

Landscape Appraisal for Preferred Site

Glendevon Drive, Raploch, Stirling Council

In discussion with the Natural Heritage working group, and further discussion with Council colleagues this was narrowed down to a final short-list of one site in Stirling Council and one in Falkirk Council areas.

Glendevon Drive, Raploch, Stirling

The long-list site originally included the public realm around the Raploch schools community campus, and the scrub land to the east as well as the grassy area along Glendevon Drive, but this has now been reduced.

Any changes to the large areas of hard landscape public realm to soft landscape would be costly and potentially disruptive to below ground services and is relatively recently completed, so it was agreed that this area should be excluded from the study.

Following discussion with Stirling Council officers, the extent of this also excluded the scrub area to the east of the Raploch campus, as it may be considered for residential development.

The selected preferred Stirling site is an area of amenity grass with a couple of trees and a small play area next to Glendevon Drive between the Raploch community campus on the east and recent flatted housing to the west that is separated by an evergreen hedge within the housing cartilage. There is a small gravel area with a bench and bin, it's not clear whether below ground infrastructure is in this area. This is an underused space of relatively flat greenspace comprising 3,500m² that could provide a more valuable use to the local community; offer seasonal interest and biodiversity improvements, and climate resilience.

It is noted that the Council have requested that the space retain a well-managed appearance. This will probably rule out extensive relaxed grassland management for example, that particularly in smaller areas and adjacent to housing, could be perceived as just being messy or not adequately maintained.

Any proposals should visually enhance the area providing seasonal interest, that also provide biodiversity improvements. Broadening scope for more varied activity, in addition to the play area should be considered. There is scope to provide a learning facility for the adjacent school campus.



Concept & Key Principles

Glendevon Drive, Raploch, Stirling Council

Concept ideas were developed for the 2 sites in relation to design interventions and / or changes to management in a way that maximises opportunities for flood resilience, climate adaptation, benefits to biodiversity and habitat connectivity and place enhancement for people to enjoy.

For Glendevon Drive, Stirling the Key Principles are:

- Provide more diversity in planting and seasonal interest
- Create shaded seating areas for climate resilience and comfort
- Extend play into natural play space and seating

