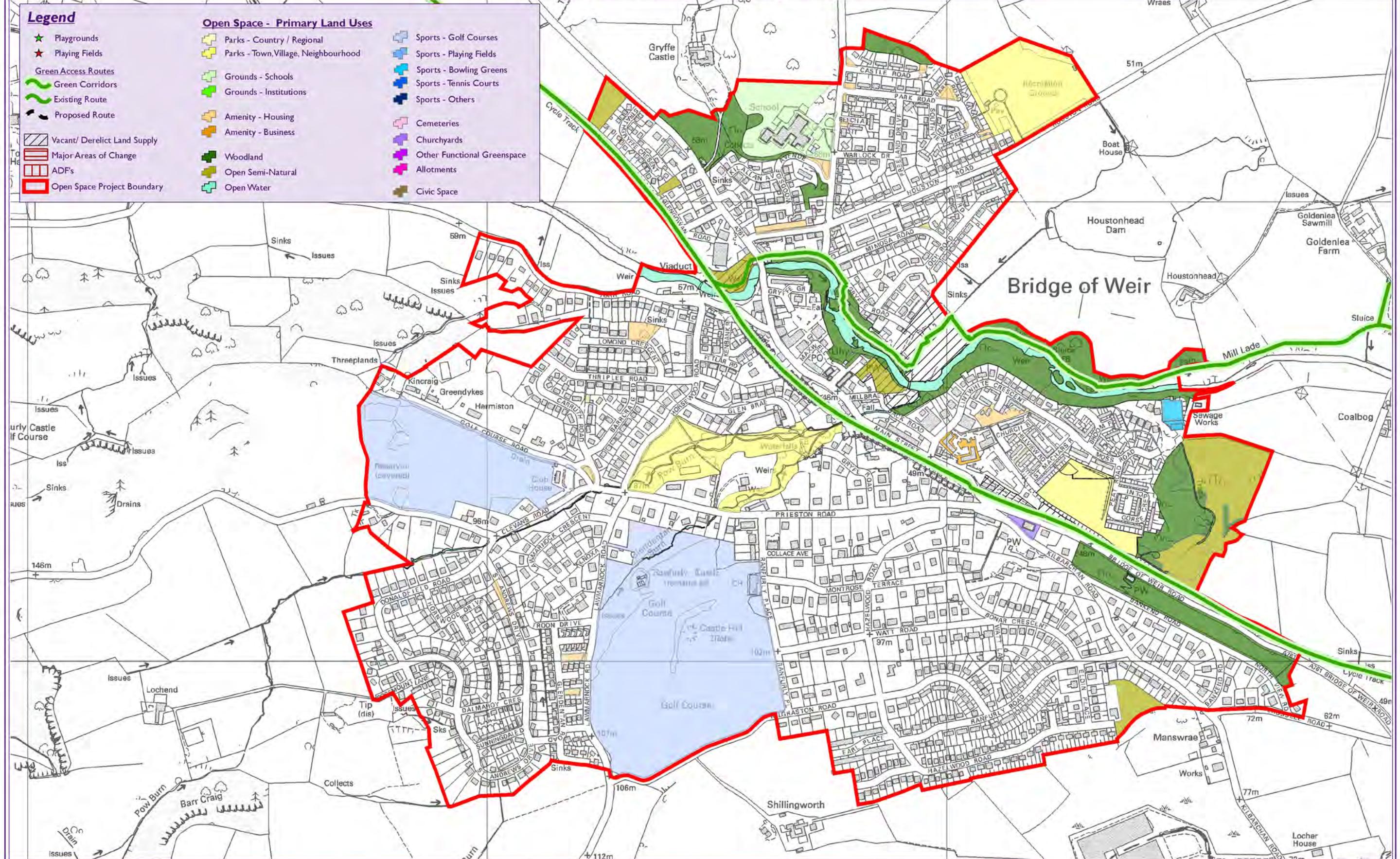
### Accessible Open Space in hectares - Bridge of Weir



Population and open space statistics – Bridge of Weir

population	4670
total open space	152.7 ha
total open space excl. golf courses + private gardens	36.7 ha
population per ha of open space (excl. golf courses + private gardens)	127
residential properties	1936
%of res properties served by natural greenspaces >2ha within 300m	85%
served by Local Nature Reserve?	no

## Open Space within Bridge of Weir



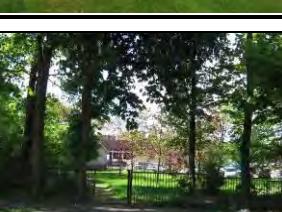
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 **Renfrewshire Council**

Department: Planning and Transport  
Printed by: C Pollock  
Print date: 10/7/08

Scale - 1:8,000  
N  
W E  
S

Fitness for Purpose - Bridge of Weir

Type	Spaces surveyed
 Woodland	4
 Open semi natural	4
 Amenity greenspace for housing	3
 Neighbourhood park	2
 Golf courses	2
 School grounds	1
 Village park	1
Total	17

### Score summary

	Overall fitness for purpose	Accessibility	Biodiversity	Attractive	Community
<b>Renfrewshire</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Bridge of Weir</b>	<b>78</b>	81	84	83	56

Seventeen spaces were surveyed in Bridge of Weir and the average overall score for these spaces was 78%, slightly higher than the average for Renfrewshire as a whole. As illustrated in Appendix B.6, the distribution of higher scoring spaces is to the north and west of the settlement.

**The open spaces in Bridge of Weir are generally of good quality, they are accessible, attractive, and of value for biodiversity. The key priority for Bridge of Weir is increasing community awareness and health through open spaces. In particular this may include facilitating different uses of the spaces and providing additional signage and information to encourage users.**

Further detail in relation to each of the four themes can be found in Appendix B.4. Maps illustrating the distribution of open space scores are in Appendix B.6.

## **Appendix SP3      Brookfield**

### Quantity and distribution

Brookfield, situated in the centre of Renfrewshire with a population of only 800 is the authority's smallest settlement. It developed in Victorian times and is dominated by detached and semi-detached houses. The total project area of Brookfield extends to only 27.1 hectares and the vast majority (90%) of all open space is to be found in domestic gardens.

Brookfield is tightly defined on its southern and western boundaries by roads, beyond which are worked fields. Along the village's northern edge is a green corridor, a long distance walking and cycling route connecting Brookfield with Bridge of Weir and Inverclyde to the west and with Linwood and Paisley to the east. A link from this corridor to Brookfield's public park, immediately adjacent, also exists.

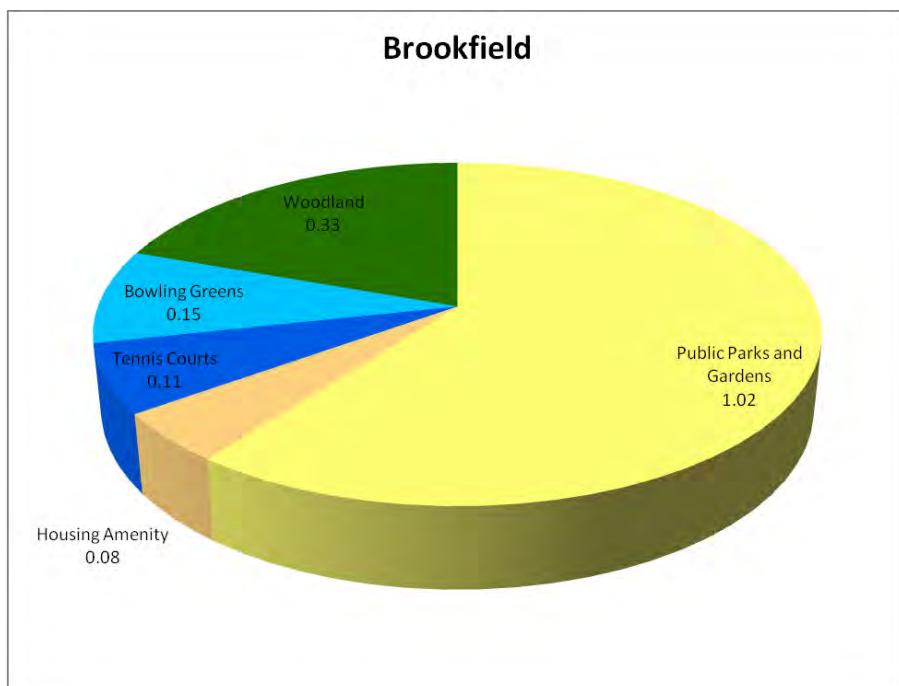
The grounds of Merchiston Hospital lie to the east. In area, these grounds are similar to Brookfield itself. That part of the hospital grounds lying closest to the village is largely wooded and can be accessed via an informal path from Woodside Road. While the area of woodland recorded on the piechart is relatively small, this reflects that area contained within the project boundary, which in turn follows that defined by the adopted Local Plan. In reality, this woodland extends significantly beyond this area. Informal paths lead through this woodland to Merchiston Hospital. Scope exists to improve access and increase the recreational potential of this area.

Three formal sporting facilities exist within Brookfield, a bowling green and tennis courts combined on the one site, while a playing field is recorded on the public park. These three facilities are concentrated in the north eastern corner of the village.

### All Open Space - Brookfield

Classification	Description	Area (Ha)	%Total Area	%OSA Area
6.21	Private Gardens	15.81	58.41	90.36
6.1	Public Parks and Gardens	1.02	3.77	5.83
6.71	Woodland	0.33	1.22	1.88
6.54	Bowling Greens	0.15	0.54	0.83
6.53	Tennis Courts	0.11	0.42	0.65
6.31	Housing Amenity	0.08	0.29	0.44
6.4	Playspace for Children & Teenagers*	0.08	0.28	0.44
6.22	Schools	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.23	Institutions	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.32	Business Amenity	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.33	Transport Amenity	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.51	Playing Fields	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.52	Golf Courses	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.55	Other Sports	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.72	Open Semi-natural	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.73	Open Water	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.81	Allotments	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.82	Churchyards	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.83	Cemeteries	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.84	Other Functional Greenspace	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.9	Civic Space	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>17.50</b>	<b>64.64</b>	<b>100.44</b>

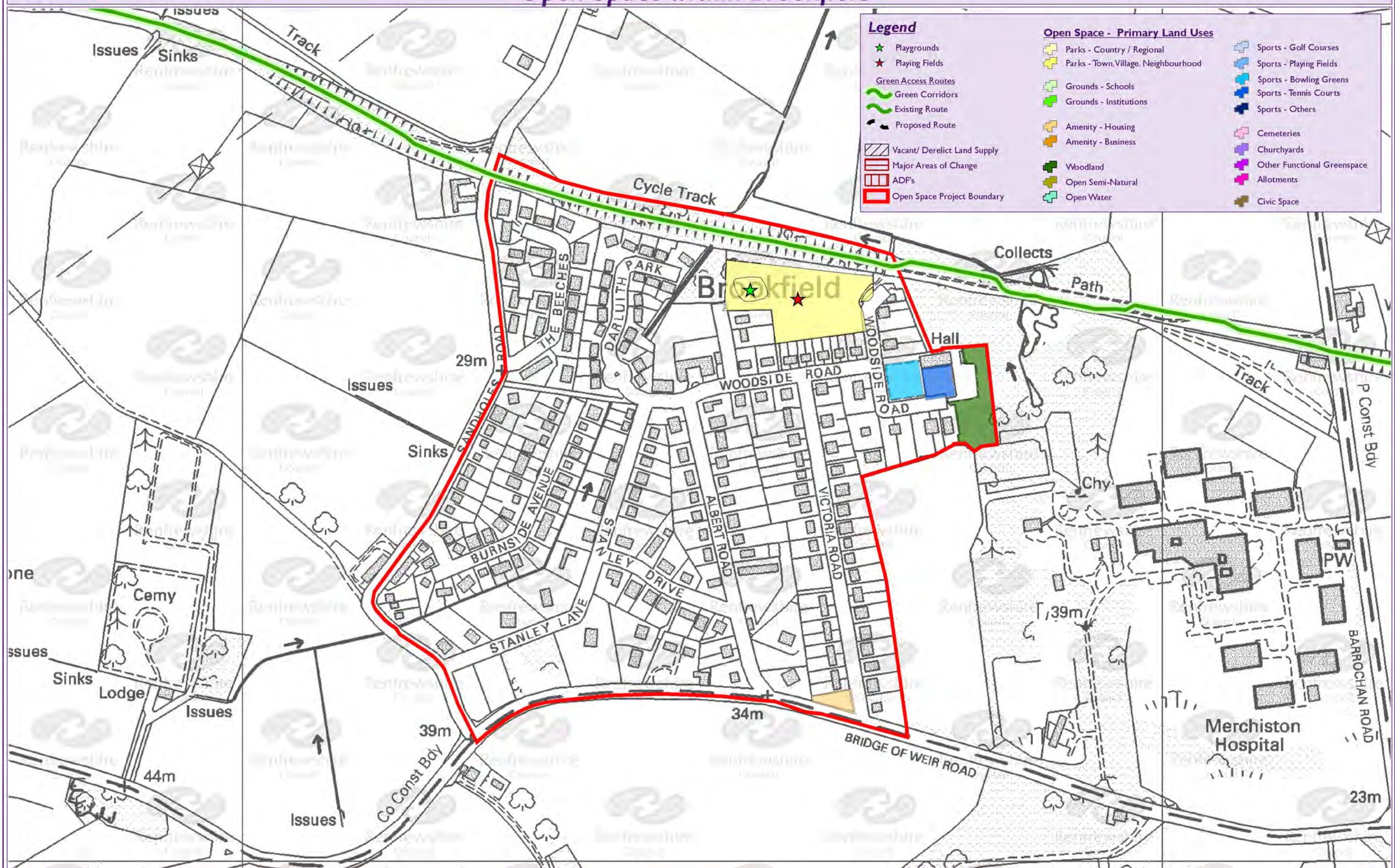
### Accessible Open Space in hectares - Brookfield



### Population and open space statistics – Brookfield

population	800
total open space	17.5 ha
total open space excl. golf courses + private gardens	1.7 ha
population per ha of open space (excl. golf courses + private gardens)	471
residential properties	230
%of res properties served by natural greenspaces >2ha within 300m	51%
served by Local Nature Reserve?	no

## Open Space within Brookfield



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 **Renfrewshire Council**

Department: Planning and Transport  
Printed by: C Pollock  
Print date: 25/5/08

Scale - 1:4,000 

## Fitness for Purpose - Brookfield

Type	Spaces surveyed
	Village park 1
	Amenity greenspace for housing 1
	Bowling greens 1
Total	3

### Score summary

	Overall fitness for purpose	Accessibility	Biodiversity	Attractive	Community
Renfrewshire	77	79	75	79	65
Brookfield	90	86	83	95	85

Brookfield is a small settlement and only three spaces were included in the survey sample. The quality of the open spaces was very high with an average overall fitness for purpose score of 90% which compares to the average of 77% for Renfrewshire as a whole.

**The open spaces within Brookfield are of high quality and perform well across the four themes of the open space audit. No key areas for improvement have been identified from the audit.**

Further detail in relation to each of the four themes can be found in Appendix B.4, and maps illustrating the distribution of open space scores are in Appendix B.6.

## **Appendix SP4      Elderslie**

### Quantity and distribution

Elderslie, with its population of almost 4500, is wedged between Johnstone to its west and Paisley to the east. The gap between Elderslie and Paisley is an important open wedge and forms part of the Greenbelt. This wedge has been the subject of significant development pressure. The innermost part of this gap is taken up by Elderslie Golf Course. This Golf Course accounts for almost a third of the entire project area of Elderslie and provides an important landscape setting to the eastern end of the settlement.

Similar to many of Renfrewshire's other settlements, domestic gardens account for almost 40% of all open space within the project area. Abbey Cemetery is the largest single accessible open space site within Elderslie.

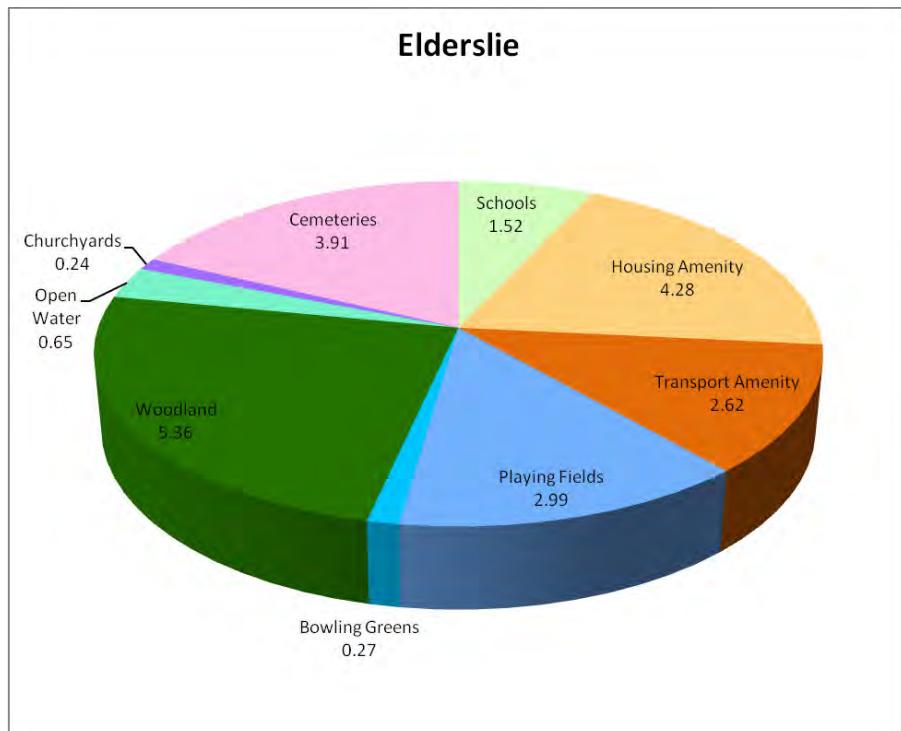
The amount of woodland in Elderslie is significant although much of it is along the banks of the Glenpatrick Water and is difficult to access. No public park exists within Elderslie. Children's play equipment is found at three locations, in the north, centre and south of the settlement. The seventeen housing amenity sites are distributed fairly evenly throughout, with the exception of the south-western section where the provision of residential amenity sites is sparse. This part of Elderslie does however have access to the Johnstone Castle area of Johnstone where woodland, amenity ground, play areas and links to open countryside exists. Of the seventeen housing amenity sites, only eight of them are above 0.2 ha in size.

Green access links through, and beyond, Elderslie are to be found to the north and south of the settlement. Elderslie is well connected to Paisley at its northern edge via an existing long-distance walking and cycling route. Just north of Elderslie, this green corridor splits into two different sections of the national cycle route, linking Elderslie with Linwood, Brookfield, Bridge of Weir and beyond to Inverclyde, and linking Elderslie to the south west with Johnstone, Kilbarchan, Lochwinnoch and beyond to Ayrshire. A long-distance path runs close to the south western tip of Elderslie, providing a link through open countryside and woodland, to Gleniffer Braes Country Park to the south of Paisley.

### All Open Space - Elderslie

Classification	Description	Area (Ha)	%Total Area	%OSA Area
6.52	Golf Courses	69.85	34.18	46.91
6.21	Private Gardens	57.22	27.99	38.42
6.71	Woodland	5.36	2.62	3.60
6.31	Housing Amenity	4.28	2.10	2.88
6.83	Cemeteries	3.91	1.91	2.62
6.51	Playing Fields	2.99	1.46	2.01
6.33	Transport Amenity	2.62	1.28	1.76
6.22	Schools	1.52	0.74	1.02
6.73	Open Water	0.65	0.32	0.44
6.54	Bowling Greens	0.27	0.13	0.18
6.82	Churchyards	0.24	0.12	0.16
6.4	Playspace for Children & Teenagers*	0.10	0.05	0.07
6.1	Public Parks and Gardens	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.23	Institutions	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.32	Business Amenity	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.53	Tennis Courts	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.55	Other Sports	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.72	Open Semi-natural	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.81	Allotments	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.84	Other Functional Greenspace	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.9	Civic Space	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>148.91</b>	<b>72.85</b>	<b>100.00</b>

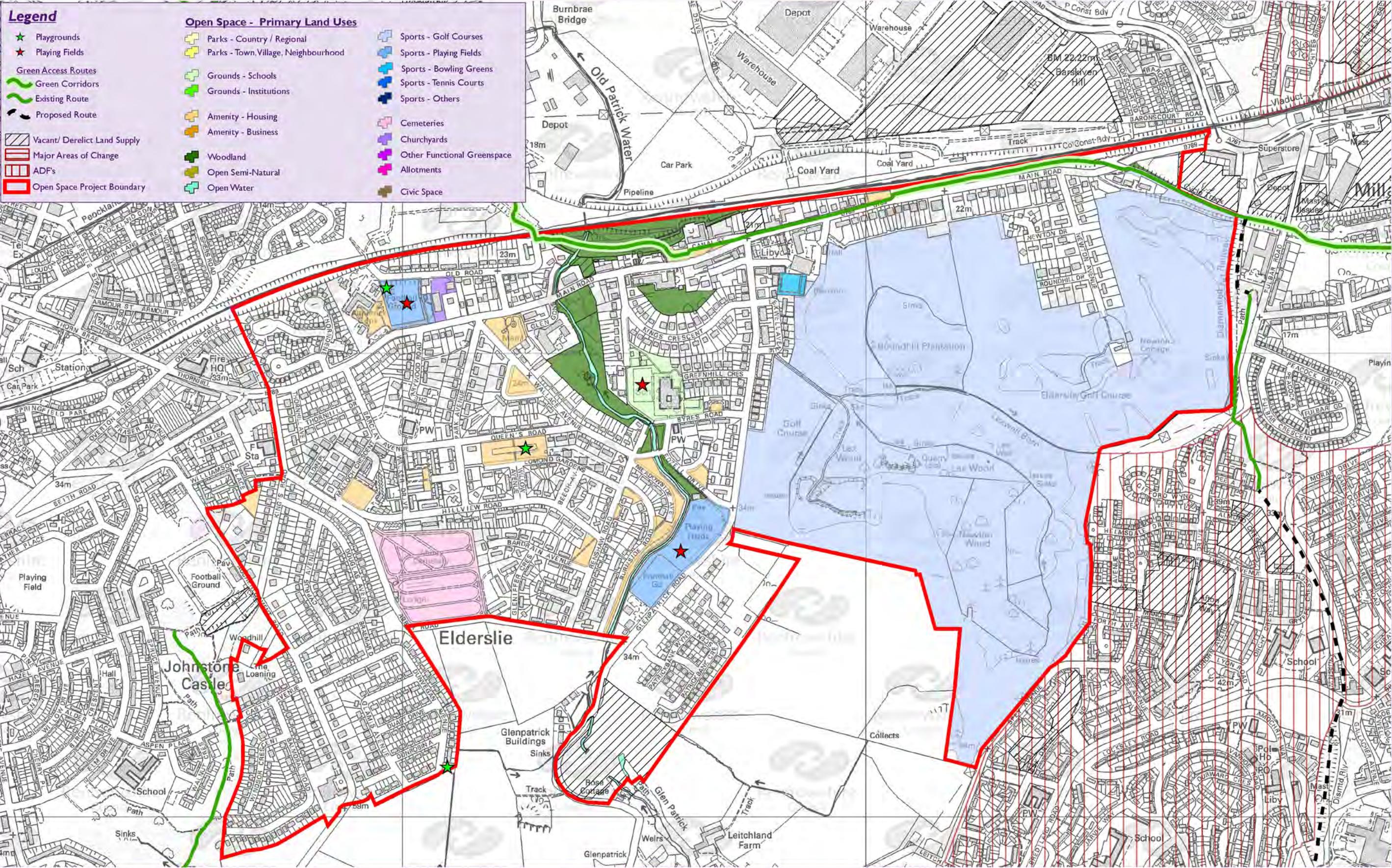
### Accessible Open Space in hectares - Elderslie



### Population and open space statistics – Elderslie

population	4470
total open space	148.9 ha
total open space excl. golf courses + private gardens	21.8 ha
population per ha of open space (excl. golf courses + private gardens)	205
residential properties	2262
%of res properties served by natural greenspaces >2ha within 300m	80%
served by Local Nature Reserve?	in part

## Open Space within Elderslie



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## Fitness for Purpose - Elderslie

Type	Spaces surveyed
 Amenity greenspace for housing	7
 Playing fields	2
 Village Park	1
 School grounds	1
 Golf courses	1
 Cemeteries	1
Total	13

### Score summary

	Overall fitness for purpose	Accessibility	Biodiversity	Attractive	Community
<b>Renfrewshire</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Elderslie</b>	<b>80</b>	88	72	82	62

Thirteen spaces were included in the survey sample for Elderslie, and the majority of these are amenity open spaces for housing. The mean overall score for the spaces is 80% which is slightly higher than the mean for Renfrewshire (77%).

**The spaces surveyed within Elderslie are of good overall quality with only minor issues identified for improvement. Key opportunities relate particularly to enhancing community awareness and health through participation through additional facilities and signage to encourage greater use of the spaces.**

Further detail in relation to each of the four themes can be found in Appendix B.4, and maps illustrating the distribution of open space scores are in Appendix B.6.

## **Appendix SP5      Erskine**

### Quantity and distribution

Erskine, designated as a New Community in 1967, is now Renfrewshire's fourth largest town. Its population is approximately 15,500.

Situated on the River Clyde, its northern boundary is well defined by this natural feature. It's eastern and south-western boundaries are also well-defined by the M898 and Old Greenock Road respectively. Agricultural land lies beyond these roads. To the south-east, Erskine joins the small village of Inchinnan. At its north-eastern edge lies Newshot Island, a low-lying tidal area providing an important habitat for birds. Because of its ornithological significance, this area is protected by an international conservation designation which stretches westwards along the River Clyde beyond Renfrewshire. Newshot Island is currently proposed as a Local Nature Reserve, the final boundary of which remains unsettled. Much of the land is currently grazed for cattle and, for the time being, only that part of Newshot which is owned by the Council where formal paths have been created, has been included within the project boundary area.

Within Erskine, 244 ha of land have been mapped as open space. This accounts for almost half of the total project area. Erskine is noticeable by the amount of natural land, either woodland or open semi-natural that exists within the project boundary. Between them, woodland and open natural space account for almost 60% of open space excluding domestic gardens. Unlike Bridge of Weir, this woodland is largely accessible. The two most significant areas of woodland are Boden Boo and Rashielee Plantation. The former is one of Renfrewshire's two community woodlands.

Unlike other settlements, domestic gardens in Erskine account for only 29% of all open space. This is approximately half of that recorded for smaller towns like Bishopston and Bridge of Weir. This perhaps is explained by the design ideas of the New Community. Open spaces appear to have been integral to the design of Erskine where they are very fluid and create a strong green network throughout the town. School grounds are noticeably open and flow into adjoining amenity and natural spaces. The lack of clearly defined boundaries made classification and mapping of Erskine's open spaces very difficult.

Another difficulty posed was the conflict amongst Local Plan zoning, maintained parkland and current function of open space along the Clyde waterfront. It was decided to classify the waterfront according to its function, a mixture of natural open space, woodland and amenity space. It is however acknowledged that Environmental Services records this area, which is designated for business development in the adopted Local Plan, as parkland. Bargarran Public Park is therefore the only park classified as such within the audit of Erskine.

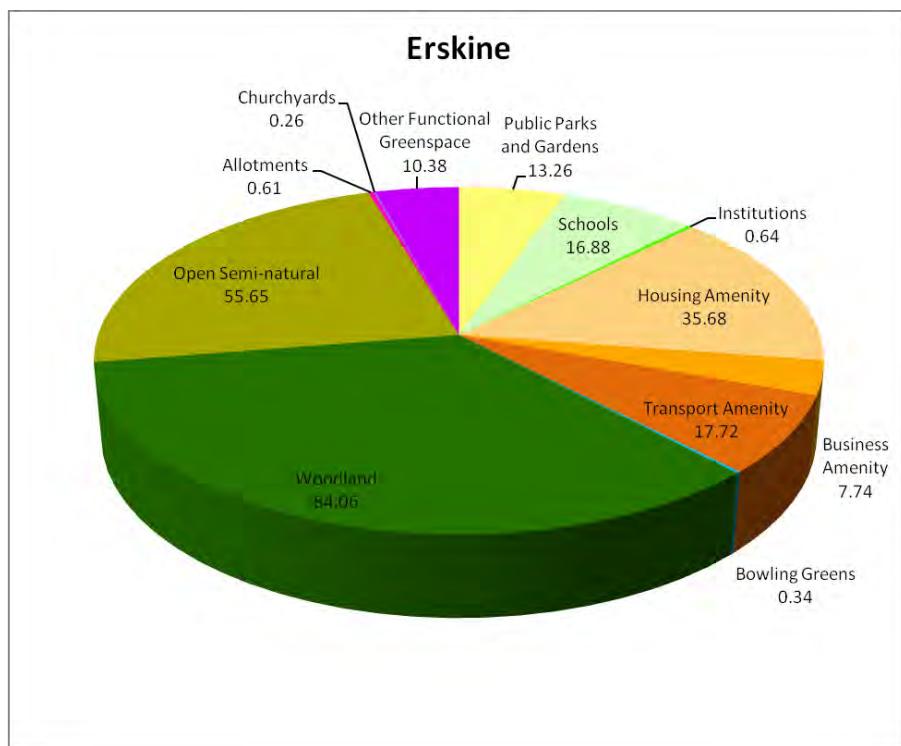
With the exception of Bargarran Park, formal sports pitches are found within Erskine's school grounds. These are found in four different schools spread fairly evenly throughout the town.

Not only is Erskine well-connected internally by its open space, its waterfront is recognised as being of strategic significance as a green access route. A long-distance path currently runs along the Clyde linking Newshot Island, Boden Boo Community Woodland and Erskine Hospital.

### All Open Space - Erskine

Classification	Description	Area (Ha)	%Total Area	%OSA Area
6.1	Public Parks and Gardens	13.26	2.58	3.90
6.21	Private Gardens	97.21	18.94	28.55
6.22	Schools	16.88	3.29	4.96
6.23	Institutions	0.64	0.12	0.19
6.31	Housing Amenity	35.68	6.95	10.48
6.32	Business Amenity	7.74	1.51	2.27
6.33	Transport Amenity	17.72	3.45	5.21
6.4	Playspace for Children & Teenagers*	0.74	0.14	0.22
6.51	Playing Fields	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.52	Golf Courses	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.53	Tennis Courts	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.54	Bowling Greens	0.34	0.07	0.10
6.55	Other Sports	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.71	Woodland	84.06	16.38	24.69
6.72	Open Semi-natural	55.65	10.84	16.35
6.73	Open Water	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.81	Allotments	0.61	0.12	0.18
6.82	Churchyards	0.26	0.05	0.08
6.83	Cemeteries	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.84	Other Functional Greenspace	10.38	2.02	3.05
6.9	Civic Space	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>340.45</b>	<b>66.32</b>	<b>100.00</b>

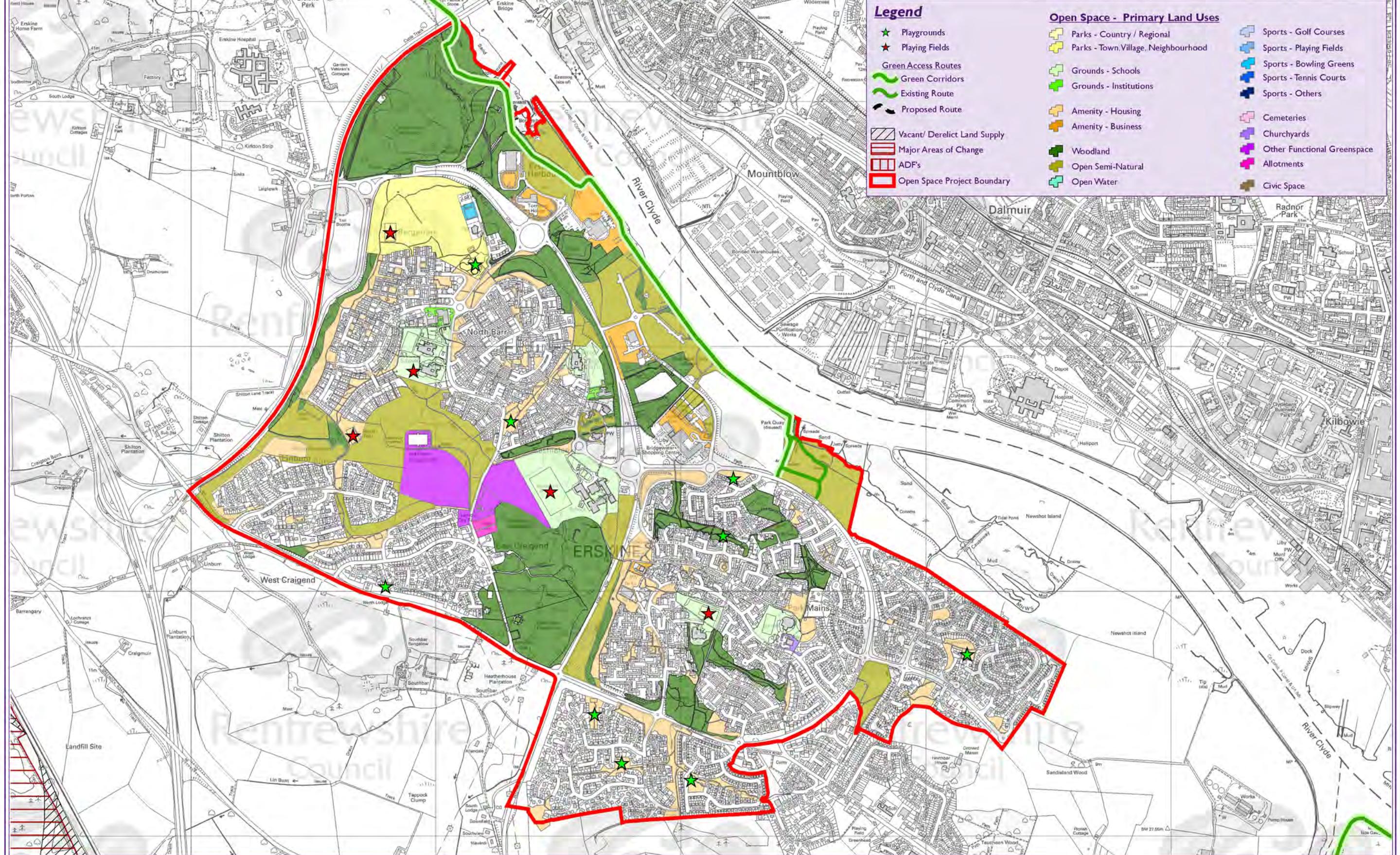
### Accessible Open Space in hectares - Erskine



### Population and open space statistics – Erskine

population	15,500
total open space	340.5 ha
total open space excl. golf courses + private gardens	243.2 ha
population per ha of open space (excl. golf courses + private gardens)	64
residential properties	6135
%of res properties served by natural greenspaces >2ha within 300m	92%
served by Local Nature Reserve?	yes

# Open Space within Erskine



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## Fitness for Purpose - Erskine

Type	Spaces surveyed
	Amenity greenspace for housing
	Open semi natural
	Woodland
	School grounds
	Town Park
Total	25

## Score summary

Overall fitness for purpose	Accessibility	Biodiversity	Attractive	Community
<b>Renfrewshire</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Erskine</b>	<b>78</b>	81	83	76

A total of twenty-five spaces were surveyed in Erskine. These include five different types of open space, the majority of which are small amenity greenspaces for housing and several large semi-natural areas. These large semi-natural areas provide an important resource for recreation within Erskine,

particularly as a result of the absence of more formal spaces such as public parks.

The location of these natural greenspaces is fairly uniformly distributed, although the majority of important larger semi-natural spaces are located to the north and west of the town away from the town centre. The overall scores show that this settlement generally has good quality open spaces, with the average composite score of 78% slightly higher than that for Renfrewshire as a whole.

**The open spaces within Erskine are of good overall quality. The main area for improvement includes enhancing the attractiveness of the spaces, particularly through providing additional play equipment and facilities such as signage, information and seating.**

Further detail in relation to each of the four themes can be found in Appendix B.4, and maps illustrating the distribution of open space scores are in Appendix B.6.

## **Appendix SP6      Houston**

### Quantity and distribution

Houston has two distinct geographical parts, a very old northern area and a much larger and recent southern development. The present centre of old Houston was laid out in the 1780s around a Mercat Cross and communal drying green, both of which remain as open space today. Houston did not grow again significantly until the 1970s when large scale house building around Crosslee and Craigends, south of Old Bridge of Weir Road, took place. Houston is now Renfrewshire's sixth largest settlement with a population of just over 6,500.

Houston is unusual in that three distinct water courses run through it, each of which runs broadly in a west to east direction. The Houston Burn runs through the old part of Houston between North and South Street, and the Locher Water through the southernmost part of the town. Running centrally through Crosslee and Craigends is the River Gryfe which, for almost all of its urban length, has been classified as a SINC. Amongst them, these three water courses account for 5% of public open space, a proportion unusually high for a settlement of this size, and well over the average (1%) for Renfrewshire as a whole.

The woodlands associated with the River Gryfe and Locher Water, plus those found within Craigends, account for the largest category of public open space. Extending to almost 26 ha, this accounts for just over a third of all public open space within Houston and is almost exclusively to be found in the Craigends area. There the housing is almost surrounded by accessible woodland, through which many footpaths run.

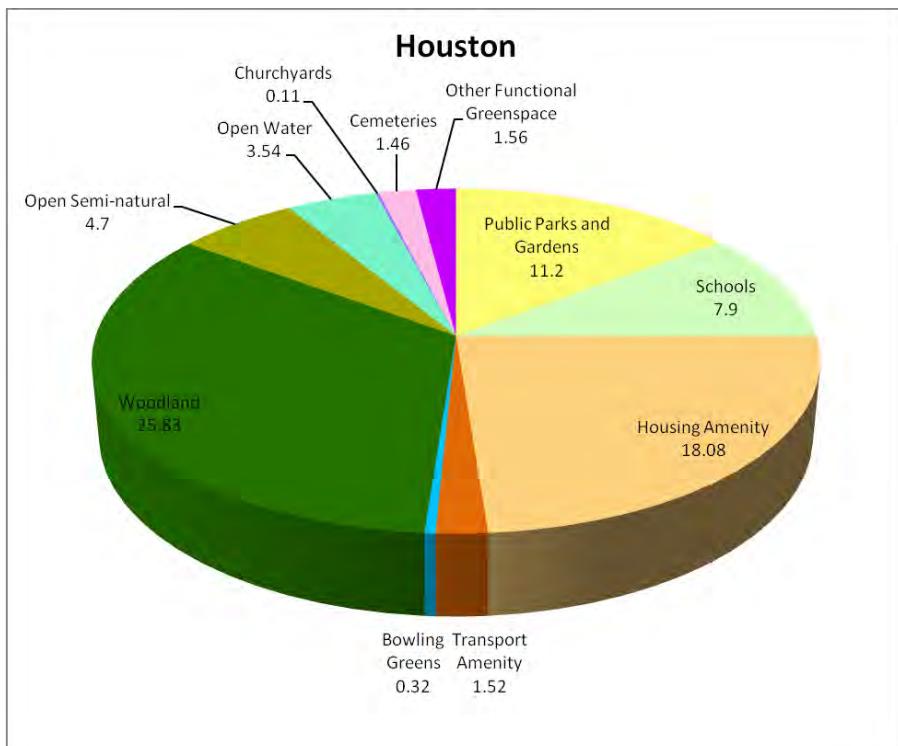
Houston has four public parks, two on each side of Old Bridge of Weir Road. In each of these, children's play equipment is to be found. Playing fields are located in the largest of these (Ardgryffe Park) and also in the two school grounds. A less formal kick about pitch is found in Houston Public Park.

Houston's open spaces are generally well linked with both formal and informal paths connecting different types of spaces and different parts of Houston over a fairly extensive area. Starting at Whirlie Road in Crosslee, a path runs along a disused Mill Lade providing a wooded green access corridor between Houston and Bridge of Weir to the west. At its Bridge of Weir end, this path almost connects into the national cycle route, thereby linking Houston with further afield.

### All Open Space - Houston

Classification	Description	Area (Ha)	%Total Area	%OSA Area
6.21	Private Gardens	84.24	37.70	52.51
6.71	Woodland	25.83	11.56	16.10
6.31	Housing Amenity	18.08	8.09	11.27
6.1	Public Parks and Gardens	11.20	5.01	6.98
6.22	Schools	7.90	3.53	4.92
6.72	Open Semi-natural	4.70	2.10	2.93
6.73	Open Water	3.54	1.58	2.20
6.84	Other Functional Greenspace	1.56	0.70	0.97
6.33	Transport Amenity	1.52	0.68	0.94
6.83	Cemeteries	1.46	0.65	0.91
6.54	Bowling Greens	0.32	0.14	0.20
6.4	Playspace for Children & Teenagers*	0.21	0.09	0.13
6.82	Churchyards	0.11	0.05	0.07
6.23	Institutions	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.32	Business Amenity	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.51	Playing Fields	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.52	Golf Courses	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.53	Tennis Courts	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.55	Other Sports	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.81	Allotments	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.9	Civic Space	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>160.43</b>	<b>71.79</b>	<b>100.00</b>

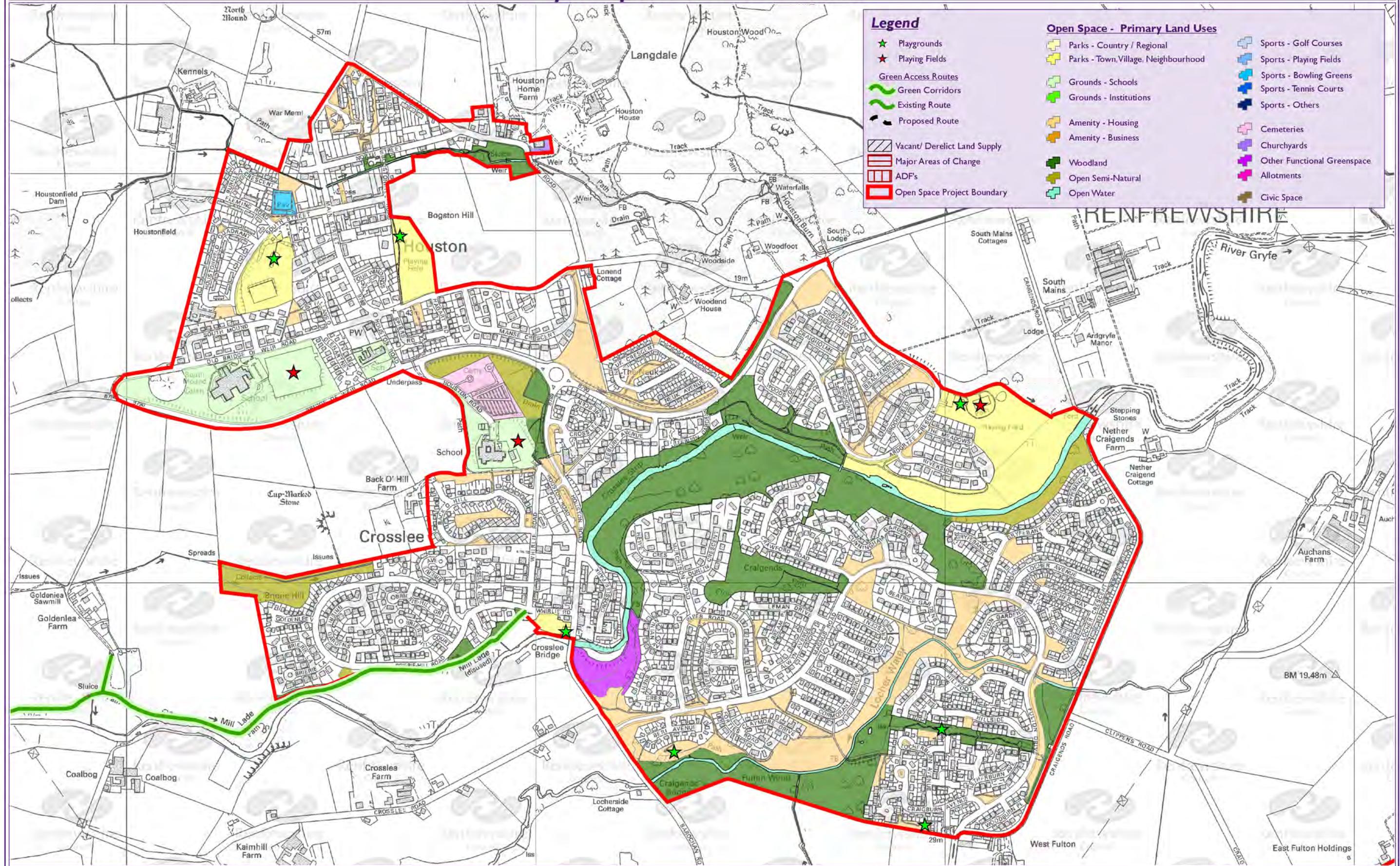
### Accessible Open Space in hectares - Houston



### Population and open space statistics – Houston

population	6580
total open space	160.4ha
total open space excl. golf courses + private gardens	76.2ha
population per ha of open space (excl. golf courses + private gardens)	86
residential properties	2511
%of res properties served by natural greenspaces >2ha within 300m	94%
served by Local Nature Reserve?	no

## Open Space within Houston



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## Fitness for Purpose - Houston

Type	Spaces surveyed
 Amenity greenspace for housing	10
 Woodland	6
 Neighbourhood park	3
 School grounds	2
 Village park	1
 Cemeteries	1
Total	23

**Score summary**

	<b>Overall fitness for purpose</b>	Accessibility	Biodiversity	Attractive	Community
<b>Renfrewshire</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Houston</b>	<b>79</b>	79	80	86	62

Twenty three spaces were surveyed in Houston and just under half of these are amenity greenspaces for housing. Six woodland spaces extend along the watercourses within the settlement. The mean overall score for the spaces is 79% which is slightly higher than the mean for Renfrewshire at 77%.

**The open spaces within Houston are generally in good condition with no significant areas for improvement. However, biodiversity enhancement would be beneficial for a small number of spaces and a particular focus should also be made on enhancing community awareness through signage and information provision.**

Further detail in relation to each of the four themes can be found in Appendix B.4, and maps illustrating the distribution of open space scores are in Appendix B.6.

## **Appendix SP7      Howwood**

### Quantity and distribution

Of its 15 main settlements, Howwood is Renfrewshire's third smallest. It has a population of just over 1,600 and a total project area of 43.4 hectares. Its northern boundary is clearly defined by the railway line, running parallel to the A73, while its three remaining urban/urban fringe boundaries are less tightly defined. For its most part the project boundary follows the Greenbelt as shown on the Local Plan, except at its western edge. Here open semi-natural space and rough pasture land around Elliston Farm have been included within the project boundary. The scrub and woodland beyond the southern edge of Howwood is recorded as long established woodland and is recognised as a locally important area for nature conservation.

Within Howwood, the most significant category of open space is once again domestic gardens, accounting for 45% of the total project area and 70% of all open space within this boundary. Of limited public access is the open space associated with Howwood Primary School. Extending to 1.6 ha, this accounts for one fifth of Howwood's open space, having excluded domestic gardens.

One public park provides formal recreational opportunities for residents and visitors, including both a playing field and children's play areas. Three other play areas, serving younger children, are found within small amenity spaces developed as part of recent housing estates at both the western and eastern end of Howwood.

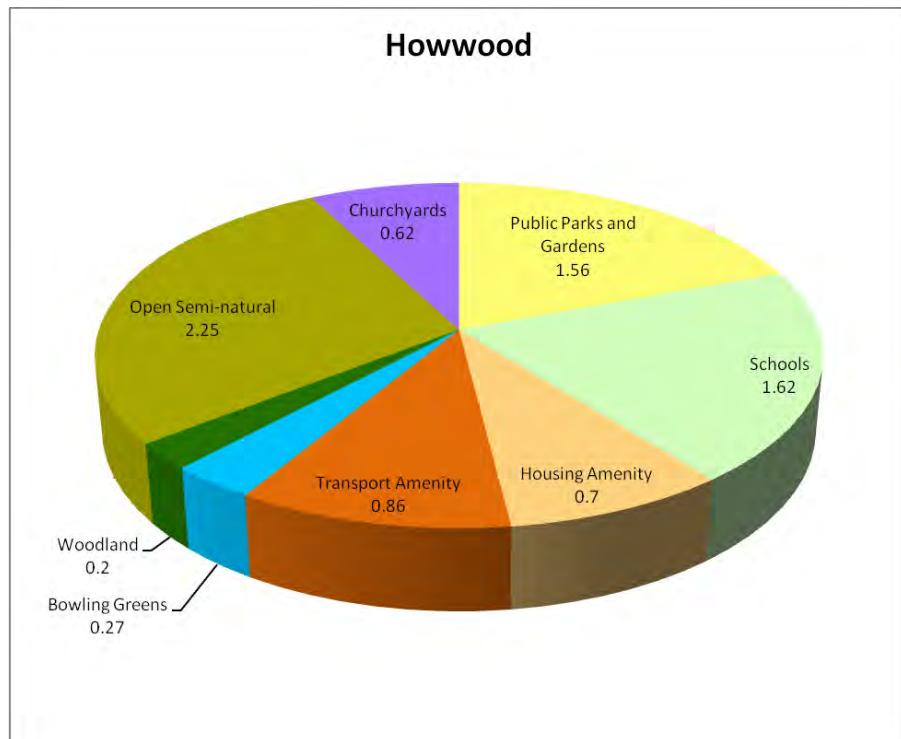
Amenity open space is largely found to the north of Main Street and Beith Road and tends to be discreet pockets. Of the eight amenity spaces throughout the village, only one of them extends to over 0.2 ha. At the centre of the village is an important small area of civic space known locally as the Triangle, recently transformed as part of a community greenspace project.

Howwood's open space is not particularly well linked. Informal links to the wider countryside are found to the south. To date, no formal green access routes link Howwood to other settlements, although Station Road does provide a link to an existing track and marked footpath leading to Castle Semple Loch and Lochwinnoch. There is an aspiration to link into the cycle route running between Lochwinnoch and Kilbarchan.

### All Open Space - Howwood

Classification	Description	Area (Ha)	%Total Area	%OSA Area
6.21	Private Gardens	19.66	45.28	70.86
6.72	Open Semi-natural	2.25	5.18	8.11
6.22	Schools	1.62	3.73	5.84
6.1	Public Parks and Gardens	1.56	3.60	5.63
6.33	Transport Amenity	0.86	1.99	3.11
6.31	Housing Amenity	0.70	1.61	2.53
6.82	Churchyards	0.62	1.43	2.24
6.54	Bowling Greens	0.27	0.63	0.99
6.71	Woodland	0.20	0.45	0.71
6.4	Playspace for Children & Teenagers*	0.18	0.41	0.64
6.23	Institutions	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.32	Business Amenity	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.51	Playing Fields	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.52	Golf Courses	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.53	Tennis Courts	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.55	Other Sports	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.73	Open Water	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.81	Allotments	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.83	Cemeteries	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.84	Other Functional Greenspace	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.9	Civic Space	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>27.75</b>	<b>63.90</b>	<b>100.00</b>

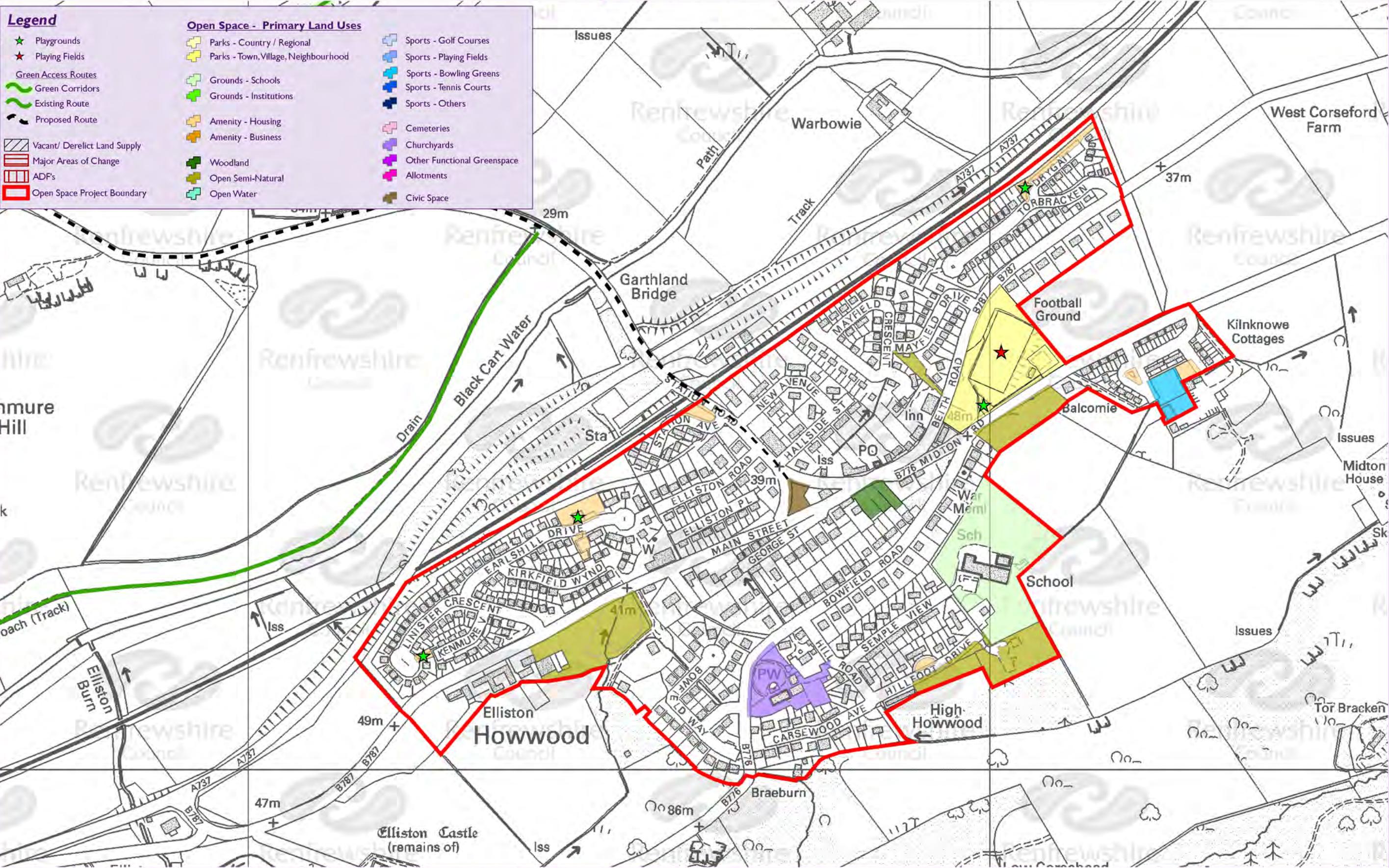
### Accessible Open Space in hectares - Howwood



### Population and open space statistics – Howwood

population	1620
total open space	27.8 ha
total open space excl. golf courses + private gardens	8.1 ha
population per ha of open space (excl. golf courses + private gardens)	200
residential properties	653
%of res properties served by natural greenspaces >2ha within 300m	89%
served by Local Nature Reserve?	no

## Open Space within Howwood



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## Fitness for Purpose - Howwood

Type	Spaces surveyed
 Amenity greenspace for housing	2
 Open semi natural	2
 Woodland	2
 Civic space	1
 Village park	1
 School grounds	1
 Churchyards & grounds	1
Total	10

### Score summary

	Overall fitness for purpose	Accessibility	Biodiversity	Attractive	Community
<b>Renfrewshire</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Howwood</b>	<b>78</b>	80	80	86	58

Ten spaces were surveyed in Howwood and the mean overall score was 78% which is similar to the mean for Renfrewshire. There was some variation within the spaces with the woodland space SS\_111 scoring poorly overall with 56%.

**The open spaces in Howwood are generally in good condition, however, particular areas for improvement relate to improving path provision and enhancing the attractiveness of spaces to increase levels of community use.**

Further detail in relation to each of the four themes can be found in Appendix B.4, and maps illustrating the distribution of open space scores are in Appendix B.6.

## **Appendix SP8      Inchinnan**

### Quantity and distribution

Inchinnan is Renfrewshire's fourth smallest settlement. Essentially a village with a population of almost 2,000 it is attached in part to its much larger neighbour Erskine. Its north-eastern edge is flanked almost entirely by woodland, part of which is within the grounds of privately owned Northbar House. A large wooded area known as Teuchan Wood also abuts gardens but, despite Ordnance Survey maps showing paths through, this woodland appears to be little used. The land to the south, between Inchinnan and the A8, is farmed.

The project boundary line was drawn tightly around the built-up area of Inchinnan except along its western edge, within which woodland has been captured. The total project area of Inchinnan is 44.3 ha and, like a number of the other smaller settlements, the majority (62%) of all open space is found within domestic gardens.

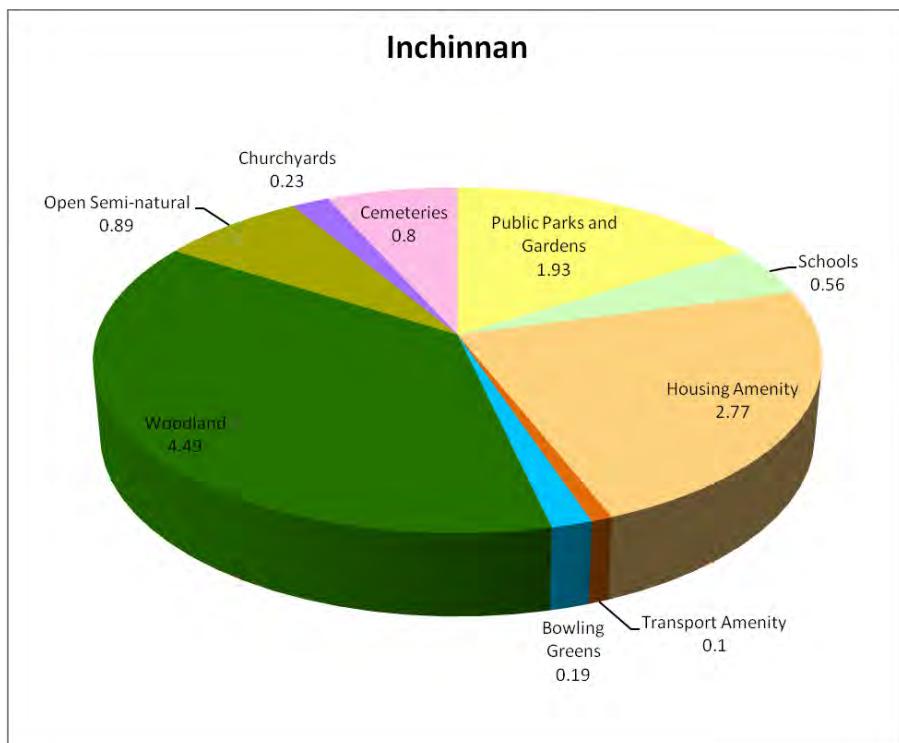
Excluding this category, the piechart shows that woodland, housing amenity sites and public parks amongst them make up the majority of open space in, and immediately around, Inchinnan. At present, the woodland is not easily accessible. The one public park extends to 1.93 ha and is located centrally. Within it is to be found the village's one playground and playing fields.

Inchinnan's open spaces are clustered in the centre of the village and are fairly well linked. This is particularly so in the north east. There the semi-natural land, through which formal footpaths run, enables access between Inchinnan and Erskine. A similar link between the south western tip of Inchinnan and Greenock Road exists through an amenity site leading into a path between fields. This path provides pedestrian access to nearby businesses at India Tyres, Rolls Royce and Inchinnan Business Park. No wider network of green access routes presently link Inchinnan to other settlements.

### All Open Space - Inchinnan

Classification	Description	Area (Ha)	%Total Area	%OSA Area
6.21	Private Gardens	19.27	43.56	61.73
6.71	Woodland	4.49	10.14	14.37
6.31	Housing Amenity	2.77	6.26	8.87
6.1	Public Parks and Gardens	1.93	4.37	6.19
6.72	Open Semi-natural	0.89	2.00	2.84
6.83	Cemeteries	0.80	1.81	2.57
6.22	Schools	0.56	1.26	1.79
6.82	Churchyards	0.23	0.52	0.73
6.54	Bowling Greens	0.19	0.43	0.61
6.4	Playspace for Children & Teenagers*	0.16	0.37	0.52
6.33	Transport Amenity	0.10	0.22	0.32
6.23	Institutions	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.32	Business Amenity	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.51	Playing Fields	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.52	Golf Courses	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.53	Tennis Courts	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.55	Other Sports	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.73	Open Water	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.81	Allotments	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.84	Other Functional Greenspace	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.9	Civic Space	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>31.23</b>	<b>70.56</b>	<b>100.00</b>

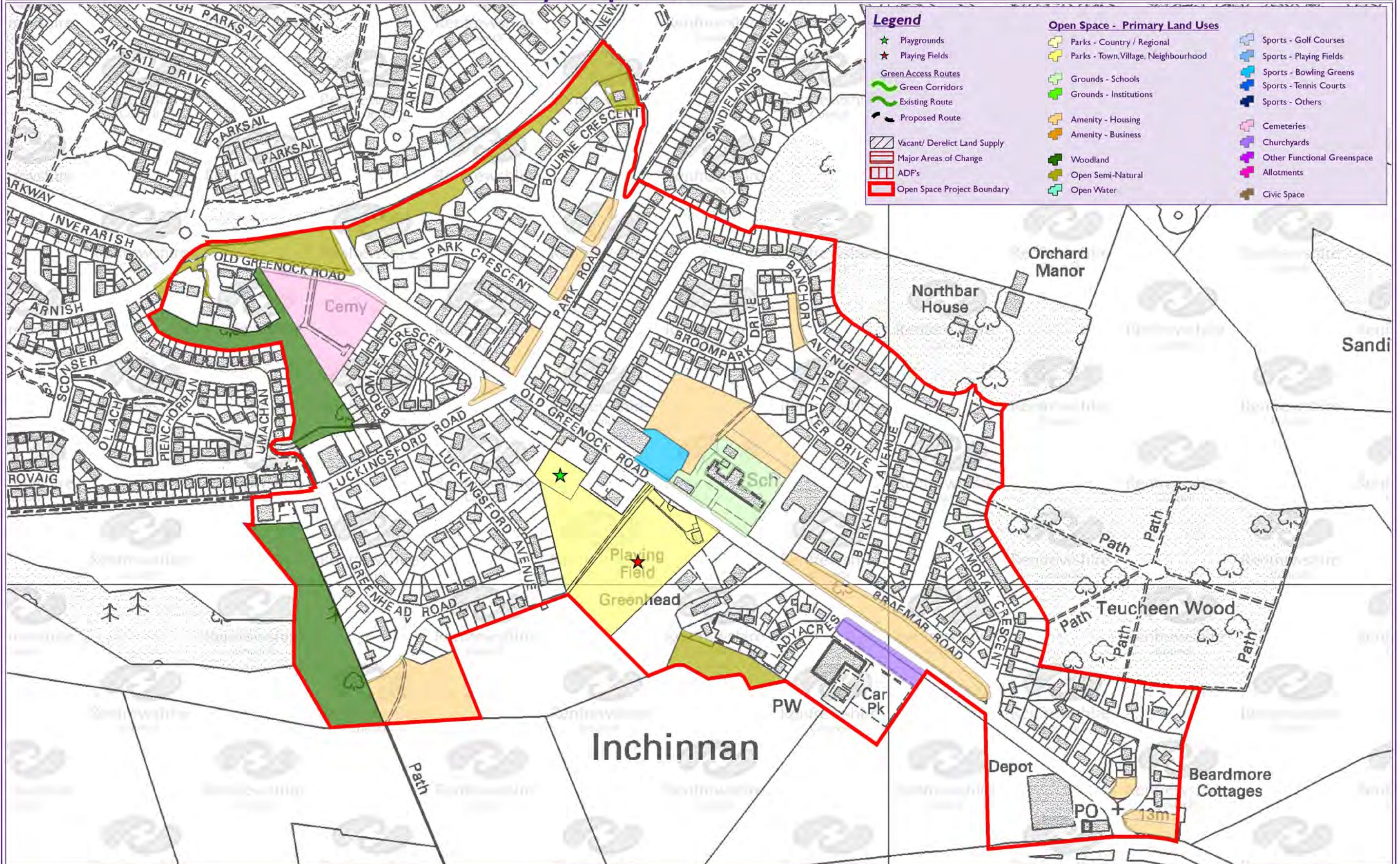
### Accessible Open Space - Inchinnan



### Population and open space statistics – Inchinnan

population	1930
total open space	31.2 ha
total open space excl. golf courses + private gardens	12. 0 ha
population per ha of open space (excl. golf courses + private gardens)	161
residential properties	642
%of res properties served by natural greenspaces >2ha within 300m	99%
served by Local Nature Reserve?	yes

## Open Space within Inchinnan



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Department: Planning and Transport  
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Scale - 1:4,000 

## Fitness for Purpose - Inchinnan

Type	Spaces surveyed
	Amenity greenspace housing
	Cemetery
	Village Park
	School
Total	8

## Score summary

Overall fitness for purpose	Accessibility	Biodiversity	Attractive	Community
<b>Renfrewshire</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Inchinnan</b>	<b>82</b>	81	75	88

A total of eight spaces were surveyed in Inchinnan over half of which were areas of amenity greenspace. The proximity of Inchinnan to Erskine offers residents of the two settlements good opportunities to share neighbouring open spaces. For this reason, Inchinnan village park (SS\_116) provides an important recreational open space for residents of south east Erskine. The lack of areas for play and sport at Inchinnan Primary School (SS\_116) also results in Inchinnan Playing Fields being well used by schoolchildren.

The overall scores show that this settlement generally has good quality open spaces, with the average composite score of 82% significantly better than for Renfrewshire as a whole (77%).

**The open spaces surveyed within Inchinnan are of good overall quality and no key issues are identified in relation to the four main themes.**

Further detail in relation to each of the four themes can be found in Appendix B.4, and maps illustrating the distribution of open space scores are in Appendix B.6.

## **Appendix SP9      Johnstone**

### Quantity and distribution

Johnstone is Renfrewshire's third largest town with a population of just over 16,000. Attached to Elderslie to its east, bounded by the A737 to the north, rough pastureland in the west and High Craig Quarry in the south, Johnstone's project area extends to 729 ha.

Within the project area, woodland is the most significant category of open space, excluding domestic gardens. Together, Bluebell and Craigston Woods extend southwards from the centre of the town out to the open countryside. A network of paths runs through these long-established woodlands, wrapping around the Johnstone Castle area of the town and linking Johnstone with south Paisley. Across Rannoch Road to the west is another significant area of long-established woodland thought to be in the ownership of the adjacent Cochrane Castle Golf Course. No formal access provision is known to exist in this particular area of woodland.

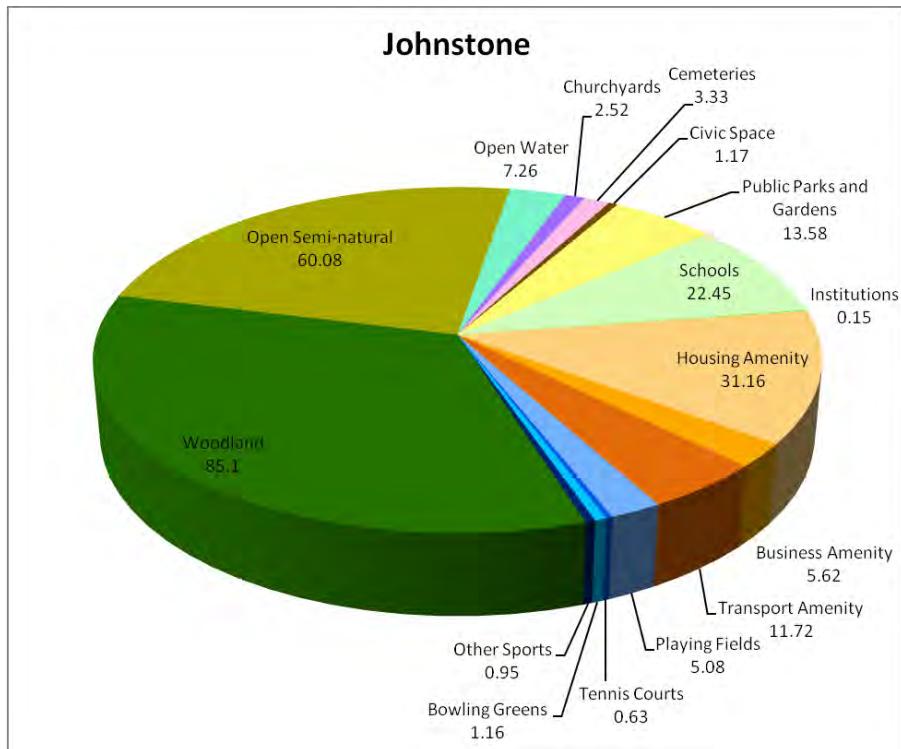
The woods and golf course combine to form an important wedge of Greenbelt. This open wedge connects into Johnstone's one public park where both active and passive recreational opportunities exist. As well as in the south, natural open space is significant along the northern edge of Johnstone. A mixture of open semi-natural land and woodland runs along the length of the Black Cart Water creating an important wildlife corridor. This is recorded as a SINC in the Local Plan. The disused railway line, now part of the national cycle route runs through much of this land.

Housing amenity sites are significant in number. Within Johnstone, 60 such sites have been recorded, over half of which are under 0.2 ha. A significant area of housing amenity open space exists in the Spateson area, providing yet another local network between town and countryside.

### All Open Space - Johnstone

Classification	Description	Area (Ha)	%Total Area	%OSA Area
6.21	Private Gardens	120.72	16.56	29.22
6.71	Woodland	85.10	11.67	20.60
6.72	Open Semi-natural	60.08	8.24	14.54
6.52	Golf Courses	40.48	5.55	9.80
6.31	Housing Amenity	31.16	4.27	7.54
6.22	Schools	22.45	3.08	5.43
6.1	Public Parks and Gardens	13.58	1.86	3.29
6.33	Transport Amenity	11.72	1.61	2.84
6.73	Open Water	7.26	1.00	1.76
6.32	Business Amenity	5.62	0.77	1.36
6.51	Playing Fields	5.08	0.70	1.23
6.83	Cemeteries	3.33	0.46	0.81
6.82	Churchyards	2.52	0.35	0.61
6.9	Civic Space	1.17	0.16	0.28
6.54	Bowling Greens	1.16	0.16	0.28
6.55	Other Sports	0.95	0.13	0.23
6.4	Playspace for Children & Teenagers*	0.68	0.09	0.16
6.53	Tennis Courts	0.63	0.09	0.15
6.23	Institutions	0.15	0.02	0.04
6.81	Allotments	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.84	Other Functional Greenspace	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>413.14</b>	<b>56.67</b>	<b>100.00</b>

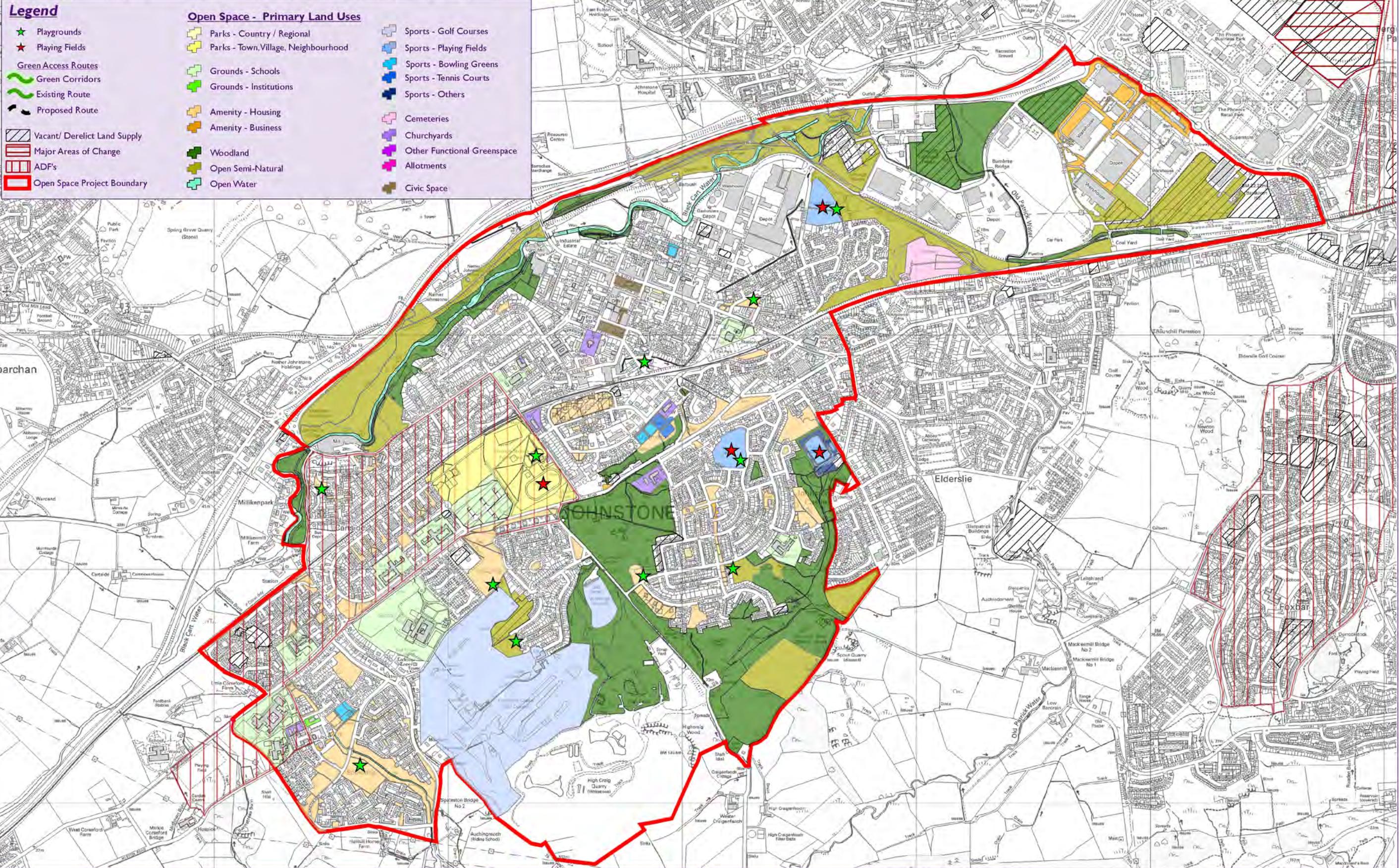
### Accessible Open Space - Johnstone



### Population and open space statistics – Johnstone

population	16,090
total open space	413.1 ha
total open space excl. golf courses + private gardens	251.9 ha
population per ha of open space (excl. golf courses + private gardens)	64
residential properties	8294
%of res properties served by natural greenspaces >2ha within 300m	85%
served by Local Nature Reserve?	no

## Open Space within Johnstone



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**Fitness for Purpose - Johnstone**

Type	Spaces surveyed
 Amenity greenspace housing	22
 School grounds	5
 Open semi natural	3
 Sports playing fields	2
 Civic space	2
 Neighbourhood Park	1
 Town park	1

	Woodland	1
	Cemeteries	1
Total		38

Score summary

	Overall fitness for purpose	Accessibility	Biodiversity	Attractive	Community
Renfrewshire	<b>77</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>65</b>
Johnston	<b>76</b>	80	71	77	67

A total of thirty-eight spaces were surveyed in Johnstone. These included eight different types of open space, the majority of which are amenity greenspace for housing. Johnstone also contains one large local woodland space, Rannoch Wood (SS\_147), which provides an important resource for wildlife and links the town to the surrounding countryside. The main park in Johnstone is Thomas Shanks Public Park (SS\_135), whilst the town centre is built around two important civic squares, Houston Square (SS\_128) and Ludovic Square (SS\_127).

The average overall score for the open spaces surveyed in Johnstone is 76%, which is slightly below the mean average score for Renfrewshire as a whole (77%). However, this figure also disguises spatial inequalities, with the lowest scoring spaces largely confined to the north-west Cartside area of the town. The majority of these poor scoring spaces fall within the West Johnstone Area Development Framework Zone identified in the Renfrewshire Local Plan (March 2006).

**Overall Johnstone performs quite well across each of the four themes of the open space audit. However this disguises some significant variation within the settlement. The audit identifies areas for action across each of the four themes. Improvements to accessibility should include upgrading of existing paths and provision of new paths within spaces. There are opportunities for biodiversity enhancement, particularly on amenity spaces. Action to enhance the attractiveness of open spaces, particularly in west Johnstone through provision of appropriate facilities should be undertaken. There is also opportunity for enhancement of the community value of spaces particularly in west Johnstone.**

Further detail in relation to each of the four themes can be found in Appendix B.4, and maps illustrating the distribution of open space scores are in Appendix B.6

## **Appendix SP10 Kilbarchan**

### Quantity and distribution

Like many of Renfrewshire's towns and villages, Kilbarchan's history is based on weaving. While its centre, a conservation area, still bears witness to its weaving past, modern day Kilbarchan is now a suburban village with a population of almost 3,500. The village is dominated by detached, semi-detached and terraced housing.

Agricultural land surrounds much of Kilbarchan, particularly on its western and northern edges. The wooded parkland estate of Glentyan House lies to the west. Under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, walking is possible through this estate, with links directly into the village on its western edge. Immediately to the east of Kilbarchan is Spring Grove Quarry, a working stone quarry. A strip of woodland screens this quarry from much of the village and, with the exception of a narrow gap in the heart of the build-up area, extends east to west through, and beyond Kilbarchan. These woodlands are designated a SINC.

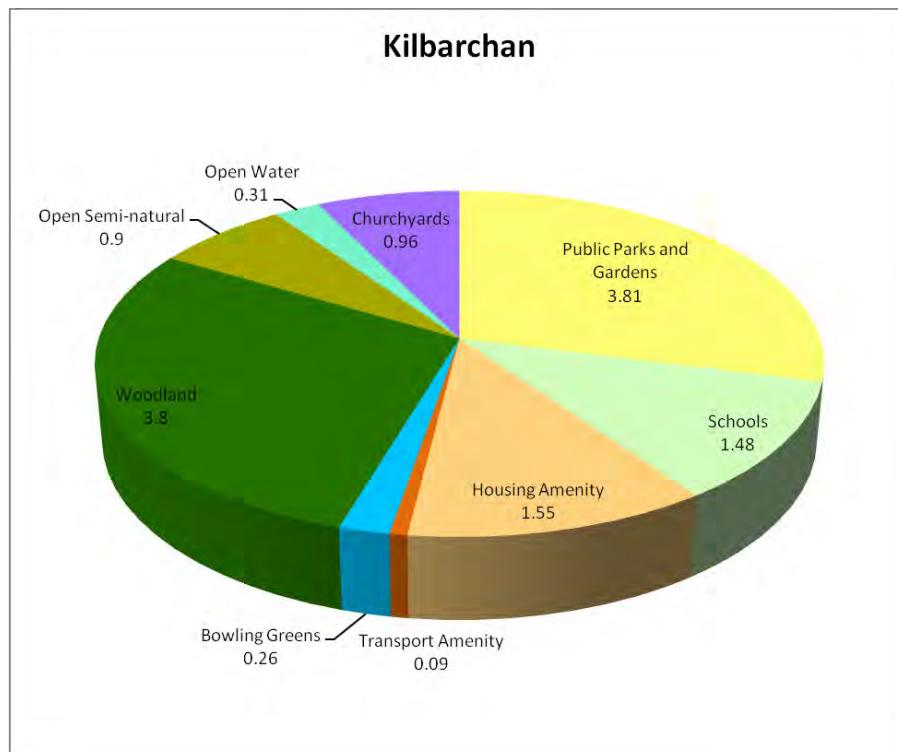
Within Kilbarchan itself, domestic gardens once again account for the vast majority of open space. Almost 50% of the total project area of 100.5 ha is found within this category. However, once this category is put aside only 13.2 ha of open space has been recorded. Public open space is concentrated on two large areas, the public park containing both children's play area and playing field, and the wooded area off Barn Green through which the Kilbarchan Burn flows. A former playing field exists within this area but is now overgrown. Both these areas are situated in the northern part of the village where the majority of all open space is found. Small pockets of housing amenity space are found in the centre and north of the village while to the south, only one private bowling club and two small areas of difficult to access woodland have been mapped.

A disused railway line running east to west through the village is now national cycle track 7 linking Kilbarchan with Lochwinnoch to the south west. This same track connects into national cycle route 75 to the east, providing off road long distance walking and cycling links between Kilbarchan and many other settlements both in Renfrewshire and beyond.

### All Open Space - Kilbarchan

Classification Description	Area (Ha)	%Total Area	%OSA Area
6.21 Private Gardens	49.47	49.20	78.98
6.1 Public Parks and Gardens	3.81	3.79	6.09
6.71 Woodland	3.80	3.78	6.06
6.31 Housing Amenity	1.55	1.54	2.48
6.22 Schools	1.48	1.47	2.37
6.82 Churchyards	0.96	0.96	1.54
6.72 Open Semi-natural	0.90	0.89	1.43
6.73 Open Water	0.31	0.31	0.50
6.54 Bowling Greens	0.26	0.26	0.41
6.33 Transport Amenity	0.09	0.09	0.15
6.4 Playspace for Children & Teenagers*	0.05	0.05	0.08
6.23 Institutions	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.32 Business Amenity	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.51 Playing Fields	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.52 Golf Courses	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.53 Tennis Courts	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.55 Other Sports	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.81 Allotments	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.83 Cemeteries	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.84 Other Functional Greenspace	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.9 Civic Space	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>62.64</b>	<b>62.30</b>	<b>100.00</b>

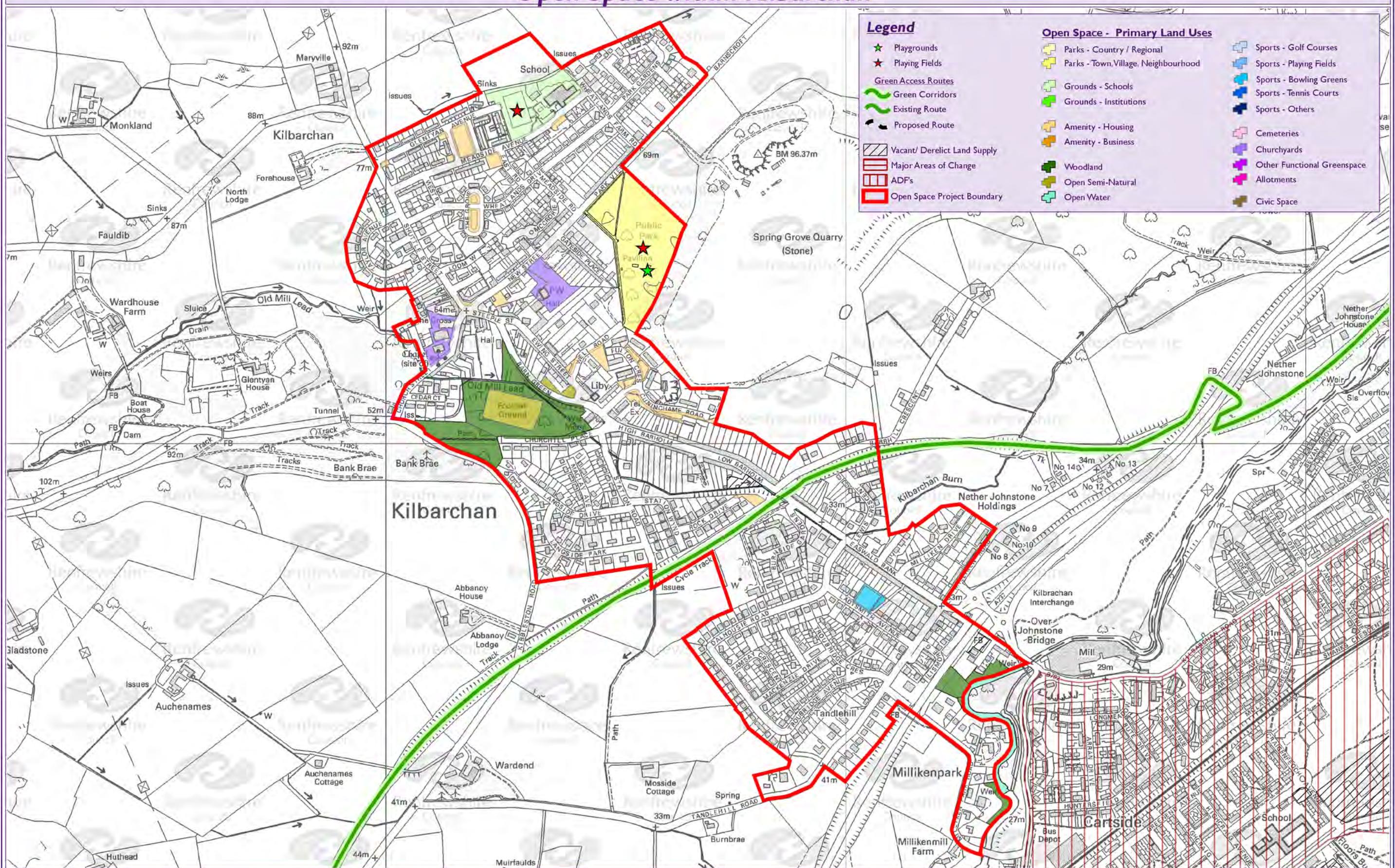
### Accessible Open Space in hectares - Kilbarchan



### Population and open space statistics – Kilbarchan

population	3430
total open space	62.6 ha
total open space excl. golf courses + private gardens	13.2 ha
population per ha of open space (excl. golf courses + private gardens)	260
residential properties	1671
%of res properties served by natural greenspaces >2ha within 300m	77%
served by Local Nature Reserve?	no

## Open Space within Kilbarchan



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Scale - 1:8,000  
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Fitness for Purpose - Kilbarchan

Type	Spaces surveyed
 Amenity greenspace for housing	5
 Village park	1
 School grounds	1
 Woodland	1
 Open semi natural	1
 Cemetery	1
Total	10

### Score summary

	<b>Overall fitness for purpose</b>	Accessibility	Biodiversity	Attractive	Community
<b>Renfrewshire</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Kilbarchan</b>	<b>79</b>	83	82	84	55

The mean overall score for Kilbarchan is the 79%, slightly higher than that for Renfrewshire as a whole. Ten spaces were surveyed in Kilbarchan, half of which are amenity greenspaces for housing.

**The greatest opportunities for Kilbarchan lie with enhancing community awareness and health through participation through providing facilities to encourage users to make use of and enjoy the open spaces.**

Further detail in relation to each of the four themes can be found in Appendix B.4, and maps illustrating the distribution of open space scores are in Appendix B.6.

## **Appendix SP11    Langbank**

### Quantity and distribution

Langbank, with a population of only 921, is Renfrewshire's second smallest settlement. It is situated at the north western edge of the authority on the southern bank of the River Clyde. It is largely a commuter village, dominated by detached houses.

Similar to Brookfield, domestic gardens account for the vast majority of open space within Langbank. Almost half of the entire project area is made up of private gardens. Once private gardens are removed from the equation, only seven distinct pieces of open space were mapped within Langbank.

The one public park is the single most significant area of open space within the village. It is however prone to flooding and much of it is often underwater. Woodland surrounds the park on two sides. A footpath running from Dennistoun Road through the trees provides access to the park from the west across a recently created bridge. The woodland on the southern side provides a setting for the park and, while informal access is possible amongst the trees, it quickly merges into the gardens of the nearby houses.

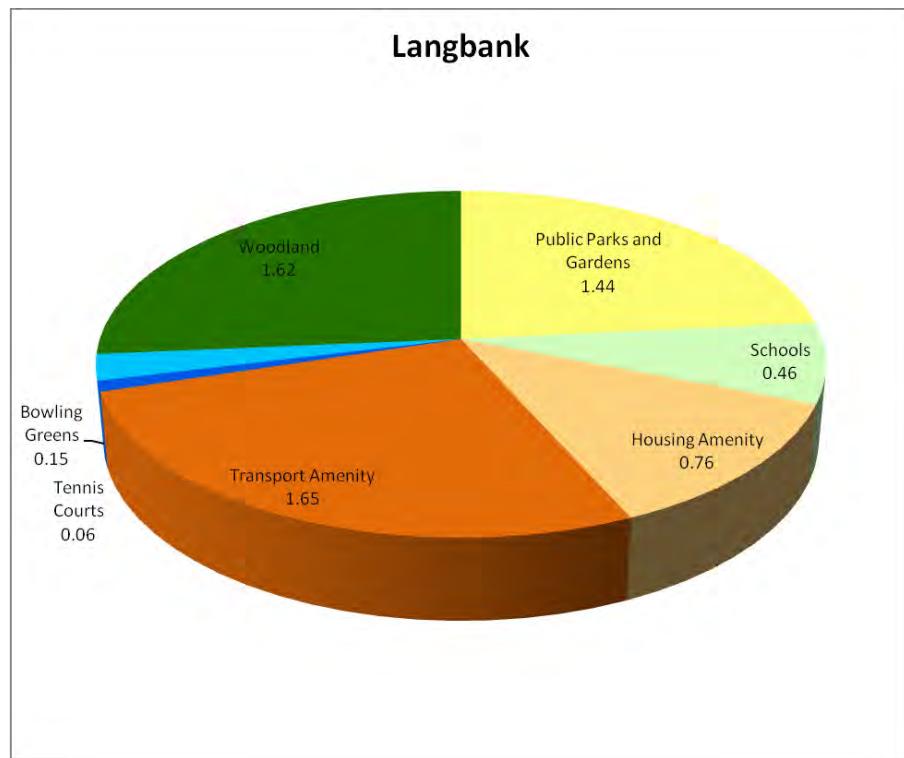
Two children's play areas exist, one within the park and the other just off Middlepenny Road near the western edge of the village. The latter is found within a larger area of amenity grassland, adjacent to the school.

Links between Langbank's open spaces are generally poor. The footpath referred to above does however provide a link through the centre of the village, providing pedestrian access from Dennistoun Road to the station, bowling green and tennis club. In contrast, access from the village to the adjacent countryside is good. Established and marked footpaths link the village with Finlaystone Estate to the west. Similar footpaths to the south lead eventually to Kilmacolm. The quiet roads around Langbank, although not dedicated green access routes, provide further walking and cycling opportunities.

### All Open Space - Langbank

Classification	Description	Area (Ha)	%Total Area	%OSA Area
6.21	Private Gardens	18.07	47.47	74.65
6.33	Transport Amenity	1.65	4.34	6.82
6.71	Woodland	1.62	4.26	6.69
6.1	Public Parks and Gardens	1.44	3.78	5.94
6.31	Housing Amenity	0.76	1.99	3.13
6.22	Schools	0.46	1.20	1.89
6.54	Bowling Greens	0.15	0.40	0.64
6.4	Playspace for Children & Teenagers*	0.08	0.21	0.33
6.53	Tennis Courts	0.06	0.16	0.25
6.23	Institutions	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.32	Business Amenity	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.51	Playing Fields	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.52	Golf Courses	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.55	Other Sports	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.72	Open Semi-natural	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.73	Open Water	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.81	Allotments	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.82	Churchyards	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.83	Cemeteries	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.84	Other Functional Greenspace	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.9	Civic Space	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>24.21</b>	<b>63.59</b>	<b>100.00</b>

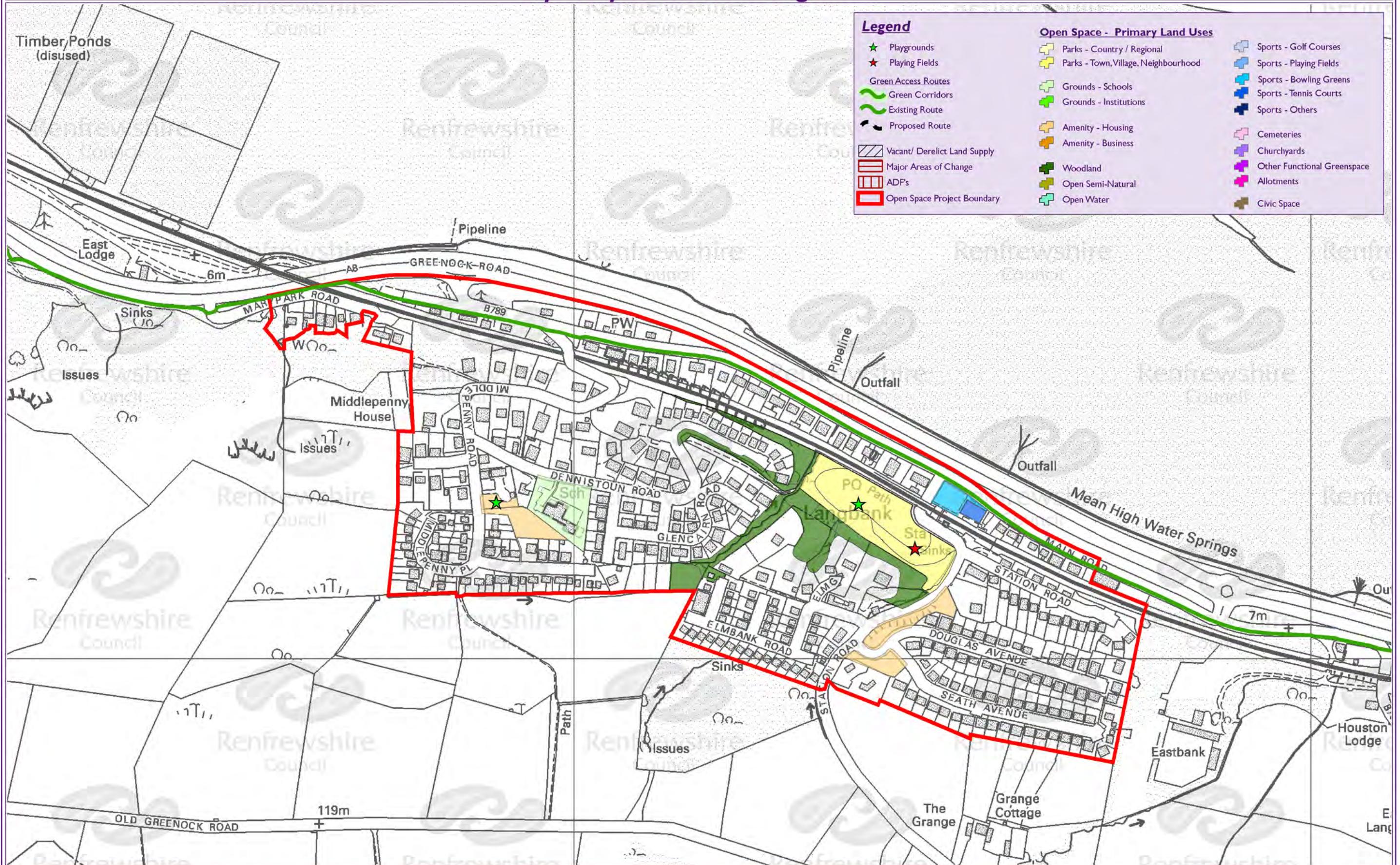
### Accessible Open Space in hectares - Langbank



### Population and open space statistics – Langbank

population	920
total open space	24.2 ha
total open space excl. golf courses + private gardens	6.1 ha
population per ha of open space (excl. golf courses + private gardens)	151
residential properties	380
%of res properties served by natural greenspaces >2ha within 300m	61%
served by Local Nature Reserve?	no (but access to Finlaystone Estate exists)

## Open Space within Langbank



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## Fitness for Purpose - Langbank

Type	Spaces surveyed
 Village park	1
 School grounds	1
 Amenity greenspace for housing	1
Total	3

### Score summary

	Overall fitness for purpose	Accessibility	Biodiversity	Attractive	Community
Renfrewshire	77	79	75	79	65
Langbank	82	88	72	83	74

The mean overall score for Langbank of 82% compares favourably with the mean for Renfrewshire (77%), however Langbank is a small settlement and this is based on only three spaces of different types.

**The spaces in Langbank are in generally good condition; however the Village Park would benefit from maintenance improvements as it suffers from poor drainage and is an important space within the settlement.**

Further detail in relation to each of the four themes can be found in Appendix B.4, and maps illustrating the distribution of open space scores are in Appendix B.6.

## **Appendix SP12 Linwood**

### Quantity and distribution

Linwood is Renfrewshire's fifth largest settlement with a population of approximately 8,500. Linwood's urban fabric is dominated by local authority housing.

Linwood's project boundary is defined by the A737 to the south, playing fields and a community woodland to the north, farmland to the west and Moss Road to the east. On its eastern fringe, Linwood's urban area is characterised by a landfill site (nearing closure) rough pastureland and a former sewerage works. Open space within the project area is dominated by two significant areas lying in the north and south of the town respectively.

Linwood Sports Centre to the north provides residents and visitors with a large range of indoor and outdoor activities. It is one of Renfrewshire Council's most significant sport facilities. Immediately beyond the playing fields is Linwood Community Woodland, a 24 ha site planted nearly twenty years ago. Now established, it provides informal recreation opportunities for walkers, joggers and horse riders and has a high biodiversity value. A second large natural space, known locally a Linwood Lade extends almost the entire length of the town's southern edge. The Black Cart Water runs through this area as does a network of formal paths. The area is largely wooded although formal amenity grassland is maintained at either end. This area provides an important buffer between the built up area of Linwood and the busy A737 to the south.

Perhaps because of the large amount of local authority flats and housing, and the characteristically smaller gardens, Linwood is unusual for Renfrewshire towns in that only 16.7% of its entire project area is taken up by domestic gardens. For other settlements, the average is closer to 23%. It should however be remembered that Linwood's entire project area extends well beyond the built-up area.

Excluding private gardens, woodland accounts for the largest category of open space (34%). Amenity open space is another significant category, accounting for 28% of public open space. It is interesting to note that of the 118 different amenity sites recorded, almost 80% of these are small pockets of open space less than 0.2 ha in size. This may again be explained by the pattern of housing within Linwood.

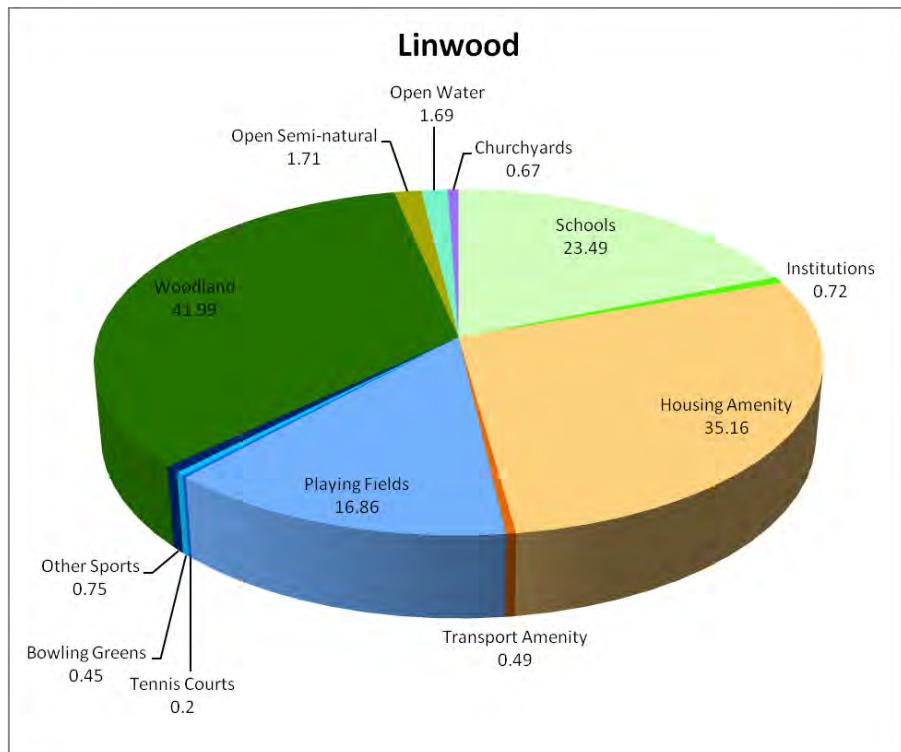
No public park exists within Linwood, a fact surprising for a settlement of this size, although the maintained recreational ground associated with Linwood Lade is locally referred to as a public park. Four of the five children's play areas are located in a central belt defined by Stirling Drive and Erskinefauld Road.

Linwood's open space provides convenient access routes between town and countryside. National cycle route 75 runs along the south western edge of the town, linking Linwood with Paisley, Lochwinnoch, and Bridge of Weir in three different directions. From this green access route, formal footpaths link into Linwood Lade and the new Linwood High School. Established paths through open space also create a largely unbroken green network from the western edge of Linwood, through its northern area to the sports centre grounds. This in turn leads into the Community Woodland and open countryside in the north east. It is a long-term aim that this link will be further extended into the proposed Country Park at the southern end of the former ROF site in Bishopton.

### All Open Space - Linwood

Classification	Description	Area (Ha)	%Total Area	%OSA Area
6.21	Private Gardens	44.85	16.73	26.53
6.71	Woodland	41.99	15.66	24.84
6.31	Housing Amenity	35.16	13.11	20.80
6.22	Schools	23.49	8.76	13.90
6.51	Playing Fields	16.86	6.29	9.98
6.72	Open Semi-natural	1.71	0.64	1.01
6.73	Open Water	1.69	0.63	1.00
6.55	Other Sports	0.75	0.28	0.44
6.23	Institutions	0.72	0.27	0.43
6.82	Churchyards	0.67	0.25	0.39
6.33	Transport Amenity	0.49	0.18	0.29
6.54	Bowling Greens	0.45	0.17	0.27
6.53	Tennis Courts	0.20	0.07	0.12
6.4	Playspace for Children & Teenagers*	0.17	0.06	0.10
6.1	Public Parks and Gardens	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.32	Business Amenity	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.52	Golf Courses	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.81	Allotments	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.83	Cemeteries	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.84	Other Functional Greenspace	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.9	Civic Space	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>169.03</b>	<b>63.04</b>	<b>100.00</b>

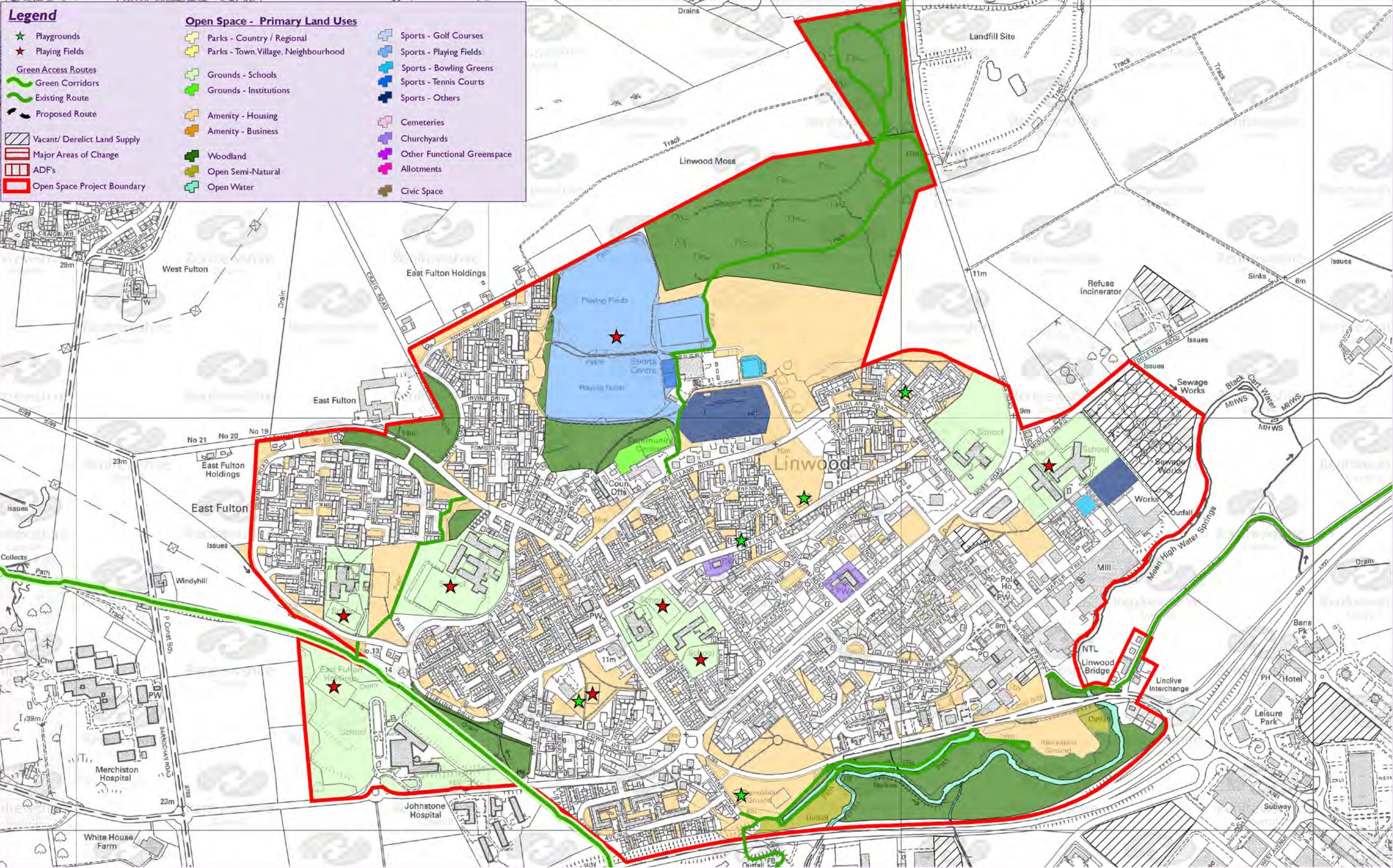
### Accessible Open Space in hectares - Linwood



### Population and open space statistics – Linwood

population	8550
total open space	169 ha
total open space excl. golf courses + private gardens	124.2 ha
population per ha of open space (excl. golf courses + private gardens)	69
residential properties	4106
%of res properties served by natural greenspaces >2ha within 300m	57%
served by Local Nature Reserve?	no

## Open Space within Linwood



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Scale - 1:9,000 

## Fitness for Purpose - Linwood

Type	Number of spaces
	Amenity greenspace for housing
	School grounds
	Woodland
	Playing fields
Total	26

### Score summary

	Overall fitness for purpose	Accessibility	Biodiversity	Attractive	Community
Renfrewshire	77	79	75	79	65
Linwood	74	83	65	74	63

In Linwood twenty-six spaces were surveyed, half of which are amenity greenspaces for housing. The sample also included six school spaces and five woodland spaces, including the large community woodland to the north of the settlement and the adjoining sports pitches and leisure centre. The mean overall fitness for purpose score is 74% which is slightly below the mean for Renfrewshire as a whole (77%). This partly reflects the quality of the amenity greenspaces for housing.

**The open space resource in Linwood is generally good although this includes spaces of varying quality. Key themes identified include improving biodiversity value of amenity greenspaces for housing. The provision of good quality facilities within spaces will also enhance the attractiveness, along with addressing issues with vandalism. These enhancements will increase the opportunity for community use of the spaces.**

Further detail in relation to each of the four themes can be found in Appendix B.4, and maps illustrating the distribution of open space scores are in Appendix B.6.

## **Appendix SP13    Lochwinnoch**

### Quantity and distribution

Lochwinnoch is Renfrewshire's most south-westerly settlement. With a population of just over 2,000 it is the fourth smallest settlement.

Its project area extends to 78.9 hectares, of which only 17% can be classed as publicly available open space. Lochwinnoch may be described as a settlement that "wears" its open space on the outside. Wrapping around Lochwinnoch on its southern and western edge is Clyde Muirshiel, a vast Regional Park that extends beyond Renfrewshire into Inverclyde and North Ayrshire. Within Renfrewshire, two visitor centres for the park exist, one at Muirshiel and the other at Castle Semple Loch on the southern edge of Lochwinnoch. This is probably the focus of most people's experience of open space in the Lochwinnoch area. The opportunities it offers for walking, cycling, water sports and Ranger led activities, mean that its catchment extends far beyond the population of Lochwinnoch alone. Another important visitor facility and nature conservation site is the RSPB bird reserve at Aird Meadow on the edge of Castle Semple Loch. Rough pasture and worked fields define the eastern and northern boundaries of Lochwinnoch.

Within Lochwinnoch itself, the composition of the relatively small amount of public open space is shown in the piechart. The most significant single area of open space is the public park situated at the southern tip of the village. This park provides a range of recreational opportunities including playing fields, children's play area, multi activity sports court and pavilion. National cycle route 7 also runs through the park.

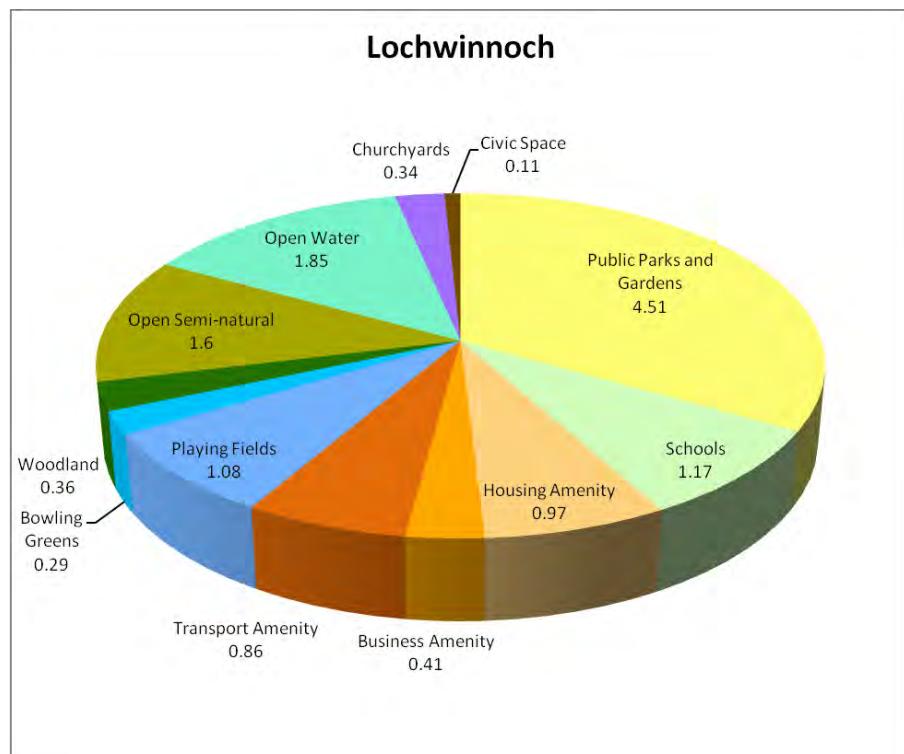
Only 7% (less than one hectare) of public open space within Lochwinnoch is found in the housing amenity category. This is concentrated around Kildale Road in the west of the village and amounts to small pockets of amenity grassland and trees. Two slightly larger areas of amenity space are found at Crookhill Gardens, a double ended cul-de-sac. The grounds surrounding the remains of the church known locally as Old Simon provide a small attractive natural space for visitors in the centre of the village.

Like other small settlements in Renfrewshire, the mapped open spaces within Lochwinnoch tend to be distinct and do not merge to create a network of linked spaces. Lochwinnoch itself is however well connected by open space at its southern end. It is also linked to other settlements and the wider countryside by green access routes, most noticeably the national cycle route and the recently created footpath surrounding much of Castle Semple Loch. Future access plans exist to improve off road links between Lochwinnoch and Howwood.

### All Open Space - Lochwinnoch

Classification	Description	Area (Ha)	%Total Area	%OSA Area
6.21	Private Gardens	35.22	44.65	72.24
6.1	Public Parks and Gardens	4.51	5.72	9.25
6.73	Open Water	1.85	2.35	3.80
6.72	Open Semi-natural	1.60	2.03	3.28
6.22	Schools	1.17	1.48	2.39
6.51	Playing Fields	1.08	1.37	2.21
6.31	Housing Amenity	0.97	1.23	1.99
6.33	Transport Amenity	0.86	1.09	1.76
6.32	Business Amenity	0.41	0.52	0.84
6.71	Woodland	0.36	0.46	0.74
6.82	Churchyards	0.34	0.43	0.70
6.54	Bowling Greens	0.29	0.36	0.59
6.9	Civic Space	0.11	0.14	0.23
6.4	Playspace for Children & Teenagers*	0.08	0.10	0.17
6.23	Institutions	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.52	Golf Courses	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.53	Tennis Courts	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.55	Other Sports	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.81	Allotments	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.83	Cemeteries	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.84	Other Functional Greenspace	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>48.76</b>	<b>61.82</b>	<b>100.00</b>

### Accessible Open Space in hectares - Lochwinnoch



### Population and open space statistics – Lochwinnoch

population	2720
total open space	48.8 ha
total open space excl. golf courses + private gardens	13.5 ha
population per ha of open space (excl. golf courses + private gardens)	201
residential properties	1316
%of res properties served by natural greenspaces >2ha within 300m	88%
served by Local Nature Reserve?	no (but access to Castle Semple and RSBP reserve)

## **Open Space within Lochwinnoch**

## Legend

- Green Access Routes**

  - Playgrounds
  - Playing Fields
  - Green Corridors
  - Existing Route
  - Proposed Route
  - Vacant/ Derelict Land Supply
  - Major Areas of Change
  - ADF's
  - Open Space Project Boundary

**Parks - Country / Regional**

**Parks - Town, Village, Neighbourhood**

**Grounds - Schools**

**Grounds - Institutions**

**Amenity - Housing**

**Amenity - Business**

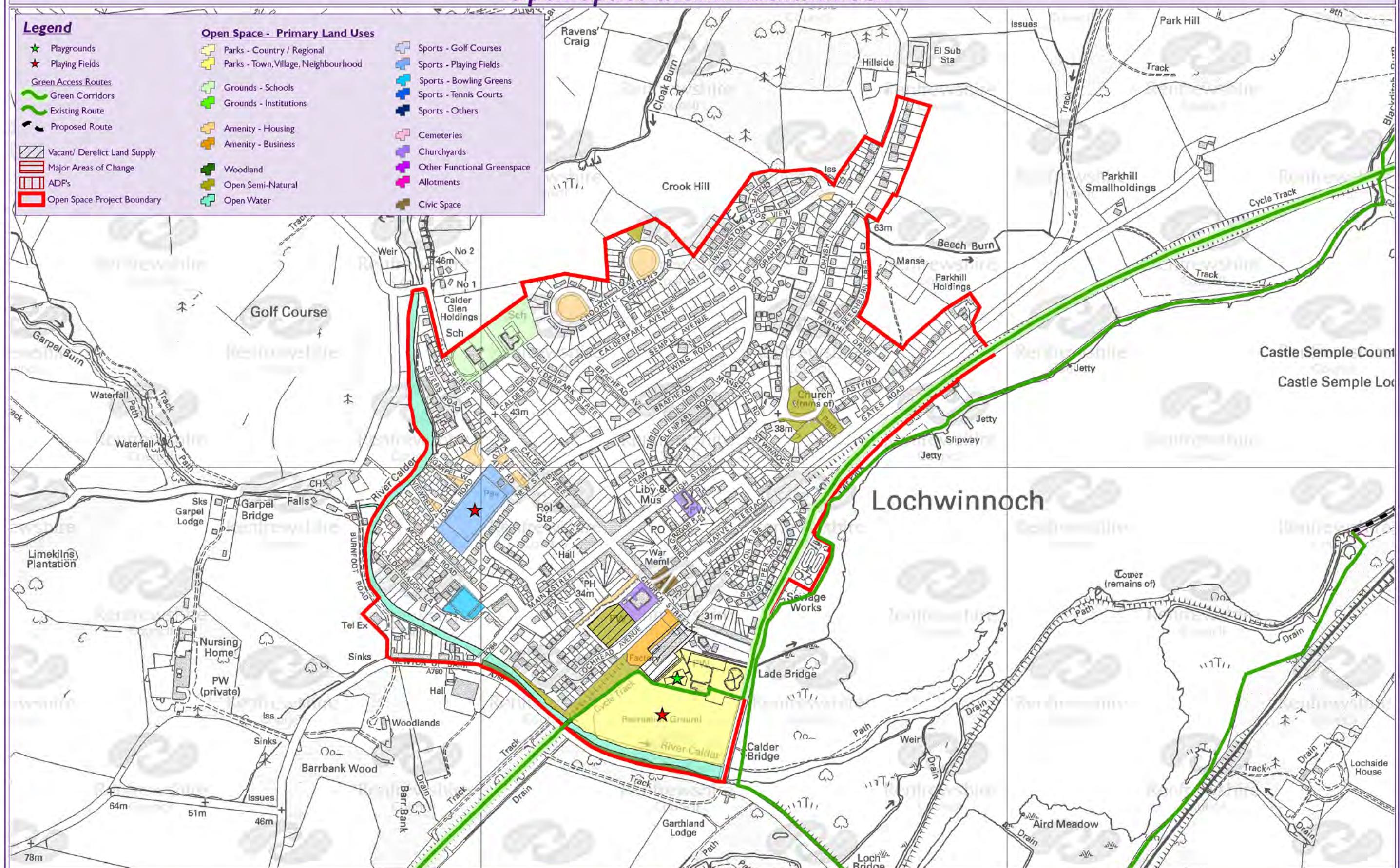
**Woodland**

**Open Semi-Natural**

**Open Water**

### **Open Space - Primary Land Uses**

-  Sports - Golf Courses
  -  Sports - Playing Fields
  -  Sports - Bowling Greens
  -  Sports - Tennis Courts
  -  Sports - Others
  -  Cemeteries
  -  Churchyards
  -  Other Functional Greenspace
  -  Allotments
  -  Civic Space



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Print date: 25/5/08

Scale - 1:7,000 W E  
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## Fitness for Purpose - Lochwinnoch

Type	Spaces surveyed
 Amenity greenspace for housing	4
 Open semi natural	4
 Village Park	1
 Sports playing fields	1
 School grounds	1
 Civic space	1
Total	12

### Score summary

	<b>Overall fitness for purpose</b>	Accessibility	Biodiversity	Attractive	Community
<b>Renfrewshire</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Lochwinnoch</b>	<b>80</b>	79	76	86	67

A total of twelve spaces were surveyed in Lochwinnoch. These included six different open space types, the majority of the spaces were amenity greenspace for housing and open semi natural spaces. Lochwinnoch Public Park (SS\_206) plays an important role within the settlement as it provides the only play area and sports pitches accessible to the public. The overall fitness for purpose scores show that this settlement generally has good quality open spaces, with the average overall score of 80% higher than for Renfrewshire as a whole.

**Open spaces within Lochwinnoch are of generally good quality. The main area for improvement would be to enhance the levels of community awareness and health through participation through providing additional facilities, interpretation of cultural heritage and signage to encourage use of the spaces.**

Further detail in relation to each of the four themes can be found in Appendix B.4, and maps illustrating the distribution of open space scores are in Appendix B.6.

## **Appendix SP14 Paisley and Hillington**

### Quantity and distribution

Paisley is Renfrewshire's main town. With a population of 74,750 it is nearly four times as large as Renfrew, the second largest. Hillington Industrial Estate, although physically touching Glasgow, is part of Renfrewshire and has been included in the overall project area. Also included is the very large Gleniffer Braes Country Park lying immediately to the South of Paisley. The project area for Paisley and Hillington totals 3,028 ha.

Paisley's urban fringe is varied in nature, not surprising for a town its size. Its southern fringe is dominated by the Country Park which extends to 487 ha. Its habitat is largely moorland with extensive areas of woodland. Three significant water bodies also lie within the park. The Country Park is one of Renfrewshire's most important recreational facilities and, similar to Castle Semple at Lochwinnoch, offers walking, cycling, and environmental education opportunities.

To the west lies farmland leading into Elderslie Golf Course and, as mentioned previously, this part of the Greenbelt forms an important wedge between Paisley and Elderslie. Its preservation is crucial to maintain the landscape setting and distinctiveness of each settlement. North of Elderslie Golf Course this gap closes at the Phoenix Business and Retail Parks. A significant band of semi-natural open space runs along the northern edge of Paisley's built-up area between Phoenix Retail Park and St James Playing Fields, immediately south of the M8.

The motorway forms the northern boundary of Paisley's project area. Lying immediately to the north of the M8 is Glasgow Airport which occupies a large expanse of functional open space and also includes Paisley Moss, one of Renfrewshire's three declared Local Nature Reserves. To the east, two Golf Courses account for much of the open space separating Paisley and Glasgow, once again providing an important landscape setting for, and preventing coalescence between, the built-up areas. A significant gap between Paisley and Hillington Industrial Estate is maintained by the farmed land of Honeybog Hill and Arkleston. This area has been the subject of much pressure for development in the past. A significant band of open space fronts Hillington and provides a landscaped buffer between the various warehouses and the motorway. Development is currently underway on this land.

Within Paisley itself, the table and pie chart show the primary breakdown of open space. Paisley is the only settlement where all categories of open space are found. Domestic gardens yet again represent the largest category of open space although proportionately this figure is not as high in Paisley as in other settlements. This may be due to either the greater variety of open space types found, or the fact that the large Country Park has been included within the project boundary.

Public parks are another important feature of Paisley's open space. The 11 urban parks are spread fairly evenly throughout Paisley and total 72 ha. They vary considerably in size and scale of facilities and date of creation.

Housing amenity sites are the third most significant category of all open space, and often form important local networks. This is particularly so in the Glenburn, Foxbar, Brediland, Ferguslie, Gallowhill and Lochfield areas of Paisley. With the exception of Gallowhill, many of the mapped housing amenity sites are also found within areas likely to undergo significant change in the near future. This includes land owned by Renfrewshire Council that is awaiting redevelopment and is temporarily grassed and maintained by the Council.

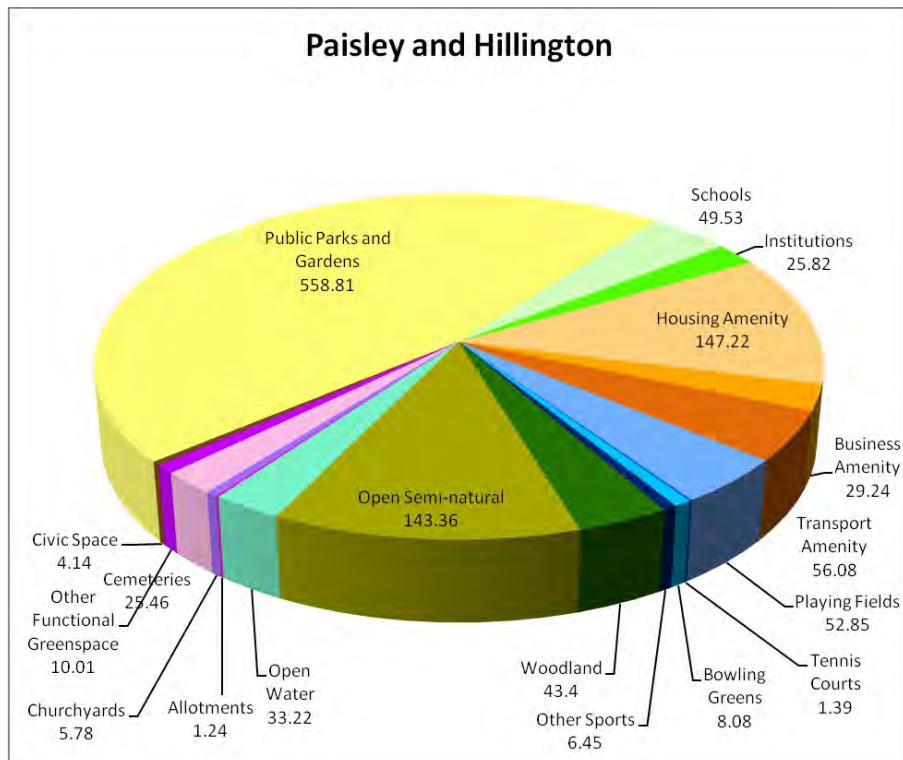
Natural spaces are also significant in quantity within Paisley, the vast majority being found in a single area at Candrens to the north west of Paisley. Other important natural areas include the White Cart Water. This runs roughly north south and is recognised as an important wildlife corridor. Jenny's Well Local Nature Reserve on the banks of the White Cart Water, in the Blackhall area is also a designated SINC.

In the southern half of Paisley, housing amenity sites, areas of woodland and open countryside combine to provide a potential green access link running from Millarston to Hawkhead through Brediland, Foxbar and Glenburn. Work is currently underway to create the south Paisley strategic link, a loop that will eventually connect into either end of the existing long distance cycleway/footpath running through the centre of Paisley. Beyond this partially existing access network, lies another important link. The long distance footpath connecting Gleniffer Braes and Bluebell Woods in Johnstone is recognised in the approved Structure Plan as being of strategic significance, helping to link Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire.

### All Open Space - Paisley & Hillington

Classification	Description	Area (Ha)	%Total Area	%OSA Area
6.21	Private Gardens	617.29	20.39	32.42
6.1	Public Parks and Gardens	558.81	18.46	29.34
6.31	Housing Amenity	147.22	4.86	7.73
6.72	Open Semi-natural	143.36	4.74	7.53
6.52	Golf Courses	84.91	2.80	4.46
6.33	Transport Amenity	56.08	1.85	2.95
6.51	Playing Fields	52.85	1.75	2.78
6.22	Schools	49.53	1.64	2.60
6.71	Woodland	43.40	1.43	2.28
6.73	Open Water	33.22	1.10	1.74
6.32	Business Amenity	29.24	0.97	1.54
6.23	Institutions	25.82	0.85	1.36
6.83	Cemeteries	25.46	0.84	1.34
6.84	Other Functional Greenspace	10.01	0.33	0.53
6.54	Bowling Greens	8.08	0.27	0.42
6.55	Other Sports	6.45	0.21	0.34
6.4	Playspace for Children & Teenagers*	5.80	0.19	0.30
6.82	Churchyards	5.78	0.19	0.30
6.9	Civic Space	4.14	0.14	0.22
6.53	Tennis Courts	1.39	0.05	0.07
6.81	Allotments	1.24	0.04	0.06
<b>Totals</b>		<b>1904.27</b>	<b>62.90</b>	<b>100.00</b>

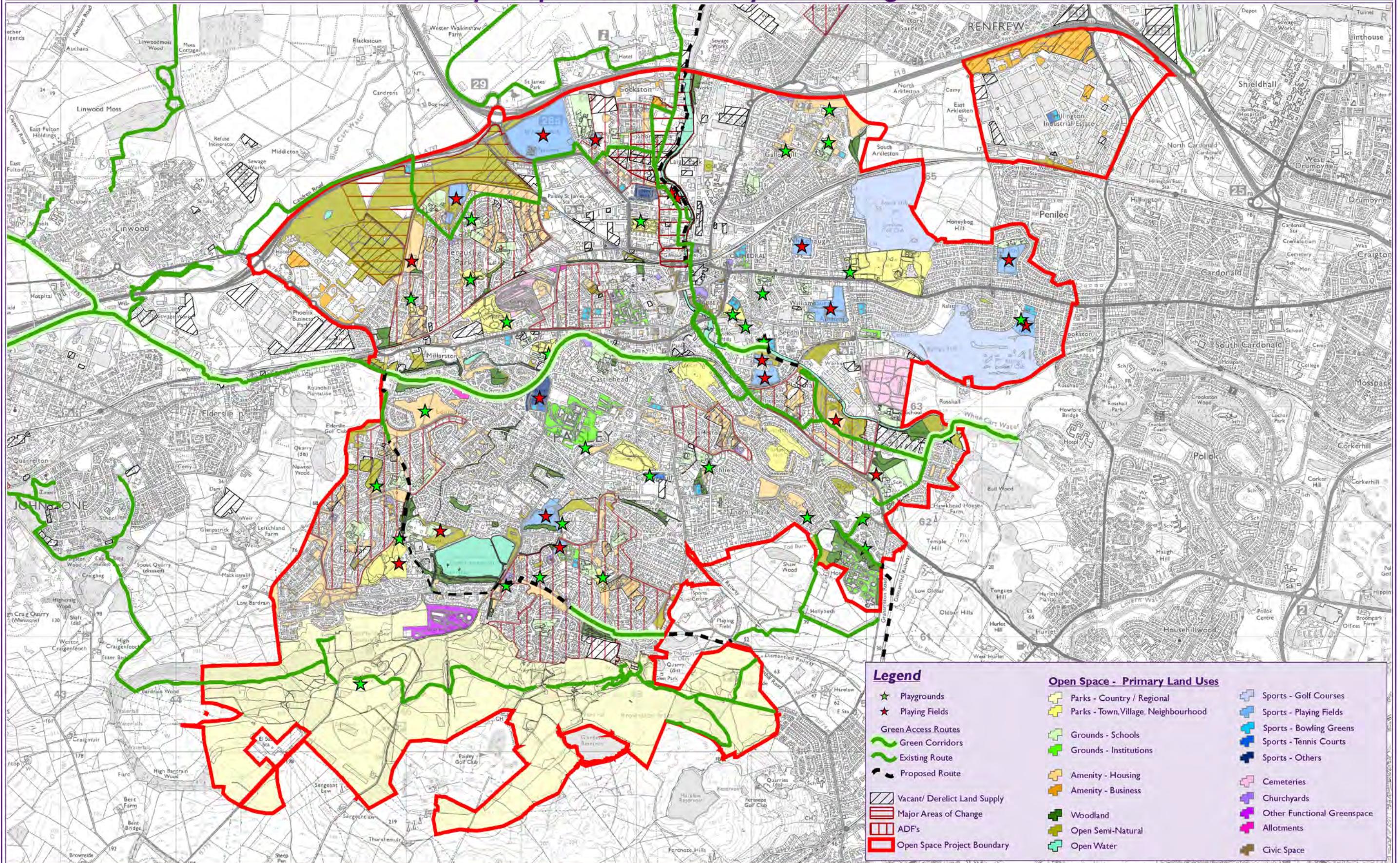
### Accessible Open Space in hectares - Paisley and Hillington



Population and open space statistics – Paisley and Hillington

population	74,750
total open space	1,904.3 ha
total open space excl. golf courses + private gardens	1,202.1 ha
population per ha of open space (excl. golf courses + private gardens)	62
residential properties	39,012
%of res properties served by natural greenspaces >2ha within 300m	38%
served by Local Nature Reserve?	yes

## Open Space within Paisley and Hillington



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Fitness for Purpose - Paisley and Hillington

Type	Spaces surveyed
	Amenity greenspace for housing
	Neighbourhood park
	Open semi natural
	School grounds
	Sports playing fields
	Woodland
	Cemeteries

	Civic space	2
	Bowling green	2
	Amenity greenspace for business	2
	Churchyard	2
	Country Park	1
	Town Park	1
	Golf course	1
Total		115

### Score summary

	<b>Overall fitness for purpose</b>	Accessibility	Biodiversity	Attractive	Community
<b>Renfrewshire</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Paisley</b>	<b>74</b>	77	75	75	65

A total of one hundred and fifteen sites were surveyed in Paisley, plus one space in Hillington. The survey identified that Paisley has a wide range of open space in terms of type, size and use, with all areas of Paisley having a good overall provision of open space. However, some areas of the town are better provided for than others in terms of quality, quantity and facilities. Those neighbourhoods identified from the audit where there are significant issues associated with open spaces include Ferguslie, Charleston, Blackhall and parts of Glenburn and Foxbar.

The overall fitness for purpose scores show that this settlement generally has poor quality open spaces, with the average composite score of 73% lower than for Renfrewshire as a whole of 77%.

**There are some notable spatial variations in the quality of open spaces within Paisley. There are particular opportunities to improve the accessibility of the spaces and also the attractiveness of the spaces. This includes improving links between spaces and to access 'spines' such as cycle routes. The attractiveness of spaces could be improved through enhanced maintenance and provision of additional facilities within the spaces.**

**However it is important to recognise that a number of the spaces across the settlement would benefit from action under all four of the open space audit themes. Further details on priority spaces and suggested actions can be found in Appendix B.5.**

Further detail in relation to each of the four themes can be found in Appendix B.4, and maps illustrating the distribution of open space scores are in Appendix B.6.

## **Appendix SP15 Renfrew**

### Quantity and distribution

Renfrew is the second largest town in Renfrewshire with a population of just over 20,000. Its urban area is tightly defined on all four sides by the Clyde and White Cart Water to the north and west respectively, the M8 to the south and Glasgow City Council land to the east. Beyond the White Cart Water is the airport, taking up a huge area of land for both operational and safeguarding purposes. Both Cart rivers are recognised as being important wildlife corridors.

The associated table shows the breakdown of all open space within the project boundary, an area extending to 810.3 ha. Unsurprisingly, domestic gardens account for the largest category of open space. In area alone, Renfrew Golf Course also accounts for a significant proportion of open space. Turning to the piechart, which represents the more accessible categories of open space, open semi-natural space (43.6 ha) account for the largest area. This figure must however be treated with caution as much of Renfrew's categorised natural space is land awaiting, or zoned for, development. This is particularly the case in the north and east where much of the semi-natural open space is either within the designated Renfrew North "major area of change" policy area or recorded on the vacant and derelict land register.

Only at Kirklandneuk on the western edge of Renfrew is „true“ semi-natural space actively promoted. A footpath network encourages the recreational value of this site. Semi-natural space also occurs around the Sandyford Road industrial area. Informal use, evidenced by desire lines, appears to be made of this particular land. Woodland in the Blythswood area offers another significant recreational opportunity on natural space, with both formal and informal paths running through it. This particular woodland is also important on nature conservation grounds, having been designated as both a SINC and, in part, a long-established woodland.

Of note to Renfrew is the number of public parks. This category accounts for almost one fifth of Renfrew's public open space. Six parks in total exist. Almost 35 ha of land are maintained as public parks, all but one by Renfrewshire Council. When compared to Johnstone, the settlement closest in population, Renfrew is found to have 2.5 times as much formal parkland as Johnstone. Paisley, which has a population of almost four times that of Renfrew, has only twice as much urban parkland.

Also of note for a town the size of Renfrew is the lack of civic space. At the time of mapping, only one very small space around the town hall was recorded. A major regeneration of Renfrew town centre was underway in mid 2007, part of which involved enhancing and expanding the existing area and creating a new civic area at the junction of Inchinnan Road and Hairst Street. Further civic and

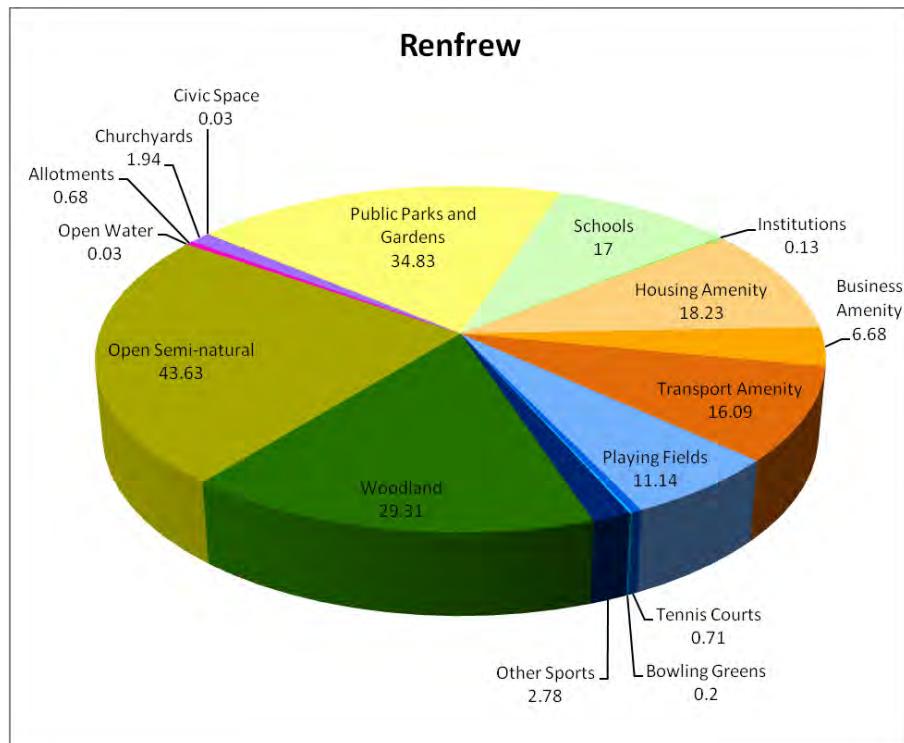
amenity improvements are being made along High Street, at its closest to the town hall. These works will provide an improved civic focus to Renfrew town centre.

The major redevelopment of Renfrew North has improved long-distance access routes along the Clyde frontage. It is now possible to walk/cycle almost the entire northern length of Renfrew along a dedicated access route. This path wraps around the north western corner of Renfrew and continues along the eastern bank of the River Cart towards Paisley in the south. It is an aspiration of the Council to extend this green access route into Paisley. It is also a strategic aim of the Green Network Partnership to improve green access routes between Renfrew and Erskine, eventually linking Renfrewshire with Glasgow and Inverclyde.

### All Open Space - Renfrew

Classification	Description	Area (Ha)	%Total Area	%OSA Area
6.21	Private Gardens	148.08	18.27	39.65
6.72	Open Semi-natural	43.63	5.38	11.68
6.52	Golf Courses	42.00	5.18	11.24
6.1	Public Parks and Gardens	34.83	4.30	9.33
6.71	Woodland	29.31	3.62	7.85
6.31	Housing Amenity	18.23	2.25	4.88
6.22	Schools	17.00	2.10	4.55
6.33	Transport Amenity	16.09	1.99	4.31
6.51	Playing Fields	11.14	1.38	2.98
6.32	Business Amenity	6.68	0.82	1.79
6.55	Other Sports	2.78	0.34	0.75
6.82	Churchyards	1.94	0.24	0.52
6.4	Playspace for Children & Teenagers*	1.26	0.16	0.34
6.53	Tennis Courts	0.71	0.09	0.19
6.81	Allotments	0.68	0.08	0.18
6.54	Bowling Greens	0.20	0.02	0.05
6.23	Institutions	0.13	0.02	0.03
6.9	Civic Space	0.03	0.00	0.01
6.73	Open Water	0.03	0.00	0.01
6.83	Cemeteries	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.84	Other Functional Greenspace	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>373.49</b>	<b>46.09</b>	<b>100.00</b>

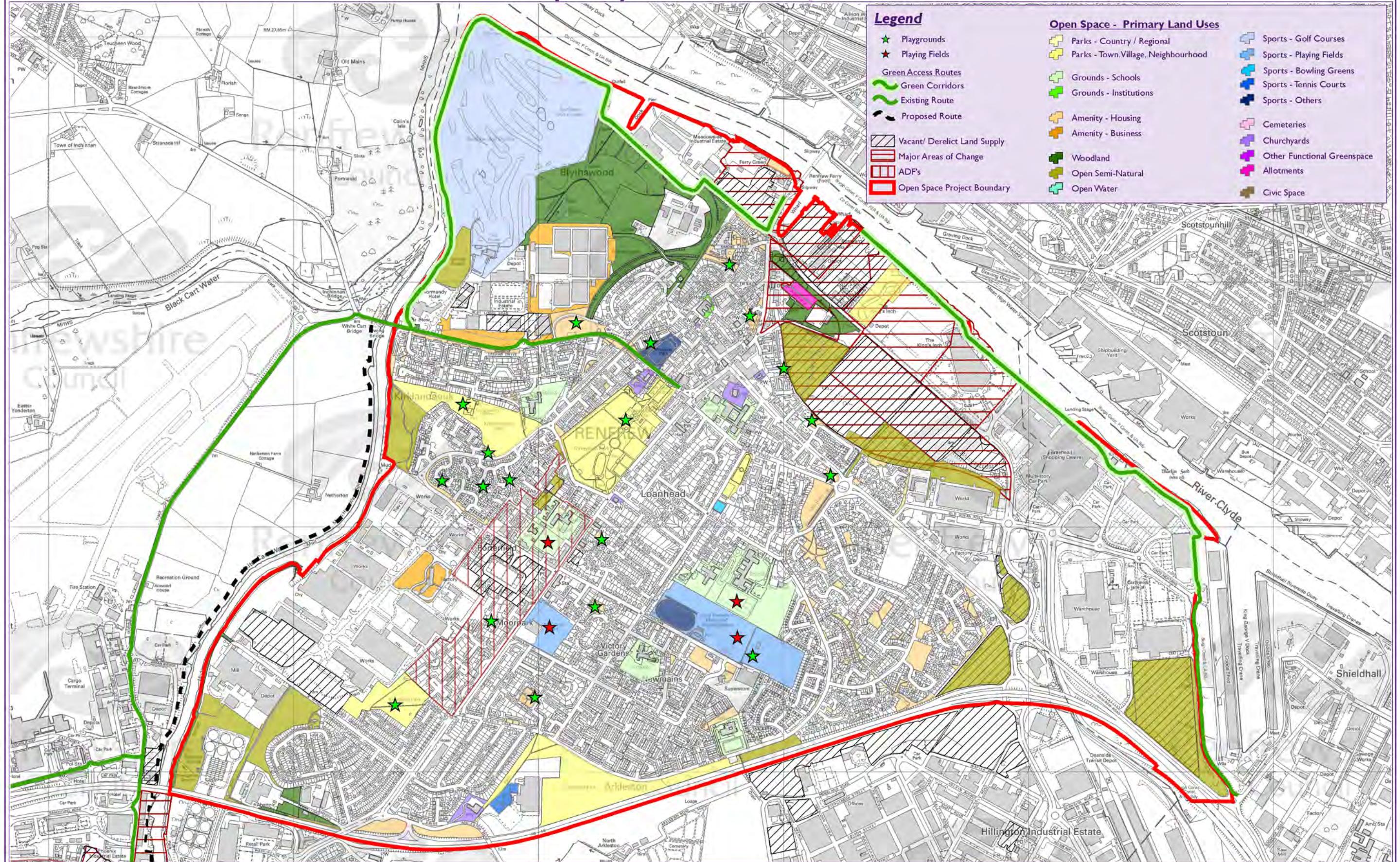
### Accessible Open Space in hectares - Renfrew



### Population and open space statistics – Renfrew

population	20,060
total open space	373.5 ha
total open space excl. golf courses + private gardens	183.4 ha
population per ha of open space (excl. golf courses + private gardens)	109
residential properties	10,002
%of res properties served by natural greenspaces >2ha within 300m	41%
served by Local Nature Reserve?	no

## Open Space within Renfrew



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Scale - 1:15,000 N W E S

## Fitness for Purpose - Renfrew

Type	Spaces surveyed
 Amenity greenspace for housing	14
 Neighbourhood park	5
 School grounds	5
 Sports playing fields	2
 Town park	1
 Sports golf course	1
 Amenity greenspace for business	1

	Woodland	1
	Open semi natural	1
Total		31

Score summary

	Overall fitness for purpose	Accessibility	Biodiversity	Attractive	Community
Renfrewshire	<b>77</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>65</b>
Renfrew	<b>79</b>	84	70	82	68

A total of 31 spaces were surveyed in Renfrew. These include a diverse range of open space types which together provide the town with a valuable resource. The location of these spaces is well distributed across Renfrew, with the more formal spaces of Robertson Park (SS\_332) and King George V Playing Fields (SS\_337) situated towards the centre of the town. To the west of the settlement, Renfrew Golf Club (SS\_349) provides the largest open space in the town, and allows access along part of its boundary close to the Clyde. In the absence of many other semi-natural areas, a large area of woodland next to the golf course (SS\_350) provides an important habitat for wildlife.

Reflecting the town's continued growth, a number of new open spaces have also been created, including Clyde View Park (SS\_352), a new neighbourhood park with a range of bright and attractive facilities. New synthetic grass pitches recently constructed at Renfrew High School (SS\_338) also provide an important leisure resource for the surrounding community.

The overall scores show that this settlement generally has good quality open spaces, with the average composite score of 79% slightly better than for Renfrewshire as a whole (77%).

**The open spaces surveyed within Renfrew are generally of good quality with minor areas for improvement identified in relation to accessibility, attractiveness and community. Biodiversity is a key theme to take forward in Renfrew. A number of the spaces are relatively isolated and do not form a cohesive biodiversity network. There may be opportunities for ensuring that the development of future spaces make a positive contribution to connectivity and the value of some spaces could be improved through additional tree and shrub planting.**

Further detail in relation to each of the four themes can be found in Appendix B.4, and maps illustrating the distribution of open space scores are in Appendix B.6.