

X. Wemyss Villages: East Wemyss, West Wemyss and Coaltown of Wemyss

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

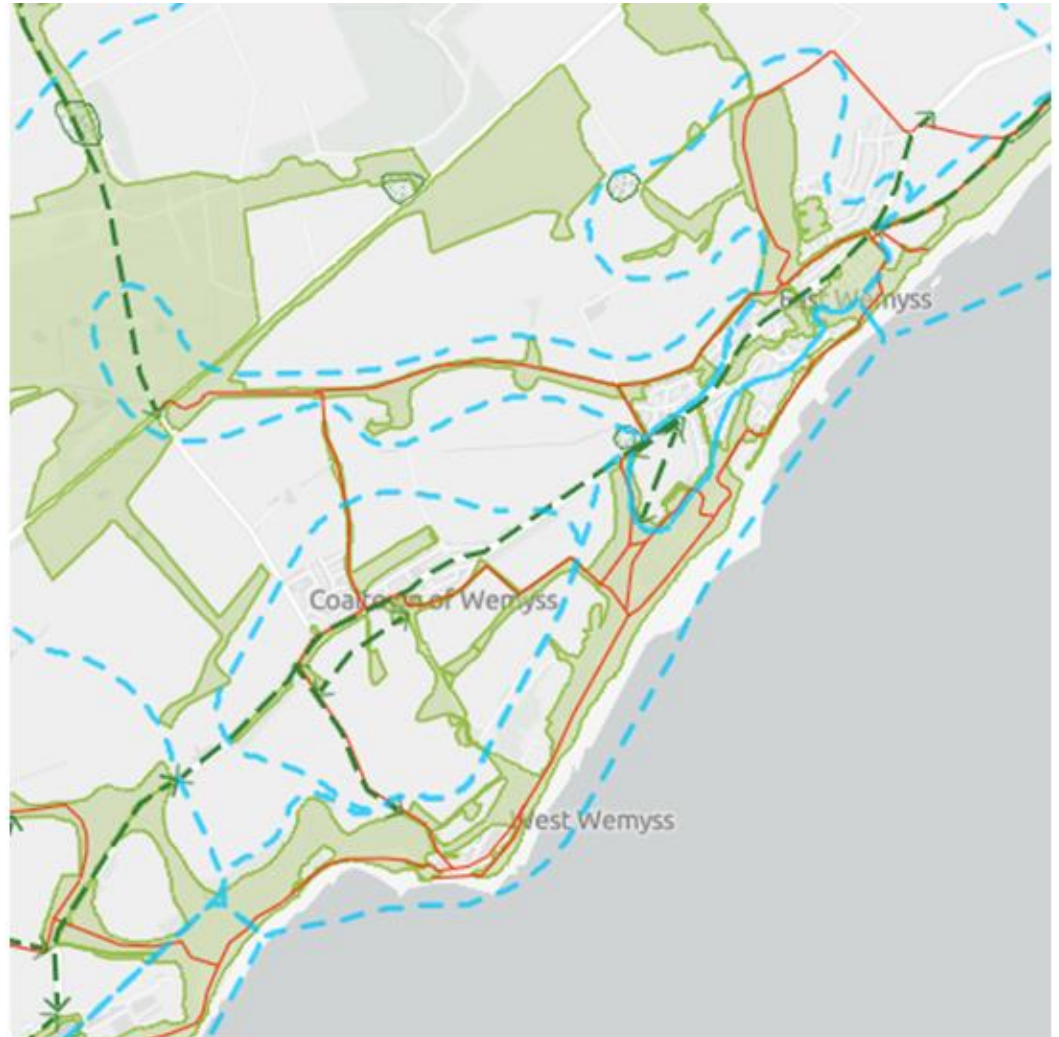
WMSGN01: Wemyss Coast Green and Blue network

WMSGN02: Coaltown of Wemyss Green and Blue network

WMSGN03: East Wemyss and Dens Green and Blue network

WMSGN04: East Wemyss to Coaltown of Balgownie 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 Wemyss Villages. © Crown copyright and database rights 2024. Ordnance Survey 100023385.

WMSGN01: Wemyss Coast Green and Blue network

Stretching along the Wemyss waterfront the Wemyss Coast Green and Blue network forms a key element within the longer strategically important Fife Coastal Path. The network encompasses the wider landscape and associated habitat assets along the coast.

Key Features:

- Part of the Fife Coastal Path route; Connects to the Kirkcaldy Coast Green and Blue network and the Methil to East Wemyss Green and Blue network.
- Significant contribution to landscape setting and biodiversity value. Habitat assets include a strong woodland network including significant areas of ancient woodland; grassland habitat to the north east of West Wemyss; and internationally important intertidal habitat of the Firth of Forth SPA.
- West Wemyss - the village has a good greenspace network, which includes a lot of woodland coastal assets. There is a good quantity of greenspace including the beach and all properties have easy access to open space.
- Some areas of coast between West and East Wemyss are experiencing coastal erosion, and further coastal erosion along this part of the coast is predicted by the Dynamic Coast mapping. This could impact on the coastal path, particularly where the route is along the bottom of the cliff edge, the coastal path might have to be re-routed further inland in the future. The sea wall in East Wemyss works well but can prevent water draining out to sea. West Wemyss is also protected by coastal defences. Erosion of Michael Bing west of East Wemyss is managed by the Coal Authority.
- Other notable features include part of the Wemyss Castle Garden & Designed Landscape and the Wemyss caves, Scheduled Ancient Monument – there are some problems with erosion in the area around the caves.
- There is a small section of cycle path along the coast at West Wemyss but there is no other cycle path provision.

Opportunities for Enhancement:

- Potential to enhance the woodland network along the coast and within the Wemyss Estate – connecting ancient woodland areas together to create core woodland, which can support a greater range of species.

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 WWS 001 (Wemyss Estate Land at West Wemyss) – priorities in developing this area should be to:
 - Consider landscape setting and biodiversity impacts in developing proposals for the site – including the geological interest of the cliffs. Ensure proposals respect the local landscape and townscape character and avoid development that would impact on the characteristic coastal woodland assets within the site.

WMSGN02: Coaltown of Wemyss Green and Blue network

Coaltown of Wemyss Green and blue network forms a green and blue network hub which centres on the settlement and spans out from there, providing a high quality landscape setting for the village and incorporating important linking routes.

Key Features:

- Significant contribution to the landscape setting of Coaltown of Wemyss – the key is to maintain the existing high quality setting and the green and blue network's existing high quality woodland habitat value. Includes areas of ancient woodland along the A955 and to the west of the village.
- Includes an existing core path network that links to the Wemyss Coast Green and blue network and the East Wemyss to Coaltown of Balgownie Green and blue network.
- Coaltown of Wemyss has a good quality greenspace network for this size of village, which includes Lochhead Memorial Park. Further greenspace should be provided through any future development.
- There is no existing cycleway provision.
- There are no watercourses through Coaltown of Wemyss – SUDS to date have relied on natural and manmade outlets south of the settlement.
- Includes part of the Wemyss Castle Garden & Designed Landscape to the east of the A955.

Opportunities for Enhancement:

- There is an aspiration for a cycle route along the A955.
- Potential to enhance the woodland network within the area - connecting ancient woodland areas together to create core woodland, which can support a greater range of species.
- Deliver an off-road, north-south multi-use cycleway and core path along Main Street to connect the Standing Stanes Road to West Wemyss and replace the existing on road core 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 CLW 002 (Land south of Coaltown of Wemyss) – priorities in developing this area should be to:
 - Consider the SUDS requirements at the earliest opportunity given the likely difficulties of the site; soakaways would provide an opportunity to create a multi-functional green and blue network which successfully integrates greenspace functions, access provision, and habitat with the land required to accommodate the soakaways.
 - Deliver an off-road, north-south multi-use cycleway and core path along the western boundary of the site (at the edge of Main Street).
 - Provide a high quality landscape edge along the southern boundary of the site, which incorporates access provision and connections to Main Street and the north-south lane that runs along the eastern boundary of the site. No development should be within 10m of adjacent area of woodland.

WMSGN03: East Wemyss and Dens Green and blue network

The East Wemyss and Dens Green and blue network centres on East Wemyss and incorporates the assets associated with Wemyss Den and the Kingslaw Burn, and along the course of the Back Burn.

Key Features:

- East Wemyss – the quantity and access to greenspace is good, but the quality of some spaces is poor. Assets include Wemyss and Kingslaw Dens which provide large areas of semi-natural woodland on the edge of the village, but the management and quality would benefit from improvement. There is a path network through Wemyss Den, but the routes are very wet and would benefit from improvement.
- Kingslaw Park and the Barony provide large areas of amenity grassland.
- The woodland assets provide an important contribution to the landscape setting of East Wemyss and are of habitat value and help to avoid coalescence with West Wemyss.
- Other habitat assets include the riparian corridors along the Chemiss Burn, and the unculverted sections of the Kingslaw Burn and Back Burn.
- There can be some localised problems with the culverts along the Back Burn becoming blocked, which can result in local flooding. Problems with fly tipping can exacerbate the problem along both the Kingslaw Burn and Back Burn. A flood study is being produced for the area to consider flood risk management options.
- Includes part of Wemyss Castle Garden & Designed Landscape.

Opportunities for Enhancement

- There is an aspiration for a cycle route along the A955.
- Wemyss Den would benefit from: removal of rubbish, fence repairs, and improvements to the path network, which might help increase the usability of the area, and in turn discourage fly tipping.
- Kingslaw Den would benefit from: removal of litter, considering removing play equipment, and resurfacing of paths.
- Improvements to the Barony greenspace to provide boundary features, planting, paths, and seating would enhance the quality and functionality of this space.
- The CSGN Habitat Networks and Opportunity Areas mapping has identified a secondary opportunity area for woodland enhancement to improve habitat connectivity at the west of East Wemyss, north of the A955.

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 EWS 001 (West of Randolph Street) – priorities in developing this area should be to:
 - Retain the existing mature trees at the entrance and along the drive to the main house as part of the site proposals. Ensure proposals respond appropriately to the rural character of the site and enhance the existing strong pattern of woodland shelterbelts and coastal woodland. No development should be within 10m of woodland habitat to the west and south of the site.
 - Provide a 3m wide section of NCN 76 cycleway along the northern edge of development site and develop a high quality development edge on to the A955, which reflect the wider rural character.
 - Establish a green and blue network connection through the site to link the development and East Wemyss to the wider coastal core path network.

WMSGN04: East Wemyss to Coaltown of Balgonie Green and blue network

The East Wemyss to Coaltown of Balgonie Green and blue network follows the course of the Chemiss and Lappy Burns and along the historic Queen Mary's Road route across Barrel Brig to Coaltown of Balgonie.

Key Features:

- Existing core path, which connects to the historic Queen Mary's Road to link as far as Coaltown of Balgonie.
- Connects to East Wemyss and Dens Green and blue network
- Other notable assets include the watercourses include the Lappy Burn and Chemiss Burn, which both run into the part-culverted Back Burn.

Opportunities for Enhancement

- The Queens Way should be a core path route, as an important and historic right of way connecting to Coaltown of Balgonie and beyond; Barrel Brig Scheduled Ancient Monument urgently needs restored.
- Likely to be some potential to enhance the riparian corridors of the Lappy and Chemiss Burns, but would require more detailed consideration.

Development Plan Priorities:

- Protect existing green and blue network assets.