

East Lothian Partnership

East Lothian by Numbers

A Statistical Profile of East Lothian

9. Environment

December 2016

The Environment

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The Environment

The quality of the natural environment is one of East Lothian's greatest assets. Across the county communities have access to a wide range of public open/green spaces including coastal and countryside sites, woodlands, parks, amenity open spaces, green corridors, village greens, play areas, school grounds and civic spaces which offer positive benefits to the health and well-being of local communities.

The bathing waters surrounding the East Lothian coast have consistent pass rates, with a new site designation created at Fisherrow Sands, although inland water bodies tend to have less favourable conditions due to high agricultural activity in the area.



Summary:

- East Lothian has 2766 listed buildings, 30 conservation areas and 291 Scheduled Monuments.
- 80 buildings are included on the historic buildings at risk register.
- East Lothian contains 20 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).
- Large areas of East Lothian are classified as Prime Quality Agricultural Land.
- 9 of the 13 designated bathing waters in East Lothian are classed as good or excellent by SEPA.
- 80ha of land in East Lothian was classed as being vacant or derelict in 2015.
- East Lothian has the second highest rate in Scotland for CO2 emissions. Industry and Commercial account for 62% of East Lothian's carbon emissions.
- East Lothian Council received 807 contacts from customers in 2014 regarding fly-tipping, 337 regarding litter and 375 regarding dog fouling.
- Levels of Nitrogen Dioxide exceed air quality standard in parts of Musselburgh town centre.
- 14 schools have been awarded a Green Flag eco school award.
- 81% of residents live a 5 minute or less walk from a green space.

Built and Cultural Heritage

East Lothian has 2,766 listed buildings, 30 conservation areas, 291 Scheduled Monuments, and numerous recorded archaeological sites recorded by Historic Scotland. Figure 9.1 displays the location of areas designated for reasons of built and cultural heritage, historic battlefields and, designated landscapes.

There are currently 80 historic buildings ‘at risk’ within East Lothian as identified on the Buildings at Risk Register; 25 of these being in a very poor or ruinous state. Table 9.1 shows the number of buildings at risk by category and condition.

Table 9.1: Number of buildings at risk by category and condition (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland / Historic Scotland 2016).

Buildings at Risk Register										
Total Buildings		Category of Listing				Condition of Listed Building				
At Risk	Under Restoration	A	B	C	U	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Ruinous
74	6	17	36	15	12	1	21	33	18	7

Local Designations

In addition to the international and national protected sites there are a large number of local sites of importance for nature conservation and biodiversity. Aberlady Bay was the first Local Nature Reserve to be designated in Scotland, in 1952. It covers an area of 575 hectares, about 2/3 of which is below the high tide mark, consisting of tidal sand, salt marsh and mud flats. It is within the Firth of Forth Site of ‘Specific Scientific Interest’, and is managed to improve the area for wildfowl, waders and the wide variety of plants.

Natural Heritage

East Lothian has a number of sites designated for their international importance for nature conservation and biodiversity. The Firth of Forth is designated as a Ramsar site and also a Special Protection Area due to its importance as a bird habitat. The Forth Islands are also designated as a Special Protection Area. Figure 9.2 displays the location of areas designated due to their natural heritage.

Of national significance, Sites of Special Scientific Interest are designated in order to protect sites that are important for plants, animals or geological or physiographical features. There are 15 SSSI’s in East Lothian covering: the Forth Estuary and Islands; parts of the Lammermuir Hills; quarries and coastal areas where geological features are visible; and areas of woodland and unimproved grassland of significant botanical interest.

Prime Quality Agricultural Land

Prime Quality Agricultural Land is defined as land that is either Grade 1, 2 or 3.1 (James Hutton Institute):

- Class 1: Land capable of producing a very wide range of crops
- Class 2: Land capable of producing a wide range of crops
- Class 3: Land capable of producing a moderate range of crops

Figure 9.3 displays the area of land in East Lothian that is defined as Prime Quality Agricultural Land. Most of East Lothian, aside from the upland areas, falls within this category.

Figure 9.1: Map of built and cultural heritage designations in East Lothian (East Lothian Council 2014).

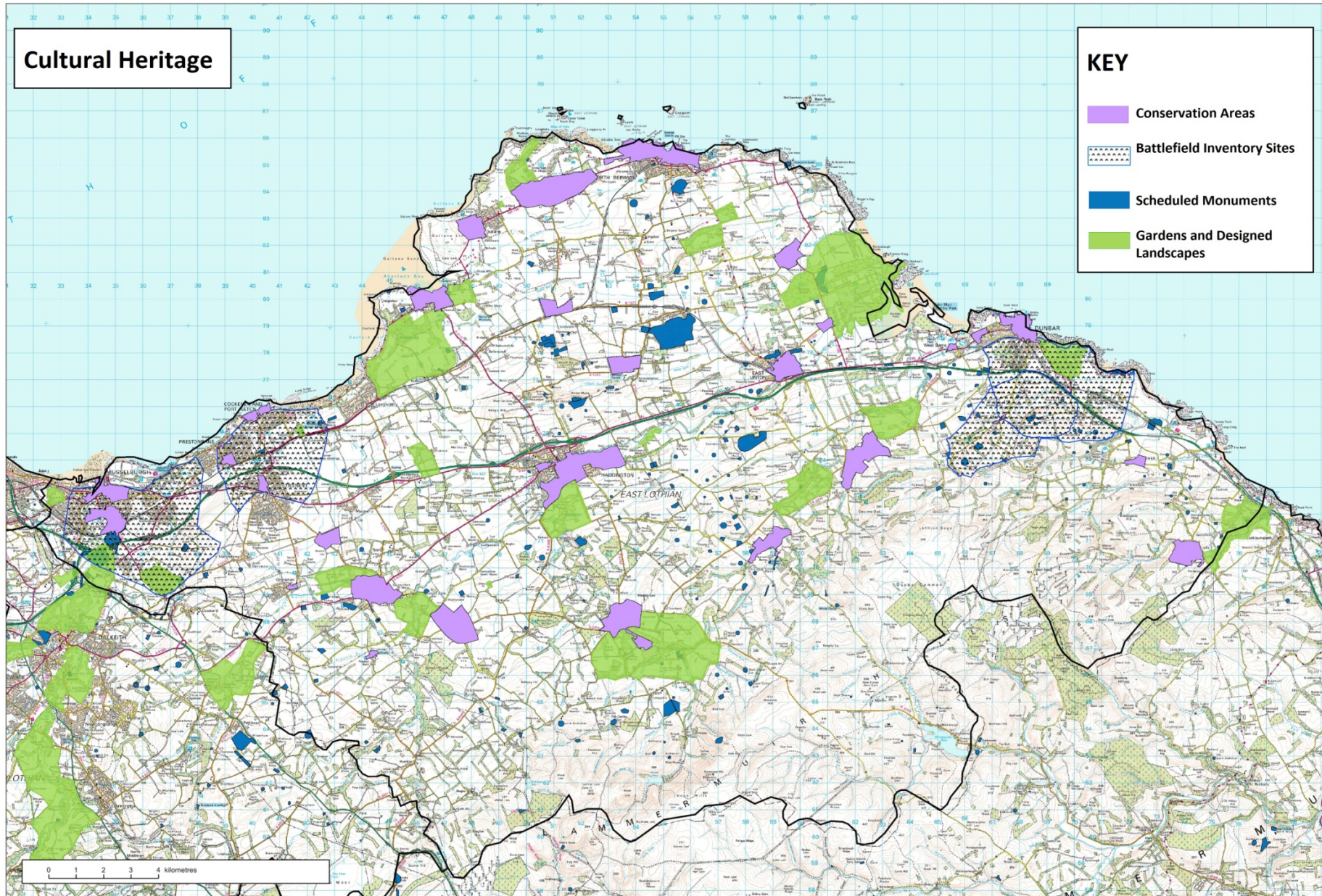
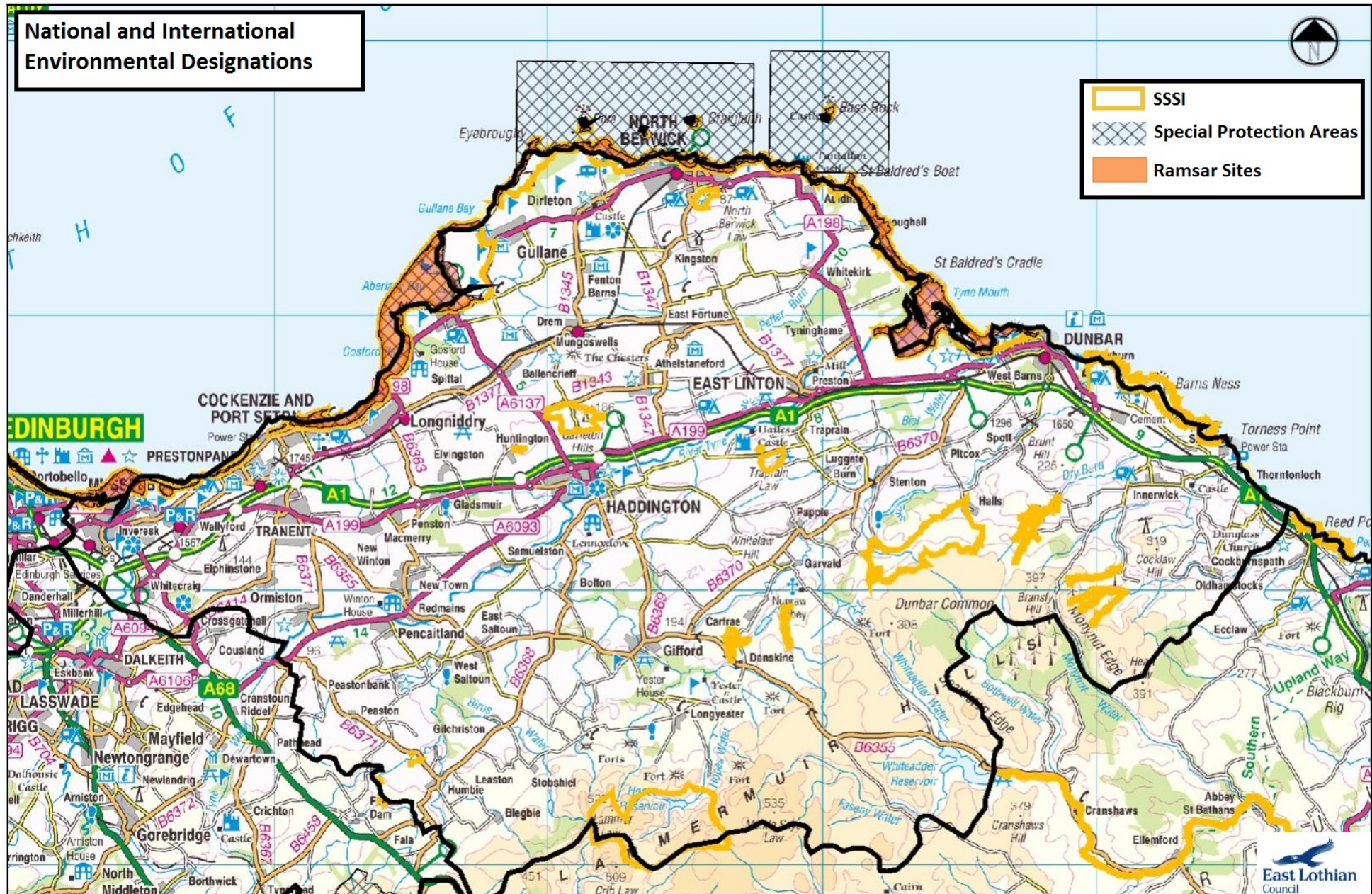
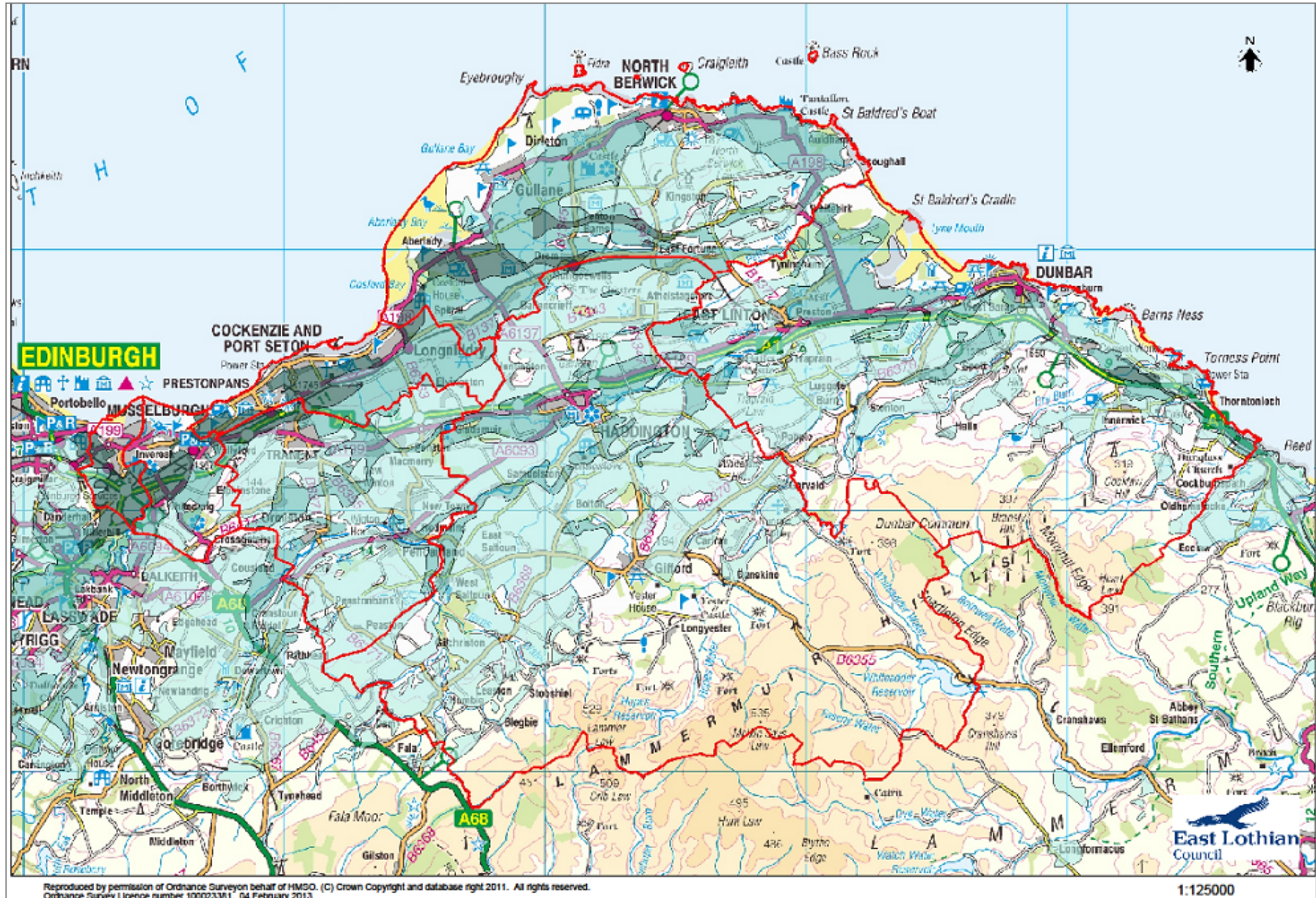


Figure 9.2: Map of national and international environmental designations (East Lothian Council 2013).



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Figure 9.3: Prime Quality Agricultural Land (East Lothian Council 2013).



Bathing Waters

Bathing water quality is described by one of four classification types; excellent, good, sufficient or poor now the new Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) is in full effect. The classification is based on several years of monitoring data to indicate the status of normal water quality .

Table 9.2 shows the 13 designated bathing waters in East Lothian that are monitored by SEPA. 9 of the beaches are rated good/excellent.

Table 9.2: Bathing Water Quality reports (SEPA 2016).

Bathing water	2015/2016
Gullane	Excellent
Seacliff	Excellent
Broad Sands	Good
Dunbar (Belhaven)	Good
Longniddry	Good
North Berwick (Milsey Bay)	Good
North Berwick (West)	Good
Seton Sands	Good
Thorntonloch	Good
Dunbar (East)	Sufficient
Whitesands	Sufficient
Fisherrow Sands	Poor
Yellowcraig	Poor

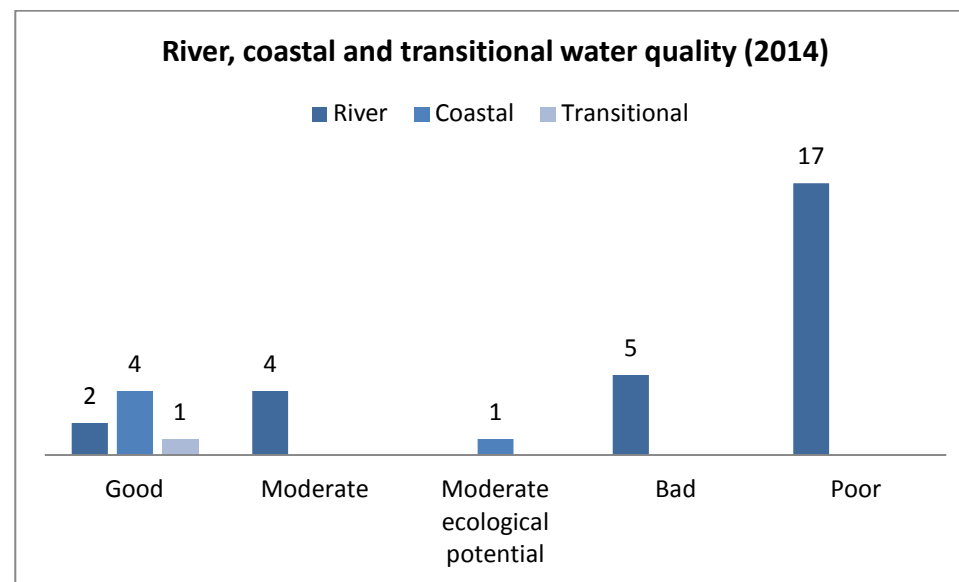
Although the water at North Berwick West is classified as good, samples taken in August 2016 showed that pollution was present. Beach visitors were advised to avoid swimming and bathing at the site. Efforts are being made to identify the source of the pollution. The incident is very localised, and the bathing water at North Berwick (Milsey Bay) is unaffected. (East Lothian Council, SEPA 2016)

Water Quality

Two major rivers, the Tyne and the Esk, pass through East Lothian to discharge into the Firth of Forth and North Sea. These rivers have several tributaries and streams which form a drainage network within East Lothian. In addition, several streams flow directly to the Firth of Forth without entering a river system. In the Monynut and Mayshiel area of the Lammermuirs there are streams which flow south to join the River Tweed with most of the flow accumulating in the Whiteadder Reservoir before passing into the River Tweed Special Area of Conservation.

Figure 9.4 shows the quality status of for rivers coastal and transitional waters in and around East Lothian in 2014. Only 2 rivers were categorised as being of good quality, 22 were classed as bad/poor. 4 of the 5 coastal waters in East Lothian were classed as good.

Figure 9.4: River, coastal and transitional water quality in East Lothian, 2014 (SEPA 2016).

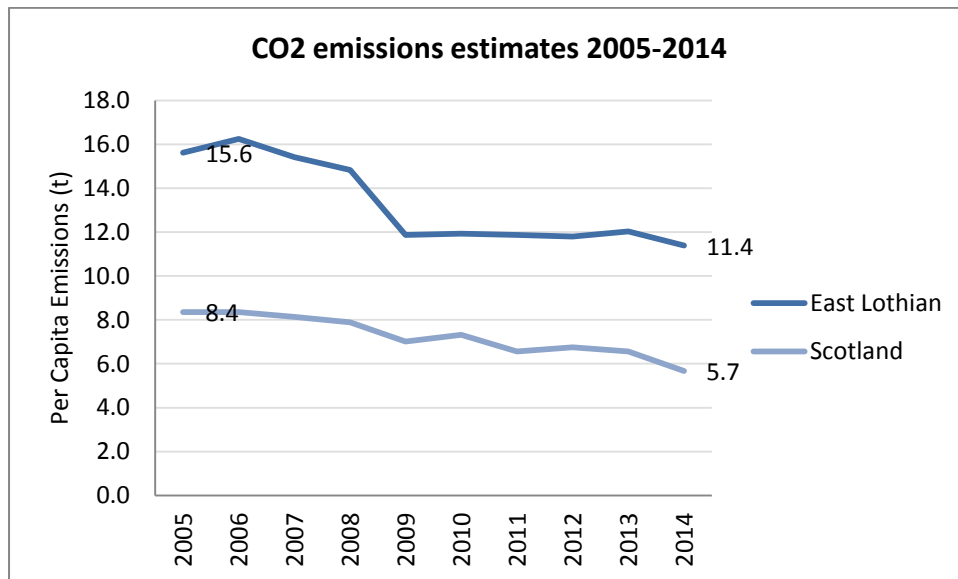


Carbon Emissions

In East Lothian there has been an overall decrease of 27.1% in CO₂ emissions between 2005 and 2014. However in 2014 East Lothian had an estimated 11.4 tonnes of CO₂ emissions per capita. This was the second highest rate in Scotland out of the 32 local authorities. Figure 9.5 shows the estimated CO₂ emissions per capita for East Lothian and Scotland from 2005 to 2014.

Industry and commercial accounted for 62.6% of CO₂ emissions, followed by Transport (16.7%) and Domestic (16.5%).

Figure 9.5: CO₂ Emission estimates per capita (tonnes per capita) in East Lothian and Scotland (UK Government 2016).



Air Quality

Local Air Quality Monitoring and assessment work has taken place in East Lothian over a number of years. The air quality objectives applicable in Scotland are set out in the Air Quality (Scotland) Regulations 2000 (Ref 4) and the Air Quality (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 (Ref 5).

These regulations are a public health protection measure, based on EU air quality standards for seven particular pollutants: Benzene; Carbon Monoxide; 1,3-Butadiene; Lead; Nitrogen Dioxide; PM₁₀ particulates; and Sulphur Dioxide. Many of these pollutants are the products of thermal combustion processes including emissions from petrol and diesel road vehicles.

The air quality assessment work is reviewed and updated annually. The results indicate that the objectives for all pollutants with the exception of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) are being met.

An air quality management area was established in Musselburgh in relation to breaches and likely breaches of the NO₂ annual mean air quality objective. [East Lothian Council, Updating and Screening Assessment 2015](#)

Waste & Recycling

Figure 9.6: Percentage of household waste recycled or composted in East Lothian and Scotland (SEPA 2016).



Figure 9.7: Volume of household waste landfilled in East Lothian in tonnes (SEPA 2016).

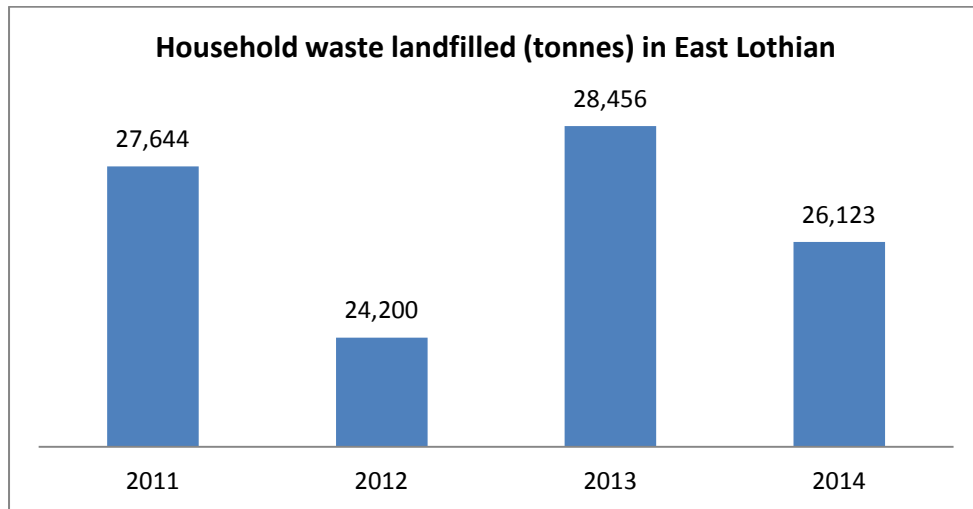
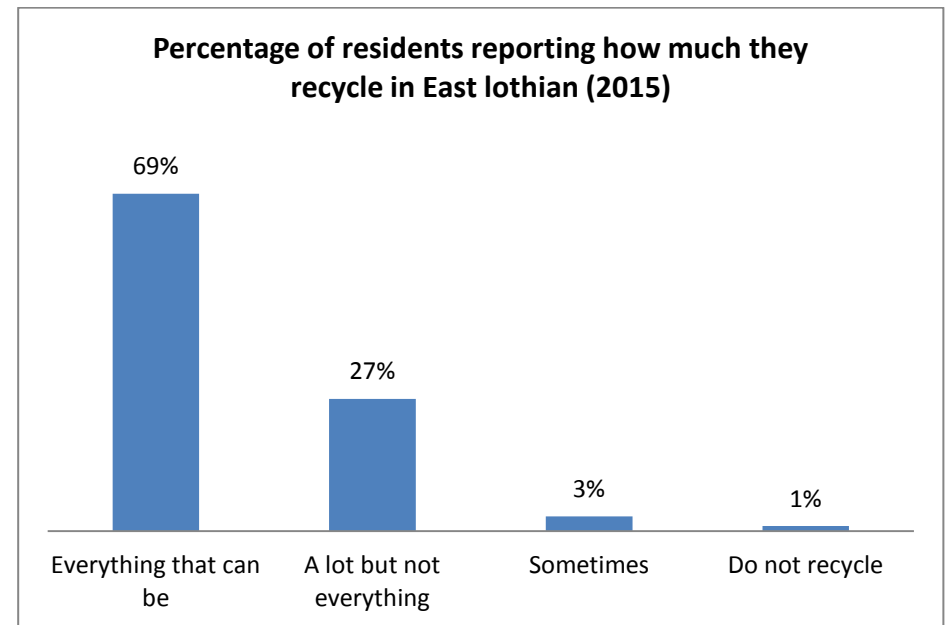


Figure 9.6 shows that the proportion of waste recycled in East Lothian has reduced to a similar level to that of the Scottish average. Figure 9.7 shows that 26,123 tonnes of household waste was sent to landfill in East Lothian in 2014.

The autumn 2014 citizens' panel found that 84% of respondents rated the waste and recycling collection services in East Lothian as 'very good' or 'good'. Just 2% thought it was 'poor' or 'very poor' and 14% thought it was 'average'.

Figure 9.8 shows the percentage of residents by how much they recycle in East Lothian. 69% say that they recycle everything that can currently be recycled.

Figure 9.8: Percentage of residents reporting how much they recycle in East Lothian in 2015 (Citizens Panel 2015).



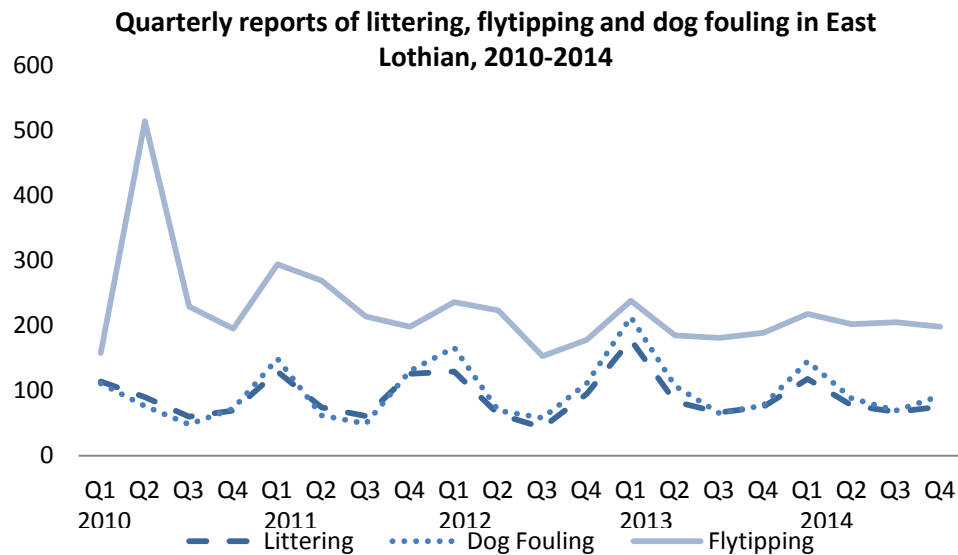
Environmental Issues

East Lothian Council’s contact centre records a number of environmental issues that are reported by the public. Fly-tipping is the most common issue reported to the council although the average number of calls has decreased over the period 2010 to 2014.

Figure 9.9 shows quarterly reports of littering, fly-tipping and dog fouling made to East Lothian Council’s customer contact centre.

Littering and dog fouling complaints have remained steady over the 2010 to 2014 period, peaking in winter time and falling again in summer time. January to March 2013 saw a spike in both littering and dog fouling complaints.

Figure 9.9: Reports of littering, fly-tipping and dog fouling in East Lothian (East Lothian Council 2014).



Reports of graffiti made to East Lothian Council’s contact centre are fairly low in number but consistent over the year. In total, 20 reports of graffiti issues were made by the public in 2014. 90 have been made over the period 2010 to 2014.

The number of street signs needing repaired has remained much higher and increased over 2010 to 2014. Figure 9.10 shows the number of street sign repair requests made to East Lothian Council by quarter over this period. In total, 188 street sign issues were reported in 2014.

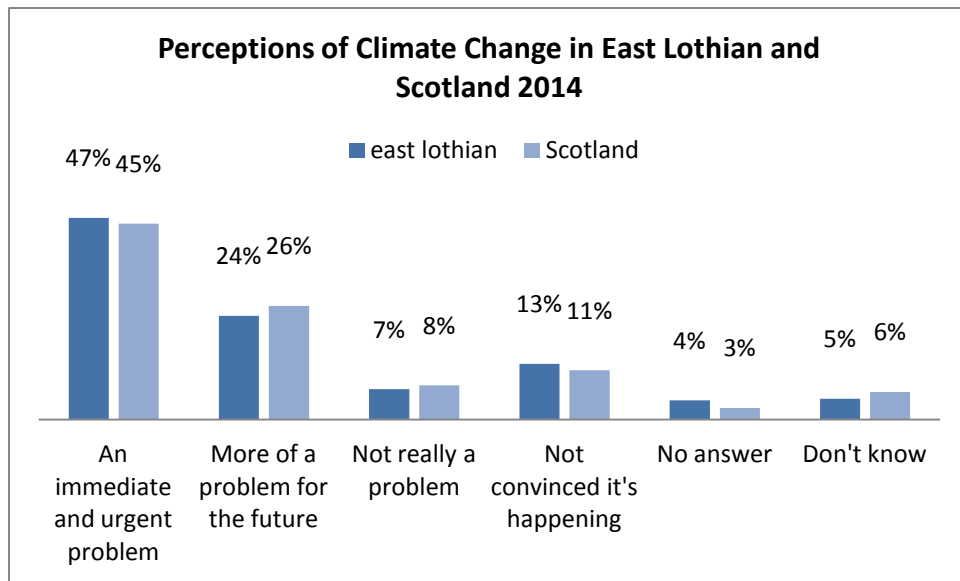
Figure 9.10: Reports of street sign repair issues in East Lothian by quarter, 2010 to 2014 (East Lothian Council 2014).



Climate Change

Figure 9.11 shows that 47% of people in East Lothian perceive climate change as an immediate and urgent problem. 20% of East Lothian people do not think that there is a problem or are “not convinced” it’s happening. Overall the perception of the East Lothian people was similar to the national picture.

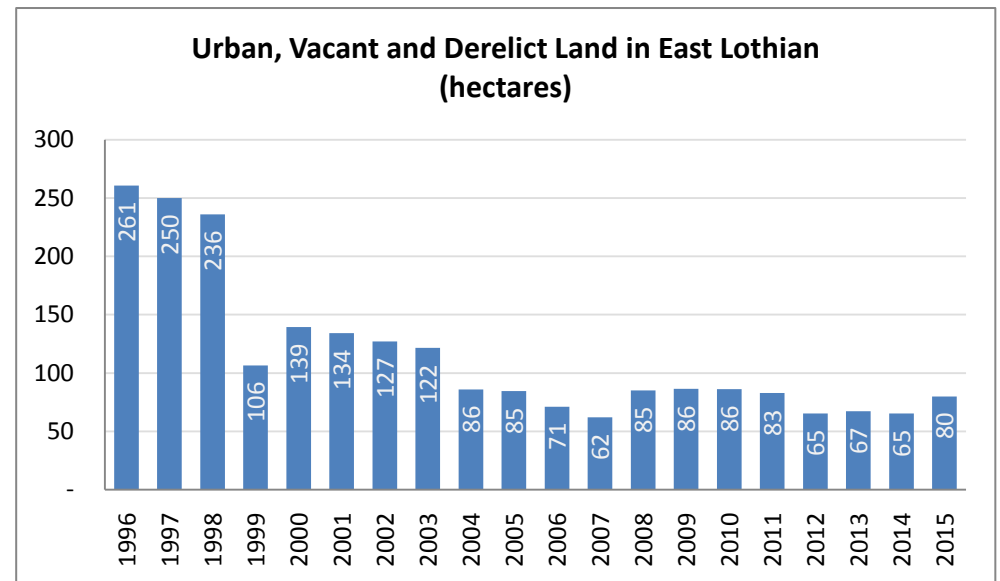
Figure 9.11: Perceptions of climate change in East Lothian and Scotland (Scottish Household Survey 2016).



Urban Vacant and Derelict Land

Figure 9.12 shows that the amount of vacant and derelict land in East Lothian decreased sharply by 55% between 1998 and 1999, before rising by 31% in 2000. The figure then declined again by 29% between 2003 and 2004. The figure has remained between 62ha and 86ha over the last ten years.

Figure 9.12: Hectares of vacant and derelict land in East Lothian, 1996 to 2015 (Scottish Vacant and Derelict Land Survey 2015).



Outdoors & Green Spaces

As a rural and coastal area, East Lothian has a variety of outdoor and green spaces for a variety of uses.

The Citizens’ Panel asked respondents on their use and satisfaction of green spaces in East Lothian. Table 9.3 shows the percentage of residents by how often they use parks, countryside sites and open spaces in East Lothian, alongside those satisfied with these areas. Almost a quarter (23.5%) reported using outdoor spaces on a daily basis. The majority of respondents were ‘satisfied’ with the quality of outdoor spaces in East Lothian. 37% of those who left comments with regard to dissatisfaction with greenspaces stated that it was in relation to dogs.

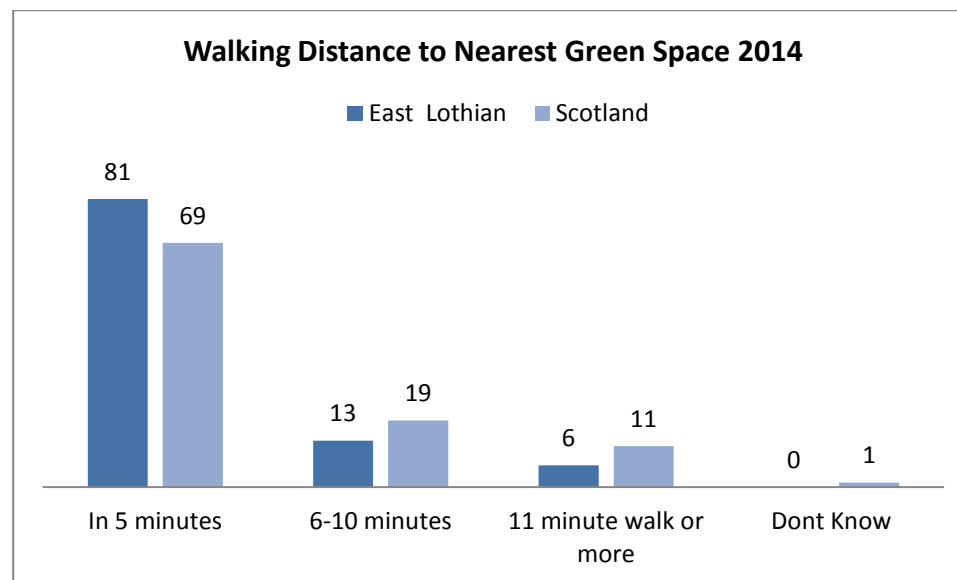
Table 9.3: Percentage of residents using - and satisfied with - parks, countryside sites and open spaces in East Lothian (Citizens Panel 2015).

Percentage using outdoor and green spaces in East Lothian.		Percentage satisfied with outdoor and green spaces in East Lothian.	
Daily	21	Very Satisfied	28
At Least Once a week	38	Satisfied	53
At Least Once a Month	21	Fairly Dissatisfied	13
Less Frequently	15	Very Dissatisfied	2
Never	4	Don’t use	5

The Scottish Household Survey 2014 also asked respondents about their use of the outdoors and green spaces. 81% of people in East Lothian live within a 5 minute walk from their nearest useable green space, compared with only 69% in Scotland as a whole. This reflects East Lothian’s rural nature and open space.

Figure 9.13 shows the percentage of respondents in East Lothian and Scotland by how far they have to walk to their nearest useable green space.

Figure 9.13: Walking distance to nearest useable green space (Scottish Household Survey 2014).



Eco Schools

The Green Flag Award is an internationally-recognised symbol of sustainable development education, fostering closer links between schools and the environment around them. 63 local authority and independent schools and nurseries in East Lothian are registered with Keep Scotland Beautiful for the Green Flag Award.

In total, 14 Green Flag Awards, 37 Silver Awards and, 43 Bronze Awards have been awarded in East Lothian. Each of the Green Flag awards has been awarded to a local authority school or nursery.

98% of local authority schools in Scotland take part, with all local authority schools in East Lothian registered. Table 9.4 shows the number and type of awards awarded to local authority schools in East Lothian by school cluster area..

Table 9.4: Number and type of Green Flag awards given to schools in East Lothian (Keep Scotland Beautiful 2016).

Ward	Green Flag Award	Silver Award	Bronze Award
North Berwick Coastal	2	5	7
Musselburgh East Carberry	0	3	8
Faside	4	7	4
Haddington Lammermuir	5	8	9
Dunbar East Linton	2	8	7
Preston Seton Gosford	1	5	6
Musselburgh West	0	1	2
Total	14	37	43

Sources

In preparing this profile every attempt has been made to use the most recent information publically available for each theme. The information has come from a variety of external sources as well as internal council services. Sources include:

Alzheimer Europe www.alzheimer-europe.org

Association of Leading Visitor Attractions www.alva.org.uk

Association of Scottish Visitor Attractions www.asva.org.uk

Belhaven Hill School www.belhavenhill.com

Census 2001 www.gro-scotland.gov.uk

Census 2011 www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk

Citizens Advice Scotland www.cas.org.uk

Citizens Panel www.eastlothian.gov.uk

City of Edinburgh Council www.edinburgh.gov.uk

Community Health and Well-Being Profiles www.scotpho.org.uk

Department of Work and Pensions
www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions

Early Development Instrument www.eastlothian.gov.uk

East Lothian Council www.eastlothian.gov.uk

Edinburgh College www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk

Electoral Commission www.electoralcommission.org.uk

End Child Poverty www.endchildpoverty.org.uk

Enjoy Leisure www.enjoyleisure.com

eSAY Survey: Learning Disability Statistics Scotland www.sclد.org.uk

General Register Office for Scotland www.gro-scotland.gov.uk

Green Tourism www.green-tourism.com

Hands Up! Survey www.sustrans.org.uk

HM Revenue and Customs
www.gov.uk/organisations/hm-revenue-customs

Higher Education Statistics Agency www.hesa.ac.uk

Improvement Service www.improvementservice.org.uk

Information Services Division Scotland www.isdscotland.org

James Hutton Institute www.hutton.ac.uk

Keep Scotland Beautiful www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org.uk

Loretto School www.lorettoschool.co.uk

Midlothian Council www.midlothian.gov.uk

National Records of Scotland www.nrscotland.gov.uk

NHS Lothian www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

NOMIS Official Labour Market Statistics www.nomisweb.co.uk

Office for National Statistics www.statistics.gov.uk

Office of Rail Regulation www.orr.gov.uk

Police Scotland www.scotland.police.uk

Public Protection East and Midlothian www.emppc.org.uk

Queen Margaret University www.qmu.ac.uk

Registers of Scotland www.ros.gov.uk

Residents Survey www.eastlothian.gov.uk

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland
www.rcahms.gov.uk

Scotland's Census Results Online www.scrol.gov.uk

Scottish Annual Business Statistics www.gov.scot

Scottish Children's Reporter Administration www.scra.gov.uk

Scottish Environmental Protection Agency www.sepa.org.uk

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service www.firescotland.gov.uk

Scottish Funding Council www.sfc.ac.uk

Scottish Government www.gov.scot

Scottish Health and Care Experience Survey www.gov.scot

Scottish Health Survey www.gov.scot

Scottish Household Conditions Survey www.gov.scot

Scottish Household Survey www.gov.scot

Scottish Household Survey: Travel Diary www.transportscotland.gov.uk

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation www.sns.gov.uk

Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics www.sns.gov.uk

Scottish Parliament Information Centre www.scottish.parliament.uk

Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Survey
www.isdscotland.org

SESPlan www.sesplan.gov.uk

Skills Development Scotland www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk

Spark of Genius www.sparkofgenius.com

SQW: Research in Economic and Social Development www.sqw.co.uk

STRiVE www.strive.me.uk

Student Evaluation of Experience Survey www.eastlothian.gov.uk

The Compass School www.thecompassschool.org.uk

Transport Scotland www.transportscotland.gov.uk

Viewstat www.improvementservice.org.uk

Visit Scotland www.visitscotland.com

Women's Aid East and Midlothian www.womensaideml.org

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How to contact us

East Lothian Partnership
Corporate Policy and Improvement
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
East Lothian
EH41 3HA

W: www.eastlothian.gov.uk/EastLothianPartnership

T: 01620 827475

E: elp@eastlothian.gov.uk