

Settlement Summary: Alford

Population: 2082

Observations (of Community Council)

Donside Community Council broadly agreed with the auditors findings, in particular the problems identified at the Alford Playing Fields site.

Further comments were received in relation to core paths within Alford (see green network section)

Green Network Links

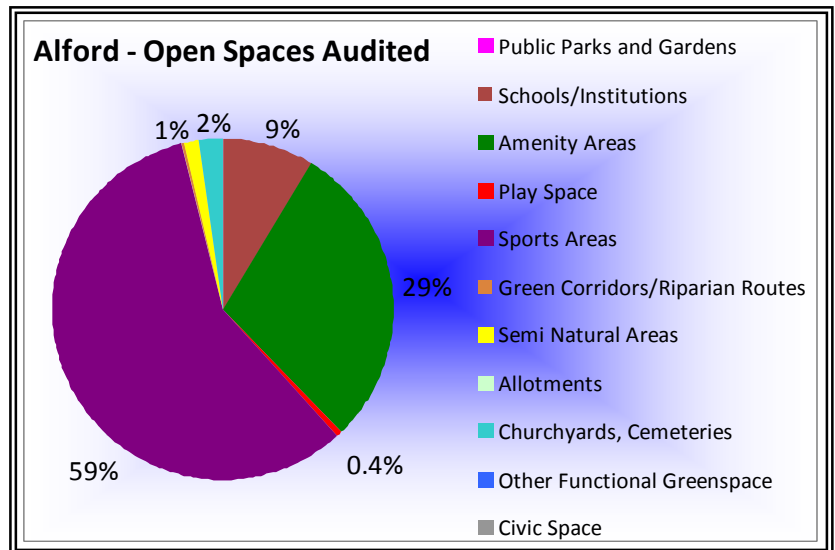
Although there are several areas of isolated greenspace within Alford, this is reflective of the age of the town. The burn which runs through the village provides a good blue green corridor enabling the passage of wildlife and biodiversity through the village. Being of a rural nature, the village enjoys good links with the surrounding countryside and any new development should protect, enhance and maintain existing green linkages. The Community Council provided the following feedback with regard to core paths/green networks within the village and at Haughton Country Park:

- A request for a core path from a) Montgarrie to Alford and b) Bridge of Alford to Alford.
- A request for a path from Kingsford Lodge to Alford School, reporting that this is a very dangerous passage for school pupils. Upon completion of the new school/community facilities this path would need to be extended to the new site.
- The core path within Haughton Country Park needs a hardcore surface as it gets very muddy, especially in winter

Open Space Requirements

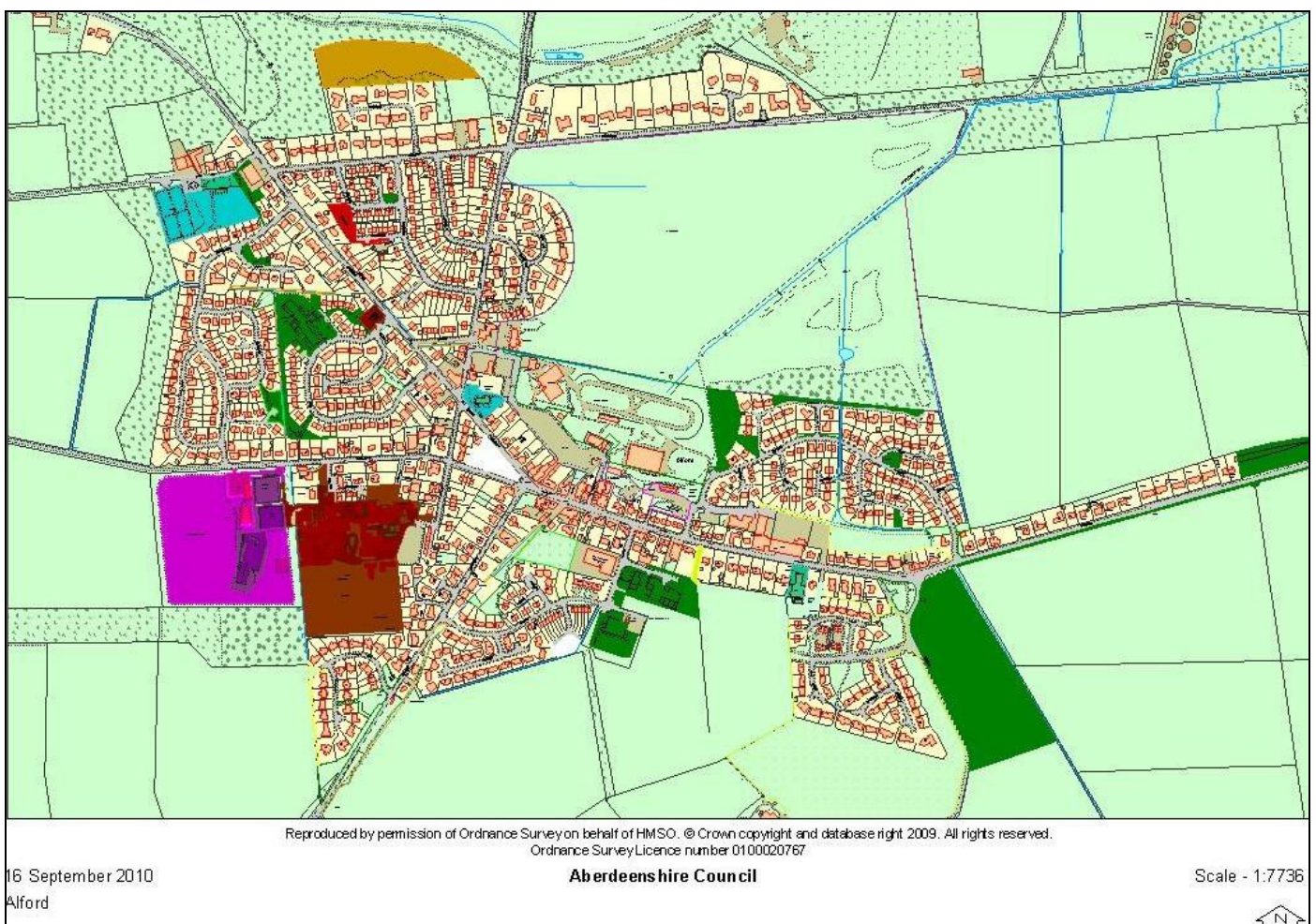
The auditors recorded a number of areas for improvement within Alford:

- Burnbank Road amenity area would benefit from the installation of a range of play equipment.
- More benches could be installed at Alford memorial garden; a further suggestion at this site was the possibility for the area at the far side to be converted into a garden of tranquillity; however this would be subject to further community consultation should resources become available.
- The play facilities at Grampian Road would benefit from being upgraded to include more facilities for older children. This area was also reported to suffer from litter problems, however it is unlikely that Aberdeenshire Council could increase resources to tackle this issue, and the formation of a community litter pick may be an appropriate method to deal with it.



- There are privately owned goal posts on Allen Drive amenity area indicating a possible requirement for a sports pitch within the locality. This may be a consideration should applications be received for new development in the area.
- The tennis court requires some additional maintenance.

In addition to the above points, the main concerns raised by auditors were at the playing fields beside the school. There was evidence of anti-social behaviour (e.g. litter, graffiti and the play equipment had been vandalised). At the time of the audit the area surrounding the dry ski slope was littered with spare parts and debris from the ski slope. If this is an ongoing issue the area should be cleared; however, this would be the responsibility of the ski slope operators. The playing fields themselves appear to suffer from poor drainage, resulting in the lower area becoming waterlogged following rainfall. Any improvements to the area should be carried out with consideration to the additional facilities which will be provided as part of the new school and community facilities west of the existing site.



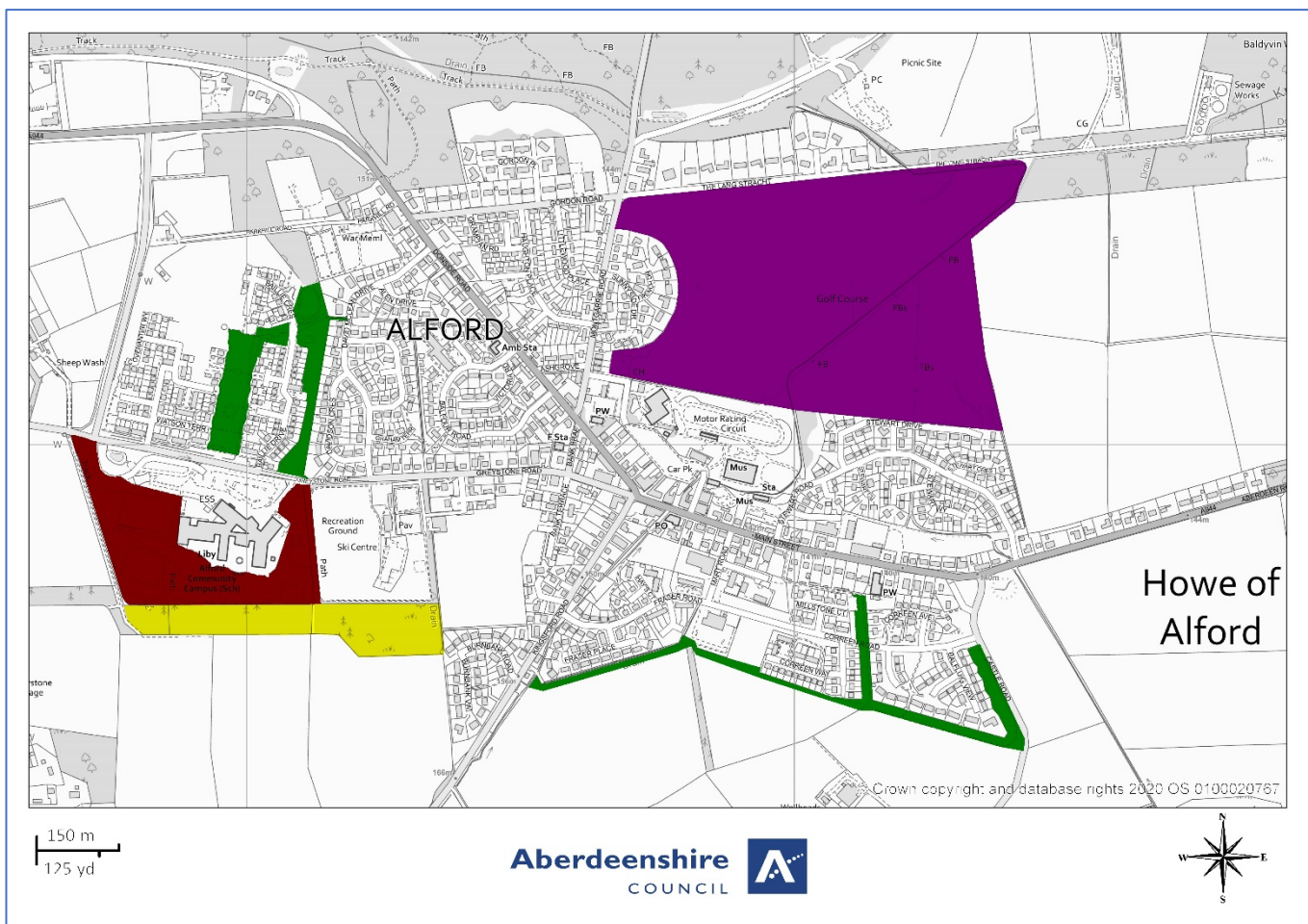
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|---|---|---|
| ■ Public Parks and Gardens | ■ Schools/Institutions | ■ Amenity Areas |
| ■ Play Space | ■ Sports Areas | ■ Green Corridors/Riparian Routes |
| ■ Semi Natural Areas | ■ Allotments | ■ Churchyards, Cemeteries |
| ■ Other Functional Greenspace | | |

Open Space Audit Update 2019: Alford

An update exercise was carried out in 2019 to account for new open spaces arising from major developments completed since the Open Space Audit 2010, and to address any known disparities/gaps in information. The scope of the update exercise did not include a review of the Open Space Audit 2010. The Audit update 2019 has been used to assist in the preparation of the Proposed Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2020.

This is an interim Audit. Whilst this information will feed into a future comprehensive Open Space Audit, at this stage there may be some auditing inconsistencies across settlements due to factors such as community interest, and landscape/topography influencing how open spaces are identified, particularly at and around the edges of settlement.

Allotments are excluded as these are audited separately as part of the Food Growing Strategy 2019-2030.



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