



## Avonbridge

### Survey/ Issues

- Avonbridge has a population of around 613 people, and 3.6ha of public open space within its urban limit, excluding access to the surrounding countryside.
- A relatively low percentage of households (32%) has access (within 400m) to the one surveyed public open space.
- The supply of private gardens, with an average of 302m<sup>2</sup> per household, is lower than the average village supply of 384m<sup>2</sup> but much higher than the average town supply of 193m<sup>2</sup>.
- The one surveyed open space (67 – Avonbridge School Recreation Ground) is of only fair quality and is not deemed fit for purpose. Therefore no households have access (within 400m) to a fit for purpose surveyed public open space.
- As the village's one surveyed open space is a settlement-level sports area and playspace of fair quality, it does not currently offer facilities that are good enough for the local population to access and use this space in a manner which maximises their quality of life.
- There is excellent access to the one surveyed sports area in Avonbridge, with 99% of households having access to it (within 800m).
- There is no access (within 400m) to any surveyed public parks and gardens in Avonbridge.
- There is only a fair level of access (within 400m) to the surveyed site with a playspace.
- There is no access (within 1200m) to surveyed sites containing natural/ semi-natural greenspace.
- Muiravonside Country Park is the nearest surveyed national open space – it is just under 5km from the centre of Avonbridge. Drumbowie Park is the nearest regional open space – it is 3.2km from the village.

### Strategy Overview

**The one surveyed open space, although centrally located, is not of 'good' fitness for purpose and is limited in typology and function. This central space should be prioritised for improvements to its accessibility, quality and diversity to offer complementary functions, particularly relating to park/ playspace/ semi-natural open space facilities where possible, and if possible extended into or connected with new open space in the adjacent housing sites. Potential underprovision to semi-natural open space should be addressed and improved, if deemed actual once un-surveyed sites have been considered. Both improvements to existing open space and the location and function of new open space in housing sites should be considered in combination, in order to supply a better diversity and distribution of open space around the village for existing and new houses, particularly focussed on the river.**

### Strategy Actions

#### *National/Regional-Level Open Space*

- Public transport connections to Muiravonside Country Park should be examined, as it offers a diversity of facilities.

#### *Settlement-Level Open Space*

- Avonbridge School Recreation Ground – the settlement-level sports area and playspace is of only fair quality and does not meet 'fitness for purpose' requirements. Improvements to its function as a sports area and playspace are a priority, and better access to it and more diverse facilities would benefit the community.

#### *Neighbourhood-Level Open Space*

- No neighbourhood-level spaces were surveyed in Avonbridge. However, from the quantitative audit there appear to be some other small areas of public open space in the village.

#### *General*

- Access to surveyed green corridors and natural/ semi-natural open spaces is not provided for in Avonbridge. However, the audit shows areas of unsurveyed natural/ semi-natural greenspace to the north and south of the village, and along the river in the centre of the village. A quality survey of these spaces should be considered prior to addressing potential underprovision of this typology. Surveying these sites and opening up access to them should be a priority.
- Access to surveyed public parks is also not provided for, and only the central part of the village has access to a surveyed playspace. The surveyed open spaces do not, however, include what appear to be a number of small amenity open spaces or pocket parks. A quality survey of these spaces should be considered prior to addressing potential underprovision.
- 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.
- The strategy, in terms of typology provision, should be to focus on improving provision of and/ or access to natural/ semi-natural open space, public parks and playspaces as a priority.
- Increasing provision in Avonbridge should consider: improving access to, and facilities and planting in, the School Recreation Ground; and diversifying and/ or extending it to create a central focus for both adjacent housing allocation sites.
- The western parts of the village are designated for housing – good access links to site 67 should be integral to their layouts and accessibility to existing public spaces raised to an acceptable level after survey. If adjacent public open spaces can serve the new housing, which appears likely, utilising planning gain to improve their quality should be considered – or a combination of providing some new spaces and improving existing ones to meet biodiversity, park

and playspace functions.

- Implement local biodiversity 'toolkit' for the settlement and other unsurveyed neighbourhood-level spaces.
- Maximise opportunities for a green corridor and associated public open space with diverse functions along the river as a central focus in the village, through the design of and contributions from adjacent new development.
- Improve connections to green corridors and natural/ semi-natural open space, while ensuring appropriate conservation and management for natural heritage and biodiversity benefits.