

Kilpatrick Hills Central Scotland Green Network Study

**Prepared for West Dunbartonshire Council
by
Land Use Consultants**

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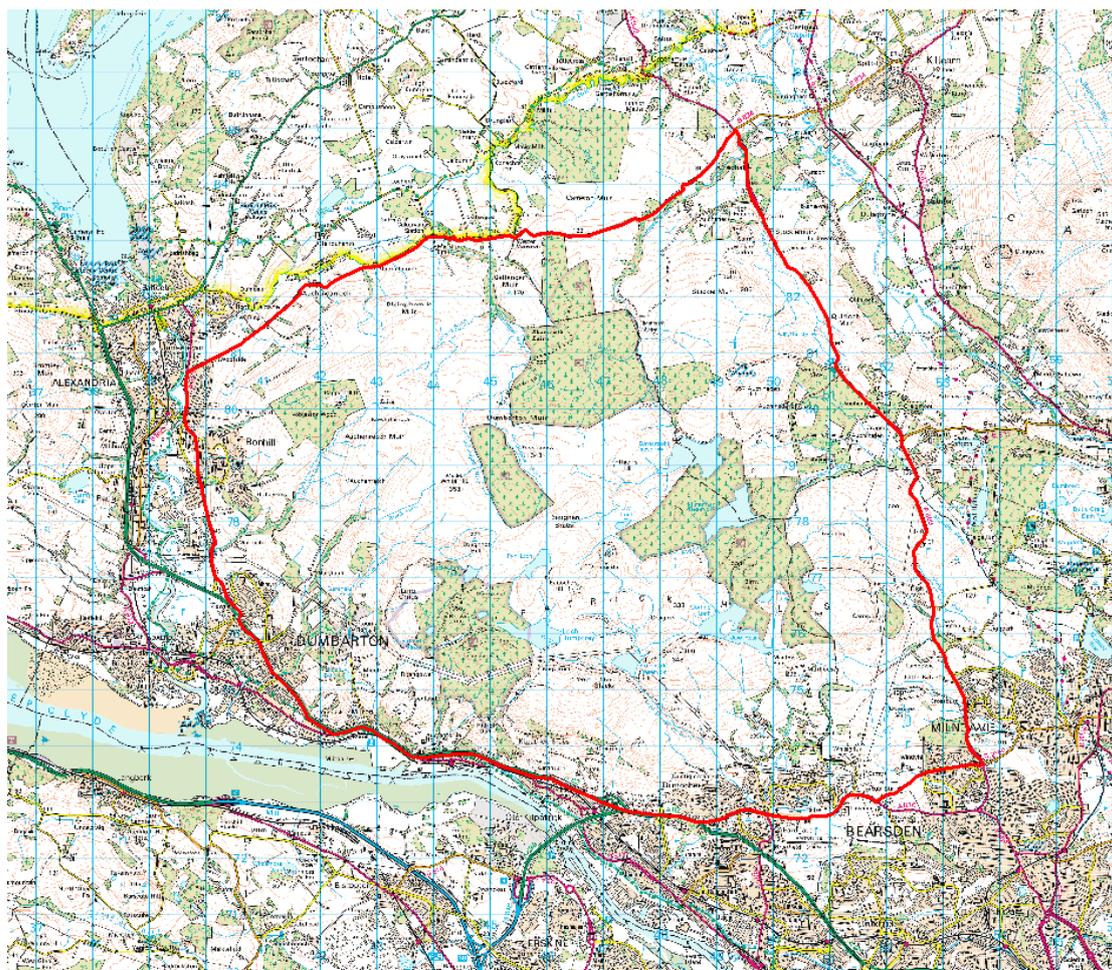
1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) provides an opportunity to achieve a 'step change' in the environmental quality of the most heavily populated part of Scotland, contributing to a range of social and economic benefits. The Kilpatrick Hills CSGN Study sets out a plan for realising a range of tangible benefits for the area.
- 1.2 The Kilpatrick Hills, located between Dumbarton and Milngavie north of the River Clyde, are presently seen as an under-used green space resource, despite their proximity to large-scale settlements. There are wide variations in levels of social deprivation among these neighbouring settlements, and as such the Kilpatrick Hills offer significant potential for enhancement as part of the CSGN.
- 1.3 The aim of the study is to “*investigate the potential the Kilpatrick Hills have in contributing to the CSGN vision, aims and goals while also delivering the aims of the East & West Dunbartonshire and Stirling Councils’ Local Plans, Community Plans, Single Outcome Agreements and Local Biodiversity Plans.*” The study looks at ways to maximise the potential benefits of the CSGN for the Kilpatrick Hills: for their natural resources and for the communities who live around them.
- 1.4 A review of current planning policy was undertaken, to identify existing approaches to CSGN issues generally, and to the Kilpatrick Hills specifically, within national, regional and local planning policy and guidance. The review was also designed to provide an opportunity to check compatibility, consistency and policy coverage across strategic and council boundaries, and to identify any key gaps which might be addressed in the future.
- 1.5 At the same time, a baseline review was carried out, investigating the natural, cultural and social environment of the Kilpatrick Hills. This included the gathering of information from published sources, from field survey, and from a stakeholder consultation exercise.
- 1.6 The results of these reviews fed into an analysis of the current contribution of the area to CSGN aims, and an assessment of the potential contribution that the area could be making. This identified potential formed the basis for a Strategy and Action Plan.
- 1.7 The Kilpatrick Hills Green Network Strategy sets out a vision and seven high-level objectives, all of which are geared towards the realisation of the potential of the area. These objectives are linked and interdependent, and each is related back to the CSGN benefits. The role of a Kilpatrick Hills Management Group in delivering the strategy is also examined.
- 1.8 The Kilpatrick Hills Green Network Action Plan takes the strategic objectives, and identifies specific projects which could be undertaken to meet them. Again drawing on the identified potential of the area, a long-list of possible projects has been drawn up. Several of these have been selected and developed in greater detail.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 The Kilpatrick Hills are a small area of open upland countryside, located between Dumbarton and Milngavie north of the River Clyde. The hills are presently seen as an under-used green space resource, despite their proximity to large-scale settlements. There are wide variations in levels of social deprivation among these neighbouring settlements, and as such the Kilpatrick Hills offer potential for enhancement as part of the Central Scotland Green Network.
- 2.2 The Kilpatrick Hills Study provides the opportunity to review the existing role of the area, set out a strategy to maximise the future benefits it provides, and to define a series of more detailed priority projects. The study area is shown in **Figure 2.1**.
- 2.3 The Kilpatrick Hills are divided between East Dunbartonshire, Stirling, and West Dunbartonshire. On behalf of the three councils, West Dunbartonshire Council appointed Land Use Consultants (LUC), in December 2010, to carry out the study.

Figure 2.1: Access and Recreation



CENTRAL SCOTLAND GREEN NETWORK

2.4 The Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) provides an opportunity to achieve a 'step change' in the environmental quality of the most heavily populated part of Scotland, contributing to a range of social and economic benefits. The importance of the initiative is reflected in its status as a national project within the National Planning Framework,¹ and the establishment of a Support Unit and Development Fund. The CSGN vision states that:

*“Our vision for Central Scotland is of a place transformed by the creation of a high quality green network, which will enrich people’s lives, promote economic prosperity, allow nature to flourish and help Scotland respond to the challenge of climate change”.*²

2.5 The following goals have been defined for the CSGN:

- to ensure that every home in Central Scotland is within 300m of an attractive, safe, well-maintained green space or accessible countryside;
- to improve the green infrastructure of all our major towns and cities by investing in green and blue space, tree planting and sustainable urban drainage;
- to create a high quality environment for business, by enhancing the landscape setting of every small and medium-sized town in Central Scotland and reducing vacant and derelict land to an absolute minimum;
- to deliver a threefold increase in the area of land used for community growing – allotments, orchards and gardens;
- to deliver at least a 50% increase in woodland cover, in line with the Scottish Forestry Strategy target;
- to plan and deliver an integrated habitat network at a landscape scale, with wildlife corridors joining up key sites and habitats, ensuring that every community has access to places where people can experience and enjoy nature and wildlife;
- to deliver a strategic network of high-quality routes for active travel and recreation throughout Central Scotland;
- to ensure that the green network is used by everyone to improve health and well-being through physical activity and contact with nature, volunteering and learning outdoors;
- to foster community pride and ownership in the CSGN and to use the green network as a community resource, providing opportunities for education, volunteering, training, skills development and employment in land-based and low-carbon industries; and
- to help mitigate climate change through land management practices which help to capture, store and retain carbon, such as woodland

¹ Scottish Government (2009) National Planning Framework 2.

² “Our Vision”. Central Scotland Green Network. <http://www.centralscotlandgreennetwork.org/>

expansion and the protection of peatland, and through the promotion of active travel.

2.6 The anticipated benefits of the CSGN are described across five main themes:

- **Enterprise and Regeneration** which focuses on supporting local business and enterprise, addressing vacant and derelict land and tackling stalled sites. There is also an emphasis on supporting businesses focused around Green Network related products and services, and on using the Green Network to promote training and skills development.
- **Climate Change and Environmental Management** which includes mitigation measures such as carbon sequestration and storage and carbon reduction, adaptation responses including sustainable flood management and the development of habitat networks, and broader measures to protect water, air and soil quality.
- **Health and Well-being** includes a focus on the creation of ‘active spaces’, development of the access network, increased outdoor activity and the development of growing spaces in and around towns and cities.
- **Stronger Communities** focusing on the role of the Green Network in supporting education and learning, community involvement and empowerment and in developing and reflecting local community identity and cultural heritage.
- **Natural Heritage and Landscape** which focuses on the role of the Green Network in supporting the development of habitat networks as a means of reversing fragmentation and securing implementation of the integrated habitat network and achieving significant enhancements in the quality of landscapes across the area, but particularly at the urban fringe.

THE KILPATRICK HILLS

- 2.7 The Kilpatrick Hills lie on the northern side of the River Clyde, bounded by the Vale of Leven to the west, Loch Lomond to the north, and Strathblane and the Glasgow conurbation to the east. This is a strategically important location – close to a major concentration of population, forming a transition from the central belt to the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park and close to a number of key access and transport routes.
- 2.8 The hills are fringed by a series of communities each with its own character, history and identity. These include Dumbarton, Bonhill and Balloch, Gartocharn, Milngavie, Bearsden and Duntocher. There are important variations in levels of deprivation between these different communities, with some areas experiencing multiple patterns of poor health and low income. Some communities have strong historic links with the Kilpatrick Hills, others less so.
- 2.9 The hills themselves rise from the shores of the River Clyde to just over 400m AOD at Duncolm. The landform comprises a series of rounded, craggy summits set within an undulating plateau, drained by a series of burns which radiate out from the hills. Several burns have been dammed to create reservoirs to supply surrounding settlements with drinking water. Land cover is dominated by a mixture of blanket bog, rough grassland and a series of coniferous plantations, a number of which have been harvested. Semi-natural woodlands tend to be limited to the narrow river valleys that drain the hills. Electricity pylons run along the southern and eastern fringes of the hills.
- 2.10 While the Kilpatrick Hills do not currently have the level of recreation provision or activity found in comparable upland areas close to Glasgow and Edinburgh, they are regularly used by walkers, ramblers groups, angling clubs, horse riders and mountain bikers. They also support a range of more specialist interests focusing on the area's biodiversity and geology. The Queen's View viewpoint and nearby Whangie are well known and frequently visited by local people and visitors, while the West Highland Way runs along the hills' north eastern side and the National Cycle Route 7 between Glasgow and Loch Lomond runs along the south and west.

Study Area

- 2.11 The study area for the project is the Kilpatrick Hills and their surroundings, defined by the A813 to the west, the A82 and A810 to the south, the A809 to the east, and by the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park boundary to the north. The study area is illustrated in **Figure 2.1**, and is described in more detail in **Section 4**.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.12 The aim of the project, as set out in the consultants' brief, is to:
- “investigate the potential the Kilpatrick Hills have in contributing to the CSGN vision, aims and goals while also delivering the aims of the East & West Dunbartonshire and Stirling Councils' Local Plans, Community Plans, Single Outcome Agreements and Local Biodiversity Plans.”*
- 2.13 The first part of the project was to explore how the Kilpatrick Hills are currently contributing to the CSGN vision, aims and goals. It included the preparation of a **strategy** designed to increase this contribution, covering:
- woodland management and creation;
 - biodiversity and habitats;
 - access on foot, bicycle and horseback;
 - tourism activities and potential;
 - promotion of the study area; and
 - improvements to the business environment for new and existing businesses.
- 2.14 The second part of the project focused on the identification of **specific projects** which fit within the strategy and which help deliver the CSGN vision, aims and goals. The proposed projects are also designed to contribute to desired policy outcomes for each of the three Councils.

STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

- 2.15 The remainder of this report is structured as follows:
- **Section 3** summarises the review of planning policy;
 - **Section 4** presents baseline environmental and social information on the study area;
 - **Section 5** discusses the consultations undertaken;
 - **Section 6** outlines an analysis of the area's present contribution to the CSGN priorities;
 - **Section 7** presents the Kilpatrick Hills Green Network Strategy; and
 - **Section 8** presents the Kilpatrick Hills Green Network Action Plan.

3 Policy Review

INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 The review of existing policy context for the study area focused on identifying policy objectives, visions, goals and key outcomes to which the Kilpatrick Hills Project should aim to contribute. The review was also designed to provide an opportunity to check compatibility, consistency and policy coverage across strategic and council boundaries, and to identify any key gaps which might be addressed in the future.
- 3.2 The stated vision for the CSGN, and the projected goals, are set out in **Section 2**, together with its anticipated benefits. These benefits formed the framework against which the various documents were tested.
- 3.3 The documents that were reviewed for inclusion in the policy analysis are listed in **Box 3.1**.
- 3.4 Aspirations and outcomes from the various documents were condensed down into a series of 'general policy objectives' linked back to individual policy documents. These general policy objectives were sorted to correspond with the CSGN 'themes' outlined in **Section 2**. The general policy objectives are listed in **Table 3.1**, and the policy review is set out in **Appendix I**.
- 3.5 Findings are summarised in relation to:
 - General conclusions in relation to each of the five CSGN benefits; and
 - The main points in each type of plan relevant to the Kilpatrick Hills.
- 3.6 The next stage was to apply these general findings more specifically to the Kilpatrick Hills. A more detailed series of specific objectives were developed, again based on the five CSGN benefits. A further analysis of the policy review findings enabled an assessment of how each plan was contributing to these more detailed aims within the study area.
- 3.7 The results of this second stage of the analysis are illustrated in **Table 3.2** by means of shading, where darker shading indicates a stronger contribution to the objective, and lighter shading indicates a weaker contribution.

Box 3.1 Documents reviewed

Development Plans

Glasgow & Clyde Valley Structure Plan 2006 (GCVSP)
Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Plan Main Issues Report (2010) (GCVSP MIR)
West Dunbartonshire Local Plan (Adopted 2010) (WDLP)
East Dunbartonshire Local Plan (Adopted 2005) (EDLP)
East Dunbartonshire Local Plan 2 – Finalised Draft (2009) (EDLP2)
Clackmannanshire and Stirling Structure Plan 2002 (CSSP)
Stirling Local Plan (Adopted 1999)

Single Outcome Agreements

West Dunbartonshire Single Outcome Agreement 2009-2011 (WDSOA)
East Dunbartonshire Single Outcome Agreement 2009-2011 (EDSOA)
Stirling Single Outcome Agreement 2008-2011 (SSOA)

Community Plans

East Dunbartonshire Community Plan 2006-2011 (EDCP)
West Dunbartonshire Community Plan 2007-2014 (WDCP)
Stirling Community Plan 2005-2020 (SCP)

Access and Greenspace

West Dunbartonshire Access Strategy (2002)
West Dunbartonshire Council Core Paths Plan (2009)
East Dunbartonshire Core Paths Plan (nd)
Stirling Core Paths Plan (2009)
Loch Lomond and the Trossachs Core Paths Plan (2010)
East Dunbartonshire's Greenspace Strategy 2005-2010
West Dunbartonshire Council's Tourism and Hospitality Strategy and Action Plan (2009)

Biodiversity

Dunbartonshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2010-2013
Stirling Local Biodiversity Action Plan (2004)

Table 3.1: General Policy Objectives

CSGN Benefit	General policy objectives
It will make Central Scotland a more prosperous and competitive place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement of the environment • Regeneration and reuse of brownfield land
It will promote health and well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting health directly through environmental improvements • Providing high quality access networks • Providing opportunities for outdoor activity and recreation
It will make Central Scotland a more attractive and distinctive place to live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help ensure the area has a strong, distinctive identity • Help ensure the area is an attractive place to live • Protect and increase open and green space provision
It will enhance the nature and landscapes of Central Scotland, and support the Government's objectives for a greener Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging the creation of greenspace for biodiversity and landscape purposes • Protection of biodiversity and landscape.
It will make a major contribution to Scotland's efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>None identified</i>

FINDINGS

General conclusions

- 3.8 The following general conclusions have been drawn in relation to each of the five CSGN benefits.

It will make Central Scotland a more prosperous and competitive place

- 3.9 Strong recognition throughout the Plans of the importance of the environment in terms of economic benefits, largely in terms of regeneration. The focus on brownfield land has the potential to reduce the pressure for development on greenfield and rural sites, protecting the landscape and biodiversity. However, brownfield land, especially where it has been unused for a long period of time, can be very rich in biodiversity and has the potential to significantly improve the local landscape and environment, especially in inner city areas that are lacking in greenspace.

It will promote health and well-being

- 3.10 Strong focus on walking and a cycling through all the plans. More emphasis could be put on the additional health benefits of access to nature, from a mental health and quality of life perspective.

It will make Central Scotland a more attractive and distinctive place to live

- 3.11 Emphasis throughout on improving the connection of rural and urban areas through greenspace, although the role of longer-distance walking and cycling routes can play in improving this connection is not apparent in all plans. West Dunbartonshire is particularly strong in setting out its Open Space Standard.

It will enhance the nature and landscapes of Central Scotland, and support the Government's objectives for a greener Scotland

- 3.12 Good coverage in all plans of enhancing and protecting nature and landscapes, although Stirling Structure Plan is particularly strong on creating and enhancing spaces for nature and good quality landscapes.

It will make a major contribution to Scotland's efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change

- 3.13 Policies and actions covered in other themes are also relevant to climate change but more direct connection could be made between policies that tackle, and particularly propose adaptation measures, with regard to climate change across all plans.

Application to the Kilpatrick Hills

- 3.14 The following conclusions cover each of the main types of policy document considered in the review, drawing out the main points relevant to the Kilpatrick Hills study area.

Structure Plans

- 3.15 The Structure Plans in the area strongly support making Central Scotland a more prosperous and competitive place, although the emphasis is largely on regeneration and improving the quality of the environment rather than supporting low carbon industries and rural diversification. The Structure Plans also strongly support the promotion of health and wellbeing through:

- increasing opportunities for outdoor recreation; and
- increasing the network of walking and cycling routes in the area, especially close to people's homes.

- 3.16 Enhancement of the natural environment and landscapes in Central Scotland are not covered in the Structure Plans.

Local Plans

- 3.17 The Local Plans in the area also strongly support the theme of making Central Scotland a more prosperous and competitive place. The regeneration and environmental quality aspects are given greatest weight.

The plans also seek to promote health and wellbeing, again through increased opportunities.

Single Outcome Agreements

- 3.18 The Single Outcome Agreements do not directly support the CSGN themes. They do include general aims towards environmental enhancement, greater sustainability, and increased use of public transport.

Community Plans

- 3.19 The West Dunbartonshire Community Plan is the most recent of the local Community Plans and has the strongest support for the environment and the CSGN themes. Landscape and a natural environment enhancement are still not within the scope of these plans. There is a significant opportunity here as the other local plans in the area are updated to include more emphasis on the environment, and in particular the contribution an attractive environment can make to the economy and people's health and wellbeing.

LBAPs

- 3.20 The LBAPs contain detailed action plans for woodland, blanket bog and grassland, all of which are represented in the Kilpatrick Hills. The involvement of both communities and local businesses is encouraged in the Dunbartonshire LBAP, which also contains a specific action plan for golf courses.

Core Path Plans

- 3.21 The West Dunbartonshire Core Paths Plan includes numerous links around the settlements of Dumbarton, Alexandria and Clydebank. However, links across the Kilpatrick Hills are much weaker. The East Dunbartonshire and Stirling Core Paths Plans contain fewer links into the Kilpatrick Hills,
- 3.22 The Core Path Plans contain general objectives relating to the promotion of access, and improvement of the network through signage and path enhancements.

Access and Greenspace Strategies

- 3.23 The West Dunbartonshire Access Strategy contains an 'Action Area Plan' for the Kilpatrick Hills. Objectives for the area include:
- Providing more, improved and alternative upland routes on the Kilpatrick Hills;
 - Improving links to other areas, to allow better access from people's homes; and
 - Continuing emphasis on conservation and preventing erosion.
- 3.24 The potential for conflicts between access, land management, and natural heritage is noted. The encouragement of responsible access, with benefits for the community and for public health, is a key aspiration of the action plan.

- 3.25 The East Dunbartonshire Greenspace Strategy includes no specific aims for the Kilpatrick Hills, but does set out objectives related to countryside access, biodiversity improvement, and enhancing the image of the area.

Summary

- 3.26 The correlation between the policies set out in the documents, and the Kilpatrick-specific objectives, is set out in **Table 3.2**. The entries are shaded to indicate the strength of correlation between objective and policy as either strong, medium, weak or none, as set out in the following key:

Strong	S
Medium	M
Weak	W
None	N

- 3.27 In general, specific policy support for initiatives related to the Kilpatrick Hills is limited. There is stronger Kilpatrick-specific support within West Dunbartonshire documents, understandably since the larger share of the hills fall within the West Dunbartonshire area. Policy support is greatest for access-related initiatives, and connectivity related to the local community. Policy support for landscape and habitat enhancements is weaker across the plans, although this is balanced by the LBAPs, which focus specifically on these areas. Climate change is one of the major gaps within all the plans, when considered against the CSGN objectives and their application to this area.

Table 3.2: Contribution of plans to CSGN aims in the Kilpatrick Hills

CSGN Themes	Application to the Kilpatrick Hills	GCVSP	GCVSP MIR	WDLP	WD SOA	EDLP	EDLP2	ED SOA	CSSP	SLP	S SOA	WDCP	EDCP	SCP	WD Access Strategy	ED Greenspace Strategy	WD Tourism Strategy	LBAPs	Core Path Plans
It will make Central Scotland a more prosperous and competitive place. In the modern economy, place matters.	• Increase opportunities for training and employment in land based and low carbon industries	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N			W	N
	• Diversification of rural incomes within the Kilpatrick Hills	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	M	N			W	N
	• Opportunities for local businesses around the Kilpatrick Hills	W	W	W	W	W	W	N	W	W	N	W	N	N	N			N	N
	• Contribution to high quality regional environment	S	M	M	W	N	N	N	M	N	N	M	M	N	M			S	N
	• Regeneration of brownfield land around the Kilpatrick Hills	S	S	S	M	S	S	N	S	M	N	S	N	N	N			N	N
It will promote health and wellbeing.	• Opportunities for active outdoor recreation within the Kilpatrick Hills	S	N	S	M	S	N	N	S	M	N	N	N	N	S			N	S
	• Network of routes for walking, cycling, horse-riding, all abilities access within the Kilpatrick Hills	M	W	M	W	M	W	N	M	N	N	W	N	N	S			N	M
	• Access opportunities close to home	S	S	S	W	S	S	N	S	N	N	S	N	N	S			N	S
	• Integration with core paths and long distance routes around the Kilpatrick Hills	S	N	N	M	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	S			N	S
	• Information and signage	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	S			N	S
	• Measures to encourage people to use opportunities within the Kilpatrick Hills	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	S			W	S
	• Public transport access – ride and walk	S	M	S	M	S	S	N	S	W	N	S	N	N	S			N	N
	• Education and lifelong learning	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N			W	N
It will make Central Scotland a more attractive and distinctive	• Good links from surrounding communities onto the Kilpatrick Hills	N	S	S	N	S	S	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	S			N	M
	• Porous boundary – environmental benefits within as	M	S	S	N	M	S	N	S	S	N	W	N	N	M			N	N

place to live.	well as adjacent to communities																		
	• Raising awareness locally and at a regional scale of the recreational potential of the Kilpatrick Hills	N	N	W	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	M		N	M
	• Stronger communities with involvement in planning and managing their local environment	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	W		W	N
It will enhance the nature and landscapes of Central Scotland, and support the Government's objectives for a greener Scotland.	• Integrated habitat networks linking habitats within and across the Kilpatrick Hills	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N			S	N
	• Native woodland expansion within the Kilpatrick Hills	N	N	N	N	M	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N			S	N
	• Restructuring of productive coniferous plantations within the Kilpatrick Hills	N	N	N	N	M	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N			S	N
	• Management of key habitats including designated sites within and around the Kilpatrick Hills	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N			S	N
	• Opportunities to experience and enjoy nature and wildlife within the Kilpatrick Hills	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	W		S	M
It will make a major contribution to Scotland's efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change.	• Woodland expansion within the Kilpatrick Hills	N	N	N	N	W	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N			S	N
	• Peatland management within the Kilpatrick Hills to retain and absorb CO2	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N			M	N
	• Opportunities to develop renewable energy associated with the Kilpatrick Hills	N	N	N	N	N	W	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N			N	N
	• Woodland within the Kilpatrick Hills to slow run-off	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N			M	N
	• Peatland management within the Kilpatrick Hills to slow run-off	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N			M	N
	• Active travel and public transport access to the Kilpatrick Hills	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	M		N	W

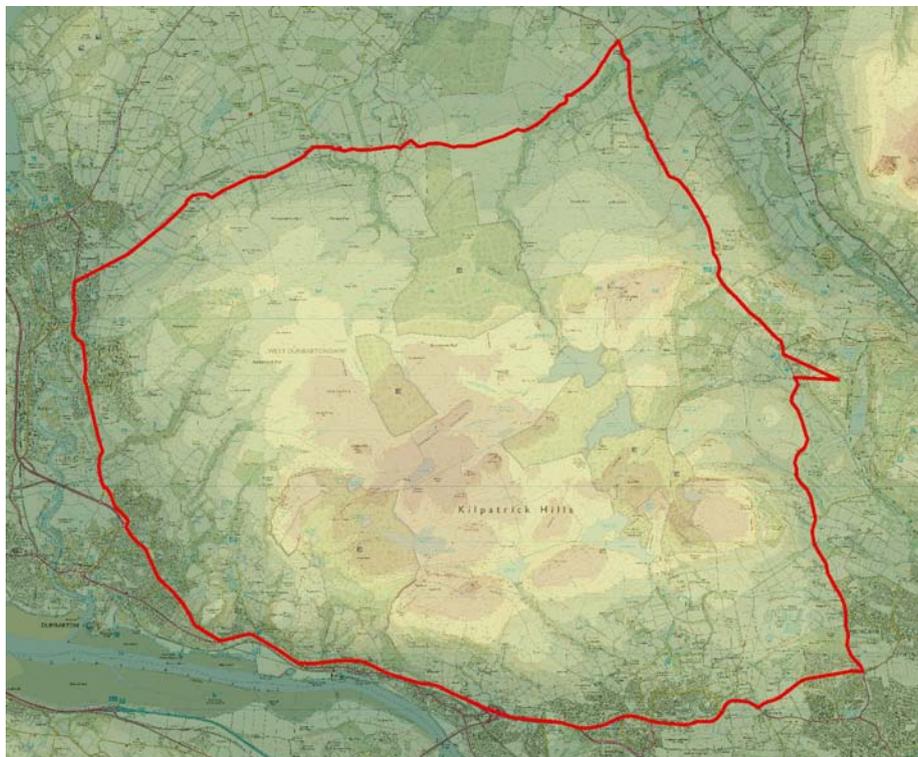
4 Spatial Analysis

- 4.1 This section sets out the baseline natural, cultural and social environment of the Kilpatrick Hills Study Area.

Geology Geomorphology and Topography

- 4.2 The Kilpatrick Hills lie within the Midland Valley of Scotland, being south of the Highland Boundary Fault, which runs through Loch Lomond to the north. The geology of the hills is divided between volcanic rocks of the Clyde Plateau Lavas, which form the high hills, and sedimentary rocks to the north and west. The Clyde Plateau Lavas form the distinctive terraced slopes, while igneous intrusions such as sills, dykes and vents have created features such as Duncolm and Doughnot Hill. The sedimentary rocks are primarily sandstones of the Inverclyde Group, though still interspersed with igneous features, and underlie the smoother slopes to the north.
- 4.3 Glacial erosion has formed a number of the features in the area, including The Whangie, a deep fissure caused by glacial plucking, whereby a frozen crag was pulled away from the adjacent hillside. Parts of the lower slopes of the hills, particularly in the west, are overlain with glacial boulder clay deposits. Moraine features are visible in Strathblane, marking the limit of the advance of glaciers around 10,000 years ago. On the higher parts of the plateau, drift geology is composed of an accumulation of peat.

Figure 4.1: Topography



- 4.4 The resulting topography of the Kilpatrick Hills comprises a central plateau, sloping steeply down to the Clyde to the south, and sloping more gently towards Loch Lomond in the north. The highest point is at Duncolm, 401m AOD, at the centre of the plateau, with several other points over 350m

located on volcanic crags and hills. The plateau drops steeply to the south, from 300-350m to sea level at Bowling and Milton, over a distance of around 2km. The slopes are punctuated by distinctive crags and rock outcrops.

- 4.5 To the west the slopes are gentler, and continue to decrease northwards. Along the north edge of the study area the hills merge with rolling farmland to the north at around 100m. To the east the slopes are again steeper, falling to the A809 which runs between 100m and 150m. At the south-east, the relatively flat area of Douglas Muir lies between 150m and 200m, north of which the steep slopes rise up again to the plateau.

Hydrology

- 4.6 A network of small burns radiate outward from the central plateau, joining the larger rivers that surround the hills. To the north the Finland Burn and Gallangad Burn drain into the Catter Burn, which flows into the Endrick Water and then into Loch Lomond. To the north-east, the Burn Crooks, Carling Burn and Dault Burn flow into the Blane Water, another tributary of the Endrick. Burns to the east join the Allander Water which flows through Milngavie before joining the River Kelvin. The Cochno Burn and Loch Humphrey Burn drain the south-east hills and form the headwaters of the Duntocher Burn which flows into the Clyde. Several small burns draining the south-west hills flow directly into the Clyde between Dumbarton and Old Kilpatrick. The western hills are drained by the Murroch and Blairvault Burns which run down into the River Leven.
- 4.7 Several of these burns have been dammed in their upper stages to form small reservoirs. These lie in an arc in the south-east of the hills, and include Loch Humphrey, Greenside Reservoir, Cochno Loch and Jaw Reservoir, Kilmannan Reservoir and Burncrooks Reservoir. A number of smaller reservoirs and natural lochans also lie within this area. Lochs and reservoirs are shown in **Figure 4.2**.
- 4.8 There are very limited areas of identified flood risk in the study area, according to SEPA Indicative River & Coastal Flood Mapping.³ The largest areas of flood risk are around the Cochno, Loch Humphrey, and Duntocher Burns in Duntocher. Small areas around Gruggles Burn in Dumbarton and Loch Bowie burn at Milton are also subject to flood risk. Greater flood risk is associated with the River Leven.

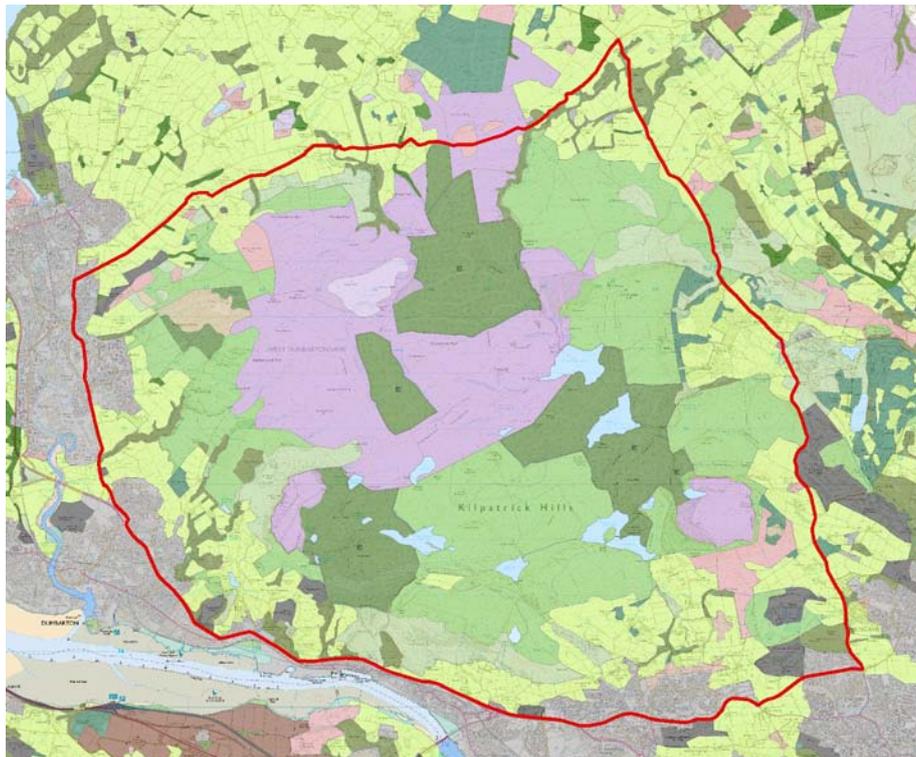
Landcover and Land Use

- 4.9 Land Capability for Agriculture mapping defines the farmland of the study area in three main categories of land quality:
- Class 4: Land capable of supporting mixed agriculture, restricted to the lower fringes of the hill slopes;
 - Class 5: Land capable of supporting improved grassland, occupying the northern and western parts of the plateau;
 - Class 6: Land capable of supporting only rough grazing, on the highest parts of the plateau.

³ www.sepa.org.uk

- 4.10 Much of the central plateau is given over to grass and heather moorland, which is used primarily for sheep pasture. Only the fringe of the study area, on lower slopes, is occupied by enclosed fields. These are primarily improved pasture, with occasional arable fields on the lowest-lying ground.
- 4.11 **Figure 4.2** shows data derived from the land cover of Scotland survey carried out in 1988 (LCS88). While dated, this survey gives a relatively accurate overall picture of land cover in the area.

Figure 4.2: Land Cover



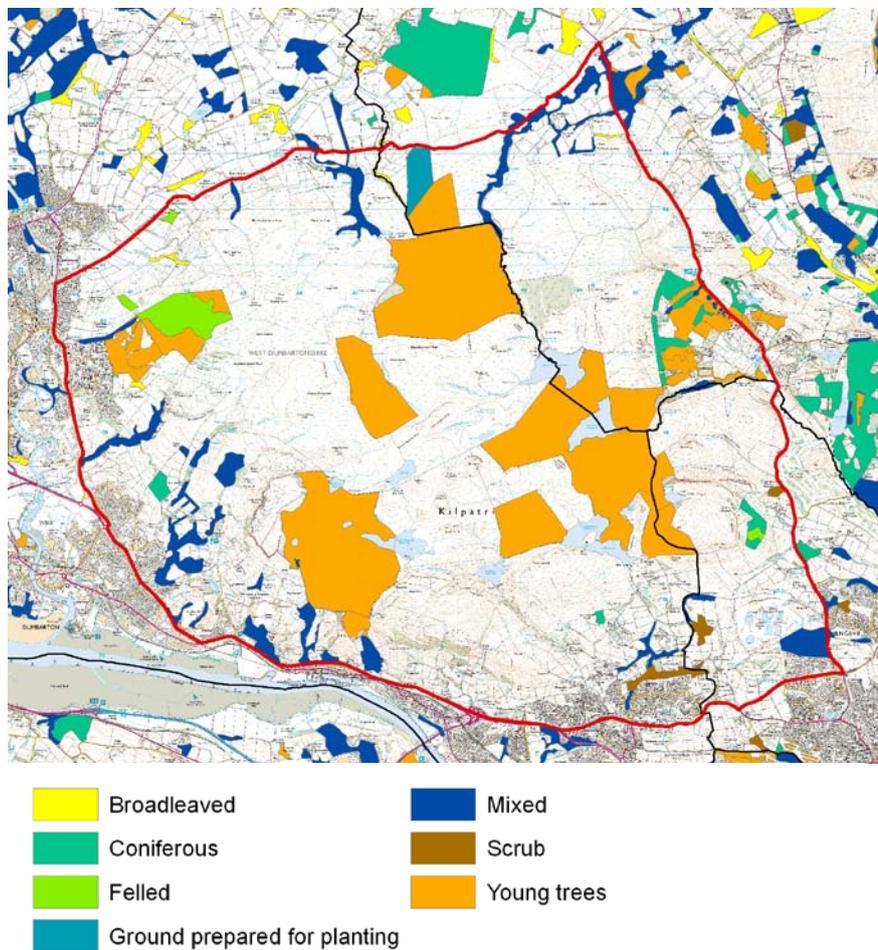
 ARABLE	 MARSH
 BRACKEN	 MIXED WOODLAND
 BROADLEAVED	 PEATLAND
 CONIFEROUS PLANTATION	 POOR ROUGH GRASS / HEATHER MOORLAND
 FELLED WOODLAND	 POOR ROUGH GRASSLAND
 FRESH WATERS	 POOR ROUGH GRASSLAND / PEATLAND
 GOOD ROUGH GRASS / BRACKEN	 RECENT PLANTING
 GOOD ROUGH GRASS / HEATHER MOORLAND	 REMAINING MOSAICS
 GOOD ROUGH GRASS / POOR ROUGH GRASS	 RURAL DEVELOPMENT
 GOOD ROUGH GRASSLAND	 SALTMARSH
 HEATHER MOORLAND	 SCRUB
 HEATHER MOORLAND / PEATLAND	 TIDAL WATERS
 IMPROVED GRASSLAND	 URBAN
 IMPROVED GRASSLAND / GOOD ROUGH GRASS	

Woodland and Forestry

- 4.12 There are substantial commercial forestry plantations, most of which are in the ownership of Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS). These are dominated by single-age Sitka spruce plantations, and are mainly located on the plateau, although the Craigarestie plantation spills down the southern slopes.

- 4.13 FCS has increased its ownership within the Kilpatrick Hills, having recently purchased Cochno and Gavinburn Farms. These comprise large areas of open moorland between the existing plantations at Kilmannan and Craigairstie. This area is being planted with native broadleaf woodland as part of a carbon sequestration project. The Woodland Trust is in the process of purchasing Maryland Farm to the west of Lang Craigs.
- 4.14 The principal areas of native woodland are associated with estate landscapes at Overtoun, Edinbarnet and Auchineden. Watercourses, particularly in their lower reaches, are also often wooded.
- 4.15 The National Inventory of Woodland and Trees (NIWT), carried out between 1995–1999, classifies woodlands across Scotland. **Figure 4.3** illustrates the woodland cover in the Kilpatrick Hills. Many of the plantations are classed as “young trees”, although they are now maturing. The NIWT indicates the mixed woodland around Overtoun and other estates.

Figure 4.3: National Inventory of Woodland and Trees



Transport, Infrastructure and Settlement

- 4.16 The study area is bounded by the A813 to the west, the A82 and A810 to the south, and the A809 to the east, but there are no major roads within the area. Roads and tracks run part way into the area at locations including Overtoun, Edinbarnet and Auchineden, as well as along the minor road which

forms the north boundary, but the central plateau has no road access other than farm and forestry tracks.

- 4.17 Public transport links are good around the south and west sides of the study area. Railway stations at Balloch, Alexandria, Dumbarton, Bowling and Old Kilpatrick are connected by regular services to central Glasgow. Along a similar route, bus services link the communities of Balloch, Bonhill, Bellsmyre, Silverton, Milton, Bowling, Old Kilpatrick and Clydebank. The eastern side of the study area is served less well. There are train services from Glasgow to Bearsden and Milngavie, but these are further from the study area. Milngavie and Bearsden are also served by buses to Glasgow and Clydebank. North of Milngavie, less frequent bus services connect to Croftamie via the A809, and also link Croftamie with Balloch via the A811.
- 4.18 A large electrical substation is situated on the A810 east of Faifley. From here four steel tower overhead power lines cross the study area. Two run in close parallel westwards across Faifley, then north-west to Loch Humphrey, then westward again across the plateau to Overtoun. Two further lines run northward, approximately parallel, crossing the A809 either side of Carbeth.
- 4.19 Within the study area there are active whinstone quarries at Craighunnock, known locally as Sheephill Quarry, and Dumbuck both near Milton. The Douglas Muir sand and gravel quarry is located near Milngavie. Active landfill sites are located at Riggangower near Craighunnock and at Auchencarroch in the north-west of the area, where a landfill gas energy plant is also located. There are few communications masts. Water works associated with the reservoirs are generally located well downstream at the edges of the area.
- 4.20 Settlement is restricted to the fringes of the study area. Built up areas are located at Faifley and Duntocher north of Clydebank, Milton, the Bellsmyre and Crosslet areas of Dumbarton, and Bonhill and Dalmonach on the east side of the Vale of Leven. Otherwise there are only scattered isolated properties, mostly on the southern slopes of the hills, and along the minor road to the north. The central plateau is uninhabited.

Landscape Character

- 4.21 The landscape of the study area within East and West Dunbartonshire is described in the *Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Landscape Assessment*.⁴ The Kilpatrick Hills are grouped with the Campsies as the *Kilpatrick and Campsie Fells* regional character area, described as “a broken line of rugged upland which encloses Glasgow and the Clyde Valley to the north [...] marked by steep south-facing slopes”. Features include small lochans, moorland and conifer plantations, and sparse settlement.
- 4.22 The majority of the study area is characterised as *Rugged Moorland Hills*, with similar key characteristics given for this type. Heather moorland and rough grassland are dominant, with conifer plantations and reservoirs. The Rugged Moorland Hills offer long views across the developed Clyde basin. Issues include development pressures and urban fringe problems at settlement

⁴ Land Use Consultants (1999) *Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Landscape Assessment*. Scottish Natural Heritage Review No. 116.

fringes, the need to carefully consider conifer plantations, and landscape management, including woodland and recreation.

- 4.23 The south-east fringe of the study area is placed in the *Drumlin Foothills* character type. This agricultural landscape is predominantly pastoral, with high scenic quality. Small farm woodlands and shelterbelts are in a declining state of repair. Issues affecting this landscape include development pressure and the need for positive management of recreational demands.
- 4.24 The landscape of the study area within Stirling is described in the *Central Region Landscape Character Assessment*.⁵ The area is characterised as *Hill Fringes*, and is largely within the *Cameron Muir/Stockie Muir* character area. The assessment describes the volcanic Auchineden Hill, and the shelving land to the north, as well as distinctive glacial landforms. Grass and heather moor remain the principal landcover, with mixed shelterbelts, deciduous burn woodlands, and coniferous plantations, and limited settlement along the A809. Views from this simple landscape are dominated by the Campsie Fells to the east, opening out to the north. 'Negative attributes' for this landscape include recreational management problems and the prominence of coniferous plantations.

Biodiversity

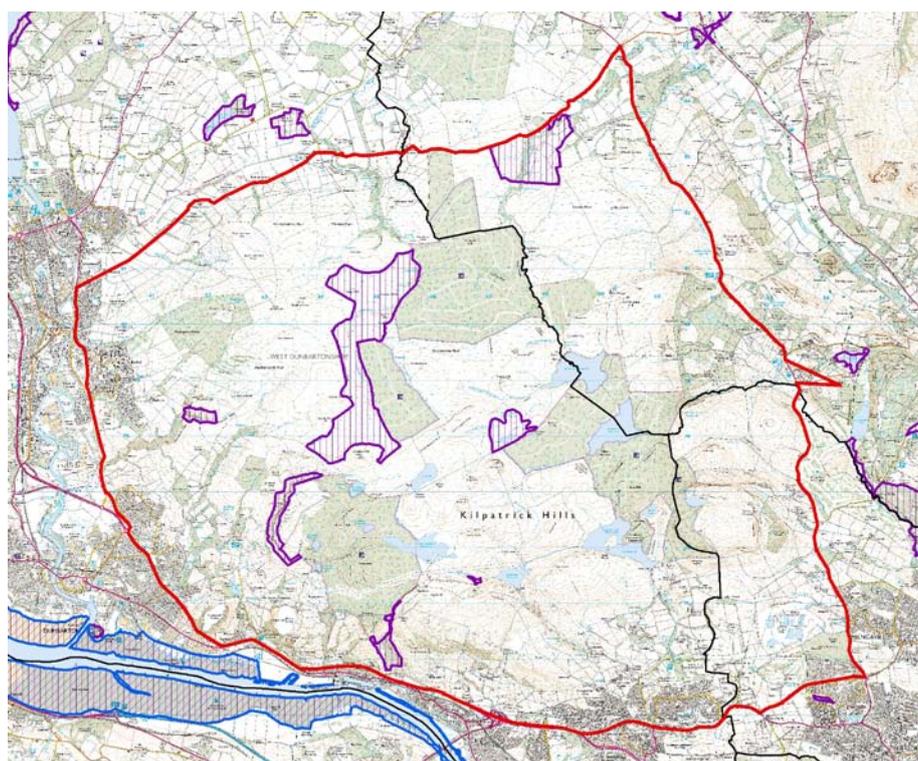
- 4.25 There are no internationally protected sites within the study area, though the mudflats of the Clyde estuary are designated as a Ramsar site and SPA. There are seven Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within the study area, the largest being Dumbarton Muir, comprising two large areas of blanket bog and upland raised bog. Loch Humphrey Burn and Glenarbusk are geological SSSIs, designated for important plant fossils. Aucheneck in Stirling protects Quaternary glacial landforms. Auchenreoch is designated for both geological and biological (woodland) interest. Other SSSIs protect upland rocky habitats. Designated sites are shown in **Figure 4.4**.
- 4.26 Condition of SSSIs is summarised in **Table 4.1**, indicating a mixed picture for the area's protected biodiversity and geodiversity.

⁵ Ash Consulting (1999) *Central Region Landscape Character Assessment*. Scottish Natural Heritage Review No. 123.

Table 4.1 Condition of SSSIs⁶

SSSI Name	Feature	Condition
Aucheneck	Quaternary geology	Favourable, maintained
Dumbarton Muir	Blanket bog	Unfavourable, declining
Auchenreoch Glen	Carboniferous geology	Favourable, maintained
	Springs and flushes	Unfavourable, no change
	Ash woodland	Favourable, maintained
Lang Craigs	Tall herb ledge	Unfavourable, declining
Haw Craig – Glenarbuck	Rocky slopes	Favourable, maintained
	Ash woodland	Unfavourable, declining
Glenarbuck	Palaeobotany	Unfavourable, recovering
Loch Humphrey Burn	Palaeobotany	Favourable, maintained

Figure 4.4: SSSIs and Inner Clyde Ramsar / SPA



- 4.27 There are a number of Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS), covering areas of woodland, wooded glens, and moorland, including Douglas Muir, Craigairstie plantation, Nobleston Wood and Overtoun Estate.
- 4.28 The Dunbartonshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) sets out action plans for urban, rural, woodland and wetland habitats, all of which are represented in the study area.

⁶ [SNH SiteLink website](#)

- 4.29 Species known to be present in the area include black grouse, whose population is monitored by the Forestry Commission, as well as otters, deer and osprey.
- 4.30 Integrated Habitat Network (IHN) is an approach which aims to provide a strategic framework for functioning habitat networks. The aim of IHN is to support the planning process and to target conservation effort by highlighting Priority Enhancement Areas. These are selected on the basis that they are:
- The largest encompassing networks;
 - The greatest area of habitat within these networks; and
 - The largest number of the contained habitat networks.
- 4.31 Three key habitat types (woodland, wetland and grassland) have been identified as a focus for IHN within the Glasgow and Clyde Valley region.⁷
- 4.32 The 'Firth of Clyde, Loch Lomond and beginning West Highland Way' woodland priority area covers the north and east parts of the study area, and the 'Dumbarton' woodland priority area covers the south west of the study area. The following management principles have been developed (highest priority first):
- Protect and manage high quality habitat;
 - Restore and improve sites with restoration potential;
 - Improve and manage other sites;
 - Improve the landscape matrix by reducing land use intensity; and
 - Create/recreate new habitat and semi-natural habitat.
- 4.33 Within the wetland network, priority is given to upland peat, which occupies large parts of the Kilpatrick plateau. The study area does not include any of the identified priority areas for grassland.

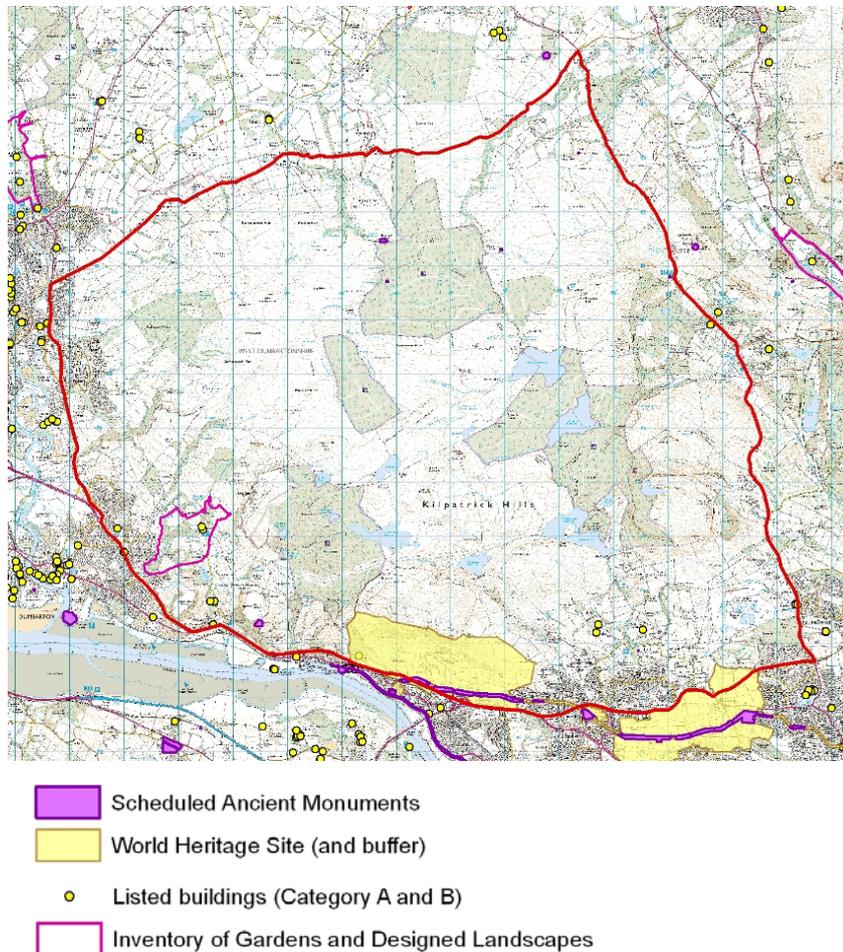
Historic Environment

- 4.34 The Antonine Wall World Heritage Site crosses the southern part of the area, with the visual buffer extending across the lower slopes of the hills above Bowling. Other scheduled monuments in the Kilpatrick Hills include prehistoric long cairns and chambered cairns in the north of the area, and cup and ring marked rock at Cochno. The Forth and Clyde Canal also passes close to the study area boundary where it joins the Clyde at Bowling. A hill fort is sited on Sheep Hill at Auchentorlie.
- 4.35 There is one Category A listed building in the study area: the 19th century Overtoun House, a baronial mansion constructed by lawyer and industrialist James White. The surrounding landscape gardens are listed Historic Scotland's Inventory of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes. These grounds include the listed Overtoun Bridge, and are now in the ownership of West Dunbartonshire Council. Glenarbusk, Cochno and Edinbarnet are listed at Category B.

⁷ Forest Research (2008) Glasgow and Clyde Valley Integrated Habitat Networks. Glasgow & Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership.

- 4.36 Undesignated historic environment includes a range of sites, from prehistoric cairns and traces of past agriculture, to 20th century sites. The latter includes World War II era bunkers and a decoy site at Auchenreoch, intended to deceive enemy bombers heading for Clydebank.

Figure 4.5: Historic Environment

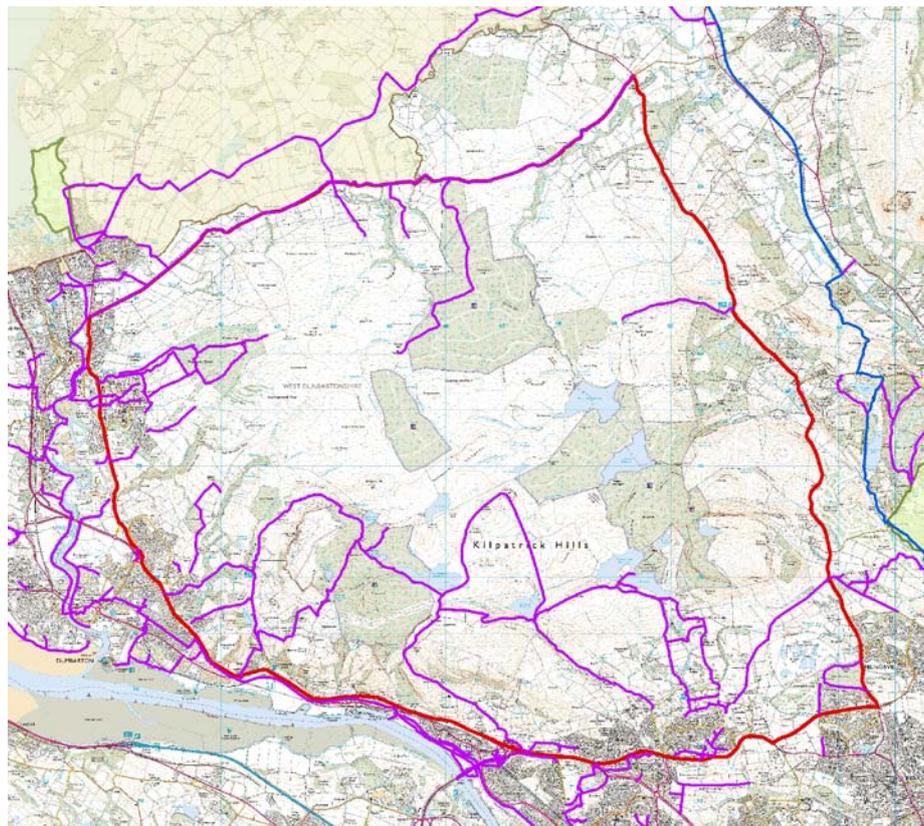


Access and Recreation

- 4.37 The Kilpatrick Hills are within 15km of Glasgow City Centre, and a number of large settlements are located much closer. As described under Transport above, the area is bounded by A-roads on three sides and is served by rail, bus and cycle routes. The area is therefore potentially accessible to very large numbers of people. There are formal car parks giving access to the hills at Overtoun House above Dumbarton, Edinbarnet north of Faifley, and at Queen's View on the A809. Availability of parking close to the hills is more limited in some areas.
- 4.38 The three councils have published Core Path Plans indicating core paths across the Kilpatrick Hills. These plans show that Core Paths are generally concentrated around the edges of the area, providing access from settlements into the adjacent hillsides. Core Paths follow the southern rim of the plateau, but no paths cross the interior of the hills. There are no north-south links, and connections between council areas and individual communities are limited.

- 4.39 Core Paths are generally signed, with a number of well-signed circular walks from Dumbarton in place, covering Overtoun Estate, Lang Craigs, Doughnot Hill and Loch Humphrey.
- 4.40 The West Highland Way passes east of the study area, beginning in Milngavie and running north through Mugdock Country Park. A Core Path through Laighpark and Craigton links this national route to the study area, and to the Bankie Trek, part of a historic walking route between Clydebank and Carbeth.
- 4.41 To the north, there are good links through the built-up area to Balloch Castle Country Park, but direct links between the Kilpatrick Hills and the National Park are few. The Three Lochs Way begins at Balloch, at the north-east of the study area, and leads west to Helensburgh then north to Garelochhead and Loch Lomond. SNH is currently exploring options for extending the John Muir Way across central Scotland, with Balloch as a potential end point.
- 4.42 The Forth and Clyde canal is an important walking and cycling route, passing through the communities to the south of the study area. Recreational boating is also popular, with facilities at Bowling Basin.
- 4.43 The National Cycle Network Route 7 crosses the area immediately to the north of the study area. The area is used for mountain biking, including on the high ground above Bowling and Old Kilpatrick.
- 4.44 Barriers to access include the steep ascent, particularly from the south. Another barrier on the southern side of the Kilpatrick Hills is the A82 dual carriageway, which discourages access from the communities to the south. At Old Kilpatrick, access can be gained at the A714 junction, but the complex junction makes for an unwelcome access to the hills.
- 4.45 Opportunities for formal recreation include two golf courses, at Vale of Leven near Dalmonach, and Windyhill near Milngavie. Several of the reservoirs are used by local angling clubs. The hills are also used by runners, mountain bikers and for orienteering. Illegal access by motorbikes and quad bikes is an issue in some locations, although outline plans exist for a dedicated off-road motorcycle location in the Cochnohill area.
- 4.46 Core Paths and Country Parks are shown in **Figure 4.6**.

Figure 4.6: Access and Recreation



-  Core Paths
-  West Highland Way
-  Country Parks
-  National Park

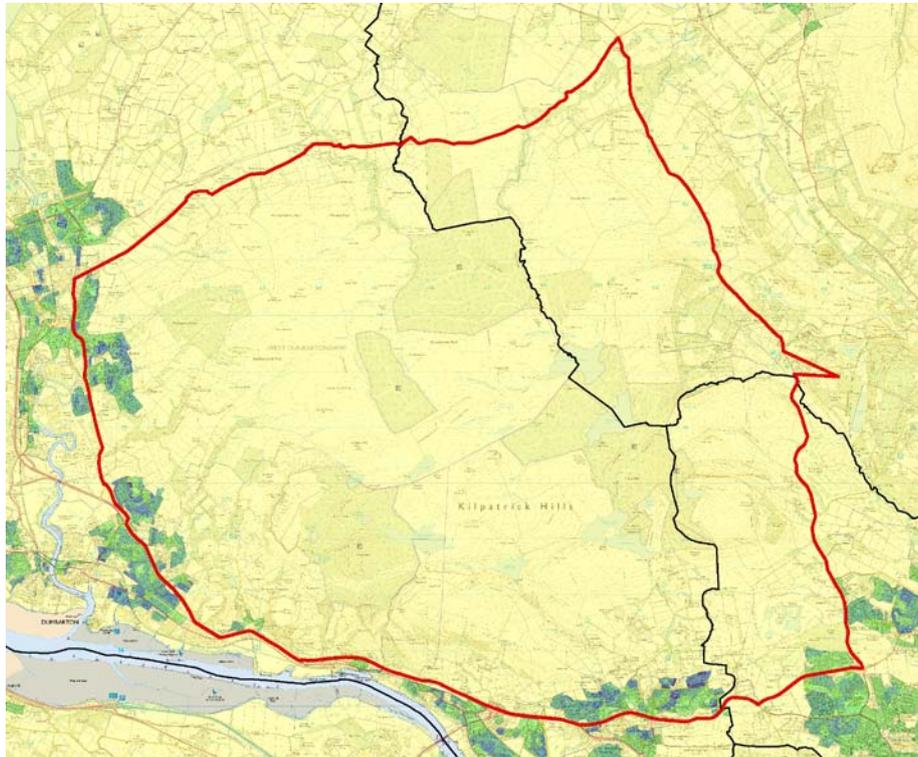
Community

- 4.47 Community involvement is generally at a low level, though there are several active community councils in the area. Some voluntary schemes have been successful, for example woodland planting at Cochnohill, and wildlife surveying, and litter clean ups, though levels of volunteering are generally low. The Woodland Trust hope to involve the community in the planting of the Maryland Farm area. Forest Education Initiative sites have also been established within the area.
- 4.48 **Figures 4.7 to 4.11** provide information on the demographic and social context of the Kilpatrick Hills. The information displayed is taken from the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2006. The SIMD was published by the Office of the Chief Statistician in 2006. It divides Scotland up into 6,505 small geographical areas (called 'data zones'), with a median population size of 769. These are ranked from 1 (most deprived) to 6505 (least deprived) using 37 indicators of deprivation across seven categories or domains: current income, employment, health, education, geographic access to services, housing and crime.

Population Distribution

- 4.49 **Figure 4.7** shows the relative density of population in the study area. The most densely populated areas of Bonhill, Dumbarton, and Clydebank are clearly visible (blue), with other moderately dense settlements in green. The majority of the study area is sparsely settled (yellow).

Figure 4.7: Population Density



Employment

- 4.50 **Figure 4.8** shows the Employment Domain ranking component of the SIMD. The darker shaded areas are those which have higher proportions of population that are unemployed. It shows concentrations of unemployment in parts of the Vale of Leven and Clydebank. Unemployment is low in the east and north parts of the study area.
- 4.51 Employment within the Kilpatrick Hills is centred around forestry and farming. The active quarries, landfill site and golf courses also employ a number of people. The farm shop at Edenmill is one of the only employers attracting people into the area. Businesses in the neighbouring communities provide mainly local services, though there are a few hotels and restaurants.

Figure 4.8: SIMD Employment

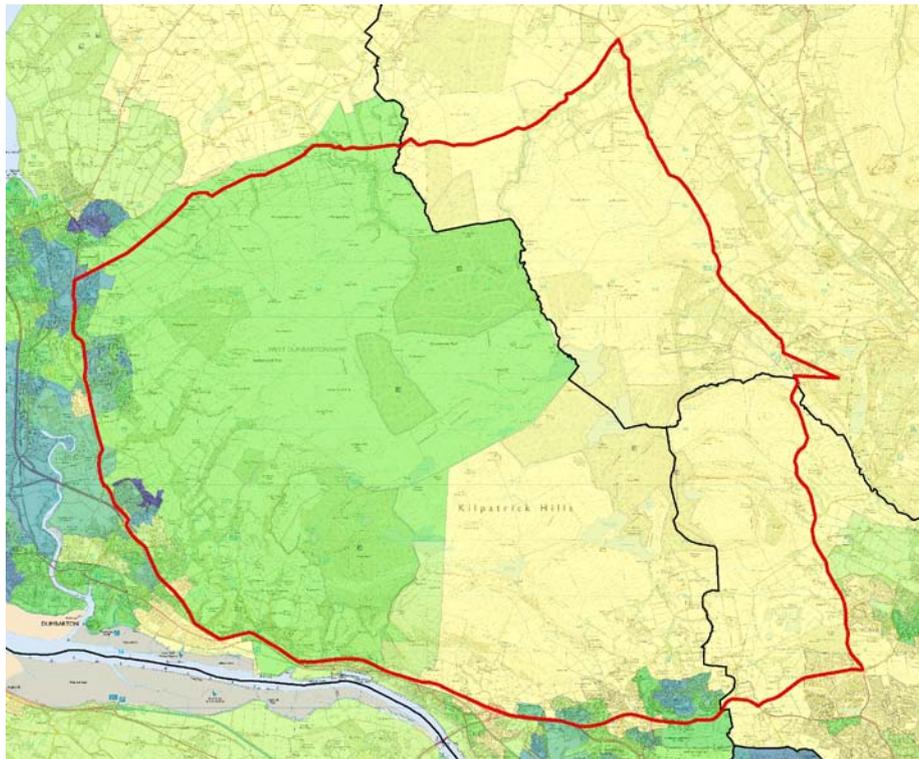
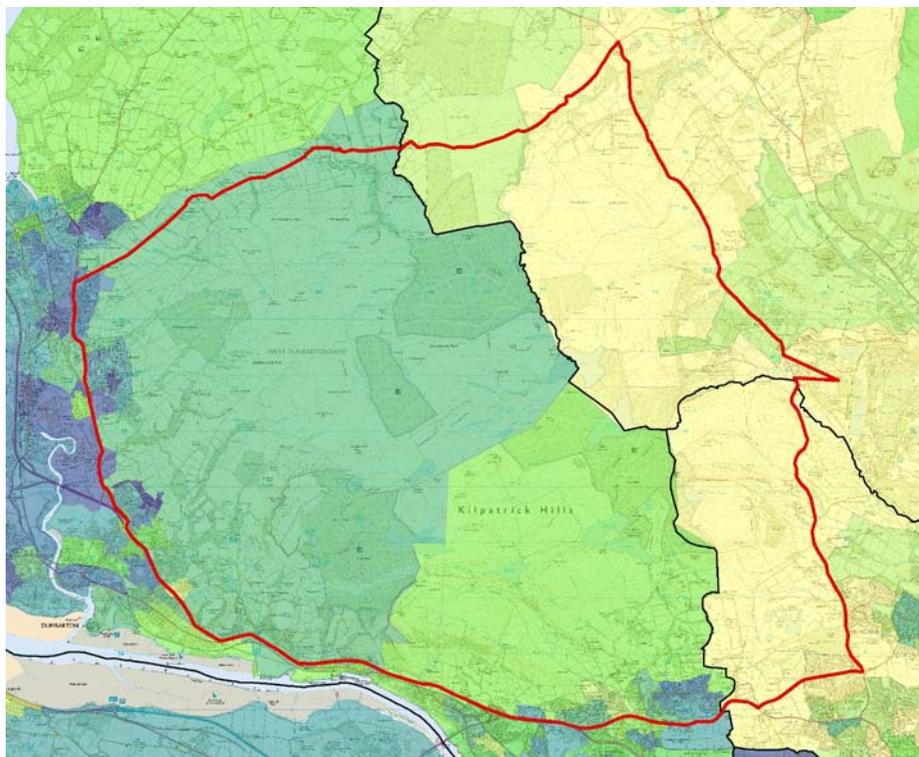


Figure 4.9: SIMD Health



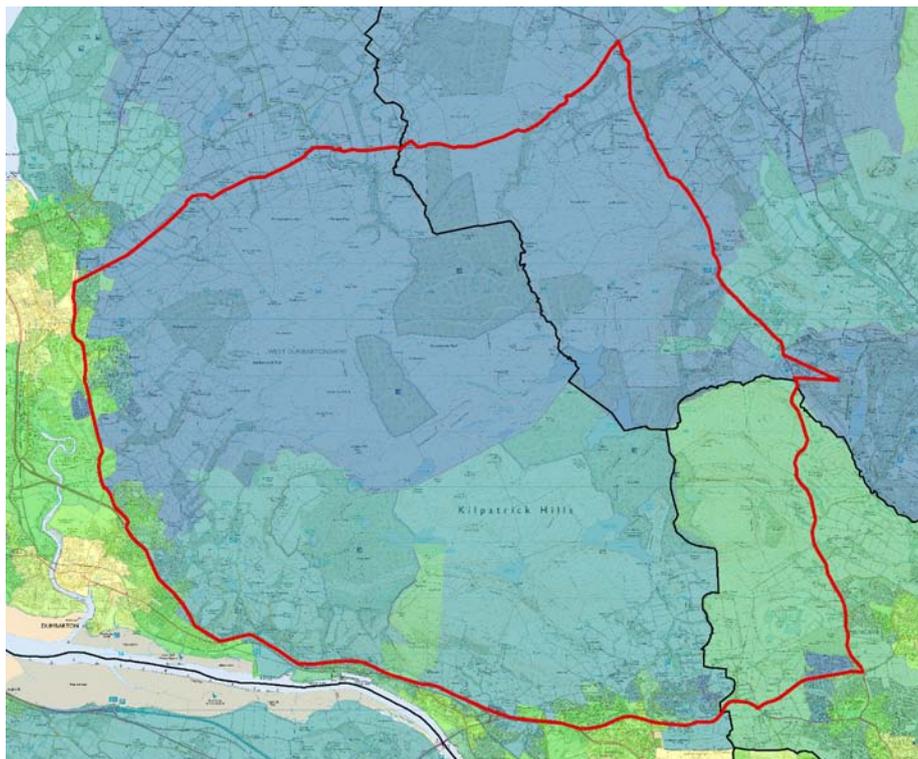
Health

- 4.52 The SIMD health indicators for the area show that there is a higher proportion of the population with poor health in the Vale of Leven settlements and Clydebank (**Figure 4.9**). Again it is notable that average health is much better in the eastern parts of the study area, within East Dunbartonshire and Stirling.

Access to services

- 4.53 While the urban areas tend to score poorly on each of the SIMD indicators, they score better against geographic access to services element, since the majority of the population live within close distances of services and are better served by a large public transport service. **Figure 4.10** shows that the lighter coloured urban areas are generally ranked better than the darker rural areas within the study area. However, even within the urban areas there are pockets of restricted access, often linked to low levels of car ownership, which increases both the dependence on and importance of public transport and safe pedestrian access links (see section 4.17 for public transport details).

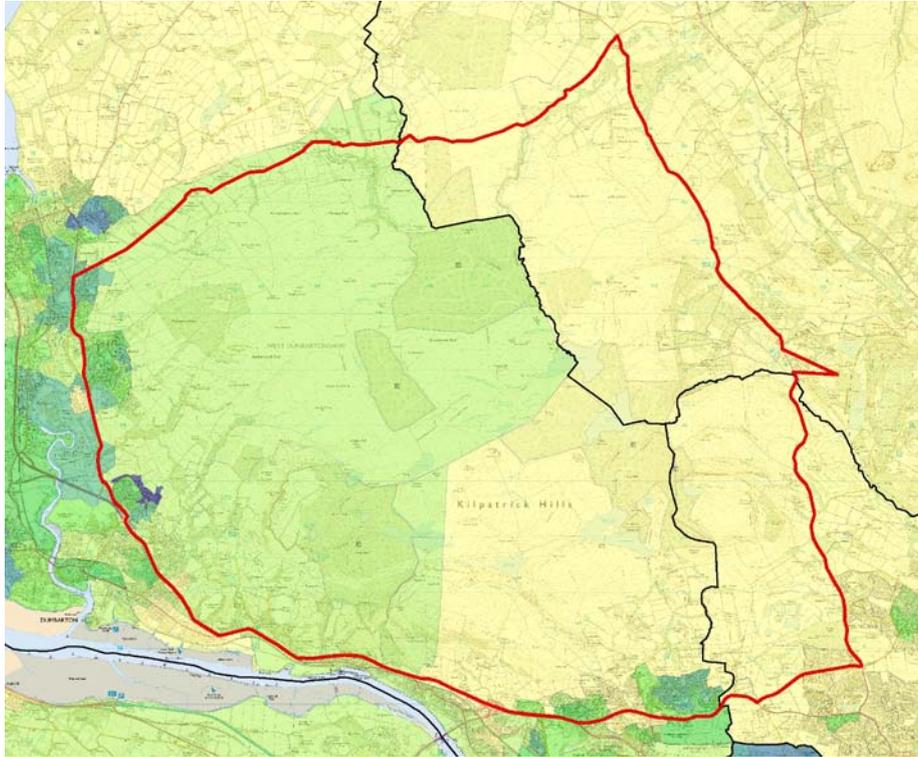
Figure 4.10: SIMD Geographical access to services



SIMD

- 4.54 The combined SIMD for the area shows that there are small concentrations where the population are at risk from social deprivation, shaded darker in **Figure 4.11**. Again these are located in the peripheral areas of the Vale of Leven and Clydebank, with rural areas at lower risk, particularly in the east.

Figure 4.11: SIMD Combined



5 Consultation

- 5.1 To inform the development of the strategy and action plan, a consultation exercise was undertaken to gather information on:
- How the area currently contributes to CSGN objectives;
 - Relevant current or planned projects in the area;
 - Key opportunities within the area; and
 - Potential constraints and barriers within the area.
- 5.2 Consultation was undertaken by means of a short questionnaire, sent out by post and email. A copy of the letter, questionnaire and accompanying map are included in **Appendix I**.
- 5.3 Individuals and organisations consulted included: landowners; council officers; community councils; and other interested stakeholders. A complete list of consultees is included in **Box 5.1**. Those which responded are indicated with an asterisk (*).

Box 5.1 Consultees

Councils	Landowners
West Dunbartonshire Council*	Auchineden Estate*
East Dunbartonshire Council*	Aucheneck Estates
Stirling Council*	Auchengillan Outdoor Centre
Community Councils	Cochno Farm
Croftamie*	Dumbuck Farm
Killlearn	Garshake Farm
Strathblane	Gartlea Farm
Balloch and Haldane	Gavinburn Farm
Bonhill and Dalmonach*	Greenland Farm
Bowling and Milton*	Highdykes Farm
Dumbarton East and Central	Merkins Farm
Dumbarton North	Middleton Farm
Old Kilpatrick	Mount Pleasant Farm
Silverton and Overtoun	Murroch Farm
Other organisations	Nobleston Wood
Scottish Natural Heritage*	West Muirhouses Farm
Clydebelt*	Forestry Commission Scotland*
Queen Elizabeth Angling Club	Woodland Trust*
Bearsden Angling Club	Tarmac Ltd

- 5.4 Consultation provided valuable insights into the current opportunities and constraints within the area. Detailed responses included information on ways in which the community use the Kilpatrick Hills, as well as ongoing activities and projects aimed at enhancing the area. This local knowledge has fed into the spatial analysis (**Section 4**), as well as informing the analysis of the area's potential (**Section 6**).
- 5.5 Many suggestions were received for projects to be included within the strategy. These have been considered as part of the analysis, and where appropriate have been included in the long list of projects (**Table 8.1**).
- 5.6 The most detailed responses were received from Community Councils, and from officers of the three Councils, as well as SNH and FCS. Responses from landowners were more limited in number and content, and included some anonymous responses.

6 Analysis of Current and Potential Contribution

- 6.1 Following the gathering of current information, and the analysis of present planning policy, the potential for the Kilpatrick Hills to contribute further to CSGN benefits was explored. The current contribution of the area, and the potential contribution, were assessed against each of the specific objectives listed in **Table 3.2**.
- 6.2 Comparison of the current and potential contributions provided the starting point for development of the strategy objectives (**Section 7**) and, in turn, the identification and prioritisation of individual projects (**Section 8**). The examination of current and potential contribution is set out in **Table 6.1**.

Table 6.1 Current and Potential Contribution of the Area to CSGN Themes

CSGN Themes	Application to the Kilpatrick Hills	Current contribution	Potential contribution
It will make Central Scotland a more prosperous and competitive place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase opportunities for training and employment in land based and low carbon industries 	Some employment in land management - farming, particularly to the northern side of the hills - forestry, management and harvesting of commercial conifer plantations - water, maintenance of water supply infrastructure	Potential to increase employment associated with woodland creation and management, the management of peat to retain carbon and in renewable energy (biomass, small scale hydro and wind)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversification of rural incomes within the Kilpatrick Hills 	Limited active diversification, although landowners commented on the difficulties of farming in the area. Wind Farm application at Merkins.	Potential to use woodland expansion to diversify agricultural incomes Potential to used recreation provision, management and facilities to diversify rural incomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities for local businesses around the Kilpatrick Hills 	Few businesses linked directly to access and recreation. Farm shop and fish farm at Auchineden. The outdoor centre at Auchengillan is located just outside the area.	May be potential for new or existing businesses linked to activities such as climbing, walking, etc. Possible benefits for local cafes and pubs.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution to high quality regional environment 	An integral if under-recognised component of the region's natural heritage resource – landscape, biodiversity and outdoor recreation	Potential to increase awareness of the Kilpatrick Hills recreation opportunities among surrounding communities, the wider population of central Scotland, and visitors to the area. Linked to improved access provision and management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regeneration of brownfield land around the Kilpatrick Hills 	Limited brownfield land in the study area at present. Landfill and quarry sites have long-term restoration plans in place. Disused water works sites are located near Maryland Farm and on Cochno Road.	Relatively limited direct potential to assist in regenerating brownfield land – though changing perceptions of the area is likely to have an influence on investor decisions in areas such as Clydebank and Dumbarton
It will promote health and wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities for active outdoor recreation within the Kilpatrick Hills 	The Kilpatrick Hills currently provide a range of opportunities for active outdoor recreation, including access routes onto the hills, open access and specific points of interest including the Whangie	Potential for consolidation and linking of existing access provision, and use of the hills for specific types of outdoor access to improve opportunities.

CSGN Themes	Application to the Kilpatrick Hills	Current contribution	Potential contribution
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network of routes for walking, cycling, horse-riding, all abilities access within the Kilpatrick Hills 	Network of routes generally limited to areas around settlements, eg at Pappert Well Community Woodland. Few routes across the hills. Limited provision for specific users, ie cyclists, horse riders. Limited all-abilities access.	Potential to consolidate existing provision, for example by linking access routes within, across and outwith the hills, and to cater for specific types of user – e.g. creating horse-friendly routes and all abilities access in key locations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access opportunities close to home 	A large population live within 2km of the hills, including residents of the Vale of Leven, Dumbarton, Clydebank, Bearsden and Milngavie. At present access is better from West Dunbartonshire, with networks of paths clustered around settlements. Direct access from the East Dunbartonshire settlements is weaker.	Potential to raise awareness of access opportunities for local communities, and to develop the hills as a regional recreation resource, catering for people who might otherwise travel further.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration with core paths and long distance routes around the Kilpatrick Hills 	Currently weaker connection with West Highland Way and National Cycle Route. Limited connection also to the well-used Country Parks at Balloch and Mugdock.	Opportunities to create linkages to, from and between long distance routes. Opportunities to link – physically and through signage – with core path networks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information and signage 	Increasing provision of signage, particularly circular routes from Dumbarton and West Dunbartonshire Core Paths. Interpretation and other information is more limited particularly at access points. Ongoing access improvements being funded by FCS WIAT programme.	Potential to develop a consistent approach to signage and waymarking within and around the Kilpatrick Hills. Websites and other information provision. Scope for improving orientation and information on arrival.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures to encourage people to use opportunities within the Kilpatrick Hills 	West Dunbartonshire rangers and Clydebelt lead occasional guided walks in the area. A “Dumbarton Walks” map leaflet has been produced. Limited services for visitors to the area.	Potential to encourage greater use of the Kilpatrick Hills – working with local schools, community organisations and user groups to raise awareness and build confidence. Potential for provision of visitor facilities at key locations, including parking, refreshments, etc.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public transport access – ride and walk 	Good opportunities to use public transport as part of a visit to the Kilpatrick Hills, the	Potential to increase awareness by promotion of ride – walk – ride etc

CSGN Themes	Application to the Kilpatrick Hills	Current contribution	Potential contribution
		area is well-served by trains and buses.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and lifelong learning 	The well-established Auchengillan centre provides outdoor education. Limited direct use of the area by schools, although a Forest Schools site has been established at Auchentorlie.	Potential to work with local schools to build aspects of the hills into the school curriculum (e.g. Forest Education Initiative). Potential to use land management and access provision and management as a basis for training and apprenticeships
It will make Central Scotland a more attractive and distinctive place to live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good links from surrounding communities onto the Kilpatrick Hills 	Currently good physical links onto the Kilpatrick Hills, particularly in the west.	Potential to improve awareness, provide signage and connect routes to create managed network of routes within the hills
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Porous boundary – environmental benefits within as well as adjacent to communities 	The present settlements around the Kilpatrick Hills have a range of interfaces with the hills. Some areas offer ready access into the hills, while others are surrounded by fencing which discourages access. Features such as the derelict waterworks on Garshake Road also discourage access into the hills	Potential to link access improvements within the hills to greenspace and access improvements in surrounding communities – part of the same initiative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness locally and at a regional scale of the recreational potential of the Kilpatrick Hills 	Awareness of the Kilpatrick Hills is variable, with some people travelling long distances to visit, while local communities may go elsewhere.	Potential to raise awareness of access opportunities for local communities, and to develop the hills as a regional recreation resource, catering for people who might otherwise travel further.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness of the history of the area, enhancing local distinctiveness through cultural heritage interpretation 	Limited awareness of the area's history, including its use during the Second World War	Opportunities to provide interpretation and information on the role of the Kilpatrick Hills in history, both in the form of on-site and published material. Potential to tie into walking routes and natural heritage interpretation.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger communities with involvement in planning and managing their local environment 	Some active community councils in surrounding areas take an interest in the Kilpatrick Hills. Clydebelt is a well-established campaign group “dedicated to retaining and enhancing our heritage and the	Potential to use the Kilpatrick Hills Project as a vehicle to increase community involvement and ownership of local environmental and access projects. Link with community planning initiatives in

CSGN Themes	Application to the Kilpatrick Hills	Current contribution green belt status of the Kilpatrick Hills”.	Potential contribution surrounding areas
It will enhance the nature and landscapes of Central Scotland, and support the Government’s objectives for a greener Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated habitat networks linking habitats within and across the Kilpatrick Hills 	The hills contain a range of important peatland, wetland and woodland habitats. Their value to the creation of integrated habitat networks for woodland and peatland is recognised.	Potential for integrated habitat networks to reverse habitat fragmentation, for example expanding and linking the area of native woodland across or around the hills. Opportunities to link this with access and interpretation.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Native woodland expansion within the Kilpatrick Hills 	Native woodland currently confined to a few steeper slopes and narrow burn corridors. Recent planting by FCS of native broadleaves on southern side of the hills, with further plans for the Gavinburn area and the Auchineden Woodland Scheme. Woodland Trust have bought Maryland Farm and planning to remove all invasive species and plant the area with native trees.	Potential to further expand and connect areas of native woodland, subject to the sensitivity of other, non-woodland habitats.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restructuring of productive coniferous plantations within the Kilpatrick Hills 	The Kilpatrick Hills contain a number of areas of coniferous plantation in public and private ownership. The large, blocky plantations on the plateau, including Knockupple, are to be removed in the near future, and restored as moorland.	Significant potential to enhance existing coniferous plantations as a result of restructuring – this could result in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - more varied species and age structures - a higher proportion of native species and open space - more natural and less geometric shapes - the removal of plantations in unsuitable locations (e.g. poor access, sensitive soils, poor growing conditions)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of key habitats including designated sites within and around the Kilpatrick Hills 	The condition of SSSIs is mixed, with several sites assessed as unfavourable or declining. Ongoing work to remove invasive rhododendron being funded by FCS WIAT programme.	Improved management of key habitats, including geodiversity sites. Ongoing removal of rhododendron. Etc.

CSGN Themes	Application to the Kilpatrick Hills	Current contribution	Potential contribution
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More sustainable land management to enhance biodiversity, 	Limited available habitat within farmed and amenity areas. For example, many hedges are in poor condition, council-owned land given over to amenity grass.	Opportunity for greater uptake of SRDP funding to promote hedgerow planting and management, development of meadows.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to experience and enjoy nature and wildlife within the Kilpatrick Hills 	Little in the way of planned interpretation. There is wildlife interest in the area, but little awareness of its presence.	Opportunity to integrate access provision and management with habitat management and education/interpretation.
It will make a major contribution to Scotland's efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland expansion within the Kilpatrick Hills 	There is currently a mix of extensive conifer plantations, some mixed woodland and limited stands of native woodland. The FCS are carrying out planting of broadleaf woodland at Cochno and Gavinburn as part of a carbon sequestration fund project . Some 150 ha of mixed woodland will be planted on land at Auchineden.	Potential to expand the total area of woodland across the Kilpatrick Hills subject to the conservation of other, non-woodland habitats
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peatland management within the Kilpatrick Hills to retain and absorb CO2 	Condition of the Dumbarton Muir SSSI blanket bog is listed as 'unfavourable declining'.	Potential to enhance management of the Kilpatrick Hills peatland to ensure maximum absorption and retention of carbon from the atmosphere. Management to consider implications of future climate change.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to develop renewable energy associated with the Kilpatrick Hills 	Currently some interest in wind farm development with the Kilpatrick Hills	Opportunity to explore other forms of renewable energy (biomass linked to woodland management and small scale hydro on burns)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland within the Kilpatrick Hills to slow run-off 	Currently limited woodland cover within the Kilpatrick Hills, although this is often associated with watercourses.	Woodland expansion where this contributes to sustainable flood management along burns and rivers.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peatland management within the Kilpatrick Hills to slow run-off 	Condition of the Dumbarton Muir SSSI blanket bog is listed as 'unfavourable declining'	Potential to enhance management of the Kilpatrick Hills peatland to slow un-off into surround water course. Management to consider implications of future climate change.

CSGN Themes	Application to the Kilpatrick Hills	Current contribution	Potential contribution
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active travel and public transport access to the Kilpatrick Hills 	The area is served by a number of railway stations and bus routes. Opportunities for linking public transport and access exist but not promoted	Promotion of public transport as a key means of access to the Kilpatrick Hills – promotion, signage, development of routes (circular and station to station etc)

7 Kilpatrick Hills Green Network Strategy

VISION

- 7.1 The Kilpatrick Hills Project will lead to the realisation of the following vision:

The Kilpatrick Hills will be recognised as a regionally important recreation resource, providing a range of recreation opportunities for communities and visitors to central Scotland. It will be valued by local communities as a source of employment, training and education, as well as an easily accessible place for recreation. The natural heritage of the Kilpatrick Hills will be conserved, enhanced and more widely appreciated. The Kilpatrick Hills will also play an increasing role in helping us mitigate and adapt to climate change.

- 7.2 The Kilpatrick Hills will become an exemplar project within the wider Central Scotland Green Network. Links both physical and thematic will be developed with other projects in the area and across Central Scotland.

OBJECTIVES

- 7.3 In order to realise this vision, the Kilpatrick Hills Project will need to meet the following objectives:
- The development and promotion of **high quality access and recreation** opportunities within the Kilpatrick Hills;
 - Management of the Kilpatrick Hills to maintain and improve the quality of **habitats and landscapes** and people's enjoyment of them;
 - **Sustainable land management** of the Kilpatrick Hills to contribute to the local economy, whilst providing opportunities for volunteering, training and employment;
 - **Greater awareness** of the recreational opportunities and natural heritage importance of the Kilpatrick Hills;
 - The development of strong links with formal **education and lifelong learning**;
 - The **strengthening of links between communities and their local environment**, creating new opportunities for people to become involved in planning and managing the area;
 - a strategic approach to **climate change mitigation and adaptation**.
- 7.4 These objectives are linked and interdependent. It is also important to ensure that measures established to achieve one objective do not compromise potential to meet another. As such, it is important that development and implementation of the strategy is taken forward in a co-ordinated way. This section therefore also examines the proposed role, membership and function of a Kilpatrick Hills Management Group.

STRATEGY

- 7.5 The following sections set out the strategy in more detail, as it relates to each of the objectives outlined above. Each objective is evaluated against the five main CSGN Benefits,

Objective: High quality access and recreation opportunities

- 7.6 The development of access and recreation opportunities lies at the heart of the strategy. This will comprise the following elements:
- A network of existing and new paths and tracks which will:
 - Make best use of existing paths and tracks, with new links where required;
 - Provide good connections from surrounding communities, key public transport access points (rail and bus), core paths and longer distance trails;
 - Provide a range of opportunities for short, medium and longer distance routes, some circular and some from A to B;
 - Allow people to walk across the Kilpatrick Hills and access key points of interest and key viewpoints;
 - Retain some areas of the Kilpatrick Hills which retain their wild land and remote character;
 - Protect important habitats and facilitate sustainable land management across the hills; and
 - Meet the needs of different types of user including walkers, cyclists, runners, horse riders, anglers and people with disabilities;
 - Consistent information and signage across and around the Kilpatrick Hills which could comprise:
 - Waymarking of routes;
 - Directional road signs to access points
 - Leaflets and maps;
 - Information and orientation boards, including interpretative information on habitats, cultural heritage, views and climate change; and
 - Web-based information including virtual information for mobile devices.

It will make Central Scotland a more prosperous and competitive place	★ ★
	★ ★ ★
It will make Central Scotland a more attractive and distinctive place to live	★ ★ ★
climate change	

Objective: Habitats and landscapes

7.7 Conservation and enhancement of the habitats and landscapes of the Kilpatrick Hills will underpin the development of recreational opportunities as well as creating opportunities for education, training and employment, and contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation. The development of integrated habitat networks is a key priority linking habitats within the hills and the surrounding area and helping to increase their resilience to climate change.

7.8 The key components of this part of the strategy are as follows:

- Management of designated sites to ensure that all return to a favourable condition;
- Management of upland peat to encourage regeneration and increase water retention. This may include reversal of upland drainage and inter-seasonal water management to prevent summer drying. This has the potential to increase the role of these areas in absorbing and storing carbon from the atmosphere and in sustainable river catchment management;
- Management, expansion and linking of existing native woodland along burn corridors and hill slopes. This has the potential to create biodiversity and landscape benefits as well as contributing to carbon sequestration and sustainable river catchment management;
- Restructuring of existing productive coniferous plantations to bring biodiversity and landscape improvements;
- Management and enhancement of lowland habitats found around the fringes of the hills, including hedgerows and unimproved meadows; and

- The development of key viewpoints with interpretation where visitors can gain views over the landscape of the Clyde Valley, the Inner Firth of Clyde and north to Loch Lomond and the Highlands.

Objective: Habitats and landscapes	
CSGN Benefit	Evaluation
It will make Central Scotland a more prosperous and competitive place	★
It will promote health and well-being	★
It will make Central Scotland a more attractive and distinctive place to live	★ ★
It will enhance the nature and landscapes of Central Scotland, and support the Government's objectives for a greener Scotland	★ ★ ★
It will make a major contribution to Scotland's efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change	★ ★

Objective: Sustainable land management

7.9 Part of the Kilpatrick Hills' current value is derived from the way in which the land is managed. Parts of the hills continue to be managed for agriculture, whilst productive forestry and water infrastructure are also of importance. To a greater or lesser extent, these kinds of activity provide income and employment. The strategy will support the continued management of the Kilpatrick Hills as part of the local economy, encouraging sustainable approaches which also contribute to access provision, habitat management, climate change adaptation and mitigation and landscape enhancement.

7.10 The key components of this part of the strategy are as follows:

- Ensuring that access provision does not conflict with upland agriculture and the operational requirements of woodland management;
- Using incentives under the Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP) Rural Priorities⁸ to encourage land managers to:
- Manage nationally important nature sites so their features are in 'favourable condition' (SRDP CLY09);
- Manage habitats supporting rare or endangered species (SRDP CLY10)
- Develop integrated habitat networks (SRDP CLY12);
- Conserve areas of quality landscapes (SRDP CLY13a), safeguard and open up new views (SRDP CLY13b);

⁸ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/SRDP>

- Increase the diversity and character of woods and forests (SRDP CLY14);
- Contribute to sustainable flood management (SRDP CLY19);
- Increase carbon sequestration through woodland expansion and soil and peat conservation (SRDP CLY21 and SRDP CLY23);
- Reduce emissions of green house gases from land based operation (SRDP CLY22);
- Contribute to an efficient and reliable wood fuel supply chain (SRDP CLY24);
- Improve public access, including facilities, links between communities, provision in areas of interest, provision of information to users and that deliver health benefits for local people particularly those in poorest health (SRDP CLY25);
- Diversify rural enterprises including through tourism and recreation, renewable energy development, skills and training (SRDP CLY 28-30); and
- Support the development of sustainable, resilient and empowered communities (SRDP CLY32);
- Enable and support farm diversification into areas which contribute to other strategic objectives, such as renewable energy development or creating recreational opportunities.

7.11 As SRDP priorities are reviewed and updated, the aim should be to include the Kilpatrick Hills as one of the named geographic areas prioritised within the programme.

Objective: Sustainable land management	
CSGN Benefit	Evaluation
It will make Central Scotland a more prosperous and competitive place	★
It will promote health and well-being	★ ★
It will make Central Scotland a more attractive and distinctive place to live	★ ★
It will enhance the nature and landscapes of Central Scotland, and support the Government's objectives for a greener Scotland	★ ★ ★
It will make a major contribution to Scotland's efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change	★ ★ ★

Objective: Greater awareness

7.12 The Kilpatrick Hills are currently an under-recognised recreational resource. As well as improving access opportunities, the strategy recognises the importance of increasing awareness at local and regional levels.

7.13 The key components of this part of the strategy are as follows:

- Involve local communities, alongside land owners and managers in the planning and development of access routes and networks within the Kilpatrick Hills;
- Work with local communities to raise awareness of current and new opportunities for recreation;
- Work with rangers and user groups to develop a programme of guided walks and other events as a means of encouraging local people to begin using paths and trails;
- Work with schools and other educational providers to encourage use of the hills as a learning resource;
- Provide good information in the form of waymarking, maps and guides to provide new users and visitors confidence to access to the hills;
- Identify key points of interest (including viewpoints, geological sites, lochs and summits) as a focus for interpretation and orientation;
- Explore the role of branding and marketing as a means of raising the awareness of the wider population of Central Scotland and visitors to the area, based on the environmental qualities and recreational opportunities of the Kilpatrick Hills.

It will make Central Scotland a more	★ ★
	★ ★
It will make Central Scotland a more attractive and distinctive place to live	★ ★
	★ ★
climate change	★

Objective: Education and lifelong learning

- 7.14 The Kilpatrick Hills have potential as a resource for formal and informal education and training, bringing benefits for local schools and a potential pathway to employment.
- 7.15 The key components of this part of the strategy are as follows:
- Promoting the Kilpatrick Hills as a venue for formal education, and their integration within the Curriculum for Excellence and in projects such as Eco-Schools and the Forest Education Initiative, aiming to encourage understanding and appreciation of environmental issues;
 - Use interpretation, events and ongoing research as a means of increasing wider awareness of the Kilpatrick Hills and their role in issues such as climate change mitigation and adaptation;
 - Work with land based businesses, local authorities and businesses in surrounding areas to identify opportunities for volunteering, training and employment; and
 - Explore the opportunity to develop a visitor and resource centre able to present and interpret information, provide a gateway to the hills and a venue for formal and informal educational events.

Objective: Education and lifelong learning	
CSGN Benefit	Evaluation
It will make Central Scotland a more prosperous and competitive place	★ ★
It will promote health and well-being	★ ★
It will make Central Scotland a more attractive and distinctive place to live	★
It will enhance the nature and landscapes of Central Scotland, and support the Government's objectives for a greener Scotland	★ ★
It will make a major contribution to Scotland's efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change	★

Objective: Stronger communities

- 7.16 The Kilpatrick Hills are fringed by a series of communities, including several with high levels of multiple deprivation. The Kilpatrick Hills project can make a positive contribution to these communities.
- 7.17 The key components of this part of the strategy are as follows:
- Involving communities in planning and implementing access and recreation and other projects in the Kilpatrick Hills;

- Ensuring that communities benefit from local improvements including better greenspaces, information and signage;
- Develop opportunities to develop community woodlands as part of any woodland expansion projects within the Kilpatrick Hills;
- Working with communities to raise awareness and encourage participation in outdoor recreation and events;
- Demonstrating relevance to local communities by prioritising training, apprenticeship and employment projects; and
- Working with local GPs and Health Boards to develop and promote health walks within the Kilpatrick Hills.

Objective: Stronger communities	
CSGN Benefit	Evaluation
	★
	★★
It will make Central Scotland a more attractive and distinctive place to live	★★
	★
climate change	★

Objective: Climate change mitigation and adaptation

- 7.18 The Kilpatrick Hills have an important part to play in helping to reduce carbon emissions and adapting to the changing climate.
- 7.19 The potential effects of climate change on the landscape of the Kilpatrick Hills are described in recent work carried out by SNH.⁹ This suggests that direct impacts could include increased flood risk along river corridors, with hotter, drier summers and more frequent periods of intense rainfall potentially increasing erosion of blanket bog. In turn, this will increase nutrient levels in runoff, changing the character of water bodies and also increasing the risk of catastrophic ‘bog burst’ events. Urban green space may see increased use, and the Kilpatrick Hills will provide an alternative outlet for recreational pressures.
- 7.20 The key components of this part of the strategy are as follows:

⁹ Scottish Natural Heritage (2011) Summary of the effects of climate change on landscape and quality of life in Glasgow and the Clyde Valley

- Recognising the role of woodland in increasing carbon sequestration, providing a potential source of low carbon wood fuel and contributing to sustainable flood management by intercepting rainfall and reducing the speed of run-off into burns and rivers;
- Managing peatland habitats to maximise their role in absorbing and storing carbon, and in contributing to sustainable flood management by reducing the speed of run-off into burns and rivers;
- Exploring opportunities to develop small scale hydro projects where compatible with the biodiversity, landscape and recreation importance of watercourses;
- Working with renewable energy developers to ensure any approved schemes bring significant benefits in terms of sustainable land management and access provision within the Kilpatrick Hills;
- Creating an local recreation resource accessible from surrounding communities and by public transport; and
- Developing integrated habitat networks, as a means of helping plants and animals become more able to adapt to the changing climate.

Objective: Climate change mitigation and adaptation	
CSGN Benefit	Evaluation
It will make Central Scotland a more prosperous and competitive place	★
It will promote health and well-being	★
It will make Central Scotland a more attractive and distinctive place to live	★
It will enhance the nature and landscapes of Central Scotland, and support the Government's objectives for a greener Scotland	★
It will make a major contribution to Scotland's efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change	★★★

KILPATRICK HILLS MANAGEMENT GROUP

- 7.21 The potential for the introduction of a management group for the area was raised in the brief for this study. The following section considers the role that such a group could play in the development and management of the area.
- 7.22 As noted in Section 7.4, there is a need to co-ordinate development and delivery of the strategy in a way that meets all objectives equally. A management group clearly has a role in such co-ordination.

- 7.23 Elsewhere in Scotland, similar areas of well-used upland have been successfully managed by such groups. At the most formal level, areas such as the Pentland Hills and the Lomond Hills have been designated as Regional Parks, while other areas, including the Campsie Fells, are overseen by a more informal steering group. There is potential to seek greater linkage with the Campsie Fells, at a management level, to encourage co-ordination and to avoid counter-productive competition between the two areas.

Role of a Management Group

- 7.24 The examination of the current and potential contribution of the area to CSGN, as outlined in **Section 6**, has informed the development of a number of site specific projects, as described in the Action Plan (**Section 8**). However, a number of more general potential projects and initiatives were also identified, which would cut across the whole area and cannot be integrated fully into the Action Plan. These general initiatives could become the remit of a Kilpatrick Hills Management Group.
- 7.25 The principal areas of responsibility for the working group could include:
- Implementation of this Strategy and Action Plan;
 - Raising awareness of the Kilpatrick Hills as a recreation resource; and
 - Acting as a focus for area-wide initiatives.
- 7.26 Potential projects which could be taken forward by the group could include:
- Promoting the Kilpatrick Hills through the production of leaflets, a website, or other means, in order to publicise new routes;
 - Promoting community use of the area, including Forest Education, coordination of volunteer groups, and organising guided walks; and
 - Act as an established liaison point between landowners and land users.

Composition

- 7.27 To achieve these aims, the management group would need to comprise a representative range of stakeholders. The Campsie Fells Steering Group, for example, comprises representatives of the relevant local authorities, as well as the Forestry Commission and SNH. As a minimum, a Kilpatrick Hills Management Group would include:
- Representatives of the three councils (West Dunbartonshire, East Dunbartonshire and Stirling);
 - Community representation, drawn from community councils;
 - Landowner representation, drawn from the farmers and landowners;
 - Forestry Commission, as a principal landowner, and also as concerned with access and biodiversity; and
 - Representatives of other specific user groups such as the angling clubs which use the lochs.
- 7.28 Potentially, the management group may also benefit from the involvement of SNH, Scottish Water, SEPA and other interested parties.

8 Kilpatrick Hills Green Network Action Plan

- 8.1 Based on the analysis and Strategy, a long list of potential projects was developed, all of which could increase the area's contribution to the CSGN aims. These were assessed and classified in terms of timescale, and some of the most suitable short-term actions have been developed in detail.

LONG LIST OF PROJECTS

- 8.2 The long list of projects (**Table 8.1**) was derived largely from the examination of the current and potential contribution of the area to the CSGN aims, as set out in **Table 6.1**. Projects were identified which would fulfil the potential of the area. These have been briefly compared against the Strategy objectives outlined in **Section 7**, and a timescale (short, medium or long term) was allocated to each potential project.

Table 8.1 Long List of Projects

Name of Project	Components	Objectives met	Timescale
Develop a logo or 'brand' for the area	Design a logo for the Kilpatrick Hills. Ensure all councils are willing to implement a common logo. Seek to ensure all information, signage, leaflets etc carry the logo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> greater awareness 	Short
Linking routes to public transport nodes, "ride and walk"	Waymarking at public transport access points, eg bus stops, railway stations. Upgraded routes linking to public transport nodes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> high quality access and recreation greater awareness stronger communities 	Short
Establish coherent interpretation and signage at car parks	Design standardised information boards, and install in the key car parks which access the hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> high quality access and recreation greater awareness 	Short
Establish new car park at Rosey Road by the A82	Design and construct new car parking facility, including appropriate signage and interpretation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> high quality access and recreation 	Short
Upgrade of Bankie's Trail	Route survey of Bankie's Trail from Faifley to Carbeth. Carry out necessary upgrade work. Install signage and interpretation. Publish maps and publicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> high quality access and recreation greater awareness 	Short
Meadow restoration and protection of high quality grasslands	Identify sites, particularly on Council-owned land. Identify areas requiring protection and or management and enhancement. Develop meadow restoration seeding and maintenance plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> habitats and landscapes sustainable land management 	Short—medium

Name of Project	Components	Objectives met	Timescale
Hedgerow restoration	Carry out hedgerow survey across the Kilpatrick Hills, noting status, type, condition and species present. Identify priority areas for hedgerow restoration and prepare plans for replanting and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • habitats and landscapes • sustainable land management 	Short—medium
Linking routes into community nodes	Waymarking within adjacent residential areas, and access improvements such as safer access across the A82 at Old Kilpatrick. Improvements to peripheral green spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high quality access and recreation • greater awareness • stronger communities 	Short—medium
Create all-abilities access routes	Identify suitable routes and carry out upgrades. Waymarking, Promotion, maps, leaflets, etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • greater awareness • stronger communities 	Short—medium
Published maps and leaflets	Develop route maps for groups of key walks linked geographically (eg walks from Milngavie), or thematically-(eg walks to geodiversity sites). Prepare maps, and access and interpretation information. Design and print maps, and publicise material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high quality access and recreation • greater awareness 	Short—ongoing
Area-wide waymarking programme	Survey waymarking provision across all routes. Develop standard waymark design. Apply consistently to routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high quality access and recreation • greater awareness 	Short—ongoing
Develop a Kilpatrick Hills website	Establish a website containing maps and access information. Ensure regular updating takes place. Develop the website to include historical and environmental background information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • greater awareness 	Short—ongoing

Name of Project	Components	Objectives met	Timescale
Pond creation to encourage Great Crested Newt populations and other species	Identify suitable sites. Develop plans in line with LBAP. Consider seeking SRDP funding. Organise community-led volunteer groups to carry out works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • habitats and landscapes • stronger communities 	Short—ongoing
Native woodland expansion	Identify suitable sites using IHN. Develop planting plans in line with LBAP. Consider seeking SRDP funding. Organise community-led volunteer groups to carry out works.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • habitats and landscapes • sustainable land management • climate change mitigation 	Short—ongoing
Develop cycling trails in forestry	Establish a network of cycle trails, Waymarking, Promotion, maps, leaflets, etc. Seek to develop facilities for cyclists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high quality access and recreation • greater awareness 	Medium
Develop a “loop path” around the hills	Survey existing routes and potential connections. Agree routes with stakeholders. Upgrade paths and signage as necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high quality access and recreation 	Medium
Develop a link path between Mugdock and Balloch Country Parks, potentially to form part of an extended John Muir Way	Survey existing routes and potential connections. Agree routes with stakeholders. Upgrade paths and signage as necessary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high quality access and recreation 	Medium
Land management to promote bird populations, including Black Grouse	Identify changes in management which would result in improved habitat and foraging for birds, including wetland areas. Take detailed advice from RSPB. Develop proposals with land managers and SRDP options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • habitats and landscapes • sustainable land management 	Medium
Develop orienteering course	Establish a location and site checkpoints. Promotion, maps, leaflets, etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high quality access and recreation 	Medium

Name of Project	Components	Objectives met	Timescale
Interpretation of SSSIs and LNCSs	Identify key aspects of SSSIs and LNCSs which could be better publicised, eg geodiversity, fossils, flora and fauna. Identify most appropriate means of interpreting sites, eg on-site boards, leaflets, etc. Encourage greater awareness as a means to better management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high quality access and recreation • habitats and landscapes • sustainable land management • greater awareness 	Medium
Develop information and access for rock climbers	Identify key rock climbing sites within the Kilpatrick Hills. Produce a leaflet or add information to the website detailing location, grade and access to climbs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high quality access and recreation • greater awareness 	Medium
Develop links with the Campsie Fells to the east, to capitalise on opportunities within both areas.	Identify links, both physical and management-related, which will enable synergy between the two areas, rather than competition. Promotion of path links between the two areas. Biodiversity enhancements to create integrated habitat networks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high quality access and recreation • habitats and landscapes • greater awareness 	Medium
Improved access routes for horse riders	Identify routes used by horse riders, and carry out surveys to identify barriers and other issues. Consult with horse riding groups/users and landowners. Carry out route upgrades, establish new routes, waymarking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high quality access and recreation • greater awareness 	Medium
Kilpatrick Hills Art Project	Commission site-specific art works, based on community workshops, to be installed at sites to be selected by artists and residents. Promotion of art works as part of an 'art trail' or similar, as an asset of the Kilpatrick Hills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • greater awareness • stronger communities 	Medium

Name of Project	Components	Objectives met	Timescale
Habitat management plans for LNC sites	Identify all LNC sites across the Kilpatrick Hills, and carry out baseline survey. Work with landowners to establish management plans. Seek to tie into SRDP priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • habitats and landscapes • sustainable land management • climate change mitigation 	Medium—long
Enhancing biodiversity on golf courses	Develop planting plans in line with LBAP. Carry out works such as pond creation, planting, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • habitats and landscapes • sustainable land management 	Medium —long
Habitat management plan for peatland	Identify key areas of peatland habitat, both protected and unprotected. Carry out condition surveys. Design management plan in consultation with landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • habitats and landscapes • sustainable land management • climate change mitigation 	Medium —long
Creation of allotments	Identify potential sites at community edges, and seek to match to areas of demand. Involve community councils in setting up management groups and allotting sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sustainable land management • stronger communities 	Medium—long
Establish coherent interpretation within the hills	Identify areas which could benefit from interpretation, such as geodiversity, habitats, local history. Design and install standardised information boards. Continue to identify sites and install new interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high quality access and recreation • greater awareness • habitats and landscapes 	Medium—ongoing

Name of Project	Components	Objectives met	Timescale
Examine feasibility of a visitor centre/ ranger station/education centre	Carry out feasibility study looking at the potential for a visitor centre, potential user groups eg tourists, local visitors, school groups etc. Examine options for site, size, opening arrangements, etc. Potential for extended use of existing facilities at Overtoun House, or creation of a new facility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high quality access and recreation • greater awareness • habitats and landscapes • stronger communities 	Long
Examine feasibility of vehicle access higher into the hills	Carry out feasibility study looking at the potential for public vehicle access into the hills. Examine options for location of a route, car parking, etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high quality access and recreation • greater awareness 	Long
Examine feasibility of a scenic cable car route on the south slope of the Kilpatrick Hills	Carry out feasibility study and business case analysis for a cable car route or similar facility, including likely costs and projected visitor numbers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high quality access and recreation • greater awareness 	Long

ACTION PLAN

- 8.3 The long-list projects were refined to a short list of six projects, which are described in more detail in the following sections. Some projects represent a combination of ideas contained in the long list. The selected projects represent an initial application of the strategy on the ground, and include consideration of forward links to potential follow on work.
- 8.4 The detailed projects are listed below:
- Communications strategy;
 - Car parking improvements;
 - Linking native woodlands;
 - Hedgerow improvements;
 - Link footpath from Mugdock Country Park to Balloch Country Park;
 - Ride and walk access improvements.
- 8.5 Potential for integration between projects is identified, and potential sites for physical projects have been suggested. The projects were developed through stakeholder consultation, though further consultation may be required to ensure all parties are content with the aims and outcomes of each project.
- 8.6 Other projects on the long list, including those identified as longer-term, could be taken forward in future as part of the ongoing implementation of the Strategy, ideally under the auspices of a Kilpatrick Hills Management Group.
- 8.7 The following information is presented for each proposed project:
- Project objectives;
 - Project detail, including the component steps and works required to complete;
 - Suggested timescale;
 - Strategic objectives met;
 - Links to other projects, including lateral crossovers as well as follow-on initiatives;
 - Indicative costs;
 - Potential funding sources; and
 - Next steps.
- 8.8 Costs provided are approximate estimates, based on recent experience on other schemes, and on initial quotations from suppliers. The indicative costs are provided to give guidance on the likely scale of the projects, as well as to assist in funding applications. Individual items costed may or may not be considered necessary, and more cost-effective measures may be identified in taking projects forward.
- 8.9 Several projects recommend the involvement of the Kilpatrick Hills Management Group (KHMG). As discussed in **Section 7**, the establishment of such a group would facilitate consistent and coherent approaches to the

area. The absence of a management group does not present a barrier to achieving successful outcomes, although coordination will be required across Council boundaries, and between Councils and land managers.

PROJECT: COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Project objectives

One of the key issues identified by the research is the comparatively low level of awareness of the opportunities for outdoor recreation within the Kilpatrick Hills. While physical projects will play an important part in facilitating increased recreation activity, there is also a need to raise awareness of these opportunities among local communities, the wider population of central Scotland and visitors to the area.

This project will enhance the profile of the Kilpatrick Hills through an interlinked series of actions. By launching and promoting a 'brand', via a website, leaflets and on site in the form of signage and interpretation, awareness of the Kilpatrick Hills as a coherent entity will be raised.

Project detail

The project seeks to raise awareness of the Kilpatrick Hills amongst a range of potential user groups, including local communities, residents of the wider area, and visitors to the region. Communications to different groups will require a different approach

This project involves three main interlinked strands:

- Development of a 'brand' for the Kilpatrick Hills;
- Development of a Kilpatrick Hills website; and
- Application of consistent signage across the Kilpatrick Hills.

The first task will be to **define the potential visitor audience** which is likely to comprise:

- Local communities, for whom the Kilpatrick Hills could be promoted as a part of their local area and a place to enjoy recreation, education, training and employment opportunities on their doorstep;
- The wider population of Glasgow and the Clyde Valley, for whom the Kilpatrick Hills could be promoted as somewhere to enjoy outdoor recreation in a relatively wild landscape with easy reach of the city. This could include focusing on specific groups such as climbers, fishermen, horse-riders, orienteers and cyclists;
- Visitors to the area, including people visiting Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, using the National Cycle Route or West Highland Way, or visiting attractions or friends and relatives in the wider area.

Each of these groups will have different expectations and different requirements in terms of information and advice.

It is also important to 'position' the Kilpatrick Hills so that they are seen as:

- complementing rather than competing with Loch Lomond and the Trossachs

National Park and other comparable recreation areas including Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park and the Campsie Fells / Carron Valley area;

- allowing a relatively wild recreation experience within easy reach of the main centres of population, accessible by public and private transport;
- providing opportunities for short and longer walks linked to viewpoints, summits and features such as the Whangie
- providing opportunities for more specialised outdoor recreation activities
- providing real benefits for local people in terms of active outdoor recreation, formal and informal education and training

A Kilpatrick Hills brand will require the **design of a logo and related material**. This can be applied to a new website, covering the whole of the Kilpatrick Hills area.

The **website** should answer key questions that visitors are likely to ask, such as:

- Where are the Kilpatrick Hills?
- How can I access the Kilpatrick Hills?
- What can I do in the Kilpatrick Hills?
- What landscapes, plants, animals or heritage will I see there?
- What events are planned in the Kilpatrick Hills?
- What projects are currently underway in the Kilpatrick Hills?
- How can I get involved?

The website can therefore provide a platform not only for access information, such as maps and routes (downloadable as appropriate), but also for publicising events such as guided walks, for recruiting volunteers for conservation work and providing links to other sources of information for things like public transport timetables, recreation providers (e.g. equestrian centres, fishing club contacts) and accommodation. The website should be designed to be accessible to all and compatible with mobile devices.

Regular website updates will be necessary, and these should be linked to new printed material such as maps and other leaflets. Press releases linked to updates, beginning with the launching of the website and brand, will cement public awareness of the area as a place to visit and enjoy. This suggests that the website will require a content management system (CMS) to allow the KHMG to add or remove material and maintain the copy as required.

A brief review of comparable areas (regional and country parks, and long distance trails) confirms that websites are now a standard feature. They vary in complexity with some sitting within host organisations websites (e.g. local authority websites), most being freestanding with a summary of the area, key maps etc and some being highlight interactive (for example allowing information to be tailored to the needs of the user). A number of screenshots are included below as examples.

At this stage it is anticipated that a relatively simple website with perhaps 10-20 pages, some downloadable information serviced with a CMS would be appropriate. Anything more complex would be a burden to maintain and could easily date.

The third strand of the communications strategy would be to **devise an approach to signage** for the Kilpatrick Hills. This will need to reflect the Kilpatrick Hills' branding, will need to reflect the range of applications within the project area and will need to be designed in a way that is cost effective to produce and maintain (particularly given the risk of vandalism). Elements to consider include:

- Gateway markers on the road network at entrance points to the Kilpatrick Hills. Without a formal designation such as regional park, this element is likely to be a lower priority;
- Entrance features at car parks and other key access points. This could take the form of a signature sign or feature (e.g. drystone wall or cairn) that includes the Kilpatrick Hills' logo. This will help raise awareness amongst visitors and provide people with assurance they are in the right place. These features need to strike a balance between durability, cost and reflecting the character of the hills.
- Orientation boards at railway stations and key car parks providing information on managed access opportunities, natural and cultural heritage features and interest, and links to more information. The durability and positioning of these boards will be a key factor, particularly for more secluded car parks.
- Direction signs at the start of paths and at key junctions. Ideally these would take the form of bespoke fingerposts, but cost constraints may require that standard signs are adapted by adding logos onto the sign or to the post.
- Way marking along the route of paths – these should be low key but recognisable markers, bearing the Kilpatrick Hills logo and colour coding to signify the route in question.

This is a potentially ambitious part of the strategy so a phased approach, based perhaps on the adaptation of existing signs and the implementation of more comprehensive solutions for specific access projects, allied to targeting information at key stations, may be necessary.

Two elements of the signage strategy, applied to car parking and public transport, have been developed further within this Action Plan as projects in their own right.

Timescale

This project could be started immediately, and could form an important 'jump-start' for the Action Plan as a whole. The project would be ongoing to ensure regular updates continuing application of the communication strategy.

This project will contribute to the following strategic objectives

Greater awareness: This is the key aim for this project

High quality access and recreation: By improving the quality and availability of access information, visitors will be able to make more informed choices about where to go in the Hills, and are likely to have a more positive experience

Stronger communities: By establishing a more coherent identity for the Kilpatrick Hills, the project aims to cement local community links, both with the hills and with each other.

Links to other projects

The development of a brand can be carried forward to almost all projects under the strategy. Application of branding to waymarkers, interpretation boards, leaflets and so on will strengthen the identity of the area.

The website can be used as a platform through which to publicise a wide range of projects including new or upgraded access routes, conservation initiatives, habitat creation measures, and so on. It could also form a community focus for the area.

Indicative costs

Outline costs for this project are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| • Brand development | £5-10k depending on complexity |
| • Website development | £15k for c20 pages with content management system but without merchandising or social media content |
| • Leaflet design and production | link to website with short paper run, allow £5k for graphic design and printing |

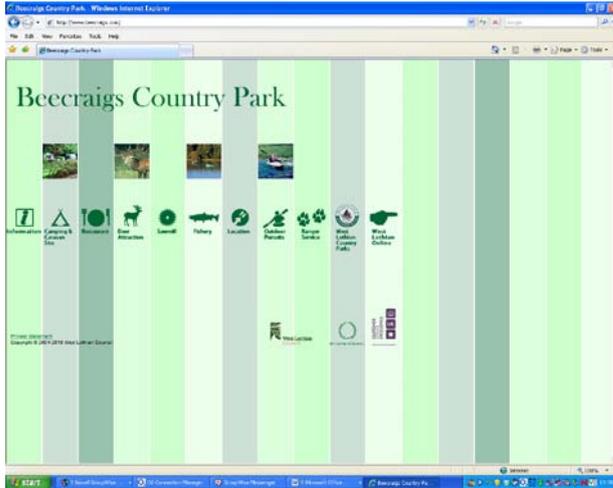
Funding sources

Potential sources of funding for this project include:

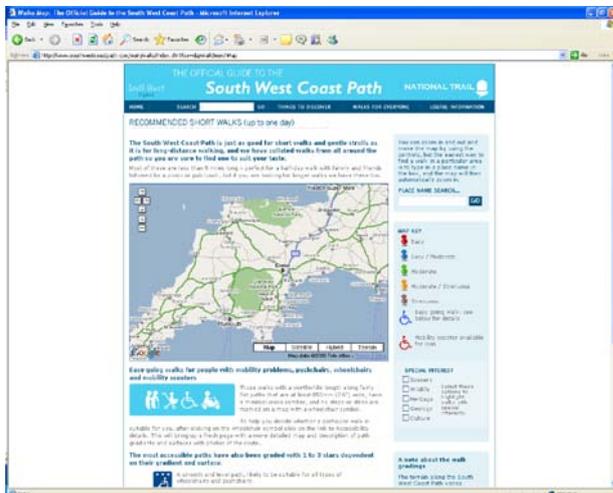
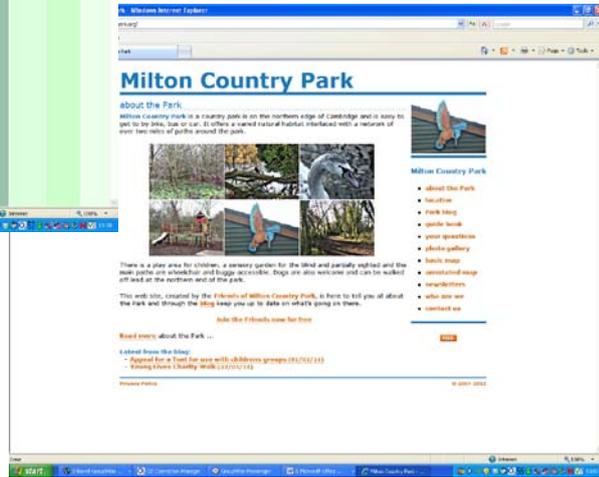
- CSGN Development Fund

Next steps

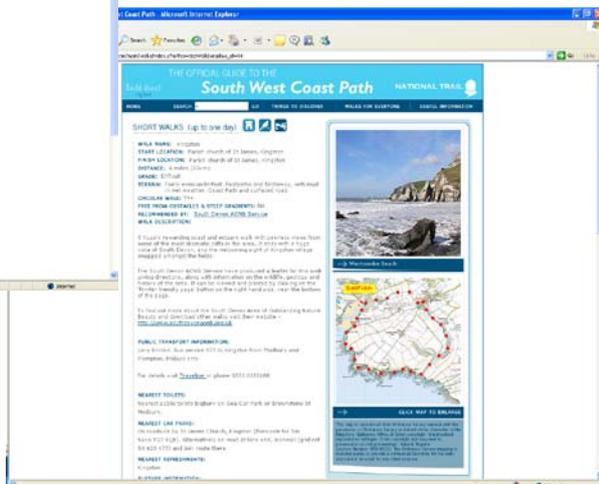
- Develop content
- Develop brand and web brief(s)
- Agree project management via the KHMG
- Tender and appointment
- Launch – perhaps coinciding with key on the ground event – FCS native woodland planting, or launch of new access routes



Screenshots from other Country Park websites



Screenshots from the South West Coast Path website



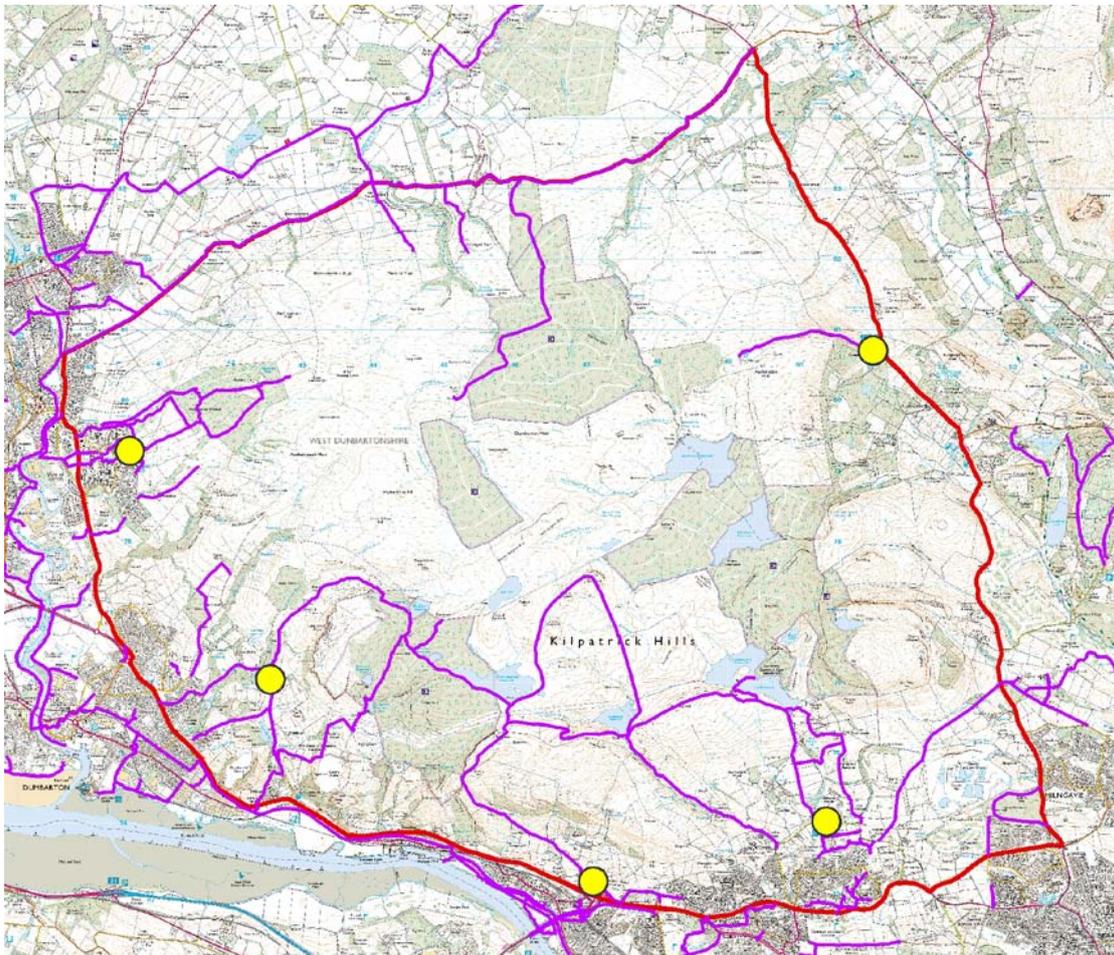
PROJECT: CAR PARKING IMPROVEMENTS

Project objectives

This project will improve access provision into the Kilpatrick Hills by upgrading a series of five key car parking locations at the fringes of the area. Enhancements will include physical improvements, signposting and information as appropriate to each location.

Project detail

Five key locations have been selected as they represent a range of different opportunities and problems. They do not represent all potential vehicle access points, and other car park improvements will no doubt be identified in future. The selected locations offer a starting point with a good geographical spread across the area. No location on the north of the area is identified, and this reflects the reduced access to this area, as well as the opportunity to maintain the more undisturbed nature of the central and northern Kilpatrick Hills.



The map illustrated the locations of the five car parks, clockwise from top right: Queen's View; Cochno Road; Rosey Road; Overtoun House; and Bonhill.

Each location will require different works, but by addressing them in a co-ordinated way, a standard can be met. Potential problems such as vandalism indicate that robustly-designed signage and other features are required. The following sections

describe the works necessary at each location:

Queen's View

The Queen's View is a popular car park on the A809, offering views north to Loch Lomond, and access to the Whangie. The location is well signposted but there is currently no orientation information to let visitors know they are in the Kilpatrick Hills. There is limited information available about the Queen's View and the Whangie. The following works form the project for this location:

- Entrance signpost/feature incorporating Kilpatrick Hills branding;
- Interpretation board incorporating Kilpatrick Hills branding, and giving information on the Queen's View

Cochno Road

A good quality car park which is hidden and underused. Signposts are currently planned on the A810, but there is no orientation information at the car park. The following works form the project for this location:

- Entrance signpost/feature incorporating Kilpatrick Hills branding;
- Interpretation board incorporating Kilpatrick Hills branding, detailing the routes and destinations accessible from the car park.

Rosey Road

Although a popular access point, there is no formal parking. Visitors park on verges which can lead to access problems for landowners and residents. There are some waymarkers, but no detailed information is available. The following works form the project for this location:

- Following a survey of use at this location, determine the appropriate scale of car parking provision, and identify a suitable site;
- With landowner agreement, design and construct a car park
- Install signposts from the A814 and A82;
- Install entrance signpost/feature and interpretation board, incorporating Kilpatrick Hills branding, detailing the routes and destinations accessible from the car park.

Overtoun House

A well-used location, with good access to waymarked routes. There is an opportunity for more detailed orientation, particularly on the history of the house and estate. The following works form the project for this location:

- Install signposts from the A82 at Milton;
- Install entrance signpost/feature and interpretation board, incorporating Kilpatrick Hills branding, detailing the routes and destinations accessible from the car park.

Bonhill

The car park on Braehead is within a residential area, and is intended for residential use. It therefore forms a principal access into the Bonhill and Pappert community

woodlands for local residents. Its role as a car park for visitors from further afield is limited, as it would be inappropriate to promote visitor parking in this location. Nevertheless, as a well-used access point, it has been included as part of the strategic improvement of access into the Kilpatrick Hills. The following works form the project for this location:

- Install interpretation board, incorporating Kilpatrick Hills branding, detailing the routes and destinations accessible from the car park.

Timescale

Most of these projects could be undertaken now, as they involve the installation of signage. The creation of a new car park at Rosey Road would be a longer-term project, although initial stages could be started quickly.

This project will contribute to the following strategic objectives

Greater awareness: By installing signs, particularly on main roads, the profile of the Kilpatrick Hills will be raised. Using a standard design will reinforce the identity of the area as a coherent entity.

High quality access and recreation: Car parks are often the first thing that the visitor sees. Although not central to the visitor experience, an improved car park with quality information will give the visitor confidence by indicating where responsible access can be taken.

Stronger communities: The promotion of a single identity for the Kilpatrick Hills aims to bring together communities which surround the area. The improvement of car parking for visitors can alleviate local access problems, and improvements within residential areas will have direct benefits for local communities.

Links to other projects

The car park improvements draw on the communication strategy, applying branding and unified design to entrance signs, signposts and interpretation boards.

Car parks, as principal access points into the hills, can form the jumping-off point for a range of projects. Once high-quality initial access is in place, improvements to paths, link routes and so on can be undertaken, working inwards from the boundary of the area. Access is also fundamental to wider community involvement in the area, allowing those beyond immediate walking distance to take part in guided walks and voluntary activities.

Indicative costs

Timber entrance signpost, "Welcome to the Kilpatrick Hills". One at each location.	£250 per item x5 =£1,250
Interpretation boards detailing walking routes and other information. One at each location.	£500 per item x5 = £2,500
Stone cairn feature mounting for interpretation board, approx 1m by 0.6m by .75m high. Optional to enhance appearance and potentially reduce risk of vandalism.	£1,000 per item

Road signs: standard brown tourist sign with 'P' symbol and name of car park. Two per location.	£250 per item x 10 = £2,500
Creation of a car park for 20 cars, with 10m access road: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500m² whin surfacing (inc excavation, subgrade etc) • 100m concrete kerb • 75m timber post and wire fencing • 75m native hedgerow planting along the fence: double staggered rows at 500m centres 	£15,000 £3,000 £750 £1,500 Total = £20,250
Total outline project cost (All outline costs at second quarter 2011 price levels, excluding preliminaries (typically 10%), professional fees and VAT)	£23,500 - £28,500
Funding sources	
Potential sources of funding for this project include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSGN Development Fund 	
Next steps	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission design of interpretation boards, signs and robust mounting • Explore siting/design options for new car park at Rosey Road 	

Figure 8.1: Car park at Cochno



This good-quality car park is difficult to find, and lacks signage and access information.

Figure 8.2: Rosey Road



Informal roadside parking at this popular location causes congestion and damage to verges.

PROJECT: LINKING NATIVE WOODLANDS

Project objectives

The Kilpatrick Hills currently supports some native broadleaf woodland. This will be supplemented greatly by recent and planned planting schemes following large-scale land acquisitions by FCS and the Woodland Trust. There remain opportunities to link up areas of native woodland to form a network. This will bring a range of benefits for biodiversity, landscape and climate change mitigation.

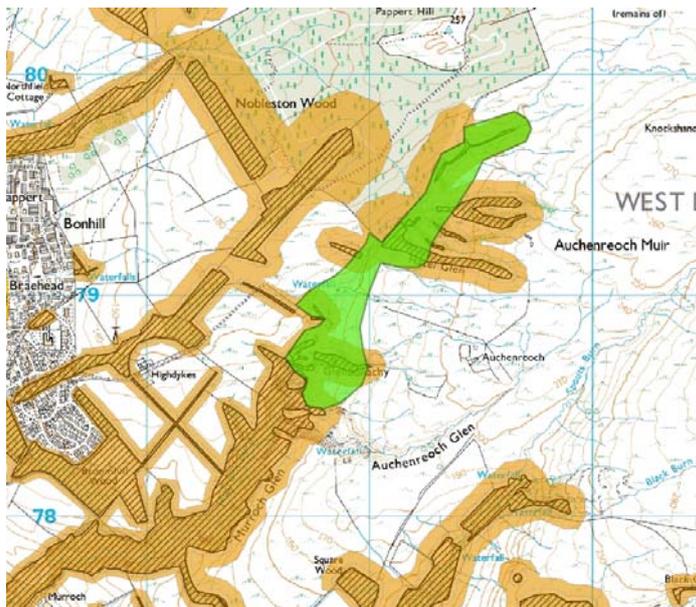
Project detail

The project will use the Forest Habitat Network (FHN) approach to define potential sites. The FHN model is similar to IHN, and indicates areas suitable for woodland expansion. The most advantageous sites include those along burns and gullies, which provide important up-down links, while steep slopes could form links across the area. Initial sites have been identified as a first stage, though this could be a 'rolling' project, aiming to identify and take forward a set number of sites or area of land each year on an ongoing basis.

Three sites have been identified at this stage, each focused on burns as being the most common linking element between areas in the Kilpatrick Hills. The three areas are:

- Auchenreoch, by Nobleston Wood at Bonhill;
- Carnock Burn, west of Auchineden Hill; and
- Loch Humphrey Burn, Cochno.

The maps show existing native woodlands, the FHN core, and the target areas around these. The green areas indicate the areas proposed for planting of new native woodland.

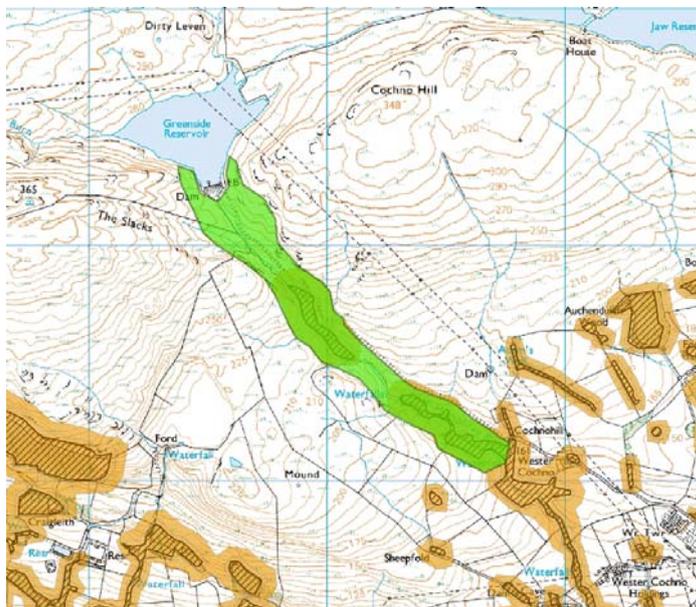
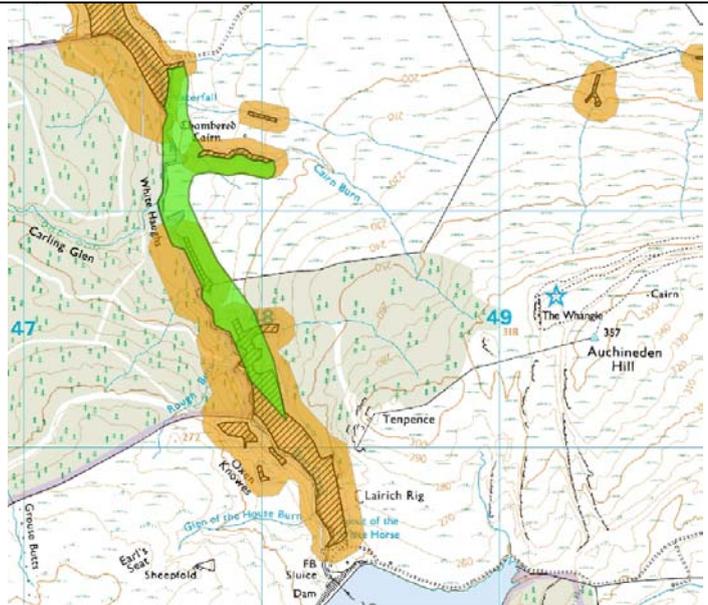


At Auchenreoch, the FHN indicates opportunities for linking Nobleston Wood and the Murroch Burn woodlands, via the scattered scrub along the Murroch and Hazel Burns. It could form part of a link between Nobleston Wood and the Maryland Farm area which is to be planted up by the Woodland Trust.

Approximate area to be planted:
25ha

At the Carnock Burn, the FHN indicates an opportunity to link existing burnside woodlands and scrub. The adjacent plantations are of less value to the habitat network, but still have some role. The Carnock Burn is an important link to the Burncrooks Reservoir, and the new linking woodland would also further links to be developed with The Auchinaden Woodland Scheme and potential new woodlands around Burncrooks

Approximate area to be planted:
15ha



The Loch Humphrey Burn provides a popular walking route into the hills. The FHN indicates an opportunity for new woodland planting along the burn, which would transform this route into a multi-functional corridor, as envisaged by the CSGN aims. It would also provide an important link to Loch Humphrey, and potential new woodland around the water body.

Approximate area to be planted:
25ha

Timescale

This project could begin immediately, with sites being developed in the short term, and further sites identified for future phases.

This project will contribute to the following strategic objectives

Sustainable land management: Increasing native woodland will create new opportunities for wildlife within farmed and other areas.

Landscape and habitats: Extending woodland is of clear benefit to flora and fauna, increasing the scope and range of species present in the area. There is also a benefit to landscape character, with native woodlands adding to the scenic value of burns and gullies in the Kilpatrick Hills.

Stronger communities: Community or school involvement in planting schemes, will encourage 'ownership' of the area by local community groups. New woodlands could be managed on a community woodland basis.

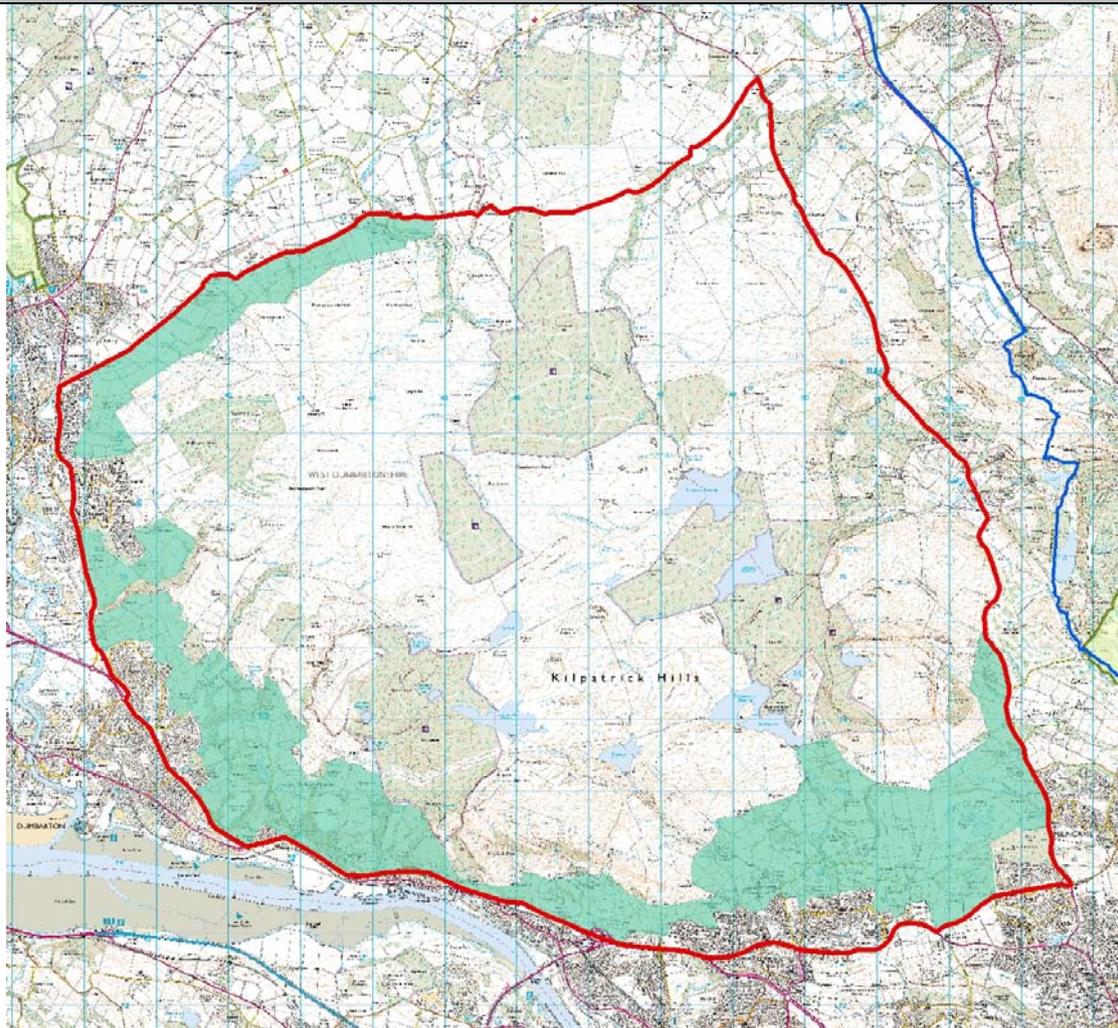
Links to other projects	
This project could be linked to community volunteering initiatives through wider involvement in planting and management works. New woodlands could form the basis for forest education projects. Follow-on wildlife benefits	
Indicative costs	
Native woodland planting, established at 2m spacing	£2,500 per hectare
Post and wire fencing around new woodland areas	£10 per metre
Native hedgerow planting along the fence: double staggered rows at 500m centres	£20 per metre
Funding sources	
Potential sources of funding for this project include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCS Woods in and Around Towns • SRDP, qualifies for increased funding rates as part of the CSGN area 	
Next steps	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed planting design • Community involvement 	

PROJECT: HEDGEROW IMPROVEMENTS

Project objectives

There are currently very few good quality, species-rich hedges in the Kilpatrick Hills. Hedges are limited in the core area of the hills, where stone walls are more common, however there are opportunities for hedgerow reinstatement and management around the farmed fringes of the area. This project will result in species-rich hedgerows being established and maintained, providing a valuable habitat resource within the Kilpatrick Hills and contributing to the wider habitat network.

Project detail



The map indicates the principal farmed areas which would benefit from hedgerow upgrading. These are located on the lower hill slopes to the south and west, across a range of landholdings. The first stage of the project would be to undertake a hedgerow survey, using standard methodology to note the status, type and condition of hedge, and recording the species present. The survey will form the basis for identifying and prioritising hedgerows for gapping-up or replanting.

Unmanaged hedgerows can also be identified for bringing back into regular maintenance. Hedge laying may form a first step in restoring hedgerows, and could

<p>be promoted as a community activity involving school groups or local volunteers.</p> <p>Planting of new hedgerow should be carried out using native hedgerow species as recommended by SNH. To comply with SRDP requirements, plants must be established in a double row with a minimum of 6 plants per metre. A single species must not account for more than 75% of plants established. Other SRDP requirements for protection and maintenance should be adhered to.</p>	
Timescale	
<p>This project could begin immediately, with new areas being brought forward for improvement on an ongoing basis.</p>	
This project will contribute to the following strategic objectives	
<p>Sustainable land management: The establishment and ongoing management of species-rich native hedgerows forms part of a more sustainable approach to farm and land management, which will encourage biodiversity while serving a practical purpose.</p> <p>Landscape and habitats: The improvement of hedgerows will provide valuable linear habitat which will benefit a range of flora and fauna, including LBAP priority species. Hedgerows are also beneficial as wildlife corridors, forming part of a wider habitat network. Well-established hedgerows will also enhance the landscape of the area, increasing the apparent level of care and management.</p> <p>Stronger communities: Community or school involvement in hedge laying, planting or ongoing monitoring of the development of hedges, such as species surveys, will encourage 'ownership' of the area by local community groups.</p>	
Links to other projects	
<p>Hedgerow networks can form part of wider integrated habitats, particularly where they link to woodland. This project can be tied into other biodiversity network improvements, for example extending hedgerows and woodlands together. It also relates to other sustainable land management initiatives such as the management of headlands.</p>	
Indicative costs	
Hedgerow condition survey, based on 15 days survey, including reporting and maps	£10,000
Native hedgerow planting: double staggered rows at 500m centres	£20 per metre
Funding sources	
<p>Potential sources of funding for this project include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRDP 	
Next steps	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission hedgerow condition survey 	

Figure 8.3: Hedges at Cochno



Over-trimmed and species-poor hedges at Cochno

Figure 8.4: Hedges at Duntocher



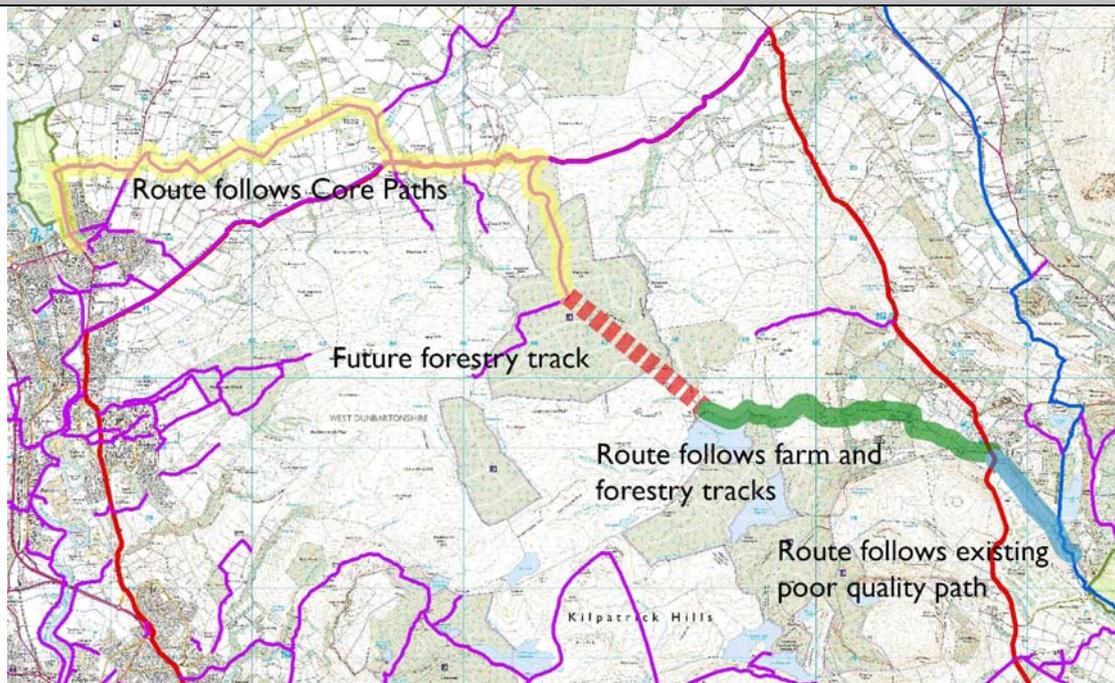
Outgrown and gappy hedges at Duntocher

PROJECT: LINK FOOTPATH FROM MUGDOCK TO BALLOCH

Project objectives

This project will establish a new footpath link across the Kilpatrick Hills between Mugdock and Balloch Country Parks. The new footpath will connect the West Highland Way and the Three Lochs Way, and could potentially form part of a longer-distance network of recreational routes within Central Scotland.

Project detail



The map indicates the potential route of the new link. From Mugdock, it branches from the West Highland Way at Lower Craigallian, and follows an existing but poor quality path to the A809. The link then follows existing roads and tracks past Auldmurroch and Auchineden Farms up to Burncrooks Reservoir. It is anticipated that a new track will be constructed by the Forestry Commission in order to extract timber from the moorland plantations via Burncrooks. The route would utilise this new access to link to an existing forestry track heading north, which is already a Core Path. The link route then heads west along a Core Path to Wester Cameron, and follows minor roads north-west to Balloch Country Park.

As such, there are two sections of this route which would need work:

- Between Mugdock and the A809, a detailed route survey will be needed to establish the level of upgrading required. This is currently outside the area defined for this study, but could be taken forward by a management group, or in collaboration between East and West Dunbartonshire Councils. The route is shown on OS maps, but is not a designated Core Path.
- Between Burncrooks and existing forestry tracks to the north, the route relies on the construction of a new forestry access by FCS. Dialogue would ensure that the new track would be compatible with access requirements. This could be achieved through the KHMG.

The following works would be needed to form the link path, as part of this project:

- Route survey;
- Upgrading works between Mugdock and A809, potentially comprising a new whin-surfaced path, and including a short section of new roadside path;
- Fencing and gates at A809 crossing to the south of Carbeth Inn, including warning signs on road and path;
- Consistent waymarkers along the route, incorporating Kilpatrick Hills branding and design, including fingerposts, waymarker posts, and waymarker discs;
- Route information boards, one at each start/end point, and at points of interest in between.

Timescale

This project is dependent on FCS building a new access track from Burncrooks, and as such it cannot be implemented immediately.

This project will contribute to the following strategic objectives

High quality access and recreation: principally an access project, this new link path will contribute to the CSGN as part of an ever-widening strategic network of recreational routes. It will provide new opportunities for people to access the area in a responsible way.

Links to other projects

Within the Kilpatrick Hills, the new route could form a 'spine', from which other routes may be identified and upgraded in future. The route could form the basis for improved access to sites of biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural interest.

Beyond the Kilpatrick Hills, the route could form part of wider improvements to the network of strategic routes within Central Scotland, potentially including the John Muir Way, which has been proposed to link Balloch with Dunbar and Clydebank.

Indicative costs

Path upgrading between WHW and A809: potentially 1.6km of new whin path, 1m wide	£80,000
Timber kissing gate at A809 crossing, to SNH Country Design Access Guide: Kissing Gate (Version 3) standard detail, one either side of road	£750 per item x 2 = £1,500
Timber post and 3-rail fence fencing along A809, between road and path. Allowance for 20m	£50 per metre x 20 = £1,000
Standard triangular pole-mounted 'pedestrians crossing' traffic warning signs on A809	£250 per item x 2 = £500
Warning signs: 200 x 200mm metal sign fixed to gate, 'Warning: busy road...'	£100 per item x 2 = £200

Interpretation boards detailing walking routes and other information. One at each end and up to three intermediate locations.	£500 per item x 5 = £2,500
Metal fingerpost signs, mounted on metal pole. 2 signs per pole located at each junction on the route. Approx. 15 junctions	£150 per item, x 15 = £2,250
Timber waymarker post, 900mm high, to be installed in open ground and forestry. Allowance of 10 posts	£150 per item x 10 = £1,500
Plastic waymarker discs, with Kilpatrick Hills logo and/or John Muir Way logo. To be attached to gates, waymarker posts etc. Allowance of 50 discs.	£2.50 per item x 50 = £125
Total outline project cost (All outline costs at second quarter 2011 price levels, excluding preliminaries (typically 10%), professional fees and VAT)	£89,575
Funding sources	
Potential sources of funding for this project include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paths for All • CSGN Development Fund 	
Next steps	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a route survey of the path to be upgraded • Contact with FCS to align access requirements with forestry practicalities along the new stretch of track 	

Figure 8.5: A809 at Carbeth



Potential location of road crossing and roadside footpath, as part of the new link footpath.

Figure 8.6: Auldmurroch



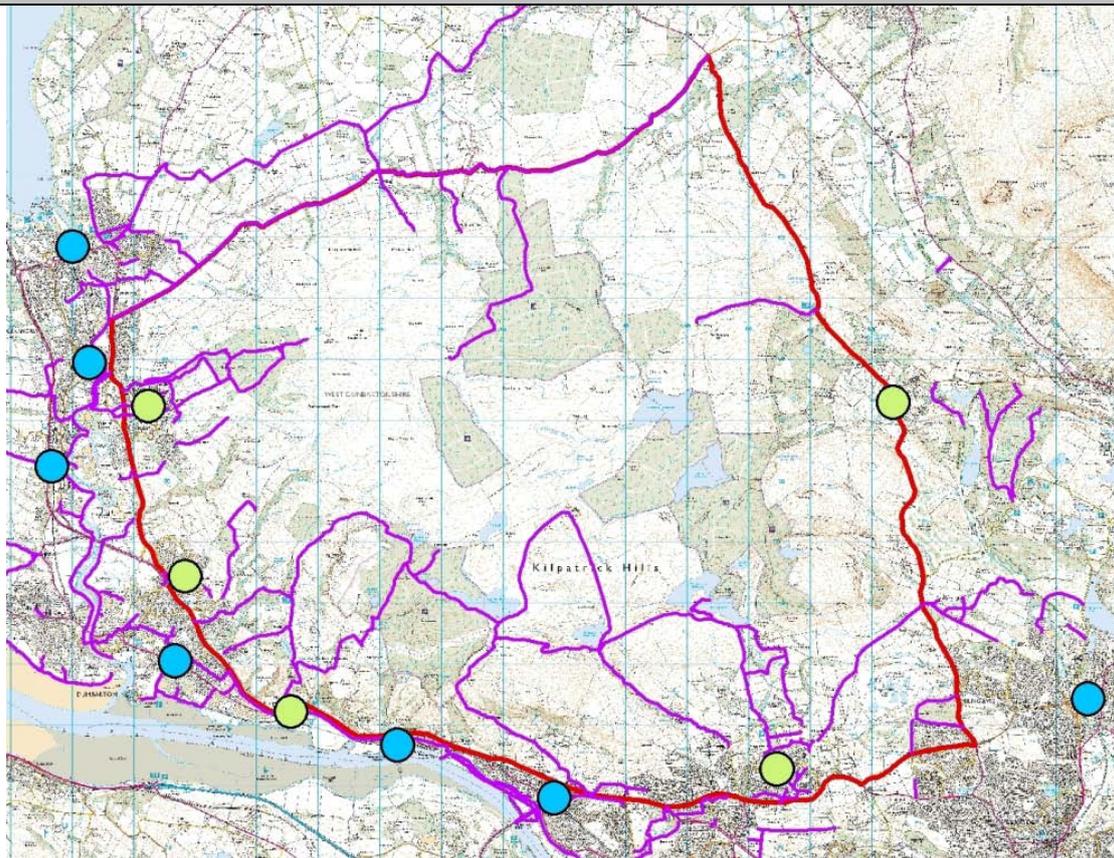
Access track to Auldmurroch which would form part of the new link footpath.

PROJECT: RIDE AND WALK ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS

Project objectives

This project will improve access into the Kilpatrick Hills from public transport nodes. It will complement the car park improvements to create an equally coherent and welcoming experience for those arriving by train or bus, as for those arriving by car.

Project detail



The map indicates a series of key public transport nodes around the Kilpatrick Hills:

- Railway stations (blue): clockwise from right, these are: Milngavie, Old Kilpatrick, Bowling, Dumbarton, Renton, Alexandria and Balloch;
- Bus stops (green): clockwise from right, these are: Carbeth, Faifley, Milton, Silverton, Bellsmyre and Bonhill

At each location, some form of orientation, bearing the Kilpatrick Hills branding will be installed. At railway stations, this would take the form of a wall-mounted information board with maps and other interpretation. At bus stops, it would be a simple waymarker indicating the route to the closest Kilpatrick Hills access point. Further waymarkers may be needed between each node and the access points into the hills.

Timescale

This project could begin immediately. It may be considered desirable to roll out the project in stages, tackling one or two nodes/routes at a time. Further nodes may be identified for similar treatment in future.

This project will contribute to the following strategic objectives	
<p>Greater awareness: The profile of the area will be raised through the installation of signs and information in highly visible locations. Using a standard design will reinforce the identity of the Kilpatrick Hills as a coherent entity which crosses Council boundaries.</p> <p>High quality access and recreation: Links between the Hills and important transport nodes will contribute to the accessibility of the area, and open up access to user groups who do not have access to public transport.</p> <p>Stronger communities: The promotion of a single identity for the Kilpatrick Hills aims to bring together communities which surround the area. Local transport links are widely used by the local population.</p>	
Links to other projects	
<p>The signage and information will draw on the communication strategy, applying standard branding and design to information boards, maps, and waymarkers.</p> <p>As with the car park improvements, this project will lead to enhanced access around the edges of the Kilpatrick Hills, which can form the starting point for further access improvements, working inwards from the boundary of the area.</p> <p>The integration of walking access and public transport will also be a step towards integrating local communities with the hills. There may be follow on projects such as the development of open space links within residential areas.</p>	
Indicative costs	
Information boards incorporating mapping and route information. One at each railway station.	£500 per item x 7 = £3,500
Fingerpost signs, fixed where possible to existing poles. Allowance for 20 signs.	£25 per item x 20 = £500
Funding sources	
<p>Potential sources of funding for this project include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paths for All • CSGN Development Fund 	
Next steps	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with ScotRail and bus companies on installing signs and information 	

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

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Appendix I

Planning Policy Review

CSGN - Benefits	It will make Central Scotland a more prosperous and competitive place.
Glasgow & Clyde Valley Structure Plan	<p><u>Enhancement of the environment</u> One of the four Strategic Visions is for the area to be one of the most attractive business locations in Europe through “<i>improved quality of the transport system, the labour force and the physical environment.</i>” (para 4.2) This Strategic Vision is based on the principle that the management of social, economic and environmental change should be complementary, and to ensure that the enhancement of the environment is promoted not only for its own sake but also in support of economic growth and community regeneration. (para.6.1) Three strategic themes will run through the Structure Plan one of which is to develop a Green Network which enhances not only the amenity and quality of life within and around towns and villages but also strengthens the attractiveness of the area for economic investment. (para 6.2) The promotion of the Green Network is essential to the external image of the area. (para. 8.27) The Green Network Action Programme will seek to produce a quantum change in the economic, social and environmental conditions of the metropolitan area over the longer term. (para 16.9)</p> <p><u>Regeneration and reuse of Brownfield land</u> The proposed Green Network will encourage the recycling of urban Brownfield land and thereby promote the creation of a high quality environment as an integral part of urban renewal, urban expansion and rural development. (para 6.2) There are a couple of shared targets which encourage the use of Brownfield land for urban housing opportunities (para 4.7) and also a 33% increase in the rate at which urban Brownfield land is developed and / or treated is proposed (para 4.10). To help deliver the vision of improving the attractiveness of the area as a business location a shared target has been identified, “<i>a further 200ha of land will be provided in Brownfield locations in existing employment areas...</i>” which has the potential of providing both opportunities and barriers to the provision of GI in the area. (para 4.4)</p>
Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Plan Main Issues Report (Sept 2010)	<p><u>Enhancement of the environment</u> The Report identifies five strategic planning issues for the city-region area, one of which identifies that whilst growing the regional economy is vital to the long-term vision for the area, growth needs to be achieved within the area’s environmental capacity for strategic planning issues. Another strategic planning issue for the city-region area is that environmental quality, green infrastructure and improved connectivity between urban and rural spaces will be vital components in city-region competitiveness. (Figure 8)</p> <p><u>Regeneration and reuse of Brownfield land</u> Brownfield land will remain a key component of the spatial vision for the area and a development and environmental priority. (Figure 8) Land recycling and returning land to productive use is also one of six Development Principals that the Report highlights. (Figure 10)</p>
West Dunbartonshire Local Plan	<p><u>Enhancement of the environment</u> The Plan recognises that the longer term success of the area is linked to the condition of its environment. (Policy SUS 1) The policy framework of the Plan seeks to direct development to appropriate locations and minimise any negative impact on the environment as a result of increased traffic growth.</p>

	<p>Developments in Strategic Employment Locations should aim to improve the environmental quality and amenity of the area (Policy LE6)</p> <p><u>Regeneration and reuse of Brownfield land</u> Policy GD2 actively encourages the redevelopment of underused, vacant and/or derelict land and buildings for appropriate uses including ecological and greenspace uses. Preference will be given to housing schemes on brownfield land, (Policy H2) and the reuse of derelict vacant buildings that contribute to townscape will be favoured. (Policy BE3) The Plan strongly promotes the re-use of land and buildings in the urban area that become vacant, derelict or underused to stimulate urban renewal, create an opportunity for environmental improvements and enhance the Plan area as a place to live, work and visit, (Policy URI & E8) and to protect Greenfield sites.</p>
West Dunbartonshire SOA	<p><u>Enhancement of the environment</u> Priority Outcome 2 focuses on increasing the size of the tourism economy which if implemented in the right way could have a positive impact on the Study area.</p> <p><u>Regeneration and reuse of Brownfield land</u> Local outcomes focus on reducing vacant and derelict land as well as regeneration. (Local Outcome 01.2 and 01.3)</p>
East Dunbartonshire Local Plan	<p><u>Regeneration and reuse of Brownfield land</u> The re-use of urban and well located brownfield land is key to the development strategy for the whole of the Plan area in order to assist the process of renewal and regeneration (Policy HMU1). The Council will encourage and support environmental improvements throughout East Dunbartonshire, (Policy DQ12) particularly to improve sites and support further development or redevelopment of vacant or under-utilised land or premises within existing business and industrial areas for business purposes (Policy ECON1).</p>
East Dunbartonshire Local Plan 2	<p><u>Regeneration and reuse of Brownfield land</u> The priority is to develop brownfield land before consideration of any greenfield releases (Policy SDPI) and to generally support the development of brownfield and infill sites within the urban area while protecting valued open space to allow East Dunbartonshire to compete more effectively with surrounding areas (Policy UC1). The Council will support and encourage further development or redevelopment of vacant or underdeveloped land or premises in existing business areas identified on the proposals map (Policy ECON2).</p>
Stirling Structure Plan	<p><u>Enhancement of the environment</u> The plan recognises the potential of development of the environment to contribute towards the enhancement of employment opportunities, social inclusion, community safety and, where relevant, urban and rural regeneration (Policy SD1.5).</p> <p><u>Regeneration and reuse of Brownfield land</u> The plan recommends the reuse of suitable brownfield sites in appropriate circumstances, including derelict, disused and contaminated sites and buildings within settlements which are being sought in preference to greenfield sites (Policy SD1.4 and Policy ED2.1). Development proposals for the countryside should, where possible, re-use redundant vernacular buildings. The potential of development to promote efficient use and re-use of resources including energy, materials, land, buildings and infrastructure will be addressed (Policy SD1.7).</p>
Stirling Local	<p><u>Regeneration and reuse of Brownfield land</u></p>

Plan	The Council will generally support developments involving the sensitive re-use of redundant vernacular-style rural buildings (Policy E2) and will endeavour to identify potential new uses for vacant Listed Buildings in order to prevent their decay and eventual demolition (Pol.E46). In relation to derelict, contaminated and vacant land the Council will seek means to achieve beneficial use, management, (including wildlife habitat creation), or reclamation of these areas (Policy E59).
West Dunbartonshire Community Plan 2007 - 2017	<p><u>Enhancement of the environment</u></p> <p>It is part of the vision of the Plan to ensure that West Dunbartonshire will be an attractive and sustainable place to live, work and visit. Local employers and businesses will be encouraged to introduce carbon management programmes.</p> <p><u>Regeneration and reuse of Brownfield land</u></p> <p>There is also a commitment in the Plan to continue efforts to regenerate the town centres of Clydebank, Alexandria and Dumbarton, levering in significant new investment to create rewarding and sustainable jobs as well as homes, businesses and retail space and an improved physical environment.</p>
East Dunbartonshire Community Plan 2006 - 2011	<p><u>Enhancement of the environment</u></p> <p>The Plan recognises the contribution that unique local assets such as the Forth and Clyde Canal, the Campsies, the West Highland Way can make to ensuring the economically sustainability and self reliance of the area.</p>
Stirling Community Plan 2005 - 2020	<p><u>Enhancement of the environment</u></p> <p>There is an aspiration for inward business investment and growth of indigenous SMEs, connectivity and land use reform to support a thriving rural economy.</p>

CSGN - Benefits	It will promote health and well-being.
Glasgow & Clyde Valley Structure Plan	<p><u>Promoting health directly through environmental improvements</u> Strategic Policy 6 identifies enhanced environmental quality including improved air quality as one of the three key actions required to ensure that the needs of all communities are met and that the quality of life is improved. (para 12.1) The plan supports communities and focuses on improving living standards in terms of housing, access to facilities and health. (para 4.6)</p> <p><u>Providing high quality access networks</u> One of the four Strategic Visions for this plan is to improve health and well-being by improving the quality and integration of walking, cycling and public transport. (para 4.2) The Plan supports the strategies, policies and programmes in the Local Transport Strategies, Access Strategies and Core Path Plans. The plan's policies will reduce the need to travel and increase the choice in means of travel, opportunities for the development of public transport and other non-car modes of travel will be safeguarded and conditions created for increasing the proportion of travel on foot, bicycle, public transport and goods sent by rail. (para 4.13). The Green Network will provide the framework for the key longer distance walking and cycling routes. (para 9.17)</p> <p><u>Providing opportunities for outdoor activity and recreation</u> Strategic Policy 6 identifies three actions required to ensure that the needs of all communities are met and that the quality of life is improved, one of these actions is to enhance environmental quality through promoting a healthier physical environment, including improved access to sports and recreation facilities. (para 12.1) The network of longer distance walkways and cycleways identified by the Scottish Natural Heritage and SUSTRANS by Strategic Policy 9B(vi) (para 9.20)</p>
Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Plan Main Issues Report (Sept 2010)	<p><u>Providing high quality access networks</u> Closer integration between development locations and sustainable travel networks along with the promotion of more active travel is identified as one of six Development Principals in the Report.</p>
West Dunbartonshire Local Plan	<p><u>Providing high quality access networks</u> There is strong support throughout the Plan for measures to provide public transport and walking and cycling provision, and proposals that help increase the path network will be given favourable consideration (Policy T1). Policy GD1 on Development Control states that proposals will be required to ensure that increases in traffic volumes and adverse impacts on air quality are avoided or minimised by including provision for public transport, pedestrian and cycling access, and considering the need for a Green Travel Plan. Industrial and business use developments including industrial estates should include walking and cycling links to public transport facilities and (Policy LE10 & LE3) new housing development will link in to local cycle and footpath network (Policy H4).</p> <p><u>Providing opportunities for outdoor activity and recreation</u> The Access Policy (R5) encourages pedestrian, cycling and horse riding access, especially to inland waterways (see also Policy R4F) and expects developers to integrate access to the off road path network where possible. Opportunities to improve or extend the sports, recreation and open space provision within the</p>

	<p>urban area and opportunities to improve the provision and accessibility of greenspace throughout the Plan area will be sought. (Policy R3)</p>
West Dunbartonshire SOA	<p><u>Promoting health directly through environmental improvements</u> Local Outcome 12.2 aims to improve the overall quality of Dunbartonshire's environment.</p> <p><u>Providing high quality access networks</u> Local Outcome 14.4 also aims to increase journeys by active or public transport.</p> <p><u>Providing opportunities for outdoor activity and recreation</u> Local Outcome 12.1 aim to improve quality and access to greenspace.</p>
East Dunbartonshire Local Plan	<p><u>Promoting health directly through environmental improvements</u> Sustainable development is an underpinning principle of the Plan and the Council aims to enhance the quality of life and protect the local environment and protect (para 2.1).</p> <p><u>Providing high quality access networks</u> All new development proposals should demonstrate effective use of the existing transport network; and accessibility by walking, cycling and public transport networks to all, including those with disabilities (Policy TRANSIA).</p> <p><u>Providing opportunities for outdoor activity and recreation</u> Measures where appropriate will be taken to encourage fishing, canoeing and sailing on rivers, lochs and reservoirs (Policy CFI). The Council will adopt and implement an Access Strategy in partnership with other agencies through the East Dunbartonshire Local Access Forum, addressing walking, cycling and horse riding (Policy TRANS2). The Council will continue to support improvements to the access network, and in particular the West Highland Way (Policy TO4D). In addition, where a green link passes through or close to a developers site the proposals will require to demonstrate that the Green Network is being protected and augmented. (Policy OS3)</p>
East Dunbartonshire Local Plan 2	<p><u>Providing high quality access networks</u> All new developments must demonstrate accessibility by walking, cycling and public transport networks for all, including those with disabilities (Policy TRANSI)</p>
Stirling Structure Plan	<p><u>Providing high quality access networks</u> Policy TRI looks to improve transport choice and accessibility through promotion of alternatives to the car including cycling, walking and public transport whilst seeking to improve road and personal safety. Developers will be required to consider provision for public transport, pedestrian and cycle access as part of any development proposal and to contribute to the cost of providing and operating public transport services and facilities. Proposal HPI looks to achieve accessibility by cycling/walking to a range of local services and facilities as well as sustainable transport links to Stirling and other local centres.</p> <p><u>Providing opportunities for outdoor activity and recreation</u> The proposal plans to promote countryside management in the interests of safeguarding and improving public access, and the enhancement and interpretation of landscape and habitats (Proposal ENVP3). Local Plans will identify existing sport and physical recreation facilities together with strategic areas of open space which are to be protected from development (Policy</p>

	SRI.1).
Stirling Local Plan	<u>Providing opportunities for outdoor activity and recreation</u> In towns and villages, whenever opportunities arise, and subject to safety and nature conservation constraints, public access to shores of water bodies will be facilitated (Policy C4).
Stirling SOA	<u>Promoting health directly through environmental improvements</u> Local Outcomes aim for everybody, including those that have experienced the greatest health inequalities, to be mentally well, eat well, and be physically active, throughout their life. (page 39)
West Dunbartonshire Community Plan 2007 - 2017	<u>Promoting health directly through environmental improvements</u> The plan recognises that enhancing all aspects of the environment is key to improving our sense of well-being. There is also an aspiration for all children to have healthy school meals that use increasing amounts of local produce thereby reducing food miles and carbon emissions. <u>Providing high quality access networks</u> There is an aspiration in the Plan to increase the use and availability of public transport, making it as safe and accessible as possible and also develop more provision for cycling and walking.
East Dunbartonshire Community Plan 2006 - 2011	Improving Health and Wellbeing is a core theme in the Community Plan and there is a commitment in the plan to continue to work towards reducing the health inequalities that still exist in the area.
Stirling Community Plan 2005 - 2020	The vision for Stirling in the plan includes maximising levels of health and well-being of all citizens.

CSGN - Benefits	<p>It will make Central Scotland a more attractive and distinctive place to live.</p>
Glasgow & Clyde Valley Structure Plan	<p><u>Help ensure the area has a strong, distinctive identity</u> Two of the four Strategic Visions in the plan state that “the image of the area as a place to live, work and visit will be transformed by the greening of urban and rural areas” and that “The quality of life in all settlements will be valued because of the improved access to jobs, town centre facilities and residential environment, reinforced by a well defined high quality greenbelt will increase.” (para 4.2)</p> <p><u>Help ensure the area is an attractive place to live</u> A key principal to be applied in the assessment of development proposals is that where a need for a development has been identified, it should be met in a sustainable location and achieve an improvement in environmental quality. (para 5.13) Three strategic themes will run through the Structure Plan one of which is to develop a Green Network which enhances not only the amenity and quality of life within and around towns and villages but also strengthens the attractiveness of the area for economic investment. This Network, as well as encouraging the recycling of urban brownfield land, will thereby promote the creation of a high quality environment as an integral part of urban renewal, urban expansion and rural development. (para 6.2)</p> <p><u>Protect and increase open and green space provision</u> There are three areas recognised as Metropolitan Flagship Initiatives, one of which, the Clyde Gateway, will cover 140 hectares and will capitalise on the potential of the Clyde and its tributaries as environmental corridors, as a contribution to the development of the Green Network.</p>
Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Plan Main Issues Report (Sept 2010)	<p><u>Protect and increase open and green space provision</u> Green Infrastructure is identified as a key component of the spatial vision for the area “Green infrastructure - open space, formal and informal, green corridors and pathways, playing spaces, parks, trees and natural green spaces will be key parts of the urban environment of the city-region. It will be the focus for action to improve the living environment, aid competitiveness, develop new economic and energy developments, enhance biodiversity, provide opportunities for healthy living and integrate the urban - rural areas of the city-region. The Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Green Network, linked to and integrated with the Central Scotland Green Network will provide the framework for a wide range of action addressing such myriad objectives.” (Figure 8)</p>
West Dunbartonshire Local Plan	<p><u>Help ensure the area is an attractive place to live</u> The Plan strongly promotes the re-use of land and buildings in the urban area that become vacant, derelict or underused to stimulate urban renewal, create an opportunity for environmental improvements and enhance the Plan area as a place to live, work and visit, (Policy UR1 & E8) and to protect Greenfield sites. (Policy RDI)</p> <p><u>Protect and increase open and green space provision</u> As well as considering the impact of development on the Green Network, Policy GNI states that new development should contribute positively to the protection and improvement of the Green Network. Woodland planting will also support this aim. (Policy E6) Policy GDI on Development Control also states that proposals and new housing development (Policy H4) will be required to meet open space standards and that landscape and biodiversity</p>

	<p>considerations are integral to the overall design and that the value of the historic and natural environment is recognised, and is not devalued or threatened by the proposal. Open space provision will be an integral part of determining planning applications for housing. The Council's aim is that there is a minimum provision of formal or maintained recreation and amenity open space of 2.4 ha per 1,000 population, of which 1.6 ha is for outdoor sport and 0.8 ha for children's play space and amenity open space. (Policy R2)</p> <p>There is a presumption against development which adversely affects the use, character or amenity of areas of functional and valued open space, (Policy R1) or Gardens and Designed Landscapes, (Policy BE7) woodland and parkland, (Policy E7) and Local Nature Reserves (Policy E3B).</p> <p>The Plan commits to promoting, protecting and improving the Green Network throughout West Dunbartonshire (Policy GN1) The Green Network recognises the importance of the rural resource but focuses on the connectivity of this resource with a network of urban green spaces. There is a general presumption against development in the Green Belt, with landscape character being afforded particular protection (Policy GB 1) and the wider countryside (policy WCI) The Green Belt is an important part of the Green Network in West Dunbartonshire and has a key role in providing for outdoor recreation and developing access opportunities to the wider countryside and Kilpatrick Hills Regional Scenic Area beyond.</p>
West Dunbartonshire SOA	<p><u>Help ensure the area has a strong, distinctive identity</u> Local Outcome 13.1 aims to improve the image and reputation of West Dunbartonshire.</p>
East Dunbartonshire Local Plan	<p><u>Help ensure the area has a strong, distinctive identity</u> The Council aims to strengthen the identity of East Dunbartonshire through all it does. (para 2.2)</p> <p><u>Help ensure the area is an attractive place to live</u> Several areas that have been identified for regeneration have also been identified for significant environmental improvement. (Policy DQ15) Development should not result in the loss of recreational land, amenity space or areas with significant biodiversity or landscape value unless these can be replaced elsewhere to the satisfaction of the Council. Where these areas form part of a green network any adverse impact will be particularly resisted. (Policy DQ1)</p> <p><u>Protect and increase open and green space provision</u> For new sites and developments open space provision must be adequate and comply with the Council's open space standards (see Open Space policy OS3) in terms of quantity, quality, function and future maintenance (Policy DQ2B) and development must ensure the identified Green Network is retained and augmented where appropriate.</p> <p>Policy OSI states that the Council will seek to ensure that all open space within its control will be well maintained and be of a high quality, appropriate for its purpose. Ensuring existing open spaces through a network across the plan area will be particularly important. Policy OS3 states that the Council will promote, through partnership and the use of planning conditions and agreements, improvements in the provision of open space, recreational land and improved network linkages, particularly in areas where there is an identified shortfall in quality or quantity of provision. Guidance on the level of provision expected and proximity to open space is as contained in Guidance Note 10.</p>

	<p>The Council will also explore ways of encouraging direct sponsorship by businesses to contribute to local open space maintenance and environmental improvement initiatives.</p>
<p>East Dunbartonshire Local Plan 2</p>	<p><u>Help ensure the area has a strong, distinctive identity</u> The layout, design, materials, scale, siting and use of any development affecting a Listed Building shall be appropriate to the character and appearance of the listed building and its setting. There is a presumption against demolition or other works that adversely affect the special interest of a listed building or its setting (Policy HE2). Development should enhance and certainly not reduce the amenity and character of the surrounding area(Policy DQ1).</p> <p><u>Protect and increase open and green space provision</u> The Plan seeks to protect the environmental inheritance of the area. It promotes a Green Network to enhance the quality of urban areas, the urban fringe and rural areas; to help integrate town and country, and to reinforce the positive role of the green belt (Policy OS3) Guidance Notes will be prepared to support the objectives of the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership to protect and extend the network of high quality green spaces within East Dunbartonshire and promote linkages to surrounding areas (Policy NE3).</p>
<p>East Dunbartonshire SOA</p>	<p><u>Help ensure the area is an attractive place to live</u> Outcomes agreed include creating a more attractive and sustainable natural and built environment for communities. (Outcome I2A and I2B) A key part of the vision for East Dunbartonshire is that it will be an area for achievement, offering a wide range of opportunities and a safe, attractive and healthy environment. Protecting the environment is also a core theme of the agreement. (para 4.1) Creating sustainable and attractive communities is a key challenge and priority that the SOA aims to address. (para 5.3)</p>
<p>Stirling Structure Plan</p>	<p><u>Help ensure the area has a strong, distinctive identity</u> All development within or likely to affect a Conservation Area should preserve or enhance the special character or appearance of the Area (Policy ENV6.1). There will be a strong presumption against demolition of protected buildings of character and against development or works which would adversely affect the special architectural or historic interest of a Listed building or its setting (Policy ENV6.2) or any Scheduled Ancient Monuments, other important archaeological sites or landscapes and their settings (Policy ENV6.3). New development will be required to address its physical and visual integration with, and opportunities for enhancement of, the established environment of the surrounding area (Policy ENV6.5).</p>
<p>Stirling Local Plan</p>	<p><u>Help ensure the area has a strong, distinctive identity</u> The Council wishes to preserve and enhance the architectural and landscape qualities of Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings (Pol.E34).</p> <p><u>Protect and increase open and green space provision</u> The Council will seek to protect from development the existing network of formal and informal public and private open spaces within and adjacent to built-up areas (Pol. C11). The Council will operate a presumption against developments within National Scenic Areas (Pol.E14), Areas of Great Landscape Value (Pol.E15) and Greenbelts (Pol.E16).</p>
<p>Stirling SOA</p>	<p><u>Help ensure the area is an attractive place to live</u> One of the six Strategic Topics is to make Stirling a place with a high quality</p>

	environment and a Strategic Theme is to make Stirling more sustainable (pg 29).
West Dunbartonshire Community Plan 2007 - 2017	<p><u>Help ensure the area has a strong, distinctive identity</u> The Plan aims to retain the identity of smaller communities and protect, enhance and restore landscape character, local distinctiveness and scenic value.</p> <p><u>Help ensure the area is an attractive place to live</u> The vision for the Plan includes creating sustainable and attractive living environments and to ensure that West Dunbartonshire will be an attractive and sustainable place to live, work and visit. It is also recognised that improvements are need to the state and appearance of streetscapes, play and recreation areas, green/open spaces and town centres need further improvements and greater access. Improvements to biodiversity, increased woodland and reduced vacant, derelict and contaminated land are also needed.</p> <p><u>Protect and increase open and green space provision</u> Improvements will also be made to green/open spaces and recreation areas and the overall cleanliness of our streets and open spaces whilst increasing access to green space.</p>
East Dunbartonshire Community Plan 2006 - 2011	<p><u>Help ensure the area is an attractive place to live</u> Protecting the Environment is a core theme in the Community Plan and '<i>improving the quality of the lived environment</i>' is one of 5 priorities for the Partnership. The Plan also aims to improve the quality of life in the areas towns and villages and enhance the quality of the built and natural environment.</p>
Stirling Community Plan 2005 - 2020	<p><u>Help ensure the area is an attractive place to live</u> The vision for Stirling in the plan includes providing;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a range and choice of housing, offering a quality and safe environment in which to live and raise a family • a high quality and vibrant retail, leisure and cultural core • high quality public realm <p>There is also an aspiration for a completely refurbished city centre: investment in public realm, high quality streetscape, pedestrianisation, diversity of city centre economy, particularly the evening economy.</p>

CSGN - Benefits	<p>It will enhance the nature and landscapes of Central Scotland, and support the Government’s objectives for a greener Scotland.</p>
Glasgow & Clyde Valley Structure Plan	<p><u>Encouraging the creation of greenspace for biodiversity and landscape purposes</u> The plan includes a shared target which specifically mentions assisting the creation of a Green Network by restore 3,000ha of degraded or poorly managed urban fringe land to positive countryside uses. (para 4.10) The following projects are recognised as priorities in Joint Policy Commitment IB: (e) the development of the Green Network, including Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, the Central Scotland Forest, the Forth and Clyde Canal Millennium Link, and the Rural Investment Areas, in particular, the Clyde Gateway Urban Park. (pg.17) Priorities for promotion and management in term of proposed areas of the Green Network are Bishopton Campsies, Clyde Gateway, Clyde Waterfront, Dams to Darnley, Easterhouse / Gartloch, East Kilbride Gartcosh / Glenboig, Ravenscraig Robroyston / Millerston. (Schedule 1(f)) Strategic Policy 8 sets out a framework for the sustainable development of natural resources for minerals, forestry and woodlands, agriculture and renewable energy (para 13.7)</p> <p><u>Protection of biodiversity and landscape.</u> Priorities for promotion and management in term of existing areas of the Green Network are Central Scotland Forest Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park, Clyde Valley Woodlands Greenspace for Communities Initiatives, Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Millennium Link Corridor. (Schedule 1(f)) Strategic Policy 9C(iii) requires that the development of natural resources should secure environmental improvements wherever possible. The Green Belt, Green Network and associated priorities for renewing the environment are identified in Strategic Policy 1 and Strategic Policy 7 safeguards and manages International, National and Strategic Environmental Resources” (para 13.6)</p>
Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Plan Main Issues Report (Sept 2010)	<p><u>Encouraging the creation of greenspace for biodiversity and landscape purposes</u> Woodland planting and management is identified as a key component of the spatial vision for the area with the aim for woodland to become integral to green infrastructure planning in urban areas. This will address a range of key objectives, including economic competitiveness, health programmes, energy development and climate change mitigation in particular. (Figure 8)</p>
West Dunbartonshire Local Plan	<p><u>Encouraging the creation of greenspace for biodiversity and landscape purposes</u> The Plan aims to conserve the high quality landscape of the Kilpatrick Hills as an important Scenic Area. There will be a general presumption against proposals for development that would have an adverse impact on the landscape quality and character, visual amenity, or nature conservation value of the area. (Policy RSA 1)</p> <p><u>Protection of biodiversity and landscape.</u> Development within the Green Belt, wider countryside and green corridors through the urban area, or affecting such areas, will have particular regard to the landscape character and distinctiveness of the Plan area and of adjoining</p>

	<p>areas. Proposals should positively contribute to conservation or regeneration of these landscapes.(Policy E9)</p>
<p>East Dunbartonshire Local Plan</p>	<p><u>Encouraging the creation of greenspace for biodiversity and landscape purposes</u> The Council will encourage proposals to adopt an ecological approach to surface water management through habitat creation or enhancement by, for example forming wetlands or ponds and opening up culverted watercourses. (Policy DQ12A) A number of new nature reserves are also proposed. (Policy NE 2B) The Council will actively support and promote the planting of trees and woodlands in the plan area, in order to enhance the quality of the built and natural environment. Planting will particularly be encouraged within sites which would benefit from environmental improvement and where local recreational assets and/or community woodlands can be created. (Policy NE 6B)</p> <p><u>Protection of biodiversity and landscape.</u> Developments in the Green Belt (including the Kilpatrick Hills) and the Campsie Fells must take account of the landscape character and distinctiveness of the area concerned, and should enhance and reinforce landscape characteristics where appropriate. (Policy NE4) There will be a presumption against development in the Kilpatrick Hills Regional Scenic Area (Policy NE 4B) Further afforestation and particularly commercial conifer woodland planting in the Kilpatrick Hills will be required to accord with a stringent application of Forestry Commission design guidance and the Landscape Character Guidance Note. (Policy NE 6C). Landscape features and wildlife habitats which contribute to biodiversity will be protected and development proposals that are likely to cause demonstrable harm to species and habitats will not be granted planning permission. (Policy NE2) The Council will support proposals for the sustainable management of, and appropriate access to SSSIs, SINCs, IWCs, Water Courses, Wetlands, Lochs and Ponds, and Ancient, Long Established and Semi-Natural Woodlands which contribute positively to the landscape character and bio-diversity. (Policy NE 2B) Policy GBI also states that the Green Belt will seek to enhance the character and quality of the green belt. The Council will take any practical steps to ensure that existing and proposed business or industrial developments do not harm the amenity or character of the environment (Policy ECON5) Developers should consider whether to include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) within their open space. The Council will produce a Greenspace Strategy to help deliver local natural environmental components of the sustainable development strategy. (Policy NE1)</p>
<p>East Dunbartonshire Local Plan 2</p>	<p><u>Encouraging the creation of greenspace for biodiversity and landscape purposes</u> A Green Network will be promoted to enhance the quality of urban areas, the urban fringe and rural areas; to help integrate town and country, and to reinforce the positive role of the green belt, open space, recreational land and network linkages (Policy OS3). The Council will encourage proposals for an environmental approach to surface water management through habitat creation or enhancement, for example by forming wetlands, ponds or opening up culverted watercourses. (Policy DQ10)</p> <p><u>Protection of biodiversity and landscape.</u></p>

	<p>The Local Plan aims to maintain and improve existing parks and open spaces (Policy OSI) and seeks to protect the environmental inheritance of the area. Development and demolition within a Conservation Area or affecting its setting shall preserve or enhance its character and be consistent with any relevant Conservation Area Appraisal or management plan that may have been prepared for the area (Policy HE3A). National, regional and local natural heritage sites will be protected from development likely to have an adverse impact (Policy NE1). In assessing this impact account will be taken of the findings and recommendations of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan. Significant trees and woodlands will be protected from inappropriate development (Policy NE6)</p>
<p>Stirling Structure Plan</p>	<p><u>Encouraging the creation of greenspace for biodiversity and landscape purposes</u></p> <p>The Councils will seek to secure environmental enhancement including the remediation of contaminated land through new development; the enhancement of environmental features (including Green Belts, built heritage, rivers, lochs, the Forth Estuary, trees and woodland); transport corridors; areas of environmental degradation; and other areas and features identified within Local Plans and LBAPs (Policy ENV5).</p> <p>This Plan also looks to work with Argyll and Bute and West Dunbartonshire Councils, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Scottish Executive and other interested parties to support the establishment of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park (Proposal ENVP2).</p> <p>The councils will support development of forestry activities where they further economic, social or recreational objectives and are environmentally appropriate (Policy ENV8). Where opportunities are available a development proposal will be required to provide a net environmental benefit through enhancement of the nature conservation interest. (Policy ENV2.1). The Councils will seek to secure the retention of remaining undeveloped flood plains, in the interests of floodwater retention, biodiversity, and amenity. Preferred after-uses for mineral development sites will be those incorporating ecological enhancement (Policy ENVI0.4).</p> <p><u>Protection of biodiversity and landscape.</u></p> <p>Internationally or nationally important nature conservation sites will be protected from development which will impact adversely upon the identified conservation interest of a designated (Policy ENVI.1). Development which may affect a site of local importance for nature conservation will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that it will have no significant adverse impact on the conservation interest of the site, habitat or feature (Policy ENVI.2). All development proposals will be considered in the light of the recommendations and findings of the Local Biodiversity Action Plans (and related Habitat Action Plans and Species Action Plans) (Policy ENVI.3). In National Scenic Areas development will only be permitted where there is a specific site requirement for the development which could not be met in a less sensitive location, and where the nationally important landscape character and scenic interest of the designated area would not be adversely affected.</p> <p>Developments which are approved will be expected to satisfy particularly rigorous quality standards (Policy ENV2.1). All development in the countryside should, in function, siting and design, be suitable for its particular location, and should respect and preserve features contributing to local character (Policy ENV3.3).</p> <p>Strict policy for green belts will state precise boundaries and any</p>

	developments which are permitted will be expected to demonstrate appropriate environmental enhancement (Policy ENV4).
Stirling Local Plan	<p><u>Encouraging the creation of greenspace for biodiversity and landscape purposes</u></p> <p>The council will encourage the development of Community Woodland schemes (Policy C3), encourage the retention and creation of additional broadleaf Woodlands (Policy E3) and seek expert advice, where appropriate, on issues such as nature conservation, water quality and fishery interests etc. (Policy E3).</p> <p><u>Protection of biodiversity and landscape.</u></p> <p>The Council will exercise its powers in respect of initiating and enforcing Tree Preservation Orders to protect trees and woodlands of great amenity value which are under threat from development or other proposals (Policy E51). New development will not be acceptable where it is likely to have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of a Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation, or Ramsar site (Policy E55)</p>
Stirling SOA	<p><u>Encouraging the creation of greenspace for biodiversity and landscape purposes</u></p> <p>The Local Outcomes aim to achieve a high quality environment, both built and natural which would in turn support healthy lifestyles and a sense of wellbeing, sustainable living and working, conservation of landscape, ecosystems, habitats and biodiversity, positive management of the built heritage. (page 44)</p>
West Dunbartonshire Community Plan 2007 - 2017	<p><u>Encouraging the creation of greenspace for biodiversity and landscape purposes</u></p> <p>The Plan identifies that the state and appearance of streetscapes, play and recreation areas, green/open spaces and town centres need further improvements and greater access. Improvements are also needed to biodiversity, increase woodland and reduce vacant, derelict and contaminated land. Biodiversity will be increased by creating and implementing a local biodiversity action plan and a green network of wildlife corridors, improve access to and quality of existing green spaces, protect our aquatic ecosystems, ancient woodland and sites - both environmental and historical - with designated protection status, particularly those in public ownership.</p>
East Dunbartonshire Community Plan 2006 - 2011	<p><u>Protection of biodiversity and landscape</u></p> <p>Protecting the Environment is a core theme in the Community Plan and 'Improve the quality of the local natural environment' is one of the 5 priorities in the Plan. The Plan recognises deterioration of the natural environment, and the plants and animals that live there, as important in its own right. And the link between social and economic problems and environmental problems such as air pollution, loss of greenspace and resource depletion is also recognised.</p>
Stirling Community Plan 2005 - 2020	The natural environment is not given any prominence in the Community Plan.

CSGN - Benefits	It will make a major contribution to Scotland's efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
Glasgow & Clyde Valley Structure Plan	Although principals on tackling climate change are set out in the plan, further work is being undertaken to develop these principals. Opportunities should be taken through new development proposals, to minimise energy use and waste and to reduce the direct and indirect pressures on natural resources.(para 5.2)
Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Plan Main Issues Report (September 2010)	Promoting sustainable development locations which help to reduce carbon consumption and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions will help to address climate change and help achieve sustainable economic growth. Minimising the carbon footprint of the city-region through identifying sustainable locations and recycling land will be central to these objectives.
East Dunbartonshire Local Plan 2	The Council will generally support proposals for renewable energy developments, including recovery of landfill gas, biomass energy and wind turbines, except where there would be an adverse impact on: a) The historic or natural environment resources defined in this plan, or b) The landscape quality of the Green Belt, Campsie Fells and Kilpatrick Hills Regional Scenic Areas, or c) Local Amenity, e.g. traffic, noise, visual impact. The development of windfarms will be strongly resisted in the Campsie Fells and Kilpatrick Hills Regional Scenic Areas. (Policy DQ8)
East Dunbartonshire SOA	Outcome 14A aims for environmental standards to be improved and carbon emissions are cut across all sectors in East Dunbartonshire in line with the Council's Climate Change Declaration commitments.
Stirling SOA	Local Outcomes aim to reduce the carbon footprint for the Stirling area, achieve a sustained reduction in local carbon emissions as well as gaining a commitment to sustainable development in our communities and across all our partner activities. (page 50)
West Dunbartonshire Community Plan 2007 - 2017	The Plan aims to reduce greenhouse gases and CO2 emissions. There is also a commitment to reduce the area's impact on the global environment by adopting and promoting carbon management programmes. Targets include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing the area's ecological footprint from the current figure of 5.04 global hectares per person by 2017 Reduce energy consumption of public rented housing stock by 2015 and in consultation with social housing providers ensure similar standards are met in this sector
East Dunbartonshire Community Plan 2006 - 2011	Protecting the Environment is a core theme in the Community Plan, but climate change mitigation and adaptation does not receive any prominence in the plan. 'Prevention of climate change' is one of the six core objectives in the local Sustainable Development Strategy that all other environmental policies and initiatives in the area have contributed to.
Stirling Community Plan 2005 - 2020	Climate Change is not given any prominence in the Community Plan.