

Settlement Summary: Blackburn

Population: 2142

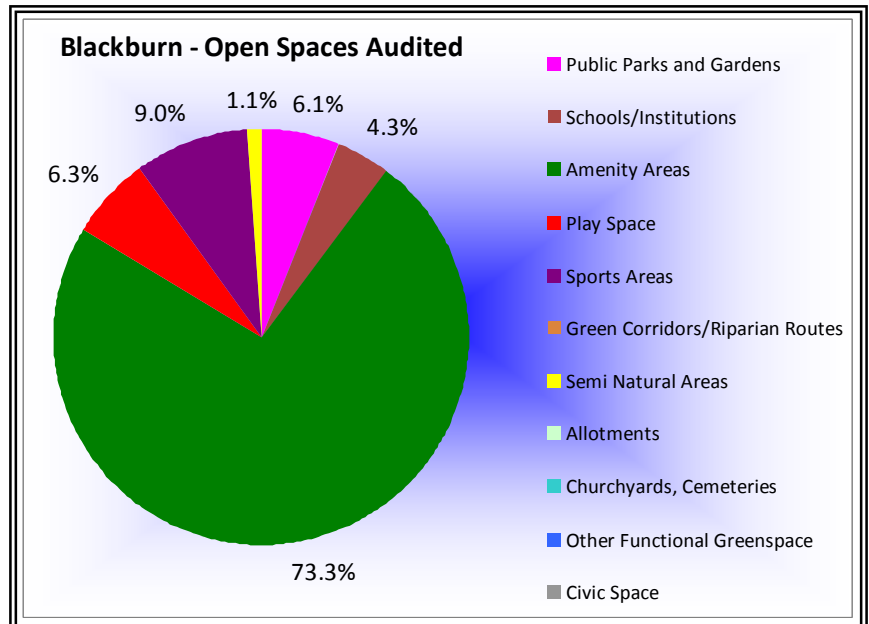
Observations (of Community Council)

None received.

Green Network Links

Habitat links are best at the south end of Blackburn, although many larger spaces are in any case located at the edge of the settlement. It is important that any new open space has links to the surrounding countryside.

The Averon path network received a high score in terms of usage levels and attractiveness and provides an excellent amenity area for the local community. Blackburn is the interface between a proposed Core Path between Aberdeen City Kirkhill Forest area, and links westward to Kinnellar Hall Wood, and beyond to Kintore, Port Elphinstone and Inverurie



Open Space Requirements

A wide range of open space is available in Blackburn, but with this, opportunities can be identified for improvement to equipment and grounds, or else a reappraisal of the function of a site.

Blackburn Park is well used, but with significant evidence of anti-social behaviour, including litter, and debris in the stream. Adjustments are suggested to make the zip slide more usable.

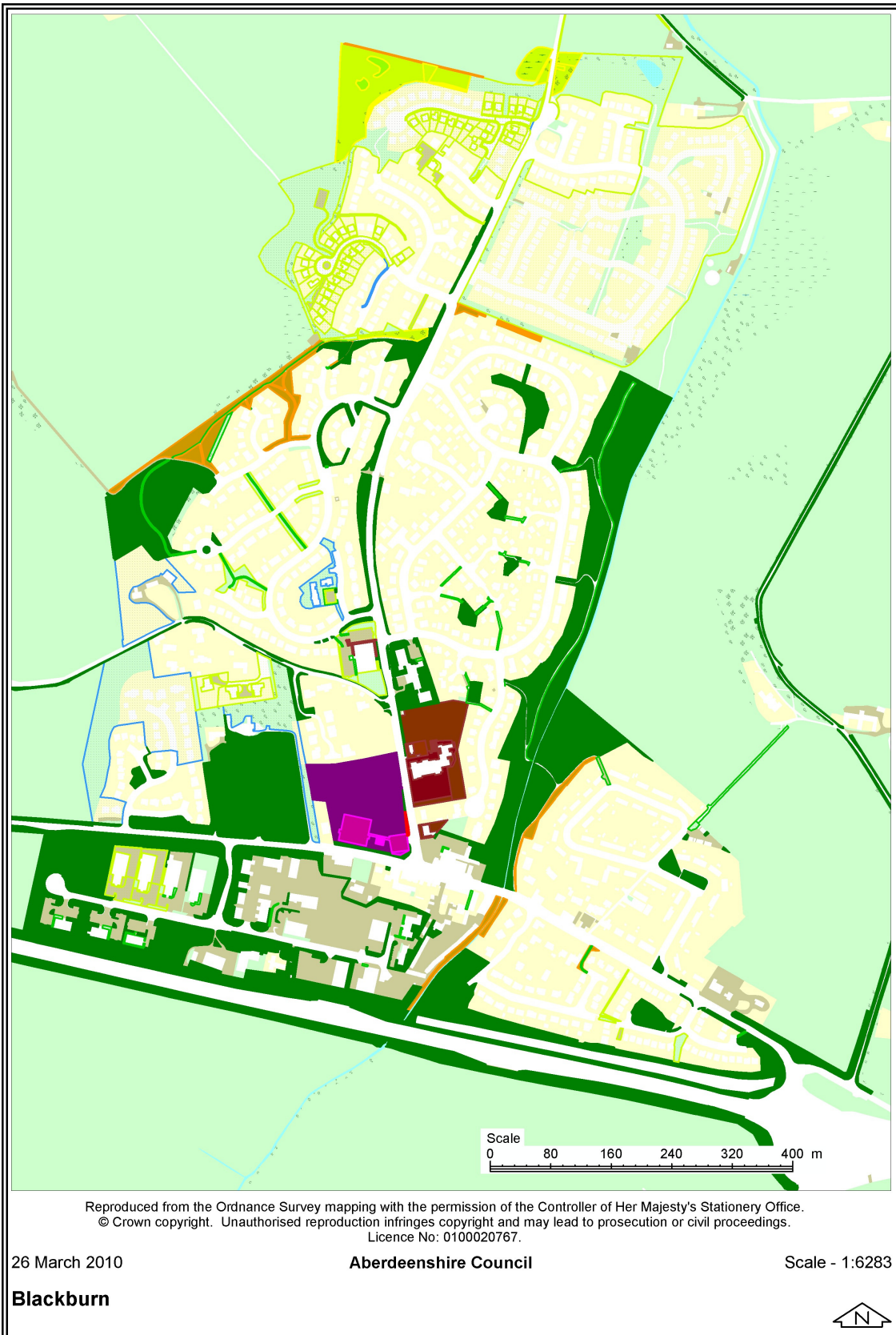
One way of addressing ongoing problems with litter, in this park and elsewhere, is to organise community litter picks on a regular basis. Without this kind of initiative, there is no realistic prospect of greater availability of Council staff to clear litter, and the situation will deteriorate. On a wider basis, liaison with the Anti-Social Behaviour Tasking and Coordinating Group and the Youth Strategy Development officer regarding the littering may be appropriate.

In terms of additional equipment, there is scope for increasing the access to some sites, such as Keith Gardens amenity area, with the installation of seating; further consultation with the local community is recommended to clarify the best option in this respect.

Improvements and additions to the play frame at Gean Park may be desirable, but the site does not fall within the Council's ownership and responsibility and would require community input.

Although Blackburn appears to have a significant proportion of amenity space, much of this is industrial or transport amenity land (adjacent to the A90), and as such does not serve a particular community function. Elsewhere, much of the amenity space is formally planted, with paths for

(dog) walking. Overall, the principle requirement in Blackburn is for bringing about improvements to existing parks and open spaces through community action, and some fundraising or grant applications for new activities if appropriate.



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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 | | |

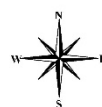
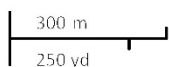
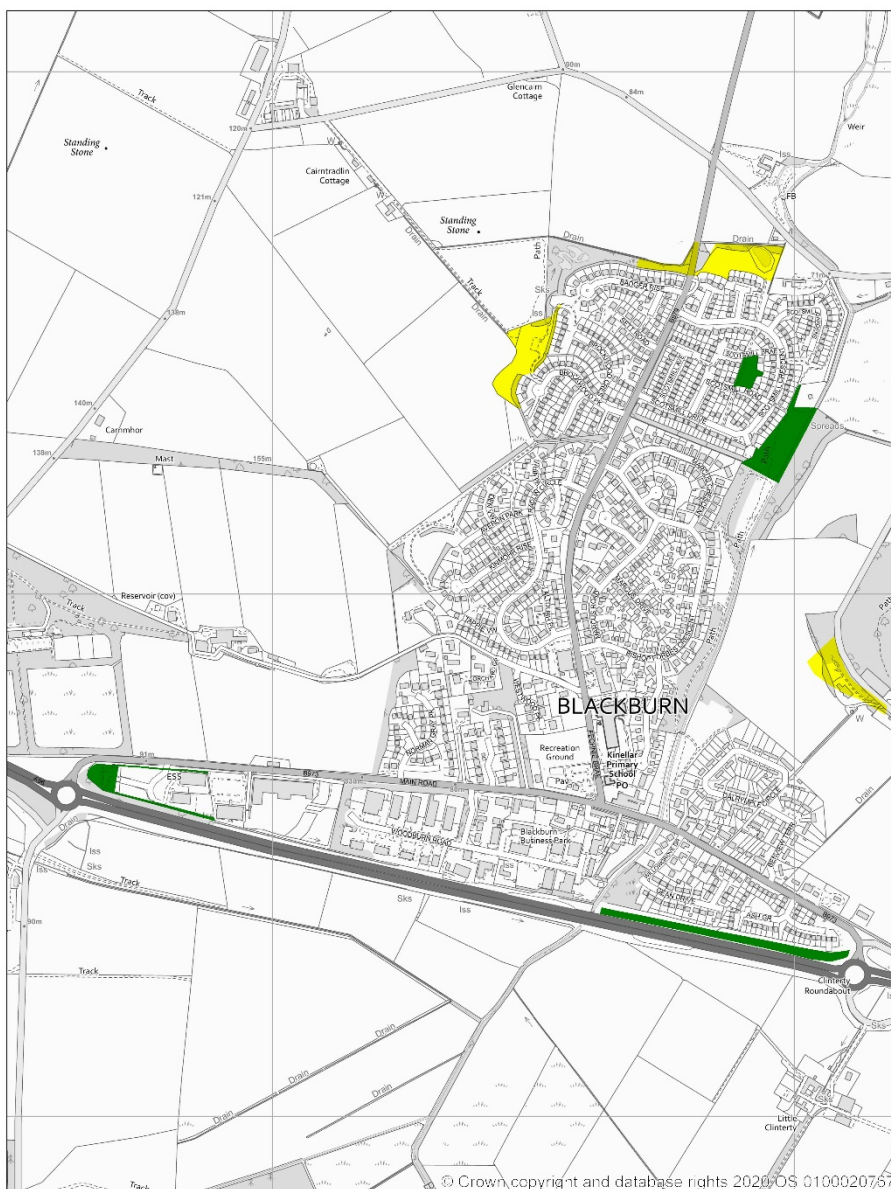
Open Space Audit Update 2019: Blackburn

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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