

K. Glenrothes Area

5 settlement-scale green and blue networks were identified in Glenrothes:

GLEGN01: Lochty Burn Green and Blue Network

GLEGN02: Boblingen Way Green and Blue Network

GLEGN03: River Leven and Spurs Green and Blue Network

GLEGN04: Balbirnie to Gilvenbank Green and Blue Network

GLEGN05: Northern Glenrothes Web Green and Blue Network

GLEGN06: Leslie North 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 the Glenrothes area. © Crown copyright and database rights 2024. Ordnance Survey 100023385.

GLEGN01: Lochty Burn Green and Blue Network

The Lochty Burn Green Network follows the course of the Lochty Burn, forming an important strategic element which defines the southern edge of Glenrothes.

Key Features:

- Significant green network, which has an existing high level of multi-functionality and is of high value to the community.
- Important active travel route, which provides good connectivity east-west along the southern perimeter of Glenrothes, and links to Thornton Train Station and to Kirkcaldy, albeit the path route is liable to flooding.
- Key assets include the Lochty Burn, Stenton pond wildlife site, and the area's woodland habitat, including an area of ancient woodland to the west of Southfield IE.
- Significant to positive contribution to landscape setting - defines the southern boundary and important in preventing coalescence with Thornton.
- Significant flooding and drainage function, with the potential to further enhance.
- Kinglassie Bing is located at south-west end of the green network; the bing requires remediation.

Opportunities for Enhancement:

- The north-south active travel route running through Southfield Industrial Estate requires investment to enhance its quality.
- Significant potential to upgrade the active travel connections to Thornton rail station and Kirkcaldy, helping to promote more sustainable forms of transport.
- 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. Further opportunity to undertake works in Kinglassie park although the river is constrained on one side by a road.
- There is a shortage of round recreational routes in and around Thornton - there is an aspiration to develop new routes where possible. Enhance the habitat, landscape and access along the Lochty Burn where possible - as a key recreational asset for Thornton and Glenrothes and to avoid coalescence.

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 proposals GLE 006, GLE 007, GLE 008, GLE009, GLE 014, GLE 020, GLE 021, GLE 022, GLE 023 (Southfield Industrial Estate) – in developing these sites the priority should be to:
 - Contribute to the development and enhancement of the green network, particularly through the design of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems that tie into and enhance the existing water network, enhancing the active travel network and contributing to landscape setting.
 2. LDP proposal GLE 026 (Westwood Park) – in developing this site the priority should be to:
 - Maintain and enhance existing landscape buffers along the western boundary, the M90, the B921 and Foxtan Drive.

GLEGN02: Boblingen Way Green and Blue Network

The Boblingen Way Green and Blue Network follows the course of disused railway line, forming a strategically important linking element through the heart of Glenrothes.

Key Features:

- Key active travel route follows the course of an old disused railway line, connecting Markinch to Leslie, albeit in Markinch the active travel route is along roadsides.
- Good local access and people value the greenspaces. Key greenspace assets include: Caskieberran Park, Warout playing fields, Tanshall Park, Warout Wood, Bightymuir Wood, and Glenrothes Golf Course (which is not publicly accessible, but has core path routes which skirt the perimeter). The Golden Glenrothes charrette identified a number of opportunities to improve the greenspaces in this area.
- Some of the greenspaces have perceived safety issues particularly at night and would benefit from investment which improves their natural surveillance, in particular at Tanshall.
- Important contribution to landscape setting – helps to define adjoining local neighbourhoods.
- High biodiversity value – the area contains a network of woodland, including Warout and Bightymuir woods, which are important habitat assets; Warout wood is an area of ancient woodland, and is therefore particularly important natural heritage in the area. There are several trees protected by TPO's in the area, including a large number along Kinkell Avenue, Poplar Avenue
- Strong cultural heritage value – route relates to cultural heritage and industrial heritage of the area.
- Bighty Burn is culverted and runs under the green network, and there are a number of shallow ditches in the more wooded areas: the area tends to be quite wet.
- East-west, traffic-free, shared-use cycleway along Warout Road-Woodside Road.

Opportunities for Enhancement:

- Culverted watercourse Bighty Burn runs under the green network, and there are a number of shallow ditches in the more wooded areas: the area tends to be quite wet – could be potential to enhance and potentially a case to deculvert, but would need to be looked at in more detail.
- Long term aspiration for an east-west cycleway along the southern freeway.
- Shared use path to connect with existing and planned path network - in particular to provide a link to Bankhead.
- Improve walking and cycling experience along Boblingen Way. Animate pathway with colour and symbols, improve signage and access and review lighting approach.
- Opportunity for development of un/under used spaces within greenspace network including brownfield sites and wildscape areas.
- Opportunity for development of Caskieberran Park for adventure play and exploration including opportunities for school play and learning.
- Opportunity for development of Tanshall Park for activity play and exploration building on and enhancing existing facilities.
- Opportunity to build on Bumblebee Park character and existing natural play elements.
- 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 Pitteuchar Health Centre/ Rothes Medical Practice.

Development Plan Priorities:

- Protect existing green network assets.
 - The green and blue network priorities below relate to FifePlan (2017), these will be reviewed at the Proposed Plan stage of the LDP2.
1. LDP proposal GLE 018 (Pentland Park South) – in developing the site the priority should be to:
 - Create a high quality landscape edge which incorporates active travel provision maintains the green network’s connectivity and enhances connections to neighbouring communities.
 2. LDP proposals GLE 005 and GLE 035 (Whitehill Industrial Estate) – in developing the site the priority should be to:
 - This site has planning permission. Green network opportunities reflect planning permission.
 - Deliver active travel route connecting towards Boblingen Way.
 3. LDP proposal GLE 003 (Viewfield) – in developing the site the priority should be to:
 - Create a high quality landscape and access link through the site to enhance the route of the existing north-south active travel path
 - Deliver high quality green network links to the housing and employment areas at Whitehill.

GLEGN03: River Leven and Spurs Green and Blue Network

The River Leven and Spurs Green and Blue Network, follows the course of the River Leven and its main tributaries, providing a strategically important linking element running east-west, between Leslie and Markinch, passing just north of Glenrothes town centre.

Key Features:

- Existing active travel network (and part of the Fife Pilgrims Way) follows the course of the River Leven along parts of the green network, but includes some on-street connections particularly in the section towards Glenrothes town centre and the A92 is a key barrier to connectivity.
- Key greenspace assets include the extensive and good quality Riverside Park, but investment is required to enhance connectivity to the town centre and to further enhance the Park’s greenspace quality.
- Watercourse provides a significant flooding and drainage function, as does the large Riverside Park greenspace.
- Contributes positively to landscape setting due to the scale of assets in the area, with good potential to further enhance, alongside habitat connectivity.
- There are three areas of ancient woodland in this network, South Woods (just north of Macedonia and south of the River Leven, Leslie House Woods (on the north bank of the River Leven opposite South Woods) and an area East of the Markinch train station/line.
- In addition to being long established, Leslie House Woods is under a blanket tree protection order. There are separate tree protection orders on surrounding tree growths near to the Woods.

Opportunities for Enhancement:

- Upgrade the existing core path along the River Leven and the section leading to Leslie to multi-use as part of the Fife Pilgrims route.
- Likely potential to enhance the active travel network, including enhancing connectivity with Markinch Train Station, but requires more detailed scoping.

- Opportunity to enhance contribution to landscape setting and habitat through appropriate new planting and management of existing vegetation.
- Investment is required to enhance the quality of Riverside Park.
- The CSGN Habitat Networks and Opportunity Areas mapping has identified primary opportunity areas for woodland enhancement to improve habitat connectivity at the far west of Riverside Park and to the east of Albany Park.
- Proposed improvements to Riverside Park including establishing welcoming entrances at four key gateways into the park; creating a hub with new facilities; habitat improvements including the creation of a wildlife corridor through the park; improved connectivity through the park and into the surrounding area, with new lighting and wayfinding, path upgrades and additional footbridges; and establishing a community area.
- Opportunity for development of land around Southwood Primary School for adventure play and exploration including opportunities for school play and learning.
- Aspiration to improve the walking experience between the Glenwood Centre and South Wood.
- Green infrastructure enhancement opportunities as part of the redevelopment of the Glenwood Centre include creating new green spaces and gardens, improved North south permeability and strengthened pedestrian routes.
- 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 the Glenwood Dental Access Centre and Health Centre.
- There is low-high flood risk along the course of the River Leven, presenting opportunities for flood mitigation strategies.

Development Plan Priorities:

- Protect existing green network assets.
 - The green and blue network priorities below relate to FifePlan (2017), these will be reviewed at the Proposed Plan stage of the LDP2.
1. LDP proposal LES 001 (Leslie House) – in developing the site the priority should be to:
 - This site has planning permission. Green network opportunities reflect planning permission for limited development in the green woodland setting of a former designed landscape that will capitalise on the site's existing green network assets and maintain connectivity.
 2. LDP proposal GLE 004 (Land to the south of Cadham Road) – in developing the site there is a requirement to:
 - Provide a green network along the southern edge of site/riverside. In delivering this route there is also an opportunity to establish a key missing active travel connection.
 3. LDP proposal MAR 001 (Markinch South) - in developing the site the priority should be to:
 - Retain existing green network assets between Markinch and Glenrothes, using contours, land features and structural planting to avoid further coalescence between the settlements.
 - Maintain connectivity and enhance setting of the existing core path routes which run between the A911 and Markinch and along the disused railway.
 - Establish a high quality development edge along the River Leven, which delivers landscape and habitat enhancements, alongside access (with links into Alburne Park) and high quality SUDS provision.
 - Maintain and enhance the existing landscape frontage along the A911 and Sappi Road which helps to contain the site visually, and reflects the wider rural character

and sense of arrival on approach to Markinch from the south. Along the A911 this should be a 20m wide landscape buffer to protect residential amenity.

- Land north of Sappi Road - establish a high quality landscape edge along the western boundary, which delivers landscape and habitat enhancements, alongside access and high quality SUDS provision.
4. LDP proposal LES 002 (Prinlaws Mill) - in developing the site the priority should be to:
 - This site includes part of WS51 Leslie-Strathenry Wildlife site – any development on the site must take measures to mitigate against loss of habitat and reduction in habitat connectivity.
 - Establish a high quality landscape edge along the River Leven, which delivers landscape and habitat enhancements, alongside access and high quality SUDS provision.
 5. LDP proposal LES 003 (South of Walkerton Drive) – in developing the site the priority should be to:
 - Establish a high quality edge with the existing core path which runs along the north boundary of the site.
 - Provide a high quality landscape edge with the established wildlife site to the south of site (where bounds proposal LES 002).

GLEGN04: Balbirnie to Gilvenbank Green and Blue Network

The Balbirnie to Gilvenbank Green and Blue Network is a high-quality Green and Blue network resource serving north east Glenrothes, Balbirnie and Markinch.

Key Features:

- High quality green network with existing active travel network. The Fife Pilgrims route passes through this area.
- Key assets include: the extensive national inventory designed landscape Balbirnie Park and Balbirnie Golf Course, Gilvenbank Park, Gallowbank Plantation and John Dixon Park.
- Part of the Lomond Hills Regional Park RUCN category 4.
- Significant woodland habitat.
- The A92 and the B9130 (in Markinch) are key barriers to connectivity and can be particularly difficult for pedestrians to cross safely.
- There is a very large blanket tree protection order on 317 acres of woodland surrounding Balbirnie House, North-West of Markinch. In addition, there is a smaller group of trees also under TPO, along Cadham Road.
- There are several large sections of this wooded area that are ancient woodland, including: Mount Forest, Balbirnie Mains and Firhill; but also including several other sections that are not named.

Opportunities for Enhancement:

- Enhance connectivity to Markinch rail station.
- Gilvenbank would benefit from improved woodland management to enhance its biodiversity value and users' perceived safety, and from investment to enhance the quality of the path network. There might be opportunity for some small-scale development, which could potentially enhance natural surveillance of the park – would require more detailed consideration.

- The CSGN Habitat Networks and Opportunity Areas mapping has identified a primary opportunity area for woodland enhancement to improve habitat connectivity to the west of Markinch.
- Potential to improve multi-use access provision along A92 corridor with general improvements to the cycle route to Balfarg from the town centre and link to the A92 and to Freuchie and segregated cycleway along the carriageway of Pitcairn Avenue and Ballingall Drive.
- SEPA have identified various water body restoration opportunities relating to Kennoway Burn and Back Burn within Balbirnie Park, these are currently being progressed.
- Opportunities for improvements to core paths and signage.
- Potential for river restoration along the Coul Burn and Balbirnie Burn to allow a more natural river to form and improved access to river. Opportunities for woodland management and grassland and wetland habitat enhancement.
- Improvements to core paths (including the Pilgrim Way) and signage. Development of new routes in Balbirnie Park.
- Active travel opportunity to create a shared use path to connect Milton of Balgonie to Markinch, and to help with a link to Levenmouth.
- 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 the grounds of Glenrothes Hospital.

Development Plan Priorities:

- Protect existing green network assets.

GLEGN05: Northern Glenrothes Web Green and Blue Network

The Northern Glenrothes Web is an extensive Green and Blue network, serving a large proportion of north Glenrothes, stretching from Balgeddie to Givenbank and linking into to the Lomond Hills Regional Park to the north.

Key Features:

- The 'web' consists primarily of housing set in an extensive woodland setting, providing a good carbon sink, but with some woodland management issues.
- Limited active travel network and no clear hierarchy of greenspace although there footpath networks through the Formonthills community woodland and into the Lomond Hills Regional Park.
- Formonthills community woodland managed by the Woodland Trust defines the northern edge of the town and links to Pitcairn and Lomond Hills Regional Park which lie immediately to north – the whole area is of significant landscape, habitat and recreational value.
- Coul Burn runs along northern edge of the web through the area managed by the Woodland Trust.
- There are three areas of ancient woodland in the 'Web'. Hairyholes Plantation has a section West of the Coul Reservoir, the Den Plantation along Lothrie Burn and West of Formonthills Road, and Whinnyhill Plantation North of Liberton Drive. There are 4 small areas of trees protected by tree protection orders, all south of the Coul and nearby to Pitcairn Avenue.

Opportunities for Enhancement:

- Potential to improve the legibility of spaces for people – lots of small interventions required to create a better active travel network and a clearer hierarchy of space – would require more detailed scoping: Warrington New Town approach cited as good precedent.
- Deliver segregated cycleway along the carriageway of Pitcairn Avenue and Ballingall Drive.
- General improvements to the cycle route to Balfarg from the town centre and link to the A92 and to Freuchie.
- Huge potential to create a Lomond Hills way-marked way stretching all the way from Glenrothes town centre. Much of the route already exists, but investment would be required for signage and to improve some sections of the route for multi-use.
- Potential to establish wider habitat connectivity into the Lomonds and Falkland and to connect to Leslie (Leslie North Green Network (GLEGN06)). The CSGN Habitat Networks and Opportunity Areas mapping has identified a primary opportunity area for woodland enhancement to improve habitat connectivity to the west of Whinnyknowe. And two secondary opportunity areas for grassland enhancement at Rhind Hill and south of Coul Reservoir.
- SEPA have identified various water body restoration opportunities relating to Kennoway Burn and Back Burn north of Glenrothes, these are currently being progressed.
- Potential for river restoration along the Conland Burn and Coul Burn to allow a more natural river to form. Opportunities for grassland, riparian habitat and wet woodland development to encourage biodiversity and improvements to paths and signage.

Development Plan Priorities:

- Protect existing green network assets.

GLEGN06: Leslie North Green Network

The Leslie North Green Network provides an important green network resource which spans the northern perimeter of Leslie, linking to the Lomond Hills Regional Park and to Glenrothes to the east.

Key Features:

- Part of a designated Local Landscape Area, with potential for landscape and habitat enhancements.
- Links to the Lomond Hills Regional Park via an existing active travel network.
- Key greenspace assets include: Hawk Hill Park and playing fields, Leslie golf course (which is not publicly accessible), and Leslie Cemetery.
- Lomond Quarry is located to the north, and might provide future potential to enhance the green network.
- Camby Burn runs east-west, and includes a culverted section under the playing fields.

Opportunities for Enhancement:

- Significant potential to establish a northern Leslie active travel route, with a potential spur into the village centre (aspiration of local community). Would require more detailed scoping.
- Restoration of Lomond Quarry could provide public access & habitat improvement opportunities and potential to expand the network to the north.
- Camby Burn - potential to de-culvert through playing fields in future.

- Possible western active connections into the wider Ore Valley – potential to pick up as part of a study of this area.
- Upgrade the existing core path along the River Leven and the section leading to Leslie to multi-use as part of the Fife Pilgrims route.
- 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 Leslie Dental Access Centre & Leslie Medical Centre.

Development Plan Priorities:

- Protect from development