



Legend <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban Limit Surveyed Open Spaces Open Space* Priority Regeneration Areas SIRR Areas 	Local Plan Proposals and Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Recreational & Community Facilities Transport Economic Development Housing Path proposals 	Access Routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustrans Cycle Route Green Travel Path Green Travel Proposed Route Right of Way 	Strategy Key <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>* Areas of open space may include open water.</p>	<p>Falkirk Open Space Strategy Figure 7.7L (CAL.6) Conceptual Strategy - California</p>
--	---	--	--	---	--

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).

California

Survey/ Issues

- California has a population of approximately 686 people, and 1.32ha of public open space within its urban limit. This excludes access to surveyed public open spaces adjacent to the urban edge and to the surrounding countryside.
- A high percentage of households (79%) has access (within 400m) to the one surveyed public open space.
- The supply of private gardens, with an average of 352m² per household, is slightly lower than the average village supply of 384m² and much higher than the average town supply of 193m².
- The one surveyed open space (217 – California Recreation Ground) is of only fair quality and therefore not 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 only fair quality, it currently offers facilities that are very limited for the local population to access and use in a manner which maximises their quality of life.
- There is no access to surveyed public parks and gardens in California (within 400m).
- There is excellent access (99%) to the surveyed sports area in California (within 800m).
- There is very good access (79%) to the surveyed site with a playspace (within 400m).
- There is no access (within 1200m) to surveyed sites containing natural/ semi-natural greenspace.
- The Union Canal Wildlife Site is the nearest surveyed national open space – it is 2.5km from the centre of California. Westquarter Burn Foreshore is the nearest regional open space – it is under 2km from the village.

Strategy Overview

The one surveyed open space, although well-accessed, is not fit for purpose, and limited in typology and function. This space should be prioritised for improvements to quality and diversity to offer complementary functions, and if possible the semi-natural part of the site extended. A new central park with emphasis on play and biodiversity should be created within the central housing allocation (H. CAL4).

Strategy Actions

National/Regional-Level Open Space

- Both the Union Canal and Westquarter Burn offer green corridor and natural/ semi-natural open space facilities which, although further away than 1200m are still within 20 to 30 minutes walk. Good connections to these should be a priority.

Settlement-Level Open Space

- California Recreation Ground – this settlement-level sports area and playspace is of only fair quality and is extremely limited in what it offers. Improvements to quality are a priority, and should incorporate upgrading of surfacing, better play equipment, new benches and bins etc, in consultation with the local community. Extending and managing the existing semi-natural part of the site would benefit the community, potentially through a community woodland. Planning gain from the extensive new housing areas should be considered.

Neighbourhood-Level Open Space

- No neighbourhood-level spaces were surveyed in California. However, from the quantitative audit there appear to be a few small areas of public open space, mostly in the southern part of the village.

General

- Access to surveyed green corridors and natural/ semi-natural open spaces is not provided for in California. However, the audit shows areas of unsurveyed natural/ semi-natural greenspace to the north and south 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 southern part of the village has access (within 400m) to a surveyed playspace. Some of the un-surveyed open spaces may, however, provide a pocket park or playspace function. 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 and public parks as a priority throughout the village, and playspaces in the northern part.
- The central part of California and an area to the north are designated for housing – good access links to site 217 and other nearby un-surveyed open spaces should be integral to the housing layouts and focus upon the existing connections made by the Right of Way. Links to existing public spaces appear unlikely to raise accessibility to an acceptable level after survey, and new open space should be provided within the layouts with a central public park function, playspace(s) and semi-natural open space.
- Increasing provision in California should consider: diversifying the typology and improving the quality of the one surveyed site, and providing new open space within the housing allocations.
- Implement local biodiversity 'toolkit' for existing and new spaces.