



Leisure & Cultural Services
July 2010

Fife Greenspace Audit EXTRACTS



1.0 Summary

1.1 Introduction

For centuries there has been a recognition of the need for greenspace in the towns and villages of Fife. Greenspace can sustain the quality of our everyday lives.

1.2 The purpose of the greenspace audit

The purpose of the greenspace audit is to provide evidence of the state of greenspace in and around Fife's towns and villages. The findings of the audit will aid the development of a Greenspace Strategy. The audit also fulfills a requirement of Scottish Planning Policy 11 which required all Local Authorities to carry out an Open Space Audit and Strategy.

1.3 Definition of Greenspace

For the audit greenspace was defined as:

Vegetated land in and around towns and villages which is publicly usable.

The term publicly usable greenspace was created to encapsulate this definition. This includes :

- Public parks and gardens, Amenity greenspace , Play space,
- Sports areas, (pitches, tennis , bowling) ,Green corridors – (cycleways),
- Natural greenspace – (woods, beaches, wetlands, grasslands),
- Growing space – allotments

Greenspace land that had restricted use and access was defined as functional greenspace. This includes :

- School and institutional grounds (university, hospital),
- Business and transport greenspace, Golf courses, Open water,
- Burial grounds

Functional greenspace has the potential to be changed to publicly usable greenspace through change of use and access.

1.4 Audit methodology

There were six parts to the audit:

- All land was mapped in and around the towns and settlements according to a greenspace classification.
- The quantity of publicly usable greenspace within the settlement boundaries was audited.

- Publicly usable greenspace sites of an acre in size (0.4 hectare) were assessed using Greenspace Scotland quality criteria.
- Publicly usable greenspace sites of half an acre in size (0.2 hectare) were used to assess neighbourhood access.
- The quantity, quality and access results were used to assess the greenspace networks in settlements, Area Committees and for the whole of Fife.
- A public survey was carried out using the People's Panel, to assess how residents rate greenspace, how they travel, how often they visit and how they use spaces.

1.5 Audit findings

The audit provides evidence on the state greenspace in Fife, the Area Committees Area and each settlements.

The state of greenspace in Fife

The results from the audit for each settlement were compiled and the percentage of the population in settlements having access to quality greenspace was calculated. This showed that 41% of the population had below average access to quality greenspace. Therefore there was a need to improve access to quality greenspace.

The state of greenspace in Fife's Area Committees

The audit method showed that it was important take into account, quantity, quality and access when auditing greenspace networks in settlements and area committees. Glenrothes had a very good greenspace network as the 3 indicators were rated good. South West Fife Area Committee had a greenspace network that was poor, with all three indicators rated below average. The findings for North East Fife were that the quality of greenspace was good but the quantity and access were poor.

The quantity audit

The quantity audit showed that 34% of the population were living in settlements with below average quantity of publicly usable greenspace. The results from North East and South West Fife showed that it was towns and villages in rural areas where provision was poorest.

The quality audit

The quality audit showed that 40% of the 454 sites assessed were below reasonable quality. The results showed that there were links with deprivation. There were concentrations of poor quality sites in settlements with high deprivation. The quality audit showed that high quality sites were of national importance, Pittencrieff Park had one of

the highest scores and was rated by Visit Scotland and an excellent visitor attraction.

The access audit

The access audit showed that 38% of the population living in settlements had below average access to neighbourhood greenspace. The access audit was important in highlighting where there was poor distribution of greenspace.

Public survey

The findings of the People's Panel survey were different from the other parts of the audit but were important in showing how the public rated and used greenspace. The results showed that the main reason for visiting a greenspace was to go for a walk. 46% visited on foot and 49% visited by car. 28% visit a greenspace once a week and 42% visit once a month. The results from the People's Panel showed that there were links with the quality audit. The highest rated sites in the quality sites were also rated highly by the public.

1.6 Greenspace Strategy

The audit is evidence for the Greenspace Strategy. This will be a five year strategy to address greenspace issues in and around the towns and villages of Fife.



Figure 1 : Ivy Place greenspace, Dunshalt

Fife Greenspace Audit – assessment of each settlement

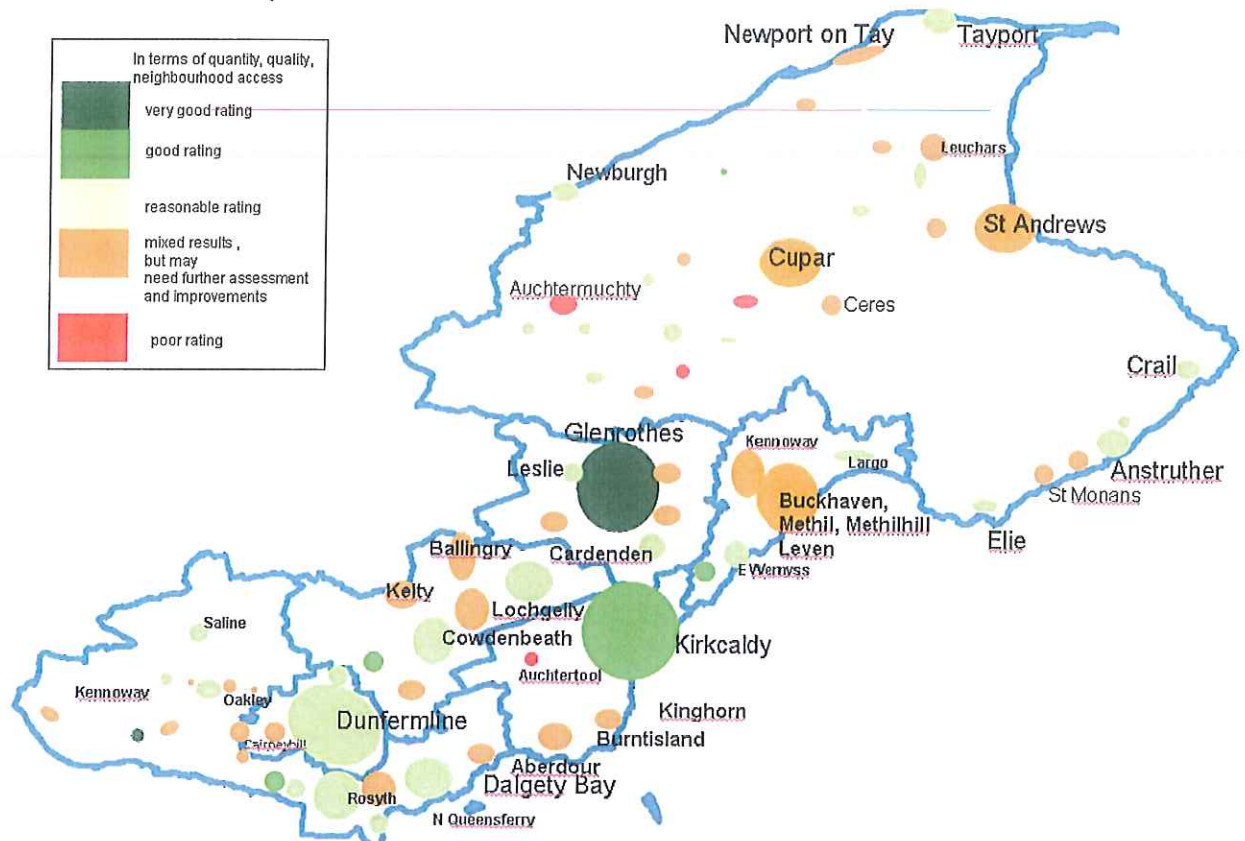


Figure 11 Greenspace network grading of settlements

11.1 Analysis of Greenspace Network types
Very good greenspace network

Only two places can be rated as having a very good network these are Glenrothes and Culross. There is a large difference in population between these two settlements. Glenrothes is a planned 20th Century new town where as Culross is a medieval origin village.

Greenspace Networks with mixed results

36% of the settlement population are living in places with mixed results. These settlements do not meet all the criteria, this may be to do with a number of factor; Geography, settlement boundaries, designation, meeting the criteria.

Geography - Newport is an example where due to the sloping setting of the land, the rocky coast and the linear nature of the settlement it is hard to meet the standards. This does not mean that the situation in Newport could not be improved.

Settlement boundaries - Aberdour is a where the settlement boundary does not include Long Haugh and Silver Sands which are important greenspaces.

Designation - St Andrews is an example where schools and university ground accounts for 10% of the land area. This land if changed to publicly usable could help to change the rating.

It has been important to assess all three criteria, Cairneyhill is an example of this. The quantity of space is very poor, but access is good.

Poor greenspace networks

There are only four settlements with very poor networks and these are all villages. Even though they are villages, due to the state of the network, there are actions needed to improve the situation.

11.2 Greenspace networks in Fife’s Area Committees

Greenspace Network assessments were carried out for each of the seven Area Committees. Using the three indicators showed that results varied and each area had its own issues.

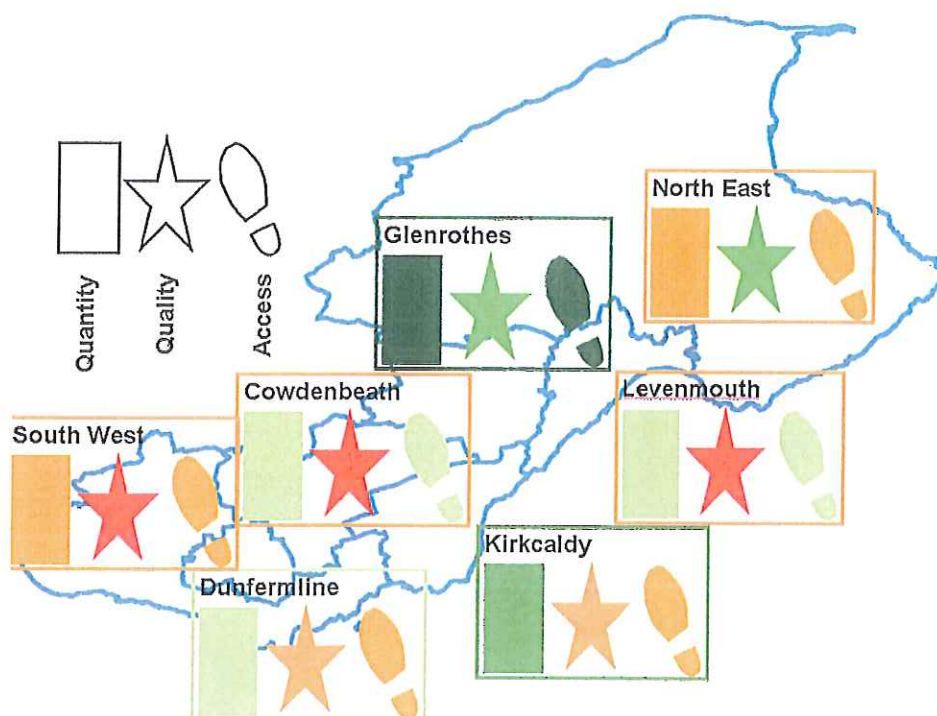


Figure 12 – Grading of greenspace networks in Fife’s Area Committees

		up to the Fife average.	
Cupar		There is only 4 hectares of greenspace per 1,000 population this is below the Fife average. An increase is needed to increase the quantity to the Fife average of 6 hectares.	L
Gauldry		There is only 2 hectares of greenspace per 1,000 population this is very low. An increase is needed to increase the quantity to the Fife average of 6 hectares.	L
Kettlebridge		There is only 3 hectares of greenspace per 1,000 population this is low. An increase is needed to bring the quantity up to the Fife average.	L
Leuchars		There is only 4 hectares of greenspace per 1,000 population this is below the Fife average. An increase is needed to increase the quantity to the Fife average of 6 hectares.	L
St Andrews		There is only 4 hectares of greenspace per 1,000 population this is below the Fife average. An increase is needed to increase the quantity to the Fife average of 6 hectares.	L
Anstruther	Skeith ANST01	This is a grass open space which is in a derelict state, and needs action to bring it up to an acceptable state.	S
Cupar	Duffus Park CUPA10	This is the main park for the town, the park functions in terms of sports but the basic infrastructure (paths, planting, flowers, seats, play area) to increase use by the wider community.	L
	Kettlebridge Park KETT01	This is the main greenspace for the village, the space functions in terms of sports but the basic infrastructure (paths, planting, flowers, seats, play area) to increase use by the wider community.	M
Ladybank	Well Park LADY05	This grassed open space is beside and could be a really useful resource for the school. The space was rated as low quality and a high priority for improvement. Basic infrastructure (paths, planting, flowers, seats, play area) needs to be improved.	M
Leuchars	Tutor Road Woodland LEUC02	Semi-natural woodland located near to airforce base. This could be a good quality natural greenspace for the village. A surfaced path network needs to be created.	M
Springfield	The Cross SPRI01	This is the main space for the village and was rated as low quality and a high priority for work. Basic infrastructure	M