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proposed local development plan technical note 10₂₀₁₆

PLANNING FOR BIODIVERSITY

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List of abbreviations

ABBREVIATION FULL TITLE

AWI	Ancient Woodland Inventory
ELBAP	East Lothian Biodiversity Action Plan
ELBAP Habitat	Habitat identified in the East Lothian Biodiversity Action Plan 2008-2013
LBS	Local Biodiversity Site
LDP	Local Development Plan
MIR	Main Issues Report
NPF	National Planning Framework
NWSS	National Woodland of Scotland Survey, carried out by Forest Research
SDP1	SESplan's First Strategic Development Plan
SESplan	Strategic Planning Authority for Edinburgh & South East Scotland
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance
SPA	Special Protection Area
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SPP	Scottish Planning Policy
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest

INTRODUCTION

- 1. East Lothian Council's Proposed Local Development Plan is accompanied by a series of Technical Notes that describe the approach the Council has adopted to planning issues in the preparation of the Proposed Local Development Plan for East Lothian. This Technical Note sets out the approach the Council has taken to the biodiversity, including the new Local Biodiversity Sites which it is proposed will be designated through this Local Development Plan.
- 2. Biodiversity is all of life from micro-organisms, to plants, fungi, and animals, and their interactions with the environment. They together forms an ecosystem, and one on which humans are absolutely dependent. This needs to be managed in a way that supports human well-being, but which also sustains nature. An ecosystems approach aims to do this by promoting conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in an equitable way through the integrated management of land, water and living resources¹.

¹ JNCC, see <u>http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=6276</u>

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PLANNING POLICY, GUIDANCE AND ADVICE

- 3. Biodiversity is generally devolved to the Scottish Government through its responsibility for the environment, along with agriculture and forestry. The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 placed a statutory duty to further the conservation of biodiversity on all public sector bodies in Scotland. The duty covers biodiversity in its widest sense, not just that found in specific sites, but designation of sites continues to have a role. This legislation also introduced the requirement that Scottish Ministers must designate a Biodiversity Strategy. The identified Scottish Biodiversity Strategy consists of two documents: '2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity and 'Scotland's Biodiversity; It's in Your Hands'. The Strategy aim is "to conserve biodiversity for the health, enjoyment and wellbeing of the people of Scotland, now and in the future".
- 4. In 2010, Scottish Natural Heritage published an assessment of how Scotland was performing in reaching the UN target for 2010 of a significant reduction in the loss of biodiversity. This showed some good progress towards the target, and lessons that could be learnt, including a need to adopt a more adaptive approach, learning from experience and trying to tackle the causes of biodiversity loss. Internationally, the 2010 targets for preservation of biodiversity were missed. This led to the setting of a new target, which called for a step change in efforts to halt the loss of biodiversity and restore essential services that a healthy natural environment provides. Scotland's 2020 challenge responded to this, aiming to:
- Protect and restore biodiversity on land an in our seas, and to support healthier ecosystems
- Connect people with the natural world, for their health and well-being and to involve them more in decisions about their environment
- Maximize the benefits for Scotland of a diverse natural environment and the services it provides, contributing to sustainable economic growth

The Strategy notes that protecting a range of habitats, species and ecological processes is essential. The best areas should be safeguarded and managed as protected places, and ideally connected within wider ecological networks.

- 5. In legislative terms, the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) afforded protection to a range of species and expanded the use of the SSSI designation. Protection was strengthened by the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act (2004) which also placed a duty on public bodies to further the conservation of biodiversity. The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act (2011) placed a requirement on public bodies to report on the ways they implement the biodiversity duty. In addition there is legislation which gives statutory protection to specific species, such as badgers.
- 6. NPF3 has as a Planning Outcome "making Scotland a natural, resilient place, helping to protect and enhance our natural and cultural assets, and facilitating their sustainable use". A significant move towards this is through the designation of the Central Scotland Green Network as a national development, one of a series of nationally significant developments which were in the country's economic interest. This was first included in National Planning Framework 2. This proposal and concept aims to enhance the landscape and environment of central Scotland to facilitate:
 - a more active and healthy lifestyle;
 - a lifestyle that is more in touch with nature and the local environment;
 - a landscape that encourages sustainable economic growth.

This required a step-change in the delivery of environmental infrastructure and in the contact between people and their natural surroundings. East Lothian is part of the CSGN area. Although designated sites do not make up the whole of the CSGN in East Lothian, they are an important part of delivering it.

- 7. Scottish Planning Policy (2014) states that "... International, national and locally designated areas and sites should be identified and afforded the appropriate level of protection in development plans. Reasons for local designation should be clearly explained and their function and continuing relevance considered when preparing plans.... local nature conservation sites should seek to accommodate the following factors:
 - species diversity, species or habitat rarity, naturalness and extent of habitat;
 - contribution to national and local biodiversity objectives;
 - potential contribution to the protection or enhancement of connectivity between habitats or the development of green networks; and
 - potential to facilitate enjoyment and understanding of natural heritage."

- 8. Strategic Development Plan 1 (June 2013) (SDP1) does not mention biodiversity or the designation of local sites in particular. However the plan has as an Aim to "conserve and enhance the natural and built environment". Policy 1B gives instruction to Local Development Plans on protecting designated areas, and conserving and enhancing the natural and built environment. This states: "Local Development Plans will *[inter alia]* ensure that there are no significant adverse impacts on the integrity of international, national and local designations and classifications in particular National Scenic Areas, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Areas of Great Landscape Value, and any other Phase 1 Habitats or European Protected Species; ...[and] have regard to the need to improve the quality of life in local communities by conserving and enhancing the natural and built environment to create more healthy and attractive places to live".
- 9. In addition SDP1 offers support for the establishment of a strategic Green Network across the SESPlan area. Local Biodiversity Sites form part of the Green Network.
- 10. The East Lothian's Single Outcome Agreement set out in "The East Lothian Plan 2013-23" includes 10 priorities to reduce inequalities within and between communities. Priority 8 considers the natural world and includes an objective to deliver 'a healthy, connected natural environment that is protected and enhanced'.
- 11. Together with the policy in SPP, this provides the context for the Local Development Plan to designate Local Biodiversity Sites.

CURRENT SYSTEM OF BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION THROUGH SITES

12. Protection of biodiversity has been focused on both protection of special habitats, and individual species. Particularly important habitats have been identified and given protection at various levels depending on its perceived importance, and species being given protection of various levels for various reasons. East Lothian contains areas designated for their nature conservation interest from the internationally important to the locally valued.

DESIGNATED SITES

13. There is a structure of sites designated for biodiversity reasons, with areas being designated at different levels and for different reasons. At international level sit Ramsar and Natura 2000 sites; nationally, Sites of Special Scientific Interest have been designated, while locally East Lothian Council has designated a Local Nature Reserve and a Country Park, both of which have a biodiversity dimension. The East Lothian Local Plan 2008 recognised and gave protection to Local Wildlife Sites, which were identified by the Scottish Wildlife Trusts. Through the East Lothian Local Development Plan it is proposed to designate Local Biodiversity Sites, which will supersede the previously recognized Local Wildlife Sites.

14. The system of designated sites is as follows:

Ramsar Sites

15. Ramsar Sites are designated through the Ramsar Convention and are areas of internationally important wetland. The Firth of Forth intertidal zone is a Ramsar Site, and follows the same boundaries as the Firth of Forth Special Protection Area (see below). Protection offered for Ramsar Sites is provided through the European Habitats Directive (1994), and it is SNH policy also that these sites should be treated in the same way as Natura 2000 sites.

Natura 2000 sites (Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

16. A system of protecting nature sites of European significance was established through the Habitats Directive (1994). These include SPAs and SACs as part of the Natura 2000 designation. Each Natura 2000 site has at least one Qualifying Interest – species or habitat for which the site was designated. Information on this can be found on SNH's website². SPA's are intended to protect birds; migratory birds were an early focus of action as they travelled between European Member States. SAC's are designated for both habitat and species. East Lothian has two SPAs: Firth of Forth; and the Forth Islands. The Firth of Forth SPA was designated for its international

² This can be viewed on Sitelink at <u>http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/index.jsp</u>

importance for over-wintering waders and wildfowl. In East Lothian, it is located in the intertidal zone of the Firth of Forth coast. This area also forms part of the Firth of Forth SSSI. Forth Islands SPA was designated because of their importance for breeding seabirds. The Forth Islands SPA includes the four main islands off the North Berwick coast as well as islands in other Local Authority areas. There are no SACs in East Lothian, but part of the county drains into the River Tweed SAC, designated for *ranunculus*, as well as otter and lamphreys.

17. Any plan or project that might affect a Natura 2000 site by statute must demonstrate that it will not affect the integrity of the site. Locations outwith the site boundary also receive this level of protection if there is a pathway for an impact on one of the Qualifying Interests of the site. If this cannot be shown, through provision and assessment of evidence, the proposal cannot proceed. The process of deciding whether or not a proposal can progress is called Habitats Regulation Appraisal (HRA), and where there is a likely significant effect on a Qualifying Interest of the site, Appropriate Assessment must be carried out to determine whether or not the project or operation will affect the integrity of the site. This assessment is carried out by the competent authority, which for planning proposals is the planning authority. The precautionary principle prevails.

18. The protection for Natura 2000 sites provided by legislation is extremely strong protection, but for a relatively narrow range of species and habitat.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

19. Sites of regional and national importance are known as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). These are statutory designations, Scottish Natural Heritage being the government agency with responsibility for them, with most sites designated through the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). The sites chosen as SSSI's were considered to best represent regional or national natural heritage, whether example biological or geological features, and offer them protection from inappropriate development or management. As a result, many high quality features and sites have not been designated and have not been protected from planning proposals or inappropriate management. Sometimes there may be very little, if anything to choose between a site that has been chosen, and one that was not, as the SSSI series is intended to be representative rather than comprehensive. Features of particular national interest in an SSSI are described in a citation. Features within the site that are not cited do not receive protection in and of themselves by being included in an SSSI, although if their loss would affect the cited features of the SSSI, they may incidentally be protected.

20. East Lothian has 15 SSSIs, including coastal, woodland, grassland and upland landscapes and geological sites, as shown on Figure 1 below. Most of the coast is designated, as are some of the most prominent local landscape features such as Traprain Law (a biological and geological SSSI) North Berwick Law (a biological SSSI) and the Garleton Hills (a geological site).



Figure 1 SSSIs in East Lothian.

Local Sites

- 21. Planning Authorities can also designate sites of importance for nature conservation. Local Nature Reserves can be designated to protect areas of natural heritage interest and for environmental education. East Lothian Council designated the first Local Nature Reserve in 1950 under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, at Aberlady Bay. This remains the only Local Nature Reserve in East Lothian. The designation's objectives are to protect areas of natural heritage value, particularly for the study and research of flora and fauna, and geological features. These sites are generally valued by local communities as a natural space close to, or within a settlement. Other designations, for example SSSI, may be applied to these sites. Local Nature Reserves could be used to protect biodiversity more extensively but the designation is most appropriate when related to local communities. Not all important habitats and notable species are conveniently located close to settlements.
- 22. The Council has also designated the Tyne Estuary as a Country Park John Muir Country Park, named after the environmentalist son of Dunbar who started the national park movement in the United States. This Country Park has been designated to give people convenient opportunities to enjoy the countryside and for open air recreation, and therefore has an element of protection of the biodiversity that is there. John Muir Country Park was designated under the Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967 by the Countryside Commission for Scotland in 1976. The Local Authority can make bye-laws to regulate inappropriate behavior within Country Parks.
- 23. The Local Authority can also designate non-statutory sites for local nature conservation. The East Lothian Local Plan 2008 Local Plan showed a series of Wildlife Sites, as mapped by the Scottish Wildlife Trust. Policies to protect these sites were included in that plan. New SNH guidance in 2006 encouraged Local Authorities to take over local designation and to establish Local Nature Conservation Sites, comprising Local



Biodiversity Sites and Local Geodiversity Sites (for areas of significant geological interest).

- 24. Subsequent public policy, particularly relating to green networks, has expanded the necessary role of Local Biodiversity Sites. The designation must now protect wider biodiversity networks to allow wildlife to adapt to future changes in the landscape and climate. Local Biodiversity Sites also facilitate public enjoyment of, and interaction with nature, and can facilitate healthier lifestyles. These objectives relate directly to the Council's obligations through the Single Outcome Agreement.
- 25. Designation as a Local Biodiversity Site is not intended to cause short-term change to existing land management practice. Outwith planning policy, the designation can be used to recognise areas of biodiversity value and promote good ecological management. Applications for felling licences or agri-environment funding, or other wildlife projects, present opportunities to introduce management to sustain and enhance the ecological value of a site. The Council intends to produce further advice for landowners and agencies for different types of Local Biodiversity Site. Specific advice can also be provided to individual landowners regarding Local Biodiversity Sites on their estate. Where opportunities arise, for example through partnership working or through felling license applications or agri-environment applications, efforts should be made to sustain and enhance the ecological value of a site.

HOW LOCAL BIODIVERSITY SITES WERE SELECTED

26. This section explains the policy context supporting use of Local Biodiversity Sites and defines the criteria by which their boundaries have been established. Most parts of Scotland have adopted a local wildlife designation, although systems differ in terms of methodology and terminology. To try and unify the various local designations, SNH in partnership with the British Geological Society, the Royal Town Planning Institute and others produced "Guidance on Establishing and Managing Local Nature Conservation Site Systems in Scotland"³. This guidance states that all sites proposed as Local Biodiversity sites should be Local sites designated for their wildlife value were to be known as Local Biodiversity Sites. Sites recognised for their geological interest were to be known as Local Geodiversity Sites. East Lothian's Local Biodiversity Sites were selected following this guidance.

³ Available at <u>http://www.snh.org.uk/publications/on-line/heritagemanagement/LNCS/Approaches.asp</u>

History of local Wildlife Sites

- 27. Previously, East Lothian Local Plan policy recognized Wildlife Sites as identified by the Scottish Wildlife Trust, giving these sites a measure of protection, though not as great as that afforded to SSSI's and internationally designated sites. The Scottish Wildlife Trust identified these sites as a way of identifying areas of good habitat quality or species abundance and diversity. The Scottish Wildlife Trust has a long and respected history of surveying species and habitats across the country. Species surveys include plants, birds, mammals, butterflies, fungi and other wildlife groups. So effective were these surveys that areas of particular habitat quality or species diversity were identified. From the mid-1980s onwards the Scottish Wildlife Trust formalised these surveys and, with the permission of landowners, produced maps of key nature areas, which were called Wildlife Sites. In order to become a Wildlife Site, sufficient survey information needed to be presented to a committee of experts, who considered the evidence and made a judgement.
- 28. Not every site thought to contain interesting biodiversity could be surveyed. Some sites were too big to be surveyed easily, including many of the large estates and main river valleys. Consequently, a second series of sites was created, where survey information was not available but where there was sufficient knowledge and anecdotal evidence to suggest that sites would be significant if they were surveyed. These were known as Listed Wildlife Sites.
- 29. Local nature conservation designations were established, in part, to protect habitats and species that were not protected by any of the statutory designations but which were, nonetheless, worth conserving. East Lothian Council recognised the value of 'Wildlife Sites' in the 2008 Local Plan. All Listed and full Wildlife Sites presented by the Scottish Wildlife Trust were recognized by the Council, and given a level of protection through planning policies.

New approach

30. This function of sites as a way of recognising areas of good habitat quality is still valid but ecological networks are now seen as delivering a more effective service than conservation of individual and isolated sites. The East Lothian Biodiversity Partnership recognized this through its review of the function of SSSIs in 2011 and subsequent discussions on the function of Local Biodiversity sites. The East Lothian Biodiversity Partnership was formed to guide the process of producing the first East Lothian Biodiversity Action Plan, and meets regularly to discuss this and general biodiversity interests within East Lothian. It is made up of representatives of the Local Authority, statutory bodies including SNH, local and national interest groups such as the RSPB, and businesses with interests in the area.

- 31. The review of the functioning of SSSI's in East Lothian presented data and observations about SSSIs and a discussion of the strengths of SSSIs as a mechanism for nature conservation. The review identified a number of issues, including:
 - Size many SSSIs are relatively small, or narrow, and collectively cover a small percentage of the county's land area,
 - Isolation many SSSIs are distant from other SSSIs, or have borders adjacent to more intensive land uses,
 - Quality many SSSIs in East Lothian were in 'unfavourable' condition.
- 32. The "Guidance on Establishing and Managing Local Nature Conservation Site Systems in Scotland" guidance acknowledged the value of wildlife and 'nature areas' for people. All sites proposed as Local Biodiversity sites must be assessed according to six factors: species diversity, species rarity, habitat rarity, habitat naturalness, habitat extent and connectivity. Consequently, the LBS designation must deliver a number of benefits not considered by the original Wildlife Sites approach, including:
 - Protection of a basic level of ecological diversity across the county, allowing wildlife to persist;
 - Protection of a network of habitats to allow wildlife to migrate across the county;
 - Protection of a network of habitats to allow wildlife to adapt in response to future landscape change and climate change;
 - Protection of a series of wildlife areas with convenient access for residents of main settlements;
 - Encouragement of sustainable management of habitats to maintain and enhance natural heritage value and support the first four aims.

Although termed Local Biodiversity Site, the emphasis is on ecological networks. Sites do not exist in isolation and cannot be sustained if isolated from other ecological areas. The network concept is essential to provide a basic habitat foundation for sustaining wildlife into the future.

33. Figure 2 below shows how the Local Biodiversity sites are intended to form a network to support and complement existing national and international designations.



Figure 2 Boundaries of designated sites in East Lothian; note, the SPA's are also designated SSSI.

34. The East Lothian landscape has changed much in the last 50 years, and could change significantly over the next 50 years. Many wild species, and certainly those adapted to specific conditions need longevity of habitat in order to persist. Local Biodiversity Sites allow species to adapt to change at their own rate. Conservation management of sites is essential to maintain their quality and function, and to enhance it. Management can also facilitate better management of public access, so that people can enjoy, value and benefit from the wildlife around them.

- 35. "Guidance on Establishing and Managing Local Nature Conservation Site Systems in Scotland" recommended that Local Authorities should be the lead agency for Local Nature Conservation Sites, supported by a committee of local experts. East Lothian Council established a committee, comprising The Wildlife Information Centre (custodians of a large volume of species and habitat information), Scottish Wildlife Trust (as experts in the designation process), Scottish Natural Heritage, the botanical recorder for East Lothian (appointed by the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland) and other local experts.
- 36. The East Lothian Biodiversity Partnership discussed LBS and development of an appropriate assessment system. A series of information sources and maps was used to review the boundaries of existing Wildlife Sites and SSSIs and to identify the necessary ecological links. Information used to develop the new Local Biodiversity Sites and their boundaries is described below.
 - Existing site boundaries. Digitised boundaries of existing Wildlife Sites were used as the basis for the new designation. Assessment of site boundaries and surrounding landscapes and habitats was the first stage in the review process. These Wildlife sites had been chosen primarily for their species and habitat rarity and diversity, which are criteria for assessing Local Biodiversity sites.
 - <u>Phase I habitat survey (see Figure 3 below)</u>. An almost complete habitat survey of the county was carried out in the mid-1990s and was published in 1998. This provided digital maps of all surveyed habitats and interpretation of habitat abundance and distribution. The survey was used to produce a GIS layer approximating to the habitats identified as important and listed on page 10 of the East Lothian Biodiversity Action Plan 2008-2013 (ELBAP Habitats). These included specific habitat types of the coast, woodland, farmland, river and wetland habitat, rocky and urban areas. The habitats were those of the UKBAP and Scottish BAP which occur in East Lothian, plus those which were important locally for East Lothian. This layer was used to identify areas of likely semi-natural habitat in the vicinity of Wildlife Sites and larger collections of semi-natural habitat.
 - <u>Woodland Surveys (see Figure 4 below)</u>. Much work has been done to characterise woodlands and both the Ancient Woodland Inventory and Native Woodland Survey of Scotland were used to identify woodlands of potential importance.
 - <u>Grassland Surveys</u>. A grassland study (Seymour, T, Govan, F: 2004. Assessment of the Wildflower Grassland Resource of the Lothians. FWAG) was used to identify local grassland sites. The known locations of some species, notably common rockrose, also helped identify grassland sites.
 - <u>Notable species (see Figure 5 below)</u>. The Wildlife Information Centre provided data on the location of species that are rare, declining, protected, or in some other way notable in East Lothian. These species are listed in the East Lothian Biodiversity Action Plan. These records informed assessment of the semi-natural habitats in 2, 3 and 4.

- <u>Aerial photographs</u>, approximately 2 to 5 years old. A complete set of aerial images offered a relatively up to date picture of the countryside. The Phase I survey is now about 20 years old and the aerial photograph was used to confirm that a particular habitat was still present. This was particularly useful for grassland habitats, some of which had been ploughed or planted with trees since the mid-1990s.
- Field knowledge and site visits. Some sites were visited specifically to inform the process, augmented by personal knowledge of other sites.



3 Distribution of ELBAP Habitats in East Lothian, as defined by the Phase I Habitat Survey 1998.



4 Areas identified as Ancient or Native Woodland



5 The distribution of notable species across East Lothian, as supplied by The Wildlife Information Centre. Species record = violet. Settlement boundaries = grey. Council boundary = red.

- 37. By working through this process, individual site boundaries could be extended to form networks of semi-natural habitat. Ideally, new boundaries would create links between existing designated sites or would at least create a site that was more substantial. In some cases, entirely new sites were identified, based on the concentration of mapped ELBAP habitats and notable species. The Lammermuirs proposed Local Biodiversity Site was the most obvious example of this.
- 38. The above review process was relatively systematic, but criteria have been adopted to strengthen the objectivity of designation. These criteria should not be equated with assessment methodology for the previous Wildlife Sites. Local Biodiversity Sites are a different designation, delivering a different function. The biodiversity network is more important than the specific value of any individual part of the network.

- 39. The criteria are summarised below. Criterion A gives automatic status as a LBS. Criteria B to D were aimed at sites not previously designated. Criteria E to G cover all sites. To be considered a LBS, each site must fulfill one criteria from A to D. New sites must also accord with one of the criteria from E to G.
- 40. A few sites are exempt from these criteria, and reflect the importance a site has for local communities. In some cases the site may be the only area of semi-natural habitat close to a settlement. Convenient public access to nature should be a possibility for all residents. In the summary of LBS that follows, these sites are grouped in the Community table.

Assessment Criteria

- 41. To be included as a Local Biodiversity Site, the area must have met one from criteria A D:
 - A. At least part of the Local Biodiversity Site was designated as a Wildlife Site in the 2008 Local Plan;
 - or, for sites not previously designated, consist of,
 - B. a large relative extent of semi-natural habitat, or significant population of a notable species;
 - C. semi-natural habitat close to existing designated site (SSSI or Wildlife Site) effectively making the existing site larger;
 - D. semi-natural habitat linking two designated sites (SSSI and/or Wildlife Site) thereby defining a habitat network;

and must include at least one from criteria 5-8

- E. Site with semi-natural habitat or good range of species;
- F. Important site for key species, e.g. European Protected Species, ancient woodland flora, species in significant decline locally, etc;
- G. Site of importance for local community contact with biodiversity.

A SUMMARY OF LOCAL BIODIVERSITY SITES AND REASONS FOR THEIR DESIGNATION

- 42. Detailed maps showing the site boundaries are annexed. The following series of summary tables describe the basic information about each Local Biodiversity Sites. This is not a comprehensive description of a site's value. Rather, it describes the basic reasons that justify their designation.
- 43. Sites are sorted according to their dominant landscape. They are either: coastal; woodland; grassland; river valley; upland; post-industrial; community. Although some sites could fit into different categories, most could clearly be summarised as one of the seven. Each has its own merits and in no sense should one type of site be viewed as more or less worthy relative to another. The categorisation here is merely to help illustrate site diversity.

COASTAL NETWORK

44. Coastal sites are necessarily restricted in their distribution to the intertidal margin and associated terrestrial habitats. Much of the coast has been designated as an SSSI, with the foreshore between Musselburgh and Dunbar designated as a Special Protection Area. Coastal sites offer protection to habitats and species not covered by the SSSI / SPA boundary. Many of these sites are botanically rich or support a broad range of species groups. These sites can be very popular with local residents, visitors and tourists, notably Gullane Bents and Longniddry Bents. Other sites are visited less often but are valuable for that quietness, such as the Bilsdean coast. Some sites are strongly urban and offer a very local biodiversity experience for residents.

COASTAL SITES							1
Location	Nearest Settlements	Cluster Area	Area	Habitat	Notable Species & Wildlife Groups	Community Accessibility	Justification Criteria
Levenhall Links	Musselburgh	Musselburgh	106	Wetland, grassland and woodland. NWSS Habitat connectivity Habitat diversity	Orchids, breeding birds, butterflies.	Car park, bus route. Paths from local community and around site, including all- abilities route and John Muir Way	1, 3, 5 7
Morrison's Haven	Musselburgh, Prestonpans	Prestonpans	13 ha	Habitat connectivity Coastal grassland	Sea pearlwort, common centaury	Nearby community, car park, bus route, paths, including John Muir Way	2, 5, 7
Longniddry Bents	Longniddry	Prestonpans, North Berwick	26 ha	Habitat connectivity Coastal grassland, scrub	Bloody cranesbill, clustered bell-flower, purple milk-vetch, water vole	Nearby community, car parks, bus route, paths, including John Muir Way	2, 3, 5, 6, 7
Gullane Bents	Gullane	North Berwick	80 ha	Habitat connectivity Sand dune system	Dark green fritillary, moonwort, purple milk- vetch	Nearby community, car park, bus route, paths	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
Dunbar Coast	Dunbar	Dunbar	57 ha	Habitat connectivity Foreshore, coastal rocks	Curlew, dunlin, eider, sea wormwood	Adjacent community	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
Bilsdean Coast	Innerwick	Dunbar	100 ha	Habitat connectivity Maritime cliff and foreshore	Lesser meadow-rue, oysterplant, sea sandwort	Car park, bus route, paths, including John Muir Link. Difficult A1 crossing from Innerwick	2, 3, 4, 5

WOODLAND NETWORK

- 45. Individual sites may support a range of different habitats, but sites in this table are predominantly wooded. Some woodland sites are managed to produce timber. Others may be managed for private or public amenity, landscape, wildlife, shooting etc. All the woodland sites, however, retain a strong element of naturalness.
- 46. Larger estates such as Gosford and Lennoxlove had been identified as Wildlife Sites in the 2008 Local Plan, including arable fields and areas of pasture. The current designation has removed productive land from the boundary. Much of their new site boundary is policy woodland.
- 47. Because of the relative importance placed on woodlands by people, much survey information is available. The Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) was compiled by Scottish Natural Heritage and Forestry Commission Scotland to identify those woodlands that were present in the landscape 150 to 250 years ago. Woodlands that were present at that time are considered to be ancient woodland and are likely to have a good diversity of woodland flora. The Native Woodland Survey for Scotland (NWSS) is a much more recent resource and assesses the naturalness of different woodlands across the country. Both studies were used in the boundary review.

WOODLAND SITES								
Location	Nearest Settlements	Cluster Area	Ha.	Habitat	Notable Species & Wildlife Groups	Community Accessibility	Justification Criteria	
Carberry Woodland and Bing	Musselburgh, Whitecraig	Musselburgh	74	Native woodland in parkland landscape AWI, NWSS	Bats, barn owl, badger	Car park. Paths. Local community, but improved access required from Wallyford	1, 5, 7	
				Habitat Networks				

Gosford Woodlands	Longniddry	Prestonpans, North Berwick	188	Native woodland in parkland landscape AWI, NWSS Habitat connectivity	Small pondweed, great spotted woodpecker	Close to local community. Open access to much of the estate, but permit holders only, close to Gosford House and its landscaped grounds	1, 2, 5, 7
				Habitat size			
Butterdean	Gladsmuir	Tranent	79	Largest wood in network of nearby woodlands.	Bird's nest orchid, badger, common wintergreen	Local community. Car park, bus route, paths	1, 2, 6, 7
Glen Wood	Ormiston	Tranent	16	AWI, NWSS AWI, NWSS Woodland network	Ancient woodland flora, wetland flora. Badger	Local community Paths	1, 5, 7
				Wooded river corridor			
Humbie Wood	Humbie	Tranent	116	AWI, NWSS Large site, with good habitat connectivity	Stag's horn clubmoss, badger, ancient woodland flora.	Local community Car park, paths	1, 5, 6
Saltoun Big Wood	East and West Saltoun	Tranent	160	AWI, NWSS Large site, with good habitat connectivity	Red squirrel, palmate newt, ancient woodland flora	Local community Car park, paths	1, 2, 5, 6, 7
Petersmuir Wood	East Saltoun	Tranent	25	AWI, NWSS. Habitat connectivity	Bluebell, twayblade, common wintergreen	Paths. Site has general open access but is not convenient.	1, 5

Howden Wood	Bankrugg	Haddington (Tranent)	12	AWI, NWSS. Habitat connectivity	Ancient woodland flora	Site has general open access but is not convenient.	4, 5
Boltonmuir Wood	Bankrugg, Gifford	Haddington (Tranent)	72	AWI, NWSS. Habitat connectivity	Variety of orchids, red squirrel	Paths. Site has general open access but is not convenient	1, 2, 5, 6
Yester Woodlands	Gifford	Haddington	166	AWI, NWSS. Large site, with good habitat connectivity	Black spleenwort, toothwort, ancient woodland flora	Local community Car park, paths, bus route	1, 2, 5, 7
Colstoun Wood	Haddington, Gifford, Morham	Haddington	44	AWI, NWSS.	Greater knapweed, red squirrel	Site has general open access but is not convenient	1, 5
Lennoxlove Woodlands	Haddington	Haddington	80	Native woodland in parkland landscape AWI, NWSS Habitat Networks	Red squirrel (historic) Ancient woodland flora	Local community Paths, bus route	1, 2, 5, 6, 7
Fawn and Speedy Wood	Gifford	Haddington	31	AWI, NWSS. Habitat connectivity	Bats	Local community. Car parking, bus route, paths	3, 4, 5, 7
Baro Wood	Gifford, Garvald	Haddington	24	Wildlife Site AWI	Ancient woodland flora	Site has general open access but is not convenient.	1, 5
Balgone (woodland, grassland, open water)	North Berwick	North Berwick	48	AWI, NWSS. Habitat connectivity Habitat diversity	Common rockrose, hairy rock-cress, maiden pink	John Muir Way. Site has general open access but is not convenient.	1, 5, 6, 7

Craigmoor Wood	North Berwick	North Berwick	11	AWI, NWSS Habitat connectivity (Balgone-Waughton)	Wild onion	John Muir Way. Site has general open access but is not convenient.	3, 4, 7
Tyninghame Woodlands	Tyninghame, East Linton	Dunbar	342	AWI, NWSS Large site, with good habitat connectivity	Red squirrel	Local community. Car parking, paths	1, 2, 5, 6, 7
Pressmennan	Stenton	Dunbar	110	AWI, NWSS. Large site, with good habitat connectivity	Stag's-horn clubmoss, ancient woodland flora	Local community. Car parking, paths	1, 2, 5, 7

GRASSLAND NETWORK

48. Lack of good management of grasslands will lead to development of rank conditions and scrub growth. Although scrub can be a useful habitat, it also suppresses grassland species, leading to a loss of habitat quality. Conservation management of these sites is essential.

GRASSLAND SITES									
Location	Nearest Settlements	Cluster Area	Area ha	Habitat	Notable Species & Wildlife Groups	Community Accessibility	Justification Criteria		
Linn Dean Water	Humbie	Tranent	39	Acid, neutral and calcareous grassland, connecting to AWI and NWSS	Common rockrose, juniper. Diversity of butterflies, including northern brown argus, otter	Parking on A68. Site has general open access but is not convenient.	1, 5, 6		
				Habitat connectivity and diversity					

Garleton Hills	Haddington	Haddington, North Berwick	151	A large site with acid, neutral, calcareous grassland. Site also includes woodland and wetland	Petty whin, maiden pink, newts	Car park. Path connections from Haddington. Site has general open access.	2, 5, 6, 7
By the Law	North Berwick	North Berwick	8	Grassland, woodland, scrub, wetland NWSS Habitat diversity	Ancient woodland flora, good grassland flora	Near North Berwick with path links to and through site. John Muir Way. Car park, bus route.	1, 5, 7
Waughton Grasslands	East Fortune	North Berwick	9	High quality neutral and calcareous grassland Habitat connectivity	Maiden pink, squirrel-tail fescue, wild onion	Close to John Muir Way. Site has general open access.	1, 5, 6
Howkins Wood and Grasslands	East Linton	Dunbar	17	High quality neutral and calcareous grassland Habitat connectivity	Bloody cranesbill, kidney vetch, spring cinquefoil, wild onion	Path. Site has general open access.	1, 5
Traprain Grasslands	East Linton	Dunbar	14	High quality neutral and calcareous grassland Habitat network	Fairy flax, maiden pink, spring sedge	General open access, but access is not convenient.	2, 3, 5, 6

49. River valleys are potentially excellent sites, having the combination of aquatic and associated terrestrial habitat, both of which are included in the designation. Efforts were made to avoid inclusion of productive farmland or commercial conifer plantation in the riparian habitat boundary. These sites also offer tremendous habitat continuity, often through areas of intensively managed countryside. They can also link habitats that would otherwise be isolated in the countryside.

RIVER VAL	LEY NETWORK						
Location	Nearest Settlements	Cluster Area	Area ha	Habitat	Notable Species & Wildlife Groups	Community Accessibility	Justification Criteria
Esk	Whitecraig, Musselburgh	Musselburgh	59	Wooded river valley AWI, NWSS Habitat connectivity	Ancient woodland flora, stream water crowfoot, otter, bats	Adjacent to Musselburgh and Whitecraig, with good path access. Car parking.	1, 6, 7
Tyne	Ormiston, Pencaitland, Haddington, East Linton	Tranent, Haddington, Dunbar	185	Woodland and grassland AWI, NWSS. Habitat connectivity	Northern brown argus, otter, sand martins, water vole,	Good community connections. Paths, including John Muir Way. Car parking	1, 5, 6, 7
Keith Water	Humbie	Tranent	36	Woodland, grassland, wetland AWI, NWSS Habitat connectivity Habitat diversity	Ragged robin, sand martin, badger	General open access, but access is not convenient.	3, 4, 5

Humbie Water	Humbie	Tranent	46	Woodland, grassland and wetland AWI, NWSS Habitat connectivity Habitat diversity	Ancient woodland flora, Ragged robin, red squirrel (slightly dated record).	Local community. General open access, but access is not convenient.	1, 5, 7
Birns Water	Humbie	Tranent, Haddington	37	Woodland, grassland AWI, NWSS Habitat connectivity Habitat diversity	Meadow saxifrage, badger	General open access, but access is not convenient.	4, 5
Bearford Burn	Haddington	Haddington	50	Grassland, woodland and field edge habitat. NWSS Habitat connectivity		Morham right of way, otherwise general open access.	4, 5
Gifford Water	Haddington, Gifford	Haddington	40	Woodland, grassland. AWI, NWSS Habitat connectivity Habitat diversity	Badger, bats	Local community. Paths, car parking.	1, 5, 6, 7
Hopes Water	Gifford	Haddington	36	Wooded river valley.	Badger, bats	General open access, but access is not convenient.	1, 5

Biel Water	Garvald, Stenton, West Barns	Dunbar (Haddington)	221	AWI, NWSS. Habitat connectivity Wildlife Site. Woodland, grassland. AWI, NWSS. Habitat connectivity	Ancient woodland flora, Adder, common lizard, bats	Reasonable accessibility, e.g. from Stenton. Paths	1, 5, 6,
Sauchet Burn	Stenton	Dunbar	36	Woodland, grassland. AWI, NWSS. Habitat connectivity	Ancient woodland flora	Convenient access from Stenton. Paths through site.	4, 5, 7
Spott Burn	Spott	Dunbar	164	Woodland, grassland AWI, NWSS Habitat connectivity	Ancient woodland flora	Convenient access from Spott. Paths through site.	1, 5
Brunt Valley	Spott	Dunbar	77	Woodland, grassland. AWI, NWSS Habitat connectivity	Ancient woodland flora, newts	Paths through site and general open access.	1, 5
Dryburn Valley	Innerwick	Dunbar	115	Woodland, grassland. AWI, NWSS	Ancient woodland flora	Paths access from Innerwick and caravan park, otherwise general open access.	1, 5

				Habitat connectivity			
Thornton Burn	Innerwick	Dunbar	151	Woodland, grassland AWI, NWSS. Habitat connectivity	Ancient woodland flora, brittle bladder fern, spotted flycatcher	Path access from Innerwick and Thorntonloch, otherwise general open access	1, 5, 7
Dunglass Burn	Oldhamstocks, Dunglass	Dunbar	148	Woodland, grassland. AWI, NWSS Habitat connectivity	Ancient woodland flora	Connects to John Muir Link and Dunglass core path. Convenient access from Oldhamstocks.	1, 5, 7

UPLAND LANDSCAPE

50. The Lammermuirs form an extensive area of upland scenery dominated by heathland, acid grassland and bog. Smaller areas of neutral and calcareous grassland and other wetland communities can be found. All these habitats are priorities in the East Lothian Biodiversity Action Plan.

JPLAND LANDSCAPE										
Nearest Settlements	Cluster Area	Ha.	Habitat	Notable Species & Wildlife Groups	Community Accessibility	Justification Criteria				
Gifford, Garvald, Dldhamstocks	Tranent, Haddington, Dunbar	9500 ha.	Acid, neutral, calcareous grassland. Heathland, blanket bog Habitat connectivity	Sphagnum and other mosses, upland vegetation communities, adder, common lizard, northern brown argus, dark green fritillary and other butterflies	General open access. Paths across site, including Herring Road and other Core Paths.	2, 5, 6				
N 50	earest ettlements ifford, Garvald,	earest ettlements ifford, Garvald, Idhamstocks	earest ettlementsCluster AreaHa.HattlementsHattlement,Hattlement,ifford, Garvald, ldhamstocksTranent,9500 Haddington,	earest ettlementsCluster AreaHa.Habitatifford, Garvald, IdhamstocksTranent, Haddington, Dunbar9500 ha.Acid, neutral, calcareous grassland. Heathland, blanket bog	earest ettlementsCluster AreaHa.HabitatNotable Species & Wildlife Groupsifford, Garvald, IdhamstocksTranent, Haddington, Dunbar9500 ha.Acid, neutral, calcareous grassland. Heathland, blanket bog Habitat connectivitySphagnum and other mosses, upland vegetation communities, adder, common lizard, northern brown argus, dark green fritillary and other butterflies	earest ettlementsCluster AreaHa.HabitatNotable Species & Wildlife GroupsCommunity Accessibilityifford, Garvald, IdhamstocksTranent, Haddington, Dunbar9500 ha.Acid, neutral, calcareous grassland. Heathland, blanket bog Habitat connectivitySphagnum and other mosses, upland vegetation communities, adder, common lizard, northern brown argus, dark green fritillary and other butterfliesGeneral open access. Paths across site, including Herring Road and other Core Paths.				

POST INDUSTRIAL SITES

51. Many former urban or industrial landscapes are extremely valuable for wildlife. They offer relatively undisturbed conditions and exposed surfaces on which plants can colonise naturally, and where invertebrates can bask or hibernate. These sites can also offer extremely good public access to wildlife, most notably along the railway walks.

POST INDUSTRIA	L SITES						
Location	Nearest Settlements	Cluster Area	Area ha	Habitat	Notable Species & Wildlife Groups	Community Accessibility	Justification Criteria
Ormiston / Pencaitland Railway Walk	Whitecraig, Ormiston, Pencaitland, West Saltoun	Musselburgh, Tranent	89	AWI, NWSS Woodland, grassland, aquatic habitats Naturally re-colonising bing Habitat connectivity Habitat diversity	Badger, bats, butterflies	Close to communities with good path connections to and through site. All-abilities path. Car park	1, 5, 7
Longniddry / Haddington Railway Walk	Longniddry, Haddington	Prestonpans, Haddington	20	AWI, NWSS Woodland, grassland, aquatic Habitat connectivity Habitat diversity	Birds, including warblers. Plants, including sweet violet. Newts. Butterflies	Close to communities with good path connections to and through site. All-abilities path. Car park	1, 5, 7
Gifford Railway	Gifford, Bankrugg	Haddington	29	Woodland, aquatic. AWI, NWSS	General countryside species	Paths from Gifford and Bankrugg. Local parking.	1, 5

				Habitat connectivity			
Donolly Reservoir	Gifford, Garvald	Haddington	30	Woodland, grassland, aquatic.	Ancient woodland flora	Core Path	1, 5
				NWSS			
				Habitat connectivity			
				Habitat diversity			
Gullane Railway	Gullane	North Berwick	7	Woodland, grassland, aquatic.	General countryside species	Path extends from Gullane. Local parking.	1, 7
				AWI, NWSS			
				Habitat connectivity			
Markle Quarry Pond	East Linton	Dunbar	5	Wetland, scrub habitat	Rigid hornwort, newts	Core Path to site	2, 5, 6
COMMUNITY SITES

- 52. Convenient access to nature is important for human well-being and should be a possibility for everybody. Some areas have therefore been included as biodiversity sites to allow for this. Although some of these sites may not include biodiversity that is especially rare or valuable in scientific terms they do enable everyone to experience biodiversity close to their homes. This is important for the enjoyment and appreciation of biodiversity, including inspiring future generations.
- 53. Some of these sites are the main areas that people would think of as important for the experience of biodiversity in their community. In some cases community sites are the only areas of habitat close to a community. These sites are also important for local education as they are easy to access and the biodiversity there can tolerate disturbance. Including sites where the main purpose to for community use chimes with the aim in Scotland's 2020 challenge to connect people with the natural world for their health and well being.

COMMUNITY SITES											
Location	Nearest Settlements	Cluster Area	Ha.	Habitat	Notable Species & Wildlife Groups	Community Accessibility	Justification Criteria				
Wallyford Bing	Wallyford	Musselburgh	8	Woodland NWSS		Adjacent to Wallyford with good network of paths. Site to be enhanced through approved housing proposal.	n/a				
Heugh and Meadowmill	Tranent, Prestonpans	Tranent	13	Woodland NWSS	Sparrowhawk. Grayling and other butterflies.	Between communities, good path connections. Car park, bus route.	n/a				
Strawberry Wood	East Saltoun	Tranent	5	Woodland	Orchids, fossils	Local community. Paths. Local parking	n/a				

COMMUNITY SITES											
Location	Nearest Settlements	Cluster Area	Ha.	Habitat	Notable Species & Wildlife Groups	Community Accessibility	Justification Criteria				
				AWI							
Saltoun Tip	East Saltoun	Tranent	6	Grassland, woodland, wetland	Orchids	Paths from East Saltoun to site, and through site. Car park.	n/a				
Lochend Woods	Dunbar	Dunbar	36	AWI, NWSS Large urban woodland	Great spotted woodpecker, badger, bats	Surrounded by local community with good network of paths. Managed by community group.	n/a				

CONSIDERATION OF MAIN ISSUES REPORT CONSULTATION RESPONSES

54. The Main Issues Report (MIR) listed new policies proposed to be introduced, including the designation of Local Biodiversity Sites. Responses to this were guided to Question 26, on the Minor Policy Review. The only response directly addressing geodiversity was from the National Trust for Scotland stating that they would be happy to work with the Council in the development of Local Geodiversity Sites, though other than that make no comment on them. SNH noted in their comments on the MIR that the MIR "sets out a level of change that will need to be carefully managed if East Lothian's special qualities and assets are to be retained and enhanced. The best way to achieve this is to set out in the Plan…a strong approach to the protection, enhancement and integration of the natural heritage." SNH note this would demonstrate East Lothian's contribution to the Scottish Governments National Outcomes.

- 55. The National Trust for Scotland noted that they would like to see enhancement of environmental and conservation policies. The RSPB stated that biodiversity value and potential should be a Green Network priority, with the network being for wildlife as well as people. Some landowners, developers and agents voiced concern that the Green Network should not constrain development, and as designated biodiversity sites are part of the existing assets of this, this comment would apply to biodiversity policy. Community councils and local interest groups seemed to generally support the Green Network, and by implication some protection for the biodiversity element that is part of it. Some groups specifically commented that some wildlife areas need to be protected from human activity and this should be recognized. Humbie, East and West Saltoun, and Bolton Community Council stated that green spaces are important for communities as well as providing spaces for wildlife. Some community councils asked for protection for specific areas through the Green Network.
- 56. There were no specific comments on how biodiversity policy should be developed.

PROPOSED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN APPROACH

- 57. East Lothian's Single Outcome Agreement notes that East Lothian's natural environment is a major factor in the quality of life experienced by residents and visitors, and that protecting and enhancing that environment is a key priority for the East Lothian Partnership. The policies of the East Lothian Local Development Plan aim to protect biodiversity within and outwith designated sites in proportion to its intrinsic value as well as value as a resource for public enjoyment and education.
- 58. The Local Development Plan includes an objective from the Single Outcome Agreement, to protect and enhance the area's high quality environment and its special identity. A related outcome is "to ensure that the area's significant international, national and local cultural and natural heritage assets, including green network assets, are protected and conserved, and where appropriate enhanced, including biodiversity, flora, fauna, as well as soil, water and air quality". Protection of biodiversity accords with this objective and outcome.
- 59. For biodiversity, the aim is to move from the previous approach of protecting specific sites and species, towards and ecosystems approach. To this end, Local Biodiversity sites have been selected which make up more of a network than was the case with the previous suite of nationally and locally designated sites. Policies remain in place to protect these sites. It is important to recognize that these are whole plan polices and apply outwith the designated sites themselves.

- 60. Policies on protection of biodiversity are mainly contained within Section 6, Our Natural and Cultural Heritage.
- 61. The purpose of Policy NH1 is to ensure that proposals meet the statutory requirements relating to internationally designated sites, which are stringent. The policy also aims to make it clear that the Planning Authority, and note the developer, must carry out Appropriate Assessment. However, it does require developers to provide any information requested by the competent authority to enable it to carry this out. This is to avoid unusual costs of processing such an application falling to the planning authority, while enabling it to carry out its statutory duties. Where information presented by a developer is not considered adequate, the policy should allow the planning authority to seek further information. Nothing contained within this policy would prevent the planning authority commissioning its own studies to support Appropriate Assessment should it so wish to do.
- 62. Policy NH2 covers SSSIs. There are 12 SSSIs in East Lothian which are designated for, or partly for, their biodiversity interest. National policy and legislation required the protection of SSSIs including their notifiable features. Policy NH2 aims to reflect this. The provision of mitigation is added as criteria as these are the sites with some of the best biodiversity in East Lothian. It is therefore reasonable to expect that even where a proposal is supported due to its social, economic or environmental benefits, that it should be carried out in the least damaging way it can be, and that mitigation is put in place to reduce the impact of the proposal.
- 63. Policy NH2 also adds that where proposals affect non-notified features within a site, this will be considered against criteria in Policy NH3. This was inserted as it overcomes the issue that within SSSIs that only the notified features of national interest within the site are protected where there may be features of local interest that also warrant protection. In addition to their notified features, SSSIs also host some of the best locally important natural heritage. There appears to be a general expectation among the public that the natural heritage within a designated site will be protected. Other than the notified features however, this is not currently the case. This results in the somewhat anomalous situation that locally important natural heritage features are better protected within local sites than sites that are nationally important. Two ways of addressing this were considered: firstly, to include policy wording giving locally important features within a nationally important site the same degree of protection as those within local sites. Alternatively, SSSIs and GCR sites could have been designated as Local Nature Conservation Sites. Accordingly, for SSSI's which are notified purely for their geological interest, where there is also a local biodiversity interest these sites have been included as Local Biodiversity sites. However, where the SSSI was designated for its biological interest duplication of designation did not seem proportionate or clear. Accordingly,

wording was included in Policy NH2 to the effect that if there is valued local biodiversity within SSSIs the approach towards that locally valuable biodiversity should be the same is if fell within a Local Biodiversity Site.

- 64. Policy NH3 designates Local Biodiversity Sites and affords their biodiversity interest a level of protection, to a lesser extent than national sites, in line with SPP. This is the first time East Lothian Council has designated Local Biodiversity Sites, though it has previously recognized Local Wildlife Sites. The policy also aims to protect the interest of the Local Nature Reserve and Country Parks, which have been designated for some time but have not received planning policy protection previously. These areas do have a biodiversity interest which is part of the reason for their designation, and this should be recognized and protected. The policy seeks mitigation for proposals that go ahead, to reduce the impact of acceptable proposals.
- 65. Policy NH4 re-states the legislative position on European Protected Species, and seeks to secure mitigation through submission of a species protection plan where appropriate. Provision on protected species has been included for clarity.
- 66. Policy NH5 covers biodiversity wherever it is found. The policy requires developers to show how biodiversity interests have been taken into account in formulating their proposals. This would be expected to cover biodiversity on site, but also the impact of development of this site on surrounding biodiversity, for example when connectivity of habitat has been affected. The policy also requires mitigation for proposals that do have an adverse impact but this is outweighed by the public benefit of the development. This is in line with the Council's Biodiversity Duty deriving from the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, and the ecosystems approach to biodiversity.

ANNEX 1 LOCAL BIODIVERSITY SITE NETWORK

The following maps show the proposed Local Biodiversity Sites. The Map Index below shows which maps apply to which areas.









<u>Map C</u>





Ν 1,000 Meters



















East Lothian Scale 1:35,000



<u>Map H</u>





East Lothian Scale 1:35,000















Key Local Biodiversity Site SSSI



East Lothian Scale 1:35,000



















Map O Key

B A C E F K D G J Ĥ Q P M -N 0 Ŕ L.V~ S U. T) W

Biodiversity Site

SSSI

East Lothian Scale 1:35,000



Map P





East Lothian Scale 1:35,000









East Lothian Scale 1:35,000



Map S





East Lothian Scale 1:35,000











06/16



Map U







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Map W







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