

East Dunbartonshire
Draft Greenspace Strategy
2026 – 2031

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Foreword

East Dunbartonshire has an exceptional network of parks, woodlands, waterways and urban greenspaces that help shape the character of our towns and villages while providing our communities with places to socialise, relax, play and connect with nature. As we face the growing challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss, these assets are becoming increasingly recognised as essential public infrastructure — critical to the health and wellbeing of our communities, the resilience of our places, and the recovery of nature. How we plan, design, manage and invest in our greenspaces will play a defining role in shaping the future of East Dunbartonshire and the quality of life for current and future generations.

The Greenspace Strategy 2026–2031 sets out the Council’s response to these urgent and interconnected challenges. It marks a decisive step forward, by introducing a bold new approach that reimagines our parks, play spaces, woodlands, waterways and streetscapes as part of a wider, connected network of blue and green infrastructure — woven into the fabric of everyday life and working harder for people and nature alike. At its heart, the Strategy sets out an ambitious vision for greenspaces that are climate resilient, biodiversity rich and socially inclusive. It recognises that access to high-quality greenspace should be equitable, welcoming and safe for everyone, supporting physical and mental wellbeing, providing opportunities for play and learning, and cultivating a strong sense of local identity and civic pride. At the same time, it acknowledges the vital role greenspaces play in tackling climate risks, regulating temperature, managing water sustainably, improving air quality and restoring ecological connectivity across our urban and rural landscapes.

Delivering this vision will require more than incremental change. It demands innovation in how we plan and design new development, shifting towards more ecologically sensitive and care-focused approaches to greenspace management, and closer collaboration across Council services, partner organisations, developers and local communities. This Strategy embraces that challenge — championing nature-based solutions, climate-ready parks, nature networks and urban greening as integral components of placemaking.

This is a strategy about more than greenspace alone. It is about resilience, wellbeing and fairness; about investing in the natural environment and green skills; and about ensuring that East Dunbartonshire is well placed to adapt to a changing climate, while enhancing the places where people

live, work, learn and play. I am proud to support this Strategy and look forward to seeing how its ambitions are delivered — helping to shape a greener, healthier and more resilient East Dunbartonshire for years to come.

Councillor Paul Ferretti

Convenor of Place, Neighbourhood and Corporate Assets committee

Part 1: Introduction

East Dunbartonshire has a wealth of natural and semi-natural blue and green assets and an extensive network of urban and rural greenspaces that provide opportunities for people to enjoy the natural environment, while providing a haven for plants and wildlife. We have a number of high-quality parks, gardens, children's and youth play spaces, as well as [sports pitches and playing fields](#), all of which offer opportunities for socialising, recreation, sport and play, and contribute to the quality of life for those living and working in the area.

Our urban greenspaces act as multi-functional spaces for both people and nature. They provide essential habitat for plants and wildlife and act as stepping stones through densely populated areas, helping to improve connectivity and people's access to nature. They also provide vital ecosystem services, such as temperature regulation, carbon sequestration, pollution reduction and flood management, all of which are becoming increasingly important as our climate changes, and we experience more extreme weather events. It is more important than ever that our greenspaces can cope with these increasing pressures, all while supporting biodiversity and providing a safe, welcoming, inclusive and accessible space for people to relax, socialise and play.

1.1. A new approach

Our greenspaces are facing significant challenges as a result of the impact of the twin global climate and nature crises. Vital ecosystems are being degraded and nature is being lost at an alarming rate. Across East Dunbartonshire and beyond, land use change is contributing to the loss, fragmentation and degradation of natural habitats and undermining the health and resilience of our local ecosystems. These pressures stem from a complex range of environmental and human-driven factors. The expansion of built environments and the continued conversion of greenfield land is eroding natural habitats, while urban pollution – such as air, noise, water and light, further degrade ecological systems. The dominance of hard, impermeable surfaces like roads, buildings and car parks fragments landscapes and disrupts natural water and soil systems. At the same time, climate change intensifies these impacts, and the spread of invasive non-native species (INNS) places additional strain on already vulnerable ecosystems.

In East Dunbartonshire, these trends are already affecting local communities. Increased surface water flooding, pressure on drainage infrastructure, increasing urban temperatures, loss of biodiversity rich habitats and a lack of access to high quality greenspaces are increasingly visible challenges. These impacts are not only environmental but social, affecting health, wellbeing and resilience, particularly in areas with limited access to multi-functional open space. This Strategy is therefore focused on how greenspaces can actively address these local challenges and deliver benefits for people, nature and place. Against this backdrop, the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) sets out a clear and ambitious direction to tackle biodiversity loss and climate change together through proactive, place-based planning. Policies such as Biodiversity, Designing Places for People and Blue and Green Infrastructure mark a shift towards a new model of development, one that places nature, climate resilience, and community wellbeing at the heart of how we shape our places. The Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to 2045 reinforces this direction, recognising the climate and nature crises as interconnected challenges requiring urgent and transformative action with a vision to halt biodiversity loss by 2030 and restore nature by 2045.

Across Scotland, climate impacts originally projected over the next three decades are already being felt today. Our hottest days are getting hotter, and our wettest days are getting wetter. Scotland's 10 hottest years have all occurred since 1997¹ and average precipitation has risen by 20%.² These changes translate to very real climate risks for East Dunbartonshire, including increased surface water flooding, pressure on drainage and transport infrastructure, overheating in built-up areas and greater stress on natural ecosystems and public health. There is therefore an urgent need to build

¹ Adaptation Scotland (2024) [Adaptation Scotland:: Climate trends and projections](#)

² Scottish Government (2019) [Appendix B: Environmental Baseline - Scottish climate change adaptation programme 2019-2024: strategic environmental assessment - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

resilience against these climate risks to protect the social, environmental and economic wellbeing of East Dunbartonshire. Our greenspaces have a critical role to play in this response. By embedding nature-based solutions and blue and green infrastructure, we can reduce flood risk, manage surface water, cool urban areas and create more adaptable greenspaces that support thriving ecosystems and healthier, safer communities. The Climate Change Committee recognises that nature-based measures such as these are ‘vital for Scotland to achieve its longer-term [net zero] targets’ helping to reduce emissions by 8% by 2035 and 13% by 2045.³

At the same time, biodiversity is declining faster than at any time in human history and the UK is now considered to be one of the most nature depleted countries in the world. In Scotland we have experienced a significant decline in biodiversity in recent decades, largely driven by habitat loss from urban expansion and land-use change, climate change, pollution and intensive agricultural management practices. The 2023 State of Nature report⁴ highlights a 15% decline in average abundance of monitored species since 1994, with Scotland ranking in the bottom quartile globally for biodiversity intactness, having retained just over half (56%) of our historic land-based biodiversity.⁵ There is therefore an urgent need to address species decline and habitat loss at pace and scale, with East Dunbartonshire playing an important role in halting and reversing biodiversity loss locally.

Our greenspaces are more than just ecological assets, they are essential social and placemaking infrastructure, supporting recreation, play, health and wellbeing and a strong sense of community identity. They shape how people experience their local neighbourhoods on a day-to-day basis, providing spaces to meet, move, play, rest and connect with nature close to home. Equitable access to high quality greenspace can directly influence people’s quality of life, public health outcomes, environmental resilience and the long-term social and economic value of local places. Well-designed and well-managed greenspaces also play a vital role in shaping successful places and supporting economic vitality. They enhance the attractiveness of neighbourhoods and town centres, support regeneration and investment, and can add value to new development when planned as an integral part of placemaking. Recent investment in greenspaces such as at Bishopbriggs Public Park, Lennoxtown Greenspace Project and the new Climate Ready Park at Etive Park demonstrate how quality greenspace can also increase access to food growing, expand play opportunities and contribute to local identity. More broadly, greenspaces help define local character and landscape setting, reflect cultural heritage and distinctiveness, and foster pride and a stronger connection to place among residents.

³ Climate Change Committee [Scotland's Carbon Budgets - Climate Change Committee](#)

⁴ 2023 State of Nature Report [State of Nature 2023 - report on the UK's current biodiversity](#)

⁵ Natural History Museum [Biodiversity Intactness Index | Natural History Museum](#)

This Strategy recognises greenspaces as multifunctional assets delivering for people, place and nature in the face of the twin climate and nature crises. In response to these challenges, it sets out a new approach to greenspace planning, design and management in East Dunbartonshire to improve the quality, accessibility and resilience of our greenspaces, and ensure they are inclusive and responsive to local needs. The Strategy aims to create a connected network of places that support nature recovery, climate adaptation and thriving, healthy communities across East Dunbartonshire.

1.2. Our Mission

To deliver a well-connected network of high-quality, nature rich greenspaces that are resilient to climate change, support biodiversity, enhance physical and mental wellbeing, and instil a sense of civic pride in communities in the local natural and built urban environment.

1.3. Six themes

Our mission has been divided into six priority themes that will guide the delivery and management of East Dunbartonshire's greenspaces and set out the strategic priorities for the next five years. Each theme contains objectives against which the actions of the strategy will be assessed.

Adapt and green urban areas

Objectives:

- 1.1. Retrofit existing parks, open spaces and civic spaces with nature-based solutions to strengthen climate resilience, enhance biodiversity and improve ecological connectivity.
- 1.2. Expand and integrate blue and green infrastructure to manage surface water, reduce flood risk and regulate temperature in urban areas.
- 1.3. Target urban greening in areas of greatest need, including areas with high flood risk, low canopy cover or significant health inequalities.

Restore and enhance nature

Objectives:

- 2.1. Design and manage greenspaces to support a diverse range of habitats and species, contributing to nature recovery and biodiversity targets.
- 2.2. Strengthen ecological connectivity by developing a network of nature-rich corridors that allow people, plants and wildlife to move more easily between them.
- 2.3. Prevent, control and where possible eradicate invasive non-native species to reduce the threat to our native habitats and ecosystems.
- 2.4. Enhance the resilience of habitats and ecosystems to climate change through restoration, expansion and improved management.

Healthy, inclusive and connected places

Objectives:

- 3.1. Ensure all greenspaces are welcoming, accessible and inclusive, providing opportunities for recreation, learning, social interaction and play for people of all ages and abilities.
- 3.2. Design and manage greenspaces to promote physical activity, reduce stress, improve mental wellbeing and foster social connection; creating restorative environments that support long-term community resilience.
- 3.3. Engage and empower communities through participatory approaches, such as a Biodiversity Partnership Group and citizen-led projects, to secure climate resilience and biodiversity benefits in our greenspaces.

Skills, partnership and investment

Objectives:

- 4.1. Strengthen partnership working across Council services, external organisations, charities and communities to improve greenspace quality.
- 4.2. Develop a skilled workforce with the knowledge and capacity to advance knowledge of biodiversity and deliver nature friendly management to improve the quality of our greenspaces.
- 4.3. Foster a culture of collaborative learning and working to develop smarter solutions for the management of our greenspaces.
- 4.4. Explore innovative finance models and secure sustainable funding to support long-term delivery; and promote shared learning with partners on sustainable greenspace management.

Stewardship, culture and care

Objectives:

- 5.1. Embed a care-centred approach to greenspace management that recognises complex ecological processes and delivers long-term resilience.
- 5.2. Foster a culture that values nature as essential to community wellbeing, strengthens people's connection to place and nature, and nurtures a shared responsibility to protect and care for the natural environment.
- 5.3. Support volunteering and community participation to strengthen local stewardship of greenspaces.

Planning, policy & development

Objectives:

- 6.1. Embed multifunctional greenspace, inclusive play and nature-based solutions within LDP3, ensuring alignment with NPF4 policy priorities.
- 6.2. Develop and implement an Urban Greening Factor metric to increase and secure measurable improvements in the quantity, quality and functionality of blue and green infrastructure in new development.
- 6.3. Ensure development contributes to ecological connectivity and supports wildlife in urban areas.
- 6.4. Design and manage our greenspaces to enhance economic wellbeing for people and planet.

1.4. Policy context

The Greenspace Strategy has been prepared in response to the requirements of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 and the National Planning Framework 4 (2023). It also follows the guidance in Planning Advice Note 65 (PAN 65), which provides a framework for protecting, enhancing and promoting accessible, high-quality open space as an essential component of successful placemaking. The strategy aligns closely with the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to 2045, which highlights the urgent need to restore nature and create connected, healthy and resilient ecosystems through the delivery of nature networks, blue and green infrastructure and nature-based solutions across both urban and rural environments.

In developing the Greenspace Strategy, it was important to consider the wider strategic and policy landscape – internationally, nationally, regionally and locally. Aligning with existing legislation, guidance, plans, programmes and strategies ensures that the strategy is not only compatible with other frameworks but also positioned to support and justify the delivery and funding of future greenspace projects. This alignment strengthens the case for investment, minimises potential conflicts, and ensures that East Dunbartonshire Council's approach contributes meaningfully to broader environmental, social and economic goals.

Table 1. Policy Context

UK and International	National	Regional	Local
United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 31	Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended	Glasgow Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership: Green Network Strategy	Forthcoming Local Development Plan 3
EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy	Planning (Scotland) Act 2019	Glasgow Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership: The Blueprint	Climate Action Plan
UK Net Zero Strategy 2021	Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003	Clydeplan Forest and Woodland Strategy 2020	Food Growing Strategy
UK Agricultural Act 2020	Forthcoming Natural Environment Bill	Clyde and Loch Lomond Local Plan District Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2022 – 2028 (Cycle 2)	Forthcoming Active Travel Strategy
UK Environment Act 2021	National Planning Framework 4		Local Development Plan 2
	Planning Advice Note: 65 (PAN65)		Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2017 – 2027
	Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to 2045: Tackling the Nature Emergency		Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2017 – 2021
	Draft Open Space Strategies and Play Sufficiency Assessment Regulations		Sustainability and Climate Change Framework

	Planning Guidance: Play Sufficiency Assessment		Local Transport Strategy 2020 – 2025
	Third Land Use Strategy 2021 – 2026		Local Housing Strategy 2022 – 2028
	The Environment Strategy for Scotland: Vision and Outcomes 2020		Economic Recovery Plan
	Scotland’s Draft Climate Change Plan: 2026 - 2040		Circular Economy Strategy 2023
	Scottish National Adaptation Plan 2024 – 2029		Sports Pitches Strategy
	Natural Capital Market Framework		East Dunbartonshire Tree Management Policy
	Cleaner Air for Scotland 2: Towards a Better Place for Everyone 2021		
	Green Infrastructure: Design and Placemaking Guidance		

	Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009		
	Making Things Last: A Circular Economy Strategy for Scotland 2016		
	Active Travel Framework		
	The Cycling Framework for Active Travel		
	NatureScot Open space audit and strategy – The OSS Hub		

Part 2: Development of the Strategy

2.1. Early engagement

The existing Open Space Strategy 2015-2020 and Green Network Strategy 2017-2022 will be replaced by the Greenspace Strategy. As part of the development of the strategy, the Council undertook early engagement with relevant key partners and local stakeholders from 26 August to 28 September 2020. This process was designed to ensure that the strategy – encompassing open space, play sufficiency and the green network – would be informed by a wide range of community perspectives and local insight. A range of engagement and communication methods were used to reach as many people as possible.

Online Consultation

As part of the early engagement process, four online consultation events, targeting the four geographic areas of East Dunbartonshire, were held via Microsoft Teams due to COVID-19 restrictions. The sessions were structured around the core themes of open space, play sufficiency and the green network. Participants were invited to provide feedback on specific issues relating to the themes to help inform their development in the strategy. Following this, a suite of online surveys on play sufficiency were developed to gather views from key groups, including children (5-10 years old), young people (11-17 years old), parents and carers, and community groups and relevant organisations working with children and young people. The surveys sought to capture perceptions on the quality and accessibility, and barriers, to play in East Dunbartonshire. Key concerns raised by participants included:

- the need for more diverse, inclusive and age-appropriate play provision;
- concerns around safety, maintenance and anti-social behaviour; x
- a strong interest in nature-based play and more adventurous play equipment, and
- barriers such as poor weather, lack of time and limited evening access, particularly when dark.

[The Ideas Map](#)

The Council also prepared an online mapping platform using Participatr to gather location-specific information. Participants were invited to place comments on a digital map and categorise their suggestions across the three themes of open space, play sufficiency and the green network. A total of 179 participants contributed. Open space received the largest share of feedback (38%), followed by play sufficiency (35%) and the green network (27%). Some of the key priorities that emerged from the ideas map included: the enhancement of existing open spaces, particularly through improved path networks and biodiversity planting, improved play provision for older children and young people, such as BMX and skate park facilities, and improvements to green active travel infrastructure with a focus on safety and connectivity.

[Inclusive and all-ability access](#)

Throughout the early engagement process, the importance of inclusive and all-ability access was consistently raised. Respondents highlighted the need for accessible routes, inclusive play areas and spaces designed with the needs of disabled users, older people and those with mobility challenges to be prioritised. These views have been actively considered in the development of the strategy. To ensure that the final strategy fully responds to the needs of all users, full consultation will be undertaken during the next phase of engagement, including targeted sessions with disabled groups, children and young people, and organisations representing women and girls. This commitment reflects the Council's ambition to develop greenspaces that are welcoming, safe and accessible to everyone in the community. More broadly, the early engagement process reflects the Council's commitment to collaborative and inclusive strategy development. The diverse range of inputs received have helped inform the development of the mission, themes and objectives of the Greenspace Strategy. By integrating this early insight from the report of consultation, the strategy can better respond to the issues affecting local communities, while meeting the challenges of the dual climate and nature crises.

Feedback gathered during early engagement has helped shape the direction, priorities and structure of the Greenspace Strategy. Community and stakeholder input has directly influenced the development of the mission, themes and objectives, placing a stronger emphasis on inclusive access, diverse and accessible play opportunities, enhanced open spaces and improved biodiversity.

[2.2. Local policy drivers](#)

[Local Outcomes Improvement Plan](#)

The Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-2027 sets out a shared vision and long-term priorities for improving the lives of people across East Dunbartonshire, with a particular focus on reducing inequalities and improving health and wellbeing. The LOIP is guided by six local outcomes. The Greenspace Strategy directly supports the outcomes of the LOIP by recognising the many roles that nature-rich places play in people's lives. Well-designed greenspaces attract investment, support local employment in green industries, and enhance the quality of place for residents and businesses. Community-led greenspace projects build resilience, strengthen local identity and civic pride, and create opportunities for volunteering and learning. Having access to safe, inclusive and multifunctional greenspace has proven benefits for mental and physical health, while embedding nature-based solutions in our towns and villages contributes to climate adaptation and long-term environmental sustainability. In doing so, the Greenspace Strategy helps deliver the LOIP's vision of better, fairer outcomes for all, particularly those who experience inequality or face barriers to accessing high-quality greenspace.

[Emerging Local Development Plan 3](#)

The Greenspace Strategy will play a key role in informing the forthcoming LDP3 by providing a robust and up-to-date evidence base to support local policy development and the spatial planning of the area. This includes the delivery of national requirements such as the Open Space Audit, Play Sufficiency Assessment, and the identification and spatial definition of Nature Networks, as required by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 and NPF4. These assessments will help guide decisions on land-use, allocations for new development, and infrastructure priorities – ensuring that open space, play and biodiversity are embedded as core components of placemaking across East Dunbartonshire. The strategy will also provide a framework for integrating nature-based solutions and blue and green infrastructure into new development, contributing to climate resilience, increasing nature-rich places, and creating healthy, sustainable communities.

[Climate Action Plan](#)

The Climate Action Plan (CAP) will lead East Dunbartonshire's pathway to net zero to meet both our statutory requirements as a public body and advance the Council's climate resilience in a warming world. The CAP's mission stems from the dual opportunity of climate action - to harness the well-documented economic benefits of the green transition while maintaining a firm commitment to advancing climate equity and a just transition. The Greenspace Strategy will be a key delivery mechanism for the Sustainable Communities and Natural Environment Themes of the CAP. This is primarily through the protection, creation and enhancement of greenspaces throughout East Dunbartonshire with significant benefits anticipated regarding biodiversity enhancement, reducing the urban heat island effect, improving local air quality, improving flood attenuation and increasing carbon sequestration. Objectives 3 and 5 of the CAP seek to embed climate and biodiversity considerations into Council decision-making processes and maximise the co-benefits of local climate action through nature-based solutions and improve community health and wellbeing. The GSS will support the delivery of these objectives.

[2.3. Partnership working](#)

Partnership working has been central to the development of the Greenspace Strategy. The Council has worked closely with internal services to ensure alignment across planning, greenspace management, climate and sustainability, biodiversity and active travel, supporting a coordinated and integrated approach to strategy development and delivery. The Council has also worked collaboratively with the Glasgow City Region Green Network (GCRGN) to inform the development of the GCR Nature Network, including the preparation of opportunity mapping for key habitats such as woodland, wetland and grassland. This partnership has ensured that the Strategy aligns with wider regional priorities and contributes to a joined-up approach to nature recovery across the Glasgow City Region.

The successful delivery of the Strategy will require ongoing collaboration with a wide range of partners. Key organisations include NatureScot, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Forestry, Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS), Scottish Canals, Green Action Trust (GAT), The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) and the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT), alongside neighbouring local authorities. Equally important is the role of local stakeholders, including community groups, community councils, landowners and developers, in shaping and delivering projects on the ground.

Part 3: Responding to the climate and nature crises

The Greenspace Strategy acknowledges the urgency of the twin climate and biodiversity crises and sets out a renewed commitment to inclusive, climate resilient and biodiversity rich greenspaces. As environmental pressures mount and competing demands on greenspaces increase, the Council recognises the need to fundamentally transform how these spaces are designed and managed. This transformation is essential to ensure greenspaces continue to meet the needs of local communities, while providing vital habitats for plants and wildlife.

3.1. Designing for climate resilience and biodiversity

The accelerating impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss require a fundamental shift in how greenspaces are designed, delivered and managed. Blue and green infrastructure must be recognised as essential infrastructure, playing a central role in strengthening community resilience, supporting nature recovery and improving the quality of our places. Designing for climate resilience and biodiversity means embedding nature-based solutions at the earliest stages of planning and design. Features such as living green roofs, street trees, rain gardens and other Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs), wildflower meadows, permeable surfaces, and habitat rich structures should be integral to the layout and function of places, rather than added retrospectively. When designed as connected, multifunctional systems, these living elements can successfully manage surface water, reduce urban heat, support wildlife, improve air quality and enhance health and wellbeing.

To achieve this, blue and green infrastructure will be prioritised across Council operations, development and regeneration projects. Greenspaces will be designed to be adaptable, nature-rich and inclusive, delivering multiple benefits for people and nature over the long term. This approach positions blue and green infrastructure as a key component of placemaking in East Dunbartonshire, ensuring that climate resilience and biodiversity enhancement are embedded as standard practice in the design of our built and natural environments.

A new design approach

The Greenspace Strategy sets out a commitment to develop a new nature-based design model (AWA5) which will provide the basis for the development of greenspace policy in LDP3: one that maximises functionality, resilience and inclusivity, while actively supporting ecological recovery and climate adaptation. Nature-based solutions will be central to this design ethos. Unfortunately, their integration in development so far has too often been poorly implemented, as evidenced by the *Lost Nature* report from Wild Justice (2024)⁶. The report identified widespread failures in the delivery of ecological features on development sites across the UK. These were either never implemented or failed post-construction due to inadequate design, poor planting choices and a lack of long-term management. These failures not only undermine biodiversity goals but also diminish public trust in nature-based development and result in long-term maintenance liabilities. To avoid repeating these mistakes, nature-based solutions must be designed and delivered as technically robust, long-term infrastructure, rather than as decorative afterthoughts.

⁶ Wild Justice [Lost Nature - housing developers fail to deliver their ecological commitments. - Wild Justice](#)

Examples from across the UK and internationally show how transformational change can be achieved when blue and green infrastructure is embedded as a driver of design rather than an obligation to be met. In Sheffield, the award-winning Grey to Green programme has repurposed redundant road infrastructure into a vibrant network of rain gardens and pollinator corridors, delivered through a unique partnership between the City Council, University of Sheffield and Green Estate Community Interest Company (CIC). This social enterprise has pioneered resilient urban planting and long-term care models suited to low intervention and high-impact urban greening. This joint approach demonstrates how integrated design, evidence-based research, and community-centred stewardship can combine to deliver enduring ecological and social benefits. In London, the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park demonstrates how biodiverse SuDs, wetlands and climate resilient planting schemes can be woven into high-density development, backed by a long-term management strategy, to transform a former industrial site into a thriving, urban environment, designed for climate adaptation, that has helped improve access to nature for communities and visitors across London. Similarly, Mayfield Park in Manchester has transformed a former industrial site into a climate resilient public park, with innovative flood-adaptive design and destination play facilities delivered through strong public-private collaboration. Together, these projects demonstrate what is possible when investment, innovation and long-term stewardship come together.

In East Dunbartonshire, we will take inspiration from these examples, while embedding a transformational approach to greenspace design and management that works with nature to deliver lasting benefits for people, communities and biodiversity. We will review best practice examples to ensure the most innovative approaches are translated into East Dunbartonshire's context as a peri-urban authority. While cities such as Sheffield, Manchester and London show what can be achieved at scale, our ambition is to adapt these principles to smaller towns, villages and peri-urban landscapes where greenspaces often serve multiple functions, including recreation, flood management, temperature regulation, improved biodiversity and active travel.

The new nature-based design model will embed these principles into policy and practice, supported by tools such as the Urban Greening Factor (UGF) and the Blue and Green Infrastructure Focus Map. The model will also incorporate the core principles of the circular economy, alongside water sensitive urban design and emerging technologies, such as power parks. In practice, this will mean reusing materials in creative, nature-friendly ways; reframing water as a valuable resource and managing it for people and nature through features such as rain gardens, street trees and permeable paving; and even exploring how parks themselves can generate renewable energy for local communities, utilising Greenspace Scotland's Green Heat in Greenspaces data. A schematic diagram of the proposed nature-based design model is being prepared for consultation.

Delivery will be achieved through close partnership with developers, landowners, local communities and private investors (AWA21), ensuring that interventions – from housing development to infrastructure upgrades and parks improvements – contribute to climate resilience, biodiversity recovery and inclusive, high-quality places. In doing so, East Dunbartonshire can not only follow best practice but demonstrate leadership across Scotland by showing how nature-based solutions and blue and green infrastructure can be scaled and mainstreamed across a peri-urban setting.

Greenspaces for all

We know that well-designed and cared for greenspaces can create opportunities for all sections of the community to interact. They can promote a sense of place and be a source of community pride, as well as offering opportunities for people to play an active part in the stewardship of their local environment. High quality greenspace and nearby countryside can make a positive contribution to physical and mental health, and to the wellbeing of communities. People of all ages can benefit from safe and attractive places to walk, wheel and cycle to meet and socialise. Ensuring that all communities have access to high quality greenspace can help to reduce greenspace inequity and support economically vibrant communities. Ensuring all communities have equitable access to high quality greenspace is a priority of this Strategy.

Furthermore, the quality of our civic spaces is intrinsically linked to the attractiveness of our greenspace. By delivering attractive and resilient urban greenspaces we can promote East Dunbartonshire as a place to invest in and help raise the quality of local business, retail and leisure development. By extending and enhancing our greenspaces in urban areas we can also maximise the multiple ecosystem services gained from nature-based solutions, including the regulation of flooding, drought and land degradation, and the delivery of social, educational and recreational opportunities (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005)). High-quality greenspaces can be powerful drivers of economic regeneration and inward investment. A review by Forest Research found that for every £1 of public money invested in greenspace projects we can leverage an average of £4.20 in private investment. This multiplier effect underscores the value of public investment in blue and green infrastructure as a means to stimulate broader economic development. This Strategy is committed to ensuring that the economic and social returns of greenspace investment benefits local people and businesses.

3.2. A new approach to managing greenspaces

We know that traditional maintenance models – based on uniform mowing schedules, chemical treatments and reactive interventions - will no longer be sufficient in meeting the challenges of the climate and biodiversity crises. Instead, we need to take a whole-system approach and apply new thinking and evidence-based methodologies to deliver a more sensitive, informed and care-focussed greenspace management practice. We must shift from a system of routine maintenance to a culture of long-term care – a model grounded in ecological understanding, horticultural expertise, attentiveness and place-based stewardship. This approach acknowledges greenspaces as dynamic, living systems that evolve over time and require sensitive, site-specific responses. It sees management not as a checklist of maintenance tasks but as a long-term process of care, grounded in the relationship between people, place and nature. A key part of this move towards a care-based management practice will be recognising our interdependence with the natural world and fostering a respectful co-existence that benefits both people and nature. This approach moves beyond viewing nature solely as a resource; instead, embracing its intrinsic value and the essential services it provides, such as clean air, water, food, shelter and physical and mental wellbeing. By embedding an ethic of care and attentiveness into our interactions with nature, we can shift from an anthropocentric perspective to one that sees humans as integral parts of the ecological community.

Managing greenspaces in this way means understanding their role not just as standalone sites, but as part of a much larger ecological and social network – securing climate resilience, enhancing biodiversity and ecological connectivity, improving public health and wellbeing and contributing to local identity and civic pride. This shift in management will require us to re-examine many of the everyday interventions that have come to define greenspace management. Practices such as routine mowing, blanket weed suppression, heavy pruning and seasonal clearances have often been driven by inherited standards of neatness and control. While these actions may be visually familiar, they frequently disrupt natural cycles, diminish habitat quality, and rely on inputs, like fossil fuel use and chemical applications, that conflict with ecological goals. In a care-based model, these practices are not abandoned, but reimagined. Grass may be cut less often, but with more purpose. Edges may be softened to allow wildflowers to bloom. Leaf litter and deadwood may be left on site to support soil life and overwintering species. Each action is guided not by habit, but by attentiveness – asking what is best for this place, at this time, for the users it supports. This approach repositions management as an on-going relationship between people and nature, one that is responsive, respectful and rooted in ecological understanding. It is not about doing less, but doing differently.

The Council recognises that public expectations of greenspace have been shaped by decades of conventional uniformity – mown lawns, clipped hedges and weed-free beds. This strategy challenges those expectations by demonstrating that a cared-for space doesn't always look tidy – it looks

alive. Through signage, interpretation and community involvement, we can help shift perceptions from seeing these spaces as neglected to recognising them as deliberate, thoughtfully managed and deeply beneficial to both people and nature. By allowing our greenspaces to become a little wilder, while still being accessible, safe and welcoming, we can invite a curiosity to explore, discover and play, and help people to see nature as something dynamic and evolving, rather than static and controlled.

To achieve this transition, the Council will adopt a more informed, ecologically sensitive and circular (resource-efficient) approach to greenspace management – one that moves away from routine, standardised practices and towards responsive, place-based care. This will require deeper integration between Council services, with cross-departmental collaboration, cross-sector partnerships and long-term planning becoming essential to deliver joined-up, local and landscape scale outcomes. It will also rely on developers, contractors, community groups and schools to co-design and co-deliver management that supports both biodiversity and local needs.

As we move towards a care-based greenspace management model, our approach to vegetation and weed management must also evolve. Historically, weed control has been shaped by outdated aesthetic ideals, where plants growing outside of designated beds or lawns are automatically treated as problems. In many cases, this has led to a reliance on herbicides for routine path edging, fence lines, tree circles and wider landscape management. While effective in the short-term, this approach has long-term costs, by reducing plant diversity, harming soil ecology, impacting plant-pollinator interactions and non-target species, and contributing to chemical run-off into water systems. The Council is committed to reducing herbicide use across its greenspaces and will continue to explore ways to reduce herbicide and other chemical applications in accordance with regulatory requirements and best practice, considering examples of successful trials in the UK and abroad. However, there are instances where herbicide use will be necessary, such as in the control and eradication of invasive non-native species and the management of pitches.

The shift towards a care-based approach to greenspace management requires a shared framework that sets out what good care looks like in practice, how it should be delivered and what it is intended to achieve. This includes improving ecological function, enhancing biodiversity and improving accessibility and inclusivity, while strengthening local landscape identity and delivering greenspaces that are both beautiful and resilient. To provide clarity, consistency and accountability in delivery, the Council will develop a Greenspace Care Practice Framework that establishes clear expectations and examples of good practice for the long-term care of our greenspaces.

Greenspace care practice framework

The framework will be developed as part of the preparation of LDP3 and will set out the core expectations and examples of good practice for delivering a care-led approach to greenspace management in East Dunbartonshire. The principles of care-based management – rooted in ecological and horticultural understanding, community stewardship and circular economy values – have been established in this strategy and are set out below.

Table 2. Principles of care-based management

Principle	What this means in practice
Work with nature	Observing and understanding the ecology of a site shapes our response and the most appropriate intervention at that time – which may include no intervention at all. Observe and respond sensitively to site-specific conditions and local ecologies and avoid unnecessary disturbance.
Design for co-existence	Greenspaces must provide for both people and nature. That means balancing ecological value with public access, play and social use. Grassland pockets, early succession zones, and wood-edge glades can be designed and managed for unstructured natural play. By adopting cues for care, such as mowing grass edges and strips through wildflower meadows we indicate that the site is being managed for multiple users.
Let nature lead	Biodiversity can often look messy, i.e. standing seedheads, deadwood, brash piles and overwintering perennials. These are not signs of neglect, they are signs of life, providing shelter, habitat and protection for a range of important species. We must cultivate attractive naturalistic greenspaces with a long season of interest, ‘dead’ or alive, and create confident complexity that supports local ecology.
Respond to place	No two greenspaces are the same. The care approach honours the unique identity of each site – its soils, contours, history, community and

	potential. Interventions should reflect what is needed in that specific space and be based on local knowledge and observations of the site.
Re-use and re-purpose 'waste'	Circularity is at the heart of the care model. Green waste should be composted or re-used on site, woody material repurposed as seating areas or designed habitat features, and prunings woven into dead hedges or brash piles for wildlife where possible. Site-won materials should be used for pathways, biodiversity-friendly features, such as gabions or habitat structures, reducing both the Council's carbon footprint and waste. Opportunities for the repurposing of waste for biodiversity both within the Council and in collaboration with local community groups, including allotments, will be considered a priority to help close the loop on waste disposal and support the Council's net zero ambitions.
Celebrate care as creativity	Greenspace care is not maintenance – it is a creative and responsive act that helps shape the feel of a place. This principle values attention, skill and the quiet artistry of stewardship.
Collective stewardship	Care is not something we do alone. The future of our greenspaces depends on partnership – between Council teams, contractors, schools, local businesses, the third sector, local groups and communities. We build trust through shared purpose, respect and long-term collaboration through skills and knowledge exchange. We all have a stake in the future success of our greenspaces. Recognising the important role of, and supporting, local communities, volunteer greenspace and Friends of groups, and regional schemes, such as the Tree Warden Volunteer Scheme, will be vital in securing successful greenspaces for all.
Investing in people and skills	A care-led approach requires skilled staff with access to training and learning opportunities. Green career pathways will underpin the success of this whole approach.

3.3. Delivering nature positive development

In line with the requirements of NPF4, development must deliver significant biodiversity enhancements, ensuring that proposals deliver positive effects for biodiversity, strengthen nature networks, improve habitats and enhance ecological connectivity. This means embedding nature at the very heart of design so that development contributes to the restoration and expansion of biodiversity, rather than simply mitigating its loss. However, despite policy commitments to integrate nature-based solutions into development, implementation has been lacking. The Wild Justice Lost Nature report (2024) found that only 53% of the ecological features promised by housebuilders in England in new development were delivered, which when excluding street trees drops to 34%.⁷ This kind of piecemeal greening is no longer sufficient. Future development must actively rebuild ecological networks and place nature on an equal footing with grey infrastructure, housing and transport.

In East Dunbartonshire, new development should not be seen as a pressure on the natural environment but as an opportunity to halt and reverse biodiversity decline by embedding climate resilient, nature rich greenspaces into the fabric of our towns and villages. All new development in East Dunbartonshire should contribute positively to our diverse natural environment and provide a net gain for nature and biodiversity. This approach demands a shift away from the current standardised model of development towards a nature-based design model rooted in place, ecology and climate resilience. It will require a radical rethink of how we plan, design and manage greenspaces, ensuring that nature is integrated from the outset. This means significantly increasing both the quantity and quality of blue and green space in our urban areas.

Translating this ambition into delivery requires clear, practical mechanisms within the local planning system. In recognising this, it is the aim of the Greenspace Strategy to influence how greenspaces and blue and green infrastructure are planned, designed and assessed through the LDP, ensuring that policy expectations are supported by tools that provide clarity for developers and consistency for planners. To support this approach, the Strategy promotes the use of nature networks as a spatial tool to guide development. Mapping of existing habitats, corridors and opportunity areas within the local and strategic nature networks will help the Council and developers understand how individual sites can contribute to a wider, connected ecological network. This enables development to strengthen ecological connectivity between nature-rich sites and deliver attractive, accessible greenspaces that are also functional for nature.

⁷ Wild Justice [Lost Nature - housing developers fail to deliver their ecological commitments.](#) - Wild Justice

Going further, the Urban Greening Factor (UGF) metric, as explained in section 3.4 below, will provide a practical mechanism to support planners and developers to quantify the ‘greening’ value of development proposals, prioritising nature-based solutions whilst enhancing the quantity and quality of greenspaces. Implemented alongside nature networks, the UGF will support early design discussions, help balance competing infrastructure requirements on constrained sites, prioritise natural solutions, and ensure that blue and green infrastructure is prioritised in a way that is proportionate, transparent and viable. The UGF forms one of the policy responses through which the Council intends to embed nature-based development in East Dunbartonshire.

3.4 Urban Greening Factor

The UGF is a planning tool designed to ensure that development meaningfully contributes to an increase in the quantity and quality of urban greening. As a scoring tool, the UGF allows planning authorities to set minimum greening thresholds for different types of development and embed biodiversity and climate considerations from the outset. The metric incentivises nature-based design innovation, encouraging multifunctionality, while providing a structured, measurable mechanism to assess contributions to urban cooling, surface water management, air quality, landscape design, and ecological connectivity, while creating attractive social and recreational spaces.

Originally developed in Berlin in the 1990s to address the loss of greenspace in increasingly dense urban areas, Urban Greening Factors or Green Space Factors, have since been adopted by cities around the world, including Malmö, Stockholm, Singapore, London and Southampton. As a planning tool, the UGF is particularly effective in encouraging greater prioritisation and investment in urban greening and ensuring that high-quality blue and green infrastructure is delivered as an integral part of new development. Its application supports planning authorities in responding to the increasing impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, urbanisation and land-use pressures, while improving the liveability and sustainability of the built environment.

In response to the *'need to accelerate urban greening'* as set out in NPF4, the Council is developing a local metric against which it can assess development applications for their contribution to urban greening, thus ensuring the delivery of commensurate high-quality blue and green infrastructure as part of new development. In doing so, development can help meet local and national ambitions for urban greening, biodiversity and nature recovery, and contribute to positive placemaking, while adapting to and mitigating against climate change. It is expected that the UGF will complement the forthcoming Scottish Biodiversity Planning Metric, currently being developed by NatureScot, and play a valuable role in supporting the delivery of the metric by embedding nature-rich habitats and ecological features throughout new development.

The UGF metric will set out a range of blue and green infrastructure surface cover types, assign a score to each type, and include relevant design standards and principles to be applied by developers when calculating their site's greening score. In addition, an accompanying guidance document will be prepared to support applicants in delivering meaningful and place appropriate urban greening. It is proposed that the UGF be adopted and applied through the LDP3.

Part 4: Understanding our greenspaces

The ambitious approach set out in the previous section establishes how we intend to plan for more resilient, nature-rich and inclusive places. Tools such as the UGF and nature-based design model will play a key role in shaping the quantity and quality of blue and green infrastructure and greenspace delivered through new development. However, their application must be informed by a clear understanding of existing greenspace provision and need across East Dunbartonshire so we understand where and how these ambitions should be targeted to achieve the greatest impact.

Considering this, the following sections of the Strategy present the findings of the Open Space Audit and Play Sufficiency Assessment, which together provide a comprehensive, place-based assessment of the quantity, quality and accessibility of open spaces and play provision across the local authority area. This evidence identifies where provision is sufficient, where there are shortfalls, and where improvements are required to meet the needs of communities. It also introduces the Council's approach to developing the East Dunbartonshire Nature Network, identifying existing habitats and opportunities to strengthen ecological connectivity across the area. This evidence base guides the spatial priorities for investment, supports the application of tools, such as the UGF, and supports the delivery of a nature-based design model and connected nature network across East Dunbartonshire. Together, these elements provide a clear and robust foundation for the Delivery Programme, ensuring that future interventions are targeted, coordinated and capable of delivering meaningful outcomes for people, place and nature.

Open Space and Play Sufficiency

The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 places a statutory duty on local authorities to prepare Open Space Strategies (OSS) and conduct Play Sufficiency Assessments (PSA). Together, these requirements help ensure that open spaces and play opportunities are thoughtfully planned, designed and managed to promote community wellbeing, support biodiversity and enhance climate resilience. The OSS requires planning authorities to audit existing open spaces to assess current provision and identify future needs.

Complementing this, the PSA focuses on evaluating the quantity, quality and accessibility of both formal and informal play spaces, ensuring that the diverse needs of children are met across all communities. Importantly, the PSA requires consultation with children, parents, carers and community councils to ensure that the voices of young people are integral to planning decisions. To meet these statutory duties effectively, the Council will take a coordinated, inclusive and outcomes-focussed approach that supports nature-positive solutions.

The following sections provide an overview of the Open Space Audit and Play Sufficiency Assessment and provide the main outcomes of these assessments.

4.1. Open Space Audit

The Open Space Audit (OSA) assesses the quantity, quality and accessibility of open spaces across East Dunbartonshire. It is undertaken by the Council to meet the duty set out under Section 3G of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. The Act requires planning authorities to undertake an audit of existing open space provision as part of the preparation of an open space strategy, providing an evidence base to assess current provision and identify future needs. In 2021, the Scottish Government consulted on draft regulations relating to Open Space Strategies. However, at the time of preparing this strategy, final regulations and guidance have not yet been published. In the interim, the preparation of the OSA and this strategy has been informed by existing best practice guidance – Planning Advice Note 65: Planning and Open Space (PAN 65) – which continues to provide the primary framework for assessing open space provision in Scotland.

The OSA provides a spatially robust assessment of parks and gardens, amenity greenspaces, natural and semi-natural greenspaces and other open spaces, identifying areas of sufficiency and shortfall and highlighting priorities for improvement. It forms a core part of the evidence base for the Greenspace Strategy, informing place-based actions and investment priorities to ensure that open spaces function as high-quality, accessible and inclusive community and nature-rich infrastructure. In accordance with PAN 65, the OSA adopted the following approach:

- Audit of open space provision and targeted community consultation
- Development of local quality, quantity and accessibility standards
- Application of local standards and analysis by settlement area
- A summary of key issues and priorities

A consultant was engaged to undertake an OSA on behalf of the Council. This audit involved reviewing, analysing and updating the work undertaken in an earlier audit completed in 2020. The methodology closely follows that of the 2020 audit. A key aspect of this approach was the categorisation of typologies of open space adopted for this audit. Typologies were updated where open spaces visited during the audit required reclassification or where new open spaces were identified. Children's Play Space and Youth Play were not included as part of the open space assessment and have been assessed separately in the Play Sufficiency Assessment.

Methodology

Baseline analysis of existing data

A baseline mapping exercise was conducted using Esri ArcGIS Pro to gain a comprehensive understanding of open space in East Dunbartonshire. Various data sources were analysed, including: existing OSA data from 2020, Ordnance Survey MasterMap Land Use, Glasgow City Region Green Network (GCRGN) Nature Networks Mapping, Ash Dieback data, EDC designation datasets, such as Conservation Areas, TPOs, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Local Landscape Areas, Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments and Green Belt, and comparative analysis of satellite imagery from 2020 and 2025 using Google Earth Pro. Further information was gathered from EDC Council officers.

Data refinement

Following the desktop data collection and analysis exercise, data was refined to only include publicly usable accessible open spaces of at least 0.2 hectares in size and with an access point within 400m of a settlement. Buildings and car parks have been included as part of open spaces where they are an integral part of the space or are associated with the space. Areas of water e.g. lakes, ponds have also been included where they fall within an open space. The audit focuses on open spaces within settlements but a further five sites outside settlements were agreed for inclusion:

- Baldernock Cemetery
- Campsie Glen
- Castleview
- Glenorchard Wood
- Schoenstadt

Assessment

The main aim of the audit was to provide an up-to-date assessment of the following aspects of open space in East Dunbartonshire:

- Quality
- Quantity
- Accessibility

Quality

An updated assessment criterion that sets out the quality standards for open spaces was established, based on the 2020 audit, with the addition of biodiversity and other amendments. To carry out the quality assessment, site visits to each open space were conducted during June and July 2025. To streamline the auditing process, Esri's ArcGIS Field Maps was used to electronically record assessments, enabling efficient data collection and subsequent analysis by the GIS team. This approach improved both the accuracy and efficiency of the audit. The quality criteria used to assess each site can be found in [Appendix 7](#).

Quantity

During the baseline mapping exercise, existing provision of open spaces over 0.2ha across EDC was calculated in hectares (ha). Quantity of provision was then measured against the population totals for each locality, measuring open space per 1000 population.

Accessibility

Accessibility was measured in terms of walking, wheeling and cycling. Walking analysis was conducted as part of the 2020 audit therefore only newly added open spaces were assessed for walking. Cycling analysis was also calculated for all the identified open spaces over 0.2ha.

Types of Open Space

The types of open space assessed in this Strategy are based on the typologies set out in PAN65: *Planning and Open Space*. These typologies provide a recognised framework for classifying open space according to its function and use and have been adapted to reflect the local context and characteristics of open space provision across East Dunbartonshire.

Table 3. Types of open space

Typology	Description
Parks and gardens	Areas of land normally enclosed, designed, constructed, managed as a public park or garden. May be owned or managed by community groups.
Amenity greenspace	Landscaped areas in or around residential areas used for a variety of informal or social activities such as sunbathing, picnics or kickabouts.
Natural/semi-greenspace	Areas of undeveloped or previously developed land with residual natural habitats, or areas which have been planted, or where vegetation has established and is used by wildlife, including woodland, wetland and grassland areas. The focus is on sites with public access that have defined boundaries rather than the wider countryside network.
Green corridors	Routes including canals, river corridors and old railway lines that link different areas within a town or city as part of a designated and managed network and used for walking, cycling or horse riding, or linking towns and cities to their surrounding countryside or country parks. These may link green spaces together.
Private gardens or grounds	Areas of land normally enclosed and associated with a house or institution and reserved for private use (includes school/university grounds).
Sports areas	Large and generally flat areas of grassland or specially designed surfaces used primarily for designated sports (including playing fields, golf courses, tennis courts and bowling greens) and which are generally bookable. Golf courses are excluded as generally these are not publicly useable.

Civic space	Squares, streets and waterfront promenades that provide a focus for pedestrian activity and can make connections for people and for wildlife. Also includes war memorials.
Cemeteries	Cemeteries and churchyards with public access.

Open Space Standards

Development of Open Space Standards

The standards for open space have been developed in line with the Fields in Trust (FIT) guidance and Planning Advice Note (PAN) 65. They take into account the minimum recommended standards for open space typologies promoted by FIT and go beyond these where appropriate, considering that in most areas in East Dunbartonshire open space provision exceeds these standards. In areas where there is a deficit of open space then the standards will bring this in line with existing open spaces.

The standards for open space have been developed in line with PAN 65 requirements and comprise the following components:

Accessibility – Spaces likely to be used on a frequent and regular basis need to be within easy walking, wheeling and cycling distance and have safe access. Other facilities where visits are longer but perhaps less frequent, for example country parks, can be further away.

Quality – Quality is a key component of open space. Open spaces need to be “fit for purpose” and serve local communities by providing a level of service and functional provision to meet informal leisure and recreational needs, as well as providing a space for nature to thrive.

Quantity – These are determined by the consideration of existing local and national standards and benchmarks, such as the FIT guidance and benchmarking undertaken in the 2020 audit.

Quantity Standards

The East Dunbartonshire quantity standards have been determined by the consideration of existing national and local standards and benchmarks. The East Dunbartonshire Council Open Space Strategy 2015 – 2020 set the following quantity standard for the localities in the local authority area – 1.8Ha per 1000 population of multi-functional open space.

The Fields in Trust Standards: Creating Great Spaces for All report proposes the following benchmark quantity guidelines for the open space typologies below:

- Parks and Gardens: 0.8Ha/1000 people
- Amenity Greenspace: 0.6Ha/1000 people
- Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace: 1.8Ha/1000 people

Quantity standards in other similar local authorities in the Central Belt of Scotland have been considered in Table 4. below.

Table 4. Quantity standards from similar local authorities

West Dunbartonshire Open Space Strategy	East Renfrewshire Supplementary Planning Document: Green Network and Environmental Management (June 2015)
The Open Space Strategy did not set specific quantity or access standards, although one of the objectives identified was to “establish the proportion of households with an accessible greenspace of at least 2ha in size within 300m and work to achieve a target of 100%”.	Sets the following standard for Amenity Greenspace (inclusive of active open space): 25m2-30m2 per dwelling It did not set specific access standards.

The West Dunbartonshire Local Plan (2010) (Policy R2) sets the following quantity standards for provision of open space in new development: 2.4ha/1000, of which 1.6 for outdoor sport and 0.8ha for children's play space/amenity space.	
Stirling Council Green Network (2014)	Falkirk Council Open Space Strategy (2010-2015)
Sets the following standards: Amenity greenspace: 8 sqm per person (N.B. this equates to 0.8ha/1000) (minimum size 500 sqm). Natural/semi natural greenspace and woodland: 20 sqm per person (N.B. this equates to 2.0Ha/1000) (minimum size 20,000 sqm (2Ha) for natural/semi natural greenspace and 2500 sqm (0.25Ha) for woodland. Public parks and gardens: 5 sqm per person (N.B. this equates to 0.5Ha/1000), minimum size 0.5 Ha (5000 sqm). Sports areas: 10 sqm per person (N.B. this equates to 1.0Ha/1000).	Sets the following open space quantity standard: Each community should have access to open space at a rate equivalent to 5ha/1000.

Considering the provision of open space by typology in East Dunbartonshire, existing standards and benchmarking, the following quantity standards are recommended below:

The current standard of 1.5Ha per 1000 population of multi-functional open space is considered robust and has therefore been adopted as part of the 2025 audit for the locality areas.

Table 5. shows the quantity standards per 1000 people used in this audit for the following open space typologies.

Table 5. Quantity standards per 1000 people

Typology	Quantity Standard (ha/1000)	Justification
Parks and gardens	2.0	In line with existing levels of provision.
Amenity greenspace	0.6	In line with existing levels of provision and the FIT standard.
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	2.0	A standard based on existing provision levels (4.42ha/1000) is not considered to be realistic or achievable in terms of new provision. A standard in line with the FIT standard (1.8ha/1000) and the Stirling Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace and Woodland standard (2.0ha/1000) is achievable in terms of new provision, and will highlight any areas that are particularly lacking in provision.
Sports areas	No standard	It is not part of the remit of the study to develop quantity standards for sports areas.
Private gardens and grounds	No standard	It is not part of the remit of the study to develop quantity standards for private gardens and grounds.
Green corridors	No standard	It is not part of the remit of the study to develop quantity standards for green corridors.
Civic space	No standard	It is not part of the remit of the study to develop quantity standards for civic space.
Cemeteries	No standard	It is not part of the remit of the study to develop quantity standards for cemeteries.
Total requirement	4.6ha/1000	

The proposed standards exceed the minimum standard recommendation in the FIT guidance for the Parks and Gardens typology by 1.2ha/1000 people and 0.2ha/1000 people for the natural and semi-natural typology. The standard for parks and gardens is in line with existing levels of provision across East Dunbartonshire. The Natural and Semi-Natural standard is set at 2ha/1000 people. While existing provision in East Dunbartonshire is higher (4.42 ha/1,000), this level is not realistic or achievable through new provision. A standard aligned with recognised benchmarks—such as FIT (1.8 ha/1,000) and Stirling Council (2.0 ha/1,000)—is therefore considered appropriate. This provides a deliverable target for future planning and helps identify areas where provision is comparatively lacking.

In line with PAN65 guidance, these standards have been developed to reflect the specific characteristics and needs of East Dunbartonshire. They recognise that a single, uniform standard will not be appropriate across all communities or for all types of open space. Different typologies serve different functions—from parks and gardens to natural and semi-natural spaces—and provision varies across urban and rural areas. As such, the standards should be applied with regard to local context, taking account of existing provision, settlement characteristics and community needs when guiding planning and investment decisions.

Quality standards

The first step in developing quality standards was to review the criteria for quality and quality audit bands developed in the 2020 audit and establish if the standards proposed were appropriate. The criteria for quality was reviewed and refined to reflect additions made to the biodiversity criteria in response to national policy changes, such as nature networks, and local woodland vulnerability to ash die-back. Five headline criteria were used: Access, Attractiveness/Place Appeal, Biodiversity, Functionality and Community Benefits. Each contains a series of questions with a score of 1 (Low), 3 (Average) or 5 (High), or 0 if not applicable. Following on-site assessment, the mean average of all the scores given for each site was calculated, providing an overall percentage score.

The quality audit bands provide a scoring framework to categorise sites into the appropriate band and establish whether they are fit for purpose (Bands A-C) or not fit for purpose (Bands D-E). The quality audit bands were reviewed and updated in the 2020 audit. It is considered that the bands are appropriate and robust and have therefore been carried forward in the 2025 audit. The scoring guide can be found in Table 6.

Table 6. Quality audit bands

Fit for purpose		
Band A	Excellent	80% or more
Band B	Very good	70-79%
Band C	Good	55-69%
Not fit for purpose		
Band D	Fair	45-54%
Band E	Poor	Less than 45%

The quality standard is based on the Greenspace Scotland and Glasgow City Region Green Network guidance, 'Greenspace Quality: A Guide to Assessment, Planning and Strategic Development', which was used in the East Dunbartonshire Open Space Strategy 2015. It is considered that these

standards are robust and therefore have been carried forward within this audit. Table 7 shows the quality standards for East Dunbartonshire. It is recommended that the parks and gardens typology achieve at least Band B and all remaining typologies achieve at least Band C.

Table 7. Quality standards

Typology	Quality Standard
Parks and gardens	Band A or B
Amenity greenspace	At least Band C
Natural and semi-natural Greenspace	At least Band C

Accessibility standards

The first step in developing accessibility standards was to review the approach taken in the 2020 Open Space Audit. This exercise drew on the accessibility standards set out in the East Dunbartonshire Open Space Strategy (OSS) 2015-2020, the FIT Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play report 'Beyond the Six Acre Standard', and benchmarking against comparable local authorities in the central belt of Scotland to establish recommended distance-based standards for walking. The OSS standards, FIT guidance recommendations and local authority benchmarking which were reviewed as part of the 2020 audit are set out below.

The East Dunbartonshire Council Open Space Strategy 2015 – 2020 established accessibility standards based on walking distances to different types of open space. These standards were informed by the Glasgow City Region Green Network standards and Fields in Trust "Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play" accessibility guidelines. The established Open Space Strategy 2015-2020 accessibility standards are:

- Regional space: 2km (25 minutes' walk time)
- Neighbourhood park: 840m (10 – 11 minutes' walk time)
- Local park: 400m (five minutes' walk time)

The FIT Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play report published in 2015 proposed the following benchmark accessibility standards:

- Amenity greenspace: 480m
- Parks and gardens: 710m
- Accessible natural greenspace: 720m

The 2015 report has been superseded by the Fields in Trust Standards: Creating Great Spaces for All report, published in 2024. Individual standards for the above typologies were not carried forward, instead the report recommends that:

- All homes should be within 200 – 300m walking distance of open space with everyone having access to the full range of open space types within 1000m.
- 10 minutes for every 800m walked is recommended as a guide for actual distance travelled. With consideration to be given to walking speeds of different ages and abilities.

In addition to the FIT guidance, access standards in similar local authorities in the central belt of Scotland were considered in Table 8 below.

Table 8. Access standards from similar local authorities

Stirling Council Green Network 2014	Falkirk Council Open Space Strategy 2010-2015
Sets the following standards: • Amenity Greenspace: 5 minutes' walk (300m straight line distance) • Natural/Semi-natural Greenspace and Woodland: 10-minutes' walk (500m straight line distance) • Public Parks and Gardens: 5 minutes' walk (400m straight line distance) • Sports areas: 10 minutes' walk (400m straight line distance)	Sets the following standards: • People should live no more than 400m (5 minutes' walk) from a surveyed open space. • People should live no more than 400m (5 minutes' walk) from a public park, garden or amenity space of greater than 2000m². • People should live no more than 1200m (15 minutes' walk) from an open space containing a sports area. • People should live no more than 1200m (15 minutes' walk) from a natural/semi-natural open space.

The above standards and benchmarking were considered as part of the development of access standards for open space in East Dunbartonshire in the 2020 audit. The proposed access standards for different typologies of open space in 2020 are set out in Table 9 below.

Table 9. 2020 Proposed access standards for East Dunbartonshire

Typology	Hierarchy	Access standard (walk/wheel time and straight-line distance)
Public parks and gardens	Open spaces of regional importance	25 minutes or 1200m
	Neighbourhood park	10 minutes or 480m
	Local park	5 minutes or 240m
Amenity greenspace	Local park	5 minutes or 240m
	Neighbourhood park	10 minutes or 480m
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	Local park	5 minutes or 240m
	Neighbourhood park	10 minutes or 480m
	Regional park	25 minutes or 1200m

The recommended standards in the 2020 audit define accessibility to open space typologies based on walking distance. These have been reviewed as part of the 2025 audit and are considered appropriate and robust. They have therefore been carried forward as the basis for assessing access by walking to open space across East Dunbartonshire. However, the Council recognises that walking is only one mode of travel that people may use to travel to open spaces. The 2025 audit goes further than the 2020 audit by expanding the accessibility standards to reflect a more inclusive understanding of movement. In line with the Scottish Government's Planning Guidance for Play Sufficiency Assessments accessibility is considered in terms of walking, wheeling and cycling. In lieu of Open Space Strategies Planning Guidance, it was considered appropriate to explore the development of standards for wheeling and cycling, in addition to the agreed walking standards being carried over from the 2020 audit.

The first step in developing standards for wheeling and cycling was to understand the different definitions of walking, wheeling and cycling. Wheels for Wellbeing, a charity that supports disabled people of all ages and abilities to enjoy the benefits of cycling, provides useful definitions of walking, wheeling and cycling below:

- Walking: Foot/pedestrian-based mobility that may incorporate the support of aids to mobility such as sticks, canes, crutches, the arm of another person and/or assistance animals.

- Wheeling: An equivalent alternative to foot/pedestrian-based mobility. Includes wheeled mobilities such as manual self- or assistant-propelled wheelchairs, including wheelchairs with power attachments or all-terrain attachments, powered wheelchairs, mobility scooters (three and four-wheeled) and rollators.
- Cycling: Incorporates the action of moving (at speed) on a wide range of pedal-powered wheeled transport that may be powered with hands and/or feet, may transport one or more persons, may or may not include e-assist, and may have two to four wheels.

Wheels for Wellbeing and Transport Scotland agree that the terms walking and wheeling should be used together and that individuals are allowed to self-identify with terms that fit their needs.

Taking these definitions alongside the existing standards and benchmarks into account, the walking-based accessibility standard established in the 2020 audit is considered appropriate for both walking and wheeling. The existing analysis from the 2020 audit has therefore been applied to both modes of travel, recognising wheeling as an equivalent of pedestrian movement. The spatial analysis underpinning the 2020 assessment can be found in [Appendix 7](#) alongside the Local, Neighbourhood and Regional mapping. The accessibility standard for walking and wheeling is set out in Table 10 below.

Table 10. Access standards for walking and wheeling

Typology	Hierarchy	Access standard (walk/wheel time and straight-line distance)
Public parks and gardens	Open spaces of regional importance	25 minutes or 1200m
	Neighbourhood park	10 minutes or 480m
	Local park	5 minutes or 240m
Amenity greenspace	Local park	5 minutes or 240m
	Neighbourhood park	10 minutes or 480m
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	Local park	5 minutes or 240m
	Neighbourhood park	10 minutes or 480m
	Regional park	25 minutes or 1200m

As cycling includes the use of a wide range of pedal powered wheeled transport, including e-assist, it is difficult to establish a single standard for cycling. Instead, accessibility by cycling has been assessed using the TRAAC accessibility tool, which applies a standard cycling speed of 16km/h across the network.

Open space provision

Quantity

Open space provision has been assessed using the recommended quantity standards, expressed as hectares of open space per 1000 people. The analysis compares existing provision against the required levels, identifying whether supply is sufficient or lacking. Positive figures indicate that a settlement meets the quantity standard for a given typology. Negative figures highlight shortfalls in provision. While these figures help identify areas needing additional open space, new provision may not always be feasible except, for example, through new development. Therefore, these insights should guide decisions on the design of new spaces and improvements to existing ones, rather than enforcing strict compliance with quantity targets.

A total of 177 sites were identified for inclusion in the quantity assessment, with consideration given to the following:

- Play and youth spaces were omitted from the assessment as they have been assessed separately
- Sports grounds, cemeteries, private grounds, civic spaces and green corridors are excluded under the agreed 2020 methodology
- Sites outside of 400m of a major settlement boundary are excluded under the agreed 2020 methodology
- Four newly identified open space have been included in the assessment: Kilmardinny Loch, Kilmardinny North, Broomhill Hospital 1 and Broomhill Hospital 2

Table 11 shows the existing supply of open space against the 2015 quantity standard of 1.5ha per 1000 population of multifunctional open space by locality. The supply is calculated using the population figures from Census 2022 and the existing quantity of open space compared to what the requirements for open space are against the existing quantity standard, i.e. existing area (ha) minus the required hectareage calculated against the existing standard equals the total supply (ha).

Table 11. Quantity totals by settlement

Locality	Population	Number of Sites	Existing Area (Ha)	Existing Ha/1000	Required Ha	Supply Ha	Supply Ha/1000
Bearsden	28470	36	126.82	4.08	42.71	84.12	2.95
Bishopbriggs	23680	29	96.59	4.08	35.52	61.07	2.58
Kirkintilloch	21870	27	163.55	7.48	32.81	130.75	5.98
Lennoxtown	4260	15	54.76	12.85	6.36	48.37	11.3
Lenzie	8090	15	65.38	8.08	12.14	53.25	3.48
Milngavie	12840	28	121.75	9.48	19.26	102.49	7.98
Milton of Campsie	3910	20	64.89	16.60	5.87	59.02	15.10
Torrance	2320	5	9.54	4.11	3.48	6.06	2.61
Twechar	1340	3	17.22	12.85	2.01	15.21	11.35
Total			720.50	6.75	160.33	560.33	5.25

Overall, there is adequate provision of total open space in each locality based on the 2015 quantity standard. However, there are deficits in specific typologies of open space in certain localities which are highlighted in the Provision by Locality section on the following pages.

The 2025 quantity standards for the typologies shown in Table 12 below have been applied to each locality within East Dunbartonshire. A breakdown of the quantity assessment for each locality is provided with maps and tables on the following pages.

Table 12. Quantity standard

Quantity standard 2025	
Typology	Standard (ha/1000)
Parks and gardens	2
Amenity greenspace	0.6
Nature and semi-natural greenspace	2
Total requirement	4.6

Provision by locality

Following the application of the 2025 quantity standards, provision has been assessed across three key open space typologies: public parks and gardens; amenity greenspace; and natural and semi-natural greenspace. These typologies form the core components of open space within East Dunbartonshire and collectively represent the spaces most frequently used by communities for recreation, informal activity and everyday contact with nature. While the OSA considered a wide range of typologies, not all were considered appropriate for quantity benchmarking. Certain types of open space, such as sports areas, civic spaces, private grounds and green corridors, serve more specific or specialist functions. Focusing the assessment on the public parks and gardens, amenity greenspace, and natural and semi-natural greenspace typologies provides a clear and consistent basis for understanding how well each locality is served in terms of accessible, functional and nature-rich greenspace.

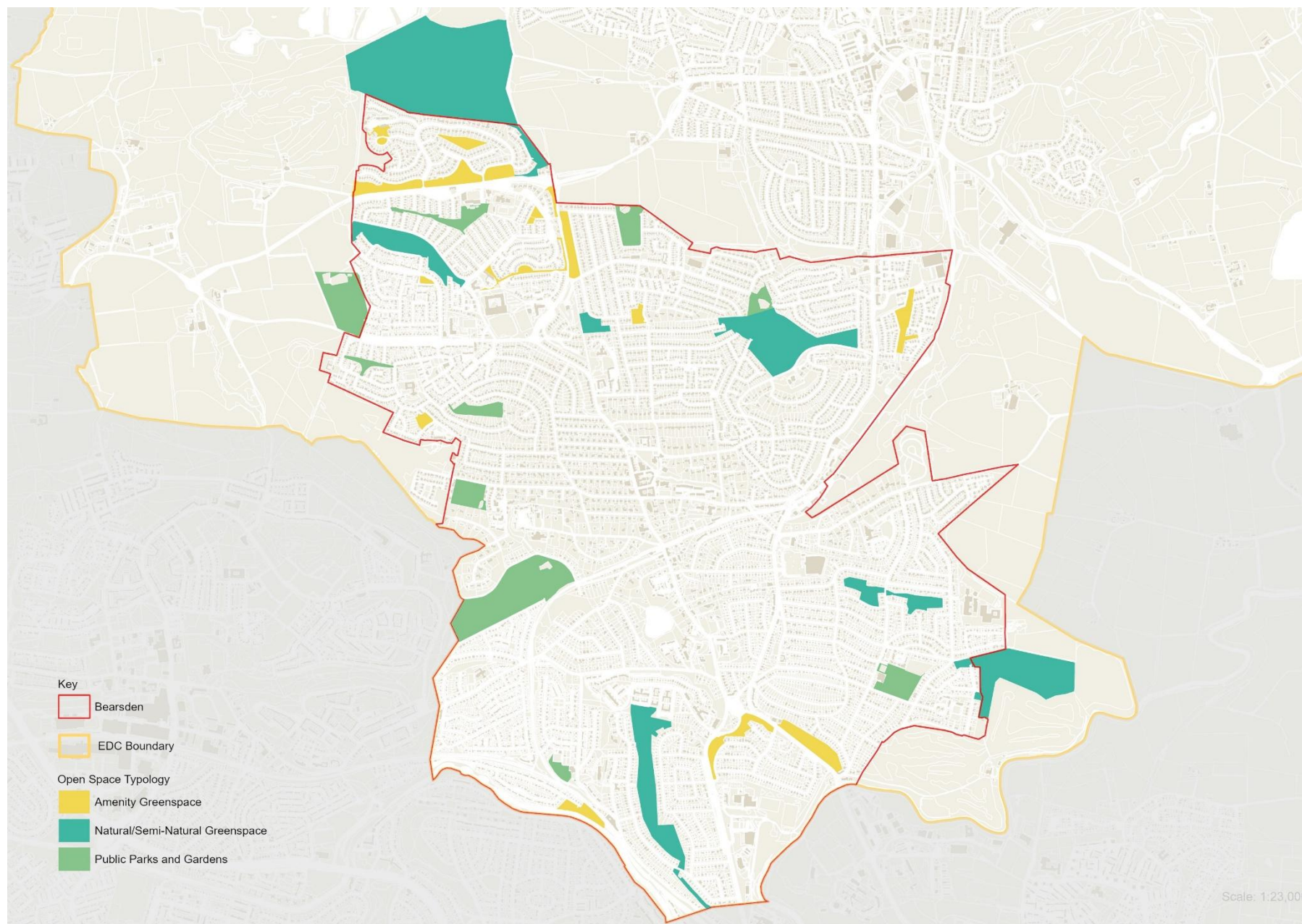
The results of the assessment show that, although overall open space provision exceeds the 2015 quantity standard in all localities, there are notable differences when assessed by typology. Almost all localities experience deficits in at least one of the three typologies. Twechar is the only locality where provision meets or exceeds the quantity standards. In contrast, Bearsden, Bishopbriggs and Torrance not only experience typology-specific shortfalls but also fall below the combined requirement for the three typologies, indicating an overall deficiency in provision against those typologies.

Bearsden

Bearsden has 42 open space sites – of these, 36 are amenity greenspace, natural/semi-natural greenspace, and public parks and gardens.

In terms of quantity, Bearsden has an overall open space provision of these typologies of 4.45ha per 1,000 people (126.82ha), resulting in a small shortfall of 0.15ha per 1,000 people (4.15ha) against the quantity standard. While there is a good supply of natural and semi-natural greenspaces and amenity greenspace across the area, there is a notable deficiency in public parks and gardens. In particular, Bearsden does not benefit from a centrally-located public park, as defined by the typology, which limits access to larger, multifunctional open spaces capable of supporting a wider range of recreational and community activities.

Typology	Number of sites	Existing area (ha)	Existing ha/1,000	Required ha	Standard ha/1,000	Supply ha	Supply ha/1,000
Parks and gardens	10	31.23	1.10	56.94	2	-25.71	-0.90
Amenity greenspace	17	17.83	0.63	17.082	0.6	0.75	0.03
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	9	77.75	2.73	56.94	2	20.18	0.73
Total	36	126.82	4.45	130.96	4.6	-4.15	-0.15

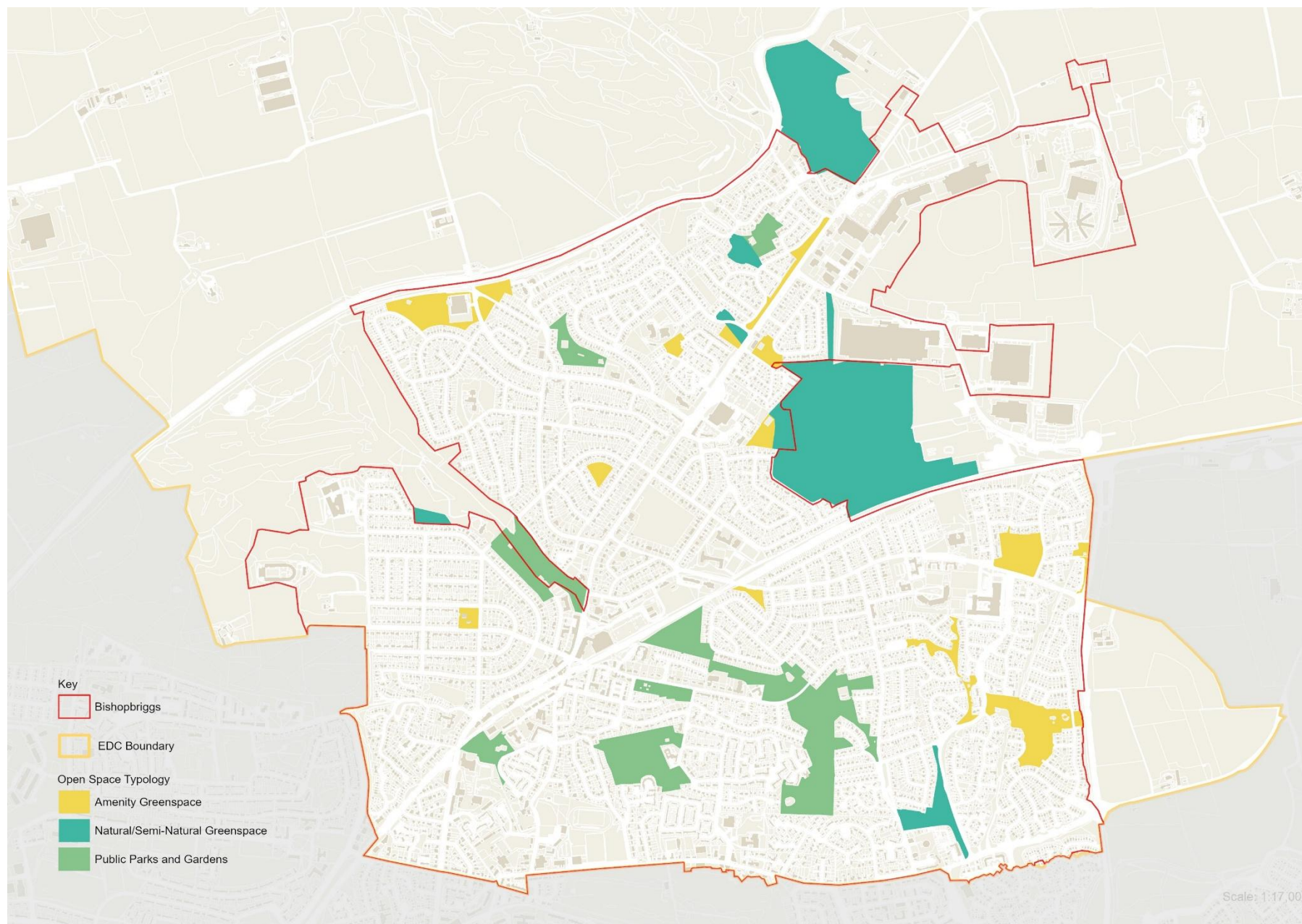


Bishopbriggs

Bishopbriggs has 35 open space sites – of which 29 are parks and gardens, amenity greenspace, and natural and semi-natural greenspace.

In terms of quantity, Bishopbriggs has an overall open space provision of these typologies of 4.08ha per 1,000 people (96.59ha), resulting in a shortfall of 0.52ha per 1,000 people (12.34ha) against the quantity standard. While there is a deficiency in public parks and gardens (0.72ha per 1,000 people; 17.15ha), this is partially offset by a good supply of amenity greenspace, and natural and semi-natural greenspaces across the area.

Typology	Number of sites	Existing area (ha)	Existing ha/1,000	Required ha	Standard ha/1,000	Supply ha	Supply ha/1,000
Parks and gardens	8	30.21	1.28	47.36	2	-17.15	-0.72
Amenity greenspace	15	17.18	0.73	14.208	0.6	2.98	0.13
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	6	49.19	2.08	47.36	2	1.83	0.08
Total	29	96.59	4.08	108.928	4.6	-12.34	-0.52

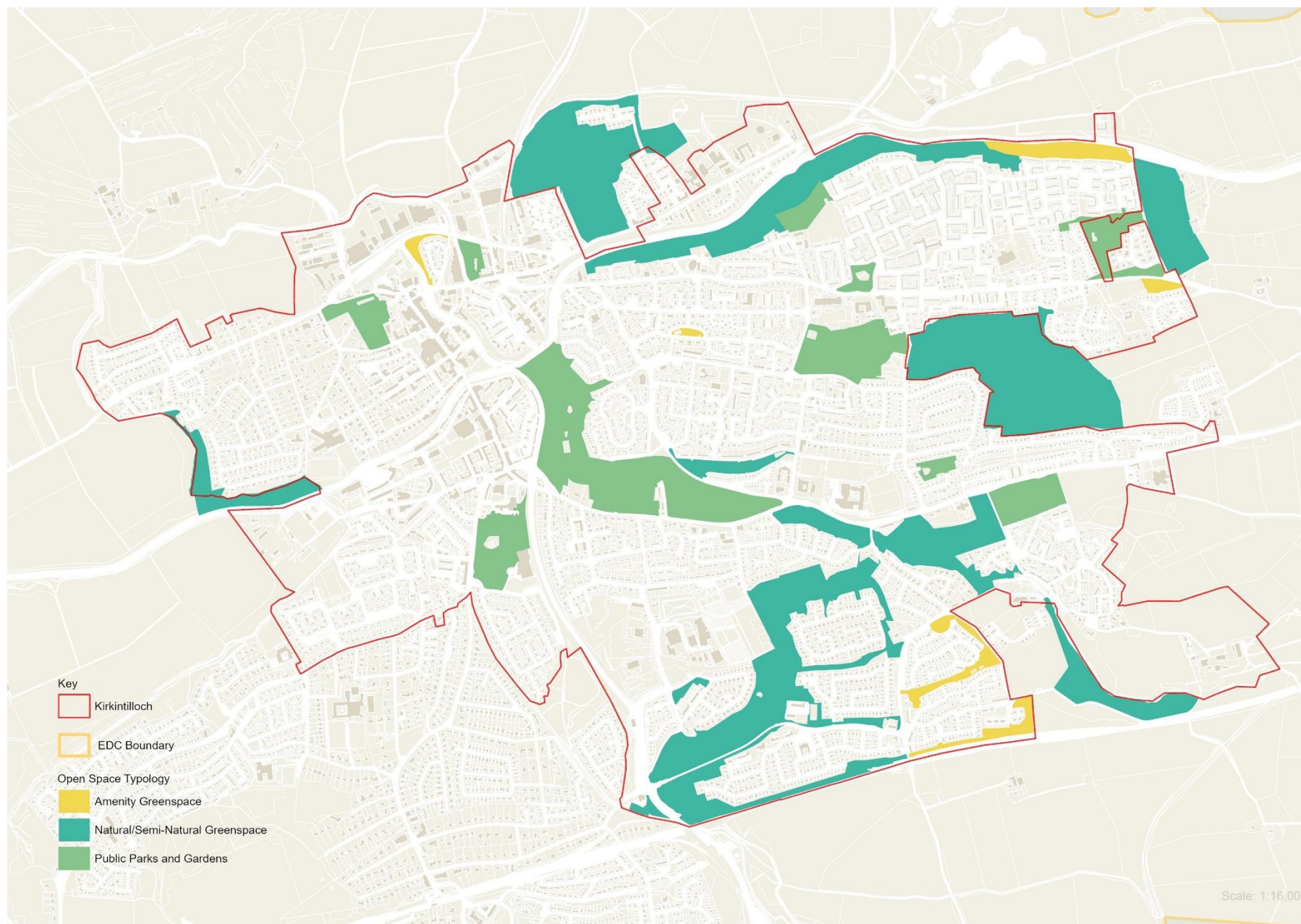


Kirkintilloch

Kirkintilloch has 33 open space sites – of which 27 are parks and gardens, amenity greenspace, and natural and semi-natural greenspace.

In terms of quantity, Kirkintilloch has an overall open space provision of these typologies of 7.48ha per 1,000 people (163.55ha), exceeding the quantity standard. Although there are shortfalls in the provision of amenity greenspace (0.26ha per 1,000 people), and public parks and gardens (0.04ha per 1,000 people), this is balanced by a strong supply of natural and semi-natural greenspace.

Typology	Number of sites	Existing area (ha)	Existing ha/1,000	Required ha	Standard ha/1,000	Supply ha	Supply ha/1,000
Parks and gardens	10	42.88	1.96	43.74	2	-0.86	-0.04
Amenity greenspace	5	7.45	0.34	13.122	0.6	-5.67	-0.26
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	11	113.22	5.18	43.74	2	69.48	3.18
Total	26	163.55	7.48	100.602	4.6	62.95	2.88

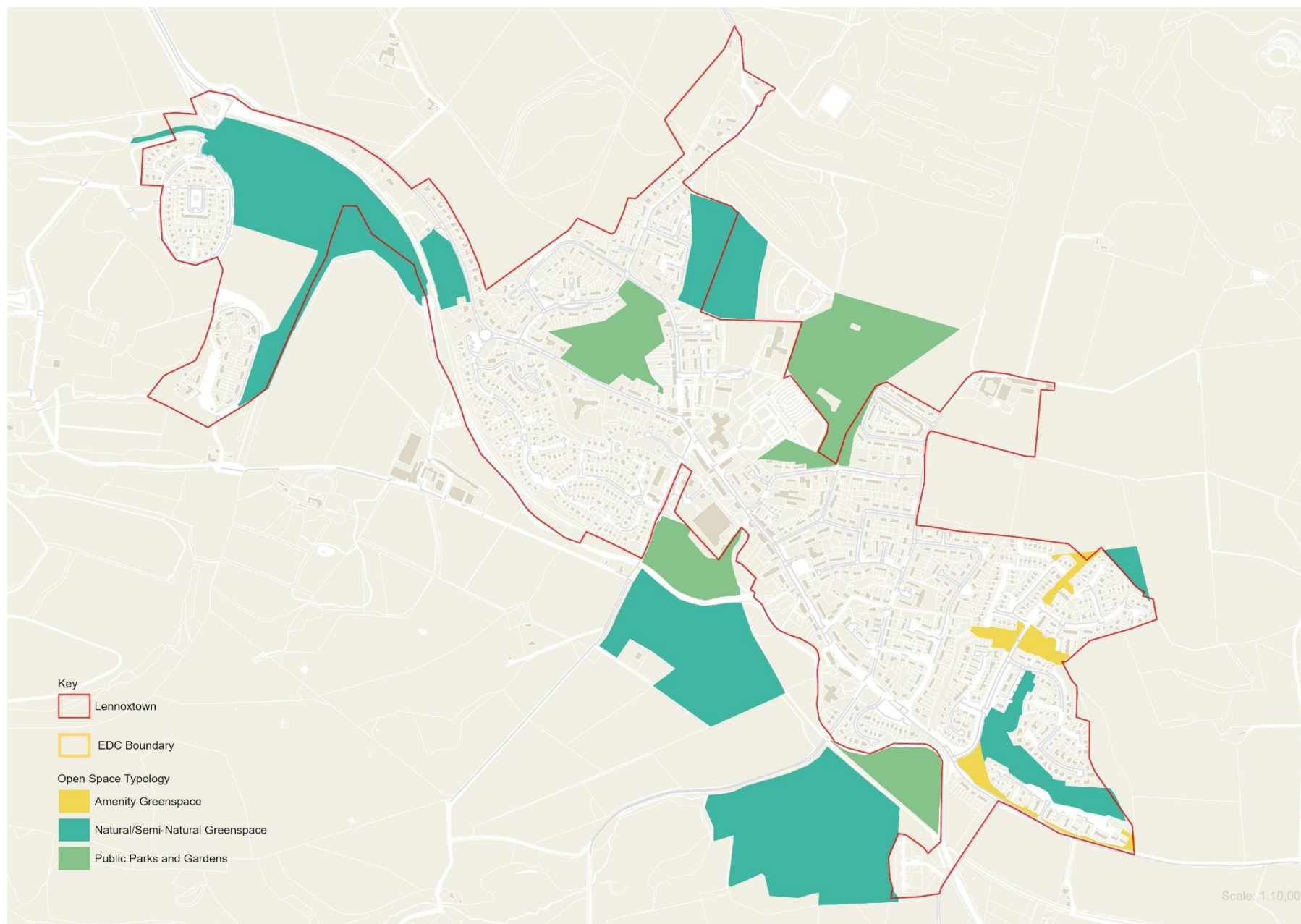


Lennoxtown

Lennoxtown has 18 open space sites – of which 15 are parks and gardens, amenity greenspace, and natural and semi-natural greenspace.

In terms of quantity, Lennoxtown has an overall open space provision of these typologies of 12.85ha per 1,000 people (54.76ha), exceeding the quantity standard. There is a minor shortfall in amenity greenspace of 0.13ha per 1,000 people (0.53ha), which is offset by a strong supply of natural and semi-natural greenspace and public parks and gardens.

Typology	Number of sites	Existing area (ha)	Existing ha/1,000	Required ha	Standard ha/1,000	Supply ha	Supply ha/1,000
Parks and gardens	5	15.37	3.61	8.52	2	6.85	1.61
Amenity greenspace	6	2.02	0.47	2.56	0.6	-0.53	-0.13
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	4	37.36	8.77	8.52	2	28.84	6.77
Total	15	54.76	12.85	19.596	4.6	35.16	8.25

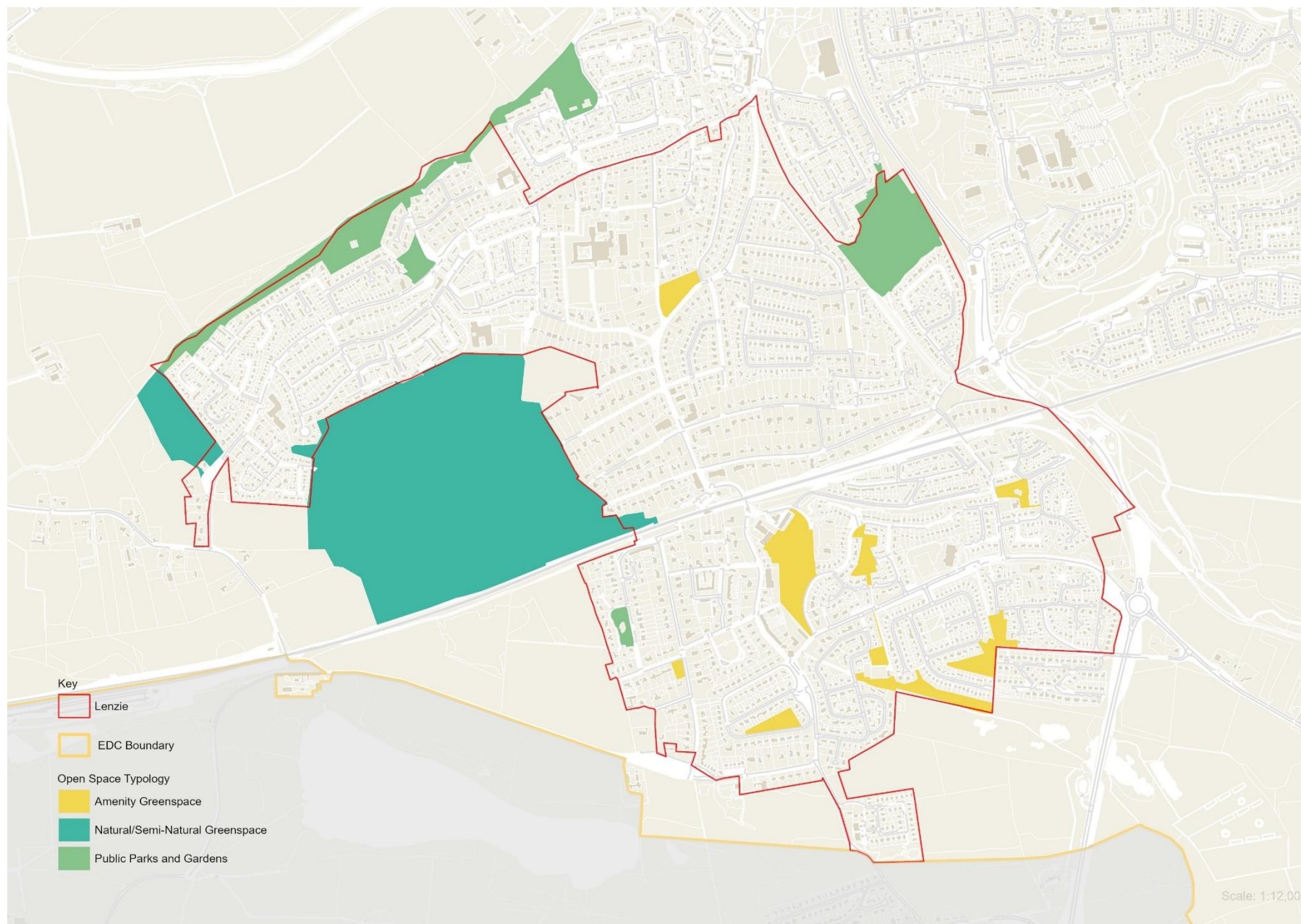


Lenzie

Lenzie has 22 open space sites – of which 15 are parks and gardens, amenity greenspace, and natural and semi-natural greenspace.

In terms of quantity, Lenzie has an overall open space provision of these typologies of 8.08 hectares per 1,000 population (65.38 hectares), exceeding the identified standard. There is a shortfall in public parks and gardens of 0.3 hectares per 1,000 (2.41 hectares), which is compensated for by a good supply of amenity greenspace, and natural and semi-natural greenspace.

Typology	Number of sites	Existing area (ha)	Existing ha/1,000	Required ha	Standard ha/1,000	Supply ha	Supply ha/1,000
Parks and gardens	4	13.77	1.70	16.18	2	-2.41	-0.30
Amenity greenspace	9	7.34	0.91	4.854	0.6	2.49	0.31
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	2	44.26	5.47	16.18	2	28.08	3.47
Total	15	65.38	8.08	37.214	4.6	28.17	3.48

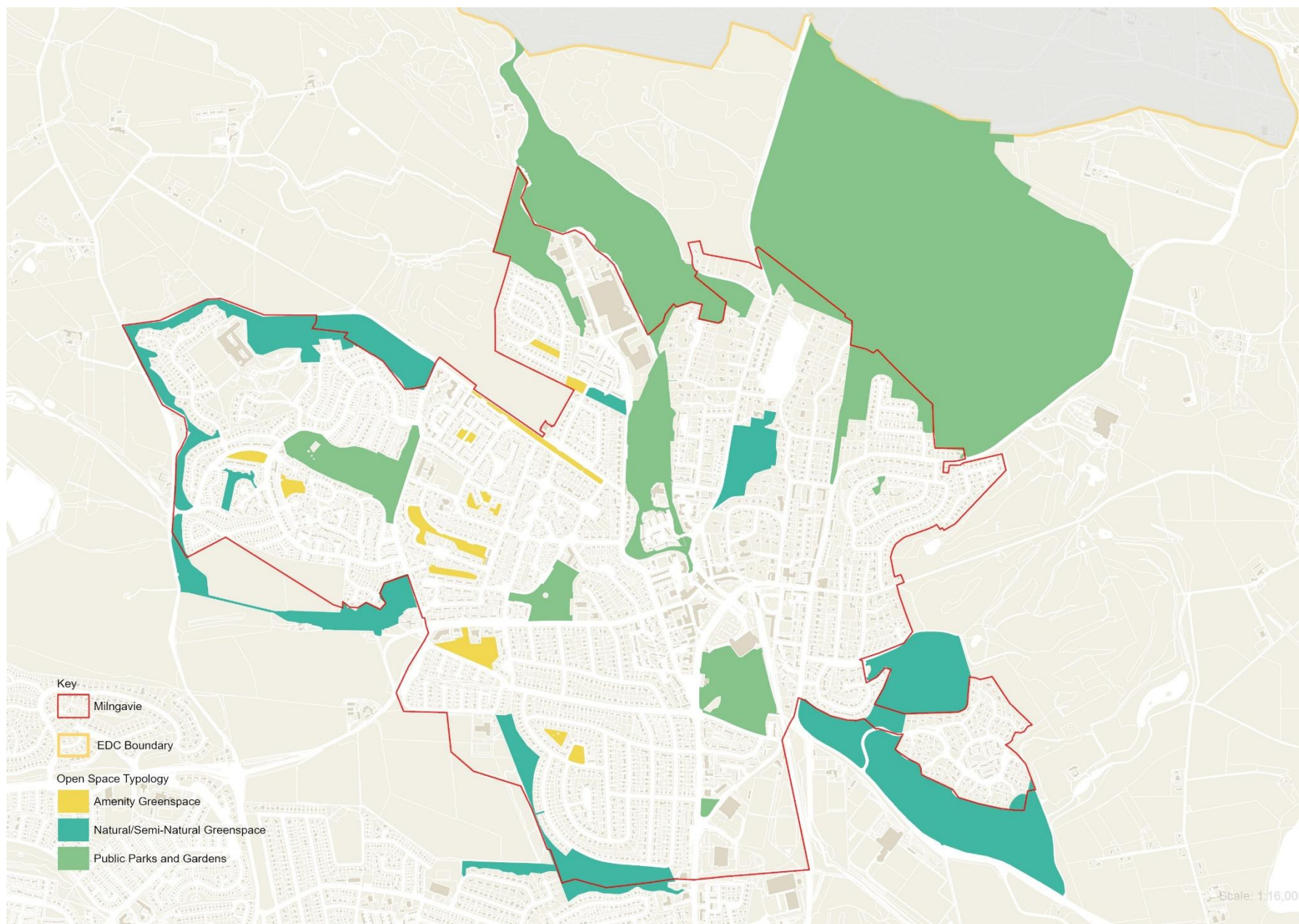


Milngavie

Milngavie has 32 open space sites – of which 28 are parks and gardens, amenity greenspace, and natural and semi-natural greenspace.

In terms of quantity, Milngavie has an overall open space provision of these typologies of 9.48 hectares per 1,000 population (121.75 hectares), exceeding the identified standard. There is a small shortfall in amenity greenspace of 0.08 hectares per 1,000 (0.98 hectares), which is offset by the provision of public parks and gardens, and natural and semi-natural greenspace.

Typology	Number of sites	Existing area (ha)	Existing ha/1,000	Required ha	Standard ha/1,000	Supply ha	Supply ha/1,000
Parks and gardens	6	54.98	4.28	25.68	2	29.30	2.28
Amenity greenspace	12	6.73	0.52	7.704	0.6	-0.98	-0.08
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	10	60.05	4.68	25.68	2	34.37	2.68
Total	28	121.75	9.48	59.064	4.6	62.69	4.88

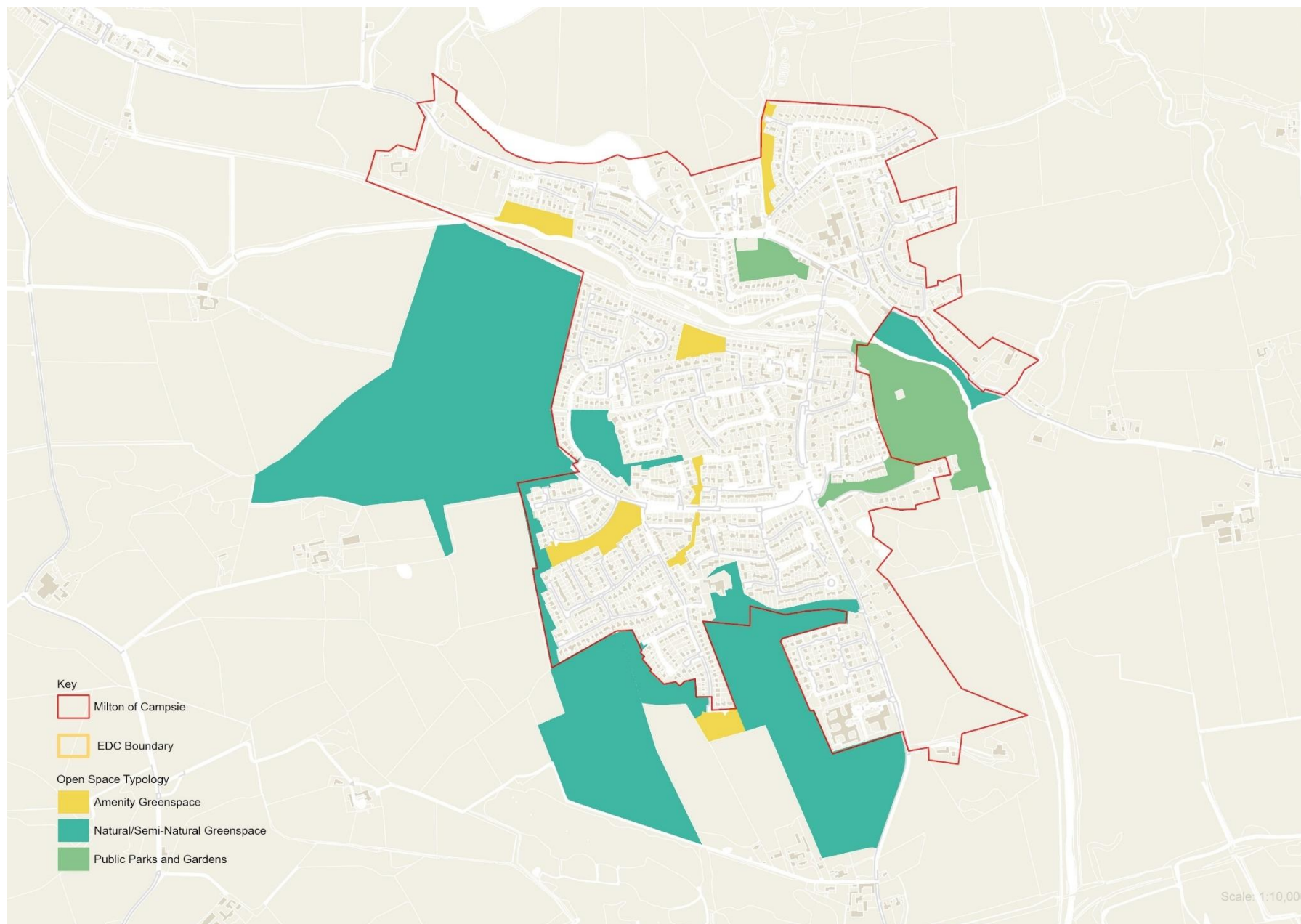


Milton of Campsie

Milton of Campsie has 21 open space sites – of which 20 are parks and gardens, amenity greenspace, and natural and semi-natural greenspace.

In terms of quantity, Milton of Campsie has an overall open space provision of these typologies of 16.60 hectares per 1,000 population (64.89 hectares), significantly exceeding the identified standard. There is a minor shortfall in public parks and gardens of 0.13 hectares per 1,000 (0.5 hectares), which is compensated for by a strong supply of amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural greenspace.

Typology	Number of sites	Existing area (ha)	Existing ha/1,000	Required ha	Standard ha/1,000	Supply ha	Supply ha/1,000
Parks and gardens	2	7.32	1.87	7.82	2	-0.50	-0.13
Amenity greenspace	7	3.92	1.00	2.346	0.6	1.57	0.40
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	11	53.65	13.72	7.82	2	45.83	11.72
Total	20	64.89	16.60	17.986	4.6	46.90	12.00

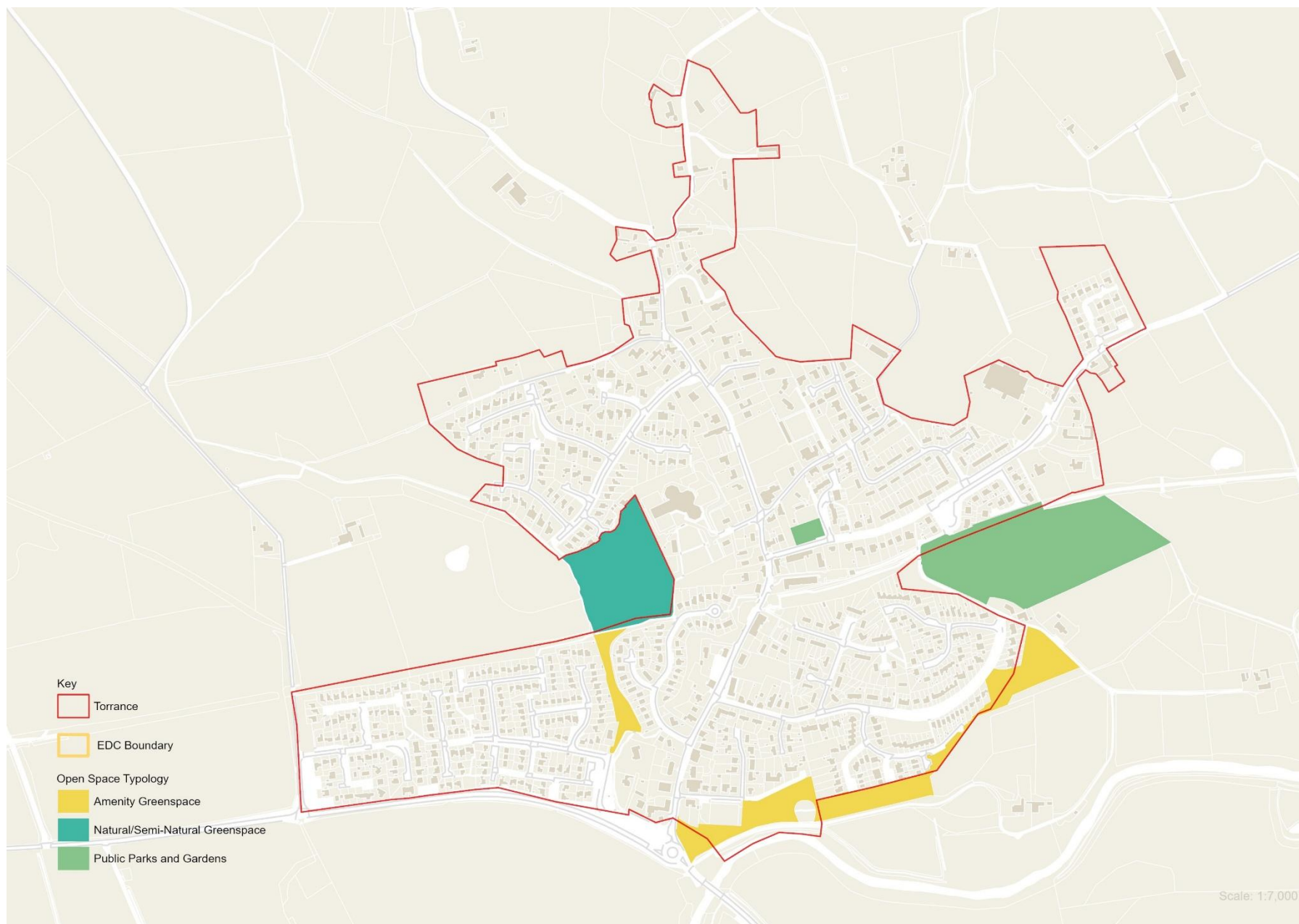


Torrance

Torrance has seven open space sites – of which five are parks and gardens, amenity greenspace, and natural and semi-natural greenspace.

In terms of quantity, Torrance has an overall open space provision of these typologies of 4.11 hectares per 1,000 population (9.54 hectares), resulting in a shortfall of 0.49 hectares per 1,000 (1.13 hectares) against the identified standard. While there are deficiencies in natural and semi-natural greenspace, and public parks and gardens, this is partially offset by a relatively strong provision of amenity greenspace of 1.26 hectares per 1,000 (2.92 hectares).

Typology	Number of sites	Existing area (ha)	Existing ha/1,000	Required ha	Standard ha/1,000	Supply ha	Supply ha/1,000
Parks and gardens	2	4.40	1.90	4.64	2	-0.24	-0.10
Amenity greenspace	2	2.92	1.26	1.392	0.6	1.53	0.66
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	1	2.22	0.96	4.64	2	-2.42	-1.04
Total	5	9.54	4.11	10.672	4.6	-1.13	-0.49

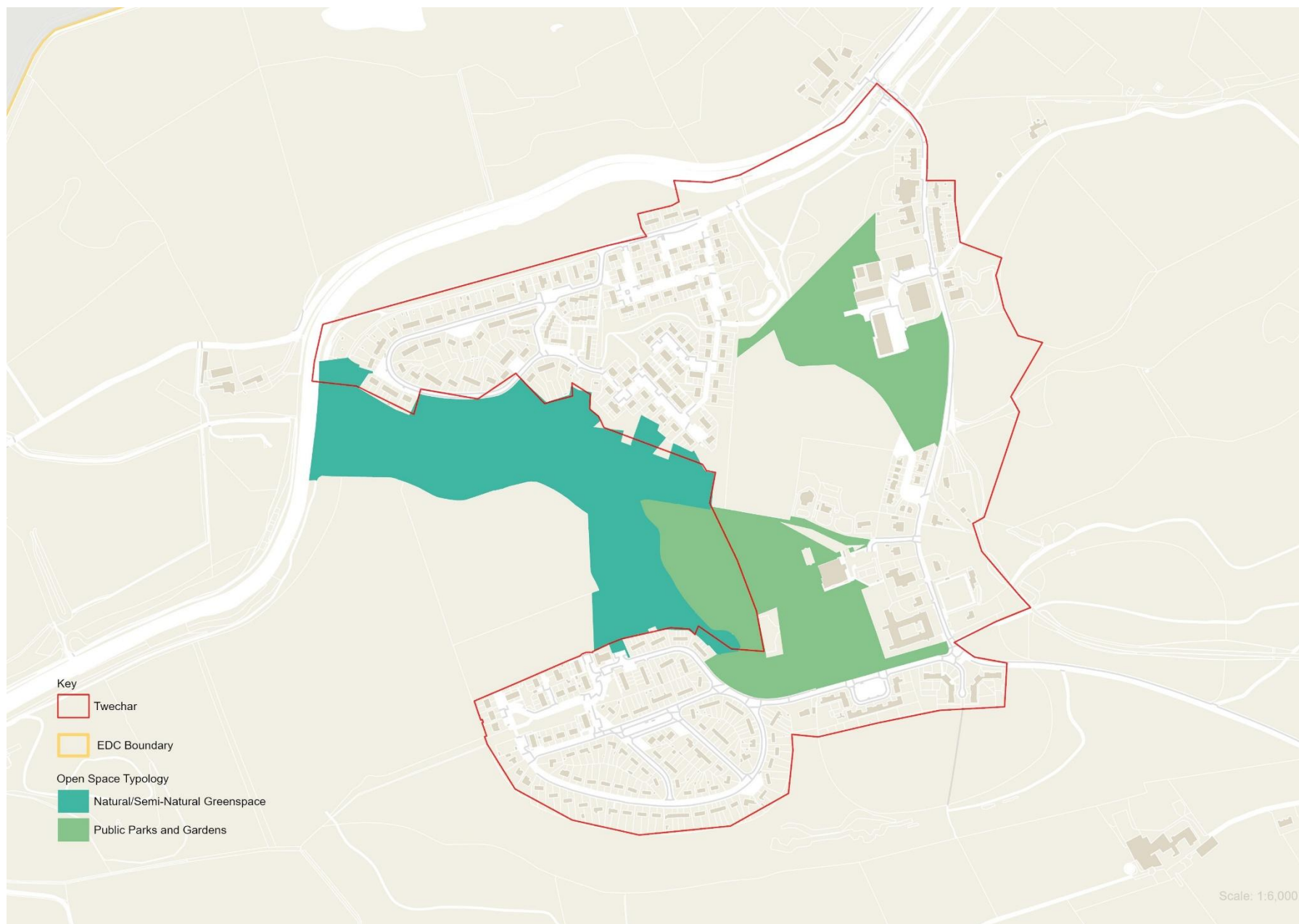


Twechar

Twechar has four open space sites – of which three are parks and gardens, amenity greenspace and natural and semi-natural greenspace.

In terms of quantity, Twechar has an overall open space provision of these typologies of 12.85 hectares per 1,000 population (17.22 hectares), exceeding the identified standard. Provision is largely made up of public parks and gardens, and natural and semi-natural greenspace, with no amenity greenspace currently present.

Typology	Number of sites	Existing area (ha)	Existing ha/1,000	Required ha	Standard ha/1,000	Supply ha	Supply ha/1,000
Parks and gardens	2	8.55	6.38	2.68	2	5.87	4.38
Amenity greenspace	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.6	N/A	N/A
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	1	8.66	6.46	2.68	2	5.98	4.46
Total	3	17.22	12.85	5.36	4.6	11.86	8.85



Quality

The 2025 Quality Audit re-surveyed all sites included in the 2020 OSA, with the addition of any new open spaces larger than 0.2 hectares. In total, 206 open spaces were assessed as part of the audit using a set of agreed inclusion criteria. Only publicly accessible or usable open spaces of at least 0.2 hectare, with an access point located within 400m of a settlement boundary, were included in the audit. An exception was made for six smaller amenity greenspaces below 0.2 hectares, which were retained due to their local importance. These sites are: Castleview and Crosshill Street amenity greenspace (Lennoxtown); Coronation Gardens (Lenzie); Demonstration Garden (Torrance); Lyle Square (Milngavie); and Maple Walk (Milton of Campsie). In addition, six open spaces located beyond the 400m settlement boundary threshold were included where they were considered to play an important role in serving nearby communities. These sites are: Baldernock Cemetery; Campsie Glen; Castleview; Glenorchard Wood; and Schoenstadt. Sports grounds with artificial turf that are enclosed and not available for general public use were excluded from the audit.

An on-site quality assessment was undertaken at each open space using ArcGIS Fieldmaps. The assessment applied the Criteria for Quality, which was based on the quality audit criteria developed for the 2020 OSA. This framework was reviewed and updated for the current audit to refine the scoring system and incorporate additional biodiversity criteria. These amendments were introduced to streamline the scoring matrix used within ArcGIS Fieldmaps and to ensure that ecological value is more clearly reflected in the overall quality assessment of open spaces.

Each criterion includes a set of questions, with each question scored 0 – 5 (or 0 if not applicable). The average score for each site was calculated and then converted into an overall percentage score. Table 13 shows the grading of open space sites by typology within each locality.

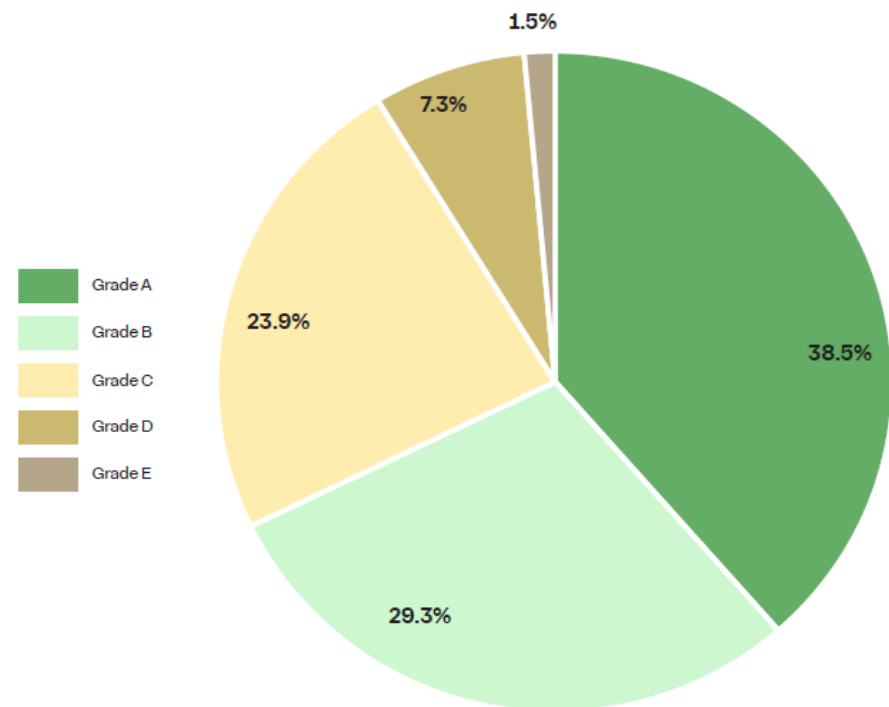


Fig.1

Table 13. Quality analysis by typology, grade and number of sites

Locality	Typology	Grade	Number of sites
Bearsden	Public parks and gardens	A	8
		B	2
	Amenity greenspace	A	7
		B	3
		C	6
	Natural and semi-natural greenspace	A	6
		B	1
		C	1
	Private gardens or grounds	A	1
Bishopbriggs	Public parks and gardens	B	1
		A	3
		C	1
	Amenity greenspace	A	6
		B	5
		C	3
		D	1
	Natural and semi-natural greenspace	A	4
		B	1
		C	1
	Sports areas	A	1
		B	1
		C	1
	Cemetery	A	1
Kirkintilloch	Public parks and gardens	B	5
		C	1
		D	2
		E	2

	Amenity greenspace	B	1
		C	3
		D	1
	Natural and semi-natural greenspace	A	2
		B	4
		C	2
		D	2
		E	1
	Green corridor	B	1
		D	1
	Civic space	A	1
	Cemetery	A	1
Lennoxtown	Public parks and gardens	A	2
		C	2
	Amenity greenspace	A	1
		B	2
		C	2
	Natural and semi-natural greenspace	A	2
		B	1
		C	2
		D	1
	Green corridor	B	1
	Cemetery	C	1
Lenzie	Public parks and gardens	A	1
		B	2
		D	1
	Amenity greenspace	A	4
		C	4
		D	1
	Natural and semi-natural greenspace	A	2
	Green corridor	A	1
	Sports areas	B	1

		C	1
Milngavie	Public parks and gardens	A	3
		B	4
	Amenity greenspace	A	4
		B	3
		C	3
		D	2
	Natural and semi-natural greenspace	A	4
		B	3
		C	1
		D	2
	Private gardens and grounds	C	1
	Green corridor	B	1
	Civic space	A	1
Milton of Campsie	Public parks and gardens	B	2
	Amenity greenspace	B	4
		C	3
		C	3
	Natural and semi-natural greenspace	A	1
		B	5
		C	4
		D	1
	Green corridor	C	1
Torrance	Public parks and gardens	A	2
	Amenity greenspace	A	1
		B	1
	Natural and semi-natural greenspace	A	1
	Green corridor	B	1
Twechar	Public parks and gardens	C	2
	Natural and semi-natural greenspace	C	1
	Green corridor	C	1

The quality assessment shows that the overall quality of publicly accessible open space across East Dunbartonshire is high. All open spaces assessed in Bearsden, Torrance and Twechar meet the required quality standard, with every site scoring within Bands A, B or C. Across the remaining settlements, a relatively small number of sites fall below the required standard, with 18 sites in total scoring within Bands D or E. Kirkintilloch has the highest numbers of underperforming sites, accounting for nine of the 18 sites, including four public parks and gardens, three natural and semi-natural greenspaces, one green corridor and one amenity greenspace. Milngavie has four sites below standard, comprising two amenity greenspaces and two natural and semi-natural greenspaces. Lenzie has two sites below standard, including one public park and one amenity greenspace. Bishopbriggs has one amenity greenspace below the standard, while Lennoxton and Milton of Campsie each have one natural and semi-natural greenspace that does not currently meet the quality standard. These findings confirm that, while the quality of open space provision is generally good across East Dunbartonshire, targeted investment is required in the settlements and sites where deficiencies have been identified.

The quality scoring for public parks and gardens sites across each locality is set out below. Full quality scoring for each typology assessed (public parks and gardens, amenity greenspace, and natural and semi-natural greenspace) can be found in [Appendix 7](#).

Bearsden

Site Name	Score (%)	Grade (A-E)
Antonine Park	85%	A
Baljaffray Open Space	90%	A
Colquhoun Park	92%	A
Heather Avenue Open Space	94%	A
King George V Park	86%	A
Langfaulds Field	92%	A
Mosshead Park	88%	A
Roman Park	79%	B
Thorn Park	70%	B
Westerton Park	80%	A

Bishopbriggs

Site Name	Score (%)	Grade (A-E)
Bishopbriggs Public Park	83%	A
Callieburn Park	74%	B
Doune Crescent	84%	A
Etive Park	85%	A
Lennox Crescent	68%	C
Meadowburn Park	86%	A
Springfield Park	71%	B
Woodhill Park	72%	B

Kirkintilloch

Site Name	Score (%)	Grade (A-E)
Afton View Open Space	56%	C
Eastside Park	47%	D
Langmuir Park	70%	B
Luggie Park	70%	B
Merkland Sports Pitches	49%	D
Peel Park	79%	B
Rosebank Park	44%	E
Tintock Park	33%	E
Waterside Park	79%	B
Woodhead Park	73%	B

Lennoxtown

Site Name	Score (%)	Grade (A-E)
Ferguson Park	63%	C

High Park	86%	A
Station Road Playing Fields	60%	C
Whitefield Park	89%	A

Lenzie

Site Name	Score (%)	Grade (A-E)
Alexandra Road Park	49%	D
Broom Gardens	73%	B
Christine's Way, Glenwood to Park Burn	88%	A
Whitegates Park	70%	B

Milngavie

Site Name	Score (%)	Grade (A-E)
Allander Park	78%	B
Antonine Gardens	98%	A
Campsie Drive	73%	B
Lennox Park	90%	A
Mains Park	89%	A
Milngavie Reservoirs	78%	B
Oakburn Park	72%	B

Milton of Campsie

Site Name	Score (%)	Grade (A-E)
Kincaid Park	71%	B
Milton Public Park	76%	B

Torrance

Site Name	Score (%)	Grade (A-E)
Demonstration Garden	82%	A
Woodmill Park	92%	A

Twechar

Site Name	Score (%)	Grade (A-E)
Gartshore Public Park	64%	C
Twechar Public Park	56%	C

[Accessibility](#)

[Walking and wheeling](#)

Walking and wheeling are used as one phrase to represent the action of moving at a pedestrian pace whether or not someone is standing or sitting, walking or wheeling unaided, or using any kind of aid to mobility. Wheeling is considered an equivalent alternative to foot/pedestrian-based mobility. Wheeling may include wheeled mobilities such as manual self or assistant-propelled wheelchairs, including wheelchairs with power attachments or all-terrain attachments (such as the 'Freewheel'), powered wheelchairs, mobility scooters (three and four-wheeled) and rollators.

The analysis for walking undertaken in the 2020 audit has been carried over into the 2025 audit and applied to both walking and wheeling to open spaces. The criteria used in the 2020 walking accessibility assessment has been applied to additional sites in new developments of 0.2ha+ within the following typologies:

- Parks and gardens
- Amenity greenspace
- Natural and semi-natural greenspace.

The 2020 audit walking and wheeling analysis access maps for the above typologies are shown on the following pages, alongside the Local, Neighbourhood and Regional access maps. The maps show the walking and wheeling time buffers for each open space typology and all open spaces grouped by hierarchy. They were created using QGIS and the OSM Tools plug-in which relies on the Open Street Map paths and street network to accurately map realistic potential walking and wheeling routes. The buffers are based on a walk time of five kilometres/3.1 miles an hour and use the reviewed access point data. The access maps also show Census 2011 Output Areas (OAs). Each OA centroid is the lowest level of geography from the census, which contains roughly 129 households. By using this point dataset, it is possible to clearly indicate those households that fall outside open space access buffers i.e. where the key gaps in access are.

Fig.2 Public Parks and Gardens Access Map

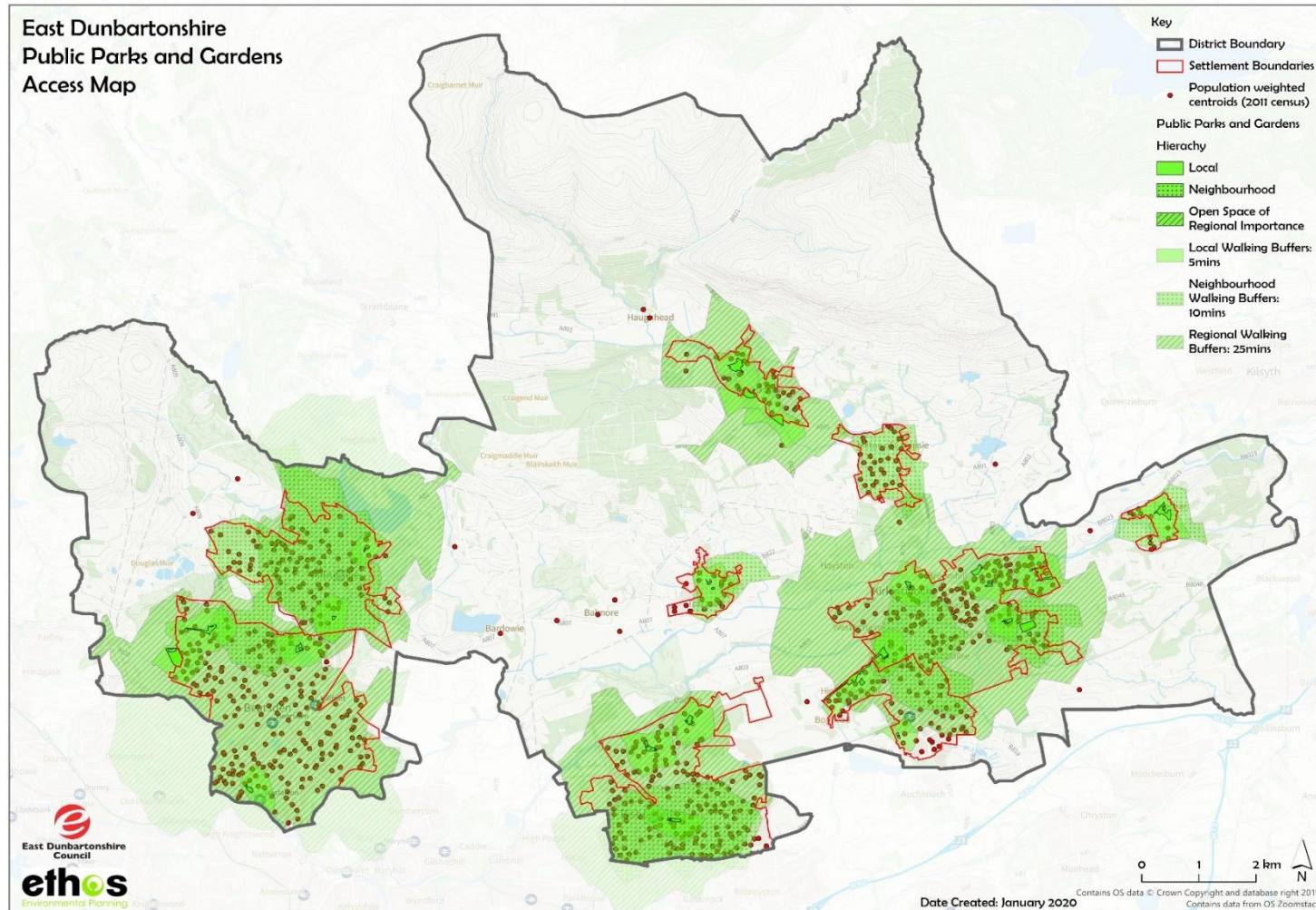


Fig.3 Amenity Greenspace Access Map

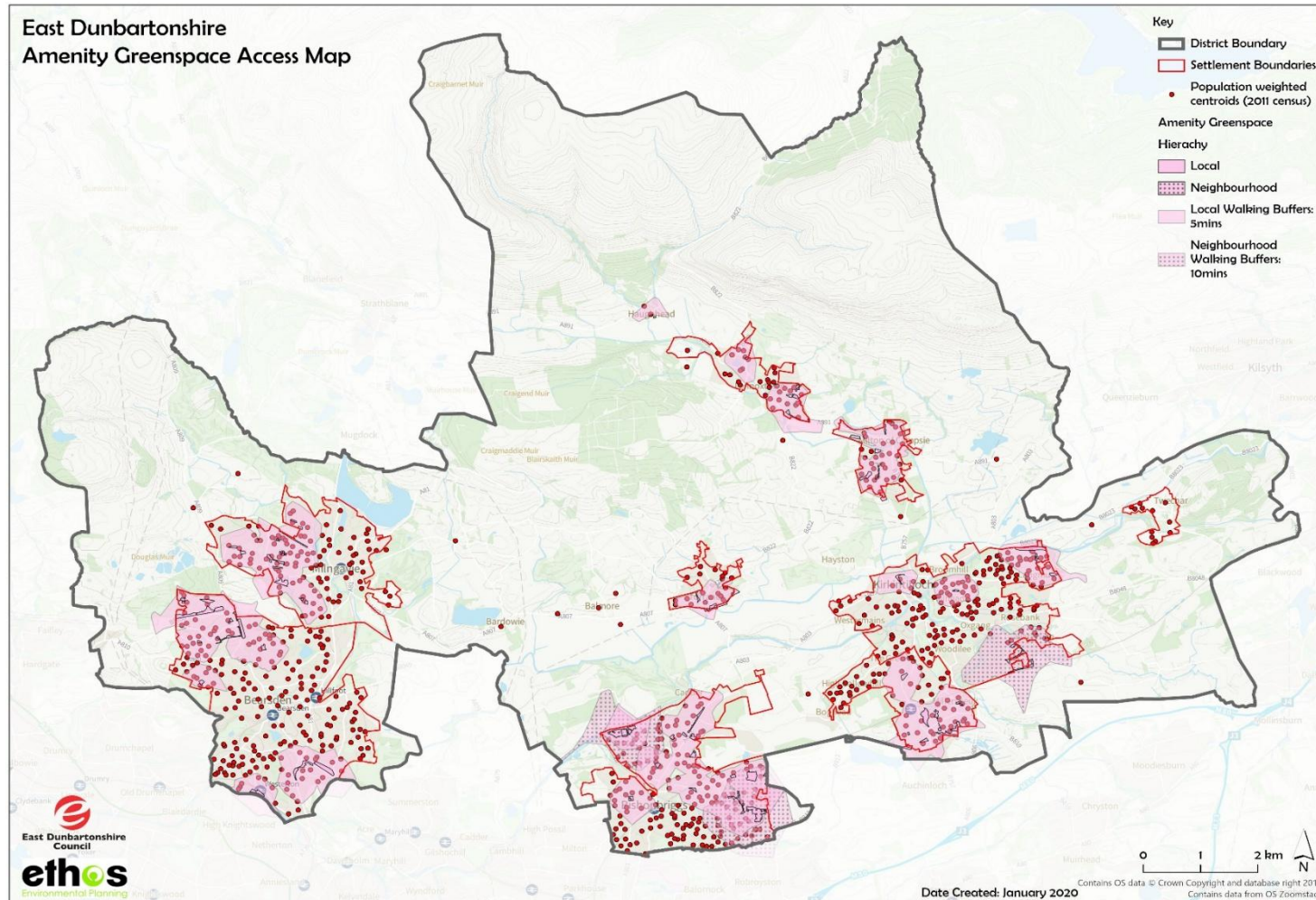


Fig.4 Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace Access Map

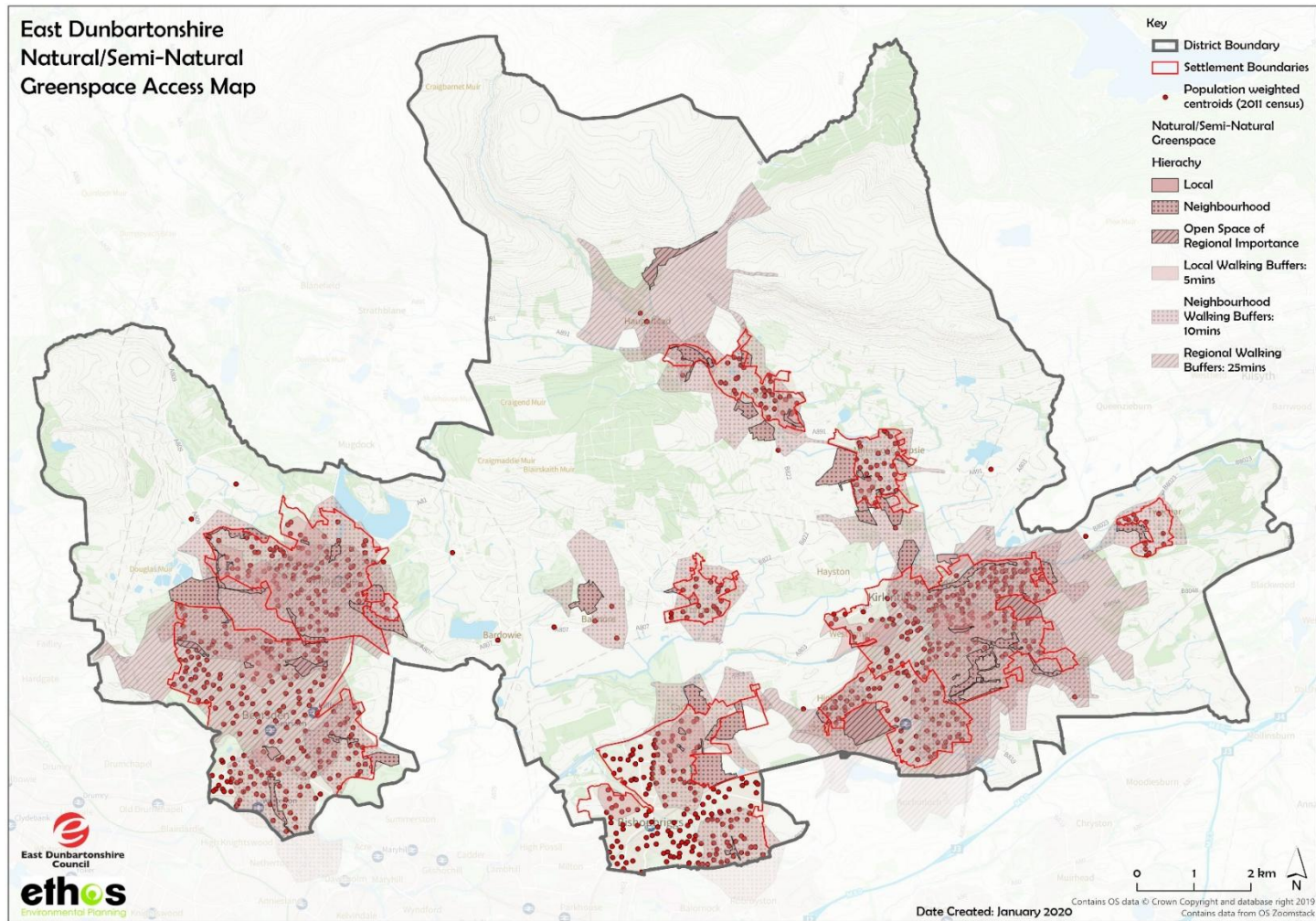


Fig.5 Local Access Map

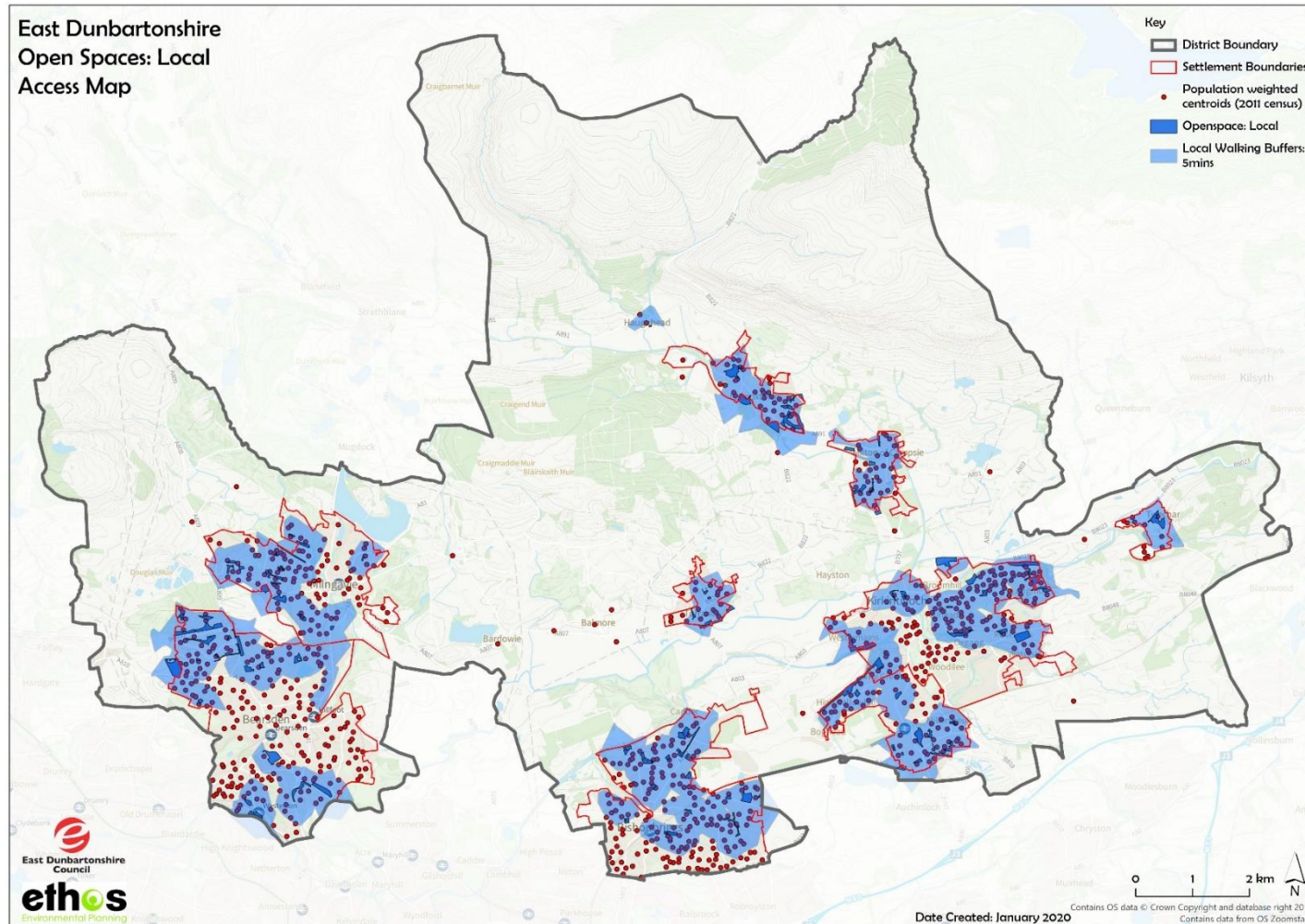


Fig.6 Neighbourhood Access Map

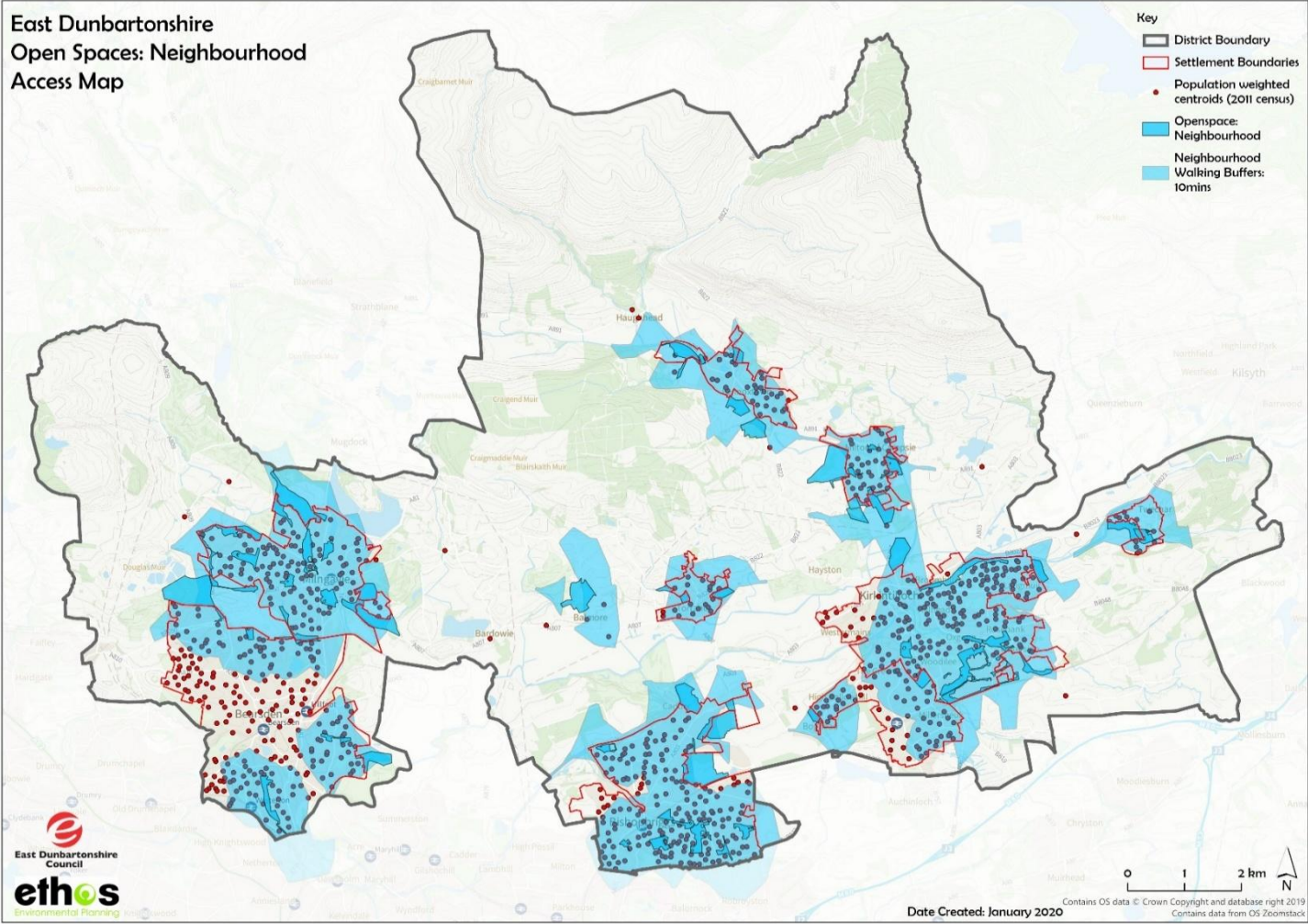
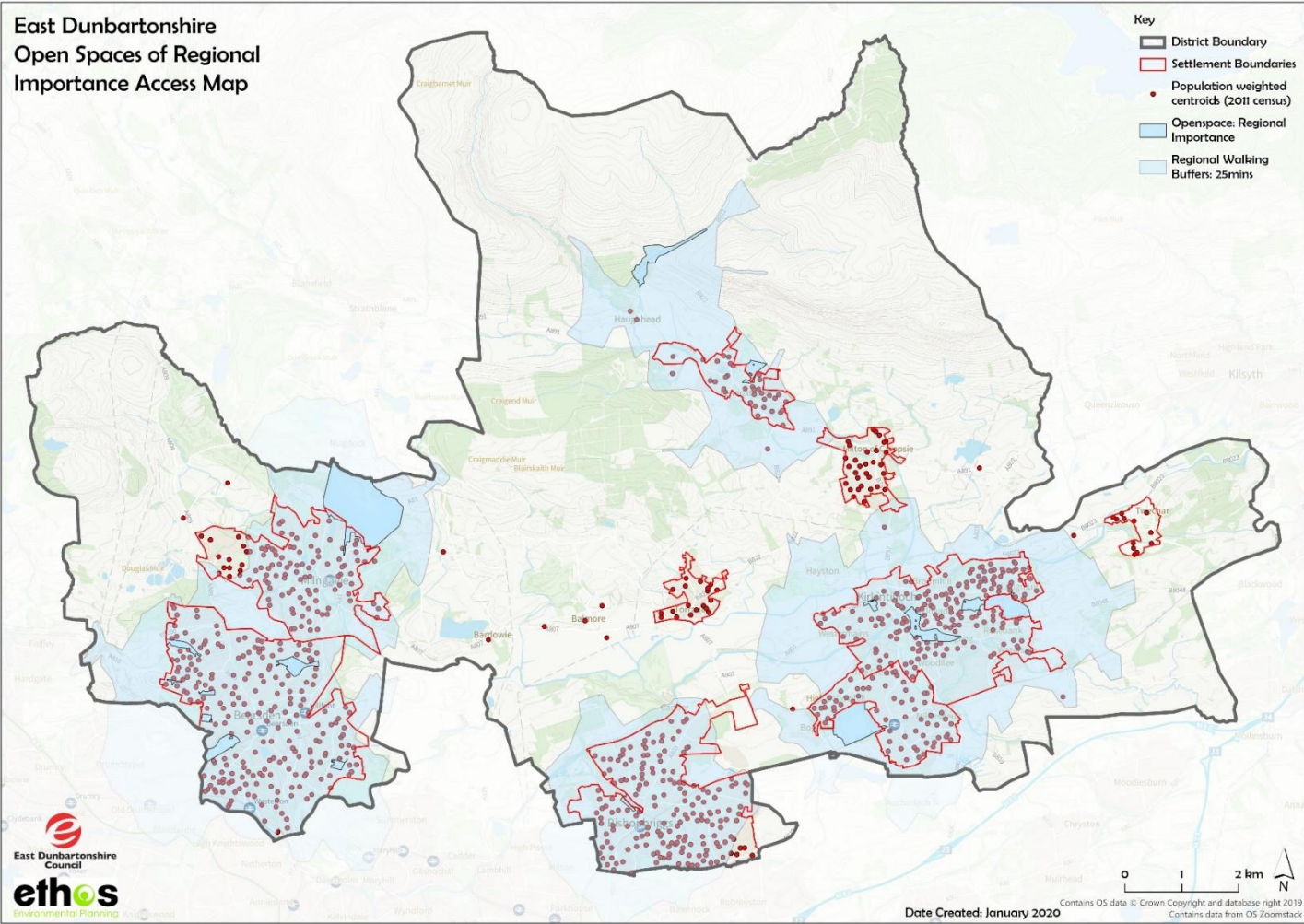


Fig.7 Regional Importance Access Map



Walking and wheeling analysis for new open spaces

Four new open spaces were identified as part of the 2025 audit. Both Kilmaidinny Loch and Kilmaidinny North are owned and managed by the Council. Broomhill Hospital 1 and 2 are privately owned and not managed by the Council. Walking and wheeling accessibility was calculated for each new open space site using ArcGIS Pro Network Analyst Tools:

- Kilmaidinny North (amenity greenspace)
- Broomhill Hospital 1 (natural/semi-natural greenspace)
- Broomhill Hospital 2 (natural/semi-natural greenspace)
- Kilmaidinny Loch (natural/semi-natural greenspace).

Proximity analysis tools were used in ArcGIS Pro to calculate the area that can be reached within a specified travel time or distance along a street network. The tool was used for measuring walking and wheeling distances for each of the four spaces. The outputs of the proximity analysis are shown in Figures 10, 12, 14 and 16. These figures illustrate five, 10, 15 and 20-minute travel areas, displayed in shades of purple, with darker tones representing shorter travel times and lighter tones representing longer travel times.

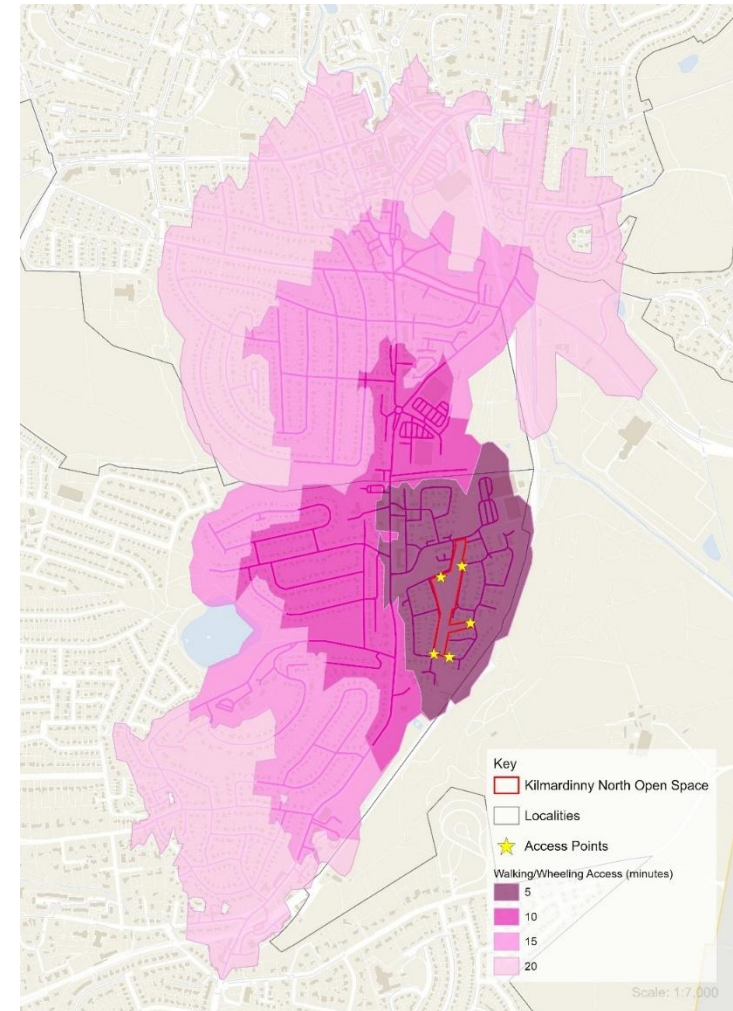


Fig.8 Kilmaidinny (North) – Bearsden

Fig.9 Broomhill Hospital 1 - Kirkintilloch

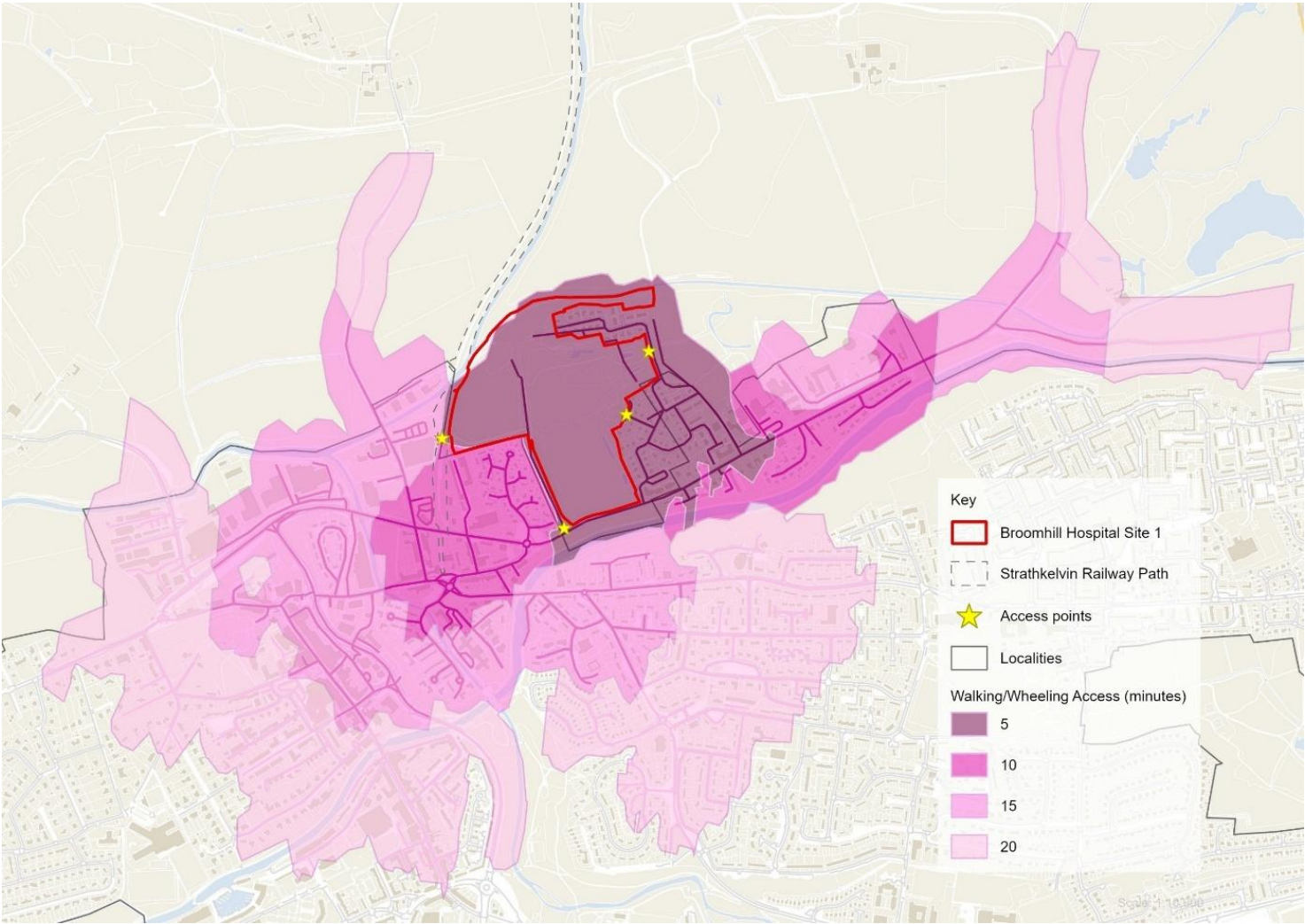


Fig.10 Broomhill Hospital 2 - Kirkintilloch

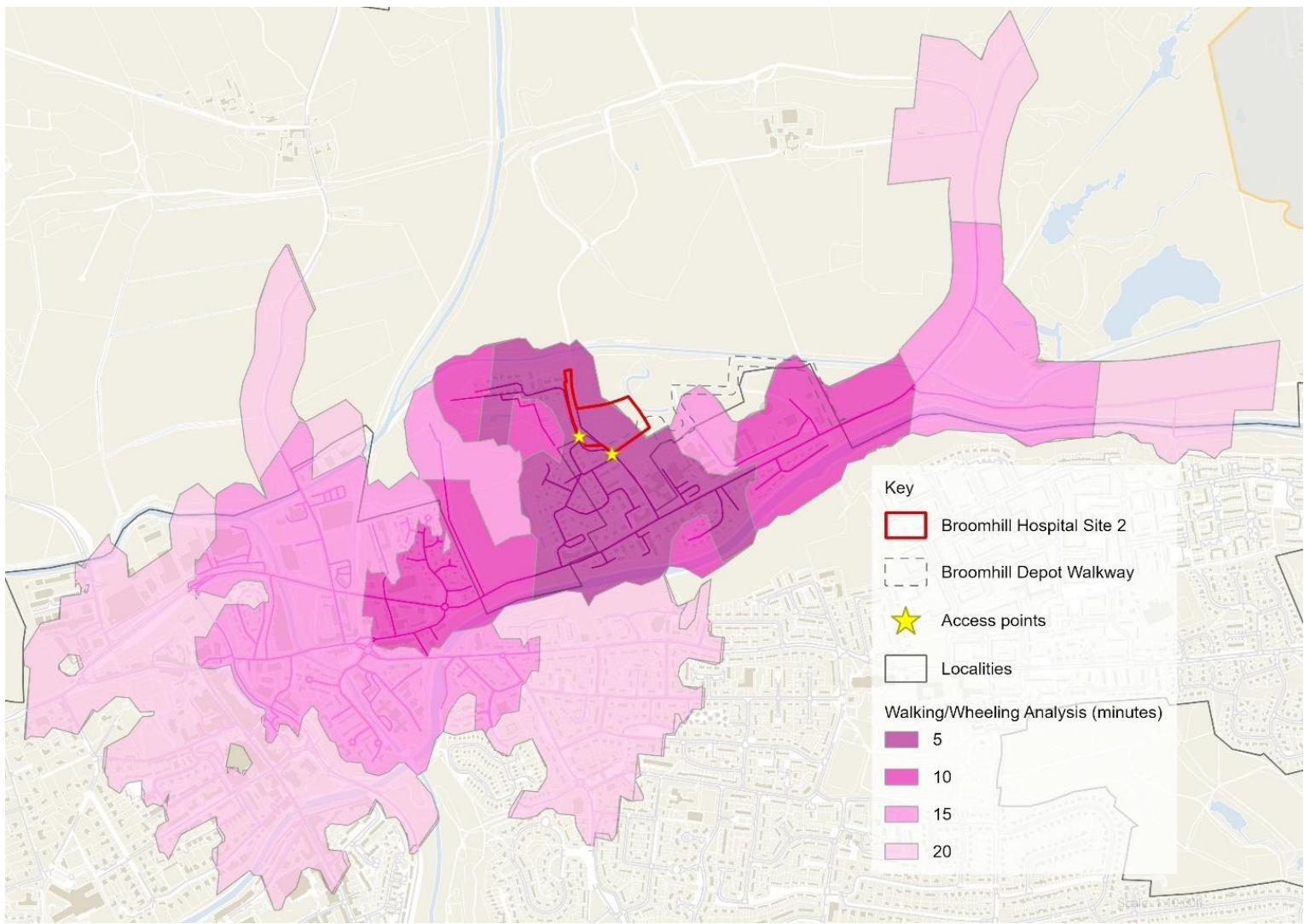
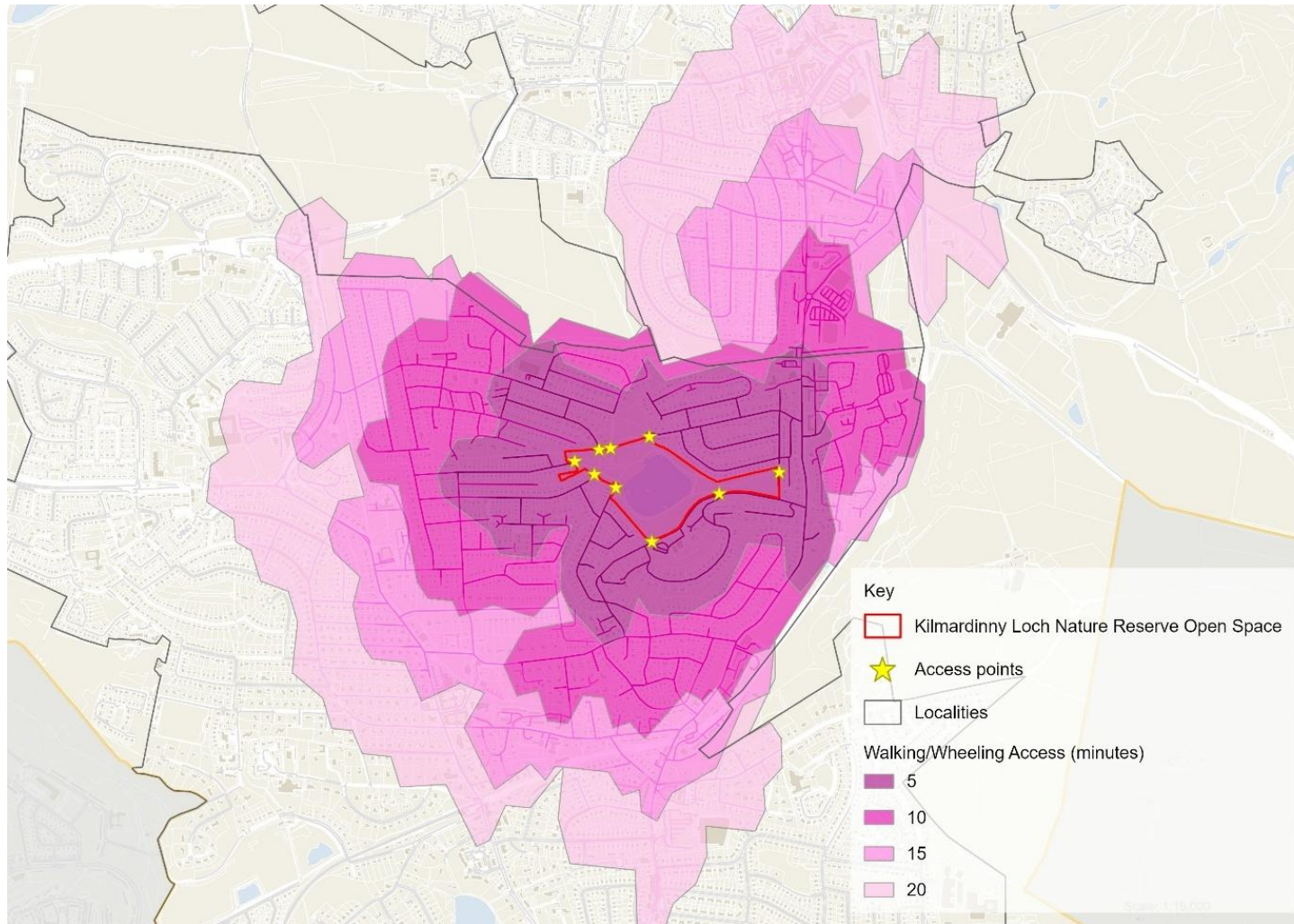


Fig.11 Kilmartinny Loch Local Nature Reserve - Bearsden



Cycling

A key addition to the 2025 audit was the introduction of a dedicated assessment of cycling to each open space. The definition of cycling “Incorporates the action of moving (at speed) on a wide range of pedal-powered wheeled transport that may be powered with hands and/or feet, may transport one or more persons, may or may not include e-assist, and may have from two to four wheels”. The evaluation of cycling access to open spaces was carried out using the bespoke TRACC accessibility tool, which provides a spatial analysis of travel times by active modes. The TRACC tool employs isochrone mapping to visualise how far individuals can travel by cycling to reach open spaces across East Dunbartonshire. Figure 12 presents the outputs of this analysis, using a gradient of pink and purple tones to represent varying levels of accessibility – darker shades indicate stronger connectivity and shorter travel times.

The results of the analysis show that 204 out of 206 open spaces are accessible within a five-minute cycle using the existing road and footpath networks. This reflects a high level of active travel connectivity across the district and aligns well with national policy objectives, such as those outlined in PAN 65, which advocate for open spaces to be easily reachable by walking, wheeling and cycling. From the TRACC analysis, seven open spaces have portions of their boundaries that fall outside the five-minute cycling threshold. In particular, Baldernock Cemetery stands out as the only open space where the majority of access falls within the five to ten-minute cycling range, suggesting a slightly lower level of connectivity compared to the rest of the district.

The TRACC system applies a standard cycling speed of 16km/h across all network links, with footpaths assuming a walking speed of 4.8km/h, reflecting the assumption that cyclists would dismount in these areas. This standardisation allows for consistent comparison across the district. In addition to accessibility scoring, the isochrone map provides a clear visual representation of the time required to reach open spaces within East Dunbartonshire. This analysis confirms a high level of connectivity across East Dunbartonshire, illustrating that most open spaces are easily accessible by cycling using the existing road network and footpaths.

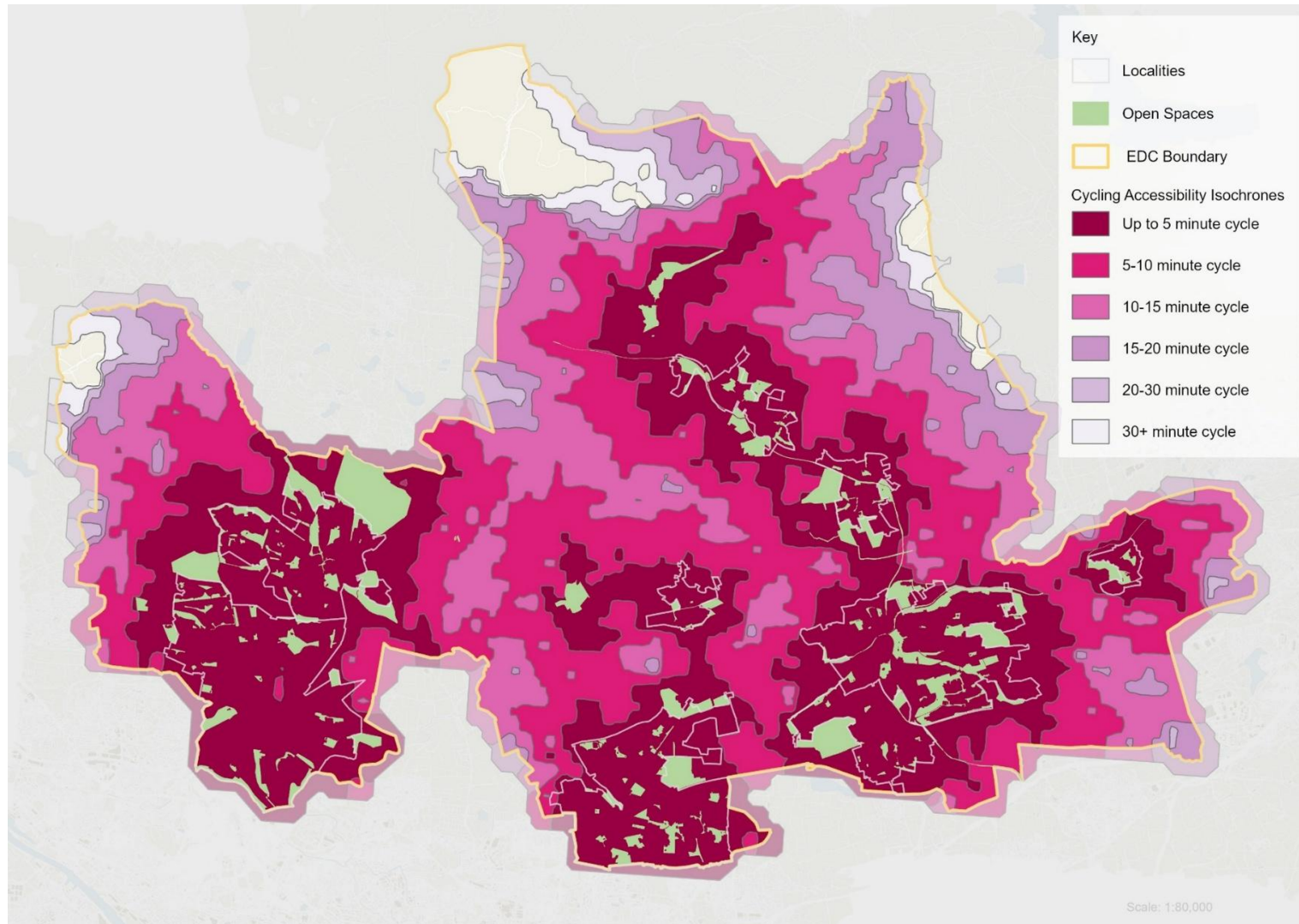


Fig.12

To complement the isochrone analysis, the East Dunbartonshire cycling network was overlaid with the TRACC-generated cycling accessibility isochrones in Figure 12. Green lines denote the formal cycling network, while green areas represent open spaces. Figure 13 highlights the great interconnection of open spaces by the cycle network, especially in Bearsden, Milngavie, Kirkintilloch and Lenzie. These areas show consistently strong accessibility of cycling to open spaces.

Figure 13 also highlights that Baldernock Cemetery is along the recognised ‘quiet on-road route advisory cycle lane’ as highlighted in the Council’s [Walking and Cycling document](#). Bishopbriggs, the second largest settlement in East Dunbartonshire by population, shows good access to open space by cycling, particularly in the north. Open spaces in the south are better served by the existing road and path network, indicating weaker connectivity using the cycle network.

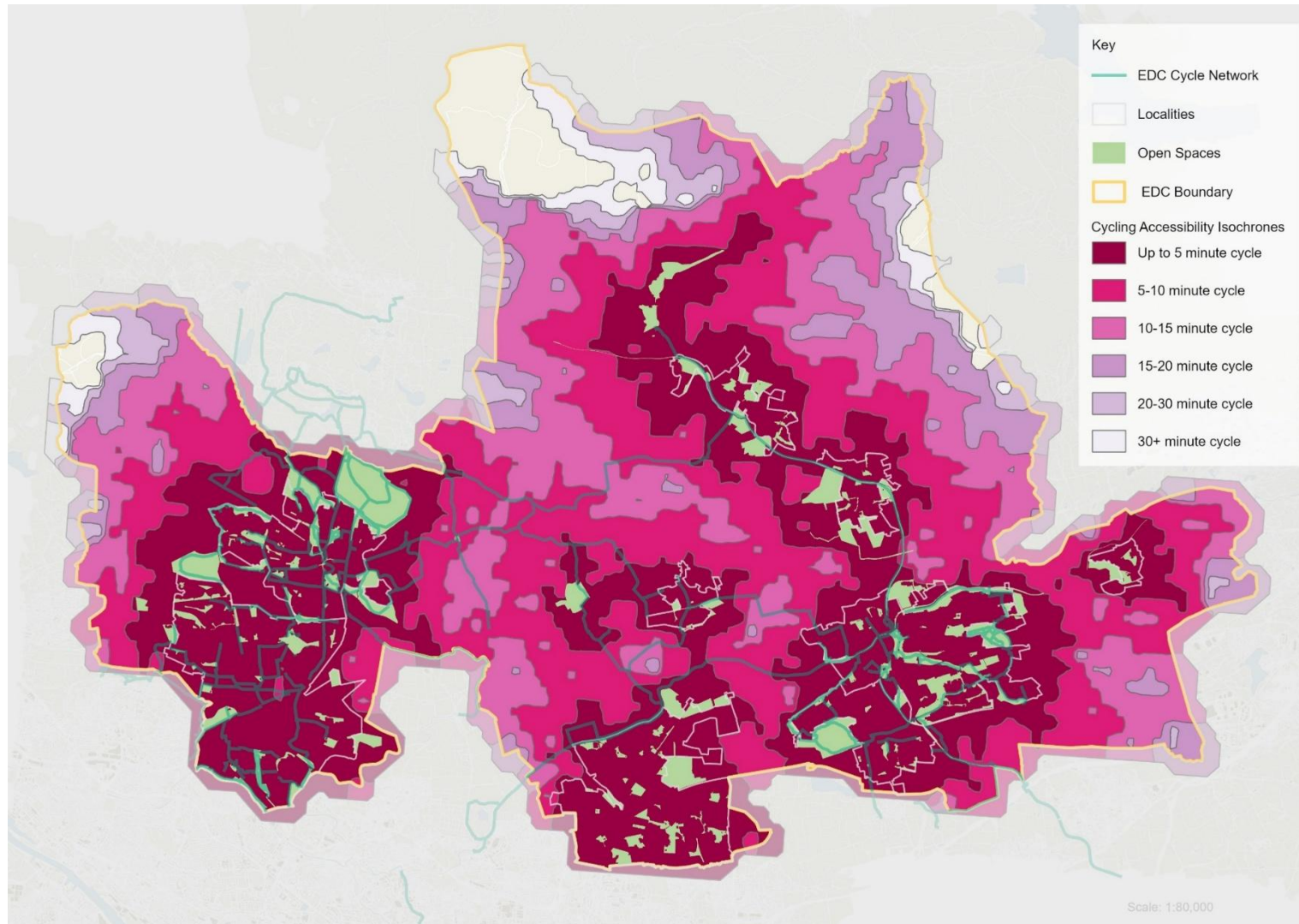


Fig.13

Cycling with population centroids

Cycling accessibility to open spaces plays a key role in promoting active travel and equitable access to blue and green infrastructure. To ensure the analysis reflects actual settlement patterns rather than just geographic spread, NRS Census 2022 population centroids were overlaid on top of the cycling isochrones as seen in Figure 14. This analysis ensured that accessibility was assessed in relation to where people actually live, offering a more accurate representation of potential demand and service gaps.

Figure 19 shows the cycling access ‘up to five minutes’, along with the cycle network and NRS Census 2022 population centroids. This helps to highlight where population centres fall outside the threshold of a five-minute cycle to open spaces. Most population centres fall within a five to 15-minute cycling range to open spaces, indicating relatively good accessibility for the majority of residents. A few settlements lie outside the five-minute contour, but still fall within the five to 10 or 10-15-minute bands, suggesting that while not immediately adjacent, they are still reasonably accessible by cycling. These are around the areas of:

- Balmore – village
- Bardowie – hamlet
- Baldernock – parish
- Auchenreoch – hamlet.

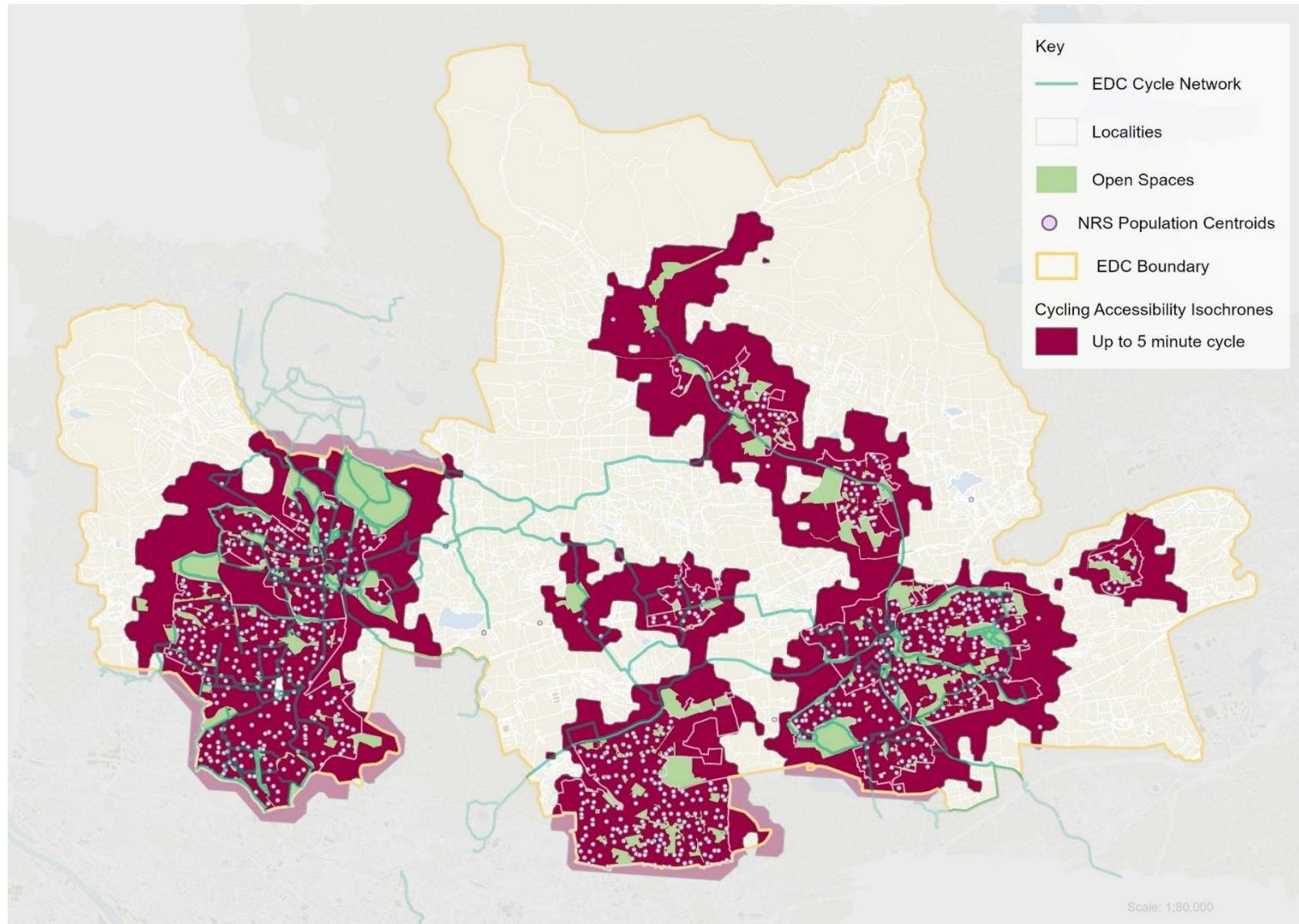


Fig.14

4.2. Play Sufficiency Assessment

The Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) evaluates the sufficiency of play opportunities for children across East Dunbartonshire. It is carried out by the Council under the duty set out in Section 7(5) Part 16D(1) of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. The act requires planning authorities to assess play provision as part of the preparation of an evidence report prepared for the Local Development Plan. The Town & Country Planning (Play Sufficiency Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 provide flexibility for planning authorities to include locally meaningful information and to align with other relevant areas of work, such as the Open Space Audit. In 2024, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) was incorporated into Scots Law, recognising play as a fundamental and essential component of childhood that contributes to physical, social, cognitive and emotional development. Under Articles 12, 15 and 31, all children have the right to play and relax, the right to freedom of association and to have their views heard and considered. Planning authorities are therefore required to consult children to ensure compliance with UNCRC and to fulfil the duties on children's rights.

The Council has undertaken a PSA to meet the requirements of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 and the PSA Regulations 2023. The assessment provides an evidence-based overview of current play provision across East Dunbartonshire to help guide improvements and identify new opportunities for play facilities. The assessment consists of two parts:

- Play Area Audit – a comprehensive audit of play spaces across the Council area, supported by mapped data and asset records, providing an operational resource for ongoing asset management and maintenance planning
- Play Action Plan – an analysis of current play provision, identifying opportunities for improvement, and setting out a programme of works to inform future development and funding priorities. The Play Action Plan sets out a vision for high-quality, inclusive play opportunities for all children and young people, while recognising the financial constraints faced by local authorities. It supports an equitable and targeted approach to investment, ensuring that play provision across East Dunbartonshire meets the needs of all communities, particularly those currently under-served or facing barriers to access. Findings from the PSA have been embedded within the strategy to guide the delivery of accessible, engaging and inclusive play spaces across East Dunbartonshire. The Play Action Plan has been embedded within the strategy and will be implemented over a five-year period from 2026-2031, subject to available funding.

Ambition for East Dunbartonshire's play spaces

Everyone living in East Dunbartonshire should have access to attractive, high-quality play facilities that cater for the needs of children and young people of all ages. This strategy builds on the findings of the PSA and sets out a shared ambition for play spaces that are designed for people, nature and place.

Well-designed play spaces in East Dunbartonshire should be:

- Well-located neighbourhood spaces, close to areas of demand
- Sensory, fun and well-designed, lifting the spirit and encouraging exploration
- Attractive to children of all ages and abilities through a wide range of play experiences
- Designed for imaginative play and to increase physical activity
- Designed in accordance with current play legislation
- Inviting and friendly for people of all ages, through inclusive play experiences
- Responding to the locality and consider qualities of place, making use of natural resources and utilising passive surveillance
- Designed to include public art and interpretation
- In good condition, safe and litter free.

The Council is committed to enhancing play provision for children and young people across East Dunbartonshire through a combination of targeted investment in existing play areas, the integration of inclusive equipment, and the introduction of natural play features that encourage exploration and interaction with the natural environment. To make play more inclusive, we are committed to delivering more accessible play equipment and incorporating natural play features into the current play resource in our greenspaces to encourage more interactive learning. Over the past decade, the Council has made a concerted effort to ensure all settlement areas in East Dunbartonshire have some level of inclusive play equipment. The Council is committed to ongoing improvements and upgrades where required as part of a commitment to ensure equitable access to inclusive play equipment across the authority area.

Overarching principles of play

The following principles have guided the assessment of play in East Dunbartonshire and informed the associated action plan:

- All children in Scotland have a right to play
- Play spaces help promote better health and reduce inequalities by providing diverse opportunities in open spaces for physical exercise, play and recreation
- Resources and interventions should be focused to provide a local network of well-designed, useable, clean, safe and accessible play spaces that are fit for purpose, well-resourced and managed, and meet the needs of the community
- Recognise the contribution of informal play spaces and privately-owned place spaces to the overall play resource.

Types of play space

Table 14 below sets out the different types of play space for children and young people. The categories are based on the Fields in Trust 'Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play', which has since been superseded by the 'Fields in Trust Standards: Creating Great Spaces for All' report (2024).

Table 14. Types of play space

Types of play space	Sub-category	Description
Equipped play spaces	Local Area for Play (LAP)	A small area of open space designed for children up to the age of six years, providing play areas close to home.
	Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP)	An area of open space designed for children from 0-11 years old, with features and equipment for children who are beginning to play independently close to where they live.
	Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP)	A large area of open space designed for children from 0-11 years old, with additional spaces for children 12 years and over. Facilities might include a hard surface area for ball games, wheeled activities, grass pitches or a shelter for socialising.
	Destination Play Area	A large area usually located close to community facilities which is aimed at attracting families and other groups for longer visits. They tend to be larger than neighbourhood sites, have car parking facilities, a greater variety of fixed equipment, natural play opportunities, associated facilities and suitable access arrangements for disabled children. At the time of the audit there were no

		‘destination playgrounds’ in East Dunbartonshire. Bishopbriggs Park has been identified as the location for the Council’s first Destination Play Area, with completion expected in 2026.
Flexible play space	Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and other types of play facilities	Flexible play spaces are often found with an open space, close to an equipped play area, and can include MUGA, skate parks, pump tracks, BMX tracks and fitness or trim trails. In some facilities, e.g. skate parks, the Council has included a 'nursery' extension for disabled or younger skaters.
Natural play	Informal natural play features might include: • Climbing logs, fairy trails, sculptural seats, natural fortresses, sculptures, shrubs/willow tunnels, loose surface materials, etc • Sculptural trails following circular path loops around the wider open space and woodlands • Den-making areas, fallen logs, sculptures within woodland areas, natural environments formed from fallen trees • Trees and shrubs, wildflower meadows, mowing regimes to add interest to open grass, hillocks and dips • Bespoke equipment that inspires more natural play	Successful play spaces offer a variety of experiences, physical activities, adventure and an element of imaginative play. They can also be important social spaces for parents and carers. There is potential to diversify the current play offer of the Council’s open spaces, encouraging children to explore open spaces and woodlands through non-prescriptive play equipment and features, which put play in the control of children – encouraging imagination and creativity. The inclusion of natural play in formal and informal play spaces will encourage increased use of natural and resilient materials, and planting design features suitable and appropriate to the site. The play features provided as part of an informal natural play space might include anything from a centre for play to a few pieces of carved logs.

	• Outdoor classrooms.	
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Play Standards

The PSA Regulations do not prescribe play standards; however, the Scottish Government Planning Guidance for Play Sufficiency Assessments offers planning authorities flexibility in defining the criteria for the assessment of the quantity, quality and accessibility of play spaces. This Strategy sets out the East Dunbartonshire Play Standard for quantity, quality and accessibility across a range of play typologies which will ensure all play spaces are attractive, accessible, functional and fit for purpose.

Quality

The PSA builds upon and strengthens the quality standard established through the 2020 OSA. While the OSA set quality thresholds of Excellent (80%+), Very Good (70–79%) and Good (55–69%), the PSA introduces a new standard for play, **defining Good to Excellent provision as 60% and above**. This raises the baseline expectation for play spaces and reflects the ambition of the Greenspace Strategy to ensure that facilities for children and young people are of consistently high quality across East Dunbartonshire.

The Quality Play Standard will ensure:

- Provision of a good to excellent quality play space and associated facilities, providing functional, fit for purpose, pleasant and welcome spaces for children of different ages and ability.
- Ensure that all play areas operated and cared for by the Council are in good condition, safe and litter free.

Quantity

The 2020 Open Space Audit carried out by Ethos Consulting involved an assessment of the various types of open space in East Dunbartonshire, including children's play space and youth play space. Considering the provision of open space by typology, and existing standards and benchmarking, the following quantity standards were proposed for children's play space and youth play space:

- **0.07 hectares of children's play space per 1,000 people**
- **0.07 hectares of youth play space per 1,000 people**

It was established that the standard for children's play space was in line with the current level of provision. A shortfall in the provision of youth play space of 0.01ha/1000 was identified across the local authority area. Therefore, it was proposed that the standard for youth play space should be brought in line with the standard for children's play space.

The quantity of play opportunities in East Dunbartonshire has been assessed using the above standard, considering the number and range of play opportunities in settlements across the authority area. The quantity assessment has established:

- The number and distribution of fixed play spaces, natural play spaces, as appropriate to population demographics and community need.
- Play provision provides a range of play opportunities in each settlement that meet the different needs of users.

The Quantity Play Standard will ensure:

- Provision of a range of play and activity zones in every settlement, within reasonable walking, wheeling, or cycling distance.
- Ensure there are options for a range of play opportunities in the locality that meet the different needs of users.
- All to most play spaces are of good sizes and are not over-crowded.

Accessibility

The accessibility standard for play has been carried forward from the 2015 Open Space Strategy. It is based on established best practices and recognised national benchmarks. The standard proposes good physical accessibility using three distance thresholds for walking, wheeling and cycling:

- **Local Area for Play (LAP) within 240m**
- **Local Equipped Area for Play (LEAP) within 400m**
- **Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP) within 800m**

These thresholds were originally derived from the Fields in Trust Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play guidance and informed by accessibility research undertaken by the GCRGN and East Dunbartonshire's Greenspace Mapping Review. Retaining this standard ensures consistency and continuity in how accessibility is assessed.

The Accessibility Play Standard provides:

- Good physical accessibility for children in terms of safety from vehicular traffic and other access conditions.
- Play opportunities in the locality and planning authority area that meet the needs of children from diverse communities, cultural, social and economic backgrounds.
- Play opportunities that are accessible for children with disabilities and protected characteristics.
- All to most play spaces are accessible during different times of the day and all days of the week.

Play Provision

Quantity

A total of 101 play spaces were included in the audit, including both Council and privately owned and managed spaces. East Dunbartonshire Council and Stirling Council jointly manage the play area and adventure play area at Mugdock Country Park via the Mugdock Joint Management Committee. Play space sites are distributed across the towns and villages of East Dunbartonshire as follows:

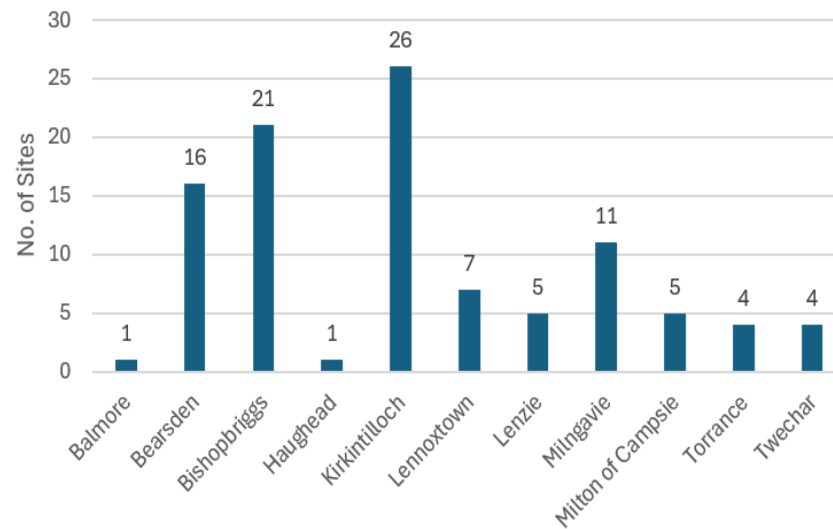


Fig.15

The following chart sets out the number of play spaces in each settlement suitable for nursery aged, primary school aged and secondary school aged children (including multi-use sites, which cater for a range of age groups):

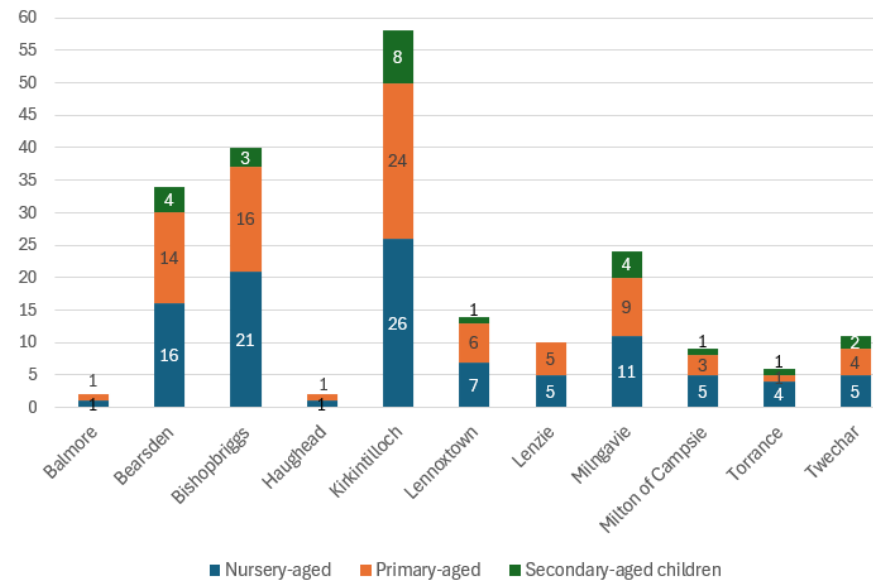


Fig.16

Kirkintilloch contains the highest number of play facilities with a total of 26. Each of the play spaces includes play opportunities for nursery-aged children, and all but two play areas also provide opportunities for primary school-aged children. There are five play areas (designated as LEAPS) that provide facilities for children up to the age of 15 and three play areas (designated as NEAPS) that provide facilities for children aged 16 and 17. The other larger EDC settlements (Bishopbriggs, Bearsden and Milngavie) also contain a range of play opportunities for children of all ages. The smaller settlements of Lennoxtown, Milton of Campsie, Torrance and Twechar contain a similar range of facilities. Lenzie does not contain youth facilities, however Woodhead Park and Luggie Park are in close proximity to the residential areas of Lenzie.

With regards to youth play spaces, East Dunbartonshire contains the following:

Table 15. Youth play spaces

Settlement	Owner	Name
Bearsden	EDC	Langfaulds BMX Track
	EDC	Langfaulds MUGA
	EDC	King George V Park MUGA
	Private	Templehill View – Teen Equipment
	EDC	Baljaffray Park – Teen Equipment
Bishopbriggs	EDC	Bishopbriggs Public Park MUGA
	Private	Harnett Wynd MUGA
	EDC	Meadowburn – Teen Equipment
Kirkintilloch	EDC	Luggie Skate Park
	EDC	Rosebank Park Fitness Equipment
	Private	Woodilee MUGA
	Private	Woodilee East MUGA
	EDC	Eastside Park – Teen Equipment
	EDC	Peel Park – Teen Equipment
	EDC	Langmuir North – Teen Equipment
	EDC	Park Burn – Teen Equipment
Lennoxtown	EDC	High Park MUGA
Milngavie	EDC	Lennox Skate Park
	EDC	Oakburn Park – Teen Equipment
	EDC	Mugdock Country Park – Teen Equipment
Milton of Campsie	EDC	Milton Public Park – Teen Equipment
Torrance	EDC	West Acre Park – Teen Equipment
Twechar	EDC NEAP	Healthy Living and Enterprise Centre MUGA
	EDC NEAP	Twechar Public Park Fitness Trail

Youth play facilities are generally well-distributed across East Dunbartonshire. Most communities benefit from an adequate supply of spaces for teenagers and older children. However, the quality of the facilities and their accessibility varies between settlements, and in some areas, provision is located on the periphery rather than within neighbourhoods.

In Bearsden, youth provision is available at Langfaulds Field and King George V Park, supported by smaller installations at Templehill View and Baljaffray Park. While this represents a reasonable supply, most facilities are located towards the edge of the town, reducing accessibility for young people without independent travel. By contrast, Bishopbriggs benefits from a strong and improving offer, with Bishopbriggs Public Park acting as a centrally-located hub that provides facilities for a wide range of age groups. Provision is further supported by the MUGA at Harnett Wynd and teen equipment at Meadowburn, and recent investment since the 2020 Audit has continued to enhance the availability and quality of youth facilities in the town. The planned delivery of a new bike track at Etive Park in 2024, as part of wider green infrastructure upgrades, has further strengthened provision and supported accessibility.

Kirkintilloch also has a sufficient supply of youth facilities within the urban area, including existing provision at Luggie Park, Woodilee and Woodilee East, alongside teen equipment within a number of neighbourhood parks. However, there is a shortfall in neighbouring Lenzie, where dense residential estates and large private gardens both limit the availability of land for neighbourhood play spaces. There are opportunities to address the shortfall through upgrades to Thornwood Avenue Open Space and through potential open space and river restoration along the Park Burn corridor. Youth facilities in Lennoxtown, Milton of Campsie, Torrance and Twechar are considered sufficient for local population needs, with provision focused within the main public parks in each settlement. Community feedback in Lennoxtown has identified interest in skate park and bike facilities, and these options may be explored further. The small populations in Haughhead and Balmore do not generate sufficient demand for dedicated youth facilities.

Across the authority, there is a sufficiency of youth play provision in Bishopbriggs, Kirkintilloch, Lennoxtown, Milton of Campsie, Torrance and Twechar, with identified shortfalls in Lenzie and Milngavie. In Milngavie, local opportunities include the skate park at Lennox Park and teen equipment at Oakburn Park, supported by facilities within Mugdock Country Park. However, the latter is recognised as being located at some distance from the town, highlighting the need to address accessibility for local young people.

The results of the 2020 Open Space Audit quantity analysis for Children's Play Space and Youth Play Space typologies are summarised below:

Table 16. Supply of Children's Play Space and Youth Play Space (ha/1000) against the quantity standards by typology

Settlement	Typology	Area (ha/1000 people)
Bearsden	Children's Play Space	0.08
	Youth Play Space	0.01
	Summary: Shortfall in the supply of youth play space.	
Bishopbriggs	Children's Play Space	0.05
	Youth Play Space	0.00
	Summary: Shortfall in the supply of children's play space and shortfall in the supply of youth play space provision.	
Kirkintilloch	Children's Play Space	0.08
	Youth Play Space	0.01
	Summary: Sufficient supply of children's play space and youth play space provision (provided within other parks).	
Lennoxtown	Children's Play Space	0.09
	Youth Play Space	0.01
	Summary: Sufficient supply of children's play space and youth play space provision (provided within other parks).	
Lenzie	Children's Play Space	0.02
	Youth Play Space	0.00
	Summary: Shortfall in the supply of children's play space and youth play space provision.	
Milngavie	Children's Play Space	0.03
	Youth Play Space	0.00
	Summary: Shortfall in the supply of children's play space and youth play space provision.	
Milton of Campsie	Children's Play Space	0.07
	Youth Play Space	0.00
	Summary: Sufficient supply of children's play space and youth play space provision (provided within other parks).	
Torrance	Children's Play Space	0.23
	Youth Play Space	0.00
	Summary: Sufficient supply of children's play space and youth play space provision (provided within other parks).	
Twechar	Children's Play Space	0.27
	Youth Play Space	0.02
	Summary: Sufficient supply of children's play space and youth play space provision (provided within other parks).	

Privately-owned play spaces have been considered in the assessment as they are often publicly accessible but not maintained by EDC. The Council has no direct remit regarding the upgrade of private play spaces.

Quality

Quality of play opportunities can be considered by demonstrating fitness for purpose in meeting the enjoyment, social and developmental needs of children; and the contribution a play space makes to the overall quality of the place in which it is located. Of all the 101 play areas assessed, the number of sites fell into the various scoring bands in Fig. 17 Overall Quality Scores.

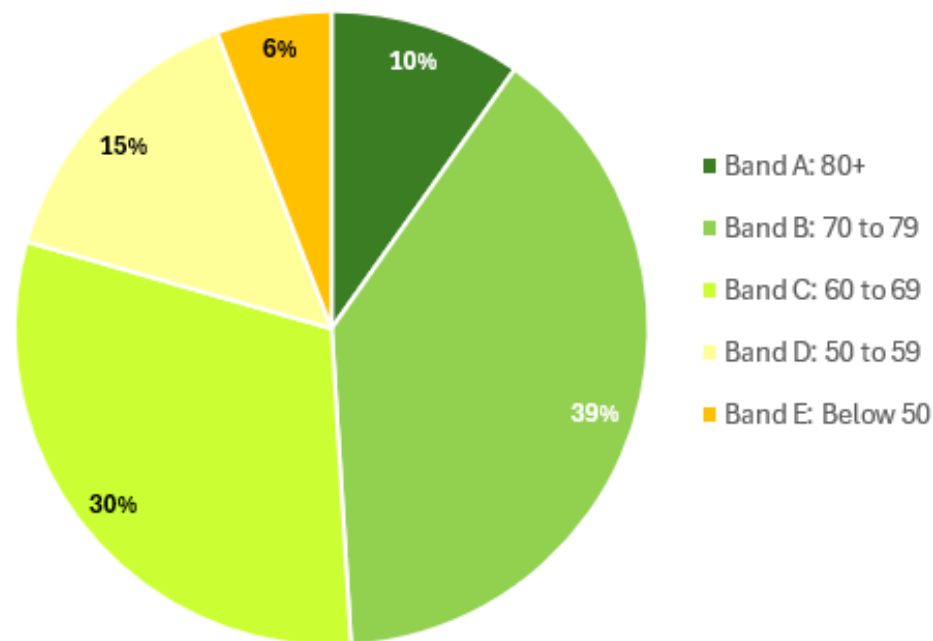


Fig.17 Overall Quality Scores

With regards to the quality of play areas across the towns and villages of East Dunbartonshire, all settlements contain play spaces that meet the quality standard. Approximately 10% of sites were given a score in the Band A range, 39% of sites fell into the Band B score, 30% were Band C, 15% were band D and 6% were given a band E score. The average quality score of equipped play areas was 69%.

Bearsden has fewer play areas than other towns but all almost all play areas are well-equipped and of high quality and are currently fit for purpose. The assessment found Bishopbriggs provides a good range of play parks with six play areas falling below the quality standard. Since the audit, Springfield Park East and Muir Street have been removed and upgraded, therefore Bishopbriggs has four sites which fall below the quality standard.

Kirkintilloch also provides a good range of play facilities, but a few of the privately owned and managed play spaces fall just below the quality standard. Tintock Park (Alloway Grove) play area was assessed but has now been removed as part of wider site development. Merkland Outdoor Centre (Newdyke Rd) was gated and inaccessible at the time of survey, presumably for safety reasons, and therefore was not quality scored. This has now been removed. Milngavie benefits from a range of high-quality play facilities but does include one site that scores below 60%.

The quality scoring for play spaces in each locality is set out below. The full results of the quality scoring can be found in [Appendix 8](#), along with recommendations for the improvement of the play spaces and wider open space.

Table 17. Play Quality Assessment Scores

Balmore

Settlement	Site Name	Quality Score (%)
Balmore	Croft Road	74

Bearsden

Settlement	Site Name	Quality Score (%)
Bearsden	Baljaffray Park	71
Bearsden	Burncrooks Avenue Playspace	59
Bearsden	Canniesburn Drive Playspace	65
Bearsden	Colquhoun Park	79
Bearsden	Crieff Avenue	76
Bearsden	Heather Park	74
Bearsden	King George V Park	82
Bearsden	Kilmardinny Gate Playspace	50
Bearsden	Langfaulds Field	82
Bearsden	Mosshead Road	79

Bearsden	Robert Burns Drive Playspace	68
Bearsden	Southview Grove Playspace	62
Bearsden	Templehill View	82
Bearsden	Thorn Park	76
Bearsden	Westerton Park	68
Bearsden	Whitehurst (Courthill)	68

Bishopbriggs

Settlement	Site Name	Quality Score (%)
Bishopbriggs	Angus Avenue Play Area	65
Bishopbriggs	Beech Road Playspace	71
Bishopbriggs	Bishopbriggs Public Park	85
Bishopbriggs	Bishopbriggs Sports Centre	68
Bishopbriggs	Brookfield Road Playspace	56
Bishopbriggs	Callieburn Road	74
Bishopbriggs	Cloan Crescent	71
Bishopbriggs	Doune Crescent	74
Bishopbriggs	Etive Park	76
Bishopbriggs	Harnett Wynd Play	85
Bishopbriggs	John Marshall Drive Playspace	65
Bishopbriggs	Kincardine Drive	41
Bishopbriggs	Lennox Crescent	65
Bishopbriggs	Meadowburn North and South	76
Bishopbriggs	O'Neill Avenue Playspace	—
Bishopbriggs	Pitmedden Road	74
Bishopbriggs	Smith Grove Playspace	59
Bishopbriggs	Smith Way Playspace 2	65
Bishopbriggs	Stanley Drive	53
Bishopbriggs	Woodhill Park	68

Haughhead

Settlement	Site Name	Quality Score (%)
Haughhead	Castleview	74

Kirkintilloch

Settlement	Site Name	Quality Score (%)
Kirkintilloch	Adamslie	71
Kirkintilloch	Afton View (Tintock Road)	74
Kirkintilloch	Braes of Yeets Drive	68
Kirkintilloch	Carresbrook Avenue	59
Kirkintilloch	Eastside Park	82
Kirkintilloch	Elmbank Playspace	56
Kirkintilloch	Freeland Place	62
Kirkintilloch	Friars Croft	59
Kirkintilloch	Ivanhoe Drive Playspace	74
Kirkintilloch	Kelvinvale Playspace	44
Kirkintilloch	Langmuir North Play Area	74
Kirkintilloch	Luggie Park	68
Kirkintilloch	McGavigans Drive	65
Kirkintilloch	Meiklehill Park Play	68
Kirkintilloch	Parkburn Play Area	74
Kirkintilloch	Peel Park (Union Street)	91
Kirkintilloch	Rosebank Play Area (Blackburn Cres)	65
Kirkintilloch	Silverbirch Drive	74
Kirkintilloch	Taig Road – Waterside	74
Kirkintilloch	Woodhead Park	79
Kirkintilloch	Woodilee East Play Area	74
Kirkintilloch	Woodilee Play Area 1	76
Kirkintilloch	Woodilee Play Area 2	65

Lennoxtown

Settlement	Site Name	Quality Score (%)
Lennoxtown	Bencloich Road	68
Lennoxtown	Glengyle Drive Playspace	50
Lennoxtown	Glazertbank	62
Lennoxtown	High Park	79
Lennoxtown	Hollytree Gardens	62
Lennoxtown	Kincaid Drive	68
Lennoxtown	Village Green Playspace	76

Lenzie

Settlement	Site Name	Quality Score (%)
Lenzie	Alexandra Park	62
Lenzie	Cypress Court	76
Lenzie	Easter Garngaber Road	74
Lenzie	Glenwood to Parkburn (Thornwood Ave)	59
Lenzie	Lenzie Primary School	—

Milngavie

Settlement	Site Name	Quality Score (%)
Milngavie	Campsie Drive	71
Milngavie	Dougalston Gardens North	74
Milngavie	Falloch Park (Mains Estate)	71
Milngavie	Graham Drive Playspace	—
Milngavie	Keystone Park	76
Milngavie	Lawn Park Playspace	65
Milngavie	Lennox Park	85
Milngavie	Marchfield Play Area	68
Milngavie	Mugdock Country Park Adventure Trail	59

Milngavie	Mugdock Country Park	82
Milngavie	Oakburn Park	68
Milngavie	Town Centre (The Precinct)	74

Milton of Campsie

Settlement	Site Name	Quality Score (%)
Milton of Campsie	Birdstone	76
Milton of Campsie	Kincaid Park	68
Milton of Campsie	Milton Public Park	79
Milton of Campsie	Murray Gardens	44
Milton of Campsie	Scott Avenue	53

Torrance

Settlement	Site Name	Quality Score (%)
Torrance	Firbank	56
Torrance	Macgillivray Avenue	65
Torrance	Main Street	76
Torrance	Torrance Play Area (West Acre Park)	76

Twechar

Settlement	Site Name	Quality Score (%)
Twechar	Baird Drive	74
Twechar	Park Avenue	65
Twechar	Turnyhill Road	74
Twechar	Twechar Healthy Living and Enterprise Centre	82
Twechar	Twechar Healthy Living and Enterprise Centre MUGA	71

A small number of sites do not meet the quality standard of 60%. Those sites which do not meet the quality standard are highlighted below.

Table 17. Sites below the quality standard

Settlement	Name	Score (%)
Bearsden	Burncrooks Avenue Play Space (Private)	59
Bearsden	Kilmardinny Gate Play Space (Private)	50
Bishopbriggs	Brookfield Road Play Space (Private)	56
Bishopbriggs	Kincardine Drive	41
Bishopbriggs	Smith Grove Play Space (Private)	59
Bishopbriggs	Stanley Drive	53
Kirkintilloch	Carresbrook Avenue (Private)	59
Kirkintilloch	Elmbank (Private)	56
Kirkintilloch	Friars Croft	59
Kirkintilloch	Kelvinvale Play Space (Private)	44
Lennoxtown	Glengyle Drive Play Space (Private)	50
Lenzie	Glenwood to Parkburn	59
Milton of Campsie	Murray Gardens	44
Milton of Campsie	Scott Avenue	53
Milngavie	Mugdock CP Adventure Trail	59
Torrance	Firbank	56

Overall, 79% of sites meet the 60% quality standard and all settlement areas in East Dunbartonshire contain play spaces which meet the standard. Sixteen sites do not meet the quality standard. This includes sites that are in private ownership and management. Eight out of the 16 sites that fall below the standard are privately managed. Since the assessment took place, there has been a rolling programme of upgrades and investment funded by the Scottish Government via the Play Area Renewal Fund. Over the period of the Strategy, those sites which are owned by the Council and fall below the standard will be improved to meet and exceed the standard. When all sites meet the standard, those with the lowest scores will be prioritised for investment. Actions to improve the quality of those sites owned by the Council which fall below the standard are set out in the Local Community Areas section of the Delivery Programme.

The charts on the following pages show the scores for play areas assessed in each locality. Each bar represents a site quality score. The scores range from 41% (Kincardine Drive, Bishopbriggs) to the highest score of 91% (Peel Park, Kirkintilloch), with the majority of sites scoring in the 60s and 70s. Figures 2a to 2d, found on pages 109 – 112, show the location of play spaces in each settlement.

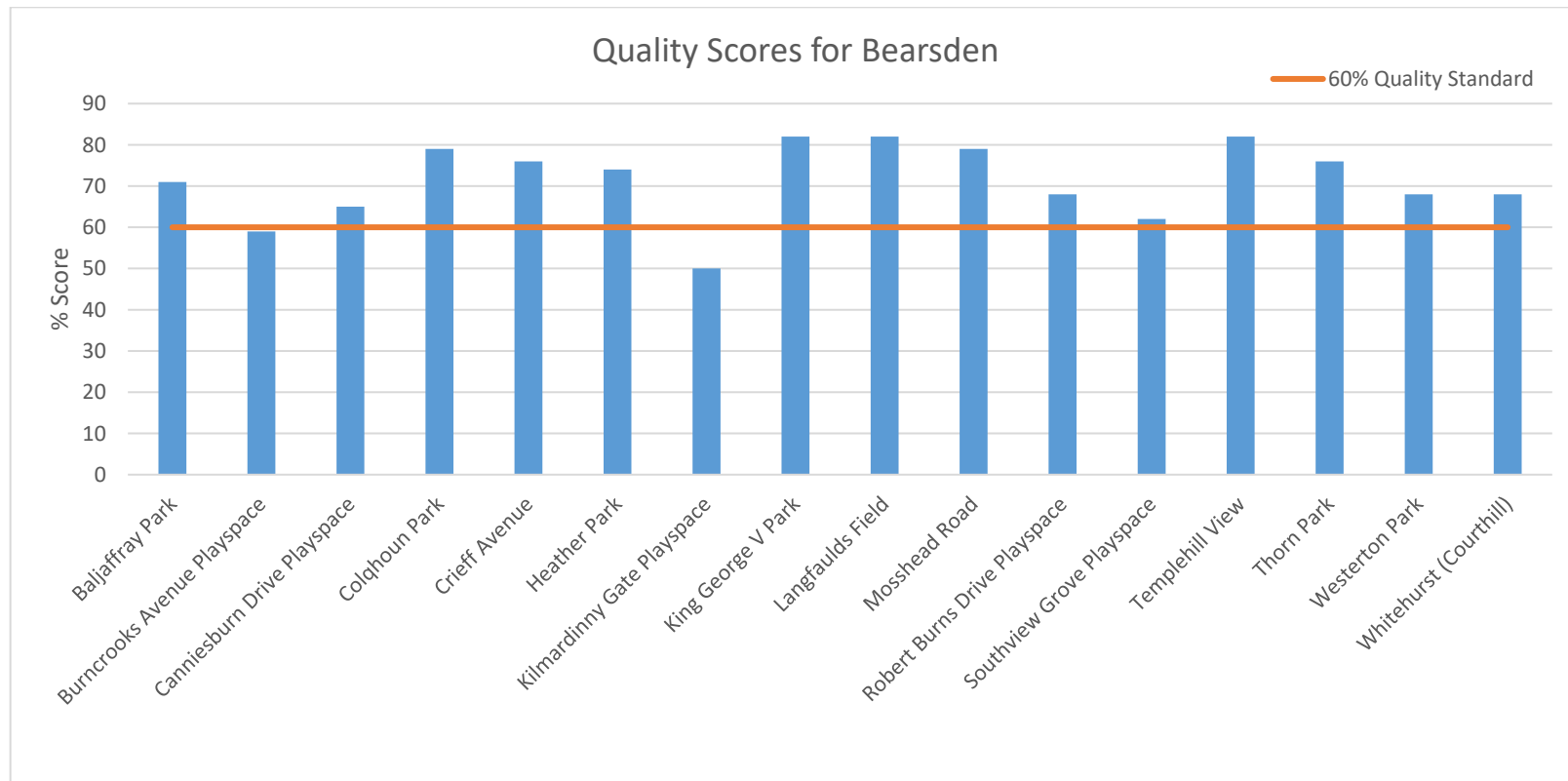


Fig.18

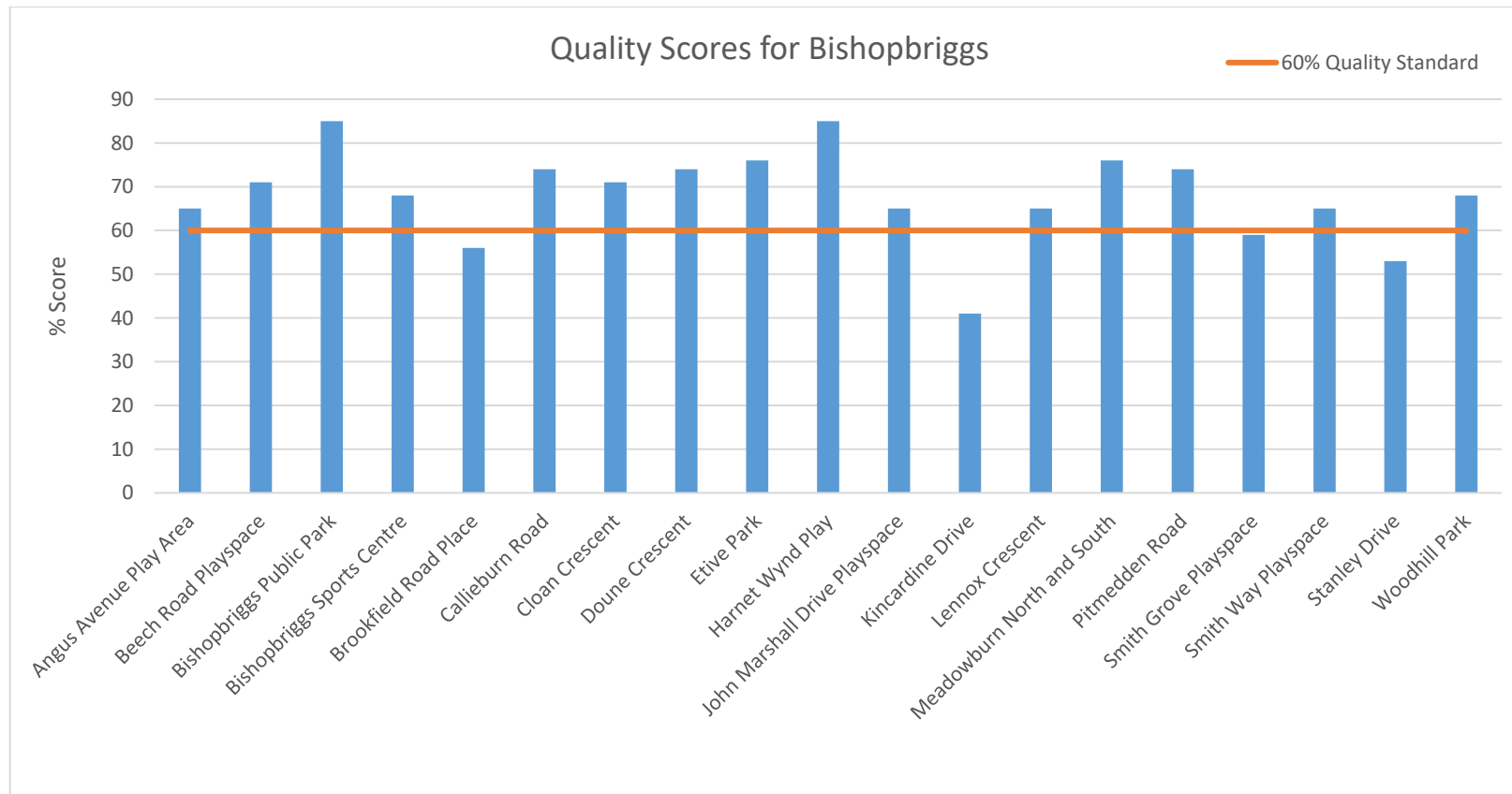


Fig.19

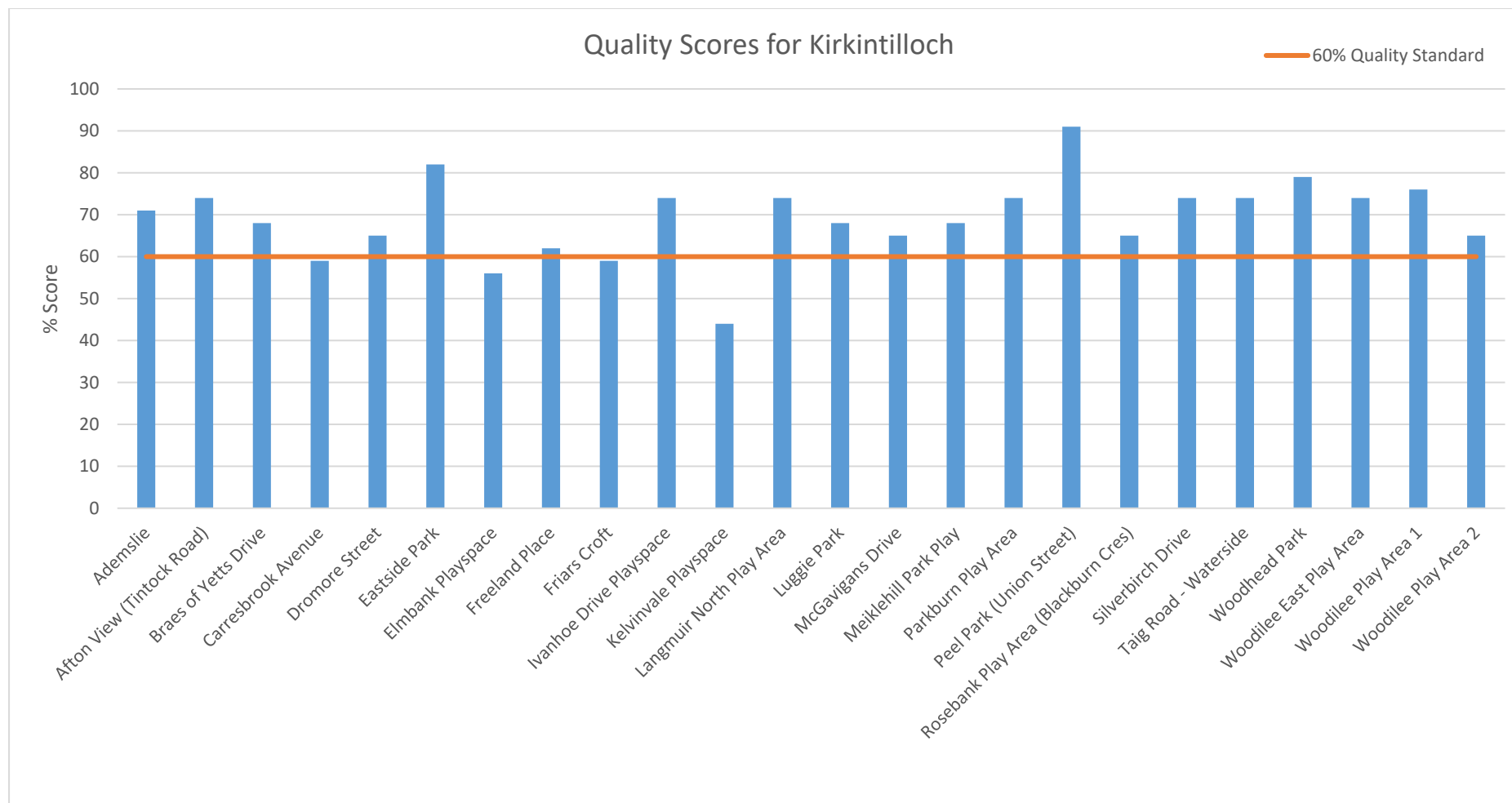


Fig.20

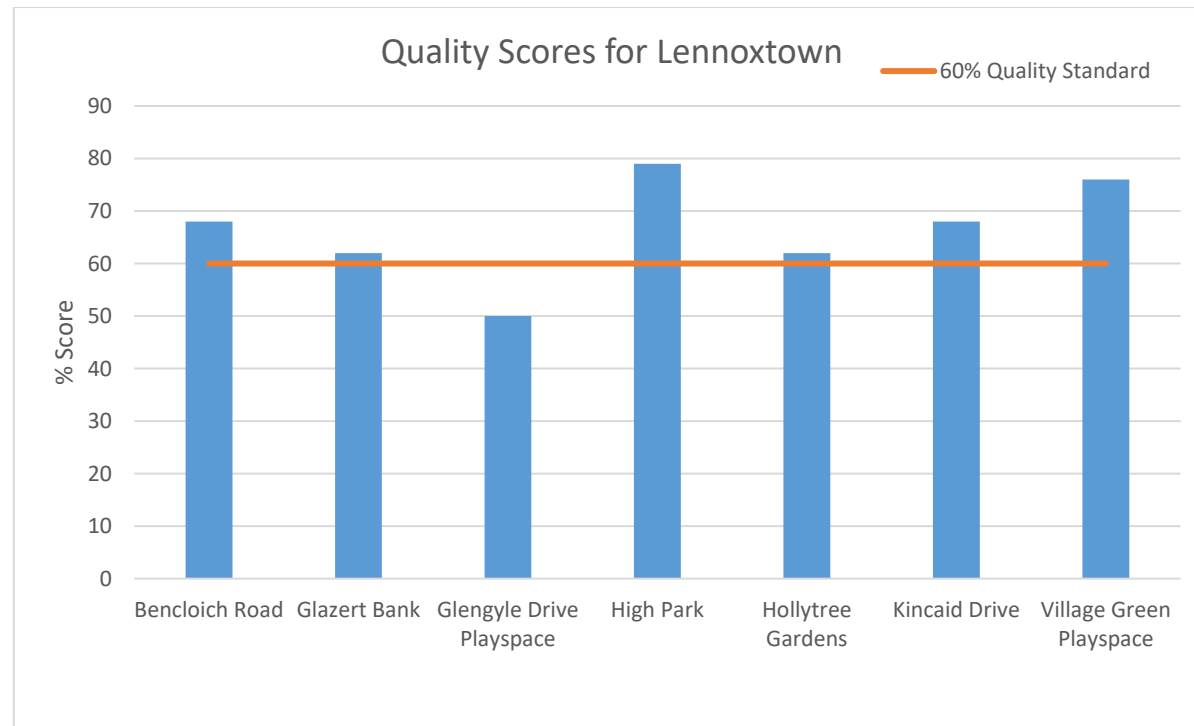


Fig.21

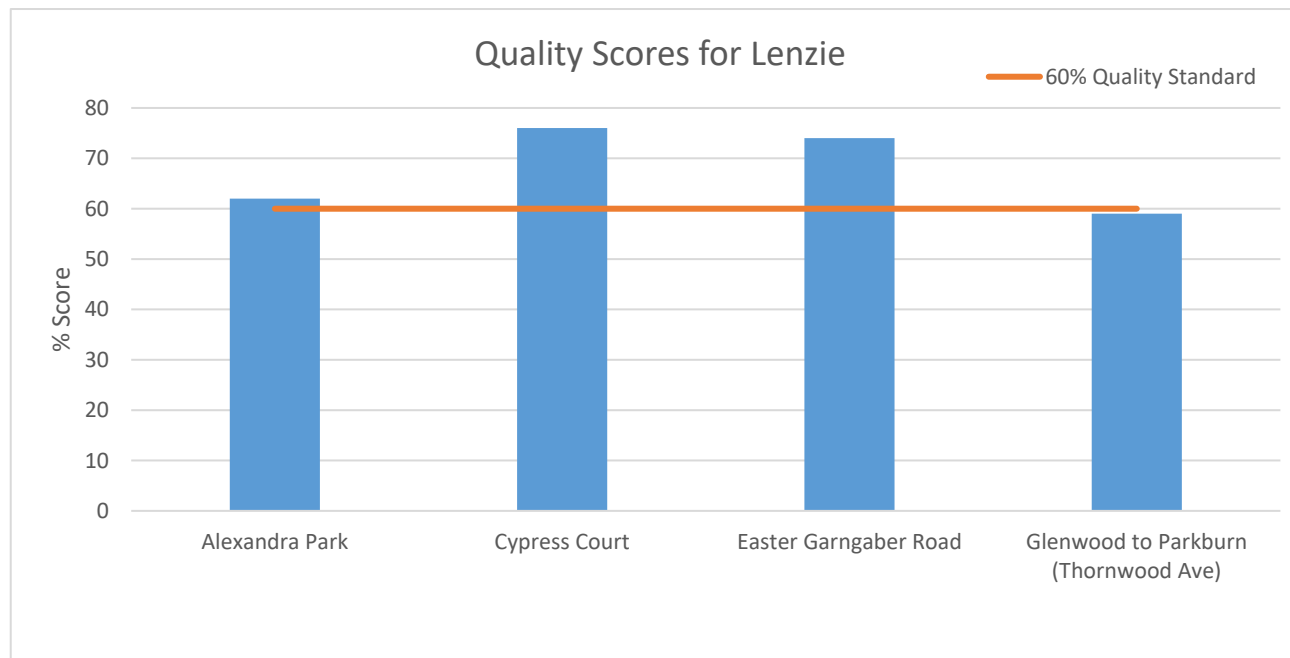


Fig.22

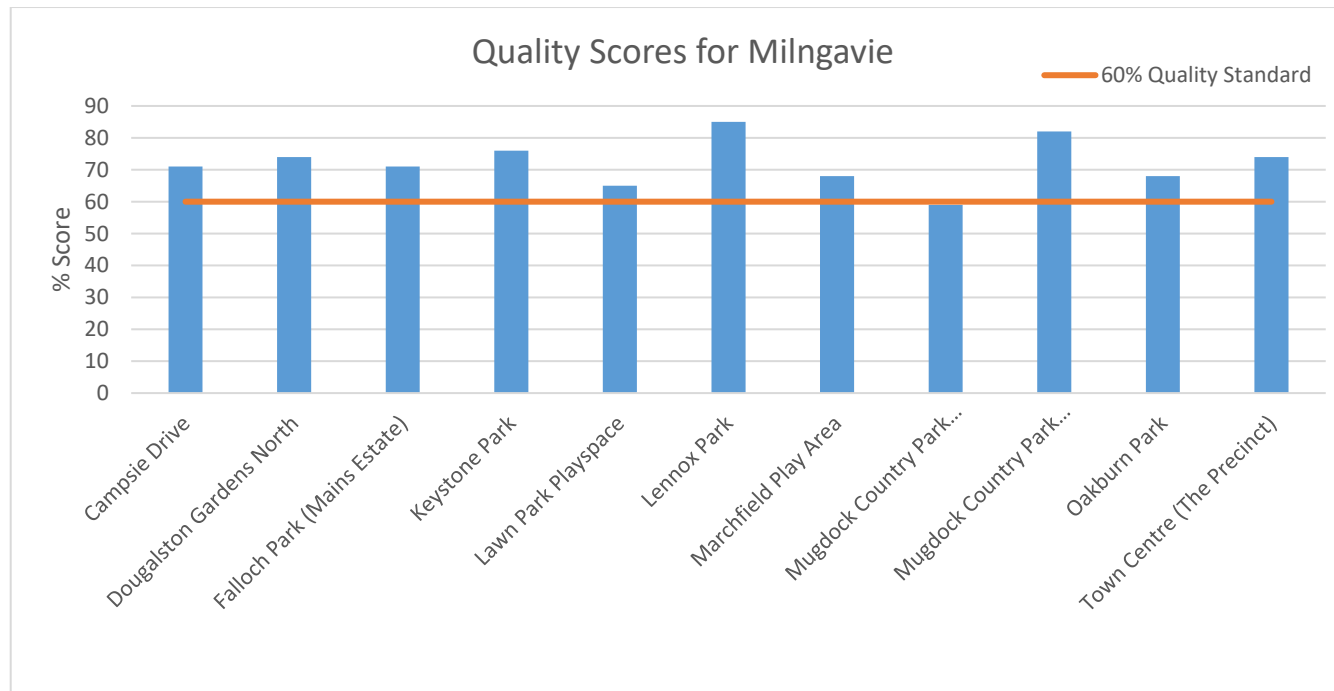


Fig.23

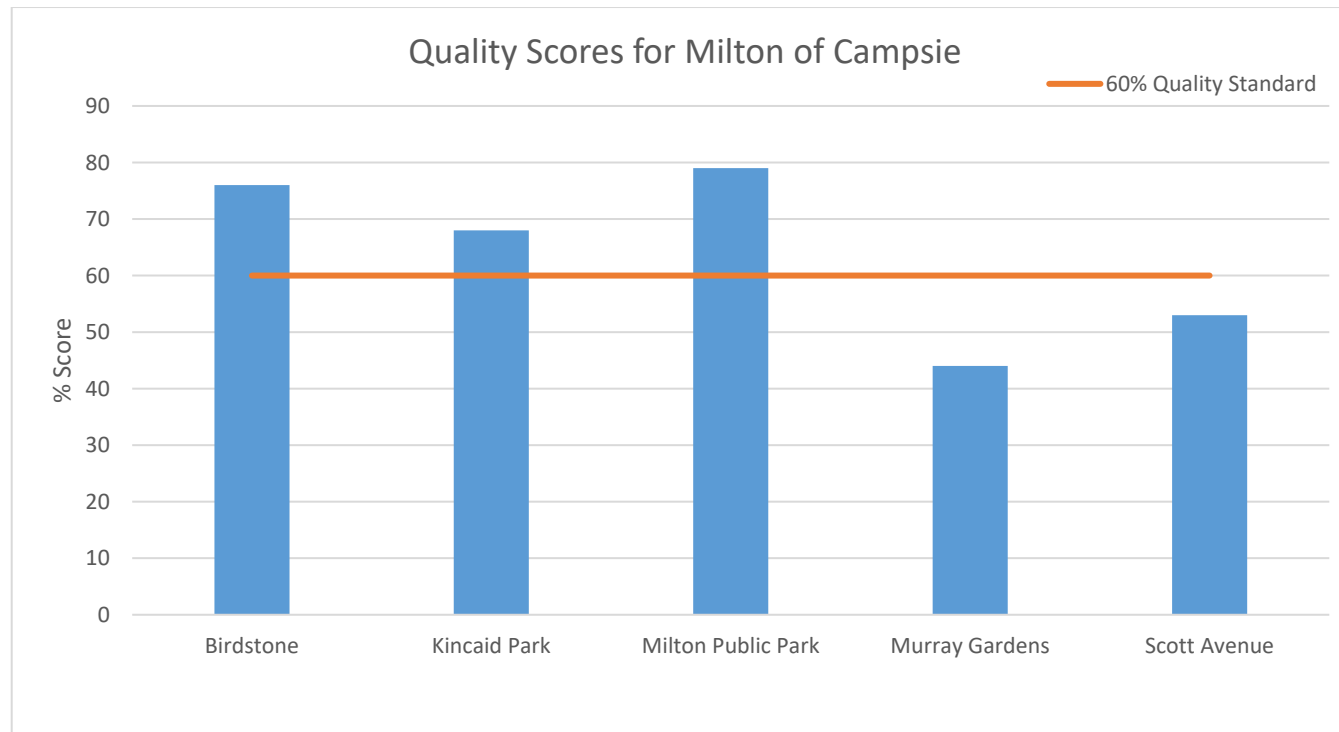


Fig.24

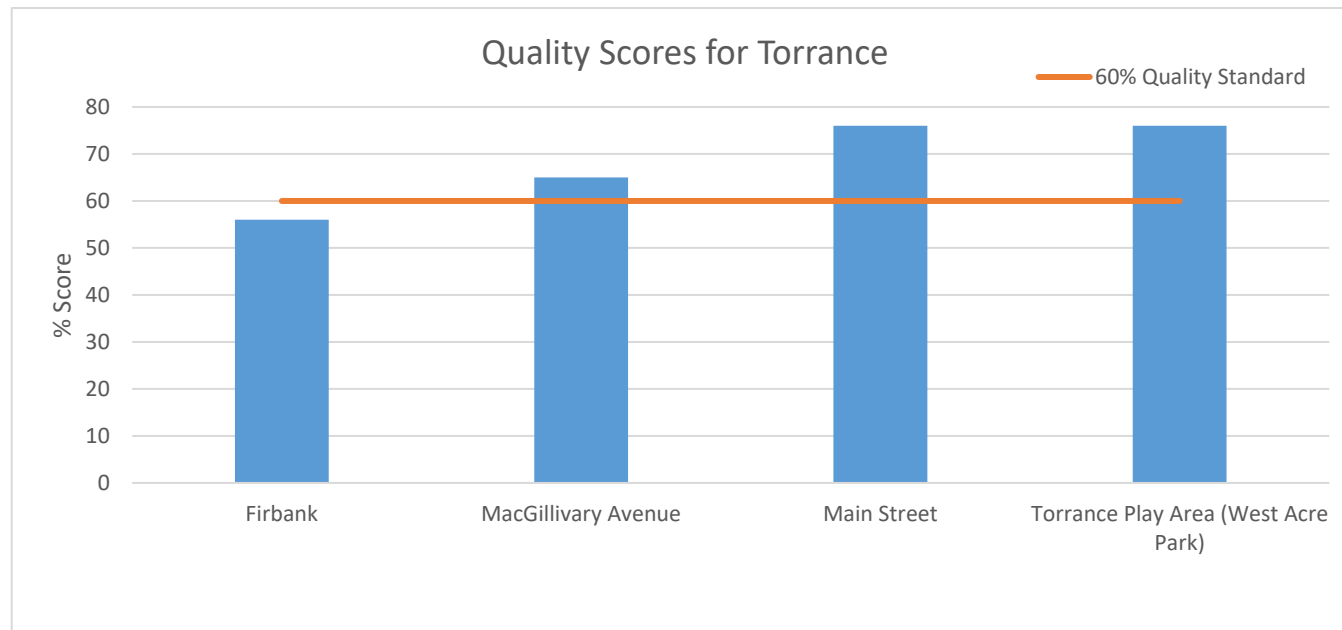


Fig.25

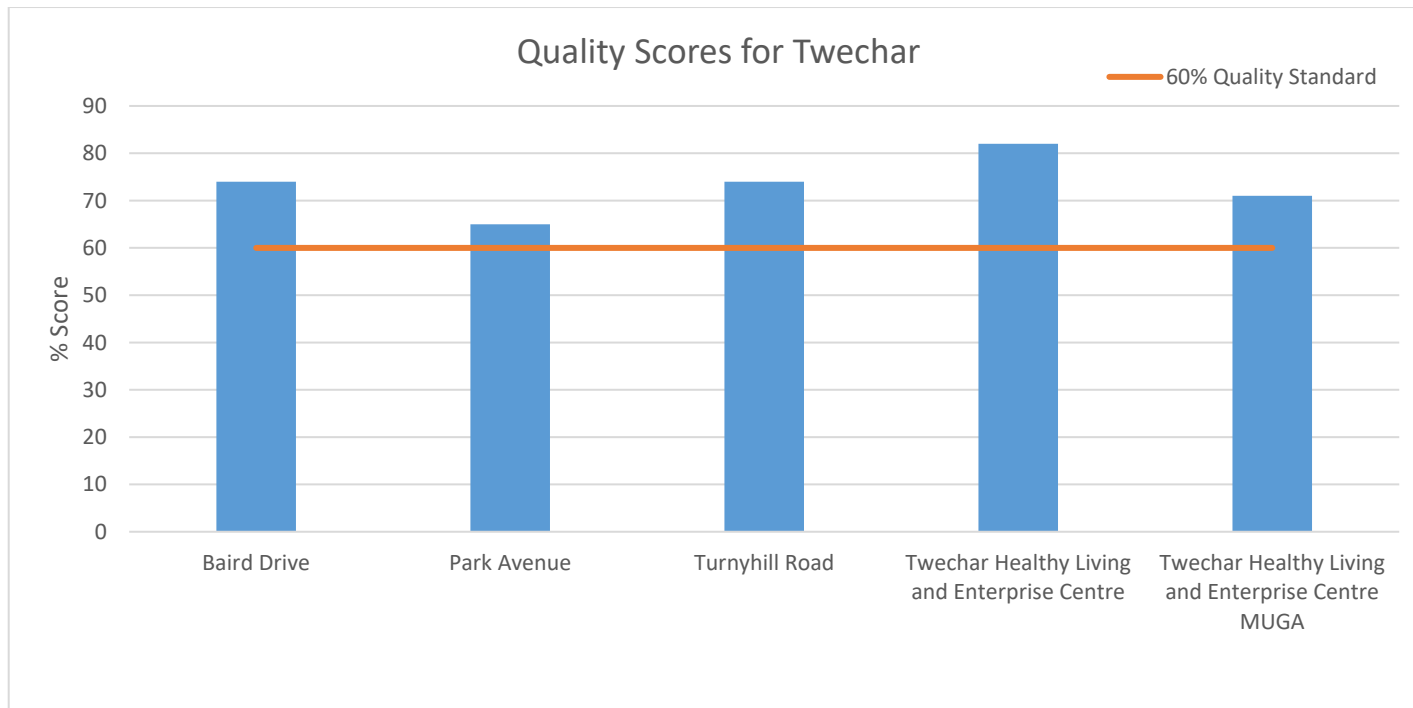


Fig.26

Accessibility

The accessibility of play spaces in East Dunbartonshire was assessed through GIS mapping using the LAP, LEAP, and NEAP accessibility standards. Each play area was mapped within the associated catchment to illustrate access by walking, cycling and wheeling. The maps can be found on the following pages. This provides a clear picture of where good access to equipped play exists and where gaps remain. In parallel, accessibility was considered in relation to inclusive play provision, including all-abilities equipment. East Dunbartonshire currently provides wheelchair-accessible roundabouts at thirteen locations and hard-backed disability seats at twelve locations, with further upgrades planned in Lenzie and Torrance in the short term. The Council has made a concerted effort over the last decade to ensure that new schemes include inclusive play equipment, resulting in a baseline level of provision across all settlement areas.

The PSA site assessments recorded information on entrances, surfaces, path conditions, signage, street furniture, and general accessibility for wheelchair users and those using mobility aids and prams. The assessments drew on existing Council datasets relating to accessible pathways and all-abilities equipment access. The full assessment of the 101 play spaces is provided in [Appendix 8](#). Consultation with children, parents, carers, schools and community groups will provide insight into lived experience of access and barriers.

At a settlement scale, Balmore, Bishopbriggs, Haughhead, Kirkintilloch, Lenzie, Lennoxton, Milton of Campsie, Torrance and Twechar perform well, with the majority of residential areas falling within reasonable walking access to children's and youth play facilities. Milngavie is generally well served by Lennox Park, however small pockets of residential areas to the north and west fall outside catchments. Improvements at Oakburn Park and the enhancement of natural play opportunities at Mains Plantation would help strengthen provision. Bearsden performs less well, due largely to its dense urban fabric and limited central open space, resulting in gaps around residential areas either side of Drymen Road where accessibility to formal play is constrained. Opportunities for youth and natural play may exist at Kilmardinny Loch Local Nature Reserve.

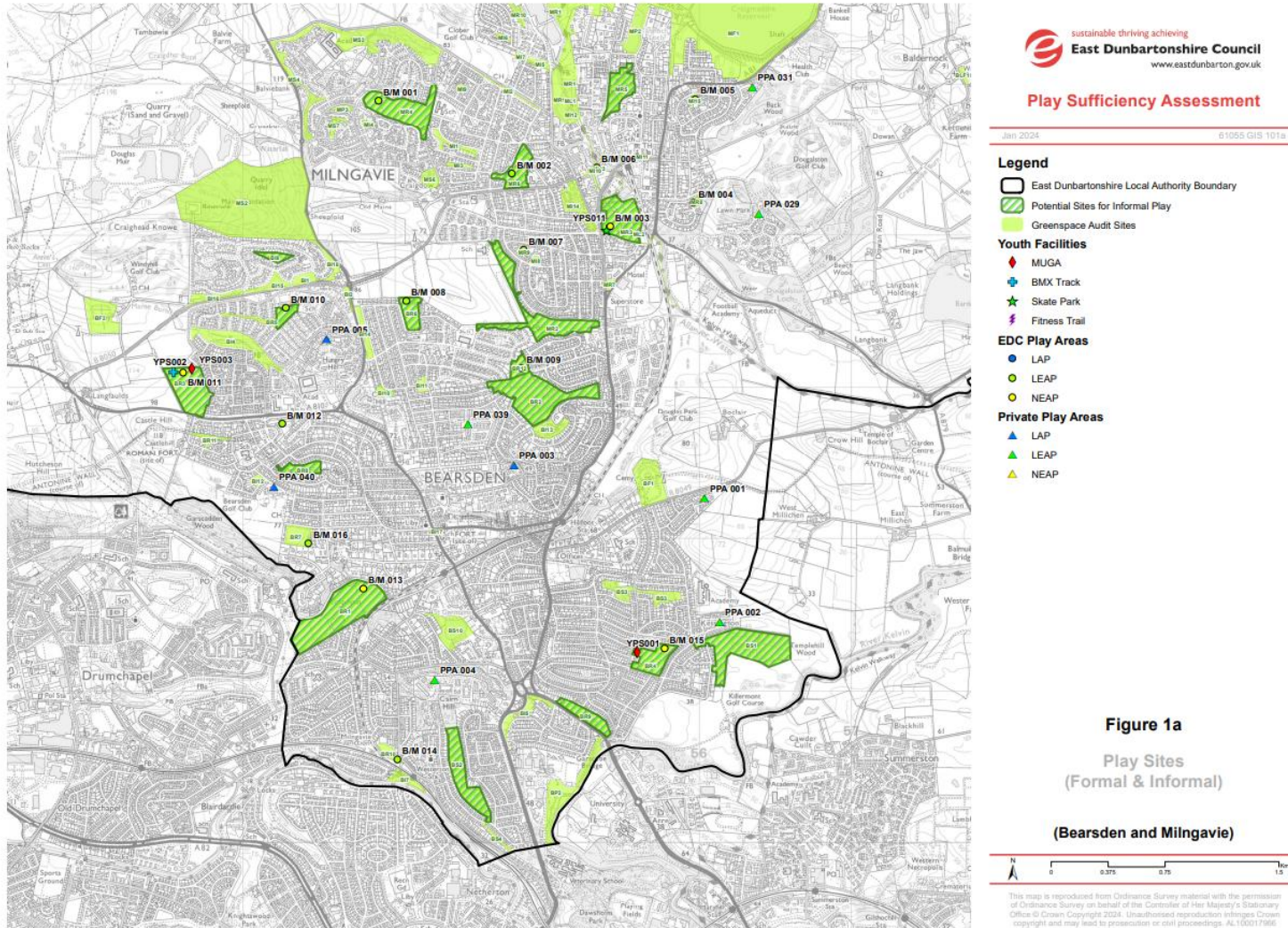


Fig.27

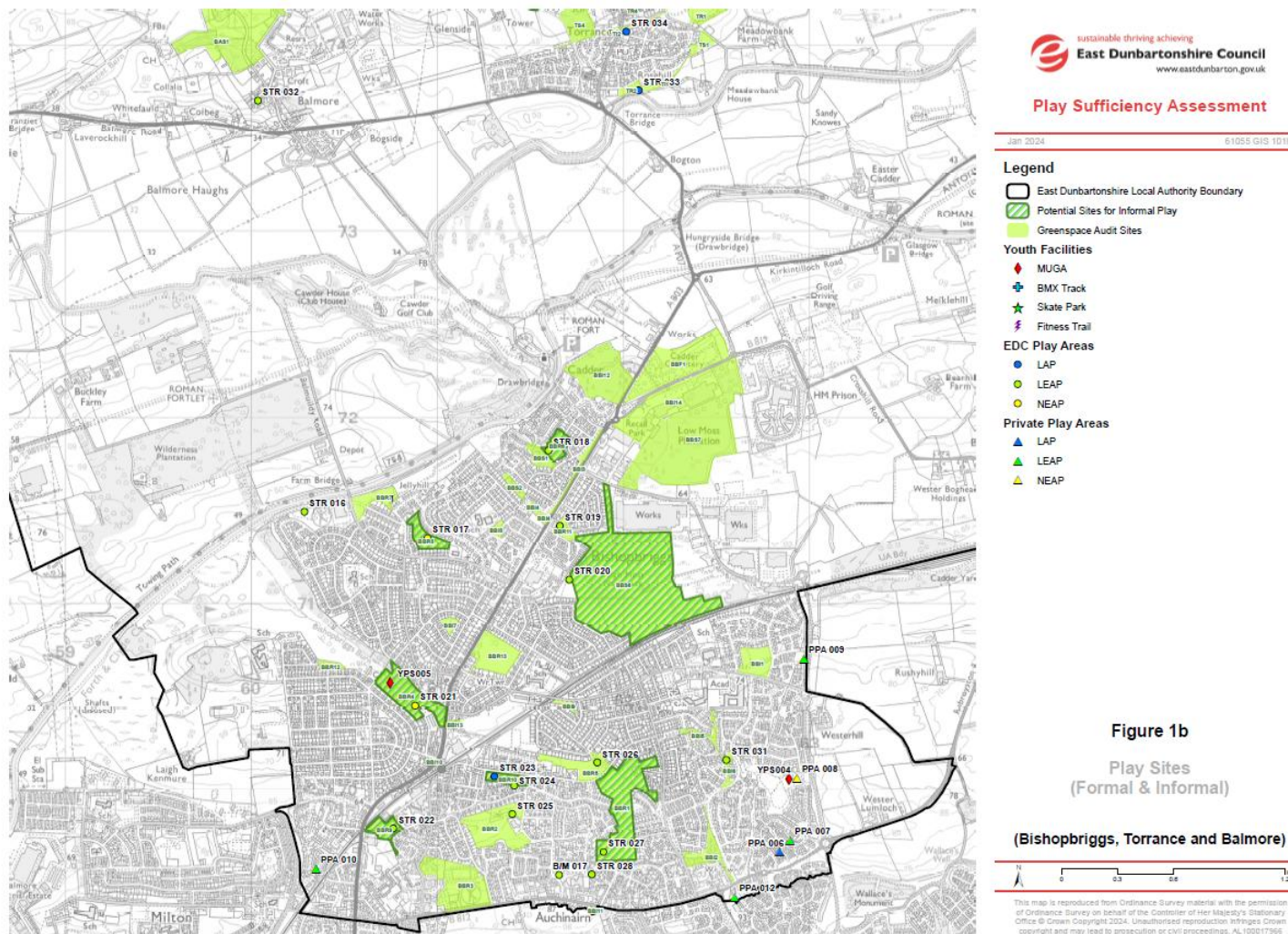


Fig.28

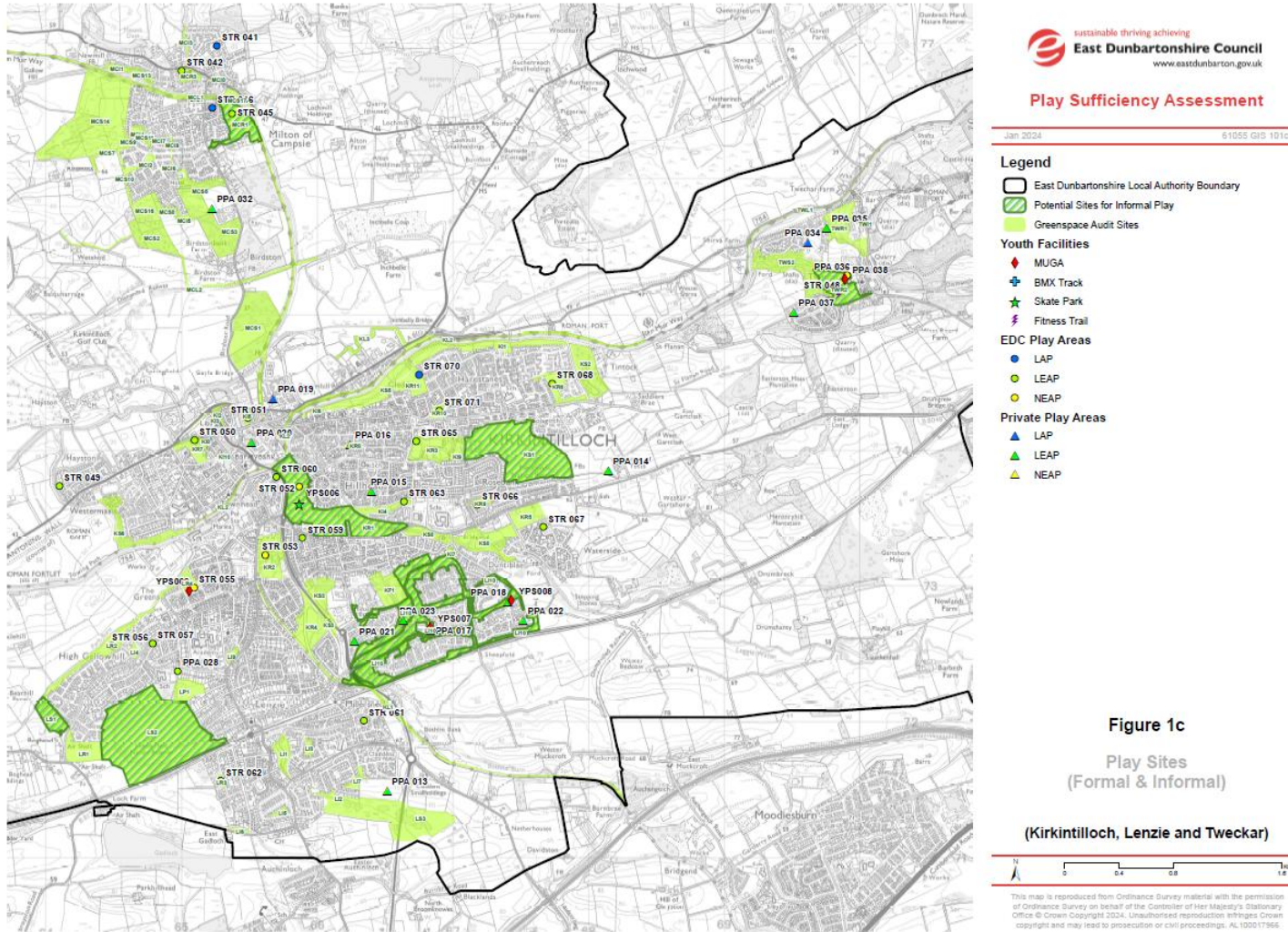


Fig.29

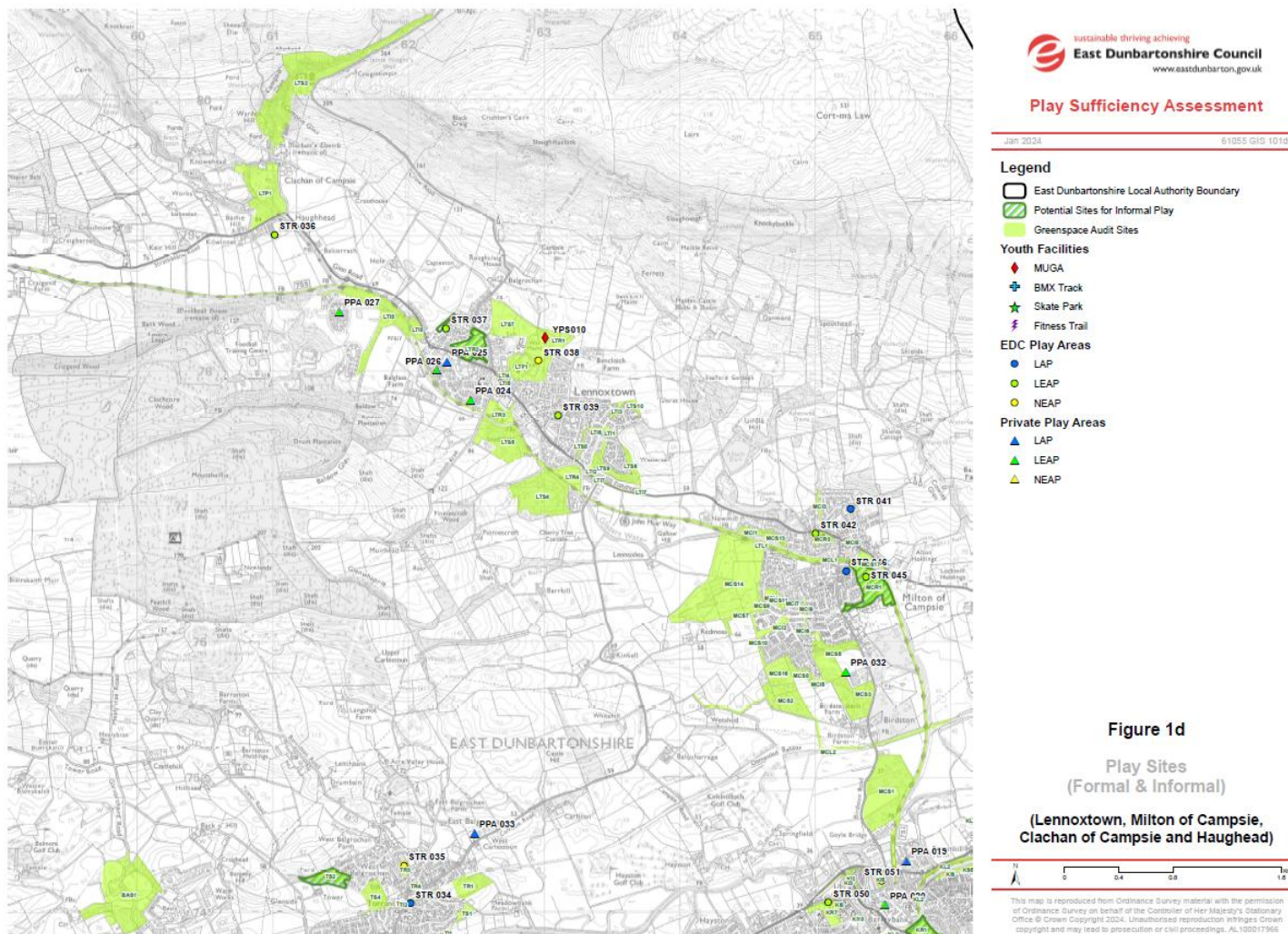


Fig.30

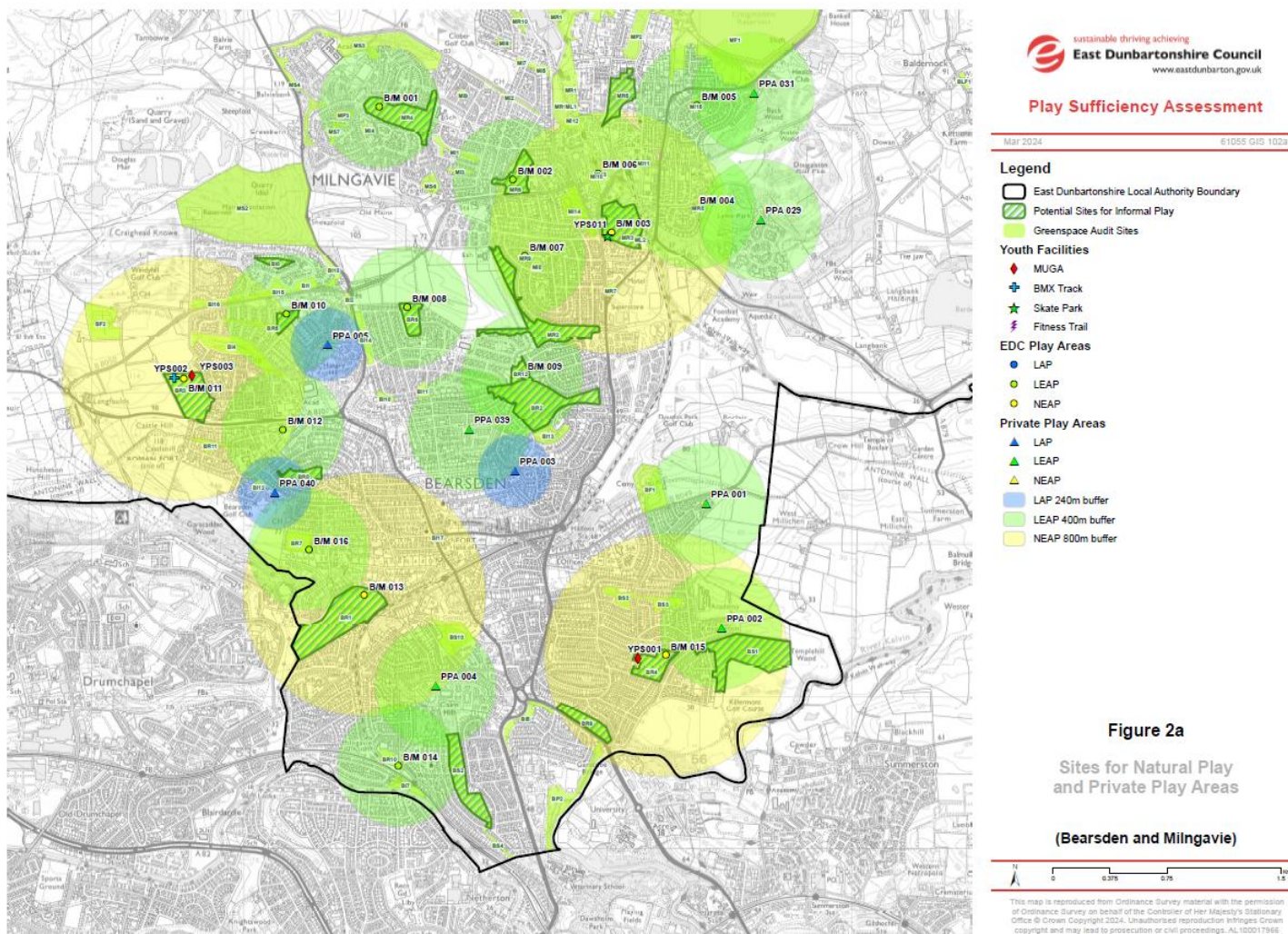


Fig.31

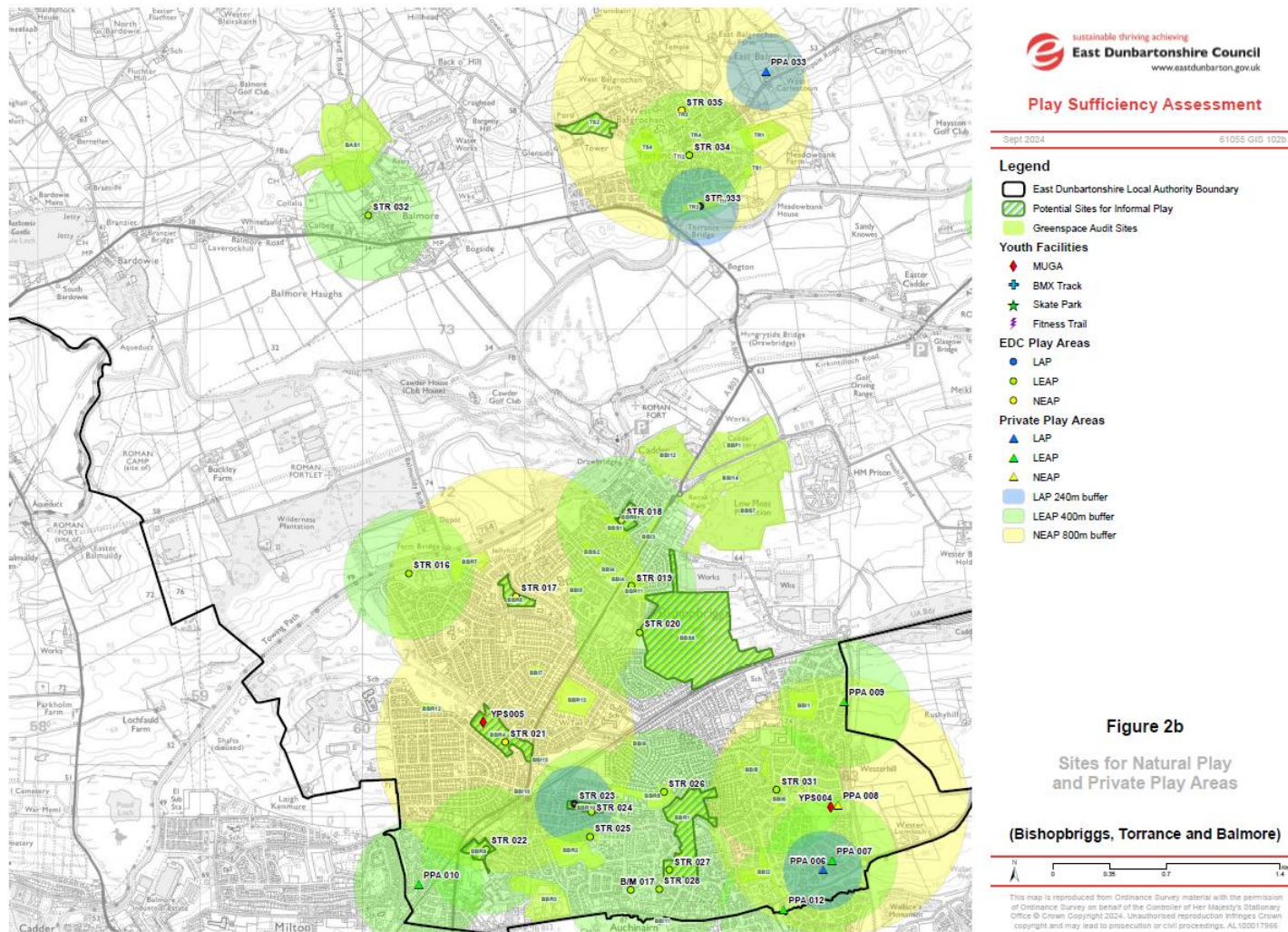


Fig.32



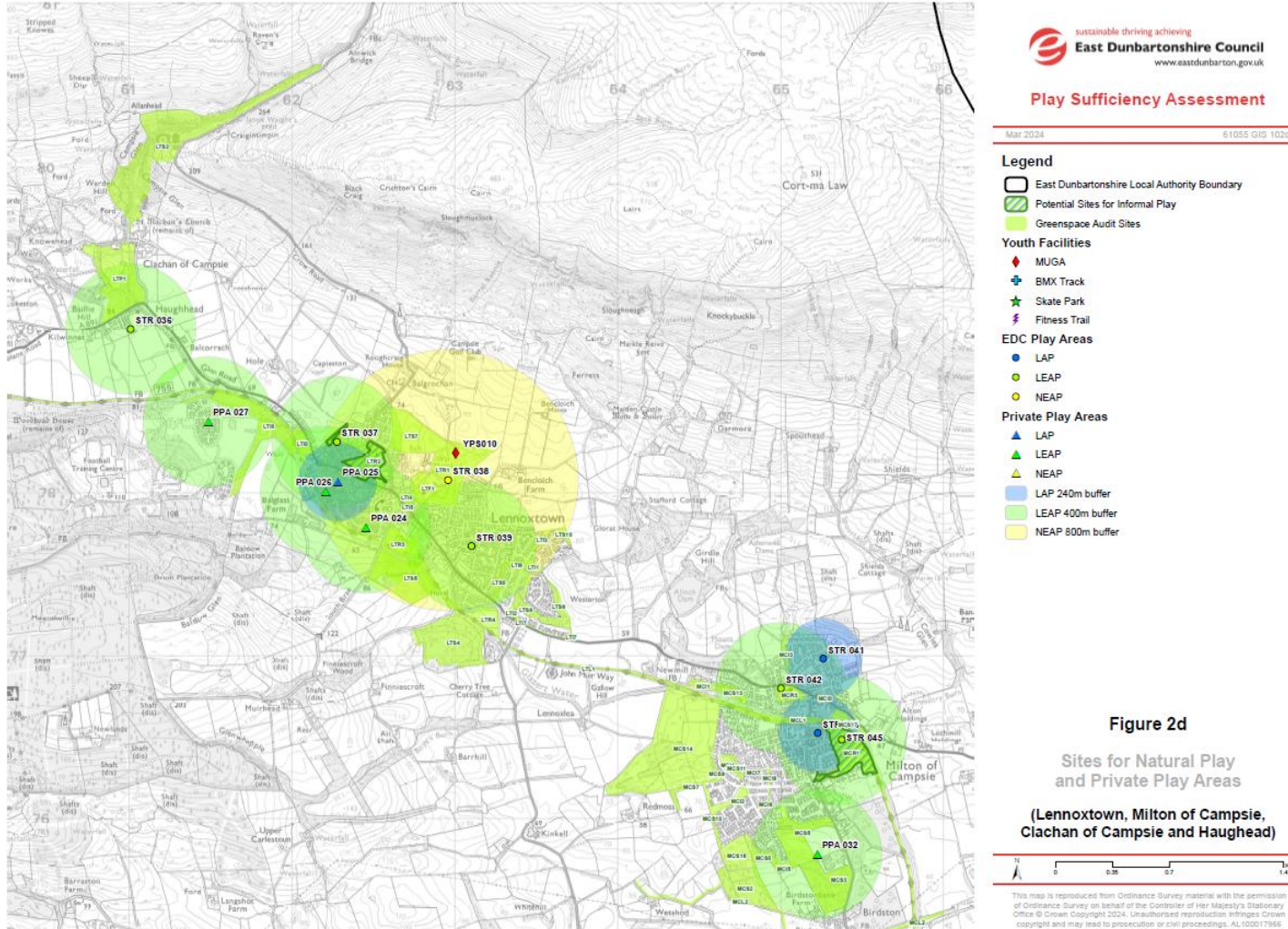


Fig.34

Summary Assessment

The following table summarises the findings of the play assessment, with regards to the quality of the existing play provision, the provision of facilities and their accessibility:

Table 18. Summary of quality and accessibility of play provision per settlement area

Settlement	Quality	Children's Play Facilities	Teen Facilities	Accessibility
Balmore	Very Good	Good	–	Excellent
Bearsden	Excellent	Good	Poor	Poor
Bishopbriggs	Poor to Very Good	Excellent	Good	Good
Haughhead	Very Good	Good	–	Excellent
Kirkintilloch and Lenzie	Poor to Excellent	Good	Good	Good
Lennoxtown	Poor to Very Good	Good	Good	Excellent
Milngavie	Poor to Very Good	Excellent	Good to Poor	Good to Poor
Milton of Campsie	Poor to Very Good	Good	Good	Good
Torrance	Poor to Very Good	Excellent	Good	Excellent
Twechar	Very Good	Good	Good	Excellent

4.3. Nature Networks

In response to Scotland's legal commitments to halt biodiversity loss and address climate change, planning authorities are required to take a more proactive role in supporting nature recovery through spatial planning. NPF4 Policy 3 requires all planning authorities to identify and spatially define nature networks within their Local Development Plans, ensuring that development contributes to ecological connectivity, resilience and long-term habitat restoration. This requirement is supported by technical guidance from NatureScot, which sets out how nature networks should be identified, mapped and strengthened.

Nature networks are a key mechanism for delivering nature recovery at scale and are central to the ambitions of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to 2045. They are made up of core areas for existing or restored habitat, linked ecological corridors and stepping stones that enable species to move, disperse and adapt. By connecting nature-rich sites, restoration areas and other blue and green infrastructure, nature networks help create healthier, more resilient ecosystems capable of responding to pressures such as urban development, intensive land use and climate change. By spatially defining nature networks the Council can ensure that development proposals contribute positively to biodiversity by connecting protected areas and locally important biodiversity sites, ultimately strengthening these networks. In this way, nature networks provide a practical, place-based framework for integrating biodiversity recovery into the planning system and supporting the delivery of nature-positive development.

[A Vision for Nature Networks in East Dunbartonshire](#)

The Council's nature networks vision is for a connected, resilient, and biodiverse East Dunbartonshire, where nature-rich sites aren't isolated but part of a joined-up ecological network stretching across urban and rural landscapes. This network will support species movement, allow ecosystems to regenerate, and provide accessible, high-quality greenspaces for people to enjoy close to where they live and work. Nature Networks aren't just about conservation; they are about creating a landscape of recovery and resilience. They support carbon sequestration, natural flood management, urban cooling, health and wellbeing, and vital plant-pollinator interactions. They are also key to place-based approaches, improving liveability, access to nature and inspiring civic pride in our communities. Good practice already exists in East Dunbartonshire: our Climate Ready Park at Etive Park in Bishopbriggs forms part of the wider network, incorporating species rich meadow planting, SuDs, community food growing and improved play facilities – contributing to ecological connectivity and climate adaptation. Elsewhere, wildflower verges, reduced mowing areas and urban street tree and woodland planting create stepping stone habitat for pollinators, invertebrates and small mammals.

Establishing a Nature Network

In line with the statutory requirement to spatially define nature networks, the Council has reviewed and refined the East Dunbartonshire Green Network. The purpose of this review was to simplify and clarify the Green Network structure, with minor amendments made to existing habitat links, nodes and strategic corridors based on early engagement. Feedback gathered through early engagement exercises has directly influenced this approach, particularly in identifying gaps in connectivity, areas of community interest, and opportunities for enhancement.

As part of a coordinated, region-wide approach to nature recovery, the Council has worked in partnership with the Glasgow City Region Green Network (GCRGN) on developing a spatial framework for nature networks, focussed on restoring and strengthening connections between nature-rich sites both within local authority areas and across boundaries. The Council has worked closely with the GCR Green Network to identify where the most meaningful opportunities for habitat restoration and creation lie and developed opportunity mapping for four priority habitat types – woodland, wetland, grassland and peatland – across the Council area. These mapped datasets provide a robust, spatially informed evidence base to identify where targeted intervention can deliver the greatest benefit for biodiversity, climate adaptation and ecological connectivity. The mapping outputs underpin the delivery of major regional initiatives, such as the Clyde Climate Forest, Clyde Wetlands, Clyde Peatlands and Clyde Grasslands.

As part of the development of an East Dunbartonshire Nature Network, the EDC Green Network and GCRGN Nature Network datasets will be integrated into a single coherent map comprising of a Local Nature Network (LNN) and Strategic Nature Network (SNN). The LNN will focus on enhancing connectivity within settlements at the local scale, while the SNN will reflect the regional priorities established through the GCRGN habitat framework. Together, these elements will form a joined-up spatial network that aligns local priorities with wider regional ambitions for nature recovery. To ensure the East Dunbartonshire Nature Network is also informed by local knowledge, a draft map has been prepared with two mapping layers: the GCRGN Nature Network and the EDC Green Network. These layers are available to view during the Greenspace Strategy consultation period here: [East Dunbartonshire Council Green Network](#).

Urban Opportunities

East Dunbartonshire's urban areas play a crucial role in strengthening local and regional ecological connectivity. The East Dunbartonshire Nature Network will focus on retrofitting grey infrastructure with nature-based solutions, using a wide range of blue and green infrastructure interventions, to reconnect fragmented habitats, enhance biodiversity and support climate resilience. This approach recognises that our streetscapes, town centres, schools, paths, play areas and civic and greenspaces can all be designed or adapted to perform ecological functions and deliver multiple ecosystem services. The East Dunbartonshire Nature Network will support the creation of stepping stone habitat and linear connections within the built environment to support the movement of species, while also delivering benefits for people, such as shading, urban cooling, surface water management and improved access to nature. It will be supported by the emerging nature-based design model and UGF metric which will require all new development to contribute to blue and green infrastructure provision. Over time, the metric will help embed biodiversity and ecological connectivity into the fabric of our settlements, ensuring that urban development contributes positively to the nature network, rather than fragmenting it further.

Action Plan

To support the delivery of the East Dunbartonshire Nature Network, a series of targeted actions have been identified to help guide habitat creation, restoration and enhancement across the local authority area. These actions will translate the spatial framework of the Local and Strategic Nature Networks into practical interventions to prioritise ecological connectivity in East Dunbartonshire. The actions have been split into four categories that reflect the key habitat types identified by the GCRGN, as well as a cross-cutting category focussed on nature-based solutions in the urban environment. The categories are woodland, wetland, grassland and nature-based solutions and blue and green infrastructure. These categories recognise the importance of habitat specific management and the role of multifunctional interventions with the built environment to help strengthen ecological connectivity between our priority habitats and in our towns and villages.

The actions set out in the action plan below and in the Delivery Programme are split into short, medium and long timescales. Short = 1-2 years, Medium 3-4 years, and Long = 5+ years.

The actions are also divided into **Committed** and **Aspirational**. Committed actions are those that the Council expects to deliver through existing budgets, approved programmes and established staffing resources over the lifetime of the Strategy. These actions provide a firm foundation for delivery and reflect the Council's ongoing commitment to investing in greenspaces and play areas while supporting nature restoration and biodiversity enhancement across East Dunbartonshire.

Aspirational actions reflect the wider ambition of the Strategy and the scale of change required to respond effectively to the climate and nature crises. Delivery of these actions will depend on securing external funding, partnership working and matching Council resources as they become available. In recent years, external funding sources have come from programmes such as the Scottish Government's Nature Restoration Fund and Play Area Renewal Fund. Further opportunities are expected to emerge following the next Scottish Parliament election.

Woodland

Woodland creation and tree planting play a fundamental role in delivering the woodland nature network and supporting biodiversity recovery, climate resilience and urban cooling. To maximise these benefits, a coordinated and informed approach to urban and rural woodland expansion is required, one that is responsive to local, site-specific conditions while anticipating future climatic pressures.

The first step in this approach is the preparation of a curated list of suitable tree and shrub species for planting in East Dunbartonshire. This will include native, near-native and selected non-native species, as well as hybrids and cultivars, that are adapted to our local soil and changing climatic conditions. While native species remain central to supporting local biodiversity and woodland creation and restoration projects, a reliance on a narrow range of species risks increased vulnerability to pests, diseases and climate stress. A broader plant palette will support more resilient planting schemes that can withstand future conditions while continuing to deliver positive effects for biodiversity. The list will help guide tree and shrub selection to support the ‘right plant right place principle’ across Council projects, landscaping proposals in new development, and local community planting initiatives.

In addition to species selection, it is important to investigate innovative approaches to woodland creation where appropriate. This includes the Miyawaki Method, a technique which involves the dense planting of a diverse mix of primarily native species to establish small-medium sized, fast-growing “wee forests”. These micro-woodlands can establish rapidly, often within 20–30 years compared to much longer timescales for conventional woodland, and are particularly suited to urban environments, schools and smaller parcels of land. In East Dunbartonshire, this approach offers an opportunity to increase canopy cover in and around urban settlement areas, improve biodiversity at pace, support outdoor learning and reconnect communities with nature in a visible and engaging way.

To support the delivery of meaningful woodland expansion, the Council has signed a concordat and committed to working in partnership with the Clyde Climate Forest (CCF), a regional initiative which aims to increase tree canopy cover and woodland connectivity across the City Region. The CCF provides strategic coordination, technical expertise and a delivery framework to support tree planting and woodland creation. Through this partnership, the Council has identified Bishopbriggs as a target neighbourhood and focussed specific interventions here to address a deficit in urban canopy cover.

Code	Action	Delivery	Timescale	Funding
NN1	Prepare a list of suitable native, near native and non-native tree and shrub species, including hybrids and cultivars, which will be resilient to climate change while delivering positive effects for biodiversity, to guide all Council planting projects and support developers in making more informed planting choices in landscape proposals. The list should also be made available to the public to support community planting projects across East Dunbartonshire.	EDC Land Planning Policy, Streetscene	Short – Medium Term	Committed
NN2	Identify priority areas for tree planting, urban woodland creation and the delivery of community orchards and develop a phased delivery approach.	EDC Streetscene	Short – Medium Term	Aspirational
NN3	Explore ways in which to prioritise suppliers of local provenance plants to support climate resilient planting in tree planting and habitat creation projects as part of the next horticultural framework.	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term	Aspirational
NN4	Develop a tree planting plan in Bishopbriggs in collaboration with Clyde Climate Forest to identify further opportunities for expanding urban canopy cover and connectivity in the Target Neighbourhood.	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term	Aspirational
NN5	Investigate wee forest creation opportunities, using the Miyawaki Method and other alternative methods, at primary and secondary school sites across East Dunbartonshire.	EDC Land Planning Policy, Streetscene	Short Term	Aspirational
NN6	Deliver at least five ‘wee forests’ in primary and secondary school sites across East Dunbartonshire using alternative forest creation methods, such as the Miyawaki Method.	EDC Streetscene	Short – Medium Term	Aspirational

Grassland

Grasslands represent one of the most widespread yet underutilised habitats within East Dunbartonshire, offering significant potential to support biodiversity, strengthen nature networks and contribute to climate resilience. When managed appropriately, grasslands can provide valuable habitat for pollinators, birds and small mammals, while enhancing soil health, improving water infiltration and reducing surface water runoff. Even small interventions, such as road verges, park edges and underused amenity spaces, can function as important stepping stones that connect larger habitats and support species movement across urban and rural environments.

Historically, many grassland areas have been managed intensively as amenity grass, limiting their ecological value and function. There is, therefore, an opportunity to transition towards more diverse, low-intervention management approaches that prioritise habitat creation and carbon sequestration. This includes the introduction of wildflower meadows, reduced mowing regimes and more circular approaches to green waste management. Adopting these practices will require a shift in the Council's operations, supported by staff training, and clear communication with communities about the benefits of more naturalistic landscapes.

Code	Action	Delivery	Timescale	Funding
NN7	A no-mow and no-strim buffer zone of 1m around the base of trees to allow successful establishment of wild plants.	EDC Streetscene	Short Term	Aspirational
NN8	Identify alternative amenity grass management techniques to restore grasslands.	EDC Streetscene, Land Planning Policy	Medium Term	Aspirational
NN9	Deliver in-house training for cut and lift management of wildflower meadows and aim to bring this in-house by the end of the Strategy.	EDC Streetscene	Medium - Long Term	Aspirational
NN10	Establish a PAS100 composting system for arisings and brown and green waste, including woody material.	EDC Streetscene, Waste Services	Long Term	Aspirational
NN11	Map all grass verges across the Council estate and identify retrofitting opportunities using blue and green infrastructure.	EDC Streetscene, Roads, Land Planning Policy	Medium – Long Term	Aspirational

Wetland

Watercourses and their associated wetlands are vital habitats that support species movement and ecological connectivity across the landscape. Healthy rivers and burns act as natural corridors that can regulate temperature, improve water quality and provide essential habitat for a wide range of species, including fish populations such as wild Atlantic salmon, as well as invertebrates, birds and mammals. They also play a vital role in climate adaptation by attenuating flood flows, storing water and supporting carbon sequestration in riparian habitats.

In East Dunbartonshire, many watercourses have been historically modified through engineering for agriculture, drainage and urban development. These alterations have often reduced the natural function of our rivers, increased flood risk and led to a decline in biodiversity. Restoring the health and functionality of these systems presents a significant opportunity to deliver multiple benefits for nature and communities. A partnership approach will be central to identifying and delivering on these opportunities. The Council is committed to working in collaboration with groups, such as the River Kelvin Catchment Partnership, to enhance river corridors and wetland in East Dunbartonshire.

Code	Action	Delivery	Timescale	Funding
NN12	Investigate opportunities for climate adaptation and nature-based solutions on the main watercourses and their tributaries in East Dunbartonshire in liaison with the Kelvin Catchment Partnership Group.	EDC Land Planning Policy	Medium Term	Aspirational

Nature-based solutions and blue and green infrastructure

Nature-based solutions and blue and green infrastructure are central to delivering climate resilient, nature rich, high-quality places across East Dunbartonshire. By working with natural processes we can realise the multi-functional benefits nature offers, such as reducing flood risk, improving air and water quality, regulating urban temperatures and supporting ecological connectivity. When designed well, blue and green infrastructure can support the creation of attractive, healthier places for people, enhance wellbeing and provide stronger connections with nature.

In East Dunbartonshire, there is an opportunity to embed and retrofit blue and green infrastructure within the existing urban realm and new development. Many urban areas are currently dominated by impermeable surfaces and engineered systems that can exacerbate surface water flooding and urban heat while cutting off connections between habitats. Reimagining these spaces through the use of blue and green infrastructure, utilising interventions, such as rain gardens, bioswales, urban tree planting and pocket parks, can help transform under-used or grey infrastructure into functional, nature-rich assets that support both people and wildlife.

Delivering this approach at scale will require strong partnership working, innovation and integration across internal Council services. Collaboration with regional partners, academic institutions, delivery organisations and community stakeholders will support the development of new techniques, shared learning and more coordinated approaches to long-term care and management.

Code	Action	Delivery	Timescale	Funding
NN13	Prioritise the delivery of blue and green infrastructure where feasible across Council operations, development and regeneration projects.	EDC Streetscene, Capital Projects, Housing Capital, Asset Management, and Regeneration	Short – Medium Term	Aspirational
NN14	Investigate the feasibility of a regional approach to the delivery and long-term management and care of blue and green infrastructure features with regional partners at the GCRGN.	EDC Land Planning Policy	Medium – Long Term	Aspirational
NN15	Update specifications for nature-based solutions and blue and green infrastructure in the authority construction requirements, and other technical documents across Council services.	EDC Land Planning Policy, Capital Projects, Roads	Short – Long Term	Aspirational
NN16	Undertake a feasibility study to identify opportunities to create pocket parks to sustainably manage surface water and regulate urban temperatures, converting impervious surfaces to water permeable surfaces, using blue and green features, such as rain gardens, bioswales and urban forests.	EDC Streetscene, Regeneration, Roads	Medium – Long Term	Aspirational
NN17	Build stronger links with academic and educational institutions with an environmental and nature-based focus to support habitat creation and restoration, and the delivery of innovative approaches to blue and green infrastructure and nature-based solutions, in East Dunbartonshire.	EDC Land Planning Policy, Streetscene	Medium Term	Aspirational
NN18	Identify opportunities to retrofit outdoor grey infrastructure on school sites into multi-functional greenspace to facilitate and support outdoor learning and nature-based play, while supporting biodiversity and reducing urban pollution.	EDC Education	Medium – Long Term	Aspirational
NN19	Ensure all new active travel infrastructure incorporates elements of blue and green infrastructure, including ‘dead’ structural features, to support biodiversity.	EDC Land Planning Policy, Traffic and Transport	Medium – Long Term	Aspirational

Part 5: Delivery Programme

5.1 Area Wide Actions

The Area Wide Actions set out how the Council will deliver high-quality, climate resilient, nature-rich and accessible greenspaces across East Dunbartonshire. Organised under the headings of Planning and Development, Management, and Community and Collaboration, they focus on the key areas needed to secure long-term improvements in our greenspaces.

The Planning and Development actions focus on strengthening nature-based approaches within policy and decision-making in the Council. Central to this is the on-going development of the East Dunbartonshire Nature Network, which provides the strategic framework for improving habitat connectivity, enhancing biodiversity and guiding the long-term planning of blue and green infrastructure. This will be supported through the ongoing surveying of Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) to ensure ecological data remains up to date. The proposed expansion of LNRs forms an important part of this approach, helping to strengthen the nature network through the protection and enhancement of key sites. To support delivery, the Council will embed a nature-based approach through the introduction of a suite of complementary policy tools and frameworks. These include the UGF metric, a nature-based design model, and the Greenspace Care Practice Framework.

The Management actions recognise the need to move towards a more proactive, planned and climate-responsive approach to greenspace management. In line with the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy Delivery Plan 2024–2030, the Council will prepare Landscape Care Plans for all parks and publicly-owned greenspaces by 2030 to meet the requirement as set out in Action 13.1. These plans will ensure that management practices reflect the objectives of the Greenspace Strategy and forthcoming Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP). As part of this, landscape succession planning will be embedded within Care Plans to guide long-term planting and management, ensuring that greenspaces are resilient to the impacts of climate change and continue to deliver social, environmental and economic benefits over time. Actions to reduce chemical use, modernise equipment, and invest in staff skills will further enable a transition towards more sustainable and ecologically informed management practices.

The Community and Collaboration actions emphasise the importance of partnership working in delivering the ambition of the Strategy. Establishing a Biodiversity Partnership Group will provide a space for collaboration between the Council, our regional partners, local community stakeholders, and other relevant organisations to share knowledge, identify opportunities and coordinate action for biodiversity enhancement across the local authority area. Community involvement is essential to the success of greenspace management and these actions seek to empower local stakeholders to play an active role in shaping and caring for their environment. In recognising the role of elected members in decision-making,

biodiversity and nature-based training will help inform and engage members on biodiversity loss and the action the Council can take to halt and reverse its decline to support a nature-rich East Dunbartonshire.

Code	Action	Delivery	Timescale	Funding
Planning and Development				
AWA1	Continue the rolling programme of surveying existing Local Nature Conservation Sites for biodiversity to ensure data is as current as possible.	EDC Land Planning Policy	Medium Term	Committed
AWA2	Create an East Dunbartonshire Nature Networks webpage on the Council website to promote nature networks locally and inform local stakeholders of how we are improving habitat connectivity across East Dunbartonshire.	EDC Land Planning Policy, Corporate Communications, GCRGN, NatureScot	Short Term	Aspirational
AWA3	Review and refine the East Dunbartonshire Nature Network during the period of the Strategy.	EDC Land Planning Policy	Short – Long Term	Committed
AWA4	Develop a monitoring framework to assess the progress of the delivery of Nature Networks in East Dunbartonshire.	EDC Land Planning Policy	Medium Term	Committed
AWA5	Establish design standards and design principles as part of the nature-based design model to be considered for adoption as part of LDP3 to prioritise	EDC Land Planning Policy	Short Term	Committed

	multifunctional blue and green spaces and ensure development contributes positively to biodiversity, climate resilience and community wellbeing.			
AWA6	Develop an Urban Greening Factor metric to increase the quantity and quality of urban greening across a number of development types to be considered for adoption as part of LDP3.	EDC Land Planning Policy	Short Term	Committed
AWA7	Further develop the Greenspace Care Practice Framework, adopting the Principle of Greenspace Care Management into everyday operations.	EDC Land Planning Policy, Streetscene	Short – Medium Term	Committed
AWA8	Investigate the potential to designate the East Dunbartonshire and Glasgow City owned sections of Cairnhill Woods as a Local Nature Reserve, in partnership with Glasgow City Council.	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term	Aspirational
AWA9	Designate Millersneuk Wetland LNCS as a Local Nature Reserve.	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term	Aspirational

AWA10	Designate Whitefield Pond and Balgrochan Marsh as a Local Nature Reserve.	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term	Aspirational
AWA11	Designate West Balgrochan Marsh as a Local Nature Reserve.	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term	Aspirational
Management				
AWA12	Prepare Landscape Care Plans for every public park and greenspace in East Dunbartonshire by 2030.	EDC Streetscene	Short – Long Term	Aspirational
AWA13	Integrate landscape succession planning into Landscape Care Plans to provide a framework for integrated landscape planning and planting that responds to climate change and informs all decision-making processes.	EDC Streetscene	Short – Long Term	Aspirational
AWA14	Undertake a survey of frontline staff in Streetscene to identify gaps in horticultural skills and knowledge and address this with suitable training to ensure our staff stay abreast of horticultural, ecological and landscaping advances and are fully equipped to deliver these.	EDC Streetscene	Short – Medium Term	Aspirational

AWA15	Review best practice in relation to weed control. Set out and agree actions to reduce glyphosate use.	EDC Streetscene	Short Term – Medium Term	Committed
AWA16	Phase out the spraying of herbicides and other chemical treatments around the base of newly planted and established trees.	EDC Streetscene	Short Term	Committed
AWA17	Adopt a phased approach to upgrading all petrol and diesel hand-held tools and machinery to electric.	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term	Aspirational
AWA18	Design and manage greenspaces in and around schools as outdoor classrooms to encourage interaction with nature, promote environmental education and natural play opportunities.	EDC Education	Medium – Long Term	Aspirational
AWA19	Research opportunities for increasing use of sustainably sourced wood in play equipment and research other natural play options.	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term	Aspirational
AWA20	Develop contractor guidance for greenspace management which can be adapted into a community engagement toolkit.	EDC Land Planning Policy	Medium Term	Aspirational

AWA21	Undertake ongoing programme of removal of non-native invasive species, to deliver biodiversity benefits.	EDC Streetscene	Short – Long Term	Aspirational
Community - Collaboration				
AWA22	Establish a Biodiversity Partnership Group, including local and regional stakeholders and relevant internal services, to support the delivery of the Greenspace Strategy and discuss local and strategic approaches to support biodiversity.	EDC Land Planning Policy	Short Term	Aspirational
AWA23	Deliver nature-based and biodiversity information training sessions for members after the 2027 Scottish Local Authority elections.	EDC Land Planning Policy	Short – Long Term	Aspirational
AWA24	Explore collaborative opportunities with the University of Glasgow and GALLANT to develop environmental and nature-based citizen science projects.	EDC Land Planning Policy	Medium Term	Aspirational
AWA25	Investigate public-private investment opportunities.	EDC Land Planning Policy	Medium – Long Term	Aspirational

5.2. Local Community Areas

East Dunbartonshire is made up of a number of distinct geographical areas, as defined in the Local Development Plan. These are: Bearsden; Bishopbriggs; Kirkintilloch, Lenzie and Waterside; Lennoxton, Milton of Campsie, Haughhead and Clachan of Campsie; Milngavie; Torrance and Baldernock; and Twechar. Each area has its own unique character, shaped by its landscape, settlement pattern and history and by the people who live and work there. From densely-populated urban neighbourhoods to rural villages surrounded by farmland and hills, the greenspace needs of communities vary widely across East Dunbartonshire. These differences mean that meaningful and lasting improvements must be rooted in an understanding of place and that a one size fits all approach would not respond effectively to local needs.

To ensure that investment and action is targeted appropriately, the Greenspace Strategy is underpinned by a strong local evidence base. The OSA and PSA have assessed the quantity, quality and accessibility of open spaces and play provision across each community area, scoring individual sites, identifying site specific issues, gaps in provision and opportunities for improvement. Using this evidence base, the Council has translated site-based recommendations from the OSA and PSA into a set of place specific actions for each locality. These actions focus on improving the quality of greenspaces, address any accessibility issues identified, enhance play provision and strengthen the resiliency of our greenspaces to climate change.

The actions set out under each Local Community Area on the following pages are directly informed by the recommendations of the OSA and PSA. These actions are being prioritised based on the scoring outcomes from the audits. As money becomes available, the Council will focus investment on those sites with the lowest scores to improve the overall quality of open and play spaces across East Dunbartonshire. A litter bin audit is being carried out separately to this Strategy to determine capacity and gaps and future bin provision. Full details of the OSA and PSA findings, including site scores, typologies and recommended actions, can be found in [Appendix 7](#) and [Appendix 8](#).

Bearsden

Bearsden is the largest town in East Dunbartonshire in terms of population. It is located on the north-western fringe of Greater Glasgow, approximately 6 miles (9.7km) from the city centre, and is effectively a suburb connected to the city via a railway line. The town is made up of large areas of residential housing set within large gardens with modest greenspaces found on the periphery of the town. Bearsden is unusual in that there is no centrally located formal public park or greenspace. However, Kilmardinny Loch, Colquhoun Park, and King George V Park form a triangle of large accessible blue and green spaces around the town centre. Other smaller parks include Langfaulds Field, Heather Avenue Open Space, Mosshead Park and Westerton Park. The Roman Antonine Wall runs through the town, and the remains of a military Bath House can be seen near the town centre. The attractiveness of the town on the periphery of the city has contributed to its continued popularity and development. It has a population of approximately 28,486.

Bearsden contains a wealth of semi-natural greenspaces, including a SSSI at Manse Burn, Local Nature Reserve at Kilmardinny Loch and Local Nature Conservation Sites at St Germain's Loch and Templehill Wood. Areas of historic interest include New Kilpatrick Cemetery, Roman Park and Antonine Park which contain sections of the Antonine Wall. There are a number of pocket woodland sites located in the heart of residential areas, for example at Cairnhill Woods and Whitehill Woods, and larger areas of semi-natural woodland on the edges of the town, such as at Templehill Woods and Mains Plantation.

Actions and Opportunities in Bearsden:

Code	Site Name	OSA/PSA Action	Action	Funding	Delivery Lead	Timescale
LCA1	Antonine Park	OSA	Explore nature-based solutions to drainage issues with Historic Environment Scotland.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term
LCA2	Argyll Road	OSA	Install tree planting around path edges. Create wet woodland habitat on larger open space area.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term
LCA3	Bailie Drive (South)	OSA	Sensitively manage overgrown shrubs on path route to improve safety.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short Term
LCA4	Baljaffray	OSA	Increase tree planting in large open area in the east. Install more seating in the east.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term
LCA5	Bearsden Town Centre	OSA	Review options to overcome the deficit of Public Parks and Gardens open space and ensure there is sufficient open space in the centre of Bearsden.	Aspirational	EDC Land Planning Policy, Streetscene, Regeneration	Medium Term
LCA6	Cairnhill Woods	OSA	Deliver the Management Plan in full.	Committed	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term
LCA7	Colquhoun Park	OSA	Sow yellow rattle on the steep bankings of the football pitches.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term

			Increase the diversity of plant species in the SuDs Pond and sensitively manage this for biodiversity. Install trees and shrubs to create opportunities for natural play.			
LCA8	Glasgow University Woods	OSA	Engage with University of Glasgow to install wildflower strips areas and manage this for biodiversity.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term
LCA9	Grampian Way and Cruachan Road	OSA	Develop a multi-year plan to control and eradicate Himalayan Balsam. Instal trees near to the roadside and sow yellow rattle as part of wildflower meadow creation.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term
LCA10	Heather Park	PSA	Identify opportunities for more exploratory natural play features.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Medium Term
LCA11	King George V Park	OSA	Install wildflower strips between the fence and footpath along Speirs Road. Create a children's wood next to Killermont Parish Church for outdoor nature-based education. Install accessible access from Speirs Rd.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene and EDLC	Medium – Long Term

			Resurface MUGA to reduce pooling and flooding. Install wheelchair accessible ramp from path to MUGA.			
LCA12	Langfaulds Cemetery	OSA	Extend lair provision on south of the site.	Committed	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term
LCA13	Langfaulds Field	OSA	Install understory planting. Install a new path alongside Nevis Road to create a complete circular path network. Replace picnic tables at eastern side. Upgrade play facilities.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term
LCA14	Mosshead Park	OSA	Create wet meadow areas. Install new trees and habitat features to enhance biodiversity and nature-education opportunities. Investigate nature-based solutions to manage flooding on main path to Kilmardinny Loch. Install additional seating.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term
LCA15	Roman Park	OSA	Undertake access improvements. Investigate interpretation for the exposed section of the Antonine	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Long Term

			Wall in partnership with the Antonine Wall group. Upgrade interpretation in the park.			
LCA16	Stockiemuir Road 1	OSA	Increase tree planting and species diversity along the road.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term
LCA17	Stockiemuir Road 2	OSA	Install tree planting along roadside.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term
LCA18	Templehill Woods	OSA	Deliver woodland management, including the ongoing control and eradication of INNS. Upgrade path.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term
LCA19	Thorn Park	OSA	Continue vertidrainage pitches. Install wet tolerant tree species where appropriate. Upgrade path.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term
LCA20	Westerton Park	OSA	Install tree planting. Investigate the feasibility of a community orchard following soil testing.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term
LCA21	Westerton Station	OSA	Install wildflower strips and tree planting along the path.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term
LCA22	Whitehill Woods	OSA	Increase native tree planting, including understory planting.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term

Bishopbriggs

Situated to the north of Glasgow, Bishopbriggs is the second largest town in East Dunbartonshire in terms of population. It has grown from a small rural village along the historic route between Glasgow, Kirkintilloch and Stirling into a well-established town, incorporating the adjacent villages of Auchinairn, Cadder and Jellyhill. After the completion of the Forth and Clyde Canal, the town expanded rapidly during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, supported by the new industries of coal mining, brickmaking, quarrying, engineering and publishing. Its proximity to Glasgow has made it a popular commuter town. It currently has a population of approximately 23,753.

The industrial heritage of the town is reflected in the residential architecture and the rapid growth of estates of single aged housing stock. The Glasgow to Edinburgh railway line effectively splits the town in two, which reflects the age of the housing stock and the nature of the greenspaces. To the north of the railway line are more traditional parks, whereas the greenspaces to the south are predominantly large residential amenity space. The principal park in the town is the centrally located Bishopbriggs Public Park which provides an important recreational and civic function. Other public parks include Woodhill Park, Etive Park, Lennox Crescent and Callieburn Park. Huntershill Playing Fields provides sports and recreation space. Smaller local parks include Doune Crescent, Meadowburn Park and Springfield Park, contributing to neighbourhood level access to greenspace. The Forth and Clyde Canal forms the northern boundary of the town, providing an important strategic path network, connecting to the wider path network and countryside. To the north-east of the town, the Local Nature Conservation Sites at Low Moss, High Moss and Cadder provide extensive semi-natural habitats, offering opportunities for informal recreation and contributing significantly to the local nature network.

Actions and Opportunities in Bishopbriggs:

Code	Site Name	OSA/PSA Action	Action	Type of Action	Delivery Lead	Timescale
LCA23	Bishopbriggs Public Park	OSA and PSA	Deliver the management plan and destination play area. Increase tree planting and understory planting.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short - Medium Term
LCA24	Bishopbriggs Sports Centre	PSA	Create opportunities for exploratory natural play through soft landscaping and vertical habitat and other biodiversity features in the area adjacent to the play area. Install wildflower strips to the open area to the rear of the car park. Increase tree planting between Balmuldy Rd and Hilton Terrace.	Aspirational	EDLC	Medium Term
LCA25	Brackenbrae House	OSA	Undertake invasive non-native species control and eradication of <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> .	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short - Medium Term
LCA26	Brackenbrae Open Space	OSA	Engage with Brackenbrae House and the gardening group on proposals to include biodiversity features, such as a dead hedge, as well as altering mowing	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Medium Term

			schedules to encourage wildflowers.			
LCA27	Cadder Cemetery	OSA	Alter mowing schedule to increase wildflower rich grass areas.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Medium Term
LCA28	Callieburn Park	OSA	Sensitively prune shrubs and cut back overgrown vegetation near paths.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short Term
LCA29	Cloan Crescent	PSA	Create large swathes of wildflower meadows to encourage natural play and support biodiversity. Install tree planting. Install seating.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term
LCA30	Doune Crescent	OSA	Explore options to increase blue and green infrastructure and create public amenity spaces, such as a pump track or skate park, via a masterplan for the site. Increase understory planting in tree belts.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term
LCA31	Etive Park	OSA	Sensitively manage SuDs for biodiversity with a diverse mix of marginal species.	Committed	EDC Streetscene	Short – Long Term
LCA32	High Moss	OSA	Engage with Caledonian Estates on scrub removal from areas of	Aspirational	EDC Land Planning Policy	Medium – Long Term

			peat and opportunities to improve peatland.			
LCA33	Hilton Park	OSA	Install a diverse mix of tree and shrub planting, as well as biodiversity features.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term
LCA34	Huntershill Playing Fields	OSA	Explore feasibility of improving accessibility in the north west to Huntershill Road.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene, EDLC	Medium Term
LCA35	Kirkintilloch Rd 1	OSA	Cease strimming of woodland and improve understory with native woodland planting.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Medium Term
LCA36	Kirkintilloch Rd 2	OSA	Investigate the feasibility of creating a community orchard for local residents.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term
LCA37	Lennox Crescent	OSA	Tree planting along paths and in the south-west area. Sensitively manage overgrown vegetation at south entrance. Remove and replace the tarmac next to current play area.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term
LCA38	Letham Drive	OSA	Remove or improve the quality of the fence. Undertake woodland management, including tree thinning and tree planting. Increase understory planting to improve diversity.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term

			Install wildflower strips along roadside. Install seating along path.			
LCA39	Meadowburn	OSA	Undertake an ongoing programme on invasive non-native species control and eradication of <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i> .	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term
LCA40	Muir Street	PSA	Create natural play opportunities through soft landscaping and biodiversity features.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term
LCA41	North Wester Cleddens Rd	OSA	Deliver woodland management with tree planting along paths.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term
LCA42	Springfield Park	OSA	Install a species rich SuDs pond in the wet area in the west and wildflower areas to encourage natural play.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene,	Medium – Long Term
LCA43	The Leisuredrome	OSA	Sensitively manage hedges by paths to maintain good safe access. Install tree planting. Grass management to take account of moss and fungi diversity. Alter management around species when in fruit. Path upgrades needed	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Medium Term

LCA44	Thrums Avenue	OSA	Increase tree planting along paths. Plant a diverse mix of bulbs to create a long seasonal display and early nectar source for pollinators.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term
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Kirkintilloch, Lenzie and Waterside

Kirkintilloch is a historic burgh, located approximately eight miles north-east from the centre of Glasgow. As one of the centres of the industrial revolution, Kirkintilloch had a booming textile industry which expanded following completion of the Forth and Clyde and Canal in 1773 and Monkland and Kirkintilloch Railway in 1826 to be an important transportation hub and inland port, and as a production centre for iron, coal, nickel and small ships. It is now a popular commuter town with a growing population of approximately 22,037. The town is the administrative centre of East Dunbartonshire Council. Lenzie began as a 19th century railway suburb made up of mainly Victorian and Edwardian villas, later expanding with interwar bungalows and post-war Council and private estates. It is well known for its historic core, local schools and Lenzie Moss which is situated to the west of the town. Today, it has a population of approximately 8,090.

Kirkintilloch and Lenzie are both made up of residential areas set within large areas of open space. The Forth and Clyde Canal runs through the heart of Kirkintilloch linking the communities of Bishopbriggs, Kirkintilloch and Twechar via the towpath. The principal centrally located parks in Kirkintilloch and Lenzie include the historic Peel Park, Luggie Park and Merkland Sport Pitches. Other parks include Woodhead Park, Whitegates Park and a series of smaller, local parks. There are several large amenity open spaces that provide various formal and informal recreation opportunities. Semi-natural greenspaces include Lenzie Moss Local Nature Reserve and Merkland Local Nature Reserve. There are a number of woodland and river corridors in Kirkintilloch located in the heart of residential areas, for example the Luggie Water, McGavigans Scrub, Tintock Wood and Boghead Rd Wood.

Actions and Opportunities in Kirkintilloch, Lenzie and Waterside:

Code	Site Name	OSA/PSA Action	Action	Type of Action	Delivery Lead	Timescale
LCA45	Afton View Open Space	OSA	Install tree planting and meadow areas.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Medium Term
LCA46	Auchendavie Road	OSA	Upgrade paths. Undertake woodland management and install wildflower strips in grass. Investigate access improvements and install directional signage to the canal.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term
LCA47	Between Chryston Road and Luggie Water	OSA	Install seating and create resting points, as well as wayfinding opportunities.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term
LCA48	Christine's Way	OSA	Upgrade the core path and explore link from Lenzie to Bishopbriggs via Westerhill.	Aspirational	EDC Traffic and Transport	Medium – Long Term
LCA49	Eastside Park	OSA and PSA	Sow yellow rattle on flood defence bankings to improve biodiversity. Improve entrance to feel more welcoming.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term

			Remove MUGA and explore new accessible play opportunities			
LCA50	Friars Croft	OSA and PSA	Engage with local community to increase woodland edge species planting and yellow rattle and wildflower planting of the verge.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Medium Term
LCA51	Hillhead Scrub and Grassland	OSA	Investigate opportunities to improve access while protecting the priority grassland site. Sensitively remove scrub to protect grassland. Install interpretation boards to explain the history of the site as a scheduled monument.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term
LCA52	Langmuir Park	OSA	Install tree planting along the path edge and assess the wet area in the east for wet grassland habitat creation. Install seating.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term
LCA53	Langmuir Road	OSA	Undertake assessment of the quality and depth of peat on site and prepare a restoration plan to restore the site as a priority wetland. Include the amenity area at junction with Badenoch Road with path access.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term

LCA54	Luggie Park	OSA	Explore feasibility of wildflower and tree planting on the bund.	Aspirational	EDC Roads, EDLC	Short – Long Term
LCA55	Luggie Water 2	PSA	Create natural play areas with soft landscaping. Install resting points along route.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium term
LCA56	Merkland Local Nature Reserve	OSA	Create at least two new ponds; undertake tree thinning; and increase signage and wayfinding points.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short - Medium Term
LCA57	Merkland Sports Centre	OSA	Consult with local community on the removal of play area and creation of diversified spaces with attractive soft landscaping and food growing opportunities.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term
LCA58	Millersneuk Wetland/Marsh	OSA	Engage with local community to field interest in establishing a Friends of group.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Medium Term
LCA59	Old Aisle Cemetery	OSA	Undertake renovation of boundary wall and the restoration of stonework at Bell Tower. Gully improvements. Manage amenity grass at different heights to support biodiversity.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Medium Term

LCA60	Peel Park	OSA and PSA	Improve planting and soft landscaping, especially around bandstand. Incorporate 'dead' biodiversity features.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Medium Term
LCA61	Rosebank Park	OSA and PSA	Install wildflower meadow with grass paths between access points. Design natural play elements in landscaping. Upgrade path network from Blackburn crescent to Islay Road and Iona Way.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term
LCA62	Thornwood Play Area		Identify opportunities to create diverse landscaping via the Kelvin Tributaries project. Upgrade the play area with natural play facilities.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term
LCA63	Tintock Park	OSA	Install information boards to explain historic significance of site. Manage amenity grass in west as a wildflower meadow with access paths.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	
LCA64	Tintock Wood	OSA	Improve path access. Create dead hedges, brash piles and log piles for biodiversity.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term

LCA65	Woodhead Park	OSA	Sensitively manage shrubs at entrance on Lenzie Road to create a safer, more inviting and accessible entrance. Increase tree planting along paths and edges of the park in open area.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term
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Lennoxtown, Milton of Campsie, Haughhead and Clachan of Campsie

The small settlements of Lennoxtown and Milton of Campsie sit at the foot of the Campsie Hills in the north of East Dunbartonshire. The villages of Clachan of Campsie and Haughhead are situated to the south of the Campsie Fells at the foot of Campsie Glen. All the settlements are surrounded by picturesque open countryside. The Campsie Fells are very much a defining feature and form a core part of the attractiveness of the area.

The milling and printing industries of the 18th and 19th centuries in Lennoxtown helped drive the requirement for housing and establishment of an historical new town. The town was served by the Lenzie to Lennoxtown railway line up until 1966. The former route has been transformed into the Strathkelvin Railway Path which now forms the southern boundary of the town. Lennoxtown currently exists in a post-industrial limbo but continues to attract residential interest due its attractive location at the base of the Campsies. It has a population of approximately 4,148. Milton of Campsie is located to the east of Lennoxtown and north of Kirkintilloch. The village expanded considerably in the 1970s with the addition of modern housing estates. It currently has a population of approximately 3,829. Clachan of Campsie used to be the main town of the area until Lennoxtown was built. There is a convent called Schoenstatt and St Machan's Church is of local historic importance.

There is a good mix of local open space within the towns of Lennoxtown and Milton of Campsie. High Park in the north of Lennoxtown provides a range of play and recreation opportunities. Local park facilities are also provided at Whitefield Pond, Station Road Playing Fields and Ferguson Park. There are several large semi-natural open spaces providing varying levels of informal recreational opportunity on the northern and southern peripheries of the town, including several Local Nature Conservation Sites and two Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Milton of Campsie is essentially split in two by the Strathkelvin Railway Path. The older part of the village is located to the north of the former railway line, with Milton Public Park at the centre of the village. Kincaid Park is located to the south and provides play and recreation facilities for the residential areas in the south of the village. There are several semi-natural greenspaces to the south and west of the village, which provides attractive woodland and grassland in which to walk. A potential allotment site has been identified at Craigfoot Field in the Council's Food Growing Strategy. Clachan of Campsie and Haughhead have two open spaces. These are Schoenstatt and Campsie Glen located to the south and north of the villages. There is a small play area at Haughhead, which was redesigned and built in 2013. These open spaces provide attractive places to walk and enjoy the surrounding countryside.

Actions and opportunities in Lennoxtown, Milton of Campsie, Haughhead and Clachan of Campsie:

Code	Site Name	OSA/PSA Action	Action	Type of Action	Delivery Lead	Timescale
LCA66	Antermoney Road	OSA	Undertake an ongoing programme of control and eradication of invasive non-native species alongside installation of allotments.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Long Term
LCA67	Balgrochan Marsh	OSA	Deliver the management plan in full.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Long Term
LCA68	Campsie Cemetery	OSA	Improve soft landscaping around car park. Manage amenity grass at different heights to support biodiversity. Upgrade paths.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Medium Term
LCA69	Ferguson Park	OSA	Investigate improvements to biodiversity, access and play, including natural play opportunities. Investigate potential food growing or allotments on the blaze pitch.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term

LCA70	High Park	OSA	Investigate potential for a pump track. Undertake landscape and biodiversity improvements.	Aspirational	EDC Regeneration, Streetscene	Medium – Long Term
LCA71	Kelvin Valley Way	OSA	Upgrade core path	Aspirational	EDC Traffic and Transport	Medium – Long Term
LCA72	Kincaid Park	OSA	Continue the ongoing programme of invasive non-native species control and eradication and woodland management with the TCV.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Long Term
LCA73	Maple Walk 1	OSA	Sensitively manage shrubs to improve path access. Redesign landscaping with more trees and shrubs of manageable sizes. Update signage.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term
LCA74	Maple Walk 2	OSA	Sensitively manage shrubs to improve path access. Install wildflower strips along paths.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term
LCA75	McCabe Gardens	OSA	Tree planting on amenity grass areas. Reduce mowing around the base of trees to increase wildflowers.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Medium Term

LCA76	Milton Public Park	OSA	Investigate local food growing opportunities, such as allotments with raised beds on former tennis courts.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term
LCA77	Munro Drive	OSA	Undertake an ongoing programme of invasive non-native species control and eradication. Replace damaged newly planted trees.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Long Term
LCA78	Station Road Playing Fields	OSA	Deliver biodiversity, access and food growing improvements.	Committed	EDC Regeneration	Short Term
LCA79	Strathkelvin Railway Path	OSA	Work in collaboration with partners to develop an ongoing programme of invasive non-native species control and eradication along the route.	Committed	EDC Streetscene	Short – Long Term
LCA80	Western Shelterbelt	OSA	Install biodiversity features such as dead hedges and standing monoliths.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Medium Term
LCA81	Westerton Wood	OSA	Engage with landowner to develop an ongoing invasive non-native species eradication programme for the <i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Long Term

			growing in the eastern part of the woods. Undertake thinning and understory planting.			
LCA82	Whitefield Pond	OSA	Ongoing control and eradication of invasive non-native species.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Long Term

[Milngavie](#)

Milngavie is located immediately to the north of Bearsden in the north-west edge of Greater Glasgow. Historically an independent burgh, it developed from a rural settlement into one of the principal commuter towns serving Glasgow, with growth driven in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries by mill and light industrial activity along the Allander Water. The arrival of the railway contributed to its expansion, and it is now an established residential town with good transport links to the city. The town is well known as the start of the West Highland Way long distance footpath which runs northwards for 95 miles to the town of Fort William. Of the four main towns in East Dunbartonshire, Milngavie is the smallest in terms of population. It currently has a population of approximately 12,765.

Milngavie has several important public parks and greenspaces within easy walking distance of the town centre, including Lennox Park, Oakburn Park, Mains Park and Barloch Moor. Lennox Park is a well-used, centrally-located park with strong community involvement, including interest in improving its accessibility, biodiversity and the range of facilities it can offer. It is considered a suitable candidate for a Climate Ready Park, where targeted interventions can enhance climate resilience while delivering wider social and environmental benefits. Situated to the north of the town, the Milngavie Reservoirs provide a significant area of open space, with surfaced walking routes around Craigmaddie and Mugdock Reservoirs set within wooded landscapes and contributing to both local amenity and wider path networks.

In addition to formal parks and the reservoir landscape, Milngavie contains several Local Nature Conservation Sites, such as the Craigdhu Wedge, Tannoch Loch, Mains Plantation and Craigton Wood, which provide semi-natural spaces for informal recreation. Mugdock Country Park is located to the north of Milngavie and the Kilpatrick Hills to the north-west, provide access to the surrounding countryside and a suite of nature-based recreational and learning opportunities.

Actions and opportunities in Milngavie:

Code	Site Name	OSA/PSA Action	Action	Type of Action	Delivery Lead	Timescale
LCA83	Allander Park	OSA	Upgrade paths to improve accessibility.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term
LCA84	Barloch Moor	OSA	Diversify tree stock due to ash-die back. Retain deadwood on site for biodiversity.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Medium Term
LCA85	Breadie Drive	OSA	Replace dead and damaged trees. Stop mowing around the base of trees and alter grass cutting to create different sward lengths and increase wildflowers while still allowing access for recreation.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Medium Term
LCA86	Campsie Drive	OSA	Stop mowing around trees and amend grass cutting heights to allow wildflowers to grow around site.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term
LCA87	Craigdhu Road	OSA	Install tree planting on grass area next to road.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	
LCA88	Craigdhu Wedge	OSA	Investigate potential for a flood mitigation scheme developed in partnership with	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term

			local communities to reduce flood risk.			
LCA89	Craigdhu West	OSA	Undertake woodland management. Remove adjacent fence with Chestnut Lane open space.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term
LCA90	Craigielea Crescent	OSA	Repair steps and install handrail and dropped kerbs. Develop landscape plan to improve habitats.	Aspirational	EDC Roads, Streetscene	Short – Medium Term
LCA91	Craigton Road	OSA	Plant bulbs and leave areas of grass to grow longer to encourage wildflowers.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Medium Term
LCA92	Crawford Road	OSA	Stop mowing around the base of trees and improve lower-level planting with shrubs and geophytes.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Medium Term
LCA93	Dougalston Avenue	OSA	Sensitively manage meadow grassland for biodiversity in open grassland area.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Medium Term
LCA94	Drumbeg Terrace Wood	OSA	Install dead biodiversity features. Improve access with seating areas.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term
LCA95	Graham Drive	OSA	Engage with local residents and develop a landscape plan to redesign and improve the	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term

			quality of greenspace. Create a functional connection between the three sites.			
LCA96	James Watt	OSA	Introduce more diverse planting, alter mowing heights to let wildflowers grow and sensitively manage bramble, nettle and fireweed.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term
LCA97	Keystone Quadrant	OSA	Stop cutting around the base of trees and install wildflower strips for natural play.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Medium Term
LCA98	Lennox Park	OSA	Building on the success in Bishopbriggs, investigate the feasibility of delivering a Climate Ready Park with additional play features.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term
LCA99	Lyle Square	OSA	Engage with the local community and develop a landscape plan for the square – integrating a rich mix of climate resilient planting and biodiversity features.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term
LCA100	Mains Park	OSA	Install trees along path edges. Install woodland edge planting around boundary to increase habitat and provide additional food source.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Medium Term

			Assess wet areas for pond creation or wet grassland.			
LCA101	Milngavie Library	OSA	Upgrade path access from West Highland Way to library.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Medium Term
LCA102	Milngavie Precinct	OSA	Engage with the BID to explore the feasibility of installing blue and green infrastructure features, such as rain gardens and living green roofs in the precinct, to reduce water pooling and improve the attractiveness of town centre.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term
LCA103	Mugdock Country Park	OSA	Complete Mugdock Strategy and produce a new Mugdock Strategy in 2027. Prepare a Heritage Environmental Plan to identify and prioritise built and natural environmental improvements. Complete the creation of the woodland nursery at Mugdock Park. Investigate opportunities to improve active travel connections to Mugdock Country Park from Milngavie town centre and Lennoxtown	Aspirational	EDC Traffic and Transport	Medium – Long Term
LCA104	Mugdock Country Park Adventure Trail	PSA	Upgrade the Adventure Trail.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium – Long Term

LCA105	North Dumgoyne Avenue	OSA	Stop mowing around the base of trees. Sensitively manage bramble and nettle growth to encourage more woodland ground flora.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Short – Medium Term
LCA106	Oakburn Park	OSA	Investigate Oakburn Park as a potential allotment site in consultation with the local community.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Long Term
LCA107	West Highland Way	OSA	Upgrade paths.	Aspirational	EDC Traffic and Transport	Medium Term

Torrance and Baldernock

The villages of Torrance, Balmore and Bardowie lie to the north of Bishopbriggs close to the River Kelvin. Torrance is a small village that used to mainly consist of farmland but has become a popular residential area at the foot of the Campsie Fells. It has a population of approximately 2,325. Balmore and Bardowie are small clachans set within attractive countryside (with a combined population of less than 1000) located to the west of Torrance and east of Milngavie.

Torrance is surrounded on all sides by open countryside. The village is split in two by the former railway line. The main park is West Balgrochan Play Area located beside the school and to the north of the Main Street. The Demonstration Garden provides a pleasant place to sit. The other main open space is Woodmill Park, providing sports grounds and access to the long-distance Kelvin Valley Way which runs along the north of the site. There are two semi-natural open spaces on the northwest of the village, including Tower Burn and West Balgrochan Marsh, which provide attractive woodland and grassland to walk in. There is a string of open spaces along the southern edge of the village which provide informal play space and amenity grassland.

Balmore and Bardowie are included within the parish of Baldernock which represents a quiet, rural area set within open countryside. Balmore does not have a local park or public open space due to its size and population. However, it does have a small play space in the north-west of the village. The main open space in Balmore is Glenorchard Wood located to the north of the village. The site is a large area of semi-natural woodland surrounded by agricultural fields and provides an attractive setting for the village, with opportunities to walk in the woodland and countryside beyond. Glenorchard Wood, however, is privately owned and therefore not classed as a public open space. There is a good network of protected biodiversity sites surrounding the villages and to the north of Bishopbriggs including Cadder Wilderness Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Actions and opportunities in Torrance and Baldernock:

Code	Site Name	OSA/PSA Action	Action	Type of Action	Delivery Lead	Timescale
LCA108	Demonstration Garden	OSA	Investigate opportunities for biodiversity and nature education for young people and the local community.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term
LCA109	West Balgrochan Marsh	OSA	Install benches and resting points. Sensitively upgrade core path. Work with community partners to explore the establishment of a Friends of group.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene, Traffic and Transport	Medium Term

Twechar

Twechar is a small former mining village located to the east of Kirkintilloch. It has a good mix of open space sites, including Twechar Public Park, Shirva Glen and Gartshore Public Park. Together these sites provide large areas of greenspace and woodland with a range of recreational activities. The Forth and Clyde Canal runs close to the village to the north, closely following the line of the Antonine Wall. There are visible remains of the Roman wall on Barhill, and the Roman Fort is a local tourist attraction. It has a small population of approximately 1,340.

In addition to its greenspace assets, Twechar benefits from the presence of the Twechar Healthy Living and Enterprise Centre, which plays a central role in community life. The Centre acts as a key hub for local activity, supporting health, wellbeing and community development initiatives. It has been instrumental in delivering environmental improvements throughout the village and has played a leading role in the development of the nearby outdoor pursuits centre on the Forth and Clyde Canal. Through its work, the Centre strengthens connections between people and place, enhancing the value, use and stewardship of Twechar's surrounding greenspaces.

Actions and opportunities in Twechar:

Code	Site Name	OSA/PSA Action	Action	Type of Action	Delivery Lead	Timescale
LCA110	Gartshore Public Park	OSA	Alter mowing regime to create diverse grass areas for biodiversity. Install benches. Install signage at access points.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term
LCA111	Twechar Public Park	OSA	Plant additional trees as part of wet woodland creation. Improve access for disabled users where step access is only option.	Aspirational	EDC Streetscene	Medium Term

Part 6 – Monitoring and reporting

Governance and oversight

Implementation of the strategy will be coordinated through a Greenspace Strategy Steering Group, bringing together representatives from across Council services and external partners. The Steering Group will meet biannually to review progress against the Delivery Programme, agree annual work programmes and adjust priorities in response to new policy and funding opportunities.

Monitoring delivery and reporting progress

A clear approach to monitoring is essential to ensure the Greenspace Strategy remains accountable and capable of responding to changing circumstances. The Council will adopt a focused Monitoring and Evaluation Framework centred on outcomes, quality of delivery and continuous learning. This framework will be managed by the Greenspace Strategy Steering Group and will link directly to the Strategy's themes, objectives and Delivery Programme.

Monitoring delivery

Progress will be assessed through a combination of quantitative and qualitative measures that track how greenspace projects, policy changes and partnership activity contribute to improved climate resilience, biodiversity, community wellbeing and quality of place. Monitoring will focus on four core areas as set out below:

Table 19. Monitoring progress

1. Delivery of the Action Programme	Annual review of actions completed, in progress or outstanding.
	Assessment of barriers and opportunities emerging during delivery.
	Alignment with wider corporate priorities and statutory duties.
2. Nature Networks and Spatial Data	Annual updates to Strategic and Local Nature Network mapping using new survey data, community input and development-related changes.
	Recording enhancements to ecological connectivity, habitat quality and network coverage.
3. Blue and Green Infrastructure Delivery	Tracking and recording new features delivered through capital projects, developer contributions and community initiatives.
	Reviewing quality, multi-functionality and long-term management commitments.
4. Community Participation and Local Stewardship	Monitoring community-led projects, volunteer activity and involvement in design and management.
	Recording how Local Place Plans, school projects and partnership programmes contribute to delivery.

[Reporting Progress](#)

Monitoring outcomes will be brought together through a structured reporting cycle:

- **Annual Monitoring Summary**
A short internal report bringing together relevant data and information and reviewing progress against the Delivery Programme to highlight achievements, risks, learning and next steps.
- **Progress Update Reports**
Two formal reports: one prepared mid-way through the Strategy period in 2028 and the other at the end in 2031 will summarise progress, update spatial mapping, illustrate case studies and demonstrate how actions have contributed to wider strategic outcomes, such as climate adaptation, biodiversity enhancement, nature networks connectivity, community wellbeing and quality of place. The reports will be taken to Council committee for member approval and published on the website.
- **Integrated Reporting**
Greenspace Strategy reporting will align with other statutory processes, including the Climate Action Plan, Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, Biodiversity Duty reporting and LDP3 monitoring. This reduces duplication and ensures greenspace delivery remains embedded within broader Council priorities.

[Mapping and data](#)

The Council will maintain and update an interactive mapping platform that integrates the Strategic and Local Nature Networks, Open Space Audit and Play Sufficiency Assessment maps. This resource will be monitored and updated regularly, providing a spatial baseline to inform planning decisions, pre-application discussions and investment and project priorities. This mapping will also allow the Council, external partners and communities to track our progress in a clear, accessible visual format.

Part 7 – Funding

Delivering the ambitions of the Greenspace Strategy will require a flexible and proactive approach to funding. We know that beyond capital and revenue budgets, funding opportunities for greenspace projects often emerge at short notice, with tight application windows and specific restrictions on how funds can be spent. To take full advantage of these opportunities, it is essential that a pipeline of ‘ready-to-go’ projects is maintained — projects that may be aspirational in the short-term but are sufficiently developed to be advanced quickly when funding becomes available. Delivery timescales are often constrained by factors such as procurement processes, contractor availability, and seasonal working windows. Recognising these challenges, the Strategy promotes early project development, design, collaboration and community engagement to ensure that delivery can proceed efficiently once funding is secured.

Due to limited capital and revenue funding, external funding streams are becoming increasingly important. National government programmes, such as the Nature Restoration Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Fund, play a key role in supporting the delivery of greenspace improvements, while agency-led investment, such as the Peatland ACTION Fund, provides funding for targeted investment in habitat restoration. It is important to recognise that as the funding landscape becomes more competitive, early project preparation and robust partnership working will be vital to securing the investment required to realise the ambitions of this Strategy.

Developer contributions also play a critical role in supporting greenspace enhancement, particularly in areas experiencing growth or where development increases demand on existing open spaces. These contributions provide a valuable source of capital funding for infrastructure improvements and can complement other public and private funding streams. However, capital funding alone is not sufficient to ensure the long-term sustainability of greenspaces. Increasingly, there is a need to direct more funding toward revenue expenditure — supporting the ongoing care of greenspaces, ecological management, and community engagement, all of which are essential to delivering lasting benefits for people and nature.

The Council will continue to work closely with internal and external partners, developers, landowners, and local communities to maximise investment in greenspaces. By combining public and private funding streams, developer contributions through the LDP3, and community-led initiatives, and by maintaining a portfolio of well-prepared projects, the Greenspace Strategy aims to ensure that East Dunbartonshire remains ready to capitalise on opportunities to create, enhance, and sustain its valued greenspaces.

Table 20. External funding sources

External Funding	Description
Active Travel Infrastructure Fund (ATIF)	The ATIF Tier 2 is the primary vehicle for the Scottish Government to fund active travel infrastructure. It is split into the Construction Fund – supporting construction-ready projects across Scotland – and the Design Fund which replaces the pre-construction phases of the Sustrans Places for Everyone Fund. Both the ATIF Construction and Design Funds are open to local authorities and Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs) to deliver new segregated walking, wheeling and cycling facilities, new paths, improved access to schools, improved accessibility, and new off-road shared paths connecting rural towns and villages.
EDC Nature Based Investment Study (NBIS)	The NBIS will form a key component of the Council’s climate change and biodiversity strategy, identifying and evaluating nature-based solutions and their potential to leverage public, private and blended funding sources. This will include a prioritised programme of action with recommended funding pathways and investment-readiness criteria. The study will evaluate the potential for attracting private investment from organisations who are interested in demonstrating their corporate social responsibility by supporting nature-based projects with the primary goals of carbon sequestration and biodiversity enhancement. These projects would create the opportunity for the Council to offer investment opportunities through, for example, a negative emission investment portfolio to organisations that are looking to lower their emissions and attract prospective investors. This could allow private investment streams to support the emission absorption potential of

	nature while enhancing and protecting biodiversity in East Dunbartonshire.
Nature Restoration Fund (NRF)	The Scottish Government's NRF is major investment programme designed to support nature recovery across Scotland and help deliver the ambitions of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to 2045. It is split into two streams: allocated and competitive. The allocated stream, otherwise known as the Edinburgh Process, sees annual allocations made to local authorities to deliver locally-led nature restoration projects, enabling Councils and their partners to deliver nature networks and habitat and biodiversity enhancements at scale.
Peatland ACTION Fund	Peatland ACTION Fund provides capital funding to restore degraded peatlands across Scotland, supporting climate mitigation, biodiversity recovery and improved water quality outcomes. The fund invites eligible organisations, including local authorities, to apply for financial support to deliver restoration projects to accelerate the pace and scale of peatland restoration in Scotland.
Places for Everyone (PfE)	The Sustrans (now Walk, Wheel, Cycle Trust) Places for Everyone programme has been Scotland's flagship active travel infrastructure fund since 2010. Funded by Transport Scotland, Sustrans provided funding to deliver walking, wheeling and cycling improvements. The fund closed in December 2025, but projects funded before this date will be transferred to Transport Scotland.
Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) Water Environment Fund	Administered by SEPA on behalf of the Scottish Government, this fund supports projects that improve the condition of Scotland's rivers and related water environments. It targets initiatives such as removing barriers to fish migration and movement, restoring urban river corridors for people and nature, including creating active travel corridors to

	improve health and wellbeing, and to secure climate resilience through improved water system management.
Urban Greening Factor (UGF)	The UGF metric will support greater investment in urban greening by increasing the quantity and quality of blue and green infrastructure in new development. In addition, the Council is developing a Habitat Assessment Framework to determine the level of mitigation required where proposals fall short of UGF expectations. The framework will include an associated fee structure, ensuring that where on-site mitigation cannot be achieved, appropriate financial contributions are secured.

Local challenges

Local authorities in Scotland are facing significant challenges in managing their greenspaces due to a combination of financial constraints, staffing shortages and increasing environmental pressures. Over the past decade funding for parks and greenspaces across the UK has declined by over a third, despite a rise in public use and a growing recognition of their health and wellbeing benefits. *The State of UK Public Parks* report from 2021 found a £690m reduction in parks funding between 2010 and 2021⁸ with financial assistance limited to small scale grants and competitive funding pots. The report found that due to inadequate government support, local authorities are exploring alternative management models, such as selling or transferring the management of parks and greenspaces to other entities.

The financial strain faced by local authorities is significantly impacting greenspaces – leading to cuts in management, deteriorating infrastructure and a decline in the quality of parks and greenspaces across Scotland. Audit Scotland’s 2025 Local Government Budgets report highlights a £647 million funding shortfall for local authorities in 2025/26⁹, in addition to a 3.3% real terms reduction in total revenue funding and 1.2% real terms reduction in capital funding from the Scottish Government for councils in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23.¹⁰ The implications of such cuts, include deferring management, reducing dedicated greenspace teams and cutting capital investment and revenue budgets. Greenspaces are bearing the brunt of these pressures with increasingly expensive contracts, shrinking staff resources, lack of training and postponed upgrades becoming the norm. Additionally, our staff face certain expectations of what our greenspaces should look like and how they should be cared for. Greenspace services are being squeezed more and more, and we risk losing the vital benefits greenspaces deliver for people and nature. Addressing these multifaceted challenges requires sustained public investment in our staff, Friends of Groups and local communities, as well as the leveraging of private funding streams, strategic planning, and inclusive policies to ensure that our greenspaces are accessible, safe and beneficial for all users for the long-term.

Community groups, in particular, have become increasingly vital in supporting our parks and greenspaces through their fundraising and volunteer efforts, but these groups often face challenges with limited resources and there is a need for greater support to sustain their contributions. Empowering communities through skills training and knowledge exchange will be essential as we look to collectively tackle the climate and nature

⁸ APSE apse.org.uk/apse/?LinkServID=6F6C3880-FBA4-259F-18889D4F13AC7765

⁹ Audit Scotland [Briefing: Local government budgets 2024/25](#)

¹⁰ Audit Scotland [LG Financial bulletin 2023/24](#)

crises. Groundwork's *From the Ground Up* report (2022) found that community-led environmental action can enhance biodiversity, build climate resilience and promote social and greenspace equity at the local level.¹¹

¹¹ Groundwork [From-the-Ground-Up-1.pdf](#)

Appendices