DUMFRIES AND
GALLOWAY COUNCIL

Local Development Plan

Adopted 1st December 2014

Annex 1:
Open Space Audit - Location and Typology Maps
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Introduction

Open Space Audit Methodology

The Dumfries and Galloway Open Space Audit has identified open space sites in each of the 48 settlements in the region that are classed as Regional, District or Local Centres in the Local Development Plan (LDP). The Audit provides the essential baseline understanding of open space assets across Dumfries and Galloway Council’s area. This document provides the location and typology maps for the Audit and is an Annex to the Dumfries and Galloway Open Space Strategy.

The Audit was carried out between 2010-2013 on a settlement by settlement basis. The information from it has helped to form the basis of an assessment of current and future open space needs and has been used to inform the standards set out in the Open Space Strategy, as well as the advice contained in the Supplementary Guidance on Open Space. Over 1000 sites across the 48 settlements in the region were included in the Audit. The open space sites identified in the Audit have been plotted on the Council’s GIS (Geographic Information System). Sites were initially identified using existing data and through desk-based surveys. The extent and typologies of the sites were then verified through site visits.

The Audit only includes open space sites within or adjacent to the 48 settlements listed. Areas that are some distance away from settlements have not been assessed. This may include, for example, some of the forest parks and coastal areas.

Open space in the villages which do not have inset maps in the LDP will be identified in the Supplementary Guidance on Open Space, mainly for the purposes of protecting them from inappropriate development (subject to LDP policy CF3).

The term “open space” generally refers to formal or informal open land or areas that are vegetated or paved / hard landscaped within and on the edge of settlements. It includes greenspace, open land and public/civic space (for example town squares, market places, amenity land, sports areas and children’s play areas). The table overleaf provides a more detailed description of the specific typologies of open space.
The location maps identify open spaces of the following typologies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allotments and community growing spaces</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>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. The Audit has generally only included more functional and usable areas of amenity space not, for example, grass verges along transportation routes etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cemeteries</td>
<td>Includes burial grounds and churchyards. Churchyards are encompassed within the walled boundary of a church and cemeteries are burial grounds outside the confines of a church.</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>Other functional greenspace</td>
<td>May be one or more types as required by local greenspace circumstances or priorities. For example, this may include small school grounds (not playing fields) or institutional grounds which are not public amenity space.</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>