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local development plan ²⁰¹⁸

green network strategy

draft supplementary
planning guidance

East Lothian Council Green Network Strategy

DRAFT Supplementary Planning Guidance

Produced in support of the policies of the East Lothian Local Development Plan 2018

Terms and Abbreviations

CSGN	Central Scotland Green Network	SAC	Special Area of Conservation (designated to protect species and habitat important in a European context)
ELC	East Lothian Council	SESPlan	South East Scotland Plan, the Strategic level plan for this area
ELLDP	East Lothian Local Development Plan 2018	SPA	Special Protection Area (designated to protect birdlife important in a European context)
Habitats Regulations	The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994	SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance
Natura 2000	Network of European Sites consisting of SPAs and SACs	SUDS	Sustainable Urban Drainage System

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Introduction

The Green Network is:

“connected areas of green and blue space within and around our towns and cities, linking out into the wider countryside, which underpin the region’s quality of life and sense of place and provides the setting within which high quality, sustainable growth can occur”¹.

Such places may include a path, a woodland, a pond, a park. Any one of these features is useful but collectively they become more valuable. A park is of limited use, for example, if there is no path to it. The park is more interesting if it contains a pond, and if the park is also on the edge of a wood that connects to other greenspace then it starts to become a much more interesting place.

The natural environment provides ecosystems services of huge value. This includes largely unseen services such as crop pollination, purification of air, water and soil, mitigation of flood and drought. It also includes more obvious services such as attractive settings for towns and villages, natural areas for recreation or even space to grow your own food. Diversity of these ecosystems is important to allow them to adapt to changing climate and other challenges.

Green Network features are extremely important for human well-being and for the natural processes that support our way of life. So much so that

¹ SESPLAN definition

the Central Scotland Green Network is identified as a National Development in the National Planning Framework.

The East Lothian Plan 2017-27 and the East Lothian Council Plan work towards the same objective: to achieve an even more prosperous, safe and sustainable East Lothian, with a dynamic and thriving economy that enables our people and communities to flourish. The overarching objective of the Council Plan is to “reduce inequalities within and across our communities”. Green Network strengthening can achieve this and meet the objectives of these plans.

East Lothian is experiencing significant housing growth, which can bring challenges, including pressures on existing natural recreational assets, the transport network and biodiversity. Green Networks will be crucial in delivering a modern East Lothian that retains its current environmental qualities.

The Green Network Vision in East Lothian is:

“The Green Network in East Lothian aims to build a connected environment for people and nature, helping East Lothian become more prosperous and sustainable and reducing the impact of inequalities between people in East Lothian”

This document has been produced as Supplementary Planning Guidance in support of the Green Network policies of the East Lothian Local Development Plan 2018.

Central Scotland Green Network

East Lothian lies within the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) area. The CSGN seeks a step change to the landscape of Central Scotland. Its vision is that:

'By 2050, Central Scotland has been transformed into the place where the environment adds value to the economy and where people's lives are enriched by its quality'.

It has five themes to provide direction to deliver its vision:

- **A place for growth** – *making an attractive green environment for business growth.*
- **A place in balance** – *adapting to and mitigating climate change*
- **A place to feel good** – *active travel, recreation and healthy living*
- **A place to belong** – *increasing community spirit and activities*
- **A place for nature** – *conserving biodiversity and landscape*

To achieve this, the CSGN defines ten principles that need to be respected to help deliver successful green networks:



grounded in nature



at scale



regenerative



beyond carbon neutral



life enhancing



connected



functional and resilient



locally distinctive and respectful of the past



harnessing the potential of development



adding value

South East Scotland Plan (SESPlan)

SESPlan is the strategic plan for Lothian, Scottish Borders and south Fife. It contains nine Green Network themes. A cross boundary Green Network priority area between Edinburgh, Midlothian and East Lothian has been identified within SESPlan 2 Fig. 3.1 (extract below).

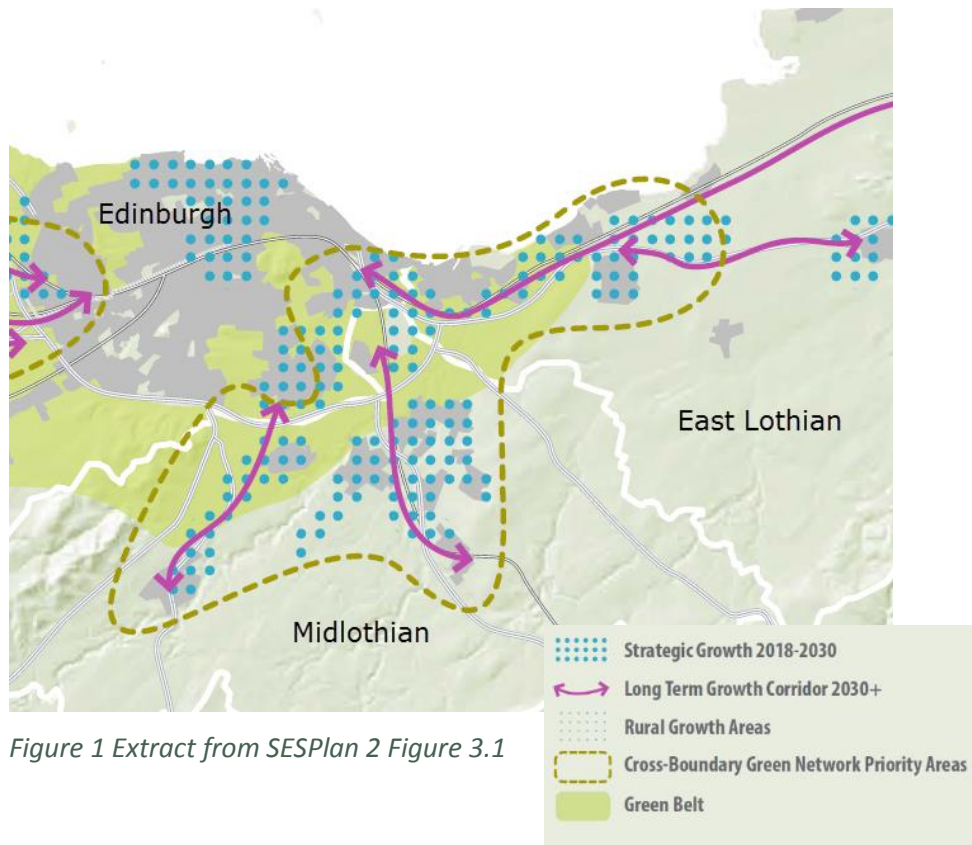


Figure 1 Extract from SESPlan 2 Figure 3.1

The following SESPlan strategic priorities are relevant to East Lothian:

- A.** Safeguarding strategic green corridors along the River Esk and improve recreational walking and cycling access along the rivers
- B.** Woodland creation and structural planting in appropriate locations e.g. structural planting and landscape improvements along major transport corridors
- C.** Addressing gaps in habitat networks, based around core areas, “stepping stones” and functional corridors, focusing initially on the designated historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes including Newhailes, Inveresk Lodge Garden, Carberry Tower and Dalkeith House in East Lothian and exploring the potential for expanding the CSGN Habitats Network pilot mapping exercise (currently underway) into this area.
- D.** Creating and protecting a strategic multi-functional green corridor running from Holyrood Park to Dalkeith and Musselburgh, via Little France. This corridor is an essential element of the landscape setting of the city as well as providing for important active travel and habitat connections. Implementation of regional walking and cycling routes including A1/A199 Strategic Functional Route, River Esk Path, and Musselburgh-Penicuik in East Lothian.

East Lothian Green Network Strategy

Connectivity is what makes the Green Network greater than the sum of its parts. Nature thrives best in an ecologically connected landscape. People are healthier when they are connected to nature and to each other. Businesses are more efficient when connected to communities, employees, customers, suppliers and each other. Green networks are all about connecting people to nature, landscape, geodiversity, each other. Improving the human habitat, and doing things on a human scale. To do this successfully the green network must be multifunctional.

The identified Green Network in East Lothian is strategic and long term; some parts are areas which are already valued and fixed in place, others are aspirational, and may be less location specific. It extends across the whole of East Lothian within and between settlements, into the countryside and along the coast. It links with green networks in the neighbouring areas of Edinburgh, Midlothian and the Scottish Borders.

Local Development Plan Policy DC10: Green Networks

“All relevant development must make provision for the Green Network in accordance with the relevant Development Brief and the Council’s Green Network Strategy supplementary planning guidance once adopted. This will include the provision of off-site Green Network measures where identified in the Green Network Strategy, and where relevant as set out in a Development Brief. Where loss or reduction in quality to any element of the Green Network is required to facilitate development, alternative provision to the satisfaction of the Council must be provided.”

Existing green assets in East Lothian include protected natural heritage sites, active travel routes, beaches, parks, woodlands. These are identified on figure 2 and in more detail in the western section of East Lothian in figure 3. These figures also include identified existing recreation destinations. Pockets of urban green space, school grounds and private gardens can also be valuable; even buildings be part of green infrastructure for example ivy on the side of a building can be a roost for bats, while use of natural material can give bees or lichens a home.

East Lothian’s Council Plan 2017-22’s overarching objective is reducing inequalities within and across our communities. In order to identify how the Green Networks can help address this the areas of highest deprivation in East Lothian are mapped. These can be seen on figures 2 and 3.

The main policy on the Green Network in the East Lothian Local Development Plan is Policy DC10. The ELLDP also includes a number of objectives for the Green Network. The Council will support and encourage enhancements to the green infrastructure throughout the area. However, this supplementary planning guidance focuses on several priority areas seen as of particular importance due to urban intensification pressures. These priority areas include existing components, which should be safeguarded and enhanced, and new components which should be created and integrated with the existing network.

Any plans or projects that have are likely to have a significant effect on a site designated for biodiversity important at European level – a Natura 2000 site - will be subject to habitats regulation appraisal. A plan or project can only go ahead if there is no adverse impact on the integrity of such a site. The most likely European sites that could be affected are the

Firth of Forth and Forth Islands Special Protection Areas, and the River Tweed Special Area of Conservation.

The following pages show how the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) themes will function in East Lothian through local objectives with links to the relevant SESPlan themes (shown as symbols) and how the objectives will be delivered on the ground. Implementation will be subject to assessment of the impact on Natura 2000 sites.

The Green Network is multi-functional and this means that aspects of it are relevant for, and will be delivered by, many other Council strategies. The main plans and strategies which will help deliver the Green Network are:

- The East Lothian Partnership's East Lothian Plan 2017-27
- East Lothian Local Housing Strategy 2018-23
- Flood Risk Management Plans and Strategies
- East Lothian Local Transport Strategy (in preparation)
- Active Travel Improvement Plan (in preparation)
- East Lothian Open Space Strategy (in preparation)
- East Lothian Design Standards for New Housing Areas
Supplementary Planning Guidance
- East Lothian Biodiversity Action Plan (for future development)
- Allotment and Food Growing Strategy (in preparation)
- Physical Activity Strategy
- Town Centre Strategies

Legend

- - - John Muir Way route
- - - Sustrans National Cycle Routes
- Recreation Destination**
- Numbers relate to list on following page
- Existing Landscape Protection including:
 - Special Landscape Areas
 - Gardens and Designed Landscapes
 - Edinburgh Greenbelt
 - Countryside Around Towns Areas
- Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation**
- 1st and 2nd most deprived decile in Scotland
- 3rd and 4th most deprived decile in Scotland
- Settlement Expansion

- Existing Habitat including:
 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest
 - Local Biodiversity Sites
 - Geodiversity sites LDP 2016
 - Fen_marsh_swamp_habitat
 - Neutral_grassland_habitat
 - Broadleaved_and_yew_habitat
 - Combined Greenspace
- Council Boundary Landward side

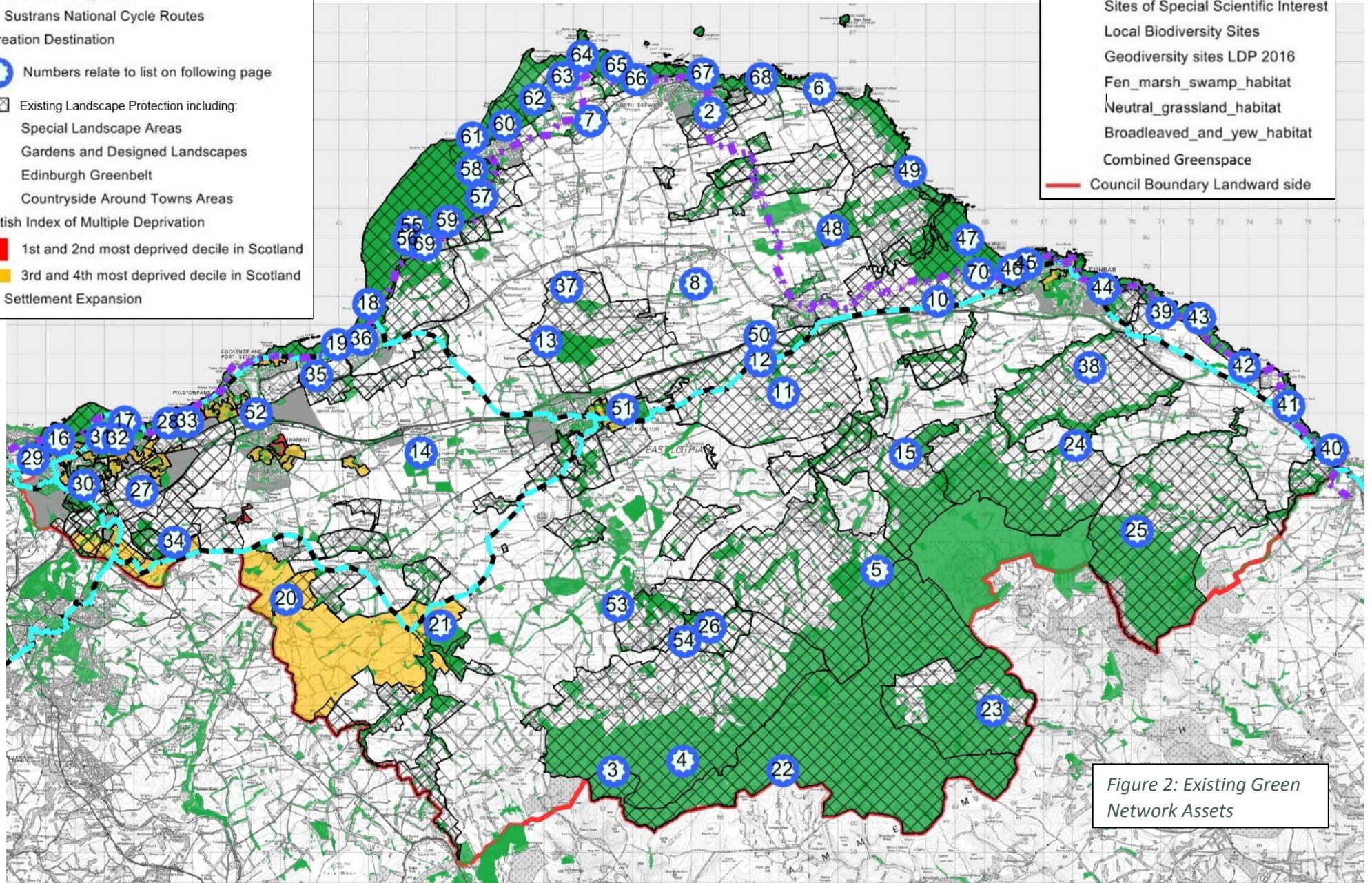
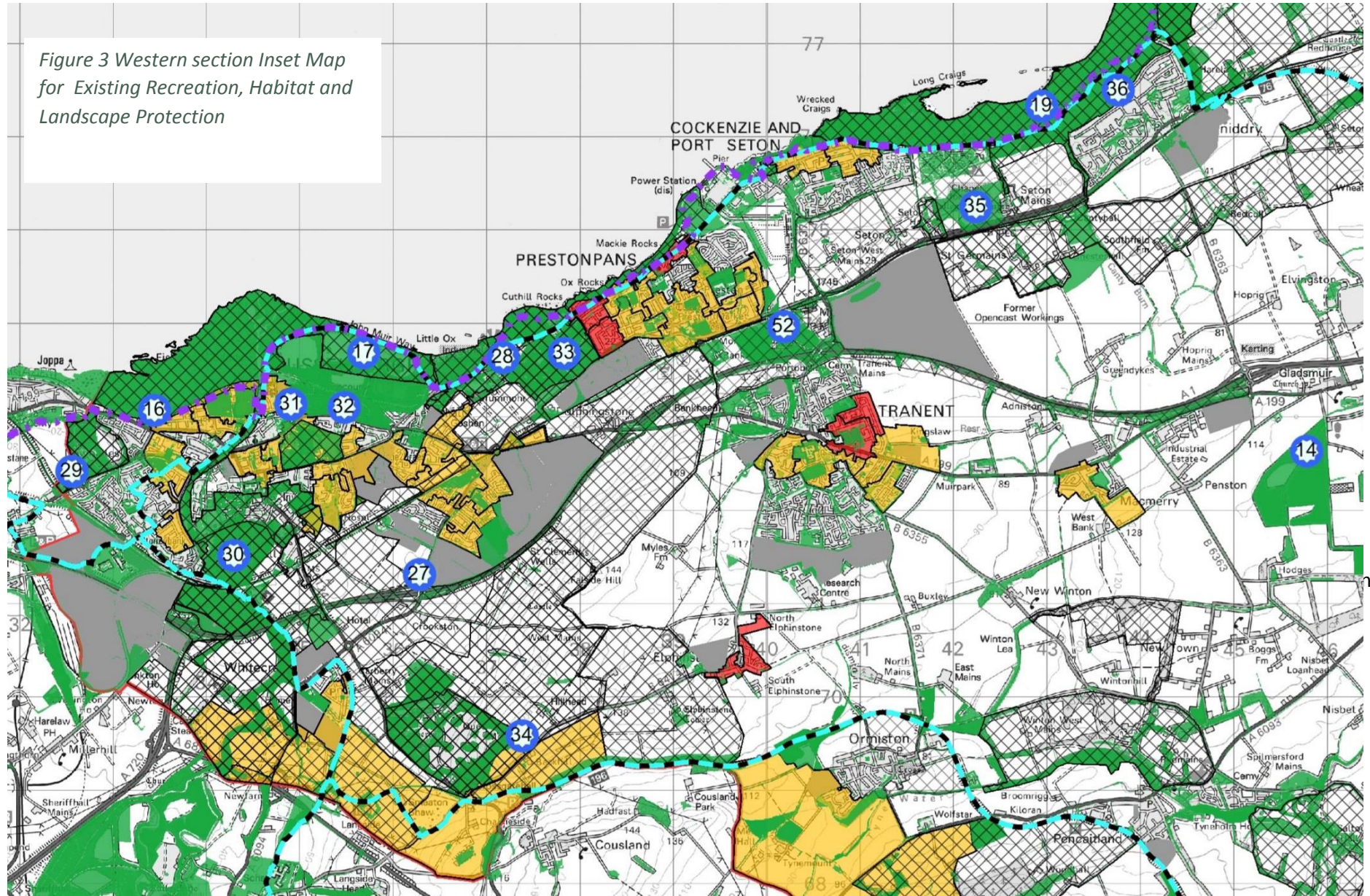


Figure 2: Existing Green Network Assets

Figure 3 Western section Inset Map
for Existing Recreation, Habitat and
Landscape Protection



List of Recreation Destinations by type:

Beaches and coast

16. Fisherrow Harbour and Beach
18. Gosford Sands
19. Seton Sands
39. Whitesands Beach
40. Bilsdean and Dunglass Coast
41. Thortonloch Beach
42. Skateraw Beach
43. Barns Ness Lighthouse
46. Belhaven Bay
47. John Muir Country Park
49. Ravensheugh and Peffer Sands
59. Aberlady Bay Nature Reserve
61. Gullane bents and Beach
64. Yellowcraig Beach
65. Broad Sands Beach

Golf Courses

30. Musselburgh Golf Club
32. Musselburgh Links, The Old Golf Course
33. Royal Musselburgh Golf Club
35. Seton Sands Golf Course
36. Longniddry Golf Club
44. Dunbar Golf Club
45. Winterfield Golf Club
51. Haddington Golf Course

53. Gifford Golf Club
54. Castlemains Golf Club
55. Kilspindie Golf Club
56. Craigielaw Golf Club
57. Luffness Golf Club
58. Gullane Golf Club
60. Muirfield Golf Club
62. Renaissance Golf Club
63. Archerfield Links Golf Club
66. North Berwick Golf Club
68. Glen Golf Club

Woods and Walks

3. Hopes Reservoir
14. Butterdean Wood
15. Pressmennan Wood and Lake
21. Saltoun Big Wood
23. Whiteadder Reservoir
24. Woodhall Dean Nature Reserve
25. Fairy Castle, Aikengall
48. Binning Wood

Historic Environment

5. White Castle Hillfort
6. Tantallon Castle
7. Dirleton Castle
12. Hailes Castle
20. Ormiston Yew
26. Yester Castle and Goblin Ha'

27. Battle of Pinkie viewpoint and interpretation
34. Queen Mary's Mount
37. The Chesters Hillfort
38. Doon Hill
52. Meadowmill Pyramid Battle of Prestonpans Viewpoint

Hill Tops

1. North Berwick Law
2. Lammer Law
22. Meikle Says Law
13. Hopetoun Monument
11. Traprain Law
50. Pencraig Hill

Other Attractions

8. Museum of Flight
10. Foxlake
17. Levenhall Links
28. Prestongrange Mining Museum
29. Newhailes Estate
31. Musselburgh Race Course
67. Seabird Centre
69. Scottish Ornithological Club
70. East Links Farm Park

East Lothian Green Network Themes and Objectives

The themes and objectives of the East Lothian Green Network relate to the CGSN themes, taking into account the priorities of the ELLDP and other East Lothian strategies and plans. As Green Network features are multi-functional; some 'actions' e.g. improving active travel are in more than one section.

1. A place for growth

Making an attractive green environment for business growth



Attracting Inward Investment



Improving vacant and derelict land

The Green Network supports the East Lothian Economic Development Strategy and the 2017-22 Council Plan theme "Growing our Economy".

East Lothian's environment has many features that are appealing to business. Its countryside is attractive, its town centres historic, its coast full of opportunities for outdoor recreation. It also

benefits from being close to Edinburgh. There are also challenges. East Lothian struggles with public transport infrastructure, and there are high levels of out-commuting by car to jobs in Edinburgh. Some of the sectors in which East Lothian is strong, for example tourism and agriculture, can also be low-paid.

A strong Green Network will help business by improving the attractiveness of the area, supporting tourism and helping attract and retain mobile business. It helps employee retention by offering opportunities for a good work / life balance. Improving active travel connections will also help customers and employees access businesses, and help keep the workforce healthier.



What we would like to see:

- Business wants to be based in East Lothian
- An increased proportion of East Lothian's residents work in and contribute to East Lothian's economy
- East Lothian is Scotland's leading coastal, leisure and food and drink destination
- We build on our proximity to Edinburgh to encourage study, work and spend in East Lothian
- East Lothian is Scotland's most sustainable local economy

How we aim to do this

1. **Landscapes** are a key contributor to attracting mobile business, and improving the work/life balance of employees. Our spectacular coast and countryside are a draw for sustainable tourism including wildlife, cycling and coastal tourism. There are opportunities to enhance tourism however the benefits should be realised in a sustainable manner. Landscapes should be protected and conserved in line with Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on Special Landscape Areas, and SPG on Countryside Around Towns.
2. **Employment sites** are important in attracting business but also where workers spend their day. Landscaping should be multifunctional and include outdoor 'oasis' sites for workers to use at lunch and breaks. There should be multi-functional active travel connects for commuters and connections to short circular active travel routes to encourage lunchtime activity.
3. **Vacant and derelict sites** can affect the character and appearance of the area and should be brought back into beneficial use or restored,

depending on what is appropriate for the location. These sites often develop some habitat value while they are awaiting re-development. This can be reinforced cheaply without preventing future use by e.g. spreading wildflower seeds.

4. **Implementation of the Active Travel Improvement Plan** is key to improve functional active travel links to employment, retail and leisure sites, as well as Queen Margaret University and other further education sites, in East Lothian and beyond. Active travel routes where possible should be multifunctional.
5. **Develop sustainable business models** such as local co-working hubs in landscaped setting (Queen Margaret University is a good example) to reduce the need to travel.
6. Businesses are encouraged to **offset carbon and air pollution**. To keep the benefits within East Lothian, areas suitable for woodland planting, or peatland or saltmarsh restoration, are sought.
7. Business may offset carbon and air pollution through **identification** of tree and woodland planting, or peatland or saltmarsh restoration, to keep the benefit of this within East Lothian
8. Support **good practice in farming** to increase benefits to the natural environment from farming – e.g. well managed hedgerows and pockets of woodland, as well as areas of less intensively used land can all benefit wildlife.

2. A place in balance

Adapting to and mitigating climate change



Providing for higher levels of active travel



Enabling Climate Change Adaptation

The Green Network links to the East Lothian Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy and the East Lothian Active Travel Improvement Plan.

Mitigating climate change

The Green Network aims to improve functional active travel links so that it is easy for people of all ages and abilities to make the choice to travel by these modes in preference to vehicular travel. The most usual forms of active travel for functional purposes (getting from A to B rather than just recreation) are walking and cycling as well as some wheelchair travel. The Council's draft Active Travel Improvement Plan² supports travel by active means. Providing employment, amenities and good recreational facilities close to where people live can help reduce the need to travel.

The Green Network also supports types of land-use and planting which maximises the carbon storage of vegetation

and soils, and the opportunity for off-setting carbon emissions through woodland planting, and peatland and saltmarsh restoration.

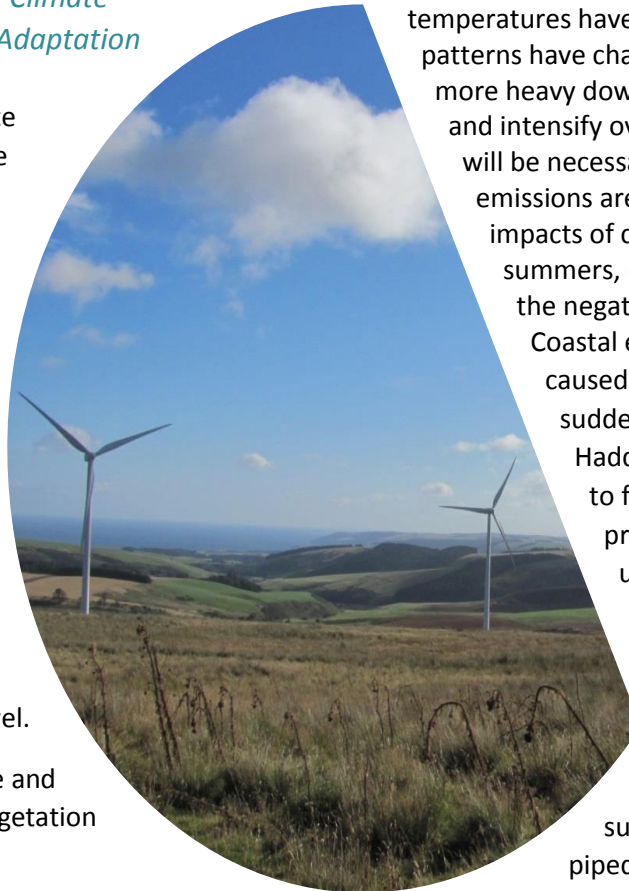
Adaptation to a changing climate:

Scotland's climate is already changing. Over the last century temperatures have increased, sea levels have risen and rainfall patterns have changed, with increased seasonality, flooding and more heavy downpours. These changes are projected to continue and intensify over the coming decades. Adapting to climate change will be necessary, regardless of the level to which carbon emissions are reduced. Adaptation is about adjusting to these impacts of climate change, including rising sea levels, hotter summers, more storms and heavy rainfall events, to reduce the negative impacts and exploit any opportunities.

Coastal erosion is an ongoing process, however flooding caused by extreme tides, big waves or sea surges can cause sudden, dramatic change as well as destruction.

Haddington and Musselburgh have always been prone to flooding. The Green Network has a role in prevention of flooding by encouraging planting upriver which can help slow the rate of water runoff. Where flood defences are being considered green network assets should be taken into consideration.

Management of urban drainage is undergoing change. Traditionally water runoff from hard surfaces and roofs has been collected directly in the piped sewage system leading to overloading at peak



² Draft East Lothian Active Travel Improvement Plan at <https://eastlothianconsultations.co.uk/policy-partnerships/east-lothian-local-transport->

strategy/supporting_documents/Active%20Travel%20Improvement%20Plan%20final.pdf

flows. All new development now requires Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) designed in, to slow run off rates, filter and clean, and reduce overloading and flooding of the sewerage system. SUDS have many forms including ponds and basins. There is the potential for SUDS to provide multiple benefits – they can be attractive spaces for recreation with opportunities for wildlife to thrive.

Climate change brings pressures and opportunities for urban greenspace which may require changes to traditional designs and management. In the future, summer heat is predicted to increase. Urban greenspace needs to be designed to offer opportunities for shade including tree planting. This may be particularly needed where there is accommodation which does not have access to a private garden, or in areas of employment so that people can go outside for lunch. It may also be important in town centres where high buildings and hard surfaces can trap and reflect heat

Mitigation of climate change

What we would like to see:

- People make choices which have less climate impact

How we aim to do this

1. Implementation of the **Active Travel Plan** creating an active travel network of connections within and between communities for functional, recreational and leisure purposes. These links should include multi-functional benefits wherever possible. A link should firstly be functional to use, but should add biodiversity value along the margins; attractive hard or soft landscaping; points of interest along the route.
2. Provision of **parks and high quality greenspace** close to where people live to reduce the need to travel. 'Scruffy' semi-natural areas for den-

building and dog walking can be more valuable for wildlife and play than mowed grass and should be considered.

3. Increased **local food growing** in private gardens and allotments in line with the allotments and food growing strategy (in preparation). Many of East Lothian's towns and new development sites were built on prime agricultural land giving good opportunities for people with gardens to grow their own food.

What we would like to see:

- Carbon storage potential of land-use is maximised

How we aim to do this

4. Carbon storage through landuse should be maintained and increased. This can be done by planting of woodland or individual trees. Peatland conservation also store carbon as can good practice in farming. Where such land is disturbed releasing carbon, offsetting of these losses locally is encouraged. Saltmarsh should be maintained and enhanced in line with East Lothian Countryside Service's Management plans.

Adaption to a changing climate

What we would like to see:

- Address likelihood and impact of coastal, river and surface water flooding
- Adapt to possibility of hotter summer weather and other weather alterations and an increase in severe weather events

How we aim to do this

5. Green Network assets such as riverine areas and the coast should be taken into account when planning defences against flood or erosion. The use of the natural environment to combat flooding should be considered as a first resort. Only if this is not possible should engineered solutions be used. Flood defences should be multifunctional, taking into account the potential of the area for recreation, biodiversity or landscaping. For example designing in and creating/enhancing marshland as natural flood catchment and flood defence in urban areas should be explored. Woodland planting in suitable areas upriver can help reduce flooding downstream by slowing water run-off, as well as providing for biodiversity and recreation, and is encouraged. There is the opportunity to enhance natural sea defences such as saltmarsh, dune landscapes, and coastal grasslands which dissipate high water levels and storm tides.
6. The requirement to **protect key green network assets** should be considered planning flood/erosion defences
7. **Urban water management** should be considered holistically, seeing water as a potential resource as well as a management issue. Water features can add to the attractiveness of areas and improve biodiversity; de-culverting is encouraged in suitable places. There is an opportunity to work with private householders to maintain and enhance their own spaces and reduce hard landscaping with attendant rapid water run-off. **SUDS** should provide multi-functional benefits in line with East Lothian Council Guidance on Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems. These features should support wildlife and improve the appearance of the area.
8. **Landscaping and tree** planting should take into consideration the how the changing climate will affect the scheme as well as the impact of the scheme on climate change. Plants should be chosen to survive the future climate – periods of hotter weather, but also heavier rain.

A diverse range of tree species should be used in both urban and rural areas to avoid wholesale loss due to disease or change in climate. Carbon dioxide and other polluting impacts of landscaping management (fertiliser, pest control, mowing) should also be considered. Planting can also be used to mitigate climate change for example as windbreaks to provide shelter or to reduce energy consumption of buildings.

9. In **urban areas**, green walls and roofs are encouraged to address the heat island effect. Some residents, in particular those in flats in town centres, may increasingly need access to open spaces to allow them to seek shade in hotter weather. Good quality spaces close to where people live are needed to allow this.
10. Work with landowners, farmers and homeowners to promote **best practice in management** of their green infrastructure assets for climate adaptation e.g. timing and direction of ploughing, planting tree belts and wildlife corridors, enhancing private gardens

3. A place to feel good

Recreation and healthy living



Facilitating people to lead healthier lives



Delivering action in disadvantaged communities

The Green Network has a role in promotion of both physical and mental health, and reducing ill-health and health inequalities. A good quality outdoor environment can encourage people to take exercise as part of their daily life, while contact with the natural environment also has benefits for mental health. Provision of access to natural and outdoor space, as a predominantly free or low cost activity, can also help reduce health inequalities. But more than just avoidance of bad health; the Green Network allows for positive enjoyment of life. East Lothian's Green Network will therefore protect and build on its existing strong recreational offer of beaches, countryside and urban parks and walkways. It will support walking and cycling as recreation, along with other activities such as horse riding and skateboarding or on water, swimming, canoeing or rowing. The Green Network aims to provide for play in formal and informal settings, including natural spaces. This is important in its own right however prioritising play provision for disadvantaged children in particular can also help address inequalities.

The Green Network links to East Lothian's Play Strategy and the Council Plan 2017 – 22: Themes *“To give our children the best start in life and protect vulnerable and older people”* and *“Growing our Communities: to give people a real say in the decisions that matter most and provide communities with the housing, transport links, community facilities and environment that will allow them to flourish”*.



What we would like to see:

- Improved levels of physical and mental well-being
- Reduced impacts of income inequality
- ‘Playfulness’ in the built and natural environment
- People feel good about their physical surroundings and use and enjoy outdoor spaces

How we aim to do this:

1. **Core and local paths** are important to allow people to incorporate physical activity into their daily lives. Exercising in natural areas is also good for mental well-being. Implementation of the Active Travel Improvement Plan will improve provision routes. For the full benefit to be realised, these routes should be planned as multi-functional

green network assets providing connectivity to parks and greenspaces, wildlife areas, the wider countryside and coast.

2. **Air pollution** including from traffic can adversely affect health in particular of children and elderly people, as well as those with certain health conditions. Increasing use of trees and plants in towns, especially along transport routes should be used to combat air pollution. Solutions like the 'city tree' can help address air pollution without taking up too much space.
3. Availability of accessible, attractive, safe and well-maintained **parks, open space and natural space** is important for recreation and sense of community. This is especially true of more deprived areas where residents may not be able to afford to travel to other spaces. Open space and sports provision should be protected and provided in line with the East Lothian Open Space Strategy (in preparation) and standards in the ELLDP. The potential for multifunctional benefits and inclusive use should be kept in mind in designing and managing open spaces. Outdoor green space or accessible countryside should be within easy walking distance of every home (300m).
4. **Play** - opportunities for play should not be restricted to designated areas, though these should be provided in line with ELC Open Space Standards. The East Lothian Play Strategy should be implemented, and opportunities for play 'built in'. This should not result in a 'childish' development, but a more interesting one. It could be provided through change of texture of surfacing or level or landscaping features such as logs or mounds. Having a variety of opportunities for play is especially important around homes.
5. **Schools grounds:** natural and wild spaces in school grounds should be increased consistent with the Good School Playground guide.

4. A place to belong

Increasing community spirit and activities



*Improving
quality of place*

The Green Network supports the Council Plan 2017-22's overarching objective of reducing inequalities within and across our communities.

The Green Network has a strong role in increasing sense of place and feeling of belonging. Attractive urban space can tempt people out of their houses so bringing the opportunity for interactions that over time develop into the relationships that help form communities.

East Lothian Council (Policy DP1 of the ELLDP) requires new development to include appropriate landscaping and multifunctional green infrastructure and open spaces that enhance, provide structure to and unifies the development, and assists its integration with the surroundings and extends the wider green network where appropriate. The LDP also requires provision of open space in new development. The national standard for urban greenspace is 60m² per household. Not all towns and villages in East Lothian meet this basic standard. In some towns there is also pressure to use open space for other purposes, e.g. car parking or private gardens. Available resources do not always match the level required to meet standards or local expectations.

A number of "In Bloom" groups assist with looking after urban greenspace in East Lothian. These projects include development of flower displays, improvement of existing areas, litter picking and environmental sustainability. Eco-schools work with pupils to improve school grounds.

What we would like to see:

- People enjoy living in East Lothian
- People feel safe in and have pride in their surroundings
- People feel they live in strong and resilient communities, not in isolation
- People are involved in volunteering and in community action

How we aim to do this:

1. Protect areas important to the local and wider **history** of the area in line with ELLDP polices and SPG on Cultural Heritage
2. Maintain a **good sense of place** through design of open space and landscaping of new housing areas in line with SPG on Design Standards for New Housing Areas
3. **Landscape** should be protected in line with ELLDP policies and SPG on Special landscape areas SPG on Countryside Around Towns to provide a setting for settlements
4. East Lothian is lucky to have many **distinctive recreational destinations**, from the expansive John Muir Country Park and Aberlady Bay Nature Reserve, to the historic White Castle Fort and Tantallon Castle, as well as areas with more local appeal such as Butterdean Wood. These features are important to a sense of place for East Lothian and in creating a distinctive and interesting Green Network. Their function as attractive outdoor destinations should be supported and multifunctional active travel connections to them improved.
5. Provide and improve small green areas in **town and village centres** in line with the Town Centre Strategies – small pockets of green space can provide rest spots to encourage footfall and social interaction. The design of these should encourage biodiversity and be climate resilient.
6. **Volunteering** is important for developing a sense of community and also helps deliver Green Network objectives. Opportunities should be sought to support and encourage volunteers including: ‘in Bloom’ groups; path wardens; countryside volunteers; tenants and residents groups; eco-school groups; Junior Rangers; transition town type groups; gardening clubs and others.





5. A place for nature:

Conserving biodiversity and landscape



*Enabling biodiversity
to flourish*



*Strengthening
landscape character*

Humans evolved in a natural environment, and immersion in it is good for our physical and mental health.

Biodiversity in East Lothian is under considerable pressure, with very few natural areas left. The farmland is of high quality, and as such is intensively farmed. In the uplands, the moors are managed for grouse. The rivers lose some of their natural flow to abstraction for agriculture and water management to serve built development in East Lothian and Edinburgh. The birdlife of the Firth of Forth and Forth Islands is internationally recognised, but is also under threat, particularly from increased pressure of visitors to the coast.

Local Biodiversity sites have been identified within the LDP which aim to both support the interests of nationally designated sites and achieve a natural habitat network. The suite as a whole aims to increase protection of biodiversity by protecting linkage between areas, as well as giving protection to an area of natural habitat near each main settlement to enable people to connect easily to biodiversity.

Special Landscape Areas have also been designated in the ELLDP protecting the best of East Lothian's varied landscapes. However the Council seeks to take an 'all landscapes' approach recognising that for many people the most valued landscape may well be the one next to where they live.

What we would like to see:

- Reverse the decline in extent and quality of natural habitats
- Protect and enhance geodiversity

How we aim to do this:

1. **Conserve sites designated for biodiversity and geodiversity**, and protected species in line with legislation and ELLDP natural heritage policies, and the Council's Countryside Management Plans. Improve access to such sites where appropriate.
2. **Protect and replace woodland** in particular ancient woodland (including all categories identified in the National Woodland Survey of Scotland) in line with ELLDP Policy NH8 and the Scottish Governments Policy on the Control of Woodland Removal.
3. Create **new sites for wildlife** and support habitat creation. Changes to farming support following Brexit may increase opportunities for expanded natural habitat in the countryside; development can bring opportunities for habitat creation.
4. Improve **connectivity of habitat** with connections between important sites and habitats, and improve management of biodiversity along linear features. Connections between existing areas of habitat should not be lost and could be strengthened in some places, in line with SPG; Development Briefs and natural heritage policies of the ELLDP.

What we would like to see:

- Strengthen landscape character and diversity

How we aim to do this

5. **Conserve Special Landscape Areas** including improving access to them, in line with SPG on Special Landscape Areas and the Active Travel Improvement Plan.

6. Support **replacement planting of trees** lost to development in line with Policy NH8 of the ELLDP. Seek to replace over-mature, dead or dying trees important to the landscape overall for example roadside trees.

What we would like to see:

- Protect and enhance the water environment
- Address pollution issues including from mine working remains both in the form of bings and where water systems are affected

How we aim to do this

7. Support Implementation of the **Scotland and Solway River Basin Management Plan** in East Lothian reducing barriers to fish and improve physical condition of watercourses where communities can most benefit.
8. Promote **multi-functional SUDS** in new development in line with the East Lothian SUDS Guidance.

Delivery – Checklist

The following checklist shows compliance with Green Network Objectives and East Lothian Councils over-arching objective.

East Lothian Councils overarching objective:



Does the proposal reduce inequalities within and across our communities with regard to provision of and access to the Green Network, recognising that provision should be levelled up and not brought down?

Compliance with Green Network Principles

Grounded in nature –



- A Does it make the most of opportunities to provide for biodiversity through design including along routes?
- B Does landscaping include a variety of native species?
- C Does it provide replacement planting for lost trees or woodland?
- D Does it support the conservation of designated sites?

At scale



- E Does it make links to the wider Green Network and contribute to strengthening it?
- F Has its potential contribution to the Green Network been considered throughout the site?

Regenerative



- G Does it make creative use of any vacant or derelict areas?

Beyond carbon neutral



- H Is landscaping designed to reduce the carbon impact of its creation and maintenance? Does it help reduce the climate impact of built development through e.g. providing shelter?
- I Does it offset its carbon and air pollution emissions locally, or provide space for others to do so?
- J Does it minimise carbon emissions arising from land use change?

Life enhancing –



- K Does it allow for access to green network features for all segments of society including those with particular needs due to mobility difficulties, learning difficulties, sensory difficulties or their age or caring responsibilities?
- L Are routes multi-functional with points of interest along the way?
- M Does it incorporate measures which encourage informal play?
- N Does it provide or support opportunities for volunteering?
- O Is it welcoming?

Connected



- P Does it support the Active Travel Improvement Plan and are routes multifunctional, with biodiversity and points of interest along the way?
- Q Recognise links to existing habitat and make connections e.g. continuation of a woodland, forming semi-natural grassland on settlement edges?
- R Does it retain or improve access to local open space and parks?

Functional and resilient



- S Do active travel links reflect desire lines?
- T Is any landscaping adapted to future climate change?
- U Does it allow for local food growing?
- V Does it avoid risk of flooding and retain natural flood defences?
- W Does it use sustainable materials?

Locally distinctive and respectful of the past?



- X Does it conform to SPG on Special Landscape Areas and Countryside Around Towns?
- Y Does it respect any cultural heritage features?
- Z Do Green Network features add to the distinctiveness of place?

Harnessing the potential of development



- AA Have measures to mitigate air pollution considered a solution with multiple benefits such as planting?
- BB Does it provide open space in line with ELLDP standards, that is accessible, attractive, inclusive, safe and with a provision for maintenance in place?

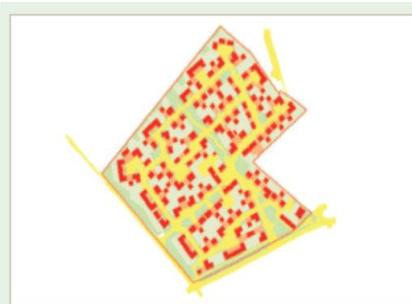
Adding value



- CC Does it enhance the water environment and avoid culverting and other engineered solutions?
- DD Does it provide multifunctional SUDS in line with the ELLDP Policy NH10 and ELC SUDS guidance?

Information Provision

Green Networks can be thought about at every scale, from the strategic right down to the individual home or piece of infrastructure. Developers are encouraged to provide the following to allow understanding of how their proposal supports the Green Network.



Buildings

eg green roofs, orientation etc, biomass storage facilities

Spaces

eg open spaces, SUDS, landscaping, trees etc

Movement

eg paths for active travel, green networks, habitat networks, movement of wildlife

Layout

The Scottish Government recommends using a 'B-plan' approach – shown left³ - to help identify the relationship between buildings and spaces.

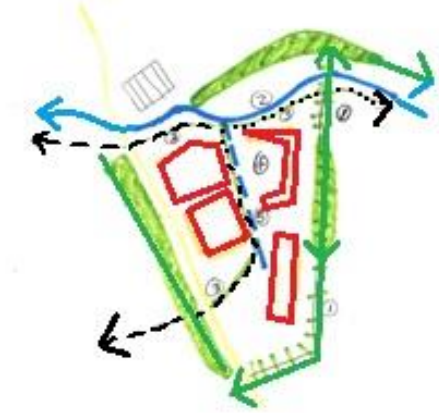
Functions

The planning submission should include an assessment of the function of each part of green infrastructure. The Green Network aims to be multi-functional. Functions that should be considered include active travel; biodiversity; play; landscape setting; water management; community cohesion; food; economic opportunity.

Connections

The essence of the Green Network is its connectedness. Existing human and natural connections should be shown on a map, annotated to show how the proposal responds to and augments this.

NOTE [draft diagram to be improved in the final version]



Details of provision

The submission should include details of the specifications of elements of the green network; planting plans, path specifications, biodiversity value, provision for informal play and socialisation, points of interest. Requirements for maintenance should be included, along with how this is to be provided.

³ From Scottish Government "Green infrastructure: design and placemaking" available at <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/green-infrastructure-design-placemaking/pages/3/>

Delivery - Green Network Priority Areas

The Green Network consists of a web of interconnected spaces. All of these are important, whether in a local or area wide basis. The identification of the following priorities is not intended to detract in any way from this. However, the following areas are priorities due to strategic importance, development pressure and amount of change. The main proposed Green Network Improvements are shown in Figure 4 below

Note [this mapping will be improved for the final version]

Western sector – Musselburgh/Tranent/Blindwells

Focus is on this area is as it is an area of change identified in SESPlan as a green network Priority Area, and also where the most of the more deprived areas of East Lothian are found. Green Network improvements here will therefore provide a context for the built development coming forward in those areas, to try to make sure that new residents have the same high quality environment that most current East Lothian residents enjoy. Improvements in more deprived areas will help address the impacts of inequality.

Countryside

East Lothian is a beautiful county. Stand in any part of the countryside, gaze around you and you will see a fantastic landscape extending in all directions: to the coast, along river valley, in the uplands. Although often intensively farmed or managed for grouse, some areas of natural habitat remain. There is access to the countryside but this could be improved.

Coast

The coast is one of, if not the, most important recreational resource of East Lothian for residents and visitors alike. It is also home to internationally protected wildlife. There can also be development pressure, as an attractive location and one with particular advantages for some types of development. This area is a priority due to the need to carefully manage conflicting demands and requirements.

Nature Network

The Council, along with every other public body in Scotland, has a duty to conserve biodiversity. The focus on this area is to avoid loss of biodiversity, and where possible to enhance it. East Lothian is known for its natural environment; we need to look after it.

Evidence Base and Working Groups

To fully realise the benefits of the Green Network, information and cooperation is required. This is therefore a priority for the Green Network.

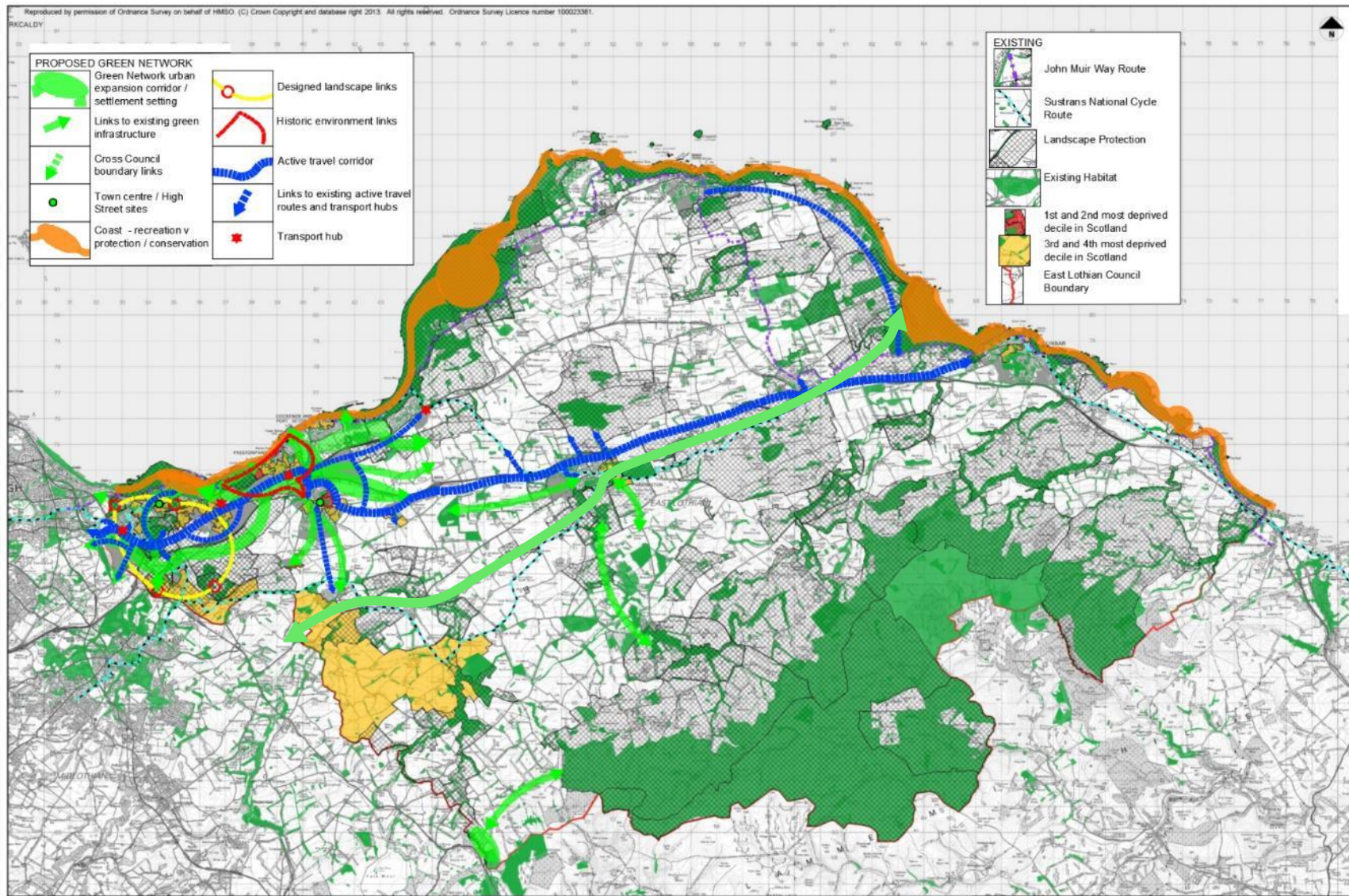


Figure 4 Proposed Green Network improvements overlaid on existing Green Infrastructure

Western sector – Musselburgh/Tranent/Blindwells

The western sector is part of the SESPLAN cross-boundary Green Network area.

This area has a long history of settlement. The area is dominated by the historical associations with the coast and the River Esk. Uniquely in East Lothian the Roman Iron Age is represented by Inveresk Roman Fort, Civil settlement and Fields. Musselburgh and Inveresk have medieval origins as towns as does the settlement at Fisherrow. Medieval settlement to the east is represented by the 13th century Seton Collegiate church, and Seton village. In 1547 the Battle of Pinkie Cleugh was fought over a large part of the west of this area and in 1745 the Battle of Prestonpans was fought over a large part of the east of the area. The development of the railway and the A1 have made access from modern Musselburgh to its surrounding landscape more difficult, and the modern town has and is expanding to fill the space between the coast and the A1

Urban settlement dominates the area today. This has some value for wildlife through parks and gardens, but much of the existing settlements are densely built up with limited green space. Land has been allocated in this area through the ELLDP to meet strategic housing and employment needs.

One of the main wildlife areas of Musselburgh is the River Esk which provides an effective, although narrow, habitat connecting woodland and countryside upstream with coastal habitats downstream. The river habitat is affected by the many weirs and embankments that were created to fuel industry, and by invasive plant species such as giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed. Nevertheless, it is a popular and valued wildlife asset for Musselburgh and Whitecraig.

The area's best wildlife resource is the coast, part of the wider Firth of Forth Site of Special Scientific Interest and Special Protection Area. The

Musselburgh coast is dominated by Fisherrow Sands and Levenhall Links. One is a natural intertidal habitat, the other is artificial, made from ash disposal and then landscaped. Both are very good habitats, particularly for wading birds. Fisherrow Sands and parts of Levenhall Links have been designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Both areas are also very popular with people. Levenhall Links supports formal sport as well as informal recreation, dog walking and bird watching. Levenhall Links has a good reputation for bird watching and it could become one of the foremost bird watching sites in the country.

Destinations such as the River Esk and Levenhall Links are already busy, with competing recreation demands. Levenhall Links especially has to accommodate a diverse range of needs. This site could be re-designed to accommodate a greater number of people who wish to pursue different interests, both formal and informal. The site also needs to be managed effectively to ensure that this greater capacity for people does not compromise the internationally important bird life that is found at Levenhall (in line with ELLDP Policy MH16), and which many visitors come to enjoy. Enhancing this experience should aim to create a top quality bird watching destination.

The river basin planning process has identified various barriers to fish movement and physical condition modifications, especially on the Tyne and Esk which directly impact on the ecological functioning of our rivers.

Morison's Haven, Longniddry Bents and woodlands at Gosford Estate have been designated as Local Biodiversity Sites and the rocky foreshore at Cockenzie and Port Seton has been designated for its geological interest. Prestongrange Museum and Morison's Haven also reflect the area's industrial past. Dating from the 16th century, industries revolved around salt pans, the harbour, glassworks, pottery, brickworks and coal mining. These industries stretched along the coast to Cockenzie, where

the Waggonway runs from Tranent to the harbour. This is the route of Scotland's earliest railway

Longniddry Dean and Seton Dean are good quality woodland habitats. The lack of connection between these woodlands reflects the wider ecological issues in the area. Habitats tend to be relatively small and disconnected. A population of water voles survives at Longniddry Bents, epitomising the problem for wildlife. Unless the species can migrate and find new habitats to colonise it is likely to become extinct locally.

The John Muir Way connects the coastal settlements, but there is pressure on the route from potential industrial development. The Waggonway, along with the Heugh in Tranent forms the only continuous non-urban route from Tranent to the coast. The River Esk provides a route to the coast through Musselburgh. Being able to walk or cycle to key local destinations is a priority, including attractive green routes to town centres and places of recreation such as the River Esk, Levenhall Links, Prestongrange and Meadowmill. The railway line and A1 cause significant barriers to north-south travel. Development of the wider path network is particularly important.

Open space between Prestonpans and Cockenzie is extremely popular, but industrial proposals may reduce the area of space available. This means that remaining space must be designed and maintained to accommodate greater recreation pressure.

As currently planned urban expansion proceeds in the area, the countryside around each town will have added significance in providing a sense of place and settlement identity. This countryside must be designed to define different identities for each settlement, provide space for informal recreation and create a rural gateway to the rest of the county. Since development space is tight the concepts of multi-benefit green space, publicly accessible and connected are even more important.

According to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, parts of the area fall within the most deprived 20%, with larger areas within the lowest 20-40%, of the population worst off as regards health, income, education and employment. Although Green Networks cannot solve these issues by themselves, they can help by providing access to a diverse, natural and pleasant landscape. This will have positive impacts by encouraging physical activity, improving personal well-being and building social contact.

Priorities here are described below and shown graphically on Figure 5.

Key to Partners and Funding

ELC	– East Lothian Council including Local Area Partnerships
SG	- Scottish Government
FCS	– Forestry Commission Scotland
LO	– Landowners
SNH	– Scottish Natural Heritage
SRDP	– Scottish Rural Development Fund
DEV	- Developers
NR	- Network Rail
TS	- Transport Scotland
SEPA	- Scottish Environment Protection Agency
HES	- Historic Environment Scotland
SUST	- Sustrans

A: Existing urban areas: improving green infrastructure in new and existing areas, especially disadvantaged areas.

Green Network Priority	Partners	Funding	Timescale
<p>1. Inclusion Review existing areas within the lowest 40% of Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation to identify potential Green Network improvements Plan for ‘rest spots’ on routes and public areas to help those with limited mobility use routes and open spaces.</p>	<p>ELC LO</p>	<p>ELC SG</p>	<p>Medium term</p>
<p>2. Human habitat Use green infrastructure to tackle air quality issues especially in the High Streets of Musselburgh and Tranent including using planting to absorb pollutants. Look for improvements to make our built environment ‘playful’. Increase the use of active travel through the Active Travel Improvement Plan, and if approved, the recommendations of the Musselburgh Active Travel Study. Provide ‘oasis’ areas for people to seek shade whether they are using town centres, in housing areas especially where there are homes without gardens, or at work.</p>	<p>ELC DEV SG LO</p>	<p>ELC DEV TS</p>	<p>Short term Ongoing Short term Ongoing</p>
<p>3. Landscaping Create and enhance urban habitat Enhance parks and open space and promote more widely Encouraging use of private gardens for planting for food growing and habitat creation. Landscape for a changing climate – use landscaping to regulate the temperature of urban areas</p>	<p>ELC DEV LO</p>	<p>ELC DEV</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

B: Musselburgh outdoors

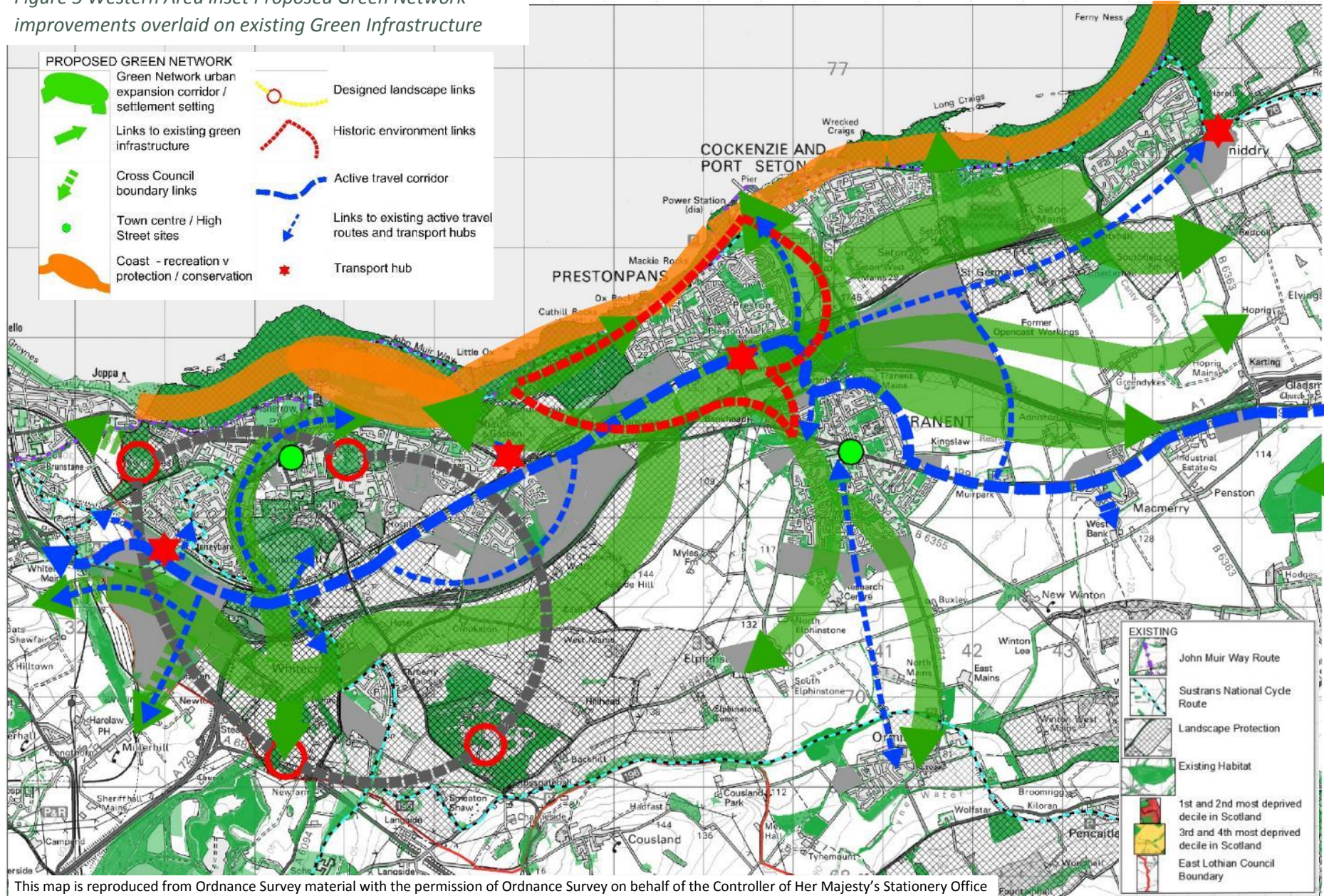
Green Network Priority	Partners	Funding	Timescale
<p>1. Green Belt Strategic green corridor around Musselburgh to provide setting for the settlement, recreation and active travel links and to prevent further coalescence of settlements Protect greenspace north and south of railway line to prevent coalescence and to provide attractive, greenspace around expanded settlements</p>	ELC LO SUST	SG Paths for all active travel funding	Ongoing
<p>2. The Esk: Enhance flood defences recognising the importance of the Esk as a landscape and recreational resource Improve the recreational and active travel value of the Esk including linking upriver to Midlothian Conserve biodiversity and address invasive species Improve fish access with due consideration to heritage and improve the physical condition of the river</p>	SG ELC LO	80% SG 20% ELC	Short term
<p>3. Heritage links: Develop active travel links between Roman archaeology in and around Musselburgh; and Link and promote Gardens and designed landscapes (Newhailes, Carberry, Dalkeith, Pinkie) Improve links to and interpretation of Pinkie Battlefield</p>	ELC HES SNH	ELC Carrier bag tax local scheme support	Medium / Long term
<p>4. Connecting New paths and ecological links to be made with Edinburgh and Midlothian developments – including links to QMU/Edinburgh College/Fort Kinnaird/Shawfair/Newcraighall in line with the Active Travel Improvement Plan</p>	ELC DEV SG SUST	ELC DEV Paths for all Active travel funding	Short / Medium term
<p>5. Levenhall/Coast (subject to assessment of any impact on the FSPA) Consider redesign Levenhall/ash lagoons to accommodate greater recreation pressure while enhancing the value of the site for birds of the FSPA Create and promote a top quality bird watching site at Levenhall</p>	ELC SNH	ELC SNH	Ongoing
<p>6. Craighall New active travel links in line with the SPG Development Briefs for MH1 and MH3 which provide for two points of access to LDP site MH1 from the B6415 and between LDP sites MH1 and MH3; high quality walking and cycling connection to village centre and school; improved foot/cycle bridge over the B6415; rail tunnel under the A1 Woodland planting along the A1 Maximise the recreational and biodiversity potential of the watercourses as Green Network features</p>	ELC FCS DEV SG SUST	DEV FCS SG	Short / Medium term

C: Meadowmill/Cockenzie/Blindwells

A strategic green corridor to prevent coalescence, provide for recreation and active travel links, celebrate heritage.

Green Network Priority	Partners	Funding	Timescale
<p>1. Landscape setting and open space Retain and enhance open areas around settlements in line with SPG on Countryside Around Towns and the Blindwells Masterplan (and if adopted, the Cockenzie masterplan) to provide an attractive setting for settlement and prevent coalescence. These strategic green areas should also provide for recreation and active travel links. Important spaces include open space to the east of Preston Crescent, the Green Hills at Preston Links, area around Meadowmill and to the north and south of Blindwells.</p>	ELC LO DEV	ELC DEV	Medium / Long term
<p>2. Heritage links Maximise opportunities for tourism and education relating to the area’s industrial and cultural past focussed on Prestongrange. Enhance the setting of the Waggonway and keep its entire route on the west side of the B6371. Consider providing a park setting for Scheduled Monuments Improve appreciation of the Prestonpans Battlefield site including from the Meadowmill pyramid Develop active travel links between historic environment sites.</p>	ELC HES SNH	DEV John Muir Way business funding City Deal Carrier bag community project funding	Ongoing

Figure 5 Western Area inset Proposed Green Network improvements overlaid on existing Green Infrastructure



Countryside

East Lothian's countryside is beautiful but intensively used for farming and as grouse moor. It is also the place where many people walk, experience wildlife and develop pride in their local area. Access to the countryside is an important part of quality of life in East Lothian. Rural land forms the setting for settlements. Watercourses can be a great resource for recreation and wildlife though there is potential for improvement in some cases.

Green Network Priority	Partners	Funding	Timescale
<p>1. Tyne Retain and improve active travel access along the length of the Tyne from the coast to Midlothian boundary, as well as its tributaries including the Colstoun Water, Humbie and Birns Water and Linn Dean Water. Enhance surrounding habitat including woodland and grassland. Improve natural flood management including planting in the upper reaches and respecting and reinforcing the role of natural flood plains.</p> <p>Improvements to historic environment including weirs and mill lades and develop Mill Lade Trails.</p> <p>Improve fish access with due consideration to heritage</p> <p>Improve the physical condition of the river.</p>	<p>ELC LO SEPA SNH HES</p>	<p>SEPA ELC</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Medium / Long term Ongoing Ongoing</p>
<p>2. Recreational routes and Active Travel Implement the Active Travel Improvement Plan and protect Core Path and rights of way in line with ELLDP policies and statutory duties. Multi-functional recreational routes from settlements to the countryside, hills and coast and specific recreational destinations are particularly important for the Green Network, as are short circular links near or within settlements.</p> <p>The railway walks (Haddington to Longniddry and the Pencaitland Railway Walk) are significant elements of the Green Network and potential for further enhancement of these as multi-functional should be explored, bearing in mind the safeguard of the Haddington to Longniddry route as a potential rail link.</p> <p>Provide the Segregated Active Travel Corridor in line with ELLDP Policy and Developer Contributions Framework. This route should be multifunctional and provide wildlife enhancement along the margins where possible along the route. Links to this corridor both within towns and in the countryside would be desirable. A path link from Railway Walk to Glenkinchie to promote sustainable tourism.</p>	<p>ELC TS SUST LO</p>	<p>ELC DEV Paths for all active travel funding</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p>3. Water Management Support implementation of the water management objectives of the Scotland River Basin Management Plan⁴ where appropriate</p>	ELC LO SEPA	SEPA	Ongoing
<p>4. Landscaping Plan for the replacement of roadside trees Protect the setting of settlements in line with SPG on Countryside around Towns Protect Special Landscape Areas and Landscape Character Areas in line with ELLDP policies and SPG on Special Landscape Areas</p>	ELC LO FCS	FCS	Long term Ongoing Ongoing

⁴ Link to <https://informatics.sepa.org.uk/spotfire/wp/render/mOVDKxO-4ANWCvQuM/analysis?file=/Public/SEPA/Projects/WFD/RBMP2/RBMP%20Final%20Plan%202&waid=7pRsojBIXEOh-Ydjp9klj-24192085cfRyYj&wavid=0>

Coast

The coast is an important attraction for both people and nature. East Lothian Council owns or manages around ¾ of the coast, to serve many purposes including nature conservation, education, recreation, tourism and other economic activity, landscape and coastal protection. The coast is under pressure, with any increase in recreational use requiring to respect the nature conservation value of the area. In the future sea level rise may constrain coastal habitat against inland land-uses.

It is unclear whether increased recreational use of the coast would be possible without adverse effect on the integrity of any Natura 2000 site, especially the Firth of Forth Special Protection Area (FSPA). Study is needed to examine the capacity for further recreational use of the area while allowing for the needs of its bird life. Until this is done further plans for increased use of the coastal area cannot be progressed. In the meanwhile the coast should continue to be carefully managed:

Green Network Priority	Partners	Funding	Timescale
<p>Existing key priorities:</p> <p>John Muir Way: Retain this route as a long distance walking and cycle recreational route. 'Green' the John Muir Way by planting a minibeast corridor/grassland/flowers alongside.</p> <p>Coastal management: Continue to manage the coast including John Muir Park and Aberlady Bay Local Nature Reserves for multiple uses respecting the capacity of the natural environment in particular protected bird life</p>	<p>ELC LO</p>	<p>ELC John Muir Way business funding CGSN funding</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><i>Future aims (subject to impact on Firth of Forth SPA birdlife)</i></p>			
<p>Outdoor Tourism</p> <p>Improve cycling and walking access along the coast between North Berwick and Dunbar. Consider potential for 'Pilgrim Route' from Berwick to North Berwick. Consider making the A198 coast road one of the finest cycling routes in Scotland by amending road priorities and surface treatments to promote cycle safety</p> <p>Investigate possibility of further outdoor tourism development building on existing businesses such as Foxlake/East Links Family Park/Coast to Coast surf school and birdlife related tourism as at North Berwick Seabird Centre and the SOC headquarters in Aberlady</p>	<p>ELC LO SUST</p>	<p>ELC John Muir Way business funding</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Access</p> <p>Improve access to the coast by methods other than car use subject to impacts on the Firth of Forth SPA. Create links to the coast and John Muir Way at Dirleton, Gullane and Yellowcraig</p>	<p>ELC LO</p>	<p>ELC</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

and from North Berwick train station and town centre as well linking North Berwick Law, Seabird Centre and Tantallon Castle.			
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Nature Network

The dominance of human beings is clear across East Lothian – even outside urban areas most of the land is managed for agriculture, forestry or recreation. As a result biodiversity has declined in both quantity and diversity. Wildlife is often in its most natural form in places that are either too wet or too steep for other beneficial use. There remain however areas of international and national, as well as local importance. Designated sites are the foundation of the nature network in East Lothian and should be protected from inappropriate development. The existing biodiversity network is shown in figure 6 below.

The aim of the Nature Network is to support wildlife recovery, while recognising that the fertile land of and of East Lothian has a very important role in agricultural production. Wildlife needs to be able to migrate across East Lothian; therefore a connected network is needed. Habitat management is essential for maintaining the quality of this network. Public access to and enjoyment of biodiversity is important, and should be possible for people from all parts of society. Every community should have an area that has some wildlife interest – it need not be special or rare to be inspirational. This is provided for through the Local Biodiversity Site suite designated in the ELLDP.

The priorities for the Nature Network are described below and shown on Figure 7.

Green Network Priority	Partners	Funding	Timescale
<p>Designated sites Protect designated biodiversity sites from inappropriate development in line with ELLDP natural heritage policy. Conserve biodiversity of the Forth Islands and Firth of Forth Special Protection Area, including protection of sufficient supporting habitat for inland waders</p>	ELC SNH LO	SNH	Ongoing
<p>Woodland Seek opportunities to expand woodland in appropriate areas – consider CSGN integrated habitat network Priority Expansion areas; cleughs and following the line of the A1 and the Tyne River Valley. Manage ancient woodland sites to encourage wildlife, through species selection, encouraging deadwood and developing varied age structure. Create tree lines and woodland connections between habitats.</p>	ELC FCS SNH LO	FCS	Ongoing
<p>Coast Seek areas suitable for saltmarsh expansion/conservation Support maintenance of sufficient supporting habitat for inland waders of the Firth of Forth SPA</p>	ELC SNH LO		Ongoing

<p>Grassland: seek opportunities to expand grassland habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differential mowing on road verges to increase wild flowers • Promote grassland in gardens and school grounds • CGSN grassland integrated habitat priority expansion areas • Between Congalton and Whitekirk • Encourage use of field margins for wildlife 	<p>ELC SNH LO</p>	<p>LO</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Wetlands, Great Crested Newts and Water voles: Improve and expand wetland habitat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create wetland habitat in CSGN fenland and marsh Priority habitat expansion areas • Improve value of habitat along watercourses • Pond improvement and creation where appropriate. • Promote great crested newt conservation through habitat creation and improvement; pond creation in suitable areas is essential, as is supporting grassland / shrub habitat links through and between sites. To include creation of habitat around Petersmuir, Garleton Hills, Deuchrie. • Peatland restoration • Water vole habitat improvement and extension by creating field edge habitats such as grass margins along watercourses to encourage water voles 	<p>ELC SNH LO</p>	<p>LO</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Farmland Birds: Farmland Bird habitat improvement (Grey Partridge Project) Create field margin habitats such as hedgerows, grass margins and wildbird cover to encourage farmland birds. Habitat creation along watercourses will also reduce diffuse pollution.</p>	<p>ELC SNH LO</p>	<p>LO</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Lammermuir Habitat improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black grouse habitat improvement to include to create and manage habitat in vicinity of Keithhill and Stobshiel, Whiteadder and Hopes reservoirs, to encourage black grouse, including tree / woodland planting, wetland creation and grassland management. • Peatland restoration • Woodland/scrub planting in cleughs 	<p>ELC SNH LO FCS</p>	<p>FCS LO</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

LEGEND










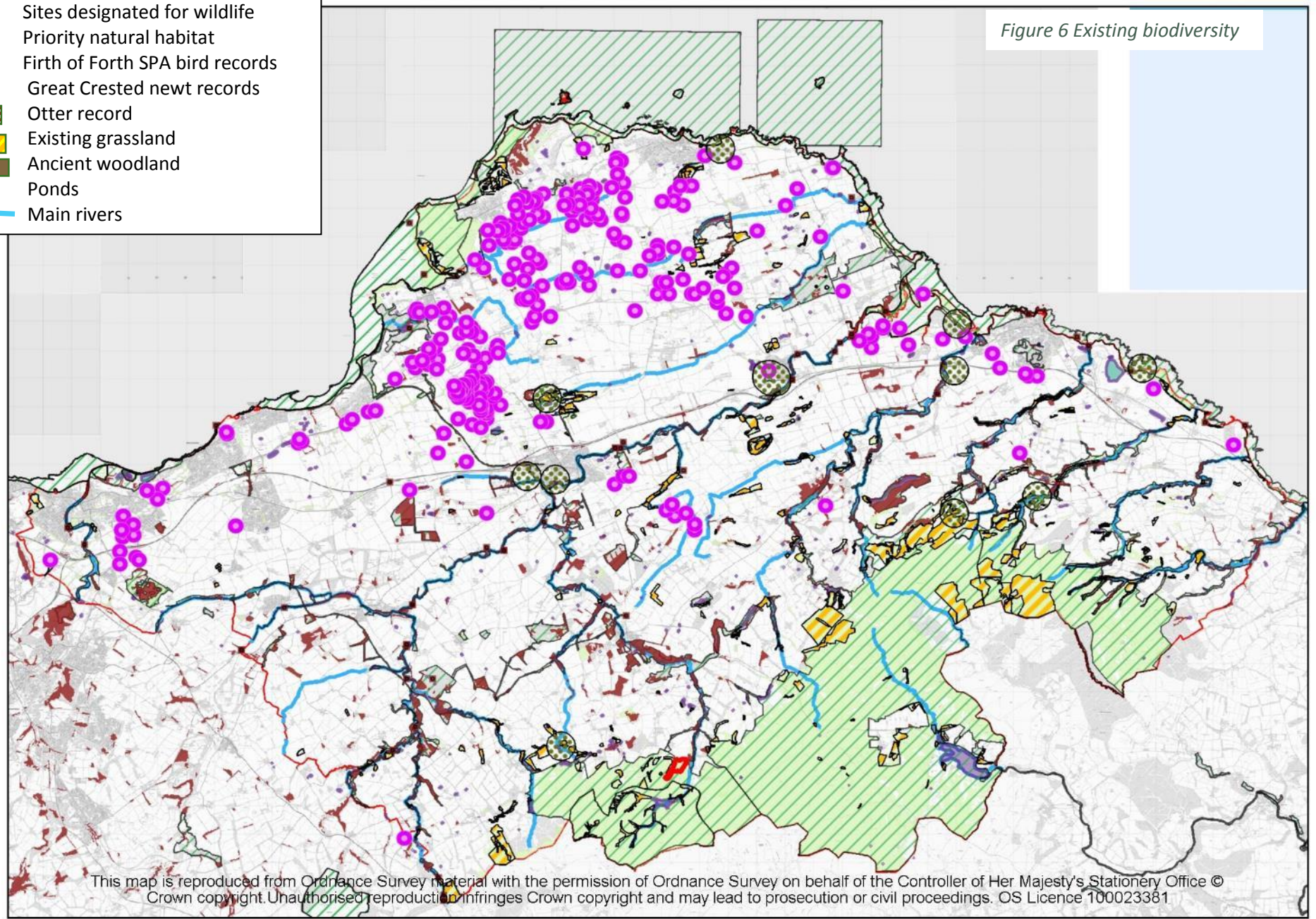
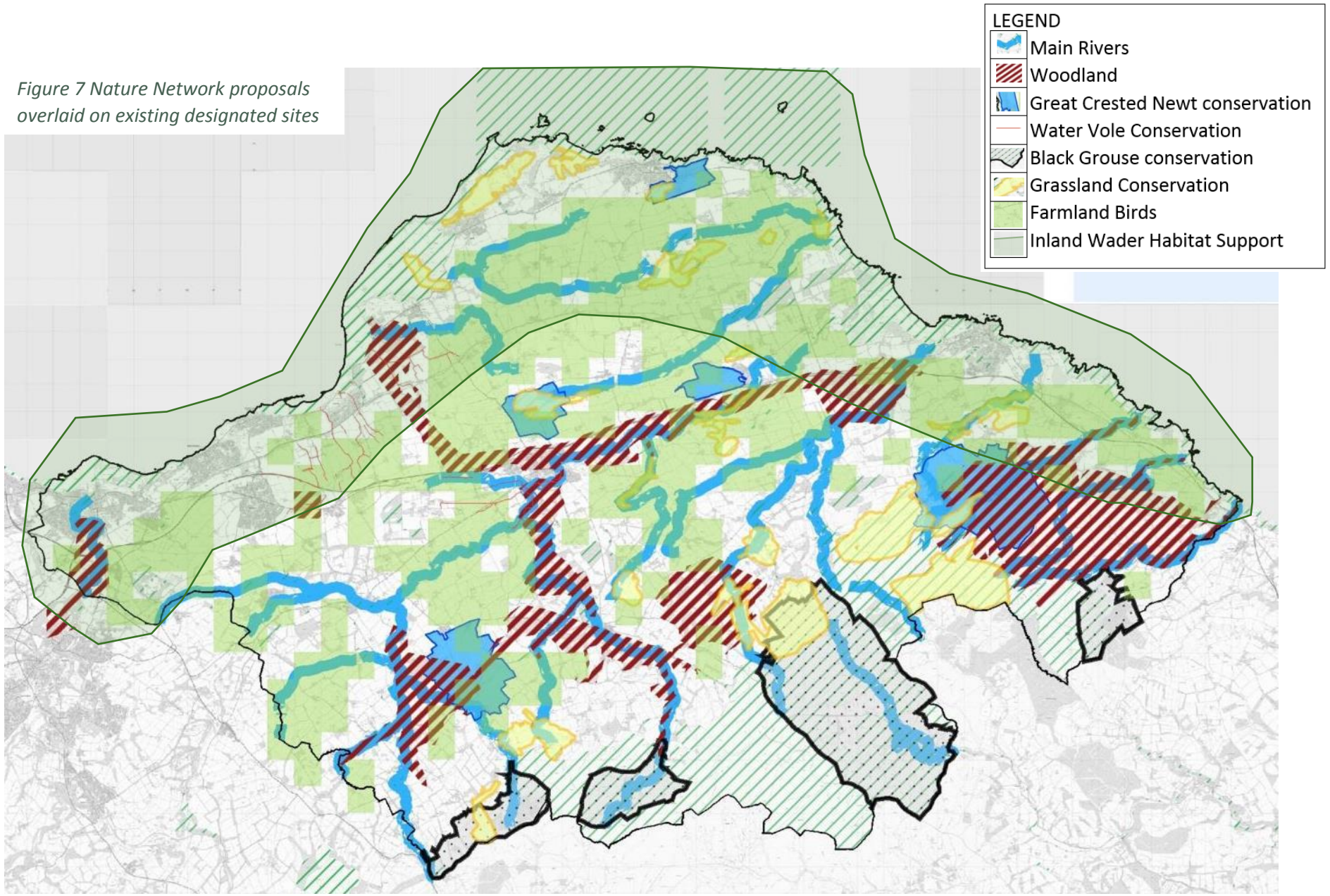
-  Sites designated for wildlife
-  Priority natural habitat
-  Firth of Forth SPA bird records
-  Great Crested newt records
-  Otter record
-  Existing grassland
-  Ancient woodland
-  Ponds
-  Main rivers

Figure 6 Existing biodiversity



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Figure 7 Nature Network proposals overlaid on existing designated sites



Evidence Base and Working Groups

Getting the best from the Green Network depends on knowledge, good practice and coordination. The Green Network is intended to be multifunctional and multifaceted, and many organisations are involved in delivering various aspects of green infrastructure which may be needed or wanted for one particular purpose. As a result, sometimes things happen without full awareness of potential multi-functional benefits that could occur.

The protection of elements of the Green Network, in particular Natura 2000 sites, can sometimes impose constraints on how other development can come forward. It is important to gain a full understanding of this to avoid work being done on proposals which cannot come forward.

It is also important to be aware of where the Green Network can support an ecosystem solution to a problem. For example, planting upstream may help to avoid the need for expensive flood protection works; planting in urban areas can help meet air quality targets.

To improve the evidence base and co-ordinated working the following are proposed as funding/resourcing permits:

1. Set up a Green Network Working Group with key stakeholders
2. Look into mapping ecosystem need and demand, potentially via the Scottish Wildlife Trust Eco-serv tool
3. Carry out a study into the recreational impact on the Firth of Forth SPA
4. Consider how progress on the Green Network will be monitored.

REFERENCES

Central Scotland Green Network Vision and website available here:
<http://www.centralscotlandgreennetwork.org/>

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