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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

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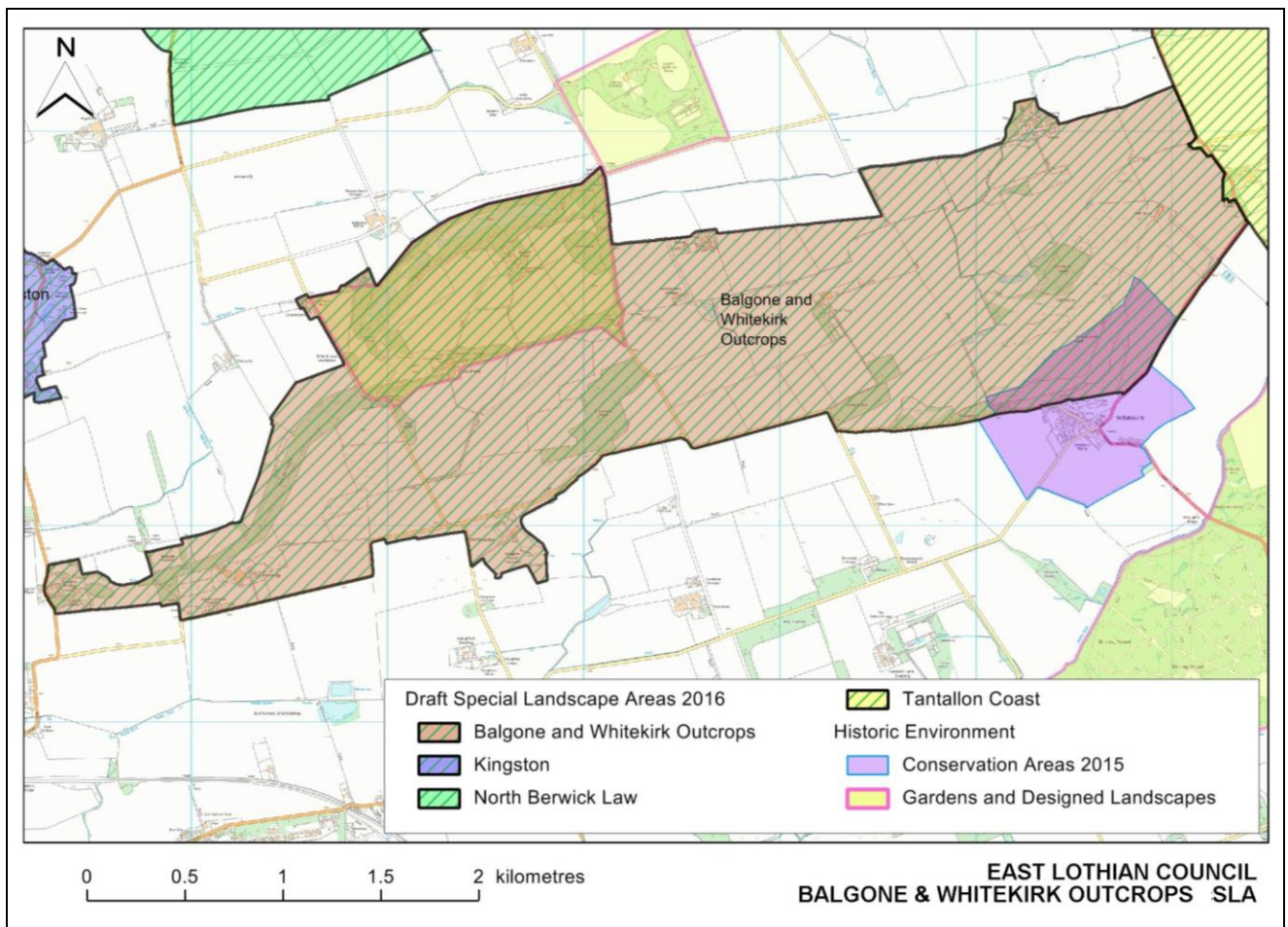


local landscape designation review

# appendix VI 2016

SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS CHARACTER MAPS

## Balgone and Whitekirk Outcrops SLA Statement of Importance



**Character:** The main reason for designation is the scenic appeal of the dramatic landform of the Heughs, cliffs and lake at Balgone and volcanic outcrop of Whitekirk Hill, contrasting with the surrounding fertile arable fields.

**Area:** 652 ha

### Overview:

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

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

### Special Qualities and Features:

- The linear, basalt outcrops of the Heughs are unusual in the area. The outcrops rise dramatically from the surrounding relatively flat land from Congalton to Balgone, and can reach 15m, creating a significant landscape feature along the northwest section of this area. Gorse clings onto the crags, providing contrast and seasonal interest. There are bolted crag routes for climbers at the Balgone Heughs. Mature deciduous trees cover the line of the crags with grazing land around the bottom of the crags keeping views open in places. The contrast between the rocky outcrops topped with gorse and woodland with the surrounding rolling arable landscape creates interest and complexity.
- In addition to the Heughs, there are numerous volcanic outcrop features within the fields to the south and east and the larger outcrop of Whitekirk Hill. All of these show the rock through skeletal soil, which is both a typical feature of the area and unusual within it.
- The landform between Den Lodge, Balgone, and Gleghornie consists of attractive, gently-folding fields dropping to a channelized watercourse. Another interesting landform is the knobby land around Waughton Crossroads and at Old Waughton where the remains of the Castle still stand. A Local Biodiversity site along the roadside of rare calcareous grassland boasts unusual flowers adding to its interest
- The natural attractive landform has been added to by design, with the Heughs being incorporated into the designed landscapes of Rockville and Balgone. Balgone is an inventory Garden and Designed Landscape. Here the Victorians used the landform to great effect to provide a dramatic entrance through the rock face to the house contrasted by the manmade lakes along the glacial valley to the north of the Heughs. At one point a carriage drive made its way from Rockville South Lodge along the north side of the Heughs past the lakes to reach Balgone House through the crags. The secluded valley with the lakes of unexpected size, originally formed for curling, with surrounding mixed woodland is highly scenic, with reeds and other wetland plants, and water loving wildlife including a family of swans, which adds to its appeal and generally gives the area a feeling of tranquillity and old worldliness.
- Mature trees are important in the area, whether as part of the Designed Landscapes, as a setting for built development (such as around Redside, Congalton, Gleghornie and East Craig) or in small areas of woodland such as Craig Wood, Craigmoor Wood, or Whitekirk Covert, as well as along many of the field boundaries. Many of these woodlands also have a good flowery understorey and Craigmoor Wood is identified as a local biodiversity site important for its native woodland and understorey habitats. The trees and woodlands provide seasonal interest with their changing colours throughout the year.
- The farm buildings and steadings that lie within this area are mainly traditional in style and materials with red sandstone walls and pantile or slate roofs, and sit quaintly within the landscape. The cottages at Redside Farm cottages are beautifully set in their landform, with their orange pantiles contrasting with the green, brown or golden fields, and providing a focal point in the scene. Other buildings are 'hidden' within landform and trees, such as at Rockville. The Scottish Baronial style has had a clear influence in this area; there are houses with crow stepped gables at Brownrigg and Rockville South Lodge; ornamentation such as the thistle at; Balgone house though of earlier construction has had Baronial style additions. The group of 19<sup>th</sup> century listed buildings at Sheriff Hall have an idyllic, timeless feel, with few signs of modern life intruding. Steading conversions have been done in a sympathetic manner.
- Some of the roads are single track adding to the rural ambience with the route of the roads following field boundaries with sharp turns at the corners, forcing the driver to keep an eye on the road, and slow down enough for passengers to appreciate the views of and from the area.
- The area contains remnants of earlier landscapes with the scheduled remains of a prehistoric fort and cairn as well as the remains of the medieval Waughton Castle, all set around the volcanic outcrops. Much of the agricultural field pattern still follows 19<sup>th</sup> century and in places medieval field boundaries, giving fields which are relatively small scale.
- Views from the area include those
  - Of the Heughs and related mature trees
  - From and of Whitekirk Hill as mentioned above.



- From The Bratt (minor road from Westgate Lodge to Old Waughton) towards the Lammermuirs
- From the minor road from Congalton to Whitekirk, to the Lammermuirs to the south and to Whitekirk
- Traprain to the south, though clearly missing a slice where it has been quarried, can also be seen from the roads in the southern section of the area like a huge whale rising from the ocean, particular impressive on days of temperature inversion

#### **Guidelines for Development**

- Any proposed development must not harm the core agricultural character of the area
- Any proposed development must respect and retain the existing settlement pattern of development of generally small-scale, single-storey, linear and small groups of buildings typical of farm settlements, farm workers cottages and steading conversions and support use of traditional building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings.
- 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.
- Any proposed development must not harm the character of the designed landscape and its surrounding parkland and countryside. Prevent development that would impact detrimentally on its historic setting and character.
- 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
- 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 impact detrimentally on: open views from the minor road from Congalton to Whitekirk and Whitekirk Hill to the east, the Heughs to the north and the Lammermuirs and Traprain Law to the south; views to Waughton Castle; views from the The Bratt (minor road from Westgate Lodge to Old Waughton) south to Traprain Law and the Lammermuirs; open views from Whitekirk Hill.
- Any proposed development must not harm the contrast of small-scale topographic diversity and contrast of rocky outcrops and fertile fields.
- Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale rural character of the roads, including characteristic features such as hedges and walls

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

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

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

The Heughs north of Sheriff Hall



Crags and trees create mystery  
Crags create interesting landform



Craggy outcrops framing views



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







Wildlife on Balgone Lake



Waughton Cross Roads Wildlife Site



Listed building of Balgone House

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







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



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



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

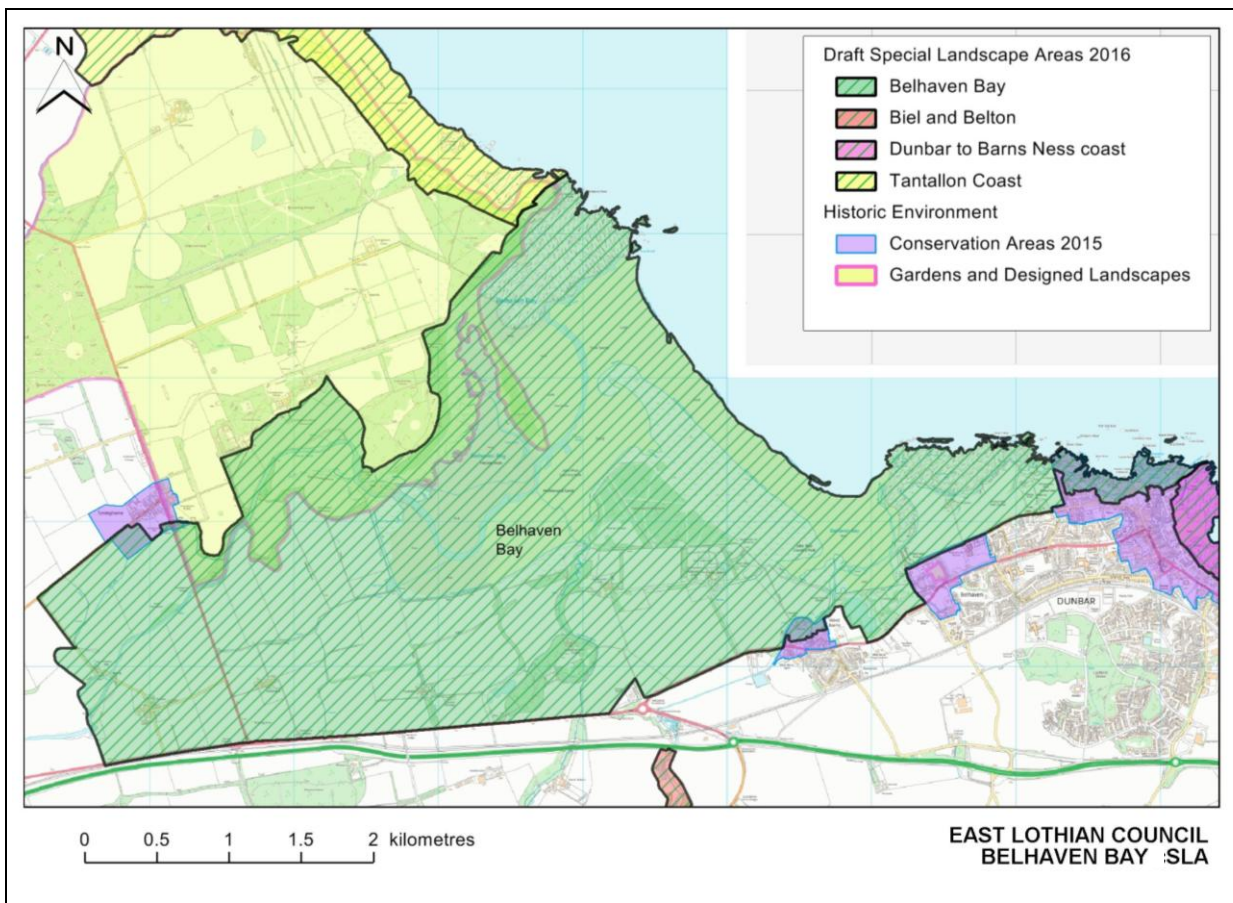
The visual interesting geological features of the Den outcrops at Redside provide landform into which single storey cottages disappear and contrast with the surrounding agricultural land



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



## Belhaven Bay SLA Statement of Importance



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

**Area:** 1,316 Ha

### Overview:

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

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

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

harbour.

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

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

**Special Qualities and Features:**

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



considerable part of the tourist draw of beaches is in their landscape setting.

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

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

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

- Lack of artificial lighting as well as accessibility makes the Bay a good place to observe the night sky, including on occasion the Aurora Borealis, as there is little lighting directly to the north, with the lights of Fife being largely obscured by landform.
- *Historic Landscape – Belhaven Bay (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. In particular the historic landscape includes:
  - Coherent landscape for WWI & II remains. A considerable number of remains survive relating to the defence of Britain, troop training and Home Guard activities.
  - Historic area of leisure pursuits (golf course, shooting, racecourse). The area particularly around Hedderwick has historically been used for outside pursuits, and this continues today
  - Area of early harbour for Dunbar
  - Important early medieval monastic landscape

### **Guidelines for Development**

- Any proposed development must not harm the coastal character and special qualities and features of the area
- Any proposed development must not harm the wide, open character of Belhaven Bay
- Any proposed development must not harm the natural or scenic qualities and features or outdoor recreational use of the area especially with regard to appreciation of the sea, coast, coastal woodlands and Tyne estuary and river
- Any proposed development must not harm the functioning of Dunbar Harbour as a working harbour and focus of activity that provide scenic and sensory qualities (contrasting colours of boats, fishing equipment such as lobster pots, sounds of the masts, etc)
- Any proposed development must not harm the habitat and openness of the coastal grasslands
- Any proposed development must not harm the landscape pattern of arable fields and shelter belts
- Any proposed development must not impact detrimentally on open views out from the coastline and to the Bass Rock
- Any proposed development must not harm the sense of naturalness and wildness qualities of the area
- Any proposed development must not detrimentally impact on the SPA and bird habitats
- 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 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 operation of natural coastal processes other than where sea defences are needed to protect important infrastructure
- Any proposed large farm building development should be carefully sited and coloured to fit within the landscape form of the area.
- Any proposed development must respect and retain the existing settlement pattern of development of generally small-scale, single-storey, linear and small groups of buildings typical of farm settlements, farm workers cottages and steading conversions and support the use of

traditional building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings

- 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 views of the Tyne river and estuary, Belhaven Bay, and Dunbar Harbour and cliffs, from, in particular, the A198, A199, John Muir Way, A1087, B1407, John Muir Country Park and Shore Road car park.
- Any proposed development must not harm the integrity and coherence of the historic landscape

**Potential for Landscape Enhancement**

- Control invasive species in particular sea buckthorn and rhododendron especially within woodland at Tynninghame
- Retain trees which are used in visual screening for non-traditional buildings
- Avoid constraining the development of salt marsh or mobile dune habitat

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



Dunbar Castle and Castle Haven by J Carson before 1842



Dunbar Street near harbour by A Gray 1851

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

The 'Bridge to Nowhere'  
providing access from  
Dunbar over the Biel  
Water to Belhaven Bay



The large expanse of sand at Belhaven Bay, backed by low dunes with the  
Bass Rock in the distance



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







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

World War I and II defences at Links Wood by Sandy Hirst. Salt marsh abuts the sandy shore here



Woodlands of Hedderwick Hill plantation extending to the shore line – scenic contrast in landforms

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

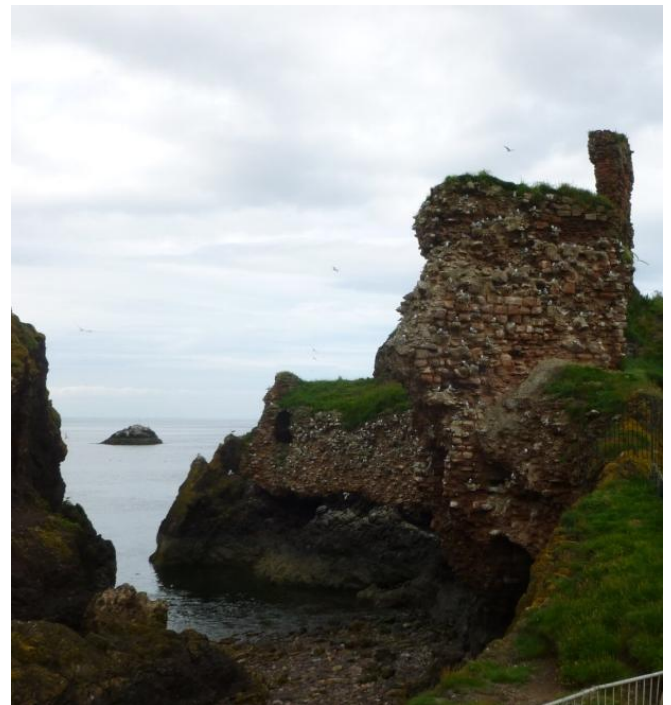




The distinctive red sandstone cliffs of Dunbar providing strong visual contrast with the blue of the sea,



The dramatic sea crashes against the red rocks and cliffs in rough weather



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



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





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

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

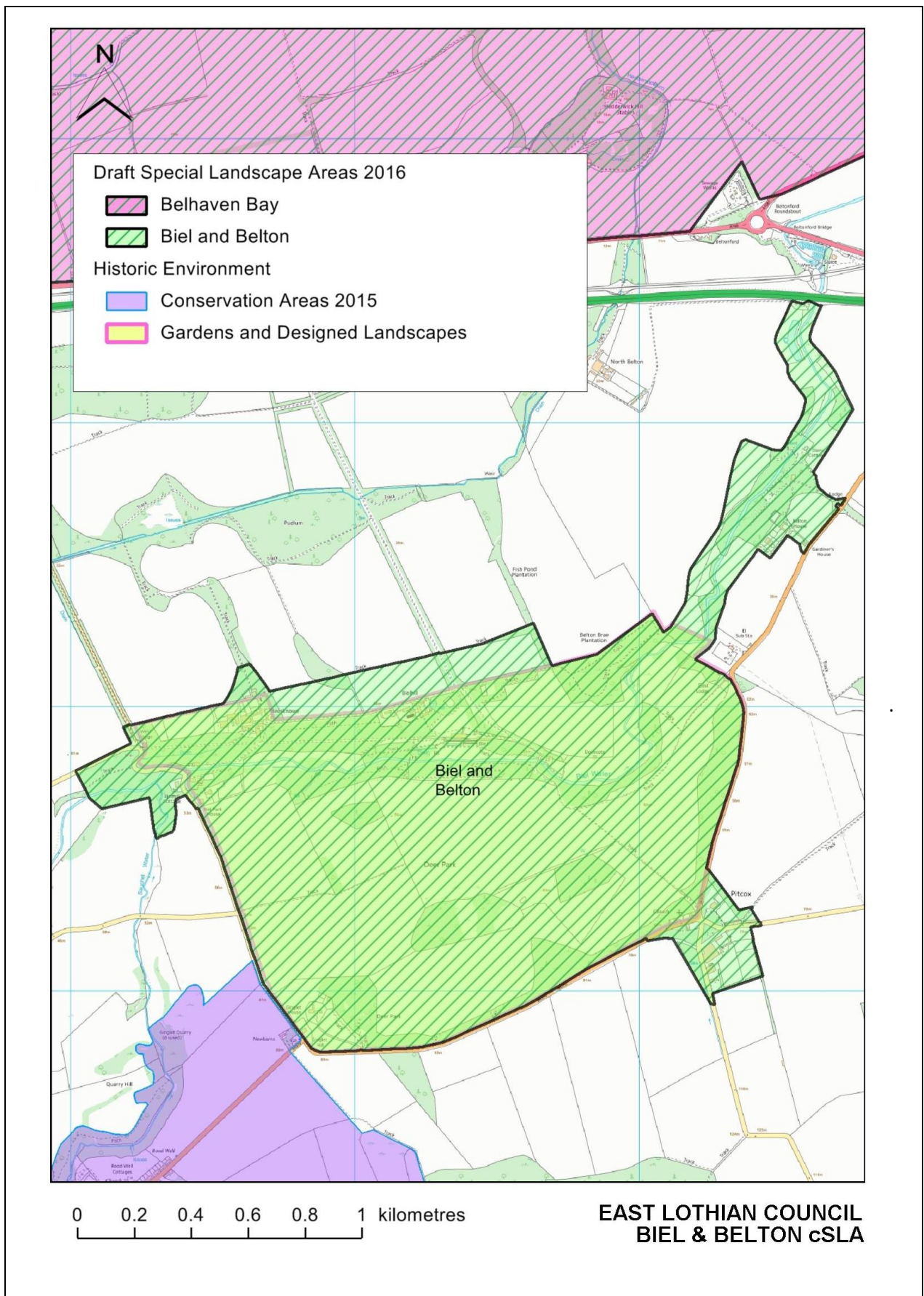


The flatness of the estuary landscape at Tynefield broken by the lines of shelterbelt tree planting with the sea in the bay visible through the trees





# Biel and Belton SLA Statement of Importance



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

**Area:** 257 ha

**Overview:**

The area comprises a complex and contrasting landscape centred on the Biel Water, set within a secluded and mysterious wooded valley providing elements of surprise and extensive rugged, dramatic elements. The surrounding open agricultural fields are edged by belts and clumps of established mainly deciduous woodlands providing enclosure and interest, the attractive landform having been augmented by the design of the landscapes of Biel and Belton. Beech predominates in the woodland, with yew also well established. Biel was first established in the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century, with terraces stepping down the steeply sloping river bank as well as a notable arboretum.

The predominance of local stone and traditional building styles in buildings both grand and humble helps root built development in place, making a clear connection with the surrounding land. The impressive Category A listed Tudor style Biel country house and associated terrace, boundary walls, gate piers, kennels and related structures imbue the area with its own distinctive character.

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

There are also groups of listed buildings at Pitcox (the main house, some of the cottages, Lodge and phone box), as well as West and Biel Mill Lodges, Beech Cottage and Biel Park House, along with the stone bridge over the Biel, at the west end of the area.

**Special Qualities and Features:**

- The Biel water runs through a deeply incised wooded valley highly typical of many of the river valleys through East Lothian.
- Open agricultural fields with distinctive, rich, rusty brown earth in a strongly folding landform, enclosed and accented by planting of mixed woodland; this contrasts with the steep, much more natural appearance of the incised river valley. The underlying old red sandstone unites them, the river in places cutting deeply into the underlying soft rock and exposing it, while the soil of the adjoining fields are lent a rusty brown colour by the sandstone beneath.
- There is a strong woodland structure in the area, which is visually pleasing, framing and enclosing views, as well as providing wildlife habitat. Mature woodland closely surrounds much of the built development, giving it an air of leafy seclusion for example at Biel Mill, Biel House, Dairy Cottage and even Pitcox. In some cases, topographical enclosure adds to this sense. Mature woodland strips and copses complements and adds interest to the landform in the Biel Deer Park, merging with riparian planting. Large sections of the woodlands along the valley and in the policy woods are identified as being native lowland mixed deciduous woods, the most extensive area being between Biel West Lodge and Biel House, but also within the Deer Park, as well as areas within the Biel valley. There is some open land habitat associated with the woodland near Belton; this woodland complements and provides interest to the surrounding expansive, gently sloping agricultural fields.
- The highly scenic red sandstone buildings of the small hamlet of Pitcox, which has medieval origins, are set within contrasting green mature woodlands, including that within the garden of the

elegant main Pitcox house itself. The housing in the village is mainly single storey vernacular and shows the passage of time; leaving the village to the southeast, the first cottages (somewhat falling into dereliction) are red sandstone and pantile, with a snow course, then stone and slate, giving way to cream painted harled cottages again with red pantile roofs. The form of the original cottages, and their set back from the road with small front gardens, often with colourful flowers, is respected. The Lodge building has a slightly grander appearance, with the red telephone box in front of it a pleasing accent against more the more muted red of the Lodge, both Lodge and phone box being Grade B listed.

- Built development shows some typical East Lothian elements; use of local building stone (red, cream and pink sandstone, with red predominating) as well as pantiles or slate for roofs gives the area a notable sense of architectural congruity; this characterises most of the built development throughout the area. Residential development is small scale and clustered, and shows a pattern typical of East Lothian of large estate houses such as Biel, Pitcox and Belton House, with associated lodges, farm buildings and low, single storey cottages. At Pitcox, these are close by, while at Biel and Belton they are more distant, though often clustered. There are also some distinctive and unusual buildings, most obviously the spectacular, extensive house that is Biel; but also the unusual Beesknoe House, built in English vernacular style; though using red sandstone it has Tudor style timber framing to the upper floor. The cluster of housing in which the latter sits is unusual in the SLA as it has an open aspect to the north. It is thus visible against the mature trees to the south, going against the grain of the secluded and somewhat mysterious feel deriving from setting within mature woodland and enclosed topography which is strongly characteristic of this SLA. Car parking is generally well managed, with parking in courtyards or at the rear of cottages.
- There are attractive paths and avenues within the Biel estate, giving good public access on foot, though access to the Belton area is somewhat more difficult due to the steep slopes, while the high policy wall around the south of the Biel estate gives few access points from that direction.
- Views from the area include:
  - Views from the tracks and road at Beesknoe northwards are spectacular, the view taking in the varied crops of the agricultural plain with its pattern of woodland and volcanic intrusions, looking out towards the contrasting blue and pale yellows of Belhaven Bay, then beyond to the Bass Rock and Fife.
  - From the Deer Park there are views of Biel house, the designed landscape and across the agricultural land to the Forth Islands
  - Views across the designed landscape to Traprain
  - Of elements of the built environment set within woodland, for example stone bridges, lodges and cottages
  - Of the Biel water within its wooded valley.
- The area is an important element in wider views from the surrounding area for example over the extended Tyne valley, particularly when viewed from higher ground to the north, where layers of arable land intersperse with layers of woodland. There is a pretty view of the Biel water meanders where the A1 crosses the burn.
- The area contains areas of naturalness and has a lack of artificial elements particularly along its wooded river banks. The steepness of the banks and rushing water adds to this feeling of wildness, although paths and the limited scale of the landscape limit this in extent. There is limited light pollution; though views of the night sky are limited in the darkest areas by woodland this adds to the wilder feel.

#### **Guidelines for Development**

- Any proposed development must not harm the continuous feature of the Biel River Valley, the natural appearance of its wooded valley and the scale of the valley as a significant feature in the landscape.

- Any proposed development must not harm the core agricultural character of the area
- Any proposed development must not impact detrimentally on: open views northwards from the tracks and road at Beesknowe; views of Biel House and the designed landscape and Traprain Law from Deer Park
- Any proposed development must not harm the character of the designed landscape and its surrounding parkland and countryside. Prevent development that would impact detrimentally on its historic setting and character.
- 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
- 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 existing generally 'hidden' character of residential development within mature woodland. The exception to this is at Beesknowe, where attractive and distinctive housing is located to the top of a rise to take advantage of the tremendous views across East Lothian and to the coast.
- Any proposed development must not harm the sense of place of the character, landscape setting and identity of the settlement of Pitcox achieved through a perceived balance between different 'classes' of housing, i.e. grander estate houses, lodges and humbler dwellings and through its use of traditional materials and design
- Continue the link with local red sandstone geology in appropriate built development and support the use of traditional building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings. Traditionally designed houses include low terraces and features such as crow-steps, small paned sash and case windows and materials including pantiles, red sandstone, slate and harling. Adventurously designed buildings may also accord with the character of the area but require careful location to avoid detracting from the traditional nature of the area.
- Any proposed development must not harm the qualities of wildness within the river valleys that the area has from the ruggedness, lack of modern artefacts and natural landcover of the river valleys, as well as lack of light pollution
- Any proposed development must not harm the intimate scale of valley bottom landscape
- 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 walls

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

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



**Photographs of special features and typical elements**

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



Avenues of tree planting line the drive



The river south of Biel House has been canalised and the grounds grassed with specimen tree planting. Policy woodlands in the wider landscape frame and focus views and strengthen the landform.



Tree lined approach to Pitcox



Good views over the Deer Park to Traprain Law

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





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



A-listed Biel House



B-listed Pitcox Lodge with phone box



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

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



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



Different ages of farm cottages at Pitcox, united by form





Incised river valley at Biel and Belton



Contrasting colours of mixed species even in winter



The trees cling to the rocky slopes

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

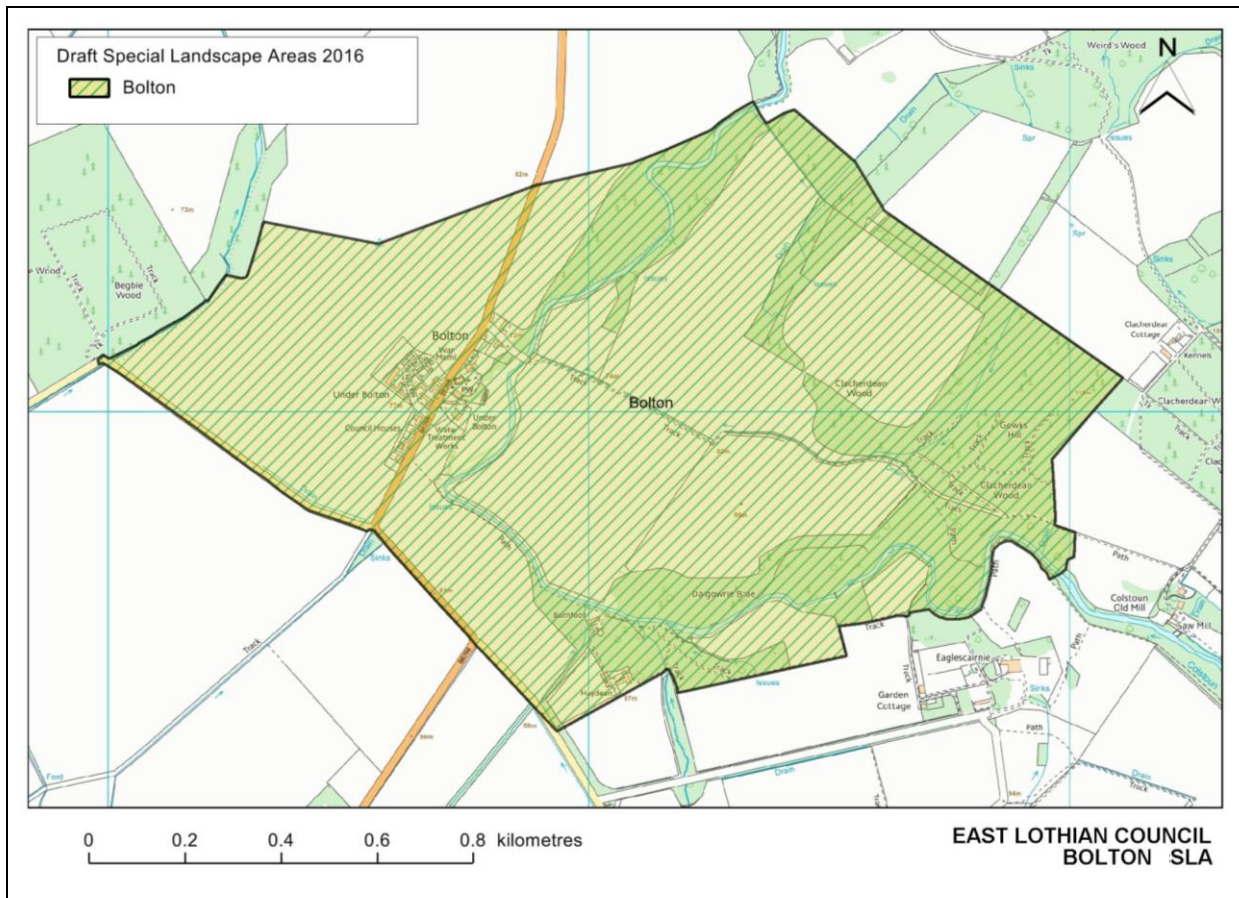


Woodland extends into the grounds of houses within the area. At Pitcox Farmhouse snowdrops carpet the ground below the woodland canopy





## Bolton SLA Statement of Importance



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

**Area:** 154 hectares

### Overview:

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

### Special Qualities and Features:

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

quietly hiding in the dappled woodland.

- The village of Bolton nestles in a fold in the river valley surrounding the Grade B listed picturesque parish church and churchyard and related buildings of the Doo'cot, Bolton Old Manse and Stables, Bolton Farmhouse and Old School House. The church tower whether seen peeping over rolling fields, mature trees or in its full splendour, provides a focal point for the village and surrounding valley. The new development at Dovecot Steading has been sensitively designed in stone and timber with buildings of a scale and character to fit with the traditional buildings of the village, retaining the round stone doo'cot as a focal point and entrance to the village from the north.
- The bowl nature of the valley allows scenic views from Bolton looking south along the incised, heavily-wooded, winding river valley. There are picturesque views from the south and from the B6368 of Bolton in its valley setting with the church tower, doo'cot and established trees. There are open views from the higher surrounding ground of the wider landscape and out to the Garleton Hills to the north.
- Robert Burns' mother, Agnes Broun, moved to Bolton after Robert's death, and is buried in Bolton churchyard adding to the history and importance of the area.
- The right of way from Bolton to Gifford follows the banks of the Colstoun Water and tracks to Eaglescairn to the south of the area, whilst Core path route 2 follows a track through the centre of the area providing good recreational access through the area. Core path route 487 heads north along the B6368. These paths help link Bolton with the larger settlements of Haddington to the north and Gifford to the south.
- There are several aspects of detail in the built environment which add to the landscape; the octagonal lantern on the round doocot, the turrets on the Church roof, the black and white finger post sign at the junction with the road to Samuelston. Others, such as the coach and horses weather vane, are harder to spot.

#### **Guidelines for Development**

- Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale secluded visual character derived from well-planned mature woodland framework
- Any proposed development must not harm the core agricultural character of the area
- Any proposed development must not impact detrimentally on open views from the B6368 across Bolton from the southwest and open views from the B6368 and the settlement southeast along the river valley
- Any proposed development must not harm the sense of place of the character, landscape setting and identity of the settlement of Bolton
- Any proposed development must not harm the existing settlement pattern of development and must support the use of traditional building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings
- Any proposed development must not harm the existing character of the village and the surrounding countryside by prevention of large, modern development, out of scale with the existing buildings and landscape character
- Any proposed development must not harm the setting of the church as a focal point, in particular the field to the southeast side of the road opposite the Council Houses should be retained as open land.
- Close boarded fence boundaries to properties visible from outwith the settlement would harm the setting of the village within the landscape as would large garden sheds.
- 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 natural setting of river, woods and farmland and

use as an important recreational resource

- Any proposed design and materials of road signage and street furniture must not harm the historic and picturesque character of the village and must retain its individual identity

**Potential for Landscape Enhancement**

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



**Photographs of special features and typical elements**

The view south along the Bolton valley through the changing seasons



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



In winter showing the complexity of the landform layered by trees



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



Mature beech trees framing views to the Lammermuir Hills







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



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







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



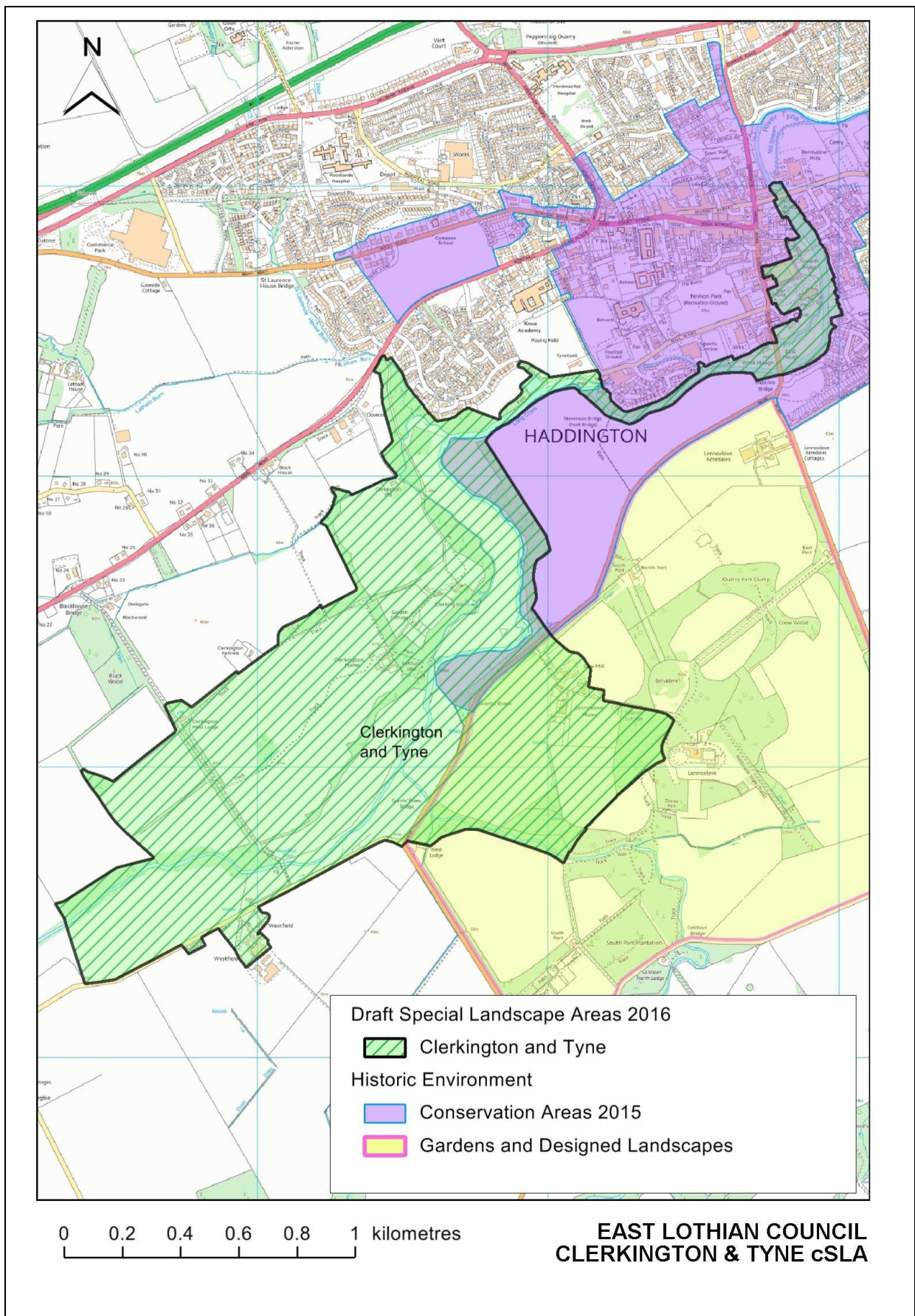
The Parish Church and Steading Doo'cot frame the B6368 through the village

The steep wooded banks of the Colstoun Water through Clacherdean Wood





# Clerkington and Tyne SLA Statement of Importance



**Character:** A central area of the wide Tyne floodplain set within the Mid Tyne Plain. Picturesque, bucolic, rolling countryside with an abundance of both flora and fauna, with traditional nature, scenic value and setting of the River Tyne together with the historic heart of Haddington.

**Area:** 201 ha

**Overview:**

The River Tyne runs along the wide spreading Mid Tyne valley, between the established estate landscapes of Clerkington and Lennoxlove before passing through the historic heart of the traditional county town of Haddington. It is an area important for recreation with good access to the river and its surrounding area. A peaceful area with much wildlife allowing an easy escape from the pressures of modern life. Areas of woodland within the Clerkington Estate are protected by tree preservation orders. The woods to the northeast are protected by tree preservation order 107 (20) Clerkington and the woods around Clerkington West Lodge are protected by tree preservation order 72 enforcing the importance of the trees for the visual amenity of the area. The eastern part of the area overlaps with the Haddington Conservation Area along the river corridor showing the overlap between designations and the importance of the area for both the setting of the Town and wider amenity value. Trees here are also protected by a tree preservation order 84 – Briery Bank.

**Special Qualities and Features:**

- This section of the wide spreading Tyne river valley is typical of the wider valley with its surrounding fertile farm landscape of a mix of arable fields and pasture land divided by long-established mixed-species shelter belts. The river itself has a wide native tree-lined riparian zone along much of its length and is identified as a local biodiversity site for its variety of bank habitats. The river meanders gently through the flood plain at Grants Brae between the fields of cows, but can be dramatic in flood, spilling its banks over the surrounding floodplain and banks through the town and yet in summer provides gurgling waters, surrounded by gently rustling grasses and wildflowers in bucolic surrounds.
- The Tyne valley is an attractive, rural, peaceful area, teeming with wildlife. There are many opportunities to view wildlife along the river from the Brown Trout in the river and the Sand Martins nesting in the river banks to the Roe Deer who hide shyly in the surrounding woods and fields. Herons can often be seen fishing in the river and swans, ducks and other waterfowl are a familiar sight around the Nungate Bridge. Buzzards are another common sight and sound as they circle overhead, with several badger setts found in the woodlands and along the river banks. If you are very lucky Otters and Kingfishers may even be spotted. In the summer the banks of the river are covered with an array of wild flowers that change from week to week, followed by the stunning autumn display of the deciduous trees.
- The setting of the river to the west of Haddington is strongly defined by the raised rolling landform of the arable land to the Clerkington and Lennoxlove Estates. The open fields of the Lennoxlove Estate with traditional red roofed agricultural buildings and enclosing woodland to their south provide scenic value and enclosure, framing views along the valley.
- The designed landscape of Clerkington, although not an inventory designed landscape and missing its main house, provides a strong scenic setting for Haddington from the west set on a ridge above the floodplain of the river Tyne with its surrounding policy parklands. The parklands around the river still contain a number of the historic trees of the designed landscape, providing focal points in the flat floodplain, though some appear to be reaching the end of their lives.
- To the west of Clerkington the area surrounding the river is defined by arable fields surrounded by long-established mixed-species shelter belts. These provide a feeling of history and enclosure whilst allowing long distance views south and west across the arable fields of the spreading mid-Tyne plain out to the Lammermuir Hills to the south.



- The walk along the river banks through Haddington is highly scenic, offering attractive views and sounds of the water from its rushing over the weirs for the historic mills, now no longer using water as power and in places turned into housing, through the shallower openness of the East and West Haugh flood plain spilt by the Waterloo Bridge, with the steep bank and trees of Brae Head to its south, around to the historic heart containing St Mary's Parish Church, 16<sup>th</sup> century Nungate Bridge, Waterside Hotel and the small designed landscape of St Mary's Pleasance set within its high stone walls.
- St Mary's Parish Church in a beautiful setting on the banks of the Tyne is the longest parish church in Scotland. The red sandstone building with imposing tower was started in 1375 and was partially destroyed during the 1548-49 Siege of Haddington, indeed bullet holes and even the impact damage from a cannon ball can be clearly seen on the church today. The plain-glass leaded east window was also extensively damaged in 2001 by the collapse of a major limb from the mature copper beech growing within the church grounds, but recently felled due to concern over further failure. The church is now fully restored.
- Mature trees frame the length of the riverside walk with common limes beside the walls of Mill Wynd, commemorative coronation trees at West Haugh and nine common lime trees adjacent to Ball Alley, which are supposed to represent the nine trades of Haddington and link the Nungate Bridge to the eastern entrance to St Mary's Parish Church. Together these trees are important in providing a setting for Haddington especially in views from the south. The mixed group of trees at Grants Braes provides a sense of enclosure for the Tyne plain, as well as marking seasonal change.
- There are many walking routes through the area enabling easy access to this recreational resource, including the Core Path routes 339 along the Tyne to the west of the area linking to Samuelston, 118 linking Westfield to the Pencaitland Road crossing the Tyne via Westfield Bridge, 340, 475, and 476 following the road between Clerkington and Lennoxlove and passing the Well and site of the House where Agnes Broun (Robert Burns' mother) stayed and 260 along the north bank of the river Tyne from Clerkington to the Nungate Bridge
- Sustrans Cycle Route 11 passes through the area east to west along the valley.
- There is parking and public access as well as an interpretation board at Grant's Brae also a popular spot for people fishing.
- The woodlands and river have been a draw for generations of children and are important for natural play in this natural location close to the large settlement of Haddington.
- There are views in all directions usually framed by mature tree belts providing a sense of history and long-establishment. Traprain Law can be viewed to the east between the trees. The Garleton Hills frame the area to the north. The Lammermuirs provide the horizon when looking south. There are many attractive views within the woodland and along the river.

**Guidelines for Development:**

- Any proposed development must not harm the core agricultural character of the area
- Any proposed development must not harm the pattern of arable fields and shelter belts
- Any proposed development must not harm the character of the historic heart of Haddington
- Any proposed development must not harm the character of the designed landscape and the surrounding countryside and avoid development that would impact detrimentally on its historic setting and character
- 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 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
- 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 development must not impact detrimentally on open views of the River Tyne and across the agricultural plain particularly from core path routes 118 and 260, the B6368 and the minor road to Samuelston.
- 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

**Potential for Landscape Enhancement:**

To retain the natural setting and important recreational resource along this section of the River Tyne – replacement planting for trees lost on the south bank of the river between Brae Head (near Briery Bank) and Long Cram is important for the attractiveness of the river walk

Management of shelter belts and plantation woodlands.

Woodland management to remove coniferous plantings from policy woodland areas and replace with mixed coniferous and broadleaf woods.

Formalise viewpoint at Westfield Bridge and consider picnic areas

***Examples of Paintings using the Clerkington and Tyne Area as Inspiration***



Nungate Bridge, Haddington by Haugh



River Tyne and Garleton hills  
by William Darling Mackay



Cattle Grazing near Haddington  
by William Darling Mackay 1911



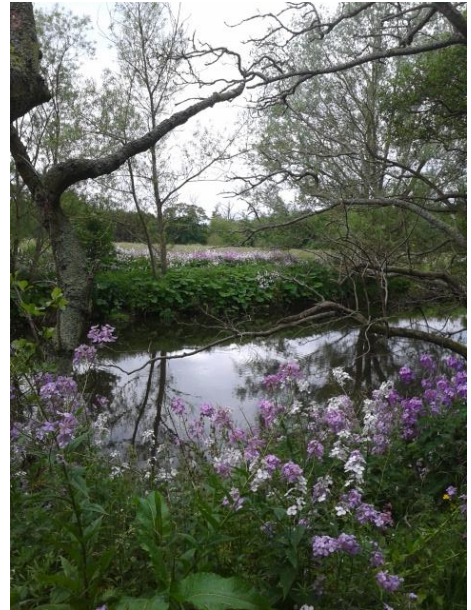
Woodland with Sheep by Unknown



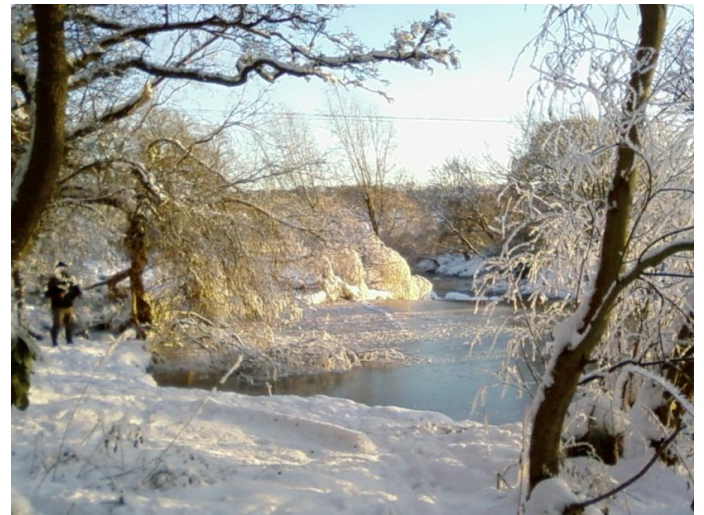
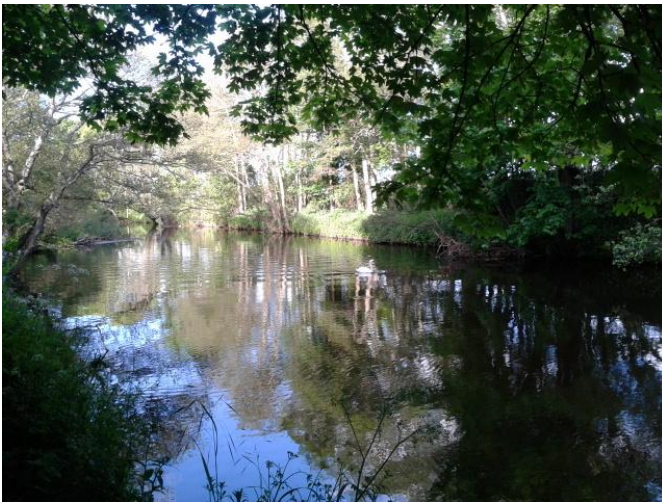
**Photographs of special features and typical elements**



Spring flowers along the river banks



Swans disturbing the reflections on the Tyme



Changes in season provides constant variety

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







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



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



Heron

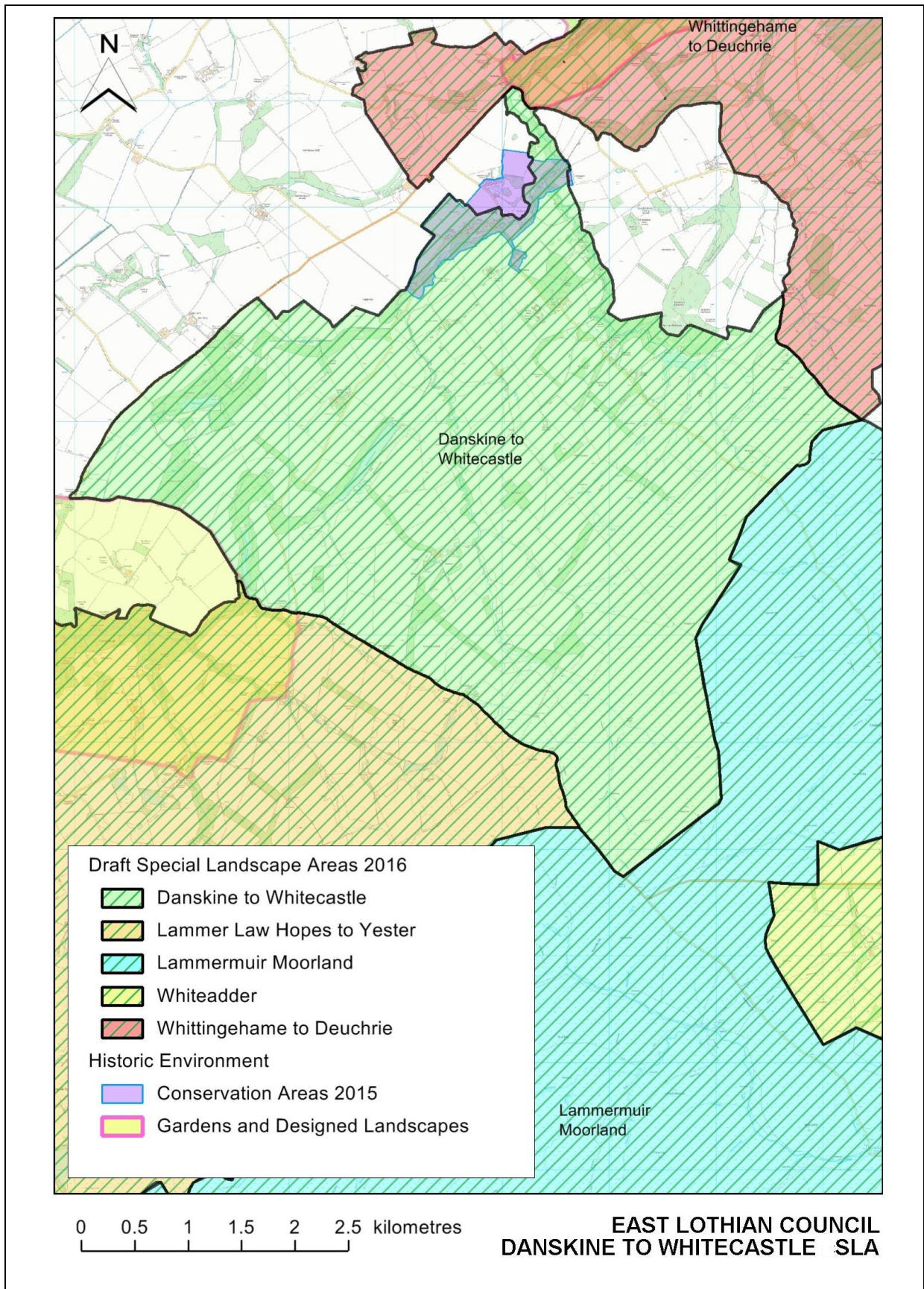


Enclosure by the surrounding rising landform, buildings and trees at Lennoxlove





# Danskine to Whitecastle SLA Statement of Importance





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

**Area:** 22406 ha

**Overview:**

The area is located in the central area of the foothills to the south of East Lothian, where rising agricultural land transitions into moorland. River valleys – notably the Pavana Water and Thorters Burn rise in the moorland and tumble down the Lammermuir edge, often in deeply cut valleys, before becoming more sedate and meandering in the lower valley reaches. Glaciation has also left its mark giving an intricately interwoven series of smooth, rounded, low summits and slopes. Bara Loch and wood is a peaceful water body with importance for wildlife. The area also includes the pretty red sandstone village of Garvald, and historic Nunraw and Stoneypath. Whitecastle Fort has commanding views to the north, and guards one of the few passes through the Lammermuirs. Clints Dod is the highest point of the area, a steep climb from Stoneypath, also has fine views in many directions.

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

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

**Special Qualities and Features:**

- The fault line scarp of this generally north facing, open area is highly visible in views from the East Lothian lowlands, and along with the foothills is important as a backdrop to the area. It is often best viewed in the very early hours or the evening, as sunlight to the south can overpower the view of the edge on a bright day. A light scattering of snow brings the relief into detailed focus however.
- Views out of the area can be superb, especially from higher ground; good viewpoints are Clints Dod, in particular generally to the north, Rangely Kip and, more accessible from a road, Whitecastle Fort. Traprain Law is a key feature in the view from here.
- Local folds in the landscape can give a more intimate feel. Many of these folds hide scenic water bodies, including Danskine Loch (a SSSI), Bara Loch, Dunolly Reservoir and Thorters Reservoir. These are generally man-made, with dams being placed across meltwater channels to trap the

under-sized burns running through them, and they add to the scenic interest of the area. Bara loch is particularly attractive. Lochs, reservoirs and rivers have been identified in the Ash Study of the Lothians as a key feature which determines the essence of the landscape character of the Lothians.

- The high productivity of the lower land gives a rich fertile cultivated appearance contrasting with the less managed look of the valleys and highest ground. The transition from pasture to arable is marked by a general change in field boundaries from stonewalls in higher areas where it tends to be more plentiful and nearer the surfaces, as well as fences, to clipped hedgerows on lower ground. Hedgerow trees of beech, oak, ash and sycamore are widely evident in the lower areas and add variety and interest to the area.
- Many of the roads in the area are single track, giving a remote, rural character. Those that are not often benefit from lovely views – the B6370 goes through attractive undulating farmland interspersed with small areas of woodland and passing wind shorn beeches, while offering views across the lowland plain to the Forth. Broomy Brae, the steep descent from Whitecastle to Garvald gives a good view of the Lothian edge, as well as northwards, before plunging into an attractive treed arch across the road.
- Traditional farmhouses, steadings and cottages are attractive, and provide variety and interest in the landscape. Garvald village nestles snugly in its steep sided valley setting.
- Areas of native woodland, particularly at Danskine, around the Sounding Burn, Dunolly Reservoir and the Papan Water valley are attractive. Shelter belts, generally coniferous, play a key role in giving the landscape structure and variety, breaking up the appearance of improved grassland as well as giving shelter to stock. Many of these are long-standing, for example Star Wood, a distinctively shaped landmark, was present by 1900, as were Millsit Knowes, Black Wood, Charles Muir and Cartydub Strips and others. More recently conifer plantation has been added around Bara, and at Sounding Burn.
- Changing seasonal colours are an important part of the attractiveness of the area, with Spring's bright greens and acid yellows leading to Summer's purple and gold, to Autumn's russet soils and autumnal trees and grey mists, to the clean white of Winter's snow. A blue sky always helps too.
- There is easy open access across the south-eastern moorland section of the area. There are many tracks across the moorland. A couple of formalised routes lead you from the lower parts of the area up to the hills. A right of Way leads from Garvald past Snawdon to the B6355 and Core path route 20 follows the eastern boundary of the area from Stoneypath Cottages up into the Lammermuir Hills. These offer panoramic views to the north over the plain of East Lothian from their higher reaches.
- Core path routes 219, 326, 220 and 236 follow the valley of the Donolly Burn from Garvald past Donolly Reservoir and Danskine Loch to link with the Yester Estate. The water bodies, steep sided valley enclosing views and the mixed woods create an attractive, peaceful walk with seasonal interest. Core path route 22 follows a scenic route along the edge of the Papan Water from the east side of Garvald to the historic Stoneypath Tower. Very sparse built development on higher ground, though occasional railway carriage sheds give a reminder of Beeching's 1960s rail cuts.
- *Historic Landscape – Hillfoots Hillforts (See Appendix IV)*  
Part of the Hillfoots Hillforts Historic Landscape extends across the south-eastern section of this area from the adjacent Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA. This is a coherent landscape with upstanding pre-historic remains (hillforts, enclosures etc). There is a concentration of significant pre-historic remains along the ridgeline. It mirrors other areas in East Lothian that have a similar topography (Chesters to Thurston Ridge, Elphinstone Ridge and the Garleton Ridge). Some of the remains are still upstanding while others are buried. Of these remains Whitecastle Hill Fort is the most visually prominent set at the head of the Thorter Burn valley and allowing panoramic views out and over the East Lothian plain particularly towards Traprain Law another significant



prehistoric site.

There are significant viewpoints which highlight the importance of a number of Pre-historic sites in the East Lothian plain and beyond including Traprain Law, North Berwick Law, Garleton Hills, Lomond Hills, Arthurs Seat among others all clearly visible from Whitecastle

#### **Guidelines for Development**

- Any proposed development must not harm the characteristic 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 Whitecastle Fort, Clints Dod, Rangely Kip or northwards from the B6370.
- Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale topographic diversity provided by glacial features such as kame terraces, and melt-water channels in considering future sand and gravel extraction. Historic quarrying has removed some of East Lothian's finest glacial deposit features. This interesting landform has been restored to a much flatter gradient, with few features.
- Development that increases the apparent scale of large scale industrial elements (reservoir walls, pylon lines) for example by providing scale comparison should not be supported.
- 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 to the lower slopes of the hillfoots set generally along the narrow lanes. Support use of traditional building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings. Suburban style housing is unlikely to fit with the character of the area.
- Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale rural character of the roads, including

<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)

characteristic features such as hedges and stone walls, passing places, cattle grids and stone bridges

- Any proposed development must not harm the intimate scale of valley bottom landscape and of villages in any future development proposals
- Safeguard distinctive architectural integrity and close link with local red sandstone geology
- Any proposed development must not harm the existing character of the village of Garvald and the surrounding countryside. Traditionally designed houses include low terraces and features such as crow-steps, small paned sash and case windows and materials including pantiles, red sandstone, slate and harling. Large, modern development, out of scale with the existing buildings and landscape character would adversely impact the landscape character of the area.
- Any proposed development must not harm the integrity and coherence of the historic landscape.

**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 Star Wood and Millsit Knowes
- Reduction in large coniferous plantations and replacement with more natural shaped woodlands with a mix of broadleaves and conifers
- Reduction in large coniferous plantations and replacement with more natural shaped woodlands with a mix of broadleaves and conifers
- Enhance existing pattern of shelterbelt and field boundary woodland though sensitively designed woodland expansion in fringe area
- Encourage limited expansion of woodland cover through shelterbelts and small woodland particularly in cleughs and valleys and around farmsteads and other building groups in upland areas
- 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
- Management of woodland to avoid over-reliance on singular species to avoid loss of large areas of woodland due to disease e.g. ash dieback, Dutch elm disease, red needle blight



**Photographs of special features and typical elements**



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



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



Papana Water valley west from Garvald

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



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







Traditional stone and slate cottages at Snawdon, sensitively extended



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



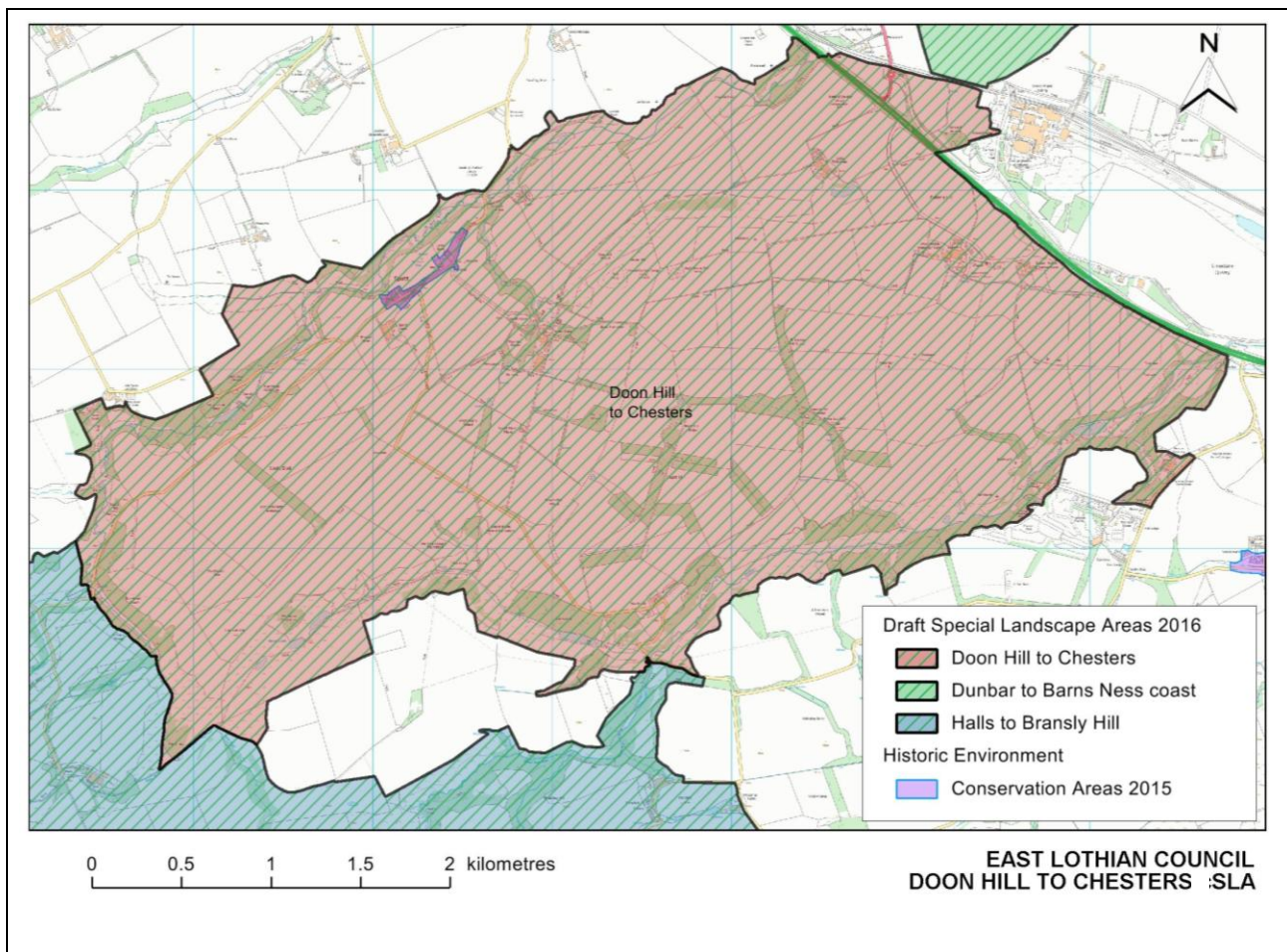
Hill slopes above Thorters Reservoir improved grassland incised by streams and a clear change to moorland high up the slope



Peaceful Baro Loch with much birdlife surrounded by woodland



## Doon Hill to Chesters SLA Statement of Importance



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

**Area:** 1388 ha

### Overview:

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

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

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

### Special Qualities and Features:

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

are proposed to be Local Biodiversity Sites Their edges are generally defined by ancient woodland, some oak, but most mixed deciduous species, and gorse scrub areas providing seasonal change and interest.

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

The area has been identified as a historic landscape as there is a concentration of significant prehistoric settlement remains along the ridgeline. It mirrors other identified historic landscapes in East Lothian that have a similar topography (Hillfoots Hillforts, Elphinstone Ridge and the Garleton Hills). Some of the remains are still upstanding while others are buried. Much of the area lies within the inventory battlefields for both the Battles of Dunbar I and II.

From a historic perspective there are significant viewpoints over Battles of Dunbar I and II. The view towards Dunbar and Skateraw from Doon Hill is significant in that it offers the best viewpoint over the nationally designated battles of Dunbar I and II.

### **Guidelines for Development**

- Any proposed development must not harm the overall open visual character focusing north and eastwards towards the plain and the Forth.
- Any proposed development must not harm the key views from the hill tops including from Little Spott, Spott, Core Path route 19, Doon Hill and the minor road from Spott to The Brunt.
- 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.
- Any proposed development must not harm the core agricultural character of the area
- 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 existing settlement pattern of development kept to the lower slopes of the hillfoots set generally along the narrow lanes. Support use of traditional building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings. Suburban style housing is unlikely to fit with the character of the area.
- Safeguard distinctive architectural integrity and close link with local red sandstone geology
- Any proposed development must not harm the intimate scale of valley bottom landscape and of villages in any future development proposals
- 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 integrity and coherence of the historic landscape.

**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
- 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 and avoid large areas of forestry plantation
- Reduction in large coniferous plantations and replacement with more natural shaped woodlands with a mix of broadleaves and conifers
- Enhance existing pattern of shelterbelt and field boundary woodland through sensitively designed woodland expansion
- Encourage limited expansion of woodland cover through shelterbelts and small woodland particularly in cleughs and valleys and around farmsteads and other building groups
- 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
- 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, especially from Dunbar
- Support viability of farming in the area
- Formalise viewpoint on Doon Hill by formation of car parking / picnic area

*Photographs of special features  
and typical elements*



Doon Hill rising above the woods  
around the Spott Burn



Typical red sandstone wall to bridge



Enclosing woods of Brock Wood



One and a half storey sandstone cottage fitted into  
the landscape



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





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

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

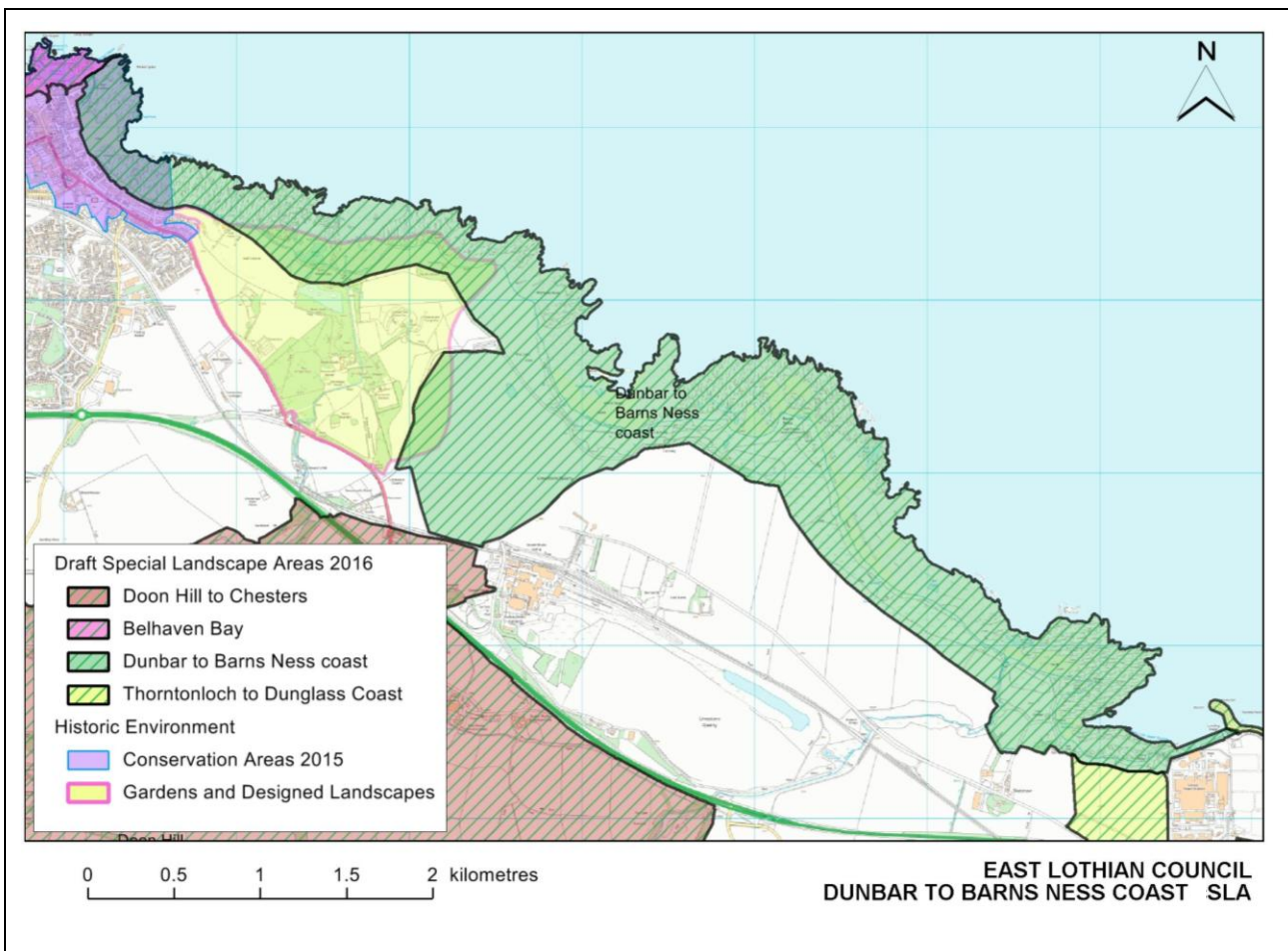


Spott Burn incised valley with Little Spott steading conversion on the ridge beyond



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

## Dunbar to Barns Ness Coast SLA Statement of Importance



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

**Area:** 454 ha

### Overview:

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

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

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



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

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

### **Guidelines for Development**

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

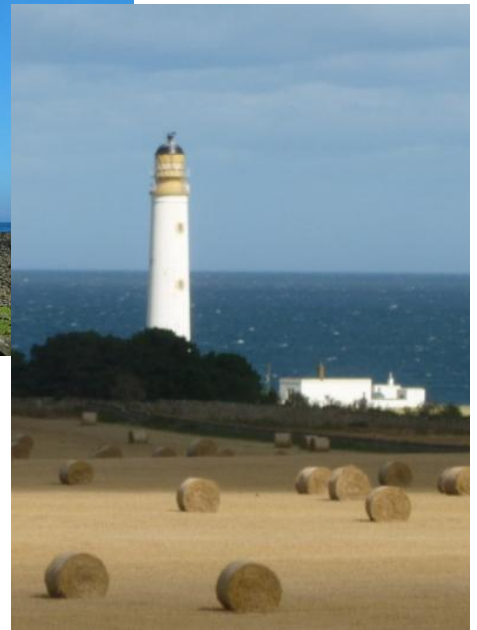
- Any proposed development must not harm the sense of naturalness and wildness qualities of the area and conserve the tranquillity of the area, including from disturbance from transport links and quarrying
- Any proposed development must not detrimentally impact on bird habitats
- Any proposed development 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
- Protect the area from sand and gravel extraction
- Any proposed development must not harm the setting or views of the Barns Ness Lighthouse or compete with it as a focal point within the landscape
- Take particular account of the vulnerability of the coastline to further visual intrusion from all types of development
- 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 integrity and coherence of the historic landscape

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

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



*Photographs of special features and typical elements*



Dramatic light effects on the sea



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







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

Rocky foreshore with the Bass Rock in the distance



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



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

