

**R: Lochore, Ballingry, Crosshill, Glenraig and Kelty**

Three settlement-scale green and blue networks have been identified in the Lochore, Ballingry and Crosshill area:

BGYGN01: Benarty and Ballingry West Green and Blue Network

LHRGN01: Benarty to Crosshill Green and Blue Network

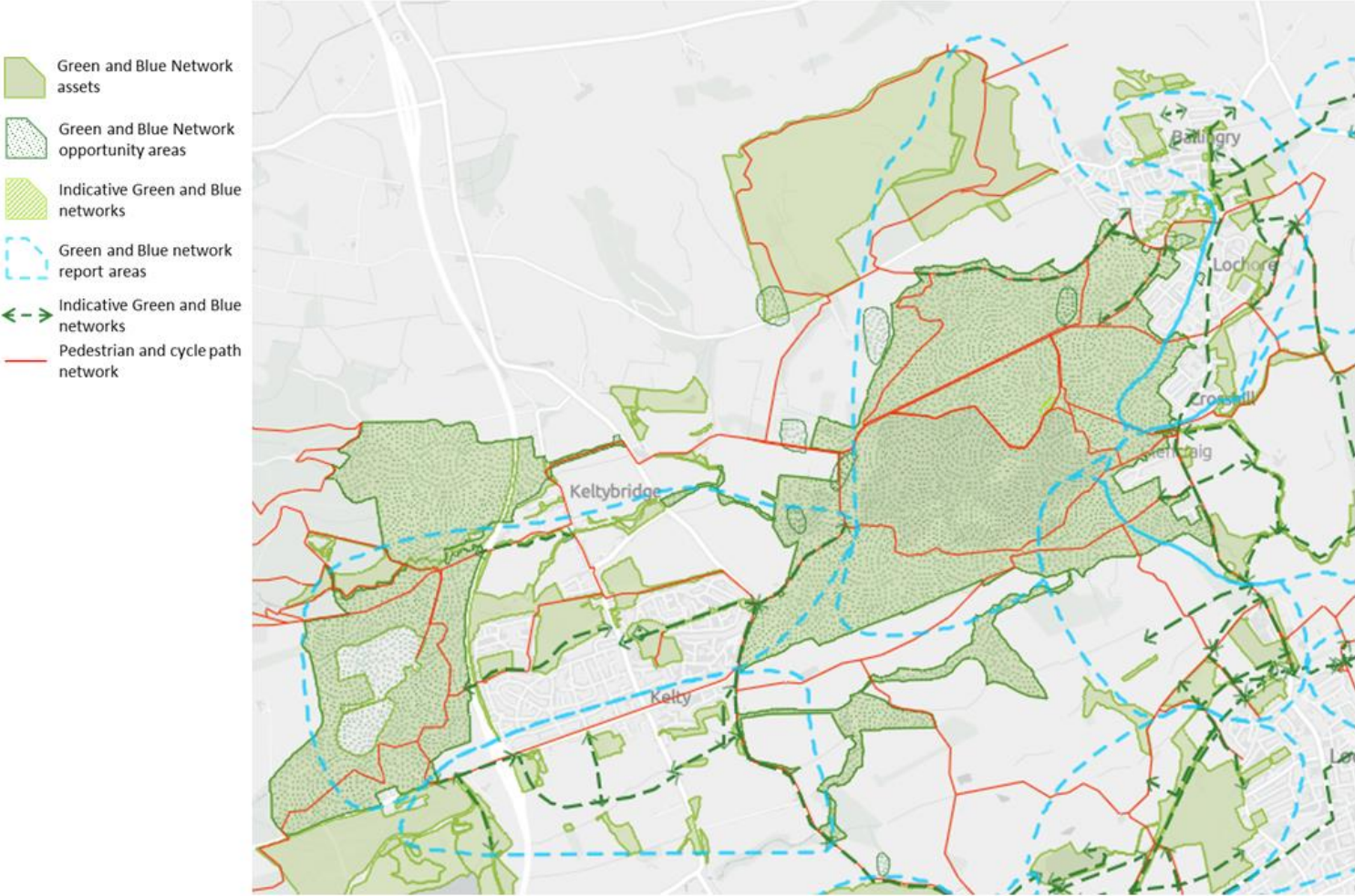
CRHGN01: Pitcairn – Ore Green and Blue Network

Two settlement-scale green and blue networks are identified in Kelty:

KELGN01: Blairadam to Lochore Green and Blue Network

KELGN02: Kelty South to St.Ninian’s Land Art Green and Blue Network

A short description summarising their key features, functions and opportunities is provided on the following pages.



Green and blue networks in Lochore, Ballingry, Crosshill, Glenraig and Kelty. © Crown copyright and database rights 2024. Ordnance Survey 100023385.

## BGYGN01: Benarty and Ballingry West Green and Blue Network

The Benarty and Ballingry West Green and Blue Network spans the western portion of Ballingry and Lochore and partly defines their wider landscape setting. The green and blue network provides important connectivity to wider assets include Lochore Meadows and Benarty Woods.

### Key Features:

- Existing core path network, including off-road access to countryside assets, including Benarty Wood and Lochore Meadows Country Park, which are important recreational destinations. The Pilgrims Way runs around the north of Loch Ore, from the south-west and continuing east through Crosshill.
- Existing cycle route connects Lochore and Ballingry to Kelty through Lochore Meadows.
- Includes greenspaces in Ballingry and Lochore, but spaces are currently of poor quality and limited functionality. There are community aspirations to improve these local spaces, which would help improve place quality and habitat offer.
- Lochore Meadows is an important habitat and landscape asset, covered by a number of designations. Woodland assets include Harran Hill Wood and Benarty Wood which are both long established, and can be considered areas of ancient woodland, important ecological and heritage assets for the area.
- An avenue of trees (mostly Lime, Sycamore, Ash and Oak) is protected by TPOs just south of Ballingry.
- Key assets include Lochore Meadows Country Park. Much of the land is reclaimed mining land, which tends to drain well.
- There can be some water run-off problems from Benarty Hill.
- The settlement edge with the country park would benefit from enhancement.

### Opportunities for Enhancement:

- Potential to enhance connectivity to Lochore Meadows and Benarty Woods through upgrading of the existing core path routes, including improving drainage and connectivity to the Community Centre.
- Open space around the community centre could potentially be developed as a new park. Would require more detailed investigation.
- Good potential to enhance place quality and biodiversity offer through improvements to the greenspaces through the settlement, including the smaller incidental spaces along roadsides – would require more detailed consideration.
- The landscape setting could be improved through enhancement of the quality of the settlement edge with the Country Park – particularly Ballingry – through improvements to the golf course and to woodland management in the area – would require more detailed consideration.
- Community aspiration for better connectivity to Lochore Meadows as a key recreational asset locally. Seek to upgrade the core path and cycle connectivity into Loch Ore Country Park - improving access for non-vehicular use
- Opportunity to repurpose the existing play park area in Lochore Meadows when the new play park is complete.
- Opportunity to create a community garden near the Benarty Centre.
- Improve flood resilience, especially with regards to surface water flooding.
- The CSGN Habitat Networks and Opportunity Areas mapping has identified primary and secondary opportunity areas for wetland enhancement to improve habitat connectivity to the

west of Loch Ore and for woodland enhancement to the south of Kildownies Hill and west of Harran Hill.

- The Fife NHS Greenspace Strategy identifies opportunities for enhancing biodiversity in courtyards, rooftops, verges, and lawns; and the potential to create green corridors, pocket parks, and gardens and areas for food production within the grounds of Rosewell Clinic.

Development Plan Priorities:

- Protect existing green and blue network assets.
  - The green and blue network priorities below relate to proposals in FifePlan (2017), these will be reviewed at the Proposed Plan stage of Fife's LDP2.
1. LDP proposal BGY 003 (Ballingry Road) – priorities in developing this area should be to:
    - Maintain connectivity and enhance the existing core path as a key entrance into Lochore Meadows Country Park.
    - Develop a high-quality landscape edge with the Country Park, through an appropriate new planting and boundary treatment which helps provide a landscape setting for the development and offers views into the Park.
  2. LDP proposal LHR 004 (Lochore Meadows) – priorities in developing this area should be to:
    - Enhance the entrances to Lochore Meadows as key gateways to the country park to encourage greater access to and use of this key asset. Potential to combine with habitat enhancement.
    - Upgrading existing core path routes (including improving drainage) to improve connectivity to nearby settlements.
    - Potential to develop the cycling and mountain bike trail offer in the country park and provide signage and more information locally on the routes and circuits available (for walking and cycling).
    - Enhance the quality of the edges between the settlements and the Country Park.
    - Explore the potential for further habitat enhancement and access as part of any future landscaping and sustainable urban drainage proposals.

### **LHRGN01: Benarty to Crosshill Green and Blue Network**

The Benarty to Crosshill Green and Blue Network provides important north-south connectivity between Lochore, Ballingry and Crosshill, and part defines the eastern landscape setting for the settlements.

Key Features:

- Existing core path network which includes connections to Lochore Meadows Country Park.
- Greenspaces include Crosshill Park and smaller-scale incidental spaces through the village. Investment is required to improve their quality and functionality.
- Other assets include the Ballingry Meadow wildlife site, which contributes to a wider mosaic of wetland, woodland, and grassland habitat.
- Potential to enhance the contribution to landscape setting.
- The Pilgrims Way runs around the south of Crosshill, connecting Loch Ore Meadows and Kinglassie.

Opportunities for Enhancement:

- Improve active travel north-south – better connect to Lochgelly and the local High School – scope to provide a cycleway within the road corridor along the B920. Establish connection to Kinglassie.
- Investment is required to improve Crosshill Park. The small incidental greenspaces within the settlements also offer good potential to improve the local place quality and deliver habitat enhancements (stepping stones) through settlement.
- Core path from Ballingry south, which would connect to Pitcairn Ore Green Network (3) is not yet developed; surface appropriate to deliver cycleway to Cardenden.
- The landscape setting could be improved through enhancement of the quality of the the settlement edge with the Country Park – particularly Ballingry – through improvements to the golf course and to woodland management in the area – would require more detailed consideration.
- Would benefit from enhancing the entrance to Lochore Meadows as a key gateway to the country park to encourage greater access to and use of this key asset. Potential to combine with habitat enhancement.
- River Basin Management Plan 3 identifies that the Lochty Burn has potential for a large scale river restoration project. Opportunity to connect Ballingry and Kinglassie to Glenrothes along the waterbody corridor – possibly linking up to Loch Leven and along the River Leven to create a long-distance active travel route in a loop, serving and connecting villages and towns in the area.

#### Development Plan Priorities:

- Protect existing green network assets.
  - The green and blue network priorities below relate to proposals in FifePlan (2017), these will be reviewed at the Proposed Plan stage of Fife's LDP2.
1. LDP proposal LHR 003 (Loanhead Avenue) – priorities in developing this area should be to:
    - Maintain and enhance the setting of the existing core path route and establish a new high quality landscape edge to provide a setting for the development and enhance the settlement edge.
  2. LDP proposal LHR 001 (Capeldrae Farm) – priorities in developing this area should be to:
    - Consider in association with BGY 001.
    - Establish a north-south green network connection through the site which provides connectivity with the Ballingry Meadow wildlife site that sits to the north and contribute to the wetland, woodland, and grassland habitat through appropriate new planting.
    - Establish a new high quality landscape edge to provide a setting for the development and enhance the settlement edge.
  3. LDP proposal BGY 001 (Flock House South)– housing site– priorities in developing this area should be to:
    - Consider in association with LHR 001.
    - Establish a north-south green network connection through the site which provides connectivity with the Ballingry Meadow wildlife site that sits to the north and contribute to the wetland, woodland, and grassland habitat through appropriate new planting.
    - Establish a new high quality landscape edge to provide a setting for the development and enhance the settlement edge.
  4. LDP proposal BGY 002 (Land to the east of Ballingry) – priorities in developing this area should be to:
    - Establish a new high quality landscape edge to provide a setting for the development and enhance the settlement edge.
    - Establish a north-south green network connection through the site which provides connectivity with the Ballingry Meadow wildlife site that sits to the south and contribute to the wetland, woodland, and grassland habitat through appropriate new planting.

5. LDP proposal BGY 004 (Former Benarty Centre) – priorities in developing this area should be to:
  - Establish green street frontages along the northern and southern edges of the site, which would improve the quality of the public realm along this route through the village.

### **CRHGN01: Pitcairn – Ore Green Network**

Following the course of the River Ore, through Pitcairn, the Pitcairn –Ore Green Network forms a key connecting element within the wider Fife network which links Lochore to Crosshill, Glenraig, Cardenden, and Lochgelly.

#### **Key Features:**

- Existing core and cycle path network which includes connections to Lochore Meadows Country Park. The Fife Pilgrims route passes through the north of this green network towards Torres Loan.
- Lochore Meadows is an important habitat asset, covered by a number of designations.
- Other assets include the River Ore and its tributary the Lochfitty Burn; there are no known drainage or flooding issues in the area. Much of the land is reclaimed mine workings, which tend to drain well. The lochs provide an important attenuation function. There are some water quality issues with the Lochfitty Burn.
- Forestry and Land Scotland owned farm at Pitcairn – tree planting along the River Ore has improved the quality and habitat value of the area – currently there is no recreational access however.
- An area of trees to the west of Glenraig is protected by TPOs, including Ash, Cherry, Beech, Willow, Sycamore, Pine, Oak and Lime.

#### **Opportunities for Enhancement:**

- Improve active travel north-south – better connect to Lochgelly and the local High School as a key destination – scope to provide a cycleway within the road corridor along the B920.
- Would benefit from enhancing the entrance to Lochore Meadows as a key gateway to the country park to encourage greater access to and use of this key asset. Potential to combine with habitat enhancement.
- River Ore and Lochfitty Burn represent the most significant opportunity to enhance the habitat and biodiversity locally. Possible potential to consider any opportunities alongside scope to improve water quality. SEPA have identified a water body restoration opportunity along the River Ore (Lochore to Cardenden) within this green and blue network.
- Potential to develop the cycling and mountain bike trail offer in the country park and provide more signage and information locally on the routes and circuits available (for walking and cycling) locally.
- Forestry and Land Scotland owned land at Pitcairn – potential to provide multi-use – walking and cycle – connectivity to Cardenden, creating a longer distance route linking to St. Ninian’s Land Art, Blair Adam Forest, Kelty, Loch Ore Meadows, Glenraig and Crosshill. Potential to combine access with improvements to the riparian corridor along the River Ore, including possible opportunities to deliver improved water attenuation and water quality upstream of Cardenden.

#### **Development Plan Priorities:**

- Protect existing green network assets.
  - The green and blue network priorities below relate to proposals in FifePlan (2017), these will be reviewed at the Proposed Plan stage of Fife’s LDP2.
1. LDP proposal GLC 001(Glenraig East) - priorities in developing this area should be to:



- Establish a high quality landscape edge with the existing lane which runs along the southern boundary of the site and connects west to a core path which provides access to Lochore Meadows Country Park and east to the River Ore and Pitcairn Farm.
  - Provide access from the development on to this path.
  - Cycleway to be provided within the B920 road corridor.
2. LDP proposal GLC 002 (Glencraig West) – priorities in developing this area should be to:
- Establish a high quality landscape edge with the existing core path which runs along the southern boundary of the site and connects into Lochore Meadows Country Park.
  - Provide access from the development on to this path.
  - Cycleway to be provided within the B920 road corridor.

## Settlement-Scale Blue and Green Networks in Kelty

### KELGN01: Blairadam to Loch Ore Blue and Green Network

The Blairadam to Loch Ore Blue and Green Network spans the strategically important green network assets of Blairadam Forest and Lochore Meadows Country Park, providing important east-west connectivity through the heart of Kelty.

#### Key Features:

- Kelty has a good amount of greenspace, assets within this green network include Central Park, Blairadam Park and the related amenity greenspace north of Keltyhill Avenue. All would benefit from investment to improve their functionality and quality which is below average.
- Existing core path network, and includes part of the cycle route that links through Blair Adam to Lochore Meadows and south from Blairadam Forest to Kingseat. Currently there is no dedicated cycle provision through Kelty.
- Includes part of the Drumagoil Burn, which runs through Blairadam Forest and connects to the Kelty Burn, along the northern edge of Kelty, from where it flows into Loch Ore.
- Habitat assets include Lochore Meadows Country Park, which is covered by a number of designations, and Blairadam Forest, which is owned by Forestry Commission Scotland and provides a number of recreational forest routes. Blairadam Forest has large sections of ancient woodland, making it an important natural heritage asset for the area. There is an area of grassland habitat within Kelty to the north of the recreation ground.
- The M90 can present a barrier to connectivity, but an existing underpass to the north of Kelty and a pedestrian footbridge further south provide crossing points. It is important to maintain these access points.
- Provides a key gateway into Lochore Meadows Country Park from the west, with potential to enhance quality and use of this entrance.
- Forms part of the longer Fife Pilgrim's route.

#### Opportunities for Enhancement:

- Blairadam Park and Central Park both need improved. A masterplan is being developed for the Blairadam Park (2013). Consider potential to establish paths through the park, as an alternate to the current on-street routes and developing shorter round recreational routes.
- Community aspiration for better connectivity to Lochore Meadows as a key recreational asset locally. Seek to upgrade the core path and cycle connectivity into Loch Ore Country Park – improving access for non-vehicular use.
- Consider the potential to combine access improvements with the scope to deliver an enhanced tourism offer in and around the country park, through for example building on the half a million visitors each year, and developing on the existing demand for horse-riding, mountain biking and water sports.
- Upgrade the existing cycle route through Blairadam Forest

- Blairadam Forest forms part of the setting of the designed landscape to the north (in Perth and Kinross) – consider the potential to build on this through for example developing heritage trails.
- SEPA have identified barriers to fish migration along the Kelty Burn within Blairadam Forest, they are aiming to restore the burn to a “good condition” by 2027.
- Upgrade the Great North Road (through improvements to the existing pavement) to provide a multi-use core path and cycleway which connects Kelty and Cowdenbeath.

### **Development Plan Priorities:**

- Protect existing green network assets.
  - The green and blue network priorities below relate to proposals in FifePlan (2017), these will be reviewed at the Proposed Plan stage of Fife’s LDP2.
1. LDP proposal KEL 003 (Elmwood Terrace) – priorities in developing this area should be to:
    - Deliver an east-west green network link, which incorporates access provision along the southern boundary of the site to connect Blairadam Park to the east, and the amenity greenspace north of Keltyhill Avenue. Provide good access from the development on to this route.
    - Consider the appropriateness of an off-site contribution to improve the quality of these nearby greenspaces.

### **KELGN02: Kelty South to St. Ninian’s Land Art Blue and Green Network**

Strategically important area for the establishment of a key missing blue and green network link which will help to successfully integrate proposed development south of Kelty with its wider setting and other key blue and green network assets which includes the St.Ninian’s area and Lochore Meadows Country Park.

#### **Key Features:**

- Links strategically important green network assets including, St. Ninian’s area and Lochore Meadows Country Park, which represent key tourism and recreational assets (or future assets) of Fife and wider importance.
- Junction 4 on the M90 represents an important gateway to the wider Ore Valley, offering scenic views of the wider area along the B914.
- There are areas of community woodland at St Ninians.
- The Fife Pilgrim’s Way route comes through the St Ninian’s area and connects to the Blairadam to Loch Ore Blue and Green Network north of the B914.
- Includes an existing on-street core path along the B914, which connects Kelty centre to Blairadam Forest across the M90 at junction 4 to the west and east to Lochore Meadows Country Park.
- Includes a couple of small existing greenspaces, which require investment to improve their quality and functionality.
- There is a small section of ancient woodland along Lochfitty Burn, east of the junction between the B912 and the B917.

#### **Opportunities for Enhancement:**

- Upgrade the Great North Road (through improvements to the existing pavement) to provide a multi-use core path and cycleway which connects Kelty and Cowdenbeath.
- There is considerable potential to develop the tourism offer of the wider area. Ensure good quality connections are established between Kelty and the St. Ninian’s area – as a key tourist attraction in the future. Also consider carefully the treatment of junction 4 of the M90 as a key gateway to the wider Ore Valley and the St. Ninian’s area – a landscape-led approach to

the junction might be most appropriate. Blairadam Forest forms part of the setting of the designed landscape to the north (within Perth and Kinross) - consider the potential to build on this through development of heritage trails.

- There are limited shorter circular recreational routes in the southern part of Kelty – seek opportunities to deliver additional routes locally.

#### Development Plan Priorities:

- Protect existing green network assets.
  - The green and blue network priorities below relate to proposals from FifePlan (2017), these will be reviewed at the Proposed Plan stage of the LDP2.
1. LDP proposal KEL 005 (Kelty South West) – priorities in developing this area should be to:
    - Develop a new high quality landscape edge along the southern and western boundary of the site incorporating access (walking and cycling) and habitat provision, alongside open space to better integrate and create a landscape setting for the development, and mitigate the visual prominence of the development when viewed from the south. To address potential issues arising from proximity to the M90, consider the need for a high quality landscape edge with the road. Use of different levels could be useful in mitigating the impact of noise from the road.
    - Consider the site's importance as a key gateway location in terms of influencing perceptions of the wider Ore Valley area. Use a landscape-led approach to enhance Junction 4 of the M90 as a key gateway and establish a high quality development edge along the northern boundary of the site which will enhance the setting of the development and retain and frame the existing key views looking east across the Valley.
    - Establish high quality north-south and east-west access (walking and cycling) links which will successfully integrate the development with the adjoining community and provide important connectivity east and west to key off-site assets/destinations including Loch Ore Meadows, the St. Ninian's Land Art and Blairadam Forest, and the Great North Road, which provides connectivity to Cowdenbeath.
  2. LDP proposal KEL 004 (Netherton Farm) – priorities in developing this area should be to:
    - Establish a new high quality landscape and habitat edge along the southern boundary of the site incorporating active travel provision linking east-west and north towards Loch Ore Meadows, to better integrate and create a landscape setting for the development.