

Appendix 2: Special Landscape Areas

PURPOSE OF DESIGNATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

STUDY APPROACH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS

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

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

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

STATEMENTS OF IMPORTANCE

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

Each Statement is set out following a template:

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

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

Lammermuir Moorland

Special Landscape Area 1 Statement of Importance

LEGEND

EAST LOTHIAN SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS

- 1 Lammermuir Moorland
- 2 Whiteadder
- 3 Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester
- 5 Danskine to Whitecastle

OTHER SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS

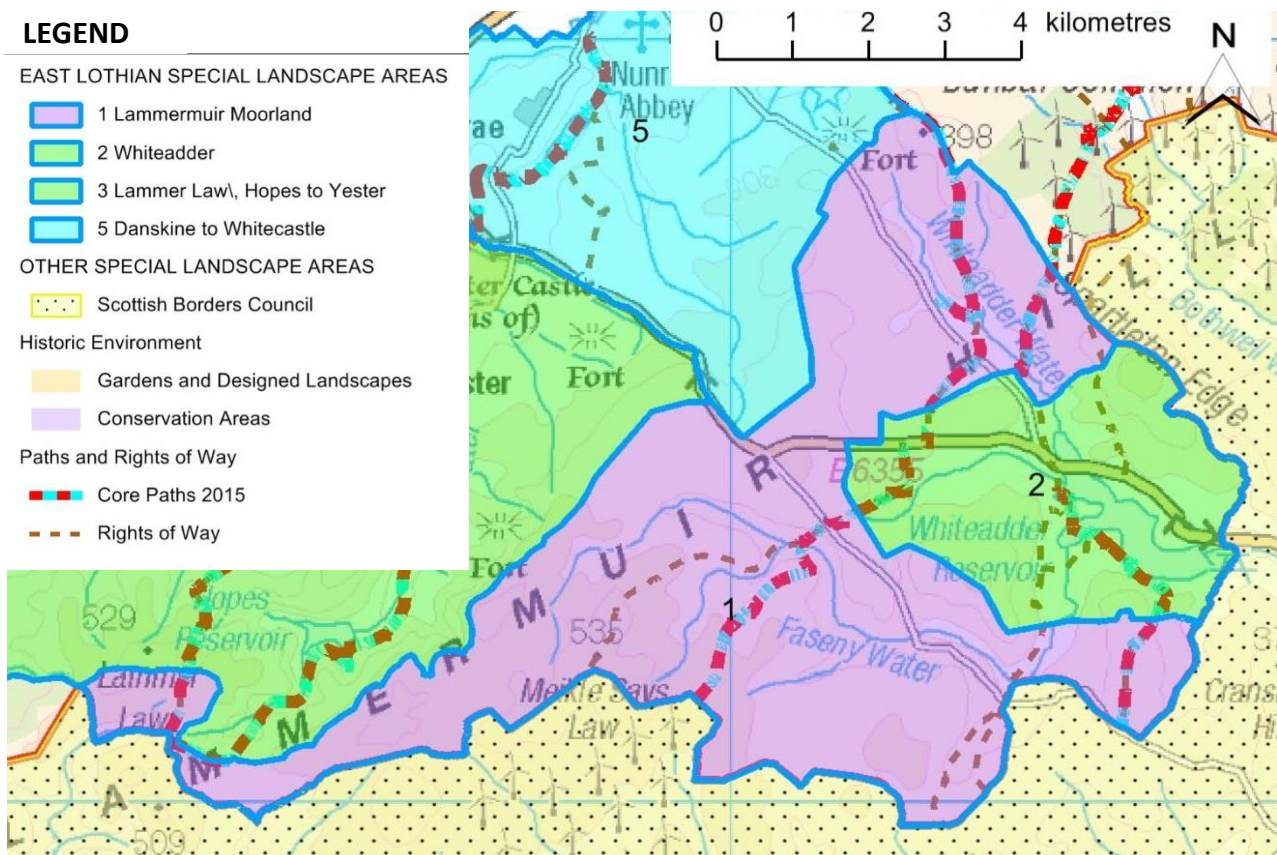
- Scottish Borders Council

Historic Environment

- Gardens and Designed Landscapes
- Conservation Areas

Paths and Rights of Way

- Core Paths 2015
- Rights of Way



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

Recreational use of the area includes walking and mountain biking as well as grouse-shooting. The streams at Whiteadder and Faseny are popular with families, and for the brave there are one or two pools just about large enough for swimming. There is good walking access along the estate tracks at Faseny, 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 Faseny has 4 or 5 bridgeless burn crossings. The historic Herring Road runs through this area. Although access rights usually apply throughout, visitors are asked to avoid use of the grouse moor when shooting is in progress on some dates between August 12 and December 10.

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

Special Qualities and Features:

1. 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

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

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.



2. 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.
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.



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

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 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 Faseney 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 Faseney cottages and the larger farmhouse of Johnscleugh, closer to the Lammermuir edge. The spacing and style of the

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



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.



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

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



9. Views are often of the moorland itself, giving the feeling of being 'in' the moor, but open out from higher ground to give panoramic vistas. Meikle Says Law is a good viewpoint looking east, west and in particular north; though through wind turbines, views south are also good; views from the track from Peat Law to Harestane Hill are tremendous, looking back into Hopes Reservoir and Lammer Law, and to the north taking in the patchwork of fields and volcanic outcrops of East Lothian as well as the Firth of Forth and hills beyond; Clints Dod has a 360 panorama including the Eildons to the South, Pentlands to the west, Ochils, Sidlaws and the Forth Islands to the north, then round to the Bass Rock, North Sea, and Belhaven Bay.



Guidelines for Development

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

moorland, including for example planting of tree belts or plantation forestry hedges or fences along roads and tracks, or signage, or features which break up the open moorland should not be supported.

- B. Any proposed development must not harm the overall open visual character focusing northwards towards the plain and the Forth and avoid development that interrupts key views, in particular from Meikle Says Law, Harestane Cairn and Clints Dod.
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the unbroken horizontal element of the Lammermuir skyline especially as viewed from the plain and foothills below and for key views from the Scottish Borders and within the Lammermuir Hills themselves. Development should be located and designed to limit wider visibility and protect the unbroken horizontal element of the Lammermuir skyline.
- D. Any proposed development must not affect the perception of scale of the moorland hills or valleys.
- E. Any proposed development must not lead to the loss of the heather landscape cover. Conversion to improved pasture in particular would adversely impact the appearance of the area and should not be supported.
- F. Preservation against further hill tracks on visually-sensitive slopes. When tracks are new or recently re-surfaced they can look very noticeable over a wide distance, and these can also look wrong by virtue of their straight lines heading straight up the moorland. This may have a negative impact on the 'natural' appearance and character of the area and tracks can be widely visible including from the plain below. Tracks also open up the area to recreational access, which has obvious benefits but may also affect the remote character of the area. Tracks should follow SNH guidance "Constructed Tracks in the Scottish Uplands"², including consideration of whether the track is necessary at all. Borrow pits, treatment of cut and fill, material, alignment of the track with topography and visibility of the track should all be carefully considered.
- G. A restoration strategy is important at development stage where large infrastructure projects are being considered to ensure re-establishment of the natural landscape.
- H. Residential development where justified should be small scale and respect the location and design pattern of existing housing, kept off moorland plateaus and hill tops to limit wider visibility.

Potential for Landscape Enhancement

- I. Re-planting of cleughs (gullies) with native woodland has been taking place in some parts of the Lammermuirs and this has both wildlife and landscape benefits. There may be scope for this in other cleughs and valleys within the area and this would be supported.
- II. Coniferous plantations and woodland planting on the moorland tops would not be supported within this area.
- III. Removal of the high voltage power lines that cross the area would enhance the area. However it is recognised that the line is needed into at least the medium term to export electricity from Torness power station as well as windfarms both on and offshore

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

- 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

Whiteadder: Special Landscape Area 2 Statement of Importance

LEGEND

EAST LOTHIAN SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS

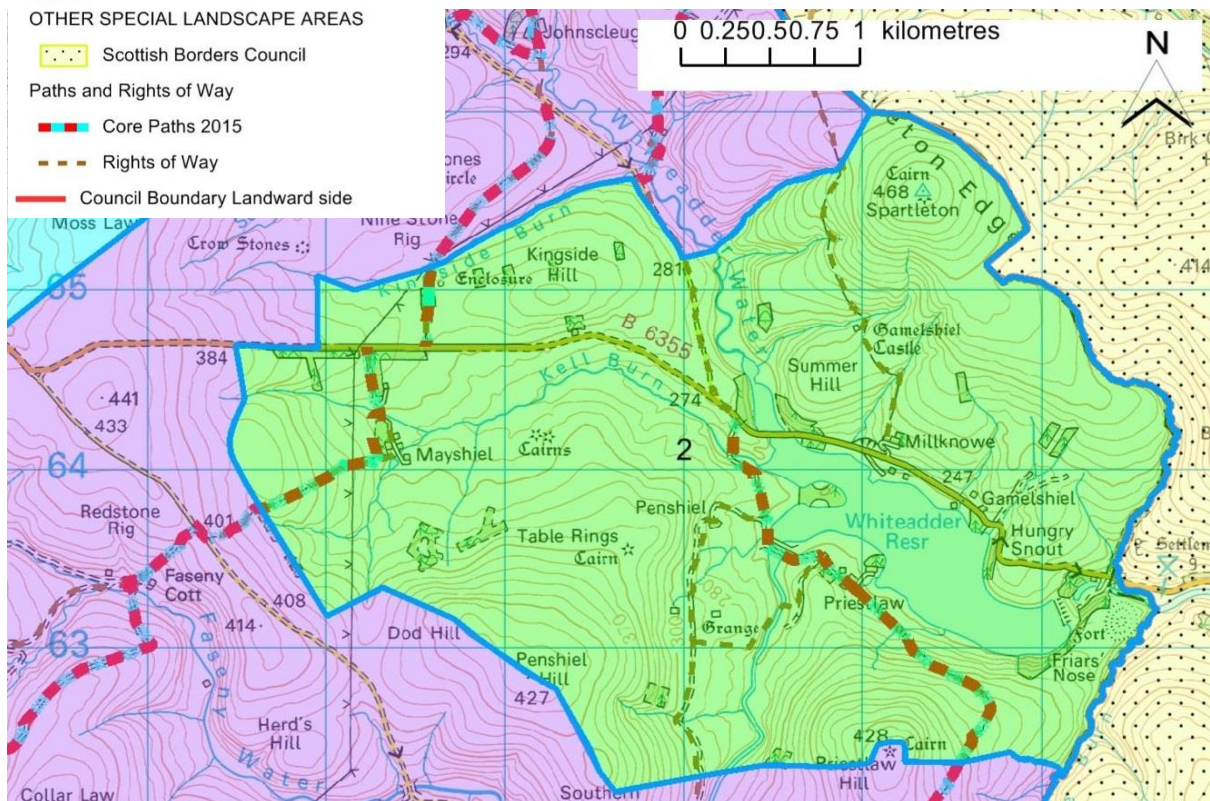
- 1 Lammermuir Moorland
- 2 Whiteadder
- 5 Danskine to Whitecastle

OTHER SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS

- Scottish Borders Council

Paths and Rights of Way

- Core Paths 2015
- Rights of Way
- Council Boundary Landward side



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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 Johnscleugh, 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.



The trees of Mayshiel contrasting with the surrounding exposed hill

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.



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



Guidelines for Development

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the scenic appeal of the Whiteadder reservoir. Small scale development around the Whiteadder, in particular that which supports recreational use of the

area is likely to fit with the character of the area – e.g. single storey boats sheds, car parking areas, picnic areas

- B. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of development that affects the perception of scale of the moorland hills or valleys
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the natural darkness of the area by prevention of development that introduces light pollution into the area
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the views of open undeveloped hill slopes and tops from within the Whiteadder valley by avoiding for example large scale wind turbine development that would be visually intrusive from the recreational area around the margins of the Whiteadder
- E. Any proposed development must not increase the apparent scale of large scale industrial elements (reservoir walls, pylon lines) for example by providing scale comparison
- F. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape from both within this area and within the surrounding upland moorland areas
- G. Preservation against wind turbines within this area which would have a visual cumulative effect with the turbines of the uplands thereby diminishing the individual identity of the landscape character area and disrupting the sense of contrast between the plateau tops and the fringe landscape
- H. Any proposed development must not harm the open ‘wild land’ character. Development or management that would affect the sense of openness or wildness of the moorland, including for example planting of tree belts or plantation forestry hedges or fences along roads and tracks, or signage, or features which break up the open moorland should not be supported.
- I. Any proposed development must not harm the feeling of remoteness of the area and small-scale rural character of the roads and avoid development that could increase the urban/developed feel of the area such as upgrading and widening of roads or tracks
- J. A restoration strategy is important at development stage where large infrastructure projects are being considered to ensure re-establishment of the natural landscape
- K. Any proposed development must not harm the existing settlement pattern of development kept to the lower hill slopes and valley bottoms. Residential development where justified should be small scale and respect the location and design pattern of existing housing. Built development of an urban or suburban nature would not accord with the character of the area.
- L. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape setting of archaeological landscape features including Table Rings cairn, Gamelshiel Castle, and Friars Nose Fort.
- M. Preservation against further hill tracks on visually-sensitive slopes. When tracks are new or recently re-surfaced they can look very noticeable over a wide distance, and these can also look wrong by virtue of their straight lines heading straight up the moorland. This may have a negative impact on the ‘natural’ appearance and character of the area and tracks can be widely visible including from the plain below. Tracks also open up the area to recreational access, which has obvious benefits but may also affect the remote character of the area. Tracks should follow SNH guidance “Constructed Tracks in the Scottish Uplands”¹, including consideration of whether the track is necessary at all. Borrow pits, treatment of cut and fill, material, alignment of the track with topography and visibility of the track should all be carefully considered

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

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

Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester: Special Landscape Area 3 Statement of Importance

LEGEND

EAST LOTHIAN SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS

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- 5 Danskine to Whitecastle

OTHER SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS

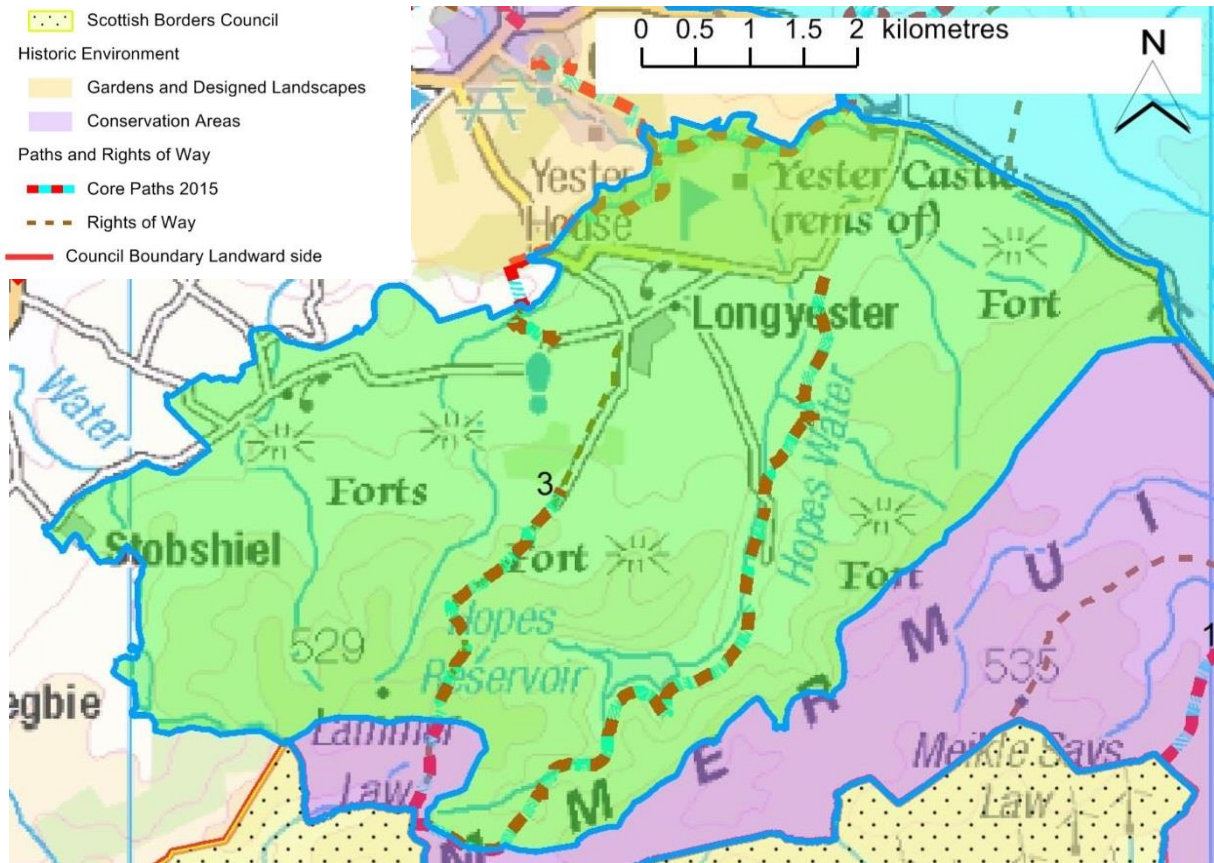
- Scottish Borders Council

Historic Environment

- Gardens and Designed Landscapes
- Conservation Areas

Paths and Rights of Way

- Core Paths 2015
- Rights of Way
- Council Boundary Landward side



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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.



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



Lammermuir Hills forming the backdrop to the plain of East Lothian

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

The 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.

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



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



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.



Aikieside Wood native upland oak wood

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



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

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.



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

7. Heading up the tracks on the surrounding hills offers a different perspective on the Reservoir with it set between the enclosing hills. From Harestone Hill Lammer Law can be seen rising up beyond the reservoir with its cairn visible on the top. There is a strong feeling of entering the moorland and the land falling away behind you.
8. Core path route 56 and Sustrans cycle route 17 lead you over the moorland from Lammer Law to Blinkbonny Wood. This raised route offers superb open panoramic views north over the East Lothian plain and Firth of Forth.
9. In contrast core path routes 217 and 216 follow the valley of the Gamuelston Burn and Gifford Water through the wooded Yester Estate. This steep sided valley encloses views and the mixed woods create seasonal interest. The scheduled ancient monument of Yester Castle and Hobgoblin Ha' Vaulted Chamber can be found in the woods set on a steep sided promontory between the Hopes Water and a lesser burn to its west. The castle was built during the second half of the 13th century by Hugo De Gifford. The castle is now a ruin, but the subterranean hall beneath shown on early maps as Hobgoblin Ha' is substantially intact with an impressive Gothic arched ceiling. This is said to be where Hugo De Gifford practiced 'dark arts'. A dark cave in the dark woods!



10. The height of the hills provides contrast for the weather. Often cloud will sit on the hill tops creating a forbidding dark look in contrast to the sunlit lower ground. The contours of the hill slopes play with the light and increase their scenic value especially in early morning or evening. The higher ground of this area makes it more likely to have falls of snow which can cut hill some houses and small settlements off in the winter. This will often sit on the hill tops long after it has melted elsewhere emphasising the cleughs which can be lost in long distance views; deep gullies e.g. at Lowrans Law can retain the snow for a considerable time – though rarely, if ever, through the summer.



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 risina above and framina the area

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.



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

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



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

protected as a geodiversity site. This raised area of land is highly scenic contrasting with the surrounding arable land and linking with the rough pasture and glacial features of the hillfoots to the south. There are stunning views out over the plain of East Lothian as well as to the hillfoots and the pretty painted row of cottages at Longnewton. The site was used as a base for an anti-aircraft gun during WWII which illustrates its panoramic outlook.

13. The area has sparse built development. Settlement is confined to the lower slopes of the hillfoots set along the narrow lanes with high hedges typical of the area. There are a number of large farmsteads with old farmhouses including Newlands and Castle mains. These often have small terraces of cottages set at along the roadsides originally as farm workers cottages. These can be particularly attractive such as the row at Longnewton where colour has been used to contrast with the surrounding natural green and gold colours of the fields.



Colourful Long Newton Cottages with the peak of Lammer Law above

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



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

Guidelines for Development

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the characteristic features reflecting transition from open upland to enclosed lowland landscape.
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the open 'Wild Land' character of the moorland sections by controlling development or management that would affect the sense of openness or wildness of the moorland, including for example planting of tree belts or plantation forestry hedges or fences along roads and tracks, or signage, or features which break up the open moorland.
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the unbroken horizontal element of the Lammermuir skyline especially as viewed from the plain and foothills below. Development should be located and designed to limit wider visibility and protect the unbroken horizontal element of the Lammermuir skyline.
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the overall open visual character focusing northwards towards the plain and the Forth and avoid development that interrupts key views in particular from Lammer Law, Dod Law and the B6355.
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the retention of small-scale topographic diversity provided by glacial features such as kame terraces, and melt-water channels in considering future sand and gravel extraction. Historic quarrying has removed some of East Lothian's finest glacial deposit features. This interesting landform has been restored to a much flatter gradient, with few features.
- F. Any proposed development must not increase the apparent scale of large scale industrial elements (reservoir walls, pylon lines) for example by providing scale comparison should not be supported.
- G. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form.
- H. Preservation against wind turbines within this area which would have a visual cumulative effect with the turbines of the uplands thereby diminishing the individual identity of the landscape character area and disrupting the sense of contrast between the plateau tops and the fringe landscape.
- I. Preservation against further hill tracks on visually-sensitive slopes. When tracks are new or recently re-surfaced they can look very noticeable over a wide distance, and these can also look wrong by virtue of their straight lines heading straight up the moorland. This may have a negative impact on the 'natural' appearance and character of the area and tracks can be widely visible including from the plain below. Tracks also open up the area to recreational access, which has obvious benefits but may also affect the remote character of the area. Tracks should follow

SNH guidance “Constructed Tracks in the Scottish Uplands”¹, including consideration of whether the track is necessary at all. Borrow pits, treatment of cut and fill, material, alignment of the track with topography and visibility of the track should all be carefully considered.

- J. A restoration strategy is important at development stage where large infrastructure projects are being considered to ensure re-establishment of the natural landscape.
- K. Any proposed development must not harm the existing settlement pattern of development kept to the lower slopes of the hillfoots set generally along the narrow lanes. Support use of traditional building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings. Suburban style housing is unlikely to fit with the character of the area.
- L. Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale rural character of the roads, including characteristic features such as hedges and stone walls, passing places, cattle grids and stone bridges
- M. Any proposed development must not harm the integrity and coherence of the historic landscape.

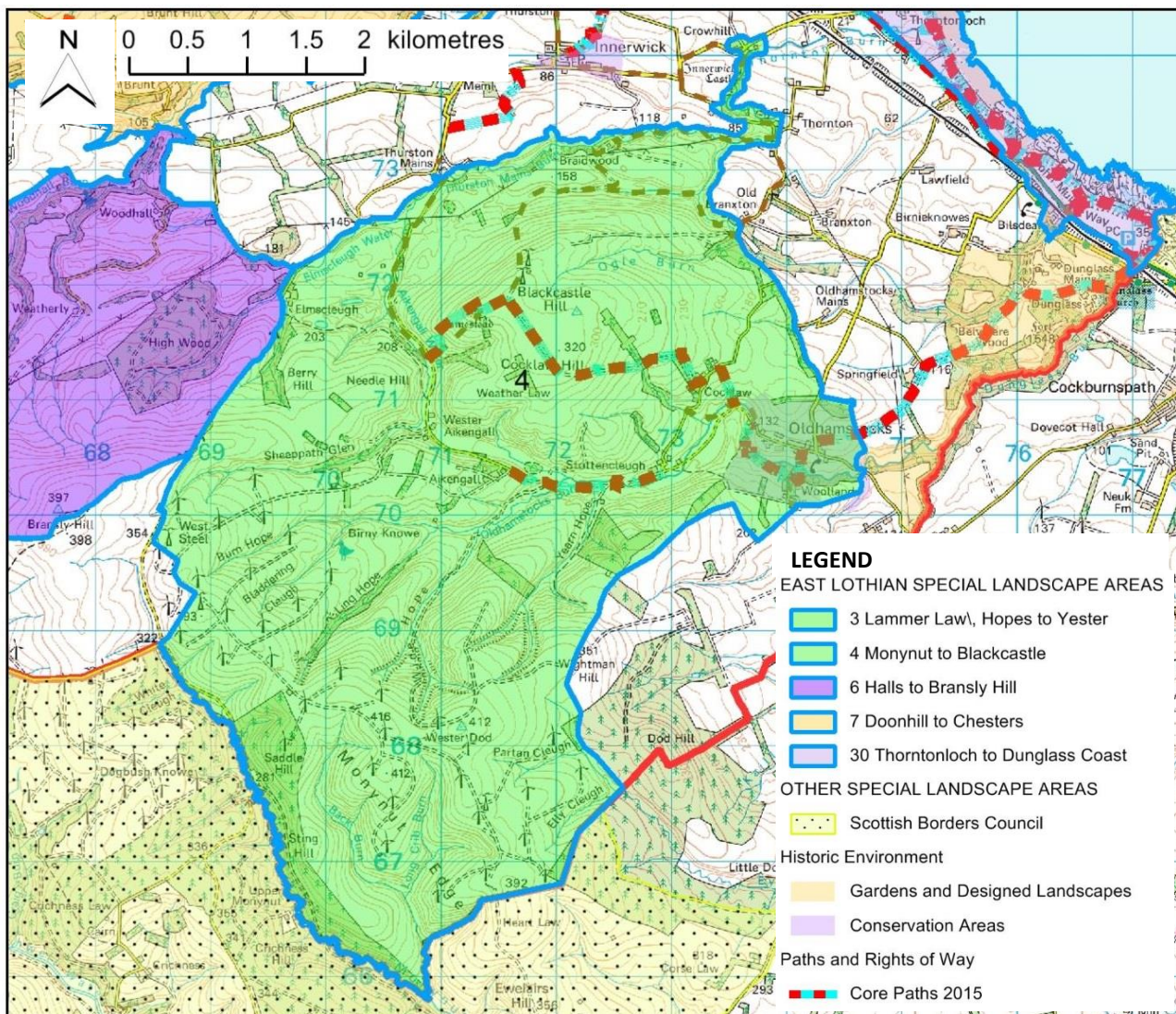
Potential for Landscape Enhancement:

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

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

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



Monymut Edge looking down Long Crib Burn to the Scottish Borders

around the Monymut 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.



View from the plateau top looking out of the area

5. The distinctive cleughs of Ling Hope, Bladderling Cleugh and Burn Hope, and the separated valley of Sheepath Glen 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.



Fairy Glen and Burn Hope from above

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.



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

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. The 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.



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

13. 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.
14. 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.



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



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

Guidelines for Development:

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the characteristic features reflecting transition from open upland to enclosed lowland landscape.
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the open ‘Wild Land’ character of the moorland by controlling development or management that would affect the sense of openness or wildness of the moorland, including for example planting of tree belts or plantation forestry hedges or fences along roads and tracks, or signage, or features which break up the open moorland.
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the overall open visual character focusing north and eastwards towards the plain and the Forth and avoid development that interrupts key views from the hill tops, including from the minor road from Elmscleugh at Sheeppath Hill, from core path route 16 and the Innerwick to Thurston Mains right of way on Blackcastle Hill and from the Monynut Edge.
- D. Any proposed development must not harm views of Oldhamstocks from Cocklaw and core path route 16, and core path route 13 to Woollands
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the agricultural character of the area
- F. Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale topographic diversity provided by glacial features such as kame terraces, and melt-water channels in considering future sand and gravel extraction.
- G. Preservation against wind farm and wind turbine development spreading off the hill tops and plateau thereby diminishing the individual identity of the landscape character areas and disrupting the sense of contrast between the plateau tops and the fringe landscape.
- H. Wind turbines should be sited to prevent intrusion on the setting of the visually important cleughs.
- I. Preservation against further hill tracks on visually-sensitive slopes. When tracks are new or recently re-surfaced they can look very noticeable over a wide distance, and these can also look wrong by virtue of their straight lines heading straight up the moorland. This may have a negative impact on the ‘natural’ appearance and character of the area and tracks can be widely visible including from the plain below. Tracks also open up the area to recreational access, which has obvious benefits but may also affect the remote character of the area. Tracks should follow SNH guidance “Constructed Tracks in the Scottish Uplands”¹, including consideration of whether the

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

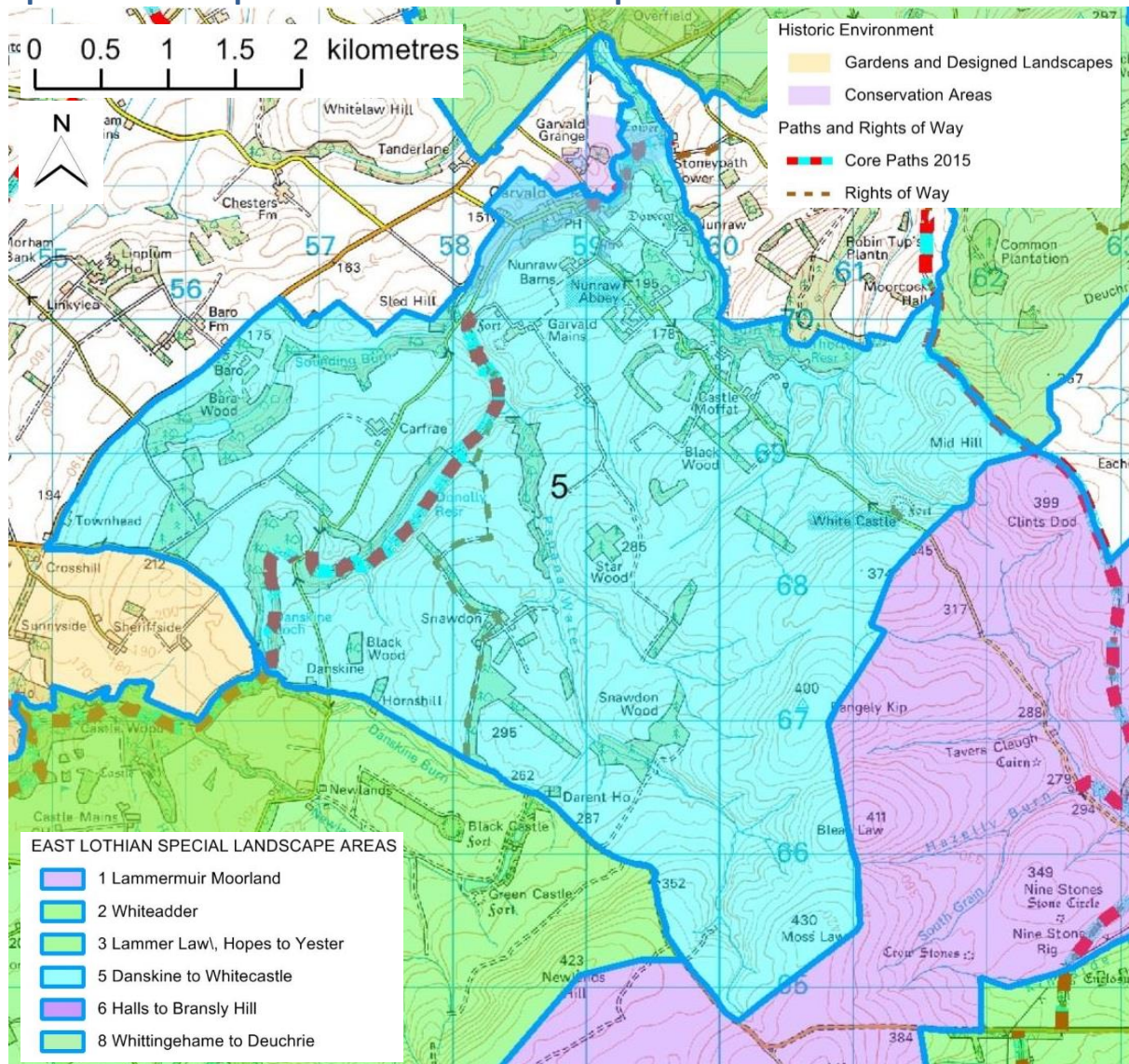
track is necessary at all. Borrow pits, treatment of cut and fill, material, alignment of the track with topography and visibility of the track should all be carefully considered.

- 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:

- 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

Danskinne to Whitecastle: Special Landscape Area 5 Statement of Importance



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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



Whitecastle Hillfort with panoramic views

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

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



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 Law

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 looking north; 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.



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

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



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



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

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.



Traditional stone and slate cottages at Snawdon, sensitively extended



Picturesque vernacular red sandstone buildings of Garvald

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 Papana Water from the east side of Garvald to the historic Stoneypath Tower.



Peaceful Baro Loch with much birdlife surrounded by woodland

Very sparse built development on higher ground, though occasional railway carriage sheds give a reminder of Beeching's 1960s rail cuts.



Papana Water valley west from Garvald

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, Clints Law, Rangely Kip or northwards from the B6370.
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale topographic diversity provided by glacial features such as kame terraces, and melt-water channels in considering future sand and gravel extraction. Historic quarrying has removed some of East Lothian's finest glacial deposit features. This interesting landform has been restored to a much flatter gradient, with few features.
- F. Development that increases the apparent scale of large scale industrial elements (reservoir walls, pylon lines) for example by providing scale comparison should not be supported.
- G. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form.
- H. Preservation against wind turbines within this area which would have a visual cumulative effect with the turbines of the uplands thereby diminishing the individual identity of the landscape character area and disrupting the sense of contrast between the plateau tops and the fringe landscape.
- I. Preservation against further hill tracks on visually-sensitive slopes. When tracks are new or recently re-surfaced they can look very noticeable over a wide distance, and these can also look wrong by virtue of their straight lines heading straight up the moorland. This may have a negative impact on the 'natural' appearance and character of the area and tracks can be widely visible including from the plain below. Tracks also open up the area to recreational access, which has obvious benefits but may also affect the remote character of the area. Tracks should follow

SNH guidance “Constructed Tracks in the Scottish Uplands”¹, including consideration of whether the track is necessary at all. Borrow pits, treatment of cut and fill, material, alignment of the track with topography and visibility of the track should all be carefully considered.

- J. A restoration strategy is important at development stage where large infrastructure projects are being considered to ensure re-establishment of the natural landscape
- K. Any proposed development must not harm the existing settlement pattern of development kept to the lower slopes of the hillfoots set generally along the narrow lanes. Support use of traditional building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings. Suburban style housing is unlikely to fit with the character of the area.
- L. Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale rural character of the roads, including characteristic features such as hedges and stone walls, passing places, cattle grids and stone bridges
- M. Any proposed development must not harm the intimate scale of valley bottom landscape and of villages in any future development proposals
- N. Safeguard distinctive architectural integrity and close link with local red sandstone geology
- O. Any proposed development must not harm the existing character of the village of Garvald and the surrounding countryside. Traditionally designed houses include low terraces and features such as crow-steps, small paned sash and case windows and materials including pantiles, red sandstone, slate and harling. Large, modern development, out of scale with the existing buildings and landscape character would adversely impact the landscape character of the area.
- P. Any proposed development must not harm the integrity and coherence of the historic landscape.

Potential for Landscape Enhancement:

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

¹ Available on SNH’s website at

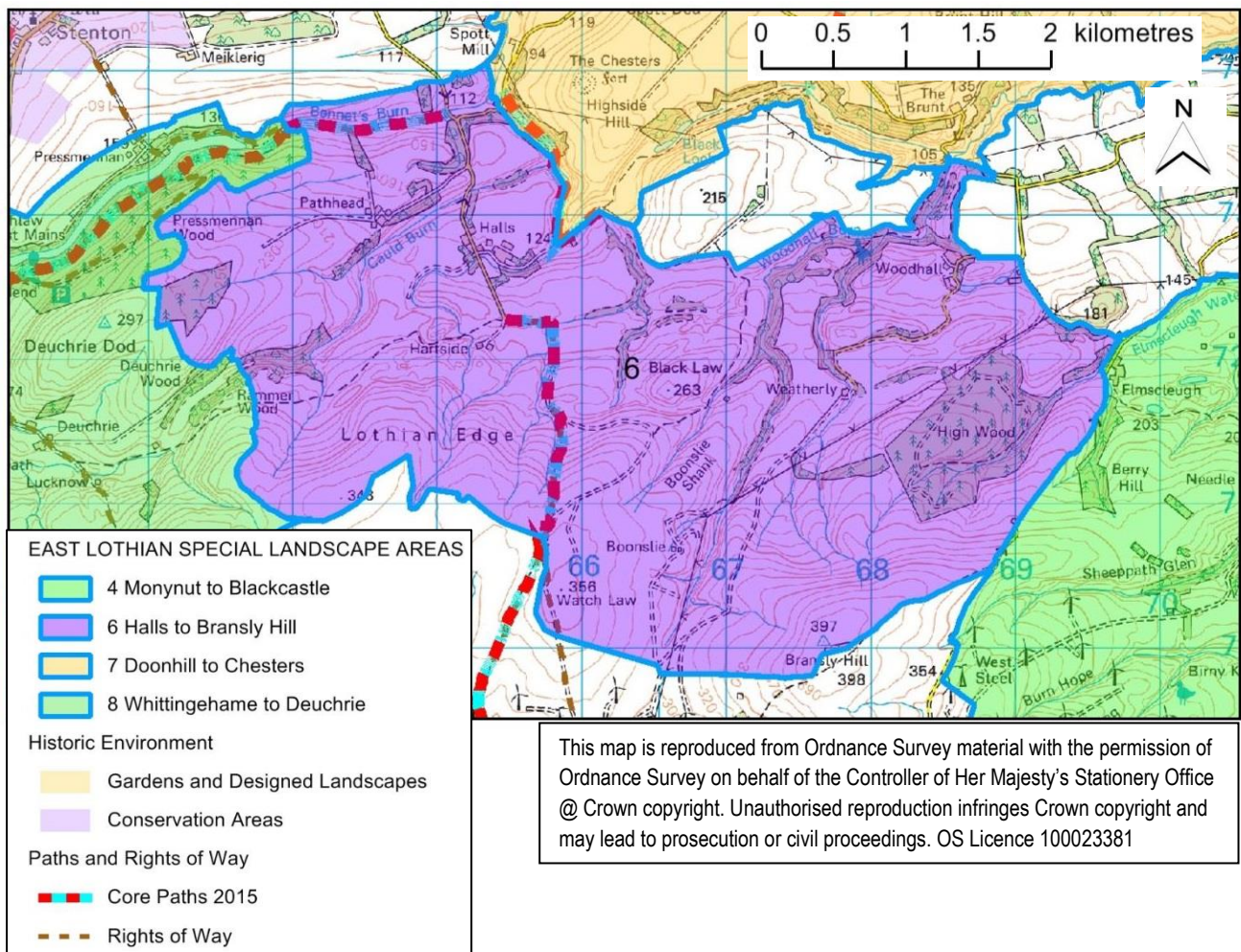
<http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/heritagemanagement/constructedtracks.pdf> ¹

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

- 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

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



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

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.



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

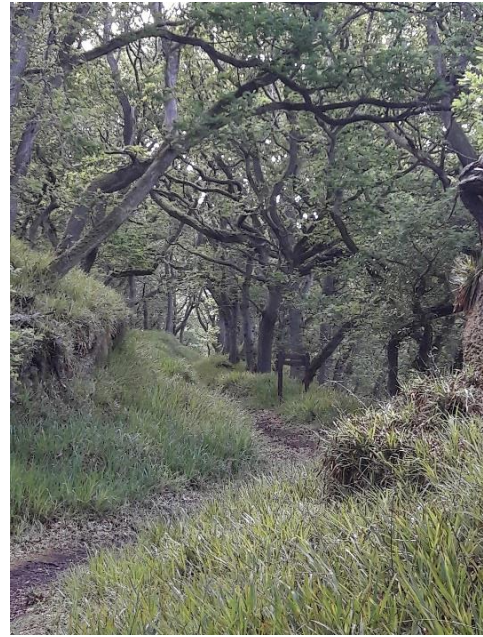


2. The Rammer Cleugh SSSI in this area is also special for Deuchrie Woods an almost pure stand of sessile oak, representative of a habitat type now scarce in upland East Lothian. The long narrow Scottish Wildlife Trust nature reserve of Woodhall Dean encompasses three burns that join to form the Woodhall 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.



Upland Oak woods set on the sides of steep cleughs within Woodhall Dean Nature Reserve

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.



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

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.



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

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



Guidelines for Development

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the characteristic features reflecting transition from open upland to enclosed lowland landscape
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the open 'Wild Land' character of the moorland by controlling development or management that would affect the sense of openness or wildness of the moorland, including for example planting of tree belts or plantation forestry hedges or fences along roads and tracks, or signage, or features which break up the open moorland.
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the unbroken horizontal element of the Lammermuir skyline especially as viewed from the plain and foothills below
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the overall open visual character focusing northwards towards the plain and the Forth and avoid development that interrupts key views from Bransley Hill, Hartside and the Lothian Edge.
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale topographic diversity provided by glacial features such as kame terraces, and melt-water channels in considering future sand and gravel extraction. Historic quarrying has removed some of East Lothian's finest glacial deposit features. This interesting landform has been restored to a much flatter gradient, with few features.
- F. Development that increases the apparent scale of large scale industrial elements (reservoir walls, pylon lines) for example by providing scale comparison should not be supported
- G. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form.

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

Potential for Landscape Enhancement:

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

¹ Available on SNH's website at

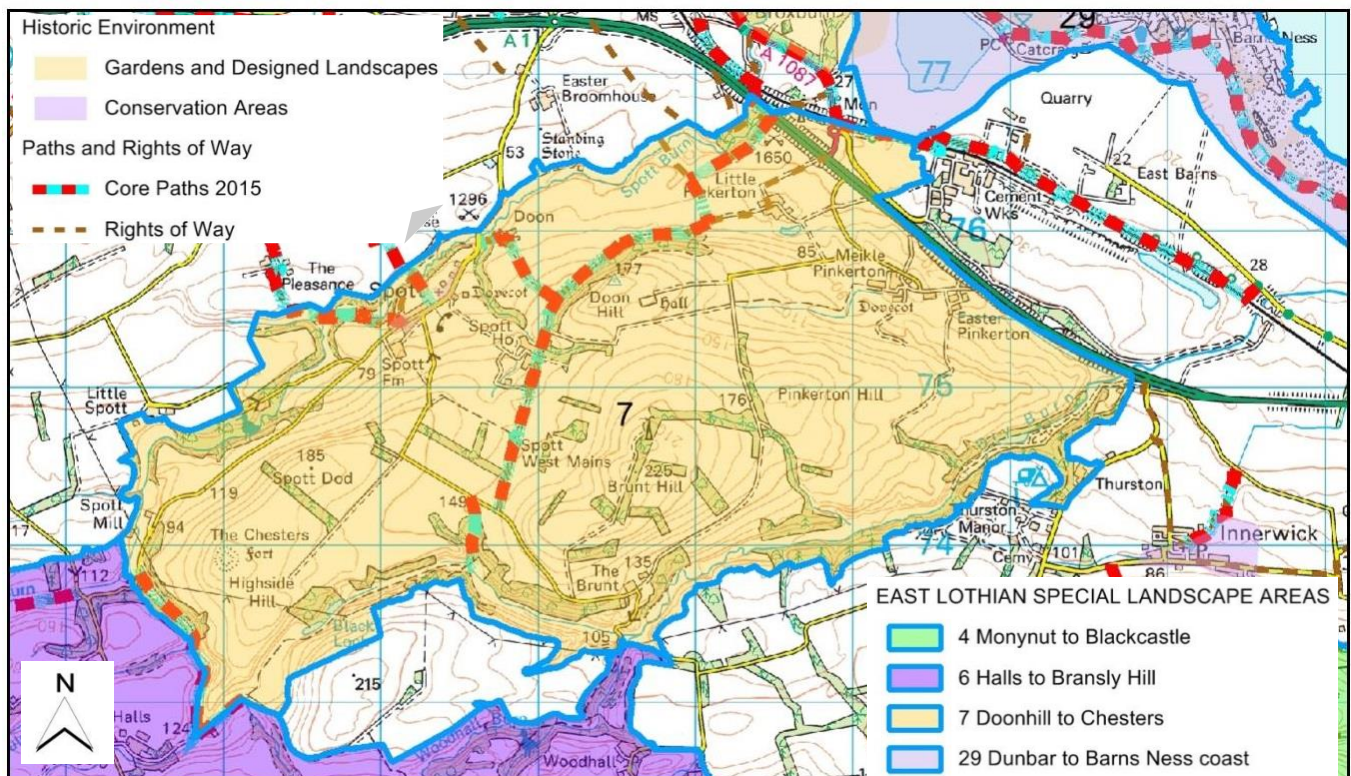
<http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/heritagemanagement/constructedtracks.pdf>¹

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

- 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



Doon Hill to Chesters Special Landscape Area 7 Statement of Importance



0 0.5 1 1.5 2 kilometres

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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



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

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.



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



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

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.



Typical stone built one and a half storey cottages set into the landscape



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

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



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

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.



Doon Hill rising above the woods around the Spott Burn



Enclosing woods of Brock Wood

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.

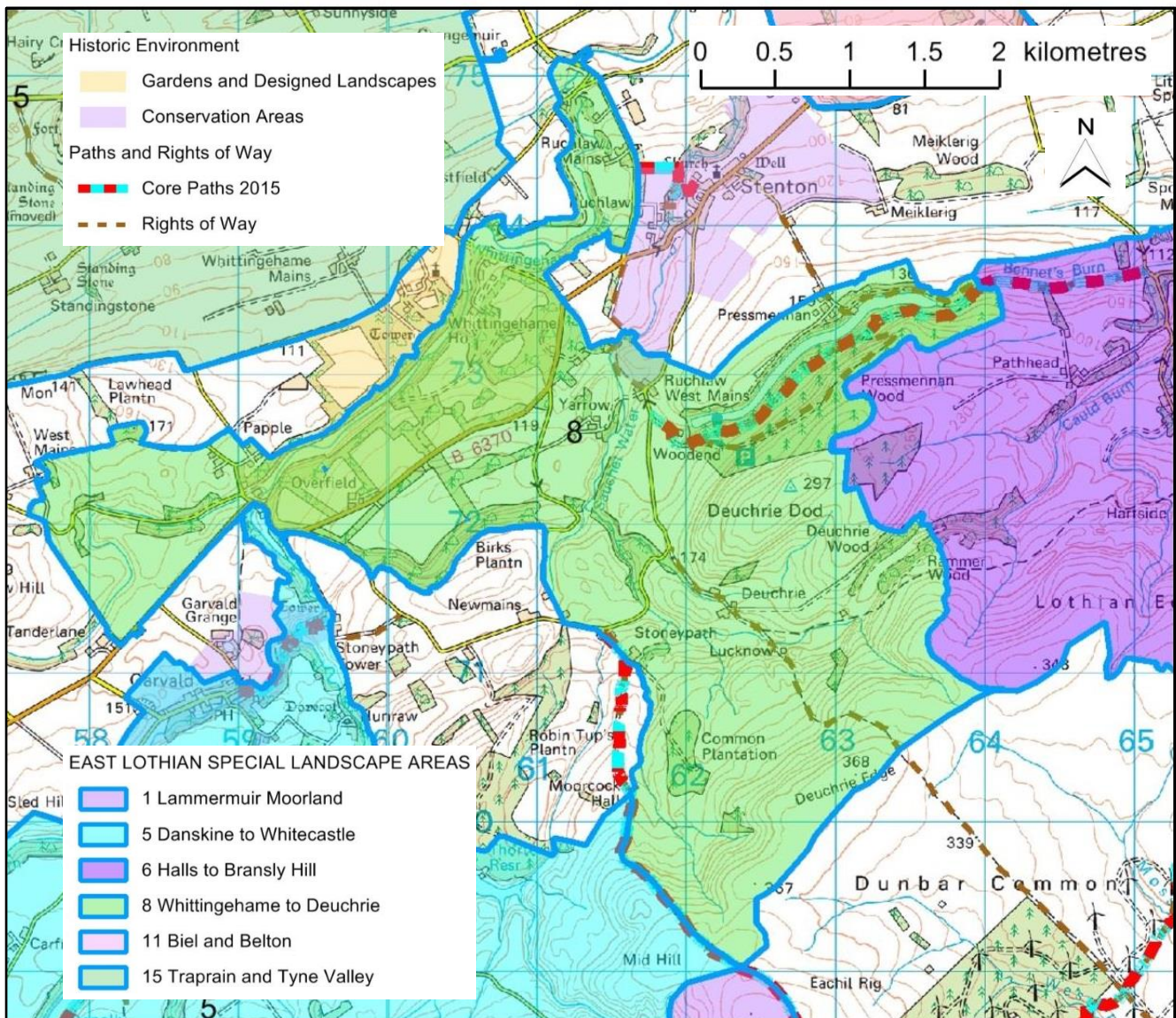
- F. Any proposed development must not harm the existing settlement pattern of development kept to the lower slopes of the hillfoots set generally along the narrow lanes. Support use of traditional building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings. Suburban style housing 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



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: 1,2061 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.



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

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. It 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



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

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 knarled 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.



Pressmennan wood and lake

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.



Snow covered Deuchrie Dod from Whittingehame

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.



cc-by-sa/2.0 - Whittingehame Yew by ronnie leask - geograph.org.uk/p/924140

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



Red soil on the slopes of Deuchrie Dod

- 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



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

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.

Guidelines for Development

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the 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 Deuchrie Dod, Deuchrie Edge and Pressmennan.
- 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.
- 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
- G. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form.
- H. Preservation against wind turbines within this area which would have a visual cumulative effect with the turbines of the uplands thereby diminishing the individual identity of the landscape character area and disrupting the sense of contrast between the plateau tops and the fringe landscape.
- I. Preservation against further hill tracks on visually-sensitive slopes. When tracks are new or recently re-surfaced they can look very noticeable over a wide distance, and these can also look wrong by virtue of their straight lines heading straight up the moorland. This may have a negative impact on the 'natural' appearance and character of the area and tracks can be widely visible including from the plain below. Tracks also open up the area to recreational access, which has obvious benefits but may also affect the remote character of the area. Tracks should follow SNH guidance "Constructed Tracks in the Scottish Uplands"¹, including consideration of whether

¹ Available on SNH's website at

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

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

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 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.
- L. 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
- M. 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
- 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, fords and stone bridges
- O. Any proposed development must not harm the intimate scale of valley bottom landscape and settlements in any future development proposals
- P. 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
- Q. 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:

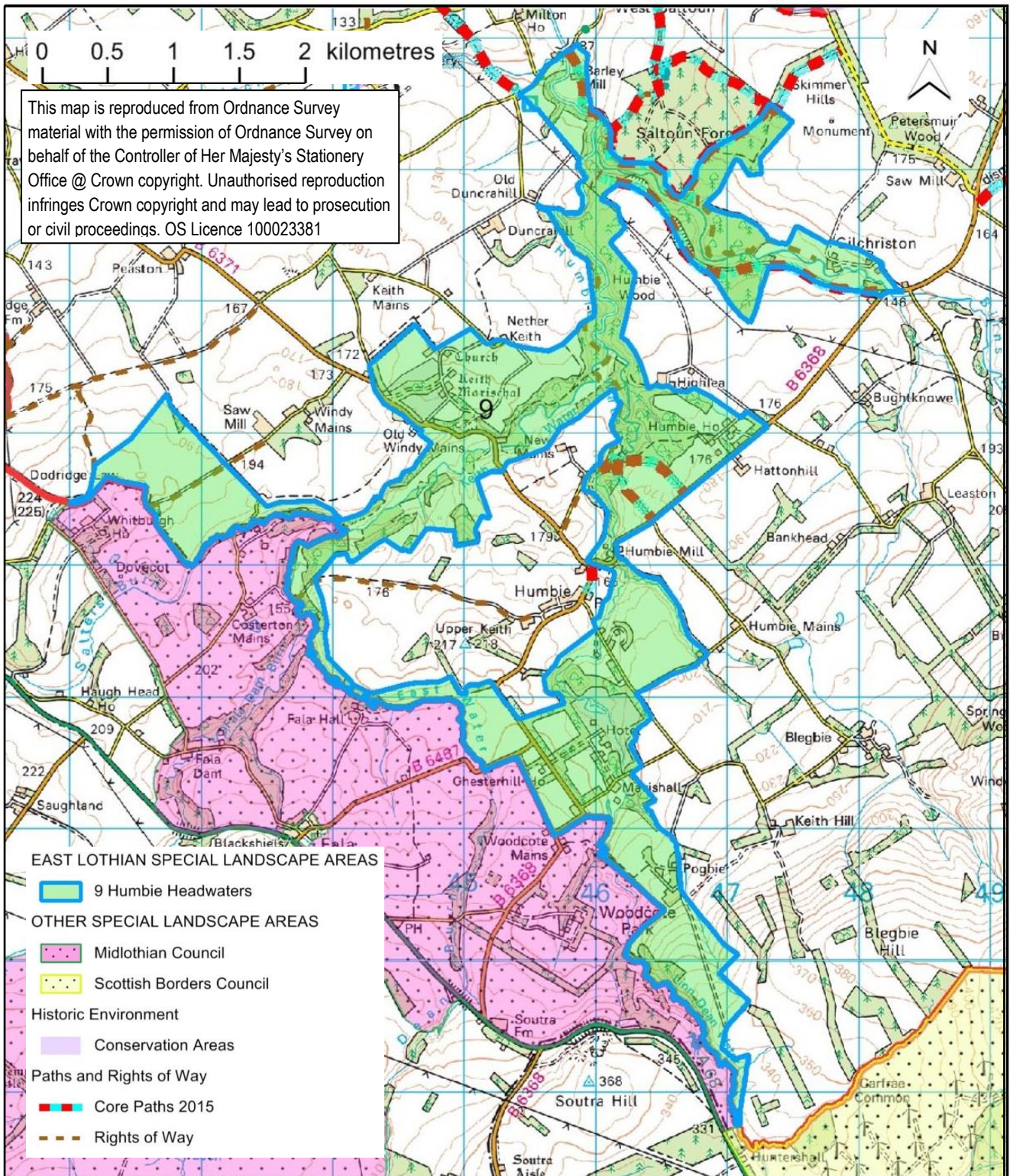
- i. Conserve and enhance well-developed and maintained beech and thorn hedgerow network on the arable land
- ii. Promote replacement of traditional oak and ash field boundary tree lines. Consider alternative species to ash due to effects of Ash Dieback
- iii. Promote reinforcement of stone dyke boundary 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



Humbie Head Waters Special Landscape Area

9 Statement of Importance



Character: Incised, wooded river valleys, tributaries of the Tyne, with natural and historic qualities.

Area: 826 ha

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.

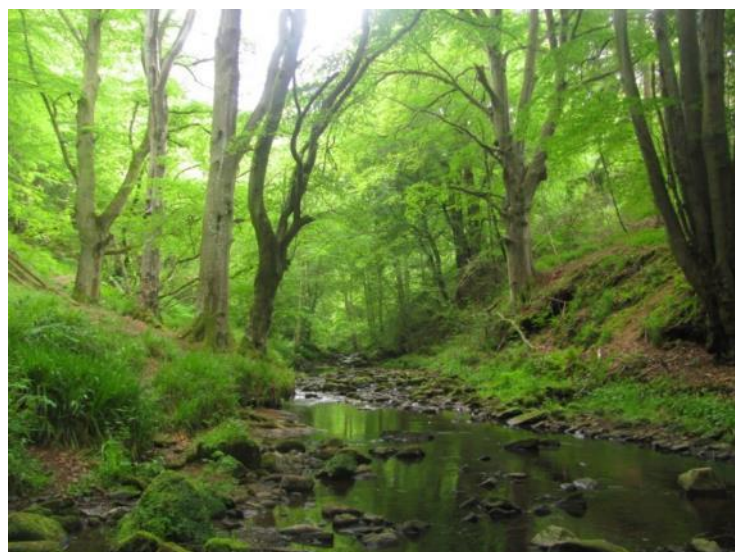
It is a very historic area with ancient settlements and plays a strong role in the history of Scotland.

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.

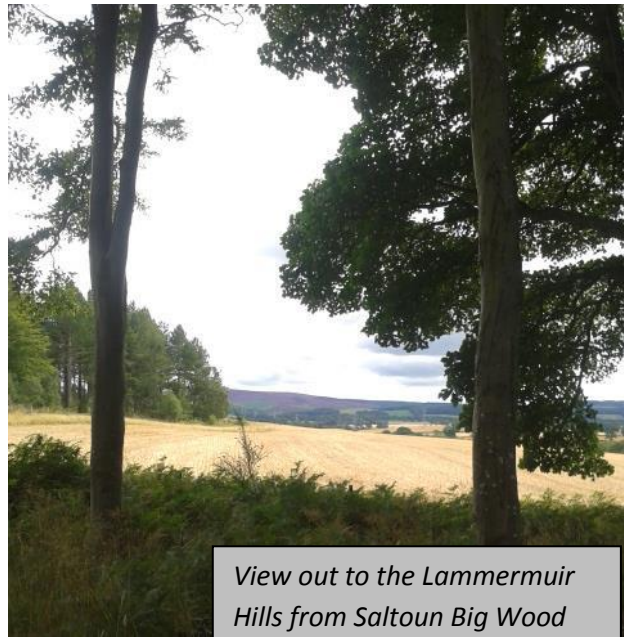


Special Qualities and Features:

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 breath-taking views over East Lothian.



View out to the Lammermuir Hills from Saltoun Big Wood



Incised valley of the Linn Dean Water and nature reserve

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 Humber is very accessible. Core path routes 58 and 59 follow tracks from the B6368 over Kirk Bridge to Humber Church then joining the right of way from Duncrahill to Humber along the valley of the Humber Water. Core path route 61 follows the line of the old railway from Humber Station Cottages at the B6368 along the Gilchriston Burn to the Humber Water. Core path routes 64 and 30 follow the north-



Heather and pine trees in Saltoun Big Wood



Mature Beech trees in the Humber valley

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.

Johnstounburn House



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 12th century, although the current listed L-plan tower house dates from the 16th 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 detracting 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 Humble 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 Humble 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

River Esk

Special Landscape Area 10 Statement of Importance



Character: This area was chosen to recognise the scenic and recreational value of the River Esk as it makes its way from Midlothian to the Firth of Forth, its valley and surrounding land as well as providing a coherent area of important prehistoric settlement.

Area: 369 ha

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.

Examples of paintings using the River Esk as inspiration



Old Roman Bridge, Musselburgh by H Dittrich



The Old Bridge by unknown

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



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

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.

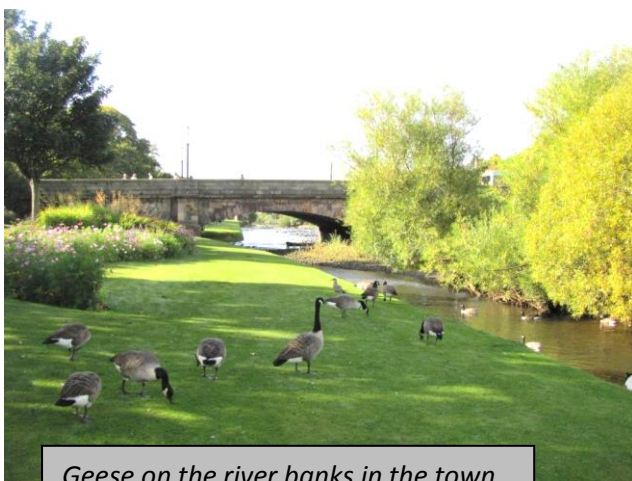


River Esk in its wooded valley

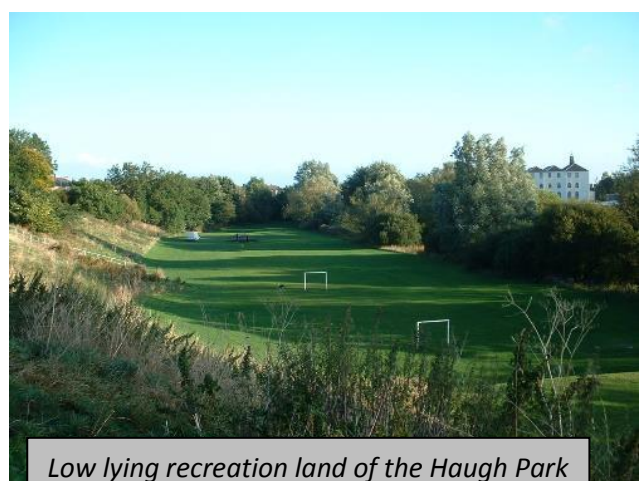
4. The area has high recreation and enjoyment value containing the well-used River Esk walkway and cycle path with new River Esk Plaque Trail, and fishing on the river banks as well as several areas which have been consciously designed for appearance and enjoyment of different types including the garden 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.



Lewisvale Park

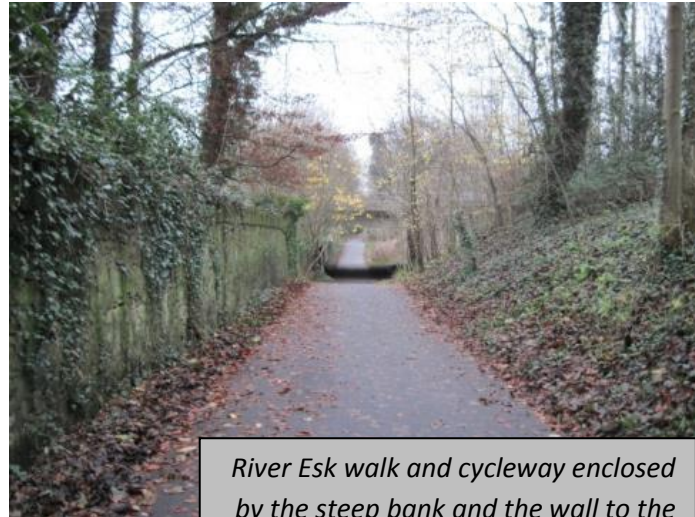


Geese on the river banks in the town



Low lying recreation land of the Haugh Park

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.



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

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.



A1 view into incised valley

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



Feature of St Michael's Parish Church



Eskhill, Inveresk Village

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.



Manor House, Inveresk

Lewisvale Park bandstand



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:

- Area of significant Roman remains many of which are scheduled, centred on the Roman fort and civilian settlement at Inveresk.
- Area of important industrial remains along the River Esk.



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

Roman bridge linking built form of the town into the natural river area



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:

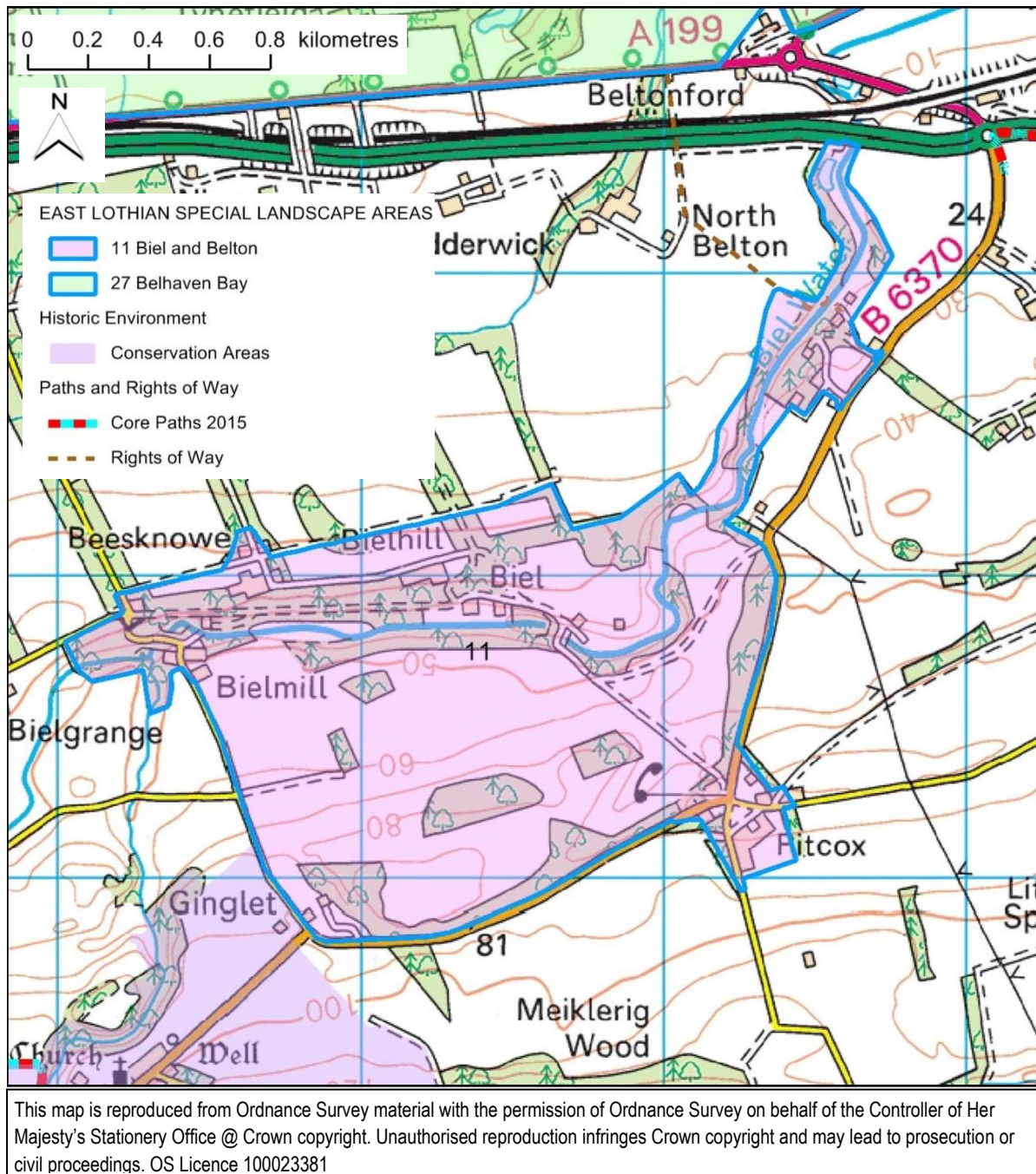
- i. Consider extension of the walkway along the banks of the Esk into Midlothian
- ii. Maintain tree coverage of the area
- iii. Seek to support traditional estate management practices to safeguard woodland enclosure features and important boundary walls
- iv. Management of woodland to avoid over-reliance 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



Giant Hogweed infestation. Japanese knotweed and Himalayan Balsam are also invasive species in evidence, though not to the extent of this field full of Giant 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 17th century, with terraces stepping down the steeply sloping river bank as well as a notable arboretum.



Wooded Biel valley



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

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.

Biel House



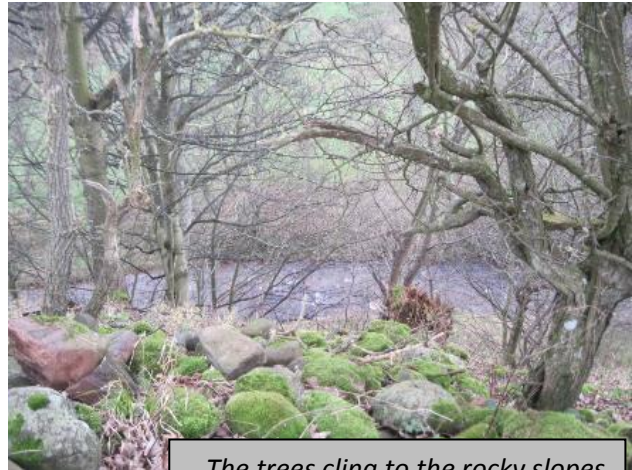
B-listed Pitcox Lodge with phone box



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.



The trees cling to the rocky slopes

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.



Tree lined approach to Pitcox



Deer Park framed by woodland

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



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

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



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.

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:



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

- 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.



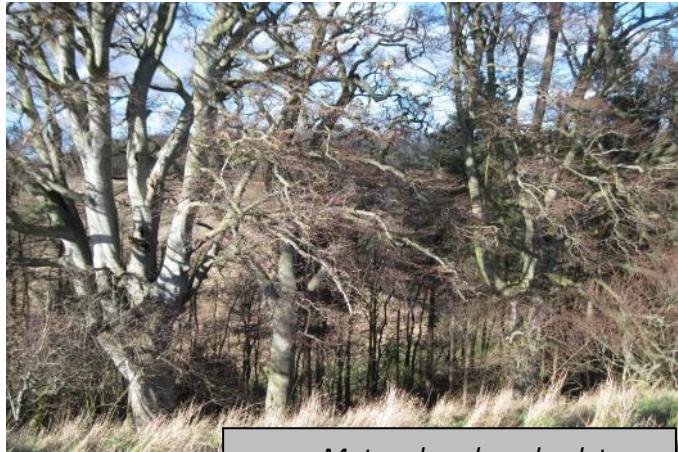
Good views over the Deer Park to Traprain Law

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



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



Contrasting colours of mixed species even in winter

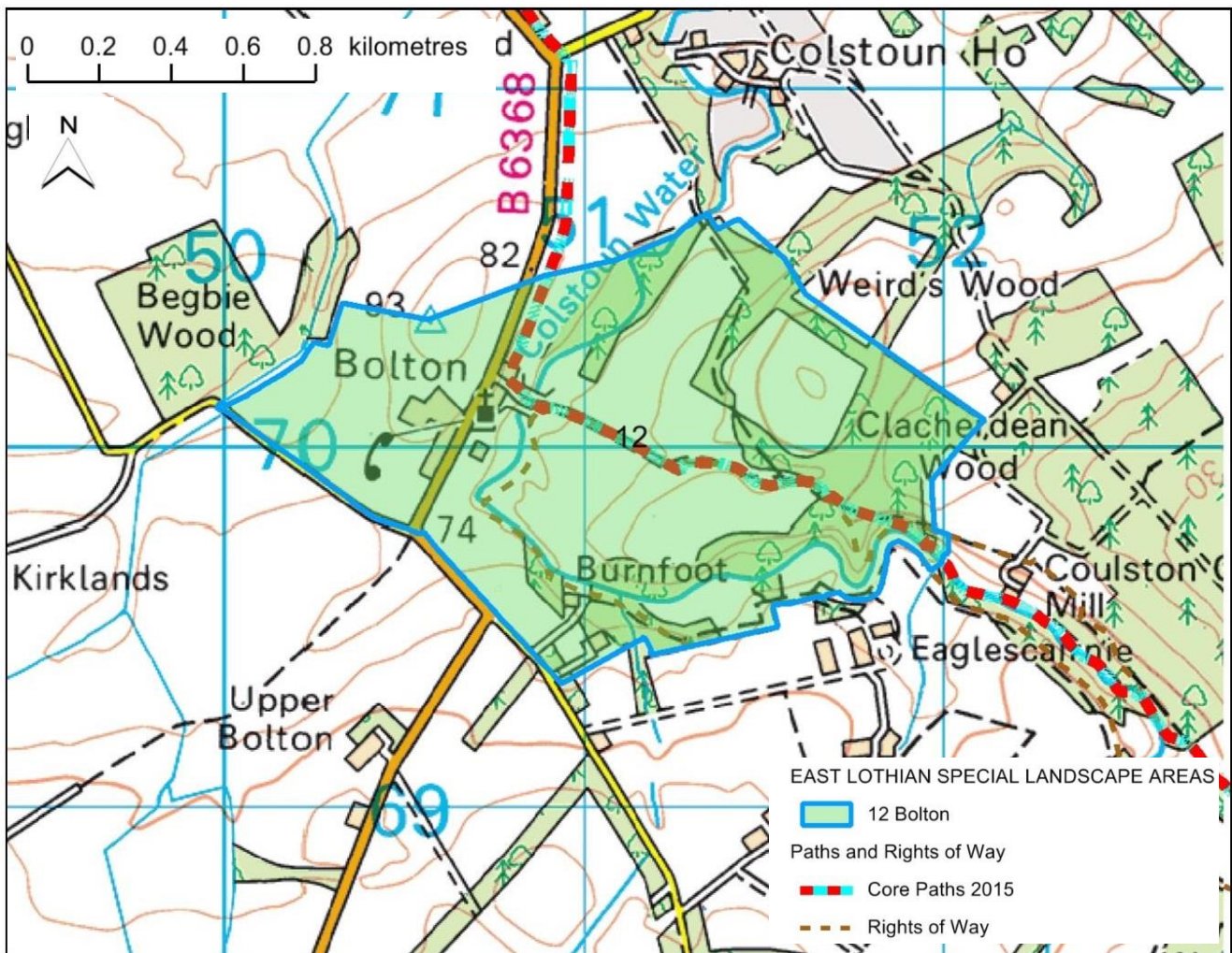
and harling. Adventurously designed buildings may also accord with the character of the area but require careful location to avoid detracting from the traditional nature of the area.

- 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

Bolton:
Special Landscape Area 12 Statement of Importance



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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.



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

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 Eaglescairnie 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.

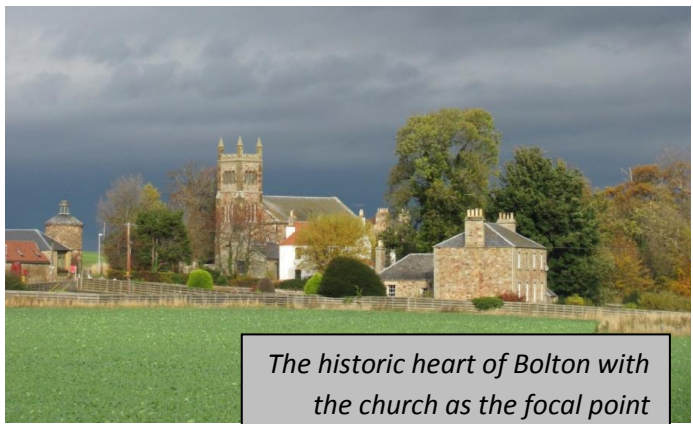


The steep wooded banks of the Colstoun Water through Clacherdean Wood



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

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



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

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.



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

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.



Mature beech trees framing views to the Lammermuir Hills



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



Guidelines for Development

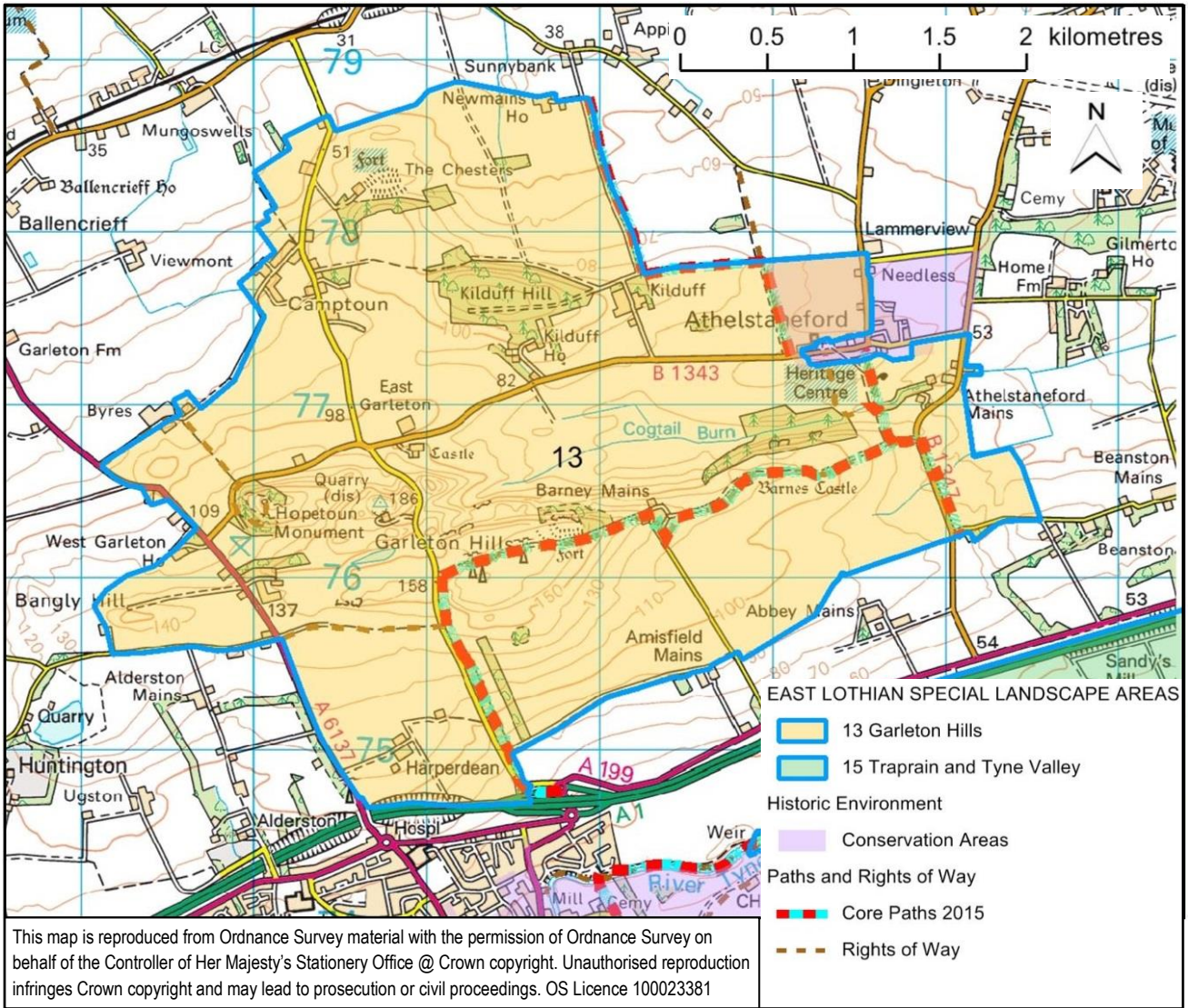
- A. Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale secluded visual character derived from well-planned mature woodland framework
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the core agricultural character of the area
- C. Any proposed development must not impact detrimentally on open views from 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.

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: 1277ha

Examples of Paintings using the Garleton Hills Area as Inspiration
Tyne and Garleton hills
by William Darling Mackay



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, widely



visible 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.



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

- 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.



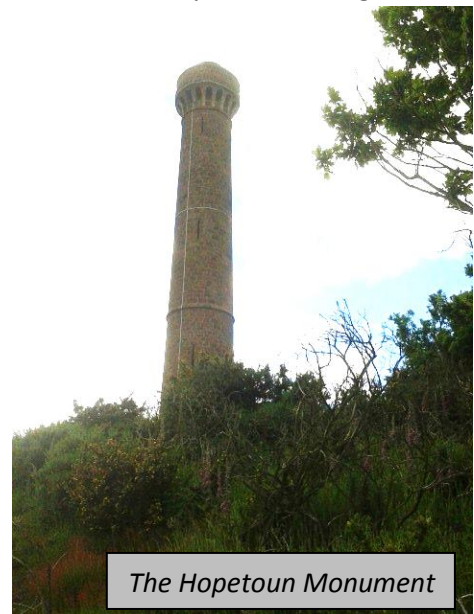
Haddington with the tower of St Mary's Parish Church and the Town House Spire in the lee of the Garleton Hills

- 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.
- 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.



The path through the mature woodland on the slopes of Byres Hill

5. The Hopetoun Monument is accessed from a small car park at the base of Byres Hill



The Hopetoun Monument

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 16th 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.



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



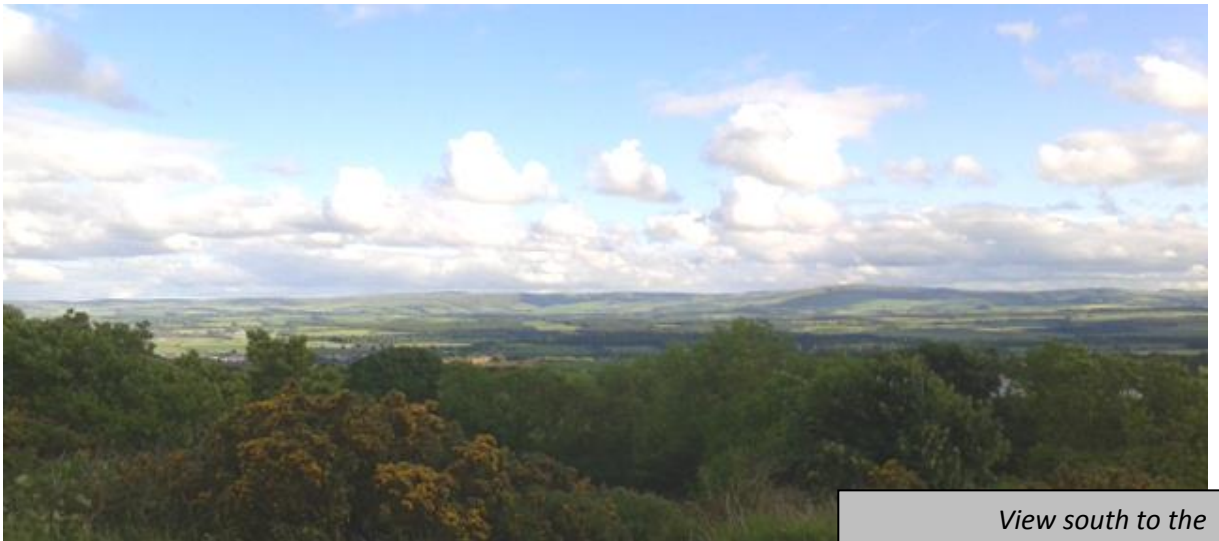
The approach to the Garletons along the minor road through Camptoun to the north

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.



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

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.



View south to the Lammermuirs from Byres Hill

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.



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

Guidelines for Development

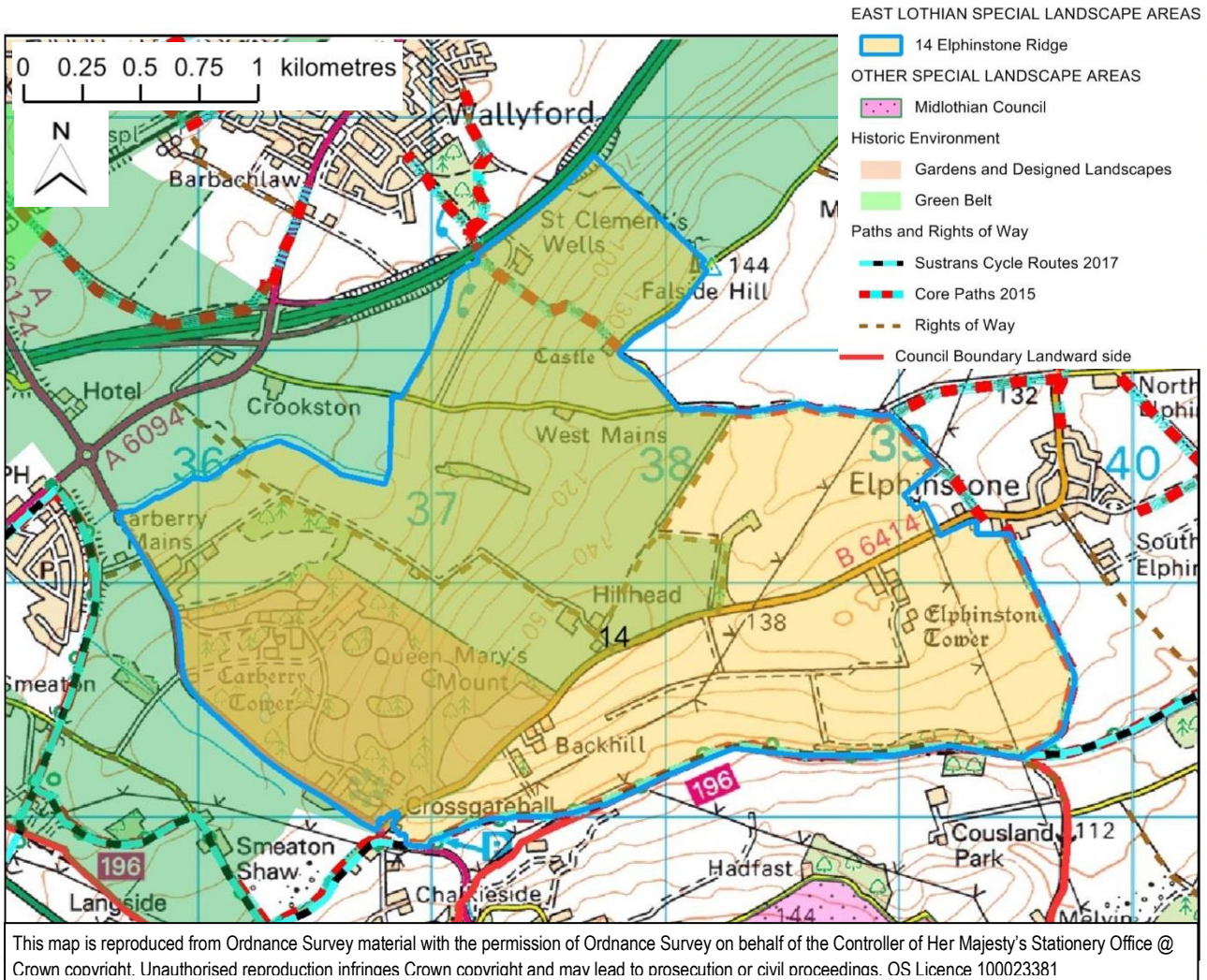
- A. Any proposed development must not harm the distinctive visual contrasts with adjoining landscapes
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the setting or views of the Hopetoun Monument, detract from its prominence as a feature on the hill top or compete with it as a focal point within the landscape
- 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

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.



Northern slopes contrast of fields and woods

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 Arbicultural 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.



Memorial stone set in Carberry Woods

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.



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



Open views south from Carberry

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.



Rolling rural arable landscape and wooded Carberry designed landscape

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



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.

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.



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



Rolling rural arable landscape and wooded Carberry designed landscape

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

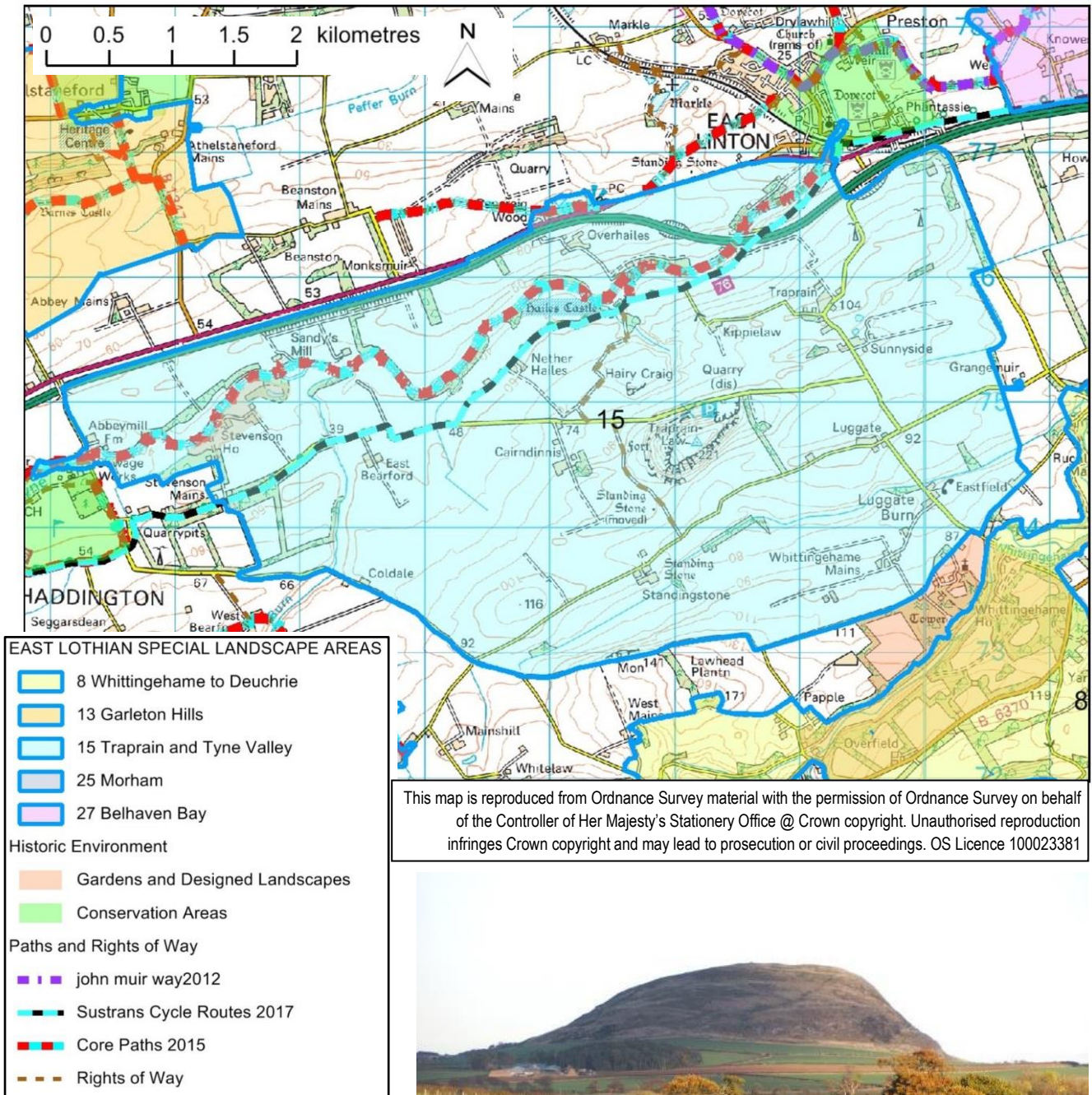
- A. Any proposed development must not harm the status of Fa'side Castle as the focal point on the ridge
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the rural character of the area especially the recreational routes through the area
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the open, rural nature of 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

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 Pencraig Hill and Blaikie Heugh, on which sits the Balfour Monument. Views from Traprain, the Balfour Monument and Pencraig 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.



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 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 Linns. 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



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

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.

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

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



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

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



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

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.



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

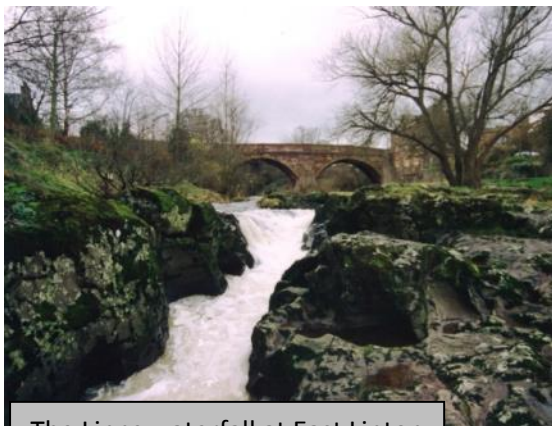
5. The Tyne valley is an attractive, rural, peaceful area, teeming with wildlife. There are many opportunities to view wildlife along the river from the Brown Trout in the river and the Sand Martins nesting in the river banks to the Roe Deer who hide shyly in the surrounding woods and fields. Herons 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.



The River Tyne and its wildlife

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.



The Linns waterfall at East Linton



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

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.





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

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.



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

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.



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

- 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 19th 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.



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.

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