

## L. Howe of Fife: Falkland, Freuchie, Ladybank, Auchtermuchty, Strathmiglo

6 Green and Blue networks were identified in the Howe of Fife area:

FALGN01: Falkland Green and Blue network

FREGN01: Freuchie Green and Blue network

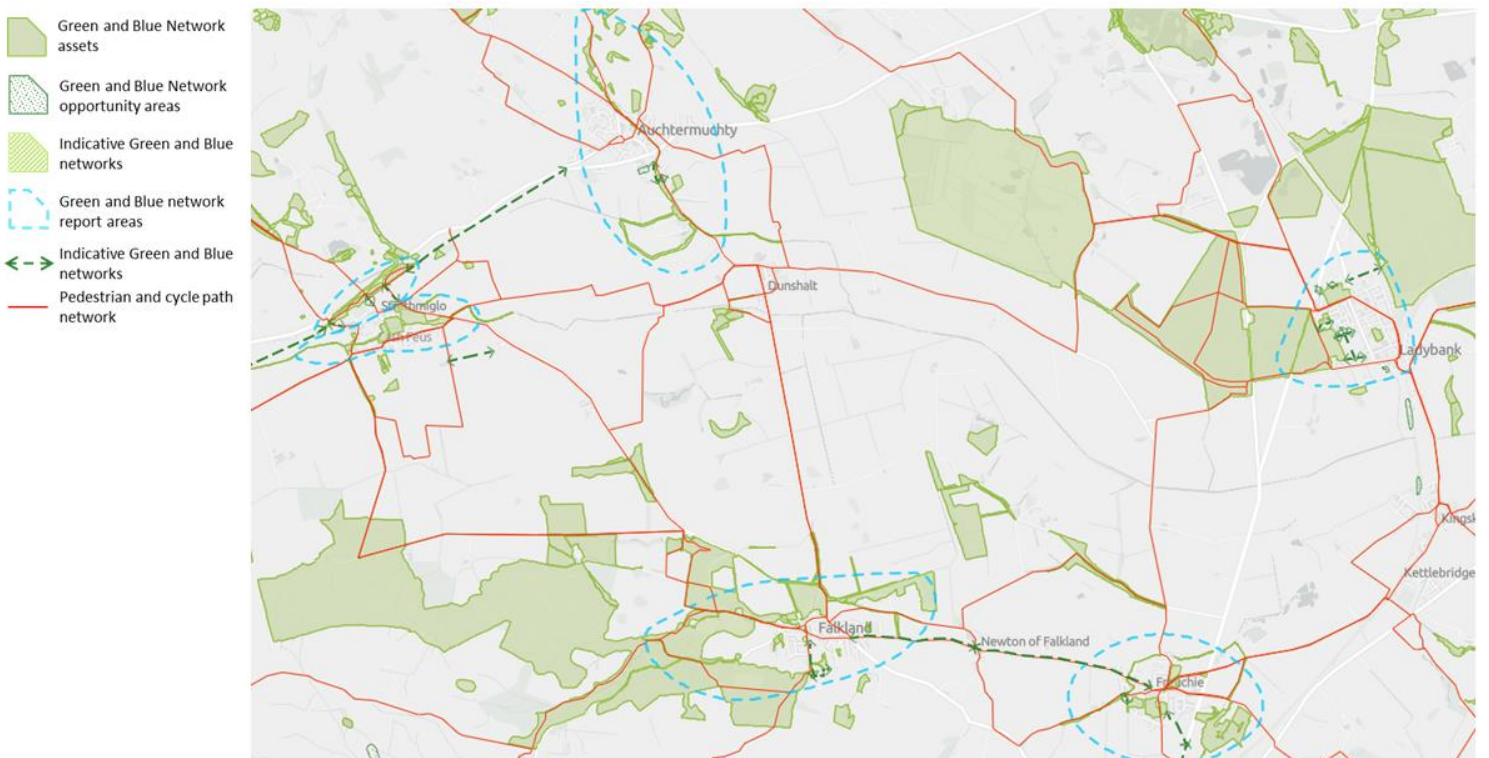
LADGN01: Ladybank Green and Blue network

AUCGN01: Auchtermuchty Green and Blue network

SMGGN01: Strathmiglo – Eden Green and Blue network

SMGGN02: Strathmiglo – Community Woodland and Disused Railway Line 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 Howe of Fife area. © Crown copyright and database rights 2024. Ordnance Survey 100023385

## **FALGN01: Falkland Green and Blue network**

Encompassing the rising, wooded slopes of the Lomond Hills which provide the southern landscape setting to Falkland and the Falkland Estate which define the western edge of the settlement, the Falkland Green and Blue network also includes a number of smaller public greenspaces which contribute to the townscape character.

### **Key Features:**

- There is an existing core path network which provides connectivity to Falkland Estate and up into the Lomond Hills Regional Park, which are both important wider countryside assets.
- Existing on and off road cycle routes connect to Strathmiglo, Freuchie, Dunshalt and Auchtermuchty.
- Falkland has a deficit of greenspace within the village, but public access to parts of Falkland Estate help mitigate this. There are a number of smaller green spaces through the settlement which contribute strongly to the local character and vernacular.
- Includes a community woodland south of the Maspie Burn, as it flows through the north-west of Mill Wynd.
- Includes the Maspie and Mill Burns. There have been some flooding issues related to the Maspie Burn and overland flow off the Leslie Road - consider opportunities to attenuate water upstream.
- The Lomond Hills and Falkland Estate have a strong woodland, wetland, heathland and grassland habitat network, which contribute to the area's habitat value. There are red squirrels in the Estate. Falkland Estate contains large areas of ancient woodland.
- Contributes significantly to the high quality landscape setting of Falkland – priority to protect and enhance.

### **Opportunities for Enhancement:**

- The priority should be to maintain the existing high quality.
- It was noted that there might be good potential to expand the red squirrel habitat through the Howe of Fife – to create 'a red squirrel superhighway'; any future project should consider where connectivity was undesirable, for example, in terms of introducing grey squirrel populations.
- Active travel opportunity to connect Falkland to Newton of Falkland by a shared use path.

### **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 FAL 001 (St John's Works) – priorities in developing this area should be to:
    - Deliver a multi-functional green and blue network which runs north-south through the site along the route of the existing core path – fronted and overlooked by a good development edge – to provide a high quality landscape and access link into the Lomond Hills Regional Park.
    - The southern part of the site is on the more steeply rising slopes of East Lomond Hill; avoiding development on the higher north facing slope would help retain the landscape setting for the existing settlement in views south. A strong landscape edge at the southern boundary should be established to contain the development and create access to the wider countryside, reflecting the existing woodland edge to the west.

## **FREGN01: Freuchie Green and Blue network**

The Freuchie Green and Blue network follows the course of the Freuchie Den, and includes greenspace assets within the village; it's a finer grain green and blue network, with good potential to enhance through small-scale interventions.

### **Key Features:**

- There is an existing core path network, which includes a route west out of the village along the Freuchie Den's riparian corridor.
- Existing on-street cycle routes connect to Falkland, to Kettlebridge and Kingskettle and east along Freuchie Mill Road.
- Freuchie has a deficit of greenspace within the village. The main greenspace assets are the cricket and football pitch; investment is required to enhance their quality and there is some scope to increase functionality in terms of their contribution to habitat and landscape.
- Includes the Freuchie Den Burn, which flows through the western and northern parts of the village; part is through private gardens, and part in channel. Tributaries include an unnamed ditch which flows north along the edge of Muir Road, and is then in culvert through the village.
- Freuchie does have some overland flow issues with water running off adjacent agricultural fields, due to its location in a slight dip.
- Provides some habitat and landscape setting value, with potential to improve. Freuchie was noted as being more isolated in habitat network terms, due to surrounding agriculture.

### **Opportunities for Enhancement:**

- An off-road cycle route is required to provide an active travel connections to Glenrothes along the A92. Active travel opportunity to connect Freuchie to Glenrothes via a shared use path.
- There is potential to provide better access and ecological connectivity between the football pitch and the Freuchie Den's riparian corridor and recreational core path.
- There is potential to enhance the Freuchie Burn's riparian corridor through the agricultural landscape, through appropriate new planting.
- Investment is required to improve the quality and functionality of the football and cricket pitch greenspace areas.
- Active travel opportunity to connect Freuchie to Newton of Falkland by a shared use path.

### **Development Plan Priorities:**

- Protect existing green and blue network assets.

## **LADGN01: Ladybank Green and Blue network**

The Ladybank Green and Blue network defines the western edge of the village and provides important connectivity to the wider countryside assets, including areas of forestry and Heatherhall Wood.

### **Key Features:**

- There is an existing core path network and an existing on-road cycle route through the village.
- Ladybank has a good amount of greenspace, the main space – Well Park – lies to the east of the green and blue network and would benefit from some improvements. Other green assets include the Victoria Public Park north of Beech Avenue and an area of grassland to the west of the village; there is potential to enhance the quality and functionality of both spaces.
- Edens Muir is a large area of Forestry and Land Scotland owned forestry which a recreational path network, and provides some habitat value out with the village boundary.
- Other assets include Heatherhall Wood, where there are red squirrels. There are also areas of wetland habitat within the wider landscape, which are valuable. Both Heatherhall Wood and Eden Muir contain large areas of ancient woodland.

- 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 Ladybank Clinic.

### **Opportunities for Enhancement:**

- There is good potential to enhance the quality and functionality of the existing greenspaces within the village, which could also enhance their habitat and landscape value.
- It was noted that there might be good potential to expand the red squirrel habitat through the Howe of Fife – to create ‘a red squirrel superhighway’; any future project should consider where connectivity was undesirable, for example, in terms of introducing grey squirrel populations.

### **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 LAD 002 (Cupar Road) – priorities in developing this area should be to:
    - Provide a good quality access link from the development into the Victoria Public Park, which lies immediately to the south.
    - Consider the appropriateness of an off-site contribution to improve the quality of the Victoria Public Park as an alternative to on-site provision.
    - Incorporate potential to deliver a future path connection from the development to the A92 to provide access to the bus stop.
  2. LDP proposal LAD 003 (Monksmoss) – priorities in developing this area should be to:
    - Deliver high quality landscape and access links through the site – fronted and overlooked by a good development edge – to provide good connectivity north-south and east-west:
      - Connect into the new housing to north;
      - Connect east-west into Edens Muir;
      - Connect east-west along the southern part of the site and develop a high quality development frontage, which overlooks this route.
  3. LDP proposal LAD 004 (The Road End, Loftybank) – priorities in developing this area should be to:
    - Deliver a high quality landscape and habitat edge along the northern boundary of the site.
    - Incorporate east-west access through the site to connect to the existing north-south core path which lies to the west and provide good access through the site to link to the forestry tracks in Edens Muir.
  4. LDP proposal LAD 005 (The Beeches) – priorities in developing this area should be to:
    - Provide an east-west link through the site that connects to and provides access to the railway bridge as a key crossing.

### **AUCGN01: Auchtermuchty Green and Blue network**

The Auchtermuchty Green and Blue network centres on the Auchtermuchty Burn and the core path which follows its route running north-south through the heart of the village. Whilst relatively constrained, a number of small-scale open spaces lie along its course, contributing to the local townscape character and quality of place.

### **Key Features:**

- Existing core path network which provides connectivity north, including to Auchtermuchty Common and Pitmedden Forest, as well as a route south to Dunshalt.
- An on-road cycle route provides north-south connectivity through the village along the B936.
- Centres on the Auchtermuchty Burn; tributaries include the Barroway Burn, to the south of the village.
- There is some riparian habitat along the Auchtermuchty Burn, particularly on the edges of and out with the settlement boundary. The Burn is in some engineered sections within the settlement, but there are pockets of open space along its route.
- Wider countryside assets include Auchtermuchty Common and Colin’s Wood, to the north.

- Auchtermuchty has below average greenspace provision. Within the green and blue network there is a small linear greenspace adjacent to the Auchtermuchty Burn at the southern end of the village. There is an amenity greenspace located to the western end of the village, immediately south of the A91; investment is required to improve its quality and functionality.
- There is a large TPO area to the south of Auchtermuchty around Myres Castle.

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

- Opportunities more limited in Auchtermuchty due to the watercourse's constrained nature, but there is likely to be potential to enhance the riparian corridor and open spaces along it through small-scale interventions, which would contribute to a quality public realm.
- Community aspiration for an off-road connection between Auchtermuchty and Strathmiglo.
- Community aspiration for a north round route – there is currently a longer circular route up through the forest, but there is demand for a shorter route to be developed.
- 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 Strathmiglo & Auchtermuchty Medical Practice.

#### **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 AUC 001 (East of Stratheden Place)– priorities in developing this area should be to:
    - Consider the appropriateness of an off-site contribution to enhance the quality and multi-functionality of the existing greenspace to the west.
  2. LDP proposal AUC 003 (North of Old Station, (Sterling Warehouse)) – priorities in developing this area should be to:
    - Protect and retain the existing mature trees along the western boundary of the site and incorporate as part of a high quality edge to the development. Enhance through appropriate new planting and boundary solutions which reflect the strong rural character of the approach to Auchtermuchty from the south along the B936 and will improve the setting of the greenspace on the opposite side of the road.

#### **SMGGN01: Strathmiglo – Eden Green and Blue network**

Running west-east through Strathmiglo the Eden Green and Blue network is a substantial linear network, encompassing various greenspaces through the heart of the village.

#### **Key Features:**

- Includes a core path network, which provides wider connectivity north and south, including to the Lomond Hills Regional Park.
- NCN1 runs east-west through the village; other cycle routes connect north and south.
- Centres on the River Eden as it runs west-east through Strathmiglo; there can be some problems with flooding along the River Eden. In Strathmiglo there are a number of greenspaces along the river which lie on the flood plain.
- Strathmiglo has good provision of and access to greenspace. Greenspace assets include the Common, located in the centre of the village, and a further greenspace to the western end of the network.
- Contributes to landscape and habitat value, likely to be some potential to enhance the contribution through small-scale interventions and improvements to the riparian corridor and greenspaces through the settlement – would require more detailed scoping.
- Noted that there are problems with invasive non-natives species along the River Eden, but the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust have been working over a number of years to eradicate this problem.

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

- The Common in the centre of the village would benefit from investment to enhance its quality and functionality; there is potential to improve its contribution to landscape and habitat.
- There is an ongoing need to tackle the problem with invasive non-native species along the River Eden. The Fife Coast and Countryside Trust have a proposed 10-15 year project to eradicate the problem..
- Within Strathmiglo there is potential to develop enhance the riparian corridor through the village, so contribute deliver improved ecological connectivity and greater landscape value along the green and blue network. Would require more detailed scoping.

**Development Plan Priorities:**

- Protect existing green and blue network assets.

**SMGGN02: Strathmiglo – Community Woodland and Disused Railway Line Green and Blue network**

Centring on the community woodland which runs along the disused railway line this emerging green and blue network provides a recreational resource along the northern edge of Strathmiglo which contributes to the wider woodland habitat network.

**Key Features:**

- Includes a core path network, which provides access north from Strathmiglo, as well as a recreational core path route along a former railway line.
- There is a community woodland along the former railway line, which provides for passive recreation and contributes to a wider woodland and riparian habitat network.
- Includes part of Barroway Burn at the eastern portion of the site.
- Contribution to landscape setting will increase as the community woodland matures and through future woodland management interventions.

**Opportunities for Enhancement:**

- Some woodland management to increase the structural diversity and introduce some woodland glades is likely to provide landscape, habitat and recreational benefits within the community woodland site.
- In the long-term the core path routes which connect Strathmiglo to the community woodland could be enhanced.
- Community aspiration for an off-road connection between Strathmiglo and Auchtermuchty and west from Strathmiglo to Gateside.

**Development Plan Priorities:**

- Protect existing Green and Blue network assets.