

## Members' Library Service Request Form

Date of Document	19/10/18
Originator	Iain Mcfarlane
Originator's Ref (if any)	
Document Title	East Lothian Council Local Development Plan – Special Landscape Areas – Supplementary Planning Guidance

Please indicate if access to the document is to be “unrestricted” or “restricted”, with regard to the terms of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985.

Unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restricted	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------	-------------------------------------	------------	--------------------------

If the document is “restricted”, please state on what grounds (click on grey area for drop-down menu):

For Publication
-----------------

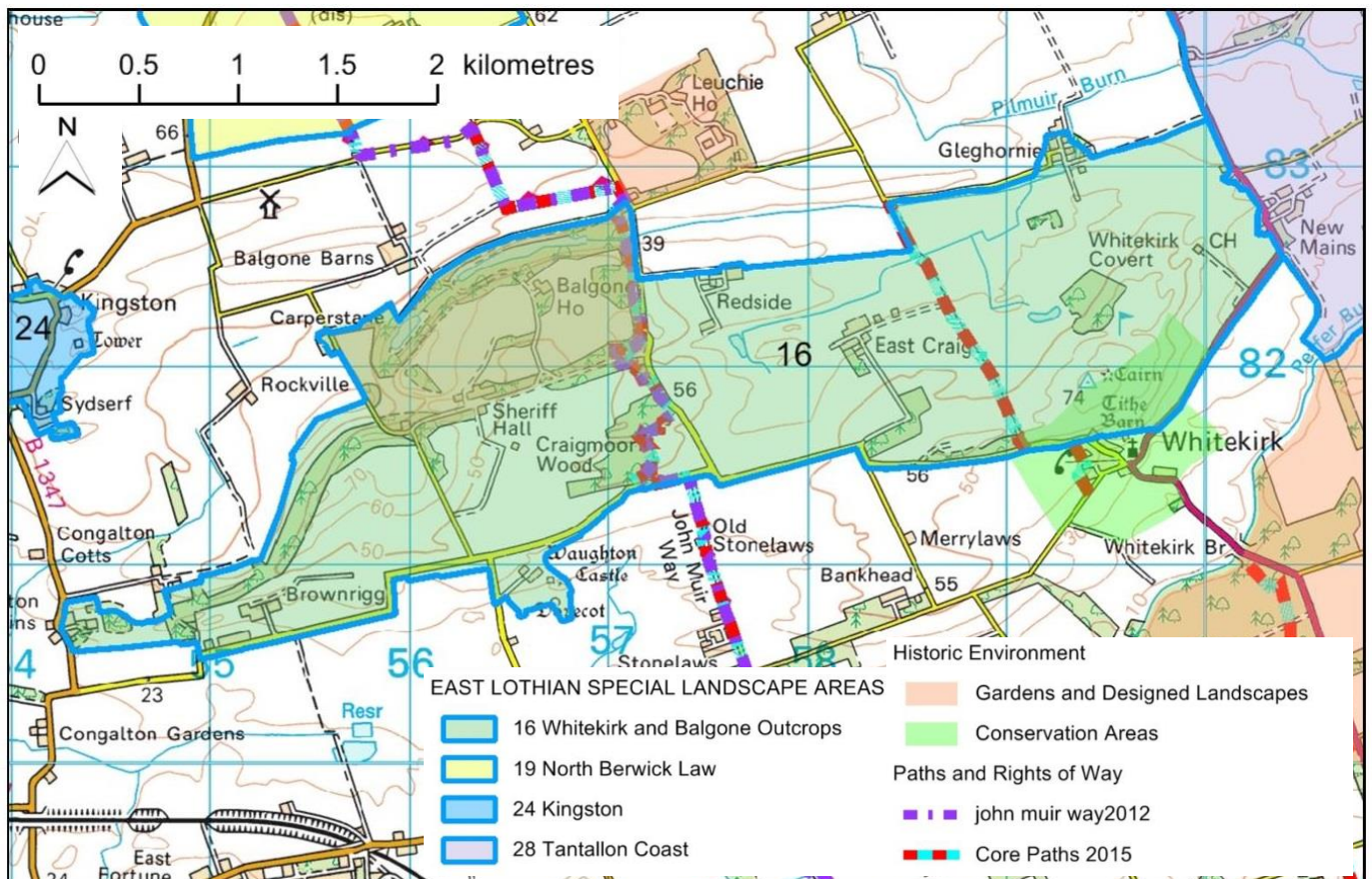
Additional information:

### PART 3 OF THE DOCUMENT

Authorised By	Douglas Proudfoot
Designation	Head of Development
Date	19/10/18

For Office Use Only:	
Library Reference	155C/18
Date Received	19/10/18
Bulletin	Oct18

## Whitekirk and Balgone Outcrops Special Landscape Area 16 Statement of Importance



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office @ Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. OS Licence 100023381

**Character:** A scenic area of the volcanic outcrop of Whitekirk Hill, dramatic wooded landform of the Heughs and cliffs and lake at Balgone, contrasting with the surrounding fertile arable fields.

**Area:** 675 ha

### Overview:

This area follows a band of mainly basalt rocky outcrops running roughly east to west from Whitekirk Hill to Congalton (on the B1347). Whitekirk Hill is a notable landmark in the surrounding area, from which there are long range panoramic views on all sides. The rocky outcrops of Balgone and Rockville Heughs are a notable feature in the landscape. Enhanced by their covering of mature trees they form a significant contrasting element to



the surrounding coastal plain. The land surrounding the volcanic outcrops is largely arable, with often small scale fields separated by stone walls (some of which likely come from Waughton Castle) and hedges. The area also includes Whitekirk Golf Course (currently closed) and park land associated with the inventory Garden and Designed Landscape at Balgone.

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

**Special Qualities and Features:**

1. The linear, basalt outcrops of the Heughs are unusual in the area. The outcrops rise dramatically from the surrounding relatively flat land from Balgone to Congalton, and can reach 15m, creating a significant landscape feature along the northwest section of this area. Gorse clings onto the crags, providing contrast and seasonal interest. There are bolted crag routes for climbers at the Balgone Heughs. Mature deciduous trees cover the line of the crags with grazing land around the bottom of the crags keeping views open in places. The contrast between the rocky outcrops topped with gorse and woodland with the surrounding rolling arable landscape creates interest and complexity.



*The Heughs north of Sheriff Hall*



*Crags and trees create mystery.  
Crags create interesting landform*

2. In addition to the Heughs, there are numerous volcanic outcrop features within the fields to the south and east and the larger outcrop of Whitekirk Hill. All of these show the rock through skeletal soil, which is both a typical feature of the area and unusual within it.

3. The landform between Den Lodge, Balgone, and Gleghornie consists of attractive, gently-folding fields dropping to a channelized watercourse. Another interesting landform is the knobby land around Waughton Crossroads and at Old Waughton where the remains of the Castle still stand. A Local Biodiversity site along the roadside of rare calcareous grassland



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

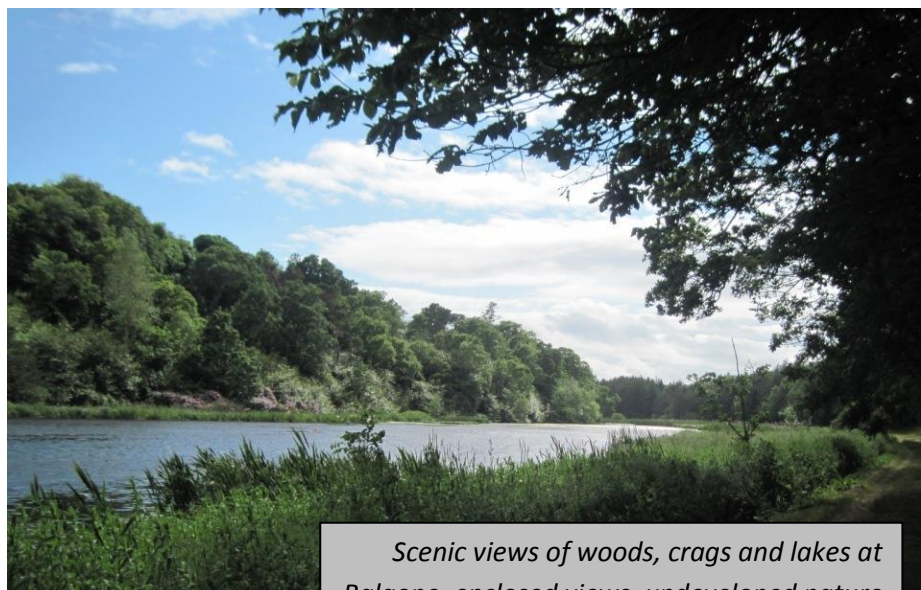
*Waughton Cross Roads Wildlife Site*



boasts unusual flowers adding to its interest

4. The natural attractive landform has been added to by design, with the Heughs being incorporated into the designed landscapes of Rockville and Balgone. Balgone is an inventory Garden and Designed Landscape. Here the Victorians

used the landform to great effect to provide a dramatic entrance through the rock face to the house contrasted by the manmade lakes along the glacial valley to the north of the Heughs. At one point a carriage drive made its way from Rockville South Lodge along the north side of the Heughs past the lakes to reach Balgone House through the crags. The secluded valley with the lakes of unexpected size, originally formed for curling, with surrounding mixed woodland is highly scenic, with reeds and other wetland



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

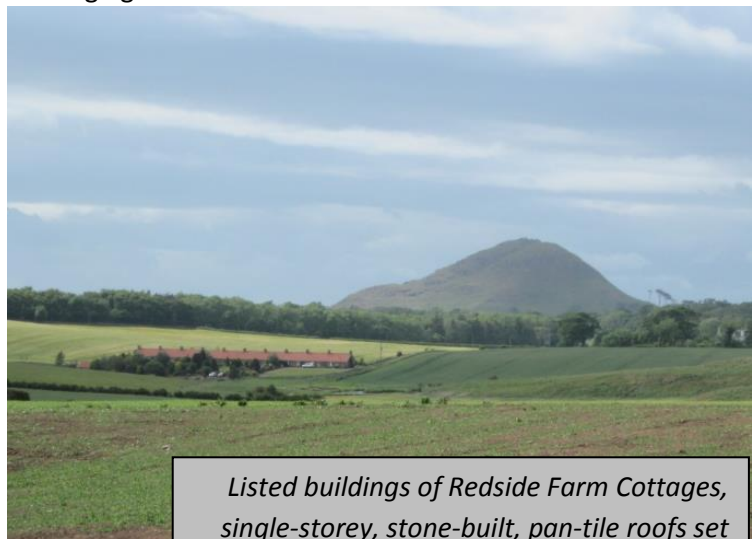
plants, and water loving wildlife including a family of swans, which adds to its appeal and generally gives the area a feeling of tranquillity and old worldliness.

5. Mature trees are important in the area, whether as part of the Designed Landscapes, as a setting for built development (such as around Redside, Congalton, Gleghornie and East Craig) or in small areas of woodland such as Craig Wood, Craigmoor Wood, or Whitekirk Covert, as well as along many of the field boundaries. Many of these woodlands also have a well-established flower understorey and Craigmoor Wood is identified as a local biodiversity site important for its native woodland and understorey habitats. The trees and woodlands provide seasonal interest with their changing colours throughout the year.



*Wildlife on Balgone Lake*

6. The farm buildings and steadings that lie within this area are mainly traditional in style and materials with red sandstone walls and pantile or slate roofs, and sit quaintly within the landscape. The cottages at Redside Farm cottages are beautifully set in their landform, with their orange pantiles contrasting with the green, brown or golden fields, and providing a focal point in the scene. Other buildings are 'hidden' within landform and trees, such as at Rockville. The



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

Scottish Baronial style has had a clear influence in this area; there are houses with crow stepped gables at Brownrigg and Rockville South Lodge; ornamentation such as the thistle at;



*Listed building of Balgone House*

Balgone house though of earlier construction has had Baronial style additions. The group of 19<sup>th</sup> century listed buildings at Sheriff Hall have an idyllic, timeless feel, with few signs of modern



life intruding. Steading conversions have been done in a sympathetic manner.

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



7. Some of the roads are single track adding to the rural ambience with the route of the roads following field boundaries with sharp turns at the corners, forcing the driver to keep an eye on the road, and slow down enough for passengers to appreciate the views of and from the area.

8. The area contains remnants of earlier landscapes with the scheduled remains of a prehistoric fort and cairn as well as the remains of the medieval Waughton Castle, all set around the volcanic outcrops. Much of the agricultural field pattern still follows 19<sup>th</sup>



*Waughton Castle and Steading, historic field pattern and views south over Traprain*

century and in places medieval field boundaries, giving fields which are relatively small scale.



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

9. Views from the area include those
  - a. Of the Heughs and related mature trees
  - b. From and of Whitekirk Hill as mentioned above.



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

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

### **Guidelines for Development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the core agricultural character of the area
- B. Any proposed development must respect and retain the existing settlement pattern of development of generally small-scale, single-storey, linear and small groups of buildings typical of farm settlements, farm workers cottages and steading conversions and support use of traditional building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings.
- C. Any proposed large farm building development should be carefully sited and coloured to fit within the landscape form and retain the sense of history and character of the area.
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the character of the designed landscape and its surrounding parkland and countryside. Prevent development that would impact detrimentally on its historic setting and character.
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form and detracts from the natural qualities of the area e.g. wind turbines

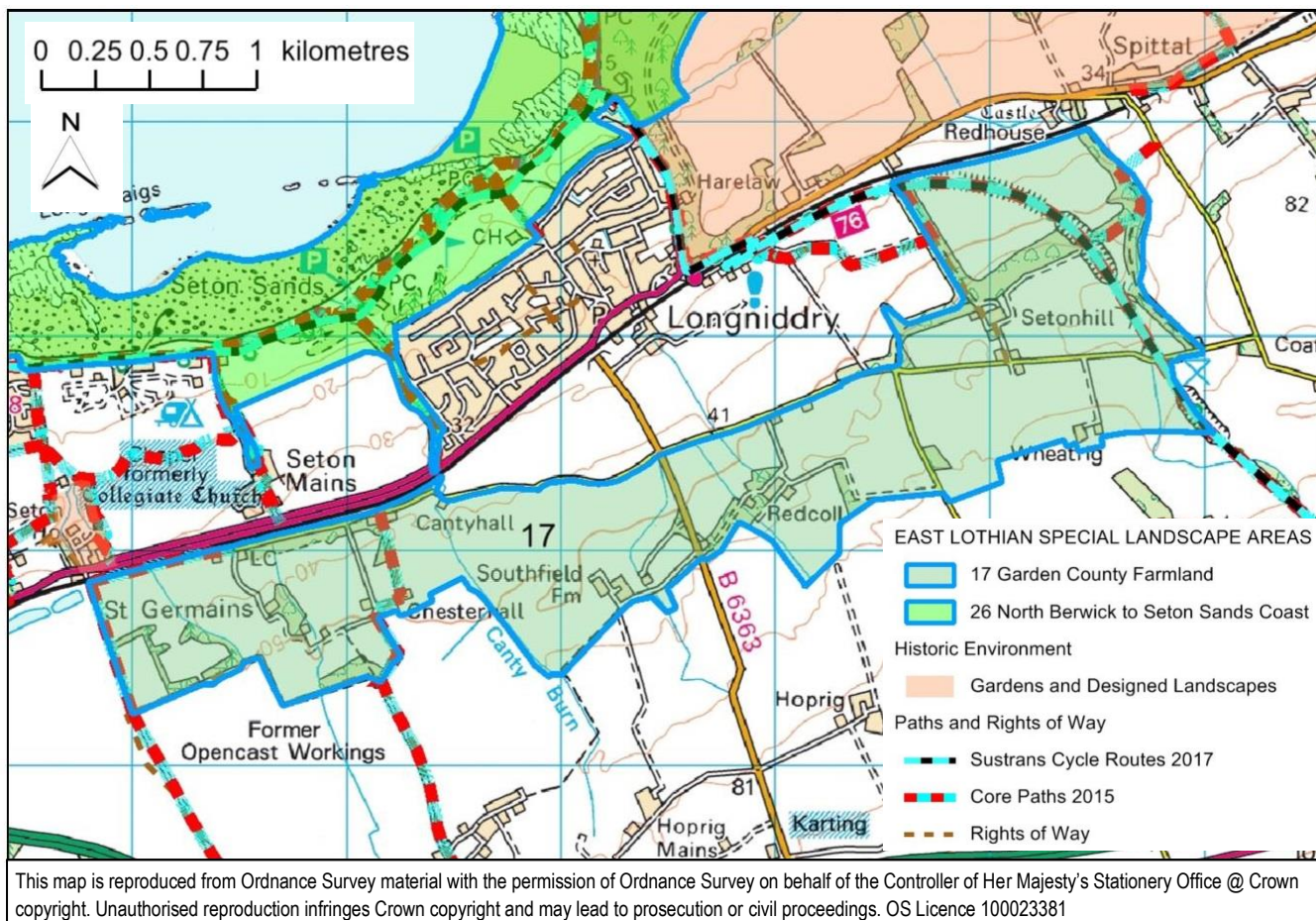
- F. In cases where solar panels are not permitted development they should not be placed on publicly visible roof elevations of traditional buildings or buildings in traditional and historic settings where they would harm the historic nature and scenic value of the area.
- G. Any proposed development must not impact detrimentally on: open views from the minor road from Congalton to Whitekirk and Whitekirk Hill to the east, the Heughs to the north and the Lammermuirs and Traprain Law to the south; views to Waughton Castle; views from the The Bratt (minor road from Westgate Lodge to Old Waughton) south to Traprain Law and the Lammermuirs; open views from Whitekirk Hill.
- H. Any proposed development must not harm the contrast of small-scale topographic diversity and contrast of rocky outcrops and fertile fields.
- I. Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale rural character of the roads, including characteristic features such as hedges and walls

**Potential for Landscape Enhancement**

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



## Garden County Farmland: Special Landscape Area 17 Statement of Importance



**Character:** A traditional area of East Lothian farmland epitomising the agricultural landscape of small estates based around grand estate houses, steadings and small rows of estate cottages. Generally built by merchants who made their money from sources other than farming. The rich prime agricultural landscape of the Lowland Plains has given rise to East Lothian's reputation as the Garden County.

**Area:** 405 Ha



*Large farm and estate houses are close together; Wheatrig (the buildings to the left of the picture) is around 650m from Setonhill, from where the photo is taken.*

**Overview:**

The scenic value deriving from fertile farmland with closely spaced farm/estate houses with added appeal of mature broadleaved woodland changing with the seasons. In addition to its rich agricultural appearance, its proximity to the sea is evident in its coastal quality of light and cloudscapes. Built development here is mainly traditional, with a large ‘main’ house with associated lodges and smaller cottages, and a limited amount of agricultural buildings generally associated with the main house.

This area is located generally to the south of Longniddry enclosing most of the original lands of 6 main estate farms: from west to east, St Germain's, Chesterhall, Southfield, Redcoll, Wheatrig and Setonhill. The area also includes a part of the Longniddry to Haddington Railway walk an important recreation route and the rugged Redhouse Dean.

**Special Qualities and Features:**



*Setonhill in the trees to the right of this picture viewed from Wheatrig*

1. Gently undulating, broad scale landscape; the core productive farmland typical of the Lowland Plain, and some of the best agricultural land in Scotland. The often deep brown forest soil is laid out in large, open fields generally uninterrupted by built development.
2. Broadleaved woodland shelter belts which are typical of East Lothian are a common feature separating fields and around settlements. The broadleaved tree lined avenues to the main houses such as at Redcoll and Seton Hill are an attractive feature typical of the lowland plain, and woodland associated with estate/farm houses is also attractive. Mature broadleaved trees are also present as specimens along field boundaries. There are some interesting trees within the grounds of St



*Mature trees around St Germain's*

Germaines including a notable Monkey Puzzle tree (*Araucaria araucaria*) and an unusual Handkerchief tree (*Davidia involucrate*).

3. There is a pattern of closely spaced estate farm houses with associated smaller scale pantile cottages. This close spacing of estates was possible as the larger houses were often formerly owned by Edinburgh merchants whose income did not depend on farming)<sup>1</sup>.
4. Houses both grand and simple are attractive, adding to the scenic appeal of the area. Residential development is confined to traditional farm houses and associated cottages, with conversions to provide smaller scale accommodation at St Germaines, and within the steading buildings at Chesterhall. Farm buildings can add to the scenic quality of the area such as the hexagonal grain store with pantile roof at Wheatrig Farm.



*St Germaines Lodge  
traditional vernacular*



*Grand Chesterhall House*

Housing generally uses traditional materials with stone and slate for grander buildings and pantiles for more simple accommodation.



*The Garleton Hills framed by well-maintained traditional stone and pantile cottages at Setonhill; stone walls are a feature of the area, with the single track road giving a more remote, rural feel despite proximity to major urban development. The pantile roofs are an accent in the blues, greens and golds of sky and farmland.*

<sup>1</sup> According to the Fourth Statistical account of East Lothian, Redcoll and Southfield were then in the ownership of their farmers, while Wheatrig and Setonhill were owned by the Wemyss and March estate, with land at Chesterhall being farmed from elsewhere.

There is little other built development.

5. Attractive small watercourses form part of the character of the area. Seton burn is tamed and well managed; the Cotty Burn by contrast has a more natural appearance, bubbling through the small scale yet rugged Redhouse Dean, though in fact it has been more managed in the past – a small, sculpted stone pool rests in between trees, at the foot of a pretty waterfall. It has a hidden feel which adds its attractiveness.
6. The Longniddry railway path provides active travel access and recreational value, with a small car park at Cottyburn. There is a right of way from Macmerry to Cantyhall Road (Core Path 13) north/south through Chesterhall and from the B1377 to Setonhill cottages. There are minor roads and informal tracks which provide good access to parts of the area. The minor roads where they are single track add to the rural feel of the area.



7. There are open views north to Redhouse Castle and beyond over rich agricultural land from a viewing bench on the railway walk. There are views of Setonhill Farmhouse from the railway walk and the minor road to the south. Views across the Forth can be obtained from higher ground, as well as towards the Garletons and beyond. Views from around Setonhill house towards the Garletons with the woodland of the railway walk and agricultural fields in the foreground are good.

8. The mature trees and woodland and open fields are important in views of and across the area.

9. Field boundaries are mainly stone, though hedges with mature specimen trees are also used.

10. Although the area is not generally wild – indeed much of its attraction comes from the tamed, farmed environment - however the Redheugh Dean does

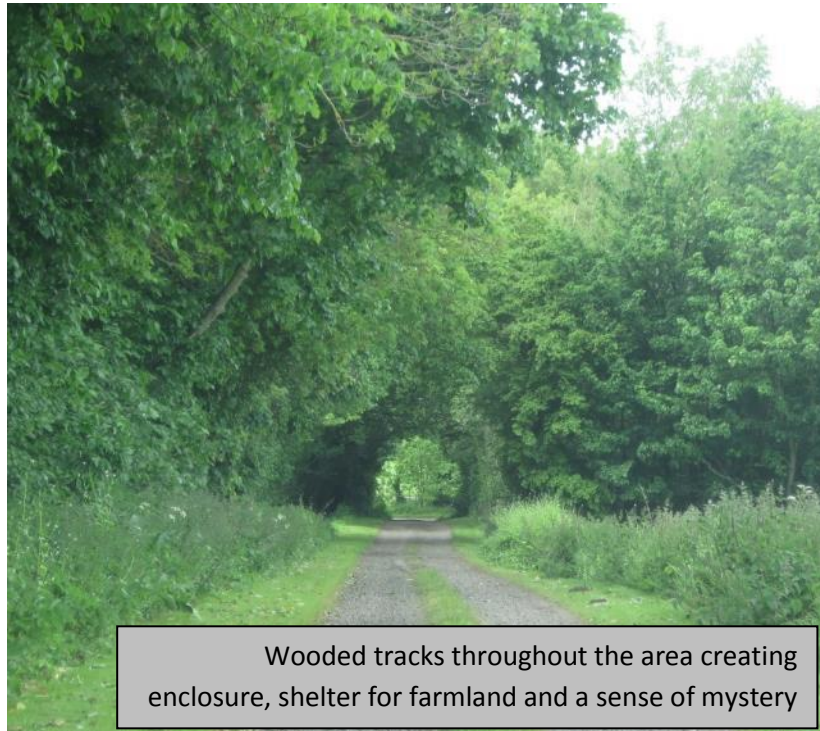


View out over the coast from the protected oak tree at St Germain's

have some wild land qualities (ruggedness, naturalness of landcover, lack of modern artefacts).

#### **Guidelines for development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the arable character of the area
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form. Some modern vertical elements, mainly telecom masts, detract from the traditional appearance of the area, and should be screened where possible. Careful consideration should be given as to whether these should be associated with traditional buildings as modern structures could adversely affect their appearance. Following field boundaries or using trees as screening/backdrop may be preferred.
- C. Any proposed large farm building development should be carefully sited and coloured to fit within the landscape form and retain the sense of history and character of the area
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the existing character of the area of a balanced pattern of large houses with associated smaller scale cottages and farm buildings set within arable land and dividing woodlands
- E. Solar panels should not be placed on publicly visible roof elevations of traditional buildings or buildings in traditional and historic settings where they would harm the historic nature and scenic value of the area.
- F. There are no wind turbines in this area however capacity for these would be likely to be quickly reached in this very open landscape as inter-visibility of developments, and the well-settled nature of the landscape, increases potential for significant cumulative effects to occur. The use of turbines of different designs and sizes close to each other should be avoided, as this could lead to visual confusion and a discordant appearance, particularly near other infrastructure<sup>2</sup>.
- G. Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale rural character of the roads, including characteristic features such as hedges and walls



---

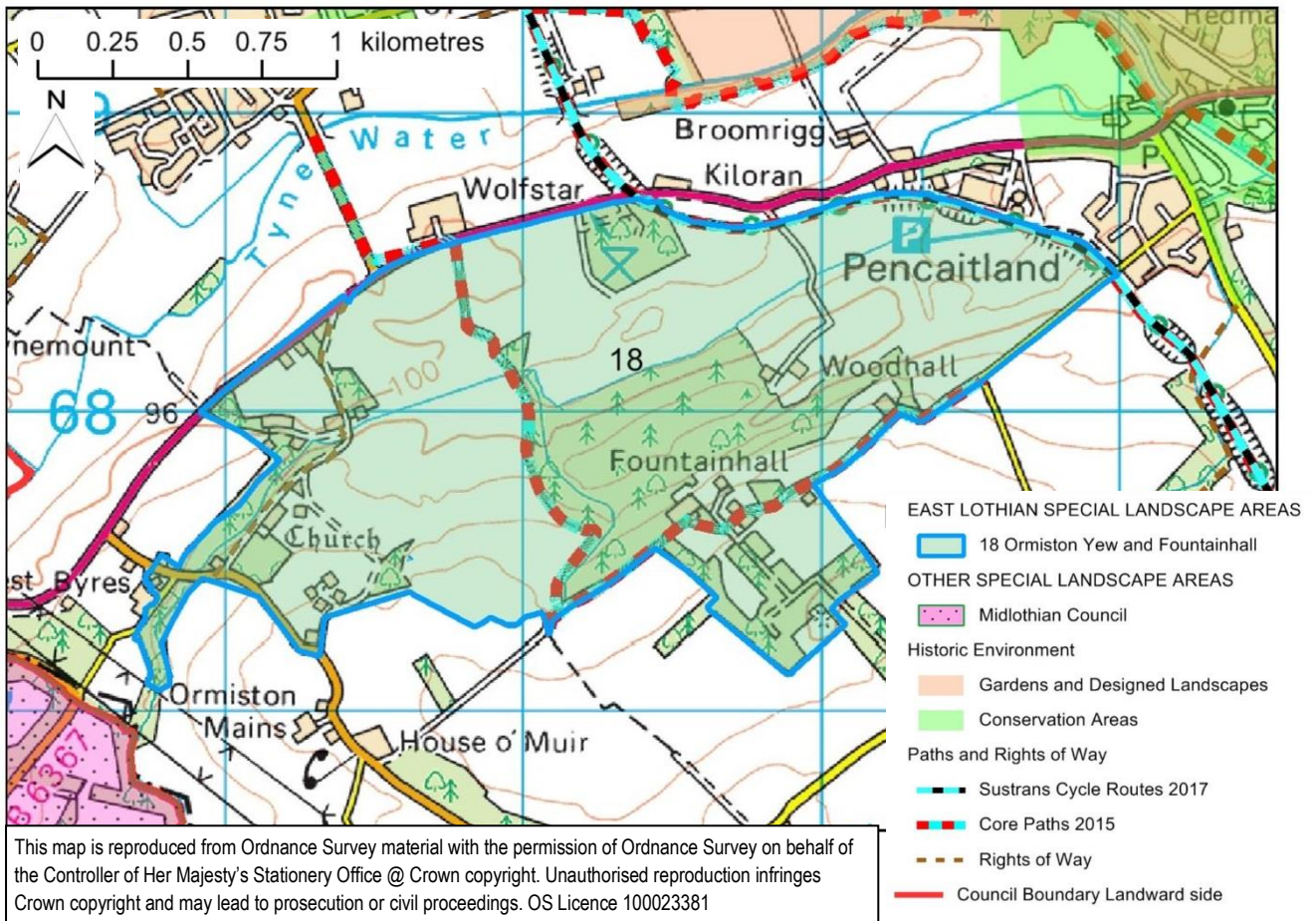
<sup>2</sup> See East Lothian Supplementary Landscape Capacity Study for Smaller Wind Turbines December 2011.

- H. Any proposed development must not impact detrimentally on open views north from the B6363; east and west across the area from the minor road from Redcoll to Coates; and north from St Germain's

**Potential for Landscape Enhancement**

- i. Loss and neglect of traditional field boundaries (hedges, stone walls) and their replacement with more modern alternatives harms the appearance of the area; consideration could be given to re-instating field boundaries that are lost, though it is recognised that this is productive farmland and there are economic and food production reasons for not doing so.
- ii. Signs of previous development such as vertical slopes at Redhouse dean from former quarrying, limestone quarries could be addressed
- iii. Consideration should be given to planting roadside or field boundary trees to replace those coming to the end of their life.
- iv. Promote woodland planting in scale with the landscape character as an advance landscape framework for any future mineral extraction or urban development and seek long term management of key estate landscape woodland
- v. Support for retention and restoration of traditional farm buildings.

## Ormiston Yew and Fountainhall: Special Landscape Area 18 Statement of Importance



**Character:** This landscape of woodlands set around a burn with surrounding rolling arable fields has strong cultural and historic associations, including the Ormiston Yew.

**Area:** 303 ha



*Rolling arable landscape surrounded by woodlands*

### Overview:

The area extends from West Byres to the Pencaitland railway walk, taking in areas of woodland and parkland in the grounds of Ormiston Hall (destroyed by fire in the 1940's) and Fountainhall. The Ormiston Hall woodland, protected by TPO 31, contains the ancient, historically important Ormiston



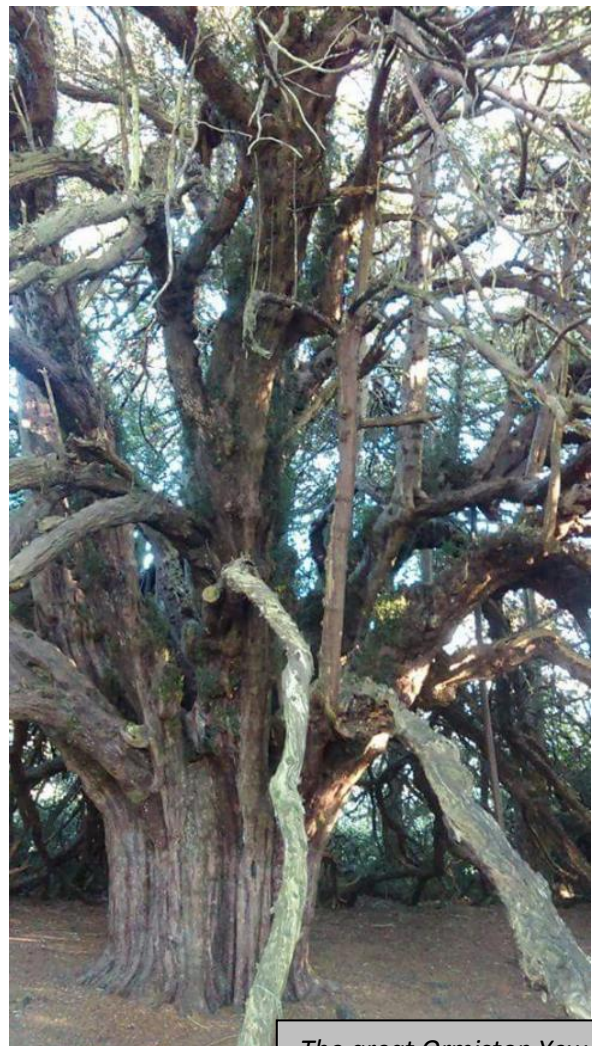
Fountainhall

Yew, while the Big Wood conceals the magnificent extended Lairds House of Fountainhall. This house is reputedly haunted by several ghosts, notably Alexander Hamilton, who cursed the family after being denied food, but also John Cockburn and Charles I. Both areas of woodland have well-spaced housing tucked in among the trees.

A further area of woodland at Black Wood is the site of Woodhall Colliery, and a small bing is still concealed within the wood. The Pencaitland Railway walk has an information board on the mining legacy of the area; it also boasts good views to the Lammermuirs across arable fields.

### Special Qualities and Features:

1. The Ormiston Yew grows to the south of Ormiston Hall, built for local landowner, town planner and agricultural improver John Cockburn in 1745-8. The Yew is a most impressive tree: it is one of few examples of layering yews known in Scotland and is purported to be as much as one thousand years old. The Forestry Commission describe the Yew as having 'a cathedral of arching limbs' - if not a cathedral, it has certainly been a church, with both John Knox and George Wishart having preached here. There is a strong 'natural world' link to the past: the relatively unchanged area around the Yew means it is possible to imagine the congregation coming in from the surrounding area. The tree is mentioned by SNH as one of 10 notable veteran trees in Scotland<sup>1</sup>
2. Fountainhall (formerly Penkaet Castle) is a Category A listed early to mid-17th century Lairds House, which has been added to over



The great Ormiston Yew

<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.snh.org.uk/publications/on-line/heritagemanagement/woodpasture/Veterantrees.asp>



the centuries. Related buildings include two lectern dovecots, stable buildings, steading and cottages. The woodland setting and ruinous buildings give an air of mystery to the area.



3. Woodlands within rolling arable fields are typical of the Mid-Tyne Plain;
4. Both the Glen Wood (around the Belsis Burn) and Big Wood are in deep valleys; they contain a mix of mainly deciduous trees, giving visual variety and seasonal change. Views along the valleys are attractive, both at Ormiston Hall, where the valley is steep sided but the bottom open enough to let light



through, and the more dramatic, enclosed valleys of Big Wood. This contains several unusual specimens, including some large Wellingtonias, and has a varied appearance, with some coniferous woodland, some areas of birch and some more mixed sections. The burns at the bottom are small comparative to the valleys, but give an added aesthetic appeal.

5. Built development in the area is sparse and mainly consists of low density housing set within the woodlands. That within the Big Wood consists of a pretty row of cottages and buildings associated with Fountainhall. At Orchard Wood, there are ruins of buildings associated with Ormiston Hall (destroyed by fire in the 1940's); some new development has inventively adapted

these into the design. The doocot associated with this house was built with the picturesque idea that buildings should complement their natural environment. Views of the housing within the woods are charming, for example at Penkaet Rig and within and around Ormiston Hall, while views of Penkaet castle are impressive though hard to obtain.

6. The Pencaitland railway path (core path route 72 and Sustrans cycle route 196) forms the northeast boundary of the area. Views from the path are good both westwards to the Pentlands and south to the Lammermuirs, with a particularly picturesque view near Baird's Maltings where the fields of the valley sides within the area form an interlocking pattern of slopes backed by the Lammermuir hills. Sometimes these fields' crops are destined for the adjacent Maltings just outwith the area; the wind rippling through the barley is a particularly appealing sight, and Baird Maltings uses its location in a prime barley growing area in its marketing.



7. There are other good paths in the area including Core Path route 165 to Wolfstar and linking to Ormiston, Core Path route 265 to Fountainhall and the Right of Way from West Byres cemetery to Ormiston Hall which passes the Great Yew. Parking can be found at the Woodhall picnic site on the A6093 at Kiloran and at West Byres to access the area...



8. This area is within the Lothian coalfield and has a mining legacy. The Woodhall Colliery, closed in 1944, is located in Black Wood, where rooks coming to roost are an impressive site. There is an information board on the Pencaitland Railway walk former railway, about the Colliery, and parking and picnic area within the wood.
9. There are panoramic views from the A6093 looking south. There are also good views of the inventory Winton House Garden and Designed Landscape from this point. From the western end of the track along the southern boundary of the area there are fine views across into Midlothian, as well as northwards over the SLA and beyond. The woodland at Fountainhall is important in views across the area.

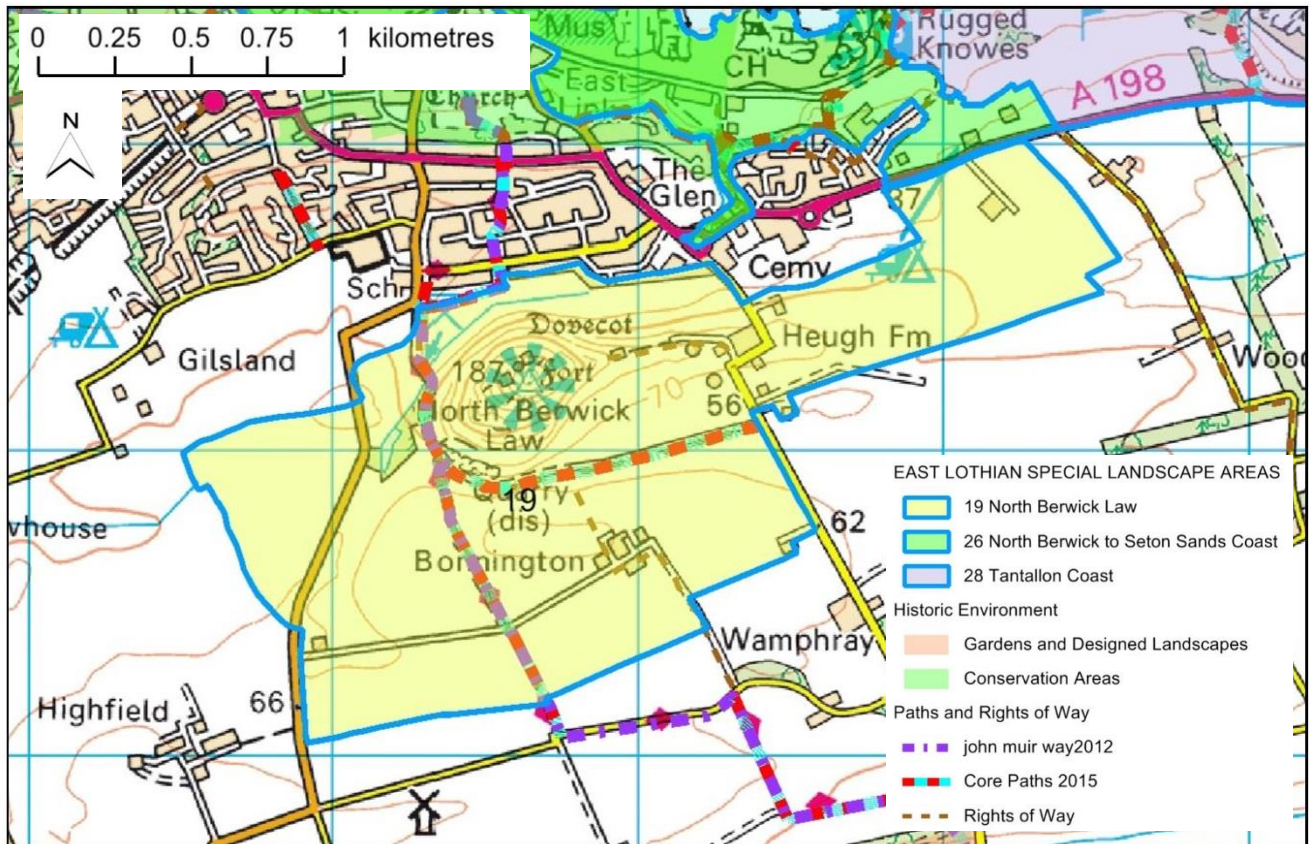
### **Guidelines for Development:**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the setting of the landscape and sense of history and timeless quality of the area around the Ormiston Yew and Fountainhall.
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the enjoyment or access to the area
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the natural setting of river, woods and farmland
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the core agricultural character of the area
- E. Any proposed development must not harm open views from the A6093 across the area from the core path routes particularly on the higher ground to the east of Big Wood and from the Pencaitland Railway Walk across the area.
- F. Any proposed development must not harm the pattern of arable fields and woodland
- G. Any proposed development must not harm the pattern of sporadic development within the woodland
- H. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form and detracts from the natural qualities of the area
- I. Modern development of large farm buildings should be carefully sited and coloured to retain the sense of history and character of the area

### **Potential for Landscape Enhancements**

- i. Improve signage to Great Yew
- ii. Conserve and enhance well-developed and maintained beech and thorn hedgerow network on the arable land
- iii. Promote replacement of traditional oak and ash field boundary tree lines. Consider alternative species to ash due to effects of Ash Dieback
- iv. Seek to support traditional estate management practices to safeguard woodland enclosure features and important boundary walls
- v. 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
- vi. Retain woodland character around housing
- vii. Many old field boundaries have been lost and restoring these would improve the look of the area, though may be impractical with modern farming techniques.
- viii. Bing in the Black Wood, landscaped with trees but still there (2012)
- ix. The railway walk continues to Ormiston - the A6093 is fast here, and crossing a bit unnerving.

## North Berwick Law: Special Landscape Area 19 Statement of Importance



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office @ Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. OS Licence 100023381

**Character:** This area is focussed on the dramatic conical hill of the volcanic plug feature of North Berwick Law with its crag and tail feature. Its wide visibility sitting above the coastal plain makes it important for scenic value and sense of place of North Berwick, as well as for recreation, wildlife, cultural association and archaeology.



Aerial view of North Berwick Law

**Area:** 257 ha

**Overview:**

North Berwick Law lies immediately to the south of North Berwick. The area consists of the conical volcanic plug and crag and tail feature of the Law and some of the immediately surrounding farmland and boggy ground in which it is set. The visual influence of the Law stretches far beyond its physical boundary. Volcanic intrusions into fertile arable land are common throughout East Lothian, however, North Berwick Law is one of the largest and most prominent in the area, its distinctive conical form rising around 120m from the surrounding gently rolling farmland and nearly 187m in total. This recognisable peak is visible from Edinburgh, Fife, the Forth Bridges, and widely across East Lothian acting as a focal point and way marker.



The area has high scenic value with the height and ruggedness of the Law contrasting with the flatness of the rolling farmland and marshy ground in which it sits. The exposure and ruggedness of the Law, along with its natural land cover (much of the area is designated as SSSI for its lowland calcareous grassland) gives it some sense of wildness. The Whisky Bottle reservoir, to the west of the Law, around which there is an informal path, is small in scale but attractive. The whale bones at the top of the Law are a notable feature of the Law.

From the top of the Law, which is a draw for locals and visitors alike, there are superb panoramic views, with notable features in the surrounding landscape shown on a viewpoint indicator at the top. There are open views northwards across the Firth of Forth to Fife; generally north-eastwards to the Bass Rock and Tantallon Castle across farmland; south-eastwards down the East Lothian and Berwickshire coast, south towards the Garleton Hills with the Lammermuir Hills beyond, then westwards up the Forth Estuary to Edinburgh and the Pentlands. The remains of historic use of the

Law as a viewpoint are still evident. Due to its wide visibility, the Law is important in views from many places as well as forming a distinctive backdrop to the town of North Berwick.

North Berwick Law was used as a Hillfort and settlement in the Bronze Age and Iron Age, and the ramparts and hut circles can still be seen. There is a historic relationship between North Berwick Town and the Law

which has affected the development of North Berwick since at least medieval times. The Law was (and to a certain extent still is) a prominent marker that has been used as a navigational aid both from the sea and the land. Indeed North Berwick to Fife by ferry



is a well-known pilgrimage route. There are five beech trees on the eastern flank of the Law the remains of a larger group planted by Hew Dalrymple to commemorate the Treaty of Union between Scotland and England in 1707.

The John Muir Way runs to the west of the Law, with fine views of the Law approaching from either direction, but particularly the south. This route passes a car park off the B1347, from which there are paths both to the top of the Law and around its base. The cliffs on the north are very steep and a former quarry (winning the brownish stone used in buildings in North Berwick) is located to the south. There also is an informal path around the Whisky Bottle reservoir. North Berwick Law is a Marilyn, one of the Relative Hills of Britain<sup>1</sup>.



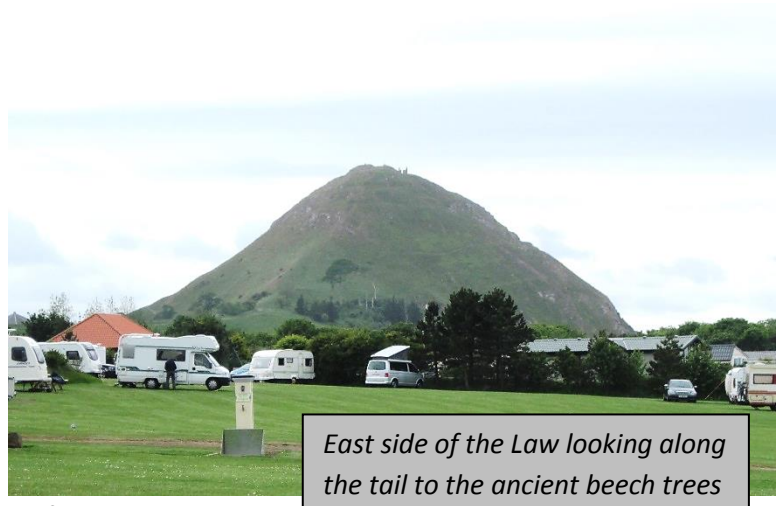
---

<sup>1</sup> "The Relative Hills of Britain" By Alan Dawson: see <http://www.rhb.org.uk/>

## Special Qualities and Features:

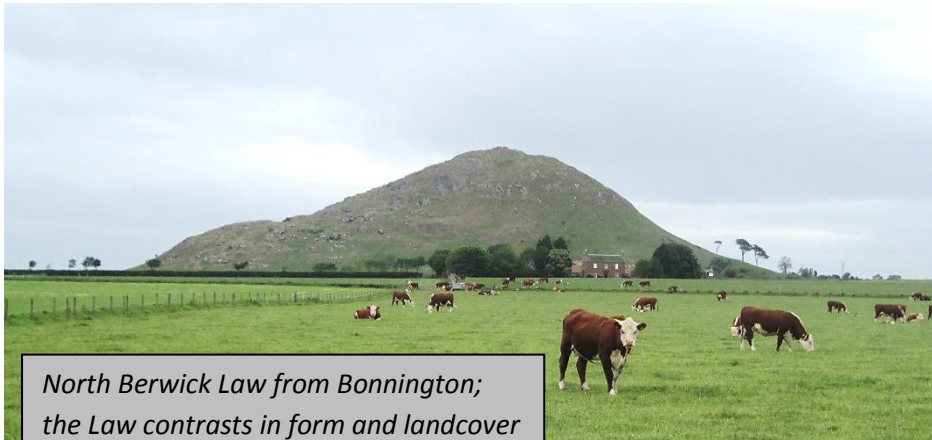


1. North Berwick Law is a distinctive landmark feature over much of the coastal plain as well being visible across the Firth of Forth in Fife and the Lammermuir Hills to the south. The Law with its easily identifiable conical form and crag and tail feature to the east contributes greatly to North Berwick's sense of place.
2. The area is a valuable recreational resource both to local people and visitors from further afield. The Law itself is well used (and baggable in certain circles) and the John Muir Way which passes to the west is part of a nationally promoted long distance route.
3. The open plain farmland and marsh setting of the Law allows appreciation of the feature, rising suddenly and steeply from the surrounding land, its ruggedness contrasting with the cultivated farmland below. The golden yellow of the gorse and grey exposed stone of the Law and the woodland foliage around the Whisky Bottle reservoir contrasting with the crops of wheat or barley waving in the wind.



Bright blue skies or the top of the Law sitting in cloud adds an additional scenic dimension to the area.

4. There is little built development, other than historic, on the steep slopes of the Law. There is



*North Berwick Law from Bonnington; the Law contrasts in form and landcover with surrounding agricultural land*

an attractive row of traditional cottages at Thorntree though and further cottages associated with the sturdy farmhouse at Bonnington (which also has an amusing

farm sign, one of several similar in East Lothian) which may have been built from the brown stone of the Law, providing a link between the built and natural environment. These clusters have small groups of trees sheltering them, reflecting the exposed location and creating a focal point in the farmland. Housing at The Heugh is of a somewhat different appearance; although generally built from the stone of the Law their pantiled roofs contrast with surrounding fields when viewed from the Law. The scale and agricultural appearance of the housing relates to the agricultural use of the area. The Heugh doocot gives a focal point in the open field to the south.



5. Field boundaries generally consist of hedges with hedgerow trees, patchy in places with a limited number of stone walls.
6. The scenic waterbody of the Whisky Bottle reservoir, hidden in trees at the foot of the Law is a surprising find in an area generally lacking in water features, the Law being stony so shedding rainfall quickly to the base. There is a walkway around the reservoir allowing for views in.
7. There is a relationship between the Law and the volcanic islands of Craigeith and the Bass Rock in the Forth, with views of all three allowing the viewer to imagine a previous volcanic landscape.
8. Views out in all directions are excellent, especially along the coast. To the north the hills of Fife and beyond as far as the Cairngorms are visible over the Forth and Forth islands, westwards lies the Forth Bridges World Heritage Site beyond farmland and



*The heavily wooded reservoir at the west side of the Law with the Law rising beyond the trees*



coast, to the south the Garleton Hills and Lammermuirs, rise beyond the coastal plain. South-eastwards are views to Tantallon, Dunbar and cliffs at Thorntonloch and St Abbs. This is a great place for watching cloud shadows chase across farmland, and the ever changing coastal skies and light of the Forth, which can add drama and dynamism to the view

#### *Historic Landscape – North Berwick Law*

9. The setting for North Berwick Law Hillfort (large amount of prehistoric remains both upstanding and cropmarks)
10. Historic relationship between North Berwick Town and the Law. North Berwick Law has affected the development of North Berwick since at least medieval times. The Law was (and to a certain extent still is) a prominent marker that has been used as a navigational aid both from the sea and the land.  
North Berwick to Fife by ferry is well known pilgrimage route
11. 360 degree viewpoint from the Law – remains of historic use of this viewpoint still evident including a Napoleonic watch house and World War 2 lookout.



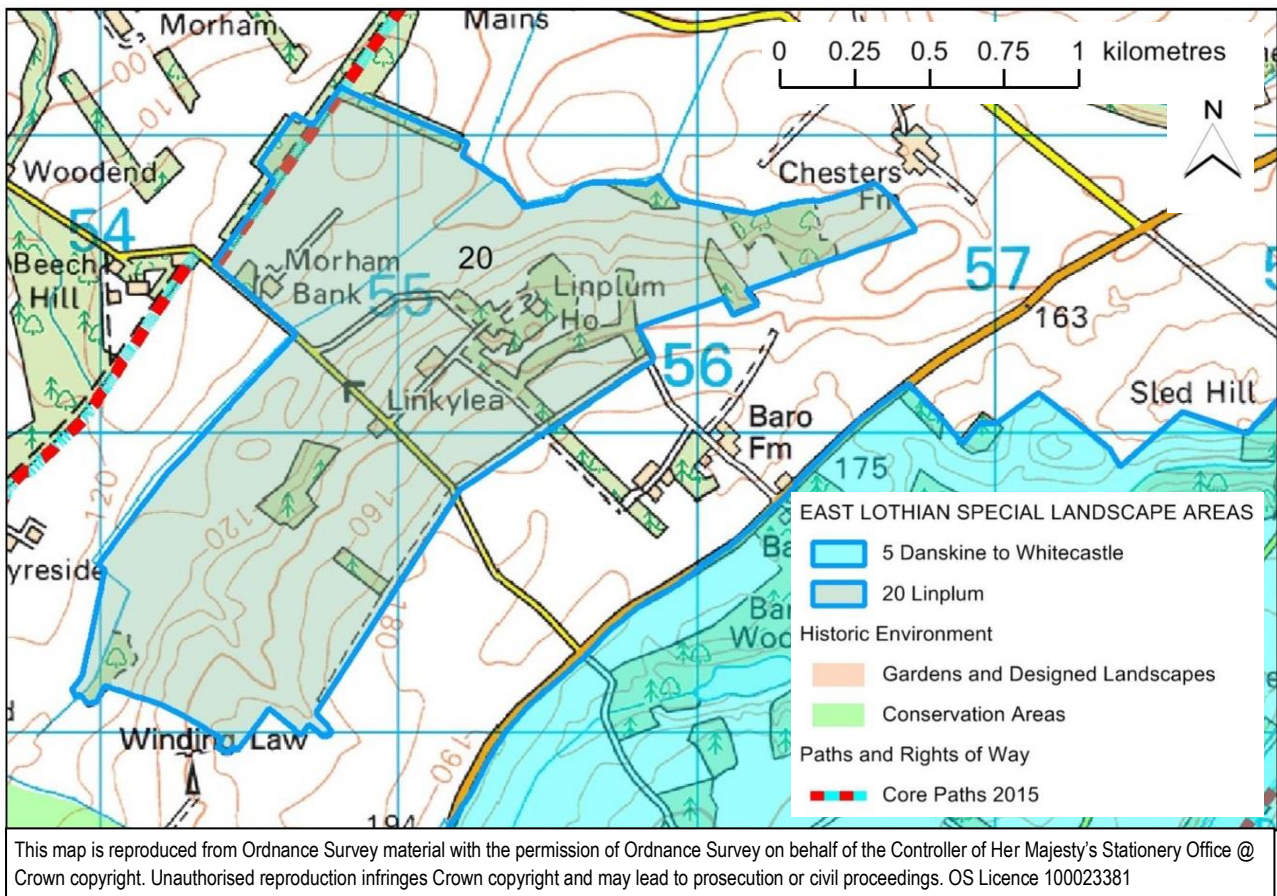
#### **Guidelines for Development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the open views from the Law
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the Law as a landmark crag and tail feature, both in close and distant views or compete with it as a focal point within the landscape and development that would visually diminish its apparent size avoided
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the setting of the Law rising steeply from the surrounding land, including the ice-sculpted indent to the north, west and south
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the recreational value of the Law
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the sense of naturalness and wildness qualities of the area
- F. Any proposed development must not harm views of the Law in particular from the John Muir Way, A198 and B1347
- G. Any proposed development must not harm the integrity and coherence of the historic landscape

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

- i. Avoid tree planting on the rugged slopes
- ii. Take any opportunities that arise to rationalise the system of overhead power lines to the south of the Law; often these follow field boundaries or roads, which is generally preferable.
- iii. Take opportunities to reduce the impact of telecom masts on the Law
- iv. Infill gaps in hedging and replace post and wire fencing with hedging

## Linplum Special Landscape Area 20 Statement of Importance



**Character:** An intricate and attractive post-glacial landform on the Gifford to Dunbar Fault overlain with visually diverse landcover and containing a fine Scottish Baronial house and one of Peter Kerr's family homes, as well as traditional agricultural buildings.

**Area:** 239 ha



*Looking west along the hillside from Morham Loanhead with the landform enhanced by the interlocking bands of trees and Linplum House peeking through*

### Overview

This small area is centred the flat bottomed Sandyford Burn valley whose steep southern slope is formed by the Dunbar to Gifford fault. The bedrock is near/or at the surface in the south of the area, giving occasional craggy outcrops such as at Winding Law. Evidence

of past movement of ice eastwards is clear in the E/NE alignment of the main channel and many smaller mainly perpendicular meltwater channel tributaries<sup>1</sup>. These small steep sided valleys give the area a complex and interesting topography, especially around Linplum. Some water filled holes in the area are likely kettle holes, remnants of the retreating ice. There is a height difference of around 100m from valley floor to ridge; the steep slopes are enough to create a sense of enclosure whilst also enabling some tremendous views out, particularly to the north and west.

This is a diverse area with a mixture of pasture and productive arable farmland as well as swampier ground on the valley bottom and mature mixed woodland shelter belts, the agricultural use responding to the variability in quality of the underlying soil. The area includes Linplum House and grounds – a gem of a place identified as a locally designated Garden and Designed Landscape. To the north Morham Bank, which retains the traditional farm ‘chimney’, is associated with the author Peter Kerr, it being the second East Lothian farm to be owned by his family. He mentions in his book ‘Thistle Soup’ that the ground here was much less fertile than their previous farm in the Garletons.



*Morham Bank Farmhouse*

**Special Qualities and Features**

1. The main valley is an attractive and intricate landform. A concentration of glacial drainage channels running into the main valley formed by movement of ice give it its somewhat unusual and varied form<sup>2</sup>. The landform can be appreciated looking into the area particularly from the north east where it frames the view from the Traprain area, and from the west looking across from Myreside and the B6369 Gifford Road.
2. Strong visual diversity from a varied, productive and colourful arable farmland often seen in interlocking folds, with cows often in the valley bottoms and adjacent fields, the agricultural use responding to the underlying geology with pasture on poorer soils. Mature



*Intricate landform at the Sandyford Burn with varied crops providing a highly scenic view*

<sup>1</sup> See British Geological Survey Map 33W: Haddington Drift Geology at <http://www.largeimages.bgs.ac.uk/iip/mapsportal.html?id=1002363>

<sup>2</sup> See 1

woodland is also a feature of the area, with some large field and roadside trees, as well as mixed woodland around Linplum and in shelter belts, and scrubby wetland trees around the Sandyford Burn. There are also some areas of coniferous woodland.

3. The historic field pattern is relatively intact with a combination of boundary treatments including attractive stone walls and hedges, though post and wire fencing is also used. The stone walls often light coloured due to the lichen, showing a lack of pollution and the age of the walls.



*Rolling contrasting fields and woodland*

4. Some watercourses, including the main Sandyford Drain, appear to have been canalised, though the flat valley floor remains defiantly marshy. Although the straight lines of these works do not appear natural the drains are generally shallow, typical of the area, and are improved in appearance by the scrubby trees which have been allowed to grow at the margin.
5. Built development is sparse - the area was more populous in former times than it is now. Built development consists mainly of substantial farm houses (including Peter Kerr's Morham Bank) along with a smattering of attractive traditionally styled cottages. The few more modern agricultural buildings are well screened.

6. The house and grounds of Linplum form a gem within the centre of the area: Linplum is a substantial home in Scottish Baronial style, set on the north facing slope, framed by established woodland with a pretty understorey of spring flowers at Yewshot bank. There is a good view of this house from an informal tree trunk seat within the woodland to the north of the area (at grid ref. NT 54910, 71080).



*Linplum House set within trees*

7. The abandoned Bara kirkyard, relic of Bara Kirk, to the east of Linplum contains mossy-covered fallen stones surrounded by the traditional yew, as well as copious daffodils and snowdrops. This kirkyard is a quiet spot that well illustrates the passage of time.
8. There are good walking routes through the area, although some a bit marshy in places especially after wet weather; Core Path route 358 from Renton Hall to Beech Hill runs along

the northwest boundary of the area through varied woodland, while on higher ground to the south of the area there is a breezy track from Winding Law to Linplum. At Linplum House itself there are attractive informal tracks through the woodland.



9. Views out of the area from higher ground are good, especially from the Winding

*Rolling hill slopes and mature beech trees common to both ends of the area, with the Lammermuir Hills beyond*



*View across the hill slopes to the snowy Pentland Hills*

Law track, which has an open outlook across East Lothian to Fife, the Pentlands and beyond, as well as across the East Lothian plain including the landmarks of Traprain and North Berwick Law. The closer Garleton Hills and Lammermuirs are also in view. There is also a



*View out towards Haddington and the Garleton Hills*

fine view of Traprain from around Bara kirkyard.



*The raised area provides panoramic views out across East Lothian*

10. There are good views into the area from the B6369 Haddington to Gifford Road to the west as well from the area to the west of Traprain around Morham Mains.
11. Seasonal change is evident in woodland and crops; tree lined rural lanes such as at Mag's Bank, where the turning of the year is evident in the change in trees and hedgerows from blossom to green leaf followed by the autumn berries, contrast with the change in colour of crops in the neighbouring fields, from brown to green to gold. The area is high enough that snow can lie here even when the plains below are clear; the high level walk from Winding Law to Linplum is then both dramatic and invigorating.



### **Guidelines for Development**

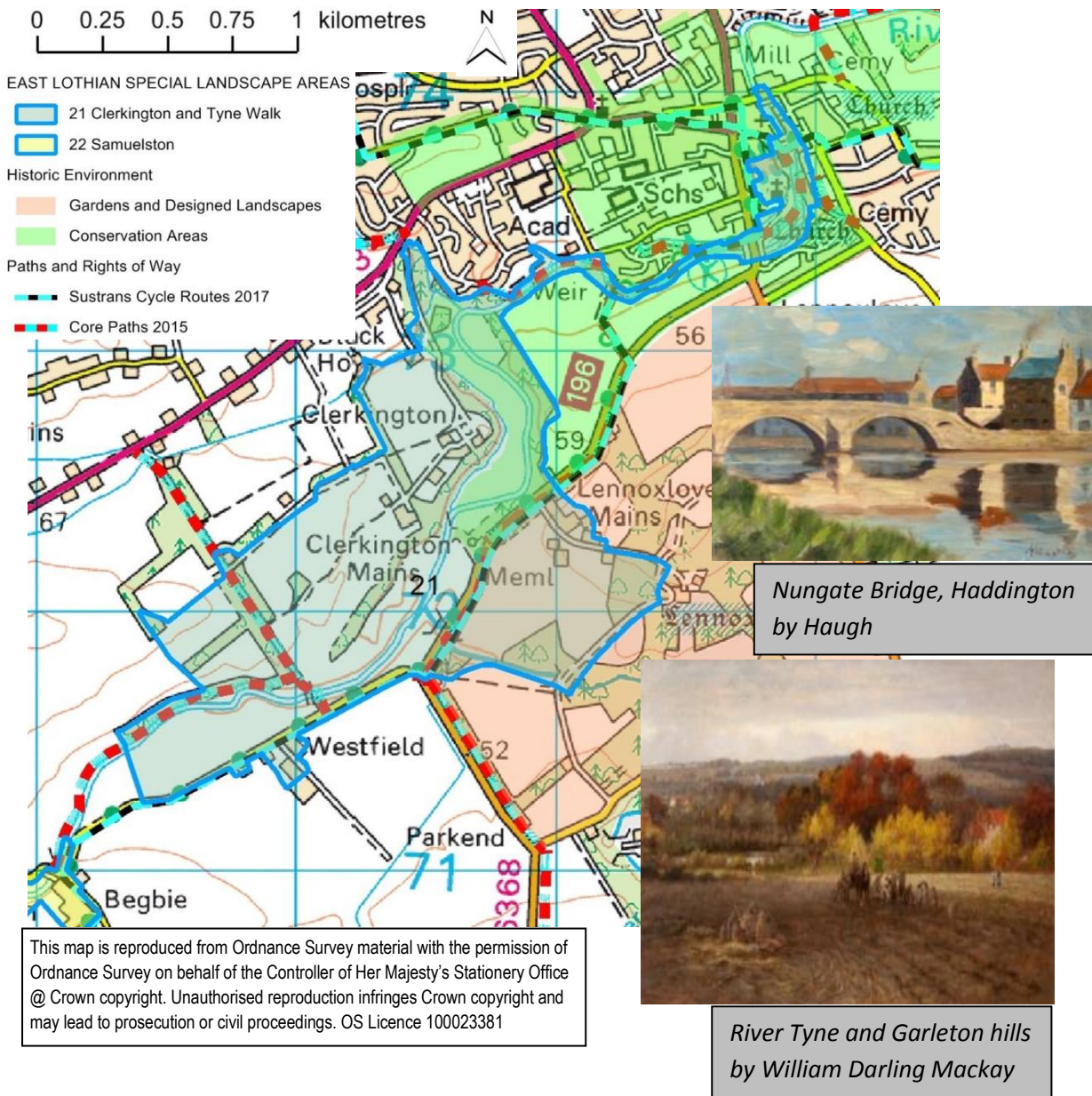
- A. Any proposed development must not harm the sense of scale of the valley or appreciation of the pattern of the various meltwater channels in considering any development
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale secluded visual character derived from the well-planned mature woodland framework
- C. In cases where solar panels are not permitted development they should not be placed on publicly visible roof elevations of traditional buildings or buildings in traditional and historic settings where they would harm the historic nature and scenic value of the area.
- D. Any proposed development must not harm views from the path from Winding Law to Linplum and from the Core Path route from Renton Hall to Myreside
- E. Any proposed large farm building development should be carefully sited and coloured to fit within the landscape form
- F. Any proposed development must not harm the agricultural character
- G. Any proposed development must not harm the focal points of Linplum House or the Winding Law outcrop

Any proposed development must not harm the setting around the Bara Fallen stones to prevent impacts on their air of gentle decay

### **Potential for Landscape Enhancement**

- i. Promote replacement of traditional oak and ash field boundary tree lines. Consider alternative species to ash due to effects of Ash Dieback
- ii. Look to re-instate original field boundaries and retain the small scale field patterns
- iii. Seek to support traditional estate management practices to safeguard woodland enclosure features and important boundary walls
- iv. When the opportunity arises look to re-structure coniferous plantation/shelter belts
- v. Increase access routes through the area

# Clerkington and Tyne Special Landscape Area 21 Statement of Importance



**Character:** A central area of the wide Tyne floodplain set within the Mid Tyne Plain. A picturesque, bucolic, rolling countryside with an abundance of both flora and fauna, of traditional and natural character, with high local scenic value and good recreation access around the setting of the River Tyne together with the historic heart of Haddington.

**Area:** 201 ha

**Overview:**

The River Tyne runs along the wide spreading Mid Tyne valley, between the established estate landscapes of Clerkington and Lennoxlove before passing through the historic heart of the traditional county town of Haddington. It is an area important for recreation with good access to the river and its surrounding area. A peaceful area with much wildlife allowing an easy escape from the

pressures of modern life. Areas of woodland within the Clerkington Estate are protected by tree preservation orders. The woods to the northeast are protected by tree preservation order 107 (20) Clerkington and the woods around Clerkington West Lodge are protected by tree preservation order 72 highlighting the importance of the trees for the visual amenity of the area. The eastern part of the area overlaps with the Haddington Conservation Area along the river corridor showing the overlap between designations and the importance of the area for both the setting of the Town and wider amenity value. Trees here are also protected by a tree preservation order 84 – Briery Bank.

**Special Qualities and Features:**

1. This section of the wide spreading Tyne river valley is typical of the valley with its surrounding fertile farm landscape of a mix of arable fields and pasture land divided by long-established mixed-species shelter belts. The river itself has a wide native tree-lined riparian zone along much of its length and is identified as a local biodiversity site for its variety of bank habitats. The river meanders



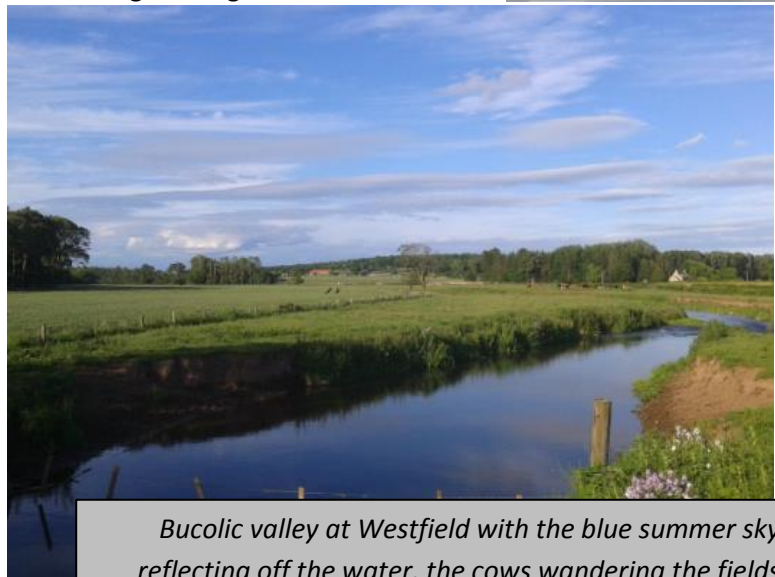
*Spring flowers along the river banks*

gently through the pasture land at Grants Braes; but can be dramatic in flood, spilling over into the surrounding floodplain – sometimes even into town. Yet in summer it provides gurgling waters, surrounded by gently rustling grasses and wildflowers in bucolic surrounds.

2. The Tyne valley is an attractive, rural, peaceful area, teeming with wildlife. There are many opportunities to view wildlife along the river from the Brown Trout in the river and the Sand Martins nesting in the river banks to the Roe Deer who hide shyly in the surrounding woods and fields. Herons can often be seen fishing in the river and swans, ducks and other waterfowl are a familiar sight along the river. Buzzards



are another common sight and sound as they circle overhead, with several badger setts found in the woodlands and along the river banks. If you are very lucky Otters and Kingfishers may even be spotted. In the summer the banks of the river are covered with an array of wild flowers that change from week to week, followed by the stunning autumn display of the deciduous trees. The



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



setting of the river to the west of Haddington is strongly defined by the raised rolling landform of the arable land to the Clerkington and Lennoxlove Estates. The open fields of the Lennoxlove Estate with traditional red roofed agricultural buildings and enclosing woodland to their south provide scenic value and enclosure, framing views along the valley.

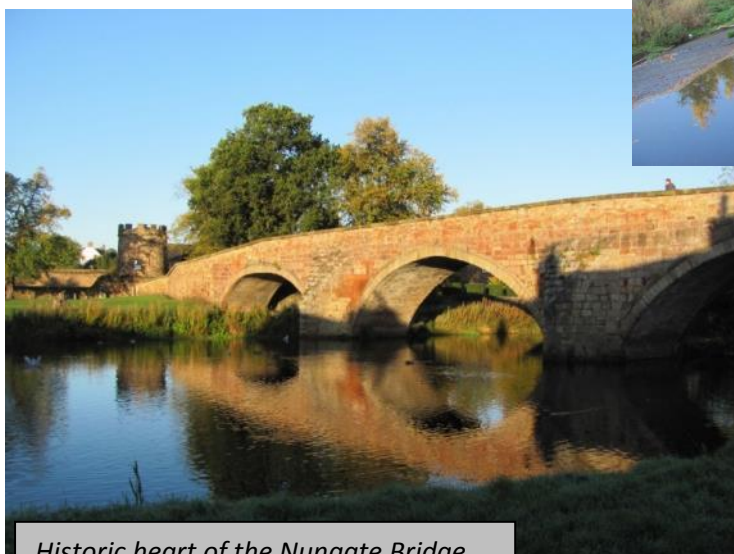
3. The designed landscape of Clerkington, although not an inventory designed landscape and missing its main house, provides a strong scenic setting for Haddington from the west, set on a ridge above the floodplain of the river Tyne with its surrounding policy parklands. The parklands around the river still contain a number of the historic trees of the designed landscape, providing focal points in the flat floodplain, though some appear to be reaching the end of their lives.



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

4. To the west of Clerkington the area surrounding the river is defined by arable fields surrounded by long-established mixed-species shelter belts. These provide a feeling of history and enclosure whilst allowing long distance views south and west across the arable fields of the spreading mid-Tyne plain out to the Lammermuir Hills to the south.

5. The walk along the river banks through Haddington is highly scenic, offering attractive views and sounds of the water from its rushing over the weirs for the historic mills, now no longer using water as power and in places turned into housing, through the

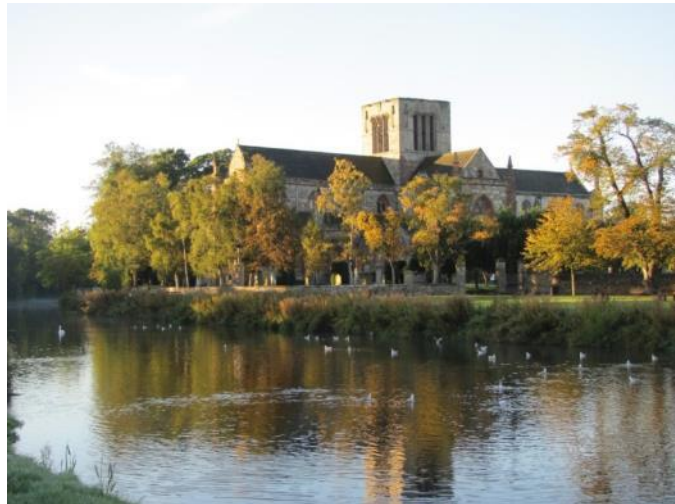


*Historic heart of the Nungate Bridge and Lady Kitty's Doocot*

shallower openness of the East and West Haugh flood plain spilt by the Waterloo Bridge, with the steep bank and trees of Brae Head to its south, around to the historic heart containing St Mary's Parish Church, 16<sup>th</sup> century Nungate Bridge, Waterside Hotel and the small

designed landscape of St Mary's Pleasance set within its high stone walls.

6. St Mary's Parish Church in a beautiful setting on the banks of the Tyne is the longest parish church in Scotland. The red sandstone building with imposing tower was started in 1375 and was partially destroyed during the 1548-49 Siege of Haddington, indeed bullet holes and even the impact damage from a cannon ball can still be seen on the church today. The plain-glass leaded east window was also extensively damaged in 2001 by the collapse of a major limb from the mature copper beech growing within the church grounds, but recently felled due to concern over further failure. The church is now fully restored and new trees planted.



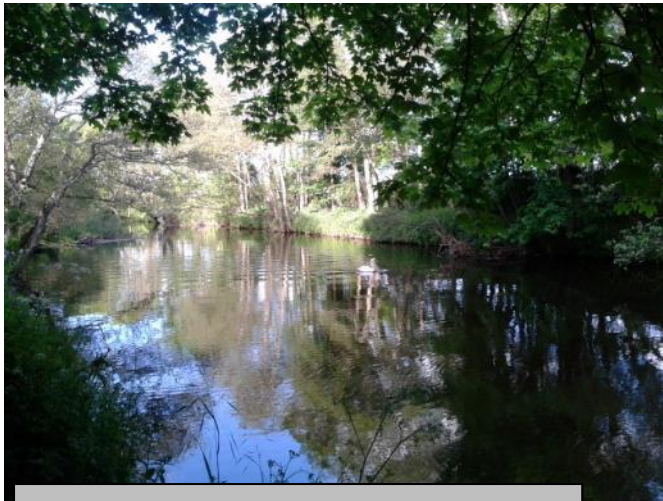
7. Mature trees frame the length of the riverside walk with common limes beside the walls of Mill Wynd, commemorative coronation trees at West Haugh, including a huge 180 year old horse chestnut tree, and nine common lime trees adjacent to Ball Alley, which are supposed to represent the nine trades of Haddington and link the Nungate Bridge to the eastern entrance to St Mary's Parish Church. Together these trees are important in providing a setting for Haddington especially in views from the south. The mixed group of trees at Grants Braes provides a sense of enclosure for the Tyne plain, as well as marking seasonal change.
8. There are many walking routes through the area enabling easy access to this recreational resource, including the Core Path routes 339 along the Tyne to the west of the area linking to Samuelston, 118 linking Westfield to the Pencaitland Road crossing the Tyne via Westfield Bridge, 340, 475, and 476 following the road between Clerkington and Lennoxlove and passing the Well and site of the House where Agnes Broun (Robert Burns' mother) stayed and 260 along the north bank of the river Tyne from Clerkington to the Nungate Bridge
9. Sustrans Cycle Route 11 passes through the area east to west along the valley.



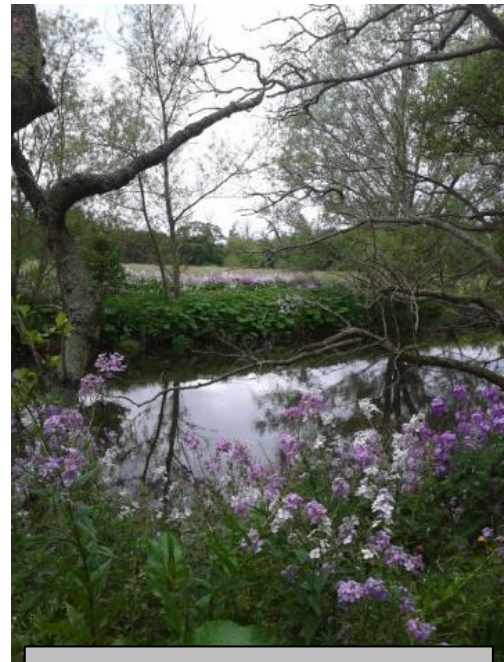
*Enclosure by the surrounding rising landform, buildings and trees at Lennoxlove*

10. There is parking and public access as well as an interpretation board at Grant's Brae also a popular spot for people fishing.

11. The woodlands and river have been a draw for generations of children and are important for natural play in this countryside location close to the large settlement of Haddington.



*Swans disturbing the reflections on the Tyne*

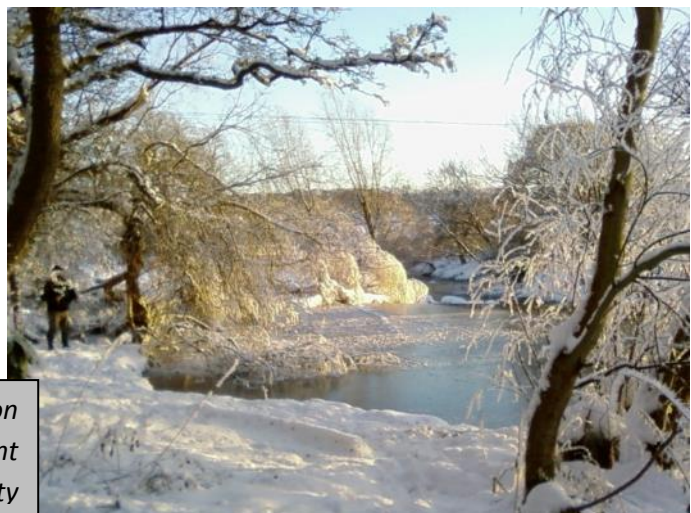


*Spring flowers along the river banks*

12. There are views in all directions usually framed by mature tree belts providing a sense of history and long-establishment. There are many attractive local views within the woodland and along the river, the water providing a constantly changing scene. Some specific views include:

- a) The Garleton Hills frame the area to the north visible beyond Clerkington Mill from the higher ground to the north of Clerkington Stables and framed between the shelterbelts at Clerkington Kennels.
- b) The Lammermuirs provide the horizon when looking south from the higher ground at Clerkington Kennels and West Lodge, where there are long range views southwest over the Mid Tyne Plain.
- c) The view from the pedestrian bridge across the Tyne at Westfield to the west of the area looking east provides an scenic bucolic view of the meandering river set within the floodplain and fields of cows framed by the woodland at Clerkington to the north and rising land and woodland of Lennoxlove to the southeast with the contrasting colours of the arable land, pasture and woodlands and accent of the red farm buildings.

- d) The view from Victoria Bridge to the northeast of the area looking south along the river provides a view through the historic centre of the town taking in the Nungate Bridge to St Mary's Parish Church framed by trees.



*Changes in season provides constant variety*

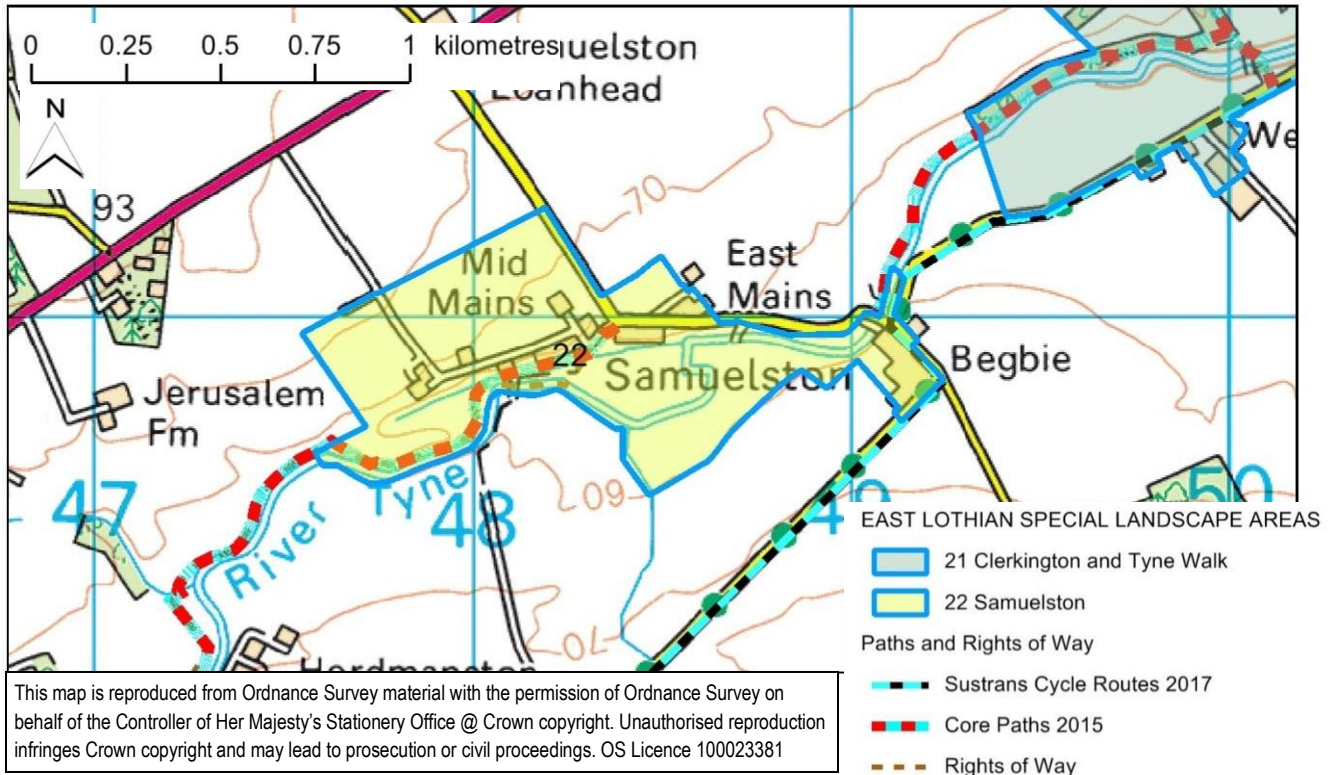
**Guidelines for Development:**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the core agricultural character of the area
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the pattern of arable fields and shelter belts
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the character of the Clerkington designed landscape and the surrounding countryside and avoid development that would impact detrimentally on its historic setting and character
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form and detracts from the natural qualities of the area e.g. wind turbines and large farm buildings
- E. Any proposed large farm building development should be carefully sited and coloured to fit within the landscape form and retain the sense of history and character of the area
- F. Any proposed development must not harm the existing settlement pattern of development of generally small-scale, single-storey, linear and small groups of buildings typical of farm settlements, farm workers cottages and steading conversions and support use of traditional building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings
- G. Any proposed development must not impact detrimentally on open views of the River Tyne and across the agricultural plain particularly from core path routes 118 and 260, the B6368 and the minor road to Samuelston.
- H. Any proposed development must not harm the sense of naturalness and wildness qualities of the area.
- I. Any proposed development must not harm the enjoyment or access along the River Tyne nor harm the natural setting of river, woods and farmland.
- J. Any proposed development must not harm the functioning and appreciation of the natural floodplain of the River Tyne

**Potential for Landscape Enhancement:**

- i. To retain the natural setting and important recreational resource along this section of the River Tyne – replacement planting for trees lost on the south bank of the river between Brae Head (near Briery Bank) and Long Cram is important for the attractiveness of the river walk
- ii. Management of shelter belts and plantation woodlands 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
- iii. Woodland management to remove coniferous plantings from policy woodland areas and replace with mixed coniferous and broadleaf woods.
- iv. Seek to support traditional estate management practices to safeguard woodland enclosure features and important boundary walls
- v. Seek to safeguard future management of important broadleaf woodland elements – estate policies, riparian fringes, shelterbelts
- vi. Maintain field boundaries and avoid further amalgamation of fields
- vii. Maintain, improve and increase walking / cycling access through the area.
- viii. Formalise viewpoint at Westfield Bridge and consider picnic areas

## Samuelston Special Landscape Area 22 Statement of Importance



**Character:** Samuelston is a particularly picturesque historic agricultural settlement set on the banks of the meandering River Tyne in the bucolic, rolling countryside of the Mid Tyne Plain, with an abundance of both flora and fauna, of traditional and natural character, with high local scenic value and good recreation access.

**Area:** 58 hectares

*Examples of paintings using the Samuelston Area as inspiration*



*Swans in the Village Stream*  
By unknown



*Summer's Evening with Figures Haymaking*  
By William Darling Mackay

## Overview

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



## Special Qualities and Features

1. Arable fields set around the shallow valley of the River Tyne is typical of the Mid Tyne Plain, with characteristic farmland birds; warblers, finches and yellowhammers in hedges in the summer, lapwings and golden plover calling in fields in winter.
2. The well-maintained, traditional, small-scale buildings, including Begbie Steading which is still in agricultural use, are typical of the vernacular of the Mid Tyne Plain and agricultural East Lothian in general. New development has successfully retained the character of the older buildings.



*Well maintained farm buildings both old and new*



- The River Tyne, is a central feature of this area, as a scenic water body providing sound and movement, as well as a home for wildlife. This includes trout and nesting sand martins, and if you are lucky, otters and kingfishers. The banks of the river are well treed, with an attractive array of wildflowers that change from



*Snow drops on the banks of the River Tyne*

week to week, followed by the stunning autumn display of the deciduous trees. As you walk



through the area, Roe Deer and Hares can often be disturbed from their hiding places in the woods and surrounding fields.

- Colour contrast is striking here, with the orange red of pantile roofs contrasting with the varied crops of the arable fields and trees. Trees along the old mill lade and within gardens also add to the scenic appeal.



*Buildings of vernacular architecture*



- The open nature of the Tyne valley allows scenic views into the area across arable land to the south, and from the higher parts of the area over the Tyne basin to the Lammermuir hills and foothills; there are also views to the east to Traprain Law.
- The listed stone road bridge joining the settlement on either side of the Tyne is an attractive focal point.
- Core Path route 338 is proposed to follow the route of the established Samuelston to Jerusalem Burn right of way along the north bank of the Tyne providing recreational access through the area

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



and linking Samuelston to the larger settlements of Haddington to the east and Pencaitland to the west.

8. Sustrans Cycle Route 11 passes through the east end of the area.



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

### Guidelines for Development

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the agricultural character of the area
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area and setting of the settlements of Samuelston and Begbie by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and traditional nature of the landscape form and detracts from the natural qualities of the area e.g. wind turbines
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the existing settlement pattern of development of generally small-scale, single-storey, linear and small groups of buildings typical of farm settlements, farm workers cottages and steading conversions and support the use of traditional building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the setting of the Samuelston Bridge
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the sense of naturalness and wildness qualities of the area
- F. Any proposed development must not harm the enjoyment or access along the River Tyne nor harm the natural setting of river, woods and farmland



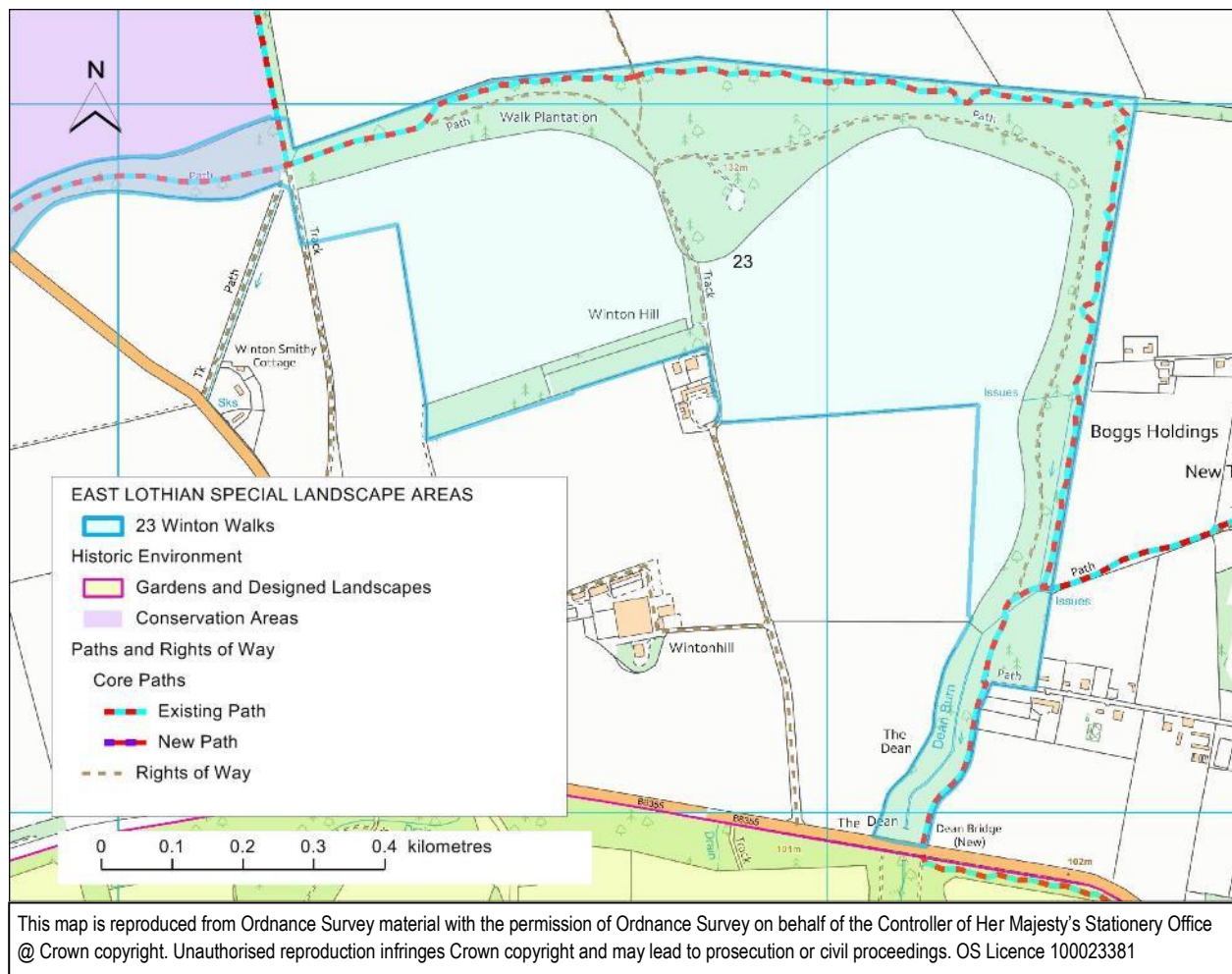
- G. Any proposed development must not harm the functioning and appreciation of the natural floodplain of the River Tyne
- H. Any proposed development must not harm the open views of Samuelston from the minor road from the A6093 to Samuelston Bridge and from core path route 338.
- I. Any proposed design and materials of road signage and street furniture must not harm the historic and picturesque character of the settlement and must retain its individual identity
- J. Any proposed large farm building development should be carefully sited and coloured to fit within the landscape form and retain the sense of history and character of the area

**Potential for Landscape Enhancement**

- i. Improve public access
- ii. Seek to safeguard future management of important broadleaf woodland elements – estate policies, riparian fringes, shelterbelts
- iii. Management of woodlands 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
- iv. Maintain field boundaries and avoid further amalgamation of fields

# Winton Walks

## Special Landscape Area 23 Statement of Importance



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

**Area:** 57 ha

**Overview:**

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

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

### Special Qualities and Features:

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



*The yellow green of young woodlands*

2. The woodlands provide an attractive setting for recreation, laid out and way-marked by the Winton Estate as part of a pleasant network of walking, cycling and horse-riding routes. The woods offer protection from the elements allowing enjoyment in all weathers and appreciation of seasonal variation as well as an element of seclusion which is not found in more open areas. General lack of built development gives the area a 'countryside' character in an area relatively close to large areas of population and built development. Several points of interest have been added along the main walk through the area. These include wooden carved African women, marking miles from the Sinclair Bridge (outwith the area), intended to reflect the distance walked by many for water on a daily basis.



*One of several points of interest added to the walks*

3. The raised elevation on the brow of the hill enables stunning wide-ranging views across and out of East Lothian. There are some viewpoints which have benches to allow seated appreciation of the views, at Arthurs View, James View and an unnamed point just north of Wintonhill Cottages at grid ref. NT 43825, 70688. There are also some fine views looking east from the path north of Wintonhill Cottages.

Views include:

- a. Far views over the Firth of Forth and Fife to the north across rich arable fields
- b. East over wide agricultural fields to the Garleton Hills
- c. West over the Esk valley, Elphinstone Ridge, Edinburgh, Arthurs seat and the Pentlands



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

- d. South across arable fields giving open views across the remarkably wooded seeming scoop of the Tyne Valley and onwards to the long, blue Lammermuir Hills

#### **Guidelines for Development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the pattern of alternating arable fields and woodland
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the arable character of the area
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the enjoyment or access to the area or undermine and damage the natural setting of woods and farmland
- D. Any proposed development must not harm open views out of the area in particular as identified in Special Quality and Feature No. 3 above
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the appearance of the area in wider views particularly as a backdrop to the Winton designed landscape and the Tyne valley

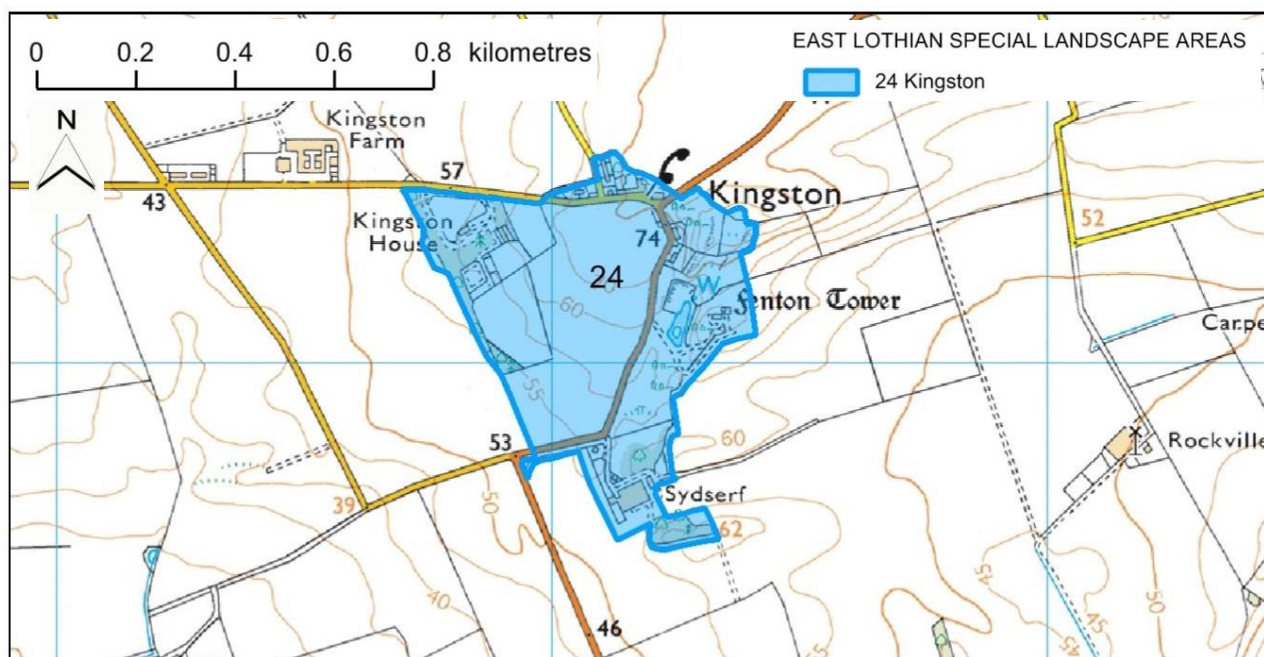


*Open views south west to the Pentlands*

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

- i. Retain alternation of woodland strips and arable lands
- ii. Retain and improve field boundary hedgerow network
- iii. Management of shelter belts and plantation woodlands 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
- iv. Maintain public walking / cycling access

## Kingston Special Landscape Area 24 Statement of Importance



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office @ Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. OS Licence 100023381

**Character:** A scenic raised area of volcanic outcrop with restored historic tower house and a picturesque small traditional settlement with associated large estate house and grounds and traditional farmhouse with panoramic views to the south.

**Area:** 30 ha

**Overview:**

Kingston is a traditional settlement with the old school house to its east end and the estate farmhouse and associated landscape to its west end.



Kingston's raised location allows for superb wide ranging views particularly to the south across the coastal plain of East Lothian to the Garleton Hills and the Lammermuirs and Pentlands beyond. It is a historic area with Sydsarf, Fentoun Tower and King Seat all marked on the Blaeu map of 1654 and Kings Seat shown on the Herman Moll map of 1745.

To the east of the area is a large volcanic outcrop with skeletal soil running from Kingston Hill in the north to Sydsarf to the south. This provides a dramatic, gorse-covered, rough, raised area in this already elevated location and has been used for the siting of the category A listed Fenton Tower. Kingston Hill is also the site of a scheduled ancient monument of multi-period cemetery from the Bronze Age through to the Middle Ages.

The early nineteenth century farmhouse of Kingston House together with its wooded estate landscape, stables, summer house and walled garden provides an established boundary for the area to the west and the restored seventeenth century lairds' house of Sydsarf in its wooded, craggy

setting encloses the area to the south. The field to the south of the cottages along the main street through Kingston has been included within the area to ensure retention of the setting of the settlement and views to the south.

**Special Qualities and Features:**

1. Picturesque single storey vernacular cottages with pantile roofs and white rendered walls set directly onto the roadside. Many of the cottages have been preserved with limited alterations and retain their traditional charm



and character as well as names identifying their original uses such as School House, Smithy Cottage and Forge End.

2. Raised large rocky volcanic outcrop providing a striking area of contrast to the surrounding arable land with its dramatic gorse covered slopes and rough land and scrubby trees with cottages set into the lee of the slope with a real sense of hunkering down against the elements and respecting the topography - yet with tremendous views over the plain.



3. Kingston Hill is the site of a scheduled ancient monument of a multi-period cemetery of over three thousand years of intermittent use from the Bronze Age through to the Middle Ages, with a large number of graves spread across the top and sides of the knoll. Most burials were found contained in stone-lined long cists and there are traces of a building dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> century. Historic Environment Scotland note that the monument is of national importance as a

well-preserved site with a particularly long-lived history of use and the site has the potential to enhance current knowledge of ritual and funerary practices over a long period of time.

4. Fenton Tower is an a-listed magnificent fortified traditional tower house dating from circa 1775 set on the raised ground of Kingston Hill above the 'laich' which adds to the scenic setting of the tower. The location has been used as a site for a castle since the 11<sup>th</sup> century as it affords panoramic views in all directions. Now completely restored and providing holiday accommodation, the tower is probably best known as Archie's castle in the BBC children's series Balamory. Its elevated position and off white rendered walls makes it a conspicuous focal point from the surrounding coastal plain.



5. Sydserf House, a distinctive crow-stepped and lime-washed a-listed restored 17<sup>th</sup> century T-plan two-storey lairds' house sits prominently to the south of the area. The house was probably the



seat of the Sydserff family from the late 15<sup>th</sup>- century until around 1700. The steading to its east has been sensitively converted into residential accommodation keeping its character with pantile roofs and half-dormer windows. Sydserf is separated in views from Fenton Tower by mature trees on the craggy outcrops surrounding the house to the northeast adding to the scenic quality of the area.

6. The early nineteenth century b-listed farmhouse of Kingston House with its pretty c-listed stables is set within a wooded estate landscape to the west of the area.
7. The area has retained a traditional field pattern with small scale fields enclosed by stone walls.



8. The raised location of the settlement allows for superb panoramic views from the small parking area to the south of the cottages over the surrounding countryside including the coastal plain to the Garleton Hills.



9. The woodlands at Sydserf and around Kingston House are mature established deciduous woods adding interest and shelter to the area and breaking up the arable plain providing contrast of colour and form.

#### **Guidelines for Development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the agricultural character of the area.
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the sense of place of the character, landscape setting and identity of the settlement of Kingston. Large, modern development, out of scale with the existing buildings would adversely impact the landscape character of the area.
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale secluded visual character derived from well-planned mature woodland framework around Kingston House and Sydserf.
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the existing settlement pattern of development of large houses within wooded grounds and short rows of generally single storey cottages onto the roadside and support use of traditional building materials including harling and pantiles and slates, with limited sandstone and traditional components and styles of design in new buildings.
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the setting or views of Fenton Tower, detract from its prominence as a feature on the hill top or compete with it as a focal point within the landscape.
- F. Any proposed development must not harm the existing character of the village and the surrounding countryside.
- G. Any proposed development must not harm the open views south across the agricultural plain particularly from the parking area to the south of the cottages at 15 and 16 Kingston and from the B1347

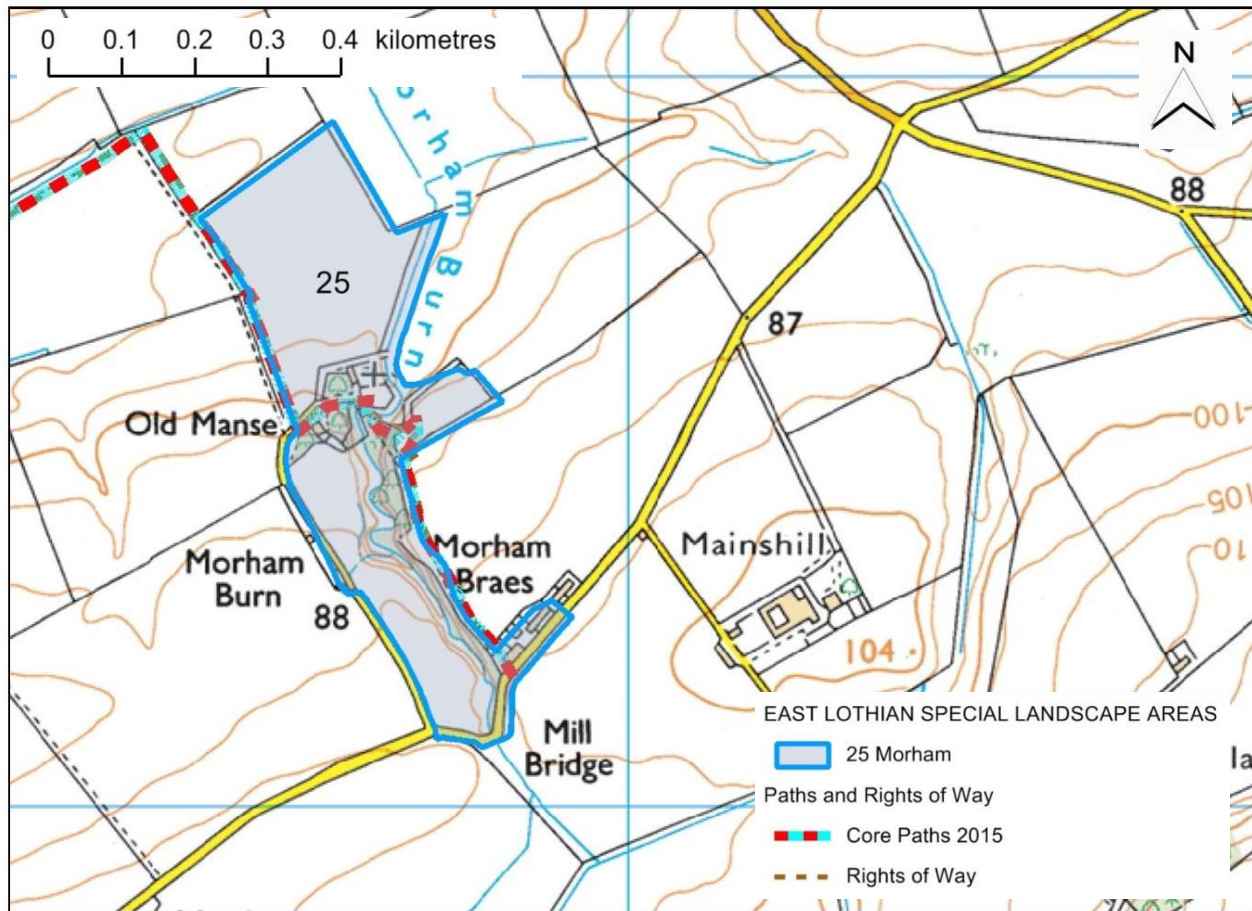
#### **Potential for Landscape Enhancement:**

- i. Electric poles intrude on views to the south and would benefit from re-routing, in particular up the hillside to the north of Kingston Smithy.



- ii. Modern development including the installation of solar panels on the front elevation of the roofs of the traditional cottages detracts from the history and character of the area

## Morham Special Landscape Area 25 Statement of Importance



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. OS Licence 100023381

**Character:** A small, picturesque valley important for its scenic and historic value

**Area:** 15 Ha

### Overview:

This small area is focussed on Morham Braes, a steep-sided wooded valley running SSE to NNW, cut by the Morham Burn, with a drop of around 30m from the head to the foot of the area. The valley opens out onto, and is surrounded by flatter, fertile land typical of the Lower Tyne Plain. This provides a beautiful setting for Morham Kirk, a church having stood on this site from around the 14<sup>th</sup> century, though the current building (in which services are still held) dates from 1724. The area includes the older parts of the hamlet of Morham, and an area of farmland in front of the Church.

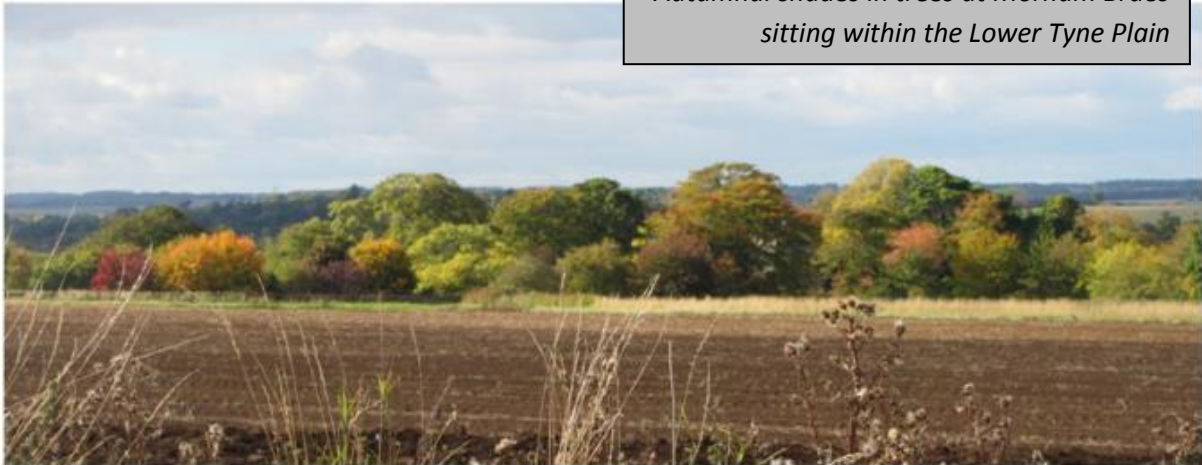


*Morham Burn through Morham Braes viewed from the core path*

### Special qualities and features

1. The steep valley through which Morham burn falls and meanders contains mature mixed woodland of Morham Braes which provides visual variety and contrast within the surrounding arable land, changing with the seasons. The wilder nature of the upper burn area merges into the more tamed mature woodland of the large garden of the old manse and road side trees, then opens out into farmland below, providing visual diversity in contrast with surrounding arable fields.

*Autumnal shades in trees at Morham Braes sitting within the Lower Tyne Plain*



2. Built environment and setting: the stone and slate Morham Kirk is beautifully set within the landscape, as the land begins to rise from the very flat area to the north it is framed by the wooded valley. The neutral greys of the Kirk contrast with the colours of its landscape setting;



*Morham Kirk in its wooded setting linked with the surrounding landscape by the use of stone*

greens in summer giving way to reds, oranges and yellows in autumn. Views of the kirk are particularly good from the right of way from Northrig; the churchyard is also interesting to explore. The Morham Burn house on the lane down, contrasts with the mature woodland behind and arable land surrounding it, and is a focal point in views from the west and south. The single track lane to the kirk adds to the traditional ambience. The stone bridge over Morham burn is also attractive.

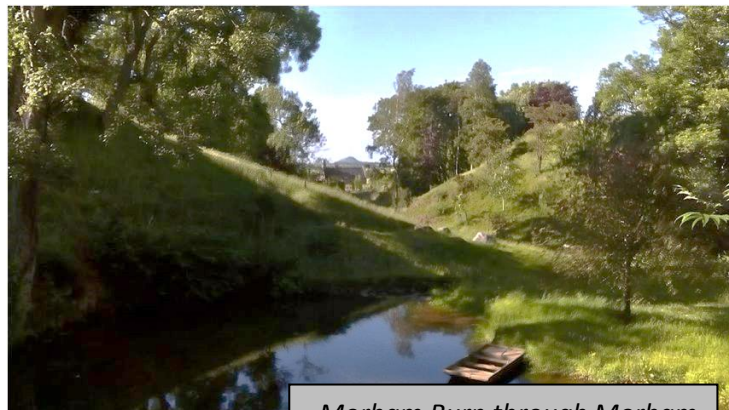
- Old stone walls lining the roads and stone buildings, and the use of traditional materials such as slate and pantiles in the older buildings add to the aesthetic appeal



*Morham Village Houses from the north with Morham Braes to the west*

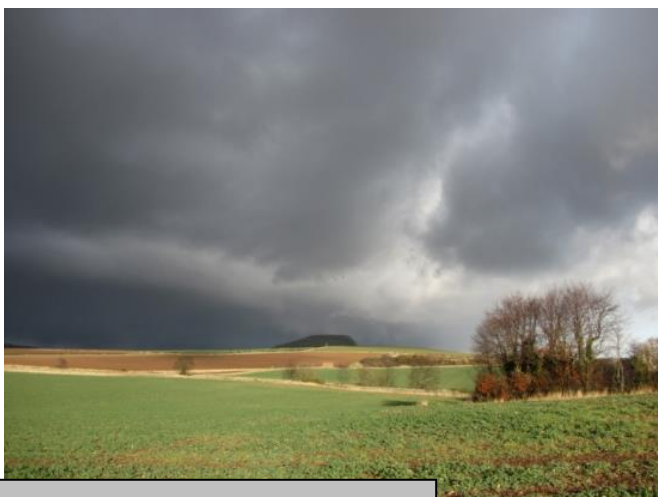
- Newer development within Morham respects traditional form in that cottages and the village hall are kept low and face the road although they do not use traditional materials.

- Core Path route 31 from Morham Old School to Northrig follows the eastern edge of the woodland above Morham Braes, before dropping down to the kirk and continuing along the north-western boundary. The path gives good views of Morham Kirk and Braes as well as Traprain Law and the Lammermuirs

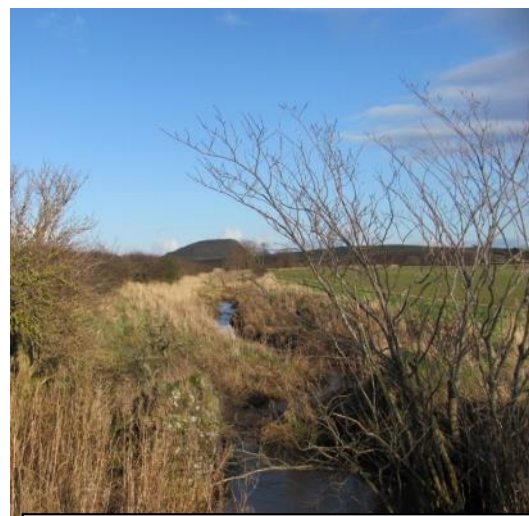


*Morham Burn through Morham Braes viewed from the core path*

- Morham's history as a 'lost village' gives the area a mysterious, wistful air. Morham was once a much larger settlement. The main buildings of the original village remain – Old Manse, Kirkton of Morham and Morham Bank, marked on early 19<sup>th</sup> century maps as the old school house, though the majority of the housing and populace have now gone.



*Arable setting of Morham Kirk with Traprain Law in the distance*



*Morham Burn with Traprain Law beyond*

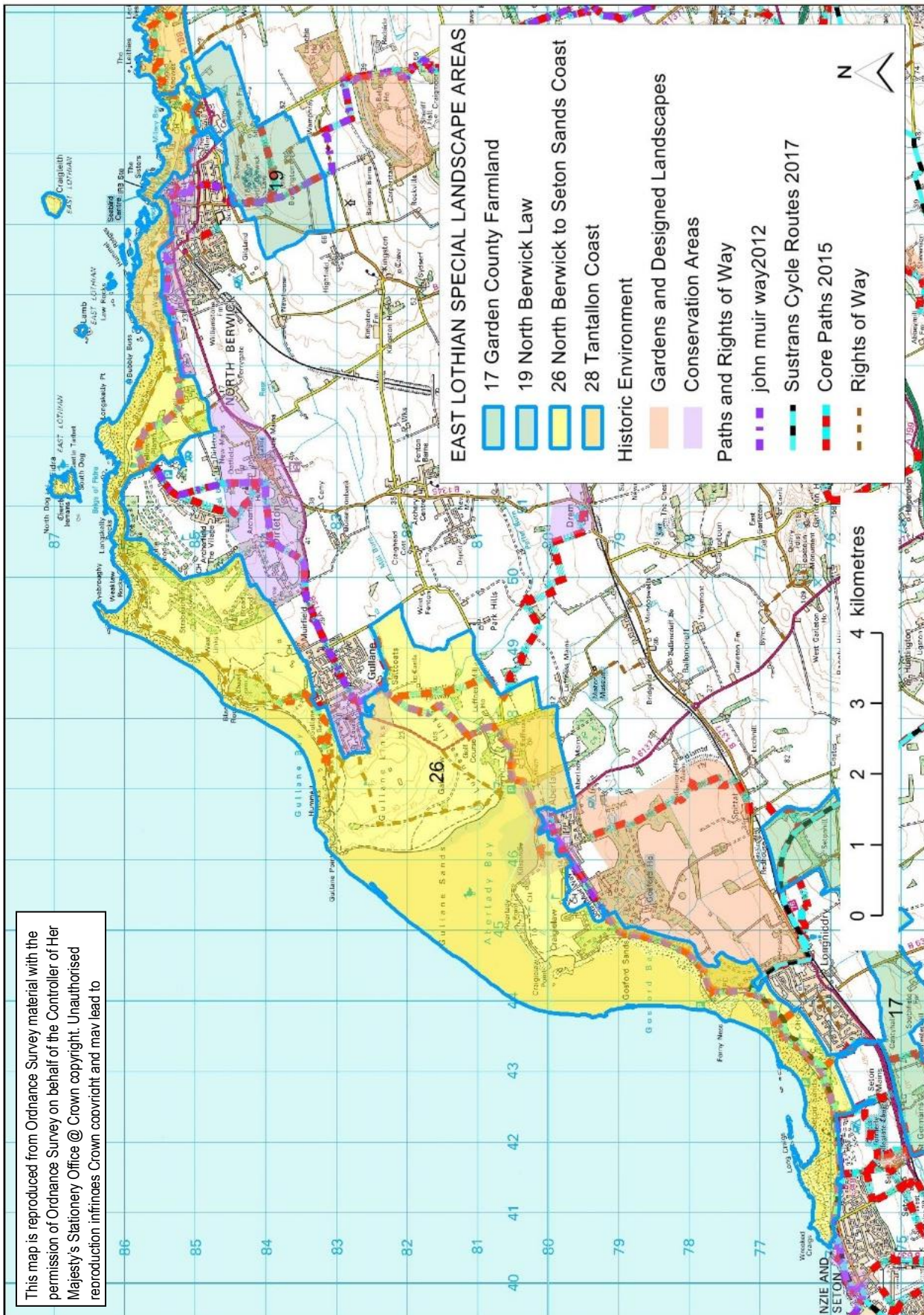
### **Guidelines for Development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the small-scale secluded visual character derived from well-planned mature woodland framework
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the sense of place of the character, landscape setting, identity and traditional appearance of Morham
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the setting of the Kirk and Morham Burn building and the approach to the Kirk along the single track road
- D. Support the use of traditional building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the setting and sense of the lost village by prevention of infill development in the area of the Old Manse, Morham Burn and Kirk
- F. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form and detracts from the natural qualities of the area
- G. Any proposed development must not harm the open views from core path route 31 both into the area towards the kirk and out of the area towards Traprain Law
- H. Any proposed design and materials of road signage and street furniture must not harm the historic and picturesque character of the village and must retain its individual identity

### **Potential for Landscape Enhancement**

- i. Signage of the core path route could be improved
- ii. If the opportunity arises undergrounding or re-routing the overhead power lines would be beneficial to avoid an impact on the setting of the Kirk and Morham Braes
- iii. Management of woodlands 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
- iv. Maintain stone field boundaries and avoid amalgamation of field

# North Berwick to Seton Sands Coast: Special Landscape Area 26 Statement of Importance



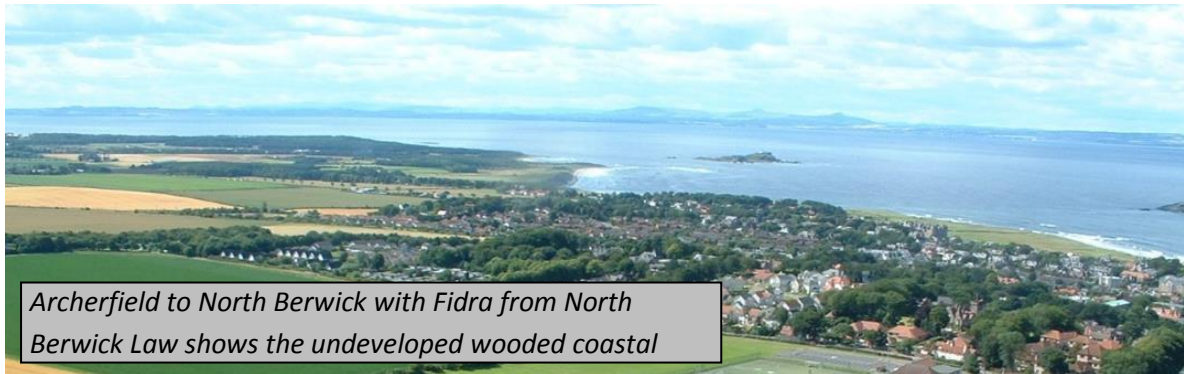
This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office @ Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to

**Character:** This area is the heart of East Lothian’s recreational coast, including many beautiful, well-loved beaches, as well as the expansive nature reserve of Aberlady Bay and world class golf courses. Its coastline is diverse including low rocky headlands, estuaries and sandy beaches as well as the rare feature of mobile sand dunes. The islands of Fidra, Lamb and Craigleith also lie within the area, their remote areas of land providing havens for wildlife. They form part of the iconic seascape that is one of East Lothian’s greatest assets. The area is bounded by several traditional towns and villages, from the small fishing village of Port Seton in the west, past the historic settlements of Aberlady and Gullane to the bustling town of North Berwick in the east.



*Fidra across the sands and rocky foreshore at Yellowcraig*

**Area:** 2,573 ha



*Archerfield to North Berwick with Fidra from North Berwick Law shows the undeveloped wooded coastal*

**Overview:**

This is a large area of diverse, highly scenic coastline, views from and of the area almost always good, sometimes stunningly so. The coast has high recreation value, the beaches and sand dunes being popular with visitors for walking, picnicking and observing wildlife. The sea offers opportunities for a wide variety of water sports from canoeing to surfing, kite surfing and wind surfing. Links golf courses are also a feature of the area, including the world renowned Muirfield at Gullane and the more recently developed Renaissance course at Dirleton.

The area runs along the coast from the east side of Port Seton and taking in the flat expanses of sands at Longniddry as well as its attractive golf course, backed by Scots pine



*Yellowcraig to North Berwick Bay*

trees and the highly scenic, mixed deciduous native wooded valleys of Seton Dean and Longniddry Dean, although their character is not coastal they link directly to this coastal area and provide a wooded setting for it. Further east the distinctive feature of the wind shorn trees of the edge of the Gosford Garden and Designed Landscape frame the area.

Trees continue to be important in providing a setting for the coast with the wooded grounds of the Luffness Garden and Designed

Landscape enclosing the coast to the east of Aberlady, the woods of the Archerfield Garden and Designed Landscape providing the backdrop to the coast west of Dirleton and the woodlands at Yellowcraig, Invereil House and Carlekemp providing a setting for the coast on the western approach to North Berwick.

Wildlife abounds in the area. Aberlady Bay is important for its wild fowl and wading birds – the majority of the coast between the high and low water forms part of the Firth of Forth SPA and SSSI due to its importance in providing habitats for wintering populations of waterfowl of both European and international importance. The thousands of geese coming in to roost at Aberlady Bay at dusk over the winter is a spectacle worth viewing. The islands of Craigleith, Fidra and The Lamb form part of the Forth Islands SSSI and house large colonies of nesting sea birds in spring and summer including colourful puffins. The award-winning Seabird Centre, inventively designed as a birds wing to perfectly reflect its function and site, has live action cameras which allow a view of the island birds without disturbing them. Other wildlife can be seen in person from butterflies in the dune grasslands, to seals sunning themselves on the rocky shore to the invertebrate life in the rock pools and gannets diving into the waters for fish.

The large estuary of Aberlady Bay provides both a coherent historic area as well as an important area for nature. Its protection as a local nature reserve makes this the least developed section of this coastline. Its low-lying nature extends the influence of the coast inland at this point to include the arable land around Saltcoats Castle to

*Wind shorn trees above the wall at the Gosford Estate*



*Over wintering flocks of geese*



*Contrasting landscape of Aberlady Bay – expanses of water when the tide is high*



the south of Gullane. Coastal grassland habitat is also important in this area, recognised by designation as a Local Biodiversity Site at Gullane Bents, where the SSSI does not reach. The coastal flowers there and at Yellowcraig are pretty.

The extensive links and dunes round Gullane provide an ideal landscape for links golf courses with six golf courses found between Aberlady and North Berwick. The dunes including rare mobile dunes back onto long stretches of sandy beach at Gullane, Yellowcraig and North Berwick. Rocky shore can also be found in stretches along the coast providing visual and geological interest.



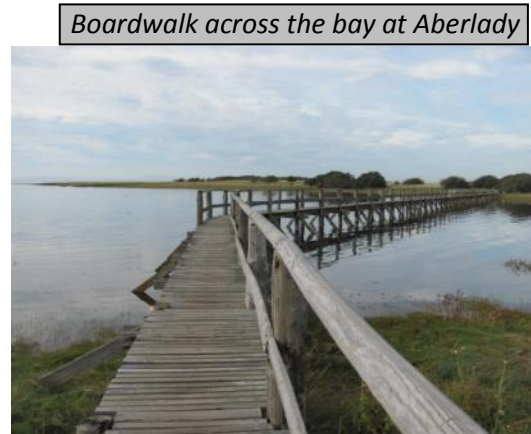
*Dunes at Gullane*

There is good access to the area

with the B1348 and A198 following the line of the coast and linking the coastal settlements. The John Muir Way also follows along the coast and many core path routes link into the area from inland. Sustrans cycle route 2 follows the coast road from Port Seton to Longniddry and route 15 follows a local route from Luffness to Gullane. There are several formalised parking areas providing easy access to the beaches.

### Special Qualities and Features:

1. Much of the aesthetic appeal of Aberlady Bay is in its open landscape/seascape and feeling of “wildness”. This distinctive estuary contains saline alluvial soil, rare in Scotland. It was designated as Britain’s first Local Nature Reserve and a Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1952, due to its botanical, ornithological and geological interest. The aim of the Reserve is “**to conserve the geomorphological and physiographical features, the habitats, flora and fauna found within the Reserve and the resultant landscape character**”.



*Boardwalk across the bay at Aberlady*

2. Aberlady Bay Local Nature Reserve represents the most extensive complex of sand dune, saltmarsh and mudflats in South-East Scotland. It also contains a wide range of associated habitats, particularly calcareous grassland and freshwater marsh; and supports a large variety of plant species with many Scottish and local rarities. The main ornithological interest of the Reserve relates to the site’s national or international significance as a feeding and



*Expanses of mud flats at Aberlady Bay*

roosting area for wintering wildfowl and waders, and its regional importance for several breeding species.

3. The birdlife of the whole area is an important part of its character. The many geese, sea and wading birds frequenting this area make it a regular haunt for bird-watchers, particularly at Aberlady Bay. The islands support colonies of seabirds, particularly puffins, while Aberlady Bay attracts up to 30,000 migrating geese in the autumn. The outdoor experience is complemented by the visitor attraction the Seabird Centre in North Berwick and the Scottish Ornithological Club headquarters at Waterston House, Aberlady.



4. The coast has much geological interest along its length with a number of Local Geodiversity Sites. Of particular note are the volcanic rocks and dolerite intrusions along the shore from Yellowcraig to North Berwick that link with the volcanic intrusions of the Forth islands and the sedimentary rocks forming low cliffs at Gosford Bay and Kilspindie.
5. The intrusive volcanic landform of picturesque Fidra Island sits off the coast at Yellowcraig with its distinctive arch and 1885 lighthouse and is said to be an inspiration for Robert Louis Stevenson's Treasure Island. It creates a focal point and frames views from the shore and contrasts with the soft white sands of the beach. The changing tide around its base, covering and exposing rocks, and changing light and weather conditions produce a constantly changing seascape. The sea birds bobbing on the waves, small fishing boats heading round the island and the gulls wheeling overhead combine to create an area of potent aesthetic appeal.



*Fidra across the sands and rocky foreshore at Yellowcraig*

6. Yellowcraig is a natural cove beach with spectacular views to the 1885 lighthouse on Fidra. Due to enclosure by trees and dunes, the beach is secluded from built development and other man-made elements such as cars. The soft white sands make it a popular family beach, a great place for rock pooling at low tide. Broad Sands, just round the corner to the east, is a sweep of white sand with good views of Bass Rock and North Berwick. Extensive dune grass lands extend inland from the beach dotted with wildflowers and butterflies in the summer. These are framed by the woodlands to their south with the distinctive twisted pine trees on the seaward edge that have been stunted and distorted by the harsh sea winds to create inspirational shapes firing the imagination. A volcanic plug, the Yellow Craig itself, is home to an interesting variety of moss and lichen.

7. A large section of the coast around Gullane contains sand dunes, including mobile dunes, rare in Scotland, with associated flowers and butterflies. Gullane Bents is a good example of sand dune restoration, with regional



*Mobile dunes at Gullane*

significance. The sandy bay of Gullane beach backed by the large imposing dunes is highly attractive and heavily visited throughout the

year. Sea buckthorn, originally introduced in the 1950s by the well-known Country Planning Officer Frank Tindall to stabilise the dunes, has unfortunately taken to the area rather better than expected and now requires control; however here it does bring a magnificent display of orange berries in the autumn.



8. There are tranquil sections of coast still within this generally busy recreational area. The quietest areas lie to the west of Gullane Bay around Gullane point and to the east of Gullane Bay around Jamie's Neuk and enable a more peaceful experience of the coast.



*Jamie's Neuk*



*Eyebroughy with the evening light on the sea*

9. The long sandy beach of Longniddry Bents can be found to the west of the area. There are rock pools to explore, areas of semi-natural coastal grassland bright with flowers in the spring and summer, and fine views looking towards Edinburgh and the Forth Bridges. Grey seals are often spotted to the west of the bay. Look out for the remains of World War II anti-tank defences, and remains of wrecks at low tide. A popular beach with visitors it is easily accessible from the A198 and B1348 with several car parks. The area is framed to the east by the wind shorn trees edging the Gosford estate. These

appear as if they have been trimmed by a hedge cutter so even is their appearance above the boundary wall.

10. North Berwick's beaches consist of two sandy bays with various rocky intrusions separated by a more substantial headland containing North Berwick Harbour, now mainly used by leisure craft. These popular recreational areas are an important part of the setting of North Berwick, originally a fishing village and port.

There is a small amount of dune formation at the head of the shore however this is limited by built development and sea defences.

11. This area has strong aesthetic appeal with its sandy beaches and bays and rocky coast



*Broadsands, North Berwick to Fidra*



*East beach, North Berwick*

providing diversity and scenic views. It is an open landscape facing the sea varying in nature, from estuaries to dunes and rocky shore with policy woodlands, agricultural land, golf courses and islands as well as several urban areas set directly onto the coast. It is often rugged with mysterious elements particularly on the coast. Changing light and weather conditions and its effects on the sea can be dramatic. There are constant sounds of the breaking waves and seabirds and the invigorating smell of salty sea air.

12. The seascape and relationship with the marine area is a vital part of the scenic appeal of this area. Coastal views westwards can be funnelled up the Forth towards the Forth Bridges World Heritage Site, the smooth plain of the Forth contrasting with the highly textured land. Eastwards, views are towards the open sea, with a seascape composed of islands, coastal sandy bays interspersed with low headlands, containing rising land in both East Lothian and



Fife, and some open views out to the North Sea. The busy shipping lane of the Forth adds colour and interest.

13. There are many excellent views over the coast and Forth Islands as well as towards Edinburgh and Fife from much of the area, with strong intervisibility. It is a heavily photographed and painted area. By day the coastal light brings changes; at night the lights of Fife sparkle across the Forth. This area has been widely identified as containing important views in the public consultation. Particular viewpoints identified in the public consultation include:
- the coast from Gullane Hill, Aberlady Bay and Kilspindie,
  - Yellowcraig beach towards Fidra,
  - North Berwick beach and harbour,
  - The approach to North Berwick from the east looking towards the Law,
  - view from the golf course over North Berwick, and
  - the view north from Greywalls.

14. The area is important for outdoor recreation. The John Muir Way snakes along the coast mainly within the area. There are several links golf courses, which are characteristic of coastal lowland Scotland, many offering players great views across the Firth of Forth. The beaches are popular with families, walkers, horse riders and others. The sea off Gullane beach and Longniddry Bents is particularly good for surfing, wind surfing and kite surfing. This recreational use adds to the scenic appeal of the area their brightly coloured boards and sails contrasting with the surrounding natural environment of blue sea, golden sand, and green of sea buckthorn, whilst the white spray kicked up by their boards enhances appreciation of the energy and power of the sea.



*Kite surfers at Gosford Sands*

15. The area has qualities of wildness. The offshore islands here, the most notable of which are Fidra, Craigleith and Lamb are among East Lothian's most remote areas. The sand dunes and mud flats of Aberlady Bay estuary provide natural groundcover and a lack of artificial elements. The shore itself provides elements of wildness and Jamie's Neuk, Archerfield and Gullane all score

highly on SNH wildness mapping. Despite the busy shipping lanes and views of development in Fife parts of the shore still have



*Island of Craigleith*

an elemental feel such as the expanse of Aberlady Bay with wide sky openness. The sea itself has an elemental feel – a brisk north-easterly can quickly whip up the waves and occasional storms over the Forth are a reminder of nature's power. Sometimes a haar will roll in from the sea, approaching like moving wall to blot out the sun.

16. There are many opportunities to view a myriad of wildlife along the coast from the many sea birds to seals on the shore and deer and badgers in the coastal woodlands to invertebrate life in rock pools and under rocks.

*Historic Landscape – Aberlady Bay*

17. This is a very diverse area in terms of the historic environment, with a high density of archaeological remains. Remains present include virtually every archaeological and historic period. This area has numerous Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings associated with it. There are also a number of inventory gardens and designed landscapes within and bordering the area.



*Tank traps at Maggie's Loup, Gullane Links*



*A wreck at Aberlady Bay*

There is a significant amount of industrial and WWI & II remains present along the coast. Medieval settlements of Eldbottle and Kilspindie are located within the area together with the remains of Kilspindie and Saltcoats Castles. The area is very rich in archaeological remains and monuments and has a high potential for previously unknown sites. The area of Aberlady Bay is an area of particular historic importance providing a coherent area of historic wrecks and medieval harbour, Kilspindie Castle and WWI remains.

**Examples of paintings using the Port Seton to North Berwick Coast as inspiration**



North Berwick Harbour with Boat '149LH' Tied Up by MacGeorge



Gullane Links, evening by Patrick William Adam



A sunset View of Aberlady Bay, Low Tide by William Darling Mackay circa 1903



Driving the Herd by William Darling Mackay circa 1900



Autumn Morning at Kilspindie, Drive Off  
by William Darling Mackay circa 1900



Driving Cattle on the Salt Marshes  
by William Darling Mackay circa 1901

### Guidelines for Development

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the coastal character and characteristic features of the area
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the wide, open character of Aberlady Bay and Broad Sands.
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the recreational and scenic appeal of beaches, including access to them.
- D. Preservation against built development on the Forth Islands, identified as Unspoiled Coast in the East Lothian LDP other than extremely small scale development related to wildlife tourism
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the habitat and openness of the coastal grasslands
- F. Any proposed development must not harm the operation of natural coastal processes other than where sea defences are needed to protect important infrastructure such as the Longniddry to Aberlady Road, or the settlement of North Berwick.
- G. Any proposed development must not harm the sense of naturalness and wildness qualities of the area
- H. Any proposed development must not detrimentally impact on bird habitats. Birdlife is important to the area and development or management that harms it is unlikely to be approved because of SPA status of much of the area.
- I. Any proposed development must not harm the night-time darkness of those areas of the coast that are currently darker; Gosford Bay to Craigiellaw and Gullane Bents to Broad Sands.
- J. Any proposed development must not harm open views out from the coastline, particularly from the John Muir Way, Sustrans cycle route 76, the A198, and including views westwards towards Edinburgh and the Forth Bridges, the coast from Gullane Hill, Aberlady Bay and Kilspindie, Yellowcraig beach towards Fidra, views of North Berwick beach and harbour, the approach to North Berwick from the east towards the Law, the view from the golf course over North Berwick, and the view north from Greywalls
- K. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form and detracts from the natural qualities of the area e.g. wind turbines.
- L. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of residential built development encroaching on the coastal strip that is out of

scale and character, both in terms of architectural design and layout, with the traditional coastal settlements

- M. Any proposed development must not harm the general undeveloped character of the coastal area as identified in the LDP to maintain the scenic and wilder qualities of the area. Well sited small scale development (not including tourist accommodation) to enable beach and other coastal recreation may be acceptable. Infrastructure where necessary should be sensitively located and carefully screened – The sensitive Aberlady Bay and Yellowcraig in particular should be avoided.
- N. Any proposed development must not harm the integrity and coherence of the historic landscape

**Potential for landscape enhancement:**

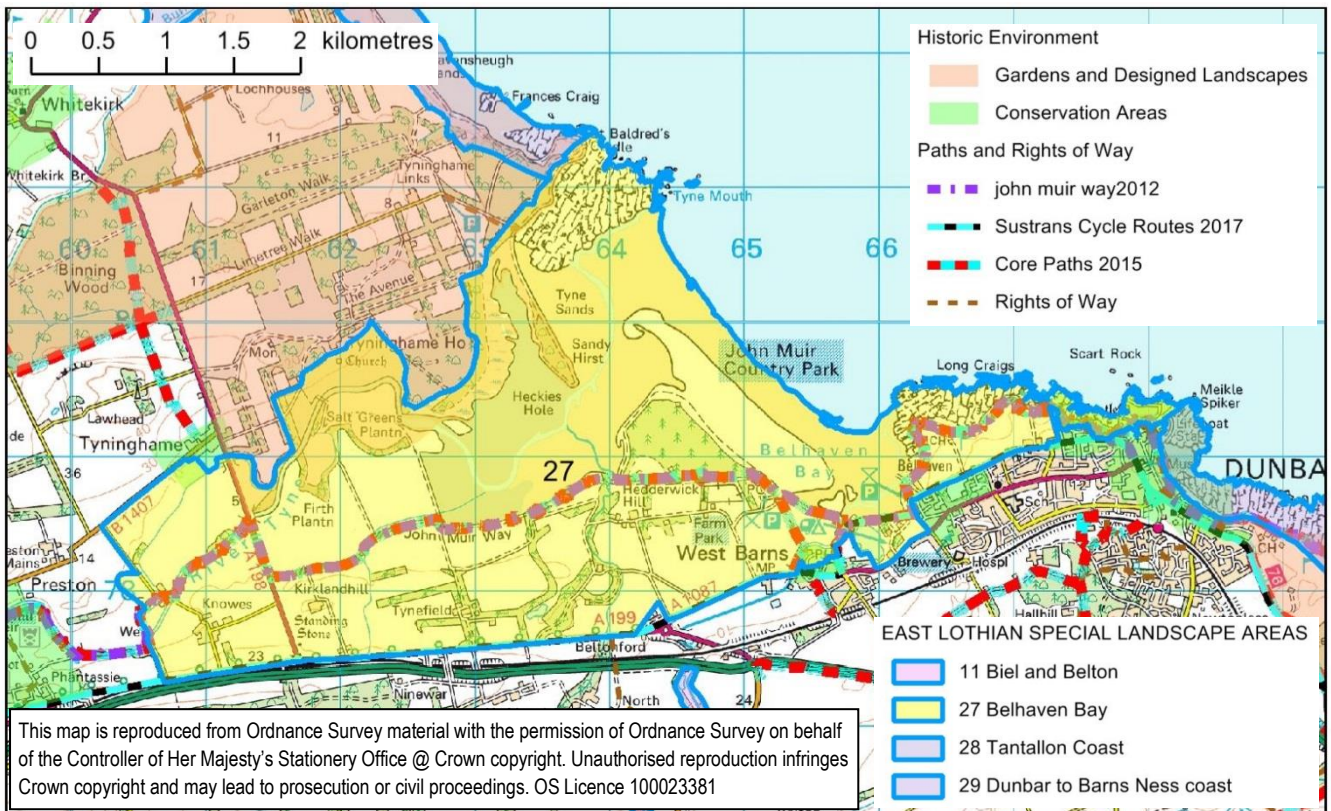
- i. Coast must be carefully managed to allow for recreation and wildlife (see coastal tourism strategy)
- ii. Screening of car parking at Longniddry Bents and Gullane with tree and shrub planting similar to that at Yellowcraig or Shore Road in Dunbar

A number of **Management Objectives** (as set out in the Aberlady Bay Local Nature Reserve Prescriptive Management Plan 2012-2016) define attainable goals and set out the annual work programme for the site. The objectives are:

1. To maintain and enhance the role of the Bay as a feeding and roosting area for wildfowl and waders.
2. To maintain and enhance the role of the Reserve as a suitable breeding area for key bird species
3. To conserve the naturally developing dune system.
4. To conserve key habitats, plant communities and taxa.
5. To conserve the geological integrity of the Reserve.
6. To retain the sense of space.
7. To support educational and recreational use of the Reserve at such a level and in such areas of the Reserve that the Aim and Management Objectives are not prejudiced.
8. To conserve the cultural heritage of the Reserve.
9. To engender greater community involvement in the Reserve



## Belhaven Bay: Special Landscape Area 27 Statement of Importance



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

**Area:** 1,316 Ha



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

### Overview:

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

This area has high aesthetic appeal. It is an open landscape orientated towards the sea, affording good views over the coast and sea, as well as inland. It is varied and diverse, from estuaries to sand dunes, salt marsh, rocky shore and plantation woodland set within some of the best agricultural land in Scotland. Changing light and weather conditions and its effects on the sea can be dramatic. To the east,



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

the sea is a constant, with sounds of the breaking waves and seabirds and the invigorating smell of salty sea air, while the estuary has a twice daily flood, giving variety and change to the area, as well as several distinctive habitats. Inland, the area becomes more controlled, with agricultural influence becoming more dominant.

The area has a high recreational value including beaches, woodland, parks and recreational routes including the John Muir Way, as well as paying attractions including East Links Family Park, Foxlake Water Sports, Winterfield

Golf Course and Dunbar Leisure Pool perched on the cliffs above the harbour.

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



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

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



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

**Special Qualities and Features:**

1. The area has high scenic value, especially around the cliffs, sea, sands, estuary and river, is highly photographed and painted and is often used as a resource by professional photographers. Changeable coastal skies add to its appeal.
2. Recreation, both informal and formal is a key quality of this area. There are superb free outdoor recreational resources here, the most obvious being the beaches and sea, but also woodland, riverside and cliff top walks. Paying recreational facilities are generally open air, namely Foxlake, John Muir Country Park, East Links Family Park, Winterfield Golf course. Many of these rely for their appeal at least in part on their landscape setting. Dunbar Leisure Pool although inside recreation uses its cliff top setting as a feature with views out over the sea from its northern glass elevation.
3. The wide Tyne estuary is typical of East Lothian and eastern Scotland. The expanse of sand changes with the tide, and its openness allows for appreciation of the changing coastal skies which are a feature of the area. The estuary also contains two large areas of salt marsh, a rare habitat in Scotland, with a maze of hidden channels and distinctive flowers and plant life. The cry of the curlew can often be heard, an evocative sound closely associated with marshland. Birdlife is plentiful here, from breeding terns to waders coming in to feed at low tide



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

while sea ducks coast offshore. The birds bring movement and interest to the area, and sometimes contrasting colour.

4. Belhaven Bay is a wide expanse of sandy beach backed by dunes, with considerable recreational value to families, surfers and other water sport participants. Mobile dunes with associated flowers and butterflies are a feature of the area; these are rare in Scotland. The unusual and attractive 'Bridge to Nowhere' takes visitors across



*The 'Bridge to Nowhere' framing the Bass Rock and providing access from Dunbar over the Biel Water to Belhaven Bay*

the Tyne from the south side. The bay has considerable scenic appeal, with a dynamic coastline changing from year to year, sometimes a wide expanse of sand, sometimes with channels cut by the sea. The Bay is heavily used in tourist marketing and marketing of businesses in this area and wider East Lothian. A considerable part of the tourist draw of beaches is in their landscape setting.

5. Victoria Harbour is formed in a natural inlet into the rock; the surrounding area was re-designed by Basil Spence in a modernist style with vernacular influences. The harbour is highly photogenic, a blend of the natural and man-made, particularly noticeably at the narrow entrance. Colourful fishing boats and lobster pots in the harbour contrast with the muted colours of the old stone harbour, and nearby old red sandstone and painted buildings along



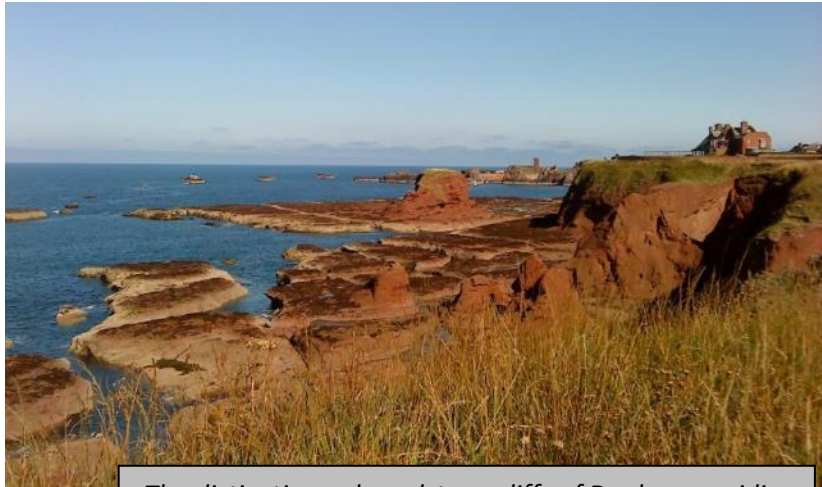
*The narrow enclosed entrance to Dunbar Harbour offering safe haven in rough weathers, with the picturesque buildings of old Dunbar beyond*



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

the shore. These include the historic Dunbar castle, which sadly is destined to fall into the waves. Orange pantiles and the blue sea and sky also provide a pleasing colour contrast. The Dunbar Battery pointing out to sea was originally built to defend alarmed locals against possible pirate attack, having had a visit from the notorious John Paul Jones. The contrast between the 'safe' of the harbour and town and the 'danger' of the elemental sea remains, though the pirate has long gone.

6. The red cliffs and rock formations of Dunbar are not high but are dramatic due to their varied form – bays, vertical cliffs, platforms, with interesting formations such as Pin Cod. Seabirds nest on the cliffs, such as kittiwakes below Dunbar Leisure Pool. The cliff path winds along the edge of the land, sometimes dipping towards the shore, with sea plants such as thrift lining the way. The rock platform below is extensive with the myriad of offshore rocks, skerries and reefs adding interest, with the sea swirling around them as the tides rise and fall. The



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

- colourful chalets at Winterfield are picturesque and at Belhaven Caravan site is a quiet pond with an unusual statue, fitting to its place though originally designed for Glasgow Garden Festival.
7. The rocky headland of St Baldred’s Cradle is reached after a walk through woods or over sand and rocks, and fine views can be obtained from here out to sea, over the Tyne estuary and along the coast. The force of the sea is unmistakable here, lashing against the rocks or in the evidence it has left in cutting inlets into the rocks. At the foot is an expanse of sea worn old red sandstone, with tiny beaches and rocks. The gorse above provides contrasting colour when in bloom.
8. Inland the large agricultural fields of the area undulate down towards the flat bottom of the Tyne valley showing the effect of a previous sea level. A range of crops are grown almost right up to the shore. The soil awaiting seed is a rich brownish red – brown forest or the rarer mineral alluvial soil. The colours of the inland area are typical of East Lothian – redbrown soil, green of mature trees, gold of crop or stubble, blue of the sky, all reflected in the meandering Tyne.

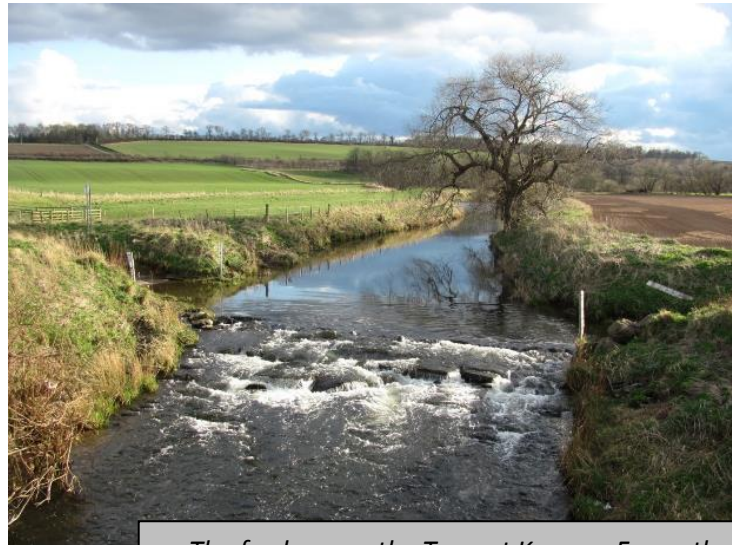
9. Woodland is a significant feature of the area, with plantation coniferous woodland (Links Wood and Hedderwick plantation) fringing the estuary. Links Wood contains some old stone walls, unusual in the area. Both these woodlands contain walks as well as giving access to the estuary area. The stands of Scots Pine at Hedderwick contribute to the beauty of this part of the coast; there are also small areas of bluebell wood. Further inland, the woodlands become



*Highly scenic area with contrasting landform and cover where the Hedderwick Burn opens into the Belhaven Bay. The John Muir Way crosses the burn and the woodlands of Hedderwick Hill plantation extend to the shore line*

more mixed, with thick shelterbelts breaking up the wide arable fields, and sheltering the clusters of farm buildings from seaward exposure.

10. The River Tyne meanders through the area, first through arable fields, then saltmarsh and sand; the Tyne in front of Tynninghame House shows a wide meander; here the parkland trees and grass of the inventory Tynninghame Garden and Designed Landscape, with mature woodland to the rear, spill down to the banks of the river. The small watercourses of the Biel Water and the Hedderwick Burn also join the sea through the southern section of this area, both of which show clear late river features, for example Hedderwick Burn has a good example of a meander which has almost become an oxbow lake just before it joins the Tyne estuary.



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

11. There are many opportunities to view a myriad of wildlife - from the seals on the shore and visiting Dunbar Harbour and invertebrate life in rock pools and under rocks to roe deer and badgers in the coastal woodlands.
12. Built development of the area consists mainly of clusters of farm buildings – Tynfield cottages are low white single storey dwellings with pantiled roofs, an accent in a sea of arable land. The traditional farm buildings at Hedderwick are made from old red sandstone and pantiles. Kirklandhill cottages are red sandstone and slate, with small paned windows, while Kirklandhill is a substantial crow-stepped farmhouse and Tynfield is a beautiful classically designed house. The cottages at Knowes have noticeable grout, echoing the pattern of cropped fields behind. Farm buildings there are of a red that is recognisable from a good distance. These houses are firmly rooted in their place and setting.
13. There are good long distance views throughout much of the area. These are often wide and changing due to the weather patterns and shifting tides. Blue sky and chasing cumulus clouds give a cheerful impression, while mists bring an air of mystery; blowing spray and thundering surf shows the force of nature. The coastal cloudscape influences the whole area, with superb colours often reflected in water or wet sand. Views include, but are not limited to the following:
- From Dunbar Harbour, down the coast to St Abbs, out to the open sea and across to North Berwick Law.
  - From St Baldred's Cradle there are superb views along the coast in both directions, as well as out to sea and across the Tyne estuary. To the north is the Bass Rock and Fife, to the south the view along the coast extends to the cliffs of St Abbs, with Belhaven Bay in the foreground framed by the woods at Hedderwick, with colourful fields, the Lammermuir foothills and wind turbines beyond - the elements of sea and sky remain dominant.

- From Sandy Hirst out to sea, across the estuary, to Traprain Law and the Lammermuir Hills and hillfoots.
- From the A199 road along the southern boundary of the area, open views across the plain over the Tyne Estuary and towards the coast.
- From the cliff top path at Dunbar to the Forth Islands and Fife up and along the coast and over the Estuary; sunsets and sunrises from here can be particularly spectacular. Benches along the path allow for restful appreciation of views.
- Views from within the Dunbar Leisure Pool must be among the best from any pool in Scotland if not the UK!
- Over Knowes Farm from the B1407 to the northern boundary of the area.
- Across the estuary from around the footbridge in Belhaven Bay across the Hedderwick Burn
- Views from the Belhaven Bay area, including the much photographed Bridge to Nowhere over the Tyne, the Dunbar skyline, and the multi-layered view towards the Lammermuirs containing wind turbines, foothills, agricultural land, transport links, housing and finally, the foreshore and beach with recreational activity.
- The River Tyne and surrounding fields from the footbridge at Knowes Farm.

14 Views of the area, in particular the estuary and Bay from outwith the area are also excellent. From the road to the Brunt, the expansive sand contrasts with both the sea and woodland, with the Bass Rock notable in the background. Similar views are widely available from higher ground to the south, along much of the Doon Hill to Chesters ridge as well as at Beilhill and the surrounding area. The view of the area from the A199



*A viewpoint on the John Muir Way gives a panoramic view across the constantly changing landscape of Belhaven Bay at Hedderwick Sands grid ref. NT 63970, 78843*

at Pencraig is particularly good, with the village of East Linton nestled into the Tyne valley in the foreground, and the Tyne Estuary, Belhaven Bay, the town of Dunbar with its landmark Abbey Church and designed landscape of Tynninghame laid out before you, giving way to sea and coastal skies. Further afield, the area is of a large enough scale to be notable in views from the Lammermuir Hills; views of the Tyne estuary are an important component of these wide views.

15 The area has some quality of wildness due to the sea with its elemental force, and the naturalness of landcover of much of the area. The expanse of sands and cliffs at Dunbar retain an elemental feel particularly as they are open to the wide, coastal skies. There is a strong association with the naturalist John Muir, founder of the US National Parks program, who grew up in Dunbar and was familiar with the area, mentioning the cliffs and rock pools of Dunbar in his writing.

- 16 Lack of artificial lighting as well as accessibility makes the Bay a good place to observe the night sky, including on occasion the Aurora Borealis, as there is little lighting directly to the north, with the lights of Fife being largely obscured by landform.

*Historic Landscape – Belhaven Bay*

- 17 This is a very diverse area in terms of the historic environment, with a high density of archaeological remains. Remains present include virtually every archaeological and historic period. In particular the historic landscape includes:

- Coherent landscape for WWI & II remains. A considerable number of remains survive relating to the defence of Britain, troop training and Home Guard activities.
- Historic area of leisure pursuits (golf course, shooting, racecourse). The area particularly around Hedderwick has historically been used for outside pursuits, and this continues today
- Area of early harbour for Dunbar
- Important early medieval monastic landscape



*World War I and II defences at Links Wood by Sandy Hirst*

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



Dunbar Castle and Castle Haven by J Carson before 1842



Dunbar Street near harbour by A Gray 1851

**Guidelines for Development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the coastal character and special qualities and features of the area.
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the wide, open character of Belhaven Bay.
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the natural or scenic qualities and features or outdoor recreational use of the area especially with regard to appreciation of the sea, coast, coastal woodlands and Tyne estuary and river.

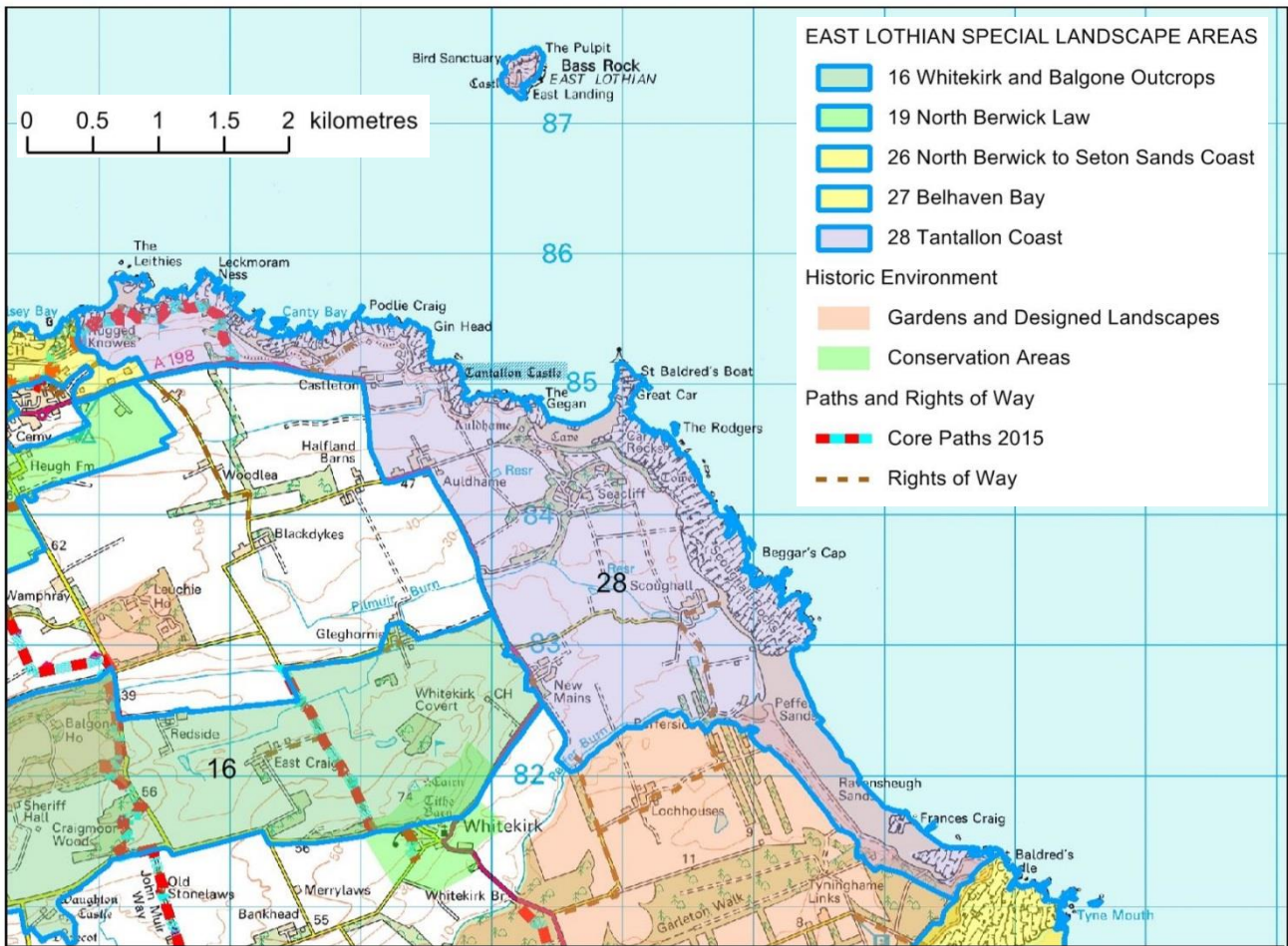


- D. Any proposed development must not harm the functioning of Dunbar Harbour as a working harbour and focus of activity that provide scenic and sensory qualities (contrasting colours of boats, fishing equipment such as lobster pots, sounds of the masts, etc).
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the habitat and openness of the coastal grasslands.
- F. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape pattern of arable fields and shelter belts.
- G. Any proposed development must not impact detrimentally on open views out from the coastline and to the Bass Rock.
- H. Any proposed development must not harm the sense of naturalness and wildness qualities of the area.
- I. Any proposed development must not detrimentally impact on the SPA and bird habitats.
- J. Any proposed development must not harm the night-time darkness of this area of the coast.
- K. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form and detracts from the natural qualities of the area.
- L. Any proposed development must not harm the general undeveloped character of the coastal area as identified in the LDP to maintain the scenic and wilder qualities of the area. Well sited small scale development to enable beach and other coastal recreation may be acceptable. Infrastructure where necessary should be sensitively located and carefully screened.
- M. Any proposed development must not harm the operation of natural coastal processes other than where sea defences are needed to protect important infrastructure.
- N. Any proposed large farm building development should be carefully sited and coloured to fit within the landscape form of the area.
- O. Any proposed development must respect and retain the existing settlement pattern of development of generally small-scale, single-storey, linear and small groups of buildings typical of farm settlements, farm workers cottages and steading conversions and support the use of traditional building materials or traditional components and styles of design in new buildings.
- P. In cases where solar panels are not permitted development they should not be placed on publicly visible roof elevations of traditional buildings or buildings in traditional and historic settings where they would harm the historic nature and scenic value of the area.
- Q. Any proposed development must not harm views of the Tyne river and estuary, Belhaven Bay, and Dunbar Harbour and cliffs, from, in particular, the A198, A199, John Muir Way, A1087, B1407, John Muir Country Park and Shore Road car park.
- R. Any proposed development must not harm the integrity and coherence of the historic landscape.

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

- i. Control invasive species in particular sea buckthorn and rhododendron
- ii. Retain trees which are used in visual screening for non-traditional buildings
- iii. Avoid constraining the development of salt marsh or mobile dune habitat

# Tantallon Coast Special Landscape Area 28 Statement of Importance



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office @ Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. OS Licence 100023381

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

**Area:** 769 ha

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



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

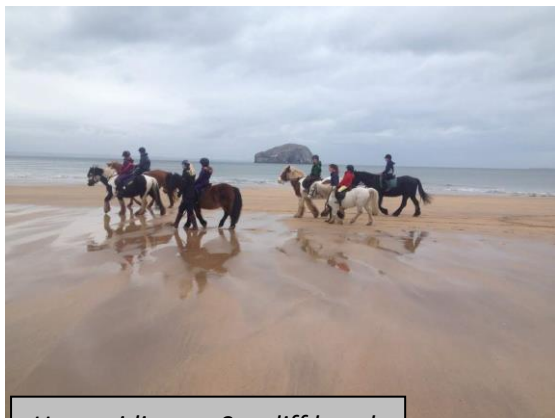
This coastal SLA includes the island of the Bass Rock, part of East Lothian's Unspoiled Coast.

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

It is a historic area with medieval castles, secret hamlets and harbours, as well as many references to the Christian missionary St Baldred's residence during the eighth century.



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



*Horse riding on Seacliff beach*

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

Many parts of this coast including the Bass Rock are heavily used in tourist marketing and marketing of businesses in this area and wider East Lothian. A considerable part of the tourist draw of beaches and

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

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



The Bass Rock by James W Greig 1905



The Bass Rock from Canty Bay AP Stirling



Sunset and Bass Rock by John Houston 1996



Canty Bay, near North Berwick  
George Peacock circa 1949

Contrasts between the landform and the sea from the rocky vertical cliffs and imposing red sandstone walls of Tantallon Castle to the wide open flat expanses of sandy beach at Peffers and Ravensheugh Sands, to the enclosing dune landscapes and shelterbelt planting framing the shoreline, to the ever changing seascape with the focal point of the Bass Rock make this coastline highly scenic. This was evidenced in the many viewpoints identified through the public consultation including the coast, Bass Rock and Tantallon from the A198 east of North Berwick, approach to



*The uproar of a spring tide crashing onto the shore*

North Berwick from the east towards the Law, view from the golf course over North Berwick, Seacliff harbour to Tantallon Castle and Ravensheugh Sands. The outcrop above Bathans Strand is a good viewpoint for the area, as is the The Gegan, a large mass of old red sandstone near Seacliff.

**Special Qualities and Features:**

1. The distinctive Bass Rock, the remnant of a volcanic plug, is located two kilometres off the coast, rising to 107m above sea level and is one of East Lothian’s most remote areas. Its intrusive igneous rock and coastal landform is a good example of intrusive Carboniferous rocks with national significance. The white colour of the Bass Rock is



the result of its playing host to the largest, and still increasing, single-rock northern gannetry in the world. The international importance of the colony – it has about 22% of the total UK breeding population, 60% of Europe’s gannets and a significant proportion of the world population - is recognised through designation as a Special Protection Area (SPA) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). In summer months gannets are clearly visible soaring and diving around the rock and along the coast. Other seabird

species on the Bass include guillemot, razorbill, puffin, fulmar, and kittiwake. The distinctive wedge-shaped form of the Bass, rising abruptly from the sea, is widely visible and recognisable from both sides of the Firth of Forth from as far as Arthurs Seat in Edinburgh, the Lammermuirs and southern Fife. The Bass Rock Lighthouse is one of the few buildings on the rock, designed by David Stevenson, one of the famous Stevenson-family of lighthouse engineers (the lighthouse at Barns Ness was also his design).

2. The cliffs of the coast, particularly around Tantallon are a significant landscape feature. Edged by small sandy bays including the beach at Seacliff and its tiny harbour set into the rocky headland, still in use to this day, and topped by the imposing ruin of Tantallon Castle, an important landmark and tourist attraction. The red rock here is striking, with erosion from wind and wave giving a rounded, almost sensuous appearance in places and the Seacliff to Scoughall shore providing an excellent example of modern processes of shore platform development with regional to national significance. Tantallon Castle formed a





formidable stronghold set on the top of the cliffs in this dramatic and wild location. Its huge stone curtain wall is said to be the best 14th-century castle architecture anywhere in Scotland. Spectacular views can be obtained over the Firth of Forth, out to the Bass Rock and other islands and



up and down the coast, from the top of the battlements.

3. A large section of the coast to the south of Scoughall contains sand dunes, including mobile dunes, with associated flowers and butterflies, a rare feature and habitat within Scotland, separating the wide open flat expanses of sandy beach at Peffers and Ravensheugh Sands from the land and providing them with a sense of isolation and remoteness. The expansive scale of the beaches and constantly changing weather, light and sea conditions create a feeling of wildness and of being one with nature, and has a strong aesthetic appeal with the constant sounds of the breaking waves and seabirds and the invigorating smell of salty sea air. The sea and the wind create constant patterns within the sand and when the sea haar rolls in cutting out views and muffling sounds the feeling of remoteness can be overpowering.



*The dunes and expanse of flat sands at Ravensheugh sands*

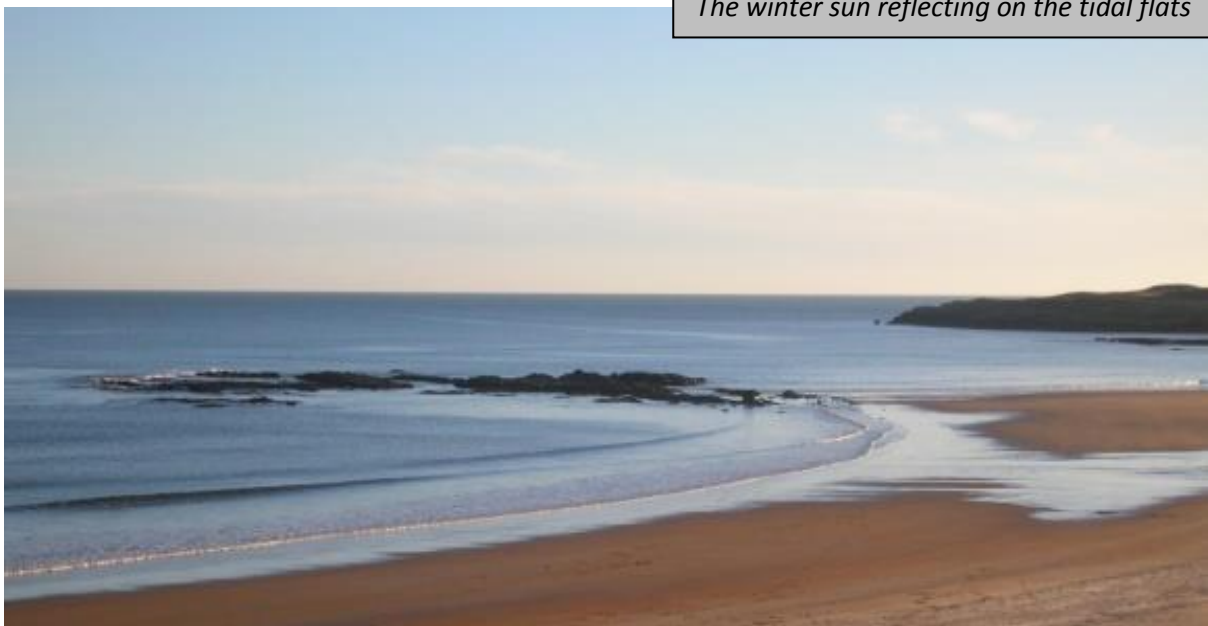
4. The area below the High Water Mark forms part of the Firth of Forth SPA and SSSI due to its importance in providing habitats for wintering populations of waterfowl of international importance. The area around Scoughall is a particularly good birding site - gulls and little auks appear in great numbers but there is also the chance of seeing less common bird species with avocet, Pallas's warbler and Little Bittern among those recorded here. In addition to seabirds, there are many opportunities to view a myriad of wildlife along the coast from seals on the rocks and invertebrate life in rock pools and under rocks on the shore to deer and badgers in the coastal woodlands.



*Dunes dividing the land and the sea at Ravensheugh Sands*

5. This section of coast has qualities of wildness and naturalness along the majority of its length with natural groundcover and lack of artificial elements particularly around the dunes. There is limited formal public access to the area and limited parking facilities reducing the general use of the area. This helps retain the wild and remote-feeling nature of the area. The night sky satellite images from NASA from 2012 show this area to have very limited light pollution adding to its undeveloped and remote feel. Despite the busy shipping lanes and views of development in Fife much of this section of the coast still has an elemental feel deriving from the presence of the sea, rocky cliffs and the expansiveness of sands at Ravensheugh combined with wide coastal skies

*The winter sun reflecting on the tidal flats*



6. Existing settlement is limited in number and scale and fits well within this coastal landscape often using local building materials, with farm settlements with a mix of building styles and ages often sheltered by woodland planting and buildings huddled into coves giving them a hidden feel

which adds to their charm. Such settlements include that at Canty Bay, with pretty cottages in a picture postcard setting, Seacliff and Scoughall. The enclosed setting of these settlements means little modern development is visible. On the more exposed agricultural land above the cliffs there are short rows of single-storey farm cottages built in traditional style. New Mains Farm and associated cottages, separated by the A198, is a good example of old farm buildings sheltered by mature trees which give diversity to the landscape. Tourist accommodation is generally limited within the area to small-scale glamping sites and a log cabin above Ravensheugh Sands that are of a scale, colour and style to fit successfully within the landscape.



*Canty Bay with the Bass Rock beyond*

7. There is good road access around the inland area of the SLA along the A198 offering open views out to sea, as well as over the coastal plain and the Lammermuir Hills to the south from higher ground. The higher inland areas between the A198 and the coast are open and raised with large flat agricultural fields and big skies with views out to the sea and the islands of the Firth of Forth giving a feeling of openness and expansiveness



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

8. The western end of the area includes a section of the Glen Golf Course and core path routes 465 and 75 along the cliff top around the edge of the golf course. Views from the golf course are open and wide ranging taking in both North Berwick to the west and the Bass Rock and Tantallon Castle to the east. The famous, and tricky, 13<sup>th</sup> hole of this course, the Sea Hole, has superb views. Seacliff itself is a locally designated Garden and Designed Landscape. The house was gutted by fire in 1907; however the exterior survives almost complete with gables, turrets and bartizans and sits within high walls and well wooded grounds and is still impressive today. The ruins of Auldham castle a 16<sup>th</sup> century L-plan three-storey tower house can be seen sitting high on a ridge above Seacliff beach surrounded by woodland to the north of Seacliff close to St Baldred's Cave where it is said he used to stay when he wished to be a hermit.





### *Historic Landscape – Gin Head to Scoughall*

9. This is a very diverse area in terms of the historic environment, with a high density of archaeological remains. Remains present include virtually every archaeological and historic period. This area has numerous Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings associated with it and the Tynninghame inventory garden and designed landscape borders the area. There is a significant amount of industrial and WWI & II remains present along the coast. Of particular note are:
  10. Significant medieval remains (Tantallon Castle, the early medieval church, monastery and cemetery at Auldhame, Seacliff Tower etc). These remains are concentrated along the cliff tops and form an impressive and coherent group. They would have dominated both the coast and the surrounding landscape
  11. Significant and nationally important WWI and II remains (Gin Head radar station, HMS Scottish Seacliff secret WWI training base)

### **Guidelines for Development**

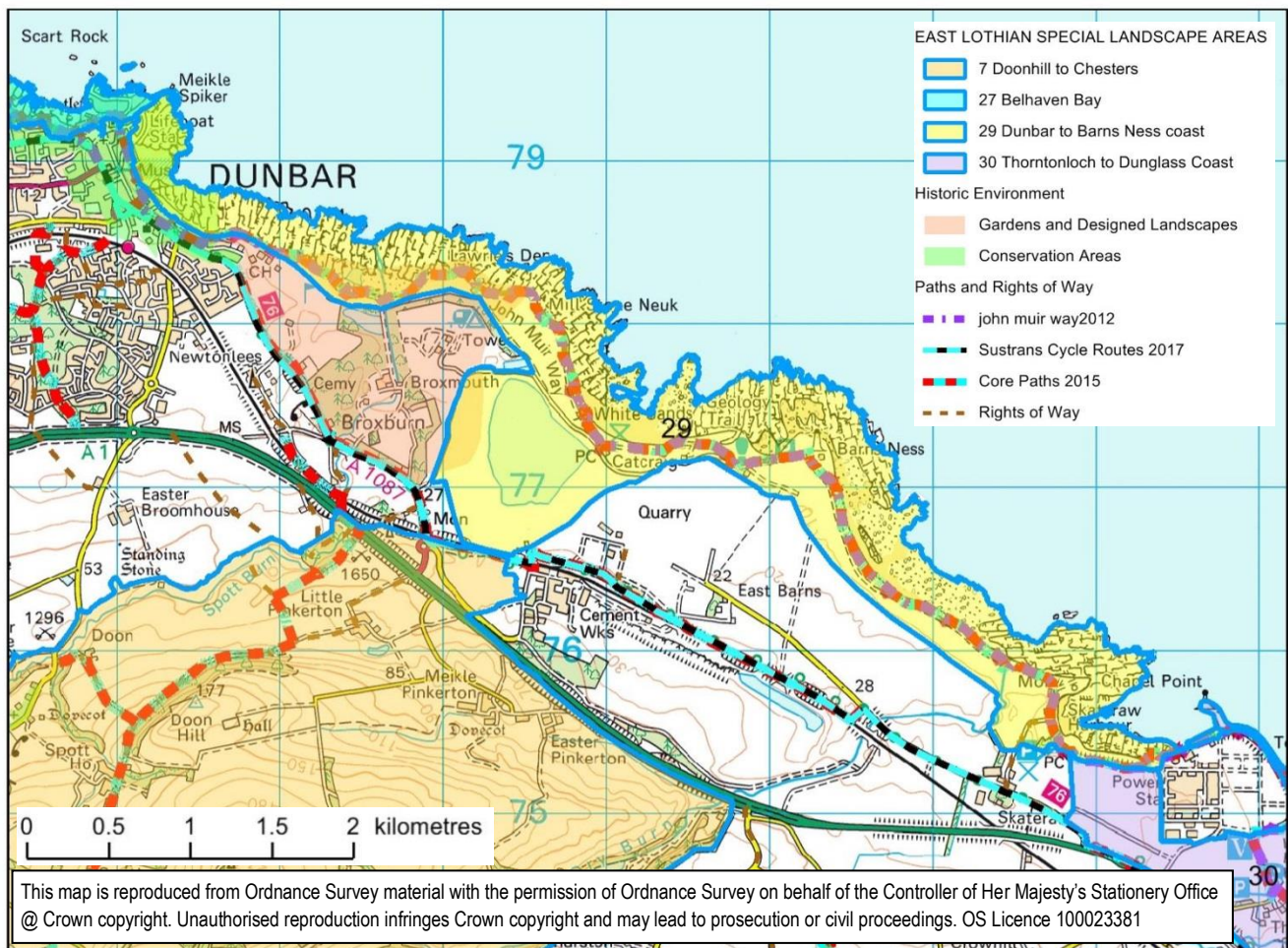
- A. Any proposed development must not harm the coastal character and characteristic features of the area
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the wide, open character of Ravensheugh and Peffers Sands
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the historic setting and character of Tantallon Castle
- D. Preservation against built development on the Forth Islands, identified as Unspoiled Coast in the East Lothian LDP other than extremely small scale development related to wildlife tourism
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the open views out from the coastline and to the Bass Rock from in particular the Haugh Road to A198 right of way and Glen Golf Course, Tantallon Castle, Seacliff Beach, Canty Bay, Peffer Sands, Ravensheugh Sands and St Baldred's Cradle
- F. Any proposed development must not harm the open panoramic views from the A198 both towards the coast and south to the Lammermuir Hills

- G. Any proposed development must not harm the recreational and scenic appeal of beaches, including access to them.
- H. Any proposed development must not harm the habitat and openness of the coastal grasslands
- I. Any proposed development must not harm the operation of natural coastal processes other than where sea defences are needed to protect important infrastructure
- J. Any proposed development must not harm the sense of naturalness and wildness qualities of the area
- K. Any proposed development must not detrimentally impact on bird habitats. Birdlife is important to the area and development or management that harms it is unlikely to be approved because of SPA status of much of the area.
- L. Any proposed development must not harm the night-time darkness of this area of the coast
- M. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form and detracts from the natural qualities of the area e.g. wind turbines.
- N. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of residential built development encroaching on the coastal strip that is out of scale and character, both in terms of architectural design and layout, with the traditional coastal settlements
- O. Any proposed development must not harm the general undeveloped character of the coastal area as identified in the LDP to maintain the scenic and wilder qualities of the area. Well sited small scale development (not including tourist accommodation) to enable beach and other coastal recreation may be acceptable. Infrastructure where necessary should be sensitively located and carefully screened
- P. Any proposed development must not harm the integrity and coherence of the historic landscape

**Potential for Landscape Enhancement**

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

## Dunbar to Barns Ness Coast: Special Landscape Area 29 Statement of Importance



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

**Area:** 454 ha

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



### Overview:

A narrow strip of coastline from the eastern edge of Dunbar Harbour to Torness Power Station, purely coastal in nature including beaches, rocks, cliffs and dunes. A dramatic landscape with complex and rugged elements. It has a significant fossil beach, a rare geological feature within East

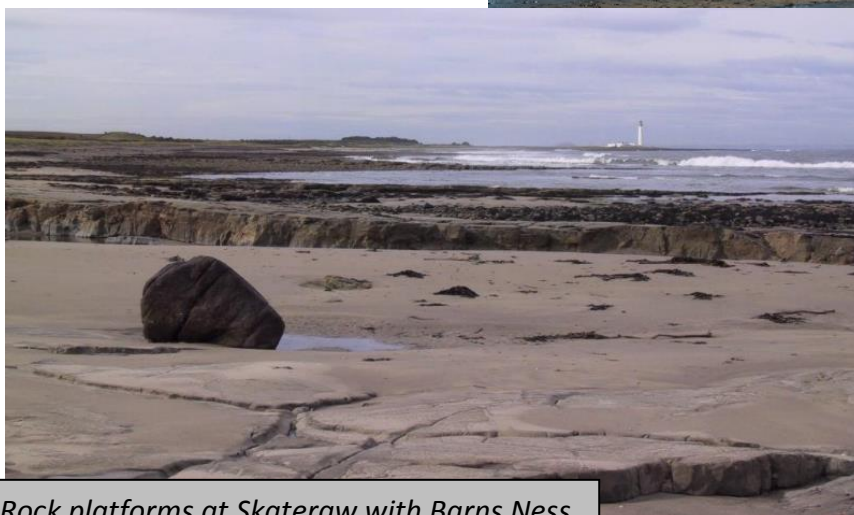
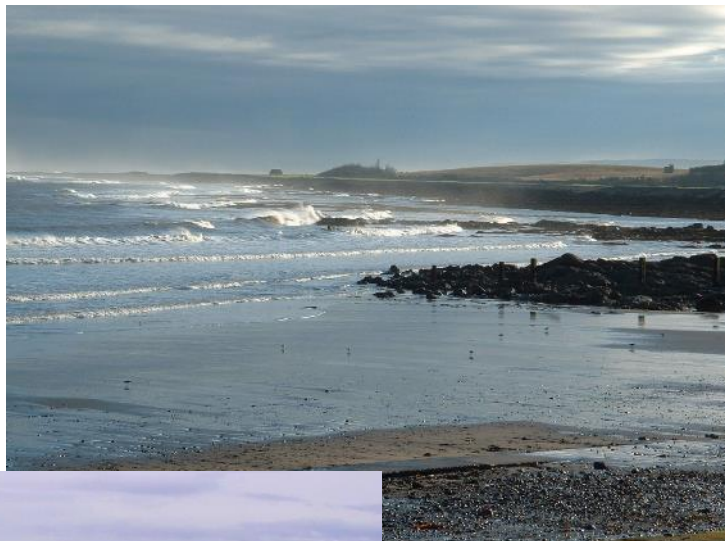
Lothian and provides a coherent area of important prehistoric settlement. It also includes the feature of the Barns Ness Lighthouse and more recent lake formed by the restoration of a section of the quarry at Oxwell Mains. The John Muir Way follows the length of this coastline and there are several car parks and picnic spots within the area providing easy public access to this good recreational resource.

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

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

**Special Qualities and Features:**

1. This is a dramatic landscape with complex and rugged elements. Changing light and weather conditions and their



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

effects on the sea can be striking.

2. The relatively undeveloped nature of the rocky coastline and separation from the land by low rocky cliffs creates a sense of wildness and isolation.

3. There are uninterrupted, undeveloped views out to sea along the entire stretch of coastline. The view from East Beach in Dunbar, which would have been familiar to naturalist John Muir, a son of Dunbar, was identified in the public consultation.

4. The area has a significant fossil beach – essentially a fossilised coral reef between 360-290 million years old – which makes this shoreline unique in East Lothian. The seashore site of this

rare geological feature is the best place in central Scotland to look for fossils in the limestone and shales.

5. A large part of the area is identified as an SSSI for both the geological feature of the raised beach platform and the mineral enriched dune grassland, beach-head salt marshes and shingle habitats, uncommon with the Lothians. The grassland contains a diverse range of wild flowers with a number of locally rare plant species.

6. Early bird song in the spring marks the arrival of early summer migrants at Barns Ness. The good diversity of birds, butterflies, moths and invertebrates attracted to the rare habitats adds to the interest of the area. The area is also home to one of East Lothian's more elusive residents – the common lizard.

7. The area has good public access including the route of the John Muir Way path along its entire length and several parking areas and picnic spots. It has however limited built recreation facilities and attracts fewer recreational visitors than the northern beaches, being further from main population centres, helping to maintain its sense of wildness and isolation.

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



8. The Barns Ness Lighthouse, built in 1901 by engineer David Stevenson, cousin of writer Robert Louis Stevenson, is a feature of the area. Sitting prominently above the low shoreline it is a draw to the area and focal point, its clear white contrasting with blue/grey sea and muted tones of the landscape.



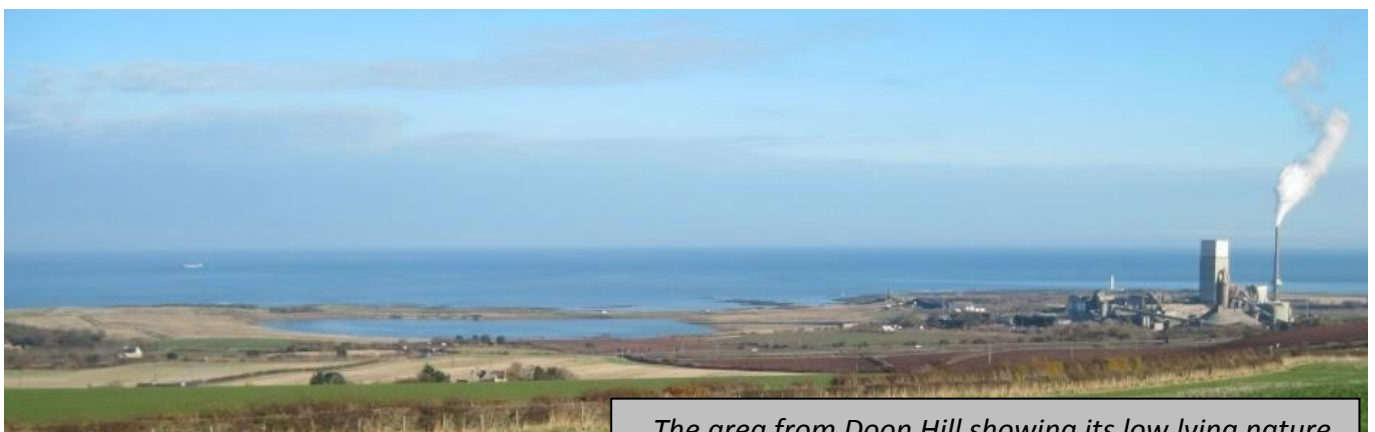
9. The quarried area inland from White Sands has been included in the SLA as the pond here has the makings of being an attractive feature, and a superb birding resource. This section of inland area, located between more developed areas, is important in views from higher ground (the Doon Hill to Chesters SLA).

10. Skateraw Harbour was a port for the limestone workings just inland, built around 1800.

*Historic Landscape: White Sands*

11. In archaeological terms this stretch of coastline is unique in East Lothian as it is closely associated with the earliest occupation of the county with the raised beach with early (Mesolithic) settlement activity. The landform and vegetation still echo the landform and vegetation which would have been extant. This gives this stretch of coast an almost timeless quality.

12. The coastline also has a coherent industrial landscape of lime quarrying and kilns. The cliffs to the edge of the shore have been quarried over many years for limestone.



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

**Guidelines for Development**

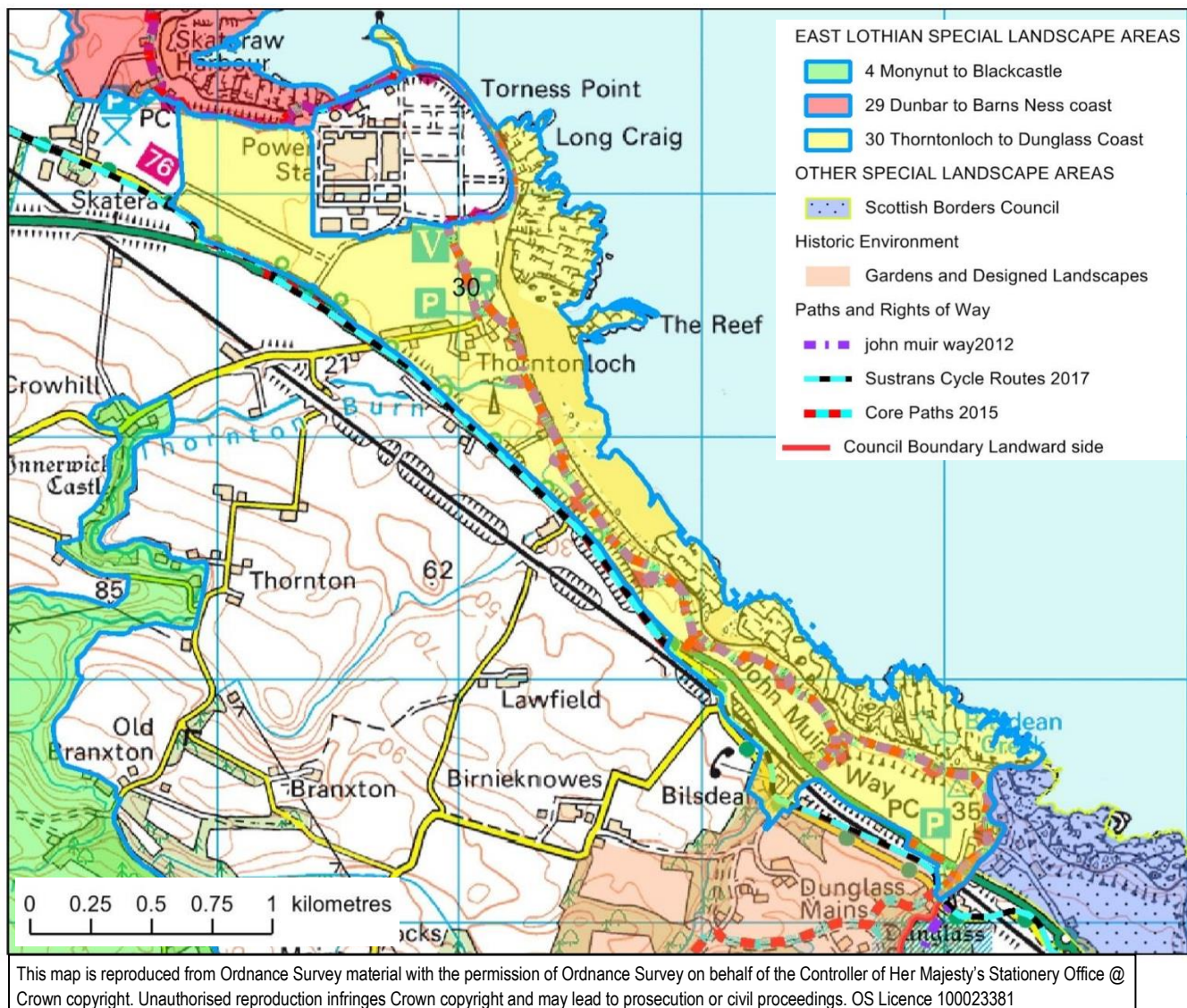
- A. Any proposed development must not harm the coastal character and characteristic features of the area

- B. Any proposed development must not harm the natural or scenic qualities and features or outdoor recreational use of the area especially with regard to appreciation of the sea and coast
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the habitat and openness of the coastal grasslands
- D. Any proposed development must not harm open views out from the coastline, particularly from the John Muir Way
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the general undeveloped character of the coastal area as identified in the LDP to maintain the scenic and wilder qualities of the area. Well sited small scale development (not including tourist accommodation) to enable beach and other coastal recreation may be acceptable. Infrastructure where necessary should be sensitively located and carefully screened
- F. Any proposed development must not harm the sense of naturalness and wildness qualities of the area and conserve the tranquillity of the area, including from disturbance from transport links and quarrying
- G. Any proposed development must not detrimentally impact on bird habitats
- H. Any proposed development must not harm the night-time darkness of this area of the coast
- I. Any proposed development must not harm the landscape character of the area by prevention of large, widely-visible development that reduces the scale and contrast of the landscape form and detracts from the natural qualities of the area e.g. wind turbines
- J. Protect the area from sand and gravel extraction
- K. Any proposed development must not harm the setting or views of the Barns Ness Lighthouse or compete with it as a focal point within the landscape
- L. Take particular account of the vulnerability of the coastline to further visual intrusion from all types of development
- M. Any proposed development must not harm the operation of natural coastal processes other than where sea defences are needed to protect important infrastructure
- N. Any proposed development must not harm the integrity and coherence of the historic landscape

**Potential for Landscape Enhancement**

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

## Thorntonloch to Dunglass Coast Special Landscape Area 30 Statement of Importance



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

**Area:** 232 ha

### Overview:

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

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



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



*Torness Power Station*

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

The area is important for recreation, with the John Muir Way and



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

National Cycle Route 76 running through the area. There is a caravan park at Thorntonloch, with good access to the beach. The shore from Torness to Thorntonloch is popular with sea fishers; the warm water from the power station encouraging larger fish.

**Special Qualities and Features**

1. Geological differences create variety along the coastline with the harder volcanic rocks producing a more resistant coastline of promontories, low cliffs and rocky shoreline indented with the softer sandstone bays and arches. The soft sandstone cliffs have been eroded by the sea to form several natural arches, and along with the cliffs at Dunbar form one of the most dramatic sections of East Lothian’s coastline. This rocky area has some qualities of wildness, deriving from its ruggedness, exposure to the elements and lack of visible built development.



*Dramatic arches on the shoreline at Bilsdean*

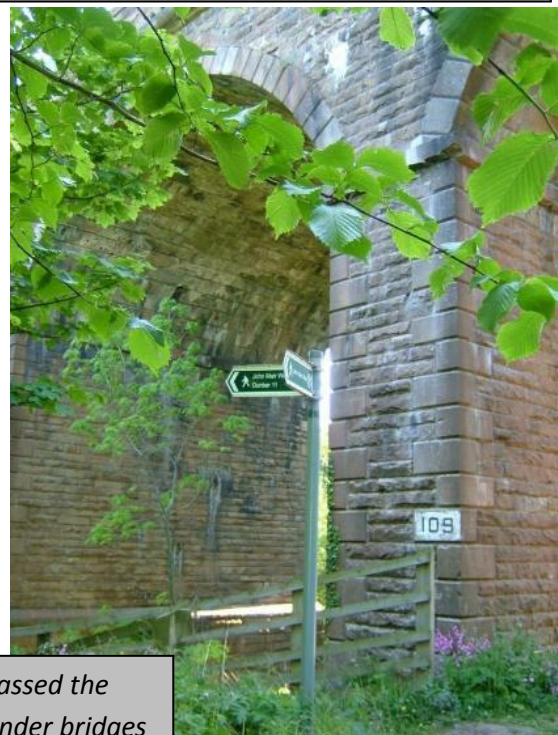
2. The beach at Thorntonloch is spectacular though less busy than those of East Lothian's northern coast, a beautiful sweep of sand, enclosed by a rocky wave cut platform, with good surf often adding to the drama of the scene
3. There are very sheer gorges where Bilsdean and Dunglass Burns join the sea. At Bilsdean Burn, a large waterfall, The Linn, tumbles over stone towards the sea. Overlooking the burn to the south are the remains of the Iron Age Castledykes Fort formed with the cliffs to the seaward side and a massive earthen rampart to the landward side.



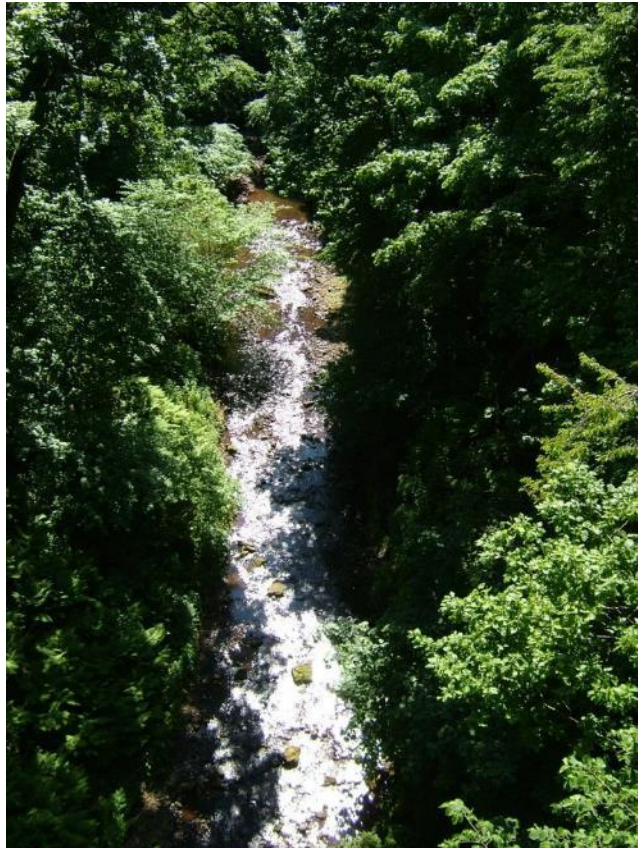
*Bilsdean steeply incised valley with water worn sandstone and nearly native woodland, in places growing out of the rock face*



*The John Muir Way follows a path along the valley passed the Linn which can be spectacular after heavy rain and under bridges*



To the south a second dramatic incised valley at Dunglass provides an attractive enclosed and hidden walkway to the sea. Its depth is further magnified by the bridge of the A1 and viaduct of the East Coast railway which tower above the valley (there are five bridges across this gorge). The sandstone has been eroded to create sheer rock walls along the valley and the old buildings and bridges add to the historic nature of the area.



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

4. The inland area is a raised beach, relict from higher sea levels of previous times. It consists mainly of medium to large scale rolling, gently sloping agricultural fields of distinctive reddish brown hue, right to the sea's edge. The crops are various, often hosting vegetables as well as the more usual grain.
5. Contrast in colour and form is a feature of this area, the generally muted tones of managed agricultural fields with brown soil and green yellow crops, complemented by the greens or autumnal shades of deciduous trees both along field boundaries and within the gullies and the red



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

of the cliffs. This contrasts with the wilder sea and sky, blue, white, and grey. Elements of the built environment sometimes contrast, sometimes complement.

6. To the north of the area, the open fields provide a setting for Torness: a small rise in landform in front of Torness along with lack of scale comparators from built development and use of reflective blue grey tiles to tone with the sea and sky help reduce its apparent size and improve its appearance from the A1 and East Coast Mainline. Torness Power Station, angular, futuristic, sits between well cultivated fields and the elemental forces of wide seas and sky, on the cusp between control and the wild.



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

7. There are attractive elements within the built environment with the mainly one or one and a half storey housing at Bilsdean using local stone, providing a visual link with the red sandstone of the coast. Stone boundary walls, in particular that along the coast and the A1, are a feature of the area. The breakwater at Torness is of an interesting octagonal design intended to stay together without concrete. It's casually thrown together appearance took a lot of careful planning.

*The sculptural octagonal stones forming the breakwater to Torness*

8. Recreation is important to the area, with good access; from the A1 for motorists and via the John Muir Link or N76 cycle route for more active travel. Thorntonloch caravan site is sited low behind the dunes, generally screened from both beach and transport corridor. The area is used by walkers, cyclists, anglers, surfers and day trippers.



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



9. Views include:

- From the Thorntonloch area, the first views of the Scottish central lowlands for travellers from the south begin to emerge
- Wide views across the area out to sea and along the coast across open fields from much of the A1 and East Coast Mainline Railway
- Down to St Abbs and across Thorntonloch bay from Torness breakwater and the cliff top path



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

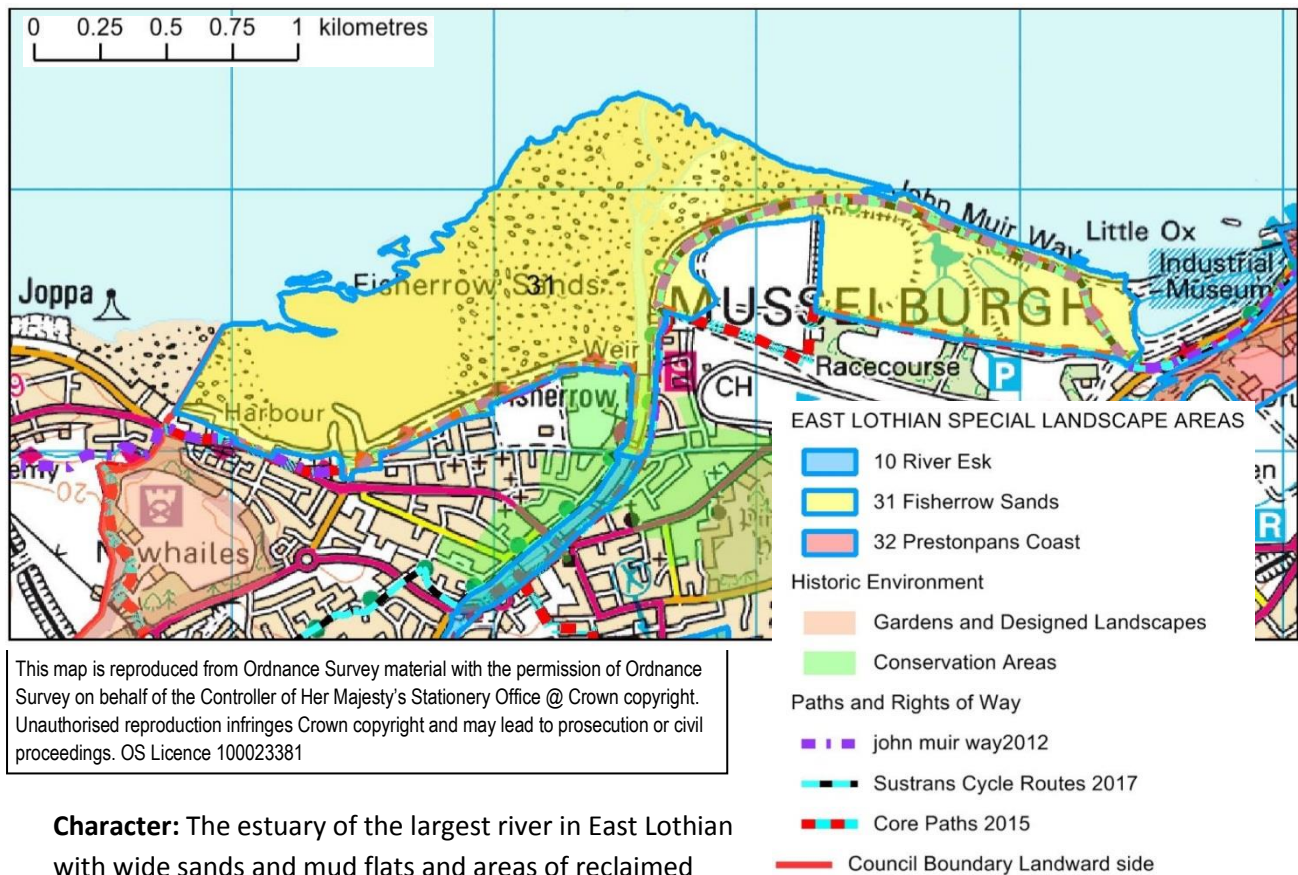
**Guidelines for Development**

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

**Potential for Landscape Enhancement**

- i. Avoid continuous planting along the A1 and East Coast Mainline which would obscure views over the area
- ii. Encourage an increase in woodland cover in gullies
- iii. Seek to support traditional estate management practices to safeguard woodland enclosure features and important boundary walls
- iv. 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

## Fisherrow Sands: Special Landscape Area 31 Statement of Importance



**Character:** The estuary of the largest river in East Lothian with wide sands and mud flats and areas of reclaimed land of the Ash Lagoons on the edge of East Lothian’s largest town offering a great, easily accessible recreational resource.

**Area:** 211 Ha

### Overview

This area is centred on the estuary and mudflats of the River Esk, the largest river in East Lothian, the mussel beds here giving Musselburgh its name. It extends eastwards beyond busy Fisherrow Harbour to the boundary with Edinburgh City Council area and westwards to the end of the bird scrapes at Levenhall Links at the Ash Lagoons. The area forms a buffer area of natural seeming land between urban development and the sea. Both Levenhall Links and the banks of the River Esk are major resources for outdoor recreation. The area as a whole is well used for outdoor recreation, partly due to its proximity to main population centres which increases the use and therefore importance of this area.

The RSPB’s Big Nature festival has been held at Levenhall Links in 2015 and 2016, showcasing the area. Fisherrow Harbour is used by a few fishing boats and their bright colours add to its interest, though its main use is now for leisure craft. Some businesses use the attractiveness of the location in their business, for example The Quay mentions the “stunning beachfront location” in its marketing. Paths through the area, the shore area and other open spaces are important in providing space for informal recreation and relaxation.

The painting of Fisherrow Harbour by H P Stirling shows many of the qualities of the area; purposeful human activity in the harbour and further out to sea with the protective harbour in the foreground, contrasting with the natural movement of sea and sky surrounding them; it also includes some figures apparently just taking in the view. Three gulls are also in view.

***Examples of Paintings Using Fisherrow Sands as Inspiration***



Fisherrow Harbour by H P Stirling



Fisherrow Harbour by unknown



Musselburgh Harbour by Alexander Young



East Lothian Coastline looking west  
by Charles Martin Hardie before 1900



The Young Mussel Gatherers  
by William Marshall Brown 1901



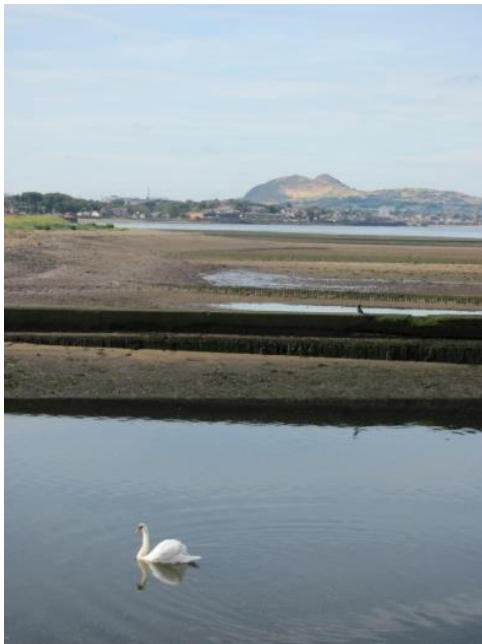
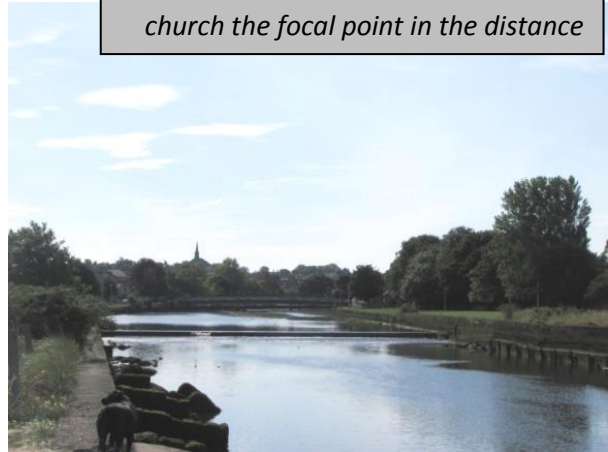
Two Fishergirls  
by William Marshall Brown circa 1900



*View up the tidal section of the River Esk with the spire of St Michael's church the focal point in the distance*

**Special Qualities and Features:**

1. Water is important to the scenic quality of the area; the Esk, the sea, the boating pond and wader scrapes at Levenhall
2. The wide, generally slow moving Esk is edged by grassy banks, mature trees and attractive built environment of the Musselburgh Conservation Area, giving contrasting colour and form.
3. The expansive mudflats and mussel beds of the estuarine area has a variable, gently undulating surface, with sporadic pools, with the low salinity of the water here shown



by the growth of algae. The alluvial fan of the delta is unusual in East Lothian. The mudflats are expansive, with a sense of space and light. They have some wild qualities due to their expansiveness and proximity to the sea, which masks the sounds of the urban area, and their associated birdlife, though the modification of the coastline to create the ash lagoons with the concrete seawall reduces the impression of wildness. The limited wild character that the area has offers greater value due to its location adjacent to extensive urban development.

4. Levenhall links is an area where new land has been made from deposition of ash from

Cockenzie Power Station; that such an extensive post-industrial area could arise from the ashes is a permanent reminder of the sheer quantity of coal burned there. From this ash has been fashioned an



area of open grassland interspersed with tree planting and shallow ponds, the land is now managed for formal and informal recreation. The expansive open area of Levenhall links is important particularly for walkers, dog walkers and bird



*Reflections of the sky at the boating pond at Levenhall links, ringed by maturing trees*

watchers, and to provide natural surroundings for Musselburgh.

5. Fisherrow harbour is scenic and a focus for activity. Fisherrow Harbour was identified in the public consultation as a popular place for views along the coast, as well as featuring in views itself. The adjacent beaches are used locally for recreation and the Fisherrow sands area is a popular location for wedding photographs.
6. There is good access to and

*Fisherrow harbour today*



*Fisherrow bay*

through the area, with provision of car parking at Levenhall links, and the John Muir Way and Sustrans cycle route 76 following the edge of the shore.

7. The area has copious bird life on the Esk, at the mudflats, offshore, and using the man-made wader scrapes. The site is a premier birding hotspot and is widely recognised as one of the best places in the country for bird watching. The sight and sound of birds is a key attraction of the area – many waders including striking black and white oystercatchers contrasting with softer blues and greens

at the wader scrapes, where bird watching hides are provided; sea ducks and others offshore; swans, ducks and geese on the Esk. The whole section of the area below the high water mark and the wader scrapes are included with the Firth of Forth Special Protection Area and SSSI.



*Oystercatchers and other waders using the wader scrapes bringing contrasting colour and movement*

8. Public art and street furniture reflect the coastal location, such as the Fisherrow fishermen and the bench at Fisherrow.
9. Open, large scale views to the sea and sky and along the coast, to Fife and Edinburgh and Arthur's seat especially from the Goose Green area, Fisherrow Harbour and the John Muir Way. The changing light and weather conditions and its effects on the sea and sky can be dramatic, particularly here where the changes in tides bring dramatic



*Street furniture reflects the coastal location – good views across to Fife's cliffs and hills*



*Wide views over the estuary from the John Muir Way at the ash lagoons*

changes to the seascape with large expanse of mud flats at low tide and waves breaking against the harbour and sea walls at high tide.



*Fisherrow Sands and Harbour from Murdoch's Green*

10. Intimate views within the area including across the River Esk where the natural elements of the river and mature trees at Loretto playing fields combine with the built environment especially the pavilion and stone walls; and of Fisherrow Harbour where the traditional buildings contrast with more modern development at The Quay and the activity of fishing boats and leisure craft add interest.
11. There are views to other SLAs including the Elphinstone Ridge, St Michael's Parish Church within the River Esk SLA, and North Berwick Law from the wader scrapes.
12. There are good views across the area from Newhailes Garden and Designed Landscape.

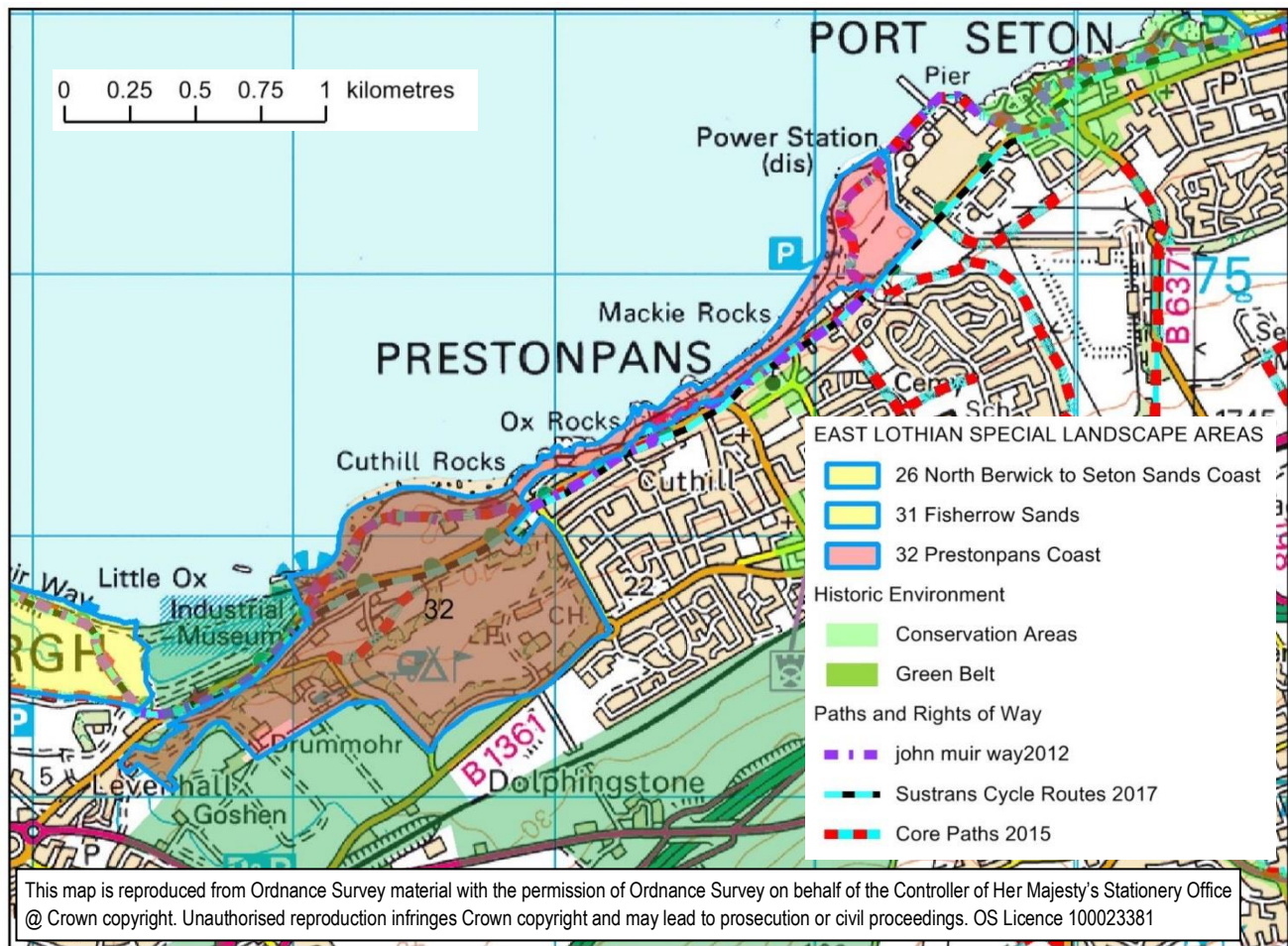
#### **Guidelines for Development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the coastal character and characteristic features of the area
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the expansive, open feel of the Esk estuary and mudflats, as well as views across this area
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the apparently natural appearance of Levenhall links and its value for informal recreation and as part of the landscape setting for Musselburgh. Urban development, other than limited visitor facilities, could impact on this.
- D. Any proposed development must not harm the views along the coast from the John Muir Way, Fisherrow Harbour, the Wader Scrapes and Fisherrow Sands
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the apparent scale of important features such as the wader scrapes and elements of the built environment in particular Fisherrow Harbour and buildings at Loretto Playing fields.
- F. Any proposed development must not harm the bird life of the area and the possibilities for its observation. Birdlife is important to the area and development or management that harms it is unlikely to be approved because of SPA status of much of the area.
- G. Any proposed development must not harm the functioning of Fisherrow Harbour as a working harbour and focus of activity that provide scenic and sensory qualities (contrasting colours of boats, fishing equipment such as lobster pots, sounds of the masts, etc)

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

- i. Coast must be carefully managed to allow for recreation and wildlife see coastal tourism strategy
- ii. Sensitive restoration of areas of ash deposition from Cockenzie Power Station
- iii. In a recent consultation lack of maintenance and facilities at Fisherrow harbour was raised. It is important for the scenic attraction of the area that the harbour remains a focus for activity.

## Prestonpans Coast Special Landscape Area 32 Statement of Importance



**Character:** A narrow rocky strip of coastline forming the boundary of the settlement of Prestonpans with the sea and surrounding coastal foreshore and woodlands.

**Area:** 118 ha

**Overview:**

An area providing the setting for Prestonpans including its narrow rocky foreshore identified for its geological importance, together with the mature established woodlands of the Royal Musselburgh Golf Course and Drummohr House to its west and the open spaces of Morrison's Haven to the west and Preston Links to the east of Prestonpans.

The area is important for recreation being close to the settlement of Prestonpans and including the route of the John Muir Way as well the Prestongrange Mining Museum, camping site at Drummohr,



*Local murals create another element to the foreshore*

Royal Musselburgh Golf Course and open links at Morrison's Haven and the Green Hills at Preston Links.

It is a historic area with strong links to the sea as well as mining and salt panning and the more recent power station to the east of the site.

It is a highly scenic area set on the coast, with good views both east and west along the coastline as well as north across the Firth of Forth to Fife.



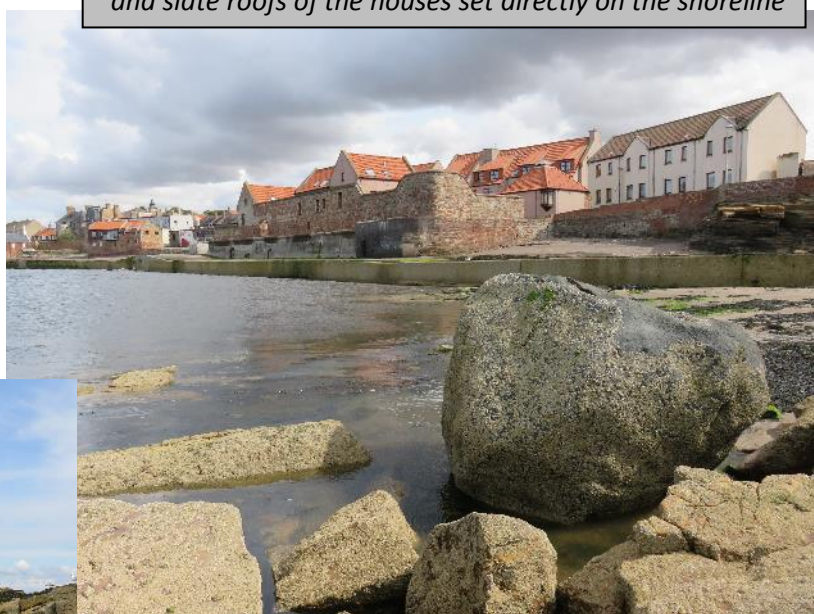
*Coastal view westwards to Edinburgh*

The whole of the coast between the high and low water is identified as the Firth of Forth SSSI and Morrison's Haven is identified as a local biodiversity site for its coastal grassland. The woodlands of the Royal Musselburgh Golf Course lie within tree preservation order number 1, the woodlands of Drummohr are protected by tree preservation order numbers 13 and 60.

**Special Qualities and Features:**

1. The rocky foreshore contains geological features along its length featuring sedimentary and volcanic rocks. It is an excellent example of Carboniferous fluvial sedimentary rocks with regional stratigraphic significance. The Johnny Moat stone, a large blue whinstone rock deposited

*Striking contrast of colour and form between the blue of the sea and the sandstone and rendered walls with range and slate roofs of the houses set directly on the shoreline*



by a glacier and named after the 17<sup>th</sup> century harbourmaster is a feature of the shore. Local folklore has it that "as long as the Johnny Moat Stone stands on its rock, the town will flourish". Its fall from its stand in 1952 seemed to bear out the legend, predating as it did the closure of many local industries – colliery, brickworks, potteries. It has now been put back in place after another more recent fall.

*The Johnnie Moat Stone left on the beach rocks 13,000 years ago after the last Ice Age has great significance to Prestonpans and is a local icon*

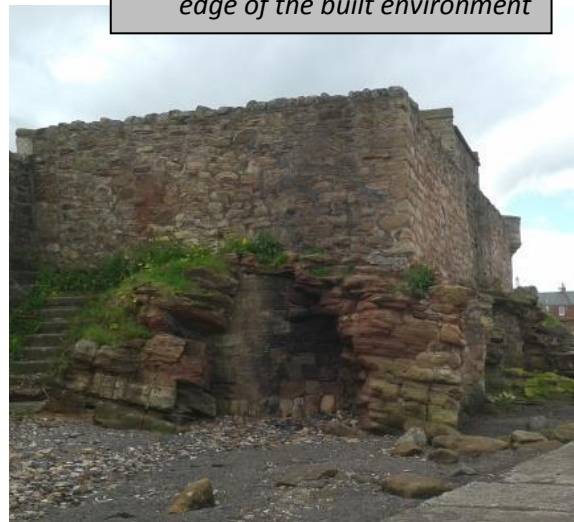
2. The area has a distinctive relationship with the sea. The houses of Prestonpans extend to the rocky edge of the shore, with Rock Cottage sitting proudly above the foreshore, creating a dramatic juxtaposition of natural wildness with the built environment. The closes between houses allow for framed views of the coast from within the town, reinforcing the town's coastal character.



*Sandstone forming the coast has been built onto to create the edge of the built environment*



*Sandstone of the buildings linking with the natural stone of the coast providing a connection between the built and natural environment*



3. The Green Hills at Preston Links are important for recreation, providing large open green space easily accessible from the neighbouring towns with raised views along the coast and out



*Rocky shore with Greenhills and site of former Cockenzie Power Station*

over the Firth of Forth. These were identified by many respondents in the public consultation as a popular local resource for many activities as well as for good views along the coast.

4. The John Muir Way follows the line of the coast through this area.
5. There are panoramic views over the Firth of Forth and Musselburgh to Edinburgh, Arthurs Seat and the Pentland Hills to the west, as well as to Fife and in some parts, toward the open sea



*Open views along the low rocky coast to the hills of the Pentlands and Arthur's Seat in the distance*

6. A very historic area with strong links to the sea. Although now landscaped and filled-in, Morrison's Haven remained a busy harbour right up until the 1920s, exporting coal and bricks. Originally known as Aitchison's Haven it was built in 1526 to export the salt panned at



*The infilled harbour of Morrison's Haven with attractive walks through the grasslands of the reclaimed land*



*The rocky foreshore at Morrison's Haven gradually being colonised by Marram grass*

nearby Prestonpans. By 1796 it rivalled Leith in importance, supporting the various industries of Prestonpans – coal exports, glass, tile and brick factories, a flint mill, and it had both a weekly market and an annual fair. The links, partly on the reclaimed land here, is an open area popular with dog walkers and has an abundance of coastal flowers.



7. Prestongrange is a site of major importance in the story of Scotland's Industrial Revolution. Over the centuries, the site has been a harbour, glass works, pottery, coal mine and brick works. You can still see remnants of these former industries, and many of the structures are still intact. These include the rare Hoffman Kiln built in 1937 and the Cornish Beam Engine, unique in Scotland as the only beam engine still on the site where it worked.



*The relics of Prestongrange forming the mining museum backed by the woods of the Royal Musselburgh Golf Course and Drummohr*

8. The woodlands to the west of Prestonpans set on raised land provide a strong scenic green backdrop to the town when viewed from the coast, also providing a habitat for deer and other small mammals close to the built settlements. Areas of the woodland especially at Drummohr are identified as ancient woodland. Their importance is recognised by the tree preservation orders protecting them.
9. Drummohr House itself is a locally identified designed landscape. Its policy woodlands to the north of the house provide the setting for the old carriage drive entrance from Westpans, with mature trees surrounding the house and framing its outlook to the south.
10. The development of Cockenzie Power Station, to the east of Prestonpans, in the 1960s led to the installation of a pipe to take the waste ash to the reclaimed land at the ash lagoons to the west of Morrison's Haven. This forms the coastal path along the rocky shore to the north of Prestonpans. This path, which is identified as a right of way, enables a sea level walk at low tide providing a dramatic, although often slippery, route passed the many named rocks along the foreshore and views along the coast and over the Firth of Forth. Right of Way along the pipeline walkway along the top of the rocks to the north of the sea wall with the boundary of Prestonpans.
11. Wildlife is abundant from the seals hauled out on the rocks to the myriad of sea birds bobbing on the water or circling overhead. The coastal grasslands at Morrison's Haven provide another habitat important for insects, butterflies and nesting birds.

**Examples of paintings using the Prestonpans Coast as inspiration**

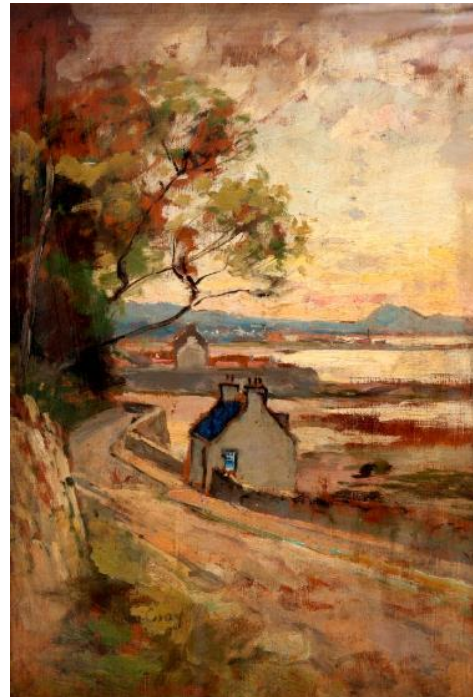


The Hope by John Bellany late 20<sup>th</sup> C



Boat at Sunrise,  
unknown artist

The Coast Road to West Pans  
by George Gray



**Guidelines for Development**

- A. Any proposed development must not harm the coastal character of the area and characteristic features of the area
- B. Any proposed development must not harm the habitat and openness of the coastal grasslands
- C. Any proposed development must not harm the mature setting of the woodlands to the west of Prestonpans
- D. Any proposed development must not harm open views out from the coastline, particularly from the John Muir Way, Sustrans cycle route 76, the B1348, the rocky foreshore, including views westwards towards Edinburgh and the Forth Bridges
- E. Any proposed development must not harm the operation of natural coastal processes other than where sea defences are needed to protect important infrastructure and reclaimed land
- F. Any proposed sea defences must not harm the scenic appeal of the relationship of the foreshore with the built environment
- G. Any proposed development must not harm the openness and natural appearance of the areas of reclaimed land at Preston Links (the Green Hills) and the Morrison's Haven Links and their value for informal recreation and as part of the landscape setting for Prestonpans

**Potential for Landscape Enhancement**

- i. Coast must be carefully managed to allow for recreation and wildlife (see coastal tourism strategy)
- ii. Improve recreation facilities





Versions of this publication can be supplied in Braille, large print, audiotape or in your own language. Please phone Customer Services if you require assistance on **01620 827199**