



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

Survey/ Issues

- Letham has a population of approximately 209 people, and 0.86ha 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 (76%) has access (within 400m) to one or both surveyed public open spaces.
- The supply of private gardens, with an average of 208m² per household, is lower than the average village supply of 384m² but marginally higher than the average town supply of 193m².
- Of the two surveyed open spaces (7 – Letham Backcourts, and 72 – Letham Playingfields), the former is of only fair quality and requires upgrading, while the latter is of good quality and therefore is fit for purpose. 76% of households have access within 400m to the fit for purpose surveyed public open space.
- The settlement-level sports area (72) is of good quality, and therefore offers facilities that are good enough for the local population to access and use in a manner which maximises their quality of life.
- The neighbourhood-level public park and garden (7) is of only fair quality, and therefore does not currently offers facilities that benefit the local population sufficiently.
- There is reasonably good access (57%) to the surveyed public park and garden in Letham (within 400m).
- There is excellent access (100%) to the surveyed sports area in Letham (within 800m).
- There is no access to a surveyed site with a playspace (within 400m).
- There is poor access (19% at the northern edge of the village) to surveyed sites containing natural/ semi-natural greenspace (within 1200m).
- Callendar Park is the nearest surveyed national open space – it is 9.5km from the centre of Letham. The Tryst Golf Course is the nearest regional open space – it is 4.8km from the village.

Strategy Overview

Improvements to the local public park and garden should be prioritised, along with provision of a playspace in an appropriate location. Access to and/ or provision of semi-natural open space should also be a priority in Letham.

Strategy Actions

National/Regional-Level Open Space

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

Settlement-Level Open Space

- Letham Playingfields – this settlement-level sports area is of good quality and meets ‘fitness for purpose’ requirements. Improvements to quality are not a priority, although consideration should be given to diversifying and extending planting, improving biodiversity and adding new benches, in consultation with the local community. From the quantitative audit this site extends northwards as an unsurveyed area of open space and surveying this should be a priority. Rectifying the lack of playspace facilities should be a priority in one or both sites.

Neighbourhood-Level Open Space

- Letham Backcourt – this neighbourhood-level space public park and garden is of only fair quality and does not currently meet ‘fitness for purpose’ requirements. From the quantitative audit there appear to be little or no other areas of un-surveyed neighbourhood-level public open space. Improving the quality and design of the space should be a priority in tandem with community consultation – and provision of a new playspace in this area may be more appropriate than in or next to 72, as it is overlooked by housing.

General

- Access to surveyed green corridors and natural/ semi-natural open spaces within 1200m is underprovided for in Letham. A quality survey of any unsurveyed spaces within 1200m 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, as a priority. This could be through consideration of a community scrub/ grassland/ woodland area appropriate to the carseland location – perhaps related to the western edge of the village. Providing a playspace should also be a priority.
- Opportunities for providing these types of space and facilities should be considered in association with the new housing proposed on the west side of the village.
- Implement local biodiversity ‘toolkit’ for existing and new spaces.