

# East Dunbartonshire Green Network Strategy 2017 – 2022



sustainable thriving achieving

**East Dunbartonshire Council**

[www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk](http://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk)





# Foreword





East Dunbartonshire is fortunate to possess some magnificent green network assets, including the historic Forth and Clyde Canal corridor, scenic Milngavie reservoirs and the majestic Campsie Fells, all of which are integral to the area's heritage and identity.

The green network supports our local economy, helps safeguard our biodiversity and improves the health and wellbeing of our residents.

This strategy is the first of its kind for East Dunbartonshire and has been produced with invaluable support from the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership (GCVGNP). The partnership's expertise has resulted in us taking an innovative approach to develop the strategy - helping us achieve our aspirations to not only capture the opportunities for green network improvements within urban areas, but to also capitalise on the potential of the rural environment to deliver green network benefits.

The strategy also acts as a platform for us to think ambitiously about larger, landscape-scale green network improvements.

It is important to note that the green network does not stop at our Council boundary and successful cross-boundary partnerships are crucial to the future of the green network, and in particular, the contribution the rural environment can make.

As part of the delivery of the strategy, we will work together with our neighbouring local authorities, landowners and other partners in order to realise the full range of benefits that an attractive, connected and functioning green network can bring to us all - now and in the future.

**Councillor Jim Gibbons**  
**Convener of Place, Neighbourhood & Corporate Assets**



I am very pleased to introduce this East Dunbartonshire Green Network Strategy.

The Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) is Europe's largest greenspace initiative which seeks to transform central Scotland into a place where the environment adds value to the economy and where peoples' lives are enriched by its quality.

This East Dunbartonshire strategy builds on the success already achieved within the area, such as the development of the East Dunbartonshire green gym and the many greenspace improvement projects on the ground, delivered through the Open Space Strategy.

The strategy will help us to achieve the CSGN vision and the emerging projects will help to improve the social, physical, cultural and environmental health and wellbeing of the area, as well as helping it to meet the challenge of climate change.

We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with East Dunbartonshire Council, as well as other partners and stakeholders, to deliver this strategy. Through working together I am sure we can add substantial value by combining expertise, resources and people to make real progress in helping to make central Scotland a better place to live, visit and do business in.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Geddes', written over a horizontal line.

*Keith Geddes*  
**Chair of the Central Scotland Green Network Trust**



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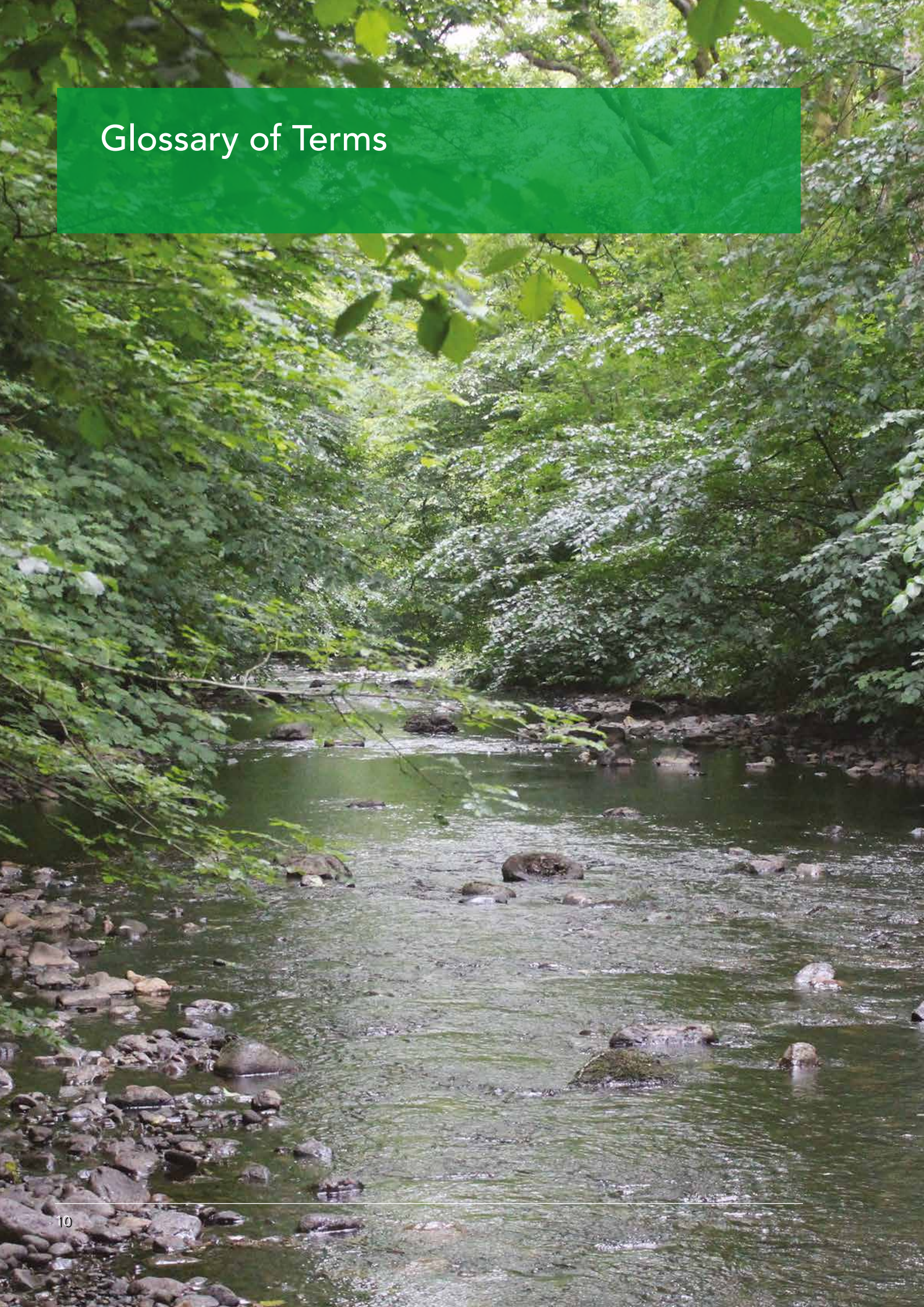




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# Glossary of Terms



**Active Travel:** Any method of non-motorised travel, such as walking and cycling.

**Biodiversity:** The variety of all forms of life on Earth and the habitats on which they rely. This includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

**Climate change adaptation:** Actions taken to limit harmful consequences and exploit beneficial opportunities of impacts of actual or expected climatic change.

**Climate change mitigation:** Reducing the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and reducing activities which emit greenhouse gases to help slow down or make less severe the impacts of future climate change.

**Core Path:** Key local access route as set out in the Core Path Plan.

**Floodplain:** The generally flat area adjacent to a watercourse (or sea) where water flows in time of flood or would flow in the absence of flood prevention measures.

**Flood risk:** The combination of the probability of a flood and the potential adverse consequences associated with a flood, for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity.

**Geodiversity:** The variety of rocks, minerals, fossils, landforms, sediments and soils, together with natural processes which form and alter them.

**Local Development Plan (LDP):** A document which sets out where new developments will happen and the policies that will guide decision making on planning applications.

**Local Nature Conservation Site (LNCS):** A non-statutory designation made through the Local Development Plan which highlights to planners and developers areas important locally for either biodiversity or geodiversity.

**Local Nature Reserve (LNR):** Land of local importance managed for the purposes of nature conservation, environmental education and community enjoyment and designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

**Long Distance Route:** Nationally and regionally promoted trail for journeys by foot, bike, horse or canoe.

**Open Space:** Area of greenspace within and on the edge of settlements as set out by the Local Development Plan.

**Right of Way:** A route along which the public have right of passage even if this is over private land.

**Scheduled monument:** Archaeological site, building or structure of national or international importance.

**Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI):** A statutory designation for areas of national importance for flora, fauna (biodiversity), geology or geomorphological features (geodiversity).

**Vacant and Derelict Land:** Land which has previously been developed.

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The Green Network mapping may be updated over the five year life time of this strategy as further information becomes available. For the most up to date green network mapping please see the Green Network Strategy online at: [www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/planning/planning-policy/greenspace](http://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/planning/planning-policy/greenspace)

# An overview

WEST  
HIGHLAND  
WAY

# East Dunbartonshire Green Network Strategy

This Green Network Strategy has been developed by East Dunbartonshire Council in partnership with Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership. It is the first Green Network Strategy covering the East Dunbartonshire area. The strategy sets a framework and a high level direction of travel for realising our ambition for the green network for the next five years and beyond. Green networks cover a variety of issues and the overarching themes of the strategy objectives are relevant across the Council and its partners.

## The Strategy is divided into four parts:

Part 1 provides an introduction to the strategy, its purpose and the benefits we can enjoy from green networks.

Part 2 sets out our ambition, aims and objectives for the green network and the approach taken to develop the strategy and to take forward implementation and its monitoring.

Part 3 explains the existing green network which includes information on the different components that make up the network. There is also a spatial representation of the green network and where we consider the gaps to be.

Part 4 highlights the opportunities for enhancing and improving the existing network and sets out the action programme for the strategy, which is divided into three sections: Supporting, Strategic and Local.

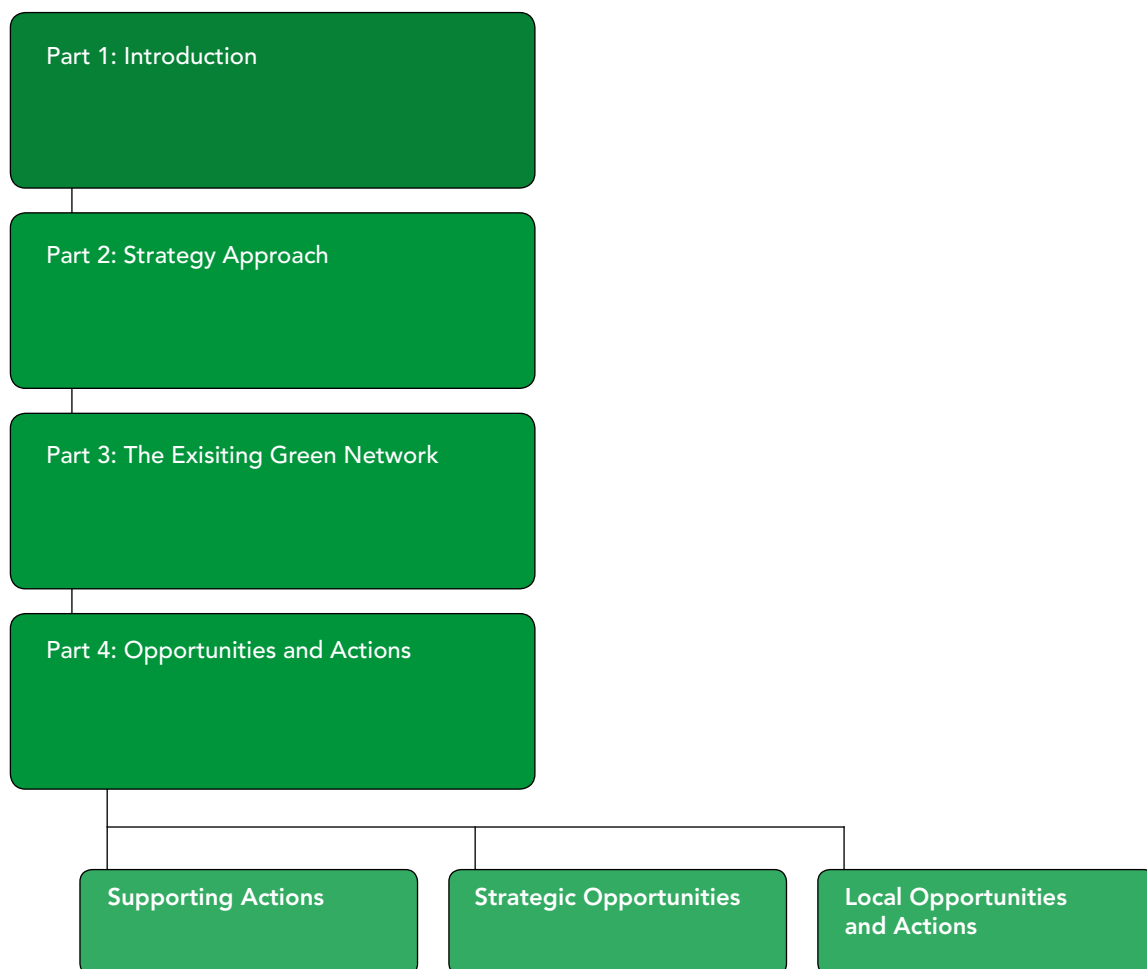
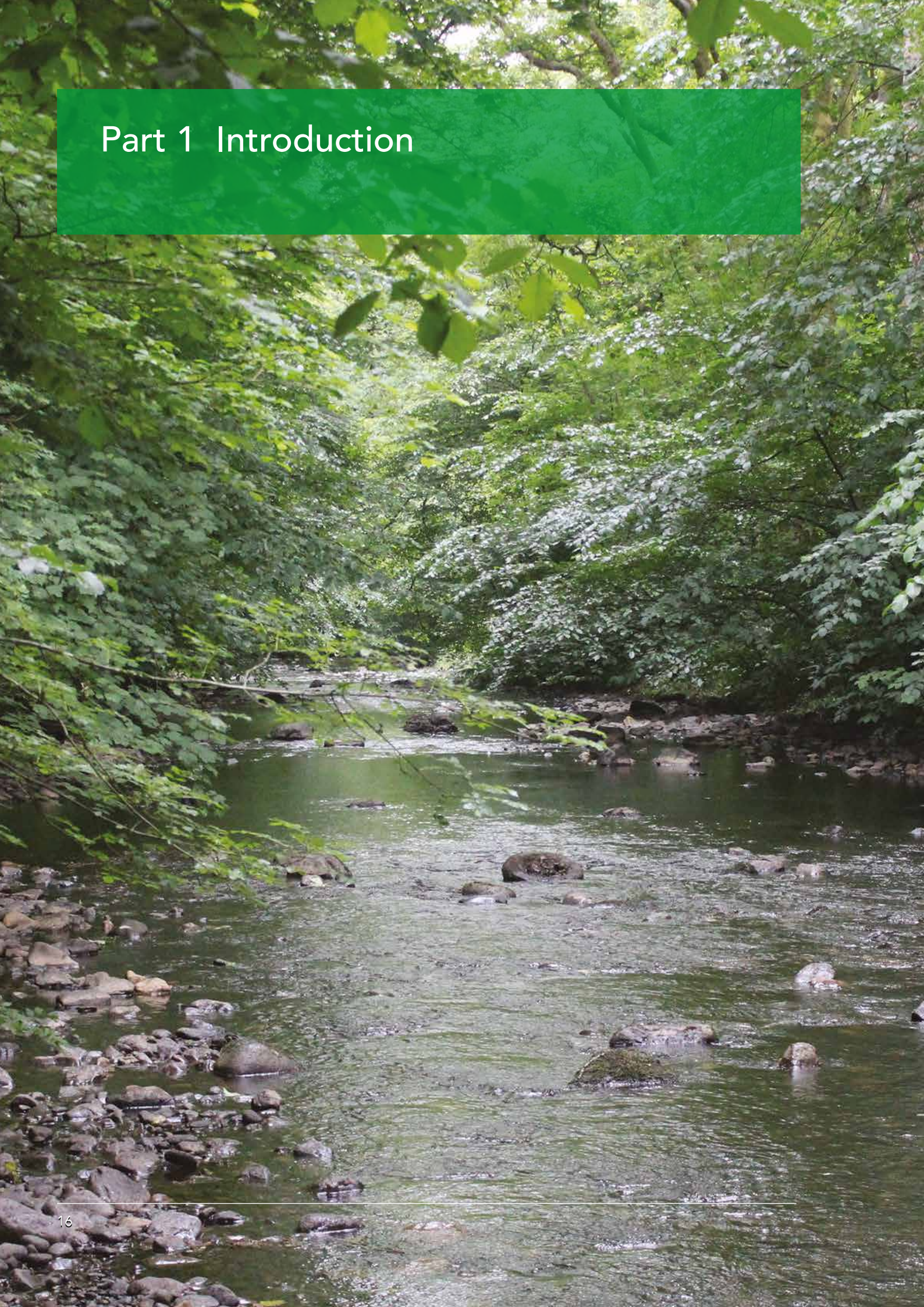


Figure 1: Green Network Strategy Overview

# Part 1 Introduction





## 1.1 Purpose of the Strategy

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The purpose of this strategy is to define and, as far as possible, map the existing green network in East Dunbartonshire. The strategy provides a framework to allow the Council and its partners to access additional funding to deliver the proposed improvements necessary to enhance the network over the next five years to 2022 and beyond. It is hoped the strategy provides a robust evidence base as the platform for which aspirations and opportunities for improving the quality and the connectivity of the green network can be taken forward both on a strategic East Dunbartonshire wide level and on an individual settlement scale.

## 1.2 What is the Green Network?

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Scottish Planning Policy defines the green network as: *'Connected areas of green infrastructure and open space that together form an integrated multi-functional network.'*

It further defines green infrastructure as including: *'the 'green' and 'blue' (water environment) features of the natural and built environments that can provide benefits without being connected. Green features include parks, woodlands, trees, play spaces, allotments, community growing spaces, outdoor sports facilities, churchyards and cemeteries, swales, hedges, verges and gardens. Blue features include rivers, lochs, wetlands, canals, other water courses, ponds, coastal and marine areas including beaches, porous paving and sustainable urban drainage systems'.*

On a physical level the green network encompasses open spaces and natural/semi-natural habitats and how these are connected to each other through our path network and corridors of habitat or greenspace. On a functional level it allows for the movement of species through the landscape via integrated habitat patches and in much the same way it allows for people to travel and commute and to use areas of greenspace for everyday recreational or business activities.

Sometimes this network is referred to as both the green (land) and the blue (water) network, as in the Scottish Planning Policy definition. Within this strategy the term green network encompasses both land and water. Both are interlinked and equally important and so it is easier for the purposes of this strategy to refer to them as part of the same network, the green network.

## 1.3 Benefits of the Green Network

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The benefits of a high quality, functioning green network are far reaching and varied for both people and nature. Investing in our green network can provide benefits to our daily lives now and in the future. Such benefits include:

- > Improving the quality of our surroundings by providing **high quality places** making East Dunbartonshire a more desirable place to live, visit and do business.
- > Improving our physical and mental **health and wellbeing** by encouraging more people to increase their activity levels through improving access to attractive and enjoyable natural spaces which provide opportunities for active travel, play, outdoor sport and recreation, relaxation and reflection.
- > Helping us to **adapt to and mitigate climate** change through natural flood alleviation, carbon sequestration and creating habitat connections to enable wildlife to migrate.
- > **Enhancing biodiversity** by creating and improving habitats for wildlife.
- > Supporting **sustainable economic growth** by providing an attractive setting for investment and a landscape framework for communities and small businesses to grow.
- > Providing inspirational places for outdoor **volunteering, education and training**.
- > Providing an environment for community growing and **local food production**.

## 1.4 Policy Context

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In developing a strategy for East Dunbartonshire's green network it is important to consider the existing policies and strategies that have connections to green network themes and ideals. This not only ensures compatibility and reduces conflict with other plans but is also necessary to provide supporting justification for the delivery and funding of emerging projects within the strategy. Figure 2 shows the various policy and strategy documents relevant to green networks on a national, regional and local level. Further information on each of these is provided in Appendix 1.

East Dunbartonshire is within the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) area. The CSGN is a national development within Scotland's National Planning Framework 3 and extends across 19 local authority areas. CSGN's vision is: *'by 2050, Central Scotland has been transformed into a place where the environment adds value to the economy and where people's lives are enriched by its quality'*.

The Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership (GCVGNP) is a regional component of the CSGN, covering the eight local authorities within the Clyde Valley, including East Dunbartonshire.

The concept of a high quality and multi-functional green network which would deliver the CSGN vision has been an idea within at least regional policies since 2000, when it was first articulated within the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan. This was then subsequently expanded to include the whole of central Scotland as part of what is now the CSGN.

However, in this time there has never been a comprehensive spatial representation of the strategic green network; where it exists and where there are gaps. Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership is seeking to address this with the creation of a Green Network Blueprint for the Glasgow and Clyde Valley region which will also help prioritise delivery of the strategic green network.

The Blueprint will identify strategic centres or nodes across the region for communities (town, village or community centres), for business and retail (large scale employment and shopping centres) and key green network assets (Country and Regional Parks and other large scale attractions for outdoor recreation and experiencing wildlife). As a starting premise the Blueprint will assess the degree to which the green network facilitates the movement of people in safe, off-road routes to these destinations and therefore highlight priorities to target efforts and resources in green network delivery.

The Blueprint for the East Dunbartonshire area is still under development but the information being used for its preparation is based on data from *Map 2: The Strategic Green Network* and *Map 3: Gaps in the Existing Green Network* of this strategy.

A representation of the Green Network Blueprint for East Dunbartonshire and the rest of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley area will be available online once completed. Further information on the Blueprint can be found on the Glasgow Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership's website <http://www.gcvgreennetwork.gov.uk/>



National	Regional	Local
<p>Land Use Strategy</p> <p>National Planning Framework 3</p> <p>Scottish Planning Policy</p>	<p>Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan</p> <p>Clyde and Loch Lomond Flood Risk Management Strategy</p> <p>The Campsies – A Strategic Review and Action Plan</p> <p>Mugdock Country Park Strategy 2015 – 2020</p> <p>Forthcoming Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Blueprint</p>	<p>Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016 – 2019</p> <p>Local Development Plan</p> <p>Open Space Strategy 2015 – 2020</p> <p>Active Travel Strategy 2015 – 2020</p> <p>Sports Pitches Strategy</p> <p>Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2017 – 2021</p> <p>Core Path Plan</p> <p>Draft Economic Development Strategy 2017 – 2021</p> <p>Forthcoming Food Growing Strategy</p>

Figure 2: National, Regional and Local Green Network Policy Context



## Part 2 Strategy approach



The strategy has been in development since 2015 in partnership with the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership (GCVGNP). A Steering Group of council and GCVGNP officers have met at key stages throughout the strategy development to discuss ideas and ensure progression in an agreed direction. The ambition, aims and objectives have been influenced by the surrounding policy context of the strategy as set out in Section 1.4 and Appendix 1. The content of the strategy has been guided by information from a number of sources including technical analysis by GCVGNP, stakeholder workshops, public consultation and Strategic Environmental Assessment.

As part of the strategy development, supporting documents have been produced which provide further detail and technical information.

East Dunbartonshire Urban Opportunities Mapping (2015)

East Dunbartonshire Rural Opportunities Mapping (2016)

Strategic Environmental Assessment – Environment Report (2016)

Review of Important Wildlife Corridors (2016)

Summary of Consultation Responses and Outcomes (2017)

## 2.1 Ambition

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East Dunbartonshire is an attractive place to live, work and visit. Its built and natural environment improves the quality of lives, supports wellbeing and safe active travel, enables sustainable economic growth, improves connectivity and allows nature to flourish.

## 2.2 Aims

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- > To contribute to the delivery of the vision and outcomes of the Central Scotland Green Network and Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership.
- > To identify, protect, enhance and expand the existing green network to realise a range of benefits including improved habitat connectivity, enhanced biodiversity value, improved access to the outdoors and provision for walking and cycling, enhanced health and wellbeing, and adaptation to the effects of climate change.
- > A functioning, productive and well-connected green network is seen as vital to society and the environment, and measures to achieve this are incorporated into Council policies and strategies. The value of the green network is considered in all decision-making.

## 2.3 Objectives

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The objectives have been divided into four themes reflecting the multi-functional nature of the green network and the strategic delivery themes of the CSGN. In order to deliver an effective and functioning green network, objectives under all themes will have to be realised. The actions and projects that form part of this strategy are most successful where they integrate objectives across all four themes. It is not necessary or possible for each individual action or project to deliver on all themes but together the strategy's projects and associated action programmes should deliver cross-cutting benefits across all themes.

### Safeguarding Biodiversity

- > Improve the quality and quantity of habitat connections and prevent further fragmentation
- > Support the delivery of the East Dunbartonshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan and where appropriate take into account the priorities and actions within neighbouring Local Biodiversity Action Plans
- > Promote sustainable land and natural resource management practices that support and enhance biodiversity
- > Promote an understanding of the importance of biodiversity for ecosystem services and to society's health and wellbeing through improved communication and education, and champion it to be accounted for at all levels of Council decision-making processes

### Mitigating and Adapting to a Changing Climate

- > Protect, enhance, create and, where necessary, restore our natural environment to store carbon
- > Support measures within the East Dunbartonshire Active Travel Strategy and emerging Sustainability and Climate Change Framework, and devise new measures, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- > Ensure new developments enhance the existing green network and promote the introduction of green infrastructure
- > Realise opportunities for natural flood management to adapt to the effects of climate change

### Supporting Sustainable Communities

- > Improve safe access to high quality open space and the wider countryside by delivering a more connected network of maintained routes and infrastructure
- > Support development of Long Distance Routes and access to them to help connect East Dunbartonshire to the wider Glasgow and Clyde Valley and Central Scotland Green Network area and to provide connections between communities
- > Support mental and physical health agendas and reduce health inequalities by encouraging outdoor exercise and developing positive associations with nature
- > Build community capacity and an appreciation of the green network by supporting opportunities for participation through volunteering, environmental education, training and skills development

## Supporting a Sustainable Economy

- > Provide attractive surroundings for business, including exploring the potential for green infrastructure and biodiversity-friendly management of open spaces, in order to stimulate economic growth, inward investment and jobs
- > Promote an image of East Dunbartonshire as a place with excellent green assets that together represent a unique destination for tourism and recreational day trips
- > Support the development of local businesses and social enterprise to diversify the economy in line with the forthcoming Economic Development Strategy

## 2.4 Development of the Strategy

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### Stakeholder Workshops

At the early stages of the strategy development stakeholder workshops were held to establish more detail on the existing green network and the needed areas of improvement. A wide range of organisations were represented at the workshops including, East Dunbartonshire Council staff, representatives from adjacent local authorities, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS), Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) and Paths for All. The workshop attendees were split into groups focusing on either access issues or biodiversity and habitat issues reflecting the expertise of the stakeholders present. The results of the workshop and follow-up discussions have informed the projects emerging as part of the action programmes.

A further workshop was held with key stakeholders, similar to those attending previously but also including Scottish Canals and Central Scotland Green Network Trust, following the publication of the draft strategy in August 2016. This largely focussed on the opportunities for the delivery of the strategic green network and results of the workshop will be fed into the action plans to be developed for each of the Strategic Areas set out in Part 4.

### Opportunities Mapping

Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership (GCVGNP) have developed a now established methodology for identifying opportunities for expansion and enhancement of the green network. From the beginning of the strategy development it was expected this Opportunities Mapping approach would form an important basis for the preparation of this strategy. However, the data used in the original methodology was intended to identify urban green network opportunities only. Given the geographical context of East Dunbartonshire and the aspirations for the strategy it was clear from the outset the strategy needed to take a new and innovative approach in order to not only capture the opportunities for green network improvements within urban areas but to also be able to capitalise on the potential of the rural environment to deliver green network benefits. It was therefore necessary to develop an additional methodology, specifically for this strategy, for capturing rural opportunities which also emphasised the strategic, cross-boundary opportunities within these areas.

The two Opportunities Mapping exercises are explained in further detail in Appendix 2.

### Strategic Environmental Assessment

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been carried out on the strategy and the process has informed the strategy development at all key stages, in particular by improving the aims and objectives of the strategy and in the development of the local actions and opportunities.

## Public Consultation on the draft Green Network Strategy

A six week public consultation on the draft Green Network Strategy was conducted from 1 August – 12 September 2016, which included three community drop-in sessions. A summary of the consultation responses and outcomes is provided online in a separate document.

The content of the draft strategy was also discussed at the Mugdock Country Park Joint Management Committee on 8 November 2016 and at the Outdoor Access Forum on 23rd January 2017.

## 2.5 Partnership Working

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Working in partnership with other organisations will be vital for the delivery of the strategy's findings. Key organisations include Central Scotland Green Network Trust (CSGNT), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS), Scottish Canals, Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT), community groups including community councils, landowners and neighbouring local authorities. It is also important the actions within this strategy align with those within other local strategies, in particular the Active Travel Strategy 2015 – 2020, the Open Space Strategy 2015 – 2020, the Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2017 – 2021 and the draft Economic Development Strategy 2017 – 2022, all of which have their own set of partner organisations.

### Glasgow Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership

The strategy itself has been developed in partnership with the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership (GCVGNP) with the partnership staff providing expertise on the Opportunities Mapping exercises which together with the stakeholder workshops and public consultation provided direction and rationale for the strategy. We will continue to work with GCVGNP in the delivery of the forthcoming Green Network Blueprint which will overlap with opportunities within the five Strategic Areas and the development of the action programmes for these.

### Mugdock Country Park

Mugdock Country Park lies within both the East Dunbartonshire and Stirling Council areas and is jointly managed by both local authorities through the Mugdock Park Joint Management Committee. The park was identified as an important part of the green network for East Dunbartonshire residents early on in the strategy development and the whole park has therefore been included within the scope of the strategy. Those parts of the strategy relating to Mugdock Park have been developed in collaboration with park staff and we have included the park within an East Dunbartonshire and Mugdock Park boundary on all relevant maps. We will continue to work with the park staff and joint management committee through the development of the strategic action programme and its implementation.

## 2.6 Funding

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It is anticipated a number of different funding sources will potentially be available for the delivery of the strategy and working closely with partners, local communities and landowners will be an essential element in the success of gaining funding. Local councils and other public sector organisations are experiencing unprecedented and challenging reductions in their finances yet this cannot be a reason to degrade our ambition and what we expect to achieve for the people and environment of East Dunbartonshire.

The green network cuts across a number of themes and areas of work the Council is already committed to. These include those of a statutory nature such as for furthering the conservation of biodiversity under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 and for mitigating and adapting to climate change under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. Delivery of this strategy should therefore align with these existing agendas and where possible help inform the prioritisation and targeting of efforts and resources. It will be necessary to provide capital funds for the delivery of the strategy to act as match funding for grants, to create leverage to bring in external funding and to potentially deliver those aspects of the strategy where no funding streams are available.



The strong, evidenced based foundation in this strategy can be used in applications for external funding. Sources of external funding include Heritage Lottery Fund, Water Environment Fund, Scottish Rural Development Programme and ERDF Green Infrastructure Fund. In addition, the planning system will be an important means of realising the aims and objectives of the strategy and the Local Development Plan Supplementary Guidance on developer contributions sets out the contributions expected from developers to the green network, including, where appropriate, financial contributions. The forthcoming Green Infrastructure and Green Network Supplementary Guidance will help provide direction and prioritisation based on this strategy as to how development can contribute to green network delivery both on and off site.

## 2.7 Implementation and Monitoring

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The implementation of the strategy is linked to the allocation of council resources, successful applications for funding, the establishment of positive partnerships with other organisations and local communities and aligning green network actions with existing resources, commitments and statutory duties.

There are a number of variables that can affect project delivery, particularly in the delivery of large scale partnership projects.

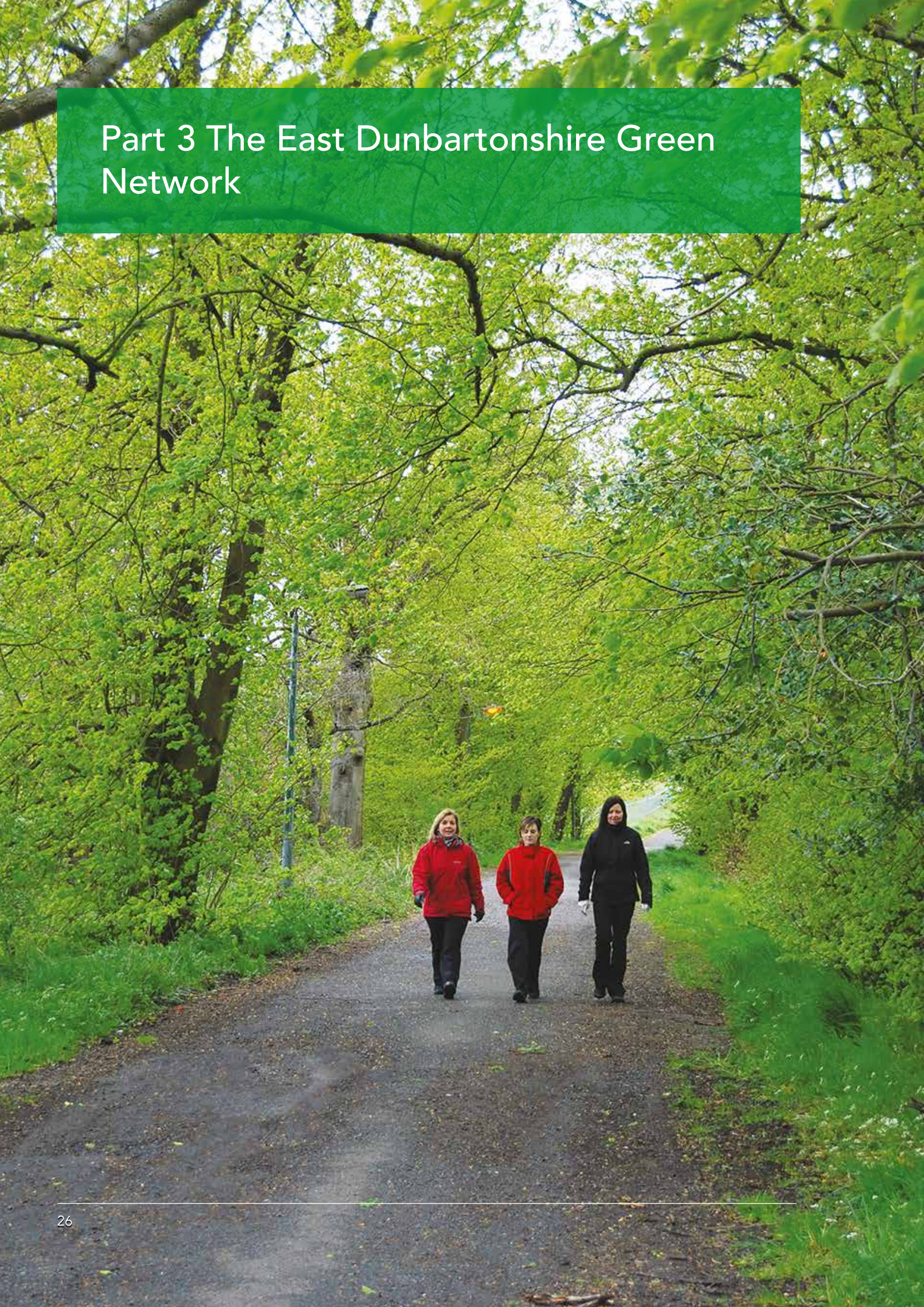
Given the overlap and synergies with other areas of Council work the monitoring for this strategy can draw on the monitoring work of the other strategies it interlinks with such as the Open Space Strategy, Active Travel Strategy, Local Biodiversity Action Plan, Local Development Plan and the Economic Development Strategy. However, a separate monitoring framework will be required to ensure accountability for additional local actions and for the five strategic areas. Annual monitoring reports will be produced as part of this and presented to the relevant Council Committee. Together with producing an overview of green network delivery across the Council, these annual reports will provide the opportunity to introduce new commitments or priorities in response to external circumstances such as funding, partner capacity or new data.

### Green Network Indicator

To support the monitoring framework it is the intention of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership to develop a Green Network Indicator for East Dunbartonshire based on an existing approach already adopted by other local authorities. The green network indicator was originally developed as a key measurable for Single Outcome Agreements. It provides a baseline and measurable metric to evaluate progress towards delivery of a comprehensive, functional green network which offers multiple benefits to the people and wildlife of East Dunbartonshire. This indicator, in addition to being useful for monitoring the success of delivering the objectives of this strategy, could also be used for a broader assessment of the area and how the Council and its partners are delivering the national green network vision. It can also be used to assess the positive or negative impacts of proposed developments, land use change or projects.

The Central Scotland Green Network is included in the National Planning Framework as a National Development in recognition of the multiple social, health, environmental and economic benefits it can deliver. It is therefore proposed the indicator, once produced by GCVGNP, will be included within the next available review of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP), making a valuable addition to the current suite of indicators.

# Part 3 The East Dunbartonshire Green Network



This part of the strategy describes the components that together form the green network in East Dunbartonshire. A spatial representation of these is provided, together with, from our analysis and consultation, where we consider there to be gaps in the network which need to be addressed.

### 3.1 Existing Green Network in East Dunbartonshire

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The green network as it currently exists can be thought of as having a series of key components consisting of nodes of greenspace, geological features and habitat such as parks, sites of special scientific interest or local nature reserves connected by linkages and access routes such as core paths, rights of way and linear stretches of habitat including watercourses, hedgerows or vegetated road and rail verges. Figure 3 depicts the various components that together make up the green network. Nodes are shown in green, access linkages in orange and habitat links in purple. Refer to Map 1 at the back of the document for a spatial representation of these components.



Figure 3: Green Network Components

The green network components can also be split into Strategic and Local elements depending on their location and size.

Although this strategy is for East Dunbartonshire the green network does not stop at our council boundary. Those elements of the green network that are cross-boundary, link settlement areas within East Dunbartonshire or are of a size and scale to attract visitors from throughout the council area and beyond are termed the **Strategic Green Network**. This strategic network consists of larger areas of greenspace, mostly within the rural environment, open countryside, cross-boundary habitat corridors, the upland areas of the Campsie Fells and Kilpatrick Hills and the long distance path network. It can also include areas for natural flood alleviation, which can reduce flood risk in adjacent local authority areas, such as Glasgow.

The **Local Green Network** is located mainly within the urban environment and consists of the greenspace and path networks that people use when making local journeys or in their everyday lives for activities such as sports, recreation and relaxation. These spaces and connections are important to people that live near them but it is unlikely people will travel any great distance to use them. These spaces also provide habitat to species tolerant of an urban setting (this can include a great number of species and is not necessarily confined to the common and widespread) and attractive surroundings in which to live. They also provide opportunities for climate change mitigation and adaptation, such as shelter, shading and sustainable drainage systems.

It is possible for some assets to be of importance on both the Strategic and Local scale.



## 3.2 Strategic Green Network

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The existing strategic green network in East Dunbartonshire, as shown in Map 2, is composed of the following:

### Green Network Assets

These are large green network nodes which have the potential to or already do draw in people from all over East Dunbartonshire and potentially beyond. Their size also makes it possible for them to sustain species populations regardless of connectivity to the wider habitat network. The following sites are considered to be strategic green network assets: Mugdock Country Park, Milngavie Reservoirs, Lennox Forest, Barhill, the Campsie Fells and the Kilpatrick Hills.

### Mugdock Country Park

Although mainly within the Stirling Council area Mugdock Country Park is managed jointly by East Dunbartonshire and Stirling Councils. The park is an important recreational asset for East Dunbartonshire and at 250ha in size is an extremely valuable area of semi-natural habitat.

The park lies to the north west of East Dunbartonshire, directly north of the town of Milngavie. Part of the West Highland Way, starting in Milngavie town centre, passes through the park and provides a sign posted walking route to the park.

The management of the park encompasses a multi-functional approach, combining protection and enhancement of the natural habitat, environmental education and volunteering, provision of outdoor education and opportunities for business and sustainable economic development. It therefore presents an important opportunity to become an exemplar green network asset.



## Milngavie Reservoirs

Mugdock and Craigmaddie Reservoirs together make up this site. The reservoirs are owned and managed by Scottish Water, who have produced a Conservation and Recreation Management Plan for the site. The reservoirs represent an outstanding example of Victorian municipal engineering and therefore have significant cultural significance as well as continuing to fulfil their function of supplying water to much of the greater Glasgow area. They are also designated as Local Nature Conservation Sites within the Local Development Plan. The site is a popular recreation destination with a variety of circular route options; the paths around each reservoir are about 2.5km, and are accessible from the population centres of Milngavie and Bearsden. The local community have expressed an interest in working in partnership with Scottish Water to help implement the management plan for the site and have set up a Friends of Milngavie Reservoirs community group.



## Lennox Forest and Barhill

These areas are both owned and managed by Forestry Commission Scotland. Although they are working commercial forestry sites their size (together nearly 400ha) makes them important assets within the green network. The sites are both currently well used for recreational purposes and are also designated Local Nature Conservation Sites. Together they represent a large proportion of the established woodland within the East Dunbartonshire area.

Barhill lies to the south of the River Kelvin and Forth and Clyde Canal between the villages of Twechar and Kilsyth in North Lanarkshire. The site comprises cultural heritage features with part of the Antonine Wall, Military Way and the Roman Fort of Bar Hill. The Forth and Clyde Canal and John Muir Way present an excellent walking route, giving people the opportunity to travel sustainably to the site. Access directly to the site for cyclists and horse riders is less well developed.

Lennox Forest is situated in central East Dunbartonshire to the west of Lennoxton. It is mainly coniferous plantation with some patches of broadleaved woodland to the east. The John Muir Way passes along the northern border of the forest and a number of core paths pass through the site.

## Campsie Fells and Kilpatrick Hills

The Campsie Fells lie to the north of East Dunbartonshire and a small portion of the Kilpatrick Hills lie within the north western boundary of the area. These upland areas provide a visually appealing landscape fringe. Access to these areas, in particular the Campsie Fells is an important aspect of the green network in East Dunbartonshire. The Campsie Fells provide a great opportunity for recreation and environmental education, for biodiversity to flourish, to mitigate climate change and to develop a sustainable tourist industry. However, for this to be realised a co-ordinated approach to sustainable management is required involving local people and landowners in decision-making.

## Strategic Access Corridors

The development of a National Walking and Cycling Network throughout Scotland is highlighted by the Scottish Government as a national development within the National Planning Framework. The development of a strategic network of well maintained long distance paths and trails through Scotland is intended to enhance visitor and recreation experiences for all users, as well as supporting active travel and improving health and wellbeing. Together with regional routes such as the Allander Way, these Long Distance Routes (LDR) form an important part of East Dunbartonshire's green network. Sections of some routes may also be important on a local scale such as the Forth and Clyde Canal as it passes through Kirkintilloch and Bishopbriggs. Ensuring these strategic access corridors are easily accessible from settlement areas and are well maintained is a key element of successfully delivering the strategic green network.

## Long Distance Routes

The John Muir Way (also part of the Strathkelvin Railway Path), Forth and Clyde Canal towpath and the West Highland Way are three existing LDRs within the National Walking and Cycling Network. They form significant green network spines through East Dunbartonshire and across Scotland. The cross-boundary nature of the routes, linking with Glasgow, Loch Lomond and North Lanarkshire, mean they have the potential to bring tourists through the area.

## Regional Routes

The Allander Way, Strathkelvin Railway Path and Clyde Coastal Path also provide important access corridors for shorter journeys within the East Dunbartonshire region and beyond. The Strathkelvin Railway Path can take users into North Lanarkshire, the Allander Way has the potential to link into Glasgow's west end via the River Kelvin Way and the Clyde Coastal Path connects to West Dunbartonshire. There are issues currently around the quality of the path network at the confluence with the River Kelvin limiting the Allander Way's current use to more local users within Milngavie and Bearsden.

## Strategic Habitat Corridors

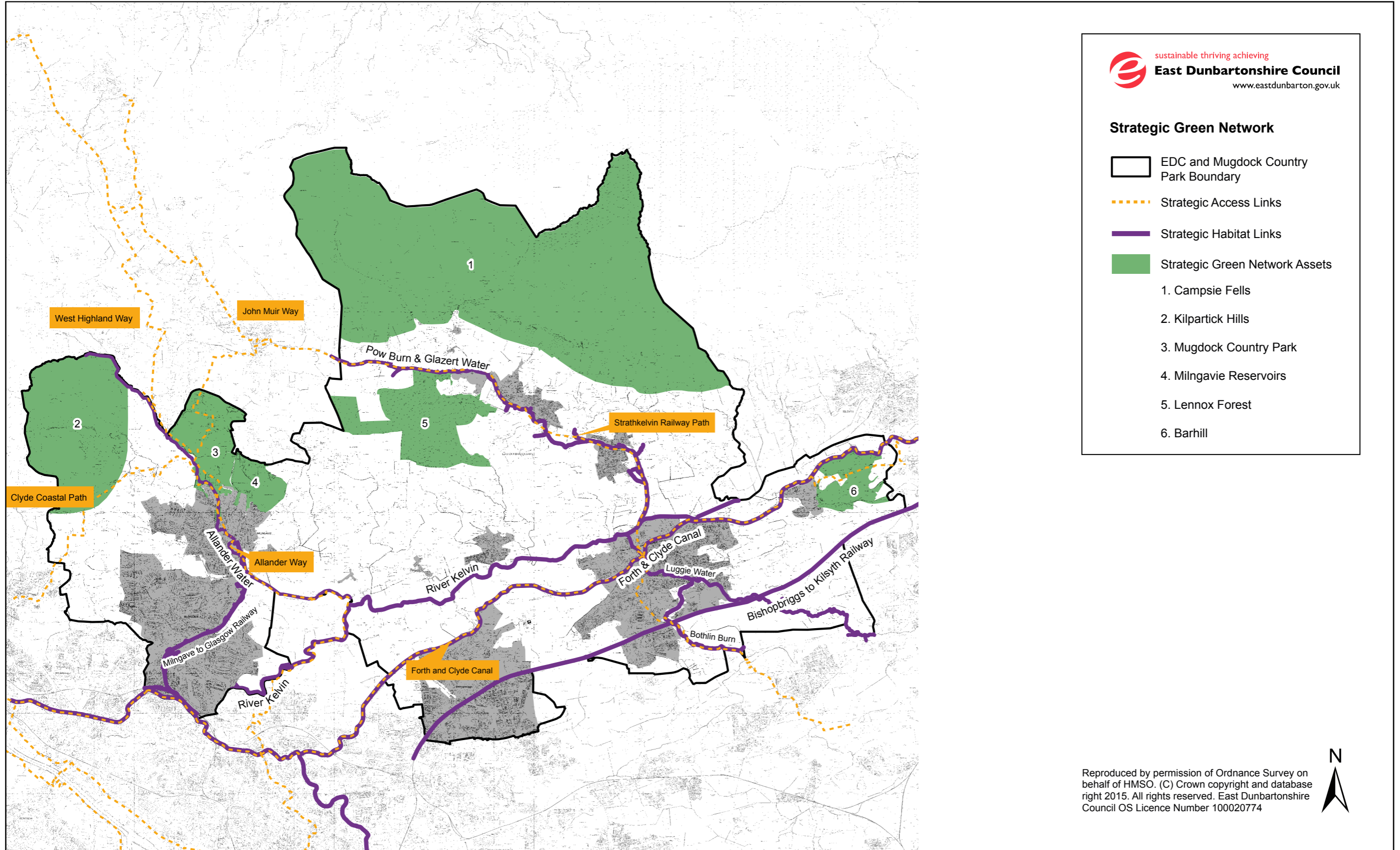
Wildlife corridors such as rivers and burns, or railways, are defined as linear features with continuous habitat. These are particularly important for the movement of many species that may be less mobile or intolerant of agricultural or developed land such as arable fields or urban development. The strategic habitat corridors are important for their linkage value to the wider environment, although some are also important for their intrinsic ecological value. Within East Dunbartonshire these corridors mainly follow the main watercourses (River Kelvin, Forth and Clyde Canal, Allander Water, Glazert Water, Luggie Water and Bothlin Burn) and railway corridors (main Glasgow to Edinburgh line and Glasgow to Milngavie line) which continue outside the council area. Railways in particular can provide important undisturbed routes for wildlife to move between larger patches of habitat.

The strategic habitat corridors are all to be designated as Local Nature Conservation Sites. There are a number of additional habitat corridors which were previously designated as Important Wildlife Corridors within the Council's Local Plan 2. These however were removed in the Local Development Plan but many have been included within this strategy as part of the green network following an independent review. Further field work is required to refine the boundaries of these habitat links and they are shown as indicative on the strategy maps.

Habitat fragmentation and isolation is considered to be a primary cause of biodiversity loss and the protection and enhancement of habitat corridors can aid in the reversal of the effects of habitat fragmentation on biodiversity. However habitat corridors are not necessarily of value to all wildlife. While a broad band of similar habitat may facilitate the movement of some species, each species has its own habitat requirements. An essential habitat to one species may be an impassable barrier to another, for example a river. Actions within the Local Biodiversity Action Plan will seek to enhance the function of key habitat corridors for the movement of species.



Map 2: The Strategic Green Network





### 3.3 Gaps in the existing network

The depiction of the existing components of the green network in Map 1 does not take account of how well these components function individually or together as a connected network. For example the depiction of habitat corridors does not identify which species may use them or how effective they may be at facilitating migration. It was therefore necessary to identify physical gaps and issues of quality within the existing components of the green network. This was achieved through the information gathered from stakeholder workshops, public consultation and analysis of information from a variety of sources such as the Open Space Audit, Local Nature Conservation Site Review, Active Travel Strategy, River Basin Management Plan for Scotland and Integrated Habitat Network data from Scottish Natural Heritage. These gaps impede the functionality of the components to act as a green network and it is these issues that the strategy primarily seeks to address.

Map 3 depicts where there are known gaps and issues of quality within the green network and these are listed and described in Table 1. Map 3 can be found at the back of the document. It should be acknowledged these gaps are based on the most up-to-date information available at the time of writing the strategy. During the five year timeframe of the strategy some of this information will be reviewed and updated through existing mechanisms – for example the Open Space Audit is repeated every five years with the next audit due in 2020. In addition as part of this strategy we will also be improving gaps in our knowledge where specific data gaps have been identified, such as for LNCS quality and grassland habitat data, to inform development of future strategies. Further details can be found in Section 4.1 Supporting Actions. It is anticipated Map 3 could become a dynamic depiction of the gaps in the green network, changing as improvements are made and additional gaps are identified, and used as a tool for monitoring the broad quality and functionality of the green network.

Table 1: Identified gaps within the green network

Gap #	Location	Description
1	Craigton/Kilpatrick Hills	Cross-boundary connection to West Dunbartonshire
2	Mugdock/Milngavie	Sustainable access to Mugdock Country Park from Milngavie
3	Lennoxton/ Lennox Forest/Mugdock	Access from Lennoxton via Lennox Forest to Mugdock
4	Allander/Kelvin confluence	Poor quality cross-boundary connection to Glasgow and lack of footbridge to connect Kelvin and Allander Ways
5	Central East Dunbartonshire	North/south connections linking Lennoxton to Bishopbriggs via Torrance
6	Clachan of Campsie/ Campsie Glen	Enhanced access via Clachan of Campsie to Campsie Glen and wider Campsie Fells
7	Lennoxton/ Campsie Fells	Enhanced access to Campsie Fells via Lennoxton
8	Milton of Campsie/ Campsie Fells	Enhanced access to Campsie Fells via Milton of Campsie
9	Campsie Road/Torrance	Missing access link
10	Birdston/Twechar/Kilsyth	Missing access link
11	Bishopbriggs/Lenzie	Missing access link
12	Twechar/Barhill/ North Lanarkshire	Enhanced access to World Heritage Site and Strategic Green Network Asset and cross-boundary links to North Lanarkshire
13	Milngavie Reservoirs /Baldernock	Missing access link

## Part 4 Opportunities and Priorities



The following three sections of the strategy set out the opportunities and actions for delivery of the green network. These are divided into Supporting Actions, Strategic Opportunities and Local Opportunities and Actions.

Opportunities represent areas where we have identified there is potential for green network delivery. However, either more work is required to develop this potential further through feasibility studies, engaging with landowners, developing partnerships and seeking external funding, or the potential is reliant on factors external to the Council, such as timings for development or the aspirations of local community groups.

Actions represent those changes for which Council or partner resources are either committed or there is a clear approach to acquiring external funding.

## 4.1 Supporting Actions

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Table 2 provides the Supporting Actions. These represent the actions which are required to achieve appropriate monitoring of the strategy, including development of a green network indicator, and to fill the data and knowledge gaps identified through the development of the strategy.

Table 2: Green Network Strategy Supporting Actions

Ref	Action	Delivery	Timescale
SA1	Continue to work with GCVGNP to develop the Green Network Blueprint for East Dunbartonshire	GCVGNP, East Dunbartonshire Council (Land Planning and Development)	2017
SA2	Develop a rolling programme of re-survey for existing LNCS sites to ensure data is no more than five years old and assess proposed new LNCS as they are identified.	East Dunbartonshire Council (Land Planning and Development)	Survey programme set up 2017 – 2018. Ongoing thereafter.
SA3	Develop a monitoring framework incorporating local and strategic green network actions	East Dunbartonshire Council (Sustainability Policy)	Local 2017 – 2018 Strategic 2018 – 2019
SA4	Develop a green network indicator for inclusion in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan	East Dunbartonshire Council (Sustainability Policy), Community Planning Partnership, GCVGNP	LOIP time scale
SA5	Work with partner organisations to develop action programmes for the five Strategic Areas	East Dunbartonshire Council (Sustainability Policy) with input from all partners	2017 – 2019
SA6	Conduct ecological surveys to further refine boundaries of habitat corridors and collate data on quality	East Dunbartonshire Council (Sustainability Policy)	2018 – 2020
SA7	Collate grassland habitat data for East Dunbartonshire and where necessary conduct further survey work to fill gaps, to ensure a more accurate analysis for future opportunities mapping exercises	East Dunbartonshire Council (Sustainability Policy, Streetscene Technical Support), Scottish Natural Heritage	2019 – 2021

## 4.2 Strategic Green Network Opportunities

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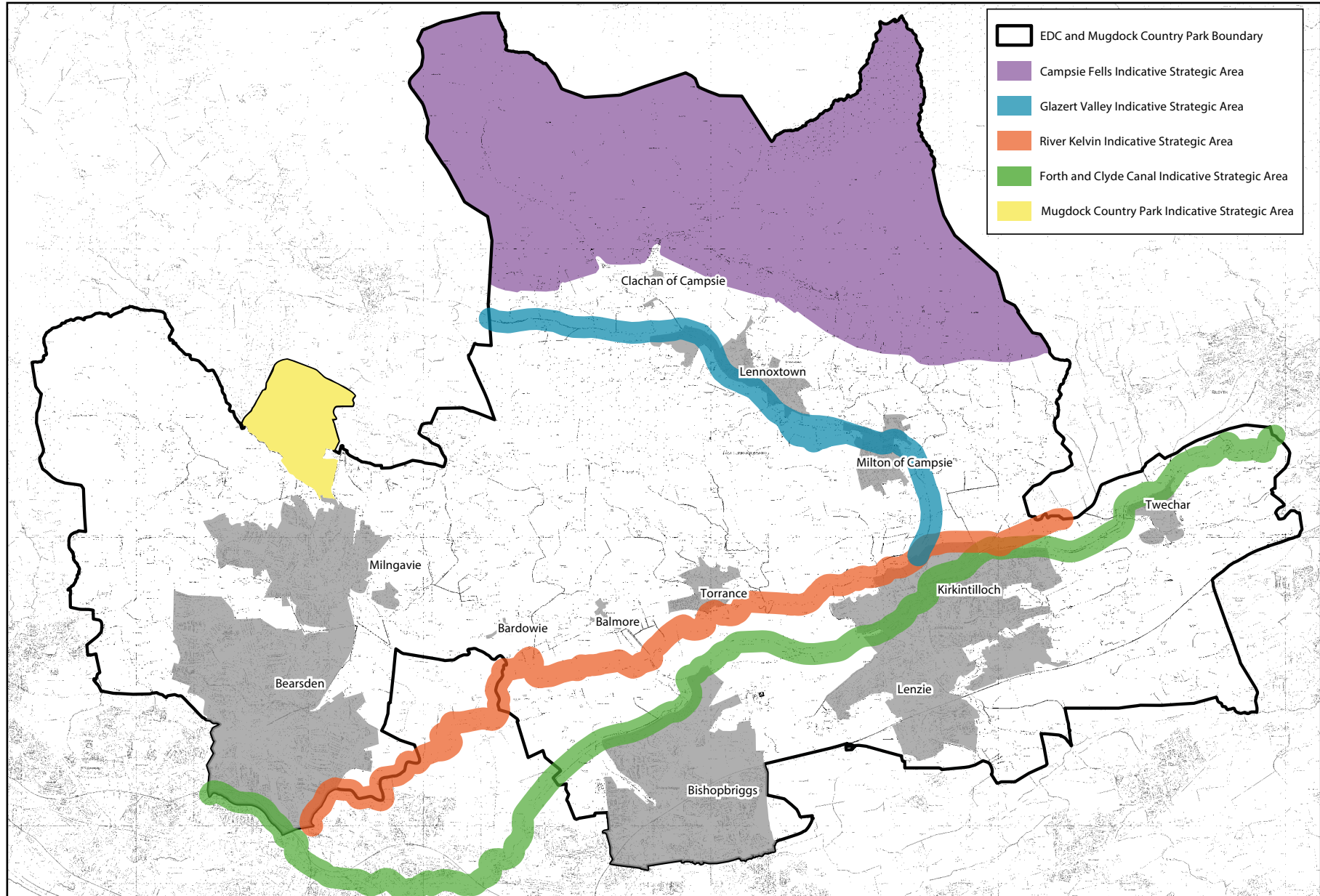
This section describes the areas within East Dunbartonshire where there are opportunities to make improvements to the Strategic Green Network (see Map 2 for components). These are areas where large scale intervention would deliver on all objectives of the green network (Safeguarding Biodiversity, Mitigating and Adapting to a Changing Climate, Supporting Sustainable Communities and Supporting a Sustainable Economy). The projects and ideas described in this section are long term aspirations and it is recognised that this strategy will make an important contribution to the early stages of their delivery.

There are five Strategic Areas identified through the strategy development which have been taken forward for inclusion in the strategy. These five areas are the Campsie Fells, Glazert Valley, River Kelvin, the Forth and Clyde Canal and Mugdock Country Park. Map 4 depicts these areas. The Rural Opportunities Mapping, specifically the gaps in the network which it identified, and stakeholder workshops have provided the background and rationale for the selection of these five areas.

In the following sections, the green network context of each Strategic Area and the opportunities we would like to explore are depicted via maps and artist's impressions. These are indicative at this stage as there is a need to carry out feasibility studies for the opportunities identified in these areas before more detailed projects can be developed and taken forward. It is anticipated once feasibility studies have been carried out a programme of working with partners, engaging landowners and local communities and seeking funding can begin before moving to implementation. Action programmes will be developed for each area to sit alongside this strategy document to guide the delivery of the Strategic Areas and complement the Local Green Network Opportunities and Actions (Section 4.3).



Map 4: Green Network Strategic Areas



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## The Campsie Fells

The Campsie Fells are a key strategic green network asset for East Dunbartonshire. They are visible from all across the area and are of cultural, landscape and natural heritage significance to those who live here. They are recognised as a Local Landscape Area with special landscape qualities including the distinctive landform of the Campsie Fault, striking views and diversity of landscape experience.

The Campsie Fells provide a whole variety of ecosystem services including a sense of place, a resource for outdoor recreational pursuits, employment opportunities, flood protection, carbon sequestration and habitat for biodiversity. The *Campsie Fells Strategic Review and Action Plan 2011* establishes good baseline information for the Campsie Fells, but also highlights gaps – particularly for data on the quality of habitats and the access network of the hills. This strategic review covered the whole of the Campsie Fells, which extends over three local authority areas: East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and Stirling. Much of the content of the review and action plan are still relevant and together with this strategy can help inform green network projects for the Campsie Fells going forward.

Action to fill the gaps within baseline information will be necessary before a larger scale project can be fully developed. It is apparent the Campsie Fells have the potential to be utilised much more and it is important to begin to gather initial ideas as to how this can be improved. Work has already started to improve our knowledge of the areas of peatland on the Campsie Fells, with a study carried out in 2016 to ascertain the extent and quality of the peatland on the hills. This study also provided suggestions for areas to focus on for restoration works.

Peatlands have an enormous potential to limit and reduce the impacts of climate change through carbon sequestration and retaining water – thereby reducing the risk of flooding. Peatlands are also home to unique and interesting wildlife. However, these habitats can only realise their potential if they are functioning and healthy. The degraded peatland areas on the Campsie Fells therefore provide an excellent opportunity to meet green network benefits through a programme of restoration.

As part of any green network projects within the Campsie Fells it is important to maximise the benefits to the neighbouring villages. Further promotion of the area for recreational and countryside pursuits such as walking, cycling and horse riding can be complemented by and contribute to the local economy, particularly where support is provided for the development of local businesses to take advantage of visitors to the area – for example through provision of cafes, bike-hire facilities or other local leisure amenities and stable facilities for horse riders.

Figure 4 shows the four green network objective themes under which improvement projects are necessary. It will be necessary to integrate actions within these four areas and they would need to be taken forward as a whole package given the dependencies and linkages they all have to one another.

Safeguarding Biodiversity	Mitigating and Adapting to a Changing Climate	Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
<p>A better understanding of the habitats and species present</p> <p>Conservation and enhancement of the landscape, habitats, species and geological features of the Campsie Fells</p>	<p>Sustainable development of future visitor activity and management</p> <p>Building the capacity and resilience of the environment to cope with change and extreme weather events through peatland restoration</p>	<p>Improving the movement of people around the Campsie Fells and promoting responsible access by all</p> <p>Responsible enjoyment and understanding of the Campsie Fells</p>	<p>Delivery of promotional activity to enhance public awareness, enjoyment and education of the Campsie Fells</p> <p>Support for the local economy to bring benefits to the local residents and businesses</p> <p>Development of neighbouring villages as gateways to the Campsie Fells</p>

Figure 4: Green network themes and opportunities at the Campsie Fells





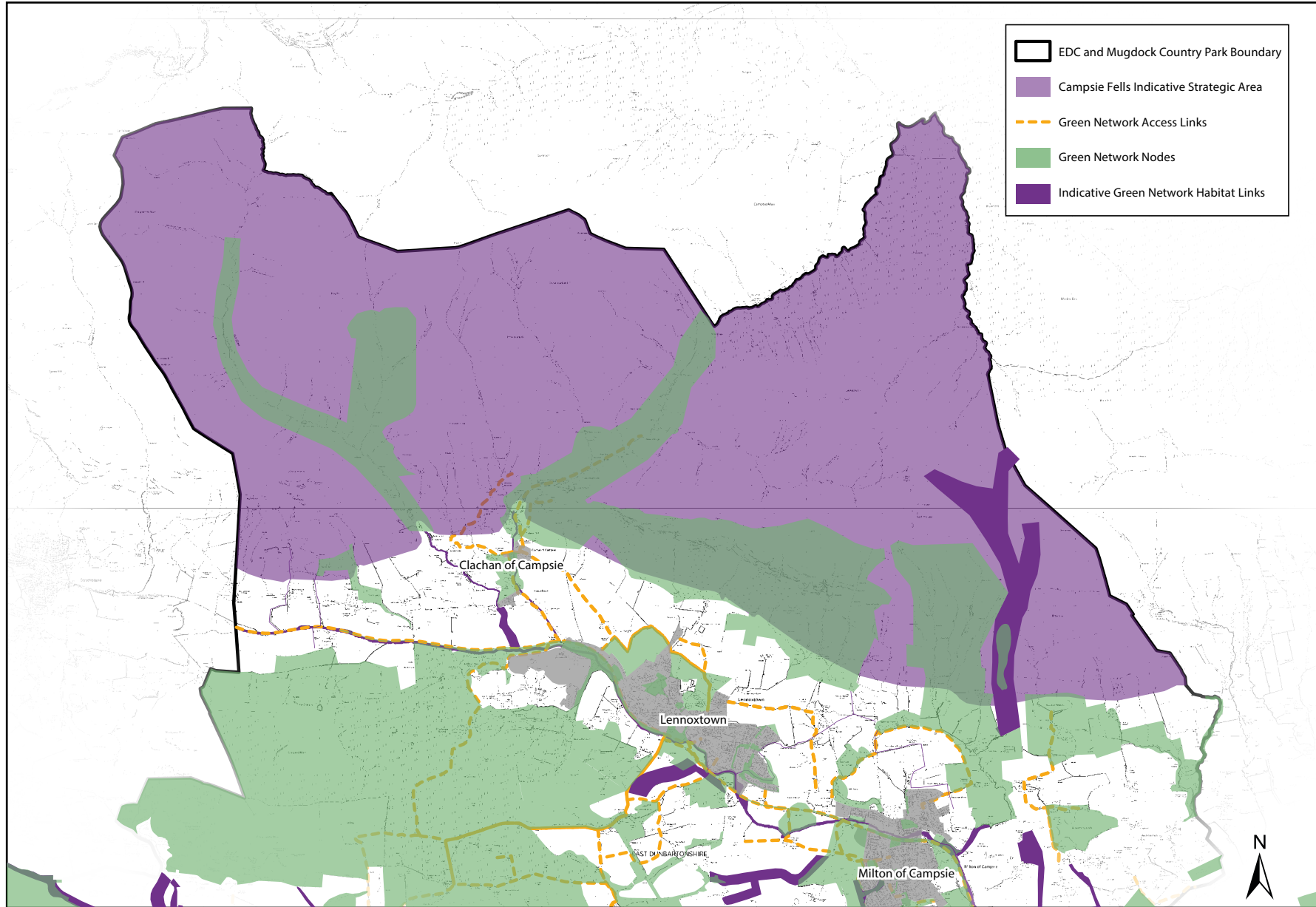
#### **What we want to achieve for the Campsie Fells:**

- > The Campsie Fells are promoted as a recreational, countryside asset bringing environmental and economic benefits to neighbouring villages and East Dunbartonshire as a whole
- > The habitats and wildlife value of the Campsie Fells are understood and projects are underway to restore and enhance their ecological function and resilience to a changing climate
- > Access is responsible and use sustainable – ensuring there are no detrimental effects to the environment

#### **Potential Partners and Stakeholders**

- > Stirling Council
- > North Lanarkshire Council
- > Local community groups in Clachan of Campsie, Lennoxton and Milton of Campsie
- > Local businesses
- > Forestry Commission Scotland
- > Scottish Natural Heritage
- > Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- > Landowners

Map 5: Campsie Fells Strategic Area



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Map 6: Campsie Fells Strategic Opportunities


# Campsie Fells

What could happen next?


Opportunities for:

 Landscape scale biodiversity improvements


 Access improvements

 Environmental education

 Walking and recreation

 Cycling and active travel

 Economic growth and local business

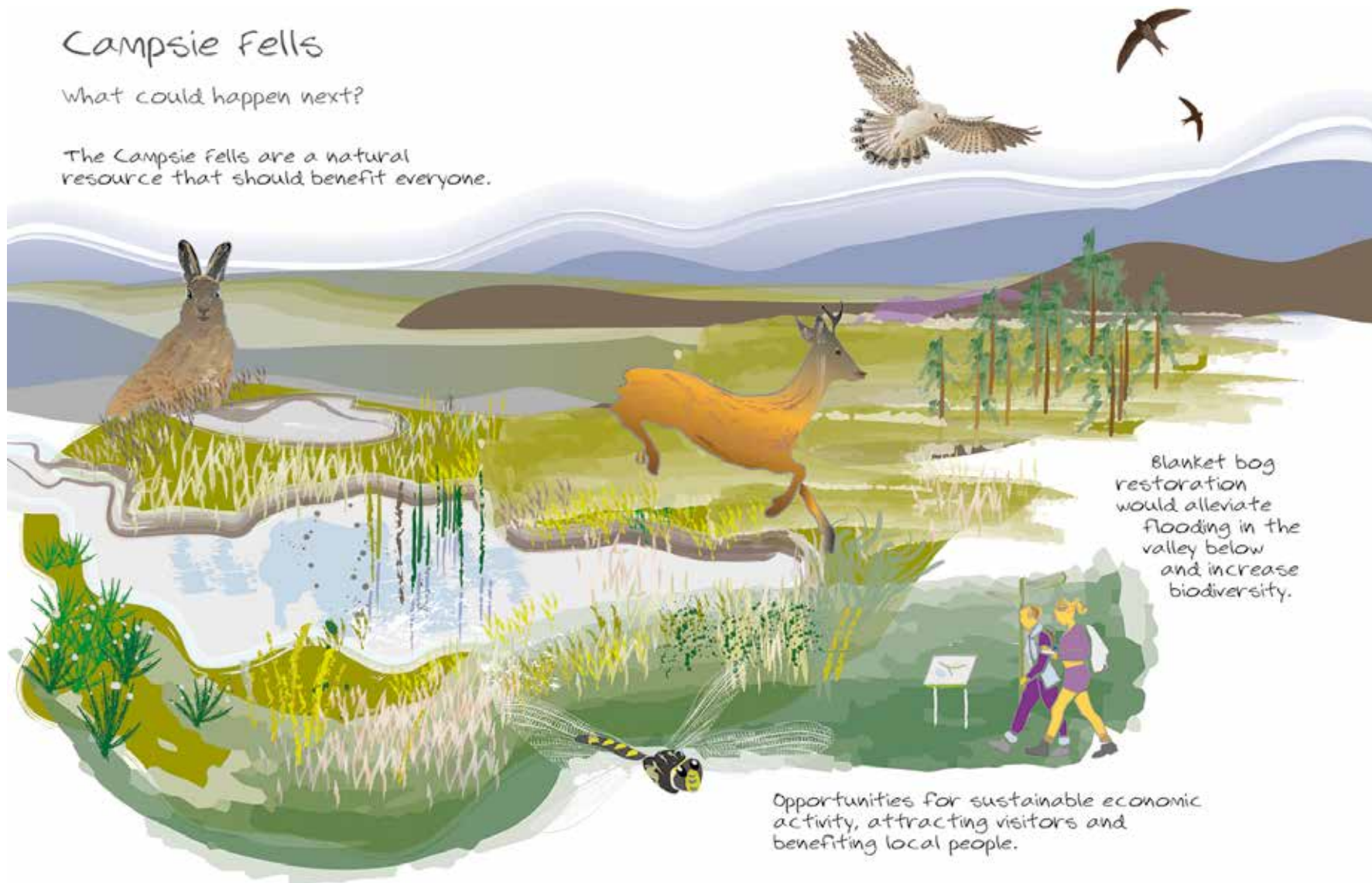
 Other leisure amenities



# Campsie Fells

What could happen next?

The Campsie Fells are a natural resource that should benefit everyone.



Blanket bog restoration would alleviate flooding in the valley below and increase biodiversity.

Opportunities for sustainable economic activity, attracting visitors and benefiting local people.

Figure 5: Campsie Fells – What Could Happen Next?

## The Glazert Valley

The Glazert Valley contains the Glazert Water and part of the John Muir Way (locally called the Strathkelvin Railway Path) which are both of strategic importance to East Dunbartonshire’s green network (see Map 2). The Glazert Water rises in the Campsie Fells, and is a major tributary of the River Kelvin. Historically the valley has played an important role in the agricultural and industrial history of the area, particularly within the villages of Lennoxton and Milton of Campsie. As part of past agricultural works and development on the floodplain, much of this land was drained and the main channel of the river has become straightened and constrained within artificial embankments. These past actions have resulted in the river becoming disconnected from its floodplain, with communities now reliant on unsustainable flood embankments. The degradation of natural habitat has also meant the value of the area for biodiversity, recreation, angling and tourism, and its contribution to climate change resilience, are all somewhat reduced.

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) have conducted a number of studies, including a river basin management planning and flood risk management pilot study, and engaged with adjacent land owners to develop projects to reinstate the channel of the river and its floodplains to a more natural state. This includes re-meandering sections of the river at Birdston, removing artificial embankments to allow the river to flood onto natural floodplains at time of peak flow, removal of barriers to the passage of migratory fish and measures to improve riparian woodland and/or create wetland habitat. Implementation of these projects is subject to funding and further land owner engagement. From a green network point of view, it is important the multiple benefits of these projects are maximised.

Forestry Commission Scotland has plans to create a new woodland, Balcarrach Wood, north of the Glazert Water and to the west of Lennoxton. This has the potential to complement the river restoration proposals and also provide a good quality recreational resource for the local community. In addition, East Dunbartonshire Council is actively seeking funding from the Woodland In and Around Towns (WIAT) scheme for improvement works to two woodland sites adjacent to the Glazert Water – at Southfields and Redhills Woodlands.

These projects have the potential to significantly improve the environment of the Glazert Valley and the setting of the villages within it. It is important the integrity and the quality of the access are maintained along the valley, but the proposals also offer opportunity to improve access from the John Muir Way into Lennoxton and via Balcarrach Wood to Clachan of Campsie, and for other recreational pursuits such as angling and horse riding. In addition, there are a number of geological features within the area for which access to and around could be improved. Improved signage, way marking and promotion of the area would also be required. Figure 6 shows how these opportunities fulfil the themes of the strategy’s objectives.

Safeguarding Biodiversity	Adapting to a Changing Climate	Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
<p>Creating additional riparian habitat</p> <p>Removal of invasive non-native species</p> <p>Removal of barriers to the passage of fish</p> <p>Mitigating and</p>	<p>Restoring the capacity and resilience of the river and its floodplain to cope with change and extreme weather events</p>	<p>Improving recreational opportunities such as angling and horse riding</p> <p>Maintaining and improving existing access for sustainable travel</p> <p>Exploring options for improving environmental and cultural education</p>	<p>Improving access to neighbouring towns and villages</p> <p>Reducing risk of flooding to residents and businesses</p>

Figure 6: Green network themes and opportunities for the Glazert Valley

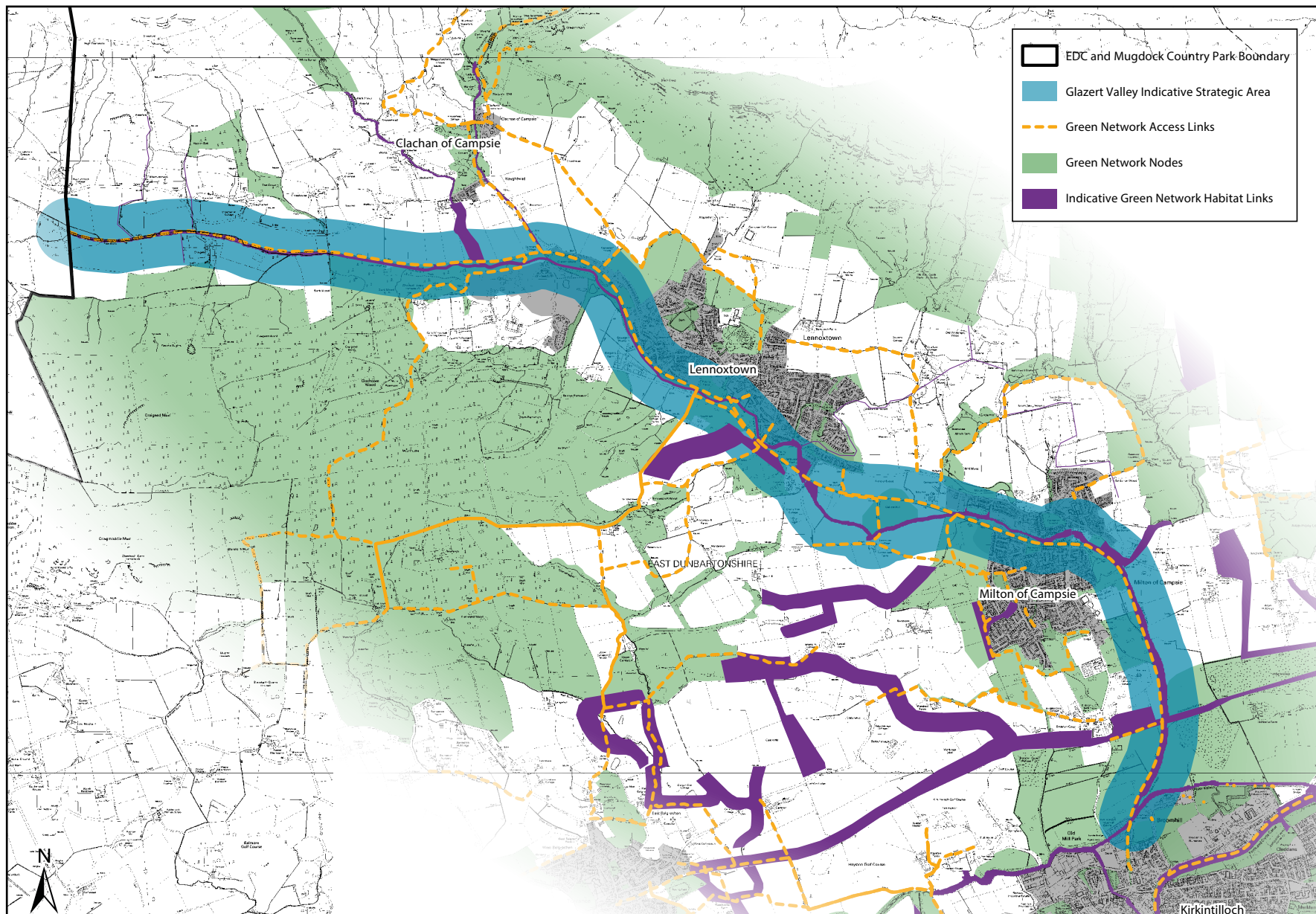
#### **What we want to achieve for the Glazert Valley:**

- > Improved ecological status, water quality and riparian habitat of the Glazert Water
- > Improved habitat within the wider Glazert Valley through sensitive woodland planting and management, wetland creation and enhancement, and restoration and management of grasslands
- > Increased capacity to mitigate flooding in times of high rainfall
- > Improved access and signage from the John Muir Way into neighbouring villages

#### **Potential Partners and Stakeholders**

- > Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- > Forestry Commission Scotland
- > Scottish Natural Heritage
- > Local communities
- > Local businesses
- > Landowners


Map 7: Glazert Valley Strategic Area




# Glazert Valley


What could happen next?


Opportunities for:


 Landscape scale biodiversity improvements


 Small scale biodiversity improvements


 Watercourse habitat enhancements


 Access improvements

 Environmental education

 Economic growth and local business

 Walking and recreation

 Other leisure amenities

 Cycling and active travel

 Food growing

# CAFE





# Glazert Valley

What could happen next?

Existing artificial, constrained watercourse causes flooding, threatens biodiversity and limits recreation.

River naturalisation reduces flooding potential and improves biodiversity and recreation.

Removing river embankments alleviates urban flooding downstream and benefits wildlife.

Clearing blockages in migratory fish passages boosts biodiversity and recreation.

Small pools of open water benefit the rare water vole.



Figure 7: Glazert Valley – What Could Happen Next?

## The River Kelvin

The corridor of the River Kelvin runs across East Dunbartonshire, largely parallel to the Forth and Clyde Canal. Similar to the Glazert Water it has experienced straightening and has been disconnected from its floodplain by past agricultural works. The Ox-bows at Hayston show part of the original channel of the river. These are not true ox-bow lakes however as they have been cut off from the main river artificially rather than naturally. Much of the riparian corridor is grazing marsh with a series of wetland pools (some seasonal) – forming stepping stones of open water from Bardowie in the west to Kilsyth in North Lanarkshire to the east. There are a number of Local Nature Conservation Sites, mostly valuable for their bird species, along this corridor – together with Dumbreck Marsh Local Nature Reserve in Kilsyth, in North Lanarkshire, and Dawsholm Park Local Nature Reserve in Glasgow. The ecological quality of the river is classed as ‘poor’ in the River Basin Management Plan for Scotland, largely due to its now artificial morphology.

A large focus for green network improvements within the strategic area will be on enhancing the area for biodiversity and providing people with opportunities to experience the river and its associated wetlands through sensitive access, perhaps to hides for wildlife watching or environmental education.

The River Kelvin runs past Kirkintilloch, Torrance and Bearsden. The Active Travel Strategy proposes improvements to the access along the river at its confluence with the Allander Water to link in with the existing path along the river south of Torrance and to improve access between Torrance and Birdston, just north of the river. Green network benefits could be realised by developing projects in this area which protect and enhance or extend existing habitats, investigate the feasibility of increasing the capacity and naturalness of the river through morphological improvements and natural flood management measures, link habitat and sensitive access improvements to Kilsyth in North Lanarkshire and into Glasgow. Figure 8 shows how these opportunities deliver the four themes of the strategy’s objectives. In the longer term it would be proposed to promote the River Kelvin as a destination for recreation, wildlife watching, and environmental and cultural heritage education.

Safeguarding Biodiversity	Mitigating and Adapting to a Changing Climate	Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
<p>A better understanding of the species present and at which times of year to identify areas of sensitivity</p> <p>Enhancing existing network of floodplain pools</p>	<p>Exploring options for natural flood management and morphological improvements to the river</p>	<p>Exploring options for sensitive access for environmental education and watching wildlife</p> <p>Connecting up gaps in the existing green network</p>	<p>Reduced flood risk to local residents and businesses</p>

Figure 8: Green network themes and opportunities for the River Kelvin

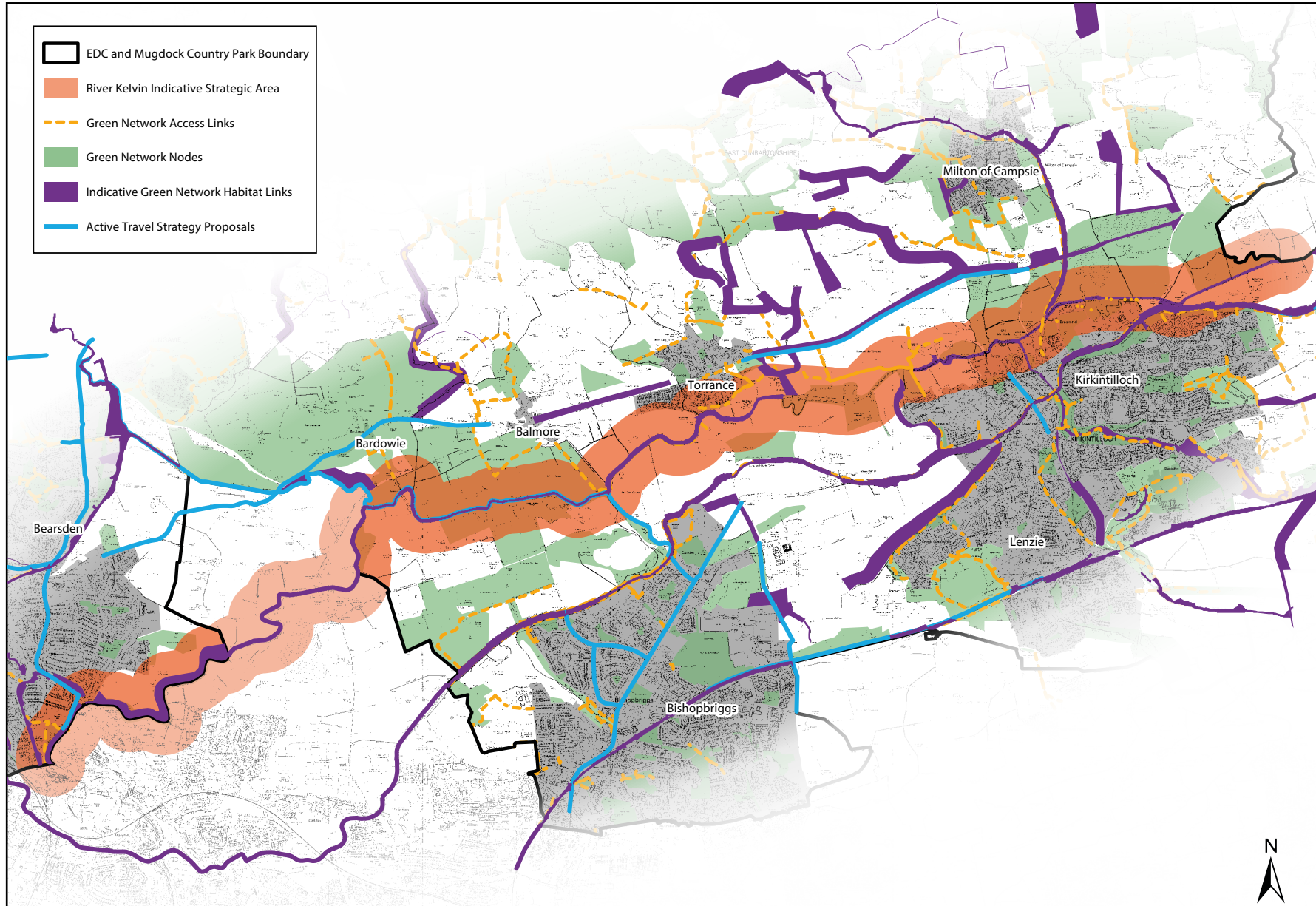
#### **What we want to achieve for the River Kelvin:**

- > A new multi-functional green network link through East Dunbartonshire, connecting from Glasgow to North Lanarkshire
- > Improved ecological status and increased capacity of the River Kelvin to improve water quality, riparian habitat and prevent flooding

#### **Potential Partners and Stakeholders**

- > North Lanarkshire Council
- > Glasgow City Council
- > Climate Ready Clyde
- > Central Scotland Green Network Trust
- > Scottish Natural Heritage
- > Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- > Scottish Wildlife Trust
- > Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- > Clyde River Foundation

Map 9: River Kelvin Strategic Area




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Map 10: River Kelvin Strategic Opportunities

# River Kelvin

What could happen next?


Opportunities for:

 Landscape scale biodiversity improvements

 Wetland habitat creation or enhancements


 Watercourse habitat enhancements

 Access improvements

 Environmental education

 Walking and recreation

 River Kelvin

 Forth and Clyde Canal



# River Kelvin

What could happen next?

Existing access is restricted to an artificial and constrained river corridor.

Access improvements could make opportunities for environmental education.

Access and habitat improvements allow enjoyment of the river and its thriving wildlife.

Wetland stepping stones are an essential resource for biodiversity.

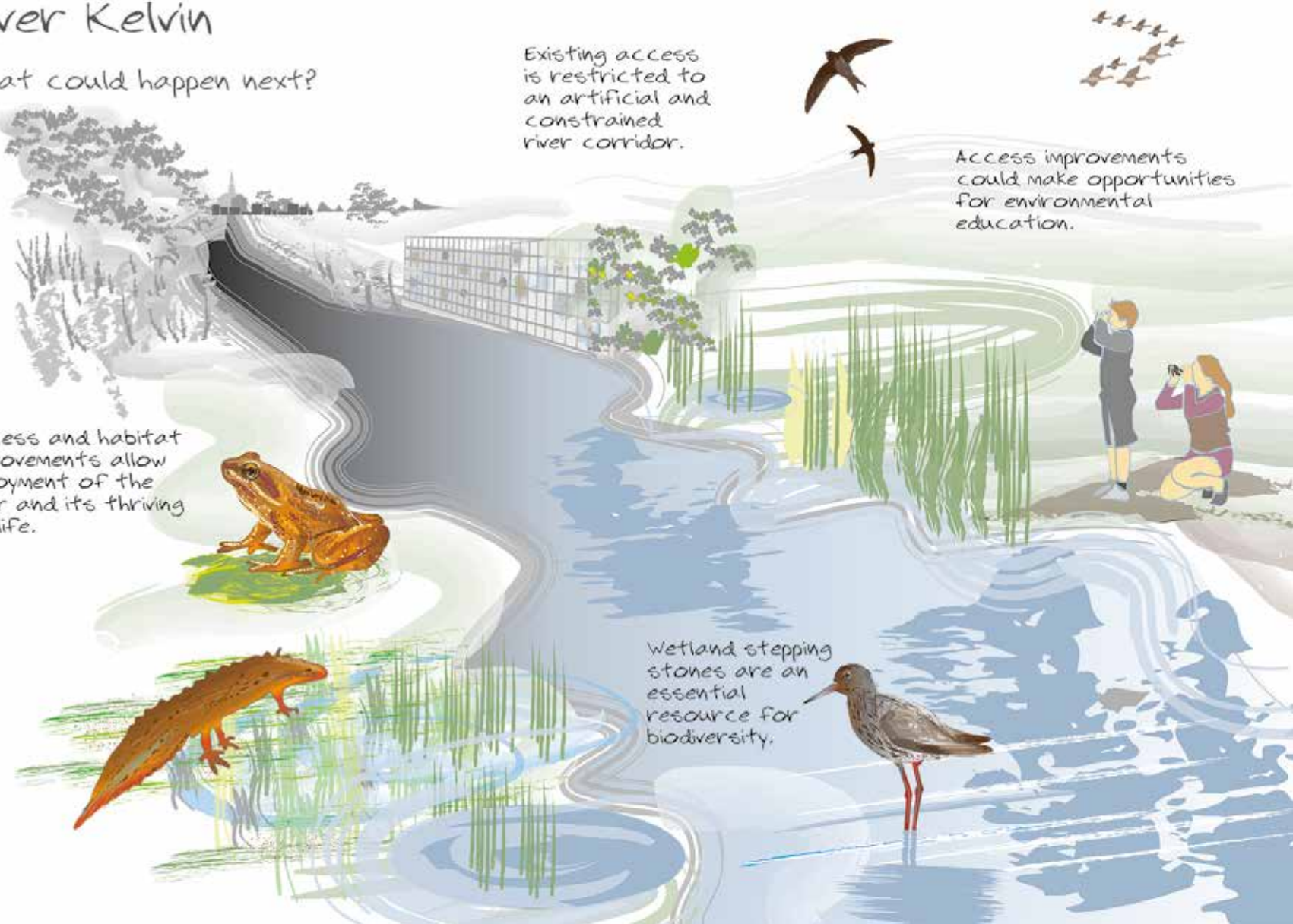


Figure 9: River Kelvin – What Could Happen Next?



## The Forth and Clyde Canal

The Forth and Clyde Canal is an established and important green network spine within East Dunbartonshire, passing through the town of Kirkintilloch and village of Twechar, and linking to Bishopbriggs. The canal is managed by Scottish Canals and the associated towpath is a designated national cycling route and is often busy with cyclists and walkers, and to a lesser extent horse riders. The canal is a nationally-important Scheduled Monument and is a destination in and of itself as well as an important access and wildlife corridor. There are some localised issues with the quality of the towpath which the Active Travel Strategy proposes actions to address. On a strategic scale there is a need to investigate improved connections to the canal both in terms of access and habitat.

It has been identified that access to the canal east of Kirkintilloch is poor for those communities located to the south at eastern Kirkintilloch and Twechar. This is mainly due to the lack of crossing points to facilitate access to the towpath on the north side of the canal. There is a need to ensure signage and linkages to existing canal access points and bridges are of good quality to encourage people to utilise the canal corridor. In addition the feasibility of providing good quality paths or improving existing paths on the south of the canal linking to existing bridges is required to ensure the towpath can be easily accessed from the south. Feasibility for this will also include the potential impacts of disturbance to wildlife and loss of habitat on the south of the canal corridor. Enhancing access in this way has the opportunity to provide a circular route for local users to enjoy.

Barhill, identified as a strategic green network asset, also sits on the Forth and Clyde Canal in the east of the area beside the village of Twechar. The canal has the potential to be an important access link to this culturally-significant site.

There are a number of Local Nature Conservation Sites and a Site of Special Scientific Interest that run along the length of the canal through East Dunbartonshire. The scope of this strategic action area could therefore be extended to also include habitat connections from these adjacent sites and other areas of open space. This would enhance the value and connectivity of surrounding habitat and improve the functionality of the canal corridor for wildlife.

Figure 10 shows the opportunities for the Forth and Clyde Canal Strategic Area under the four themes of the strategy's objectives.

Safeguarding Biodiversity	Mitigating and Adapting to a Changing Climate	Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
<p>Retaining existing canal and bankside habitat and maintaining the importance of the canal as a habitat corridor</p> <p>Improving habitat connections to the canal</p>	<p>Exploring options for sustainable management of surface water</p> <p>Increasing the opportunity for people to travel sustainably for local and recreational journeys as well as commuting</p>	<p>Maintaining a high quality tow path accessible for a wide range of users</p> <p>Improving access to the canal towpath from surrounding towns and villages</p> <p>Exploring options for citizen science projects and environmental education</p>	<p>Taking advantage of the canal's close association with town centres</p> <p>Building on the success of the Canal Festival and promotion of the canal as a destination via other events throughout the year, installation of public art, etc.</p>

Figure 10: Green network themes and opportunities for the Forth and Clyde Canal



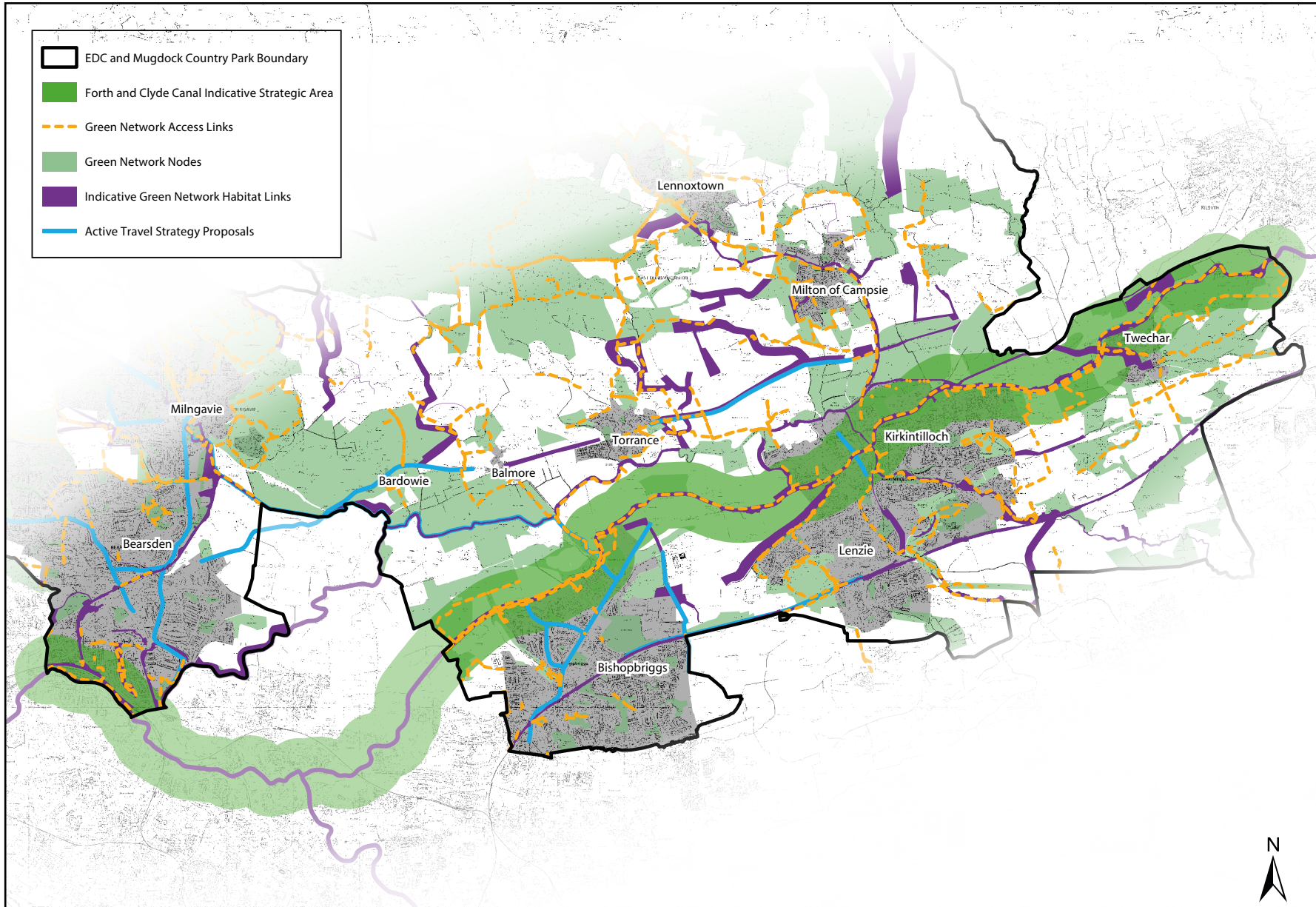
#### **What we want to achieve for the Forth and Clyde Canal:**

- > The canal continues to function as a strategic green network corridor
- > It is easily accessible for a wide range of users and well used by neighbouring communities and the wider region
- > Adjacent habitat is well connected to the canal corridor allowing species to effectively move through the landscape

#### **Potential Partners and Stakeholders**

- > Scottish Canals
- > Local communities of Bishopbriggs, Lenzie, Kirkintilloch and Twechar
- > Local businesses
- > Forestry Commission Scotland (Barhill)
- > Landowners

Map 11: Forth and Clyde Canal Strategic Area



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Map 12: Forth and Clyde Canal Strategic Opportunities

# Forth and Clyde Canal

What could happen next?

Opportunities for:

-  Landscape scale biodiversity improvements
-  Small scale biodiversity improvements
-  Access improvements
-  Environmental education
-  Walking and recreation
-  Cycling and active travel
-  Sports and fitness
-  Economic growth and local business
-  Other leisure amenities



# Forth and Clyde Canal

What could happen next?

The canal is a well-used and easily accessible green network focal point for local communities and an important habitat for wildlife.



Figure 11: Forth and Clyde Canal – What Could Happen Next?



## Mugdock Country Park

Mugdock Country Park is an established multi-functional green network asset, run in partnership with Stirling Council. Through its inclusion within this strategy it is hoped it can become a showcase for green network projects and that other initiatives may be able to gain inspiration from the park, its activities and its sustainable management. The park combines habitat management, recreational activities, environmental and cultural education, and opportunities for local business. At any one time there is always a lot of activity and ongoing projects within the park.

The park has a five-year strategy produced in 2015 which sets out the park's vision and includes opportunities for promotion of the park and to develop sustainable economic activity. The inclusion of Mugdock within the green network will support and add value to the economic and social aspirations within the Mugdock Strategy.

An update to the park's Land Management Plan is to be prepared which will cover the operational aspects of the management of the park's natural assets. The park contains the Mugdock Wood Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). There is ongoing management of the SSSI by the Mugdock Rangers, in particular removal of non-native species from the woodland. The loch within the site is currently assessed by Scottish Natural Heritage to be within unfavourable condition and the Land Management Plan provides an opportunity to programme actions to address this.

In order to showcase the park's successes and its commitments to sustainable management there are options to try and achieve a nationally-recognised standard for the park and its management, such as a Green Flag Award. This would be the first for a park in East Dunbartonshire and it would be anticipated this could act as a pilot and lead the way for other parks in the area to also work towards achieving a national standard.

There are aspirations to develop the park as a site for Forest Schools activity which would be an excellent complement to the existing environmental education resource. This would be the first countryside ranger-led Forest School site for East Dunbartonshire.

There are proposals to create a green wall around the ruins of Craigend Castle with associated interpretation to replace the existing temporary metal fencing. Green walls, also known as living walls or vertical gardens, are not only aesthetically pleasing but create habitat for biodiversity and sequester carbon. Within urban areas they can also improve air quality, reduce the impact of the urban heat island effect and when constructed as part of a building can improve efficiency. Again such a projects can be seen as pilots for the East Dunbartonshire area and can hopefully encourage others to also incorporate green infrastructure to other developments.

Mugdock Country Park is currently well used, however, there is a need to improve off-road access to the park and to explore the feasibility of options to do this from Milngavie, preferably using existing paths and tracks, and from the east through Lennox Forest should also be further investigated. In particular, the possibility of creating access from Milngavie to the south of the park which is accessible to all user types – such as users with mobility scooters, users with buggies and prams, cyclists, etc. – has been highlighted as a desire by the park. Further improvements to the path network within the park would be required to fully realise the benefits of such an access path. It is also important to provide green travel options to the park from other parts of East Dunbartonshire such as through Lennox Forest to the east of the park. This would connect the park to the strategic areas of the Campsie Fells and Glazert Valley, and would also form part of the 'Loop Route' proposed in the Active Travel Strategy. The most likely connection would be within the Stirling Council area and so would have to be conducted in partnership.

The improvement of access to the park, the maintenance of the park's existing high-quality assets and extensive events and educational programme, and the development of further green infrastructure and sustainable economic activity will be the focus for Mugdock within the action programme. Figure 12 shows the various opportunities at Mugdock within the context of the four themes of the green network objectives.

Safeguarding Biodiversity	Mitigating and Adapting to a Changing Climate	Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
Sustainable management and enhancement of the park's natural assets through an agreed land management plan	<p>Developing sustainable access to the park</p> <p>Exploring options to utilise green infrastructure within park projects – e.g. green walls, green roofs</p>	<p>Improving the educational resource through establishing of a forest school</p> <p>Enhancing the visitor experience</p> <p>Responsible enjoyment through promoting an understanding and appreciation for the park</p>	<p>Continuing to provide space and opportunities for local, sustainable businesses</p> <p>Developing further ideas for sustainable economic activity such as Mugdock Honey and Wildflower Nursery</p>

Figure 12: Green network themes and opportunities at Mugdock Country Park

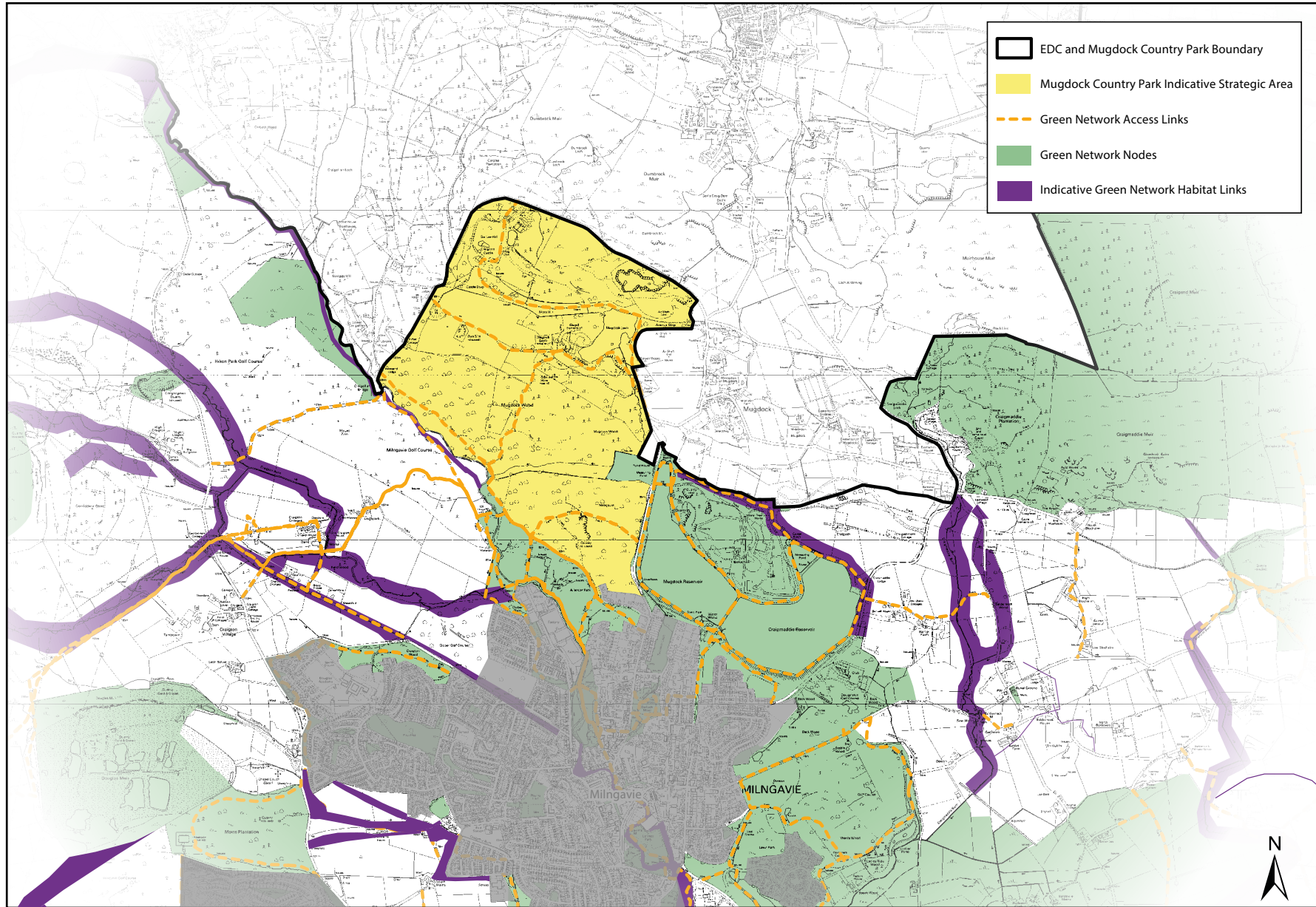
#### What we want to achieve for Mugdock Country Park:

- > Mugdock Country Park is recognised as an exemplar green network asset and acts as a source of inspiration for other green network projects
- > It is easily accessible and well used
- > The sustainable management of the park continues to incorporate biodiversity, responsible access, climate change resilience, sustainable economic growth and environmental education

#### Potential Partners and Stakeholders

- > Stirling Council
- > Scottish Natural Heritage
- > Local Businesses

Map 13: Mugdock Country Park Strategic Area



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Map 14: Mugdock Country Park Strategic Opportunities

# Mugdock Country Park

What could happen next?

Opportunities for:

-  Small scale biodiversity improvements
-  Access improvements
-  Environmental education
-  Walking and recreation
-  Cycling and active travel
-  Sports and fitness
-  Economic growth and local business
-  Other leisure amenities
-  Food growing



# Mugdock Country Park

What could happen next?

Mugdock Country Park is an established, important green network component providing inspiration for others.

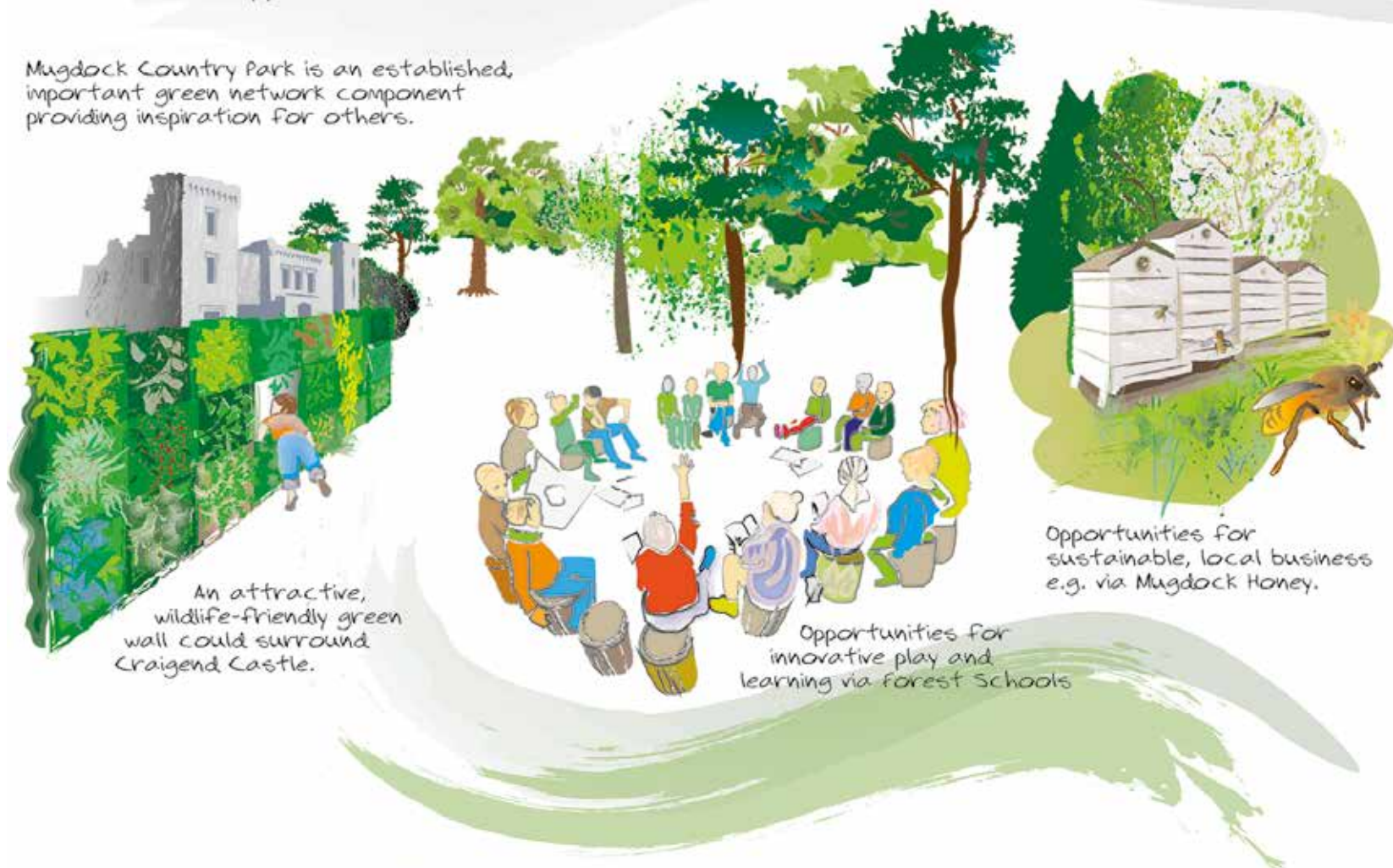


Figure 13: Mugdock Country Park – What Could Happen Next?



## 4.3 Local Green Network Opportunities and Actions by Communities Areas

The Local Green Network is divided into four Communities Areas as identified within the Local Development Plan:

- > Bearsden and Milngavie
- > Bishopbriggs, Torrance, Balmore and Bardowie
- > Kirkintilloch, Lenzie and Twechar and;
- > Lennoxton, Milton of Campsie, Haughhead and Clachan of Campsie.

Each Communities Area has its own set of opportunities and actions and an associated green network map.

Within the local context, the Open Space Strategy, Active Travel Strategy, Local Biodiversity Action Plan, draft Economic Development Strategy and development proposals within the Local Development Plan all have the opportunity to provide delivery of the local green network. The Urban Opportunities Mapping also provided areas of focus where multi-functional improvements to the green network could best be realised, largely through development. The opportunities and actions for each Communities Area are split into three categories:

- > Opportunities from Proposed Development Sites
- > Committed Actions and;
- > Additional or Aspirational Opportunities.

**Opportunities from Proposed Development Sites** bring together the results of the Urban Opportunities Mapping exercise and proposals in the Local Development Plan.

**Committed Actions** are those activities which the Council and/or partner organisations have allocated resources either for delivery or for seeking external funding. These actions have timescales and specific delivery partners associated.

**Additional or Aspirational Opportunities** includes those actions which would be beneficial to the delivery of the green network but for which the Council does not currently have resources allocated or for which a source for external funding has not yet been found. These opportunities can be delivered as and when the chances arise or potentially through contributions from development. This category also seeks to represent those actions and aspirations highlighted by local communities during the public consultation on the draft Green Network Strategy.

Local communities can have a great influence on the delivery of the green network in their area through both their invaluable local knowledge and their ability to unlock funding sources not available to the Council. Local groups and community councils can therefore be an important part of the implementation of green network improvements. After all, it is essentially local communities who gain the most benefit from a functioning, high quality green network. The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act aims to give communities more of a say in how public services are planned and provided with new rights for communities to get involved in community planning processes and the direct management of community assets.

For each of the three categories the relevant green network theme on which each activity would deliver is shown in the tables.

The map associated with each Communities Area displays the components of the green network as detailed in Figure 3 (Section 3.1) and identifies the locations of the opportunities and actions. The green network nodes on the maps are divided by their primary function: recreation, biodiversity or geodiversity, and coloured accordingly. Although not considered a green network component, Vacant and Derelict Land and proposed development sites as agreed in the Local Development Plan are also shown on the local green network maps. These sites can present opportunities to contribute to the green network in the future.

In addition to what is set out in the Local Opportunities and Actions there are other projects being undertaken in communities around East Dunbartonshire either by the council, East Dunbartonshire Culture and Leisure Trust or by local communities themselves which help deliver green network objectives. Some relevant examples include:

**Trails and Tales** [www.trailsandtales.org/](http://www.trailsandtales.org/)

**Healthy Habits** [www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/sport-leisure-parks/parks-gardens-and-open-spaces/healthy-habits-and-walking](http://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/sport-leisure-parks/parks-gardens-and-open-spaces/healthy-habits-and-walking)

**Stalled Spaces** [www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/business/economic-development/stalled-spaces-east-dunbartonshire](http://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/business/economic-development/stalled-spaces-east-dunbartonshire)

## Bearsden and Milngavie

Bearsden and Milngavie are situated in the west of East Dunbartonshire. The Allander Water and Walkway is an important green corridor through Milngavie for access and biodiversity. The main Milngavie railway line is also an important corridor for wildlife. Key green network sites include Kilmardinny Loch Local Nature Reserve, Templehill Wood and Cairnhill Woods, located in Bearsden and Craighdu Wedge and Allander Park in Milngavie.

Mugdock Country Park and the Milngavie Reservoirs are located to the north of Milngavie and Kilpatrick Hills to the north west, providing nearby accessible countryside and large recreational assets. The core path network extends access to the north via the West Highland Way and to the west, forming part of the Clyde Coastal Path which provides a walking route through to the Ayrshire Coastal Path.

The Open Space Strategy details actions for improvements on a number of open spaces. Generally open spaces are of good quality although tend to be small and dispersed, particularly within Bearsden. Recent re-design works at Colquhoun Park in Bearsden as part of a flood alleviation scheme, have provided excellent green network co-benefits for the local community. The work included opening previously culverted burns and creating a biodiversity-friendly detention pond and wetland area to increase water storage during periods of heavy rainfall. As a whole the scheme achieves its flood alleviation requirements and delivers climate change resilience for the future but also improves the amenity of the park for the local community and provides habitat for biodiversity.

A number of on road active travel improvements are proposed through the Active Travel Strategy which will improve local access to town centres and railway stations but there is limited scope to provide off road access routes or create new green corridors within the urban fabric. There are a number of opportunities on the edge of the settlement area to improve green connections to other settlements and the wider countryside such as access to the Kilpatrick Hills and the River Kelvin Walkway.



Table 3: Bearden and Milngavie Local Green Network Opportunities and Actions  
Opportunities from Proposed Development Sites

Action code	Location	Opportunity	Green Network Objective Themes				
			Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
				Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN1	Craigton Road (Milngavie) Housing Site	<p>There is opportunity for habitat creation and access enhancements including requirements to enhance the Clober Burn habitat corridor. Links to the adjacent core path network (Craigton Wood and north to Allander Park) should be provided. The design layout should also take into account the on-road Active Travel Strategy improvements proposed to the south.</p> <p>Green infrastructure options for required flood mitigation and surface water runoff, which deliver co-benefits for biodiversity, should be investigated.</p>					
LGN2	Kilmardinny (Milngavie) Mixed Use Development Site	<p>Ensure delivery of the Kilmardinny Habitat Management Plan and proposed open space elements of the masterplan including morphological improvements to the Craighdu Burn and Manse Burn.</p>					
LGN3	Bearsden Golf Course Housing Site	<p>There is opportunity for woodland and grassland habitat creation and improvements to access to open space. In addition native habitat connections and buffer should be incorporated into the layout design to ensure appropriate buffer to the adjacent LNR within Glasgow. Access to this LNR from East Dunbartonshire could be improved together with access to the adjacent Thorn Park.</p> <p>Green infrastructure options for surface water runoff with biodiversity and recreation co-benefits should be investigated.</p>					

Action code	Location	Opportunity	Green Network Objective Themes				
			Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
				Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN4	Kessington (Bearsden) Housing Site	<p>There is opportunity to provide woodland extension to adjacent Templehill Woods. Grassland habitat creation/enhancement is also possible together with control on Invasive Non Native Species.</p> <p>Green infrastructure options for required flood mitigation and surface water runoff should be investigated, potentially utilising naturally wet areas within the site.</p>					



Committed Actions

Action code	Location	Associated Existing Strategy	Action	Timescale and Delivery Partners	Green Network Objective Themes				
					Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
						Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN5	Allander Water (Milngavie)	Local Flood Risk Management Plan, Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Conduct a Natural Flood Management Study for the Allander Water upstream of Milngavie and investigate the feasibility of delivering green network co-benefits for biodiversity and health and wellbeing through habitat creation, control of invasive non-native plant species and access improvements.	2017 – 2018  East Dunbartonshire Council (Technical and Engineering, Streetscene Technical Support, Traffic and Transport)					
LGN6	Templehill Woods (Bearsden), Allander Park and Barloch Moor (Milngavie)	Open Space Strategy, Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Seek funding from Woodland In and Around Towns (WIAT) scheme to produce woodland management plans.	2018 – 2022  East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support), Central Scotland Green Network Trust, Forestry Commission Scotland					

Action code	Location	Associated Existing Strategy	Action	Timescale and Delivery Partners	Green Network Objective Themes				
					Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
						Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN7	Cairnhill Woods (Bearsden)	Open Space Strategy, Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Seek funding from Woodland In and Around Towns (WIAT) scheme to carry out woodland management and access improvements as detailed in the woodland management plan for the site.  Investigate the potential for the site to be declared a Local Nature Reserve.	2017 – 2019 (WIAT)  2021 – 2022 (LNR)  East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support), Central Scotland Green Network Trust, Forestry Commission Scotland					
LGN8	Lennox Park (Milngavie)	Open Space Strategy, Economic Development Strategy	Produce a master plan for Lennox Park which incorporates habitat creation and enhancement, access improvements, climate change mitigation, improvements to park facilities and opportunities for sustainable economic activity	2018 – 2021  East Dunbartonshire Council (Land Planning and Development, Streetscene Technical Support, Traffic and Transport) Local community groups including Milngavie Development Trust					

Action code	Location	Associated Existing Strategy	Action	Timescale and Delivery Partners	Green Network Objective Themes				
					Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
						Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN9	Milngavie Reservoirs	Open Space Strategy	Work with the local community and Scottish Water to help implement actions as set out in the Milngavie Reservoirs Conservation and Recreation Management Plan.	Ongoing  East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support), Scottish Water, Local community groups including Friends of Milngavie Reservoirs.					
LGN10 (not on map)	Bearsden and Milngavie	Local Flood Risk Management Plan, Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Produce Surface Water Management Plans and investigate potential to deliver green network co-benefits for biodiversity and health and wellbeing through habitat creation and open space enhancements.	2016 – 2021  East Dunbartonshire Council (Technical and Engineering, Streetscene Technical Support, Sustainability Policy)					
LGN11	Heather Avenue Open Space	Local Flood Risk Management Plan, Open Space Strategy	Meadow and wetland habitat creation as part of flood management works	2017 – 2018  East Dunbartonshire Council (Technical and Engineering)					

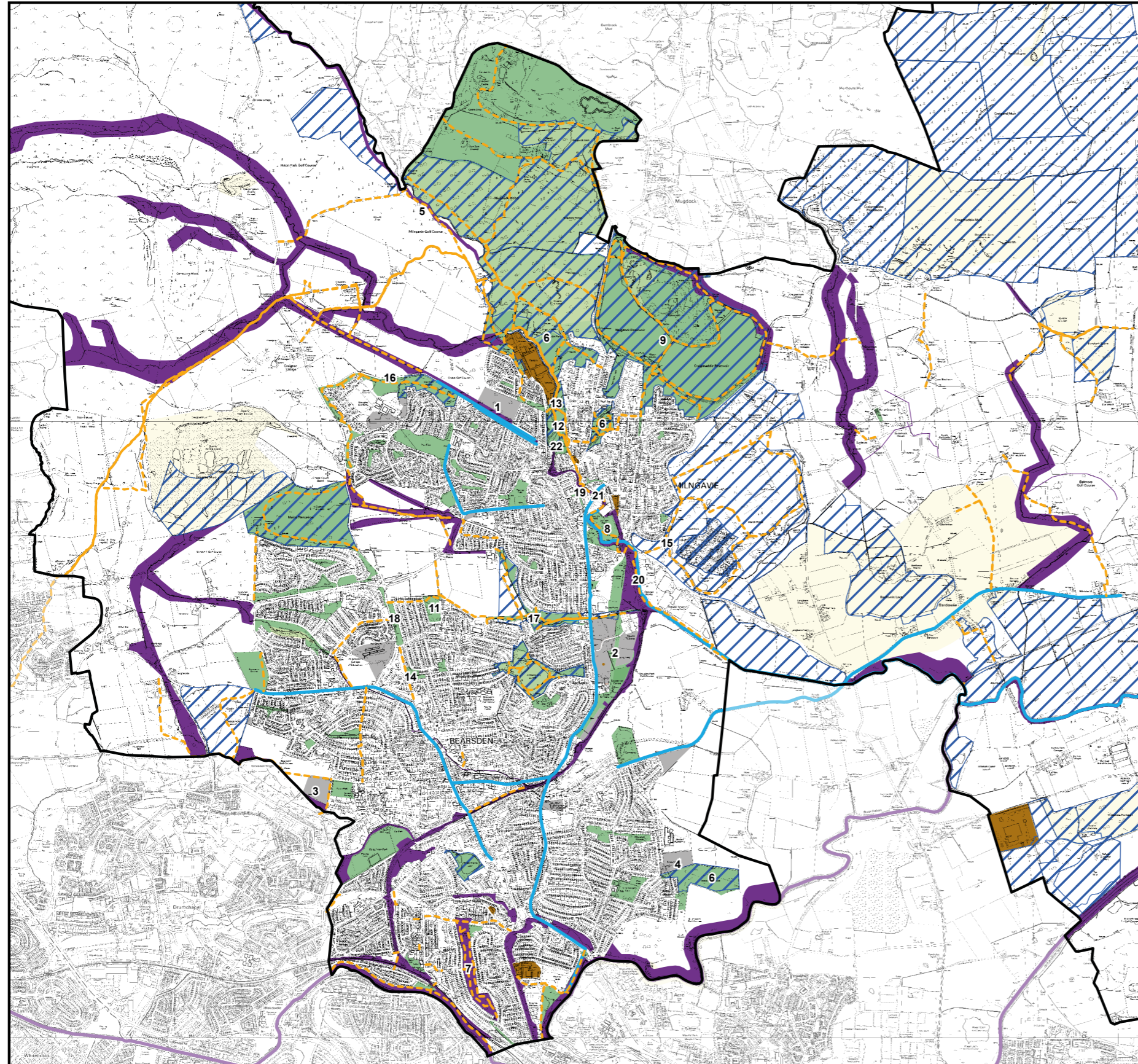
Action code	Location	Associated Existing Strategy	Action	Timescale and Delivery Partners	Green Network Objective Themes				
					Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
						Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN12	Cloberfield Open Space (Milngavie)	N/A	Meander the lade at Cloberfield Open Space and improve habitat with planting of emergent vegetation.	2017 – 2018  East Dunbartonshire Council (Technical and Engineering), Streetscene Technical Support)					
LGN13	West Highland Way at Milngavie Community Library and Education Centre (Milngavie)	N/A	Seek funding to upgrade West Highland Way between Milngavie Community Library and Education Centre and bridge at Cloberfield car park.	2017 – 2020  East Dunbartonshire Council (Traffic and Transport)					
LGN14	Drymen Road to Stockiemuir Avenue (Bearsden)	Active Travel Strategy	Improvements to core path and surrounding linkages including feasibility, detailed design and construction.	2017 – 2018  East Dunbartonshire Council (Traffic and Transport)					


Additional or Aspirational Opportunities











Action code	Location	Opportunity	Potential Delivery Partners	Green Network Objective Themes				
				Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
					Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN15	Douglaston Golf Course Local Nature Conservation Site (Milngavie)	Upgrade core path network around and adjacent to the golf course.	East Dunbartonshire Council (Traffic and Transport)					
LGN16	Craigton Wood Local Nature Conservation Site / Douglas Academy (Milngavie)	Upgrade core path network to north west of Craigton Wood Local Nature Conservation Site	East Dunbartonshire Council (Traffic and Transport)					
LGN17	Craigdhu Wedge Local Nature Conservation Site (Milngavie)	Upgrade core path network through Craigdhu Wedge and connection west to Heather Avenue Open Space, including management of drainage on paths. This area also requires biodiversity enhancement such as pond creation, management of water vole habitat, woodland and grassland management. It also suffers from pooling of water that requires drainage improvements.	East Dunbartonshire Council (Traffic and Transport, Streetscene Technical Support)					
LGN18	Baillie Drive Open Space (Bearsden)	Upgrade core path network through open space to provide better connection to Craigdhu Wedge.	East Dunbartonshire Council (Traffic and Transport)					

Action code	Location	Opportunity	Potential Delivery Partners	Green Network Objective Themes				
				Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
					Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN19	West Highland Way (Milngavie)	Investigate, with a view to improve, local access points to the West Highland Way to create enhanced access links from Milngavie town centre to local greenspaces at Cloberfield Open Space, Allander Park and Drumclog. Potential to also include updated signage, biodiversity improvements and interpretation.	East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support, Traffic and Transport), Local community groups					
LGN20	Allander Water (Milngavie and Bearsden)	Improve access along the Allander Water from the Stoney Brigg to the confluence with the River Kelvin and provide interpretive signage at features of note such as the fish ladder.	East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support, Traffic and Transport) Local community groups.					
LGN21	Fish ladder on Allander Water (Milngavie)	Reposition boulders at foot of fish ladder in Milngavie to provide additional shelter for fish.	East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support)					
LGN22	Milngavie Community Library and Education Centre	Investigate enhancement of pond adjacent to library. Potential to create nesting islands, improve habitat with emergent vegetation and improve access with path and benches.	East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support) Local community groups.)					

Map 15: Bearsden and Milngavie Local Green Network Opportunities and Actions




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-  EDC and Mugdock Country Park Boundary
-  Vacant and Derelict Land
-  Indicative Green Network Habitat Links
-  ATS - Proposed New Route
-  Proposed Housing Sites
-  Proposed Business and Employment Sites
-  Green Network Access Links
-  Green Network Nodes - Geodiversity
-  Green Network Nodes - Biodiversity
-  Green Network Nodes - Recreation

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## Bishopbriggs, Torrance, Balmore and Bardowie

The town of Bishopbriggs is located to the centre and southern edge of East Dunbartonshire. The main railway line from Glasgow to Edinburgh runs through the middle of the town and although it provides an important corridor for wildlife it restricts the movement of people and their access to green network assets. There are a number of crossings over the railway but these tend to be on busy roads. The Forth and Clyde Canal runs along the northern edge of the town and easy access to this green network asset is an important consideration for Bishopbriggs.

Development proposed at Westerhill in Bishopbriggs and the proposed route of Phase 5 of the Bishopbriggs Relief Road (BRR) provide an opportunity to implement green network enhancements and plan new connections while taking into account the natural heritage value of surrounding Local Nature Conservation Sites.

The villages of Torrance, Balmore and Bardowie lie to the north of Bishopbriggs close to the River Kelvin. Balmore and Bardowie have a well-connected core path network linking to the Forth and Clyde Canal and Bishopbriggs, although there are some local issues with path quality which need to be addressed. Torrance also connects into this network via the walkway along the River Kelvin. Further proposals within the Active Travel Strategy will help strengthen these access connections and to the west towards Bearsden and Milngavie. Balmore and Bardowie are included within the parish of Baldernock which represents a quiet, rural area which still retains a feeling of unspoiled countryside. The area has a number of core paths, rights of way and beautiful country roads and lanes to explore.

The Open Space Strategy outlines improvements for open space in Bishopbriggs and Torrance. West Balgrochan Marsh in Torrance is a proposed Local Nature Reserve with work planned through the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and Open Space Strategy to progress this. The Kelvin Valley Way in Torrance provides access to this site and the wider green network and improvements to this corridor is therefore an important factor in improving green network access within the village.

There is a good network of protected biodiversity sites surrounding the villages and to the north of Bishopbriggs including Cadder Wilderness Site of Special Scientific Interest. This site is privately owned and unfortunately is in unfavourable condition.





Table 4: Bishopbriggs, Torrance, Balmore and Bardowie Local Green Network Opportunities and Actions Opportunities from Proposed Development Sites

Action code	Location	Opportunity	Green Network Objective Themes				
			Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
				Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN23	Westerhill Business and Employment Development Site, Phase 5 Bishopbriggs Relief Road (BRR) and Cadder Yard and High Moss Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS)	<p>Large scale development at Westerhill is proposed through a combination of Phase 5 of the Bishopbriggs Relief Road and business and employment development. Opportunities exist for habitat enhancements at Cadder Yard and High Moss Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS). There is also the potential for new wetland habitat creation and enhancements for water vole. Some opportunities may exist for strategic tree planting where this does not impact on existing lowland raised bog or grassland habitat.</p> <p>There is further scope to improve access to the town centre around High Moss LNCS. The LNCS itself is a sensitive lowland raised bog and access should not cross the site itself.</p> <p>Green infrastructure options for surface water runoff from any new development should be investigated which deliver biodiversity and recreation co-benefits.</p>					
LGN24	Main Street (Torrance) Housing Development Site	<p>The key requirements for the housing development within the Local Development Plan outline the need to enhance the adjacent path and its setting. The Kelvin Valley Way provides the opportunity to link this development and other parts of the village to the West Balgrochan Marsh Local Nature Conservation Site and proposed Local Nature Reserve.</p> <p>Green infrastructure options for surface water runoff from any new development should be investigated which deliver biodiversity and recreation co-benefits.</p>					

Action code	Location	Opportunity	Green Network Objective Themes				
			Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
				Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN25	Crofthead (Bishopbriggs) Housing Site	<p>Opportunity to enhance adjacent Cadder Local Nature Conservation Site (LNCS) and ensure appropriate habitat buffer is retained between the LNCS and the development.</p> <p>Green infrastructure options for surface water runoff from any new development should be investigated which deliver biodiversity and recreation co-benefits.</p>					

Committed Actions

Action code	Location	Associated Existing Strategy	Action	Timescale and Delivery Partners	Green Network Objective Themes				
					Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
						Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN26	High Moss Local Nature Conservation Site (Bishopbriggs)	Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Create glade areas through sensitive removal of trees to enhance habitat for Green Hairstreak butterfly.	2017 – 2018  East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support)					
LGN27	Low Moss Local Nature Conservation Site (Bishopbriggs)	Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Further restoration of lowland raised bog through installation of dams and tree removal.  Monitor previous restoration work including removal of tree seedlings, maintenance of dams and monitoring of water levels.	2017 – 2018  Monitoring: Ongoing  East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support)					

Action code	Location	Associated Existing Strategy	Action	Timescale and Delivery Partners	Green Network Objective Themes				
					Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
						Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN28	Cadder Cemetery (Bishopbriggs)	Required through exhaustion of current provision	Conduct ground investigations to determine viable options for extending Cadder Cemetery. Potential for enhancement of adjacent geodiversity Local Nature Conservation Site and provision of improved access links to the canal, dependent on the extension options available.	2017 – 2018  East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support)					
LGN29	Hilton Park (Bishopbriggs)	Open Space Strategy	Habitat creation and signature tree planting and investigate de-culverting of the burn.	2020 – 2021  East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support)					
LGN30	Meadowburn Park (Bishopbriggs)	Open Space Strategy	Habitat creation.	2020 – 2021  East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support)					

Action code	Location	Associated Existing Strategy	Action	Timescale and Delivery Partners	Green Network Objective Themes				
					Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
						Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN31	Crofthead Quarry (Cadder Local Nature Conservation Site) and Barrage Balloon Vacant and Derelict Land Sites (Bishopbriggs)	Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Investigate existing naturalisation of vacant and derelict land and the potential to make further improvements for biodiversity.	2018 – 2021  East Dunbartonshire Council (Land Planning and Development), Central Scotland Green Network Trust.					
LGN32	Kelvin Valley Way (Torrance)	Open Space Strategy	Upgrade open space facilities to encourage greater use and access to other open spaces.	2018 – 2020  East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support)					
LGN33	West Balgrochan Marsh Local Nature Conservation Site (Torrance)	Open Space Strategy, Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Undertake management works to further the progress to designation of West Balgrochan Marsh a Local Nature Reserve	2017 – 2019  East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support, Sustainability Policy)					

Action code	Location	Associated Existing Strategy	Action	Timescale and Delivery Partners	Green Network Objective Themes				
					Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
						Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN34 (not on map)	Bishopbriggs	Local Flood Risk Plan, Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Produce a Surface Water Management Plan and investigate potential to deliver green network co-benefits for biodiversity and health and wellbeing through habitat creation and open space enhancements.	2016 – 2021  East Dunbartonshire Council (Technical and Engineering, Streetscene Technical Support, Sustainability Policy)					

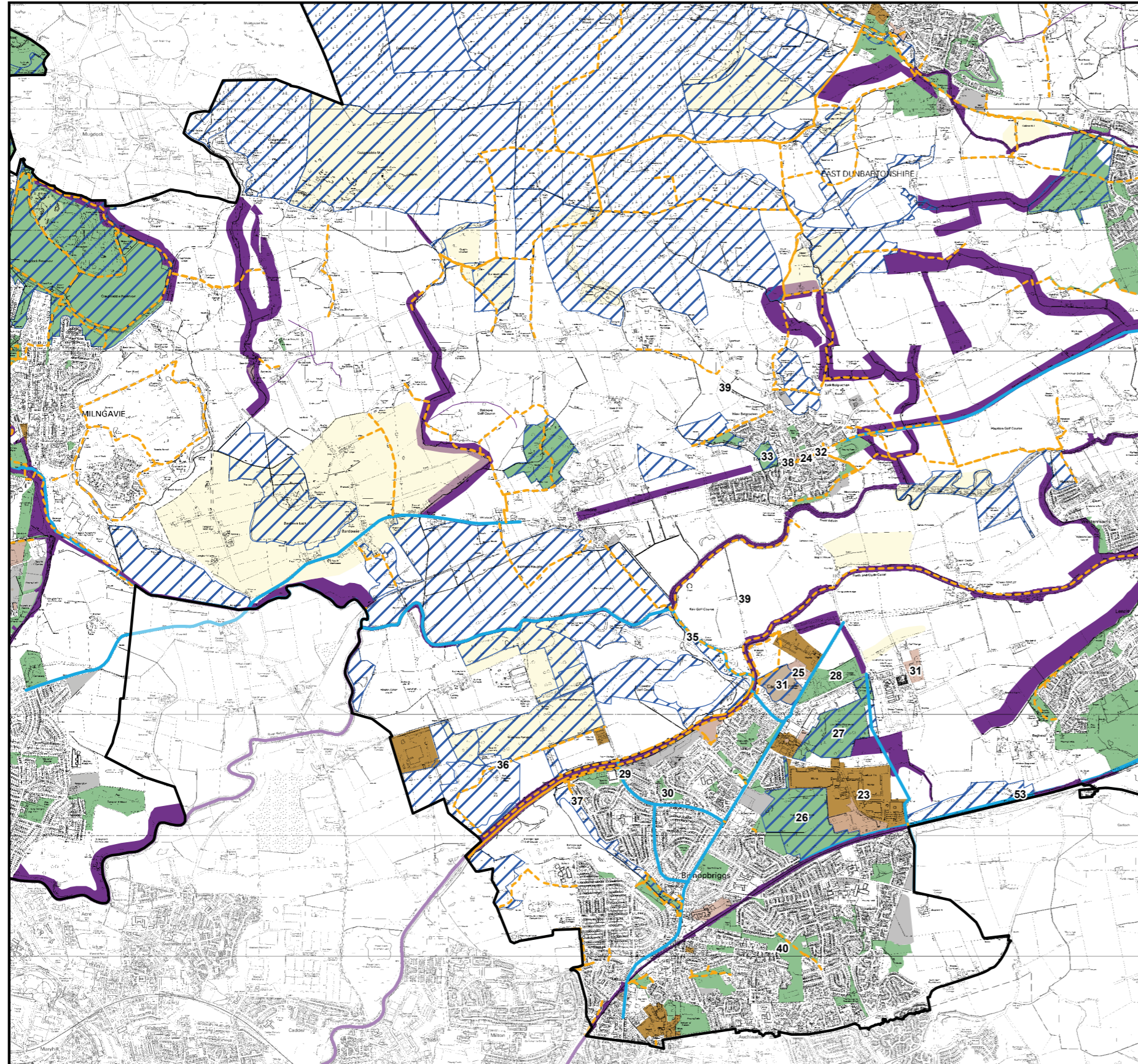
Additional or Aspirational Opportunities


Action code	Location	Opportunity	Potential Delivery Partners	Green Network Objective Themes				
				Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
					Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN35	Cawder Golf Course	Upgrade core path network adjacent to golf course.	East Dunbartonshire Council (Traffic and Transport)					
LGN36	Cadder Wilderness SSSI and Forth and Clyde Canal	Upgrade core path network connecting the Cadder Wilderness SSSI to the Forth and Clyde Canal towpath.	East Dunbartonshire Council (Traffic and Transport)					
LGN37	Forth and Clyde Canal (south)	Upgrade the core path on the south of the canal connecting from Rookery Plantation Local Nature Conservation Site.	East Dunbartonshire Council (Traffic and Transport), Scottish Canals					
LGN38	Tower Burn (Torrance)	Enhancement of habitat along the Tower Burn open space in Torrance.	East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support)					
LGN39	Bishopbriggs (north), Torrance	Investigate the feasibility of improving access links north from Bishopbriggs to Torrance and Lennox Forest.	East Dunbartonshire Council (Sustainability Policy, Traffic and Transport)					











Action code	Location	Opportunity	Potential Delivery Partners	Green Network Objective Themes				
				Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
					Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN40	Woodhill Park and Etive Park (Bishopbriggs)	Produce a masterplan for the re-design of Woodhill Park and Etive Park which incorporates habitat creation, access improvements, climate change mitigation, opportunities for sustainable economic activity and ensures connections to other adjacent open spaces and development site at Auchinairn, to create a strong green network link spanning the south of Bishopbriggs.	East Dunbartonshire Council (Land Planning and Development, Regeneration, Streetscene Technical Support, Traffic and Transport)					



Map 16: Bishopbriggs, Torrance, Balmore and Bardowie Local Green Network Opportunities and Actions




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-  EDC and Mugdock Country Park Boundary
-  Vacant and Derelict Land
-  Indicative Green Network Habitat Links
-  ATS - Proposed New Route
-  Proposed Housing Sites
-  Proposed Business and Employment Sites
-  Green Network Access Links
-  Green Network Nodes - Geodiversity
-  Green Network Nodes - Biodiversity
-  Green Network Nodes - Recreation

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### Kirkintilloch, Lenzie and Twechar

Kirkintilloch, Lenzie and Twechar lie to the south east of East Dunbartonshire. Kirkintilloch and Twechar are both well connected to the strategic green network via The Forth and Clyde Canal and Strathkelvin Railway Path. Lenzie suffers from the same bisecting due to the railway corridor as Bishopbriggs, although to a lesser extent. Christine's Way to the north west edge of Lenzie provides an access link to the canal and Kirkintilloch town centre via the Southbank Marina bridge but overall access to the wider green network is fairly limited.

The embankments of the main Edinburgh to Glasgow railway line running east-west through the area provides an important habitat connection for wildlife. Kirkintilloch and Lenzie both contain a Local Nature Reserve: Merkland and Lenzie Moss respectively. The Luggie Water and Luggie Park are important components of the green network within Kirkintilloch and also serve parts of Lenzie. Significant development is underway or proposed within all three settlements which provide opportunity to make enhancements to the existing network with additional open space.

The Park Burn in Lenzie, south of the Forth and Clyde Canal, is part of a Natural Flood Management study which depending on the outcome could provide opportunity to enhance biodiversity while also meeting climate change objectives for the green network. The open space area at The Greens which is adjacent to the Park Burn and Christine's Way also has the potential to be enhanced into a multi-functional green space benefiting the local area. A feasibility study including consultation with the local community is required initially to develop designs and proposals as to how this potential could be delivered.



Table 5: Lenzie, Kirkintilloch and Twechar Local Green Network Opportunities and Actions  
Opportunities from Proposed Development Sites

Action code	Location	Opportunity	Green Network Objective Themes				
			Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
				Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN41	Southbank Business and Employment Site (Kirkintilloch)	<p>There are opportunities for enhancement of the adjacent core path and for habitat creation on site as part of landscaping.</p> <p>Green infrastructure options for the management of surface water run-off, which deliver co-benefits for biodiversity and recreation should be investigated as part of all new developments.</p>					
LGN42	Claddens South (Lenzie) Housing Sites	<p>There is opportunity for the development to create and enhance access connections to Millersneuk Wetland Local Nature Conservation Site (LNCS) including path creation, entrance features, signage and interpretation to help progress the designation of the site as a Local Nature Reserve. The development should enhance the biodiversity value of Millersneuk Wetland LNCS and avoid all negative impacts on the designation.</p> <p>Green infrastructure options for the management of surface water run-off, which deliver co-benefits for biodiversity and recreation should be investigated as part of all new developments.</p>					

Action code	Location	Opportunity	Green Network Objective Themes				
			Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
				Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN43	Fauldhead (Kirkintilloch) Housing Site	<p>As part of the housing development there are requirements within the Local Development Plan to improve and protect habitat links to and along the Luggie Water habitat corridor and proposed Local Nature Conservation Site. The existing pond is an important breeding site for Common Toad (a local species of conservation concern) and so should be maintained along with access to enhanced feeding and hibernating habitat within the development design. There are also opportunities to improve access to core paths and connections through the adjacent Woodilee development.</p> <p>Green infrastructure options for the management of surface water run-off, which deliver co-benefits for biodiversity and recreation should be investigated as part of all new developments.</p>					
LGN44	Broomhill Hospital (Kirkintilloch) Housing Site	<p>The requirements for this development within the Local Development Plan include the preparation of a masterplan which accounts for the protection and enhancement of the Local Nature Conservation Site (LNCS) and other green network components. This should include interpretation for the LNCS and protection of existing Tree Preservation Orders. Opportunities exist for improved access and habitat creation as part of the development.</p> <p>Green infrastructure options for the management of surface water run-off, which deliver co-benefits for biodiversity and recreation should be investigated as part of all new developments.</p>					

Action code	Location	Opportunity	Green Network Objective Themes				
			Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
				Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN45	Cleddens Playing Field (Kirkintilloch) Housing Site	<p>Development should provide access links to the Local Nature Conservation Site at Harestanes. Opportunities exist for additional habitat creation and open space enhancement.</p> <p>Green infrastructure options for the management of surface water run-off, which deliver co-benefits for biodiversity and recreation should be investigated as part of all new developments.</p>					
LGN46	MacDonald Crescent (Twechar) Housing Site	<p>There are opportunities for habitat creation such as broadleaved woodland and wetland habitat mosaic associated with surrounding Local Nature Conservation Site. Access links should be provided and/or enhanced to the strategic green network asset at Barhill.</p> <p>Green infrastructure options for the management of surface water run-off, which deliver co-benefits for biodiversity and recreation should be investigated as part of all new developments.</p>					
LGN47	Badenheath Business and Employment Site	<p>There is opportunity for the development design to minimise impact on the surrounding landscape and contribute to enhancement of the Green Belt together with retaining a buffer around the Luggie Water habitat corridor and proposed Local Nature Conservation Site and ensuring the integrity of Mosswater Local Nature Reserve in North Lanarkshire. The site is an important area for wintering geese species and areas of habitat should be retained for these species.</p> <p>Green infrastructure options for the management of surface water run-off, which deliver co-benefits for biodiversity and recreation should be investigated as part of all new developments.</p>					

Action code	Location	Opportunity	Green Network Objective Themes				
			Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
				Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN48	Braes O'Yetts (Kirkintilloch) Housing Site	Ensure implementation of the habitat management plan and landscaping plan for the development and investigate the feasibility of extending adjacent Merkland Local Nature Reserve to include the grassland to the west of the development site.					
LGN49	Chryston Road (Kirkintilloch) Housing Site	There is opportunity to enhance the habitat corridor and proposed Local Nature Conservation Site of the railway line and potentially to improve access to the core path at the Luggie Water. Pedestrian access should also be provided to the adjacent Woodilee development.  Green infrastructure options for the management of surface water run-off, which deliver co-benefits for biodiversity and recreation should be investigated as part of all new developments.					
LGN50	Tom Johnston House/Whitegates Industrial Estate (Kirkintilloch) Business and Employment Site	Opportunity exists for habitat creation and landscaping associated with the surface water management of the site, including potential removal of culvert.					

Committed Actions

Action code	Location	Associated Existing Strategy	Action	Timescale and Delivery Partners	Green Network Objective Themes				
					Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
						Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN51	Park Burn (Kirkintilloch)	Open Space Strategy, Local Flood Risk Management Plan	Conduct a Natural Flood Management Study for the Park Burn and investigate the feasibility of providing co-benefits as part of this to include habitat improvements, open space enhancements and upgrading of the core path at Christine's Way.	2017 – 2020  East Dunbartonshire Council (Technical and Engineering, Streetscene Technical Support, Traffic and Transport)					
LGN52	Forth and Clyde Canal (Kirkintilloch and Twechar)	Active Travel Strategy	Upgrade the canal towpath between Kirkintilloch and Twechar.	2017 – 2018  East Dunbartonshire Council (Traffic and Transport), Scottish Canals					

Action code	Location	Associated Existing Strategy	Action	Timescale and Delivery Partners	Green Network Objective Themes				
					Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
						Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN53	East Bishopbriggs and Lenzie	Active Travel Strategy	<p>Investigate the provision of an off-road route connecting east Bishopbriggs with Lenzie/ Kirkintilloch, adjacent to the railway.</p> <p>This route should also deliver green network benefits for biodiversity taking into account existing sensitivities in this area including Lenzie Moss LNR and Pink-footed Goose and Greylag Goose feeding sites. Investigate utilising the existing right of way as part of the route to mitigate disturbance and displacement of wildlife and habitat fragmentation and loss.</p>	<p>2017 – 2019</p> <p>East Dunbartonshire Council (Traffic and Transport)</p>					



Action code	Location	Associated Existing Strategy	Action	Timescale and Delivery Partners	Green Network Objective Themes				
					Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
						Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN54	Luggie Park and Tintock Wood (Kirkintilloch)	Open Space Strategy, Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Seek Stage 2 funding from Woodland In and Around Towns (WIAT) scheme to produce woodland management plans.	2018 – 2022 East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support), Central Scotland Green Network Trust, Forestry Commission Scotland					
LGN55	Boghead Wood (Kirkintilloch)	Open Space Strategy, Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Seek funding from Woodland In and Around Towns (WIAT) scheme to carry out woodland management and access improvements as detailed in the site management plan for the site.	2017 – 2019 East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support)					

Action code	Location	Associated Existing Strategy	Action	Timescale and Delivery Partners	Green Network Objective Themes				
					Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
						Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN56	Millersneuk Wetland Local Nature Conservation Site (Kirkintilloch)	Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Carry out habitat management works and improve access to and within the Local Nature Conservation Site with a view to progress designation of site as a Local Nature Reserve.  Opportunity to provide an access point to the site through development at Claddens South (see LGN42).	2018 – 2021  East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support, Sustainability Policy)					
LGN57	Merkland Local Nature Reserve (Kirkintilloch)	Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Create at least two new ponds within Merkland and investigate extension to the Local Nature Reserve as part of the Habitat Management Plan for the adjacent housing development at Braes O'Yetts.	2018 – 2020  East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support, Sustainability Policy), local community groups					

Action code	Location	Associated Existing Strategy	Action	Timescale and Delivery Partners	Green Network Objective Themes				
					Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
						Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN58	Lenzie Moss Local Nature Reserve (Lenzie)	Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Continue restoration of lowland raised bog habitat (dam installation, birch removal) and monitoring of previous restoration works. Upgrade existing boardwalk access within site.	2017 – 2020  East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support, Traffic and Transport), Friends of Lenzie Moss.					
LGN59	Westermains Scrub and Grass (Kirkintilloch)	Open Space Strategy	Improve site for biodiversity through expansion of wet woodland and creation of amphibian pools and hibernacula.	2020 – 2021  East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support)					
LGN60	Twechar Public Park (Twechar)	Open Space Strategy	Creation and expansion of woodland and wetland habitat and enhancement of the core path.	2020 – 2021  East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support, Traffic and Transport)					
LGN61	Park Avenue to Glen Shirva (Twechar)	Active Travel Strategy	Improvement to core path and surrounding linkages.	2017 – 2018  East Dunbartonshire Council (Traffic and Transport)					

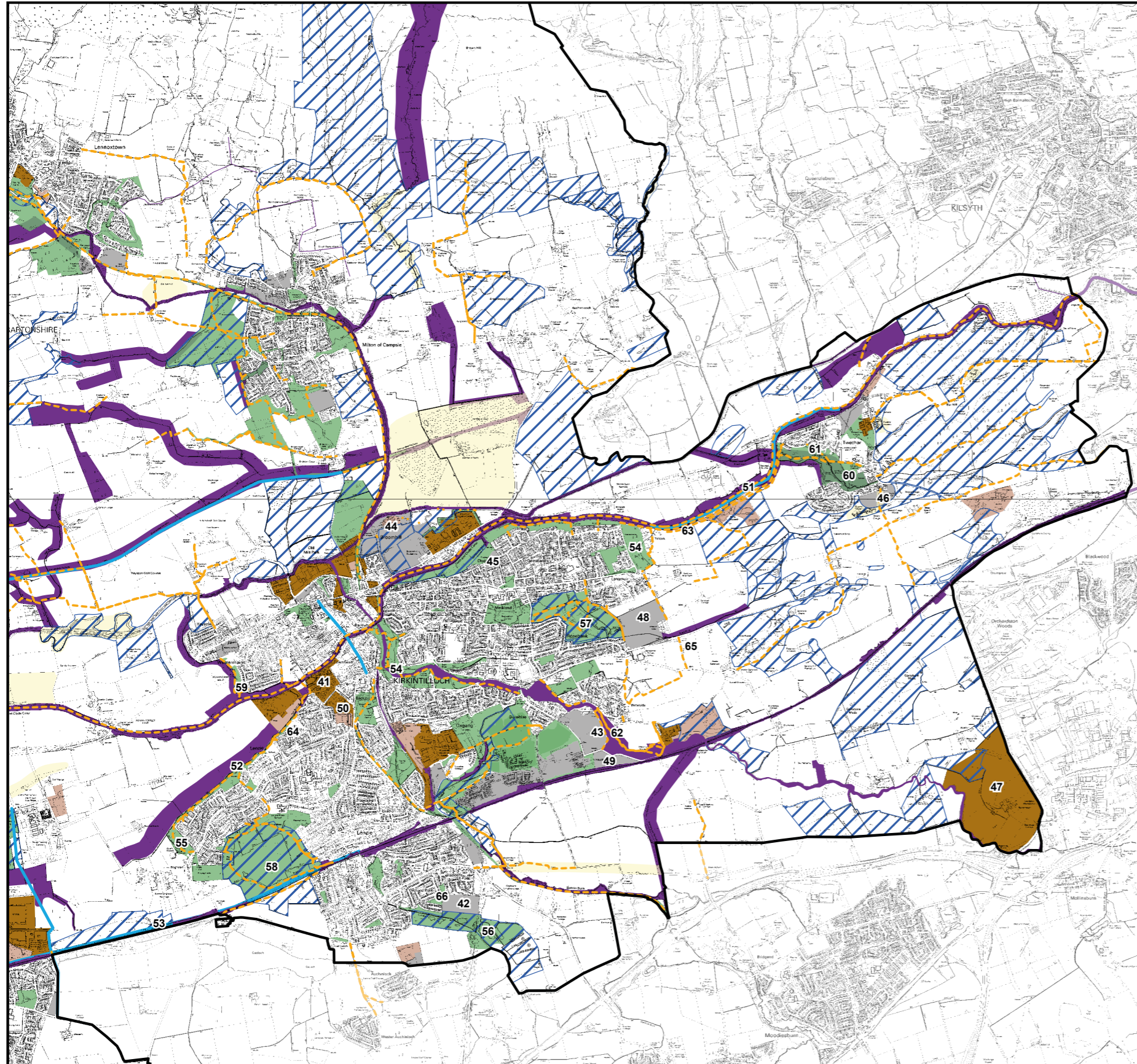
## Additional or Aspirational Opportunities











Action code	Location	Opportunity	Potential Delivery Partners	Green Network Objective Themes				
				Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
					Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN62	Luggie Water (Fauldhead, Kirkintilloch)	Upgrade core path beside the Luggie Water at Fauldhead.	East Dunbartonshire Council (Traffic and Transport)					
LGN63	Forth and Clyde Canal (Kirkintilloch and Twechar)	Investigate the feasibility of upgrading access along the south of the canal between existing bridges at Kirkintilloch and Twechar to create a circular route and improve access to the canal towpath for residents in east Kirkintilloch. Access improvements will require to be sensitive to the integrity of the canal habitat corridor and impacts of disturbance on wildlife.	East Dunbartonshire Council (Traffic and Transport), Scottish Canals					

Action code	Location	Opportunity	Potential Delivery Partners	Green Network Objective Themes				
				Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
					Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN64	Greens Avenue (Lenzie)	Investigate the opportunity for multi-functional open space enhancements including opportunities for flood mitigation and/or storage, habitat creation including wetland, wildflower meadow and signature tree planting and improved amenity at The Greens. It is essential initial consultation with the local community is carried out to determine scope of potential options.	East Dunbartonshire Council (Technical and Engineering, Streetscene Technical Support, Sustainability Policy)					
LGN65	Merkland Local Nature Reserve and Gartshore Woods, Kennel Plantation, Heronryhill Local Nature Conservation Site	Investigate creation of habitat link of woodland and wetland habitat mosaic between Merkland Local Nature Reserve and Gartshore Woods, Kennel Plantation, Heronryhill Local Nature Conservation Site.	East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support, Sustainability Policy)					
LGN66	Netherhouse Avenue (Lenzie)	Investigate options for a potential entrance feature as part of access point to Millersneuk Wetland Local Nature Conservation Site (via development at Claddens South LGN42).	East Dunbartonshire Council (Sustainability Policy, Streetscene Technical Support)					



Map 17: Kirkintilloch, Lenzie and Twechar Local Green Network Opportunities and Actions



-  EDC and Mugdock Country Park Boundary
-  Vacant and Derelict Land
-  Indicative Green Network Habitat Links
-  ATS - Proposed New Route
-  Proposed Housing Sites
-  Proposed Business and Employment Sites
-  Green Network Access Links
-  Green Network Nodes - Geodiversity
-  Green Network Nodes - Biodiversity
-  Green Network Nodes - Recreation

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## Lennoxtown, Milton of Campsie, Haughhead and Clachan of Campsie

These small rural villages all lie at the foot of the Campsie Fells. They are connected to the strategic green network via the Strathkelvin Railway Path which runs to the south of the villages. However there are local gaps in the quality of access points onto this Long Distance Route. Lennox Forest, a strategic green network asset, is directly to the south and the Campsie Fells are within the immediate vicinity of the local communities to the north. The Campsie Fells are very much a defining feature of the villages and are part of the attractiveness of the area.

Local open space is abundant within the villages of Lennoxtown and Milton of Campsie and the Open Space Strategy seeks to improve any underperforming open spaces. Much of the open space is semi-natural given the location and surrounding environment. There are a number of Local Nature Conservation Sites in the area and two Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Woodland creation is proposed at the Forestry Commission Scotland site, Balcarrach Woods and improvements to access at existing woodlands of Southfield Woods and Redhill Woods are proposed through the Open Space Strategy.



Table 6: Lennoxtown, Milton of Campsie, Haughhead and Clachan of Campsie Green Network Opportunities

## Opportunities from Proposed Development Sites

Action code	Location	Opportunity	Green Network Objective Themes				
			Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
				Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN67	Campsie Golf Club Housing Site	<p>There are opportunities for habitat creation particularly for Great Crested Newt, in addition to ensuring access to adjacent open space.</p> <p>Green infrastructure options for the management of surface water run-off, which deliver co-benefits for biodiversity and recreation should be investigated as part of all new developments.</p>					
LGN68	Lennoxlea (Lennoxtown) Housing Site	<p>There are opportunities to enhance and reinforce the biodiversity value of the woodland corridor and Glazert Water to the south of the site. The core path to the south of the site should be easily accessible for residents within the development.</p> <p>Green infrastructure options for the management of surface water run-off and fluvial flooding associated with the Glazert Water, which deliver co-benefits for biodiversity and recreation should be investigated as part of the development.</p>					



Committed Actions

Action code	Location	Associated Existing Strategy	Action	Timescale and Delivery Partners	Green Network Objective Themes				
					Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
						Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN69	Southfields Woodland and Redhills Woodland (Lennoxtown)	Open Space Strategy, Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Seek Stage 2 funding from Woodland in and Around Towns (WIAT) scheme to produce a woodland management plans.	2018 – 2022 East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support), Central Scotland Green Network Trust, Forestry Commission Scotland					
LGN70	Whitefield Pond (Lennoxtown)	Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Continue naturalisation of Whitefield Pond, including adjacent lade and the creation of an island for nesting water birds.	2017 – 2018 East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support)					

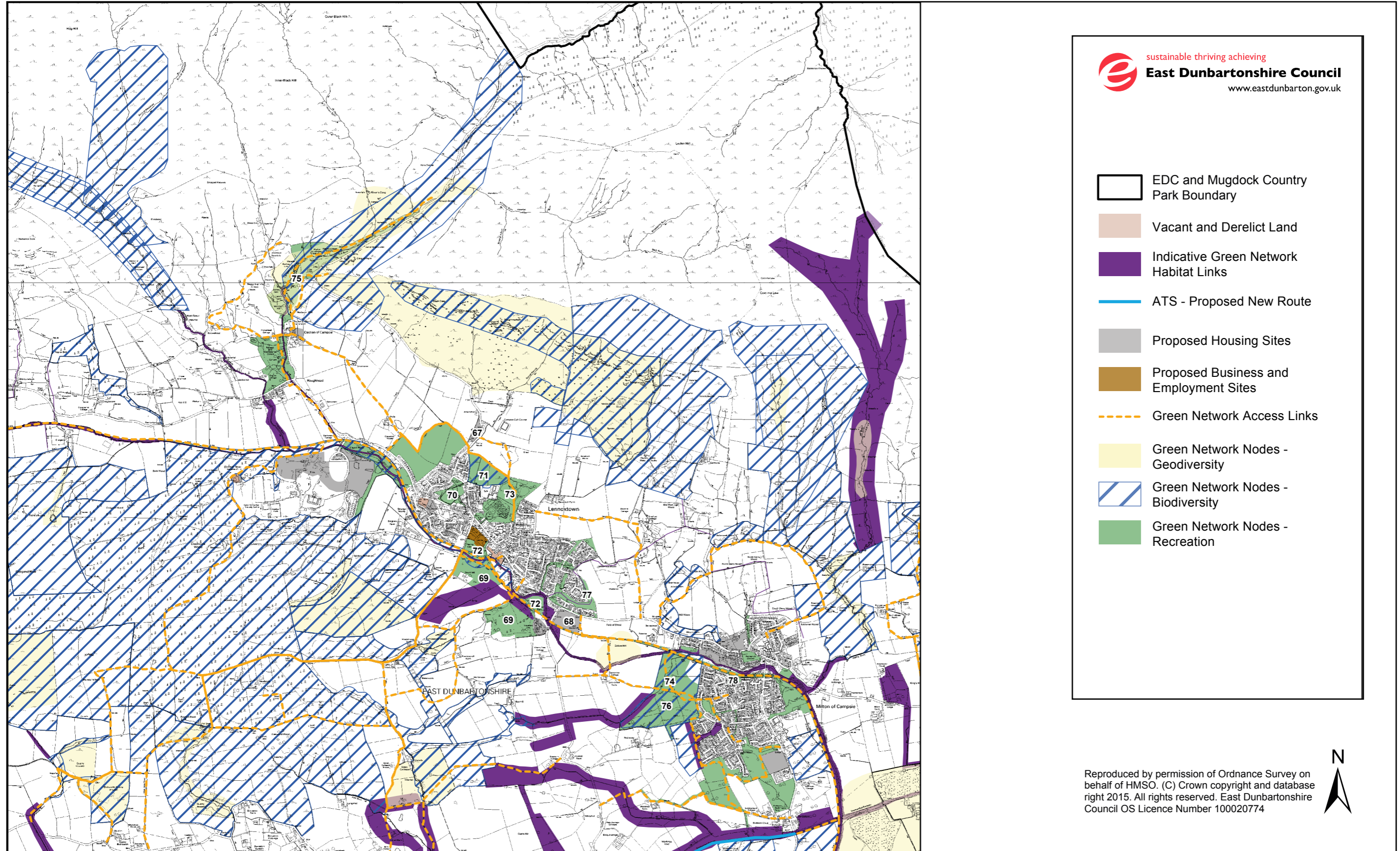
Action code	Location	Associated Existing Strategy	Action	Timescale and Delivery Partners	Green Network Objective Themes				
					Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
						Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN71	Balgrochan Marsh (Lennoxtown)	Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Carry out habitat enhancement works and investigate the potential to designate Balgrochan Marsh as a Local Nature Reserve. Identify a feasible habitat link with Whitefield Pond and consider the inclusion of both sites within the designation.	2019 – 2022  East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support, Sustainability Policy)					
LGN72	Red Blaes Pitches at Station Road and Ferguson Park (Lennoxtown)	N/A	Carry out a feasibility study to provide options to re-purpose blaes pitches into functional, high quality open space and conduct community consultation on preferred options.	2017 – 2018  East Dunbartonshire Council (Sustainability Policy, Strategic Development and Regeneration)					

Action code	Location	Associated Existing Strategy	Action	Timescale and Delivery Partners	Green Network Objective Themes				
					Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
						Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN73	High Park (Lennoxtown)	Open Space Strategy	Habitat enhancement works including scrub removal on remaining area of lowland heath, enhancement of woodland edge with wildflowers and provision of hibernacula and invertebrate habitat piles within woodland.	2019 – 2021 East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support)					
LGN74	Redmoss Grassland (north) Local Nature Conservation Site (Milton of Campsie)	N/A	Upgrade core path.	2017 – 2019 East Dunbartonshire Council (Traffic and Transport), local community groups					
LGN75	Campsie Glen (Clachan of Campsie)	Active Travel Strategy	Upgrade core path from Campsie Glen to Crow Road car park	2017 – 2019 East Dunbartonshire Council (Traffic and Transport, Business and Tourism), Forestry Commission Scotland					

## Additional or Aspirational Opportunities

Action code	Location	Opportunity	Potential Delivery Partners	Green Network Objective Themes				
				Safeguarding Biodiversity	Climate Change		Supporting Sustainable Communities	Supporting a Sustainable Economy
					Adaptation	Mitigation		
LGN76	Redmoss Grassland (north) Local Nature Conservation Site (Milton of Campsie)	Enhancement of open space to include management of grassland habitat with potential for some woodland expansion	East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support) with potential for community and LBAP Partnership involvement					
LGN77	Redhills View Grassland (Lennoxton)	Investigate strengthening links to other adjacent open spaces through habitat creation and management.	East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technical Support)					
LGN78	Open Space at James Boyle Square (Milton of Campsie)	Investigate with local community groups potential future use and improvements to open space.	East Dunbartonshire Council (Streetscene Technnical Support), local community groups.					

Map 18: Lennoxtown, Milton of Campsie, Haughhead and Clachan of Campsie Local Green Network Opportunities and Actions



## Appendix 1: Policy Context



## National

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### **Land Use Strategy (Scottish Government)**

Scotland's Land Use Strategy 2011 recognises land as a fundamental resource which is vital for a successful economy, for the environment and for communities. The consultative draft for the second Land Use Strategy for Scotland 2016 – 2021, contains the same strategic vision and objectives and the long term goal of the strategy and remains to achieve well integrated sustainable land use delivering multiple benefits to all of society. The consultative draft emphasises the need for an ecosystem approach to land use decision-making and encourages this through the use of three basic principles: consider natural systems; take account of the services that ecosystems provide and; involve people.

### **National Planning Framework 3 (Scottish Government, 2014)**

This sets out a strategy for the long term development of Scotland's towns, cities and countryside under four main themes: A successful, sustainable place; a low carbon place; a natural, resilient place; and a connected place. These themes encompass much about the overall benefits of green networks. The document also designates the Central Scotland Green Network and the National Walking and Cycling Network as national developments.

The Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) extends across 19 local authority areas, including East Dunbartonshire. CSGN's vision is that 'by 2050, Central Scotland has been transformed into a place where the environment adds value to the economy and where people's lives are enriched by its quality'. CSGN sets out its priorities for achieving this vision through five strategic themes:

A place for growth – Creating an environment for sustainable economic growth

A place in balance – Creating an environment more in balance, one that will support Central Scotland to thrive in a changing climate

A place to feel good – Creating an environment which supports healthy lifestyles and good physical and mental wellbeing

A place to belong – Creating an environment that people can enjoy and where they choose to live and bring up their families

A place for nature – Creating an environment where nature can flourish

### **Scottish Planning Policy (Scottish Government, 2014)**

This document presents national planning policies which reflect Scotland's priorities for the development and use of land and will help deliver the objectives of the National Planning Framework. The principal policies on Sustainability and Placemaking are seen as overarching and should therefore be taken into account within all new development. Policies for delivering improvements to green networks are seen as essential for improving the environment and climate resilience, building stronger, healthier communities and encouraging investment and economic development.

There are a number of policy principles for 'maximising the benefits of green infrastructure' which encourage the green network to be viewed as an integral part of all new development and as an essential component of successful placemaking.

## Regional

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### ***Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan (Clyde Plan, 2012)***

The vision of the Strategic Development Plan promotes green networks as a framework for a wide range of actions to meeting environmental, health and economic benefits. The strategy also identifies that a multi-functional green network will contribute to the economic competitiveness and quality of life in the region. Policy 12 states that local authorities should identify, protect, promote and enhance the green network, including cross-boundary links with adjoining local authorities.

### ***Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership***

The Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership covers a regional component of the CSGN, relevant to East Dunbartonshire. The Partnership brings together eight local authorities and five government agencies with the aims of delivering an exemplar green network.

### ***Clyde and Loch Lomond Flood Risk Management Strategy (SEPA, 2015)***

This strategy describes the agreed ambition for managing flooding and the priority actions to be taken forward to deliver this by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and the local authorities within the area.

The actions of East Dunbartonshire Council are to protect the flood plain, reduce the impact of development on flood risk and to study local areas at risk of flooding. East Dunbartonshire Council will produce a Local Flood Risk Management Plan in summer 2016 which will provide additional detail on the local responsibility, funding and co-ordination of actions. Where mitigation measures such as natural flood risk alleviation are recommended these could be shown as green network opportunities in the future.

### ***The Campsies – A Strategic Review and Action Plan (The Campsie Fells Steering Group, 2011)***

The Campsie Fells Steering Group is a partnership between East Dunbartonshire Council, Falkirk Council, North Lanarkshire Council, Stirling Council, Forestry Commission Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage. The Strategic Review covers access, tourism and recreation, economic development, business support and biodiversity and provides a 10-year action plan for the delivery of improvements.

### ***Mugdock Country Park Strategy 2015 – 2020***

This is a five year strategy which sets out the park's vision, opportunities for promotion of the park and options to develop sustainable economic activity.



## Local

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### ***Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016 – 2019 (East Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership, 2016)***

The East Dunbartonshire Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) sets out the strategic priorities for East Dunbartonshire and identifies six local outcomes which the Council and partners will deliver under the overall vision of 'Working together to achieve the best with the people of East Dunbartonshire'. The outcomes reflect social, economic, health and environmental issues. The delivery of the Green Network Strategy will make a contribution to achieving these outcomes, in particular:

- > East Dunbartonshire has an expanding economy with a competitive and diverse business and retail base
- > East Dunbartonshire is a safe and sustainable environment in which to live, work and visit
- > Our people and communities enjoy increased physical and mental wellbeing and health inequalities are reduced.

### ***Local Plan 2 (East Dunbartonshire Council, 2011) and emerging Local Development Plan***

The development plan sets out a spatial strategy, policies and proposals to guide development, including housing, business and employment and infrastructure within the East Dunbartonshire Council area.

The implementation of spatial policies within the development plan provides the opportunity for green network improvements mainly through the provision of new multi-functional open space and open space enhancements.

The emerging Local Development Plan is due to be approved by the Council in December 2016 after an Examination led by the Scottish Government.

Policy 5: Green Infrastructure and Green Network within this document states that development will include green infrastructure and protect, enhance and manage the green network in East Dunbartonshire. This policy also identifies Supplementary Guidance (SG) which will be prepared to support the implementation of this policy. The Green Infrastructure and Green Network SG will present green network and open space opportunities, identified in the Plan, Green Network Strategy and the Council's Open Space Strategy. This guidance, together with the Design and Placemaking SG will identify what green infrastructure, in particular open space and green network opportunities, should be provided by development at neighbourhood, street and building level. The SG on Developer Contributions sets out when and where development will be expected to make contributions to open space and the green network.

### ***Open Space Strategy 2015 – 2020 (East Dunbartonshire Council, 2015)***

The Open Space Strategy, through quantitative and qualitative analyses of East Dunbartonshire's open space resource, established both the current and future potential of open space within the local authority area. Based on this analyses the strategy provides recommendations for improvements on a number of open spaces including access improvements, creation of habitat and upgrading of facilities such as play parks. These improvements can contribute to the objectives of the green network through making open spaces more accessible and attractive for local communities.

**Active Travel Strategy 2015 – 2020 (East Dunbartonshire Council, 2015) and Local Transport Strategy 2013 – 2017 (East Dunbartonshire Council, 2013)**

The Active Travel Strategy supersedes the active travel section of East Dunbartonshire's Local Transport Strategy 2013 – 2017. The strategy outlines a number of actions to improve the access infrastructure for walking and cycling both utilising on-road routes and off-road. The upgrading or creation of new off-road routes presents an opportunity to deliver other green network benefits such the creation of associated path side habitat for biodiversity. The strategy also seeks to increase the number of people walking and cycling with a number of behavioural change actions also proposed.

**Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2017 – 2021 (East Dunbartonshire Biodiversity Partnership, 2016)**

The East Dunbartonshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) has been developed with a number of partner organisations to help conserve and enhance the natural environment of the area. The plan builds on the actions of the previous LBAP and sets out the targets and projects for priority habitats and species to 2021 and beyond. The action plan has four separate ecosystem plans: Urban, Rural, Freshwater and Woodland. A major component of a multi-functional green network is its value for wildlife and providing people with a means to enjoy nature. The LBAP has been developed alongside this Green Network Strategy and has informed the strategy throughout its development thereby ensuring the priorities of both documents align with and complement one another.

**Economic Development Strategy 2013 – 2016 (East Dunbartonshire Council, 2013)**

This document provides a strategic approach to the economic development of East Dunbartonshire. The vision for the strategy is:

To create more, high quality jobs for the area by focusing on business creation and growth and the delivery of balanced communities with enhanced infrastructure and services

Investment in the green network can assist with the realisation of this vision. Work to update this strategy is underway and a draft for public consultation is scheduled for publication in 2017.

**Core Path Plan (East Dunbartonshire Council)**

The Core Path Plan was prepared under requirements of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. The plan identifies and maps the core paths which give the public reasonable access throughout the area. These paths form an important component of the green network.

**Food Growing Strategy (East Dunbartonshire Council)**

This will be a new strategy for East Dunbartonshire Council. The main driver for the production of the strategy is Section 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 which states all local authorities must produce a Food Growing Strategy for their area.

It is anticipated the preparation of the strategy will provide the opportunity to identify the availability of land that would be suitable for use as allotments or community growing spaces. The strategy will also describe the reasonable measures that will be put in place to ensure that there is adequate allotment or community growing spaces in East Dunbartonshire in order to meet the demand for growing sites in all communities.



# Appendix 2: Opportunities Mapping



## Background

Opportunities Mapping is a Geographic Information System (GIS) based approach to identifying priority areas for the expansion of green networks. It is important local authorities can justify the allocation of resources and the Opportunities Mapping method provides a robust evidence base for the targeting of resources in areas that will deliver the greatest benefits. Together with the Gap Analysis (Section 3.3), the Opportunities Mapping process helped identify those gaps in the existing network components which should be prioritised for action.

Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership developed and have been using the Opportunities Mapping approach since 2010. The methodology for this is now established and has been used for mapping regional opportunities at the Clyde Plan level and local opportunities at a local authority scale. This established methodology identifies correlations between green network priorities and mechanisms for delivery through land use change using data from the Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Survey 2012, the proposed East Dunbartonshire Local Development Plan and the East Dunbartonshire Open Space Audit 2014. Where correlation is significant the location is identified as a priority for action. Figure 14 depicts the stages in the analysis and Table 7 shows the data used in the analysis for the four green network priorities.

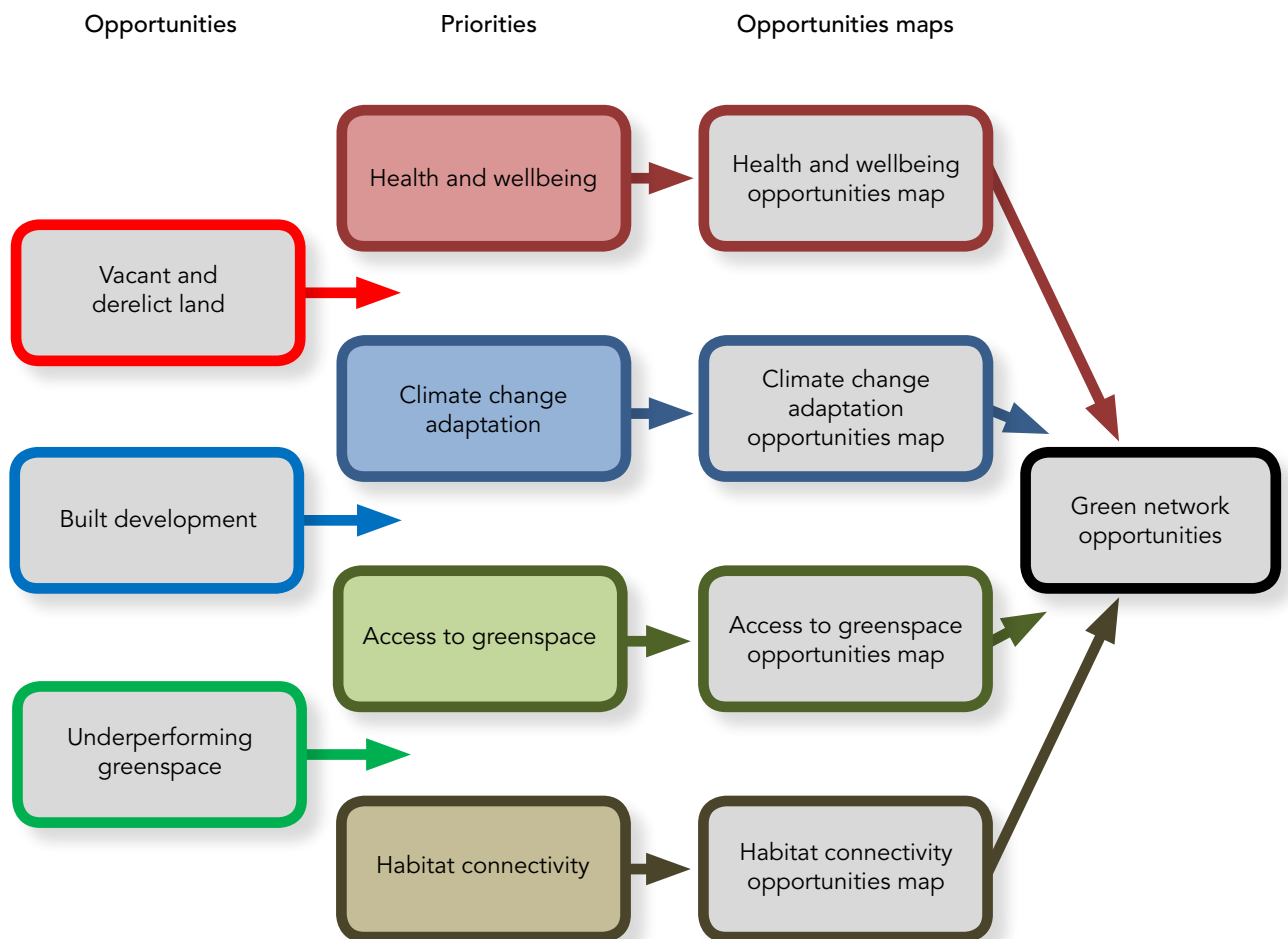


Figure 14: GCVGNP Opportunities Mapping Methodology

Table 7: Data Used for Urban Opportunities Mapping

Green Network Priority	Data
Health and Wellbeing	Number of hospital admissions with a main diagnosis of Coronary Heart Disease and Cerebrovascular Disease.
	Estimated proportion of population prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis.
Climate Change Adaptation	East Dunbartonshire Air Quality Management Areas
	Low probability surface water flooding extents
Access to Greenspace	Quantitative component of East Dunbartonshire Open Space Audit 2014
	Open space access points
	OS Integrated Transport Network
Habitat Connectivity	SNH Integrated Habitat Network

This methodology identifies priorities within urban areas and has been used to provide a basis for the Local Opportunities (Section 4.3) of this strategy.

The environmental context of East Dunbartonshire and the aspirations for the strategy to also identify strategic, cross-boundary opportunities for green network improvements resulted in the need to modify this methodology to also conduct an Opportunities Mapping exercise for rural areas.

The rural analysis consisted of less data inputs but a much greater land area to consider. The same types of correlations and relationships found from the urban analysis did not occur in rural areas and so a new approach was required. A range of rural habitat, access and recreational datasets were identified and collated, as shown in Table 8.



Table 8: Data Used in the Rural Opportunities Mapping

Data	Source
<b>Access</b>	
Central Scotland Green Network Long Distance Routes (LDR)	Scottish Natural Heritage
East Dunbartonshire Strategic Access Routes	East Dunbartonshire Council
East Dunbartonshire Core Paths	East Dunbartonshire Core Path Plan
<b>Habitat</b>	
East Dunbartonshire Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) including qualitative assessment	East Dunbartonshire LNCS Reviews (2009 and 2015)
Integrated Habitat Network Model	Scottish Natural Heritage
EUNIS Landcover data	Scottish Natural Heritage
<b>Recreation</b>	
Rural open spaces with strategically significant recreation value	East Dunbartonshire Council and Forestry Commission Scotland

The data was then analysed by Glasgow Clyde Valley Green Network partnership, using GIS to identify:

1. The current strategic green network extent
2. Physical gaps in the strategic green network
3. Quality of the strategic green network

From this analysis a series of locations with opportunities to improve or extend the green network could be identified. Report by GCVGNP on the Urban and Rural Opportunities Mapping method including the results can be found on their webpage <http://www.gcvgreennetwork.gov.uk/>







# Other formats

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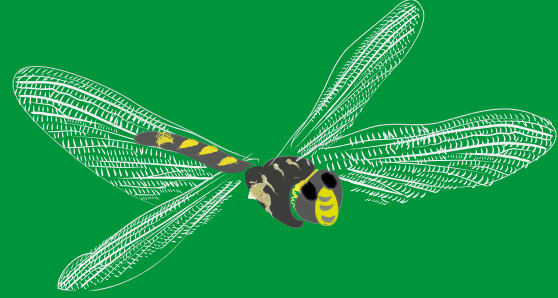
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