



***ORKNEY OPEN SPACE STRATEGY:
VISION AND ACTION PLAN***

Planning in Orkney

The Orkney Local Development Plan (the Plan), together with Supplementary Guidance sets out the policies and criteria against which planning applications submitted in Orkney will be considered. All of the policies in the Plan are afforded equal weight in the determination of planning applications. It is therefore important to ensure that your proposal accords with all relevant policies.

This guidance sets out detailed advice to help you meet the requirements of the Plan. It is therefore recommended that the document is read in conjunction with the policies contained within the Plan and any Supplementary Guidance relevant to the type of development proposed.

The Council's Development Management Officers deal with planning applications and they would welcome the opportunity to discuss development proposals before any application is submitted.

Copies of this document

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Telephone: 01856 873535

Email: planning@orkney.gov.uk

Website: www.orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/D/Development-Management.htm

A glossary of planning terms used within the Council's planning policy documents and supplementary guidance can be found online at: <http://www.orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/G/Glossary-of-Planning-Terms.htm>

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 The *Orkney Open Space Strategy: Vision and Action Plan (OOSS: Vision and Action Plan)* expands upon the findings of the *Orkney Open Space Audit* and develops a realistic vision towards safeguarding existing open space as well as outlining future improvements. The *OOSS: Vision and Action Plan* acknowledges the wider implications of open space and the many disciplines entailed, as reflected by the diversity of the tasks in the action plan and the membership of the working group. The vision and action plan will help the Council realise its objectives by ensuring people in Orkney have access to high quality open space and therefore help improve quality of life, health and visual appeal.
- 1.1.2 The definition of open space as set out in *Planning Advice Note 65: Planning and Open Space (PAN 65)* forms the basis for the definition of open space in this strategy:

Definition of open space:

The term 'open space' covers greenspace consisting of any vegetated land or structure, water or geological feature within a settlement and civic space consisting of squares, market places and other paved or hard landscaped area with a civic function.

- 1.1.3 Spaces that are in the audit are included on the basis that they are publicly accessible and free of charge to do so, with allotments the only exception to this due to their growing popularity and the environmental benefits they promote. School grounds are also included even if they are not within their associated settlement boundary due to their importance as focal points within their respective communities.
- 1.1.4 The *OOSS: Vision and Action Plan* sets out a vision for each of the five largest settlements of Kirkwall, Stromness, Dounby, St Margaret's Hope and Finstown in response to accessibility, space type, quality and quantity findings from the audit. This document provides guidance for offsite developer contributions in response to Policy D6 requirements as detailed within *Orkney Open Space Strategy: Planning for Open Space Supplementary Guidance (OOSS: Planning for Open Space SG)*. The vision objectives may also be addressed through initiatives outwith the planning process aided by external funding or through community led projects.
- 1.1.5 The *OOSS: Vision and Action Plan* also takes account of open space resources which did not meet the public accessibility criteria set out in the audit such as outdoor sports centre facilities, which are acknowledged in the related settlement vision. Applicable vision aspects for other villages, rural and island settlements are set out separately. In order to establish a feasible vision, the *OOSS: Vision and Action Plan* also sets out the means in which these will be delivered complimented by how these are to be monitored and implemented. More detailed objectives and aims are set out in the action plan with timescales and key partners given.

1.2 Audit summary

1.2.1 From the *Orkney Open Space Audit* a number of points were raised:

- The settlements of Kirkwall, Stromness, Dounby, St Margaret's Hope and Finstown totalled an area of 94.12 hectares of open space which provides an indicative 6.61 hectares per 1000 population which equates to 66.15m² per person across the five settlements.
- When broken down to settlement level, Stromness has the most open space provision of 131.73m² per person followed by Kirkwall 62.23m² per person, Dounby 48.09m² per person, Finstown 47.72m² per person and St Margaret's Hope with 24.93m² per person.
- Of the *PAN 65* typologies **6.10 other open space** has the highest average quality score followed by **6.1 public parks and gardens** and **6.9 civic space**. **6.3 amenity greenspace** was the lowest.
- The extent of **6.7 natural/semi-natural greenspace** by having the greatest total area coverage as well as being one of the poorest scoring space types on average.
- At a secondary code level **6.51 playing field** has the greatest area achieving an average quality score of 59.8% so falls short of the 75% 'good' standard in the scoring criteria.
- **6.81 allotments**, **6.101 other open space private**, **6.10 other open space** and **6.82 churchyard** are the only space types to have exceeded 75% average quality score but have no more than two examples each to contribute to this.
- In contrast **6.21 private gardens**, **6.31 residential**, **6.73 open space** and **6.84 other functional greenspace** are the only types to score on average less than 55% reinforcing room for improvement for natural/semi-natural greenspace.
- As a whole 13% of all audited open spaces achieved an overall score of 75% or more, the equivalent of achieving a 'good' score of '3' on average throughout the individual score criteria. This contrasts with 22% of all audited open spaces scoring 25-49% overall, the equivalent of scoring less than '2' on average and therefore less than the 'fair' standard. This is reflected in the table below. Further details of the individual score criteria and how open spaces performed can be found in the *Orkney Open Space Audit* and *Audit Survey Data*.

	Overall score achieved			
	0-24%	25-49%	50-74%	75-100%
No. of audited open spaces to achieve this	0	26	77	16
Percentage of total audited open spaces	0	22	65	13

Figure 1- Table conveying how audited open spaces have performed in terms of overall score achieved.

The full details of open space provision within Orkney can be found within the *Orkney Open Space Audit*. Findings specific to each of the five settlements from the audit have informed the development of the respective settlement vision as detailed in section 2.

1.3 Policy context

- 1.3.1 Scottish Planning Policy states that ‘authorities should prepare an open space strategy which sets out the vision for new and improved open space and addresses any deficiencies identified’. Open space strategies provide an effective mechanism for co-ordinating the policies of various council departments with responsibilities for open space. Consequently the OOSS: *Vision and Action Plan* meets this requirement by establishing a vision which addresses both potential improvements and deficiencies in open space provision within the Local Authority. The strategy therefore, in conjunction with the OOSS: *Planning for Open Space SG* and *Orkney Open Space Audit* will help inform planning decisions regarding the protection and provision of open space.
- 1.3.2 Open space plays a key part in creating high quality and well-designed places by providing the setting between the built context and for public activities to take place in, as echoed in *Designing Places* and *Designing Streets* by the Scottish Government. The quality of open space can therefore have a knock on effect on how the built environment is perceived. Furthermore *Planning Advice Note (PAN) 65 Planning and Open Space* emphasises how open space should be acknowledged as a valuable asset contributing to wildlife, visual amenity, personal health and well-being. The health implications resulting from the quality of open space provision is also highlighted in *Attitudes to greenspace in Scotland* by SNH. Taking these into consideration emphasises the need for guidance in order to prevent the loss and decline of valued spaces that can be difficult and costly to replace. The importance of land resource as an asset and the multiple benefits it can provide is reinforced further in the Scottish Government’s *Getting the best from our land: A land use strategy for Scotland*.
- 1.3.3 This strategy should be referred to in conjunction with the OOSS: *Planning for Open Space SG* to help inform development proposals of the aspirations they should help achieve with consideration of Policy D6 in the Orkney Local Development Plan; as stated on the right and expanded upon within the supplementary guidance. This is of particular relevance to section **3.2 Development on existing open space** of the OOSS: *Planning for Open Space SG*.

Policy D6 Open Space

Development which will improve or add to current levels of open space will be supported. The development of all housing/ employment/ community sites identified within the Proposals Map will be required to make a contribution to meaningful and functional open space, and/or, by a commuted sum towards the provision and maintenance of open space within the site or the affected community.

Development that would result in a loss of existing open space will not generally be permitted. The loss of such open space will only be supported where it fulfils one of the following criteria:

1. An open space audit demonstrates that the development will not result in a deficit of open space provision to serve the affected community, and that no alternative site is available.
2. Compensatory provision is made elsewhere within the community area of at least equal size and quality and which contributes positively to settlement character and sense of community.
3. A commuted sum is secured through a financial bond or Section 75 agreement towards the future provision of an appropriate alternative.

Further guidance is provided in the Supplementary Guidance *Orkney Open Space Strategy*.

1.4 Development of the *Orkney Open Space Strategy: Vision and Action Plan*

1.4.1 The development of the *OOSS: Planning for Open Space* SG and the *Orkney Open Space Audit* has involved liaison with the public through consultation events, Community Councils and Council services as part of the development of these documents. It is envisaged that the establishment of the Orkney Open Space Working Group will help contribute towards the development and preparation of the *OOSS: Vision and Action Plan* and comprise of:

- OIC Development and Infrastructure;
- OIC Sport and Leisure;
- Sportscotland;
- SNH;
- Historic Scotland; and
- Visit Scotland.

1.4.2 The diagram below conveys the range of strategies and planning documents entailed in the action plan and the wider mechanisms to help achieve the objectives the *OOSS: Vision and Action Plan* sets out. This list is not exhaustive but highlights the many facets open space overlaps with.

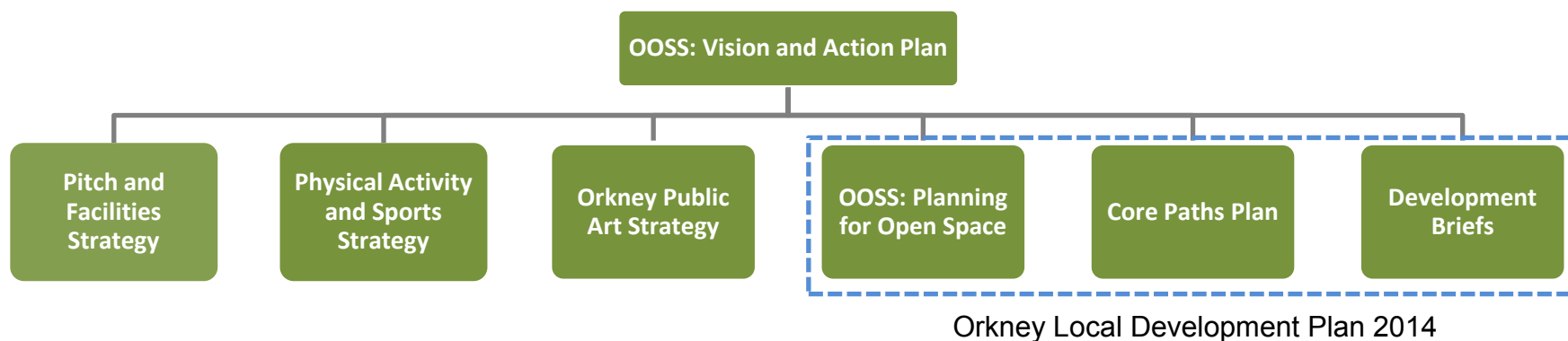


Figure 2- Diagram of strategies and policy documents *OOSS: Vision and Action Plan* relates to.

2 Vision

2.1 Purpose of vision

2.1.1 The visions entailed in this strategy highlights potential areas where new or improved provision would be beneficial, and therefore help inform where resources and potential developer contributions may be directed. These are set out for each of the five settlements along with a vision statement for the rest of the villages, rural and island settlements as defined in Orkney Local Development Plan Sustainable Settlement Hierarchy. In the case of the five settlements, a list of applicable open spaces that contribute towards the effectiveness of achieving each vision objective is given where applicable, with key strategic spaces highlighted as part of this. The vision diagrams provide an indicative representation of aspects from the audit to provide a more concise diagram. For accuracy, the maps within *OOSS: Planning for Open Space SG* and *Orkney Open Space Audit* should be referred to in respect of assessing how a proposal adheres to accessibility, space quality, type and quantity elements. Any development proposal which concerns any of the open spaces listed within the vision objectives in which a commuted sum or improvements to an existing open space are deemed necessary to be compliant with Policy D6, must detail how the proposal complies with the requirements of the *OOSS: Planning for Open Space SG* and the vision objectives which apply. Furthermore proposals must fully consider the principles outlined in section **3.3 Planning and design principles** in the *OOSS: Planning for Open Space SG*.

2.2 Placemaking

2.2.1 The Council approved Placemaking Principles promote a design led approach to delivering locally distinctive streets and public realm, underpinned by an intelligent response to location, rather than the rigid application of standards. The Placemaking Principles are summarised below:

Context driven

- vehicle speeds influenced through design;
- street and junction design that is not standards based;
- SuDS design and requirements;

Better design outcomes

- achieved through collaborative multi-disciplinary approach;
- through early consideration of signage and street marking to ensure minimal application required;
- that promote social interaction and movement network integration;
- that are not service and utility driven;
- that integrate natural landscape features;
- that utilise distinctive, easily maintained, durable and visually appealing quality materials; and

Pedestrian and cyclist priority

- balance place and movement requirements with pedestrians put first and vehicles last, including traffic junctions.

2.2.2 Open space provision should be considered in a similar manner due to the implications it can have on the visual, physical and usage of the local environment. In conjunction with the Placemaking Principles, The Council Plan (2013 – 2018) establishes the requirement for a Placemaking Strategy to be developed that expands upon the above, reinforcing the importance of better practice in the design and development of space appropriate to the local context.

2.3 Kirkwall

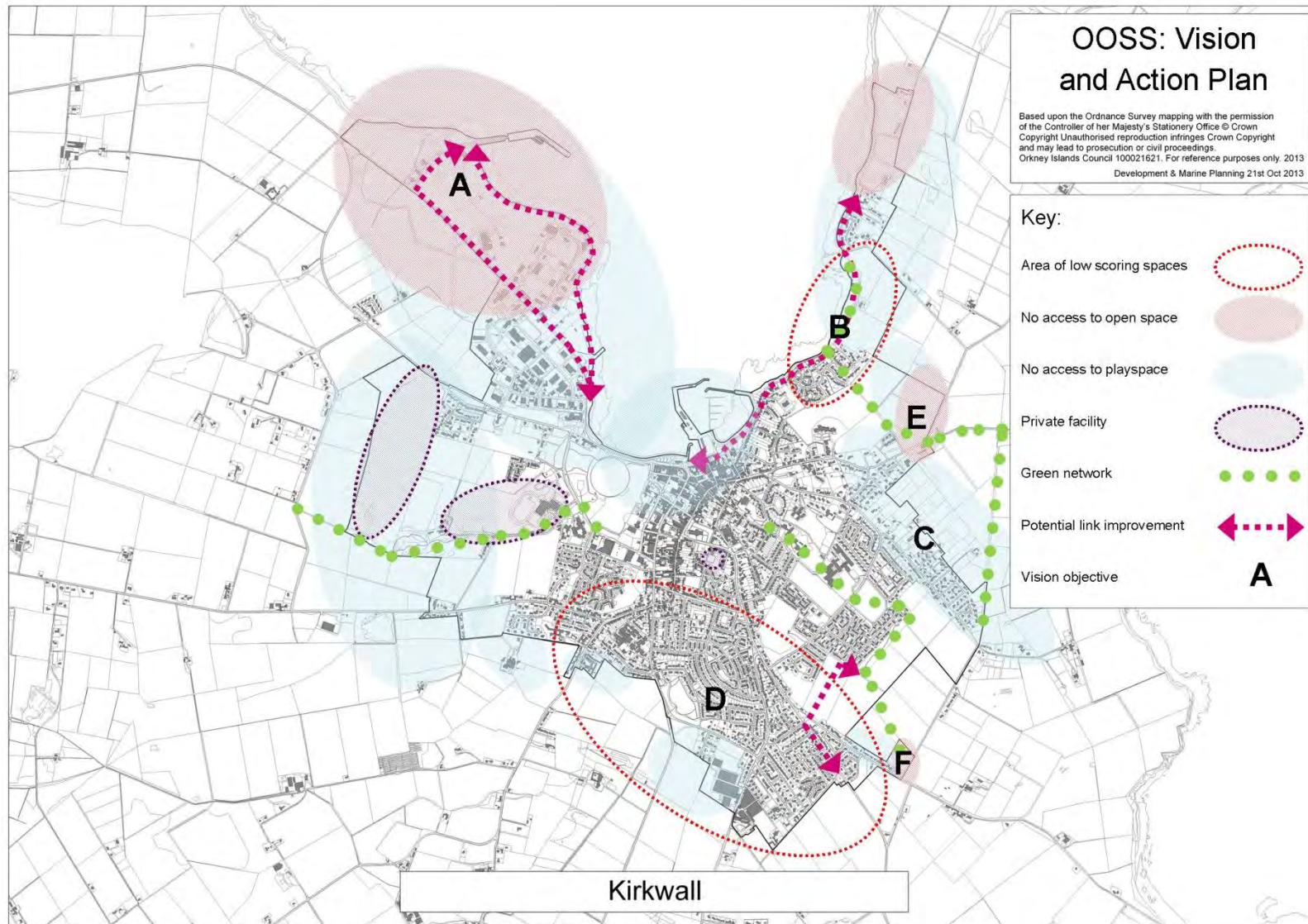


Figure 3- Kirkwall vision diagram.

The following objectives are highlighted to improve open space provision and access within Kirkwall, as indicated in figure 3:

A. Hatston

- Create a more attractive pedestrian environment through enhanced linkages from the Peedie Sea towards Hatston Ferry Terminal.
- Route via Grainshore Road is more realistic option and could utilise existing grass verge areas to incorporate potential improvements for points of interest such as street furniture, artwork and planting.
- Less feasible route, which could be incorporated as a long term aspiration within development briefs of affected sites, would be to follow the coastline which is currently blocked at Seafire Road and may require extensive work to incorporate a pedestrian pathway.

Key open space: Grainshore Road

B. Weyland Bay

- Utilise and enhance link from Cromwell Road Banks, nearby green and pedestrian/cycle networks. Improvements to green and pedestrian/cycle networks to be achieved through the Weyland Development Brief.
- The converging of these links places emphasis on Weyland Bay and Weyland Bay Amenity spaces as focal points. These should be given priority in relation to improving existing open space provision in this area.

Key open spaces: Cromwell Road Banks, Weyland Bay and Weyland Bay Amenity

C. Berstane Road

- Due to smaller scale of existing spaces, small scale interventions could be implemented to raise quality of open space as a whole.
- Improvements may include promoting recreation and exercise through natural elements; in keeping with existing route which is used for walking, running and cycling.
- Preferred option due to location and size is East Hill Quarry to provide dedicated natural playspace.

Key open space: East Hill Quarry

Open spaces to consider for enhancement: The Meadows and Berstane Road

D. Southern Kirkwall

- Focus on improving existing open space provision. Scapa crescent highlighted as key open space due to large scale and semi-natural nature which could be better utilised. This may involve Sustainable Drainage System element in respect of drainage concerns or by developing a range of smaller spaces to add variety to existing landscape.
- Opportunity to establish link in conjunction with development of housing sites KW-O or KW-S and connect existing core paths.

Key open space: Scapa Crescent

Open spaces to consider for enhancement: Bellevue Park, Bignold Park, Broadsands Play Area, Hordaland, King Haakon Street, Lynn Crescent, Lynn Park Amenity Area, Manse Road, Rope Walk, Royal Oak Road, Summerdale Play Area, Sutherland Park, Top of Clay Loan and Warrenfield

E. Watersfield

- Open space deficiencies and green network linkages to be achieved through Watersfield Development Brief which includes development of a Sustainable Drainage System.

F. Black Building Site

- Open space deficiencies and green network linkages to be achieved through Black Building Site Development Brief.

2.4 Stromness

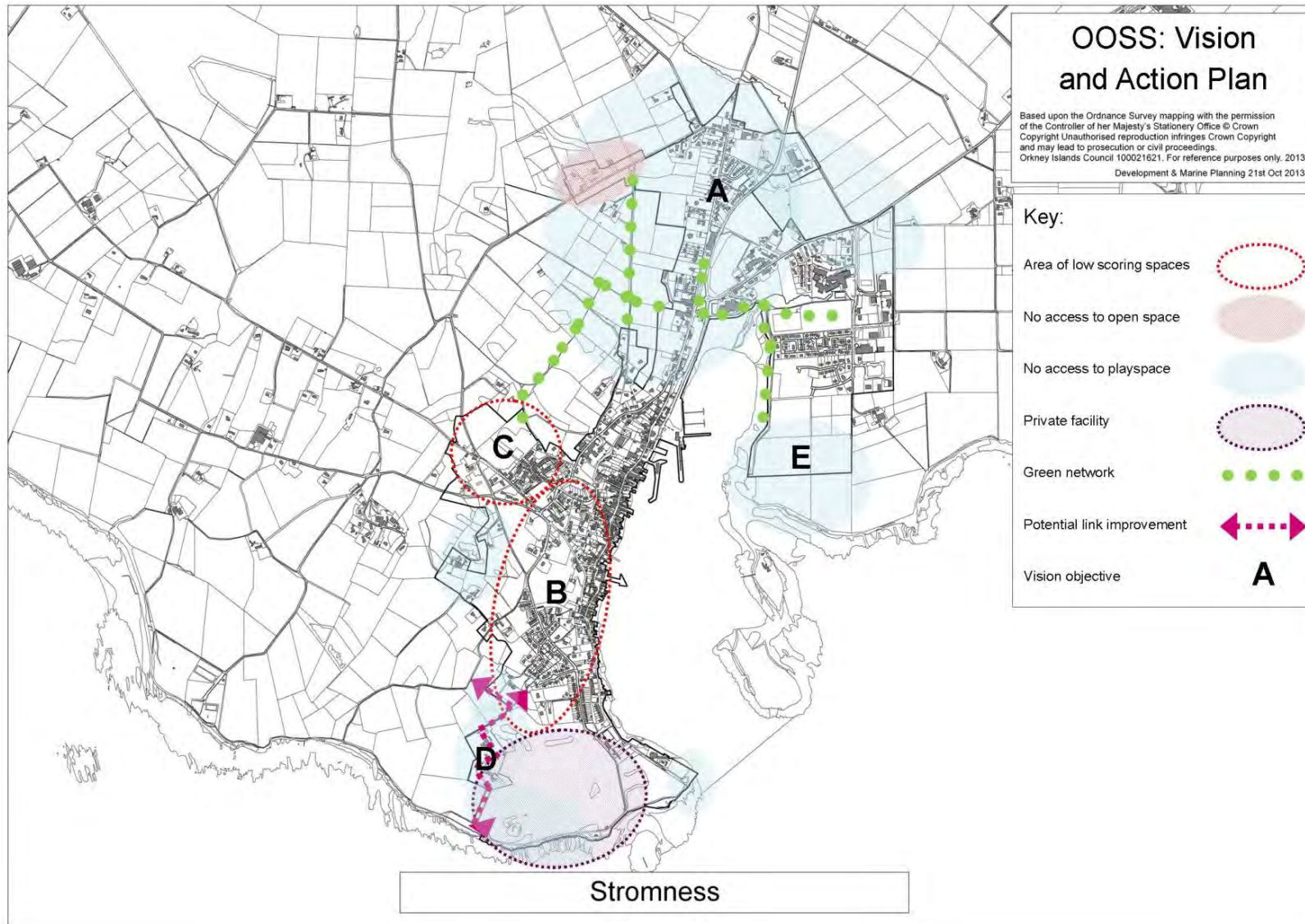


Figure 4- Stromness vision diagram.

The following objectives are highlighted to improve open space provision and access within Stromness, as indicated in figure 4:

A. North Stromness

- Improvements to existing open space with Hillside highlighted as possible key site to address play area deficiency.
- Utilise green network as linkage to area without access to open space. Potential to make use of grass verges which line the route by providing places of interest to stop along the way including seating, artwork and interpretation panels. Interpretation panel could highlight prominent walking routes in and around Stromness.

Key open space: Hillside

Open spaces to consider for enhancement: Hamnavoe Shore, Hillside Road, Market Green Playing Fields and North End Road

B. South townscape

- Focus on spaces which supplement town walk and west coast trail.
- Compliment links to open space outwith immediate townscape through east to west access. Seek improvements to existing open spaces to benefit highlighted area.
- Semi-natural nature and location of Citadel to achieve objective D, and proximity to housing context seen as key. To be noted already in progress by Gun Viewpoint Development Group.

Key open space: Citadel

Open spaces to consider for enhancement: Alfred Street, Citadel Crescent, Citadel Drive, Faravel Amenity Space, Faravel Play Area, Login's Well, Pumpwell Park and Springfield Crescent

C. Marwick

- Focus on improvements to existing open space within the area and potential to integrate with existing core paths and green networks.

Open spaces to consider for enhancement: Grieveship Brae, Marwick Play Area and Marwick Playing Field

D. Coastal link

- Potential to integrate with existing core paths.

Key open space: Citadel

Open space to consider for enhancement: Stromness Coast

E. Coplands Dock

- Refer to Coplands Dock Development Brief for details.

2.5 Dounby

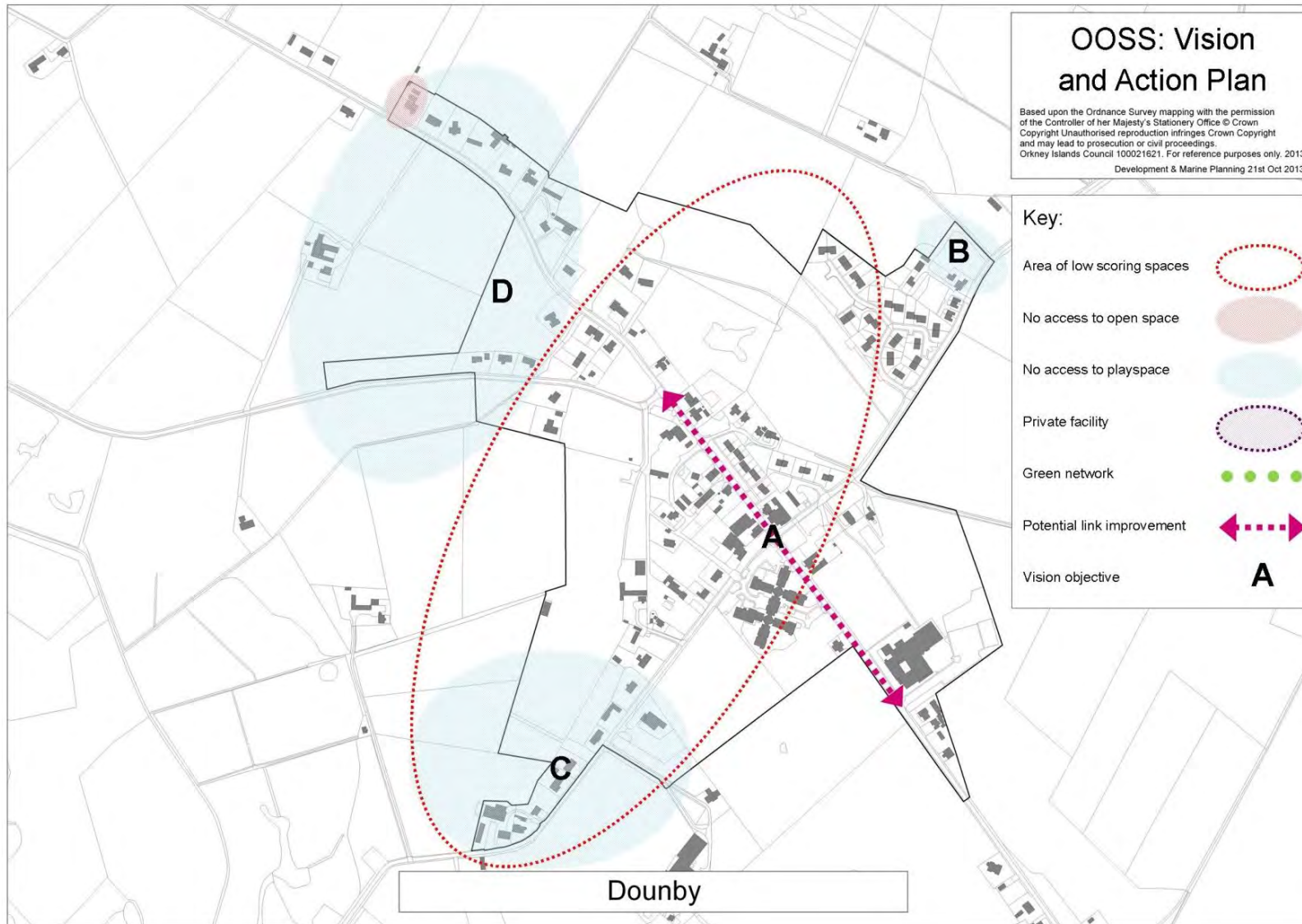


Figure 5- Dounby vision diagram.

The following objectives are highlighted to improve open space provision and access within Dounby, as indicated in figure 5:

A. A986 axis

- Focus on creating a more attractive northwest to southeast route towards the school through enhancement of existing spaces.

Open spaces to consider for enhancement: Open Space across from Post Office, Open Space at bus stop and Dounby Village Green

B, C and D. North, South and West Dounby

- Development of housing sites D-A or D-D could address lack of access to open space for immediate area.
- For areas of B, C and D without access to playspace provision, improvements should be concentrated towards enhancement of the existing play areas within the school and the centrally located Market Green in order to provide higher quality play facilities for the settlement as a whole.

Key open spaces: Dounby Primary School and Market Green

2.6 St Margaret's Hope

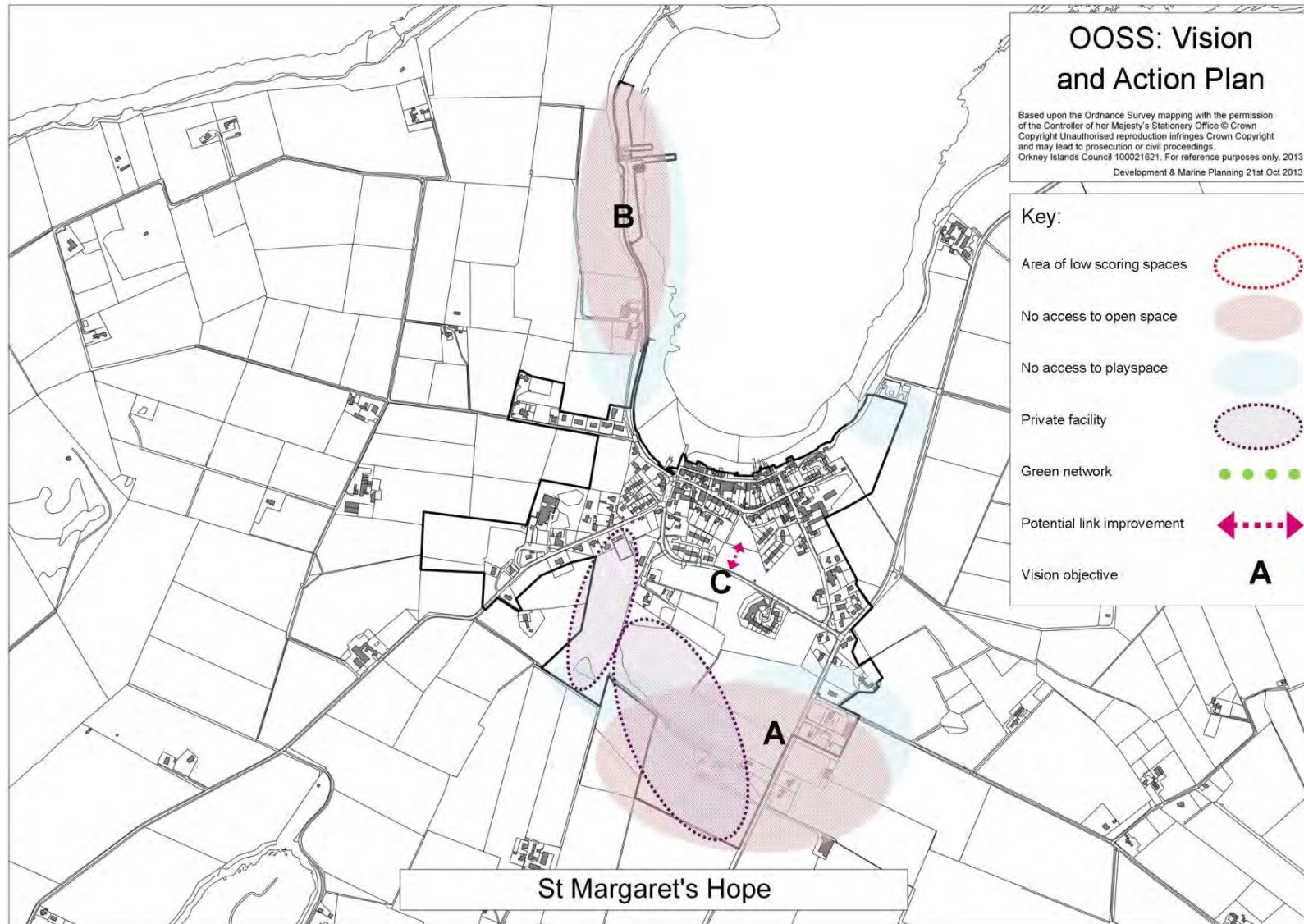


Figure 6- St Margaret's Hope vision diagram.

The following objectives are highlighted to improve open space provision and access within St Margaret's Hope, as indicated in figure 6:

A. South St Margaret's Hope

- Area highlighted due to lack of provision to accessible open space, however factors such as existing open landscape setting and lack of concentrated areas of development makes addressing this unrealistic at current time.

B. North St Margaret's Hope

- Due to existing context and narrowness of road, feasibility to provide open space provision even in the form of an improved pedestrian access to the ferry terminal would be desirable yet unrealistic without extensive work to the existing landscape. An alternative solution is to utilise the grass banks off Pier Road, near Cromarty Square, which could provide a feature seating area to lookout over the coast but would have to be of a suitable material and quality to withstand likely weather and flood constraints.

C. Links to Hope Community Play Park

- Pathway to enable additional access from the south and adjacent housing to Hope Community Play Park.

Key open space: Hope Community Play Park

2.7 Finstown

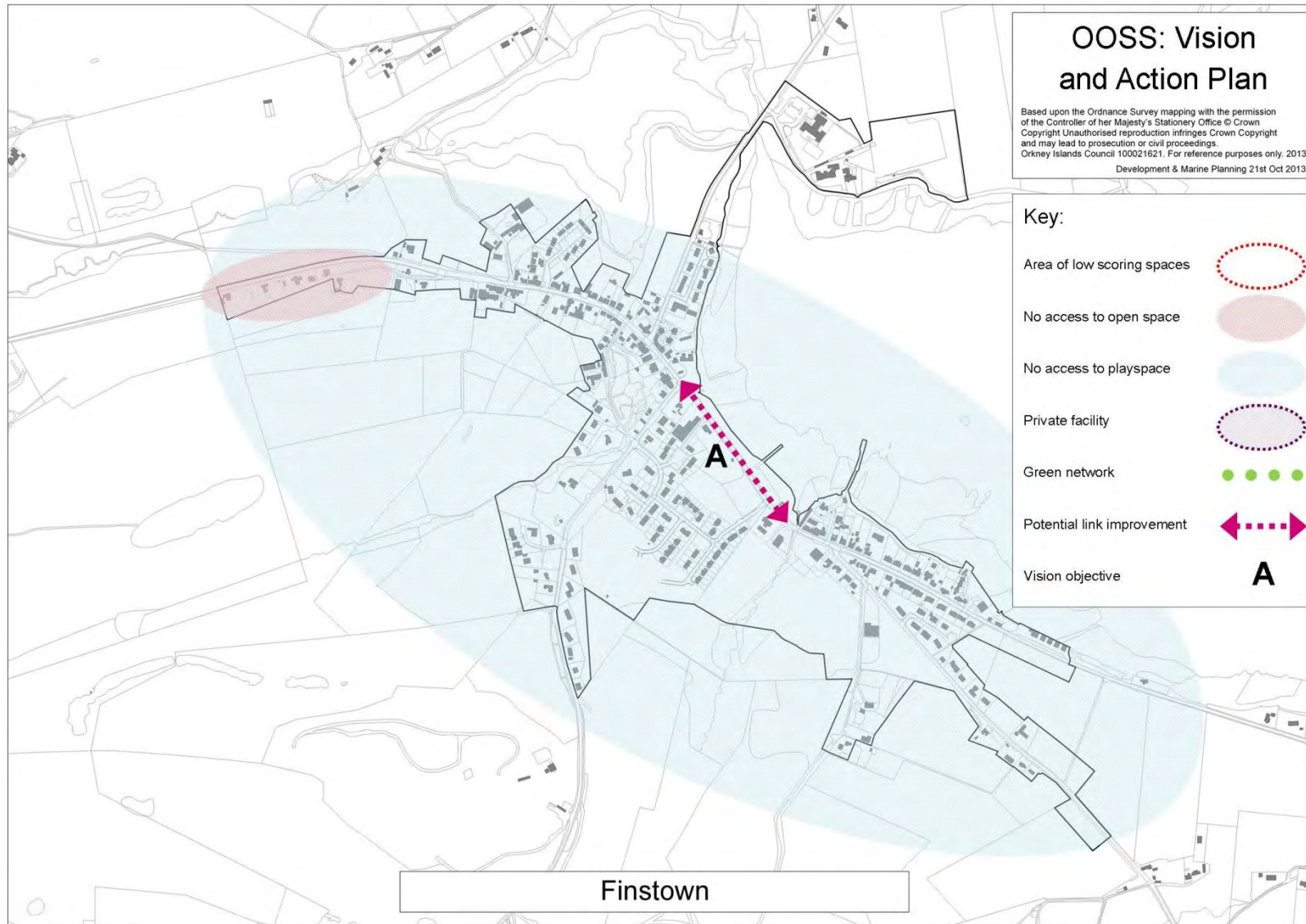


Figure 7- Finstown vision diagram.

The following objectives are highlighted to improve open space provision and access within Finstown, as indicated in figure 7:

A. South Finstown

- Potential to provide play elements to serve wider residential area. These should contrast with formal play equipment available at the school.
- Potential to enhance central area through improvements to Finstown Slip. This could include a shared surface for the existing car park area to enable pedestrian orientated events which utilise the harder surfacing, with points of interest along the rest of the slip such as artwork or interpretation panels suitable to withstand likely weather constraints. Addressing this area should also provide an attractive starting point to visit Finstown Community Garden, Firth Community Centre and Binscarth Wood. This could be promoted through a panel showing a map of key features in Finstown.

Key open space: Finstown Slip

2.8 Vision for other villages, rural and island settlements

2.8.1 This section outlines applicable aspects that should be considered in relation to other villages, rural and island settlements as identified in the Orkney Local Development Plan Sustainable Settlement Hierarchy as detailed below. Note those underlined do not have any identified open space within the audit.

Orkney Local Development Plan Sustainable Settlement Hierarchy	
Villages	Stenness, Balfour, Burray Village, St Mary's, Orphir Village, Evie Village, Pierowall, The Palace, Toab, <u>Quoyloo</u> , Whitehall
Rural and Island Settlements	<u>Tingwall</u> , Longhope, Lyness, <u>Moaness</u> , <u>Madras</u> , Lyron, Evie School, Brinyan, <u>Kettletoft</u> , <u>Scapa Brae</u> , <u>Hillhead</u> , Burnside Harray, <u>Houton</u> , <u>Hamar</u> , Lady, Burnside Flotta, <u>Norseman</u> , Scapa

Figure 8- Table of Orkney Local Development Plan Sustainable Settlement Hierarchy.

2.8.2 In the cases of the villages, rural and island settlements a number of themes are prevalent:

- the fewer number of open spaces available;
- the importance of such spaces, including those within schools, to be of a sufficient quality and type to meet user demand;
- the importance of enhancing pedestrian and cycle links to improve the accessibility of open space that reduces reliance on car use; and
- are located in close proximity to places of high residential or work occupancy.

2.8.3 Consequently the following should be considered in relation to proposals or improvements:

- improving core paths and green network links through new pathways or enhanced open space;
- improving the functionality of open spaces to enable greater usage;
- promoting the use of artwork and interpretation panels to make the villages, rural and islands more appealing and informative for visitors; and
- where feasible, consolidate resources towards a preferred open space in terms of accessibility, quality, type and size if deemed to be of greater benefit to the community as a result. This may be achieved as outlined in section **3.2 Community led usage of open space**.

3 Delivery

3.1 Objective delivery

- 3.1.1 Success of the *OOSS: Vision and Action Plan* relies upon working with the many organisations and departments involved in open space whether to manage, maintain, design, use or protect. The action plan in section 5 is a culmination of this joint working to establish realistic objectives for Orkney. This in conjunction with the *OOSS: Planning for Open Space* SG which promotes higher quality open space provision as part of the planning process for new developments; whereas this strategy takes a more overarching approach towards addressing deficiencies and promoting better practice with, or without the aid of developer contributions.
- 3.1.2 Delivery of the objectives outlined in the vision statements and action plan can be achieved by:
- open space provision provided as part of a new development;
 - improvements to existing provision as funded by developer contributions;
 - funding obtained by a community/business group with Parks for People (Heritage Lottery Fund), Awards for All (Big Lottery Fund) and Grow Wild (Big Lottery Fund) as examples of potential funding initiatives;
 - investment by the Local Authority or other public agency; or
 - adoption of existing open space for temporary use as agreed with the landowner.
- 3.1.3 Due to existing Council resource constraints it should be acknowledged that community and business led initiatives have a key role in realising the aims of the strategy in terms of potential funding, skills and addressing the needs of the area. Consequently the objectives of the *OOSS: Vision and Action Plan* take into account the need for alternative methods to be considered in a time where Council resources are constrained. The next section expands upon how poor quality spaces could be adopted for temporary use to enable greater community involvement and usage as a result.

3.2 Community led usage of open space

- 3.2.1 A key issue raised in the *Orkney Open Space Audit* is the poor quality of amenity greenspace, especially within residential developments. Due to the nature of these amenity spaces playing a key part in the environment people live within, provides an ideal opportunity for communities to have greater control and ownership of these spaces driven by their own aspirations. This can be beneficial to implement in open space other than residential amenity especially in cases where the quality is deemed poor and in need of improvement such as adapting natural/semi-natural greenspace for natural play; enabling spaces to become temporary exhibition spaces by incorporating art displays i.e. sculpture, interactive exhibits etc.; adapting the open space to grow plants or vegetables for visual amenity, educational or grow your own food purposes; creating local wildlife habitats through the addition of water features, bird boxes, various planting scales; and adapting underused playspaces into places beneficial for all community users to spend time both in terms of attractiveness and functionality. A template is provided in **Annex 1** as a starting point for groups to achieve this through a legal agreement along with key points to be considered as part of undertaking this process.

4 Monitoring and implementation of the strategy

4.1 Key tasks

- 4.1.1 The strategy will be monitored using the indicators outlined in the action plan in section 5. The key tasks set out to achieve this include:
- monitoring the progress of priority projects as highlighted in the vision plans;
 - establish user feedback forms which relate to the planning and design principles- as set out in *OOSS: Planning for Open Space SG*- to consider how the accessible, attractive, bio diverse, promote activity and community benefits criteria are met. The findings from this will provide the starting point for future revisions of open space related guidance documents by potentially flagging spaces which need to be re-surveyed as part of the audit; and
 - as part of the review process of the *OOSS: Vision and Action Plan*, *OOSS: Planning for Open Space SG* and *Orkney Open Space Audit*; to compare changes in accessibility, quality and quantity since previous editions.

5 Action Plan

Key delivery partners where noted: D&MP-Development and Marine Planning; AM&H- Arts, Museums and Heritage; B&T- Business and Trade; CL&D- Community Learning and Development; DM- Development Management; Eng- Engineering; EH- Environmental Health; S&L- Sport and Leisure; Trans - Transport; HS- Historic Scotland; SEPA- Scottish Environment Protection Agency; Scottish Water; SNH- Scottish Natural Heritage; SPORTSCO- Sportscotland; and VS- VisitScotland.

Objective 1	Protecting and improving open space						
Actions	Tasks	Key links to other objectives	Key delivery partners (Lead partner in bold)	Resource implications	Priority: High, Medium, Low	Time scale	Indicators
1.1 Ensure the value of open space is considered as part of development proposals	1.1.1 Publish OOSS: <i>Planning for Open Space</i> SG to advise developments concerning Policy D6 in the Plan.	ALL	D&MP DM	Officer time	H	April 2014	Document adopted by Council
	1.1.2 Prepare OOSS: <i>Vision and Action Plan</i> to guide wider strategic implications of development proposals and initiatives.	ALL	D&MP DM	Officer time	H	October 2014	Document adopted by Council
	1.1.3 Develop site specific GIS layer which incorporates objectives of OOSS: <i>Planning for Open Space</i> SG and OOSS: <i>Vision and Action Plan</i> to be utilised when assessing applications.	ALL	D&MP DM	Officer and GIS technician time	M	October 2014	Completed for use as part of development management process

1.2 Review distribution and quality of play areas and playing fields	1.2.1	Completion of <i>Pitch and Facilities Strategy</i> .	2, 3, 4, 7	S&L SPORTSCO	Officer time	M	June 2015	Date document adopted by Council.
	1.2.2	Review play areas which are to be potentially added, improved or removed and accommodate in visions accordingly.	2, 3, 4, 7	S&L D&MP	Officer time	M	Sept 2019	Vision to be updated in line with completed <i>Pitch and Facilities Strategy, Physical Activity and Sports Strategy</i> , and Council resources. Number of play areas developed, enhanced or removed since previous audit in terms of changes in quality, accessibility and quantity of provision.
	1.2.3	Review playing fields which are to be potentially added, improved or removed and accommodate in visions accordingly.	2, 3, 4, 7	S&L D&MP SPORTSCO	Officer time	M	Sept 2019	Vision to be updated in line with completed <i>Pitch and Facilities Strategy, Physical Activity and Sports Strategy</i> , and Council resources. Number of playing fields

							developed, enhanced or removed since previous audit in terms of changes in quality, accessibility and quantity of provision.
1.3 Review quality of semi-natural spaces	1.3.1 Review quality score findings for this space type as per next revision of audit.	2, 3, 4, 5, 7	D&MP	Officer time	M	Sept 2019	How compares to findings of previous audit in terms of changes in quality, accessibility and quantity of provision.
1.4 Review quality of residential amenity space	1.4.1 Review quality score findings for this space type as per next revision of audit.	2, 3, 4, 5, 7	D&MP	Officer time	M	Sept 2019	How compares to findings of previous audit in terms of changes in quality, accessibility and quantity of provision.
1.5 Promote responsible use of open space	1.5.1 Promote responsible use as detailed in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.	4, 5	SNH D&MP	Officer time	L	October 2014-Sept 2019	Number of complaints regarding access and usage

1.6 Review grounds maintenance	1.6.1	Review quality and implications of Council led grounds maintenance.	2, 5, 7	Eng D&MP	Officer time	M	October 2014-Sept 2019	How compares to findings of previous audit
	1.6.2	Review quality and implications of third party factor/community group maintenance as promoted by SG.	2, 5, 7	D&MP Eng	Officer time	M	October 2014-Sept 2019	How compares to findings of previous audit
1.7 Review allotment provision	1.7.1	Review allotment waiting list to establish how existing provision compares to public demand.	3, 4, 5, 6, 7	S&L D&MP	Officer time	M	October 2014	Number of entries on waiting list versus current allotment provision
	1.7.2	Consider allotment review findings in future revisions of <i>OOSS: Vision and Action Plan</i> .	3, 4, 5, 6, 7	S&L D&MP	Officer time	M	October 2014-Sept 2019	Vision section of <i>OOSS: Vision and Action Plan</i>

Objective 2		Improving open space networks and linkages					
Actions	Tasks	Key links to other objectives	Key delivery partners (Lead partner in bold)	Resource implications	Priority: High, Medium, Low	Time scale	Indicators
2.1 Establish green networks as outlined in vision	2.1.1 Use the <i>OOSS: Vision and Action Plan</i> to prioritise network opportunities that development proposals would benefit from and consequently could contribute towards.	1, 3, 4	D&MP DM SNH	Officer time	M	October 2014-Sept 2019	No. of green network projects fulfilled
	2.1.2 Consider in conjunction with development of <i>Core Paths Plan</i> to ensure fully integrated network.	1, 3, 4	D&MP	Officer time	M	October 2014-Sept 2019	No. of core path linkages established/ improvements to existing paths
2.2 Establish improved open space networks and linkages	2.2.1 Promote artwork and sense of place initiatives to provide purpose to specific routes.	1	D&MP AM&H VS	Officer time	M	October 2014-Sept 2019	Implement signage, leaflets and tourist information where appropriate
	2.2.2 Enhance through prioritising linkages as cycle and pedestrian routes.	3	D&MP Trans	Officer time	M	October 2014-Sept 2019	No. of new cycle and pedestrian pathways

Objective 3		Enabling greater access to open space					
Actions	Tasks	Key links to other objectives	Key delivery partners (Lead partner in bold)	Resource implications	Priority: High, Medium, Low	Time scale	Indicators
3.1 Promoting open space which is walkable and accessible to all	3.1.1 Prioritise accessibility criteria as given in <i>Orkney Open Space Audit</i> , and reinforced in development of vision objectives in the strategy.	1, 2, 4	D&MP DM	Officer time	M	October 2014-Sept 2019	Extent of settlement areas which are shown to be within 300m buffer of an open space
	3.1.2 Prioritise open space which is accessible to all.	1, 2, 4, 7	D&MP DM	Officer time	M	October 2014-Sept 2019	Total percentage change of all open space in terms of score achieved in accessible and well connected criteria from previous audit
3.2 Establish facilities appropriate to specific user needs and demand	3.2.1 Consult with the public and stakeholders with regards to proposed visions and objectives and update accordingly.	ALL	D&MP	Officer time	H	May 2014-July 2014	How vision incorporates consultation feedback
3.3 Provide information on accessing open space	3.3.1 Produce information regarding core paths, cycling routes, interpretation panels and noteworthy spaces through leaflets or online.	2, 4	D&MP Trans SNH	Officer time	M	October 2014-Sept 2019	Quality, number and range of information produced.

Objective 4		Providing opportunities to improve health, well-being and education					
Actions	Tasks	Key links to other objectives	Key delivery partners (Lead partner in bold)	Resource implications	Priority: High, Medium, Low	Time scale	Indicators
4.1 Promote open space in terms of health benefits.	4.1.1 Involve stakeholders such as Kickstart Kirkwall and Sportscotland. Includes Active Schools and Outdoor Education Service programmes.	3	S&L D&MP Trans SPORTSCO	Partners and officer time	M	Nov 2013-Sept 2019	Range of documents and initiatives that promote access and usage of open space
4.2 Promote use of open space for learning purposes (outdoor school areas/ play/ sports)	4.2.1 Promote open space as a platform for art whether to view or create. Refer to the <i>Orkney Public Art Strategy</i> and <i>Orkney's Creative Landscape: An Arts Development Plan for Orkney 2012-2015</i> .	1, 6	AM&H D&MP	Partners and officer time	M	October 2014-Sept 2019	Number of events and activities delivered within open spaces
	4.2.2 Promote sense of place initiatives to provide opportunities to educate about area's history and heritage.	1, 2	AM&H D&MP HS SNH	Officer time	M	October 2014-Sept 2019	Teacher and parent feedback
	4.2.3 Create suitable places for school use including play areas, sports areas, allotments and outdoor teaching.	1, 3	S&L D&MP	Officer time	M	Nov 2013-Sept 2019	Teacher and parent feedback

Objective 5		Protecting and enhancing biodiversity					
Actions	Tasks	Key links to other objectives	Key delivery partners (Lead partner in bold)	Resource implications	Priority: High, Medium, Low	Time scale	Indicators
5.1 Prioritise biodiversity elements of open space	5.1.1 Review performance of spaces in accordance to biodiversity score criteria.	1, 2, 3, 4, 7	D&MP	Officer time	M	Sept 2019	How compares to findings of previous audit
	5.1.2 Promote and implement improvements to biodiversity of open space (i.e. grounds maintenance procedures, extent and range of planting utilised etc.).	1, 2, 3, 4	D&MP Eng SNH	Officer time	M	October 2014- Sept 2019	Range of improvement initiatives/projects fulfilled
5.2 Ensure impact on flood mitigation is considered as part of development proposals	5.2.1 Protect and preserve open space in areas of high flood risk in conjunction with Policy D1.	1	D&MP Eng	Officer time	M	April 2014- Sept 2019	No. of spaces developed or altered within flood risk areas as per proposals map in the Plan
	5.2.2 Consider in conjunction with development of Flood Risk Management Plan (to be completed circa 2015) and potential to incorporate open space for natural flood management purposes.	1, 2	D&MP Eng SNH SEPA Scottish Water	Officer time	M	Oct 2014- Sept 2019	No. of spaces incorporated into vision objectives for flood management purposes.

	5.2.3	The identification of and assessment of potential for sustainable drainage, necessary as part of developments, to provide useful amenity space.	1, 2	Eng D&MP	Officer time	M	Oct 2014- Sept 2019	No. of sustainable drainage projects fulfilled and incorporation of recommendations as part of future revisions of <i>OOSS: Vision and Action Plan</i> .
	5.2.4	Recognition of the importance of overland flow routes, needed during times of exceedance or when devices fail, within areas to be developed.	1	Eng D&MP	Officer time	M	Oct 2014- Sept 2019	No. of sites highlighted as potential overland flow routes in future revisions of <i>OOSS: Vision and Action Plan</i> .

Objective 6		Enabling business and community involvement					
Actions	Tasks	Key links to other objectives	Key delivery partners (Lead partner in bold)	Resource implications	Priority: High, Medium, Low	Time scale	Indicators
6.1 Promote and monitor business/ community involvement in management and maintenance of open space	6.1.1 Monitor progress of business/community led projects as part of consideration in future revisions.	7	D&MP B&T CL&D S&L	Officer time	M	October 2014- Sept 2019	No. of projects fulfilled and benefits achieved by business/ community
6.2 Promote and monitor use of open space for events (especially within town/village centres)	6.2.1 Review business/community use of open space for events as part of consideration in future revisions.	7	D&MP EH B&T CL&D S&L	Officer time	M	October 2014- Sept 2019	No. and type of events held in open spaces

Objective 7		Monitoring and managing open space strategy objectives					
Actions	Tasks	Key strategy links	Key delivery partners (Lead partner in bold)	Resource implications	Priority: High, Medium, Low	Time scale	Indicators
7.1 Implement and monitor the progress of aims and vision objectives as set out in <i>Orkney Open Space Strategy: Vision and Action Plan</i>	7.1.1 Implement projects as prioritised in the appropriate vision plans as given in the strategy.	ALL	D&MP	Officer time	M	October 2014-Sept 2019	Number of projects completed and underway
	7.1.2 As part of the review of the <i>OOSS:Vision and Action Plan</i> , <i>OOSS:Planning for Open Space SG</i> and <i>Orkney Open Space Audit</i> ; to compare changes in accessibility, quality and quantity since previous editions.	ALL	D&MP	Officer time	M	October 2014-Sept 2019	Highlight progression in relevant open space document findings
7.2 Ensure planning and design principles of <i>OOSS: Planning for Open Space SG</i> are fulfilled and benefit communities concerned	7.2.1 Establish user feedback forms which relate to planning and design principles- as set out in <i>OOSS: Planning for Open Space SG</i> - to consider how accessible, attractive, bio diverse, promote activity and community benefits criteria are met to inform future revisions of guidance documents.	ALL	D&MP	Officer time	M	October 2014-Sept 2019	Provide online and produce findings as part of audit revision process

6 Further information

- Designing Places;* www.scotland.gov.uk/publications
Designing Streets;
Getting the best from our land: A land use strategy for Scotland
Minimum Standards for Open Space;
PAN 65 Planning and Open Space;
- Core Paths Plan;* www.orkney.gov.uk
- Attitudes to greenspace in Scotland: a review of key trends between 2004 and 2013;
<http://www.snh.gov.uk/about-scotlands-nature/habitats-and-ecosystems/greenspaces-and-gardens/greenspace/>
- Awards for All;
Grow Wild; <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/>
- Parks for People; <http://www.hlf.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>

Annex 1: Sample legal agreement

To be noted:

- Location plan of site with boundary highlighted to be attached as part of agreement.
- This agreement should only be formed with the landowner acknowledging that the site will not be developed within the next 6 months, the land is not contaminated and suitable insurance cover for public access into the site is arranged.

The licence is entered into between [**Licensor details including address**] and [**Licensee details including address**].
Site: [**address and description of the site**]

The licence of the site is granted in accordance with the following conditions:

Commencement date:
Date agreement ends:
Fee:

Standard conditions of licence:

Access rights to the site [**for use stated; any time restrictions**]
Payment of fee [**date to be paid on; frequency of payment; whom fee to be paid to**]
Liability for damage, loss and service charges
Timescales to end agreement [**financial arrears; notice from licensor; written notice of two months before or after agreement term**]

Special conditions:

It is the licensee's responsibility to maintain all boundary walls and fences in good condition with any alterations to be discussed with licensor.

SIGNED.....
Signature for licensor

SIGNED.....
Signature for licensee

Annex 2: User feedback form

User feedback form

(please return to Development and Marine Planning)

Name and location of open space:					
	strongly disagree	disagree	neither agree/disagree	agree	strongly agree
Accessible					
Entry points and paths are in good condition and enable full disabled access					
Signage is informative and in good condition					
Attractive					
Space has no evidence of graffiti/vandalism/noise issues					
Furniture is in good condition					
Equipment is in good condition					
Built facilities are in good condition					
Attractive plants and vegetation					
Natural features are well maintained					
Bio diverse					
Space promotes wildlife and habitats					
Promote activity					
Space provides diverse range of activities for all age groups					
Provides an ideal space to interact with others					
Community benefits					
Space is safe and welcoming					
Space is appropriately lit					
Provides good routes to community facilities					
There is an active community involvement in the management of the space					
Please provide further details on those marked strongly disagree					
Please provide further details on those marked strongly agree					
Any further comments about the space?					

Thank you for your feedback. This will help inform the review process of the Orkney Open Space Strategy: Vision and Action Plan. If you could provide your contact details below in case we need to follow up your feedback this would be much appreciated.

Name:

Address:

Email:

Telephone:

Would you like to be kept informed about the Orkney Open Space Strategy?

Yes

No