

## 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
<b>Uplands</b>		
1	Lammermuir Moorland	4,169 Ha
2	Whiteadder	1,321 Ha
<b>Upland Fringes</b>		
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
<b>Lowland River Valleys</b>		
9	Humbie Headwaters	826 Ha
10	River Esk	369 Ha
11	Biel and Belton	257 Ha
12	Bolton	155 Ha
<b>Lowland Hills and Ridges</b>		
13	Garleton Hills	1,277 Ha
14	Elphinstone Ridge	628 Ha

SLA Name		Area
<b>Lowland Plains</b>		
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
<b>Coastal Margins</b>		
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

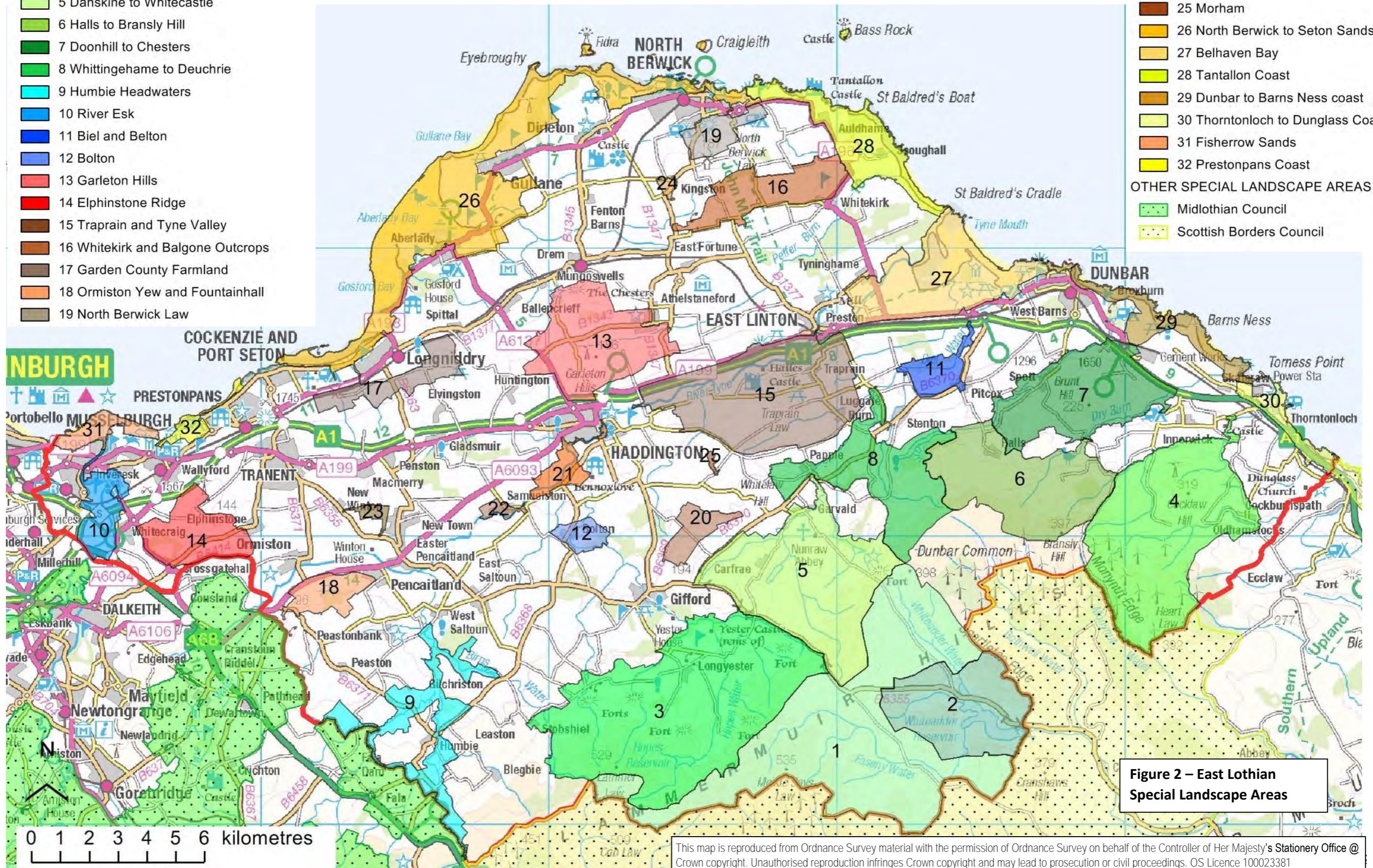
EAST LOTHIAN SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS

- 1 Lammermuir Moorland
- 2 Whiteadder
- 3 Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester
- 4 Monynut 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

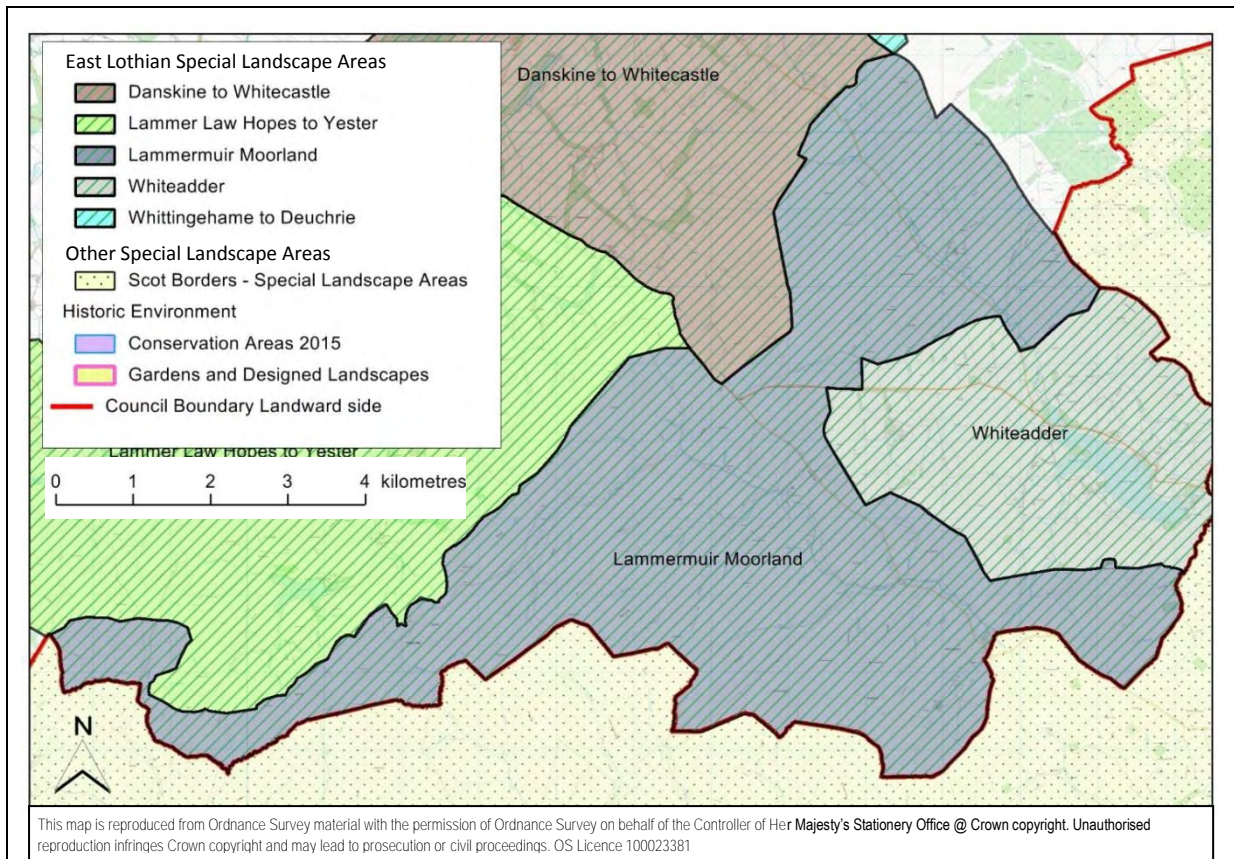
Each of the identified Special Landscape Area has a Statement of Importance. The purpose of the Statement of Importance is to give a summary of why the area was chosen, what its special features and qualities are and to guide appropriate development proposals.

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"> <li>• elements of the landscape which make the area distinctive, attractive, or representative</li> <li>• main recreational uses</li> <li>• features or areas which are important to the economy</li> <li>• selected important views and viewpoints</li> <li>• landmarks</li> <li>• cultural associations</li> </ul>
Guidelines for Development	<p>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.</p>
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 Britain<sup>1</sup>, 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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"<sup>2</sup>, 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

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

**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

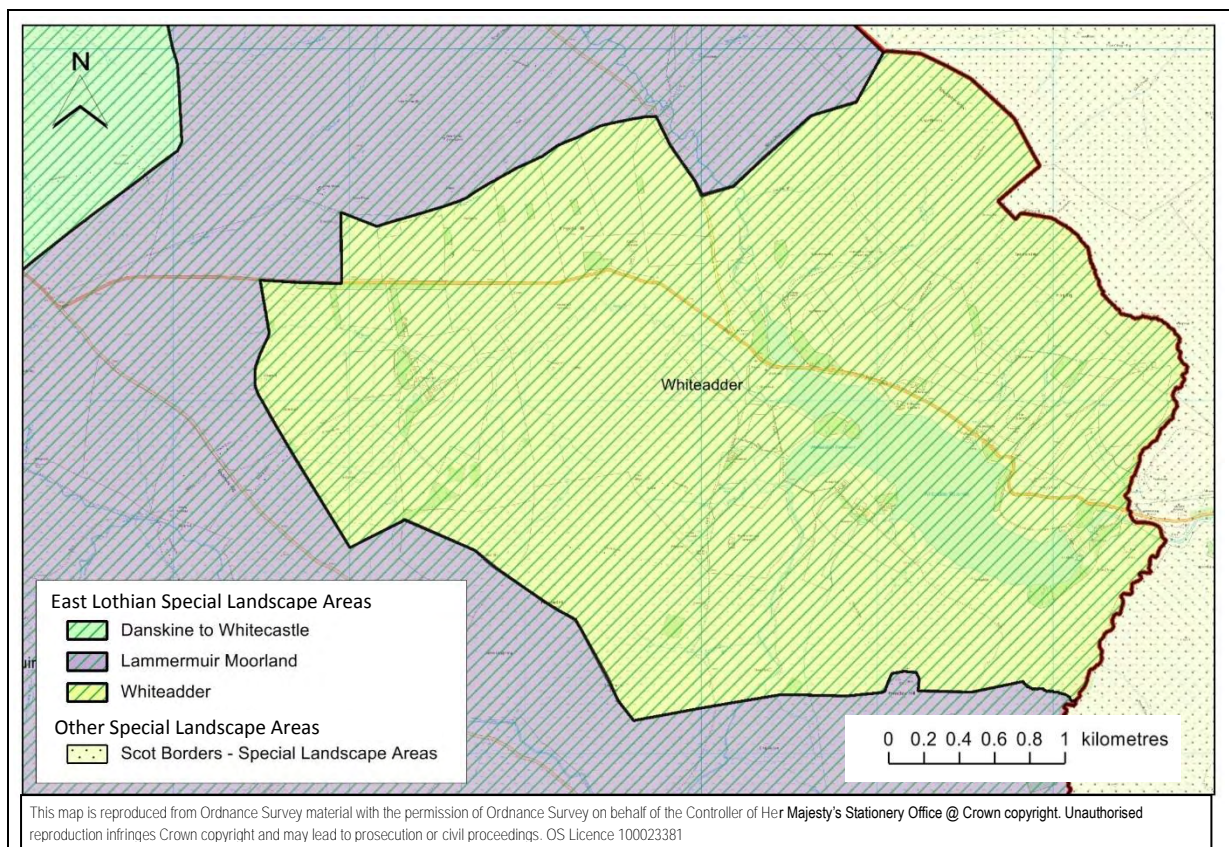


The settlement of Kilpallet hidden in the fold of the valley surrounded by sheltering trees

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"<sup>1</sup>, 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

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



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



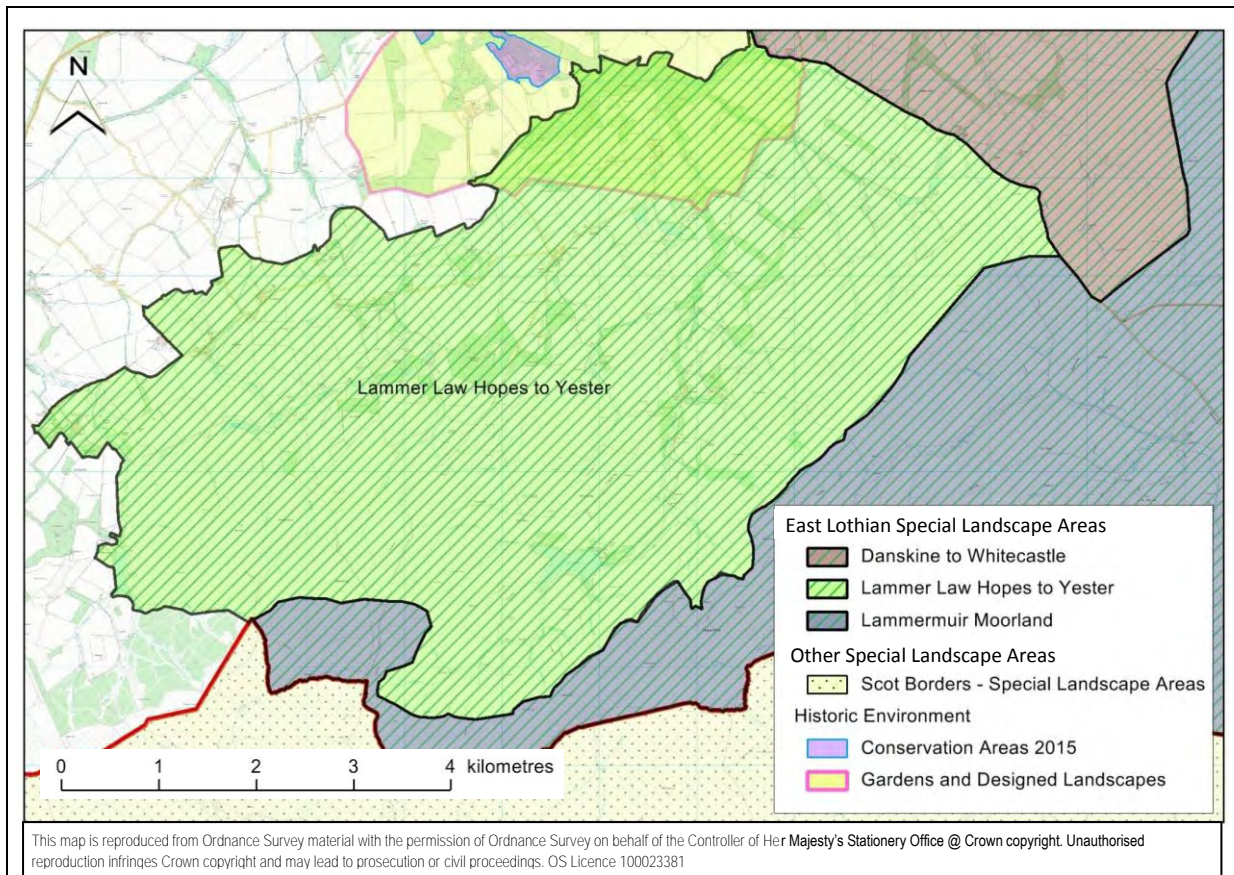


The large expanse of water reflecting the sky surrounded by heather clad hills giving a feeling of remoteness and peace.



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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 Castlemains. 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"<sup>1</sup>, 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

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

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



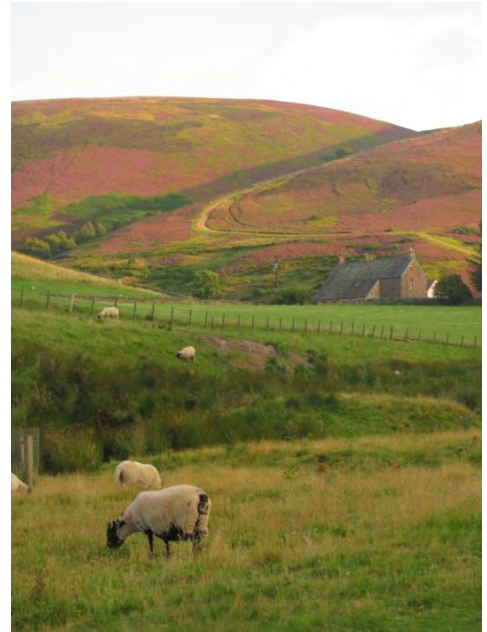
Lammermuir Hills forming the backdrop to the plain of East Lothian

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

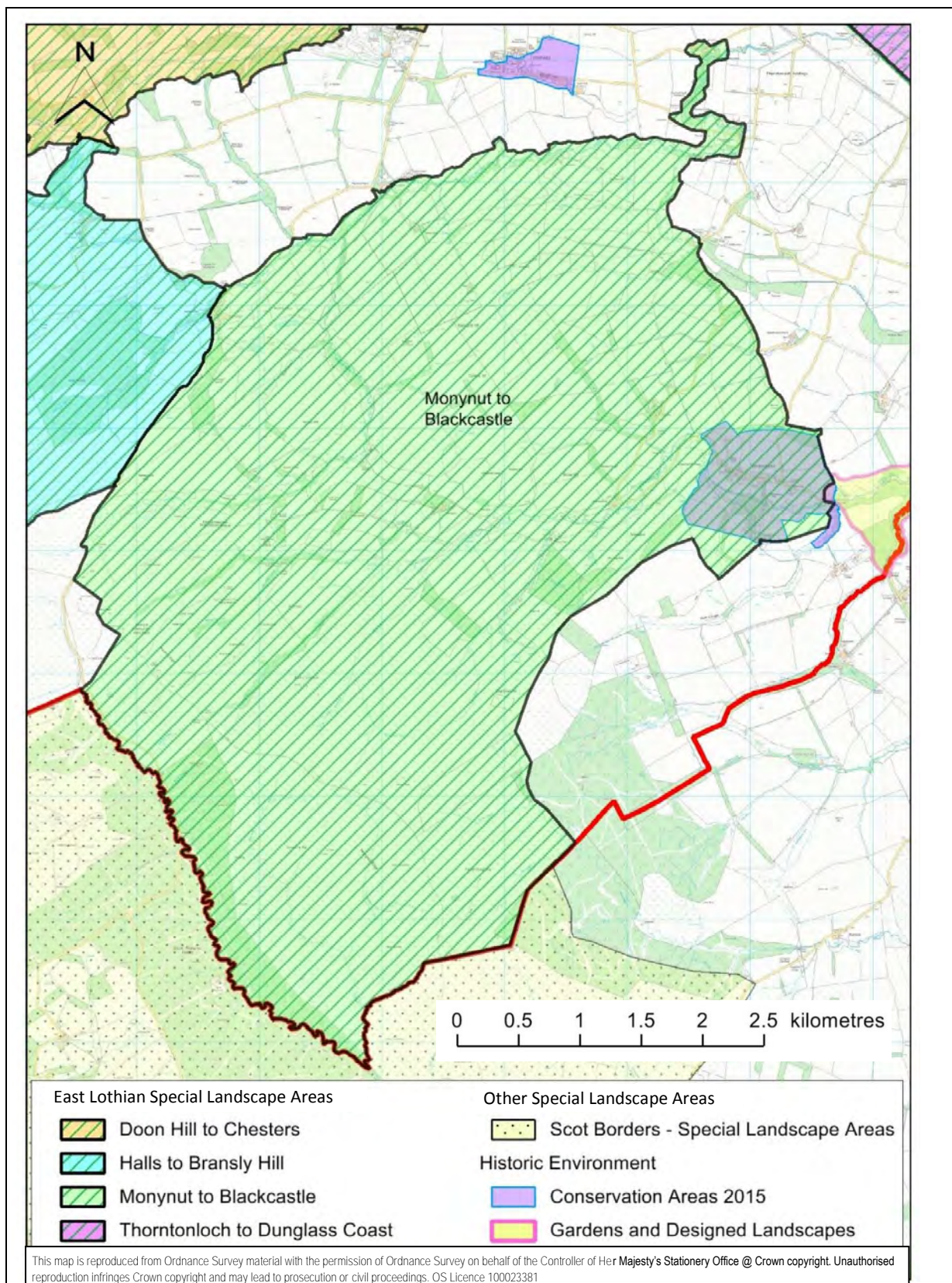


Sharp section of glacial meltwater channel with the remnant hill of Witches Knowe with its Iron Age hill fort

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"<sup>1</sup>, 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:**

<sup>1</sup> 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

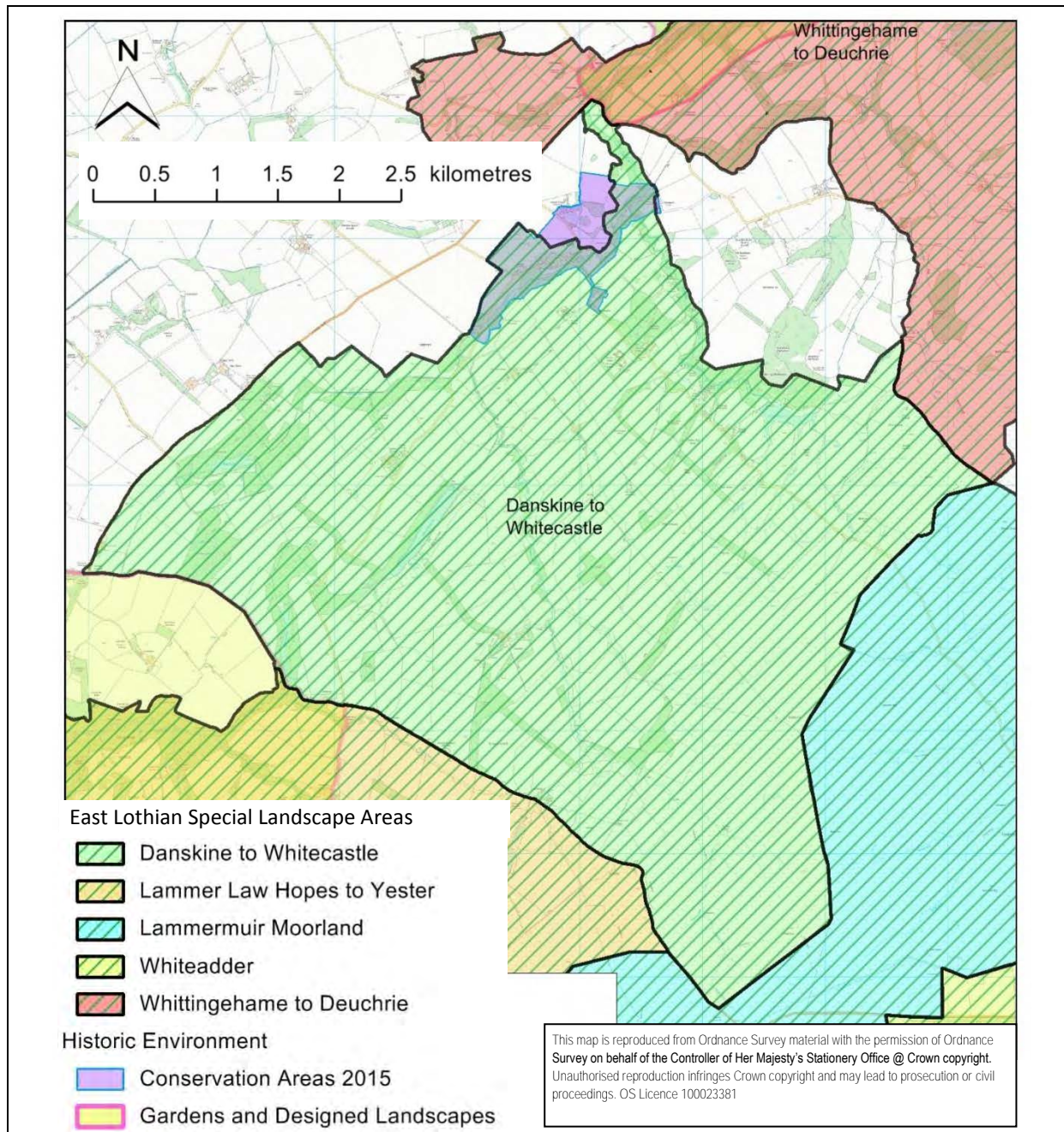


Fairy Glen and burn  
Hope from above

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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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"<sup>1</sup>, 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

<sup>1</sup> Available on SNH's website at

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

Available at [http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/4234/local\\_landscapes\\_designations\\_spg](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

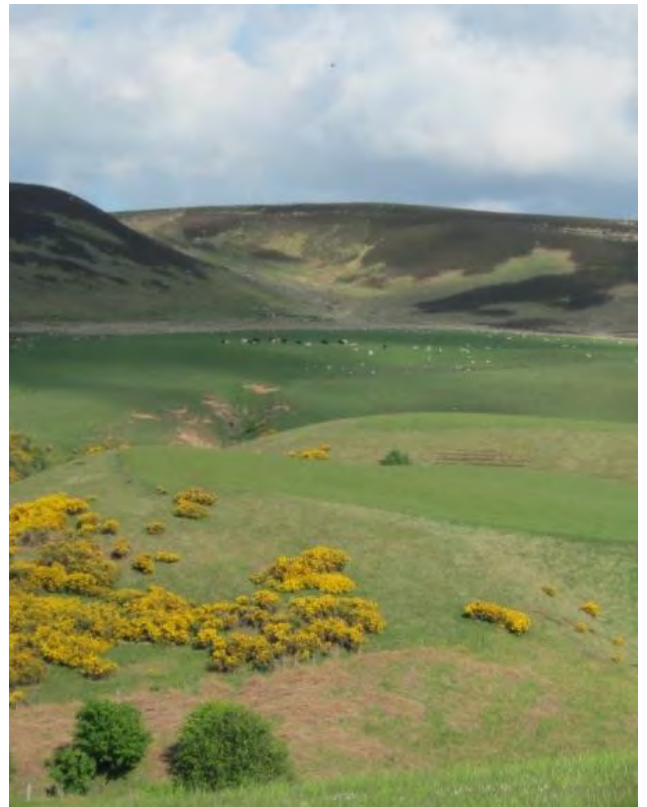




Traditional stone and slate cottages at Snawdon, sensitively extended



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

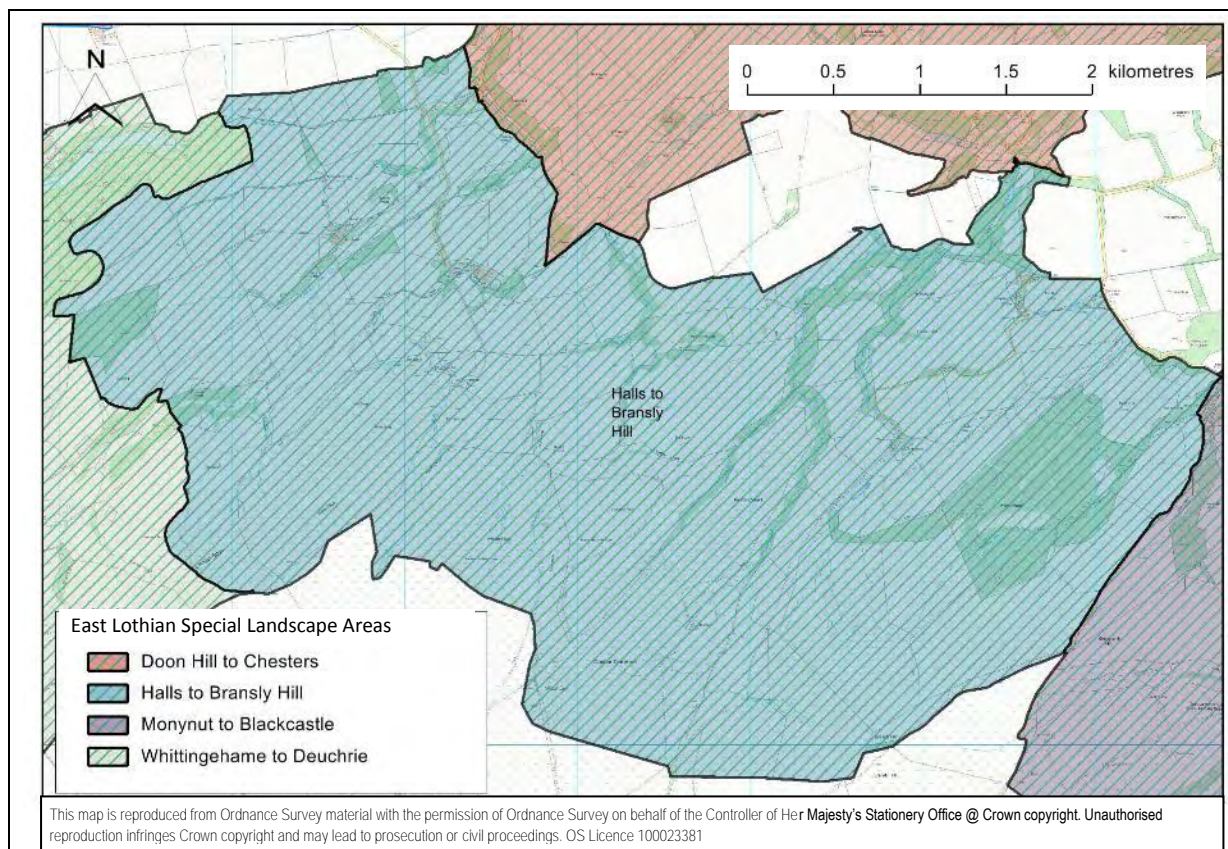


Hill slopes above Thorters Reservoir improved grassland incised by streams and a clear change to moorland high up the slope



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 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 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”<sup>1</sup>, 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

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

**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







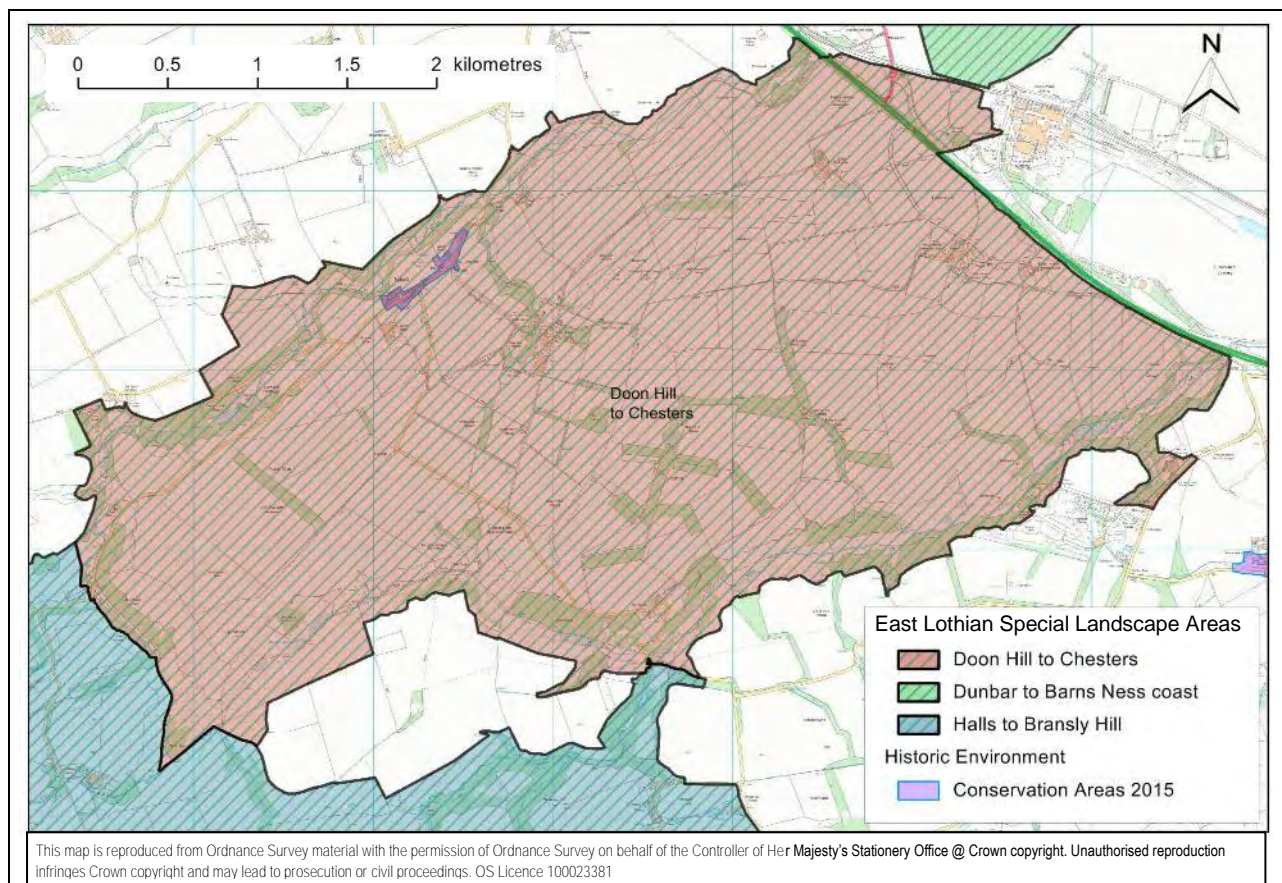
Highly scenic valley of Woodhall Dean set within the rolling hills



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 though 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

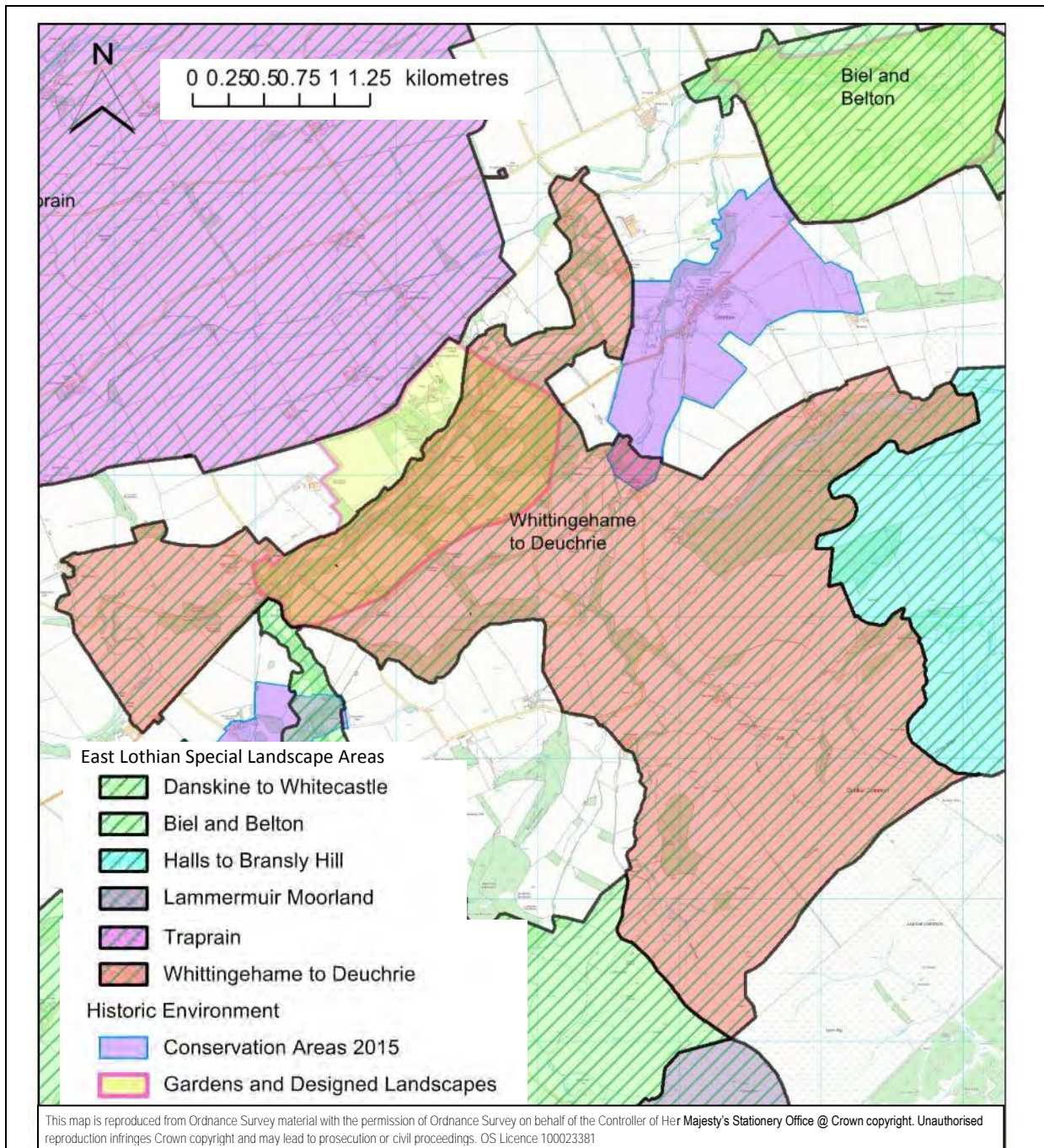


Spott Burn incised valley with Little Spott steading conversion on the ridge beyond



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"<sup>1</sup>, 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

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

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

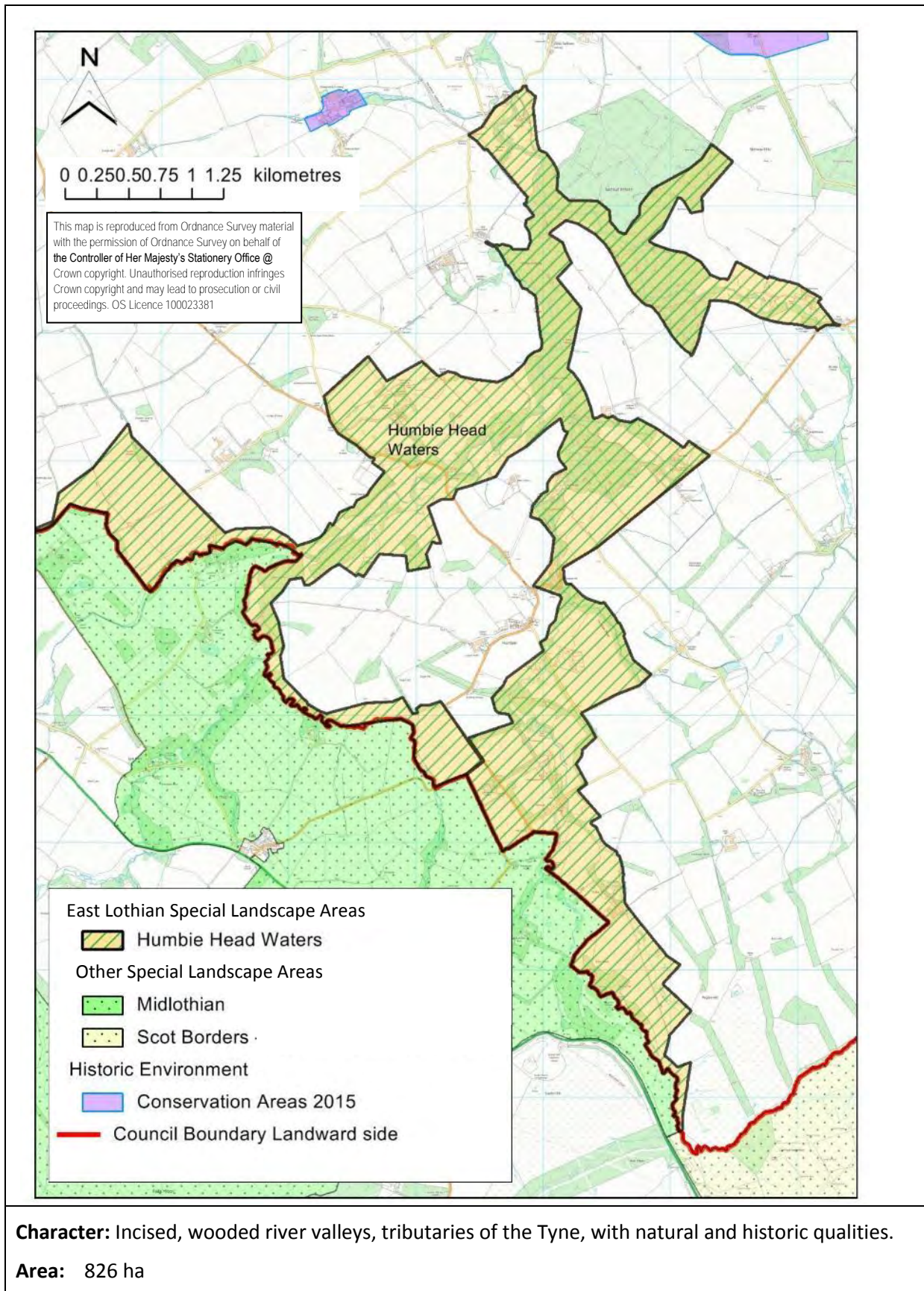


The Whittingehame Yew

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



## Humbie Headwaters: Special Landscape Area 9 Statement of Importance



**Overview:**

One of East Lothian's most scenic and unspoilt river valleys from its source in the Lammermuir Hills as the Linn Dean Water to its confluence with the Kinchie Burn in the Mid Tyne Plain. At Linn Dean, where the burn is young, it tumbles off the Lammermuir edge, hurtling towards the East Lothian foothills and plain, where it becomes more relaxed and meandering, always within steep wooded valley slopes and enclosed by farmland. This area contains several locally identified designed landscapes framed within the valley landform or set on the ridges overlooking the valley. The area adjoins Fala Rolling Farmland SLA in Midlothian along the authorities' boundary to the southwest of East Lothian to create a wider area of landscape consistency. Along the boundary, the area takes the character of Fala Rolling Farmland rather than the steeply wooded river valley typical of the area further within East Lothian.

It is a very historic area with ancient settlements and plays a strong role in the history of Scotland.

The importance of the naturalness of the area is identified through the designation of several Local Biodiversity Sites within the river valleys as well as a Local Wildlife Site on the Linn Dean.

**Special Qualities and Features:**

1. The area has high scenic value with the several incised wooded valleys of the Johnstonburn Water, Keith Water, Birns Water and Humbie Water linking together to give a landscape of contrasts, interest and mystery with traditional and listed buildings hidden within the mature native woods or set within rolling parklands, with the tumbling sound of the water never far away.
2. Views of the water are glimpsed between the trees as well as stunning views out to the hills from higher ground.
3. Linn Dean local wildlife reserve lies in the southern extremity of the area. Linn Dean is a steep incised cleugh with an area of flower-rich grassland. During the summer, the yellow common rock-rose brightens the bank and attracts a colony of Northern Brown Argus butterfly. Juniper and unusual mosses and liverworts can also be found. A section of the Linn Dean Water passes through a highly scenic gorge known as Kate's Cauldron totally hidden from surrounding views. The height of this section of the area on the edge of the Lammermuir Hills enables panoramic breathtaking views over East Lothian.
4. The importance of the river valleys for their habitats and wildlife is indicated by the designation several Local Biodiversity Sites. The area as a whole contains a high proportion of ancient woodland and established native broadleaved woods as well as a relatively large amount of the rare soil type mineral alluvial soil particularly at the northern end of the area.
5. 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, although paths and the limited scale of the landscape limit this. The night sky satellite images from NASA from 2012 show this area to have limited light pollution although no very dark areas.
6. The area around Humbie is very accessible. Core path routes 58 and 59 follow tracks from the B6368 over Kirk Bridge to Humbie Church then joining the right of way from Duncrahill to Humbie along the valley of the Humbie Water. Core path route 61 follows the line of the old railway from Humbie Station Cottages at the B6368 along the Gilchriston Burn to the Humbie Water. Core path routes 64 and 30 follow the north-eastern edge of the area from Milton Bridge, through the Saltoun Forest, and link with the Milton Bridge to Gilchriston right of way. Core path route 302 defines the north-western edge of the area within Saltoun Forest. Providing easy access to the woods and rivers.
7. There are exposed sections along Keith Water which illustrate interbedded till and sand and

glacial deposits and are of considerable interest for the light they throw on the glacial processes of the last ice age, recognised by designation as a SSSI.

8. The area is rich in archaeological remains and monuments. Medieval and later remains characterise this area with many Listed and historic structures. A significant amount of prehistoric remains are located in the south western spur of this area but have also been identified throughout this area.
9. There are two moss-grown tomb stones located close to Gilchriston to the memory of Katrine Wilson and William Skirvin, who were passengers on the London to Edinburgh stagecoach in 1645. They were found to be suffering from the Black Plague and were taken from the coach near Gilchriston. They soon died and were buried at this spot.
10. The landscape contains locally identified designed landscapes including the grand Johnstounburn House on the Johnstounburn Water. Set within the flat valley floor surrounded on all sides by enclosing trees, the earliest records of Johnstounburn date from 1260 when the land was given to the church and hospital at Soutra (Soutra Aisle). The current house began in 1623 as an inn on the London to Edinburgh stagecoach route and became known as the Highwayman's Haunt as it was used as a meeting-place for thieves who would rob the stagecoaches as they slowly made their way up the slopes Soutra Hill to the south. It became a private residence and was extensively extended in 1730 and 1863, before becoming a hotel in 1992 and returning to a private residence in 2005. It has extensive gardens including the treed avenue leading from the listed Johnstounburn Gate Lodge in the west to the house, the listed summer house and walled garden laid out with walkways, parterres and terraces as well as a grass tennis court, the listed lectern dovecot to the north of the house, the listed buildings of the coach house and the extensive parklands with boating lake and mature specimen trees to the east of the house.
11. The Scottish Baronial Country House of Keith Marischal also lies within this area, set to the north of the Keith Water. Extensive landscaped grounds again, first possessed by the Keith family in the 12th century and transferred to the Kings Marischal possibly as part of a dowry. The Marischal was to serve as custodian of the Royal Regalia of Scotland (the Scottish Crown Jewels) and protect the king's person when attending parliament. This became the hereditary title of the Keith family from 1176 to 1715. The original house and estate church date from the 12<sup>th</sup> century, although the current listed L-plan tower house dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The attractive grounds include the winding tree lined drive from the listed North Lodge to the north side of the house, the listed sheep pens, dovecot and steading to the southwest of the house, the scheduled ancient monument of Keith Kirk set within mature woodlands to the north of the house and the extensive parklands with groups of mature specimen trees surrounding the house.
12. Keith Marischal and Humbie are also known for the North Berwick Witch Trials. Agnes Sampson, one of the leading accused, was known as the 'Wise Wife of Keith' and lived at Nether Keith to the east of Keith Marischal. The accused were held within the Chapel at Keith Marischal for the evening prior to their execution, which took place at *Dow Syke* - literally dismal hollow - one mile to the north of the house and still marked on the maps by an area of woodland known as Dow Syke plantation.
13. Humbie House with its smaller scale landscape and listed former sawmill, still has a historic layout with the sheltered gardens, orchards and smaller areas of parkland and parkland trees surrounded by the extensive woodlands of Humbie Wood. A notable feature of the Humbie Estate for more than a century is the beech hedging. The hedges lining the B6368 planted in 1860 is of particular scenic appeal, providing a double row of caterpillars crawling over the rolling contours to either side of the road.
14. Humbie Children's Village is an example of a more recent development within the area. The village was built over a period up to the 1920s in a colourful 'Arts and Crafts' style, on an eleven-acre site on a hillside to the south of Humbie. It provided a holiday home for needy



Edinburgh children and also had a school for their education. From the early 1900s until 1967 it provided holidays for about 176,000 children. It became a residential and day care facility for the mentally handicapped from 1967 to 1995. The striking houses are listed buildings and have since been developed with the addition of new housing in a sympathetic style on the site to become private housing. They provide an attractive and interesting feature on the hillside, the white of their facades contrasting with the surrounding green of the fields and woodlands.

15. The attractive Humbie Church in its countryside location is still in use. Set outwith the village along a narrow lane within woods the listed building of the church sits in a highly scenic location on the banks of the Humbie Water with the listed buildings of the Dovecot to its north. Easy access to Church Woods to the east side of the river can be obtained over the Kirk Bridge.

#### **Guidelines for Development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale secluded visual character derived from the well-planned mature woodland framework
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the surrounding agricultural character of the area
- C. Any proposed development must not harm views into the area from the B6368, the B6371 along the Keith Water, core path routes 61, 301 and 64 along the Birns Water and views of the Humbie Church, Children's Village and several designed landscapes at Johnstounburn, Keith Marischal and Humbie House
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the existing generally 'hidden' character of residential development within mature woodland on the valley slopes surrounded by agricultural land. Large, modern development, out of scale with the existing buildings and landscape character would adversely impact the landscape character of the area. Modern large scale development such as wind turbines above 30m could detract from the history and character of the area and belittle the natural landscape features.
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the existing settlement pattern of development and support use of traditional building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings. Traditionally designed houses include single cottages and short terraces of single storey buildings and features such as crow-steps, small paned sash and case windows and materials including sandstone and slate. Adventurously designed buildings may also accord with the character of the area but require careful location to avoid detracton from the traditional nature of the area
- F. Any proposed development must not harm the historic setting and characters of the designed landscapes and the surrounding parkland and countryside
- G. In cases where solar panels are not permitted development they should not be placed on publicly visible roof elevations of traditional buildings or buildings in traditional and historic settings where they would harm the historic nature and scenic value of the area.
- H. 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, as well as lack of light pollution
- I. Any proposed development must not harm access to this important recreational resource of one of East Lothian's river valleys
- J. Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale rural character of the roads, including characteristic features such as the hedges along the B6368 at Humbie House and stone walls

#### **Potential for Landscape Enhancement**

- i. 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.
- ii. Conserve and enhance well-developed and maintained beech and thorn hedgerow network. Encourage replacement of moribund and lost sections of hedgerows
  - iii. Seek to support traditional estate management practices to safeguard woodland enclosure features and important boundary walls.
  - iv. Improve access for walkers within the attractive wooded valleys of Linn Dean, and along the Humbie Water and Keith Glen.
  - v. Improve existing core paths and rights of ways for walkers, both in grade of material used and provision of bridges.
  - vi. Promote 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***



Looking up the valley of the Keith Water

Johnstounburn House

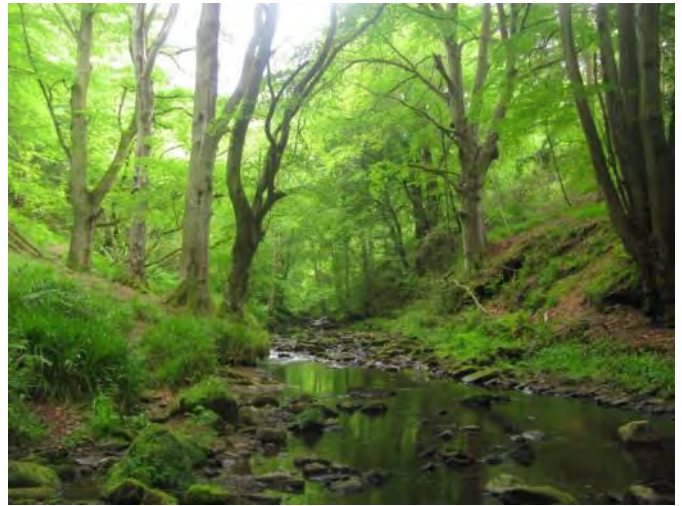


Humbie Church





Misty weather in the Johnstounburn valley



Humbie Woods  
Mature Beech trees in the Humbie valley



Heather and pine trees within Saltoun Big Wood  
View out to the Lammermuir Hills from  
Saltoun Big Wood

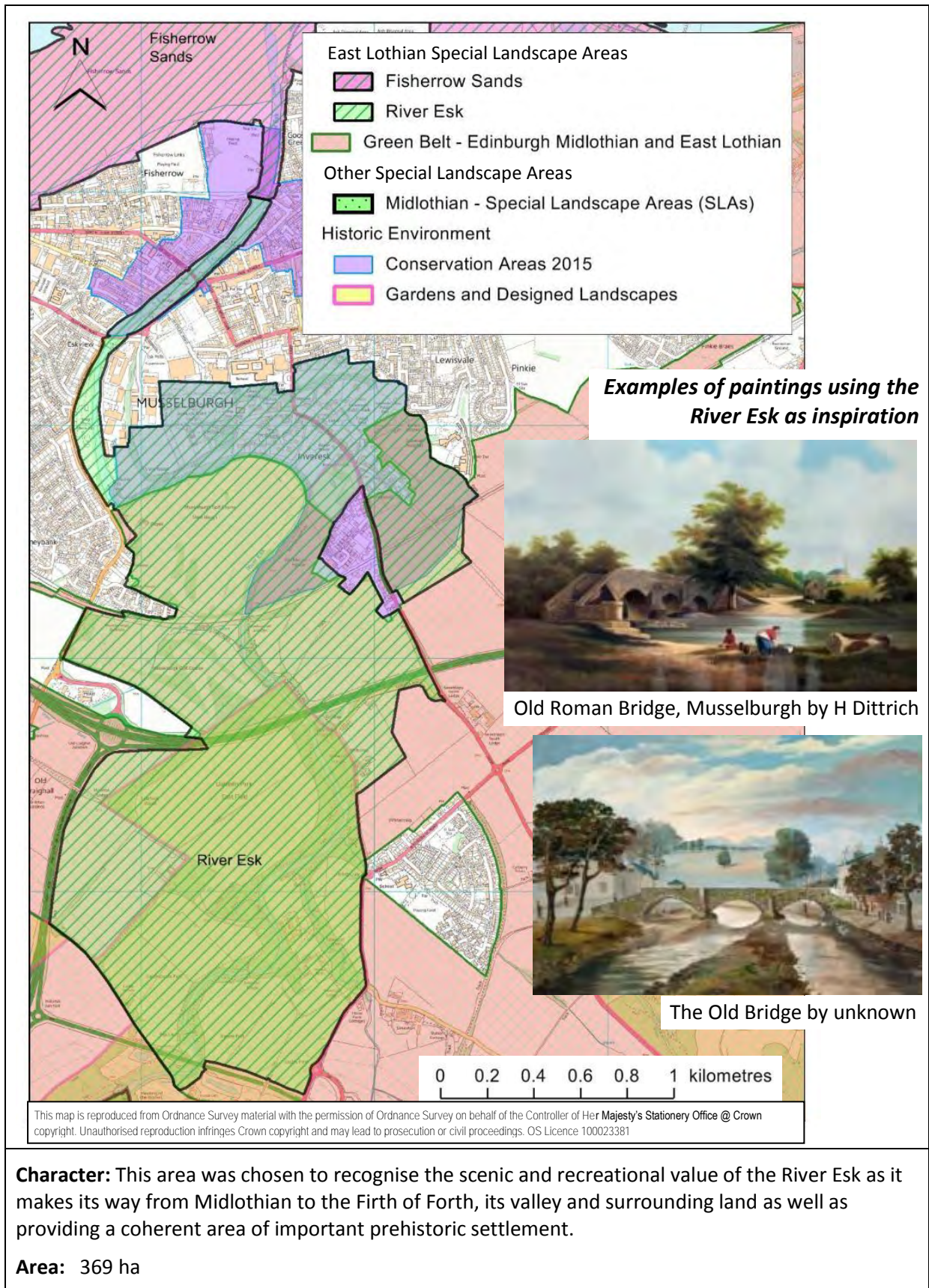


Incised valley of the Linn Dean Water and  
nature reserve



# River Esk

## Special Landscape Area 10 Statement of Importance



**Overview:**

This area covers the valley of the River Esk from where it enters East Lothian south of Whitecraig to the normal tidal limit as the river joins the Firth of Forth in Musselburgh. It includes the floodplain either side of the river, taking in Musselburgh golf course and the popular river walk, as well as colourfully planted amenity ground on the river banks in the north of the area. Much of Inveresk Village, with its landmark St Michael's church is included; this area is set on a rise with steep slopes to the north and east. Although SLAs are mainly designated for their natural interest rather than looking at developed areas Inveresk is included as the land on which it sits is important for the setting of the river valley; the mature trees within the large grounds of much of the low density development at Inveresk give the area a natural feel; and inclusion of the village is required for the coherence of the historic area.

The area also includes the northern section of the Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape of Dalkeith House which forms an integral part of the river valley within East Lothian and would be detrimental to the integrity of area if omitted as that designation does not protect the recreational interest of the area.

**Special Qualities and Features:**

1. The River Esk is East Lothian's largest river, in terms of water flow; over the years a large area of alluvial soil has been deposited underlying Musselburgh Golf Course. Its dramatic wooded valley is deeply cut, with steep sides in places and a flat bottomed valley giving a strong sense of enclosure. To the north of the area the enclosed valley opens out to the flood plain of the golf course and the amenity land in the centre of Musselburgh.
2. It is a dramatic, wooded enclosed valley centred on a large river with open areas of designed landscape and golf course providing visual contrast. The River Esk corridor is identified as a Local Biodiversity Site as a wooded river valley important for its variety of bank habitats and its varied long established policy woodlands with rich ground flora.
3. Sections of the southern deeply incised wooded valley provide a feeling of remoteness and naturalness. These feeling are reduced due to the managed nature of the landscape and presence of and proximity to urban development to the north of the area. However the presence of the river and surrounding banks provides access to a more natural environment.
4. The area has high recreation and enjoyment value containing the well-used River Esk walkway and cycle path with new River Esk Plaque Trail, and fishing on the river banks as well as several areas which have been consciously designed for appearance and enjoyment of different types including the garden and designed landscape of Dalkeith House, the stunning planting of Inveresk Lodge Garden, the formal gardens of the public park of Lewisvale set against the steep wooded embankment to its south and the banks of the river through the town of Musselburgh between the bridges, with their colourful flower beds and mature specimen trees, as well as Musselburgh Golf Course. The proximity to population centres increases the use and therefore importance of this area.
5. Sustrans cycle route 1 passes through the area along the section of river walk from Musselburgh Golf Course to Whitecraig and links to the local cycle route that follows the river path north to join Sustrans cycle route 76 at the north end of the River Esk. Core path route 173 follows the west bank of the Esk and links with several core path routes through the area, such as route 280 past Musselburgh Golf Course, and routes 295, 174 and 175 linking through Inveresk.
6. The parkland banks of the river through the town of Musselburgh provide an area for recreation and relaxation – a space to enjoy the sounds and sights of the river. Birdlife is important to the appearance of the river with plentiful swans, ducks, geese and other birds often to be seen in the area between the road bridges within Musselburgh.

7. There is a good viewpoint from the A1 as it cuts through this area and from the A68 to the west of the area looking down into the dramatic, incised, wooded valley. Another is looking southeast up the river valley along the Haugh Park to the weir and St Michael's church from Eskview Terrace. There are many good close views across and along the river valley and in Inveresk.
8. From outwith the area, the landmark feature of St Michael's church at Inveresk, surrounded by trees, can be seen in many views. Musselburgh Golf club, an art deco building very different in form and purpose from the Church, is also a distinctive building. Buildings within Inveresk Village, some an unusual, visually rich orange, contrast attractively with the mature woodland in which they sit and are protected by Conservation Area status. The designed landscape of Dalkeith House is surrounded by a high stone wall typical of policy walls in East Lothian that adds to the historic character of the area but does not prevent views into the designed landscape.

*Historic Landscape – Inveresk and Smeaton*

9. The area has been identified as a historic landscape as it contains some of the highest concentration of known archaeological remains in East Lothian. All periods are represented from the Mesolithic through to 20th century structures. Virtually all of this area is designated as either Scheduled Monuments, Battlefield (Battle of Pinkie Cleugh) or Garden and Designed Landscape (often multiple designations). A high number of Listed structures are also present. This landscape is a very intensively utilised one which has been lived on and worked since earliest times. The area is very rich in archaeological remains and monuments and has a high potential for previously unknown sites, which has been borne out multiple times. In particular the historic landscape identifies:
  10. Area of significant Roman remains many of which are scheduled, centred on the Roman fort and civilian settlement at Inveresk.
  11. Area of important industrial remains along the River Esk.

**Guidelines for Development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the natural appearance and character of the valley of the River Esk
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the recreational value of this area and the ability to appreciate the natural qualities of the Esk by avoiding interruption of the walkway along the riverside, including any potential extension of a walkway along the riverside into Midlothian
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the openness of the surrounding Haugh Land
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the setting of the River Esk through the town of Musselburgh
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the integrity and coherence of the historic landscape

**Potential for Landscape Enhancement:**

- i. Consider extension of the walkway along the banks of the Esk into Midlothian
- ii. Maintain tree coverage of the area
- iii. Seek to support traditional estate management practices to safeguard woodland enclosure features and important boundary walls
- iv. 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
- v. Manage invasive species in particular giant hogweed, which is much in evidence in parts of the area

**Photographs of special features and typical elements**



The river in its wooded valley



River Esk walk and cycleway enclosed by the steep bank and the wall to the Dalkeith Designed Landscape



Geese on the river banks through the town



A1 view into the incised valley

Formal grassed banks and beds of planting with the old stone bridges and mature trees creating an attractive feature in the centre of the town



A more natural section of the Esk through the centre of Musselburgh



Lewisvale park formal garden



Lewisvale Park Bandstand



Bird in the aviary at Lewisvale Park



Haugh Park

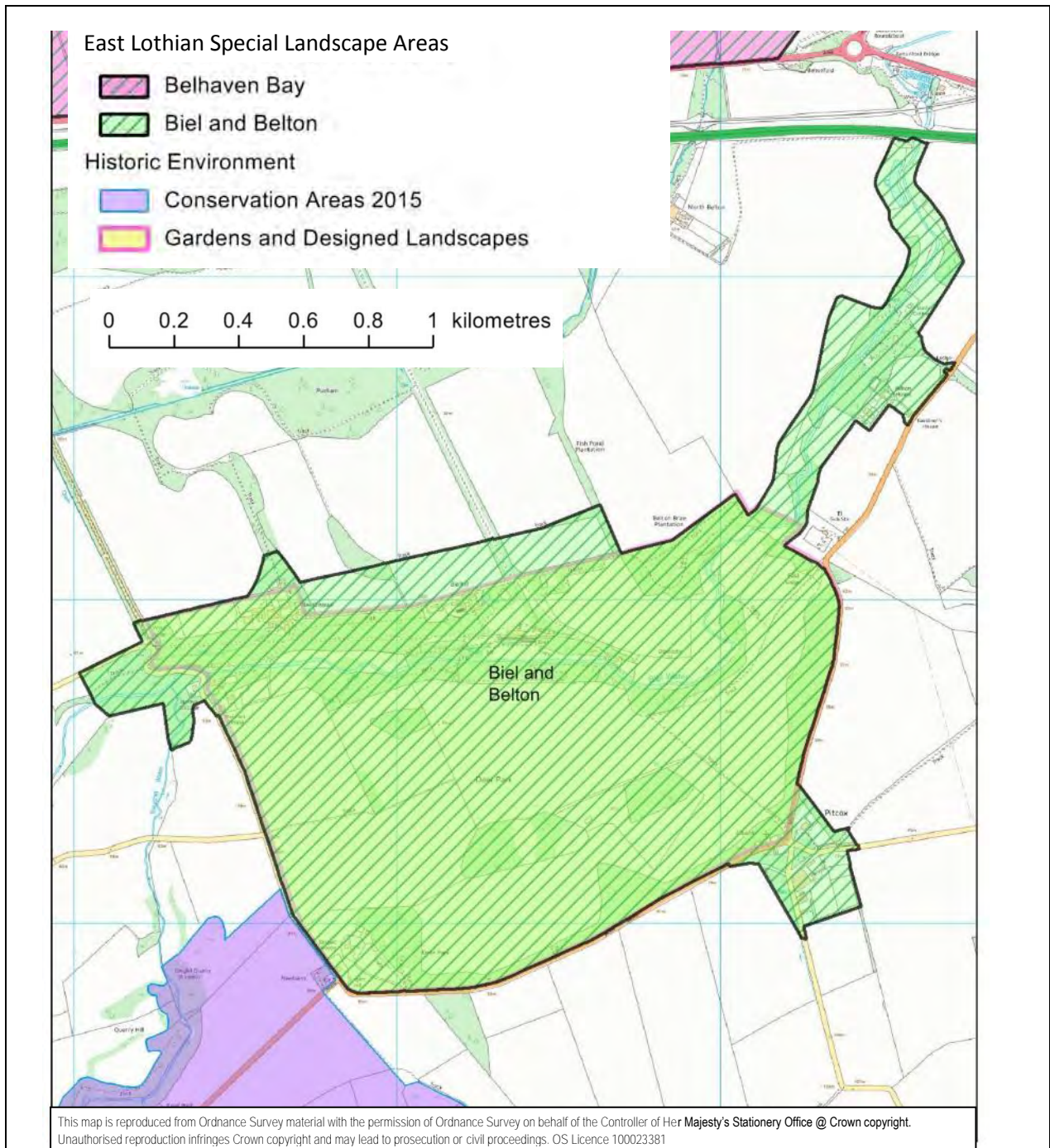


Hogweed infestation: Japanese knotweed and Himalayan Balsam are also invasive species in evidence, though not to the extent of this field full of Hogweed.



## Biel and Belton

### Special Landscape Area 11 Statement of Importance



**Character:** A wooded river valley and hillfoot hamlet enfolded in agricultural land and woodlands, augmented by the designs of the Biel and Belton designed landscapes.

**Area:** 257 ha

**Overview:**

The area comprises a complex and contrasting landscape centred on the Biel Water, set within a secluded and mysterious wooded valley providing elements of surprise and extensive rugged, dramatic elements. The surrounding open agricultural fields are edged by belts and clumps of established mainly deciduous woodlands providing enclosure and interest, the attractive landform having been

enhanced by the design of the landscapes of Biel and Belton. Beech predominates in the woodland, with yew also well established. Biel was first established in the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century, with terraces stepping down the steeply sloping river bank as well as a notable arboretum.

The predominance of local stone and traditional building styles in buildings both grand and humble helps root built development in place, making a clear connection with the surrounding land. The impressive Category A listed Tudor style Biel country house and associated terrace, boundary walls, gate piers, kennels and related structures imbue the area with its own distinctive character. There are also groups of listed buildings at Pitcox (the main house, some of the cottages, Lodge and phone box), as well as West and Biel Mill Lodges, Beech Cottage and Biel Park House, along with the stone bridge over the Biel, at the west end of the area.

Although centred on the Biel designed landscape, the area extends to the west and northeast to take in further sections of the scenic wooded incised valley. Woodland strips and track which form part of the design of the Biel estate, though not included in the Inventory are included to the north as these provide excellent views towards the coast to the north. The area also extends to the south east to include the hillfoot village of Pitcox, a pretty red sandstone hamlet with its many listed buildings, within an established woodland setting.

#### **Special Qualities and Features:**

1. The Biel water runs through a deeply incised wooded valley highly typical of many of the river valleys through East Lothian.
2. Open agricultural fields with distinctive, rich, rusty brown earth in a strongly folding landform, enclosed and accented by planting of mixed woodland contrasts with the steep, much more natural appearance of the incised river valley. The underlying old red sandstone unites them, the river in places cutting deeply into the underlying soft rock and exposing it, while the soil of the adjoining fields are lent a rusty brown colour by the sandstone beneath.
3. There is a strong woodland structure in the area, which is visually pleasing, framing and enclosing views, as well as providing wildlife habitat. Mature woodland closely surrounds much of the built development, giving it an air of leafy seclusion for example at Biel Mill, Biel House, Dairy Cottage and Pitcox. In some cases, topographical enclosure adds to this sense. Mature woodland strips and copses complement and add interest to the landform in the Biel Deer Park, merging with riparian planting. Large sections of the woodlands along the valley and in the policy woods are identified as being native lowland mixed deciduous woods, the most extensive area being between Biel West Lodge and Biel House, but also within the Deer Park, as well as areas within the Biel valley. There is some open land habitat associated with the woodland near Belton; this woodland complements and provides interest to the surrounding expansive, gently sloping agricultural fields.
4. The highly scenic red sandstone buildings of the small hamlet of Pitcox, which has medieval origins, are set within contrasting green mature woodlands, including that within the garden of the elegant main Pitcox House itself. The housing in the village is mainly single storey vernacular and shows the passage of time; leaving the village to the southeast, the first cottages (somewhat falling into dereliction) are red sandstone and pantile, with a snow course, then stone and slate, giving way to cream painted harled cottages again with red pantile roofs. The form of the original cottages, and their set-back from the road with small front gardens, often with colourful flowers, is respected. The Lodge building has a slightly grander appearance, with the red telephone box in front of it a pleasing accent against the more muted red of the Lodge, both Lodge and phone box being Grade B listed.
5. Built development shows some typical East Lothian elements; use of local building stone (red, cream and pink sandstone, with red predominating) as well as pantiles or slate for roofs gives the

area a notable sense of architectural coherence; this characterises most of the built development throughout the area. Residential development is small scale and clustered, and shows a pattern typical of East Lothian of large estate houses such as Biel, Pitcox and Belton House, with associated lodges, farm buildings and low, single storey cottages. At Pitcox, these are close by, while at Biel and Belton they are more distant, though often clustered. There are also some distinctive and unusual buildings, most obviously the spectacular, extensive house that is Biel; but also the unusual Beesknowe House, built in English vernacular style; though using red sandstone it has Tudor style timber framing to the upper floor. The cluster of housing in which the latter sits is unusual in the SLA as it has an open aspect to the north. It is thus visible against the mature trees to the south, going against the grain of the secluded and somewhat mysterious feel deriving from setting within mature woodland and enclosed topography which is strongly characteristic of this SLA. Car parking is generally well managed, with parking in courtyards or at the rear of cottages.

6. There are attractive paths and avenues within the Biel estate, giving good public access on foot, though access to the Belton area is somewhat more difficult due to the steep slopes, while the high policy wall around the south of the Biel estate gives few access points from that direction.
7. Views from the area include:
  - Views from the tracks and road at Beesknowe northwards are spectacular, the view taking in the varied crops of the agricultural plain with its pattern of woodland and volcanic intrusions, looking out towards the contrasting blue and pale yellows of Belhaven Bay, then beyond to the Bass Rock and Fife.
  - From the Deer Park there are views of Biel house, the designed landscape and across the agricultural land to the Forth Islands
  - Views across the designed landscape to Traprain
  - Of elements of the built environment set within woodland, for example stone bridges, lodges and cottages
  - Of the Biel water within its wooded valley.
8. The area is an important element in wider views from the surrounding area for example over the extended Tyne valley, particularly when viewed from higher ground to the south, where layers of arable land intersperse with layers of woodland.
9. 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, although paths and the limited scale of the landscape limit this in extent. There is limited light pollution; though views of the night sky are limited in the darkest areas by woodland this adds to the wilder feel.

#### **Guidelines for Development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the continuous feature of the Biel River Valley, the natural appearance of its wooded valley and the scale of the valley as a significant feature in the landscape.
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the core agricultural character of the area.
- C. Any proposed development must not impact detrimentally on: open views northwards from the tracks and road at Beesknowe; views of Biel House and the designed landscape and Traprain Law from Deer Park.
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the character of the designed landscape and its surrounding parkland and countryside. Prevent development that would impact detrimentally on its historic setting and character.
- E. Any proposed large farm building development should be carefully sited and coloured to fit within the landscape form and retain the sense of history and character of the area.
- F. In cases where solar panels are not permitted development they should not be placed on publicly visible roof elevations of traditional buildings or buildings in traditional and historic settings where they would harm the historic nature and scenic value of the area.

- G. Any proposed development must not harm the existing generally 'hidden' character of residential development within mature woodland. The exception to this is at Beesknowe, where attractive and distinctive housing is located to the top of a rise to take advantage of the tremendous views across East Lothian and to the coast.
- H. Any proposed development must not harm the sense of place of the character, landscape setting and identity of the settlement of Pitcox achieved through a perceived balance between different 'classes' of housing, i.e. grander estate houses, lodges and humbler dwellings and through its use of traditional materials and design.
- I. Continue the link with local red sandstone geology in appropriate built development and support the use of traditional building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings. 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. Adventurously designed buildings may also accord with the character of the area but require careful location to avoid detracting from the traditional nature of the area.
- J. 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 of the river valleys, as well as lack of light pollution.
- K. Any proposed development must not harm the intimate scale of valley bottom landscape
- L. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form and detracts from the natural qualities of the area e.g. wind turbines.
- M. Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale rural character of the roads, including characteristic features such as hedges and walls.

**Potential for landscape enhancement**

- i. Avoid woodland planting that obscures views from the road and track in front of Beesknowe
- ii. Improve access along the course of the river to allow for appreciation of the valley
- iii. Some elements of the built environment are succumbing to decay: though this gives a 'view through time', many of the structures in particular those that are listed would benefit from timely maintenance
- iv. Plastic domestic waste bins though temporary are incongruous and often present; parked cars can also be intrusive. Consideration to their siting and screening would be beneficial.
- v. Functional modern farm buildings at Pitcox would benefit from further screening to the south.
- vi. Seek to support traditional estate management practices to safeguard woodland enclosure features and important boundary walls
- vii. Ensure protection and enhancement of characteristic high proportion of mixed and broadleaved woodland through management and replacement planting

**Photographs of special features and typical elements**

Formal elements of the designed landscape at Biel reduce the naturalness of the area and contrast with the wilder elements of the incised river valley and woodlands



Avenues of tree planting line the drive



The river south of Biel House has been canalised and the grounds grassed with specimen tree planting

Policy woodlands in the wider landscape frame and focus views and strengthen the landform



Good views over the Deer Park to Traprain Law

Good views north and east from the raised land at Bielhill with North Berwick Law rising out above the coastal plain



Tree lined approach to Pitcox



Architectural form varies through the area from the grand at Biel House to the quaint at Pitcox, but ties together with the use of local stone and vernacular styling.



A-listed Biel House



B-listed Pitcox Lodge with phone box



Traditional sandstone and slate steading, with parking enclosed in the cobbled courtyard. Vernacular features such as the external stair and the post box set into the wall.



Bridge Cottage set into the north bank of the river at Biel Bridge

B-listed Pitcox Farmhouse set in wooded grounds surrounded by moss covered boundary walls typical of the area



Different ages of farm cottages at Pitcox, united by form



Incised river valley at Biel and Belton



The trees cling to the rocky slopes

Contrasting colours of mixed species even in winter

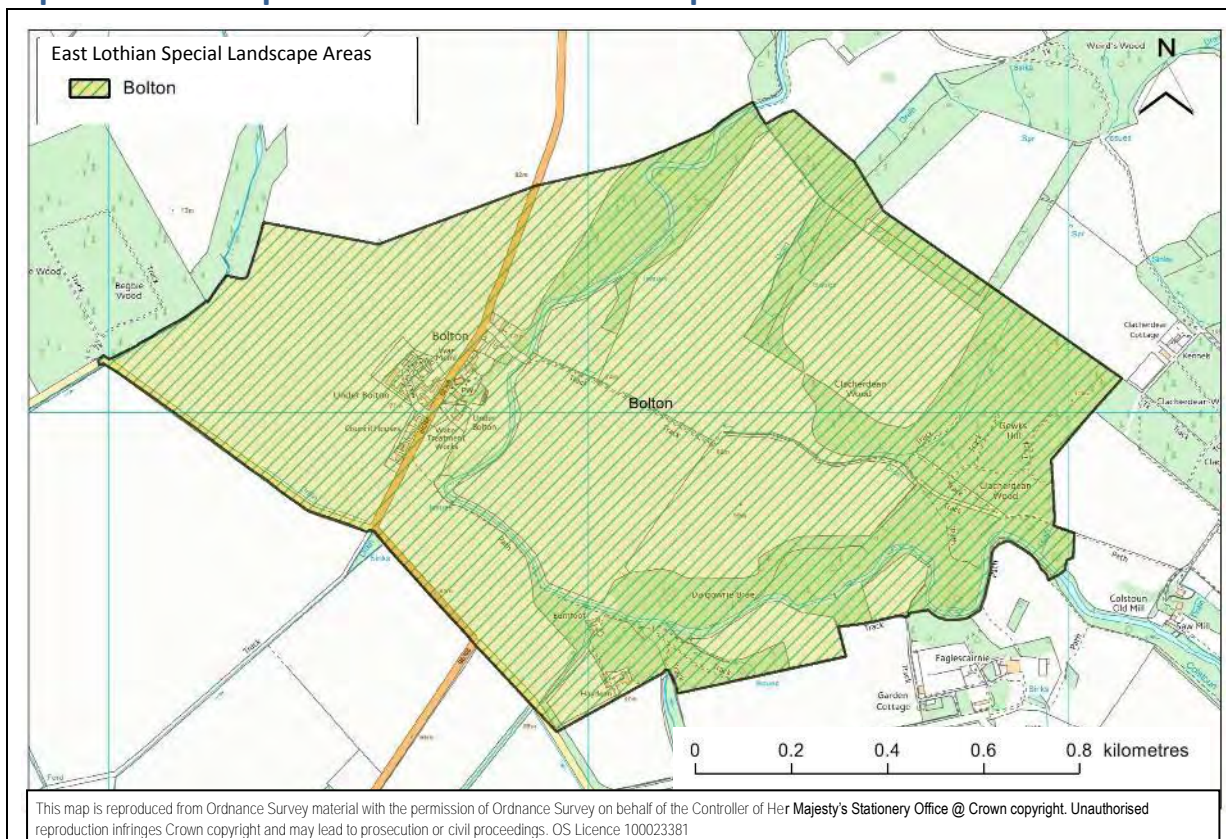
Mature beech and oak trees interspersed with a mix of younger trees along the banks at Biel



Woodland extends into the grounds of houses within the area. At Pitcox Farmhouse snowdrops carpet the ground below the woodland canopy



## Bolton: Special Landscape Area 12 Statement of Importance



**Character:** A small traditional settlement centred about a historic church and farm steading in a picturesque wooded valley setting

**Area:** 155 hectares

### Overview:

A rich area of rolling arable land with the settlement of Bolton at its heart spills into the valley of the Colstoun Water to the south with its rolling landform and enclosing woodlands which frame and define the valley.

### Special Qualities and Features:

1. Large rolling arable fields surround Bolton, providing it with a rural setting and changing character throughout the year, from the rich dark earth of the newly ploughed fields, to the fresh green of the young crops, through to the golden waves of the ripe corn.
2. The rolling fields divided by established well-managed woodland and shelterbelts as they fall into the valley create an older, more traditional feeling landscape. The policy woodlands of the Eaglescairn estate to the west of the river help to provide a feeling of enclosure and history, with large areas of the woodland identified as native lowland mixed deciduous ancient woodland.
3. The Colstoun Water valley with its incised nature and wooded slopes provides an attractive, tranquil and peaceful area for recreation. It has a natural, undeveloped feel and the steepness of the river banks and rushing water add to its scenic value. The river and woodlands provide havens for wildlife, from the trout in the river to the birds in the tree branches to the deer quietly hiding in the dappled woodland.
4. The village of Bolton nestles in a fold in the river valley surrounding the Grade B listed



picturesque parish church and churchyard and related buildings of the Doo'cot, Bolton Old Manse and Stables, Bolton Farmhouse and Old School House. The church tower whether seen peeping over rolling fields, mature trees or in its full splendour, provides a focal point for the village and surrounding valley. The new development at Dovecot Steading has been sensitively designed in stone and timber with buildings of a scale and character to fit with the traditional buildings of the village, retaining the round stone doo'cot as a focal point and entrance to the village from the north.

5. The bowl nature of the valley allows scenic views from Bolton looking south along the incised, heavily-wooded, winding river valley. There are picturesque views from the south and from the B6368 of Bolton in its valley setting with the church tower, doo'cot and established trees. There are open views from the higher surrounding ground of the wider landscape and out to the Garleton Hills to the north.
6. Robert Burns' mother, Agnes Broun, moved to Bolton after Robert's death, and is buried in Bolton churchyard adding to the history and importance of the area.
7. The right of way from Bolton to Gifford follows the banks of the Colstoun Water and tracks to Eaglescairn to the south of the area, whilst Core path route 2 follows a track through the centre of the area providing good recreational access through the area. Core path route 487 heads north along the B6368. These paths help link Bolton with the larger settlements of Haddington to the north and Gifford to the south.
8. There are several aspects of detail in the built environment which add to the landscape; the octagonal lantern on the round doo'cot, the turrets on the Church roof, the black and white finger post sign at the junction with the road to Samuelston. Others, such as the coach and horses weather vane, are harder to spot.

#### **Guidelines for Development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale secluded visual character derived from well-planned mature woodland framework
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the core agricultural character of the area
- C. Any proposed development must not impact detrimentally on open views from the B6368 across Bolton from the southwest and open views from the B6368 and the settlement southeast along the river valley
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the sense of place of the character, landscape setting and identity of the settlement of Bolton
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the existing settlement pattern of development and must support the use of traditional building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings
- F. Any proposed development must not harm the existing character of the village and the surrounding countryside by prevention of large, modern development, out of scale with the existing buildings and landscape character
- G. Any proposed development must not harm the setting of the church as a focal point, in particular the field to the southeast side of the road opposite the Council Houses should be retained as open land.
- H. Close boarded fence boundaries to properties visible from outwith the settlement would harm the setting of the village within the landscape as would large garden sheds.
- I. In cases where solar panels are not permitted development they should not be placed on publicly visible roof elevations of traditional buildings or buildings in traditional and historic settings where they would harm the historic nature and scenic value of the area.
- J. Any proposed development must not harm the natural setting of river, woods and farmland and use as an important recreational resource
- K. Any proposed design and materials of road signage and street furniture must not harm the historic and picturesque character of the village and must retain its individual identity

**Potential for Landscape Enhancement**

- i. Avoid clear felling of woodland on visible hill slopes.
- ii. Seek to safeguard future management of important broadleaf woodland elements – estate policies, riparian fringes, shelterbelts
- iii. Restore local deterioration in well-maintained hedgerow framework
- iv. Reinforce well designed balance of coniferous and mixed woodland with open ground on higher slopes
- v. Maintain field boundaries and avoid further amalgamation of fields.
- vi. Formalise parking facilities and consider picnic areas

**Photographs of special features and typical elements**

The view south along the Bolton valley through the changing seasons



In spring with the green of the trees contrasting with the newly ploughed arable fields



In winter showing the complexity of the landform layered by trees



In autumn with the leafy crops contrasting with the coloured foliage of the trees



Mature beech trees framing views to the Lammermuir Hills





Bolton in its treed setting with rising land to the north and the Garleton Hills beyond



Bolton Church sits as a prominent feature above the valley, surrounded by the traditional stone buildings and mature trees





The historic heart of Bolton with the church as the focal point

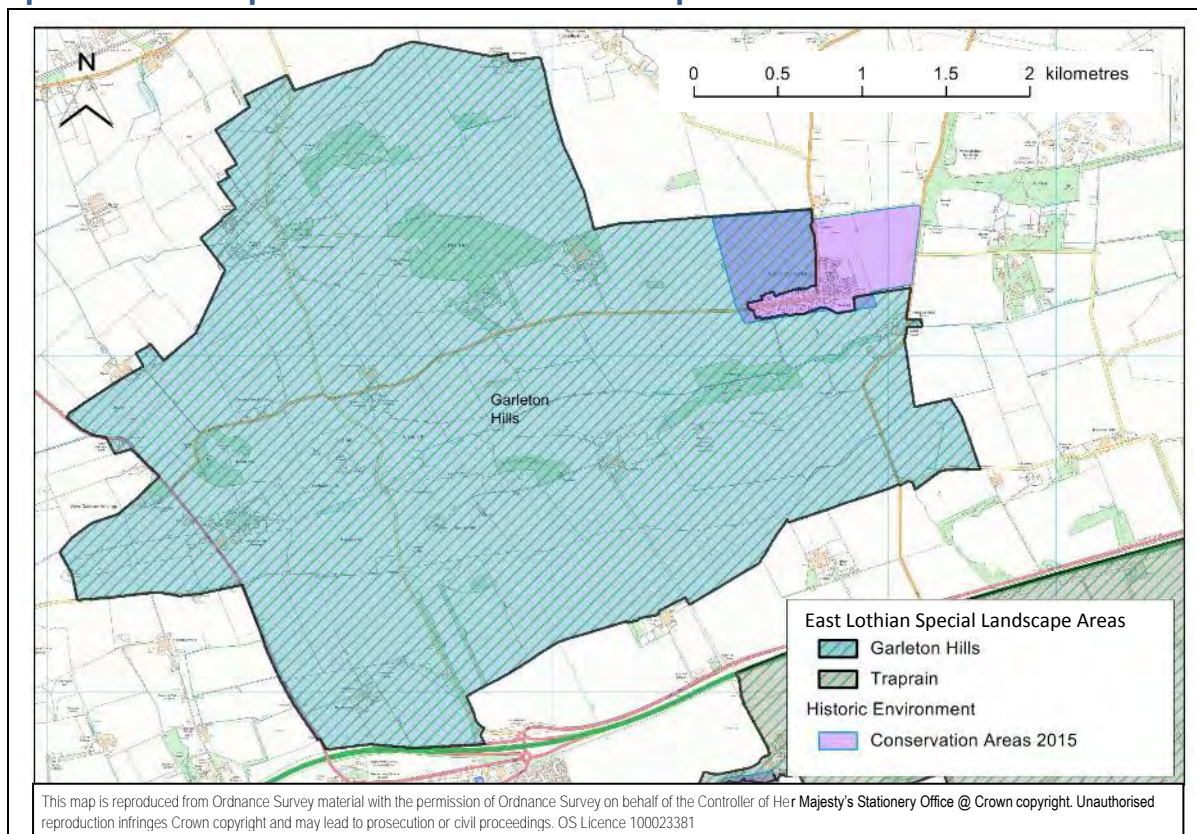


The Parish Church and Steading Doo'cot frame the B6368 through the village

The steep wooded banks of the Colstoun Water through Clacherdean Wood



## Garleton Hills: Special Landscape Area 13 Statement of Importance



**Character:** A highly prominent landmark and uniquely iconic volcanic landform in the heart of East Lothian with a coherent area of important prehistoric settlement.

**Area:** 1,277ha

### Overview:

The largest area of volcanic intrusion within East Lothian sitting to the north of Haddington and providing a setting for the town. The Garleton Hills area is the centrepiece of East Lothian, visible widely across the area and beyond. With the distinctive tower of the Hopetoun Monument acting as a focal point, these hills are important in defining the character and appearance of East Lothian as a whole. Its contrasting landform and landcover to the surrounding arable land creates dramatic views and backdrops.

### Special Qualities and Features:

1. Volcanic outcrops are typical of East Lothian; the Garleton Hills are the largest area of volcanic intrusion within East Lothian forming a uniquely iconic landform. There are large areas of skeletal soil throughout the hills creating their distinctive cragginess.
2. The hills have high scenic value with an open, rugged outcrops and gorse covered crags, contrasting with the surrounding farmland. Together with the steep sided river valley and wooded hillsides gives a prominent landscape of diverse landcover and hidden elements. Seasonal change increases their interest and vegetative contrast with the yellow gorse in spring, changing crops in the fields through the year and autumn colours of the deciduous trees.

3. Historically the Garleton Hills are an important and very dominant backdrop to the historic county seat of Haddington, which although situated outside the area is key to the setting of these hills from a Historic Environment perspective.
4. The hills form a highly prominent landmark within East Lothian and with their distinctive landform and landcover are highly photogenic. The notable Hopetoun Monument sits on Byres Hill, one of the most visually dominant historic structures in East Lothian (erected by the fourth Earl of Hopetoun's "affectionate and grateful tenantry" in 1824) which can be seen from as far afield as Edinburgh to the west.
5. The Hopetoun Monument is accessed from a small car park at the base of Byres Hill along a steep path winding up through mature woodland and gorse covered slopes. Climb the 132 spiral steps through the dark tower to bring you out to a viewing platform and viewpoint indicator with superb panoramic views with the Firth of Forth and Fife to the north, Edinburgh and the Pentland Hills to the west and the Lammermuir Hills to the south.
6. Barney Vaults is another prominent feature along the ridge. This is the remains of Barnes Castle The Vaults scheduled monument, a vaulted fortification which was commissioned by Sir John Seton of Barnes in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century but never finished after his death in 1594.
7. Kilduff Hill is large wooded hill to the north side of the Garleton Hills visible in views from the north giving a diversity of landcover in contrast to the gorse covered hill slopes and arable fields.
8. The B1343 from West Garleton House to Athelstaneford follows the bottom edge of the northern escarpment of Byres Hill, Skid Hill and Craigy Hill passed the remains of Garleton Castle and along the valley of the Cogtail Burn with Kilduff Hill enclosing it to the north. This route affords fantastic views of the dramatic steep hills slopes rising up from the road, overpowering and overwhelming the senses.
9. The Garletons are important for recreation with several walking routes across the area all with panoramic views both north towards the coast and south to the Lammermuirs. Core path route 87 traverses the ridge line from the B1347 to the east to the minor road through the centre of the hills at Skid Hill, linking at its east end with core path route 86 which crosses the Cogtail Burn to Athelstaneford and linking at its west end to core path route 320 which follows the minor road south to Haddington providing access direct from the town. A right of way continues along the ridge to the west linking the minor road to the A6137 at West Garleton. Another right of way heads up the northern slopes from Byres Farm to the Hopetoun Monument on Byres Hill. Further core paths routes 90, 89 and 238 skirt the western edge of the area linking Newmains at Drem to Athelstaneford.
10. There is a dramatic viewpoint looking East to Athelstaneford and across the North Berwick Coastal Plain beyond from the minor road at Skid Hill. Panoramic views are obtained from the A6137 both north to Aberlady Bay and the coast and south across the Mid Tyne plain to the Lammermuirs. There are also good views from the Chesters Hillfort.
11. The central area of the hills contains important exposures of several quartz-trachyte lava flows and associated tuffs. Identified as a SSSI for its importance in showing how basaltic magmas locally evolved at relatively shallow depths in the crust.
12. This central section with its ice sculpted bedrock and crag and tail landforms is an excellent example of glaciated escarpment and lowland forms of glacial erosion with regional significance identified as a Geodiversity Site.
13. Author Peter Kerr, wrote about his time growing up and farming at Cuddy Neuk on the west of the Garletons, evoking a way of life now much changed.

*Historic Landscape: Garletons and Chesters*

14. The Garleton Hills are a dominant landscape feature containing a dense concentration of Hillforts mirroring other areas in East Lothian that have a similar topography – the Hillfoots Hillforts, Chesters to Thurston Ridge and the Elphinstone Ridge. There are significant Scheduled remains of a number of prehistoric hill forts along and around the Garleton

Ridge. Many of these remain as upstanding earthworks and are a very important group of 'lowland Hill forts'. The Chesters Hill fort to the north of the area is such an example being one of Scotland's best-preserved Iron-Age hill forts with ramparts and ditches that are among the most impressive Iron-Age defences in Scotland, easily accessible from the nearby minor road at Camptoun.

15. There are a number of imposing medieval houses and tower houses associated with this landform such as Garleton Castle, Kilduff House and Camptoun House. Small-scale settlements generally set around a medieval farmstead / large farmhouse are typical of the area.
16. The prominent nature of these hills has attracted human activity from virtually every period which is evidenced with the remains. They are likely to have served as "navigational markers" on a vast scale. The area is rich in archaeological remains and monuments and has a high potential for previously unknown sites.

#### **Guidelines for Development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the distinctive visual contrasts with adjoining landscapes
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the setting or views of the Hopetoun Monument, detract from its prominence as a feature on the hill top or compete with it as a focal point within the landscape
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development which detracts from the scale of the outcrops and monument or detracts from the natural qualities of the area e.g. wind turbines
- D. Any proposed development must not harm open views, both out from the hills - in particular from the A6137 both north and south, the minor road at Skid Hill eastwards, the Hopetoun monument and Byres Hill, core path route 87 and the Chesters Hillfort; and from the wider area to the hills.
- E. Any proposed large farm building development should be carefully sited and coloured to fit within the landscape form
- F. Protect from the further spreading of aerial masts and other vertical elements on hill tops or skyline as viewed from the lowland plain below.
- G. The viability of arable agriculture in the area is an important part of maintaining the landscape; development should support rather than hinder this
- H. Any proposed development must not harm the integrity and coherence of the historic landscape.

#### **Potential for Landscape Enhancement**

- i. Maintain and improve walking / cycling access through the area
- ii. Preserve distinctive visual contrasts with adjoining landscapes
- iii. Seek to secure long-term management of existing woodland
- iv. Encourage further diversification of semi-natural habitats on non-productive land
- v. Retain small-scale variation in rural visual character of minor roads
- vi. Restore and maintain traditional hedge and stone wall field boundaries



**Examples of Paintings using the Garleton Hills Area as Inspiration**



Tyne and Garleton hills  
by William Darling Mackay

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



The iconic Hopetoun Monument on Byres Hill to the west end of the Garleton Hills, wooded craggy outcrops contrasting with the surrounding arable land



Garleton Castle in the lee of the Garleton Hills with Kilduff Hill beyond



The Hopetoun Monument



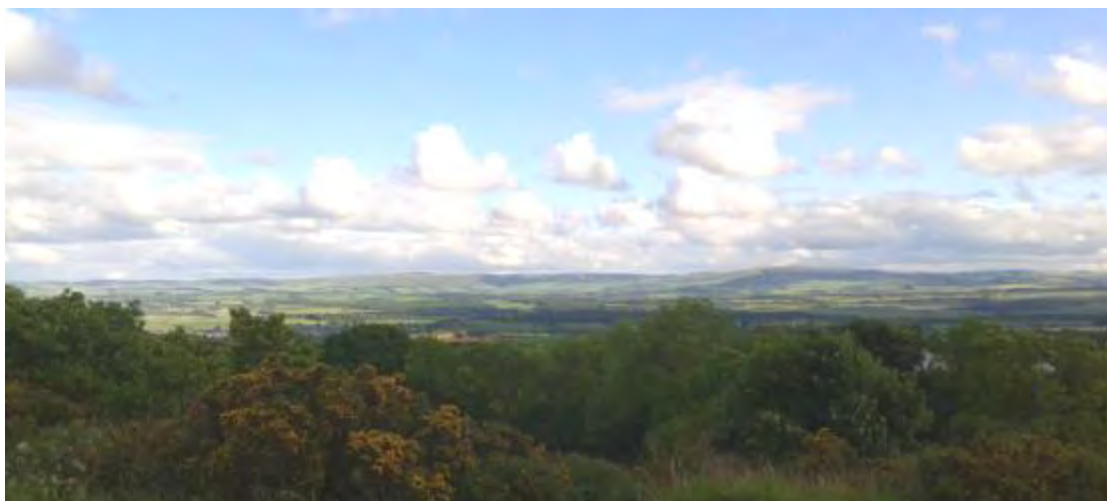
The path through the mature woodland on the slopes of Byres Hill to the Hopetoun Monument



The approach to the Garletons along the minor road through Camptoun to the north

View from Skid Hill east over the North Berwick coastal plain with the village of Athelstaneford in the middle





View south to the Lammermuirs from Byres Hill

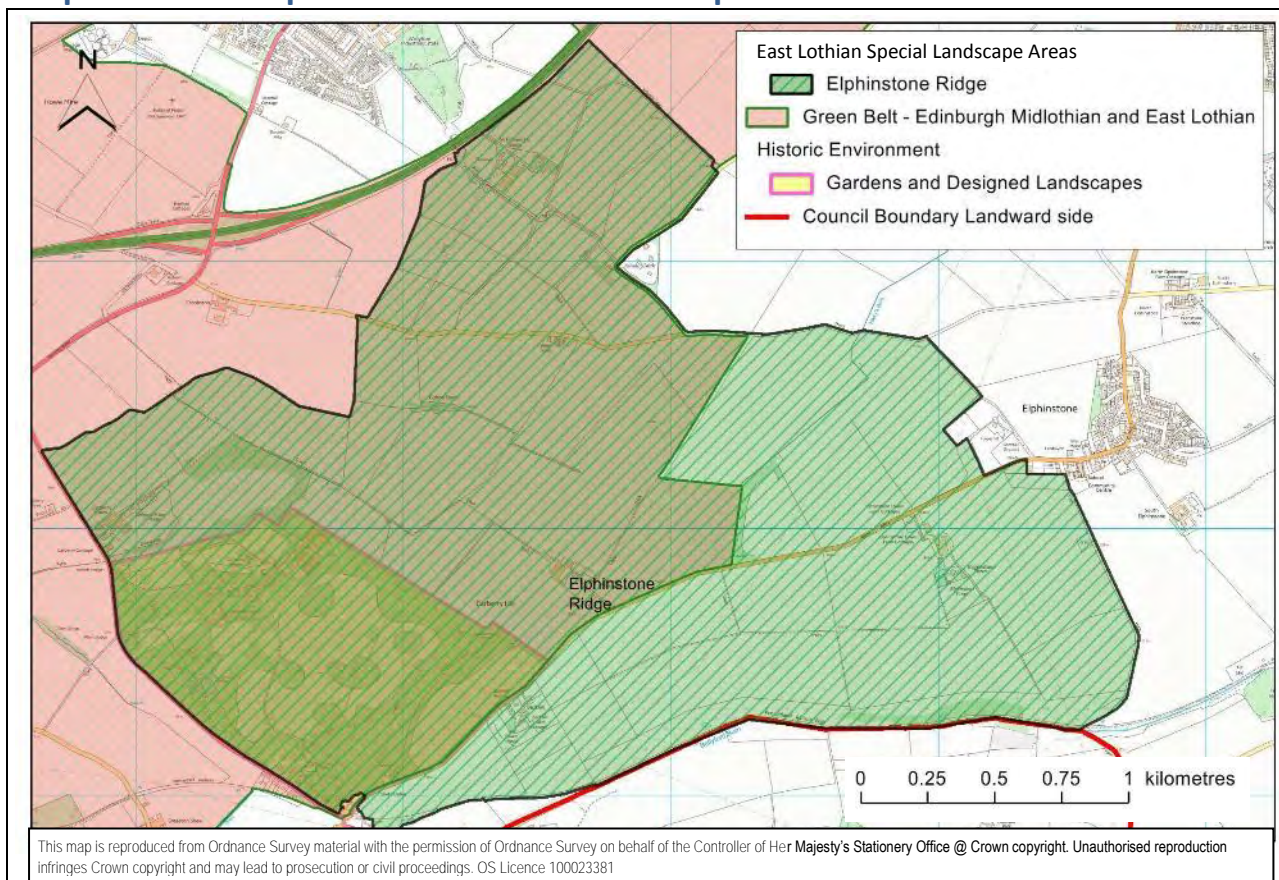


The glaciated channel between Skid Hill and the escarpment of Kae Heughs, diverse landform and land cover and long ranging views



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

## Elphinstone Ridge: Special Landscape Area 14 Statement of Importance



**Character:** A wide rolling ridge important for scenic value, views and recreation as well as providing a coherent area of important prehistoric settlement.

**Area:** 628 ha

### Overview:

This area encompasses the most representative section of the significant lowland ridge at the western entrance to East Lothian from Edinburgh. It forms the backdrop to the coastal settlements of Musselburgh and Prestonpans and the wider coastal plain. The features of the wooded Inventory Carberry Garden and Designed Landscape and Fa'side Castle sit on the ridge and together with many medieval and prehistoric remains form a coherent landscape of important prehistoric settlement along the ridge. Views from the ridge are long and wide ranging and there are many recreational routes through the area.

### Special Qualities and Features:

1. In views from the A1 the area forms the backdrop to the Musselburgh Prestonpans fringe and is important to the setting of the settlement there. The small-scale fields with well-defined wooded boundaries and heavily wooded hillslope of the Carberry designed landscape provide visual interest and diversity.
2. The Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape of Carberry with its established wooded grounds is a listed wildlife site, described as a large estate with mixed woodlands and contains large areas of native ancient woodland. The wide range of specimen trees at Carberry also gives it high Arboricultural value. The historic listed buildings of Carberry Tower and associated stables, chapel and larder sit hidden within the wooded grounds with the stone marking Queen Mary's

Mount located in the eastern corner of the estate.

3. The rebuilt Fa'side Castle is visible sitting high on the northern edge of the ridge. The northern slope of the ridge forms a rural backdrop to the setting of Musselburgh when viewed from the west and provides a green view from the south edge of Prestonpans over the historic Bankton House and grounds. The established wooded landscape of Carberry and farmland of the ridge along to Fa'side Castle are important in views as you leave Edinburgh along the A1 and A199, providing a scenic frame to the entrance to East Lothian.
4. The height of the ridge affords fantastic views in all directions. Particular viewpoints of note include the interpretation boards at Fa'side Hill (the boards information has been vandalised but the views are tremendous) with panoramic views over East Lothian, the Firth of Forth and surely one of the best views of Edinburgh to be had; as well as to the south towards the Lammermuir Hills. The viewpoint from Queen Mary's Mount and the south of Carberry Estate, south over Cousland to the Lammermuir Hills and north through the woodland to Edinburgh and Arthur's Seat is very different but also superb.
5. The large rolling arable fields to the southern slopes provide a hidden landscape, close to settlements yet rural and tranquil. The rural nature of this section of the ridge provides peaceful recreation in an area so close to large settlements with numerous walking, cycling and horse riding routes between the fields and along the old railway lines; this area is likely to become more important with population growth in the surrounding area. Core path route 72 runs along the Pencaitland Railway Walk to the south of the area combined with Sustrans cycle route 11. This runs adjacent to the Bellyford Burn and its listed wildlife site with a wide variety of habitats with a rich flora and fauna and links with Core path route 164 up the southern slope to Elphinstone village. The 6094 to Hillhead Farm Right of Way traverses the northern slope of the ridge through arable land. The Wallyford to Fa'side Right of Way again traverses the northern slope along the line of a water course. These paths are linked by another right of way from Hillhead farm to Fa'side and link further to core path route 166 eventually linking by other core paths with the town of Tranent. Several other rights of way and core path routes link to and around the area providing a network of access routes. Hedges are a common boundary treatment along the paths, full of flowers and birdsong, giving a very rural feel though often preventing views out.

#### *Historic Landscape – Elphinstone Ridge*

6. The area has a rich cultural heritage with many medieval and prehistoric remains. It has a coherent landscape of prehistoric settlement along the ridge which mirrors other identified historic landscapes in East Lothian that have a similar topography (Hillfoots Hillforts, Chesters to Thurston Ridge and the Garleton Hills). Medieval remains are scattered throughout the area with the most visible being the tower houses of Fa'side, Elphinstone, and Carberry. The Fa'side ridge also has significant prehistoric remains evident, many of which are Scheduled Monuments. There are also significant industrial remains in and around this area. The area is rich in archaeological remains and monuments and has a high potential for previously unknown sites. There are links to Mary Queen of Scots at Carberry.

#### **Guidelines for Development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the status of Fa'side Castle as the focal point on the ridge
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the rural character of the area especially the recreational routes through the area
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the open, rural nature of the ridge especially as viewed from the north and the Ormiston area
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the open views both north and south from the viewpoint on the minor road beside Fa'side Castle; views north from core path route 168 to St Clement's Wells; views across the areas from core path route 166, views from the B6414 across

the area and south to the Lammermuir Hills and views north and south from Queen Mary's Mount within the Carberry designed landscape.

- E. 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 or breaks the horizontal ridge line e.g. wind turbines, communications masts
- F. Any proposed development must not harm the integrity of the designed landscape nor impact detrimentally on its historic setting and character
- G. Any proposed development must not harm the integrity and coherence of the historic landscape.

**Potential for Landscape Enhancement:**

- i. Reduction in height of fencing to remove feeling of enclosure and improve views.
- ii. Woodland management of Carberry.
- iii. 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
- iv. Renew interpretation boards
- v. Maintain and improve walking / cycling access through the area
- vi. Conserve existing wall boundary treatments and encourage management and replacement of lost sections

**Photographs of special features and typical elements**



Open wide ranging views from the viewpoint on Fa'side Hill with the Fa'side Tower



Fa'side Tower sitting on the ridge surrounded by the gold of the ripe arable fields

Northern slopes contrast of fields and woods



Memorial stone set in Carberry Woods  
Open views south from Carberry





Rolling rural arable landscape and wooded Carberry designed landscape



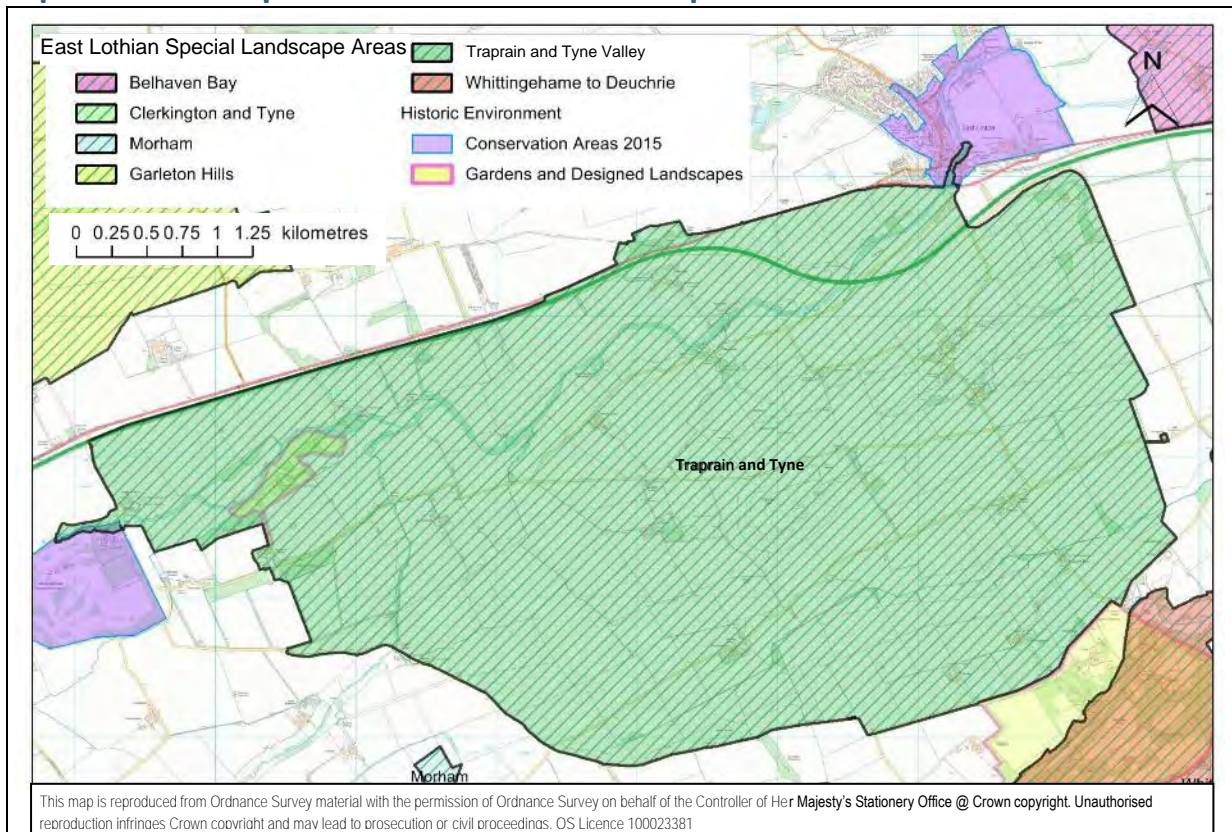
Looking east along the valley of the Bellyford Burn and the Pencaitland Railway Walk with the peaceful green rolling valley sides. The line of pylons intrude on this view.



Peaceful tree lined minor road leading to Fa'side from Crookston



## Traprain and Tyne Valley Special Landscape Area 15 Statement of Importance



**Character:** This area is centred on the iconic volcanic outcrop of Traprain Law, set within an historic, rolling, arable landscape within the Lower Tyne Valley landscape character area. The wooded valley of the River Tyne runs through the north of the area providing peaceful scenic area with an abundance of flora and fauna.

**Area:** 2,067 ha

### Overview:

The influence of the iconic volcanic outcrop of Traprain Law extends over much of the area - and beyond - providing contrast and ruggedness to the simple, fertile, rolling, agricultural landscape of mainly prime agricultural land in which it sits. This agricultural land is laid out in arable fields divided by hedgerows with contrasting woodland belts and rocky, igneous outcrops, rising to the distinctive volcanic ridges of Pencaig Hill and Blaikie Heugh, on which sits the Balfour Monument. Views from Traprain, the Balfour Monument and Pencaig are panoramic across East Lothian. Traprain is one of the most important archaeological monuments within Scotland, and its setting is very important to its understanding and appreciation.

The River Tyne, whose course is a central feature of East Lothian, runs east-west to the north of Traprain, first through rolling farmland then the steep gorge of Brae Heads, before gushing (in all but the driest seasons) over the rocks of East Linton Linn. A core path along the northern banks of the river provides easy access to the attractive water body and associated wildlife, passing the designed landscape of Stevenson House, the trees there protected by tree preservation order 57. Further downriver, the route passes restored buildings at Sandy's Mill and the dramatic historic monument of Hailes Castle perched on a steep bank above the river directly north of Traprain Law.

The area is important for recreation with good access to the both the River Tyne and Traprain Law, as well as the visitor attraction of Hailes Castle. Views from this area can be superb, in particular

from Traprain Law, Pencraig Hill and the Balfour Monument whether across the area, across the patchwork of arable fields to the sea, or to the Lammermuirs or Fife Hills.

**Special Qualities and Features:**

1. Though volcanic outcrops are typical of East Lothian, Traprain Law is of a size and form to create a uniquely iconic landform, prominent and unmistakable within the landscape. Its geological importance as a laccolith of trachytic phonolite of calciferous sandstone age, unique in the British Isles is recognised through designation as a SSSI which includes the small outlier of Hairy Craig to its north. It is also an excellent example of a crag and tail formation resulting from Pleistocene glaciation.
2. The underlying geology gives rise to related mineral rich grassland on these volcanic plugs supporting more plant species than any other grassland of its type in East Lothian. Unimproved grassland is a rare and declining habitat within the Lothian area. The site supports a number of uncommon plant species and a unique assemblage of mosses and liverworts. It is known to be the single most species-rich site for lichens in southeast Scotland. The SSSI designation also recognises the value of this habitat.
3. Traprain is important for recreation, being a tempting short climb and a rare expanse of land in the East Lothian lowlands that is not under arable cultivation. There is parking and an interpretation board to the north side of Traprain Law where a path leads you up the 221m to its summit and panoramic views across East Lothian. You are likely to meet the Exmoor ponies grazing on the Law on your way. They are kept here to graze the coarse grass and enable the more delicate wild flowers of the unimproved grassland to thrive again.
4. This meandering section of the River Tyne is typical of the river valley with its surrounding fertile farm landscape of arable fields divided by long-established mixed-species shelter belts. The river itself has a wide tree lined riparian zone identified along its length as a local biodiversity site for its variety of bank habitats. The woodlands along much of its length are native lowland mixed deciduous.
5. The Tyne valley is an attractive, rural, peaceful area, teeming with wildlife. There are many opportunities to view wildlife along the river from the Brown Trout in the river and the Sand Martins nesting in the river banks to the Roe Deer who hide shyly in the surrounding woods and fields. Herons can often be seen fishing in the river and swans often glide past. Buzzards are another common sight and sound as they circle overhead, with several badger setts found in the woodlands and along the river banks. If you are very lucky Otters and Kingfishers may even be spotted. In the summer the banks of the river are covered with an array of wild flowers that change from week to week, followed by the stunning autumn display of the deciduous trees.
6. The river can be dramatic in flood particularly at the East Linton Linns waterfall, rushing over the rock formations and spilling its banks over the surrounding floodplain, and yet in summer provides gurgling waters, surrounded by gently rustling grasses and wildflowers in bucolic surrounds.
7. In a lovely location above the banks of the River Tyne, surrounded by a cluster of trees, sits the scheduled monument of Hailes Castle. The beautifully sited ruin incorporates a 13th century fortified manor which was extended in the 14th and 15th centuries. There are two vaulted pit-prisons. It is highly scenic in views from the north sitting on the banks of the Tyne with Traprain Law rising beyond. It is easily accessible by bicycle on Sustrans cycle route 2, along the minor road to its south and from core path route 33 linking to the core path routes along the north bank of the river, and a great spot for a picnic.
8. Built development within the area is sparse, consisting predominantly of traditional farm buildings and related steadings and cottages, generally located high enough to avoid the flood waters of the Tyne, but in sheltered spots to avoid winds. Housing in this landscape, especially those in exposed locations often have small sheltering woodlands close by, such as at Luggate and Traprain. These mature trees provide variety to the landscape, the colours of the woodland complementing that of the surrounding agricultural fields. Mill buildings had little choice but to

risk the waters, as they drew on the Tyne for power, and there are several of these on this stretch of the river. Sandy's Mill with its preserved water wheel and the cottages form a very attractive group. The groups of red sandstone buildings (many listed) including the traditional East Lothian farm stack chimneys at Luggate, Sunnyside and Traprain appear almost as an organic part of the landscape. The gently decaying buildings at Abbeymill Farm mark the passage of time in an idyllic setting and the medieval Abbey Bridge acts as a reminder of the important medieval nunnery that once stood nearby. Field boundaries are often of local stone, but hedges are also in evidence.

9. Many of the roads (other than the A1 and A199) through the area are single track, or at least rural in character, sometimes bending sharply to follow a field boundary in a way designed more for the pedestrian or horse than the car. The A1 crosses the Tyne with a dramatic bridge, high over the Tyne; this section of the road has good views into the area and beyond.
10. Howkins Wood and Grassland, and Traprain Grasslands across the area between Traprain and the River Tyne are important for their species rich grasslands and are found in areas of the rocky outcrops where farming of the land is not possible. Their botanical interest has been recognised through inclusion in the proposed Local Biodiversity Site.
11. There are many walking routes through the area enabling easy access to this recreational resource, including the Core Path routes 312 from Haddington and 32 from East Linton along northern bank of the entire stretch of the river Tyne through this area. A right of Way links Hailes Castle to the Traprain Law road and another right of way leads from the Traprain Law road to the Standingstone valley to the west of Traprain Law.
12. The Balfour Monument stands on Blaikie Heugh a volcanic escarpment to the south of Traprain Law. It is a red sandstone obelisk dedicated to James Balfour of Whittingehame, erected in 1858 by the officers and non-commissioned officers of the Yeomanry Cavalry of which he was Major Commandant. The location offers spectacular views over Traprain Law and across the Lower Tyne Plain.
13. Pencraig Hill rises steeply to the north, and short path through trees leads to a viewpoint where 180° views generally northwards are shown by an indicator. Views in the opposite direction can be appreciated from the layby.
14. Due to the dominance of scale of Traprain Law there are innumerable viewpoints throughout and beyond the area where the law forms the focal point in the view set within a patchwork of arable fields. There are wider views of the Tyne valley from higher ground notably from the B1347 and A6137 showing the complexity and layers of the landform read with the rising land and woodlands to the south often emphasised by morning mists rising from the Tyne.  
*Historic Landscape – Traprain Environs (See Appendix IV)*
15. The area provides the setting for the Hillfort and settlement on Traprain Law, and contains a large number of prehistoric settlements and other sites. Traprain Law is a Scheduled Iron Age Hill Fort once home to the Votadini tribe. A hoard of Roman silver tableware, thought to be a payment to the Votadini, was found on Traprain Law in 1919. You can see the impressive collection in the Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh.
16. This landscape is probably one of the most iconic and visible in East Lothian and as such is very sensitive to change. There are also a number of medieval and later remains dotted about this area including Hailes Castle. The landscape of this area is best characterised from a Historic Environment point of view by the prehistoric remains. The area is very rich in archaeological remains and monuments and has a high potential for previously unknown sites. This potential has been borne out multiple times.
17. Relict landscape (principally 19<sup>th</sup> century farms and steadings but field patterns may be earlier)
18. Significant views over area from Pencraig Hill and from A1 at Haddington. The flattened bowl which has Traprain Law at its centre is probably the most iconic view in East Lothian. This view is wholly informed by the Historic Environment and has an old world feel to it.

### **Guidelines for Development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the setting or views of Traprain Law or compete with it as a focal point within the landscape. The setting for Traprain Law is wide and could in some circumstances be affected by changes beyond the SLA. It is important in views from the wider area
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the setting or views of the Balfour Monument, detract from its prominence as a feature on the hill top or compete with it as a focal point within the landscape. The Balfour monument is important in views from the wider area
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the setting of Hailes Castle or harm views of the castle from Overhailes and Pencraig Hill
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the open views of across the area in particular from the A1, A199, Sustrans cycle route 76, Core path routes 312 and 32 along the banks of the Tyne, Pencraig Hill, Traprain Law, Blaikie Heugh, and the minor roads at Papple, Luggate, Traprain, Coldale and Mainshill
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the scenic appeal of meandering, generally natural morphology of the River Tyne, and its wooded banks. The Tyne river valley should be maintained as a continuous landscape feature, from Haddington to East Linton. Development that is likely to break up the appearance of the river valley as a continuous feature, or affect access to it for movement of people would harm the area.
- F. Any proposed development must not harm the agricultural character of the area
- G. Any proposed development must not harm the relict farming landscape, including its field boundaries.
- H. Any proposed development must not harm the existing settlement pattern of development of generally small-scale, single-storey, linear and small groups of buildings typical of farm settlements, farm workers cottages and steading conversions and support use of traditional building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings.
- I. Any proposed large farm building development should be carefully sited and coloured to fit within the landscape form and retain the sense of history and character of the area and not harm the setting of Traprain Law
- J. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form and detracts from the natural qualities of the area e.g. wind turbines
- K. Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale rural character of the roads, including characteristic features such as hedges and stone walls and stone bridges
- L. Any proposed development must not harm the integrity and coherence of the historic landscape

### **Potential for Landscape Enhancement**

- i. Reinstatement of lost field boundaries would enhance the appearance of the area.
- ii. Encourage replacement of moribund and lost sections of hedgerows
- iii. Promote replacement of traditional oak and ash field boundary tree lines. Consider alternative species to ash due to effects of Ash Dieback.
- iv. Management and repair of stone wall field boundaries would be supported
- v. Encourage retention and management of deciduous woodlands and shelterbelts. Expansion of some areas of broadleaved woodland along the Tyne is encouraged, though opportunities for views outwards should also be considered, in particular towards Traprain Law, Hailes Castle and Overhailes.
- vi. 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

**Examples of paintings using the Traprain Area as inspiration**



Pastoral Landscape around East Linton  
by W M Frazer circa 1917



Casting for Trout  
by William Darling Mackay circa 1900



Harvesting by Sir James Lawton Wingate

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



The Tyne river valley; folding fields run down to its wooded banks. The A1 snakes down PenCraig Hill



The rural landscape of Traprain Law rising above the plain with the River Tyne in the foreground



The River Tyne and its wildlife



View from Traprain south west across traditional field patterns to the Balfour Monument on the rocky Blaikie Heughs, and further to the Lammermuirs and Pentlands,



Traprain Law rising from the fertile agricultural plain viewed from the Balfour Monument

The Balfour monument sitting on  
The craggy outcrop of Blaikie  
Heugh with the contrasting colour  
of Lawhead plantation behind



The ruins of Hailes Castle on the banks of  
the River Tyne





The Tyne in its steep valley south of East Linton with Traprain Law peaking over the valley side



The Linns waterfall at East Linton



Traprain Law rising from the fertile agricultural plain in the evening sun

Panoramic views from the summit of Traprain Law looking east to Belhaven Bay with the Exmoor Ponies on the Law in the foreground







Panoramic view north from the summit of Traprain Law over rocky outcrops and the Tyne valley to the coast with North Berwick Law and the Bass Rock breaking the horizontal plain

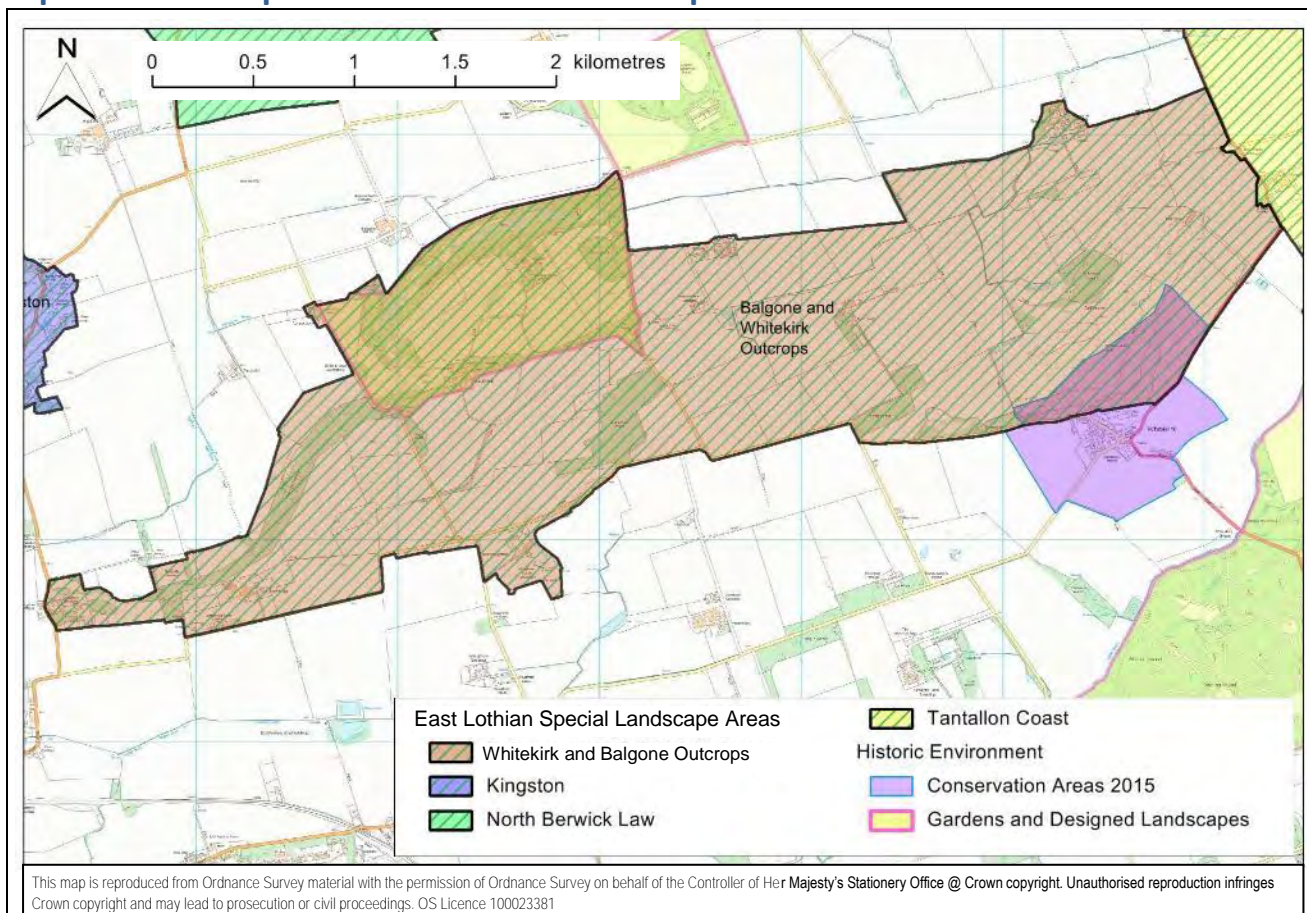


The dominance of Traprain Law within the landscape through the changing of day and seasons.

The humpback whale of Traprain, surely much as the Vodatini would have seen it.



## Whitekirk and Balgone Outcrops Special Landscape Area 16 Statement of Importance



**Character:** A scenic area of the volcanic outcrop of Whitekirk Hill, dramatic wooded landform of the Heughs and cliffs and lake at Balgone, contrasting with the surrounding fertile arable fields.

**Area:** 675 ha

### Overview:

This area follows a band of mainly basalt rocky outcrops running roughly east to west from Whitekirk Hill to Congalton (on the B1347). Whitekirk Hill is a notable landmark in the surrounding area, from which there are long range panoramic views on all sides. The rocky outcrops of Balgone and Rockville Heughs are a notable feature in the landscape. Enhanced by their covering of mature trees they form a significant contrasting element to the surrounding coastal plain. The land surrounding the volcanic outcrops is largely arable, with often small scale fields separated by stone walls (some of which likely come from Waughton Castle) and hedges. The area also includes Whitekirk Golf Course (currently closed) and park land associated with the inventory Garden and Designed Landscape at Balgone.

The John Muir Way, a long distance route from Dunbar to Helensburgh, passes through the area. Becky's Strip, part of a Core Path route 74 north of Whitekirk, is a pretty green lane popular with walkers and horse riders.

### Special Qualities and Features:

1. The linear, basalt outcrops of the Heughs are unusual in the area. The outcrops rise dramatically from the surrounding relatively flat land from Balgone to Congalton, and can reach 15m, creating a significant landscape feature along the northwest section of this area. Gorse clings onto the crags,

providing contrast and seasonal interest. There are bolted crag routes for climbers at the Balgone Heughs. Mature deciduous trees cover the line of the crags with grazing land around the bottom of the crags keeping views open in places. The contrast between the rocky outcrops topped with gorse and woodland with the surrounding rolling arable landscape creates interest and complexity.

2. In addition to the Heughs, there are numerous volcanic outcrop features within the fields to the south and east and the larger outcrop of Whitekirk Hill. All of these show the rock through skeletal soil, which is both a typical feature of the area and unusual within it.
3. The landform between Den Lodge, Balgone, and Gleghornie consists of attractive, gently-folding fields dropping to a channelized watercourse. Another interesting landform is the knobby land around Waughton Crossroads and at Old Waughton where the remains of the Castle still stand. A Local Biodiversity site along the roadside of rare calcareous grassland boasts unusual flowers adding to its interest
4. The natural attractive landform has been added to by design, with the Heughs being incorporated into the designed landscapes of Rockville and Balgone. Balgone is an inventory Garden and Designed Landscape. Here the Victorians used the landform to great effect to provide a dramatic entrance through the rock face to the house contrasted by the manmade lakes along the glacial valley to the north of the Heughs. At one point a carriage drive made its way from Rockville South Lodge along the north side of the Heughs past the lakes to reach Balgone House through the crags. The secluded valley with the lakes of unexpected size, originally formed for curling, with surrounding mixed woodland is highly scenic, with reeds and other wetland plants, and water loving wildlife including a family of swans, which adds to its appeal and generally gives the area a feeling of tranquillity and old worldliness.
5. Mature trees are important in the area, whether as part of the Designed Landscapes, as a setting for built development (such as around Redside, Congalton, Gleghornie and East Craig) or in small areas of woodland such as Craig Wood, Craigmoor Wood, or Whitekirk Covert, as well as along many of the field boundaries. Many of these woodlands also have a well-established flower understorey and Craigmoor Wood is identified as a local biodiversity site important for its native woodland and understorey habitats. The trees and woodlands provide seasonal interest with their changing colours throughout the year.
6. The farm buildings and steadings that lie within this area are mainly traditional in style and materials with red sandstone walls and pantile or slate roofs, and sit quaintly within the landscape. The cottages at Redside Farm cottages are beautifully set in their landform, with their orange pantiles contrasting with the green, brown or golden fields, and providing a focal point in the scene. Other buildings are 'hidden' within landform and trees, such as at Rockville. The Scottish Baronial style has had a clear influence in this area; there are houses with crow stepped gables at Brownrigg and Rockville South Lodge; ornamentation such as the thistle at; Balgone house though of earlier construction has had Baronial style additions. The group of 19<sup>th</sup> century listed buildings at Sheriff Hall have an idyllic, timeless feel, with few signs of modern life intruding. Steading conversions have been done in a sympathetic manner.
7. Some of the roads are single track adding to the rural ambience with the route of the roads following field boundaries with sharp turns at the corners, forcing the driver to keep an eye on the road, and slow down enough for passengers to appreciate the views of and from the area.
8. The area contains remnants of earlier landscapes with the scheduled remains of a prehistoric fort and cairn as well as the remains of the medieval Waughton Castle, all set around the volcanic outcrops. Much of the agricultural field pattern still follows 19<sup>th</sup> century and in places medieval field boundaries, giving fields which are relatively small scale.
9. Views from the area include those
  - a. Of the Heughs and related mature trees
  - b. From and of Whitekirk Hill as mentioned above.
  - c. From The Bratt (minor road from Westgate Lodge to Old Waughton) towards the Lammermuirs
  - d. From the minor road from Congalton to Whitekirk, to the Lammermuirs to the south and to Whitekirk

- e. Traprain to the south, though clearly missing a slice where it has been quarried, can also be seen from the roads in the southern section of the area like a huge whale rising from the ocean, particular impressive on days of temperature inversion

#### **Guidelines for Development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the core agricultural character of the area
- B. Any proposed development must respect and retain the existing settlement pattern of development of generally small-scale, single-storey, linear and small groups of buildings typical of farm settlements, farm workers cottages and steading conversions and support use of traditional building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings.
- C. Any proposed large farm building development should be carefully sited and coloured to fit within the landscape form and retain the sense of history and character of the area.
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the character of the designed landscape and its surrounding parkland and countryside. Prevent development that would impact detrimentally on its historic setting and character.
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form and detracts from the natural qualities of the area e.g. wind turbines
- F. In cases where solar panels are not permitted development they should not be placed on publicly visible roof elevations of traditional buildings or buildings in traditional and historic settings where they would harm the historic nature and scenic value of the area.
- G. Any proposed development must not impact detrimentally on: open views from the minor road from Congalton to Whitekirk and Whitekirk Hill to the east, the Heughs to the north and the Lammermuirs and Traprain Law to the south; views to Waughton Castle; views from the The Bratt (minor road from Westgate Lodge to Old Waughton) south to Traprain Law and the Lammermuirs; open views from Whitekirk Hill.
- H. Any proposed development must not harm the contrast of small-scale topographic diversity and contrast of rocky outcrops and fertile fields.
- I. Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale rural character of the roads, including characteristic features such as hedges and walls

#### **Potential for Landscape Enhancement**

- i. Improve public access
- ii. The heavily wooded nature of the generally unmanaged woodland of the Heughs hides this impressive geological feature from general view. Management of the woodlands could help to open up views to the crags.
- iii. Improve arrangements for incorporating modern elements, such as cars and bins, around traditional buildings.
- iv. Return channelized watercourses to more natural morphology
- v. Seek to secure long term management of key landscape features

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

The Heughs north of Sheriff Hall



Crags and trees create mystery  
Crags create interesting landform



Craggy outcrops framing views



Waighton Castle and Steading, historic field pattern and views south over Traprain





Wildlife on Balgone Lake



Waighton Cross Roads Wildlife Site



Listed building of Balgone House

Scenic views of woods, crags and lakes at Balgone, enclosed views, undeveloped nature





Listed buildings of Sheriff Hall Granary and Cottages – single-storey, stone-built, slate roofs. Farm buildings converted into Homes. Traditional character and sense of history and timelessness



Rolling fields and Craigmoor Wood on outcrop south of Balgone providing unobstructed southerly views to Traprain and the Lammermuirs



Listed buildings of Redside Farm Cottages, single-storey, stone-built, pan-tile roofs set within rolling fields between crags and influenced by North Berwick Law

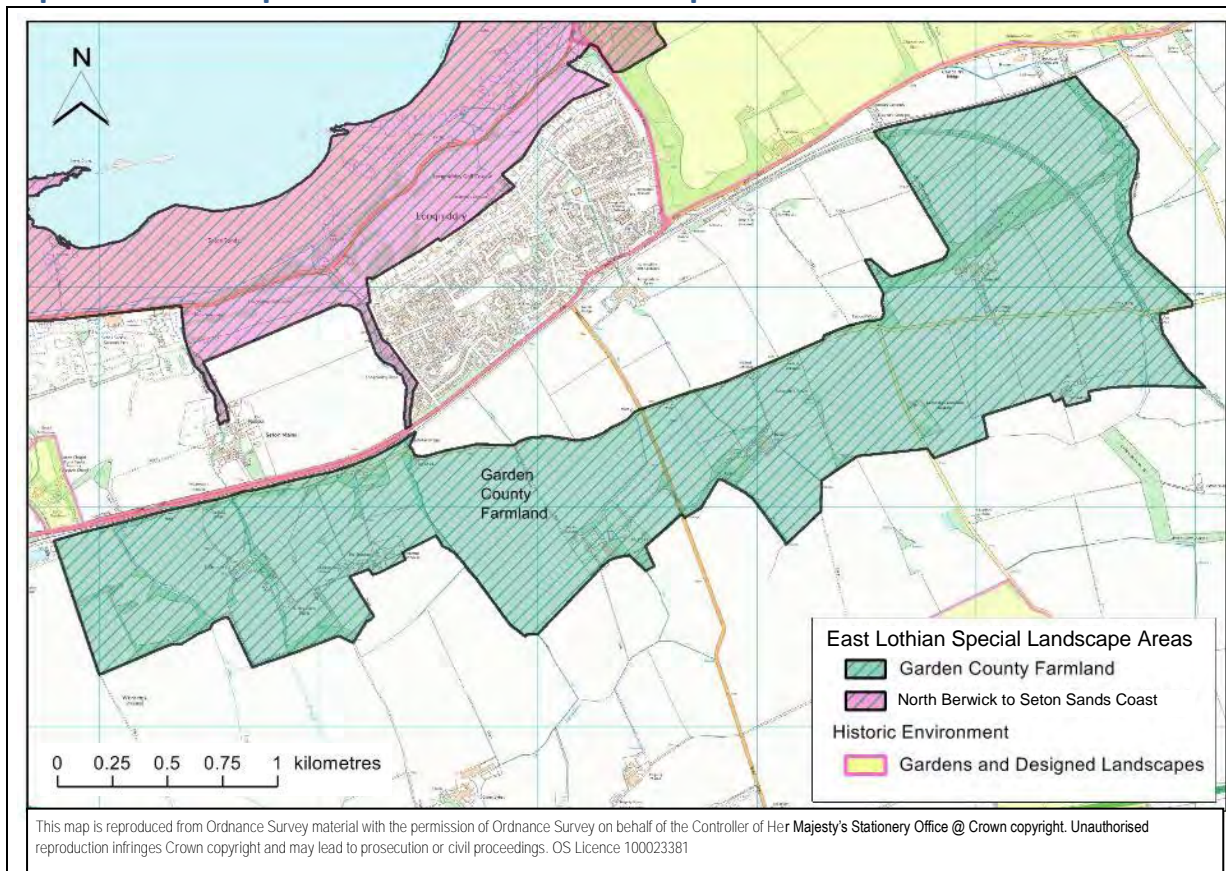
The visual interesting geological features of the Den outcrops at Redside provide landform into which single storey cottages disappear and contrast with the surrounding agricultural land



Volcanic outcrops at Whitekirk Golf Course provide visual interest and contrast with surrounding agricultural land and good views from the tops with Bass Rock in distance



## Garden County Farmland: Special Landscape Area 17 Statement of Importance



**Character:** A traditional area of East Lothian farmland epitomising the agricultural landscape of small estates based around grand estate houses, steadings and small rows of estate cottages. Generally built by merchants who made their money from sources other than farming. The rich prime agricultural landscape of the Lowland Plains has given rise to East Lothian's reputation as the Garden County.

**Area:** 405 Ha

### Overview:

The scenic value deriving from fertile farmland with closely spaced farm/estate houses with added appeal of mature broadleaved woodland changing with the seasons. In addition to its rich agricultural appearance, its proximity to the sea is evident in its coastal quality of light and cloudscapes. Built development here is mainly traditional, with a large 'main' house with associated lodges and smaller cottages, and a limited amount of agricultural buildings generally associated with the main house.

This area is located generally to the south of Longniddry enclosing most of the original lands of 6 main estate farms: from west to east, St Germain's, Chesterhall, Southfield, Redcoll, Wheatrig and Setonhill. The area also includes a part of the Longniddry to Haddington Railway walk an important recreation route and the rugged Redhouse Dean.

### Special Qualities and Features:

1. Gently undulating, broad scale landscape; the core productive farmland typical of the Lowland Plain, and some of the best agricultural land in Scotland. The often deep brown forest soil is laid out in large, open fields generally uninterrupted by built development.

2. Broadleaved woodland shelter belts which are typical of East Lothian are a common feature separating fields and around settlements. The broadleaved tree lined avenues to the main houses such as at Redcoll and Seton Hill are an attractive feature typical of the lowland plain, and woodland associated with estate/farm houses is also attractive. Mature broadleaved trees are also present as specimens along field boundaries. There are some interesting trees within the grounds of St Germain's including a notable Monkey Puzzle tree (*Araucaria araucaria*) and an unusual Handkerchief tree (*Davidia involucre*).
3. There is a pattern of closely spaced estate farm houses with associated smaller scale pantile cottages. This close spacing of estates was possible as the larger houses were often formerly owned by Edinburgh merchants whose income did not depend on farming<sup>1</sup>.
4. Houses both grand and simple are attractive, adding to the scenic appeal of the area. Residential development is confined to traditional farm houses and associated cottages, with conversions to provide smaller scale accommodation at St Germain's, and within the steading buildings at Chesterhall. Farm buildings can add to the scenic quality of the area such as the hexagonal grain store with pantile roof at Wheatrig Farm. Housing generally uses traditional materials with stone and slate for grander buildings and pantiles for more simple accommodation. There is little other built development.
5. Attractive small watercourses form part of the character of the area. Seton burn is tamed and well managed; the Cotty Burn by contrast has a more natural appearance, bubbling through the small scale yet rugged Redhouse Dean, though in fact it has been more managed in the past – a small, sculpted stone pool rests in between trees, at the foot of a pretty waterfall. It has a hidden feel which adds its attractiveness.
6. The Longniddry railway path provides active travel access and recreational value, with a small car park at Cottyburn. There is a right of way from Macmerry to Cantyhall Road (Core Path 13) north/south through Chesterhall and from the B1377 to Setonhill cottages. There are minor roads and informal tracks which provide good access to parts of the area. The minor roads where they are single track add to the rural feel of the area.
7. There are open views north to Redhouse Castle and beyond over rich agricultural land from a viewing bench on the railway walk. There are views of Setonhill Farmhouse from the railway walk and the minor road to the south. Views across the Forth can be obtained from higher ground, as well as towards the Garletons and beyond. Views from around Setonhill house towards the Garletons with the woodland of the railway walk and agricultural fields in the foreground are good.
8. The mature trees and woodland and open fields are important in views of and across the area.
9. Field boundaries are mainly stone, though hedges with mature specimen trees are also used.
10. Although the area is not generally wild – indeed much of its attraction comes from the tamed, farmed environment - however the Redheugh Dean does have some wild land qualities (ruggedness, naturalness of landcover, lack of modern artefacts).

#### **Guidelines for development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the arable character of the area
- B. 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. Some modern vertical elements, mainly telecom masts, detract from the traditional appearance of the area, and should be screened where possible. Careful consideration should be given as to whether these should be associated with traditional buildings as modern structures could adversely affect their appearance. Following field boundaries or using trees as screening/backdrop may be preferred.

<sup>1</sup> According to the Fourth Statistical account of East Lothian, Redcoll and Southfield were then in the ownership of their farmers, while Wheatrig and Setonhill were owned by the Wemyss and March estate, with land at Chesterhall being farmed from elsewhere.

- C. Any proposed large farm building development should be carefully sited and coloured to fit within the landscape form and retain the sense of history and character of the area
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the existing character of the area of a balanced pattern of large houses with associated smaller scale cottages and farm buildings set within arable land and dividing woodlands
- E. Solar panels should not be placed on publicly visible roof elevations of traditional buildings or buildings in traditional and historic settings where they would harm the historic nature and scenic value of the area.
- F. There are no wind turbines in this area however capacity for these would be likely to be quickly reached in this very open landscape as inter-visibility of developments, and the well-settled nature of the landscape, increases potential for significant cumulative effects to occur. The use of turbines of different designs and sizes close to each other should be avoided, as this could lead to visual confusion and a discordant appearance, particularly near other infrastructure<sup>2</sup>.
- G. Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale rural character of the roads, including characteristic features such as hedges and walls
- H. Any proposed development must not impact detrimentally on open views north from the B6363; east and west across the area from the minor road from Redcoll to Coates; and north from St Germain's

**Potential for Landscape Enhancement**

- i. Loss and neglect of traditional field boundaries (hedges, stone walls) and their replacement with more modern alternatives harms the appearance of the area; consideration could be given to re-instating field boundaries that are lost, though it is recognised that this is productive farmland and there are economic and food production reasons for not doing so.
- ii. Signs of previous development such as vertical slopes at Redhouse dean from former quarrying, limestone quarries could be addressed
- iii. Consideration should be given to planting roadside or field boundary trees to replace those coming to the end of their life.
- iv. Promote woodland planting in scale with the landscape character as an advance landscape framework for any future mineral extraction or urban development and seek long term management of key estate landscape woodland
- v. Support for retention and restoration of traditional farm buildings.

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<sup>2</sup> See East Lothian Supplementary Landscape Capacity Study for Smaller Wind Turbines December 2011.

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



The Garleton Hills framed by well-maintained traditional stone and pantile cottages at Setonhill; stone walls are a feature of the area, with the single track road giving a more remote, rural feel despite proximity to major urban development. The pantile roofs are an accent in the blues, greens and golds of sky and farmland



Good views of the Garleton Hills can be obtained from the area with Wheatrig and rich agricultural land in the foreground.



St Germain's Lodge traditional vernacular



Large farm and estate houses are close together; Wheatrig (the buildings to the left of the picture) is around 650m from Setonhill, from where the photo is taken.



Setonhill in the trees to the right of this picture viewed from Wheatrig  
Grand Chesterhall House





View out over the coast from the protected oak tree at St Germain's

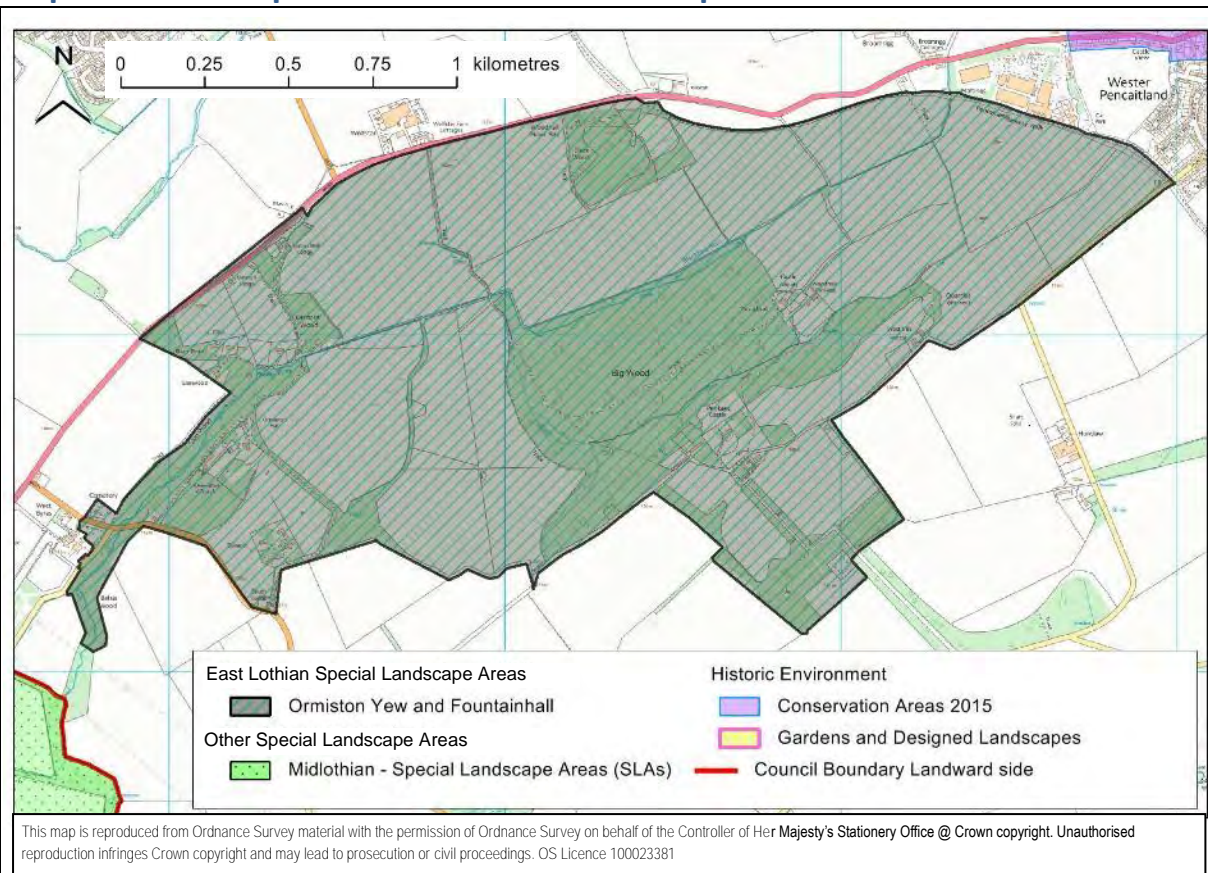


Mature trees around St Germain's



Wooded tracks throughout the area creating enclosure, shelter for farmland and a sense of mystery

## Ormiston Yew and Fountainhall: Special Landscape Area 18 Statement of Importance



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

**Area:** 303 ha

### Overview :

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

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

### Special Qualities and Features:

1. The Ormiston Yew grows to the south of Ormiston Hall, built for local landowner, town planner and agricultural improver John Cockburn in 1745-8. The Yew is a most impressive tree: it is one of few examples of layering yews known in Scotland and is purported to be as much as one thousand years old. The Forestry Commission describe the Yew as having 'a cathedral of arching limbs' - if not a cathedral, it has certainly been a church, with both John

Knox and George Wishart having preached here. There is a strong 'natural world' link to the past: the relatively unchanged area around the Yew means it is possible to imagine the congregation coming in from the surrounding area. The tree is mentioned by SNH as one of 10 notable veteran trees in Scotland<sup>1</sup>

2. Fountainhall (formerly Penkaet Castle) is a Category A listed early to mid-17th century Lairds House, which has been added to over the centuries. Related buildings include two lectern dovecots, stable buildings, steading and cottages. The woodland setting and ruinous buildings give an air of mystery to the area.
3. Woodlands within rolling arable fields are typical of the Mid-Tyne Plain;
4. Both the Glen Wood (around the Belsis Burn) and Big Wood are in deep valleys; they contain a mix of mainly deciduous trees, giving visual variety and seasonal change. Views along the valleys are attractive, both at Ormiston Hall, where the valley is steep sided but the bottom open enough to let light through, and the more dramatic, enclosed valleys of Big Wood. This contains several unusual specimens, including some large Wellingtonias, and has a varied appearance, with some coniferous woodland, some areas of birch and some more mixed sections. The burns at the bottom are small comparative to the valleys, but give an added aesthetic appeal.
5. Built development in the area is sparse and mainly consists of low density housing set within the woodlands. That within the Big Wood consists of a pretty row of cottages and buildings associated with Fountainhall. At Orchard Wood, there are ruins of buildings associated with Ormiston Hall (destroyed by fire in the 1940's); some new development has inventively adapted these into the design. The doocot associated with this house was built with the picturesque idea that buildings should complement their natural environment. Views of the housing within the woods are charming, for example at Penkaet Rig and within and around Ormiston Hall, while views of Penkaet castle are impressive though hard to obtain.
6. The Pencaitland railway path (core path route 72 and Sustrans cycle route 196) forms the northeast boundary of the area. Views from the path are good both westwards to the Pentlands and south to the Lammermuirs, with a particularly picturesque view near Baird's Maltings where the fields of the valley sides within the area form an interlocking pattern of slopes backed by the Lammermuir hills. Sometimes these fields' crops are destined for the adjacent Maltings just outwith the area; the wind rippling through the barley is a particularly appealing sight, and Baird Maltings uses its location in a prime barley growing area in its marketing.
7. There are other good paths in the area including Core Path route 165 to Wolfstar and linking to Ormiston, Core Path route 265 to Fountainhall and the Right of Way from West Byres cemetery to Ormiston Hall which passes the Great Yew. Parking can be found at the Woodhall picnic site on the A6093 at Kiloran and at West Byres to access the area...
8. This area is within the Lothian coalfield and has a mining legacy. The Woodhall Colliery, closed in 1944, is located in Black Wood, where rooks coming to roost are an impressive site. There is an information board on the Pencaitland Railway walk former railway, about the Colliery, and parking and picnic area within the wood.
9. There are panoramic views from the A6093 looking south. There are also good views of the inventory Winton House Garden and Designed Landscape from this point. From the western end of the track along the southern boundary of the area there are fine views across into Midlothian, as well as northwards over the SLA and beyond. The woodland at Fountainhall is important in views across the area.

#### **Guidelines for Development:**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the setting of the landscape and sense of history and timeless quality of the area around the Ormiston Yew and Fountainhall.

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



- B. Any proposed development must not harm the enjoyment or access to the area
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the natural setting of river, woods and farmland
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the core agricultural character of the area
- E. Any proposed development must not harm open views from the A6093 across the area from the core path routes particularly on the higher ground to the east of Big Wood and from the Pencaitland Railway Walk across the area.
- F. Any proposed development must not harm the pattern of arable fields and woodland
- G. Any proposed development must not harm the pattern of sporadic development within the woodland
- 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 and detracts from the natural qualities of the area
- I. Modern development of large farm buildings should be carefully sited and coloured to retain the sense of history and character of the area

**Potential for Landscape Enhancements**

- i. Improve signage to Great Yew
- 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. Consider alternative species to ash due to effects of Ash Dieback
- iv. Seek to support traditional estate management practices to safeguard woodland enclosure features and important boundary walls
- v. 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
- vi. Retain woodland character around housing
- vii. Many old field boundaries have been lost and restoring these would improve the look of the area, though may be impractical with modern farming techniques.
- viii. Bing in the Black Wood, landscaped with trees but still there (2012)
- ix. The railway walk continues to Ormiston - the A6093 is fast here, and crossing a bit unnerving.

*Photographs of special features and typical elements*



Glorious autumn colours of the woodlands



Rolling arable landscape surrounded by woodlands





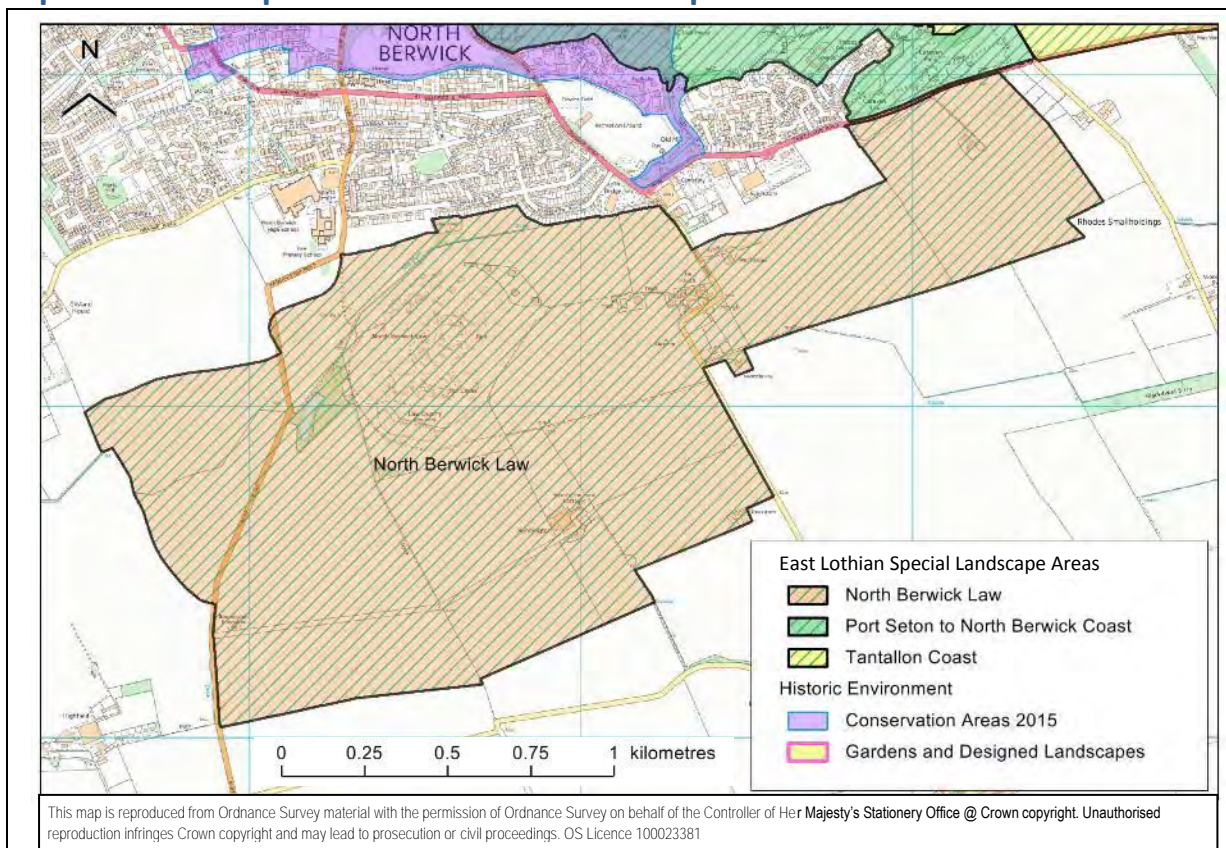
Housing within the woodlands at Fountainhall



The great Ormiston Yew



## North Berwick Law: Special Landscape Area 19 Statement of Importance



**Character:** This area is focussed on the dramatic conical hill of the volcanic plug feature of North Berwick Law with its crag and tail feature. Its wide visibility sitting above the coastal plain makes it important for scenic value and sense of place of North Berwick, as well as for recreation, wildlife, cultural association and archaeology.

**Area:** 257 ha

### Overview:

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

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

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

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

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

The John Muir Way runs to the west of the Law, with fine views of the Law approaching from either direction, but particularly the south. This route passes a car park off the B1347, from which there are paths both to the top of the Law and around its base. The cliffs on the north are very steep and a former quarry (winning the brownish stone used in buildings in North Berwick) is located to the south. There also is an informal path around the Whisky Bottle reservoir. North Berwick Law is a Marilyn, one of the Relative Hills of Britain<sup>1</sup>.

#### **Special Qualities and Features:**

1. North Berwick Law is a distinctive landmark feature over much of the coastal plain as well being visible across the Firth of Forth in Fife and the Lammermuir Hills to the south. The Law with its easily identifiable conical form and crag and tail feature to the east contributes greatly to North Berwick's sense of place.
2. The area is a valuable recreational resource both to local people and visitors from further afield. The Law itself is well used (and baggable in certain circles) and the John Muir Way which passes to the west is part of a nationally promoted long distance route.
3. The open plain farmland and marsh setting of the Law allows appreciation of the feature, rising suddenly and steeply from the surrounding land, its ruggedness contrasting with the cultivated farmland below. The golden yellow of the gorse and grey exposed stone of the Law and the woodland foliage around the Whisky Bottle reservoir contrasting with the crops of wheat or barley waving in the wind. Bright blue skies or the top of the Law sitting in cloud adds an additional scenic dimension to the area.
4. There is little built development, other than historic, on the steep slopes of the Law. There is an attractive row of traditional cottages at Thorntree though and further cottages associated with the sturdy farmhouse at Bonnington (which also has an amusing farm sign, one of several similar in East Lothian) which may have been built from the brown stone of the Law, providing a link between the built and natural environment. These clusters have small groups of trees sheltering them, reflecting the exposed location and creating a focal point in the farmland. Housing at The Heugh is of a somewhat different appearance; although generally built from the stone of the Law their pantiled roofs contrast with surrounding fields when viewed from the Law. The scale and agricultural appearance of the housing relates to the agricultural use of the area. The Heugh doocot gives a focal point in the open field to the south.
5. Field boundaries generally consist of hedges with hedgerow trees, patchy in places with a limited number of stone walls.

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

6. The scenic waterbody of the Whisky Bottle reservoir, hidden in trees at the foot of the Law is a surprising find in an area generally lacking in water features, the Law being stony so shedding rainfall quickly to the base. There is a walkway around the reservoir allowing for views in.
7. There is a relationship between the Law and the volcanic islands of Craigeith and the Bass Rock in the Forth, with views of all three allowing the viewer to imagine a previous volcanic landscape.
8. Views out in all directions are excellent, especially along the coast. To the north the hills of Fife and beyond as far as the Cairngorms are visible over the Forth and Forth islands, westwards lies the Forth Bridges World Heritage Site beyond farmland and coast, to the south the Garleton Hills and Lammermuirs, rise beyond the coastal plain. South-eastwards are views to Tantallon, Dunbar and cliffs at Thorntonloch and St Abbs. This is a great place for watching cloud shadows chase across farmland, and the ever changing coastal skies and light of the Forth, which can add drama and dynamism to the view

*Historic Landscape – North Berwick Law*

9. The setting for North Berwick Law Hillfort (large amount of prehistoric remains both upstanding and cropmarks)
10. Historic relationship between North Berwick Town and the Law. North Berwick Law has affected the development of North Berwick since at least medieval times. The Law was (and to a certain extent still is) a prominent marker that has been used as a navigational aid both from the sea and the land. North Berwick to Fife by ferry is well known pilgrimage route
11. 360 degree viewpoint from the Law – remains of historic use of this viewpoint still evident including a Napoleonic watch house and World War 2 lookout.

**Guidelines for Development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the open views from the Law
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the Law as a landmark crag and tail feature, both in close and distant views or compete with it as a focal point within the landscape and development that would visually diminish its apparent size avoided
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the setting of the Law rising steeply from the surrounding land, including the ice-sculpted indent to the north, west and south
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the recreational value of the Law
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the sense of naturalness and wildness qualities of the area
- F. Any proposed development must not harm views of the Law in particular from the John Muir Way, A198 and B1347
- G. Any proposed development must not harm the integrity and coherence of the historic landscape

**Potential for Landscape Enhancement:**

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

*Photographs of special features and typical elements*



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



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



Aerial view of North Berwick Law

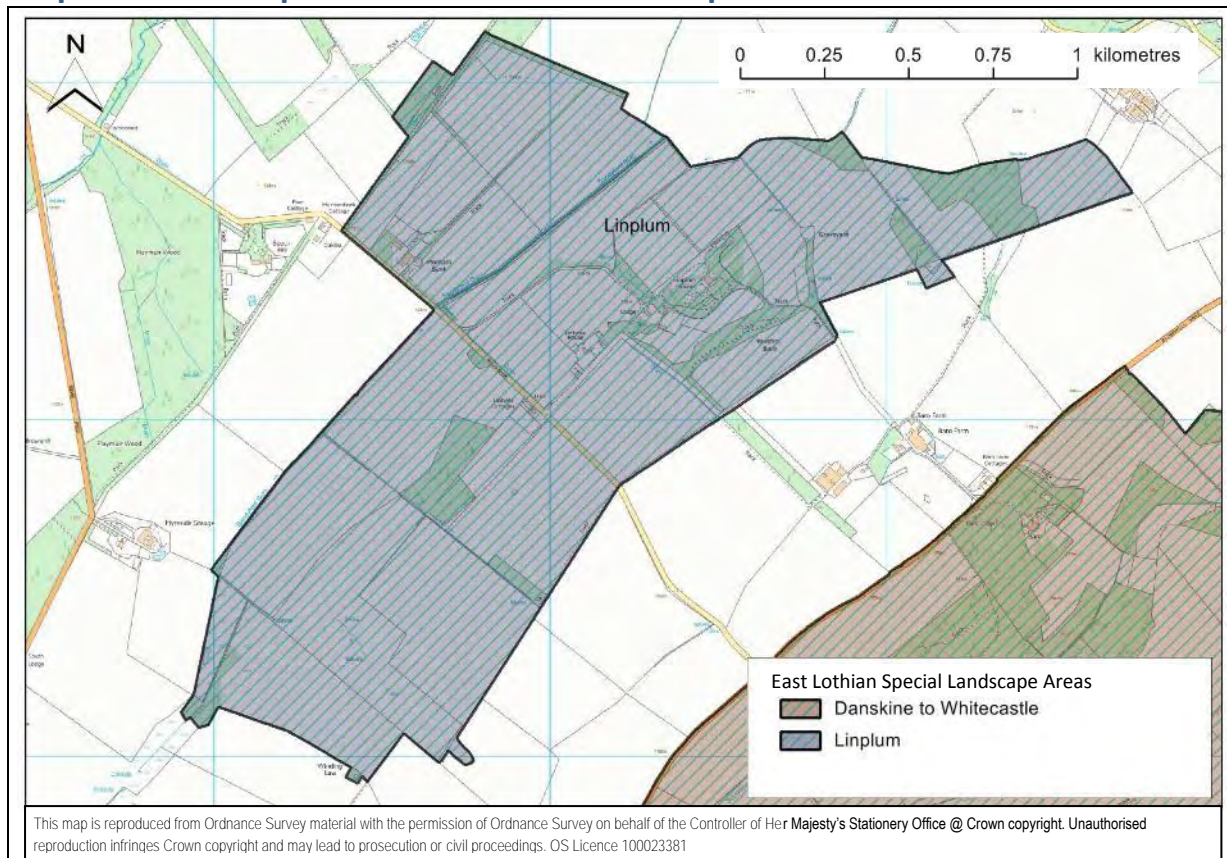


The heavily wooded reservoir at the west side of the Law with the Law rising beyond the trees

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



## Linplum Special Landscape Area 20 Statement of Importance



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

**Area:** 239 ha

### Overview

This small area is centred the flat bottomed Sandyford Burn valley whose steep southern slope is formed by the Dunbar to Gifford fault. The bedrock is near/or at the surface in the south of the area, giving occasional craggy outcrops such as at Winding Law. Evidence of past movement of ice eastwards is clear in the E/NE alignment of the main channel and many smaller mainly perpendicular meltwater channel tributaries<sup>1</sup>. These small steep sided valleys give the area a complex and interesting topography, especially around Linplum. Some water filled holes in the area are likely kettle holes, remnants of the retreating ice. There is a height difference of around 100m from valley floor to ridge; the steep slopes are enough to create a sense of enclosure whilst also enabling some tremendous views out, particularly to the north and west.

This is a diverse area with a mixture of pasture and productive arable farmland as well as swampier ground on the valley bottom and mature mixed woodland shelter belts, the agricultural use responding to the variability in quality of the underlying soil. The area includes Linplum House and grounds – a gem of a place identified as a locally designated Garden and Designed Landscape. To the north Morham Bank, which retains the traditional farm 'chimney', is associated with the author

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



Peter Kerr, it being the second East Lothian farm to be owned by his family. He mentions in his book 'Thistle Soup' that the ground here was much less fertile than their previous farm in the Garletons.

### Special Qualities and Features

1. The main valley is an attractive and intricate landform. A concentration of glacial drainage channels running into the main valley formed by movement of ice give it its somewhat unusual and varied form<sup>2</sup>. The landform can be appreciated looking into the area particularly from the north east where it frames the view from the Traprain area, and from the west looking across from Myreside and the B6369 Gifford Road.
2. Strong visual diversity from a varied, productive and colourful arable farmland often seen in interlocking folds, with cows often in the valley bottoms and adjacent fields, the agricultural use responding to the underlying geology with pasture on poorer soils. Mature woodland is also a feature of the area, with some large field and roadside trees, as well as mixed woodland around Linplum and in shelter belts, and scrubby wetland trees around the Sandyford Burn. There are also some areas of coniferous woodland.
3. The historic field pattern is relatively intact with a combination of boundary treatments including attractive stone walls and hedges, though post and wire fencing is also used. The stone walls often light coloured due to the lichen, showing a lack of pollution and the age of the walls.
4. Some watercourses, including the main Sandyford Drain, appear to have been canalised, though the flat valley floor remains defiantly marshy. Although the straight lines of these works do not appear natural the drains are generally shallow, typical of the area, and are improved in appearance by the scrubby trees which have been allowed to grow at the margin.
5. Built development is sparse - the area was more populous in former times than it is now. Built development consists mainly of substantial farm houses (including Peter Kerr's Morham Bank) along with a smattering of attractive traditionally styled cottages. The few more modern agricultural buildings are well screened.
6. The house and grounds of Linplum form a gem within the centre of the area: Linplum is a substantial home in Scottish Baronial style, set on the north facing slope, framed by established woodland with a pretty understorey of spring flowers at Yewshot bank. There is a good view of this house from an informal tree trunk seat within the woodland to the north of the area (at grid ref. NT 54910, 71080).
7. The abandoned Bara kirkyard, relic of Bara Kirk, to the east of Linplum contains mossy-covered fallen stones surrounded by the traditional yew, as well as copious daffodils and snowdrops. This kirkyard is a quiet spot that well illustrates the passage of time.
8. There are good walking routes through the area, although some a bit marshy in places especially after wet weather; Core Path route 358 from Renton Hall to Beech Hill runs along the northwest boundary of the area through varied woodland, while on higher ground to the south of the area there is a breezy track from Winding Law to Linplum. At Linplum House itself there are attractive informal tracks through the woodland.
9. Views out of the area from higher ground are good, especially from the Winding Law track, which has an open outlook across East Lothian to Fife, the Pentlands and beyond, as well as across the East Lothian plain including the landmarks of Traprain and North Berwick Law. The closer Garleton Hills and Lammermuirs are also in view. There is also a fine view of Traprain from around Bara kirkyard.
10. There are good views into the area from the B6369 Haddington to Gifford Road to the west as well from the area to the west of Traprain around Morham Mains.
11. Seasonal change is evident in woodland and crops; tree lined rural lanes such as at Mag's Bank, where the turning of the year is evident in the change in trees and hedgerows from

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<sup>2</sup> See 1

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

12.

#### **Guidelines for Development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the sense of scale of the valley or appreciation of the pattern of the various meltwater channels in considering any development
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale secluded visual character derived from the well-planned mature woodland framework
- C. In cases where solar panels are not permitted development they should not be placed on publicly visible roof elevations of traditional buildings or buildings in traditional and historic settings where they would harm the historic nature and scenic value of the area.
- D. Any proposed development must not harm views from the path from Winding Law to Linplum and from the Core Path route from Renton Hall to Myreside
- E. Any proposed large farm building development should be carefully sited and coloured to fit within the landscape form
- F. Any proposed development must not harm the agricultural character
- G. Any proposed development must not harm the focal points of Linplum House or the Winding Law outcrop
- H. Any proposed development must not harm the setting around the Bara Fallen stones to prevent impacts on their air of gentle decay

#### **Potential for Landscape Enhancement**

- i. Promote replacement of traditional oak and ash field boundary tree lines. Consider alternative species to ash due to effects of Ash Dieback
- ii. Look to re-instate original field boundaries and retain the small scale field patterns
- iii. Seek to support traditional estate management practices to safeguard woodland enclosure features and important boundary walls
- iv. When the opportunity arises look to re-structure coniferous plantation/shelter belts
- v. Increase access routes through the area

**Photographs of special features and typical elements**



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



Rolling contrasting fields and woodland



Morham Bank Farmhouse



Linplum House set within trees



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



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



View out towards Haddington and the Garleton Hills



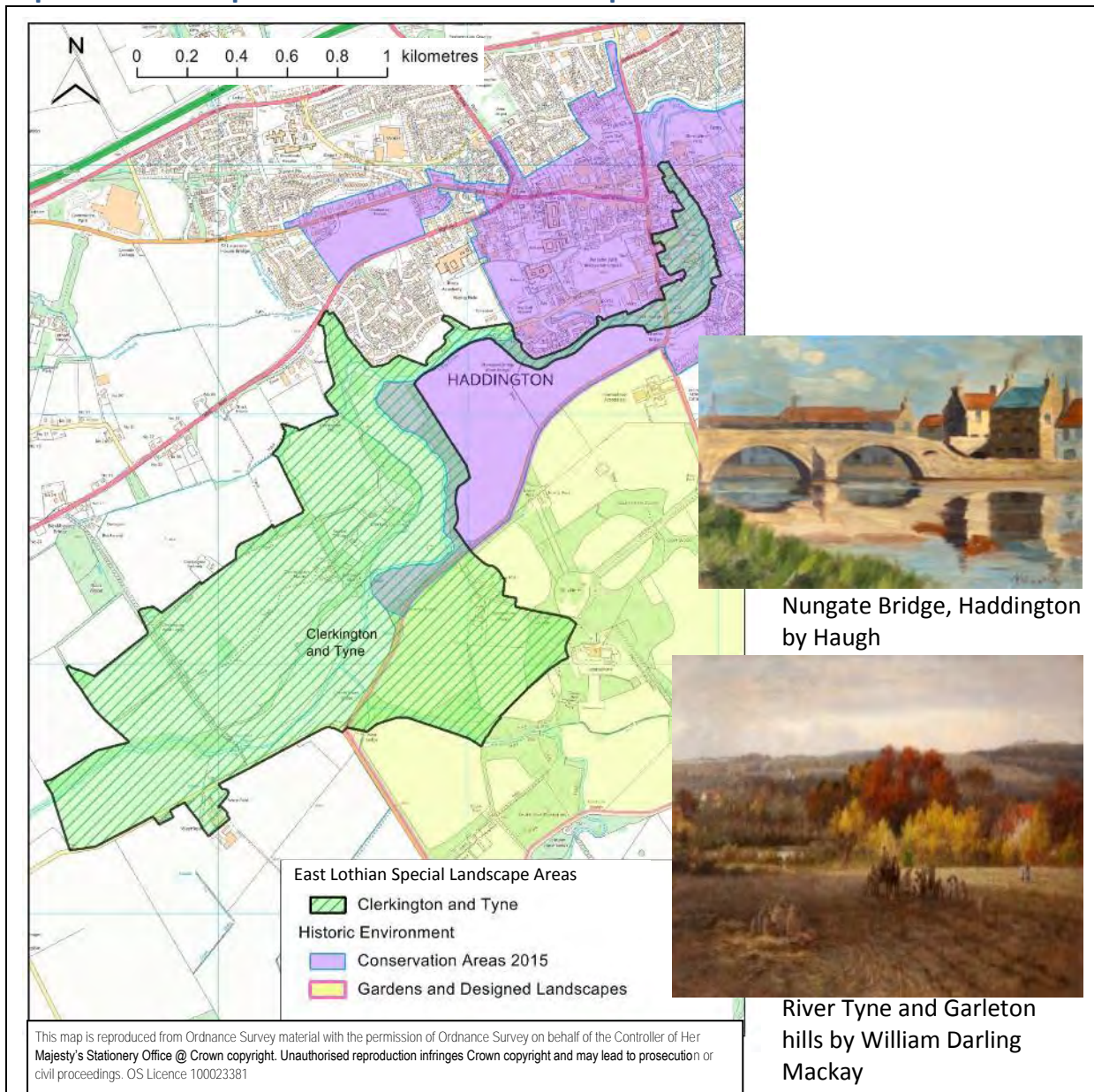
The raised area provides panoramic views out across East Lothian.



View across the hill slopes to the snowy Pentland Hills



## Clerkington and Tyne Special Landscape Area 21 Statement of Importance



**Character:** A central area of the wide Tyne floodplain set within the Mid Tyne Plain. A picturesque, bucolic, rolling countryside with an abundance of both flora and fauna, of traditional and natural character, with high local scenic value and good recreation access around the setting of the River Tyne together with the historic heart of Haddington.

**Area:** 201 ha

**Overview:**

The River Tyne runs along the wide spreading Mid Tyne valley, between the established estate landscapes of Clerkington and Lennoxlove before passing through the historic heart of the traditional county town of Haddington. It is an area important for recreation with good access to the river and its surrounding area. A peaceful area with much wildlife allowing an easy escape from the pressures of modern life. Areas of woodland within the Clerkington Estate are protected by tree preservation orders. The woods to the northeast are protected by tree preservation order 107 (20)

Clerkington and the woods around Clerkington West Lodge are protected by tree preservation order 72 highlighting the importance of the trees for the visual amenity of the area. The eastern part of the area overlaps with the Haddington Conservation Area along the river corridor showing the overlap between designations and the importance of the area for both the setting of the Town and wider amenity value. Trees here are also protected by a tree preservation order 84 – Briery Bank.

**Special Qualities and Features:**

- 1) This section of the wide spreading Tyne river valley is typical of the valley with its surrounding fertile farm landscape of a mix of arable fields and pasture land divided by long-established mixed-species shelter belts. The river itself has a wide native tree-lined riparian zone along much of its length and is identified as a local biodiversity site for its variety of bank habitats. The river meanders gently through the pasture land at Grants Braes; but can be dramatic in flood, spilling over into the surrounding floodplain – sometimes even into town. Yet in summer it provides gurgling waters, surrounded by gently rustling grasses and wildflowers in bucolic surrounds.
- 2) The Tyne valley is an attractive, rural, peaceful area, teeming with wildlife. There are many opportunities to view wildlife along the river from the Brown Trout in the river and the Sand Martins nesting in the river banks to the Roe Deer who hide shyly in the surrounding woods and fields. Herons can often be seen fishing in the river and swans, ducks and other waterfowl are a familiar sight along the river. Buzzards are another common sight and sound as they circle overhead, with several badger setts found in the woodlands and along the river banks. If you are very lucky Otters and Kingfishers may even be spotted. In the summer the banks of the river are covered with an array of wild flowers that change from week to week, followed by the stunning autumn display of the deciduous trees. The setting of the river to the west of Haddington is strongly defined by the raised rolling landform of the arable land to the Clerkington and Lennoxlove Estates. The open fields of the Lennoxlove Estate with traditional red roofed agricultural buildings and enclosing woodland to their south provide scenic value and enclosure, framing views along the valley.
- 3) The designed landscape of Clerkington, although not an inventory designed landscape and missing its main house, provides a strong scenic setting for Haddington from the west, set on a ridge above the floodplain of the river Tyne with its surrounding policy parklands. The parklands around the river still contain a number of the historic trees of the designed landscape, providing focal points in the flat floodplain, though some appear to be reaching the end of their lives.
- 4) To the west of Clerkington the area surrounding the river is defined by arable fields surrounded by long-established mixed-species shelter belts. These provide a feeling of history and enclosure whilst allowing long distance views south and west across the arable fields of the spreading mid-Tyne plain out to the Lammermuir Hills to the south.
- 5) The walk along the river banks through Haddington is highly scenic, offering attractive views and sounds of the water from its rushing over the weirs for the historic mills, now no longer using water as power and in places turned into housing, through the shallower openness of the East and West Haugh flood plain spilt by the Waterloo Bridge, with the steep bank and trees of Brae Head to its south, around to the historic heart containing St Mary's Parish Church, 16<sup>th</sup> century Nungate Bridge, Waterside Hotel and the small designed landscape of St Mary's Pleasance set within its high stone walls.
- 6) St Mary's Parish Church in a beautiful setting on the banks of the Tyne is the longest parish church in Scotland. The red sandstone building with imposing tower was started in 1375 and was partially destroyed during the 1548-49 Siege of Haddington, indeed bullet holes and even the impact damage from a cannon ball can still be seen on the church today. The plain-glass leaded east window was also extensively damaged in 2001 by the collapse of a major limb from the mature copper beech growing within the church grounds, but recently felled due to concern over further failure. The church is now fully restored and new trees planted.

- 7) Mature trees frame the length of the riverside walk with common limes beside the walls of Mill Wynd, commemorative coronation trees at West Haugh, including a huge 180 year old horse chestnut tree, and nine common lime trees adjacent to Ball Alley, which are supposed to represent the nine trades of Haddington and link the Nungate Bridge to the eastern entrance to St Mary's Parish Church. Together these trees are important in providing a setting for Haddington especially in views from the south. The mixed group of trees at Grants Braes provides a sense of enclosure for the Tyne plain, as well as marking seasonal change.
- 8) There are many walking routes through the area enabling easy access to this recreational resource, including the Core Path routes 339 along the Tyne to the west of the area linking to Samuelston, 118 linking Westfield to the Pencaitland Road crossing the Tyne via Westfield Bridge, 340, 475, and 476 following the road between Clerkington and Lennoxlove and passing the Well and site of the House where Agnes Broun (Robert Burns' mother) stayed and 260 along the north bank of the river Tyne from Clerkington to the Nungate Bridge
- 9) Sustrans Cycle Route 11 passes through the area east to west along the valley.
- 10) There is parking and public access as well as an interpretation board at Grant's Brae also a popular spot for people fishing.
- 11) The woodlands and river have been a draw for generations of children and are important for natural play in this countryside location close to the large settlement of Haddington.
- 12) There are views in all directions usually framed by mature tree belts providing a sense of history and long-establishment. There are many attractive local views within the woodland and along the river, the water providing a constantly changing scene. Some specific views include:
  - a) The Garleton Hills frame the area to the north visible beyond Clerkington Mill from the higher ground to the north of Clerkington Stables and framed between the shelterbelts at Clerkington Kennels.
  - b) The Lammermuirs provide the horizon when looking south from the higher ground at Clerkington Kennels and West Lodge, where there are long range views southwest over the Mid Tyne Plain.
  - c) The view from the pedestrian bridge across the Tyne at Westfield to the west of the area looking east provides an scenic bucolic view of the meandering river set within the floodplain and fields of cows framed by the woodland at Clerkington to the north and rising land and woodland of Lennoxlove to the southeast with the contrasting colours of the arable land, pasture and woodlands and accent of the red farm buildings.
  - d) The view from Victoria Bridge to the northeast of the area looking south along the river provides a view through the historic centre of the town taking in the Nungate Bridge to St Mary's Parish Church framed by trees

**Guidelines for Development:**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the core agricultural character of the area
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the pattern of arable fields and shelter belts
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the character of the Clerkington designed landscape and the surrounding countryside and avoid development that would impact detrimentally on its historic setting and character
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form and detracts from the natural qualities of the area e.g. wind turbines and large farm buildings
- E. Any proposed large farm building development should be carefully sited and coloured to fit within the landscape form and retain the sense of history and character of the area
- F. Any proposed development must not harm the existing settlement pattern of development of generally small-scale, single-storey, linear and small groups of buildings typical of farm settlements, farm workers cottages and steading conversions and support use of traditional

- building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings
- G. Any proposed development must not impact detrimentally on open views of the River Tyne and across the agricultural plain particularly from core path routes 118 and 260, the B6368 and the minor road to Samuelston.
  - H. Any proposed development must not harm the sense of naturalness and wildness qualities of the area.
  - I. Any proposed development must not harm the enjoyment or access along the River Tyne nor harm the natural setting of river, woods and farmland.
  - J. Any proposed development must not harm the functioning and appreciation of the natural floodplain of the River Tyne

**Potential for Landscape Enhancement:**

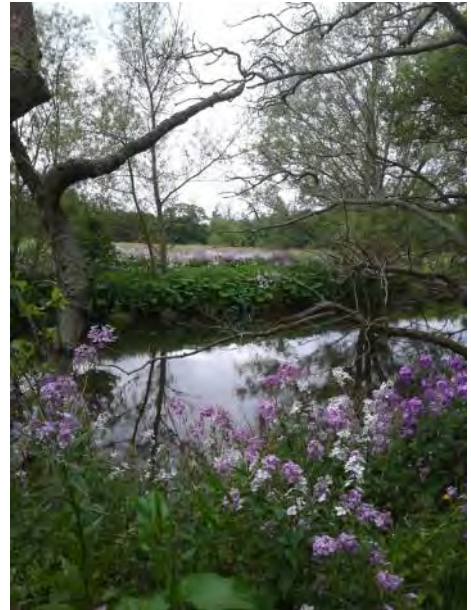
- i. To retain the natural setting and important recreational resource along this section of the River Tyne – replacement planting for trees lost on the south bank of the river between Brae Head (near Briery Bank) and Long Cram is important for the attractiveness of the river walk
- ii. Management of shelter belts and plantation woodlands 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
- iii. Woodland management to remove coniferous plantings from policy woodland areas and replace with mixed coniferous and broadleaf woods.
- iv. Seek to support traditional estate management practices to safeguard woodland enclosure features and important boundary walls
- v. Seek to safeguard future management of important broadleaf woodland elements – estate policies, riparian fringes, shelterbelts
- vi. Maintain field boundaries and avoid further amalgamation of fields
- vii. Maintain, improve and increase walking / cycling access through the area.
- viii. Formalise viewpoint at Westfield Bridge and consider picnic areas



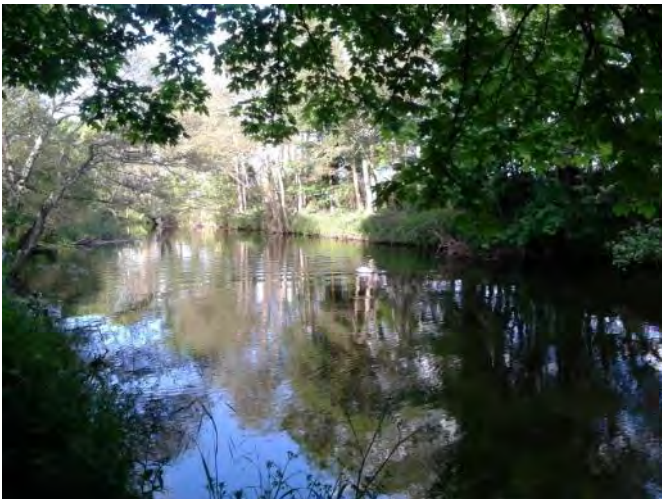
**Photographs of special features and typical elements**



Spring flowers along the river banks



Swans disturbing the reflections on the Tyme



Bucolic valley at Westfield with the blue summer sky reflecting off the water, the cows wandering the fields and the red roofs of Lennoxlove a feature in the distance



Changes in season provides constant variety

Autumn leaves melding with the red roofs and warm stone of the buildings and reflecting in the water

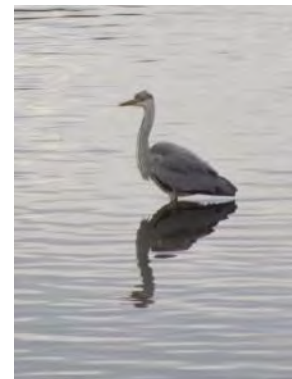




Long distance views from higher ground over fertile arable fields divided by shelter belts and the chequer-board pattern of the Mid-Tyne plain to the Lammermuirs and Lammer Law to the south



Historic heart of the Nungate Bridge, Lady Kitty's Dooct and St Mary's Parish Church



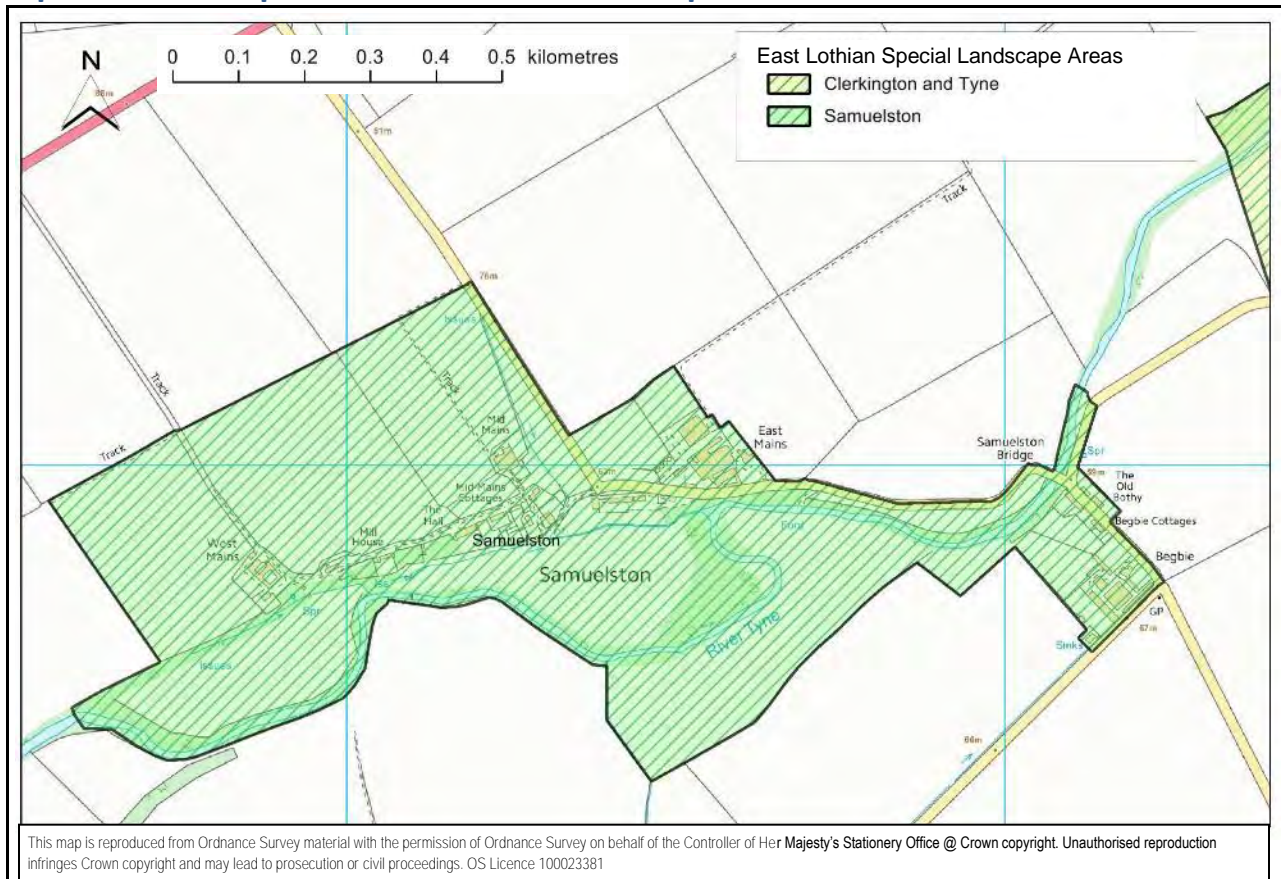
Heron



Enclosure by the surrounding rising landform, buildings and trees at Lennoxlove



## Samuelston Special Landscape Area 22 Statement of Importance



**Character:** Samuelston is a particularly picturesque historic agricultural settlement set on the banks of the meandering River Tyne in the bucolic, rolling countryside of the Mid Tyne Plain, with an abundance of both flora and fauna, of traditional and natural character, with high local scenic value and good recreation access.

**Area:** 58 hectares

### Overview

A traditional and sympathetically restored agricultural settlement set on the gentle slopes of the River Tyne in the agricultural heartland of East Lothian. The area includes fields to the west of West Mains and north of Samuelston, as well as fields to the north of Samuelston Bridge and to the south of the River directly west of Begbie to provide a sense of the setting of the settlement.

### Special Qualities and Features

1. Arable fields set around the shallow valley of the River Tyne is typical of the Mid Tyne Plain, with characteristic farmland birds; warblers, finches and yellowhammers in hedges in the summer, lapwings and golden plover calling in fields in winter.
2. The well-maintained, traditional, small-scale buildings, including Begbie Steading which is still in agricultural use, are typical of the vernacular of the Mid Tyne Plain and agricultural East Lothian in

general. New development has successfully retained the character of the older buildings.

3. The River Tyne, is a central feature of this area, as a scenic water body providing sound and movement, as well as a home for wildlife. This includes trout and nesting sand martins, and if you are lucky, otters and kingfishers. The banks of the river are well treed, with an attractive array of wildflowers that change from week to week, followed by the stunning autumn display of the deciduous trees. As you walk through the area, Roe Deer and Hares can often be disturbed from their hiding places in the woods and surrounding fields.
4. Colour contrast is striking here, with the orange red of pantile roofs contrasting with the varied crops of the arable fields and trees. Trees along the old mill lade and within gardens also add to the scenic appeal.
5. The open nature of the Tyne valley allows scenic views into the area across arable land to the south, and from the higher parts of the area over the Tyne basin to the Lammermuir hills and foothills; there are also views to the east to Traprain Law.
6. The listed stone road bridge joining the settlement on either side of the Tyne is an attractive focal point.
7. Core Path route 338 is proposed to follow the route of the established Samuelston to Jerusalem Burn right of way along the north bank of the Tyne providing recreational access through the area and linking Samuelston to the larger settlements of Haddington to the east and Pencaitland to the west.
8. Sustrans Cycle Route 11 passes through the east end of the area.

#### **Guidelines for Development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the agricultural character of the area
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area and setting of the settlements of Samuelston and Begbie by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and traditional nature of the landscape form and detracts from the natural qualities of the area e.g. wind turbines
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the existing settlement pattern of development of generally small-scale, single-storey, linear and small groups of buildings typical of farm settlements, farm workers cottages and steading conversions and support the use of traditional building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the setting of the Samuelston Bridge
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the sense of naturalness and wildness qualities of the area
- F. Any proposed development must not harm the enjoyment or access along the River Tyne nor harm the natural setting of river, woods and farmland
- G. Any proposed development must not harm the functioning and appreciation of the natural floodplain of the River Tyne
- H. Any proposed development must not harm the open views of Samuelston from the minor road from the A6093 to Samuelston Bridge and from core path route 338.
- I. Any proposed design and materials of road signage and street furniture must not harm the historic and picturesque character of the settlement and must retain its individual identity
- J. Any proposed large farm building development should be carefully sited and coloured to fit within the landscape form and retain the sense of history and character of the area

#### **Potential for Landscape Enhancement**

- Improve public access

- i. Seek to safeguard future management of important broadleaf woodland elements – estate policies, riparian fringes, shelterbelts
- ii. Management of woodlands 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
- iii. Maintain field boundaries and avoid further amalgamation of fields

### Examples of paintings using the Samuelston Area as inspiration



Swans in the Village Stream  
By unknown



Summer's Evening with Figures Haymaking  
By William Darling Mackay before 1924

*Photographs of special features and typical elements*



Buildings of vernacular architecture



Samuelston in its arable valley setting with the Lammermuirs to the south

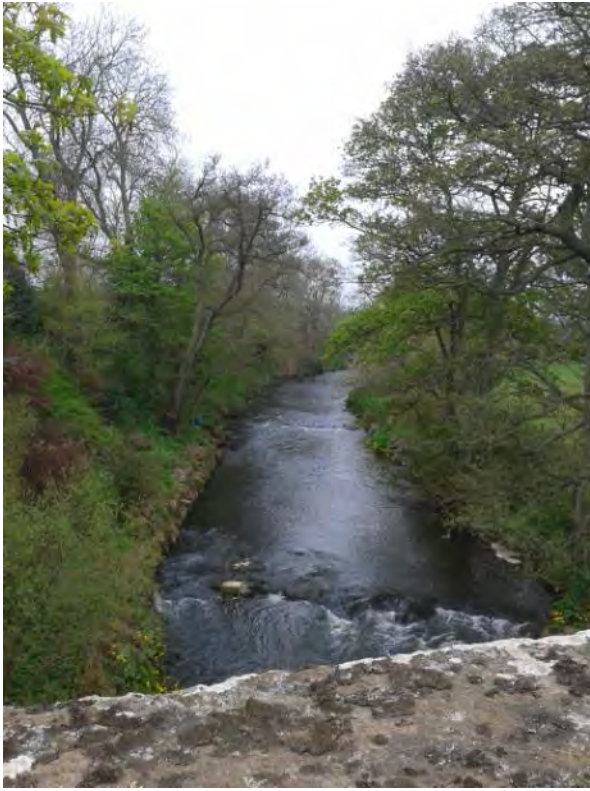


Well maintained farm buildings both old and new



Snow drops on the banks of the River Tyne





Shy Roe deer

The stone category b built listed Samuelston Bridge over the River Tyne

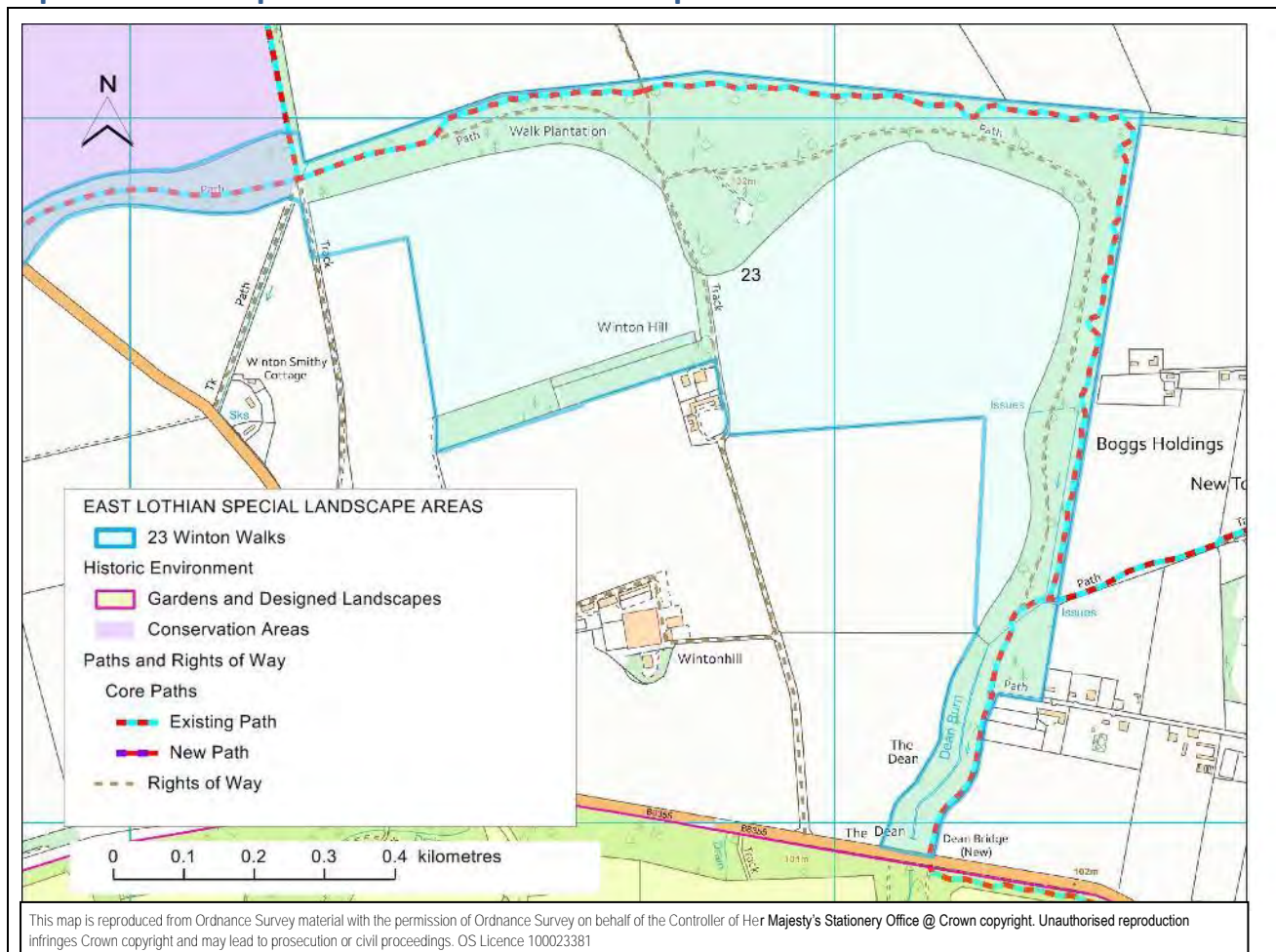


Begbie in its rural setting with buildings set traditionally onto the road



## Winton Walks

### Special Landscape Area 23 Statement of Importance



**Purpose:** This small, designed area of mixed species woodland shelter belts and enclosed fields is important for recreation with the raised elevation offering fantastic panoramic views across East Lothian and beyond. The woodland provides structure and interest in views of the area and shelter for walking.

**Area:** 57 ha

#### Overview:

The Winton Walks SLA consists of mixed species woodland shelterbelts located on the ridge of the Winton Hill set within the Winton Estate. It also includes fields to the south and west providing a wider setting for the woodlands. The Winton Estate surrounds large parts of Pencaitland and New Winton, and extends towards Macmerry, and the estate has created a network of over 12 miles of walks within this area. This elevated section is an important part of this recreational network. The central part of the Winton Estate is included on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes; although lying outside the central core of the designed landscape the Winton Walks SLA relates to that of the designed landscape and the estate as a whole.

The area included in the SLA is prominent in the wider landscape due to its elevation in relation to surrounding land; this prominence increases the importance of this area.

#### Special Qualities and Features:

1. Woodland strips providing shelter between fields are a typical feature of the core of the agricultural Mid Tyne Plain, with those here being particularly wide and extensive. The rhythm of alternation between woodland and rolling arable land is important in providing structure, contrast



and interest to the landscape, changing with the seasons, in an area that is widely visible due to its elevation. The woodlands are well-managed and comprise a mix of species and ages, and include areas of native woodland planting. There is established woodland understorey giving a mature attractive feel to the area.

2. The woodlands provide an attractive setting for recreation, laid out and way-marked by the Winton Estate as part of a pleasant network of walking, cycling and horse-riding routes. The woods offer protection from the elements allowing enjoyment in all weathers and appreciation of seasonal variation as well as an element of seclusion which is not found in more open areas. General lack of built development gives the area a 'countryside' character in an area relatively close to large areas of population and built development. Several points of interest have been added along the main walk through the area. These include wooden carved African women, marking miles from the Sinclair Bridge (outwith the area), intended to reflect the distance walked by many for water on a daily basis.
3. The raised elevation on the brow of the hill enables stunning wide-ranging views across and out of East Lothian. There are some viewpoints which have benches to allow seated appreciation of the views, at Arthurs View, James View and an unnamed point just north of Wintonhill Cottages at grid ref. NT 43825, 70688. There are also some fine views looking east from the path north of Wintonhill Cottages.

Views include:

- a. Far views over the Firth of Forth and Fife to the north across rich arable fields
- b. East over wide agricultural fields to the Garleton Hills
- c. West over the Esk valley, Elphinstone Ridge, Edinburgh, Arthurs seat and the Pentlands
- d. South across arable fields giving open views across the remarkably wooded seeming scoop of the Tyne Valley and onwards to the long, blue Lammermuir Hills

#### **Guidelines for Development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the pattern of alternating arable fields and woodland
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the arable character of the area
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the enjoyment or access to the area or undermine and damage the natural setting of woods and farmland
- D. Any proposed development must not harm open views out of the area in particular as identified in Special Quality and Feature No. 3 above
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the appearance of the area in wider views particularly as a backdrop to the Winton designed landscape and the Tyne valley

#### **Potential for landscape enhancement**

- i. Retain alternation of woodland strips and arable lands
- ii. Retain and improve field boundary hedgerow network
- iii. Management of shelter belts and plantation woodlands 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. Maintain public walking / cycling access

**Photographs of special features and typical elements**



Arthurs View – fine views across the Forth to the Fife Hills

**The yellow green of young woodlands**

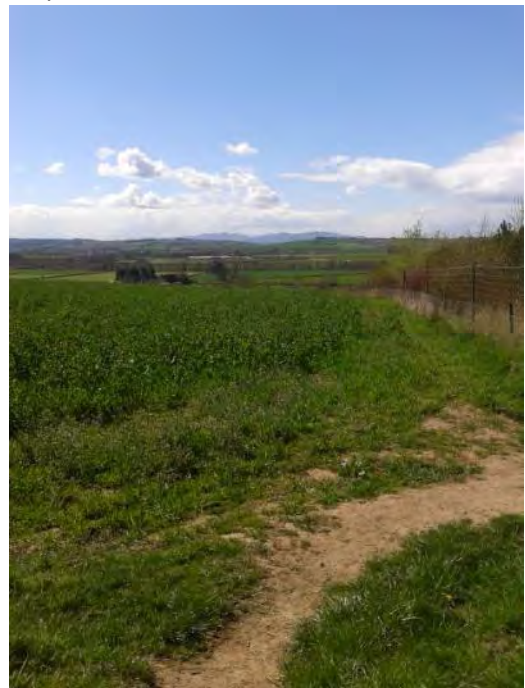


cc-by-sa/2.0 - En Route To Winton Hill by Rude Health - geograph.org.uk/p/4453434

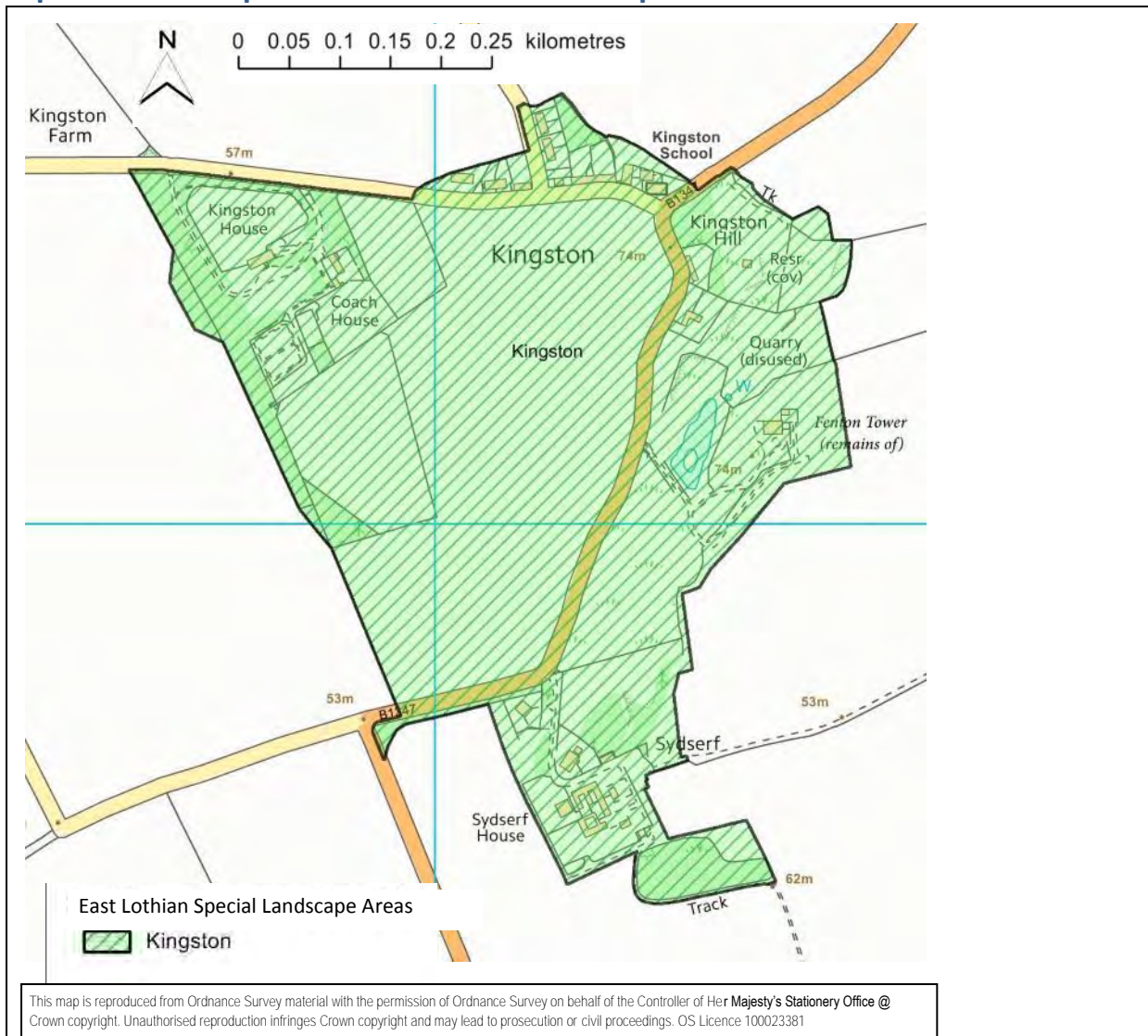


One of several points of interest added to the walks

**Open views south west to the Pentlands**



## Kingston Special Landscape Area 24 Statement of Importance



**Character:** A scenic raised area of volcanic outcrop with restored historic tower house and a picturesque small traditional settlement with associated large estate house and grounds and traditional farmhouse with panoramic views to the south.

**Area:** 30 ha

### Overview:

Kingston is a traditional settlement with the old school house to its east end and the estate farmhouse and associated landscape to its west end.

Kingston's raised location allows for superb wide ranging views particularly to the south across the coastal plain of East Lothian to the Garleton Hills and the Lammermuirs and Pentlands beyond. It is a historic area with Sydsarf, Fentoun Tower and King Seat all marked on the Blaeu map of 1654 and Kings Seat shown on the Herman Moll map of 1745.

To the east of the area is a large volcanic outcrop with skeletal soil running from Kingston Hill in the north to Sydsarf to the south. This provides a dramatic, gorse-covered, rough, raised area in this already elevated location and has been used for the siting of the category A listed Fenton Tower.

Kingston Hill is also the site of a scheduled ancient monument of multi-period cemetery from the Bronze Age through to the Middle Ages.

The early nineteenth century farmhouse of Kingston House together with its wooded estate landscape, stables, summer house and walled garden provides an established boundary for the area to the west and the restored seventeenth century lairds' house of Sydserf in its wooded, craggy setting encloses the area to the south. The field to the south of the cottages along the main street through Kingston has been included within the area to ensure retention of the setting of the settlement and views to the south.

**Special Qualities and Features:**

1. Picturesque single storey vernacular cottages with pantile roofs and white rendered walls set directly onto the roadside. Many of the cottages have been preserved with limited alterations and retain their traditional charm and character as well as names identifying their original uses such as School House, Smithy Cottage and Forge End.
2. Raised large rocky volcanic outcrop providing a striking area of contrast to the surrounding arable land with its dramatic gorse covered slopes and rough land and scrubby trees with cottages set into the lee of the slope with a real sense of hunkering down against the elements and respecting the topography - yet with tremendous views over the plain.
3. Kingston Hill is the site of a scheduled ancient monument of a multi-period cemetery of over three thousand years of intermittent use from the Bronze Age through to the Middle Ages, with a large number of graves spread across the top and sides of the knoll. Most burials were found contained in stone-lined long cists and there are traces of a building dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> century. Historic Environment Scotland note that the monument is of national importance as a well-preserved site with a particularly long-lived history of use and the site has the potential to enhance current knowledge of ritual and funerary practices over a long period of time.
4. Fenton Tower is an a-listed magnificent fortified traditional tower house dating from circa 1775 set on the raised ground of Kingston Hill above the 'laich' which adds to the scenic setting of the tower. The location has been used as a site for a castle since the 11<sup>th</sup> century as it affords panoramic views in all directions. Now completely restored and providing holiday accommodation, the tower is probably best known as Archie's castle in the BBC children's series Balamory. Its elevated position and off white rendered walls makes it a conspicuous focal point from the surrounding coastal plain.
5. Sydserf House, a distinctive crow-stepped and lime-washed a-listed restored 17<sup>th</sup> century T-plan two-storey lairds' house sits prominently to the south of the area. The house was probably the seat of the Sydserff family from the late 15<sup>th</sup>- century until around 1700. The steading to its east has been sensitively converted into residential accommodation keeping its character with pantile roofs and half-dormer windows. Sydserf is separated in views from Fenton Tower by mature trees on the craggy outcrops surrounding the house to the northeast adding to the scenic quality of the area.
6. The early nineteenth century b-listed farmhouse of Kingston House with its pretty c-listed stables is set within a wooded estate landscape to the west of the area.
7. The area has retained a traditional field pattern with small scale fields enclosed by stone walls.
8. The raised location of the settlement allows for superb panoramic views from the small parking area to the south of the cottages over the surrounding countryside including the coastal plain to the Garleton Hills.
9. The woodlands at Sydserf and around Kingston House are mature established deciduous woods adding interest and shelter to the area and breaking up the arable plain providing contrast of colour and form.

**Guidelines for Development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the agricultural character of the area.

- B. Any proposed development must not harm the sense of place of the character, landscape setting and identity of the settlement of Kingston. Large, modern development, out of scale with the existing buildings would adversely impact the landscape character of the area.
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale secluded visual character derived from well-planned mature woodland framework around Kingston House and Sydserf.
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the existing settlement pattern of development of large houses within wooded grounds and short rows of generally single storey cottages onto the roadside and support use of traditional building materials including harling and pantiles and slates, with limited sandstone and traditional components and styles of design in new buildings.
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the setting or views of Fenton Tower, detract from its prominence as a feature on the hill top or compete with it as a focal point within the landscape.
- F. Any proposed development must not harm the existing character of the village and the surrounding countryside.
- G. Any proposed development must not harm the open views south across the agricultural plain particularly from the parking area to the south of the cottages at 15 and 16 Kingston and from the B1347

**Potential for Landscape Enhancement:**

- i. Electric poles intrude on views to the south and would benefit from re-routing, in particular up the hillside to the north of Kingston Smithy.
- ii. Modern development including the installation of solar panels on the front elevation of the roofs of the traditional cottages detracts from the history and character of the area.

*Photographs of special features and typical elements*



Former stone built school house



Traditional cottages and old school along street with modern solar panels detracting from the historic nature and scenic value



Cottages on the B1347 set into Kingston Hill outcrop with Fenton Tower behind





Fenton Tower and Laich



Fenton Tower on the outcrop of Kingston Hill



Pink rendered Fenton Tower

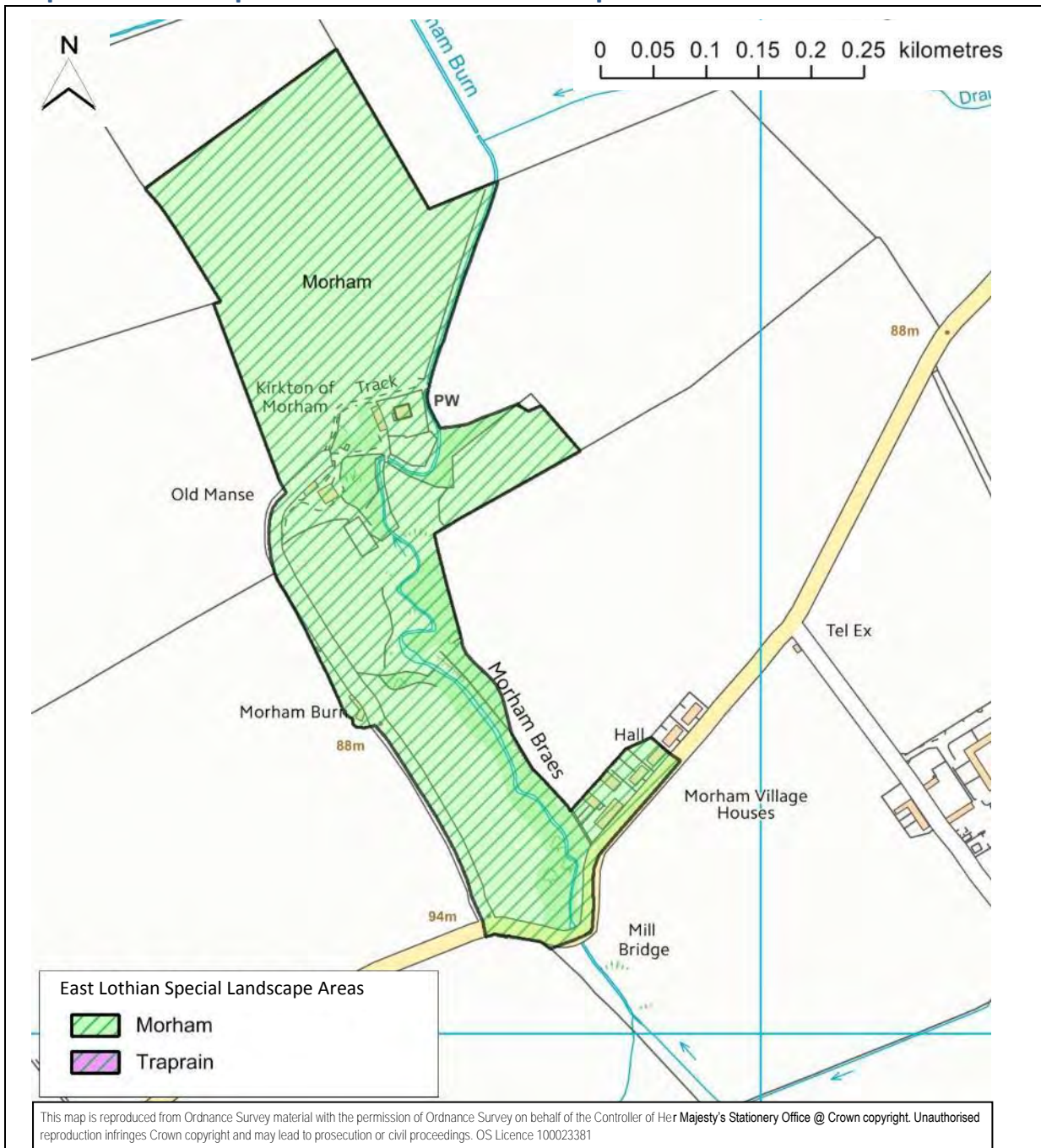
White rendered Sydsarf House with converted steading



View south to the Garleton Hills



## Morham Special Landscape Area 25 Statement of Importance



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

**Area:** 15 Ha

### Overview:

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



includes the older parts of the hamlet of Morham, and an area of farmland in front of the Church.

### **Special qualities and features**

1. The steep valley through which Morham burn falls and meanders contains mature mixed woodland of Morham Braes which provides visual variety and contrast within the surrounding arable land, changing with the seasons. The wilder nature of the upper burn area merges into the more tamed mature woodland of the large garden of the old manse and road side trees, then opens out into farmland below, providing visual diversity in contrast with surrounding arable fields
2. Built environment and setting: the stone and slate Morham Kirk is beautifully set within the landscape, as the land begins to rise from the very flat area to the north it is framed by the wooded valley. The neutral greys of the Kirk contrast with the colours of its landscape setting; greens in summer giving way to reds, oranges and yellows in autumn. Views of the kirk are particularly good from the right of way from Northrig; the churchyard is also interesting to explore. The Morham Burn house on the lane down, contrasts with the mature woodland behind and arable land surrounding it, and is a focal point in views from the west and south. The single track lane to the kirk adds to the traditional ambience. The stone bridge over Morham burn is also attractive.
3. Old stone walls lining the roads and stone buildings, and the use of traditional materials such as slate and pantiles in the older buildings add to the aesthetic appeal
4. Newer development within Morham respects traditional form in that cottages and the village hall are kept low and face the road although they do not use traditional materials.
5. Core Path route 31 from Morham Old School to Northrig follows the eastern edge of the woodland above Morham Braes, before dropping down to the kirk and continuing along the north-western boundary. The path gives good views of Morham Kirk and Braes as well as Traprain Law and the Lammermuirs
6. Morham's history as a 'lost village' gives the area a mysterious, wistful air. Morham was once a much larger settlement. The main buildings of the original village remain – Old Manse, Kirkton of Morham and Morham Bank, marked on early 19<sup>th</sup> century maps as the old school house, though the majority of the housing and populace have now gone

### **Guidelines for Development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale secluded visual character derived from well-planned mature woodland framework
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the sense of place of the character, landscape setting, identity and traditional appearance of Morham
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the setting of the Kirk and Morham Burn building and the approach to the Kirk along the single track road
- D. Support the use of traditional building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the setting and sense of the lost village by prevention of infill development in the area of the Old Manse, Morham Burn and Kirk
- 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 form and detracts from the natural qualities of the area
- G. Any proposed development must not harm the open views from core path route 31 both into the area towards the kirk and out of the area towards Traprain Law
- H. Any proposed design and materials of road signage and street furniture must not harm the historic and picturesque character of the village and must retain its individual identity

**Potential for Landscape Enhancement**

- i. Signage of the core path route could be improved
- ii. If the opportunity arises undergrounding or re-routing the overhead power lines would be beneficial to avoid an impact on the setting of the Kirk and Morham Braes
- iii. Management of woodlands 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. Maintain stone field boundaries and avoid amalgamation of field

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



Morham Kirk in its wooded setting linked with the surrounding landscape by the use of stone



Morham Burn with Traprain Law beyond

Arable setting of Morham Kirk with Traprain Law in the distance

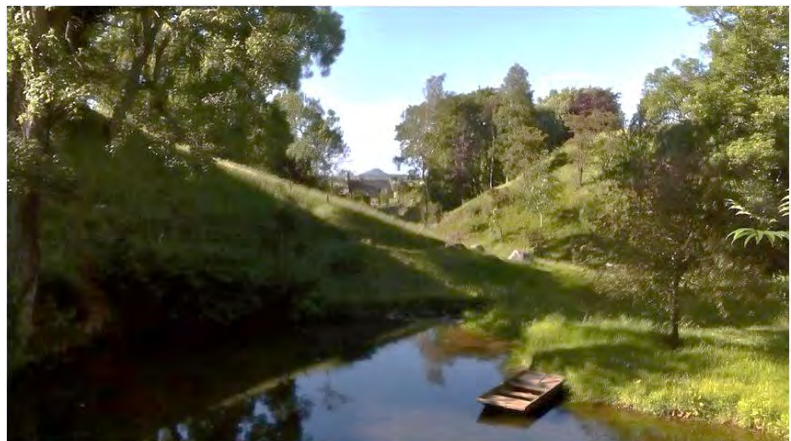




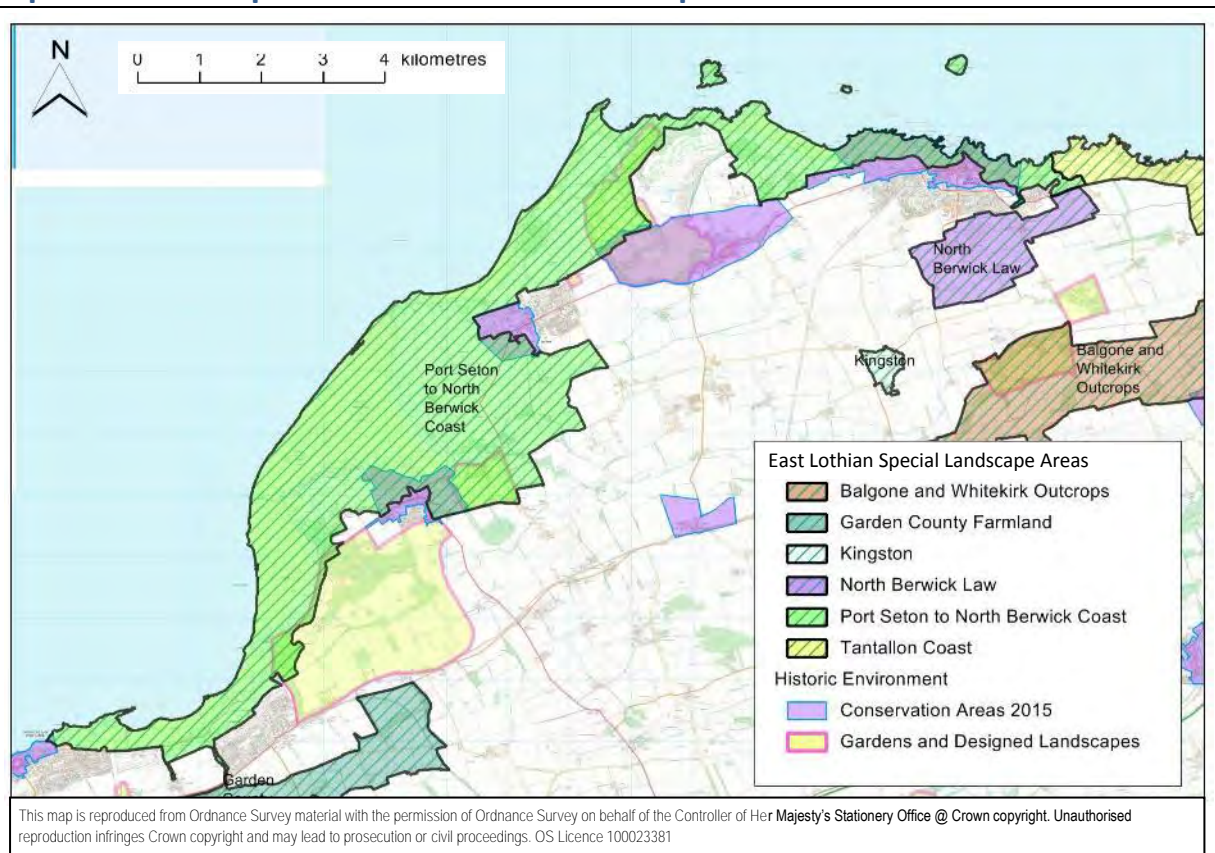
Autumnal shades in trees at Morham Braes sitting with the Lower Tyne Plain  
Morham Village Houses from the north with Morham Braes to the west



Morham Burn through Morham Braes  
viewed from the core path



## North Berwick to Seton Sands Coast: Special Landscape Area 26 Statement of Importance



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

**Area:** 2,573 ha

### Overview:

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

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

Designed Landscape frame the area.

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

Wildlife abounds in the area. Aberlady Bay is important for its wild fowl and wading birds – the majority of the coast between the high and low water forms part of the Firth of Forth SPA and SSSI due to its importance in providing habitats for wintering populations of waterfowl of both European and international importance. The thousands of geese coming in to roost at Aberlady Bay at dusk over the winter is a spectacle worth viewing. The islands of Craigleith, Fidra and The Lamb form part of the Forth Islands SSSI and house large colonies of nesting sea birds in spring and summer including colourful puffins. The award-winning Seabird Centre, inventively designed as a birds wing to perfectly reflect its function and site, has live action cameras which allow a view of the island birds without disturbing them. Other wildlife can be seen in person from butterflies in the dune grasslands, to seals sunning themselves on the rocky shore to the invertebrate life in the rock pools and gannets diving into the waters for fish.

The large estuary of Aberlady Bay provides both a coherent historic area as well as an important area for nature. Its protection as a local nature reserve makes this the least developed section of this coastline. Its low-lying nature extends the influence of the coast inland at this point to include the arable land around Saltcoats Castle to the south of Gullane. Coastal grassland habitat is also important in this area, recognised by designation as a Local Biodiversity Site at Gullane Bents, where the SSSI does not reach. The coastal flowers there and at Yellowcraig are pretty.

The extensive links and dunes round Gullane provide an ideal landscape for links golf courses with six golf courses found between Aberlady and North Berwick. The dunes including rare mobile dunes back onto long stretches of sandy beach at Gullane, Yellowcraig and North Berwick. Rocky shore can also be found in stretches along the coast providing visual and geological interest.

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

#### **Special Qualities and Features:**

1. Much of the aesthetic appeal of Aberlady Bay is in its open landscape/seascape and feeling of “wildness”. This distinctive estuary contains saline alluvial soil, rare in Scotland. It was designated as Britain’s first Local Nature Reserve and a Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1952, due to its botanical, ornithological and geological interest. The aim of the Reserve is “**to conserve the geomorphological and physiographical features, the habitats, flora and fauna found within the Reserve and the resultant landscape character**”.
2. Aberlady Bay Local Nature Reserve represents the most extensive complex of sand dune, saltmarsh and mudflats in South-East Scotland. It also contains a wide range of associated habitats, particularly calcareous grassland and freshwater marsh; and supports a large variety of plant species with many Scottish and local rarities. The main ornithological interest of the Reserve relates to the site’s national or international significance as a feeding and roosting area for wintering wildfowl and waders, and its regional importance for several breeding species.
3. The birdlife of the whole area is an important part of its character. The many geese, sea and wading birds frequenting this area make it a regular haunt for bird-watchers, particularly at

Aberlady Bay. The islands support colonies of seabirds, particularly puffins, while Aberlady Bay attracts up to 30,000 migrating geese in the autumn. The outdoor experience is complemented by the visitor attraction the Seabird Centre in North Berwick and the Scottish Ornithological Club headquarters at Waterston House, Aberlady.

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

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

12. The seascape and relationship with the marine area is a vital part of the scenic appeal of this area. Coastal views westwards can be funnelled up the Forth towards the Forth Bridges World Heritage Site, the smooth plain of the Forth contrasting with the highly textured land. Eastwards, views are towards the open sea, with a seascape composed of islands, coastal sandy bays interspersed with low headlands, containing rising land in both East Lothian and Fife, and some open views out to the North Sea. The busy shipping lane of the Forth adds colour and interest.
13. There are many excellent views over the coast and Forth Islands as well as towards Edinburgh and Fife from much of the area, with strong intervisibility. It is a heavily photographed and painted area. By day the coastal light brings changes; at night the lights of Fife sparkle across the Forth. This area has been widely identified as containing important views in the public consultation. Particular viewpoints identified in the public consultation include:
  - a. the coast from Gullane Hill, Aberlady Bay and Kilspindie,
  - b. Yellowcraig beach towards Fidra,
  - c. North Berwick beach and harbour,
  - d. The approach to North Berwick from the east looking towards the Law,
  - e. view from the golf course over North Berwick, and
  - f. the view north from Greywalls.
14. The area is important for outdoor recreation. The John Muir Way snakes along the coast mainly within the area. There are several links golf courses, which are characteristic of coastal lowland Scotland, many offering players great views across the Firth of Forth. The beaches are popular with families, walkers, horse riders and others. The sea off Gullane beach and Longniddry Bents is particularly good for surfing, wind surfing and kite surfing. This recreational use adds to the scenic appeal of the area their brightly coloured boards and sails contrasting with the surrounding natural environment of blue sea, golden sand, and green of sea buckthorn, whilst the white spray kicked up by their boards enhances appreciation of the energy and power of the sea. .
15. The area has qualities of wildness. The offshore islands here, the most notable of which are Fidra, Craigleith and Lamb are among East Lothian's most remote areas. The sand dunes and mud flats of Aberlady Bay estuary provide natural groundcover and a lack of artificial elements. The shore itself provides elements of wildness and Jamie's Neuk, Archerfield and Gullane all score highly on SNH wildness mapping. Despite the busy shipping lanes and views of development in Fife parts of the shore still have an elemental feel such as the expanse of Aberlady Bay with wide sky openness. The sea itself has an elemental feel – a brisk north-easterly can quickly whip up the waves and occasional storms over the Forth are a reminder of nature's power. Sometimes a haar will roll in from the sea, approaching like moving wall to blot out the sun.
16. There are many opportunities to view a myriad of wildlife along the coast from the many sea birds to seals on the shore and deer and badgers in the coastal woodlands to invertebrate life in rock pools and under rocks.

*Historic Landscape – Aberlady Bay*

17. This is a very diverse area in terms of the historic environment, with a high density of archaeological remains. Remains present include virtually every archaeological and historic period. This area has numerous Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings associated with it. There are also a number of inventory gardens and designed landscapes within and bordering the area. There is a significant amount of industrial and WWI & II remains present

along the coast. Medieval settlements of Eldbottle and Kilspindie are located within the area together with the remains of Kilspindie and Saltcoats Castles. The area is very rich in archaeological remains and monuments and has a high potential for previously unknown sites. The area of Aberlady Bay is an area of particular historic importance providing a coherent area of historic wrecks and medieval harbour, Kilspindie Castle and WWI remains.

#### **Guidelines for Development**

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



**Potential for landscape enhancement:**

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

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

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

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



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



Gullane Links, evening  
by Patrick William Adam



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



Driving the Herd  
by William Darling Mackay circa 1900



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



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

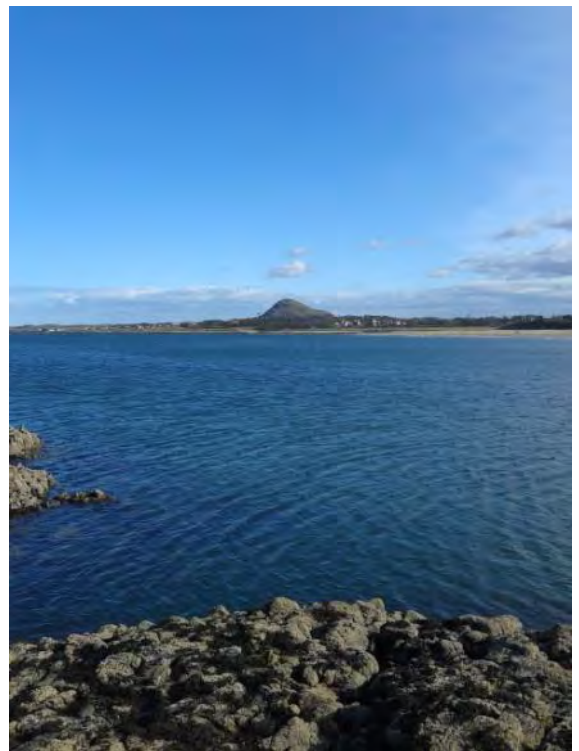
**Photographs of typical elements and special qualities**



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



Fidra across the sands and rocky foreshore at Yellowcraig



Yellowcraig to North Berwick Bay

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



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





Tank traps at Maggie's Loup, Gullane Links



Kite surfers at Gosford Sands



Eyebroughy with the evening light on the sea



Mobile dunes at Gullane

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





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



Boardwalk across the bay



Wrecks

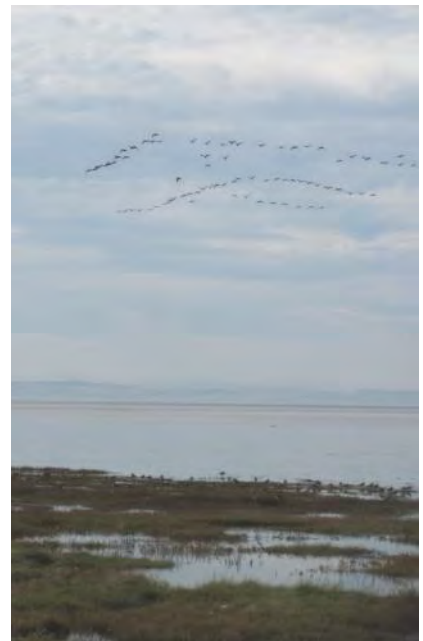


Saltmarsh



Curlew

Myriad of bird life from overwintering flocks of geese to wading curlews, to Eider Ducks and Megansers

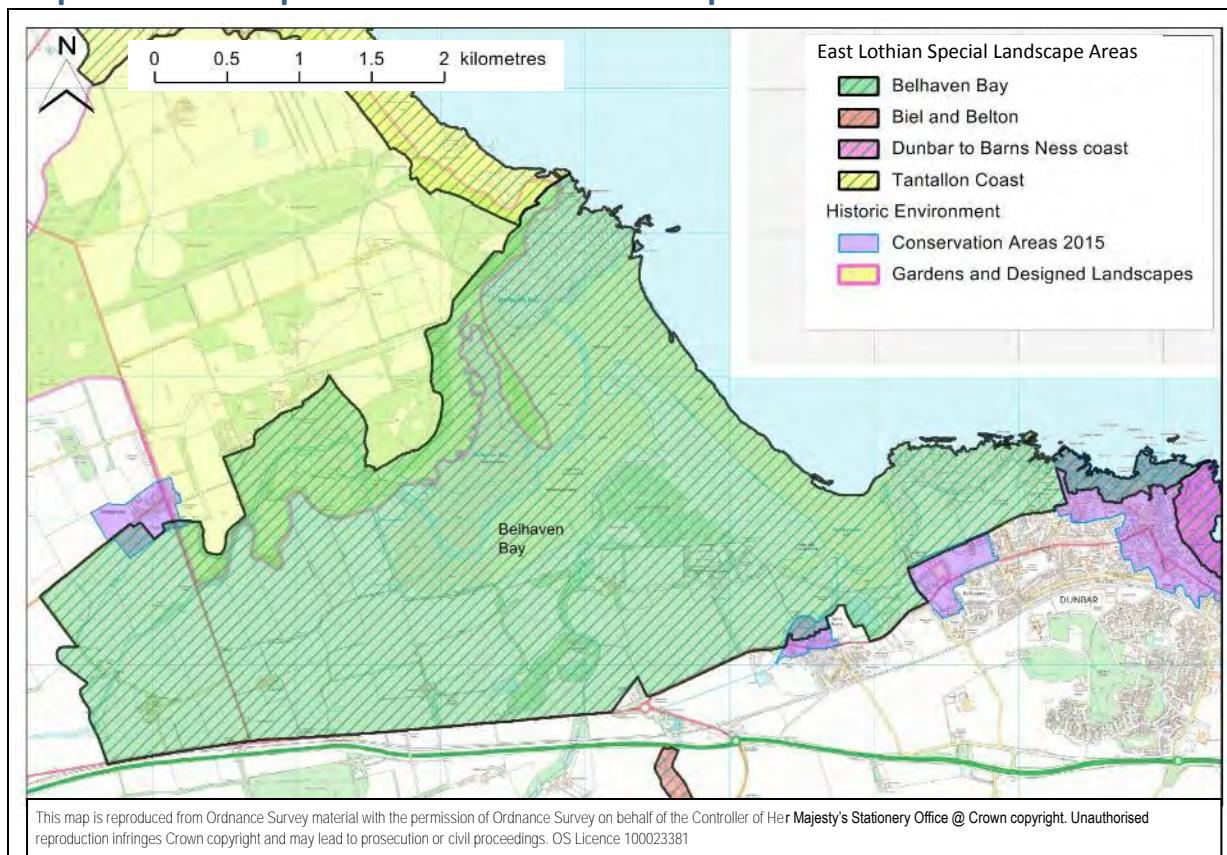


Megansers

Eider ducks



## Belhaven Bay: Special Landscape Area 27 Statement of Importance



**Character:** The area was designated for the scenic value of the Tyne estuary area including the expansive sands of Belhaven Bay and dramatic Dunbar cliffs, which aside from their own scenic value; provide a backdrop to the Bay. The area also contains a coherent historic landscape for remains relating to the defence of Britain including World Wars I & II.

**Area:** 1,316 Ha

### Overview:

*“Nature is ever at work building and pulling down, creating and destroying, keeping everything whirling and flowing, allowing no rest but in rhythmical motion, chasing everything in endless song out of one beautiful form into another” - John Muir*

This area has high aesthetic appeal. It is an open landscape orientated towards the sea, affording good views over the coast and sea, as well as inland. It is varied and diverse, from estuaries to sand dunes, salt marsh, rocky shore and plantation woodland set within some of the best agricultural land in Scotland. Changing light and weather conditions and its effects on the sea can be dramatic. To the east, the sea is a constant, with sounds of the breaking waves and seabirds and the invigorating smell of salty sea air, while the estuary has a twice daily flood, giving variety and change to the area, as well as several distinctive habitats. Inland, the area becomes more controlled, with agricultural influence becoming more dominant.

The area has a high recreational value including beaches, woodland, parks and recreational routes including the John Muir Way, as well as paying attractions including East Links Family Park, Foxlake Water Sports, Winterfield Golf Course and Dunbar Leisure Pool perched on the cliffs above the

harbour.

This area includes the majority of John Muir Country Park, important for landscape, wildlife and recreation. Belhaven Bay is a magnificent sandy sweep backed by low dunes, one of the largest stretches of sandy beach in East Lothian. The Bay area has copious birdlife, including ducks, geese and waders, - oystercatchers are eye catching, while wigeon can arrive in their hundreds – this birdlife is recognised through designation as SPA. Whooper swans also frequently congregate in the surrounding fields. Behind the dunes lie the plantation forest of Hedderwick Hill, the winding River Tyne and sands of the Tyne estuary, and evocative areas of salt marsh. To the north is the spectacular headland of St Baldred's Cradle. To the south are the old red sandstone cliffs and rock formations of Dunbar, familiar to John Muir. The cliffs are a varied and interesting geological area, consisting of an extensive rock platform with dolerite dykes backing onto the red sandstone cliffs, with a succession of small inlets and rock formations, the coastal geomorphology being recognised through SSSI designation. There are excellent views from the walk at the top of the cliffs.

Inland, the area extends along the River Tyne to Knowes farm, taking in an area that appears to be the floodplain of the Tyne, but was actually formed by a slightly higher sea level in post glacial times. This plain is enclosed by the main post-glacial raised beach, here around 6m above sea level. There are several kames, mounds of stratified drift deposited by glacial meltwater, which give the landform an undulating appearance - Kirklandhill farm sits on the highest point of these. Between the A1 and the Tyne a distinct kame terrace slopes eastwards. There are several farm clusters along this terrace, with associated mature tree shelter belts which complement the surrounding arable land adding scenic appeal. Knowes farm, with its distinctive red barns as well as attractive traditionally built buildings, is an attractive focal point within the pattern of arable fields and woodland.

**Special Qualities and Features:**

1. The area has high scenic value, especially around the cliffs, sea, sands, estuary and river, is highly photographed and painted and is often used as a resource by professional photographers. Changeable coastal skies add to its appeal.
2. Recreation, both informal and formal is a key quality of this area. There are superb free outdoor recreational resources here, the most obvious being the beaches and sea, but also woodland, riverside and cliff top walks. Paying recreational facilities are generally open air, namely Foxlake, John Muir Country Park, East Links Family Park, Winterfield Golf course. Many of these rely for their appeal at least in part on their landscape setting. Dunbar Leisure Pool although inside recreation uses its cliff top setting as a feature with views out over the sea from its northern glass elevation.
3. The wide Tyne estuary is typical of East Lothian and eastern Scotland. The expanse of sand changes with the tide, and its openness allows for appreciation of the changing coastal skies which are a feature of the area. The estuary also contains two large areas of salt marsh, a rare habitat in Scotland, with a maze of hidden channels and distinctive flowers and plant life. The cry of the curlew can often be heard, an evocative sound closely associated with marshland. Birdlife is plentiful here, from breeding terns to waders coming in to feed at low tide while sea ducks coast offshore. The birds bring movement and interest to the area, and sometimes contrasting colour.
4. Belhaven Bay is a wide expanse of sandy beach backed by dunes, with considerable recreational value to families, surfers and other water sport participants. Mobile dunes with associated flowers and butterflies are a feature of the area; these are rare in Scotland. The unusual and attractive 'Bridge to Nowhere' takes visitors across the Tyne from the south side. The bay has considerable scenic appeal, with a dynamic coastline changing from year to year, sometimes a wide expanse of sand, sometimes with channels cut by the sea. The Bay is heavily used in tourist marketing and marketing of businesses in this area and wider East Lothian. A considerable part of the tourist draw of beaches is in their landscape setting.

5. Victoria Harbour is formed in a natural inlet into the rock; the surrounding area was re-designed by Basil Spence in a modernist style with vernacular influences. The harbour is highly photogenic, a blend of the natural and man-made, particularly noticeably at the narrow entrance. Colourful fishing boats and lobster pots in the harbour contrast with the muted colours of the old stone harbour, and nearby old red sandstone and painted buildings along the shore. These include the historic Dunbar castle, which sadly is destined to fall into the waves. Orange pantiles and the blue sea and sky also provide a pleasing colour contrast. The Dunbar Battery pointing out to sea was originally built to defend alarmed locals against possible pirate attack, having had a visit from the notorious John Paul Jones. The contrast between the 'safe' of the harbour and town and the 'danger' of the elemental sea remains, though the pirate has long gone.
6. The red cliffs and rock formations of Dunbar are not high but are dramatic due to their varied form – bays, vertical cliffs, platforms, with interesting formations such as Pin Cod. Seabirds nest on the cliffs, such as kittiwakes below Dunbar Leisure Pool. The cliff path winds along the edge of the land, sometimes dipping towards the shore, with sea plants such as thrift lining the way. The rock platform below is extensive with the myriad of offshore rocks, skerries and reefs adding interest, with the sea swirling around them as the tides rise and fall. The colourful chalets at Winterfield are picturesque and at Belhaven Caravan site is a quiet pond with an unusual statue, fitting to its place though originally designed for Glasgow Garden Festival.
7. The rocky headland of St Baldred's Cradle is reached after a walk through woods or over sand and rocks, and fine views can be obtained from here out to sea, over the Tyne estuary and along the coast. The force of the sea is unmistakable here, lashing against the rocks or in the evidence it has left in cutting inlets into the rocks. At the foot is an expanse of sea worn old red sandstone, with tiny beaches and rocks. The gorse above provides contrasting colour when in bloom.
8. Inland the large agricultural fields of the area undulate down towards the flat bottom of the Tyne valley showing the effect of a previous sea level. A range of crops are grown almost right up to the shore. The soil awaiting seed is a rich brownish red – brown forest or the rarer mineral alluvial soil. The colours of the inland area are typical of East Lothian – redbrown soil, green of mature trees, gold of crop or stubble, blue of the sky, all reflected in the meandering Tyne.
9. Woodland is a significant feature of the area, with plantation coniferous woodland (Links Wood and Hedderwick plantation) fringing the estuary. Links Wood contains some old stone walls, unusual in the area. Both these woodlands contain walks as well as giving access to the estuary area. The stands of Scots Pine at Hedderwick contribute to the beauty of this part of the coast; there are also small areas of bluebell wood. Further inland, the woodlands become more mixed, with thick shelterbelts breaking up the wide arable fields, and sheltering the clusters of farm buildings from seaward exposure.
10. The River Tyne meanders through the area, first through arable fields, then saltmarsh and sand; the Tyne in front of Tynninghame House shows a wide meander; here the parkland trees and grass of the inventory Tynninghame Garden and Designed Landscape, with mature woodland to the rear, spill down to the banks of the river. The small watercourses of the Biel Water and the Hedderwick Burn also join the sea through the southern section of this area, both of which show clear late river features, for example Hedderwick Burn has a good example of a meander which has almost become an oxbow lake just before it joins the Tyne estuary.
11. There are many opportunities to view a myriad of wildlife - from the seals on the shore and visiting Dunbar Harbour and invertebrate life in rock pools and under rocks to roe deer and badgers in the coastal woodlands.
12. Built development of the area consists mainly of clusters of farm buildings – Tynfield cottages are low white single storey dwellings with pantiled roofs, an accent in a sea of arable land. The traditional farm buildings at Hedderwick are made from old red sandstone and pantiles. Kirklandhill cottages are red sandstone and slate, with small paned windows, while Kirklandhill is



a substantial crow-stepped farmhouse and Tynefield is a beautiful classically designed house. The cottages at Knowes have noticeable grout, echoing the pattern of cropped fields behind. Farm buildings there are of a red that is recognisable from a good distance. These houses are firmly rooted in their place and setting.

13. There are good long distance views throughout much of the area. These are often wide and changing due to the weather patterns and shifting tides. Blue sky and chasing cumulus clouds give a cheerful impression, while mists bring an air of mystery; blowing spray and thundering surf shows the force of nature. The coastal cloudscape influences the whole area, with superb colours often reflected in water or wet sand. Views include, but are not limited to the following:
  - From Dunbar Harbour, down the coast to St Abbs, out to the open sea and across to North Berwick Law.
  - From St Baldred's Cradle there are superb views along the coast in both directions, as well as out to sea and across the Tyne estuary. To the north is the Bass Rock and Fife, to the south the view along the coast extends to the cliffs of St Abbs, with Belhaven Bay in the foreground framed by the woods at Hedderwick, with colourful fields, the Lammermuir foothills and wind turbines beyond - the elements of sea and sky remain dominant.
  - From Sandy Hirst out to sea, across the estuary, to Traprain Law and the Lammermuir Hills and hillfoots.
  - From the A199 road along the southern boundary of the area, open views across the plain over the Tyne Estuary and towards the coast.
  - From the cliff top path at Dunbar to the Forth Islands and Fife up and along the coast and over the Estuary; sunsets and sunrises from here can be particularly spectacular. Benches along the path allow for restful appreciation of views.
  - Views from within the Dunbar Leisure Pool must be among the best from any pool in Scotland if not the UK!
  - Over Knowes Farm from the B1407 to the northern boundary of the area.
  - Across the estuary from around the footbridge in Belhaven Bay across the Hedderwick Burn
  - Views from the Belhaven Bay area, including the much photographed Bridge to Nowhere over the Tyne, the Dunbar skyline, and the multi-layered view towards the Lammermuirs containing wind turbines, foothills, agricultural land, transport links, housing and finally, the foreshore and beach with recreational activity.
  - The River Tyne and surrounding fields from the footbridge at Knowes Farm.
14. Views of the area, in particular the estuary and Bay from outwith the area are also excellent. From the road to the Brunt, the expansive sand contrasts with both the sea and woodland, with the Bass Rock notable in the background. Similar views are widely available from higher ground to the south, along much of the Doon Hill to Chesters ridge as well as at Beilhill and the surrounding area. The view of the area from the A199 at Pencraig is particularly good, with the village of East Linton nestled into the Tyne valley in the foreground, and the Tyne Estuary, Belhaven Bay, the town of Dunbar with its landmark Abbey Church and designed landscape of Tynninghame laid out before you, giving way to sea and coastal skies. Further afield, the area is of a large enough scale to be notable in views from the Lammermuir Hills; views of the Tyne estuary are an important component of these wide views.
15. The area has some quality of wildness due to the sea with its elemental force, and the naturalness of landcover of much of the area. The expanse of sands and cliffs at Dunbar retain an elemental feel particularly as they are open to the wide, coastal skies. There is a strong association with the naturalist John Muir, founder of the US National Parks program, who grew up in Dunbar and was familiar with the area, mentioning the cliffs and rock pools of Dunbar in his writing.
16. Lack of artificial lighting as well as accessibility makes the Bay a good place to observe the night

sky, including on occasion the Aurora Borealis, as there is little lighting directly to the north, with the lights of Fife being largely obscured by landform.

*Historic Landscape – Belhaven Bay*

17. This is a very diverse area in terms of the historic environment, with a high density of archaeological remains. Remains present include virtually every archaeological and historic period. In particular the historic landscape includes:
- Coherent landscape for WWI & II remains. A considerable number of remains survive relating to the defence of Britain, troop training and Home Guard activities.
  - Historic area of leisure pursuits (golf course, shooting, racecourse). The area particularly around Hedderwick has historically been used for outside pursuits, and this continues today
  - Area of early harbour for Dunbar
  - Important early medieval monastic landscape

**Guidelines for Development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the coastal character and special qualities and features of the area.
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the wide, open character of Belhaven Bay.
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the natural or scenic qualities and features or outdoor recreational use of the area especially with regard to appreciation of the sea, coast, coastal woodlands and Tyne estuary and river.
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the functioning of Dunbar Harbour as a working harbour and focus of activity that provide scenic and sensory qualities (contrasting colours of boats, fishing equipment such as lobster pots, sounds of the masts, etc).
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the habitat and openness of the coastal grasslands.
- F. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape pattern of arable fields and shelter belts.
- G. Any proposed development must not impact detrimentally on open views out from the coastline and to the Bass Rock.
- H. Any proposed development must not harm the sense of naturalness and wildness qualities of the area.
- I. Any proposed development must not detrimentally impact on the SPA and bird habitats.
- J. Any proposed development must not harm the night-time darkness of this area of the coast.
- K. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form and detracts from the natural qualities of the area.
- L. Any proposed development must not harm the general undeveloped character of the coastal area as identified in the LDP to maintain the scenic and wilder qualities of the area. Well sited small scale development to enable beach and other coastal recreation may be acceptable. Infrastructure where necessary should be sensitively located and carefully screened.
- M. Any proposed development must not harm the operation of natural coastal processes other than where sea defences are needed to protect important infrastructure.
- N. Any proposed large farm building development should be carefully sited and coloured to fit within the landscape form of the area.
- O. Any proposed development must respect and retain the existing settlement pattern of development of generally small-scale, single-storey, linear and small groups of buildings typical of farm settlements, farm workers cottages and steading conversions and support the use of traditional building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings.
- P. In cases where solar panels are not permitted development they should not be placed on publicly visible roof elevations of traditional buildings or buildings in traditional and historic settings where they would harm the historic nature and scenic value of the area.
- Q. Any proposed development must not harm views of the Tyne river and estuary, Belhaven Bay,

and Dunbar Harbour and cliffs, from, in particular, the A198, A199, John Muir Way, A1087, B1407, John Muir Country Park and Shore Road car park.

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

**Potential for Landscape Enhancement**

- i. Control invasive species in particular sea buckthorn and rhododendron
- ii. Retain trees which are used in visual screening for non-traditional buildings
- iii. Avoid constraining the development of salt marsh or mobile dune habitat

***Examples of paintings using the Belhaven Bay area as Inspiration***



Dunbar Castle and Castle Haven  
by J Carson before 1842



Dunbar Street near harbour by A Gray 1851

**Photographs of special features  
and typical elements**

The 'Bridge to Nowhere'  
Framing the Bass Rock and  
providing access from  
Dunbar over the Biel  
Water to Belhaven Bay



The large expanse of sand at Belhaven Bay, backed by low dunes with the Bass Rock in the distance and coastal cloud formations above



Coastal grasses at  
Sandy Hirst front  
an extensive area of  
salt marsh under  
dramatic coastal sky  
with views south to  
the Lammermuirs





Curlew on salt marsh - extensive areas of salt marsh separated from the beach by sand dunes and covered at high tide by the sea

World War I and II defences at Links Wood by Sandy Hirst.



Highly scenic area with contrasting landform and cover where the Hedderwick Burn opens into the Belhaven Bay. The John Muir Way crosses the burn and the woodlands of Hedderwick Hill plantation extend to the shore line

A viewpoint on the John Muir Way gives a panoramic view across the constantly changing landscape of Belhaven Bay at Hedderwick Sands grid ref. NT 63970, 78843



Belhaven Bay backed by the trees of Tynninghame from Winterfield Golf course with North Berwick Law in the distance



The distinctive red sandstone cliffs of Dunbar providing strong visual contrast with the blue of the sea,



The ruins of Dunbar Castle provide nesting spots for many sea birds at Dunbar Harbour

The narrow enclosed entrance to Dunbar Harbour offering safe haven in rough weathers, with the picturesque buildings of old Dunbar beyond

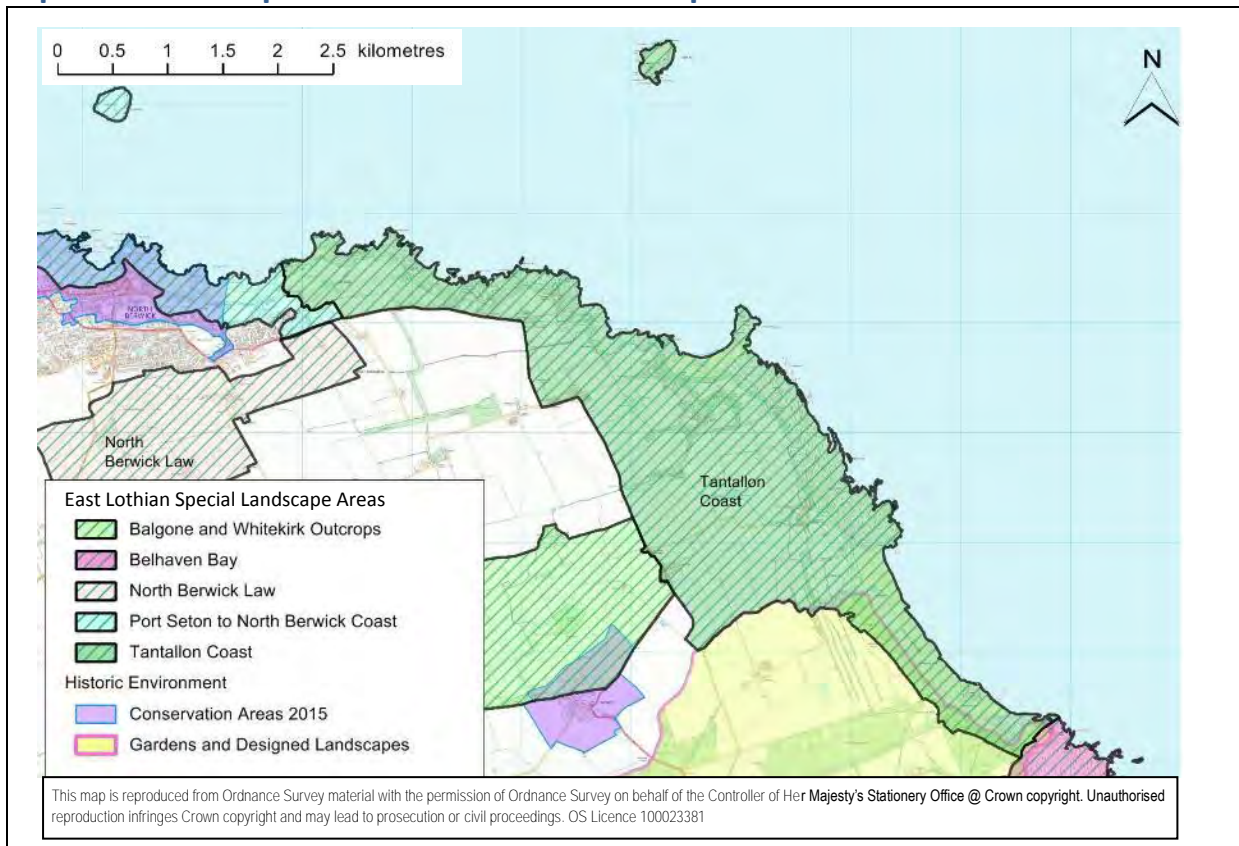


The red roofs of the farm buildings of Knowes Farm providing a visual contrast with the surrounding green arable fields within the floodplain of the River Tyne with the Lammermuir Hills rising to the south

The ford across the Tyne at Knowes Farm; the fields undulate down to the river showing an old sea level, raised beach and kame terrace. Soil on either side of the river is rich. Mature trees and wildflowers line much of the Tyne banks



## Tantallon Coast Special Landscape Area 28 Statement of Importance



**Character:** A highly scenic and diverse stretch of coastline from the rocky cliffs and headland of North Berwick and Tantallon to the windswept beach at Peffers and Ravensheugh Sands, to the iconic Bass Rock emerging from the sea, also including a coherent area of important prehistoric settlement, medieval sites and wartime remains.

**Area:** 769 ha

### Overview:

East Lothian's most scenic and diverse stretch of coastline consisting of the rocky cliffs and headlands of North Berwick and Tantallon with small sandy coves giving way to the expansive windswept beach at Peffers and Ravensheugh Sands. The tiny harbour of Seacliff is included in this area. This is the wildest, most remote and least developed area of mainland coast within East Lothian. It is often rugged with mysterious elements particularly on the coast. An open landscape facing the sea, views are panoramic and spectacular with changing light and weather conditions having dramatic effects on the sea.

This coastal SLA includes the island of the Bass Rock, part of East Lothian's Unspoiled Coast.

Inland its boundary is defined by the A198 North Berwick to Whitekirk road. Between the A198 and the cliff edge is a wide strip including inland agricultural fields that are integral to the coastal setting of the area, giving a feeling of openness and expansiveness with views out to the sea and the islands of the Firth of Forth though the treasures at the foot of the coast remain hidden.

It is a historic area with medieval castles, secret hamlets and harbours, as well as many references to the Christian missionary St Baldred's residence during the eighth century.

The phrase “Ding doun Tantallon, mak a brig tae the Bass” (meaning to do something impossible) highlights the uncertain seas and distance from shore of the Bass, and solidity of Tantallon, the references showing how well known these two landmarks of this area are.

Many parts of this coast including the Bass Rock are heavily used in tourist marketing and marketing of businesses in this area and wider East Lothian. A considerable part of the tourist draw of beaches and golf courses in the area is their landscape setting. It contains many fine view points and is often used as a resource by professional photographers. The northern coast has been, and remains, an inspiration to artists, including Alexander Nasmyth (his dramatic painting “A view of Tantallon Castle with the Bass Rock” is owned by the National Gallery), William George Gillies, William MacTaggart, John Lowrie Morrison, John Bellany and many others. The Bass Rock, in particular, is often a subject, as well as Tantallon Castle and other parts of the coast. The Bass Rock also features in *Catriona*, by Robert Louis Stevenson, and several other written works.

Contrasts between the landform and the sea from the rocky vertical cliffs and imposing red sandstone walls of Tantallon Castle to the wide open flat expanses of sandy beach at Peffers and Ravensheugh Sands, to the enclosing dune landscapes and shelterbelt planting framing the shoreline, to the ever changing seascape with the focal point of the Bass Rock make this coastline highly scenic. This was evidenced in the many viewpoints identified through the public consultation including the coast, Bass Rock and Tantallon from the A198 east of North Berwick, approach to North Berwick from the east towards the Law, view from the golf course over North Berwick, Seacliff harbour to Tantallon Castle and Ravensheugh Sands. The outcrop above Bathans Strand is a good viewpoint for the area, as is the The Gegan, a large mass of old red sandstone near Seacliff.

#### **Special Qualities and Features:**

1. The distinctive Bass Rock, the remnant of a volcanic plug, is located two kilometres off the coast, rising to 107m above sea level and is one of East Lothian’s most remote areas. Its intrusive igneous rock and coastal landform is a good example of intrusive Carboniferous rocks with national significance. The white colour of the Bass Rock is the result of its playing host to the largest, and still increasing, single-rock northern gannetry in the world. The international importance of the colony – it has about 22% of the total UK breeding population, 60% of Europe’s gannets and a significant proportion of the world population - is recognised through designation as a Special Protection Area (SPA) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). In summer months gannets are clearly visible soaring and diving around the rock and along the coast. Other seabird species on the Bass include guillemot, razorbill, puffin, fulmar, and kittiwake. The distinctive wedge-shaped form of the Bass, rising abruptly from the sea, is widely visible and recognisable from both sides of the Firth of Forth from as far as Arthurs Seat in Edinburgh, the Lammermuirs and southern Fife. The Bass Rock Lighthouse is one of the few buildings on the rock, designed by David Stevenson, one of the famous Stevenson-family of lighthouse engineers (the lighthouse at Barns Ness was also his design).
2. The cliffs of the coast, particularly around Tantallon are a significant landscape feature. Edged by small sandy bays including the beach at Seacliff and its tiny harbour set into the rocky headland, still in use to this day, and topped by the imposing ruin of Tantallon Castle, an important landmark and tourist attraction. The red rock here is striking, with erosion from wind and wave giving a rounded, almost sensuous appearance in places and the Seacliff to Scoughall shore providing an excellent example of modern processes of shore platform development with regional to national significance. Tantallon Castle formed a formidable stronghold set on the top of the cliffs in this dramatic and wild location. Its huge stone curtain wall is said to be the best 14th-century castle architecture anywhere in Scotland. Spectacular views can be obtained over the Firth of Forth, out to the Bass Rock



and other islands and up and down the coast, from the top of the battlements.

3. A large section of the coast to the south of Scoughall contains sand dunes, including mobile dunes, with associated flowers and butterflies, a rare feature and habitat within Scotland, separating the wide open flat expanses of sandy beach at Peffers and Ravensheugh Sands from the land and providing them with a sense of isolation and remoteness. The expansive scale of the beaches and constantly changing weather, light and sea conditions create a feeling of wildness and of being one with nature, and has a strong aesthetic appeal with the constant sounds of the breaking waves and seabirds and the invigorating smell of salty sea air. The sea and the wind create constant patterns within the sand and when the sea haars rolls in cutting out views and muffling sounds the feeling of remoteness can be overpowering.
4. The area below the High Water Mark forms part of the Firth of Forth SPA and SSSI due to its importance in providing habitats for wintering populations of waterfowl of international importance. The area around Scoughall is a particularly good birding site - gulls and little auks appear in great numbers but there is also the chance of seeing less common bird species with avocet, Pallas's warbler and Little Bittern among those recorded here. In addition to seabirds, there are many opportunities to view a myriad of wildlife along the coast from seals on the rocks and invertebrate life in rock pools and under rocks on the shore to deer and badgers in the coastal woodlands.
5. This section of coast has qualities of wildness and naturalness along the majority of its length with natural groundcover and lack of artificial elements particularly around the dunes. There is limited formal public access to the area and limited parking facilities reducing the general use of the area. This helps retain the wild and remote-feeling nature of the area. The night sky satellite images from NASA from 2012 show this area to have very limited light pollution adding to its undeveloped and remote feel. Despite the busy shipping lanes and views of development in Fife much of this section of the coast still has an elemental feel deriving from the presence of the sea, rocky cliffs and the expansiveness of sands at Ravensheugh combined with wide coastal skies.
6. Existing settlement is limited in number and scale and fits well within this coastal landscape often using local building materials, with farm settlements with a mix of building styles and ages often sheltered by woodland planting and buildings huddled into coves giving them a hidden feel which adds to their charm. Such settlements include that at Canty Bay, with pretty cottages in a picture postcard setting, Seacliff and Scoughall. The enclosed setting of these settlements means little modern development is visible. On the more exposed agricultural land above the cliffs there are short rows of single-storey farm cottages built in traditional style. New Mains Farm and associated cottages, separated by the A198, is a good example of old farm buildings sheltered by mature trees which give diversity to the landscape. Tourist accommodation is generally limited within the area to small-scale glamping sites and a log cabin above Ravensheugh Sands that are of a scale, colour and style to fit successfully within the landscape.
7. There is good road access around the inland area of the SLA along the A198 offering open views out to sea, as well as over the coastal plain and the Lammermuir Hills to the south from higher ground. The higher inland areas between the A198 and the coast are open and raised with large flat agricultural fields and big skies with views out to the sea and the islands of the Firth of Forth giving a feeling of openness and expansiveness.
8. The western end of the area includes a section of the Glen Golf Course and core path routes 465 and 75 along the cliff top around the edge of the golf course. Views from the golf course are open and wide ranging taking in both North Berwick to the west and the Bass Rock and Tantallon Castle to the east. The famous, and tricky, 13<sup>th</sup> hole of this course, the Sea Hole, has superb views. Seacliff itself is a locally designated Garden and Designed Landscape. The house was gutted by fire in 1907; however the exterior survives almost complete with

gables, turrets and bartizans and sits within high walls and well wooded grounds and is still impressive today. The ruins of Auldham castle a 16<sup>th</sup> century L-plan three-storey tower house can be seen sitting high on a ridge above Seacliff beach surrounded by woodland to the north of Seacliff close to St Baldred's Cave where it is said he used to stay when he wished to be a hermit.

*Historic Landscape – Gin Head to Scoughall*

9. This is a very diverse area in terms of the historic environment, with a high density of archaeological remains. Remains present include virtually every archaeological and historic period. This area has numerous Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings associated with it and the Tynninghame inventory garden and designed landscape borders the area. There is a significant amount of industrial and WWI & II remains present along the coast.

Of particular note are:

10. Significant medieval remains (Tantallon Castle, the early medieval church, monastery and cemetery at Auldham, Seacliff Tower etc). These remains are concentrated along the cliff tops and form an impressive and coherent group. They would have dominated both the coast and the surrounding landscape
11. Significant and nationally important WWI and II remains (Gin Head radar station, HMS Scottish Seacliff secret WWI training base)

**Guidelines for Development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the coastal character and characteristic features of the area
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the wide, open character of Ravensheugh and Peffers Sands
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the historic setting and character of Tantallon Castle
- D. Preservation against built development on the Forth Islands, identified as Unspoiled Coast in the East Lothian LDP other than extremely small scale development related to wildlife tourism
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the open views out from the coastline and to the Bass Rock from in particular the Haugh Road to A198 right of way and Glen Golf Course, Tantallon Castle, Seacliff Beach, Canty Bay, Peffer Sands, Ravensheugh Sands and St Baldred's Cradle
- F. Any proposed development must not harm the open panoramic views from the A198 both towards the coast and south to the Lammermuir Hills
- G. Any proposed development must not harm the recreational and scenic appeal of beaches, including access to them.
- H. Any proposed development must not harm the habitat and openness of the coastal grasslands
- I. Any proposed development must not harm the operation of natural coastal processes other than where sea defences are needed to protect important infrastructure
- J. Any proposed development must not harm the sense of naturalness and wildness qualities of the area
- K. Any proposed development must not detrimentally impact on bird habitats. Birdlife is important to the area and development or management that harms it is unlikely to be approved because of SPA status of much of the area.
- L. Any proposed development must not harm the night-time darkness of this area of the coast
- M. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form and detracts from the natural qualities of the area e.g. wind turbines.

- N. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of residential built development encroaching on the coastal strip that is out of scale and character, both in terms of architectural design and layout, with the traditional coastal settlements
- O. Any proposed development must not harm the general undeveloped character of the coastal area as identified in the LDP to maintain the scenic and wilder qualities of the area. Well sited small scale development (not including tourist accommodation) to enable beach and other coastal recreation may be acceptable. Infrastructure where necessary should be sensitively located and carefully screened
- P. Any proposed development must not harm the integrity and coherence of the historic landscape.

**Potential for Landscape Enhancement**

- i. Coast must be carefully managed to allow for recreation and wildlife (see coastal tourism strategy)
- ii. Some of the watercourses in this area have been modified and would benefit aesthetically from a return to a more natural morphology.

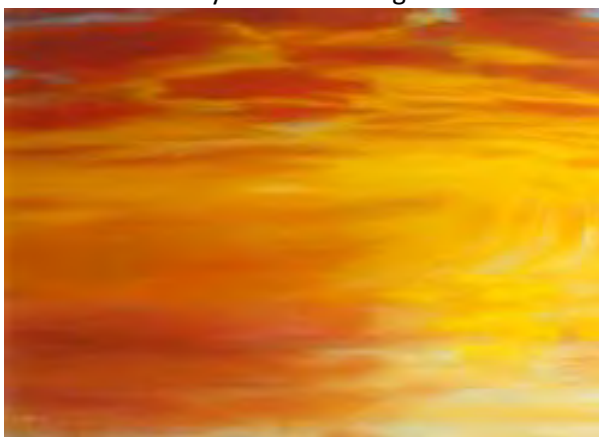
***Examples of paintings using the Tantallon Coast as inspiration***



The Bass Rock by James W Greig 1905



The Bass Rock from Canty Bay AP Stirling



Sunset and Bass Rock by John Houston 1996



Canty Bay, near North Berwick  
George Peacock circa 1949

*Photographs of special features and typical elements*



Tantallon Castle and the Bass Rock from the A198 coast road across the open expanse of farm land



The Bass Rock from Tantallon Castle  
High open views across arable fields and Glen Golf Course to the Bass Rock

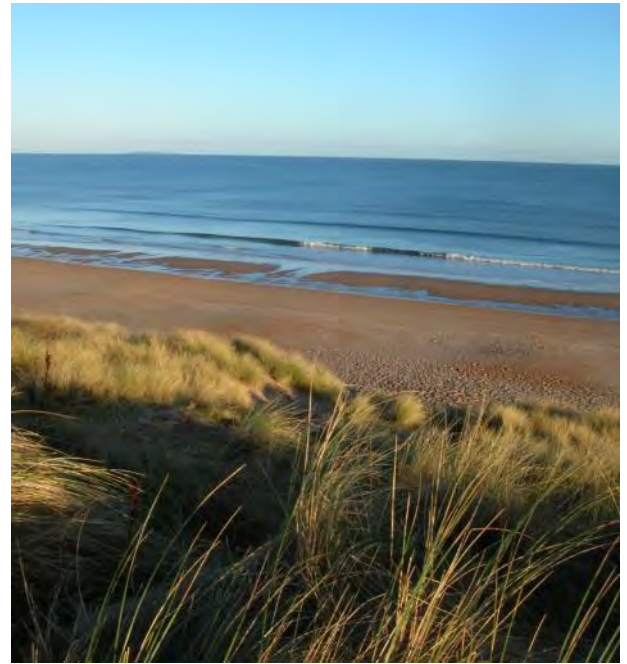


Hidden coves from Tantallon





Tantallon on its cliffs from Seacliff



Dunes dividing the land and the sea at Ravensheugh Sands



The white of the Bass Rock contrasting with the blue of the sea and the sky



The dunes and expanse of flat sands at Ravensheugh sands





Gannets of the Bass Rock



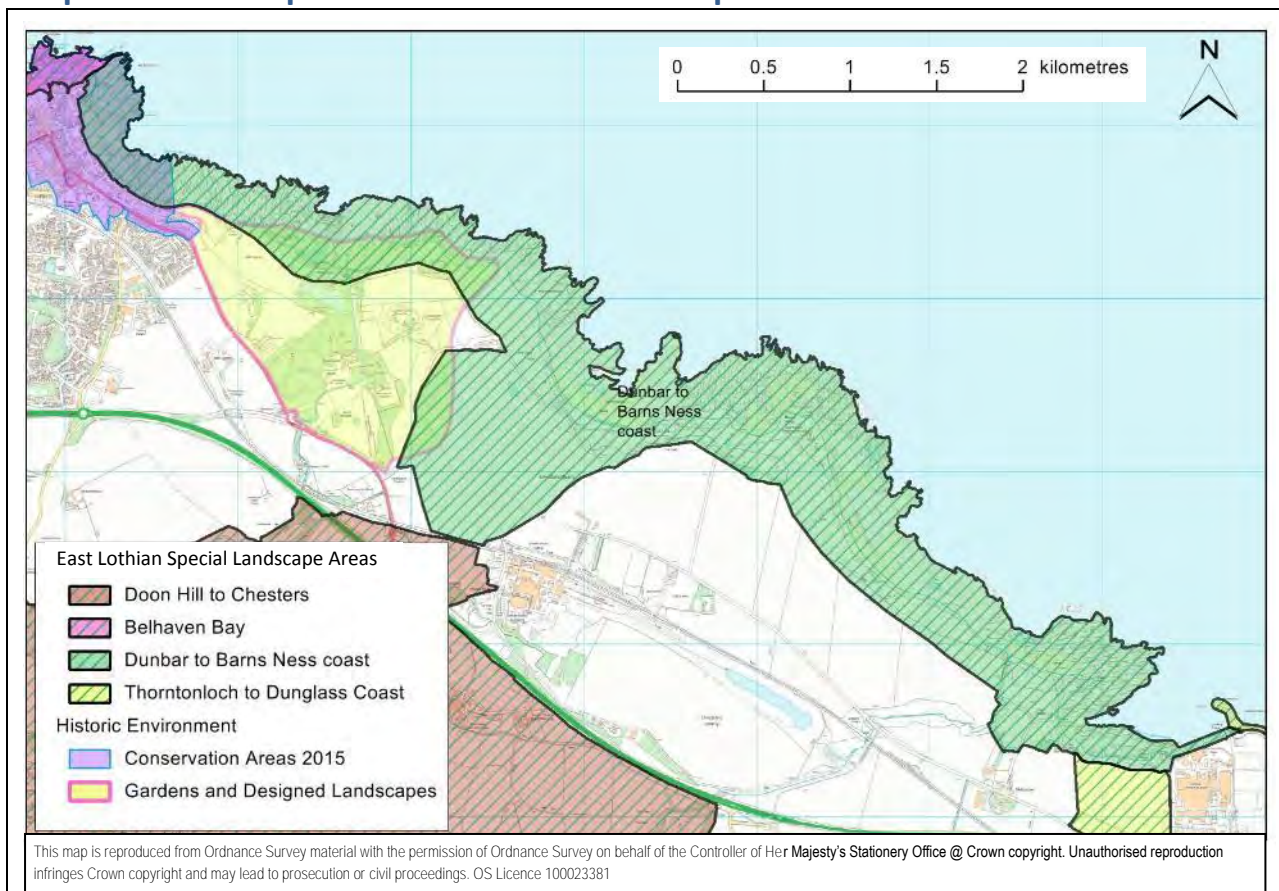
Constantly changing sea and light from the still of the winter sun reflecting on the tidal flats to the uproar of a spring tide crashing onto the shore



The Bass Rock is visible in views from as far afield as the Lammermuir Hills.



## Dunbar to Barns Ness Coast: Special Landscape Area 29 Statement of Importance



**Character:** An area of rocky shoreline and sandy beach of high scenic and sensory value with good recreation value and an area of particular historic importance.

**Area:** 454 ha

### Overview:

A narrow strip of coastline from the eastern edge of Dunbar Harbour to Torness Power Station, purely coastal in nature including beaches, rocks, cliffs and dunes. A dramatic landscape with complex and rugged elements. It has a significant fossil beach, a rare geological feature within East Lothian and provides a coherent area of important prehistoric settlement. It also includes the feature of the Barns Ness Lighthouse and more recent lake formed by the restoration of a section of the quarry at Oxwell Mains. The John Muir Way follows the length of this coastline and there are several car parks and picnic spots within the area providing easy public access to this good recreational resource.

The area's setting along this slender stretch of stony coastline with narrow, wind-swept beaches facing out to the North Sea backed by low cliffs and raised beaches gives a feeling of being on the edge of the sea, cut off from the land, which, once Dunbar has been left behind, creates a sense of wildness as well as enclosure, different from the rest of the coastline of East Lothian. In contrast to this is Dunbar's East Beach, a well loved resource for the community closely associated with the town, though sadly having lost most of its sand recently.

Much of the area is identified as a historic landscape for the raised beach and early Mesolithic settlement activity, coherent industrial landscape of lime kilns and quarrying and significant fossil beach.

**Special Qualities and Features:**

1. This is a dramatic landscape with complex and rugged elements. Changing light and weather conditions and their effects on the sea can be striking.
  2. The relatively undeveloped nature of the rocky coastline and separation from the land by low rocky cliffs creates a sense of wildness and isolation.
  3. There are uninterrupted, undeveloped views out to sea along the entire stretch of coastline. The view from East Beach in Dunbar, which would have been familiar to naturalist John Muir, a son of Dunbar, was identified in the public consultation.
  4. The area has a significant fossil beach – essentially a fossilised coral reef between 360-290 million years old – which makes this shoreline unique in East Lothian. The seashore site of this rare geological feature is the best place in central Scotland to look for fossils in the limestone and shales.
  5. A large part of the area is identified as an SSSI for both the geological feature of the raised beach platform and the mineral enriched dune grassland, beach-head salt marshes and shingle habitats, uncommon with the Lothians. The grassland contains a diverse range of wild flowers with a number of locally rare plant species.
  6. Early bird song in the spring marks the arrival of early summer migrants at Barns Ness. The good diversity of birds, butterflies, moths and invertebrates attracted to the rare habitats adds to the interest of the area. The area is also home to one of East Lothian's more elusive residents – the common lizard.
  7. The area has good public access including the route of the John Muir Way path along its entire length and several parking areas and picnic spots. It has however limited built recreation facilities and attracts fewer recreational visitors than the northern beaches, being further from main population centres, helping to maintain its sense of wildness and isolation.
  8. The Barns Ness Lighthouse, built in 1901 by engineer David Stevenson, cousin of writer Robert Louis Stevenson, is a feature of the area. Sitting prominently above the low shoreline it is a draw to the area and focal point, its clear white contrasting with blue/grey sea and muted tones of the landscape.
  9. The quarried area inland from White Sands has been included in the SLA as the pond here has the makings of being an attractive feature, and a superb birding resource. This section of inland area, located between more developed areas, is important in views from higher ground (the Doon Hill to Chesters SLA).
  10. Skateraw Harbour was a port for the limestone workings just inland, built around 1800.
- Historic Landscape: White Sands*
11. In archaeological terms this stretch of coastline is unique in East Lothian as it is closely associated with the earliest occupation of the county with the raised beach with early (Mesolithic) settlement activity. The landform and vegetation still echo the landform and vegetation which would have been extant. This gives this stretch of coast an almost timeless quality.
  12. The coastline also has a coherent industrial landscape of lime quarrying and kilns. The cliffs to the edge of the shore have been quarried over many years for limestone.

**Guidelines for Development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the coastal character and characteristic features of the area
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the natural or scenic qualities and features or outdoor recreational use of the area especially with regard to appreciation of the sea and coast
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the habitat and openness of the coastal grasslands
- D. Any proposed development must not harm open views out from the coastline, particularly from the John Muir Way
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the general undeveloped character of the coastal



area as identified in the LDP to maintain the scenic and wilder qualities of the area. Well sited small scale development (not including tourist accommodation) to enable beach and other coastal recreation may be acceptable. Infrastructure where necessary should be sensitively located and carefully screened

- F. Any proposed development must not harm the sense of naturalness and wildness qualities of the area and conserve the tranquillity of the area, including from disturbance from transport links and quarrying
- G. Any proposed development must not detrimentally impact on bird habitats
- H. Any proposed development must not harm the night-time darkness of this area of the coast
- I. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form and detracts from the natural qualities of the area e.g. wind turbines
- J. Protect the area from sand and gravel extraction
- K. Any proposed development must not harm the setting or views of the Barns Ness Lighthouse or compete with it as a focal point within the landscape
- L. Take particular account of the vulnerability of the coastline to further visual intrusion from all types of development
- M. Any proposed development must not harm the operation of natural coastal processes other than where sea defences are needed to protect important infrastructure
- N. Any proposed development must not harm the integrity and coherence of the historic landscape

**Potential for Landscape Enhancement**

- i. Conservation management of the lake created by the quarrying works to allow public access and encourage wildlife.

*Photographs of special features and typical elements*



Dramatic light effects on the sea



Rocky foreshore at East Beach in Dunbar, showing the relationship of the houses to the sea and the contrast of colour and form between the built and natural environment





The southern section of the area from above Innerwick. Low lying open nature with the vertical feature of the Barns Ness Lighthouse in the centre

Rocky foreshore with the Bass Rock in the distance



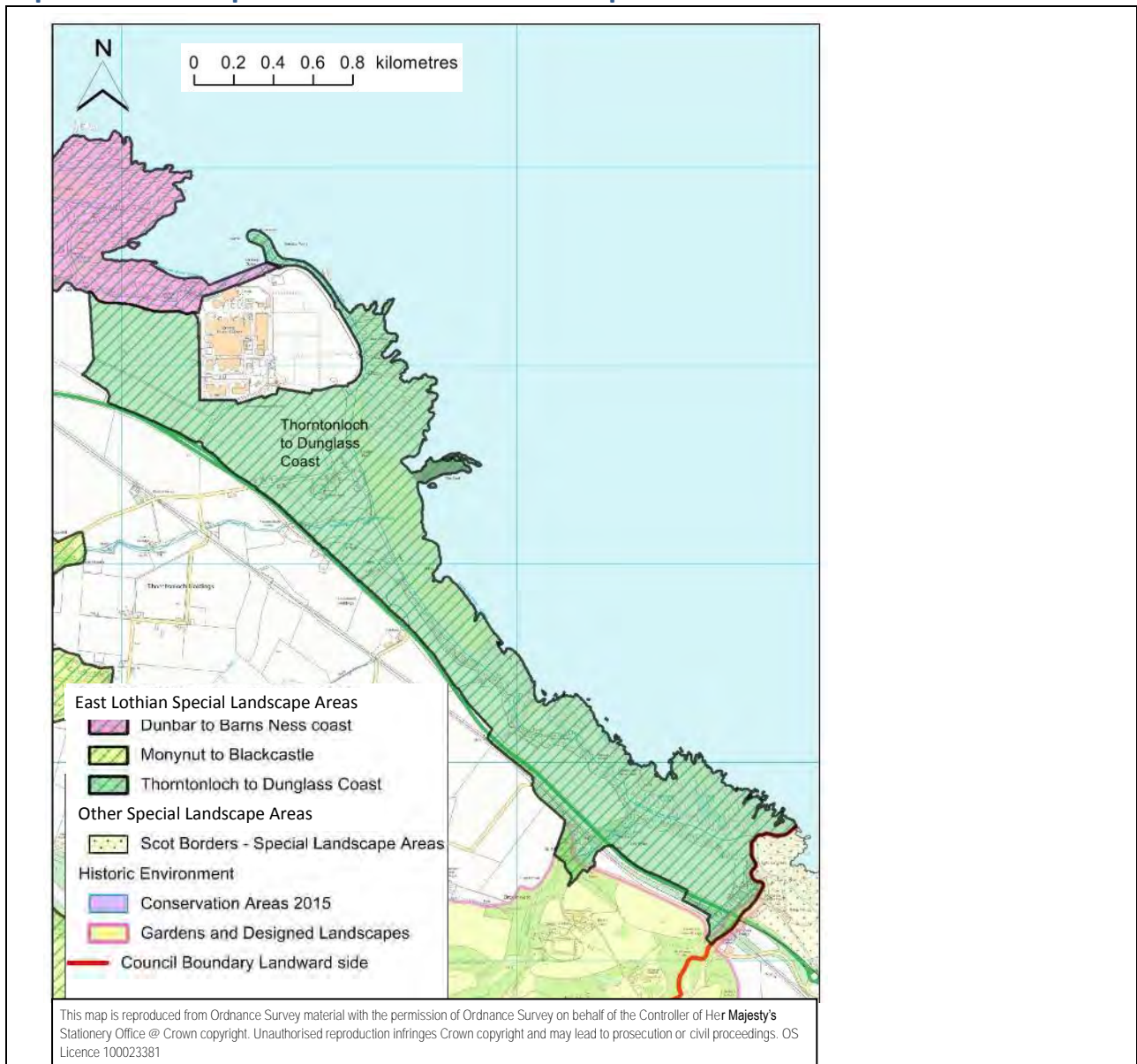
Rock platforms at Skateraw with Barns Ness Lighthouse standing out against the sky



The area from Doon Hill showing its low lying nature, the new lake in the foreground and the intrusive effect of the cement works and quarrying on the area



## Thorntonloch to Dunglass Coast Special Landscape Area 30 Statement of Importance



**Character:** This area has been chosen for its dramatic coastal scenery and coastal agricultural land with incised gullies. It also provides the setting for Torness Power Station.

**Area:** 232 ha

### Overview:

This area runs along the eastern coast of East Lothian from the boundary with Scottish Borders Council area to Torness Power Station. It is an area of varied coastline facing onto open sea, ranging from rugged red cliffs with a variety of rock shapes cut by the sea, to the wide, sandy beach at Thorntonloch. To the south of the area the land drops steeply to the sea, while to the north at Thorntonloch, and especially around the made land and breakwater at Torness, the drop to the sea is gentler.

The inland area is mainly agricultural, with contrast between arable land and the woodland of the gullies, with some nearly native woodland at Bilsdean and Dunglass gorges.

Torness Power Station is not included in the area as it is a large industrial facility that was not considered

appropriate for an SLA. This building has been carefully designed with thought given to its appearance in its setting; its apparent bulk is reduced in main views from the A1 and East Coast Mainline Railway by keeping the area between it and the transport corridor free of other development which would give scale comparison. Inclusion of this area within the SLA recognised the importance of the area in managing the appearance of Torness, a landmark widely visible from higher ground.

Coastline, agricultural land, archaeological remains and geological features (in particular raised beach) are described in the SNH Landscape Character appraisal of the Lothians as one of the key landscape attributes of the wider area.

The area is important for recreation, with the John Muir Way and National Cycle Route 76 running through the area. There is a caravan park at Thorntonloch, with good access to the beach. The shore from Torness to Thorntonloch is popular with sea fishers; the warm water from the power station encouraging larger fish.

### **Special Qualities and Features**

1. Geological differences create variety along the coastline with the harder volcanic rocks producing a more resistant coastline of promontories, low cliffs and rocky shoreline indented with the softer sandstone bays and arches. The soft sandstone cliffs have been eroded by the sea to form several natural arches, and along with the cliffs at Dunbar form one of the most dramatic sections of East Lothian's coastline. This rocky area has some qualities of wildness, deriving from its ruggedness, exposure to the elements and lack of visible built development.
2. The beach at Thorntonloch is spectacular though less busy than those of East Lothian's northern coast, a beautiful sweep of sand, enclosed by a rocky wave cut platform, with good surf often adding to the drama of the scene
3. There are very sheer gorges where Bilsdean and Dunglass Burns join the sea. At Bilsdean Burn, a large waterfall, The Linn, tumbles over stone towards the sea. Overlooking the burn to the south are the remains of the Iron Age Castledykes Fort formed with the cliffs to the seaward side and a massive earthen rampart to the landward side. To the south a second dramatic incised valley at Dunglass provides an attractive enclosed and hidden walkway to the sea. Its depth is further magnified by the bridge of the A1 and viaduct of the East Coast railway which tower above the valley (there are five bridges across this gorge). The sandstone has been eroded to create sheer rock walls along the valley and the old buildings and bridges add to the historic nature of the area.
4. The inland area is a raised beach, relict from higher sea levels of previous times. It consists mainly of medium to large scale rolling, gently sloping agricultural fields of distinctive reddish brown hue, right to the sea's edge. The crops are various, often hosting vegetables as well as the more usual grain.
5. Contrast in colour and form is a feature of this area, the generally muted tones of managed agricultural fields with brown soil and green yellow crops, complemented by the greens or autumnal shades of deciduous trees both along field boundaries and within the gullies and the red of the cliffs. This contrasts with the wilder sea and sky, blue, white, and grey. Elements of the built environment sometimes contrast, sometimes complement.
6. To the north of the area, the open fields provide a setting for Torness: a small rise in landform in front of Torness along with lack of scale comparators from built development and use of reflective blue grey tiles to tone with the sea and sky help reduce its apparent size and improve its appearance from the A1 and East Coast Mainline. Torness Power Station, angular, futuristic, sits between well cultivated fields and the elemental forces of wide seas and sky, on the cusp between control and the wild.
7. There are attractive elements within the built environment with the mainly one or one and a half storey housing at Bilsdean using local stone, providing a visual link with the red sandstone of the coast. Stone boundary walls, in particular that along the coast and the A1, are a feature of the area. The breakwater at Torness is of an interesting octagonal design intended to stay

together without concrete. It's casually thrown together appearance took a lot of careful planning.

8. Recreation is important to the area, with good access; from the A1 for motorists and via the John Muir Link or N76 cycle route for more active travel. Thorntonloch caravan site is sited low behind the dunes, generally screened from both beach and transport corridor. The area is used by walkers, cyclists, anglers, surfers and day trippers.
9. Views include:
10. From the Thorntonloch area, the first views of the Scottish central lowlands for travellers from the south begin to emerge
11. Wide views across the area out to sea and along the coast across open fields from much of the A1 and East Coast Mainline Railway
12. Down to St Abbs and across Thorntonloch bay from Torness breakwater and the cliff top path

#### **Guidelines for Development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the simple setting of Torness and avoid development that would provide scale comparison or increase the apparent scale of the building, in particular where the view from the A1/East Coast Mainline would be affected. Clutter around Torness generally should be avoided.
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the open views along the coast from the John Muir Way, or from the Sustrans cycle route 76, A1/ rail line transport corridor towards the coast and sea
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the general undeveloped character of the coastal area as identified in the LDP to maintain the scenic and wilder qualities of the area. Well sited small scale development (not including tourist accommodation) to enable beach and other coastal recreation may be acceptable. Infrastructure where necessary should be sensitively located and carefully screened
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the core agricultural character and the openness of the fields
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the operation of natural coastal processes other than where sea defences are needed to protect important infrastructure such as the Torness breakwater
- F. Take particular account of the vulnerability of the coastline to further visual intrusion from all types of development
- G. Avoid apparent coalescence and spread of industrial features

#### **Potential for Landscape Enhancement**

- i. Avoid continuous planting along the A1 and East Coast Mainline which would obscure views over the area
- ii. Encourage an increase in woodland cover in gullies
- iii. Seek to support traditional estate management practices to safeguard woodland enclosure features and important boundary walls
- iv. 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**



Dramatic arches on the shoreline at  
Bilsdean

The sculptural octagonal stones  
forming the breakwater to Torness

Contrast of the reflection off the water and  
changing tides with the rocky shore and sandy  
bay of Thorntonloch with the mass of Torness  
Power Station in the distance



Sheer cliffs above Thorntonloch; coastal grasses,  
wave cut platform and tremendous views south



cc-by-sa 2.0 - Breakwater at Skateraw Harbour by Oliver Dixon - geograph.org.uk/p/4877375





Anglers fishing from the wave cut platform at Torness from the walk around the breakwater

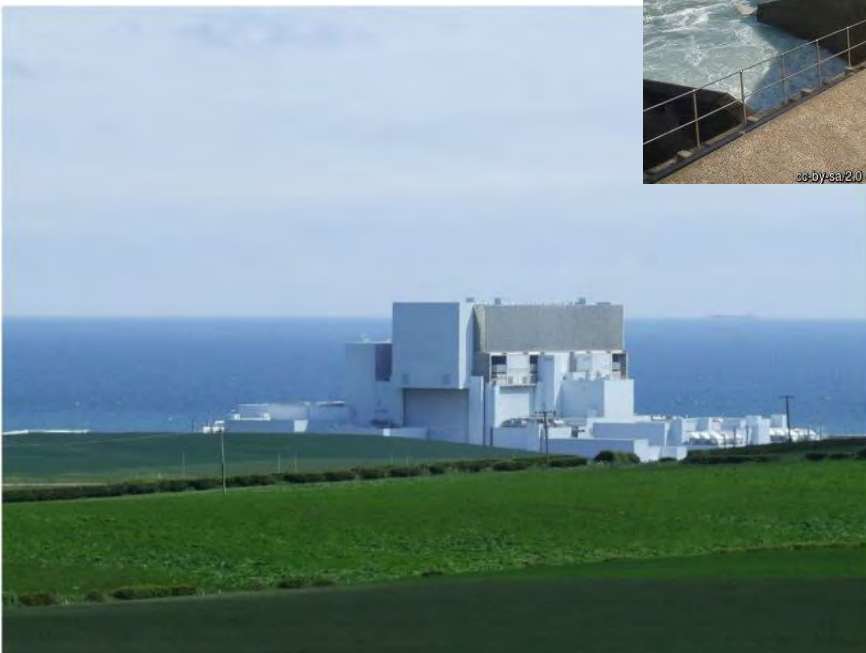


The sandy Thorntonloch beach, with grassland and rolling rich red fields rising inland and Torness and Thorntonloch Caravan site in the distance

Open wide ranging beautiful views south from the Torness walkway over the outfall and wave cut platform, towards Thorntonloch Bay with St Abbs head in the distance.

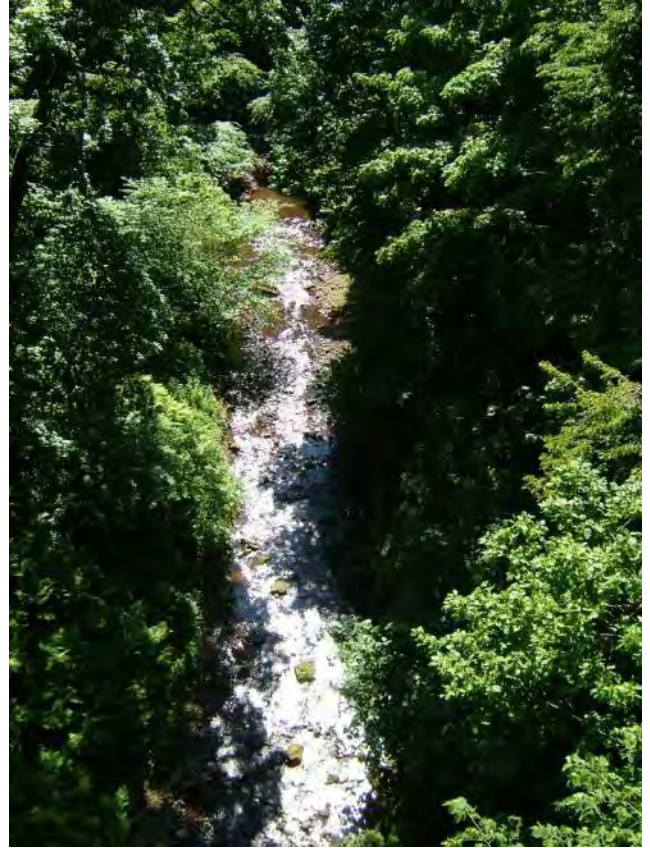


cc-by-sa/2.0 - Coastal East Lothian - View... by Richard West - geograph.org.uk/p/4065787



Torness from Innerwick. Its reflective grey tiles fit the building into its backdrop of sky and sea, reducing its mass. Its clean lines contrast with the surrounding undulating arable fields





The incised valley of Dunglass Dean  
Bridges have crossed Dunglass gorge since the 18th century; this narrow strip between sea and hills has long been important for transport. The steep ravine is heavily wooded, with an air of history and mystery

The traditional building of Dunglass Mill, contrasts with the surrounding heavily wooded ravine, with views out to the open sea

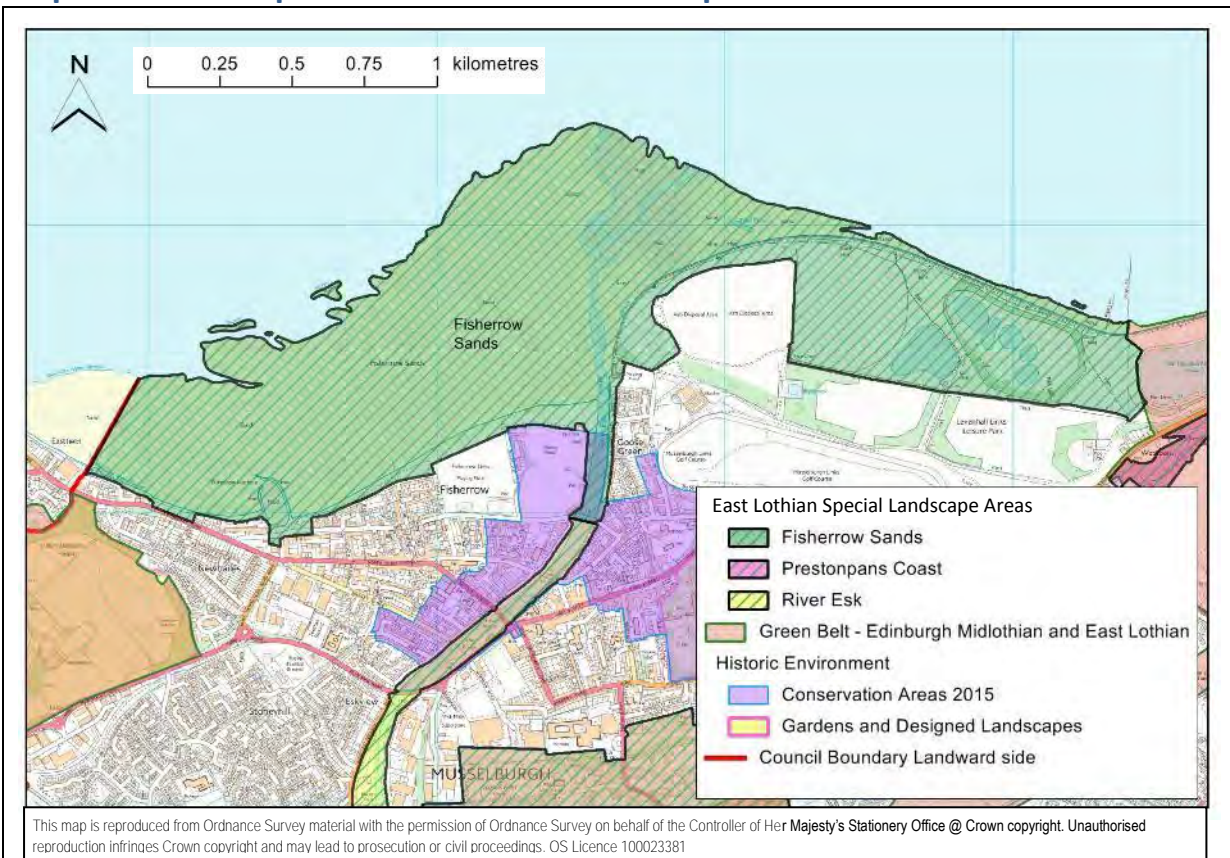




Bilsdean is another steeply incised valley with water worn sandstone and nearly native woodland, in places growing out of the rock face as with the oak tree shown here. The John Muir Way follows a path along the valley passed the Linn which can be spectacular after heavy rain and under bridges as at Dunglass



## Fisherrow Sands: Special Landscape Area 31 Statement of Importance



**Character:** The estuary of the largest river in East Lothian with wide sands and mud flats and areas of reclaimed land of the Ash Lagoons on the edge of East Lothian's largest town offering a great, easily accessible recreational resource.

**Area:** 211 Ha

### Overview

This area is centred on the estuary and mudflats of the River Esk, the largest river in East Lothian, the mussel beds here giving Musselburgh its name. It extends eastwards beyond busy Fisherrow Harbour to the boundary with Edinburgh City Council area and westwards to the end of the bird scrapes at Levenhall Links at the Ash Lagoons. The area forms a buffer area of natural seeming land between urban development and the sea. Both Levenhall Links and the banks of the River Esk are major resources for outdoor recreation. The area as a whole is well used for outdoor recreation, partly due to its proximity to main population centres which increases the use and therefore importance of this area.

The RSPB's Big Nature festival has been held at Levenhall Links in 2015 and 2016, showcasing the area. Fisherrow Harbour is used by a few fishing boats and their bright colours add to its interest, though its main use is now for leisure craft. Some businesses use the attractiveness of the location in their business, for example The Quay mentions the "stunning beachfront location" in its marketing. Paths through the area, the shore area and other open spaces are important in providing space for informal recreation and relaxation.

The painting of Fisherrow Harbour by H P Stirling shows many of the qualities of the area; purposeful human activity in the harbour and further out to sea with the protective harbour in the foreground, contrasting with the natural movement of sea and sky surrounding them; it also

includes some figures apparently just taking in the view. Three gulls are also in view.

**Special Qualities and Features:**

1. Water is important to the scenic quality of the area; the Esk, the sea, the boating pond and wader scrapes at Levenhall
2. The wide, generally slow moving Esk is edged by grassy banks, mature trees and attractive built environment of the Musselburgh Conservation Area, giving contrasting colour and form.
3. The expansive mudflats and mussel beds of the estuarine area has a variable, gently undulating surface, with sporadic pools, with the low salinity of the water here shown by the growth of algae. The alluvial fan of the delta is unusual in East Lothian. The mudflats are expansive, with a sense of space and light. They have some wild qualities due to their expansiveness and proximity to the sea, which masks the sounds of the urban area, and their associated birdlife, though the modification of the coastline to create the ash lagoons with the concrete seawall reduces the impression of wildness. The contrast with the adjacent extensive urban development gives the wild character that the area does have greater value.
4. Levenhall links is an area where new land has been made from deposition of ash from Cockenzie Power Station; that such an extensive post-industrial area could arise from the ashes is a permanent reminder of the sheer quantity of coal burned there. From this ash has been fashioned an area of open grassland interspersed with tree planting and shallow ponds, the land is now managed for formal and informal recreation. The expansive open area of Levenhall links is important particularly for walkers, dog walkers and bird watchers, and to provide natural surroundings for Musselburgh.
5. Fisherrow harbour is scenic and a focus for activity. Fisherrow Harbour was identified in the public consultation as a popular place for views along the coast, as well as featuring in views itself. The adjacent beaches are used locally for recreation and the Fisherrow sands area is a popular location for wedding photographs.
6. There is good access to and through the area, with provision of car parking at Levenhall links, and the John Muir Way and Sustrans cycle route 76 following the edge of the shore.
7. The area has copious bird life on the Esk, at the mudflats, offshore, and using the man-made wader scrapes. The site is a premier birding hotspot and is widely recognised as one of the best places in the country for bird watching. The sight and sound of birds is a key attraction of the area – many waders including striking black and white oystercatchers contrasting with softer blues and greens at the wader scrapes, where bird watching hides are provided; sea ducks and others offshore; swans, ducks and geese on the Esk. The whole section of the area below the high water mark and the wader scrapes are included with the Firth of Forth Special Protection Area and SSSI.
8. Public art and street furniture reflect the coastal location, such as the Fisherrow fishermen and the bench at Fisherrow.
9. Open, large scale views to the sea and sky and along the coast, to Fife and Edinburgh and Arthur's seat especially from the Goose Green area, Fisherrow Harbour and the John Muir Way. The changing light and weather conditions and its effects on the sea and sky can be dramatic, particularly here where the changes in tides bring dramatic changes to the seascape with large expanse of mud flats at low tide and waves breaking against the harbour and sea walls at high tide.
10. Intimate views within the area including across the River Esk where the natural elements of the river and mature trees at Loretto playing fields combine with the built environment especially the pavilion and stone walls; and of Fisherrow Harbour where the traditional buildings contrast with more modern development at The Quay and the activity of fishing boats and leisure craft add interest.
11. There are views to other SLAs including the Elphinstone Ridge, St Michael's Parish Church within the River Esk SLA, and North Berwick Law from the wader scrapes.

12. There are good views across the area from Newhailes Garden and Designed Landscape.

**Guidelines for Development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the coastal character and characteristic features of the area
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the expansive, open feel of the Esk estuary and mudflats, as well as views across this area
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the apparently natural appearance of Levenhall links and its value for informal recreation and as part of the landscape setting for Musselburgh. Urban development, other than limited visitor facilities, could impact on this.
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the views along the coast from the John Muir Way, Fisherrow Harbour, the Wader Scrapes and Fisherrow Sands
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the apparent scale of important features such as the wader scrapes and elements of the built environment in particular Fisherrow Harbour and buildings at Loretto Playing fields.
- F. Any proposed development must not harm the bird life of the area and the possibilities for its observation. Birdlife is important to the area and development or management that harms it is unlikely to be approved because of SPA status of much of the area.
- G. Any proposed development must not harm the functioning of Fisherrow Harbour as a working harbour and focus of activity that provide scenic and sensory qualities (contrasting colours of boats, fishing equipment such as lobster pots, sounds of the masts, etc)

**Potential for landscape enhancement**

- i. Coast must be carefully managed to allow for recreation and wildlife see coastal tourism strategy
- ii. Sensitive restoration of areas of ash deposition from Cockenzie Power Station
- iii. In a recent consultation lack of maintenance and facilities at Fisherrow harbour was raised. It is important for the scenic attraction of the area that the harbour remains a focus for activity.

**Examples of Paintings Using Fisherrow Sands as Inspiration**



Fisherrow Harbour by H P Stirling



Fisherrow Harbour by unknown



East Lothian Coastline looking west  
by Charles Martin Hardie before 1900



Musselburgh Harbour by Alexander Young



The Young Mussel Gatherers  
by William Marshall Brown 1901



Two Fishergirls  
by William Marshall Brown circa 1900

**Photographs of special features  
and typical elements**



Street furniture reflects the coastal location –  
good views across to Fife’s cliffs and hills

Fisherrow Sands and Harbour from Murdoch’s Green



Fisherrow harbour today



Wide views over the estuary from the John Muir Way at the  
ash lagoons





View up the tidal section of the River Esk with the spire of St Michael's church the focal point in the distance



The bay of Fisherrow sands



Oystercatchers and other waders using the wader scrapes bringing contrasting colour and movement

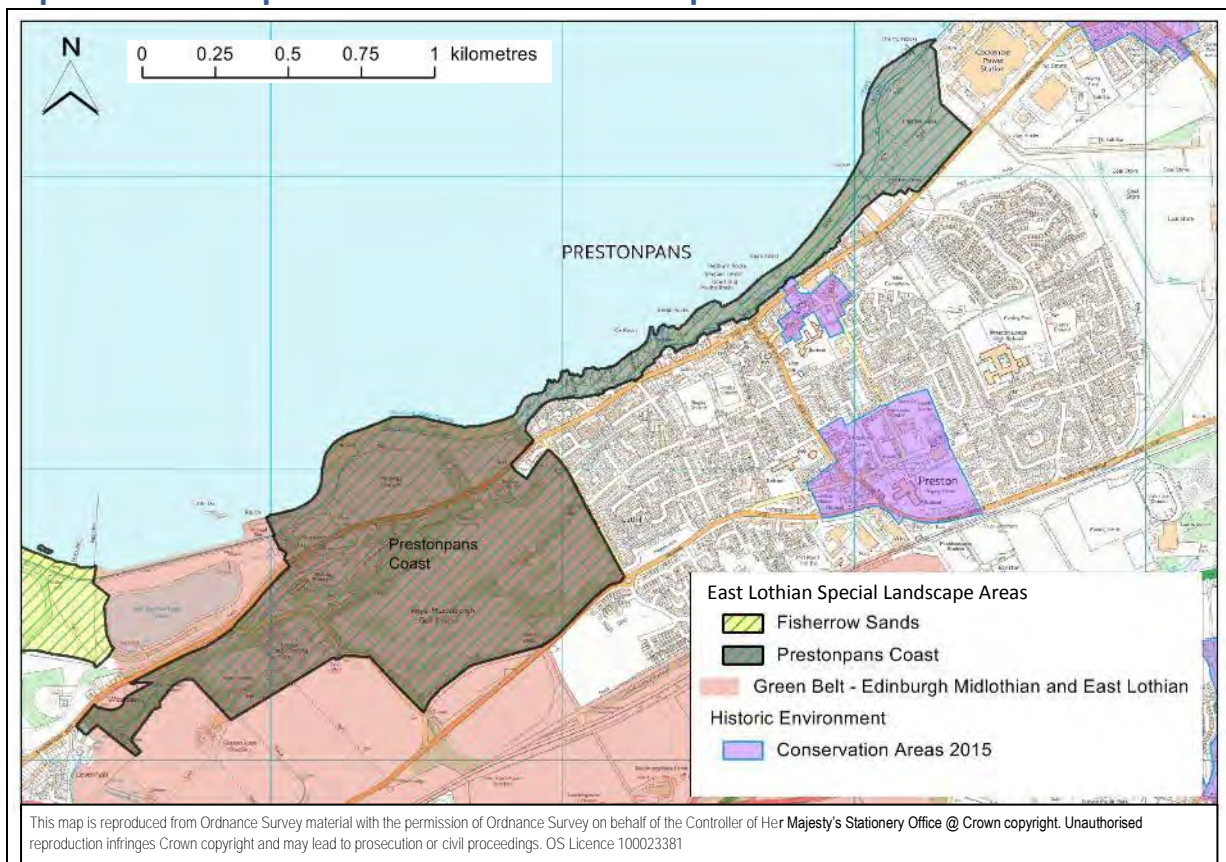


Reflections of the sky at the boating pond at Levenhall links, ringed by maturing trees





## Prestonpans Coast Special Landscape Area 32 Statement of Importance



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

**Area:** 118 ha

### Overview:

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

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

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

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

The whole of the coast between the high and low water is identified as the Firth of Forth SSSI and Morrison's Haven is identified as a local biodiversity site for its coastal grassland. The woodlands of the Royal Musselburgh Golf Course lie within tree preservation order number 1, the woodlands of Drummohr are protected by tree preservation order numbers 13 and 60.

**1. Special Qualities and Features:**

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

on the water or circling overhead. The coastal grasslands at Morrison's Haven provide another habitat important for insects, butterflies and nesting birds.

#### **Guidelines for Development**

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

#### **Potential for Landscape Enhancement**

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

#### ***Examples of paintings using the Prestonpans Coast as inspiration***



The Hope by John Bellany late 20<sup>th</sup> C



Boat at Sunrise,  
unknown artist

The Coast Road to West Pans  
by George Gray



*Photographs of special features and typical elements*



Open views along the low rocky coast to the hills of the Pentlands and Arthur's Seat in the distance

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



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

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





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



Local murals create another element to the foreshore

Sandstone of the buildings linking with the natural stone of the coast providing a connection between the built and natural environment





Coastal view westwards to Edinburgh



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



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

Rocky shore with Greenhills and site of former Cockenzie Power Station

