



<b>Legend</b> Urban Limit Surveyed Open Spaces Open Space* Priority Regeneration Areas SIRR Areas	<b>Local Plan Proposals and Opportunities</b> Environment Recreational & Community Facilities Transport Economic Development Housing Path proposals	<b>Access Routes</b> Sustrans Cycle Route Green Travel Path Green Travel Proposed Route Right of Way	<b>Strategy Key</b> 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 <p>* Areas of open space may include open water.</p>	<h3>Falkirk Open Space Strategy</h3> <p>Figure 7.7F (L&amp;S.6)</p> <h4>Conceptual Strategy - Larbert &amp; Stenhousemuir</h4>
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## Larbert & Stenhousemuir

### Survey/ Issues

- Overall there is a varied supply of public open space in Larbert in quantitative terms. The overall statistic of 9.38ha of public open space per 1000 people appears to be satisfactory; however, there is some underprovision in parts of the town e.g. South Broomage and parts of Stenhousemuir and Carron, which have restricted accessibility.
- A relatively high percentage of households (78.5%) with access (within 400m) to a surveyed public open space.
- The supply of private gardens, with an average of 223m<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>.
- Although there is a high supply of public open space in Larbert, the percentage of households with access (within 400m) to a fit for purpose surveyed public open space is only 45.8%. There are many areas of the settlement that have access to an open space which has less than 'good' fitness for purpose. 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 southern part of the town, but several less fit for purpose sites in the northern part of the town.
- Several of the town's settlement level public open spaces (e.g. sites 149, 153, 156, 158, 159, 165 and 167) are considered to be of only 'fair' quality and require upgrading. This is often due to a combination of limited maintenance and a lack of facilities for the local population.
- Generally there is a high level of accessibility (within 400m) to surveyed public parks and gardens in Larbert, with 66.5% of households having access to a surveyed public park & garden. There are notable under-provisions in several parts of the town e.g. South Broomage and parts of Stenhousemuir and Carron, which have restricted accessibility.
- Generally there is a high level of accessibility (within 800m) to surveyed sports areas in Larbert, with 72.8% 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 (South Broomage and parts of Stenhousemuir and Carron) and a few others having multiple access (e.g. Carronshore).
- There is variable access (within 400m) to surveyed playspaces, with only 54.6% of households having access to a surveyed playspace. Many areas within Larbert have access to a playspace, often associated with access to a sports area (e.g. Larbert, South Broomage, Carron, Antonhill). However, for many areas, playspaces are under-provided e.g. Stenhousemuir, northern Carron. There are very few areas with access (within 400m) to more than one site containing a playspace.
- The majority of Larbert (80.6% of households) has access to a surveyed green corridor or a site containing semi-natural greenspace

(within 1200m). The northern and eastern parts of the town tend to be under-provided (e.g. north Stenhousemuir, Carronshore) despite their position on the urban edge, due to physical barriers preventing direct access to urban fringe open space. The southern parts of Larbert have multiple access to more than one green corridor or semi-natural greenspaces (within 1200m).

- The settlement's regional open space resource (Carron Dam, Tryst Golf Course RSNH Larbert House) is not achieving its potential and there is scope for improvement to these facilities to provide strategic open spaces of importance for Larbert/ Stenhousemuir and the wider Falkirk area.

### Strategy Overview

**Develop the potential of the settlement's strategic open spaces, whilst improving quality and accessibility at the local level through the upgrading of key parks such as Broomage Park, Antonhill and Chapelburn Park augmented by some new open spaces in new development within areas of quantitative deficiency. Improve greenspace linkages through the town, focusing on the potential of the River Carron/ Carron mill lade/ Chapelburn to link other spaces, while ensuring that new open spaces are created as part of masterplanned development taking place on the urban fringe.**

### Strategy Actions

#### National/ Regional-level Open Space

The settlement's regional open space resource (Carron Dam, Tryst Golf Course RSNH Larbert House) is not achieving its potential and there is scope for improvement to these facilities to provide strategic open spaces of importance for Larbert/Stenhousemuir and the wider Falkirk area.

- Carron Dam – manage and enhance as a nature reserve with a clear access strategy (e.g. creation of circular access route) and visitor facilities, improved maintenance and promotion as an educational resource. Habitat management required e.g. removal of birch scrub on fen in selective phases, management of invasive species.
- RSNH Larbert House – opportunity to enhance public access within the landscaped grounds of RSNH in connection with the masterplanning of the proposed new acute hospital site for the Forth Valley area. Proposals could include management and reinforcement of woodland, path networks and other informal countryside recreation facilities.
- Tryst Golf Course – opportunity to improve public access to specific routeways through site, whilst recognising potential conflicts with golfing activities, and to improve the Football Ground end of the site with new public park facilities. Potential for interpretation of historical significance of the Tryst grounds.

#### Settlement/ Neighbourhood-level Open Space

- At the settlement level Larbert benefits from numerous public open spaces of 'good' quality and of varying function, which are considered to be fit for purpose e.g. Chapelburn Park West (155), Finlay Russell Park (161) and Carron Dam (162).
- Burnside Park (153), Chapelburn Park corridor (155 & 156) – forms a greenspace corridor of public parks with significant potential as a green access route and wildlife corridor. Opportunity to upgrade the parks along this corridor as part of a wider green corridor.
- Finlay Russell Park – is responsible for significant amount of open space provision due to its linear form, yet it would benefit from the creation of new facilities and new access points to make it more accessible to South Broomage area.
- Carronvale – enhance as a country park with riverside/rural setting. Introduce clear access strategy for site, with potential connections to river for recreation. Introduce new facilities to encourage use of site as country park.
- Crownest Park – eastern half of the park has been developed as part of regeneration of Stenhousemuir town centre - it has been upgraded but there are opportunities to improve further.
- Improve the quality of several of the town's settlement-level public open spaces (e.g. sites 153, 156, 158, 159, 165 and 167) which are considered to be of only 'fair' quality in their current state and requiring attention.

#### General

- The River Carron is currently under-utilised as an open space resource. Opportunity to improve the provision of semi-natural open space provision along the River Carron and potential as a green access route.
- Improve the quality of sites identified as being of only 'fair' 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 public parks, sports areas and play spaces in areas identified as being under-provided.
- 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 – Tryst showground, Larbert House etc.
- Opportunities for new allotments/ community gardens as part of land allocated for new housing.