



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Falkirk Council 100023384 (2007).

## Bo'ness

## Survey/ Issues

- Overall there is a high supply of public open space in Bo'ness in quantitative terms (15.95ha per 1000 people), although there are some neighbourhoods (Drum and Borrowstoun) which have restricted accessibility.
- This is reflected by a relatively high percentage of households (85.8%) with access (within 400m) to a surveyed public open space.
- The supply of private gardens, with an average of 180m<sup>2</sup> per dwelling, is significantly lower than the average village supply of 384m<sup>2</sup> but only marginally less than the average town supply of 193m<sup>2</sup>.
- Although there is a high supply of public open space in Bo'ness, the percentage of households with access (within 400m) to a fit for purpose surveyed public open space is lower at 62.6%. Generally, there is a large quantity of open space provision, but their fitness for purpose is variable, with several fit for purpose sites in the eastern part of the town, but several less fit for purpose sites in the west of the town.
- Several of the town's settlement-level public parks and gardens (e.g. sites 99, 103, 104 and 105) are considered to be of only 'fair' quality. There is potential for increased maintenance and an improvement of facilities for the local population.
- Generally there is good accessibility (within 400m) to surveyed public parks and gardens over most of Bo'ness, with 73.5% of households having access to a surveyed public park & garden. Despite this, there are variations in provision, with some neighbourhoods having restricted access (Drum and Borrowstoun) and others having multiple access (Mingle, Grahamsdyke).
- Generally there is good accessibility (within 800m) to surveyed sports areas over most of Bo'ness, with 60.6% of households having access to a surveyed site containing a sports area. Despite this, there are variations in provision, with some neighbourhoods having restricted access (Borrowstoun Mains, Borrowstoun, Kinneil, Drum) and a few others having multiple access (Castleloan, Corbiehall).
- There is variable access (within 400m) to surveyed playspaces, with only 42.7% of households having access to a surveyed playspace. Many areas within Bo'ness have access to a playspace, often associated with access to a sports area (e.g. Deanfield, Corbiehall, Mingle, Grahamsdyke). However, for many areas, playspaces are under-provided e.g. Borrowstoun Mains, Kinneil, Maidenpark, Drum. There are very few areas with access (within 400m) to more than one site containing a playspace.
- Almost all of Bo'ness (99.7% of households) has access to a surveyed green corridor or a site containing semi-natural greenspace (within 1200m). The western half of Bo'ness has multiple access to more than one green corridor or semi-natural greenspaces (within 1200m).
- The town benefits from several large regional level semi-natural greenspaces at Kinneil Estate, the Foreshore and Carriden, which are generally of good to very good quality and offer great potential as regional facilities.

## Strategy Overview

**Develop the regional level open spaces of Kinneil, Carriden and the foreshore as strategic facilities for the Council area, allied to its tourism profile, whilst raising the quality of the local parks which are of 'fair' standard and improving the connectivity of open space network generally.**

## Strategy Actions

- Increase provision of public open space in areas of restricted accessibility, so that all households have access.
- Improve the quality of open spaces classed as not fit for purpose through provision of new facilities to support and enhance the function of these spaces coupled with improvements in the standard of maintenance of these facilities.
- Increase provision of public parks and gardens in areas of restricted accessibility, so that all households have access.
- Increase provision of sports areas in areas of restricted accessibility, so that all households have provision.
- Increase provision of play spaces in areas of restricted accessibility, so that all households have provision.
- Maintain high levels of provision of semi-natural greenspace in Bo'ness, while ensuring appropriate conservation and management of these spaces for natural heritage and biodiversity benefits.

*National/ Regional-level Open Space*

- The town benefits from several large regional level semi-natural greenspaces at Kinneil Estate, the Foreshore and Carriden, which offer great potential as regional-level facilities.
- Bo'ness Foreshore – improve facilities and management in tandem with the Foreshore development with particular emphasis on enhanced biodiversity, access and promotion of heritage.
- Kinneil Foreshore – opportunity to enhance as a Local Nature Reserve and wildlife site with improved recreational access and interpretation.
- Kinneil Estate – significant opportunities to develop visitor facilities in Kinneil Estate to make the most of the many assets of the park (e.g. Architectural interest, landscape distinctiveness and cultural history) with the appropriate habitat management of the woodland for natural heritage and biodiversity benefits. Opportunities to improve open space linkages into the estate from adjacent, urban greenspaces (e.g. Dean Glen).

*Settlement/ Neighbourhood-level Open Space*

- The town benefits from several good-quality settlement level public parks, such as Kinnegars Park, Victoria Park and Douglas Park which are of 'good' quality and 'fit for purpose'. Despite this provision, several of the town's settlement-level open spaces have become degraded and could be considered to be of only 'fair' quality, mainly

due to a combination of continually reduced maintenance and a lack of facilities for the local population to access and use these spaces in a manner which benefits their quality of life. They offer potential for improvement with new facilities to support and enhance their function, coupled with improvements in the standard of maintenance of these facilities.

- Drum – complete linear park and incorporate new open space in business park to augment provision. Complete links to Kinnegars Park and Carriden Brae to improve accessibility.
- Borrowstoun/Newtown – upgrade Newton Park (99), which is of 'fair' quality, as a matter of priority. Possibility of disposal of part to help fund improvements. Community consultation to establish approach to improvement.
- Kinneil/Borrowstoun Mains/Maidenpark – improve Maiden Park and Deanburn Glen which are of 'fair' quality, as a matter of priority. Provide new play spaces and sports areas at Maiden Park to address under provision in this area. Enhance green corridor potential of Deanburn Glen with improved access, facilities and maintenance of the woods.
- Other settlement-level open spaces – make improvements to 'fair' parks to bring up to 'good' standard as resources allow or opportunities arise.
- Neighbourhood-level open space – the town benefits from numerous neighbourhood level open spaces, which offer potential to enhance the setting of residential areas and provide informal amenity space. The function and maintenance of neighbourhood level open spaces should be more varied to provide more diversity amongst the town's small-scale spaces and pocket parks. Improvement should be carried out in consultation with local communities and with their involvement to increase sense of ownership of neighbourhood spaces.

*General*

- Bo'ness Foreshore – large area of new housing allocated in Local Plan. Ensure open space linkage is retained through the site connecting Bo'ness foreshore to east and west.
- Biodiversity – make across the board improvements to biodiversity in all open settlement/neighbourhood level spaces. Implement local biodiversity 'toolkit' for settlement-level spaces.
- Green corridors and semi-natural are well provided for. Strategy, in terms of typology provision, should be to focus improving provision of parks/ playspaces/ sports areas.
- Opportunities to enhance the health and well-being of the local population through improved provision to sports areas and play spaces.
- Opportunities to enhance awareness of the cultural history and importance of the settlement through interpretation of open spaces and public art – Kinneil, Bo'ness Foreshore, Kinnegars.
- Opportunities for new allotments/ community gardens as part of land allocated for new housing and at existing open spaces, e.g. Deanfield Park.