

Appendix 10 Standards for Open Space

This information is derived from the Open Space Strategy of Aberdeenshire Council. It represents a loosely grouped typology providing a flexible indication of the broad functions of different open space types, size ranges, and guidance on catchments, households and distances that are expected to be delivered.

Table 1 Hierarchy of Open Space

Type of Facility	Main Function	Size Range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catchment Population • Households • Distance guide (range to allow for site characteristics) 	Notes
NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREEN SPACE (including SUDS and linkages)				
Green-Blue Networks	Buffer strips ¹ alongside water bodies to improve water quality, reduce run-off, and to increase biodiversity and visual amenity.	a) All watercourses: Min 6m each bank b) Larger watercourses: 12-20m each bank c) Still water: 12-24m	Population: n/a Housing: n/a Distance: n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum 6m strip may be increased where banks are sloping. • Still water buffer zones will depend on size of water body. • May be incorporated as access routes (surfacing requirements tbc) and green corridors. • Play an important role in mitigating flood risk and permitting access for long term maintenance.
Neighbourhood Green Space	Informal amenity: for 'structure planting', green corridors, access routes (recreational and functional). Visual impact: may include community nature areas.	500-2500 square metres	Population: 10-500 Households: Over 5 Distance: n/a	Location chosen for the function it is to fulfil. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to the windward side of housing to provide shelter. • to take advantage of wildlife potential. • in a focal point to provide amenity. • based around the position of SUDS. • to provide green arteries linking larger spaces. Likely to have potential for community involvement.
Community Woodlands	To provide woodland access for all, and enhance biodiversity	>2ha	Population: n/a Households: 1,000 Distance: 500m	May include those formally identified under the Woodlands in and Around Towns (WIAT) Scheme. To be linked where possible and desirable, by smaller areas of woodland or access routes to enhance forest habitat networks (FHNs). May have informal 'forest' play

¹ Guidance for Developers: Buffer Strips Adjacent to Water Courses and Water Bodies (Aberdeenshire Council)

