



Site ID	Site Name
82	Recreation Ground, Airth
83	Graham Terrace Park, Airth
84	Airth Castle Woodlands, Airth
93	South Green Drive, Airth

Legend

- Urban Limit
- Surveyed Open Spaces
- Open Space*
- Priority Regeneration Areas
- SIRR Areas

Local Plan Proposals and Opportunities

- Environment
- Recreational & Community Facilities
- Transport
- Economic Development
- Housing
- Path proposals

Access Routes

- Sustrans Cycle Route
- Green Travel Path
- Green Travel Proposed Route
- Right of Way

Strategy Key

- Potential lack of access to semi-natural open space
- Potential lack of access to public parks
- Potential lack of access to sports area
- Potential lack of access to play spaces
- Improve connections between open space
- Improve access to open space

- Conserve + enhance regional semi-natural spaces for biodiversity
- Enhance local biodiversity through local biodiversity toolkit
- Conserve + enhance awareness of cultural heritage
- Opportunity for new allotments/ community gardens
- Promote + enhance canal as a national green space
- Priority quality improvements required

* Areas of open space may include open water.

Falkirk Open Space Strategy
 Figure 7.7H (AIR.6)
 Conceptual Strategy - Airth

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Airth

Survey/ Issues

- Airth has a population of approximately 1,716 people, and 10.27ha of public open space within its urban limit. This excludes access to the surrounding countryside.
- A relatively high percentage of households (84.3%) has access (within 400m) to one or more of the four surveyed public open spaces.
- The supply of private gardens, with an average of 268m² per household, is lower than the average village supply of 384m² but higher than the average town supply of 193m².
- Although there is very good access to surveyed public open space in Airth, the percentage of households with access (within 400m) to a fit for purpose surveyed public open space is much lower, at 44% (the northern part of the village). Of the four surveyed open spaces in Airth, only one is of 'good' or better fitness for purpose (82 – Airth Recreation Ground).
- The village's one settlement-level public park and garden (83 – Graham Terrace Park) is considered to be of only 'fair' quality in its current state. This is predominantly due to a lack of facilities in it for the local population to access and use this space in a manner which benefits their quality of life.
- There is only a fair level of access (within 400m) to the two surveyed public parks and gardens (83, and 93 – South Green Drive) in Airth, with 37% of households having access to one or both. These are concentrated in the central part of Airth, with a small number of houses on the Main Street having access to both.
- There is reasonably good access (within 800m) to the one surveyed sports area (82) in Airth, with 64% of households (the northern part of the village) having access to it.
- There is also reasonably good access (within 400m) to the two surveyed sites with playspaces (82 and 93), with 60% of households having access to one or both. No areas have access (within 400m) to both sites containing a playspace.
- There is excellent access (almost 100% of households) to the one surveyed site containing natural/ semi-natural greenspace (84 – Airth Castle Woodlands) within 1200m.
- Callendar Park is the nearest national open space – it is over 9km by road from the centre of Airth. Tryst Golf Course is the nearest regional open space – it is 6.7km from the village.

Strategy Overview

Surveyed open spaces are well-distributed around the village and offer a variety of typologies. The central spaces of Graham Terrace Park and Airth Castle Woodlands should be prioritised for quality and access improvements and diversified to offer complementary functions, particularly relating to park/ playspace/ sports facilities where possible. Both improvements to existing open space and the location and function of new open space in the new housing site in the northern part of Airth should be considered.

Strategy Actions

National/ Regional-level Open Space

- Improved public transport connections to Callendar Park should be considered, as it offers a diversity of facilities.

Settlement-level Open Space

- Graham Terrace Park – Airth's one settlement-level public park is of fair quality. There is potential for improvement with new facilities and redesign of path layout and planting to support and enhance its function, and create a better village centre focus, while taking into account the proposed cemetery extension, as a priority.
- Airth Recreation Ground – the settlement-level sports area and playspace is of good quality and meets 'fitness for purpose' requirements. Although improvements to it are not a priority, the area could also incorporate new planting, paths, play equipment and fencing.
- Airth Castle Woodlands – Airth benefits from the unusual feature of this linear natural/ semi-natural open space running through the lower half of the village. It is of fair quality and not 'fit for purpose' – its potential is currently not being realised and improvements to maintenance and access should therefore be prioritised.

Neighbourhood-Level Open Space

- South Green Drive – this is the only surveyed neighbourhood-level pocket park and playspace in Airth. Originally allocated for housing in the finalised draft Local Plan, this is to be removed in modifications. It is currently of only fair quality and improvements to the quality and variety of equipment, fencing, surface materials and planting would be needed to make this fit for purpose.

General

- Green corridors and natural/ semi-natural open spaces are well-provided for in and around Airth. The strategy, in terms of typology provision, should be to focus on improving provision of and/ or access to parks/ playspaces/ sports areas and enhance the health and well-being of the local population.

- The southern parts of Airth (Douglas Avenue and Kennedy Way) are potentially under-provided for in terms of access to a public park, playspace or sports area. However, the surveyed open spaces do not include what appear to be a number of small amenity open spaces or pocket parks in the southern part of the village. A quality survey of these spaces should be considered prior to addressing potential underprovision in these areas.
- Where actual underprovision is determined after survey, the need to determine providing new spaces should relate to how far access to these types of spaces falls below the accessibility thresholds – e.g., if an area does not have access to a playspace within 1km this would be unacceptable, whereas if an area is 500m rather than 400m from a playspace then improvements to existing quality rather than new provision would be preferable.
- Increasing provision in the south of Airth should consider: improving access to and diversity of facilities in Airth Castle Woodlands; increasing neighbourhood-level pocket parks and playspaces; and determining through consultation the level of interest in an additional sports area on the village boundary.
- The northern and western part of Airth is allocated for housing. Good access links to sites 82, 83 and 84 should be integral to the layout and, if links to existing spaces do not raise accessibility to an acceptable level, new open space should be provided within the layout. If adjacent public open spaces can serve the new housing, utilising planning gain to improve their quality should be considered.
- Implement local biodiversity 'toolkit' for settlement / neighbourhood-level spaces.
- Maintain the high level of provision of natural/ semi-natural greenspace provided by Airth Castle Woodlands, while ensuring appropriate conservation and management of this space for natural heritage and biodiversity benefits.
- Enhance awareness of the cultural history and importance of the settlement through interpretation of Airth Castle Woodlands.