URBAN ACCESS in Scotland

...and the access legacy from the Commonwealth Games

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So what's different about access in an urban environment?

It's about:

- More people going to more places more quickly

- Buildings and infrastructure – going up, coming down, being planned

- Expectations for high-spec public realm

It's about:

- A complex patchwork of formal and informal spaces
- Urban-'flavoured' political agendas (e.g. health & active travel)
- Safety and security – the impact of anti-social behaviour

Context:

- Spaces and places
- Paths and routes
- Stakeholders
- Pressures and impacts
- Tools of the trade

Spaces and places:

- Where do access rights apply – any open space or route?

- What constitutes curtilage in a built up area? Is privacy a realistic expectation in a densely populated place?

- Few sites are free of structures and some are vulnerable (cemeteries?)

- Derelict & vacant land; stalled sites (could be contaminated, or developed at any time)
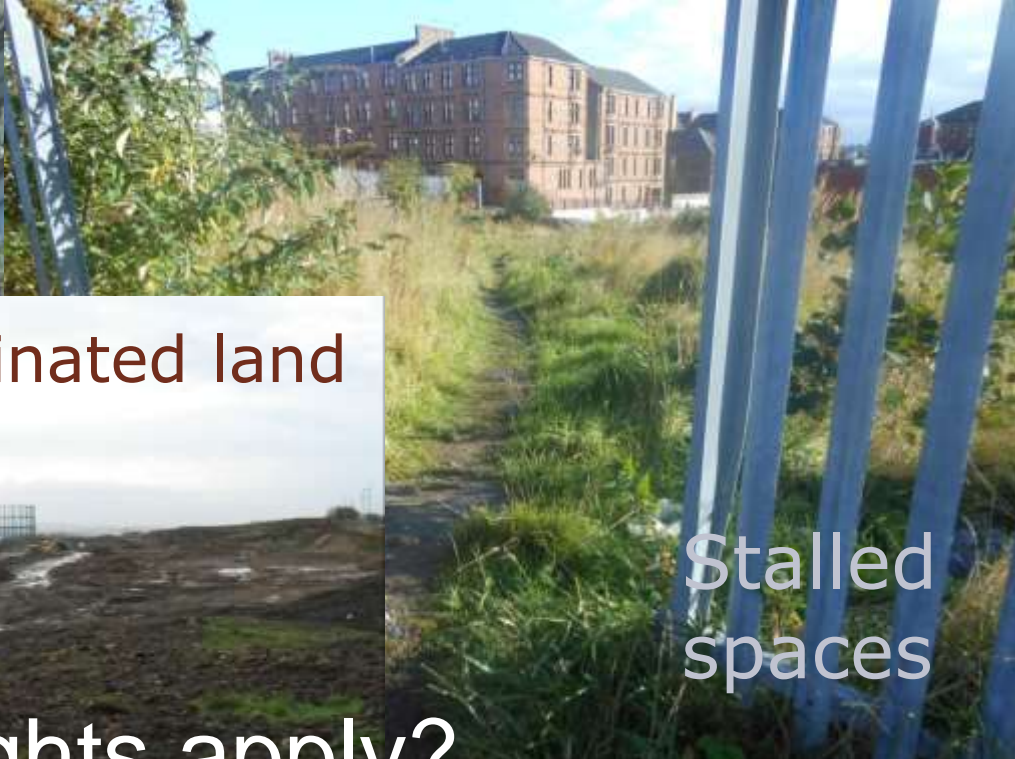
Protected sites

Contaminated land

Stalled spaces

Where do access rights apply?

Privacy

Vulnerable structures

Spaces and places…..

Parks and greenspaces - changing the control culture and updating park management rules:

• Commercial activities (e.g. fitness classes, professional dog-walkers, etc) – charging?

• Events management – temporary closure orders?

• Night-time closures – legal?

• Shared use paths – what's responsible?

• Urban camping – is it 'wild'?

Bellahouston Park – Section 11 Order

Paths and routes…

In addition to all the 'normal stuff':

- Roads, streets, footways, lanes, pends, underpasses, overpasses, tunnels
- Desire lines through vacant & derelict land
- Frequent temporary closures to facilitate development, civil engineering projects, utility & road works, on-street events (how?)
- Utilities under many paths
- Canalised/fenced waterways

MAP 40
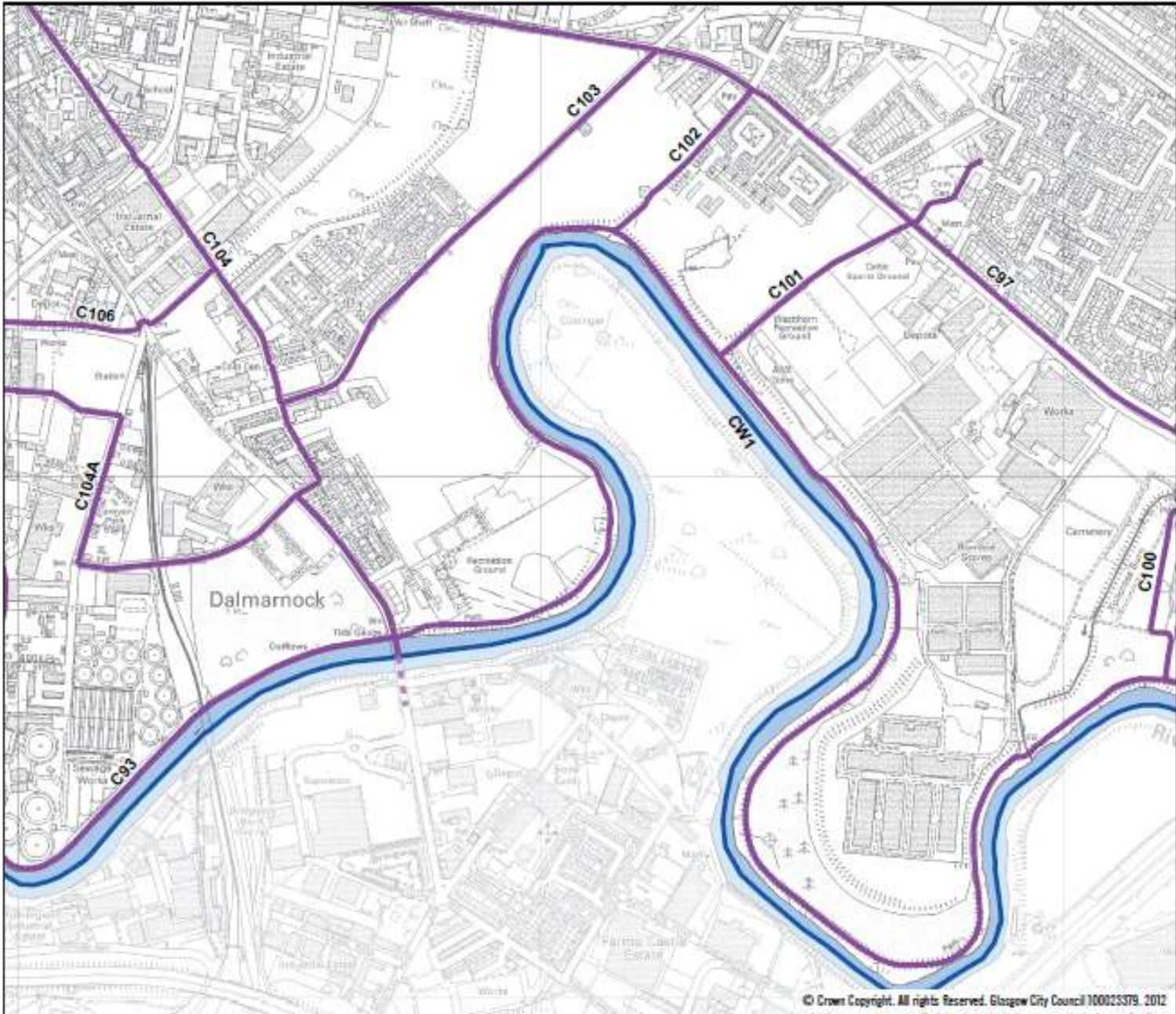
CORE PATHS PLAN

Core Paths ———

Core Paths on water ———

Core Paths - Neighbouring Authority ▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪

Water access points ★

Overbridge or underpass ⊙

C103

C102

C104

C106

C101

C97

C104A

CW1

C100

Dalmarnock

C93

29	30	31
39	**40**	41
48	49	50

Paths and routes…

Core paths in urban areas:

- May cross a number of different ownership boundaries in a short distance = inconsistencies of surface treatment, design, responsible behaviour, etc.

- On streets, footways, pedestrianised areas (accessible to cyclists & pedicabs)

- Potential for signage clutter

- Affected by stalled developments

Disputed on privacy grounds

One way?

Signage clutter

Stalled site

Urban core path issues

Clyde Tunnel
Southbound Entry

Pedestrians and Cyclists

OPEN

Some Core Paths in Glasgow

Urban stakeholders:

- Access takers
- more functional than recreational - different needs, e.g. more cycling pressure groups than ramblers

- Owners & occupiers
- Few farmers; mostly developers, businesse retail, housing associations/householders, public bodies, landlords, etc

- Not so aware of access rights
- Access Forum model doesn't fit
- Hard to reach/represent

Pressures and impacts…

- Pressure to close routes (esp. lanes and pends) to address anti-social behaviour issues – balancing access rights with amenity of residents – access can be the victim…. and the solution

- Planning decisions: job creation & economic growth can take precedence over 'environment'; the curse of the 'red-line' boundary

- Legislative complexity: e.g. multiple route designations; value/efficacy of closure orders

- Duty to 'keep open' in the face of major infrastructure failure

Antisocial behaviour, vandalism, gang activity….

Night-time closures

Gated communities

....can result in:

'Big brother'

Blocked-off routes

Lane closures

Upgrades/repairs can mean……

…large-scale infrastructure projects

....and mind boggling repair bills!

Tools of the trade…..

- National and local planning framework – and the planners who deliver it

- National and local guidance (e.g. Designing Streets, Cycling by Design)

- Local political agendas (if you're selective): e.g. active travel & health

- Creative use of legislation

- Negotiation & communication

Commonwealth Games Legacy?

- New infrastructure
- Public realm and key route upgrades
- 'Sustainable/Greener Legacy' branded projects
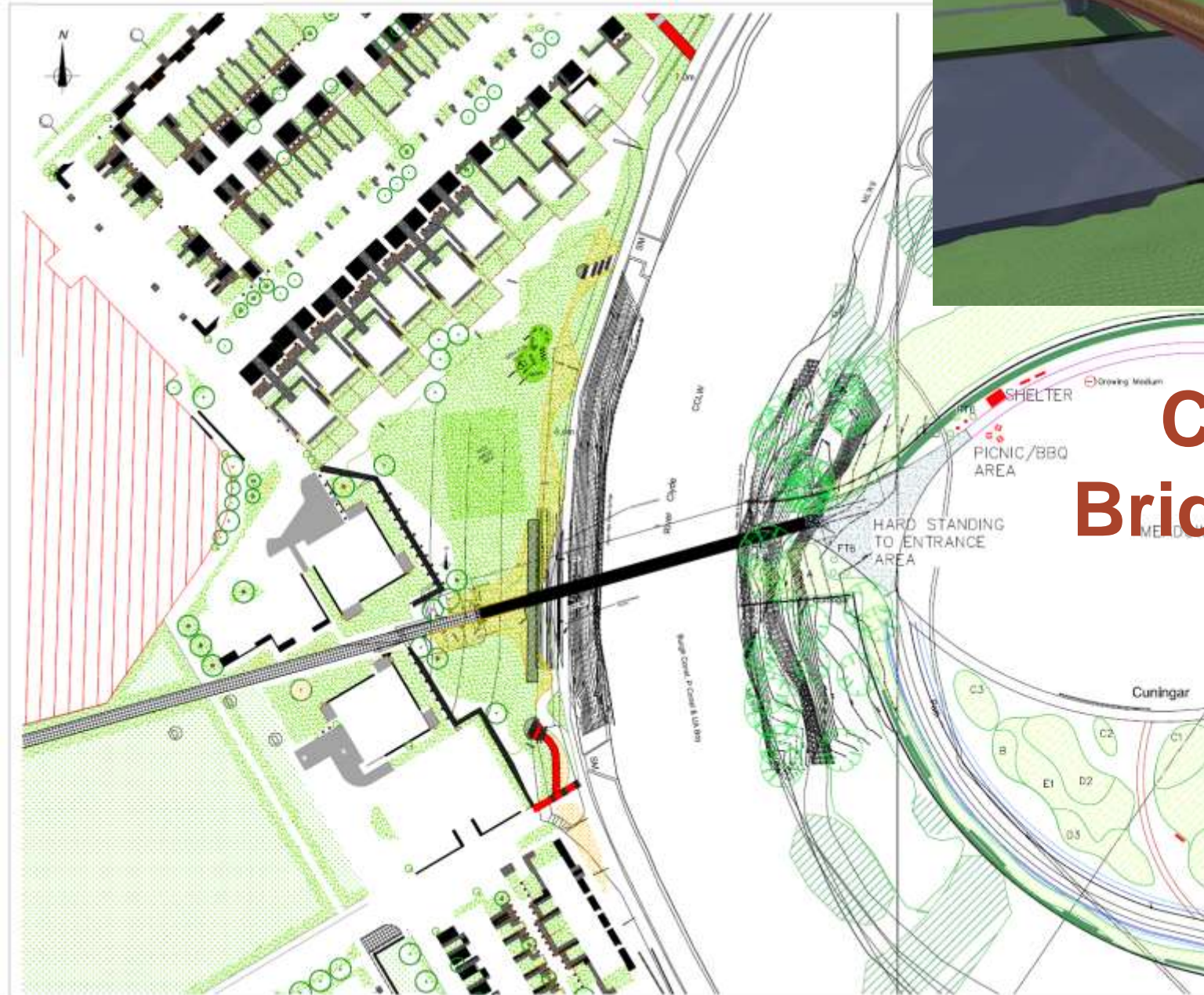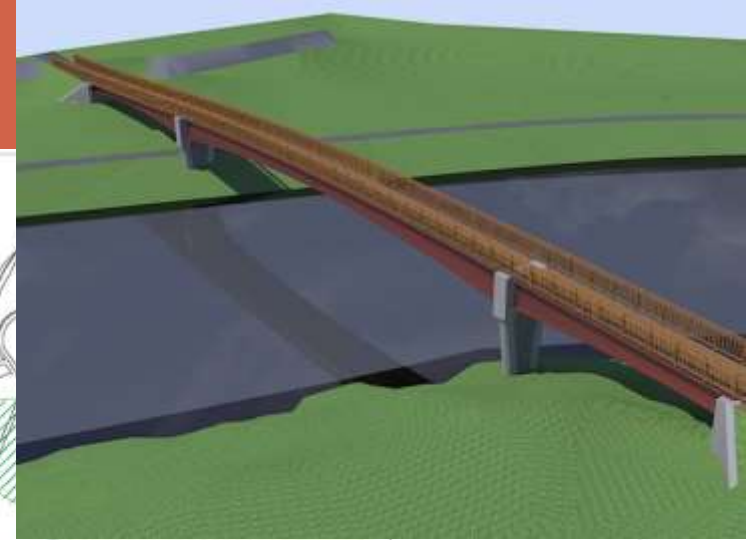- Incidental improvements
- Unavoidable repairs

New Infrastructure:

Cathkin Braes Mountain Bike Course

New Infrastructure:

Cuningar Bridge (and Loop)
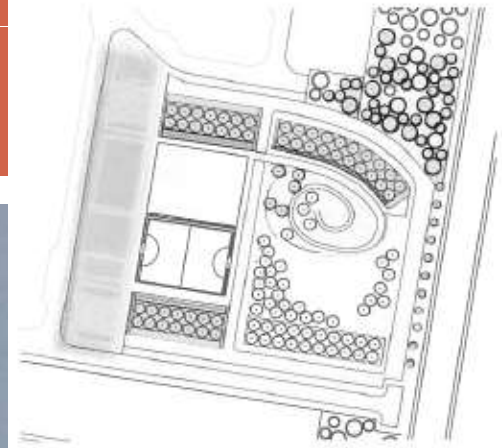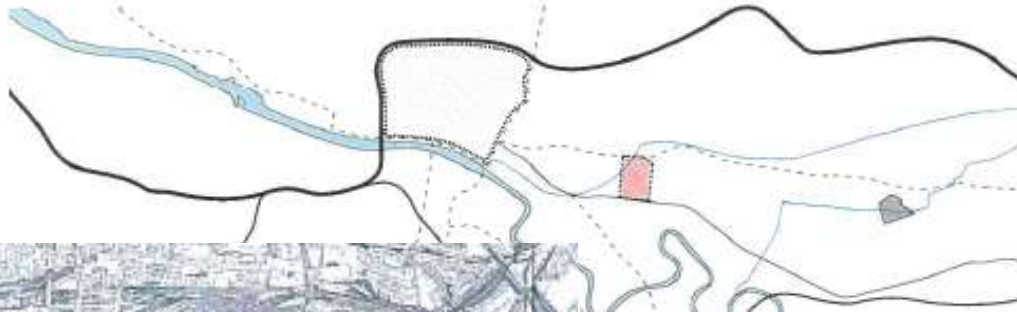
Public realm and key route upgrades:

Custom
House Quay

'Greener Legacy' Projects:

Multifunctional Greenspace Project 2014

Castlemilk Park
Camlachie
Sandyhills Park

design principle: seating/ lighting

→ seating edges are incorporated into the structural planting mounds, reducing maintenance and likelihood of vandalism.

→ lighting is focussed to the Stamford Road end of the park to improve visibility/ safety along the edge of the park

...w showing new multi use green space and commonwealth mound and community nature/ wildlife area

'Greener Legacy' Projects:
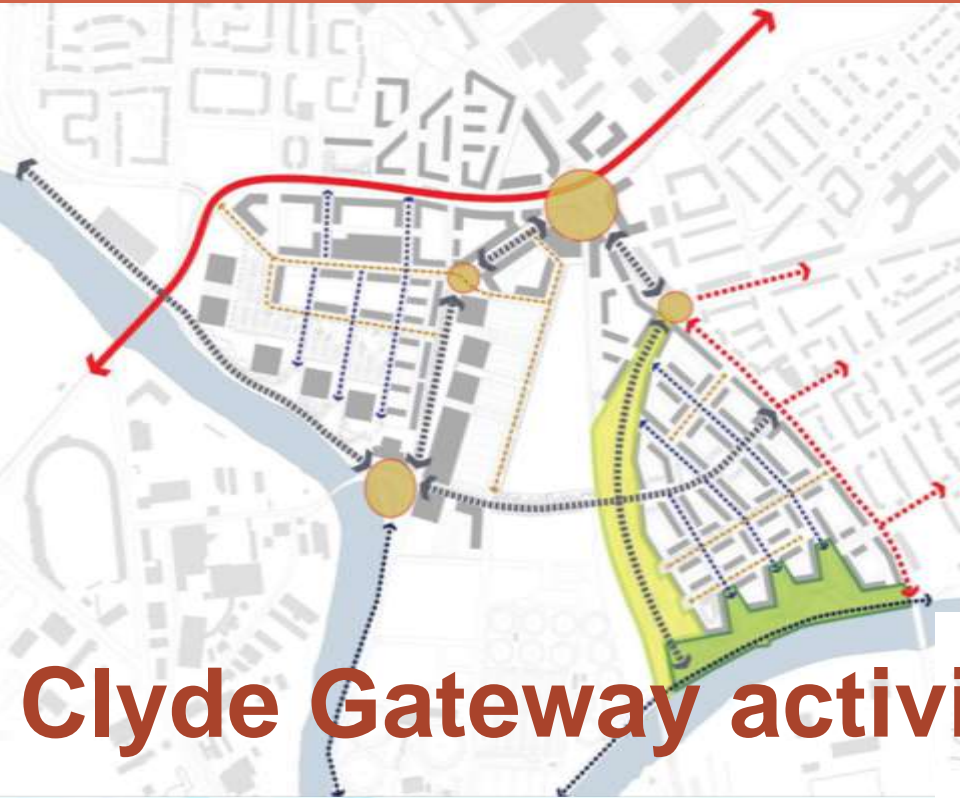
Clyde Walkway Pilot Project

Walkway improvements, Carmyle

Westburn Viaduct Project

'Sustainable' Legacy Strand:
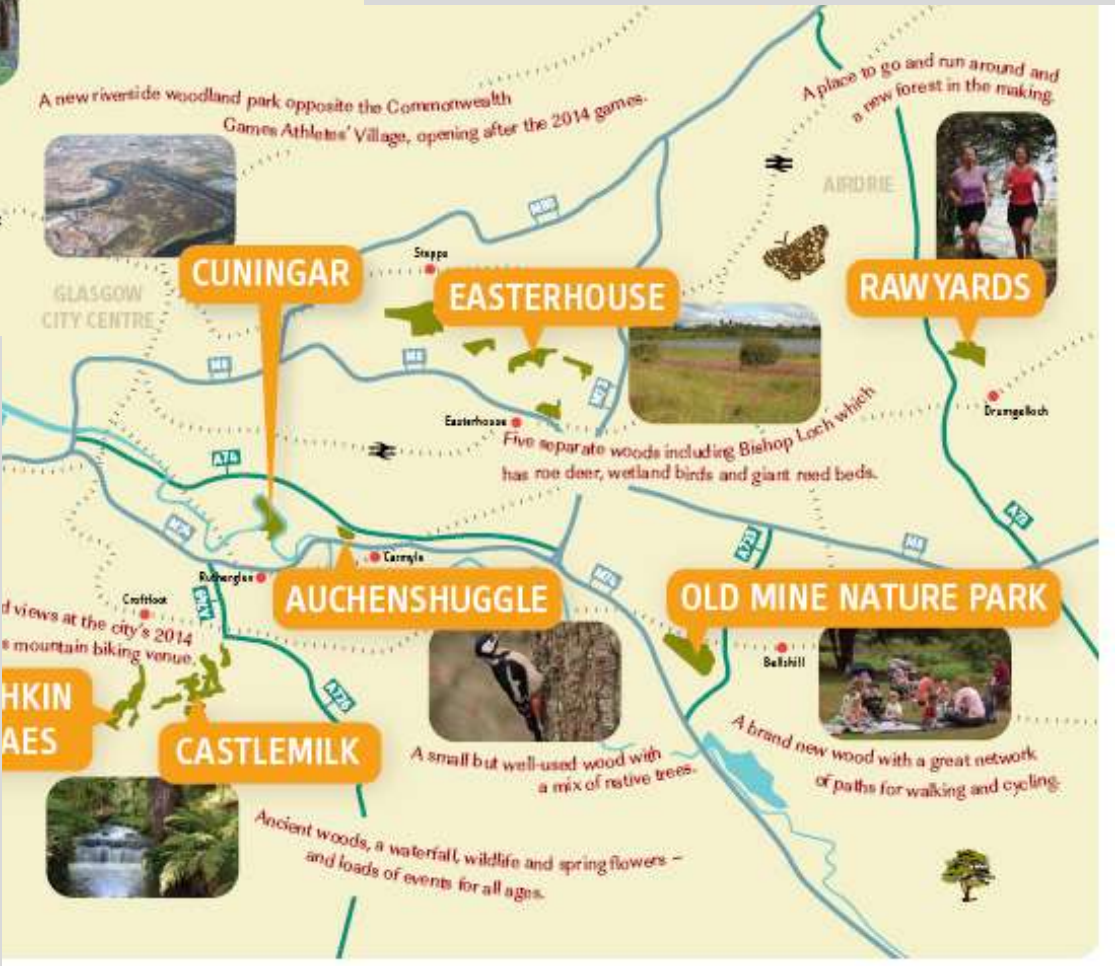
Key Routes & Spaces

Clyde Gateway activity

'Smart' Bridge

'Sustainable' Legacy Strand:

Commonwealth Woods

13 FCS woodlands providing a range of activities, including:
- sculpture trails
- walking routes
- green routes to school
- woodland workouts

to encourage local communities to enjoy their local green space and get active.

Map labels:
- KILPATRICK HILLS — Incorporating Lang Craigs and Overtoun Estate
- DRUMCHAPEL
- BODEN BOO
- CUNINGAR
- EASTERHOUSE
- RAW YARDS
- AUCHENSHUGGLE
- OLD MINE NATURE PARK
- CASTLEMILK
- ...HKIN ...AES

Map text:
- An ancient oak wood famous for bluebells in the spring.
- A new riverside woodland park opposite the Commonwealth Games Athletes' Village, opening after the 2014 games.
- A place to go and run around and a new forest in the making.
- Five separate woods including Bishop Loch which has roe deer, wetland birds and giant reed beds.
- A small but well-used wood with a mix of native trees.
- A brand new wood with a great network of paths for walking and cycling.
- Ancient woods, a waterfall, wildlife and spring flowers – and loads of events for all ages.
- ...d views at the city's 2014 ...e mountain biking venue.

Incidental improvements:

Venue paths

Games Village

Thank you