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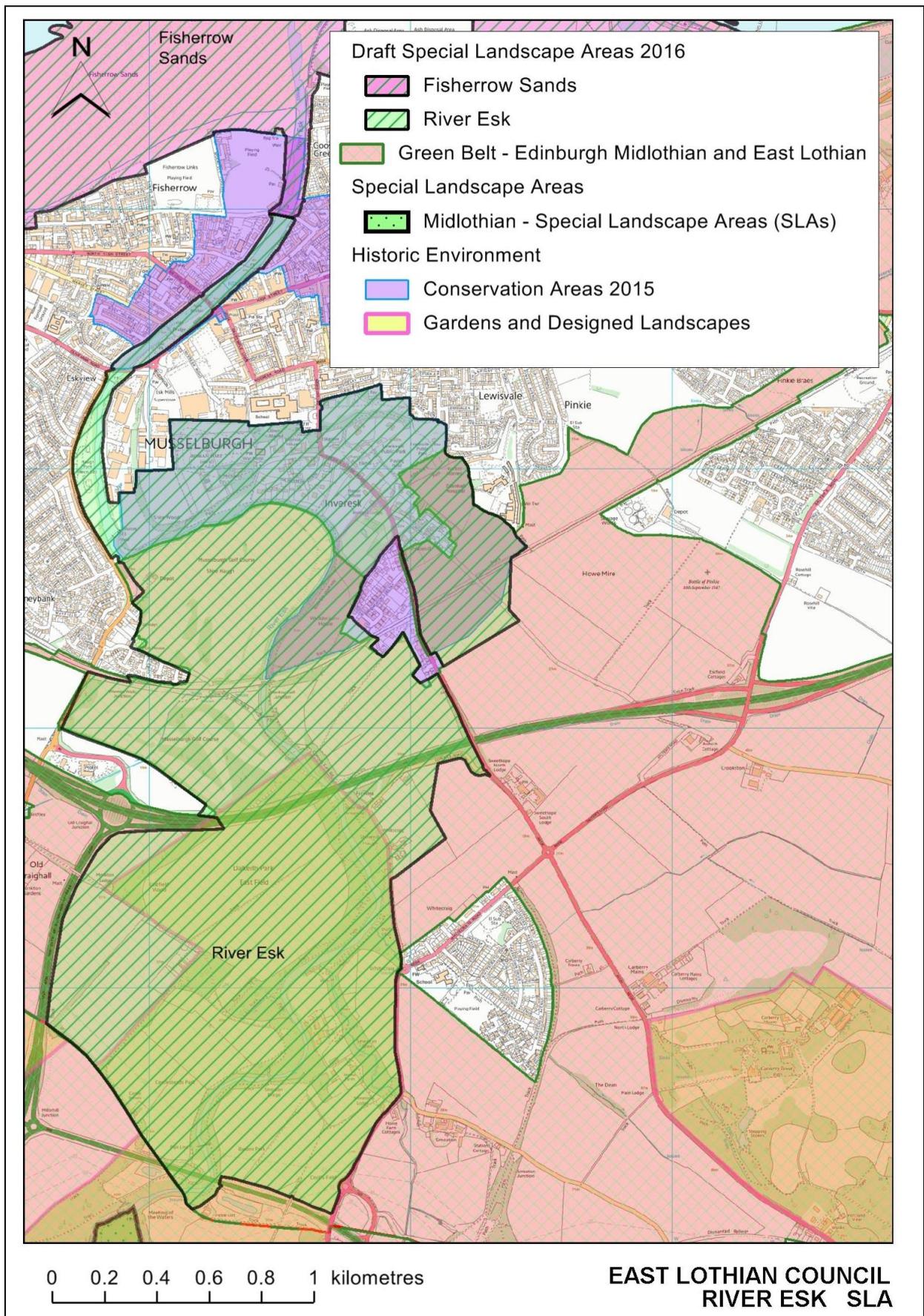
Additional information:

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

Authorised By	Monica Patterson
Designation	Depute Chief Executive
Date	30/08/16

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# River Esk SLA 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.

**Special Qualities and Features:**

- The River Esk is East Lothian's largest river, in terms of water flow; over the years a large area of alluvial soil has been deposited underlying Musselburgh Golf Course. Its dramatic wooded valley is deeply cut, with steep sides in places and a flat bottomed valley giving a strong sense of enclosure. To the north of the area the enclosed valley opens out to the flood plain of the golf course and the amenity land in the centre of Musselburgh.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- From outwith the area, the landmark feature of St Michael's church at Inveresk, surrounded by trees, can be seen in many views. Musselburgh Golf club, an art deco building very different in form and purpose from the Church, is also a distinctive building. Buildings within Inveresk Village, some an unusual, visually rich orange, contrast attractively with the mature woodland in which they sit and are protected by Conservation Area status. The designed landscape of Dalkeith House is surrounded by a high stone wall typical of policy walls in East Lothian that adds to the historic character of the area but does not prevent views into the designed landscape.
- *Historic Landscape – Inveresk and Smeaton (See Appendix IV)*  
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

#### **Guidelines for Development**

- Any proposed development must not harm the natural appearance and character of the valley of the River Esk
- 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
- Any proposed development must not harm the openness of the surrounding Haugh Land
- Any proposed development must not harm the setting of the River Esk through the town of Musselburgh
- Any proposed development must not harm the integrity and coherence of the historic landscape

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

- Consider extension of the walkway along the banks of the Esk into Midlothian
- Maintain tree coverage of the area
- Manage invasive species in particular giant hogweed, which is much in evidence in parts of the area

***Examples of paintings using the River Esk as inspiration***



Old Roman Bridge, Musselburgh by H Dittrich

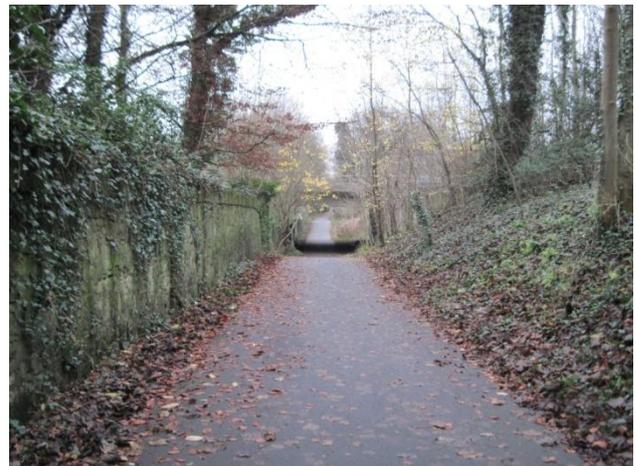


The Old Bridge by unknown

**Photographs of special features  
and typical elements**



The river in its wooded valley



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



Geese on the river banks through the town



A1 view into the incised valley

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



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



Lewisvale park formal garden



Lewisvale Park Bandstand



Bird in the aviary at Lewisvale Park

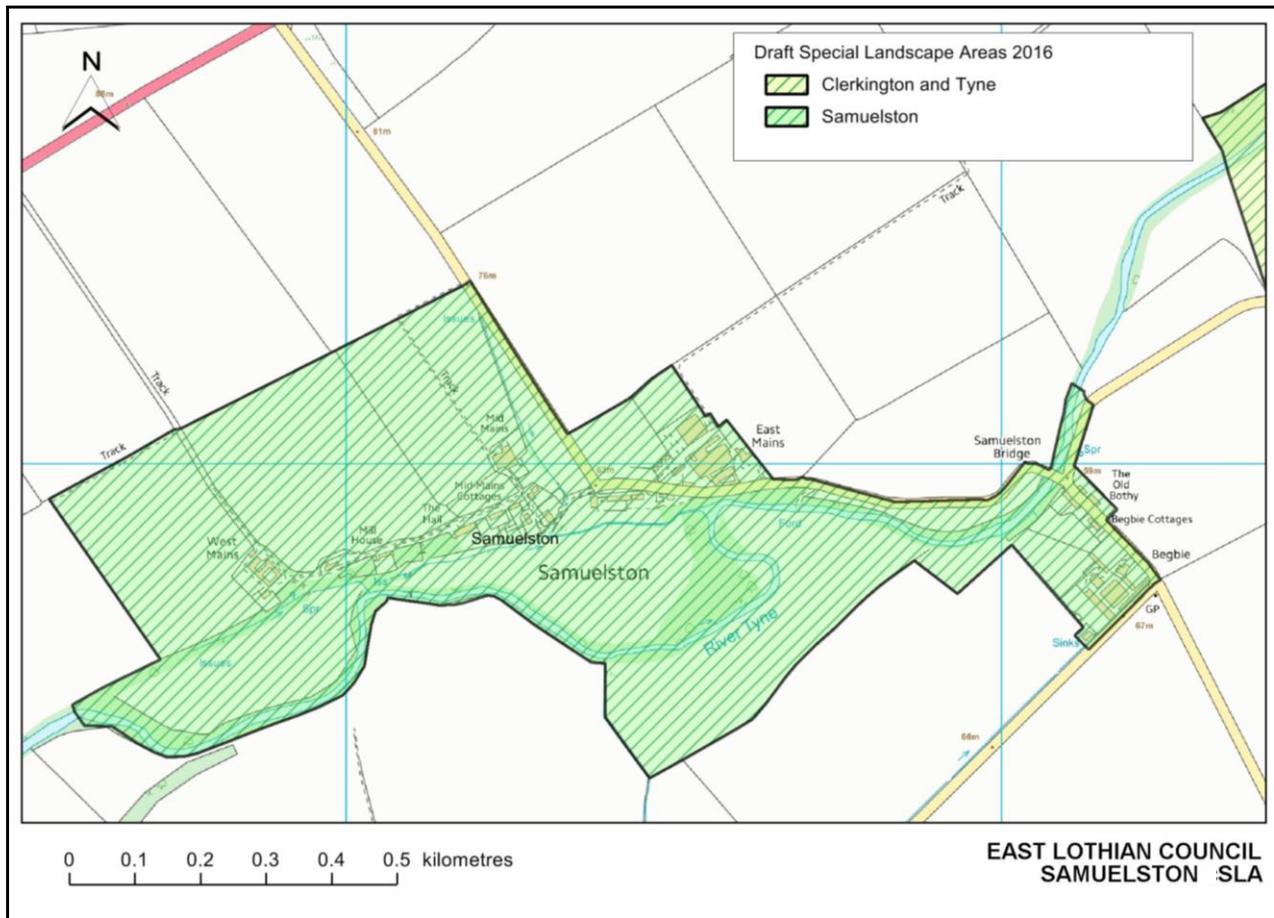


Haugh Park



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

## Samuelston SLA Statement of Importance



**Character:** Samuelston is a particularly picturesque historic agricultural settlement set on the banks of the meandering River Tyne.

**Area:** 58 hectares

### Overview

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

### Special Qualities and Features

- Arable fields set around the shallow valley of the River Tyne is typical of the Mid Tyne Plain, with characteristic farmland birds; warblers, finches and yellowhammers in hedges in the summer, lapwings and golden plover calling in fields in winter.
- The well-maintained, traditional, small-scale buildings, including Begbie Steading which is still in agricultural use, are typical of the vernacular of the Mid Tyne Plain and agricultural East Lothian in general. New development has successfully retained the character of the older buildings.
- The River Tyne, is a central feature of this area, as a scenic water body providing sound and movement, as well as a home for wildlife. This includes trout and nesting sand martins, and if you

are lucky, otters and kingfishers. The banks of the river are well treed, with an attractive array of wildflowers that change from week to week, followed by the stunning autumn display of the deciduous trees. As you walk through the area, Roe Deer and Hares can often be disturbed from their hiding places in the woods and surrounding fields.

- Colour contrast is striking here, with the orange red of pantile roofs contrasting with the varied crops of the arable fields and trees. Trees along the old mill lade and within gardens also add to the scenic appeal.
- The open nature of the Tyne valley allows scenic views into the area across arable land to the south, and from the higher parts of the area over the Tyne basin to the Lammermuir hills and foothills; there are also views to the east to Traprain Law.
- The listed stone road bridge joining the settlement on either side of the Tyne is an attractive focal point.
- Core Path route 338 is proposed to follow the route of the established Samuelston to Jerusalem Burn right of way along the north bank of the Tyne providing recreational access through the area and linking Samuelston to the larger settlements of Haddington to the east and Pencaitland to the west.
- Sustrans Cycle Route 11 passes through the east end of the area.

#### **Guidelines for Development**

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

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

- Improve public access
- Management of woodlands

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



Swans in the Village Stream  
By unknown



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

*Photographs of special features and typical elements*



Buildings of vernacular architecture



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

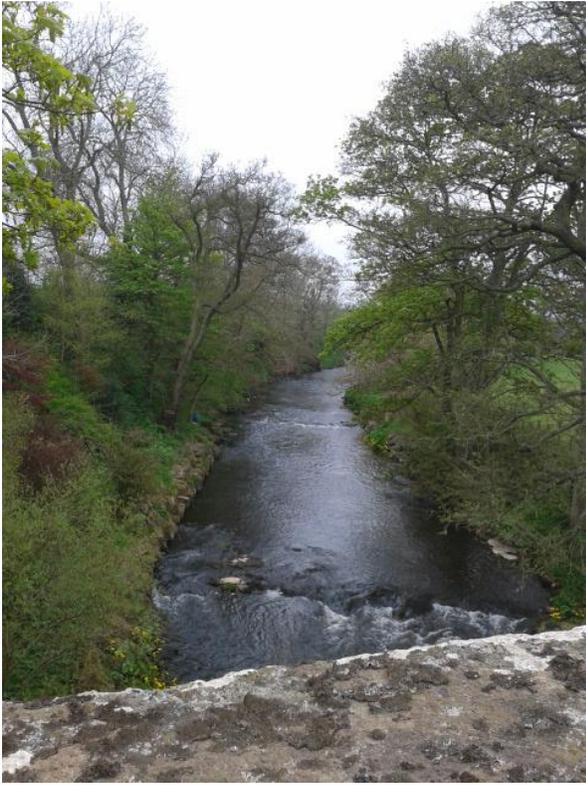


Well maintained farm buildings both old and new



Snow drops on the banks of the River Tyne





Shy Roe deer

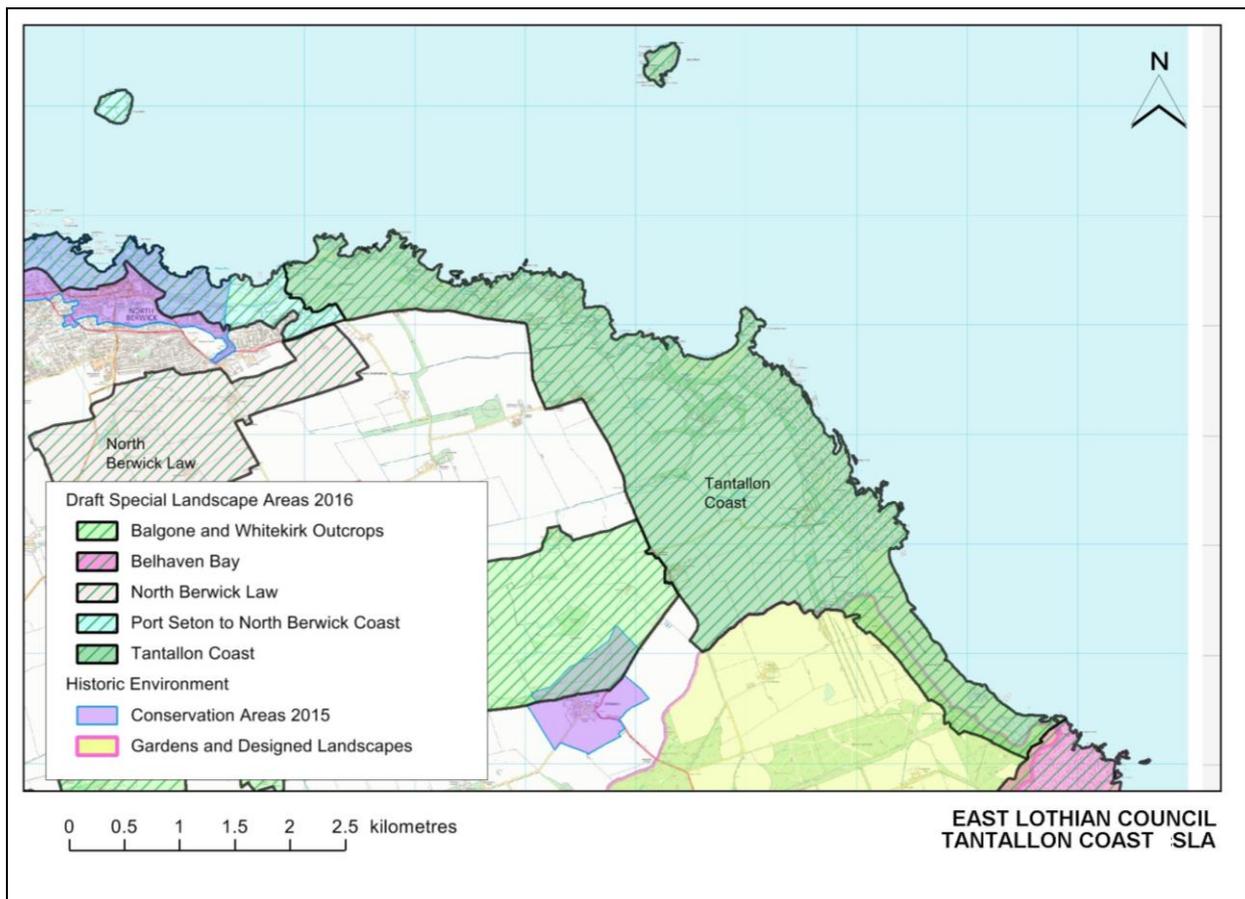
The stone category b built listed Samuelston Bridge over the River Tyne



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



## Tantallon Coast SLA Statement of Importance



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

**Area:** 768 ha

### Overview:

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

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

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

It is a historic area with medieval castles, secret hamlets and harbours, as well as many references to

the Christian missionary St Baldred's residence during the eighth century.

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

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

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

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

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

the Firth of Forth, out to the Bass Rock and other islands and up and down the coast, from the top of the battlements.

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

The western end of the area includes a section of the Glen Golf Course and core path routes 465 and 75 along the cliff top around the edge of the golf course. Views from the golf course are open and wide ranging taking in both North Berwick to the west and the Bass Rock and Tantallon Castle to the east. The famous, and tricky, 13<sup>th</sup> hole of this course, the Sea Hole, has superb views. Seacliff itself is a locally designated Garden and Designed Landscape. The house was gutted by fire in 1907; however the exterior survives almost complete with gables, turrets and bartizans and sits within high walls and well wooded grounds and is still impressive today. The

ruins of Auldham castle a 16<sup>th</sup> century L-plan three-storey tower house can be seen sitting high on a ridge above Seacliff beach surrounded by woodland to the north of Seacliff close to St Baldred's Cave where it is said he used to stay when he wished to be a hermit.

- Historic Landscape – Gin Head to Scoughall (See Appendix IV)

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

Of particular note are:

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

### **Guidelines for Development**

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

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

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

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

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

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



The Bass Rock by James W Greig 1905



The Bass Rock from Canty Bay AP Stirling



Sunset and Bass Rock by John Houston 1996



Canty Bay, near North Berwick  
George Peacock circa 1949

*Photographs of special features and typical elements*



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



The Bass Rock from Tantallon Castle

High open views across arable fields and Glen Golf Course to the Bass Rock

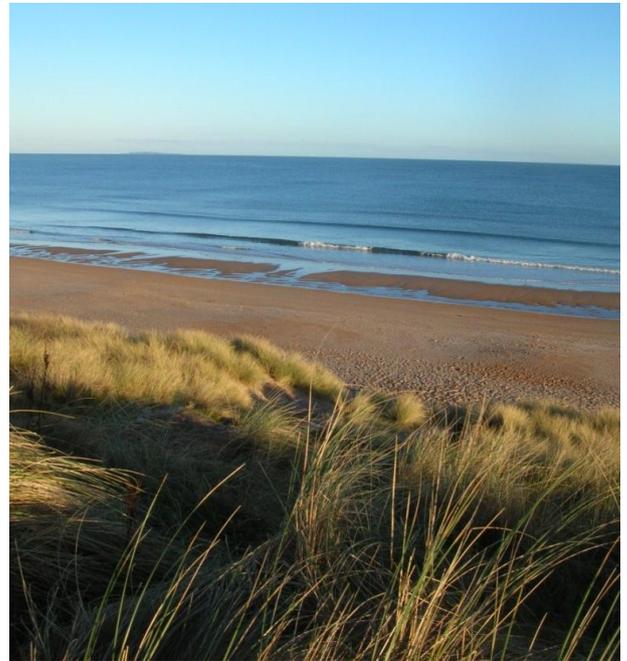


Hidden coves from Tantallon





Tantallon on its cliffs from Seacliff



Dunes dividing the land and the sea at Ravensheugh Sands



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



The dunes and expanse of flat sands at Ravensheugh sands





Gannets of the Bass Rock



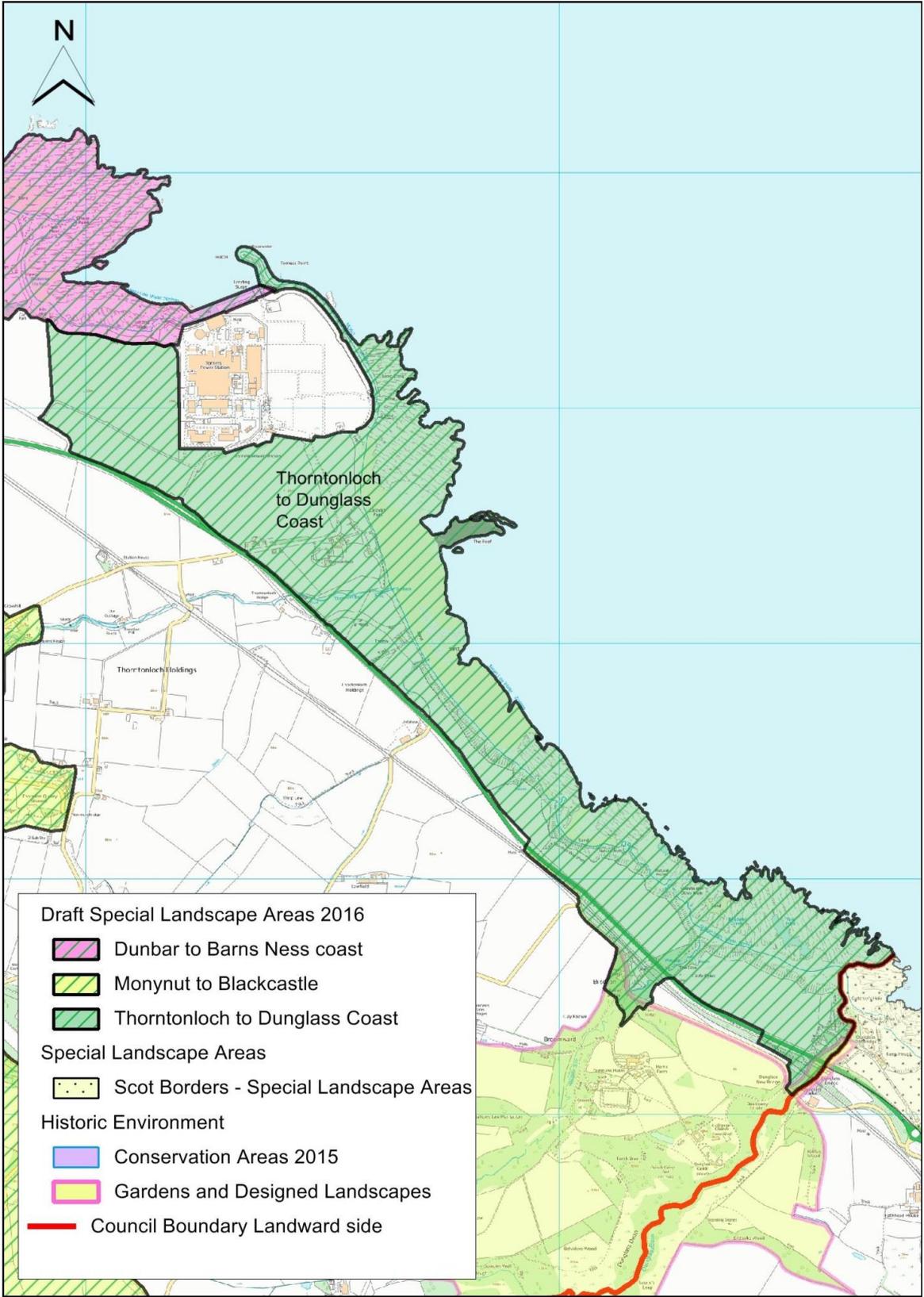
Constantly changing sea and light from the still of the winter sun reflecting on the tidal flats to the uproar of a spring tide crashing onto the shore



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



# Thorntonloch to Dunglass Coast SLA Statement of Importance



**Draft Special Landscape Areas 2016**

-  Dunbar to Barns Ness coast
-  Monynut to Blackcastle
-  Thorntonloch to Dunglass Coast

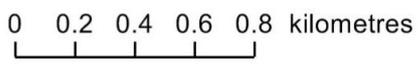
**Special Landscape Areas**

-  Scot Borders - Special Landscape Areas

**Historic Environment**

-  Conservation Areas 2015
-  Gardens and Designed Landscapes

 Council Boundary Landward side



**EAST LOTHIAN COUNCIL  
THORNTONLOCH TO DUNGLASS COAST SLA**

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

**Area:** 232 ha

**Overview:**

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

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

Torness Power Station is not included in the area as it is a large industrial facility that was not considered appropriate for an SLA. This building has been carefully designed with thought given to its appearance in its setting; its apparent bulk is reduced in main views from the A1 and East Coast Mainline Railway by keeping the area between it and the transport corridor free of other development which would give scale comparison. Inclusion of this area within the SLA recognised the importance of the area in managing the appearance of Torness, a landmark widely visible from higher ground.

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

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

**Special Qualities and Features**

- Geological differences create variety along the coastline with the harder volcanic rocks producing a more resistant coastline of promontories, low cliffs and rocky shoreline indented with the softer sandstone bays and arches. The soft sandstone cliffs have been eroded by the sea to form several natural arches, and along with the cliffs at Dunbar form one of the most dramatic sections of East Lothian's coastline. This rocky area has some qualities of wildness, deriving from its ruggedness, exposure to the elements and lack of visible built development.
- The beach at Thorntonloch is spectacular though less busy than those of East Lothian's northern coast, a beautiful sweep of sand, enclosed by a rocky wave cut platform, with good surf often adding to the drama of the scene
- There are very sheer gorges where Bilsdean and Dunglass Burns join the sea. At Bilsdean Burn, a large waterfall, The Linn, tumbles over stone towards the sea. Overlooking the burn to the south are the remains of the Iron Age Castledykes Fort formed with the cliffs to the seaward side and a massive earthen rampart to the landward side. To the south a second dramatic incised valley at Dunglass provides an attractive enclosed and hidden walkway to the sea. Its depth is further magnified by the bridge of the A1 and viaduct of the East Coast railway which tower above the valley (there are five bridges across this gorge). The sandstone has been eroded to create sheer rock walls along the valley and the old buildings and bridges add to the historic nature of the area.
- The inland area is a raised beach, relict from higher sea levels of previous times. It consists mainly of medium to large scale rolling, gently sloping agricultural fields of distinctive reddish brown hue, right to the sea's edge. The crops are various, often hosting vegetables as well as the more usual grain.
- Contrast in colour and form is a feature of this area, the generally muted tones of managed agricultural fields with brown soil and green yellow crops, complemented by the greens or autumnal

shades of deciduous trees both along field boundaries and within the gullies and the red of the cliffs. This contrasts with the wilder sea and sky, blue, white, and grey. Elements of the built environment sometimes contrast, sometimes complement.

- To the north of the area, the open fields provide a setting for Torness: a small rise in landform in front of Torness along with lack of scale comparators from built development and use of reflective blue grey tiles to tone with the sea and sky help reduce its apparent size and improve its appearance from the A1 and East Coast Mainline. Torness Power Station, angular, futuristic, sits between well cultivated fields and the elemental forces of wide seas and sky, on the cusp between control and the wild.
- There are attractive elements within the built environment with the mainly one or one and a half storey housing at Bilsdean using local stone, providing a visual link with the red sandstone of the coast. Stone boundary walls, in particular that along the coast and the A1, are a feature of the area. The breakwater at Torness is of an interesting octagonal design intended to stay together without concrete. It's casually thrown together appearance took a lot of careful planning.
- Recreation is important to the area, with good access; from the A1 for motorists and via the John Muir Link or N76 cycle route for more active travel. Thorntonloch caravan site is sited low behind the dunes, generally screened from both beach and transport corridor. The area is used by walkers, cyclists, anglers, surfers and day trippers.
- Views include:
  - From the Thorntonloch area, the first views of the Scottish central lowlands for travellers from the south begin to emerge
  - Wide views across the area out to sea and along the coast across open fields from much of the A1 and East Coast Mainline Railway
  - Down to St Abbs and across Thorntonloch bay from Torness breakwater and the cliff top path

#### **Guidelines for Development**

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

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

- Avoid continuous planting along the A1 and East Coast Mainline which would obscure views over the area
- Encourage an increase in woodland cover in gullies

**Photographs of special features  
and typical elements**



Dramatic arches on the shoreline at  
Bilsdean

The sculptural octagonal stones  
forming the breakwater to Torness

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



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



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



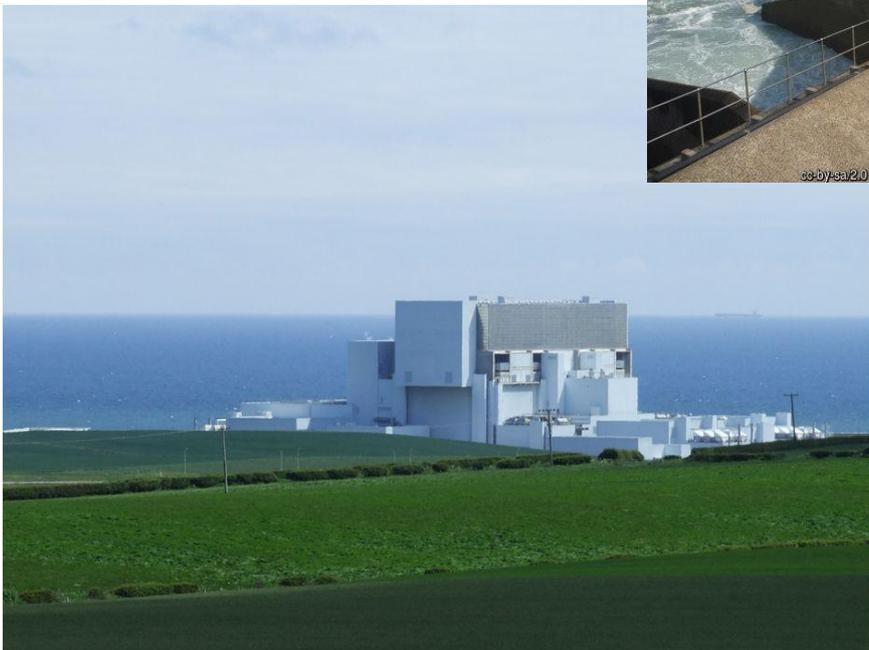


Anglers fishing from the wave cut platform at Torness from the walk around the breakwater

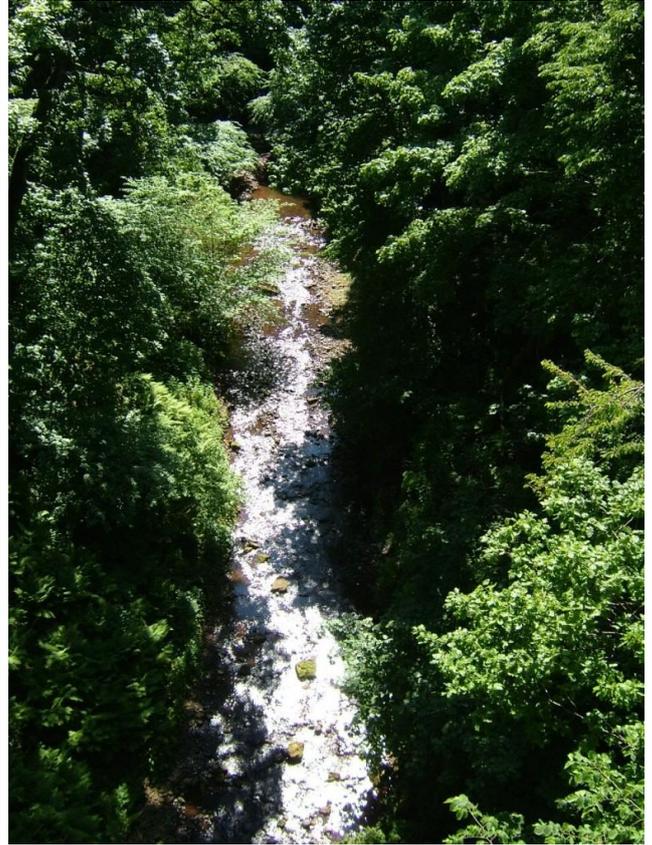


The sandy Thorntonloch beach with grassland and rolling rich red fields rising inland and Torness and Thorntonloch Caravan site in the distance

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



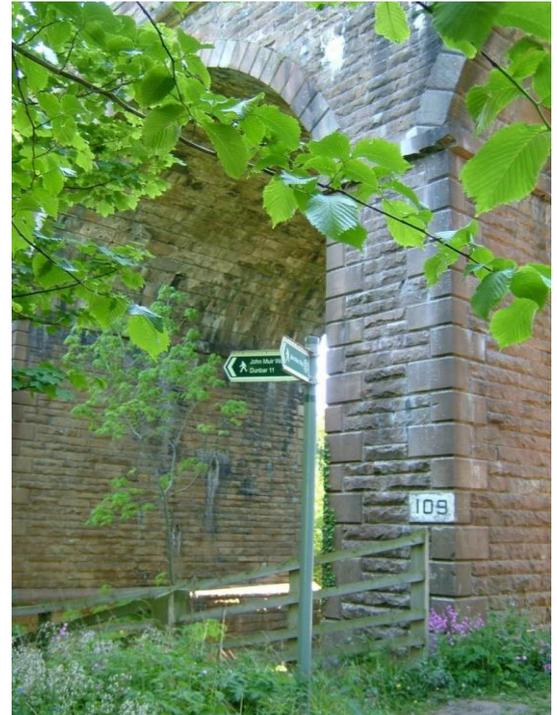
Torness from Innerwick. Its reflective grey tiles fit the building into its backdrop of sky and sea, reducing its mass. Its clean lines contrast with the surrounding undulating arable fields



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

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

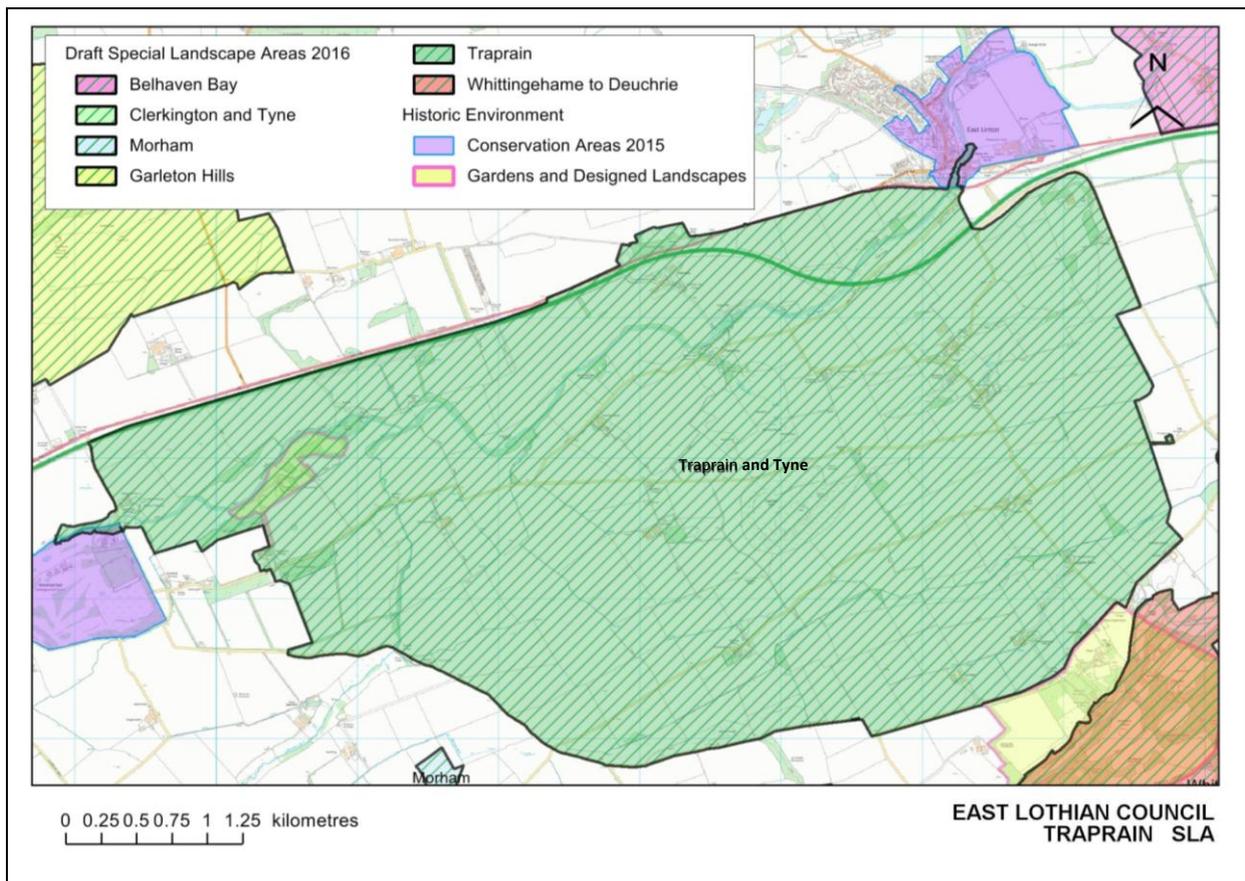




Bilsdean is another steeply incised valley with water worn sandstone and nearly native woodland, in places growing out of the rock face as with the oak tree shown here. The John Muir Way follows a path along the valley passed the Linn which can be spectacular after heavy rain and under bridges as at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



## Traprain and Tyne SLA 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:** 2,063 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 Penraig Hill and Blaikie Heugh, on which sits the Balfour Monument. Views from Traprain, the Balfour Monument and Penraig are panoramic across East Lothian. Traprain is one of the most important archaeological monuments within Scotland, and its setting is very important to its understanding and appreciation.

The River Tyne, whose course is a central feature of East Lothian, runs east-west to the north of Traprain, first through rolling farmland then the steep gorge of Brae Heads, before gushing (in all but the driest seasons) over the rocks of East Linton 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 Hill and the Balfour Monument whether across the area, across the patchwork of arable fields to the sea, or to the Lammermuirs or Fife Hills.

**Special Qualities and Features:**

- Though volcanic outcrops are typical of East Lothian, Traprain Law is of a size and form to create a uniquely iconic landform, prominent and unmistakable within the landscape. Its geological importance as a laccolith of trachytic phonolite of calciferous sandstone age, unique in the British Isles is recognised through designation as a SSSI which includes the small outlier of Hairy Craig to its north. It is also an excellent example of a crag and tail formation resulting from Pleistocene glaciation.
- 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.
- Traprain is important for recreation, being a tempting short climb and a rare expanse of land in the East Lothian lowlands that is not under arable cultivation. There is parking and an interpretation board to the north side of Traprain Law where a path leads you up the 221m to its summit and panoramic views across East Lothian. You are likely to meet the Exmoor ponies grazing on the Law on your way. They are kept here to graze the coarse grass and enable the more delicate wild flowers of the unimproved grassland to thrive again.
- There are a high number of prehistoric remains in the landscape around Traprain, as well as the settlement and Hillfort on the Law itself, many of which are Scheduled Monuments. 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.
- 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 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 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.
- 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.

- 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 Abbey Mill 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Due to the dominance of scale of Traprain Law there are innumerable viewpoints throughout and beyond the area where the law forms the focal point in the view set within a patchwork of arable fields. There are wider views of the Tyne valley from higher ground notably from the B1347 and A6137 showing the complexity and layers of the landform read with the rising land and woodlands to the south often emphasised by morning mists rising from the Tyne.
- *Historic Landscape – Traprain Environs (See Appendix IV)*
  - 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.

- Relict landscape (principally 19<sup>th</sup> century farms and steadings but field patterns may be earlier)
- Significant views over area from Pencraig Hill and from A1 at Haddington. The flattened bowl which has Traprain Law at its centre is probably the most iconic view in East Lothian. This view is wholly informed by the Historic Environment and has an old world feel to it.

### **Guidelines for Development**

- 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
- 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
- Any proposed development must not harm the setting of Hailes Castle or harm views of the castle from Overhailes and Pencraig Hill
- 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
- 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.
- Any proposed development must not harm the core agricultural character of the area
- Any proposed development must not harm the relict farming landscape, including its field boundaries.
- 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.
- 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
- Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form and detracts from the natural qualities of the area e.g. wind turbines
- Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale rural character of the roads, including characteristic features such as hedges and stone walls and stone bridges
- Any proposed development must not harm the integrity and coherence of the historic landscape

### **Potential for Landscape Enhancement**

Reinstatement of lost field boundaries would enhance the appearance of the area.

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, Hailes Castle and Overhailes.

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



Pastoral Landscape around East Linton  
by W M Frazer circa 1917



Casting for Trout  
by William Darling Mackay circa 1900

Harvesting by Sir James Lawton Wingate



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



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



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



The River Tyne and its wildlife





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



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

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





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



The Linns waterfall at East Linton



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





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

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

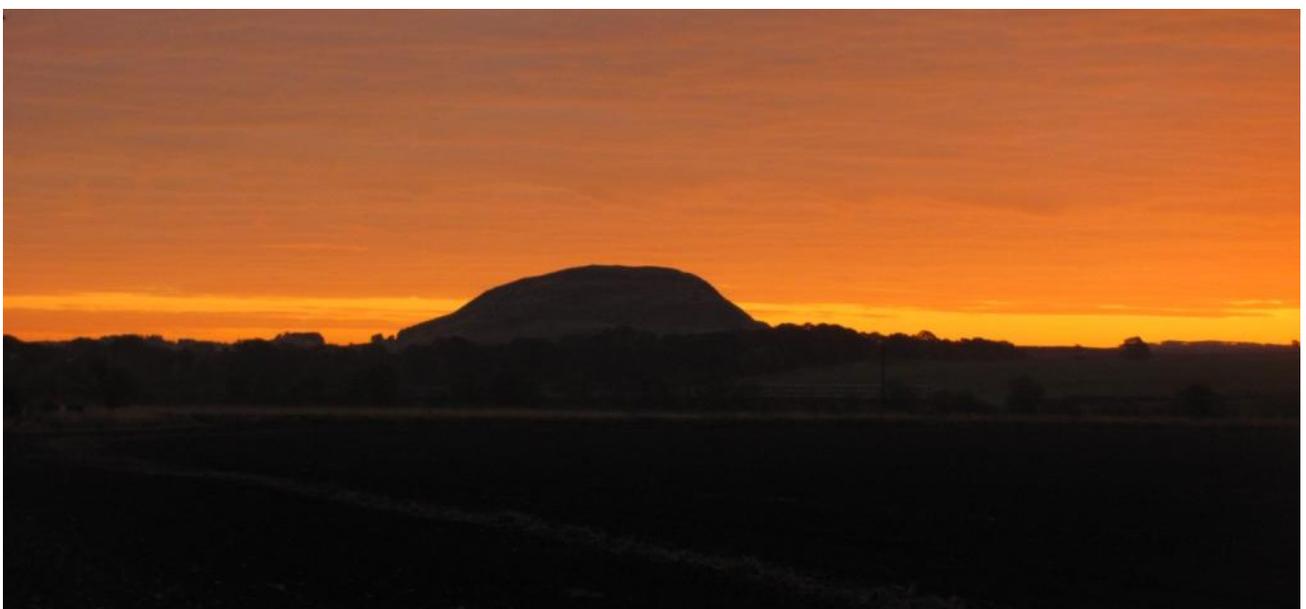


Panoramic view north from the summit of Traprain Law over rocky outcrops and the Tyne valley to the coast with North Berwick Law and the Bass Rock breaking the horizontal plain

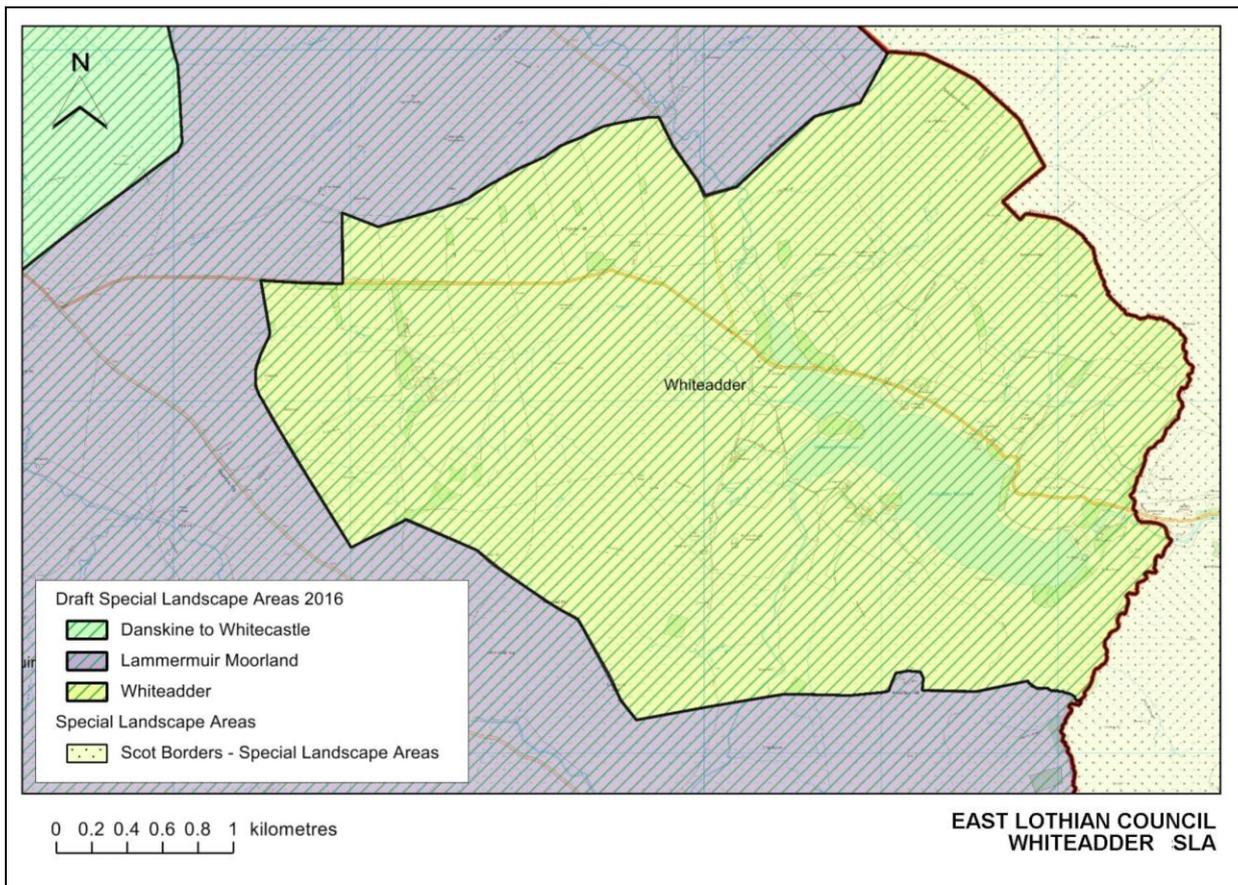




The dominance of Traprain Law within the landscape through the changing of day and seasons. The humpback whale of Traprain, surely much as the Vodatini would have seen it.



## Whiteadder SLA Statement of Importance



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

**Area:** 1,758 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:

- 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), making it part of one of the darkest areas in East Lothian, add to the remote feel of the area.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- The Whiteadder reservoir is important in views from within the area and from the surrounding hills. Its enclosure by the surrounding hills and low lying nature mean it is hidden from much of the surrounding Lammermuir Plateau providing surprise and delight when discovered. By car, views from the B6355 approaching from the west, and the unclassified road through Johnsclough, both have good views of the reservoir; on foot, there is a good view from the lower of the two cairns on Priestlaw Hill, Spartleton and in fact from much of the higher ground
- 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.
- 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
- Changeable weather conditions are important to the different character of the area; sunshine with white cumulus clouds chasing across the skies and reflecting off the water gives the area a very different feel to autumn days with mist rising from the reservoir or shrouding the hills, to the winter snow picking out the relief and patterns of vegetation across the hill slopes in sharp detail.

#### **Guidelines for Development**

- 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
- Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of development that affects the perception of scale of the moorland hills or valleys
- Any proposed development must not harm the natural darkness of the area by prevention of development that introduces light pollution into the area.
- 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

- Any proposed development must not increase the apparent scale of large scale industrial elements (reservoir walls, pylon lines) for example by providing scale comparison
- 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 both within this area and within the surrounding moorland upland areas
- 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
- Any proposed development must not harm the open 'Wild Land' character of the moorland parts of the area by controlling development or management that would affect the sense of openness or wildness of the moorland hills, including for example planting of tree belts or plantation forestry hedges or fences along roads and tracks, or signage, or features which break up the open moorland
- Any proposed development must not harm the 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
- 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.
- Any proposed development must not harm the landscape setting of archaeological landscape features including Table Rings cairn, Gamelshiel Castle, and Friars Nose Fort.
- Preservation against further hill tracks on visually-sensitive slopes. When tracks are new or recently re-surfaced they can look very noticeable over a wide distance, and these can also look wrong by virtue of their straight lines heading straight up the moorland. This may have a negative impact on the 'natural' appearance and character of the area and tracks can be widely visible including from the plain below. Tracks also open up the area to recreational access, which has obvious benefits but may also affect the remote character of the area. Tracks should follow SNH guidance "Constructed Tracks in the Scottish Uplands"<sup>1</sup>, including consideration of whether the track is necessary at all. Borrow pits, treatment of cut and fill, material, alignment of the track with topography and visibility of the track should all be carefully considered

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

- Reduction in large coniferous plantations and replacement with more natural shaped woodlands with a mix of broadleaves and conifers
- Encourage limited replanting with woodland, particularly native woodland in the cleughs and take advantage of opportunities to re-structure existing blocks of coniferous woodland
- Encourage limited expansion of woodland cover through shelterbelts and small woodland particularly in cleughs and valleys and around farmsteads and other building groups
- Reinforce visual and ecological contrasts between open hill slopes and steep valley sides
- 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
- Improve access to hills, for example by the provision of small scale, well screened parking facilities
- Conserve peatland vegetation communities and enhance areas of peatland habitat

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

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

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

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



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



Sailing recreation in this scenic setting

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



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





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



The trees of Mayshiel contrasting with the surrounding exposed hill slopes

## Changing seasons at the Whiteadder



Snow covered winter peaks

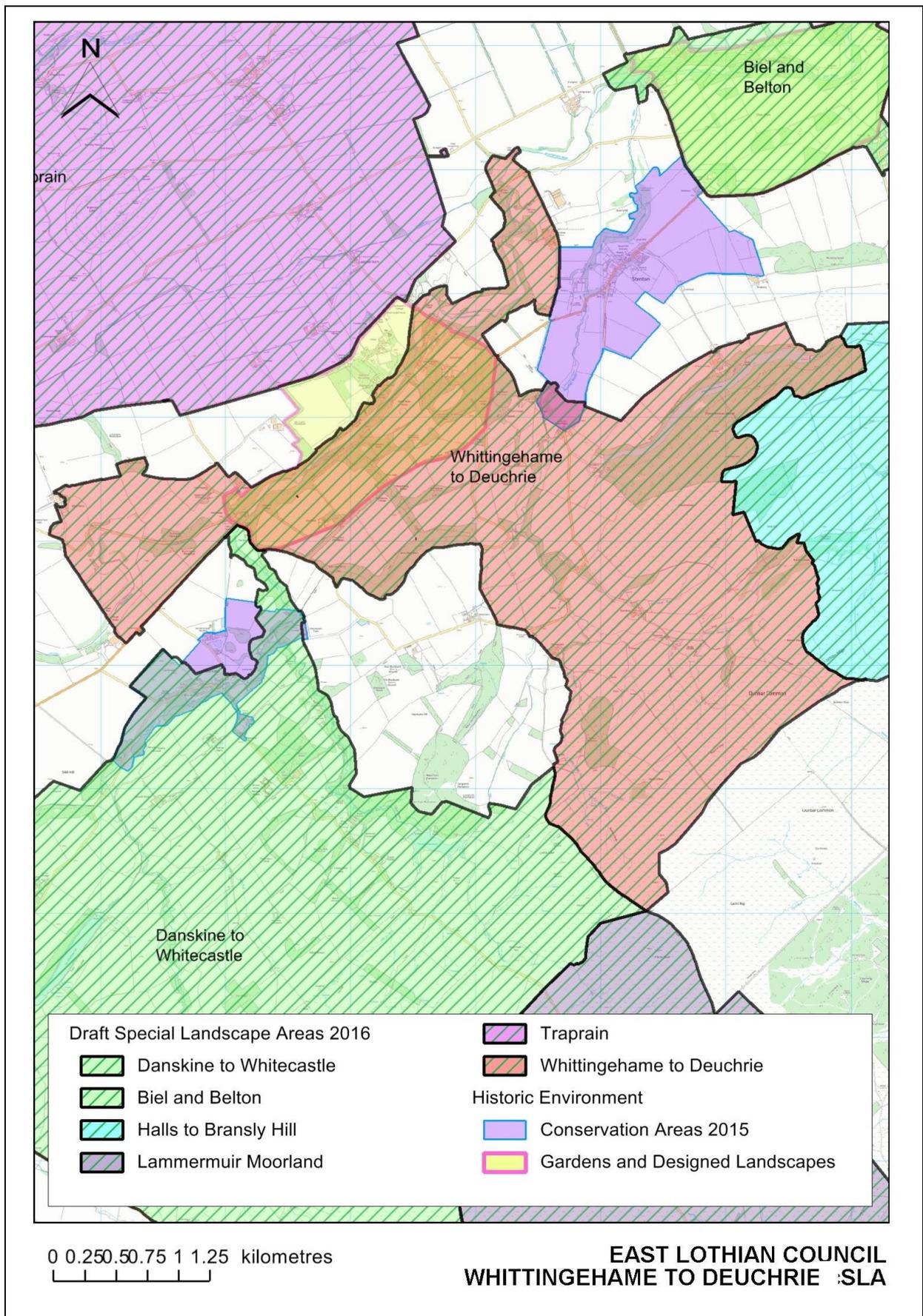


Rich purple of the summer flowering heather clad slopes

Orange of the autumn bracken and native woodland foliage



# Whittingehame to Deuchrie SLA 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.

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

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

**Special Qualities and Features:**

- *Complex topography.* The western half of Rammer Cleugh SSSI lies across the centre of this area. This is important as a geomorphological site with a collection of glacial meltwater channels and kame terraces. Rammer Cleugh is one of several valleys that run in an east west direction formed by meltwater drainage under or at the edge of the glacier that covered East Lothian and the Firth of Forth and shows sub-glacial chutes, ice marginal benches and small marginal and sub-marginal channels. Additional interest includes the esker on the floor of Rammer Cleugh where the meltwater flowing in tunnels under the ice has left sinuous ridges of gravel. This leads to a complex, intricate and striking landform of steep sided valleys, small hill formations and valleys containing no significant streams or rivers. This is a particularly good example of a landscape modified while it was beneath the ice.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Complex, contrasting landscape of a mix of landuses and features, visually rich with limited manmade development well-sited within the landscape. Open on higher ground with more mystery in the lower and wooded areas. Agricultural land is interspersed with layers of woodland. Steep slopes provide dramatic views from the top. There are many small burns and larger water courses as well as the large lake at Pressmennan adding another contrasting element to the landscape. The area has high naturalness with relatively extensive stretches of ancient woodland and rugged cleughs and deans. The areas raised rolling hill tops screen hidden valleys to their south containing ancient woodland such as Rammer Cleugh. Colour contrasts between the purple of the flowering heather of the moors, red of the earth, green of the pastureland to golden of the ripe crops, dark greens and vibrant autumn colours of the woods and blue of the skies. The area is highly scenic when viewed from the north and the plain of East Lothian with the layers of woodland often emphasised by early morning mists sitting between the woodlands.
- Settlement within the area is limited and small in scale of vernacular style dotted around the minor roads or hidden in the wooded valleys adding to the picturesque and historic nature of the area. The use of local materials, sandstone especially red to match the soil, slate roofs and the small number and scale of settlements and their fit within the landscape gives the

impression of man living with nature rather than controlling it. This is added to by the limited number of narrow, single track winding roads leading into the area and becoming tracks as they reach higher ground.

- 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**

- Any proposed development must not harm the features reflecting transition from open upland to enclosed lowland landscape
- Any proposed development must not harm the open 'Wild Land' character of the moorland by controlling development or management that would affect the sense of openness or wildness of the moorland, including for example planting of tree belts or plantation forestry hedges or fences along roads and tracks, or signage, or features which break up the open moorland
- Any proposed development must not harm the unbroken horizontal element of the Lammermuir skyline especially as viewed from the plain and foothills below
- Any proposed development must not harm the overall open visual character focusing northwards towards the plain and the Forth and avoid development that interrupts key views from Deuchrie Dod, Deuchrie Edge and Pressmennan.
- 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.
- Any proposed development must not increase the apparent scale of large scale industrial elements (reservoir walls, pylon lines) for example by providing scale comparison
- Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form.
- Preservation against wind turbines within this area which would have a visual cumulative effect with the turbines of the uplands thereby diminishing the individual identity of the landscape character area and disrupting the sense of contrast between the plateau tops and the fringe landscape.
- Preservation against further hill tracks on visually-sensitive slopes. When tracks are new or recently re-surfaced they can look very noticeable over a wide distance, and these can also look wrong by virtue of their straight lines heading straight up the moorland. This may have a negative impact on the 'natural' appearance and character of the area and tracks can be widely visible including from the plain below. Tracks also open up the area to recreational access, which has obvious benefits but may also affect the remote character of the area. Tracks should follow SNH guidance "Constructed Tracks in the Scottish Uplands"<sup>1</sup>, including consideration of whether the track is necessary at all. Borrow pits, treatment of cut and fill, material, alignment of the track with topography and visibility of the track should all be carefully considered.
- A restoration strategy is important at development stage where large infrastructure projects are being considered to ensure re-establishment of the natural landscape
- Any proposed development must not harm the existing settlement pattern of development kept

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

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

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

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. 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

- In cases where solar panels are not permitted development they should not be placed on publicly visible roof elevations of traditional buildings or buildings in traditional and historic settings where they would harm the historic nature and scenic value of the area
- Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale rural character of the roads, including characteristic features such as hedges and stone walls, passing places, fords and stone bridges
- Any proposed development must not harm the intimate scale of valley bottom landscape and settlements in any future development proposals
- 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
- 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:**

- Conserve and enhance well-developed and maintained beech and thorn hedgerow network on the arable land
- Promote replacement of traditional oak and ash field boundary tree lines
- Promote reinforcement of stone dyke boundary features on hill slopes, whilst retaining the unenclosed appearance of the moorland
- Seek to support traditional estate management practices to safeguard woodland enclosure features and important boundary walls
- Take opportunities to enhance / ameliorate impact of existing coniferous plantations at restructuring stage though recognising the familiarity and land mark of some of the strips such as the Park Strips
- Enhance existing pattern of shelterbelt and field boundary woodland through sensitively designed woodland expansion in fringe area
- 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
- Promote improved integration of visually sensitive farm building expansion through farm woodland planting
- Reinforce visual and ecological contrasts between open hill slopes and steep valley sides
- Encourage appropriate retention and management of ancient oak and deciduous woodland
- Ensure protection and enhancement of characteristic high proportion of mixed and broadleaved woodland through management and replacement planting
- Management of woodland to avoid over-reliance on singular species to avoid loss of large areas of woodland due to disease e.g. ash dieback, Dutch elm disease, red needle blight

**Photographs of special features  
and typical elements**



cc-by-sa/2.0 - Deuchrie Wood by Richard Webb - geograph.org.uk/p/2899834  
**Deuchrie wood ancient oak woods**



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



**Snow covered Deuchrie Dod from Whittingehame**



**Steep wooded banks of the  
Whittingehame Water**

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





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



Red soil on the slopes of Deuchrie Dod

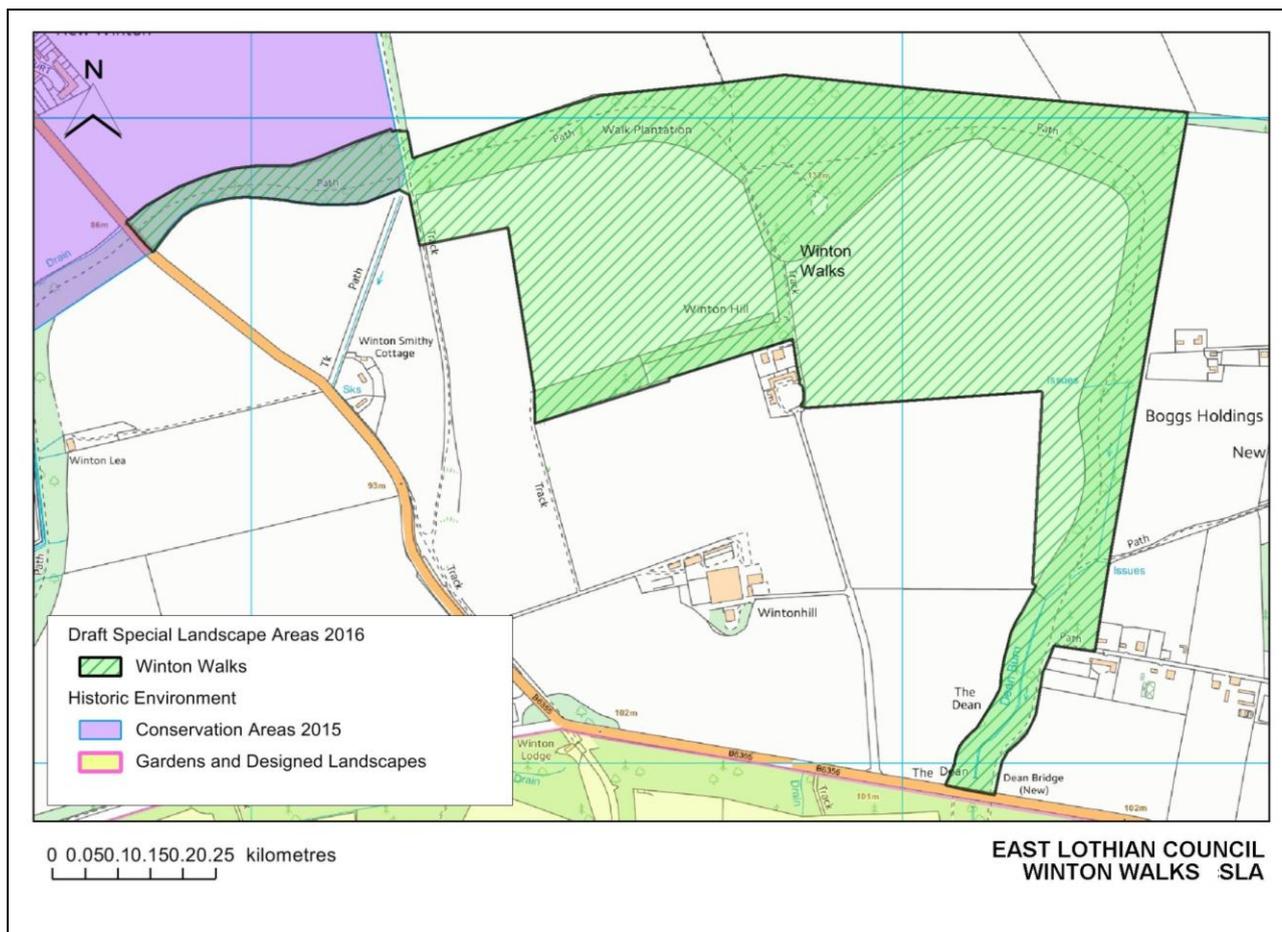


The Whittingehame Yew

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



## Winton Walks SLA Statement of Importance



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

**Area:** 55 ha

### Overview:

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

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

### Special Qualities and Features:

- Woodlands strips providing shelter between fields are a typical feature of the core of the agricultural Mid Tyne Plain, with those here being particularly wide and extensive. The rhythm of alternation between woodland and rolling arable land is important in providing structure, contrast and interest to the landscape, changing with the seasons, in an area that is widely visible due to its elevation. The woodlands are well-managed and comprise a mix of species and ages, and include areas of native woodland planting. There is established woodland understorey giving a mature attractive feel to the area.

- The woodlands provide an attractive setting for walks, laid out and way-marked by the Winton Estate as part of a pleasant network of walking, cycling and horse-riding routes. The woods offer protection from the elements allowing enjoyment in all weathers and appreciation of seasonal variation as well as an element of seclusion which is not found in more open areas. General lack of built development gives the area a 'countryside' character in an area relatively close to large areas of population and built development. Several points of interest have been added along the main walk through the area. These include wooden carved African women, marking miles from the Sinclair Bridge (outwith the area), intended to reflect the distance walked by many for water on a daily basis.
- The raised elevation on the brow of the hill enables stunning wide-ranging views across and out of East Lothian. There are some viewpoints which have benches to allow seated appreciation of the views, at Arthurs View, James View and an unnamed point just north of Wintonhill Cottages at grid ref. 343825, 670688. There are also some fine views looking east from the path north of Wintonhill Cottages. Views include:
  - Far views over the Firth of Forth and Fife to the north across rich arable fields
  - East over wide agricultural fields to the Garleton Hills
  - West over the Esk valley, Elphinstone Ridge, Edinburgh, Arthurs seat and the Pentlands
  - South across arable fields giving open views across the remarkably wooded seeming scoop of the Tyne Valley and onwards to the long, blue Lammermuir Hills

#### **Guidelines for Development**

- Any proposed development must not harm the pattern of alternating arable fields and woodland
- Any proposed development must not harm the core agricultural character of the area
- Any proposed development must not harm the enjoyment or access to the area or undermine and damage the natural setting of woods and farmland
- Any proposed development must not harm open views out of the area in particular from the viewpoints at Arthur's view and James' view, from core path routes 124 and 125 and the Sustrans local cycle route from Ormiston to Macmerry
- Any proposed development must not harm the appearance of the area in wider views particularly as a backdrop to the Winton designed landscape and the Tyne valley

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

- Retain alternation of woodland strips and arable lands
- Retain and improve field boundary hedgerow network
- Management of shelter belts and plantation woodlands

**Photographs of special features and typical elements**



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

**The yellow green of young woodlands**

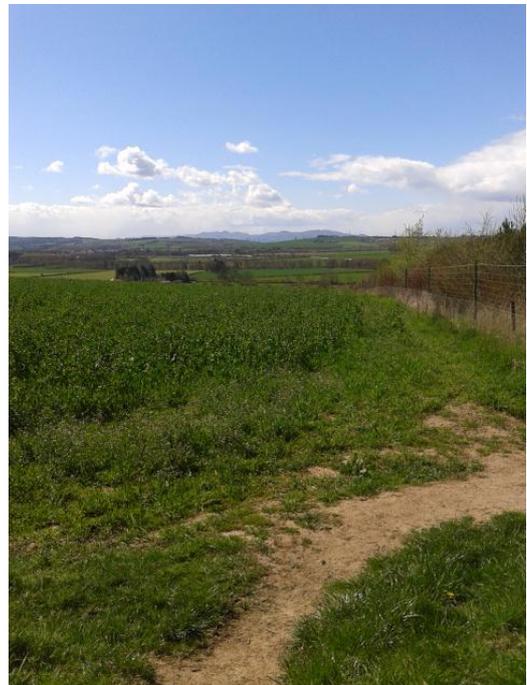


cc-by-sa/2.0 - En Route To Winton Hill by Rude Health - geograph.org.uk/p/4453434



One of several points of interest added to the walks

**Open views south west to the Pentlands**



St Baldred's Craule

Tyne Mouth



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