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local landscape designation review

appendix I 2016

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA BOUNDARY REVIEW

Appendix I

Landscape Character Area Boundary Review

Landscape Character Area Boundary Review

The Landscape Character Area Boundary Review was the first part of the Local Landscape Review. It was based on desk and field work carried out in 2014/5. The aim of the overall project was to review all the landscapes of East Lothian, to identify and describe the character of each area and to identify and designate Special Landscape Areas.

The starting point of the Boundary Review was to look at the Landscape Character Areas identified in the SNH commissioned “The Lothians Landscape Character Assessment” carried out by the Ash Consulting group in 1998 (the Ash Study)¹. It is expected that there may have been landscape change in the intervening years which could lead to alterations of the Landscape Character Area boundaries.

The original Landscape Character Areas were defined through recognition of areas where key characteristics occur consistently and have an identity which is unique to their geographical location. However the study makes clear that the individual map units are intended to be interpreted in accordance with the strategic nature of the study. The boundaries between the areas are regarded as indicative positions rather than precise locations, due to the transitional nature across which areas merge. This can range in width from a narrow, well defined zone at a geological fault line to a wider, more diffuse zone between similar character areas.

Further study of the Landscape Character Areas was carried out by Carol Anderson and Alison Grant in 2005 in the “Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Turbine Development in East Lothian”² with some further work in 2011 for the East Lothian Supplementary Landscape Capacity Study for Smaller Wind Turbines³. Although this work was carried out specifically for elements of the landscape which affect capacity for wind turbine development, some of this information was relevant for the current Boundary Review.

In 2008 Land Use Consultants together with Carol Anderson were employed to carry out the Edinburgh Greenbelt Landscape Character Assessment⁴. This has led to an identification of different landscape character areas within the western section of East Lothian from the original Ash study.

This document details the revisions of each landscape character area on an East Lothian scale to be relevant to defining Special Landscape Areas within East Lothian. We used the same criteria as the Ash Study, although we separated the built features category into three – access, built environment and infrastructure. The Review assessed the landscape based on its current status, and did not assess potential impacts of currently proposed or consented development.

¹ No 91: The Lothian’s Landscape Character Assessment, Ash Consulting Group (published and commissioned by Scottish Natural Heritage) 1998

² Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Turbine Development in East Lothian by Carol Anderson and Alison Grant, commissioned by SNH and East Lothian Council 2005

³ East Lothian Supplementary Landscape Capacity Study for Smaller Wind Turbines by Carol Anderson commissioned by East Lothian Council in 2011

⁴ “Edinburgh Green Belt Landscape Character Assessment” by Land Use Consultants and Carol Anderson commissioned by Midlothian Council, City of Edinburgh Council, East Lothian Council, West Lothian Council, Scottish Borders Council and Scottish Natural Heritage in 2008

Each landscape character area has been described using the following criteria:

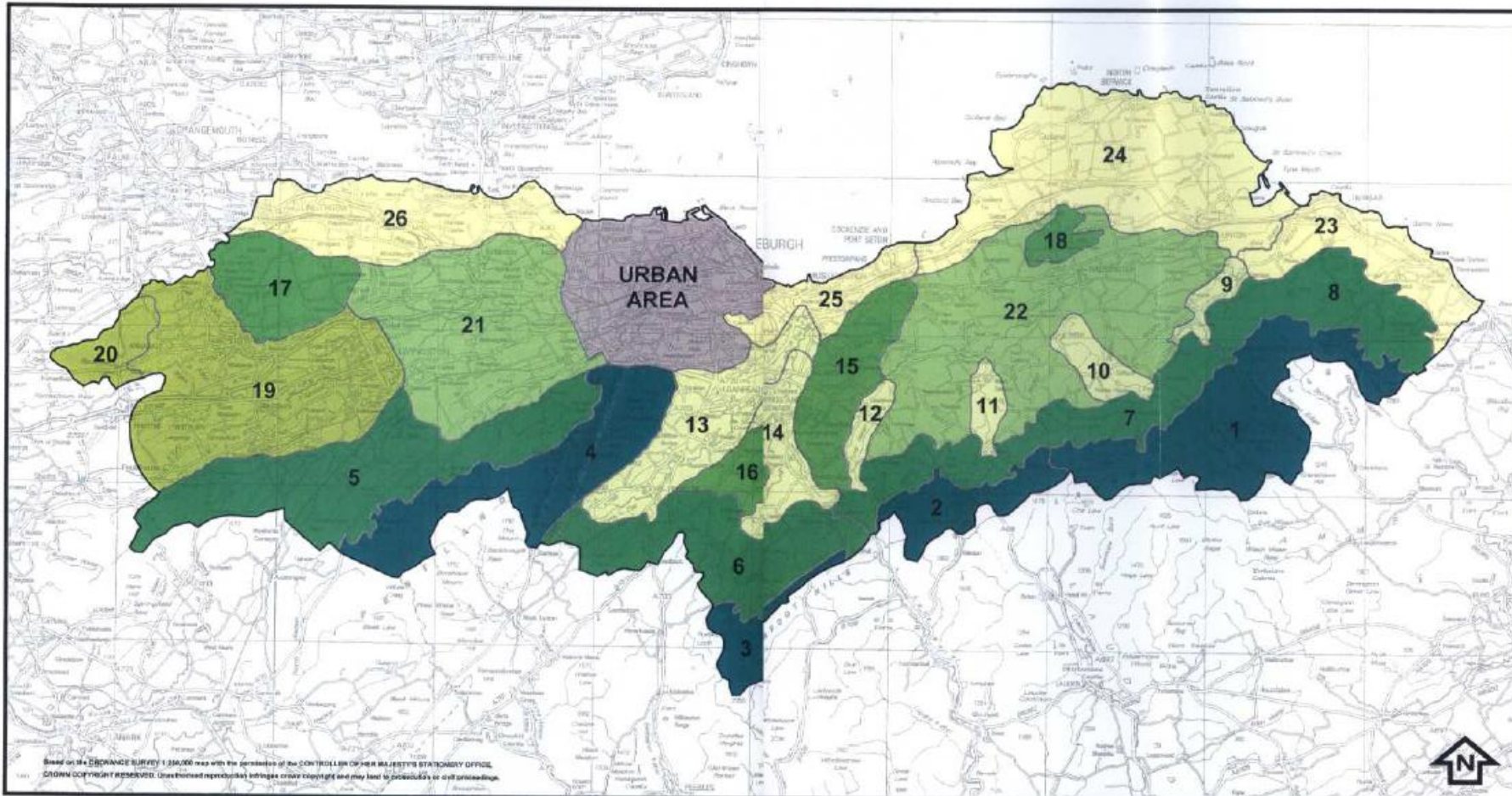
- Physical features, including geology, topography and drainage
- Vegetation and land cover, including both natural and man-made features
- Access including the public road network, transport corridors, and tracks
- Built features, including urban and rural settlement, and other artefacts
- Infrastructure and Industry
- Aesthetic qualities, including important views and a summary of the 'sense of place' of the area.
- Positive Attributes
- Negative Attributes
- Management Guidelines. In some areas these remained the same as those proposed in the Ash Study whereas in other areas these have had to be completely updated and new guidelines included.
- Photographs of the main features, qualities and attributes.

Landscape Character Types and Areas within East Lothian

The Ash Study defined areas into Landscape Types, then further into Landscape Character Areas. The East Lothian Review used this as a basis for its Landscape Character Areas, which were refined from the Ash Study through field visits.

The comparative LCAs within East Lothian between the Ash Study of 1998 and the current review of 2015 are shown in the table and maps below:

Ash Study 1998	East Lothian Review 2015
Uplands	
Lammermuir Plateau (1) Fala Moor (2)	Lammermuir Plateau Lammermuir Plateau with windfarm Whiteadder Valley Plateau Grassland
Upland Fringes	
North Lammermuir Platform (7) Eastern Lammermuirs (8)	Western Lammermuir Fringe Eastern Lammermuir Fringe
Lowland River Valleys	
Whittingehame Water (9) Gifford Water (10) Humbie Water (11) North Esk (13)	Whittingehame Water Gifford Water Humbie Water Esk River Valley
Lowland Hills and Ridges	
Mayfield/Tranent Ridge (15) Garleton Hills (18)	Tranent Ridge Garleton Hills
Lowland Plains	
Haddington Plain (22)	Lower Tyne Valley Plain Mid Tyne Valley Plain Coastal Plain Settled Farmland
Coastal Margins	
Dunbar Plain (23) North Berwick Plain (24) Musselburgh Prestonpans Fringe (25)	Innerwick Coast Northern Coast Musselburgh/Prestonpans Coast



LEGEND

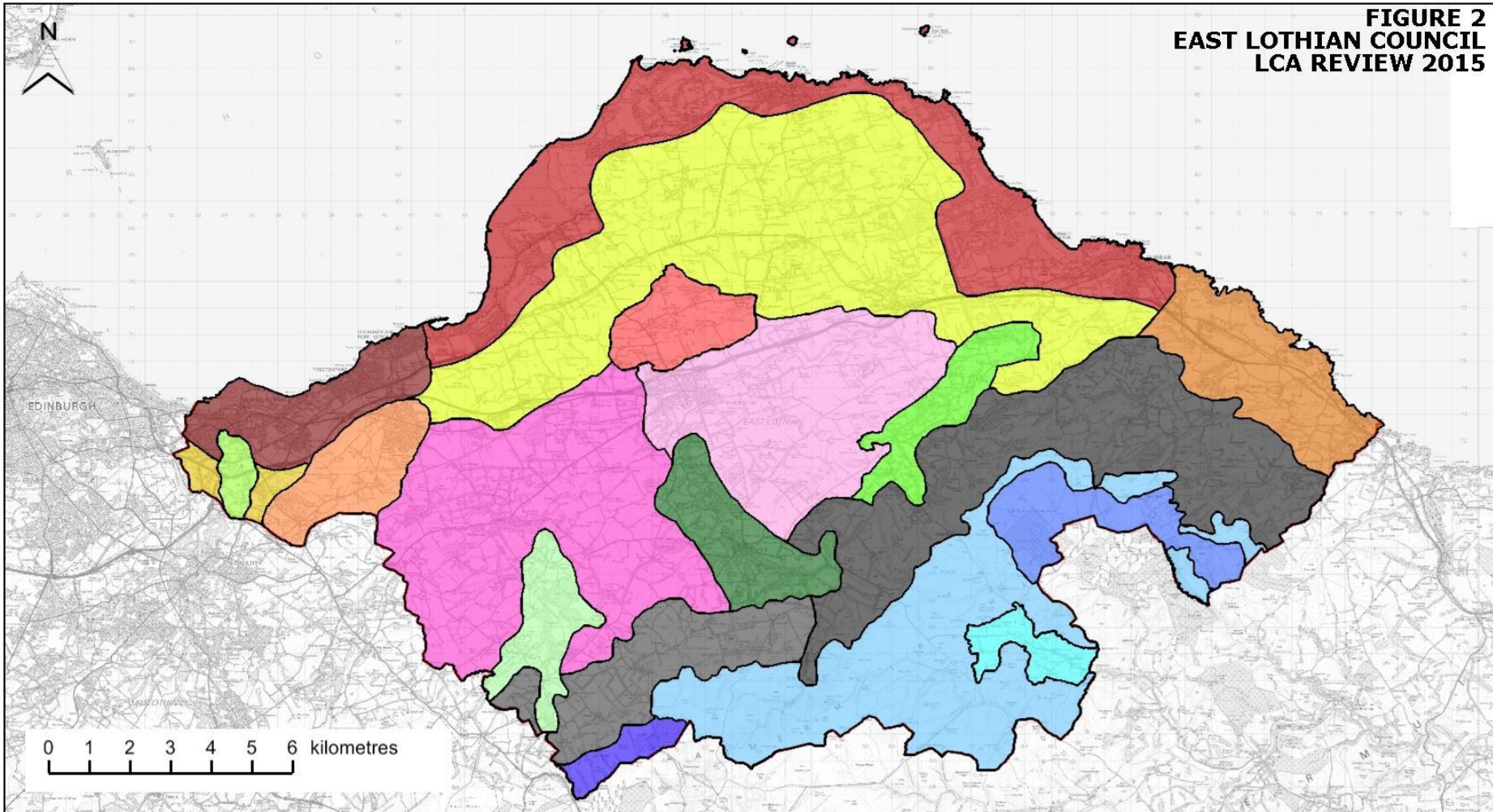
LANDSCAPE TYPE: UPLANDS	LANDSCAPE TYPE: UPLAND FRINGES	LANDSCAPE TYPE: LOWLAND RIVER VALLEYS	LANDSCAPE TYPE: LOWLAND HILLS & RIDGES	LANDSCAPE TYPE: LOWLAND PLATEAUX	LANDSCAPE TYPE: LOWLAND PLAINS	LANDSCAPE TYPE: COASTAL MARGINS
Landscape Character Areas	Landscape Character Areas	Landscape Character Areas	Landscape Character Areas	Landscape Character Areas	Landscape Character Areas	Landscape Character Areas
1 Lamington Plateau	5 North West Pentlands Fells	9 Whittington Water	15 Mayfield / Trant Ridges	19 West Loth Plateau	21 Lower Almond Farmlands	23 Dunbar Plain
2 Fife Hills	6 Giresse / Auchincloss Moorlands	10 Gifford Water	16 Rosewell / Carrington Spur	20 Sianawaleau	22 Haddington Plain	24 North Berwick Plain
3 Moorfoot Plateau	7 North Lammermoor Plateau	11 Humble Water	17 Bellgate Hills			25 Musselburgh / Prestonpans Fringe
4 Pentlands Hills	8 Eastern Lammermoor	12 Upper Tyne Water	18 Garsken Hills			26 Linlithgow / Queensferry Farmlands
		13 North Esk				
		14 South Esk				

Scale
0 km 10 km 20 km

Figure 7
LANDSCAPE CLASSIFICATION

Figure 2: Ash Study 1998 Landscape Character areas of the Lothians

**FIGURE 2
EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL
LCA REVIEW 2015**



Landscape Character Areas		
LCA Review East Lothian 2014		
Lammermuir Plateau	Eastern Lammermuir Fringe	Lower Tyne Valley Plain
Lammermuir Plateau with windfarm	Whittingehame Water	Mid Tyne Valley Plain
Plateau Grassland	Gifford Water	Coastal Plain
Whiteadder Upland Valley	Humbie Water	Settled Farmland
Western Lammermuir Fringe	Esk River Valley	Innerwick Coast
	Tranent Ridge	Northern Coast
	Garleton Hills	Musselburgh/Prestonpans Coast

Boundary changes following reassessment

Uplands

Lammermuir Plateau

The Ash Study included the upland Lammermuirs as one area. Carol Anderson's 2005 wind turbine capacity study splits this into two separate but similar character areas, citing "distinct differences in the character of landform, landcover and settlement between the two areas". We agree there are distinct differences in landform and landcover, particularly around the Whiteadder Valley which is generally enclosed pasture and a large water body within a shallow valley, rather than rough grazing and grouse moor with steeper sided cleughs and valleys. Since the Carol Anderson review, there has also been windfarm development which due to its scale (both vertical and horizontal) heavily influences the area in terms of both landcover and built environment. The East Lothian review has therefore not divided the area where the Carol Anderson study does.

Instead, in the east of this area where the landscape character is so dominated by windfarm that it alters the landscape character we define the Landscape Character Area as 'Upland with Windfarm'. This area is tightly defined by landform in the area known as Dunbar Common where the natural bowled landform clearly contains the wind turbines. The new character area only applies where wider views of the moors are restricted by rising land and therefore views are limited to moorland with wind turbines. Where wider areas of moorland can be seen, some with wind turbines and some without, then the wind turbines no longer dominate and you are outwith the Upland with Windfarm character area. Unlike the bowl of the Dunbar Common the landscape around the Monynut edge is higher and more open. The turbines spill over the edge of the bowl and are visible in a wider spreading landscape including the fringe to the east. The boundary we have defined of the upland with windfarm is tight to the location of the approved turbines, as once you have turbines on only one side of you, you are no longer dominated by turbines - you can turn your back to the turbines and view a landscape without turbines.

The review extended the boundaries of the Lammermuir Plateau to include Dod Hill and Wightman Hill to the east more in line with the area defined as dissected plateau moorland in the neighbouring Border's landscape and roughly following the 325m contour.

The area around the Whiteadder Reservoir also has a distinctly different character to the upland moorland. It is more similar in character to the Scottish Border's landscape character area of Upland Valley with Farmland with a broad valley floor with distinct floodplain (dammed to form a reservoir in this instance), evenly sloping valley sides, land cover of improved pasture with medium to large sized fields giving way to unimproved grassland approaching the plateau edge, with hedgerows, hedgerow trees, small woodlands and coniferous plantations all locally prominent. We have defined a new landscape character area Whiteadder Upland Valley with Farmland to identify this.

Lammermuir Plateau split to form three distinct character areas:

- Lammermuir Plateau
- Lammermuir Plateau with Windfarm
- Whiteadder Upland Valley with Farmland

Fala Moor

The section of this character area within East Lothian is a small part of a much wider area. Carol Anderson's 2005 wind turbine capacity study changes the landscape type to accord with Plateau Grassland to the south

as the landscape shares the characteristic openness and panoramic views of the Scottish Border's Upland Type Plateau Grassland more than the character of Fala Moor.

The Carol Anderson study also reduced the size of this area by moving the northern boundary south. This is due to the change of scale that occurs at the break of slope and the northern section having a more transitional character, with V-shaped valleys as the hills slopes merge with the lowland plains. The northern section of this area therefore has a more similar character to the North Lammermuir Platform Upland Fringe.

This assessment was agreed with and the northern boundary has been adjusted and this landscape character area described as Upland - Plateau Grassland.

Fala Moor split to form:

- Plateau Grassland
- Western Lammermuir Fringe

Upland Fringes

North Lammermuir Platform

This area is an east-west band stretching along the western section of the fringes of the Lammermuir hills, generally running to the north of the southern upland fault. Carol Anderson's study took a large area of the east end of this character area into the Eastern Lammermuirs character area as she considered that it shared the distinctly rolling landform. We agree with this assessment and have therefore defined the end of this character area along the line of the Hopes Water. The west end has been extended southwards to include a section of the Fala Moor landscape character area, including the settlements of Begbie, Pogbie and Wanside, which fit more with the transitional character of this area.

We have renamed this area as Western Lammermuir Fringe to more accurately describe its character and location within East Lothian.

North Lammermuir Platform boundaries adjusted and renamed to form:

- Western Lammermuir Fringe

Eastern Lammermuirs

The area in the Ash Study was a broad apron of land fringing the Lammermuir Hills, at the eastern entrance to the Scottish Central Belt. Carol Anderson's study extended the west end of this area to include part of the North Lammermuir Platform as well as part of the Haddington Plain as she feels that these areas share the Eastern Lammermuirs distinctly rolling landform. We agree with this assessment, although we have slightly adjusted the northern boundary to include Baro but exclude Tanderlane and Chesters Farm, as Baro has a more wooded character whereas the farms are more arable plain in character. Carol Anderson also extended the northern boundary to include part of the Dunbar Plain, however after site assessment we have retained the boundary defined by the Ash Study except at Oldhamstocks which we have taken into the Eastern Lammermuir character area as it has more association with the fringe landscape than the coastal landscape. We have also renamed this area as Eastern Lammermuir Fringe to more accurately describe its character.

Eastern Lammermuirs boundaries adjusted and renamed to form:

- Eastern Lammermuir Fringe

Lowland River Valleys

Whittinghame Water

The Whittinghame Water flows north-eastwards through a mainly narrow, well wooded valley, often exposing the red sandstone through which it passes, and which is used in local traditional buildings. Through on site assessment we concluded that the characteristics of the strong topographic definition of the enclosed valley floor with a high proportion of broadleaved woodland cover, estate and designed landscape and surrounding open valley slopes extends further east along the river valley to include the designed landscape of Biel and the hamlet of Pitcox. We have extended the river valley boundary to include these.

Whittinghame Water boundaries extended to form:

- Whittinghame Water

Gifford Water

The Ash Study Gifford River Valley runs from Gifford to Bolton, comprising a well wooded valley within a shallow sided valley floor, enclosed by higher farmland. Carol Anderson's study extended the Gifford river valley to include Lennoxlove designed landscape and part of the Tyne within Haddington and widened the area to the east to include the Colstoun Wood and the B6369. Although we agree that the Lennoxlove estate has the river valley character similar to the rest of the landscape character area with its policy woodlands we do not consider the area to the north of Lennoxlove comprising the Tyne valley to be of a similar character being flatter, wider and less wooded. The area to the east of the Colstoun estate does not relate to the valley as it is set beyond the enclosing ridgeline. We therefore have extended the original landscape character boundary north to incorporate more of the Lennoxlove Estate and Gifford Water to the north, generally towards the ridgeline at Lennoxlove, to retain the enclosure of the Gifford Water. Through site assessment we also concluded that the area incorporating Danskin Loch, surrounding woodlands and lodge to the southeast of the area should be included within this character area due to their similarity in character, namely that of farmland enclosing a well wooded river valley which draining into the Gifford Water

Gifford Water boundaries extended to form:

- Gifford Water

Humbie Water

The Humbie Water is a major tributary of the River Tyne, and has formed a generally shallow, basin-shaped valley, though steep sided in parts. Following site assessment we concluded that the river valley character form extends further south into the hills due to similarity in ground cover (mixed woodland river valley enclosed by farmland) than included within the original landscape character assessment and we propose to extend the valley character area to include the policy woodlands and parklands of Johnstounburn House.

The incised river valley of the Keith Water to the west also reads with and is a tributary of the Humbie Water and we extend the character area further west along this valley.

We propose to include the policy lands of Keith Marischal within the valley character area as it relates to the upper slopes of the Keith Water.

As with the Keith Water the incised valley of the Birns Water at Gilchriston reads as part of the wider Humbie valley and we have also extended the area east to include Gilchriston.

The northern end of the character area flattens and opens out as it joins the Tyne Valley and we have therefore retained the northern boundary as identified within the 1998 landscape character assessment.

Humbie Water boundaries extended to form:

- Humbie Water

North Esk

A small section of this large landscape character area extends into East Lothian. At this point the rivers of the North and South Esk have merged to give a single river the River Esk.

Although large urban settlements were not included within the original landscape character assessment we have assessed these as part of this reassessment and have therefore concluded that the river valley character extends further north into Musselburgh and includes part of Inveresk to the east, the Inveresk Industrial Estate and the Haugh Park grounds to the west of the river.

On detailed inspection the ex-mining villages of Old Craighall and Whitecraig appear dislocated from the river valley landscape and we propose to exclude these from the character area narrowing the extent of the surrounding arable land within the river valley landscape area. The areas around Old Craighall and Whitecraig are identified as settled farmland within the 2008 Edinburgh Green Belt Landscape Character Assessment. We agree that this fits with this landscape character of gently undulating landform of a mix of arable farmland, pasture and set aside land and fragmented landscape with a mix of land uses.

As the rivers of the North and South Esk have combined by the time they pass through East Lothian to form a single river we have renamed this landscape character area the River Esk for our purposes.

North Esk boundaries redefined and character area renamed to form:

- River Esk

Lowland Hills and Ridges

Mayfield / Tranent Ridge

This broad ridge with arable fields and policy woodlands forms a backdrop to Wallyford and Whitecraig. Following site assessment we concluded that the boundaries of this character area are robustly defined and no changes have been made. However as Mayfield lies outwith East Lothian we have renamed this landscape character area as the Tranent Ridge for our purposes.

Mayfield / Tranent Ridge boundaries retained and character area renamed:

- Tranent Ridge

Garleton Hills

Following site assessment we agreed that the boundaries to the north, south and west required extension to include the hills to the bottom of the ridge line. We have also extended the character area to the east along the ridge line to the B1347 where it meets the Pencaig Hill ridge, a less prominent feature. We have included the village of Athelstaneford within the character area as this sits on a low ridge and relates more to the Garleton Hills than the surrounding lowland plains.

Garleton Hills boundaries extended to form:

- Garleton Hills

Lowland Plains

Haddington Plain

Through site assessment it was established that the extents of the area do not extend as far north as identified in the original landscape character assessment. The ridgeline between Tranent, Macmerry and Gladsmuir provides a natural division between the lowland agricultural plain and the coastal plain to its north, similar to the Pencraig ridgeline to the east of the area. Views to the coast are generally obscured to the south of these ridges. The geological differences in character between the eastern and western ends of the area were also felt to be significant enough to form two different landscape character areas within the agricultural plain. The eastern half of the character area from Haddington has significantly more rocky outcrops and raised land areas interrupting the plain as well as forming a section of incised river valley along the Tyne enclosed to the north by the Pencraig ridge and creating a locally different landscape character strongly influenced by Traprain Law. We have defined the Mid-Tyne Valley agricultural plain to the west of Haddington and the Lower Tyne Valley to the east of and including Haddington extending as far as Clerking to the extent of the significant influence of Traprain Law.

The Haddington Plain boundaries realigned and split to form:

- Mid-Tyne Valley Plain
- Lower-Tyne Valley Plain

Coastal Margins

Dunbar Plain

Although Carol Anderson's 2005 wind turbine capacity study extends the Eastern Lammermuir Landscape Character Area into the Dunbar Plain, we concluded, after detailed site assessment, that the existing boundary between the Upland Fringe and the Coastal Margin is robust. The land rises towards the Lammermuirs but is still agricultural and open in nature with a relationship more with the coast than with the hills. There is one exception to this - the area immediately around and including Oldhamstocks has more of a relationship with the hills than the coast and we have taken this out of the Dunbar Plain Coastal Margin and included this within the Eastern Lammermuir Upland Fringe.

The coastal margin to the south of Dunbar is a narrow coastal strip with strong relationships with both the hills and the coast. The character changes as you approach the southern edge of Dunbar and the hills start to drop away to the south and the plain opens out before you. We concluded that this change in landscape character is significant enough to form a separate landscape character area and an end to the Dunbar Plain. We have realigned the western boundary to the south of Dunbar to reflect this and have renamed the Landscape Character Area the Innerwick Coastal Margin due to the omission of Dunbar.

Dunbar Plain boundaries redefined and character area renamed to form:

- Innerwick Coastal Margin

North Berwick Plain

Carol Anderson's 2005 wind turbine capacity study reclassified the coastal part of the North Berwick Plain and part of the Dunbar Plain to form a separate landscape character area in recognition of the distinct character of estate policies, large settlements and their association with the distinct topography of the coast and the naturalistic qualities of the coastal edge and seascape. We agree that there is a clear separation between the coastal strip of links landscapes, dunes and golf courses, policy woodlands and

settlements and the general arable landscape of the central area of the coastal plain and propose to use the Northern Coastal Margin as a separate landscape character area.

We have retained the remainder of the North Berwick Plain as an entity and extended it to the east to include the area excluded from the Dunbar Plain to form the Innerwick Coastal Fringe and extended it also to the south between Tranent and the Garleton Hills where the plain relates more to the coast than to the Tyne valley. We have reclassified this as Lowland Plain and renamed it as Coastal Plain.

The North Berwick Plain boundaries realigned and split to form:

- Coastal Plain
- Northern Coastal Margin

Musselburgh / Prestonpans Fringe

Although large urban settlements were not included within the original landscape character assessment we have assessed these as part of this reassessment. We have therefore extended this character area to include the settlements of Musselburgh, Prestonpans and Cockenzie and Port Seton and to include the open spaces within them and their coastline as these all form part of this coastal margin character area. The areas around Old Craighall and Whitecraig are identified as settled farmland within the 2008 Edinburgh Green Belt Landscape Character Assessment. We agree that this fits with this landscape character of gently undulating landform of a mix of arable farmland, pasture and set aside land and fragmented landscape with a mix of land uses. We concluded through site assessment that these areas are different in character to the coastal fringe due to their low lying inland nature and lack of connection with the coast. We have reclassified these areas as lowland plain and defined them as Settled Farmland.

The Musselburgh / Prestonpans Fringe boundaries are extended to include coastal settlements and the area is split to form:

- The Musselburgh / Prestonpans Fringe
- Settled Farmland

List of Landscape Character Types and Areas defined by the 2014-15 review by East Lothian Council

- 1) Uplands
 - a) Lammermuir Plateau
 - b) Lammermuir Plateau with Windfarm
 - c) Plateau Grassland
 - d) Whiteadder Upland Valley with Farmland
- 2) Upland Fringes
 - a) Western Lammermuir Fringe
 - b) Eastern Lammermuir Fringe
- 3) Lowland River Valleys
 - a) Whittinghame Water
 - b) Gifford Water
 - c) Humbie Water
 - d) River Esk
- 4) Lowland Hills and Ridges
 - a) Tranent Ridge
 - b) Garleton Hills
- 5) Lowland Plains
 - a) Lower Tyne Valley Plain
 - b) Mid Tyne Valley Plain
 - c) Coastal Plain
 - d) Settled Farmland
- 6) Coastal Margins
 - a) Innerwick Coastal Margin
 - b) Northern Coastal Margin
 - c) Musselburgh Prestonpans Fringe

Uplands - Lammermuir Plateau

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	The Lammermuir Hills define the southern boundary of East Lothian as well as the geological transition between the low-lying midland valley to the north and the older more resistant rocks of the Southern Uplands to the south. The hills rise gradually westwards with the highest points being Meikle Says Law and Lammer Law at 535m and 529m respectively. The hills and ridges interweave to form a gently undulating upland plateau. The smooth complex hill slopes are dissected by a complex tracery of valley landforms varying in scale and appearance from narrow incised gullies formed by minor burns to wider valleys. Several small man-made reservoirs lie within the plateau. There has been no change to these features since the original study.
Vegetation and land cover	Heather moorland and rough pastures still form the predominant vegetation cover of this character area. Field boundary features are uncommon although post and wire fences line several of the roads and access tracks. Tree cover is generally absent except for infrequent clumps of mature deciduous trees and small coniferous and broadleaved shelterbelts close to farmsteads and reservoir margins.
Access	No change has been made to the public road network. The number of access tracks to grouse butts has increased and these are often locally prominent and can be seen in longer views from the north where they are located on exposed hill slopes.
Built features	The area is still sparsely habited, generally around the valley bottoms. Farm sheds are no longer a common sight; grouse butts are in evidence along the hill slopes.
Infrastructure and industry	The major pylon line still remains highly visible across the centre of the plateau. Windfarm development is a very noticeable change in the east of the area.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The closely knit hill landforms generally coalesce to form an open, exposed plateau the isolated character of which is emphasised by a lack of settlement or woodland, but naturalness is detracted by manmade elements including the dominant pylon line, prominent access tracks and wind turbines. Panoramic views across the hill fringes and coastal plain to the Firth of Forth to the north and the North Sea to the east can be obtained at the northern fringes of the area.
Positive Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wild land quality derived from high degree of perceived naturalness of land cover, and relative lack of fragmentation by roads, settlements and other urban features • Rich heritage of natural and archaeological features. • Distinctive visual qualities including grandeur of scale and unobstructed, long distance views.
Negative Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High visual sensitivity adjacent to roads and on the northern margins remains the same. • Vulnerability of the heather moorland and other semi-natural vegetation communities to changes in management. • Visual intrusion of pylon line and wind turbines.
Management guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CONSERVE OPEN 'WILD LAND' CHARACTER • Promote management of mature broadleaved tree groups and small plantations • Encourage limited expansion of woodland cover through shelterbelts and small woodland particularly in cleughs and valleys and around farmsteads and other building groups. • Take opportunities to enhance / ameliorate impact of existing coniferous plantations at restructuring stage • Safeguard landscape setting of archaeological features such as cairns and stone circles • Retains small-scale variation in visual character of minor roads in any upgrading schemes • Preservation against further hill tracks on visually-sensitive slopes • Protect / conserve important peatland vegetation communities

- Protect visually-sensitive areas from potential threat of windfarm development



Wild land quality derived from high degree of perceived naturalness of land cover, and relative lack of fragmentation by roads, settlements and other urban features. Wind turbines can be seen but do not dominate the landscape.



Managed heather moorland creating a patchwork effect on the hillside with rough vegetation in the foreground



Roads and post and wire boundary fences to not significantly detract from the wild moorland character of the area



Intrusive pylon line runs across the moorland



Enclosed valley limiting views within plateau



Typical landscape of heather moorland interspersed with grouse butts. These have little visual impact when access tracks are screened.

Uplands - Lammermuir Plateau with windfarm

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	The Lammermuir Hills form a lower bowl area known as Dunbar Common to the eastern end which has enabled the development of windfarm with minimal visual impact on the wider landscape of East Lothian. The surrounding hills interweave to form a gently undulating upland plateau enclosing the bowl. The hills form a ridge along the Monynut Edge to the east of the area. The eastern hill slopes are dissected by a number of narrow incised gullies (cleughs and deans) formed by minor burns.
Vegetation and land cover	Heather moorland and rough pastures form the predominant vegetation cover of this character area. Field boundary features are uncommon although post and wire fences line several of the roads and access tracks and separate grazing areas. The plantation woodland at Dunbar Common has been removed to make way for windfarm development, mainly leaving brash in place. The area has recolonised with rough grassland with natural regeneration of heather moorland underway in places. Tree planting of native trees has been carried out along watercourses but is not yet fully established.
Access	Sizeable networks of access tracks have been constructed to serve the windfarms and these are locally prominent.
Built features	The area is still sparsely habited, generally around the valley bottoms.
Infrastructure and industry	The major pylon line still remains highly visible across the centre of the area however the visual impact of this is reduced by the sheer number and scale of wind turbines within this character area.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The closely knit hill landforms generally coalesce to form an enclosed bowl around the character area with the exception of the eastern margin where the turbines' visibility is increased due to their prominence on edge ridges and hill tops. Naturalness is detracted by manmade elements including the dominant wind turbines. However the size and scale of the turbines fits well within this large scale landscape creating a juxtaposition of wild and manmade elements that combine to form a new landscape. Panoramic views across the hill fringes and coastal plain to the Firth of Forth to the north and the North Sea to the east can be obtained at the northern fringes of the area. The sensitive siting of the turbines in these views creates a contrast of colour to the natural vegetation that adds to the setting and scenic quality of the views.
Positive Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinctive visual qualities including grandeur of scale and unobstructed, long distance views.
Negative Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High visual sensitivity adjacent to roads and on the northern margins. • Vulnerability of the heather moorland and other semi-natural vegetation communities to changes in management. • Visual intrusion of pylon line and wind turbines.
Management Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote management of mature broadleaved tree groups and small plantations • Encourage limited expansion of woodland cover through shelterbelts and small woodland particularly in cleughs and valleys and around farmsteads and other building groups. • Take opportunities to enhance / ameliorate impact of existing coniferous plantations at restructuring stage • Safeguard landscape setting of archaeological features such as cairns and stone circles • Preservation against further hill tracks on visually-sensitive slopes • Protect / conserve important peatland vegetation communities • Protect visually-sensitive areas from potential threat of windfarm development • Extension of windfarms to accord with capacity study and fit within landform



Wind turbines dominate the landscape creating an upland plateau with windfarm. The size and scale of the turbines fit well within this large scale landscape



Wind farm development at Crystal Rig and Aikengall alters views of the landscape and reduces wildness perception. With the enclosure of the surrounding forestry plantation the turbines begin to dominate the view



Fine open views out to the North Sea from the edges of the area. The sensitive siting of the turbines in these views creates a contrast of colour to the natural vegetation that adds to the setting and picturesqueness of the views.

Uplands – Plateau Grassland

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	Large scale rolling plateau topography with gentle slopes and smooth relief. The large scale landform has subtle variations in relief caused by narrow shallow gullies eroded by minor burns.
Vegetation and land cover	Grassy hill-slopes with bands of coniferous shelter belts and small scale plantation, with less common patches of scrub along stream courses remain. Vegetation cover dominated by coarse grassland with localised patches of heather moorland, rush pasture and scattered small coniferous plantations and shelter belts.
Access	The main A68 road bounds the western edge of the area. Farm tracks exist across the area. There is little other access. Consented windfarm development could lead to the formation of new access tracks through this area.
Built features	There is little or no built development.
Infrastructure and industry	Windfarm development has been consented in the area, as in the adjacent Plateau Grassland to the south.
Aesthetic qualities and views	Extensive views from the higher ground are focused strongly northwards across the agricultural and coastal plains towards the coast.
Positive Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relative absence of visual detractors and detractors from tranquillity: <i>the southern section has consented windfarm development, as well as existing windfarm development in SBC area adjacent.</i> • Distinctive and abundant shelterbelts: <i>still exist at present but most will be lost due to consented windfarm development.</i> • Extensive and unobstructed views
Negative Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual intrusion from the A68, pylon line and some harsh edges to coniferous plantation. • Vulnerability of the heather moorland to change in management regime.
Management Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage improvement of shapes of woodland plantations and shelterbelts • Increase diversity of species in new woodland planting • Resist loss of remaining areas of heather moorland by support for current management regime • Increase diversity of field boundaries; promote hedge reinstatement • Extension of windfarms to accord with capacity study and fit within landform



Southern section to be reclassified as Upland – Plateau Grassland



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Looking down and west to the Blegbie Burn behind Blegbie farm.

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Northern section to be included within North Lammermuir Platform due to its transitional character of merging from upland to lowland

Uplands – Whiteadder Upland Valley with Farmland

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	Broad flat valley floor with distinct floodplain and meandering river channel (dammed to form a large reservoir in this instance) with evenly sloping valley sides.
Vegetation and land cover	Land cover of improved pasture with medium to large sized fields giving way to unimproved grassland approaching the plateau edge. Poorly drained soils may carry rush pastures or wet flush vegetation. Hedgerows, hedgerow trees, clumps of mature deciduous trees, small coniferous and broad-leaved shelterbelts and plantations are all locally prominent particularly close to farmsteads and the reservoir margins.
Access	The B6355 crosses through the area from north to south and is the main route across the Lammermuirs from Gifford to Duns. Minor roads access farmsteads.
Built features	The area is still sparsely habited, with scattered farmsteads along the valley floor and the lower side slopes.
Infrastructure and industry	There is little infrastructure other than that associated with the reservoir.
Aesthetic qualities and views	Views along the valley are long and open, contained by the lower valley sides and the surrounding upland plateau.
Positive Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong topographic and geological identity. • Distinct land cover pattern with well-defined field boundary network of hedgerows and shelterbelts.
Negative Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High visual sensitivity adjacent to roads. • Visual intrusion of pylon line and risk of future visual intrusion from windfarm developments.
Management Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote management of mature broadleaved tree groups and small plantations • Encourage limited expansion of woodland cover through shelterbelts and small woodland particularly in cleughs and valleys and around farmsteads and other building groups. • Take opportunities to enhance / ameliorate impact of existing coniferous plantations at restructuring stage • Safeguard landscape setting of archaeological features such as cairns and stone circles • Retains small-scale variation in visual character of minor roads in any upgrading schemes • Preservation against further hill tracks on visually-sensitive slopes • Protect visually-sensitive areas from potential threat of windfarm development



Upland Fringes – Western Lammermuir Fringe

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	Extensive sweep of hill slopes forming an east-west band stretching along the northern margin of the Lammermuir Hills. Smoothly undulating landform, intersected by numerous water courses forming enclosed V-shaped valley. Merging from upland to lowland the transitional character can be seen in the changing landform.
Vegetation and land cover	The unimproved pasture of good rough grassland with stonewall and fence boundaries of the higher ground bordering the Lammermuirs merges with large expanses of arable fields with clipped mixed hedgerow boundaries on the lower ground. There are many established coniferous and mixed shelterbelts throughout the farmland, management of these is ongoing.
Access	Many small roads wind through the slopes.
Built features	The area is habited by large farmsteads and estate houses, isolated dwellings, clusters of stone cottages and terraces of farm workers buildings. There are many signs of ancient settlement in the form of forts which cap higher ground.
Infrastructure and industry	One line of pylons runs northwards through the hill slopes generally well absorbed by the rolling landform and shelterbelts. The sand and gravel quarry at Longyester in the east of the area has expanded since the original study.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The area has a transitional character merging from lowland to up lands visible through the changing landform and land cover. Views out are generally focused north towards and over the lowlands to the coast, however the combination of numerous wooded areas and undulations in landform often create more intimate and enclosed depressions.
Positive Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well maintained hedgerow network on lower ground. • Stone dyke boundaries on hill grounds - these exist but there are also a number of stone wall boundaries along road boundaries in the lower areas. These are in mixed condition. • Characteristic fluvioglacial features still exist in places although some have been removed through sand and gravel extraction. Permission is granted for further extraction at High Latch. • Open visual character with fine northward views.
Negative Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harsh edges and inappropriate scale and shape of small shelterbelts - This does not appear to detract from the character of the area. Ongoing management means these constantly change over time and there appears to be some improvement in structure and species mix. • Threat of further sand and gravel extraction is an ongoing issue.
Management Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CONSERVE CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES REFLECTING TRANSITION FROM OPEN UPLAND TO ENCLOSED LOWLAND LANDSCAPE • Conserve and enhance well-developed and maintained beech and thorn hedgerow network on the arable land • Promote reinforcement of stone dyke boundary features on hill ground • Enhance existing pattern of shelterbelt and field boundary woodland through sensitively designed farm woodland expansion • Respect the importance of small-scale topographic diversity provided by glacial features such as kame terraces, and melt-water channels in considering future sand and gravel extraction • Retain overall open visual character focusing northwards towards the plain and the Forth



Large expanses of arable fields with clipped hedgerows on lower ground characterised by rolling landform of glacial deposits



Melt water channel and Witches Knowe Fort above Kidlaw with improved grassland and water bodies



Historic landscape and rough pasture



Long Newton set against the hill slope of Lammer Law



Improved grassland and native woodland of Aikeyside wood set within a steep cleugh and providing a less intrusive route for the pylon line at Stobshiel

Upland Fringes – Eastern Lammermuir Fringe

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	The strongly moulded landform is composed of an intricately interwoven series of smooth, rounded low hills and slopes, dissected by an abundance of streams. The watercourses pass through deeply incised steep-sided valleys ('cleughs' and 'deans'), their winding routes often edged by craggy rock outcrops and exposed slopes. There are several small lochs, ponds and reservoirs scattered within the area often hidden within depressions.
Vegetation and land cover	Large scale fields of improved pasture and some good rough grassland changes to arable ground as the hill slopes merge with the coastal plain. Field boundaries consist of stone walls and post and wire fences, interspersed with occasional hedgerows. Hedgerow trees of beech, oak, ash and sycamore are widely scattered throughout the lower arable slopes. Steep valley sides are uncultivated and clothed by deciduous woodland or areas of gorse, bracken and scrub. Extensive stretches of ancient sessile oak woodland occur along several cleughs including Deuchrie and Rammer Woods, and Woodhall and the Lammermuir Deans. Medium scale coniferous plantations, shelterbelts, tree clumps and areas of mixed woodland are evident across the hill slopes and close to farm buildings.
Access	Numerous minor roads follow winding courses through the area crossing the numerous water courses with small stone bridges and fording points. Although in places the roads have had to be straightened and widened or new stretches added to enable access to the wind farms on the plateau.
Built features	A scattering of traditional farmsteads often dwarfed by large modern sheds or barns exist. The listed buildings of Spott House and its associated dovecote, stable and lodges lie on the north edge and the conservation estate village of Spott to the north of this. All constructed in local deep pink sandstone.
Infrastructure and industry	Two highly visible pylon lines extend east to west across the hill slopes. Two wind turbines at Ferneylea and one at Woodhall Farm intrude on this area inappropriately creating the impression that the large scale windfarm is creeping off the plateau and closer to the lowland.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The large scale, open landscape affords extensive views towards the coast from the smooth domed hill tops. The landform has a strongly rhythmic pattern of predominantly open topped hills split by steep wooded valleys. The flowing form of the higher ground, emphasised by curving roads, walls, hedgerows and woodland, contrasts strongly with the heavily textured angular outlines of the stream valleys.
Positive Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharp contrast in landform between smooth upland slopes and steep sided deans. • Close affinity with North Sea coast, including fine open views. • Significant areas of ancient oak woodland. • Distinctive character of dense rural road network, including local features such as fords and bridges.
Negative Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual intrusion from new farm buildings - this is limited in number and due to the landform visibility of new buildings is limited. However it was noted that some traditional farm steading buildings are falling into disrepair – no longer being used as farm buildings and yet to be developed into housing. • Threat to distinctive character of dense rural road network, including local features such as fords and bridges where access for windfarm development in the Lammermuirs has led to the widening and straightening of roads. • Inappropriate wind turbine development visually linking the fringe character area to the plateau.

<p>Management Guidelines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threat of further inappropriate wind turbine development. • RETAIN DISTINCTIVE STRONG LOCAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN LAND COVER AND TOPOGRAPHY, EMPHASISING THE TRANSITION FROM UPLAND TO COASTAL PLAIN • Reinforce visual and ecological contrasts between open hill slopes and steep valley sides • Encourage appropriate management of ancient oak woodland • Encourage further woodland expansion within deans and cleughs, including fencing to promote natural regeneration • Promote improved integration of visually sensitive farm building expansion through farm woodland planting • Retain rural character of dense minor road network, including characteristic features such as ford and small bridges • Respect small scale glacial features in responding to pressure for sand and gravel extraction
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Oldhamstocks set within rolling hills and steep sided wooded valley.



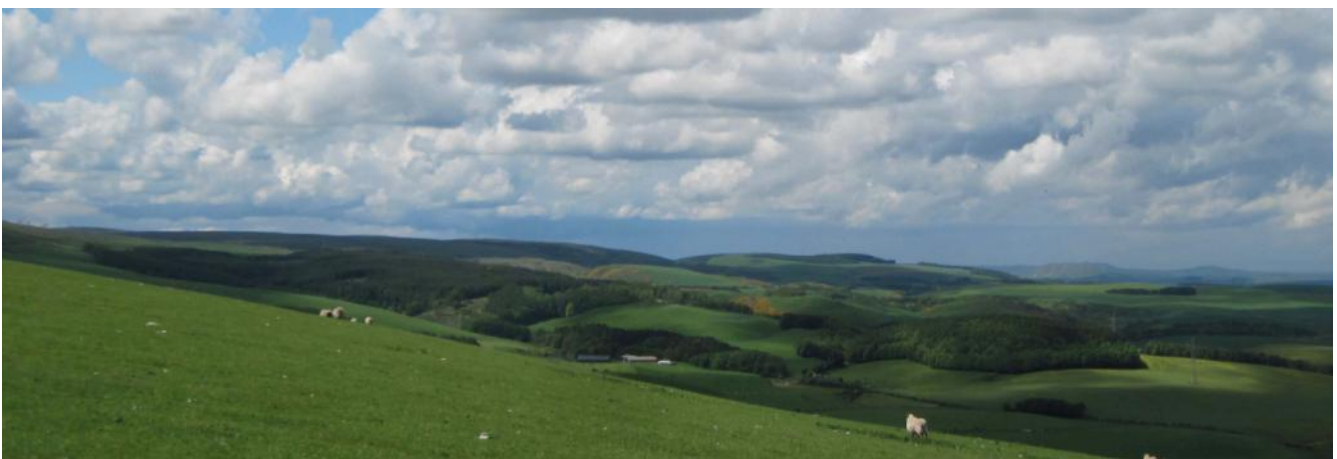
Deeply sided cleugh of Sheeppath Glen above Aikengall. Part of the Lammermuir Deans SSSI. Fine open views out to the North Sea.



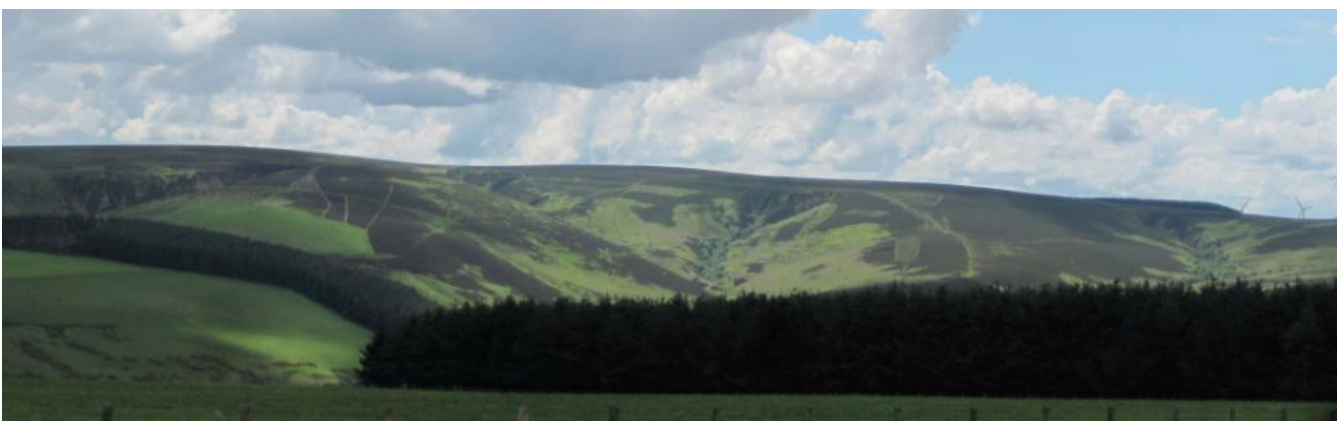
Woodhall turbine showing inappropriate location and scale creating visual links to upland wind farm



White Castle Fort set at above a deep sided burn and looking down on the Eastern Lammermuir Fringe to Garvald with fine open views to the coast



View westwards from Blackcastle Hill clearly showing the sharp contrast between the smooth uplands and the steep sided deans and the wooded nature of the area. The pylon line is visible to the right of the photograph and large modern farm sheds in the centre.



View up the ancient wooded slopes of Ling Hope and Wide Hope to the plateau above with coniferous plantation in the foreground.

Lowland River Valleys – Whittingehame Water

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	A progression of strongly-defined, interweaving slopes encloses the small twisting river, which lies within a predominantly narrow valley occasionally opening out into areas of flatter ground. The river and its numerous tributaries have cleft deeply into the underlying red sandstone, often exposing slopes of conspicuous, rich rusty earth.
Vegetation and land cover	The valley is rich in mixed and broadleaved estate woodlands, which extend across the slopes and merge with sweeps of riparian deciduous planting fringing the river and its tributaries. Adjoining the woodland of the valley floor and curving up the rising slopes, shelterbelts of mature mixed woodland and broken lines of dark Scots pine define field and farm boundaries. Across the more gentle slopes, low thorn hedges and post and wire fences subdivide the extensive arable land cover. On steeper ground or along the damper valley floor there are small areas of improved grassland. Scattered hedgerow trees and occasional lines of mature oak or ash roadside trees occur throughout the farmland.
Access	Minor roads twisting along valley slopes
Built features	The common use of local pink red sandstone for buildings provides a sense of architectural congruity through the area. The villages of Garvald and Stenton, dating mainly from the 18 th and 19 th centuries, consist of one and two storey sandstone houses with pantile roofs centred on well defined village greens and parish churches. They are both within Conservation Areas which has ensured that modern development has been carefully integrated into the villages. Signs of settlement dating from medieval times and including several 15 th and 16 th century tower houses are common along the minor roads. Estate landscapes are also present including the designed landscape of Whittingehame and its associated listed buildings.
Infrastructure and industry	Ruchlaw Mains farm to the north of Stenton has several large modern agricultural buildings and permission granted for a further large anaerobic digester structure. However due to the enclosing nature of the landform within the river valley and narrow roads sided by dense hedging and trees there is very limited visibility of them. A 47m high wind turbine has also been erected to the northeast of Ruchlaw. This has far more visibility within the local area and from Stenton to the south. However again due to the enclosing landform of the area it has limited visibility in longer range views. In general there is little large infrastructure within the area and that which exists where possible is well screened and does not detract from the character of the area.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The strong topographical enclosure and plentiful woodland of the valley create a secluded sheltered landscape. The intimate surroundings of the valley floor are replaced along the open valley slopes by views of the surrounding coast and hills and the nearby local landmark of Traprain Law.
Positive Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong topographic definition, enclosed valley floor, within wider context. • Red soils reflecting sandstone bedrock. • High proportion of woodland cover – mixed and broadleaved dominant. • Oak and ash hedgerow trees, tree lines. • Estate and designed landscape.
Negative Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deterioration of field boundaries, estate boundary walls. • Village expansion as a threat to architectural integrity – <i>this has been well managed.</i>
Management Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RETAIN STRONG LOCAL IDENTITY • Safeguard distinctive architectural integrity and close link with local red

sandstone geology

- Ensure protection and enhancement of characteristic high proportion of mixed and broadleaved woodland through management and replacement planting
- Protect intimate scale of valley bottom landscape and of villages in any future development proposals
- Seek to support traditional estate management practices to safeguard woodland enclosure features and important boundary walls
- Promote replacement of traditional oak and ash field boundary tree lines



Red sandstone buildings of Garvald



Valley form through the Biel



Formalised section of the valley through the Biel



Woods and river at Whittingehame

Lowland River Valleys – Gifford Water

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	The river winds its way north-westwards along a shallow-sided valley which occasionally opens into narrow areas of more level ground. Enclosed by higher expanses of undulating farmland. Fed by several minor stream courses which etch into the smooth slopes.
Vegetation and land cover	The valley is covered by extensive swathes of woodland, much of which is associated with riverside estate policies. Thick fringes of mixed tree planting follow the line of the river and adjoining streams, blending with mature estate policy woodlands and carefully-scaled coniferous and mixed plantations across higher valley slopes. Ongoing woodland management has led to tree felling and thinning of plantations in some areas, opening out wooded areas in places. The large arable fields of the surrounding land are bounded by mixed hedgerow planting with abundant hedgerow trees and numerous shelterbelts.
Access	There is good access by numerous roads and footpaths throughout the area. Core paths have further improved pedestrian and cycle access along the river valley.
Built features	The only large settlement is Gifford notable for its broad main street edged by one and two storey sandstone buildings focused on the large white village church. The designed landscape of Yester House lies to the south of with its high estate walls, grand red sandstone gateposts and lodge.
Infrastructure and industry	Gifford golf course lies within the higher flatter areas of the valley to the southwest of the area. Little industry and infrastructure exists within the area.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The dominance of mature woodland throughout this landscape surrounds and obscures settlements, emphasising the secluded and small scale character of the valley. Views outwards become possible from higher surrounding land.
Positive Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estate woodlands, riparian woodlands, shelterbelts • Designed landscapes • Good scale and balance of coniferous / mixed woodland on higher enclosing slopes • Well maintained hedgerow network, abundant hedgerow trees • Small enclosed visual character • Well integrated settlement
Negative Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threats to estate management • Village expansion pressure • Continued management of mature woodland features – this is not necessarily a negative feature as suitable management can ensure the longevity and continuation of the woodland feature
Management Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain small-scale secluded visual character derived from well-planned mature woodland framework • Seek to safeguard future management of important broadleaf woodland elements – estate policies, riparian fringes, shelterbelts • Restore local deterioration in well-maintained hedgerow framework • Reinforce well designed balance of coniferous and mixed woodland with open ground on higher slopes • Ensure new development does not compromise the existing character of villages and the surrounding countryside



Gifford in its thickly tree covered valley



Parkland at Colstoun typical of the surrounding area of the Gifford Water



Tree lined Colstoun Water at Lennoxlove

Bolton with its church sitting in a fold of the river valley

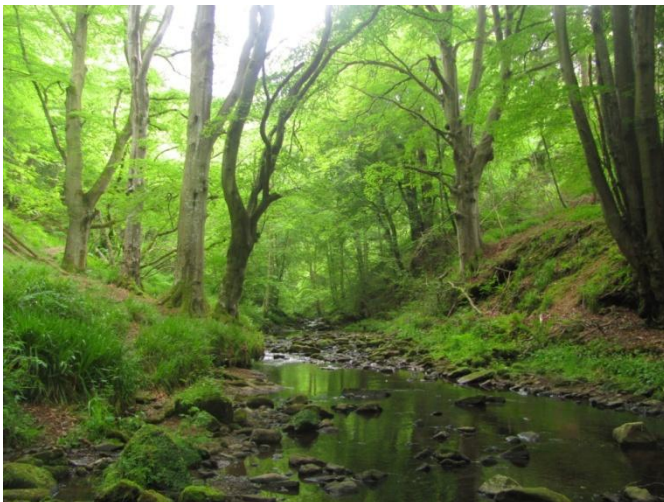


Lowland River Valleys – Humbie Water

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	The river forms a generally shallow, basin-shaped valley following a sinuous, meandering northwards route from the western fringe of the Lammermuir plateau. Strongly moulded convex hill-slopes enclose the head of the valley becoming flattened and subdued in form further north towards the confluence with the river Tyne. The interlocking and undulating spurs of land are emphasised by smaller stream tributaries forming incisions in the slopes.
Vegetation and land cover	Semi-natural mixed woodland and occasional slopes of bramble, gorse and thorn scrub generally fringe and conceal the watercourse, opening out into farmland across the upper valley slopes. Fields of mainly arable land are intermingled with good pasture land along the more hummocky land to the south. Neat hedgerows of hawthorn and beech, often with many oak and ash trees, or post and wire fences separate the fields. The large coniferous plantation of Saltoun Forest sits conspicuously on the eastern slopes of the valley above the Birns Water. The policy woodlands and parks of Saltoun Hall fringe the northern boundary of the area.
Access	The valley is relatively free from transport routes. The B6368 crosses the southern edge of the area and runs through Humbie. Minor roads connect the scattering of farmsteads and minor settlements. The disused railway line from Pencaitland to Gifford is used as a core access path through the area and walks exist through Saltoun Forest and along the banks of the Humbie Water.
Built features	The river valley has no major settlement. The village of Humbie lies to its southwest and West Saltoun within the northern end. Both of which are small tree-edged hamlets of sandstone and harled houses and cottages. The estates of Johnstounburn, Keith Marischal and Saltoun Hall and their associated listed buildings exist within the area together with Humbie Church and the distinctive 1930s buildings of the Humbie Children’s village.
Infrastructure and industry	A single pylon line cuts across the centre of the valley from northwest to southeast. There is little other industry or infrastructure.
Aesthetic qualities and views	Views are restricted within the valley due to the interknitted swelling forms of the valley sides. More extensive views of the wider landscape of nearby hills and coastal plains can be gained from the valley crests.
Positive Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tranquil character relatively free from fragmentation by development. • Well-managed farmland. • High proportion of mature woodland cover including a mix of broadleaves and larger coniferous blocks. • Hedgerow network with abundant mature oak and ash.
Negative Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some hedgerow replacement and management required. • Seek opportunities to increase species diversity of woodland in low planting. • Threat of expansion on settlement fringes.
Management Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to preserve the area’s primary distinguishing feature of a relative lack of fragmentation by roads or rural development • Safeguard continued management of extensive mature woodland cover • Promote increased species diversity in new or replacement woodland planting • Ensure new development does not compromise the existing character of villages and the surrounding countryside



The Johnstounburn section of the Humber Water valley typical in character to the rest of the Humber Water valley with a wide U shaped wooded valley.



The steep sided, wooded Humber Water valley

Saltoun Big Wood



Lowland River Valleys – River Esk

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	The rivers of the North and South Esk merged to form a single river the River Esk at the western boundary of East Lothian. The river follows an extremely confined steep-sided valley, in places bordered by sheer bluffs of exposed rock. The land rises either side to enclosing slopes of smooth undulating ground.
Vegetation and land cover	The steep valley sides are heavily wooded by extensive swathes of mixed and deciduous planting including oak, ash, beech, elm and sycamore. The surrounding farmland is mainly arable. Dalkeith House designed landscape covers the southern half of this area with its policy woodlands forming a dominant feature. Musselburgh Golf Course is located to the north half of the area on the lower lying floodplain of the area.
Access	The major routes of the A720 Edinburgh City Bypass, A1 trunk road, new extension to the A68 and the east coast rail line cut through this landscape character area detracting from its peaceful enclosed nature. Given the incised nature of the valley the only access following the route of the river is the walkway/cycleway from Whitecraig to Musselburgh.
Built features	The large settlement of Musselburgh lies to the north of the area and parts of the historic settlement of Inveresk skirt the eastern edges of the area. The distinctive high stone boundary walls of the Dalkeith Estate form a dominant feature along the road and river walkway to the eastern boundary of the area. The historic buildings of Inveresk Mills are located at the northern end of the area. These have been restored to retain their historic character with new use.
Infrastructure and industry	Several lines of pylons cut across the south-western edge of the area together with their associated substation in the south. Read together with the new road structures in this location the southern corner of the character area has a built-up industrialised feel. The industrial estate to the north of the area is low-rise and small-scale and sympathetic to its river valley location.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The proximity of the city is evident within this character area where farmland is interrupted by roads, rail line and pylon lines. The dense woodland along the valley slopes is a strong factor in integrating settlement and industry. The variety of settlement and industry, combined with the heavily wooded farmland creates a landscape of well-tended and long inhabited character. Views are enclosed within the valley bottom due to its steep sided wooded nature. Views outwards become possible from the more open surrounding land.
Positive Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong topographic definition of valley bottom, with broader enclosing shoulders of undulating ground. • Dense woodland cover on steep valley slopes, including ancient semi-natural woodland. • Good integration of settlement and industry within woodland and topography. • Mature estates landscapes – well maintained hedgerows, tree lines, shelterbelts.
Negative Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban expansion pressures from Edinburgh core. • New industrial expansion including regeneration and renewal of coal mining areas. • Cumulative impact of urban fringe development on northern margin of area.
Management Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve existing highly evolved and delicately balanced mix between natural landscape features and industrial and urban development • Reinforce and extend woodland framework as setting for new development

and to improve integration of the cumulative impact of recent urban expansion

- Address the safeguarding of important landscape features currently dependent on estate management practice



Steep sided wooded valley with estate boundary walls and steep banks enclose walkway



The Haugh Park set on the River Esk floodplain within Musselburgh with the Inveresk Mills behind



The River Esk in its steep sided wooded banks



A1 trunk road crossing and interrupting the valley, but enabling good views into the area

Lowland Hills and Ridges – Tranent Ridge

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	This ridgeline forms the watershed between the valleys of the River Esk and the Tyne Water. A plateau like upper surface is bounded by smooth, steeply rolling side slopes which shelve down to river valleys. The north-western side is markedly steeper than the southeast. The western end of the area has been recently re-contoured with the restoration of the Smeaton Bing to form a landfill site.
Vegetation and land cover	An agricultural landscape of large arable fields divided by fences and low hedgerows occasionally dotted with mature oak, ash, sycamore and beech trees. Small farm woodlands are common and distinctive features throughout this predominantly open landscape, curving along the hill slopes and enclosing farmsteads and villages. The policy woodlands of the Carberry Tower designed landscape are particularly prominent from many viewpoints within Edinburgh and the eastern coastal plain. A noticeable feature of former opencast mining is the altered field pattern and scarcity of mature trees.
Access	The B6414 follows the southern edge of plateau from Tranent to Elphinstone and east to Carberry. A minor road follows the northern boundary of the plateau from Tranent up to Fa'side. A network of paths crisscrosses the area providing good pedestrian access.
Built features	The north end of the ridge contains the historic ex-mining settlement of Tranent, with the smaller ex-mining settlement of Elphinstone to its south. The rebuilt castle at Fa'side is a prominent feature at the top of the ridge.
Infrastructure and industry	A double line of pylon lines extends up the ridge at Tranent and runs along the ridge to the southwest, forming a strong detracting element in this open landscape.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The elevated slopes afford extensive and dramatic views across both the coast and Edinburgh to the north and Tyne valley to the south.
Positive Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers long range views over Edinburgh and the wider urban settlement and coast to the north • Forms a prominent ridge to the south of the coastal plain
Negative Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High visual sensitivity, forming immediate visual horizon in many views south from Edinburgh. • Although the majority of mine workings and quarries within this area of East Lothian have been returned to agricultural land Smeaton Bing has recently been re-contoured into an unnatural formal shape.
Management Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore integrity of rural character • Management, reinstatement and expansion of field boundary network



Rolling rural arable landscape and wooded Carberry designed landscape



Looking west along the ridge showing the rolling plateau, shelterbelts and woodland of Carberry Designed Landscape in the distance as well as broken hedge lines, walls in need of repair and vandalised viewpoint



Tranent Ridge rising to the south of the Musselburgh / Prestonpans coastal plain

Lowland Hills and Ridges – Garleton Hills

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	Rising to 186m the Garleton Hills form a compact group on the boundary between the lower Tyne valley and the coastal plain. They form the highest area of a broad band of volcanic rocks aligned east-north-east. Steeper on the western and northern sides with well defined north facing crags.
Vegetation and land cover	Hill slopes of good rough grassland with gorse scrub on the steepest ground. Scattered areas of deciduous woodland on north facing slopes and below the Hopetoun monument. Kilduff Hill to the north is covered in extensive unbroken mixed woodland.
Access	Two roads cross the hills in a north to south direction – the A6137 Aberlady road to the west and a minor road from the east of Haddington to Drem across the main ridge. The B1343 runs east to west along the valley between the main outcrop of the Garletons and Kilduff Hill. A track follows the ridge line past Barnes Castle (The Vaults) and Barney Mains to the top of the hills to access the telecommunications masts and encourage public access.
Built features	The village of Athelstaneford lies to the eastern edge of the area on lower ground. Several large farmsteads are sited on the lower ground including Kilduff House, Barney Mains and Alderston Mains to the west. There are the remains of two major hill forts and the more modern structure of the Hopetoun Monument. Recent farm buildings at West Garleton Holdings form large, modern, intrusive structures.
Infrastructure and industry	There are three highly visible telecommunication masts positioned on the top of Barney Hill and a wind turbine at Alderston Mains to the west of the area is particularly prominent in long range views.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The Garleton Hills represent a distinct visual unit interrupting the East Lothian plains and are on a larger scale than the similar more isolated volcanic landforms of Traprain Law and North Berwick Law. Their rugged form, steep slopes and characteristic land cover provide additional diversity to the predominantly pastoral character of the surrounding area. The Hopetoun monument is an important visual reference point in many views from the Haddington and North Berwick plains and from further west as far as Hopetoun House, to the west of Edinburgh, itself.
Positive Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinctive topography culminating in prominent landmark • Diverse land cover • Marked contrast in landform and land cover with surrounding lowland plain • Archaeological remains
Negative Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High visual sensitivity • Visual impact of former quarrying activity difficult to integrate • Communication masts and wind turbine compete visually with the Hopetoun monument • Threat of further development eroding integrity and identity of the area
Management Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve distinctive visual contrasts with adjoining landscapes • Protect from encroachment of built development • Control further quarrying activity to protect visually sensitive areas • Seek to secure long-term management of existing woodland • Encourage further diversification of semi-natural habitats on non-productive land



The Hopetoun monument on Byres Hill



Athelstaneford in its elevated ridge position read with the Garleton Hills



View north over the coastal plain from Byres Hill with Chesters Hill Fort in the foreground

Lowland Plains – Lower Tyne Valley Plain

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	This agricultural plain lies in the heartland of East Lothian. It undulates gently in a series of east-west aligned ridges, rising gradually towards the fringes of the Lammermuir Hills. Rocky outcrops interrupt the plain. The Garleton Hills together with Pencraig ridge form the northern boundary of the area and create a section of incised river valley along the River Tyne at the eastern end. The significant volcanic mass of Traprain Law sits within the centre of this area interrupting the plain. To its south another ridge with rocky outcrops rises to the hill tops of Lawhead Hill and Whitelaw Hill before rolling down into the Whittinghame River Valley.
Vegetation and land cover	Broken clipped hedgerows, scattered hedgerow trees, numerous post and wire fences and occasional stone walls divide the land cover of large arable fields. An abundance of mixed small-scale shelterbelts throughout the farmland strengthen the chequerboard field pattern. Across the craggy areas of higher ground, stretches of pasture are textured by scrub and isolated trees. There are several designed landscapes with their associated policy woodlands within the area mainly set along the Tyne valley including Lennoxlove and Stevenson at Haddington.
Access	The main A1 trunk road also follows an east-west direction along the Tyne valley through the area. The remainder of the area is accessed by a network of minor roads and tracks. A walkway follows the banks of the River Tyne and national cycle route 76 follows the minor roads along the valley from Haddington to East Linton.
Built features	The main settlement within the area is Haddington consisting of a largely traditional core surrounded by 20 th century housing developments. The area also contains a scattering of farmsteads and small clusters of houses. The area is dotted with historic remains mainly in the form of cropmarks. The most significant remain being Traprain Law a key archaeological site from Neolithic times. The fortified manor of Hailes Castle dating from the late 1200s and located to the south of the River Tyne is believed to be the oldest stone castle in Scotland.
Infrastructure and industry	The area does not contain much large infrastructure or industry. There are a few smaller sized wind turbines within the southeast corner of the area that have been sited to fit with the scale of the landscape. There are also a number of large farm buildings sited carefully within the area and a new horse riding arena is being developed to the east of Traprain Law also in scale with the landscape.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The rough textures and angular forms of the igneous outcrops contrast strongly with the surrounding expanses of low, gently rolling farmland. Views are wide-reaching and can be spectacular from higher ground, encompassing coast to the north and hills to the south. The views in the lower areas are more enclosed by the rolling valley form and woodland landscape.
Positive Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core of productive arable land • Strong field pattern reinforced by abundant shelterbelts • Subtle variations in topography provide varying degrees of visual sensitivity • Rich archaeological heritage of buried prehistoric settlement (evident in cropmarks) • Extensive outward views from higher ground • Rich historical legacy
Negative Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Localised pressures for sand and gravel extraction • Housing expansion pressures throughout the area and particularly around Haddington
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain Core agricultural character

Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to secure management and extension of field boundary hedgerow network • Encourage sympathetic management of notable areas of landscape archaeology such as Traprain Law, which is a key local and regional landscape feature
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Traprain and surrounding agricultural land from the Balfour Monument to the south



The Tyne in the incised valley section between Penraig and East Linton with Traprain Law to the south

Golden fields of arable crops of the rolling plain contrasting with the sparse shelter belt planting and the mass of Traprain Law



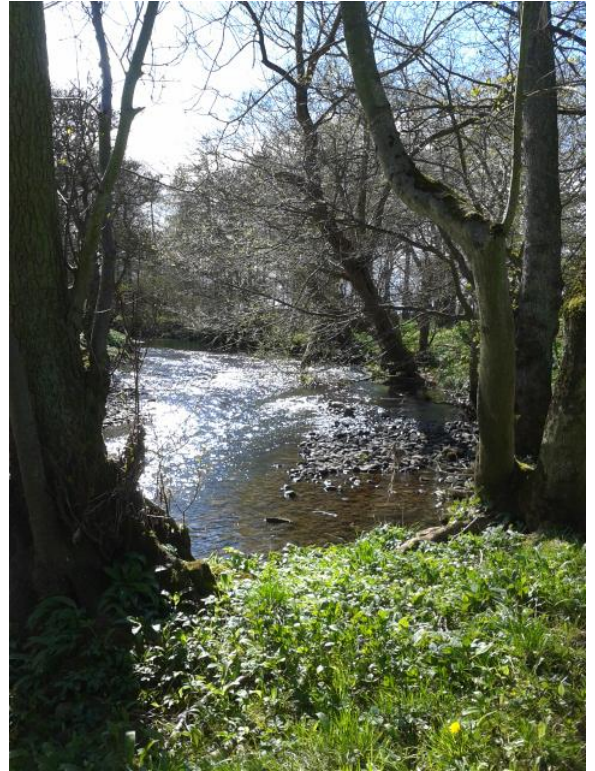
Lowland Plains – Mid Tyne Valley Plain

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	This extensive agricultural plain undulates gently in a series of east-west aligned ridges, rising gradually towards the fringes of the Lammermuir Hills. The River Tyne meanders through the area also in an east-west direction forming a visually insignificant valley.
Vegetation and land cover	Broken clipped hedgerows, scattered hedgerow trees, numerous post and wire fences and occasional stone walls divide the land cover of large arable fields. An abundance of mixed small-scale shelterbelts and woodlands throughout the farmland strengthen the chequerboard field pattern. The large designed landscape of Winton House and its associated policy woodlands lies along the Tyne valley at Pencaitland.
Access	The main routes through the area the A199, A6093 and B6368 also follow an east-west direction across the area. The remainder of the area is accessed by a network of minor roads and tracks with an extensive network of paths and cycle routes following the banks of the River Tyne, access tracks and old railway lines.
Built features	There are several medium and small villages located across the area including Macmerry and the conservation villages of Pencaitland, New Winton, Ormiston, Glenkinchie and East Saltoun. Three of these conservation areas - East Saltoun, Pencaitland and New Winton - extend significantly into the surrounding rural landscape providing a wide setting for the villages. The area also contains a large scattering of farmsteads and small clusters of houses. The area has a small number of historic remains mainly in the form of cropmarks. The Renaissance house of Winton is located in Pencaitland.
Infrastructure and industry	The area does not contain much large infrastructure or industry apart from the large structures of the malting at Pencaitland and Glenkinchie Distillery – an important tourist attraction. There are several pylon lines towards the western edge of the area that are highly visually intrusive. There are old mining remains to the west of Ormiston. The disused railway line between Pencaitland and Ormiston has been turned into a walking / cycling route. There are several generally smaller sized wind turbines dotted across the area that have been sited to fit with the scale of the landscape.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The gently rolling arable landscape enclosed by low ridges to north and south creates a rolling plain of attractive but unremarkable character. Views can be wide-reaching and spectacular from higher ground, encompassing coast to the north and hills to the south. However views in the lower areas are more enclosed by the rolling valley form and woodland landscape and orientated more to the southwest inland towards the head of the Tyne valley.
Positive Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core of productive arable land • Strong field pattern reinforced by abundant shelterbelts • Subtle variations in topography provide varying degrees of visual sensitivity • Extensive outward views from higher ground • Rich historical legacy
Negative Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Localised pressures for sand and gravel extraction • Visual impact of former mining activity difficult to integrate • Housing expansion pressures throughout the
Management Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain core agricultural character • Seek to secure management and extension of field boundary hedgerow network • Respect localised variations in visual sensitivity as part of the consideration of

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|---|--|
| | appropriate locations for mineral extraction and urban expansion |
| • | Woodland management |



Arable fields and shelter belts typical of the area



Lowland Plains - Coastal Plain

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	This extensive coastal plain extends from Dunbar in the east to Port Seton in the west and extends inland as far south as the Garleton Hills due to the subdued topography of the area. The plain is virtually flat immediately inland of the coast, becoming gently undulating further south. The most significant raised feature within the plain is the igneous rocky outcrop of North Berwick Law, also a site of great archaeological importance. This is a dominant feature within the plain and can be seen from most of East Lothian. There are other smaller outcrops throughout the area such as Kingston Hill and at Balgone and Rockville Heughs. The only river to run through the plain is the lower end of the Tyne from East Linton to the sea. The few burns which flow across the plain have generally been straightened and incorporated into the field pattern.
Vegetation and land cover	The area consists of extensive areas of prime agricultural land divided into a network of large scale arable fields with a limited amount of crop mark archaeology. The fields are bounded by clipped hedgerows and occasional stone walls and fences with occasional hedgerow trees. The area has a number of designed landscapes and associated policy woodlands including Balgone House, Leuchie House and Elvingston.
Access	There is a comprehensive minor road network through the area, often following the field boundaries with ninety degree bends at corners. The main east coast rail line passes across the southern part of this area although it is far less intrusive than through the Innerwick Coastal Margin due to the pattern of the terrain. A rail link runs across the area north to south linking North Berwick to Edinburgh.
Built features	The historic village of East Linton can be found in the southeast corner of the area together with the listed buildings of Preston Kirk and Preston Mill. There are a couple of other small villages within the area at Drem and Whitekirk whose conservation areas extend significantly into the surrounding rural landscape providing a wide setting for the villages. The area also contains a large scattering of farmsteads and small clusters of houses and larger mansion houses.
Infrastructure and industry	There is little heavy industry within the area. A number of large barns and sheds exist at Fenton Barns. A number of these are visually intrusive to the local area but are not widely visible due to the surrounding pattern of terrain. A number of wind turbines have been constructed in the area particularly in the areas between Fenton Barns and Dirleton. Although many of these are not large, where they have not been carefully sited their number and moving nature impacts significantly on the visual amenity of the area.
Aesthetic qualities and views	This is an attractive landscape of large expanses of crops. Long range views are common to most of the area both across the sea as well as inland to the Lammermuir Hills to the south, emphasising the open, level nature of the coastal plain.
Positive Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominant arable land cover, with distinctive large scale field pattern • Prominent views of distinctive igneous outcrops • Extensive views
Negative Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor siting of wind turbines • Pressure for residential expansion
Management Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve integrity of agricultural character • Require careful integration of new built development • Maintain and reinstate existing hedgerows and trees • Seek to secure long term management of key landscape features • Preserve pattern of minor road network and its linkage to field pattern



North Berwick Law sitting up above the coastal plain



Coastal Plain from North Berwick Law showing large arable fields



East end of coastal plain showing large arable fields and level nature with North Berwick Law and the Bass Rock in the distance

Lowland Plains – Settled Farmland

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	The area forms two pockets along the A1 trunk road at the boundary of East Lothian with Edinburgh and Midlothian split by the Esk River Valley. It is low lying with a flat to gently undulating landform.
Vegetation and land cover	Large arable fields are bounded by fences and intermittent hedges. In places tracks with no boundary define the fields. The shape of open farmland is often irregular and fragmented where it is severed by transport routes, settlement and industrial warehousing. There is little woodland although tree and scrub planting bound the edges of transport routes and a line of poplar trees bound the western edge of the area to the neighbouring Marshalling yards.
Access	The A1 trunk road severs the western section of this area on a prominent embankment and bounds the northern edge of the eastern section. The A720 Edinburgh City Bypass runs along the eastern edge of the western section. The East Coast Railway bounds the western section to the north. Several other roads pass through this relatively small area to access settlements and a freight rail link also dissects the western section.
Built features	The settlements of Whitecraig and Old Craighall exist within this area surrounded by agricultural fields. Musselburgh extends to the boundary of the area to the north and the Shawfair development within Midlothian is planned to extend close to the western boundary. The large development of buildings for Queen Margaret University creates visual intrusion to the coastal views from the A1 heading east out of Edinburgh. Monkton House and its walled garden at Old Craighall are the only listed buildings within this character area.
Infrastructure and industry	There are pylon lines and major transport routes throughout the area. Dismantled railways, the marshalling yard and tall lighting gantries abut farmland to the west together with proposed large infrastructure.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The area has a lack of prominence due to the low lying nature of the landscape. It is a fragmented arable landscape. Its low lying nature and severance by raised road and rail networks prevent views out from the area although enable the area to be highly visible from major roads, railways and settlement.
Positive Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive fields of prime agricultural land
Negative Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominant urban / industrial character • High visual sensitivity of flat unwooded terrain increases visual impact of new development • Residential expansion pressures on existing villages and from neighbouring settlements
Management Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote woodland planting to integrate existing and new built development with the surrounding countryside • Seek to secure long term management of important estate landscape features



North Craighall towards Newcraighall with Edinburgh beyond Settled Farmland relationship with coast is lost due to landform, infrastructure, trees and buildings. Links are stronger with the urban environment of Edinburgh.



South Craighall site enclosed nature arable surrounded by infrastructure. Relationship with the coast lost due to urban development to north



Coastal Margins – Innerwick Coastal Margin

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	This section of coastal plain forms the transition between the north-eastern fringes of the Lammermuir Hills and the sea. Closest to the perimeter with the Eastern Lammermuir Fringe LCA the landscape comprises rolling lowlands cut by numerous steep-sided stream valleys. The terrain opens out towards the coast into a broad, gently undulating plain through which the streams follow shallow less obtrusive courses. At the boundary with the sea the area is defined by a series of rounded headlands bounded by extensive rocky cliffs with numerous sheltered small sand and pebble beaches backed by grass turfed dunes between.
Vegetation and land cover	The dominant land cover consists of medium to large arable fields. Where valley sides are steep small stretches of improved grassland can be found with the stream courses delineated by scrub and broadleaved woodland of oak, ash, hawthorn and sycamore. Other woodland is mainly in the form of shelterbelts and clumps of trees associated with farmsteads. The fields are generally contained by clipped thorn hedgerows and post and wire fencing with isolated hedgerow trees including oak, ash and hawthorn. Low pink or grey stone walls edge roadsides and occasional field boundaries throughout the higher ground.
Access	Numerous small roads twist from the hillsides down to the sea. The parallel routes of the A1 trunk road and the East Coast rail line sweep along the open plain. The John Muir way walking route follows the coastline for the entire length of this area. The area is highly accessible. The coastline is a popular recreational resource and has a couple of camping and caravanning sites as well as numerous picnic sites.
Built features	The settlement of Innerwick sits on the hillside above Torness at the boundary with the Eastern Lammermuir Fringe. Dunglass designed landscape lies on the southern boundary of the area. Broxmouth designed landscape is located partly within the northern corner of this area. The area has a scattering of further farms and minor settlements, many houses and steadings dating from the 18 th and 19 th centuries.
Infrastructure and industry	There is much industrial development located along the coast within this area. The most prominent being the cement works and associated quarrying and landfill site at Oxwell Mains and Torness Power Station to its south. Planning permission has also been granted for the construction of an energy from waste facility at the landfill site at Oxwell Mains. The embankments, bridges and structures associated with the transport corridor are often also highly visible features.
Aesthetic qualities and views	There are extensive views from the predominantly unwooded plain towards the coast. The open sea dominates the views providing an atmosphere of tranquillity. The intrusive industrial development and the major transport corridor detract from the otherwise calm character of this landscape.
Positive Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural character relatively unfragmented; • Diversity of coastal scenery and habitats; • Extensive views; • Prominent headlands; • Proximity of Lammermuir uplands to the coast; • Quiet small coves and beaches; • Rich archaeological heritage.
Negative Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally high visual sensitivity due to flat terrain and few woodlands; • Major localised visual impacts of cement works, Torness Power Station and power lines; • Transport routes form prominent linear features.

Management Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage increase in small farm woodland cover on steep slopes and in deans • Promote judicious increase in roadside planting to reduce impact of major visual detractors • Take particular account of vulnerability of coastline to further visual intrusion from all types of development • Protect the coastal edge and foreshore from the visual impact of limestone extraction • Control further unauthorised vehicular access to coastline • Promote integrated coastal zone management strategy including visitor management, tourism, recreation and other development
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Dunbar Cement Works with stone wall field boundaries



Cement works and infilled quarry in its low lying coastal setting



Torness Power Station set within the arable landscape and coast with the plain rising towards the hills to the west

Transport corridor of road and rail running through the undulating arable land with the large structure of Torness visible in the distance. The scale of the landscape and seascape reduces the impact of the building.



Route of the John Muir Way along the coast set within the narrow band of dunes close to the shore



Recreation set in the shadow of Torness



Coastal Margins – Northern Coastal Margin

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	The northern coastal margin extends from Dunbar in the east to the edge of Port Seton in the west. The area is virtually flat immediately inland of the coast, consisting of raised beach deposits. Crags and rocky outcrops form much of the northern coastal edge and enclose numerous sandy coves backed by dunes. The sandy beaches and dune systems are more extensive at Aberlady and Gullane to the west and around Tynninghame and the mouth of the Tyne to the east. The mouths of two rivers form estuaries at either end of the area –the Tyne at Tynninghame and the Peffer Burn at Aberlady Bay. Several islands are located within the waters close to the coast – Bass Rock, Craigleith and Fidra being the three largest. These form part of this landscape character area due to their relationship with the land.
Vegetation and land cover	The area has many designed landscapes and associated policy woodlands including Archerfield, Gosford, Luffness and Tynninghame. The proximity to the coast has led to the formation of distinctive wind sculpted areas of woodland particularly the ‘Toll Belt’ at to the south of the A198 at Gosford. Similar beech trees at Tynninghame have been felled. The links and dunes systems at the coast are of nature conservation value and are heavily colonised by Sea Buckthorn. The dunes and links also provide ideal conditions for golf and many golf courses exist along the coast including Luffness and the ancient world-renowned course of Muirfield at Gullane. More courses have been built since the original study including the large development of three 18 hole courses at Archerfield Estate at Dirleton and at Seton Sands Caravan Park close to Port Seton.
Access	The A198 road follows the line of the coast linking the coastal villages and allowing access to the many coastal car parks for recreation.
Built features	Settlement is concentrated along the coastal fringe with the old weaving village of Longniddry, the 19 th century cottages and Gothic terraces of Aberlady, Dirleton with its village green and medieval castle and the links village of Gullane along the western section of the area. The town of North Berwick with its sandstone buildings is situated in the north of the area, centred on the historic heart. The town of Dunbar lies at the eastern end of the area sited on a headland above the sea. Historically centred on the castle and harbour it has a broad High Street of 17 th and 18 th century local red sandstone buildings. It has had considerable recent expansion to its south-western side. The 14 th century Tantallon Castle is sited east of North Berwick on a headland overlooking the Bass Rock.
Infrastructure and industry	There is little industry or infrastructure within the area. The caravan park at Seton Sands has recently expanded forming a large development to the west of Longniddry. East Links Farm Park and Foxlake to the west of Dunbar are successful outdoor recreation facilities attracting visitors from within and beyond East Lothian. The Belhaven Brewery in Dunbar is small in character and does not detract from the setting of the town.
Aesthetic qualities and views	This is a highly attractive landscape of great diversity from the varied coastline and locally distinctive villages to the extensive estate woodlands. Long range views are common to most of the area both across the sea as well as inland to the Lammermuir Hills to the south, emphasising the open, level nature of the coastal margin.
Positive Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity of coastal scenery and habitats • Rich historical heritage • Major estate woodlands and other landscape features

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prominent views of distinctive igneous outcrops • Extensive views • Attractive coastal settlements
Negative Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High visual sensitivity of immediate coastal zone • Potential visitor pressure from successful tourism and recreation industry • Pressure for residential expansion of coastal settlements
Management Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve current equilibrium between diverse elements and pressures • Require careful visual integration of new built development • Seek to ensure long term management of key estate landscape features • Promote integrated coastal zone management strategy including visitor management, tourism, recreation and other development •



The Northern Coastal Margin at Tynninghame showing the links character with gorse and wind sculpted trees



The island of Craigeith viewed from North Berwick showing its relationship to the mainland



Coastal margin to the east of North Berwick with the Bass Rock



Coastal Margin to the west of North Berwick different in character to the coastal plain with settlement, policy woodlands, dunes and golf courses



Wide expanses of sand at Belhaven Bay with the Bass Rock on the horizon



Fidra



North Berwick Law across bay at North Berwick from Yellowcraig



The islands of Lamb, Craigleith and Bass Rock in the Bay with North Berwick Law on land

Coastal Margins – Musselburgh/Prestonpans fringe

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	The area extends from the eastern margins of Edinburgh in the west to the eastern side of Port Seton in the east. It is defined by the Tranent Ridge and Settled Farmland to the south and includes the lower floodplain of the River Esk. Its geology is mainly sedimentary overlain with marine deposits and raised beaches close to the coast. The coastline consists of unremarkable low rocky platforms, small rocky headlands and sandy beaches. Land has been reclaimed at Musselburgh with waste ash from Cockenzie Power Station to form an extensive area of lagoons separated from the sea by a concrete retaining wall.
Vegetation and land cover	The coastal strip is almost continuously settled however inland there are large arable fields of prime agricultural land divided by broken hedgerows and fences with occasional hawthorn or beech hedgerow trees. The area between Musselburgh and Prestonpans contains both the policy woodlands of Drummohr House and the wooded grounds of the Royal Musselburgh Golf Course, protected by tree preservation orders. The links landscape to their north skirts the coast from Fisherrow links to Musselburgh Racecourse and onto Morrison's Haven at Prestonpans. The designed landscapes of Newhails House and Pinkie House create green open spaces within the heart of the urban settlement of Musselburgh and the River Esk itself provides a green although narrow corridor through the town.
Access	The A1 trunk road and East Coast Rail line both pass through this area together with the A199 from Musselburgh to Tranent and the coastal road. There is a dense road network linking the settlements. The coastal strip provides recreation in the form of Musselburgh Racecourse and the Musselburgh and Royal Musselburgh Golf Courses
Built features	The majority of the area is settled with the burgh town of Musselburgh spanning the mouth of the River Esk to the west. Prestonpans, Cockenzie and Port Seton are also located adjacent to the coast and are historically linked with it through the fishing industry as well as the mining industry. Although these industries no longer exist the villages have continued to expand with modern housing developments due to their proximity to Edinburgh. Wallyford to the southeast of Musselburgh was a traditional mining village that has expanded considerably in recent years with new housing due to its location close to the transport routes into Edinburgh. The historic building of Bankton House is visible to the north of the A1 as you pass Prestonpans.
Infrastructure and industry	The most notable industrial feature along this section of coastal plain is Cockenzie Power Station with its large building and two tall chimneys. It is a local landmark on a par with North Berwick Law in its visual scale. It is no longer in operation and its future is currently undetermined. Its infrastructure including coal storage, rail links and pylons creates an area of industrial clutter on the eastern edge of the area. The coal mining industry has left much disused infrastructure and waste behind which is gradually being cleared away. There are pylon lines and major transport routes throughout the area
Aesthetic qualities and views	The extensively settled, industrialised nature of much of this area dominates stretches of unspoilt farmland and woodland. The expansion of the settlement in this area is increasing the settled nature of the area. Occasional open views can be gained across the plain towards the coast to the north and Edinburgh to the west.
Positive Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Esk floodplain and mature woodland • Extensive fields of prime agricultural land which are being significantly

	<p>reduced in area due to settlement expansion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estate landscapes and boundary features • Coastal scenery and habitats
Negative Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominant urban / industrial character • High visual sensitivity of flat unwooded terrain increases visual impact of new development • Residential expansion pressures on coastal villages • Visual prominence of Cockenzie Power Station
Management Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote woodland planting to integrate existing and new built development with the surrounding countryside • Seek to secure long term management of important estate landscape features • Protection of coastline • Promote integrated coastal zone management strategy including visitor management, tourism, recreation and other development • Reclamation of ash lagoons • Protection of bird reserves



Large arable fields of prime agricultural land inland of the main settlement



Open dune landscape of Musselburgh golf and race course



Fisherrow harbour and open space at Murdochs Green at the western entrance to the area from Edinburgh



Settlement separated by open land
The iconic image of Cockenzie Power Station



St Baldred's Craule

Tyne Mouth



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