

St John's Town of Dalry

Local Place Plan 2024-2034



A vision for development and land use within the settlement and wider Community Council area







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Abbreviations used in this document
CAP: Glenkens and District Community Action Plan
CC: Community Council
DCPT: Dalry Community Properties Trust
GCAT: Glenkens Community and Arts Trust
GCSN: Glenkens Community Spaces Network
GCC: Glenkens Community Centre
GCT: Glenkens Community Transport
LUV: Land Use Vision
MUGA: Multi-use Games Area

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1.1 What is a Local Place Plan?

The Planning Act (Scotland) and National Planning Framework 4 (2023) introduced Local Place Plans (LPPs) as a new tier of planning legislation aimed at giving a statutory voice to local communities to express aspirations for spatial development and land use.

St John's Town of Dalry (hereafter referred to as Dalry) is one of a cluster of villages in the region of Dumfries and Galloway known as the Glenkens, which is spread over an area of roughly 900 km², with the majority of its approximately 4000 residents living in one of the village centres. Consultation across the area in 2017/18 identified a strong desire for communities to work together in order to maximise limited resources. Building on the existing base of community engagement developed through consultation for the Glenkens and District Community Action Plan (2020) and other relevant local research and reports, and supplemented by further engagement with Dalry residents, the Local Place Plan for Dalry aims to highlight community aspirations in setting the direction for future development in the village and wider Community Council (CC) area, also referring to landscapes and features outwith the border of the CC area which are locally significant.

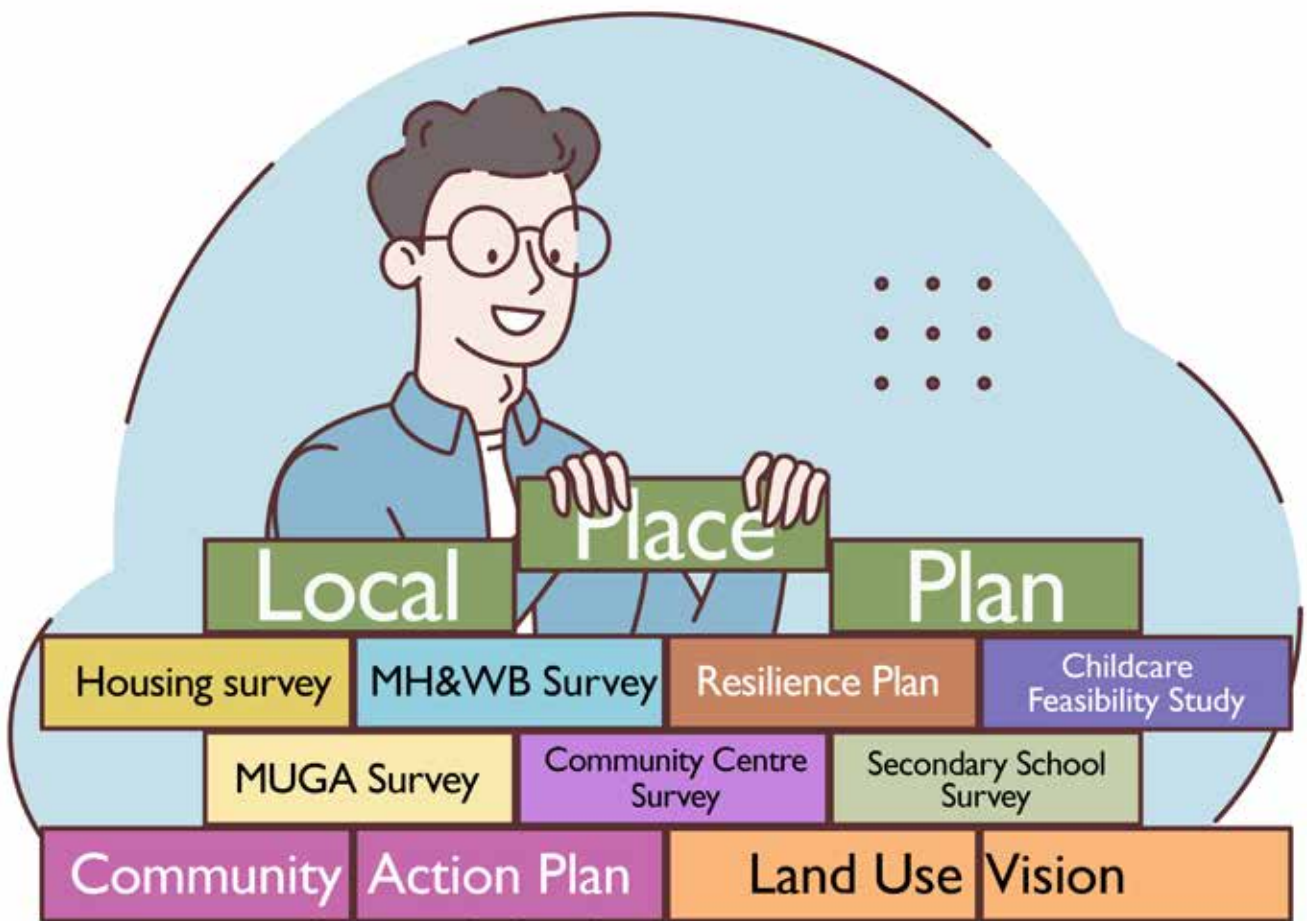
Dalry is situated within the Galloway Hills Regional Scenic Area, recognised for its varied landscape character, with small pockets of broadleaf and conifer planting interspersed with moorland and agricultural land. It is a designated Biosphere Community within the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere. There is a Glenkens Land Use Vision that articulates the communities' aspiration to move to a position where land use activities in the Glenkens enhance local climate and environmental resilience, biodiversity and thriving communities, and support re-population.

This plan will outline the community's wishes for land use within the settlement and wider rural area, having regard to local and national plans and planning legislation. The production of this Local Place Plan has been supported by funding from NatureScot, South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) and a UK Shared Prosperity Fund Local Place Plan Grant. It was commissioned by Dalry Community Council and coordinated by GCAT and GCSN. Many thanks to the Dalry CC volunteers and all the residents who have contributed to this document either directly or by sharing their views with the LPP team.



Dalry CC within the Glenkens area of Dumfries and Galloway





1.2 How does the Local Place Plan fit with previous consultations?

This Local Place Plan builds on findings of a large body of community engagement carried out between 2018 and 2024, some specific to this project and some relating to other relevant issues as illustrated in the diagram above, with the Glenkens and District Community Action Plan (CAP) and Land Use Vision (LUV) being key to this process. Information on further relevant studies can be found in Appendix 1.

Glenkens & District CAP

“The Glenkens & district will be a connected, resilient and carbon neutral place where people will want to live, to work, to bring up their families and to grow old. It will be somewhere that other places in Scotland look to for inspiration.”

The Glenkens and District Trust (GDT) developed the CAP in order to establish the community’s main priorities for future development, aiming to build a resilient, coordinated and self-reliant community. The GDT built on research from 2018 to inform further consultation in 2019 and 2020, using a range of techniques to engage with as much of the community as possible. The outcome was the development of an action plan (incorporating lessons learnt in the Covid pandemic) to take forward the key aims of the community, developed with regard to the following underlying principles:

Partnership - collaboration between all sections of the community will be a key element in our projects.

Sustainability - projects we support will be outward-looking, flexible and unafraid to take on new challenges. They will provide continuing benefits to the community, and show awareness of the value of community self-reliance.

Inclusion - a diverse community will include and welcome people of all ages, abilities and ethnicity. We will welcome project proposals put forward by any members and groups.

Respect - for the special environment and rural landscape that has been placed in our trust.

The CAP is developed around four themes, and spatial proposals in this LPP will also refer to the relevant CAP theme. A brief summary is included below, the full articulation of these themes can be read in the [Glenkens and District Community Action Plan](#).

Theme 1: A Connected Community

- projects to support collaboration, communication and networking to reduce duplication and share successes, increasing local resilience and community involvement.

Theme 2: An Asset Rich Community

- projects to support the facilities currently in place and make better use of them, improve access to exercise and sport, raise awareness of assets and access to green space, and improve living spaces for residents of all ages.

Theme 3: An economically flourishing community

- projects linked with reducing barriers to access to employment, supporting training opportunities, developing a tourism strategy and planning for a more self-sustaining local economy.

Theme 4: A Carbon Neutral Community

- projects linked with reducing carbon emissions from transport, heating and from public buildings, increasing active and group travel, and community energy generation.

Glenkens Land Use Vision

Building on work carried out as part of a pilot project to develop a Regional Land Use Partnership (RLUP) for the South of Scotland, a Vision for Land Use in the Glenkens was created following a series of online events facilitated by the Social Enterprise Academy in 2022, an in-person event in January 2023 and the release of a draft document for consultation in summer 2023. This was formally adopted as an Addendum to the Glenkens and District CAP in July 2023 after feedback from public reviews had been incorporated.

The Vision and associated recommendations are seen as a first step in rebalancing the power dynamics regarding land use in the Glenkens, with the aim of ensuring that all voices are heard, valued and respected, and a desire to see land use that adds value rather than extracting value, with Community Wealth Building principles embedded in new development. This will lead to more resilient, vibrant local communities and a circular local economy.

The Glenkens Community and Arts Trust (GCAT) leads on delivery of the CAP across the Glenkens. GCAT - GCAT They deliver some CAP projects directly but also support other local organisations to deliver more, and work at a regional and national level to ensure that CAP priorities are being worked on at a systemic and policy level. Along with the CAP Steering Group and the Glenkens and District Trust, they play a key role in advocating for the Glenkens as a coordinated and cohesive community with very specific remote-rural challenges and opportunities.

The overarching vision for land use in the Glenkens is ‘that everyone who takes value from land returns value to it’.

NPF4 highlights biodiversity and the climate emergency as the highest priority issues in planning terms for Scotland; implementing the recommendations of the LUV could lead to local economic benefits as well as ensuring that biodiversity is protected and enhanced, and that land use developments are planned with climate resilience and reducing carbon at their heart, in line with CAP themes.





2.1 Context

2.1.1 Geology and landscape

St John's Town of Dalry is situated in the Ken-Dee Valley, at the eastern edge of the Galloway Forest Park. Drumlins, rocky ridges and exposed rock features provide a visual record of the role of glaciers in sculpting the landscape in this area, including the shallow V-shaped valley which has been utilised to generate clean electricity for almost a century now by means of the Galloway Hydro Scheme.

NatureScot's Landscape Character Assessment identifies three different landscape types within the Dalry CC area. The majority is classified as 'Upper Dale', characterised by wide valleys enclosed by high peaks and moorlands and relatively open with long views. Pastures in the glacial valley feature improved agricultural land, whilst rougher pastures on hillsides lead to forest cover on higher ground. Riparian woodlands can often be seen along tributary channels. This landscape type extends from the southern settlement boundary of Dalry westwards to Bogue, and northwards toward Carsphairn. Further west towards Corriedoo, the landscape is classified as 'Foothills with Forest', where commercial forestry dominates much of the landscape, and wind farm developments are also evident. Despite the prevalence of coniferous forestry, there are also areas of broadleaf woodland and semi-improved pasture. The area to the south of the village is classed as 'Flooded Valley', another landscape where glacial processes have been key in establishing the topography of the land, and which is notable for small pockets of woodland, both broadleaf and coniferous, interspersed with improved pastures and rough grassland with heather and gorse at higher levels.

Protected nature sites within or adjoining the Dalry area include the SSSI at Cleugh, Ken Woods SSSI (bordering Balmaclellan CC area where the Garple Burn meets the A712) and Hanniston Woods SSSI (in the adjoining Kells and New Galloway CC area but at bottom of Waterside Hill). Waterside Hill is a place of special importance to the Dalry community despite its location in neighbouring Kells parish.

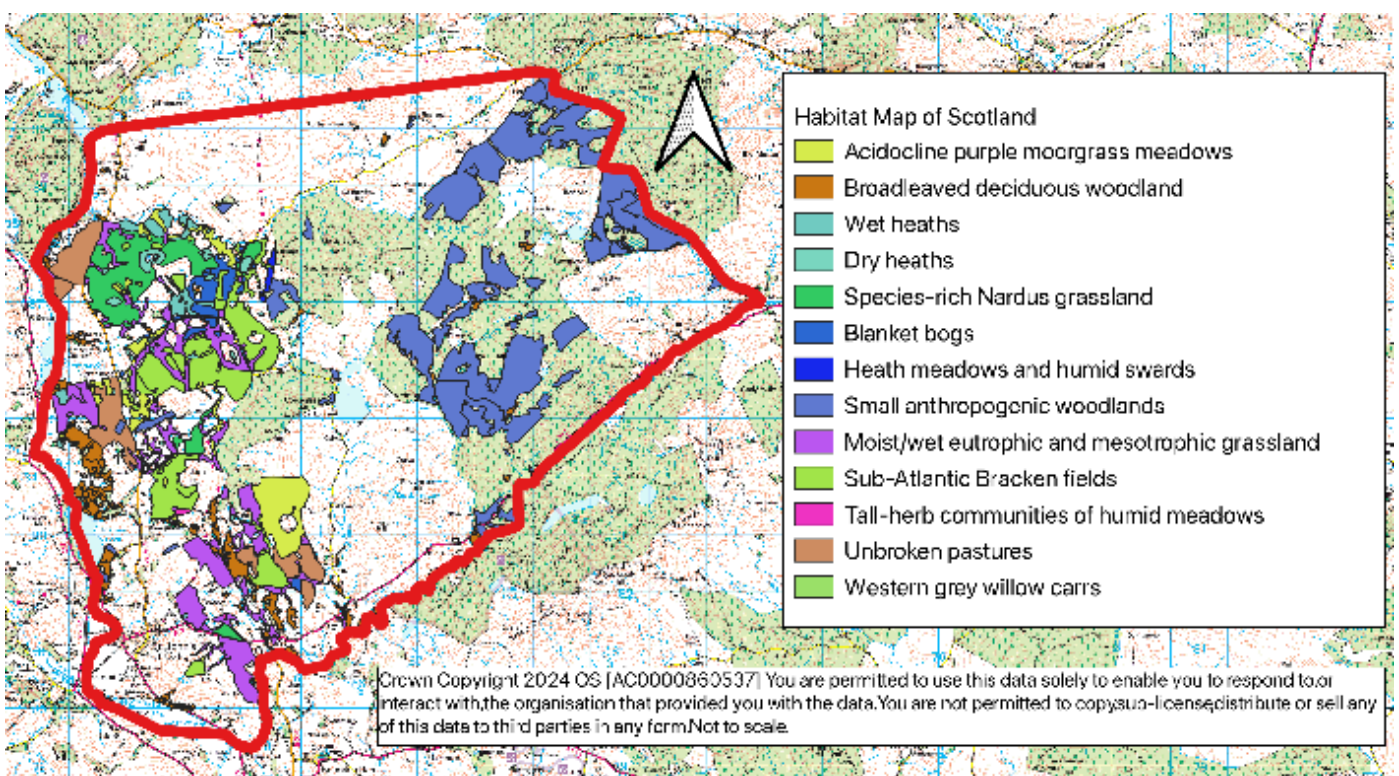
Dalry is within the transition zone of the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere and adjoins both the Galloway Forest Park and the Galloway Gold Tier Dark Sky Park. As of 2024, the creation of a new National Park, some of which is likely to fall within the Dalry CC area, was under discussion. We will remain active participants in the consultation and potential development of a national park in this area to ensure the well-being of our village, its surroundings and our values are taken into consideration.

2.1.2 Nature and Biodiversity - Andrew Bielinski, RSPB Scotland

As referenced elsewhere in this document, the Dalry CC area is significantly forested, with some 36.6% of the land under trees. Most of the forestry is comprised of commercial conifer plantations, with a relatively small amount of native and ancient broadleaved woodland present in the area. Unsurprisingly, the increase in plantation forestry to its current levels has had a profound impact on the biodiversity of the CC area, with a loss of plants and wildlife associated with open land and an increase in species more suited to forestry. The latter include a number of common birds such as chaffinch, coal tit, siskin and willow warbler, but also birds such as goshawk, woodcock and crossbill. Red squirrels and pine martins have certainly benefited from the expansion of forestry, along with foxes and roe deer.

Broadleaved woodland in the CC area is largely confined to the west of the area and is often associated with watercourses. Despite the limited amount of this habitat, it does support locally important populations of woodland birds such as willow tit, wood warbler, pied flycatcher, common redstart and tawny owl. Bluebell, lesser celandine, wood sorrel and wood anemone are found here, along with a wide range of insects, including the scarce small pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly in glades and woodland edges. These areas are also important as foraging areas for a variety of bats, including common and soprano pipistrelles, brown long-eared and noctule.

The majority of the land within the CC area is farmland - mostly livestock grazed, as indicated elsewhere in the document. Some areas are more biodiverse than others, especially those that have hawthorn and blackthorn scrub as a component of the pasture. Whinchat, stonechat, wheatear, tree pipit, skylark, grasshopper warbler and cuckoo can all be seen and heard in these areas during the summer, and they provide important hunting areas for barn owl, kestrel and (in the winter) hen harrier. Fieldfares and redwings are common winter visitors to these areas, feeding in hedgerows and bushes.



Red kites have become a common feature across the area, since their reintroduction from 2003 onwards, but sadly curlew and lapwing have declined significantly and are now very rare breeding birds in the CC area.

Plant life is quite varied, with tormentil, eyebright, thyme, primrose, cowslip, harebell, northern marsh orchid, greater butterfly orchid, frog orchid, whorled caraway and grass of Parnassus found in some areas. Insects abound across the area, with orange tip, ringlet, meadow brown and Scotch argus butterflies, black darter, common darter, common hawk and golden-ringed dragonflies all to be seen in spring and summer. A citizen science survey of moths in July 2019 from various places in the CC area resulted in 102 species being recorded, including the spectacular elephant hawkmoth - there are likely to be many more across other months of the year. Brown hare, rabbit, badger and hedgehog are mammals commonly found in the farmland areas and adders, common lizards and slow worms all occur.

The Water of Ken effectively forms the western boundary of the CC area, while Carsfad and Earlston lochs and Lochinvar form significant bodies of standing water. Sand martins nest along the banks of the Water of Ken, and common sandpiper, oystercatcher, goosander, dipper and grey wagtail also breed and feed along the river and local burns. Lochinvar hosts a colony of common gulls and greylag geese are resident on and around the lochs. Ospreys can also be seen fishing along the river and over the lochs. Otters are present, but seldom seen, and Daubenton's and other bats find rich feeding in these watery places.

Finally, the village of Dalry itself is an important place for wildlife in its own right. Many of the birds mentioned elsewhere are to be found in gardens, especially visiting feeders, as are many insects. But the gardens also provide valuable nesting, sheltering and breeding sites for variety of birds and small mammals and garden ponds are important for frogs, toads, and palmate and great crested newts. Swallows and house martins both nest in properties in the village with some homeowners also having swifts in their eaves. It is hoped that recently constructed swift boxes in the Town Hall tower will provide new opportunities for this declining bird to nest. The sight and sounds of swifts, swallows and house martins over the village are a delight to the senses during the summer months.



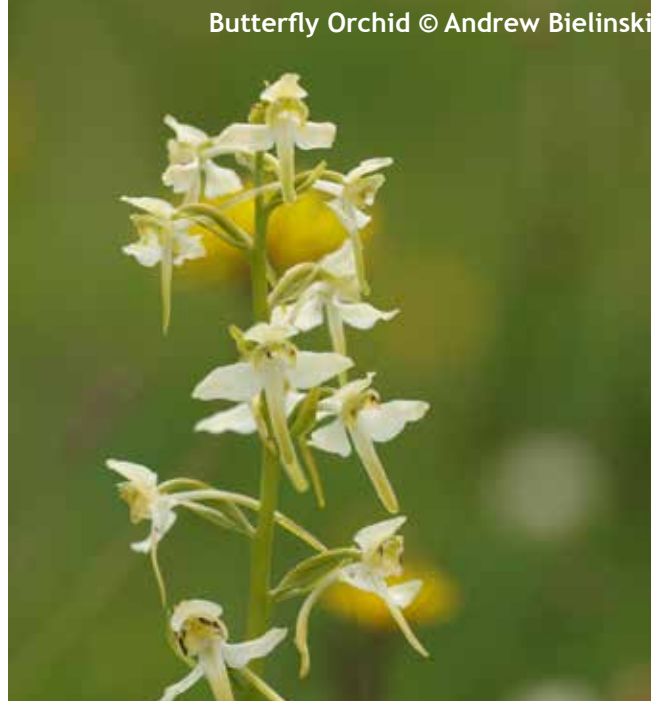
Hare © Andrew Bielinski



Burnet Moth © Andrew Bielinski



Golden-ringed dragonfly © Andrew Bielinski



Butterfly Orchid © Andrew Bielinski



2.1.3 A brief history of Dalry - Angela Miller, Dalry Librarian

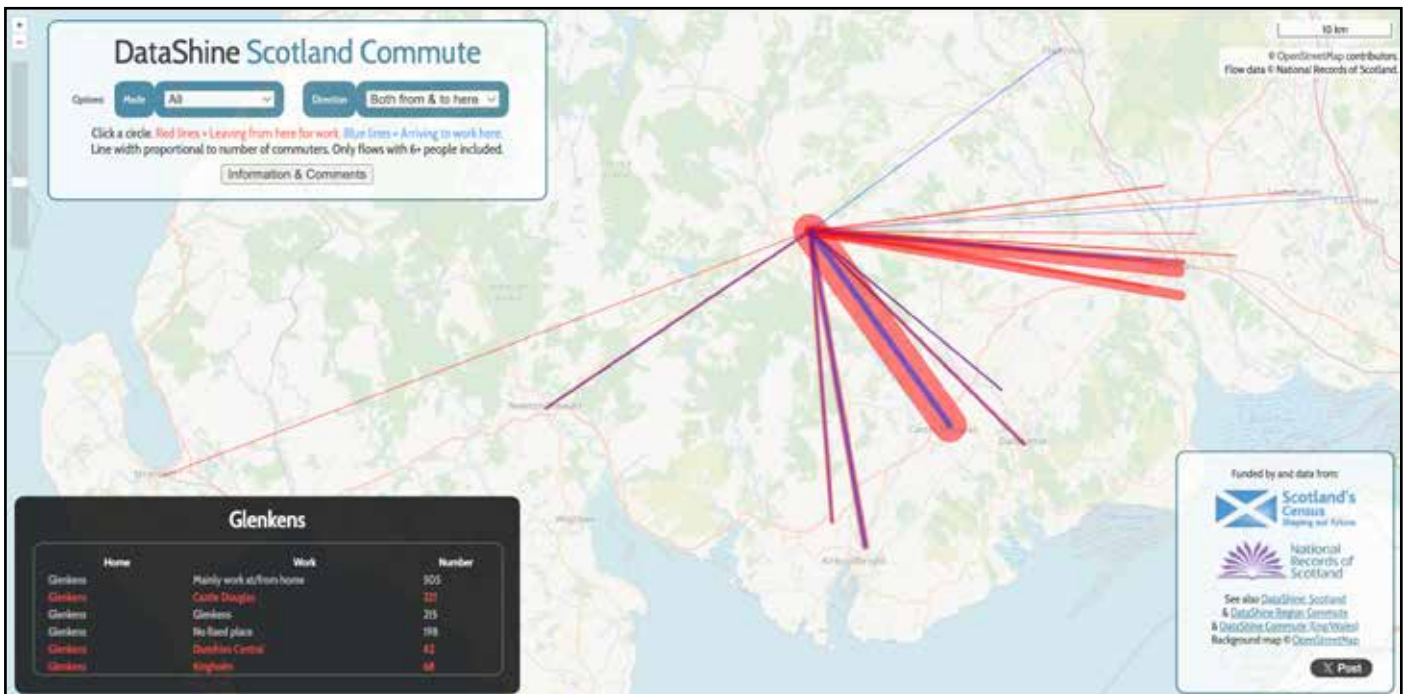
- 1100s** Dalry emerged from Old Wild Galloway some time in the 1100s when the Knights of St John were tasked by King David I to protect pilgrims going to Whithorn. A crossing point on the Ken soon became a thriving wee town, or Clachan in the old Gaelic.
- 1500s** Gaelic was spoken until the Reformation, then as Presbyterianism became the religion, English became the language.
- 1666** When King Charles I tried to impose Episcopalianism on Scotland, Dalry rebelled. Guerilla warfare was waged, martyrs were made and an uprising was led all the way to Edinburgh.
- 1600s** Witches were rife in the popular imagination in covenanting times too. On the way home from the pub one night, Adam Forrester spied a sabbat in the Kirk, shouted out in his excitement and was chased over Waterside Hill by an angry mob of 'witches' for his troubles. Later, the local Doctor would pass the story on to a certain poet, and Tam O'Shanter was the outcome.
- 1698** Then as the age of reason was dawning, one last 'witch' was found, and poor old Elspeth McEwen from Cubbox became one of the last women to be executed for Witchcraft in Scotland.
- 1862** A brutal murder at Carsfad during Victoria's reign brought the nation's attention to Dalry. Poor Annie Hannah was found bleeding out on her kitchen floor, and neighbour Mary Timney was to blame. Despite local outcry at the harsh sentence, Mary became the last woman to be publicly hanged in Scotland.
- 1930s** In the 1930s, the Galloway Hydro Scheme brought progress to Dalry with electricity, jobs and roads, between the World Wars bringing huge changes. As the River Ken grew with the waters of Clatteringshaws and Loch Doon, Prisoners of WW2 built the flood defences around the Holm.
- 1935** A new school was built, but changing agricultural practices meant the young folk that learned there were drawn away to the big towns and cities to work.

2.1.4 Local economy and employment

Over a quarter of the population are classified as income deprived and 7.8% of people in the DG7 postcode area are classed as employment deprived, compared with 8.8% across Dumfries and Galloway. At Ward level, 12.3% of occupants have no qualifications, compared with an average of 15.2% across Dumfries and Galloway (SIMD, 2020)

The main economic activity in the area falls into the category of agriculture, forestry and fishing. Natural Power Consultants and DRAX are the two major employers; the other sectors represented include health and social care, education and hospitality roles. Within Dalry, a higher than average percentage of the population are self-employed; this group includes tradespeople within the village and small business owners as well as other self-employed workers.

Around a third of Glenkens residents work from home for most of the time, with this being a potential future contributor to addressing population decline. However, the advent of remote working could lead to further pressure on house prices, with those from outside the area sometimes having an economic advantage owing to the relatively modest house prices for attractive rural properties in this area compared with other parts of Scotland and the UK.



Almost all commuter journeys to and from the Glenkens are taken by car, with residents travelling out of the area far outweighing those coming in, as can be seen in the figure above where journeys in red represent outward commuter journeys, and those in blue representing commuter journeys into the area.

Only 3% of journeys to work in the Glenkens are made by bus, reflecting the fact that the public transport service, while valued, is relatively minimal and does not necessarily support commuters.

2.1.4 Demographic Data

Dalry Community Council area has a population of approximately 510, of whom the majority (around 400) live within the village. Dumfries and Galloway as a whole has the second highest percentage of people aged 65+ in the whole of Scotland, at 27.1% of the overall population. Alongside this, the area saw its population drop by 5% between 2011 and 2022, contrasting with a national trend of 2.7% growth in population over the same period.

General population health is good, with around 80% of the population reporting good or very good health, and only 6% reporting bad or very bad health. Just over 20% had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities either a little or a lot.

2011 census figures show that approximately 18% of the population was aged under 18, 64% between 18 and 64, and 18% aged over 65.

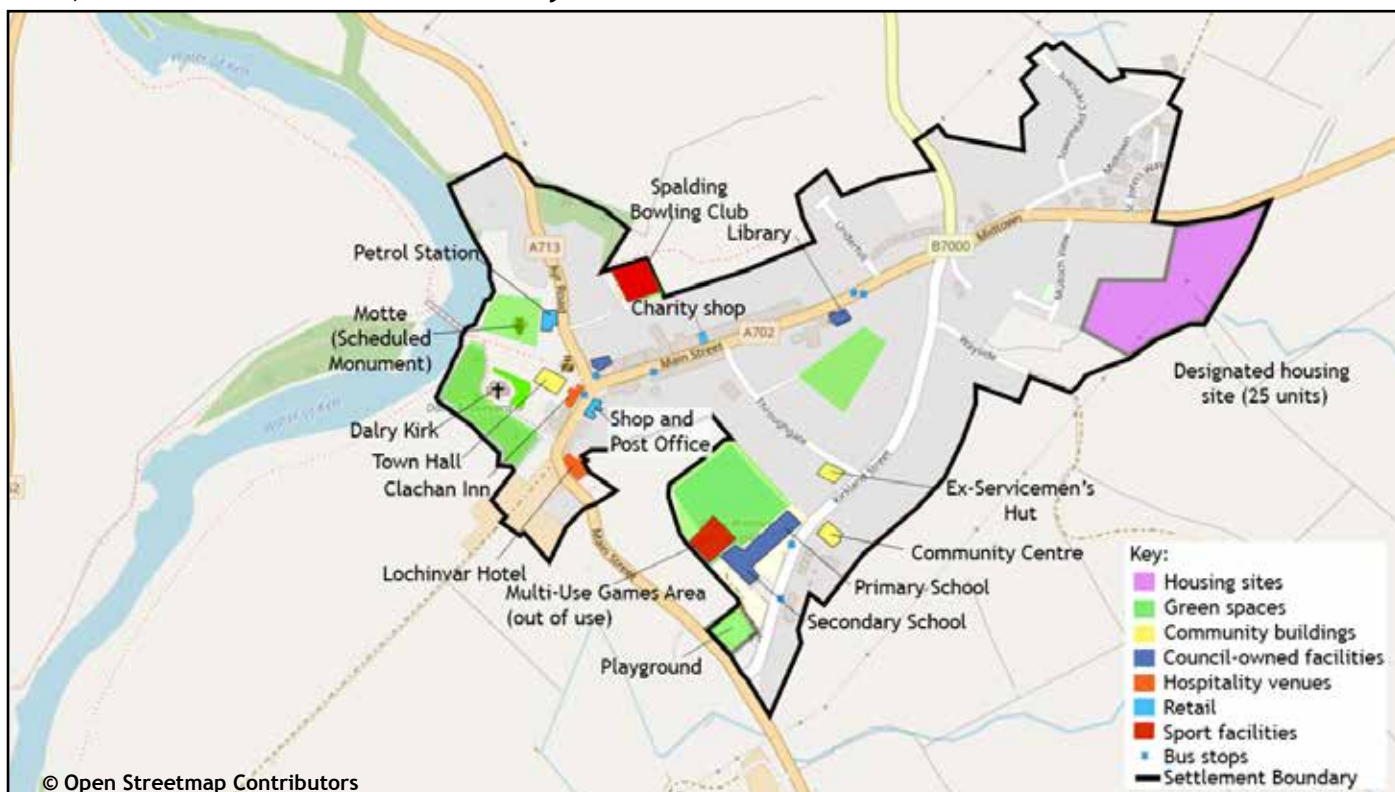
2.2 Settlement Map, Assets and Facilities

The layout of Dalry dates back to the development of a planned village by the Earl of Galloway in the 1700s, leading to a compact settlement roughly triangular in shape. Dalry is sited in an area with high levels of fuel poverty as a consequence of generally poorly insulated housing stock and being off the gas grid, meaning that more expensive alternatives like electric heating, oil, LPG, coal/wood, or a combination thereof, are used to heat homes.



While the village itself is on mains water supplied by the reservoir at Lochinvar (above), many of the residents in outlying areas have private water supplies, which can be threatened by extended periods of drought, which may become more common in light of the changing climate.

Dalry is classed as a Local Centre in the Stewartry Housing Market Area. There is currently one allocated housing site, with potential for 25 housing units on land south of Whinnymuir. Planning permission was also granted for ten villas on land between the Lochinvar Hotel and the play area, outside the settlement boundary. Work commenced but then ceased in 2019.



Despite being a remote rural community, Dalry is currently strong in terms of local services, with a library (open part-time), three community buildings, a bowling club and a historic Kirk. The nursery, primary school and secondary school are all on one site, along with the play park and MUGA.

Businesses operating in Dalry include the village shop and post office, a petrol station and convenience store, a pub and a hotel, a hairdresser, a nutritionist, and a specialist retailer of outdoor clothing and footwear. There are a number of other businesses and tradespeople located in the village. The Glenkens Community Shop provides volunteering opportunities, sells donated goods, and donates profits in the form of grant funding to local causes, with over £82,000 having been issued since 2011.

A monthly producers' market is held in the Town Hall, and the Galloway Food Hub is also based in Dalry at the Glenkens Community Centre, offering fortnightly deliveries of locally grown and produced food and drink.



There is currently school provision from nursery to S4 in Dalry, the site adjoining Dalry's play park, but secondary school roll numbers have recently fallen, leading to Dumfries and Galloway Council Education Department considering the viability of the secondary school. Although a campaign in 2023/24 led to planned mothballing of the school from the end of the 2023/24 academic year being put on hold, the future of the secondary school has been raised as a matter of concern by a wide range of respondents, especially in light of the fact that a survey on education provision in Dalry showed strong support for retaining a strong educational provision in the Glenkens.

The Multi-use Games Area on the school estate has been closed since 2015; a campaign is currently underway to bring this into community control via asset transfer, in order to refurbish the surface and reopen the facility for use by school pupils and the local community. There is an outdoor gym beside the school which was funded by a £12,000 bequest

Residents travel to nearby New Galloway for the GP surgery, and the CatStrand in New Galloway to access live arts events, the cafe and arts activities for children. New Galloway Town Hall and Balmaclellan Village Hall and Carsphairn's Lagwyne Hall also host groups attended by Dalry residents.





Dalry's community buildings and sports clubs were all identified as important by Dalry residents, providing opportunities to socialise, exercise or play sports, take part in clubs and societies, and access culture.

Keeping these venues open ties in with CAP themes 1 and 2, providing places for the community to connect with each other, and remaining an asset-rich community.

Residents also had suggestions for developments to the buildings, with a number suggesting that the Community Centre would be a suitable location for a cafe or gym.

Dalry Town Hall is the largest venue in the village, hosting community events like Hogmanay celebrations and events of national significance, such as the screening of the coronation of King Charles III.

Volunteers run a number of groups, including a Film Club which meets roughly fortnightly, weekly dog training and Tai Chi, monthly Producers' Markets with cafe, monthly Song Share group, and Craft Fairs which offer the opportunity for local crafters to sell their wares. Volunteers run a community cafe roughly once a month, with funds raised from donations going to charitable causes.

The Town Hall has recently embarked on a programme of energy efficiency upgrades including the installation of Solar PV panels in order to save costs, using grant funding.

The Glenkens Community Centre was previously Dalry's school, and is the home of a number of clubs and societies, including the Glenkens Youth Group, Dalry's Good Neighbours Club, the Clachan Crafters, Martial Arts and Yoga for All. The hall is available to hire for badminton and table tennis.

The DCPT runs the Community Centre and is developing plans to improve the energy efficiency and comfort of the building to make it into a more suitable venue for warm hub sessions.

The Gourlay Memorial Library is a community-owned venue.

The **Galloway Food Hub**, a local, producer-led, online farmers marketplace also has its base at the Community Centre, for Dalry residents to collect and to pack orders to send out across the Glenkens and further afield; the Food Hub supports CAP themes 3 and 4 by supporting local producers (both cottage industries and larger scale) and improving local resilience whilst reducing food miles.

The Ex-Serviceman's Hut, which was founded in 1919, has facilities for snooker, darts and carpet bowls.

The Spalding Bowling Club is situated off Ayr Road opposite the petrol station, and offers the opportunity to play Crown Green Bowls, with regular open days for new players.

Dalry's Parish Church was constructed in 1831, and is the third church to be located on the site, with the first having been constructed before 1427. The Kirk is clustered with Balmaclellan, Carsphairn and Kells, with services rotating among the four venues.



Dalry has a thriving scene of locally-driven voluntary clubs and activities, including the following:

- Dalry Community Council
- Dalry Community Property Trust (DCPT)
- Dalry Town Hall Committee
- Local Initiatives for Dalry
- Watsons Birds Art Trail
- Glenkens Producers Market
- Dalry Film Club
- Tai Chi
- Art for All
- Good Neighbours Club
- Clachan Crafters
- Yoga for All
- Community café
- Friends of Dalry School



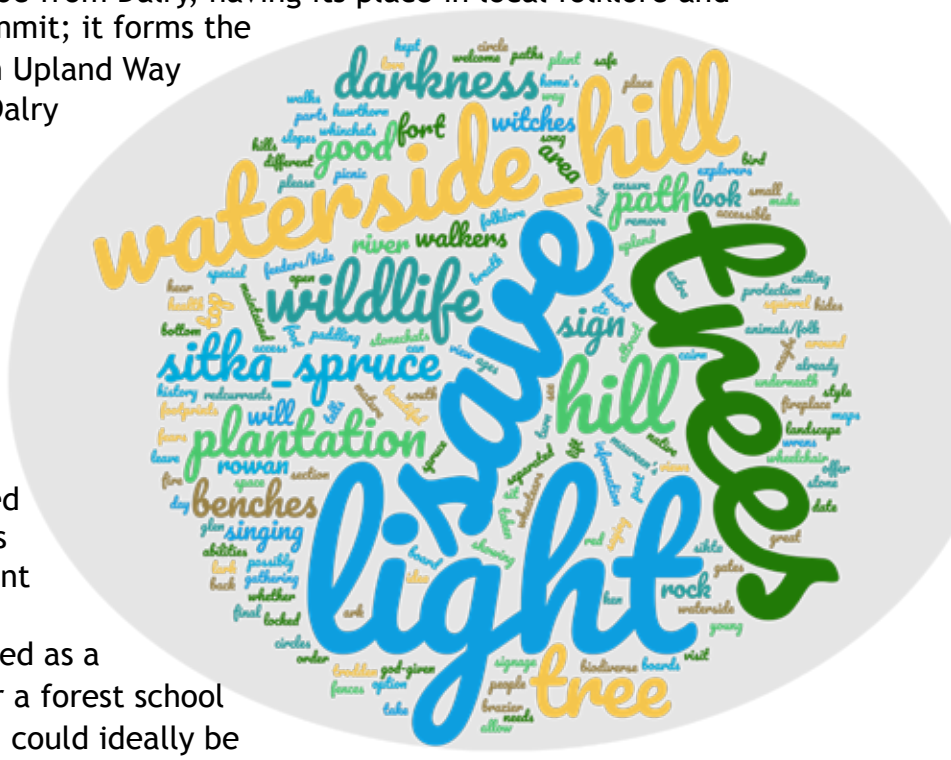
- Dalry Parent School Council
- Dalry Eco Flower Group
- KMA Martial Arts
- Song Share
- Spalding Bowls Club
- Ex-servicemen's hut (snooker/carpet bowls)
- 'Drop in' for older people
- Book groups
- Lego club in library



2.3 Treasured landscapes

Waterside Hill dominates the landscape from Dalry, having its place in local folklore and offering wonderful views from its summit; it forms the last ascent of stage 4 of the Southern Upland Way before walkers make their way into Dalry for a well-deserved rest.

The text for this word cloud is taken from the words of a song written by local musicians with the purpose of highlighting the value of Waterside Hill as a place to experience nature and biodiversity, including a range of birds and invertebrates who live in open spaces rather than woodland, as well as comments logged at our community engagement events regarding future plans for development of the community area. Residents propose that the site could be managed as a habitat to support red squirrels, offer a forest school setting for young people in Dalry, and could ideally be a site where wheelchair users and the less mobile could access nature.

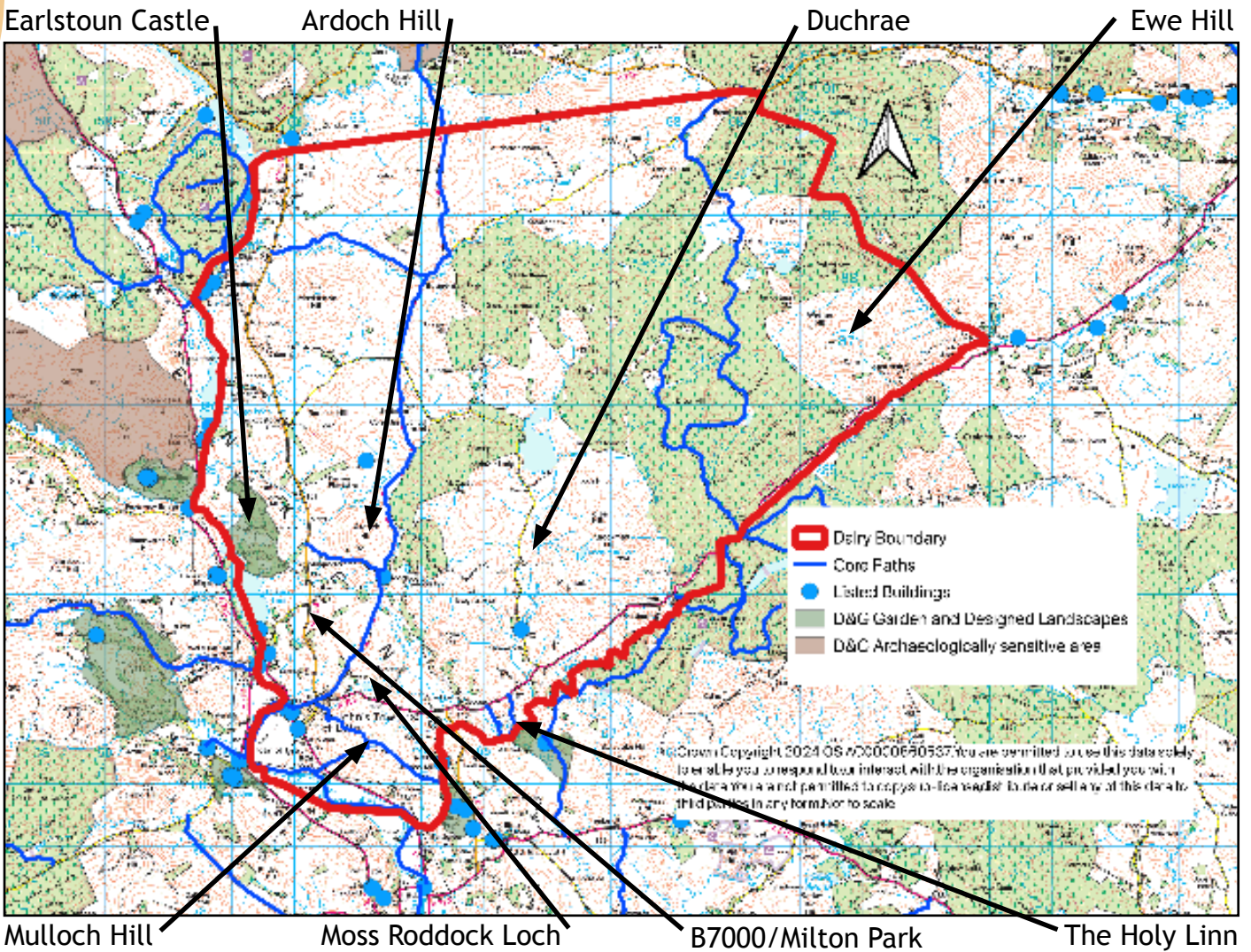


Some of Dalry's other treasured landscapes (both within and adjoining the Dalry CC area) can be seen on the map below; these are cherished viewpoints, varied habitats, places for wild swimming or immersing yourself in nature, or places of historic significance. The map also shows Dalry's network of core paths and nationally and locally designated landscape and archaeologically sensitive sites.

Context

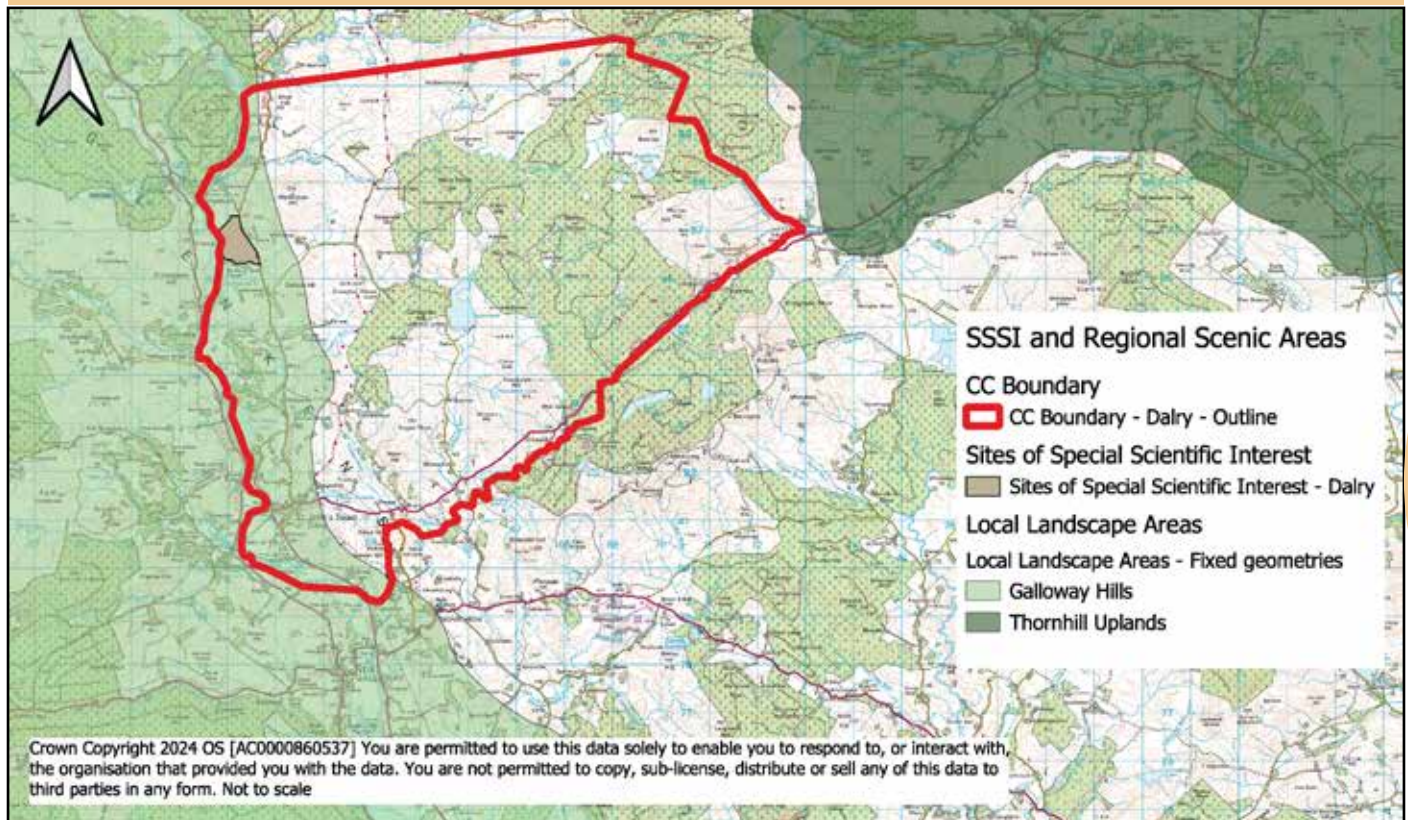


Girth Summit, CC BY-SA 4.0 via Wikimedia Commons



The Holy Linn (right) borders Dalry and Balmaclellan Community Council areas, it is a pool on the Garple Burn fed by a waterfall which was used for baptism at the time of the Covenanters, with James Renwick having been thought to have preached there in 1684. It is still a popular wild swimming spot to this day.

2.4 Land use in the wider Dalry Community Council area: Landscape Context



Dumfries and Galloway's 2018 Local Development Plan (2) defines 10 Regional Scenic Areas (RSAs), two of which are relevant to Dalry's LPP, protected via policy NE2 of LDP2 as areas of special scenic interest which form the most cherished landscapes in the county. Dalry and the western part of the CC area lie within the Galloway Hills RSA, the largest of the ten, which encompasses the granite and greywacke uplands of central Galloway and the surrounding foothills and valleys which define the edges of this area, which altogether represents 12 distinct landscape character units.

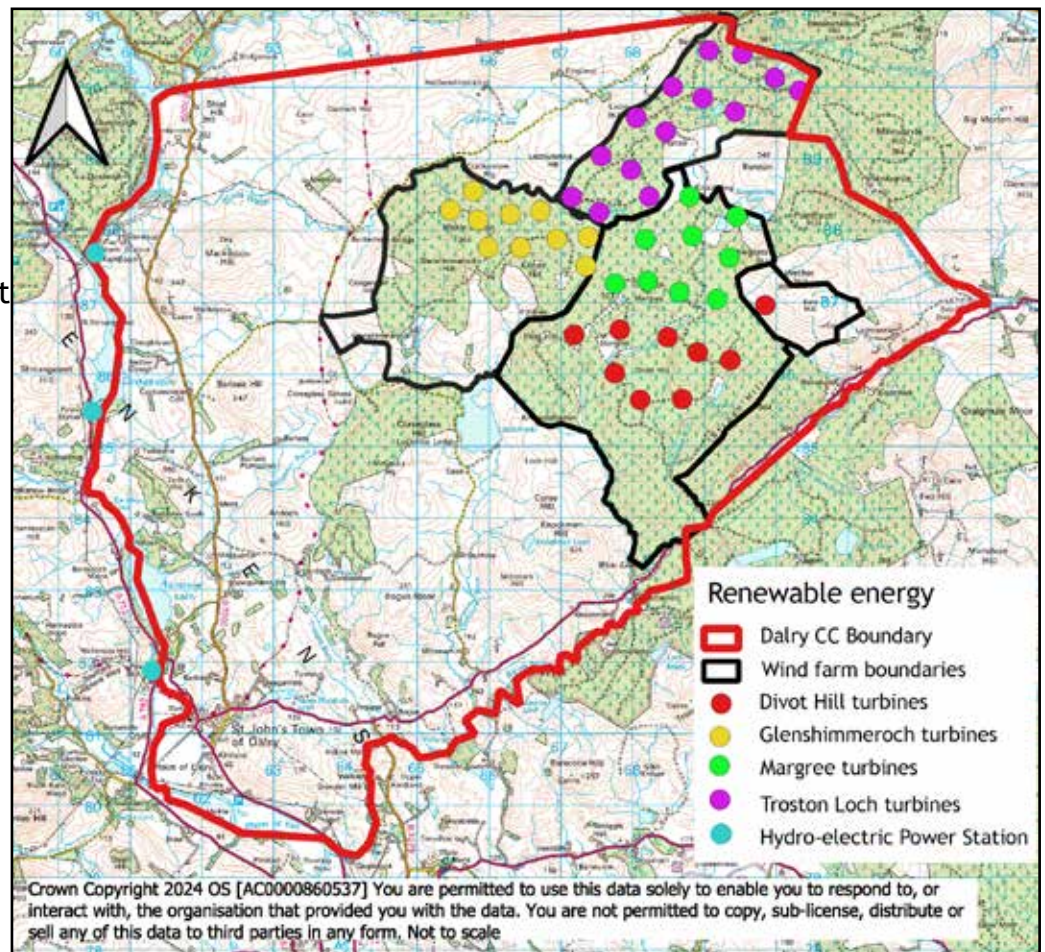
The Thornhill Uplands RSA approaches the north-western border of the CC area, characterised by the hills of the Southern Uplands, deep glacial valleys, grassland, heathland, and scattered farms and hamlets. Designation as a RSA means that the siting and design of any developments within a RSA should respect the landscape character and scenic interest for which the area has been designated, and should not take place unless there is a specific need for development in that location which could not be located in a less sensitive area.



An energy generation area

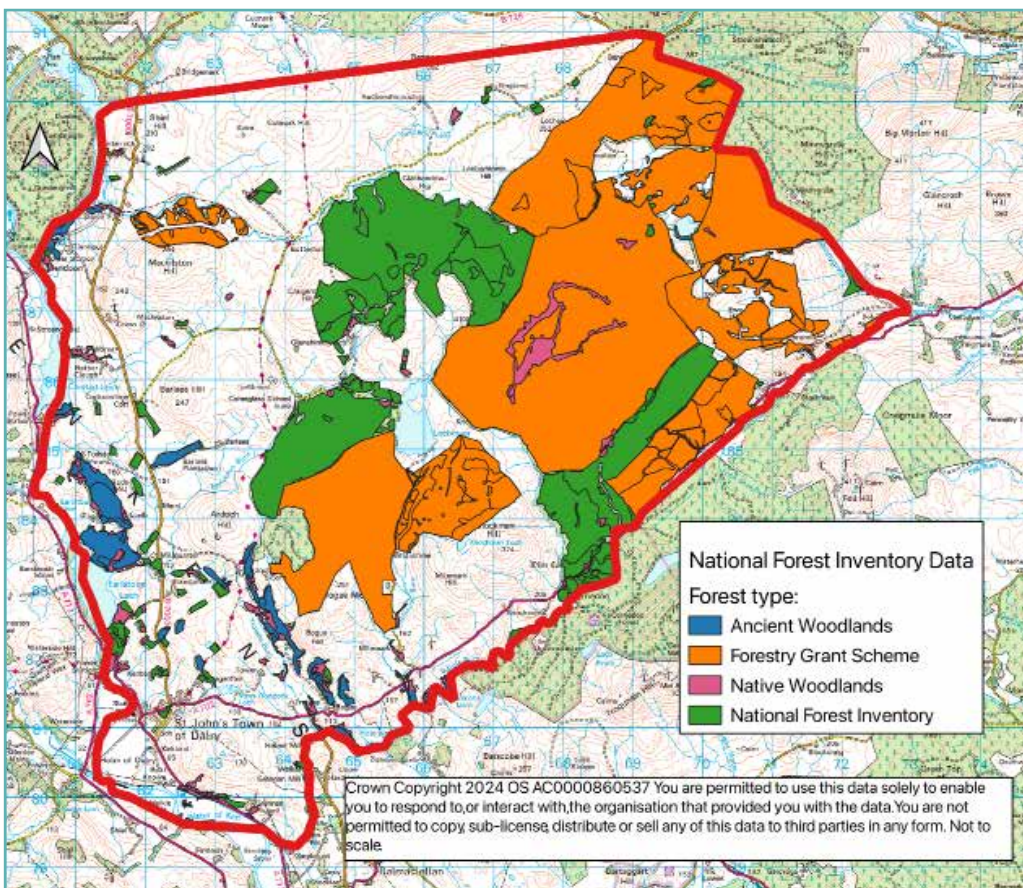
Plans to harness the power of the Ken, Deugh and Doon for clean electricity were taking shape almost a century ago, when the Galloway Water Power Bill received Royal Assent in May 1929, with the Galloway Hydro Scheme completed in 1936.

As of 2024, Glenshimmeroch and Margree Wind Farms are consented and awaiting construction, and wind farms are also proposed at Troston Loch and Divot Hill. These new schemes will generate carbon-free electricity to support our journey towards Net Zero.



A forested area

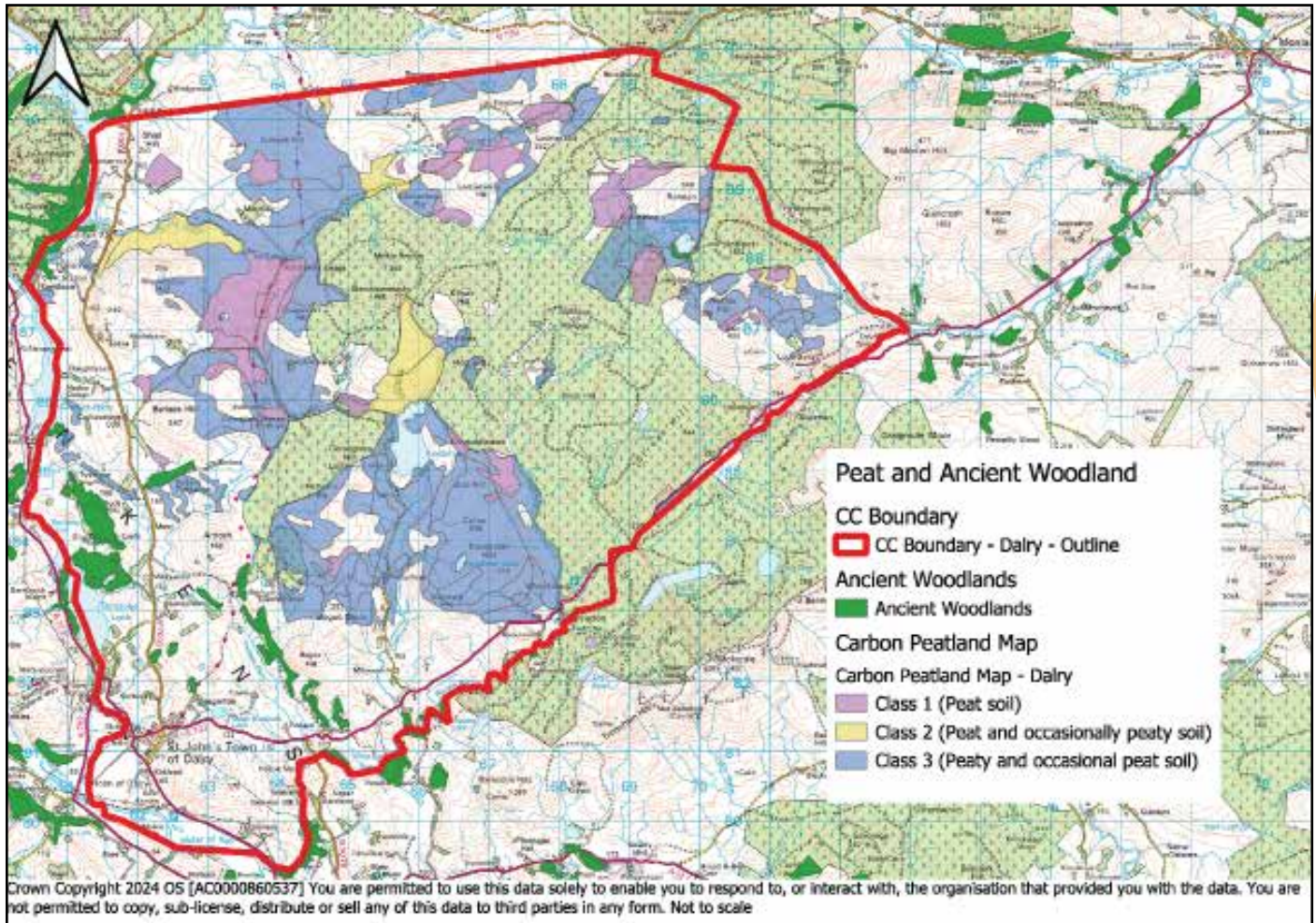
in 2024, 36.6% of Dalry CC area was classed as forested, up from 26% a decade ago. Land coloured green in the map below represents the most recent inventory of land under the Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS). The sections in blue and pink represent ancient and native woodland.



Orange areas on the map represent areas of forestry planted since the most recent FGS inventory, and a number of applications for new forestry planting were being consulted on or being planned when this Local Place Plan was finalised.

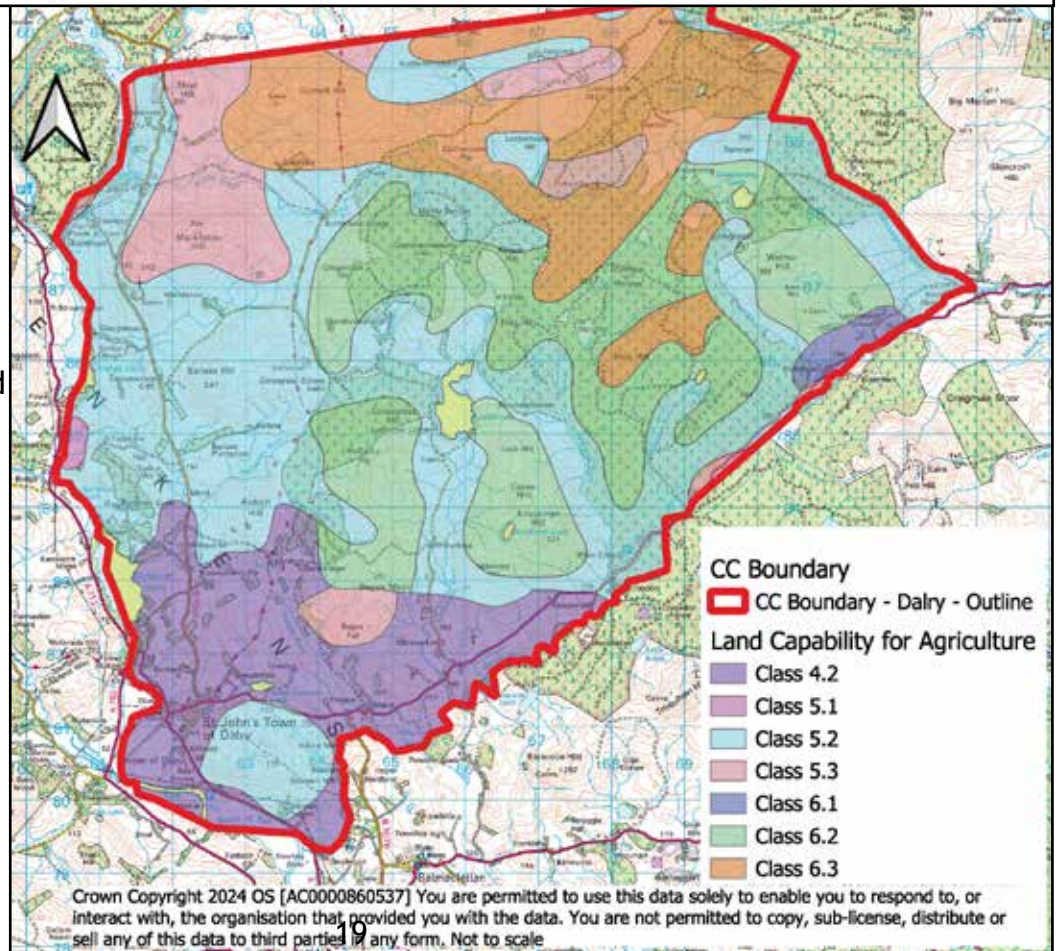
Dumfries and Galloway's 2014 Forestry and Woodland Strategy highlights the need for restructuring historic plantations to current standards, introducing open areas, more broadleaf planting, and using buffers to reduce the visual impact of commercial plantations.

A peaty area: Around 25% of the land is peat or peaty soil, with around a quarter being Class 1 or Class 2 (Nationally important carbon-rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat), which should be preserved as wetland both for biodiversity and as a carbon sink. Restoring the peat could lead to carbon savings of between 29,327 and 120,073 tonnes CO₂e (see calculations on p42).



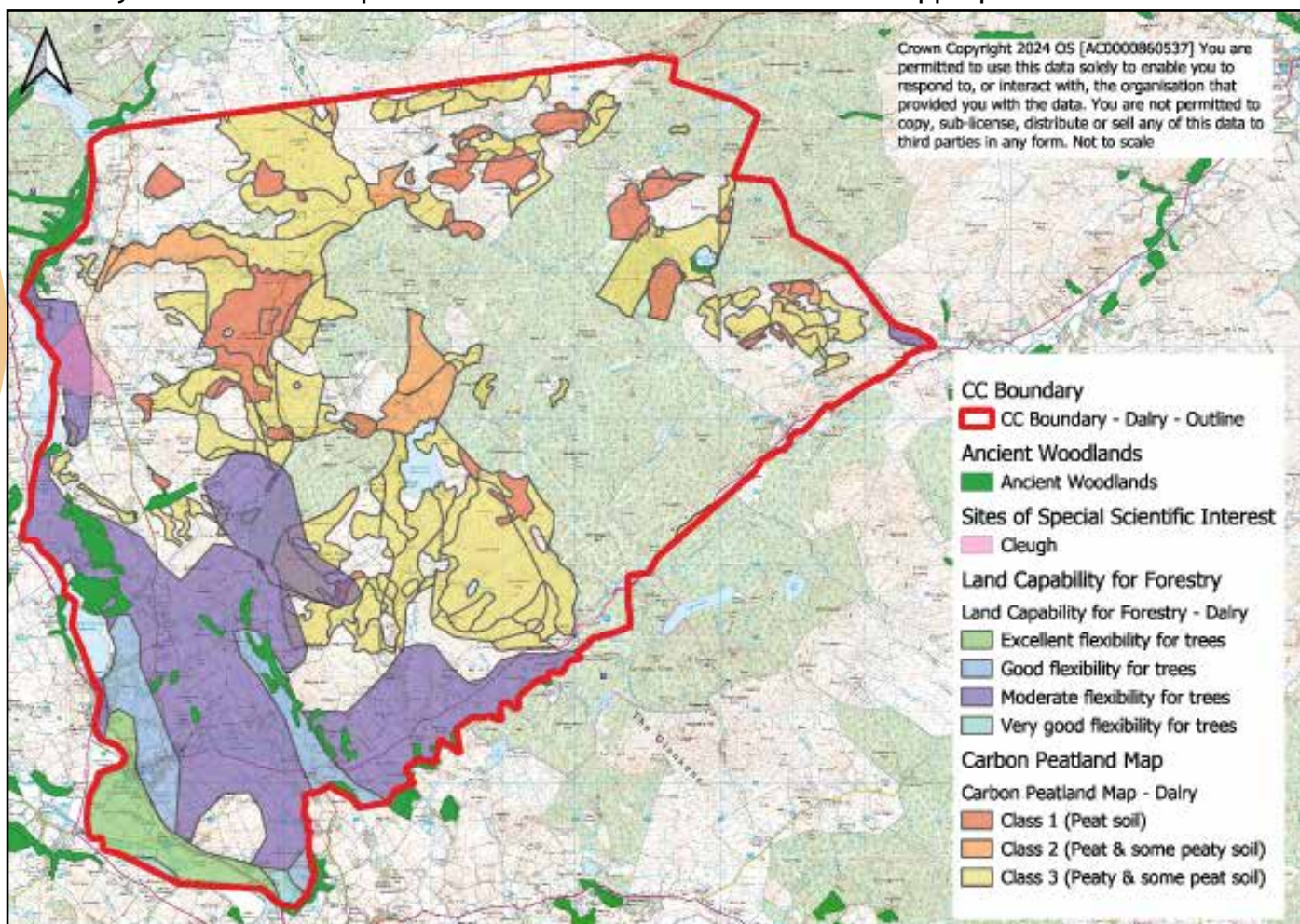
A farming area

Livestock farming (mainly beef cattle and sheep) dominates the agricultural landscape of the Dalry CC area, with soil mainly classed in categories 5 (land suitable for use as improved grassland) and 6 (land suitable for use as rough grazing), with some small areas of improved land suitable for growing a limited range of crops. Much of the land is the property of large estates, but many of the farms in the area are smaller family businesses or tenant farms, with egg and honey production also taking place.



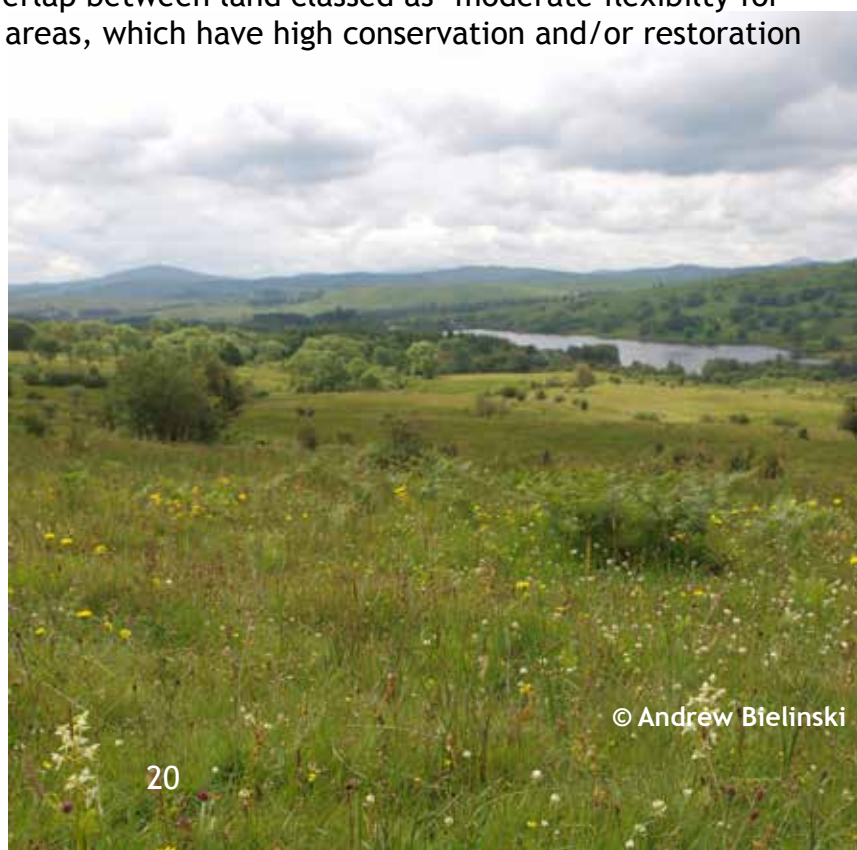
2.4.2 Constraints to land use and development

The amount of land already under forestry, identified as valuable peat or within a designated landscape or SSSI means that there is limited scope for further commercial forestry, and there are many locations where peatland restoration would be the most appropriate land use.



The above map overlays the Hutton Institute Land Capability for Forestry map onto a map of Dalry CC area which also shows Peatland in classes 1-3, Ancient Woodlands and SSSIs. The only area which is assessed as having 'excellent flexibility for trees' is currently floodplain land used for growing silage. There is some overlap between land classed as 'moderate flexibility for trees' and nationally significant peat areas, which have high conservation and/or restoration potential.

Cleugh SSSI, pictured to the right, is one of the few areas of species-rich, unimproved grassland in Dumfries and Galloway. It also intersects an area classed as having 'moderate flexibility for trees', but should be protected in light of its biodiversity value. The depth and wetness of the soil varies widely across the site, providing habitats for a number of uncommon plants such as field gentian, spignel, frog orchid and greater butterfly orchid. Lime-rich rocky knolls are rich in wild thyme, rock rose, fairy flax and bog asphodel, and the flowers support a diverse range of butterflies.



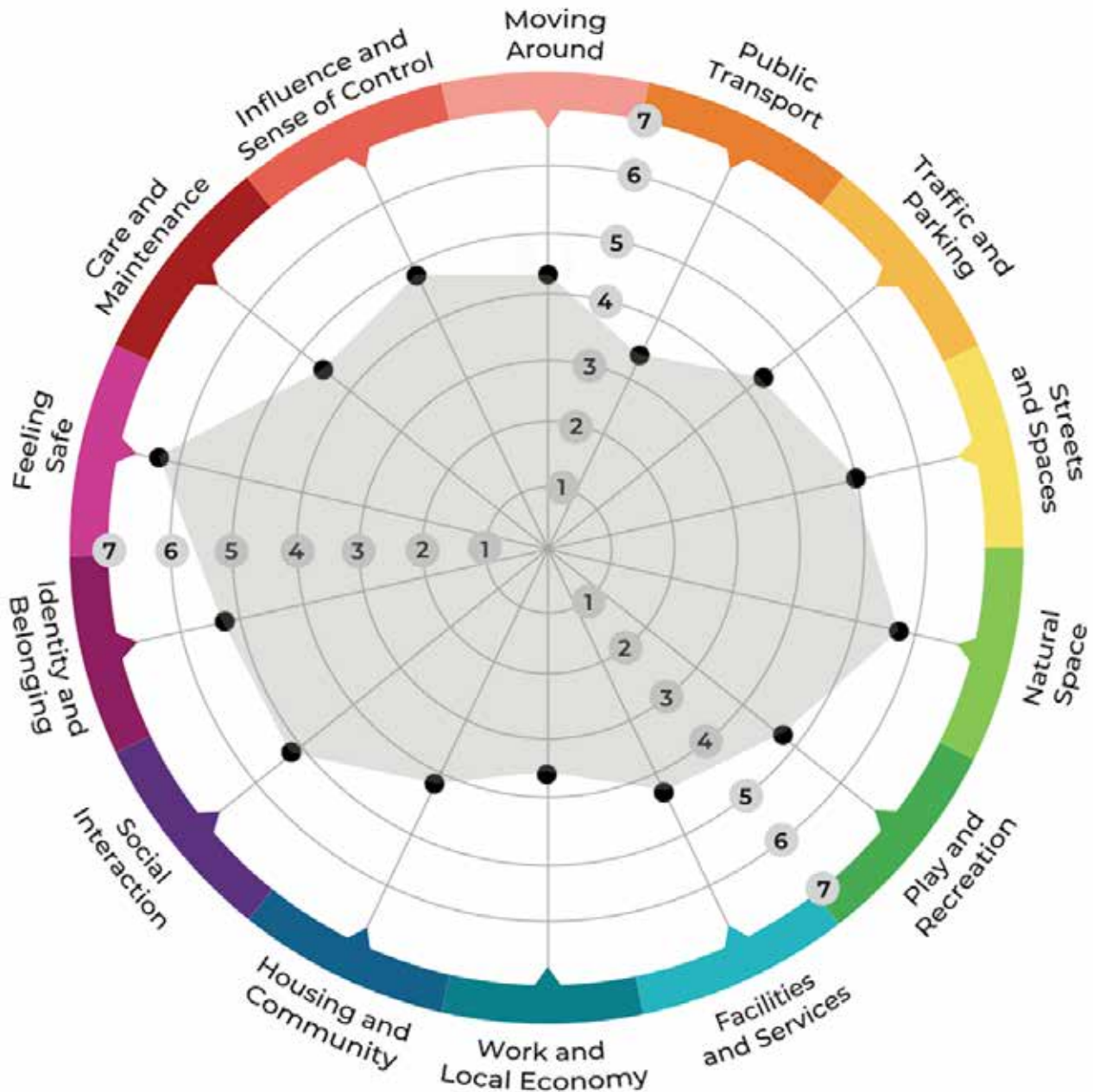
3.1 Community Engagement for the Local Place Plan

Residents have been offered a number of opportunities to feed into the consultation for the LPP, including a dedicated drop-in event in August which was attended by around 40 residents, and visits to community events and groups (including the Good Neighbours club, attended primarily by older people, the Glenkens Youth Group where we engaged with group members within school years P7 to S3, and Bairn Banter, a play session attended by parents and children from babies to 7, held in the neighbouring village of Carsphairn).

We also took the Place Standard Tool and map to the producers’ market, community café, Glenkens Show and Alternative Games, to reach a wider range of people, and set up the questionnaire online, accessible by typing in a shortened link or using a QR code.

We carried out focused interviews with some local business owners, and participated in a stakeholder workshop which considered the issue of land use in the context of climate change and the priority placed on the climate and biodiversity emergencies in NPF4. This was attended by representatives of Dalry Community Council, GCAT, D&G Archaeology Service, Galloway Fisheries Trust, the Loch Ken Trust, the Crichton Carbon Centre, Forestry and Land Scotland and Scottish Forestry.

155 people attended at least one of the events, took part in an interview, or completed the questionnaire online, leading to collated Place Standard Tool results as follows:



Consultation

The Place Standard Tool demonstrates that the community has a broadly positive feeling about life in Dalry. The highest scoring area was **Feeling Safe**, which received an average score of 6.3, with more than half of respondents scoring it at 7. **Natural Space, Social Interaction, Identity and Belonging** and **Streets and Spaces** all had an average score above 5.

The lowest scoring areas were **Public Transport** and **Work and Local Economy**, with 3.3 and 3.6 points respectively. This reflects the fact that Dalry is a small settlement classed as remote rural, with a limited bus service and the nearest railway stations in Dumfries (27 miles), Lockerbie (40 miles) and Kilmarnock (47 miles).

Moving Around: 4.3, Traffic and Parking: 4.3

Car users generally felt positive about moving around in the area, although a number of respondents highlighted the number of potholes in the area which affect both drivers and cyclists. The poor condition of the roads is likely to be exacerbated by extremes of weather in our changing climate. Drivers also commented that they felt that they would struggle to get around if they did not have access to a car.



Pedestrians highlighted the lack of pavements in Dalry and on the surrounding lanes, which when combined with the number of large HGVs carrying logs, can make pedestrians and cyclists feel unsafe, especially as these roads have a 60mph speed limit, apart from within the settlement boundary of the village.

There were also a number of responses calling for a 20mph limit within the village boundary, alongside traffic calming measures to help to ensure that drivers slow down in time.

Lack of driveways within the village means that most parking is on the street; some respondents were positive, but others highlighted safety issues resulting from inappropriate parking causing difficulties with safe access at junctions and as a through route for HGVs and agricultural vehicles, as well as problems for pedestrians.

The village and surrounding area were not seen as accessible for wheelchair users, and the roads between settlements did not feel safe to a number of respondents who wished to cycle between

Consultation



villages, although there were also comments about how good the rural lanes are for cycling. The issue of large HGVs fully loaded with logs passing through the village was also highlighted by a number of respondents, who have concerns about safety.

Public Transport: 3.3

Public transport scored the lowest of all the categories on the Place Standard Tool, and all comments focused on the perceived poor service and lack of service on a Sunday or in the evenings. Galloway Community Transport, which provides hospital transport as well as regular trips to supermarkets and excursions, was mentioned as an important local resource.

Streets and Spaces: 5

Streets and Spaces scored strongly, with some respondents highlighting the wide streets, many attractive homes and gardens, and the setting of the village within the landscape of the Galloway Hills Scenic Area.



Natural Space (5.7), Play and Recreation (4.8)

Responses widely recognised the beautiful countryside surrounding Dalry and the many walks available from the village centre. The Southern Upland Way, a long-distance trail running from Portpatrick to Cockburnspath, passes through the village, and there are a number of core paths nearby giving access to a variety of types of green space. It was highlighted that a number of these walks (including core paths) are not suitable for wheelchair users and people with limited mobility. While some people felt that they were aware of good routes for walks, others suggested that more waymarking and information about walks in the local area would be beneficial. The safety of pedestrians on the B7000 was raised by many; this popular circular walk around the village feels too dangerous for people pushing pushchairs or for some older people, but offers wonderful views of the Rhinns of Kells and Cairnsmore of Carsphairn.

The Watson Bird Walk and Trail have recently been developed to highlight the landscapes painted by acclaimed artist Donald Watson, who made his home in Dalry.

A number of respondents made suggestions relating to improvements to the countryside surrounding the village, including improving biodiversity, rewilding, improving wetlands and planting native plants in the green spaces within the village to support wildlife. People also

voiced concern about the “blanket planting” of commercial forestry and a perceived inability for the community to influence development.

Opportunities to play sports are currently limited; at present, the only facilities within the village are for table tennis and badminton at the Community Centre, snooker and darts in the Ex-Servicemen’s Hut, and classes in Yoga, Tai Chi and Martial Arts, which are held in the Community Centre and Town Hall. The Spalding Bowling Club is available for crown green bowls. A number of comments were made in support of the local campaign to bring the MUGA back into use via asset transfer from the local council; this would mean that residents would have an all-weather area for playing football, basketball, netball, tennis and hockey, wheelchair sports and cycling training sessions.



Facilities and services (4.4)

The Glenkens as a whole is in the bottom decile for ‘Access to Geographic Services’ in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, with this varying slightly across the area depending on whether residents live within the settlement or the wider CC area. As a remote rural community, residents have to travel a significant distance to access many facilities, which means that the retention of those within the village and environs is of utmost importance.

Respondents highlighted the role of the Nursery, Primary and Secondary schools in ensuring that Dalry and the Glenkens remain attractive places for young people and families to settle, providing the only nursery and secondary provision in the Glenkens. The village shop, post office, charity shop and petrol station are widely valued, as are the two pubs and the other small businesses. The library was also seen as an important facility, although it is only open for two afternoons per week. Some respondents suggested that it may be possible to make better use of the library building by holding more events in the building or finding a way to use it as a café and meeting space as well.

The role of the Town Hall and Community Centre in providing opportunities for socialising, learning, access to entertainment and supporting local businesses was widely recognised. Other facilities, like the GP practice, can be found in nearby New Galloway.

Respondents identified a lack of facilities for teenagers and also highlighted difficulties getting home care in Dalry, either through the council or via direct payments. The nearest care homes



are 16-29 miles away, as are the nearest dental practices.

Work and the Local Economy (3.6)

A number of respondents highlighted a perception that there are few job opportunities, especially for young people, while others expressed a view that there are jobs available. Many felt that roles available tended to be in lower paid sectors of the economy, leading to young people being more likely to leave the area, and an increase in the proportion of retired residents in the village. Potential for home working was seen as a positive, with suggestions made that remote office space could be beneficial in improving links between home workers.

Social Interaction (5.2)

Social interaction was seen broadly positively, with respondents highlighting the range and number of social events going on in the village and nearby at the CatStrand in New Galloway. However, some respondents felt that there were not enough activities aimed at working people as many of the groups take place within work hours, and one respondent felt that it had taken some time to be accepted into the local community.

Housing and Community (4.2)

Housing was seen as more problematic, with a perception expressed that people from outside the area being able to outbid locals for properties in the area. The issues of empty homes, second homes and holiday homes were highlighted, and a number of respondents called for more affordable or affordable rented homes/social housing to be made available.

Identity and Belonging: (5.3), Feeling safe: (6.3)

Both more recent and long-term residents of Dalry spoke of the village as a welcoming community to which they feel that they belong, and a place where they are happy to live. All comments on 'feeling safe' highlighted the widely held perception that Dalry is a safe place, and a place where people would be supported by the community if they needed help.

Care and Maintenance: (4.5)

Potholes and issues with the pavement were again highlighted by a number of respondents under 'Care and Maintenance', with some commenting on how well looked after the village feels, and suggestions to recruit a team of volunteers to keep the village swept and free of litter in light of council funding cuts.





Influence and sense of control: (4.5)

Despite a generally positive score of 4.5 for **Influence and sense of control**, with all references to Dalry Community Council being positive, most of the comments highlighted a perceived lack of ability to influence developments such as wider land use in the area, or the potential mothballing of Dalry Secondary School.

Community engagement with specific groups

Good Neighbours Club (mainly older people): On the whole, place standard responses from this group were lower than those from the whole community, apart from in the areas of moving around and public transport. Negative comments highlighted issues with wheelchair access and lack of public transport, while positive comments mentioned a sense of safety and the perception that neighbours would be there to support if necessary.

Four attendees of **Glenkens Youth Group** who live in Dalry completed the Place Standard Tool at a youth group session, with Natural Space (5), Social Interaction (5), Identity and Belonging (5.75) and Feeling Safe (6.5) being the strongest scores on average. Public transport (2.25), Play and Recreation (3) and Work and the Local Economy (3.25) were the weakest scores. One comment called for separate bike lanes to make it safer to cycle.

We also considered results from the 2023 '10,000 Voices' study for the Dee and Glenkens ward to see whether these results broadly tallied with the views of younger people in the area. Scores were broadly similar in half of areas, with the biggest differences in the areas where scores from Dalry were particularly high or low. Dalry scores were much higher in the 'Feeling safe' and 'Identity and belonging' categories, so the differences are probably partly reflective of the larger sample size in the 10,000 voices survey, and partly reflect perceptions of Dalry as a safe place, and strong feelings of belonging, which are common across all age groups.

We attended a session of **Bairn Banter**, a group for parents with children aged from newborn to 7 years olds, to ask parents of young children about their views.

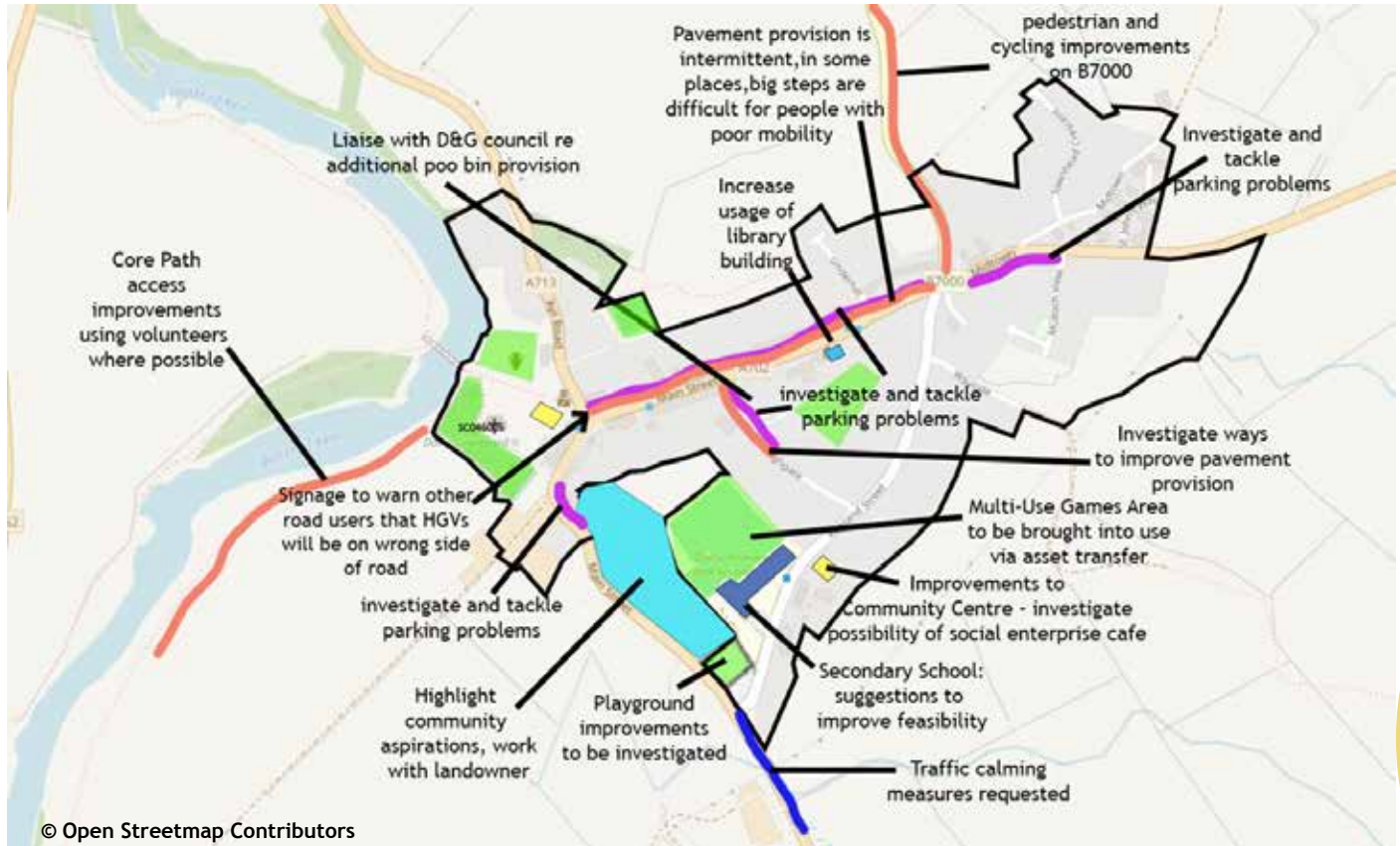
Attendees highlighted issues with finding a local dentist and also mentioned the difficulties in safely walking along the B7000 with a pushchair and cycling on the lanes around the village.

Suggestions for improvement included refurbishing the MUGA and organising after school sports sessions, and refreshing and maintaining Dalry Play Park.



Dalry concerns/suggestions settlement map

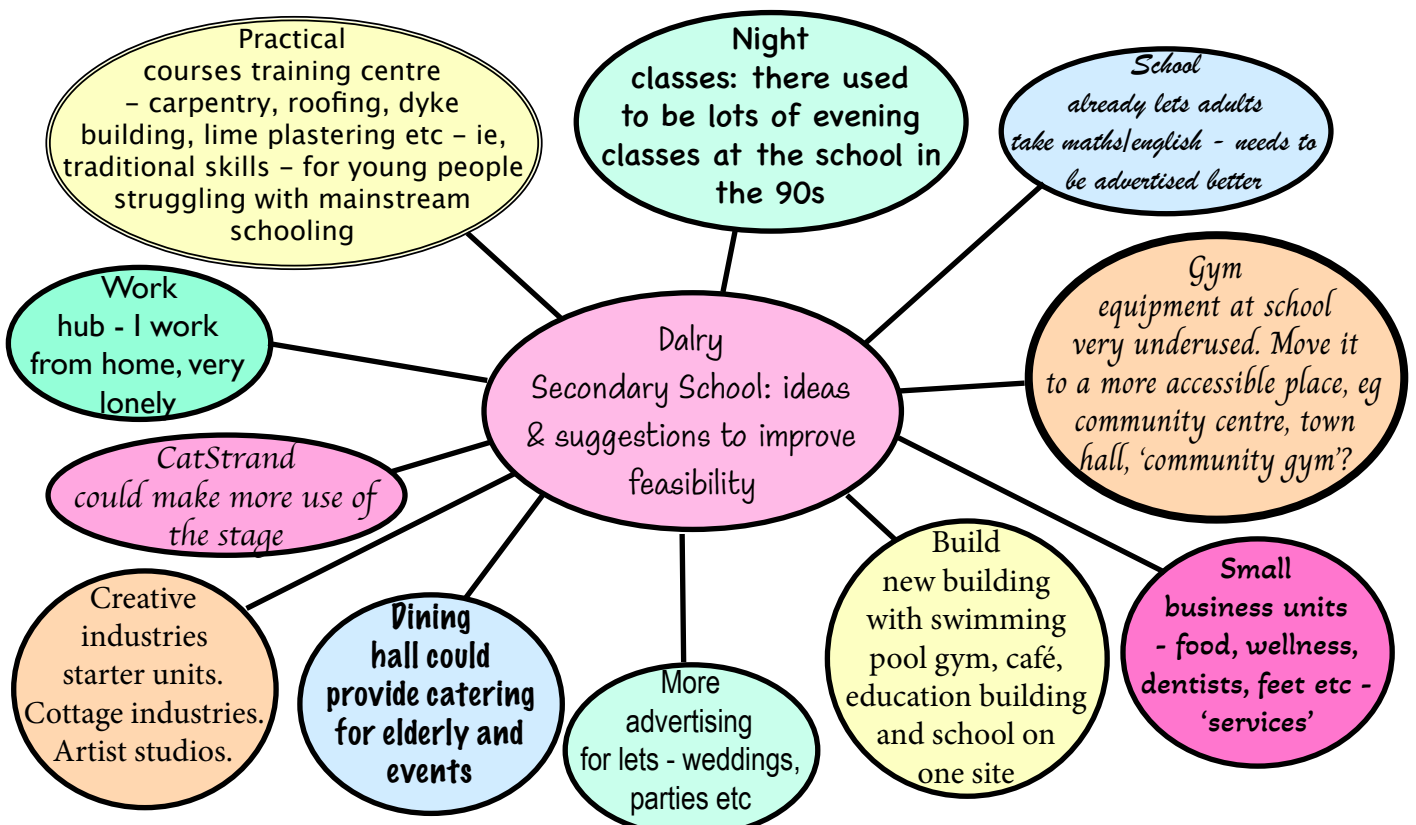
Concerns and suggestions that are spatial in nature and relating to the settlement have been mapped below.



Consultation

3.1.2 Suggestions for improving feasibility of Secondary School

We asked attendees: are there any other uses that could help the Secondary School to remain open, by increasing attendance, generating income or other uses for the building alongside its main use as an educational site for S1-S4 students? Comments are listed below.





3.2 Climate resilience

The third [Climate Risk Assessment for Scotland](#) (taken from CCRA3) identifies flooding as the greatest risk to Scotland from climate change, but there are also risks more relevant to rural communities like Dalry. Changes to weather patterns mean that there is a likelihood that weather will be significantly wetter or drier for longer periods than was previously the case, with lack of rain leading to potential issues with private water supplies and raising the risk of wild fires. High winds in areas where trees are planted close to energy and communications transmissions networks can also increase the risk of power or telecoms outages.

We asked questions on climate resilience and adaptation during our community engagement sessions, with respondents noting that where snow and ice were previously more common, flooding was now a recurring problem.

Suggestions and concerns have been classified by theme:

Flooding concerns

- No access to GP if flooding between Dalry and New Galloway
- Increased flooding could threaten the Watson Bird Trail which is a tourism draw
- Hydro-electric scheme - concerns that it may increase flood risk

Climate emergency concerns

- Fires in forests and fields
- Changes in wildlife
- Water moving around and causing damage to roads
- Old housing stock is difficult to insulate

Flooding solutions

- Water butts around the village, especially every public building
- Plant more trees to reinforce river embankments, riparian planting where appropriate, link with the Riverwoods Initiative
- Riparian planting upstream

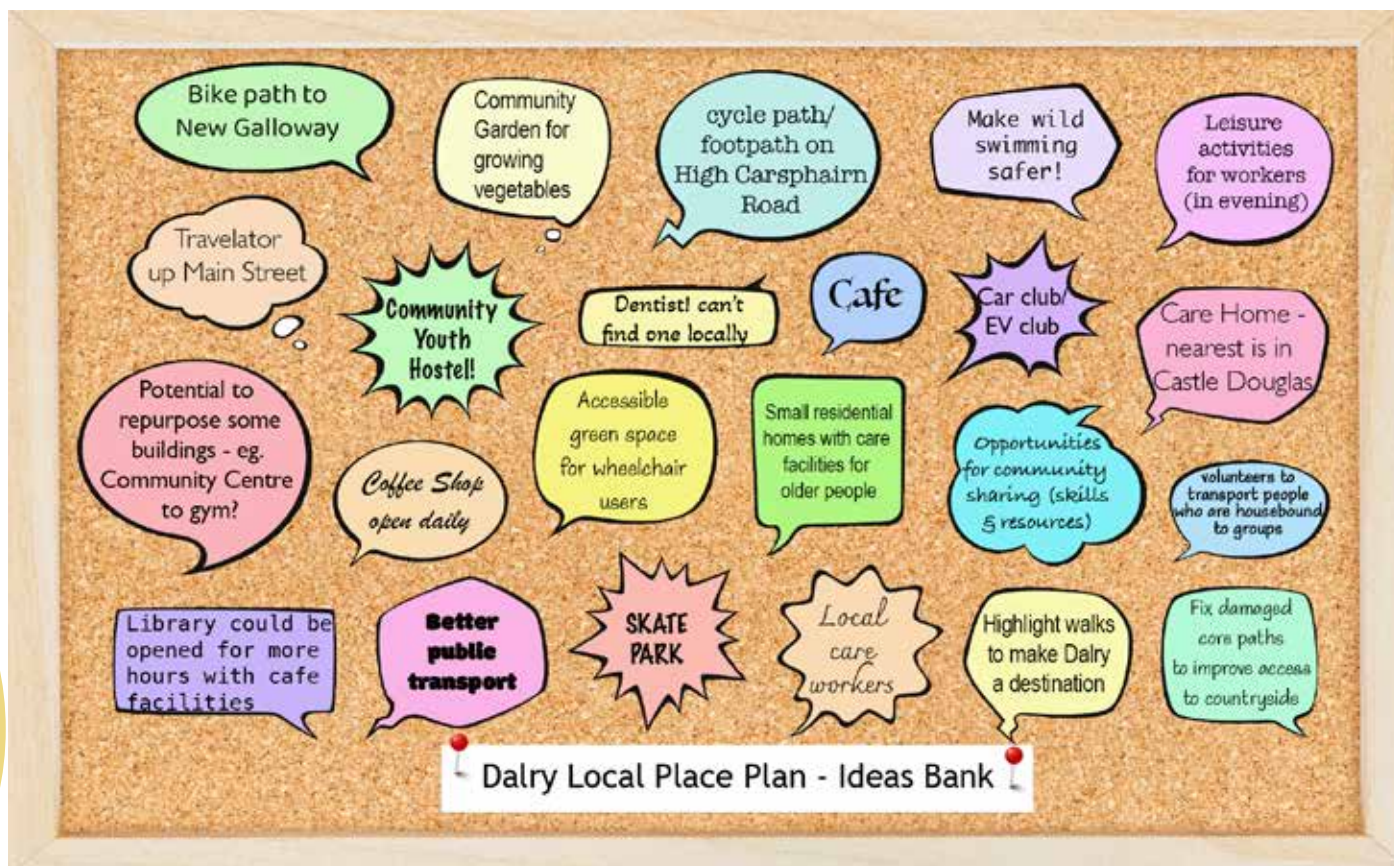
Climate emergency suggestions

- Create resilience hubs and plans
- Ensure new housing is fully insulated
- Installation of microgeneration (eg solar)
- Diversify land use and range of crops grown to adapt to climate change

Just as land use changed in order for the Galloway Hydro Scheme to benefit from water held upstream for energy generation use, land use needs to change in order to reduce the rate at which water travels from the uplands to the sea. Restoring wetlands and creating ponds to hold water upstream to mitigate flooding also benefits agriculture and biodiversity by providing new habitats and reducing the effects of drought. Riparian planting can reduce river temperatures by 2-4°C, whilst also providing benefits in reducing the effects of run-off, providing woody debris which can also slow down flows and increase water storage, and also reduces the amount of rainfall reaching the ground, with up to 12% of rainfall evaporating back into the atmosphere from deciduous trees, even in the winter.

3.3 Opportunities, challenges, what's missing, and what could be improved?

We asked residents to suggest ideas that would make things better for people living in, working in or visiting Dalry, some of which can be seen on the ideas board below:



Challenges:

Roads and active travel:

- Provision of pavements is patchy through the village, few dropped kerbs for wheelchair users
- The B7000 is an important route for pedestrians but currently feels hazardous
- Lack of public transport meaning people feel that there is little alternative to driving
- Roads outside the immediate settlement are felt to be unsafe for cyclists and pedestrians
- Problems with large HGVs and timber lorries on small rural roads

Resources, services, facilities and employment:

- Losing secondary school provision in Dalry threatens the viability of the settlement
- Sustaining the facilities currently available in the village is vital
- Housing provision both affordable and for self-build is limited
- There are difficulties with finding carers

and there is no residential care/nursing home in the Glenkens

- There is no cafe or meeting space for people who don't want to drink alcohol
- Concerns expressed about second home ownership and the importance of bringing empty homes back into use
- There is currently no startup space/enterprise hub to nurture new businesses
- Perceived lack of job and training opportunities, especially for young people
- Lack of a dentist in the Glenkens

Stewardship:

- Lack of council funds for maintenance
- Potholes on roads within the village and the wider area
- A perception that consultation takes place but is not necessarily taken into account

Recreation, land use and access to nature:

- Access to natural space is difficult for wheelchair users and less mobile people
- Recreation facilities for teenagers are limited
- Some gates on Core Paths are locked, and some are inaccessible or obstructed



Opportunities:

Roads and active travel:

- Introduction of a 20mph limit in the village
- Development of safe cycling and walking routes between Glenkens settlements
- Create safe paths with passing places
- More signposted footpaths/routes
- Community car sharing and support for lift sharing to reduce unnecessary car journeys
- Improve signs to stop HGVs using unsuitable routes

Recreation, land use and access to nature:

- Improve core paths so that they remain accessible
- ‘Biodiversity corridors’ alongside roads - self-build plots similar to crofts in principle, with an area of between 1 and 10 acres, with land managed for biodiversity or ecological restoration
- Involve and educate people on local wildlife and biodiversity
- “Everyone who takes value from our land returns value to it”
- Rewilding policy like old smallholding policy
- Water butts around the village to catch rain
- Diversify land use to accommodate a wider range of crops/adaptation to climate change
- Create opportunities for natural flooding, holding back water, slowing down water flow
- Management for biodiverse landscape
- Improve accessibility to some green spaces for wheelchair users
- More influence on natural spaces and what happens with them - need community input
- More wetlands for nature
- Block old forestry land drainage systems when restocking to improve carbon capture and reduce acidity in watercourses currently affecting the Upper Deugh area

Resources, services, facilities and employment:

- Remote working space for home workers could reduce isolation
- Good neighbour scheme to support older residents
- A residential care home in the Glenkens
- Planning permission for self build could bring families into the village
- Opportunities for tourism - making the most of the fantastic landscapes, walking trails, nature and biodiversity, dark skies, local food and arts
- District Heating network potentially using forestry waste to provide affordable home heating

What is missing?

- Bunk House/Bothy
- Indoor Gym
- Enterprise hub
- Café
- Remote working space
- Skate park
- Indoor exercise venue
- Comfortable spaces for teens
- Warm and cosy meeting space
- Care home

What could be improved?

- Traffic control bottom of Main St
- Emergency medical responder
- Play park
- Refurbish MUGA
- Stronger network resilience contacts
- Install microgeneration
- Insulate existing housing stock
- Create resilience hubs
- Reduce reliance on oil heating
- Home Care provision



Land use challenges

- Changing weather patterns
- Threats to biodiversity from extremes of heat/cold/unseasonal temperatures
- Extremes of rainfall meaning that planning for drought and flood are both important, particularly for food production
- Risks of drought leading to raised wild fire risks
- Increasing concentration of ownership of land from outwith community (eg carbon offset woodlands) leading to loss of community control, jobs, damaging to local economy, potentially depopulation
- Need to ensure that planting schemes are done in line with all regulations
- Tree planting close to roads/power infrastructure more risky in light of high winds
- Threats to food production from changing weather patterns
- Potential for storm damage to buildings

Land use opportunities

- Changing the landscape to hold water in wet times in order to collect it for dry times (eg digging ponds on farms to water livestock in future)
- Riparian planting on a larger scale to mitigate risks of fish and other aquatic creatures dying in hotter weather
- Restoring and re-wetting peatlands to store carbon and support biodiversity
- Grassland conservation grazing supports biodiversity - expand habitats like Cleugh
- NatureScot management plans for wider area, more areas designated as SSSI
- Citizen science projects to actively monitor and highlight local biodiversity to enhance and protect habitats
- Community growing projects and permaculture to make better use of land
- Keeping land wetter to reduce risk of wildfires
- Block old forestry drains, pollution highways for acid-rich dissolved carbon lowering pH of watercourses
- Community-led woodland schemes



3.5 Dalry Local Place Plan Community Objectives

Community engagement has demonstrated that Dalry residents wish for the village to remain a viable settlement with facilities for those of all ages, with the trend of an aging population balanced or reversed by ensuring that the settlement is a place that families will wish to move to, and young people will make their homes. We want this to be a plan that thinks not only about the next decade, but for the next seven generations.

The following objectives will support this aim:

- **Retain and improve existing facilities and assets** to ensure Dalry remains viable and flourishing, including:
 - Village shop and Post Office
 - Petrol station and convenience store
 - Other local businesses and tradespeople
 - Pub and hotel
 - School provision from nursery to secondary school
 - Library
 - Town Hall
 - Community Centre
 - Ex-Servicemen's Hut
 - Kirk and Session House
 - Refurbish and reopen MUGA
 - Spalding Bowling Club
 - GP surgery and Pharmacy (New Galloway)
 - CatStrand (New Galloway)
- Improve pedestrian and cycling safety within and around the village, including for the less able and wheelchair users, and improve active travel links between Glenkens settlements
- Set up a community cafe which is open regularly
- Introduce remote working space and business start-up units to support local employment and entrepreneurs
- Build on Dalry's tourism offer to support local businesses
- Bring empty homes into use and support families to move to the area potentially by offering self-build plots
- Improve poorly insulated and heated homes to save energy and improve quality of life
- Improve availability of home care and volunteer services to support older people to stay in their homes if their needs increase
- Ensure that land use change enhances biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation

- Replace extractive land use with land use whereby all who take value from the land also add value to it
- Public access for walkers and cyclists is supported facilitated by forestry and wind developments
- Locally cherished landscapes are respected and enhanced for biodiversity
- Land suitable for absorbing rainwater to reduce flooding and mitigate drought risk is managed to support this

Guidance and regulation regarding biodiversity, woodland creation, riparian planting, peatland management, forestry and agriculture is frequently updated. We expect all land use changes and management to exceed minimum standards and comply with current best practice.



Consultation

Moving forward with the Place Plan actions will require collective participation from all residents and professionals in the Dalry area.

Collaboration is key, involving not just the Community Council, but also various local groups, regional organisations, community volunteers, farmers, land managers, businesses, and stakeholders such as wind farms and forest owners operating within the area. This inclusive approach ensures a comprehensive and diverse input towards achieving our shared goals.



4.1 Dalry Local Place Plan Underlying Principles

If positive change in and around Dalry and the wider Glenkens is to be achieved effectively (i.e. in a timely manner and well-supported) then all parties need to work together in a constructive manner and respect each other's priorities. We as a community look forward to working constructively with the public and private organisations whose work impacts on our home and on our Community Action Plan goal that The Glenkens will be a connected, resilient and carbon neutral place, where people will want to live, work and visit, to bring up their families, and to grow old. These principles are closely aligned with NPF4 policies and those in the LOIP.

We need a tailored approach to change that ensures that all changes enhance environmental integrity and cultivate inclusive and resilient communities specific to Dalry's needs.

In pursuit of those effective discussions, we set out our expectations as follows:

Nothing about us without us.

- All proposals to remove or materially change key community infrastructure as identified in this Local Place Plan will undergo thorough consideration with respect to community impacts which are direct, indirect and/or cumulative.
 - This includes the regional charitable support services that support individuals within Dalry, such as the Better Lives Partnership, The Usual Place, DGVoice, DGLGBTQ+ and many others. We need them to be able to continue to offer the technical support that we can't on a village-wide scale.
- Credible, resourced and timely action plans will be put in place to mitigate any negative community impact identified.
- Both the impact assessment and the mitigation plans will be done in full consultation with the community.
- The views of the community will be taken fully into account as a respected and strategic partner in any such proposals. The latest best practise engagement guidelines from relevant bodies should be followed as a minimum but we encourage decision makers to exceed them.

Community Wealth Building

- All proposed developments will be reviewed against this Local Place Plan and the Glenkens & district Community Action Plan. Opportunities for community wealth building aligned with those Plans will be woven into the development plans.
 - We look forward to working constructively with developers to find

imaginative ways in which proposed developments can add real value to our community.

- The views of the community will be taken fully into account as a respected and strategic partner in any such developments.

Everyone who takes values from our land returns value to it.

- Any approach to tree planting, development, extraction, national infrastructure and land use change will undergo rigorous assessment, considering the cumulative impacts on local biodiversity, species diversity, landscape resilience, amenity and long-term timber transport implications.
- Any such initiatives will yield equal or more significant long-term, year-round employment opportunities than previous land uses, aligning with our commitment to a Just Transition towards a green economy.
- Developers work closely with Dalry and the wider Glenkens to create widely shared economic benefits through local enterprises associated with the developments.
- Inclusivity is paramount; therefore, all land use change proposals will undergo community impact and benefit assessments, embracing a community wealth-building and well-being approach.
- Our community will have the opportunity to actively participate in designing such projects, granting them a degree of agency in decision-making processes.

Climate Crisis

- All new building developments in Dalry parish will be future-ready and energy efficient; incorporating the very latest best practice in low carbon building processes, renewable technologies, insulation, biodiversity net gain and supporting a circular local economy.
- All proposed developments will have undergone robust environmental impact assessments, followed up to date planning procedures, and aligned with the CAP and the LPP.
- All developments will actively improve our community's ability to adapt to and mitigate the local impacts of climate change through natural landscape solutions.
- Specifically, all developments will be planned and delivered in a way that protects our community's ability to adapt to, mitigate and be resilient to the effects of changing weather patterns, changing precipitation, flood risk, water quality and availability, soil and peat degradation and other long term climatic considerations including parasites and diseases.

Environmental assurance / Biodiversity crisis

- Our regional strategies such as the Woodland Strategy prioritise biodiversity alongside productivity, promoting diverse age and stand structures.
- Given the ecological significance of our peatlands, we expressly discourage tree planting on peatland and any activities that may disrupt its hydrology. We also discourage restocking on deep peat where peatland restoration is viable.
- We advocate for the minimal use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers, prioritising alternative methods wherever possible.
- We encourage Riparian planting along waterways, complemented by extensive buffer zones along non-riparian planted areas and infrastructure, to safeguard water quality and biodiversity.
- All developments will be sensitive to our natural surroundings in Dalry, by clearly demonstrating embedded plans for biodiversity net gain which supports climate impact resilience across our surrounding

landscapes and retains the integrity of our ecosystems.

- We encourage all landowners and managers to pay heed to the **Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement** and **associated protocols**.
- Invasive non-native species (INNS) and climate change are two of the biggest threats to biodiversity in Scotland. Land use should ensure best practice in minimising the risk of INNS contamination of surrounding habitats, for example the spread of Sitka Spruce seedlings from forestry plantations to surrounding non-forested habitats.



Structure of the Action Plan

Actions proposed have been divided into three thematic areas, listed below:

- **Roads and active travel**
- **Resources, services, facilities and employment**
- **Recreation, land use and access to nature**

Where a group or organisation has been identified to lead on a project, this information has been included. Some projects have been included but do not have an identified lead organisation, and for these it is hoped that an appropriate lead organisation will be identified during the decade-long plan period. Projects are colour-coded to indicate expected timescale for completion.

4.2.1 Roads and Active Travel Action Plan

Project	Lead organisation(s)	Next Steps
20mph limit adopted within area that is currently 30mph	Dalry CC	Liaise with D&G council
Pavement improvements within settlement	Dalry CC to map issues with wheelchair user	Liaise with D&G council to investigate route for improvements to paving
HGV signage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warning sign at bottom of Main Street where HGVs use wrong side of road Warning signs to stop HGVs using unsuitable roads (eg Throughgate) 	Dalry CC	Liaise with South of Scotland Timber Transport Officer (James England) for funding and implementation advice
Use of existing access roads to forestry and wind developments for recreation; short sections of new pathway created to link up existing paths and create network of walking and cycling routes	Dalry CC with Forestry companies	Create a detailed plan of current routes and access issues, including potential locations for car parking
Car sharing club/support for lift sharing	Set up community group?	
Traffic calming measures to stop vehicles driving through so quickly	Dalry CC	Liaise with D&G council
Parking restrictions in areas with issues	Dalry CC	Liaise with D&G council
B7000 improvements for pedestrians and cyclists (see map inset below)	Dalry CC with landowners	Investigate potential improvements to cycling and pedestrian safety on B7000, liaise with landowners, source funds
Cycling connectivity between Glenkens settlements and to Moniaive	CAP Steering Group Active Travel sub-group	Work with the Active Travel Sub-group to input into a Glenkens-wide active travel plan

Short-term	Medium-term	Long-term



4.2.2 Action Plan: Resources, Services, Facilities and Employment:

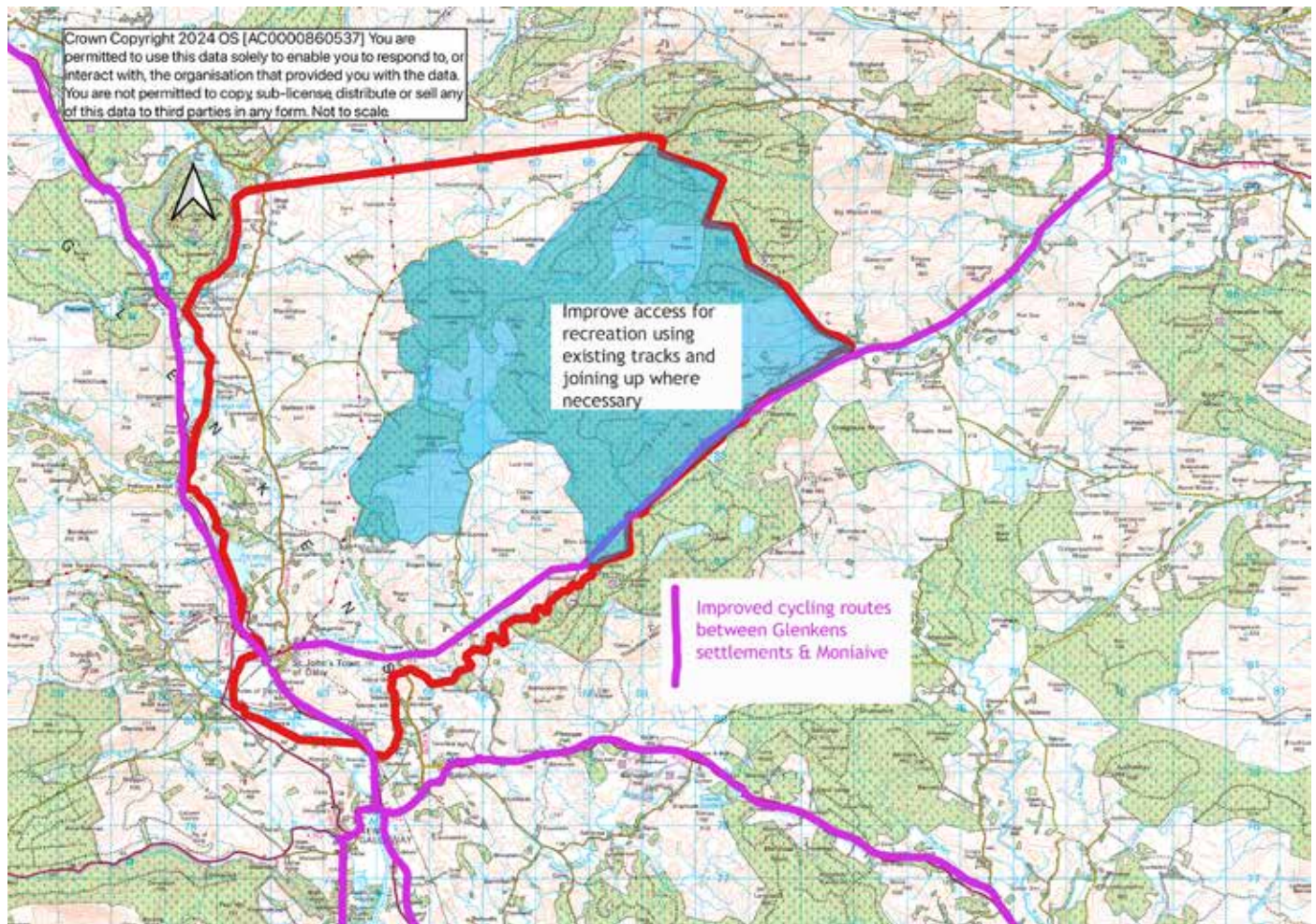
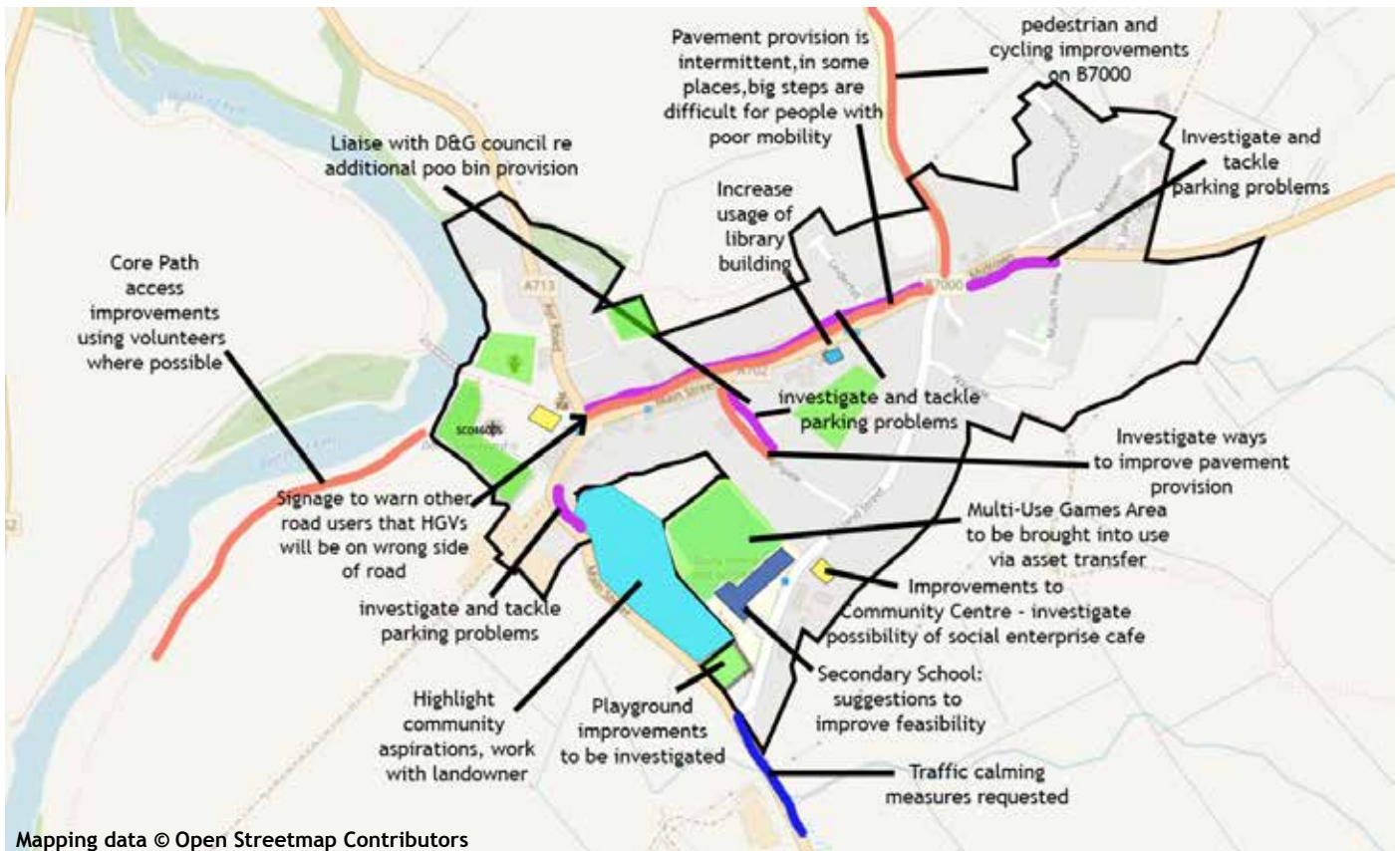
Project	Lead organisation	next steps
Better access to exercise facilities:		
1. Reopen MUGA	DCPT	Asset transfer from D&G council and funds raised to refurbish
2. Potential for indoor gym	DCPT/Community	Investigate feasibility and location
3. Swimming Pool		Investigate feasibility
Sustaining educational provision within Dalry from Nursery - S4	Dalry Parent Council	Continue to campaign for sustained education provision from nursery to secondary
Community centre energy efficiency refurb and training	DCPT	Bring building up to current standards, net-zero skills training opportunities
Work with local employers to create vocational routes	CAP SG Education Subcommittee	Support current research and work taking place
Better home care provision: support for individuals wishing to train in social care	CAP SG	Carry out a feasibility study into training support for self-employed personal assistants/carers
Identify potential for creation of Cafe run as a social enterprise	Dalry CC/DCPT	Investigate feasibility and suitable location for regular community cafe (GCC?)
Social/Affordable Rented Housing	Pamela Young Trust	Suitable homes purchased and brought up to current standard for affordable rental
Self-build plots	Dalry CC?	Identify possible sites
Business Hub/remote working space	DCPT/Dalry CC/ CAP SG	Investigate level of support and identify possible location
Good Neighbour Scheme	Dalry CC	Appoint volunteer coordinator. Seek funding for DBS checks. Recruit volunteers
Connect with the Natural Capital Innovation Zone		
Improve tourism offer making the most of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biosphere Community status Fantastic landscapes Walking trails Nature and biodiversity Dark skies Arts Local food 	Dalry CC, CAP SG, GSABiosphere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better use of Glenkens Hub website for tourism Highlight Biosphere businesses Create new walking / cycling routes Improve range of facilities for accommodation and refreshments for walkers on Southern Upland Way (eg, bunkhouse or similar)
Residential Care Home	CAP SG	Investigate feasibility
Dental Practice in Glenkens	CAP SG	Investigate feasibility alongside other Glenkens communities
Sheltered housing		
Bring empty homes back into use - eg. at Glenlee		
Short-term	Medium-term	Long-term

4.2.3 Action Plan: Recreation, Land Use and Access to Nature

Project	Lead organisation	next steps
Improve core paths so that they become more accessible/remove obstructions	Community	Liaise with landowners and D&G council
Collect more information about cherished landscapes, natural history of Dalry	Community	Set up website to record information
Improve play park to include equipment suitable for teenagers	Dalry CC/DCPT	Liaise with D&G Council, identify potential funders
Improve accessibility to some green spaces for wheelchair users	Dalry CC / Community group to liaise with landowners	Seek funds for accessible pathways and parking
Identify sites suitable for riparian planting, link with Riverwoods Initiative	Dalry CC, Dalry Community, Galloway Fisheries Trust	Identify suitable sites and grant funding with landowner permission
Develop framework for community input into wider land use in Dalry CC area - eg. Land Use Network and map	Land Use SG	Implement as outlined in March 2024 report 'Feasibility Study into the creation of a Land Use Forum in the Glenkens
'biodiversity plots'	Dalry CC/D&G council	Identify potential addition to LDP3 which allows for self-build with plots managed for biodiversity, similar to the crofting model
Diversify land use to accommodate a wider range of crops/adaptation to climate change		
Create opportunities for natural flooding, holding back water, slowing down water flow		
Land management for biodiversity		
Identify suitable plots for community-led woodland planting		
More wetlands for nature		
Biodiversity and Cherished Landscapes: support community members to monitor and record biodiversity/wildlife sightings		
Biodiversity net gain in all new developments		
Control of invasive non-native species to stop encroachment of native habitats vital for nature recovery		

Short-term		Medium-term		Long-term	
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4.2.3 Action Plan: Map



5.1 Appendix 1: other relevant reports and studies

Housing Needs Survey (2021)

This survey was carried out by South of Scotland Community Housing, commissioned by GDT. 43 responses were from Dalry residents, representing 9% of the population of the CC area. Key findings for Dalry included:

- Of those who expressed that their current home did not meet their needs, the most likely reasons were that the home was too small or too expensive
- At the point of the survey, there were 155 applicants on the Homes4D&G waiting list for one of 39 properties, but only 8 new tenancies in the previous 12 months
- Respondents were keen to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, with triple glazing and high levels of insulation being equal in terms of responses
- Almost two thirds of respondents currently work from home and require home workspace, with just under 60% of respondents feeling that offering workspace within/alongside or in proximity to affordable housing would be beneficial to the community
- Comments highlighted issues with changing demographics, with fewer families and more retired people, and the challenge of local needs being accommodated for market homes when often people from outside the area were more economically advantaged

Full report: [Glenkens Housing Needs Report](#)

Glenkens Community Centre Survey (2023)

This was carried out by the Glenkens Community Centre Management Committee as part of an ongoing process to develop a strategy for the management and refurbishment of the building, a former school which was taken into community ownership by the Dalry Community Properties Trust (DCPT) via asset transfer in 2017. 67 respondents completed the survey, with the importance of the venue for groups such as the Good Neighbours club highlighted, as well as aspirations to improve the kitchen, use of the space as a community café, and installation of high speed internet/wifi being the most important to users.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Consultation (2022-2023)

This study was carried out by Creetown Initiatives on behalf of Dalry Community Council, with a questionnaire delivered to every house in the Dalry CC area, a drop-in session and focus meetings, as well as questionnaires distributed to all pupils at Dalry Primary School. 44 surveys were returned within the Dalry CC area (a 40% response rate), and 33 children also completed and returned their questionnaires (a 63% response rate). Actions identified in the report will be incorporated into the LPP, with the creation of a Community Café being the most popular idea, followed by the creation of a Gym, a Community Garden, the refurbishment of the MUGA, and the installation of a Buddy Bench.

Resilience Plan (2023-2024)

Climate change means that extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and these can lead to issues such as flooding, wind damage, fires and power outages. Dalry CC has been working with the Loch Ken Trust on a project funded by the National Centre for Resilience in Dumfries to develop a resilience plan for the village, collating the details of volunteers and developing a list of useful resources and volunteer skills that can be called upon in case of an emergency, with a workshop and a drop-in evening held in order to pull together the relevant information and give residents an update on plans, and on how they can get involved and volunteer their time, skills, space or resources. Dalry CC now also has an agreement to share resources with Balmaclellan and New Galloway CCs in situations where resilience work is needed.

Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) survey (2024)

This survey was carried out by the DCPT as part of public engagement to gauge the level of support for taking the MUGA into community ownership via asset transfer. It was available as a paper or online form, with copies left in local shops and community spaces, posters with QR code to the online survey displayed in public places, and shared on social media and on the Glenkens Hub website. Over 80% of respondents supported bringing the MUGA back into use, most of whom were Dalry or Glenkens residents, with those from outside the area either studying or working in Dalry.

Secondary School Survey (2023)

This survey received 130 responses, of which 104 were from respondents who live in Dalry Secondary School catchment area, 60 indicated that they had pre-school or school age children, and 12 secondary age pupils also responded. Respondents were strongly in favour of a single school through from Nursery to S4 under one Head Teacher, rather than separate Nursery-P7 and S1-S4 schools.

See the full results here: [Secondary School Survey](#)

Childcare Feasibility Study (2021)

This feasibility study was carried out by SKS Scotland on behalf of the GDT, with the aim of investigating the most effective way to improve provision of childcare in the Glenkens, in light of the fact that lack of childcare provision in such a dispersed rural area can severely limit parents' ability to work, whilst recognising that in small communities like those of the Glenkens, populations of children in need of childcare are likely to fluctuate from year to year, making it much more difficult to plan for a sustainable service.

Read the full study here: [Childcare Feasibility Study](#)

5.2 Appendix 2: Peatland restoration carbon saving calculations

As outlined in the IUCN Peatland Code version 2.0, peat bogs are in varying conditions ranging from actively eroding, drained through to rewetted modified bogs. The amount of carbon emission reductions is based on restoration work being carried out calculated using a 'pre-restoration' condition and a 'post-restoration' condition.

Identifying the condition of peatland from a desktop exercise is very difficult, and for accurate results it requires visiting the site to identify the depth and condition, but an approximation can be gained by using existing datasets. For the calculations below, it is assumed the total area of peat is in under the condition of 'Drained: Hagg/Gully' and that the bog will be restored to a 'Rewetted Modified Bog' condition. With these pre and post conditions, over a 100 year project duration, the Peatland Code calculates there to be a carbon emission reduction of 197.1 tonnes CO₂e/ha. Using this figure, and multiplying it by the hectareage gives the following results:

NatureScot and Space Intelligence Habitat 2022: this layer classifies habitats from satellite imagery, taken at a 20 metre resolution. The data is classified into Eunis Habitat Classification:

- 148.79 ha of 'Raised and Blanket Bogs'
- 148.79ha x 270 tCO₂e/ha = 29,327 tCO₂e (over 100 years)

NatureScot Carbon and Peatland 2016 Map: this layer shows the distribution of carbon and peatland classes across Scotland. Class 1 and 2 tend to be areas that are likely to contain peat:

- 423.3ha Class 1 and 185.9ha Class 2 = 609.2ha total
- 609.2ha x 270 tCO₂e/ha = 120,073 tCO₂e (over 100 years)

Based on these two datasets and the assumed condition of the peatland, we can estimate there could be a CO₂e emission reduction between 29,327 and 120,073 tonnes CO₂e if the peatland bogs were to be restored from 'Drained: Hagg/Gully' to 'Rewetted Modified Bogs' over a 100 year period.





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Dalry LPP Steering group: Jenna Cains (DCC), Morag Paterson (DCC), Helen Keron (GCAT).

