

C. Cowdenbeath Area

A total of 4 settlement-scale green and blue networks have been identified:

- COWGN01: Hill of Beath to Lochgelly Green and Blue Network
- COWGN02: Central Park to Dalbeath Green and Blue Network
- COWGN03: Public Park to Beath High Green and Blue Network
- COWGN04: Beath Cemetery to Swan Pond 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 Cowdenbeath area. © Crown copyright and database rights 2024. Ordnance Survey 100023385.

COWGN01: Hill of Beath to Lochgelly Green and Blue Network

The Hill of Beath to Lochgelly Green and blue network follows the course of a disused railway line, forming an important strategic element circling the southern and eastern perimeter of Cowdenbeath, passing just to the south of town centre and High Street and linking from Hill of Beath to Lochgelly.

Key Features:

- Part of a strategic active travel route linking between Dunfermline and Lochgelly/Kirkcaldy, along a disused railway line.
- Links to south of Cowdenbeath, town centre/High Street and to Crossgates.
- Connects to Dora Golf course, and the Lochgelly Southern Loop Green and blue network (see Lochgelly report).
- Greenspace assets include the park at Cullaloe View, there can be flooding issues and the park would benefit from investment to enhance its quality particularly around surface water management.
- Contributes to landscape setting; existing woodland assets provide a buffer between Cowdenbeath and Hill of Beath.
- Possible wetland habitat to the south east side, between the railway and the A92, area of neutral grassland habitat to the south of Copeland Crescent, pockets of woodland habitat along the railway.
- The CSGN Habitat Networks and Opportunity Areas mapping has identified a primary opportunity area for woodland enhancement to improve habitat connectivity to the woodland at the north of this area.

Opportunities for Enhancement:

- Cullaloe View greenspace – there might be potential to enhance and alleviate wider flood risk and provide water resilience through improvements to the existing greenspace – would require more detailed scoping.
- Deliver multi-use link to Mossmorran.
- Potential to enhance the setting of the on-street active link to Central park to Dalbeath (COWGN02) and to Dalbeath Community Woodland and Dalbeath Marsh.
- ‘Greening’ of the High Street would extend the green and blue network’s functionality.
- Deliver multi-use connection to link to Lochgelly and to connect to Crossgates.
- SEPA have identified water body restoration opportunities along the Den Burn, Lochgelly Burn within this green and blue network.
- Enhance green and blue network assets at Woodend Industrial Estate and link to greenspace at Cullaloe View.

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 HOB 001 (North of Hill of Beath) – in developing the site the priority should be to:
 - Enhance the route of the existing active travel route that runs through the site, and consider the potential to integrate with the sustainable urban drainage system, landscape and open space design to create a high quality multi-functional green and blue network.

- Provide a new high quality landscape edge along the north and west boundaries to enhance the landscape setting and deal with overland flow issues from agricultural land to north.
2. LDP proposal HOB 002 (Land to the south of Hill of Beath B) – in developing the site the priority should be to:
 - Strengthen and improve the setting of the existing active travel route with Crossgates and upgrade to pedestrian and cycle use.
 3. LDP proposal COW 009 (Woodend Business Centre) – in developing the site the priority should be to:
 - Capitalise on the existing green and blue network assets along the north and south of the site
 - Consider the potential to integrate sustainable urban drainage system, active travel and landscaping along the south side of the site,
 - Establish a new multi-use north-south connection through the site.

COWGN02: Central Park to Hill of Beath Green and Blue Network

The Central Park to Hill of Beath Green and blue network provides a key linking element running east-west into the heart of Cowdenbeath town centre.

Key Features:

- Existing active travel route connects Dalbeath Marsh to Cowdenbeath town centre and High Street. Other key green and blue network destinations include the swimming pool, leisure centre and Central Park area.
- Currently there is good green and blue network connectivity.
- Connects to the Public Park to Beath High Green and blue network (COWGN03) and to Hill of Beath to Lochgelly Green and blue network (COWGN01) both via on-street connections.
- Key greenspace assets include green spaces at Central Park – recent investment has enhanced facilities including the skate park and play equipment.
- Contributes to landscape setting but significant potential to do more.
- Some habitat and biodiversity value, in particular woodland and grassland habitat on Hill of Beath, including areas of ancient woodland, and Dalbeath Marsh nature reserve. There is significant potential to contribute more habitat and biodiversity value in the area.
- Area was mined in the past – culvert issues in the past through Central Park.

Opportunities for Enhancement:

- Potential to enhance the setting of the on-street active link to the Hill of Beath to Lochgelly Green and blue network (COWGN01) and to Dalbeath Community Woodland and Dalbeath Marsh.
- Significant potential to enhance contribution to landscape setting and habitat and biodiversity value through appropriate new planting – would require more detailed scoping.
- Potential to enhance landscape edge and establish active travel connection to the north along Old Perth Road.
- Central Park/Public Park - consider further the advantages of deculverting the existing watercourse through the area and improving the water resilience of the area. Any proposals should be integrated as part of a multi-functional green and blue network– requires more detailed investigation.

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 COW 012 (High Street Gap site) – in developing the site the priority should be to:
 - Develop the gap site on the High Street to provide a new high quality public open space fronting onto the High Street.
 2. LDP proposal COW 005 (Rosebank) – in developing the site the priority should be to:
 - Enhance the existing adjacent greenspace to the west of the site and green and blue network connection to the south-west.

COWGN03: Public Park to Beath High Green and Blue Network

The Public Park to Beath High Green and blue network provides an important east-west link through the northern part of Cowdenbeath, passing through the Public Park and linking Lumphinnans to Beath High School.

Key Features:

- Existing key active travel route to school, connecting Lumphinnans to Beath High School – but the railway and road represent key barriers at the eastern end.
- Existing expansive green and blue network, with significant potential to enhance multi-functionality, in particular the Beath High School grounds have limited functionality – they are essentially a huge swathe of amenity grassland – there is considerable potential to increase the multi-functionality.
- Beath High School all weather surface is well-used by the local community out of schools hours.
- Beath High School grounds could provide water resilience to help alleviate drainage problems in Leuchatsbeath.
- Other key greenspace assets include the Public Park, the Beath Cemetery and Burial Ground and Foulford Primary School grounds, located immediately north of Beath High.
- There is some woodland habitat in the Public Park and to the north of Taylor Avenue.

Opportunities for Enhancement:

- Beath High School grounds provide limited functionality – significant potential to increase multi-functionality, including wetland creation as means of dealing with flood risk/issues. Also, significant potential to enhance contribution to landscape setting and habitat and to establish multi-use active travel route to connect Beath High School to the Public Park and east to Lumphinnans.
- Green and blue network
- The cemetery and burial ground could be more integrated and better connected to this green and blue network, to establish a better link with the Beath Cemetery to Swan Pond Green and blue network (COWGN04) – would require more detailed scoping to assess feasibility/opportunity.
- Potential to enhance landscape edge and establish active travel connection to the north along Old Perth Road.
- Upgrade existing core path to multi-use standard to connect the Public Park to Central Park and Lumphinnans.

Development Plan Priorities:

- Protect existing green and blue network assets

COWGN04: Beath Cemetery to Swan Pond Green and Blue Network

A key green and blue network resource defining the north of Cowdenbeath, stretching from Beath Cemetery in the west, through Leuchatsbeath, to Swan Pond and Lumphinnans in the east.

Key Features:

- Existing core path route currently stretches from Beath Cemetery to the football ground at the north west edge of the town, albeit the A909 presents a major barrier.
- New wetlands and community woodland recently established at Leuchatsbeath – semi-natural character, and informal path network represent a key asset for the north of the town and contribute positively to the landscape setting and habitat value.
- There are pockets of bog and heath habitat along the southern edge of the A909 and within the woodland to the north of Cowdenbeath.
- The cemetery and burial ground are important green & cultural/ historic resources, which also contribute positively to landscape setting.

Opportunities for Enhancement:

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- Significant potential to establish an off-road active travel connection to Swan Pond – and the Lochgelly ‘Western Radial Links Green and blue network’ – with the potential to open up access to the north of Lumphinnans, the proposed new sports hub and to link through to Lochore Meadows. See Lochgelly report ‘Western Radial Links Green and blue network’ for details.
- The cemetery and burial ground could be more integrated and better connected to this green and blue network, to establish a better link with the Public Park to Beath High Green and blue network (COWGN03) – would require more detailed scoping to assess feasibility/opportunity.
- Might be potential for much wider connectivity – possibly consider as part of an Ore Valley green and blue network strategy?
- Upgrade existing footway to deliver multi-use active travel connection to Kelty.

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 COW 003 (Leuchatsbeath) - This site has planning permission and is currently under construction. Green and blue network opportunities reflect existing planning permission.
 2. LDP proposal COW 001 (Beath Glebe) – in developing the site the priority should be to:
 - Deliver an off-road landscape and access link through the site to connect to the existing core path to the north of the site.
 3. LDP proposal COW 006 (Glenfield Industrial Estate) – in developing the site the priority should be to:
 - Provide a high quality landscaped edges to the north and west of the site.