



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).

## Bonnybridge & Banknock

### Survey/ Issues

- Overall there is a relatively low supply of public open space in Bonnybridge & Banknock in quantitative terms (at 5.0ha per 1000 people it has the lowest quantity supply of any of Falkirk's towns). There are several neighbourhoods (e.g. the southern and north parts of Bonnybridge, Parkfoot, Dennyloanhead and the southern part of Banknock) which have restricted accessibility to public open space.
- This is reflected by a relatively low percentage of households (57.8%) with access (within 400m) to a surveyed public open space.
- The supply of private gardens, with an average of 227m<sup>2</sup> per household, is lower than the average village supply of 384m<sup>2</sup> but higher than the average town supply of 193m<sup>2</sup>.
- The percentage of households with access (within 400m) to a surveyed public open space is relatively low at 57.8%. This is a reflection of the low supply of public open space generally in the settlement.
- As a whole, the majority of the town's open spaces are considered to be of 'good' fitness for purpose. The percentage of households with access (within 400m) to an open space of good or better fitness for purpose is relatively low at 51.3%. This is a reflection of the low supply of public open space generally in the settlement, coupled with the lower quality of open spaces in the Parkfoot area.
- Only three of the town's surveyed public open spaces are considered to be of 'fair' quality (sites 23, 35 and 63). With some improvement they could meet good standards.
- Generally the accessibility (within 400m) to surveyed public parks and gardens is concentrated to central areas of Bonnybridge and Banknock, with only 38.6% of households having access to a surveyed public park & garden. There are variations in provision; many neighbourhoods having restricted access to a public park & garden (e.g. Parkfoot, Dennyloanhead, southern Bonnybridge), yet other areas have multiple access (e.g. Banknock and central Bonnybridge).
- Generally the accessibility (within 800m) to surveyed sports areas is concentrated to central areas of Bonnybridge and Banknock, with only 57% of households having access to a surveyed site containing a sports area. There are variations in provision, with some neighbourhoods having restricted access to a sports area (e.g. Parkfoot, Dennyloanhead, southern Bonnybridge) and a few others having multiple access (e.g. Banknock, High Bonnybridge).
- There is variable access (within 400m) to surveyed playspaces, with only 35.7% of households having access to a surveyed playspace. Several areas within the settlement have access to a playspace, often associated with access to a sports area (e.g. Banknock, central Bonnybridge and High Bonnybridge). However, for many areas, playspaces are under-provided e.g. Parkfoot, Dennyloanhead, north and south Bonnybridge).
- Almost all of the settlement (96.5% of households) has access to

more than one surveyed green corridor or a site containing semi-natural greenspace (within 1200m).

- The settlement benefits from several large semi-natural greenspaces located at the urban fringe, such as Bonnyfield Nature Park, Bonnywater Corridor and Seabegs Wood, which are generally of good to very good quality and offer great potential as regional facilities. The settlement also benefits from the presence of the Forth & Clyde Canal, which extends east-west across the region and provides a significant resource as a green corridor and linear access route. There is a strong basis for a green network of sites created through linkages between the Forth & Clyde Canal and disused railway corridors extending between Banknock and Bonnybridge.

### Strategy Overview

**Improve basic quantitative provision of open space in key areas which are currently under-provided. Develop the larger scale open spaces such as Bonnywater Corridor and Seabegs Wood into regional-level resources, while improving quality and linkages of disused railway corridors and the Forth & Clyde Canal to each other and the local greenspace network.**

### Strategy Actions

#### National/ Regional-level Open Space

At the national level, the settlement benefits from the presence of the Forth & Clyde Canal, which extends east-west across the region and provides a significant resource as a green corridor and linear access route. At the regional level, the settlement benefits from several large semi-natural greenspaces located at the urban fringe, such as Bonnyfield Nature Park, Bonnywater Corridor and Seabegs Wood, which are generally of good to very good quality and offer great potential as regional facilities.

- Forth & Clyde Canal – promote and enhance canal as a regional green corridor and linear access route to provide backbone for improved linkages of green network through settlement. Improve connections to adjacent open spaces and consider introduction of facilities, interpretation etc at intervals along the canal.
- Bonnyfield Nature Park – manage and enhance as a nature reserve with a clear access strategy and improved visitor facilities.
- Bonnywater Corridor – improve access and visitor facilities along river corridor and to wider countryside, while managing as a green corridor for nature conservation benefits.
- Seabegs Wood – conserve cultural history of the site and enhance interpretation/ awareness of its history. Improve access, with opportunities for links with adjacent Forth & Clyde Canal (site 38). Assess opportunity to create new entrance to site from housing estate to the east.

#### Settlement/ Neighbourhood-level Open Space

- Banknock – open space provision tends to be concentrated at northern side of settlement. Glenview Avenue sports pitch has potential for improved sports facilities through planning gain from Banknock SIRR. Banknock Railway corridor also has potential for enhancement as a green access route and wildlife corridor.
- Banknock also benefits from several neighbourhood-level public open spaces which tend to be of 'good' quality and fit for purpose e.g. Dog & Doups Burn (24), Bankier Primary (25) and Kilsyth Road (30). The quality of these sites should be maintained and enhanced to encourage access, while facilitating local biodiversity improvements through simple, practical measures.
- Haggs, Parkfoot and Dennyloanhead – under-provision of public open space requires to be addressed, if feasible, with creation of new open spaces as part of any allocated residential development. The northern edge of these settlements is lined by a disused railway corridor that extends between Haggs and Dennyloanhead. There is potential to enhance this as linear access route, with potential links to new nodal open spaces along its route.
- Bonnybridge – There is some under-provision of public open space in south Bonnybridge which requires to be addressed. Potentially this could be done through the creation of new open spaces as part of allocated residential development. Elsewhere, the town benefits from several 'good' quality settlement level parks such as Duncan Stewart Park (37), Anderson Park (41) and Broomhill Park (45). Although fit for purpose, these parks would all benefit from additional facilities and local biodiversity improvements.

#### General

- Overall provision of open space in this settlement needs to be increased to provide accessible public open space for all. In particular, new provision should focus on the southern and north parts of Bonnybridge, Parkfoot, Dennyloanhead and the southern part of Banknock.
- Maintain the 'good' quality standard of existing public open spaces within the settlement while targeting new provision at key areas with deficiencies in provision.
- Improve the quality of sites identified as lower quality through improvements in facilities and maintenance to support their function.
- Opportunities to enhance the health and well-being of the local population through improved provision to sports areas and play spaces in areas identified as being under-provided.
- 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.
- Biodiversity – make across-the-board improvements to biodiversity in all settlement/ neighbourhood level open spaces. Implement local biodiversity 'toolkit' for settlement-level spaces.
- Opportunities to enhance awareness of the cultural history and importance of the settlement through interpretation of open spaces and public art – Antonine Wall, Seabegs Wood, Loch Park.
- Opportunities for new allotments/ community gardens as part of land allocated for new housing and at existing open spaces. e.g. west Banknock, south Bonnybridge.