

U. St Andrews

5 Green and Blue Network are identified in St. Andrews

STAGN01: Ladebraes Green and Blue Network

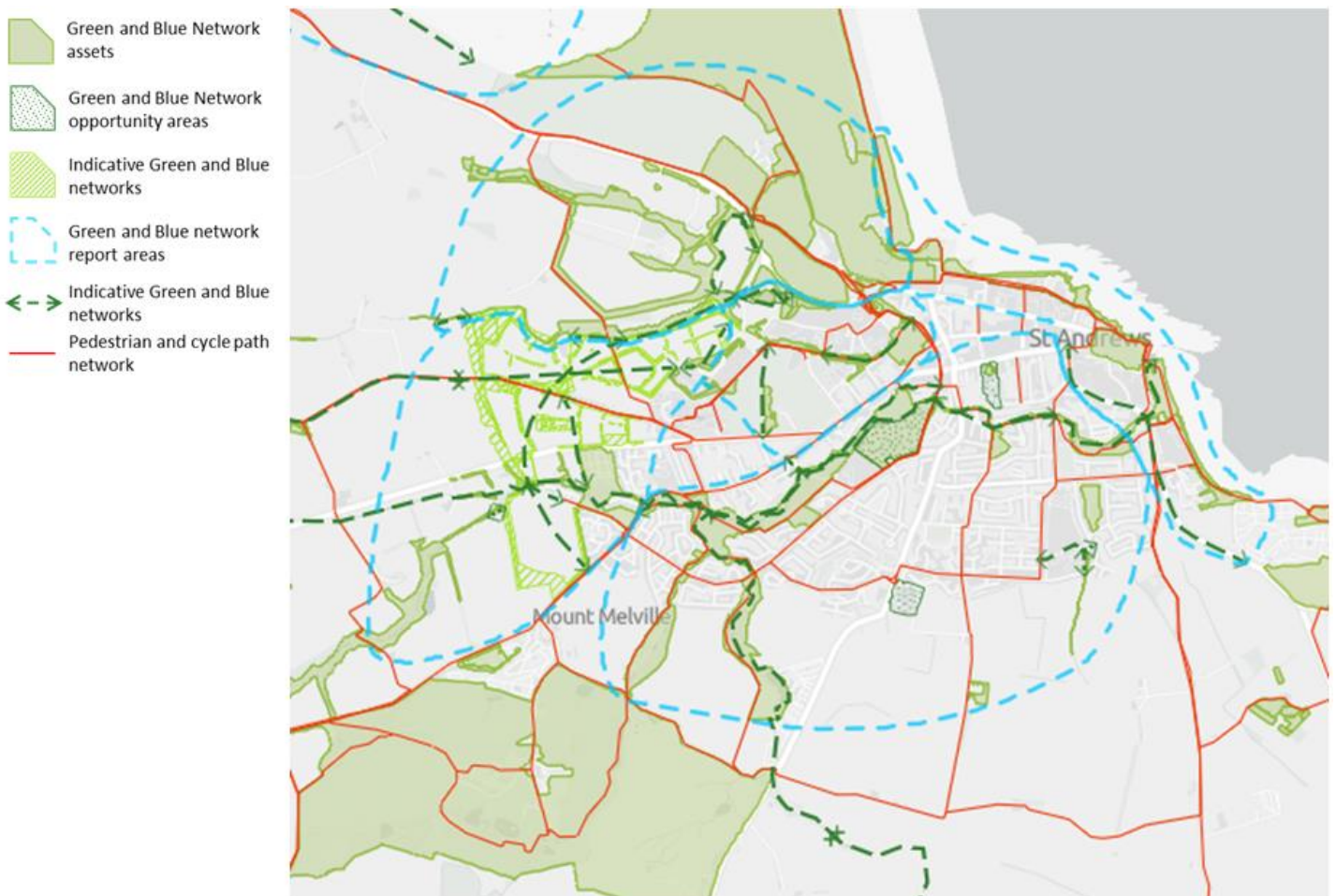
STAGN02: Swilken Green and Blue Network

STAGN03: St. Andrews Coast Green and Blue Network

STAGN04: University Green and Blue Network

STAGN05: St Andrews SDA Green and Blue Network

A short description summarising each of their key features, functions and opportunities is provided on the following pages.



Green and blue networks in St Andrews. © Crown copyright and database rights 2024. Ordnance Survey 100023385.

STAGN01: Ladebraes and Southern Links

The Ladebraes and Southern Links Green and Blue Network follows the course of the Kinness Burn and its tributaries the Claremont, Lumbo and Cairnsmill, forming a significant strategic element passing just to the south of the town centre, and linking the south-west periphery of the settlement to the harbour and coast at East Sands.

Key Features:

- Significant high quality active travel network: links into the wider countryside, including a key route along through Lumbo Den to Craigtoun Country Park; connects to town centre via a fine grain Green and Blue Network through the University backcourts/rigs; and to links to the harbour and East Sands (St. Andrews Coast Green and Blue Network (STAGN03)).
- Significant greenspace resource, key assets include Cockshaugh Public Park, the Botanic Gardens, Ladebraes, Cairns Den and Lumbo Den Greenspace quality is generally high, but does vary.
- The Kinness Burn, and its tributaries the Claremont, Lumbo and Cairnsmill provide important flooding and drainage functions, as do the area's large greenspace assets. There can be localised flood risk problems – during periods of heavy rain where there is substantial water run-off from the hills to the south and west of the town.
- Significant positive contribution to landscape setting and quality of place.
- Significant habitat route through settlement, one of the key assets being the riparian planting along the watercourses.
- Section to the south of the town centre is more constrained by development and here there are some localised issues regarding flood risk, landscape setting, and access due to the Green and Blue Network being much more confined.

Opportunities for Enhancement:

- Opportunity to enhance the eastern end of the active travel route along the Kinness Burn, by replacing the current on-street section to the harbour with a route that follows the course of the Burn.
- Investment is required to enhance the greenspace quality of Cairns Den.
- Could enhance habitat connectivity through appropriate new planting. Also good potential to establish wider connectivity to key woodlands assets to the south of the town.
- Consider benefits of the catchment management further upstream, as a possible means of reducing flood risk issues further downstream, particularly in the more constrained sections of the Green and Blue Network. River Basin Management Plan 3 identifies that the Kinness Burn has potential for some small-scale river restoration to remove unnecessary hard bank protection.
- Potential to deliver multi-use active travel connection through Ladebraes and linking to town centre.
- Deliver enhancements to the riparian corridor of the Kilrymont Burn and provide a high quality active travel link east-west providing connections to the core path along Roundhill Road and Kilrymont Road as part of any redevelopment of Madras College site (Kilrymont)
- Protect the mature trees and landscaping that provide the setting for the scheduled monument and listed buildings at the South Street Madras Collage site. Provide pedestrian connections onto Lade Braes Walk to the east of the site and appropriate north-south pedestrian connections through the site as part of any redevelopment of the site.
- The Fife NHS Greenspace Strategy identifies opportunities for enhancing biodiversity in courtyards, rooftops, verges, and lawns; and the potential to create green corridors,

pocket parks, and gardens and areas for food production within the grounds of St Andrews Community Hospital.

Development Plan Priorities:

- Protect existing Green and Blue Network assets.
 - The green and blue network priorities below relate to proposals in Fifeplan (2017) these will be reviewed at the Proposed Plan stage of Fife's LDP2.
1. LDP proposal STA 006 (St Leonards) – priorities in developing this area should be to:
 - Develop a new high quality landscape edge with the existing Green and Blue Network and;
 - Deliver a new high quality active travel connection along the southern boundary of the site to link Greenside Place to St Mary Street.
 2. LDP proposal STA 003 (New Park School) – priorities in developing this area should be to:
 - Develop a new high quality landscape edge with the Green and Blue Network.
 3. LDP proposal STA 012 (Botanic Gardens) – priorities in developing this area should be to:
 - Take suitable measures to protect the existing quality and character of the botanic gardens and enhance through appropriate new planting.

STAGN02: Swilken Green and Blue Network

The Swilken Green and Blue Network follows the course of the Swilken Burn and forms an important strategic element running south-north through the western fringes of St. Andrews to the iconic links of the Old Course and coastal fringe at West Sands.

Key Features:

- Key riparian corridor along the Swilken Burn.
- Currently limited access provision, but significant potential and need when the St. Andrews Strategic Development Area is developed.
- Significantly important to the landscape setting of the town and potential to enhance.
- Quality woodland asset, with significant potential to improve habitat value at Strathrym and western end.
- Other notable assets include: The heronry in the woodland along the A91, and the Old Course.
- The Swilken Burn provides an important flooding and drainage function, as does the area's large greenspace assets. A small section of the Swilken is culverted under Station Park.
- Green and Blue Network runs along the northern edge of the area of the proposed St. Andrews Strategic Development Area (STA001).

Opportunities for Enhancement:

- Significant active travel potential. Potential to establish access routes that connect to the St. Andrews Coast Green and Blue Network (STAGN03), University Green and Blue Network (STAGN04) and St. Andrews Strategic Development Area Green and Blue Network (STAGN05).
- Significant potential to enhance habitat value, through appropriate new planting (particularly at the western end) and management of existing vegetation. Consider in relation to the development of the St. Andrews Strategic Development Area (See St. Andrews SDA Green and Blue Network (STAGN05)).
- Potential to enhance the multi-functional value of the Station Park; also potentially an opportunity to partially de-culvert the Swilken – would require more detailed scoping.

Development Plan Priorities:

- Protect existing Green and Blue Network assets.
 - The green and blue network priorities below relate to proposals in Fifeplan (2017) these will be reviewed at the Proposed Plan stage of Fife's LDP2.
1. LDP proposal STA 008 (Strathrym) – priorities in developing this area should be to:
 - Retain and enhance existing woodland assets to the west of the site and take suitable measures to protect them during construction works.
 - Develop a new high quality landscape edge with the existing Green and Blue Network, and consider the potential to integrate sustainable urban drainage system, active travel provision, and appropriate new planting.
 - Establish a high quality active travel connection to the north-east to link to the established route that provides connections to the town centre.

STAGN03: St. Andrews Coast Green and Blue Network

The St. Andrews Coast Green and Blue Network encompasses East Sands and West Sands and forms a key element within the strategically important Fife Coastal Path route.

Key Features:

- Part of the strategically significant Fife Coastal Path route; along 'green' streets through the Scores area, north of the town centre. Connects to the Ladebraes Green and Blue Network (STAGN01) in the harbour area, albeit the link is 'on-street', to the University Green and Blue Network (STAGN04), and to the Swilken Green and Blue Network (STAGN02).
- Key assets include: the blue flag beaches of East and West Sands, Bow Butts, East Bents, the Cathedral and Priory, Kirkhill Cemetery and the Harbour.
- Some coastal erosion issues, which limits potential to access some parts of shore line. There are various coastal protection measures in place. The Dynamic Coast mapping identifies some predicted coastal erosion along the west sands and east sands.
- At risk from coastal flooding due to low lying nature of much of the coastline. There is a large scale programme of dune restoration and management underway at the West Sands.
- Intertidal zone is of significant habitat value at West Sands and to the east of East Sands (SPA, RAMSAR, SSSI designations).

Opportunities for Enhancement:

- Potential to enhance connection to the Ladebraes Green and Blue Network (STAGN01) around the harbour.
- Potential to improve access to the coastal greenspaces and East and West sands.
- Habitat enhancement potential – of the grassland along the coastal strip at East Bents.
- Part of a proposed cycle route linking to Kirkcaldy, St Andrews and Dundee (East Neuk 50) along the A917.
- River Basin Management Plan 3 identifies that the Kinness Burn has potential for some small-scale river restoration to remove unnecessary hard bank protection.

Development Plan Priorities:

- Protect existing Green and Blue Network assets.

STAGN04: University Green and Blue Network

Spanning the grounds of St. Andrew's University and connecting to Kinburn Park, the University Green and Blue Network provides a key linking element between the western fringes of the town and the historic town centre.

Key Features:

- Existing active travel network, but also significant potential to enhance and an increasing need when the St. Andrews Strategic Development Areas developed. Currently connects to the Swilken Green and Blue Network (STAGN02) and links to the Ladebraes Green and Blue Network (STAGN01) via an 'on-street' connections.
- The university grounds are currently a key barrier to wider connectivity – significant potential to enhance access, but this would require agreement with the University. Potential to upgrade ex-core path to multi-use.

- There is a greenspace deficit in this area. Key greenspace assets include the University grounds (which are not publicly accessible) and Kinburn Park, which would benefit from investment to enhance its multi-functionality.
- Existing sustainable urban drainage system ponds in the university grounds and the large greenspace assets provide an important flooding and drainage function. The proximity of new proposed Strategic Development Area has the potential to contribute to an increased flood risk, which will need to be considered.
- Contributes to landscape setting and habitat, but potential to improve.

Opportunities for Enhancement:

- Significant active travel potential and an increasing need to successfully integrate the St. Andrews Strategic Development Area with the town centre. Potential to establish access routes that link through the St. Andrews SDA Green and Blue Network (STAGN05) and connect to the Swilken Green and Blue Network (STAGN02), and potential to enhance and deliver improved connectivity with the Ladebraes Green and Blue Network (STAGN01).
- Potential to improve habitat value and contribution to landscape setting through appropriate new planting, particularly along active travel routes.
- Potential to enhance the multi-functional value of the Kinburn Park, through investment, to develop this as a vibrant greenspace within the town.

Development Plan Priorities:

- Protect existing Green and Blue Network assets

STAGN05: St. Andrews Strategic Development Area Green and Blue Network

Strategically important area for the establishment of a Green and Blue Network 'hub' as a key mechanism in helping to integrate the development of the St. Andrews Strategic Development Area with its wider setting and adjacent community

Key Features:

- Existing high quality landscape with a high scenic value, key views to the town centre, and a number of high quality assets. Makes a significant positive contribution to landscape setting of the town and provides an important scenic gateway to St. Andrews from the south west. Includes land designated as a Local Landscape Area and included as part of St Andrews green belt.
- Existing active travel network, with some established links to the wider countryside however the university grounds represent a barrier to connectivity and there are a number of key missing links. Connects to the Ladebraes Green and Blue Network (STAGN01) via an 'on-street' connection.
- The Claremont Burn runs through part of the Green and Blue Network, providing a flooding and drainage function.
- There are few existing greenspace assets apart from North Haugh pond, and there is currently a deficit of publicly accessible greenspace in this area.
- Existing woodland assets, particularly along the Claremont Burn provide some notable habitat value locally.
- Significant area for the establishment of an integrated and connected Green and Blue Network as part of the development of the St. Andrews Strategic Development Area.

Opportunities for Enhancement:

- Opportunity associated with North Haugh pond – to enhance and develop role as a key multi-functional greenspace asset. Protect North Haugh pond from encroachment.
- Active travel opportunity to create a shared use path to link Strathkinness to St Andrews.

Development Plan Priorities:

- Protect existing Green and Blue Network assets
 - The green and blue network priorities below relate to proposals in Fifeplan (2017) these will be reviewed at the Proposed Plan stage of Fife's LDP2.
1. LDP proposal STA 001 (St. Andrews Strategic Development Area) – priorities in developing site should be to:
 - The development strategy needs to capitalise on the site's existing landscape assets, high quality setting and scenic value and address the landscape issues.
 - Establish new high quality greenspace as an integral part of the wider Green and Blue Network within the site. Combine greenspace with active travel, habitat, sustainable urban drainage and landscape provision.
 - Provide high quality landscape and pedestrian and cycle links to connect to the Swilken Green and Blue Network (STAGN02); to the Ladebraes Green and Blue Network (STAGN01) and to the University Green and Blue Network (STAGN04) to establish good connections and integration with the town centre and the coast.
 - Develop a new high quality landscape edge with the Swilken Burn corridor (Swilken Green and Blue Network (STAGN02)), and the Claremont Burn corridor, which incorporates active travel routes (as part of a St.Andrews south-west round route), and new habitat provision.
 - Develop a new high quality landscape edge along the south west boundary, which incorporates active travel routes (as part of a St.Andrews south-west round route) with connections to the wider countryside and new habitat provision and establishes a high quality gateway to St. Andrews from the south west.