

F. Cupar

A total of 5 settlement-scale green and blue networks were identified:

- CUPGN01: The Eden Green and Blue Network
- CUPGN02: Tarvit Green and Blue Network
- CUPGN03: Cupar North Green and Blue Network
- CUPGN04: Lady Burn Green and Blue Network
- CUPGN05: Duffus to Eden 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 Cupar. © Crown copyright and database rights 2024. Ordnance Survey 100023385.

CUPGN01: The Eden Green and Blue Network

The Eden Green and blue Network follows the course of the River Eden forming an important strategic element running south-west to east through the heart of the town.

Key Features:

- Important active travel route linking the town centre and the east of the settlement. Currently no formal access along western end of the watercourse, but a claimed right of way running along the south of the railway line provides an important link to Cupar Muir.
- The watercourse and its associated flood plain (which spreads across adjacent agricultural fields) provide a crucial flooding and drainage function.
- Haugh Park provides an important greenspace asset in the heart of the town and is also a flood plain for the River Eden. Investment is required to improve its quality.
- The Eden's valley setting contributes significantly to Cupar's settlement identity and landscape setting.
- Some habitat value, but with significant potential to enhance

Opportunities for Enhancement:

- No active travel route along the western section of the watercourse: scope potential opportunity to create route along western length?
- Investment required to enhance the quality of the existing walkway along the River Eden.
- Investment is required to improve the green and bluespace quality of Haugh Park
- Additional riparian planting would help slow water run-off from adjacent agricultural fields, as well as having significant potential to improve habitat value and contribute to landscape setting. Perhaps most easily delivered along eastern section, potentially less easy in the west where the Eden is bounded by fields.
- Active travel opportunities to create a shared use path to connect Cupar to Guardbridge, connecting with the path to St Andrews and link riverside path to Eden Valley Business Park away from the A91.

Development Plan Priorities:

- Protect existing green and blue network assets and associated floodplain
 - 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 CUP 009 (Prestonhall East) - priority in developing the site should be to:
 - Develop a new high quality landscaped boundary along the railway, the eastern and the northern boundaries; retaining the hedgerows along the eastern boundary and incorporating habitat enhancement and sustainable urban drainage provision.
 - Retain existing hedgerows and stone boundary walls where possible across the site.

CUPGN02: Tarvit Green and blue Network

Important area for the establishment of a green and blue network which wraps around the south east of Cupar and connects south to Ceres, capitalising on existing high quality assets including remnants of the historic Tarvit Estate.

Key Features:

- Existing strong core path network which connects to the Eden Green and blue Network (CUPGN01) and provides connectivity to Ceres.

- Greenspace assets include Tarvit Pond and associated woodland, Owlet Wood, Cupar Golf Course (not publicly accessible) and Cupar Cemetery.
- Tarvit Pond provides a flooding and drainage function and is of high habitat value, but it is currently an isolated asset
- Contributes positively to the landscape setting of the south east edge of Cupar

Opportunities for Enhancement:

- Tarvit Pond is a high quality space asset. Expanding this resource would help address the greenspace quantity deficit in this part of Cupar.
- Tarvit Pond provides some flood alleviation but likely that this could be enhanced – would require more detailed scoping
- Potential to enhance habitat value of Tarvit pond, through new planting which enhances its connectivity with wider woodland assets to the south of the town
- The core path along Moor Road forms an important link between Cupar and Ceres – it needs investment to enhance it to multi-use.
- Cupar Golf Course – likely to be some potential to improve the landscape setting and habitat value of the golf course – would require more detailed scoping and discussion with the golf club
- Provide landscape and access links to existing quality greenspace assets, particularly Tarvit Pond and Owlet Wood
- Create high quality gateway to Cupar from the south

Development Site 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 CUP 010 (Cemetery) - priority in developing the site should be to:
 - Develop a new high quality landscaped boundary along the south-west and north-west boundaries.

CUPGN03: Cupar North Green and blue Network

Strategically important area for the establishment of a high quality green and blue network as a key mechanism in helping to integrate the development of Cupar North Strategic Development Area (LDP proposal CUP 01) with its wider setting and existing adjacent communities.

Key Features:

- Existing core paths provide connectivity to the north.
- Links to Duffus Park, which is an important greenspace asset and a regionally important sporting facility, but requires investment to improve its quality and widen its functionality (Elmwood to Eden Green and Blue Network (CUPGN05)).
- Existing habitat assets include patches of trees and shelterbelts which connect into and outwards from Cupar. Key woodland assets are also located to the north of the SDA.
- Landscape has a strong sense of containment, which positively contributes to the setting of the town.
- Current water run-off problems from agricultural areas. There are a lot of seasonal problems with flooding and overland flow is an issue particularly from newly ploughed fields. Development and the new road will exacerbate flood problems.

Development Site 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 CUP 001 (Cupar North) - priorities in developing the site should be to:
- Capitalise on the site's existing landscape assets and quality setting in forming a landscape framework for the area. Give full consideration to the landscape and visual impacts of the development, particularly in relation to the design of the new distributor road.
 - Fully consider site's complex water and drainage issues: identify appropriate land take at the earliest stage in developing proposals for the site; design and planting should also look to help alleviate overland flow issues in this area.
 - Establish new high quality green and bluespaces as an integral part of the wider green and blue network, incorporating active travel, habitat and sustainable urban drainage system provision. Provide links to existing quality green and blue assets such as Duffus Park, and capitalise on key features such as the designed landscape of Dalgairn and the remains of St Christopher's church. Ensure good connectivity with existing adjacent communities in order to help address the green and bluespace deficits identified in the north of the town (particularly the north east area).
 - Provide high quality landscape and access links:
 - To the north – the proposed new distributor road could present a key barrier to connectivity – it needs to function more as a street than a road, with well-designed crossing points.
 - To the east, to connect to the Eden Green and blue Network (CUPGN01), and
 - To the south west to link to Duffus Park and the Lady Burn Green and blue Network (CUPGN04).
 - Back into Cupar town - most likely via 'green and blue streets' responding to the local townscape character.
 - Develop a new high quality landscape edge, incorporating active travel provision (including a round-route core path and an east-west cycleway), connectivity to the wider countryside and new habitat provision, including riparian planting, which improves habitat connectivity within the site & with key woodland assets to the north.

CUPGN04: Lady Burn Green and blue Network

The Lady Burn Green and blue Network stretches between Duffus Park in the west and the heart of Cupar's historic core. It consists of two fine grain green and blue networks which converge to become one in the Lebanon area of the Cupar; the northern branch following the course of the Lady Burn.

Key Features:

- Fine grain green and blue network that's route runs along of a mix of greenspace, 'green streets' and the watercourse of the Lady Burn.
- Existing core path links Haugh Park (The Eden Green and blue Network (CUPGN01)) to Duffus Park (Duffus to Eden Green and blue Network (CUPGN05)), with further core paths providing good connectivity north, linking Cupar North SDA Green and blue Network (CUPGN03) with the town centre.
- Small-scale greenspaces located along the green and blue network contribute to 'green street' character.
- The Lady Burn provides an important water management function, though continued management is required to ensure culverts remain unblocked.
- Provides an important habitat corridor running through the urban fabric, but the culverted sections represent key barriers to connectivity and are difficult to enhance.
- Important to the landscape setting of town, but sometimes a hidden asset.

Opportunities for Enhancement:

- Opportunity to improve the habitat and landscape value, through new planting along unculverted sections of the Lady Burn and in the more minor greenspaces located along Moathill Road, which would provide 'habitat stepping stones' linking the Eden Green and blue Network (CUPGN01) and Cupar North SDA Green and blue Network (CUPGN03).
- Removing the culverts along the Lady Burn is desirable but likely to be difficult to deliver and prohibitively expensive.
- Potential to improve public realm at Fluthers car park, at the Haugh Park end of the green and blue network, where it connects to the Eden Green and blue Network (CUPGN01).
- Civic space provided as part of new development at the former ATS site should incorporate sitting out space, tree planting, lighting and possible public art.
- 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 Adamson Hospital.

Development Site Priorities:

- Protect existing green and blue network assets

CUPGN05: Duffus to Eden Green and blue Network

Green and blue network hub serving the west of Cupar, stretching from Duffus Park in the north to the Damside in the Eden Valley to the south, taking in key green and blue assets including the grounds at Ferrymuir, Bell Baxter High School and Elmwood College.

Key Features:

- space assets include the grounds of Bell Baxter High School and playing fields and the remnant designed landscape at Ferrymuir (not all of which are accessible to the public).
- Significant active travel potential, but currently no formal route north-south through key green and blue assets, such as the institutional grounds of Bell Baxter High School and playing fields
- Large greenspace assets provides an important local flooding and drainage function, possibly with some opportunity to improve through investment – Duffus Park borders an area with overland flow issues and Bell Baxter playing fields border an area called the 'wetlands'.
- The long-established woodland at Ferrymuir provides an important habitat asset.
- Currently no formal access along western end of the watercourse, but a claimed right of way running along the south of the railway line provides an important link to Cupar Muir.

Opportunities for Enhancement:

- Investment required to enhance the greenspace quality of Duffus Park. Significant potential to improve Duffus Park's contribution to landscape setting and habitat value. Likely that improvements could also be made to enhance the flood containment function offered by Duffus Park – would require more detailed scoping.
- Significant potential to improve access, greenspace, habitat, landscape setting and flooding/drainage functions of the green and blue network. No active travel route along the western section of the watercourse: scope potential opportunity to create route along western length.
- Potential to establish a core path running along the north side of the railway.
- 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 Strathden Hospital.

Development Site Priorities:

- Protect existing green and blue network assets