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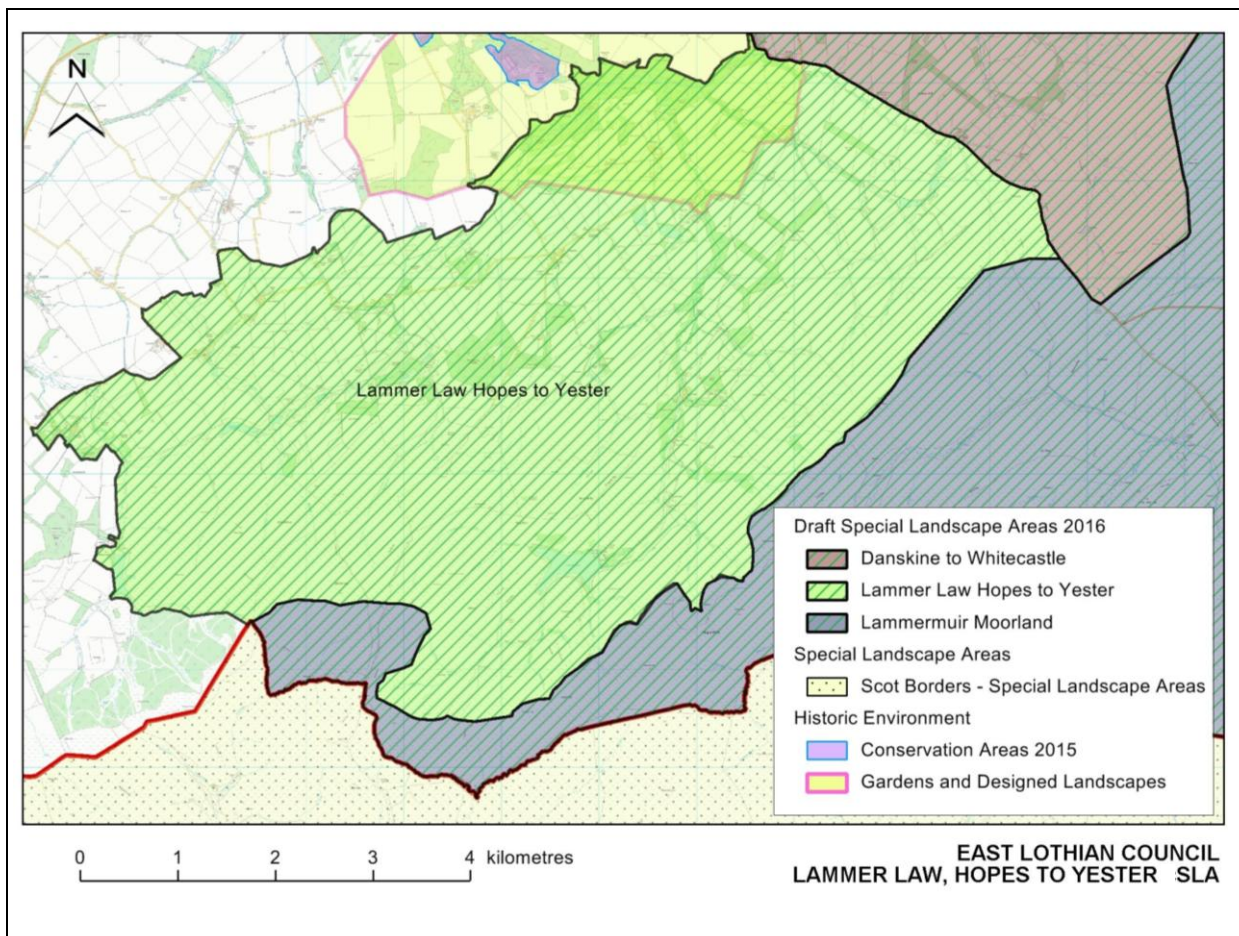
Additional information:

Spilt into 4 parts: Appendix VI A-D; Appendix VI E-K; Appendix VI L-P; and Appendix VI Q-Z

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Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA Statement of Importance



Character: A contrasting, complex and diverse landscape of high scenic and sensory value also providing a coherent area of important prehistoric settlement

Area: 3,812 ha

Overview:

This varied area of landscape is located to the south of East Lothian. A highly scenic, contrasting area from the most prominent point of the East Lothian Lammermuir Hills at Lammer Law and dramatically steep hills around the Hopes Reservoir, to the transitional landscape of the hillfoots, to the edge of the rolling agricultural landscape of the plains down into the bowl of the Gifford Water and the southern end of the heavily wooded gorge-like valley of the Yester Garden and Designed Landscape.

It includes East Lothian's most scenic area of moorland around Hopes Reservoir and contains the important landscape feature of the Lothian Edge, which along with the skyline of the Lammermuir Hills, forms the backdrop to the lowland areas of East Lothian. Scenic quality of the area is increased due to the presence of several water bodies mainly in the form of reservoirs. The largest is Hopes, but others include Stobshiel, Lammerloch, Kidlaw, Latch Loch as well as ponds at Quarryford and the Tweeddale Fishery.

There are scenic and wide ranging views generally into, out of and within the area, with views from higher ground and the summit of Lammer Law being exceptionally good. Several respondents to the public consultation noted that the area around Hopes Reservoir is important in views and also that

the area around Hopes and Lammer Law are special. HADAS identified this SLA as an important area for scenic value being special and unique.

The south-eastern boundary of the area follows the top line of the steep rise of the northern edge of the Lammermuir Hills where the area adjoins the more undulating moorland of the Lammermuir Moorland SLA to the south. Cowie Burn and Stobshiel Reservoir form a natural end of the expansive heather moorland area to the west of Lammer Law – further west the upland area is mostly rough grazing, forestry and windfarm. The north-western boundary follows along the base of the ridge of the Lammermuirs from Stobshiel to Yester, and includes the southern section of the inventory Yester Garden and Designed Landscape and Castlemains Golf Course. The boundary follows the woodlands to the north side of the Gifford Water to the B6355 at Danskine, following this road to the moorland.

The majority of the area is identified as being a coherent historic landscape that continues along the hillfoots into the adjacent SLA of Danskine to Whitecastle.

A-listed Hopes House and b-listed East Hopes Steading, with associated Coach House and Estate Office set at the corners of the walled garden and stone bridge over the Hopes Water are particularly attractive and form a locally identified designed landscape. With the associated woodlands this creates a pleasing contrast to the surrounding steep sided heather clad hills.

The area also includes the locally designated designed landscape at Stobshiel for its scenic value. The mature woodlands, parkland trees and roadside trees of which are protected by tree preservation order number 62 – Stobshiel.

Special Qualities and Features:

- The landscape of the heather moorland plateau hills with incised valleys and sparse built development read with the woods and arable farmland of the hillfoots and steeply wooded valley of the Gifford Water combine to give this SLA a strong sense of place. The expanses of heather covered open plateau, rounded summits including Lammer Law and the presence of reservoirs, with very little built development give strong aesthetic and sensory appeal. The relative wildness and remoteness means few artificial sounds.
- Lammer Law, the most prominent point of the East Lothian Lammermuir Hills when viewed from the Eats Lothian plain to the north, offers 360° views from the moorland of the Lammermuirs to the south to the Forth to the north. On sunny summer days there is a feeling of being on top of the world. When the weather is not so great the height and exposure of the location gives a feeling of wildness and of being exposed and open to the elements and just occasionally you can climb above the cloud at Lammer Law, one of the few places in East Lothian this is possible.
- The hills of Lammer Law as well as the hills and cleughs around Hopes Reservoir contain three characteristic upland habitats; blanket bog, sub-alpine dry heath and juniper woodland. The importance of these habitats is recognised through Lammer Law SSSI designation. The site is also notified for the mosaic of upland habitats present. The site supports one of the largest and least disturbed areas of upland blanket bog and heather moorland in East Lothian, with a variety of other habitats including cleugh woodland, scrub and open water. Both blanket bog and juniper scrub are uncommon and decreasing habitats in the Lothian area. The site also includes the largest area of juniper scrub in the Lothian area, and supports a number of rare bryophyte species. The remainder of the heather clad hill slopes within this area are identified as part of the Lammermuirs Local Biodiversity Site of upland, heath, bog and grassland.
- The area has a mix of important habitats identified through the designation of local biodiversity sites. The Hopes Water Valley is identified as a local biodiversity site for its river valley with woodland habitat. The woodlands along the valley of the Gifford Water within this area form

part of the Yester Woodlands local biodiversity site for its estate woodland habitat. Aikieside Wood along the valley of the Birns Water at Stobshiel is native upland oak wood and lies within the wider river corridor of the Birns Water local biodiversity site with its habitats of grassland, woodland and scrub.

- Other areas of ancient woodland are identified in the lower areas of land providing contrast with the surrounding arable land, such as that as Blinkbonny Wood, Pishwanton Wood, the woods along the Hopes Water valley and around Hopes House, the woods siding the Newlands Burn and the woods within the Yester designed landscape along the Gifford Water.
- There is easy open access across the southern moorland section of the area. There are many tracks across the moorland. Core path routes 54, 53 and 55 take you from Quarryford at the southern edge of the Yester Garden and Designed Landscape through the hill foots and the valley of the Hopes Water, passed Hopes Reservoir to the summit of Lammer Law. This is highly scenic route leading you south along tracks between arable land towards the widely visible, dramatic, steep sided, heathery interlocking spurs of Dod Law, Nipper Knowes and Fennie Law to the east and Kingside Rig to the west. On following the track passed Hopes House the height and steepness of the hills with the low canopy of native oak woods can feel oppressive, dominating and enclosing the view, giving a real sense of isolation. On passing West Hopes the path heads up the slope and the view opens out offering views back down the valley of the Hopes Water over an area of native mixed cleugh woodland of old willow, birch and alder and over the valleys slopes covered in juniper scrub of note within the Lammer Law SSSI. Looking west stunning views can be had over the Hopes Reservoir. These views constantly change depending on the time of year and are particularly striking in late summer when the heather is in flower and the hill slopes are a mass of purple contrasting with the blue of the water and the green of the juniper woods on the lower slopes.
- Heading up the tracks on the surrounding hills offers a different perspective on the Reservoir with it set between the enclosing hills. From Harestone Hill Lammer Law can be seen rising up beyond the reservoir with its cairn visible on the top. There is a strong feeling of entering the moorland and the land falling away behind you.
- Core path route 56 and Sustrans cycle route 17 lead you over the moorland from Lammer Law to Blinkbonny Wood. This raised route offers superb open panoramic views north over the East Lothian plain and Firth of Forth.
- In contrast core path routes 217 and 216 follow the valley of the Gamuelston Burn and Gifford Water through the wooded Yester Estate. This steep sided valley encloses views and the mixed woods create seasonal interest. The scheduled ancient monument of Yester Castle and Hobgoblin Ha' Vaulted Chamber can be found in the woods set on a steep sided promontory between the Hopes Water and a lesser burn to its west. The castle was built during the second half of the 13th century by Hugo De Gifford. The castle is now a ruin, but the subterranean hall beneath shown on early maps as Hobgoblin Ha' is substantially intact with an impressive Gothic arched ceiling. This is said to be where Hugo De Gifford practiced 'dark arts'. A dark cave in the dark woods!
- The height of the hills provides contrast for the weather. Often cloud will sit on the hill tops creating a forbidding dark look in contrast to the sunlit lower ground. The contours of the hill slopes play with the light and increase their scenic value especially in early morning or evening. The higher ground of this area makes it more likely to have falls of snow which can cut hill some houses and small settlements off in the winter. This will often sit on the hill tops long after it has melted elsewhere emphasising the cleughs which can be lost in long distance views; deep gullies e.g. at Lowrans Law can retain the snow for a considerable time – though rarely, if ever, through the summer.
- Highly scenic area around Lammerloch Reservoir formed in a very sharp section of glacial meltwater channel that extends to Blinkbonny Wood, parallel with the Southern Upland fault and isolates several remnant hills that have more recently been used as Iron Age hill forts

creating striking features in the landscape and are now identified as scheduled ancient monuments including Witches Knowe, where the terrace earthworks are clearly visible, and The Castles Forts. The channel focuses views down from the hills into the arable bowl of the Gifford valley and the Yester woods.

- Kidlaw Erratic, which consists of a large ice transported raft of limestone, is an excellent example of glacial erosion and transport of large mass of bedrock with national/regional significance protected as a geodiversity site. This raised area of land is highly scenic contrasting with the surrounding arable land and linking with the rough pasture and glacial features of the hillfoots to the south. There are stunning views out over the plain of East Lothian as well as to the hillfoots and the pretty painted row of cottages at Longnewton. The site was used as a base for an anti-aircraft gun during WWII which illustrates its panoramic outlook.
- The area has sparse built development. Settlement is confined to the lower slopes of the hillfoots set along the narrow lanes with high hedges typical of the area. There are a number of large farmsteads with old farmhouses including Newlands and Castle mains. These often have small terraces of cottages set at along the roadsides originally as farm workers cottages. These can be particularly attractive such as the row at Longnewton where colour has been used to contrast with the surrounding natural green and gold colours of the fields.
- This part of the hill foots of the Lammermuirs was intensely settled during the later prehistoric period. Particularly in the Eastern part of the area, from Leaston through to Quarryford, there is a high number of enclosed settlements or hill forts of Iron Age or earlier date, exploiting the strategic position on the edge of the hills with views over the East Lothian plain including Stobshiel Fort, Kidlaw Fort, Witches Knowe Fort, The Castles Fort, Harelaw Fort, Hopes Fort (Longyester), Park Fort, Green Castle Fort, Black Castle Fort. The area is rich in archaeological remains and monuments and has a high potential for previously unknown sites.
- *Historic Landscape – Hillfoots Hillforts (See Appendix IV)*
Coherent landscape with upstanding prehistoric remains (hillforts, enclosures etc) There is a concentration of significant prehistoric settlement remains along the ridgeline. It mirrors other areas in East Lothian what have a similar topography (Area 3 – Chesters to Thurston Ridge, Area 8 - Garleton Ridge and Area 10 - Elphinstone Ridge). Some of the remains are still upstanding while others are buried.
Significant views points which highlight the importance of a number of Prehistoric sites in the East Lothian plain and beyond.

Guidelines for Development

- Any proposed development must not harm the characteristic features reflecting transition from open upland to enclosed lowland landscape.
- Any proposed development must not harm the open 'Wild Land' character of the moorland by controlling development or management that would affect the sense of openness or wildness of the moorland, including for example planting of tree belts or plantation forestry hedges or fences along roads and tracks, or signage, or features which break up the open moorland.
- Any proposed development must not harm the unbroken horizontal element of the Lammermuir skyline especially as viewed from the plain and foothills below.
- Any proposed development must not harm the overall open visual character focusing northwards towards the plain and the Forth and avoid development that interrupts key views in particular from Lammer Law, Dod Law and the B6355.
- Any proposed development must not harm the retention of small-scale topographic diversity provided by glacial features such as kame terraces, and melt-water channels in considering future sand and gravel extraction. Historic quarrying has removed some of East Lothian's finest glacial deposit features. This interesting landform has been restored to a much flatter gradient, with few features.

- Any proposed development must not increase the apparent scale of large scale industrial elements (reservoir walls, pylon lines) for example by providing scale comparison should not be supported.
- Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form.
- Preservation against wind turbines within this area which would have a visual cumulative effect with the turbines of the uplands thereby diminishing the individual identity of the landscape character area and disrupting the sense of contrast between the plateau tops and the fringe landscape.
- Preservation against further hill tracks on visually-sensitive slopes. When tracks are new or recently re-surfaced they can look very noticeable over a wide distance, and these can also look wrong by virtue of their straight lines heading straight up the moorland. This may have a negative impact on the 'natural' appearance and character of the area and tracks can be widely visible including from the plain below. Tracks also open up the area to recreational access, which has obvious benefits but may also affect the remote character of the area. Tracks should follow SNH guidance "Constructed Tracks in the Scottish Uplands"¹, including consideration of whether the track is necessary at all. Borrow pits, treatment of cut and fill, material, alignment of the track with topography and visibility of the track should all be carefully considered.
- A restoration strategy is important at development stage where large infrastructure projects are being considered to ensure re-establishment of the natural landscape.
- Any proposed development must not harm the existing settlement pattern of development kept to the lower slopes of the hillfoots set generally along the narrow lanes. Support use of traditional building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings. Suburban style housing is unlikely to fit with the character of the area.
- Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale rural character of the roads, including characteristic features such as hedges and stone walls, passing places, cattle grids and stone bridges
- Any proposed development must not harm the integrity and coherence of the historic landscape.

Potential for Landscape Enhancement:

- Conserve and enhance well-developed and maintained beech and thorn hedgerow network on the arable land
- Promote replacement of traditional oak and ash field boundary tree lines
- Promote reinforcement of stone dyke boundary features on hill slopes, whilst retaining the unenclosed appearance of the moorland
- Seek to support traditional estate management practices to safeguard woodland enclosure features and important boundary walls
- Take opportunities to enhance / ameliorate impact of existing coniferous plantations at restructuring stage though recognising the familiarity and land mark of some of the strips such as the Park Strips
- Reduction in large coniferous plantations and replacement with more natural shaped woodlands with a mix of broadleaves and conifers
- Enhance existing pattern of shelterbelt and field boundary woodland through sensitively designed woodland expansion in fringe area
- Encourage limited expansion of woodland cover through shelterbelts and small woodland

¹ Available on SNH's website at

<http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/heritagemanagement/constructedtracks.pdf>¹

Available at http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/4234/local_landscapes_designations_spg

particularly in cleughs and valleys and around farmsteads and other building groups in upland areas

- Promote improved integration of visually sensitive farm building expansion through farm woodland planting
- Reinforce visual and ecological contrasts between open hill slopes and steep valley sides
- Encourage appropriate retention and management of ancient oak and juniper woodland
- Management of woodland to avoid over-reliance on singular species to avoid loss of large areas of woodland due to disease e.g. ash dieback, Dutch elm disease, red needle blight
- Conserve peatland vegetation communities.

Photographs of special features and typical elements

Contrasting varied landscape from the lower arable land rising to the wooded cleughs of the hill foots with the snow covered moorland plateau above



Aikieside Wood native upland oak wood



Colourful Long Newton Cottages with the peak of Lammer Law above



Lammermuir Hills forming the backdrop to the plain of East Lothian

The rolling land of the transitional hill foots with small-scale settlement set tightly into the landscape with colours contrasting with the arable fields and woodlands with the distinct line of the Lammermuir Hills rising above and framing the area





The dramatic steep purple heather clad slopes of the hills enclosing Hopes Reservoir with the native juniper woods clinging to the lower slopes and Lammer Law above



Heather clad hill slopes with steep access tracks and houses set tight into the slope for shelter



The approach to Hopes through open arable fields with stone wall boundaries towards the enclosing slopes of the heather clad hills



The blue of Hopes Reservoir peeping between and contrasting with the hills and linking with the blue of the sky

Superb, dramatic, open views out from the hills over the plain of East Lothian





Glacial landform of Kidlaw Erratic sticking above the surrounding arable land and providing contrast in the landform and landcover



Lammerloch Reservoir

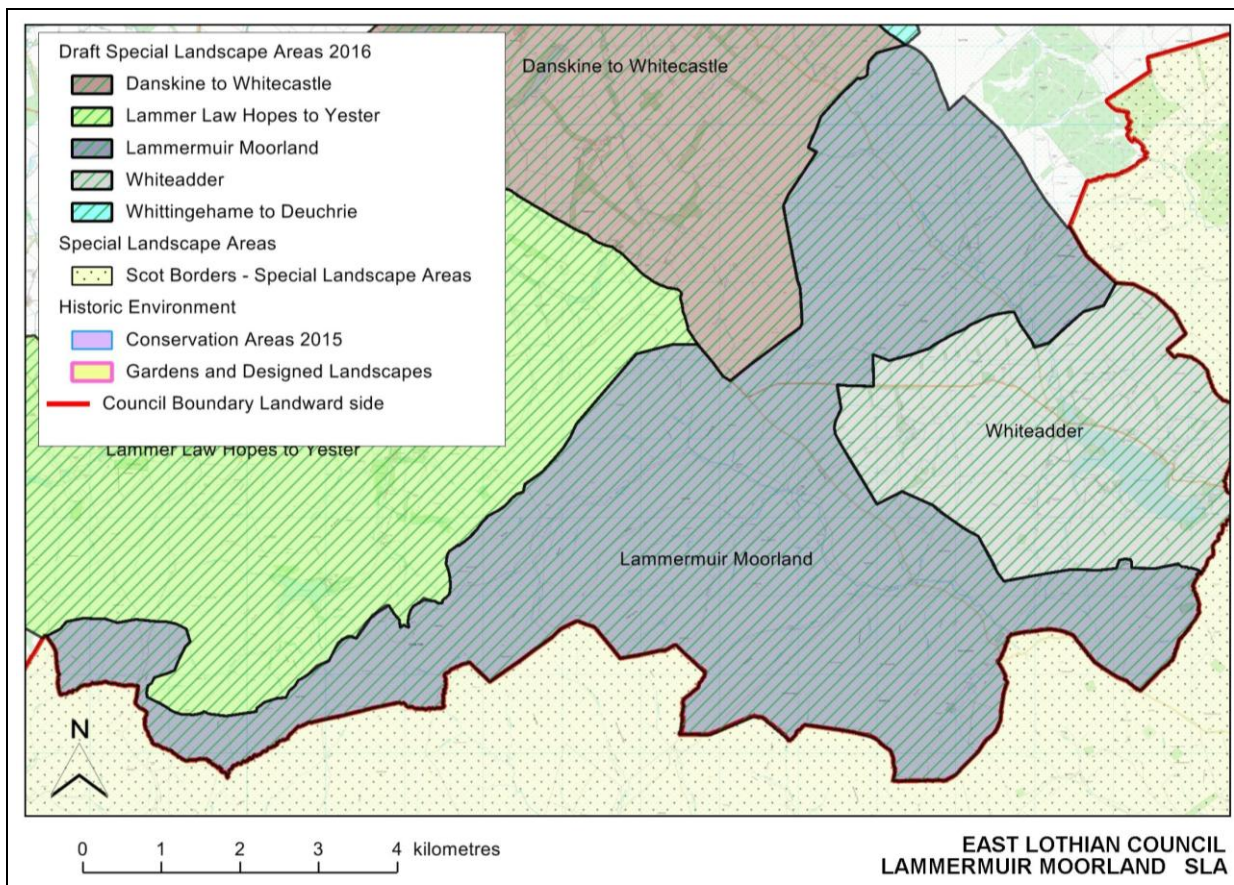


Sharp section of glacial meltwater channel with the remnant hill of Witches Knowe with its Iron Age hill fort

Landform of glacial deposits through the lower arable land of the Gifford bowl



Lammermuir Moorland SLA Statement of Importance



Character: Plateau moorland of heather clad hilltops and steep, narrow cleughs with small streams. An area wildness, remoteness, peacefulness and high scenic value.

Area: 4,168 Ha

Overview

This area consists of open, upland moorland in the heart of the Lammermuirs Hills, located generally to the south of East Lothian and set back from the Southern Upland fault, and which continues into Scottish Borders Council (SBC) area. The adjoining part of the moorland within SBC is designated as SLA6: The Lammermuir Hills, the underlying landscape being broadly similar on either side of the boundary. The area also bounds the Whiteadder SLA, the Lammer Law , Hopes to Yester SLA and the Danskin to Whitecastle SLA to its east, west and north .

The key characteristic of the area is its sense of expansiveness and space, dominated by the large, open area of grouse moorland and big skies. The heather moorland supports species such as cotton grass, bilberry, and sundew, with sphagnum moss in boggy areas parts. Grouse management results in the distinctive muirburned heather mosaic pattern, grouse butts, upland tracks and also helps the keeping of sheep on the hills as tick mops where they might not be viable purely as stock. The skies at their best are deep blue with cumulus clouds scudding by, sending ever changing patterns of light and shade chasing across the moorland.

There is very little human habitation and roads are few and often single track. Human intervention is also evident from large scale infrastructure; a high voltage power line runs through the area, keeping to the lower valley landscape where possible to reduce its visual impact, and large scale windfarm

development at the adjacent Fallago and Crystal Rig are visible from parts of the area. Despite this, the area retains an 'away from it all' elemental feel, deriving from its remote location, topography and generally sparse built development.

The homogenous moorland on rounded, sweeping hills of similar height, is given some visual diversity by the valleys and burns of Faseny Water, the Whiteadder Water and Kilpallet Burn, and associated smaller water courses contained in gullies which run into them. Meikle Says Law at 535m, is the highest point and is one of the relative hills of Britain¹, though is not a prominent summit. Snow transforms the landscape; due to its height, snow can lie deep here while the plains below have none. As it melts, intricate dips and ridges can be picked out; pylons and watercourses both stand out against the white. Views out of the area are often limited by the plateau topography or valley sides, but where obtained can be spectacular.

Recreational use of the area includes walking and mountain biking as well as grouse-shooting. The streams at Whiteadder and Faseny are popular with families, and for the brave there are one or two pools just about large enough for swimming. There is good walking access along the estate tracks at Faseny, Johnscleugh and Hopes (where there is a car park); though the path up Peat Law by Hopes is extremely steep while the track to Meikle Says Law from Faseny has 4 or 5 bridgeless burn crossings. The historic Herring Road runs through this area. Although access rights usually apply throughout, visitors are asked to avoid use of the grouse moor when shooting is in progress on some dates between August 12 and December 10.

The undeveloped nature of the area means there is very good preservation of archaeological remains, both upstanding and buried, though largely unquantified due to the lack of survey in this area. A more recent leaving, a heart above Faseny Bridge, is a relic of protest against windfarm development in the area.

Special Qualities and Features:

- Upland heath and bog is identified in the Ash Study of the Lothians as a key feature which determines the essence of the landscape character of the Lothians
- The expansive, open grouse moor with rounded hills leading to summits of similar height characteristic of East Lothian's uplands, and typical of the uplands of the wider region. The area is dominated by the sky and moorland and the visibility of changing weather and patterns of light can be dramatic. There are occasional focal points such as Harestane Hill Cairn, Kilpallet and Faseny Cottages, Johnscleugh, stone bridges.
- The moorland has a strong aesthetic appeal with a patchwork pattern of muirburn producing a mosaic of texture and muted colour, and bringing a riot of purple when the heather is in bloom, as well as cotton grass bobbing in the breeze; occasional peaty pools reflect vegetation and light. The moorland is rarely broken, even where it is peaty; the channel of Wester Syke is an exception; there is also still a change in vegetation where the Fergus field gas pipeline went under the moor.
- The main valleys of Faseny and Whiteadder have a more enclosed feel with appeal from both the sight and sound of the water of the burns winding through wide flat bottomed valleys and tripping over rocks
- The remoteness of the area allows for plentiful wildlife as well as the sheep dotted about the hillsides and contrasting with the heather. Deer can be spotted, well camouflaged against the heather, hares changing from brown to white by season and occasional snakes and lizards. Birds

¹ The relative hills were identified by Alan Dawson, in "The Relative Hills of Britain" and are hills with at least 140m prominence; they are a list of hills which are in some quarters considered 'baggable'.

are an intrinsic part of the moorland atmosphere and add to a clear sense of place – the red grouse for which the moorland is managed shouting ‘go back! go back!’ as they fly up from under your feet, with the evocative calls of the curlew and cheery skylark heard over long distances; grey wagtails and dippers can be seen around the upland streams and Hen Harriers, Short-eared owls and peregrines can all be found here.

- The area has sparse built development and boundary markers, and most of that which is there is either clearly linked to moorland use (grouse butts, beehives) or electricity and road infrastructure passing through;
- Habitation consists of the small scale Kilpallet and Faseny cottages and, Johnscleugh, closer to the Lammermuir edge and somewhat grander. The spacing and style of the cottages reflect the poor living traditionally to be had in the area. Whilst their location, tucked snugly into valleys for shelter, while avoiding the damper valley floors reflects the exposed nature of the moorland.
- The exposed plateau allows for little woodland, other than a limited amount of mainly scrubby deciduous trees within the cleughs, no plantation woodland (other than a small area at Killpallet) or shelter belts (other than a small one around Johnscleugh).
- The area has qualities of both peacefulness and wildness in particular deriving from the areas openness to the elements, remoteness and limited built development, roads or plantation forestry, as well as limited light pollution. Although pylon lines and associated tracks and nearby windfarms diminish these qualities, as that infrastructure is not associated with a bustle of human activity its wild, peaceful character is not completely lost.
- Although set back from the Lammermuir edge, higher parts of this area form skyline as seen from the plain and foothills below, both in East Lothian and Scottish Borders Council area
- Views are often of the moorland itself, giving the feeling of being ‘in’ the moor, but from higher ground can be spectacular. Meikle Says Law is a good viewpoint looking east, west and in particular north; though through wind turbines, views south are also good; views from the track from Peat Law to Harestane Hill are tremendous, looking back into Hopes Reservoir and Lammer Law, and to the north taking in the patchwork of fields and volcanic outcrops of East Lothian as well as the Firth of Forth and hills beyond; Clints Dod has a 360 panorama including the Eildons to the South, Pentlands to the west, Ochils, Sidlaws and the Forth Islands to the north, then round to the Bass Rock, North Sea, and Belhaven Bay
- Parts of the area especially to the southwest of the area contain peat habitat rare in East Lothian

Guidelines for Development

- Any proposed development must not harm the open ‘wild land’ character by controlling development or management that would affect the sense of openness or wildness of the moorland, including for example planting of tree belts or plantation forestry hedges or fences along roads and tracks, or signage, or features which break up the open moorland.
- Any proposed development must not harm the overall open visual character focusing northwards towards the plain and the Forth and avoid development that interrupts key views, in particular from Meikle Says Law, Harestane Cairn and Clints Dod.
- Any proposed development must not harm the unbroken horizontal element of the Lammermuir skyline especially as viewed from the plain and foothills below and for key views from the Scottish Borders and within the Lammermuir Hills themselves.
- Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of development that affects the perception of scale of the moorland hills or valleys.
- Any proposed development must not harm the heather landscape cover of the area by encouraging appropriate business development or management practices. Conversion to improved pasture in particular would adversely impact the appearance of the area and should not be supported.
- Coniferous plantations should be designed and sited to reduce the visual impact in long range

views of large areas of stark, coniferous, geometric-shaped forestry plantation.

- Preservation against further hill tracks on visually-sensitive slopes. When tracks are new or recently re-surfaced they can look very noticeable over a wide distance, and these can also look wrong by virtue of their straight lines heading straight up the moorland. This may have a negative impact on the 'natural' appearance and character of the area and tracks can be widely visible including from the plain below. Tracks also open up the area to recreational access, which has obvious benefits but may also affect the remote character of the area. Tracks should follow SNH guidance "Constructed Tracks in the Scottish Uplands"², including consideration of whether the track is necessary at all. Borrow pits, treatment of cut and fill, material, alignment of the track with topography and visibility of the track should all be carefully considered.
- A restoration strategy is important at development stage where large infrastructure projects are being considered to ensure re-establishment of the natural landscape.
- Residential development where justified should be small scale and respect the location and design pattern of existing housing

Potential for Landscape Enhancement

- Re-planting of cleughs (gullies) with native woodland has been taking place in some parts of the Lammermuirs and this has both wildlife and landscape benefits
- Although removal of the high voltage power line would enhance the area it is recognised the line is needed into the medium term primarily to serve Torness power station and in the future may be required for off-shore power
- Windfarm development adjacent to the SLA does impact on some parts of the area however for the most part is considered to be well sited (though not without visual impact); however some of the northern turbines at Fallago Rig are not considered to be well sited, and the Council would not support their replacement once they reach the end of their life
- Improve existing tracks for walkers, both in grade of material used and provision of bridges
- Restore condition of peatlands

² Available on SNH's website at

<http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/heritagemanagement/constructedtracks.pdf> ²

Available at http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/4234/local_landscape_designations_spg

Photographs of special features and typical elements



Expanse of moorland plateau giving feelings of remoteness and wildness with rapidly changing weather conditions



Contrasting colours through the year with the purple of the flowering heather in summer, orange of the bracken in autumn and fresh green of the more sheltered river valleys in the spring



A local resident





Exposed moorland plateau contrasting with the sheltered valleys of Johnsleugh and Faseny below



Flat bottomed valley of Johnsleugh with its small meandering stream in summer. This can become a raging torrent full of snow meltwater breaking its banks and covering its floodplain

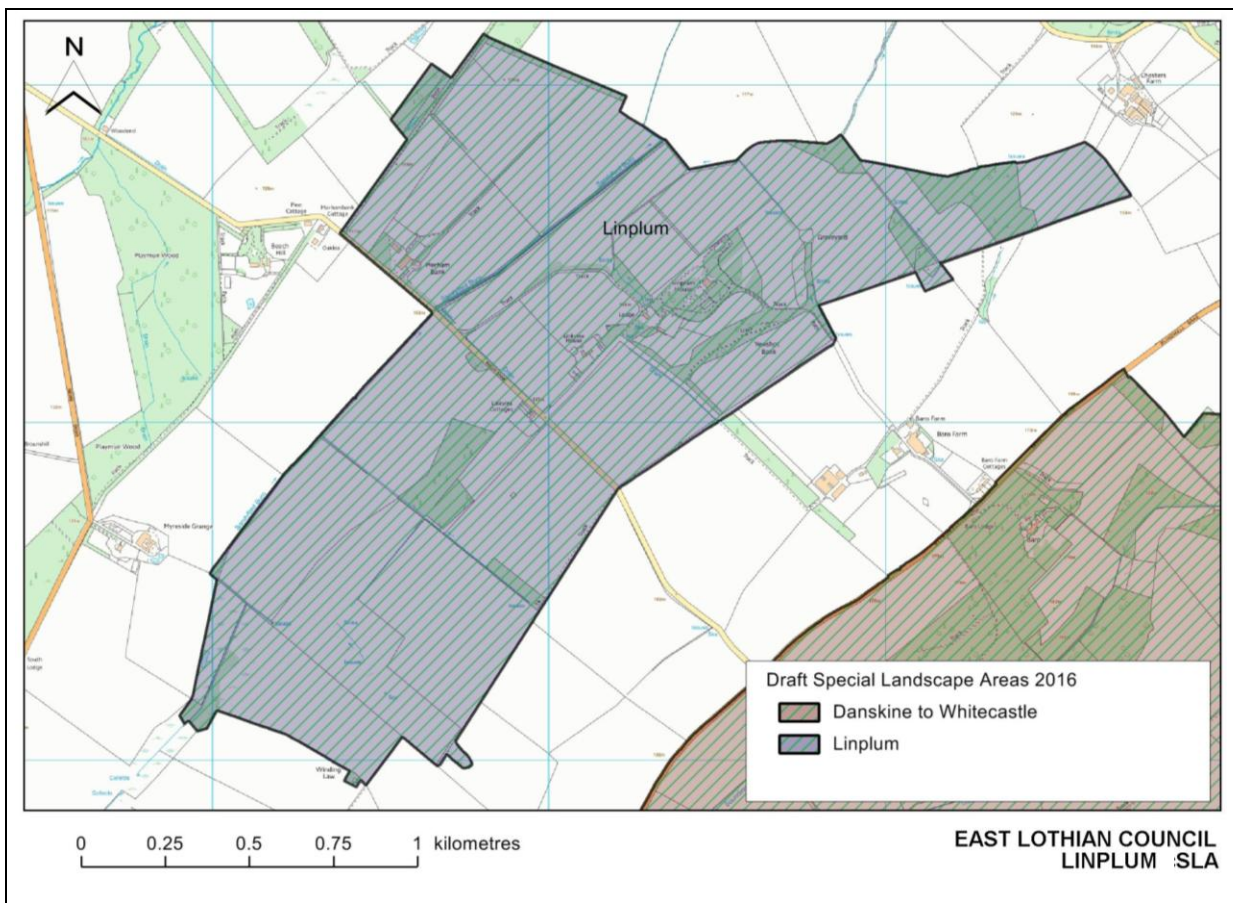


More locals

Hare Cleugh on the Faseny Water with native woodland hidden in the shelter of the valley and sheep grazing the hill slopes



Linplum SLA Statement of Importance



Character: An intricate and attractive post-glacial landform on the Gifford to Dunbar Fault overlain with visually diverse landcover and containing a fine Scottish Baronial house and one of Peter Kerr's family homes, as well as traditional agricultural buildings.

Area: 239 ha

Overview

This small area is centred the flat bottomed Morham Burn valley whose steep southern slope is formed by the Dunbar to Gifford fault. The bedrock is near the or at the surface in the south of are, giving occasional craggy outcrops such as at Winding Law. Evidence of past movement of ice eastwards is clear in the E/NE alignment of the main channel and many smaller mainly perpendicular meltwater channel tributaries¹. These small steep sided valleys give the area an interesting topography, especially around Linplum. Some water filled holes in the area are likely kettle holes, remnants of the retreating ice. There is a height difference of around 100m from valley floor to ridge; the steep slopes are enough to create a sense of enclosure whilst also enabling some tremendous views out, particularly to the north and west.

This is a diverse area with a mixture of pasture and productive arable farmland as well as swampier ground on the valley bottom and mature mixed woodland shelter belts, the agricultural use responding to variability in quality of the underlying soil. The area includes Linplum House and grounds – a gem of a place identified as a locally designated GDL. To the

¹ See British Geological Survey Map 33W: Haddington Drift Geology at <http://www.largeimages.bgs.ac.uk/iip/mapsportal.html?id=1002363>

Morham Bank, which retains the traditional farm 'chimney', is associated with the author Peter Kerr, it being the second East Lothian farm to be owned by his family. He mentions in his book 'Thistle Soup' that the ground here was much less fertile than their previous farm in the Garletons.

Special Qualities and Features

- The main valley is an attractive and intricate landform. A concentration of glacial drainage channels running into the main valley formed by movement of ice give it its somewhat unusual and varied form². The landform can be appreciated looking into the area particularly from the north east where it frames the view from the Traprain area, and from the west looking across from Myreside and the B6369 Gifford Road.
- Strong visual diversity from a varied productive and colourful arable farmland often seen in interlocking folds, with cows often in the valley bottoms or adjacent fields, the agricultural use responding to the underlying geology with pasture on poorer soils. Mature woodland is also a feature of the area, with some large field and roadside trees, as well as mixed woodland around Linplum and in shelter belts, and scrubby wetland trees around the Sandyford Burn. There are also some areas of coniferous woodland.
- The historic field pattern is relatively intact with a combination of boundary treatments including attractive stone walls and hedges, though post and wire fencing is also used. The stone walls often light coloured due to the lichen, showing lack of pollution and the age of the walls.
- Some watercourses, including the main Sandyford Drain, appear to have been canalised, though the flat valley floor remains defiantly marshy. Although the straight lines of these works do not appear natural the drains are generally shallow, typical of the area, and are improved in appearance by the scrubby trees which have been allowed to grow at the margin.
- Built development is sparse - the area was more populous in former times than it is now. Built development consists mainly of substantial farm houses (including Peter Kerr's Morham Bank) along with a smattering of attractive traditionally styled cottages. The few more modern agricultural buildings are well screened.
- The house and grounds of Linplum form a gem within the centre of the area: Linplum is a substantial home in Scottish Baronial style, set on the north facing slope, framed by established woodland with a pretty understorey of spring flowers at Yewshot bank. There is a good view of this house from an informal tree trunk seat within the woodland to the north of the area (at grid ref. 354910 671080).
- The abandoned Bara kirkyard, relic of Bara Kirk, to the east of Linplum contains mossy-covered fallen stones surrounded by the traditional yew, as well as copious daffodils and snowdrops. This kirkyard is a quiet spot that well illustrates the passage of time.
- There are good walking routes through the area, although some a bit marshy in places especially after wet weather; Core Path route 358 from Renton Hall to Beech Hill runs along the northwest boundary of the area through varied woodland, while on higher ground to the south of the area there is a breezy track from Winding Law to Linplum. At Linplum House itself there are attractive informal tracks through the woodland.
- Views out of the area from higher ground are good, especially from the Winding Law track, which has an open outlook across East Lothian to Fife, the Pentlands and beyond, as well as across the East Lothian plain including the landmarks of Traprain and North Berwick Law. The closer Garleton Hills and Lammermuirs are also in view. There is also a fine view of Traprain from around Bara kirkyard.
- There are good views into the area from the B6369 Haddington to Gifford Road to the north as well from the area to the west of Traprain
- Seasonal change is evident in woodland and crops; tree lined rural lanes such as at Mag's Bank,

² See 1

where the turning of the year is evident in the change in trees and hedgerows from blossom to green leaf followed by the autumn berries, contrast with the change in colour of crops in the neighbouring fields, from brown to green to gold. The area is high enough that snow can lie here even when the plains below are clear; the high level walk from Winding Law to Linplum is then both dramatic and invigorating.

- The generally farmed area is not especially wild, though the woodlands provide more natural landcover and the area is relatively free from light pollution at night.

Guidelines for Development

- Any proposed development must not harm the sense of scale of the valley or appreciation of the pattern of the various meltwater channels in considering any development
- Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale secluded visual character derived from the well-planned mature woodland framework
- In cases where solar panels are not permitted development they should not be placed on publicly visible roof elevations of traditional buildings or buildings in traditional and historic settings where they would harm the historic nature and scenic value of the area.
- Any proposed development must not harm views from the path from Winding Law to Linplum and from the Core Path route from Renton Hall to Myreside
- Any proposed large farm building development should be carefully sited and coloured to fit within the landscape form
- Any proposed development must not harm the core agricultural character
- Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale rural character of the roads, including characteristic features such as hedges and stone walls. Alteration in surfacing, road markings, lighting, barriers or signage could affect their rural feel.
- Any proposed development must not harm the focal points of Linplum House or the Winding Law outcrop
- Any proposed development must not harm the setting around the Bara Fallen stones to prevent impacts on their air of gentle decay

Potential for Landscape Enhancement

- Look to plant the next generation of roadside and field boundary trees
- Look to re-instate original field boundaries
- When the opportunity arises look to re-structure coniferous plantation/shelter belts
- Increase access routes through the area

Photographs of special features and typical elements



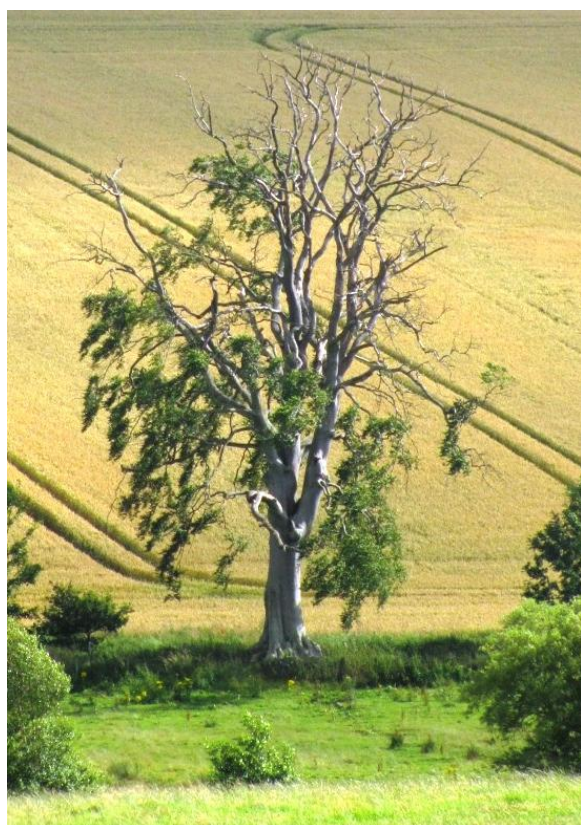
Looking west along the hillside from Morham Loanhead with the landform enhanced by the interlocking bands of trees and Linplum House peeking through



Rolling contrasting fields and woodland



Morham Bank Farmhouse



Linplum House set within trees



Rolling hill slopes and mature beech trees common to both ends of the area, with the Lammermuir Hills beyond



Intricate landform at the Sandyford Burn with varied crops providing a highly scenic view



View out towards Haddington and the Garleton Hills



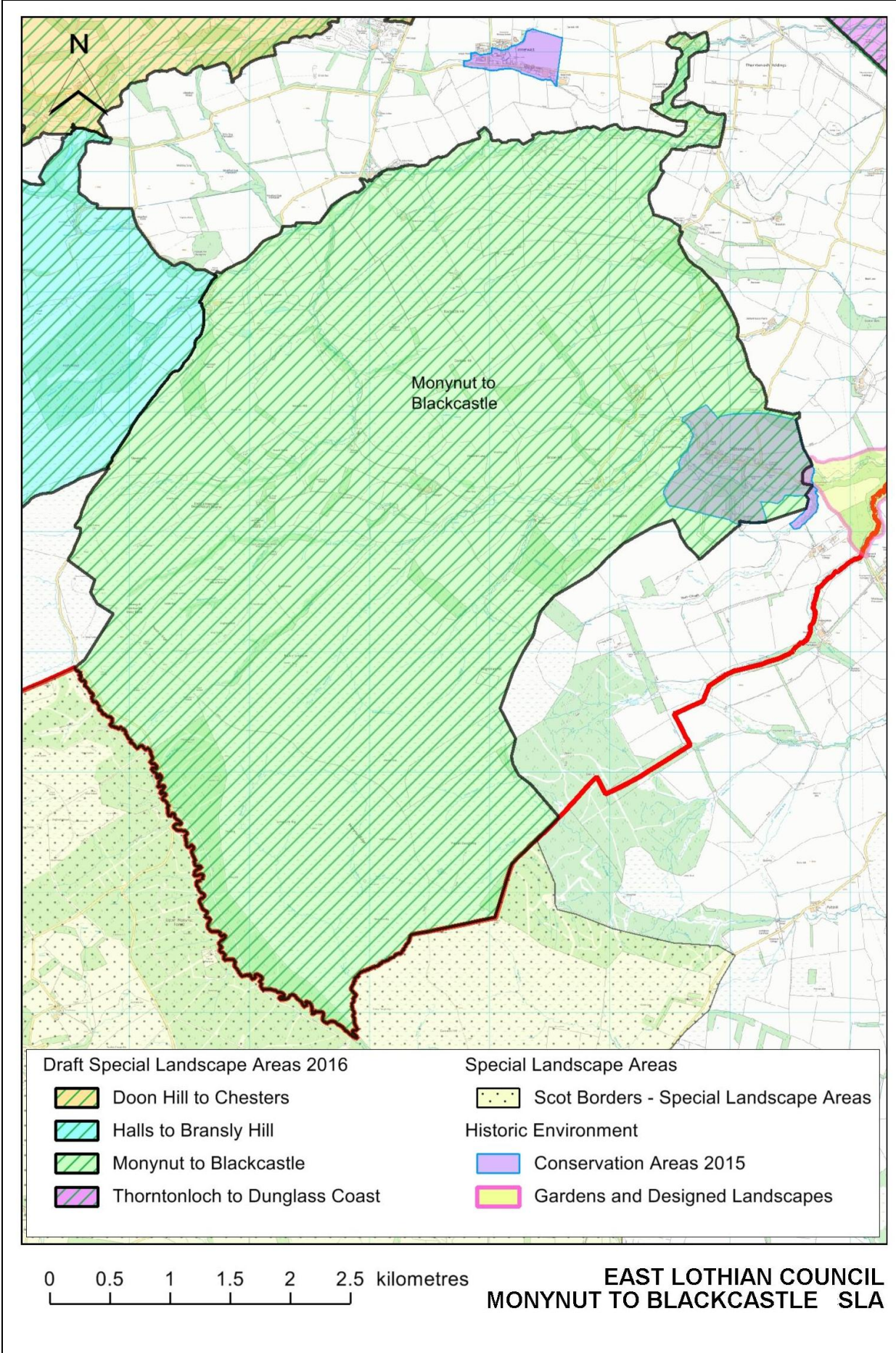
The raised area provides panoramic views out across East Lothian.



View across the hill slopes to the snowy Pentland Hills



Monynut to Blackcastle SLA Statement of Importance



Character: The north-eastern extremity of the Southern Uplands merging into foothills. The area consists of highly scenic dissected Lammermuir plateau dropping off to rolling hill tops cut by steep sided wooded cleughs and wider glaciated valley landform, one of which cups the historic village of Oldhamstocks.

Area: 2,624 ha

Overview:

An area slicing across the eastern section of East Lothian from the border with the Scottish Borders to the west, through the Lammermuir Plateau, across the Eastern Lammermuir Fringe and finishing within the Innerwick Coast. It is a highly scenic area of contrasting landscape forming two raised areas of land with the moorland plateau of the striking Monynut Edge with its incised cleughs to the south separated from the imposing rolling agricultural Blackcastle Hill to the north by the picturesque valley of the Oldhamstocks Burn containing the scenic village of Oldhamstocks and the steep-sided, enclosing, wooded hill slopes of the glaciated Aikengall valley.

There are scenic and wide ranging views generally into, out of and within the area, with views from higher ground being exceptionally good. Several respondents to the public consultation noted that the view from West Steel is particularly good over East Lothian, towards St Abbs and to Bell Rock and Fife and also that the area around Elmscleugh and the road to West Steel and Fairy Castle / Glen are special. With one respondent stating that “the change from the farmed landscape to the open moor cut by gullies is spectacular, in many ways made more so by the wind turbines”.

The northern boundary of the area is defined by the Elmscleugh Water, Thurston Mains Burn, Braidwood Burn and Thornton Burn along the northern edge of Blackcastle Hill defining the change from rough pastureland to arable farmland. The north-western boundary adjoins the Halls to Bransley SLA along the road through Elmscleugh and up Sheeppath Hill, where the direction of views out of the area changes from east to north. The southern and western boundaries are defined by the border with Scottish Borders Council. The adjoining part of the moorland within Scottish Borders Council is designated as a special landscape area SLA6: The Lammermuir Hills, the underlying landscape being broadly similar on either side of the boundary.

Special Qualities and Features:

- The landscape of the higher ground, plateau hills with incised valleys and heather moorland combined with the hillfoots features of sparse built development hidden within the landscape, red sandstone buildings, improved pasture, arable farmland and native woodlands give this SLA a strong sense of place.
- The area forms a complex, contrasting landscape of a mix of landuses and features, visually rich. Open on higher ground with more mystery in the lower and wooded areas. High naturalness with areas of ancient woodland within the rugged cleughs and deans. 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.
- The expanses of heather covered open plateau show seasonal change with purple flowers in the autumn. The shadows and woods of the deep steep-sided cleughs contrast with the surrounding open moorland and create scenic diversity and a sense of mystery. At Aikengall the colours of the turbines contrast with the surrounding landscape.
- The majority of the area has natural groundcover with the moorland being important upland, heath, bog and grassland habitats with areas of ancient native upland oak woodland within the rugged cleughs and deans and native lowland mixed deciduous woods in the lower areas. The incised nature of the cleughs around the Monynut Edge and the darkness of the area at night

make this a wilder feeling area. SNH's wildness mapping shows this area as scoring highly in wildness qualities. The naturalness of the area is reduced in places by the presence of wind turbines and access tracks and associated infrastructure.

- The distinctive cleughs of Ling Hope, Bladdering Cleugh and Burn Hope, and the separated valley of Sheepath Glen and are important for both geological and biological reasons and form the East Lammermuir Deans Nature Reserve and Lammermuir Deans SSSI. They comprise several steep-sided eroded gullies (deans) which are the most extensive and least modified cleughs (gorges) incised through calciferous rocks in East Lothian. They provide a haven for lime-loving plants and support important areas of woodland and species-rich grassland. The Common Rock-Rose, which attracts the Northern Brown Argus butterfly, grows on the reserve. Ling Hope is an exceptional example of large scale erosion. All the cleughs contain native deciduous woodland which is uncommon in the context of the surrounding heath and grassland. The woodlands are mixed, but described in the Forestry Commission survey as being native upland birch woods with ash, oak, birch, hazel, rowan and other species.
- Calcareous (mineral-rich) grasslands are found at Lammermuir Deans, principally found in Burn Hope Cleugh, which includes Sheep's-Fescue and Common Bent grasses. These are common species in the UK but this particular habitat type is rare and declining in the context of East Lothian. Valley fen marsh habitats are also rare and declining in East Lothian, and the Lammermuir Deans contain a mix of fen habitats dominated by Soft Rush and Sharp-Flowered Rush and contain the rare plants Hairy Stonecrop and Grass-of-Parnassus. These cleughs also support a number of rare mosses, liverworts and lichens.
- Fairy Glen at Burn Hope within the Lammermuir Deans Nature Reserve is an important geological site. Identified as a geodiversity site featuring sedimentary rocks and glacial-fluvial landforms. Being an excellent example of geomorphology with national significance and a good example of Devonian sedimentary rocks with regional stratigraphic significance. It has pinnacles of conglomerate rock left isolated after erosion on the floor of the glen, these earn the local name of fairy castle, after which the glen is named.
- The minor single-track roads follow winding courses through the area crossing the numerous water courses with small stone bridges and fording points, allowing access into the area and retaining a traditional nature, adding to the areas scenic value.
- There is easy open access across the moorland section of the area. The moorland is used for grouse shooting and the area is also popular with hill walkers, birdwatchers and ramblers, as well as for family picnics. There are also several rights of way and core paths around and through Oldhamstocks and up Blackcastle hill. Core path route 13 runs along the opposite side of the valley to Oldhamstocks allowing good views of the village in its valley setting. The right of way and core path route 15 continue to Cocklaw Farm to the west. Core path route 16 follows the existing track up to the summit of Blackcastle Hill, affording superb wide ranging views south over the hills and north over the sea and links to the extensive right of way from Innerwick to Thurston Mains.
- There are fantastic views from the area towards the coast, in particular towards the cliffs at St Abbs. This is one of the best views in East Lothian. There are also good views across East Lothian to the coast, Fife and beyond to the north and views to Scottish Borders to the south.
- The landscape consists partly of the Lammermuir Hills which form the backdrop to views south from lowland East Lothian. The Eastern part is more visible, with the Monynut Edge being prominent in views. Blackcastle Hill is a prominent landmark marking the entrance to the plains of East Lothian from the south and the perceived eastern end of the foothills from much of the East Lothian Plain. The hill is easily recognisable due in part to its location though the (detracting) presence of a large transmitter mast probably adds to this.
- Picturesque village of Oldhamstocks with its attractive a-listed white-rendered parish church set at the west end of the street with the village green and market cross and single street of cottages of traditional vernacular, many listed and still bearing names of their original uses such as Smithy Cottage, The Wright House and The Old Schoolhouse, extending to the east, sits snugly at the head of the Oldhamstocks Burn valley surrounded by improved pastureland and enclosed by woodlands. Very little of the form of Oldhamstocks has changed since it was a bustling market town during the 18th century, this is clearly seen in the 1796 painting by Alexander Carse

titled 'Oldhamstocks Fair' currently in the National Gallery of Scotland.

- The area has a well-preserved landscape of post-medieval and possibly earlier agricultural settlement visible as earthworks showing remains of small fields, buildings and track ways.

Guidelines for Development:

- Any proposed development must not harm the characteristic features reflecting transition from open upland to enclosed lowland landscape.
- Any proposed development must not harm the open 'Wild Land' character of the moorland by controlling development or management that would affect the sense of openness or wildness of the moorland, including for example planting of tree belts or plantation forestry hedges or fences along roads and tracks, or signage, or features which break up the open moorland.
- Any proposed development must not harm the overall open visual character focusing north and eastwards towards the plain and the Forth and avoid development that interrupts key views from the hill tops, including from the minor road from Elmscleugh at Sheeppath Hill, from core path route 16 and the Innerwick to Thurston Mains right of way on Blackcastle Hill and from the Monynut Edge.
- Any proposed development must not harm views of Oldhamstocks from Cocklaw and core path route 16, and core path route 13 to Woollands
- Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form.
- Any proposed development must not harm the core agricultural character of the area
- Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale topographic diversity provided by glacial features such as kame terraces, and melt-water channels in considering future sand and gravel extraction.
- Preservation against wind farm and wind turbine development spreading off the hill tops and plateau thereby diminishing the individual identity of the landscape character areas and disrupting the sense of contrast between the plateau tops and the fringe landscape.
- Wind turbines should be sited to prevent intrusion on the setting of the visually important cleughs.
- Preservation against further hill tracks on visually-sensitive slopes. When tracks are new or recently re-surfaced they can look very noticeable over a wide distance, and these can also look wrong by virtue of their straight lines heading straight up the moorland. This may have a negative impact on the 'natural' appearance and character of the area and tracks can be widely visible including from the plain below. Tracks also open up the area to recreational access, which has obvious benefits but may also affect the remote character of the area. Tracks should follow SNH guidance "Constructed Tracks in the Scottish Uplands"¹, including consideration of whether the track is necessary at all. Borrow pits, treatment of cut and fill, material, alignment of the track with topography and visibility of the track should all be carefully considered.
- A restoration strategy is important at development stage where large infrastructure projects are being considered to ensure re-establishment of the natural landscape.
- Any proposed development must not harm the existing settlement pattern of development kept to the lower slopes of the hillfoots set generally along the narrow lanes. Support use of traditional building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings. Suburban style housing is unlikely to fit with the character of the area.
- Any proposed development must not harm the existing character of the village of Oldhamstocks and the surrounding countryside. Large, modern development, out of scale with the existing buildings and landscape character would adversely impact the landscape character of the area
- Safeguard distinctive architectural integrity and close link with local red sandstone geology
- Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale rural character of the roads, including characteristic features such as hedges and stone walls, passing places, cattle grids, fords and

¹ Available on SNH's website at <http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/heritagemanagement/constructedtracks.pdf>

stone bridges

Potential for Landscape Enhancement:

- Reinstatement of roads, bridges and edges widened and straightened by wind farm development access.
- Conserve and enhance well-developed and maintained beech and thorn hedgerow network on the arable land
- Promote replacement of traditional oak and ash field boundary tree lines
- Take opportunities to enhance / ameliorate impact of existing coniferous plantations at restructuring stage and avoid large areas of forestry plantation
- Reduction in large coniferous plantations and replacement with more natural shaped woodlands with a mix of broadleaves and conifers.
- Protection of wildlife sites.
- Avoid over grazing within Fairy Glen
- Formalise viewpoints at West Steel and Wester Dod / Monynut Edge through the formation of parking / picnic areas
- Enhance existing pattern of shelterbelt and field boundary woodland though sensitively designed woodland expansion
- Encourage expansion of woodland cover through shelterbelts and small woodland particularly in cleughs and deans and around farmsteads and other building groups, including fencing to promote natural regeneration
- Promote improved integration of visually sensitive farm building expansion through farm woodland planting
- Reinforce visual and ecological contrasts between open hill slopes and steep valley sides
- Encourage appropriate retention and management of ancient oak and deciduous woodland
- Management of woodland to avoid over-reliance on singular species to avoid loss of large areas of woodland due to disease e.g. ash dieback, Dutch elm disease, red needle blight

Photographs of special features and typical elements



Burn from Aikengall farm



Wooded steep side cleugh of Fairy Glen with Aikengall turbines above



Fairy Glen and burn Hope from above



Heather clad Wester Dodd with incised landform of Wide Hope cleugh cut into the sides

Turbines of Aikengall providing scale and contrast of colour set against heather slopes with the incised valley of Sheeppath Glen below



Heather clad plateau of the Monynut Edge providing long range views over the Lammermuir Plateau with the top of Spartleton beyond



Incised valley of Aikengall with grassy slopes of Blackcastle Hill rising in the east.

View from Wester Dod across area to Blackcastle Hill and coast beyond



Views out of the area



Monynut Edge looking down Long Crib Burn to the Scottish Borders

View east across the plateau to St Abbs Head and the North Sea



View across the plateau to Crystal Rig wind farm



View down Sheeppath Glen out to the coast





Oldhamstocks hidden in the green valley in contrast to the upper heather clad moorland plateau

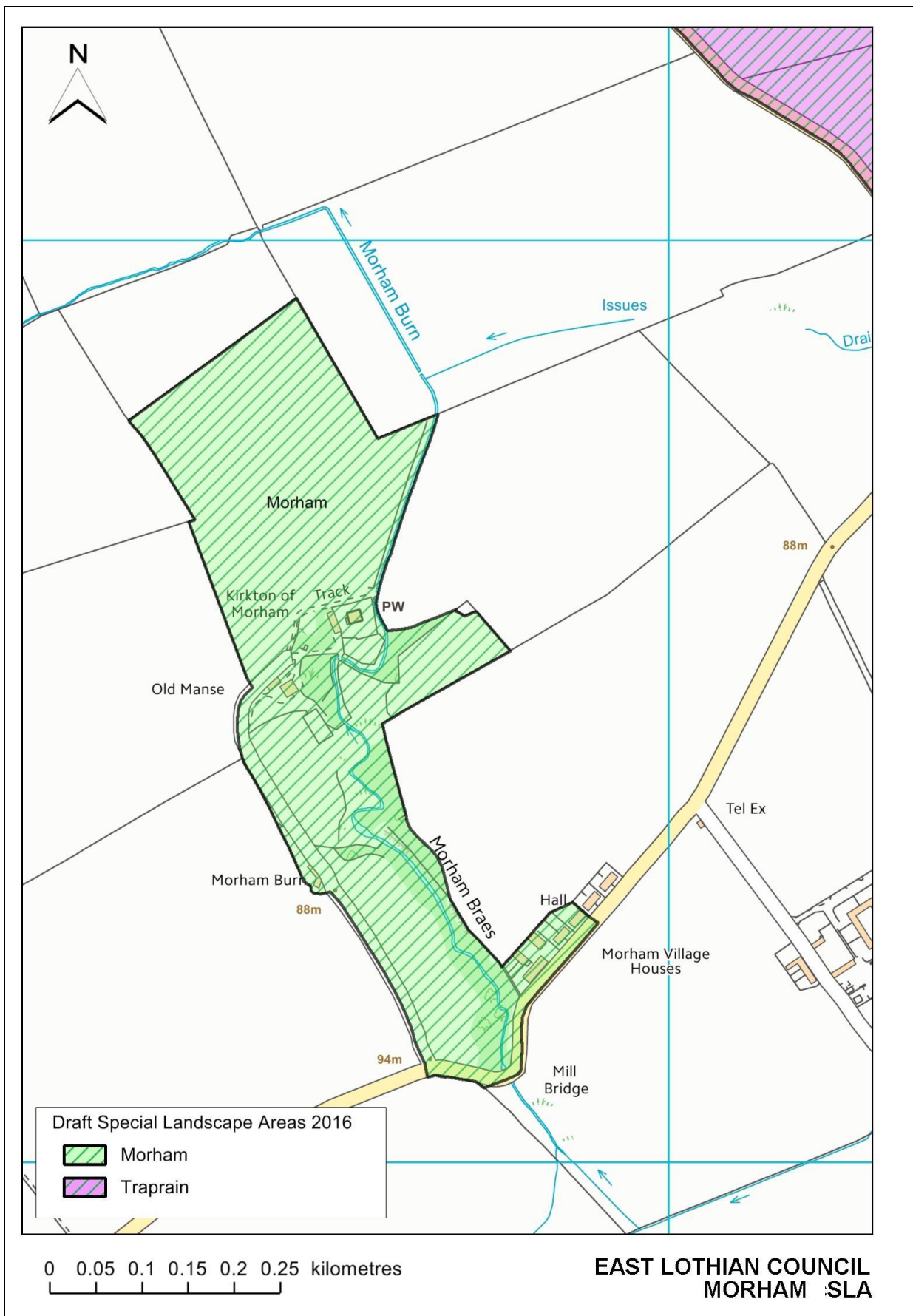


Main street through Oldhamstocks with vernacular cottages with sandstone walls and pantile roofs



Feature Oldhamstocks church and graveyard

Morham SLA Statement of Importance



Character: A small, picturesque valley important for its scenic and historic value

Area: 15 Ha

Overview:

This small area is focussed on Morham Braes, a steep sided wooded valley running SSE to NNW, cut by the Morham Burn, with a drop of around 30m from the head to the foot of the area. The valley opens out onto, and is surrounded by flatter, fertile land typical of the Lower Tyne Plain. This provides a beautiful setting for Morham Kirk, a church having stood on this site from around the 14th century, though the current building (in which services are still held) dates from 1724. The area includes the older parts of the hamlet of Morham, and an area in front of the Church.

Special qualities and features

- The steep valley through which Morham burn falls and meanders contains mature mixed woodland of Morham Braes which provides visual variety and contrast within the surrounding arable land, changing with the seasons. The wilder nature of the upper burn area merges into the more tamed mature woodland of the large garden of the old manse and road side trees, then opens out into farmland below, providing visual diversity in contrast with surrounding arable fields
- Built environment and setting: the stone and slate Morham Kirk is beautifully set within the landscape, as the land begins to rise from the very flat area to the north it is framed by the wooded valley. The neutral greys of the Kirk contrast with the colours of its landscape setting; greens in summer giving way to reds, oranges and yellows in autumn. Views of the kirk are particularly good from the right of way from Northrig; the churchyard is also interesting to explore. The Morham Burn house on the lane down, contrasts with the mature woodland behind and arable land surrounding it, and is a focal point in views from the west and south. The single track lane to the kirk adds to the unchanging traditional ambience. The stone bridge over Morham burn is also attractive.
- Old stone walls lining the roads and use in buildings, and use of traditional materials such as slate and pantiles in the older buildings add to the aesthetic appeal
- Newer development within Morham respects traditional form in that cottages and the village hall are kept low and face the road although they do not use traditional materials.
- Core Path route 31 from Morham Old school to Northrig follows the eastern edge of the woodland above Morham Braes, before dropping down to the kirk and continuing along the north-western boundary. The path gives good views of Morham Kirk and Braes as well as Traprain Law and the Lammermuirs
- Morham's history as a 'lost village' gives the area a mysterious, wistful air; Morham was once much more populous than now, and the main buildings of the village remain (the old manse, the old schoolhouse, Morham Burn (marked on early C19th maps as school), kirk) to stand witness to this, though the majority of the housing and populace have now gone

Guidelines for Development

- Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale secluded visual character derived from well-planned mature woodland framework
- Any proposed development must not harm the sense of place of the character, landscape setting, identity and traditional appearance of Morham
- Any proposed development must not harm the setting of the Kirk and Morham Burn building and the approach to the Kirk along the single track road
- Support the use of traditional building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings
- Any proposed development must not harm the setting and sense of the lost village by prevention of infill development in the area of the old manse, schoolhouse and Kirk

- Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form and detracts from the natural qualities of the area
- Any proposed development must not harm the open views from core path route 31 both into the area towards the kirk and out of the area towards Traprain Law
- Any proposed design and materials of road signage and street furniture must not harm the historic and picturesque character of the village and must retain its individual identity

Potential for Landscape Enhancement

- Signage of the right of way could be improved
- If the opportunity arises undergrounding or re-routing the overhead power lines would be beneficial to avoid an impact on the setting of the Kirk and Morham Braes

Photographs of special features and typical elements



Morham Kirk in its setting



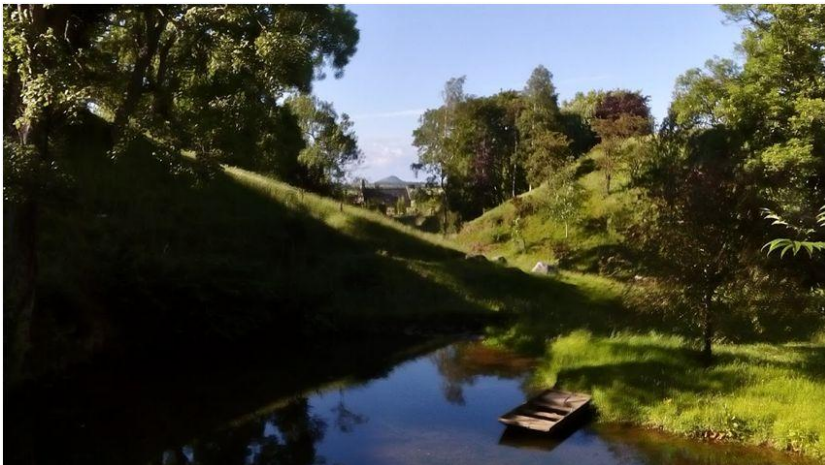
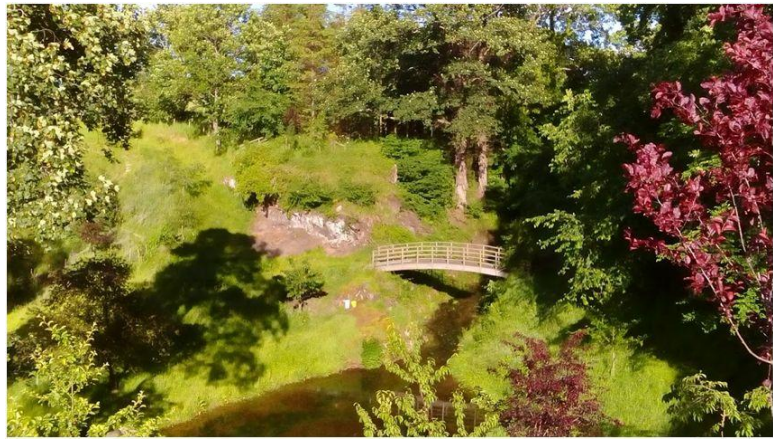
Morham Burn



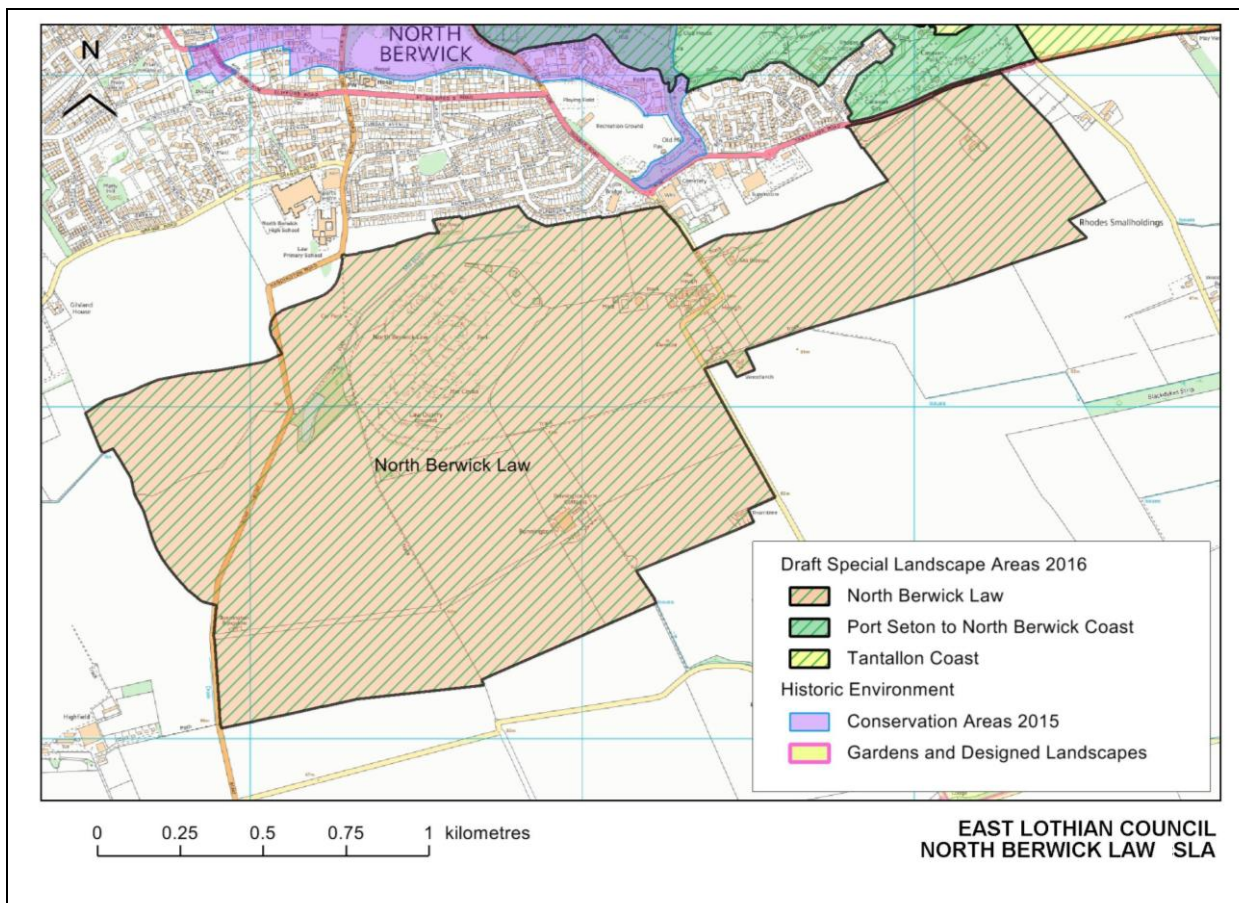
Field north of Kirk with Traprain beyond



Autumnal shades in trees at Morham Braes



North Berwick Law SLA Statement of Importance



Character: This area is focussed on the dramatic crag and tail feature of North Berwick Law, which is important for scenic value, sense of place of North Berwick, recreation, wildlife, cultural association and archaeology.

Area: 186 ha

Overview:

North Berwick Law lies immediately to the south of North Berwick. The area consists of the crag and tail feature of the Law and some of the immediately surrounding farmland and boggy ground in which it is set. The visual influence of the Law stretches far beyond its physical boundary. Volcanic intrusions into fertile arable land are common throughout East Lothian, however, North Berwick Law is one of the largest and most prominent in the area, its distinctive conical form rising around 120m from the surrounding gently rolling farmland and nearly 187m in total. This recognisable peak is visible from Fife, the Forth Road Bridge, and widely across East Lothian acting as a focal point and way marker.

The area has high scenic value with the ruggedness of the Law contrasting with the rolling farmland and marshy ground in which it sits. The exposure and ruggedness of the Law, along with its natural land cover (much of the area is designated as SSSI for its lowland calcareous grassland) gives it some sense of wildness. The Whisky Bottle reservoir, to the west of the Law, around which there is an informal path, is small in scale but attractive. The whale bones at the top of the Law are notable features of the Law.

From the top of the Law, which is a draw for locals and visitors alike, there are superb panoramic

views, with notable features in the surrounding landscape shown on a viewpoint indicator at the top. There are open views northwards across the Forth to Fife; generally north-eastwards to the Bass Rock and Tantallon Castle across farmland; south-eastwards down the East Lothian and Berwickshire coast, south towards Whitekirk and the Lammermuirs and the Garletons, then westwards up the Forth Estuary to Edinburgh and the Pentlands. The remains of historic use of the Law as a viewpoint are still evident. Due to its wide visibility, the Law is important in views from many places as well as forming a distinctive backdrop to the town of North Berwick.

North Berwick Law was used as a Hillfort and settlement in the Bronze Age and Iron Age, and the ramparts and hut circles can still be seen. There is a historic relationship between North Berwick Town and the Law which has affected the development of North Berwick since at least Medieval times. The Law was (and to a certain extent still is) a prominent marker that has been used as a navigational aid both from the sea and the land. Indeed North Berwick to Fife by ferry is a well known pilgrimage route. There are five beech trees on the eastern flank of the Law the remains of a larger group planted by Hew Dalrymple to commemorate the Treaty of Union between Scotland and England in 1707.

The John Muir Way runs to the east of the Law, with fine views of the Law approaching from either direction, but particularly the south. This route passes a car park off the B1347, from which there are paths both to the top of the Law and around its base. The cliffs on the north are very steep with a former quarry (winning the brownish stone used in buildings in North Berwick) to the south. There also is an informal path around the Whisky Bottle reservoir. North Berwick Law is a Marilyn, one of the Relative Hills of Britain¹.

Special Qualities and Features:

- The Ash Landscape Study of the Lothians² identified farmland, lochs, reservoirs and rivers, geological features and archaeological remains as key features which determine the essence of the landscape character of the Lothians, all of which are represented in this area.
- North Berwick Law is a distinctive landmark feature over much of the coastal plain as well being visible across the Forth in Fife and the Lammermuir Hills to the south. The Law with its easily identifiable crag and tail feature to the east contributes greatly to North Berwick's sense of place.
- The area is a valuable recreational resource both to local people and visitors from further afield. The Law itself is well used (and baggable in certain circles) and the John Muir Way which passes to the west is part of a nationally promoted long distance route.
- The open plain farmland and marsh setting of the Law allows appreciation of the feature, rising suddenly and steeply from the surrounding land, its ruggedness contrasting with the cultivated farmland below. The golden yellow of the gorse and grey exposed stone of the Law and the woodland foliage around the Whisky Bottle contrasting with the crops of wheat or barley waving in the wind. Bright blue skies adding or the top of the Law sitting in cloud adds an additional scenic dimension to the area.
- There is little built development, other than historic, on the steep slopes of the Law. There is an attractive row of traditional cottages at Thortree though and further cottages associated with the sturdy farmhouse at Bonnington (which also has an amusing farm sign, one of several similar in East Lothian) which may have been built from the brown stone of the Law, providing a link between the built and natural environment. These clusters have small groups of trees sheltering them, reflecting the exposed location and creating a focal point in the farmland. Housing at The Heugh is of a somewhat different appearance; although generally built from the stone of the

¹ "The Relative Hills of Britain" By Alan Dawson: see <http://www.rhb.org.uk/>

² The Lothians Landscape Character Assessment no. 91 – ASH consulting group 1998

Law their pantiled roofs contrast with surrounding fields when viewed from the Law. The scale and agricultural appearance of the housing relates to the agricultural use of the area. The Heugh doocot gives a focal point in the open field to the south.

- Field boundaries generally consist of hedges with hedgerow trees, patchy in places with a limited number of stone walls.
- The scenic waterbody of the Whisky Bottle reservoir, hidden in trees at the foot of the Law is a surprising find in an area generally lacking in water features, the Law being stony so shedding rainfall quickly to the base. There is a walkway around the reservoir allowing for views in.
- There is a relationship between the Law and the volcanic islands of Craighleith and the Bass Rock in the Forth, with views of all three allowing the viewer to imagine a previous volcanic landscape.
- Views out in all directions are excellent, especially along the coast. To the north the hills of Fife and beyond as far as the Cairngorms are visible over the Forth and Forth islands, westwards lies the Forth Bridges World Heritage Site beyond farmland and coast, to the south the Garleton hills and Lammermuirs, rise beyond the coastal plain. South-eastwards are views to Tantallon, Dunbar and cliffs at Thorntonloch and St Abbs. This is a great place for watching cloud shadows chase across farmland, and the ever changing coastal skies and light of the Forth, which can add drama and dynamism to the view
- *Historic Landscape – North Berwick Law (See Appendix IV)*
The setting for North Berwick Law Hillfort (large amount of prehistoric remains both upstanding and cropmarks)
Historic relationship between North Berwick Town and the Law. North Berwick Law has affected the development of North Berwick since at least medieval times. The Law was (and to a certain extent still is) a prominent marker that has been used as a navigational aid both from the sea and the land. North Berwick to Fife by ferry is well known pilgrimage route
360 degree viewpoint from the Law – remains of historic use of this viewpoint still evident including a Napoleonic watch house and World War 2 lookout.

Guidelines for Development

- Any proposed development must not harm the open views from the Law
- Any proposed development must not harm the Law as a landmark feature, both in close and distant views or compete with it as a focal point within the landscape and development that would visually diminish its apparent size avoided
- Any proposed development must not harm the setting of the Law rising steeply from the surrounding land
- Any proposed development must not harm the recreational value of the Law
- Any proposed development must not harm the sense of naturalness and wildness qualities of the area
- Any proposed development must not harm views of the Law in particular from the John Muir Way, A198 and B1347
- Any proposed development must not harm the integrity and coherence of the historic landscape

Potential for Landscape Enhancement:

- Avoid tree planting on the rugged slopes
- Take any opportunities that arise to rationalise the system of overhead power lines to the south of the Law; often these follow field boundaries or roads, which is generally preferable.
- Take opportunities to reduce the impact of telecom masts on the Law
- Infill gaps in hedging and replace post and wire fencing with hedging

Photographs of special features and typical elements



North Berwick Law from Bonnington; the Law contrasts in form and landcover with surrounding agricultural land



Farm sign at Bonnington, with the steep sided North Berwick Law rising steeply from farmland below



Aerial view of North Berwick Law

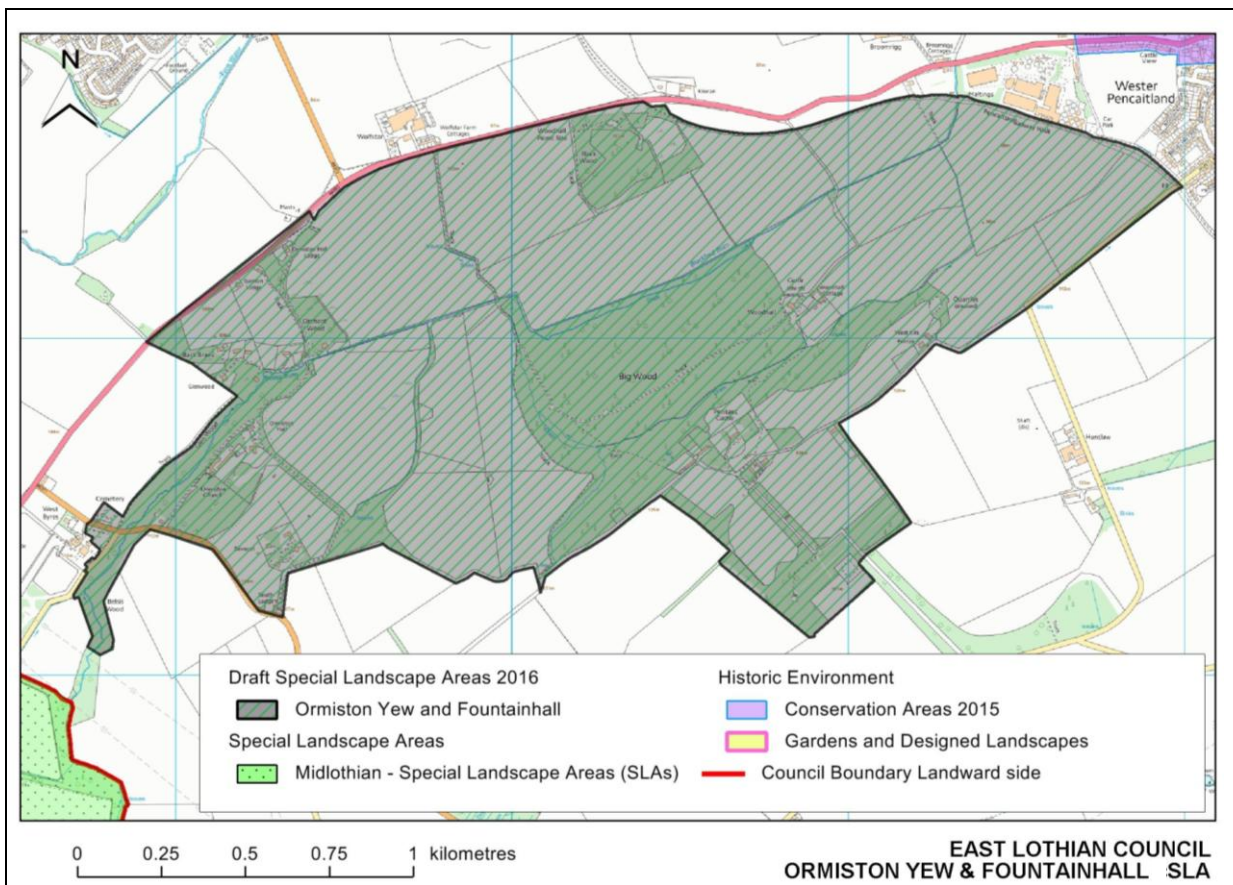


The heavily wooded reservoir at the west side of the Law with the Law rising beyond the trees

East side of the Law looking along the tail to the ancient beech trees



Ormiston Yew and Fountainhall SLA Statement of Importance



Character: This landscape of woodlands set around a burn with surrounding rolling arable fields has strong cultural and historic associations, including the Ormiston Yew.

Area: 303 ha

Overview :

The area extends from West Byres to the Pencaitland railway walk, taking in areas of woodland and parkland in the grounds of Ormiston Hall (destroyed by fire in the 1940's) and Fountainhall. The Ormiston Hall woodland, protected by TPO 31, contains the ancient, historically important Ormiston Yew, while the Big Wood conceals the magnificent extended Lairds House of Fountainhall. This house is reputedly haunted by several ghosts, notably Alexander Hamilton, who cursed the family after being denied food, but also John Cockburn and Charles I. Both areas of woodland have well spaced housing tucked in among the trees.

A further area of woodland at Black Wood is the site of Woodhall Colliery, and a small bing is still concealed within the wood. The Pencaitland Railway walk has an information board on the mining legacy of the area; it also boasts good views to the Lammermuirs across arable fields.

Special Qualities and Features:

- The Ormiston Yew grows to the south of Ormiston Hall, built for local landowner, town planner and agricultural improver John Cockburn in 1745-8. The Yew is a most impressive tree: it is one of few examples of layering yews known in Scotland and is purported to be as much as one thousand years old. The Forestry Commission describe the Yew as having 'a cathedral of arching

limbs' - if not a cathedral, it has certainly been a church, with both John Knox and George Wishart having preached here. There is a strong 'natural world' link to the past: the relatively unchanged area around the Yew means it is possible to imagine the congregation coming in from the surrounding area. The tree is mentioned by SNH as one of 10 notable veteran trees in Scotland¹

- Fountainhall (formerly Penkaet Castle) is a Category A listed early to mid 17th century Lairds House, which has been added to over the centuries. Related buildings include two lectern dovecots, stable buildings, steading and cottages. The woodland setting and ruinous buildings give an air of mystery to the area.
- Woodlands within rolling arable fields are typical of the Mid-Tyne Plain;
- Both the Glen Wood (around the Belsis Burn) and Big Wood are in deep valleys; they contain a mix of mainly deciduous trees, giving visual variety and seasonal change. Views along the valleys are attractive, both at Ormiston Hall, where the valley is steep sided but the bottom open enough to let light through, and the more dramatic, enclosed valleys of Big Wood. This contains several unusual specimens, including some large Wellingtonias, and has a varied appearance, with some coniferous woodland, some areas of birch and some more mixed sections. The burns at the bottom are small comparative to the valleys, but give an added aesthetic appeal.
- Built development in the area is sparse and mainly consists of low density housing set within the woodlands. That within the Big Wood consists of a pretty row of cottages and buildings associated with Fountainhall. At Orchard Wood, there are ruins of buildings associated with Ormiston Hall (destroyed by fire in the 1940's); some new development has inventively adapted these into the design. The doocot associated with this house was built with the picturesque idea that buildings should complement their natural environment. Views of the housing within the woods are charming, for example at Penkaet Rig and within and around Ormiston Hall, while views of Penkaet castle are impressive though hard to obtain.
- The Pencaitland railway walk is an all abilities path, and views from it are good both westwards to the Pentlands and south to the Lammermuirs, with a particularly picturesque view near Baird's Maltings where the fields of the valley sides within the area form an interlocking pattern of slopes backed by the Lammermuir hills. Sometimes these fields' crops are destined for the adjacent Maltings just outwith the area; the wind rippling through the barley is a particularly appealing sight, and Baird Maltings uses its location in a prime barley growing area in its marketing.
- There are other good paths in the area. Core path route 72 and Sustrans cycle route 196 follow the Pencaitland Railway walk along the north-eastern boundary of the area and continue passed Ormiston. There is parking on the A6093 at Kiloran to access this. Core Path route 165 from Wolfstar to Fountainhall bisects the area. There is parking at West Byres to access the Right of Way from West Byres cemetery to Ormiston Hall which passes the Great Yew.
- This area is within the Lothian coalfield and has a mining legacy. The Woodhall Colliery, closed in 1944, is located in Black Wood, where rooks coming to roost are an impressive site. There is an information board on the Pencaitland Railway walk former railway, about the Colliery, and parking and picnic area within the wood.
- There are panoramic views from the A6093 looking south. There are also good views of the inventory Winton House Garden and Designed Landscape from this point. From the western end of the track along the southern boundary of the area there are fine views across into Midlothian, as well as northwards over the SLA and beyond. The woodland at Fountainhall is important in views across the area.

¹ See <http://www.snh.org.uk/publications/on-line/heritagemanagement/woodpasture/Veterantrees.asp>

Guidelines for Development:

- Any proposed development must not harm the setting of the landscape and sense of history and timeless quality of the area around the Ormiston Yew and Fountainhall.
- Any proposed development must not harm the enjoyment or access to the area
- Any proposed development must not harm the natural setting of river, woods and farmland
- Any proposed development must not harm the core agricultural character of the area
- Any proposed development must not harm open views from the A6093 across the area from the core path routes particularly on the higher ground to the east of Big Wood and from the Pencaitland Railway Walk across the area.
- Any proposed development must not harm the pattern of arable fields and woodland
- Any proposed development must not harm the pattern of sporadic development within the woodland
- Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form and detracts from the natural qualities of the area
- Modern development of large farm buildings should be carefully sited and coloured to retain the sense of history and character of the area

Potential for Landscape Enhancements

- Improve signage to Great Yew
- Retain woodland around housing
- Many old field boundaries have been lost and restoring these would improve the look of the area, though may be impractical with modern farming techniques.
- Bing in the Black Wood, landscaped with trees but still there (2012)
- The railway walk continues to Ormiston - the A6093 is fast here, and crossing a bit unnerving.

Photographs of special features and typical elements



Glorious autumn colours of the woodlands



Rolling arable landscape surrounded by woodlands

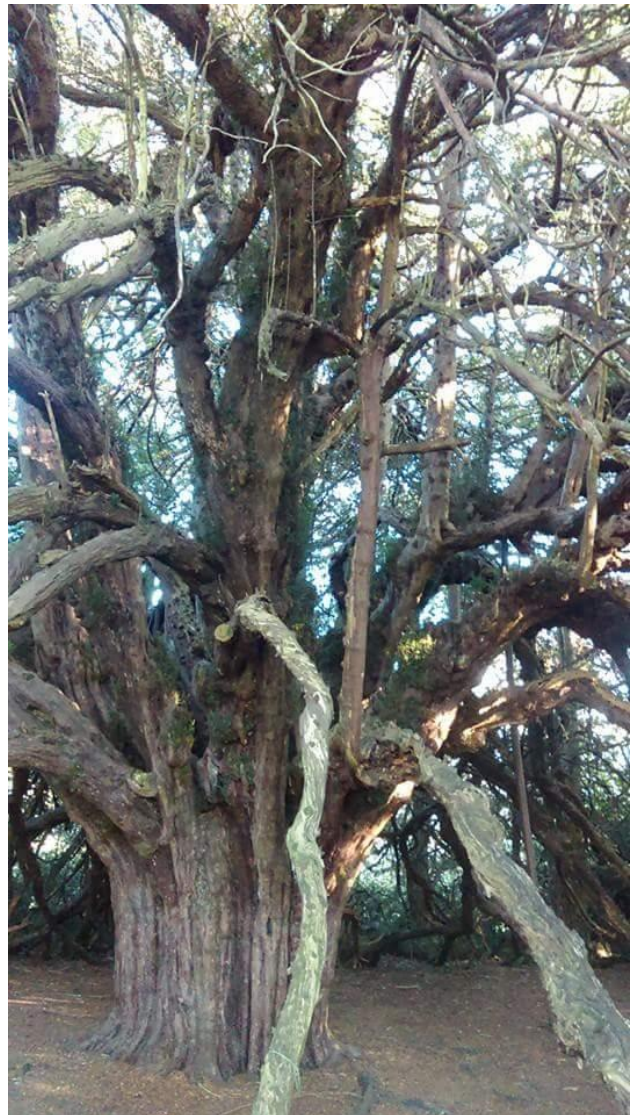




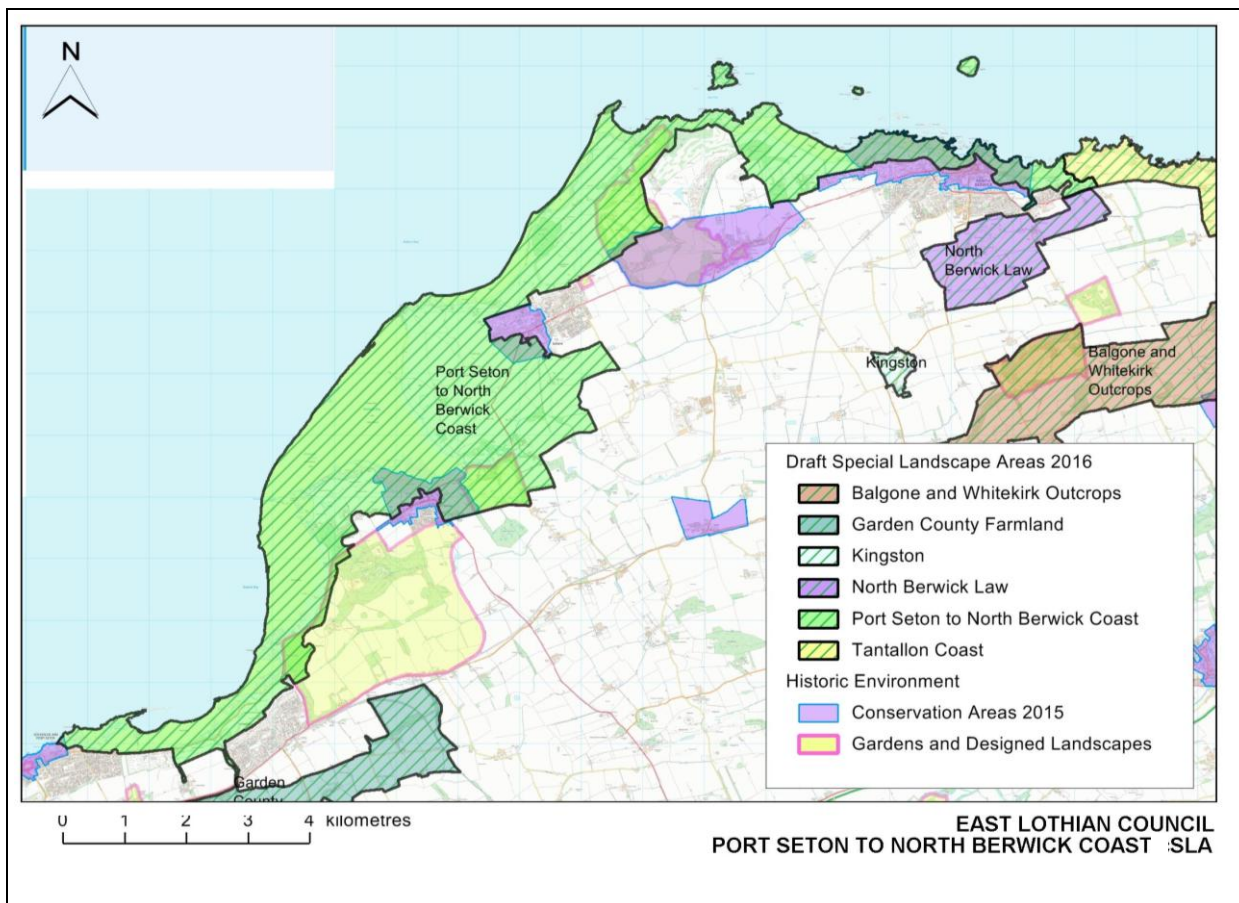
Housing within the woodlands at Fountainhall



The great Ormiston Yew



Port Seton to North Berwick Coast SLA Statement of Importance



Character: This SLA is the heart of East Lothian’s recreational coast, including many beautiful, well loved beaches, as well as the expansive nature reserve of Aberlady Bay and world class golf courses. Its coastline is diverse including low rocky headlands, estuaries and sandy beaches as well as the rare feature of mobile sand dunes. The islands of Fidra, Lamb and Craigleith also lie within the area their remote areas of land providing havens for wildlife and form part of the iconic seascape that is one of East Lothian’s greatest assets. The area bounded by several traditional towns and villages, from the small fishing village of Port Seton in the west, past the historic settlements of Aberlady and Gullane to the bustling town of North Berwick in the east.

Area: 2,567 ha

Overview:

This is a large area of diverse, highly scenic coastline, views from and of the area almost always good, sometimes stunningly so. The coast has high recreation value, the beaches and sand dunes being popular with visitors for walking, picnicking and observing wildlife. The sea offers opportunities for a wide variety of water sports from canoeing to kite surfing and wind surfing. Links golf courses are also a feature of the area, including the world renowned Muirfield at Gullane and the more recently developed Renaissance course at Dirleton.

The area runs along the coast from the east side of Port Seton and taking in the flat expanses of sands at Longniddry as well as its attractive golf course, backed by Scots pine trees and the highly scenic, mixed deciduous native wooded valleys of Seton Dean and Longniddry Dean, although their character is not coastal they link directly to this coastal area and provide a wooded setting for it. Further east the distinctive feature of the wind shorn trees of the edge of the Gosford Garden and

Designed Landscape frame the area.

Trees continue to be important in providing a setting for the coast with the wooded grounds of the Luffness Garden and Designed Landscape enclosing the coast to the east of Aberlady, the woods of the Archerfield Garden and Designed Landscape providing the backdrop to the coast west of Dirleton and the woodlands at Yellowcraig and Invereil House providing a setting for the coast on the western approach to North Berwick.

Wildlife abounds in the area. Aberlady Bay is important for its wild fowl and wading birds – the majority of the coast between the high and low water forms part of the Firth of Forth SPA and SSSI due to its importance in providing habitats for wintering populations of waterfowl of both European and international importance. Visiting Aberlady Bay at dusk and watching the thousands of geese coming in to roost is well worthwhile. Touch this expanse of sand and saltmarsh at the mouth of the Peffer Burn with the quality of light often found in the Forth Estuary and it becomes a magical place of water and sky. The islands of Craigleith, Fidra and The Lamb form part of the Forth Islands SSSI and house large colonies of nesting sea birds including colourful puffins. The award-winning Seabird Centre, inventively designed as a birds wing to perfectly reflect its function and site, has live action cameras which allow a view of the island birds without disturbing them. Other wildlife can be seen in person from butterflies in the dune grasslands, to seals sunning themselves on the rocky shore to the invertebrate life in the rock pools.

Coastal grassland habitat is also important in this area, recognised by designation as a Local Biodiversity Site at Gullane Bents, where the SSSI does not reach. The coastal flowers there and at Yellowcraig are pretty.

The large estuary of Aberlady Bay provides both a coherent historic area as well as an important area for nature. Its protection as a local nature reserve makes this the least developed section of this coastline. Its low-lying nature extends the influence of the coast inland at this point to include the arable land around Saltcoats Castle to the south of Gullane.

The extensive links and dunes round Gullane provide ideal landscape for links golf courses with six golf courses found between Aberlady and North Berwick. The dunes including rare mobile dunes back onto long stretches of sandy beach at Gullane, Yellowcraig and North Berwick.

Rocky shore can also be found in stretches along the coast providing visual and geological interest.

There is good access to the area with the B1348 and A198 following the line of the coast and linking the coastal settlements. The John Muir Way also follows along the coast and many core path routes link into the area from inland. Sustrans cycle route 2 follows the coast road from Port Seton to Longniddry and route 15 follows a local route from Luffness to Gullane. There are several formalised parking areas providing easy access to the beaches.

Special Qualities and Features:

- Aberlady Bay Local Nature Reserve
Much of the aesthetic appeal of Aberlady Bay is in its open landscape/seascape and feeling of “wildness”. This distinctive estuary contains saline alluvial soil, rare in Scotland. It was designated as Britain’s first Local Nature Reserve and a Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1952, due to its botanical, ornithological and geological interest. The aim of the Reserve is “**to conserve the geomorphological and physiographical features, the habitats, flora and fauna found within the Reserve and the resultant landscape character**”.
The Reserve represents the most extensive complex of sand dune, saltmarsh and mudflats in

South-East Scotland. It also contains a wide range of associated habitats, particularly calcareous grassland and freshwater marsh; and supports a large variety of plant species with many Scottish and local rarities. The main ornithological interest of the Reserve relates to the site's national or international significance as a feeding and roosting area for wintering wildfowl and waders, and its regional importance for several breeding species.

- The coast has much geological interest along its length with a number of proposed Local Geodiversity Sites. Of particular note are the volcanic rocks and dolerite intrusions along the shore from Yellowcraig to North Berwick that link with the volcanic intrusions of the Forth islands and the sedimentary rocks forming low cliffs at Gosford Bay and Kilspindie.
- A large section of the coast around Gullane contains sand dunes, including mobile dunes, rare in Scotland, with associated flowers and butterflies. Gullane Bents is a good example of sand dune restoration, with regional significance. The sandy bay of Gullane beach backed by the large imposing dunes is highly attractive and heavily visited throughout the year. Sea buckthorn, originally introduced in the 1950s by the well known Country Planning Officer Frank Tindall to stabilise the dunes, has unfortunately taken to the area rather better than expected and now requires control; however here it does bring a magnificent display of orange berries in the autumn.
- The intrusive volcanic landform of picturesque Fidra Island sits off the coast at Yellowcraig with its distinctive arch and 1885 lighthouse and is said to be an inspiration for Robert Louis Stevenson's Treasure Island. It creates a focal point and frames views from the shore and contrasts with the soft white sands of the beach. The changing tide around its base, covering and exposing rocks, and changing light and weather conditions produce a constantly changing seascape. The sea birds bobbing on the waves, small fishing boats heading round the island and the gulls wheeling overhead combine to create an area of potent aesthetic appeal.
- Yellowcraig is a natural cove beach with spectacular views to the 1885 lighthouse on Fidra. Due to enclosure by trees and dunes, the beach is secluded from built development and other man-made elements such as cars. The soft white sands make it a popular family beach, a great place for rock pooling at low tide. Broad Sands, just round the corner to the east, is a sweep of white sand with good views of Bass Rock and North Berwick. Extensive dune grass lands extend inland from the beach dotted with wildflowers and butterflies in the summer. These are framed by the woodlands to their south with the distinctive twisted pine trees on the seaward edge that have been stunted and distorted by the harsh sea winds to create inspirational shapes firing the imagination. A volcanic plug, the Yellow Craig itself, is home to an interesting variety of moss and lichen.
- There are tranquil sections of coast still within this generally busy recreational area. The quietest areas lie to the west of Gullane Bay around Gullane point and to the east of Gullane Bay around Jamie's Neuk and enable a more peaceful experience of the coast.
- The long sandy beach of Longniddry Bents can be found to the west of the area. There are rock pools to explore, areas of semi-natural coastal grassland bright with flowers in the spring and summer, and fine views looking towards Edinburgh and the Forth Bridges. Grey seals are often spotted to the west of the bay. Look out for the remains of World War II anti-tank defences, and remains of wrecks at low tide. A popular beach with visitors it is easily accessible from the A198 and B1348 with several car parks. The area is framed to the east by the wind shorn trees edging the Gosford estate. These appear as if they have been trimmed by a hedge cutter so even is their appearance above the boundary wall.
- North Berwick's beaches consist of two sandy bays with various rocky intrusions separated by a more substantial headland containing North Berwick Harbour, now mainly used by leisure craft. These popular recreational areas are an important part of the setting of North Berwick, originally a fishing village and port. There is a small amount of dune formation at the head of the shore however this is limited by built development and sea defences.
- This area has strong aesthetic appeal with its sandy beaches and bays and rocky coast providing

diversity and scenic views. It is an open landscape facing the sea varying in nature, from estuaries to dunes and rocky shore with policy woodlands, agricultural land, golf courses and islands as well as several urban areas set directly onto the coast. It is often rugged with mysterious elements particularly on the coast. Changing light and weather conditions and its effects on the sea can be dramatic. There are constant sounds of the breaking waves and seabirds and the invigorating smell of salty sea air.

- The seascape and relationship with the marine area is a vital part of the scenic appeal of this area. Coastal views westwards can be funnelled up the Forth towards the Forth Bridges World Heritage Site, the smooth plain of the Forth contrasting with the highly textured land. Eastwards, views are towards the open sea, with a seascape composed of islands, coastal sandy bays interspersed with low headlands, containing rising land in both East Lothian and Fife, and some open views out to the North Sea. The busy shipping lane of the Forth adds colour and interest.
- The many settlements are generally small scale and fit well within this coastal landscape often using local building materials.
- There are many excellent views over the coast and Forth Islands as well as towards Edinburgh and Fife from much of the area, with strong intervisibility. By day the coastal light brings changes; at night the lights of Fife sparkle across the Forth. This area has been widely identified as containing important views in the public consultation. Particular viewpoints identified in the public consultation include the coast from Gullane Hill, Aberlady Bay and Kilspindie, Yellowcraig beach towards Fidra, North Berwick beach and harbour, the approach to North Berwick from the east towards the Law, view from the golf course over North Berwick, and the view north from Greywalls. It is a heavily photographed and painted area. The area is important for outdoor recreation. The John Muir Way snakes along the coast mainly within the SLA. There are several links golf courses, which are characteristic of coastal lowland Scotland, many offering players great views across the Forth. The beaches are popular with families, walkers, horse riders and others. The sea off Gullane beach and Longniddry Bents is particularly good for surfing, wind surfing and kite surfing. This recreational use adds to the scenic appeal of the area their brightly coloured boards and sails contrasting with the surrounding natural environment of blue sea, golden sand, and green of sea buckthorn, whilst the white spray kicked up by their boards enhances appreciation of the energy and power of the sea.
- The birdlife of the area is an important part of its character. The many geese, sea and wading birds frequenting this area make it a regular haunt for bird-watchers, particularly at Aberlady Bay. The islands support colonies of seabirds, particularly puffins while Aberlady Bay attracts up to 30,000 migrating geese in the autumn. The outdoor experience is complemented by the visitor attraction the Seabird Centre, North Berwick and the Scottish Ornithological Club headquarters at Waterston House, Aberlady.
- The area has qualities of wildness. The offshore islands here, the most notable of which are Fidra, Craighleith and Lamb are among East Lothian's most remote areas. The sand dunes and mud flats of Aberlady Bay estuary provide natural groundcover and a lack of artificial elements. The shore itself provides elements of wildness and Jamie's Neuk, Archerfield and Gullane all score highly on SNH wildness mapping. Despite the busy shipping lanes and views of development in Fife parts of the shore still have an elemental feel such as the expanse of Aberlady Bay with wide sky openness. The sea itself has an elemental feel – a brisk north-easterly can quickly whip up the waves and occasional storms over the Forth are a reminder of nature's power. Sometimes a haar will roll in from the sea, approaching like moving wall to blot out the sun.
- There are many opportunities to view a myriad of wildlife along the coast from the many sea birds to seals on the shore and deer and badgers in the coastal woodlands to invertebrate life in rock pools and under rocks.
- *Historic Landscape – Aberlady Bay (See Appendix IV)*
This is a very diverse area in terms of the historic environment, with a high density of

archaeological remains. Remains present include virtually every archaeological and historic period. This area has numerous Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings associated with it. There are also a number of inventory gardens and designed landscapes within and bordering the area. There is a significant amount of industrial and WWI & II remains present along the coast. Medieval settlements of Eldbottle and Kilspindie are located within the area together with the remains of Kilspindie and Saltcoats Castles. The area is very rich in archaeological remains and monuments and has a high potential for previously unknown sites. The area of Aberlady Bay is an area of particular historic importance providing a coherent area of historic wrecks and medieval harbour, Kilspindie Castle and WWI remains.

Guidelines for Development

- Any proposed development must not harm the coastal character and characteristic features of the area
- Any proposed development must not harm the wide, open character of Aberlady Bay and Broad Sands.
- Any proposed development must not harm the recreational and scenic appeal of beaches, including access to them.
- Preservation against built development on the Forth Islands, identified as Unspoiled Coast in the East Lothian LDP other than extremely small scale development related to wildlife tourism
- Any proposed development must not harm the habitat and openness of the coastal grasslands
- Any proposed development must not harm the operation of natural coastal processes other than where sea defences are needed to protect important infrastructure such as the Longniddry to Aberlady Road, or the settlement of North Berwick.
- Any proposed development must not harm the sense of naturalness and wildness qualities of the area
- Any proposed development must not detrimentally impact on bird habitats. Birdlife is important to the area and development or management that harms it is unlikely to be approved because of SPA status of much of the area.
- Any proposed development must not harm the night-time darkness of those areas of the coast that are currently darker; Gosford Bay to Craighelaw and Gullane Bents to Broad Sands.
- Any proposed development must not harm open views out from the coastline, particularly from the John Muir Way, Sustrans cycle route 76, the A198, and including views westwards towards Edinburgh and the Forth Bridges, the coast from Gullane Hill, Aberlady Bay and Kilspindie, Yellowcraig beach towards Fidora, views of North Berwick beach and harbour, the approach to North Berwick from the east towards the Law, the view from the golf course over North Berwick, and the view north from Greywalls
- Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form and detracts from the natural qualities of the area e.g. wind turbines.
- Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of residential built development encroaching on the coastal strip that is out of scale and character, both in terms of architectural design and layout, with the traditional coastal settlements
- Any proposed development must not harm the general undeveloped character of the coastal area as identified in the LDP to maintain the scenic and wilder qualities of the area. Well sited small scale development (not including tourist accommodation) to enable beach and other coastal recreation may be acceptable. Infrastructure where necessary should be sensitively located and carefully screened – The sensitive Aberlady Bay and Yellowcraig in particular should be avoided.
- Any proposed development must not harm the integrity and coherence of the historic landscape.

Potential for landscape enhancement:

- Coast must be carefully managed to allow for recreation and wildlife (see coastal tourism strategy)
- Screening of car parking at Longniddry Bents and Gullane with tree and shrub planting similar to that at Yellowcraig or Shore Road in Dunbar

A number of **Management Objectives** (as set out in the Aberlady Bay Local Nature Reserve Prescriptive Management Plan 2012-2016) define attainable goals and set out the annual work programme for the site. The objectives are:

1. To maintain and enhance the role of the Bay as a feeding and roosting area for wildfowl and waders.
2. To maintain and enhance the role of the Reserve as a suitable breeding area for key bird species
3. To conserve the naturally developing dune system.
4. To conserve key habitats, plant communities and taxa.
5. To conserve the geological integrity of the Reserve.
6. To retain the sense of space.
7. To support educational and recreational use of the Reserve at such a level and in such areas of the Reserve that the Aim and Management Objectives are not prejudiced.
8. To conserve the cultural heritage of the Reserve.
9. To engender greater community involvement in the Reserve.

Examples of paintings using the Port Seton to North Berwick Coast as inspiration



North Berwick Harbour with Boat '149LH'
Tied Up by MacGeorge



Gullane Links, evening
by Patrick William Adam



A sunset View of Aberlady Bay, Low Tide
by William Darling Mackay circa 1903



Driving the Herd
by William Darling Mackay circa 1900



Autumn Morning at Kilspindie, Drive Off
by William Darling Mackay circa 1900



Driving Cattle on the Salt Marshes
by William Darling Mackay circa 1901

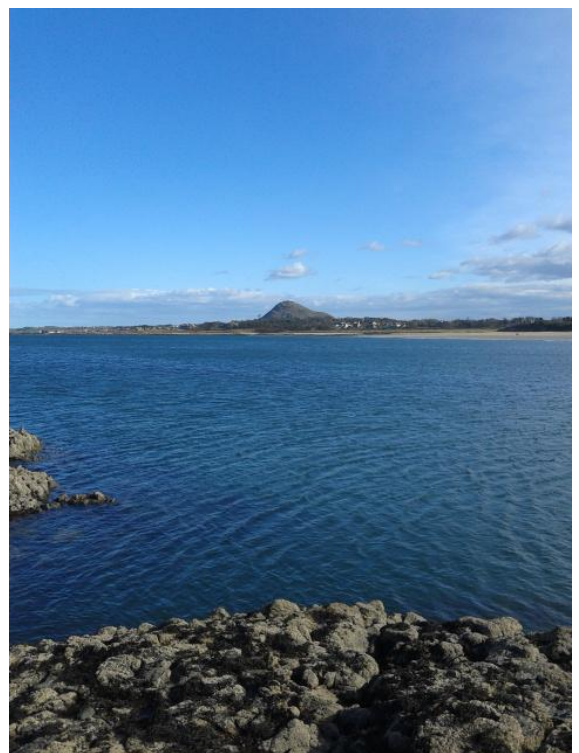
Photographs of typical elements and special qualities



Archerfield to North Berwick with Fidra from North Berwick Law shows the undeveloped wooded coastal nature



Fidra across the sands and rocky foreshore at Yellowcraig



Yellowcraig to North Berwick Bay

Coastal pruning at the Gosford Estate. The effect of the slat laden sea winds kill off the new growth as it emerges above the wall.



The expanse of Gosford Bay with the Pentland Hills and Arthur's Seat beyond





Tank traps at Maggie's Loup, Gullane Links



Kite surfers at Gosford Sands



Eyebroughy with the evening light on the sea



Mobile dunes at Gullane

Broad Sands at North Berwick with the islands of Lamb and Craigleith





Contrasting landscape of Aberlady Bay – expanses of water when the tide is high and expanses of mud flats when the tide is low exposing the wrecks at Kilspindie



Boardwalk across the bay



Wrecks



Saltmarsh



Curlew

Myriad of bird life from over-wintering flocks of geese to wading curlews, to Eider Ducks and Megansers

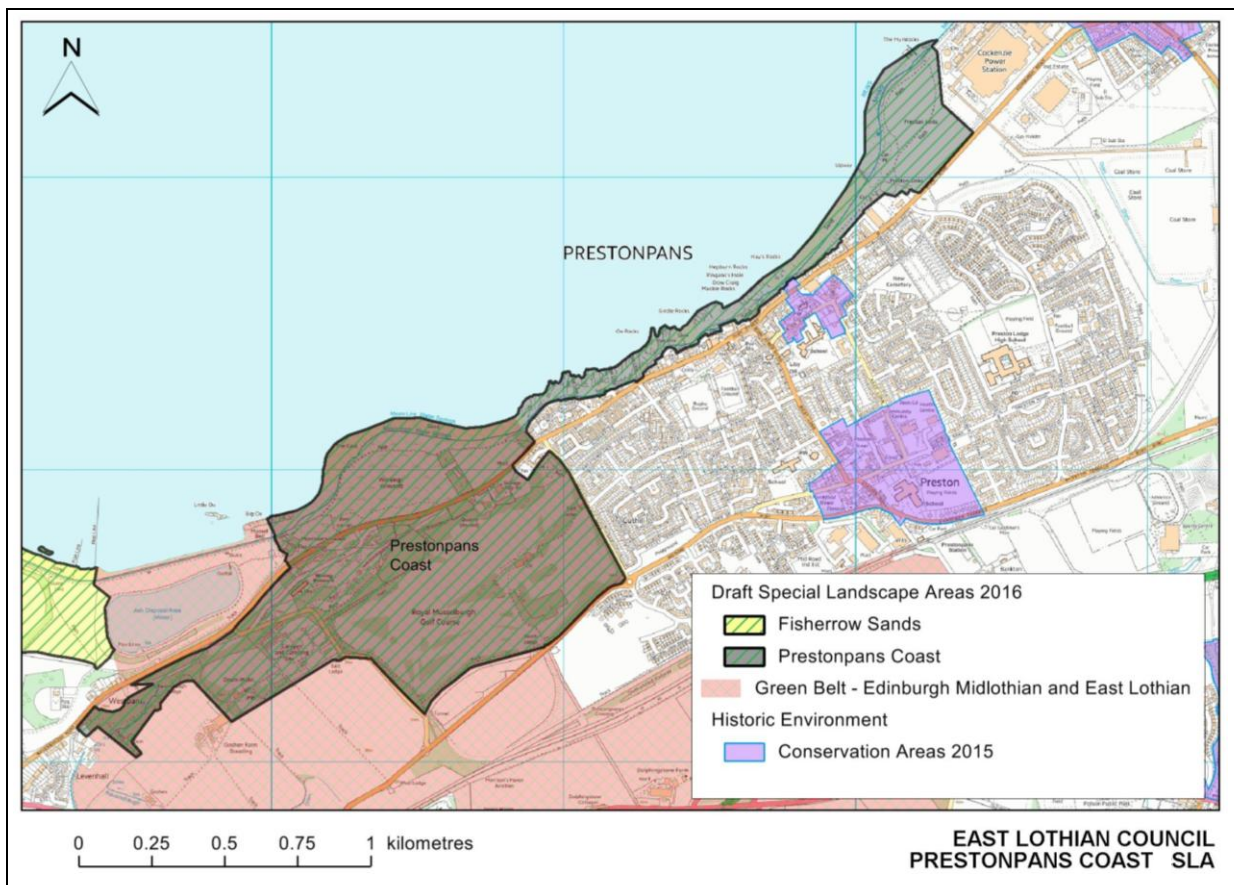


Megansers

Eider ducks



Prestonpans Coast SLA Statement of Importance



Character: A narrow rocky strip of coastline forming the boundary of the settlement of Prestonpans with the sea and surrounding coastal foreshore and woodlands.

Area: 118 ha

Overview:

An area providing the setting for Prestonpans including its narrow rocky foreshore identified for its geological importance, together with the mature established woodlands of the Royal Musselburgh Golf Course and Drummohr House to its west and the open spaces of Morrison's Haven to the west and Preston Links to the east of Prestonpans.

The area is important for recreation being close to the settlement of Prestonpans and including the route of the John Muir Way as well the Prestongrange Mining Museum, camping site at Drummohr, Royal Musselburgh Golf Course and open links at Morrison's Haven and the Green Hills at Preston Links.

It is a historic area with strong links to the sea as well as mining and salt panning and the more recent power station to the east of the site.

It is a highly scenic area set on the coast, with good views both east and west along the coastline as well as north across the Firth of Forth to Fife.

The whole of the coast between the high and low water is identified as the Firth of Forth SSSI and Morrison's Haven is identified as a local biodiversity site for its coastal grassland. The woodlands of

the Royal Musselburgh Golf Course lie within tree preservation order number 1, the woodlands of Drummohr are protected by tree preservation order numbers 13 and 60.

Special Qualities and Features:

- The rocky foreshore contains geological features along its length featuring sedimentary and volcanic rocks. It is an excellent example of Carboniferous fluvial sedimentary rocks with regional stratigraphic significance. The Johnny Moat stone, a large blue whinstone rock deposited by a glacier and named after the 17th century harbourmaster is a feature of the shore. Local folklore has it that “as long as the Johnny Moat Stone stands on its rock, the town will flourish”. Its fall from its stand in 1952 seemed to bear out the legend, predating as it did the closure of many local industries – colliery, brickworks, potteries. It has now been put back in place after another more recent fall.
- The area has a distinctive relationship with the sea. The houses of Prestonpans extend to the rocky edge of the shore, with Rock Cottage sitting proudly above the foreshore, creating a dramatic juxtaposition of natural wildness with the built environment. The closes between houses allow for framed views of the coast from within the town, reinforcing the town’s coastal character.
- The Green Hills at Preston Links are important for recreation, providing large open green space easily accessible from the neighbouring towns with raised views along the coast and out over the Firth of Forth. These were identified by many respondents in the public consultation as a popular local resource for many activities as well as for good views along the coast.
- The John Muir Way follows the line of the coast through this area.
- There are panoramic views over the Firth of Forth and Musselburgh to Edinburgh, Arthurs Seat and the Pentland Hills to the west, as well as to Fife and in some parts, toward the open sea
- A very historic area with strong links to the sea. Although now landscaped and filled-in, Morrison’s Haven remained a busy harbour right up until the 1920s, exporting coal and bricks. Originally known as Aitchison’s Haven it was built in 1526 to export the salt panned at nearby Prestonpans. By 1796 it rivalled Leith in importance, supporting the various industries of Prestonpans – coal exports, glass, tile and brick factories, a flint mill, and it had both a weekly market and an annual fair. The links, partly on the reclaimed land here, is an open area popular with dog walkers and has an abundance of coastal flowers.
- Prestongrange is a site of major importance in the story of Scotland’s Industrial Revolution. Over the centuries, the site has been a harbour, glass works, pottery, coal mine and brick works. You can still see remnants of these former industries, and many of the structures are still intact. These include the rare Hoffman Kiln built in 1937 and the Cornish Beam Engine, unique in Scotland as the only beam engine still on the site where it worked.
- The woodlands to the west of Prestonpans set on raised land provide a strong scenic green backdrop to the town when viewed from the coast, also providing a habitat for deer and other small mammals close to the built settlements. Areas of the woodland especially at Drummohr are identified as ancient woodland. Their importance is recognised by the tree preservation orders protecting them.
- Drummohr House itself is a locally identified designed landscape. Its policy woodlands to the north of the house provide the setting for the old carriage drive entrance from Westpans, with mature trees surrounding the house and framing its outlook to the south.
- The development of Cockenzie Power Station, to the east of Prestonpans, in the 1960s led to the installation of a pipe to take the waste ash to the reclaimed land at the ash lagoons to the west of Morrison’s Haven. This forms the coastal path along the rocky shore to the north of Prestonpans. This path, which is identified as a right of way, enables a sea level walk at low tide providing a dramatic, although often slippery, route passed the many named rocks along the foreshore and views along the coast and over the Firth of Forth. Right of Way along the pipeline

walkway along the top of the rocks to the north of the sea wall with the boundary of Prestonpans.

- Wildlife is abundant from the seals hauled out on the rocks to the myriad of sea birds bobbing on the water or circling overhead. The coastal grasslands at Morrison's Haven provide another habitat important for insects, butterflies and nesting birds.

Guidelines for Development

- Any proposed development must not harm the coastal character of the area and characteristic features of the area
- Any proposed development must not harm the habitat and openness of the coastal grasslands
- Any proposed development must not harm the mature setting of the woodlands to the west of Prestonpans
- Any proposed development must not harm open views out from the coastline, particularly from the John Muir Way, Sustrans cycle route 76, the B1348, the rocky foreshore, including views westwards towards Edinburgh and the Forth Bridges
- Any proposed development must not harm the operation of natural coastal processes other than where sea defences are needed to protect important infrastructure and reclaimed land
- Any proposed sea defences must not harm the scenic appeal of the relationship of the foreshore with the built environment
- Any proposed development must not harm the openness and natural appearance of the areas of reclaimed land at Preston Links (the Green Hills) and the Morrison's Haven Links and their value for informal recreation and as part of the landscape setting for Prestonpans

Potential for Landscape Enhancement

- Coast must be carefully managed to allow for recreation and wildlife (see coastal tourism strategy)
- Improve recreation facilities

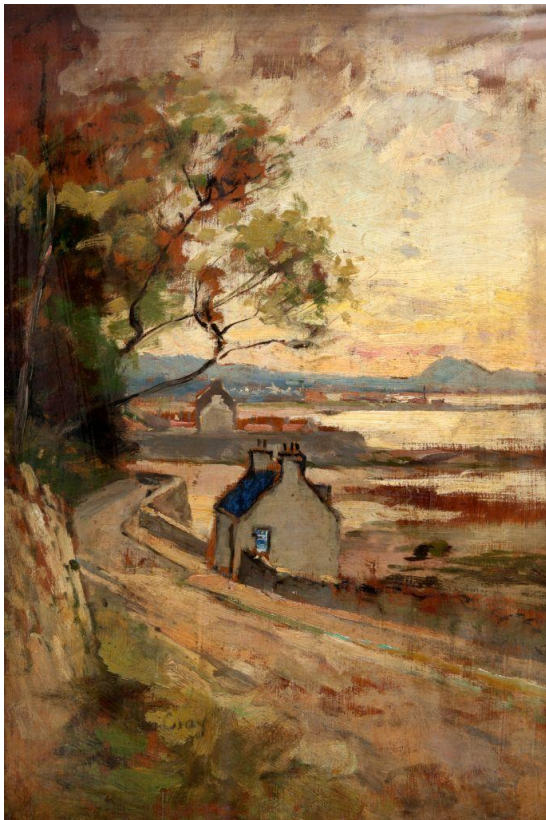
Examples of paintings using the Prestonpans Coast as inspiration



The Hope by John Bellany late 20th C



Boat at Sunrise, unknown artist



The Coast Road to West Pans by George Gray

Photographs of special features and typical elements



Open views along the coast to the hills of the Pentlands and Arthur's Seat in the distance and Rock Cottage sticking out in the middle distance



Striking contrast of colour and form between the blue of the sea and the sandstone and rendered walls with orange and slate roofs of the houses set directly on the shoreline.



Sandstone forming the coast has been built onto to create the edge of the built environment



The Johnnie Moat Stone left on the beach rocks 13,000 years ago after the last Ice Age has great significance to Prestonpans and is a local icon.



Coastal view westwards to Edinburgh



Local murals create another element to the foreshore



The rocky foreshore at Morrison's Haven gradually being colonised by Marram grass



The infilled harbour of Morrison's Haven with attractive walks through the grasslands of the reclaimed land



The relics of Prestongrange forming the mining museum backed by the woods of the Royal Musselburgh Golf Course and Drummohr