

local development plan 2018

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SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE

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INTRODUCTION

East Lothian is an area with much to offer. Its climate and underlying geology, plus the vision and toil of generations of our ancestors have left a landscape in our trust to be enjoyed now and hopefully passed on in good heart for our sons and daughters to discover. The landscape stretches from the outstanding coastline to the north, through the central area of fertile farmland including many fine designed landscapes, to the rolling and occasionally rugged and mysterious areas of the transitional fringe landscape before opening out onto the wide moorlands of the Lammermuirs which frame the county to the south. Intimate wooded river valleys dissect the area, while remnants of past volcanic activity such as the Bass Rock, North Berwick Law, Traprain Law and the Garleton Hills form highly visible rugged outcrops. These features combine to give an area of great diversity and interest forming the distinctive East Lothian landscape. Its location as part of the economically dynamic Edinburgh City Region, along with its natural attributes, make it an attractive place to live, visit and do business, which inevitably also brings development pressures.

This Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) has been produced to incorporate the review and update of Local Landscape Designations in East Lothian into the Council's planning policy framework.

All landscapes are important, and East Lothian Council will continue to carefully assess proposals for all areas of the countryside, coast and urban natural spaces. The purpose of reviewing the Landscape Character Areas and designating Special Landscape Areas is to recognise and strengthen the particular value of all landscapes in maintaining the distinctive sense of place in different areas of East Lothian.

Development Guidelines and opportunities for landscape enhancement to encourage positive landscape management have been prepared for both the Landscape Character Areas and Special Landscape Areas.

BACKGROUND

As part of the preparation of East Lothian's Local Development Plan (ELLLDP), it was considered that a review of East Lothian's landscapes was due. The main designation to protect local landscapes, Areas of Great Landscape Value, was introduced in the 1960s, with further amendment mainly in the 1970s/80s. There was clearly the potential for considerable landscape change since then. In addition, SNH/Historic Scotland published new Guidance¹ in 2006, refreshing the approach to local landscape designation, and moving towards a designation of Special Landscape Areas, broadly replacing the existing Areas of Great Landscape Value.

The aim of the Local Landscape Designation Review was to assess the whole of East Lothian's landscape, classify and describe it in terms of its different character areas and

¹ Guidance on Local Landscape Designations, SNH/Historic Scotland, available here: <http://www.snh.gov.uk/publications-data-and-research/publications/search-the-catalogue/publication-detail/?id=389>

identify areas of particular importance to be designated as Special Landscape Areas. Thereby replacing the existing landscape designations with new robustly defined landscape designations and providing up to date information on the valued qualities of all landscapes.

East Lothian Council undertook a systematic review of all of East Lothian’s landscapes in 2014/5. This review followed the Guidance by SNH/Historic Scotland “Guidance on designating local landscapes” to identify and justify areas which warrant such local designation. The study is divided into two main sections, the Landscape Character Area Boundary Review and the designation of Special Landscape Areas. The full Local Landscape Designation Review can be found in Technical Note 9 of the proposed Local Development Plan 2016.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICY

The ELLDP has as an objective (paragraph 1.61) to “Protect and enhance the area’s high quality environment and special identity”, in line with East Lothian Council’s Single Outcome Agreement. It aims to ensure that new development respects the character, appearance and amenity of the area, including settlements and their settings. It also aims to “ensure a strategic approach to managing landscape change when accommodating new development...by avoiding inappropriate development in locations where this is important to protect the character, setting and identity of the local area”.

The ELLDP states (paragraph 5.3) that the Council will have regard to the Landscape Character Area Review in assessing planning applications. The ELLDP also supports development that accords with the character and qualities of the Special Landscape Area.

ELLDP policies DP1: Landscape Character, DP2: Design and DC9: Special Landscape Areas guide design in the landscape generally and in Special Landscape Areas in particular.

ELLDP POLICIES

Policy DP1: Landscape Character

All new development, with the exception of changes of use and alterations and extensions to existing buildings, must:

1. Be well integrated into its surroundings by responding to and respecting landform, and by retaining and where appropriate enhancing existing natural and physical features at the site, including water bodies, that make a significant contribution to the character and appearance of the area and incorporate these into the development design in a positive way;
2. Include appropriate landscaping and multifunctional green infrastructure and open spaces that enhance, provides structure to and unifies the development and assists its integration with the surroundings and extends the wider green network where appropriate.

Policy DP2: Design

The design of all new development, with the exception of changes of use and alterations and extensions to existing buildings, must:

1. Be appropriate to its location in terms of its positioning, size, form, massing, proportion and scale and use of a limited palette of materials and colours that complement its surroundings;
2. By its siting, density and design create a coherent structure of streets, public spaces and buildings that respect and complement the site's context, and create a sense of identity within the development;
3. Position and orientate buildings to articulate, overlook, properly enclose and provide active frontages to public spaces or, where this is not possible, have appropriate high quality architectural or landscape treatment to create a sense of welcome, safety and security;
4. Provide a well connected network of paths and roads within the site that are direct and will connect with existing networks, including green networks, in the wider area ensuring access for all in the community, favouring, where appropriate, active travel and public transport then cars as forms of movement;
5. Clearly distinguish public space from private space using appropriate boundary treatments;
6. Ensure privacy and amenity, with particular regard to levels of sunlight, daylight and overlooking, including for the occupants of neighbouring properties;
7. Retain physical or natural features that are important to the amenity of the area or provide adequate replacements where appropriate;
8. Be able to be suitably serviced and accessed with no significant traffic or other environmental impacts.

Policy DC9: Special Landscape Areas

Areas are designated as Special Landscape Areas as identified within supplementary planning guidance on Special Landscape Areas. Development within or affecting Special Landscape Areas will only be permitted where:

1. it accords with the Statement of Importance and does not harm the special character of the area; or
2. the public benefits of the development clearly outweigh any adverse impact and the development is designed, sited and landscaped to minimise such adverse impacts.

The Council will refer to the Statement of Importance of the relevant site in assessing planning applications.

Appendix I - Landscape Character Areas

BACKGROUND

The Landscape Character Area Boundary Review was the first part of the Local Landscape Review. It was based on desk and field work carried out in 2014/5.

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

Landscape Character Areas are landscapes where key characteristics occur consistently and have an identity which is unique to their geographical location. Within each area there is a similarity of vegetation, topography and built elements, such as a heather covered moorland or arable land of the agricultural plain. Although boundaries have been defined as single lines, due to gradual merging of one landscape type to the next, characteristics can often be found on either side of a boundary, creating more of a “fuzzy” line between areas.

The East Lothian Landscape Character Area Boundary review details the revisions of each landscape character area on an East Lothian scale. The same criteria were used as in the Ash Study, although the built features category was split into three – access, built environment and infrastructure. The Review assessed the landscape based on its current status, and did not assess potential impacts of currently proposed or consented development.

Changes to the areas were kept to a minimum to try and retain consistency with national character types. The main changes were the addition of ‘Lammermuir with windfarm’ character area to reflect extensive and dominating windfarm development in parts of the Lammermuirs; identification of the Whiteadder Valley as a separate Landscape Character Area more in character with the Scottish Borders upland valley landscape character; and division of the coastal area into Coastal Plain and Coastal Margins, to reflect locally important differences in character between these areas.

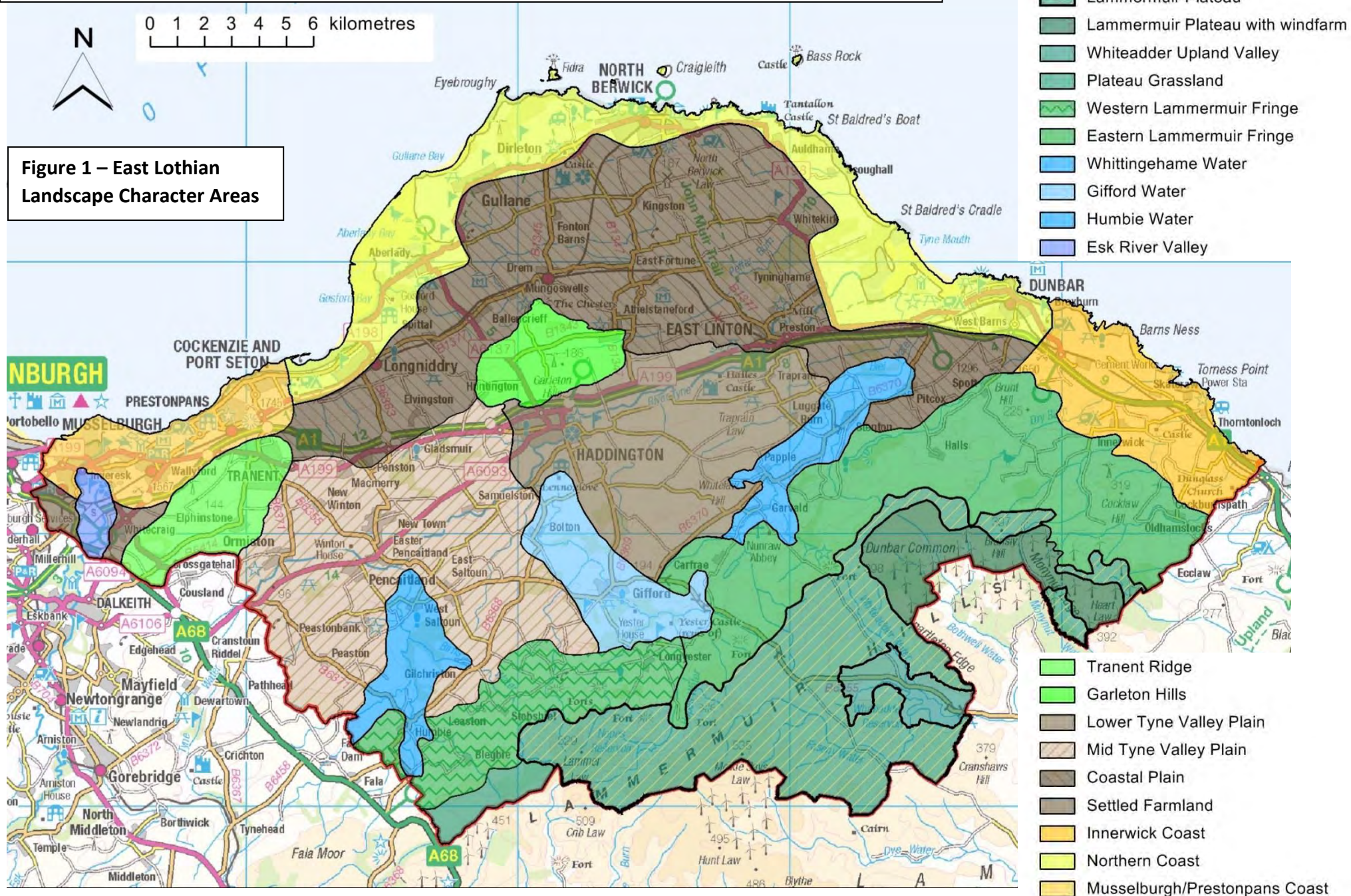
¹ No 91: The Lothian’s Landscape Character Assessment, Ash Consulting Group (published and commissioned by Scottish Natural Heritage) 1998

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES AND AREAS WITHIN EAST LoTHIAN

As a result of the study 19 Landscape Character Areas were identified as listed below ordered by their main landscape character type, and shown on the map in figure 1.

Table 1 Landscape Character Areas defined by the East Lothian Review 2015
Uplands
Lammermuir Plateau Lammermuir Plateau with windfarm Whiteadder Valley Plateau Grassland
Upland Fringes
Western Lammermuir Fringe Eastern Lammermuir Fringe
Lowland River Valleys
Whittingehame Water Gifford Water Humbie Water Esk River Valley
Lowland Hills and Ridges
Tranent Ridge Garleton Hills
Lowland Plains
Lower Tyne Valley Plain Mid Tyne Valley Plain Coastal Plain Settled Farmland
Coastal Margins
Innerwick Coast Northern Coast Musselburgh/Prestonpans Coast

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REGIONAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

There are some regional landscape features/elements which characterise Eastern Coastal areas of Lowland Scotland, the Central Lowlands, or the Southern Uplands of South Scotland, which help maintain the distinctiveness of these areas in relation to the rest of Scotland or the UK. To maintain the distinctiveness and sense of place of these areas, it is important that the features that typify them are conserved or strengthened. East Lothian lies on the coast at the eastern end of the Central Lowlands, rising to join the Southern Uplands to the south, contributing to the distinctiveness of these landscapes.

Some of the regional landscape features are given a particular twist in East Lothian; the Garleton Hills has the Hopetoun monument on top of it which makes it instantly recognisable. Fidra, a pretty island off North Berwick along with Yellow Craig, a small volcanic knoll to its south, were made famous by Robert Louis Stevenson. Sometimes, East Lothian just has a particularly good example of such a feature, so that people come to associate it with the area, for example Aberlady Bay as a natural area for birdlife, prime agricultural land recognised as 'Scotland's Garden County' or links golf courses including the world renowned Muirfield.

The following landscape features/elements are considered characteristic:

Eastern Coastal Lowland Scotland

1. Undulating, fertile arable land
2. Coastline of interspersed sandy beaches and rocky shoreline; low cliffs
3. Wide estuaries and associated salt marsh and bird life
4. Mobile sand dunes
5. Plantation, shelter belt and policy tree-planting
6. Use of pantiles especially on more humble buildings, with use of slate for grander buildings.
7. Use of local stone, and in some places harling for building walls
8. Use of local red sandstone in traditional buildings
9. Redevelopment of steadings into residential development
10. Links golf courses
11. Relatively dense network of single lane rural roads often lined with hedges or drystone walls
12. Closely spaced designed landscapes

Central Lowlands

1. Southern upland boundary fault
2. Hill ridge skyline
3. Fortified towers and hill forts
4. Hillfoot village constructed of local stone (in East Lothian these include Spott, Little Spott, Garvald, Innerwick, Pitcox)

Southern Uplands

1. Rolling plateau heathery moorland with steeply sided cleughs
2. Areas of peat and blanket bog
3. Reservoirs

Examples of where these are distinctive to East Lothian

- Seascape around Fidra island and Yellow Craig, including the beach and outcrop, fictionalised by Robert Louis Stephenson (North Berwick to Seton Sands SLA)
- Seacliff harbour, the smallest working harbour in Scotland (Tantallon Coats SLA)
- Volcanic intrusions. Traprain Law, a laccolith has a distinctive form widely visible across the area (Traprain and Tyne SLA); North Berwick Law, well preserved crag and tail feature rising steeply from farmland below with historic beech trees (North Berwick Law SLA); the Garleton Hills with the distinctive and widely visible Hopetoun Monument (Garleton Hills SLA)
- Bass Rock with gannet colony, the world's largest (Tantallon Coast SLA)
- Lammermuir skyline (Lammermuir Moorland SLA)
- Bird filled estuaries at Aberlady Bay with distinctive bridge over the salt marsh (North Berwick to Seton Sands SLA) and John Muir Country Park with 'Bridge to Nowhere' over the Tyne (Belhaven Bay SLA)
- 'Caterpillar' beech hedges around Humbie (Mid Tyne Valley Plain LCA).
- Veteran yew trees – the Whittingehame (Whittingehame to Deuchrie SLA) and Ormiston yew trees (Ormiston Yew and Fountainhall SLA).

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Each Landscape Character Statement provides advice on managing development within each individual Landscape Character Area. Consideration should also be given to protecting and enhancing landscape features/elements which characterise the wider regional distinctiveness of Eastern Coastal Lowland Scotland, the Central Lowlands and the Southern Uplands of South Scotland within East Lothian. These would include:

Every

Eastern Coastal Lowland Scotland

1. Retain arable appearance of the area.
2. Promote integrated coastal zone management strategy balancing visitor management, tourism, recreation and other development while avoiding adverse impact on the integrity of and maintaining the interest of the Natura 2000 network
3. ELLDP Policy DC6 requires that the siting and design of new development must respect the qualities of the particular coastal location. This should include recognition of particular coastal features as being distinctive, and/or rare.
4. Woodland should be retained and enhanced in appropriate locations. Diversity of species in new woodland planting should be increased. 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. ELLDP Policy NH8 contains a strong presumption in favour of protecting East Lothian's Woodland Resource.
5. Roofing material: use of pantiles is supported especially for humbler buildings. It would generally be preferable for larger scale, or buildings with a more important function, to use slate. Removal of pantiles on buildings which have this is generally undesirable.
6. Installation of solar panels on public elevations of buildings with pantiles can look incongruous due to the absorbent, dark nature of the panels. On slate roofs, panels can be found that are

flush or close to flush with the roof, which can help with their appearance; as the colour is not so dissimilar panels may appear less incongruous on a slate roof than a pantile roof.

7. If a building is going for the 'traditional' look, the finish of traditional buildings in the area should be considered. Harling is not always appropriate where it is not a traditional finish locally; it might be better to choose a finish that is more clearly modern than a 'traditional' one which is not reflective of the history of the immediate area but might appear to be so.
8. Local stone is a scarce resource as many of the local quarries are now closed. Re-use of local stone is encouraged. Policy DC2: Conversion of rural buildings to housing supports the re-use of appropriate buildings in the countryside.
9. For information on re-development of steadings, see Supplementary Planning Guidance on Cultural Heritage.
10. Development should avoid significant alteration to the distinctive character of links golf courses by limiting the size of development, careful consideration of colour and materials and siting development in appropriate locations
11. 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.
12. Any development must respect, retain and not harm the elements and qualities of East Lothian's Gardens and Designed Landscapes whether of national, regional or local importance. ELLDP Policy CH6: Gardens and Designed Landscapes protects designed landscapes

Central Lowlands

1. Development should not impact on the appreciation of the Southern Upland Boundary Fault as a single feature. Night time views of the Lammermuirs reflect the current lack of settlement within this area, with very little light on the northern downslope. Development should avoid use of colours or materials that would lead it to stand out especially when viewed from the East Lothian plain or outcrops below.
2. Any proposed development must conserve the unbroken horizontal element of the Lammermuir skyline especially as viewed from the plain and foothills below.
3. Most of the hillforts and castles are scheduled ancient monuments. Development must not harm the site of a hillfort or castle or its setting. They and their settings are protected by ELLDP Policy CH4: Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Sites.
4. In hillfoot areas, 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. The use of traditional building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings is supported. The use and reuse of local stone is supported. Suburban style housing is unlikely to fit with the character of the area.

Southern Uplands

1. In moorland areas proposed development must:
 - a. not harm the open, remote character of the moorland by avoiding 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;

- b. not increase the apparent scale of large scale industrial elements (reservoir walls, pylon lines) for example by providing scale comparison;
 - c. retain the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form;
 - d. avoid 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"⁵, 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;
 - e. encourage limited expansion of woodland cover through shelterbelts and small woodland particularly in cleughs and valleys and around farmsteads and other building groups.
2. Development should not harm areas of peat and blanket bog including through changes to hydrology and should avoid loss of heather landscape cover, in particular to improved pasture and protect /conserve important peatland vegetation communities.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER STATEMENTS

Each landscape character area has been described in a Landscape Character Statement using the following criteria:

- Physical features, including geology, topography and drainage;
- Vegetation and land cover, including both natural and man-made features;
- Access including the public road network, transport corridors, and tracks;
- Built features, including urban and rural settlement, and other artefacts;
- Infrastructure and Industry;
- Aesthetic qualities, including important views and a summary of the 'sense of place' of the area;
- Positive Attributes;
- Negative Attributes;
- Management Guidelines;
- Photographs of the main features, qualities and attributes.

The Landscape Character Statements for each Landscape Character Area are included on the following pages. The management guidelines are particularly relevant in assessing and guiding development proposals.

⁵ Available on SNH's website at <http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/heritagemanagement/constructedtracks.pdf>

Uplands - Lammermuir Plateau

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	<p>The Lammermuir Hills define the southern boundary of East Lothian as well as the geological transition between the low-lying midland valley to the north and the older more resistant rocks of the Southern Uplands to the south. The skyline, especially where unbroken, characterises East Lothian. 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. The hills rise gradually westwards with the highest points being Meikle Says Law and Lammer Law at 535m and 529m respectively. The hills and ridges interweave to form a gently undulating upland plateau. The smooth complex hill slopes are dissected by a complex tracery of valley landforms varying in scale and appearance from narrow incised gullies formed by minor burns to wider valleys. Several small man-made reservoirs lie within the area, Hopes being the largest and most scenic.</p>
Vegetation and land cover	<p>Heather moorland and rough pastures forms the predominant vegetation cover of this character area. Field boundary features are uncommon although post and wire fences line several of the roads and access tracks. Tree cover is generally absent except for infrequent clumps of mature deciduous trees and small coniferous and broadleaved shelterbelts close to farmsteads and reservoir margins.</p>
Access	<p>Single track roads with passing places are characteristic of the area although the B6355 is narrow two way. The number of access tracks to grouse butts has increased and these are often locally prominent and can be seen in longer views from the north where they are located on exposed hill slopes. There are a number of core path routes across the moorland.</p>
Built features	<p>The area is still sparsely habited, generally around the valley bottoms. Farm sheds are no longer a common sight; grouse butts are in evidence along the hill slopes.</p>
Infrastructure and industry	<p>The major pylon line still remains highly visible across the centre of the plateau. Windfarm development is a very noticeable change in the east of the area.</p>
Aesthetic qualities and views	<p>The closely knit hill landforms generally coalesce to form an open, exposed plateau the isolated character of which is emphasised by a lack of settlement or woodland, but naturalness is detracted by manmade elements including the dominant pylon line, prominent access tracks and wind turbines. Panoramic views across the hill fringes and coastal plain to the Firth of Forth to the north and the North Sea to the east can be obtained at the northern fringes of the area.</p>
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wilder land quality derived from high degree of perceived naturalness of land cover, and relative lack of fragmentation by roads, settlements and other urban features 2. Rich heritage of natural and archaeological features. 3. Distinctive visual qualities including grandeur of scale 4. The several reservoirs set within the steep sided valleys 5. Unobstructed, long distance views. 6. The unbroken horizontal element of the Lammermuir skyline
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vulnerability of the heather moorland and other semi-natural vegetation communities to changes in management. 2. Visual intrusion of pylon line and wind turbines.

	<p>3. Visual intrusion of hillside access tracks especially on visible and north facing hillslopes</p>
<p>Management guidelines</p>	<p>A. Conserve openness and remote 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 features which break up the open moorland</p> <p>B. Retain the open landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form</p> <p>C. Retain the character of minor roads including by avoiding boundaries along roads and tracks. Careful consideration should be given to the design and location of signage.</p> <p>D. Avoid development that would increase the apparent scale of large scale industrial elements (reservoir walls, pylon lines) for example by providing scale comparison</p> <p>E. Preserve key views in particular from roads and summits</p> <p>F. Maintain the skyline as a feature in particular as viewed from the plain below</p> <p>G. Maintain Upland Heath and Bog: avoid loss of heather landscape cover, in particular to improved pasture and protect /conserve important peatland vegetation communities</p> <p>H. Woodland should be retained and enhanced in appropriate locations. Encourage limited expansion of woodland cover through shelterbelts and small woodland particularly in cleughs and valleys and around farmsteads and other building groups. Promote management of mature broadleaved tree groups and small plantations.</p> <p>I. Diversity of species in new woodland planting should be increased. 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.</p> <p>J. Take opportunities to enhance / ameliorate impact of existing coniferous plantations at restructuring stage</p> <p>K. Safeguard landscape setting of archaeological features such as cairns and stone circles</p> <p>L. Preservation against further hill tracks on visually-sensitive slopes. Tracks should follow SNH guidance “Constructed Tracks in the Scottish Uplands”⁶, including consideration of whether the track is necessary at all.</p> <p>M. Protect visually-sensitive areas from potential threat of windfarm development</p> <p>N. Residential development where justified should be small scale and respect the location and design pattern of existing housing, kept off moorland plateaus and hill tops to limit wider visibility.</p> <p>O. Improve existing core paths and rights of ways for walkers, both in grade of material used and provision of bridges</p>

⁶ Available on SNH’s website at <http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/heritagemanagement/constructedtracks.pdf>



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



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



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



Enclosed valley limiting views within plateau



Intrusive pylon line runs across the moorland

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



Uplands - Lammermuir Plateau with windfarm

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	The Lammermuir Hills form a lower bowl area known as Dunbar Common to the eastern end which has enabled the development of windfarm with minimal visual impact on the wider landscape of East Lothian. The surrounding hills interweave to form a gently undulating upland plateau enclosing the bowl. The hills form a ridge along the Monynut Edge to the east of the area. The eastern hill slopes are dissected by a number of narrow incised gullies (cleughs and deans) formed by minor burns.
Vegetation and land cover	Heather moorland and rough pastures form the predominant vegetation cover of this character area. Field boundary features are uncommon although post and wire fences line several of the roads and access tracks and separate grazing areas. The plantation woodland at Dunbar Common has been removed to make way for windfarm development, mainly leaving brash in place. The area has recolonised with rough grassland with natural regeneration of heather moorland underway in places. Tree planting of native trees has been carried out along watercourses but is not yet fully established.
Access	Sizeable networks of access tracks have been constructed to serve the windfarms and these are locally prominent. Existing roads are single track and of a rural character. There are several rights of way and core path routes through the area.
Built features	The area is still sparsely habited, generally around the valley bottoms.
Infrastructure and industry	The major pylon line still remains highly visible across the centre of the area however the visual impact of this is reduced by the sheer number and scale of wind turbines within this character area.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The closely knit hill landforms generally coalesce to form an enclosed bowl around the character area with the exception of the eastern margin where the turbines' visibility is increased due to their prominence on edge ridges and hill tops. Naturalness is detracted by manmade elements including the dominant wind turbines. However the size and scale of the turbines fits well within this large scale landscape creating a juxtaposition of wild and manmade elements that combine to form a new landscape. Panoramic views across the hill fringes and coastal plain to the Firth of Forth to the north and the North Sea to the east can be obtained at the northern fringes of the area. The sensitive siting of the turbines in these views creates a contrast of colour to the natural vegetation that adds to the setting and scenic quality of the views.
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distinctive visual qualities including grandeur of scale 2. Unobstructed, long distance views. 3. Distinctive landscape feature of the Monynut Edge. 4. The dramatic landscape form of the steep sided cleughs and deans.

<p>Negative Attributes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vulnerability of the heather moorland and other semi-natural vegetation communities to changes in management. 2. Visual intrusion of pylon line, wind turbines, electricity infrastructure and associated access tracks.
<p>Management Guidelines</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Woodland should be retained and enhanced in appropriate locations. Encourage limited expansion of woodland cover through shelterbelts and small woodland particularly in cleughs and valleys and building groups. Woodland should be managed 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. B. Safeguard landscape setting of archaeological features such as cairns and stone circles C. Retain the character of minor roads D. Preservation against further hill tracks on visually-sensitive slopes E. Protect / conserve important peatland vegetation communities F. Protect visually-sensitive areas from potential threat of windfarm development G. Extension of windfarms to accord with capacity study and fit within landform H. Improve existing core paths and rights of ways for walkers, both in grade of material used and provision of bridges



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



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

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



Uplands – Plateau Grassland

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	Large scale rolling plateau topography with gentle slopes and smooth relief. The large scale landform has subtle variations in relief caused by narrow shallow gullies eroded by minor burns.
Vegetation and land cover	Grassy hill-slopes with bands of coniferous shelter belts and small scale plantation, with less common patches of scrub along stream courses remain. Vegetation cover dominated by coarse grassland with localised patches of heather moorland, rush pasture and scattered small coniferous plantations and shelter belts.
Access	The main A68 road bounds the western edge of the area. Farm tracks exist across the area. There is little other access. Consented windfarm development could lead to the formation of new access tracks through this area.
Built features	There is little or no built development.
Infrastructure and industry	Windfarm development has been consented in the area, as in the adjacent Plateau Grassland to the south.
Aesthetic qualities and views	Extensive views from the higher ground are focused strongly northwards across the agricultural and coastal plains towards the coast.
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relative absence of visual detractors and detractors from tranquility: <i>the southern section has consented windfarm development, as well as existing windfarm development in SBC area adjacent.</i> 2. Distinctive and abundant shelterbelts: <i>still exist at present but most will be lost due to consented windfarm development.</i> 3. Extensive and unobstructed views
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visual intrusion from the A68, pylon line and some harsh edges to coniferous plantation. 2. Vulnerability of the heather moorland to change in management regime.
Management Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Woodland should be retained and enhanced in appropriate locations. Encourage improvement of shapes of woodland plantations and shelterbelts. B. Diversity of species in new woodland planting should be increased. Existing woodland should be managed 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. C. Resist loss of any remaining areas of heather moorland D. Increase diversity of field boundaries; promote hedge reinstatement

	E. Extension of windfarms to accord with capacity study and fit within landform
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Grassy rolling plateau with coniferous shelter belts

Uplands – Whiteadder Upland Valley with Farmland

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	Broad flat valley floor with distinct floodplain and meandering river channel (dammed to form a large reservoir in this instance) with evenly sloping valley sides.
Vegetation and land cover	Land cover of improved pasture with medium to large sized fields giving way to unimproved grassland approaching the plateau edge. Poorly drained soils may carry rush pastures or wet flush vegetation. Hedgerows, hedgerow trees, clumps of mature deciduous trees, small coniferous and broad-leaved shelterbelts and plantations are all locally prominent particularly close to farmsteads and the reservoir margins.
Access	The B6355 crosses through the area from north to south and is the main route across the Lammermuirs from Gifford to Duns. Minor roads access farmsteads. Several rights of way and core path routes cross the area. Parking is available beside the reservoir with opportunities for picnicking and sailing.
Built features	The area is still sparsely habited, with scattered farmsteads along the valley floor and the lower side slopes.
Infrastructure and industry	There is little infrastructure other than that associated with the reservoir.
Aesthetic qualities and views	Views along the valley are long and open, contained by the lower valley sides and the surrounding upland plateau.
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The largest reservoir in East Lothian. 2. Strong topographic and geological identity. 3. Distinct land cover pattern with well-defined field boundary network of hedgerows and shelterbelts. 4. Rich in archaeological remains
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visual intrusion of pylon line and risk of future visual intrusion from windfarm developments. 2. Single species coniferous plantations and shelter belts.
Management Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Encourage limited expansion of woodland cover through shelterbelts and small woodland particularly in cleughs and valleys and around farmsteads and other building groups. Woodland should be managed 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 B. Take opportunities to enhance / ameliorate impact of existing coniferous plantations at restructuring stage

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">C. Safeguard landscape setting of archaeological features such as cairns and stone circlesD. Retain character of minor roadsE. Restore and maintain traditional hedge and stone wall field boundariesF. Preservation against further hill tracks on visually-sensitive slopesG. Protect visually-sensitive areas from potential threat of windfarm developmentH. Improve access to hills, for example by the provision of small scale, well screened parking facilitiesI. Improve existing core paths and rights of ways for walkers, both in grade of material used and provision of bridges |
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The Whiteadder reservoir surrounded by pastureland enclosed within the rising peaks of Priestlaw and Penshiel Hills viewed from Spartleton



Sailing recreation in this scenic setting



The reservoir nestled in the hills overlooked by the peak of Spartleton



Upland Fringes – Western Lammermuir Fringe

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	Extensive sweep of hill slopes forming an east-west band stretching along the northern margin of the Lammermuir Hills. Smoothly undulating landform, intersected by numerous water courses forming enclosed V-shaped valley. Merging from upland to lowland the transitional character can be seen in the changing landform.
Vegetation and land cover	The unimproved pasture of good rough grassland with stonewall and fence boundaries of the higher ground bordering the Lammermuirs merges with large expanses of arable fields with clipped mixed hedgerow boundaries on the lower ground. There are many established coniferous and mixed shelterbelts throughout the farmland, management of these is ongoing.
Access	Many small roads wind through the slopes.
Built features	The area is habited by large farmsteads and estate houses, isolated dwellings, clusters of stone cottages and terraces of farm workers buildings. There are many signs of ancient settlement in the form of forts which cap higher ground.
Infrastructure and industry	One line of pylons runs northwards through the hill slopes generally well absorbed by the rolling landform and shelterbelts. The sand and gravel quarry at Longyester in the east of the area has expanded since the original study.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The area has a transitional character merging from lowland to up lands visible through the changing landform and land cover. Views out are generally focused north towards and over the lowlands to the coast, however the combination of numerous wooded areas and undulations in landform often create more intimate and enclosed depressions.
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Well maintained hedgerow network on lower ground. 2. Stone dyke boundaries on hill grounds - these exist but there are also a number of stone wall boundaries along road boundaries in the lower areas. These are in mixed condition. 3. Characteristic fluvioglacial features still exist in places although some have been removed through sand and gravel extraction. Permission is granted for further extraction at High Latch. 4. Open visual character with fine northward views.
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harsh edges and inappropriate scale and shape of small shelterbelts - This does not appear to detract from the character of the area. Ongoing management means these constantly change over time and there appears to be some improvement in structure and species mix. 2. Threat of further sand and gravel extraction is an ongoing issue.
Management Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Conserve characteristic features reflecting transition from open upland to enclosed lowland landscape

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> B. Conserve and enhance well-developed and maintained beech and thorn hedgerow network on the arable land. Encourage replacement of moribund and lost sections of hedgerows C. Promote reinforcement of stone dyke boundary features on hill ground D. Enhance existing pattern of shelterbelt and field boundary woodland and integrate farm buildings through sensitively designed farm woodland expansion E. Diversity of species in new woodland planting should be increased. Existing woodland should be managed 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 F. Respect the importance of small-scale topographic diversity provided by glacial features such as kame terraces, and melt-water channels in considering future sand and gravel extraction G. Reinforce visual and ecological contrasts between open hill slopes and steep valley sides H. Take opportunities to enhance / ameliorate impact of existing coniferous plantations at restructuring stage I. Retain overall open visual character focusing northwards towards the plain and the Forth J. Preservation against further hill tracks on visually-sensitive slopes K. Retain the character of minor roads L. Seek to support traditional estate management practices to safeguard woodland enclosure features and important boundary walls M. Promote replacement of traditional oak and ash field boundary tree lines. Consider alternative species to ash due to effects of Ash Dieback
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Large expanses of arable fields with clipped hedgerows on lower ground characterised by rolling landform of glacial deposits

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



Historic landscape and rough pasture



Long Newton set against the hill slope of Lammer Law



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



Upland Fringes – Eastern Lammermuir Fringe

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	The strongly moulded landform is composed of an intricately interwoven series of smooth, rounded low hills and slopes, dissected by an abundance of streams. The watercourses pass through deeply incised steep-sided valleys ('cleughs' and 'deans'), their winding routes often edges by craggy rock outcrops and exposed slopes. There are several small lochs, ponds and reservoirs scattered within the area often hidden within depressions.
Vegetation and land cover	Large scale fields of improved pasture and some good rough grassland changes to arable ground as the hill slopes merge with the coastal plain. Field boundaries consist of stone walls and post and wire fences, interspersed with occasional hedgerows. Hedgerow trees of beech, oak, ash and sycamore are widely scattered throughout the lower arable slopes. Steep valley sides are uncultivated and clothed by deciduous woodland or areas of gorse, bracken and scrub. Extensive stretches of ancient sessile oak woodland occur along several cleughs including Deuchrie and Rammer Woods, and Woodhall and the Lammermuir Deans. Medium scale coniferous plantations, shelterbelts, tree clumps and areas of mixed woodland are evident across the hill slopes and close to farm buildings.
Access	Numerous minor roads follow winding courses through the area crossing the numerous water courses with small stone bridges and fording points. Although in places the roads have had to be straightened and widened or new stretches added to enable access to the wind farms on the plateau.
Built features	A scattering of traditional farmsteads often dwarfed by large modern sheds or barns exist. The listed buildings of Spott House and its associated dovecote, stable and lodges lie on the north edge and the conservation estate village of Spott to the north of this. All constructed in local deep pink sandstone.
Infrastructure and industry	Two highly visible pylon lines extend east to west across the hill slopes. Two wind turbines at Ferneylea and one at Woodhall Farm intrude on this area inappropriately creating the impression that the large scale windfarm is creeping off the plateau and closer to the lowland.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The large scale, open landscape affords extensive views towards the coast from the smooth domed hill tops. The landform has a strongly rhythmic pattern of predominantly open topped hills split by steep wooded valleys. The flowing form of the higher ground, emphasised by curving roads, walls, hedgerows and woodland, contrasts strongly with the heavily textured angular outlines of the stream valleys.
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sharp contrast in landform between smooth upland slopes and steep sided deans. 2. Close affinity with North Sea coast, including fine open views. 3. Significant areas of ancient oak woodland.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Distinctive character of dense rural road network, including local features such as fords and bridges.
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visual intrusion from new farm buildings - this is limited in number and due to the landform visibility of new buildings is limited. However it was noted that some traditional farm steading buildings are falling into disrepair – no longer being used as farm buildings and yet to be developed into housing. 2. Threat to distinctive character of dense rural road network, including local features such as fords and bridges where access for windfarm development in the Lammermuirs has led to the widening and straightening of roads. 3. Inappropriate wind turbine development visually linking the fringe character area to the plateau. 4. Threat of further inappropriate wind turbine development.
Management Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Retain distinctive strong local relationships between land cover and topography, emphasising the transition from upland to coastal plain B. Reinforce visual and ecological contrasts between open hill slopes and steep valley sides C. Respect the importance of small-scale topographic diversity provided by glacial features such as kame terraces, and melt-water channels in considering future sand and gravel extraction D. Take opportunities to enhance / ameliorate impact of existing coniferous plantations at restructuring stage E. Encourage appropriate management of ancient oak woodland F. Encourage further woodland expansion within deans and cleughs, including fencing to promote natural regeneration G. Diversity of species in new woodland planting should be increased. Existing woodland should be managed 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. H. Promote improved integration of visually sensitive farm building expansion through farm woodland planting I. Retain rural character of dense minor road network, including characteristic features such as fords and small bridges J. Restore and maintain traditional hedge and stone wall field boundaries K. Preservation against further hill tracks on visually-sensitive slopes



Oldhamstocks set within rolling hills and steep sided wooded valley



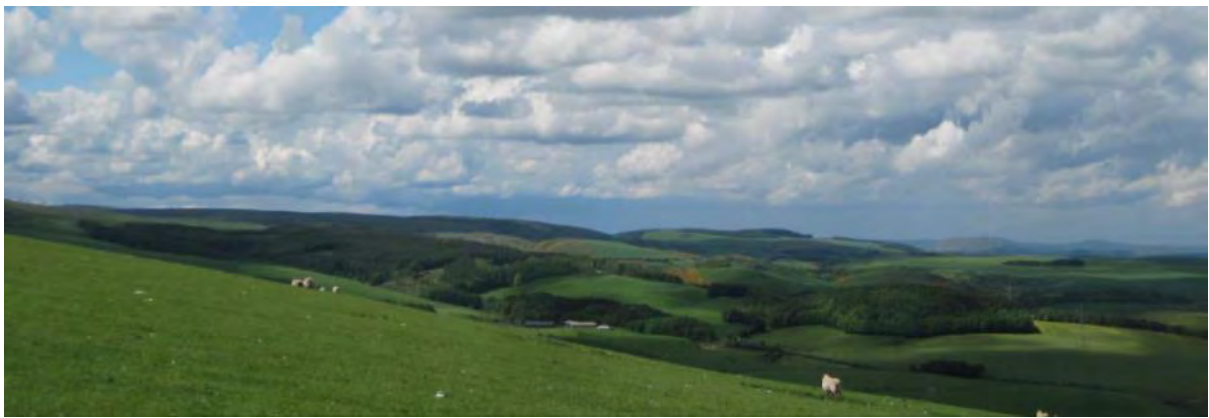
Woodhall turbine showing inappropriate location and scale creating visual links to upland wind farm



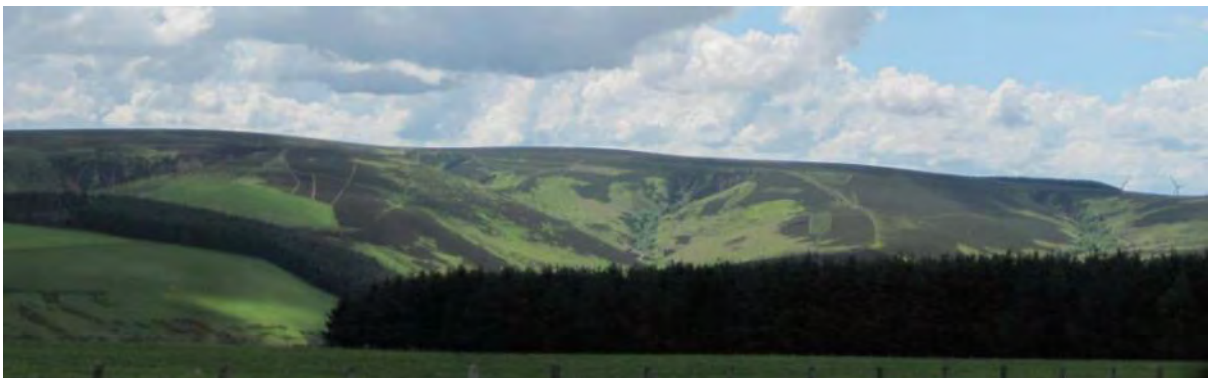
Deeply sided cleugh of Sheeppath Glen above Aikengall. Part of the Lamermuir Deans SSSI. Fine open views out to the North Sea



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



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



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

Lowland River Valleys – Whittingehame Water

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	A progression of strongly-defined, interweaving slopes encloses the small twisting river, which lies within a predominantly narrow valley occasionally opening out into areas of flatter ground. The river and its numerous tributaries have cleft deeply into the underlying red sandstone, often exposing slopes of conspicuous, rich rusty earth.
Vegetation and land cover	The valley is rich in mixed and broadleaved estate woodlands, which extend across the slopes and merge with sweeps of riparian deciduous planting fringing the river and its tributaries. Adjoining the woodland of the valley floor and curving up the rising slopes, shelterbelts of mature mixed woodland and broken lines of dark Scots pine define field and farm boundaries. Across the more gentle slopes, low thorn hedges and post and wire fences subdivide the extensive arable land cover. On steeper ground or along the damper valley floor there are small areas of improved grassland. Scattered hedgerow trees and occasional lines of mature oak or ash roadside trees occur throughout the farmland.
Access	Minor roads twisting along valley slopes
Built features	The common use of local pink red sandstone for buildings provides a sense of architectural congruity through the area. The villages of Garvald and Stenton, dating mainly from the 18 th and 19 th centuries, consist of one and two storey sandstone houses with pantile roofs centred on well-defined village greens and parish churches. They are both within Conservation Areas which has ensured that modern development has been carefully integrated into the villages. Signs of settlement dating from medieval times and including several 15 th and 16 th century tower houses are common along the minor roads. Estate landscapes are also present including the designed landscape of Whittingehame and its associated listed buildings.
Infrastructure and industry	Ruchlaw Mains farm to the north of Stenton has several large modern agricultural buildings and permission granted for a further large anaerobic digester structure. However due to the enclosing nature of the landform within the river valley and narrow roads sided by dense hedging and trees there is very limited visibility of them. A 47m high wind turbine has also been erected to the northeast of Ruchlaw. This has far more visibility within the local area and from Stenton to the south. However again due to the enclosing landform of the area it has limited visibility in longer range views. In general there is little large infrastructure within the area and that which exists where possible is well screened and does not detract from the character of the area.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The strong topographical enclosure and plentiful woodland of the valley create a secluded sheltered landscape. The intimate surroundings of the valley floor are replaced along the open valley slopes by views of the surrounding coast and hills and the nearby local landmark of Traprain Law.

Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strong topographic definition, enclosed valley floor, within wider context. 2. Red soils reflecting sandstone bedrock. 3. High proportion of woodland cover – mixed and broadleaved dominant. 4. Oak and ash hedgerow trees, tree lines. 5. Estate and designed landscapes.
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deterioration of field boundaries, estate boundary walls.
Management Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Safeguard distinctive architectural character of villages and scattered buildings including the close link with local red sandstone geology B. Seek to retain and enhance characteristic high proportion of mixed and broadleaved woodland through management and replacement planting. Woodland should be managed 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. C. Protect intimate scale of valley bottom landscape and of villages in any future development proposals D. Seek to support traditional estate management practices to safeguard woodland enclosure features and important boundary walls E. Promote replacement of traditional oak and ash field boundary tree lines F. Retain rural character of minor roads G. Restore and maintain traditional hedge and stone wall field boundaries



Red sandstone buildings of Garvald



Natural valley form through the Biel



Formal section of the valley through the Biel



Woods and river at Whittingehame

Lowland River Valleys – Gifford Water

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	The river winds its way north-westwards along a shallow-sided valley which occasionally opens into narrow areas of more level ground. Enclosed by higher expanses of undulating farmland. Fed by several minor stream courses which etch into the smooth slopes.
Vegetation and land cover	The valley is covered by extensive swathes of woodland, much of which is associated with riverside estate policies. Thick fringes of mixed tree planting follow the line of the river and adjoining streams, blending with mature estate policy woodlands and carefully-scaled coniferous and mixed plantations across higher valley slopes. Ongoing woodland management has led to tree felling and thinning of plantations in some areas, opening out wooded areas in places. The large arable fields of the surrounding land are bounded by mixed hedgerow planting with abundant hedgerow trees and numerous shelterbelts.
Access	There is good access by numerous roads and footpaths throughout the area. Core paths have further improved pedestrian and cycle access along the river valley.
Built features	The only large settlement is Gifford notable for its broad main street edged by one and two storey sandstone buildings focused on the large white village church. The designed landscape of Yester House lies to the south of with its high estate walls, grand red sandstone gateposts and lodge.
Infrastructure and industry	Gifford golf course lies within the higher flatter areas of the valley to the southwest of the area. Little industry and infrastructure exists within the area.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The dominance of mature woodland throughout this landscape surrounds and obscures settlements, emphasising the secluded and small scale character of the valley. Views outwards become possible from higher surrounding land.
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Estate woodlands, riparian woodlands, shelterbelts 2. Designed landscapes 3. Good scale and balance of coniferous / mixed woodland on higher enclosing slopes 4. Well maintained hedgerow network, abundant hedgerow trees 5. Small enclosed visual character 6. Well integrated settlement
Negative Attributes	
Management Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Retain small-scale secluded visual character derived from well-planned mature woodland framework B. Seek to safeguard future management of important broadleaf woodland elements – estate policies, riparian fringes, shelterbelts

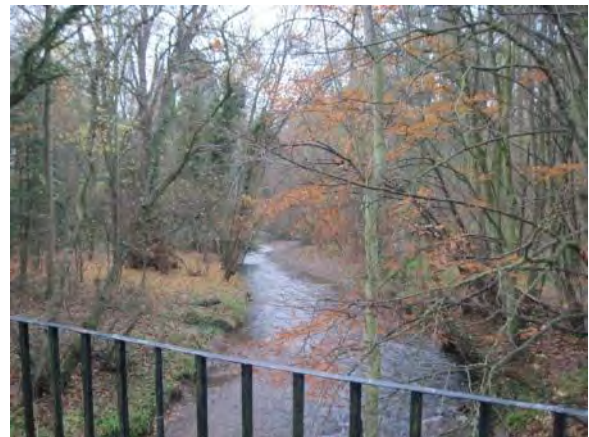
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C. Diversity of species in new woodland planting should be increased. Existing woodland should be managed to avoid over-reliance on singular species to avoid loss of large areas of woodland due to disease e.g. ash dieback, Dutch elm disease, red needle blight. D. Restore local deterioration in well-maintained hedgerow framework E. Reinforce well designed balance of coniferous and mixed woodland with open ground on higher slopes F. Ensure new development does not compromise the existing character of villages and the surrounding countryside |
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Gifford in its thickly tree covered valley



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



Tree lined Colstoun Water at Lennoxlove

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



Lowland River Valleys – Humbie Water

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	The river forms a generally shallow, basin-shaped valley following a sinuous, meandering northwards route from the western fringe of the Lammermuir plateau. Strongly moulded convex hill-slopes enclose the head of the valley becoming flattened and subdued in form further north towards the confluence with the river Tyne. The interlocking and undulating spurs of land are emphasised by smaller stream tributaries forming incisions in the slopes.
Vegetation and land cover	Semi-natural mixed woodland and occasional slopes of bramble, gorse and thorn scrub generally fringe and conceal the watercourse, opening out into farmland across the upper valley slopes. Fields of mainly arable land are intermingled with good pasture land along the more hummocky land to the south. Neat hedgerows of hawthorn and beech, often with many oak and ash trees, or post and wire fences separate the fields. The large coniferous plantation of Saltoun Forest sits conspicuously on the eastern slopes of the valley above the Birns Water. The policy woodlands and parks of Saltoun Hall fringe the northern boundary of the area.
Access	The valley is relatively free from transport routes. The B6368 crosses the southern edge of the area and runs through Humbie. Minor roads connect the scattering of farmsteads and minor settlements. The disused railway line from Pencaitland to Gifford is used as a core access path through the area and walks exist through Saltoun Forest and along the banks of the Humbie Water.
Built features	The river valley has no major settlement. The village of Humbie lies to its southwest and West Saltoun within the northern end. Both of which are small tree-edged hamlets of sandstone and harled houses and cottages. The estates of Johnstounburn, Keith Marischal and Saltoun Hall and their associated listed buildings exist within the area together with Humbie Church and the distinctive 1930s buildings of the Humbie Children’s village.
Infrastructure and industry	A single pylon line cuts across the centre of the valley from northwest to southeast. There is little other industry or infrastructure.
Aesthetic qualities and views	Views are restricted within the valley due to the interknitted swelling forms of the valley sides. More extensive views of the wider landscape of nearby hills and coastal plains can be gained from the valley crests.
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tranquil character relatively free from fragmentation by development. 2. Well-managed farmland. 3. High proportion of mature woodland cover including a mix of broadleaves and larger coniferous blocks. 4. Hedgerow network with abundant mature oak and ash.
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Some hedgerow replacement and management required. 2. Lack of footpaths and cycleways through area and along river 3. Large areas of coniferous plantations

	4. High voltage pylon line
Management Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Seek to preserve the area's primary distinguishing feature of a relative lack of fragmentation by roads or development B. Safeguard continued management of extensive mature woodland cover and increase species diversity of woodland in understorey planting C. Diversity of species in new woodland planting should be increased. Existing woodland should be managed 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. D. Ensure new development does not compromise the existing character of villages and the surrounding countryside E. Improve recreational access along the rivers F. Retain rural character of minor roads G. Restore and maintain traditional hedge and stone wall field boundaries H. Improve core paths and cycle paths through the area



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

Heather and pine trees within Saltoun Big Wood



Lowland River Valleys – River Esk

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	The rivers of the North and South Esk merged to form a single river the River Esk at the western boundary of East Lothian. The river follows an extremely confined steep-sided valley, in places bordered by sheer bluffs of exposed rock. The land rises either side to enclosing slopes of smooth undulating ground.
Vegetation and land cover	The steep valley sides are heavily wooded by extensive swathes of mixed and deciduous planting including oak, ash, beech, elm and sycamore. The surrounding farmland is mainly arable. Dalkeith House designed landscape covers the southern half of this area with its policy woodlands forming a dominant feature. Musselburgh Golf Course is located to the north half of the area on the lower lying floodplain of the area.
Access	The major routes of the A720 Edinburgh City Bypass, A1 trunk road, new extension to the A68 and the east coast rail line cut through this landscape character area detracting from its peaceful enclosed nature. Given the incised nature of the valley the only access following the route of the river is the walkway/cycleway from Whitecraig to Musselburgh.
Built features	The large settlement of Musselburgh lies to the north of the area and parts of the historic settlement of Inveresk skirt the eastern edges of the area. The distinctive high stone boundary walls of the Dalkeith Estate form a dominant feature along the road and river walkway to the eastern boundary of the area. The historic buildings of Inveresk Mills are located at the northern end of the area. These have been restored to retain their historic character with new use.
Infrastructure and industry	Several lines of pylons cut across the south-western edge of the area together with their associated substation in the south. Read together with the new road structures in this location the southern corner of the character area has a built-up industrialised feel. The industrial estate to the north of the area is low-rise and small-scale and sympathetic to its river valley location.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The proximity of the city is evident within this character area where farmland is interrupted by roads, rail line and pylon lines. The dense woodland along the valley slopes is a strong factor in integrating settlement and industry. The variety of settlement and industry, combined with the heavily wooded farmland creates a landscape of well-tended and long inhabited character. Views are enclosed within the valley bottom due to its steep sided wooded nature. Views outwards become possible from the more open surrounding land.
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strong topographic definition of valley bottom, with broader enclosing shoulders of undulating ground. 2. Dense woodland cover on steep valley slopes, including ancient semi-natural woodland. 3. Good integration of settlement and industry within woodland and topography.

	4. Mature estates landscapes – well maintained hedgerows, tree lines, shelterbelts.
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urban expansion pressures from Edinburgh core. 2. New industrial expansion including regeneration and renewal of coal mining areas. 3. Cumulative impact of urban fringe development on northern margin of area.
Management Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Conserve existing highly evolved and delicately balanced mix between natural landscape features and industrial and urban development B. Reinforce and extend woodland framework as setting for new development and to improve integration of the cumulative impact of recent urban expansion C. Diversity of species in any new woodland planting should be increased. Existing woodland should be managed 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. D. Address the safeguarding of important landscape features currently dependent on estate management practice including woodlands and stone boundary walls E. Seek improvements to recreational access along the River Esk F. Seek to reduce areas of invasive species in particular giant hogweed G. Restore and maintain traditional hedge and stone wall field boundaries



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

The River Esk in its steep sided wooded banks





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



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

Hogweed infestation: Japanese knotweed and Himalayan Balsam are also invasive species in evidence, though not to the extent of this field full of Hogweed.



Lowland Hills and Ridges – Tranent Ridge

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	This ridgeline forms the watershed between the valleys of the River Esk and the Tyne Water. A plateau like upper surface is bounded by smooth, steeply rolling side slopes which shelve down to river valleys. The north-western side is markedly steeper than the southeast. The western end of the area has been recently re-contoured with the restoration of the Smeaton Bing to form a landfill site.
Vegetation and land cover	An agricultural landscape of large arable fields divided by fences and low hedgerows occasionally dotted with mature oak, ash, sycamore and beech trees. Small farm woodlands are common and distinctive features throughout this predominantly open landscape, curving along the hill slopes and enclosing farmsteads and villages. The policy woodlands of the Carberry Tower designed landscape are particularly prominent from many viewpoints within Edinburgh and the eastern coastal plain. A noticeable feature of former opencast mining is the altered field pattern and scarcity of mature trees.
Access	The B6414 follows the southern edge of plateau from Tranent to Elphinstone and east to Carberry. A minor road follows the northern boundary of the plateau from Tranent up to Fa'side. A network of paths crisscrosses the area providing good pedestrian access.
Built features	The north end of the ridge contains the historic ex-mining settlement of Tranent, with the smaller ex-mining settlement of Elphinstone to its south. The rebuilt castle at Fa'side is a prominent feature at the top of the ridge.
Infrastructure and industry	A double line of pylon lines extends up the ridge at Tranent and runs along the ridge to the southwest, forming a strong detracting element in this open landscape.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The elevated slopes afford extensive and dramatic views across both the coast and Edinburgh to the north and Tyne valley to the south.
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Offers long range views over Edinburgh and the wider urban settlement and coast to the north 2. Forms a prominent ridge to the south of the coastal plain
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High visual sensitivity, forming immediate visual horizon in many views south from Edinburgh. 2. Although the majority of mine workings and quarries within this area of East Lothian have been returned to agricultural land Smeaton Bing has recently been re-contoured into an unnatural formal shape. 3. Both electricity and telecommunication infrastructure adversely impact on this landscape

<p>Management Guidelines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Restore integrity of rural character by management, reinstatement and expansion of field boundary network; Promote reintroduction of hedgerows and tree planting. Promote management of field boundary trees and trees aligning roads with replacement planting where they are moribund or gaps have occurred . Consider alternative species to ash due to effects of Ash Dieback B. Restore and maintain traditional hedge and stone wall field boundaries; reduce use of high post and wire fencing as far as possible. Support reduction in use of high fencing to remove feeling of enclosure and improve views particularly at Fa’side viewpoint. C. Maintain and continue to improve recreational routes through the area D. Avoid harm to the open, rural nature of the ridge recognising its importance as a rural backdrop to settlements to the north and Ormiston to the south E. Retain character of minor roads F. Woodland management of Carberry G. Diversity of species in new woodland planting should be increased. Existing woodland should be managed 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. H. Renew interpretation boards
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Rolling rural arable landscape and wooded Carberry designed landscape



Designed Landscape in the distance as well as broken hedge lines, walls in need of repair and vandalised viewpoint



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

Lowland Hills and Ridges – Garleton Hills

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	Rising to 186m the Garleton Hills form a compact group on the boundary between the lower Tyne valley and the coastal plain. They form the highest area of a broad band of volcanic rocks aligned east-north-east. Steeper on the western and northern sides with well defined north facing crags.
Vegetation and land cover	Hill slopes of good rough grassland with gorse scrub on the steepest ground. Scattered areas of deciduous woodland on north facing slopes and below the Hopetoun monument. Kilduff Hill to the north is covered in extensive unbroken mixed woodland.
Access	Two roads cross the hills in a north to south direction – the A6137 Aberlady road to the west and a minor road from the east of Haddington to Drem across the main ridge. The B1343 runs east to west along the valley between the main outcrop of the Garletons and Kilduff Hill. A track follows the ridge line past Barnes Castle (The Vaults) and Barney Mains to the top of the hills to access the telecommunications masts and encourage public access.
Built features	The village of Athelstaneford lies to the eastern edge of the area on lower ground. Several large farmsteads are sited on the lower ground including Kilduff House, Barney Mains and Alderston Mains to the west. There are the remains of two major hill forts and the more modern structure of the Hopetoun Monument. Recent farm buildings at West Garleton Holdings form large, modern, intrusive structures.
Infrastructure and industry	There are three highly visible telecommunication masts positioned on the top of Barney Hill and a wind turbine at Alderston Mains to the west of the area is particularly prominent in long range views.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The Garleton Hills represent a distinct visual unit interrupting the East Lothian plains and are on a larger scale than the similar more isolated volcanic landforms of Traprain Law and North Berwick Law. Their rugged form, steep slopes and characteristic land cover provide additional diversity to the predominantly pastoral character of the surrounding area. The Hopetoun monument is an important visual reference point in many views from the Haddington and North Berwick plains and from further west as far as Hopetoun House, to the west of Edinburgh, itself.
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distinctive topography culminating in prominent landmark 2. Diverse land cover 3. Marked contrast in landform and land cover with surrounding lowland plain 4. Archaeological remains
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High visual sensitivity 2. Visual impact of former quarrying activity difficult to integrate

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Communication masts and wind turbine compete visually with the Hopetoun monument 4. Threat of further development eroding integrity and identity of the area
Management Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Preserve distinctive visual contrasts with adjoining landscapes B. Protect from encroachment of built development C. Control further quarrying activity to protect visually sensitive areas D. Seek to secure long-term management of existing woodland E. Diversity of species in new woodland planting should be increased. Existing woodland should be managed 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. F. Encourage further diversification of semi-natural habitats on non-productive land G. Retain character of minor roads H. Restore and maintain traditional hedge and stone wall field boundaries I. Maintain and improve walking / cycling access through the area



The Hopetoun monument on Byres Hill



Athelstaneford in its elevated ridge position read with the Garleton Hills



The glaciated channel between Skid Hill and the escarpment of Kae Heughs, diverse landform and land cover and long ranging views



The fort and ramparts at Skid Hill with gorse covered crags contrasting with the surrounding pasture

Lowland Plains – Lower Tyne Valley Plain

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	<p>This agricultural plain lies in the heartland of East Lothian. It undulates gently in a series of east-west aligned ridges, rising gradually towards the fringes of the Lammermuir Hills. Rocky outcrops interrupt the plain. The Garleton Hills together with Pencraig ridge form the northern boundary of the area and create a section of incised river valley along the River Tyne at the eastern end. The significant volcanic mass of Traprain Law sits within the centre of this area interrupting the plain. To its south another ridge with rocky outcrops rises to the hill tops of Lawhead Hill and Whitelaw Hill before rolling down into the Whittinghame River Valley.</p>
Vegetation and land cover	<p>Broken clipped hedgerows, scattered hedgerow trees, numerous post and wire fences and occasional stone walls divide the land cover of large arable fields. An abundance of mixed small-scale shelterbelts throughout the farmland strengthen the chequerboard field pattern. Across the craggy areas of higher ground, stretches of pasture are textured by scrub and isolated trees. There are several designed landscapes with their associated policy woodlands within the area mainly set along the Tyne valley including Lennoxlove and Stevenson at Haddington.</p>
Access	<p>The main A1 trunk road also follows an east-west direction along the Tyne valley through the area. The remainder of the area is accessed by a network of minor roads and tracks. A walkway follows the banks of the River Tyne and national cycle route 76 follows the minor roads along the valley from Haddington to East Linton.</p>
Built features	<p>The main settlement within the area is Haddington consisting of a largely traditional core surrounded by 20th century housing developments. The area also contains a scattering of farmsteads and small clusters of houses. The area is dotted with historic remains mainly in the form of cropmarks. The most significant remain being Traprain Law a key archaeological site from Neolithic times. The fortified manor of Hailes Castle dating from the late 1200s and located to the south of the River Tyne is believed to be the oldest stone castle in Scotland.</p>
Infrastructure and industry	<p>The area does not contain much large infrastructure or industry. There are a few smaller sized wind turbines within the southeast corner of the area that have been sited to fit with the scale of the landscape. There are also a number of large farm buildings sited carefully within the area and a new horse riding arena is being developed to the east of Traprain Law also in scale with the landscape.</p>
Aesthetic qualities and views	<p>The rough textures and angular forms of the igneous outcrops contrast strongly with the surrounding expanses of low, gently rolling farmland. Views are wide-reaching and can be spectacular from higher ground such as Pencraig Hill, the Balfour Monument and Traprain Law, encompassing coast to the north and hills</p>

	to the south. The views in the lower areas are more enclosed by the rolling valley form and woodland landscape.
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Core of productive arable land 2. Strong field pattern reinforced by abundant shelterbelts 3. Small areas of mixed woodland in particular along the 4. Tyne River valley, Colstoun/Beech Hill and Pencraig, as well as in association with designed landscapes 5. Subtle variations in topography provide varying degrees of visual sensitivity 6. Rich archaeological heritage of buried prehistoric settlement (evident in cropmarks) 7. Extensive outward views from higher ground 8. Rich historical legacy 9. Landmark hill of Traprain
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Localised pressures for sand and gravel extraction 2. Housing expansion pressures throughout the area and particularly around Haddington
Management Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Retain arable character B. Retain character of minor roads C. Restore and maintain traditional hedge and stone wall field boundaries D. Encourage restoration of historic field boundaries and avoid further amalgamation of fields E. Diversity of species in any new woodland planting should be increased. Existing woodland should be managed 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. F. Encourage sympathetic management of notable areas of landscape archaeology such as Traprain Law, which is a key local and regional landscape feature G. Retain and strengthen the appearance of the Tyne river valley as a linear feature H. Maintain the focal point and visual dominance of Traprain Law



Traprain and surrounding agricultural land from the Balfour Monument to the south



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

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



Lowland Plains – Mid Tyne Valley Plain

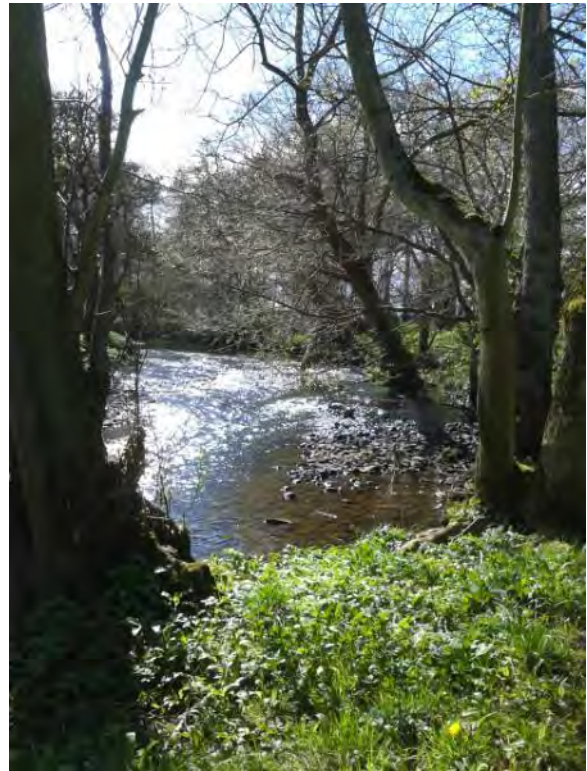
Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	This extensive agricultural plain undulates gently in a series of east-west aligned ridges, rising gradually towards the fringes of the Lammermuir Hills. The River Tyne meanders through the area also in an east-west direction forming a visually insignificant valley.
Vegetation and land cover	Broken clipped hedgerows, scattered hedgerow trees, numerous post and wire fences and occasional stone walls divide the land cover of large arable fields. An abundance of mixed small-scale shelterbelts and woodlands throughout the farmland strengthen the chequerboard field pattern. The large designed landscape of Winton House and its associated policy woodlands lies along the Tyne valley at Pencaitland.
Access	The main routes through the area the A199, A6093 and B6368 also follow an east-west direction across the area. The remainder of the area is accessed by a network of minor roads and tracks with an extensive network of paths and cycle routes following the banks of the River Tyne, access tracks and old railway lines.
Built features	There are several medium and small villages located across the area including Macmerry and the conservation villages of Pencaitland, New Winton, Ormiston, Glenkinchie and East Saltoun. Three of these conservation areas - East Saltoun, Pencaitland and New Winton - extend significantly into the surrounding rural landscape providing a wide setting for the villages. The area also contains a large scattering of farmsteads and small clusters of houses. The area has a small number of historic remains mainly in the form of cropmarks. The Renaissance house of Winton is located in Pencaitland.
Infrastructure and industry	The area does not contain much large infrastructure or industry apart from the large structures of the malting at Pencaitland and Glenkinchie Distillery – an important tourist attraction. There are several pylon lines towards the western edge of the area that are highly visually intrusive. There are old mining remains to the west of Ormiston. The disused railway line between Pencaitland and Ormiston has been turned into a walking / cycling route. There are several generally smaller sized wind turbines dotted across the area that have been sited to fit with the scale of the landscape.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The gently rolling arable landscape enclosed by low ridges to north and south creates a rolling plain of attractive but unremarkable character. Views can be wide-reaching and spectacular from higher ground, encompassing coast to the north and hills to the south. However views in the lower areas are more enclosed by the rolling valley form and woodland landscape and orientated more to the southwest inland towards the head of the Tyne valley.
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Core of productive arable land 2. Strong field pattern reinforced by abundant shelterbelts 3. Subtle variations in topography provide varying degrees of visual sensitivity

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Extensive outward views from higher ground 5. Rich historical legacy
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Localised pressures for sand and gravel extraction 2. Visual impact of former mining activity difficult to integrate 3. Housing expansion pressures throughout the 4. High voltage pylon line
Development and Management Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Retain arable character B. Retain character of minor roads C. Restore and maintain traditional hedge and stone wall field boundaries D. Maintain field boundaries and avoid further amalgamation of fields E. Management of shelter belts and plantation woodlands. F. Diversity of species in new woodland planting should be increased. Existing woodland should be managed 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.





Arable fields and shelter belts typical of the area



Shallow valley of the River Tyne



Lowland Plains - Coastal Plain

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
<p>Physical Features</p> <p>Geology, topography and drainage</p>	<p>This extensive coastal plain extends from Dunbar in the east to Port Seton in the west and extends in land as far south as the Garleton Hills due to the subdued topography of the area. The plain is virtually flat immediately inland of the coast, becoming gently undulating further south. The most significant raised feature within the plain is the igneous rocky outcrop of North Berwick Law, also a site of great archaeological importance. This is a dominant feature within the plain and can be seen from most of East Lothian. There are other smaller outcrops throughout the area such as Kingston Hill and at Balgone and Rockville Heughs. The only river to run through the plain is the lower end of the Tyne from East Linton to the sea. The few burns which flow across the plain have generally been straightened and incorporated into the field pattern.</p>
<p>Vegetation and land cover</p>	<p>The area exists of extensive areas of prime agricultural land divided into a network of large scale arable fields with a limited amount of crop mark archaeology. The fields are bounded by clipped hedgerows and occasional stone walls and fences with occasional hedgerow trees. The area has a number of designed landscapes and associated policy woodlands including Balgone House, Leuchie House and Elvingston.</p>
<p>Access</p>	<p>There is a comprehensive minor road network through the area, often following the field boundaries with ninety degree bends at corners. The main east coast rail line passes across the southern part of this area although it is far less intrusive than through the Innerwick Coastal Margin due to the pattern of the terrain. A rail link runs across the area north to south linking North Berwick to Edinburgh.</p>
<p>Built features</p>	<p>The historic village of East Linton can be found in the southeast corner of the area together with the listed buildings of Preston Kirk and Preston Mill. There are a couple of other small villages within the area at Drem and Whitekirk whose conservation areas extend significantly into the surrounding rural landscape providing a wide setting for the villages. The area also contains a large scattering of farmsteads and small clusters of houses and larger mansion houses.</p>
<p>Infrastructure and industry</p>	<p>There is little heavy industry within the area. A number of large barns and sheds exist at Fenton Barns. A number of these are visually intrusive to the local area but are not widely visible due to the surrounding pattern of terrain. A number of wind turbines have been constructed in the area particularly in the areas between Fenton Barns and Dirleton. Although many of these are not large, where they have not been carefully sited their number and moving nature impacts significantly on the visual amenity of the area.</p>
<p>Aesthetic qualities and views</p>	<p>This is an attractive landscape of large expanses of crops. Long range views are common to most of the area both across the sea as well as inland to the Lammermuir Hills to the south, emphasising the open, level nature of the coastal plain.</p>

Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dominant arable land cover, with distinctive large scale field pattern 2. Prominent views of distinctive igneous outcrops 3. Extensive views
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Poor siting of wind turbines 2. Pressure for residential expansion
Management Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Retain arable character B. Some increase in native woodland planting could be accommodated however the open arable nature of this area, with large fields and high levels of intervisibility forms part of its character and it is not suitable for widespread woodland planting in particular of commercial conifers C. Maintain and reinstate existing hedgerows and trees D. Diversity of species in any new woodland planting should be increased. Existing woodland should be managed 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. E. Require careful integration of new built development F. Retain character of minor roads G. Restore and maintain traditional hedge and stone wall field boundaries H. Seek to secure long term management of key landscape features I. Preserve pattern of minor road network and its linkage to field pattern J. Reflect traditional building materials such as pantiles for humbler buildings and slate for grander ones.



North Berwick Law sitting up above the coastal plain



Coastal Plain from North Berwick Law showing large arable fields



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

Lowland Plains – Settled Farmland

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	The area forms two pockets along the A1 trunk road at the boundary of East Lothian with Edinburgh and Midlothian split by the Esk River Valley. It is low lying with a flat to gently undulating landform.
Vegetation and land cover	Large arable fields are bounded by fences and intermittent hedges. In places tracks with no boundary define the fields. The shape of open farmland is often irregular and fragmented where it is severed by transport routes, settlement and industrial warehousing. There is little woodland although tree and scrub planting bound the edges of transport routes and a line of poplar trees bound the western edge of the area to the neighbouring Marshalling yards.
Access	The A1 trunk road severs the western section of this area on a prominent embankment and bounds the northern edge of the eastern section. The A720 Edinburgh City Bypass runs along the eastern edge of the western section. The East Coast Railway bounds the western section to the north. Several other roads pass through this relatively small area to access settlements and a freight rail link also dissects the western section.
Built features	The settlements of Whitecraig and Old Craighall exist within this area surrounded by agricultural fields. Musselburgh extends to the boundary of the area to the north and the Shawfair development within Midlothian is planned to extend close to the western boundary. The large development of buildings for Queen Margaret University creates visual intrusion to the coastal views from the A1 heading east out of Edinburgh. Monkton House and its walled garden at Old Craighall are the only listed buildings within this character area.
Infrastructure and industry	There are pylon lines and major transport routes throughout the area. Dismantled railways, the marshalling yard and tall lighting gantries abut farmland to the west together with proposed large infrastructure.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The area has a lack of prominence due to the low lying nature of the landscape. It is a fragmented arable landscape. Its low lying nature and severance by raised road and rail networks prevent views out from the area although enable the area to be highly visible from major roads, railways and settlement.
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fields of prime agricultural land
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dominant urban / industrial character including presence of high voltage pylon lines 2. High visual sensitivity of flat unwooded terrain increases visual impact of new development

	3. Residential expansion pressures on existing villages and from neighbouring settlements
Management Guidelines	<p>A. Retain arable character (out with settlement areas and areas allocated for development)</p> <p>B. Promote woodland planting to integrate existing and new built development with the surrounding countryside. However the open arable nature of this area, with high levels of intervisibility forms part of its character and it is not suitable for widespread woodland planting, in particular of commercial conifers</p> <p>C. Seek to secure long term management of important estate landscape features</p>



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



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



Coastal Margins – Innerwick Coastal Margin

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	<p>This section of coastal plain forms the transition between the north-eastern fringes of the Lammermuir Hills and the sea. Closest to the perimeter with the Eastern Lammermuir Fringe LCA the landscape comprises rolling lowlands cut by numerous steep-sided stream valleys. The terrain opens out towards the coast into a broad, gently undulating plain through which the streams follow shallow less obtrusive courses. At the boundary with the sea the area is defined by a series of rounded headlands bounded by extensive rocky cliffs with numerous sheltered small sand and pebble beaches backed by grass turfed dunes between.</p>
Vegetation and land cover	<p>The dominant land cover consists of medium to large arable fields. Where valley sides are steep small stretches of improved grassland can be found with the stream courses delineated by scrub and broadleaved woodland of oak, ash, hawthorn and sycamore. Other woodland is mainly in the form of shelterbelts and clumps of trees associated with farmsteads. The fields are generally contained by clipped thorn hedgerows and post and wire fencing with isolated hedgerow trees including oak, ash and hawthorn. Low pink or grey stone walls edge roadsides and occasional field boundaries throughout the higher ground.</p>
Access	<p>Numerous small roads twist from the hillsides down to the sea. The parallel routes of the A1 trunk road and the East Coast rail line sweep along the open plain. The John Muir way walking route follows the coastline for the entire length of this area. The area is highly accessible. The coastline is a popular recreational resource and has a couple of camping and caravanning sites as well as numerous picnic sites.</p>
Built features	<p>The settlement of Innerwick sits on the hillside above Torness at the boundary with the Eastern Lammermuir Fringe. Dunglass designed landscape lies on the southern boundary of the area. Broxmouth designed landscape is located partly within the northern corner of this area. The area has a scattering of further farms and minor settlements, many houses and steadings dating from the 18th and 19th centuries.</p>
Infrastructure and industry	<p>There is much industrial development located along the coast within this area. The most prominent being the cement works and associated quarrying and landfill site at Oxwell Mains and Torness Power Station to its south. Planning permission has also been granted for the construction of an energy from waste facility at the landfill site at Oxwell Mains. The embankments, bridges and structures associated with the transport corridor are often also highly visible features.</p>
Aesthetic qualities and views	<p>There are extensive views from the predominantly unwooded plain towards the coast. The open sea dominates the views providing an atmosphere of tranquillity. The intrusive industrial development and the major transport corridor detract from the otherwise calm character of this landscape.</p>

Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agricultural character relatively unfragmented; 2. Diversity of coastal scenery and habitats; 3. Extensive views; 4. Prominent headlands; 5. Proximity of Lammermuir uplands to the coast; 6. Quiet small coves and beaches; 7. Rich archaeological heritage.
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Generally high visual sensitivity due to flat terrain and few woodlands; 2. Major localised visual impacts of cement works, Torness Power Station and power lines; 3. Transport routes form prominent linear features.
Management Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Retain arable character B. Promote increase in roadside planting to reduce impact of major visual detractors without screening all views out C. Encourage increase in small scale farm woodland cover on steep slopes and in deans however the open arable nature of this area, with high levels of intervisibility forms part of its character and it is not suitable for widespread woodland planting in particular of commercial conifers D. Diversity of species in any new woodland planting should be increased. Existing woodland should be managed 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. E. Take account of vulnerability of coastline to further visual intrusion from all types of development F. Protect the coastal edge and foreshore from the visual impact of limestone extraction G. Control further unauthorised vehicular access to coastline H. Promote integrated coastal zone management strategy balancing visitor management, tourism, recreation and other development while avoiding adverse impact on the integrity of and maintaining the interest of the Natura 2000 network I. Retain character of minor roads J. Restore and maintain traditional hedge and stone wall field boundaries K. Retain the wide, open character beaches and their immediate hinterlands in particular Thorntonloch and White sands



The rolling broad, gently undulating plain looking towards the coast framed by Torness Power Station and Dunbar Cement Works with stone wall field boundaries



Cement works and infilled quarry in its low lying coastal setting



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



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



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

Tourism and recreation set in the shadow of Torness



Coastal Margins – Northern Coastal Margin

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
<p>Physical Features</p> <p>Geology, topography and drainage</p>	<p>The northern coastal margin extends from Dunbar in the east to the edge of Port Seton in the west. The area is virtually flat immediately inland of the coast, consisting of raised beach deposits. Crags and rocky outcrops form much of the northern coastal edge and enclose numerous sandy coves backed by dunes. The sandy beaches and dune systems are more extensive at Aberlady and Gullane to the west and around Tynninghame and the mouth of the Tyne to the east. The mouths of two rivers form estuaries at either end of the area –the Tyne at Tynninghame and the Peffer Burn at Aberlady Bay. Several islands are located within the waters close to the coast – Bass Rock, Craigleith and Fidra being the three largest. These form part of this landscape character area due to their relationship with the land.</p>
<p>Vegetation and land cover</p>	<p>The area has many designed landscapes and associated policy woodlands including Archerfield, Gosford, Luffness and Tynninghame. The proximity to the coast has led to the formation of distinctive wind sculpted areas of woodland particularly the ‘Toll Belt’ at to the south of the A198 at Gosford. Similar beech trees at Tynninghame have been felled. The links and dunes systems at the coast are of nature conservation value and are heavily colonised by Sea Buckthorn. The dunes and links also provide ideal conditions for golf and many golf courses exist along the coast including Luffness and the ancient world-renowned course of Muirfield at Gullane. More courses have been built since the original study including the large development of three 18 hole courses at Archerfield Estate at Dirleton and at Seton Sands Caravan Park close to Port Seton.</p>
<p>Access</p>	<p>The A198 road follows the line of the coast linking the coastal villages and allowing access to the many coastal car parks for recreation.</p>
<p>Built features</p>	<p>Settlement is concentrated along the coastal fringe with the old weaving village of Longniddry, the 19th century cottages and Gothic terraces of Aberlady, Dirleton with its village green and medieval castle and the links village of Gullane along the western section of the area. The town of North Berwick with its sandstone buildings is situated in the north of the area, centred on the historic heart. The town of Dunbar lies at the eastern end of the area sited on a headland above the sea. Historically centred on the castle and harbour it has a broad High Street of 17th and 18th century local red sandstone buildings. It has had considerable recent expansion to its south-western side.</p> <p>The 14th century Tantallon Castle is sited east of North Berwick on a headland overlooking the Bass Rock.</p>
<p>Infrastructure and industry</p>	<p>There is little industry or infrastructure within the area. The caravan park at Seton Sands has recently expanded forming a large development to the west of Longniddry. East Links Farm Park and Foxlake to the west of Dunbar are successful outdoor recreation facilities attracting visitors from within and beyond East Lothian. The Belhaven Brewery in Dunbar is small in character and does not detract from the setting of the town.</p>

Aesthetic qualities and views	<p>This is a highly attractive landscape (and seascape) of great diversity from the varied coastline and locally distinctive villages to the extensive estate woodlands. Long range views are common to most of the area both across the sea as well as inland to the Lammermuir Hills to the south, emphasising the open, level nature of the coastal margin. Some seascape views focus on the distinctive islands in the Firth of Forth, others are funneled towards the open sea.</p>
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Diversity of coastal scenery and habitats 2. Rich historical heritage 3. Major estate woodlands and other landscape features 4. Prominent views of distinctive igneous outcrops 5. Extensive views 6. Attractive coastal settlements
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Potential visitor pressure from successful tourism and recreation industry 2. Pressure for residential expansion of coastal settlements
Management Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Conserve current equilibrium between diverse elements and pressures B. Require careful visual integration of new development C. Seek to ensure long term management of key estate landscape features D. Promote integrated coastal zone management strategy balancing visitor management, tourism, recreation and other development while avoiding adverse impact on the integrity of and maintaining the interest of the Natura 2000 network E. Retain the wide, open character of estuaries and sandy beaches and their immediate hinterlands in particular Aberlady, Belhaven and Gullane Bays, Ravensheugh, Broad Sands, Gosford Sands, Seton Sands. F. Retain the exposed, elemental character of areas of rocky coast and cliffs G. Avoid built development on the offshore islands, sandbanks and rocks wherever possible H. Maintain focal points, including Aberlady Bay Bridge; Fidra Island and Lighthouse; Craigleith Island; Bass Rock; Tantallon Castle, The Gighan, St Baldreds Cross: the 'Bridge to Nowhere at Belhaven Bay; North Berwick Law I. Control sea buckthorn as an invasive species that becomes monocultural in appearance J. Avoid extensive woodland plantation which could adversely affect the open character of this area K. Seek to re-structure plantation woodland with more native woodlands of a mix of broadleaves and conifers. Diversity of species in any new woodland planting should be increased. Existing woodland should be managed 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 L. Retain character of minor roads M. Restore and maintain traditional hedge and stone wall field boundaries



The Northern Coastal Margin at Tynninghame typical of the open links character with gorse and wind sculpted trees with the Bass Rock beyond

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



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



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



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



The distinctive islands of Fidra and the Bass Rock with their lighthouses



Coastal Margins – Musselburgh/Prestonpans fringe

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	<p>The area extends from the eastern margins of Edinburgh in the west to the eastern side of Port Seton in the east. It is defined by the Tranent Ridge and Settled Farmland to the south and includes the lower floodplain of the River Esk. Its geology is mainly sedimentary overlain with marine deposits and raised beaches close to the coast. The coastline consists of a sandy beach at Fisherrow and the open mudflats and mussel beds of the River Esk estuary. Land has been reclaimed at Musselburgh with waste ash from the former Cockenzie Power Station to form an extensive area of lagoons separated from the sea by a concrete retaining wall. At Prestonpans and Cockenzie and Port Seton the foreshore consists low rocky platforms and small rocky headlands.</p>
Vegetation and land cover	<p>The coastal strip is almost continuously settled however inland there are some large arable fields of prime agricultural land divided by broken hedgerows and fences with occasional hawthorn or beech hedgerow trees. The area between Musselburgh and Prestonpans contains both the policy woodlands of Drummohr House and the wooded grounds of the Royal Musselburgh Golf Course, protected by tree preservation orders. The links landscape to their north skirts the coast from Fisherrow links to Musselburgh Racecourse and onto Morrison's Haven at Prestonpans. The designed landscapes of Newhails House and Pinkie House create green open spaces within the heart of the urban settlement of Musselburgh and the River Esk itself provides a green although narrow corridor through the town.</p>
Access	<p>The A1 trunk road and East Coast Rail line both pass through this area together with the A199 from Musselburgh to Tranent and the coastal road. There is a dense road network linking the settlements. The coastal strip provides recreation in the form of Musselburgh Racecourse and the Musselburgh and Royal Musselburgh Golf Courses as well as Levenhall Links. The John Muir Way follows the coast through the area and links with the River Esk cycle/walkway and Core Path routes to Tranent Ridge.</p>
Built features	<p>The majority of the area is settled with the burgh town of Musselburgh spanning the mouth of the River Esk to the west with its harbour at Fisherrow. Prestonpans, Cockenzie and Port Seton are also located adjacent to the coast and have a strong relationship with it. Historically the fishing industry has been important and harbours at Cockenzie and Port Seton remain in use today. The historical harbour at Morrison's Haven was used as a port for the brickworks and mining industry still evident at Prestongrange. The villages have continued to expand with modern housing developments due to their proximity to Edinburgh. Wallyford to the southeast of Musselburgh was a traditional mining village that has expanded considerably in recent years with new housing due to its location close to the transport routes into Edinburgh. The historic building of Bankton House is visible to the north of the A1 as you pass Prestonpans. The attractive inventory Garden and Designed Landscapes at Newhails and Pinkie and wooded Drummohr designed landscape breaks up the built development.</p>

Infrastructure and industry	The former Cockenzie Power Station a previously dominant landmark has been demolished leaving a brownfield site. There are pylon lines and major transport routes throughout the area
Aesthetic qualities and views	The extensively settled, industrialised nature of much of this area dominates stretches of unspoilt farmland and woodland. The expansion of the settlement in this area is significantly increasing the built nature of the area. Occasional open views can be gained across the plain towards the coast to the north and Edinburgh to the west. A viewpoint from the top of the 'pyramid' at Meadowmill provides panoramic views over the area.
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. River Esk floodplain and parkland 2. Mature woodland and open land of designed landscapes 3. Fields of prime agricultural land which are being significantly reduced in area due to settlement expansion important in providing settlement setting 4. Open land within/between settlements providing landscape variety, settlement setting and reducing the appearance of coalescence 5. Estate landscapes and boundary features 6. Coastal scenery and habitats 7. Open views across the area to the Firth of Forth, Fife and Edinburgh
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dominant urban / industrial character including high voltage pylon lines 2. High visual sensitivity of flat unwooded terrain increases visual impact of new development 3. Residential expansion pressures on coastal villages
Management Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Retain wooded character at Drummohr and Prestongrange B. Diversity of species in any new woodland planting should be increased. Existing woodland should be managed 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 C. Retain the open character of Fishherrow Sands D. Retain the elemental appearance of areas of rocky coastline E. Promote tree and woodland planting to integrate existing and new built development with the surrounding countryside and within the urban area and to reduce appearance of coalescence of built development F. Seek to secure long term management of important estate landscape features G. Promote integrated coastal zone management strategy balancing visitor management, tourism, recreation and other development while avoiding adverse impact on the integrity of and maintaining the interest of the Natura 2000 network H. Reclamation of ash lagoons I. Protection of bird reserves J. Preserve and restore traditional stone wall and hedge field boundaries



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



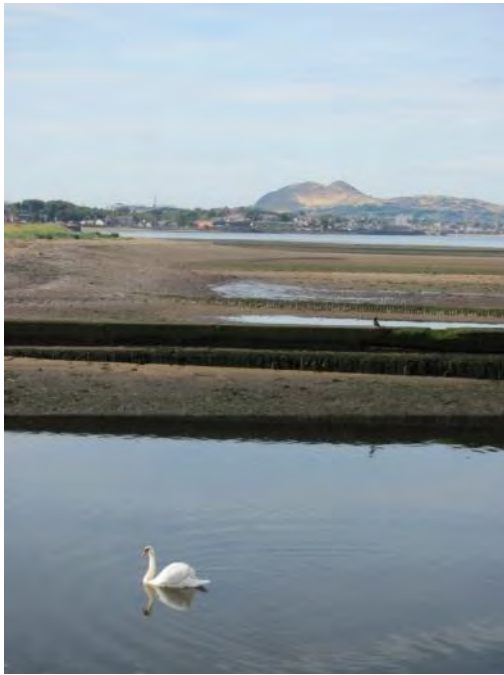
Open dune landscape of Musselburgh golf and race course



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



View of the coastal area from Fa'side Hill showing the esettlement speparated by woodlands and arable land



Expanse of sand and mussel beds at Fisherrow sands looking towards Arthurs Seat in Edinburgh



Prestonpans rocky foreshore where development extends to the water's edge



Coastal view westwards towards Edinburgh

Appendix 2: Special Landscape Areas

PURPOSE OF DESIGNATION

As outlined in the SNH/HS Guidance the role of the SLAs can be:

- As accolades
- As a means to identify policy priorities and objectives
- As tools for management

Designation of the suite of SLAs has an element of recognising and therefore promoting understanding of areas which are seen as special: there is policy focus in the LDP on helping safeguard these important landscapes and landscape features.

The purpose of the Special Landscape Area designations is part of East Lothian's all landscapes approach and aims:

- to safeguard and, where relevant, improve important landscapes and landscape features which are particularly valued;
- to protect some of the most important landscape settings for recreation and tourism within East Lothian;
- to promote understanding and awareness of the distinctive character and special qualities of the landscapes of a local authority area;

Accordingly the suite of East Lothian's Special Landscape Areas is intended to:

- A. Ensure that each of main landscape types which characterise East Lothian are represented – Uplands, Upland Fringes, Lowland River Valleys, Lowland Hills and Ridges, Lowland Plains and Coastal Margins;
- B. Include all significant rare features or representative part of an extensive feature;
- C. Include those places with the strongest scenic and sensory qualities;
- D. Include the areas where perception of the landscape is most important for recreation, tourism and economy;
- E. Include areas with important viewpoints or landmarks or areas that are important in views.
- F. Include those areas with strong historic or archaeological character (historic landscapes);
- G. Include areas with strong cultural association;
- H. Protect some areas of wilder land including darker areas.

STUDY APPROACH

Following assessment of the landscape character areas and confirmation of their boundaries each landscape character area was assessed to identify the characteristics and qualities of each area which were particularly valued.

We also undertook a six week consultation exercise in early 2015 asking for comments on the public's favourite natural areas and views within East Lothian. Areas that were identified as being of particular value or importance to the public were included within the SLA identification process.

Using the information from the Landscape Character Area evaluation and the submissions to the public consultation a map based exercise was carried out to identify those areas of greatest importance within East Lothian. This highlighted a number of areas from large expanses of moorland and coast to small sites of single special features.

To further inform our decision making process and define both the proposed special landscape areas and the boundaries to the areas we carried out field evaluation.

We then assessed each area against the practical criteria within the SNH reference guide to ensure:

- Integrity, coherence and identity
- Suitability of size
- Easily identifiable boundary features

Consideration was also given to overlap with other policy designations within East Lothian and adjacent SLA areas in neighbouring local authority areas.

SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS

As a result of the study 32 Special Landscape Areas were identified as listed below ordered by their main landscape character type and size, and shown on the map in figure 2:

SLA Name		Area
Uplands		
1	Lammermuir Moorland	4,169 Ha
2	Whiteadder	1,321 Ha
Upland Fringes		
3	Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester	3,812 Ha
4	Monynut to Blackcastle	2,624 Ha
5	Danskine to Whitecastle	2,240 Ha
6	Halls to Bransly Hill	1,608 Ha
7	Doon Hill to Chesters	1,388 Ha
8	Whittingehame to Deuchrie	1,261 Ha
Lowland River Valleys		
9	Humbie Headwaters	826 Ha
10	River Esk	369 Ha
11	Biel and Belton	257 Ha
12	Bolton	155 Ha
Lowland Hills and Ridges		
13	Garleton Hills	1,277 Ha
14	Elphinstone Ridge	628 Ha

SLA Name		Area
Lowland Plains		
15	Traprain and Tyne Valley	2,067 Ha
16	Whitekirk and Balgone Outcrops	675 Ha
17	Garden County Farmland	405 Ha
18	Ormiston Yew and Fountainhall	303 Ha
19	North Berwick Law	257 Ha
20	Linplum	239 Ha
21	Clerkington and Tyne Walk	201 Ha
22	Samuelston	58 Ha
23	Winton Walks	57 Ha
24	Kingston	30 Ha
25	Morham	15 Ha
Coastal Margins		
26	North Berwick to Seton Sands Coast	2,573 Ha
27	Belhaven Bay	1,316 Ha
28	Tantallon Coast	769 Ha
29	Dunbar to Barns Ness Coast	454 Ha
30	Thortonloch to Dunglass Coast	232 Ha
31	Fisherrow Sands	211 Ha
32	Prestonpans Coast	118 Ha

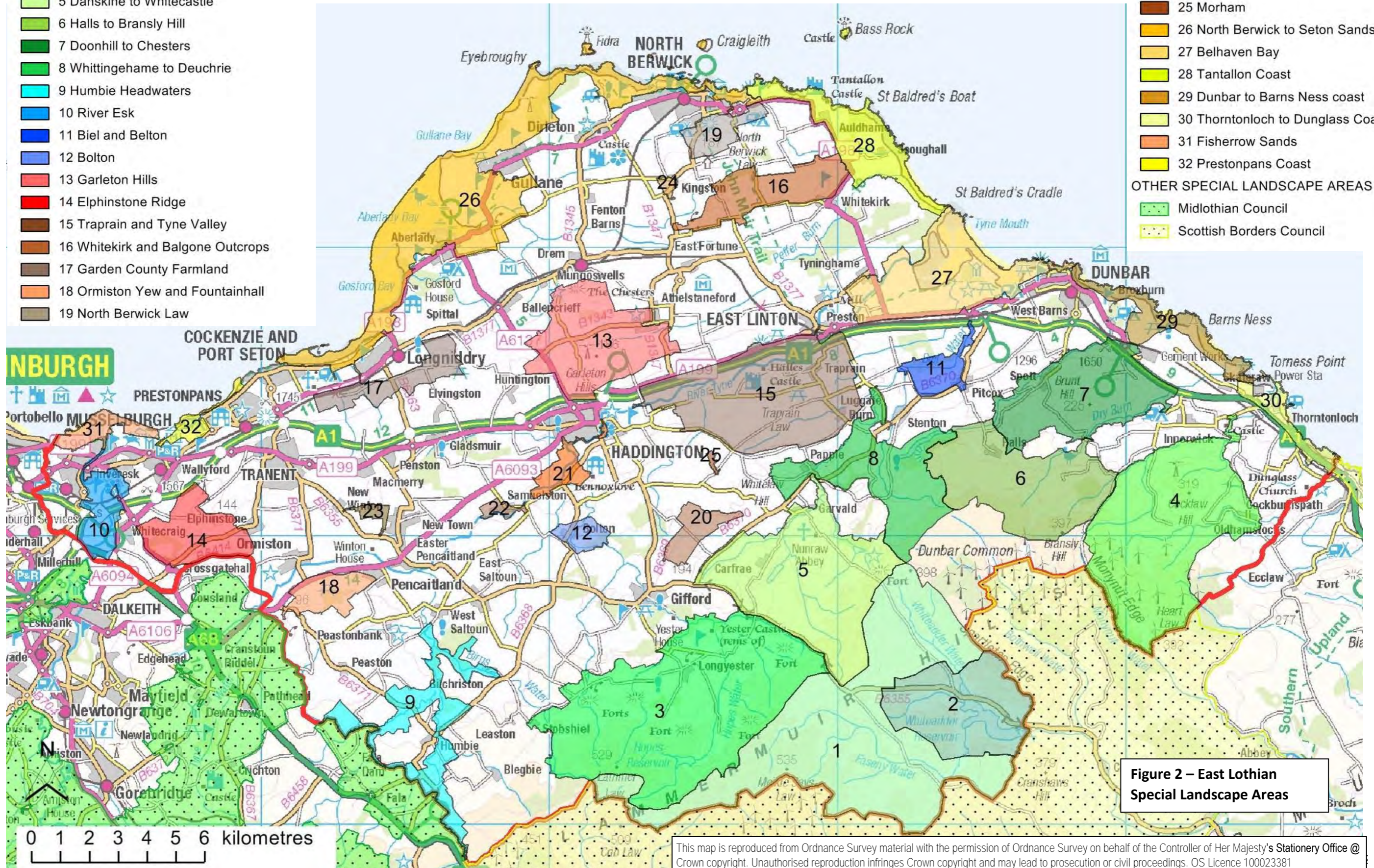
EAST LOTHIAN SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS

- 1 Lammermuir Moorland
- 2 Whiteadder
- 3 Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester
- 4 Monymut to Blackcastle
- 5 Danskine to Whitecastle
- 6 Halls to Bransly Hill
- 7 Doonhill to Chesters
- 8 Whittingehame to Deuchrie
- 9 Humble Headwaters
- 10 River Esk
- 11 Biel and Belton
- 12 Bolton
- 13 Garleton Hills
- 14 Elphinstone Ridge
- 15 Traprain and Tyne Valley
- 16 Whitekirk and Balgone Outcrops
- 17 Garden County Farmland
- 18 Ormiston Yew and Fountainhall
- 19 North Berwick Law

- 20 Linplum
- 21 Clerkington and Tyne Walk
- 22 Samuelston
- 23 Winton Walks
- 24 Kingston
- 25 Morham
- 26 North Berwick to Seton Sands Coast
- 27 Belhaven Bay
- 28 Tantallon Coast
- 29 Dunbar to Barns Ness coast
- 30 Thorntonloch to Dunglass Coast
- 31 Fisherrow Sands
- 32 Prestonpans Coast

OTHER SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS

- Midlothian Council
- Scottish Borders Council



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STATEMENTS OF IMPORTANCE

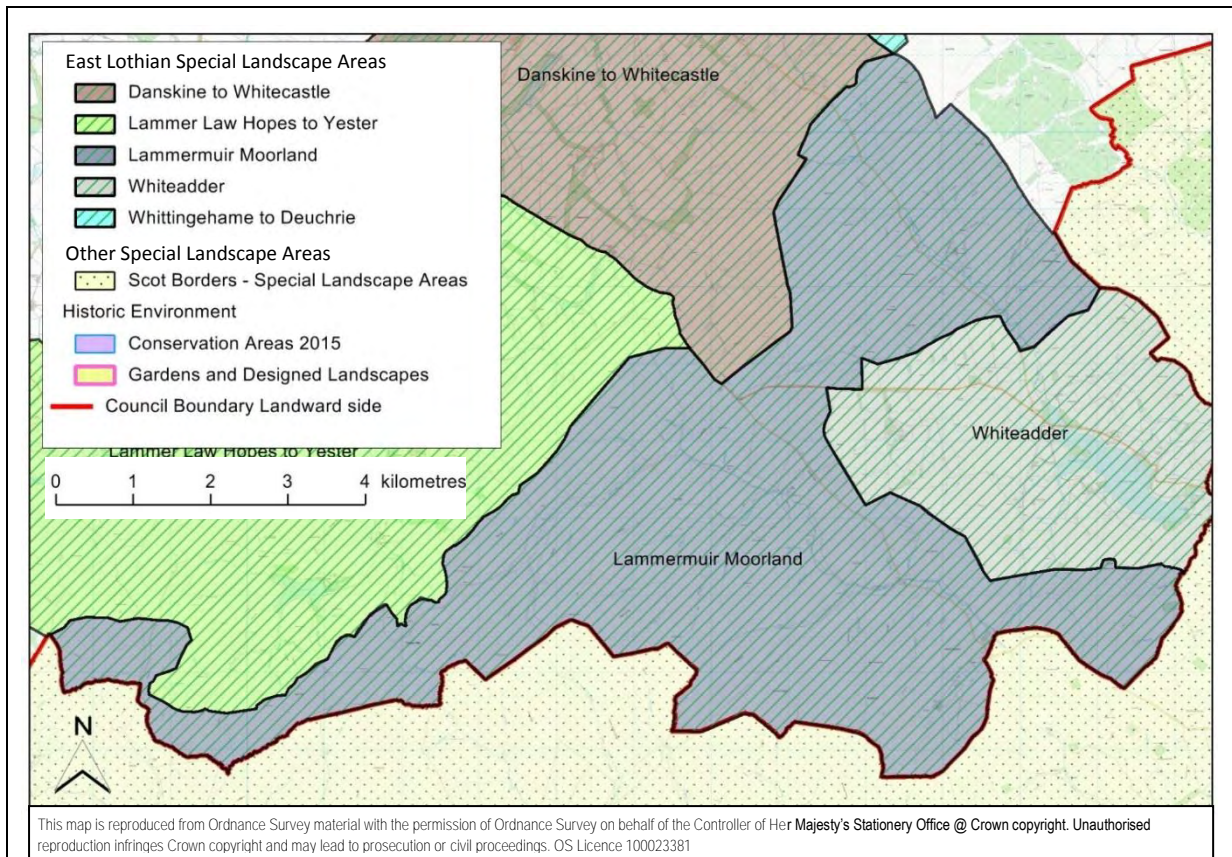
Each of the identified Special Landscape Area has a Statement of Importance. The purpose of the Statement of Importance is to give a summary of why the area was chosen, what its special features and qualities are and to guide appropriate development proposals.

Each Statement is set out following a template:

Title	The name of the SLA
Map	Map showing the area. The Local Development Plan shows mapping at 1:10000 however the original mapping was done at 1:2048, and should there be a discrepancy it is the 1:2048 mapping that should be relied on. The map will also show adjacent and overlapping landscape designations
Character	The main reason, with reference to the methodology, for why the area was chosen. For most areas, there will also be contributing reasons, and these are shown in 'Special Qualities' below.
Area	The size of the SLA in hectares
Overview	The overview includes a brief description of the location, main features, and other general information about the area.
Special Qualities and Features	<p>The special qualities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • elements of the landscape which make the area distinctive, attractive, or representative • main recreational uses • features or areas which are important to the economy • selected important views and viewpoints • landmarks • cultural associations
Guidelines for Development	This identifies where the area is sensitive to landscape change, how the special character of the area might be eroded, with a focus on development issues. Generic issues of siting and design which would apply to any development are not generally mentioned.
Potential for Landscape Enhancement	<p>This section is intended to give suggestions for landscape improvement. The Council does not wish to overstep its remit, and where outwith planning or other Council control, recommendations are absolutely discretionary.</p> <p>General good management is not mentioned here, for example removal of graffiti and fly-tipped items or repair of field boundaries, unless it detracts much more than usual from the area.</p>

The Statements of Importance for each Special Landscape Area are included on the following pages:

Lammermuir Moorland: Special Landscape Area 1 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: 4,169 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. It is surrounded by other SLAs both within East Lothian and SBC area.

The key characteristic of the area is its sense of expansiveness and space, dominated by the large, open area of 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. The occasional cottages form focal points within the landscape at Kilpallet, Faseny and Johnsleugh. Human intervention is 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 Faseney Water, the Whiteadder Water and Kilpallet Burn, and associated smaller water courses contained in gullies which run into these burns. Meikle Says Law at 535m, is the highest point in the East Lothian Lammermuirs 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 can be limited by the plateau topography or valley sides, but where obtained are often panoramic.

Recreational use of the area includes walking and mountain biking as well as grouse-shooting. The streams at Whiteadder and Faseney 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 Faseney, Johnsleugh 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 Faseney 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 Faseney Bridge, is a relic of protest against windfarm development in the area.

Special Qualities and Features:

1. 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 Lammer Law SSSI to the west of the area supports one of the largest and least disturbed areas of upland blanket bog and heather moorland in East Lothian.
2. The expansive, open moor with rounded hills leading to summits of similar height is characteristic of East Lothian's uplands, and typical of the uplands of the wider region. Meikle Says Law at 535m, is the highest point in the Lammermuirs and is one of the relative hills of Britain, though is not a prominent summit.
3. The Lammermuirs form the backdrop to East Lothian, an often dark band with a strong horizon line contrasting with the lighter, more varied colours of the fertile farmland below and the open sky above. The skyline, especially where unbroken, characterises East Lothian. 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.
4. 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

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'.

reflect vegetation and light. The moorland is rarely broken, even where it is peaty. 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 is dominated by the sky and moorland and the visibility of changing weather and patterns of light can be dramatic.

5. 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.
6. 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 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.
7. 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 the larger farmhouse of Johnscleugh, closer to the Lammermuir edge. The spacing and style of the cottages reflect the poor living traditionally to be had in the area. Their location, tucked snugly into valleys for shelter, while avoiding the damper valley floors reflects the exposed nature of the moorland.
8. 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.
9. Views are often of the moorland itself, giving the feeling of being ‘in’ the moor, but open out from higher ground to give panoramic vistas. 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.

Guidelines for Development

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the open wilder character. Development or management that would affect the sense of openness or apparent 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 should not be supported.
- B. 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.

- C. 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. Development should be located and designed to limit wider visibility and protect the unbroken horizontal element of the Lammermuir skyline.
- D. Any proposed development must not affect the perception of scale of the moorland hills or valleys.
- E. Any proposed development must not lead to the loss of the heather landscape cover. Conversion to improved pasture in particular would adversely impact the appearance of the area and should not be supported.
- F. 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.
- G. A restoration strategy is important at development stage where large infrastructure projects are being considered to ensure re-establishment of the natural landscape.
- H. Residential development where justified should be small scale and respect the location and design pattern of existing housing, kept off moorland plateaus and hill tops to limit wider visibility.

Potential for Landscape Enhancement

- I. 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. There may be scope for this in other cleughs and valleys within the area and this would be supported.
- II. Coniferous plantations and woodland planting on the moorland tops would not be supported within this area.
- III. Removal of the high voltage power lines that cross the area would enhance the area. However it is recognised that the line is needed into at least the medium term to export electricity from Torness power station as well as windfarms both on and offshore
- IV. Windfarm development adjacent to the SLA impacts visually on some parts of the area; in particular 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
- V. Improve existing core paths and rights of ways for walkers, both in grade of material used and provision of bridges
- VI. Restore condition of peatlands

² Available on SNH's website at <http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/heritagemanagement/constructedtracks.pdf> ²

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





Cotton grass in the foreground with muirburned heather clad hills beyond and wind turbines on the horizon

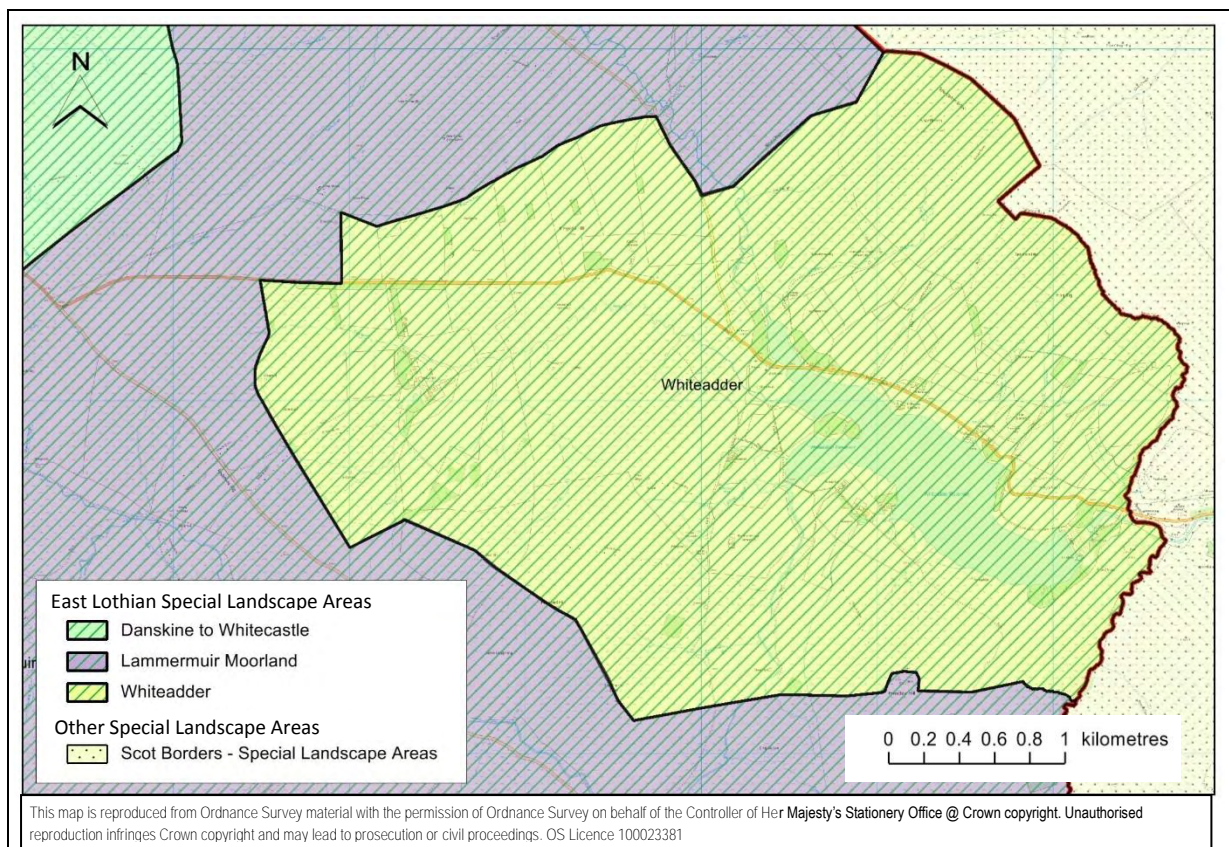


The settlement of Kilpallet hidden in the fold of the valley surrounded by sheltering trees

Snow covered hill slopes The settlement of Kilpallet hidden in the fold of the valley surrounded by sheltering trees



Whiteadder: Special Landscape Area 2 Statement of Importance



Character: An upland river valley with the large scenic body of the Whiteadder Reservoir at its heart, enclosed in a flat bottomed valley of improved pasture surrounded by rising moorland. Spartleton Hill is a notable peak, with tremendous views in all directions.

Area: 1,321 ha

Overview:

The Whiteadder Reservoir was formed in 1968, and at 80 hectares is the largest body of water in East Lothian, with shingly bays and promontories at the margins. The Whiteadder is set in a wide valley of interwoven ridges of rounded hills, with improved pasture in the lower lying parts, rising to tussocky heather moorland dappled with waving grasses towards the tops. Its character, especially in the higher parts, has similarities with the Lammermuir Moorland SLA, however it generally has a much more settled feel. Spartleton, to its north, is a relative hill with wide 360 degree views. There is a good network of paths which give a variety of views over the Whiteadder with the historic Herring Road crossing the area.

Special Qualities and Features:

1. The area is centred on the Whiteadder Reservoir, the largest water body in East Lothian, set in an open shallow upland valley. Several tributaries meander into the reservoir or cut little valleys into the hill, with a charm of their own. The valley has a peaceful, remote atmosphere due to the enclosure of the surrounding hills, which prevent views out to the lowland area. The varied land cover of pasture grassland, grouse moorland and small blocks of woodland provide visual contrast to the setting. Limited access by single track roads and the very limited light pollution within the area (identified by 2012 images from NASA), make it part of one of the darkest areas in East Lothian, adding to the remote feel of the area.

2. Spartleton is a relative hill of Britain, and rises to 468m. This is an easy climb and gives good views with moorland in the foreground - on a clear day, you can see Holy Island in the South, the Pentland Hills and Dumyat to the West, the Sidlaws and peeps of the Angus hills to the north, as well as the Forth and Forth Islands. Crystal Rig windfarm is also laid out to the north.
3. There is little built development, and most substantial development is on the lower lying ground around the Whiteadder reservoir. There are traditional single storey cottages of slate and stone or white harl at Gamelshiel and Millknowe, with a more substantial stone and slate farmhouse at Priestlaw. Mayshiel House and associated buildings are more modern. Most built development is sheltered by woodland, reflecting the exposed location. Ruins, such as those at Penshiel Grange and Gamelshiel Castle, and archaeological remains such as the Table Rings cairn, give a sense of the passage of time.
4. The reservoir and surrounding area provide good recreation facilities. The Mayshiel Estate in the centre of the area is a base for grouse shooting, with the moorland sections of this area being actively managed for grouse. The area is attractive to walkers and cyclists, with Core Paths routes 23 and 28 going through the area, as well as several rights of way, including the historic Herring Road, and a network of tracks. The Herring Road was used by fishwives from Dunbar travelling to Lauder to sell their fish, and people who had travelled the opposite way to Dunbar to buy salted herring to see them through the colder months.
5. The Whiteadder reservoir is important in views from within the area and from the surrounding hills. Its enclosure by the surrounding hills and low lying nature mean it is hidden from much of the surrounding Lammermuir Plateau providing surprise and delight when discovered. By car, views from the B6355 approaching from the west, and the unclassified road through Johnsclough, both have good views of the reservoir; on foot, there is a good view from the lower of the two cairns on Priestlaw Hill, Spartleton and in fact from much of the higher ground
6. This area includes a number of well-preserved prehistoric sites, including burial sites, cairns and settlement remains. Medieval settlement and exploitation of the land is evidenced by the medieval monastic grange at Penshiel (linked to the Abbey at Melrose) and the tower house of Gamelshiel, both scheduled monuments. The area is rich in archaeological remains and monuments and has a high potential for previously unknown sites.
7. Much wildlife can be seen in the area with the reservoir attracting geese and other waterfowl; Golden Plover and other moorland birds inhabit the tops; Hungry Snout is a good place to see Barn owls; whilst mountain hares are a common site across the area
8. Changeable weather conditions are important to the different character of the area; sunshine with white cumulus clouds chasing across the skies and reflecting off the water gives the area a very different feel to autumn days with mist rising from the reservoir or shrouding the hills, to the winter snow picking out the relief and patterns of vegetation across the hill slopes in sharp detail.

Guidelines for Development

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the scenic appeal of the Whiteadder reservoir. Small scale development around the Whiteadder, in particular that which supports recreational use of the area is likely to fit with the character of the area – e.g. single storey boats sheds, car parking areas, picnic areas
- B. 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
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the natural darkness of the area by prevention of development that introduces light pollution into the area.
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the views of open undeveloped hill slopes and tops from within the Whiteadder valley by avoiding for example large scale wind turbine development that would be visually intrusive from the recreational area around the margins of the Whiteadder

- E. Any proposed development must not increase the apparent scale of large scale industrial elements (reservoir walls, pylon lines) for example by providing scale comparison
- F. 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 from both within this area and within the surrounding upland moorland areas
- G. 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
- H. Any proposed development must not harm the open 'wild land' character. 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 should not be supported.
- I. Any proposed development must not harm the feeling of remoteness of the area and small-scale rural character of the roads and avoid development that could increase the urban/developed feel of the area such as upgrading and widening of roads or tracks
- J. A restoration strategy is important at development stage where large infrastructure projects are being considered to ensure re-establishment of the natural landscape
- K. Any proposed development must not harm the existing settlement pattern of development kept to the lower hill slopes and valley bottoms. Residential development where justified should be small scale and respect the location and design pattern of existing housing. Built development of an urban or suburban nature would not accord with the character of the area.
- L. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape setting of archaeological landscape features including Table Rings cairn, Gamelshiel Castle, and Friars Nose Fort.
- M. 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

Potential for landscape enhancement

- i. Encourage reduction in large coniferous plantations and replacement or restructure with more natural shaped woodlands with a mix of broadleaves and conifers
- ii. Encourage limited expansion of woodland cover through shelterbelts and small woodland particularly native woodland in cleughs and valleys and around farmsteads and other building groups
- iii. 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
- iv. Improve access to hills, for example by the provision of small scale, well screened parking facilities
- v. Improve existing core paths and rights of ways for walkers, both in grade of material used and provision of bridges
- vi. Conserve peatland vegetation communities and enhance areas of peatland habitat

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

vii. Reinforce visual and ecological contrasts between open hill slopes and steep valley sides

Photographs of special features and typical elements



The Whiteadder reservoir surrounded by pastureland enclosed within the rising peaks of Priestlaw and Penshiel Hills viewed from Spartleton



Sailing recreation in this scenic setting

Views along the reservoir with the contrast of water, trees, gorse, and heather clad hill slopes



The reservoir nestled in the hills overlooked by the peak of Spartleton



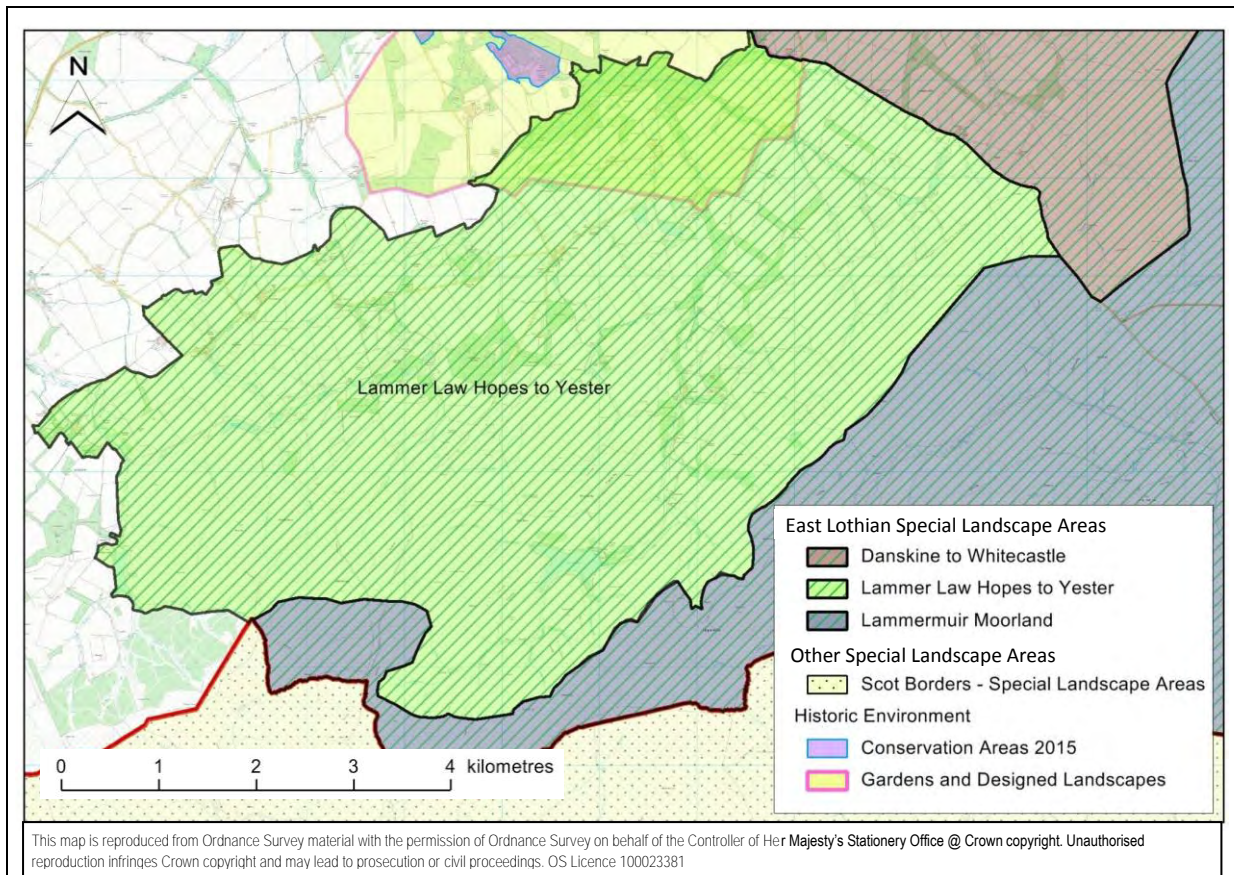


The large expanse of water reflecting the sky surrounded by heather clad hills giving a feeling of remoteness and peace.



The trees of Mayshiel contrasting with the surrounding exposed hill slopes

Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester: Special Landscape Area 3 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 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 area is defined to the south-eastern by 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 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:

1. 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.
2. Lammer Law, the most prominent point of the East Lothian Lammermuir Hills when viewed from the East Lothian plain to the north, offers 360° views from the moorland of the Lammermuirs to the south to the Firth of 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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!
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.

13. 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.
14. 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

15. 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.
16. Significant views points which highlight the importance of a number of Prehistoric sites in the East Lothian plain and beyond.

Guidelines for Development

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the characteristic features reflecting transition from open upland to enclosed lowland landscape.
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the open 'Wild Land' character of the moorland sections 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.
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the unbroken horizontal element of the Lammermuir skyline especially as viewed from the plain and foothills below. Development should be located and designed to limit wider visibility and protect the unbroken horizontal element of the Lammermuir skyline.
- D. 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.
- E. 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.
- F. 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.
- G. 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.

- H. 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.
- I. 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.
- J. A restoration strategy is important at development stage where large infrastructure projects are being considered to ensure re-establishment of the natural landscape.
- K. 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.
- L. 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
- M. Any proposed development must not harm the integrity and coherence of the historic landscape.

Potential for Landscape Enhancement:

- i. Conserve and enhance well-developed and maintained beech and thorn hedgerow network on the arable land. Encourage replacement of moribund and lost sections of hedgerows.
- ii. Promote replacement of traditional oak and ash field boundary tree lines. Consider alternative species to ash due to effects of Ash Dieback.
- iii. Promote reinforcement of stone dyke boundary features on hill slopes, whilst retaining the unenclosed appearance of the moorland
- iv. Seek to support traditional estate management practices to safeguard woodland enclosure features and important boundary walls
- v. 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
- vi. Reduction in large coniferous plantations and replacement with more natural shaped woodlands with a mix of broadleaves and conifers
- vii. Enhance existing pattern of shelterbelt and field boundary woodland through sensitively designed woodland expansion in fringe area
- viii. Encourage limited expansion of woodland cover through shelterbelts and small woodland particularly in cleughs and valleys and around farmsteads and other building groups in upland areas
- ix. Promote improved integration of visually sensitive farm building expansion through farm

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

woodland planting

- x. Reinforce visual and ecological contrasts between open hill slopes and steep valley sides
- xi. Encourage appropriate retention and management of ancient oak and juniper woodland
- xii. 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
- xiii. 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

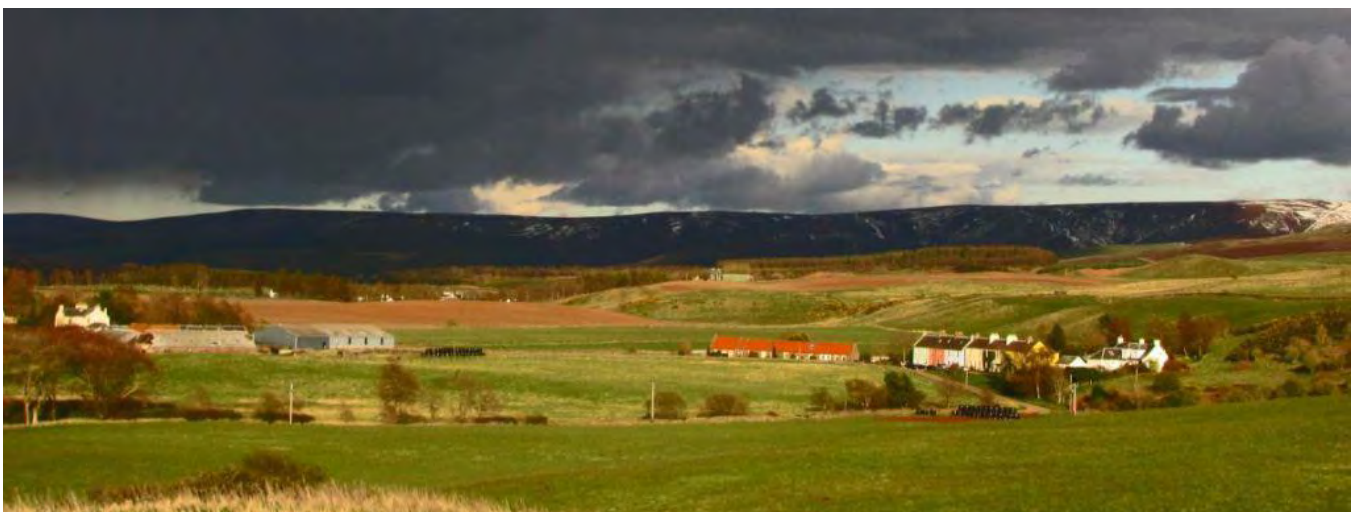


Colourful Long Newton Cottages with the peak of Lammer Law above



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

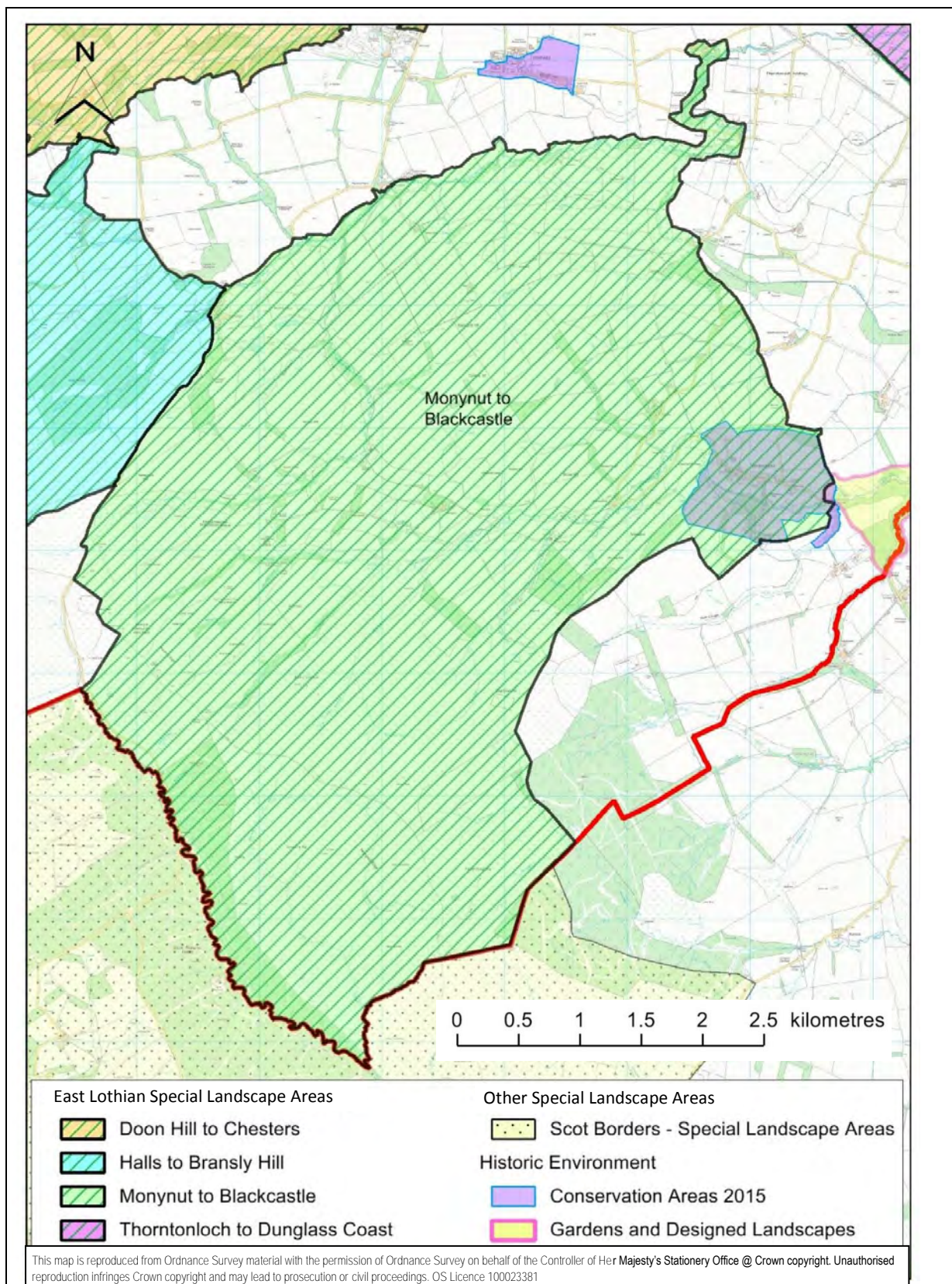


Sharp section of glacial meltwater channel with the remnant hill of Witches Knowe with its Iron Age hill fort

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



Monynut to Blackcastle: Special Landscape Area 4 Statement of Importance



Character: 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 located at the north-eastern extremity of the Southern Uplands and eastern end of the Lammermuir Hills from the border with the Scottish Borders to the southwest, through the Lammermuir Plateau and across the Eastern Lammermuir Fringe. 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 are 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:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. The distinctive cleughs of Ling Hope, Bladdering Cleugh and Burn Hope, and the separated valley of Sheeppath 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.

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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:

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the characteristic features reflecting transition from open upland to enclosed lowland landscape.
- B. 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.
- C. 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.
- D. Any proposed development must not harm views of Oldhamstocks from Cocklaw and core path route 16, and core path route 13 to Woollands
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the agricultural character of the area
- F. 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.
- G. 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.
- H. Wind turbines should be sited to prevent intrusion on the setting of the visually important cleughs.
- I. 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.
- J. A restoration strategy is important at development stage where large infrastructure projects are being considered to ensure re-establishment of the natural landscape.
- K. 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.
- L. 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
- M. Safeguard distinctive architectural integrity and close link with local red sandstone geology
- N. 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 stone bridges

Potential for Landscape Enhancement:

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

- i. Reinstatement of roads, bridges and edges widened and straightened by wind farm development access.
- ii. Conserve and enhance well-developed and maintained beech and thorn hedgerow network on the arable land
- iii. Promote replacement of traditional oak and ash field boundary tree lines
- iv. Take opportunities to enhance / ameliorate impact of existing coniferous plantations at restructuring stage and avoid large areas of forestry plantation
- v. Reduction in large coniferous plantations and replacement with more natural shaped woodlands with a mix of broadleaves and conifers.
- vi. Protection of wildlife sites.
- vii. Avoid over grazing within Fairy Glen
- viii. Formalise viewpoints at West Steel and Wester Dod / Monynut Edge through the formation of parking / picnic areas
- ix. Enhance existing pattern of shelterbelt and field boundary woodland though sensitively designed woodland expansion
- x. 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
- xi. Promote improved integration of visually sensitive farm building expansion through farm woodland planting
- xii. Reinforce visual and ecological contrasts between open hill slopes and steep valley sides
- xiii. Encourage appropriate retention and management of ancient oak and deciduous woodland
- xiv. 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



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



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



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

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





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

Monynut Edge looking down Long Crib Burn to the Scottish Borders



View from the plateau top looking out of the area





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

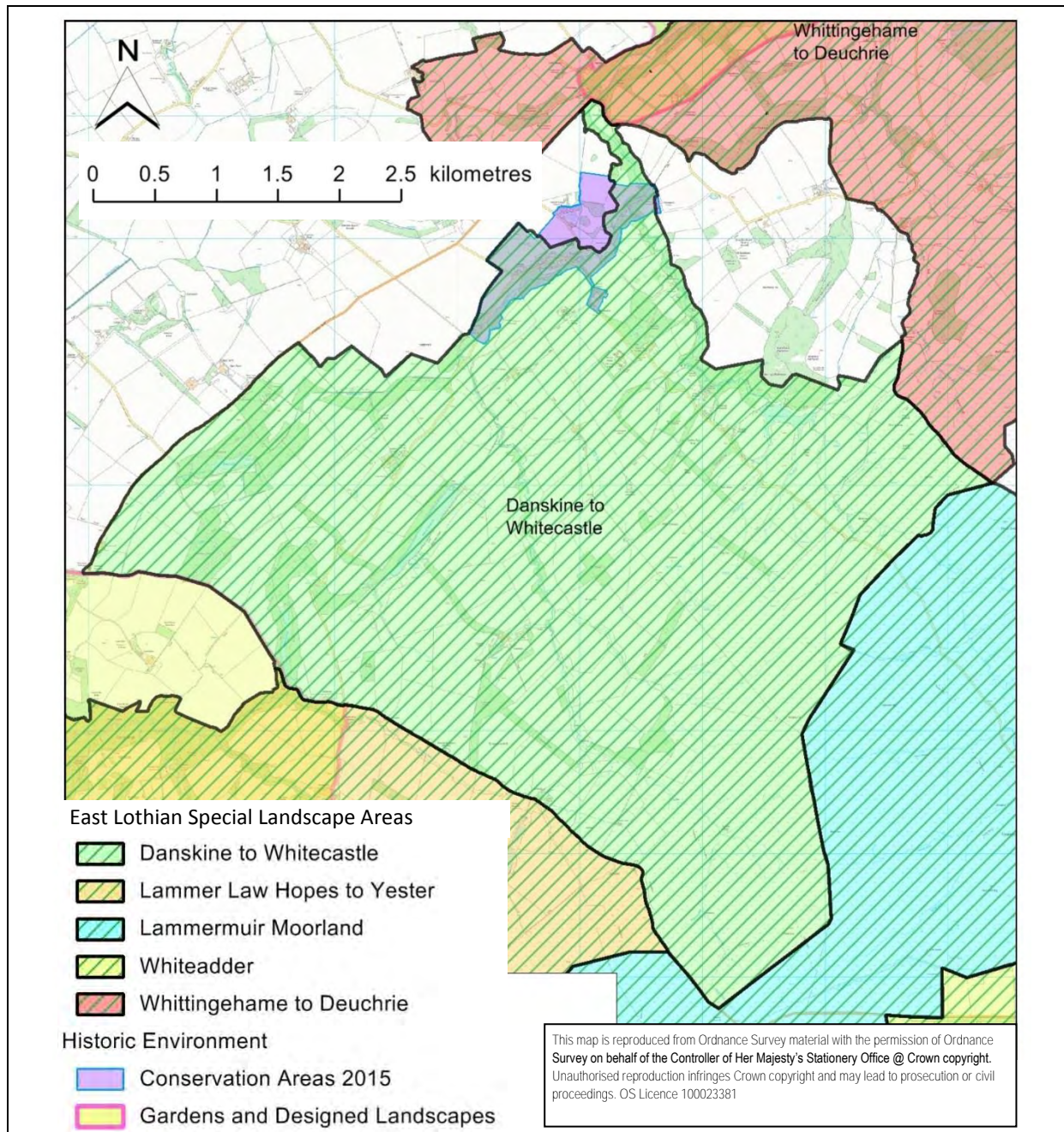


Fairy Glen and burn
Hope from above

View down Sheeppath Glen out to the
coast



Danskine to Whitecastle: Special Landscape Area 5 Statement of Importance



Character: A diverse area of Lammermuir foothills and edge, containing several water bodies and rivers, widely visible from the East Lothian lowlands, containing part of a coherent area of important prehistoric settlement

Area: 2,240 ha

Overview:

The area is located in the central area of the foothills to the south of East Lothian, where rising agricultural land transitions into moorland. River valleys – notably the Papana Water and Thorters Burn rise in the moorland and tumble down the Lammermuir edge, often in deeply cut valleys, before becoming more sedate and meandering in the lower valley reaches. Glaciation has also left

its mark giving an intricately interwoven series of smooth, rounded, low summits and slopes. Bara Loch and wood is a peaceful water body with importance for wildlife. The area also includes the pretty red sandstone village of Garvald, and historic Nunraw and Stoneypath. Whitecastle Fort has commanding views to the north, and guards one of the few passes through the Lammermuirs.

Most of the habitation dates from before 1900, and is attractively built in stone. There is a mix of Building stone used through the area, with the attractive old red sandstone common in the east of East Lothian making an appearance, notably at Garvald, the old Nunraw Monastery and Castle Moffat steading. Garvald Conservation Area is a good example of a hillfoot village built largely of old red sandstone and hidden snugly in its valley setting; with parts of the Church dating to the 12th century. Elsewhere, there are scattered clusters of buildings generally consisting of a main farmhouse, associated steading buildings and well-proportioned rows of low stone farm cottages such as at Snawdon, Carfrae, Townhead, Garvald Mains, and Castle Moffat. There are also grander buildings. The old monastery at Nunraw is substantial, and also has associated lodges, farms, cottages and steadings. Stoneypath Tower is an L-plan tower house, dating from the 16th century and now restored. There are some newer houses, which range from the Grade B listed Baro House; a butterfly plan house started in 1940 following the designs of the Edinburgh architects John Kinross and Robert Lorimer, to the incongruously suburban appearance of the newer cottages at Castle Moffat, built to house water workers.

There is a wide range of soil quality for agricultural purposes, from Class 3.1 prime arable land on the flatter, lower land, giving way as the land rises to moorland or falls within steep valleys, to land suitable for mixed agriculture, improved grassland, then moorland on the highest ground. Native woodland has been chased by agriculture into the steeper sided valleys, with hedgerows, hedgerow trees and shelterbelts being more prominent on higher ground.

Special Qualities and Features:

1. The fault line scarp of this generally north facing, open area is highly visible in views from the East Lothian lowlands, and along with the foothills is important as a backdrop to the area. It is often best viewed in the very early hours or the evening, as sunlight to the south can overpower the view of the edge on a bright day. A light scattering of snow brings the relief into detailed focus however.
2. Views out of the area can be superb, especially from higher ground; good viewpoints are Rangely Kip and, more accessible from a road, Whitecastle Fort. Traprain Law is a key feature in the view from here.
3. Local folds in the landscape can give a more intimate feel. Many of these folds hide scenic water bodies, including Danskine Loch (a SSSI), Bara Loch, Dunolly Reservoir and Thorters Reservoir. These are generally man-made, with dams being placed across meltwater channels to trap the under-sized burns running through them, and they add to the scenic interest of the area. Bara loch is particularly attractive. Lochs, reservoirs and rivers have been identified in the Ash Study of the Lothians as a key feature which determines the essence of the landscape character of the Lothians.
4. The high productivity of the lower land gives a rich fertile cultivated appearance contrasting with the less managed look of the valleys and highest ground. The transition from pasture to arable is marked by a general change in field boundaries from stonewalls in higher areas where it tends to be more plentiful and nearer the surfaces, as well as fences, to clipped hedgerows on lower ground. Hedgerow trees of beech, oak, ash and sycamore are widely evident in the lower areas and add variety and interest to the area.
5. Many of the roads in the area are single track, giving a remote, rural character. Those that are not often benefit from lovely views – the B6370 goes through attractive undulating farmland interspersed with small areas of woodland and passing wind shorn beeches, while offering views

across the lowland plain to the Forth. Broomy Brae, the steep descent from Whitecastle to Garvald gives a good view of the Lothian edge, as well as northwards, before plunging into an attractive treed arch across the road.

6. Traditional farmhouses, steadings and cottages are attractive, and provide variety and interest in the landscape. Garvald village nestles snugly in its steep sided valley setting.
7. Areas of native woodland, particularly at Danskine, around the Sounding Burn, Dunolly Reservoir and the Papan Water valley are attractive. Shelter belts, generally coniferous, play a key role in giving the landscape structure and variety, breaking up the appearance of improved grassland as well as giving shelter to stock. Many of these are long-standing, for example Star Wood, a distinctively shaped landmark, was present by 1900, as were Millsit Knowes, Black Wood, Charles Muir and Cartydub Strips and others. More recently conifer plantation has been added around Bara, and at Sounding Burn.
8. Changing seasonal colours are an important part of the attractiveness of the area, with Spring's bright greens and acid yellows leading to Summer's purple and gold, to Autumn's russet soils and autumnal trees and grey mists, to the clean white of Winter's snow. A blue sky always helps too.
9. There is easy open access across the south-eastern moorland section of the area. There are many tracks across the moorland. A couple of formalised routes lead you from the lower parts of the area up to the hills. A right of Way leads from Garvald past Snawdon to the B6355 and Core path route 20 follows the eastern boundary of the area from Stoneypath Cottages up into the Lammermuir Hills. These offer panoramic views to the north over the plain of East Lothian from their higher reaches.
10. Core path routes 219, 326, 220 and 236 follow the valley of the Donolly Burn from Garvald past Donolly Reservoir and Danskine Loch to link with the Yester Estate. The water bodies, steep sided valley enclosing views and the mixed woods create an attractive, peaceful walk with seasonal interest. Core path route 22 follows a scenic route along the edge of the Papan Water from the east side of Garvald to the historic Stoneypath Tower. Very sparse built development on higher ground, though occasional railway carriage sheds give a reminder of Beeching's 1960s rail cuts.

Historic Landscape – Hillfoots Hillforts

11. Part of the Hillfoots Hillforts Historic Landscape extends across the south-eastern section of this area from the adjacent Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA. This is a coherent landscape with upstanding pre-historic remains (hillforts, enclosures etc). There is a concentration of significant pre-historic remains along the ridgeline. It mirrors other areas in East Lothian that have a similar topography (Chesters to Thurston Ridge, Elphinstone Ridge and the Garleton Ridge). Some of the remains are still upstanding while others are buried. Of these remains Whitecastle Hill Fort is the most visually prominent set at the head of the Thorter Burn valley and allowing panoramic views out and over the East Lothian plain particularly towards Traprain Law another significant prehistoric site.
12. There are significant viewpoints which highlight the importance of a number of Pre-historic sites in the East Lothian plain and beyond including Traprain Law, North Berwick Law, Garleton Hills, Lomond Hills, Arthurs Seat among others all clearly visible from Whitecastle

Guidelines for Development

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the characteristic features reflecting transition from open upland to enclosed lowland landscape
- B. 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
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the unbroken horizontal element of the Lammermuir skyline especially as viewed from the plain and foothills below

- D. 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 from Whitecastle Fort, Rangely Kip or northwards from the B6370.
- E. 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. 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.
- F. Development that increases the apparent scale of large scale industrial elements (reservoir walls, pylon lines) for example by providing scale comparison should not be supported.
- G. 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.
- H. 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.
- I. 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.
- J. A restoration strategy is important at development stage where large infrastructure projects are being considered to ensure re-establishment of the natural landscape
- K. 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.
- L. 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
- M. Any proposed development must not harm the intimate scale of valley bottom landscape and of villages in any future development proposals
- N. Safeguard distinctive architectural integrity and close link with local red sandstone geology
- O. Any proposed development must not harm the existing character of the village of Garvald and the surrounding countryside. Traditionally designed houses include low terraces and features such as crow-steps, small paned sash and case windows and materials including pantiles, red sandstone, slate and harling. Large, modern development, out of scale with the existing buildings and landscape character would adversely impact the landscape character of the area.
- P. Any proposed development must not harm the integrity and coherence of the historic landscape.

Potential for Landscape Enhancement:

- i. Conserve and enhance well-developed and maintained beech and thorn hedgerow network on the arable land

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

- ii. Promote replacement of traditional oak and ash field boundary tree lines
- iii. Promote reinforcement of stone dyke boundary features on hill slopes, whilst retaining the unenclosed appearance of the moorland
- iv. Seek to support traditional estate management practices to safeguard woodland enclosure features and important boundary walls
- v. 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 Star Wood and Millsit Knowes
- vi. Reduction in large coniferous plantations and replacement with more natural shaped woodlands with a mix of broadleaves and conifers
- vii. Reduction in large coniferous plantations and replacement with more natural shaped woodlands with a mix of broadleaves and conifers
- viii. Enhance existing pattern of shelterbelt and field boundary woodland though sensitively designed woodland expansion in fringe area
- ix. Encourage limited expansion of woodland cover through shelterbelts and small woodland particularly in cleughs and valleys and around farmsteads and other building groups in upland areas
- x. Promote improved integration of visually sensitive farm building expansion through farm woodland planting
- xi. Reinforce visual and ecological contrasts between open hill slopes and steep valley sides
- xii. 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



Improved grassland around Snawdon with contrast of gorse and native woodland within the unimproved steep valley sides with walls of local stone.



Whitecastle Hillfort set at opening of hills with panoramic views over the East Lothian plain including Traprain Law



Papana Water valley west from Garvald

View from the B6355 in the southwest corner of the area looking north along the incised valley of the Papana water with the surrounding improved grassland and distinctive Start Wood on hill summit to the East Lothian Plain with the prominent outcrops of Traprain and North Berwick Laws.



In winter roads can become hazardous; and the weather is not always kind

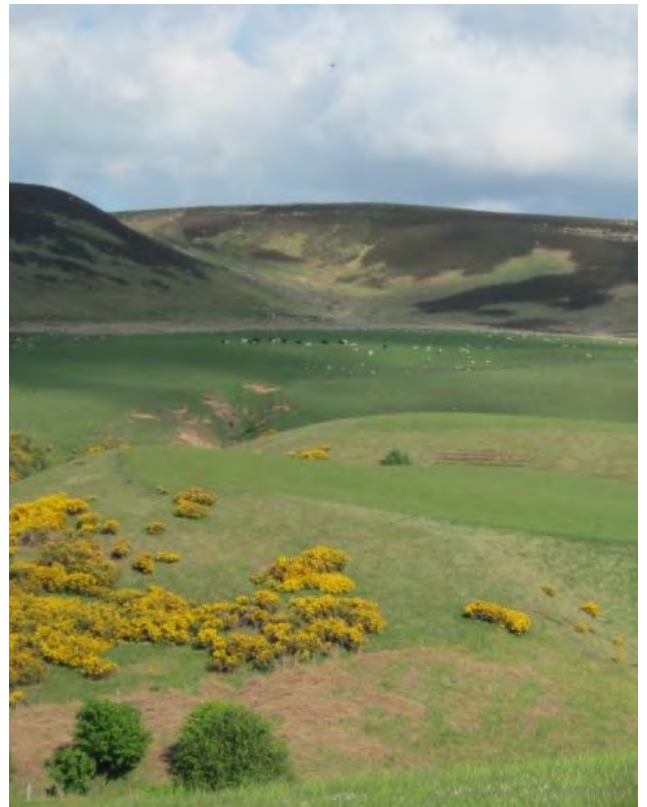




Traditional stone and slate cottages at Snawdon, sensitively extended



Scenic Thorters Reservoir surrounded by gorse and the forestry at Robin Tup's Plantation

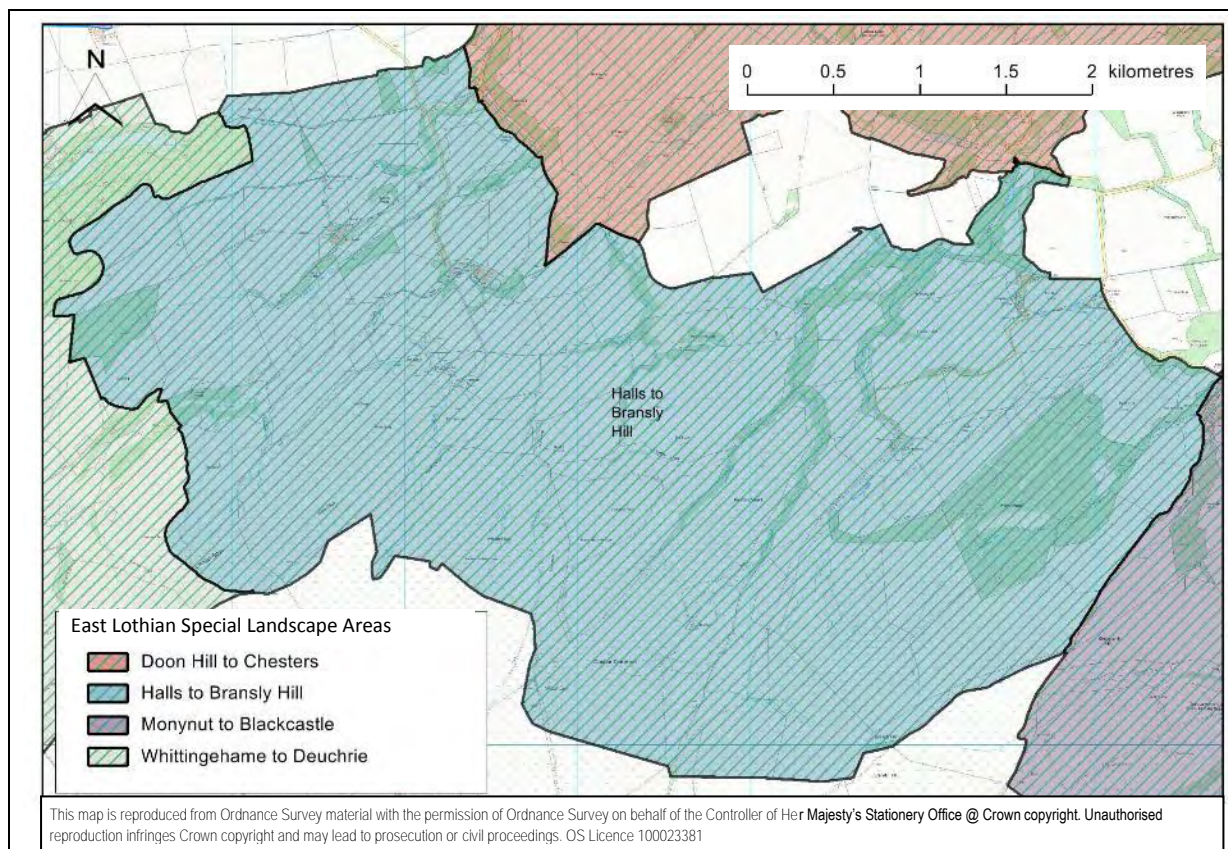


Hill slopes above Thorters Reservoir improved grassland incised by streams and a clear change to moorland high up the slope



Peaceful Baro Loch with much birdlife surrounded by woodland

Halls to Bransly Hill: Special Landscape Area 6 Statement of Importance



Character: An area of foothills containing a section of the feature of the Lothian Edge as well as important areas of ancient native oak woodlands. A particularly good example of a landscape modified during glaciation with complex landform of steep deans and dramatic gravelly knolls contrasting with more rolling hill slopes above.

Area: 1,608 ha

Overview:

A distinctive and diverse area of foothills and edges of the moorland plateau encompassing a section of the geological feature of the Lothian Edge to the east side of East Lothian providing the backdrop to the views south from the East Lothian plain. A wilder less-developed area with the limited settlements fitted into the landform for shelter.

A particularly good example of a landscape modified during glaciation with complex landform of steep deans and dramatic gravelly knolls contrasting with more rolling hill slopes above. This is identified by the designation of Rammer Cleugh SSSI within the area.

The area also contains large areas of ancient oak woodland and the largest area of mixed deciduous woodlands in East Lothian. The ancient oak woods of Deuchrie lie within the Rammer Cleugh SSSI and Nature Reserve and SSSI of Woodhall Dean encompass the largest area of deciduous woodland in East Lothian dominated by relatively pure forms of sessile oak unique in southeast Scotland.

Special Qualities and Features:

1. The eastern half of Rammer Cleugh SSSI lies within the western section of this area. This is important as a geomorphological site with a collection of glacial meltwater channels and kame

terraces. Rammer Cleugh probably formed sub-glacially and shows sub-glacial chutes, ice marginal benches and small marginal and sub-marginal channels. Additional interest includes the esker on the floor of Rammer Cleugh, where the meltwater flowing in tunnels under the ice has left sinuous ridges of gravel. This leads to a complex, intricate and diverse landform of dry rivers, steep sided valleys, small hill formations and valleys where the river does not fit the form.

2. The Rammer Cleugh SSSI in this area is also special for Deuchrie Woods an almost pure stand of sessile oak, representative of a habitat type now scarce in upland East Lothian. The long narrow Scottish Wildlife Trust nature reserve of Woodhall Dean encompasses three burns that join to form the Woodhall Burn to the east of the area and is also identified as a SSSI. It is ancient semi-natural woodland with a mix of broadleaved and yew woodland, and is one of the few surviving remnants of the forests that covered much of southern Scotland 5,000 years ago. The woodland is dominated by relatively pure forms of sessile oak which show little hybridisation, a feature that is almost unique in southeast Scotland. The associated cleughs contain the largest area of deciduous woodland in East Lothian. The site supports a particularly large number of plant species as well as a large number of mosses and liverworts, particularly on the wet steep slopes above the burns.
3. Woodhall Dean is highly scenic with twisted trees clinging to the sides of the steep slopes and the constant sound of the burns running through the cleughs. Spring is the best time to visit to see the woodland flowers such as bluebell, red campion, primrose and moschatel. Wildlife also abounds in the reserve with many butterfly and bird species as well as badgers, roe deer and adder.
4. The smaller cleughs of the burns to the east of the area leading into the Spott Burn are steep sided and clad with native woodland and are identified as the Spott Burn Valley local biodiversity area.
5. A large part of the southern section of the area is identified as the Lammermuirs Local Biodiversity Site important for its upland heath, bog and grassland. This higher area forming the edge to the plateau encloses the area to the south and frames the area in views from the north and from the East lothian plain.
6. Red soil typifies this area of East Lothian with fertile well-managed land associated with the rich farming heritage of East Lothian. This landscape provides a strong sense of East Lothian identity with many features typical of East Lothian; red sandstone buildings, arable farmland, oak woodlands as well as the heather clad hills to the south.
7. Complex, contrasting landscape of a mix of landuses and features, visually rich with limited manmade, development well-sited within the landscape. Open on higher ground with more mystery in the lower and wooded areas. Steep slopes provide dramatic views from the top. The areas raised rolling hill tops contrast with the steep, narrow, wooded deans. Small water bodies are dotted through the area, linked with the glacial landscape formation, and add another contrasting element. Colour contrasts between the purple of the flowering heather of the moors, red of the earth, fresh green to golden of the ripe crops, dark greens and vibrant autumn colours of the woods and blue of the skies.
8. Settlement within the area is limited and small in scale of vernacular style dotted around the minor roads adding to the picturesque and historic nature of the area. The use of local materials, sandstone especially red to match the soil, slate roofs and the small number and scale of settlements and their fit within the landscape gives the impression of man living with nature rather than controlling it. This is added to by the limited number of narrow, single track roads leading into the area and becoming tracks as they reach higher ground.
9. Seasonal change is marked through the changing farmland with lambs in the spring, golden crops in the late summer, the red-earth ploughed fields of the autumn and snow covered hill tops of the winter.
10. The area is important for recreation with great viewpoints from higher ground. There are

many more good vantage points for good long distance views over East Lothian throughout this area. Core path route 470 to the north of the area follows Bennet's Burn from the minor road to Halls to Pressmennan Wood to the west.

11. Core path route 228 starts in Halls and heads into the hills following the traditional track and right of way from Dunbar to Lauder of the Herring Road. A route used in the 18th and 19th centuries for the transportation of herring, both by people bringing home salted stocks for winter use and by fishwives carrying huge creels of fish for sale in markets in Lauder.
12. Scenically the raised viewpoints offer views both up the coast as far as North Berwick Law and the Bass Rock as well as out to sea. They are wide-ranging and, on a clear day, breath-taking. The area is also important in views from the East Lothian Plain looking south where the pasture and heather clad hills frame the view and create a backdrop to the lower arable plain.
13. The now abandoned settlement at Boonslie is an important relic farming landscape. Buildings, landscape boundaries and enclosures can still be seen, originating in the 14th century and showing successive changes in farming style through to the 20th century. This area is unique in East Lothian and will be Scheduled once construction of the windfarm is completed.

Guidelines for Development

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the characteristic features reflecting transition from open upland to enclosed lowland landscape
- B. 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.
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the unbroken horizontal element of the Lammermuir skyline especially as viewed from the plain and foothills below
- D. 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 from Bransley Hill, Hartside and the Lothian Edge.
- E. 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. 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.
- F. Development that increases the apparent scale of large scale industrial elements (reservoir walls, pylon lines) for example by providing scale comparison should not be supported
- G. 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.
- H. 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.
- I. 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.

- J. A restoration strategy is important at development stage where large infrastructure projects are being considered to ensure re-establishment of the natural landscape
- K. 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.
- L. Safeguard distinctive architectural integrity and close link with local red sandstone geology
- M. 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, fords and stone bridges

Potential for Landscape Enhancement:

- i. Conserve and enhance well-developed and maintained beech and thorn hedgerow network on the arable land
- ii. Promote replacement of traditional oak and ash field boundary tree lines. Consider alternative species to ash due to effects of Ash Dieback
- iii. Promote reinforcement of stone dyke boundary features on hill slopes, whilst retaining the unenclosed appearance of the moorland
- iv. Seek to support traditional estate management practices to safeguard woodland enclosure features and important boundary walls
- v. Take opportunities to enhance / ameliorate impact of existing coniferous plantations at restructuring stage such as High Wood
- vi. Encourage further expansion of woodland cover through shelterbelts and small woodland particularly in deans, cleughs and valleys and around farmsteads and other building groups in upland areas, including fencing to promote natural regeneration
- vii. Promote improved integration of visually sensitive farm building expansion through farm woodland planting
- viii. Reinforce visual and ecological contrasts between open hill slopes and steep valley sides
- ix. Encourage appropriate retention and management of ancient oak and deciduous woodland
- x. Ensure protection and enhancement of characteristic high proportion of mixed and broadleaved woodland through management and replacement planting
- xi. 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
- xii. Increase pedestrian and cycle access through the area
- xiii. Repair the stone packhorse bridge in Woodhall Dean

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

Photographs of special features and typical elements



The remote settlement of Hartside cottages set against the complex landscape of Hartside Edge of the Lammermuir escarpment with the purple of the heather clad plateau above.



Traditional single-storey stone buildings of Halls Cottages with red sandstone used as an architectural feature framed by trees

The herring road, traditional route across the hills from Dunbar crosses the area





A meltwater channel above Woodhall Dean with a dry valley and remnant hill formed by glacial meltwaters, typical of the complex and intricate Lothian Edge landscape

A very sharp glacial meltwater channel on the Lothian Edge isolates a small hill called The Knock. Glacial meltwater channels run parallel with the Southern Upland fault.



Spectacular open views to the north over the East Lothian plain and sea beyond can be had from higher ground, framed by the wooded cleughs and arable crops in the foreground





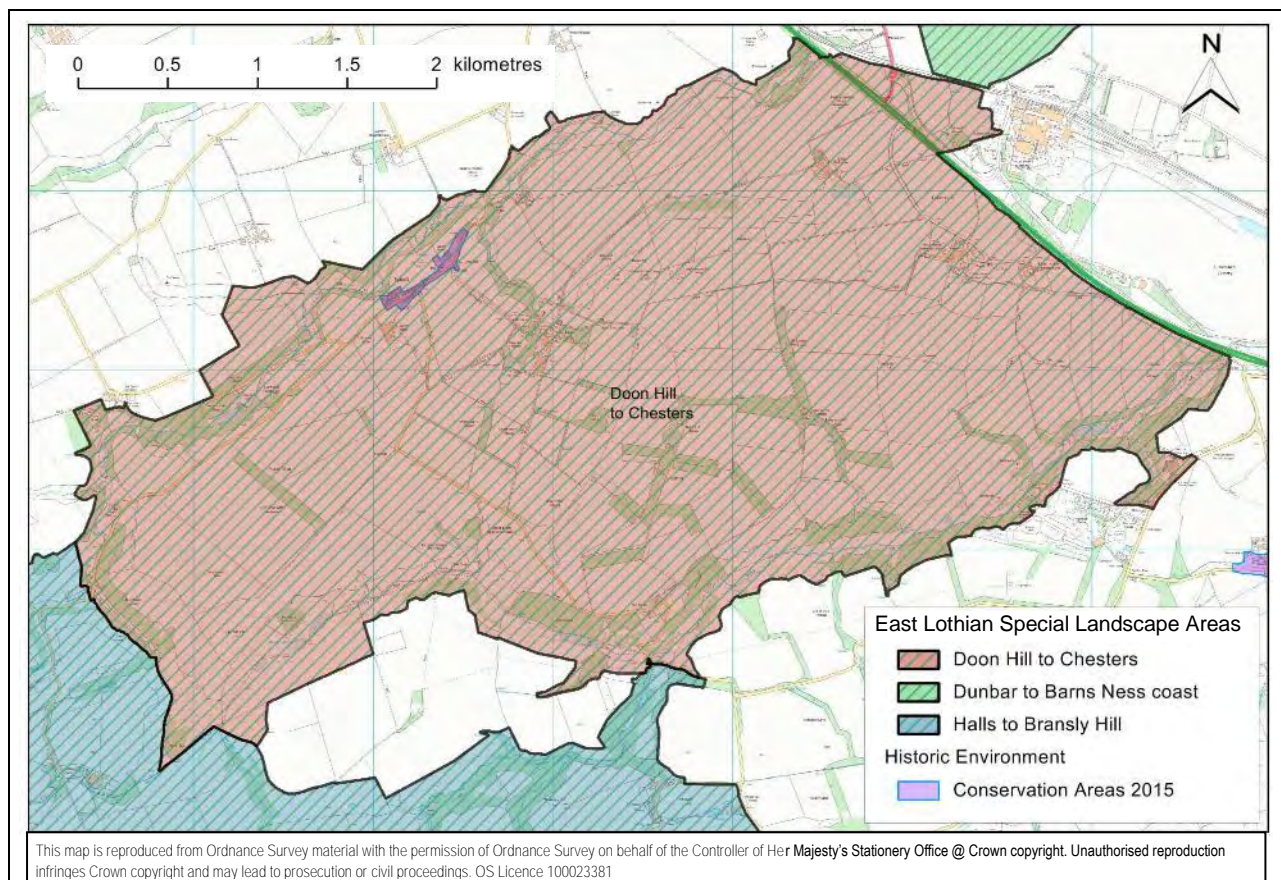
Highly scenic valley of Woodhall Dean set within the rolling hills



Upland Oak woods set on the sides of steep cleughs within Woodhall Dean nature reserve



Doon Hill to Chesters: Special Landscape Area 7 Statement of Importance



Character: Scenic, low hills at the entry point to the Scottish Lowlands from the south, providing the backdrop to East Lothian, with good views over East Lothian and beyond, containing a coherent area of important prehistoric settlement.

Area: 1388 ha

Overview:

An area encompassing the hills of Pinkerton, Brunt, Doon and Spott Dodd to the east side of East Lothian, providing the backdrop to the views south from the East Lothian plain around Dunbar. This area is at the corner of the southern upland fault and entry into the central plain and forms a coherent landscape of important prehistoric settlement along the ridge. It is an area of distinctiveness and diversity.

The area is defined by the steep valleys of the Spott Burn, Dry Burn and Brock Burn along the foot of the hills as well as the A1 to the northeast.

The hillfoot village of Spott and its Conservation Area is fully encompassed by the area.

Special Qualities and Features:

1. This area provides a strong sense of East Lothian with the hills forming the backdrop and setting of Dunbar and the lower arable plain when looking south from the coastal plain. .
2. Narrow incised valleys of the Spott Burn, Brunt valley and Dry Burn form the boundaries of the area. These valleys have a variety of mixed deciduous woodland and grassland habitats and rich flora and fauna,

3. The rolling hills comprise fertile well-managed arable farm land of red soil that typifies East Lothian. Seasonal change is marked through the changing farmland with lambs in the spring, golden crops in the late summer and the red-earth ploughed fields of the autumn.
4. Complex, contrasting landscape of a mix of landuses and features, visually rich with limited manmade development well-sited within the landscape. Open on higher ground with more mystery in the lower and wooded areas. The areas raised rolling hill tops screen hidden valleys to their south.
5. The hill foot village of Spott and other small attractive vernacular settlements of the traditional red sandstone with slate roofs and sensitive steading conversions dotted around the minor roads add to the quaint and historic nature of the area. Giving the impression of man living with nature rather than controlling it.
6. The area is important for recreation with great viewpoints from higher ground. There are notable viewpoints from The Brunt and Doon Hill, where the steep slopes provide dramatic views from the top. There are many more good vantage points for good long distance views over East Lothian throughout this area including above Spott. Scenically the raised viewpoints offer views both up the coast as far as North Berwick Law and the Bass Rock and down the coast to Torness and beyond the St Abb's peninsular, as well as out to sea. They are wide-ranging and, on a clear day, breath-taking.
7. There is good access through the area in the form of several core path routes that link one to another and to the minor road network as well as providing access into the river valleys

Historic Landscape – Chesters to Thurston Ridge

8. The area has been identified as a historic landscape as there is a concentration of significant prehistoric settlement remains along the ridgeline. It mirrors other identified historic landscapes in East Lothian that have a similar topography (Hillfoots Hillforts, Elphinstone Ridge and the Garleton Hills). Some of the remains are still upstanding while others are buried. Much of the area lies within the inventory battlefields for both the Battles of Dunbar I and II.
9. From a historic perspective there are significant viewpoints over Battles of Dunbar I and II. The view towards Dunbar and Skateraw from Doon Hill is significant in that it offers the best viewpoint over the nationally designated battles of Dunbar I and II

Guidelines for Development

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the overall open visual character focusing north and eastwards towards the plain and the Forth.
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the key views from the hill tops including from Little Spott, Spott, Core Path route 19, Doon Hill and the minor road from Spott to The Brunt.
- C. 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.
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the core agricultural character of the area
- E. 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.
- F. 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.
- G. Safeguard distinctive architectural integrity and close link with local red sandstone geology
- H. Any proposed development must not harm the intimate scale of valley bottom landscape and of villages in any future development proposals
- I. 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, fords and stone bridges

J. Any proposed development must not harm the integrity and coherence of the historic landscape.

Potential for Landscape Enhancement:

- i. Conserve and enhance well-developed and maintained beech and thorn hedgerow network on the arable land
- ii. Promote replacement of traditional oak and ash field boundary tree lines. Consider alternative species to ash due to effects of Ash Dieback
- iii. Seek to support traditional estate management practices to safeguard woodland enclosure features and important boundary walls
- iv. Take opportunities to enhance / ameliorate impact of existing coniferous plantations at restructuring stage and avoid large areas of forestry plantation
- v. Reduction in large coniferous plantations and replacement with more natural shaped woodlands with a mix of broadleaves and conifers
- vi. Enhance existing pattern of shelterbelt and field boundary woodland through sensitively designed woodland expansion
- vii. Encourage limited expansion of woodland cover through shelterbelts and small woodland particularly in cleughs and valleys and around farmsteads and other building groups
- viii. Promote improved integration of visually sensitive farm building expansion through farm woodland planting
- ix. Reinforce visual and ecological contrasts between open hill slopes and steep valley sides
- x. 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
- xi. Improve access, especially from Dunbar
- xii. Support viability of farming in the area
- xiii. Formalise viewpoint on Doon Hill by formation of car parking / picnic area

***Photographs of special features
and typical elements***



Doon Hill rising above the woods around the Spott Burn



Typical red sandstone wall to bridge



Enclosing woods of Brock Wood



One and a half storey sandstone cottage fitted into the landscape



Spott Church set within an established wooded setting with surrounding stone walls



View north from Doonhill over Dunbar and the Battle of Dunbar I and II battlefields across the coastal plain to North Berwick Law in the distance

View east from Doon Hill showing rolling raised fields and site of the Battle of Dunbar II and long range views to Torness and beyond to the North Sea and St Abbs Head

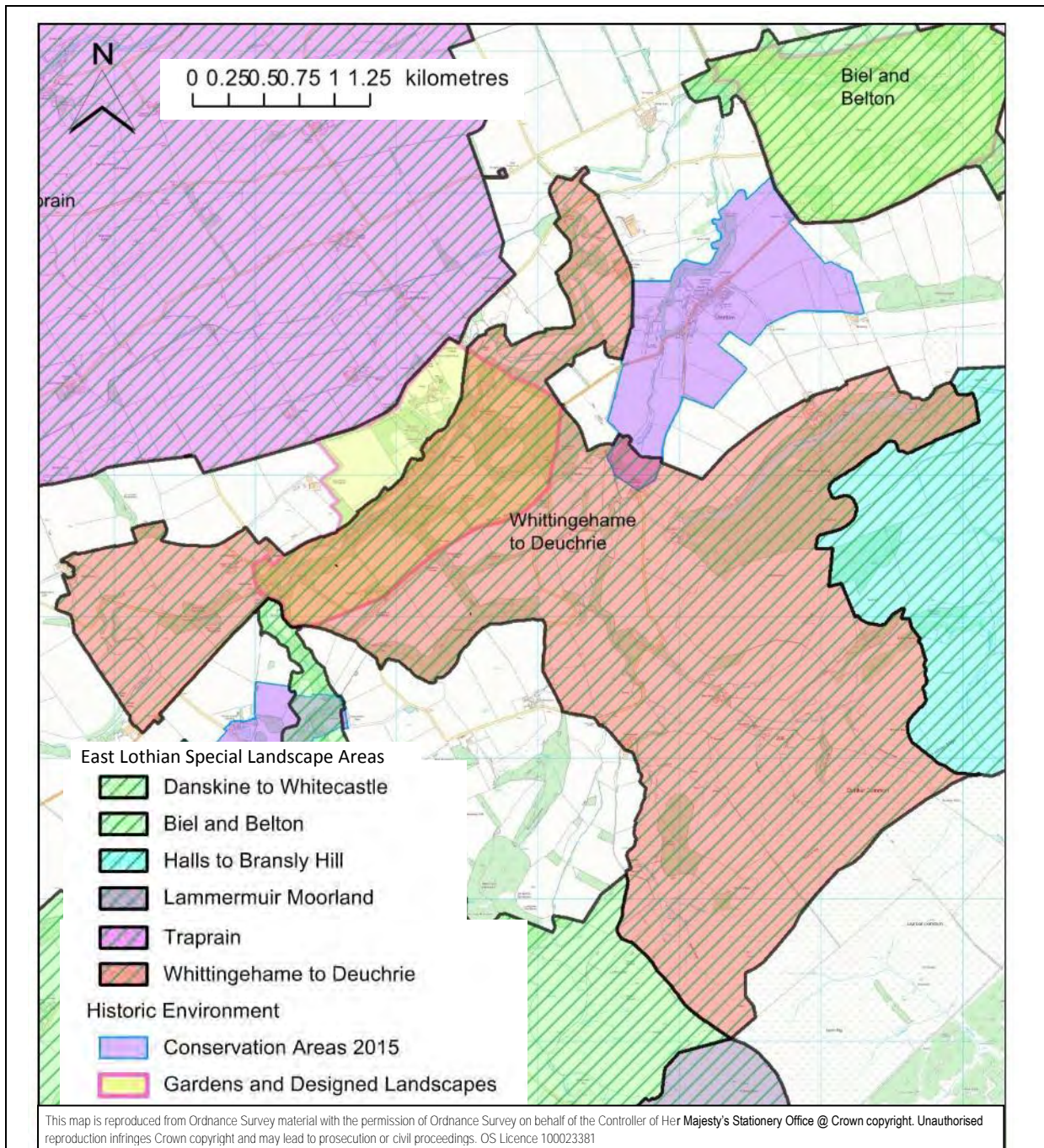


Spott Burn incised valley with Little Spott steading conversion on the ridge beyond



The Chesters Hill Fort on Highside Hill. Rolling raised arable land contrasting with the surrounding incised wooded valleys with settlement well contained in the valley bottoms

Whittingehame to Deuchrie Special Landscape Area 8 Statement of Importance



Character: A contrasting, complex and diverse landscape of high scenic value from the foothills of the Lammermuirs to the incised valley of the Whittingehame Water, including the large water body of Pressmennan. A particularly good example of a landscape modified during glaciation as well as important areas of ancient native oak woodlands.

Area: 1,261 ha

Overview:

An area encompassing the dramatic steep-sided wooded valley of the Whittingehame Water to the north with its associated views up to the hill of Deuchrie Dod to the east and a section of the geological feature of the Lothian Edge to the south, a particularly good example of a landscape

modified while it was beneath the ice. A highly scenic contrasting and diverse area of river valley to hill foots to moorland plateau, which is heavily wooded. It is important in views across the plain with the interlocking strips of woodland and arable land, with the higher land of the hill foots and plateau providing the backdrop to the views south from the East Lothian plain.

The area contains large areas of ancient oak woodland including Rammer, Deuchrie and Pressmennan Woods. The latter is protected by tree preservation order number 102. Rammer and Deuchrie Woods are within the Rammer Cleugh SSSI which identifies their importance as being representative of a habitat type now scarce in upland East Lothian.

The estate of Whittingehame is identified as an inventory Garden and Designed Landscape and uses its setting on the steeply incised river valley in its design. It has high value as a work of art and outstanding historical value due to the historical associations with Whittingehame Tower and Whittingehame Yew and has high arboricultural value. Its arboretum has many interesting specimen trees, including a magnificent monkey puzzle clothed with branches to the ground, a variegated sycamore and a cut-leaf beech, which have been well recorded since 1846, together with the forestry experiments that have been carried out over the years.

The river valleys through the area are all identified as local biodiversity sites for their wooded river habitats, with the Sauchet Burn valley having a large area of upland mixed ash wood. The woodland of Pressmennan is also identified as a local biodiversity site for its large area of woodland habitats.

Special Qualities and Features:

1. The western half of Rammer Cleugh SSSI lies across the centre of this area. This is important as a geomorphological site with a collection of glacial meltwater channels and kame terraces. Rammer Cleugh is one of several valleys that run in an east west direction formed by meltwater drainage under or at the edge of the glacier that covered East Lothian and the Firth of Forth and shows sub-glacial chutes, ice marginal benches and small marginal and sub-marginal channels. Additional interest includes the esker on the floor of Rammer Cleugh where the meltwater flowing in tunnels under the ice has left sinuous ridges of gravel. This leads to a complex, intricate and striking landform of steep sided valleys, small hill formations and valleys containing no significant streams or rivers. This is a particularly good example of a landscape modified while it was beneath the ice.
2. The Rammer Cleugh SSSI in this area is also special for Deuchrie and Rammer Woods almost pure stands of sessile oak, representative of a habitat type now scarce in upland East Lothian. The small gnarled oak trees clinging to the sides of the steep cleughs area particularly picturesque.
3. Pressmennan Wood also provides good access to ancient oak woodland. Rich in wildlife, roe deer secretly roam through the woods; woodpeckers can be heard high in the trees; bats and owls come out at dusk in search of food. In spring discover primroses, tranquil bluebells and tasty wood sorrel. Walks take you along established forestry access tracks then along paths passed the picnic area to the viewpoint at Gallows Law. There is a good car park to access the woodland and a sculpture trail along the paths where if you're lucky you may spot a wooden door in the trunk of a dead oak or the glint of a small stained glass window high up among the branches; a home for one of the mystical creatures that inhabit Pressmennan. Pressmennan is identified as a local biodiversity site for its woodland and contains a large area of ancient woodland.
4. The large, scenic water body of Pressmennan Lake is hidden within the woodland at Pressmennan. Swans and many other water birds can be seen on the lake, otters also fish in the lake although these elusive creatures are often hard to spot. A path follows the southern bank of the lake at a level with the water with scenic views of the woodland reflecting off

the stillness of the water.

5. The valley of Ninewells Burn and Whittingehame Water is narrow, deeply incised and wooded creating a complex, contrasting landscape centred on the river within a deep wooded valley providing elements of surprise and extensive rugged, dramatic elements. The river twists and winds along the valley with intricate views and enclosures between the trees giving a sense of mystery. The area contains areas of naturalness and has a lack of artificial elements particularly along its wooded river banks. The steepness of the banks and rushing water adds to this feeling of wildness. The banks of the river through the Whittingehame Garden and Designed Landscape contain areas of ancient and native lowland mixed deciduous woodland.
6. The rolling landform to either side of the steep river banks with its mix of arable and pasture land provides contrast to the valley with elements of openness and there are strong links with the higher land particularly Deuchrie Dod to the east with the landform leading the eye up the valley from the Whittingehame Tower, passed the interlocking hill slopes and strips of woodland to the exposed hill slopes and rounded hill top.
7. Whittingehame has important Scottish historical connections with the tower and yew tree being linked with Mary Queen of Scots. It is said that Archibald Douglas of Whittingehame, the Earl of Morton, Secretary Maitland & Earl of Bothwell met under the yew tree to plot the murder of Lord Darnley, husband of Mary Queen of Scots. Darnley was blown up at Kirk o' Field Edinburgh, in December 1566.
8. The yew tree is a feature in itself which was measured in 1974 as 56 feet tall and 11 ft 5 inches in circumference and thought to be about 700 years old. The Yew's most impressive feature, however, is the circumference covered by its vast spreading branches, which was recorded as 180 yards in the 1880s.
9. Complex, contrasting landscape of a mix of landuses and features, visually rich with limited manmade development well-sited within the landscape. Open on higher ground with more mystery in the lower and wooded areas. Agricultural land is interspersed with layers of woodland. Steep slopes provide dramatic views from the top. There are many small burns and larger water courses as well as the large lake at Pressmennan adding another contrasting element to the landscape. The area has high naturalness with relatively extensive stretches of ancient woodland and rugged cleughs and deans. The areas raised rolling hill tops screen hidden valleys to their south containing ancient woodland such as Rammer Cleugh. Colour contrasts between the purple of the flowering heather of the moors, red of the earth, green of the pastureland to golden of the ripe crops, dark greens and vibrant autumn colours of the woods and blue of the skies. The area is highly scenic when viewed from the north and the plain of East Lothian with the layers of woodland often emphasised by early morning mists sitting between the woodlands.
10. Settlement within the area is limited and small in scale of vernacular style dotted around the minor roads or hidden in the wooded valleys adding to the picturesque and historic nature of the area. The use of local materials, sandstone especially red to match the soil, slate roofs and the small number and scale of settlements and their fit within the landscape gives the impression of man living with nature rather than controlling it. This is added to by the limited number of narrow, single track winding roads leading into the area and becoming tracks as they reach higher ground.
11. The area is important for recreation with many accessible walks around the woodlands, rivers and lakes as well as great viewpoints from higher ground, such as Deuchrie Dod. Core path route 233 passes through Pressmennan Wood, linking with the rights of way within the wood and the road to Stenton to the west and the core path route 470 along Bennet's Burn to the east. A right of way from the B6370 west of Stenton brings you into the area along the Sauchet Water, whilst another heads from Deuchrie up into the Lammermuirs to Cranshaws and core path route 20 follows the western boundary of the area from

Stoneypath to Clints Dod.

A. Guidelines for Development

- B. Any proposed development must not harm the features reflecting transition from open upland to enclosed lowland landscape
- C. 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
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the unbroken horizontal element of the Lammermuir skyline especially as viewed from the plain and foothills below
- E. 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 from Deuchrie Dod, Deuchrie Edge and Pressmennan.
- F. 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. Historic quarrying has removed some of East Lothian's finest glacial deposit features.
- G. Any proposed development must not increase the apparent scale of large scale industrial elements (reservoir walls, pylon lines) for example by providing scale comparison
- H. 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.
- I. 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.
- J. 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.
- K. A restoration strategy is important at development stage where large infrastructure projects are being considered to ensure re-establishment of the natural landscape
- L. 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 and generally 'hidden' character of residential development within mature woodland on the valley slopes. Support use of traditional building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings
- M. Suburban style housing is unlikely to fit with the character of the area. Safeguard distinctive architectural integrity and close link with local red sandstone geology
- N. In cases where solar panels are not permitted development they should not be placed on

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

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

- O. 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, fords and stone bridges
- P. Any proposed development must not harm the intimate scale of valley bottom landscape and settlements in any future development proposals
- Q. Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale secluded visual character derived from the well-planned mature woodland framework in the valley of the Ninewells Burn and Whittingehame Water or Pressmennan
- R. Any proposed development must not harm the qualities of wildness within the river valleys that the area has from the ruggedness, lack of modern artefacts and natural landcover

Potential for Landscape Enhancement:

- i. Conserve and enhance well-developed and maintained beech and thorn hedgerow network on the arable land
- ii. Promote replacement of traditional oak and ash field boundary tree lines. Consider alternative species to ash due to effects of Ash Dieback
- iii. Promote reinforcement of stone dyke boundary features on hill slopes, whilst retaining the unenclosed appearance of the moorland
- iv. Seek to support traditional estate management practices to safeguard woodland enclosure features and important boundary walls
- v. 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
- vi. Enhance existing pattern of shelterbelt and field boundary woodland through sensitively designed woodland expansion in fringe area
- vii. Encourage further expansion of woodland cover through shelterbelts and small woodland particularly in deans, cleughs and valleys and around farmsteads and other building groups in upland areas, including fencing to promote natural regeneration
- viii. Promote improved integration of visually sensitive farm building expansion through farm woodland planting
- ix. Reinforce visual and ecological contrasts between open hill slopes and steep valley sides
- x. Encourage appropriate retention and management of ancient oak and deciduous woodland
- xi. Ensure protection and enhancement of characteristic high proportion of mixed and broadleaved woodland through management and replacement planting
- xii. 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**



Deuchrie wood ancient oak woods
Deuchrie wood ancient oak woods



The western section of the glacial Deuchrie
Channel at Lucknow below Deuchrie Edge



Snow covered Deuchrie Dod from Whittingehame



Steep wooded banks of the
Whittingehame Water

Pressmennan Lake surrounded by the glorious riot of autumn colours from the oak and mixed woods





View from Deuchrie edge over the Deuchrie and the valley of the Sauchet Water to Whittingehame



Red soil on the slopes of Deuchrie Dod



The Whittingehame Yew

Whittingehame Tower set on the steep banks of the river with views to Deuchrie Dod

