CONTENTS

PART ONE: OPEN SPACE REQUIREMENTS IN NEW DEVELOPMENT 3

1. PART ONE INTRODUCTION 3
   Purpose and Status of this guidance 3
   Legislative and Policy Context 4

2. ASSESSING NEEDS AND SECURING PROVISION 5
   Overview 5
   Pre-application Discussions 6
   Consultation 7
   How Open Space Requirements Are To Be Met 7
   Assessing Accessibility of Existing Open Space from the Development Site 10
   Assessing Quality of Existing Open Space 11
   Simple Guide to the Open Space Requirement Process 12
   The Calculation of Developer Contributions 13

3. ADOPTION, MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE 14
   Maintenance and Management of Open Spaces 14
   PART ONE Appendix 1: Definitions of Open Space Typologies 16
   PART ONE Appendix 2: Site Appraisal for Open Space 17
   PART ONE Appendix 3: Detailed Procedure for Adoption of Open Space by DGC 19

PART TWO: OPEN SPACE QUALITY GUIDELINES 22

4. PART TWO INTRODUCTION 22

5. GENERAL QUALITY GUIDELINES 22

6. DESIGN QUALITY SPECIFICATION FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF OPEN SPACE 26
   Allotments 26
   Amenity Greenspace: 27
   Green Corridors 28
   Natural / Semi-natural Greenspaces 29
   Public Parks and Gardens 29
   Play Areas for Children and Young People 30
   Outdoor Sports Facilities 31

PART THREE: OPEN SPACE SETTLEMENT ACCOUNTS 35

7. PART THREE INTRODUCTION 35

8. SETTLEMENT ACCOUNTS / MAPS 35

PART FOUR: PROTECTED AREAS OF OPEN SPACE IN VILLAGES 135

9. PART FOUR INTRODUCTION 135

10. VILLAGE MAPS 135
PART ONE: OPEN SPACE REQUIREMENTS IN NEW DEVELOPMENT

1. PART ONE INTRODUCTION

1.1 Whether for amenity, recreational or functional purposes, open space makes an important contribution to the quality of new development, helping to improve the visual setting as well as encouraging physical activity and improving mental health and wellbeing. Such spaces can play a big part in building community cohesion, can stimulate the economy and attract enterprise. They also have a vital role in encouraging biodiversity, supporting a resilient environment (for example in helping to adapt to, and mitigate against, the effects of climate change) and providing important opportunities for learning.

1.2 Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGC) completed its first Open Space Audit in 2013, in accordance with Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Note 65, and published its Open Space Strategy in 2014. The Audit assessed all open spaces within 500 metres of settlement boundaries in the 48 regional, district and local centres identified in the Local Development Plan (LDP). This has allowed an analysis of the provision across the region and results from the Audit and the objectives set out in the Strategy have been used to inform the advice included in this Supplementary Guidance (SG).

1.3 As stated in the Open Space Strategy, the Council’s long term vision for open space is: “To develop and maintain a network of high quality, sustainable open spaces that meet local needs, enhance quality of life, support a healthy and diverse range of natural habitats and contribute to the economic and social well-being of the whole community”.

1.4 The guidance will be split into four sections: Part One sets out the process for assessing open space needs and securing appropriate provision from developers; Part Two provides advice on the design and expected quality of open space provision; Part Three includes a series of individual Settlement Accounts for the 48 audited settlements; and Part Four consists of a series of village maps identifying protected open space (as specified in LDP policy CF3 (a) Protection of Open Space).

Purpose and Status of this guidance

1.5 This SG has a number of functions: it will contribute to helping to achieve the vision and outcome of the Open Space Strategy and gives more detail on the implementation of LDP policy CF3: Open Space, providing practical guidelines on how DGC will apply the open space requirements when making decisions on new development. The guidance and standards outlined in this SG not only provide a framework for Development Management, developers and their design teams looking at new development but can also apply to the management of existing spaces and to the creation of new space.

1.6 The guidance reflects the policy advice given in Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Note (PAN) 65, Planning and Open Space. It provides additional information on the use of LDP Policy CF3, having the same status as the policy in the adopted Plan. It will be taken into account as a material consideration when determining planning applications and appeals.

1.7 The Council will monitor the effectiveness of the Guidance and review its content at regular intervals to ensure that the guidance remains relevant and compliant with Scottish Government policy and advice and any relevant strategies adopted by the Council.
Legislative and Policy Context

Legislation
1.8 The public’s access to open space and other land is outlined within the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. The Act gives people a right of responsible access to most land and inland water in Scotland. The Act also gives powers and duties to the Council to protect and manage access rights. The Council’s access activities including its Core Path Plan and Outdoor Access Strategy (Open Outdoors 2012-2017) can be found on the Council’s website www.dumgal.gov.uk

1.9 The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 places a legal duty on the Council to further the conservation of biodiversity, enhance natural features and protect wildlife. To comply with this duty, the Council must consider nature conservation in everything that it does.

National Context
1.10 Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), 2014, states that the design of new green infrastructure [which includes open space] should take account of the principles of successful places, be well integrated with existing access and habitat networks, be fit-for-purpose and capable of being adapted to accommodate the changing needs of users. Planning Advice Note (PAN) 65 on Planning and Open Space (2008) provides national planning guidance on open space.

Local Context

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Development Plan (LDP) Policy CF3: Open Space</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Protection of Open Space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There will be a presumption against development of open space identified for protection in the LDP inset maps or, in the case of villages, those shown in the open space supplementary guidance. Development of open space for a purpose unrelated to use as open space will not be allowed unless:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• the open space can best be retained and enhanced through the redevelopment of a small part of the site; or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• an adequate and acceptable replacement for the open space lost as a result of the development (which is equally convenient and accessible) can be provided and/or paid for by the applicant within the locality; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• alternative sites have been considered and no other appropriate site can be identified.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposals to develop playing fields or sports pitches should be consistent with the terms of the playing fields section of Scottish Planning Policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Provision of Open Space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In all housing developments which will, either individually or through phasing, result in the development of 5 or more units, there will be a requirement to provide or contribute towards good quality publicly usable open space (which may also include linkages to wider green networks) in line with the requirements set out in supplementary guidance. Other development may also need to provide or contribute towards open space/green network provision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposals to provide new open space (including allotments) or to enhance existing open space will usually be supported.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.11 Other relevant LDP policies and SG:

- Policy CF2: Green Networks - *avoiding fragmentation of existing networks and enhancing connectivity where possible*;
- Policy CF4: Access Routes and associated SG - *ensuring existing paths and routes are protected and that new access is carefully considered and provided in new development*;
- Policy OP2: Design Quality of New Development and associated SG - *particularly, the need to increase connectivity to nearby places, paths, streets and open space; and to ensure any open space is required is of high quality, appropriate and integrated and provides linkages to the wider green network*;
- Policy OP3: Developer Contributions and associated SG - *sets broad policy framework for contributions to open space in new development*;
- Policy H2: Housing Development in Villages and associated SG - *particularly the need to ensure any proposals would not lead to the loss of open space*;
- Policy NE7: Trees and Development – *this policy supports proposals that maintain trees, woodlands and hedgerows, which could all form parts of open space, and also encourages developers to incorporate existing woodland features into their development where feasible*;
- Policy NE12: Protection of Water Margins and associated SG - *these can form part of the green corridor network and may be part of open space provision within a development*;
- Policy IN8: Surface Water Drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and associated SG – *SuDS can form part of open space provision in new development, particularly as part of a bigger multi-functional space*;
- Policy T5: Former Transportation Routes - *relates to the protection of active travel and recreation routes along green corridors such as disused railway lines*.

2. ASSESSING NEEDS AND SECURING PROVISION

Overview

2.1 This section describes how the Council will assess the open space provision that will be needed as a result of new development and how they will secure that provision. For all relevant proposals under Policy CF3, developers will be required to contribute to the provision or enhancement of publicly usable open space with the final requirements being dependent on the individual application and the context of the location. Although many of the development proposals requiring the need to contribute to open space will be for residential development, other types of development, such as new employment uses, will also need to consider open space requirements and possibly provide new spaces or links to existing spaces.

2.2 The Open Space Strategy sets out a number of standards which create a “target” relating to expected quantity, accessibility and quality of open space. This has allowed for the identification of requirements for open space provision expected when proposing new development and for the creation of the Settlement Accounts for each of the 48 regional, district and local centres identified in the LDP. These briefly describe the open space context in individual settlements, identify potential surpluses or deficiencies of particular types of open space and highlight opportunities for the creation or enhancement of open space.

2.3 In relation to new development, it is important that any new open space provided as part of this is usable, well designed, safe, accessible and well maintained. Open space is not “left over land” – it should be strategically planned and designed as an integral part of the development. Generally speaking, more successful, sustainable places can be achieved if individual open spaces are designed to deliver **multiple functions** and are **inter-connected** to each other to form green networks.
2.4 Green networks are a strategic linked system of existing and proposed green spaces within and around settlements (including open space found within settlements), linking out into the wider countryside. Areas of open space within the built environment can form part of these wider green networks and contribute to their functions so new development should wherever possible create opportunities to contribute to enhancing the connectivity of the green network.

2.5 For the purposes of this SG, the requirements for open space provision will focus on **publicly usable open space** as identified below (see Appendix 1 of Part One for definitions):

- Allotments and community growing spaces
- Amenity greenspace
- Children's play areas
- Civic space\(^1\)
- Green corridors
- Outdoor sports facilities
- Parks and gardens
- Semi-natural / Natural greenspaces

2.6 The Open Space Strategy provides more detail on how open space typologies have been defined and assessed. The Strategy and the location and typology maps from the Audit can be found on the Council’s website: [www.dumgal.gov.uk/LDP](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/LDP)

**Pre-application Discussions**

2.7 The Council encourages all developers to engage with the Council before a planning application is submitted. Throughout the process of pre-application discussions, developers are encouraged to seek advice from the Council on the quantity, quality and accessibility of existing open space local to their proposed development. Advice from other parties could also be sought at this stage in order to identify key considerations at the earliest opportunity (see Consultation section below). Sportscotland is a statutory consultee in relation to specified outdoor facilities, as identified in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013, and must be consulted where any development may lead to the loss of, or prejudice the use of, an existing outdoor sports facility or prevent the use of the land, which was last used as an outdoor sports facility, from being used again for that purpose.

2.8 Although advice provided by the Council both during discussions and through this SG will be the best available at the time it is given, this may be subject to change over time as information sources are updated. Furthermore, the Council reserves the right to amend requirements in the light of a submitted planning application if it differs materially from proposals which were the subject of pre-application discussions.

2.9 In addition, for all developments of 50 or more dwellings where the site area is, or exceeds, 2ha or those larger developments which may have a significant impact on small communities or environmentally sensitive areas, developers are required by the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 to carry out pre-consultation discussions and are encouraged to read “Pre-Application Consultation Process - Notes for Guidance” which can be found at: [http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=3181&p=0](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=3181&p=0). For such development, the Council may ask the developer to undertake a detailed appraisal of open space needs (see Appendix 2) as part of these consultations.

\(^1\) Civic Space
Although it is recognised as a “publicly usable” typology, the provision of new civic spaces is not specifically required through new development by planning policy as they will usually be provided as part of urban design proposals and not in response to provision standards. However, where it is identified that such space would be beneficial – for example as part of a wider regeneration project, the Council will work with developers and community / civic groups to develop such space.
Consultation

2.10 Requirements for open space will be based on local context and through consultation. As well as the Council Services listed below, advice from a number of other bodies and stakeholders can also be sought, both at pre-application and application stage, for example:

- Disability Advisory Group
- Dumfries and Galloway Council: Planning and Environment (Development Management, Development Planning and Environment e.g. Landscape Officer, Biodiversity Officer, Archaeologist, Access team, Infrastructure and Commissioning); Community and Customer Services (Leisure and Sports, Community Planning, Youth work); DGFirst (Neighbourhood Services); Education
- Local community groups
- Police Scotland, local Crime Prevention Design Advisor
- Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- sportscotland
- Local sports bodies, including cycling and walking groups

How Open Space Requirements Are To Be Met

2.11 In assessing specific requirements for the provision of open space, the Council will ensure open space is integrated with development proposals by: taking account of the Settlement Accounts in order to tailor provision to local context and through consultation with local officers and other consultees, where necessary. This will involve an assessment of the expected needs of the new residents / users of the development, the identification of the amount and range of open space types within the vicinity of the development site, an assessment of their quality and an indication of their relative size in relation to the catchment they serve – and also the potential impact of the new development on these existing resources.

2.12 When analysing the quantity and accessibility of existing open space for the purposes of establishing developer requirements, a distinction is made between publicly usable open space that is freely accessible to all (without the need to pre-book, arrange access and so on) and more limited forms of open space (for example locked tennis courts, member-only bowling greens etc.). However, when asking for developers to provide or contribute towards open space, any form of publicly usable open space may be asked for. See the Open Space Strategy for more details.

2.13 The approach to open space provision in this guidance aims to be flexible and pragmatic, helping to ensure that open space is appropriate and delivers what is actually needed. The aim is to ensure that any development makes the most use of existing resources in the vicinity. For example, in some cases, it may be more beneficial to future users of a development if a contribution is made towards enhancing links to nearby open space rather than providing open space on-site. It can also be more cost-effective to improve what currently exists than to create additional open space that may be under-used and simply becomes a maintenance burden.

2.14 The key issues of whether provision is to be made on-site, off-site or in the form of a financial contribution towards existing space (or a combination of these), should be agreed with the Council at the start of the development design process and ideally as part of pre-application discussions. The Settlement Accounts found in this SG, the Open Space Strategy and consultation with local officers will be used as a basis for these discussions and agreements. Additionally, when negotiating on potential contributions for new sports facilities, the Council’s Leisure and Sport Strategy should be referred to. Please also refer to the SG on Developer Contributions.
2.15 The general order of preference for the provision of open space is for it to be created on-site; if this is not possible, then it should be created off-site; if neither of these is possible or necessary, then a developer contribution towards improvement or enhancement of existing open space will be sought. The provision standard expected is **60m² of open space per dwelling or a financial contribution towards open space.** This contribution will either be a specific amount to be used on new open space infrastructure which has been identified by the Council as being required in the area or, if there are no specific new open space projects requiring financial assistance, a fixed sum of money per dwelling to be used on general improvements to existing Council-managed open space (see Section 2.20 below).

2.16 Commercial and employment developments may need to provide an appropriate level of open space in the context of the landscape setting and the nature and scale of development. Such provision will need to be agreed with the Council at the earliest opportunity in developing proposals for the site. Financial contributions may be an acceptable alternative but this will be determined on a site by site basis in line with discussions with the Council.

**On-site provision**

2.17 Where a relevant development is proposed in a settlement that has less publicly usable open space than the quantity standard set out in the Open Space Strategy (see Settlement Accounts), then it is expected that the developer will provide open space within the development equivalent to 60m² per dwelling (whilst also meeting the accessibility requirements and ensuring it is of an acceptable quality).

2.18 Where the development is in a settlement which has more publicly usable open space than the quantity standard set out in the Open Space Strategy (see Settlement Accounts), then the developer may still need to provide open space within the development equivalent to 60m² per dwelling and meet accessibility and quality standards. However, in this situation a further assessment will be made of the suitability of existing nearby space to determine how much, if any, on-site provision is required (see accessibility and quality sections below).

**Off-site provision**

2.19 If it has been determined that additional open space is required but it cannot be accommodated on site, open space which would meet the needs of the development can be provided off-site in land in the developer’s control.

**Financial contributions**

2.20 The following list sets out the circumstances where the Council will ask the developer to provide a financial contribution which will be used to either: fund the necessary Council-identified works at an appropriate alternative location; to enhance an existing open space; and/or to create or improve linkages between the new development and existing open space.

1. Generally in residential development between 5-10 units except in areas where the Settlement Account indicates a significant under-provision in quantity or accessibility of open space or where several small developments of this nature are likely to take place in the immediate area and create a cumulative need for open space;
2. There is sufficient existing open space of different types which are able to serve the development through suitable upgrading (and where it is possible for the Council to upgrade this) and which would be within a five minute walk of all new households. This will involve the identification of the range of open space types within the vicinity of the development site, an assessment of their quality and an indication of their relative size in relation to the catchment they serve (see Accessibility and Quality sections below and the Settlement Accounts);
3. Where the developer can demonstrate, through an open book approach, that it is not practical or reasonable to provide the open space on-site:
   a. Where the size of the development site cannot physically accommodate some or all of the amount of open space required;
b. Where site constraints dictate that it is not physically or financially viable, or where it is functionally inappropriate, to accommodate some or all of the required open space on site.

4. There is a green network opportunity nearby which investment from the development would assist in delivering;
5. Where the Council consider that enhancing existing open space to meet the needs of the development is preferable to creating additional space on site.

2.21 Where developers have provided financial contributions towards the improvements of off-site open space, they are encouraged to inform their potential house purchasers of this community investment.

2.22 The Council’s normal preference will be to use the developer contributions to create additional or enhance existing provision within the accessibility distance threshold of the development site. If this is not practical, the Council will seek to use the contributions elsewhere within the settlement in which the development is set.

**Combination of on-site and financial contribution**

2.23 This combined approach would normally entail the developer providing some appropriate open space within their development and paying the Council a financial contribution. The balance between on-site provision and financial contribution will be determined through negotiation with the developer who will need to demonstrate why all of the provision cannot be met on-site. This may often be the case for development which may be in a settlement that overall meets the quantity standard but where nearby existing open space would not entirely meet the needs of the new development.

**Other ways of contributing to open space provision**

2.24 There may also be a need to develop other acceptable alternatives to deal with circumstances where the quantity and/or accessibility standard cannot be met. The standards recognise that there will be occasions where delivering the required publicly usable open space provision can be achieved through bringing previously unusable spaces into public use through increased multi-functionality. Other solutions could include the following:

- a greater focus on the quality and functionality of streets as public spaces; “Designing Streets” policy has established that new developments should contain ‘high place function’ streets. These streets are designed to promote safe pedestrian use and typically allow children to play in safety. Part of the open space requirement could be met by providing a combination of multifunctional open space(s) and ‘high place function’ streets. DGC will need to agree whether the design of a street is considered to have a high place function before it will be considered to meet part of the open space requirement. These streets will be expected to incorporate elements of green infrastructure;
- seeking agreements and management changes to make existing inaccessible or semi-private spaces more publicly usable;
- publicly accessible SuDS may be considered to provide part of the open space requirement for a development. DGC will need to agree whether the design of the SuDS is considered to be publicly usable before it will be considered to meet part of the open space requirement.

**Opportunities to link into the green network and the Core Paths system**

2.25 Evidence has shown that the closer people are to their nearest accessible greenspace, the more likely they are to use it. Linking open spaces through the active travel network can help to reduce the distances people have to travel to their nearest accessible greenspace.

2.26 Wherever possible, developers will be encouraged to put together an open space proposal which maximises opportunities to link into the green network and the Core Path
network. The LDP does not currently identify a defined green network but, for the purposes of this SG it can be broadly taken to include any of the following elements:

- Accessible spaces identified in the Open Space Audit (see Annex 1 of the Open Space Strategy);
- Active travel and recreational routes (this includes green corridors such as former railway lines, river banks etc. that provide access routes);
- Accessible woodland and other natural and semi-natural greenspaces.

2.27 Methods of linking new development to the Core Path Network can include the following:

- Locating on-site open space to be as near as possible to the existing core path network;
- Providing path links between on-site open space and the adjacent core path network;
- Carrying out off site access improvements and constructing missing links to ensure that the distance to the core path network is reduced as far as is practical.

Assessing Accessibility of Existing Open Space from the Development Site

2.28 The accessibility standard set out in the Open Space Strategy refers to how close households should be to their nearest publicly usable open space. There is no national standard for auditing access but, generally, the accessibility standard is expressed as a walking distance threshold from every home to a publicly usable, fit for purpose open space of a minimum size. In Dumfries and Galloway, this has been set as a target of every household being a 5 minute walk from a publicly usable open space site which is open for all of at least 0.2 hectares in size.  

Using the accessibility standard

2.29 By applying the accessibility standard to the existing open space resource, it is possible to identify those areas which do not currently meet the standard and whether this applies to the development site. In some circumstances, a simple access solution may dramatically reduce the amount of open space needed to meet the accessibility standard.

2.30 The Settlement Accounts can provide an initial indication of whether new development may be able to meet the standard. The Accounts include a series of settlement maps which show an indicative five minute walk accessibility buffer around each publicly usable open space site. However, this will need to be re-assessed when actual proposals are submitted to take account of layout, route networks, barriers such as main roads and watercourses, number and density of housing units and so on.

2.31 The Council will work with the developer who should demonstrate how the proposal could meet the accessibility standard. When assessing the distance from new development to existing open space, the applicant must show the route is: safe (overlooked), usable by all people, attractive, easy to navigate and has no significant obstacle to movement such as a main road, private ground or a linear feature such as a river or railway. In simple terms, if all new houses are within a five minute walk of an existing piece of publicly usable open space then, as long as the nature of the existing space (e.g. relative size compared to the number of potential new residents, range of functions and potential for enhancement etc.) could serve the needs of the new development, no on site space will be required on site. The open space requirement can instead be met through a financial contribution towards open space. In many cases, however, particularly for larger development there will be a mixture of on-site and financial contributions.

2 Generally, in an urban design context, a 5 minute walk is considered to equate to a distance of 400 metres “door to space”. In the settlement accounts, where a simple “as the crow flies” buffer method has been used to capture dwellings within the accessibility standard, the buffer has been set at 75% of the walking distance i.e. 300 metres. This is to take account of the fact that the actual routes between proposed development and existing spaces will not be completely straight.

3 0.2 hectares has been chosen as this is the size of space where spaces start to become multifunctional and active use can be accommodated, for example 0.2 hectares is big enough for a “kick about” pitch or other informal play.
2.32 In areas which don’t meet the accessibility standard, or if the existing accessible space is too small to be able to provide an appropriate amount of space in relation to the size of the new development, creation of new spaces (and/or improved access to existing spaces) is a priority. Any new development in such an area would be required to provide accessible multi-functional open space in line with the quantity requirements set out above. Any developer contributions available for open space should be applied to addressing the accessibility shortfall.

2.33 Where a development could reduce accessibility to open space for neighbouring areas, this must be factored into the design to ensure that the accessibility standard continues to be met.

The accessibility standard is just as important as the quantity standard. In circumstances where a settlement or neighbourhood has a relatively high level of open space but some houses do not meet the accessibility standard, this must be addressed. In other words, where existing open space provision would be adequate but for lack of accessibility, the Council will seek to improve accessibility before requiring open space on site.

Assessing Quality of Existing Open Space

2.34 In many areas, the biggest open space challenge relates not to quantity but to the quality of spaces. The Council wish to have high quality open spaces throughout Dumfries and Galloway. Any new spaces created in an area should be of an acceptable quality and have management in place to ensure that this quality is maintained. When considering the need for open space in development, the Council will consider the quality of existing spaces to determine whether they provide an appropriate substitute for the provision of new open space and whether financial contributions should be directed towards them.

2.35 In all considerations of open space, there will be an objective of increasing multi-functionality of spaces to maximise their contribution to quality of place and the benefits that they provide to local communities. All spaces should, wherever possible, be multi-functional. Increasingly, there is also a recognition of the benefits of incorporating green infrastructure functions, such as water management, into new and existing open spaces.

How will quality be assessed?

• Existing spaces

2.36 It will be possible to assess quality of existing spaces through consultation with local officers working, for example, in grounds maintenance, sports and leisure and community services. Data can also be taken from existing assessments such as Land Audit Management Systems (LAMS) which the Council already carry out for play areas, parks and gardens. The use of this data and specific consultation will be carried out as and when necessary. Applying it to the existing open space resource allows an identification of where investment is needed to bring spaces up to an acceptable standard. This can be used to target investment from developer contributions.

• New spaces

2.37 All new spaces should be designed to meet an acceptable quality standard and arrangements must be made to ensure that management is in place which can be expected to maintain this standard in the long term (see guidelines for specific open space typologies in Part Two for more details).

Open space provision in Non-residential Development

2.38 This SG does not include formal requirements for open space in non-residential developments. However, open space, over and above site landscaping, can make an important positive contribution. Connecting non-residential development, such as offices, to existing paths and open spaces supports healthy lifestyles and sustainable travel opportunities, and can be an
attractive for employees, clients or visitors to the site. This could include, for example, spaces for
staff to get fresh air, eat lunch or to partake in physical activity.

2.39 DGC may seek contributions from non-residential developments towards enhancing the
accessibility or quality of off-site existing open space or paths in the vicinity of the development,
in order to facilitate the extra demand created by the development. This is to be considered on a
development by development basis.

Simple Guide to the Open Space Requirement Process

2.40 The questions below provide a basic guide to determining open space requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q.1 Does the existing amount of open space in the settlement meet (or exceed) the quantity</td>
<td>Yes – go to Q 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>standard of 6 hectares of publicly usable open space per 1000 people?</td>
<td>No – on-site provision will normally be expected (see section 2.20 for exceptions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q.2 Is the new development site within a five minute walk of existing publicly usable open</td>
<td>Yes – go to Q3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>space of at least 0.2 hectares?</td>
<td>No – on-site provision will normally be expected (see section 2.20 for exceptions)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q.3 Would the nearby existing open space adequately meet the needs of the new development</td>
<td>Yes – additional open space would not normally be required on site; a financial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e.g. is it large enough in proportion to the size of the new development? of good quality?</td>
<td>contribution would be requested instead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>does it provide enough variety?</td>
<td>No – additional on-site will normally be expected or a combination of on-site provision and a financial contribution towards enhancing existing open space to meet the needs of the new development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Open Space Requirements in Villages

2.41 As the villages have not been subject to the same level of prior assessment and do not
have specific open space settlement accounts, there may be a need to rely more on consultation
with local officers to determine requirements. In general, however, it is still possible to use the
same principles for open space requirements as set out for the larger settlements. That is, for
any relevant development proposal in a village, an assessment will be made of the site
requirements and of existing open space to determine whether new open space is required or if it
would be preferable for the developer to provide a financial contribution towards improving any
existing open space.
The Calculation of Developer Contributions

2.42 Developer financial contributions for off-site provision will be based on the following guide:

- The developer may be asked to contribute a specific amount from the overall development to be used on new open space infrastructure which has been identified by the Council as being required in the area (this could be, for example, a new sports pitch or pavilion);
- Or, if there are no specific new open space projects requiring financial assistance, a sum of £1500 per dwelling when 5 or more units are being built to be used on general improvements to existing Council-managed open space (usually in the form of enhancement to existing spaces or creation or improvement to linkages to existing open space);
- Commercial and employment developments may need to provide open space but any alternative financial contributions will be determined on a site by site basis in line with discussions with the Council.

2.43 Developer financial contributions will be secured with a Section 75 or Section 69 Agreement. In most situations, the payment will be made towards upgrading existing provision. In situations where payments are to be made for the provision of new space, appropriate land values at the time of determining the planning application would need to be considered to allow for the purchase of new land.

2.44 Where financial contributions are made towards open space as part of a planning agreement, the Council will ensure that they are not spent on any other purpose than that for which they were provided. Where money collected is unallocated or unspent after a period of 5 years (unless there is good reason to extend this period), the money will be repaid in full on application to the developer along with any interest accrued thereon.

2.45 Any planning agreement will be related in scale and kind to the development, as per Planning Circular 3/2012 (Planning Obligations and Good Neighbour Agreements). Planning agreements will not be used to resolve existing deficiencies or to secure contributions to the achievement of wider planning objectives not necessary to allow permission to be granted. Therefore, although the Settlement Accounts will provide a baseline which will help tailor appropriate open space provision, the requirements will only be based on the expected needs arising from the new development. This will relate both to the needs for additional space from future residents or users of a development and on the potential impact that the new development may have on existing open space resources.

Small Developments

2.46 Developer contributions from many small developments will be too low to achieve worthwhile provision or enhancement in isolation. In these circumstances the Council will seek to aggregate contributions from two or more developments in order to achieve a worthwhile improvement in the quality or quantity of provision, as appropriate. This may take some time to achieve as developments will be likely to come forward over a period.

Phased and Other Large Developments

2.47 Some large developments may be built out in two or more phases over a period or by more than one developer. In these circumstances, applicants will be required to apply the open space requirements within the context of a comprehensive masterplan for the development. This will be considered as part of the planning process.
3. ADOPTION, MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Maintenance and Management of Open Spaces

3.1 SPP emphasises that appropriate maintenance and management arrangements are essential to the quality of the open space environment. Open space maintenance relates to a set of defined tasks that aim to preserve the condition of spaces. Management of open spaces requires a long-term perspective, with flexibility to respond and adapt to issues or changes such as community needs and priorities, biodiversity, climate change, improvements to access, quality, safety and competing uses. It is therefore important that maintenance and management are given full consideration alongside the planning and design of spaces.

3.2 The planning system has limited control over open space maintenance. All new open space must be maintained either by the developer, through a Resident’s Association (or a factor on their behalf) or be conveyed to DGC for adoption and maintenance. The Council will expect the open space areas to be maintained to an agreed standard in perpetuity. As part of a planning application the developer will be required to submit information to DGC that clearly sets out the open space maintenance regimes envisaged for the development, including whether it is intended to factor the maintenance of the open space and a requirement that the information to be supplied to home owners is made available to the Council at as early a stage as possible. The maintenance arrangements will need to be agreed prior to commencement of work and are likely to be a condition of the planning consent.

3.3 The preferred approach to management and maintenance is for the Council to adopt open space as long as:

- the open space, play areas, play equipment and safer surfacing have been laid out and installed to a satisfactory standard in accordance with the planning consent and to the satisfaction and specification of the Council at the time of adoption;
- arrangements for maintenance of any SuDS that are included as part of the open space provision has been included in the adoption agreement (see also Supplementary Guidance on Surface Water Drainage and SuDS);
- the transfer of these areas takes place free of charge and free of unacceptable or unduly onerous burdens, restrictions or other title conditions;
- the areas have been satisfactorily maintained for a year;
- the developer provides a lump sum on or before the date of adoption, sufficient to fund the management and maintenance for a period of 25 years which is agreed by binding agreement prior to the granting of planning permission (an up to date costing scheme and a quote can be provided on request);
- the developer pays all of the legal costs relating to the transfer of the land or facilities to the Council.

Appendix 3 of Part One sets out the detailed procedure for adoption of open space by the Council.

3.4 Other arrangements for the management of open spaces are available but are considered to have more disadvantages. These include:

- Common Areas maintained by Residents’ Association with Factoring Arrangements: residents of a new development are responsible for management of the open spaces within the development, usually through a Factor. The Developer will normally appoint the factor initially however the residents must have the ability to change factors as they consider appropriate subject to the terms of the constitution of the Resident’s Association;
- Third Party Arrangements can involve the Council or developers making arrangements with a suitable third party for long term maintenance. Examples of such third parties can include commercial grounds maintenance companies, local amenity organisations and environmental trusts;
• If an alternative option is chosen or the Council do not adopt the open space, appropriate maintenance arrangements will need to be put in place. This will include the submission of a draft of the Deed of Conditions which will need to be agreed by the Council before occupation of any house to be built as part of the development.
## PART ONE Appendix 1: Definitions of Open Space Typologies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allotments and community growing</td>
<td>Areas of land for growing fruit, vegetables and other plants, either in individual allotments or as a community activity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>greenspaces</td>
<td>Landscaped areas providing visual amenity or separating different buildings or land uses for environmental, visual or safety reasons and used for a variety of informal or social activities such as sunbathing, picnics or kickabouts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amenity greenspace</td>
<td>Landscaped areas providing visual amenity or separating different buildings or land uses for environmental, visual or safety reasons and used for a variety of informal or social activities such as sunbathing, picnics or kickabouts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's play areas</td>
<td>Areas providing safe and accessible opportunities for children's play usually linked to housing areas. Can also include provision for older children and teenagers, such as youth shelters and skateparks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civic space</td>
<td>Squares, streets and waterfront promenades, predominantly of hard landscaping that provide a focus for pedestrian activity and can make connections for people and for wildlife.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green corridors</td>
<td>Routes including canals, riverbanks, cycleways, rights of way, disused railway lines and grass verges linking different areas within a settlement as part of a designated and managed network and used for walking, cycling or horse riding and which allow movement of wildlife along them. They can link settlements to surrounding countryside and link different green spaces together. They can often be seen as links that have been identified as being valuable to the realisation of the Green Network. Their principal characteristic is, or will be, connectivity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green networks</td>
<td>Green networks are a strategic system of existing and proposed green spaces and green corridors within and around settlements (including open space found within settlements), linking out into the wider countryside. The network can include woodland and other habitats, active travel routes, greenspace links, watercourses and waterways, providing an enhanced setting for development and other land uses and improved opportunities for outdoor recreation and cultural activity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor sports facilities</td>
<td>Large and generally flat areas of grassland or specially designed surfaces, used primarily for designated sports (including playing fields, golf courses, tennis courts and bowling greens).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks and gardens</td>
<td>Areas of land normally enclosed, designed, constructed, managed and maintained as a public park or garden. These may be owned or managed by community groups.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-natural / Natural greenspaces</td>
<td>Areas of undeveloped or previously developed land with residual natural habitats or which have been planted or colonised by vegetation and wildlife, including woodland and wetland areas.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PART ONE Appendix 2: Site Appraisal for Open Space

For large developments of 50 or more dwellings the Council may ask the developer to undertake a detailed appraisal of local needs as part of the local consultations required by the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006. For such developments, DGC requires proposals to:

- Appraise the site’s context (connectivity): this will ensure opportunities to connect to enhance opportunities for active travel, extending green networks, effective public open space planning, surface water planning, etc.;
- Appraise the site (place): this will identify features that can be integrated within the development proposals and connected to the wider network.

The context plan should extend to a distance of at least 500 metres around the proposed development site and show the location of all existing greenspaces and sport and recreation facilities within this area that residents of the proposed development will be likely to use, including (but not restricted to):

Site Context appraisal (approx. 500m from site boundary)
- Distances to existing open space
- Barriers to access to green spaces and community facilities, such as major roads, railway lines and watercourses
- Proximity to sites with international, national or local Natural Heritage designations
- Key streets with trees / hedges / vegetation
- Core paths, cycleways, active travel routes
- Water courses
- Habitat/habitat types
- Views in
- How will the scheme connect with the wider green space network and landscape character?
- Have existing natural and cultural features being incorporated into the proposed open space?
- Does the provision of open space within the site or masterplan area create lasting value, identity and a distinct sense of place for the scheme?

Safe and pleasant
- Will the development have active frontages to open spaces?
- Will all open spaces and routes to them be overlooked and safe?
- Will the proposed uses encourage activity at all times of day?
- Will the public and private space be clearly defined?

Habitats and Access to Nature
- How will open spaces connect with the wider green network in ecological and habitat terms?
- Has potential damage and impact on designated sites and protected species and necessary mitigation been considered?
- Have existing habitats and landscape features such as hedges, trees and watercourses been integrated into the open space?
- Have new accessible areas of habitat been created and do these contribute to local targets e.g. Local Biodiversity Action Plan / Nature Conservation Strategy?
- Have local native species been specified within the landscape proposals?
- Have natural play, education or interpretation opportunities been incorporated into open spaces to connect people with nature?

Access – Sustainable and Active Travel and Recreation
- Will a network of continuous routes incorporating open spaces be created within the site?
- How will the open space connect with the wider green network, the Core Paths Plan and meet the objectives of the Active Travel Strategy?
• What consideration is there for “access for all” and is it possible for all residents to access a range of open space from their home easily and conveniently?

**Food Production and Energy**
• Is there currently, or is there likely to be in future (due to housing mix) a demand for allotments in the area? And if so have these been designed into the layout of the scheme?
• Has solar gain and shelter been considered in the design and positioning of the open space?
• Does structural planting provide shelter from the prevailing winds in winter and shade in summer, improving the usability of public open space?

**Flood Attenuation and Water Management**
• Have sustainable drainage systems been designed to provide water resource management, increased biodiversity and an accessible recreational resource?
• Have rainwater harvesting systems been incorporated to provide water for irrigation gardens, open space and use within ponds and other water features?

**Adaptable**
• Will there be opportunities to make areas adaptable to a variety of future uses?
PART ONE Appendix 3: Detailed Procedure for Adoption of Open Space by DGC

On receipt of an application for planning permission in relevant developments, the planning officer will consult DGFirst or appropriate nominated staff to comment on the suitability of any open space provision within the development.

If requested by the developer, DGC will agree to the Adoption of the Open Space subject to this being provided to an appropriate standard as set out in these guidelines. In relation to the formal adoption of the open space in question, this agreement will be drawn up on behalf of DGC by Property Services in conjunction with Legal Services once the area of ground to be adopted has been clearly identified and agreed with the developer. Property Services will instruct Legal Services in this matter and as part of the process the developer will be required to provide scaled layout drawings of the site or sites to be adopted including full details of all services therein together with any amendments to such drawings as may occur during progress of site works. Copies of the drawings referred to above will be provided to Property Services.

The Developer will be required to meet all specification details in full as determined by DGFirst before the open space in question will be considered for adoption. It is therefore recommended that developers meet with Council officers on an informal basis when new residential housing developments are being contemplated to discuss likely requirements of the Local Authority in relation to open space provision.

In determining the suitability of open space for adoption, the following criteria will be taken into account:

1. Scottish Planning Policy / Local Development Plan and Supplementary Guidance.

2. The suitability of the site or sites for provision of open space taking into consideration:
   a) Specific ground conditions relating to the suitability or otherwise of the site in relation to the needs of DGC for open space;
   b) The density, type and mix of housing to be provided;
   c) Requirements of the Local Development Plan for Dumfries and Galloway;
   d) All appropriate factors relating to age groups likely to be resident within the development. This will allow consideration to be given to specific needs of residents such as sheltered garden areas, children’s play requirements including provision and type of play equipment; and sports pitch provision.

3. The suitability of the open space as proposed by the developer for its intended purpose. DGC will not accept areas of open space considered unsuitable for community use or which will have unduly high maintenance costs or Health and Safety implications due to layout or lack of accessibility.

4. House purchasers should be made aware by the developer that a designated open space adjacent to their property may be provided with items of children’s play equipment or other recreational facilities deemed appropriate by DGC.

5. Fences, hedges and walls will be provided by the developer if required and must be to specifications approved by DGC. The Council will not be responsible for the future maintenance of fencing, hedging or walls used to enclose any open space or play area other than specialist fencing provided specifically in relation to children’s play area, e.g. dog proof fencing and access gates.
6. DGC will not be responsible for the maintenance of boundaries between open space and properties. Adjoining owners will require to upkeep such boundaries at their expense and to the satisfaction of the Council.

7. DGC will provide the Developers with specifications for the establishment of areas of open space in relation to details such as landscaping including tree and shrub types and densities, grading, ground preparation, seed mix, fertiliser treatment, initial maintenance, specific drainage measures deemed appropriate, specifications for remote footpaths which will require to be to an appropriate adoption standard as detailed by DGFirst.

8. The Developer will be responsible for the establishment of the open space in question and will be required to maintain this during the growing season in which it is sown/planted and for a minimum of one full growing season thereafter to the satisfaction of the Council. Tree planting will be required to be as per planning consent and trees and shrubs which fail to establish will need to be replaced by the developer at their expense. The legal process relating to the formal adoption of open space by DGC will tie in with the end of the growing season referred to above and this will be agreed with the developer as part of the adoption process.

9. DGC requirements in relation to provision of children’s play must be met in full by the developer. All play equipment must be manufactured to BSEN1176 specification or equivalent of this standard or above. All play equipment must be provided with appropriate safety surfacing to DGC specification and meeting the appropriate requirements of BSEN1176 and BSEN1177.

The developer will be required to install play equipment and safety surfacing to the satisfaction of DGC. Alternatively, the Council will be prepared to install the play equipment and safety surfacing on behalf of the Developer on a recharge basis if so requested. DGFirst will arrange to provide the Developer with a quotation for such works.

10. If the Developer meets all of the above requirements, DGC will consider adoption of the open space in question. This will be subject to the developer making a single, commuted payment to DGC equal to 25x the annual maintenance cost of the open space including all landscaping, planting, play equipment provision, street furniture, off-street footpaths etc. in advance of any formal adoption with the calculation based on rates applicable at the time of adoption. DGFirst will be responsible for the submission of an account to the Developer in respect of the single commuted payment in question.

11. The Developer will be required to meet all costs including DGC legal expenses in order to grant title to the ground in question to the Local Authority in order to allow the Council to formally adopt the ground in question. Such costs will include all expenses of Property Services in relation to their involvement with Legal Services concerning the formal adoption of the open space in question and Property Services will liaise with Legal Services in relation to the submission of an account for both legal and Property Services costs involved in the adoption of the open space. This account will be submitted on a separate basis from that by DGFirst for the upkeep and maintenance of the open space in question.

12. The Developer will be required to meet any other conditions considered appropriate by DGC in relation to specific requirements applying to any individual area of open space put forward for adoption by the Council.
DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COUNCIL

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE:

OPEN SPACE AND NEW DEVELOPMENT

PART TWO: OPEN SPACE
QUALITY GUIDELINES
PART TWO: OPEN SPACE QUALITY GUIDELINES

4. PART TWO INTRODUCTION

4.1 If it is determined that new space is required on site and is able to be provided, the preference is for the developer or specialist agents to design and build the open space to the satisfaction of the Council. In a phased development scheme that is major in scale (according to the definitions in Scottish Government Circular 5/2009 Hierarchy of Developments), the layout should be designed so that usable areas are available as soon as the first phase is occupied. In a development scheme that is local in scale, areas should be delivered no later than halfway through the development or an agreed timescale approved with the Council.

4.2 The Council will seek to ensure that any new open space provides a genuinely useful function and tries to address deficiencies in certain types of space, rather than simply replicating the types of space that already exist nearby. Negotiation with the developer, alongside analysis of the local context, will help to determine the most appropriate form of provision for that development.

4.3 All new spaces should be multi-functional - single use spaces and spaces with no identified function commonly lead to problems of antisocial behaviour in residential areas and should be discouraged. New spaces may have a strong primary function, for example meeting a key need identified from Settlement Accounts or as solutions to drainage, but they must be designed and managed to support other appropriate uses and functions.

4.4 The residents of different types of dwellings are likely to have different needs in relation to open space and sport and recreation provision. For example, new sheltered housing is not likely to increase the local demand for football pitches but will very often require on-site amenity space for the use of residents, even if there is existing provision nearby.

5. GENERAL QUALITY GUIDELINES

5.1 Open spaces should be designed as the focus of new developments. They are not the spaces between dwellings - they are the location for them. Therefore open spaces should link together to form a network wherever possible and dwellings should face open spaces and significant spaces should never be at the rear of them. This also aids informal surveillance, security and enhances perceptions of community safety.

5.2 The types of open space encouraged through the planning process should be of a high quality, serve the needs of the local community and enhance the surrounding environment. Open spaces should not be an afterthought, on space left over after all other design considerations have been set out. Opportunities to promote biodiversity, multi-functional use and to design spaces that are complementary to the local context will be encouraged.

5.3 The spaces provided should be appropriate to their function(s), with respect to size, location, orientation, sunlight, shelter, and management. Public spaces that are too large, lacking in natural sunlight or poorly designed can be unwelcoming and instil a sense of unease by those using them. In some instances smaller, higher quality spaces may be more favourable. The following principles will be promoted through planning decisions in order to maximise the potential benefits of open space for communities:
Accessibility

5.4 Successful places are based on new development ‘wrapped’ around a framework of public open spaces linked by streets or footpaths, sited in easily accessible locations with high quality links for pedestrians and cyclists. Open spaces work best if they are located on well used routes and are faced by occupied buildings. Footpath and cycle links which follow established or predicted desire lines connecting all parts of a site to well-located open spaces with high quality facilities can encourage active travel, reducing the demand for vehicular travel by local residents.

5.5 Larger areas of public open space should be centrally located, accessible and overlooked in locations where people are likely to want to congregate, providing important focal points and recreational facilities. Where possible, roadways around public open spaces should be designed in such a way that pedestrian access is easy and safe. Good quality open space will:
- be located so they connect with existing routes and green networks;
- be within suitable walking distance of housing (ideally placing the most significant spaces in a central location within a development to provide a focal point of activity aided by proximity to key access routes);
- contain suitable pathways (carefully consider material choice; avoid awkward route deviations and steep gradient changes; complement and / or enhance existing street layout);
- be suitable for disabled access (parking provision; dropped kerbs; level access; does topography affect access and space function?);
- incorporate transport links and core paths where possible (consider incorporating existing and potential future links into design considerations);
- set out clearly defined routes to and through the space (through surface material / colour; utilising key views along access routes; signage to highlight key local landmarks and routes; clearly defined public and private areas in housing developments);
- ensure any cycle parking provided is conveniently located, secure, easy to use, adequately lit, well signed and sheltered from rain.

Attractiveness

5.6 Good quality open space will be attractive, safe, uncluttered and designed in such a way as to be attractive and usable by everyone, and will also:
- utilise natural surveillance of overlooking properties to deter vandalism and graffiti (avoid blank walls fronting the space and along access routes);
- use quality materials appropriate to space type (durable enough to sustain likely user demands and weather conditions);
- provide suitable furniture to meet user needs (litter bin provision, seating to offer a place to watch and potentially socialise with other people);
- incorporate varied and appealing planting that contributes to the quality of place (to enable the space to have sustained flowering throughout the year; uses various colours and textures); New planting should be integrated into street designs wherever possible. Planting can help to soften the street scene, reinforcing a local identity, creating visual interest, improving the micro-climate and providing a valuable habitat for wildlife. Tree planting should be considered as part of an overall townscape concept. Trees should be used to define space, frame views and create attractive places such as avenues and squares. The planting of a single large specimen tree as a feature may be effective in defining a space such as a square or terminating a view. Planting should be integrated into the overall site, individual street and public open space designs; High quality planting should be used which is durable. Only healthy trees and shrubs which are appropriate for their location should
be used. Planting should be positioned where it will survive its environment and flourish, taking into account light, water and shelter requirements.

- incorporate natural features / landscaping (a balance should be considered between the likely maintenance required and the quality/benefits of the planting employed e.g. prairie planting can reduce maintenance, enhance biodiversity and attractiveness).

**Biodiversity**

5.7 Protecting existing natural heritage assets and enhancing biodiversity are fundamental principles when considering open space. The Council has statutory responsibilities in terms of protected species and habitats that may be found to be present on the sites which could impact on the design of development.

5.8 All on-site open spaces, water areas and watercourses should promote biodiversity and support nature conservation by protecting and enhancing existing habitats and wildlife corridors and creating new ones. This will benefit the quality of new spaces, increase habitats for wildlife, create distinctive developments, aid navigation and create interesting environments for play and leisure activities.

5.9 It is important that open spaces add to existing features and landscape elements in and around the site to create a network of green corridors linked together by footpaths and cycle paths which will reduce reliance on the car. Existing natural features on the site can provide shape and structure to open space, for example wildlife corridors and linear parks/play spaces based around a watercourse or footpath can improve connectivity between areas of open space and should be identified as part of the early appraisal process and integrated into the design. This means retaining and incorporating existing natural assets such as mature trees, hedgerows, habitats, wildlife features and watercourses, as key features of the layout or creating new ones.

5.10 Specifically, good quality open space will:

- incorporate vegetation that promotes development of native habitats and species (can be complemented with other features such as bird boxes, water features, ornamental planting, use of native plant species and wildflower mixes grown from locally sourced seed);
- aid natural flood mitigation i.e. SuDS;
- integrate the wide green network where possible (consider whether natural links can be developed to other spaces through the use of trees, desire paths, hedges, grass verges, planting etc.);
- ensure that existing features, topography and views (into, out and within the site) such as trees, hedgerows, watercourses and high ground are retained where possible and incorporated into new areas of open space;
- if there are any existing trees on a proposed open space site, comply with Local Development Plan policy NE7 (Trees and Development).

**Promoting physical activity**

5.11 All open spaces within residential areas should be considered as possible play spaces and consideration given to ad hoc play opportunities that could be afforded to children by the sympathetic and imaginative use of natural features within the landscape. Good quality open space will:

- where possible, try to provide activities for all age groups (by offering a range of activities from play equipment, seating opportunities, recreational space and planting);
- promote social interaction (by encouraging people to regularly use the space through activities offered and aided by proximity to pedestrian routes);
be designed to encourage activity with paths, benches and opportunities for play (although public access may not be appropriate for some areas of habitat).

Community Benefits
5.12 Open space should be seen as an important community facility and an asset to a development. Where possible (usually for a major development), communities should be involved in the planning, design and development of their open spaces; open spaces should support social inclusion, community development and lifelong learning. Public spaces must be designed to be accessible to all with consideration given to all disability groups. Consultation with potential future user groups can provide information essential to the delivery of a successful and useable scheme.

5.13 Good quality open space will:
• avoid areas of poor visibility or entrapment points (encourage natural surveillance; ensure design does not create safety concerns through unnecessary pinch points and confined access routes);
• incorporate appropriate lighting (to prolong use of space when dark; sense of security; low level lighting can provide more subtle effect to highlight paths and features; see also Supplementary Guidance on lighting good practice);
• where possible, provide linkages to community facilities (to help promote usage and awareness of space as part of everyday routines);
• enhance a sense of local identity and place (e.g. design utilises views, artwork/materials specific to the location);
• consider that potential for community involvement in the management of the space (enables opportunities to establish resident or community group as per maintenance agreement terms)
• ensure that space is overlooked by buildings and streets and easily accessible to all;
• minimise potential nuisance: spaces or facilities (e.g. pitches or teenage facilities) that will generate noise, light spill or other nuisance for the occupiers of nearby dwellings should be located as far away from them as practicable
• conform to the principles set out in the ACPO Secured by Design guidelines

Adaptable, Robust and Resource Efficient
5.14 Where public space is valued, residents will care for it more and maintenance costs can be lower. Unloved and underused open space is a liability which must be maintained even when it is not valued. Successful public spaces are designed with care, to include robust, fit for purpose materials and planting that are easy to maintain and have good lighting. The arrangements for future management and maintenance of public spaces must be identified at an early stage of the design process, as these will have an influence on their design and detail.

5.15 Open spaces should be multi-functional where appropriate and be able to change over time to meet evolving local needs. They should be usable by all people to the greatest extent possible without the need for specialised design. Spaces should offer variety and choice to potential users and be designed to provide interest throughout the year. They can offer multiple benefits, such as opportunities for outdoor recreation, sustainable travel, conserving and promoting natural and cultural heritage, enhancing the landscape and providing sense of place and local distinctiveness. With early and careful consideration it is possible to achieve cost savings through combining uses and benefits. Notwithstanding this, all open spaces should still have a defined primary purpose, be designed for that purpose and accord with the appropriate quality specification.

5.16 Open space should aim to be more natural, respecting natural processes and integrating with them. For example less short grass, which can be expensive to maintain,
and more meadow or low maintenance (but managed) grassland areas with native wild flowers, or woodland. They must be designed for easy and cost effective maintenance by machine wherever possible. Good quality open space will:

- be designed to be flexible, so they can be easily altered to adapt to changing future circumstances;
- be able to accommodate a number of different functions such as amenity, biodiversity, SuDS, sport and recreation, play and food cultivation maximising the benefits they can provide;
- be located in prominent positions as much as possible in order to maximise their use e.g. as informal play space;
- ensure that key SuDS components such as basins, ponds and wetlands are designed as an integral part of open space provision and contribute to amenity as well as sustainable drainage and the control of potential flooding; SuDS should be designed within the context of an overall landscape plan to reinforce local landscape character and work with existing hydrology and habitats; open water should be designed to allow public access with minimum risk;
- ensure that the design of new open spaces works with the topography of the site to reduce the need for cut and fill and the movement of materials;
- carefully consider the design and specification of planting; this should respond to the form and function of the space and provide interest in all seasons. Trees and plants specified must be appropriate to their location so that they do not become problematic in the future;
- ensure that any lighting provided is used to enhance the use, attractiveness and safety of the space but that the impact of lighting on wildlife is considered;
- ensure that the design and selection of materials has considered the resources required for future maintenance;
- develop a maintenance regime that allows for less managed areas to be created, for instance leaving 3-5m strips of longer grass either side of hedgerows or leaving grassy margins at the edge of woodland; grass mixtures should be low maintenance and shrub beds densely planted with low maintenance shrubs and mulched with bark chips on top of landscape fabric.

Large Sites requiring Masterplans
5.17 Masterplans for large residential developments should have a strong landscape structure based on a path network system. This should broadly follow likely desire lines, provide varied and interesting views and link the development with points of interest either within or close to it. These points of interest will include viewpoints, shops, schools and other community facilities as well as green corridors and the core path and wider access network wherever possible (note: on some sites, such as playing fields and sports pitches, it will be necessary not to compromise the main use of the site).

6. DESIGN QUALITY SPECIFICATION FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF OPEN SPACE

Recommended minimum sizes are quoted for relevant open space types. However, as with all provision, the Council will use these standards as a starting point but will be willing to interpret them with flexibility depending on the context of the development.

Allotments
6.1 Developments that are likely to cause a demand for small-scale, local food production, such as high density housing, or flats may need to include the provision of allotments as part of their open space provision.
Recommended Minimum Size
Around 1,500m² (0.15 hectare) which should also allow for the communal areas of the site.

Infrastructure, facilities and features
- Must comply with the general requirements set out in section 2, where relevant.
- All sites must have mains water provision; however, this should only be used to supplement primary use of collected rainwater. Metered water supply with turn taps on stand pipe(s) – one standpipe per 10-15 plots; Sites should make use of water efficiency opportunities, i.e. ground water, rainwater capture; any buildings, sheds or glasshouses must incorporate rainwater collection systems;
- Wherever possible, it is recommended that paths are built using reclaimed materials;
- Sheds must be limited to one per plot, no more than 8ft by 6ft in size. A larger shared site hut may be erected on a communal plot;
- Sustainable technologies should be used wherever possible, for example building design and construction, waste water and energy sources;
- Signage at site entrances giving details of ownership and how to apply for an allotment; also emergency telephone numbers;
- Communal storage on all sites with fewer than 20 plots;
- Recommended that toilets are provided, except where there are alternative public facilities within 500 metres; composting toilets are recommended as both the cheapest solution and that with the least environmental impact; on small sites where it is not feasible to provide toilets, distance from home should be considered when letting allotments; at least one communal toilet which would comply with the disabled access requirements of the Equality Act 2010 – one per 50 plots; natural / low maintenance systems preferred, i.e. off the main water network – soakaway / septic tank;
- Appropriate measures should be taken to ensure a safe site, e.g. securely fenced with lockable gates, natural surveillance, lockable communal storage area / meeting space; site security considerations will depend on local factors; sites bounded by housing may require less security than those in more open, unsupervised area;
- The council promotes waste awareness and encourages the principles of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle; composting should take place on all sites, either communally or by individual plot holders; all other waste should be reduced to a minimum and be recycled if possible;
- Where possible, hedges should be planted to support biodiversity and to provide shelter and privacy;
- Allotments should be designed to fit well into the landscape;
- Where space allows, a communal garden area will help to support the social inclusion and community cohesion benefits of the allotments;
- Paths giving access to allotments must comply with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010; at least one disabled friendly plot with wheelchair access and raised beds;
- As a minimum, parking facilities for at least 1 car per 10 allotments must be provided, with a minimum provision of 2 spaces and it is recommended that secure cycle storage is also provided.

Amenity Greenspace:
6.2 Such spaces can be defined as landscaped areas providing visual amenity or separating different buildings or land uses for environmental, visual or safety reasons and used for a variety of informal or social activities. When located in housing areas, they should be designed to allow for children’s play.

Recommended Minimum Size
500m² (0.05 hectare)
Infrastructure, facilities and features

- Must comply with the general requirements set out in section 2, where relevant;
- Amenity spaces should be designed to create a sense of place and provide a setting for adjoining buildings, with “sun traps” sheltered from the prevailing winds;
- Comfortable seating should be provided where possible, in both sunny and sheltered areas, ideally overlooking points of interest or attractive views;
- They should be located away from sources of potential danger to unaccompanied children such as busy roads;
- There should be a clear distinction between public and private or semi-private areas for residents;
- Drainage measures should be in place to prevent spaces becoming waterlogged after heavy rain; however, this should not result in flooding elsewhere;
- Spaces should allow for passive surveillance from nearby properties (whether on or off-site), but in a way which respects the privacy of occupants;
- See also guidance for playspace as most amenity greenspaces should be attractive but non-equipped play spaces for children;
- They should incorporate a balance of mown grassed areas, in varying widths or sizes (large enough for informal recreation), wildlife meadows and long life, mixed indigenous and ornamental species and ages of trees or shrubs, but with a predominantly open character;
- Where possible, they should include a range of habitat types e.g. woodland, grasslands, hedgerows, areas of dense planting; they should include buffer or shelter planting as necessary;
- Adequate litter and dog waste bins should be provided;
- May incorporate public art or heritage features;
- Vehicle access and parking not required, although there must be an adequate means of access for maintenance machines.

Green Corridors

6.3 Green corridors can be made up of routes such as woodland and watercourse corridors and disused railway lines, linking different areas and open spaces within a settlement as part of a network used for walking, cycling or horse riding, or linking settlements to the surrounding countryside.

There is no minimum size, but corridors should generally be not less than 500 m (0.5 km) long

Infrastructure, facilities and features

- New spaces should be clearly signposted to indicate access and any links to the wider network of green corridors;
- The space should be welcoming and safe with no dense planting close to the path or cycle route;
- Comfortable seating should be provided where appropriate;
- Adequate litter and dog bins should be provided;
- Appropriate safety measures should be incorporated adjacent to or at crossings of rail lines or busy roads;
- There should be good sightlines along the route so that users can see potential danger well ahead;
- Paths should be free from overhanging branches, exposed tree routes and other trip hazards;
- Any new planting should provide a good balance and variety of plants and shrubs, including flowering and non-flowering species, including a range of tree species and ages, providing a range of habitat types;
• Parking is not required, although there must be an adequate means of access for maintenance machines.

**Natural / Semi-natural Greenspaces**

6.4 These include areas of undeveloped or previously developed land with residual natural habitats or which have been planted or colonised by vegetation and wildlife, including woodland and wetland areas.

Recommended Minimum Size

1,000m² (0.1 hectare)

**Infrastructure, facilities and features**

- Spaces should have a natural appearance and include minimal man made artificial features, promoting a sense of nature and tranquillity and incorporating a diverse range of habitats to support wildlife;
- The space should make good use of topography and also views out of or across the site;
- Where possible, access points and internal paths should be linked to rights of way, other paths and cycling routes and water courses to create wildlife corridors and a network of greenspaces; with clear and coherent signage to and throughout the site as appropriate;
- Provide information on flora and fauna and cultural heritage where possible;
- There should be a good mix of native species and habitats, depending on site characteristics;
- Adequate litter bins and comfortable seating should be provided where appropriate;
- Signs requiring dogs to be kept under control in a manner appropriate to the habitats in and around the space should be provided where necessary;
- Adequate safety measures adjacent to areas of water (will depend on size, depth and current, if any) will need to be provided;
- Parking is not required for spaces of less than 0.5 ha, but adequate parking (including cycle parking) for spaces larger than this may be required.

**Public Parks and Gardens**

6.5 These are areas of land, normally enclosed, designed, constructed, managed and maintained as a public park or garden.

Recommended Minimum Size

5,000m² (0.5 hectare)

**Infrastructure, facilities and features**

- Must comply with the general requirements set out in section 2
- Spaces should have well defined boundaries or perimeter, preferably enclosed with railings or walls
- There should be a clearly visible and welcoming appearance at the entrance (ideally signed on nearby roads and pedestrian or cycling routes) and clearly identifiable points of interest to draw visitors in, and with good views through and across the park so that each visitor is providing a form of informal surveillance of other users;
- The design should make good use of topography so that slopes are gentle, views across and out of the space are attractive and visitors can get a sense of scale;
- There should be a range of natural and man-made structures or heritage features such as ponds, statues, buildings and ornamental railings;
- There should be reasonable privacy for the residents of nearby dwellings;
• Planting should incorporate a diverse species of flowering and non-flowering trees, of various ages, including native species; also shrubs and plants providing a wide range of habitats
• Hedgerows, where present, should be reasonably dense, thick and bushy so as to provide habitats
• Some areas of dense planting should be created which do not allow hiding places but provide habitats for small animals and birds;
• Adequate lighting should be provided for appropriate paths;
• Could include public art, linked to the path network;
• Informative interpretation signs or other material relating to natural features, heritage features, wildlife, and landscaping;
• Adequate signage giving directions both within the park and to nearby streets or features of interest outside it
• Provision for children and young people, where provided – see section 3.6; sports facilities, where present – see section 3.7;
• Vehicle access is not required for small local parks of less than 1 ha, although there must be an adequate means of access for maintenance machines and parks of over 1 ha should have an on-site car park; secure bicycle storage at the main entrance to the park, at least, and ideally secondary entrances as well.

Play Areas for Children and Young People
6.6 These are spaces and facilities designed for active and imaginative play by children and young people consisting of equipped play facilities and informal play opportunities for children and young people. The design of play areas will depend on the context within which they are set, but in addition to a wide range of high quality play equipment they should normally incorporate other features as set out below. Play areas should be designed to accommodate all age groups and encourage natural play incorporating areas of planting, places for socialising and space to run around, kick a ball etc.

Recommended Minimum Size
50m²

Infrastructure, facilities and features
• Must comply with the general requirements set out in section 2, where relevant;
• Play areas should be situated close to housing and located in a way that encourages informal supervision (e.g. overlooked by housing) and be accessed from paths and quiet streets, not busy roads;
• They should include measures to ensure the proper control of dogs by their owners;
• They should provide an appropriate level of seating for parents or carers (including picnic tables and shelters); appropriate safety surfacing where required;
• Litter bins of a type approved by the Council should be provided
• Appropriate signage should be included;
• Appropriate path or other lighting should be provided;
• Where possible, the design should incorporate Informal facilities designed for young people approximately 13-18 years old in which they can “hang out” and practise various sports or movement skills such as basketball, inline skating, skateboarding and other wheeled sports. Ideally, they should be located close to a multi-court (see Section 3.7);
• Planting should include a good mix of “child-friendly” plant and tree species to add interest for users;
• Equipped play areas must comply with the following European Standards:
Grassy mounds, fallen but secure trees, logs, and boulders (as these will also be used for climbing and balancing) can all help to improve the visual setting for play and add to the range of play opportunities in addition to fixed equipment;

Surfaces within play areas, and the access to them from nearby path systems, must be free draining so they do not become waterlogged or boggy after heavy rain;

Areas should be defined and protected by natural boundaries such as shrubs, plants and trees, which add play value and complement their appearance; however, where fencing is required, as large an area as possible should be enclosed to give a sense of freedom, rather than corralling within the play area;

Vehicle parking is not required, although there must be an adequate means of access for maintenance machines.

Outdoor Sports Facilities

6.7 These are defined as large and generally flat areas of grass land or specially designed surfaces, used primarily for designated sports and including grass and artificial sports pitches for football, cricket, rugby etc; bowling greens; and tennis and multi-sport courts.

Note: the Council will advise developers of its specific requirements for outdoor sports facilities in the course of or following pre-application discussions.

Local requirements for outdoor sports facilities will depend very much on the context within which a proposed development will be set and therefore specific advice on sports provision cannot be given in this Guidance. The Council advises developers to discuss potential sports provision needs with the Leisure and Sport section (within Community and Customer Services) as early as possible in the development process. Developers should also refer to the Council’s Leisure and Sport Strategy.

Recommended Minimum Size
See below for different facilities

Infrastructure, facilities and features
- Must comply with the general requirements set out in section 5, where relevant;
- All hard surfaced areas should incorporate a SuDS

Sports Pitches
Minimum Size
100m x 60 m with proportionate changing and parking

Infrastructure, facilities and features;
- Facilities and surfaces to also meet relevant governing body requirements in terms of even-ness of surface, boundary distances (cricket) and side clearances or safety margins and other relevant technical guidelines;
- Appropriate space provided for storage facilities e.g. to store portable goals;
- Dog bins plus signs indicating that dogs must be kept on a lead and any fouling picked up and disposed of responsibly;
- Adequately separated from adjoining residential properties;
- Adequate measures in place to control light spill from floodlighting to adjoining properties and related land;
Wide access routes with clear sight lines at site entrance/egress;
Hard surfaced paths following desire lines from parking to pavilions;
Paths and buildings fully accessible by wheelchair where appropriate;
Path system appropriate to the circulation needs of players within the site, with wide, hard surfaces in heavily trafficked areas (to avoid constant muddy areas);
Strong structure planting around the perimeter of the site using native species (designed as buffer planting to reduce wind on pitches and noise or light spill as appropriate to the site and adjoining properties or roads and also to promote biodiversity);
Internal structure planting where appropriate; amenity or naturalistic landscaping in the vicinity of buildings and car parking;
Changing rooms (with the number of rooms appropriate to the number of pitches or other facilities on site) consisting of changing spaces, showers and drying area, plus separate changing for match officials where appropriate;
Adequate security for buildings;
Passive surveillance from nearby properties;
Floodlighting with suitable controls to prevent unauthorised use to relevant governing body requirements for the standard of play and designed to minimise light spill to nearby properties;
External lighting in car parking areas;
External lighting on pavilions with PIR detectors;
Well drained pitch surfaces;
On-site parking for not fewer than 15 cars per pitch for football and cricket pitches; and not less than 20 cars per pitch for rugby pitches plus one space for every 15 spectator seats in stands; should include adequate cycle parking.

Bowling Greens
These are lawn bowls greens meeting appropriate governing body standards.

Minimum Size
Greens with a grass playing surface: 6 rinks plus banks and ditches, a pathway at least 2 m wide all round the green and a pavilion. This requires a site of not less than approximately 41 x 45 m, i.e. approximately 1,845 m² (0.19 hectare).
Greens with an artificial playing surface: 3 rinks plus banks and ditches, a pathway at least 2 m wide all round the green and a pavilion. This requires a site of not less than approximately 41 x 30 m, i.e. approximately 1,230 m² (0.12 hectare).

Infrastructure, facilities and features
- Green, banks and ditches meeting relevant governing body standards;
- No broad-leaved trees overhanging the green;
- Freedom from over-shadowing;
- Hard surfaced path all round the green;
- Shelter planting/screening to provide summer time shelter from wind, privacy for bowlers and support biodiversity;
- Changing pavilion with at least male and female changing rooms and social area;
- Rabbit proof fencing;
- On-site or nearby off-site parking for not less than 15 cars per green.

Tennis and Multi-Courts
Tennis courts and multi-use games areas, usually with a hard or synthetic surface, and used for tennis, 5-a-side football, netball, outdoor basketball and roller/in-line skating.

Minimum size
36.5 x 18.25m (court only) plus surround

Infrastructure, facilities and features

- Reasonably sheltered from the wind;
- A free-draining or impervious surface laid to appropriate falls to shed water;
- Surrounded by netting which prevents balls escaping from the court(s) area;
- Oriented within 30 degrees of north-south;
- Amenity planting composed mainly of native species to improve appearance, provide shelter, reduce noise transfer and promote biodiversity;
- Floodlighting (if present) to meet governing body requirements;
- On-site parking for not less than 2 cars per tennis court; on-site parking for 3 cars per floodlit multi-court; no parking required for non-floodlit courts; include adequate cycle parking.
PART THREE: OPEN SPACE SETTLEMENT ACCOUNTS

7. PART THREE INTRODUCTION

7.1 Part Three of the Open Space and New Development Supplementary Guidance consists of a series of maps of the Regional (Dumfries), District and Local Centres (as identified in the Local Development Plan). The maps highlight all publicly usable open spaces over 0.2 hectares in green with other types of open space shown in grey. The grey spaces are those that have been identified as having limited public use, such as golf courses, private sports clubs and so on. Further information on how these spaces were distinguished can be found in the Council’s Open Space Strategy and Part One of this Supplementary Guidance. The Strategy is also accompanied by a full open space audit which identifies specific open space typologies for each settlement. Please note that the following maps are for illustrative purposes only. The boundaries shown around the open spaces do not indicate ownership or the extent of Council maintenance responsibility.

7.2 The maps also show an accessibility buffer around each publicly usable space. The accessibility standard set out in the Open Space Strategy refers to how close households should be to their nearest publicly usable open space. There is no national standard for auditing access but, generally, the accessibility standard is expressed as a walking distance threshold from every home to a publicly usable, fit for purpose open space of a minimum size. In Dumfries and Galloway, this has been set as a target of every household being a 5 minute walk from a publicly usable open space site which is open for all of at least 0.2 hectares (the size of space where spaces start to become multifunctional and active use can be accommodated, for example 0.2 hectares is big enough for a “kick about” pitch or other informal play). A 5 minute walk is considered to equate to a distance of 400 metres “door to space”. In the settlement accounts, where a simple “as the crow flies” buffer method has been used to capture dwellings within the accessibility standard, the buffer has been set at 75% of the walking distance i.e. 300 metres. This is to take account of the fact that the actual routes between proposed development and existing spaces will not be completely straight.

7.3 Each map is then accompanied by a written account which briefly describes the open space context in each settlement and sets out whether the amount of open space meets the quantity standard set out in the Open Space Strategy (6 hectares per 1000 people), where accessibility gaps may exist and any opportunities to provide additional open space or enhance existing spaces. Details of how the data from these maps can be used is set out in Part One. The accessibility buffers in these maps are simply indicative and more analysis should be undertaken on the ground once site proposals have been developed, for example layout, density, access points and so on.

8. SETTLEMENT ACCOUNTS / MAPS

8.1 The following section sets out maps and settlement accounts for the places listed overleaf:
Annan
Auchencairn
Canonbie
Carsphairn
Castle Douglas
Closeburn
Creetown
Crossmichael
Dalbeattie
Drummure
Dumfries
Eaglesfield
Eastriggs
Ecclefechan
Garlieston
Gatehouse of Fleet
Glencaple
Glenluce
Gretna Border
Holywood
Johnstonebridge
Kirkcolm
Kirkconnel/Kelloholm
Kirkcowan
Kirkcudbright
Kirkinner/Braehead
Langholm
Leswalt
Lochmaben
Lockerbie
Moffat
Moniaive
New Abbey
New Galloway
Newton Stewart
Palnackie
Penpont
Portpatrick
Port William
Sandhead
Sanquhar
Springholm
St John's Town of Dalry
Stranraer
Thornhill
Twyholm
Whithorn
Wigtown
**Annan**

**Population:** 8,960 (2011 Census)

**Summary of existing open space provision:**
- Annan has a total of approximately 32 ha of publicly usable open space. Whilst it does have a good range of open space typologies, due to the size of the population, the nature of much of the housing development and the limited availability of much of the existing open space, there is a deficiency of open space. The amount of publicly usable space equates to under 4 hectares per 1000 people which is much lower than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

The most prominent form of open space provision in Annan is outdoor sports facilities. The range of provision is varied with sites providing football pitches, bowling greens, tennis courts and an athletics track.

In total there are three parks in Annan and the settlement contains one of the more prominent parks in Dumfries and Galloway - Everholm Park. Located within the site is the Annan Athletic Track, a facility which attracts users from outside the settlement due to the rarity of provision of this type (the only other similar identified facility is the David Keswick Centre in Dumfries).

There are two allotments in Annan and, at the time of the audit, both sites were full to capacity with a long waiting list, suggesting that demand for new provision is relatively high in the area.

There is only one site identified as natural and semi-natural greenspace provision, to the west of the River Annan. The site is the single largest open space identified in Annan at 20.84 hectares. In addition, access to the countryside is generally deemed to be good, which may reduce further demand for such provision in the area.

There are a total of 10 outdoor sports facility sites in Annan. Educational sites, such as Annan Academy, could potentially accommodate further community use. Currently the site is only used occasionally on an ad hoc basis by Annan Athletic FC.

A total of eight sites are identified as play areas in Annan. Sites are evenly distributed throughout the town although the quality varies. In keeping with the general view across the region, teenage provision in Annan is considered to require improvement.

**Accessibility**
- There is relatively good accessibility coverage overall with only around 8% of the population being beyond a five minute walk from publicly usable space of 0.2 hectares and above. The accessibility gaps exist particularly in the north east of the settlement, around ANN.H1 and H2 and also to the south at ANN.H7 and H8. The railway and A75 trunk road running parallel along the top and bottom of the settlement is likely to result in demand for provision being contained within its boundaries. Any facility located outside of these infrastructure routes will be more difficult and less appealing to access.

Distribution of provision is in general well spread throughout Annan. There are two areas in the settlement where ‘clustering’ of sites occurs, around Everholm Park and also around Hecklegirth. Both areas provide a range of different open space typologies. Everholm Park offers, in addition to park provision, access to amenity greenspace, children’s play and outdoor sports typologies. Hecklegirth is predominantly outdoor sports provision but also provides access to allotments, amenity greenspace and children’s play.
Current deficiencies / Opportunities
There is a small pocket (Annan North) to the north of Annan Hospital / Newington Sports Club (Kimmeter / Newington area) that features within the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2012 as being within the bottom 10-15% most deprived parts of Scotland for overall deprivation, although for “health” deprivation, the whole of Annan ranks relatively highly (top 20-100%). Priority should be given to open space provision / enhancement to encourage physical activity and wellbeing within any development proposed in these areas.

Currently much of the open space provision in Annan is in the form of separate dispersed open spaces so opportunities to develop a green network through creating linkages between spaces should be explored.

Given its prominence, Everholm Park should be prioritised for funding to improve its quality. In recognition that demand is high, community consultation indicates an aspiration for new allotment provision to be created. There is some potential to create further plots at Seaforth Allotments. This would bring the site back to its original size after a reduction due to a previous lack of demand.

Any future opportunities for additional provision could be focused on the two existing areas of Everholm Park and Hecklegirth, given their already established range of open space typologies. However, future regeneration areas, such as the Harbour, should benefit from contributions towards open space provision.

There are long term plans to reuse the former Chapelcross pipeline as a pedestrian and cycle route which would provide a link to the Solway Coast; new development close to the pipeline route should ensure that future access to the pipeline would be possible. The River Annan / Annandale Way is also a key recreational resource and should be enhanced.

As there is an overall deficiency of open space, all the allocated development sites should provide some form of appropriate provision, alongside contributing to existing space where felt necessary.
### Auchencairn

**Population:** approx. 190

#### Summary of existing open space provision
- Auchencairn has a total of 1.87 ha of publicly usable open space. This equates to approximately 10 ha per 1000 people which is higher than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

Auchencairn has a good range of different types of open space (especially for the size of the settlement) which is easily accessible to most residents, although most publicly accessible provision is to the north of the settlement.

There is a large recreation ground to the north west, incorporating an attractive play area, playing field and the Millennium Garden on the other side of Auchencairn Burn. This space provides a good range of different open space types and is also the start of the path to Red Haven. Across the road from the recreation area and adjacent to the burn is some semi-natural greenspace which includes an area being established as allotments. Plans for the construction of an access track and paths for Auchencairn village link park and nature garden have recently been submitted on behalf of the community, which includes a footbridge across the burn, linking the residents to the north of the burn with the shop and other services to the south via this open space. This should further increase the quality and accessibility of provision. There is a small play area within the new development at Balliol Court which can also be accessed by a path from The Glebe.

Other spaces: Further down Shore Road from this area (but outwith the settlement boundary shown in the LDP) is Auchencairn Bowling Green. Auchencairn Primary School has a small playing field and other greenspace to the rear.

#### Accessibility
Currently, all residents are within a within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares but in relation to future potential development, most of AUC.H2 would not be within the accessibility threshold and there is a gap at the infill area around High Barn (south of Auchencairn Parish Church).

#### Current deficiencies / Opportunities
New housing development at AUC.H1 should provide some additional space if possible to serve the western parts of the settlement or consider creating links with existing open space beside the burn; other new development, where required, should contribute towards enhancement of existing spaces.
Canonbie

Population: approx. 420

**Summary of existing open space provision:**
- Canonbie has a total of 3.52 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to approximately 8 hectares per 1000 people which is higher than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole. However, if all development sites in the settlement were to be built, with no additional open space provided, this would lead to a deficit. For a relatively small settlement, there is a good range of open space typologies including a park, playing field and children’s play area, which the settlement particularly benefits from. There is also a large amount of natural and semi-natural spaces which link together well to create an established green network within the settlement, including access routes to the south along the river.

**Accessibility**
Currently, apart from a small number of houses to the west of the settlement along the U243A (east of the A7) nearly all households are within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares in size.

**Current deficiencies / Opportunities**
There are currently no allotments or civic spaces in the settlement.

The settlement overall has good potential for further enhancement of green networks including the area of land to the east of the River Esk which also includes riverside walks.

New housing development at CAN.H1 will provide additional open space to cover this area, including enhancing the green network links along the River Esk to form a walkway.
**Carsphairn**

**Population:** approx. 120

**Summary of existing open space provision**
- Carsphairn has a total of 0.18 ha of publicly usable open space. This equates to 1.55ha per 1000 people which is much lower than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

The main publicly usable open space within Carsphairn is the Millennium Garden, adjacent to the A713 which provides an attractive space at the eastern entrance to the settlement.

Other spaces include the Parish Church cemetery and, although this is not considered to be publicly usable space, the church and its setting are important for the visual amenity of this part of the settlement.

**Accessibility**
Technically, no households in Carsphairn meet the accessibility standard as the only identified area of publicly usable open space is under 0.2 hectares in size. All the existing open space is located to the eastern end of the settlement.

**Current deficiencies / Opportunities**
Carsphairn is missing a number of open space typologies including amenity greenspace, children's play areas and outdoor sports facilities. However, given its small population and relative remoteness, this is to be expected and, although relatively small, the quality of the Millennium Garden goes some way to make up for the general lack of space.

Given the small size of the settlement, there may not be a need for much additional open space although apart from the Primary School’s own equipment (which has restricted public access), there are no play areas in Carsphairn. The allocated housing site (CPH.H1) would therefore require some provision of open space as part of any future development proposals to improve provision and access to the western end of the settlement. Children’s play provision may be a priority on this site.
## Castle Douglas

**Population:** 4174 (2011 Census)

### Summary of existing open space provision

- Castle Douglas has approximately 21 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to approximately 5ha per 1000 people which is lower than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

The main publicly usable open spaces within Castle Douglas are the park and play areas adjacent to Carlingwark Loch and nearby Lovers Walk which skirts the loch shore, the park and play area at Market Street near the town centre and the large amenity space off Ernespie Rd., (to the front of Donald Rd. / Burghfield Rd). There is also a playing field at Birkland Rd. / Torrs Rd.

There is also a good amount of parks and gardens and amenity greenspace provision in comparison to other settlements of a similar size. Lochside Park is the most prominent site in Castle Douglas. It offers a number of features and attractions including a range of play facilities and summer activities on and around the loch.

In general, walking opportunities both in and around the settlement are good and connect well with open spaces.

### Accessibility

Approximately 87% of current households are within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares. As a result of the historic layout of the settlement, the central area of Castle Douglas does not contain any open space provision, leading to accessibility gaps (to publicly usable open space of 0.2 hectares and over) to the east and west of the town centre. The majority of provision is therefore located on the outskirts of the built up areas, although there is lack of accessibility to the far north of the settlement.

### Opportunities

Due to the overall shortfall in open space in the settlement, the larger development sites (generally over 10 units) should aim to provide on-site open space. In particular, the two large allocated sites at CSD.H5 and H6 will need to provide ample open space both because they are large sites in their own right but also because there are current accessibility gaps in this area.

Allotments are currently not available in the settlement and these could be provided for as part of the development of new housing sites. The larger development sites should also seek to create areas of natural and semi-natural spaces and to ensure linkages between these and other spaces.
**Closeburn**

**Population:** approx. 200

**Summary of existing open space provision**
- Closeburn has a total of 0.76 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to approximately 4 hectares per 1000 people which is lower than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

Closeburn has one large central piece of open space which incorporates a playing field, a well-equipped play area with equipment for toddlers and older children, as well as youth provision in the form of a basketball net and shelter. Although it is the rear of the surrounding properties that back onto the site, it feels well overlooked and is easily accessible from three different points. Safe, accessible provision such as this is important to this settlement as it is adjacent to the trunk road and the existing space serves the majority of residents without having to cross this road. The primary school with its associated playing field lies outwith the settlement, some 500m to the east, on the other side of the A76.

**Accessibility**
Although the amount of open space in the settlement is less than the region-wide quantity standard, as it is such a small settlement all households are within a five minute walk of open space of at least 0.2 hectares in size. However, those living across the A76 from the existing space could not access this very conveniently.

**Current deficiencies / Opportunities**
New development to the north of the settlement at CLS.H1 should incorporate some additional open space to serve the immediate area around the development which could include a children’s play area. Consideration should also be given to ensuring a safe walking / cycling route from any new development to the existing space. This should be helped by the pedestrian link between new houses at Woodend Way and Firmuir Avenue.
Creetown

Population: 679 (2011 Census)

Summary of existing open space provision
- Creetown has a total of 4.37 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to just over 6 hectares per 1000 people which meets the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole. However, if all development sites in the settlement were to be built, with no additional open space provided, this would lead to a deficit.

The most prevalent form of open space provision in Creetown is natural and semi-natural greenspace. Within the wider green network around the settlement, provision of natural greenspace was significantly improved following a community project in 2001 with the Forestry Commission. This focused on improving access to and within the woodlands to the east of the settlement.

A key site in Creetown is King George V Park. The site has an important multi-functional role, as it offers a range of recreation facilities including a play area, MUGA and football pitch. In addition, the site provides toilet facilities, which is relatively uncommon across the region. King George V Play Area is the only children’s play provision in Creetown with the settlement appearing to be under provided in such space, compared to other settlements of a similar size in the area.

Creetown is one of the few settlements that has identified civic space, at Adamson Square. The site features a car park, seating opportunities and a notice board. There is also a permanent performance area built into the site, allowing for the hosting of community events.

Accessibility
Most publicly usable open space over 0.2 hectares is located to the northern end of the town, meaning that around a third of households (those located to the south) are not within a five minute walk of such space. However, there are a number of core paths located reasonably close to this area which provide access to the woodlands to the east.

In relation to the allocated development sites, CRE.H2 and H3 are both within five minutes of the George V park area, whilst parts of CRE.H3 are outwith this accessibility buffer.

Current deficiencies / Opportunities
It is acknowledged that there is a significant amount of accessible space within the wider green network around Creetown that has not all been identified within the audit analysis. There is no allotment provision in Creetown. Any opportunities for future investment should consider the need for further expanding the existing play and /or teenage provision. New development should ensure that some on-site open space is provided to ensure that a deficit does not occur in the settlement overall.
### Crossmichael

**Population:** approx. 340

**Summary of existing open space provision**
- Crossmichael has a total of 8.09 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to nearly 24 hectares per 1000 people which is much higher than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

Crossmichael has a range of typologies including several small areas of open space within the settlement boundary, as well as access to wider areas of open space such as the land adjacent to Loch Ken, accessed from Rhonepark Crescent and paths to the community woodland and Culgruff Woods. The areas within the boundary include the play area at the end of Templand and amenity / semi-natural space within this new housing development.

**Accessibility**
Currently, approximately 98% of households are within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space within the settlement, with only a very small gap in provision for a few houses to the north of the settlement.

**Current deficiencies / Opportunities**
There are no allotments or public outdoor sports areas but this is not unusual for a settlement of this size.

The allocated housing site (CMI.H1) is only allocated for five units and is within a five minute walk of existing publicly usable open space so no additional open space requirements would emerge from development of this site. Any developer contributions arising from development could go towards upgrading of existing open space, for example towards the community woodland and linkages.
Dalbeattie

Population: 4227 (2011 Census)

Summary of existing open space provision

- Dalbeattie has approximately 221 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to over 52 hectares per 1000 people which is significantly higher than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

Dalbeattie has a good range of open space types including allotments, which is unusual for the region as a whole. It particularly benefits from the close proximity to the forest parks and other woodland which are easily accessible to the town and which make up the majority of the open space provision. Outdoor sports facilities are also well provided for. However, the town does have a relatively low amount of play park provision especially in comparison to Castle Douglas, which is similar in size but provides many more sites.

Accessibility

Currently, approximately 95% of households in Dalbeattie are within a five minute walk of existing publicly usable open space with a small gap in provision to the far west of the town around the Haugh Road / Broom Drive area. The majority of provision in Dalbeattie is located on the outskirts of the settlement to the east.

Access to provision of natural and semi-natural greenspace sites is particularly good, especially along the eastern edge of the settlement. In addition the two sites of Rounall Wood and the Flats Greenspace provide readily available provision in close proximity to dense housing around this area.

A variety of provision is centred in and around Colliston Park. The area offers a wide range of different facilities including children’s play facilities and outdoor sports areas. Accessibility to the site is good given its central location in the settlement.

Current deficiencies / Opportunities

The only space not available in the town is civic space but this type of space is not common across the region. The largest remaining allocated development site in the LDP is DBT.H6 which is adjacent to large areas of existing open space so, as long as safe links to access this space are provided, it may only be necessary to provide a small amount of open space to cater for the immediate development (depending on the eventual number of new residents and whether consultation with local officers deems this to be required).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary of existing open space provision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drummore has a total of 1.17 hectares of publicly usable open space which equates to under 5 hectares per 1000 people, lower than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole. In relation to publicly usable open space, Drummore has a relatively large, centrally located play area adjacent to the primary school, an area of semi-natural greenspace along the coastal path to the north and a small picnic area on the edge of the settlement to the south. Further down from this area is a coastal core path. Other open space areas which are not classed as publicly usable include former tennis courts adjacent to the bowling green which have not been identified in the audit due to the neglected condition and lack of access.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accessibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Currently, approximately 87% of households in Drummore are within a five minute walk of existing publicly usable open space with a gap to the houses beyond the harbour to the east.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current deficiencies / Opportunities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drummore currently does not have any amenity greenspace, green corridors or allotments. Existing provision would benefit from improvement. The development of the allocated housing site DRM.H1 would generate a relatively large increase in population so should aim to provide on-site open space to increase provision on this side of the settlement.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Dumfries

**Population:** 39,520 (2011 Census)

- Dumfries has a total of 370.61 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to over 9 hectares per 1000 people which is higher than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

As would be expected of a settlement of this size and regional prominence, Dumfries has a good range and amount of different open space typologies. Some of the most significant areas include the recently renovated Dock Park, Castledykes Park, the King George V site, Heathhall Forest and the various cycling and walking routes, along the river and disused rail lines which provide a good network of green corridors. In particular, the sections of the Caledonian Cycleway running through the north of the town are widely regarded as being of a high quality (as well as value). Dumfries is designated as a sustainable travel town as part of Transport Scotland’s project smarter choices smarter places. This is designed to increase active travel and public transport use.

Large parts of Dumfries, particularly in the north west, have traditionally been characterised by having of “green deserts”, very large areas of greenspace which have no particular function. Recent regeneration work in these areas should help to address this situation by consolidating spaces, improving linkages and making areas more multi-functional.

A significant amount of open space is classified as outdoor sports provision in Dumfries. However, the majority of this is golf course provision and a number of other sites, such as private sports clubs and schools, which are not fully accessible to the general public.

Seven schools state that their outdoor sports facilities are available and currently used for community use. Dumfries Academy and Cargenbridge Primary School suggest that they currently receive more interest than they can accommodate for community usage. This may indicate demand in the area for access to more pitches.

Three sites provide allotments: Stoop, Noblehill and Kingholm allotments. Dumfries provides the most hectares per 1,000 population of allotment provision across Dumfries and Galloway.

There are also a large amount of children’s play areas with provision appearing to be well dispersed throughout the settlement. As is the case elsewhere, consultation suggests that the amount of provision catering for children is sufficient but it highlights the need for additional provision to meet the needs of children in older age groups.

**Accessibility**

Currently, approximately 93% of households are within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares in size. There are several accessibility gaps throughout the settlement, for example in parts of Heathhall, Maxwelltown and Troqueer, east of the town centre and towards Newbridge in the north west. This affects several of the allocated housing sites, including DFS: H1, H2, H4, H7 and H8.

**Current deficiencies / Opportunities**

The settlement currently has a good range of open space and no specific deficiencies in any particular typologies has been identified. Demand for additional allotment provision is potentially in existence so where existing provision cannot be extended, new development proposals may wish to contribute towards allotment provision.

Parts of Dumfries (including parts of Lincluden and Lochside, Summerville and Nithside and Numholm) are ranked within the 5-10% most deprived areas in Scotland according to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (2012), with parts of Lincluden and Lochside being
within the top 5% most deprived. In relation to health deprivation only, other parts of Dumfries including Dumfries East are also included in the deprivation index being within the top 0-20% most health deprived in Scotland. Parts of Lincluden and Lochside and Nithside and Numholm are within the top 5% most deprived in relation to health. Any new development in these areas, therefore, should prioritise the provision or enhancement of open space to encourage physical activity and wellbeing, for example by creating new access routes between residential areas and open spaces.

The scale of most of the allocated housing sites and the fact that some of these are more than a five minute walk from existing space, means that on-site provision should be provided.

The proposed Whitesands project could provide a number of opportunities for open space and access improvements in this area.
Eaglesfield

Population: 691 (2011 Census)

Summary of existing open space provision
- Eaglesfield has a total of 3.81 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to under 6 hectares per 1000 people so it does not quite meet the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole. If all allocated housing sites were to be developed with no additional open space provided, this would further add to the shortfall. The main areas of publicly usable open space include a good sized playing field and two play areas. Some sites are multifunctional, for example Eaglesfield Playing Field is an outdoor sports facility but also serves as an important amenity greenspace for residents for exercise and dog walking.

Accessibility
Given the long, linear nature of the settlement with the main publicly usable open space being in the centre of the settlement, there are accessibility gaps to the east and west with only approximately 41% of households being within a five minute walk of this type of open space of at least 0.2 hectares. However, there are core paths and other path networks to the east which provide more opportunities for this part of the settlement.

Current deficiencies / Opportunities
Eaglesfield is missing some open space typologies such as allotments, amenity greenspace and a park, although the large playing field with an adjacent play area can serve some of these functions. Both allocated housing sites should provide additional on-site open space to improve access to open space and serve the immediate needs of the development.
# Eastriggs

**Population:** 1,876 (2011 Census)

## Summary of existing open space provision

- Eastriggs has a total of 3.39 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to under 2 hectares per 1000 people which is much lower than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

The main publicly usable open spaces within Eastriggs include the large playing fields in the centre of the settlement which include tennis courts, a skate park and a play area, along with other smaller amenity greenspaces throughout the town.

## Accessibility

Although the majority of current households (93%) are within a five minute walk of publicly usable space of at least 0.2 hectares in size, there are accessibility gaps to the peripheries, especially for Lowthertown to the north of the settlement. New development sites would not be within the accessibility threshold to existing open space.

## Current deficiencies / Opportunities

Eastriggs is well provided with play spaces, outdoor sports areas and amenity space but other typologies are all under-represented or absent, especially in relation to semi-natural and natural space, green corridors and path networks within the settlement. The multi-functional nature of the central playing field does go some way to make up for the lack of park provision. As the settlement falls short of the open space quantity standard and there are accessibility gaps, allocated housing sites to the east should provide additional open space to serve this area.
Ecclefechan

**Population:** 821 (2011 Census)

**Summary of existing open space provision**
- Ecclefechan has a total of 3.53 hectares of publicly usable open space which equates to around 4 hectares per 1000 people which is lower than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

The main publicly usable open spaces within Ecclefechan include Haggs Recreation Ground to the north west of the town, the long strip of amenity greenspace opposite this and some small areas of amenity space further to the east, including a small landscaped area with benches adjacent to the village hall. Haggs is the largest area of open space and includes a football pitch and changing facilities, a play area and walking opportunities.

**Accessibility**

The main areas of open space are located to the west of the town and therefore residents to the east are not within a five minute walk of an area of open space of over 0.2 hectares (only 43% of all current residents are within this threshold).

**Current deficiencies / Opportunities**

Ecclefechan benefits from having a park although, as this is located on the periphery of the settlement, many residents are not within a five minute walk of this. The settlement does not have any allotments, semi-natural or natural greenspace or green corridors. The housing sites in the east, especially ECC.H3, should provide on-site open space to increase provision in this area.
Garlieston

Population: approx. 330

Summary of existing open space provision
- Garlieston has a total of 0.91 hectares of publicly usable open space which equates to less than 3 hectares per 1000 people which is much lower than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

Although the settlement overall has a shortfall in quantity of open space, the range of existing provision is good. The main publicly usable open space in the settlement is found around Forteviot Gardens, which includes amenity greenspace, sports facilities and a play area. There are small areas of space along North and South Crescent and a small play area near the new development at the harbour. Outside the main built up area are shoreline walks which can be easily accessed from either end of the settlement.

Accessibility
Although the amount of publicly usable open space is low, most residents are within a five minute walk of this space (apart from those living at the eastern harbour end of the settlement. These residents are closer to the core path which runs along the coast to the south.

Current deficiencies / Opportunities
As there is an overall shortfall in relation to the open space quantity standard, new development should aim to provide some additional space on site or look to increase access to existing adjacent spaces.
Gatehouse of Fleet
Population: 986 (2011 Census)

Summary of existing open space provision
- Gatehouse of Fleet has a total of 78.55 hectares of publicly usable open space which equates to nearly 80 hectares per 1000 people which is significantly higher than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole. Gatehouse of Fleet provides a significant amount of open space given its relatively small population. The settlement has a very good range of publicly usable spaces including a park, sports pitches, play areas and extensive access to a large amount of natural and semi-natural open space, as well as several core paths and other routes.

Accessibility
The settlement’s compact nature allows for ease of accessibility to open space provision for approximately 91% of residents with only the far northern peripheries being further than a five minute walk to public space of at least 0.2 hectares.

Current deficiencies / Opportunities
The only open space typologies that Gatehouse does not have are civic space and allotments. The typical size of gardens precludes much of the need for allotments, especially for the older properties which were deliberately provided with large rear gardens. As there is so much existing open space available, new development may not require additional space, aside from an appropriate amount provided for visual amenity.
Glencaple

Population: approx. 290

Summary of existing open space provision

- Glencaple has approximately 4.34 hectares of publicly usable open space which equates to nearly 15 hectares per 1000 people which is higher than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

Glencaple’s largest area of open space consists of the playing fields at the Barbour Memorial Hall and also has a small play area off Wardlaw Drive. There is an area of greenspace alongside the River Nith, running south from the new harbour area which provides seating and picnic tables. There is also a path along the River Nith starting at the north of the settlement which can be followed all the way to Dumfries.

Accessibility

Currently, all residents are within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares.

Current deficiencies / Opportunities

Whilst the playing fields provide a good amount of open space, at the time of the audit it was noted that they would benefit from improvement. The play area off Wardlaw Drive would also benefit from improvement, as could the additional greenspace around this space which could be improved to make it more usable. As the allocated housing sites are relatively large, they may need to provide additional space on site, for example in the form of amenity greenspace.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Glenluce</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population</strong>: 590 (2011 Census)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summary of existing open space provision</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Glenluce has a total of 10.09 hectares of publicly usable open space which equates to just over 17 hectares per 1000 people which is much higher than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The most prevalent type of open space provision in Glenluce is natural and semi-natural greenspace with much of this provision positioned to the south and east of the settlement, also acting as a green corridor with walks along Lady Burn. A key site in Glenluce is Lady Stair Park which provides a play area and football pitch. There are also play areas in other parts of the settlement.

There are two play areas in Glenluce: Lady Stair Park Play Area and Sun Street Play Area. The Stair Park Play Area has a good range and diversity of equipment found on site.

**Accessibility**
Currently all residents are within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares. The size and central position of Lady Stair Park makes this an easily accessible space for many residents. The two green corridors to the west and east of the settlement also allow for connectivity within the village as well as to the surrounding countryside.

**Current deficiencies / Opportunities**
As the settlement currently has a large amount of existing open space, new development may not need to provide much on site open space, aside from any appropriate amenity space that is felt beneficial, for example to enhance visual amenity. Opportunities exist to improve accessibility along the former railway line to the north of the settlement, along with ensuring that any new development does not further obstruct the connectivity which these green corridors could provide.
Gretna

**Population** 3147 (2011 Census)

**Summary of existing open space provision**
- Gretna has a total of 8.55 hectares of publicly usable open space which equates to under 3 hectares per 1000 people which is lower than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

The most prominent form of open space provision in Gretna Border is outdoor sports facilities, although not all of these are publicly usable. Redevelopment of Central Avenue has included a large centrally located and modern play area with other improvement works planned for this area in the future. Other amenity greenspaces and play areas are found in the southern part of the town.

Despite its name, Crickmer Park at the southern boundary of the town is considered to be amenity greenspace. The site is popular with dog walkers due to the footpaths and grassed areas present within the site. In addition, its position also offers the opportunity to access the surrounding countryside and coastline.

**Accessibility**
As much of the current publicly usable space is located centrally or to the south, parts of the settlement on the upper eastern and western edges are not within a five minute walk of this space. Currently, approximately 87% of current residents are within the accessibility threshold to a space of at least 0.2 hectares in size. The A74(M), A75 and the railway act as restrictive boundaries between the different parts of the settlement. Two important access routes exist which help to link the built areas of the settlement to one another such as Gretna to Gretna Green (via a cycle link to the railway station) and from Crickmer Park to the Solway coast.

**Current deficiencies / Opportunities**
Gretna is notably absent in natural and semi-natural greenspaces and green corridors. There is also no allotment provision in the settlement and, given the size of the population and the potential large increase from new development, there could be some demand for these in future.

The allocated sites are large in scale and are all likely to require on-site provision, especially those to the north which will need to incorporate adequate landscaping and screening from the A75 and retention and/ or enhancement of existing access routes.
**Holywood**

**Population:** approx. 220

### Summary of existing open space provision
- Holywood has a total of 0.28 hectares of publicly usable open space which equates to only 1.28 hectares per 1000 people, much lower than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

Holywood has some small areas of amenity greenspace and a play area to the north of the settlement surrounded by trees, on the other side of the dismantled railway. Other non-publicly usable spaces consist of the outdoor sports facilities at the primary school and the cemetery surrounding the church at the east end of the settlement.

### Accessibility
Technically, as the play area and other spaces fall below the size threshold, no residents have access to publicly usable space of over 0.2 hectares. However, as the settlement is small, these spaces are still locally significant and beneficial and there is very little distance to travel to them. Understandably as the settlement is constrained for space between the railway line and a road, the play area has been located slightly away from existing dwellings. This means that, whilst the play area provides good quality play equipment, this site is not overlooked and not directly accessible from resident’s homes.

### Current deficiencies / Opportunities
As the settlement currently has a shortfall in relation to the open space standard and the allocated housing site is relatively large, on site space should be provided. The settlement does have some areas of woodland and potential green corridors (such as the former railway line) in the surrounding area and, as no natural or semi-natural greenspace has been specifically identified as publicly usable space, it may be possible to explore opening up access to these.
**Johnstonebridge**

**Population:** approx. 180

**Summary of existing open space provision**
- Johnstonebridge has a total of 2.21 hectares of publicly usable open space which equates to around 12 hectares per 1000 people, which is higher than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

Johnstonebridge has a good amount of semi-natural space which links in to the green corridor running along the River Annan. Planning permission has been granted for community tennis courts adjacent to the primary school.

**Accessibility**
Currently, apart from a small area to the far north of the settlement, most residents are within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares in size.

**Current deficiencies / Opportunities**
Although the settlement exceeds the quantity standard for open space, the relatively large scale of the allocated housing sites means that they could provide some additional space on site, for example a play area or amenity greenspace.
Kirkcolm

Population approx. 300

Summary of existing open space provision
- Kirkcolm has a total of 0.57 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to just under 2 hectares per 1000 people which is significantly lower than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

Kirkcolm has a limited range of publicly usable open space typologies but benefits from a relatively large play area to the east of the settlement, with a smaller area serving the housing at Bayview Terrace.

Accessibility
Currently, due to the compact nature of the settlement, all residents are within a five minute walk of existing publicly usable open space but the amount and variety of space is limited.

Current deficiencies / Opportunities
Any additional open space required as part of new development could try to include linkages with existing space, for example with the amenity space to the rear of Bayview Terrace to start to establish a green network for the settlement.
## Kirkconnel / Kelloholm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>2141 (2011 Census)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Summary of existing open space provision
- Kirkconnel / Kelloholm has a total of 84.58 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to around 40 hectares per 1000 people which is significantly higher than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

There is a good supply and range of open spaces within Kirkconnel / Kelloholm, with the majority of provision designated as natural and semi-natural greenspace. The settlement has one of the largest amounts of such space amongst those audited in the region.

There is also a significant amount of parks and gardens and amenity greenspace with Kirkconnel / Kelloholm having some of the highest proportions of parks and amenity greenspace in Dumfries and Galloway with 11 sites being classed as amenity greenspaces. A lot of this provision, however, could be considered to be “green deserts” which, whilst they do provide a lot of outdoor space, do not necessarily offer high quality, multi-functional space. There is also allotment provision which is not common in the region.

### Accessibility
Currently, all residents are within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares in size. The settlement’s relatively compact layout means access to open space provision is good. Given the settlement’s size there is also a good supply and variety of different types of open spaces.

### Current deficiencies / Opportunities
Kirkconnel / Kelloholm currently has a good range and amount of open space so it is unlikely that new development would require on site open space, apart from appropriate amenity greenspace as felt necessary, for example for visual amenity. Many of the spaces, especially the amenity spaces throughout the settlement would benefit from improvement and enhancement and, potentially, some consolidation to reduce overall size but increase multi-functionality and quality.
**Kirkcowan**

**Population** approx. 450

**Summary of existing open space provision**
- Kirkcowan has a total of 2.25 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to 5 hectares per 1000 people which is lower than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

Kirkcowan’s most prominent piece of publicly usable open space is the large recreation ground to the north of settlement which provides for a good variety of uses, including a children’s play area, teenage provision and a small football pitch. There are also some small areas of amenity greenspace and paths to woodland to the west.

**Accessibility**
Currently, approximately 86% of households in Kirkcowan are within a five minute walk of existing publicly usable open space. There is a gap in provision to south of the settlement, in the area around the LDP allocated development site.

**Current deficiencies / Opportunities**
As the settlement falls short of the quantity standard and the allocated housing site is not within the accessibility threshold, new development should provide additional space on-site.
Kirkcudbright

Population 3352 (2011 Census)

Summary of existing open space provision

- Kirkcudbright has a total of 43.48 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to almost 13 hectares per 1000 people which is higher than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

Kirkcudbright has a good variety and amount of open space, including two parks, green corridors and easy access to natural and semi-natural greenspace. Although much of the outdoor sports provision is not publicly usable, such as the football ground and various school facilities, there are public sports pitches. Additionally, the golf course, whilst not identified as a public space, does offer informal access for walkers on the understanding they are respectful of its intended purpose.

Gartshore Park is the most prominent site in Kirkcudbright. It offers a number of features and attractions including a range of sporting facilities. Hope Dunbar Park is also an important area of open space in the settlement close to the town centre and highly valued by the community. Barhill Woods is identified in consultation as being a site of considerable value for local residents, particularly for activities such as dog walking and relaxing. Generally, most provision is located to the southern side of Kirkcudbright.

Elsewhere, Dee Walk which follows the path of the river runs for much of the length of the town. It acts as a recreation area in its own right but also increases access in and out of the settlement. Four of the five amenity greenspaces are located to the northern side of the settlement. This provides walking access to open space provision for those within the local vicinity, which is relatively limited in comparison to southern Kirkcudbright.

Accessibility

Nearly all residents (97%) are within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares in size, with the only gaps in provision being to the furthest ends of the town (for example, around site KBT.H3). Good access to core paths on the edges of the town go some way to make up for this slight accessibility shortfall.

Current deficiencies / Opportunities

Consultation with the Community Council identifies demand for allotment provision to be provided in Kirkcudbright. Parts of KBT.H3 are greater than five minutes walking distance to publicly usable open space so additional provision would be required here. KBT.H1, due to the relatively large scale of the site, would also require some space and ensure linkages to adjacent existing open space.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Kirkinner / Braehead</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population</strong> approx. 350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Summary of existing open space provision**
- Kirkinner / Braehead has a total of 0.66 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to under 2 hectares per 1000 people which is much lower than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

The main area of publicly usable open space is the football pitch located off the main street. There is also a small children’s play area opposite the primary school. Other spaces include the two cemeteries and a bowling green.

**Accessibility**
As the main area of open space over 0.2 hectares is located in the centre of this linear settlement, currently, only approximately 40% of households are within a five minute walk of this space, with gaps in provision to either end.

**Current deficiencies / Opportunities**
As the settlement falls short of the quantity standard, new development should provide additional space, especially at KBH.H1 which is not within five minutes’ walk of existing space.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Langholm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population</strong> 2227 (2011 Census)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summary of existing open space provision</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Langholm has approximately 35.58 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to nearly 16 hectares per 1000 people which is higher than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The most prominent forms of open space provision in Langholm are outdoor sports facilities and natural and semi-natural greenspace. There is also a park adjacent to the river and play areas throughout the settlement. The multi-functionality of many of the sites is also recognised as contributing to the overall variety of provision. For example, the Castleholm Wood site is highly valued because of its multi-functional role, as it provides recreational and sporting opportunities. Kilngreen Amenity Space has a number of facilities and features including car parking, picnic tables and a play area. Ardill Road Amenity Space contains attractive landscaped features and there is a play facility located within the site, which adds to its overall quality and value.

**Accessibility**
Currently, approximately 86% of households are within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares in size. The households beyond this threshold are located to the south east of the settlement, with allocated housing site LHM.H4 falling within this accessibility gap.

**Current deficiencies / Opportunities**
No allotment provision is identified in Langholm. Given the settlement’s population and its relative distance from other settlements, it could be appropriate for provision of this type to be established.

Provision of play facilities are, in general, seen as good but consultation highlights a need for a greater provision and range of play equipment, in particular to cater towards teenagers as there is currently no appropriate provision (e.g. youth shelter, adventure equipment) in Langholm.

LHM.H4, due to its size and current lack of existing nearby provision, would need to provide sufficient additional on-site open space to serve the development, especially as it is located across the river from other spaces in the settlement.
Leswalt

Population approx. 290

Summary of existing open space provision

- Leswalt has approximately 15 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to nearly 16 hectares per 1000 people which is much higher than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

Leswalt has good provision of open space, including a large amenity greenspace incorporating a football pitch, play area and links to the adjacent Aldouran Wetland and Community Garden. This space provides access to natural space and is specifically designed for community and educational use, as well as providing wildlife habitats.

Accessibility

Currently, virtually all households (approximately 99%) are within a five minute walk of existing publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares in size. The majority of provision is located to the west of the settlement which means recent and future development has relatively less access. This is due to the historic and compact layout of the settlement.

Current deficiencies / Opportunities

As most provision is located away from the allocated housing site (LSW.H1) and, given its relatively large size, some additional open space could be provided on site.
Lochmaben

Population 1942 (2011 Census)

Summary of existing open space provision

- Lochmaben has 16.32 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to just over 8 hectares per 1000 people which is higher than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

Lochmaben has two parks, access to semi-natural / natural greenspace and a number of play areas throughout the town. In particular, the Mill Loch Play Area is recognised for the site’s wider benefits such as wildlife habitats and notice boards detailing information on local wildlife. The largest site of Victory Park, located at the top of Castle Loch to the southern edge of the town, is also well valued. This is most likely a reflection on the variety of recreational opportunities it offers i.e. play area, bowling green and tennis courts. Castle Loch Nature Reserve is a key natural and semi-natural greenspace, offering a number of uses, as well as being home to the Annandale Yacht Club. A footpath stretches around the site, which also includes a sculpture walk.

As well as the open space identified within the settlement, there is access to wider open space around the lochs via various core paths. The three Lochs (Castle, Kirk and Mill) are widely regarded as significant and valuable open spaces. All three offer recreational opportunities, mostly walking, as well as providing important habitat provision for wildlife.

Accessibility

Currently, around 73% of households are within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares in size, with gaps in provision to the west and, in particular, the north of the town. This indicates that, although there is access to wider core paths, open space is somewhat limited within the settlement itself.

Current deficiencies / Opportunities

Consultation with the local Community Initiative Group highlights the potential of developing a green corridor through Lochmaben. Currently the Old Railway route is not utilised as a walking route. It is believed that this could provide a useful link between existing routes in the area as well as providing connections between the north and south of the settlement, subject to agreement with landowners / developers.

Availability of provision for teenagers is seen to be lacking with one of the key aspirations identified through consultation being for a MUGA in Lochmaben.

The two allocated sites are within an accessibility gap and should provide on site open space, especially to compensate for the loss of any existing / former provision within the development sites.
**Summary of existing open space provision**

- Lockerbie has 103.3 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to over 24 hectares per 1000 people which is much higher than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

Lockerbie has a good range of open space types, including parks and gardens which are well distributed throughout the town, semi-natural space and several play areas. In comparison to other similar sized settlements, Lockerbie has less amenity greenspace but the provision of other types of open space such as parks and gardens is likely to contribute to any shortfall in amenity greenspace.

The woods opposite the cemetery also significantly contribute to accessible provision. The site is considerable large in size and offers recreational as well as habitat opportunities.

**Accessibility**

Currently around 80% of households are within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares in size with gaps in accessibility to the north and south and parts of the Vallance Drive / Grant Avenue area to the west.

Much of the northern section of Lockerbie consists of business and industry uses although there are still residential areas here which are lacking in open space provision, as well as employees who may appreciate access to open space during break times. Lack of access to the south would need to be addressed as there is a large development site here (LRB.H4). There is a natural boundary formed to the west of Lockerbie due to the settlement’s location next to the A74 (M). Most open space provision is located to the east of the motorway, as to be expected given the majority of housing is located there, whilst there is an obvious drop off in provision to the west.

**Current deficiencies / Opportunities**

There is no allotment provision identified in Lockerbie. Given the settlement size and its distance from other similar provision, it could be appropriate for allotments to be established. Consultation responses from the audit and also feedback relating to the Lockerbie Regeneration Masterplan highlight the need for more play provision targeted towards teenagers and also a desire to create a green network in the settlement, with improved path provision for cycling and walking. Currently, no green corridors are identified in Lockerbie.

The larger allocated housing sites should provide some on site open space, especially LRB.H4 which is a significant site and which mainly lies beyond the accessibility threshold to existing space.
### Moffat

**Population** 2582 (2011 Census)

**Summary of existing open space provision**

- Moffat has 63.9 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to nearly 25 hectares per 1000 people which is much higher than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

Moffat has a good range of open space types, including two parks (Station Park in particular is seen as a key regional facility), semi-natural and natural greenspace in the form of woodland and riverside walks and also allotments which are relatively unusual for the region as a whole. All sites are recognised as being highly valued by the community of Moffat.

There are two large and well used natural and semi-natural greenspaces, located to the north of the settlement. The largest and most prominent of these is Gallow Hill Walks (over 30 hectares in size). The site is popular with walkers using the well signed paths of the site for recreational purposes.

**Accessibility**

Currently, around 83% of households are within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares in size. The major gap in provision occurs to the east of the town which is where the majority of new housing development would be located.

**Current deficiencies / Opportunities**

The larger allocated housing sites will require their own on-site provision to cater for the development, especially MOF.H4 which could accommodate 200 units and is outwith the accessibility threshold of existing spaces. In particular, the Park Circle site and its associated play area could be a priority site for any potential future improvements as it is centrally located and well positioned to serve a wide catchment of users.
### Moniaive

**Population** 487 (2011 Census)

#### Summary of existing open space provision
- Moniaive has 10.48 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to nearly 22 hectares per 1000 people which is much higher than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

The main open space typologies in Moniaive are amenity greenspace and semi-natural / natural spaces, as well as green corridors along the Dalwhat Water / Cairn Water. Some of the amenity greenspaces also incorporate play areas and informal pitches. Consultation identifies the Macara Amenity Space and John Corrie Wildlife Garden as two of the most popular sites.

#### Accessibility
Currently, all households are within a five minute walk of publicly usable space of at least 0.2 hectares in size. Distribution of sites is also adequate with the two largest amenity sites (i.e. Macara Amenity Space and High Street Amenity Space) providing sufficient access to open space for most residents. The position of Bottom Park at eastern end of the settlement also helps to provide formal access at the edge of the settlement boundary. Provision of the other open space typologies is predominantly located within the central area of the village which helps to increase accessibility for local residents. The compact nature of the settlement also means accessibility to open space provision is generally good. Community consultation also highlights the number of walking routes available, which offer further easy access to the surrounding countryside.

The core paths around Moniaive are extensive in length and run through most of the settlement. These paths play a valuable role in connecting and interlinking the different open spaces.

#### Current deficiencies / Opportunities
Consultation with the Community Council identifies that Bottom Park would benefit from the addition of changing room facilities. Allocated housing site MOV.H1 is a relatively large site so may need to provide some on-site amenity space to serve the development and should also ensure linkages with adjacent access routes.
New Abbey

Population approx. 440

Summary of existing open space provision

- New Abbey has 2.19 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to just under 5 hectares per 1000 people which is lower than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

The main type of publicly usable space in New Abbey is natural / semi-natural space. Many of New Abbey’s open spaces have cultural and heritage significance, such as the area around the ruins of Sweetheart Abbey and the semi-natural spaces at the old Mill Pond near to the Corn Mill. Some of this space is not publicly usable but they do provide an important visual amenity function and help to enhance the setting of the settlement’s heritage features. A large area off Main Street has been protected for visual amenity purposes. There is also a playing field to the rear of the primary school which provides the grounds for Abbey Vale Football Club and a bowling green near to the Abbey.

Accessibility

Approximately 81% of households are within a five minute walk of publicly usable space of at least 0.2 hectares in size. There is a gap in provision to the south of Ingleston Place, around the area where a development site is located. There are a number of core paths around the settlement which can be accessed from different parts.

Current deficiencies / Opportunities

There is a small development site to the south of the settlement (NAB.H1). This is in an area which does not meet the accessibility standard. There is a core path which runs adjacent to this site so, as well as any open space which may be required on site, access between new housing and this path should be provided.
New Galloway

**Population** approx. 320

**Summary of existing open space provision**

- New Galloway has 2.51 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to nearly 8 hectares per 1000 people which is higher than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

Provision of publicly usable open space is mainly centred on New Galloway Park which includes a good sized children’s play area, skate ramp and walks around the war memorial. The other area of open space is at Kells Primary School but this does not have public access. There are linkages to wider open space outwith the settlement, such as the path from Carson’s Knowe along the river to Ken Bridge.

**Accessibility**

Currently, approximately 90% of households are within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares in size. As most of this space is centrally located, there are some gaps in provision to the far ends of the settlement, around both development sites.

**Current deficiencies / Opportunities**

Any new development to the north (at NGA.H1) could add to the open space at the primary school, as well as providing open space within the site to add to the provision in this part of the settlement.
Newton Stewart

Population 4092 (2011 Census)

Summary of existing open space provision

- Newton Stewart has 72.78 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to nearly 18 hectares per 1000 people which is much higher than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

Newton Stewart has a good range of open space typologies including a large amount of natural and semi-natural greenspace (much in the form of accessible woodland such as Bower Wood), parks, public sports pitches and several amenity and play spaces distributed throughout the town.

There are two sites identified as parks in Newton Stewart. The largest and most prominent is the Blairmount Park, which is also recognised through consultation as being a well-used site, in particular for activities such as dog walking. The site offers a range of features such as a play area, football pitch and nature pond. The second park is the smaller public garden located on Albert Street. Whilst the site does not have a diverse range of features to offer, it does provide a visually attractive space close to the main shopping area.

There are also many core paths throughout and surrounding the town providing access opportunities and riverside walks both within the town and to areas beyond. Newton Stewart River Path is one of the more prominent open space sites in the settlement. It runs the length of the River Cree through the town centre and is acknowledged as an important part of the character of the town.

Other areas of open space include a large amount of outdoor sports facilities, particularly associated with the schools and the golf course in Minnigaff. Douglas Ewart School Field and Penninghame Primary School both offer community use, with the former also allowing use of the changing room facilities.

Accessibility

Nearly all (97%) of current households in Newton Stewart are within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares in size. Despite the River Cree separating the areas of Newton Stewart, the connectivity between the two sides is sufficient. The pathways along the river help to increase ways in which to move within the settlement. Due to the natural geography of the settlement the Minnigaff Recreation Ground is the primary form of accessible open space in the sub-area of Creebridge. There is a focus of provision to the outskirts of the settlement although typologies often linked with smaller sites (e.g. play areas, amenity greenspace) are dispersed throughout.

Current deficiencies / Opportunities

There are no allotments provided within the settlement. However, through the NHS Health Improvement Scheme a community garden is currently being developed at the Newton Stewart Hospital site. The popularity of the site should be examined to determine any demand for further allotment provision.

The larger allocated housing sites could offer some on-site provision and also ensure linkages are maintained to any existing adjacent spaces.
Palnackie

Population approx. 250

Summary of existing open space provision

- Palnackie has 0.03 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to only 0.13 hectares per 1000 people which is significantly lower than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole and means the settlement has the lowest amount of identified publicly usable space amongst those audited.

The only identified area of public usable open space is the small play area adjacent to Kirkennan View. In relation to other open space, the primary school has a small playing field to the rear and also makes use of the area of woodland to the south which can be accessed directly from the school grounds. This piece of natural / semi-natural space provides a valuable educational and outdoor play function, as part of the Forest Schools project. There is also a core path providing access towards Glen Isle, although this begins some distance from the edge of the settlement along Glen Road.

Accessibility

The play area identified as the only piece of publicly usable open space is below the accessibility size threshold, so technically no households in Palnackie are within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares in size.

Current deficiencies / Opportunities

There is some open space adjacent to the harbour which could provide a pathway along the Urr Water although, at the time of the audit, the ground was very wet. New development off Glen Road (at PAL.H1) could provide improved access to the waterside walk, if feasible, as well as open space provision within the site itself. PAL.H2 could also consider a proportionate amount of provision, given that there is such a shortfall in open space overall.
### Penpont

**Population** approx. 350

**Summary of existing open space provision**
- Penpont has 4.95 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to over 14 hectares per 1000 people which is higher than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

For a small settlement, Penpont has a good range of open spaces. The main area of public open space is the playing field, MUGA and play area, located between Princess Street and Grennan Road. Although the rear of properties face onto this space rather than being directly fronted by them, the space is well-overlooked and is easily accessible, providing a safe space away from main roads. Penpont also has a large showfield site in the centre of the settlement which is used on occasion for community activities. There is also a small community garden off Marrburn Road, which provides a pleasant space to sit. A green corridor, including a core path, can be found along Scaur Water to the south east.

**Accessibility**
All households in Penpont are within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares in size.

**Current deficiencies / Opportunities**
New development at PNT.H2 should provide appropriate links with existing green corridors and access routes as well as any provision of on-site open space which may be required.
Portpatrick

Population 534 (2011 Census)

Summary of existing open space provision

- Portpatrick has 3.49 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to over 6.5 hectares per 1000 people which is slightly higher than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

Only four types of open space are provided in Portpatrick, a lot of which is not publicly usable. There is no one key open space site in Portpatrick, although there is a general focus around the harbour front. In relation to publicly usable open space, the main areas specifically identified are located to the north of the harbour, the green corridor comprised of the former railway to the east and Portree Sports Field and play area to the east.

There are also several core paths around the area, including the start of the Southern Upland Way to the north. Portpatrick is one of the few settlements in close proximity to this national route. There is also a large amount of natural and semi-natural greenspace along the coast.

Although not all publicly usable, there is a large amount of outdoor sports provision, the majority of which is provided at Dunskey Golf Course. Portpatrick is also the only settlement in Dumfries and Galloway to have a standalone putting green, which also provides visual amenity in the winter months when it is closed.

There is no amenity greenspace identified in Portpatrick. However, the abundance of other informal types of open space such as natural and semi-natural greenspace and outdoor sports facilities contributes to the opportunities associated with amenity greenspace, such as dog walking and recreational walking.

Accessibility

The settlement of Portpatrick is relatively compact and most households (94%) are within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares in size. Although not specifically identified in the audit, natural and semi-natural greenspace tends to connect well to the harbour front.

Current deficiencies / Opportunities

All open space sites in Portpatrick are recognised for their importance and high value. Two of the most valued sites are the rocky natural and semi-natural greenspace sites to the north and south of the settlement. The large new allocated housing sites to the east of the settlement should develop on-site provision, especially PPK,H3 as parts of this site are beyond the accessibility threshold to existing open space.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Port William</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population</strong> 523 (2011 Census)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summary of existing open space provision</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Port William has 6.23 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to nearly 12 hectares per 1000 people which is higher than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The largest provider of open space provision is from the typology of parks and gardens. One of the key sites in Port William is Maxwell Park. The site has a multi-functional role, as it offers a variety of features including a play area, football pitch and seating areas. It also has good provision of play areas including a large area next to the shore.

There is also a significant amount of open space provision in Port William provided by amenity greenspace, which is mostly positioned to the south of the settlement and is divided between four sites.

The settlement also has an expansive amount of beach front. As a result, this is viewed to contribute to the overall sense of open space provided within Port William.

There are four children’s play areas identified in the settlement. The amount of play areas in Port William is viewed as good, particularly in proportion to the size of the settlement.

**Accessibility**
89% of households are within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares in size. The accessibility gap is located to the north of the settlement where recent development has taken place. The southern part of the settlement contains all the open space and consequently has the best access to a variety of provision.

**Current deficiencies / Opportunities**
PWL.H2 should provide additional on-site open space as it is a relatively large site, as well as ensuring linkages to existing adjacent spaces. Consultation suggests there is demand for further provision to meet the needs of older children.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sandhead</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Summary of existing open space provision**

- Sandhead has 6.11 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to just under 20 hectares per 1000 people which is significantly higher than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

Sandhead has a good range of publicly usable open space including a public playing field, and large area of easily accessible amenity greenspace along the shore which includes a play area, toilets, parking and picnic areas. This links to a core path which runs along the coast to the north. Other spaces include the bowling green, open space associated with the primary school and Sandhead plantation which provides visual amenity.

**Accessibility**
The settlement is contained and compact in nature and consequently all residents are within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares in size.

**Current deficiencies / Opportunities**
There is a disused tennis courts adjacent to the bowling green which would require investment in order to be brought back into use.
## Sanquhar

### Population 2021 (2011 Census)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary of existing open space provision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sanquhar has 12.12 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to 6 hectares per 1000 people which meets the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole. However, if all development sites in the settlement were to be built, with no additional open space provided, this would lead to a deficit.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sanquhar has a good range of publicly usable open space types, including a park, amenity greenspaces and access to natural and semi-natural greenspace via core paths, with the most prominent being Sanquhar Castle and surrounding area. Queen’s Road Park has a number of features such as the lake and picnic area as well as being located in an easily accessible, central position. Consultation identifies that the site is popular and well used by local people. A significant amount of natural and semi-natural greenspace is identified.

Other spaces include outdoor sports facilities which are associated with the schools, the athletics track, the bowling green and the large cemetery at St Bride’s Church.

### Accessibility

87% of households in Sanquhar are within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares in size. Gaps in provision are to be found to the north of the settlement, along Glasgow Road, around where housing site SNQ.H1 is located and a small area to the east surrounding SNQ.H4.

### Current deficiencies / Opportunities

New development should provide additional open space in order to avoid creating a deficit, in particular within the larger sites. In general, consultation supports that there is an adequate amount of play area provision in the settlement. However, it is thought there is a lack of provision for older children.
**Springholm**

**Population** approx. 360

**Summary of existing open space provision**
- Springholm has 1.82 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to just over 5 hectares per 1000 people which is lower than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

Although falling short of the quantity standard, Springholm has several areas of open space with the main publicly usable areas being the playing field and play area to the south of Reoch Park and the play area within the new development at Barncaillzie Way. There is also a greenspace link running to the rear of Reoch Park, along the Culshan Burn which links to the play area and playing field and could, if new development provides a pathway, continue to the area adjacent the primary school. Other spaces include outdoor sports facilities and the woodland at the primary school.

**Accessibility**
Currently, 78% of households are within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares in size. A gap in provision exists to the north of the settlement with all the larger areas of open space being to the south, close to Reoch Park. All identified open space is located to the west of the A75 so residents on the east have to cross the road to access it. However, there is a core path starting from the eastern side of the road, providing a route to Milton Loch, which does add to provision here.

**Current deficiencies / Opportunities**
New development at SPR.H1 should ensure there is a link between open space either side of the development, as well as adding to or enhancing existing open space in this area.
St. John's Town of Dalry

Population approx. 440

Summary of existing open space provision
• St John’s Town of Dalry has 0.66 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to just over 1.5 hectares per 1000 people which is much lower than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

Open spaces within St. John’s Town of Dalry include a well-equipped play area to the south and semi-natural space with the centre of the town at The Glen. The town is also on the route of the Southern Upland Way which provides local links to wider open space. However, much of the open space within the settlement itself is not technically publicly usable. These spaces include outdoor sports facilities at the school, the bowling green and the cemetery at the Parish Church which is important for visual amenity.

Although not created at the time of the open space audit, new development at Whinnymuir will provide additional open space in this part of the settlement.

Accessibility
Currently, approximately 81% of households are within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares in size. There are accessibility gaps to the eastern and western edges of the settlement, although these are the areas where wider core paths can be accessed.

Current deficiencies / Opportunities
As there is an overall deficit of open space in the settlement and an accessibility gap to the east, new development at DLR.H2 should provide additional open space as well as contribute to improvements or provide links to existing open space, as appropriate.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stranraer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary of existing open space provision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Stranraer has 69.12 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to nearly 7 hectares per 1000 people which is more than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stranraer has a good range of open space types reasonably distributed throughout the town, including an area of identified civic space which is unusual for the region. Almost all open spaces in Stranraer are recognised for their importance and high value. In particular, sites classified as parks are seen to positively impact upon general open space provision. Often this is due to the multi-functionality of these sites, as most parks also provide play areas and outdoor sports facilities. The most prominent are Agnew Park, King George V and Stair Park. Both Agnew Park and Stair Park are recognised as offering a variety of uses/attractions, for example, Stair Park is highly valued as it offers additional recreational and sporting opportunities, including a play area, skatepark and MUGA. Agnew Park is particularly accessible given its location along the seafront close to the centre of town. It is also highly valued due to its high standard of maintenance and general aesthetic quality. Lady Stewart Park is seen as slightly less valuable than the other parks of a similar type due to a lack of ancillary facilities such as landscaped areas, play or sports facilities. However, it is of high value due to its location near to the town centre and is noted as being used for dog walking.

There is no allotment provision in Stranraer, although a community garden is currently being developed at the Galloway Hospital site under a scheme being led by the NHS. There is no green corridor provision identified in Stranraer. However, natural and semi-natural greenspaces such as Big Plantation and the two stretches of beach contribute to the opportunities associated with green corridors.

Outdoor sports facilities provide a significant proportion of open space provision in Stranraer. However, over half of this provision is located at educational and/or private sites and subsequently community access is restricted. Stranraer Academy, Rephad Primary School and Park Primary School all suggest that facilities are available for community use. The MUGA at the Park Primary School is run by the Council and is available after school.

In general, play areas in Stranraer are sufficient in terms of quality and quantity although a number are considered to contain dated equipment. This is with the exception of sites such Agnew Park and Stair Park. Both of which contain facilities catering towards older children.

**Accessibility**

Currently, 78% of households are within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares in size. There is a large gap in provision to the centre of the town, south of the town centre, at Blackparks Industrial Estate, another area to the west around housing sites STR.H2, H4 and H8 and around STR.H1 and part of H7.

**Current deficiencies / Opportunities**

The Stranraer Urban Design Strategy and Masterplan include a number of projects which are related to greenspace improvements which, if developed, will enhance provision overall. Larger allocated sites should provide on-site provision as appropriate, especially those that fall beyond the accessibility threshold to existing open space.
Thornhill

**Population** 1,674 (2011 Census)

**Summary of existing open space provision**

- Thornhill has 35.9 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to over 21 hectares per 1000 people which is much higher than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

Thornhill has a range of open space types and is one of only a few settlements in the region to have allotment provision. The allotment site is centrally located and is identified as having a total of 28 plots. Demand for additional provision is apparent as, at the time of the audit, the site had a waiting list of 15 individuals. The majority of open space provision in Thornhill is provided as natural and semi-natural greenspace, divided across eight sites.

There is no parks provision identified in Thornhill. However, the provision of other types of open space such as amenity greenspace natural and semi-natural greenspace is likely to contribute to the recreational opportunities associated with parks.

All open space sites in Thornhill are recognised for their importance and high value. Two of the most valued sites are the two amenity greenspaces, Muirhall Road and Thornhill Community Centre. Both sites provide valuable open space provision offering opportunities of social interaction and relaxation. Play areas are identified on both sites, adding to their use and value by the community.

Outdoor sports facilities are also well provided although two out of the three sites are schools and as such have restricted public access.

**Accessibility**

Currently, all households in Thornhill are within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares in size. New housing development to the south of the settlement would not all fall within this threshold, however, so new open space would need to be provided.

**Current deficiencies / Opportunities**

THN.H5 and THN.MU1 would not fall within five minutes of existing open space so new provision would be required here. Other sites are also large so additional space is likely to be needed, as well as providing appropriate linkages to nearby semi-natural / natural spaces and existing access routes.
**Twynholm**

**Population**  approx. 330

**Summary of existing open space provision**
- Twynholm has 2.2 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to nearly 7 hectares per 1000 people which is more than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole. However, if all development sites were to be built out without open space provision, this would lead to a slight deficit so new development should provide additional open space as appropriate.

Twynholm has a range of open space types, including the small community park and play area off Main St., the play area at The Glebe and the path linking The Doon across the burn to Arden Road. Other open spaces include the playing field associated with the primary school and the Parish Church cemetery which is important for visual amenity.

**Accessibility**
Currently, nearly all (98.5%) of households in Twynholm are within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares in size. The small gaps in provision are to either end of the settlement, affecting only a couple of houses.

**Current deficiencies / Opportunities**
Both development sites will require carefully designed landscaping and screening which could be incorporated as part of open space provision.
**Whithorn**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>829 (2011 Census)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Summary of existing open space provision**
- Whithorn has a total of 3.5 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to just over 4 hectares per 1000 people which is lower than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

The main publicly usable open spaces within Whithorn are Kilncroft amenity space and play area and Castle Hill recreation ground. Consultation identifies that Castle Hill Recreation Ground is recognised as being particularly important. The site offers a number of different facilities including a play area, gardens, and a MUGA. The MUGA is a particularly popular and well valued site, which is also regularly used by the pupils from Whithorn School.

Other spaces include outdoor sports facilities at the primary school and St Ninian's Priory which, unlike most cemetery sites, is a visitor attraction and could contribute towards publicly accessible space.

There is no parks provision identified in Whithorn. However, the provision of other types of open space, such as amenity greenspaces like Castle Hill Recreation Ground, is likely to contribute to the recreational opportunities associated with parks.

**Accessibility**
Currently, 97% of households are within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares in size. A gap in provision occurs to the north of the settlement, which would affect housing sites WTH.H1 and H2.

**Current deficiencies / Opportunities**
Currently there is no natural or semi-natural greenspace or green corridors located in the town. There are also no core paths identified in or around the settlement so new development could provide an opportunity to improve the green network of the settlement. WTH.H1 and H2 would be expected to provide additional open space.
Wigtown

Population 921 (2011 Census)

Summary of existing open space provision
• Wigtown has 4.91 hectares of publicly usable open space. This equates to just over 5 hectares per 1000 people which is lower than the quantity standard for Dumfries and Galloway as a whole.

Despite the overall shortfall in quantity, there is a good range of open space provided within Wigtown with only allotments and civic spaces not provided. However, the design of Main Street, with the position of the central park, is likely to substitute for the deficiency in civic space provision. The majority of open space provision is provided through green corridors and core paths, including the Wigtown Pathway site which follows the former route of the Wigtown Railway line and Lovers' Walk to the north of the settlement. Sites such as these paths and Wigtown Harbour also offer easy access to more natural open space provision. There are also amenity greenspace sites distributed throughout the settlement, two incorporating play areas.

All open space sites in Wigtown are recognised for their importance and high value. The two sites most highly valued include Lightlands Terrace, which offers a number of different facilities including a play area and MUGA, and Main Street Park. This reflects the role these sites provide in offering opportunities for recreational and social interaction.

Accessibility
Currently, all households are within a five minute walk of publicly usable open space of at least 0.2 hectares in size.

Current deficiencies / Opportunities
As there is a shortfall in the open space in relation to the quantity standard, allocated housing sites should provide some on-site open space. There are also many opportunities to enhance the green network of Wigtown and ensure new development contributes to and can make use of the existing access routes and links to open space.
PART FOUR: PROTECTED AREAS OF OPEN SPACE IN VILLAGES

9. PART FOUR INTRODUCTION

9.1 Part Four of the Open Space and New Development Supplementary Guidance consists of a series of maps showing protected areas of open spaces (shown in green) in the villages identified in the Local Development Plan (LDP). Please note that the villages were not subject to the full audit process that took place in the 48 LDP settlements. The following maps are for illustrative purposes only. The boundaries shown around the open spaces do not indicate ownership or the extent of Council maintenance responsibility.

9.2 These maps have been produced to support LDP Policy CF3 part a) Protection of Open Space. This states that there will be a presumption against development of open space in villages identified for protection in the open space supplementary guidance.

10. VILLAGE MAPS

10.1 The following maps will identify protected open space in the villages listed below (as identified in the settlement hierarchy of the Local Development Plan). Villages listed in grey do not contain any identified open space so maps have not been produced for these settlements:

Ae
Amisfield
Ardwell
Auldgirth
Balmacellan
Bankend
Bankshill
Beattock
Beeswing
Bentpath
Bladnoch
Boreland
Borgue
Bridge of Dee
Brydekirk
Cairnryan
Carronbridge
Carrutherstown
Carsethorn
Carsluith
Castle Kennedy
Chapleknowe
Clarebrand
Clarencefield
Collin
Colvend
Corrie Common

Corsock
Crocketford
Cummertrees
Dalton
Dornock
Dundrennan
Dunragit
Dunscore
Erlig
Eskdalemuir
Evertown
Gelston
Glencar
Glentrool
Hardgate/ Haugh of Urr
Hightae
Isle of Whithorn
Islesteps
Kippford
Kirkbean
Kirkgunzeon
Kirkpatrick Durham
Kirkpatrick Fleming/
Newton
Kirkton
Kirtlebridge
Lakehead (Closeburn)
Laurieston
Lochans
Lochfoot
Middlebie
Mochrum
Monreith
Mossdale
Mouswald
New Luce
Parton
Port Logan
Powfoot
Rhonehouse
Ringford
Rockcliffe
Shawhead
Sorbie
Southernness
Stoneykirk
Templand
Terregles
Torthorwald
Tynron
Wanlockhead
Waterbeck
Whauphill