

Interpretation Masterplan

River Park Project, The Leven Programme

December 2023



Table of Contents

1.0 Introduction	3
1.1 The Leven Programme	4
1.2 What is interpretation?	6
1.3 The purpose of this Masterplan	8
2.0 Context	9
2.1 An overview of the area's history	9
2.2 River Park in Levenmouth today	20
2.3 Existing Interpretation in Levenmouth	24
2.4 The River Park Tomorrow	28
2.5 Challenges and Opportunities: SWOT Analysis	39
3.0 Community Engagement	41
3.1 Line of Questioning	42
3.2 Summary of Reach	43
3.3 Engagement Methods	43
3.4 Engagement Insights	48
3.5 Engagement Key Findings: Community Aspirations	56
4.0 Vision	59
4.1 Interpretation Aims	60
4.2 Lead the Way	61
4.3 Overall Narrative: River as the connection	62
5.0 Interpretation Themes	63
5.1 Overarching theme: The River Leven	63
5.2 Theme 1: Mills and Industrial Evolution	65
5.3 Theme 2: A Resilient Nature	67
5.4 Theme 3: Many Identities; A Shared Heritage	69
5.5 Theme 4: Growing with the Flow	72
5.6 Overview of themes	74
6.0 Target Audiences	77
6.1 Local demographics	78
6.2 Current users and uses of the River Leven	86
6.4 Future Audiences	91
6.5 Personas	98
6.6 User and visitor experience	100

7.0 Guiding Principles	104
8.0 Interpretation Programme	106
8.1 'Lead the Way' Training and Development	107
8.2 Digital Platform	109
8.3 Events	111
8.4 Toolkits and Learning	113
8.5 Paper Maps	114
8.6 Public Art	115
8.7 Physical Interpretation	116
8.8 Content Collection and Presentation	118
9.0 Interpretation within the infrastructure	119
9.1 A holistic approach to telling the Story	119
9.2 Locations for Interpretation Mapping	129
10.0 Appendices	131
10.1 Interpretation Schedule + Costings	131
10.2 Personas	135
10.3 Survey Analysis	140
Acknowledgements	161

1.0 Introduction

This Interpretation Masterplan is a considered guide for designing and delivering interpretation within the River Park area of Levenmouth, Fife. It is part of the River Park Project, under The Leven Programme.

It should be referred to by project coordinators, consultants, local groups and individuals collaborating to create heritage interpretation for the River Park during the 4-year Delivery Phase of The Leven Programme.

This plan was developed in partnership with the local communities of Levenmouth and delivered by icecream architecture during the River Park Project Development Phase (2023). It forms a key document to be submitted as part of a National Lottery Heritage Fund Stage 2 application (May 2024) for the River Park Project.

1.1 The Leven Programme

The River Leven has been a valuable asset to the Levenmouth area for many years. It has a rich industrial history, providing power, energy, and economic opportunities, which made it the centre of the area's development. The towns and villages of Levenmouth once had a significant population of workers employed in the many factories, mines, and docks that developed from and around the river. However, most of these industries have now disappeared. During the 20th century, Levenmouth lost its significance as an industrial hub and, as a result, has faced increased deprivation. The post-industrial landscape left behind has been forgotten and left derelict.

The Leven Programme brings together public bodies, businesses and community representatives to improve the River Leven and the surrounding area. It aims to improve the River Leven's physical and ecological conditions, create better connections between communities, and develop opportunities to improve the health and well-being of local people and bring economic improvements to the area.

The Leven programme is anticipated to last until 2030, and many projects are being delivered or planned for delivery. Below is a list of some of the ongoing projects:

- ***Levenmouth Connectivity Project** - a series of on-road and off-road improvements along key routes within Levenmouth that will enable easier and safer travel for those wishing to get around by foot, wheeling or cycling.*
- ***The River Park Project** - an accessible, attractive and biodiverse public park for the local communities of Levenmouth, as well as visitors to the area. The aim is to have six themed gardens along the river, built on areas of land that are currently abandoned and/or in poor condition.*
- ***Restoring the River Leven** - two projects that aim to address some of the challenges faced by the River Leven as a result of its industrial past. One of the projects focuses on a 4km section of the River Leven between Windygates and Leven, and the other focuses on one of its tributaries, the Back Burn, which flows from the Lomond Hills.*
- ***River Leven Nature Network** - activities where local people can view and learn about nature and wildlife along the River Leven. This includes developing a series of pollinator corridors by*

planting wildflowers along the river routes to encourage more insects, including bees, which are important and endangered pollinators.

- *The River Leven's history* - working to incorporate the river's heritage into a series of dedicated projects and initiatives over the next few years.
- *Health and well-being* - working closely with NHS Fife to develop a series of projects that encourage physical activity and improved connection to the natural environment along the River Leven.

(source: www.theleven.org/projects)

“Overall, the vision for the area is of a well-connected, multifunctional and valued network of green and blue spaces which provide a wide variety of recreation and leisure opportunities for residents and visitors as well as enhancing the biodiversity of the area and ensuring that future maintenance is more sustainable.”

Levenmouth Active Travel and River Park Concept Masterplan - Iglu Studios for The Leven Programme

The Leven Programme is building a legacy of lasting positive change in Levenmouth, with the local communities at its heart. This Interpretation Masterplan is designed to take advantage of and build on this moment of opportunity and potential for the River Park. It proposes projects that aim to connect the Levenmouth communities by uncovering and celebrating a shared history and heritage.

1.2 What is interpretation?

Interpretation is a set of methods, tools or experiences that allow people to connect with heritage and local nature, adding meaning to information. Heritage interpretation around the River Leven and River Park should enable local people and visitors to connect with the landscape, history and the local community, past and present.

Heritage interpretation aims to engage audiences with captivating stories and narratives, rather than simply presenting facts and technical information. By translating facts, memories, archive material and the technical language of experts into an accessible, personal and engaging format, the audience leaves with a lasting, inspiring and meaningful connection to the heritage and local environment. The interpretation process can be multi-layered and sometimes requires different approaches to telling the same story, ensuring people of different ages, backgrounds, approaches and levels of understanding benefit and learn from the interpretation.

“Good interpretation evokes ideas, emotions and memories and causes people to ask questions. It may provoke and encourage them to find out more.”

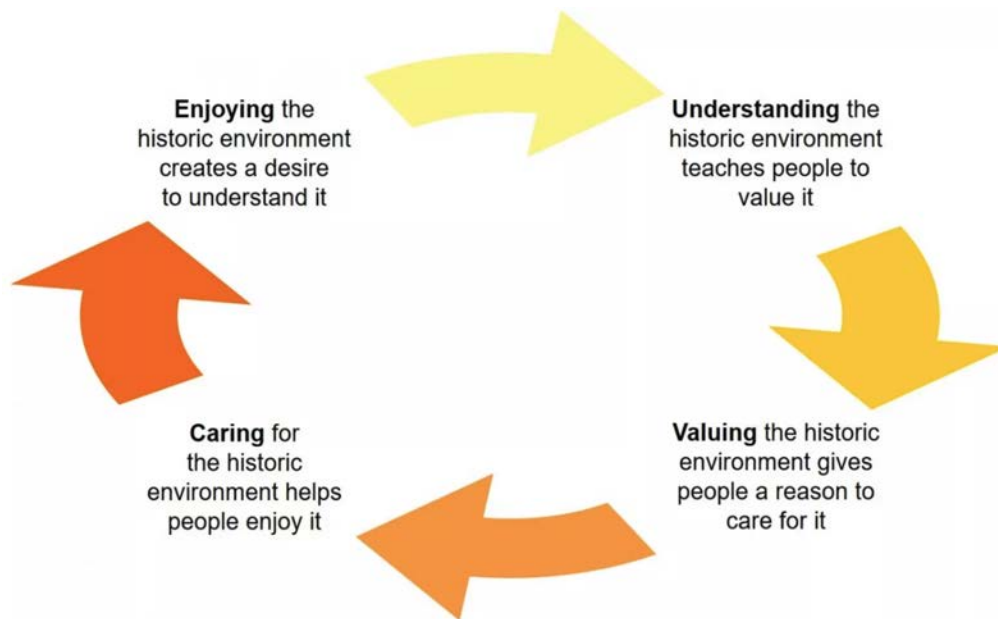
[Association for Heritage Interpretation](#)

In Levenmouth, the River Leven played a vital role in providing resources and facilitating the livelihoods of its communities. However, reflection on this prosperous heritage can be a painful memory for some, when it highlights by comparison the area's industrial and economic decline in more recent years. The Leven Programme is working hand in hand with various stakeholders and the community to develop the future of the River Leven to become a driver of positive change once again.

The interpretation should tell the story of this multifaceted heritage (past, present and future) and reflect local people's values and memories. Presenting exciting and sensitive narratives brings many benefits to the local area and its people, such as increasing

economic activity through tourism and increased use of the area. It also promotes the area as a place of value, creating a sense of pride in its communities and encouraging people to keep their heritage alive and well-maintained.

This diagram shows how heritage interpretation brings many benefits to communities:



Source: "Understanding Your Heritage Guidance." The National Lottery Heritage Fund, www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding/good-practice-guidance/understanding-your-heritage-guidance.

1.3 The purpose of this Masterplan

This Interpretation Masterplan is written to:

- **Bring together community aspirations**

The creation of interpretation across the River Park should involve the local community throughout the process; it should be their voice that guides audiences through interpretation. This includes training and capacity building, co-designing, facilitating and developing projects for the future.

- **Identify audiences**

Careful consideration of visitor types, interests, and learning approaches of the people who might use the interpretation and who will benefit from it.

- **Define key themes, narratives and locations**

Identify opportunities for interpretation throughout the River Park, including key narratives and locations.

- **Guide development and delivery of interpretation across multiple projects in the River Park**

This plan considers the ongoing changes and developments within and around the River Park, including the projects under the Leven Programme and community-initiated projects in the area. Interlinking interpretation project strands suggest a route to develop an interpretation that ensures the local community and visitors to the area are engaged, and that heritage is uncovered, preserved, promoted and cared for by the local community.

- **To support the Delivery Phase of the River Park Project**

2.0 Context

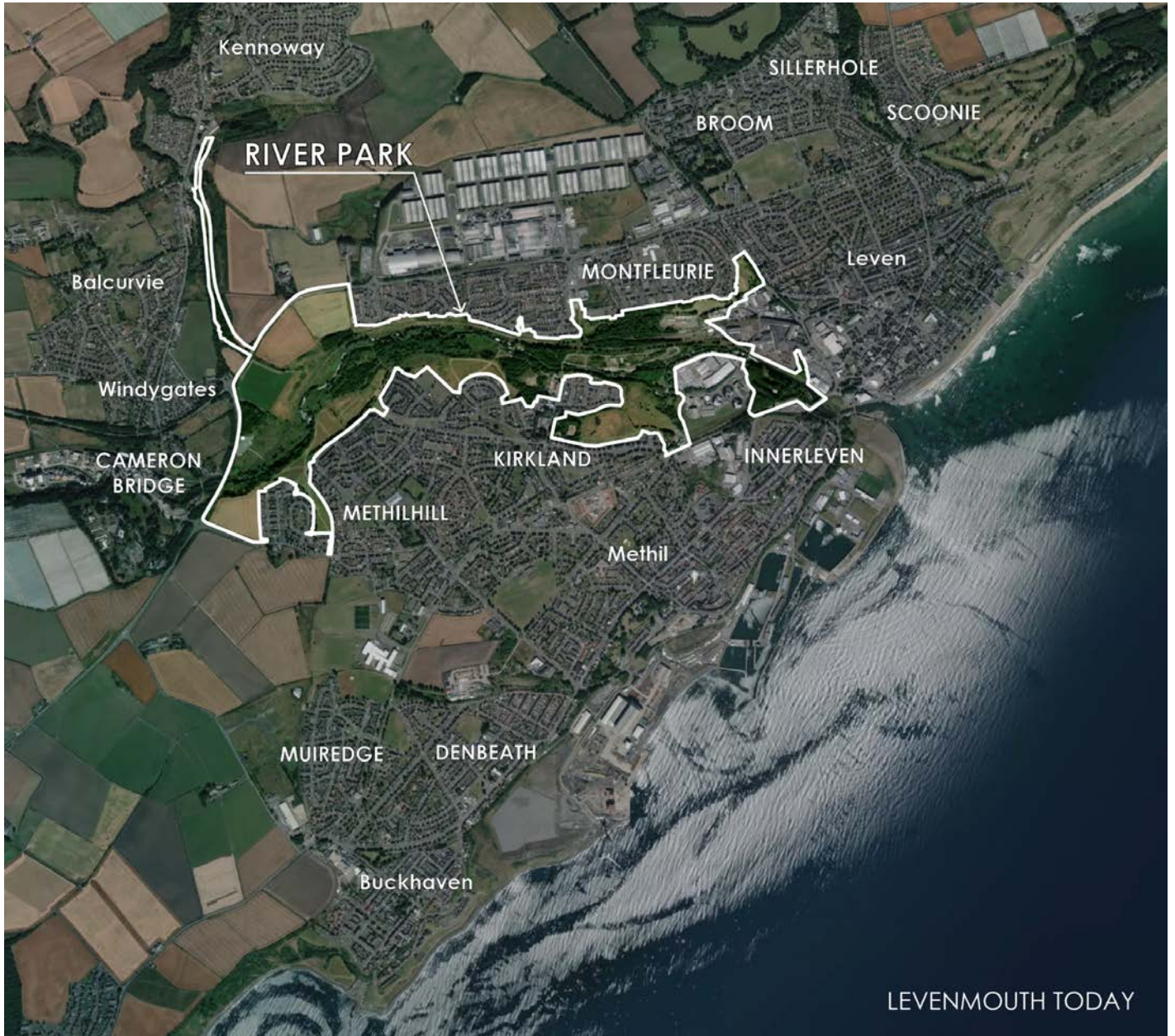
This part of the Masterplan provides historical context for the River Park area and an overview of the River Park today. It includes how the River Park is perceived and strategies for change by the regeneration projects in the Leven Programme and other initiatives.



The River Park, August 2023

2.1 An overview of the area's history

The River Leven is an essential asset in the Levenmouth landscape and integral to its industrial and natural character. The following section briefly describes the growth of Levenmouth from a single settlement area around the River Leven to the cluster of towns and communities it is today.



Levenmouth comprises different towns and neighbourhoods, including Leven, Kennoway, Windygates, Cameron Bridge, Innerleven, Kirkland, Methilhill, Methil, Denbeath and Buckhaven. Each has its own identity and heritage, but all share a common history and cross-identity.

The length of history varies from one town to another. Methil, Methilhill, and Buckhaven were villages until their expansion during the first half of the 20th Century, shaping the communities there today. The current area boundaries were principally formed in the 1950s when the latest housing developments were built in Mountfleurie, Broom and Methil to alleviate post-war housing shortages and to accommodate miners moving to the area. Since that urban development, Levenmouth has yet to experience any significant urban growth, mainly due to the closure of its leading industries through the years and the loss of its rail connection. It subsequently has become one of the most deprived areas of Scotland (source: [SIMD 2020](#)). However, the community is still active, with many smaller groups and individuals running successful projects and initiatives. With major projects such as the Leven Programme, SGN H100 and reinstatement of the rail link underway, there are fresh opportunities and changes on the horizon for Levenmouth.

Levenmouth and its towns have a few remnants from the **Prehistoric period**; there are some markers in the landscape in Kennoway, and Archaeologists excavated three of the four known cysts in Ashgrove in 1963. The discovery happened during housing construction on Methilhill Farm. Today, there are no visible remains of the cysts.

The River Leven was at the start of the communities' development.

It is during the **Medieval Period** that the earliest written reference to Leven is recorded. There were fish to catch in the River Leven and perhaps even grain mills. Leven and Innerleven were the first villages to be settled, and the first wooden bridge was built in the **14th or 15th century**. From that initial bridge, offering a crossing to travellers, the area slowly developed, with records of other bridges crossing the river, mills on the river banks and harbours filled with foreign imported goods.

Slow development through trade, pre-industrial labour and mills

In **1609**, Leven became a burgh of Barony, meaning the town received the legal right to

hold markets and to trade. At this point, the people of Leven lived by fishing, hand-loom weaving and use of the riverbanks for food production. With the right to trade, coal mining developed in Methil and coal was exported through its small harbour. It fuelled a small salt production facility that gave early Methil its name - Methil Pans - visible on the Roy Military Survey of the Highlands map of 1747-55. On the same map, the Methil Mill, situated close to the Medieval Church, supported a small mill village. Archaeological searches have uncovered a Miller's cottage, mill stones, flour, grain stores and a kiln.

Source: Roy Military Survey of Scotland - Highlands, 1747-55. The map can be viewed here:

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=12.6&lat=56.19930&lon=-3.02752&layers=3&b=1>

Gaelic was then the primary language spoken in Fife. With the burgh of Barony status and trade developing, the language was transformed with the influence of overseas traders, mainly of Dutch origin. Scots became the lingua franca used for this trade, and its influence spread beyond the docks to the towns.

The Dutch influence in the area created a false identity for the community of Buckhaven. The close community of fishermen, farmers, and weavers were believed to have been descendants of a crew from the Netherlands that had been shipwrecked. Compared to other communities of Levenmouth, they had distinct speech and manners, but there is no evidence of their Dutch origins.

First Industrial Revolution: Labour at the Centre of Communities

From the **early to late 19th Century**, the **First Industrial Revolution** accelerated the development of the area: Large-scale drainage works for farming purposes at Loch Leven and along the river banks caused a decrease in the river's water level, physically changing the landscape. Many industries developed in Levenmouth during this time, including **linen**, **paper** and **fertiliser** production, **timber** sales and **foundries**. These industries offered many employment opportunities. Wooden **shipbuilding** was already a craft industry well-practised in Leven; it was industrialised by the Leven **Foundry**, which was opened by

Henri Balfour in 1810. The foundry initially produced cast-iron stoves, boilers and water pipes and started producing iron-hulled ships in 1830, some of which were built in Methil.

Kirkland: A Busy Pocket of Industrial Workers

The Kirkland housed a series of industries. It might have received its name from the Medieval Church near the River Leven. The remains of the Church's oval enclosure are still visible today next to the Methilhill Cemetery. Kirkland was the most populated area of the River Leven until the late 19th Century. The River Leven powered the Kirkland Works Spinning Mill, which opened in 1810 and was owned by the Peter family. Six hundred and eighty people were employed at the mill, and from records, we know the mill consumed 1,000 tons of flax and hemp annually to manufacture sailcloth; this was a busy stretch of the river. The Kirkland Works likely had a set industrial rhythm and played an essential role in their employees' lives, providing a school for the children.

The spinning mills closed in 1896, and after its closure opened up the area for cyanide production which ran for a few years. In 1910, the National Steel Foundry opened and lasted under different names until the start of the 21st Century. People today still have childhood memories of playing in the ruins of the Kirkland House and of the sculptures in the gardens.

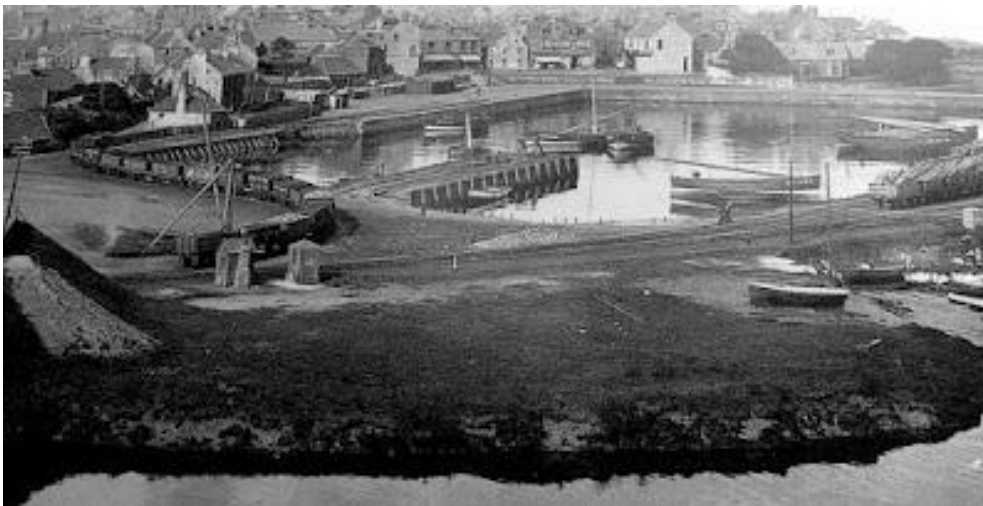
A new housing estate was recently constructed on the derelict steel foundry site.

Archaeologists are excavating the only remains of the Kirkland mansion; no other traces remain except in locals' memories. On the 1855 Ordnance Survey Map, a Curling Pond is visible along the river opposite the Kirkland Works. We can imagine the workers' social life on the river's banks.



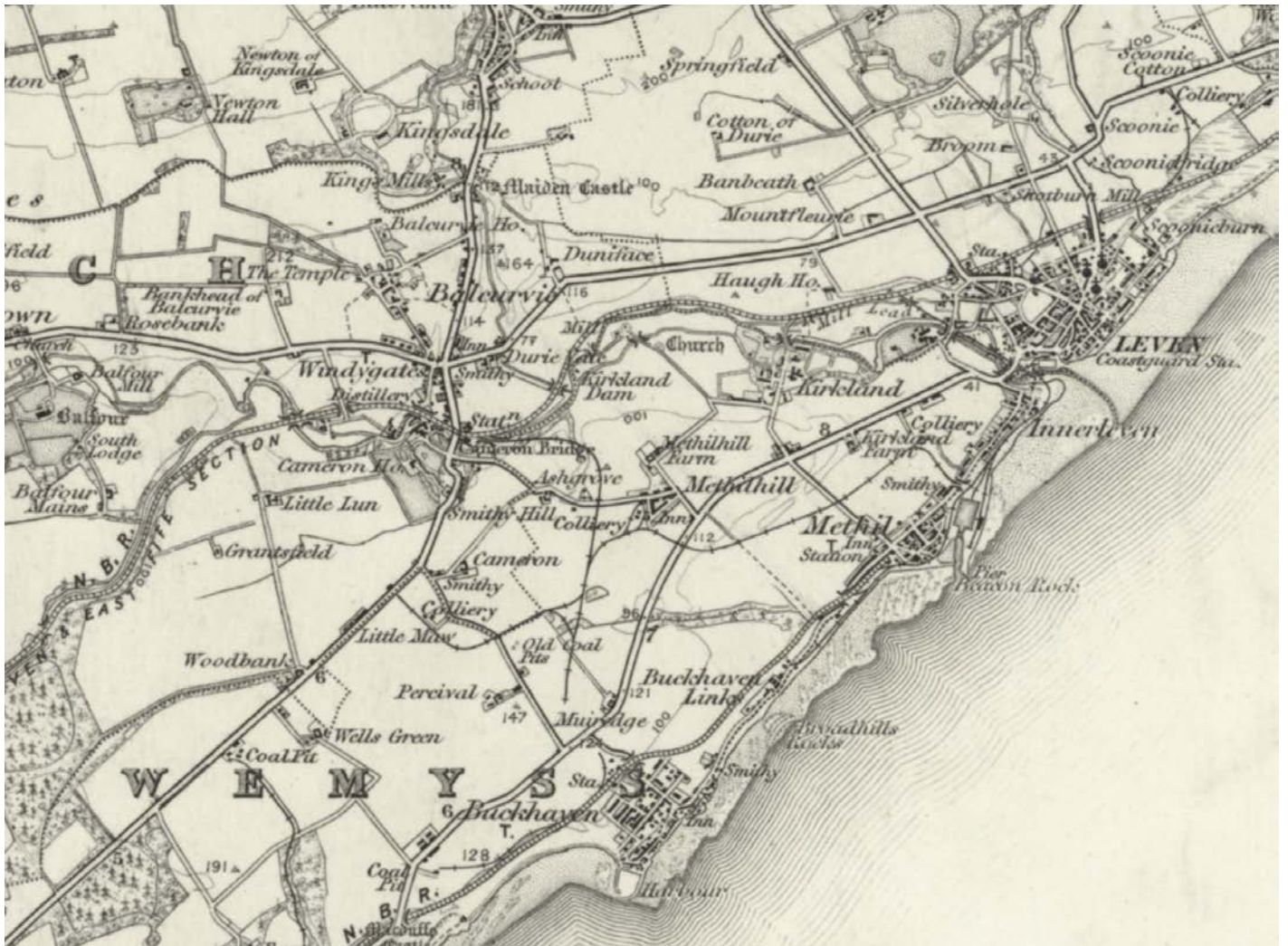
Ordnance Survey, Fife Sheet 25, 1855. © National Library of Scotland

Due to the heavy industrial activity, including the bleach works established in the 1830s, the river and soil became highly polluted and the number of fish in the river dramatically decreased (more information can be found in the *Leven Path Network Heritage Interpretation Assessment*, DA Speirs, March 2019). This pollution was witnessed and known by the local communities, contributing to the negative perception of the river today.



Leven Harbour at the end of the 19th Century.

Population Increase and Urban Development



Ordnance Survey, One-inch to the mile, 1885-1900. © National Library of Scotland

Global industrial development increased the demand for coal; the Levenmouth area was a source of high-quality coal described as “parrot” coal due to its distinctive crackling when burnt. At the **start of the 20th Century**, collieries massively expanded, exporting over three million tons of coal by 1923. This expansion necessitated an extensive network of rail lines transporting the extracted coal to the Methil Docks. Over the years, the Methil harbour was improved to offer three docks that could accommodate large ships. During this period many families moved to Levenmouth mainly to work in the mines but also in the ancillary railways, docks and industries. The high demand for labour attracted hard-working people.



Ordnance Survey, One-inch Seventh Series, 1952-1961. © National Library of Scotland

During the **first half of the 20th Century**, the population of Methil, Methilhill and Buckhaven increased drastically. Community amenities such as schools opened, new housing programmes were built, replacing neighbourhoods considered slums and developing new neighbourhoods.

There were over 1,600 people employed in the Wellesley Colliery. The migration of many families created a melting-pot population and a vibrant community life. The lower Methil High Street was a major shopping destination across Fife and attracted people from all over Scotland. Leven Mills and Buckhaven became part of the Scottish Riviera holiday resort town; Leven's promenade and golf course from this period remain today. Leven, much like other coastal areas of Fife, also played its part in the origin of golf.

Closures and Regeneration Perspectives

The **second half of the 20th Century** saw a lot of industry and mining closures and the loss of infrastructure in Levenmouth. Many local Collieries closed in the **1960s**, slowing down the coal exportation and subsequent use of the Methil Docks. The last coal shipment left Methil in **1977** when coal exports moved to Leith, closing one of the three Methil Docks. The Methil Power Station was built on a former golf course at the mouth of the River Leven. It created a landmark in the landscape with its high chimney. It used a low-grade coal slurry supplied from the washeries of the nearby Fife Coalfield. The Coal was brought by lorries and the remaining rail line along the River Leven. The station closed in **2000** due to a lack of coal-slurry fuel and the uneconomical operation of a small facility. The Methil Power station was demolished in **2011**. Nearby, the former site of the Wellesley Colliery became an oil platform construction site.

The closure of collieries reduced the number of railways around Levenmouth; the rail line that transported passengers stopped its services in **1969**. The rail line served the Cameronbridge distillery, Kirkland yard, and Methil power station. The freight service stopped in **2001**.

The National Steel Foundry opened in 1910 at the former site of the Kirkland Spinning Mills, renamed a few times, was known as the ABC Naco Leven facility when it closed in **2002**, leaving the site derelict until the construction of a housing estate in recent years.



Methil Harbour View from SW showing coal drops with Methil Power Station in the background, 1967.
<https://canmore.org.uk/collection/610173>

Following years of campaigning by local community members, in **2019**, the Scottish Government announced the re-opening of the Leven Rail service, creating two new train stations. In Spring **2024**, Leven and Cameron Bridge train stations are expected to connect Levenmouth to Edinburgh Waverley. The re-opening of the rail line and the regeneration of the River Leven aims to bring infrastructure and new opportunities for the communities of Levenmouth, developing training, volunteering and employment.



Railway Works on the right-hand side of the photograph and Leven Foundry on the other side of the River. The wood area is the site of the Kirkland House and gardens. The Kirkland Mansion should be located at the left of the foundry. Alexander Bruce and Co. Telegraph Pole and Railway Sleeper Works, Leven. Aerial Photograph. 1932. <https://canmore.org.uk/collection/1257434>



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|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cameronbridge Distillery (1824 - today) 2. Ashgrove Prehistoric Cysts (no remains) 3. Weir, Kirkland Dam (present) 4. Mill Lade (ruins, to be reinstated) 5. Methil Mill and site of Mill-village (ruins) 6. Methil Church and Oval Enclosure (ruins) 7. Burn Mill Dam (to be removed) 8. Kirkland House and Gardens (no remains) 9. Kirkland Works (no remains) 10. Kirkland Mansion (ruins) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Curling Pond (no remains) 12. Rail infrastructure (traces of platforms) 13. Leven various Mills and Industries, past and present (past industries - no remains) 14. Bridge between Leven and Innerleven (present) 15. Site of Methil Power Station (no remains) 16. Fife Renewables Innovation Centre (present) 17. Methil Docks (present) |
|---|--|

The [Levenmouth Active Travel and River Park Concept Masterplan](#) pp32-37, created by IGLU studio presents an overview of industries in the Levenmouth Area.

2.2 River Park in Levenmouth today

The area around the River Leven has basically been derelict since the railway's dismantlement, leaving a vacant network of gravelled areas, overgrowth, shrubbery and several transient commuting paths for locals. After more than 150 years of industrial use, the area felt like it had been left with an uncertain fate. Younger generations have never witnessed the River Park as a thriving area; it feels unmanaged and is seen as unsafe by the community. However, the reduction in activity around the river has allowed the natural environment to develop, with nature and wildlife reclaiming the space. The decline of industry and re-growth of nature has left a unique habitat on post-industrial grounds.

Much public perception of the park tends to be negative, with antisocial behaviour a major concern among locals who use the park. More positively, the local community values the park as an easy-to-access, free, somewhat wild, outdoor, natural space.



A key issue for many users of the park is illegal motorbike use. Unable to ride on the road legally, many turn to the park as a space to ride their bikes. Many also associate the park with unwanted drug related activities. Unfortunately, this has created safety concerns for many potential users of the park and increased negative perceptions of the area.



The River Leven at the Kirkland Dam. August 2023

Some vital industries still operate along the river, including the Diageo Distillery and the timber works. However, when compared to the mills and factories that once animated the river's banks, the changes in the landscape are stark to see.

The River Leven's environmental quality suffered as a result of increased urbanisation and industrialisation throughout the 19th and 20th centuries; it is however improving thanks to the reductions in heavy industry, introduction of environmental legislation, and increased environmental awareness.

As part of the Leven Programme's work, efforts to improve the river's quality will improve the ability of migratory fish to move along the river. The revival of the Levenmouth Rail Link has brought a vital opportunity for its immediate neighbours and a welcome hum of machinery and activity back to the River Park. This is a transformation waiting to happen.





2.3 Existing Interpretation in Levenmouth

Currently, there are pockets of interpretation and access to heritage information in some populated areas of the surrounding towns but no interpretation in the River Park.

Below is an overview of the existing interpretation in Levenmouth:



- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Buckhaven Shore Interpretation Boards | 8. Methil Community Garden |
| 2. Buckhaven Library and Museum | 9. Fife Heritage Railway |
| 3. Buckhaven Heritage Interpretation Boards at key locations and Heritage Trail | 10. Silverburn Park |
| 4. Buckhaven Community Garden | 11. Future Leven Train Station |
| 5. Methil Library | 12. Fife Folk Museum, Cupar |
| 6. Heritage Board at Memorial Park | 13. Kinross Marshall Museum |
| 7. Methil Heritage Centre | 14. Glenrothes Area Heritage Museum |
| | 15. Fife Archives, Glenrothes |
| | 16. West Wemyss Mining Museum |

What/where	Theme	Detail
1. Buckhaven Shore interpretation boards	Urban/landscape heritage	CLEAR have created and installed boards showing past photographs of the holiday resort.
2. Buckhaven Library & Museum	Industrial heritage, Community heritage, Urban heritage	Free local museum, part of the library. Chart its past from a fishing village to a mining town in the 'Working Lives' permanent display. Visitors can explore a replica 1920s kitchen to discover how much cooking habits have changed over the past century.
3. Buckhaven Heritage Interpretation Boards and Heritage Trail	Urban heritage, Mining heritage, Community heritage	CLEAR have created and installed information boards around Buckhaven to tell the town's history. They also created a website (no longer active, information still available under 'paths and trails' at clearfife.org) and leaflets for Heritage Trails titled 'A walk around 20th Century Buckhaven & Denbeath' and 'A Walk around Auld Buckhyme and new Buckhaven'. The heritage trails are accessible through QR codes to learn about the history of Methil and Buckhaven.
4. Buckhaven Community Garden	Natural heritage, Community heritage	Run by CLEAR, the garden and growing space has been open for over 12 years, on the former site of a neglected play park. The garden is maintained by volunteers.
5. Methil Library	Community heritage, Industrial heritage	Local Library run by OnFife on behalf of Fife Council. Houses Local & Family History resources.
6. Heritage Board at Memorial Park, Methil	Community heritage, Industrial heritage,	Large interpretation and information board displaying heritage photographs and information about Methil and the surrounding area's history.
7. Methil Heritage Centre	Mining heritage, Industrial heritage, Community heritage	Exhibition space that has been closed since 2020. Planned to reopen at the end of 2023/early 2024, run by OnFife and Friends of Methil Heritage.

8. Methil Community Garden	Natural heritage, Community Heritage	Run by CLEAR, the garden and growing space has been open for over 3 years. The garden is maintained by volunteers.
9. Fife Heritage Railway, Kirkland, Leven.	Railway heritage	Collection of restored locomotives and rolling stock open twice weekly to the public. Located at Kirkland Yard with a collection of working engines with public running days.
10. Silverburn Park, Leven	Industrial heritage, Natural heritage	Plan to restore the Silverburn Mill and create interpretation work about Leven's linen industry and mill industry.
11. Future Leven Train Station	Community heritage	Due to open in 2024. Future starting point of Levenmouth Local Tourism Association's Methil Heritage trail.
12. Fife Folk Museum, Cupar	Community heritage	Museum that tells the story of the social, domestic and working lives of the people in Fife.
13. Kinross Marshall Museum	Community heritage, Cultural heritage	Opened in 2010 in Loch Leven Community Campus, based on collections of antiquarian David Marshall.
14. Glenrothes Area Heritage Museum	Community heritage, Industrial heritage,	Was housed in the Kingdom Centre Glenrothes, currently downsizing and moving location.
15. Fife Archives, Glenrothes	Community heritage, Industrial heritage, Natural heritage, Urban heritage, Cultural heritage,	Archives search room in Fife Collections Centre, run by OnFife on behalf of Fife Council. The Collections Centre contains over 250,00 objects and documents. It is open by appointment and runs monthly behind-the-scenes tours.
16. West Wemyss Mining Museum	Mining heritage, Industrial heritage	West Wemyss Mining Museum began as 'Old Wemyss Heritage Centre'. It tells the story of the workers and mining industry in Fife. The majority of artefacts in the collection have been donated by former miners and their families.

Other Heritage Locations in Fife	Theme	Detail
Fife Mining Heritage Society , Kinglassie	Mining heritage	Formed in 1995, unclear if still active. The website contains information and archive material about mining heritage in fife. Fifeminingheritage.org.uk . There used to be a Fife Mining Museum in Kinglassie, which is now permanently closed.
RSPB Loch Leven Nature Reserve , Kinross	Nature heritage	Nature reserve with visitor centre. Family friendly trails, and activities for hire such as pond-dipping kits, binoculars etc.
Lomond Hills Regional Park , East Lomond	Natural Heritage, Landscape heritage	Made up of 25 square miles of moorland, lochs and farmland, with many access points and a path network. Resource library with downloadable leaflets describing points of interest: fifecoastandcountrysidetrust.co.uk/plan-your-trip/resources-leaflets/



Display at the Methil Heritage Centre.



Community information board in Metil.



Heritage information boards produced by CLEAR and installed in various locations in Buckhaven.

2.4 The River Park Tomorrow

The Leven Programme has undertaken significant planning for the development of the wider River Leven area. The section below summarises the key proposals for this transformation.

The Park's future environmental and infrastructural improvements, alongside connected projects - particularly the reinstatement of the Levenmouth rail link, will create cultural, economic and social benefits for the area. There will be more visitors, more opportunities for outdoor learning, and safer places for locals to enjoy time in nature.



Engagement for the Interpretation and Community engagement plan at Leven Programme BBQ, Blether and a Band event, August 2023

The Levenmouth Community Action Plan (formerly titled Behaviour Change Community Action Plan) was produced as part of the Leven Programme, which highlights several priority actions related to heritage interpretation, including:

- *“Explore (social) history, heritage and nature and develop interpretation boards/murals and trails”.*

Delivery of this aim would, in turn, contribute to the delivery of actions identified in a range of local action plans in the Levenmouth area, including:

- *“Promote existing historical and architectural features and improve the built environment.” (Buckhaven Community Action Plan 2018-2023)*
- *“Utilise our cultural heritage to develop the potential for visitors” (Plan 4 Levenmouth area 2019-2022)*
- *“Make more of promoting local heritage” (East Wemyss Macduff Community Action Plan 2019-2024)*

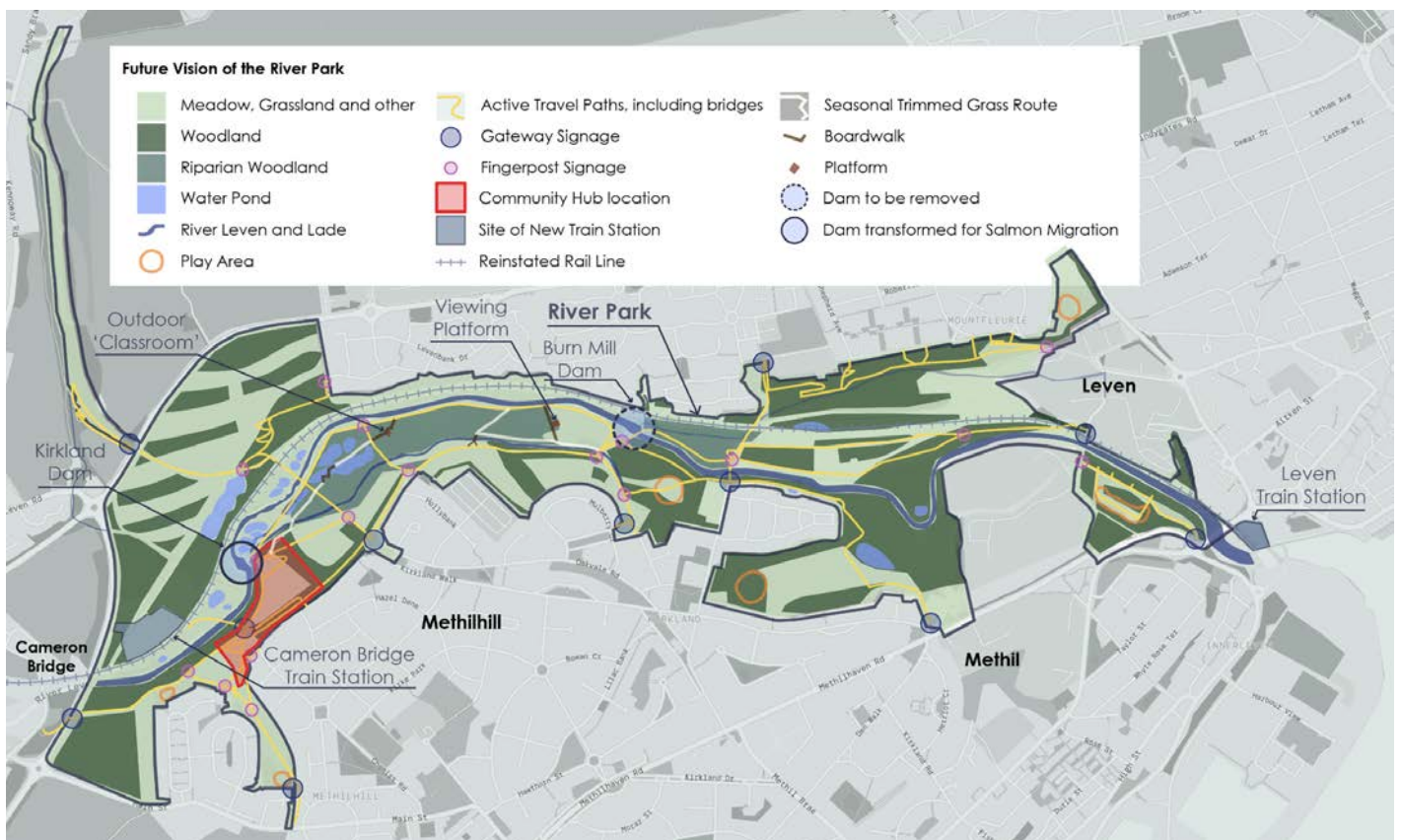
The Leven Programme Heritage Framework (2022-2032) also sets out strategic aims which directly relate to heritage interpretation. The three key aims set out are:

- *“Aim 1 – Improving access to and understanding of the heritage of the River Leven.”*
- *“Aim 2 – Developing heritage-based skills and enterprises through learning.”*
- *“Aim 3 – Contributing to future sustainability for communities of the River Leven.”*

More detailed information is in the Levenmouth Heritage Framework (2022-2032), accessible here:

www.theleven.org/resources

This interpretation plan sets out guidelines and outcomes to achieve these aims within the River Park, bringing together community aspirations, projects and community-oriented delivery methods.



Map Showing plans for the River Park Project. More detailed information is in the Levenmouth Active Travel and River Park Concept Masterplan, accessible here: www.theleven.org/resources

“The River Park will be an accessible, attractive and ecologically thriving, biodiverse public park for local communities and visitors alike. Strategic interventions situated around key crossing points will provide meaningful social spaces with new facilities and references to the unique industrial and natural heritage of the surrounding area.”

Levenmouth Active Travel and River Park Concept Masterplan - Iglu Studios for The Leven Programme

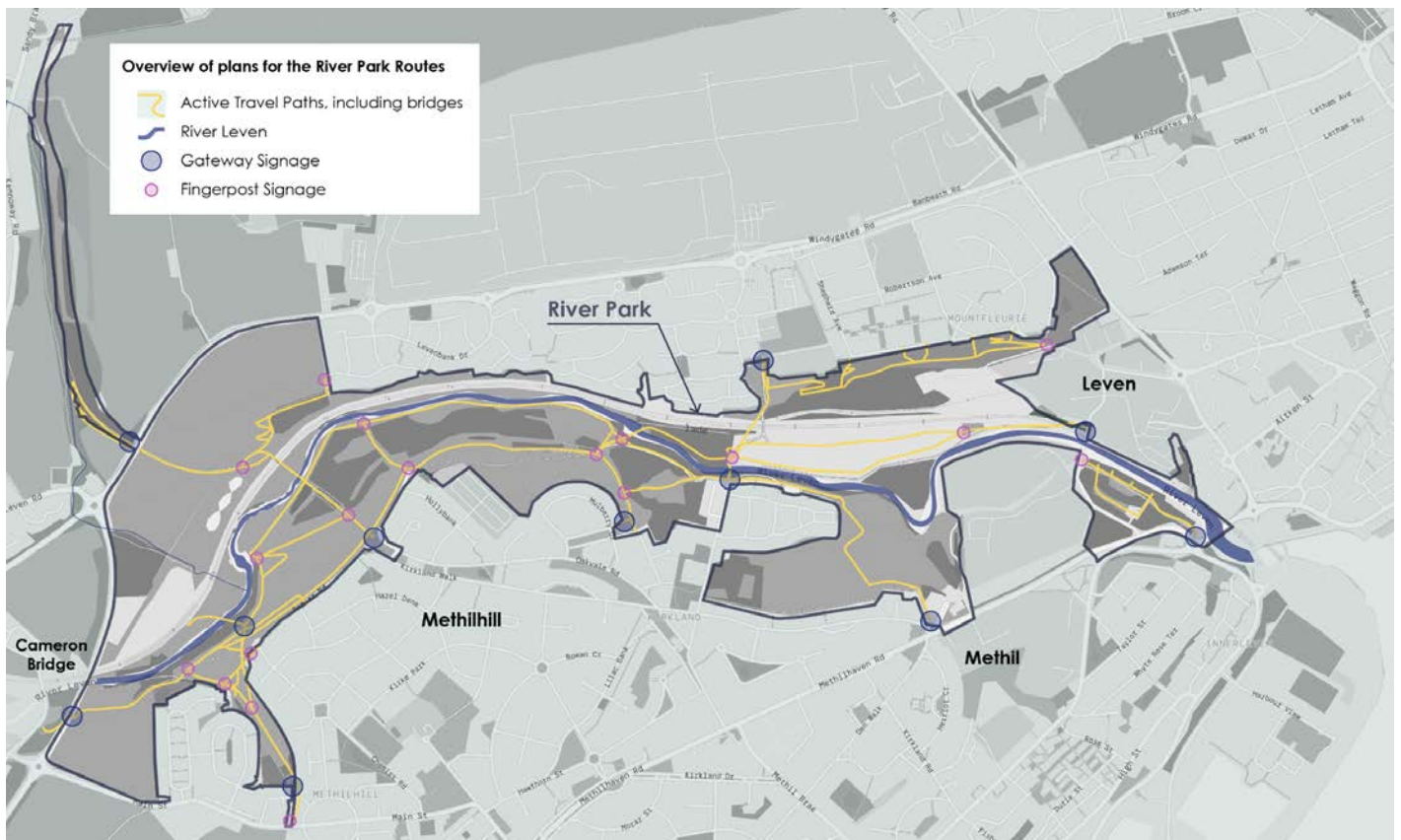
There are interpretation opportunities throughout the River Park, detailed below.

The River Leven Nature Network aims to encourage local people and visitors to view and learn more about nature and wildlife along the River Leven. This includes developing a series of pollinator corridors by planting wildflowers along the river routes to encourage more insects, and important and endangered pollinators such as bees.

An interactive StoryMap has been created by RaeburnFarquharBowen for the project, which shows design ideas for the Nature Network, including how the River park could be adapted to increase habitats and biodiversity.

[The River Leven Nature Network StoryMap can be viewed here: https://arcg.is/18KuX1](https://arcg.is/18KuX1)

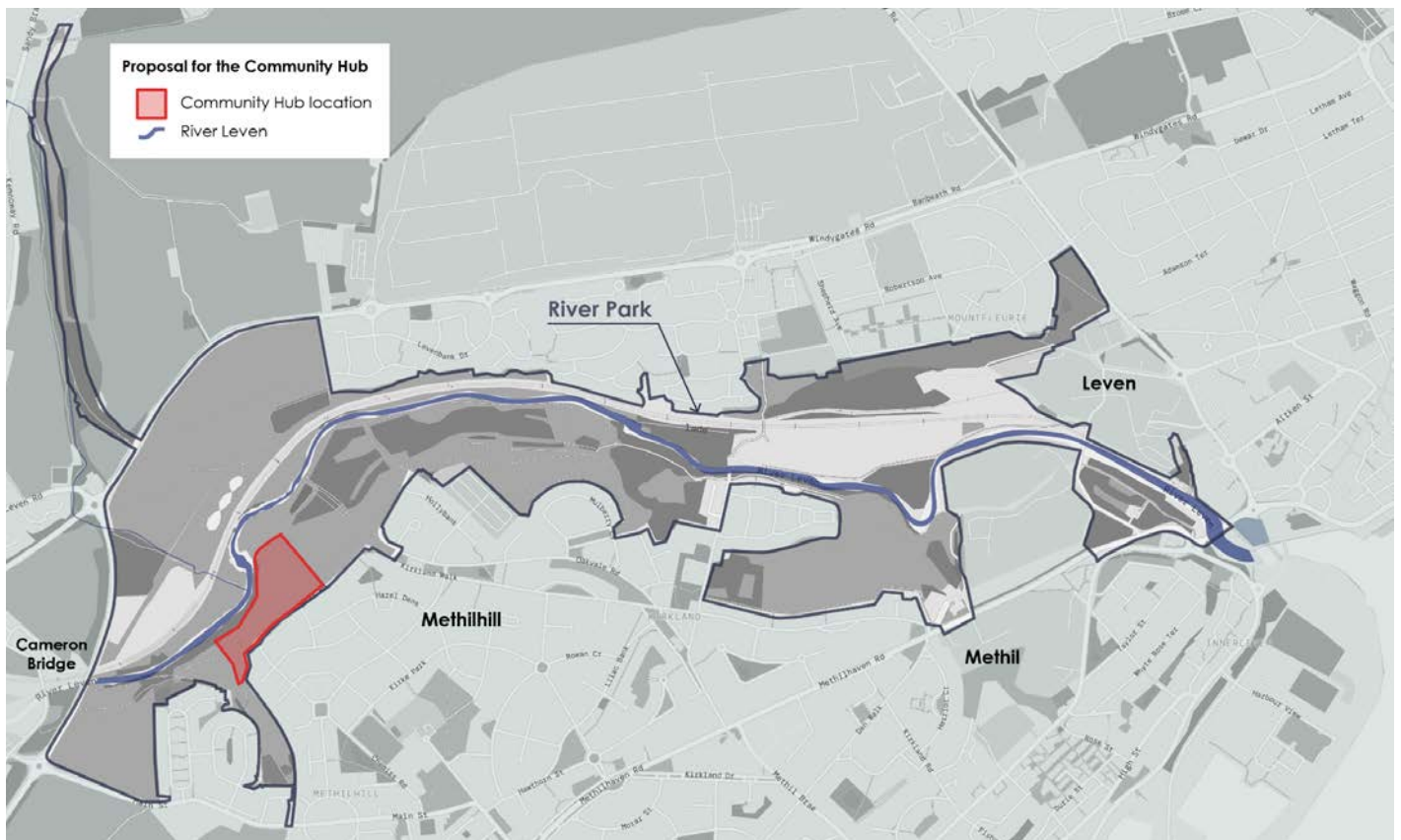
This is a key opportunity for interpretation, particularly along locations where nature and habitat restoration works are taking place. The positive changes and improvements to the local environment of the River Park can be highlighted, and there are opportunities for outdoor-learning kits and educational interpretation to be produced.



Part of the Connectivity Project, the River Park Routes are an off-road active travel network of paths, designed for shared use by walkers, wheelers and cyclists.

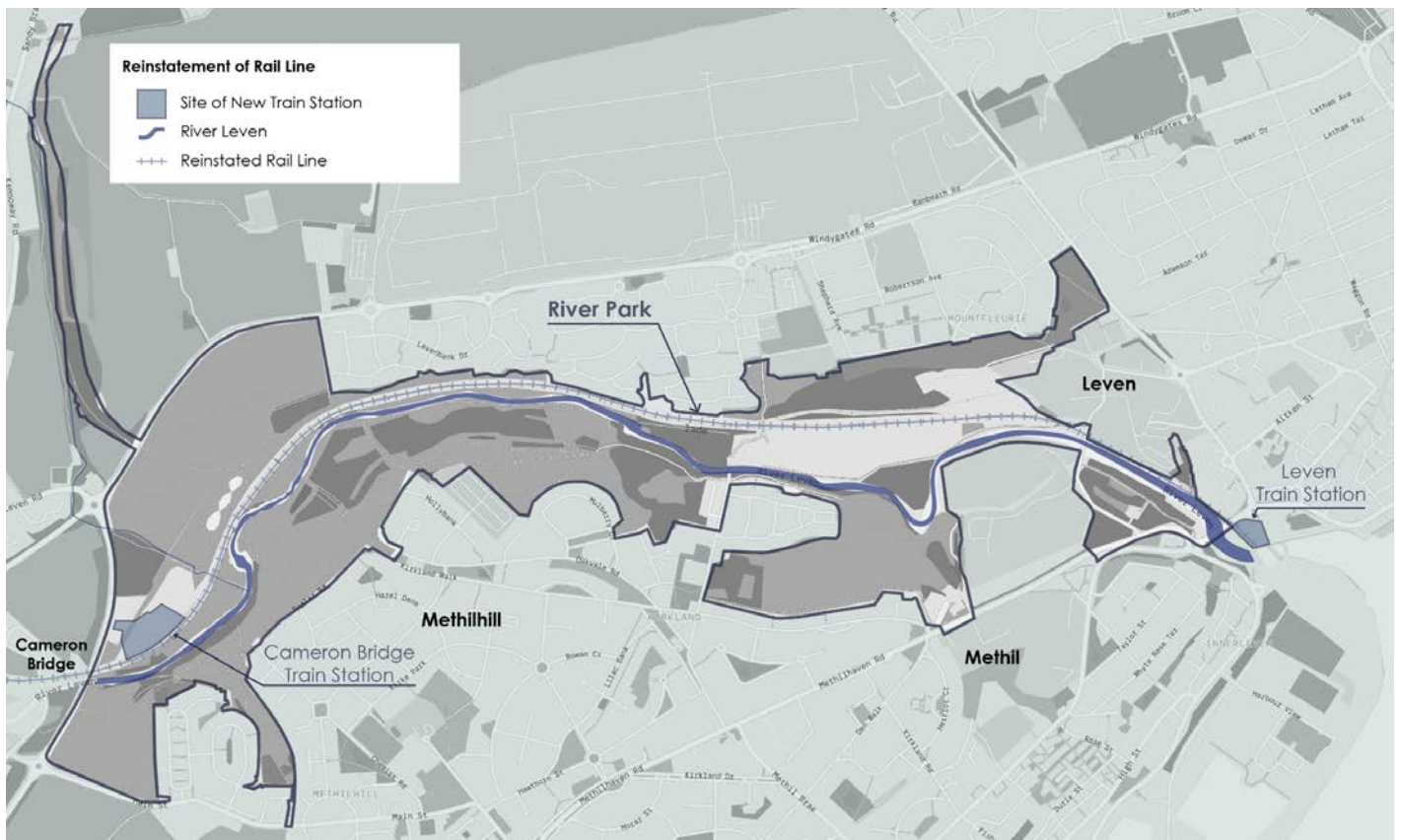
The project also includes improvements along the paths including benches/seating/rest areas, natural play opportunities, native tree, shrub, hedgerow and wildflower planting, gateways and directional signage throughout the path network. There are many opportunities for interpretation here: particularly at key gateways, directional signage, on benches and rest areas and integrated into the paths (on the ground).

Interpretation along the paths is an opportunity to engage audiences who are less likely to actively seek out heritage information, engaging them 'by chance' as they travel along the path network using the park for exercise, leisure and commuting.



The Community Hub proposed as part of the River Park Project would create a central point in the park for the community to benefit from the various opportunities and activities the park will offer. The proposals include opportunities for learning, recreation, wellbeing and employment. Community groups will manage the hub, and it is an opportunity to develop capacity, cohesion, and agency in local groups.

As a central point in the River Park, this is a key point for natural and cultural interpretation to be accessed by locals and visitors. Interpretation could be applied at the hub in various ways, from exhibition displays, public artworks, access to materials and learning toolkits, to acting as a gathering point for heritage events.



The rail link to Leven was cut off in October 1969. The work of the Levenmouth Rail Campaign, initiated and supported by community representatives of Levenmouth, successfully campaigned for the reinstatement of rail services to Leven. Transport Scotland has commissioned Network Rail to develop plans to reinstall the connection from the mainline rail network to Leven and Cameron Bridge, restoring passenger services to the area. This project necessitates the development of 19 km of single track rail and two new accessible stations at Cameron Bridge and the mouth of the River Leven. This rail track will pass through the park. The renewal of the Levenmouth rail link aims to boost economic sustainability and connectivity significantly. It will deliver travel opportunities for local people - unlocking access to education, culture, entertainment and employment options as well as attracting new business and investment. The opening of the rail line is anticipated for Spring 2024.

The Levenmouth Reconnected Programme, managed by Fife Council, is providing £10 million of funding invested by Transport Scotland and Fife Council to support local projects participating in Levenmouth's regeneration. The funded projects must support the area's

priorities and maximise the economic and social value of the re-opened rail link to the communities of Levenmouth. The four key grant themes are as follows:

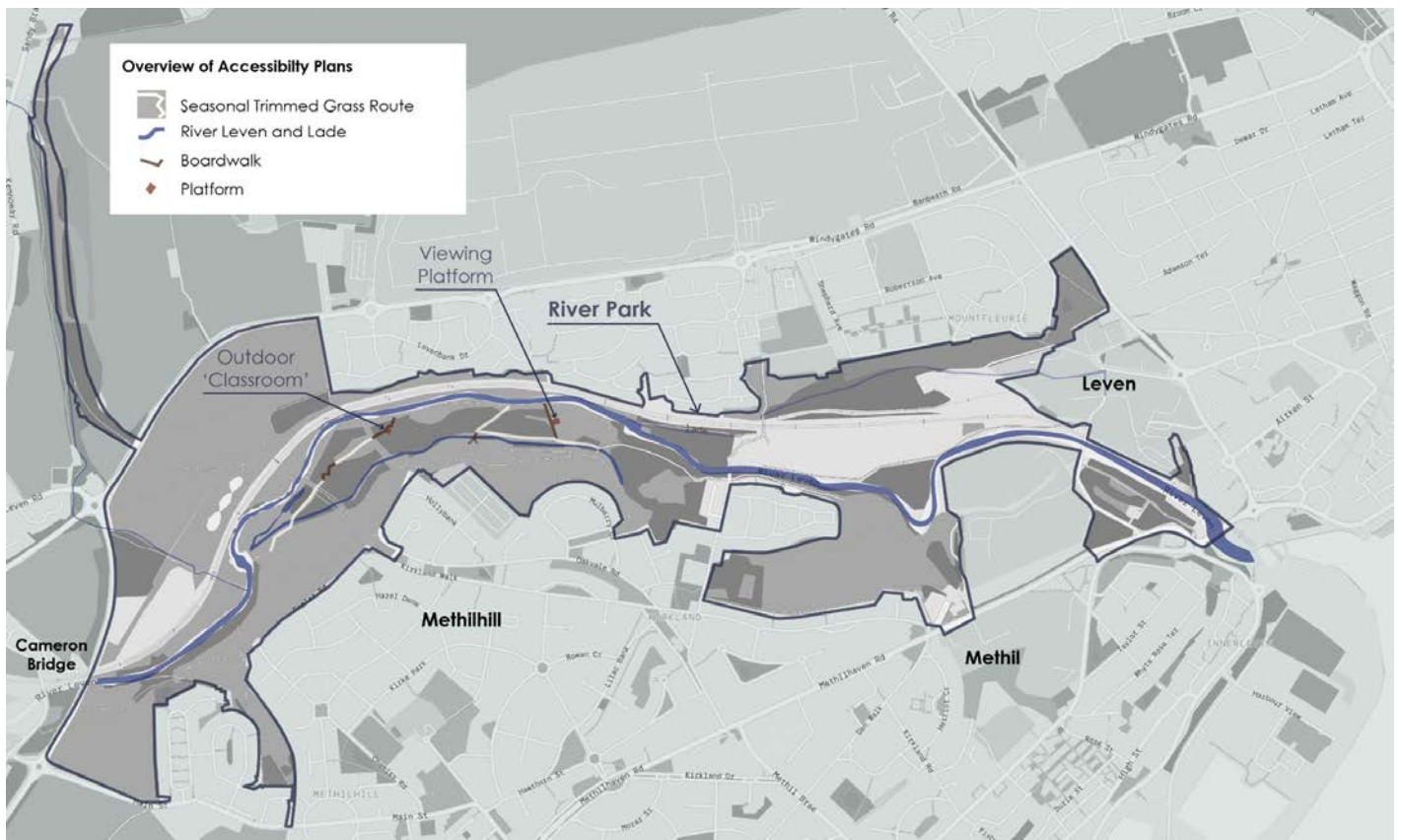
- Opportunities for all
- Inclusive jobs and growth
- Thriving places
- Community-led services

The new train stations are an opportunity to direct people to the River Park and interpretation, in particular visitors and commuters. Walking along the River Park Routes which connect both stations to the park, people could encounter interpretation along paths and their journeys, and through signage and interpretation at the start of their journeys, at the stations.

Levenmouth Local Tourism Association (LLTA) is creating a Methil Heritage Trail. Planned to be live when the train stations open, the trail will start at the new Leven station. LLTA plans to create future heritage trails, including in the River Park.

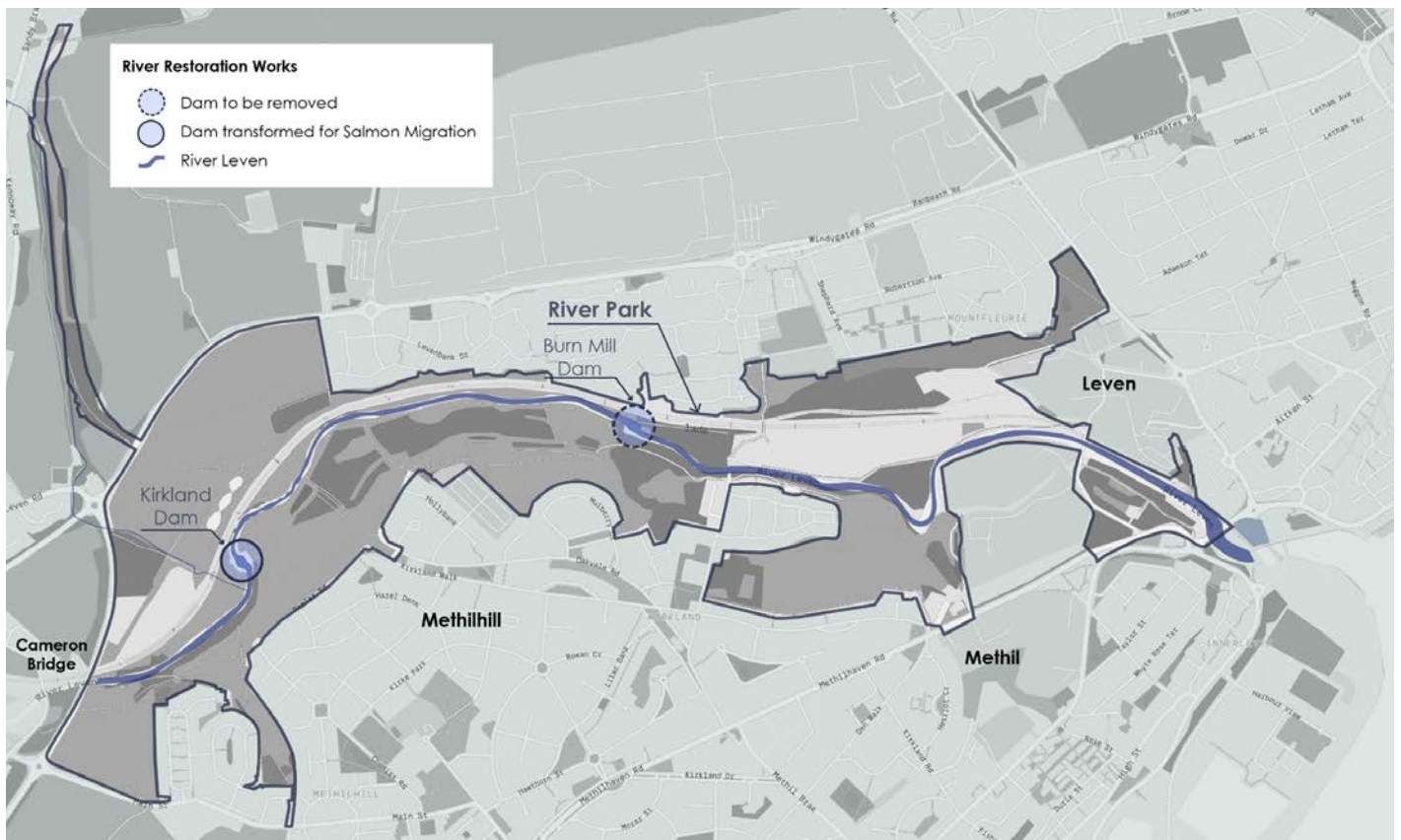


Ongoing work in the River Park to reinstate the rail line, August 2023, icecream architecture.



Boardwalks are planned within and along the River Park wetlands to maximise access to nature spaces with a minimum footprint and impact on the habitat. The raised boardwalks will be able to withstand fluctuating water levels and flooding, as well as providing platforms for 'dipping' and 'netting' and outdoor education trips.

There are opportunities for interpretation to tie in with potential outdoor learning areas on the platforms, for example through educational toolkits, and informative interpretation at key sites, particularly about natural heritage. Interpretation could also be incorporated into the structure of the boardwalks, for example words or images could be applied to the structure, creating a sense of heritage as they are traversed.



The Restoring the River Leven project aims to improve a 2.5 mile stretch of the River Leven flowing from Cameron Bridge to Leven for the benefit of local people and wildlife, including making it easier for fish to move up and down stream of the Burn Mill and Kirkland Dams to breed and thrive. Planned improvements include:

- The creation of shallow 'ponded' areas and planting native trees and wetland plants to promote and develop wetland and wet woodland habitat
- Large wood placed along and within the river to encourage natural processes and provide shelter for fish, birds and invertebrates
- Modifications to the Kirkland and Burn Mill Dams to make it easier for fish to migrate up and downstream
- Removing rock and stone bank protection and replacing them with greener more sustainable alternatives

This project presents an opportunity to promote natural heritage knowledge throughout the park, and increase awareness about environmental and pollution issues.

These positive improvements to the river habitat and surrounding environment are a significant story to tell through interpretation in the River Park. Being one of the earlier tangible changes to take place in the park, it is a crucial positive narrative to promote, creating a sense of progress and positive change happening, and indicating that the park is being cared for.

There are also interesting narratives to tell, for example the journey of a migratory fish along the river Leven. The Restoring the River Leven project is also a great opportunity to create educational interpretation aimed at children and school groups, for example outdoor learning kits, nature activities, resources for teachers, etc.

2.5 Challenges and Opportunities: SWOT Analysis



As part of the Development Phase, site visits were conducted throughout the park at different times to establish the key areas for specific narrative development and the potential areas and routes to tell the story of the River Park. The team evaluated the existing spaces and paths for potential interpretation opportunities. These were considered in parallel to the proposed development of improved routes and access points to the park as part of the Connectivity Project.

The initial site analysis and desk research of existing reports and strategies have informed the understanding of the River Park and its potential for an interpretation programme. The following challenges and opportunities were uncovered from that research:

Challenges:

- Current lack of infrastructure in the park
- Negative perception of the River Park
- High risk of Vandalism and Antisocial Behaviour

Opportunities:

- Abundance of accessible free green space
- Celebration of recent environmental improvements
- Seeing action on the ground: delivery projects should vary between quickfire and longer-term infrastructure projects.

The following SWOT analysis integrates the knowledge gained and overall impressions given from events and meetings carried out with community stakeholders and groups:

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural Environment - Biodiversity Restoration - Heritage that links with communities - Network of paths, accessibility - Active heritage and history groups and network of eager individuals - Those with greater heritage awareness feel local pride - Unique post-industrial habitat - Already used for leisure and exercise by locals - Seen as a calm and relaxing place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poorly regarded by community - Pollution - Lack of visible remains of history and heritage sites - Anti-social behaviours leading to feelings of being unsafe - Low collective awareness of local history and heritage - Lack of local pride, especially among younger generations - Few visitors from beyond local area - No existing interpretation of the river
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community participation in River restoration activities - citizen science - Community collection of local memories and stories - Experience the natural environment - creation of a nature reserve - Reveal locations of past industrial sites - Increase knowledge of local heritage and history, increasing local pride - Create bridges between generations - Create a place for visitors at the centre of Levenmouth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of ownership by the community - Low interest in participating/engaging - Low capacity to be involved - Lack of financial investment - Lack of maintenance - A short-term activation/effort that does not sustain in the long-term

3.0 Community Engagement

This interpretation masterplan was developed and refined in collaboration with the Levenmouth community: views, feedback and input from groups and individuals has shaped this plan.

The community engagement for this plan took place from **July to November 2023**.

Engagement methods consisted of attending several **community events**, facilitating and co-facilitating **tailored events** and **workshops** for specific groups, a **survey** and **meetings** with groups, stakeholders, and individuals connected to relevant community groups.



Community engagement activities and events, July - November 2023.

3.1 Line of Questioning

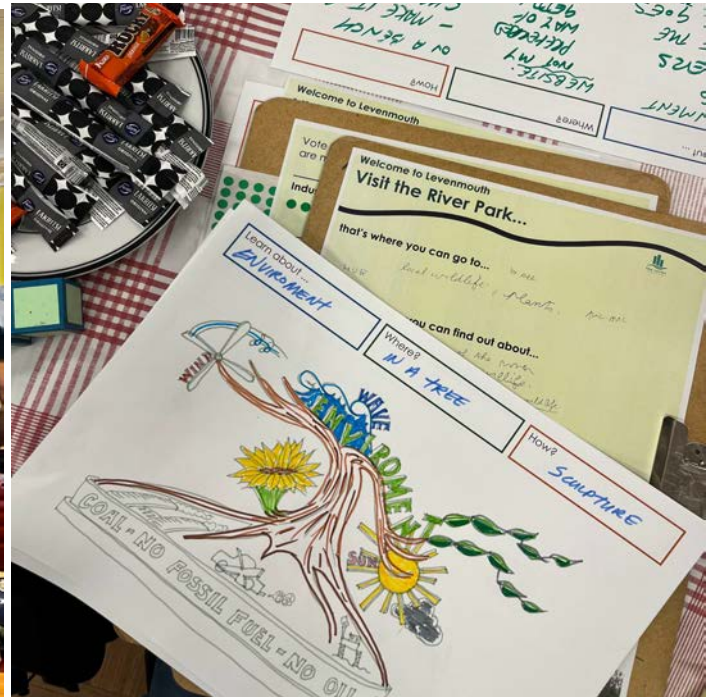
This community engagement process was tailored and flexible, supported by key lines of questioning that focused on the following:

- How is the park viewed and used by the community currently?
- What are the community aspirations for the River Park area, and what changes would make them most proud of it?
- What heritage knowledge exists in the community currently, and how is this knowledge gained?
- What heritage themes are of most interest?
- What interpretive methods have the most interest and potential?



Photos of Methil Memories Heritage Event (left) and Women and Girls Event (right), icecream architecture.

3.2 Summary of Reach



- **3700** Accounts reached on Facebook
- **48** Survey Respondents
- **9** Community Events co-hosted, facilitated or attended.
- **10** Local Groups Engaged

3.3 Engagement Methods

A person-centred approach was practised when engaging the communities of Levenmouth, and engagement was tailored to target a range of diverse groups. This engagement approach consisted of creative activities that were targeted for children and families, young people (both in school and those not in regular attendance at school), people with additional needs, local history groups and the general public. In addition to this, individual meetings with groups were organised in person and online, while multiple meetings were attended.

List of engagement activities and events that informed this masterplan:

Date	Activity	Location	People/Groups involved
29/07/23	Women and Girls Event	Methilhill Community Children's Initiative	MCCI, Fife Council, Archaeology Scotland, Arc, attended by the general public
03/08/23	A BBQ, Band, And Blether	The Centre, Leven	Organised by Green Action Trust, Leven Programme consultants and stakeholders had stalls. BBQ hosted by Hame Fae Hame, attended by general public
13/08/23	H100 BBQ	Buckhaven Braes	Programme consultants and stakeholders, attended by the general public.
13/09/23	Sign Making workshop	The River Park	Levenmouth Academy - outdoor learning students and staff
20/09/23	Sign Making Workshop and Nature Talk	CLEAR Methil Community Garden	CLEAR, attended by general public
20/09/23	Friends of Methil Heritage/History Group meeting	The Wellesley Centre, Methil	Friends of Methil Heritage/the History Group
27/09/23	Methil Memories Heritage Event	Methil Heritage Centre	Organised by Levenmouth Local Tourism Association, attended by the History Group/Friends of Methil Heritage and the general public.

23/10/23	Workshop with STAND	Kennoway Community Shed	STAND Dementia group members
25/10/23	Kirkland Mansion	The River Park	General Public attended an excavation (in partnership with Archaeology Scotland)
25/10/23	Sign Making workshop with PSYV	Levenmouth Academy	PSYV (Police Scotland Youth Volunteers), Police Scotland, Levenmouth Academy staff
03/11/23	Meeting with STAND Levenmouth	Methilhaven home, Methil	STAND Levenmouth Dementia group members
03/11/23	River Leven walk with Gaelic	Methil Library	General Public; Fife Council's Gaelic Development Worker (Kirsty Strachan), (walk was cancelled due to weather, so was a show-and-tell event)

Help us shape the stories told at the River Park

We are creating a plan for which types of stories, histories, memories, and facts will be displayed at the park in the future.

We want to hear from you! Fill in the survey and tell us your thoughts.



Scan the QR code to access the survey! or contact us: sally.s@icecreamarchitecture.com 0141 674 2349



Free event, gentle stroll by Fife Council, dress for the weather

The Leven Programme:

Come along to the River Leven Walk with Gaelic a circular walk along the banks of the River Leven

Friday 3rd November 2023 at 1.30 p.m.

Meeting at garages on the corner of Broomfield and Poplar Road in Methilhill, register now!



Sign Making at the River Park!

Wednesday, 20th September, 1-3 pm

Meet at 12.50pm at the CLEAR Methil Community Garden
22A Kirkland Drive, Methil, KY8 3HX

Tell us what is important to you about the River Leven and the park



Walk through the park, learn about flora and fauna at the river, then create your own sign post for the park!

For more information, contact Rachael:
email: rachael@icecreamarchitecture.com, Tel: 0141 674 2349

Examples of promotion materials created, icecream architecture, 2023.

Meetings were held with the following groups:

- **Leven Programme partners and consultants** for projects including River Park Routes, Active Travel Network, Restoring the River Leven, River Leven Nature Network, Accessibility Project, Hidden Heritage,
- **Community groups** including Levenmouth Local Tourist Association, Levenmouth Heritage Partnership, History Group/Friends of Methil Heritage, STAND Kennoway and STAND Levenmouth (STAND is a group for people living with dementia) Doon the Dam, OnFife (Fife Cultural Trust), CLEAR (Community-Led Environmental Action for Regeneration), PSYV (Police Scotland Youth Volunteers), Community Trade Hub, Gaelic in Fife (Gaelic Development Officer for Fife Council), Levenmouth Academy (Outdoor learning lead and students) and Coalfields Regeneration Trust.

Survey

The River Park Stories - what do you want to see? The survey was open for 5 weeks through October and November 2023. It was promoted through social media, mailing lists, a press release circulated through Green Action Trust, and posters in the Levenmouth Area community hubs. Paper copies and drop-in boxes were available at The Centre in Leven and the Methil Library.

Surveys were also handed out during workshops and community engagement activities.

There were a total of 48 responses to the survey: 39 responses were made directly through the online survey; 9 responses were gathered at in-person events, workshops or meetings.

The survey was structured as follows:

- Respondent's relationship to River Park
- Themes, topics and stories for interpretation
- Aspirations for the park

Details and analyses of the responses received through the survey are available in the appendices. It should be noted that the respondents to the survey were all over 26 years old. Younger people were more directly engaged through in-person events.

Consultant information Sharing

There was also significant information sharing with key consultants working on connected projects as part of the River Park Development Phase and the wider Leven Programme.



Photograph taken during the BBQ, Band and Blether Event, iccream architecture, 2023.

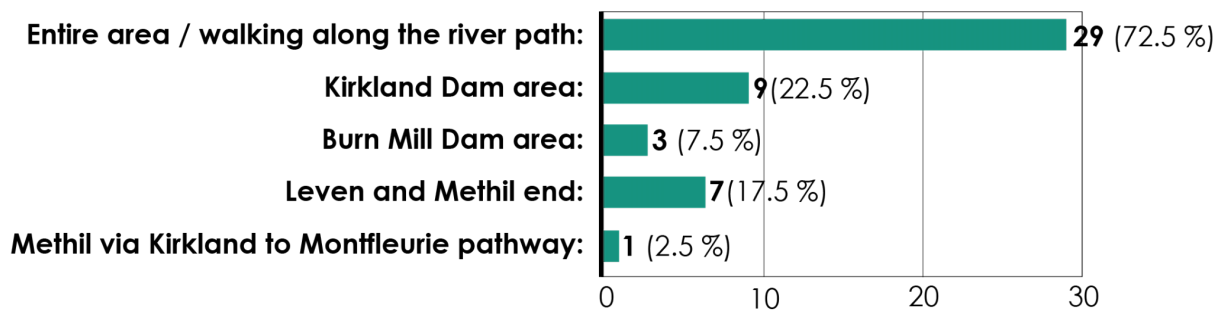
3.4 Engagement Insights

This section details findings from engagement responses, relating to the lines of questioning (section 3.1) and additional concerns and feedback that arose during the engagement process.

For a summary of key community aspirations for the River Park, please refer to section 3.5



Most people who were regular users of the park travelled along the river path, usually staying less than or around an hour. The data from the survey results (below) reflects findings from in-person engagement.



Above: data from survey question 'Where in the park do you visit?' Number of responses: 40

Most people engaged used the park for leisure and/or exercise purposes.

The primary reasons why people visit and enjoy the River Park are that it offers **easy access to nature, a free trip out, and exercise**. The planned Leven Programme path and boardwalk proposals received an overall positive response; people engaged with were eager to use the park more and excited about plans to make it more accessible. People are also **enthusiastic about the nature restoration works** happening and proposed, particularly the River Restoration work. For many people, **the park is their go-to place for spending time in nature**, and this is one of the key reasons why they enjoy the park.

“We should respect nature and promote the wonderful wildlife we have on our doorstep”

During the engagement process, **anti-social behaviour** was a recurring concern that was repeatedly brought up by locals. They were particularly concerned about dirt bikes/illegal motorbike use, vandalism, and their own personal safety when using the park. These issues have created a **negative perception of the area**, causing many locals to avoid the park altogether. **Concerns about safety were expressed by people of all ages**, with some young people stating that they do not visit the park due to safety concerns, and an elderly resident shared a story about his father forbidding him from going to Methil or River park area alone because 'it had a bad name'. These accounts demonstrate that the **widespread perception of the park being unsafe** is a long-standing issue that needs to be addressed in order for River Park to flourish and become a source of pride for the community.

Many people reported feeling that the River Park area is a **“wasteland”** with “nothing there”, that the river was polluted and dirty, and generally that the area is uncared for. While others noted that they enjoy the wild elements of the park (*“my wife will cry if you take away the brambles”*) it is important to **show that the park is being cared for** and not neglected.

“My whole life I remember the place has been neglected. It's great that it's finally going to get looked after” - survey response.



Railway inspired signage painted during workshops, icecream architecture, 2023.

Aspirations for the future of the River Park primarily focused on community and nature; people want to see **nature restored in the park**, and for Levenmouth to become **a prosperous community** that is a **destination to visit**, and that people are proud of.

"[I'd like to see] The transformation of neglected land to something of natural beauty" - survey response

"[I'd like to see the park] helping Levenmouth recover economically" - survey response

"I would love to see wildlife and families enjoying the area peacefully" - survey response

"There's not an awful lot about [heritage here], so anything that tells you about the heritage of your neighbourhood should be encouraged"

Those engaged were **enthusiastic about preserving and sharing Levenmouth's heritage**.

People noted a general lack of knowledge about local heritage, and expressed interest in increasing interpretation at the River Park.

People **knew the most about the local industrial and railway heritage**, over other types of heritage. The survey responses did not show a relationship between the frequency of visits

to the River Park and additional knowledge of the area's heritage and natural environment. This is a reflection of the lack of heritage interpretation within the River Park that this plan intends to counter.

“[the park could one day be a] safe environment where people could reflect on the past and enjoy the area for a long time into the future” - survey response

“This is an area with a strong history of community spirit, but this is being lost on the new generation of residents.”- survey response

Most people were aware of the fact that the area had an industrial past, and that it had declined alongside industry. However, **older people had a much deeper knowledge** of the local heritage, including specific locations, stories, and facts. They had **learned this directly from older family members** and friends, many of whom have since passed. Some were old enough to remember the closing of the docks and the mining heritage first-hand. In contrast, **younger people (of school age) had no first-hand knowledge** of the industrial heritage of Levenmouth and **generally felt disconnected** from the local past. They reported that their local history knowledge learned at school was wider than Levenmouth, so **they knew more about the history of Scotland as a whole than that of Levenmouth** specifically. Although young people had more general knowledge about climate change and changes in nature, this was not specific to the local area, habitat, and wildlife.

The older generation expressed **anxiety about preserving and passing on local knowledge** and heritage to the younger generation, who they viewed as disconnected from their history and not proud of the area. They hoped that by passing on knowledge of the area's heritage, they could also **pass on their pride in Levenmouth and its people**.

There was a widespread feeling that **older people from Levenmouth were much more proud of the area than its people than younger people were**. Knowing the impressive industrial and community heritage was a key factor in creating a sense of pride of place.

“Knowing your history and the history of the area gives you an understanding of where you are from.”- survey response

“The park should be about the people of the area, as they’ll be the ones who use it the most”- survey response

Based on both in-person events and survey responses, it was found that people are particularly interested in learning about the **community heritage**, which encompasses the lives of Levenmouth's past and present inhabitants, as well as the **local natural heritage**, such as habitat, biodiversity, and river restoration.

The desire to learn about community heritage is closely linked to the **desire to instil a sense of pride in the local population**, as mentioned earlier. The older generation, in particular, feared that the personal histories of the community, stories of hard-working families living alongside the industrial mills and foundries, would be lost. The knowledge of what life used to be like for women, children, and those working in the industries would be erased if there were no efforts made to **pass down these stories across generations**.

“[I would like to see the park become] a place where families could go, hopefully, the local school could make more use of the area, with lots of information boards about the history and the natural life both alongside and in the river.”

The natural environment is a key theme that people are interested in learning more about. Several individuals expressed their desire to **learn more about their natural surroundings**, such as identifying species of trees and birds. Additionally, many people were keen to learn more about the **river's natural history**, specifically migratory fish and the current efforts to reintroduce them to the River Leven. **Upon hearing about these projects, people felt a sense of hope** for their community, the River Park, and had an overall positive outlook on progress.

Community members with specific knowledge of the natural habitat noted the increase in **invasive and/or dangerous plant species, such as giant hogweed and Himalayan balsam**. They highlighted that many in the community don't know about the effects of these. They called for information about this to be widely displayed and communicated through the River Park interpretation.

"I would like to see a park that has a biodiversity management plan that includes a watch for invasive species"

People responded positively to the idea of interpretation being 'live', exciting and interactive. Generally, those engaged weren't interested in reading interpretation boards, particularly boards with a lot of text. Instead, interpretation events and interactive learning materials were favoured. Specific interactive interpretation methods mentioned included:

- Guided walks and storytelling events
- Trails
- Quizzes and games for kids and families
- Play elements (learning through play)
- Interactive installations, eg. art co-created with the community
- Use of digital interpretation/media
- Educational materials for use in schools etc
- Family 'experiences' (e.g. events, family trails, 'live history', picnics)

There was a notable preference for **'live' and interactive interpretation**, with an emphasis on interactive learning. Participants generally expressed a lack of interest in traditional interpretation boards. Instead, there was a notable preference for dynamic engagement, such as interactive elements, events and learning materials.

The appeal of **family-oriented experiences**, encompassing events, family trails, and 'live history' activities throughout the year, was emphasised. The overall sentiment favoured immersive and participatory approaches to interpretation.

“[At the park I would like to] have picnics and fun for the family”

Including learning resources in both classroom and informal settings was important to respondents. Suggestions included creating learning kits for local schools to use, and providing activities or kits for people to enjoy a fun educational and cost-free trip. A recurring suggestion was to create materials that include games for kids to 'collect' points or items for each sighting or nature finding; for example, they could collect points for finding different types of grasses, leaves, or butterflies. This would encourage children to engage more with nature and learn about the world around them, creating a structure for parents, guardians or teachers to gamify learning.

It was mentioned that the Habitat Toolkit, created by Iglu Studios as part of the Connectivity Project for the Leven Programme, is a good example of presenting relevant nature information in a location-specific way. Having similar information available in the park would make nature more understandable, accessible, and the location-specific information would increase the sense of the River Park being of individual natural heritage. *The Habitat toolkit can be found on the resources page of the Leven Programme website, under the 'Guidance' heading: theleven.org/resources*

Community members and disability groups engaged advocated for all signage, printed interpretation, interactive interpretation and events, and digital resources to be as accessible as possible. They emphasised the importance of following standard guidelines for readability and accessibility. Respondents specifically mentioned the need for plain language, short and succinct paragraphs, high colour contrast, lots of visuals, clear graphics, and various routes to access interpretation to avoid possible barriers. They

suggested that the **same information could be presented through different mediums** to be inclusive to people who access information differently.

For example, a heritage walk-and-talk event could also include an indoor accessible talk before or after the walk. This would allow individuals who cannot participate in a walk to still participate in the heritage experience.

3.5 Engagement Key Findings: Community Aspirations

Below are the Community Aspirations resulting from the considered analysis of the community engagement findings. They can be viewed as a set of essential interpretation aims from the community.



Sign Making Workshop and Nature Talk, icecream architecture, 2023.

- There is a strong desire to preserve the community history of Levenmouth: To collect and record the memories, photos and stories of older community members to create a legacy for future generations.
- Of those engaged, knowing local heritage correlated to higher sense of pride in the community. People are proud of the legacy of a strong community and the hard-working people within it. Older people engaged were generally more proud of their community and knew more of their heritage. Younger people knew less

about local heritage, and their history knowledge was broader (relating to the national curriculum). A key aspiration is to pass on this pride and knowledge between generations.

- Most of the industrial and residential buildings at the river have disappeared. Some community members remember these buildings and are trying to locate them in today's landscape. The interpretation could play an important role in highlighting the built heritage that is now gone, giving a glimpse into the past landscape.
- Ensuring that the community, especially young people, feel ownership of the river and the surrounding environment is a key aspiration. This ties in with the idea of creating a legacy for future generations.



4.0 Vision

This section summarises the approach to interpretation and what we aim to achieve during the course of the Leven Programme delivery.



Photos: Top Left: RAFT landscape Architecture, Into the woods, Top Right: North York Moors National Park, Land of Iron (This is the Coast), Middle: Jam Creative. Ancient Woodland AR Trail (Plas Power Woods), Bottom: Mark Langman/Greenspace Design Ltd, Pond Wildlife Identification Handrail

4.1 Interpretation Aims

The interpretation aims to reframe the River Park for locals and visitors, showcasing it as a diverse, historically rich and active landscape. It should:

- Reveal the industrial history of the river.
- Recognise and promote the river as a natural asset and place for biodiversity.
- Change negative perceptions of the park by providing activities, events, trails, etc, showing that it is a 'live' and interesting place to visit.
- Showcase communities' participation in the interpretation and future heritage of the River Park. Show a sense of community pride and ownership of the area.
- Ensure that people recognise River Leven's impact on the area's past, present and future.
- Have something for everyone. The interpretation should be accessible to all.

Sub-aims:

- Create and nurture a legacy for the River Park centred around local community and natural heritage.
- Preserve, enliven and showcase local history and memories.
- Create bridges between older and younger generations.

4.2 Lead the Way

The Interpretation should be told from the perspective of the Levenmouth community, with a local voice echoing from place to place. A walk through the River Park should feel like you have been guided by a knowledgeable resident, even if you are unlucky enough not to meet another soul along the way.

To ensure this, local people must be supported to contribute their tales and stories from the outset of the interpretation development. This will require an initial phase of training and capacity building; first with local leaders who can then train a wider group to collect and share the rich stories of the area in their own voice, using a variety of archival tools and interpretation methods. The training will cover the skills required to interpret their own River Park story with a long-term vision for a talented and proactive group who continue to lead the way through the River Park long after the Delivery Phase is completed.

The 'Lead the Way' training programme should act as a call to action for the community to engage, contribute and make their own past, current and future heritage of the park visible. At the end of the 4-year Delivery Phase, the vision is a community and landscape that collectively tells the story of a strong industrial past (upstream) with a positive outlook and celebration of the opportunities ahead (downstream).

4.3 Overall Narrative: River as the connection

The River Leven should be the central focus of the interpretation, connecting all stories and themes back to a central narrative journey (the themes are detailed in section 5).

The river's history reveals the area's interlinked natural, cultural, and industrial heritage. The river has shaped the community, and in turn, the community has shaped the river.

The future interpretation can present and showcase this connection, which has become less known in the current consciousness. The river is the reason that the surrounding towns exist, for the industrial history and character of Levenmouth, and now, it provides a much-valued green space and access to nature, as well as a habitat for wildlife and opportunities to increase biodiversity in the area.

Visitors can stop and look at the River Park interpretation to understand, hear, and listen to their story and the history here and envision the future of the landscape.



View of the River Leven, icecream architecture, 2023.

5.0 Interpretation Themes

This section sets out the individual themes of the interpretation programme: the headings that will form the basis of how the interpretation is structured, connected and presented. Some heritage themes should be present throughout the River Park, while others could be applied with a light touch or at specific locations.

5.1 Overarching theme: The River Leven



A smooth but powerful River Leven

A cross-cutting theme that will run throughout the interpretation, linking natural and industrial heritage, as well as communities.

The River has served the people of the area to settle, eat and trade, then expand economically, demographically and geographically. The communities were born of the River and grew with the river. The decline of the communities fed by the loss of industries, connections, and employment has been accompanied by the relegation of the river. Although the River no longer serves its communities as the economic engine of the region, it has become something of equally important value. The slowing down of industries and activities has allowed nature and wildlife to grow; it has become a space for people to use freely and connect communities by walking or cycling. Today, the river can again play a role in those communities to thrive. It is an asset at the intersection of the different towns that form Levenmouth.

The name 'Leven' might come from the Celtic *leuo* meaning 'smooth'; this is thought to have described the River Leven's flow as it was not interrupted by any natural waterfalls. The river stretches over 26 km; it starts at Loch Leven and ends in Levenmouth to meet the Firth of Forth. The level of the river was artificially lowered to service farms in the 1800s. Its flow has been adapted and diverted to power the numerous mills developed along its banks. The dams allowed the river's flow to accelerate through lades, pushing the mills into motion. Two significant dams and Mill Lades still shape the Levenmouth landscape today. All these transformations, remnants of past activities by the people living on its banks, have contributed to making the River Leven a central heritage point. The River is a central witness and character of the area; it can tell stories of the past, present and forecast the future of Levenmouth.



The River Leven at the Kirkland Dam. August 2023

5.2 Theme 1: Mills and Industrial Evolution



Industries and mining, infrastructures, crafts and trade powered and conducted by the River Leven's Flow

Exploring the importance of industry in shaping the area, creating connections to the wider world, using these stories to inspire activities that benefit local communities today.

The River Leven has been used by the area's people as early as in the Medieval Times with the introduction of waterwheel powered grain mills. The Methillhil Mill milled oatmeal, then flour as early as the 18th century. The River Leven has been the energy source for the industrial growth of Levenmouth, running through hundreds of Mills throughout its history. It can tell us about industrial processes; the spinning and weaving of linen, manufacturing sailcloth, building steel ships, and producing paper. It has seen all the finished goods that travelled downstream towards the sea, viewed the evolution of Methil Docks to become Scotland's largest coal exporter, and in more recent years developed into Energy Park Fife which hosts low carbon and renewables innovations. It has also seen the lives of countless workers coming to work every day, on long shifts, full of skills and endeavour. It has been a close witness to the Kirkland Works Spinning Mills worker's program including the creation of a school and other village-like facilities designed to augment the lives of its workers. The River Leven reckoned with the impact all these industries had on its water quality and the lives of the species living within it. The river's flow drove the numerous colliery pumping engines. There were 53 pits in Levenmouth, all connected by an extensive railway network, transporting coal to the Methil Docks for export. One of the main rail lines that brought visitors to the Leven's beaches and golf courses ran alongside the River Leven, a twin to its course.

Sub-themes:

- Hand-Loom Weaver
- Salt Industry
- Coal Mining
- Mills
- Textile Industry: Linen, Wool, Sailcloth
- Ship-building Wood and Steel
- Methil Docks
- Maritime Trade
- Cameron Bridge Distillery
- Railways
- Tourism: Beaches and Golf
- Other industries: paper, timber, steelworks, flour



1. Access at Cameron Bridge - Distillery.
2. Cameron Bridge Train Station - Railway.
3. Kirkland Dam and Mill Lade - Mills.
4. Remains of Methil Mill - Village Mill.
5. Kirkland House and Landscaped Gardens (no remains)- Kirkland Works.
6. Kirkland Mansion - Kirkland Works.
7. Creosote Works - Railway.
8. Access to Leven - Leven Mills and foundries.
9. View of the Rail Line and Industries - Leven Industries and Railway.
10. Leven Train Station - Methil Docks, Methil Power Station.

5.3 Theme 2: A Resilient Nature



A Resilient Nature and Wildlife, diverse and nurtured by the River Leven flow

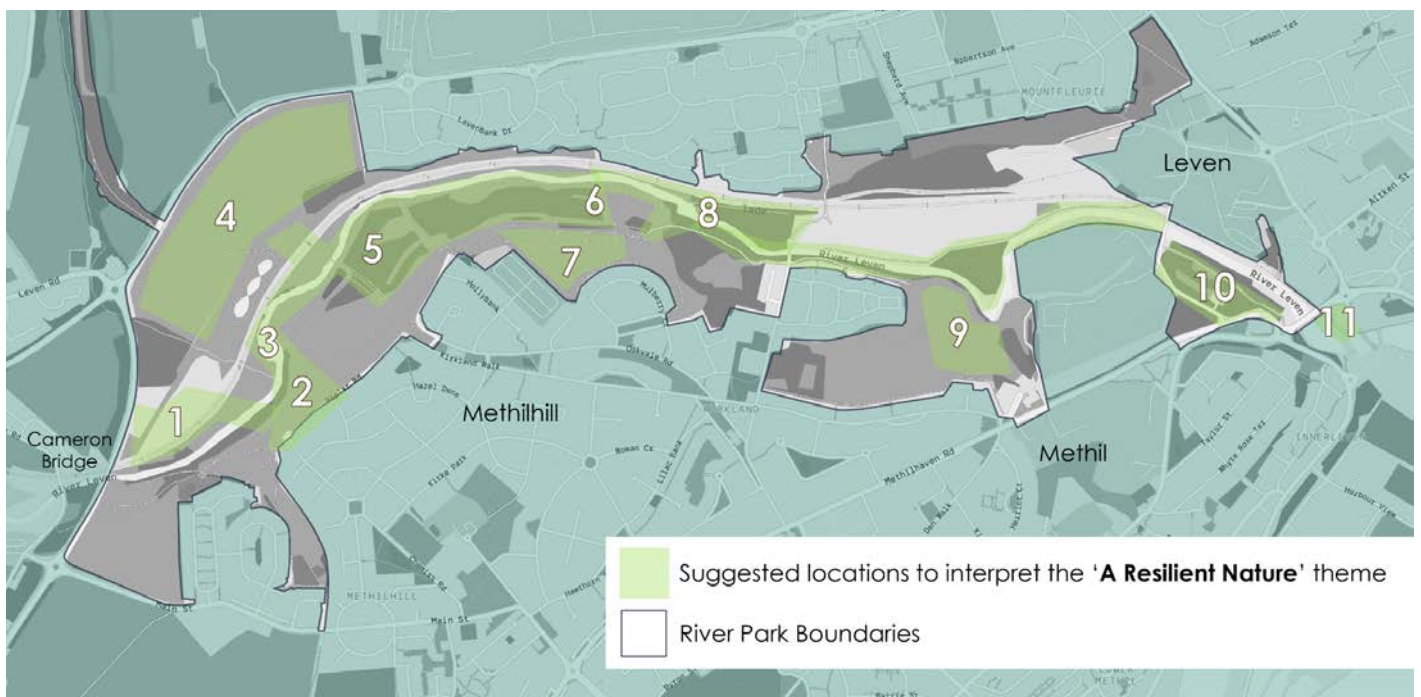
Helping people to connect with, understand and value the area's natural heritage – aiming to better involve communities in caring for the habitats and species on their doorstep.

The River Leven shelters and nurtures different types of ecosystems. It hears birds and sees deer going through woods, it feels the fish swimming through its flow, and rumours say that it provides a perfect water flow for otters.

The River Leven offers visitors a quiet and peaceful environment at the heart of Levenmouth. Rivers and waterways offer an excellent environment for nature to thrive. A walk along the River Park allows visitors to pass through meadows and grassland, some woodlands, riparian habitats and wetlands. It offers many opportunities to spot species of plants, insects, birds, fish and mammals. It is also a great area to learn about derelict land, wildlife resilience, and how to enhance it. The River Leven was polluted and used intensively for many industries and most destructively mining for roughly 200 years. The cessation of mining operations and industries that used the water flow in their processes has allowed the river to recover. Locally, people appreciate the wild feeling of nature slowly returning along the river banks. It is an accessible corridor for recreation, well-being and learning. People are helping the River and its habitats to be restored and re-wilded, facilitating the salmon to jump back up the river flow. Local communities and visitors can be key in looking after the River Leven. They can observe, record, and participate in the restoration, maintenance, and interaction with the ecosystems of the River Leven.

Sub-themes:

- Characteristic Species
- Preservation of Species
- Ecological Networks
- River Pollution
- Riparian Woodlands
- Wetlands
- Meadows and Grasslands
- Citizen Science
- Outdoor Learning
- River Restoration



1. Cameron Bridge Train Station - Introduction to the River Park and its resilient nature.
2. Community Hub - Different ecosystems, characteristic species...
3. Kirkland Dam - Salmon Migration, River Restoration.
4. Planned Woodlands
5. Planned Ponds, Boardwalks and platform - Outdoor classroom, Citizen Science.
6. Viewing Platform - Wet and Riparian habitats.
7. Meadow - Grass habitat.
8. Former Burn Mill Dam - River Restoration.
9. Meadow - Grass habitat.
10. Woodlands
11. Leven Train Station - Introduction to the River Park and its resilient nature.

5.4 Theme 3: Many Identities; A Shared Heritage



Communities, places and identities reflected in the River Leven's challenges and successes

Tracing the history of settlement in the area from the distant past to the present day; celebrating the area's social heritage and the distinctive identities of Levenmouth communities, centred around local stories of human endeavour and ingenuity.

The River Leven is at the centre of Levenmouth, a junction between connected communities. The River Park project presents an opportunity to celebrate the common heritage, history, and distinct identities of the Levenmouth communities.

The River Leven's flow and landscape has changed and will change over time, mirroring the evolution of Levenmouth's communities. In the Medieval Times, the River Leven was a smooth flowing river that allowed the initial settlements of Leven and Innerleven (Methil) to grow. The area developed steadily with the maritime trade, with communities making a living by fishing, hand-loom weaving, coal mining, salt production and farming.

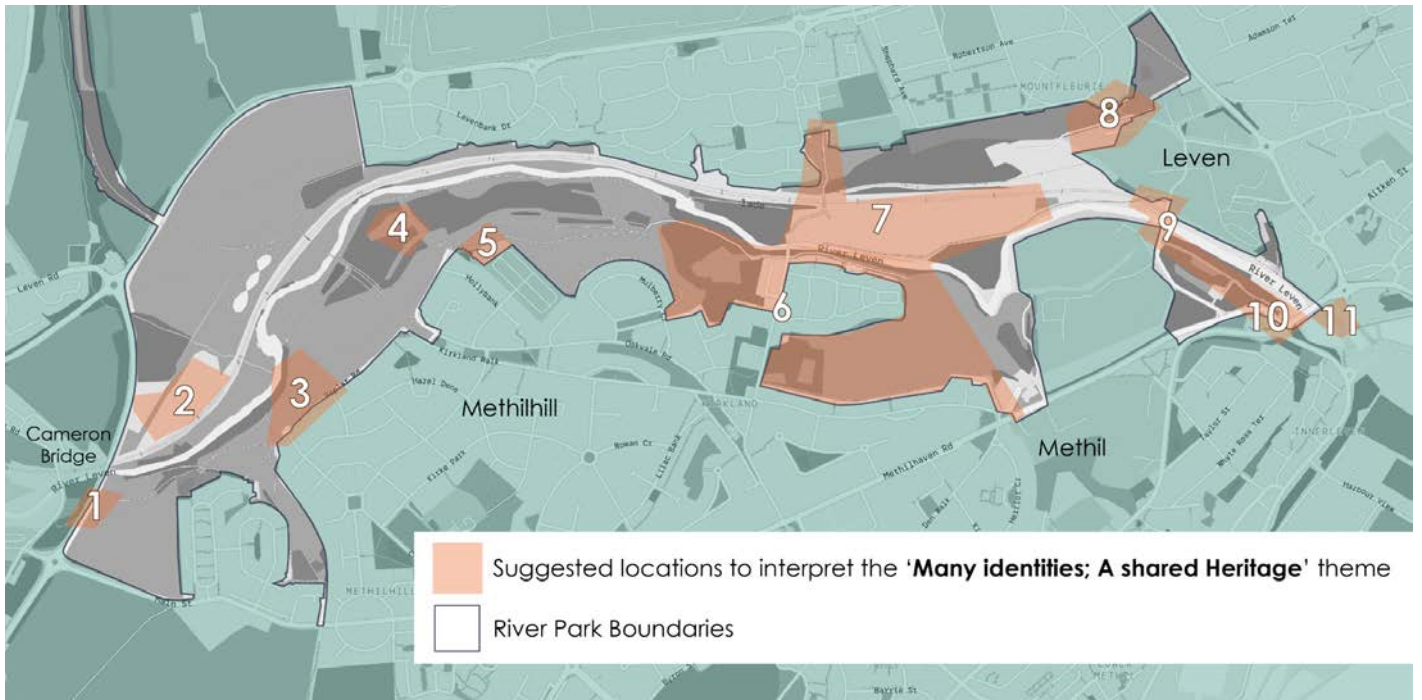
The Industrial Revolution shifted the flow of the Leven to be better suited for power, allowing the area to develop economically, creating infrastructure and labour, and increasing the area's population. This 'upgrade' of the River was reflected in the thriving communities that emerged with the further development of industries and mining in the area. Working in the mines, the railways, the docks, as sailors and for the different manufacturers, built up a population of hard-working and skilled people. The River Leven witnessed the stories of the families and people who lived and worked in the mills, foundries, docks and various collieries.

The heavy use of the River mirrored all the activities and movement in the area; from the migration of families seeking work in mines to bustling high streets, there are plenty of memories and stories to tell about daily life at this time.

Later, the decline of mining, industries, exports, and railways was again mirrored by the River Leven. While Levenmouth and its communities were suffering economically, the polluted river, emptied of fish, was left derelict with very few activities left. This earned the river a bad reputation; the power it had previously provided for the area was forgotten. The resilience of the River Leven goes hand in hand with the resilience of the Levenmouth communities; today the River is recovering and flourishing again with the help and dedication of its people. The River Leven and the communities of Levenmouth continue to grow together, toward a thriving and sustainable future.

Sub-themes:

- Memories of Local People
- Lives of Industry Workers, Miners, Dockers and Sailors
- Focus on Women's Roles
- Places and Identities in Levenmouth
- Migration to the Area
- Gaelic and Scots Heritage and Folklores
- Various Uses of the River



1. Access at Cameron Bridge
2. Cameron Bridge Train Station
3. Community Hub
4. Methil Mill Remains
5. Site of the Methil Medieval Church
6. Former Kikland Korks Area + Access at Methil
7. Creosote Works
8. Access at Leven
9. Sawmill Bridge
10. Access at Innerleven
11. Leven Train Station

5.5 Theme 4: Growing with the Flow



A flow of ambitious projects, exciting opportunities, community-led transformations built around a resilient River Leven and building a vibrant legacy

Learning about current and future activities and developments related to the River Heritage and Levenmouth. These stories will showcase a positive vision of the area and its opportunities for people.

For the last decades, the River Leven was left alone, with little care and infrastructure. The River Leven's qualities still encouraged various people walking along the river, with their dogs; commuting, socialising and picking brambles.

Recently, more activities have been happening along its banks with the re-opening of the Rail Line, connecting Leven to the rail network again. Exciting plans are being built, including the Connectivity Project, bringing new infrastructure, such as two train stations, bridges and an active travel network throughout Levenmouth. This opens up opportunities to travel in Levenmouth and outwith the area. It is anticipated that visitors and tourists will come again to spend time in Levenmouth.

Another exciting venture is the H100 green hydrogen scheme. Levenmouth is pioneering, planning to be the first community in Britain to use green hydrogen as a primary power source. This project is inscribed in the area's power engineering history. The River Leven was successfully used to power industries, and then coal extracted in local collieries fuelled the Methil Power Station; its chimney was an important landmark of the River's mouth, which is today replaced by off-shore wind turbines.

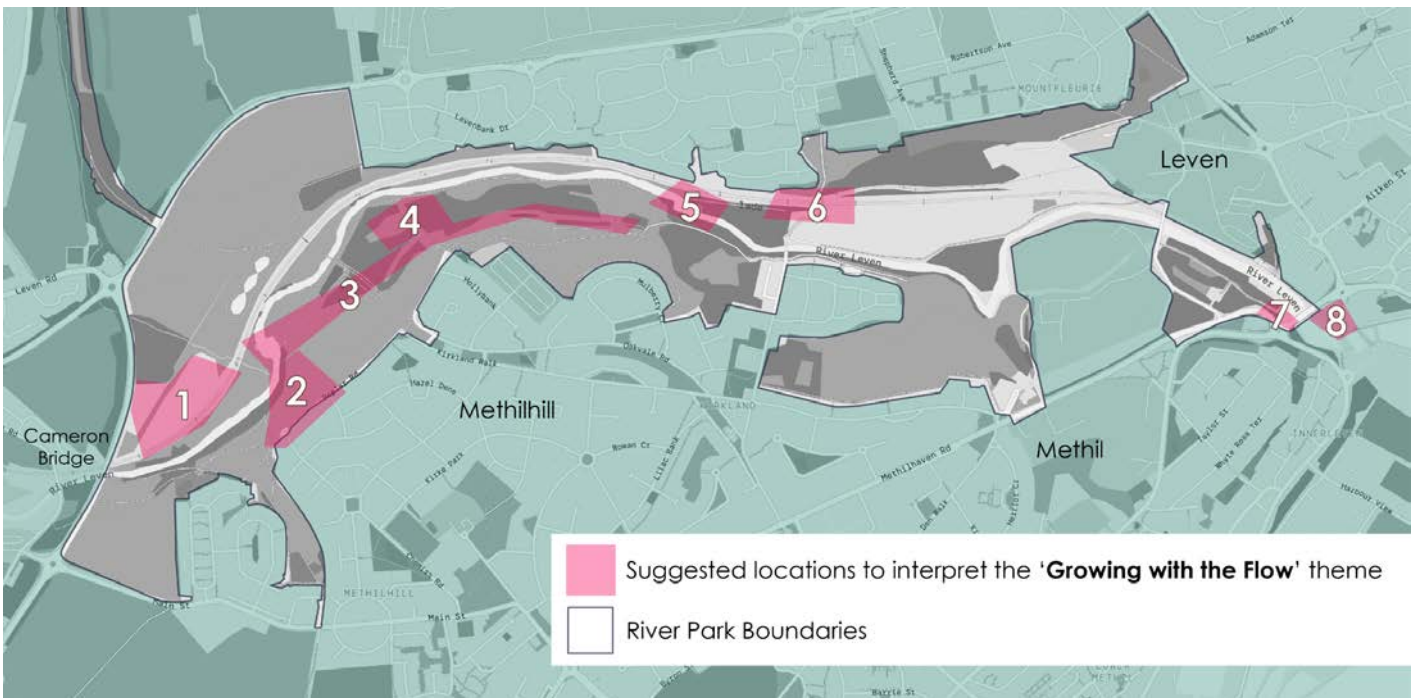
Motorbiking will be better facilitated along the River Leven, providing safer ways and training opportunities for young people. It follows a tradition of Motorbiking in the area and

would benefit from being presented as a positive and meaningful activity that empowers young community members.

The Levenmouth area and the River are transforming, building a sustainable future for their communities, with a green heart at its centre along the River. Plenty of opportunities are flourishing for people to lead projects, train, learn and start enterprise. Various community groups and initiatives are being supported, and many projects, events, and activities will be happening in the River Park, boosting the local economy and building a significant social and environmental legacy to celebrate.

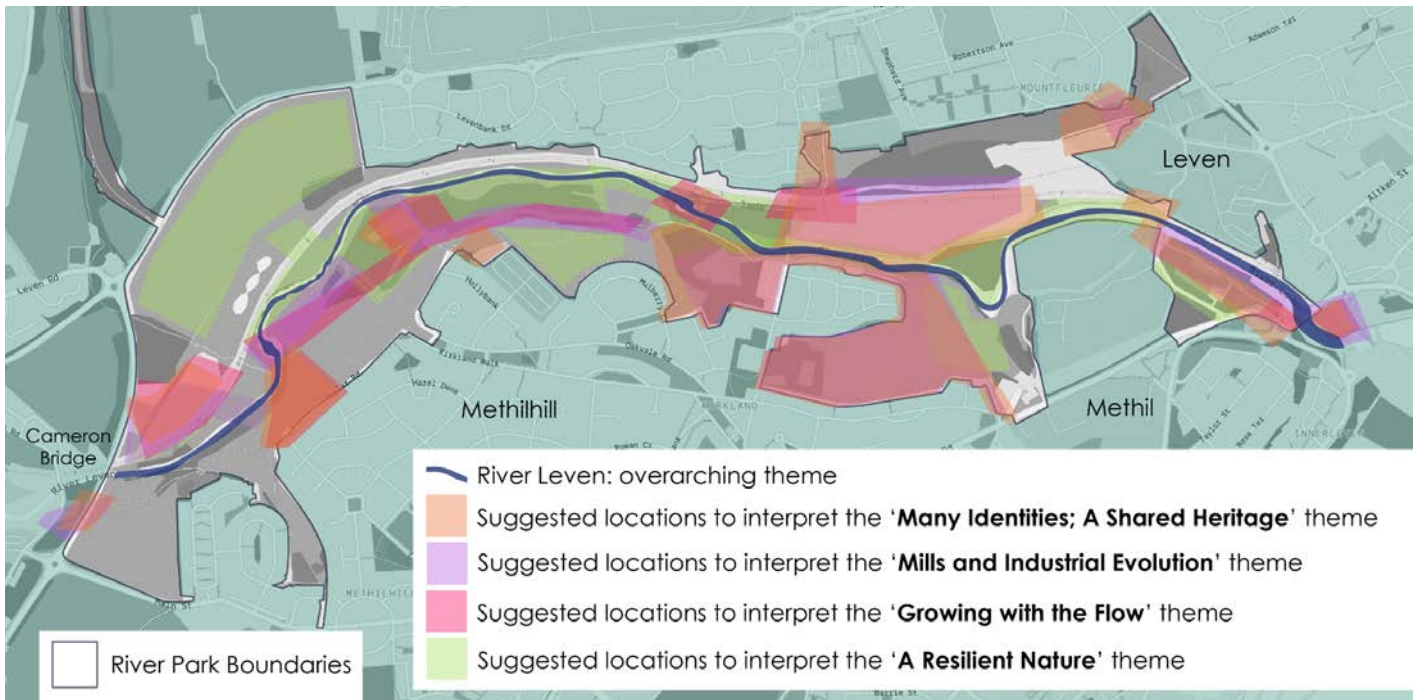
Sub-themes:

- Power (H100 + Renewables)
- Travel (Rail Line and Connectivity Project)
- Motorbiking Heritage
- Sustainable Development
- Leven Programme
- Entrepreneurship



- 1. Cameron Bridge Train Station
- 2. Community Hub
- 3. Mill Lade
- 4. Outdoor Learning Area
- 5. Former Burn Mill Dam
- 6. Passing over the re-instated Rail Line
- 7. Access to Innerleven
- 8. Leven Train Station

5.6 Overview of themes



Map of all themes at the River Park

There are plenty of opportunities for interpretation throughout the River Park. The River Leven is the thread that is holding the fabric of stories together; it should be at the heart of the narratives.



Overarching theme: The River Leven

A smooth but powerful River Leven



Theme 1: Mills and Industrial Evolution

Industries and mining, infrastructures, crafts and trade powered and conducted by the River Leven's Flow

Sub-themes:

- Hand-Loom Weaver
- Salt Industry
- Coal Mining
- Mills
- Textile Industry: Linen, Wool, Sailcloth
- Ship-building Wood and Steel
- Methil Docks
- Maritime Trade
- Cameron Bridge Distillery
- Railways
- Tourism: Beaches and Golf
- Other industries: paper, timber, steelworks, flour

Theme 2: A Resilient Nature

A Resilient Nature and Wildlife, diverse and nurtured by the River Leven flow

Sub-themes:

- Characteristic Species
- Preservation of Species
- Ecological Networks
- River Pollution
- Riparian Woodlands
- Wetlands
- Meadows and Grasslands
- Citizen Science
- Outdoor Learning
- River Restoration



Theme 3: Many Identities; A Shared Heritage

A Resilient Nature and Wildlife, diverse and nurtured by the River Leven flow

Sub-themes:

- Memories of Local People
- Lives of Industry Workers, Miners, Dockers and Sailors
- Focus on Women's Roles
- Places and Identities in Levenmouth
- Migration to the Area
- Gaelic and Scots Heritage and Folklores
- Various Uses of the River

Theme 4: Growing with the Flow

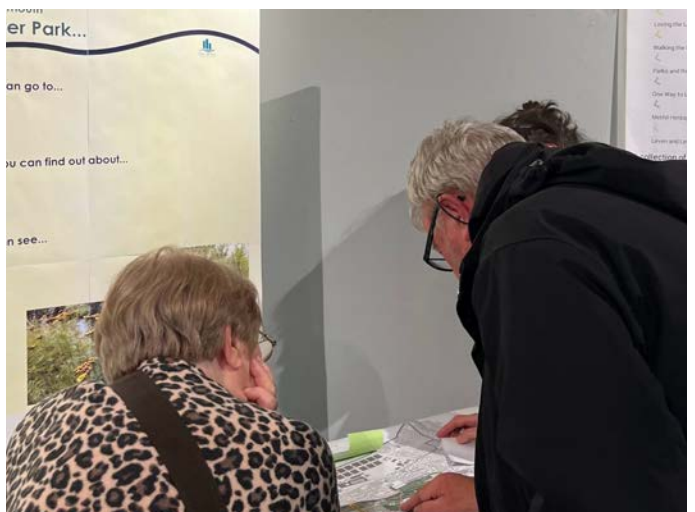
A flow of ambitious projects, exciting opportunities, community-led transformations built around a resilient River Leven and building a vibrant legacy

Sub-themes:

- Power (H100 + Renewables)
- Travel (Rail Line and Connectivity Project)
- Motorbiking Heritage
- Sustainable Development
- Leven Programme
- Entrepreneurship

6.0 Target Audiences

This section outlines the people who might use and benefit from the interpretation.



6.1 Local demographics

The Levenmouth area's aforementioned industrial growth and decline has contributed to the current economic and social realities of people living in the area. Areas with similar industrial histories suffer similarly with high rates of deprivation, poor health outcomes and high unemployment. These figures speak to a shared identity across post-industrial Scottish towns forged by international markets and unfavourable political decision making. The Leven Programme and the re-opening of the Railway line to Edinburgh aims to start a regeneration process. Providing opportunities for local people and opening the area to visitors and new residents will trigger a change in the current demographics.

Scottish Index of Deprivation

- 24% of the Levenmouth area is in the most deprived 5% of Scottish data zones.
- In total, 67% of the Levenmouth area is in the most deprived 10% or 20% of Scottish data zones.
- Most areas are in the least deprived 50% of Scottish data zones for the geographic access indicator (travel times to schools, shops, surgeries, etc, and broadband access).

Population: sex, age, ethnicity, identity and language

According to the 2011 Scotland census, in Buckhaven, Methil, Methilhill and Leven:

- 47.8% of the population are males, and 52.2% are females.
- 17.9% of the population is under 16; 62.6% of the population is between 16 to 64; 19.4% of the population 65 years old and over.
- 93.6% are White Scottish.
- 98.8% of the population speaks English well or very well; 0.3% of the population is able to speak Gaelic; 43.1% of the population is able to speak Scots.

Households

According to the 2011 Scotland census, in Buckhaven, Methil, Methilhill and Leven:

- 25% of households are with dependent children.
- 37.7% of households are one-person.
- 36.2% of households have no car or van.

Health and Wellbeing

According to the 2011 Scotland census, in Buckhaven, Methil, Methilhill and Leven and the SIMD 2020:

- 37.4% of the population has one or more long-term health conditions.
- 26% of the population is being prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis.

Income and Employment

According to the SIMD 2020:

- 18% of people are employment deprived.
- 23% of people are income deprived.

Education

According to the SIMD 2020:

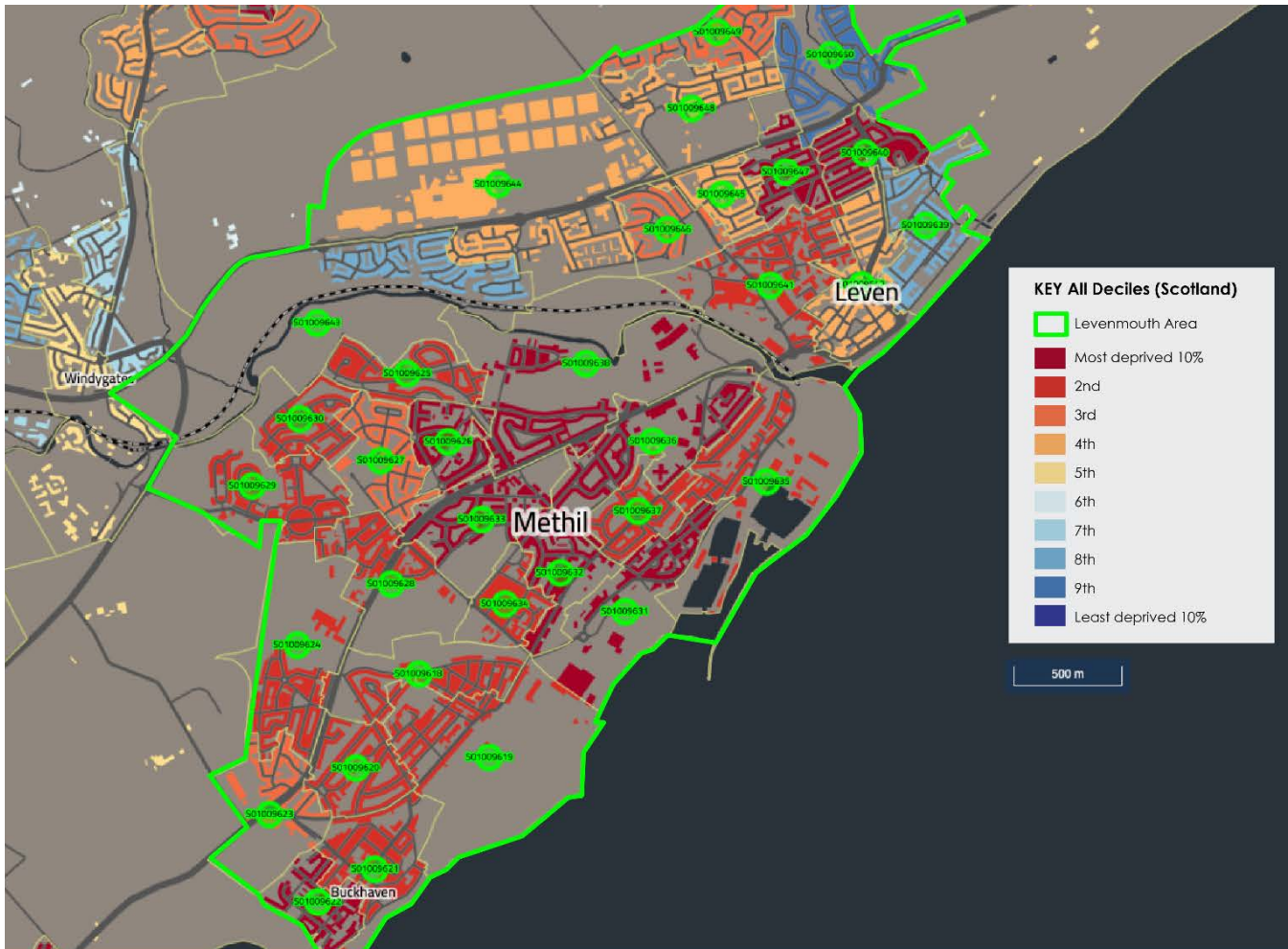
- 8% of people aged 16-19 are not participating in education, employment or training.

According to the 2011 Scotland census, in Buckhaven, Methil, Methilhill and Leven:

- 37.8% of all persons aged 16 and over have no qualifications.

SIMD Data

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is a tool by the Scottish Government to identify areas of relatively high deprivation in Scotland. SIMD divides Scotland into almost 7000 small 'data zones', measuring seven categories: income, employment, education, health, access to services, crime and housing.



Data from SIMD 2020 <https://simd.scot/#/simd2020/>

The SIMD map shows data zones that constitute Levenmouth. The majority of the Methil, Methilhill and Buckhaven data zones ranked within Scotland's 5%, 10% or 20% 'most deprived' data zones. However, most Levenmouth data zones are in the least deprived 50% of Scottish data zones for the geographic access indicator (travel times to schools, shops, surgeries, etc, and broadband access). It is also important to note that not every person in a data zone area of a higher deprivation zone will be experiencing high levels of deprivation.

Population: Sex, Age, Ethnicity, Language

There are slightly more people identifying as females than males in the area. There should be consideration within the design that the visitors of the River Park and users of the interpretation reflect that fact, as public parks, spaces and play facilities tend to be used more by males due to their design.

The population under 16 and those over 65 years old represents approximately 37%. These populations will have specific needs to access the interpretation, whether providing play elements, bold text in plain language or seats.

Most of the population identifies as White-Scottish; there is less ethnic diversity in the population than in other areas of Scotland.

In the area, 43.1% of the population self-report to speak Scots. This is a higher than average self-reported proficiency in the Scots language. Knowledge of and understanding of Scots is often under-reported and the language is known to have a low degree of cultural self-awareness being misidentified within speakers as slang. This figure indicates a relatively high degree of cultural awareness and interest in local language and language histories suggesting interpretation along these lines would be relevant.

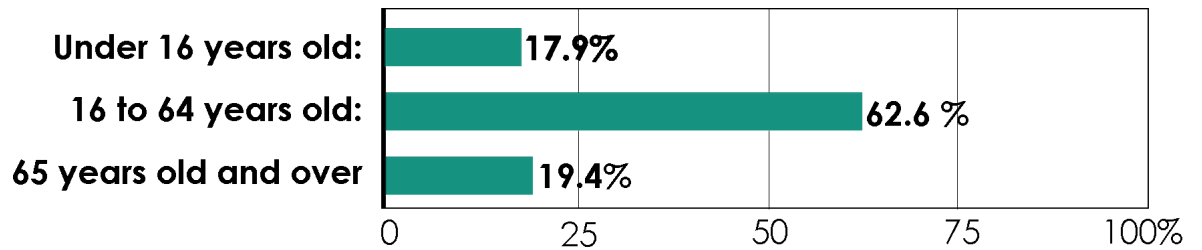
■ Total Population

Based on the Buckhaven, Methil, Methilhill and Leven 2011 Scotland's Census Data, the population of Levenmouth was **24,474 people**.

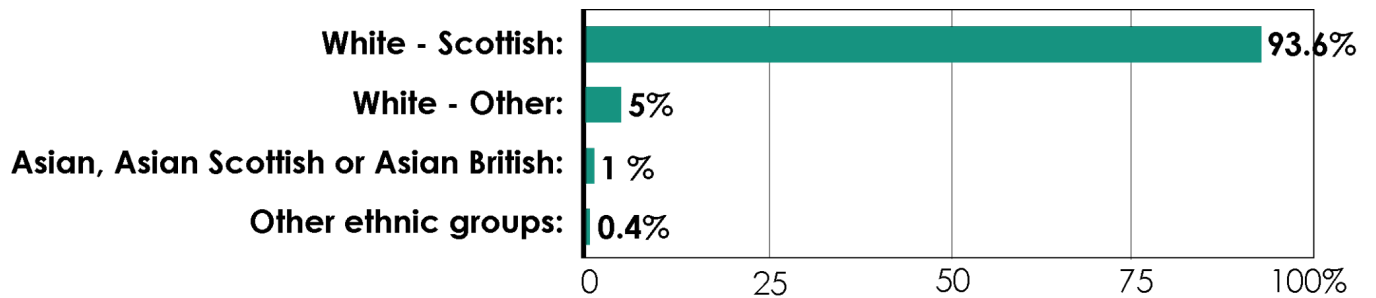
■ Sex



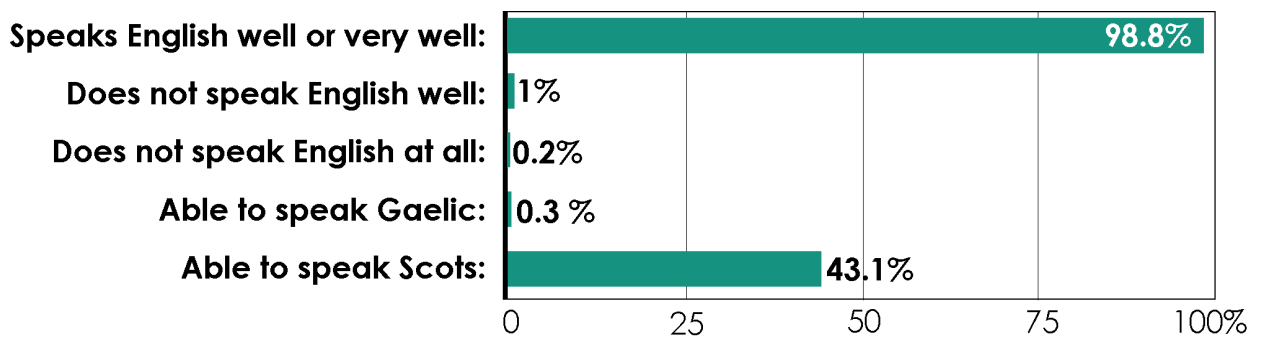
■ Age



■ Ethnicity



■ Language

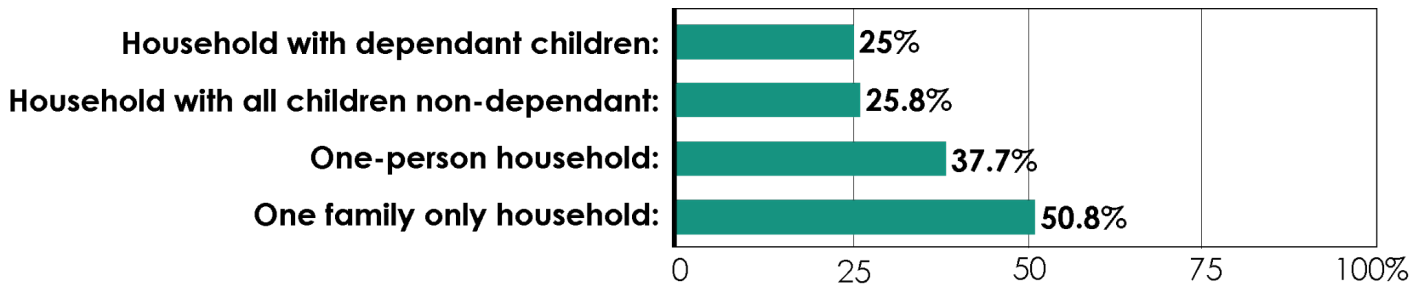


Households

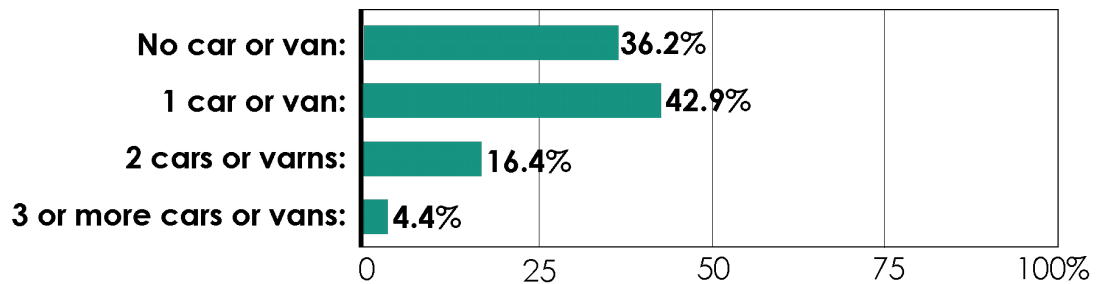
25 % of households have dependent children and 50.8% are one family only households; the interpretation should be suitable for families with children to engage with together. Similarly, 37,7% of households are one-person only; the interpretation can offer ways to socialise. 36.2% of households do not have a car or a van; the active travel network created at the River Park, connecting communities to the rail line, will be a significant entry point to the interpretation.

Total number of households (with residents) **11,545**

■ **Type of household**



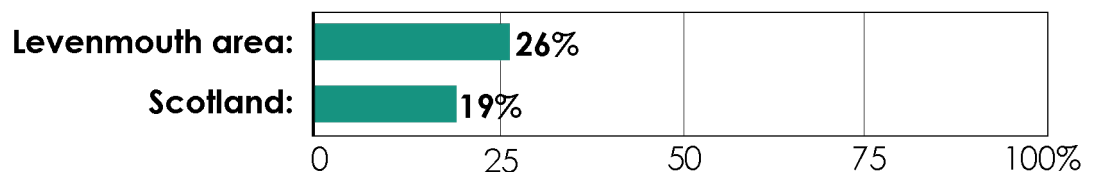
■ **Can or van availability**



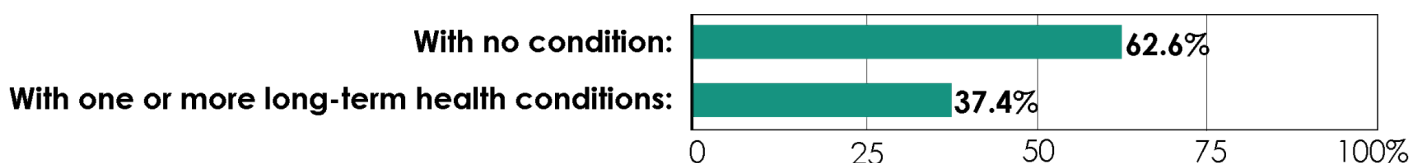
Health and wellbeing

26% of the population in Levenmouth is being prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis, which is higher than the average proportion of the Scottish population. The interpretation programme could offer health benefits from being outdoors and of the natural environment. 37.4 % of the population has declared having one or more long-term health conditions. The interpretation must offer various ways to engage in overcoming potential accessibility barriers.

■ **Percentage prescription of drugs for Depression, Anxiety or psychosis**



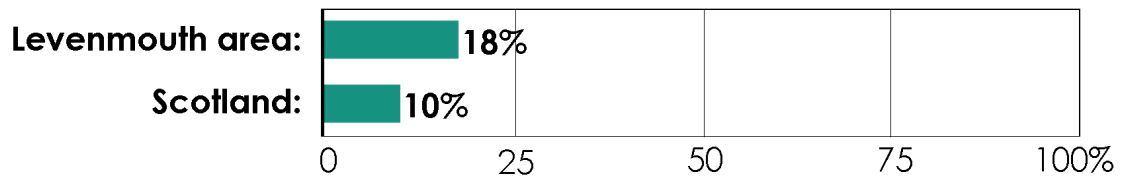
■ **Long-term health condition**



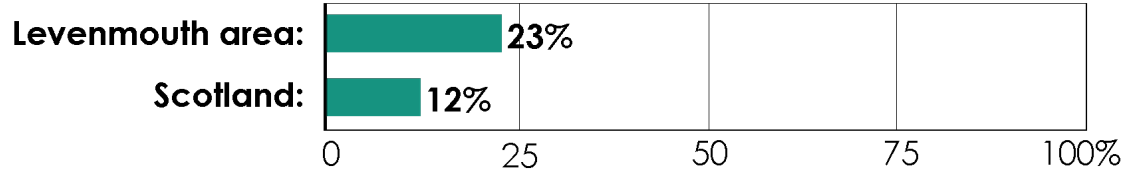
Income and Employment

On average 18% of people are employment deprived, while in Scotland, the percentage is 10%. Moreover, 23% of people are income deprived, while the percentage is 12% across all of Scotland. This is an important factor to consider when developing the interpretation programme. 7.5% of the economically active population is unemployed (job seekers) and 14.4% work part-time. In total, the percentage of the economically inactive population is 36.6%. This is significant when considering the audiences for the River Park interpretation, as research has shown that low-income or unemployed people are less likely to access the natural environment.

■ Percentage classed as Employment Deprived

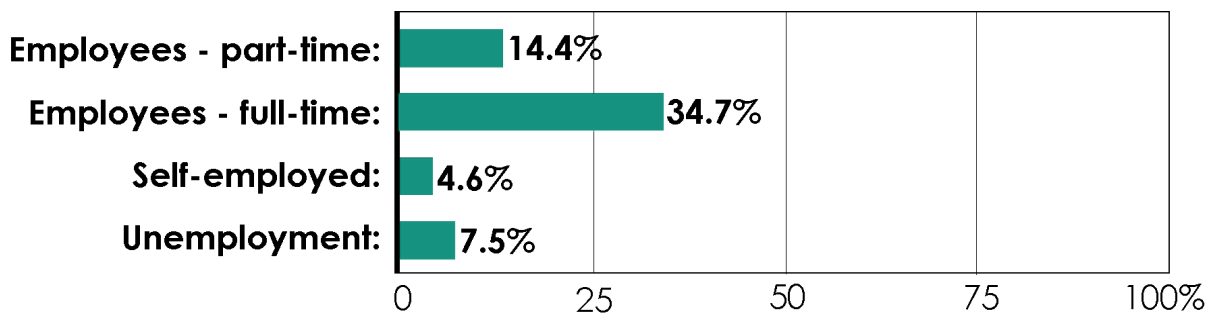
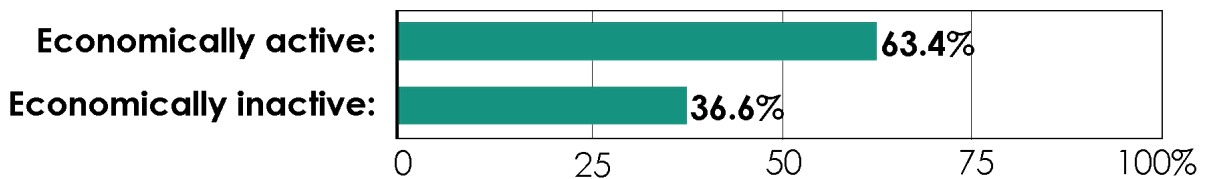


■ Percentage classed as Income Deprived



■ Economic activity

All persons 16 to 74: 17,836

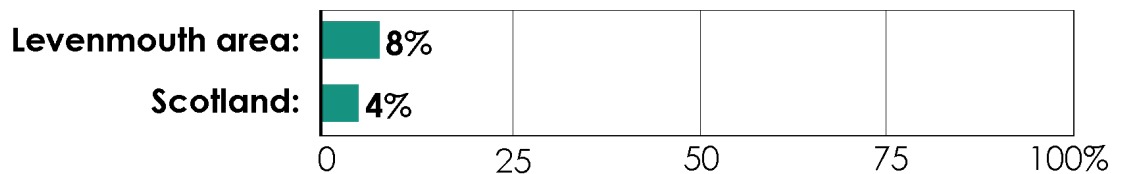


Education and Qualification

On average, 8% of people aged 16-19 do not participate in education, employment or training. That is twice as many as the Scottish average; in some Data Zones of the SMID, this number goes up to 29%. These young people would benefit from a different approach to learning and participating in activities; the interpretation should offer something for this harder-to-reach audience. 37.8% of people aged 16 and over do not have a qualification.

No Participation in Education, Employment or Training

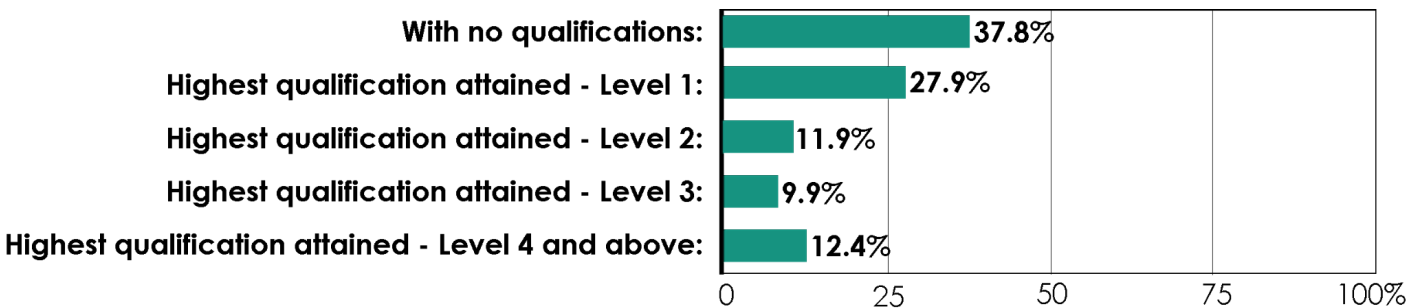
On the average the proportion of people aged 16-19 not participating in education, employment or training



The proportion goes up to 29% per intermediate zone.

Qualification

All persons aged 16 and over **20,083**



Level 1: lower secondary school, such as standard grade, 0 level, national 4 or 5 or equivalent

Level 2: higher secondary school, such as higher, advanced higher, A level or equivalent

Level 3: college, such as HNC, HND, SVQ level 4 or equivalent

Level 4: university degree or equivalent

6.2 Current users and uses of the River Leven

Getting an overview of how the River Leven and its surrounding area is used and who the users are is essential in understanding the target audiences for the interpretation. This section outlines the activities, behaviours, and visitors identified through engagement, the survey and observations at the River Leven.

The main activities, visitors and behaviours today are:

Activity/Behaviour	Who
Motorbiking	Young people
Anti-social behaviour	Attributed to young people
Fishing	Individuals part of the River Leven Angling Club
Dog-walking	General Public / Residents
Exercise	General Public / Residents
Relaxing	General Public / Residents / Young-people
Commuting	General Public / Residents
Foraging	General Public / Residents
Play	Children and Families

The survey responses show the following:

Seasonality

- The responses to the survey suggest that seasonality does not interfere with the number of visits to the River Park by residents.

Reasons to visit

- 19% of the respondents visit the park for various reasons.
- 13% of the respondents do not visit the River Park.
- 78% of visits are for leisure (including dog walking).
- 22% of visits are for practical reasons or work.

Length of visit

- 15% of the respondents visit the River Park for different periods.
- 5% of the respondents visit the River Park for as little time as possible.
- No respondents spend full days at the River Park. One respondent frequently visits for half a day.
- 63% of the respondents spend an average of an hour or more visiting the park.
- 41% of the respondents usually pass through the park.

Area visited

- 73% of the respondents visit the entire area/walk along the river.
- The Kirkland Dam area (23% of the respondents visit this area) is visited more than the Burn Mill Dam area (8%). The Leven and Methil end of the River Park is visited by 18% of the respondents. From the responses, all areas of the River Park are visited.

Motorbiking

The River Park is currently a network of tracks ideal for motorbiking. This past time causes noise disturbances, damages paths and contributes to feelings of unsafety to visitors of the river. The Behaviour Change Report published in 2020 highlights that motorbikes create barriers for people to visit the area. Some people recognise that a safe space could be provided for motorbiking to change the activity into a positive one, for example with mechanical and maintenance skills building programmes. There are also historical associations with motorcycle use in the local area, for example the Kirkcaldy Grand Prix being the first motorcycle road race in Scotland. The interpretation programme can reference the motorbiking heritage to integrate today's practice and value these users and uses of the River Park.

Anti-social behaviour

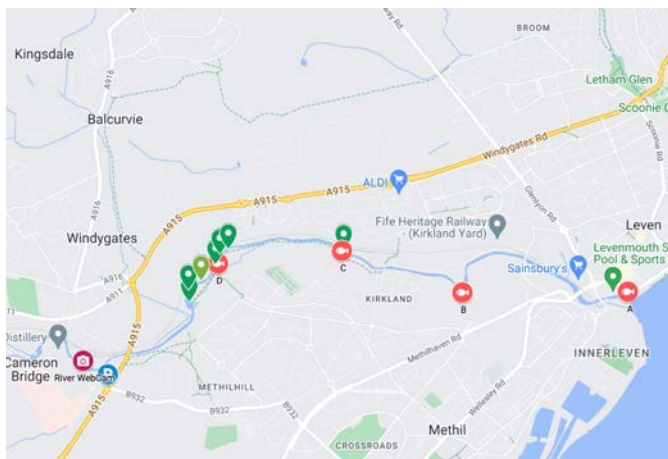
Groups of teenagers and individual teenagers often use the paths along the river. From conversations with young people during workshops, many use the River Park as a hang-out place. The river provides hidden pockets of space where rules can be discarded. *"It's great for drinking."*

A Police officer reported that the Police were frequently called at night to stop ongoing anti-social behaviours at the river, mainly perpetrated by teenagers. Many community members have reported that anti-social behaviour, such as drinking alcohol, damaging infrastructure, lighting fires and spray painting, are common at the River and in the Levenmouth area.

For the reasons above, the River area has a negative reputation and perception; other young people said they would not visit it. *"It's dodgy."*

Fishing

People fish regularly at the River Leven. The River Leven Angling Club, has produced a map of access to fishing spots. A fishing permit is required and catch and release is only permitted for Atlantic Salmon, Sea Trout and Brown Trout.



Fishing spots at the River Leven. Source: River Leven Angling Club website

<https://riverlevenanglingclub.co.uk/river-limits-map/>

A couple walking along the river from one fishing spot to another, August 2023, icecream architecture.

Dog Walking, Exercise and Relaxation

Leisure is the main reason for visits to the River Leven. Other activities highlighted in the survey as the principal reason for visiting the area were exercise (44.7 % of respondents), dog walking, or getting some peace. The River Park has been described as a place to relax; it offers a quiet setting and a natural environment.



Photo: A teenager listening to music and using their smartphone, August 2023. Icecream architecture.

Commuting

The survey shows that commuting is one of the main reasons to visit the River Park. The river already provides walking and cycling routes to commute between the surrounding areas. People use these to go to the shops, for example.



Photo: Man walking home with a shopping bag, August 2023. Icecream architecture.

Foraging and Play

Some people use the River Park to forage brambles and make jams. Others have spoken about the different plants and wildlife they spot at the River Leven. The River Leven area was the playground of many adults when they were growing up in Levenmouth. There are existing playgrounds around the River area. The area is a perfect natural playground,

although some families said they do not let their children visit the River Park, due to a perception that it is unsafe.

Tourism

Levenmouth is currently not a tourist destination, according to the Levenmouth Local Tourism Association (LLTA). There are 14 visitor attractions and four hotels. The local community mainly uses the visitor attractions.

The re-opening of the railway line and the two new train stations serving Levenmouth will open up opportunities for visitors to come and enjoy the area. The River Park area will provide a network of paths linking both train stations, incentivising visitors to visit the park.

Key takeaways about the users and uses at the River Leven today:

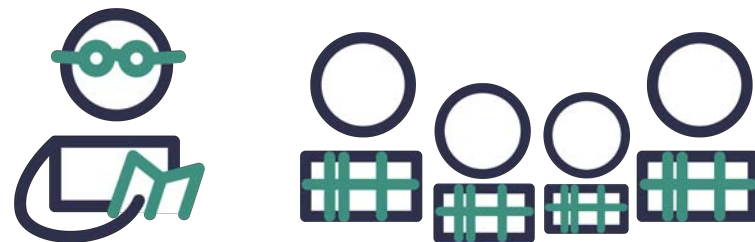
- It does not attract many visitors who are not in the direct vicinity. It is mainly the community around it that is using it.
- It is perceived as a young people's area and a place for anti-social behaviour.
- Using motorbikes is one activity that attracts more attention and comments.
- Despite hearing about the negative perception and safety concerns, many people still use the River Park.
- The park suffers from negative perception, and a part of the community does not visit.

6.4 Future Audiences

There are two main approaches to interpretation engagement to consider when thinking about future audiences:



- Audiences who will visit the River Park and engage with the interpretation as a user.
- Audiences who will create and collect interpretation content and be involved in ongoing maintenance.




The interpretation aims to showcase the community's heritage, stories and memories, and therefore local people must be involved in creating, preserving and sharing their legacy.

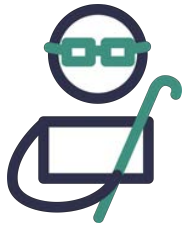


Future Audiences Table

This table shows an analysis of how different audiences could benefit from various methods of heritage interpretation.

Audiences	Current Engagement	Interpretation/ engagement Method	Examples	Outcomes of the interpretation
 <p>Older residents (long-term residents)</p>	<p>Moderate (those involved in heritage and history groups)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signage - Printed material - Local stories/ experiences - Events/Workshops - Family 'experiences' at destinations throughout the year (e.g. events, family trails, 'live history') 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recording oral histories - Community archaeology - Interpretation panels including maps - Heritage trail leaflet - Fun days/ festivals - Designed outdoor furnitures - Exhibition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing new skills - Improved interpretation` - Preserving local heritage, stories and memories - Connecting with younger generations - Revealing the history - Benefits to health and wellbeing from outdoor activities
 <p>Young people (living around the River Park)</p>	<p>Low</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digital media - Games - Events/Workshops - Play/interactive installations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fun events / outside theatre / cinema - Virtual reality experiences - Digital Trail - Participate in Murals and graffiti - Design outdoor furniture/parkour infrastructure - Participate in Art sculpture/installations/exhibition - Visual exhibition/unusual elements in daily life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enthused through engaging learning - Developing new skills - Improved interpretation - Gain understanding of local heritage - Care for the River Park and heritage - Benefits to health and wellbeing through outdoor activities - Work experience opportunities - Improved employability - Improved social networks

 <p>Families (living locally or having a link with the area)</p>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digital media - Games - Education/ training - Family 'experiences' (e.g. events, family trails, 'live history') - Play/interactive installations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Citizen science - Community archaeology - Heritage trail leaflet - Oral history - Fun days/ festivals - 3D gaming technology to recreate historic buildings - Designed play infrastructures/outdoor furnitures - Participate in Art sculpture/installations/exhibition - Visual exhibition/unusual elements in daily life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learning about heritage in exciting ways - Developing new skills - Access to outdoor education - Improved interpretation - Repeat visits to experience different events/ activities - Gaining an understanding of local heritage - Caring for the River Park and heritage
 <p>Schools and youth groups (local to the park)</p>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education/ training - Digital media - Games - Play/interactive installations - Events/Workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Citizen science - Community archaeology - Oral history - Outdoor classroom - Participate in art/installations/exhibition - Visual exhibition/curious elements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learning about heritage in exciting ways - Developing new skills - Access to outdoor education - Improved interpretation - Engage with the River Park and care for it
 <p>Visitors to Levenmouth (new to the park)</p>	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digital media - Signage - Printed material - Play/interactive - 'experiences' (e.g. events, trails, 'live history') 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interpretation panels including maps - Heritage trail leaflet - Fun days/ festivals - Waymarkers - Infrastructures/outdoor furniture - Visual exhibition/curious object 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Benefits to health and wellbeing through outdoor activities - Repeat visits to experience different events/ activities - Learning about heritage in exciting ways

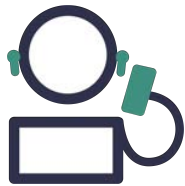


Older residents

The residents that have lived the longest in Levenmouth, had the most to say about the area and were generally more proud of it than other generations. They are more likely to know the local history and heritage, having lived through some of it. Their perspectives should be essential in the interpretation development as bearers of local stories and memories; they can add human voices to the events shaping Levenmouth's history.

The interpretation could offer a way to preserve all this local knowledge and memories by building a community archive.

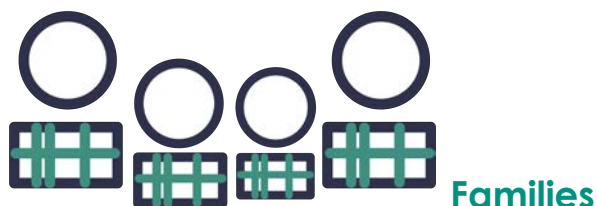
The Interpretation could allow for cross-generational flows of knowledge and give context to what it means to be from Levenmouth. It would give opportunities to learn skills and facilitate social and physical activities. It would also create an opportunity to showcase and celebrate their place and community, sharing not only their knowledge but the reasons for their pride.



Young People (disaffected)

The area has a higher number of young people aged 16-19, outside of any kind of education, employment or training compared to the Scottish average. Even among those young people in education, the area's school attendance falls below the average.

The interpretation at the River Park should provide opportunities for young people who may be having difficulties planning their future to learn in an exciting way, access practical training and test new skills. It can provide another positive and inspiring perspective on their place, community, and heritage. The interpretation can present an overview of the area's industries, skills, and specificities, highlighting opportunities and available support for young people to grow and thrive.



In Levenmouth, there are not many prospects for young people and those who could attend further education tend to move out, pursue their careers, and start their own family elsewhere. As a result, some of the families that move to the area are because of family links or returning back to Levenmouth.

Of the families that stay in the area, they often have parents who have memories of the River Leven from childhood. They often have strong family roots within the area and their own family histories involving the river.

The River Park has the potential to offer local families an outdoor space to spend time together that is easily accessible and that might resonate with their family's stories. The interpretation could offer a programme of activities and infrastructure to enjoy and experience together, having something to engage with every family member. The interpretation would also provide an understanding of their history and heritage and allow them to connect with their history and local heritage.



Schools and youth groups

The history and heritage of Levenmouth are not well-known to the younger generations. The national curriculum does not cover their local history, and no current heritage destination exists for schools or youth groups to visit within Levenmouth. The interpretation could be essential in providing resources for schools and youth groups to discover the local heritage and history. With the interpretation being fuelled by the local community, the young people could also be involved in producing materials that complement the educational curriculum.

The River Park will also provide unique opportunities to interpret the natural environment and its various ecosystems. A learning hub could be developed within the park, including facilities for outdoor classroom activities and various educational toolkits. Across the board, young people are more concerned about the natural environment than previous generations. This could be harnessed so that young people can play a pivotal role in developing the environmental interpretation of the river, spearheading and communicating conservation efforts and conserving/improving its biodiversity. The River Park and its interpretation could become a destination for education outside the classroom, providing exciting ways to learn about local heritage and subjects linked to the environment.







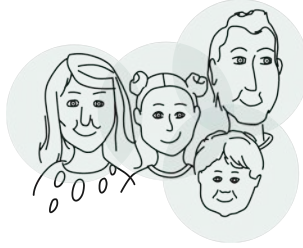
The visitor to Levenmouth

With the re-opening of the rail line, access to Levenmouth will be improved to encourage more visitors. The River Park could become a popular destination for visitors, offering pedestrian and cycling routes between the two train stations and various scenery and habitats along the way.

The interpretation could emphasise the distinctive character of the River Park, highlighting the natural assets to observe and a journey through history led by the community. Visitors attracted by nature and landscape will discover habitats and species reclaiming the post-industrial area. Visitors who are curious about the local heritage will learn about the history through the lens of the local community, making it unique to the River Park. A series of events could also be programmed inviting visitors to return for a day out in Levenmouth and at the River Park.

6.5 Personas

To better understand how future interpretation could engage various individuals and groups, this report uses five personas to represent different target audiences.

1		<p>Ginny</p> <p>Primary School Teacher: looking to provide interesting ways to teach young people, keep them engaged and support anything that enriches their lives/education.</p>
2		<p>Tommy</p> <p>Disengaged Student: growing up in Levenmouth, in a family from the area, income-stressed home, disengaged at school, looking for things to do.</p>
3		<p>Ann</p> <p>Life-long Resident: born and bred in Levenmouth, retired, interested in its history and heritage, a current member of several groups, she likes meeting people with similar interests.</p>
4		<p>Dave</p> <p>Day Visitor: on an accessible day trip, comes from not too far away, interested in nature conservation, appreciates well-displayed heritage information, likes exploring new places and new pubs so takes the train whenever he can.</p>
5		<p>Hannah, Pete, Emily and Noah</p> <p>Local Family: moved back to the area to reconnect with family roots (grandmother in the area), appreciate access to nature, educational activities for the kids, family interest in history and Scottish language heritage.</p>

They are based on user research done throughout the engagement process, and they possess a mixture of shared and individual characteristics identified through engagement with local groups and people, establishing their aspirations for the park's future. Getting to know the persona characters and considering how the different aspects of interpretation might impact their lives can create a shared understanding of the methods, tools and strategies needed for effective and engaging interpretation.

- **The full description of each persona can be found in the Appendices.**

6.6 User and visitor experience

This table shows levels of importance for different methods of interpretation and touch points for interaction for different user groups.

	Community Hub	Active Travel Paths	Outdoor classroom	Train Stations	Play Areas	Events	Gateways and Signage	Toolkits and Learning	Paper Maps	Digital Interpretation	'Lead the Way' Training
 Older residents	3	5	2	1	2	4	5	2	2	5	5
 Young people	5	5	2	2	3	3	1	2	1	5	2
 Families	4	5	3	2	5	4	2	4	3	4	1
 Schools and youth groups	5	4	5	1	4	3	2	5	2	5	4
 Visitors to Levenmouth	4	5	2	5	3	3	5	3	5	4	1

SCALE	Essential	High	Occasional	Low	Never
Level of use to access the interpretation	5	4	3	2	1

The following diagrams show outlines of user-journeys at the River Park using the five personas.



Ginny, Primary School Teacher

DURING DELIVERY

'Lead the Way' training and development

Delivery / Interpretation Expert Local Group / Event

- Visits in the Classroom of 'Lead the Way' Participants
- Heritage Events

RIVER PARK DELIVERED

Awareness of the interpretation/ Plan visit



- Digital Resources

Visit to the River Park



- Community Hub
- Paths and Boardwalk
- Toolkits and Online Resources
- Outdoor Classroom

After visiting the River Park / Return to the River Park



- Toolkits and Online Resources
- Learning Programme return to the the Outdoor Classroom

DURING DELIVERY

'Lead the Way' training and development

Delivery / Interpretation Expert Local Group / Event

- Visits at Levenmouth Academy of 'Lead the Way' Participants
- Building of furniture with Youth Trade Hub

RIVER PARK DELIVERED

Awareness of the interpretation/ Plan visit



- Landmarks and Public Art
- Seatings
- Paths

Visit to the River Park



- Community Hub
- Digital Interpretation, VR/AR
- Paths and Gamification of Trails (digital)

After visiting the River Park / Return to the River Park



- Community Hub
- Digital Interpretation and Resources



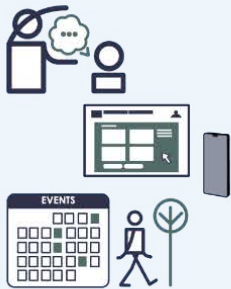
Tommy, Disengaged Student

DURING DELIVERY



Ann, Life-long Resident

'Lead the Way' training and development



- Part of Training and visit Schools

Delivery / Interpretation Expert Local Group / Event



- Member of the Interpretation Expert Local Group

RIVER PARK DELIVERED

Awareness of the interpretation/ Plan visit



- Paper Map
- Digital Interpretation

Visit to the River Park



- Seatings
- Gateways, Information Boards, Temporary Exhibition
- Paths and Infrastructures

After visiting the River Park / Return to the River Park



- Digital Interpretation and Resources
- Events

DURING DELIVERY



Dave, Day Visitor

'Lead the Way' training and development



- Part of Training and visit Schools

Delivery / Interpretation Expert Local Group / Event



- Member of the Interpretation Expert Local Group

RIVER PARK DELIVERED

Awareness of the interpretation/ Plan visit



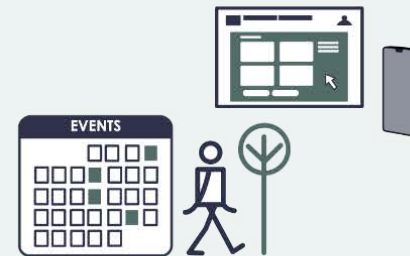
- Train Station
- Paper Map
- Gateways and Signage

Visit to the River Park

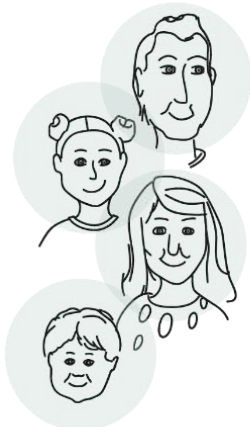


- Seatings
- Public Art
- Paths and platforms
- Map
- Exhibition
- Digital Interpretation

After visiting the River Park / Return to the River Park



- Digital Interpretation and Resources
- Events



**Hannah, Pete,
Emily and Noah,**
Local Family

DURING DELIVERY

'Lead the Way'
training and
development

Delivery /
Interpretation
Expert Local
Group / Event



→ Attended
Nature and
Heritage
Themed Events
with to do
family activities

RIVER PARK DELIVERED

Awareness of the
interpretation/
Plan visit



→ Community
Hub
→ Paper Map
→ Gateways

Visit to the River Park



→ Seatings → Outdoor
→ Paths Learning
→ Themed → Toolkits and
→ Play Areas Digital Resources

After visiting the River Park /
Return to the River Park



→ Digital Interpretation,
Trails and 'Games'
→ Events for families
→ A local park to play

7.0 Guiding Principles

Through reviewing the existing interpretation in the area, and identifying the needs and potential benefits of interpretation to future users through community engagement and research, this set of principles has been drawn out to guide the overall interpretation strategy for the River Park.

These Principles should be understood as rules to apply across the development of Interpretation for the River Park.

Guiding Principles for the design, development and delivery of interpretation:

1. Co-create with local groups and people

Local groups and individuals should be involved as much as possible in the planning and design process of the interpretation. It's important that the heritage, stories and activities that happen at the River Park are embedded in the community. This will be key in increasing the sense of local ownership of the River Park and encouraging the community to take care of its heritage. Wherever possible, capacity building, training or tools should be provided for the community to own and develop the heritage narratives and interpretation, building a lasting and ongoing legacy.

2. Accessibility

There is no existing interpretation within the River Park and a low awareness of its heritage locally, especially amongst young people. The interpretation should be accessible and interesting to various audiences with diverse needs and abilities. Key principles for accessibility include:

- Use of short, succinct paragraphs with straightforward language
- Clear, legible graphics and visuals wherever possible
- Provision of various routes to access interpretation, avoiding possible barriers. The same information should be accessible through multiple different mediums and presented with a range of audiences in mind, considering the age, interests, ability and existing knowledge.
- This should include a mixture of digital and in-situ elements.

3. Learning and connecting through experience and interaction

There are different levels of visitor engagement and interaction with the River Park. Some of the targeted audience groups are residents. They may use the river to commute, exercise or walk their dog; others may specifically visit the river to learn about the heritage. Providing engaging, diverse and intriguing ways to connect with the interpretation, particularly for those not intentionally seeking it, will be key for some of the target audiences.

4. Environmental preservation

The preservation of the natural, social and historic environment of the River Park should be an integral part of all interpretation, both narratively and in the case of physical interpretation, materially. Environmental sustainability should be at the forefront of any design choices for physical interpretation.

5. Enforcing the future opportunity

The future heritage and perception of the River Park as well as the wider Levenmouth area is an important narrative throughout this interpretation. Whenever the past is interpreted, a connection should be made to reinforce the positives for the future.

8.0 Interpretation Programme

A whole ecosystem of community historians, artists, and local interest groups around interpretation needs to be fostered and sustained; each part is interlinked. The delivery of the interpretation and the final outcomes are important to ensure the local community is engaged, develops their ownership of the River Park, and is able to sustain it.

The 7 Project Strands of the Interpretation Programme are:



1. 'Lead the Way' Training and Development



2. Digital



3. Events



4. Toolkits and Learning



5. Printed Map

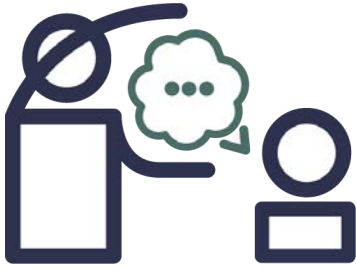


6. Public Art



7. Physical Interpretation

8.1 'Lead the Way' Training and Development



The training tasks include all the **capacity-building** required throughout the interpretation masterplan's Delivery Phase. The training aims to provide the necessary **skills to community members to become active in the interpretation process**. Initially, an Interpretation Designer would design a programme while training a paid, local coordinator and particularly interested community leaders. This training would then be rolled out by the Coordinator to a wider group of local volunteers. Two programmes have been identified around distinct themes to deliver outcomes that cover the breadth of the interpretation.



Community and Industrial Heritage (including Themes 1,3,4)

This program would develop a **training framework**, requiring a principal trainer as a paid position, who could be a local community member, trained and supported, tasked with organising a programme of community training, including recruiting and promoting. People joining this programme will learn to **research** history and navigate through archives and historic resource libraries. They would then be supported to deploy research around specific themes related to the River Park's heritage. They would also be provided with training in **digital conservation**, learning to **record and archive** memories, photographs and objects found in the local community. Another skill set that the training would provide is **curation**, learning to develop exhibitions around topics, selecting the content and displaying it in a comprehensive and accessible way for an audience. The aim is to empower local people to actively research, record and preserve the stories, memories and histories of the local community.

Natural Environment (covering Theme 2)

This programme would focus on **citizen science** activities and **empower people to observe, recognise and survey the biodiversity of the different habitats of the River Park.**

Again, the framework would provide skills to **collect and record data**. There would also be training to learn how to **classify** the data teaching the relative importance of each metric in both a local, national and international context.

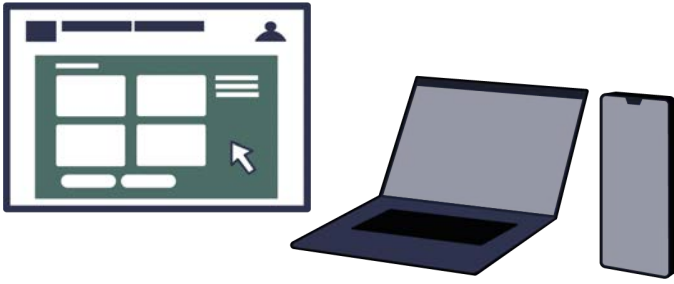
To support these activities, a digital tool will be created and provided. More details of this are in 8.2 Digital Platform.

To train as many people as possible to record and archive heritage content and environmental data, we recommend regular **digital archiving refreshers** throughout the delivery of the interpretation masterplan, maximising the collection of information and use of digital tools.

All the training processes and resulting work will provide the necessary content to interpret the River Park. People who attended the training sessions would be invited to participate in an **Interpretation Local Expert Group**. Having contributed to the content collection, they would be well-positioned to make informed decisions concerning the application of interpretation to the infrastructural projects within the River Park, e.g. boardwalks, bridges and trails.

Output/Outcome	Audiences	Who leads?	Maintenance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heritage and Natural Environment knowledge shared - Capacity-building - Digital platform and content research trainers - Content for the interpretation collected and archived - Local Expert Group formed to inform decisions throughout the interpretation delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Older Residents 3. Families 4. Schools and youth groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GAT - OnFife - CLEAR - History and Heritage groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a network of trainers to provide informal training in the long term.

8.2 Digital Platform



The Digital aspect of the interpretation will be essential to provide tools for the local community to participate in the collection and archive of local heritage, to provide resources to learn about the heritage and to offer engaging ways to access the interpretation for a broader audience. It is also a great way to limit the amount of information displayed at the River Park and have content accessible away from the River Park in settings more suitable for reading and getting a deeper understanding, context, and information.

The digital platform would first require the set up of a collection tool to be used by community members after being trained to collect content. This could be an archive catalogue that collects materials to be organised by tags and smartphone tools, such as GPS location, and media type.

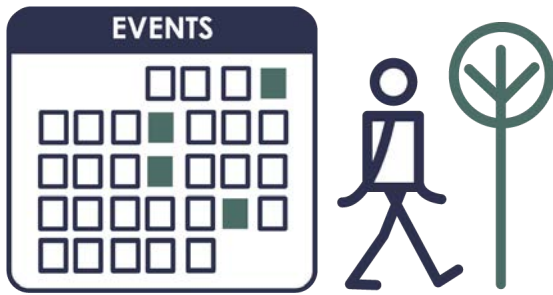
Tools to record and curate trails would also be implemented; these would be used during guided walks and to keep traces of activities in the River Park. Creating an interactive map and ways to curate the heritage of the River Park. User testing will be necessary as part of the development process, and the series of events would be perfect opportunities to introduce and test the functionality of the digital platform.

A VR/AR element would permit showing past buildings and industries of the River Park and allow viewers to get a feeling of the past history in an accessible and engaging way. The digital platform would also provide the necessary tools for the gamification of the routes. An interactive trail could be developed, for example, working with QR codes and clues to explore the River Park. Using digital tools allows for regularly updating the offer/game and proposing different approaches to exploring the river without infrastructural change.

The digital platform would be launched early in the interpretation Delivery Phase, providing ways for audiences to engage with the interpretation early in the delivery phase. Updates would then be made throughout the project, reflecting the work and local community skills being developed. The digital platform will allow users to register as Admins, giving them additional editing and upload rights. During the Delivery Phase this will be managed with the aim that Lead the Way trainees will monitor and manage the digital platform into the future. Maintenance has been costed for 5 years after the Delivery Phase is completed.

Output/Outcome	Audiences	Who can be involved in the delivery	Maintenance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digital platform dedicated to the heritage of the River Park/Levenmouth and branded - Online archive created by the local community - Online-themed trails curated by the local community - Tools to map, record and classify - VR/AR content created and available on the digital platform - Learning resources stored and accessible on the digital platform - Interactive trails/gamification of the routes 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Older Residents 2. Young People (harder to reach) 3. Families 4. Schools and youth groups 5. The visitors to Levenmouth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On Fife - Levenmouth Heritage Partnership - LLTA - Fife Council - GAT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Digital maintenance plan including hosting and development -Train people to use the digital platform -Delegate content input and management -Update the interface

8.3 Events



A **series of events should be programmed** as part of the interpretation development. The first type of event would be a series of **exhibitions** created and curated by the people involved in the training programme. These exhibitions would be great opportunities to attract further community interest and facilitate the sharing of memories and stories of the area. Different targeted audiences could be invited to view the exhibition, providing regular community events showcasing all community input. From the interpretation delivery process perspective, these exhibitions would be used to test ideas and refine the content that would be part of the final picture of the River Park.

A series of **artists/experts in residence** should also be facilitated at the River Park. This would call for community engagement and co-creation practices and focus the work on the river heritage. Creating events and outcomes would provide another lens to the heritage of the River Park, attracting different audiences and providing interactive ways to engage with heritage.

A **guided walks program** would provide opportunities to explore different themes of the interpretation and further collect local knowledge of the heritage. Local experts could lead the walks; for example, one walk could focus on identifying plants of the River Park, the Fife Gaelic officer could lead another walk to chat about the Gaelic and Scots heritage, a walk could be led by a participant of the heritage training to reveal some of the history at the River Park. This could also be the opportunity to curate themed trails, developing a collection of heritage-focused knowledge at the River Park for locals and visitors.

A program of **School visits** would allow the development of outdoor classrooms, testing tools and locations with the local schools. This would also allow the pupils to be involved in activities developing the River Park, such as planting and biodiversity monitoring. This could also be an opportunity for local heritage experts to be trained to meet with the pupils and share local memories and stories with them as well as collecting some of the pupils' own stories.

Output/Outcome	Audiences	Who leads?	Maintenance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heritage exhibitions led by locals - A programme of guided walks delivered - A programme of School visits and workshops delivered throughout Levenmouth - Four artist/expert residencies that involved the community delivered - Increased awareness of the interpretation and heritage - Recruitment of local people to join the training programme - Collection of memories, stories, facts, data and archiving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Older Residents 3. Families 4. Schools and youth groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GAT - Fife Council - CLEAR - History and Heritage Groups - STAND - Bat Woods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify, train and give the capacity and resources to groups who would like to continue delivering a programme of events

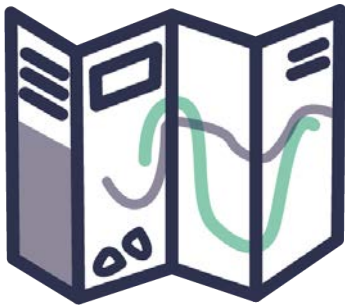
8.4 Toolkits and Learning



The toolkit will offer resources and activities to engage with the River Park's heritage and environment. The toolkits would be available online. Some activities could be exclusively smartphone-based using features such as GPS and QR code scanners to participate. Other resources could be downloaded and printed if needed. Some physical toolkits should also be created for community groups and schools. A library of resources and kits to learn about the heritage and natural environment would allow visitors and residents to access interpretation content in different settings and through different levels of interactivity.

Output/Outcome	Audiences	Who leads?	Maintenance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multiple Learning kits and toolkits covering the main themes of the interpretation - Free digital resources - Resources to print - Physical toolkits available for groups to use - Learning kits and toolkits for audiences of different ages and abilities - Network of experts that can be involved in workshop delivery with schools or groups 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Older Residents 2. Young People (harder to reach) 3. Families 4. Schools and youth groups 5. The visitors to Levenmouth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary Schools - MCCI - Youth groups (Clued-up, PSYV, etc.) - CLEAR - On Fife - Levenmouth Academy - Fife College - STAND - History and heritage groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digital maintenance of the digital platform - Management of physical toolkit loans, including repairs and replacement - Update of learning kits and toolkits

8.5 Paper Maps



Printed materials such as maps and leaflets will be valuable for visitors as takeaway objects and as physical alternatives to the digital engagement tools. The maps would aim to give an overview of the River Park through a heritage lens, summarising the interpretation and serving as a guide during the visit,

providing further information and making links. Different types of maps and leaflets could also be developed to accommodate different types of exploration. For example, we can imagine a trail with imaginary characters and activities for children. The identified themes could be used to produce specific in-depth leaflets; one could provide information on the wildlife while another would explain the river's industrial evolution; this would be based on the interpretation displayed at the river and amplify it. This would also reinforce the brand identity of the River Park and could be distributed in visitor centres around Fife, requiring a large number of prints. Distribution of the maps should be widespread and focus on Future Audiences e.g. distributed to surrounding primary schools, marking the launch of the interpretation and inviting all families to visit the River Park for an interpretation trail walk.

Output/Outcome	Audiences	Who can be involved in the delivery	Maintenance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Branded maps for Levenmouth's visitors - Maps/leaflets about the River Park and Levenmouth heritage distributed in Fife/Edinburgh visitor information centres - Set of maps/paper trails for different audiences (children, families) - Map of themed trails, site-specific, to augment the visit of the River Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Older Residents 3. Families 5. The visitors to Levenmouth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -On Fife -Levenmouth Heritage Partnership -LTA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Distribution and reprint of maps if needed -Update of the maps and trails

8.6 Public Art



There are few remains of the river's past lives and no strong landmark to use as a focal point for interpretation. Adding to the River Park area some art pieces with a strong heritage-linked identity would mark the River Park's transformation. The public art produced should become a symbol of the River Park and provide an intriguing new landmark, be that a mural or sculpture. It

does not need to have one piece installed and could rather be a series of interventions along the river's length; the chosen interpretation narratives should inform these decisions. The community should be involved in writing the brief for the public art, ensuring the heritage and stories that it will be built upon connect with the people of the area and contribute to a sense of pride. Events and creative communication campaigns could accompany the creation of public art, its installation and launch, raising awareness in the local community and spreading interest beyond Levenmouth.

Output/Outcome	Audiences	Who leads?	Maintenance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brief co-designed with the community - Landmark(s) representing the heritage of the River Park - Communication campaign and awareness of the River Park heritage - Launch event 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Older Residents 2. Young People (harder to reach) 3. Families 4. Schools and youth groups 5. The visitors to Levenmouth 	<p>Whole community</p>	<p>It will need to develop an ongoing maintenance plan that clearly identifies who is in charge of repairs and desinstallation if needed.</p>

8.7 Physical Interpretation



The length of the River Park delivery means that the delivery of physical elements and infrastructure will occur in stages, spreading over four years. Elements of the interpretation, such as benches, ground stones in paths, and play infrastructure, will be produced and installed in later stages of the Leven Programme delivery. To set expectations on the delivery of the interpretation masterplan, starting in quarter one, we recommend producing an initial interpretation set covering key themes and learning outcomes. They could work like a contents table of the interpretation that could be made public and accessible as soon as possible. This content would be available on the digital platform being produced (Ref: Digital Section). A series of simple plaques with a QR code leading the digital platform and some brief information could initially be installed at gateway locations. They would be the first markers of the interpretation at the River Park. The digital content would then expand with the ongoing collection and archiving work, and more plaques could be implemented to emphasise the development of the interpretation. These markers would announce that things are being activated and potentially help recruit participants for training and also inform residents of the coming changes. It would also start introducing the River Park brand.

A sense of place toolkit will be developed by collecting local stories, memories, historical facts, and data on the natural environment (Ref: Training section). The sense of place toolkit is a clearly written and richly illustrated summary of the area's special qualities and interpretive themes as perceived by local people. The toolkit will include easy-to-follow guidance on using this information to add a 'sense of place' to interpretive outputs. It will

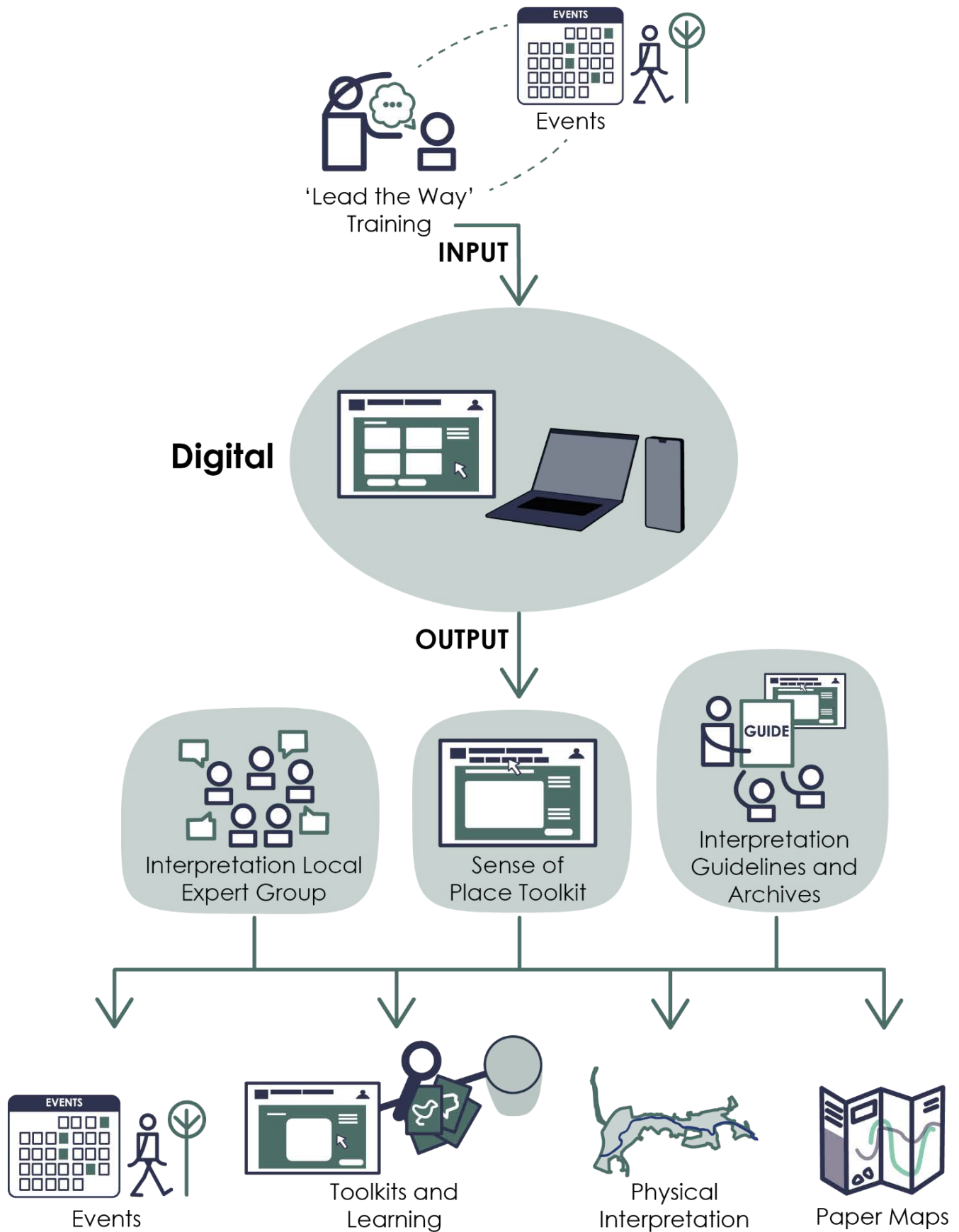
also include advice for tourism businesses and local interest groups on using the Toolkit for their own benefit. Interpretation guidelines and an archive of memories/stories/facts will complement and enrich the sense of place toolkit. It will contain essential graphical and curational guides and precise content elements to apply the interpretation on various supports, including fences, seatings, paths, bridges and play parks.

The Gateways and paths would be the primary way to engage with the interpretation when visiting River Park. The Gateways would be opportunities for larger information boards to be installed. It would allow someone entering or exiting the River Park to stop and learn about one interpretation aspect. Carefully curating the information will be necessary to create a meaningful pocket of information directly linked to the areas they sit at the threshold of. Each gateway would then provide site-specific content as well as common context information.

Output/Outcome	Audiences	Who can be involved in the delivery	Maintenance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Temporary/initial markers - Interpretation at gateways and at paths - Sense of place toolkit - Interpretation guidelines for application to physical infrastructure - Planning the delivery of 'hard' interpretation such as information boards on sites and 'soft' interpretation such as words engraved on benches 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Older Residents 2. Young People (harder to reach) 3. Families 4. Schools and youth groups 5. The visitors to Levenmouth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Trade Hub - Levenmouth Local Tourism Association (LLTA) - Consultants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -It will need to develop an ongoing maintenance plan that clearly identifies who is in charge of repairs and desinstallation if needed. -Update of the information boards

8.8 Content Collection and Presentation

Digital Platform at the centre of the Interpretation Programme



9.0 Interpretation within the infrastructure

9.1 A Holistic Approach to Telling the Story

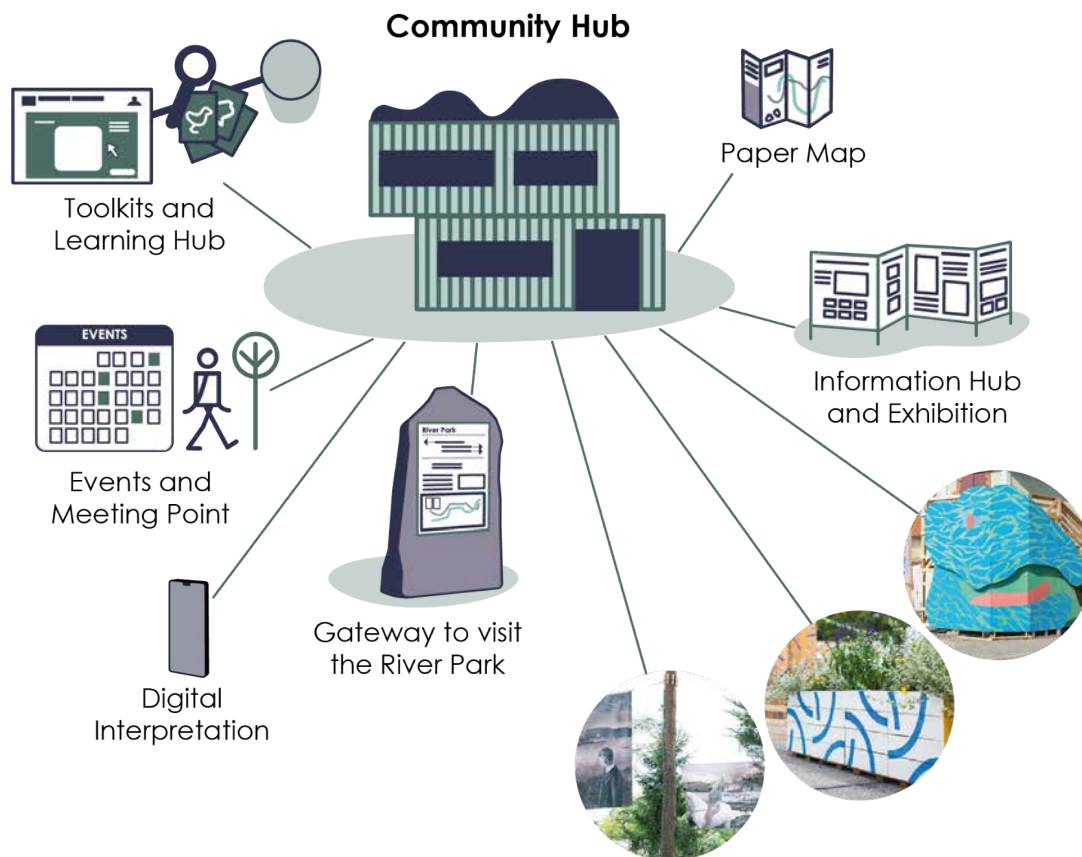
Major changes to the infrastructure of the River Park are imminent and will happen in partnership with the wider Leven Programme. This Masterplan speaks to all infrastructural changes that could happen in the future of the River Park, including proposed changes that form part of wider regional projects that connect through the River Park.

It's important that all infrastructural changes take account of the Interpretation Masterplan and consider how an overall story is told. This is particularly important when considering Theme 1: Mills and Industrial Evolution and Theme 2 : A Resilient Nature; which both provide physical considerations that should influence design choices. The construction of new infrastructure will inevitably have an impact on the current course of nature in the park. The unique strength of the River Park's current landscape - nature reclaiming itself after being obliterated during its industrial past - should be celebrated. It's important that all infrastructural design elements take account of this unique ecosystem and employ best practices with regard to environmental stewardship employing the lightest possible touch.

Interpretation shouldn't be an afterthought in the design of park infrastructure.

Interpretation elements should not be merely tacked onto the end after the design process is complete. Instead, the interpretation should help shape the designs wherever possible; giving consideration for how a park user will experience the overall look and feel of the River Park and how they will be immersed in the overall experience as they move through it.

The following pages describe how each element of infrastructure can incorporate the Specific sub-themes that should feature on these elements of infrastructure are highlighted. These can be developed further during the Lead the Way Training Programme.



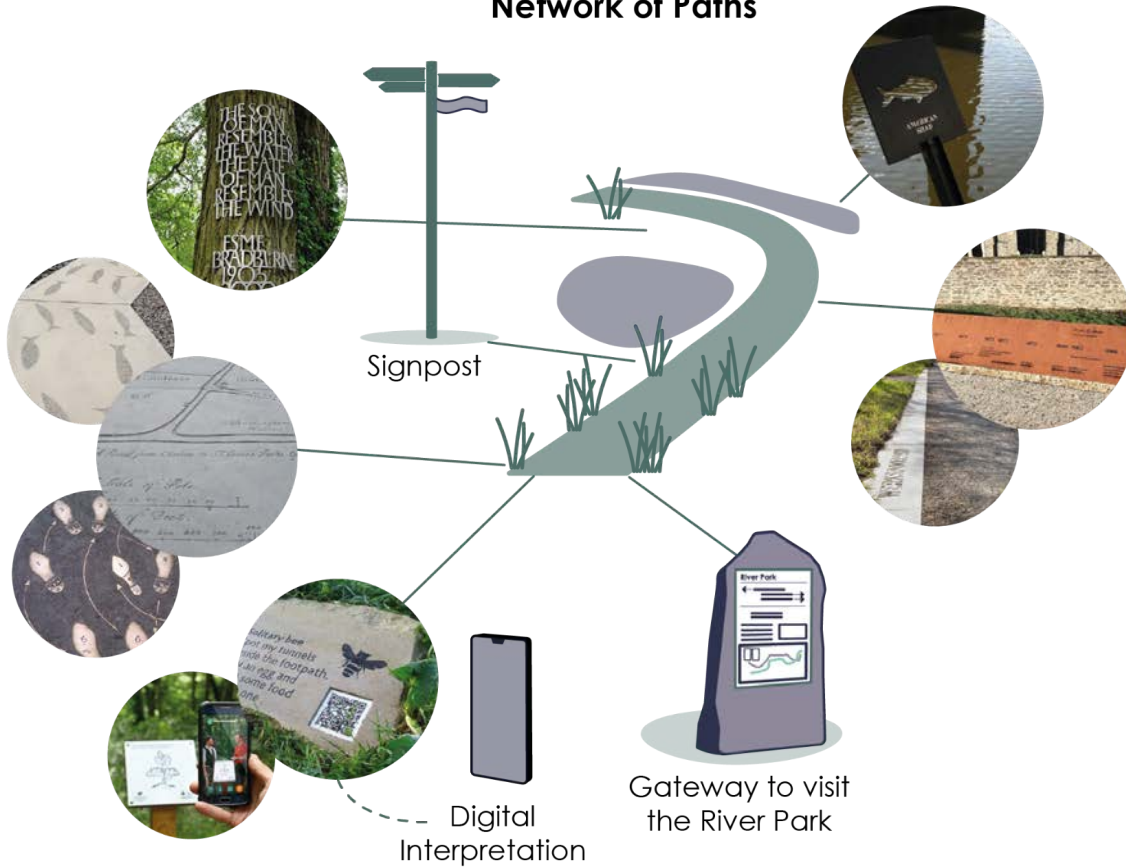
The Community Hub would act as a visitor centre for the interpretation at the River Park. It would be a place to grab more information, maps and toolkits. It would also be the meeting point for interpretation events and activities. An exhibition space could be created for temporary exhibitions curated by the community. A permanent interpretation display could also be incorporated into the building and outdoor space design.

Specific Sub-Theme:

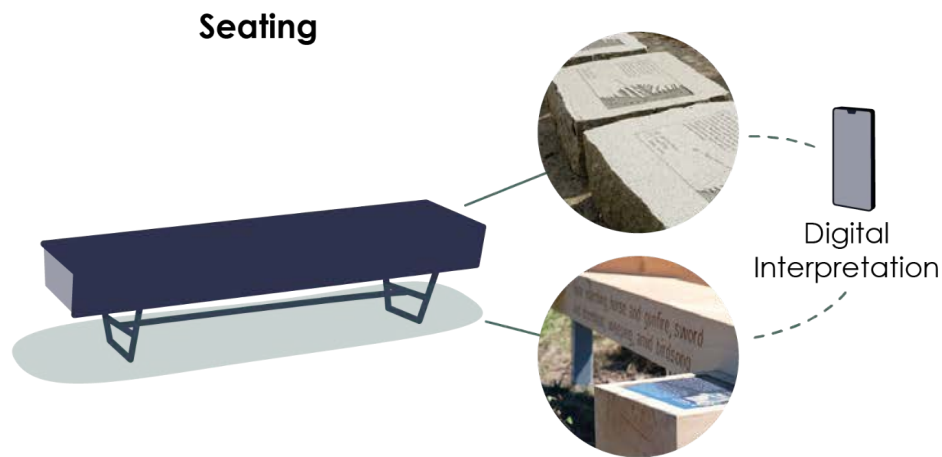
- Motorbiking Heritage

The interpretation at the Community Hub would introduce the main themes and give access to the digital content. It would be a mix of permanent content, forming a basis to understand the history and habitats of the River Leven and content curated by the community. The community content would change throughout the year following the community's projects, interests, and nature activities. For example, a heritage and history group might organise exhibitions to cover specific themes, or during the salmon migration period, observations and further information might be displayed at the hub. The interpretation at the Community Hub will also be addressed to young people; they could be involved in creating murals, for example. The history of motorbiking could also be presented at the hub, supporting the work of Kingdom Off Road and showing a more positive view of this pastime.

Network of Paths



The path network will allow interpretation integration throughout the River Park. The interpretation could be incorporated directly into the ground or through little playful interventions dotted around the environment. This means sparking curiosity rather than a display of information. QR codes at key locations will give access to the digital interpretation that will host plenty of resources. Further information will be displayed at gateways at the entrances of the River Park, giving necessary information to understand the broad picture of the interpretation; each gateway will give information specific to its location.



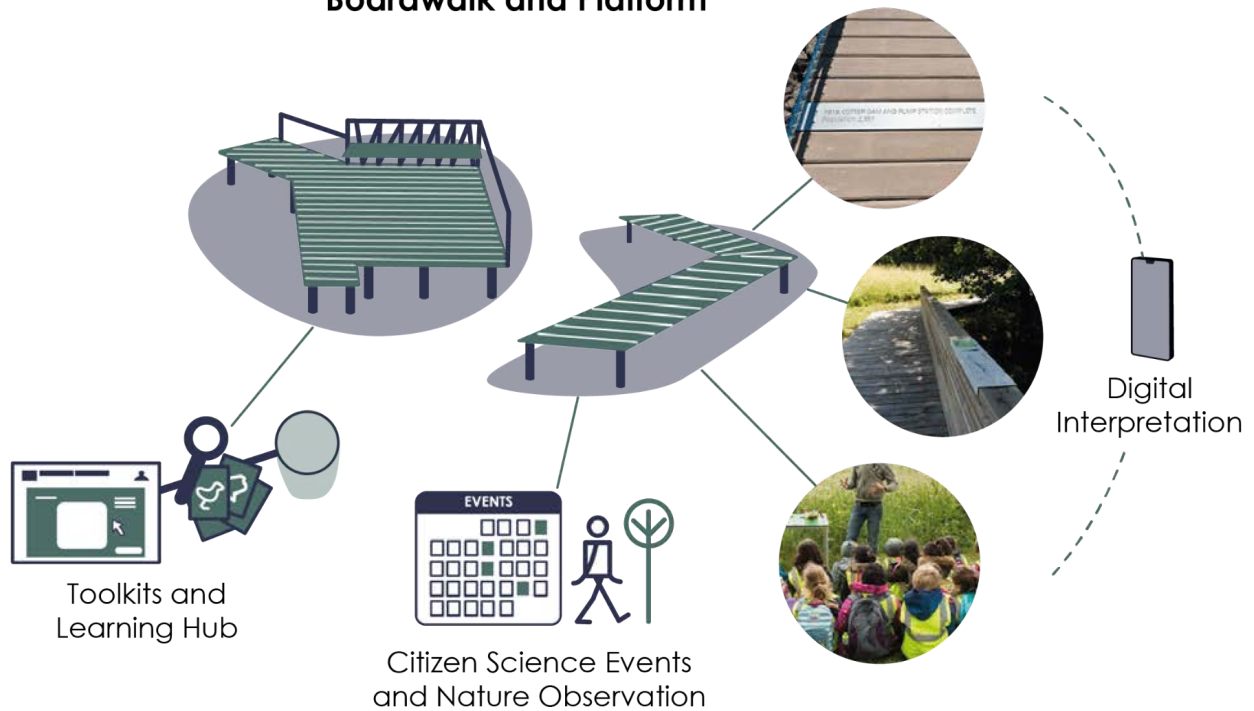
Seating would be installed at various locations in the River Park, including play spaces, the community hub, and along paths. They would be pieces of furniture and infrastructure installed to sit, picnic, daydream, or sleep and could support interpretation by their form and by including QR codes to provide access to the digital interpretation.

Specific Sub-Theme:

- Gaelic/Scot Heritage
- Community Memories
- Hidden Heritage

The interpretation along the paths would allow showing visitors locations of heritage, for example, the former site of the Kirkland Works. It can also tell the memories of local people related to specific places. Along paths going through different natural habitats, the interpretation could present species to observe and encourage visitors to look, listen or smell. Some Gaelic or Scots words could also be incorporated, some local sayings or poems and visual interventions, clues to notice. All these interventions would be enhanced by digital interpretation, giving further information and interactive digital content such as games and AR reconstructions of heritage. The gateways would also allow visitors who do not access the digital content to contextualise all these clues and pieces of interpretation.

Boardwalk and Platform

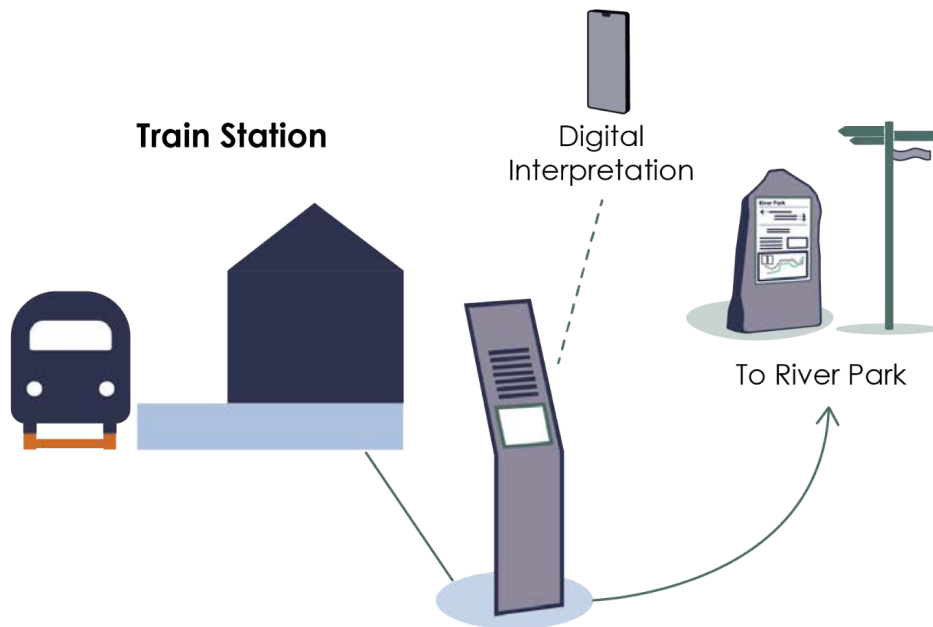


The boardwalk and platforms would give access to the wetland habitats of the River Park and Mill Lade. The platforms would offer observation spaces to watch the wildlife and act as outdoor learning spaces. There are opportunities for events to be organised and toolkits to be used (physical and digital resources).

Specific Sub-Theme:

- Mill Lade
- Wetland Habitat
- Water Pollution/River Restoration
- Gaelic/Scot Heritage

Along the boardwalk, the interpretation could be applied similarly to the paths, by giving specific information about wildlife to spot or prompts for visitors to enjoy the scenery, these signs would blend into the infrastructure and play with the environment, keeping the writing to a minimum. The platform would support using toolkits and activities to learn and discover the heritage of the River Leven.



The location of the two train stations on either side of the River Park creates an opportunity for visitors to walk through the park to connect to the Rail Line. The train stations would act as gateways to Levenmouth for people visiting the area. Interpretation here would assist in creating awareness of the park, the River Park would then be indicated as a visitor attraction and a pleasant way to connect to other destinations,

Specific Sub-Theme:

- Cameronbridge Distillery
- Kirkland Dam
- Leven Tourism and Golf
- Leven Industries
- Innerleven Industries

Arriving at one of the train stations serving Levenmouth, the River Park is indicated as a place to experience the River Leven, discover its stories and be guided by the spirit of a local person to reveal the history and heritage hidden at the river. A brief overview of the main themes could be presented, and each train station would tell about the specific stories around it. The interpretation would be split between the information displayed at the train station, wayfinding signage and digital content, keeping the displayed information minimal.



A few play areas are planned at different River Park locations. Each could incorporate specific heritage themes and stories in its design. The play interaction, shapes, colours, and materials would participate in telling some past history or emphasis on the natural environment. For older visitors, some writings and QR codes could lead to further information or other sorts of games guiding the visit to the River Park.

Specific Sub-Theme:

- Spinning Mills at Kirkland Works
- Kirkland House Landscaped Gardens
- River Works: Dam, Pond...
- Railway Industry
- Power
- Wildlife and Species

Playing at the Kirkland Areas of the River Park, games would tell about the spinning mills, linen produced and sailcloth. While playing at Kirkland Dam would be focused on tiny creatures and insects that live at the River Park and the pollinator corridors that go beyond the park, passing by the houses. Each play space would be a new adventure along the River Leven, understanding its past, current and future roles. The digital interpretation accessed at a play space could direct to digital games and trails, including AR technology. This play element at the River Park would allow visitors of all ages to learn.



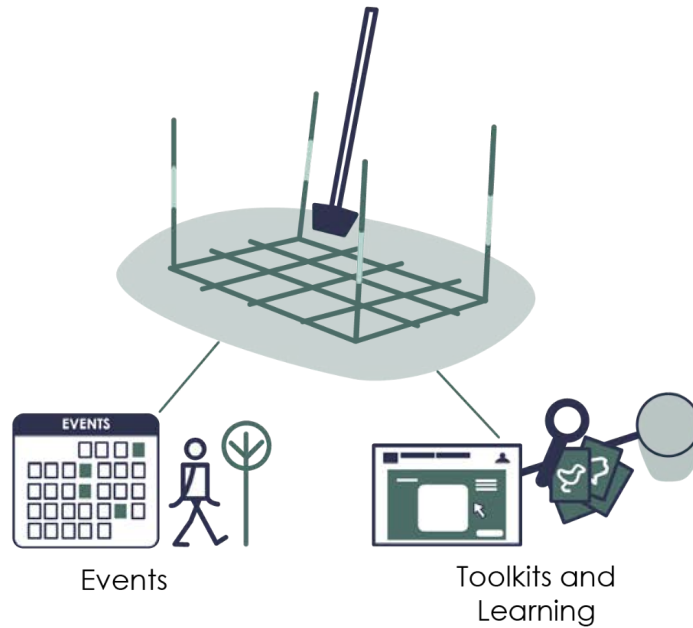
Multiple active travel bridges are due to be built crossing the River Leven, allowing better connections for pedestrians and cyclists. The design of the bridges could be carefully considered to reflect some history of the River Leven, using meaningful shapes, materials and engineering. The interpretation could also be incorporated into the bridge structure, avoiding just the simple addition of boards or other elements.

Specific Sub-Theme:

- River Restoration
- Mill Industries

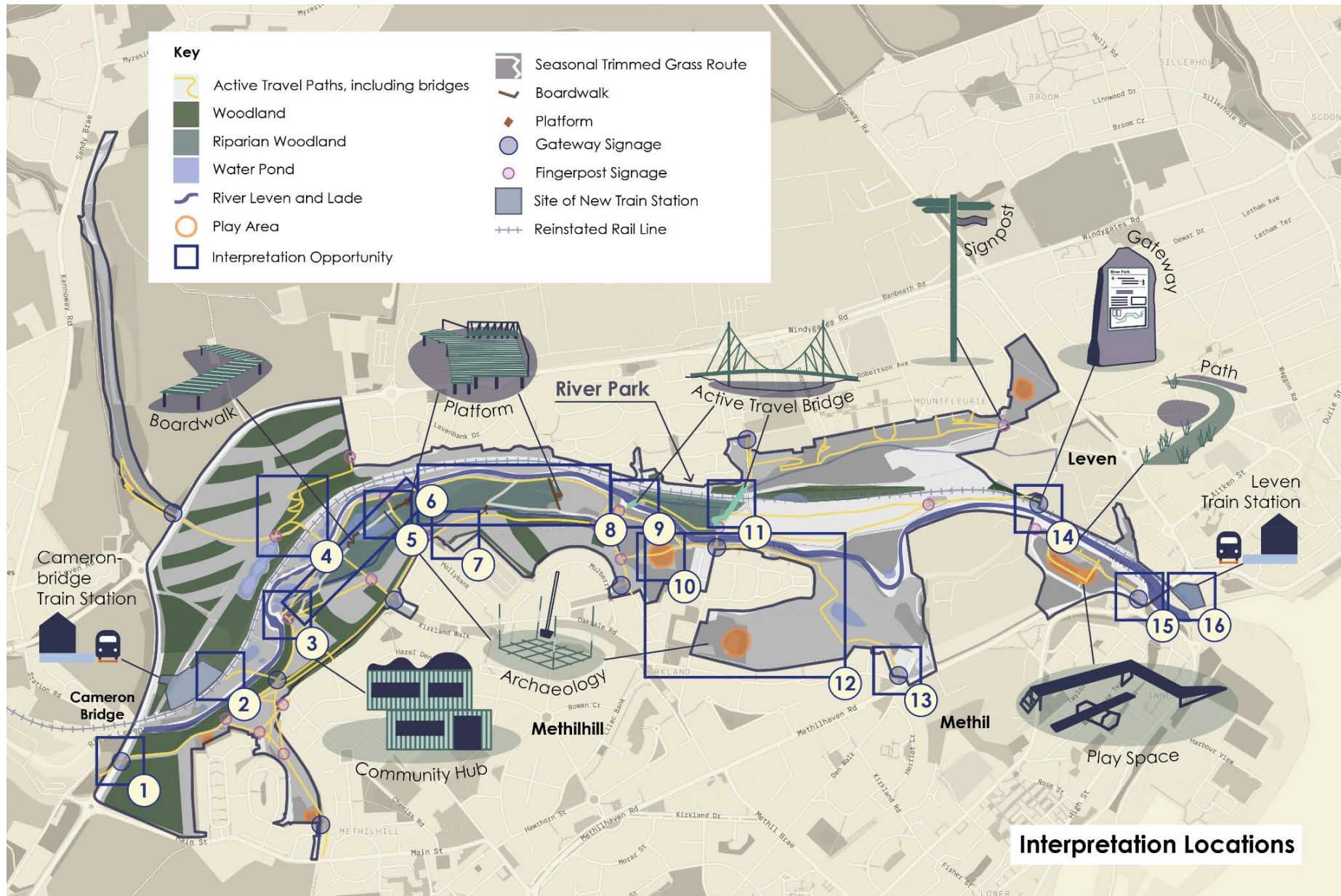
Crossing a bridge would invite you to stop for a few moments to observe the River Park and the River Leven, find out about their past stories, notice some features or look and wait for some creatures to reveal themselves. The act of walking or cycling over the River Leven would be special, overlooking the River and watching its flow, being reminded of all that it has witnessed, its history and its people. Again, the QR code would link to further information, giving broader context to the pieces of interpretation integrated into bridges.

Archaeology Site



A programme of archaeology works is planned with the development of the Hidden Heritage Trail. This will be the opportunity for the community to be involved in searching and understanding specific sites of the River Leven. Further events, toolkits and resources could be created to support the discoveries and keep a record and archive. Discoveries and excavation of sites during the Delivery Phase will provide opportunities for incorporating permanent interpretation. For further information about the Hidden Heritage Trail and programme, consult the Hidden Heritage project plan.

9.2 Locations for Interpretation Mapping



1. **Cameron Bridge Access:** Cameronbridge Distillery; Ecological Networks; Memories; Uses of the River.
2. **Cameron Bridge Train Station:** Introduction to Overarching Theme and Four Themes; Railways; Travel.
3. **Kirkland Dam and Mill Lade:** Mills; Preservation of Species; River Restoration; Ecological Networks; Citizen Science; Memories; Gaelic and Scots Heritage; Uses of the River.
4. **Woodland:** Characteristic Species; Ecological Network; Preservation of Species; Gaelic and Scots Heritage.
5. **Methil Mill (ruins):** Mills; Outdoor Learning; Memories; Lives of Industry Workers.
6. **Mill Lade (reinstated):** Mills; Wetlands; Outdoor Learning; Characteristic Species; Preservation of Species; Citizen Science; Gaelic and Scots Heritage; Uses of the River; Leven Programme.
7. **Methil Church (ruins):** Places and Identities; Memories.
8. **Along the River and Woodland:** Mills; Characteristic Species; Preservation of Species; Ecological Networks; Riparian Woodlands; Wetlands; Gaelic and Scots Heritage; Uses of the River; Sustainable Development.
9. **Burn Mill Dam (to be removed):** River Restoration; River Pollution; Citizen Science; Memories, Uses of the River; Leven Programme; Sustainable Development.
10. **Kirkland House and Gardens (not present):** Mills; Meadows and Grasslands; Characteristic Species; Memories; Lives of Workers.
11. **Railway:** Railways; Maritime Trade; Lives of Workers; Memories; Migration to the Area; Tourism; Travel.
12. **Kirkland Works (not present):** Mills; Textile Industry; Other Industries; Maritime Trade; Lives of Workers; Memories; Meadows and Grasslands; Women's Roles.
13. **Methil Access:** Coal Mining; Ship-building; Other Industries; Memories; Lives of Workers; Migration to the Area; Places and Identities; Women's Roles.
14. **Leven Access:** Hand-loom Weaver; Mills; Ship-building; Other Industries; Tourism; Maritime Trade; Memories; Lives of Workers; Places and Identities; Women's Roles; Travel; Entrepreneurship.
15. **Innerleven Access:** Salt Industry; Coal Mining; Methil Docks; Maritime Trade; Memories; Lives of Workers; Migration to the Area; Power; Sustainable Development.
16. **Leven Train Station:** Introduction to Overarching Theme and Four Themes; Railways; Travel.

10.0 Appendices

10.1 Interpretation Schedule + Costings

The schedule and costings for the 'Lead the Way' Interpretation in the River Park are split into two sections:

1. Interpretation Programme (see section 8.0)
2. Interpretation within other Infrastructure (see section 9.0)

While the schedule for *1. Interpretation Programme* is prescribed on the following page, the schedule for *2. Interpretation within other Infrastructure* will need to dovetail with the programme for each element of infrastructure, however, it will be important that the interpretation is considered early in the planning for each element. It is likely that the latter will be implemented in the second half of the Delivery Phase (Y3 Q1 - Y4 Q4).

1. Interpretation Programme

Description of Task	Y1 Q1	Y1 Q2	Y1 Q3	Y1 Q4	Y2 Q1	Y2 Q2	Y2 Q3	Y2 Q4	Y3 Q1	Y3 Q2	Y3 Q3	Y3 Q4	Y4 Q1	Y4 Q2	Y4 Q3	Y4 Q4
Lead the Way Training + Development																
Training Design, Leadership + 'Train the Trainer' Training	Train the Trainer															
Local Coordinator 2days per week		Leading Training and Creating Kits														
Recruitment of Trainees, Promotion of training and events																
Draft Content for Interpretation																
Room Hire																
12x Volunteer Time (Trainees)																
Oral History + Recording + Digitisation + Curation + Patterns																
Initial branded QR code markers			Gateways				Additional locatons within RP									
Develop Sense of Place Toolkit																
Final Interpretation Guidelines + Archive																
Gateways + Spine Route Interpretation																
Refreshers for new participants																
6x Volunteer Time (Interpretation Local Expert Group)							Meeting each quarter									
Digital interpretation Platform																
Develop Alpha collection tool	Launch for Trainees															
Develop Interpretation website/app with trails and archive tools																
12x Volunteer Time (User Testing)			Public Launch													
VR/AR/360 video									Launch							
Gamification of the routes												Launch				
Regular updates and maintenance (5years)																
150x Volunteer Time (Adding local content)																
Events																
4x Sharing Exhibitions (Lead the Way Team + Artist)			1st Exhibition				2nd Exhibition				3rd Exhibition				4th Exhibition	
3x 6month Artists/Experts in Residence	1					2				3						
Public Guided Walks Programme																
School Visits Programme																
12x Volunteer Time (Public Walks - Walk Leaders)																
Toolkits + Learning																
Content Development																
Toolkit Design																
Create the toolkit of things									Launch							
Public Art																
Develop Public Art Brief																
Artist Procurement																
Artist Development + Design + Manufacture Management																
Manufacture + Install																Opening
10x Volunteer Time (Co-design)																
Paper Maps																
Development of Final Maps																
Printing and Distribution (1 per person - Levenmouth)																

Description of Task	Cost description	Proposed Cost	NLHF cost type	NLHF Cost Heading	VAT?
Lead the Way Training + Development		£40,900			
Training Design, Leadership + 'Train the Trainer' Training	Intepretation Designer/Trainer 15days @ £500per day	£7,500	Activity	Professional Fees	Y
Local Coordinator 2days per week	1 years x 3days per week x £25k	£15,000	Other	Recruitment	N
Recruitment of Trainees, Promotion of training and events	6x £25, x 4 quarters	£600	Other	Publicity and promotion	Y
Draft Content for Interpretation	Intepretation Designer 6days @ £500per day	£3,000	Activity	Professional Fees	Y
Room Hire	80 hours x £25ph	£2,000	Activity	Event costs	Y
12x Volunteer Time (Trainees)	12x volunteers x £20ph x 20hrs x 4 quarters	£19,200	Other	Volunteer time	N
Oral History + Recording + Digitisation + Curation + Patterns	Equipment	£2,000	Activity	Equipment and materials	Y
Initial branded QR code markers	10x markers @ £200 each	£2,000	Activity	Equipment and materials	Y
Develop Sense of Place Toolkit	Intepretation Designer 4days @ £500per day	£2,000	Activity	Professional Fees	Y
Final Interpretation Guidelines + Archive	Intepretation Designer 5days @ £500per day	£2,500	Activity	Professional Fees	Y
Gateways + Spine Route Interpretation	Intepretation Designer 5days @ £500per day	£2,500	Activity	Professional Fees	Y
Refreshers for new participants	Local Coordinator 6days @ £300per day	£1,800	Activity	Professional Fees	N
6x Volunteer Time (Interpretation Local Expert Group)	6x volunteers x 2hrs x £20ph x 10 quarters	£2,400	Other	Volunteer time	N
Digital interpretation Platform		£45,000			
Develop Alpha collection tool	Interpretation Designer 15days @ £500per day	£7,500	Activity	Professional Fees	Y
Develop Interpretation website/app with trails and archive tools	Interpretation Designer 25days @ £500per day	£12,500	Activity	Professional Fees	Y
12x Volunteer Time (User Testing)	12x volunteers x 6hrs x £20ph	£1,440	Other	Volunteer time	N
VR/AR/360 video	Interpretation Designer 25days @ £500per day	£12,500	Activity	Professional Fees	Y
Gamification of the routes	Interpretation Designer 5days @ £500per day	£2,500	Activity	Professional Fees	Y
Regular updates and maintenance (5years)	Interpretation Designer 1 day per quarter @ £500per day	£10,000	Activity	Professional Fees	Y
150x Volunteer Time (Adding local content)	150x volunteers x 6hrs x £20ph	£18,000	Other	Volunteer time	N
Events		£24,000			
4x Sharing Exhibitions (Lead the Way Team + Artist)	Exhibition Costs (printing, room hire, equipment) 4x £750	£3,000	Activity	Equipment and materials	Y
3x 6month Artists/Experts in Residence	3x Artist/Expert 12days @ £500per day	£18,000	Activity	Professional Fees	Y
Public Guided Walks Programme	Material costs 6walks x £250	£1,500	Activity	Equipment and materials	Y
School Visits Programme	Material costs 6walks x £250	£1,500	Activity	Equipment and materials	Y
12x Volunteer Time (Public Walks - Walk Leaders)	12x volunteers x 6hrs x £20ph	£1,440	Other	Volunteer time	N
Toolkits + Learning		£9,000			
Content Development	Expert/Local Collaborations 10days @ £500per day	£5,000	Activity	Professional Fees	Y
Toolkit Design	Interpretation Designer 5days @ £500per day	£2,500	Activity	Professional Fees	Y
Create the toolkit of things	3x Kit Equipment	£1,500	Activity	Equipment and materials	Y
Public Art		£30,000			
Develop Public Art Brief	Facilitator 3x £500 per day	£1,500	Activity	Professional Fees	Y
Artist Procurement	Facilitator 2x £500 per day	£1,000	Activity	Professional Fees	Y
Artist Development + Design + Manufacture Management	Artist fee 22x £500 per day	£11,000	Capital	professional fees (capital work)	Y
Manufacture + Install	Materials/Manufacture/Install budget	£16,500	Capital	Other costs	Y
10x Volunteer Time (Co-design)	20x volunteers x 5hrs x £20ph	£2,000	Other	Volunteer time	N
Paper Maps		£8,500			
Development of Final Maps	Interpretation Designer 8days @ £500per day	£4,000	Activity	Professional Fees	Y
Printing and Distribution (1 per person - Levenmouth)	38000 printed A2 folded maps	£4,500	Other	Publicity and promotion	Y
Total Cost (excluding infrastructural interpretation)		£157,400			
Volunteer Time		£43,040			

2. Interpretation within other Infrastructure

As the Delivery Phase progresses, so too, will the development of key infrastructural projects within the River Park. These projects will likely be led by various Design Teams. Success of the overall Interpretation Masterplan, will require close liaison between those Design Teams and the Local Expert Group who will be primed to provide content and decision-making based on the 'Lead The Way' Training Programme. This liaison should be coordinated by an Interpretation Designer/Project Manager who can support design choices and assist both to make decisions.

The individual costs below assume a minimum budgetary requirement for developing appropriate interpretation for each of the main infrastructure projects. Where separate infrastructure projects allow supplementary budget allocation for interpretation, these indicative budgets could be increased.

Description of Task	Cost description	Proposed Cost	NLHF cost type	NLHF Cost Heading	VAT?
Integrating Interpretation/Design Teams/Expert Group Liaison	Interpretation Designer 42days @ £500per day	£21,000	Capital	Professional fees (capital work)	Y
Community Hub	Interpretation materials and manufacture	£7,000	Capital	Other costs	Y
Network of Paths	Interpretation materials and manufacture	£42,000	Capital	Other costs	Y
Seating	Interpretation materials and manufacture	£10,000	Capital	Other costs	Y
Boardwalk and Platform	Interpretation materials and manufacture	£12,000	Capital	Other costs	Y
Train Stations	Interpretation materials and manufacture	£5,000	Capital	Other costs	Y
Archaeology Projects	Interpretation materials and manufacture	£4,000	Capital	Other costs	Y
Play Areas	Interpretation materials and manufacture	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Active Travel Bridges	Interpretation materials and manufacture	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Additional Infrastructure in the River Park	Interpretation materials and manufacture	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Cost (excluding infrastructural interpretation)		£101,000			

10.2 Personas

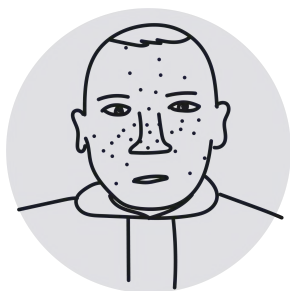
1. Teacher: looking to make learning interesting and fun



Name:	Ginny	Age	29 years old
Family/Marital Status	In partnership	Job:	Primary School Teacher at the Methilhill Primary School
Distance to River Park:	0.8 Mile - 1.3 km	Time spent at the River:	From two school periods to a full day

Bio:	Ginny grew up in Dunfermline in Fife, knows about the Fife heritage, and is attached to the local area. She lives in Kirkcaldy with her partner. She does not plan to move to Levenmouth because she sees better amenities and opportunities for leisure in Kirkcaldy. She became a primary teacher after volunteering with youth groups. She has worked at Methilhill Primary School for two years and is excited to try new things. She always seeks activities to do with her P6 class, as she knows most pupils have limited access to various cultural or leisure activities. She's looking for ways to keep them interested in learning and to bring new outlooks and opportunities to her class. She's always happy to organise a school trip, host an activity or workshop in her classroom, and use resources that support the curriculum and interest her pupils. She tries to make learning as interactive and engaging as possible.	
Knowledge of local heritage:	She knows about the mining heritage of the area, the Methil Docks and some of the industrial past. She also heard of the holiday resorts and the railway line.	
Values:	Accessibility; Inclusivity; Curiosity	
Opportunities for the interpretation at the River Park:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outdoor classroom: bringing the pupils to the river doing surveys, observations, etc. - Fish in the classroom: bringing a part of the river to the classroom. teaching about biodiversity, species, habitat...etc. - Creating artworks related to the local heritage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teaching pupils about their local heritage - meeting with older members of the community - Recording and writing about local stories of the river - Linking the pupils' heritage to broader historical themes, technologies, etc.
Barriers to accessing the interpretation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of time to do activities that are not directly linked to the curriculum. - Lack of staff and resources to facilitate activities outside the classroom. - Lack of knowledge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of activities and things to see and do at the river. - Lack of infrastructure to accommodate a class at the river.
Accessibility needs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It needs to be safe for pupils to visit the River. - Can accommodate activities in the classroom and school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to be age-appropriate, accommodate different learning abilities. - Can access online resources.
Purpose of visit:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teaching about the River, species, habitats, etc. - Teaching about the local community and industrial heritage. 	
Tools:	Survey kits; videos; games; posters; questionnaire; trails; space for observation and gathering at the river; tools for observations; information sheets; workshops; artist in residency; visit of local 'historian'; signage/waymarkers	

Young person: growing-up in Levenmouth



Name:	Tommy	Age:	16 years old
Family/Marital Status:	Lives with his two parents and two siblings (employment and income-deprived)	Job:	Student at the Levenmouth Academy, disengaged - joined a Community Trade Hub course
Distance to River Park:	From home 0.7 Mile - 1.2 km	Time spent at the River:	- Less than 30 min / 1 hour / Half-day

Bio:	Tommy lives in Methil with his two siblings and parents. His mother has health issues and is not working. His dad works part-time on fixed contracts. Both parents left school without qualifications. His grandmother, who lives in Methil, is a carer and looks after Tommy and his younger brother and sister. The family does not own a car, but his grandmother has one. Tommy went to Aberhill Primary School, and he's now enrolled at the Levenmouth Academy. He struggles with being in a classroom and often skips school. He finds his subjects challenging and has difficulty being excited about them. He is beginning to get worried about what he'll do when he leaves school. He is interested in more practical work like woodwork and building. He has recently joined the Community Trade Hub. He enjoys spending time with his friends outside of school. They all live in Methil, close to the Kirkland Works area of the River Park. The river is one of their favourite spots to meet. They had great afternoons and evenings, doing what would be called anti-social behaviours. He never considered what he was doing as a threat to anyone. Tommy has always heard of the river as an area where bad things happen, but he also sees it as a calm and relaxing space where he sometimes likes to go alone, searching for some isolation from home. He feels there are few opportunities for him in the area and has little pride in where he comes from.	
Current knowledge of local heritage:	He does not know much about the local heritage. He heard of the mining heritage and a couple of things such as the railways. The only heritage he heard of the river is the bad stories that happened during the last decades.	
Values:	Friendship ; Doing ; Experiencing	
Opportunities for the interpretation at the River Park:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Activities and workshops to join (learning new skills or trying out something new) - Subtle references to the heritage in the landscape that are seen when sitting/contemplating - Digital trail/game to do with a group - Intriguing installation at the river that 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Brings an unusual element and triggers curiosity - Levenmouth Academy use the River Park as part of a class - Meeting with older community members that are proud - Offer infrastructure to play, climb, hang
Barriers to accessing the interpretation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does not feel it belongs to the community - Does not engage with school or a group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Too much text - The content feels disconnected - does not understand why it's important, or matters
Accessibility needs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to be guided to understand the broader context and why it matters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plain language, lots of visuals - Interactivity
Purpose of visit:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To meet with friends, and spend time together 	
Tools:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digital app/website - Infrastructure/furniture - Sculpture/installations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate in the co-creation of art - Take part in trail activity with a group - Chat with older community members - Hub?

Older Resident: life-long Levenmouth resident



Name:	Ann	Age	76 years old
Family/Marital Status	Widow / 2 daughters and 3 grand-children	Job:	Retired - former teaching assistant in Mountfleurie Primary School
Distance to River Park:	2 Miles - 3.1 km	Time spent at the River:	- 2 hours per visit, once a week

Bio:	Ann has lived in Methilhill her whole life. When she retired, she had more time to explore other interests, including history and heritage. Her husband passed away 13 years ago, and both her daughters have moved out of Levenmouth to study and work. She lives alone and enjoys meeting with friends and participating in groups, which is important for socialising. She coupled her passion for history and local stories with meeting people through participating in heritage groups in Levenmouth. She gained skills and experience doing historical research while getting information to organise a few exhibitions at the Methil Heritage Center. She enjoys finding the small stories part of the bigger history. She remembers how Buckhaven and Methil used to be buzzing. When working at the Primary School, they used to tell the pupils about the local history. She remembers that they were interested to learn about the past lives of the community and how important the area was in Scotland and beyond. She would be interested in being more involved in projects where she can share her local knowledge with future generations.
Current knowledge of local heritage:	She knows some parts of the local heritage very well, especially more recent history; she did research through themes like education. She does not know much about the mills at the River Park, but she remembers ruins and buildings now long gone. She would be very interested to further research the lives of those who used to work in the Kirkland Works and industries at the River. She also has knowledge of river pollution from past industries.
Values:	Community; Learning and Transmission
Opportunities for the interpretation at the River Park:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate in research and development of content - Add information in an archive of heritage - Involved in talking and visiting schools/youth groups - Share what she remembers - Enjoy seeing the heritage and past revealed in the landscape
Barriers to accessing the interpretation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mobility limited - Not confident using a smartphone and digital tools - Does not know how to use a QR Code
Accessibility needs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wide and even paths - Seats to rest - Printed materials and information
Purpose of visit:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enjoy a walk - Visit with family
Tools:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information boards - Infrastructure and furniture - Installations/artworks in the landscape - Exhibition - Leaflets/maps printed - Heritage hub

A visitor to Levenmouth: an accessible day trip



Name:	Dave	Age	61 years old
Family/Marital Status	With a partner / divorced	Job:	Postperson
Distance to River Park:	40 Miles	Time spent at the River:	- 1 or 2 hours

Bio:	Dave lives and works in Livingston, where he has lived for 40 years. He has a son who lives in Livingston and one grandson. He enjoys travelling, discovering local heritage and stories and seeing different landscapes. He looks for RSPB and nature reserves as destinations but also visitor attractions. He favours time off in Scotland for economic reasons and as it offers plenty of biodiversity to watch. He enjoys going on day trips with his partner; they either use the car to go to remote locations or use the train as an easy and quick way to plan an escape and allow him to enjoy an evening out. He likes to wander on a walk. He always carries his wildlife identification book in his pocket.
Current knowledge of local heritage:	He previously visited St Andrew and knows about Golf heritage in Fife and medieval history. He also stopped in Cupar. He saw the Tentsmuir National Nature Reserve. He only knows about Levenmouth, except it has a golf course and beaches. He heard of the RSPB at the Leven loch. He knows about the long-distance walking trails and is considering trying one when he retires.
Values:	Authenticity; Nature Preservation; Calm
Opportunities for the interpretation at the River Park:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learn about the programme to restore the river habitat - laboratory to visit - Observe wildlife and fauna - Link with the Loch Leven - Discovering how the river has been used in the past - Getting an understanding of the past, present and future of the area
Barriers to accessing the interpretation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Doesn't know about the River Park - Doesn't know about opportunities to observe the wildlife - Miss the information/does not find the information he is interested in
Accessibility needs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has a good knowledge of wildlife and fauna - Lack of knowledge about the river and area's history - how it had impacted the river - He can use a smartphone but he prefers direct interactions
Purpose of visit:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A day trip to discover the area - Interested in finding out about the river's natural environment, what's to be found at the mouth of the river Leven?
Tools:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information boards/signage/waymarkers - Smartphone/QR code/website - Printed map/leaflet - Information hub

Family: re-connect to origins



Name:	Hannah, Pete, Emily and Noah	Age	38, 40, 7 and 3 years old
Family/ Marital Status	Married	Job:	Noah goes to Nursery, Emily is a Primary(2) Pupil, Hannah is a Human Resources Manager, and Pete is a Civil Engineer.
Distance to River Park:	1 Mile - 1.6 km	Time spent at the River:	1 hour to half day

Bio:	<p>Hannah grew up in Buckhaven and moved to study in Edinburgh, where she met Pete. They built their family in Edinburgh. They moved to Leven so their two children could grow in a better environment with easy outdoor access. Hannah and Pete work from home most days of the week. Hannah's parents live in Methil and can look after their grandchildren. Hannah and Pete are looking to better connect with the natural environment and are looking for a garden to look after. Hannah is proud of where she comes from, having happy memories of her childhood in Buckhaven. They recently settled in the area and want to create links with it. It's essential for them that their children know where they are from and learn about where they live, so they like where they moved. Hannah's dad was born in Buckhaven and has stayed his whole life; they want to strengthen the link between all of them. It's their family's legacy and community heritage. They want their children to learn some Gaelic; Pete knows some and speaks Scots.</p>	
Current knowledge of local heritage:	<p>Hannah knows the Buckhaven heritage, mining history, and holiday resort past. She also knows about the Methil Docks and the area's mining heritage. She heard about the industries at the river and in Leven. As a family, they visited the River Park and were surprised by all the wildlife and fauna; they heard about the plans to restore the river and rumours of otters.</p>	
Values:	<p>Family time; Transmission; Nature preservation; Cultural heritage</p>	
Opportunities for the interpretation at the River Park:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make connections with family history and stories - Create new family memories - Get involved in the river restoration/wildlife preservation - Get an understanding of Gaelic heritage - Attend community events 	
Barriers to accessing the interpretation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of amenities - Lack of time to be involved - There is not something for every family member - too childish or for adults only 	
Accessibility needs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need different levels of interpretation and information, something for a toddler, child and adult - Interactivity to keep the children interested - Rest areas/picnic area 	
Purpose of visit:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have a family day out close to home - Learn about the natural environment - Attend an event/workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enjoy a walk/change of scenery - Occupy the children - Find out about some local stories and history
Tools:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Smartphone, QR Code - Information/map boards - Signage/waymarkers - Infrastructure/furniture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leaflets/trail maps/paper kits - Information hub - Survey kit - Events/workshops/exhibition

10.3 Survey Analysis

The *River Park Stories - what do you want to see?* survey was open for 5 weeks through October and November 2023. It was promoted through social media, mailing lists, a press release circulated through Green Action Trust, and posters in the Levenmouth Area community hubs. Paper copies and drop-in boxes were available at The Centre in Leven and the Methil Library. Surveys were also handed out during workshops and community engagement activities.

The survey is structured in three parts:

- Respondent's relationship to River Park
- Themes, topics and stories for interpretation
- Aspirations for the park

This report provides the details and analyses of the responses received.

About the responses

Total number of responses: 48

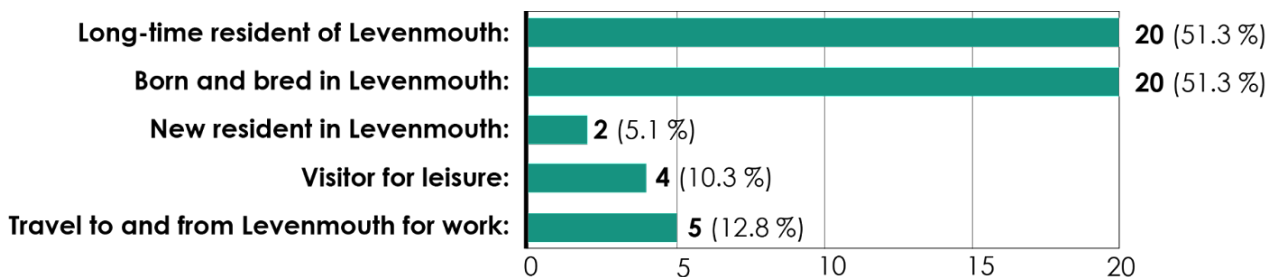
Online responses: 39

Paper survey responses: 9

Respondent's relationship to River Park

Q1: What would best describe your relationship with the Levenmouth area?

Number of responses: 48

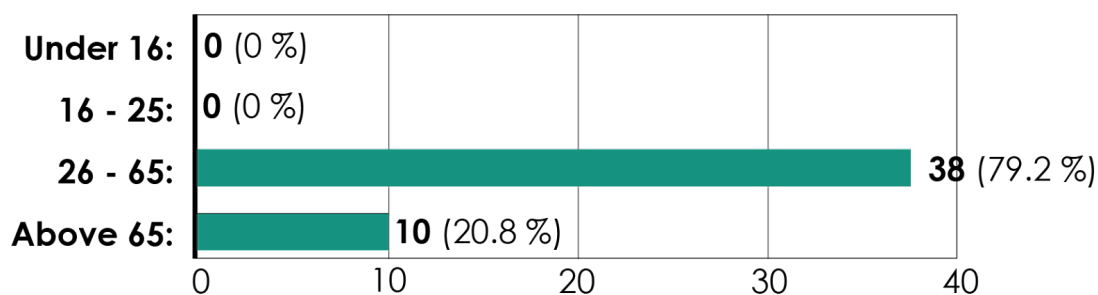


Analysis notes:

83.33% of respondents are from Levenmouth.

Q2: What age category are you in?

Number of responses: 48



Analysis notes:

79.5% of the respondents are aged between 26-65.

20.5% of the respondents are aged over 65 years old.

There is no representation of young people in the survey responses.

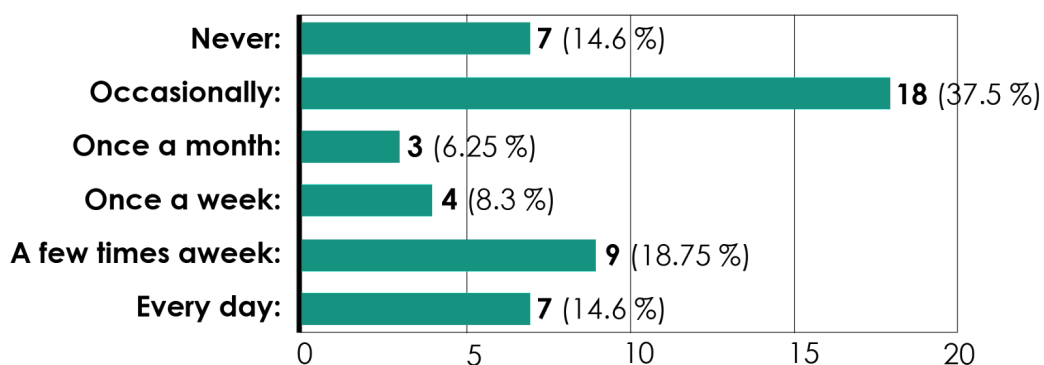
5/8 respondents of above 65 respondents are born and bred in Levenmouth

3/8 respondents of above 65 respondents are long-time residents of Levenmouth

All the respondents over 65 years old are either born and bred and/or long-time residents of Levenmouth.

Q3: How often do you visit the River Park in Spring/Summer?

Number of responses: 48 responses

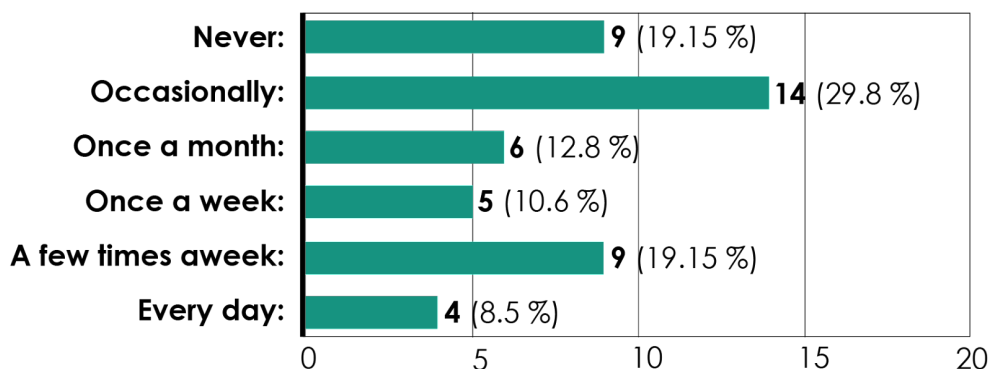


Analysis notes:

In Spring/Summer, 47.92% of respondents visit the River park at least once per month and more.

Q4: How often do you visit the River Park in Autumn/Winter?

Number of responses: 47



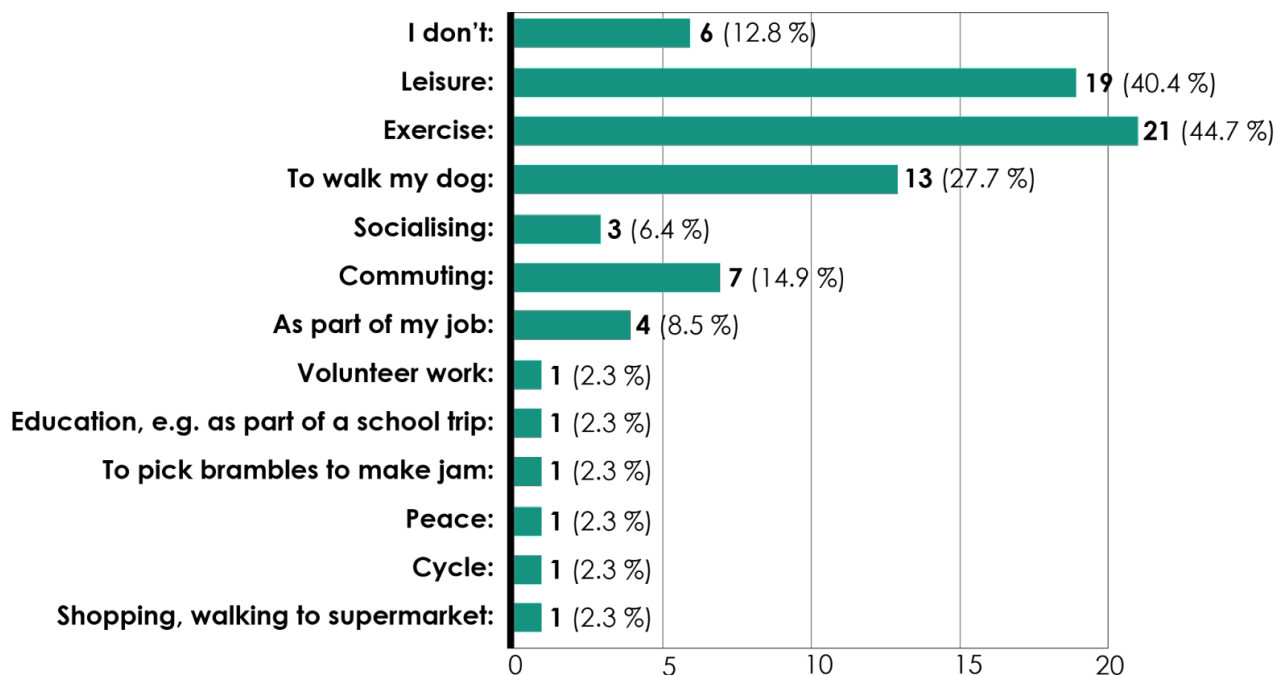
Analysis notes:

In Autumn/Winter, 50% of respondents visit the River park at least once per month and more.

The number of visits for each frequency is constant, although everyday visits are less frequent in Autumn/Winter than in Spring/Summer, dropping from 7 respondents visiting daily to 4. The responses suggest that seasonality does not interfere with the number of visits to the River Park.

Q5: Why do you visit the River Park? (tick all that apply)

Number of responses: 47



Analysis notes:

19.15% of the respondents visit the park for various reasons.

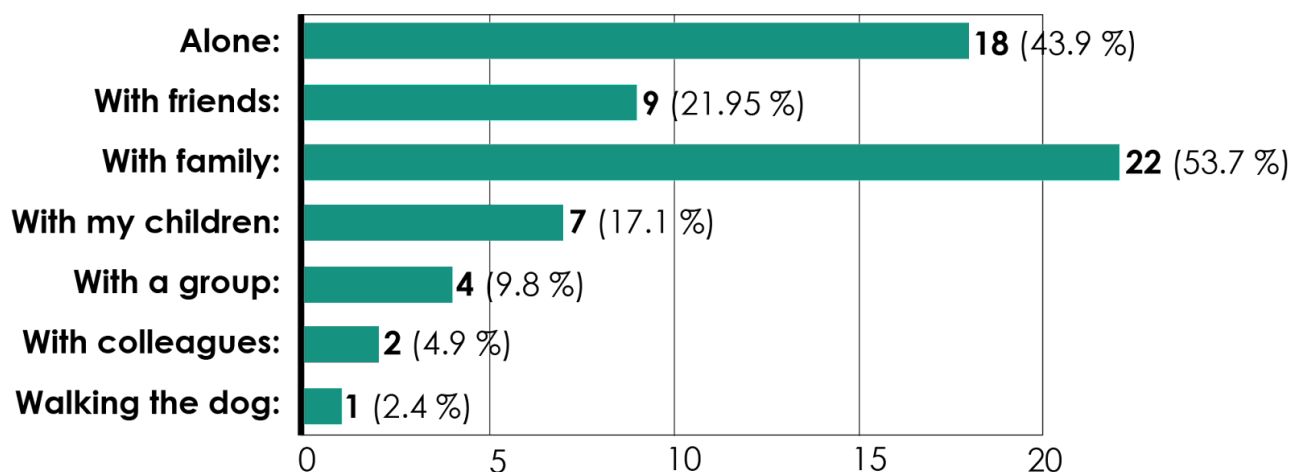
12.77% of the respondents do not visit the River Park.

78.08% of visits are for leisure (including walking a dog/s).

21.92% of visits are for practical reasons or work.

Q6: Do you usually visit the park... (tick all that apply)

Number of responses: 41



Analysis notes:

31.71% of the respondents visit the River Park with different companies.

43.9% of the respondents visit the park alone.

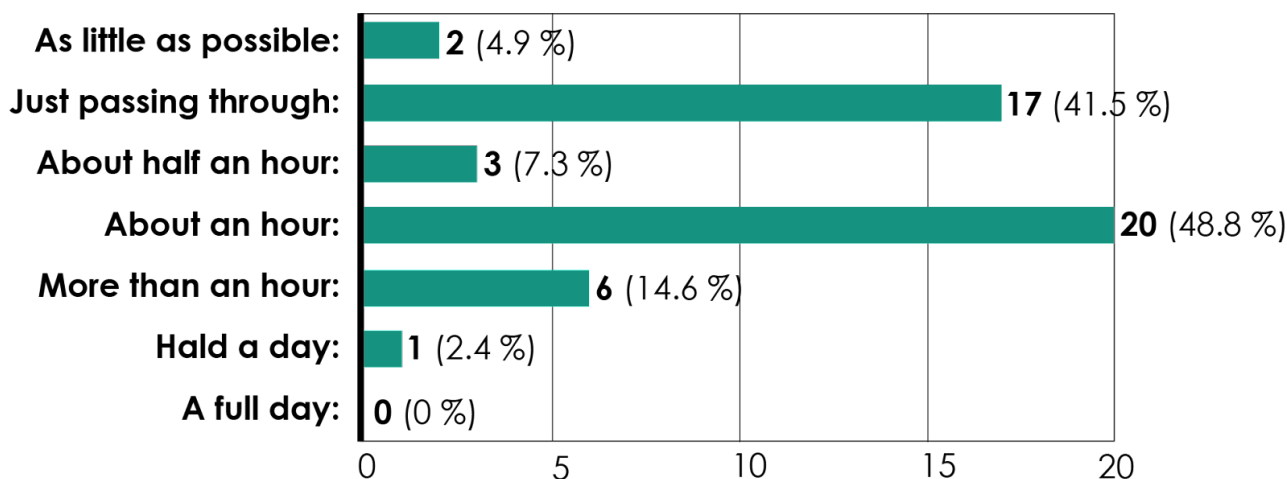
70.73% of the respondents visit the park with relatives. Of these, 20.6% of the respondents visit the park with their children.

21.95% of the respondents visit the park with friends.

14.63% of the respondents visit the park as part of a group/work.

Q7: How much time do you usually spend in the park?

Number of responses: 41



Analysis notes:

14.63% of the respondents visit the River Park for different periods.

4.88% of the respondents visit the River Park as little as possible.

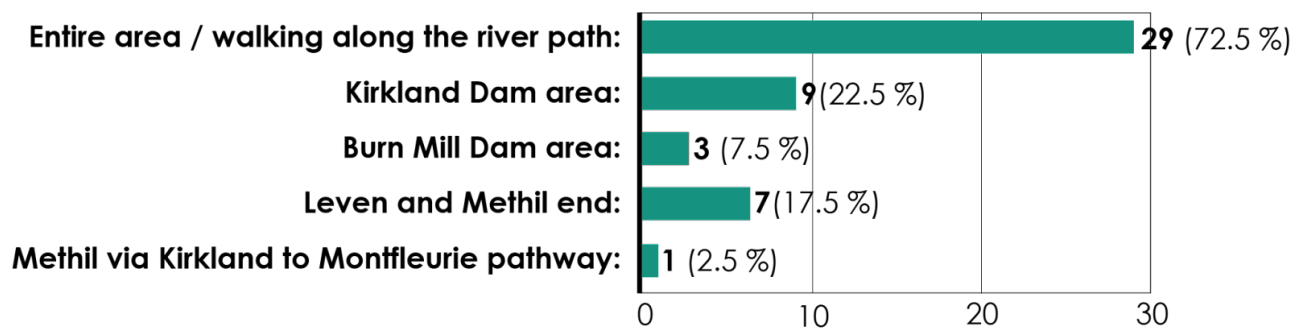
No respondents spend full days at the River Park. One respondent frequently visits for half a day.

63.41% of the respondents spend an average of an hour or more visiting the park.

41.46% of the respondents usually pass through the park.

Q8: Where in the park do you visit?

Number of responses: 40



Analysis notes:

72.5% of the respondents visit the entire area/walk along the river.

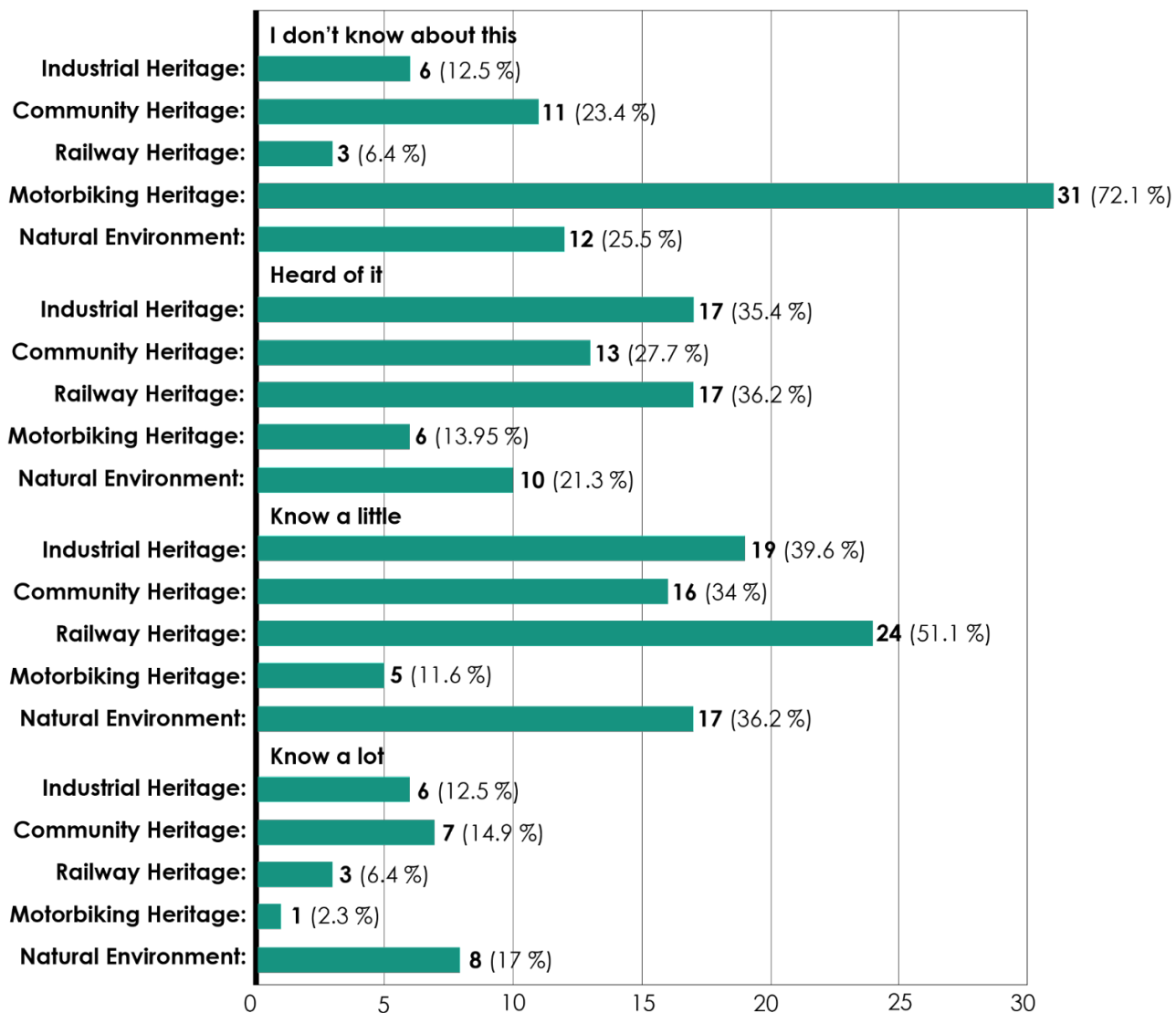
The Kirkland Dam area (22.5% of the respondents visit this area) is visited more than the Burn Mill Dam area (7.5 %). The Leven and Methil end of the River Park is visited by 17.5% of the respondents. From the responses, all areas of the River Park are visited.

Themes, topics and stories for interpretation

This section concerns the themes and stories respondents think should be told at the River Park and how much they know about the local heritage.

Q9: Which of these heritage themes/topics have you heard about? Please rate how much you know about each one.

Industrial Heritage: 48 responses
Community Heritage: 47 responses
Railway Heritage: 47 responses
Motorbiking Heritage: 43 responses
Natural Environment: 47 responses



	'Don't know about it'		'Heard of it'		'Know a little'		'Know a lot'		Score
Industrial Heritage	6	12.5%	17	35.4 %	19	39.6 %	6	12.5 %	121
Community Heritage	11	23.4%	13	27.7 %	16	34 %	7	15 %	113
Railway Heritage	3	6.4%	17	36.2 %	24	51 %	3	6.4 %	121
Motorbiking Heritage	31	72.1%	6	14 %	5	11.6 %	1	2.3 %	62
Natural Environment	12	25.5 %	10	21.3 %	17	36.2 %	8	17 %	115

Analysis notes:

Respondents have most heard about the Industrial and Railway Heritage.

Overall, the Railway Heritage is the theme that respondents have the most knowledge about (51% of respondents 'Know a little').

Respondents' responses do not show a relation between the frequency of visits to the River Park and their knowledge of the area's heritage and/or natural environment.

Respondents' responses do not show a relation between their age and knowledge of the area's heritage and/or natural environment.

72.1% of respondents don't know about the Motorbike Heritage.

Only 6.4 % of respondents 'don't know about' the Railway Heritage.

A quarter of respondents 'don't know about' the Natural Environment (25.5%) and the Community Heritage (23.4 %).

The Industrial Heritage and Railway Heritage (36.2 % of respondents) are the themes most respondents 'heard about'. It is followed by the Community Heritage (27.7%) and the Natural Environment (21.3% of respondents).

Natural Environment (17 % of respondents) is the theme that most respondents 'know a lot'. It is followed by Community Heritage (15% of respondents) and Industrial Heritage (12.5 % of respondents).

Railway Heritage (51 % of respondents) is the theme that most respondents 'Know a little'. It is followed by the Industrial Heritage (39.6% of respondents) and the Natural Environment (36.2 % of respondents).

Q10: Pick the three themes/topics that you think are most important to present at the River Park

Number of responses: 41

	Mentioned as 'Most important'		Mentioned as '2nd most important'		Mentioned as '3rd most important'		Total Mentioned	Score	Rank
Industrial Heritage	12	19.5%	11	33.33%	9	25%	32	67	3
Community Heritage	17	26.98%	10	30.3%	11	30.56%	38	82	2
Railway Heritage	6	9.52%	8	24.24%	6	16.67%	20	40	4
Motorbiking Heritage	0	0%	0	0%	7	19.44%	7	7	5
Natural Environment	28	44.44%	4	12.12%	3	8.33%	35	95	1
TOTAL	63	100%	33	100%	36	100%	132		

Analysis notes:

The respondents have designated the Natural Environment theme as 'most important'. It received 26.52% of the total votes.

The respondents have designated the Community heritage theme as '2nd most important'. It received 28.79% of the total votes.

The respondents have designated the Industrial heritage theme as '3rd most important'. It received 24.24% of the total votes.

The Railway heritage received 15.15% of the total votes.

The Motorbiking heritage received 5.3% of the total votes.

Q11: Why do you think these themes are important?

Number of responses: 34

Responses	'Most important' theme(s)	Intentions/values
<i>There is a crisis in species loss, and nature has rights as living beings - unlike the other heritage, which are just things.</i>	Natural Environment	- Climate action - Species preservation
<i>Nature relates to everyone. The river is an escape from society. We are guests in the world environment, and that should be embraced</i>	Natural Environment	Embrace the spectacle of nature
<i>To make a better connection with nature</i>	Natural Environment	Connection to nature
<i>Restoration of green areas is good for all of us</i>	Natural Environment	
<i>This is an area with a strong history of community spirit, but this is being lost on the new generation of residents.</i>	Community Heritage	Intergenerational transmission

We should respect nature and promote the wonderful wildlife we have on our doorstep	Natural Environment	Respect nature
To keep this history alive	Community Heritage	Preserve history
To raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity and the impact of industry on the local community	Natural Environment	- Industry impact on the community - Highlight biodiversity
The park should be about the people of the area, as they'll be the ones who use it the most	Community Heritage	Showcase people of the area
So that the history of the local community is remembered and passed on to future generations,	Community Heritage	Intergenerational transmission
They mean a lot	Natural Environment	
I probably speak for many folks around here. We've neglected the natural environment in this area for a long time because of industry over time . Although, I know little to nothing about the history of industry here or the people (my ancestors) who have lived and worked here since time began.	Natural Environment	- Stop neglecting nature - Reveal the industry and community history
They will be interesting	Natural Environment	
They are the inherent history of the area and bring it back into focus to show what went before .	Industrial Heritage, Community Heritage, Railway Heritage	Reveal the history
Most importantly, to tell future generations, visitors and local people about the history and the river in Levenmouth	Industrial Heritage, Community Heritage, Railway Heritage, Natural Environment	Intergenerational transmission
Because it gives an insight into how people worked and lived	Industrial Heritage, Community Heritage	Showcase people of the area
It's your history	Industrial Heritage, Community Heritage, Natural Environment	
The natural environment is important to ensure that all species have the best chance in the current environment. The industrial heritage was such a big part of this area it should be highlighted for future generations . The railways are going to be a big part of the future of the area, so the past railways should be highlighted to see where it all came from	Natural Environment	- Species preservation - Intergenerational transmission - Connect past railways to new
To learn about the area and help to develop and modernise, encourage more wildlife into the area.	Natural Environment	- Develop wildlife - Regeneration of the area
Educational	Railway Heritage	
They are a massive part of our history, which future generations should know of .	Community Heritage	Intergenerational transmission

With the railway going ahead, it would be good to know the previous history of the local area.	Industrial Heritage, Community Heritage, Railway Heritage	Reveal the history
It's good for younger generations to see how other generations lived and how things looked.	Community Heritage	Intergenerational transmission
Would like to see something mentioned about invasive species such as <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i> , Japanese knotweed, and giant hogweed. Also, awareness of industrial heritage is important to understand how things have changed for the better in our lives.	Natural Environment	- Species preservation/ management - Connect to the heritage
There's not an awful lot about the heritage of Leven, so anything that tells you about the heritage of your neighbourhood should be encouraged. The area around the river itself is really interesting and should be preserved.	Industrial Heritage, Community Heritage, Natural Environment	Preserve the environment
It is our heritage	Industrial Heritage, Community Heritage, Railway Heritage	
We should always remember the past industries and teach the young children at school local history.	Industrial Heritage	Intergenerational transmission
Born and brought up in the area, my father worked in the steelworks	Industrial Heritage, Community Heritage, Natural Environment	
They're my life	Industrial Heritage, Community Heritage, Natural Environment	
The community needs to know where the workings were in the area	Community Heritage, Railway Heritage, Natural Environment	Reveal the history
Cause I love history, and it is important to know what has been and where	Industrial Heritage, Community Heritage, Natural Environment	Reveal the history
The natural environment is under threat. Community heritage is important to preserve. Industrial heritage is interesting.	Natural Environment	- Climate action - Preserve community history
Knowing your history and the history of the area gives you an understanding of where you are from.	Industrial Heritage, Railway Heritage, Natural Environment	Help understand local identity
it's good to know about the heritage, a lot of which is no longer here	Industrial Heritage, Community Heritage, Natural Environment	Reveal the history

Summary of intentions/values

7 Intergenerational transmissions

6 Reveal the history

6 Preserve the environment and species

2 Help understand local identity/connect to heritage

2 Climate action

2 Preserve community history

2 Develop/highlight wildlife

2 Showcase people of the area

1 Regeneration of the area

1 Connect past railways to new

1 Embrace the natural spectacle

1 Connect to nature

1 Industry impact on the community

Analysis notes:

The idea of transmission between generations was given seven times to describe the importance of the theme(s). This concerns all Industrial, Natural and Community Heritage. It was directly associated three times with Community Heritage as the 'most important' theme.

The idea of revealing the history was given six times to describe the importance of the theme(s). This concerns all Industrial, Natural and Community Heritage.

The idea of preserving the environment and species was given six times to describe the importance of the theme(s). It was associated with the Natural Environment four times as the 'most important' theme.

Other ideas that were given two times to describe the importance of the 'theme' were: help understand local identity/connect to heritage, climate action, preserve community history, develop/highlight wildlife, and showcase people of the area.

Q12 Are there any other stories/memories/themes that you think could be included?

Number of responses: 21

Responses	Other themes
Climate Emergency UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030	- Climate action
Yes.....the 45 Jacobite gathering at Scoonie...Herman Melville's father as minister...the 52 mine tunnels going below Leven, William Hare living in Leven after the trial.	- Famous people - Mining Heritage
Fishing	- Fishing industry
How the railway brought visitors to Leven, which was a popular holiday resort.	- Holiday resort
coal industry	- Mining Heritage
I don't have or use dirt bikes, but I think somewhere for people to use these vehicles should be included in the area. Not only would it give people who use them a place to enjoy them. I believe others would be encouraged to visit to use a space and folks out walking would be safe too.	
Use of the area in the past is similar to your plans for today.	
Importance of Methil Docks and Buckhaven Fishing Industry	- Methil Docks -Fishing industry
William Hare living in Silverburn	- Famous people
possibly the river mouth and the harbour that was there would be useful to be highlighted in some way	- Methil Docks
Themes can be linked to how the new railway line can help towards the development of Leven and surrounding area to become a thriving town again where people want to visit and stay.	- Regeneration of the area
Ghosts witches	- Folklore
How it all connects to Fife's coal mining heritage, e.g. Methil docks shipping	- Mining heritage
Have any famous people passed by?	- Famous people
Some people are interested in cemeteries and I'm sure many people would be interested in Methiill Cemetery	- Cemetery
Industry	
The old lade that came from Kirkland Dam was originally for the Kirkland colliery it was the power source for the water pump, it turned a great water wheel that was 13 meters tall and a meter wide this must have been a great engineering venture in days gone by. This Lade also then went on to supply other industries in Kirkland for over 150 years.	- Mill heritage - Engineering heritage
Used to play and picnic there with family when a child	- Community heritage/use
Wish I had lived here back when the mines were open hard life but everyone worked together	- Mining heritage

Mining heritage	- Mining heritage
Famous people from the area	- Famous people

Summary of other heritage themes
<p>4 Famous people</p> <p>5 Mining heritage</p> <p>2 Fishing industry</p> <p>2 Methil Docks</p> <p>1 Mill Heritage</p> <p>1 Engineering Heritage</p> <p>1 Cemetery</p> <p>1 Folklore</p> <p>1 Climate action</p> <p>1 Holiday resort</p> <p>1 Community Heritage</p> <p>1 Regeneration of Levenmouth</p>

Analysis notes:

Four respondents have suggested including famous people in the interpretation.
 Five respondents have suggested including Mining Heritage in the interpretation.
 Two respondents have suggested including the Fishing Industry in the interpretation.
 Two respondents have suggested including Methil Docks in the interpretation.

Q13 Do you have any stories/memories/facts to share relating to the River Park area?

Number of responses: 13

Responses	Related themes
<i>Walking over the pipes</i>	Community heritage
<i>My whole life I remember the place has been neglected. It's great that it's finally going to get looked after. A shame how much of the land had been lost to development too.</i>	Natural Environment
<i>Yes, quite a number I have written about growing up, playing and going to work.</i>	Community heritage
<i>Too many</i>	
<i>Stories from parents/grandparents about how they used to get the train to work at Cameron Bridge or to go visit outside the area</i>	Community heritage
<i>My great grand uncle fell from the iron brig when he was a child, he unfortunately passed away. I would like to see the bridge looking its best.</i>	Community heritage
<i>Include Maidens Castle on the path to Kennoway as part of the trail. This area has a great history and is currently neglected and in need of some restoration, also a great viewpoint of the local area.</i>	Built heritage

<p><i>When I worked at the local primary school, we often took children down to the river to see what we could find.</i></p> <p><i>One year we teamed up with Loch Leven Nature Reserve and a member of staff from the reserve came several times to take the children through the area. They thoroughly enjoyed this experience.</i></p> <p><i>The children...</i></p>	Natural Environment
<p><i>Railway houses, steel foundry cyanide works made sails for the sailing ships</i></p>	Industrial heritage
<p><i>I suppose the building of the Kirkland Dam /Burn Mill and the Leven dams was a great achievement.</i></p>	Built heritage
<p><i>Used to play and go fishing there as a child</i></p>	Community heritage
<p><i>It was a place where lots of people worked and lived, and this needs to be kept for the generations to understand where their ancestors lived and worked</i></p>	Community heritage
<p><i>I remember being with my father, who had a boat at the docks.</i></p> <p><i>There used to be Swans at the river.</i></p> <p><i>People used to sail and race up the river, and there were prizes for children.</i></p> <p><i>Methil had a bad name. My dad wouldn't let me go there alone when I was young.</i></p>	Community heritage

Summary of themes linked to stories, memories and facts

7 Community Heritage

2 Natural Environment

2 Built Heritage

1 Industrial Heritage

Analysis notes:

Seven stories, memories and facts shared by respondents concerned the Community Heritage.

Two stories, memories and facts shared by respondents concerned the Built Heritage.

Q13: Do you know of any sources of information for local heritage/stories?

Number of responses: 10

Heritage Centre
Yes Leonard Low....
Other than local Facebook groups, I've no idea. I don't have any family to ask.
Myself and Auld Fife and its People Facebook pages.
Local people, probably older folk!
Heritage Centre in Methil
Maps history books of the area
All the information is in our local libraries.
No, I don't but I would love to be pointed in the right direction to find out more as I'm retired now
YouTube - "Ginger Man with a Cam" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6VW3Os9SekU)

Aspirations for the park

Through this section, we want to know what respondents want the park to be known for in the future, and what legacy it could have.

Q14: What would you like the park to be known for in 5 years time?

For example: "That's the park that ... " "That's where you can go to ... " "In the park you can see ... "

Number of responses: 35

Responses	Related theme	Intentions/values
That's a park that the train goes to where it's nice to go for a long nature walk .	- Natural Environment - Railway heritage	A place to walk
That park is just so incredibly beautiful . And it's full of edible plants . Let's go pick some and make a pie!	- Natural Environment	A place for foraging
Somewhere peaceful and quiet where you can enjoy nature	- Natural Environment	Peaceful and quiet
Green areas, busy with people/dogs , lovely woodland	- Natural Environment	Busy and green
Who cares about the environment and wildlife	- Natural Environment	
The park that stops near Bayview	- None	
Has something to do out with built-up areas	- None	Brought change
The biodiversity park is a beautiful place you can go to enjoy nature and at the same time learn about the history of the local community from the information boards and sculptures along the way.	- Natural Environment - Community heritage	A place to walk and learn
its worth it	- None	
In the park you can see a range of native wildflowers .	- Natural Environment	Wild park
Something for everyone	- None	
What you can see now and what the past history is .	- Natural Environment - Community/industry heritage	See the past history
The park that is Connecting Communities	- Community heritage	Showcase Communities
its importance to the area	- All themes	
Brought Leven alive	- Community heritage	Showcase communities
A place where good family memories were made also a place to relax feeling safe for all ages	- Community heritage	Family and relaxing place
People can go to relax, walk and appreciate the natural environment with their families .	- Natural Environment	Family and relaxing place

Day out with dog and grandchildren	- None	Family place and outdoors
I would love to see wildlife and families enjoying the area peacefully	- Natural Environment	Peaceful and family place
For a great peaceful walk along the river.	- Natural Environment	A peaceful walk
The park that remembers nature and history!	- All themes	Protected nature and history
I would like to see a park that has a biodiversity management plan that includes a watch for invasive species and continues to link the area with Windygates and Levenmouth.	- Natural Environment	Protected nature
A place where families could go, hopefully, the local school could make more use of the area, lots of information boards about the history and the natural life both alongside and in the river.	- Natural Environment - All themes	A place to learn about nature and history
A fantastic family leisure space	- Community heritage	For families
That you can go hand have picnics and fun for the family	- Community heritage	For families
Historical themes from days gone by	- All themes	A place to learn about the past
Somewhere for locals and visitors to enjoy	- None	Locals and visitors
Somewhere to learn as well as enjoy the outdoors	- None	For learning and outdoors
For people to enjoy the wildlife and the calming feeling that the area brings	- Natural Environment	Calm and wild park
happiness ;)	- None	
Going to see offers	- Natural Environment	Wildlife
More people have engaged with their local community . The park has become a go-to place for visitors.	- Community heritage	Connect to community and important place
Walk round a guided trail	- None	A place for a walk
A good place...	- None	
As a place of interest to learn about Levenmouth area and a place you can relax and watch the world go by	- All themes	Relaxing and showcase the area (people, history)

Summary of themes	Summary of intentions/values
15 Natural Environment 8 Community Heritage 5 All themes 1 Industry Heritage 1 Railway Heritage 10 None	5 For families 4 Walking 3 Relaxing 3 Showcase communities 3 Peace 3 Learning 2 Showcase the history

	2 Calm 2 Outdoors 2 Wildlife/wild park 1 Connect to community and important place 1 Positive 1 Protect nature 1 Protect history 1 Foraging 1 Quiet 1 Busy 1 Green 1 Regeneration/change 1 Locals 1 Visitors
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Analysis notes:

15 responses are related to Natural Environment.

8 responses are related to Community Heritage.

5 responses include families in their description of the park.

4 responses include walking in their description of the park.

3 responses include relaxing in their description of the park.

3 responses include peace in their description of the park.

3 responses include learning in their description of the park.

Other responses include showcasing the history, calm, outdoors, and wildlife.

Q15: What would you like the park to be remembered for in 50 years? What would you like its legacy to be?

Number of responses: 34

Responses	Related theme	Intentions/values
We brought back the beavers!	Natural Environment	
They really put thought into connecting people and nature.	Community heritage Natural Environment	
A place full of wildlife	Natural Environment	
Somewhere peaceful and quiet where you can enjoy nature	Natural Environment	Peace, Quiet
Again, restored woodland, river area	Natural Environment	
The park that brought life back into Leven		Regeneration of Levenmouth

An important link to the regeneration of the Levenmouth economy		Regeneration of Levenmouth
Open to all and provides safe off-road walking and wheeling links		Active travel
This project along with the re-opening of Leven railway line has helped to build a prosperous community , where people work together to care for and are proud of the environment in which they live . It has once again become a beautiful and popular place to visit, live, work and play .	Community heritage Railway heritage	Regeneration of Levenmouth
Worthwhile		
Its transformation from wasteland to park.		Regeneration of the park
It was a community space	Community heritage	
What a wonderful place		
helping Levenmouth recover economically		Regeneration of Levenmouth
Brought Leven alive		Regeneration of Levenmouth
A place when your older to tell of good memories had when you were young, for example, I have great memories of the Hermitage which to this day is a lovely day out for a walk seeing nature . this is what I envisage the park to become.	Natural Environment	Community asset
Leven has an amazing beach but also has woodland walks the town to visit!	Natural Environment	Tourism
Education and day outings at low cost		Accessible leisure and education
The beginning of wildlife coming back to the area	Natural Environment	
The transformation of neglected land to something of natural beauty , that's used by the local community .	Natural Environment	Regeneration of the park
The turning point - remembering where we come from	Community heritage	Regeneration of Levenmouth
A safe environment where people could reflect on the past and enjoy the area for a long time into the future	Natural Environment	Safe
It's part in the genesis of the regeneration of Levenmouth		Regeneration of Levenmouth
Some kind of monument that tells a story about all that happened in the past . If they are going to re-install the Lades, we should have a wheel that supplies power, maybe	Industrial heritage	

to lights along the park but it should be a size that people would come to see. (The Kirkland Wheel)		
To be kept in good condition for all to enjoy		
Its accessibility		Accessible
The park that kept history alive.	Industrial heritage Community heritage	
To remember all the workers for the sake of local people	Community heritage	
Doubt I will be here :)		
Biodiversity and conservation	Natural Environment	
We introduced people to their local area + they were aware of their history.	Community heritage	
Somewhere for people to visit, feel safe and inspired		Safe
Improved Levenmouth opportunities		Regeneration of Levenmouth
Money spent well and wisely and designed and built as per the people living in Levenmouth area wanted.		Regeneration of Levenmouth

Summary of themes	Summary of intentions/values
11 Natural Environment 7 Community heritage	9 Regeneration of Levenmouth 2 Regeneration of the River Park 2 Industrial heritage 2 Safe 1 Railway heritage 1 Peace 1 Quiet 1 Tourism 1 Accessible 1 Community Asset 1 Active Travel 1 Accessible leisure 1 Education

Analysis notes:

- 11 responses are related to Natural Environment.
- 7 responses are related to Community Heritage.
- 9 responses are about the regeneration of Levenmouth.
- 2 responses are about the regeneration of the River Park.
- 2 responses are about Industrial Heritage.
- 2 responses qualify the park as safe.

Q16: Any other comments or questions?

Number of responses: 10

If you take the brambles, my wife will cry.
For it to be a safe place for me to cycle through all year round (solo female cyclist)
A lot of the river's biodiversity and peace and privacy have been lost to create the railway line. How can/ will this be reinstated?
Can we include the removal of all the ivy - this is killing the trees.
All park areas are very important to this community and should be protected and celebrated.
I would like you to see my stories of growing up in the Levenmouth area from the early fifties to the mid-sixties. Growing up, playing and working throughout the area.
Methil docks need a marina
Putting in some security cameras would be a must, it's a large area and would be difficult to police.
My only worry is that the place won't be allowed to be the great place it could be - will the vandals destroy everything in a few years??
Looking forward to seeing it progress I love walking it's great for the mind

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Commissioned by: Lead partners for environmental and regeneration change, Green Action Trust

Delivered by: Icecream Architecture

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