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SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE

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INTRODUCTION

East Lothian is an area with much to offer. Its climate and underlying geology, plus the vision and toil of generations of our ancestors have left a landscape in our trust to be enjoyed now and hopefully passed on in good heart for our sons and daughters to discover. The landscape stretches from the outstanding coastline to the north, through the central area of fertile farmland including many fine designed landscapes, to the rolling and occasionally rugged and mysterious areas of the transitional fringe landscape before opening out onto the wide moorlands of the Lammermuirs which frame the county to the south. Intimate wooded river valleys dissect the area, while remnants of past volcanic activity such as the Bass Rock, North Berwick Law, Traprain Law and the Garleton Hills form highly visible rugged outcrops. These features combine to give an area of great diversity and interest forming the distinctive East Lothian landscape. Its location as part of the economically dynamic Edinburgh City Region, along with its natural attributes, make it an attractive place to live, visit and do business, which inevitably also brings development pressures.

This Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) has been produced to incorporate the review and update of Local Landscape Designations in East Lothian into the Council's planning policy framework.

All landscapes are important, and East Lothian Council will continue to carefully assess proposals for all areas of the countryside, coast and urban natural spaces. The purpose of reviewing the Landscape Character Areas and designating Special Landscape Areas is to recognise and strengthen the particular value of all landscapes in maintaining the distinctive sense of place in different areas of East Lothian.

Development Guidelines and opportunities for landscape enhancement to encourage positive landscape management have been prepared for both the Landscape Character Areas and Special Landscape Areas.

BACKGROUND

As part of the preparation of East Lothian's Local Development Plan (ELLLDP), it was considered that a review of East Lothian's landscapes was due. The main designation to protect local landscapes, Areas of Great Landscape Value, was introduced in the 1960s, with further amendment mainly in the 1970s/80s. There was clearly the potential for considerable landscape change since then. In addition, SNH/Historic Scotland published new Guidance¹ in 2006, refreshing the approach to local landscape designation, and moving towards a designation of Special Landscape Areas, broadly replacing the existing Areas of Great Landscape Value.

The aim of the Local Landscape Designation Review was to assess the whole of East Lothian's landscape, classify and describe it in terms of its different character areas and

¹ Guidance on Local Landscape Designations, SNH/Historic Scotland, available here: <http://www.snh.gov.uk/publications-data-and-research/publications/search-the-catalogue/publication-detail/?id=389>

identify areas of particular importance to be designated as Special Landscape Areas. Thereby replacing the existing landscape designations with new robustly defined landscape designations and providing up to date information on the valued qualities of all landscapes.

East Lothian Council undertook a systematic review of all of East Lothian’s landscapes in 2014/5. This review followed the Guidance by SNH/Historic Scotland “Guidance on designating local landscapes” to identify and justify areas which warrant such local designation. The study is divided into two main sections, the Landscape Character Area Boundary Review and the designation of Special Landscape Areas. The full Local Landscape Designation Review can be found in Technical Note 9 of the proposed Local Development Plan 2016.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICY

The ELLDP has as an objective (paragraph 1.61) to “Protect and enhance the area’s high quality environment and special identity”, in line with East Lothian Council’s Single Outcome Agreement. It aims to ensure that new development respects the character, appearance and amenity of the area, including settlements and their settings. It also aims to “ensure a strategic approach to managing landscape change when accommodating new development...by avoiding inappropriate development in locations where this is important to protect the character, setting and identity of the local area”.

The ELLDP states (paragraph 5.3) that the Council will have regard to the Landscape Character Area Review in assessing planning applications. The ELLDP also supports development that accords with the character and qualities of the Special Landscape Area.

ELLDP policies DP1: Landscape Character, DP2: Design and DC9: Special Landscape Areas guide design in the landscape generally and in Special Landscape Areas in particular.

ELLDP POLICIES

Policy DP1: Landscape Character

All new development, with the exception of changes of use and alterations and extensions to existing buildings, must:

1. Be well integrated into its surroundings by responding to and respecting landform, and by retaining and where appropriate enhancing existing natural and physical features at the site, including water bodies, that make a significant contribution to the character and appearance of the area and incorporate these into the development design in a positive way;
2. Include appropriate landscaping and multifunctional green infrastructure and open spaces that enhance, provides structure to and unifies the development and assists its integration with the surroundings and extends the wider green network where appropriate.

Policy DP2: Design

The design of all new development, with the exception of changes of use and alterations and extensions to existing buildings, must:

1. Be appropriate to its location in terms of its positioning, size, form, massing, proportion and scale and use of a limited palette of materials and colours that complement its surroundings;
2. By its siting, density and design create a coherent structure of streets, public spaces and buildings that respect and complement the site's context, and create a sense of identity within the development;
3. Position and orientate buildings to articulate, overlook, properly enclose and provide active frontages to public spaces or, where this is not possible, have appropriate high quality architectural or landscape treatment to create a sense of welcome, safety and security;
4. Provide a well connected network of paths and roads within the site that are direct and will connect with existing networks, including green networks, in the wider area ensuring access for all in the community, favouring, where appropriate, active travel and public transport then cars as forms of movement;
5. Clearly distinguish public space from private space using appropriate boundary treatments;
6. Ensure privacy and amenity, with particular regard to levels of sunlight, daylight and overlooking, including for the occupants of neighbouring properties;
7. Retain physical or natural features that are important to the amenity of the area or provide adequate replacements where appropriate;
8. Be able to be suitably serviced and accessed with no significant traffic or other environmental impacts.

Policy DC9: Special Landscape Areas

Areas are designated as Special Landscape Areas as identified within supplementary planning guidance on Special Landscape Areas. Development within or affecting Special Landscape Areas will only be permitted where:

1. it accords with the Statement of Importance and does not harm the special character of the area; or
2. the public benefits of the development clearly outweigh any adverse impact and the development is designed, sited and landscaped to minimise such adverse impacts.

The Council will refer to the Statement of Importance of the relevant site in assessing planning applications.

Appendix I - Landscape Character Areas

BACKGROUND

The Landscape Character Area Boundary Review was the first part of the Local Landscape Review. It was based on desk and field work carried out in 2014/5.

The starting point of the Boundary Review was to look at the Landscape Character Areas identified in the SNH commissioned “The Lothians Landscape Character Assessment” carried out by the Ash Consulting group in 1998 (the Ash Study)¹. It was expected that there may have been landscape change in the intervening years which could lead to alterations of the Landscape Character Area boundaries.

Landscape Character Areas are landscapes where key characteristics occur consistently and have an identity which is unique to their geographical location. Within each area there is a similarity of vegetation, topography and built elements, such as a heather covered moorland or arable land of the agricultural plain. Although boundaries have been defined as single lines, due to gradual merging of one landscape type to the next, characteristics can often be found on either side of a boundary, creating more of a “fuzzy” line between areas.

The East Lothian Landscape Character Area Boundary review details the revisions of each landscape character area on an East Lothian scale. The same criteria were used as in the Ash Study, although the built features category was split into three – access, built environment and infrastructure. The Review assessed the landscape based on its current status, and did not assess potential impacts of currently proposed or consented development.

Changes to the areas were kept to a minimum to try and retain consistency with national character types. The main changes were the addition of ‘Lammermuir with windfarm’ character area to reflect extensive and dominating windfarm development in parts of the Lammermuirs; identification of the Whiteadder Valley as a separate Landscape Character Area more in character with the Scottish Borders upland valley landscape character; and division of the coastal area into Coastal Plain and Coastal Margins, to reflect locally important differences in character between these areas.

¹ No 91: The Lothian’s Landscape Character Assessment, Ash Consulting Group (published and commissioned by Scottish Natural Heritage) 1998

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES AND AREAS WITHIN EAST LOTHIAN

As a result of the study 19 Landscape Character Areas were identified as listed below ordered by their main landscape character type, and shown on the map in figure 1.

Table 1 Landscape Character Areas defined by the East Lothian Review 2015
Uplands
Lammermuir Plateau Lammermuir Plateau with windfarm Whiteadder Valley Plateau Grassland
Upland Fringes
Western Lammermuir Fringe Eastern Lammermuir Fringe
Lowland River Valleys
Whittingehame Water Gifford Water Humbie Water Esk River Valley
Lowland Hills and Ridges
Tranent Ridge Garleton Hills
Lowland Plains
Lower Tyne Valley Plain Mid Tyne Valley Plain Coastal Plain Settled Farmland
Coastal Margins
Innerwick Coast Northern Coast Musselburgh/Prestonpans Coast

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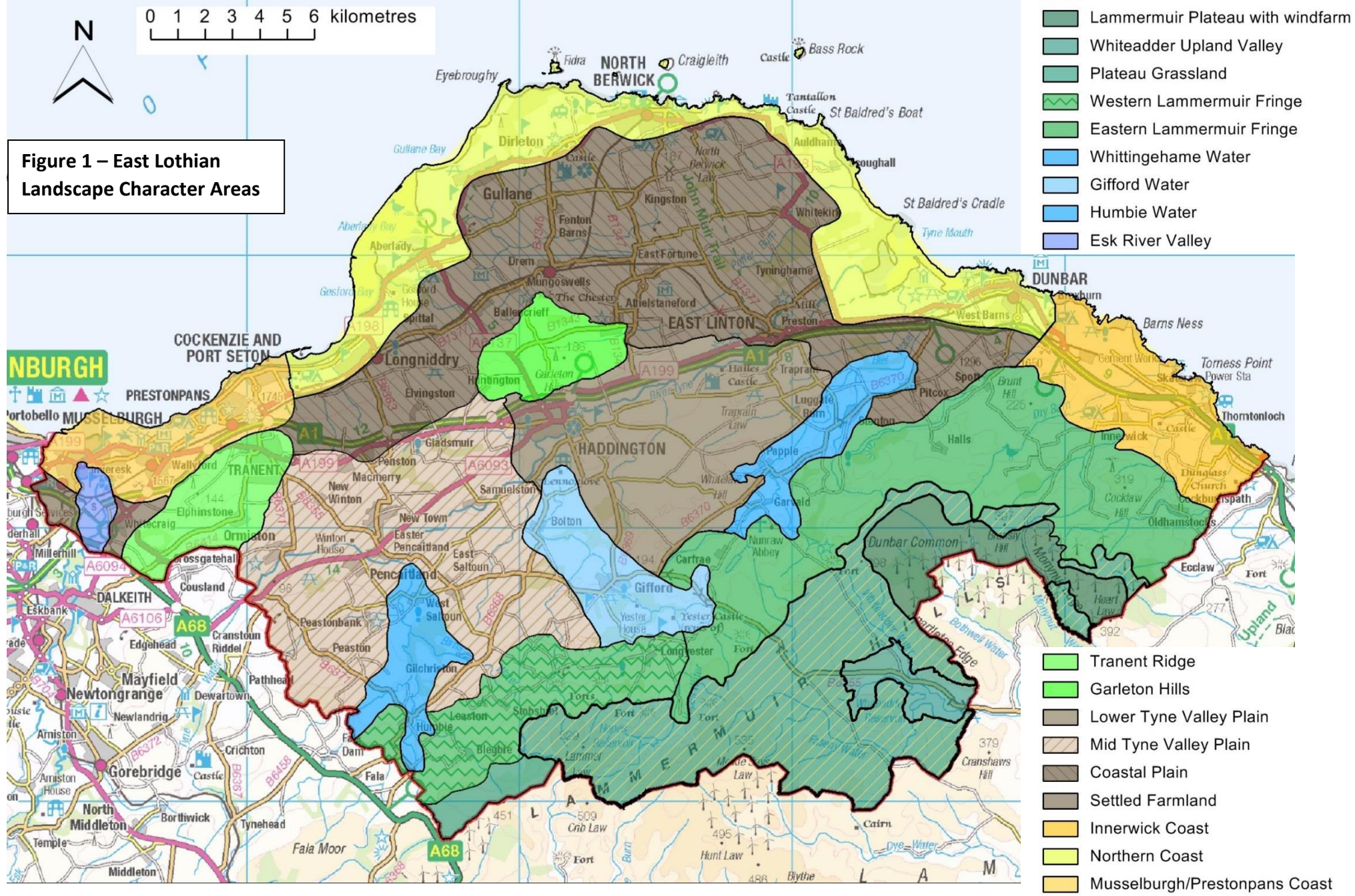


Figure 1 – East Lothian Landscape Character Areas

REGIONAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

There are some regional landscape features/elements which characterise Eastern Coastal areas of Lowland Scotland, the Central Lowlands, or the Southern Uplands of South Scotland, which help maintain the distinctiveness of these areas in relation to the rest of Scotland or the UK. To maintain the distinctiveness and sense of place of these areas, it is important that the features that typify them are conserved or strengthened. East Lothian lies on the coast at the eastern end of the Central Lowlands, rising to join the Southern Uplands to the south, contributing to the distinctiveness of these landscapes.

Some of the regional landscape features are given a particular twist in East Lothian; the Garleton Hills has the Hopetoun monument on top of it which makes it instantly recognisable. Fidra, a pretty island off North Berwick along with Yellow Craig, a small volcanic knoll to its south, were made famous by Robert Louis Stevenson. Sometimes, East Lothian just has a particularly good example of such a feature, so that people come to associate it with the area, for example Aberlady Bay as a natural area for birdlife, prime agricultural land recognised as 'Scotland's Garden County' or links golf courses including the world renowned Muirfield.

The following landscape features/elements are considered characteristic:

Eastern Coastal Lowland Scotland

1. Undulating, fertile arable land
2. Coastline of interspersed sandy beaches and rocky shoreline; low cliffs
3. Wide estuaries and associated salt marsh and bird life
4. Mobile sand dunes
5. Plantation, shelter belt and policy tree-planting
6. Use of pantiles especially on more humble buildings, with use of slate for grander buildings.
7. Use of local stone, and in some places harling for building walls
8. Use of local red sandstone in traditional buildings
9. Redevelopment of steadings into residential development
10. Links golf courses
11. Relatively dense network of single lane rural roads often lined with hedges or drystone walls
12. Closely spaced designed landscapes

Central Lowlands

1. Southern upland boundary fault
2. Hill ridge skyline
3. Fortified towers and hill forts
4. Hillfoot village constructed of local stone (in East Lothian these include Spott, Little Spott, Garvald, Innerwick, Pitcox)

Southern Uplands

1. Rolling plateau heathery moorland with steeply sided cleughs
2. Areas of peat and blanket bog
3. Reservoirs

Examples of where these are distinctive to East Lothian

- Seascape around Fidra island and Yellow Craig, including the beach and outcrop, fictionalised by Robert Louis Stephenson (North Berwick to Seton Sands SLA)
- Seacliff harbour, the smallest working harbour in Scotland (Tantallon Coats SLA)
- Volcanic intrusions. Traprain Law, a laccolith has a distinctive form widely visible across the area (Traprain and Tyne SLA); North Berwick Law, well preserved crag and tail feature rising steeply from farmland below with historic beech trees (North Berwick Law SLA); the Garleton Hills with the distinctive and widely visible Hopetoun Monument (Garleton Hills SLA)
- Bass Rock with gannet colony, the world's largest (Tantallon Coast SLA)
- Lammermuir skyline (Lammermuir Moorland SLA)
- Bird filled estuaries at Aberlady Bay with distinctive bridge over the salt marsh (North Berwick to Seton Sands SLA) and John Muir Country Park with 'Bridge to Nowhere' over the Tyne (Belhaven Bay SLA)
- 'Caterpillar' beech hedges around Humbie (Mid Tyne Valley Plain LCA).
- Veteran yew trees – the Whittingehame (Whittingehame to Deuchrie SLA) and Ormiston yew trees (Ormiston Yew and Fountainhall SLA).

DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Each Landscape Character Statement provides advice on managing development within each individual Landscape Character Area. Consideration should also be given to protecting and enhancing landscape features/elements which characterise the wider regional distinctiveness of Eastern Coastal Lowland Scotland, the Central Lowlands and the Southern Uplands of South Scotland within East Lothian. These would include:

Every

Eastern Coastal Lowland Scotland

1. Retain arable appearance of the area.
2. Promote integrated coastal zone management strategy balancing visitor management, tourism, recreation and other development while avoiding adverse impact on the integrity of and maintaining the interest of the Natura 2000 network
3. ELLDP Policy DC6 requires that the siting and design of new development must respect the qualities of the particular coastal location. This should include recognition of particular coastal features as being distinctive, and/or rare.
4. Woodland should be retained and enhanced in appropriate locations. Diversity of species in new woodland planting should be increased. 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. ELLDP Policy NH8 contains a strong presumption in favour of protecting East Lothian's Woodland Resource.
5. Roofing material: use of pantiles is supported especially for humbler buildings. It would generally be preferable for larger scale, or buildings with a more important function, to use slate. Removal of pantiles on buildings which have this is generally undesirable.
6. Installation of solar panels on public elevations of buildings with pantiles can look incongruous due to the absorbent, dark nature of the panels. On slate roofs, panels can be found that are

flush or close to flush with the roof, which can help with their appearance; as the colour is not so dissimilar panels may appear less incongruous on a slate roof than a pantile roof.

7. If a building is going for the 'traditional' look, the finish of traditional buildings in the area should be considered. Harling is not always appropriate where it is not a traditional finish locally; it might be better to choose a finish that is more clearly modern than a 'traditional' one which is not reflective of the history of the immediate area but might appear to be so.
8. Local stone is a scarce resource as many of the local quarries are now closed. Re-use of local stone is encouraged. Policy DC2: Conversion of rural buildings to housing supports the re-use of appropriate buildings in the countryside.
9. For information on re-development of steadings, see Supplementary Planning Guidance on Cultural Heritage.
10. Development should avoid significant alteration to the distinctive character of links golf courses by limiting the size of development, careful consideration of colour and materials and siting development in appropriate locations
11. Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale rural character of the roads, including characteristic features such as hedges and stone walls, passing places, cattle grids and stone bridges.
12. Any development must respect, retain and not harm the elements and qualities of East Lothian's Gardens and Designed Landscapes whether of national, regional or local importance. ELLDP Policy CH6: Gardens and Designed Landscapes protects designed landscapes

Central Lowlands

1. Development should not impact on the appreciation of the Southern Upland Boundary Fault as a single feature. Night time views of the Lammermuirs reflect the current lack of settlement within this area, with very little light on the northern downslope. Development should avoid use of colours or materials that would lead it to stand out especially when viewed from the East Lothian plain or outcrops below.
2. Any proposed development must conserve the unbroken horizontal element of the Lammermuir skyline especially as viewed from the plain and foothills below.
3. Most of the hillforts and castles are scheduled ancient monuments. Development must not harm the site of a hillfort or castle or its setting. They and their settings are protected by ELLDP Policy CH4: Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Sites.
4. In hillfoot areas, 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. The use of traditional building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings is supported. The use and reuse of local stone is supported. Suburban style housing is unlikely to fit with the character of the area.

Southern Uplands

1. In moorland areas proposed development must:
 - a. not harm the open, remote character of the moorland by avoiding 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;

- b. not increase the apparent scale of large scale industrial elements (reservoir walls, pylon lines) for example by providing scale comparison;
 - c. retain the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form;
 - d. avoid hill tracks on visually-sensitive slopes. When tracks are new or recently re-surfaced they can look very noticeable over a wide distance, and these can also look wrong by virtue of their straight lines heading straight up the moorland. This may have a negative impact on the 'natural' appearance and character of the area and tracks can be widely visible including from the plain below. Tracks also open up the area to recreational access, which has obvious benefits but may also affect the remote character of the area. Tracks should follow SNH guidance "Constructed Tracks in the Scottish Uplands"², including consideration of whether the track is necessary at all. Borrow pits, treatment of cut and fill, material, alignment of the track with topography and visibility of the track should all be carefully considered;
 - e. encourage limited expansion of woodland cover through shelterbelts and small woodland particularly in cleughs and valleys and around farmsteads and other building groups.
2. Development should not harm areas of peat and blanket bog including through changes to hydrology and should avoid loss of heather landscape cover, in particular to improved pasture and protect /conserve important peatland vegetation communities.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER STATEMENTS

Each landscape character area has been described in a Landscape Character Statement using the following criteria:

- Physical features, including geology, topography and drainage;
- Vegetation and land cover, including both natural and man-made features;
- Access including the public road network, transport corridors, and tracks;
- Built features, including urban and rural settlement, and other artefacts;
- Infrastructure and Industry;
- Aesthetic qualities, including important views and a summary of the 'sense of place' of the area;
- Positive Attributes;
- Negative Attributes;
- Management Guidelines;
- Photographs of the main features, qualities and attributes.

The Landscape Character Statements for each Landscape Character Area are included on the following pages. The management guidelines are particularly relevant in assessing and guiding development proposals.

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

Uplands - Lammermuir Plateau

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	<p>The Lammermuir Hills define the southern boundary of East Lothian as well as the geological transition between the low-lying midland valley to the north and the older more resistant rocks of the Southern Uplands to the south. The skyline, especially where unbroken, characterises East Lothian. Although set back from the Lammermuir edge, higher parts of this area form skyline as seen from the plain and foothills below, both in East Lothian and Scottish Borders Council area. The hills rise gradually westwards with the highest points being Meikle Says Law and Lammer Law at 535m and 529m respectively. The hills and ridges interweave to form a gently undulating upland plateau. The smooth complex hill slopes are dissected by a complex tracery of valley landforms varying in scale and appearance from narrow incised gullies formed by minor burns to wider valleys. Several small man-made reservoirs lie within the area, Hopes being the largest and most scenic.</p>
Vegetation and land cover	<p>Heather moorland and rough pastures forms the predominant vegetation cover of this character area. Field boundary features are uncommon although post and wire fences line several of the roads and access tracks. Tree cover is generally absent except for infrequent clumps of mature deciduous trees and small coniferous and broadleaved shelterbelts close to farmsteads and reservoir margins.</p>
Access	<p>Single track roads with passing places are characteristic of the area although the B6355 is narrow two way. The number of access tracks to grouse butts has increased and these are often locally prominent and can be seen in longer views from the north where they are located on exposed hill slopes. There are a number of core path routes across the moorland.</p>
Built features	<p>The area is still sparsely habited, generally around the valley bottoms. Farm sheds are no longer a common sight; grouse butts are in evidence along the hill slopes.</p>
Infrastructure and industry	<p>The major pylon line still remains highly visible across the centre of the plateau. Windfarm development is a very noticeable change in the east of the area.</p>
Aesthetic qualities and views	<p>The closely knit hill landforms generally coalesce to form an open, exposed plateau the isolated character of which is emphasised by a lack of settlement or woodland, but naturalness is detracted by manmade elements including the dominant pylon line, prominent access tracks and wind turbines. Panoramic views across the hill fringes and coastal plain to the Firth of Forth to the north and the North Sea to the east can be obtained at the northern fringes of the area.</p>
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wilder land quality derived from high degree of perceived naturalness of land cover, and relative lack of fragmentation by roads, settlements and other urban features 2. Rich heritage of natural and archaeological features. 3. Distinctive visual qualities including grandeur of scale 4. The several reservoirs set within the steep sided valleys 5. Unobstructed, long distance views. 6. The unbroken horizontal element of the Lammermuir skyline
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vulnerability of the heather moorland and other semi-natural vegetation communities to changes in management. 2. Visual intrusion of pylon line and wind turbines.

	<p>3. Visual intrusion of hillside access tracks especially on visible and north facing hillslopes</p>
<p>Management guidelines</p>	<p>A. Conserve openness and remote character 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 features which break up the open moorland</p> <p>B. Retain the open landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form</p> <p>C. Retain the character of minor roads including by avoiding boundaries along roads and tracks. Careful consideration should be given to the design and location of signage.</p> <p>D. Avoid development that would increase the apparent scale of large scale industrial elements (reservoir walls, pylon lines) for example by providing scale comparison</p> <p>E. Preserve key views in particular from roads and summits</p> <p>F. Maintain the skyline as a feature in particular as viewed from the plain below</p> <p>G. Maintain Upland Heath and Bog: avoid loss of heather landscape cover, in particular to improved pasture and protect /conserve important peatland vegetation communities</p> <p>H. Woodland should be retained and enhanced in appropriate locations. Encourage limited expansion of woodland cover through shelterbelts and small woodland particularly in cleughs and valleys and around farmsteads and other building groups. Promote management of mature broadleaved tree groups and small plantations.</p> <p>I. Diversity of species in new woodland planting should be increased. 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.</p> <p>J. Take opportunities to enhance / ameliorate impact of existing coniferous plantations at restructuring stage</p> <p>K. Safeguard landscape setting of archaeological features such as cairns and stone circles</p> <p>L. Preservation against further hill tracks on visually-sensitive slopes. Tracks should follow SNH guidance “Constructed Tracks in the Scottish Uplands”³, including consideration of whether the track is necessary at all.</p> <p>M. Protect visually-sensitive areas from potential threat of windfarm development</p> <p>N. Residential development where justified should be small scale and respect the location and design pattern of existing housing, kept off moorland plateaus and hill tops to limit wider visibility.</p> <p>O. Improve existing core paths and rights of ways for walkers, both in grade of material used and provision of bridges</p>

³ Available on SNH’s website at <http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/heritagemanagement/constructedtracks.pdf>



Wilder land quality derived from high degree of perceived naturalness of land cover, and relative lack of fragmentation by roads, settlements and other urban features. Wind turbines can be seen but do not dominate the landscape



Managed heather moorland creating a patchwork effect on the hillside with rough vegetation in the foreground



Roads and post and wire boundary fences to not significantly detract from the wilder moorland character of the area



Enclosed valley limiting views within plateau



Intrusive pylon line runs across the moorland

Typical landscape of heather moorland interspersed with grouse butts. These have little visual impact when access tracks are screened



Uplands - Lammermuir Plateau with windfarm

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	The Lammermuir Hills form a lower bowl area known as Dunbar Common to the eastern end which has enabled the development of windfarm with minimal visual impact on the wider landscape of East Lothian. The surrounding hills interweave to form a gently undulating upland plateau enclosing the bowl. The hills form a ridge along the Monynut Edge to the east of the area. The eastern hill slopes are dissected by a number of narrow incised gullies (cleughs and deans) formed by minor burns.
Vegetation and land cover	Heather moorland and rough pastures form the predominant vegetation cover of this character area. Field boundary features are uncommon although post and wire fences line several of the roads and access tracks and separate grazing areas. The plantation woodland at Dunbar Common has been removed to make way for windfarm development, mainly leaving brash in place. The area has recolonised with rough grassland with natural regeneration of heather moorland underway in places. Tree planting of native trees has been carried out along watercourses but is not yet fully established.
Access	Sizeable networks of access tracks have been constructed to serve the windfarms and these are locally prominent. Existing roads are single track and of a rural character. There are several rights of way and core path routes through the area.
Built features	The area is still sparsely habited, generally around the valley bottoms.
Infrastructure and industry	The major pylon line still remains highly visible across the centre of the area however the visual impact of this is reduced by the sheer number and scale of wind turbines within this character area.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The closely knit hill landforms generally coalesce to form an enclosed bowl around the character area with the exception of the eastern margin where the turbines' visibility is increased due to their prominence on edge ridges and hill tops. Naturalness is detracted by manmade elements including the dominant wind turbines. However the size and scale of the turbines fits well within this large scale landscape creating a juxtaposition of wild and manmade elements that combine to form a new landscape. Panoramic views across the hill fringes and coastal plain to the Firth of Forth to the north and the North Sea to the east can be obtained at the northern fringes of the area. The sensitive siting of the turbines in these views creates a contrast of colour to the natural vegetation that adds to the setting and scenic quality of the views.
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distinctive visual qualities including grandeur of scale 2. Unobstructed, long distance views. 3. Distinctive landscape feature of the Monynut Edge. 4. The dramatic landscape form of the steep sided cleughs and deans.

<p>Negative Attributes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vulnerability of the heather moorland and other semi-natural vegetation communities to changes in management. 2. Visual intrusion of pylon line, wind turbines, electricity infrastructure and associated access tracks.
<p>Management Guidelines</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Woodland should be retained and enhanced in appropriate locations. Encourage limited expansion of woodland cover through shelterbelts and small woodland particularly in cleughs and valleys and building groups. Woodland should be managed 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. B. Safeguard landscape setting of archaeological features such as cairns and stone circles C. Retain the character of minor roads D. Preservation against further hill tracks on visually-sensitive slopes E. Protect / conserve important peatland vegetation communities F. Protect visually-sensitive areas from potential threat of windfarm development G. Extension of windfarms to accord with capacity study and fit within landform H. Improve existing core paths and rights of ways for walkers, both in grade of material used and provision of bridges



Wind turbines dominate the landscape creating an upland plateau with windfarm. The size and scale of the turbines fit well within this large scale landscape



Wind farm development at Crystal Rig and Aikengall alters views of the landscape and reduces wildness perception. With the enclosure of the surrounding forestry plantation the turbines begin to dominate the view

Fine open views out to the North Sea from the edges of the area. The sensitive siting of the turbines in these views creates a contrast of colour to the natural vegetation that adds to the setting and picturesqueness of the views.



Uplands – Plateau Grassland

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	Large scale rolling plateau topography with gentle slopes and smooth relief. The large scale landform has subtle variations in relief caused by narrow shallow gullies eroded by minor burns.
Vegetation and land cover	Grassy hill-slopes with bands of coniferous shelter belts and small scale plantation, with less common patches of scrub along stream courses remain. Vegetation cover dominated by coarse grassland with localised patches of heather moorland, rush pasture and scattered small coniferous plantations and shelter belts.
Access	The main A68 road bounds the western edge of the area. Farm tracks exist across the area. There is little other access. Consented windfarm development could lead to the formation of new access tracks through this area.
Built features	There is little or no built development.
Infrastructure and industry	Windfarm development has been consented in the area, as in the adjacent Plateau Grassland to the south.
Aesthetic qualities and views	Extensive views from the higher ground are focused strongly northwards across the agricultural and coastal plains towards the coast.
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relative absence of visual detractors and detractors from tranquility: <i>the southern section has consented windfarm development, as well as existing windfarm development in SBC area adjacent.</i> 2. Distinctive and abundant shelterbelts: <i>still exist at present but most will be lost due to consented windfarm development.</i> 3. Extensive and unobstructed views
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visual intrusion from the A68, pylon line and some harsh edges to coniferous plantation. 2. Vulnerability of the heather moorland to change in management regime.
Management Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Woodland should be retained and enhanced in appropriate locations. Encourage improvement of shapes of woodland plantations and shelterbelts. B. Diversity of species in new woodland planting should be increased. Existing woodland should be managed 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. C. Resist loss of any remaining areas of heather moorland D. Increase diversity of field boundaries; promote hedge reinstatement

	E. Extension of windfarms to accord with capacity study and fit within landform
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Grassy rolling plateau with coniferous shelter belts

Uplands – Whiteadder Upland Valley with Farmland

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	Broad flat valley floor with distinct floodplain and meandering river channel (dammed to form a large reservoir in this instance) with evenly sloping valley sides.
Vegetation and land cover	Land cover of improved pasture with medium to large sized fields giving way to unimproved grassland approaching the plateau edge. Poorly drained soils may carry rush pastures or wet flush vegetation. Hedgerows, hedgerow trees, clumps of mature deciduous trees, small coniferous and broad-leaved shelterbelts and plantations are all locally prominent particularly close to farmsteads and the reservoir margins.
Access	The B6355 crosses through the area from north to south and is the main route across the Lammermuirs from Gifford to Duns. Minor roads access farmsteads. Several rights of way and core path routes cross the area. Parking is available beside the reservoir with opportunities for picnicking and sailing.
Built features	The area is still sparsely habited, with scattered farmsteads along the valley floor and the lower side slopes.
Infrastructure and industry	There is little infrastructure other than that associated with the reservoir.
Aesthetic qualities and views	Views along the valley are long and open, contained by the lower valley sides and the surrounding upland plateau.
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The largest reservoir in East Lothian. 2. Strong topographic and geological identity. 3. Distinct land cover pattern with well-defined field boundary network of hedgerows and shelterbelts. 4. Rich in archaeological remains
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visual intrusion of pylon line and risk of future visual intrusion from windfarm developments. 2. Single species coniferous plantations and shelter belts.
Management Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Encourage limited expansion of woodland cover through shelterbelts and small woodland particularly in cleughs and valleys and around farmsteads and other building groups. Woodland should be managed 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 B. Take opportunities to enhance / ameliorate impact of existing coniferous plantations at restructuring stage

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">C. Safeguard landscape setting of archaeological features such as cairns and stone circlesD. Retain character of minor roadsE. Restore and maintain traditional hedge and stone wall field boundariesF. Preservation against further hill tracks on visually-sensitive slopesG. Protect visually-sensitive areas from potential threat of windfarm developmentH. Improve access to hills, for example by the provision of small scale, well screened parking facilitiesI. Improve existing core paths and rights of ways for walkers, both in grade of material used and provision of bridges |
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The Whiteadder reservoir surrounded by pastureland enclosed within the rising peaks of Priestlaw and Penshiel Hills viewed from Spartleton



Sailing recreation in this scenic setting



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



Upland Fringes – Western Lammermuir Fringe

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	Extensive sweep of hill slopes forming an east-west band stretching along the northern margin of the Lammermuir Hills. Smoothly undulating landform, intersected by numerous water courses forming enclosed V-shaped valley. Merging from upland to lowland the transitional character can be seen in the changing landform.
Vegetation and land cover	The unimproved pasture of good rough grassland with stonewall and fence boundaries of the higher ground bordering the Lammermuirs merges with large expanses of arable fields with clipped mixed hedgerow boundaries on the lower ground. There are many established coniferous and mixed shelterbelts throughout the farmland, management of these is ongoing.
Access	Many small roads wind through the slopes.
Built features	The area is habited by large farmsteads and estate houses, isolated dwellings, clusters of stone cottages and terraces of farm workers buildings. There are many signs of ancient settlement in the form of forts which cap higher ground.
Infrastructure and industry	One line of pylons runs northwards through the hill slopes generally well absorbed by the rolling landform and shelterbelts. The sand and gravel quarry at Longyester in the east of the area has expanded since the original study.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The area has a transitional character merging from lowland to up lands visible through the changing landform and land cover. Views out are generally focused north towards and over the lowlands to the coast, however the combination of numerous wooded areas and undulations in landform often create more intimate and enclosed depressions.
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Well maintained hedgerow network on lower ground. 2. Stone dyke boundaries on hill grounds - these exist but there are also a number of stone wall boundaries along road boundaries in the lower areas. These are in mixed condition. 3. Characteristic fluvioglacial features still exist in places although some have been removed through sand and gravel extraction. Permission is granted for further extraction at High Latch. 4. Open visual character with fine northward views.
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harsh edges and inappropriate scale and shape of small shelterbelts - This does not appear to detract from the character of the area. Ongoing management means these constantly change over time and there appears to be some improvement in structure and species mix. 2. Threat of further sand and gravel extraction is an ongoing issue.
Management Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Conserve characteristic features reflecting transition from open upland to enclosed lowland landscape

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> B. Conserve and enhance well-developed and maintained beech and thorn hedgerow network on the arable land. Encourage replacement of moribund and lost sections of hedgerows C. Promote reinforcement of stone dyke boundary features on hill ground D. Enhance existing pattern of shelterbelt and field boundary woodland and integrate farm buildings through sensitively designed farm woodland expansion E. Diversity of species in new woodland planting should be increased. Existing woodland should be managed 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 F. Respect the importance of small-scale topographic diversity provided by glacial features such as kame terraces, and melt-water channels in considering future sand and gravel extraction G. Reinforce visual and ecological contrasts between open hill slopes and steep valley sides H. Take opportunities to enhance / ameliorate impact of existing coniferous plantations at restructuring stage I. Retain overall open visual character focusing northwards towards the plain and the Forth J. Preservation against further hill tracks on visually-sensitive slopes K. Retain the character of minor roads L. Seek to support traditional estate management practices to safeguard woodland enclosure features and important boundary walls M. Promote replacement of traditional oak and ash field boundary tree lines. Consider alternative species to ash due to effects of Ash Dieback
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Large expanses of arable fields with clipped hedgerows on lower ground characterised by rolling landform of glacial deposits

Melt water channel and Witches Knowe Fort above Kidlaw with improved grassland and water bodies



Historic landscape and rough pasture



Long Newton set against the hill slope of Lammer Law



Improved grassland and native woodland of Aikeyside wood set within a steep cleugh and providing a less intrusive route for the pylon line at Stobshiel



Upland Fringes – Eastern Lammermuir Fringe

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	The strongly moulded landform is composed of an intricately interwoven series of smooth, rounded low hills and slopes, dissected by an abundance of streams. The watercourses pass through deeply incised steep-sided valleys ('cleughs' and 'deans'), their winding routes often edges by craggy rock outcrops and exposed slopes. There are several small lochs, ponds and reservoirs scattered within the area often hidden within depressions.
Vegetation and land cover	Large scale fields of improved pasture and some good rough grassland changes to arable ground as the hill slopes merge with the coastal plain. Field boundaries consist of stone walls and post and wire fences, interspersed with occasional hedgerows. Hedgerow trees of beech, oak, ash and sycamore are widely scattered throughout the lower arable slopes. Steep valley sides are uncultivated and clothed by deciduous woodland or areas of gorse, bracken and scrub. Extensive stretches of ancient sessile oak woodland occur along several cleughs including Deuchrie and Rammer Woods, and Woodhall and the Lammermuir Deans. Medium scale coniferous plantations, shelterbelts, tree clumps and areas of mixed woodland are evident across the hill slopes and close to farm buildings.
Access	Numerous minor roads follow winding courses through the area crossing the numerous water courses with small stone bridges and fording points. Although in places the roads have had to be straightened and widened or new stretches added to enable access to the wind farms on the plateau.
Built features	A scattering of traditional farmsteads often dwarfed by large modern sheds or barns exist. The listed buildings of Spott House and its associated dovecote, stable and lodges lie on the north edge and the conservation estate village of Spott to the north of this. All constructed in local deep pink sandstone.
Infrastructure and industry	Two highly visible pylon lines extend east to west across the hill slopes. Two wind turbines at Ferneylea and one at Woodhall Farm intrude on this area inappropriately creating the impression that the large scale windfarm is creeping off the plateau and closer to the lowland.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The large scale, open landscape affords extensive views towards the coast from the smooth domed hill tops. The landform has a strongly rhythmic pattern of predominantly open topped hills split by steep wooded valleys. The flowing form of the higher ground, emphasised by curving roads, walls, hedgerows and woodland, contrasts strongly with the heavily textured angular outlines of the stream valleys.
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sharp contrast in landform between smooth upland slopes and steep sided deans. 2. Close affinity with North Sea coast, including fine open views. 3. Significant areas of ancient oak woodland.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Distinctive character of dense rural road network, including local features such as fords and bridges.
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visual intrusion from new farm buildings - this is limited in number and due to the landform visibility of new buildings is limited. However it was noted that some traditional farm steading buildings are falling into disrepair – no longer being used as farm buildings and yet to be developed into housing. 2. Threat to distinctive character of dense rural road network, including local features such as fords and bridges where access for windfarm development in the Lammermuirs has led to the widening and straightening of roads. 3. Inappropriate wind turbine development visually linking the fringe character area to the plateau. 4. Threat of further inappropriate wind turbine development.
Management Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Retain distinctive strong local relationships between land cover and topography, emphasising the transition from upland to coastal plain B. Reinforce visual and ecological contrasts between open hill slopes and steep valley sides C. Respect the importance of small-scale topographic diversity provided by glacial features such as kame terraces, and melt-water channels in considering future sand and gravel extraction D. Take opportunities to enhance / ameliorate impact of existing coniferous plantations at restructuring stage E. Encourage appropriate management of ancient oak woodland F. Encourage further woodland expansion within deans and cleughs, including fencing to promote natural regeneration G. Diversity of species in new woodland planting should be increased. Existing woodland should be managed 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. H. Promote improved integration of visually sensitive farm building expansion through farm woodland planting I. Retain rural character of dense minor road network, including characteristic features such as fords and small bridges J. Restore and maintain traditional hedge and stone wall field boundaries K. Preservation against further hill tracks on visually-sensitive slopes



Oldhamstocks set within rolling hills and steep sided wooded valley



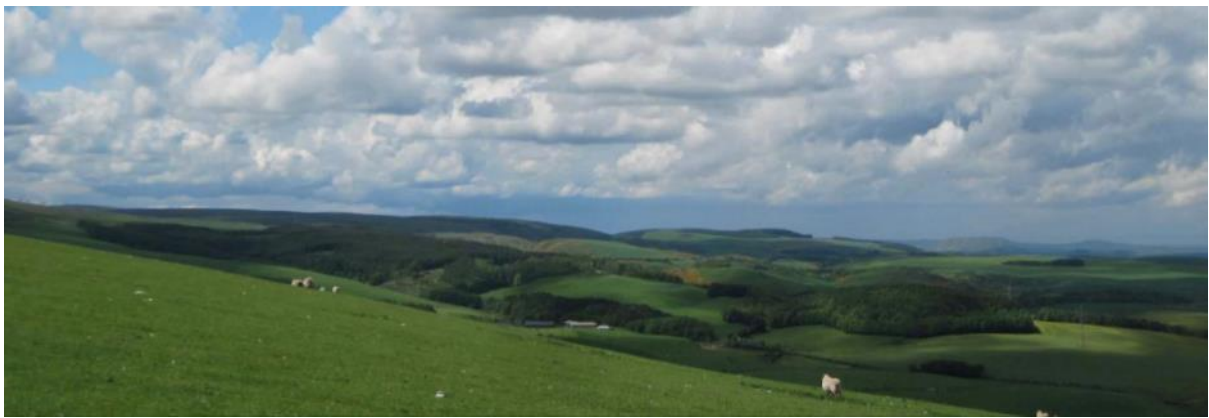
Woodhall turbine showing inappropriate location and scale creating visual links to upland wind farm



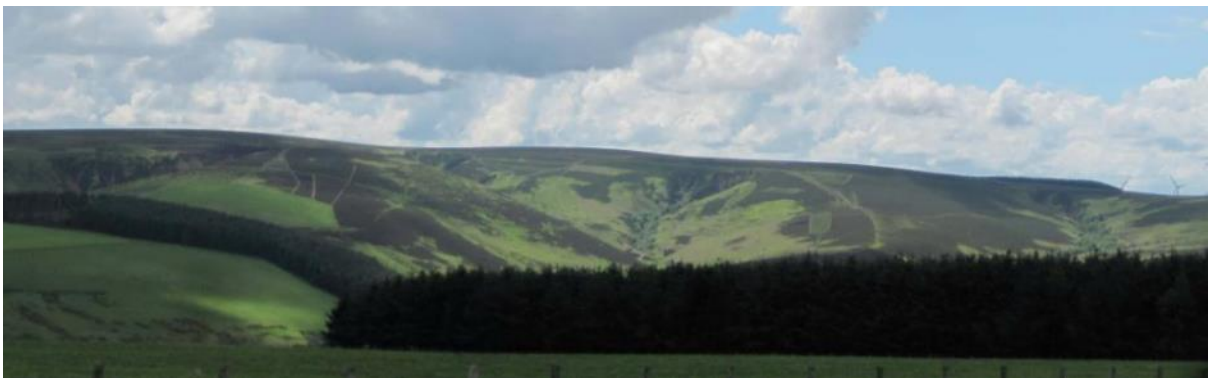
Deeply sided cleugh of Sheeppath Glen above Aikengall. Part of the Lamermuir Deans SSSI. Fine open views out to the North Sea



White Castle Fort set at above a deep sided burn and looking down on the Eastern Lammermuir Fringe to Garvald with fine open views to the coast



View westwards from Blackcastle Hill clearly showing the sharp contrast between the smooth uplands and the steep sided deans and the wooded nature of the area. The pylon line is visible to the right of the photograph and large modern farm sheds in the centre



View up the ancient wooded slopes of Ling Hope and Wide Hope to the plateau above with coniferous plantation in the foreground

Lowland River Valleys – Whittingehame Water

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	A progression of strongly-defined, interweaving slopes encloses the small twisting river, which lies within a predominantly narrow valley occasionally opening out into areas of flatter ground. The river and its numerous tributaries have cleft deeply into the underlying red sandstone, often exposing slopes of conspicuous, rich rusty earth.
Vegetation and land cover	The valley is rich in mixed and broadleaved estate woodlands, which extend across the slopes and merge with sweeps of riparian deciduous planting fringing the river and its tributaries. Adjoining the woodland of the valley floor and curving up the rising slopes, shelterbelts of mature mixed woodland and broken lines of dark Scots pine define field and farm boundaries. Across the more gentle slopes, low thorn hedges and post and wire fences subdivide the extensive arable land cover. On steeper ground or along the damper valley floor there are small areas of improved grassland. Scattered hedgerow trees and occasional lines of mature oak or ash roadside trees occur throughout the farmland.
Access	Minor roads twisting along valley slopes
Built features	The common use of local pink red sandstone for buildings provides a sense of architectural congruity through the area. The villages of Garvald and Stenton, dating mainly from the 18 th and 19 th centuries, consist of one and two storey sandstone houses with pantile roofs centred on well-defined village greens and parish churches. They are both within Conservation Areas which has ensured that modern development has been carefully integrated into the villages. Signs of settlement dating from medieval times and including several 15 th and 16 th century tower houses are common along the minor roads. Estate landscapes are also present including the designed landscape of Whittingehame and its associated listed buildings.
Infrastructure and industry	Ruchlaw Mains farm to the north of Stenton has several large modern agricultural buildings and permission granted for a further large anaerobic digester structure. However due to the enclosing nature of the landform within the river valley and narrow roads sided by dense hedging and trees there is very limited visibility of them. A 47m high wind turbine has also been erected to the northeast of Ruchlaw. This has far more visibility within the local area and from Stenton to the south. However again due to the enclosing landform of the area it has limited visibility in longer range views. In general there is little large infrastructure within the area and that which exists where possible is well screened and does not detract from the character of the area.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The strong topographical enclosure and plentiful woodland of the valley create a secluded sheltered landscape. The intimate surroundings of the valley floor are replaced along the open valley slopes by views of the surrounding coast and hills and the nearby local landmark of Traprain Law.

Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strong topographic definition, enclosed valley floor, within wider context. 2. Red soils reflecting sandstone bedrock. 3. High proportion of woodland cover – mixed and broadleaved dominant. 4. Oak and ash hedgerow trees, tree lines. 5. Estate and designed landscapes.
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deterioration of field boundaries, estate boundary walls.
Management Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Safeguard distinctive architectural character of villages and scattered buildings including the close link with local red sandstone geology B. Seek to retain and enhance characteristic high proportion of mixed and broadleaved woodland through management and replacement planting. Woodland should be managed 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. C. Protect intimate scale of valley bottom landscape and of villages in any future development proposals D. Seek to support traditional estate management practices to safeguard woodland enclosure features and important boundary walls E. Promote replacement of traditional oak and ash field boundary tree lines F. Retain rural character of minor roads G. Restore and maintain traditional hedge and stone wall field boundaries



Red sandstone buildings of Garvald



Natural valley form through the Biel



Formal section of the valley through the Biel



Woods and river at Whittingehame

Lowland River Valleys – Gifford Water

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	The river winds its way north-westwards along a shallow-sided valley which occasionally opens into narrow areas of more level ground. Enclosed by higher expanses of undulating farmland. Fed by several minor stream courses which etch into the smooth slopes.
Vegetation and land cover	The valley is covered by extensive swathes of woodland, much of which is associated with riverside estate policies. Thick fringes of mixed tree planting follow the line of the river and adjoining streams, blending with mature estate policy woodlands and carefully-scaled coniferous and mixed plantations across higher valley slopes. Ongoing woodland management has led to tree felling and thinning of plantations in some areas, opening out wooded areas in places. The large arable fields of the surrounding land are bounded by mixed hedgerow planting with abundant hedgerow trees and numerous shelterbelts.
Access	There is good access by numerous roads and footpaths throughout the area. Core paths have further improved pedestrian and cycle access along the river valley.
Built features	The only large settlement is Gifford notable for its broad main street edged by one and two storey sandstone buildings focused on the large white village church. The designed landscape of Yester House lies to the south of with its high estate walls, grand red sandstone gateposts and lodge.
Infrastructure and industry	Gifford golf course lies within the higher flatter areas of the valley to the southwest of the area. Little industry and infrastructure exists within the area.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The dominance of mature woodland throughout this landscape surrounds and obscures settlements, emphasising the secluded and small scale character of the valley. Views outwards become possible from higher surrounding land.
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Estate woodlands, riparian woodlands, shelterbelts 2. Designed landscapes 3. Good scale and balance of coniferous / mixed woodland on higher enclosing slopes 4. Well maintained hedgerow network, abundant hedgerow trees 5. Small enclosed visual character 6. Well integrated settlement
Negative Attributes	
Management Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Retain small-scale secluded visual character derived from well-planned mature woodland framework B. Seek to safeguard future management of important broadleaf woodland elements – estate policies, riparian fringes, shelterbelts

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C. Diversity of species in new woodland planting should be increased. Existing woodland should be managed 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. D. Restore local deterioration in well-maintained hedgerow framework E. Reinforce well designed balance of coniferous and mixed woodland with open ground on higher slopes F. Ensure new development does not compromise the existing character of villages and the surrounding countryside |
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Gifford in its thickly tree covered valley



Parkland at Colstoun typical of the surrounding area of the Gifford Water



Tree lined Colstoun Water at Lennoxlove

Bolton with its church sitting in a fold of the river valley



Lowland River Valleys – Humbie Water

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	The river forms a generally shallow, basin-shaped valley following a sinuous, meandering northwards route from the western fringe of the Lammermuir plateau. Strongly moulded convex hill-slopes enclose the head of the valley becoming flattened and subdued in form further north towards the confluence with the river Tyne. The interlocking and undulating spurs of land are emphasised by smaller stream tributaries forming incisions in the slopes.
Vegetation and land cover	Semi-natural mixed woodland and occasional slopes of bramble, gorse and thorn scrub generally fringe and conceal the watercourse, opening out into farmland across the upper valley slopes. Fields of mainly arable land are intermingled with good pasture land along the more hummocky land to the south. Neat hedgerows of hawthorn and beech, often with many oak and ash trees, or post and wire fences separate the fields. The large coniferous plantation of Saltoun Forest sits conspicuously on the eastern slopes of the valley above the Birns Water. The policy woodlands and parks of Saltoun Hall fringe the northern boundary of the area.
Access	The valley is relatively free from transport routes. The B6368 crosses the southern edge of the area and runs through Humbie. Minor roads connect the scattering of farmsteads and minor settlements. The disused railway line from Pencaitland to Gifford is used as a core access path through the area and walks exist through Saltoun Forest and along the banks of the Humbie Water.
Built features	The river valley has no major settlement. The village of Humbie lies to its southwest and West Saltoun within the northern end. Both of which are small tree-edged hamlets of sandstone and harled houses and cottages. The estates of Johnstounburn, Keith Marischal and Saltoun Hall and their associated listed buildings exist within the area together with Humbie Church and the distinctive 1930s buildings of the Humbie Children’s village.
Infrastructure and industry	A single pylon line cuts across the centre of the valley from northwest to southeast. There is little other industry or infrastructure.
Aesthetic qualities and views	Views are restricted within the valley due to the interknitted swelling forms of the valley sides. More extensive views of the wider landscape of nearby hills and coastal plains can be gained from the valley crests.
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tranquil character relatively free from fragmentation by development. 2. Well-managed farmland. 3. High proportion of mature woodland cover including a mix of broadleaves and larger coniferous blocks. 4. Hedgerow network with abundant mature oak and ash.
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Some hedgerow replacement and management required. 2. Lack of footpaths and cycleways through area and along river 3. Large areas of coniferous plantations

	4. High voltage pylon line
Management Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Seek to preserve the area's primary distinguishing feature of a relative lack of fragmentation by roads or development B. Safeguard continued management of extensive mature woodland cover and increase species diversity of woodland in understorey planting C. Diversity of species in new woodland planting should be increased. Existing woodland should be managed 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. D. Ensure new development does not compromise the existing character of villages and the surrounding countryside E. Improve recreational access along the rivers F. Retain rural character of minor roads G. Restore and maintain traditional hedge and stone wall field boundaries H. Improve core paths and cycle paths through the area



The Johnstounburn section of the Humber Water valley typical in character to the rest of the Humber Water valley with a wide U shaped wooded valley

Heather and pine trees within Saltoun Big Wood



Lowland River Valleys – River Esk

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	The rivers of the North and South Esk merged to form a single river the River Esk at the western boundary of East Lothian. The river follows an extremely confined steep-sided valley, in places bordered by sheer bluffs of exposed rock. The land rises either side to enclosing slopes of smooth undulating ground.
Vegetation and land cover	The steep valley sides are heavily wooded by extensive swathes of mixed and deciduous planting including oak, ash, beech, elm and sycamore. The surrounding farmland is mainly arable. Dalkeith House designed landscape covers the southern half of this area with its policy woodlands forming a dominant feature. Musselburgh Golf Course is located to the north half of the area on the lower lying floodplain of the area.
Access	The major routes of the A720 Edinburgh City Bypass, A1 trunk road, new extension to the A68 and the east coast rail line cut through this landscape character area detracting from its peaceful enclosed nature. Given the incised nature of the valley the only access following the route of the river is the walkway/cycleway from Whitecraig to Musselburgh.
Built features	The large settlement of Musselburgh lies to the north of the area and parts of the historic settlement of Inveresk skirt the eastern edges of the area. The distinctive high stone boundary walls of the Dalkeith Estate form a dominant feature along the road and river walkway to the eastern boundary of the area. The historic buildings of Inveresk Mills are located at the northern end of the area. These have been restored to retain their historic character with new use.
Infrastructure and industry	Several lines of pylons cut across the south-western edge of the area together with their associated substation in the south. Read together with the new road structures in this location the southern corner of the character area has a built-up industrialised feel. The industrial estate to the north of the area is low-rise and small-scale and sympathetic to its river valley location.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The proximity of the city is evident within this character area where farmland is interrupted by roads, rail line and pylon lines. The dense woodland along the valley slopes is a strong factor in integrating settlement and industry. The variety of settlement and industry, combined with the heavily wooded farmland creates a landscape of well-tended and long inhabited character. Views are enclosed within the valley bottom due to its steep sided wooded nature. Views outwards become possible from the more open surrounding land.
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strong topographic definition of valley bottom, with broader enclosing shoulders of undulating ground. 2. Dense woodland cover on steep valley slopes, including ancient semi-natural woodland. 3. Good integration of settlement and industry within woodland and topography.

	4. Mature estates landscapes – well maintained hedgerows, tree lines, shelterbelts.
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urban expansion pressures from Edinburgh core. 2. New industrial expansion including regeneration and renewal of coal mining areas. 3. Cumulative impact of urban fringe development on northern margin of area.
Management Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Conserve existing highly evolved and delicately balanced mix between natural landscape features and industrial and urban development B. Reinforce and extend woodland framework as setting for new development and to improve integration of the cumulative impact of recent urban expansion C. Diversity of species in any new woodland planting should be increased. Existing woodland should be managed 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. D. Address the safeguarding of important landscape features currently dependent on estate management practice including woodlands and stone boundary walls E. Seek improvements to recreational access along the River Esk F. Seek to reduce areas of invasive species in particular giant hogweed G. Restore and maintain traditional hedge and stone wall field boundaries



Steep sided wooded valley with estate boundary walls and steep banks enclose walkway



The River Esk in its steep sided wooded banks



The Haugh Park set on the River Esk floodplain within Musselburgh with the Inveresk Mills behind



A1 trunk road crossing and interrupting the valley, but enabling good views into the area

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



Lowland Hills and Ridges – Tranent Ridge

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	This ridgeline forms the watershed between the valleys of the River Esk and the Tyne Water. A plateau like upper surface is bounded by smooth, steeply rolling side slopes which shelve down to river valleys. The north-western side is markedly steeper than the southeast. The western end of the area has been recently re-contoured with the restoration of the Smeaton Bing to form a landfill site.
Vegetation and land cover	An agricultural landscape of large arable fields divided by fences and low hedgerows occasionally dotted with mature oak, ash, sycamore and beech trees. Small farm woodlands are common and distinctive features throughout this predominantly open landscape, curving along the hill slopes and enclosing farmsteads and villages. The policy woodlands of the Carberry Tower designed landscape are particularly prominent from many viewpoints within Edinburgh and the eastern coastal plain. A noticeable feature of former opencast mining is the altered field pattern and scarcity of mature trees.
Access	The B6414 follows the southern edge of plateau from Tranent to Elphinstone and east to Carberry. A minor road follows the northern boundary of the plateau from Tranent up to Fa'side. A network of paths crisscrosses the area providing good pedestrian access.
Built features	The north end of the ridge contains the historic ex-mining settlement of Tranent, with the smaller ex-mining settlement of Elphinstone to its south. The rebuilt castle at Fa'side is a prominent feature at the top of the ridge.
Infrastructure and industry	A double line of pylon lines extends up the ridge at Tranent and runs along the ridge to the southwest, forming a strong detracting element in this open landscape.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The elevated slopes afford extensive and dramatic views across both the coast and Edinburgh to the north and Tyne valley to the south.
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Offers long range views over Edinburgh and the wider urban settlement and coast to the north 2. Forms a prominent ridge to the south of the coastal plain
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High visual sensitivity, forming immediate visual horizon in many views south from Edinburgh. 2. Although the majority of mine workings and quarries within this area of East Lothian have been returned to agricultural land Smeaton Bing has recently been re-contoured into an unnatural formal shape. 3. Both electricity and telecommunication infrastructure adversely impact on this landscape

<p>Management Guidelines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Restore integrity of rural character by management, reinstatement and expansion of field boundary network; Promote reintroduction of hedgerows and tree planting. Promote management of field boundary trees and trees aligning roads with replacement planting where they are moribund or gaps have occurred . Consider alternative species to ash due to effects of Ash Dieback B. Restore and maintain traditional hedge and stone wall field boundaries; reduce use of high post and wire fencing as far as possible. Support reduction in use of high fencing to remove feeling of enclosure and improve views particularly at Fa’side viewpoint. C. Maintain and continue to improve recreational routes through the area D. Avoid harm to the open, rural nature of the ridge recognising its importance as a rural backdrop to settlements to the north and Ormiston to the south E. Retain character of minor roads F. Woodland management of Carberry G. Diversity of species in new woodland planting should be increased. Existing woodland should be managed 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. H. Renew interpretation boards
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Rolling rural arable landscape and wooded Carberry designed landscape



Designed Landscape in the distance as well as broken hedge lines, walls in need of repair and vandalised viewpoint



Tranent Ridge rising to the south of the Musselburgh / Prestonpans coastal plain

Lowland Hills and Ridges – Garleton Hills

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	Rising to 186m the Garleton Hills form a compact group on the boundary between the lower Tyne valley and the coastal plain. They form the highest area of a broad band of volcanic rocks aligned east-north-east. Steeper on the western and northern sides with well defined north facing crags.
Vegetation and land cover	Hill slopes of good rough grassland with gorse scrub on the steepest ground. Scattered areas of deciduous woodland on north facing slopes and below the Hopetoun monument. Kilduff Hill to the north is covered in extensive unbroken mixed woodland.
Access	Two roads cross the hills in a north to south direction – the A6137 Aberlady road to the west and a minor road from the east of Haddington to Drem across the main ridge. The B1343 runs east to west along the valley between the main outcrop of the Garletons and Kilduff Hill. A track follows the ridge line past Barnes Castle (The Vaults) and Barney Mains to the top of the hills to access the telecommunications masts and encourage public access.
Built features	The village of Athelstaneford lies to the eastern edge of the area on lower ground. Several large farmsteads are sited on the lower ground including Kilduff House, Barney Mains and Alderston Mains to the west. There are the remains of two major hill forts and the more modern structure of the Hopetoun Monument. Recent farm buildings at West Garleton Holdings form large, modern, intrusive structures.
Infrastructure and industry	There are three highly visible telecommunication masts positioned on the top of Barney Hill and a wind turbine at Alderston Mains to the west of the area is particularly prominent in long range views.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The Garleton Hills represent a distinct visual unit interrupting the East Lothian plains and are on a larger scale than the similar more isolated volcanic landforms of Traprain Law and North Berwick Law. Their rugged form, steep slopes and characteristic land cover provide additional diversity to the predominantly pastoral character of the surrounding area. The Hopetoun monument is an important visual reference point in many views from the Haddington and North Berwick plains and from further west as far as Hopetoun House, to the west of Edinburgh, itself.
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distinctive topography culminating in prominent landmark 2. Diverse land cover 3. Marked contrast in landform and land cover with surrounding lowland plain 4. Archaeological remains
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High visual sensitivity 2. Visual impact of former quarrying activity difficult to integrate

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Communication masts and wind turbine compete visually with the Hopetoun monument 4. Threat of further development eroding integrity and identity of the area
Management Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Preserve distinctive visual contrasts with adjoining landscapes B. Protect from encroachment of built development C. Control further quarrying activity to protect visually sensitive areas D. Seek to secure long-term management of existing woodland E. Diversity of species in new woodland planting should be increased. Existing woodland should be managed 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. F. Encourage further diversification of semi-natural habitats on non-productive land G. Retain character of minor roads H. Restore and maintain traditional hedge and stone wall field boundaries I. Maintain and improve walking / cycling access through the area



The Hopetoun monument on Byres Hill



Athelstaneford in its elevated ridge position read with the Garleton Hills



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



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

Lowland Plains – Lower Tyne Valley Plain

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
<p>Physical Features</p> <p>Geology, topography and drainage</p>	<p>This agricultural plain lies in the heartland of East Lothian. It undulates gently in a series of east-west aligned ridges, rising gradually towards the fringes of the Lammermuir Hills. Rocky outcrops interrupt the plain. The Garleton Hills together with Pencraig ridge form the northern boundary of the area and create a section of incised river valley along the River Tyne at the eastern end. The significant volcanic mass of Traprain Law sits within the centre of this area interrupting the plain. To its south another ridge with rocky outcrops rises to the hill tops of Lawhead Hill and Whitelaw Hill before rolling down into the Whittinghame River Valley.</p>
<p>Vegetation and land cover</p>	<p>Broken clipped hedgerows, scattered hedgerow trees, numerous post and wire fences and occasional stone walls divide the land cover of large arable fields. An abundance of mixed small-scale shelterbelts throughout the farmland strengthen the chequerboard field pattern. Across the craggy areas of higher ground, stretches of pasture are textured by scrub and isolated trees. There are several designed landscapes with their associated policy woodlands within the area mainly set along the Tyne valley including Lennoxlove and Stevenson at Haddington.</p>
<p>Access</p>	<p>The main A1 trunk road also follows an east-west direction along the Tyne valley through the area. The remainder of the area is accessed by a network of minor roads and tracks. A walkway follows the banks of the River Tyne and national cycle route 76 follows the minor roads along the valley from Haddington to East Linton.</p>
<p>Built features</p>	<p>The main settlement within the area is Haddington consisting of a largely traditional core surrounded by 20th century housing developments. The area also contains a scattering of farmsteads and small clusters of houses. The area is dotted with historic remains mainly in the form of cropmarks. The most significant remain being Traprain Law a key archaeological site from Neolithic times. The fortified manor of Hailes Castle dating from the late 1200s and located to the south of the River Tyne is believed to be the oldest stone castle in Scotland.</p>
<p>Infrastructure and industry</p>	<p>The area does not contain much large infrastructure or industry. There are a few smaller sized wind turbines within the southeast corner of the area that have been sited to fit with the scale of the landscape. There are also a number of large farm buildings sited carefully within the area and a new horse riding arena is being developed to the east of Traprain Law also in scale with the landscape.</p>
<p>Aesthetic qualities and views</p>	<p>The rough textures and angular forms of the igneous outcrops contrast strongly with the surrounding expanses of low, gently rolling farmland. Views are wide-reaching and can be spectacular from higher ground such as Pencraig Hill, the Balfour Monument and Traprain Law, encompassing coast to the north and hills</p>

	to the south. The views in the lower areas are more enclosed by the rolling valley form and woodland landscape.
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Core of productive arable land 2. Strong field pattern reinforced by abundant shelterbelts 3. Small areas of mixed woodland in particular along the 4. Tyne River valley, Colstoun/Beech Hill and Pencraig, as well as in association with designed landscapes 5. Subtle variations in topography provide varying degrees of visual sensitivity 6. Rich archaeological heritage of buried prehistoric settlement (evident in cropmarks) 7. Extensive outward views from higher ground 8. Rich historical legacy 9. Landmark hill of Traprain
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Localised pressures for sand and gravel extraction 2. Housing expansion pressures throughout the area and particularly around Haddington
Management Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Retain arable character B. Retain character of minor roads C. Restore and maintain traditional hedge and stone wall field boundaries D. Encourage restoration of historic field boundaries and avoid further amalgamation of fields E. Diversity of species in any new woodland planting should be increased. Existing woodland should be managed 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. F. Encourage sympathetic management of notable areas of landscape archaeology such as Traprain Law, which is a key local and regional landscape feature G. Retain and strengthen the appearance of the Tyne river valley as a linear feature H. Maintain the focal point and visual dominance of Traprain Law



Traprain and surrounding agricultural land from the Balfour Monument to the south



The Tyne in the incised valley section between Pencraig and East Linton with Traprain Law to the south

Golden fields of arable crops of the rolling plain contrasting with the sparse shelter belt planting and the mass of Traprain Law



Lowland Plains – Mid Tyne Valley Plain

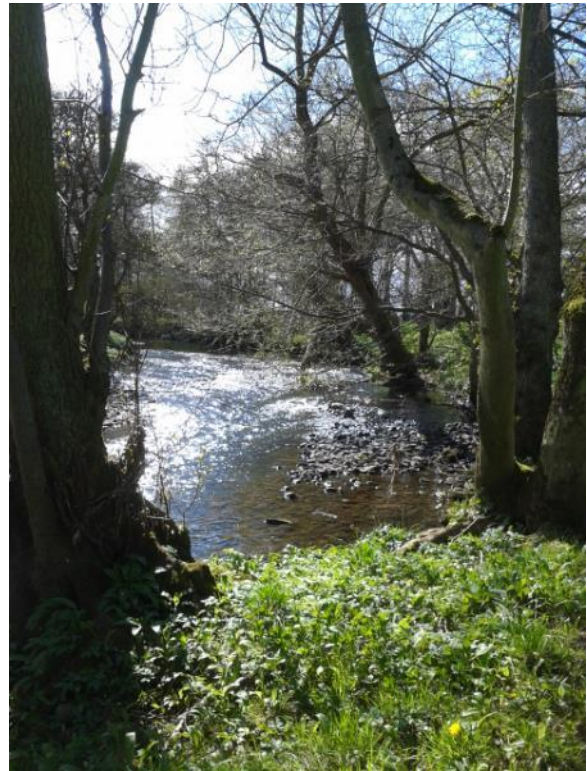
Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	This extensive agricultural plain undulates gently in a series of east-west aligned ridges, rising gradually towards the fringes of the Lammermuir Hills. The River Tyne meanders through the area also in an east-west direction forming a visually insignificant valley.
Vegetation and land cover	Broken clipped hedgerows, scattered hedgerow trees, numerous post and wire fences and occasional stone walls divide the land cover of large arable fields. An abundance of mixed small-scale shelterbelts and woodlands throughout the farmland strengthen the chequerboard field pattern. The large designed landscape of Winton House and its associated policy woodlands lies along the Tyne valley at Pencaitland.
Access	The main routes through the area the A199, A6093 and B6368 also follow an east-west direction across the area. The remainder of the area is accessed by a network of minor roads and tracks with an extensive network of paths and cycle routes following the banks of the River Tyne, access tracks and old railway lines.
Built features	There are several medium and small villages located across the area including Macmerry and the conservation villages of Pencaitland, New Winton, Ormiston, Glenkinchie and East Saltoun. Three of these conservation areas - East Saltoun, Pencaitland and New Winton - extend significantly into the surrounding rural landscape providing a wide setting for the villages. The area also contains a large scattering of farmsteads and small clusters of houses. The area has a small number of historic remains mainly in the form of cropmarks. The Renaissance house of Winton is located in Pencaitland.
Infrastructure and industry	The area does not contain much large infrastructure or industry apart from the large structures of the malting at Pencaitland and Glenkinchie Distillery – an important tourist attraction. There are several pylon lines towards the western edge of the area that are highly visually intrusive. There are old mining remains to the west of Ormiston. The disused railway line between Pencaitland and Ormiston has been turned into a walking / cycling route. There are several generally smaller sized wind turbines dotted across the area that have been sited to fit with the scale of the landscape.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The gently rolling arable landscape enclosed by low ridges to north and south creates a rolling plain of attractive but unremarkable character. Views can be wide-reaching and spectacular from higher ground, encompassing coast to the north and hills to the south. However views in the lower areas are more enclosed by the rolling valley form and woodland landscape and orientated more to the southwest inland towards the head of the Tyne valley.
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Core of productive arable land 2. Strong field pattern reinforced by abundant shelterbelts 3. Subtle variations in topography provide varying degrees of visual sensitivity

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Extensive outward views from higher ground 5. Rich historical legacy
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Localised pressures for sand and gravel extraction 2. Visual impact of former mining activity difficult to integrate 3. Housing expansion pressures throughout the 4. High voltage pylon line
Development and Management Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Retain arable character B. Retain character of minor roads C. Restore and maintain traditional hedge and stone wall field boundaries D. Maintain field boundaries and avoid further amalgamation of fields E. Management of shelter belts and plantation woodlands. F. Diversity of species in new woodland planting should be increased. Existing woodland should be managed 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.





Arable fields and shelter belts typical of the area



Shallow valley of the River Tyne



Lowland Plains - Coastal Plain

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
<p>Physical Features</p> <p>Geology, topography and drainage</p>	<p>This extensive coastal plain extends from Dunbar in the east to Port Seton in the west and extends in land as far south as the Garleton Hills due to the subdued topography of the area. The plain is virtually flat immediately inland of the coast, becoming gently undulating further south. The most significant raised feature within the plain is the igneous rocky outcrop of North Berwick Law, also a site of great archaeological importance. This is a dominant feature within the plain and can be seen from most of East Lothian. There are other smaller outcrops throughout the area such as Kingston Hill and at Balgone and Rockville Heughs. The only river to run through the plain is the lower end of the Tyne from East Linton to the sea. The few burns which flow across the plain have generally been straightened and incorporated into the field pattern.</p>
<p>Vegetation and land cover</p>	<p>The area exists of extensive areas of prime agricultural land divided into a network of large scale arable fields with a limited amount of crop mark archaeology. The fields are bounded by clipped hedgerows and occasional stone walls and fences with occasional hedgerow trees. The area has a number of designed landscapes and associated policy woodlands including Balgone House, Leuchie House and Elvingston.</p>
<p>Access</p>	<p>There is a comprehensive minor road network through the area, often following the field boundaries with ninety degree bends at corners. The main east coast rail line passes across the southern part of this area although it is far less intrusive than through the Innerwick Coastal Margin due to the pattern of the terrain. A rail link runs across the area north to south linking North Berwick to Edinburgh.</p>
<p>Built features</p>	<p>The historic village of East Linton can be found in the southeast corner of the area together with the listed buildings of Preston Kirk and Preston Mill. There are a couple of other small villages within the area at Drem and Whitekirk whose conservation areas extend significantly into the surrounding rural landscape providing a wide setting for the villages. The area also contains a large scattering of farmsteads and small clusters of houses and larger mansion houses.</p>
<p>Infrastructure and industry</p>	<p>There is little heavy industry within the area. A number of large barns and sheds exist at Fenton Barns. A number of these are visually intrusive to the local area but are not widely visible due to the surrounding pattern of terrain. A number of wind turbines have been constructed in the area particularly in the areas between Fenton Barns and Dirleton. Although many of these are not large, where they have not been carefully sited their number and moving nature impacts significantly on the visual amenity of the area.</p>
<p>Aesthetic qualities and views</p>	<p>This is an attractive landscape of large expanses of crops. Long range views are common to most of the area both across the sea as well as inland to the Lammermuir Hills to the south, emphasising the open, level nature of the coastal plain.</p>

Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dominant arable land cover, with distinctive large scale field pattern 2. Prominent views of distinctive igneous outcrops 3. Extensive views
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Poor siting of wind turbines 2. Pressure for residential expansion
Management Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Retain arable character B. Some increase in native woodland planting could be accommodated however the open arable nature of this area, with large fields and high levels of intervisibility forms part of its character and it is not suitable for widespread woodland planting in particular of commercial conifers C. Maintain and reinstate existing hedgerows and trees D. Diversity of species in any new woodland planting should be increased. Existing woodland should be managed 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. E. Require careful integration of new built development F. Retain character of minor roads G. Restore and maintain traditional hedge and stone wall field boundaries H. Seek to secure long term management of key landscape features I. Preserve pattern of minor road network and its linkage to field pattern J. Reflect traditional building materials such as pantiles for humbler buildings and slate for grander ones.



North Berwick Law sitting up above the coastal plain



Coastal Plain from North Berwick Law showing large arable fields



East end of coastal plain showing large arable field, red soils and level nature with North Berwick Law and the Bass Rock in the distance

Lowland Plains – Settled Farmland

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	The area forms two pockets along the A1 trunk road at the boundary of East Lothian with Edinburgh and Midlothian split by the Esk River Valley. It is low lying with a flat to gently undulating landform.
Vegetation and land cover	Large arable fields are bounded by fences and intermittent hedges. In places tracks with no boundary define the fields. The shape of open farmland is often irregular and fragmented where it is severed by transport routes, settlement and industrial warehousing. There is little woodland although tree and scrub planting bound the edges of transport routes and a line of poplar trees bound the western edge of the area to the neighbouring Marshalling yards.
Access	The A1 trunk road severs the western section of this area on a prominent embankment and bounds the northern edge of the eastern section. The A720 Edinburgh City Bypass runs along the eastern edge of the western section. The East Coast Railway bounds the western section to the north. Several other roads pass through this relatively small area to access settlements and a freight rail link also dissects the western section.
Built features	The settlements of Whitecraig and Old Craighall exist within this area surrounded by agricultural fields. Musselburgh extends to the boundary of the area to the north and the Shawfair development within Midlothian is planned to extend close to the western boundary. The large development of buildings for Queen Margaret University creates visual intrusion to the coastal views from the A1 heading east out of Edinburgh. Monkton House and its walled garden at Old Craighall are the only listed buildings within this character area.
Infrastructure and industry	There are pylon lines and major transport routes throughout the area. Dismantled railways, the marshalling yard and tall lighting gantries abut farmland to the west together with proposed large infrastructure.
Aesthetic qualities and views	The area has a lack of prominence due to the low lying nature of the landscape. It is a fragmented arable landscape. Its low lying nature and severance by raised road and rail networks prevent views out from the area although enable the area to be highly visible from major roads, railways and settlement.
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fields of prime agricultural land
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dominant urban / industrial character including presence of high voltage pylon lines 2. High visual sensitivity of flat unwooded terrain increases visual impact of new development

	3. Residential expansion pressures on existing villages and from neighbouring settlements
Management Guidelines	<p>A. Retain arable character (out with settlement areas and areas allocated for development)</p> <p>B. Promote woodland planting to integrate existing and new built development with the surrounding countryside. However the open arable nature of this area, with high levels of intervisibility forms part of its character and it is not suitable for widespread woodland planting, in particular of commercial conifers</p> <p>C. Seek to secure long term management of important estate landscape features</p>



North Craighall towards Newcraighall with Edinburgh beyond Settled Farmland relationship with coast is lost due to landform, infrastructure, trees and buildings. Links are stronger with the urban environment of Edinburgh.



South Craighall site enclosed nature arable surrounded by infrastructure. Relationship with the coast lost due to urban development to north



Coastal Margins – Innerwick Coastal Margin

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	<p>This section of coastal plain forms the transition between the north-eastern fringes of the Lammermuir Hills and the sea. Closest to the perimeter with the Eastern Lammermuir Fringe LCA the landscape comprises rolling lowlands cut by numerous steep-sided stream valleys. The terrain opens out towards the coast into a broad, gently undulating plain through which the streams follow shallow less obtrusive courses. At the boundary with the sea the area is defined by a series of rounded headlands bounded by extensive rocky cliffs with numerous sheltered small sand and pebble beaches backed by grass turfed dunes between.</p>
Vegetation and land cover	<p>The dominant land cover consists of medium to large arable fields. Where valley sides are steep small stretches of improved grassland can be found with the stream courses delineated by scrub and broadleaved woodland of oak, ash, hawthorn and sycamore. Other woodland is mainly in the form of shelterbelts and clumps of trees associated with farmsteads. The fields are generally contained by clipped thorn hedgerows and post and wire fencing with isolated hedgerow trees including oak, ash and hawthorn. Low pink or grey stone walls edge roadsides and occasional field boundaries throughout the higher ground.</p>
Access	<p>Numerous small roads twist from the hillsides down to the sea. The parallel routes of the A1 trunk road and the East Coast rail line sweep along the open plain. The John Muir way walking route follows the coastline for the entire length of this area. The area is highly accessible. The coastline is a popular recreational resource and has a couple of camping and caravanning sites as well as numerous picnic sites.</p>
Built features	<p>The settlement of Innerwick sits on the hillside above Torness at the boundary with the Eastern Lammermuir Fringe. Dunglass designed landscape lies on the southern boundary of the area. Broxmouth designed landscape is located partly within the northern corner of this area. The area has a scattering of further farms and minor settlements, many houses and steadings dating from the 18th and 19th centuries.</p>
Infrastructure and industry	<p>There is much industrial development located along the coast within this area. The most prominent being the cement works and associated quarrying and landfill site at Oxwell Mains and Torness Power Station to its south. Planning permission has also been granted for the construction of an energy from waste facility at the landfill site at Oxwell Mains. The embankments, bridges and structures associated with the transport corridor are often also highly visible features.</p>
Aesthetic qualities and views	<p>There are extensive views from the predominantly unwooded plain towards the coast. The open sea dominates the views providing an atmosphere of tranquillity. The intrusive industrial development and the major transport corridor detract from the otherwise calm character of this landscape.</p>

Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agricultural character relatively unfragmented; 2. Diversity of coastal scenery and habitats; 3. Extensive views; 4. Prominent headlands; 5. Proximity of Lammermuir uplands to the coast; 6. Quiet small coves and beaches; 7. Rich archaeological heritage.
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Generally high visual sensitivity due to flat terrain and few woodlands; 2. Major localised visual impacts of cement works, Torness Power Station and power lines; 3. Transport routes form prominent linear features.
Management Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Retain arable character B. Promote increase in roadside planting to reduce impact of major visual detractors without screening all views out C. Encourage increase in small scale farm woodland cover on steep slopes and in deans however the open arable nature of this area, with high levels of intervisibility forms part of its character and it is not suitable for widespread woodland planting in particular of commercial conifers D. Diversity of species in any new woodland planting should be increased. Existing woodland should be managed 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. E. Take account of vulnerability of coastline to further visual intrusion from all types of development F. Protect the coastal edge and foreshore from the visual impact of limestone extraction G. Control further unauthorised vehicular access to coastline H. Promote integrated coastal zone management strategy balancing visitor management, tourism, recreation and other development while avoiding adverse impact on the integrity of and maintaining the interest of the Natura 2000 network I. Retain character of minor roads J. Restore and maintain traditional hedge and stone wall field boundaries K. Retain the wide, open character beaches and their immediate hinterlands in particular Thorntonloch and White sands



The rolling broad, gently undulating plain looking towards the coast framed by Torness Power Station and Dunbar Cement Works with stone wall field boundaries



Cement works and infilled quarry in its low lying coastal setting



Torness Power Station set within the arable landscape and coast with the plain rising towards the hills to the west



Transport corridor of road and rail running through the undulating arable land with the large structure of Torness visible in the distance. The scale of the landscape and seascape reduces the impact of the building



Route of the John Muir Way along the coast set within the narrow band of dunes close to the shore

Tourism and recreation set in the shadow of Torness



Coastal Margins – Northern Coastal Margin

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
<p>Physical Features</p> <p>Geology, topography and drainage</p>	<p>The northern coastal margin extends from Dunbar in the east to the edge of Port Seton in the west. The area is virtually flat immediately inland of the coast, consisting of raised beach deposits. Crags and rocky outcrops form much of the northern coastal edge and enclose numerous sandy coves backed by dunes. The sandy beaches and dune systems are more extensive at Aberlady and Gullane to the west and around Tynninghame and the mouth of the Tyne to the east. The mouths of two rivers form estuaries at either end of the area –the Tyne at Tynninghame and the Peffer Burn at Aberlady Bay. Several islands are located within the waters close to the coast – Bass Rock, Craigleith and Fidra being the three largest. These form part of this landscape character area due to their relationship with the land.</p>
<p>Vegetation and land cover</p>	<p>The area has many designed landscapes and associated policy woodlands including Archerfield, Gosford, Luffness and Tynninghame. The proximity to the coast has led to the formation of distinctive wind sculpted areas of woodland particularly the ‘Toll Belt’ at to the south of the A198 at Gosford. Similar beech trees at Tynninghame have been felled. The links and dunes systems at the coast are of nature conservation value and are heavily colonised by Sea Buckthorn. The dunes and links also provide ideal conditions for golf and many golf courses exist along the coast including Luffness and the ancient world-renowned course of Muirfield at Gullane. More courses have been built since the original study including the large development of three 18 hole courses at Archerfield Estate at Dirleton and at Seton Sands Caravan Park close to Port Seton.</p>
<p>Access</p>	<p>The A198 road follows the line of the coast linking the coastal villages and allowing access to the many coastal car parks for recreation.</p>
<p>Built features</p>	<p>Settlement is concentrated along the coastal fringe with the old weaving village of Longniddry, the 19th century cottages and Gothic terraces of Aberlady, Dirleton with its village green and medieval castle and the links village of Gullane along the western section of the area. The town of North Berwick with its sandstone buildings is situated in the north of the area, centred on the historic heart. The town of Dunbar lies at the eastern end of the area sited on a headland above the sea. Historically centred on the castle and harbour it has a broad High Street of 17th and 18th century local red sandstone buildings. It has had considerable recent expansion to its south-western side.</p> <p>The 14th century Tantallon Castle is sited east of North Berwick on a headland overlooking the Bass Rock.</p>
<p>Infrastructure and industry</p>	<p>There is little industry or infrastructure within the area. The caravan park at Seton Sands has recently expanded forming a large development to the west of Longniddry. East Links Farm Park and Foxlake to the west of Dunbar are successful outdoor recreation facilities attracting visitors from within and beyond East Lothian. The Belhaven Brewery in Dunbar is small in character and does not detract from the setting of the town.</p>

Aesthetic qualities and views	<p>This is a highly attractive landscape (and seascape) of great diversity from the varied coastline and locally distinctive villages to the extensive estate woodlands. Long range views are common to most of the area both across the sea as well as inland to the Lammermuir Hills to the south, emphasising the open, level nature of the coastal margin. Some seascape views focus on the distinctive islands in the Firth of Forth, others are funneled towards the open sea.</p>
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Diversity of coastal scenery and habitats 2. Rich historical heritage 3. Major estate woodlands and other landscape features 4. Prominent views of distinctive igneous outcrops 5. Extensive views 6. Attractive coastal settlements
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Potential visitor pressure from successful tourism and recreation industry 2. Pressure for residential expansion of coastal settlements
Management Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Conserve current equilibrium between diverse elements and pressures B. Require careful visual integration of new development C. Seek to ensure long term management of key estate landscape features D. Promote integrated coastal zone management strategy balancing visitor management, tourism, recreation and other development while avoiding adverse impact on the integrity of and maintaining the interest of the Natura 2000 network E. Retain the wide, open character of estuaries and sandy beaches and their immediate hinterlands in particular Aberlady, Belhaven and Gullane Bays, Ravensheugh, Broad Sands, Gosford Sands, Seton Sands. F. Retain the exposed, elemental character of areas of rocky coast and cliffs G. Avoid built development on the offshore islands, sandbanks and rocks wherever possible H. Maintain focal points, including Aberlady Bay Bridge; Fidra Island and Lighthouse; Craigleith Island; Bass Rock; Tantallon Castle, The Gighan, St Baldreds Cross: the 'Bridge to Nowhere at Belhaven Bay; North Berwick Law I. Control sea buckthorn as an invasive species that becomes monocultural in appearance J. Avoid extensive woodland plantation which could adversely affect the open character of this area K. Seek to re-structure plantation woodland with more native woodlands of a mix of broadleaves and conifers. Diversity of species in any new woodland planting should be increased. Existing woodland should be managed 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 L. Retain character of minor roads M. Restore and maintain traditional hedge and stone wall field boundaries



The Northern Coastal Margin at Tynninghame typical of the open links character with gorse and wind sculpted trees with the Bass Rock beyond

The island of Craigleith viewed from North Berwick showing its relationship to the mainland



Coastal margin to the east of North Berwick with the Bass Rock



Coastal Margin to the west of North Berwick different in character to the coastal plain with settlement, policy woodlands, dunes and golf courses



Wide expanses of sand at Belhaven Bay with the Bass Rock on the horizon



The distinctive islands of Fidra and the Bass Rock with their lighthouses



Coastal Margins – Musselburgh/Prestonpans fringe

Landscape Character Feature	Description of the area
Physical Features Geology, topography and drainage	<p>The area extends from the eastern margins of Edinburgh in the west to the eastern side of Port Seton in the east. It is defined by the Tranent Ridge and Settled Farmland to the south and includes the lower floodplain of the River Esk. Its geology is mainly sedimentary overlain with marine deposits and raised beaches close to the coast. The coastline consists of a sandy beach at Fisherrow and the open mudflats and mussel beds of the River Esk estuary. Land has been reclaimed at Musselburgh with waste ash from the former Cockenzie Power Station to form an extensive area of lagoons separated from the sea by a concrete retaining wall. At Prestonpans and Cockenzie and Port Seton the foreshore consists low rocky platforms and small rocky headlands.</p>
Vegetation and land cover	<p>The coastal strip is almost continuously settled however inland there are some large arable fields of prime agricultural land divided by broken hedgerows and fences with occasional hawthorn or beech hedgerow trees. The area between Musselburgh and Prestonpans contains both the policy woodlands of Drummohr House and the wooded grounds of the Royal Musselburgh Golf Course, protected by tree preservation orders. The links landscape to their north skirts the coast from Fisherrow links to Musselburgh Racecourse and onto Morrison's Haven at Prestonpans. The designed landscapes of Newhails House and Pinkie House create green open spaces within the heart of the urban settlement of Musselburgh and the River Esk itself provides a green although narrow corridor through the town.</p>
Access	<p>The A1 trunk road and East Coast Rail line both pass through this area together with the A199 from Musselburgh to Tranent and the coastal road. There is a dense road network linking the settlements. The coastal strip provides recreation in the form of Musselburgh Racecourse and the Musselburgh and Royal Musselburgh Golf Courses as well as Levenhall Links. The John Muir Way follows the coast through the area and links with the River Esk cycle/walkway and Core Path routes to Tranent Ridge.</p>
Built features	<p>The majority of the area is settled with the burgh town of Musselburgh spanning the mouth of the River Esk to the west with its harbour at Fisherrow. Prestonpans, Cockenzie and Port Seton are also located adjacent to the coast and have a strong relationship with it. Historically the fishing industry has been important and harbours at Cockenzie and Port Seton remain in use today. The historical harbour at Morrison's Haven was used as a port for the brickworks and mining industry still evident at Prestongrange. The villages have continued to expand with modern housing developments due to their proximity to Edinburgh. Wallyford to the southeast of Musselburgh was a traditional mining village that has expanded considerably in recent years with new housing due to its location close to the transport routes into Edinburgh. The historic building of Bankton House is visible to the north of the A1 as you pass Prestonpans. The attractive inventory Garden and Designed Landscapes at Newhails and Pinkie and wooded Drummohr designed landscape breaks up the built development.</p>

Infrastructure and industry	The former Cockenzie Power Station a previously dominant landmark has been demolished leaving a brownfield site. There are pylon lines and major transport routes throughout the area
Aesthetic qualities and views	The extensively settled, industrialised nature of much of this area dominates stretches of unspoilt farmland and woodland. The expansion of the settlement in this area is significantly increasing the built nature of the area. Occasional open views can be gained across the plain towards the coast to the north and Edinburgh to the west. A viewpoint from the top of the 'pyramid' at Meadowmill provides panoramic views over the area.
Positive Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. River Esk floodplain and parkland 2. Mature woodland and open land of designed landscapes 3. Fields of prime agricultural land which are being significantly reduced in area due to settlement expansion important in providing settlement setting 4. Open land within/between settlements providing landscape variety, settlement setting and reducing the appearance of coalescence 5. Estate landscapes and boundary features 6. Coastal scenery and habitats 7. Open views across the area to the Firth of Forth, Fife and Edinburgh
Negative Attributes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dominant urban / industrial character including high voltage pylon lines 2. High visual sensitivity of flat unwooded terrain increases visual impact of new development 3. Residential expansion pressures on coastal villages
Management Guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Retain wooded character at Drummohr and Prestongrange B. Diversity of species in any new woodland planting should be increased. Existing woodland should be managed 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 C. Retain the open character of Fishherrow Sands D. Retain the elemental appearance of areas of rocky coastline E. Promote tree and woodland planting to integrate existing and new built development with the surrounding countryside and within the urban area and to reduce appearance of coalescence of built development F. Seek to secure long term management of important estate landscape features G. Promote integrated coastal zone management strategy balancing visitor management, tourism, recreation and other development while avoiding adverse impact on the integrity of and maintaining the interest of the Natura 2000 network H. Reclamation of ash lagoons I. Protection of bird reserves J. Preserve and restore traditional stone wall and hedge field boundaries



Large arable fields of prime agricultural land inland of the main settlement



Open dune landscape of Musselburgh golf and race course



Fisherrow harbour and open space at Murdochs Green at the western entrance to the area from Edinburgh



View of the coastal area from Fa'side Hill showing the settlement separated by woodlands and arable land



Expanse of sand and mussel beds at Fisherrow sands looking towards Arthur's Seat in Edinburgh



Prestonpans rocky foreshore where development extends to the water's edge



Coastal view westwards towards Edinburgh