

**Review of Local Landscape  
Designations  
The City of Edinburgh Council**

**Prepared for  
the City of Edinburgh Council  
by  
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This project is supported by Scottish Natural Heritage. Working with Scotland's people to care for our natural heritage.





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**Appendix A – List of open spaces scoped into the Edinburgh Landscape Character Assessment**

**Appendix B – Summary of Comments and Recommendations by cSLA**



# I. INTRODUCTION

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## **Background to the study**

- I.1. This report sets out the findings of a review of Local Landscape Designations commissioned by the City of Edinburgh Council and part funded by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). A two stage survey and evaluation process was undertaken by Land Use Consultants in association with Carol Anderson, Landscape Architect:
- A landscape character assessment for City of Edinburgh (Land Use Consultants in association with Carol Anderson (2009) Edinburgh Landscape Character Assessment Report);
  - A review of local landscape designations in line with SNH and Historic Scotland's Guidance (2005).
- I.2. This report includes the following main sections:
- Section 2: Methodology;
  - Section 3: Consultation;
  - Section 4: Recommended candidate Special Landscape Areas;
  - Section 5: Planning Policy Context and Model Policy Recommendations;
  - Section 6: Candidate Special Landscape Area Statements of Importance and maps;
  - Appendix A – List of open spaces scoped into the Landscape Character Assessment;
  - Appendix B – Summary of Comments and Recommendations by cSLA.



## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### **Edinburgh Landscape Character Assessment (ELCA)**

- 2.1. The review of local landscape designations draws on the information set out within the Edinburgh Landscape Character Assessment (2009). This describes the landscape of Edinburgh and provides the basis from which landscape of outstanding merit can be identified.
- 2.2. The UK Government ratified the European Landscape Convention (ELC) in 2006. This defines landscape as ‘an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.’
- 2.3. The ELC definition embraces natural, rural, urban and peri-urban environment including land, water and marine areas. It aims to promote the protection, management and planning of landscapes and concerns everyday or degraded landscapes as well as outstanding examples.
- 2.4. The ELCA and Review of Local Landscape Designations focus on the peri-urban environment and significant open spaces within the city, recognising that the city’s built heritage already has many established forms of protection<sup>1</sup>. The established practice of landscape character assessment was used to classify the city’s landscape according to shared patterns of landform, land cover and land use.
- 2.5. This resulted in the categorisation of 15 types of broadly similar landscape character across the city, such as the coast, urban greenspace, river valleys, farmland, urban hills etc. These landscape character types (LCTs) can be further subdivided into 75 site specific examples, or landscape character areas (LCAs), each displaying unique characteristics and identities e.g. the Lower River Almond or Craigmillar Farmland.
- 2.6. The ELCA provided a description and summary of key characteristics, and assessed the landscape against the following criteria:
  - Typicality;
  - Rarity/uniqueness;
  - Prominence;
  - Scenic qualities;
  - Enjoyment;
  - Culture;
  - Naturalness.

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<sup>1</sup> A list of the open spaces scoped into the Landscape Character Assessment is included in Appendix A

## Review of Local Landscape Designations

- 2.7. NPPG 14 Natural Heritage provides for the use of local landscape designations, underpinned by the need for greater consistency in their application. This is outlined by Guidance on Local Landscape Designations<sup>2</sup>, jointly published by SNH and Historic Scotland to help local authorities refresh their approach to local landscape designations (LLDs). The aims of the guidance are:
- to secure greater consistency in selection and use of LLDs;
  - to reaffirm LLDs as part of the *all landscapes* approach;
  - to promote greater understanding and support for local designations among stakeholders;
  - to clarify the relationship of LLDs to the wider family of Scotland's landscape designations.
- 2.8. Edinburgh currently operates two forms of non-statutory designation to protect local scenic quality from inappropriate development:
- the Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV); and
  - the Area of Outstanding Landscape Quality (AOLQ).
- 2.9 AGLVs are a regional based designation, introduced following guidance in Circular 2/1962. Eight AGLV apply within the Edinburgh City Local Plan boundary, in addition to the Pentland Hills Regional Park. In Rural West Edinburgh, thirteen AOLQ derive from landscape assessment carried out in the 1990s.
- 2.10. Many existing LLDs across Scotland's local authorities are long standing; however the method of their selection for designation and key qualities are not comprehensively documented, whilst their nomenclature is inconsistent. In future local landscape designations will be known as Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) and will be accompanied by 'Statements of Importance', setting out their essential characteristics alongside an extract map.
- 2.11. The three main policy purposes of SLA designation are set out within the SNH and Historic Scotland's Guidance as follows:
- As an accolade;
  - As a means to focus policies and objectives;
  - As a tool for management.
- 2.12 The guidance supports an all landscapes approach which reflects a broader approach to landscape planning and management and the continuity of landscapes across settlements and administrative boundaries. There is recognition that all views on the

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<sup>2</sup> Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Scotland (2005) Guidance on Local Landscape Designations

landscape should be respected, planning and management should facilitate positive change and there should be shared responsibility for the landscape.

- 2.13 The guidance is intended as a resource which local authorities can use to take forward their own review process. Interpretation of the approaches suggested within the guidance was carried out in discussion with the project working group, which included representation from SNH.
- 2.14 The SNH and Historic Scotland Guidance (2005) identifies that a number of landscape qualities are also likely to be particularly relevant to the identification of valued landscapes for designation. In addition to the factors assessed within the ELCA, the review addressed the contribution of landscapes to the historic core, setting of the city and key views. In addition physical and visual continuity between landscape character areas was also considered (see Table 2.1 Designation Criteria).
- 2.15 The criteria assessed were then rated as high, medium or low from the evaluation tables, and these ratings were converted to numeric scores. Whilst defining landscape character and quality, involved many considerations, to reflect the main purposes of the SLA designation, a double-weighting (x2) was applied to scores for each LCA for distinctiveness, scenic quality and enjoyment.
- 2.16 Discussion within the project steering group agreed on the application of a threshold which identified that the top third of sites were of sufficient merit to warrant candidate SLA status (cSLA). Threshold scores immediately above and below this benchmark were further verified in relation to their designation potential.
- 2.17 The project steering group also recognised the role of lower scoring landscapes in providing the setting and context to adjacent areas of higher overall merit. As a result landscape character areas with strong physical or visual associations with adjacent cSLA were also considered for designation. LCAs 36 and 54 were identified as fulfilling this role through their association with the Pentland and Braid Hills respectively.
- 2.18 The 22 candidate Special Landscape Areas identified were then subject to a public consultation, based upon the boundaries illustrated in the Edinburgh Landscape Character Assessment.

**Table 2.1 Designation Criteria**

Designation criteria	Description		Scoring guidance
Edinburgh distinctiveness	Features which contribute positively to the identity of Edinburgh, reflecting individual features or combinations of landform, land use and land cover. Examples include prominent volcanic hills and policy landscapes.	3	Landscape includes highly distinctive features or combination of features which are important to Edinburgh's identity.
		2	Fairly distinctive or representative of Edinburgh and some key characteristics or combination of features which are important to Edinburgh's identity
		1	Landscape has little or no role in relation to Edinburgh's identity.
Relative merit			
Scenic	Combination of landscape features which contribute to scenic quality.	3	Pleasing combination of features which provide a high scenic value
		2	Some features of scenic value
		1	Few features of scenic value
Enjoyment	The use and enjoyment of the landscape for recreational activity.	3	Good level of access provision/recreational use and high numbers of users and/or visual receptors
		2	Some access provision/recreational use and medium levels of users and receptors
		1	Few features of scenic value
Culture	The influence of cultural heritage features on the landscape. This reflects the presence of built features, landscape planting and field boundaries, or cultural associations with the landscape.	3	Significant cultural heritage features which dominate the landscape and strongly influence the character
		2	Some cultural heritage importance
		1	Limited cultural heritage importance or limited impact on landscape
Naturalness	Naturalness is assessed in relation to the presence of features which contribute a sense of naturalness such as water,	3	Strong sense of naturalness with limited human influence
		2	Some natural features with some influence from human modification and management

	woodland, limited levels of management and modification. A quarry may be designated a SSSI but it would not score highly for naturalness because of the strong influence of human activity.	1	Highly modified or managed landscape with little or no natural features
Geology and geomorphology	The influence of geological and geomorphological features on the experience of the landscape	3	Geology and geomorphology have a strong influence on the character of the landscape and reflect the naturalness of the landscape
		2	Geology and geomorphology have some influence on the landscape character
		1	Geology and geomorphology have a limited influence on the character of the landscape
Variations in quality			
Extent of character area (part or all)		-	Does all of the LCA have similar quality? (Yes/No)
Association with adjoining character areas		-	Does the LCA relate to adjoining LCAs (score no if it is physically isolated)
Importance of Connectivity	Connectivity reflects the relationship between different landscape character areas.	3	The landscape has a strong visual or physical relationship with adjacent LCA
		2	The landscape has some relationship with adjacent LCA
		1	The landscape has a limited role in relation to other LCA

Edinburgh specific qualities			
Contribution to historic core	This is a key criteria for the central Edinburgh landscapes, landscapes which lie outwith the core of Edinburgh are not scored on this criterion. The historic core is defined as the boundary of the WHS.	3	An important and iconic feature which contributes to the character of the historic core of Edinburgh.
		2	The landscape makes some contribution to the character of the historic core
		1	The landscape makes a limited contribution to the context and views within the historic core
Contribution to setting of Edinburgh	The landscape must have a visual relationship with the city in the context of views to and views from the area.	3	The LCA has a strong positive visual relationship with the city and is a key feature in views/approaches to the city.
		2	The LCA has some visual relationship with the city
		1	The LCA has a limited role or is visually detached from the city
Key views	This relates to views to and from the LCA and is based on a combination of prominence and visibility.	3	Very prominent or good views to or from this area or high number of receptors. The LCA is important in key views from the city itself, main transport routes or viewpoints
		2	Fairly prominent or quite high numbers of receptors. The LCA plays some role is important in key views from the city itself, main transport routes or viewpoints
		1	Not prominent or low number of receptors

## 3. CONSULTATION

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### Consultation Process

- 3.1. Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Scotland's *Guidance on Local Landscape Designations* identifies the importance of involving stakeholders in the designation process.
- 3.2. A ten week consultation period, extending from 25 May – 31 July 2009, requested written responses from Community Councils, Neighbourhood Partnerships, Amenity Groups, Government Agencies and Non-governmental Organisations with an interest in heritage issues, Planning Consultants and Landscape Architects, Housing Developers and Council Services. The consultation was publicised via letters, the Council's Planning Consultations' webpage, Planning News, City Libraries and Planning and Building Standards Reception. Council Services also met to review the draft.
- 3.3. The consultation provided the opportunity for comment upon:
  - The series of candidate Special Landscape Areas identified;
  - The draft cSLA boundaries;
  - The suggested names for cSLAs;
  - The Statements of Importance accompanying cSLAs.
- 3.4. In addition, a central workshop was held in September 2009 to raise awareness of local landscape designations, review issues arising from the consultative draft, discuss progress with local landscape designations in neighbouring authorities, and highlight national action to further the protection and enhancement of landscapes. This involved heritage based organisations and community representatives.

### CONSULTATION RESPONSES

- 3.5. Consultation responses were received on the method and approach to the review of local landscape designations, and on the individual areas proposed for designation.

### General responses

- 3.6. Forestry Commission Scotland expressed support for the 22 areas selected as candidate Special Landscape Areas. The comments noted that the Candidate Special Landscape Areas align with the aims of the Edinburgh and Lothians Forest Habitat Network to assess the contribution to biodiversity made by woodland and health land at a strategic level and to evaluate where effort should be targeted to consolidate high quality habitat and link the existing habitat network by woodland expansion. Support was also given to the recommendations for woodland regeneration and management referred to in the 'enhancement potential' of Statements of Importance.

- 3.7. Edinburgh World Heritage view the cSLAs as crucial to the integrity and authenticity of the World Heritage Site's Outstanding Universal Values. Their response identified that cSLAs beyond the World Heritage Site are important to its setting and views to and from the historic core. cSLAs within the Site are integral to its unique character. Statements of Importance should refer to the Site's Outstanding Universal Values and Management Plan.
- 3.8. City of Edinburgh Council Archaeological Services suggested further acknowledgement of cultural heritage interests within the landscape should be included in Statements of Importance.
- 3.9. Turley Associates responded to the consultation on behalf of a number of clients with development interest in Edinburgh. The comments included the following:
- Concerns with regard to the timing of the study and the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) process.
  - The need to formalise cSLA through the Local Development Plan process to provide for scrutiny of the proposals.
  - Comment on the alignment of the review with work within neighbouring local authorities (none had reviewed or were in the process of carrying out review during the study period).
  - Comment on alignment of the methodology with the Guidance on Local Landscape Designations published by SNH and Historic Scotland in 2005. In particular, comments on the following: the justification for application of 'historic core' scoring criteria to only those landscapes within the historic core of the city; the application of weighting to three of the scoring criteria; the justification for a scoring threshold for consideration as candidates for designation, and the justification for designation via association with neighbouring landscapes.
- 3.10. Explanation within the 'Methodology' section of this report provides further information on the method, approach and role of the *Guidance on Local Landscape Designations* (see paragraphs 2.13-2.17). The Edinburgh Landscape Character Assessment also documents the approach followed during the preliminary stage of the project.
- 3.11. The comments received and the Council's draft recommendations made with regard to each candidate Special Landscape Area are appended to this report. Refer to Appendix B.

### **Workshop comments**

- 3.12. A summary of the comments of relevance to the Special Landscape Areas made through the Workshop is provided below:

#### **General**

- 3.13. General comments included an expression of support for method and approach to review of SLA, in providing a robust tool for decision making and landscape

protection. They also identified the potential for wider landscape management through the Central Scotland Green Network and Edinburgh and Lothians Forest Habitat Network to support the role of SLAs. In relation to the policy framework, further detail was requested on application of model policies.

### ***Areas included within SLA designation***

- 3.14. Comments on the inclusion or exclusion of areas within the shortlist of candidate SLAs included a general query about the potential for including areas of lower scenic value as SLA or as part of SLA, and specific queries as to why Leith Links, sections of the Water of Leith, the Meadows, coastline, Barnton and Silverknowes Golf Course and West Craigs farm were not identified within cSLA.

### ***Methodology***

- 3.15. A number of points were raised in relation to the methodology, seeking clarification on the relationships between SLA and existing policy. This included:
- the relationship between SLA designation and known or committed development proposals;
  - the relationship between Green Belt and SLA;
  - the exclusion of the built environment;
  - the need for cross boundary consultation for larger SLA, such as the Pentland Hills.
- 3.16. Clarification was also sought on the extent of community consultation carried out during the review and the methodology for boundary selection. Further information was requested on the application of weighting to the criteria, and discussion of the impact of reducing the number of criteria to increase the number of landscapes identified for designation.

### ***Statements of Importance***

- 3.17. Comment was also made on the content of the Statements of Importance. This included whether these should show visual analysis of key views, and how viewpoints are protected within the landscape.



## 4. RECOMMENDED CANDIDATE SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS

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### Boundary refinement

- 4.1. As stated in section 2 - Methodology, the 22 candidate Special Landscape Areas identified were subject to public consultation, based upon the boundaries illustrated in the Edinburgh Landscape Character Assessment.
- 4.2. The next stage of the Review, involved the refinement of the landscape character boundaries in order to finalise the recommended shortlist of candidate SLAs. This took into account consultation responses, recommendations from the Council's working group and a series of boundary selection considerations.
- 4.3. The process of boundary identification is based on the definition of robust and defensible boundaries. The choice of boundary feature will be determined by the options available and the best fit these have with the reasons for which the area is being designated. The following criteria have been identified to guide boundary selection:
  - Identify where key characteristics of the landscape e.g. landform and land cover change, and look to the nearest physical boundary.
  - Where there are variations in quality within a LCA move inwards from areas of lower quality.
  - Consider the role of the physical relationship of the candidate area in relation to quality of other adjacent LCAs and in creating a 'logical' and cohesive area for designation and in providing a setting for the understanding and appreciation of a landscape.
  - Boundaries will be chosen to be robust and clearly identifiable on the ground, and where possible associated with a prominent physical landscape feature, such as road or railway, watercourse, field boundary, changes in landform and vegetation cover or combination of these features.
- 4.4. Where an SLA boundary follows a similar line to the boundary of other designations, such as Gardens and Designed Landscapes or Conservation Areas, the SLA boundary chosen may be coincident where this provides a logical boundary. Where the SLA boundary deviates from the line of other designations, this is on the basis of landscape considerations. Some of the boundaries are within an urban location, and in these locations the settlement boundary and open space audit data set have informed the choice of boundary location.
- 4.5. Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Scotland's *Guidance on Local Landscape Designations*<sup>3</sup> notes: *'In selecting boundaries close to or within the envelope of settlements and urban areas small areas of lower merit may need to be included within the local*

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<sup>3</sup> Historic Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage (2005) *Guidance on Local Landscape Designations*

*landscape designation where this allows for a better physical boundary to be used, or to provide for more effective protection and management of the landscape in the longer term'. Where areas of lower merit have been included within the candidate Special Landscape Areas, this is acknowledged in the Statement of Importance alongside potential for enhancement.*

### **Formal designation**

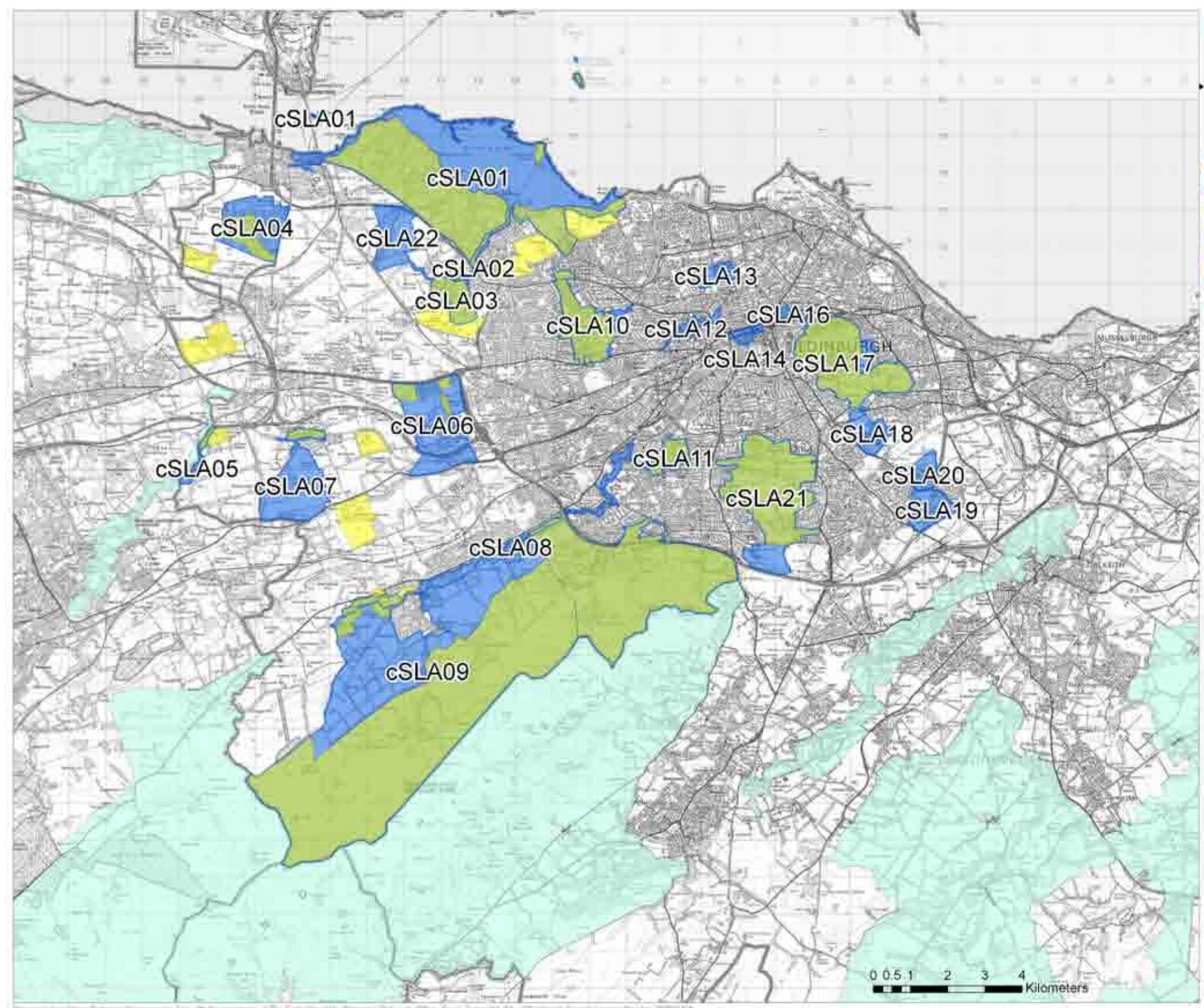
- 4.6. The candidate SLAs identified within this report remain subject to formal designation through the Local Development Plan. During this process SLA boundaries will also be confirmed. This will provide for:
- Scrutiny and notification of the proposals.
  - Consideration of candidate SLAs within the context of an integrated strategy for social, economic and environmental development.
  - Clarification of the need for SLAs in specific locations and to consider whether a cSLA would duplicate the function of other designated areas or provide a supporting role in protecting landscape setting.
  - Formal de-designation of existing AGLV and AOLQ as appropriate.
- 4.7. In the interim, the Review will constitute a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

### **Summary of changes proposed to existing designated areas**

- 4.8. The candidate SLAs identified equate to an increase in the area of land currently covered by AGLV or AOLQ designation. However, the total area of land subsequently designated as Special Landscape Area may be subject to change following the Local Development Plan process. It is estimated that approximately 6470 ha of land are currently designated as AGLV and AOLQ and the cSLAs amount to some 9100 ha, representing an increase of approximately 10% by comparison with the existing designated areas. The cSLA identified are distributed throughout the urban and rural area, incorporating estate parkland, prominent hills, valleys, coastal areas, farmland and uplands.
- 4.9. Figure 4.1 overleaf illustrates the candidate SLA alongside the existing AGLV and AOLQ, highlighting areas recommended for de-designation as part of the Local Development Plan. Variations from the existing designated areas should be interpreted within the context of the new SLA criteria and consistent approach to designation required across the Council Area.

**Figure 4.1**  
Candidate Special Landscape Areas  
Existing landscape designations

- Legend**
-  City of Edinburgh Council Boundary
  -  cSLA boundaries
  -  Existing AGLV/AOLQ identified as cSLA
  -  cSLA identified out with existing AGLV/AOLQ
  -  Existing AGLV/AOLQ recommended for de-designation
  -  Local landscape designations in neighbouring local authorities





### **Future review of Special Landscape Areas**

- 4.10. Future review of Special Landscape Areas will be carried out in accordance with guidance set out within Scottish Planning Policy, and may need to be considered during subsequent development planning cycles.



## 5. PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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- 5.1. The Local Development Plan for Edinburgh will set out a revised policy framework for locally designated Special Landscape Areas. This section of the report provides analysis and recommendations for policy wording, and considers the following:
- The national landscape policy framework;
  - The existing policy framework for landscape protection within Edinburgh and the surrounding local authorities, exploring the role of SLAs in relation to other built, cultural and natural heritage designations.
  - Policy recommendations for Special Landscape Area protection.

### ***Guidance on Local Landscape Designations<sup>4</sup>***

- 5.2. Within the ‘all landscapes’ approach LLDs have a role as accolades, as a means to identify policy priorities and objectives, and as a tool for management. They serve to safeguard landscapes, promote settings for recreation and awareness, and to inform development plans, strategies or planning proposals.
- 5.3. The Guidance states that ‘*development plan policies should recognise the positive contribution that appropriate development and other land use change can make to the landscape character and qualities of the designated area.*’ Nonetheless, some development and land use change will be inappropriate for some areas. The guidance identifies that development should generally only be permitted within a LLD when:
- *It will not have significant adverse impact on the special character or qualities of the landscape of the area;*
  - *The social and economic benefits of the development are considered to be of more than just local significance in the context of the local authority.*
- 5.4. This draws on the principles set out in Circular 2/1962<sup>5</sup> which provides guidance on the policy for control of development and identifies that there would be a strong presumption against development within the defined area, save where it is plainly necessary in connection with existing development or is consomant with the purposes underlying the designation of the area, e.g. appropriate recreational or accommodation facilities or creation of viewing points. So far as development was to be allowed in such areas, a high standard of architectural layout and design would be essential. The text in the guidance recognises the importance of managing change within the context of the special qualities of the landscape.
- 5.5. Authorities should also consider how other relevant policies in development plans can be used to support the protection and enhancement of the character and qualities of LLDs.

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<sup>4</sup> SNH and Historic Scotland (2004) Guidance on Local Landscape Designations

<sup>5</sup> Scottish Development Department (1962) Circular No. 2/1962

## SCOTTISH PLANNING POLICY AND ADVICE

### **National Planning Framework for Scotland 2<sup>6</sup>**

- 5.6. The National Planning Framework for Scotland 2 (NPF2) (2009) celebrates the diversity and value of Scotland's landscapes. In particular, it recognises the role of natural and historic landscapes in creating a sense of place, contributing to quality of life, and as a rich resource for tourism and leisure, creative industries, education and national and regional marketing. NPF2 also recognises the wide ranging pressures on landscapes and the resultant changing character, particularly in response to the challenge of climate change. These changes offer opportunities to support landscape enhancement and provide a high quality landscape for future generations.
- 5.7. The Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) is identified as a National Development within NPF2. This extends across Central Scotland from Ayrshire, Inverclyde and Dunbartonshire in the west, to Fife and East Lothian in the east. The CSGN will provide a strategic network of woodland and other habitats, active travel routes, greenspace links, watercourses and waterways, providing an enhanced setting for development and other land uses and improved opportunities for outdoor recreation and cultural activity. The actions proposed in the creation of the CSGN will support landscape enhancement.

### **NPPG 14: Natural Heritage<sup>7</sup>**

- 5.8. NPPG 14 is the Scottish Government's national planning policy document providing guidance on how the conservation and enhancement of Scotland's natural heritage should be considered in land use planning. It provides a framework for local landscape designations for the purpose of safeguarding locally important areas of outstanding scenic character or quality from inappropriate development. The document confirms the relevance of local landscape designations but cautions that authorities should avoid the proliferation of unnecessary local designations. The boundaries of sites should be clearly defined in development plans and justification given for selection. The Guideline recognised the need for advice to be provided to planning authorities to ensure greater consistency in the use of local landscape designations. NPPG 14 is currently being reviewed as part of the Scottish Government's preparation of Scottish Planning Policy: Part Three Thematic Policies (refer to paragraphs 5.12 – 5.13).

### **PAN 60<sup>8</sup>**

- 5.9. PAN 60 supports NPPG 14 in providing policy and planning advice regarding Scotland's natural heritage. Safeguarding and enhancing landscape character is an important planning objective. To achieve this there needs to be clear policy objectives in relation to landscape, promotion of high standards of siting and use of appropriate materials. A landscape designation is employed when an area is valued beyond its immediate surroundings.

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<sup>6</sup> Scottish Government (2009) National Planning Framework for Scotland 2

<sup>7</sup> Scottish Office (1999) NPPG 14: Natural Heritage

<sup>8</sup> Scottish Executive (2000) Planning Advice Note 60 Planning for Natural Heritage

- 5.10. Landscape designations are stated to be of more value when forming part of a wider land-use framework and habitat network and contributing to realisation of national natural heritage strategy.
- 5.11. Landscape designations can offer opportunities to develop a partnership between local authorities and stakeholders. Development guidelines should be designed to safeguard landscape and should play a supporting role in protecting designated landscape.

**Scottish Planning Policy Consultative Draft (2009)<sup>9</sup>**

- 5.12. The policy outlines the need for planning authorities to support opportunities for enjoyment and understanding of the natural heritage. The policy recognises the dynamic nature of the landscape in countryside and urban areas and the aim of the policy is to facilitate positive change whilst maintaining and enhancing its distinctive character. It identifies that Special Landscape Areas and Local Nature Conservation Sites are to be the only two non-statutory local designations for the Natural Heritage.
- 5.13. The policy identifies the importance of linking greenspaces in and around settlements through green networks to deliver benefits for people and nature. The policy also highlights the need to avoid cumulative effects of incremental changes. The policy discusses potential conflict between the protection of the landscape and natural heritage and development, but identifies that careful planning can minimise this.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING**

**Structure Plan**

- 5.14. The Edinburgh and Lothians Structure Plan 2015 (Approved 2004) provides the strategic policy framework for protection of the built and natural environment. The supporting text recognises the importance of the qualities of the natural and built environment to the Lothian’s overall character and appearance. It states the importance of new development in creating successful and sustainable places. This is supported by the following policies:

**Policy ENVI D Regional and Local Natural and Built Environment Interests.** Applies to Areas of Great Landscape Value or other local landscape designations as defined in local plans and sets out that:

Development affecting AGLV or other local landscape designations or their settings, will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that:

- a) The objectives and overall integrity of the designated area will not be compromised; or
- b) The social or economic benefits to be gained from the proposed development outweigh the conservation or other interest of the site.

Local plans should define the extent of these interests and include policies and where appropriate proposals, for their protection and enhancement.

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<sup>9</sup> Scottish Government (2009) Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) Consultative Draft – Subject Policies

#### **ENV 4: Landscape**

Local plans should take account of landscape designations in accordance with new guidance produced by Scottish Natural Heritage.

#### **Strategic Development Plan**

- 5.15. The Strategic Development Planning Authority for Edinburgh and South East Scotland was designated by Scottish Ministers in June 2008 and comprises City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, Fife, Scottish Borders and West Lothian Councils. A Strategic Development Plan covering the area will be prepared and maintained, and the individual councils will prepare Local Development Plans. The process of preparing the SDP will take a number of years to complete, when it will replace the existing Structure Plans for the area.
- 5.16. The process of preparing the Strategic Development Plan and Local Development Plan will provide a significant new opportunity to co-ordinate the future policy framework across the development area. The SDP, which will supersede existing Structure Plans in due course, sets out a 'strategic level' spatial planning strategy to guide development within the Edinburgh City Region for a 20 year period.

#### **Local Planning Policy**

- 5.17. This section explores local plan policy wording with regard to landscape protection and enhancement for the local planning authorities of the City of Edinburgh, Midlothian, West Lothian and the Scottish Borders.
- 5.18. *Guidance on Local Landscape Designations* is seeking to provide consistent approach to the identification and use of LLDs. Local planning policies should therefore seek to provide continuity in the expression of policy intent.
- 5.19. Table 5.1 provides a comparison of the policy protection for landscape within the City of Edinburgh Council and the neighbouring local authorities. This identifies that Midlothian Council provides policy protection for landscape character outwith designated areas. The West Lothian Local Plan makes particular note of the need to control development affecting the setting of an AGLV, and sets out a commitment to undertake a review of Areas of Great Landscape Value during the plan period.

**Table 5.1 Comparison of local plan policy wording for local landscape designations and conservation of landscape character**

City of Edinburgh Council (Finalised Edinburgh City Local Plan – March 2007)	Rural West Edinburgh Local Plan (Rural West Edinburgh Local Plan Adopted 2006)	Midlothian (Midlothian Local Plan Adopted December 2008)	Scottish Borders (Scottish Borders Local Plan (Finalised December 2005))	West Lothian (West Lothian Local Plan (Adopted January 2009))
<p><b>Policy ENV10 Landscape Quality</b></p> <p>Planning permission will not be granted for development which would damage or detract from the overall character and appearance of the Areas of Great Landscape Value shown on the Proposals Map, prominent ridges, or other important topographical or landscape features.</p>	<p><b>Policy E8 Areas of Great Landscape Value and Areas of Outstanding Landscape Quality</b></p> <p>Within the designated Area of Great Landscape Value and Areas of Outstanding Landscape Quality shown on the Proposals Map, the Council will protect and enhance the quality of the landscape. When determining applications for planning permission for development within these areas, a major consideration will be the impact of proposed development on those landscape features which contribute to the quality of the landscape. Development will not be permitted where it would adversely affect the special scenic qualities and integrity of the Area of Great Landscape Value or Areas of Outstanding Landscape Quality. These landscape features include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the patterns of woodland, fields, hedgerows and trees;</li> <li>• the special qualities of rivers and lochs; and</li> <li>• skylines and hill features, including prominent views.</li> </ul> <p>The scale, siting, design, form, materials and impact of important landscape features are all aspects of a proposal that could have an adverse effect on AGLVs. These considerations will apply to developments to be located either within or affecting the setting of areas designated as AGLVs or AOLQs.</p>	<p><b>RP6 Areas of Great Landscape Value</b></p> <p>Development will not be permitted where it may adversely affect the special scenic qualities and integrity of the Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLVs). The scale, siting, design, form, materials and impact on important landscape features are all aspects of a proposal that could have an adverse effect on the AGLV. These considerations will apply to developments to be located either within or affecting the setting of areas designated as AGLVs.</p>	<p><b>Policy EP2 – Areas of Great Landscape Value</b></p> <p>Where development proposals impact on an Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV), developers will be required to comply with Structure Plan policy N11.</p> <p><b>Structure Plan policy N11</b></p> <p>In assessing proposals for development in Areas of Great Landscape Value, the Council will seek to safeguard landscape quality and will have particular regard to the landscape impacts of the proposed developments. Proposals that have a significant adverse impact will only be permitted where the impact is clearly outweighed by social or economic benefits of national or local importance</p>	<p><b>Policy ENV19</b></p> <p>Within the six AGLVs shown on the proposals map there is a presumption against development which would undermine the landscape and visual qualities for which the areas were designated.</p> <p><b>Policy ENV21</b></p> <p>The council will protect the six Areas of Special Landscape Control shown on the proposals map from intrusive development in order to retain their landscape character. The council will promote opportunities to enhance the six Areas of Special Landscape Control and their accessibility to the public for recreational and educational purposes in a manner that does not undermine their landscape character and biodiversity value.</p>
		<p><b>RP7 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER</b></p> <p>Development will not be permitted where it may adversely affect the quality of the local landscape. Where development is acceptable it shall respect the local landscape character and contribute towards its maintenance and enhancement. New developments shall incorporate proposals to:</p> <p>A. maintain the local diversity and distinctiveness of landscape character including natural and built heritage features of landscape value such as woodland, hedges, ponds, stone walls and historical sites; and</p> <p>B. enhance landscape characteristics where they have been weakened and need improvement.</p>		<p><b>Policy ENV20</b></p> <p>Development proposals outwith an AGLV which would affect its setting from important viewpoints will be subject to detailed visual appraisal and will not be supported if it adversely affects the designated area.</p>



## RELATED POLICY PROTECTION

- 5.20 Within the Finalised Edinburgh City Local Plan – March 2007 and Rural West Edinburgh Local Plan – Adopted 2006, there are a range of related policies sharing a landscape dimension, some of which overlap physically with the proposed SLAs. The SLA designation represents the interaction of natural and human factors at a broad landscape scale and seeks to encompass a range of landscape values as reflected by the evaluation criteria. A summary of the other relevant policies is provided below.

### Edinburgh World Heritage Site

- 5.21 The Edinburgh World Heritage Site (WHS) covers the whole of the Old Town, the greater part of the New Town and Dean Village. There is no one policy specific to this designation, and the policies in the Local Plan are the principal means through which the tangible attributes of the World Heritage Site – the special character of listed buildings, conservation areas, monuments, archaeology, gardens and landscapes – are protected and if possible enhanced. The landscape setting of Edinburgh WHS is identified as one of the outstanding universal values which contributes to the significance of the WHS.

### Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes

- 5.22. Historic Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage are jointly responsible for compiling and maintaining the national Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes. The policy protects sites and their setting on the Inventory from damaging development, and is a material consideration in the planning process. The Finalised Edinburgh City Local Plan – March 2007 includes the following policy.

#### **Policy Env 6 Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes**

Development will not be permitted which would have a detrimental impact on the character of a site recorded in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes, upon important views to, from and within the site, or upon component features which contribute to its value. The restoration of Inventory sites will be encouraged.

- 5.23. City of Edinburgh Council is in the process of developing a policy on non inventory listed historic gardens and designed landscapes which will be included in the Local Development Plan.
- 5.24. The Rural West Edinburgh Local Plan includes the following policy, which also makes wider reference to non inventory listed sites.

#### **Policy EI4 Designed Landscapes**

Proposed development which would adversely affect Designed Landscapes of national significance or their setting, as defined in the Inventory, will only be permitted where it assists restoration and would not adversely affect the artistic merit, historical, horticultural, arboricultural, archaeological, architectural, nature conservation or scenic value of the landscape.

In seeking to secure such restoration, the Council will liaise with Historic Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Where proposed development would adversely affect other designed landscape features that are worthy of retention, including non inventory historic gardens, surviving features of designed landscapes and mature public parks, the development will only be permitted if the adverse effect has been minimised and is outweighed by public benefits arising from the development.

### **Conservation Areas**

- 5.25. Conservation areas are areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. The designation of a conservation area is a means to safeguard and enhance the sense of place of the most valued historic places. It is the character or historic interest of an area created by individual buildings and open spaces and their relationship with each other that the conservation area seeks to preserve. The overall layout and pattern of development may be just as important to the character as individual buildings.
- 5.26. Special attention must be paid to the character and appearance of the conservation area when planning controls are being exercised. This applies to permitted development rights under the General Development Order, the demolition of unlisted buildings requires conservation area consent and trees are given added protection, with tree works or removal requiring prior notice to be given to the local planning authority.
- 5.27. Each conservation area has a detailed Conservation Area Character Appraisal. The principal purposes of the Character Appraisals are to define the key elements, essential features and special qualities that contribute to each areas architectural and historic interest, and to reinforce the Council's policy objectives of promoting, protecting and enhancing the environment. The appearance of the conservation area, its role and function within the wider urban context, the activity and vitality of its land uses and buildings, and its historic associations are all taken as contributing to the essential character. The analysis of essential character considers natural heritage issues, the landscape setting and important views.
- 5.28. When evaluating development proposals within an SLA, which overlaps with a conservation area(s), the conservation area designation and the Conservation Area Character Appraisal will take precedence.

### **Green Belt**

- 5.29. The key objectives of Green Belt policy, as set out in Scottish Planning Policy 21 Green Belts are:
- to direct planned growth to the most appropriate locations and support regeneration;
  - to protect and enhance the character, landscape setting and identity of towns and cities; and
  - to protect and give access to open space within and around towns and cities, as part of the wider structure of green space.

- 5.30. The policy aims of Green Belt relate primarily to the relationship between urban areas and the landscape, and not the intrinsic scenic quality which is reflected in Special Landscape Areas. One aspect of the identity of a settlement may be the physical separation from another nearby settlement, even if the area of land in question has a low landscape value.
- 5.31. SPP21 sets out specific guidance on the types of development acceptable within the Green Belt, however guidance on development within Special Landscape Areas, seeks to ensure the protection of the special qualities of the landscape.

### **Recreation**

- 5.32. Access to the countryside around Edinburgh is provided for through the Pentlands Hills Regional Park and Bonaly Country Park. Policy protection for the Pentlands Hills Regional Park seeks to protect the Park from development which would have an unacceptable impact on its character and landscape quality. The boundary of the Pentland Hills Regional Park is likely to reflect both landscape and recreational issues at the time of designation.

### **Nature Conservation**

- 5.33. Several of the SLA overlap with nature conservation designations. These range from sites of local importance, to those of European and International importance. These sites are protected from development which would have an adverse impact on the nature conservation interest of the sites. The policy protection for Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance also provides landscape protection, and geodiversity and biodiversity were included as criteria within the landscape assessment.

### **MODEL POLICIES**

- 5.34. Research carried out for SNH in 2003<sup>10</sup> identified draft appropriate wording for model policies on a range of topics, which include landscape considerations. The report acknowledges that local landscape designations are likely to have to accommodate a wider range of developments than internationally and nationally important designations. The draft model policy is as follows:

*Development within [Areas of Great Landscape Value or relevant name] will only be permitted where it does not significantly adversely affect the landscape character, natural beauty and visual amenity [and where appropriate the wild land character] of the area. When considering the grant of planning permission in these areas the planning authority will have regard to the need to preserve and, where necessary, to restore or enhance the character of the area and may use conditions or planning agreements to achieve these objectives.*

- 5.35. The report also sets out a model policy for the conservation, restoration and enhancement of landscape character. The report notes that the explanatory text

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<sup>10</sup> David Tyldesley and Associates (2003) Model Policies for the Natural Heritage, Scottish Natural Heritage, Battleby.

should refer to the Landscape Character Assessment<sup>11</sup> and any further guidance on fitting development into the landscape, including PANs. The policy is intended to ensure that new development makes a positive contribution to landscape character and the planning authority should be able to draw on the guidelines in the Landscape Character Assessment when interpreting and applying the policy. The draft model policy is as follows:

*All development shall be of a nature and scale and shall be sited, laid out, designed and constructed of materials so as to make a positive contribution to landscape character. Where necessary, and particularly in the areas shown on the Proposals Map, new development shall contribute to the restoration and / or enhancement of the landscape character of the area and the planning authority may use conditions or planning agreements to achieve these objectives.*

- 5.36. Development outwith a candidate SLA could also impact on their integrity and identity. The proximity to and impact on views to SLA should be addressed as part of SLA policy, as illustrated by West Lothian Local Plan Policy ENV 20 in Table 5.1
- 5.37. In order to assess the effect of a development proposal upon a SLA, the the local planning authority may require the submission of a landscape and visual appraisal or detailed impact assessment as appropriate. The ELCA can be used to inform judgements on the role of adjoining landscapes in contributing to the character of Special Landscape Areas.

## **POLICY FRAMEWORK RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.38. The Special Landscape Area designation policy should set out the requirement for the protection and maintenance of the key characteristics of an SLA, and refer to the Statements of Importance, which should be placed within an appendix to the Local Development Plan or provided as supplementary guidance. The Statements of Importance identify the potential key features of interest within SLA including their relationship with the historic environment, recreational role, nature conservation interest and landscape value. The SLA policy will sit within the wider framework of relevant policies within the Local Development Plan which may include countryside and landscape character policy, historic environment policy, natural heritage policies and Green Belt. Clear links should be made between these supporting policies and the Special Landscape Area policy as appropriate, and the relationship between areas of overlapping policy. It will be for the LDP to determine where a candidate SLA duplicates the function of another designation or provides a supporting role.
- 5.39. It may be necessary to provide specific wording within the policy for those SLA located within the urban area, in order to provide adequate recognition of their differing context from the countryside areas, and their relationship with the townscape.
- 5.40. There should also be policy protection for the wider landscape character, as illustrated in the Midlothian Local Plan policy RP7 shown in Table 5.1. This should

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<sup>11</sup> See Land Use Consultants in association with Carol Anderson (2009) Edinburgh Landscape Character Assessment

acknowledge the value of landscape character outwith Special Landscape Areas and support the protection and enhancement of their key characteristics. In so doing, this supports the aim of the European Landscape Convention and design quality objectives for new development. The Edinburgh Landscape Character Assessment establishes a baseline reference of landscape character across significant open spaces within the city and the peri-urban environment, which should be supported by additional survey information as required.

- 5.41. As outlined within the model policy and the Scottish Planning Policy, the purpose of local landscape designations is not to limit development potential, but to ensure that where an SLA is able to accommodate development, it is of an appropriate type, scale, and design. Each SLA has very different characteristics and what constitutes appropriate development will vary between the areas, and the characteristics of some SLA may constrain development potential. Where there are overlaps with other policy protection measures such as conservation areas, these characteristics will also need to be taken into account. It is therefore most appropriate for the SLA policy to provide broad guidance on the need to ensure development is 'suitable' within the context of the individual SLA. Broad guidelines for maintaining, restoring and enhancing landscape quality could be incorporated within supplementary guidance.
- 5.42. As set out in NPPG14, there should be an avoidance of unnecessary policy designations. Table 5.2 overleaf provides an overview of the designations which coincide with the candidate SLAs. The different policy purposes of each designation and extent of land to which they apply are significant considerations when identifying what may constitute an unnecessary designation and where the SLA could play a role in protecting and enhancing the landscape setting of other designated areas.

**Table 5.2 Overlap with existing designations:  
Candidate Special Landscape Areas and existing designated and managed areas**

SLA Number	LCA number/s	Proposed name	Country Park	Regional Park	Inventory listed Gardens and Designed Landscapes(GDL)	Nature conservation designations	World Heritage Site	Conservation Area	Green Belt (or Countryside Area Policy)
1	1,3,12,74	Southern Forth Coast			Laurieston Castle Dalmeny	Coastal edge is Firth of Forth Ramsar, SPA and SSSI Dalmeny, Laurieston, Cramond Island and coastal edge are LBS <sup>12</sup>		Queensferry Cramond	All Green Belt – except for South Queensferry
2	5	Lower Almond			Craigiehall (part) Dalmeny (part)	LBS		Cramond	All Green Belt – except for Haugh Park/Braepark
3	7	Cammo			Cammo	LBS TPO <sup>13</sup>			Green Belt
4	15	Dundas			Dundas	LBS			Part Green Belt and part Countryside Area
5	24	Upper Almond				LBS			Countryside Area
6	29	Gogar			Millburn Tower	LBS Gogar TPO		Hermiston	Green Belt
7	23	Ratho Hills			Hatton House (part)	TPO north of		Ratho	Part Green

<sup>12</sup> Local Biodiversity Site

<sup>13</sup> Tree Preservation Order

SLA Number	LCA number/s	Proposed name	Country Park	Regional Park	Inventory listed Gardens and Designed Landscapes(GDL)	Nature conservation designations	World Heritage Site	Conservation Area	Green Belt (or Countryside Area Policy)
						canal			Belt and part Countryside Area
8	38 and 71	Water of Leith - west			Malleny House (part)	LBS and part TPO		Balerno Currie Colinton	Generally aligned with Green Belt
9	34,35,36,37,41,42, 73	Pentlands	Bonaly Country Park	Pentland Hills regional Park	Malleny House (part)	Balerno Common SSSI <sup>14</sup> LBS include: Balerno Common, Harlaw, Bonaly and Clubbiedean Reservoirs, Water of Leith and tributaries, Dreghorn. Small areas of TPO. Torphin Quarry LGS. <sup>15</sup>		Swanston Part of Balerno and Currie	Part Green Belt and part Countryside Area – excluding land at Dreghorn
10	50	Corstorphine Hill				Local Nature Reserve LBS LGS TPO			Green Belt
11	51	Craiglockhart				Easter		Craiglockhart	

<sup>14</sup> Site of Special Scientific Interest

<sup>15</sup> Local Geodiversity Site

SLA Number	LCA number/s	Proposed name	Country Park	Regional Park	Inventory listed Gardens and Designed Landscapes(GDL)	Nature conservation designations	World Heritage Site	Conservation Area	Green Belt (or Countryside Area Policy)
						Craiglockhart local nature reserve Wester Craiglockhart Hill SSSI LBS Part TPO		Hills	
12	59	Water of Leith - New Town			New Town Gardens	LBS Part TPO	Edinburgh World Heritage Site	Dean Coltbridge and Wester Coates New Town	
13	68 and 67	Inverleith			Royal Botanic Garden	Botanic Gardens TPO LBS		Inverleith	
14	62	Castle Rock			New Town Gardens	Arthur's Seat Volcano SSSI	Edinburgh World Heritage Site	Old Town	
15	63	Princes St Gardens			New Town Gardens		Edinburgh World Heritage Site	New Town	
16	64	Calton Hill			Calton Hill and Regent Gardens	Arthur's Seat Volcano SSSI	Edinburgh World Heritage Site	New Town	
17	56,57,58,60	Holyrood, Duddingston and Prestonfield			Palace of Holyrood House	Arthur's Seat Volcano SSSI Duddingston policies TPO	Part of the grounds of Palace of Holyrood	Duddingston Old Town (at Holyrood)	Green Belt

SLA Number	LCA number/s	Proposed name	Country Park	Regional Park	Inventory listed Gardens and Designed Landscapes(GDL)	Nature conservation designations	World Heritage Site	Conservation Area	Green Belt (or Countryside Area Policy)
						LBS at Innocent Railway, Duddingston policies and Meadowfield			
18	48	Craigmillar			Craigmillar Castle (part)	LBS, LGS and TPO			Green Belt
19	49	The Drum			The Drum	Central area and woodlands LBS			Green Belt
20	55	Edmonstone				LBS			Green Belt (part)
21	52, 53, 54	Braids, Liberton, Mortonhall				Blackford Hill LNR, LBS, LGS Areas of TPO		Morton Mains (part)	Green Belt
22	11	Craigie Hill				Hill summit is LBS			Green Belt



## 6. CANDIDATE SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS, STATEMENTS OF IMPORTANCE AND MAPS

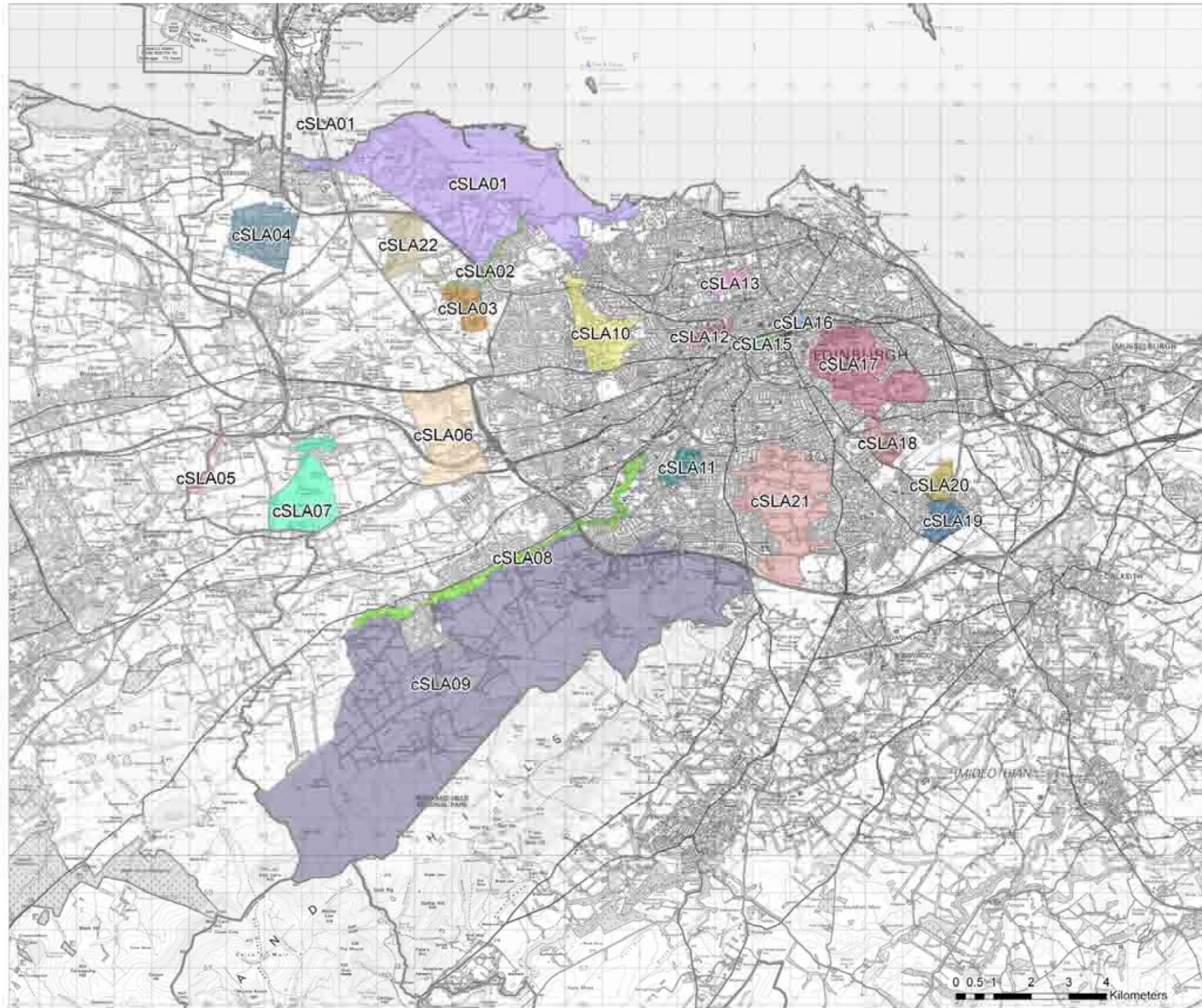
- 6.1. This chapter of the report includes the Statements of Importance and boundary maps for each candidate Special Landscape Area. Reference should also be made to the Edinburgh Landscape Character Assessment (2009) for cSLA which encompass a number of LCA. A summary of the candidate Special Landscape Areas is provided in Table 6.1 below.

**Table 6.1 Summary of candidate Special Landscape Areas**

Number	Proposed name	Relevant LCA (whole or part)	Area (ha)
01	Southern Forth Coast	1,3, 12, 74	1619
02	Lower Almond	5	45
03	Cammo	7, 6	95
04	Dundas	15	240
05	Upper Almond	24, 25	29
06	Gogar	29, 22	360
07	Ratho Hills	23, 22, 25	283
08	Water of Leith – west	38, 71, 34, 36	168
09	Pentlands	34, 35, 36, 37, 41, 42, 73	4477
10	Corstorphine Hill	50	230
11	Craiglockhart	51	71
12	Water of Leith – New Town	59	39
13	Inverleith	67, 68	49
14	Castle Rock	62	12
15	Princes St Gardens	63	13
16	Calton Hill	64	14
17	Holyrood, Duddingston and Prestonfield	56, 57, 58, 60	441
18	Craigmillar Castle	48	87
19	The Drum	49	95
20	Edmonstone	55, 47	64
21	Braids, Liberton, Mortonhall	52, 53, 54	574
22	Craigie Hill	11, 10	153



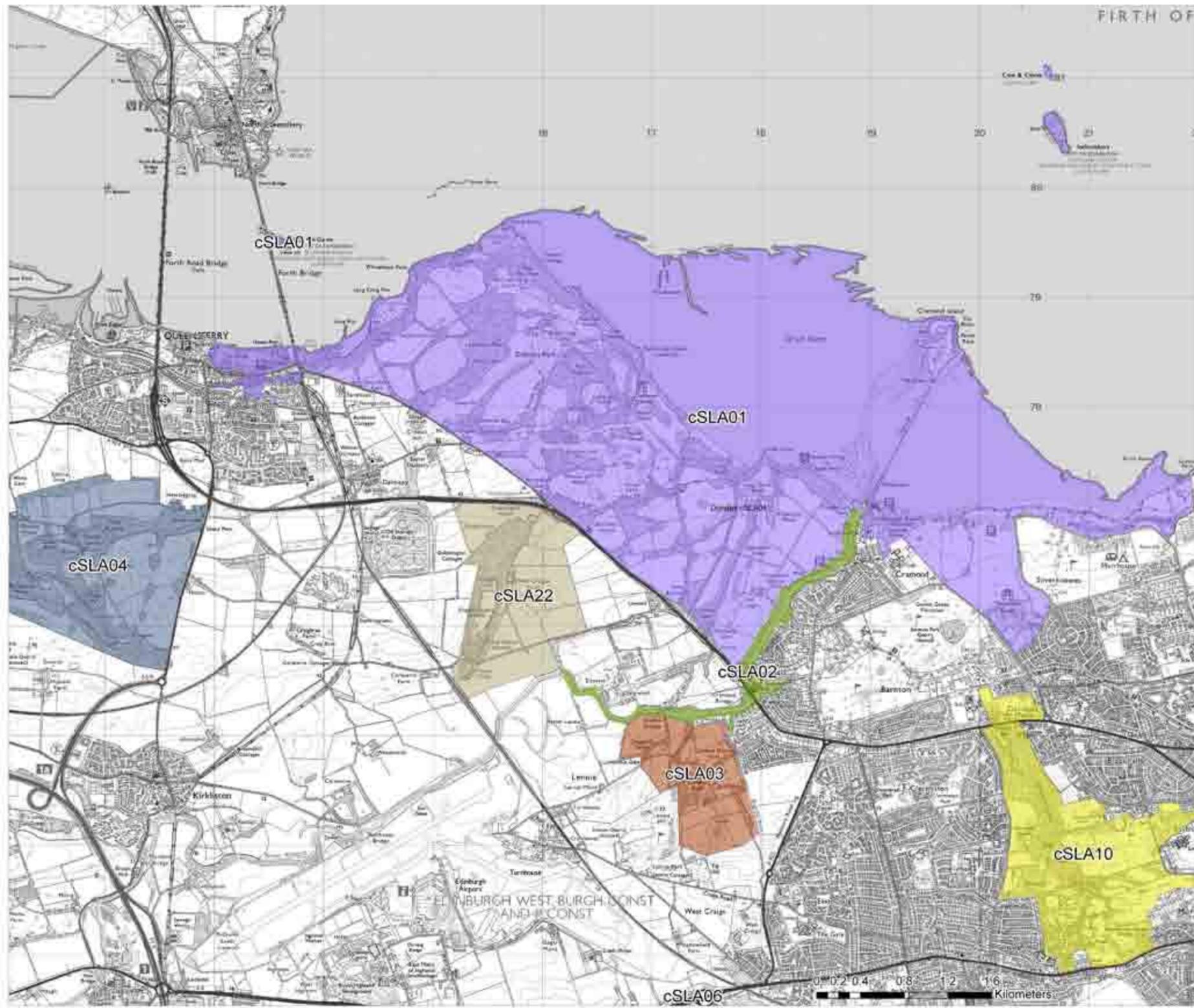
Figure 6.1  
Candidate Special Landscape Areas



Edinburgh Council Boundary

- Special Landscape Areas**
- 1 Southern Forth Coast
  - 2 Lower Almond
  - 3 Cammo
  - 4 Dundas
  - 5 Upper Almond
  - 6 Gogar
  - 7 Ratho Hills
  - 8 Water of Leith - west
  - 9 Pentlands
  - 10 Corstorphine Hill
  - 11 Craiglockhart
  - 12 Water of Leith - New Town
  - 13 Inverleith
  - 14 Castle Rock
  - 15 Princes Street Gardens
  - 16 Calton Hill
  - 17 Holyrood, Duddingston and Prestonfield
  - 18 Craigmillar Castle
  - 19 The Drum
  - 20 Edmonstone
  - 21 Braids, Liberton and Mortonhall
  - 22 Craigie Hill

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**City of Edinburgh Council**  
 Local Landscape Designation Review  
**Southern Forth Coast cSLA01**  
 Draft Candidate Special Landscape Area  
 Note: The boundary shown is indicative only

Edinburgh Council Boundary  
 Southern Forth Coast cSLA01

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**Candidate Special Landscape Area: Southern Forth Coast (cSLA 01)****Location and boundaries:**

Located to the north and west of Edinburgh, the Southern Forth Coast encompasses an extensive area of undeveloped land, foreshore and islands on Edinburgh's coastal margin. The boundary reflects the aspect and scenic quality of the landscape along the coastline.

This cSLA extends eastwards from the natural harbour of South Queensferry along the shoreline, including the town's wooded backdrop of Ferry Glen. Beyond the Forth Rail Bridge, the boundary expands inland to incorporate the policies of Dalmeny, as bounded by the B924 and A90, towards the edge of the lower Almond Valley at Cramond Bridge. East of the River Almond, the cSLA includes the policies of Cramond Tower, Cramond House and the parkland and policies of Laurieston Castle. The inland boundary then follows Silverknowes Road to Marine Drive and West Shore Road - taking in the wooded slope and parkland to terminate at the shore at Granton Point. The area also comprises the sands and rock outcrops within the intertidal zone and the Forth Islands of Cramond, Inchmickery, Inch Garvie and Cow and Calves.

**OS Grid Reference (x,y):** 318400, 677336**Landscape Character Unit(s):** 1, 3, 12 and 74 Cramond Coast, Laurieston Policies, Dalmeny Policies and Queensferry Waterfront.**Extent (ha):** 1619

**Landscape characteristics and qualities:**

A diverse coastal landscape incorporating natural shoreline, sands and islands, urban waterfront, parkland and policy landscapes. The landscape is important for recreation, providing connectivity along the shore, and forms a key component in views towards Edinburgh from the Forth Estuary, road and rail bridges.

The landscape includes many distinctive features such as the dramatic association between the steep coastal profile and Forth crossings. Dalmeny's rolling landform and extensive woodlands, avenues and parklands provide a backdrop to South Queensferry and setting to western Edinburgh when viewed from the north. At Laurieston, sloping pastures retain rural character within the urban context and reveal a series of raised beaches, the most significant of which is delineated by the wooded slope which is prevalent along this section of coast.

The diverse topography along the coastal edge directs views across the Firth of Forth to the Fife coast, providing high scenic value in combination with the ever changing movement of the tides and atmospheric conditions. Features of the view include the rocky shoreline, expansive intertidal sands revealed at low-tide, and Cramond Island, Inch Garvie Island, Inchmickery Island and Cow and Calves. The coastal landscape varies from the movement of vehicles, trains and boats at South Queensferry to the more tranquil and isolated coast of Dalmeny and recreational environment at Cramond.

The area has a wealth of cultural heritage, which provides a focus for informal recreation alongside the attractions of historic structures. These range from the Forth Road and Rail Bridges, Queensferry Harbour, Dalmeny House and policies, to Barnbogle Castle, Cramond Village, Cramond House and Cramond Tower, Laurieston House and policies, and the Cramond waterfront. The linear access along the coast, the causeway to Cramond Island and sailing in the Forth further enhance the recreational value of the area.

**Potential pressures upon landscape integrity:**

Forth Replacement Crossing.

Changes in the management of the landscapes for recreation and provision of recreation facilities.

Cumulative impacts upon landscape character and visual amenity.

Long term woodland change associated with pest, disease, weather threats and climate trends.

Coastal erosion or man-made defences in response to sea level rise.

**Enhancement potential:**

The policy landscapes are largely high quality and well managed, however woodland along the coastal scarp would benefit from replacement planting and positive management.

The cSLA is within the Edinburgh and Lothians Forest Habitat Network Priority Area.

Upgrading of recreational facilities on the esplanade at Cramond.

**Other designations/interests:**

The area excluding the Queensferry waterfront is within the Green Belt.

The coastal edge and intertidal sands extending to Cramond Island are an SPA, Ramsar Site and SSSI.

The area excluding the offshore sands and islands is a Local Biodiversity Site.

The eastern areas of woodland close to the coastal edge include long established woodland (of plantation origin), and ancient woodland (of semi natural origin). Woodlands around Laurieston House and Dalmeny policies include long established woodland (of plantation origin).

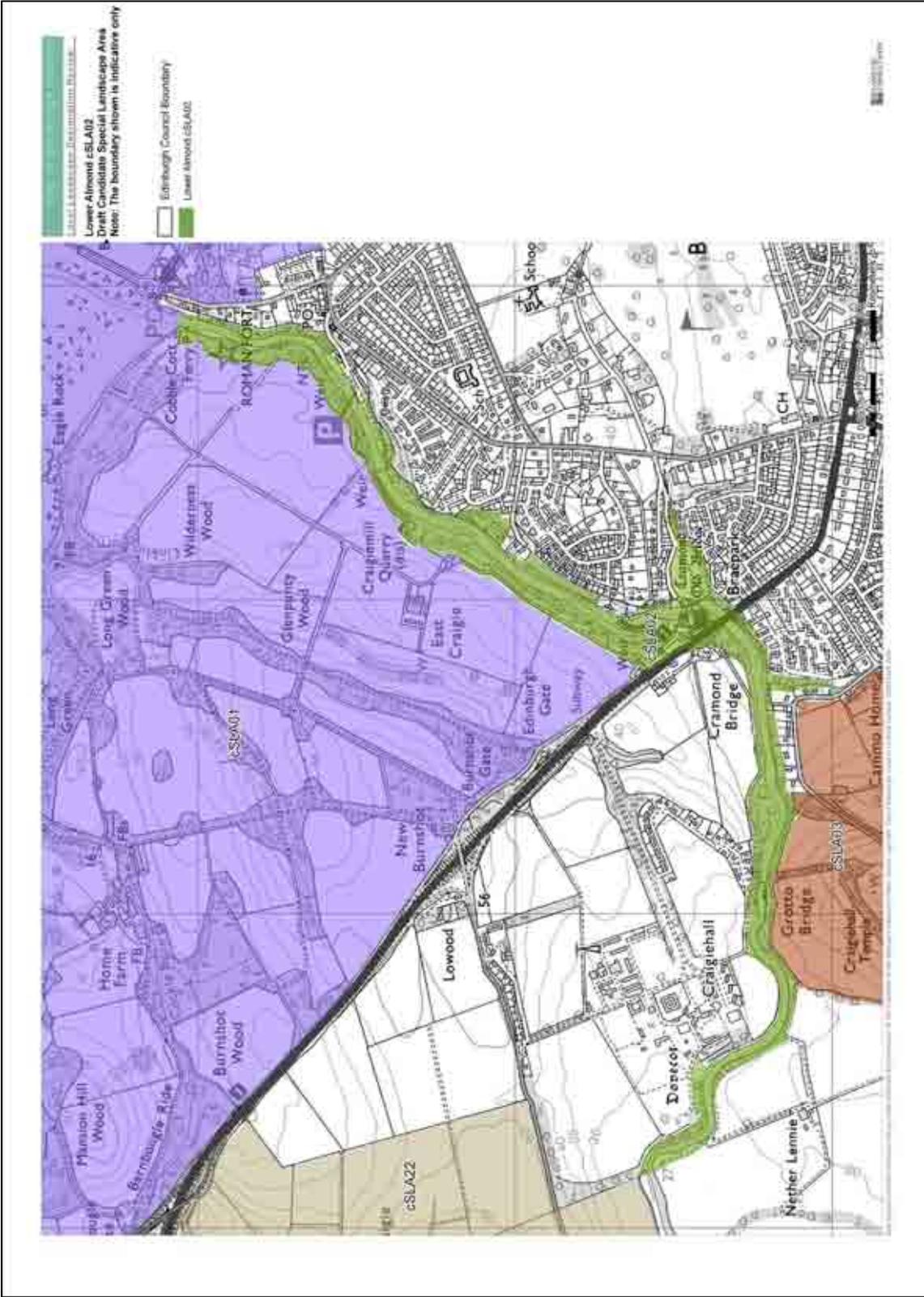
The landscape includes Core Paths CEC 9 Queensferry to Craigleith and CEC 6 Firth of Forth.

The immediate surrounds of Laurieston Castle and Dalmeny policies are listed on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland.

The cSLA includes part of the Queensferry and Cramond Conservation Areas.

Scheduled Monuments include Cramond Roman Fort and civil settlement, Inch Garvie Island and Inchmickery fortifications and several sites within Dalmeny Estate.

The cSLA adjoins cSLA 02 Lower Almond to the southwest.



**Candidate Special Landscape Area: Lower Almond (cSLA 02)****Location and boundaries:**

Located to the northwest of Edinburgh, the cSLA comprises the incised, wooded valley of the River Almond between its mouth at Cramond and Craigiehall to the west. The boundary reflects the valley's landform and its association with the adjoining built edge and open spaces.

**OS Grid Reference (x,y):** 318108, 675945

**Landscape Character Unit(s):** 5, Lower Almond Valley

**Extent (ha):** 45

**Landscape characteristics and qualities:**

The incised, lower valley of the River Almond is enclosed by steeply wooded slopes and features rocky outcrops, waterfalls, weirs, former mills, Cramond's quayside and mudflats. The Almond valley provides a strong delineation to the edge of the city and the wider setting of historic Cramond Village.

The Lower Almond is distinguished by the change in character and landform between the meandering middle course of the River Almond and its steep drop to sea level at Cramond Quay.

The combination of mixed semi natural woodland, exposed rock, together with industrial archaeology and maritime influences, such as the moorings and the sea wall at Cramond, contribute to high scenic value.

Views focussed on the river and wooded valley sides reinforce a strong sense of naturalness. Glimpses of the woodland tracing the river's course can also be experienced by vehicular travellers passing through the landscape on the A90.

The River Almond provides an important recreational link on the edge of the city and is well connected to popular locations such as Cramond, Silverknowes and Cammo.

Historic and cultural influences are revealed along the river's edge including the industrial archaeology of former mills, Cramond Old Bridge and Craigiehall's Grotto Bridge and estate parkland, which is visible from the upper reaches of the cSLA.

**Potential pressures upon landscape integrity:**

Built development intruding within the river corridor could impact upon landscape integrity and detract from the secluded and enclosed character of the valley. This could apply to cumulative effects upon landscape character and visual amenity.

**Enhancement potential:**

Improved management of access routes and interpretation of historic built structures.

Woodland management would enhance landscape quality and biodiversity.

The cSLA is within the Edinburgh and Lothians Forest Habitat Network Priority Area.

**Other designations/interests:**

The area is within the Green Belt.

The Almond is a Local Biodiversity Site.

Woodlands alongside the river are ancient woodland (of semi-natural origin).

The area includes Core Paths CEC 6 Firth of Forth and CEC 11 River Almond walk.

The river valley from Cramond Bridge to Cramond is part of Cramond Conservation Area.

Parts of the river valley are included within the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes at Craigiehall and Dalmeny.

Old Cramond Bridge is a Scheduled Monument.



## **Candidate Special Landscape Area: Cammo (cSLA 03)**

### **Location and boundaries:**

Located adjacent to the Barnton area of Edinburgh to the west of the city, Cammo lies to the south of the River Almond and east of Edinburgh Airport.

The cSLA boundary reflects Cammo's designed landscape features, including the water tower and Craigiehall temple - together with its farmland fringe.

**OS Grid Reference (x,y):** 317209, 674613

**Landscape Character Unit(s):** 7, Cammo

**Extent (ha):** 95

### **Landscape characteristics and qualities:**

Cammo's distinctive character, recreational and cultural value is derived from its designed landscape of parkland, woodland and eye-catching structures, centred on low lying hills to the south of the Almond Valley.

The core area of parkland surrounds the ruined 19th century house, stable block, walled garden and Craigiehall temple to the north-west. To the south, the 19th century, circular, castellated water tower stands as a landmark adjacent to a low hill crowned by a wooded roundel.

Despite a decline in landscape condition, the main landscape structure remains evident and contributes to the overall quality of the landscape and its scenic value.

Cammo Estate Park is a popular recreational resource and is served by a small visitor centre and parking facilities. Cammo's path network connects to the River Almond and wider landscape beyond.

The management of the landscape for recreation and nature conservation contributes to a sense of naturalness, untypical of some designed landscapes within Edinburgh, which retain more formal characters.

Appreciation of Cammo's designed landscape also relies upon the foreground setting of surrounding agricultural fields within the Green Belt. Views of the tower and roundel are important from the A902. To the west of Cammo, Lennie Hill provides essential setting to the landscape. Elevated areas within the landscape provide views over the adjacent urban development towards the distant Pentland Hills.

### **Potential pressures upon landscape integrity:**

Inappropriate development which encroaches on the open space or affects the appreciation of the historic features and buildings.

Lack of management of the built features.

Increased recreational demand.

Changes in agricultural practices affecting the management and character of the farmland and field boundaries.

Lack of woodland management and long term woodland change associated with pest, disease, weather threats and climate trends.

**Enhancement potential:**

Cammo Estate is managed for recreation and nature conservation and management under these regimes should seek to maintain its designed landscape characteristics, including the renewal of parkland planting and built features.

Opportunities exist to enhance features such as the roundel planting adjacent to the water tower.

The northern part of the cSLA is within the Edinburgh and Lothians Forest Habitat Network Priority Area.

**Other designations/interests:**

The cSLA is within the Green Belt.

The central wooded part of the estate, shelter belts and fields around Craigiehall Temple and the water tower are listed on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland.

The central wooded part of the estate and shelter belts are designated as a Local Biodiversity Site.

TPO 90 applies to the central wooded part of the estate.

Cammo Canal and standing stone are Scheduled Monuments.

An A Listed group of buildings consists of: the Walled Garden, Cammo House, Bridge, Quadrant Walls, Boundary Walls, Rubble Bridge, Stable Block, Knoll and Water Tower. Other Listed Buildings within the landscape include: Gate Lodge - category B, Cammo Home Farm – category C(s) and Craigiehall Temple – category A.

Core Path CEC 11 River Almond Walk.

Cammo Estate Management Plan.



**Candidate Special Landscape Area: Dundas (cSLA 04)****Location and boundaries:**

Located to the west of Edinburgh, to the southwest of South Queensferry.

The cSLA boundary reflects the parkland landscape of Dundas Castle which extends westwards from the B8000 across the low rise of Dundas Hill.

**OS Grid Reference (x,y):** 312417, 676499

**Landscape Character Unit(s):** 15, Dundas Policies

**Extent (ha):** 240

**Landscape characteristics and qualities:**

An extensive, wooded, designed landscape, centred around the low rise of Dundas Hill (110 m AOD) and country house of Dundas Castle. Dundas' parkland trees, roundels and perimeter woodlands coalesce to form a wooded mount flanked by farmland, which is a recognisable and scenic feature in views from the main arterial routes of the A904, B800, A8000, A90 and M9 to the northwest of the city. Dundas also provides a verdant backdrop to South Queensferry in views from the southbound carriageway of the Forth Road Bridge, echoing the wooded landform of Dalmeny Estate to the east.

Dundas is a relatively intact example of the designed landscapes found on Edinburgh's periphery. Extensive woodlands, ornamental woodland gardens and the Lily Loch are set out in the 19th century Picturesque manner below the dramatic crag and southwest scarp of Dundas Hill. The main parkland, now in use as golf course, is laid out on long east-facing slopes below the 'A' listed Dundas Castle. This gives way to well managed farmland structured by shelter belts and woodland to the east, which contribute to the setting of Dundas and form visual links with the policies influences across the B800.

Access is limited to occasional public events, during which the sense of naturalness and tranquillity provided by the perimeter woodlands can be experienced. Outward vistas focus towards the Pentland Hills, Firth of Forth and Forth bridges.

**Potential pressures upon landscape integrity:**

Forth Replacement Crossing.

Recreational development and diversification.

Changes in agricultural practices and the management of field boundaries.

Cumulative effects upon landscape character and visual amenity.

Long term woodland change associated with pest, disease, weather threats and climate trends.

**Enhancement potential:**

Woodland management could be enhanced by rhododendron control and replacement planting to reflect the character and species mix of the designed landscape.

The cSLA is within the Edinburgh and Lothians Forest Habitat Network Priority

Area.

Access enhancement and links to South Queensferry.

**Other designations/interests:**

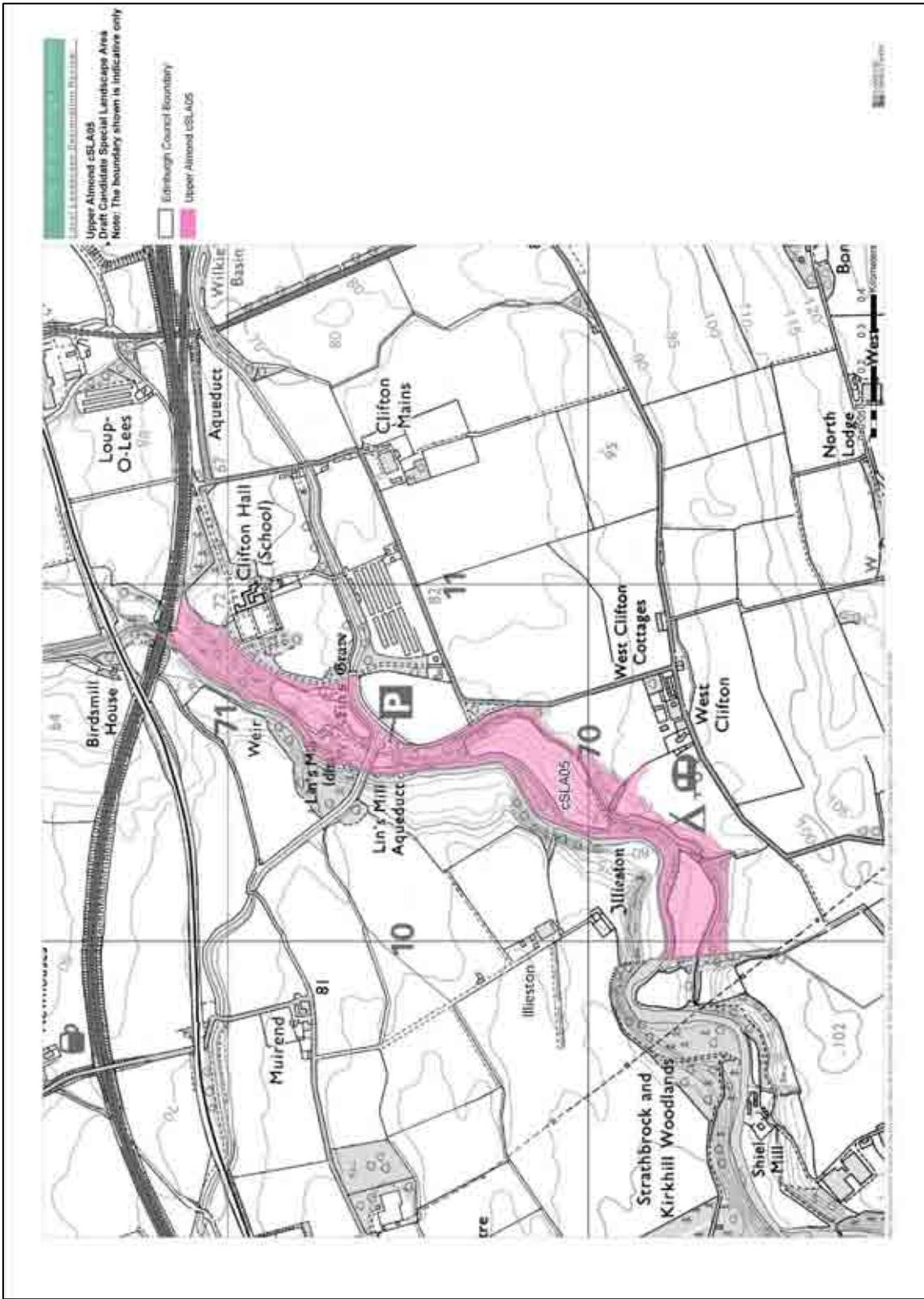
The area is within the Green Belt.

Old Dundas Castle, castle, sundial and dovecot are Scheduled Monuments.

An A Listed group of buildings includes: Dundas Castle, Blue Acre, Boat House, Brown Acre, Castleloch, Castle Grove, Dundas Castle Keep, Dundas Loch Bridge, Dundas Mains, Fountain Sundial, Ice House, Lilac Cottage, North Lodge, Rose Cottage, South Lodge and Walled Garden. Dundas Home Farm is category B Listed

The landscape to the west of the B800 is listed in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland.

Some of the woodlands within the landscape are long established woodland (of plantation origin).



**Candidate Special Landscape Area: Upper Almond (cSLA 05)****Location and boundaries:**

The cSLA is located to the far west of Edinburgh and follows the incised valley of the River Almond, extending from the M8 in the north to the local authority boundary with West Lothian. The boundary reflects the valley landform and adjacent woodland and field boundaries.

**OS Grid Reference (x,y):** 310519, 670163

**Landscape Character Unit(s):** 24, Upper Almond Valley

**Extent (ha):** 29

**Landscape characteristics and qualities:**

A diverse and deeply incised river valley with side slopes of woodland and pasture, set within an agricultural landscape on the south western edge of Edinburgh.

Flowing north-eastwards within a wide, wooded gorge, the Upper Almond is not prominent in views from the wider landscape. Views are channelled along the river's enclosed valley setting, where exposed rock, running water and ancient woodland contribute towards a strong sense of naturalness, tranquillity and scenic value.

The Almond's riverside paths provide an important recreational resource, connecting to the Almondell and Calderwood Country Park in West Lothian. The Upper Almond is crossed by the Union Canal, which offers further links to the surrounding countryside.

Cultural influences are revealed along the Almond's course including industrial heritage at Lin's Mill, the striking Lin's Mill aqueduct, which carries the Union Canal over the valley and the policy woodlands of Clifton Hall, which contribute to the landscape setting.

**Pressures upon landscape integrity:**

Limited pressures within the landscape are identified, however changes in the management of the adjacent pasture, where these are viewed from within the valley would impact upon the landscape experience.

**Enhancement potential:**

The landscape features are in generally good condition and no potential for enhancement is identified.

Continuity of the path network along the River Almond could be improved.

The cSLA is within the Edinburgh and Lothians Forest Habitat Network Priority Area.

**Other designations/interests:**

The Almond valley is a Local Biodiversity Site.

The Upper Almond includes ancient woodland (of semi-natural origin) and plantation woodland (of long established origin).

Core Paths CEC11 River Almond Walk and CEC15 Union Canal.



## Candidate Special Landscape Area: Gogar (cSLA 06)

### Location and boundaries:

Located to the west of Edinburgh, beyond the city perimeter and to the south of Edinburgh International Airport. The cSLA reflects a series of relatively intact designed landscapes and gently undulating 18th-19th century rectilinear fields on the western edge of the city. The boundary encompasses the pockets of designed landscape influence and their farmland context.

The cSLA boundary follows the major road corridors of the A8, A71, A720 city by-pass, turning west to the south of Millburn Tower to follow Gogar Station Road. The western edge of the cSLA extends north east from Addistoun, through Jaw Bridge, tracing the minor road at Roddinglaw to Gogar Stone.

**OS Grid Reference (x,y):** 316699, 671225

**Landscape Character Unit(s):** 29, Gogar Farmland and Institutions

**Extent (ha):** 360

### Landscape characteristics and qualities:

To the north and east of the cSLA, the grounds of Gogar Mount, Hanley, Gogarburn, Gogar Park and Millburn Tower form a wooded backdrop to the west of the city, coalescing to screen views from the major routes of the A8 and city by-pass. This contributes to a sense of separation and contrast between the city, airport and settlements to the west.

To the south, the agricultural village of Hermiston is aligned upon a natural ridgeline, marked by the route of the A71 Calder Road. Originating as a Lothian 'Ferme Toun' and consolidated as a result of 18<sup>th</sup> century agricultural improvements, the village is characterised by a linear arrangement of single storey, terraced cottages and the planted grounds of the B Listed Hermiston House to the west.

The central part of the character area, slopes gradually northwards and is defined by a pattern of rectilinear 19th century to present day amalgamated fields, subdivided by shelterbelts, housing and smaller scale designed landscapes aligned to the north of the Gogar Burn, including: Gogar Bank, Suntrap Garden and Kirklands House.

North of Hermiston, there are extensive views across Gogar's farmland and the Almond Valley towards the Firth of Forth and Fife to the north, and Pentland Hills and city bounds to the southeast. The M8 is generally concealed from views, running in a wooded cutting between Hermiston Gait and Roddinglaw.

At lower elevations views of the urban area to the east are restricted by tree cover, contributing to the sense of naturalness in views from minor roads and the Edinburgh - Glasgow railway line, which passes through the landscape to the south of Kellerstain House and its associated policy parkland.

Cultural value is provided by the series of relatively intact designed landscapes, settled farmland and Conservation Area of Hermiston village. Recreational interest includes Millburn Tower, the intimate landscape of Suntrap Gardens and Gogarburn golf course. The area is served by a number of paths including the tree-lined corridor of the Union Canal and towpath, which crosses the open landscape to the north of Hermiston and provides a major facility for walking, cycling and boating.

**Potential pressures upon landscape integrity:**

Development pressure within and adjacent to the landscape character area.

Cumulative effects upon landscape character and visual amenity.

**Enhancement potential:**

Potential exists to enhance boundary treatments to existing developments of an industrial character situated to the south and east of the cSLA boundary.

Enhancement of field boundaries to reflect the surrounding parkland landscape influences.

The southern part of the cSLA is within the Edinburgh and Lothians Forest Habitat Network Priority Area.

**Other designations/interests:**

The area is within the Green Belt.

The Gogar Burn is a Local Biodiversity Site.

The woodland at Gogar and Millburn Tower are long-established woodlands (of plantation origin).

The designed landscape at Gogar is within TPO – 146.

The area includes Core Path CEC 12 - A8 Link and CEC 15 and 15 W Union Canal.

Millburn Tower is included in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland.

Other gardens and designed landscapes within the landscape considered to be of regional and local importance include: Gogar Mount, Hanley, Gogarburn, Gogar Park, Kellerstain, Kirkland House, Suntrap Garden, Gogar Bank and Hermiston House.

Hermiston Village Conservation Area extends between the A71 and Union Canal.

The Union Canal is a Scheduled Monument.



## Candidate Special Landscape Area: Ratho Hills (cSLA 07)

### Location and boundaries:

Located to the west of Edinburgh and tracing the eastern plain of the River Almond, the Ratho Hills form an undulating ridge extending between the M8 and Ratho in the north, and Linburn on A71 to the south.

The cSLA boundary reflects the combination of elevated landform of the hills and pattern of 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century rectilinear fields and estate parkland, which is prominent to the south of Ratho, east of the River Almond and north of the Gogar Burn.

**OS Grid Reference (x,y):** 313036, 669825

**Landscape Character Unit(s):** 23, Ratho Hills, 22, Ratho Farmland (part) and 25, Bonnington Farmland (part).

**Extent (ha):** 283

### Landscape characteristics and qualities:

The naturalised corridor of the Union Canal, and remnant parkland on the slopes in the north of the character area at Ratho Hall and Craig Park, provide a wooded backdrop and enclosure to Ratho village. This coalesces with the sparse shelterbelt, lining the low, elongated, ridgeline, to the south of the village, which rises above well-managed farmland. The distinctive pattern of trees on the ridgeline provides a local landmark. The southern side slopes of the ridge are laid out with woodland blocks and form part of the setting to the Hatton House designed landscape. The Ratho Hills are therefore a unique landscape feature within rural Edinburgh.

Despite the nearby presence of the M8 and quarrying activity out with the viewshed, the combination of landform and land cover is of local scenic value and contributes to Ratho's identity and relatively tranquil setting.

The area has an important recreational role. Ratho is a popular mooring point for boaters on the Union Canal, which skirts the northern edge of the village. The Canal towpath is used extensively by walkers and cyclists and connects to local paths serving the Edinburgh International Climbing Area.

The ridge-top path running southwards from Ratho to Tormain (147 m AOD) and Craw Hill offers extensive, elevated views across a foreground of farmland and woodland towards Arthur's Seat and the city's skyline in the east, the Firth of Forth, Fife, the Cleish Hills and Ochils to the north, the Almond valley to the west and the Pentland Hills in the south. Tormain Hill is the site of Cup and Ring marked rocks.

### Pressures upon landscape integrity:

Quarrying adjacent to the hills.

Inappropriate extension of Ratho impacting upon the setting of the hills.

Changes in agricultural and woodland management, affecting shelterbelt planting.

**Enhancement potential:**

Management of tree cover screening quarrying operations for landscape and nature conservation value.

Management and enhancement of field boundaries to reflect the parkland landscape influences of the surrounding environment and to promote habitat links.

The southern part of the cSLA is within the Edinburgh and Lothians Forest Habitat Network Priority Area.

**Other designations/interests:**

The ridgeline of the hills delineates the western edge of the Green Belt.

The western portion of the cSLA is within the Countryside Policy Area.

Part of the grounds of Hatton House, listed on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland, extends over the southern slopes of the cSLA near Craw Hill.

The woodland to the west of Ratho and lining the hills has been identified as ancient woodland.

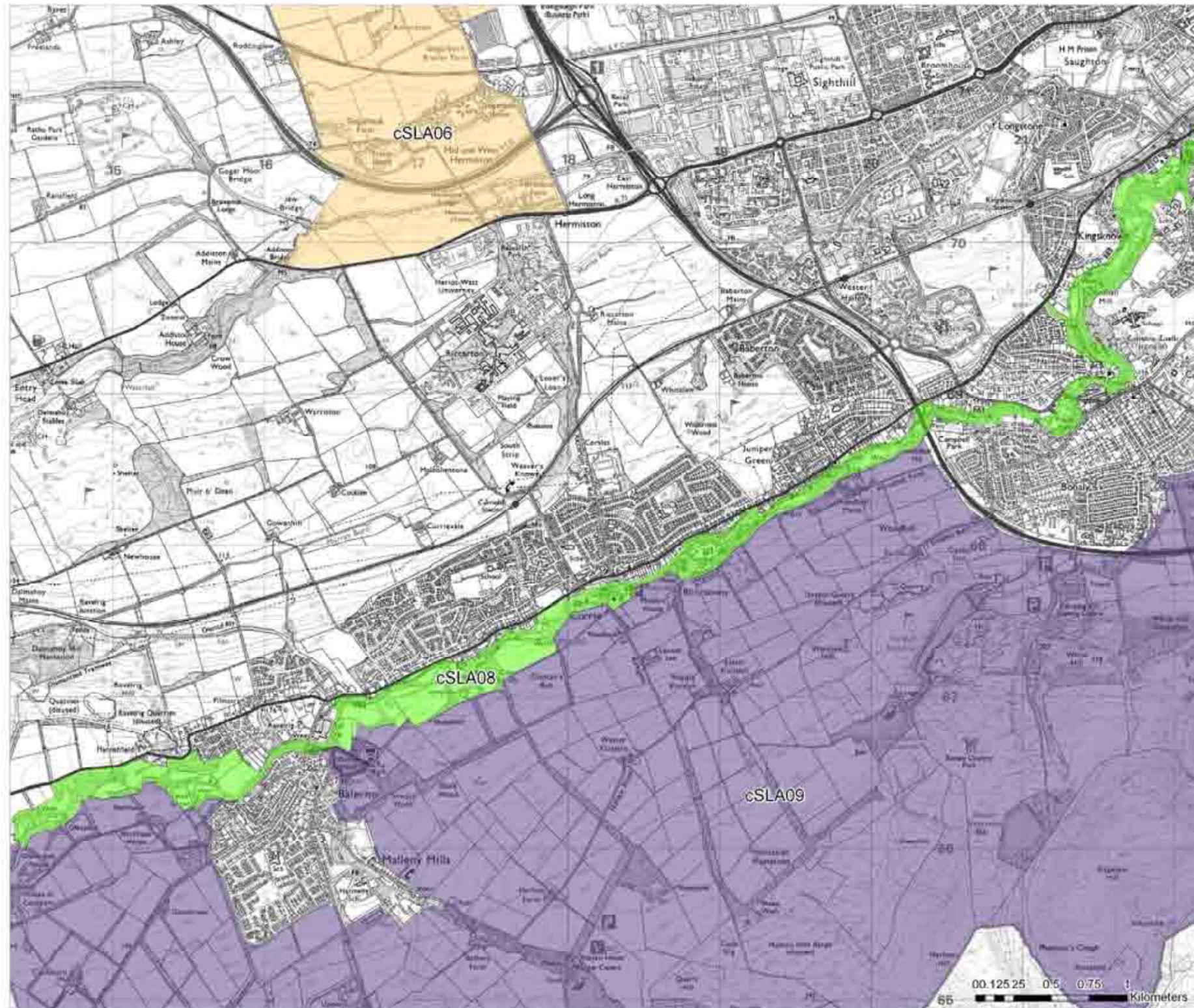
Ratho Conservation Area extends into the north-eastern section of the cSLA at Ratho Hall.

In addition to the Conservation Area, Listed Buildings within the landscape include Ratho Mains Farmhouse, boundary wall and steading – category B.

The Union Canal is a Scheduled Monument, Core Path – CEC 15 W / 15 and a Right of Way. A further Right of Way runs along the northern edge of the cSLA to the south of Hillwood.

A Scheduled Monument of cup and ring marked rocks is located at Tormain Hill.

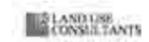
The woodlands to the north of the Union Canal are within TPO 115.



**CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL**  
**Local Landscape Designation Review**  
**Water of Leith -west cSLA08**  
**Draft Candidate Special Landscape Area**  
**Note: The boundary shown is indicative only**

-  Edinburgh Council Boundary
-  Water of Leith -west cSLA08

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**Candidate Special Landscape Area: Water of Leith – west (cSLA 08)****Location and boundaries:**

Located to the south west of Edinburgh, the cSLA follows a section of the incised wooded valley of the Water of Leith. The cSLA boundary extends from the Council boundary at Inveroe to the west of Balerno, eastwards through Balerno, Currie, Juniper Green and Colinton. The cSLA terminates to the east at Lanark Road, beyond which point the valley profile becomes less incised and changes to a broad floodplain. The cSLA boundary reflects the valley landform, incorporating the associated open spaces.

**OS Grid Reference (x,y):** 318910, 667900

**Landscape Character Unit(s):** 38, Water of Leith Colinton to Balerno, 71, Water of Leith Slateford to Colinton Dell.

**Extent (ha):** 168

**Landscape characteristics and qualities:**

The narrow, incised, wooded river valley of the Water of Leith cuts deeply through the landscape, defining the edge of settlements on the northern fringe of the Pentland Hills. Its wooded edge provides visual containment to the city, particularly when viewed from elevated viewpoints within the Regional Park.

The river's history as a power source, ties it closely to the built heritage along its route, partly reflected in the linear settlement patterns of Balerno, Currie and Juniper Green. East of the city by-pass, the wider and more sinuous, tree-lined course of the river can be traced through the surrounding built environment. Its corridor coalesces in views with parkland and tree-lined grounds and incorporates open spaces on the valley floor at Spylaw Park and Colinton Dell.

The steep side slopes of the river corridor, ancient woodland, fast flowing water, rock outcrops and abundant wildlife create a tranquil, secluded and natural character of high scenic value. Views are contained by landform and vegetation, generally screening surrounding built development with bridges providing glimpses down into the valley.

The river's many mills, around which surrounding agricultural settlements expanded during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, were served by a railway on the steep valley sides. This now forms the route of the Water of Leith Walkway, an important access route linking the urban areas to the wider countryside, providing enjoyment for many visitors, residents and environmental volunteers.

The built heritage along the river's route adds to its cultural value. The upper valley sides include the remains of Lennox Tower, B Listed Lymphoy House, A Listed Currie Kirk and historic kirkyard, Currie Brig, and B Listed Redhall House and designed landscape. The cSLA is also influenced by the surrounding built form and overlaps with the conservation areas of Balerno, Currie, Juniper Green and Colinton.

**Potential pressures upon landscape integrity:**

Built development and associated curtilages intruding upon the edge of the river corridor or its former industrial sites could impact upon landscape integrity and detract from the secluded and enclosed character of the valley. This applies to cumulative effects upon landscape character and visual amenity.

Increased recreational demand.

Long term woodland change associated with pest, disease, weather threats and climate trends.

**Enhancement potential:**

Potential for woodland regeneration along parts of the valley and to enhance habitat.

The cSLA is within the Edinburgh and Lothians Forest Habitat Network Priority Area.

Selective tree removal to reveal views or cultural heritage features within the valley.

**Other designations/interests:**

The majority of the cSLA is within the Green Belt.

The Water of Leith is a Local Biodiversity Site.

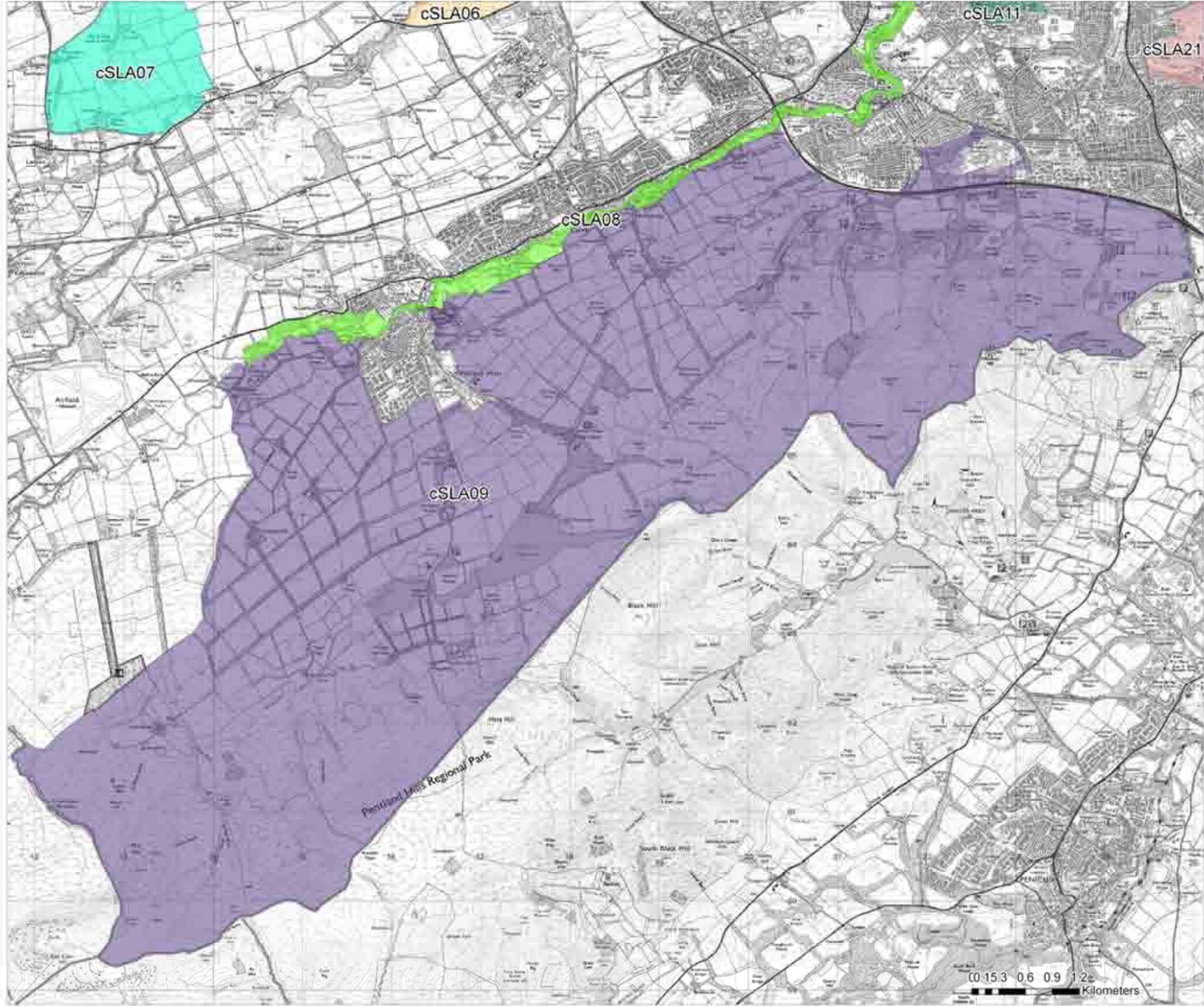
Woodland along the Water of Leith includes areas of ancient woodland (of semi-natural origin).

The area includes Core Paths CEC 18 Water of Leith with connections to CEC 17 Riccarton, CEC 20 Bonaly and Bonaly Link, and CEC 16 Kirknewton.

The cSLA includes part of the Conservation Areas of Balerno, Currie, Juniper Green and Colinton.

At Balerno part of the wooded grounds of Malleny House extend into the valley. Malleny is listed on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland.

The policy woodlands of designed landscapes of regional and local importance have also contributed to the wooded character of the cSLA e.g. Woodhall House and Redhall House.



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## Candidate Special Landscape Area: Pentlands (cSLA 09)

### Location and boundaries:

The cSLA is located to the southwest of the city. It encompasses farmland, woodland and hillsides to the south of the Water of Leith, which rise to join the northeast-southwest trending ridge and summits of the Pentland Hills.

From the A702 in the east, the cSLA boundary runs westwards along the edge of the built-up area, encompassing the wooded landscape setting of the former Dreghorn Castle at Colinton. At Woodhall, the cSLA follows the Water of Leith to skirt the settlement of Balerno. It then traces the tributary of the Cock Burn southwards, before turning westwards along field boundaries to join the Dean Burn on the edge of the Council's administrative area. Within the Regional Park, the south and western boundaries of the cSLA adjoin the local authority areas of West Lothian, Scottish Borders and Midlothian.

**OS Grid Reference (x,y):** 316873, 664714

**Landscape Character Unit(s):** 34, 35, 36, 37, 41, 42 and 73 Currie Sloping Wooded Farmland, Redford Basin, Cockburn Geometric Wooded Farmland, Bavelaw Geometric Wooded Farmland, North Pentland Slopes, Pentland Heights and Dreghorn Woodland and Barracks.

**Extent (ha):** 4477

### Landscape characteristics and qualities:

The Pentland hills form a dramatic backdrop to the city of Edinburgh. They are one of the most prominent features of the city skyline and dominate the surrounding landscape. The hills rise from flanking woodland and farmland to merge into the rugged upland summits of the hill range and represent a significant recreational resource. The Pentlands cSLA provides an identifiable setting and containment to the city and surrounding settlements of Juniper Green, Currie and Balerno.

South of the main built-up area and Water of Leith, the foreground setting to the Pentland Hills sweeps upwards through rolling landform. In the west of the cSLA, the landscape is characterised by a regular layout of 18th - 19th century fields, enclosed by drystone dykes, hedgerows, tree lines and shelterbelt planting. To the east, the landscape is more open in character featuring moorland, hillside golf course, knoll landform and exposed rock at Torphin Quarry, alongside planting of designed landscape origin. This includes the notable wedge of plantation, parkland and woodland extending into the urban area at Dreghorn and the 'T' Wood at White Hill.

At the foot of the main side slopes, gorse and sparse tree cover line narrow, incised burns, which drain from the hills. Several of these watercourses feed the man-made reservoirs of Threipmuir, Harlaw, Bonaly and Clubbidean, which occupy localised dips in landform to the north of the main ridge. Raised bog at Bonaly Common and mixed farmland enclosures of crops, improved grassland and unimproved pasture upslope, give way to open hill and heather moorland beyond the head dyke; marking a transition in land management practice. In the northeast, the narrow band of flanking foothills steepens dramatically to the prominent crags and scree slopes at Caerketton.

The well managed agricultural landscape and reservoirs, backed by the hill range are of high scenic value and offer a sense of isolation. Despite impacting upon their immediate situation, the presence of pylons tends to be diminished by the scale and backcloth of the wider landscape. The hills provide a natural landform barrier to the major road network of the A702 and A70. Whilst the city by-pass reduces tranquillity within the North Pentland Slopes, its impact on views is reduced by the complexity of the surrounding scenery and its partial concealment through roadside planting and cuttings.

Despite their modest elevation, rising to just less than 500 m within the cSLA, the Hills command a prominent position above the surrounding coastal margin and gently undulating lowlands. The hills' elongated ridge forms a distinctive profile when viewed from the by-pass and main approaches to Edinburgh, its urban hills, ridgelines, open spaces and western neighbourhoods. Hilltops such as Allemuir Hill (493 m AOD) and Caerketton Hill (450 AOD), offer extensive panoramas across Edinburgh, the East and West Lothian Plateaux and Firth of Forth towards Fife and the Ochils. To the south and east views extend across the Southern Uplands, Moorfoots, North Esk valley and Lammermuir Hills.

The full hill range is the product of Devonian volcanic rocks and sandstones and extends across some 25 km from northeast to southwest outwith the cSLA. The Pentlands form two parallel ridge lines, cut by minor burns and separated by an internal valley containing the Loganlea and Glencorse Reservoirs, which drain to the River North Esk to the south. The higher summits of the Pentlands have a rugged and wild character of knolls and windswept heather moorland, which contrasts with lower wooded glens and farmland.

There is a wealth of cultural influence across the landscape ranging from literary associations to features such as areas of rig and furrow, prehistoric forts, Swanston Village Conservation Area, the Inventory listed designed landscape of Malleny House and remnant policy landscapes of Dreghorn Castle, Bonaly, Harmeny and Cockburnhill.

Recreation and enjoyment are a significant element of the landscape, which provides for a range of outdoor activities. The upland summits within the cSLA form part of the Pentland Hills Regional Park, which includes Bonaly Country Park to the northwest and Hillend Country Park to the northeast in Midlothian.

The area is hugely popular with visitors, and is used for skiing, fishing, mountain biking, walking, running, horse riding, besides grouse shoots on moorland to the west and Military training at Castlelaw. A number of road and path links provide valued access routes into the area and hills beyond from the Water of Leith and city limits. The main access points include Bonaly, Dreghorn and Harelaw Reservoir within Edinburgh, and Hillend and Flotterstone in Midlothian.

**Potential pressures upon landscape integrity:**

Increased recreational demand.

Changes in land management and agricultural practices, in particular grazing.

Cumulative impacts upon landscape character and visual amenity.

**Enhancement potential:**

Management of the structure of woodland belts, in particular at Bavelaw and Cockburn.

Woodland regeneration at Dreghorn to conserve the designed landscape character.

Restructuring of coniferous plantations with mixed native woodland.

Maintenance of stone walls and hedged field boundaries on the north Pentland slopes.

Management of woodland regeneration within upland pasture of the North Pentland Heights.

The northern extent of the cSLA is within the Edinburgh and Lothians Forest Habitat Network Priority Area.

**Other designations/interests:**

The majority of the western area of the Pentland Hills lies within the Pentland Hills Regional Park. The Pentland Hills Regional Park Plan 2007-2017 guides and assists all stakeholders in the sustainable management of the Pentland Hills, which are covered by a number of specific sub-area management plans.

Bonal Country Park extends over the north western slopes of the cSLA.

The north and western extent of the cSLA is within the Green Belt, excluding land at Dreghorn to the north of the city by-pass.

Balerno Common is a SSSI.

Balerno Common, Harlaw, Bonaly and Clubbiedean Reservoirs, Water of Leith and its tributaries are Local Biodiversity Sites (SINC/LNCS). In addition the Bonaly and Braid Burns are a SWT Wildlife Site. The western part of the Dreghorn landscape character area is also a LBS.

Torphin Quarry Local Geodiversity Site (formerly RIGS).

Many of the shelterbelts are long established woodland (of plantation origin).

The area is served by numerous Rights of Way leading to the wider landscape from the urban area. Core Paths include CEC 19 Harlaw and Threipmuir, CEC 20 Bonaly and Bonaly Link, CEC 2 The Braids.

At Balerno part of the grounds of Malleny House are included in the cSLA. Malleny is listed on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland.

TPO 14 applies to Swanston, TPO 18 Bonaly Tower, TPO 73 to woodland lining the Braid Burn at Dreghorn, TPO 127 Bavelaw, TPO 122 Marchbank and TPO 145 at Blinkbonny.

The area includes Swanston Conservation Area, and extends across parts of the Balerno and Currie conservation areas.

Scheduled Monuments include Bavelaw Steading, an enclosure 300 m NW of Harlaw and fort at Clubbiedean Reservoir.

Listed Buildings include the A listed Cockburn House, Bavelaw Castle and Bonaly Tower, in addition to various buildings at Swanston village.



## Candidate Special Landscape Area: Corstorphine Hill (cSLA 10)

### Location and boundaries:

Located in north-west Edinburgh, Corstorphine Hill is bounded by Corstorphine Road (A8) to the south, Queensferry Road (A90) to the north, Clermiston Road to the west and the residential neighbourhoods of Murrayfield, Ravelston and Blackhall to the east.

The cSLA boundary reflects the hill form, patterns of long-established semi-native woodland, former parkland and pasture. This incorporates Edinburgh Zoo, and the open spaces of Ravelston Woods and Davidson's Mains

**OS Grid Reference (x,y):** 320977, 673833

**Landscape Character Unit(s):** 50, Corstorphine Hill

**Extent (ha):** 230

### Landscape characteristics and qualities:

From a city-wide perspective, Corstorphine Hill is conspicuous amongst Edinburgh's urban hills, comprising a distinctive and scenically attractive, low, elongated north-south ridge and having a locally unique wooded character, which contrasts with surrounding built development.

At closer range, the qualities of its lower slopes combine with the hill's tree-covered crest, including: Davidson's Mains, Ravelston Golf Course and Ravelston Woods, grazing land on the more gentle slopes to the east; the steep, well treed grounds of Edinburgh Zoo to the south; alongside those of Clerwood, Hillwood, Craigcrook Castle and Beechwood House; and semi-improved grassland north of the former Beechhill Nurseries on Corstorphine Road.

Corstorphine Hill is an important landmark on western approaches to Edinburgh by road and rail. As Edinburgh's largest urban woodland, it forms a green backdrop to views across the city centre from The Mound, Calton Hill, Blackford Hill, the Braid Hills and Salisbury Crags.

A series of clearings offer elevated views towards Ben Lomond in the west, the Forth Estuary and Fife to the north; to the east, central Edinburgh, the Lammermuir Hills and flatter terrain of East Lothian; and to the south, the Pentland Hills. Scheduled openings of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Corstorphine Tower, a memorial to Sir Walter Scott, enable a 360° panorama.

The hill's legible geomorphology, historic land use and built heritage emphasise generations of cultural associations between people and place. This is continued by the attraction of Edinburgh Zoo, the hill's popularity as a viewpoint, recreational environment and semi-natural resource within the city.

### Pressures upon landscape integrity:

Inappropriate development or poor quality design affecting landscape character, in particular the pattern of tree and woodland cover, or impacting adversely on key views from surrounding areas.

Cumulative effects of development upon landscape character and visual amenity.  
Increased recreational demand.  
Long term woodland change associated with pest, disease, weather threats and climate trends.

**Enhancement potential:**

Landscape management for recreation and wildlife benefit should seek to promote a diverse age and species structure of woodland cover, whilst retaining important view corridors and the balance of open parkland and scrub vegetation.

Landscape management of designed landscape features.

Despite the hill's continuity of character, opportunities exist to enhance areas of degraded land within this landscape unit e.g. former Barnton Quarry, defence and communications installations.

The cSLA is within the Edinburgh and Lothians Forest Habitat Network Priority Area.

**Other designations/interests:**

The cSLA is within the Green Belt.

The main wooded ridge and southern slope to Corstorphine Rd are designated as a Local Geodiversity Site (LGS [formerly RIGS]), Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and constitute a Scottish Wildlife Trust Wildlife Site. Ravelston Woods is also an LNR and SWT Wildlife Site.

There are areas of Ancient Woodland along the main ridge, at Ravelston Woods and Davidson's Mains.

The majority of the cSLA is part of a wider Local Biodiversity Site (LBS).

TPOs 6, 15, 22, 35 and 51 apply to the area.

The area includes Rights of Way and Core Path 14.

Corstorphine Hill is the site of Cup and Ring marked Rocks.

The Corstorphine Hill Management Plan 2004-2013.

Conservation Areas of West Murrayfield and Barnton Avenue are adjacent.

The cSLA includes several Listed Buildings: Hillwood – category C(s), Craigcrook Castle – category B, Edinburgh Zoo – category B, Murrayfield Hospital – category A, Beechmount House – category B.

The area comprises a number of gardens and designed landscapes of regional and local importance, including: Davidson's Mains Park, Clerwood, Hillwood, Corstorphine Hill House/Edinburgh Zoo, Beechwood, Ravelston Golf Course, Beechmount, Corstorphine Hill and Ravelston House.



## Candidate Special Landscape Area: Craiglockhart (cSLA 11)

### Location and boundaries:

Located in south-west Edinburgh, Easter and Wester Craiglockhart Hills form a watershed between the Water of Leith and Braidburn Valleys. The two hills are surrounded by the residential neighbourhoods of Craiglockhart, Colinton, Slateford, Oxgangs, Greenbank and Morningside. Glenlockhart Rd follows the glacial valley of Glenlockhart, which runs from east-west between the two hills.

The cSLA boundary reflects the hills' landform mass and the grounds of former manor houses and institutions now occupied by Napier University. It encompasses Craighouse, Craiglockhart, Craiglockhart Wood and boating pond, the Merchant of Edinburgh Golf Course and is defined to the south by the northern boundary of the old City Hospital.

**OS Grid Reference (x,y):** 323025, 670364

**Landscape Character Unit(s):** 51, Craiglockhart Hills

**Extent (ha):** 71

### Landscape characteristics and qualities:

The Craiglockhart Hills have an intimate quality as twin, distinctive, small-scale urban hills, closely flanked by large scale institutions and residential development.

Characterised by steep slopes, woodland, scrub, grassland and exposed rock, the hills contribute to local setting and identity, forming a landmark in south-west Edinburgh.

The hills are an important resource for informal recreation and golf. Local paths provide access to the hills, and a nature trail facilitates interpretation of Easter Craiglockhart Local Nature Reserve.

Rising to over 150 m AOD, the hills offer panoramic views across the city and Firth of Forth. In addition to providing a focal point for local views, the cSLA is visible from the city's hills, including Blackford Hill, Edinburgh Castle, Calton Hill and Arthur's Seat. Views of the landscape experienced when travelling along Glenlockhart Road evoke the impression of rural scenery within the city.

Originating as small volcanic vents, the hills are contemporary with the geological period during which Arthur's Seat and Castle Rock were formed. Glenlockhart reveals the later, erosive, eastward movement of glaciers acting upon weaker sedimentary rock beds.

The hills have strong cultural connections, exemplified by the Iron Age hill fort on the summit of Wester Craiglockhart, the remains of the 15<sup>th</sup> century Craiglockhart Castle and 19<sup>th</sup> century Italianate Hydropathic Institute, and on Easter Craiglockhart, the 16<sup>th</sup> century Old Craighouse and Royal Edinburgh Asylum.

**Pressures upon landscape integrity:**

Inappropriate development which encroaches on the open space or affects the appreciation of the historic features and buildings.

Cumulative effects of development upon visual amenity and landscape character.

Increased recreational demand.

Spread of gorse and long term woodland change associated with pest, disease, weather threats and climate trends.

**Enhancement potential:**

Management for recreation and nature conservation value should also seek to enhance designed landscape features.

Opportunities exist to enhance the appearance of infrastructural elements such as the communications masts.

**Other designations/interests:**

Part of Wester Craiglockhart is designated as a SSSI.

The north western side of Easter Craiglockhart is designated as a LNR.

Easter Craiglockhart Hill Management Plan 2004-2009.

The hills excluding Craiglockhart Campus are a Local Biodiversity Site.

The woodland on the north west facing crags of Easter Craiglockhart is Ancient Woodland.

The Craiglockhart Hills Conservation Area includes both hills.

Craiglockhart Castle and the Iron Age hill fort on Wester Craiglockhart are Scheduled Monuments.

Rights of Way run between Craiglockhart Terrace and Colinton Road, loop around Craighouse campus and skirt the southern edge of Wester Craiglockhart Hill. A spur of Core Path 15 – Union Canal Towpath connects to Easter Craiglockhart.

TPO 123 extends over the woodlands on the west side of Wester Craiglockhart Hill.



**Candidate Special Landscape Area: Water of Leith – New Town (cSLA12)****Location and boundaries:**

Located to the north west of the city centre. The cSLA boundary follows the deeply incised river valley, its wooded side slopes and associated open spaces between Roseburn and St Bernard's Bridge at Dean Terrace in Stockbridge.

**OS Grid Reference (x,y):** 324120, 674022

**Landscape Character Unit(s):** 59, Water of Leith New Town

**Extent (ha):** 39

**Landscape characteristics and qualities:**

Providing a dramatic natural contrast with the built elegance of Edinburgh New Town, the Water of Leith cuts deeply through the urban landscape. It forms an integral element of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century New Town and its gardens and designed landscapes which line the valley.

The relationship between the built features and natural environment reflect a response to the sinuous course of the river and give rise to a landscape of high scenic value. Views are contained within the valley landform, which has a sense of naturalness evoked by the rocky outcrops, woodland vegetation, running water, wildlife and visual seclusion from the wider city. Features such as the Doric rotunda of St Bernard's Well and Dean Bridge provide diversity within the landscape and a focus for views

The designed landscapes of Moray Bank and Dean Gardens are laid out on steep terraced valley sides and are characterised by snaking paths, ornamental trees and woodland planting. Open lawns provide a break in the enclosing tree cover and set off the towering neoclassical stone terraces of Moray Place and Eton Terrace.

To the west of the towering Dean Bridge, the valley narrows to pass through the former milling settlement of Dean village and below the Dean Cemetery to the north. The river corridor widens again to the west at 'The Haugh' and 'Cauldron', an area of floodplain with a broad weir serving a former mill. To the north the wooded slopes extend into the parkland setting of the Dean and Modern Art Galleries.

The Water of Leith walkway and associated open spaces surrounding the valley are an important recreational resource for walking, cycling and informal recreation. The route connects the city with open countryside to the southwest and the port of Leith to the northeast, connecting neighbourhoods and destinations such as the galleries. The river's industrial past of paper and flour milling, alongside the neo-classical New Town add to its cultural appeal.

**Potential pressures upon landscape integrity:**

Built development intruding upon the edge of the river corridor or its former industrial sites could impact upon landscape integrity and detract from the secluded and enclosed character of the valley. This applies to cumulative effects upon landscape character and visual amenity.

Increased recreational demand.

Long term woodland change associated with pest, disease, weather threats and climate trends.

**Enhancement potential:**

The landscape is generally well managed and no enhancement potential is identified.

The cSLA is within the Edinburgh and Lothians Forest Habitat Network Priority Area.

**Other designations/interests:**

The river valley is a Local Biodiversity Site.

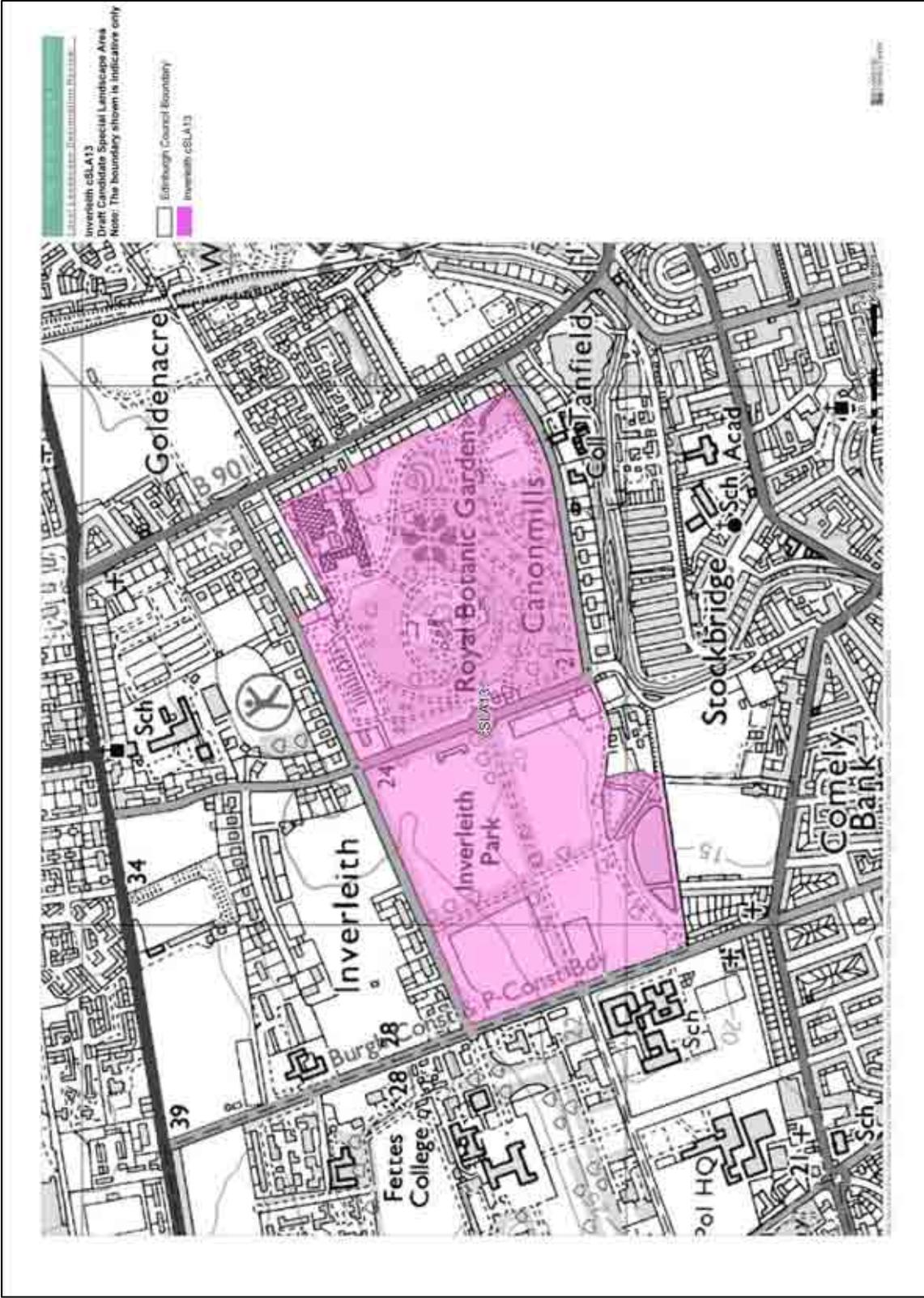
TPO 90 extends over the site of the Gallery of Modern Art.

The Water of Leith Walkway forms Core Path CEC 18 Water of Leith.

The area includes Dean Conservation Area, Coltbridge and Wester Coates Conservation Area, and the New Town Conservation Area.

The Edinburgh World Heritage Site and New Town Gardens, which are listed on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland, extend over all but the very western portion of the cSLA.

The significance of the World Heritage Site, including its outstanding universal values and the policies proposed to protect, conserve, develop and enhance it, are set out in the World Heritage Site Management Plan.



**Candidate Special Landscape Area: Inverleith (cSLA 13)****Location and boundaries:**

Located to the north of the city centre, the cSLA follows the boundaries of Inverleith Park and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

**OS Grid Reference (x,y):** 324400, 675256

**Landscape Character Unit(s):** 68 Inverleith Park, 67 Royal Botanic Garden

**Extent (ha):** 49

**Landscape characteristics and qualities:**

An extensive wooded, parkland landscape in the north of the city, of cultural and recreational significance.

The juxtaposition of Inverleith Park and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh aids their interpretation as a single landscape unit, when viewed at a distance from elevated locations such as Edinburgh Castle and Calton Hill. Although differing in layout and character, the Park's mature avenue trees visually coalesce with the tree canopy of the Royal Botanic Garden, which is punctuated by the glass-domed roof of the Victorian Temperate Palmhouse.

The cSLA forms part of an extensive, green, wooded swathe contrasting with surrounding built development, which stretches from the Water of Leith and Warriston Cemetery in the east to the grounds of Fettes College in the west. Views northwards from Inverleith Park and the lawn in front of Inverleith House reveal the dramatic skyline of the Edinburgh's Old and New Towns, Arthur's Seat and Salisbury Crags.

The Royal Botanic Gardens are an important visitor attraction within the city. Inverleith Park is also a city-wide recreational resource providing walking and cycling links along its tree lined avenues, sports pitches, allotments, a boating pond and wetland. Both areas host a range of events throughout the year, adding to their recreational appeal.

The landscapes are culturally significant as longstanding green spaces within the city. The Royal Botanic Garden pre-dates Inverleith Park, re-locating to Inverleith in 1820 and expanding to the existing designed landscape of Inverleith House. Its architectural features, arboretum, plant collections and associations with 19th and early 20th century Scottish plant hunters are of international significance. Inverleith Park was formally opened as a public park in 1891.

**Potential pressures upon landscape integrity:**

Changes in the management of the two areas and provision of new recreation or visitor facilities may affect the character of the landscape.

**Enhancement potential:**

The Park and Royal Botanic Garden are well maintained and opportunities for enhancement are not identified.

**Other designations/interests:**

Royal Botanic Garden is a Local Biodiversity Site.

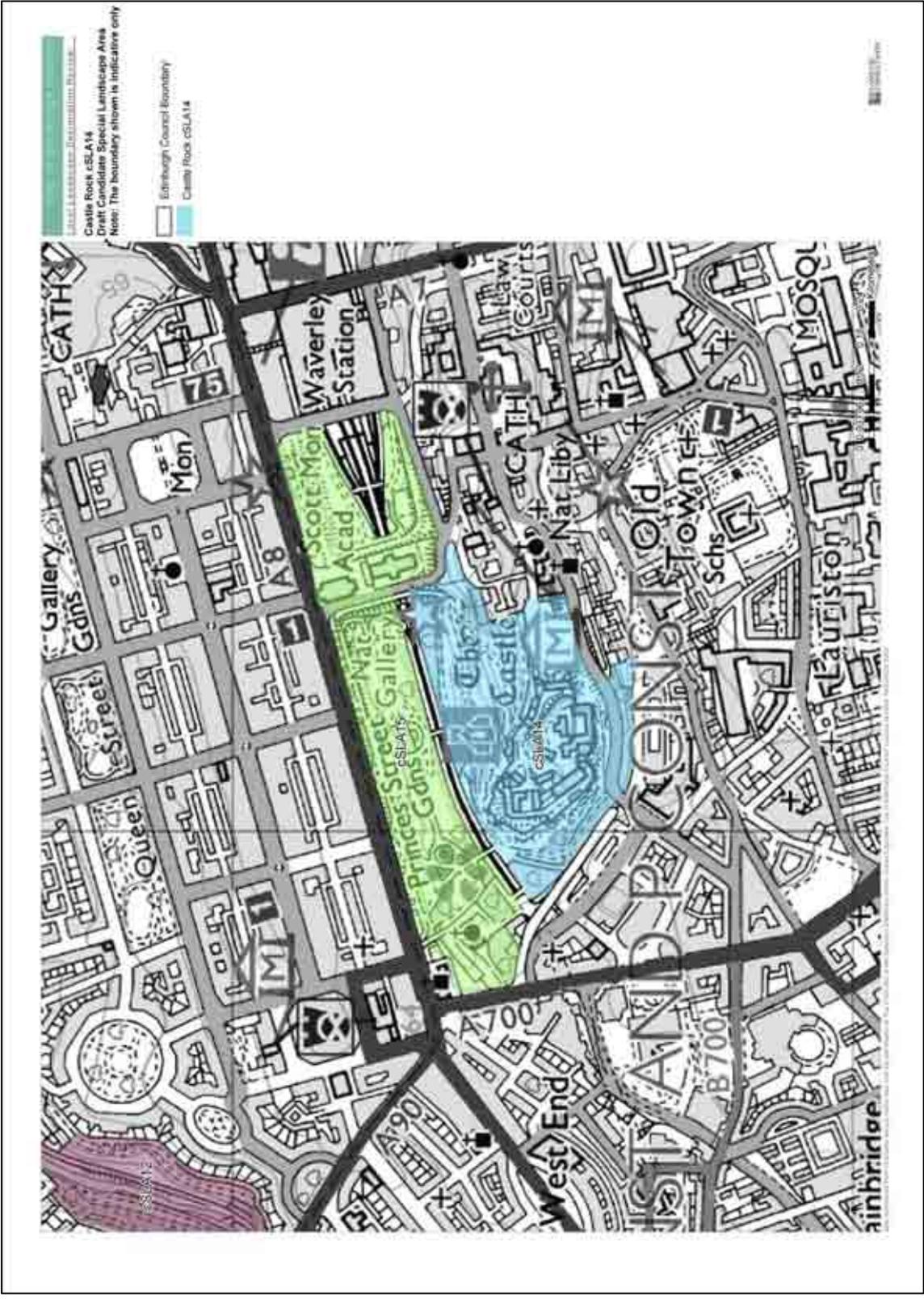
The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is listed on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland.

Inverleith Park is protected by Open Space policy.

The cSLA is within Inverleith Conservation Area.

Listed Buildings include Inverleith House – category B, Large Palm house – category A and Inverleith Park Gatepiers – category B. The cSLA is bounded by a range of listed buildings on Inverleith Row to the east, Inverleith Place to the north and Inverleith Terrace to the south.

The south and east part of the cSLA is within the Edinburgh and Lothians Forest Habitat Network Priority Area.



**Candidate Special Landscape Area: Castle Rock (cSLA 14)****Location and boundaries:**

Castle Rock is the most iconic landmark within the city. The cSLA encompasses the flanking steep slopes and hill summit upon which the Castle stands but excludes the built development of the Royal Mile.

**OS Grid Reference (x,y):** 325167, 673529

**Landscape Character Unit(s):** 62, Castle Rock

**Extent (ha):** 12

**Landscape characteristics and qualities:**

An outstanding city centre landmark, distinguished by its geology, historical significance and contribution to the urban landscape.

Castle Rock is one of Edinburgh's defining skyline features, visible from extensive areas of the city, parts of Fife and the Lothians. Its distinctive 'crag' landform originates from glacial action upon a volcanic plug, forming an ideal defensive location for settlement, which has been occupied since the Bronze Age.

The steep faces of exposed rock from which the Castle ramparts emerge, tower above the surrounding area. This contributes drama and high scenic value to the urban landscape, particularly when viewed from the glacial valleys of Princes St Gardens and the Grassmarket.

Its western rock ledges are characterised by their sparse vegetation cover, with trees and scrub restricted to the deeper soils at the base of the Rock. As landform tapers to the east, towards the 'tail' feature of the Old Town Ridge, a grassed bank clothes the slope above Johnston Terrace; whilst informal parkland descends the slopes to the north, adjoining West Princes St Gardens.

The Castle Rock is part of an intervening valley landscape which provides a foil to the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh. Its rugged topography introduces natural qualities which complement the opposing patterns of built form. As a vantage point, Castle Rock offers extensive panoramic views across the city's rooftops, terrain of hills and valleys; to the Firth of Forth and Fife to the north and backdrop of the Pentland Hills to the south.

The Castle has huge significance as witness to many defining moments in Scotland's history. Set within the Edinburgh World Heritage Site, the New Town Gardens inventory listed garden and designed landscape and the Old Town Conservation Area, it is a major visitor attraction, and venue for events, including the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and stage setting for the Hogmanay fireworks.

**Potential pressures upon landscape integrity:**

Inappropriate development in close proximity to the castle could impact on key views and its visual significance as a city centre landmark.

**Enhancement potential:**

None identified.

**Other designations/interests:**

Part of the Arthur's Seat Volcano SSSI.

Situated within Edinburgh World Heritage Site. The significance of the World Heritage Site, including its outstanding universal values and the policies proposed to protect, conserve, develop and enhance it, are set out in the World Heritage Site Management Plan.

Castle Rock is listed under the New Town Gardens within the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland.

Edinburgh Castle is a Scheduled Monument.

The Castle and Castle Esplanade are category A Listed.

The cSLA is located within the Old Town Conservation Area.



**Candidate Special Landscape Area: Princes Street Gardens (cSLA 15)**

**Location and boundaries:**

Located in central Edinburgh within the glacial valley between Edinburgh's Old Town and first New Town.

The cSLA boundary follows the extent of East and West Princes St Gardens, the grounds of St Cuthbert's and St John's Churches to the west and the intersection of the Mound.

**OS Grid Reference (x,y):** 325117, 673706

**Landscape Character Unit(s):** 63, Princes Street Gardens

**Extent (ha):** 13

**Landscape characteristics and qualities:**

An iconic city centre open space of historical and cultural significance.

Princes Street Gardens are an important and distinctive open space within the city centre, occupying a prime location in close proximity to Edinburgh Castle. The Gardens' distinctive buildings, monuments, backdrop of historic buildings and open spaces, visually coalesce to create a diversity of landscape and vistas of high scenic value.

The Gardens' natural hollow is the product of eastward glacial scour around the volcanic crag formation of Castle Rock to form the Nor'Loch, a feature enhanced as part of the Old Town's defences. In the 18th Century the area became part of the ensemble of the neo-classical New Town. The West Gardens were first laid out as private pleasure ground for residences at the west end of Princes St, before joining one of the first public parks established within Scotland at East Princes St, with the arrival of the railway.

The Gardens are an important recreational resource within the city centre and are well used by residents and visitors, playing host to a range of events, including The Edinburgh International Festival, The Edinburgh Fringe and Winter Festivals. Partly contained by the valley landform, the Gardens provide a relatively tranquil setting within the city from which to view Edinburgh Castle and the skyline of the Old Town; St Cuthbert's spire, the former Railway hotels at either end of Princes St, the the Mound's Greek revival galleries and the National Monument upon Calton Hill.

The Gardens are an important feature in views from elevated viewpoints such as Castle Rock, The Mound, North Bridge and Calton Hill, and for those arriving in the city by train. They form a unique foil between the Medieval and Renaissance Old Town and neo-classical New Town.

The Gardens' layout of formal flower beds, specimen trees and shrub borders set within sloping lawns remain a remarkably intact example of a Victorian Public Park. Their design is accentuated by architectural features such as decorative railings, commemorative statues and monuments, and the cultural and architectural focal points of the Scott Monument, Ross Fountain and Bandstand.

**Pressures upon landscape integrity:**

No pressures on landscape integrity are identified.

**Enhancement potential:**

The Gardens are managed as a formal open space and potential exists for improvements to physical access and the Ross Bandstand facility.

**Other designations/interests:**

The Gardens include Core Path CEC 21 Central Paths.

Located within the Edinburgh World Heritage Site. The significance of the World Heritage Site, including its outstanding universal values and the policies proposed to protect, conserve, develop and enhance it, are set out in the World Heritage Site Management Plan.

The Gardens form part of the New Town Gardens listing in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland.

The cSLA is part of the New Town Conservation Area and contains several Listed Buildings, including many of the statues and monuments located within the Gardens.



**Candidate Special Landscape Area: Calton Hill (cSLA 16)****Location and boundaries:**

Calton Hill is located on the northeast edge of the city centre. The cSLA reflects the wooded slopes and grassed summit of this volcanic crag feature. The cSLA is bounded by Regent Terrace Gardens to the east, Regent Road and Old Royal High School to the south, Calton Hill, Nottingham Place and Greenside Row to the west, and Royal Terrace to the north.

**OS Grid Reference (x,y):** 326304, 674229

**Landscape Character Unit(s):** 64, Calton Hill

**Extent (ha):** 14

**Landscape characteristics and qualities:**

A prominent low hill occupying a dominant location in the city centre, marrying built features and rugged natural form.

Calton Hill is distinguished by its steep, craggy side slopes of exposed rock, gorse, scrub and woodland cover, which combine with buildings and monuments on the grassed hill summit. Despite its relatively low height (100 m AOD), the hill stands proud of its urban context and the sloping coastal margin to the north of the city.

Incorporated as a feature within the 19th century eastward expansion of the New Town, Calton Hill is a key skyline landmark. It terminates eastward views along Princes St and views northwards from Constitution Street. The Hill is also a focal point in views from the hills which encircle the city and has a strong visual relationship with Holyrood Park, with which it shares its volcanic origins.

Calton Hill is a popular area for recreation by city residents and visitors and a location for cultural events. The Hill offers spectacular elevated, panoramic views, which contrast foreground detail of the city centre with distant landscape features. From its northern summit expansive views towards Leith and its docks are backed by the Firth of Forth and Fife coast. To the south, the eye is drawn westwards along Princes St to Corstorphine Hill and southwards to the Old Town Ridge and Holyrood Park.

A number of A Listed monuments and buildings have been sited on Calton Hill to contribute to the setting and character of the city including: the National Monument – a replica of the Parthenon, the City Observatory, Dugald Stewart monument and the Nelson Monument. The eastern slopes of the hill, a geological 'tail' feature, were laid out as Regent Gardens. This private pleasure ground was established in the 1830s following the feuing of the hill's middle section to create the A Listed terraces of Royal Terrace, Regent Terrace and Carlton Terrace. Separated from the public park by a ha-ha, the gardens wooded character provides contrast with the open hill to the west.

**Potential pressures upon landscape integrity:**

Built development affecting appreciation of the hill form and skyline.

Path erosion and damage resulting from visitor pressure.

**Enhancement potential:**

Management of vegetation to enhance the landscape character and views.

Path improvement to manage and enhance the visitor access and experience.

**Other designations/interests:**

Forms part of the Arthur's Seat Volcano SSSI.

Calton Hill and Regent Gardens are a Local Biodiversity Site.

The area includes Core Paths CEC 21 Central Paths.

Within the Edinburgh World Heritage Site. The significance of the World Heritage Site, including its outstanding universal values and the policies proposed to protect, conserve, develop and enhance it, are set out in the World Heritage Site Management Plan.

Calton Hill and Regent Gardens are listed in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland.

Within the New Town Conservation Area.



**Candidate Special Landscape Area: Holyrood, Duddingston and Prestonfield (cSLA 17)**

**Location and boundaries:**

Located to the east of the city centre, the cSLA boundary includes Holyrood Park, Prestonfield policies, Duddingston Loch and Duddingston policies.

The cSLA reflects the geological features of Arthur's Seat Volcano and its scoured glacial valley to the south, which have evolved as a recreational resource within the city and policy parkland.

**OS Grid Reference (x,y):** 327588, 672985

**Landscape Character Unit(s):** 56, 57, 58, 60 Duddingston Policies, Duddingston Loch, Prestonfield Golf Course and Holyrood Park

**Extent (ha):** 441

**Landscape characteristics and qualities:**

The iconic skyline profile of Arthur's Seat and Salisbury Crags is a major part of Edinburgh's identity; a landmark in views from the far west of the city, Fife and East Lothian. These features terminate the long profile of the Old Town Ridge, are intervisible with the elevated hills encircling the city and form a backdrop to streets and open spaces across Edinburgh.

The remnant volcanic plug of Arthur's Seat introduces a rugged, upland character within the city, accentuated by its broad landform mass, semi-natural vegetation cover, the exposed rock sill of Salisbury Crags and its sheer scree slopes. Arthur's Seat and the Crags are set apart by the broad flat-bottomed valley of Hunter's Bog, which has an enclosed and secluded character.

This prominent urban hill is surrounded by the more formal parkland of Queen's Drive, playing fields on the north side of Holyrood Park and Meadowfield to the east, which accentuates the natural character of the interior topography. The landscape has also been scoured by glaciers to form the lochs of St Margaret's to the north, Dunsapie to the east and Duddingston to the south.

Duddingston Loch is the largest post-glacial water body in the urban area and has a natural and tranquil character conferred by its indented form, extensive reed beds, margins of willow and alder and wooded backdrop. The Loch is of cultural renown as the setting to Raeburn's painting of the skating Rev Robert Walker.

The mature policies of Prestonfield Golf Course and Duddingston House lie to the south and east of Holyrood Park, occupying low lying ground which would have formed part of a much larger Duddingston Loch in prehistoric times. Incorporating perimeter woodlands and parkland trees, both areas provide settings to category A listed buildings and their associated golf courses.

The policy parklands and Loch form the foreground to the spectacular panoramic views from the summit of Arthur's Seat (251m AOD). This encompasses Edinburgh's Old and New Towns, hills and valleys, public parks and tree-lined neighbourhoods, the Firth of Forth, Fife coast and Ochils; East Lothian and the Pentland Hills, North and South Esk Valleys, Moorfoots and Lammermuir Hills to the south and east.

In combination with Holyrood Park, the low-lying land at Duddingston and Prestonfield and the grounds of Peffermill House, form part of a significant open swathe of grassland and woodland within the built environment. This extends southeastwards towards the open countryside of Midlothian and forms a view corridor to Craigmillar Castle.

Holyrood Park is highly important for recreation, as a visitor attraction, venue for events and local greenspace. The landscape can be experienced from the perimeter route of Queen's Drive, a series of more intimate paths leading to the hill's summits or the Radical Road which skirts Salisbury Crags offering prospect across the city to the west.

The landscape has a rich cultural heritage which includes the remains of Holyrood Abbey (founded 1128) and St Anthony's Chapel, the Palace of Holyrood House, and its historic function as a Royal Hunting Park. A long history of settlement is evident through the hill forts, rig and furrow and Iron Age ramparts found throughout the landscape.

Located on the Crags, Hutton's Section is of international interest in the development of geological theory. The Scottish Wildlife Trust's nature reserve at Duddingston Loch provides a bird hide for members, with informal access to the shore available to the west of Duddingston Village. National Cycle Route 1 follows the route of the Innocent Railway between Duddingston and Pollock Halls. Duddingston and Prestonfield policies have more limited access incorporating golf courses within their grounds.

**Potential pressures upon landscape integrity:**

Increased recreational demand, in particular path erosion.

Succession of Duddingston Loch by vegetation.

Long term woodland change associated with pest, disease, weather threats and climate trends.

Cumulative impacts upon landscape character and visual amenity.

**Enhancement potential:**

The varied areas within the landscape are generally in good condition, some potential exists for renewal of policy woodland and creation of habitat links.

The cSLA is within the Edinburgh and Lothians Forest Habitat Network Priority Area.

**Other designations/interests:**

The area is designated as Green Belt.

Holyrood Park and Duddingston Loch are covered by Arthur's Seat Volcano SSSI and Duddingston Loch SSSI.

Part of Holyrood Park and Meadowfield Park, part of Duddingston Loch and Bawsinch, and Duddingston Golf Course are designated Local Biodiversity Sites.

The area includes Core Paths CEC 5 Innocent Railway and CEC 2 The Braids.

The grounds of the Palace of Holyrood are listed on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland and are part of the Edinburgh World Heritage Site. (see the World Heritage Site Management Plan).

Holyrood Park is a Scheduled Monument.

Duddingston Loch and surrounds is part of the Duddingston Conservation Area, and Holyrood Palace is part of the Old Town Conservation Area.

Duddingston policies are covered by TPO 10.



## Candidate Special Landscape Area: Craigmillar Castle (cSLA 18)

### Location and boundaries:

Located in the southeast of the city, the cSLA reflects the ridgeline location of historic Craigmillar Castle, its surrounding deer park, visual links with Holyrood Park to the north and wider countryside to the south, and recreational value.

Craigmillar cSLA is bounded by the A7 Old Dalkeith Rd to the south and west, the Braid Burn flood wall at Bridgend playing fields and Edinburgh University Sports Ground to the south of Peffermill Rd, and the residential neighbourhood of Craigmillar to the east and Edinburgh Royal Infirmary at Little France to the southeast.

**OS Grid Reference (x,y):** 328564, 670986

**Landscape Character Unit(s):** 48, Craigmillar policies

**Extent (ha):** 87

### Landscape characteristics and qualities:

The Castle and its surrounding wooded parkland are situated on the strategic site of a low hill to the south of the Braid Burn and north of the Niddrie Burn. The cSLA forms part of a wider strategic wedge of open space stretching across southeast Edinburgh from Holyrood Park to the Midlothian countryside. The designed landscape acts as a setting for the category A listed, 15<sup>th</sup> century Castle, accentuating its prominence in views.

The Castle and its setting form key elements in views through the open landscape which extend southwards from Holyrood Park, and more locally from the A7 and A6095. The ruined Castle later became a romantic feature of the Inch estate and has visual links to Edmonstone to the south. The Castle's elevated position permits a panorama across the city and surrounding landscape, in which Arthur's Seat and Salisbury Crags form a visual focus.

The Castle has historical significance as the seat of the Preston and Gilmour families and has associations with the Scottish royal family. For this reason it has been a longstanding visitor destination, in addition to a local recreational resource. A network of access routes traverse the woodland surrounding the Castle connecting to adjacent residential areas. The combination of wooded landform and the focal point of the Castle, provides scenic value and a sense of naturalness. In 2009, The Craigmillar Castle Park Cemetery was opened on the former site of Bridge End Farm.

**Potential pressures upon landscape integrity:**

Development pressures within southeast Edinburgh adjacent to the landscape character area or affecting key views of the Castle and its setting from surrounding areas.

Increased recreational demand.

Cumulative impacts upon landscape character and visual amenity.

Long term woodland change associated with pest, disease, weather threats and climate trends.

**Enhancement potential:**

Woodland management to maintain key views and regenerate tree cover, using appropriate species appropriate to the designed landscape.

Maintenance of stone walling.

The cSLA is within the Edinburgh and Lothians Forest Habitat Network Priority Area.

**Other designations/interests:**

The landscape character area is within the Green Belt.

Parts of the landscape close to Craigmillar Castle are Local Geodiversity Sites.

TPO 52 extends over the majority of the cSLA.

Three areas of woodland are identified as long established woodland of plantation origin.

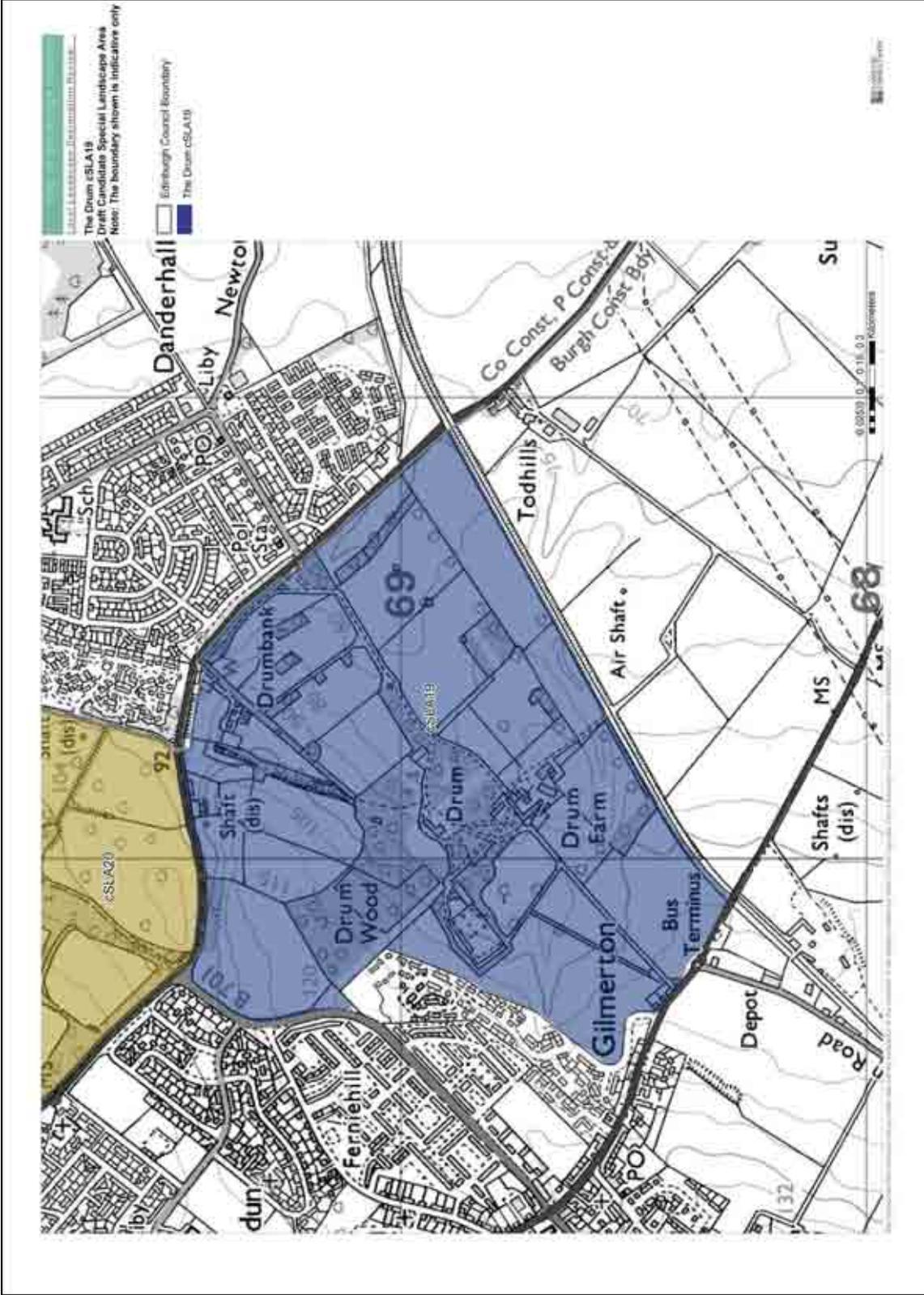
The area includes Core Paths CEC 1 Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park, CEC 2 The Braids, CEC 4 Craigmillar to Dalkeith link.

The south eastern area of cSLA is a Scheduled Monument, reflecting the Castle and gardens.

Craigmillar Castle and Dovecot are Category A listed buildings, Craigmillar Dairy is a B listed building, and Peffermill House is a Category A listed building.

The land surrounding the castle is part of the Craigmillar Castle Inventory listed Garden and Designed Landscape.

Craigmillar Castle Park and Hawkhill Wood Woodland Management Plan 2005.



## Candidate Special Landscape Area: The Drum (cSLA 19)

### Location and boundaries:

The Drum is located on the south eastern periphery of Edinburgh, between Danderhall and Gilmerton. The cSLA boundary reflects the core of the designed landscape and flanking fields.

The cSLA boundary is defined by the A7, the B701, the urban edge of Gilmerton, the A772 and the disused railway to the south east.

**OS Grid Reference (x,y):** 330358, 668946

**Landscape Character Unit(s):** 49, Drum policies

**Extent (ha):** 95

### Landscape characteristics and qualities:

A highly scenic wooded setting for the Palladian-style mansion of Drum House, built in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, forming part of a strategic wedge of green open space extending from Holyrood Park to the wider countryside of Midlothian.

The Drum is one of the policy landscapes characteristic of Edinburgh's periphery but is comparatively unusual as a relatively intact and privately owned estate. The designed landscape is of particular significance for its historical and architectural associations with the category A listed Drum House, which were both designed by the architect William Adam.

Drum House and its immediate landscape setting are screened from the surrounding area by perimeter woodland, which forms a significant feature on the summit of a low hill. This can be appreciated across a setting of well defined fields and paddocks to the south. The quality of the estate's perimeter walls, gate piers, East Lodge, parkland and policy woodlands contribute to local character and scenic value.

The landscape's pastoral qualities have recreational appeal from paths providing access between Gilmerton and Danderhall. The estate is also a centre for riding for the disabled and is opened on an occasional basis for charity.

### Potential pressures upon landscape integrity:

Inappropriate development which encroaches on the open space or affects the appreciation of the designed landscape.

Increased recreational demand.

Changes in agricultural practices affecting the management and character of the farmland and field boundaries.

Long term woodland change associated with pest, disease, weather threats and climate trends.

**Enhancement potential:**

Programme of tree and woodland renewal.

Access enhancement.

The cSLA is within the Edinburgh and Lothians Forest Habitat Network Priority Area.

**Other designations/interests:**

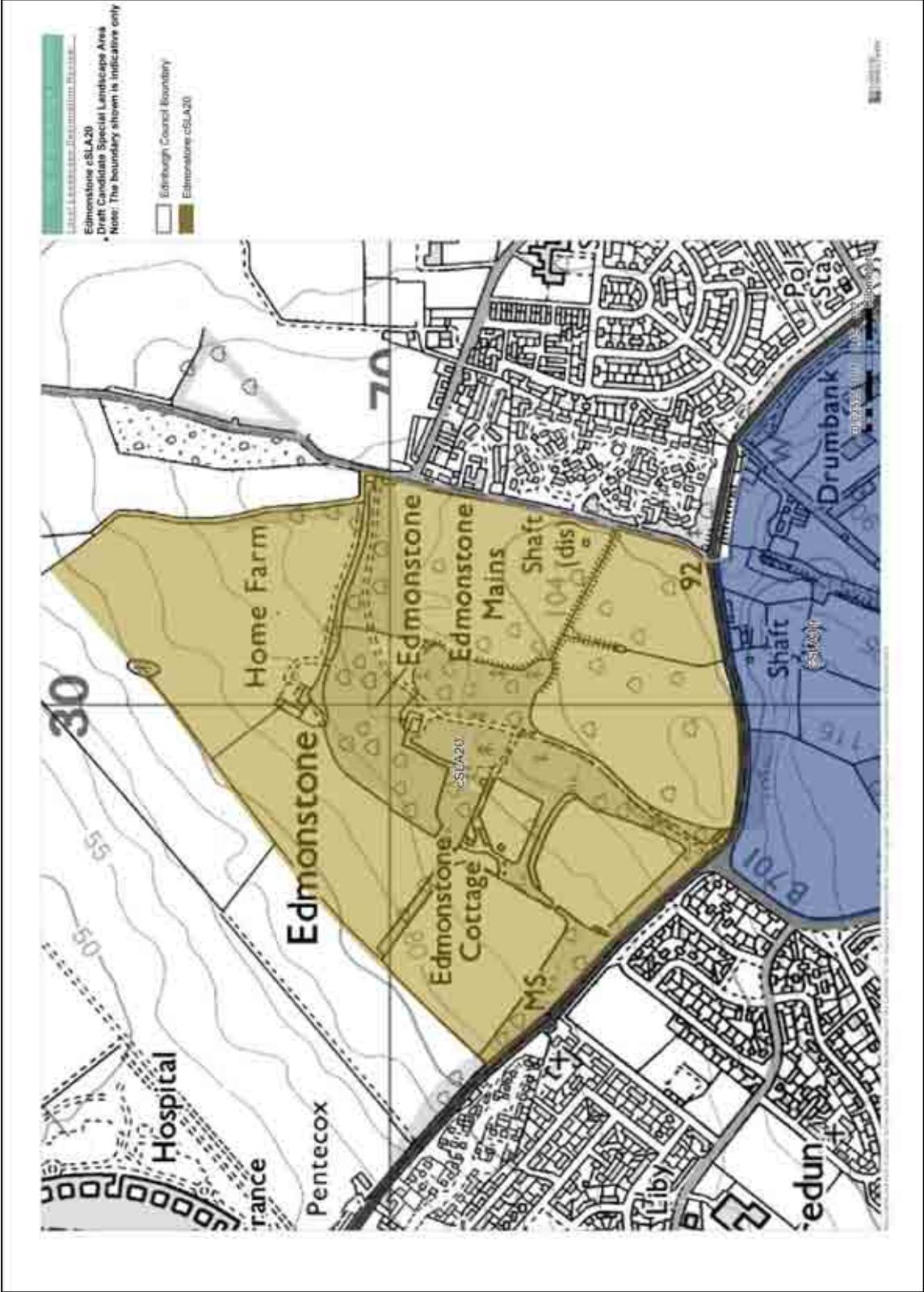
The cSLA is within the Green Belt.

Drum Wood surrounding the main house is long established woodland (of plantation origin).

The core of the estate is a Local Biodiversity Site.

Core Path CEC 4 Craigmillar to Dalkeith runs along the road to the north of the cSLA.

A major part of the cSLA, excluding a small number of peripheral fields, is listed in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland.



**Candidate Special Landscape Area: Edmonstone (cSLA 20)****Location and boundaries:**

Located close to Little France to the south east of the city. The cSLA boundary is defined by the ridge landform, policy woodlands and parkland, the A7 and The Wisp.

**OS Grid Reference (x,y):** 329929, 669812

**Landscape Character Unit(s):** 55, Edmonstone

**Extent (ha):** 64

**Landscape characteristics and qualities:**

The wooded ridge of Edmonstone is a local landmark and forms part of a notable strategic wedge of green open space extending south-eastwards from Holyrood Park, through Craigmillar to Midlothian. The wooded ridge is notable in views from Craigmillar Castle and Holyrood Park and is a feature of local views from the A7 and the Wisp.

As one of Edinburgh's characteristic low wooded hills (c. 100 m AOD), Edmonstone echoes the wooded setting of Craigmillar Castle and merges visually with estate parkland of the Drum Estate to the south of Old Dalkeith Rd. Edmonstone's topography provides containment to the city, providing separation between development at Little France from Danderhall and the wider Midlothian countryside.

Despite demolition of Edmonstone House in the 1950s, character and cultural value is sustained by the landscape structure of boundary walling, avenue planting and mature specimen trees within the surrounding parkland. Recent development of a private hospital contained within the former walled garden has secured improvements to Edmonstone's setting and landscape condition, including new tree and woodland planting and restoration of the ha-ha feature.

A network of paths allows appreciation of Edmonstone's landscape features and visual links through the landscape of south-east Edinburgh. The landscape is intervisible with Craigmillar Castle and is visually associated with The Drum Estate, their mutual boundary to the A7 being aligned in a cutting and screened from view. Although formally laid out, Edmonstone's policy woodlands and mature specimen trees contribute a sense of naturalness.

**Pressures upon landscape integrity:**

Inappropriate development which affects the appreciation of the historic landscape.

Cumulative effects of development upon landscape character and visual amenity.

Increased recreational demand.

Long term woodland change associated with pest, disease, weather threats and climate trends.

**Enhancement potential:**

Programme of tree and woodland renewal and conservation of built heritage features.

The cSLA is within the Edinburgh and Lothians Forest Habitat Network Priority Area.

**Other designations/interests:**

The cSLA is within the Green Belt.

The whole of the landscape character area, with the exclusion of the fields to the north west of Edmonstone Cottage is a Local Biodiversity Site.

The policy woodlands around the main house are long established ancient woodland (of plantation origin).

The Core Path CEC 4 Craigmillar to Dalkeith extends around the southern perimeter of the site.

Edmonstone is identified in the Council's survey of Gardens and Designed Landscapes of regional and local importance.

Scheduled Monuments: An enclosure lies 300m ENE of Home Farm on the boundary of the cSLA.



## **Candidate Special Landscape Area: Braids, Liberton and Mortonhall (cSLA 21)**

### **Location and boundaries:**

The cSLA is located between south central Edinburgh and the A720 city-bass, east of Comiston Rd and to the west of Liberton Road.

The boundary represents a significant expanse of land of a semi-rural and undeveloped character with high scenic and recreational value; stretching from the urban core to link with farmland flanking the Pentland Hills and River North Esk in Midlothian.

The cSLA incorporates Blackford Hill, Hermitage of Braid, Braid Hills, estate parkland at Mortonhall, and farmland surrounding Morton House and Morton Mains to the south of Frogston Rd West.

**OS Grid Reference (x,y):** 320977, 673833

**Landscape Character Unit(s):** 52, 53, 54, Braid Hills, Mortonhall Policies, Liberton Fringes

**Extent (ha):** 574

### **Landscape characteristics and qualities:**

Separated by a glacial valley, Blackford Hill and The Braid Hills are characterised by broad east-west ridges, with steep craggy western slopes clothed by woodland, scrub, rocky outcrops and golf course planting. Their smoother eastern flanks give way to open farmland, remnant estate parkland and paddocks at Mortonhall and Liberton House. To the south, the policy influences of Mortonhall and underlying landform ridge extend to Morton House and Morton Mains, which is located within a farmland setting.

The hills and their environs form a prominent skyline on the southern edge of Edinburgh, contributing to the city's identity and setting, and making a visual and physical connection with the wider countryside to the south beyond Edinburgh's Green Belt. This landscape contributes to the character of adjacent residential neighbourhoods and serves as a landmark in views from the main hills encircling the city.

The hills' rugged landform and semi-natural vegetation, wooded valley and relatively intact parkland planting at Mortonhall, contribute to the high scenic quality within the cSLA and its contrast with the surrounding built environment.

The main summits of Blackford Hill (164 m AOD) and Buckstone Snab (206 m AOD) reveal spectacular panoramic views of the city and its context of the Firth of Forth, East and West Lothian plateaux and hinterland of the Pentland, Moorfoot and Lammermuir Hills. Similar views can be gained from vantage points throughout the northern part of the cSLA, whilst outward views from farmland and parkland to the south are dominated by the Pentland Hills.

The landscape is a significant recreational resource within the city, including golf courses and an extensive network of paths. These cross the hills and pass through the parkland at Mortonhall to link with camping and caravan park.

The scale of the cSLA, its exposed hilltops, secluded glen, parkland planting, farmland and views to the wider rural landscape, offers a sense of naturalness and tranquillity in close proximity to the urban core; whether experienced from paths, trails or vehicular

routes through the landscape such as Braid Hills Drive.

The Braids Hills are part of the Pentland Hills volcanic formation and were quarried at Mortonhall. Blackford Hill and the Braids have a longstanding cultural significance as an open space within the city. The hills have a rich cultural heritage from all periods including prehistoric activity, Iron Age hill forts, the category A Listed Buildings of Royal Observatory (b.1892) and Astronomer's House on Blackford Hill, the 18th century Hermitage of Braid and Mortonhall, and category B Listed Liberton Tower and A Listed Liberton House. War time use, evident from the disused gun emplacements at Liberton Kennels, provides further cultural interest.

**Potential pressures upon landscape integrity:**

Changes in management of the land for recreation, including the provision of additional recreational facilities.

Changes in farming practices and the management of field boundaries.

Cumulative effects of development upon visual amenity and landscape character.

Change in the scale and extent of pylons at Mortonhall.

Long term woodland change associated with pest, disease, weather threats and climate trends.

**Enhancement potential:**

Management of designed landscape features, including parkland trees, the walled garden and pinetum.

Management of field boundaries, in particular stone walls at Liberton.

Landscape enhancement of golf and other recreational facilities for landscape and wildlife benefit.

The cSLA is within the Edinburgh and Lothians Forest Habitat Network Priority Area.

**Other designations/interests:**

The cSLA is within the Green Belt.

An area in the north west of the cSLA is designated as Blackford Hill/Hermitage of Braid Local Nature Reserve and Local Geodiversity Site

Mortonhall and Morton Mains are within the Morton Mains Conservation Area and include the 18th century Hermitage of Braid, Mortonhall and A Listed Grouping of Morton House, category B Listed Liberton Tower and A Listed Liberton House.

The hill area, excluding the Liberton Fringes and land south of the B701, is a Local Biodiversity Site.

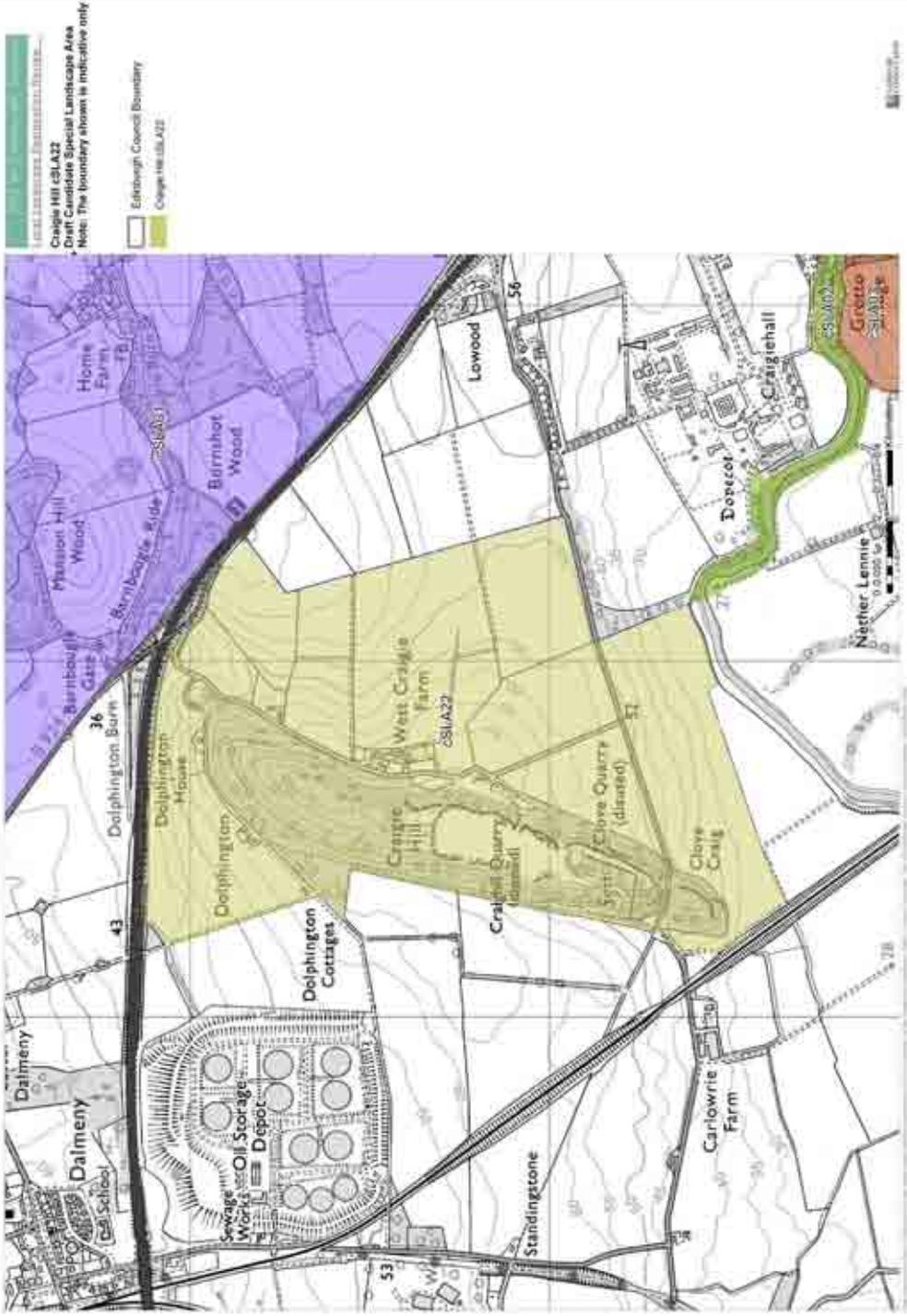
Woodland in the Braid Burn valley and the woodland belts at Mortonhall are long established (of plantation origin) woodland.

TPOs 1, 7 extend over the woodland to the west of the Braid Hills, and include the woodland around Morton Hall and Morton Mains.

The area includes Core Paths CEC 2 The Braids, CEC 3 Blackford Hill to The Meadows.

The hill fort on the summit of Blackford Hill and Liberton Tower are Scheduled Monuments.

Hermitage of Braid and Blackford Pond Woodland Plan 2008.



## Candidate Special Landscape Area: Craigie Hill (cSLA 22)

### Location and boundaries:

Located to the north-west of Edinburgh and to the east of Dalmeny village, Craigie Hill is bounded by the A90 to the north and Edinburgh - Fife railway line to the south.

The cSLA boundary is focussed upon on Craigie Hill's distinct, north-south aligned wooded ridge and farmed side slopes to the north and east. These are set apart from more gently sloping farmland at lower elevations. The boundary reflects the hill form and is marked by the nearest adjacent field boundaries.

**OS Grid Reference (x,y):** 315683, 676440

**Landscape Character Unit(s):** 11, Craigie Hill

**Extent (ha):** 153

### Landscape characteristics and qualities:

Craigie Hill is a locally distinctive landmark to the west of the city. It is distinguished by its extensive north-south, wooded ridge, which stands proud of gently undulating, open fields within the Lower Almond Farmland beyond Clove Craig.

Craigie Hill is prominent in views on the approach to Edinburgh and Fife from the A90. Its wooded summit merges with and reinforces the parkland setting to, the Dalmeny Estate and woodland within the Almond Valley.

The hill provides a viewpoint with wide vistas over the Dalmeny Estate and Firth of Forth to the north and southwards, across the Almond Valley towards the Pentland Hills. The woodland is managed for recreation with local path networks and interpretation provided by the adjacent farm. The hill's tree cover conceals the Iron Age Hill Fort and former quarries, which highlight evidence of man's previous associations with this landscape.

### Pressures upon landscape integrity:

Inappropriate development or poor quality design within the character area or inappropriate land management practices.

Cumulative effects of development upon visual amenity and landscape character.

Long term woodland change associated with pest, disease, weather threats and climate trends.

**Enhancement potential:**

Landscape management for recreation and wildlife benefit should seek to promote a diverse age and species structure of woodland cover.

Although well screened by woodland, opportunities exist to enhance areas of degraded land within this landscape unit e.g. former Craighill Quarry and derelict buildings.

The cSLA is within the Edinburgh and Lothians Forest Habitat Network Priority Area.

**Other designations/interests:**

The cSLA is within the Green Belt.

The main wooded ridge is ancient woodland.

Craigie Hill fort is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Craighill Quarry is protected as a Mineral Site.

A Right of Way skirts the northern edge of the hill connecting Dolphinton to Kirkliston.

## **Appendix A**

### **Landscapes included within the Edinburgh Landscape Character Assessment**



## **Landscapes included within the Edinburgh Landscape Character Assessment**

The Edinburgh Landscape Character Assessment encompassed the whole of the undeveloped landscape with the City of Edinburgh Council. A number of open spaces within the urban area were also identified for inclusion within the LCA. Open spaces were selected based on meeting one or more of following criteria:

- Prominence;
- Character and setting of the city;
- Historic townscape;
- Continuity with open countryside or other significant open spaces.

The evaluation led to the inclusion of the following areas of open space:

1. Cramond and Silverknowes
2. Corstorphine
3. Princes Street Gardens and Castle Rock
4. Botanic Gardens and Inverleith Park
5. The Meadows
6. Calton Hill
7. Braid Hills
8. Arthur's Seat, Duddingston and South East Wedge
9. Craiglockhart
10. Water of Leith
11. Leith Links
12. Queen Street Gardens

The incorporation of these areas within the Landscape Character Assessment resulted in their inclusion in the review of local landscape designations.



## **Appendix B**

### **Review of Local Landscape Designations Summary of Consultation Responses**



## **Review of Local Landscape Designations**

### **Summary of Consultation Responses**

#### **Purpose of the consultation**

Landscape character assessment, followed by an evaluation of landscape quality was used to identify 22 candidate sites for future designation as Special Landscape Areas (SLAs), as part of a review of existing local landscape designations. The purpose of the consultation was to provide the opportunity for public comment upon:

- the series of candidate Special Landscape Areas (cSLAs) identified
- the draft cSLA boundaries
- the suggested names for cSLAs
- the statements of Importance – written character appraisals, which accompany the designation

#### **Consultation Period**

A ten week consultation period extended from 25 May – 31 July 2009

#### **Views were requested from**

Community Councils, Neighbourhood Partnerships, Amenity Groups, Government Agencies and Non-governmental Organisations with an interest in heritage issues, Planning Consultants and Landscape Architects, Housing Developers and Council Services

#### **How were views gathered?**

Written responses

#### **How was the consultation publicised?**

Letters, the Council's Planning Consultations' webpage, Planning News, City Libraries and Planning and Buildings Standards Reception.

#### **Other**

In addition, a central workshop on local landscape designations was arranged, involving heritage based organisations, representatives from local communities and neighbouring local authorities. The event sought to raise awareness of local landscape designations, review issues arising from the consultative draft, discuss national progress with local landscape designation reviews and highlight action to further the protection and enhancement of landscapes.

A Council working group also met to consider the draft, comprising officers responsible for the built and natural heritage, planning policy, parks and green spaces and archaeological services.

## Consultation Responses

Written comments received have been grouped as follows:

- General comments on the Review process listed by respondent
- Site specific comments listed by candidate Special Landscape Area

## General Comments

Name/Organisation	Comment	Response
<b>Edinburgh World Heritage</b>	Landscape designations delineated in the review are crucial to the integrity and authenticity of the World Heritage Site's (WHS) outstanding universal values (OUVs).	Noted. 'Statements of Importance' will be cross-referenced to the World Heritage Site's Management Plan and outstanding universal values.
	cSLAs outside the World Heritage Site, such as Blackford Hill, the Pentlands Hills and Corstorphine Hill, support views to and from the Site and its setting.	
	cSLAs within the World Heritage Site are integral components of the outstanding universal values defining the character of the World Heritage Site.	
	In addition to acknowledging the World Heritage Site, 'Statements of Importance' should refer to the WHS Management Plan and outstanding universal values.	

Name/Organisation	Comment	Response
<b>Forestry Commission Scotland</b>	Forestry Commission Scotland supports the 22 areas selected as candidate Special Landscape Areas.	Noted. 'Statements of Importance', in particular those for cSLAs within the priority areas of the ELFHN, will promote woodland regeneration and management.
	cSLAs align with the aims of the Edinburgh and Lothians Forest Habitat Network (ELFHN).	
	Support is given to woodland regeneration and management referred to in the 'Enhancement potential' identified in the 'Statements of Importance'. This should apply to all cSLAs, where woodland has been identified as an integral characteristic.	
<b>City of Edinburgh Council Archaeological Services</b>	Supports the 22 areas selected as candidate Special Landscape Areas.	Noted. 'Statements of Importance' will include reference to the cultural heritage as appropriate.
	'Statements of Importance' lack full and consistent reference to the influence of cultural heritage interests on the landscape.	
	In addition to the enhancement of scenic quality and landscape condition, 'Statements of Importance' should recognise potential improvements to recreational access and management and interpretation of cultural heritage assets.	Noted. 'Statements of Importance' will recognise enhancement potential in terms of all SLA designation criteria.

Name/Organisation	Comment	Response
<b>Liberton Association</b>	Welcome the Review in the expectation that it will make more robust, the defence of the former AGLVs and other important areas which contribute to the unique quality of Edinburgh's environment.	The Review will recommend candidates for designation as SLAs in the Local Development Plan based upon a consistent approach to local landscape designation across the Council area. This will involve the evaluation of existing AGLV and AOLQ and potential changes to existing designated areas. The Review is will not increase the level of protection afforded by local landscape designations but is likely to improve the recognition of their key landscape characteristics and qualities that merit protection.
<b>Turley Associates – general comments on the Review methodology submitted on behalf of clients</b>	The opportunity to respond to the consultative draft is welcomed.	Noted.
	The need to consider the existing boundaries of protected landscapes in the context of new and emerging development pressures is supported.	Not accepted. It is not the aim of the Review to identify land to accommodate development capacity. The review focuses upon identifying landscape of merit across the Council Area based upon a consistent methodology as outlined in NPPG 14 and supported by SNH and Historic Scotland's guidance.
	Timing of the study: concerns with regard to the relationship of the study to the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) process.	Not accepted. The Review forms a contextual study to the Local Development Plan and is not a matter for the SDP. A review of non-statutory, local designations, is undertaken at the discretion of the local planning authority.

Name/Organisation	Comment	Response
<p><b>Turley Associates – general comments on the Review methodology submitted on behalf of clients. Site specific comments listed in following table.</b></p>	<p>By only considering land within the within the City of Edinburgh boundary the study contrasts with the cross-council approach of the SDP. Such an approach would be more appropriate given that natural landscape boundaries do not follow administrative areas.</p>	<p>Not accepted. Refer to the response above in relation to the timing of the study. In addition, City of Edinburgh Council consulted with neighbouring local authorities at the project initiation and consultative draft stages. The workshop on local landscape designation also provided an opportunity to benchmark progress in relation to landscape protection at the national level and within south-east Scotland.</p>
	<p>The assessment is supported as a contextual study, as is the ultimate incorporation of the findings into the Local Development Plan for Edinburgh. This will allow proper scrutiny of the proposals and development needs and accessibility to be balanced with landscape considerations. Formalising revised designations prior to the preparation of the development plan is considered to be premature</p>	<p>Noted. The Review forms a contextual study to the Local Development Plan. Changes to existing local landscape designations and the formal designation of candidate sites as Special Landscape Areas would be subject to scrutiny during the preparation of the LDP.</p>
	<p>The study does not comply with best practice guidance set out by SNH/RCAHMS Guidance and includes novel appraisal criteria. Other criteria recommended by the Guidance have not been used.</p>	<p>Not accepted. ‘Guidance on Local Landscape Designations’, advice published by SNH and Historic Scotland in 2005, is intended for use as a resource by local authorities to take forward reviews of local landscape designations. The methodology followed reflects this guidance, whilst responding to Edinburgh’s local circumstances. SNH’s Landscape and Policy Advisor formed part of the project working group, which approved the project brief and methodology.</p>

Name/Organisation	Comment	Response
<p><b>Turley Associates – general comments on the Review methodology submitted on behalf of clients</b></p>	<p>There is particular concern over the inclusion of some Landscape Character Areas as candidate Special landscape Areas on the basis of their association with adjacent higher scoring areas. The study therefore fails to recognise the need to assess each area on its own merits.</p>	<p>Not accepted. Scoring of landscape quality was a starting point for further evaluation of the relative merit of landscape character areas, at the city-wide and regional scale.</p> <p>SNH and Historic Scotland’s guidance recognises the established practice of landscape character assessment but encourages local authorities to develop their own approaches to defining landscape quality, building upon existing landscape studies for their area.</p> <p>The value of adjacent landscape settings is acknowledged in the 2008 Edinburgh Green Belt Study. The inclusion of this qualitative criterion as part of the Review was agreed by the project Working Group, which included representation from SNH.</p> <p>The long-established Lothians Landscape Character Assessment also recognises the often transitional nature of some landscape character area boundaries.</p> <p>SLA boundaries should reflect logical and cohesive units of land and may include areas of lesser quality within the urban area.</p>
	<p>The Edinburgh Local Landscape Designation Review was prepared for the City of Edinburgh Council and Scottish Natural Heritage.</p>	<p>Not accepted. The City of Edinburgh Council commissioned the Review, supported by external funding from SNH.</p>
	<p>Only sites within the historic core are subject to the ‘contribution to historic core’ criteria. The same scoring criteria should be used for all sites.</p>	<p>Not accepted. This criterion evaluates the contribution made by landscape character areas located within the historic core to the character of the World Heritage Site. It can therefore only apply to a selected range of landscape character areas. In these instances, the maximum possible score is higher, to reflect the additional criterion and this is taken into account in the calculation of the final percentage score.</p>

Name/Organisation	Comment	Response
<b>Turley Associates – general comments on the Review methodology submitted on behalf of clients</b>	Three criteria have been double weighted (Distinctiveness, Scenic Quality and Enjoyment). This is arbitrary and does not follow SNH and Historic Scotland’s guidance.	Not accepted. Weighting was applied to reflect the main purposes of the designation and was approved by the project working group including SNH’s Landscape and Policy Advisor.
	The study makes use of an arbitrary threshold in selecting cSLAs from the top third of sites.	Not accepted. Scoring of landscape quality was a starting point for further evaluation of the relative merit of landscape character areas, at the city-wide and regional scale.
	The study does not provide justification as to the ‘Need’ or ‘Support’ for SLA designation as outlined in SNH and Historic Scotland’s Guidance	It will be for the LDP to consider whether an SLA designation is the most effective safeguard for landscapes of merit identified through the Review. It will also provide greater opportunity to test support for designation amongst local communities and stakeholders.

## Site specific comments

cSLA No.	LCA Nos.	cSLA Name	Respondent	Comment	Recommendation
1	1, 3, 12, 74 and 75	Southern Forth Coast	Council Working Group	An extensive cSLA comprising several landscape character areas. Re-evaluate the inclusion of landscape of lesser relative value to the west of South Queensferry and omission of Inch Garvie Island.	Noted. Revised western boundary of cSLA to extend to natural harbour of South Queensferry and wooded backdrop of Ferry Glen. All City of Edinburgh Council Forth Islands to be incorporated.
2	5	Lower Almond	F. Ritchie	Will private garden ground be omitted from the SLA proposals?	Noted. Domestic gardens would not be included within the cSLA boundary, which should follow the Open Space/ Conservation Area boundaries along the river valley.
3	7	Cammo	Council Working Group	Review consistency of draft boundary	Noted. Refinement of cSLA boundary reflects remnant 18-19 <sup>th</sup> c fields, proximity to River Almond and access routes. Part of the Green Belt also contributes to the essential setting of this inventoried Garden and Designed Landscape.
4	15	Dundas	Council Working Group	Review consistency of draft boundary	Noted. The eastern edge of the cSLA boundary has been drawn back to the line of the B800, to omit 19 <sup>th</sup> C amalgamated fields situated at lower elevations. Dundas Home Farm to be included.
5	24	Upper Almond	--	--	--

cSLA No.	LCA Nos.	cSLA Name	Respondent	Comment	Recommendation
6	29	Gogar	Turley Associates on behalf of Murray Estates	The boundary is not appropriate and does not reflect the wide variation in landscape quality.	Noted. Boundaries within the consultative draft were based on landscape character areas and had not undergone detailed boundary refinement.
				Human intervention has had a considerably higher impact on the landscape than recognised in the Review. Major road networks, the rail line and built development have all made a considerable mark on the natural landscape and much of the landscape is not 'special'. The area should have scored 52%.	<p>Not accepted. Landscape is recognised as the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors. Whilst landscape character is the distinct and recognisable pattern of elements that occurs in a particular area.</p> <p>Despite proximity to the urban area and westbound transport links including the M8 cutting, the landscape character of intact policy woodland and farmland is rare within Edinburgh and notable on the western edge of the city.</p> <p>As stated previously, scoring remains a starting point for further landscape evaluation. Ranking one site in isolation is inconsistent with the city-wide approach taken through the Review.</p>

cSLA No.	LCA Nos.	cSLA Name	Respondent	Comment	Recommendation
				<p>It is strongly contended that the most appropriate type of designation for the area is one to reflect the pockets of land of actual importance. Landscape designations should be confined to the existing AOLQs at Millburn Tower and Gogar Park.</p> <p>This approach is reflected by the existing statutory listing of buildings, inclusion of Millburn Tower within the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes and Hermiston Village Conservation Area.</p>	<p>Noted. The LDP will determine whether a cSLA duplicates the function of other designations. SNH and Historic Scotland's guidance acknowledges SLAs may co-inside with other designations and play a role in protecting parts of designated areas and their settings.</p> <p>The Review is based upon landscape character assessment, which reflects patterns of landform, land cover and land use. The unit of landscape identified as Gogar Farmland and Institutions extends across a broader scale than the grounds of individual gardens and designed landscapes. It therefore recommends that the combination of designed landscapes and farmland which typify this landscape are protected and enhanced.</p>
			Council Working Group	Review consistency of draft boundary. The area has a wealth of cultural heritage interests.	Noted. Refinement of cSLA boundary to reflect landscape character and quality, the concentration gardens and designed landscapes, field boundaries, conservation area and setting of Union Canal. To the south the boundary extends to the natural ridge of the Calder Road, which aligns with policy woodland in the wider landscape.
7	23	Ratho Hills	Council Working Group	Review consistency of draft boundary.	Noted. Refinement of cSLA boundary to reflect wooded landform backdrop to Ratho village, notable ridgeline to the south and setting of the Hatton House designed landscape.

cSLA No.	LCA Nos.	cSLA Name	Respondent	Comment	Recommendation
8	38 and 71	Water of Leith West	Council Working Group	Review consistency of draft boundary.	Noted. cSLA boundary reflects the valley landform, excluding domestic gardens but including associated open spaces.
9	34, 35, 36, 37, 41 and 42	Pentlands	Turley Associates on behalf of Miller Homes	LCA36 has been inappropriately included within cSLA 10. There is no reason for the inclusion of LCA 36 Cockburn Geometric Wooded Farmland within cSLA 10 Pentland Hills. It fails to meet the designation criteria and is proposed for inclusion by association.	Not accepted. This LCA scored relatively higher than other landscape character areas fringing the Pentland cSLA. It was identified as candidate for designation for the reasons already stated above in response to Turley Associates general comment on 'inclusion by association.'
			Colinton Amenity Association (CAA)	CAA objects to the exclusion of fields and woods of the historic Dreghorn Estate north of the City by-pass from a new local landscape designation.	Noted.
				The Survey of Gardens and Designed Landscapes of regional and local importance by Peter McGowan Associates (consultative draft approved August 2009) identifies the Dreghorn Castle/Barracks designed landscape as of 'High' scenic value.	As encouraged by Scotland's Historic Environment Policy, the Council is developing a Survey of Gardens and Designed Landscapes, which are valued in terms of their contribution to the local historic environment and landscape character. The initial survey is extensive in scope and records over 300 sites.  The Review of Local Landscape Designations sets out to evaluate landscapes of merit across the city, based upon an assessment of landscape character and quality. This process is selective in order to recognise Edinburgh's most distinctive landscapes through a designation which will be applied to discrete parts of the Council Area.

cSLA No.	LCA Nos.	cSLA Name	Respondent	Comment	Recommendation
					<p>Whilst sharing a fundamental landscape dimension, the Survey and Review differ in terms of approach and the application of assessment criteria.</p> <p>The Review's consultative draft omits Dreghorn Woodland and Barracks from the candidate Special Landscape Area recommendations. When assessed against the Review's criteria, Dreghorn Estate was ranked just below the top third of landscape character areas, which were taken forward as candidate Special Landscape Areas.</p> <p>A number of other lower scoring landscapes were included as candidate SLAs due to their strong visual or physical associations with adjacent higher scoring landscape character areas. The consultative draft also sought to establish a measure of community support for the series of cSLAs identified.</p> <p>Dreghorn Estates' existing AGLV status has been recently re-affirmed by the Council and there is strong public support for a local landscape designation to be retained. It is therefore recommended that Dreghorn Estate should be included within the Pentland Hills candidate Special Landscape Area, in order to be considered for designation through the Local Development Plan process.</p> <p>As such the candidate SLA boundary has been refined and accompanying written statement revised.</p>

<b>cSLA No.</b>	<b>LCA Nos.</b>	<b>cSLA Name</b>	<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
				The Dreghorn Estate is part of the city's planning heritage, forming part of the 'Dreghorn and Redford Wedge', identified in Abercrombie and Plumstead's 'A Civic Survey and Plan for Edinburgh', which proposed the designation of a Green Belt with 'green wedges' extending into the built up zone.	This comment refers to the Green Belt and is out with the scope of the Review of Local Landscape Designations.
				The Dreghorn Estate has long been recognised with AGLV status and this was supported by the Report of Inquiry for South West Edinburgh Local Plan.	Noted. Refer to response above.
				There is strong public support to retain the Dreghorn Estate, in particular the Polo Fields, as undeveloped land due to its landscape, wildlife and long-term recreation value.	Noted. Refer to response above.
				The Review implies that it is in accordance with the European Landscape Convention (ELC) but as the view of local people do not appear to have been taken into account, the Review does not follow the Convention's principle of community involvement in spatial planning.	Not accepted. The consultative draft sought to establish a consistent approach to landscape evaluation across the Council Area. It provided the opportunity for communities to input to the process and comment upon candidate SLAs.

cSLA No.	LCA Nos.	cSLA Name	Respondent	Comment	Recommendation
				The specified criteria for Local Landscape Designation are relevant to all the comments made by CAA. Insufficient weight has been given to many of the criteria applicable to this area.	Not accepted. A consistent approach to landscape evaluation has been taken across the Council Area. Refer to response to Turley Associates' comments regarding weighting of scores.
			Turley Associates on behalf of Taylor Wimpey and Miller Homes	Taylor Wimpey and Miller Homes support the proposed omission of Dreghorn Polofields from the candidate Pentland Hills Special Landscape Area. This is consistent with the position taken by Taylor Wimpey and Miller Homes at the Edinburgh City Local Plan Inquiry.	Noted. The Council's decision is that the site has particular environmental and landscape qualities and interest which justify its designation as part of an Area of Great Landscape Value and a Local Nature Conservation Site.  For the reasons stated above in response to Colinton Amenity Association, the Dreghorn Estate will be considered as a candidate Special Landscape Area.
				Miller Homes and Taylor Wimpey's position is reflected in the Edinburgh City Local Plan Report of Inquiry. This concluded that 'the City By-Pass now forms a more obvious boundary between an urban influenced environment and a special landscape worthy of protection.'	Noted. Refer to response above.
				Miller Homes and Taylor Wimpey highlight the Reporters' Recommendations with regard to allocation of housing at Dreghorn Polo Fields, impact on the AGLV and provision of open space.	This comment refers to the allocation of land for housing and is therefore out with the scope of the Review of Local Landscape Designations.

cSLA No.	LCA Nos.	cSLA Name	Respondent	Comment	Recommendation
10	50	Corstorphine Hill	Turley Associates on behalf of Spire	<p>The Murrayfield Hospital site should not form part of the Corstorphine Hill cSLA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It has been scored excessively in terms of geology/geomorphology</li> <li>▪ is of a man-made character which contrasts with the natural characteristics of the hill</li> <li>▪ is visible only locally</li> <li>▪ Existing mature woodland to the north and east edge of the site should form the SLA boundary</li> </ul>	<p>Not accepted. The landscape character area scored 'High' in terms of Geology/Geomorphology, which is consistent with several other prominent urban hills. A pattern of wooded policies and villa houses is recognised as part of the Hill's characteristics. The site is visible from the wider environs and based upon a city-wide scale of landscape assessment and evaluation, forms an integral component of the Hill. SLA boundaries should reflect logical and cohesive units of land and may include areas of lesser quality within the urban area.</p>
			Craigeith/Blackhall Community Council:	<p>Welcome the Review and inclusion of Corstorphine Hill as a cSLA. The draft boundary selection omits Ravelston Woods which is of equivalent landscape and amenity value. The area makes a significant contribution to the City's landscape and can be readily viewed as part of Corstorphine Hill. Omitting Ravelston Woods is inconsistent with the inclusion of Ravelston Golf Course.</p>	<p>Noted. Ravelston Woods forms a natural extension of the Hill's topography. The cSLA boundary has been re-evaluated to include Ravelston Woods and Quarry, excluding Ravelston Park.</p>
			Council Working Group	<p>Review consistency of draft boundary.</p>	<p>Boundary of cSLA reassessed to reflect landform and landcover, including Ravelston Woods and Davidson's Mains Park.</p>
11	51	Craiglockhart	--	--	--

<b>cSLA No.</b>	<b>LCA Nos.</b>	<b>cSLA Name</b>	<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
12	59	Water of Leith – New Town	Council Working Group	Review consistency of draft boundary.	Boundary of cSLA refined to reflect river corridor, New Town Gardens and significant open space.
13	68 and 67	Inverleith	Council Working Group	Review consistency of draft boundary.	Boundary of cSLA refined to reflect significant open space.
14	62	Castle Rock	Council Working Group	Review consistency of draft boundary.	Boundary of cSLA refined to reflect significant open space and landform within the WHS.
15	63	Princes St Gardens	Council Working Group	Review consistency of draft boundary.	Boundary of cSLA refined to reflect significant open space and landform within the WHS.
16	64	Calton Hill	Council Working Group	Review consistency of draft boundary.	Boundary of cSLA refined to reflect significant open space, New Town Gardens and landform within the WHS.
17	56, 57, 58, 60	Holyrood, Duddingston and Prestonfield	Council Working Group	Review consistency of draft boundary.	Boundary of cSLA refined to omit land to the east of Meadowfield Drive and include Peffermill House.
18	48	Craigmillar	Council Working Group	To be re-named Craigmillar Castle.	

cSLA No.	LCA Nos.	cSLA Name	Respondent	Comment	Recommendation
19	49	The Drum	Turley Associates on behalf of SEEDCO:	<p>The boundary is not appropriate and does not reflect the wide variation in landscape quality. Both the cSLA boundary and that of the designed landscape should score less in terms of landscape quality. The area should be designated due to its cultural importance. This is reflected by the existing A listed Drum house and inclusion within the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes. An additional landscape designation is not considered to be appropriate.</p>	<p>Noted. Boundaries within the consultative draft were not subject to detailed refinement, however, in this case no further changes are recommended to the cSLA. As stated previously, scoring remains a starting point for further landscape evaluation. The cSLA boundary includes both 18-19<sup>th</sup> fields and land of lesser quality within the urban area with potential for enhancement, which flank the designed landscape and provide a foreground context to the Estate's wooded policies. The cSLA boundary reflects the urban edge to the north, Gilmerton Rd to the west, Old Dalkeith Road to the East and Inventory boundary to the south.</p> <p>The LDP will determine whether the cSLA duplicates the function of other designations. SNH and Historic Scotland's guidance acknowledges SLAs may co-inside with other designations and play a role in protecting parts of designated areas and their settings.</p>

cSLA No.	LCA Nos.	cSLA Name	Respondent	Comment	Recommendation
20	56	Edmonstone	Council Working Group	Review consistency of draft boundary.	Refinement of cSLA boundary to reflect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tree belts, woodlands and walling of designed landscape origin</li> <li>▪ Location of former Home Farm</li> <li>▪ Setting of the designed landscape</li> <li>▪ Landform</li> <li>▪ Landscape enhancement potential, including landscape quality of land allocated for business use</li> <li>▪ The safeguard and setting for outdoor recreation of the proposed South East Wedge Parkland</li> </ul>
21	52, 53, 54	Braids, Liberton and Mortonhall	Turley Associates on behalf of Miller Homes	<p>The boundary is not appropriate and does not reflect the wide variation in landscape quality. The existing AGLV boundary includes all land that is worthy of designation.</p> <p>The area to the south of Frogston Rd is of lesser value in terms of distinctiveness, scenic value, recreational enjoyment, cultural value, geology, continuity and connectivity.</p>	<p>Not accepted. The cSLA boundary reflects a city-wide scale of landscape assessment and evaluation. This identified Mortonhall, Morton House and Morton Mains to the south of Frogston Rd as part of the same landscape unit, sharing topographical characteristics and designed landscape origins. The landscape character assessment and evaluation acknowledge variations in landscape quality across the LCA but do not define this based upon Frogston Rd.</p> <p>Consequently, the cSLA extends the existing AGLV to the southwest, recognising the important farmland setting to the Morton Mains Conservation Area and visual association of the landscape character area with the Pentland Hills to the southwest.</p>

<b>cSLA No.</b>	<b>LCA Nos.</b>	<b>cSLA Name</b>	<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
21 (continued)	52, 53, 54	Braids, Liberton and Mortonhall	Turley Associates on behalf of Miller Homes	Discrepancies between figures indicate uncertainty regarding the inclusion of land to the south of Frogston Rd in the cSLA boundary.	Not accepted. Land to the south of Morton Mains was omitted from the cSLA detail map due to a drafting error. The cSLA boundary was correctly indicated in Figure 2, the overview map showing all 22 candidate SLAs and described as such in the draft Braids, Liberton and Mortonhall Statement of Importance.
				The inclusion of the entirety of LCA 54 Liberton Fringes is also questioned.	Not accepted. Comments upon inclusion by association have been addressed above. In addition, this statement is inconsistent with support expressed for the existing AGLV boundary.
			M. Scott	Supports inclusion of area to the south of Frogston Rd	Noted.
			Liberton Association	The area should be confirmed as an SLA. 'Statements of Importance' are succinct and comprehensive; however, omit two significant and historically important buildings - Liberton House and Liberton Tower.	Noted: The revised Statement of Importance addresses this comment.
22	11	Craigie Hill	Council Working Group	Review consistency of draft boundary.	The cSLA boundary reflects the nearest field boundary to prominent break in slope.