



City of Edinburgh Green Belt Review

Landscape Setting and Identity

City of Edinburgh Council

Final report

Prepared by LUC

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 LUC was commissioned by the City of Edinburgh Council to undertake a review of Edinburgh's existing green belt and designated countryside policy areas, as defined by the current local development plan, City Plan 2030. The review evaluates the areas against National Planning Framework 4 Green Belt Policy's second outcome in relation to landscape setting and identity of settlements, to consider the spatial form and integrity of the green belt in each location, to review boundary markers and also notes the role of Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) in terms of protecting, enhancing and providing access to multifunctional blue and green networks and open space.

Adjoining local authorities

1.2 The review is being carried out with reference to the 2008 Green Belt Study and NPF4 to ensure consistency with approaches in the three local authorities – City of Edinburgh, Midlothian and East Lothian, which share the green belt. Whilst each authority is at a different stage in preparing their Local Development Plan, liaison is being maintained via a working group and data sharing.

Background and context to the Edinburgh Green Belt Study Report 2008

1.3 The Edinburgh Green Belt extends around the western, southern and eastern edge of the city across the three local authorities of City of Edinburgh, Midlothian and East Lothian. It provides a strategic role in directing growth to the most sustainable locations and maintaining the setting and identity of individual settlements.

1.4 In 2007, the then Strategic Development Planning Authority for south-east Scotland commissioned Land Use Consultants (LUC) to do a 'broad brush' landscape study of the green belt based on two of the three objectives outlined in the then Scottish Planning Policy document, policy SPP21, these were:

- 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.

1.5 The following criteria were used to assess the second objective to protect and enhance the character, landscape setting and identity of towns/cities:

- Integrity of landscape character;
- Distinctiveness of landscape character;
- Landscape condition;
- Potential for enhancement of landscape condition;
- The role of the landscape in question in contributing to the setting of Edinburgh/surrounding settlements; and
- Robustness and sustainability of existing boundaries in landscape terms.

1.6 These criteria were weighted to give priority to the setting and identity of settlements. The third objective to protect/enhance open space (set out as a consideration within the Planning Circular at that time) within and around towns and cities was assessed on the following:

- The existing role of the area in providing accessible open space;
- The existing role of the area within wider networks of open spaces within and around settlements;
- Connections with core paths and other access networks;
- The role and potential as part of the Forest Habitat Network; and
- Influencing factors from neighbouring authorities.

1.7 The 2007 Edinburgh Green Belt Study was based on a Local Landscape Character Assessment applying to Edinburgh and the Lothians.

Background to the 2026 Edinburgh Green Belt Review

1.8 The 2026 Edinburgh Green Belt Review has been carried out in alignment with NPF4 and the Scottish Government's Local Development Planning Guidance (LDP Guidance). At the Evidence Report stage, it is focussed on the second outcome of NPF4 Green Belt Policy, which is that *"The character, landscape, natural setting and identity of settlements is protected and enhanced"*. As set out in NPF4:

Policy Intent: To encourage, promote and facilitate compact urban growth and use the land around our towns and cities sustainably.

Policy Outcomes:

- Development is directed to the right locations, urban density is increased and unsustainable growth is prevented.
- The character, landscape, natural setting and identity of settlements is protected and enhanced.
- Nature networks are supported and land is managed to help tackle climate change.

1.9 This is consistent with the approach taken in the review of The Edinburgh Green Belt within the neighbouring authorities of Midlothian and East Lothian. This report uses the updated 2026 Edinburgh Landscape Character Assessment's (ELCA) landscape character areas as the basis for the green belt evaluation and should be referred to for context.

1.10 As well as reviewing existing land within the green belt, the review also considers land currently designated as Countryside Policy Areas, to clarify if and where a countryside or rural designation should apply in the context of Edinburgh, or if there are additional areas which meet green belt criteria.

1.11 The findings on landscape setting and identity, will be combined with evidence on the third outcome (NPF4 Green Belt Policy) in relation to Nature Networks and land managed to tackle climate change, at the Proposed Plan Stage of Edinburgh's next local development plan. The review does not set out changes to existing designations.

Chapter 2

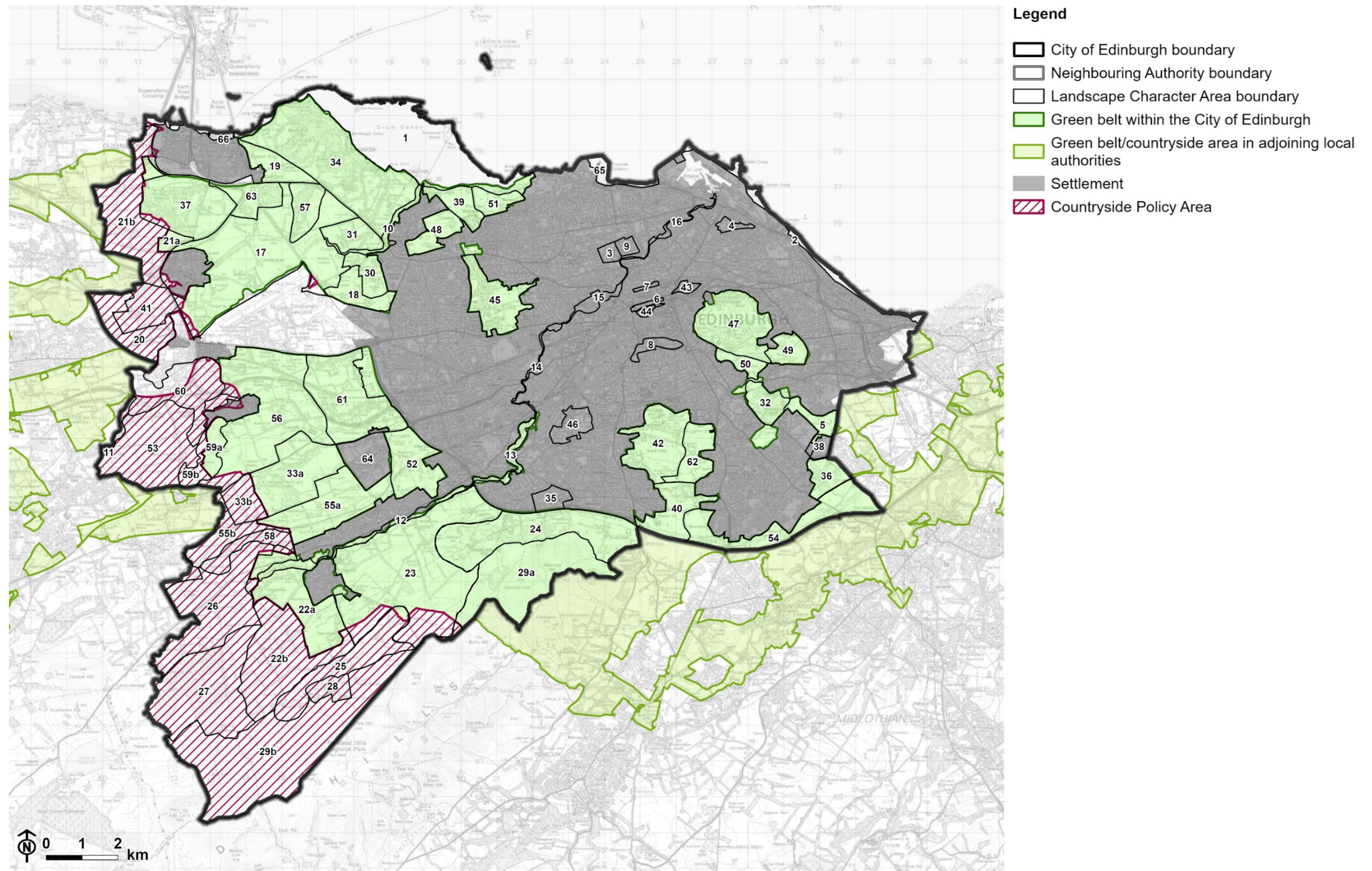
Methodology

2.1 This section describes the methodology applied to the evaluation of the LCA against the green belt review criteria in relation to setting, identity, open space and boundary strength. This is informed by the [Scottish Government's 2023 National Planning Framework 4 \(NPF4\)](#) and the [Scottish Government's 2023 Local Development Planning Guidance](#).

2.2 The assessment covers all LCAs either entirely or partially within the existing green belt and relevant LCAs within the Countryside Policy Area (CPA). There are also LCAs that do not contain any existing green belt, because they are within settlement boundaries.

2.3 LCAs within settlement boundaries have been scoped out of this assessment where they are within the urban area and are not potential green belt. These include green spaces such as Inverleith Park, The Meadows and Leith Links. Figure 1 illustrates the area of green belt, the Countryside Policy Area and the LCA.

Figure 2.1: Current Edinburgh Green Belt and Countryside Policy Area



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2.4 A scoping process was carried out to identify those LCAs in the CPA to include in the assessment. Areas scoped out include LCAs which are remote from settlement and therefore their potential for green belt expansion is limited by their location. The approach to scoping is described in the section on 'Approach to evaluating Countryside Policy Areas' in section 3.

2.5 The process of green belt evaluation builds on the updated LCA and has involved the following key stages:

- Review and consideration of the content of the previous evaluation framework;
- Evaluation of scoped-in LCAs in line with the amendments made through the updated ELCA;
- Consideration of landscape and development change in neighbouring authorities;
- Review of the inner and outer strength of the green belt boundaries; and
- Noting the presence of any other visual boundary markers in relation to settlements.

2.6 In the spatial data used for this review, there are sections where the LCA and settlement boundaries do not align with each other, resulting in sections of green belt outside of LCAs. Examples of this occur around the edge of Balerno in the Water of Leith – Balerno to Juniper Green and Currie Farmland Slopes LCAs. It is recognised that the LCA boundaries are notional land parcels, and therefore areas of green belt such as this have been incorporated as part of the nearest LCA.

Assessment criteria

2.7 The assessment criteria reflect the policy intent of NPF4 and the LDP Guidance. The criteria for setting and identity reflect NPF4, and recreational use is identified in the LDP Guidance:

In addition to the outcomes stated in NPF4, green belts may support the spatial strategy by:

- Protecting, enhancing and providing access to multifunctional blue and green networks and open space.

2.8 Recreational use has been reflected in the assessment criteria, however it is recognised as having a lower weighting than the main policy outcome criteria of setting and identity referenced in NPF4.

The role of the landscape in question in contributing to setting

2.9 The following decision prompts and descriptive statements enable qualitative evaluation of the role of the local landscape in contributing to the setting of settlements.

Decision rules

- Does the landscape play a role in contributing to the physical or functional relationship between the settlement and the surrounding landscape?
- How important is the landscape in relation to citywide or local views from locations, such as landmarks, hills and recreational areas and routes, outward views from the area and its overall pattern of visibility?
- How important is it in views from main transport corridors?
- Does the landscape play an important role in the setting of Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments, World Heritage Sites, Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Local Landscape Areas, undesignated historic assets or other local landmarks or features?

Evaluation guidance

- High – The landscape has a strong visual relationship with a settlement or landmark/recreational area and is important in views.
- Medium-high – The landscape has a fairly strong visual relationship with a settlement or landmark/recreational area and has some significance in views.
- Medium – The landscape has some relationship with a settlement or landmark/recreational area and is important in some views.
- Medium-low – The landscape has a low or limited visual relationship with a settlement or landmark/recreational area.
- Low – The landscape has a very low or very limited visual relationship with a settlement or landmark/recreational area.

The role of the landscape in question in contributing to settlement identity

2.10 The following decision prompts and descriptive statements enable qualitative evaluation of the role of the local landscape in contributing to the identity of settlements.

Decision rules

- Does the landscape contribute to appreciation of the settlement form or pattern?
- Are elements of the wider landscape important to the settlement identity? (e.g. rivers, hills, trees and woodland which are important to settlement identity)
- Does the landscape include distinctive features which contribute to a sense of place?
- Does the landscape contribute to settlement identity through providing physical, visual or perceptual distinction between settlements?

Evaluation guidance

- High – The landscape is distinctive and/or has an important relationship with the identity of settlements.
- Medium-high – The landscape is quite distinctive and there is some strength in the relationship with settlement identity.
- Medium – The landscape has some distinctive features and representativeness and/or plays some role in settlement identity.
- Medium-low – The landscape has few distinctive features or representativeness and limited role in settlement identity.
- Low – The landscape is not highly distinctive or representative or does not play a key role in settlement identity.

Role for recreational use

2.11 The following decision prompts and descriptive statements enable qualitative evaluation of the role of the local landscape in contributing to recreational opportunities.

Decision rules

- Is the area a recognised green space, country or regional park or otherwise identified recreation area with a network of access routes?
- Does the area provide an important role in the connectivity between open spaces within and around settlements?
- Is the area connected to core paths and other access routes?

Evaluation guidance

- High – Recognised recreation area e.g. country park or regional park or area with a dense network of access routes and open access.
- Medium-high – Good network of formal paths/locally important recreational area, park or green space/important link between areas.
- Medium – Network of formal paths/extensive network of informal paths/golf course.
- Medium-low – Limited formal or informal path provision or recreational use.
- Low – Very limited formal or informal path provision or poor connectivity for recreation.

Presence of strong and clearly identifiable boundaries

2.12 The following decision prompts and descriptive statements enable qualitative evaluation of the role of inner and outer green belt boundaries in providing clearly identifiable visual markers and comments on other visual features in the locality.

Evaluation guidance

- Robust – Boundary features include rivers, main roads (A and B roads) and motorways, railways and significant changes in topography, woodland belts or blocks, and combinations of these features.
- Moderate to robust – Moderate boundary feature in combination with another feature, or strong boundary feature with some loss of integrity e.g. a degraded woodland belt.
- Moderate – Boundary features include minor roads, walls, treelines, hedgerows, minor water courses, change in topography (steepness of slope or aspect).

- Weak to moderate – Garden boundary or degraded field boundary feature which also includes some element which adds to robustness e.g. boundary trees, or subtle slope change.
- Weak – Boundary features include residential gardens, degraded field boundaries and unrelated to landform.

Countryside Policy Areas

Approach to evaluating Countryside Policy Areas

2.13 The area to the west of Edinburgh, between the existing green belt and the Council boundary, is classified as Countryside Policy Area (CPA), with an associated policy framework. A scoping exercise was undertaken to identify those LCAs in the CPA which should be evaluated for their potential as green belt.

2.14 Some LCAs are partially within the green belt and partially within the CPA. All of these LCAs have been scoped into the assessment. A pragmatic approach has been taken as to whether to evaluate the green belt and CPA areas within each LCA separately or not. Criteria informing this decision include the relative area of the green belt and CPA within the LCA, proximity to settlement, and proximity to any adjoining green belt/Countryside Belt in West Lothian Council.

2.15 For those LCAs which only include a very small area of CPA, the evaluation outcomes for the wider LCA have been applied. This is to avoid assessing very small areas of land which would distort the evaluation.

2.16 Some LCAs are entirely within the CPA. If these areas are not close to settlements or existing green belt, they have been scoped out of the assessment.

2.17 The first section of Appendix C outlines whether each of the LCAs within the CPA has been scoped in or out, and the approach taken to assessment for each scoped in LCA. The second section of Appendix C includes the assessments of the scoped in LCAs within the CPA.

Other methodological considerations

2.18 LCA boundaries are indicative and relate to broad areas of landscape. There are instances where LCA and GB boundaries are not in alignment. However, the full extent of the GB has been evaluated in each instance.

Chapter 3

Findings

3.1 This chapter sets out the findings of the strategic review of the green belt. Firstly, it summarises the findings of the evaluation process for the current green belt in terms of overall performance against NPF4 Policy 8's second outcome in relation to setting and identity. The detailed information in Appendix A provides justification and evaluation of these for each LCA.

3.2 This is supported by evaluation of the recreational role of these areas, and of the robustness of their boundaries. Where green belt boundaries are less robust in relation to a settlement area, this chapter outlines where there are other visual markers in the landscape. Boundary strength is shown on the individual maps for each LCA and provides an overview of the typical robustness of sections. This includes both inner boundary strength adjacent to settlement and the outer edge.

3.3 Secondly, this chapter provides indicative findings regarding areas of potential green belt extension into the Countryside Policy Area (CPA) and conversely where a tailored rural designation may be appropriate. Areas outside of the green belt are typically lower scoring in relation to setting and identity than the current green belt but do play some role for recreational use. The potential for green belt expansion is also related to the presence of new robust alternative outer boundaries.

3.4 The chapter conclusions are presented within the wider context of other strategic considerations including:

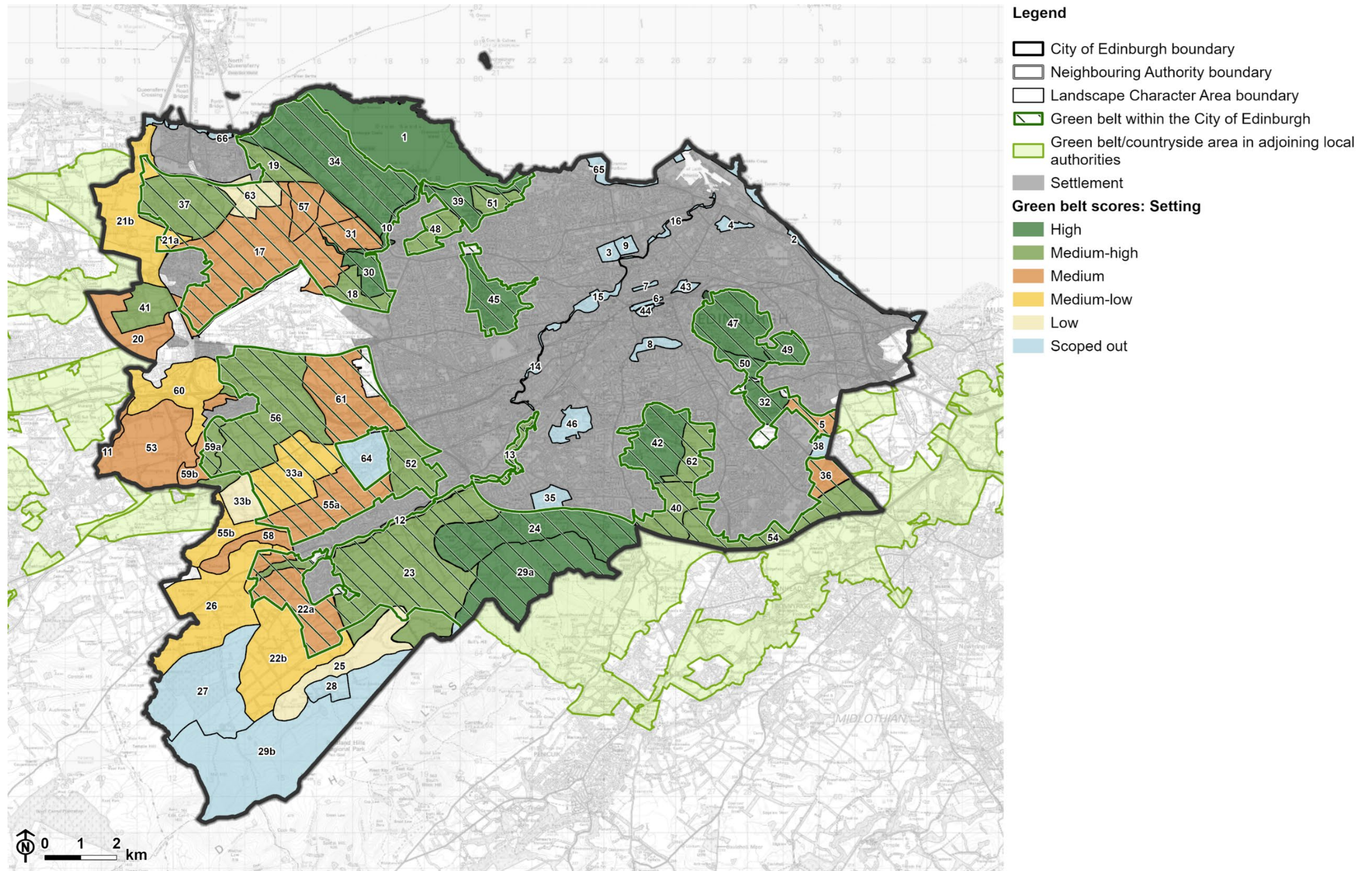
- Robustness and coherence of the green belt as a whole, including the relationship with green belt and anticipated development in neighbouring authorities. This includes continuity with areas of Countryside Belt in West Lothian (acknowledging that these areas are currently under review).
- Robustness and coherence of the green belt boundary line.

Evaluation of current Green Belt

3.5 A summary of the evaluations for all LCAs is provided in Table 3.1. The evaluation scores are also illustrated on Figure 3.1: Green Belt Setting Evaluation, Figure 3.2: Green Belt Identity Evaluation, and Appendix 3, Figure 3.3 Green Belt Recreational Use Evaluation. This illustrates that the majority of LCAs which are currently green belt score well (medium or above) in terms of landscape setting and settlement identity, and additionally often play an important role in recreational use.

3.6 Areas of current green belt close to settlement which perform less well against green belt criteria are LCA 63: Queensferry Fragmented Farmland, which contains a number of developed features and infrastructure which reduces its green belt role in relation to setting and identity. Other LCAs which score lower typically contain only small pockets of green belt at the periphery of the green belt. This applies to LCA 21a: Newton Farmland, LCA 25: Redford Basin, LCA 26: Water of Leith Farmland Slopes, and LCA 33b: Dalmahoy Policies. The evaluation reflects the wider extent of the LCA of which only a very small proportion is green belt.

Figure 3.1: Heatmap of Green Belt evaluation for LCA – Setting



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Figure 3.2: Heatmap of Green Belt evaluation – Identity

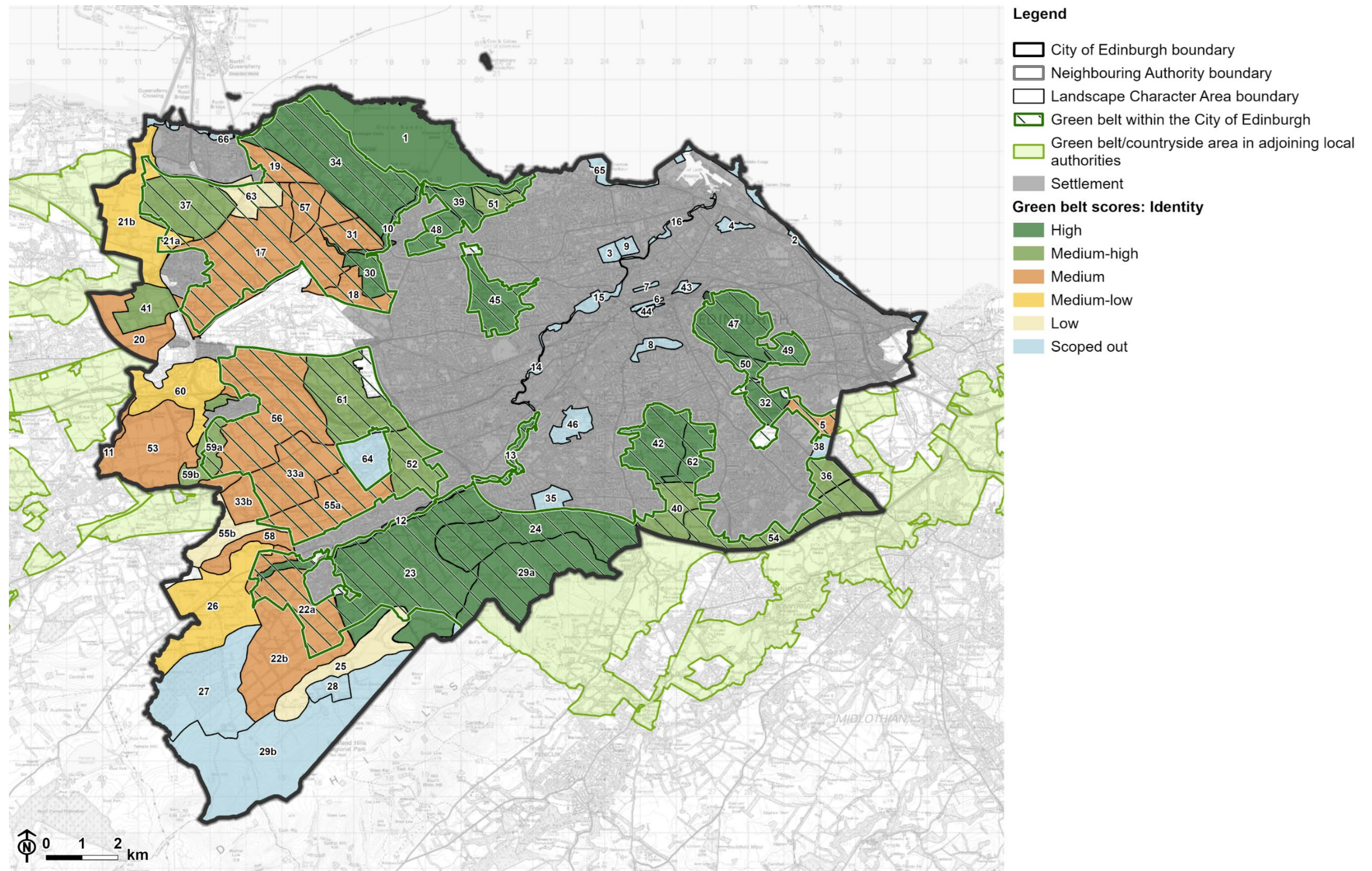


Table 3.1: Green Belt (GB) and Countryside Policy Area evaluations (non-GB)

Landscape Character Type	LCA No.	Landscape Character Area (LCA)	Setting	Identity	Green Belt in LCA	Recreational Use
Coastal Sands	1	Cramond Coast	High	High	Yes	High
Urban Greenspace	2	Portobello Sands	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Urban Greenspace	3	Inverleith Park	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Urban Greenspace	4	Leith Links	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Urban Greenspace	5	Little France Park	Medium	Medium	Yes	Medium-high
Urban Greenspace	6	Princes Street Gardens	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Urban Greenspace	7	Queen Street Gardens	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Urban Greenspace	8	The Meadows	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Urban Greenspace	9	The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Incised River Valley	10	Lower Almond Valley	High	High	Yes	High
Incised River Valley	11	Upper Almond Valley	Medium	Medium	No	Medium-high
Incised River Valley	12	Water of Leith – Balerno to Juniper Green	Medium-high	High	Yes	High
Incised River Valley	13	Water of Leith – Spylaw to Slateford	Medium-high	High	Yes	High
Incised River Valley	14	Water of Leith – Slateford to Roseburn	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Incised River Valley	15	Water of Leith – New Town	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Incised River Valley	16	Water of Leith – Canonmills to the Shore	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Lowland Farmland	17	Almond Farmland	Medium	Medium	Yes	Medium
Lowland Farmland	18	Cammo Fringes	Medium-high	Medium	Yes	Medium
Lowland Farmland	19	Dalmeny Fringes	Medium-high	Medium	Yes	Medium-high
Lowland Farmland	20	Newbridge/Broxburn Farmland	Medium	Medium	No	Medium-low
Lowland Farmland	21a	Newton Farmland (GB)	Medium-low	Medium-low	Yes	Low
Lowland Farmland	21b	Newton Farmland (non-GB)	Medium-low	Medium-low	No	Medium
Pentland Flanks	22a	Cockburn Farmland and Shelterbelts (GB)	Medium	Medium	Yes	Medium
Pentland Flanks	22b	Cockburn Farmland and Shelterbelts (non-GB)	Medium-low	Medium	No	Medium
Pentland Flanks	23	Currie Farmland Slopes	Medium-high	High	Yes	High
Pentland Flanks	24	North Pentland Slopes	High	High	Yes (partial)	High
Pentland Flanks	25	Redford Basin	Low	Low	Yes (partial)	High
Pentland Flanks	26	Water of Leith Farmland Slopes	Medium-low	Medium-low	Yes (partial)	Medium
Pentland Flanks	27	West Pentland Fringe	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Pentland Hills – Upper Slopes and Summits	28	Bavelaw Farmland and Shelterbelts	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Pentland Hills – Upper Slopes and Summits	29a	Pentland Hills and Ridges (GB)	High	High	Yes (partial)	High
Pentland Hills – Upper Slopes and Summits	29b	Pentland Hills and Ridges (non-GB)	Scoped out	Scoped out	Yes	Scoped out
Policy Landscape	30	Cammo Policies	High	High	Yes	High
Policy Landscape	31	Craigiehall Policies	Medium	Medium	Yes	Medium-low

Landscape Character Type	LCA No.	Landscape Character Area (LCA)	Setting	Identity	Green Belt in LCA	Recreational Use
Policy Landscape	32	Craigmillar Policies	High	High	Yes	Medium-high
Policy Landscape	33a	Dalmahoy Policies (GB)	Medium-low	Medium	Yes	Medium-low
Policy Landscape	33b	Dalmahoy Policies (non-GB)	Low	Medium	No	Medium-low
Policy Landscape	34	Dalmeny Policies	High	High	Yes	High
Policy Landscape	35	Dreghorn Policies	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Policy Landscape	36	Drum Policies	Medium	Medium-high	Yes	Medium
Policy Landscape	37	Dundas Policies	Medium-high	Medium-high	Yes	Medium
Policy Landscape	38	Edmonstone Policies	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Policy Landscape	39	Lauriston Policies	High	High	Yes	Medium
Policy Landscape	40	Mortonhall Policies	Medium-high	Medium-high	Yes	Medium
Policy Landscape	41	Newliston Policies	Medium-high	Medium-high	Yes	Low
Prominent Urban Hills	42	Braid Hills	High	High	Yes	High
Prominent Urban Hills	43	Calton Hill	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Prominent Urban Hills	44	Castle Rock	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Prominent Urban Hills	45	Corstorphine Hill	High	High	Yes	High
Prominent Urban Hills	46	Craiglockhart	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Prominent Urban Hills	47	Holyrood Park	High	High	Yes	High
Recreational Open Space	48	Barnton Golf Courses	Medium-high	High	Yes	Medium-high
Recreational Open Space	49	Duddingston Golf Course	High	High	Yes	Medium-high
Recreational Open Space	50	Prestonfield Golf Course	High	High	Yes	Medium
Recreational Open Space	51	Silverknowes Golf Course	Medium-high	Medium-high	Yes	Medium-high
Rolling Farmland	52	Baberton Farmland	Medium-high	Medium-high	Yes	Medium
Rolling Farmland	53	Bonnington Farmland	Medium	Medium	N	Low
Rolling Farmland	54	Burdiehouse Farmland	Medium-high	Medium-high	Yes	Medium-low
Rolling Farmland	55a	Gowanhill Farmland (GB)	Medium	Medium	Yes	Medium
Rolling Farmland	55b	Gowanhill Farmland (non-GB)	Medium-low	Low	No	Medium
Rolling Farmland	56	Ratho Farmland	Medium-high	Medium	Yes	Medium-high
Rural Outcrop Hills	57	Craigie Hill	Medium	Medium	Yes	Medium
Rural Outcrop Hills	58	Kaimes Hill	Medium	Medium	No	Medium
Rural Outcrop Hills	59a	Ratho Hills (GB)	Medium-high	Medium-high	Yes	Medium
Rural Outcrop Hills	59b	Ratho Hills (non-GB)	Medium	Medium-high	No	Medium-high
Settled Farmland	60	Craigpark Fragmented Farmland	Medium-low	Medium-low	No	Medium
Settled Farmland	61	Gogar Farmland	Medium	Medium-high	Yes	Medium-high
Settled Farmland	62	Liberton Fringes	Medium-high	High	Yes	Medium-high
Settled Farmland	63	Queensferry Fragmented Farmland	Low	Low	Yes	Medium-low

Landscape Character Type	LCA No.	Landscape Character Area (LCA)	Setting	Identity	Green Belt in LCA	Recreational Use
Settled Farmland	64	Riccarton Campus	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Urban Waterfront	65	Granton and Leith Waterfront	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out
Urban Waterfront	66	Queensferry Waterfront	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out

Overview of Green Belt by area

3.7 This section summarises the evaluation (as set out in Appendix A) of the green belt and Countryside Policy Area surrounding each settlement in the City of Edinburgh Council area, and the robustness of existing settlement boundaries. Where there are notable sections of weak or weak to moderate boundary strength, landscape features are identified which could provide more robust visual boundary markers in the vicinity. Existing boundary features that are at least moderate in strength are described as 'adequately robust'.

3.8 This overview is described by settlement where discrete settlements exist, or by coherent sections of settlement edge. These are described in the west, from north to south, and around the southern edge of the city as baseline information.

Queensferry and Dalmeny

3.9 The LCAs surrounding Queensferry and Dalmeny are Newton Farmland to the west, Dundas Policies to the south, Queensferry Fragmented Farmland to the south-east, and Dalmeny Fringes to the east.

3.10 The farmland to the west plays a lesser role in settlement setting and identity, while the policy landscape at Dundas and the policy-adjacent farmland to the east near Dalmeny play relatively important roles. The fragmented farmland to the south-east plays a very limited role in settlement setting and identity.

3.11 The inner green belt boundary to the west and south is robust, following major roads. To the east, the inner green belt boundary with Queensferry follows main-line and disused railway lines and is robust. The boundary with Dalmeny village has some weaker sections of boundary, especially at its northern edge, however this area is important to the setting of the Dalmeny Conservation Area.

Kirkliston

3.12 The LCAs surrounding Kirkliston are Almond Farmland to the south, east and north, Newton Farmland to the west, and Newliston Policies to the south-west.

3.13 The farmland to the west plays a lesser role in settlement setting and identity, whereas the policy landscape at Newliston to the south-west plays a relatively important role. The farmland surrounding the south, east and north of Kirkliston is of medium importance to its setting and identity.

3.14 The settlement boundaries which adjoin green belt in the Almond Farmland LCA are largely robust, except to the north-east at the edge of recent development. There are few alternative visual markers near the settlement, but there is a low wooded scarp near Craighrae Farm approximately 1km away.

3.15 The boundaries with the CPA on the western and southern side of Kirkliston are adequately robust.

Ratho Station

3.16 Ratho Station is bounded by the settlement/urban areas of Newbridge to the west and Edinburgh Airport to the north. Ratho Farmland LCA is located to the south-east of the settlement and Craigpark Fragmented Farmland LCA is located to the south-west.

3.17 The farmland to the south-east plays a more important role in settlement setting and identity than the fragmented farmland to the south-west.

3.18 The green belt boundary is weak to the east, formed by garden boundaries at the edge of a recent housing development. Alternative visual markers include woodland belts and a railway line.

3.19 The south-western boundary of the settlement follows a tree-lined minor road and is robust.

Ratho

3.20 Ratho village is surrounded by the LCAs of Craigpark Fragmented Farmland to the west, Ratho Farmland to the east, and Ratho Hills to both the south and the north, split by the village.

3.21 The hills to the south and the farmland to the east play a more important role in the setting and identity of the village than the fragmented farmland to the west and the small area of hill to the north.

3.22 Extensive sections of the green belt boundary with Ratho are weak, following garden boundaries. Alternative visual markers include the wooded edge of Ratho Park Golf Course to the south-east, a tree belt near Ashley Farm some distance to the east, and the M8 to the north.

3.23 The settlement boundaries with the CPA are adequately robust, following woodland to the north and pronounced slopes to the west of recent housing development.

Edinburgh Airport

3.24 Edinburgh Airport is located between the LCAs of Almond Farmland to the north-west, Cammo Fringes to the north-east, Gogar Farmland to the south-east, and Ratho Farmland to the south-east. Ratho Station is adjacent to the west and West Craigs in Edinburgh adjoins to the east.

3.25 The southern green belt boundary follows the M8 and is robust. The northern green belt boundary follows a variety of adequately robust features, except for a weaker section to the north-west along field boundaries. The River Almond and minor roads provide alternative visual markers.

Heriot Watt/Riccarton/Hermiston

3.26 The area is surrounded by the LCAs of Gogar Farmland to the north, Baberton Farmland to the east, Gowanhill Farmland to the south, and Dalmahoy Farmland to the west.

3.27 The areas surrounding the Riccarton campus contribute to its rural setting, although woodland belts at the campus edge limit views. Gogar Farmland and Baberton Farmland are important in maintaining its separate identity from the Edinburgh urban area to the east.

3.28 Along the edges of the Riccarton campus, woodland belts and roads form robust green belt boundaries. The green belt boundary with Hermiston in the north-east is weak, following the edges of gardens. The Union Canal and minor roads provide alternative visual markers.

Ravelrig, Currie, Juniper Green and Baberton

3.29 Baberton Farmland LCA borders Baberton, Juniper Green and north-east Currie, while to the west Gowanhill Farmland LCA borders north-west Currie and Ravelrig (a northern suburb of Balerno). Water of Leith: Colinton to Balerno LCA forms the southern boundary of the settlements, while the western edge of Ravelrig adjoins Cockburn Farmland and Shelterbelts LCA and Kaimes Hill LCA.

3.30 Baberton Farmland and the Water of Leith are important to the setting of adjacent settlements. Gowanhill Farmland, Kaimes Hill, and Cockburn Farmland and Shelterbelts are of medium importance.

3.31 The green belt boundary strength with Baberton and Juniper Green is adequately robust. The boundary with northern Currie and Ravelrig is of mixed strength with extensive moderate and weak to moderate sections. The railway line provides an alternative visual marker in this area. The southern boundary with the Water of Leith valley and the short western boundary with Kaimes Hill are largely robust, except a small weak area near Ravelrig House where the river could provide a clearer visual marker.

Balerno

3.32 Balerno village is bordered by the LCAs of Water of Leith: Colinton to Balerno to the north, Cockburn Farmland and Shelterbelts to the west and south-west, and Currie Farmland Slopes to the east and south-east.

3.33 The Water of Leith and Currie Sloping Farmland are important to the setting and identity of Balerno, while Cockburn Farmland and Shelterbelts are of medium importance.

3.34 The settlement boundaries with the surrounding green belt are adequately robust, except in the south-east near Malleny Mills along garden boundaries. No clear alternative visual markers have been identified in this area.

Cramond, Cammo, Silverknowes and Muirhouse

3.35 This group of suburbs in north-west Edinburgh is bordered by Lower Almond Valley LCA and Cammo Policies LCA to the west. The LCAs of Barnton Golf Course, Lauriston Policies, Silverknowes Golf Course and Cramond and Silverknowes/Muirhouse.

3.36 All of these areas of green belt are important to the setting and identity of the settlements.

3.37 The green belt boundary at the western edge of Cramond and Cammo is largely robust. There is a weak section of boundary at the north-east edge of Cramond, but it is close to Cramond Conservation Area and therefore important to setting.

West Craigs

3.38 This group of suburbs in west Edinburgh is bordered by Cammo Fringes LCA to the north of West Craigs and the west of East Craigs.

3.39 Cammo Fringes LCA is important to the setting of surrounding settlements and of medium importance to their identities.

3.40 The green belt boundaries with settlement in this area are adequately robust, following roads.

Corstorphine Hill

3.41 Corstorphine Hill LCA is surrounded by suburbs of west Edinburgh including Clermiston, Corstorphine, Murrayfield, Ravelston, Blackhall and Davidson's Mains.

3.42 The green belt of Corstorphine Hill is very important to the setting and identity of the surrounding suburbs, and the wider city of Edinburgh.

3.43 The green belt boundaries are adequately robust in most places, although there are a few weaker sections. One weaker section is at the northern edge the LCA, but this area is important to the setting of Barnton Avenue Conservation Area. Another weaker section of boundary is in the south-east of the LCA, but it is important to the setting of West Murrayfield Conservation Area.

Gogar to Baberton

3.44 The suburbs at the south-western edge of Edinburgh are bordered by Gogar Farmland LCA and Baberton Farmland LCA.

3.45 These areas of green belt are of medium to medium-high importance to the setting and identity of the adjacent suburbs.

3.46 The existing green belt boundary follows the A720 City Bypass and is robust. Land has been released for housing development west of the bypass near Millburn Tower. The edge of this parcel follows the railway line, a minor road, and tree lines and belts, which form adequately robust boundaries.

Juniper Green to Lothianburn Junction

3.47 The suburbs at the southern edge of Edinburgh are bordered by Currie Farmland Slopes LCA and North Pentland Slopes LCA. Water of Leith: Spylaw to Slateford LCA extends north-east into the city from Juniper Green.

3.48 These areas of green belt, particularly North Pentland Slopes, are important to the setting and identity of Edinburgh.

3.49 The green belt boundary to the south follows the A720 and is robust. The boundary of the Water of Leith valley with the surrounding suburbs is also robust.

Lothianburn Junction to Burdiehouse

3.50 An area of green belt extends towards the southern suburbs of Edinburgh including the LCAs of Mortonhall Policies, Braid Hills, Liberton Fringes and part of Burdiehouse Farmland.

3.51 These areas of green belt are important to the setting and identity of the surrounding settlement.

3.52 Most of the green belt boundaries are adequately robust. There is a weak section behind gardens at Liberton, but the area forms the setting for the Category A listed Liberton Tower. Near another weak section to the north-west of Alnwickhill, the woodland-lined Stanedykehead Road forms a clearer visual marker.

Burdiehouse to Gilmerton

3.53 The suburbs at the south-eastern edge of Edinburgh, between the A701 and the A7, are bordered by green belt in Burdiehouse Farmland LCA and Drum Policies LCA.

3.54 These areas are of medium to medium-high importance to the setting and identity of the surrounding suburbs.

3.55 Most of the green belt boundaries are adequately robust, with a few short weaker sections. No alternative visual markers are identified within the green belt.

Little France, Craigmillar, Prestonfield Golf Course, Duddingston Golf Course and Holyrood

3.56 An area of green belt extends towards the eastern suburbs of Edinburgh including the LCAs of Little France Park, Craigmillar Policies, Prestonfield Golf Course, Duddingston Golf Course and Holyrood Park.

3.57 These areas are of high importance to the setting and identity of the adjacent settlements, except Little France Park which is of medium importance.

3.58 Most of the green belt boundaries are adequately robust, with a few short weaker sections. The only significant weaker sections are at the edges of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and Greendykes, facing each other across Little France Park, and at the boundary with Edmonstone. There are no obvious alternative visual markers within the green belt in this area.

Evaluation of potential for Green Belt extension in the Countryside Policy Area

Approach to evaluating LCAs in the Countryside Policy Area

3.59 As outlined in the methodology, LCAs within the CPA have been scoped into or out of the assessment. This scoping process identified LCAs to the west of the existing green belt to be considered further for their potential role as green belt.

3.60 Building on the evaluation framework applied to the existing Edinburgh Green Belt, the assessment of each LCA within the CPA reflects:

- The evaluation scores against the green belt evaluation criteria;
- The strategic role of the area in relation to the other areas of existing green belt in Edinburgh;
- The strategic role of the area in relation to areas of development within West Lothian; and
- Potential boundary features.

3.61 Where a CPA meets with green belt policy outcomes, this could indicate potential for expansion of the green belt to these LCAs to be considered.

Countryside Policy Area evaluation – results and recommendations

3.62 The evaluation results for scoped in LCAs within the CPA are listed in Table 3.2.

3.63 The results include an indication of ‘Potential for Green Belt Expansion?’ for each scoped in LCA, based on its role in providing landscape setting and identity, the presence of adequately robust visual boundary markers, and strategic considerations.

3.64 The principal areas of CPA which could be considered for green belt extension based on these criteria include:

- LCA 41: Newliston Policies;
- LCA 20: Newbridge/Broxburn Farmland;
- Part of LCA 60: Craigpark Fragmented Farmland to the south of the M8;
- LCA 56: Ratho Farmland;
- LCA 59: Ratho Hills; and
- LCA 53: Bonnington Farmland.

3.65 Other areas in the CPA are not identified for potential green belt expansion based on the criteria used in this study. However, they could be considered as potential green belt based on other criteria including pressure for unsustainable development, climate and nature network evaluation findings.

Table 3.2: Countryside Policy Area evaluations (listed from north at South Queensferry to the Pentlands in the south) and compatibility with Green Belt setting and identity outcomes (evaluation of the value for recreational use is also shown)

LCA No.	LCA	Setting	Identity	Potential for Green Belt Extension?	Recreational Use
21b	Newton Farmland	Medium-low	Medium-low	No	Medium
37	Dundas Policies	Medium-high	Medium-high	No	Medium
41	Newliston Policies	Medium-high	Medium-high	Yes	Low
20	Newbridge/Broxburn Farmland	Medium	Medium	Yes	Medium-low
60	Craigpark Fragmented Farmland	Medium-low	Medium-low	Yes (part)	Medium
53	Bonnington Farmland	Medium	Medium	Yes	Low
11	Upper Almond Valley	Medium	Medium	No	Medium-high
59b	Ratho Hills	Medium	Medium-high	Yes	Medium-high
56	Ratho Farmland	Medium-high	Medium	Yes	Medium-high
33b	Dalmahoy Policies	Low	Medium	No	Medium-low
55b	Gowanhill Farmland	Medium-low	Low	No	Medium
58	Kaimes Hill	Medium	Medium	No	Medium
26	Water of Leith Farmland Slopes	Medium-low	Medium-low	No	Medium
22b	Cockburn Farmland and Shelterbelts	Medium-low	Medium	No	Medium
23	Currie Farmland Slopes	Medium-high	High	No	High
25	Redford Basin	Low	Low	No	High
29	Pentland Hills and Ridges (north-eastern unit only)	High	High	No	High

Appendix A

Evaluation of LCAs in the Existing Green Belt

Coastal Sands LCT

LCA 1: Cramond Coast

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – Partial, the coastal edge to mean high water.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- A low-lying coastline formed of rocky outcrops, beaches and an extensive swathe of intertidal sand and mudflats contribute to diversity of views and scenic quality. The importance of this area is reflected in its designation as the Southern Forth Coast Local Landscape Area (LLA).
- The Firth of Forth is an important feature in the setting of Edinburgh and is visible from the urban edge of Silverknowes, where it forms the focus of views. Longer ranging views are also experienced and from more elevated locations within the main city centre.
- The coastline and Firth of Forth are important to the setting of Lauriston Castle Garden and Designed Landscape.

Setting evaluation

- High

Identity

- The Cramond Coast, along with the adjacent Lauriston Policies LCA and Silverknowes Golf Course LCA, creates an area of green space which provides separation between the built-up areas of Cramond and Silverknowes. This helps retain the separate identities of Cramond and Silverknowes.
- The coastline and Firth of Forth contribute strongly to the identity of Cramond, providing highly scenic views as well as recreational opportunities.

- This area is unique within Edinburgh compared to more modified and built-up sections of the coastline further east.

Identity evaluation

- High

Recreational use

- Core paths run adjacent to the coastline, with the formal promenade at Cramond. The area offers a wide range of recreational opportunities both along the coast and to Cramond Island during low tide.
- The coastline has good footpath links to nearby areas including the Almond Valley and Silverknowes Golf Course. Although there are well-used footpath connections into the farmland of Lauriston Policies LCA, these are less formal and not designated.
- Coastal connectivity to the Dalmeny Estate in the west and the Granton and Leith waterfronts is also possible.

Recreational use evaluation

- High

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- Most of the eastern boundary follows West Shore Road, which abuts industrial land and Forth Quarter Park and adjacent blocks of flats at Granton. The road is lined in places by woodland blocks and treelines, and the boundary is between moderate and robust in strength.
- The short boundary with Cramond in the west follows minor roads (moderate) around the northern edge of the settlement. However, The Cramond Inn and car park sit within the green belt.

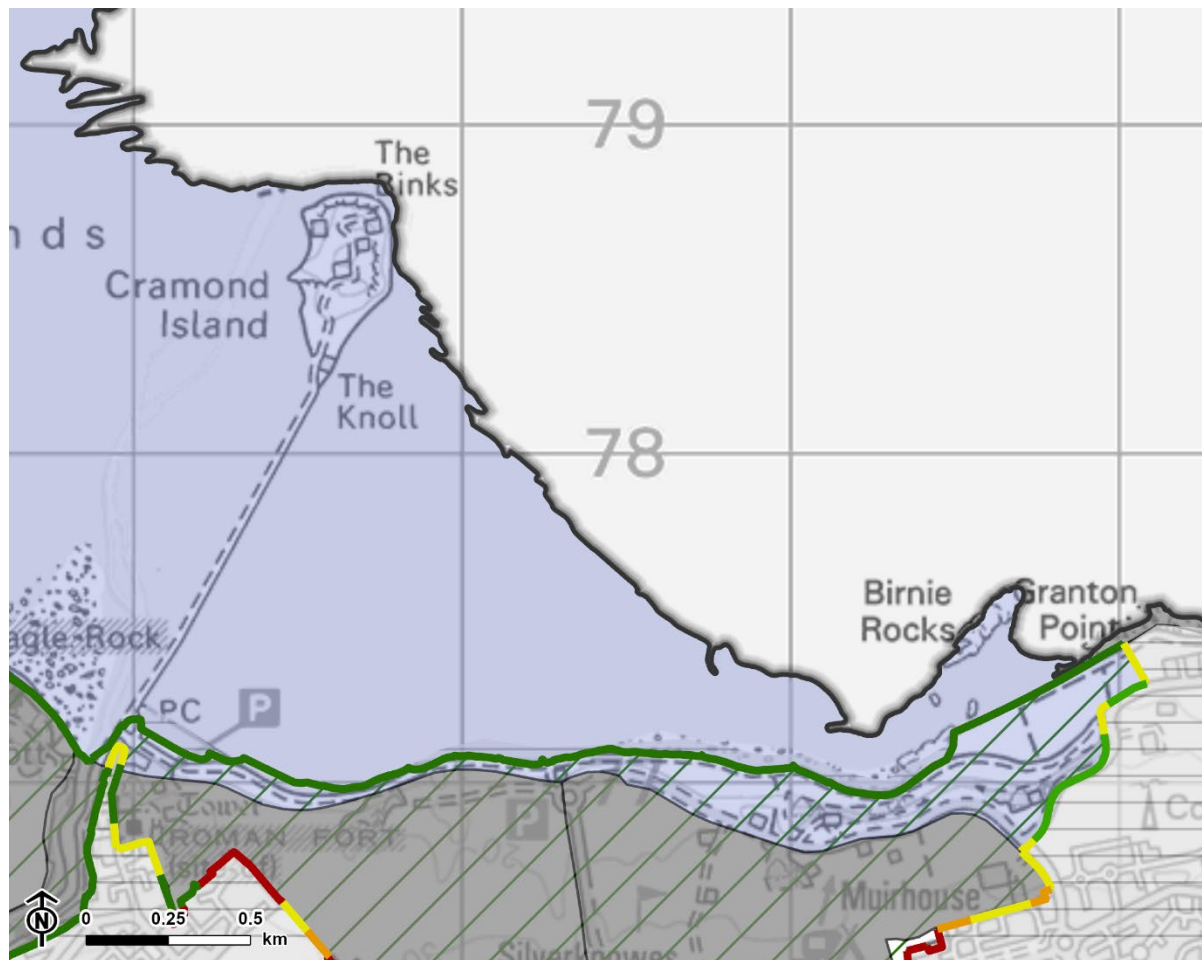
Strength of outer boundaries

- The Cramond coastline along the Firth of Forth forms a robust boundary to the north.

Presence of notable development

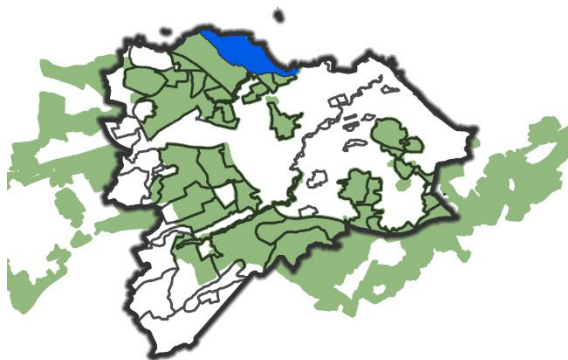
- None identified.

Figure A.1: Cramond Coast LCA



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- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Coastal Sands: Cramond Coast | Settlement |
| City of Edinburgh boundary | Green belt within the City of Edinburgh |
| Neighbouring Landscape Character Area | Green belt boundary strength |
| | Robust |
| | Moderate to robust |
| | Moderate |
| | Weak to moderate |
| | Weak |
| | N/A |



Urban Greenspace LCT

LCA 5: Little France Park

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – All.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- Little France Park consists of large, open meadows that have been heavily influenced by the urban edge of Craigmillar and the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh/Edinburgh BioQuarter, near Edinburgh's south-west boundary with Midlothian Council.
- The area includes a small area to the north of the Edmonstone Policies which provides some setting for the new development in the area.
- The LCA helps to connect a larger swathe of open space that extends from Holyrood Park into Midlothian. This swathe plays an important role in popular views from Holyrood Park, including Arthur's Seat.
- The LCA is prominent in views from Craigmillar Castle and contributes to its historic setting – although these are influenced by development at the Edinburgh BioQuarter. It is also highly visible from The Wisp.

Setting evaluation

- Medium

Identity

- The landscape has an important role in separating the Greendykes area from the residential areas to the west of the A7.
- Little France Parkland also connects designated green belt areas in Midlothian with Edinburgh's green belt.

- There are younger trees in the landscape, which will contribute to a stronger sense of identity as they mature.

Identity evaluation

- Medium

Recreational use

- The area contains a well-used network of local paths that connects to a wider path network and sections of core paths pass at the periphery.
- The LCA connects to the policies at Craigmillar Castle which are an important area of open space, and also to Hunter's Hall public park.
- There are informal paths in the fields associated with the Edmonstone Policies that plays a significant role in connecting this area with the wider path network in Little France Park, BioQuarter and provides links to roads and paths connecting into Danderhall.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium-high

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- The boundary to the south with Edinburgh BioQuarter and other development mainly follows a mixture of tree belts (some immature), treelines and minor roads. It is between moderate and robust in strength, with a weak section along fields.
- The boundary with Greendykes and Niddrie to the north follows a degraded woodland belt (moderate to robust), the edge of ongoing building work (currently weak) and Tobias Street (mainly moderate).

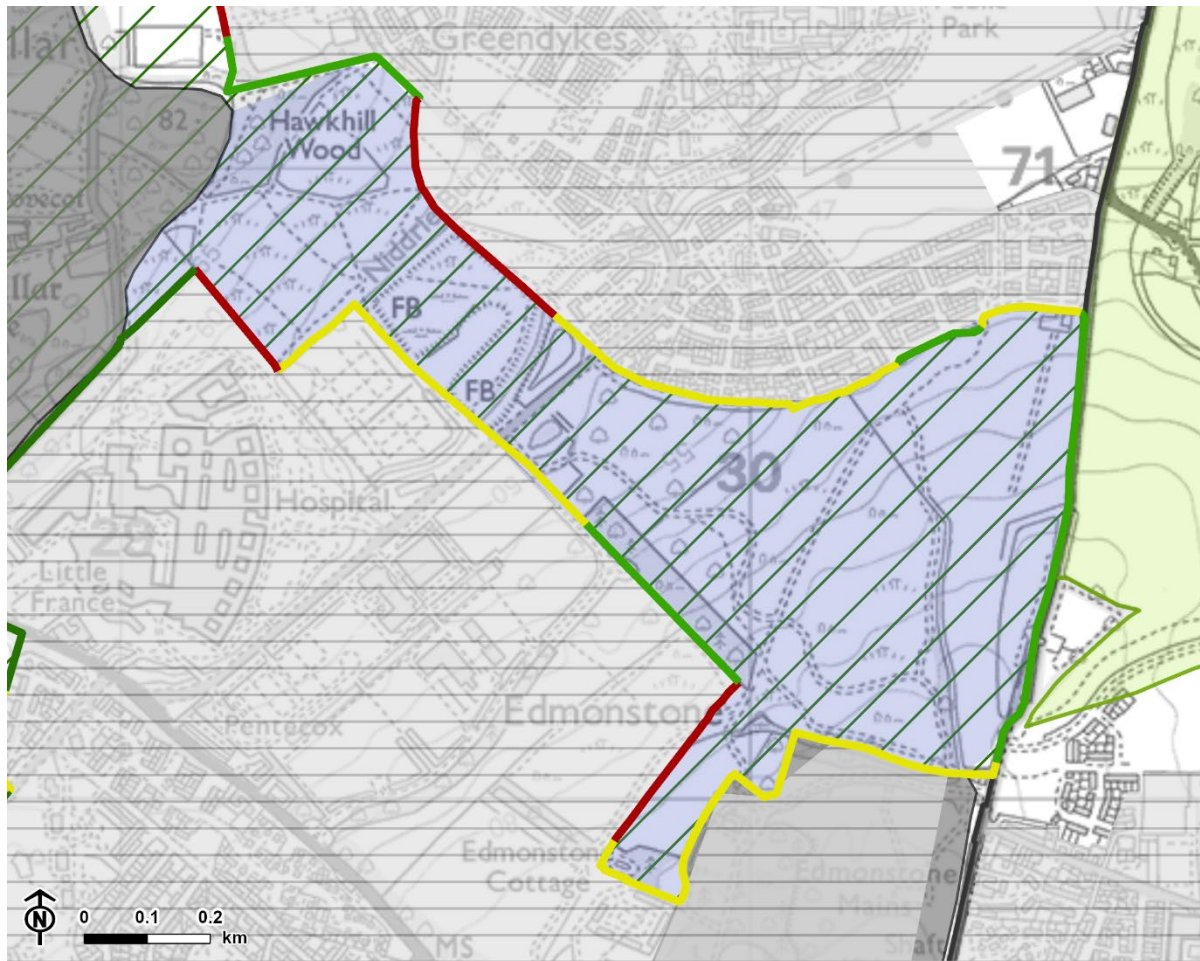
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.

Presence of notable development

- There is a commercial storage yard to the east.

Figure A.2: Little France Park LCA

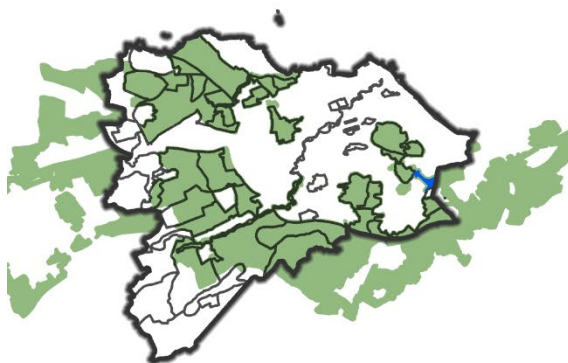


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- Urban Greenspace: Little France Park
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area
- Settlement
- Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt/countryside area in adjoining local authorities

Green belt boundary strength

- Robust
- Moderate to robust
- Moderate
- Weak to moderate
- Weak
- N/A



Incised River Valley LCT

LCA 10: Lower Almond Valley

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – LCA includes Haugh Park at Cramond Old Bridge, but this is within settlement and is not green belt.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- This incised wooded valley runs adjacent to the western boundary of Cramond and Barnton. Although the valley and river itself are not visually prominent from the urban area, the wooded nature of the valley has an influence on local views.
- This area is rare within Edinburgh in providing a relatively unmodified river valley where dense woodland and steep slopes give a semi-natural character and a sense of seclusion. Its unique characteristics are recognised through its designation as the Lower Almond LLA.
- Owing to its incised character the area is not prominent in views across the region.
- The Almond valley is glimpsed on the approach to Edinburgh from the A90 and is important in marking the 'threshold' to the city.
- The Almond valley is important to the setting of Dalmeny Garden and Designed Landscape, forming the south-western boundary, and extending the influence of woodland beyond Dalmeny Estate.

Setting evaluation

- High

Identity

- The landscape of the area is distinctive and rare to Edinburgh, being a steeply incised and relatively unmodified valley. It provides a wooded edge to the city which extends into the estate landscapes further west.
- The River Almond is a key part of the identity of the historic village of Cramond, and reflects the maritime history of the village with the Cramond quay at the mouth of the river.

Identity evaluation

- High

Recreational use

- The Lower Almond valley provides important and well-used recreational access along the edge of the city near Cramond.
- The River Almond Walkway is a popular walking route which provides connectivity between the designed landscape of Cammo and Cramond and the Firth of Forth, and wider connections into Dalmeny Estate in the west via the John Muir Way.

Recreational use evaluation

- High

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- The steep wooded slopes of the incised river valley provide a robust boundary to the urban edge of Cramond to the east of the area and Cammo to the south.

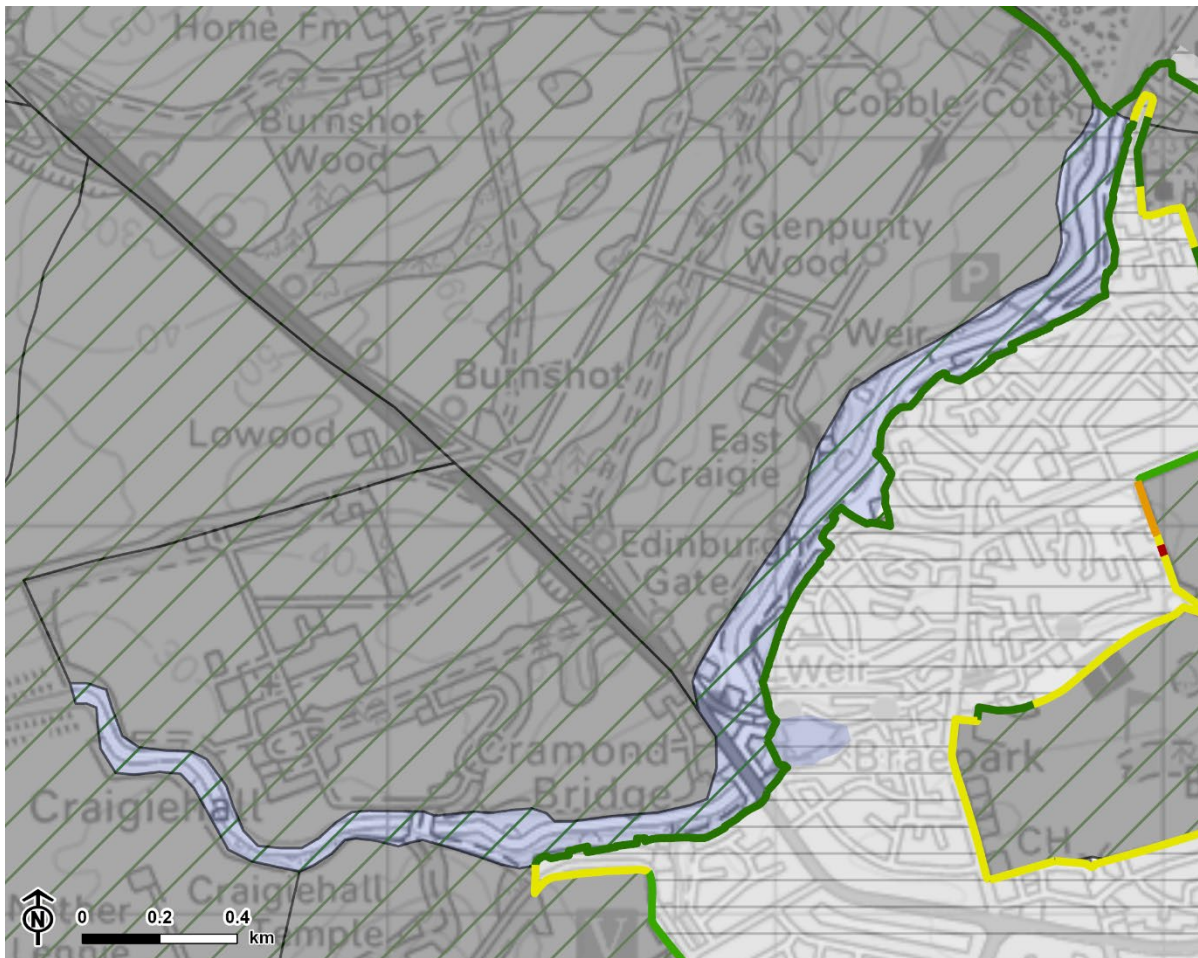
Strength of outer boundaries

- There is a very short outer boundary at the northern edge of the area. The Firth of Forth at the mouth of the River Almond forms a robust boundary.

Presence of notable development

- None identified.

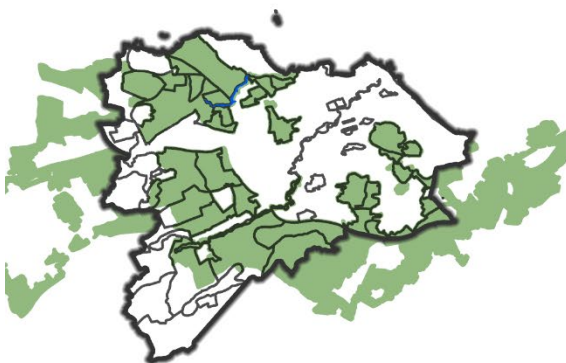
Figure A.3: Lower Almond Valley LCA



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- Incised River Valley: Lower Almond Valley
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area

- Settlement
- Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt boundary strength**
- Robust
- Moderate to robust
- Moderate
- Weak to moderate
- Weak
- N/A



LCA 11: Upper Almond Valley

Existing Green Belt?

- No.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- Yes.

Setting

- This incised, wooded river valley is located between Ratho and Newbridge in the City of Edinburgh, and Broxburn and Calderwood in West Lothian. It is not adjacent to any of these settlements.
- The area is prominent in views from the popular recreational route along the Union Canal towpath where it passes through the area over Lin's Mill aqueduct.
- The area is briefly glimpsed from the M8 where it crosses the valley at the northern edge of the LCA.
- Owing to its incised character the area is not prominent in views across the region.
- The area forms the Upper Almond LLA, which recognises the strong sense of naturalness, tranquillity and scenic value the valley contributes to the western edge of the Council area.

Setting evaluation

- Medium

Identity

- The landscape of the area is distinctive, being a steeply incised valley containing the major landmark of Lin's Mill aqueduct.
- This type of sandstone valley is a representative feature of the Lothians region.
- The area is not adjacent to any settlements and does not play a key role in local settlement identity.

Identity evaluation

- Medium

Recreational use

- The canal towpath over Lin's Mill aqueduct is a popular recreational route and core path, linking both east and west.
- Another core path provides a link between the canal and Calderwood and Almondell Country Park to the south-west of the area. There is no formal recreational access to the valley north of the canal.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium-high

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- Not applicable.

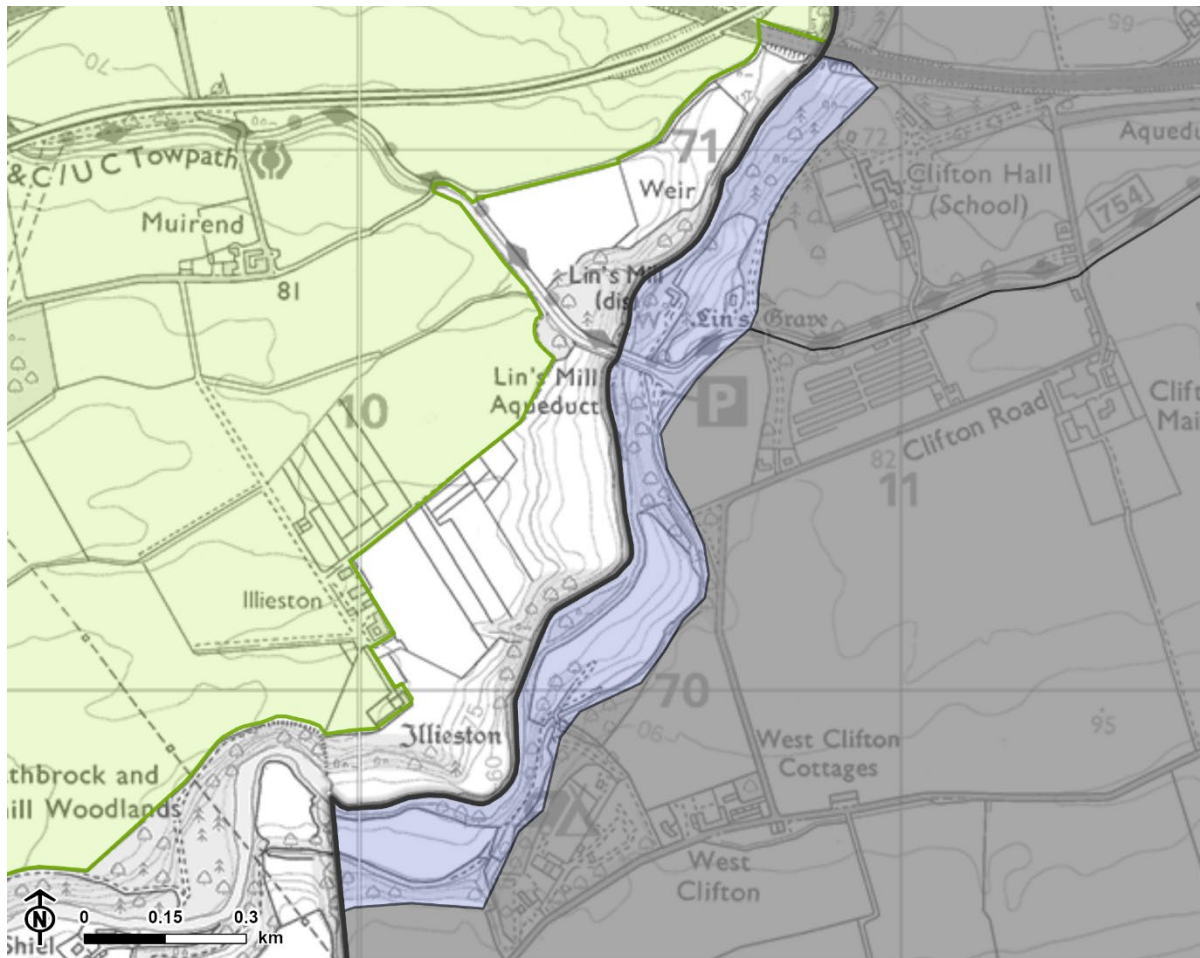
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.

Presence of notable development

- None identified.

Figure A.4: Upper Almond Valley LCA

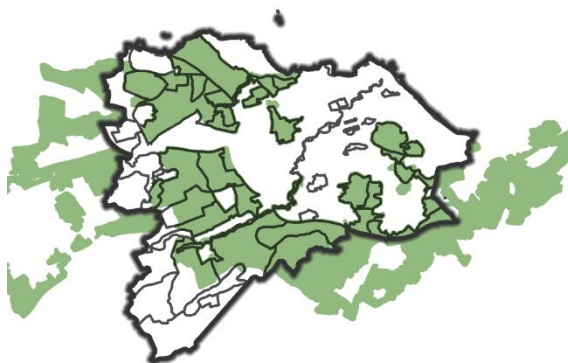


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- Incised River Valley: Upper Almond Valley
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area
- Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt/countryside area in adjoining local authorities

Green belt boundary strength

- Robust
- Moderate to robust
- Moderate
- Weak to moderate
- Weak
- N/A



LCA 12: Water of Leith – Balerno to Juniper Green

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – All.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- The area is visible from nearby housing within Juniper Green, Currie and Balerno, and is also viewed from the popular recreational routes within the valley.
- The valley is an important part of the landscape setting of these settlements and is a key feature within Balerno, and also forms part of the Water of Leith – West LLA.
- The narrow, incised character of the valley means that it is not prominent in wider views.

Setting evaluation

- Medium-high

Identity

- The Water of Leith was crucial for the historical development of Balerno, Currie and Juniper Green, providing a water source for mills along the river. As such, the river valley has an important relationship with these settlements.
- The incised narrow wooded valley and some older built features are very distinctive.
- This wooded valley forms a strong linear edge between the urban areas of Juniper Green and Currie and the steep farmed slopes which rise to the Pentland Hills.

Identity evaluation

- High

Recreational use

- A section of the Water of Leith Walkway runs along the valley, close to the neighbouring villages. This is an important recreational walking and cycling route linking central Edinburgh with the rural area to the south-west, via a number of settlements and open spaces.
- Water of Leith Walkway is a core path, with core path connections which link it to Bonaly, the Pentland Hills, and the area north-west of Currie and Balerno.

Recreational use evaluation

- High

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- The northern green belt edge adjoins the settlements of Juniper Green, Currie and the northern edge of Balerno.
- The settlement edge of Currie and Juniper Green mainly follows the river, the woodland edges along its length, and the A70, which form robust boundaries.
- In the north of Balerno, the boundary varies in strength, including tree belts (robust), tree lines and hedges (moderate), and garden boundaries (weak).
- There is also a green belt boundary with Balerno village to the south-west, which follows the wooded banks of the Water of Leith (robust) behind gardens. The short section of boundary crossing the Water of Leith follows Bridge Road (moderate).

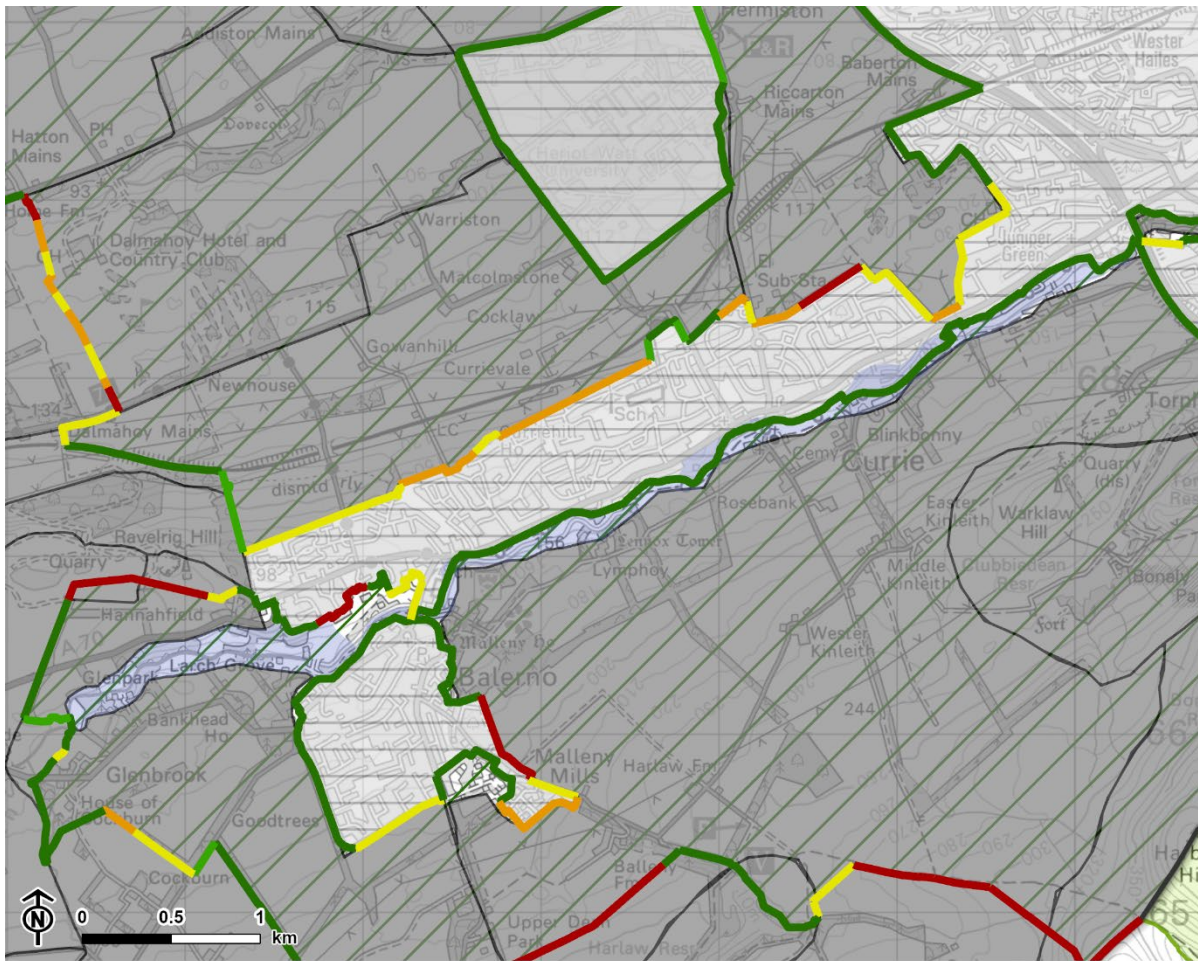
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.

Presence of notable development

- None identified.

Figure A.5: Water of Leith - Balerno to Juniper Green LCA

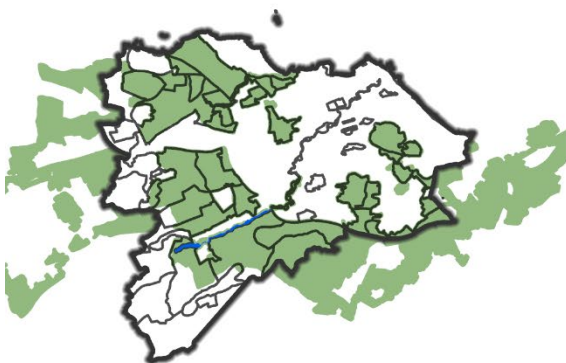


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- Incised River Valley: Water of Leith - Balerno to Juniper Green
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area
- Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt/countryside area in adjoining local authorities

Green belt boundary strength

- Robust
- Moderate to robust
- Moderate
- Weak to moderate
- Weak
- N/A



LCA 13: Water of Leith – Spylaw to Slateford

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – All.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- The LCA forms part of the broader Water of Leith, which is a heavily used recreational corridor. The combination of incised valley and woodland limits intervisibility with the surrounding urban area and transportation corridors. This creates a strong sense of enclosure within the valley and contributes to a naturalistic setting that extends along the Water of Leith.
- The LCA sits within the Water of Leith – West LLA. It forms the historic setting of listed buildings in the south, including the Colinton Parish Church and Spylaw Street Bridge. Additionally, the woodland of the LCA forms the backdrop to the category B listed Merchiston Castle School.

Setting evaluation

- Medium-high

Identity

- The landscape facilitates connectivity between a number of playing fields, parkland and woodlands, creating a wider network of green space within the surrounding settlements.
- The Water of Leith as a whole is important for its association with Edinburgh. This section of the valley contributes to the distinctiveness of the south-western suburbs of Edinburgh, through the recreational and natural value it provides. The incised valley and dense woodland contribute to its sense of place, though not visually prominent from the surrounding landscape.
- The valley plays a role in the physical separation between Kingsknowe to the west and Colinton and Craiglockhart to the east.

Identity evaluation

- High

Recreational use

- The Water of Leith valley as a whole is important in providing popular cycle and walking routes from the heart of Edinburgh to rural West Edinburgh and linking a number of settlements and open spaces enroute. It connects with local path networks through the Water of Leith Core Path.
- Spylaw Public Park, Redhall Walled Garden and Redhall Allotments provide additional recreational opportunities.

Recreational use evaluation

- High

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- A robust boundary is created through the steep topography of the incised valley and woodland, separating Kingsknowe to the west and Colinton and Craiglockhart to the east.
- The boundary is moderate along the south-west where a treeline separates the valley from open playing fields at Campbell Park.

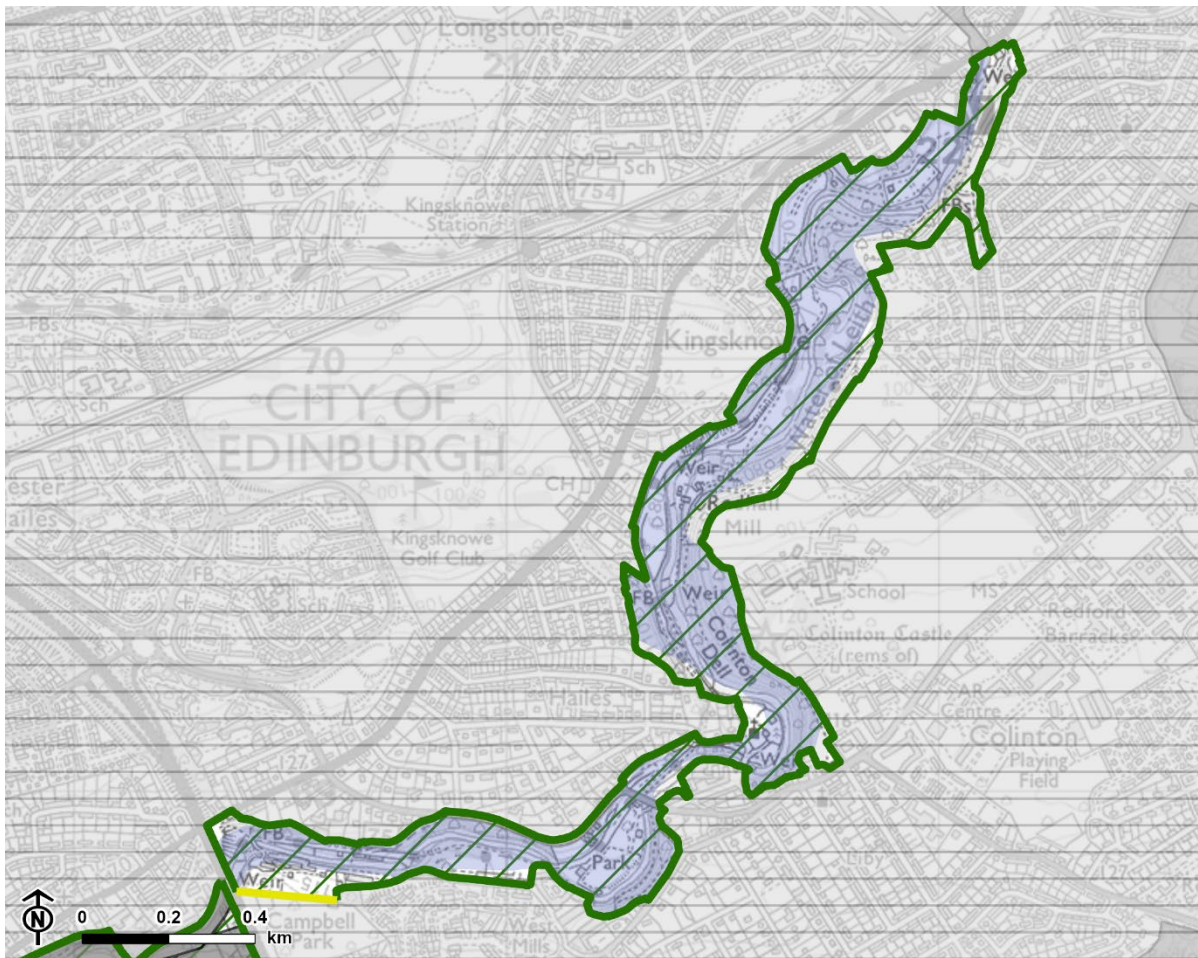
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.

Presence of notable development

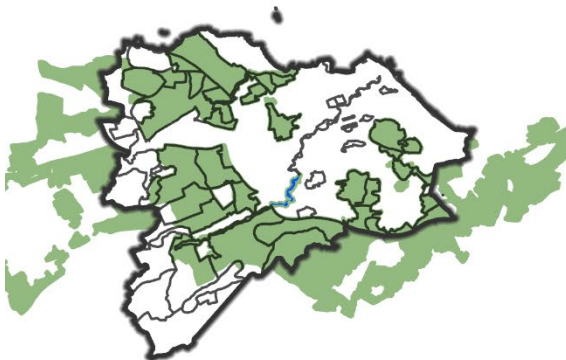
- Not applicable.

Figure A.6: Water of Leith - Spylaw to Slateford



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- Incised River Valley: Water of Leith - Spylaw to Slateford
 - City of Edinburgh boundary
 - Neighbouring Landscape Character Area
 - Settlement
 - Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt boundary strength**
- Robust
 - Moderate to robust
 - Moderate
 - Weak to moderate
 - Weak
 - N/A



Lowland Farmland LCT

LCA 17: Almond Farmland

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- The gently undulating large-scale landscape is important in views from Edinburgh Airport in the south and the Edinburgh-Fife railway line which cuts through the area in the east.
- The landscape has some importance to the views experienced from the settlement boundary of Kirkliston, particularly from the more open northern and eastern boundary, and local routes such as Burnshot Road.
- The rural landscape contributes to the wider setting of Edinburgh, with a largely open character and visible in distant views from elevated locations within Edinburgh (e.g. Corstorphine Hill).
- The area forms part of the setting for the Craigie Hill LLA, with views from the A90.

Setting evaluation

- Medium

Identity

- The large-scale and open rural character of the landscape contributes to the identity of Kirkliston. The rural nature of the surroundings helps to distinguish Kirkliston from the more built up areas of Edinburgh. The visual relationship from the settlement is strongest along the northern and eastern boundaries which are more open. However, the undulating landform prevents longer ranging views across the surrounding area.

- The extensive area of agricultural land maintains separation between the settlements of Edinburgh, Kirkliston and Ratho Station, helping to maintain their separate identities.

Identity evaluation

- Medium

Recreational use

- Several core paths cross the area, providing wider connectivity to South Queensferry, Dalmeny Estate and the River Almond valley. However, there are no specific areas recognised for their recreational value.
- The disused railway path provides a formal footpath and traffic-free cycle route between South Queensferry and Newbridge.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- The boundary with Kirkliston to the west is of mixed strength. Boundaries follow a variety of features including a railway line (robust) along the northern edge of the settlement, and fields close to recent housing at the north-east edge (weak). Most other boundary features are between moderate and robust in strength, including minor roads, woodland belts, the River Almond, a less clearly defined section through green space near the river, and the B800.
- The boundary with Newbridge to the south-west follows a slip road of the M9 (robust) and an adjacent woodland belt (robust).
- The boundary to the south with Edinburgh Airport follows field boundaries (weak), a woodland belt, the River Almond and a railway line (all robust boundaries).

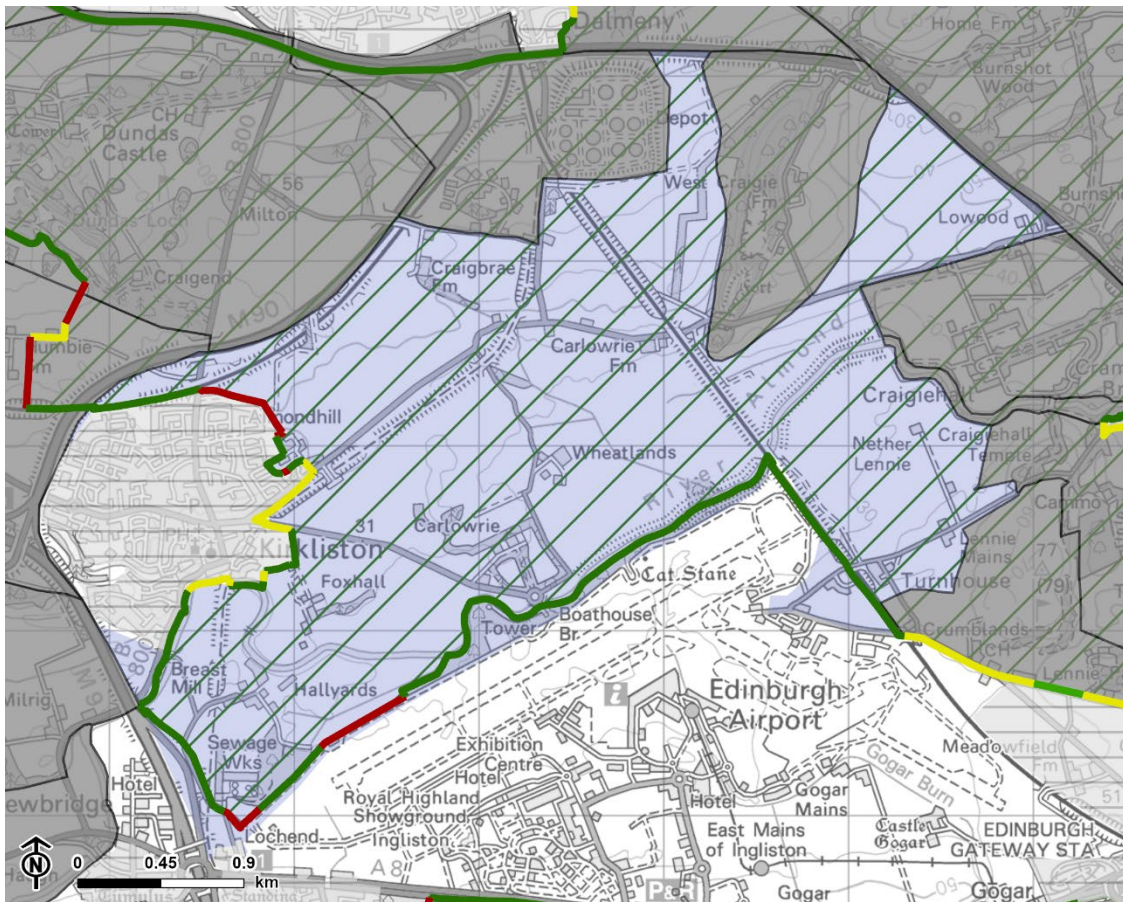
Strength of outer boundaries

- The short outer boundary south of Kirkliston follows the B800 (robust).












Presence of notable development

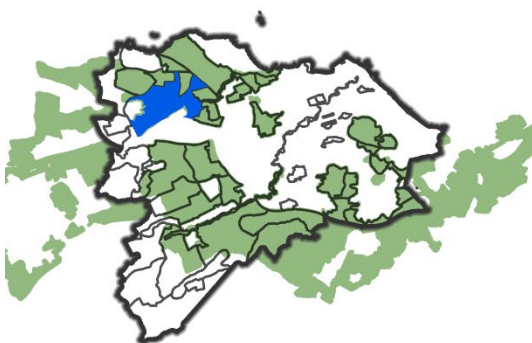
- There is the presence of some business and industry near the River Almond. Although development here is not large scale, there are large areas of brownfield land used for storage.
- Newbridge Wastewater Treatment Works is located close to the green belt boundary at the south-western edge of the LCA.

Figure A.7: Almond Farmland LCA



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- | | |
|---|---|
|  Lowland Farmland: Almond Farmland |  Settlement |
|  City of Edinburgh boundary |  Green belt within the City of Edinburgh |
|  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area | Green belt boundary strength |
| |  Robust |
| |  Moderate to robust |
| |  Moderate |
| |  Weak to moderate |
| |  Weak |
| |  N/A |



LCA 18: Cammo Fringes

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – All.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- The Cammo Fringes contains a simple pattern of gently undulating, large, open arable fields bordering the Turnhouse Golf Course, which rise to a high point at Lennie Hill (77m AOD). It forms part of a wider area of low hills between the airport and Barnton.
- This area is contained by more elevated ground west and south, but is highly visible from the A902, where it is important in providing an uncluttered foreground to views of key features within the Cammo GDL and Cammo LLA.

Setting evaluation

- Medium-high

Identity

- This low-lying farmland is strongly influenced by proximity to road, rail and housing, providing limited contribution to the appreciation of the surrounding settlement form. However, Lennie Hill is visible on the skyline from surrounding roads and is a feature of the Turnhouse Golf Course.
- While not distinctive, the landscape contributes to setting of the swathe of designed landscapes of the Cammo Estate, Craigiehall and Dalmeny policies to the west of Edinburgh.

Identity evaluation

- Medium

Recreational use

- There are no core paths or designated recreational areas. However, the Turnhouse Golf Course provides some access to open space and Cammo Walk provides a valued off road link between residential areas to the south and Cammo Estate.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- At the eastern edge of the LCA, the A902 provides a robust boundary with the Bughtlin and East Craigs areas of Edinburgh. There is also a short boundary west of the road, formed by the Bughtlin Burn (moderate).
- To the south, a boundary is formed with West Craigs where Craigs Road borders the open fields and Turnhouse Golf Club (moderate), with one section lined with trees (moderate to robust).

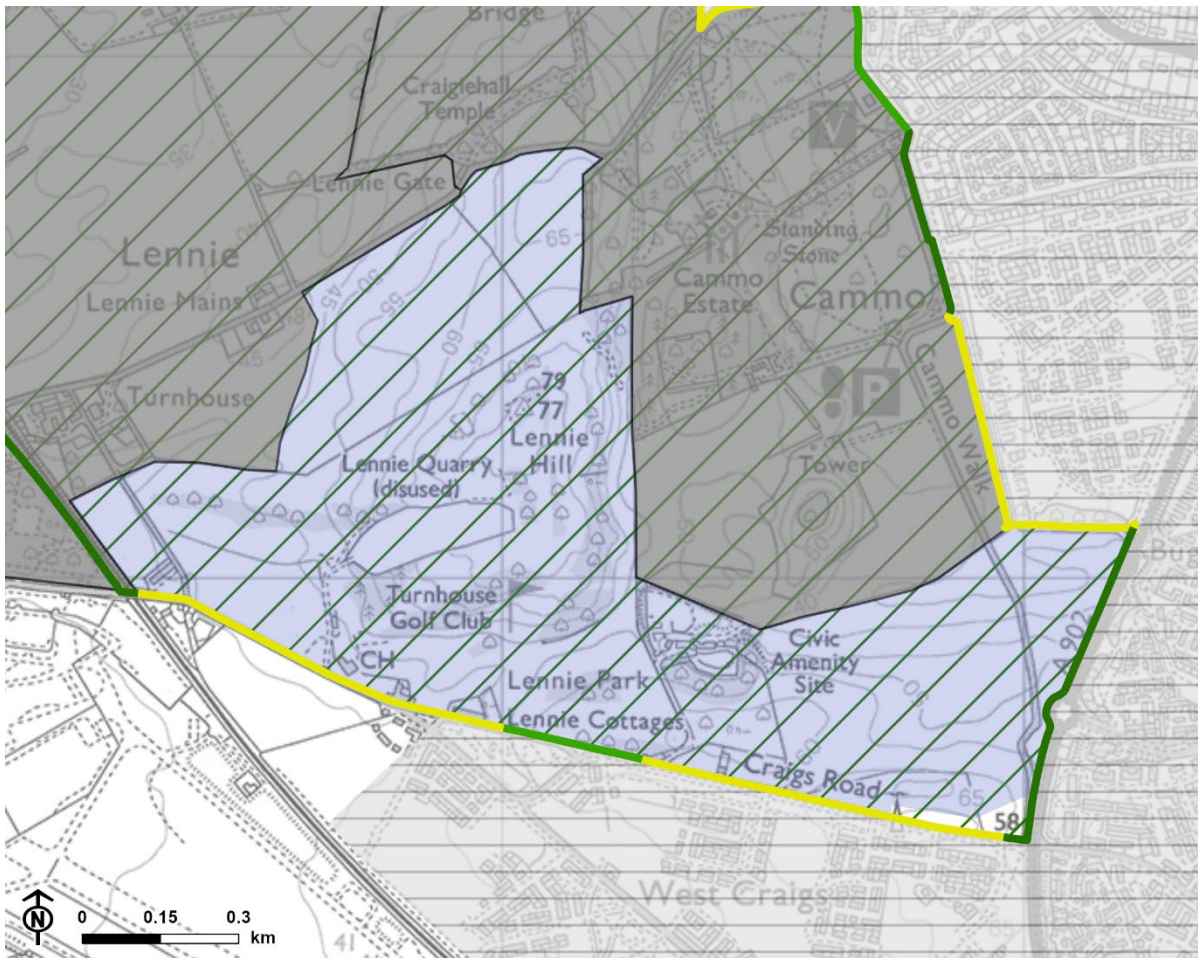
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.

Presence of notable development



- The Forth Resource Management composting and farm plastics recycling site is located in the east. The site is screened by woodland and not visible from the surrounding landscape or transport corridors.

Figure A.8: Cammo Fringes LCA



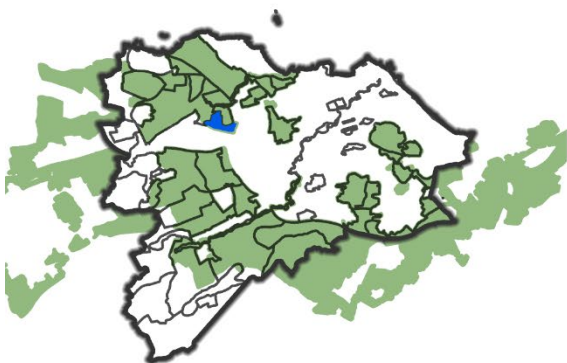
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-  Lowland Farmland: Cammo Fringes
-  City of Edinburgh boundary
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area

-  Settlement
-  Green belt within the City of Edinburgh

Green belt boundary strength

-  Robust
-  Moderate to robust
-  Moderate
-  Weak to moderate
-  Weak
-  N/A



LCA 19: Dalmeny Fringes

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- A rural agricultural landscape with undulating fields strongly defined by hedgerow and trees along roads and field boundaries.
- The wooded character of the farmland contributes to the scenic quality of the landscape. The area has a strong visual association with the Firth of Forth and Forth Rail Bridge, with both being important to the setting of the LCA.
- This area is important to the setting of Dalmeny Estate, extending the rural influence of the estate west of the B924. However, the area is less wooded and the landform less pronounced, making it distinctly separate.
- This area is relatively visually contained with principal views being from the B924 on the approach to South Queensferry. These views make an important contribution to the setting of both Dalmeny and South Queensferry when approaching from the east.
- Woodland within the area and along the disused railway largely limit views from Dalmeny and South Queensferry.

Setting evaluation

- Medium-high

Identity

- The rural and wooded farmland character of the landscape contributes to the identity of Dalmeny and South Queensferry, playing a key role in appreciation of the settlements on the approach from the east.
- The farmland area, alongside the disused South Queensferry to Newbridge railway helps maintain some separation between both settlements. Therefore,

the landscape plays a role in maintaining the individual identities of each settlement.

Identity evaluation

- Medium

Recreational use

- National Cycle Network Route 1 follows a minor road within the area, providing connectivity between Dalmeny Estates and South Queensferry.
- Although there are few promoted footpaths within the area, informal routes along minor roads (e.g. Main Street and Station Road) provide connections to the disused railway connecting South Queensferry and Newbridge. The disused railway provides connection to the Firth of Forth in the north.
- The coastal path, which lies outwith this area, is more popularly used to gain access from South Queensferry to the Dalmeny Estate.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium-high

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- The western edge of the LCA forms a boundary with South Queensferry and Dalmeny.
- The inner boundary with South Queensferry follows the Edinburgh to Dundee railway line for a short stretch, and the disused South Queensferry to Newbridge railway. This is now a footpath and traffic-free cycle route and follows a cutting lined with dense woodland (robust).
- The boundary to the north of Dalmeny is weak to moderate as it features residential gardens with some mature trees along the edge. Where there are limited or no trees along the edge of gardens, the boundary is weak.
- The boundary along the eastern edge of Dalmeny follows treelines and hedgerows (moderate), and the edge of dense woodland (robust) further south.

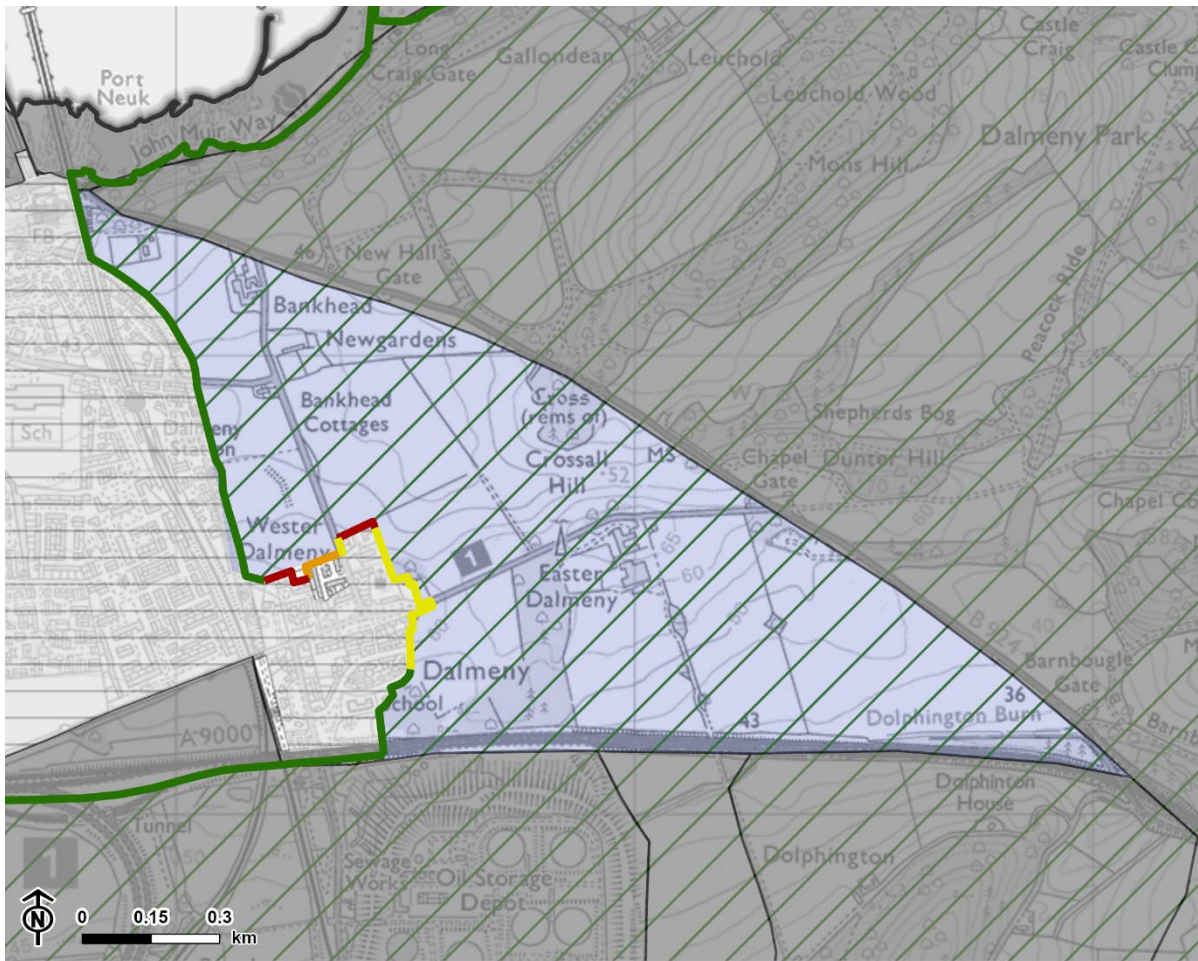
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.

Presence of notable development

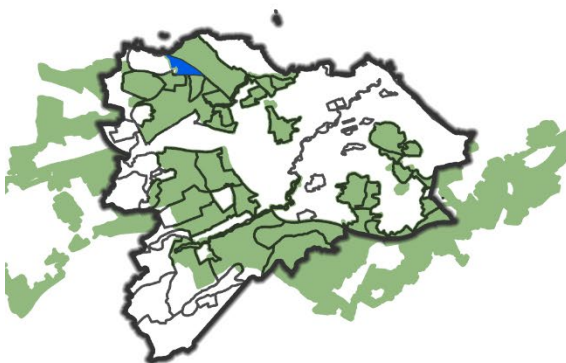
- None identified.

Figure A.9: Dalmeny Fringes LCA



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- Lowland Farmland: Dalmeny Fringes
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area
- Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt boundary strength**
- Robust
- Moderate to robust
- Moderate
- Weak to moderate
- Weak
- N/A



LCA 20: Newbridge/Broxburn Farmland

Existing Green Belt?

- No.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- Yes.

Setting

- An area of relatively flat, medium-scale agricultural fields. Although close to the settlements of Broxburn (within West Lothian) and Newbridge (within the City of Edinburgh Council area), there is little visibility from the settlement, and the area does not contribute strongly to the setting of these settlements. The area makes a greater contribution to the setting of Newbridge, helping to mark the edge of the settlement to the north-west.
- Much of the area to the north of the A89 is designated as a Garden and Designed Landscape associated with Newliston Estate. The landscape is important to the wider setting of Newliston House and the estate.
- The landscape comprises agricultural fields and does not contain any distinctive landscape features, however is important to the views experienced from those railway users travelling along the Almond Valley Viaduct.

Setting evaluation

- Medium

Identity

- The LCA is located between the settlements of Newbridge and Broxburn. Although not highly visible from these settlements, its location helps to maintain separation between the settlements, reinforcing their individual identity.
- The presence of the railway line and the prominent Almond Valley Railway Viaduct, which forms the western boundary of the LCA, also helps maintain the separate identities of the settlements, providing a physical barrier between the two.

Identity evaluation

- Medium

Recreational use

- The LCA offers some formal recreational routes, including a core path along the banks of the River Almond and a core path and traffic-free cycle route along the A89. These routes provide access to West Lothian in the west. Elsewhere in the LCA, recreational opportunities are limited.
- The Edinburgh-Glasgow railway line provides a physical barrier and restriction to movement in the west and south-west.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium-low

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- Not applicable.

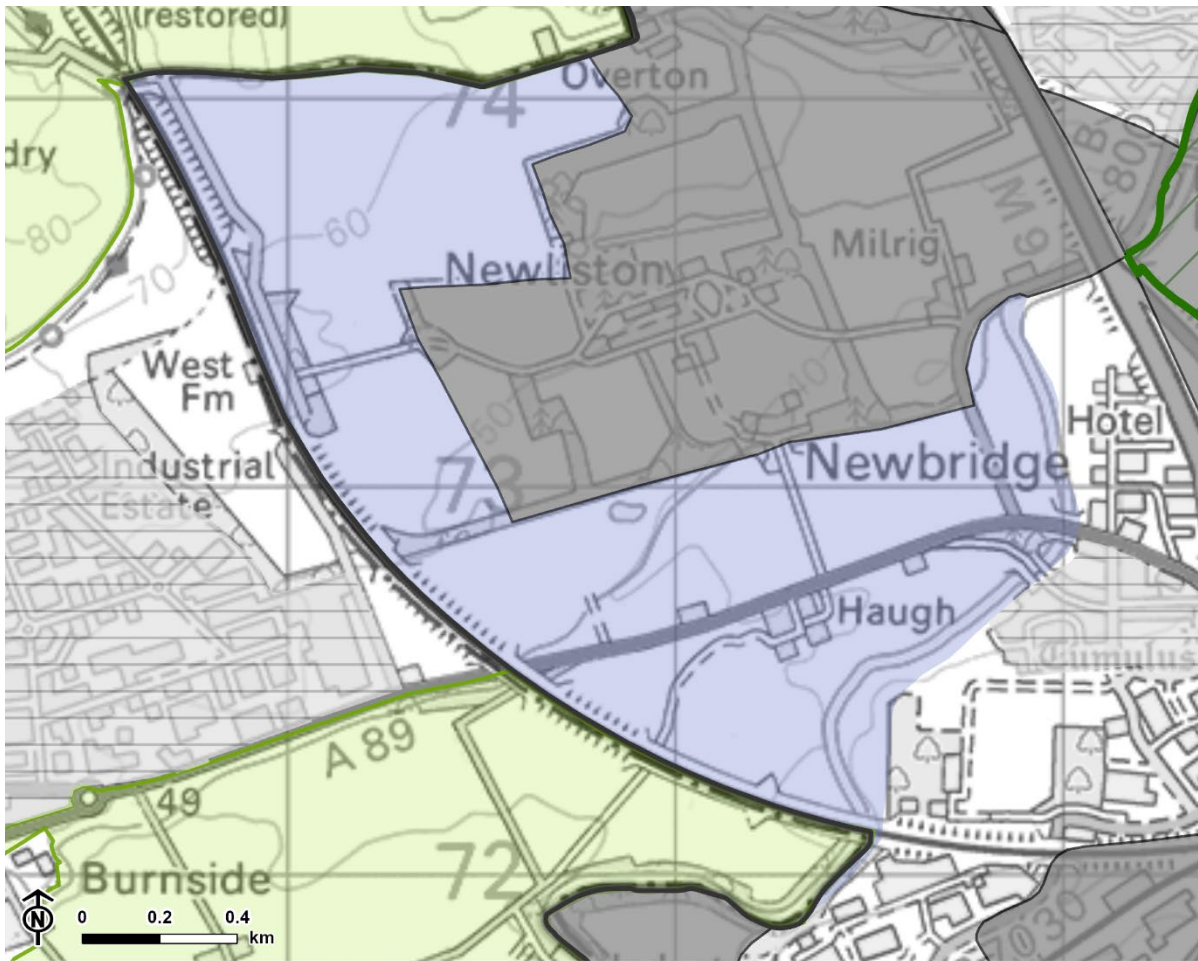
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.

Presence of notable development

- None identified.

Figure A.10: Newbridge/Broxburn Farmland LCA

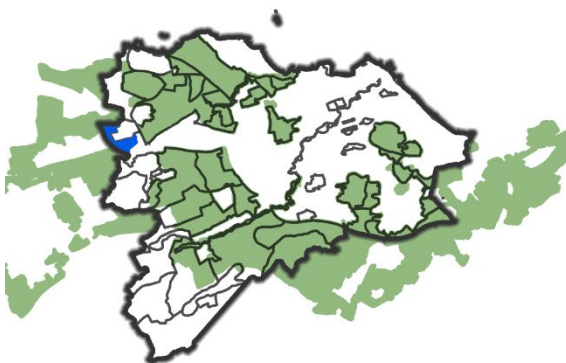


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- Lowland Farmland: Newbridge/ Broxburn Farmland
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area
- Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt/countryside area in adjoining local authorities

Green belt boundary strength

- Robust
- Moderate to robust
- Moderate
- Weak to moderate
- Weak
- N/A



LCA 21: Newton Farmland

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – Partial, less than 25% in the far east. This includes two parcels: the area between Dundas Estate and the A904, and the area between Humble Farm and the M90.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- Yes – Partial, greater than 75% in the west of the LCA.

Setting

- The LCA comprises well-managed undulating farmland of a medium-to-large scale, located near the boundary between the City of Edinburgh Council area and West Lothian. The farmland is not distinctive, however the woodland and reservoirs in the south provide some local distinguishing features visible from new development at Winchburgh in West Lothian.
- The green belt in the most eastern parts of the LCA is adjacent to the A90 and M90 trunk roads. The rural character of these areas is experienced in views from these roads on the approach to Edinburgh, providing some value in the wider setting of the city.
- The wider undulating farmland within the CPA in the west of the LCA is also highly visible from key trunk roads, contributing to the setting of both Edinburgh and Dundas Estate.
- Views of the green belt and CPA from the settlements of Edinburgh, Kirkliston and South Queensferry are very limited.

Setting evaluation

- Medium-low (green belt)
- Medium-low (CPA)

Identity

- The well-managed and open farmland within the green belt in the east and CPA in the west is not highly distinctive. Although parts of the green belt are located adjacent to the settlements of Kirkliston and South Queensferry, the M90 and

A90 create physical barriers which also limit views from the settlements to this area of farmland. Therefore, the landscape of both the green belt and CPA plays a limited role in the identity of settlements.

- However, the green belt and CPA in the south of the LCA provide separation between the settlement of Kirkliston and new development on the settlement edge of Winchburgh in West Lothian.

Identity evaluation

- Medium-low (green belt)
- Medium-low (CPA)

Recreational use

- The area has no formal footpaths such as core paths; however the John Muir Way runs along the Firth of Forth coastline to the north (immediately adjacent to the CPA), providing connectivity to the wider area of South Queensferry, Dalmeny and Hopetoun Estate.

Recreational use evaluation

- Low (green belt)
- Medium (CPA)

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- The inner boundary with Queensferry to the north-east follows the A90/M90 (robust).

Strength of outer boundaries

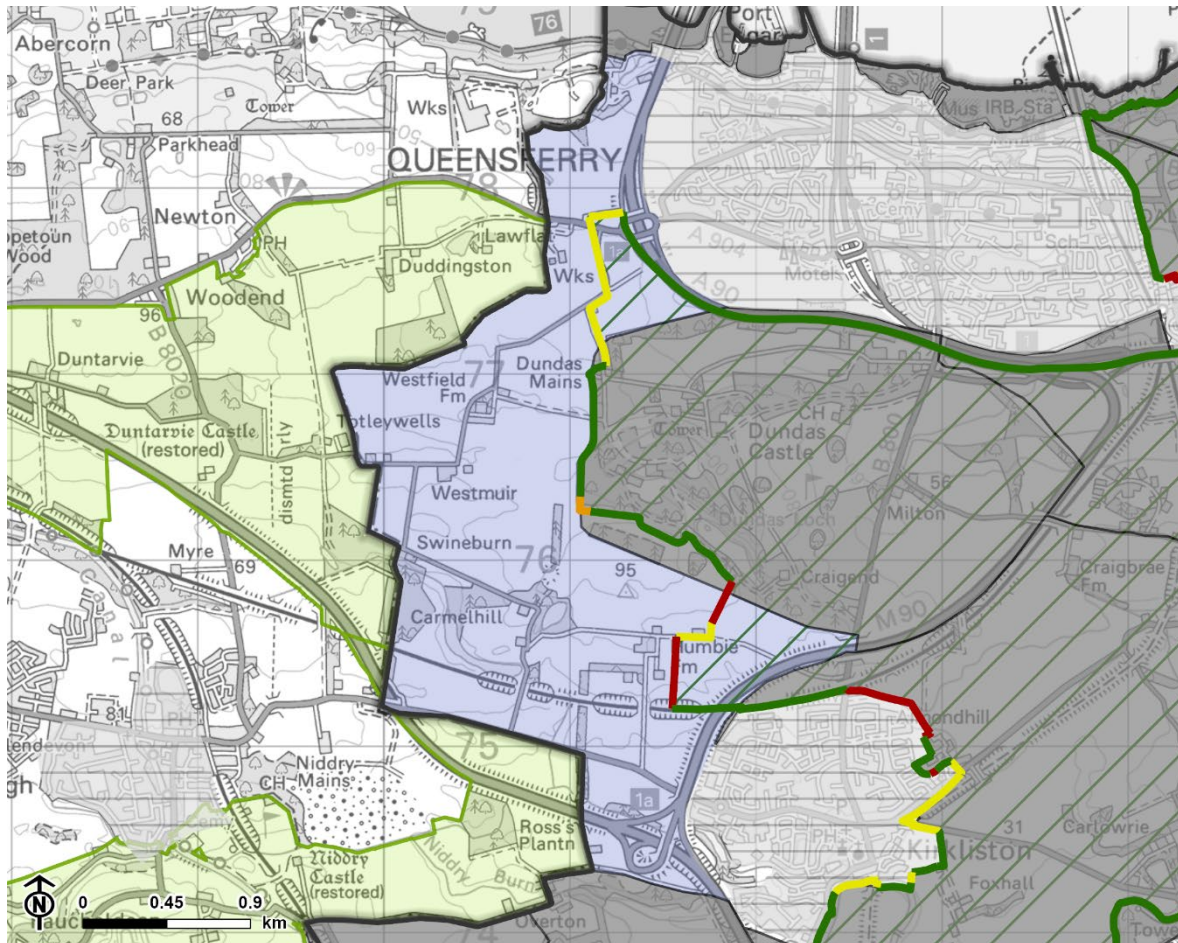
- In the northern parcel of green belt in the LCA, part of the outer boundary forms a straight line that does not align with features on the ground, although it broadly follows a minor road (moderate). The remainder of the boundary in this area follows minor roads and a paved track (moderate).
- In the southern parcel of green belt in the LCA, the outer boundary cuts through a medium scale field (weak). It then follows a track (moderate) and

field boundary (weak) further south, to reach a railway line, which creates a robust boundary.

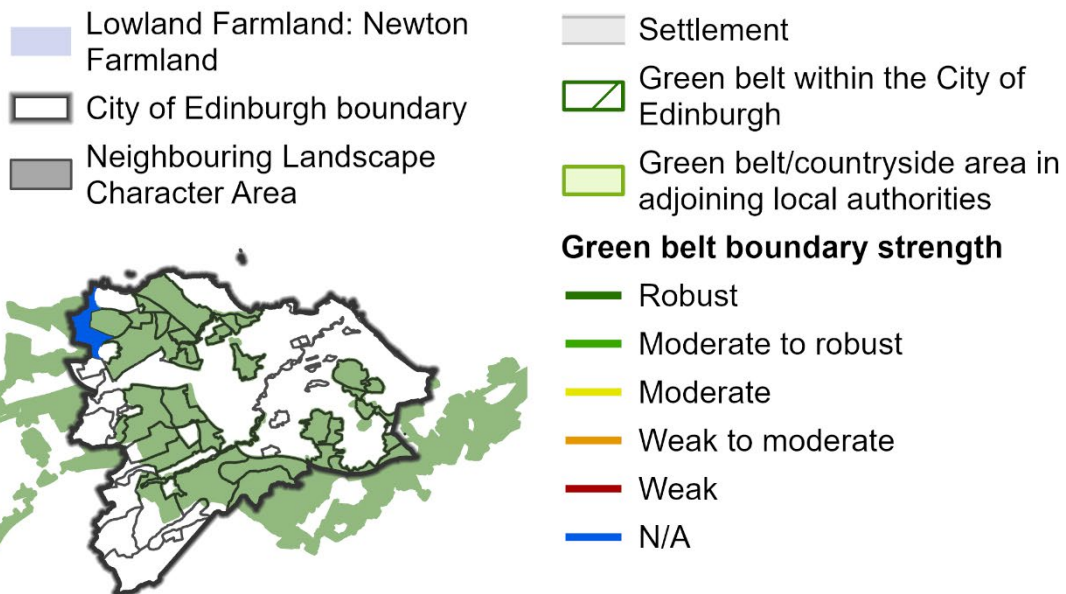
Presence of notable development

- None identified.

Figure A.11: Newton Farmland LCA



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Pentland Flanks LCT

LCA 22: Cockburn Farmland and Shelterbelts

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – Partially, approximately one third of the LCA in the east.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- Yes – Partially, approximately two thirds of the LCA in the west.

Setting

- The green belt in the eastern part of the LCA is adjacent to the settlement edge of Balerno. Visibility from the western edge of Balerno is limited due to mature woodland along the settlement boundary. However, the southern edge of Balerno is more open and affords longer-ranging views across the green belt towards the Pentland Hills. This view is important to the setting of Balerno.
- The area also forms part of the setting of the Pentland Hills LLA, which extends across the broader Pentlands area.
- The Marchbank water treatment works in the south locally detract from the rural character of the area.
- The western part of the area is within the CPA, outwith the green belt. This section has very limited visual relationship with any settlements.
- This area comprises agricultural landscape which gently rises in elevation to the south, distinctly different from nearby agricultural areas due to the strong geometric pattern of shelterbelts which form the boundaries to fields.
- The strong presence of shelterbelts restricts views within the area, including to and from the settlement of Balerno. However, their distinctive pattern can be appreciated from elevated and open areas beyond the LCA, and this provides some contribution to the setting of Balerno.

Setting evaluation

- Medium (green belt)
- Medium-low (CPA)

Identity

- Both the green belt and CPA areas within the LCA contain woodland and shelterbelts. The dense network of linear shelterbelts (particularly within the CPA) contributes to the sense of place for Balerno.
- The rectilinear pattern of shelterbelts is a distinctive feature of the countryside near Balerno, with a similar pattern near Currie.

Identity evaluation

- Medium (green belt)
- Medium (CPA)

Recreational use

- The area contains several core paths and a network of informal paths which follow field boundaries. Some of these paths provide links between routes which cross the Pentland Hills.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium (green belt)
- Medium (CPA)

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- There is an inner boundary with Balerno village to the north-east of the LCA. Cockburn Crescent runs along the southern edge of Balerno where it borders open fields, forming a moderate boundary. This strengthens to a robust boundary to the west as a thick and mature woodland belt is located immediately adjacent to Cockburn Crescent. The boundary also follows a woodland belt behind houses for a section (robust).
- There is a separate inner boundary with Ravelrig, a suburb of Balerno north of the Water of Leith. This boundary is robust as it follows Lanark Road West and there is a strong presence of mature trees and woodland.

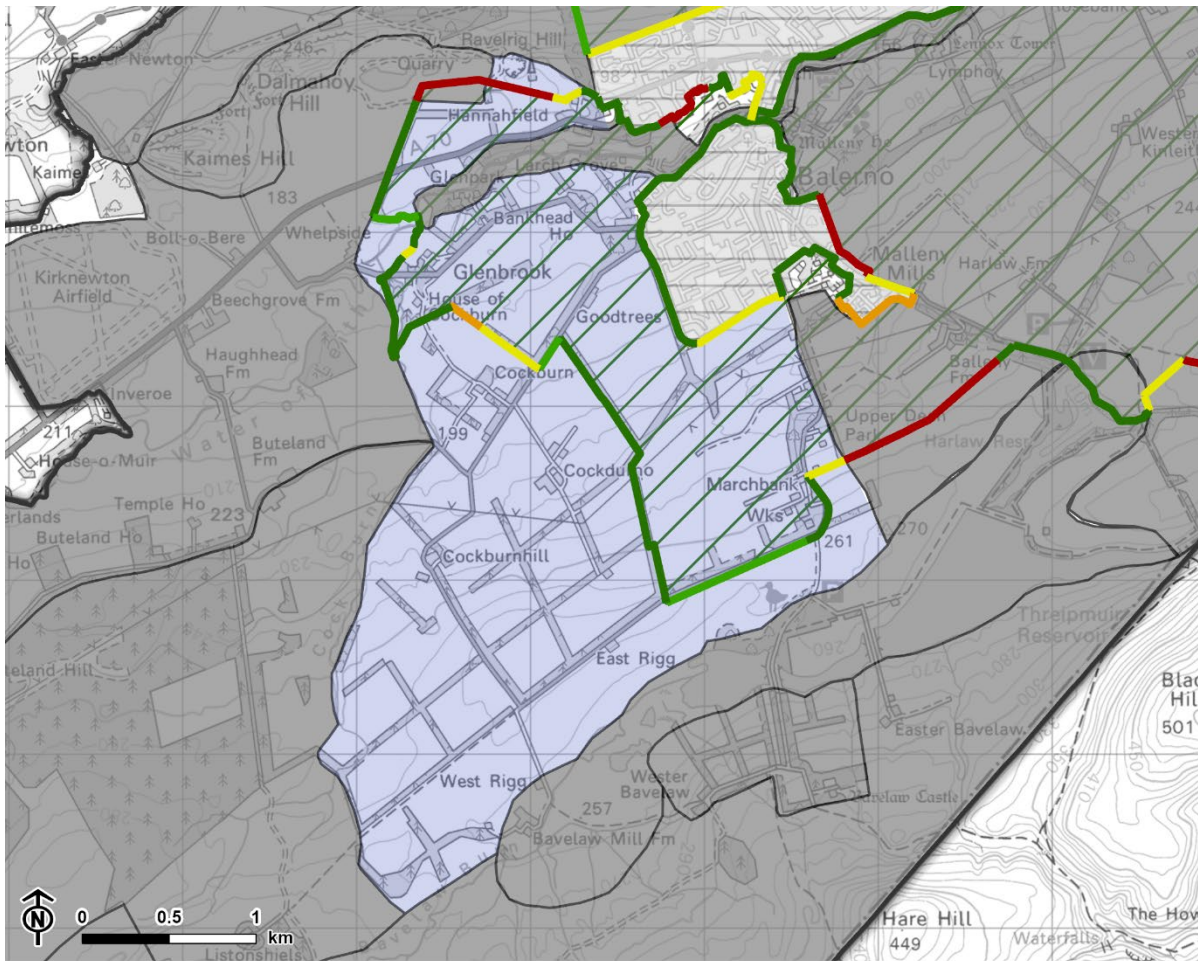
Strength of outer boundaries

- In the south-east, near Marchbank, dense woodland forms a robust boundary.
- The southern boundary of the outer green belt follows a minor road near Marchbank, bordered by a degraded woodland belt (moderate to robust).
- The western boundary, to the south of Cockburnhill Road is robust as it follows a mature woodland belt along field boundaries. Between Cockburnhill Road and Glenbrook the boundary follows field boundaries with a line of trees. This represents a moderate boundary, but it becomes weak to moderate towards Glenbrook due to more sporadic placement of trees along this stretch. The Glenbrook area is well-wooded, creating a robust boundary to the outer green belt.
- Between Glenbrook and Ravelrig Quarry, the boundary follows a dense woodland belt, creating a robust boundary. The boundary at Ravelrig Quarry in the north-west is weak as it currently cuts through an area used for mineral extraction and then follows field boundaries with occasional trees.

Presence of notable development

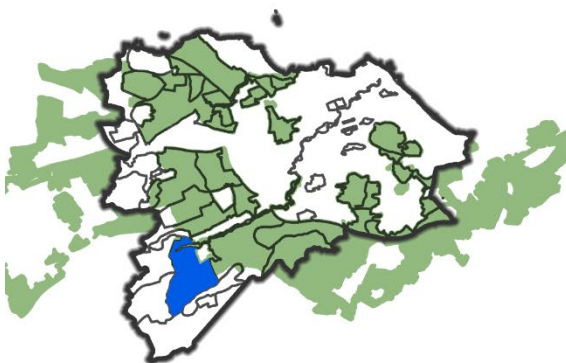
- Marchbank Water Treatment Works are located within the green belt to the south of Balerno.

Figure A.12: Cockburn Farmland and Shelterbelts LCA



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- Pentland Flanks: Cockburn Farmland and Shelterbelts
 - City of Edinburgh boundary
 - Neighbouring Landscape Character Area
 - Settlement
 - Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt boundary strength**
- Robust
 - Moderate to robust
 - Moderate
 - Weak to moderate
 - Weak
 - N/A



LCA 23: Currie Farmland Slopes

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – Most of the area.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- Yes – Small area in the south adjacent to Redford Basin LCA which is not in the green belt.

Setting

- The sloping farmland of the area has a fairly strong visual relationship with Balerno, Currie and Juniper Green across the valley of the Water of Leith. However, from many places in these settlements, views are screened or filtered by buildings and woodland.
- The area is also an important backdrop in views from the A70. The A720 City Bypass runs through a cutting adjacent to the area, which limits views from the road.
- The area is visible in some distant views towards the Pentland Hills from local viewpoints to the west of Edinburgh such as Dalmahoy Hill and the Ratho Hills, although the focus of these views is usually the upper slopes and summits of the Pentland Hills.
- The area also forms part of the setting of the Pentland Hills LLA, which extends across the broader Pentlands area.

Setting evaluation

- Medium-high

Identity

- The rising slopes to the south of Currie are a distinctive feature which contributes to the settlement setting and the shelterbelts provide a distinctive landscape feature.
- This LCA has a strong relationship with Currie and is important in its identity through providing context for the settlement in its location at the foot of the Pentland Hills.

Identity evaluation

- High

Recreational use

- Approximately half of the area lies within the Pentland Hills Regional Park, and a small area in the east also lies within Bonaly Country Park.
- Core paths and minor roads provide access between the Water of Leith, the Pentland Hills and Bonaly. A car park near Harlaw Visitor Centre provides a popular access point for the Pentland Hills.

Recreational use evaluation

- High

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- The boundary with Edinburgh to the north-east follows the A720 City Bypass and is robust.
- The boundary with Balerno to the west is largely robust where it follows woodland belts behind minor roads and gardens. The boundary is weak where it follows garden boundaries north of Harlaw Road, and moderate where it runs along this minor road. To the west of Harlaw Road the boundary follows gardens with some boundary trees (weak to moderate) and woodland blocks around the edge of Harmeny School (strong).

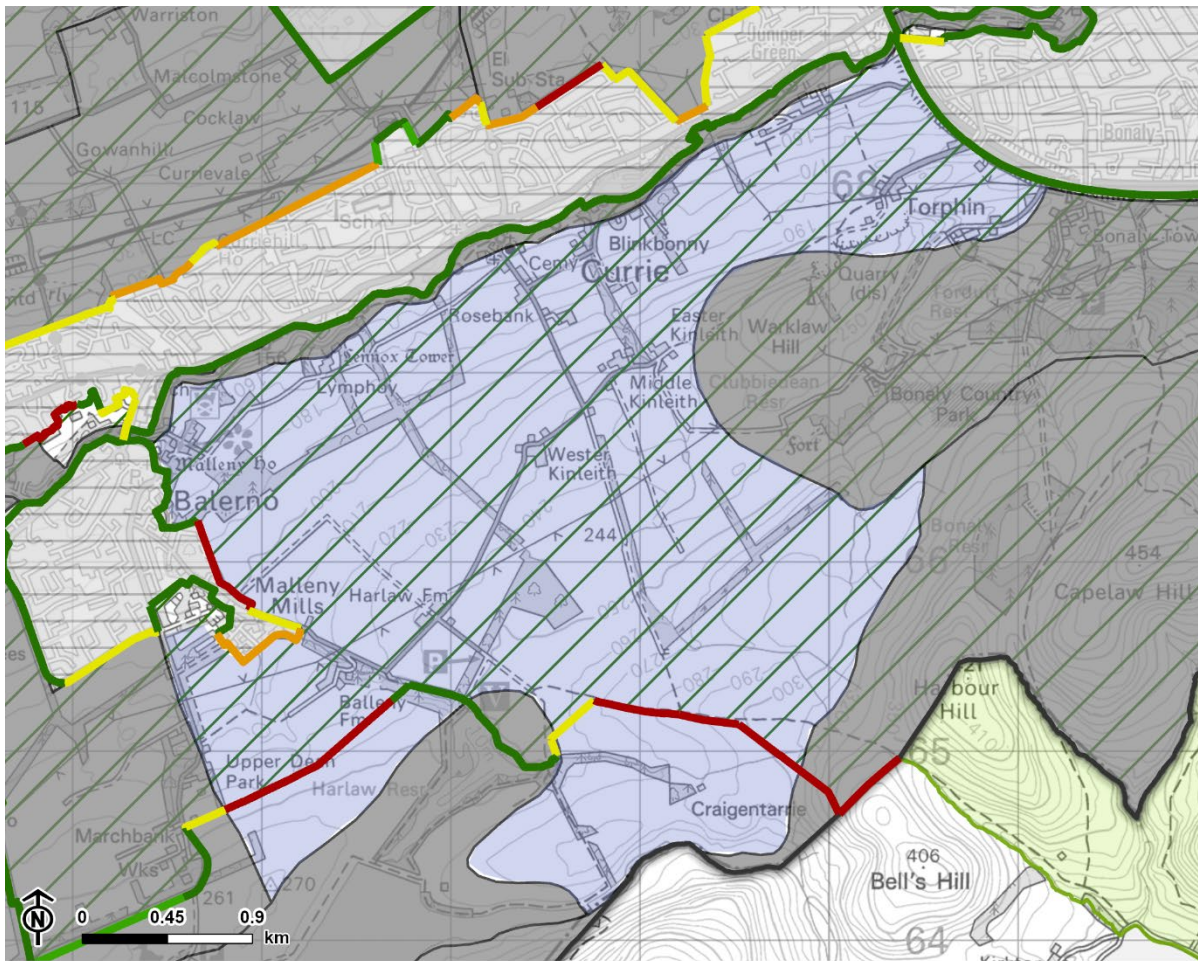
Strength of outer boundaries

- Between Mansfield Road and Harlaw House Visitor Centre the boundary follows field boundaries (weak) and the steep wooded bank of the Bavelaw Burn (robust) near the visitor centre. East of the visitor centre and reservoir, the outer boundary follows field boundaries in moorland (weak).

Presence of notable development

- A disused quarry at Torphin is partially located in the north-east of the LCA.

Figure A.13: Currie Farmland Slopes LCA

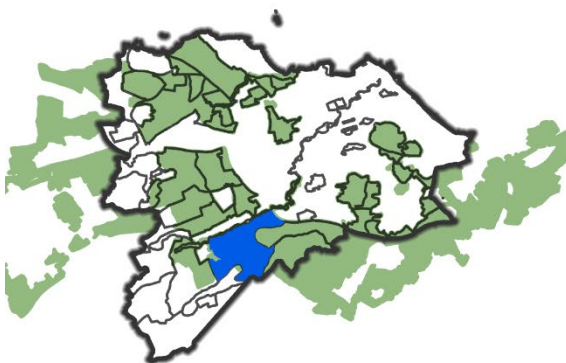


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- Pentland Flanks: Currie Farmland Slopes
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area
- Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt/countryside area in adjoining local authorities

Green belt boundary strength

- Robust
- Moderate to robust
- Moderate
- Weak to moderate
- Weak
- N/A



LCA 24: North Pentland Slopes

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – All.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- The lower slopes of the northern Pentland Hills form an important foreground to the Pentland Hill summits and an important backdrop to the city.
- The north-facing slopes of the Pentland Hills are one of the most prominent features in the city skyline and dominate the surrounding landscape. They also form a key feature in views from the city bypass. To the east the slopes are a key feature of views from the eastern approaches to the Pentlands from Midlothian.
- The area also forms part of the setting of the Pentland Hills LLA, which extends across the broader Pentlands area.

Setting evaluation

- High

Identity

- The area has an important relationship with the urban edge of Edinburgh and is important in the identity and setting of the city.

Identity evaluation

- High

Recreational use

- Almost all of the area lies within the Pentland Hills Regional Park. A substantial area in the west is also part of Bonaly Country Park.

- Core paths and informal paths extend through the area, linking the city to the upper slopes of the Pentland Hills. A popular core path runs along the Bonaly Burn valley.
- Much of the foreground to the hills in the east forms part of Swanston Golf Course and driving range.
- Clubbiedean Reservoir in the west of the area is used for angling.

Recreational use evaluation

- High

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- The inner green belt boundary with Edinburgh to the north follows the A720 City Bypass and its associated woodland edge planting. This boundary is robust.

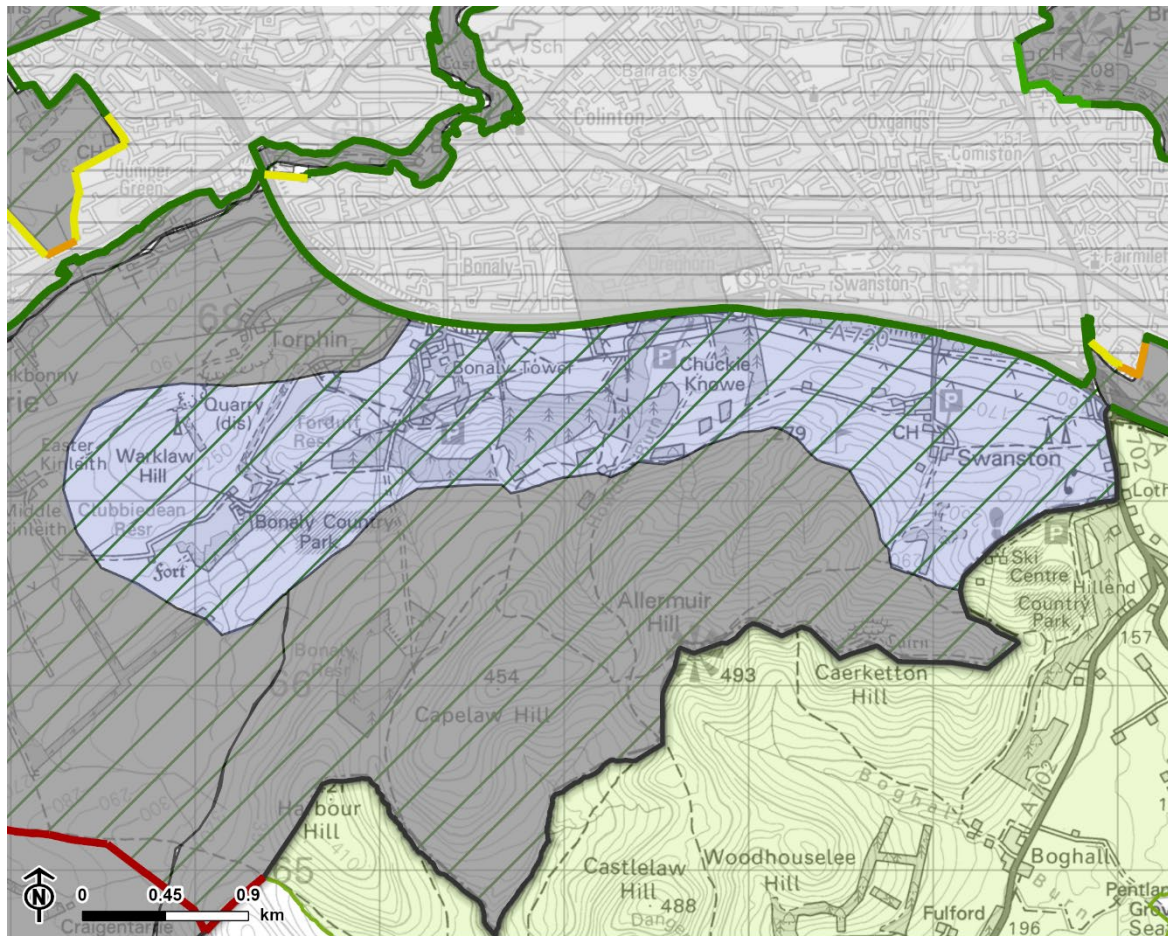
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.

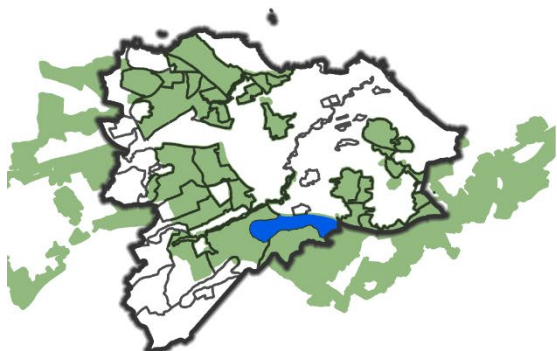
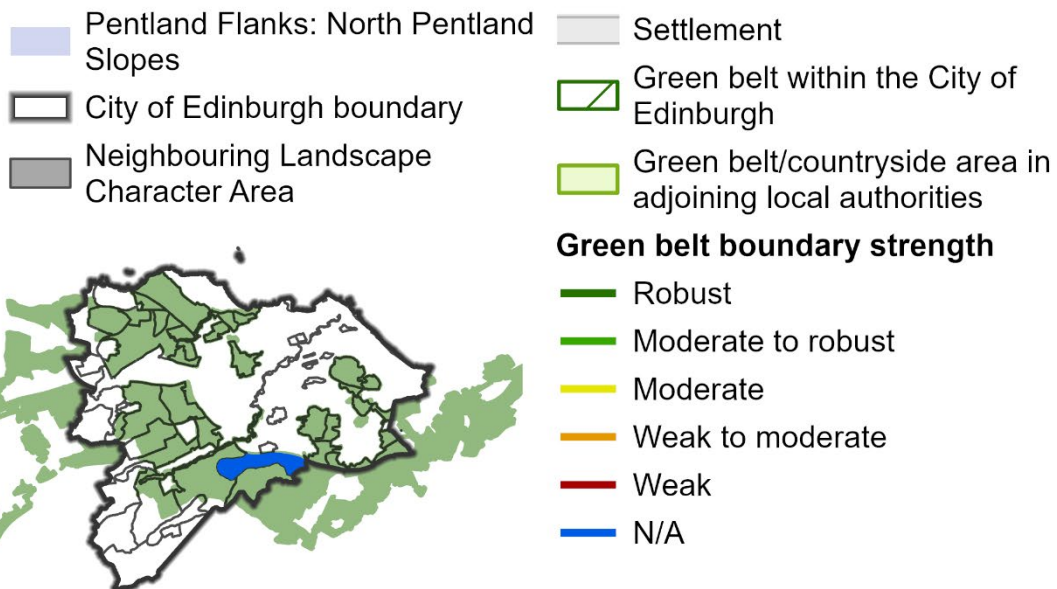
Presence of notable development

- A disused quarry at Torphin is partially located in the west of the LCA.

Figure A.14: North Pentland Slopes LCA



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LCA 25: Redford Basin

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – Very small area north-east of Harlaw Reservoir.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- Yes – Almost the entire area.

Setting

- The area comprises a basin-like valley containing reservoirs. Views across the reservoirs and their surroundings are experienced by visitors to this popular recreational area, and the area is also visible from summits in the Pentland Hills to the east and south.
- The area is not adjacent to any settlements, and owing to the landform it is largely screened in views from the nearest settlements of Balerno and Currie to the north.
- The area also forms part of the setting of the Pentland Hills LLA, which extends across the broader Pentlands area.

Setting evaluation

- Low

Identity

- The landscape of the area is regionally distinctive. However, it is not adjacent to any settlements and as such it does not play a key role in settlement identity.

Identity evaluation

- Low

Recreational use

- The entire area is located within the Pentland Hills Regional Park.

- The area is popular for recreation, with core and informal paths running close to the shores of the reservoirs.
- A car park near Threipmuir Reservoir provides a popular access point for the Pentland Hills. A core path from the car park crosses the Redford Bridge and into the hills.
- Harlaw and Threipmuir Reservoirs are used for angling.

Recreational use evaluation

- High

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- Not applicable.

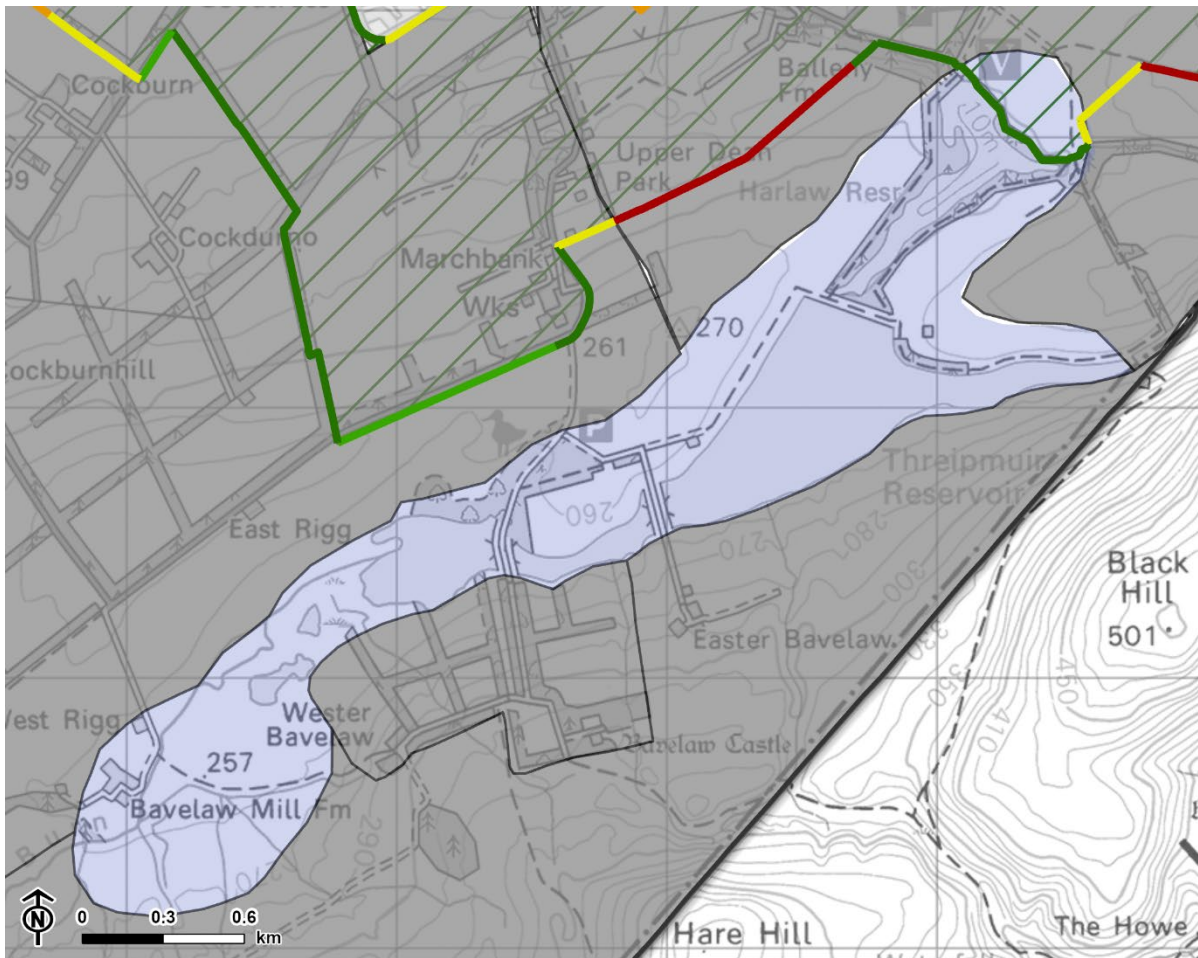
Strength of outer boundaries

- A short section of green belt boundary follows the edge of a woodland belt adjacent to Harlaw Reservoir (robust), and a substantial wall separating managed farmland within the green belt from rough grazing outside (moderate).

Presence of notable development

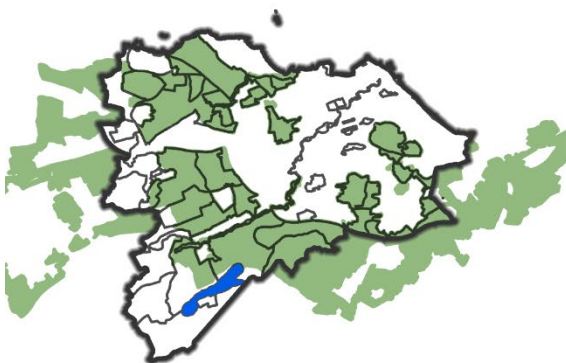
- None identified.

Figure A.15: Redford Basin LCA



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- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Pentland Flanks: Redford Basin | Settlement |
| City of Edinburgh boundary | Green belt within the City of Edinburgh |
| Neighbouring Landscape Character Area | Green belt boundary strength |
| | Robust |
| | Moderate to robust |
| | Moderate |
| | Weak to moderate |
| | Weak |
| | N/A |



LCA 26: Water of Leith Farmland Slopes

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – Very small area at Ravelrig Quarry, scoped out of the following assessment, as described in the introduction.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- Yes – The majority of the area is within the Countryside Policy Area and the assessment below is based on this.

Setting

- An agricultural landscape of medium-scale fields which gently fall in elevation from the north and south down towards the Water of Leith in the centre of the LCA, near the boundary with West Lothian.
- Given the intervening distance, the landscape of the LCA is not very visible from the nearest settlements of Currie and Balerno and does not contribute strongly to their setting.
- The A70 road passes through the area, forming the key approach to Edinburgh from the south-west. Views across the LCA from this route are important, forming the foreground of views towards the Pentland Hills in the south, and Kaimes Hill in the north.
- The lower-lying landscape of the LCA is important to the setting of Kaimes Hill Fort, a Scheduled Monument at the summit of Kaimes Hill to the north of the LCA.

Setting evaluation

- Medium-low (CPA)

Identity

- While the agricultural land of the area is not very distinctive, the area forms part of the wider surroundings of Balerno and Currie, particularly when considering the area's juxtaposition against the elevated Pentland Hills and Kaimes Hill. The settlements of Currie and Balerno do not have a strong relationship with the area due to a lack of intervisibility.

- The area does not play a key role in the identity of Edinburgh as a whole.

Identity evaluation

- Medium-low (CPA)

Recreational use

- A number of core paths, provide access through the area and into neighbouring areas. A concentration of paths in the north of the LCA lead to Kaimes Hill and woods, and provides wider connectivity to the settlement of Currie.
- A well-used core path along Buteland Road provides wider connectivity into the Pentland Hills Regional Park, a highly valued recreational area popular with hill walkers.
- Kirknewton Airfield is located in the west of the LCA, offering formal recreational opportunities for gliders and recreational flying.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium (CPA)

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- Not applicable.

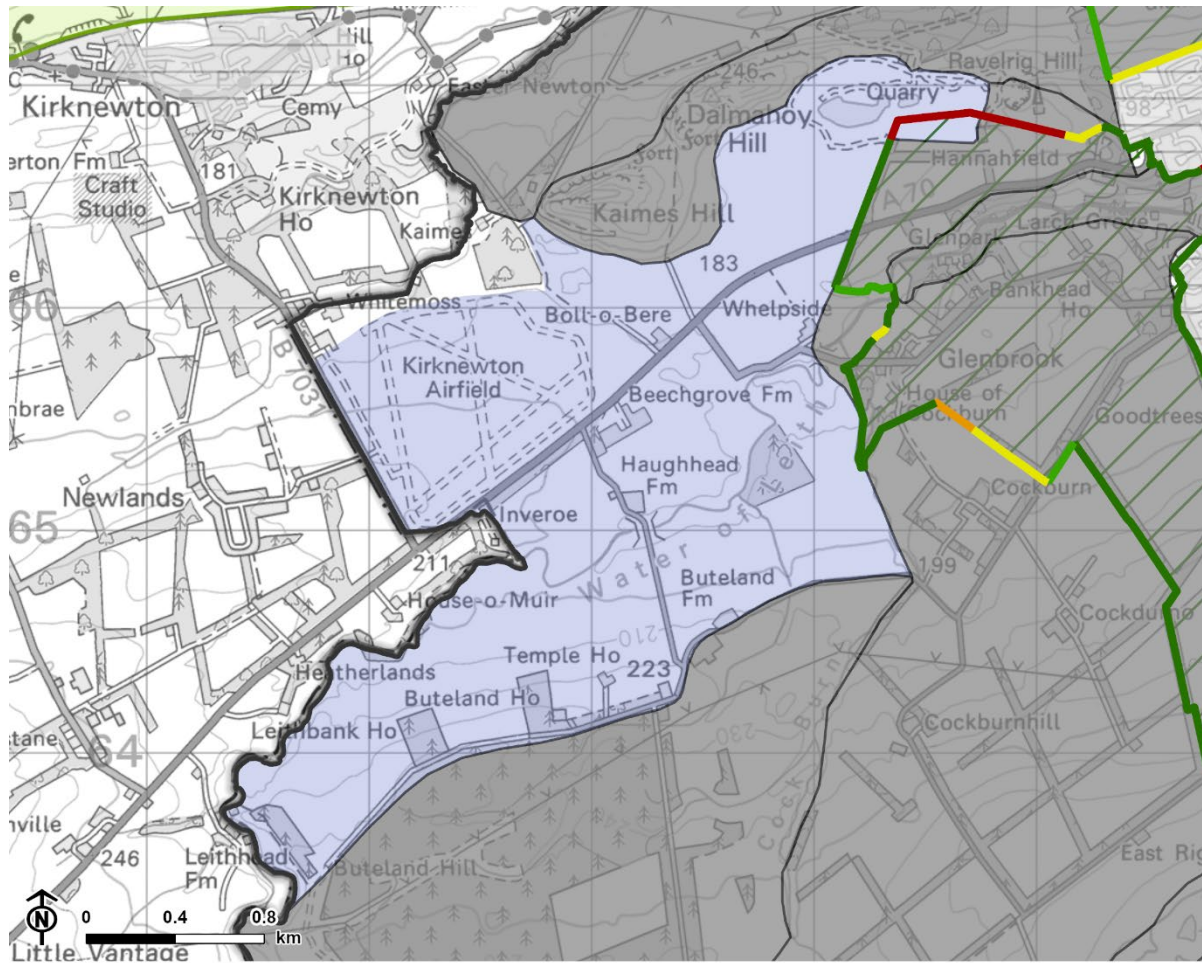
Strength of outer boundaries

- There is a short section of boundary in the north-east at Ravelrig Quarry, which is weak as it currently cuts through an area used for mineral extraction.

Presence of notable development

- Yes, Kirknewton Airfield is located along the western boundary of the LCA. Quarrying activity at Ravelrig Quarry is present in the north of the LCA.

Figure A.16: Water of Leith Farmland Slopes LCA

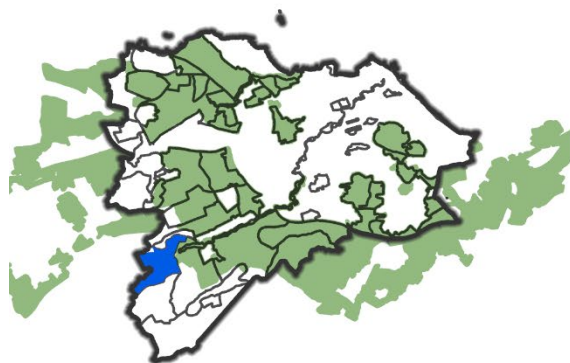


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- Pentland Flanks: Water of Leith Farmland Slopes
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area
- Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt/countryside area in adjoining local authorities

Green belt boundary strength

- Robust
- Moderate to robust
- Moderate
- Weak to moderate
- Weak
- N/A



Pentland Hills – Upper Slopes and Ridges LCT

LCA 29: Pentland Hills and Ridges

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – This LCA is split into two non-adjacent units: an area to the north-east overlooking Edinburgh, and another, larger area to the south-west more remote from settlements. Almost the entire north-eastern unit is within the green belt, and this assessment focusses only on this area of green belt.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- Yes – A very small section of the north-eastern unit, and the entire south-western unit. These areas of CPA have been scoped out of the assessment.

Setting

- The Pentland Hills form a prominent ridgeline rising up above surrounding lowlands and are located to the south-west of Edinburgh and extending into the neighbouring West Lothian, Midlothian and the Scottish Borders local authority areas. The hills form a dramatic backdrop in views from surrounding settlements and from open areas within the city.
- The hill summits are easily recognisable and distinctive, often forming the focus of views from Edinburgh and the wider area. The hills add diversity to the nature of views experienced from these areas. The importance of the hills in contributing to the setting of Edinburgh is reflected in their designation as a LLA.
- The Pentland Hills are a focus of views from extensive stretches of the Edinburgh City Bypass and the A702.
- The area is highly important to the setting of the city, marking a stark transition in the landform at the settlement edge.
- The ridgeline, its steep slopes and prominent peaks make the landscape highly distinctive, enhanced by the strong contrast with its surroundings.
- The recreational value of the area is important to the setting of Edinburgh, with the hills a highly popular rural recreational resource.

Setting evaluation

- High (green belt)

Identity

- The Pentland Hills are a highly distinctive ridgeline to the south-west of the city and are important to the landscape setting and identity of the city, contributing strongly to the sense of place.
- The rising topography forms a natural barrier to expansion of the city, and provides a physical barrier between the city and other smaller settlements to the south.
- Views from elevated locations within the Pentlands extend across the city to the Firth of Forth and beyond, providing opportunities to appreciate the settlement pattern and distinctiveness of other smaller settlements outside the city.

Identity evaluation

- High (green belt)

Recreational use

- The Pentland Hills are an important open space resource and highly valued for the recreational opportunities they provide. There is a dense network of well-used recreational routes across the area and connecting into the surrounding lowlands.
- The network of core paths provides good connections between the hills and the suburbs of Edinburgh and other settlements such as Balerno and Currie. The network of paths also provides connectivity to nearby reservoirs and the Water of Leith.
- The entirety of the LCA is within the Pentland Hills Regional Park and the Bonaly Country Park is partially within the LCA.

Recreational use evaluation

- High (green belt)

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- No.

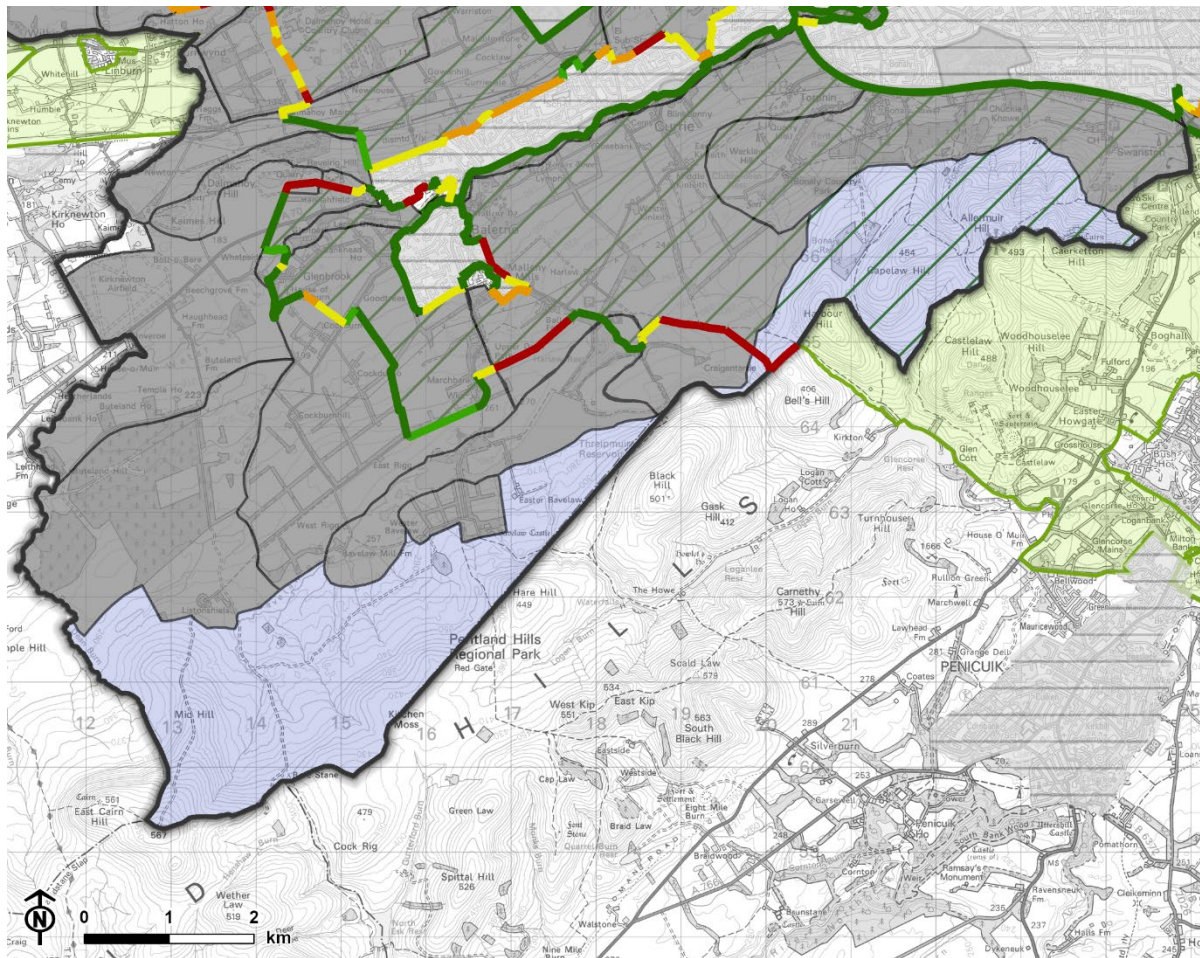
Strength of outer boundaries

- There is a short section of outer boundary on the Pentland Hills ridge which follows the local authority boundary. It is defined by a field boundary comprising a degraded stone wall and post and wire fence (weak).

Presence of notable development

- None identified.

Figure A.17: Pentland Hills and Ridges LCA

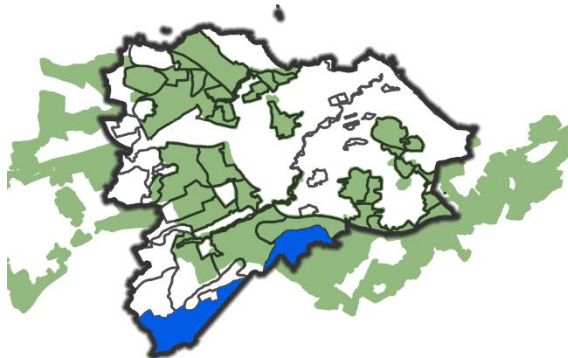


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- Pentland Hills - Upper Slopes and Summits: Pentland Hills and Ridges
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area
- Settlement
- Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt/countryside area in adjoining local authorities

Green belt boundary strength

- Robust
- Moderate to robust
- Moderate
- Weak to moderate
- Weak
- N/A



Policy Landscape LCT

LCA 30: Cammo Policies

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – All.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- The mix of parkland trees, veteran trees, avenues and tree groups across the low hill tops, that contrasts with open pasture and grassland, contribute to the role of the Cammo Policies as a backdrop to the adjacent low lying landscape and settlement edge.
- Views of the more open landscape can be seen from the A902, where the 19th century water tower and backdrop of Mauseley Hill is particularly prominent.
- The policies form the setting of the Cammo LLA and the Cammo GDL, which recognise the historic value of the ruined 19th century house, stable block and walled garden, as well as the recreational value provided by the landscape.

Setting evaluation

- High

Identity

- The Cammo Policies contribute to the identity of surrounding settled areas and to the wider role of policy landscapes as a feature in Edinburgh. The Cammo Policies also play a role in separating Cammo from the farmland found in the west of Edinburgh.
- The maturity and variety of the parkland landscape in combination with its trees and the influence of the Almond River give the Cammo Policies a unique identity that strongly contrasts with the urban edge.

- The policies form a wider wooded green swathe, which includes the Craigiehall Policies and Dalmeny Policies, extending along the north-western periphery of Edinburgh towards the coastline.

Identity evaluation

- High

Recreational use

- The Cammo Policies form part of a significant swathe of open green space extending along the north-western periphery of Edinburgh towards the coastline.
- The LCA is managed as a public park and has a number of paths that are important for recreation.
- The River Almond Walk core path creates a loop through the Cammo Policies and connects it to a wider network of core paths.

Recreational use evaluation

- High

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- The boundary with residential areas of Cammo to the north and east is of mixed strength between moderate and robust, following the Bughtlin Burn and a combination of minor roads, tree belts and treelines.

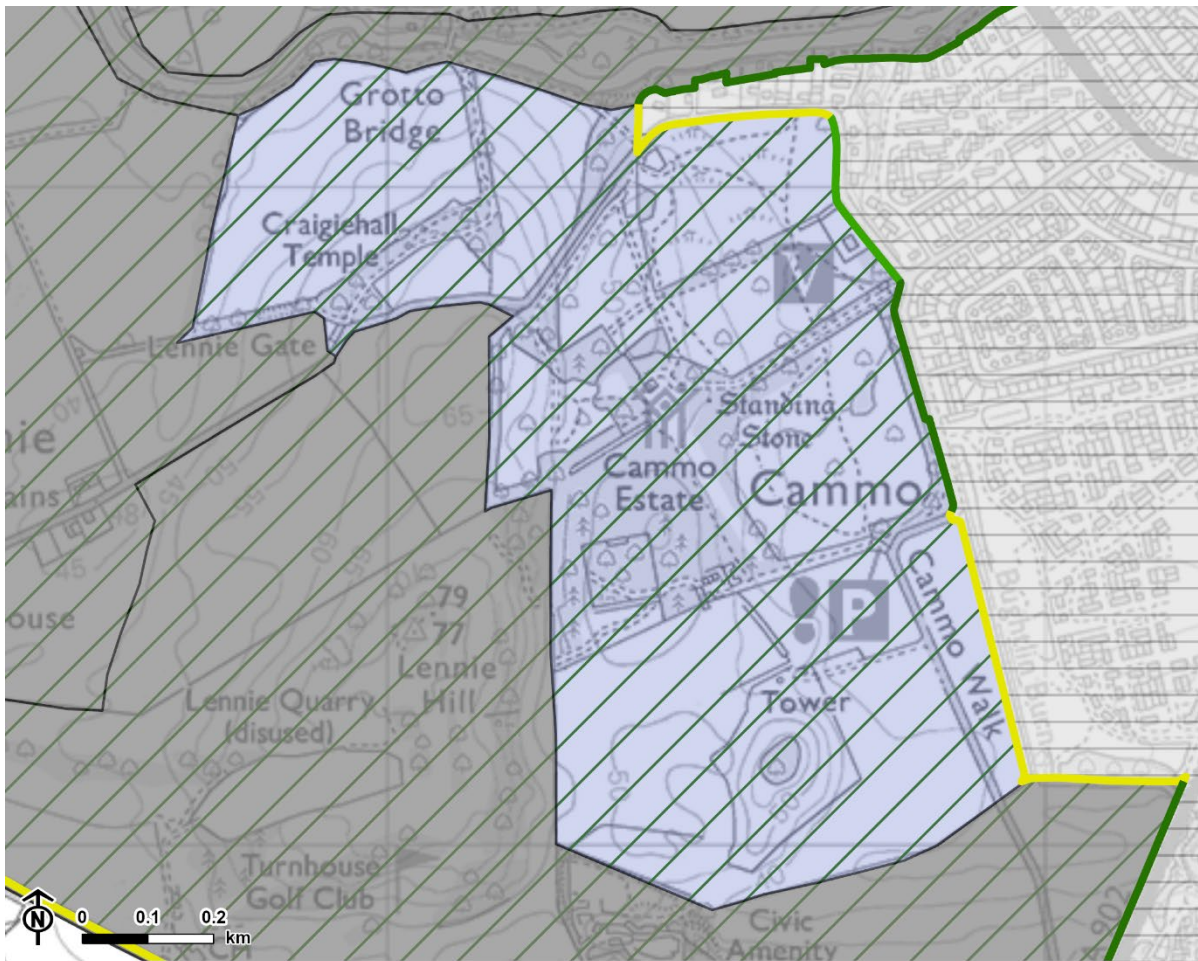
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.

Presence of notable development

- Not applicable.

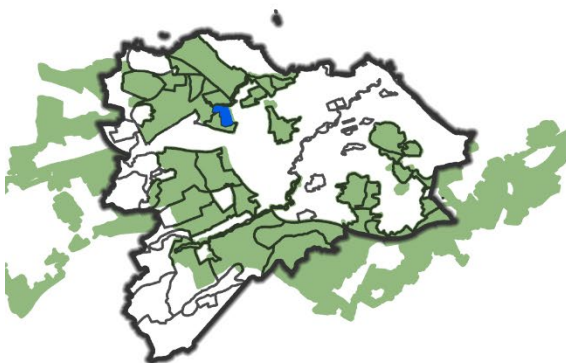
Figure A.18: Cammo Policies LCA



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- Policy Landscape: Cammo Policies
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area

- Settlement
 - Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt boundary strength**
- Robust
 - Moderate to robust
 - Moderate
 - Weak to moderate
 - Weak
 - N/A



LCA 31: Craigiehall Policies

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – All.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- The woodland and well-managed farmland of the Craigiehall Policies gently descend towards the north-west and the 18th century Craigiehall House.
- It forms the setting of the Craigiehall GDL, which recognises how the policy landscape “*contributes scenic interest to the wider area, maintaining rural designed landscape character at the urban edges of Edinburgh*” ([Historic Environment Scotland’s Craigiehall webpage](#)). The historic mid-18th century designed landscape contains six category A and seven category B listed buildings.

Setting evaluation

- Medium

Identity

- The mansion house of Craigiehall and policy woodlands contribute to the identity of Edinburgh through their historic and scenic character.
- Built development has impacted features of the designed landscape, although it still benefits from the scenic qualities and biodiversity value of the woodland, rolling farmland and tree avenues.
- The policies form a wider wooded green swathe, which includes the Cammo Policies and Dalmeny Policies, extending along the north-western periphery of Edinburgh towards the coastline.

Identity evaluation

- Medium

Recreational use

- Public access was historically restricted due to MOD presence, which has resulted in a lack of formal paths. However, there are some informal paths through the area.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium-low

Green Belt boundaries

- No.

Strength of inner boundaries

- Not applicable.

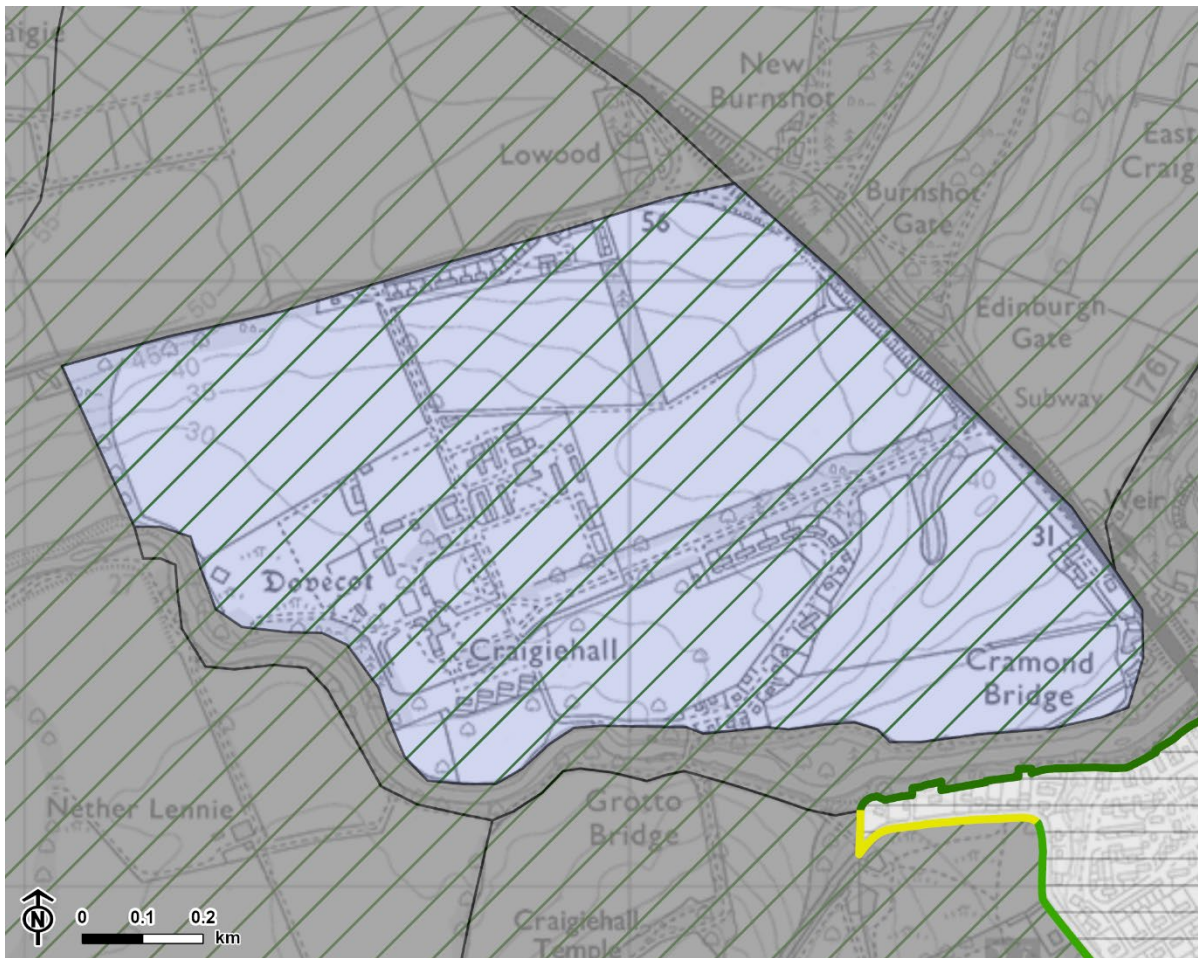
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.

Presence of notable development

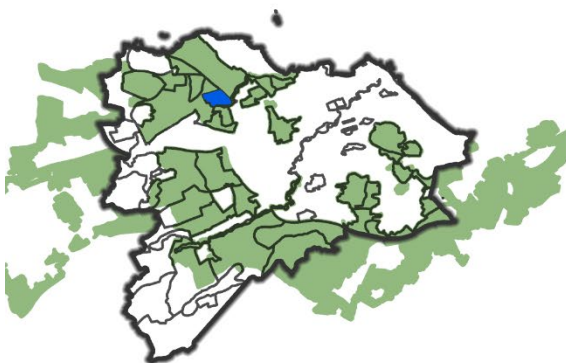
- Not applicable.

Figure A.19: Craigiehall Policies LCA



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- Policy Landscape: Craigiehall Policies
 - City of Edinburgh boundary
 - Neighbouring Landscape Character Area
 - Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt boundary strength**
- Robust
 - Moderate to robust
 - Moderate
 - Weak to moderate
 - Weak
 - N/A



LCA 32: Craigmillar Policies

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – All, includes green belt areas beyond the LCA boundary.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- The Craigmillar Policies are located on a low rise above Craigmillar and Little France. They predominantly comprise Craigmillar Castle and the surrounding policy woodlands.
- The policies form part of a wider green swathe, extending from Holyrood Park to the city's eastern boundary with Midlothian Council. The contribution of the landscape to local character, the historic environment and scenic value are recognised in the designation of the area as the Craigmillar Castle LLA.
- The Craigmillar Policies are an important landscape feature in approaches to the city on the A7 and have intervisibility with other key landscape features such as the Braid Hills. In particular, views to Holyrood Park and Arthur's Seat are notable from the area.
- The policies form the setting of the Craigmillar Castle GDL and Scheduled Monument, which recognises the 16th century castle-garden complex for its "picturesque composition" ([Historic Environment Scotland's Craigmillar Castle webpage](#)).

Setting evaluation

- High

Identity

- The historic castle is situated on a low rise, with the mature woodland and remnant policies contributing distinctiveness and identity to the local area.
- The landscape provides visual separation between Craigmillar and the Edinburgh BioQuarter development at Little France.

Identity evaluation

- High

Recreational use

- The immediate castle grounds are a valued visitor attraction, and the wider policy parkland includes a network of footpaths, which connect to a wider access network.
- The area contains three core paths of Craigmillar – Dalkeith, the Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park and the Braids path network – and also provides links to the local path network.
- The area also includes playing fields and Liberton Golf Club.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium-high

Green Belt boundaries

- The description of the green belt boundaries refers to the wider area of green belt around Craigmillar Policies LCA which includes areas additional to the LCA including Liberton Golf Club to the south of the LCA, and smaller areas to the north-east and north-west of the LCA.

Strength of inner boundaries

- The boundary in the north-east is mainly robust, where woodlands border Castlebrae Avenue and residential gardens in Craigmillar. However, the boundary is weak around Castleview Primary School, where it cuts through a parking area and field.
- The boundary to the north west includes Peffermill road which is robust, and moderate areas adjacent to the buildings to the south of the road next to the University of Edinburgh playing fields.
- The boundary in the west with The Inch is robust where it follows a train line and woodland belts along the A7, but there are a few short sections that are less robust.
- To the south of the LCA, the boundary with Liberton Golf Club is between moderate and robust in strength, following the A727, tree belts and tree lines.

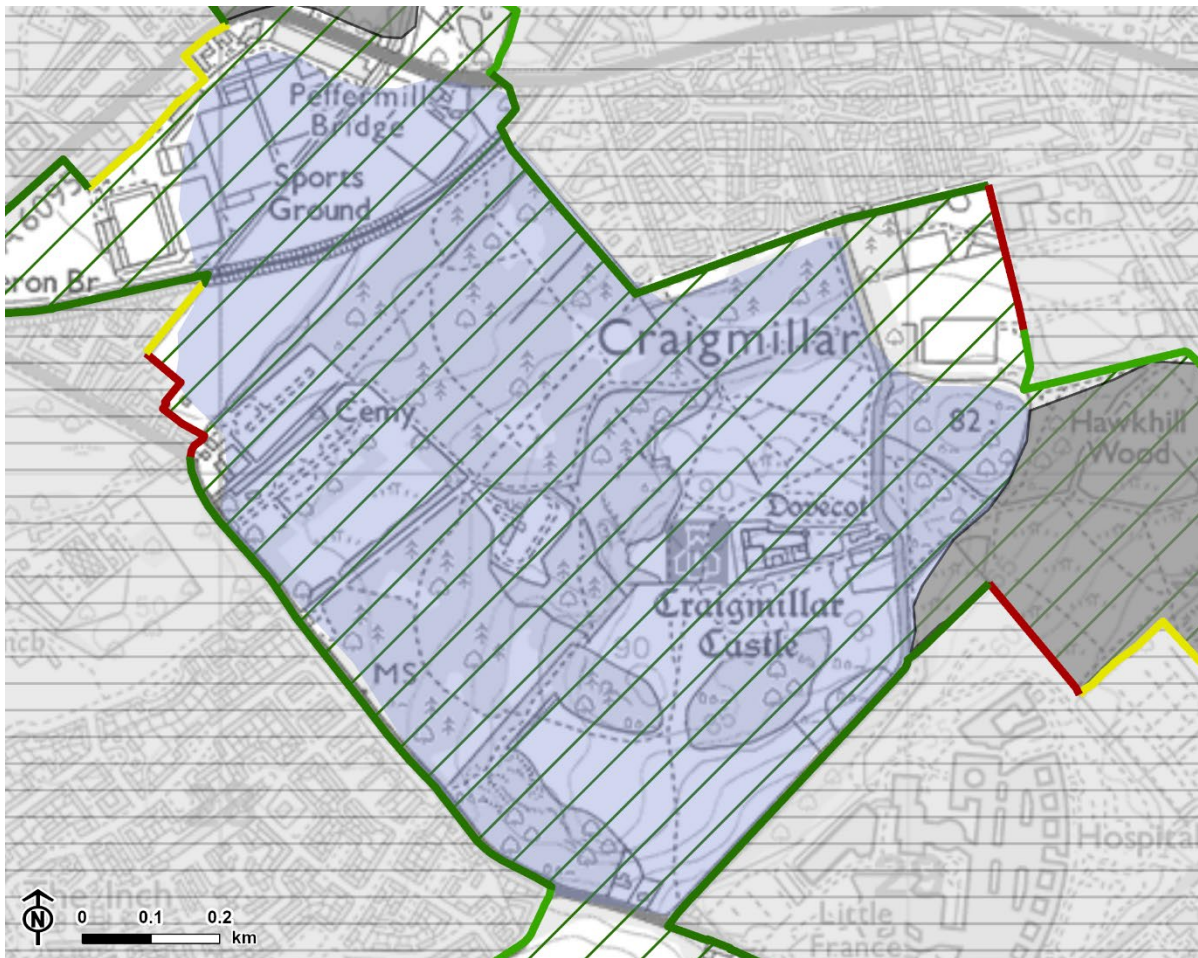
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.




Presence of notable development

- Not applicable.

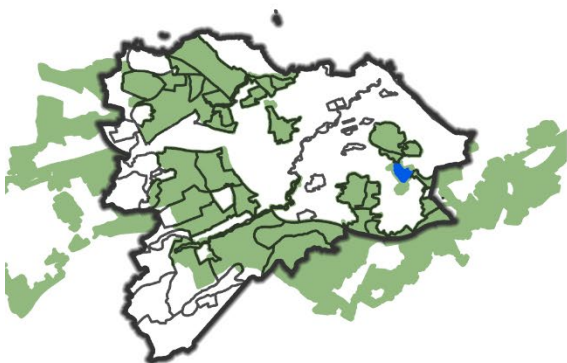
Figure A.20: Craigmillar Policies LCA



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-  Policy Landscape: Craigmillar Policies
-  City of Edinburgh boundary
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area

-  Settlement
-  Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt boundary strength**
-  Robust
-  Moderate to robust
-  Moderate
-  Weak to moderate
-  Weak
-  N/A



LCA 33: Dalmahoy Policies

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – Approximately three quarters of the LCA extending to the western edge of the hotel and country club grounds.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- Yes – Western section of policy landscape including policy woodland.

Setting

- The green belt in the eastern part of the LCA is adjacent to the Riccarton Campus LCA, but intervisibility is limited by woodland belts along the boundary.
- There is some intervisibility between the green belt area and the northern edges of Balerno and Currie to the south-east.
- Views into the entire LCA from the A71 are limited by perimeter woodland.
- The entire LCA is visible from some nearby elevated viewpoints such as Dalmahoy Hill and the Pentland Hills. While not prominent, the area appears as wooded green swathe in the middle distance of views towards more distinctive features such as the city centre and Arthur's Seat, the Forth Bridges and the Highlands beyond.
- Owing to its landform and separation from the city, the area does not have a strong visual relationship with Edinburgh.
- The western section of the area is within the CPA, outwith the green belt. This section has very limited visual relationship with any settlements.

Setting evaluation

- Medium-low (green belt)
- Low (CPA)

Identity

- Policy landscapes such as Dalmahoy form distinctive and characteristic features of the region around the perimeter of Edinburgh. However, the policy landscape

has been heavily altered and is in relatively poor condition compared to other similar landscapes to the west of Edinburgh such as Newliston and Dundas.

- Both the green belt and CPA areas within the LCA contain areas of woodland which contribute to the policy landscape.
- The area forms part of the wider rural surroundings of the area west of Edinburgh.

Identity evaluation

- Medium (green belt)
- Medium (CPA)

Recreational use

- There is a golf course near Dalmahoy House, but owing to its location in the grounds of a private hotel and country club, it is unlikely to be used extensively by the general public for wider recreational access.
- There are no core paths in the area, although National Cycle Route 75 runs along the minor road at the south-western boundary of the majority of the LCA.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium-low (green belt)
- Medium-low (CPA)

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- The boundary with Riccarton to the east is robust, following a woodland belt along a minor road.

Strength of outer boundaries

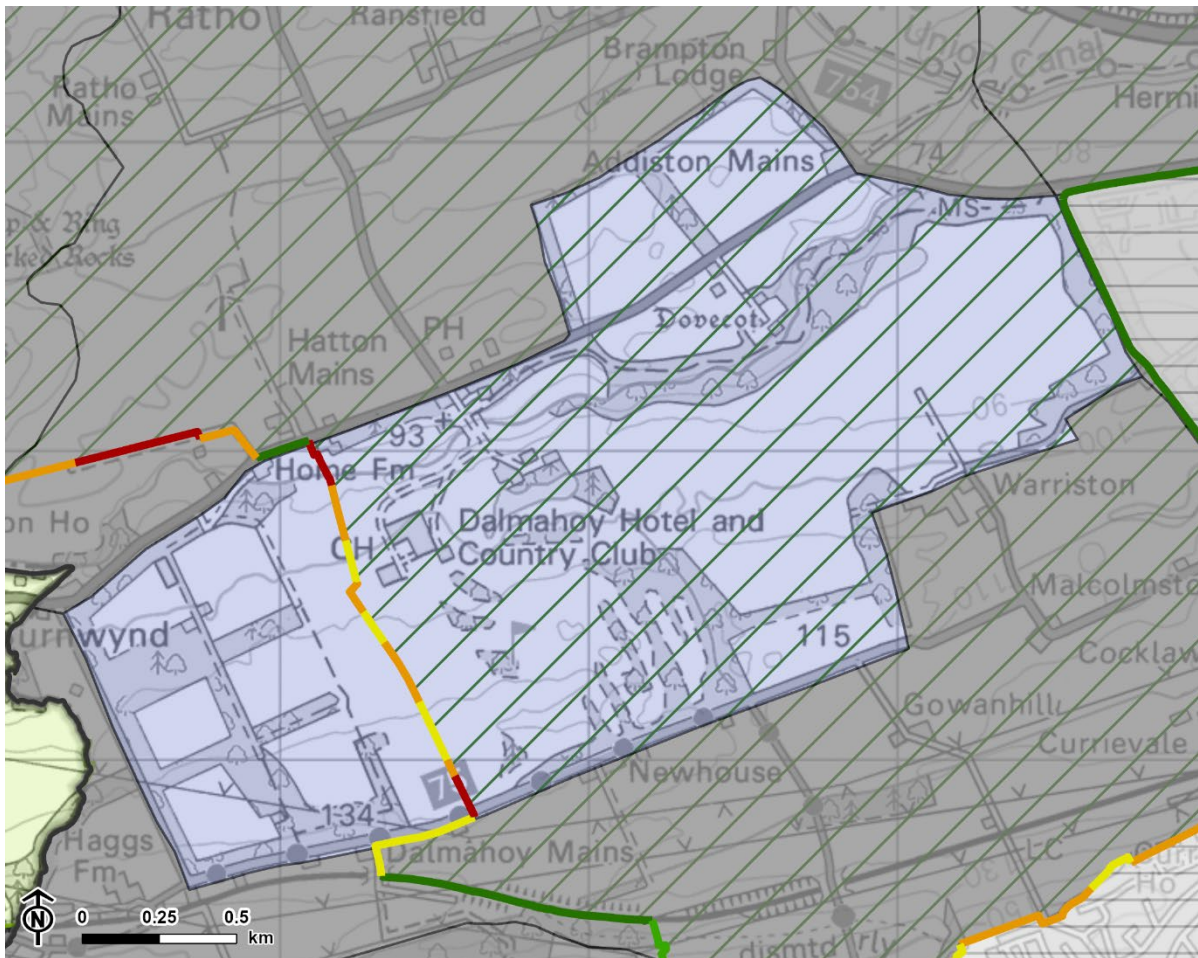
- The outer green belt boundary follows the edge of the hotel golf course and a short section of fields north of the Gogar Burn. At the southern and northern extent there are only low fences (weak), but most of the boundary follows an

intermittent tree line (weak to moderate) which is more continuous in a few sections (moderate).

Presence of notable development

- The hotel and country club complex is located near the centre of the LCA.

Figure A.21: Dalmahoy Policies LCA

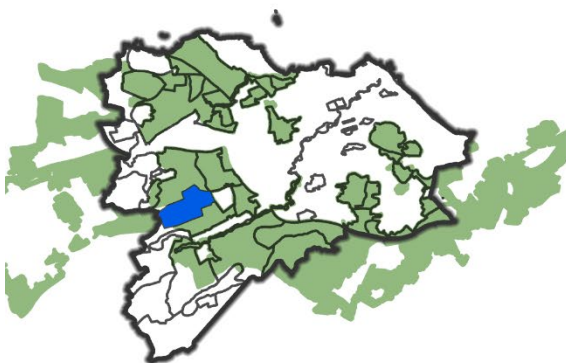


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- Policy Landscape: Dalmahoy Policies
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area
- Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt/countryside area in adjoining local authorities

Green belt boundary strength

- Robust
- Moderate to robust
- Moderate
- Weak to moderate
- Weak
- N/A



LCA 34: Dalmeny Policies

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – All.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- Despite not being located immediately adjacent to settlement, Dalmeny Estate plays an important role in the wider setting of Edinburgh and South Queensferry.
- The unique character of the estate, including extensive rolling farmland and parkland contribute to the setting of the wider area.
- The wooded estate is visible from various locations along the coastline, from South Queensferry in the west to as far as Newhaven in the east. It is also important to the setting of the Forth Rail Bridge, with views available to and from the bridge.
- The landscape of Dalmeny Estate plays an important role in the setting of Dalmeny House and is designated in its entirety as a Garden and Designed Landscape.
- The landscape of Dalmeny Estate juxtaposed against the Firth of Forth is a key defining feature of the area. This is recognised by the entirety of the area falling within the Southern Forth Coast LLA.

Setting evaluation

- High

Identity

- The extensive area of Dalmeny Estate is important to the setting of South Queensferry, due to its distinctive rolling landform and wooded nature.

- The estate plays an important role in providing separation between South Queensferry and other built up areas along the coastline, including Cramond and Granton further east.

Identity evaluation

- High

Recreational use

- The estate is a large recreational resource close to South Queensferry and Edinburgh and provides connectivity between these two areas.
- The area is highly valued and popular for informal recreational use. A network of paths crosses the estate, and the John Muir Way and National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 76 passes through the area. The John Muir Way runs parallel to the Almond River valley before following the coastline to South Queensferry and beyond.
- The on-road route of NCN Route 1 runs along the B924.
- Paths through the estate provide wider connectivity between South Queensferry, the Almond River valley, and the coastline of Cramond, as well as Barnton via the John Muir Way.
- Dalmeny House and grounds are open to the public in the summer months.

Recreational use evaluation

- High

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- Not applicable.

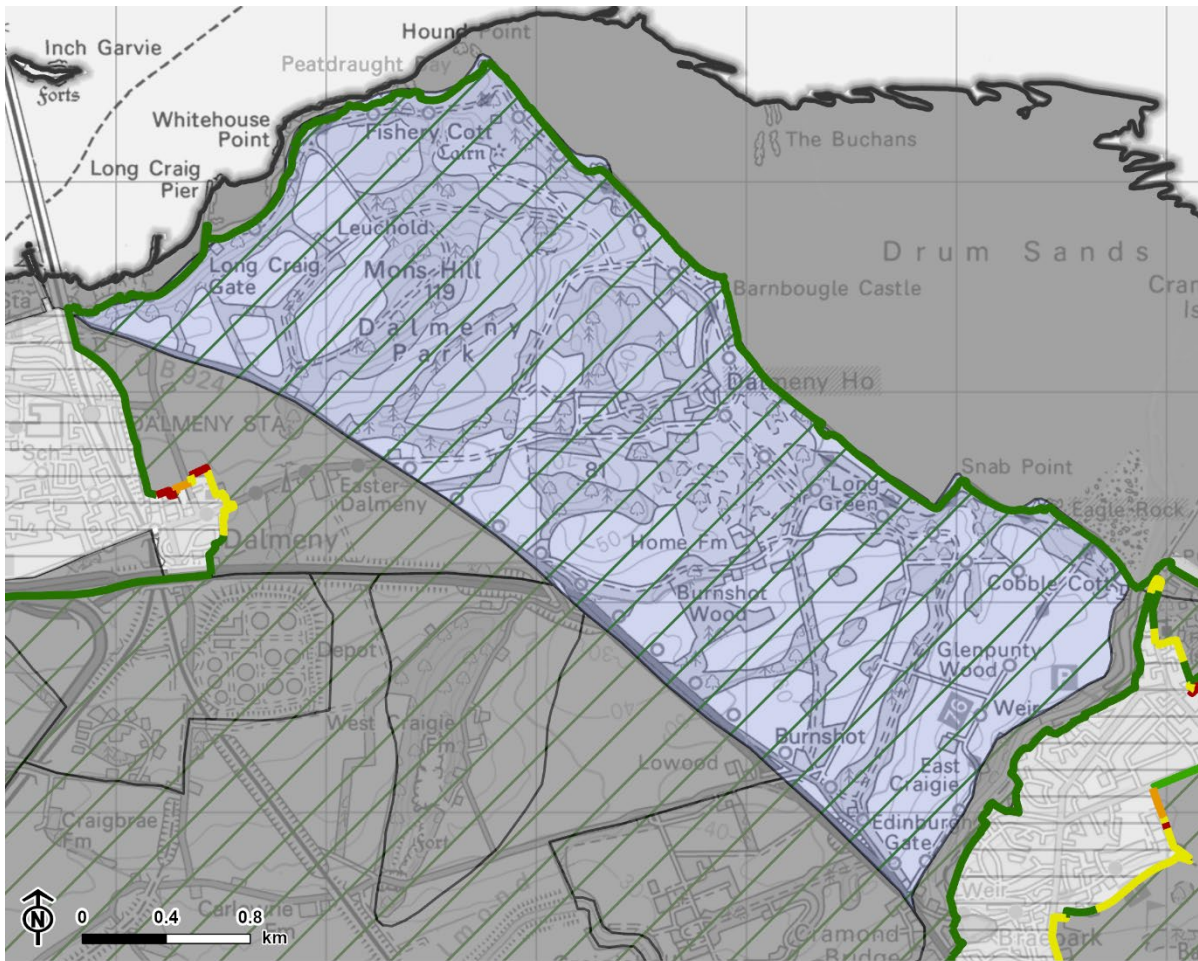
Strength of outer boundaries

- The coastline along the Firth of Forth forms a continuous, robust boundary to the north-east and north-west of the LCA.

Presence of notable development

- None identified.

Figure A.22: Dalmeny Policies LCA



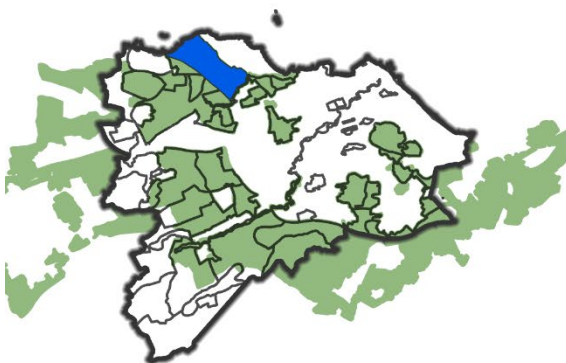
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- Policy Landscape: Dalmeny Policies
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area

- Settlement
- Green belt within the City of Edinburgh

Green belt boundary strength

- Robust
- Moderate to robust
- Moderate
- Weak to moderate
- Weak
- N/A



LCA 36: Drum Policies

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – All.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- The Drum Policies are a designed landscape with parkland that extends across a small hill south of Gilmerton, near Edinburgh's south-west boundary with Midlothian.
- The 18th century policies and associated listed buildings, including the category A listed Drum House, form the Drum GDL and are also designated as the Drum LLA. Alongside the perimeter walls, parkland and policy woodland have local importance, contributing to recreational and scenic value.
- This landscape is visible as a distinct clump of woodland on top of the hill in views from Craigmillar Castle and other elevated parts of the city although the house and its immediate landscape setting are screened from the surrounding area.

Setting evaluation

- Medium

Identity

- While less distinctive than other examples in Edinburgh, the policy woodlands and parkland of The Drum and its intact mansion house are typical components of designed landscapes found both within the city and on its periphery.
- The Drum Policies contribute to a wider swathe of green space that extends from Edinburgh's south-west boundary into Midlothian and plays an important role in connecting green spaces across the local authority areas.

Identity evaluation

- Medium-high

Recreational use

- The estate is used as a riding centre, and horse paddocks dominate fields to the south of the house.
- Footpaths are promoted along the east/west drive providing connectivity in and around settlements with links to Danderhall and Gilmerton.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium

Green Belt boundaries

- Yes – with suburbs to the west, north and north-east.

Strength of inner boundaries

- The boundary to the west is mainly robust, and follows the B701, woodland belts and the A727. There is a short weaker section behind gardens on Candlemaker's Park.
- The boundary to the north and north-east along the A7 is robust.

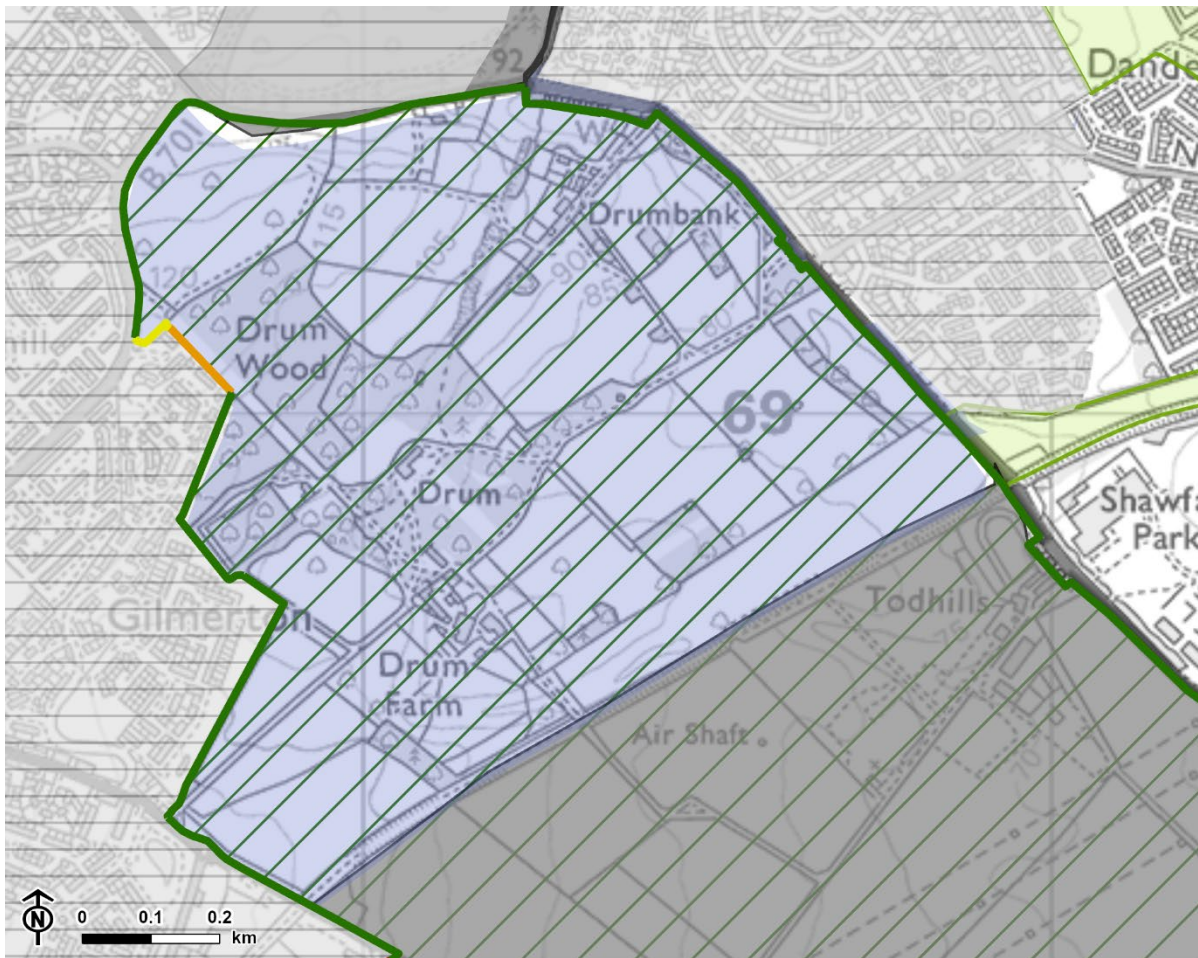
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.

Presence of notable development

- Not applicable.

Figure A.23: Drum Policies LCA

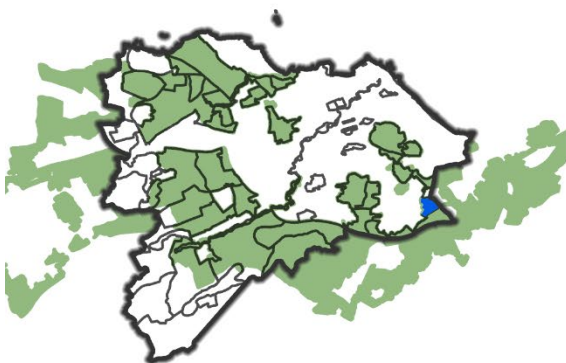


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- Policy Landscape: Drum Policies
- Settlement
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area
- Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt/countryside area in adjoining local authorities

Green belt boundary strength

- Robust
- Moderate to robust
- Moderate
- Weak to moderate
- Weak
- N/A



LCA 37: Dundas Policies

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – Nearly all of the LCA, all except small areas in the south-west and north-west.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- Yes – Small areas in the south-west and north-west.

Setting

- The area comprises a wooded estate associated with Dundas Castle, featuring a locally prominent wooded hill which rises to an elevation of 118m AOD. Although not visible from the settlement of Edinburgh, Dundas Hill provides a backdrop to South Queensferry, contributing to the settlement's setting.
- It is also highly visible from key transport routes including the M90 and A90.
- The majority of the area is designated as a Garden and Designed Landscape associated with Dundas Castle, and is a Local Landscape Area (LLA). The landscape is important to the setting of the category A listed castle.
- The landscape provides distinctive and varied features including wooded hills, a loch and more open undulating land used as a golf course and for agriculture. The policy woodlands and landform of Dundas Hill are distinctive.

Setting evaluation

- Medium-high

Identity

- Dundas Castle and its associated Garden and Designed Landscape are notable historical landmarks, important to the historic identity of South Queensferry.
- The landscape has a strong influence of policy woodlands which extend around Dundas Hill. This hill is a locally prominent feature visible from parts of South Queensferry, contributing to the identity of the settlement in views south.

- This LCA makes no contribution to the identity of Edinburgh because of its distance from the city, however, the area is experienced when approaching Edinburgh from the west.
- The LCA provides separation between the settlements of Kirkliston and South Queensferry, helping both settlements maintain their separate identities.

Identity evaluation

- Medium-high

Recreational use

- There are no formal recreational routes within the area, however a network of informal paths provides access to limited areas within the grounds of Dundas Castle, including through the woodlands and alongside Dundas Loch.
- The area contains a golf course used for formal recreation. However, this golf course is not easily accessible for non-members.
- There is limited recreational connectivity between the area and other nearby areas such as South Queensferry due to the presence of main roads and railway lines, including the A90 and M90 trunk roads.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- The A90 forms a robust boundary with South Queensferry to the north of the LCA.

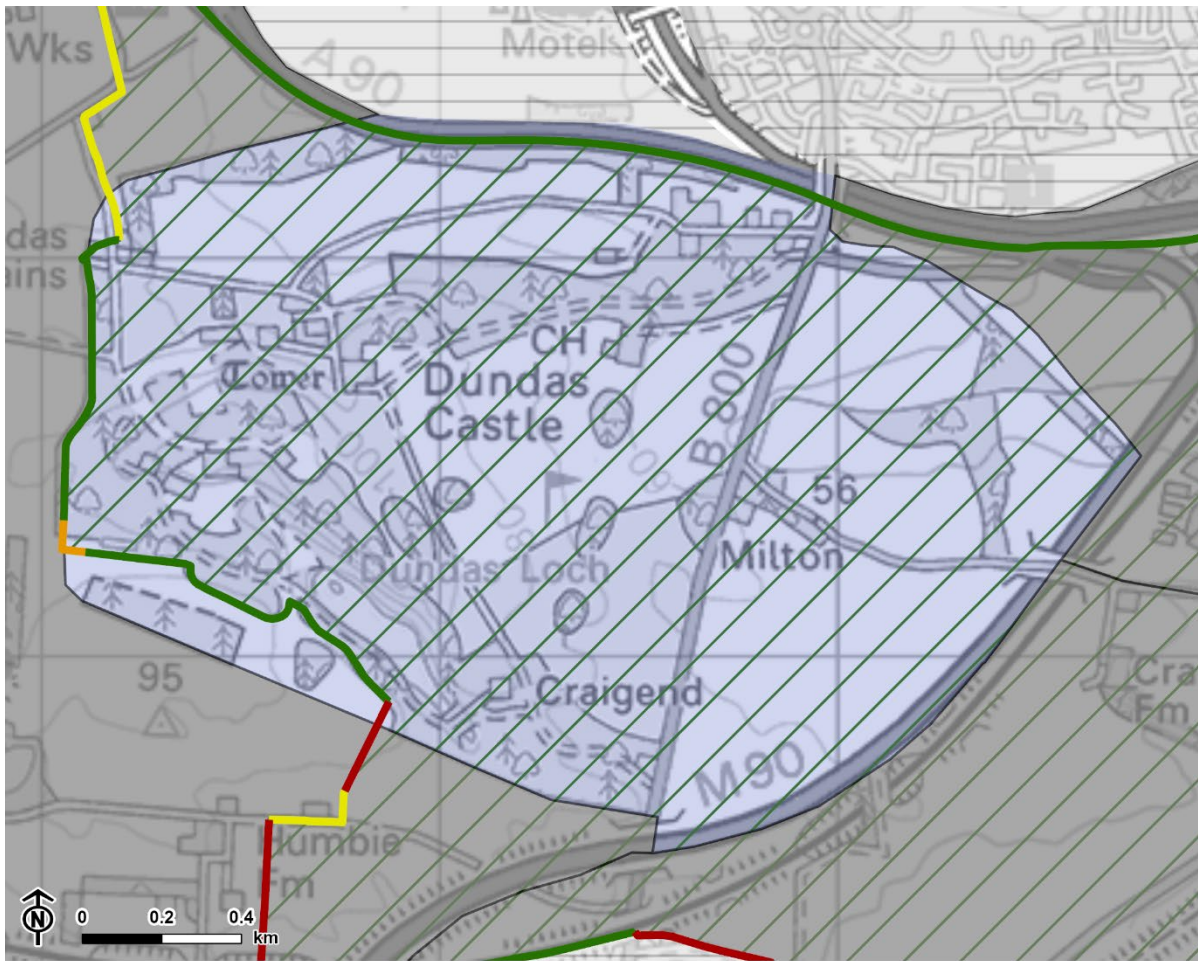
Strength of outer boundaries

- The outer boundary follows the western edge of the LCA and cuts into the north-west corner of the area and a larger stretch within the south-west of the area. The boundary mainly follows edges of mature woodland blocks and tree belts (robust), with a few short weaker sections.

Presence of notable development

- None identified.

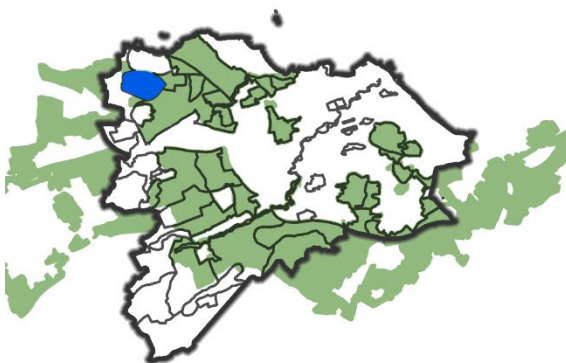
Figure A.24: Dundas Policies LCA



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- Policy Landscape: Dundas Policies
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area

- Settlement
- Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt boundary strength**
- Robust
- Moderate to robust
- Moderate
- Weak to moderate
- Weak
- N/A



LCA 39: Lauriston Policies

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – All.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- Perimeter woodlands, around Lauriston Castle and its grounds, and areas of farmland are visually prominent from public roads although this area is not widely visible from much of the urban area of Cramond or Silverknowes. Some visibility is experienced from the settlement edge of Cramond and Silverknowes, including near the Brighthouse development.
- The coastal farmland is a unique feature to Edinburgh and is important to the setting of Cramond and Silverknowes.
- This area has strong associations with the Firth of Forth, with extensive visibility available out across the Firth of Forth, including views of islands and the distant coastline of Fife. The importance of this is acknowledged as the LCA falls within the Southern Forth Coast LLA.
- The undulating farmland of the LCA and Firth of Forth are important to the setting of Lauriston Castle and its grounds which are a Garden and Designed Landscape.

Setting evaluation

- High

Identity

- The Lauriston policies and farmland, together with the Cramond coast and the Barnton and Silverknowes golf courses, form part of an extensive swathe of green space separating Cramond village and Silverknowes.
- The coastal pastures are a unique feature to Edinburgh and are important to the setting and identity of Cramond and Silverknowes.

Identity evaluation

- High

Recreational use

- Lauriston Castle and its grounds are well-used for recreation. The wider area of farmland and remnant parkland near Cramond is popular for informal recreation, and provides connections into the wider area including the coastline of Cramond, the River Almond valley and Silverknowes Golf Course.
- A core path running along the coastline of the Firth of Forth passes through the north of the area.
- The LCA forms part of a wider area of open space incorporating Barnton and Silverknowes golf courses and connecting to the coastal edge.
- An urban farm is located in the LCA, offering opportunities for the local community to engage in food growing.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- The boundary with suburbs to the south-east, near Lauriston Castle, is defined by Barnton Gardens and Lauriston Farm Road. High stone walls around the grounds of Lauriston Castle run along stretches of these roads, and mature trees within the grounds, and adjacent to the roads reinforce the boundary. Therefore, the boundary here is robust.
- Further east along Lauriston Farm Road, the road forms a moderate boundary.
- The boundary around the Bridghouse development in the north-west is formed by residential gardens, strengthened in sections by boundary trees (weak to moderate) and treelines (moderate). Further north-west around Cramond areas of woodland create some robust sections of boundary, with treelines and a stone wall around Cramond Kirkyard creating moderate boundaries in other sections.

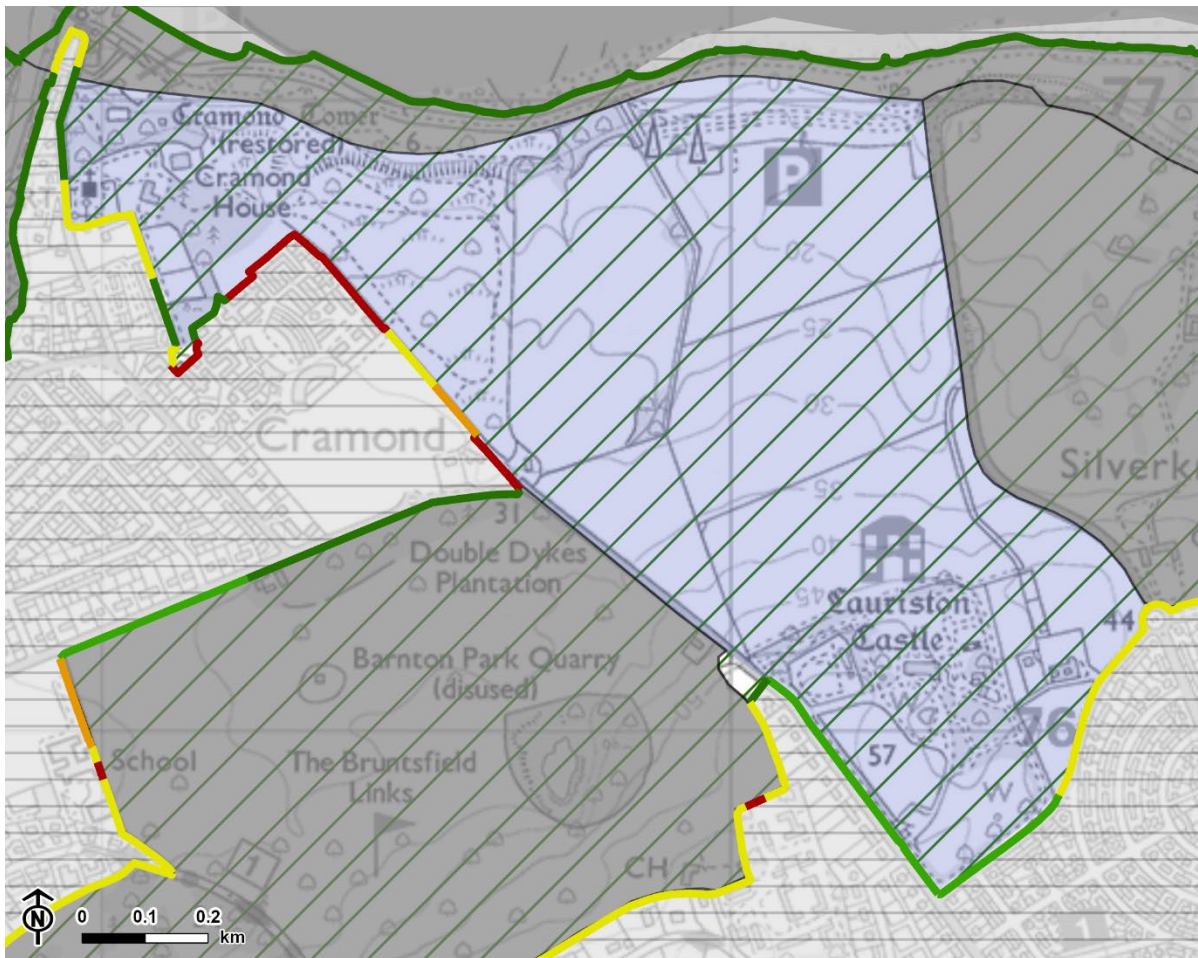
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.

Presence of notable development

- None identified.

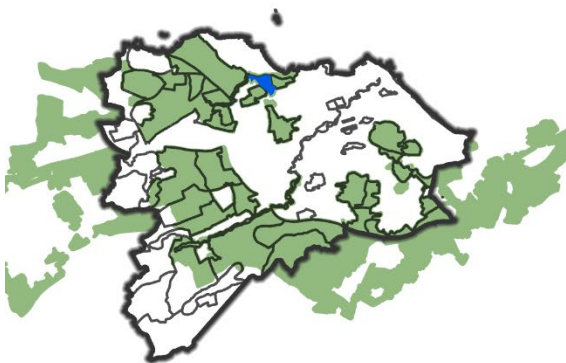
Figure A.25: Lauriston Policies LCA



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- Policy Landscape: Lauriston Policies
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area

- Settlement
- Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt boundary strength**
- Robust
- Moderate to robust
- Moderate
- Weak to moderate
- Weak
- N/A



LCA 40: Mortonhall Policies

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – All.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- Extending from the south-east boundary of Edinburgh and Midlothian to the Braid Hills, the Mortonhall Policies is an intimate landscape with a concave landform and well-wooded character resulting from its mature parkland trees, dense woodland, tree avenues and wooded field boundaries.
- The policies also form the setting of the Morton Mains Conservation Area and category A listed Mortonhall House in the south-west of the LCA. Amongst other elements, the Conservation Area recognises the value of the woodland, mature trees, and contrasting rural farm buildings and classical house.
- Mortonhall Policies form part of the setting of the Braids, Liberton and Mortonhall LLA. Mortonhall is recognised for its recreational value, policy influences, remnant estate parkland and paddocks.
- The Mortonhall Policies are visible from the City Bypass and B701.

Setting evaluation

- Medium-high

Identity

- The landscape contributes to the identity of the Braid Hills which are part of the Edinburgh identity. Policy landscapes are a common feature around the periphery of Edinburgh. The Mortonhall Policies serve as a physical and visual separator between Midlothian and Edinburgh.
- The landscape also provides physical and visual separation between the neighbourhoods of Buckstone and Fairmilehead in the west and Burdiehouse, Kaimes and Alnwickhill in the east.

Identity evaluation

- Medium-high

Recreational use

- The area contains a network of local paths that connect to a wider network of paths in the surrounding area. This includes the Braids Core Path, which connects the north of the LCA to the Braid Hills and Liberton Fringes.
- A caravan park and campsite add additional recreational interest.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- Woodland belts and woodland blocks create a robust boundary with Fairmilehead in the west, with some sections of lower strength at Winton Gardens.
- Woodland belts in the east also create a robust boundary with Alnwickhill and Kaimes, except for a moderate section north of Mortonhall Cemetery, where a treeline borders residential gardens.

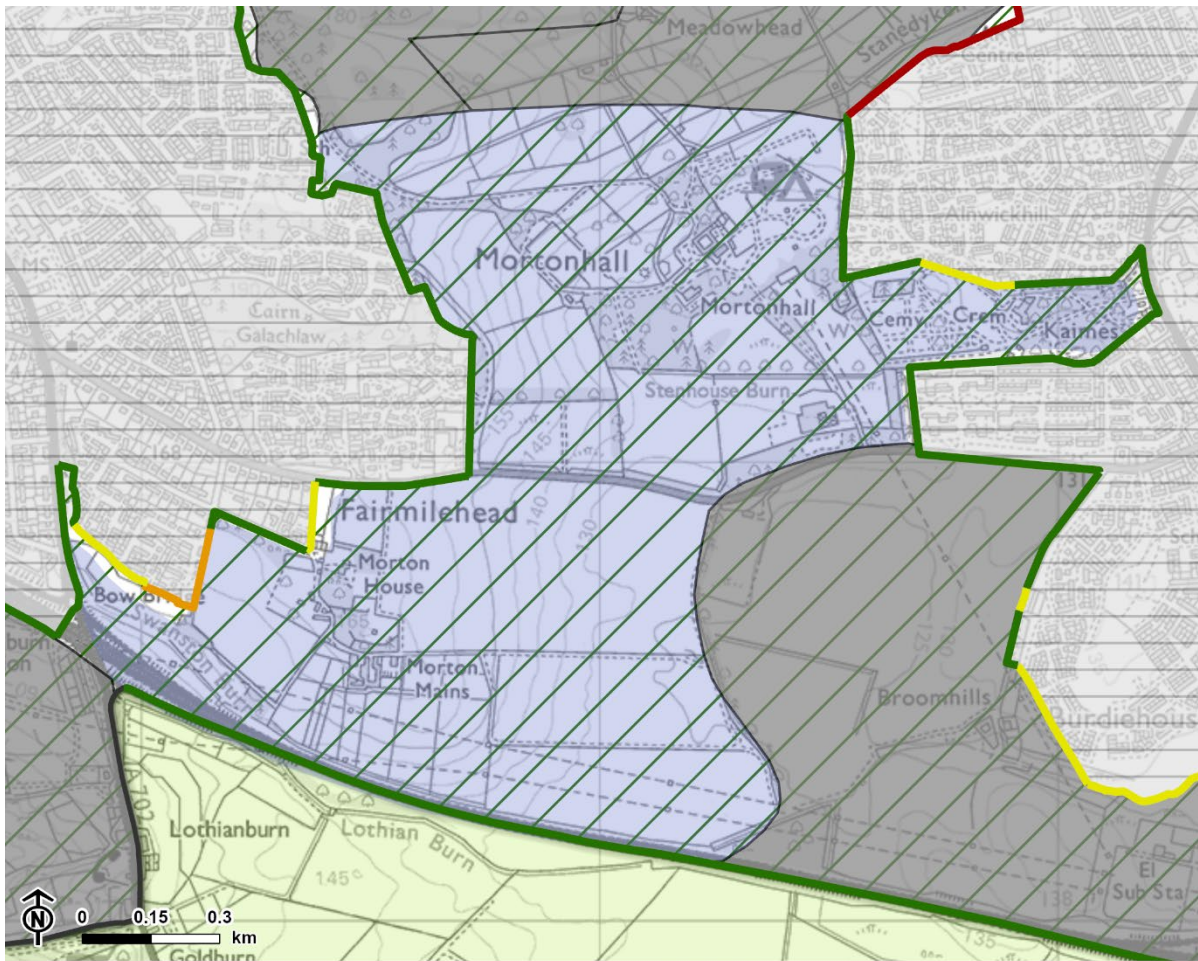
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.

Presence of notable development

- Not applicable.

Figure A.26: Mortonhall Policies LCA

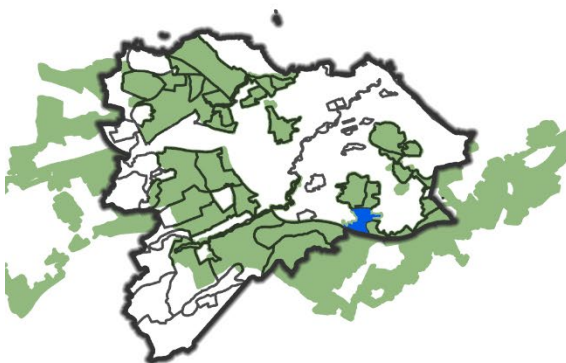


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- Policy Landscape: Mortonhall Policies
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area
- Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt/countryside area in adjoining local authorities

Green belt boundary strength

- Robust
- Moderate to robust
- Moderate
- Weak to moderate
- Weak
- N/A



LCA 41: Newliston Policies

Existing Green Belt?

- No.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- Yes.

Setting

- Gently undulating landscape of policy parkland, woodlands and agricultural land associated with the category A listed Newliston House.
- Although close to Kirknewton, there is little intervisibility of the landscape from the settlement, and it does not contribute strongly to the settlement's setting. However, the landscape is highly visible from key transport routes including the A89, M90 and Edinburgh-Glasgow railway line.
- The entirety of the area is designated as a Garden and Designed Landscape associated with Newliston House. The landscape is important to the setting of the category A listed Newliston House, and other category B and C listed buildings within the estate grounds.
- The landscape includes distinctive elements such as areas of parkland and woodland which contrast with the surrounding agricultural land.

Setting evaluation

- Medium-high

Identity

- Newliston Estate is located between the settlements of Kirkliston, Newbridge and Broxburn. Although not highly visible from these settlements, its location helps to maintain separation between the settlements, reinforcing their individual identity.
- Newliston House and its associated Garden and Designed Landscape are notable historical landmarks. The wooded policy landscape of the estate contributes to the sense of place.

Identity evaluation

- Medium-high

Recreational use

- The Newliston Estate is a private estate. It is not open to the general public year round, however ticketed access can be gained on certain days in the year which allows people to visit the house and its grounds.
- There is limited connectivity between the area and other nearby areas.

Recreational use evaluation

- Low

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- Not applicable.

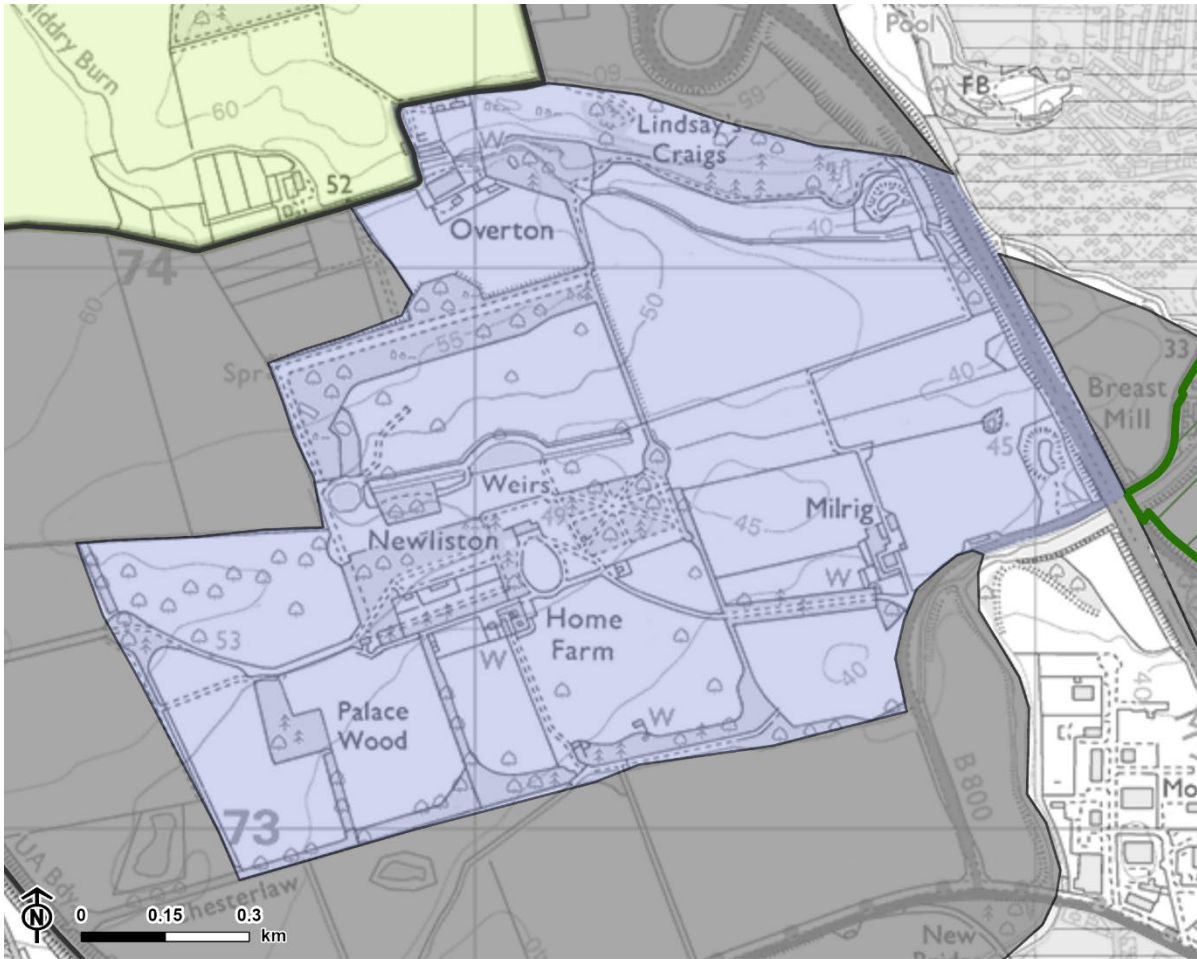
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.

Presence of notable development

- None identified.

Figure A.27: Newliston Policies LCA

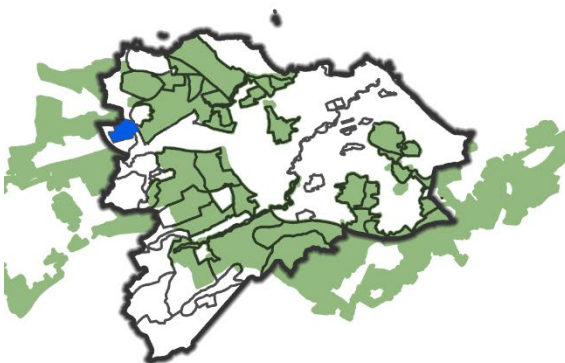


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- Policy Landscape: Newliston Policies
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area
- Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt/countryside area in adjoining local authorities

Green belt boundary strength

- Robust
- Moderate to robust
- Moderate
- Weak to moderate
- Weak
- N/A



Prominent Urban Hill LCT

LCA 42: Braid Hills

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – All.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- The rugged summits with semi-natural vegetation, divided by the wooded Hermitage of Braid, punctuate views from Edinburgh, providing a backdrop and strong contrast to the urban area.
- The hills are less dramatic than the Pentland Hills to the south-west, however the rolling slopes contribute to the overall composition and scenic quality in views to the hills.
- The Braid Hills form part of the setting for the Braids, Liberton and Mortonhall LLA, which is recognised for its historic setting, including the category A listed Royal Observatory and the Blackford Hill fort and settlement Scheduled Monument. The semi-rural quality of the area along with its glacial valley and panoramic views are also recognised in its designation as an LLA.

Setting evaluation

- High

Identity

- The distinctive craggy form, with semi-natural vegetation, is typical of prominent hills in Edinburgh and contribute to the overall identity of settlement and sense of place within the city.
- The Braid Hills link to the Braid Burn valley, the Liberton Fringes and the Mortonhall Policies, which create a swathe of green space extending towards

the city's south-east boundary and into Midlothian, also connecting with the Pentland Hills.

- The Braid Hills also contribute to a visual and physical distinction between Fairmilehead and Morningside to the west and Newington to the east.

Identity evaluation

- High

Recreational use

- The Braid Hills have a network of paths that are heavily used for recreation, by walkers, cyclists and equestrians. This includes the Braids Core Path that links Blackford Hill with the Meadows.
- The Craigmillar Park Golf Course, Braids Hills Golf Course and Morton Hall Golf Course provide additional opportunities for recreation.

Recreational use evaluation

- High

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- Most of the boundary is robust, along woodland belts and/or the base of steep slopes, separating Fairmilehead and Morningside to the west from Newington to the east.
- The boundary to the north-west is moderate for a section, where open fields and an allotment garden border Midmar Drive.
- The boundary to the north-east at West Mains Road is moderate to robust around the University of Edinburgh King's Buildings, with minor roads and tree lines.

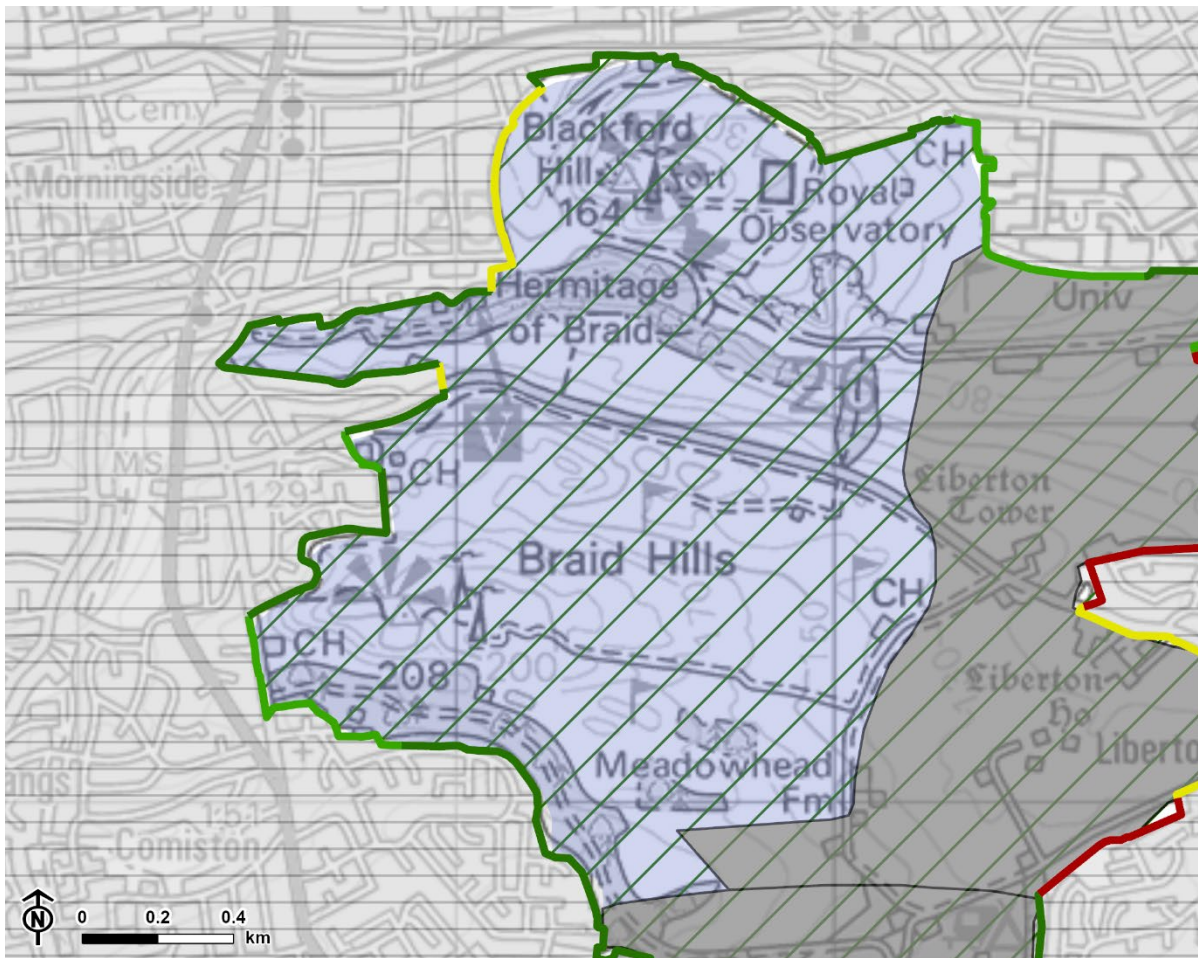
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.

Presence of notable development

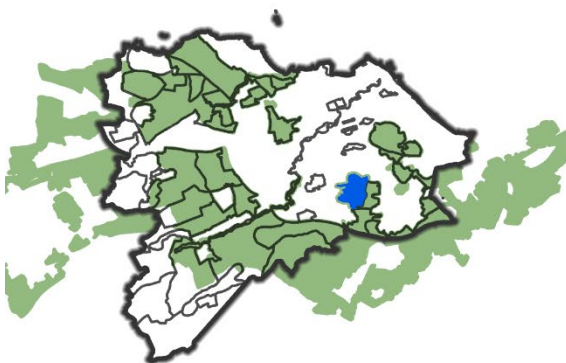
- Not applicable.

Figure A.28: Braid Hills LCA



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- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Prominent Urban Hills: Braid Hills | Settlement |
| City of Edinburgh boundary | Green belt within the City of Edinburgh |
| Neighbouring Landscape Character Area | Green belt boundary strength |
| | Robust |
| | Moderate to robust |
| | Moderate |
| | Weak to moderate |
| | Weak |
| | N/A |



LCA 45: Corstorphine Hill

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – All.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- The landform of this outcrop hill, its woodland and remnant parkland on its lower slopes contribute to the distinctiveness of Corstorphine Hill and the contrast it provides to the surrounding urban area in the west of Edinburgh's city centre.
- The long, wooded ridge of Corstorphine Hill is prominent from much of the city and from the western rural area. The gentler south-eastern slopes of the hill are only visible locally.
- Corstorphine Hill is also highly visible from several transportation corridors, including the A8 and the railway, acting as a visual indicator of approaching the city centre when entering from the west.
- Corstorphine Hill forms the focus of the Corstorphine Hill LLA. The designation recognises the contribution of the distinctive landform and the sense of naturalness of the woodland to scenic and recreational value.

Setting evaluation

- High

Identity

- Corstorphine Hill, together with the other prominent urban hills, strongly contributes the identity and setting of Edinburgh. The shallower eastern slopes are more open and less widely visible although add diversity and links with Ravelston Woods.
- The hill acts as a physical and visual boundary between the neighbourhoods of Clermiston, Blackhall, Corstorphine, Ravelston and Murrayfield.

Identity evaluation

- High

Recreational use

- The John Muir Way and the Corstorphine Hill Core Path run through the LCA. There is a network of additional paths that provides access to viewpoints within the Corstorphine Hill Local Nature Reserve, connecting the north and south of the LCA west of the Murrayfield Golf Course. An additional network of paths is found in east at the Ravelston Woods Local Nature Reserve.
- Edinburgh Zoo to the west, Ravelston Golf Course and Murrayfield Golf Course to the east and playing fields to the north provide additional recreational opportunities.

Recreational use evaluation

- High

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- To the north, woodlands back on to the residential properties of Blackhall (robust) and Queensferry Road (robust).
- The boundary south of Craigcrook road is moderate, with a mixture of access roads and woodland.
- A hedgerow and woodland following Clermiston Road to the west provide a robust boundary with Corstorphine and Clermiston. The boundary is further strengthened north of Drumbrae Drive by a stone wall.
- Woodland belts follow the A8 to create a robust boundary with Murrayfield to the south.
- There is a weak boundary to the north-west that cuts through woodland between Davidson's Mains Park and The Royal High School. East of the school, the boundary becomes weak to moderate where treelines back onto residential gardens in Blackhall and moderate where the treeline is reinforced by East Barnton Avenue.

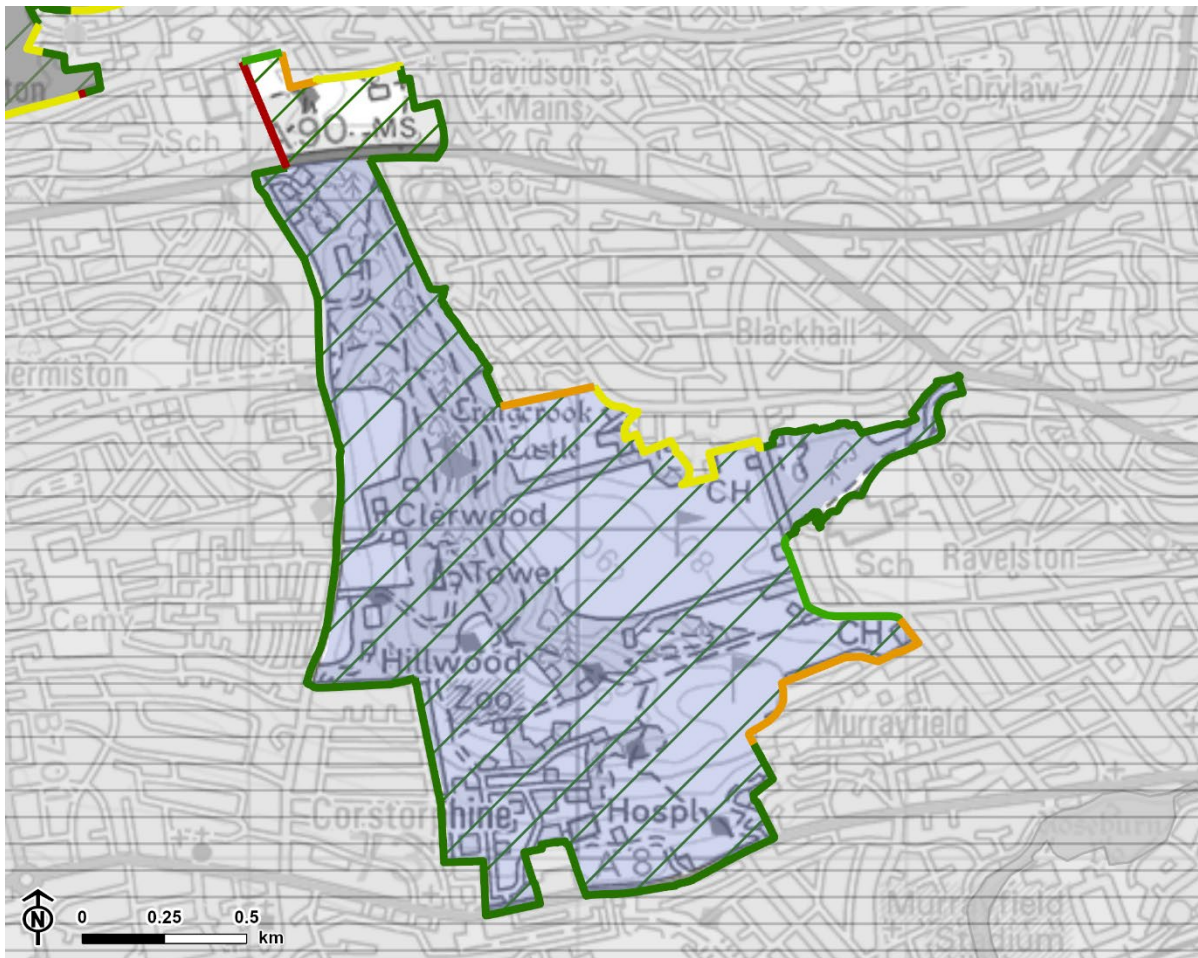
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.












Presence of notable development

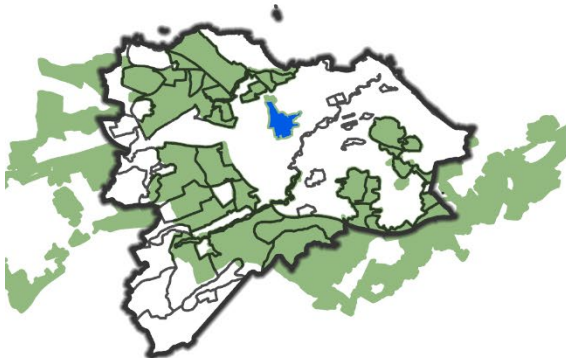
- Not applicable.

Figure A.29: Corstorphine Hill LCA



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- | | |
|---|--|
|  Prominent Urban Hills:
Corstorphine Hill |  Settlement |
|  City of Edinburgh boundary |  Green belt within the City of
Edinburgh |
|  Neighbouring Landscape
Character Area | Green belt boundary strength |
| |  Robust |
| |  Moderate to robust |
| |  Moderate |
| |  Weak to moderate |
| |  Weak |
| |  N/A |



LCA 47: Holyrood Park

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – All.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- Situated to the east of Edinburgh’s city centre, Holyrood Park is an area of open space surrounded by settlement and adjoining the golf courses at Duddingston and Prestonfield. It plays a distinct role in the setting of Edinburgh and the Palace of Holyrood.
- The landmark is a highly recognisable feature, resulting from its iconic form, distinct geology and naturalistic character.
- Holyrood Park is prominent in views across Edinburgh, including from other Prominent Urban Hills, popular recreational areas such as the Meadows, and elevated views from settlements.
- The landform is visible from transit corridors and rail lines, including forming an important view as trains enter and exit Waverley Station.
- Holyrood Park also forms the setting of the Palace of Holyrood GDL and is recognised for its geological composition “*which has resulted in one of the most dramatic settings of any capital city in the world*” ([Historic Environment Scotland’s Palace of Holyroodhouse webpage](#)). It is part of a Local Landscape Area also applying to Prestonfield Golf Course and Duddingston Golf Course.

Setting evaluation

- High

Identity

- Holyrood Park is integral to the identity of Edinburgh and is a highly distinctive landmark in views throughout Edinburgh and the Lothians.

- The rugged form, distinct geology, and naturalistic character contribute to the distinct identity of the LCA within its surrounding urban context. The landcover provides a coarse texture resulting from the mix of semi-natural vegetation of gorse and rough grassland, accentuating the upland character of the area.
- The landscape provides a visual distinction between neighbourhoods within the city. It visually and physically separates the Southside to the west from Willowbrae and Northfield to the east.
- Holyrood Park also provides a perceptual distinction as a marker of Edinburgh when entering the city by road and rail and is highly visible from the A1, A6095, and A7.

Identity evaluation

- High

Recreational use

- A number of paths are heavily used to reach viewpoints within Holyrood Park, including to access Arthur's Seat and Salisbury Craigs. The Innocent Railway Core Path also runs along the western boundary of the LCA, providing connectivity with the Meadows.
- Queen's Drive encircles the Park and is used recreationally, in particular by cyclists.
- Additional recreational opportunities are provided by playing fields to the north of the LCA.
- Holyrood Park connects with the Prestonfield Golf Course and Duddingston Golf Course LCAs, contributing to the swathe of green, rural character in the south-east of the city.

Recreational use evaluation

- High

Green Belt boundaries

- Yes.

Strength of inner boundaries

- A combination of steep wooded slopes, walled boundaries and groups of trees follow the Queen's Drive and border Dumbiedykes and Canongate to the west, creating a robust boundary. There is an open boundary to Meadowfield Drive to the east reflecting its role as an urban park.
- An additional area of wooded steep slopes borders settlements of Parson's Green, Willowbrae and Meadowfield to the east, forming a robust boundary.

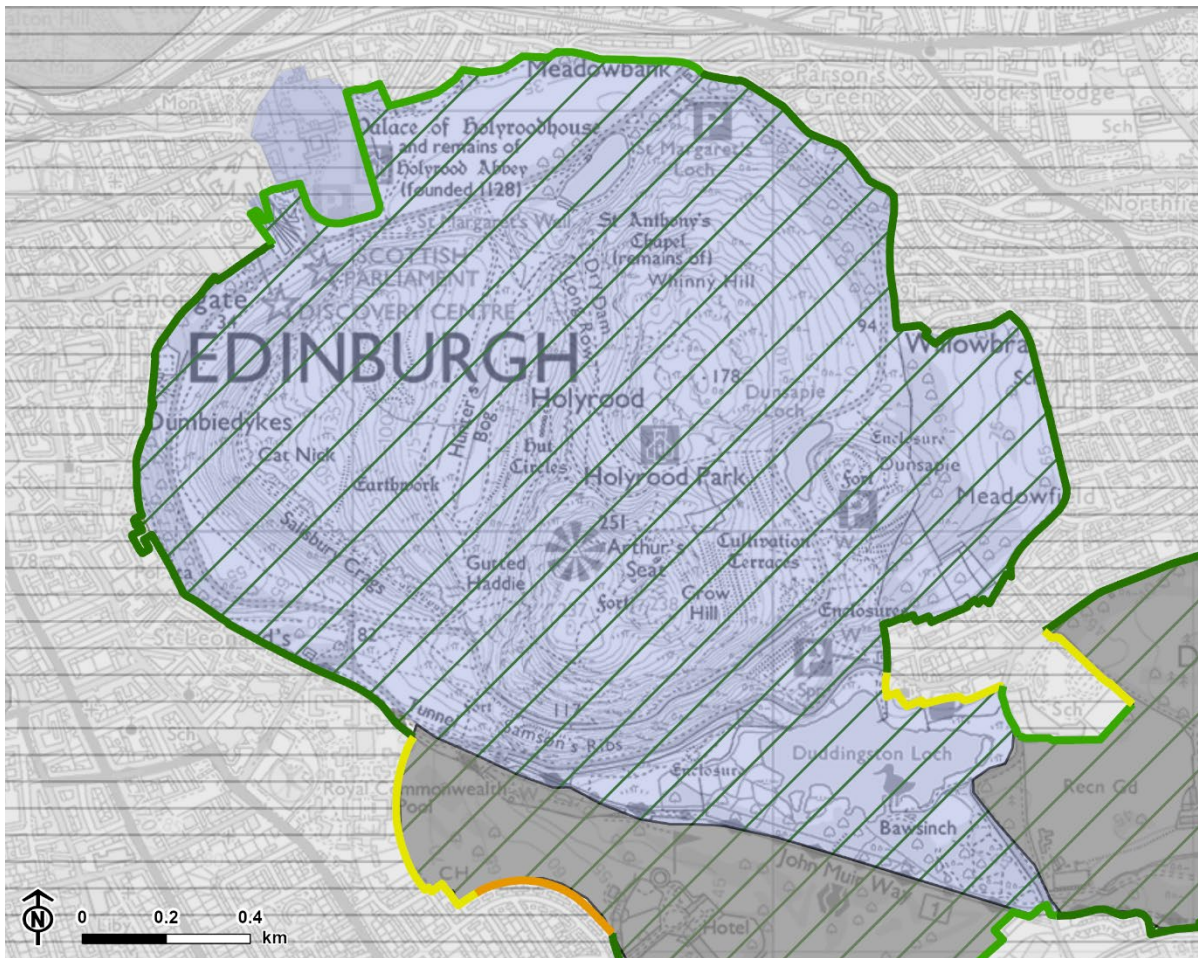
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.

Presence of notable development

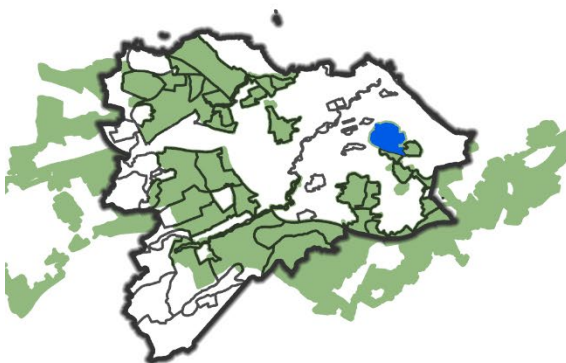
- Not applicable.

Figure A.30: Holyrood Park LCA



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- Prominent Urban Hills: Holyrood Park
 - City of Edinburgh boundary
 - Neighbouring Landscape Character Area
 - Settlement
 - Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt boundary strength**
- Robust
 - Moderate to robust
 - Moderate
 - Weak to moderate
 - Weak
 - N/A



Recreational Open Space LCT

LCA 48: Barnton Golf Courses

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – All.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- The golf courses are important to the setting of Cramond and Barnton, being located immediately adjacent to the settlement edge. The golf courses provide a large area of open space and trees surrounded by built development.
- Views across the wooded golf courses are experienced from the settlement edge, often filtered by the presence of trees within the golf courses. Visibility into the golf courses is more contained from within the settlements, and trees are present along the boundaries.

Setting evaluation

- Medium-high

Identity

- The Barnton golf courses provide a large area of green space between the urban areas of Cramond and Barnton. This contributes to the setting of these areas, and helps to maintain separation between them.

Identity evaluation

- High

Recreational use

- The area contains two golf courses used for formal recreation.

- The John Muir Way and National Cycle Route 1, a pedestrian and cycle route, passes between the two golf courses, providing connections between Barnton and Cramond. However, there is limited access from these routes into the wider area of the golf courses.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium-high

Green Belt boundaries

- Yes – surrounding the LCA, except to the north-east where green belt continues into Lauriston Policies LCA.

Strength of inner boundaries

- Except to the north-east, the entire LCA has an inner green belt boundary along its edge.
- Much of the boundary comprises treelines and hedgerows along residential gardens at the edge of the golf courses, creating a moderate boundary.
- In the far north, a dense woodland belt adjacent to a high stone wall which runs along Cramond Road North creates a robust boundary. Likewise, areas of denser woodland near Barnton Avenue and Barnton Park Avenue create robust boundaries in localised areas.
- A line of mature trees adjacent to the high stone wall which runs along Gamekeeper's Road creates a moderate to robust boundary.
- Boundary trees form a weak to moderate boundary near the entrance to Cargilfield School.

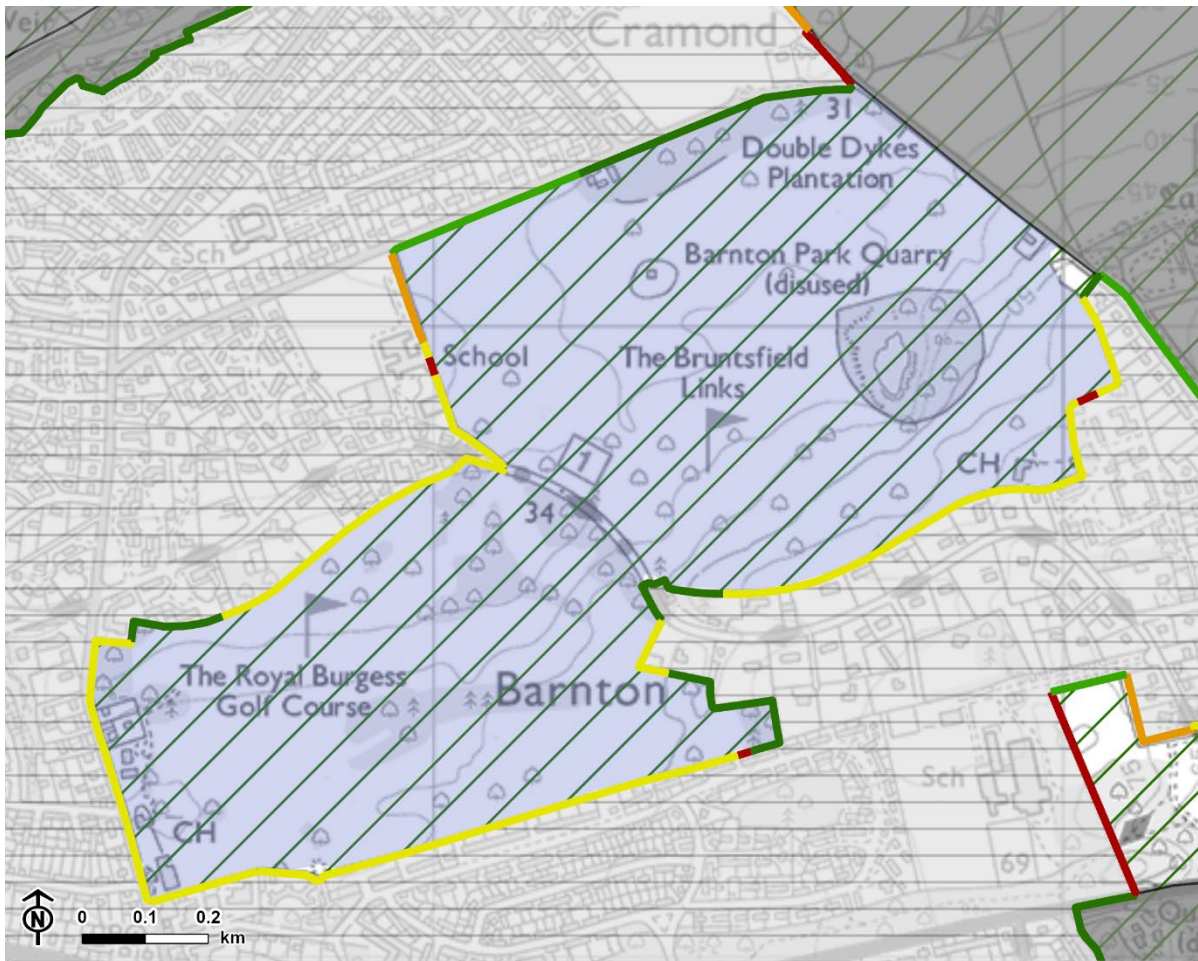
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.



Presence of notable development

- None identified.

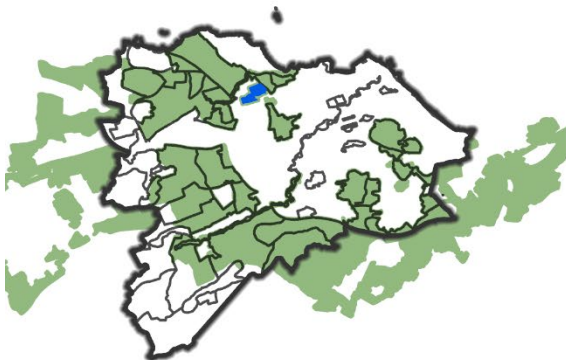
Figure A.31: Barnton Golf Courses LCA



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-  Recreational Open Space: Barnton Golf Courses
-  City of Edinburgh boundary
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area

-  Settlement
-  Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt boundary strength**
-  Robust
-  Moderate to robust
-  Moderate
-  Weak to moderate
-  Weak
-  N/A



LCA 49: Duddingston Golf Course

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – All.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- Duddingston Golf Course is a prominent feature in south-facing views from Arthur's Seat. Along with the Prestonfield Golf Course, it contributes to the wider setting of Holyrood Park and creates a swathe of open green space in east Edinburgh, which is recognised in the Holyrood, Duddingston and Prestonfield LLA.
- The landscape is low lying and wooded, resulting in limited visibility from surrounding settlements. However, as one of the large open spaces that extends into the city, it contributes to Edinburgh's setting.
- Duddingston Golf Course forms part of the landscape setting of the Duddingston Conservation Area, which recognises how the designed landscape contributes to the area's historic built features. It also forms part of the Duddingston House GDL, which recognises the setting the designed landscape provides for the category A listed Duddingston House.

Setting evaluation

- High

Identity

- Mature policies and the category A listed Duddingston House, contribute to the historic identity of Duddingston Golf Course.
- The woodland and parkland are locally distinctive.
- The landscape's rural character serves as an important transition between the urban area, Holyrood Park and the historic village of Duddingston.

Identity evaluation

- High

Recreational use

- The area is highly influenced by its use as a golf course. In the east, a large area of playing fields add to recreational value.
- There are no core paths within the LCA, however the John Muir Way walking and cycling route is located along the southern edge of the LCA, and a route provides connectivity to Holyrood Park.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium-high

Green Belt boundaries

- Yes – with suburbs of Edinburgh encircling the LCA to the north-west, north, east and south.

Strength of inner boundaries

- The boundary with Holyrood High School to the north-west follows an intermittent tree belt (weak to moderate) and Calvary Park Drive (moderate) creating a boundary with Meadowfield.
- To the north and east, woodland belts and the A1 provide a robust boundary between Duddingston Golf Course and Bingham, except along a section of gardens with boundary trees (weak to moderate).
- The boundary is robust in the south where a woodland belt borders the railway and Niddrie.

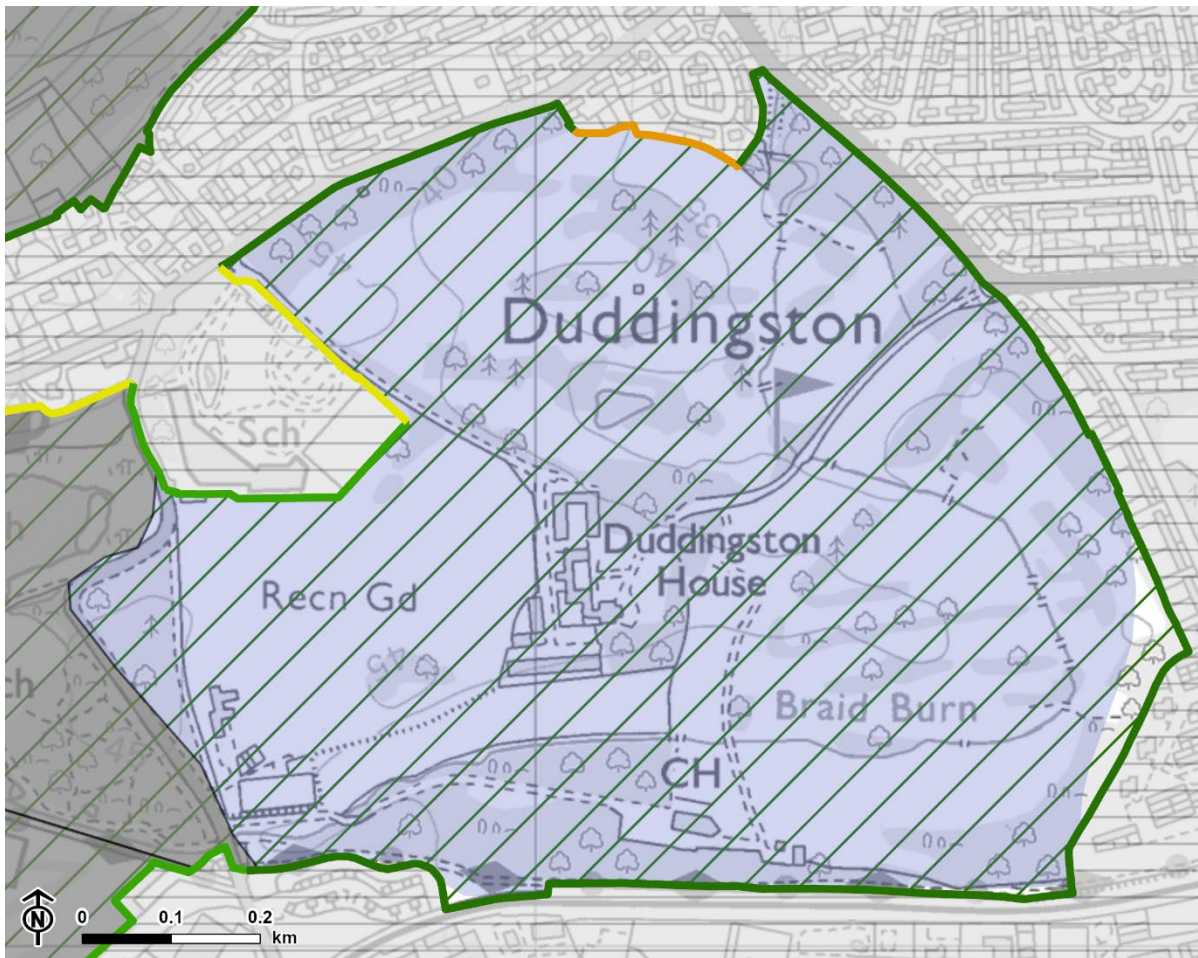
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.




Presence of notable development



- Not applicable.

Figure A.32: Duddingston Golf Course LCA



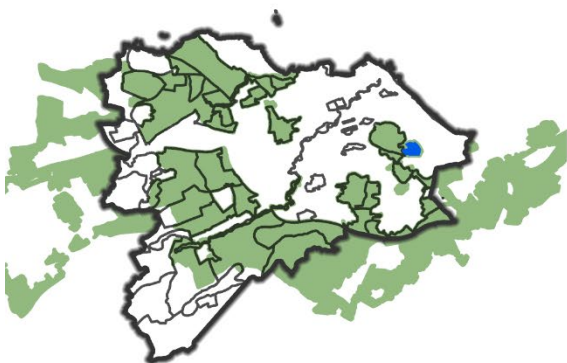
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-  Recreational Open Space: Duddingston Golf Course
-  City of Edinburgh boundary
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area

-  Settlement
-  Green belt within the City of Edinburgh

Green belt boundary strength

-  Robust
-  Moderate to robust
-  Moderate
-  Weak to moderate
-  Weak
-  N/A



LCA 50: Prestonfield Golf Course

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – All.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- The wooded Prestonfield Golf Course is a prominent feature in south-facing views from Arthur's Seat. Along with Duddingston Golf Course, it contributes to the wider setting of Holyrood Park and creates a swathe of open green space in east Edinburgh, as recognised in the Holyrood, Duddingston and Prestonfield LLA.
- The landscape is low-lying and its wooded character limits visibility with the surrounding landscape and encloses views within the golf course.
- It also forms the setting of the Prestonfield House (Priestfield) GDL, which recognises the architectural value of the category A listed Prestonfield House and the scenic value of the circular shelter planting in views from Arthur's Seat.

Setting evaluation

- High

Identity

- The well-managed and mature policy landscape is distinct within Edinburgh. It's historic identity and scenic views are amplified by Prestonfield House.
- The golf course's landscape pattern is influenced by surviving examples of medieval ridge-and-furrow field systems, further contributing to historic identity.

Identity evaluation

- High

Recreational use

- The landscape is primarily used as the golf course, though the playing fields provide additional access for recreation in the south.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- Most of the boundary with Prestonfield to the west and south follows tree belts (robust) and treelines (moderate). However, there is a section behind Priestfield Road where gardens back directly onto the golf course, with some boundary trees (weak to moderate).
- In the east, the boundary with Peffermill is moderate to robust due to the presence of a treeline and King's Haugh minor road, as well as the grounds of category A listed Peffermill House.

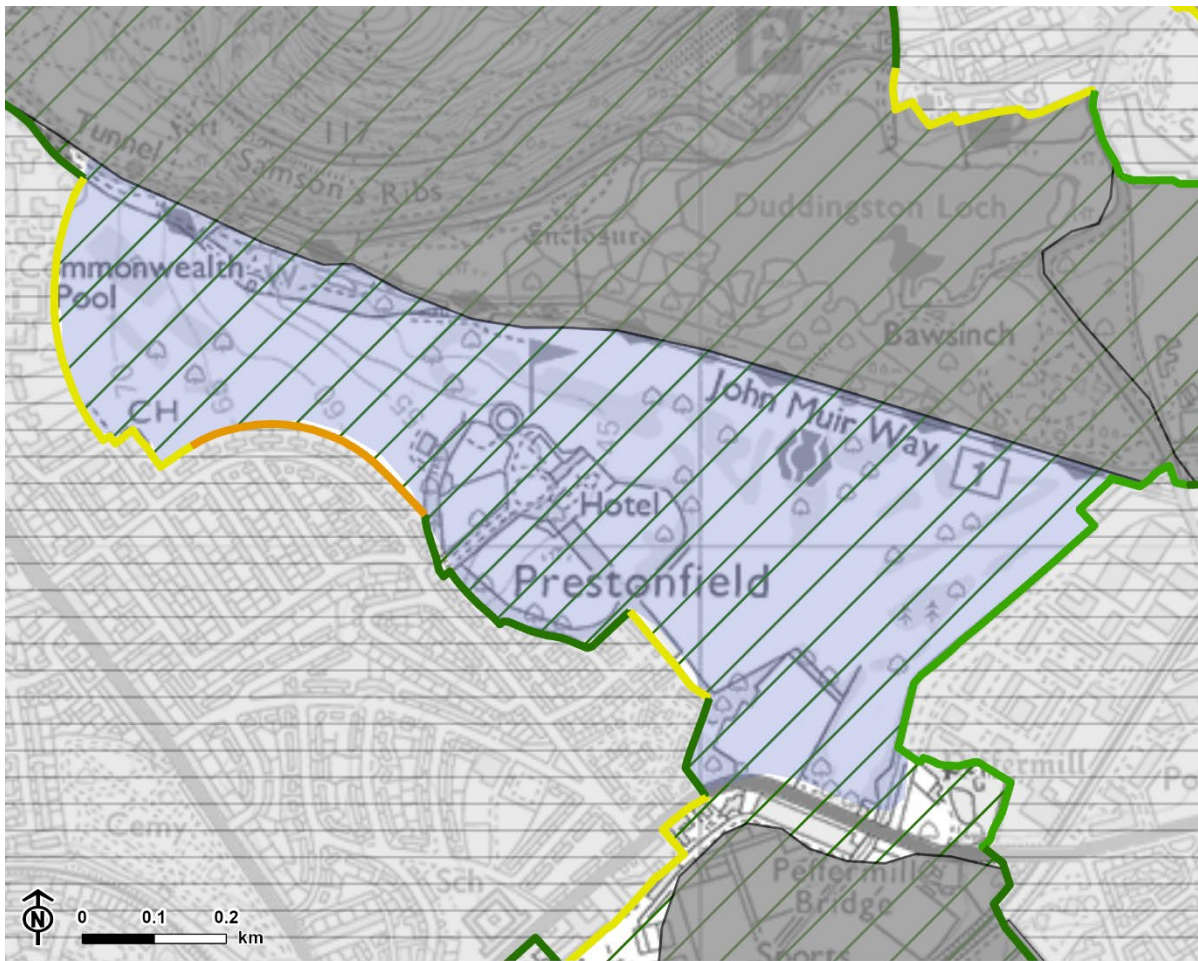
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.

Presence of notable development

- Not applicable.

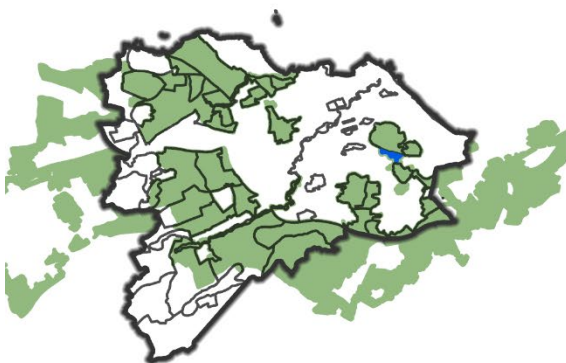
Figure A.33: Prestonfield Golf Course LCA



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- Recreational Open Space: Prestonfield Golf Course
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area

- Settlement
 - Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt boundary strength**
- Robust
 - Moderate to robust
 - Moderate
 - Weak to moderate
 - Weak
 - N/A



LCA 51: Silverknowes Golf Course

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – All.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- Silverknowes golf course and park is important to the setting of Silverknowes, being located immediately adjacent to the settlement edge. However, given the drop in elevation, visibility from the settlement edge is largely limited to Silverknowes Park in the south, and more distant views of the Firth of Forth.
- The area creates a large open green space between the settlement edge and the coastline of the Firth of Forth.
- The gently undulating landform and limited woodland planting means that the landscape is not of a distinctive character, however the views available across the Firth of Forth provides some distinction.
- The area contains the Edinburgh Club Campsite and World of Football indoor football facility just off Marine Drive in the north and east of the area respectively. The indoor football facility contains indoor football pitches within three tunnel structures. These developments detract in part from the open setting of the area.

Setting evaluation

- Medium-high

Identity

- In combination with Lauriston Policies and the Firth of Forth this landscape area is important to the local identity of Silverknowes.
- The golf course and public park and Lauriston Policies in the wider area provide a large area of green space between the urban areas of Silverknowes and Cramond. This contributes to the setting of these areas, and helps to maintain physical and visual separation between them.

Identity evaluation

- Medium-high

Recreational use

- The landscape is managed for several recreational uses both formal and informal, including a golf course, public park and indoor and outdoor football facility.
- A core path running through Silverknowes Golf Course provides connectivity between the settlement of Silverknowes and the coastline. Footpaths around the edge of the area provide connections into the farmland of Lauriston Policies in the west.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium-high

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- There is an inner boundary to the south and east of the LCA.
- To the south-west, Muirhouse Parkway forms a moderate boundary, strengthened further east by dense woodland within Silverknowes Park creating a robust boundary.
- East of the woodland the boundary cuts away from the road, through an area currently being developed west of Salvesen Crescent (currently an ill-defined, weak boundary).
- In the south-east of the LCA, the boundary is of mixed strength, following minor roads (moderate) and gardens with boundary trees (weak to moderate). The clarity of the boundary has been weakened by indoor sports pitches west of Marine Drive.

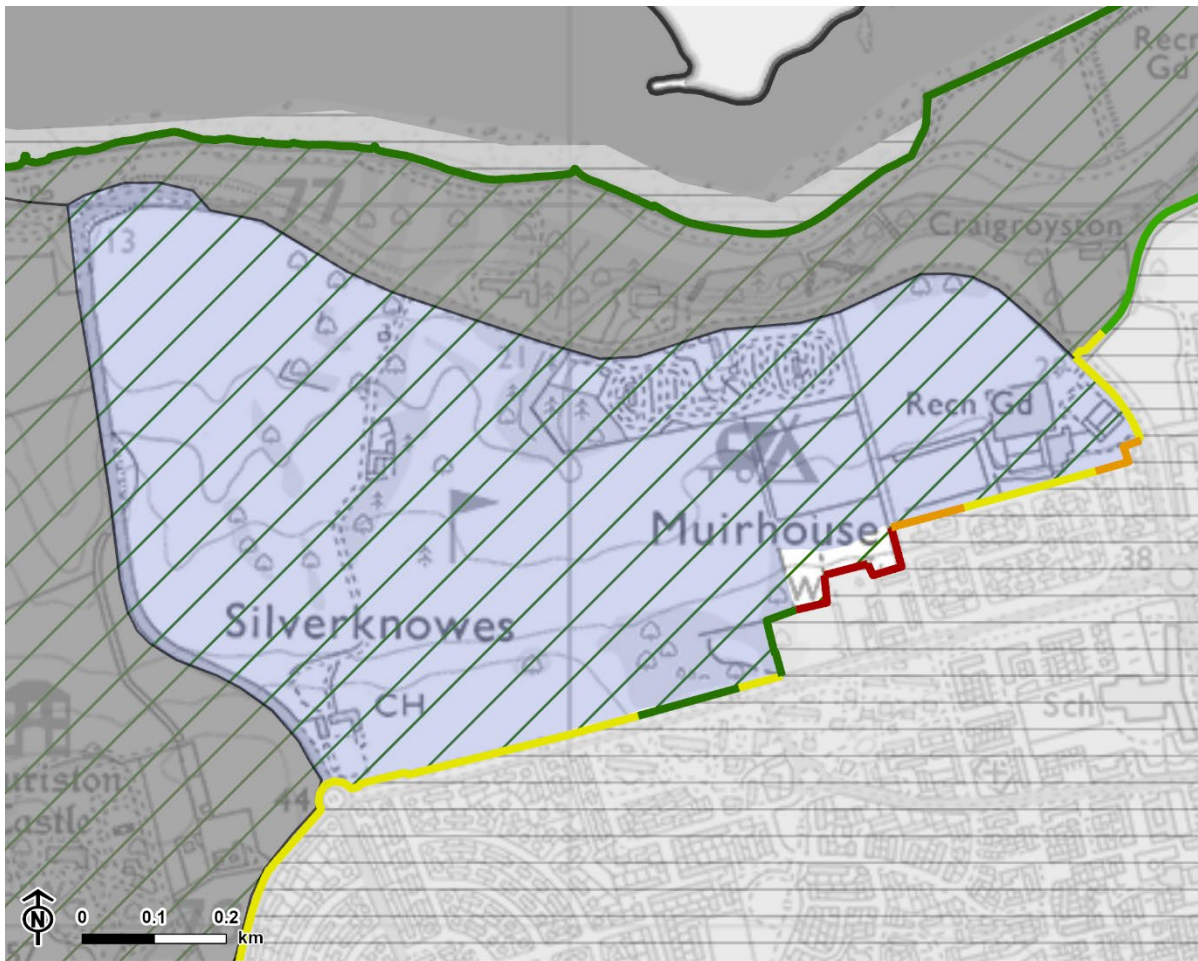
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.




Presence of notable development

- Residential development is under construction on the site of the former Silverlea care home, to the west of Salvesen Crescent. This includes a small part of the green belt with an enhanced greenspace to be formed to the north to create a re-aligned greenbelt boundary.
- The covered football pitches west of Marin Drive provide a large structure which impacts on the open character of the area.

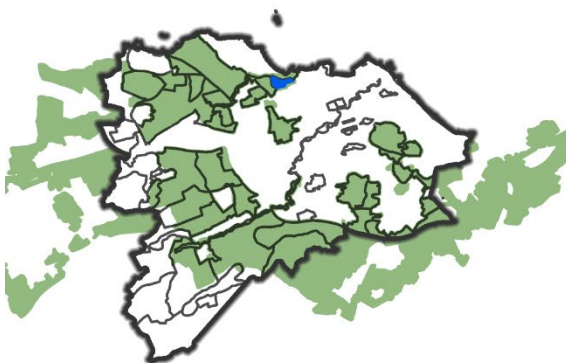
Figure A.34: Silverknowes Golf Course LCA



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-  Recreational Open Space: Silverknowes Golf Course
-  City of Edinburgh boundary
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area

-  Settlement
-  Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt boundary strength**
-  Robust
-  Moderate to robust
-  Moderate
-  Weak to moderate
-  Weak
-  N/A



Rolling Farmland LCT

LCA 52: Baberton Farmland

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – All.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- This area of open arable farmland is highly visible from the adjacent A720 City Bypass and A71. It is also visible from Baberton, Wester Hailes in Edinburgh, and parts of Currie and Juniper Green.
- The landscape is less dramatic than the Pentland Hills to the south-east which tend to form the focus of views, but the rolling rising slopes contribute to the overall composition and appreciation of the hills in these views.

Setting evaluation

- Medium-high

Identity

- While the open farmland of the area is not highly distinctive, it is representative of the rural character of the area west of Edinburgh.
- The area separates the Heriot-Watt University campus to the west from Edinburgh and Baberton to the east.
- The south of the area includes a narrow wedge of open space partially separating Juniper Green and Currie, thus playing a local role in retaining the separate identities of these settlements.

Identity evaluation

- Medium-high

Recreational use

- There are no core paths or designated recreational areas. However, there are tracks across the area, including Donkey Lane which crosses the rail line, and Baberton golf course provides some access to open space.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- The A702 and a railway line form robust boundaries with Edinburgh to the north-east.
- The eastern boundary with Baberton is also largely robust as it follows tree belts at the edge of the golf course, but the boundary with Juniper Green largely comprises tree lines and is only moderate in strength.
- The south-western boundary with Currie follows a minor road (moderate) and garden boundaries (weak), some with boundary trees (weak to moderate).
- The western boundary with the Heriot-Watt University Campus follows a minor road lined with trees (moderate to robust) and a tree belt (robust).
- The short northern boundary with Hermiston follows the A71 (robust).

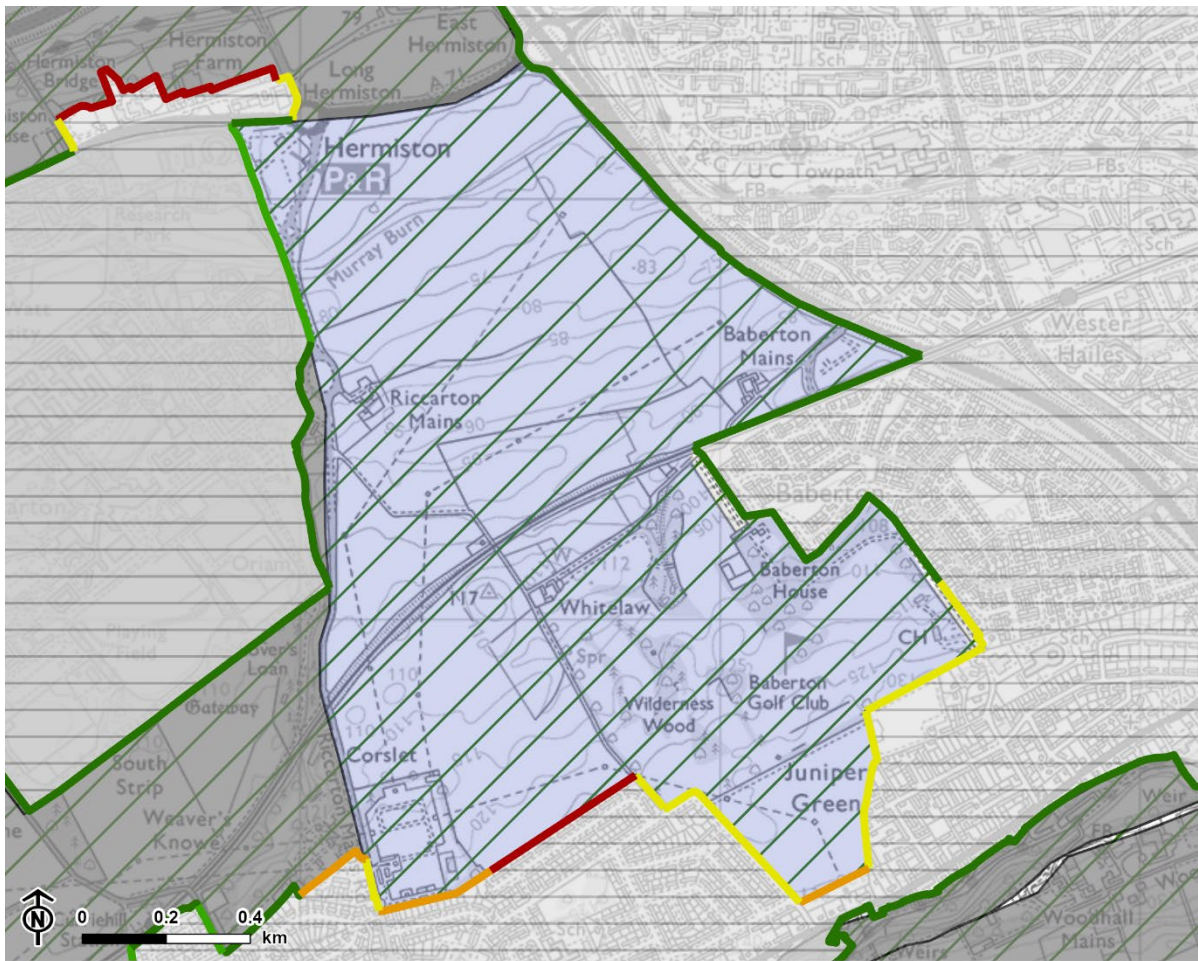
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.

Presence of notable development

- A large electricity substation is situated within the south-west corner of the LCA, at the north-east edge of Currie.

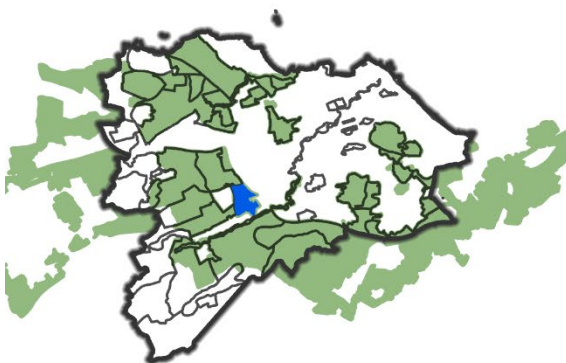
Figure A.35: Baberton Farmland LCA



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- Rolling Farmland: Baberton Farmland
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area

- Settlement
- Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt boundary strength**
- Robust
- Moderate to robust
- Moderate
- Weak to moderate
- Weak
- N/A



LCA 53: Bonnington Farmland

Existing Green Belt?

- No.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- Yes – All.

Setting

- This area of open arable farmland is visible in the middle distance of views from the recent housing development at the elevated west edge of Ratho village.
- Sloping farmland and the wooded ridge in the south of the area are visible from the adjacent settlements of Calderwood and Wilkieston in West Lothian.
- Farmland in the south of the area is visible from the A71 which passes nearby, and the east of the area is visible from the B7030 which runs through it.
- The Union Canal runs along the area's northern boundary. Views into the area are filtered by canalside vegetation.
- The landscape is visible from some elevated local viewpoints such as the Ratho Hills and Dalmahoy Hill. While not prominent, the area appears as part of the rural context in the middle distance of views towards the Highlands and the Ochil Hills.
- Owing to the distance and topography, the area is not visible from the City of Edinburgh.
- The area forms part of the setting to the Ratho Hills LLA, although the designation is mainly focused on the Ratho Hills LCA.

Setting evaluation

- Medium

Identity

- While the farmland of the area is not very distinctive, it forms part of the rural surroundings of Ratho village in the City of Edinburgh, and additionally Calderwood and Wilkieston in West Lothian.

- In particular, the south-west of the area adjoins the local authority boundary with West Lothian and the recently extended settlement edge at Calderwood. The area therefore contributes to Calderwood's identity as a settlement built among an agricultural landscape, and provides separation of Calderwood from Ratho and Newbridge.
- Jupiter Artland, set within the grounds of the category A listed Bonnington House, is a notable tourist attraction in the region and contains distinctive outdoor sculptures and land art. However, it is not closely associated with any particular settlement.
- The area does not play a key role in the identity of Edinburgh as a whole.

Identity evaluation

- Medium

Recreational use

- There is no formal recreational access within the area.
- Core paths follow the Union Canal and the valley edge of the River Almond just beyond the northern and western edges of the area.
- Jupiter Artland is a paid visitor attraction, but offers opportunities to experience outdoor sculptures and land art set within woodland at Bonnington House.

Recreational use evaluation

- Low

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- Not applicable.

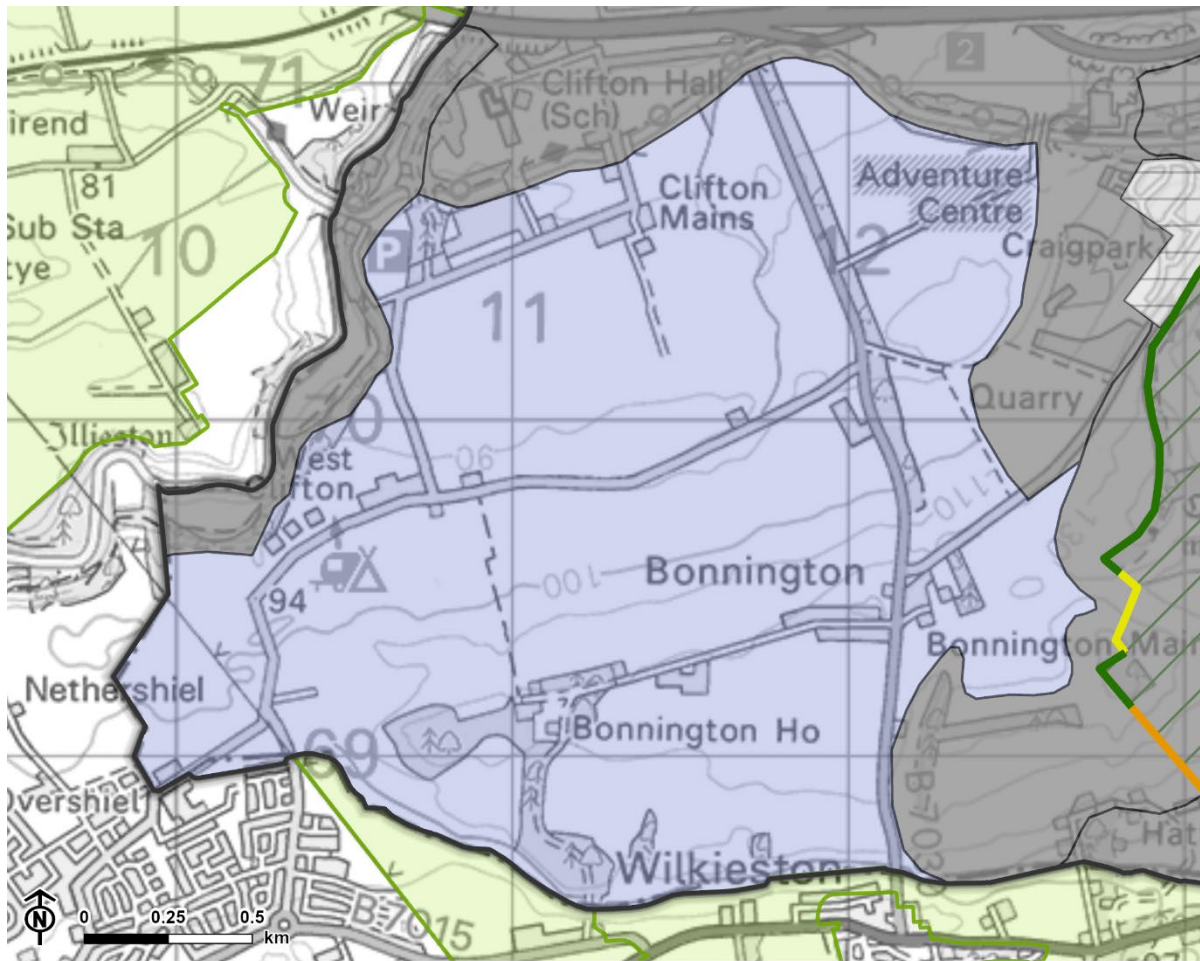
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.

Presence of notable development

- There are poultry sheds in the north of the LCA, north of Clifton Road. There is also a large industrial shed in the east of the LCA, next to the B703.

Figure A.36: Bonnington Farmland LCA

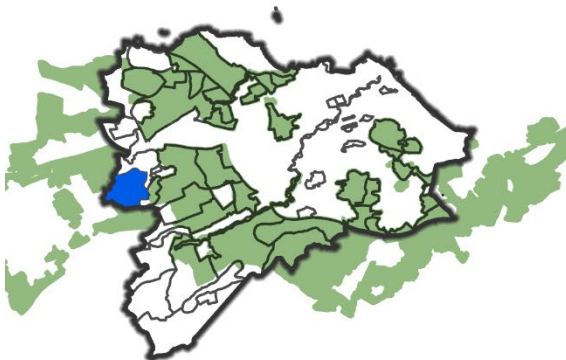


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- Rolling Farmland: Bonnington Farmland
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area
- Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt/countryside area in adjoining local authorities

Green belt boundary strength

- Robust
- Moderate to robust
- Moderate
- Weak to moderate
- Weak
- N/A



LCA 54: Burdiehouse Farmland

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – All.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- Burdiehouse Farmland is an area of gently undulating, open, arable land located at the south-western edge of Edinburgh, extending south of Burdiehouse, development along the Lang Loan and Gilmerton towards the City Bypass. Its southern boundary borders Midlothian.
- The landscape typically falls away from the settlement edge and is most visible from the City Bypass and A702 near Hillend, though views are limited in places from the bypass due to woodland.

Setting evaluation

- Medium-high

Identity

- The landscape is influenced by the urban edge of Edinburgh, with high voltage powerlines and old mine workings.
- Burdiehouse Farmland forms a wider border of open farmland on the Council area's south-east boundary with Midlothian. It contributes to a sense of where the City of Edinburgh transitions into Midlothian, serving as a physical boundary between Edinburgh's Burdiehouse and Midlothian's Loanhead and Lasswade.

Identity evaluation

- Medium-high

Recreational use

- The A720 City Bypass is a constraint to connectivity, although there is access along a former railway line to Straiton Pond.
- There is one core path in the LCA, which has limited connectivity within Edinburgh, though connects to a wider network of paths in Midlothian. There are additional foot paths within the valley of Burdiehouse Burn, but these also do not connect to a wider network of paths.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium-low

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- The boundary with Burdiehouse and Gilmerton is mainly between moderate and robust in strength, following main roads, minor roads lined in places by treelines and belts, and a minor watercourse in one section. There are a few short weak sections along the edges of gardens and fields. The boundary in the north east with settlement in Midlothian is robust.

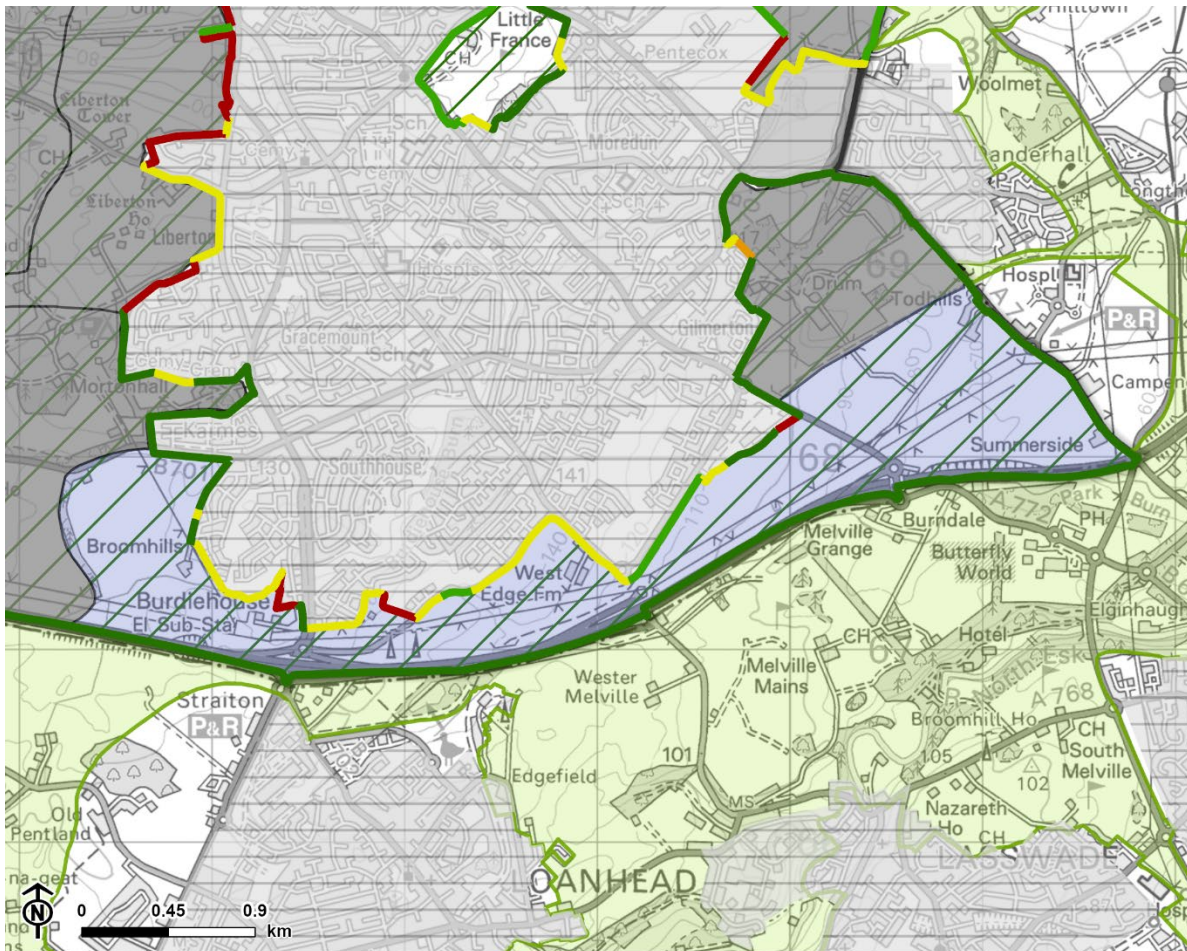
Strength of outer boundaries

- The outer green belt boundary follows the A7 (robust), separating Midlothian from Edinburgh.

Presence of notable development

- There is an electricity substation to the west, off Burdiehouse Road. As a result of woodland screening, it has limited visibility with the surrounding landscape – though pylons connecting to the substation are visible across the skyline.
- There is an area of industrial development at Todhills south of the Old Dalkeith Road.

Figure A.37: Burdiehouse Farmland LCA

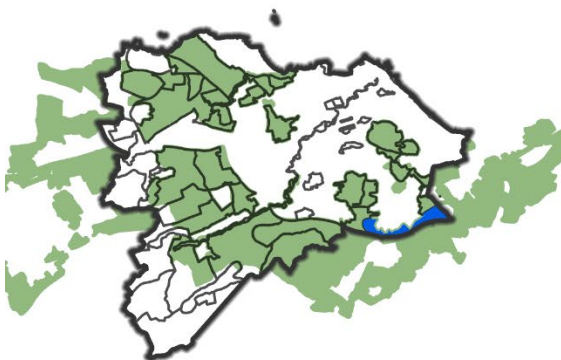


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- Rolling Farmland: Burdiehouse Farmland
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area
- Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt/countryside area in adjoining local authorities

Green belt boundary strength

- Robust
- Moderate to robust
- Moderate
- Weak to moderate
- Weak
- N/A



LCA 55: Gowanhill Farmland

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – Approximately two thirds of the LCA, in the east.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- Yes – The remaining LCA area to the west, outside the current green belt.

Setting

- The area within the green belt is adjacent to the northern edges of Balerno and Currie, which are elevated on the ridge to the south, and the LCA is visible from the settlement edge.
- The landscape of the area is visible from some elevated viewpoints such as Dalmahoy Hill and the Pentland Hills. While not prominent, the area appears as partially wooded green swathe in the middle distance of views towards more distinctive features such as the city centre and Arthur's Seat, the Forth Bridges and hills north of the Firth of Forth.
- The area is largely screened in views from key roads and from Edinburgh due to the containment provided by adjacent landform and woodlands. However, the area forms a rural setting for views experienced from the Glasgow to Edinburgh via Shotts railway.
- The west of the area, within the CPA, is more distant from Currie and Balerno, and it has a very limited visual relationship with these settlements. There is some visual relationship with Kirknewton in West Lothian to the west, but the area is not important in views from this direction.

Setting evaluation

- Medium (green belt)
- Medium-low (CPA)

Identity

- Although the farmland landscape of the area is not very distinctive, it forms part of the wider rural surroundings of Currie and Balerno, providing some contribution to their identities as villages outside the main Edinburgh city limits.

- However, the rural character of the area is compromised by infrastructure such as power lines which cross the LCA and industrial operations in the west.
- The settlements have a stronger identity association with the Water of Leith valley to the south.
- The west of the area, within the CPA, has a very limited relationship with settlement identity.

Identity evaluation

- Medium-low (green belt)
- Low (CPA)

Recreational use

- National Cycle Network Route 75 follows public roads through the area and along part of its north-western boundary.
- A core path also runs along this route, another follows a track to the east, and a third follows the minor road north of Curriehill Station.
- Elsewhere in the area there is no formal recreational access.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium (green belt)
- Medium (CPA)

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- In the south of the LCA, the inner boundary with the north edge of Balerno and Currie mainly follows gardens strengthened in places by boundary trees and hedgerows (weak to moderate) and hill slopes falling northwards from the settlement edge (moderate).
- The boundary with the Heriot-Watt University campus follows a wall-lined minor road and field boundaries. Owing to tree belts inside the campus side of the boundary, it is robust.

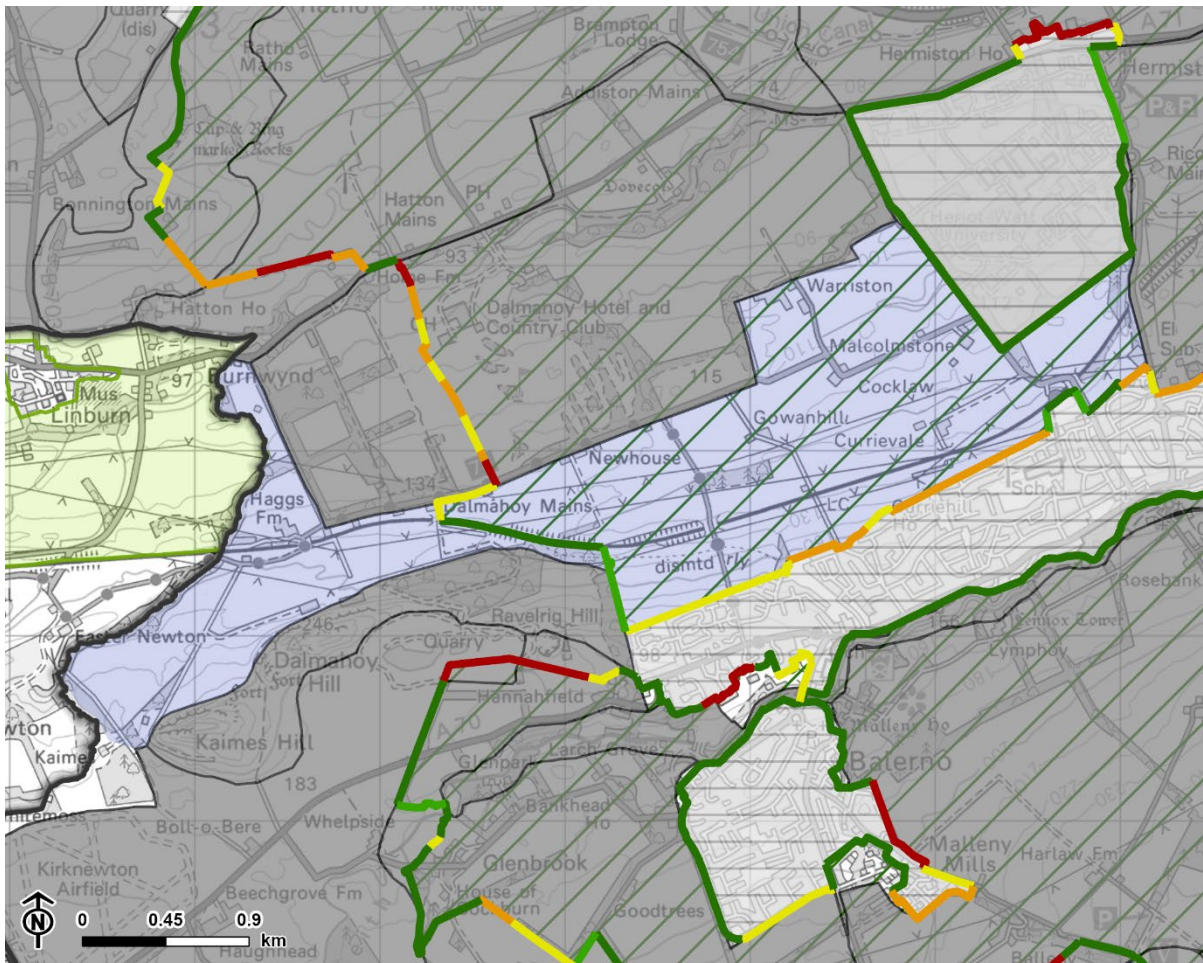
Strength of outer boundaries

- The outer boundary crosses the LCA to the north-west of Balerno. It follows a minor road and track (moderate), railway line (robust), and a degraded area of woodland (moderate to robust) at the edge of Ravelrig Quarry.

Presence of notable development

- Part of Ravelrig Quarry is located at the south-western edge of the area. There is also a waste transfer station near Higgs Farm in the west of the area. These developments are within the CPA.

Figure A.38: Gowanhill Farmland LCA

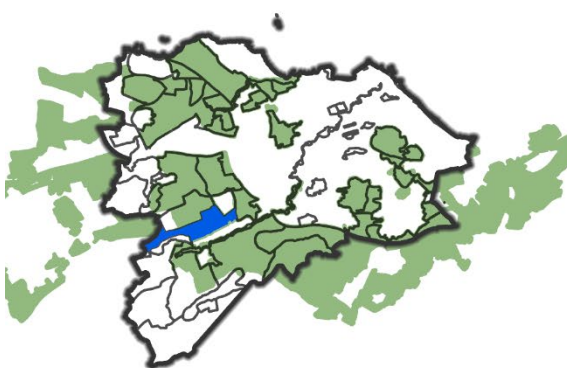


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- Rolling Farmland: Gowanhill Farmland
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area
- Settlement
- Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt/countryside area in adjoining local authorities

Green belt boundary strength

- Robust
- Moderate to robust
- Moderate
- Weak to moderate
- Weak
- N/A



LCA 56: Ratho Farmland

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – All except two small areas: north of Ratho village, and in the south-west corner.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- Yes – Outwith existing green belt area.

Setting

- The area forms the rural setting for the east and south of Ratho village, and it is visible from the settlement edge. The strongest visual relationship is to the south, where fields are visible extending downhill from the village.
- The north-west of the area forms the setting for the east of Ratho Station village. Nearby fields in the area are visible from recent housing at the east end of the village, but woodland and landform screens views to the south.
- The rural landscape of the area is visible from adjacent sections of the M8, A8 and A71 on their approach towards Edinburgh, forming part of the rural surroundings of the city.
- The landscape is visible from some elevated viewpoints such as Dalmahoy Hill and the Pentland Hills. While not prominent, the area appears as wooded green swathe in the middle distance of views towards more distinctive features such as the city centre and Arthur's Seat, the Forth Bridges and the Highlands.
- The area forms part of the setting to the Ratho Hills LLA, although the designation is mainly focused on the Ratho Hills LCA.

Setting evaluation

- Medium-high

Identity

- While the landscape of the area is not highly distinctive, the fields descending to the south and east of Ratho contribute to its sense of place.

- The Garden and Designed Landscape at Hatton House lies partially within the south-west of the area. Designed landscapes are a representative feature of the area west of Edinburgh.

Identity evaluation

- Medium

Recreational use

- A popular core path follows the Union Canal towpath through the area, forming an important link between east and west.
- There is a golf course at Ratho Park.
- Public recreational access elsewhere in the area is limited.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium-high

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- Most of the western boundary with Ratho village is formed by gardens (weak), with a few boundary trees (weak to moderate). At the north-east edge of the village the boundary is formed by the tree-lined canal (robust), a young tree belt (moderate to robust) and a minor road (moderate).
- The north-western boundary with Ratho Station follows a tree belt (robust) and garden boundaries of recent housing (currently weak).
- The northern boundary with Edinburgh Airport follows the A8 (robust).

Strength of outer boundaries

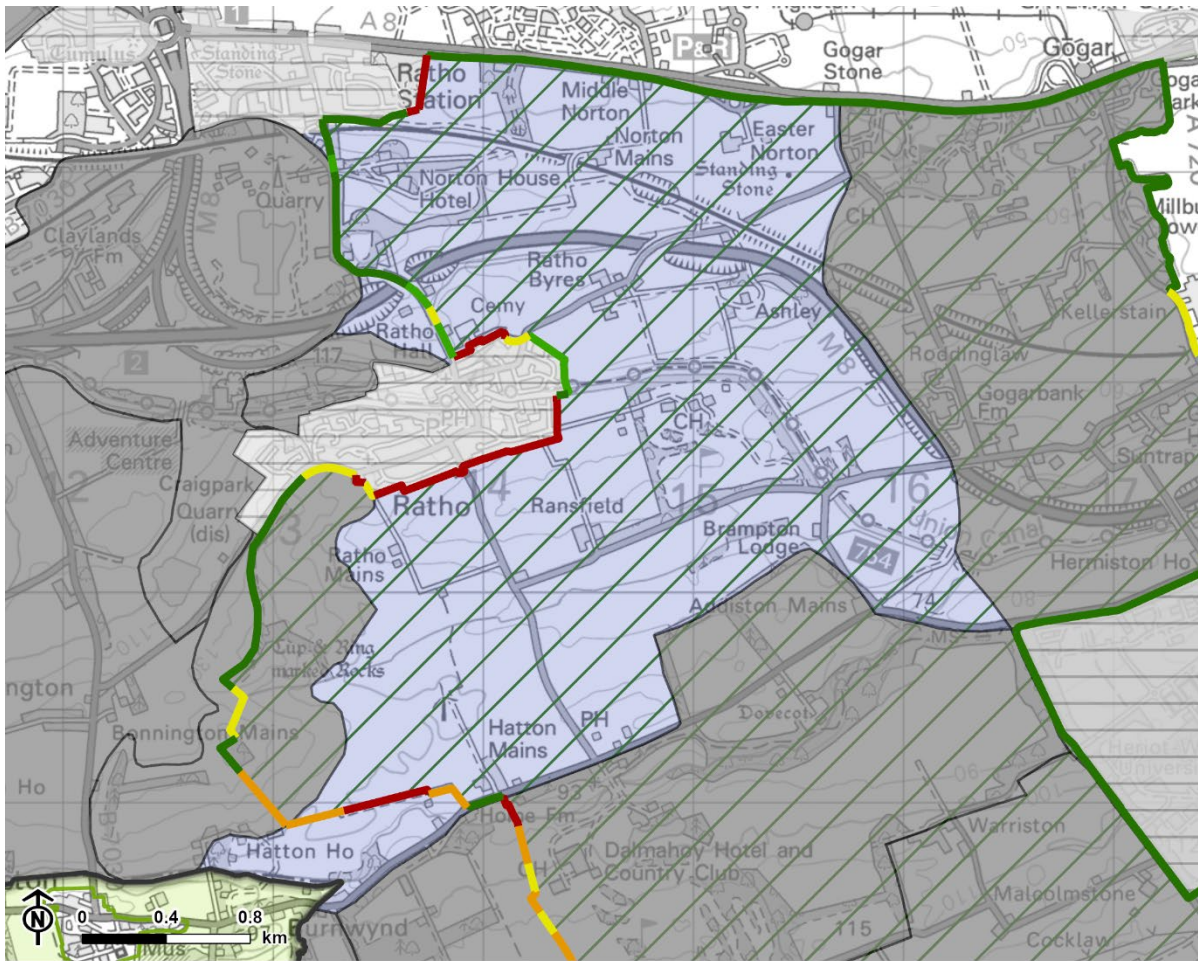
- Between Ratho and Ratho Station, most of the outer boundary follows a minor road alongside a tree belt (robust), tree lines (moderate to robust) and fields (moderate). At the north end near Ratho Station, the road runs west and the boundary follows a tree belt associated with individual residential properties (moderate to robust).

- The south-west boundary follows the A71 (robust), a minor track (weak to moderate) and field boundaries (weak) with a few boundary trees (weak to moderate).

Presence of notable development

- The strip of land between the settlement edge of Ratho Station and the railway line contains a large area of hard standing used as a second-hand van premises.

Figure A.39: Ratho Farmland LCA

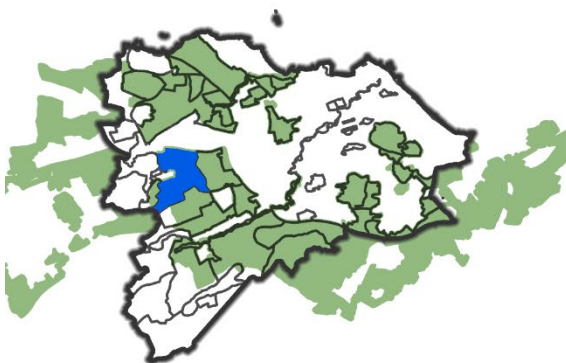


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- Rolling Farmland: Ratho Farmland
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area
- Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt/countryside area in adjoining local authorities

Green belt boundary strength

- Robust
- Moderate to robust
- Moderate
- Weak to moderate
- Weak
- N/A



Rural Outcrop Hills LCT

LCA 57: Craigie Hill

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – All.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- A locally prominent wooded hill to the north-west of Edinburgh which rises to an elevation of 108m AOD, with a prominence of 50m. It is surrounded by the gently undulating farmland of the Almond Valley and Dalmeny Estate. The importance of this local hill is acknowledged through its designation as Craigie Hill LLA.
- Despite its size, Craigie Hill is locally prominent in views from the surrounding area, including from the A90 on the approach to Edinburgh. Its wooded slopes form a distinctive feature in views from the surrounding landscape, but it does not have a strong visual relationship with settlements.
- Craigie Hill plays an important role in the setting of Dalmeny Garden and Designed Landscape, extending the wooded policy influence to the south of the A90.

Setting evaluation

- Medium

Identity

- Craigie Hill is a distinctive and scenic feature of the landscape, with its wooded slopes contributing to the setting and policy influence at Dalmeny Garden and Designed Landscape.

- Whilst the landscape is not visible from the city centre, Craigie Hill is a locally prominent hill and forms a landmark in views experienced on the north-western approach to the city along the A90.
- The rising landform of Craigie Hill provides separation between Edinburgh in the south-east and Dalmeny and South Queensferry in the north-west.

Identity evaluation

- Medium

Recreational use

- A small number of core paths in the north of the LCA provide some recreational opportunities, enabling connections with the wider area including South Queensferry. Craigie Hill woodland provides a network of informal paths which are well used.
- West Craigie Farm is a popular visitor attraction, offering a variety of outdoor based events and the option for people to pick their own fruit.
- The area is isolated from urban areas with limited access other than by car. The A90 in the north and railway in the south create physical barriers to movement within the landscape.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- Not applicable.

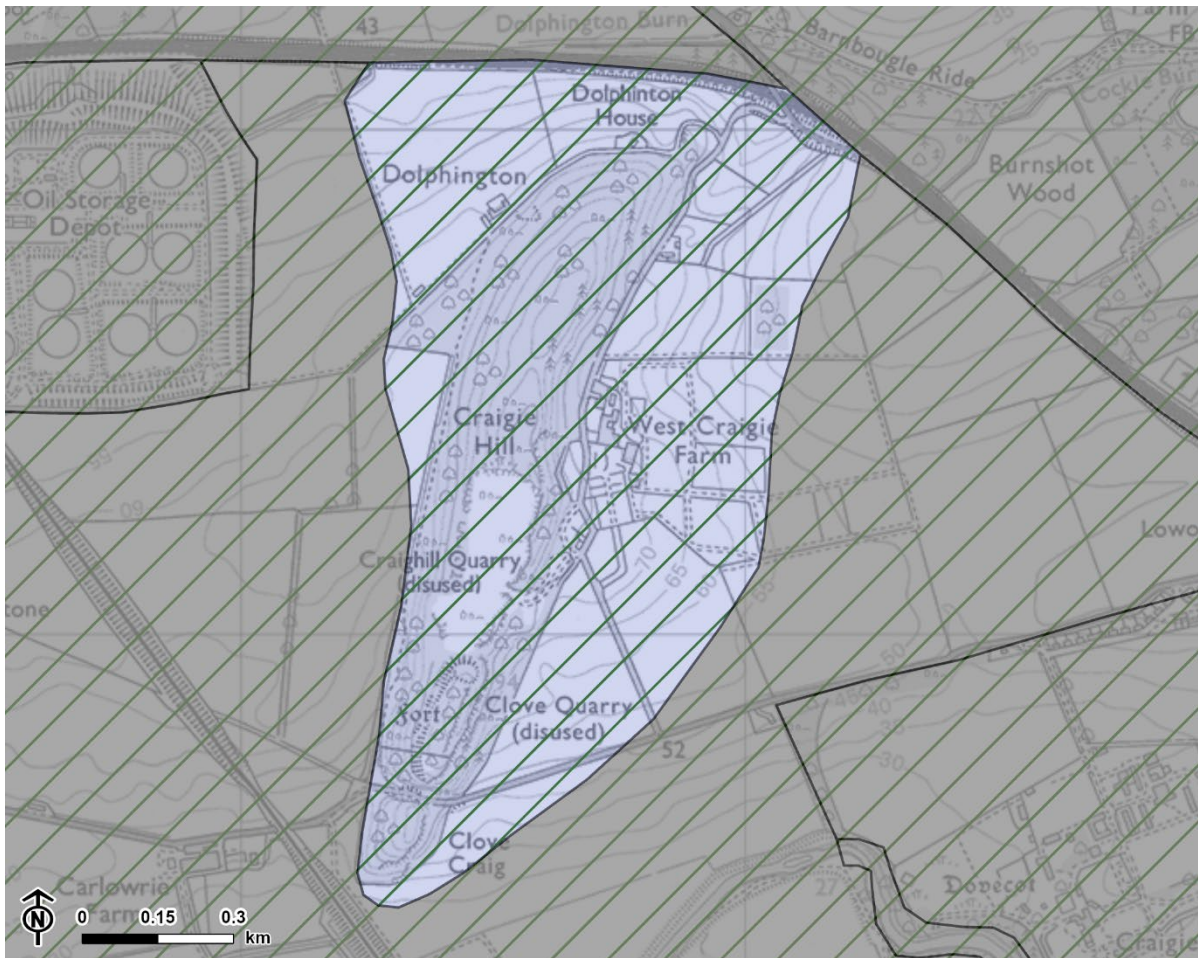
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.

Presence of notable development

- Polytunnels are associated with Craigie Farm.

Figure A.40: Craigie Hill LCA



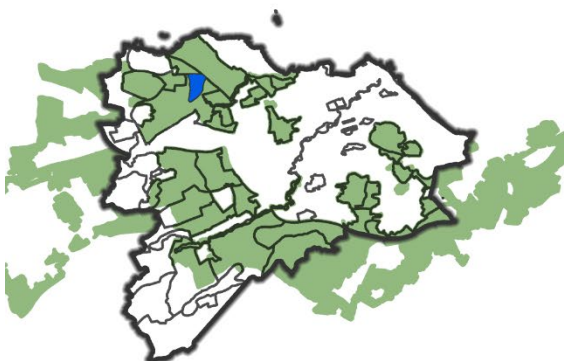
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- Rural Outcrop Hills: Craigie Hill
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area

- Green belt within the City of Edinburgh

Green belt boundary strength

- Robust
- Moderate to robust
- Moderate
- Weak to moderate
- Weak
- N/A



LCA 58: Kaimes Hill

Existing Green Belt?

- No.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- Yes.

Setting

- The area is adjacent to housing at the north-west edge of Balerno. Owing to woodland and landform there is limited intervisibility between the settlement and the area.
- Kaimes Hill and Dalmahoy Hill are prominent landmarks, visible from many locations and transport routes to the west of Edinburgh. However, views towards the hills are mainly obtained from open areas and transport routes between settlements, rather than from the nearby settlements such as Balerno and Currie themselves.

Setting evaluation

- Medium

Identity

- The distinctive forms of Kaimes Hill and Dalmahoy Hill are locally prominent landmarks which contribute to the sense of place in the area west of Edinburgh.
- Although the hills are close to Balerno and Currie, they do not have a strong relationship with the settlements due to lack of intervisibility.

Identity evaluation

- Medium

Recreational use

- There are no core paths in the area. However, informal paths access Kaimes Hill and Dalmahoy Hill from the north, south and west.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- Not applicable.

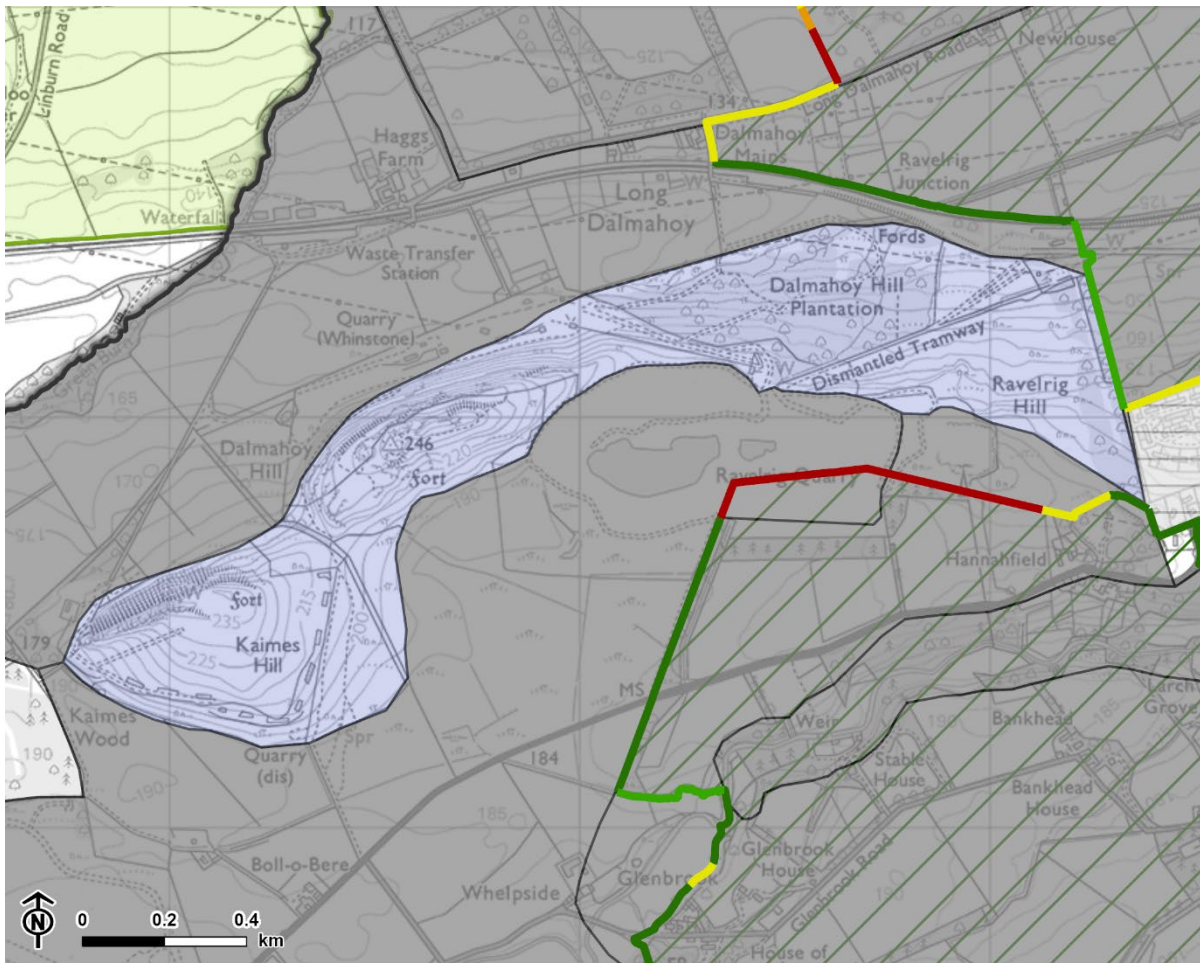
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.

Presence of notable development

- Ravelrig Quarry is partially located in the east of the LCA.

Figure A.41: Kaimes Hill LCA

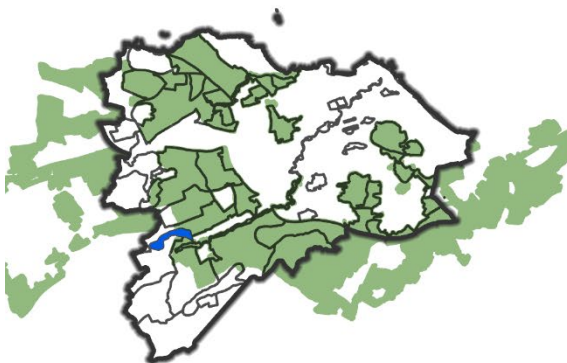


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- Rural Outcrop Hills: Kaimes Hill
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area
- Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt/countryside area in adjoining local authorities

Green belt boundary strength

- Robust
- Moderate to robust
- Moderate
- Weak to moderate
- Weak
- N/A



LCA 59: Ratho Hills

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – Approximately half of the southern section of the LCA.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- Yes – Non-green belt area.

Setting

- Although low in elevation relative to most other hills in the Edinburgh area, the Ratho Hills are higher than the surrounding farmland within the Edinburgh and West Lothian areas. In combination with the shelterbelt tracing the ridge, this makes the hills locally prominent.
- The northern section of the LCA, which is outwith the green belt, forms the setting for the Union Canal and the north-west edge of Ratho Village, and its northern edge is adjacent to the M8-M9 slip road. Views into the area are largely screened by woodland and landform.
- The southern section of the LCA is adjacent to the south-west boundary of Ratho, and the hill ridge is prominent in views from the village. The area of the LCA within the green belt faces Ratho and has a stronger visual relationship with the village than the far side of the ridge to the west, which lies outwith the green belt.
- The ridge provides excellent views on both sides, highlighted by two viewpoint indicators close to the path. The sides of the ridge provide the foreground of these views.
- The area is also recognisable from other viewpoints to the west of Edinburgh such as Dalmahoy Hill and Kaimes Hill.
- The hills are not readily visible from the urban area of Edinburgh owing to intervening woodland and buildings.
- The contribution of the Ratho Hills to the setting of Ratho and wider countryside and views available from the hills are recognised as reasons for its designation as a LLA.

Setting evaluation

- Medium-high (green belt)
- Medium (CPA)

Identity

- The wooded ridge and prominent form of the Ratho Hills form a distinctive overall landscape composition with well-managed farmland to both the east and west.
- The hills are important to the identity of the adjacent Ratho village, contributing to its sense of place.
- The Union Canal passes through the northern section of the area (in the CPA). The canal is important for the identity of Ratho village and the local area.
- The hills are not as significant for the identity of the city of Edinburgh as they are for the local area.
- The Garden and Designed Landscape at Hatton House lies partially within the south of the area, largely outwith the green belt. Designed landscapes are a representative feature of the area west of Edinburgh.

Identity evaluation

- Medium-high (green belt)
- Medium-high (CPA)

Recreational use

- A popular informal ridgeline path runs from the west end of Ratho village to the summit of Tormain Hill, close to the edge of the green belt. Another path connects the ridge with Wilkieston Road south-west of the village, outside the green belt.
- A popular core path runs along the Union Canal towpath, forming an important link between areas to the east and west. The path runs through the northern section of the LCA which is within the CPA.
- Connectivity to the north is constrained by the M8 and Hillwood Quarry, and there is no formal recreation access at the southern end of the hills.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium (green belt)
- Medium-high (CPA)

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- The boundary of the southern part of the LCA with Ratho is formed by a track (moderate), a garden boundary (weak), and a minor road alongside fields (moderate) and a tree belt (robust).

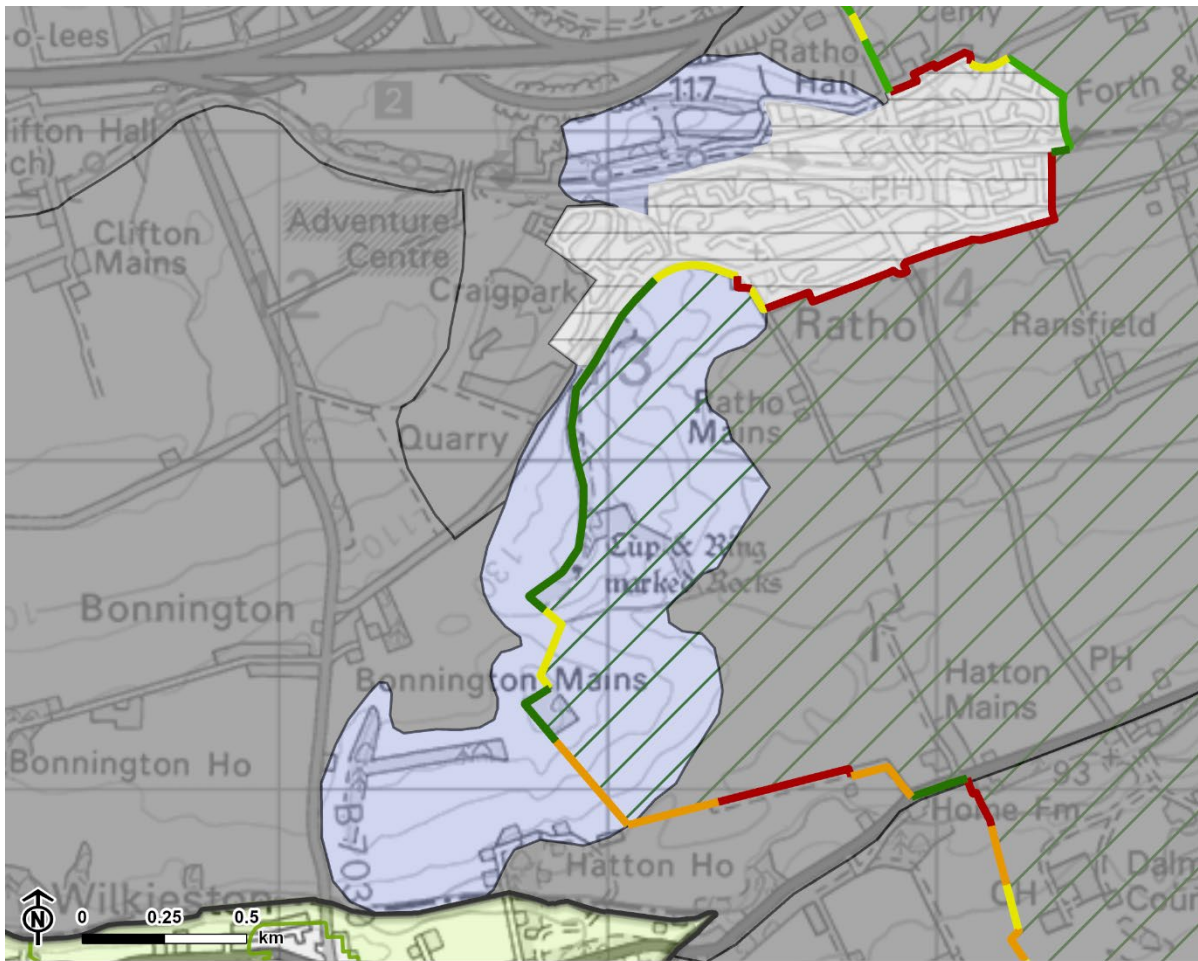
Strength of outer boundaries

- The outer boundary south of Ratho village runs approximately north to south along the ridge. It follows a mixture of tree belts (robust) and field boundaries along the rounded crest of the hill ridge (moderate), and a field with boundary trees (weak to moderate) near the southern edge of the area.

Presence of notable development

- None identified.

Figure A.42: Ratho Hills LCA

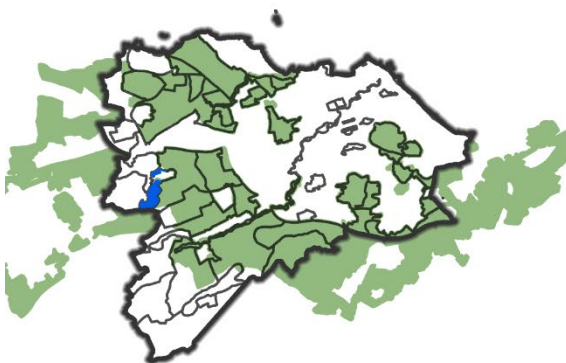


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- Rural Outcrop Hills: Ratho Hills
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area
- Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt/countryside area in adjoining local authorities

Green belt boundary strength

- Robust
- Moderate to robust
- Moderate
- Weak to moderate
- Weak
- N/A



Settled Farmland LCT

LCA 60: Craigpark Fragmented Farmland

Existing Green Belt?

- No.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- Yes – All except the area to the north-west of the M8 and M9.

Setting

- The south-east of the area is adjacent to Ratho, and the Lost Shore Surf Resort is prominent in views from recent housing at the west end of the village. Otherwise there is limited intervisibility between the area and Ratho.
- The north-east of the area is adjacent to Ratho Station but vegetation screens views into the area from most of the village.
- The asphalt plant at Hillwood is visible from some locations in Newbridge to the north of the area, but the surrounding landscape is not prominent.
- Transport routes including the M8 and the mainline railway pass through the area. Adjacent farmland is visible from a few sections of these routes, but cuttings and roadside vegetation screen views in many places.

Setting evaluation

- Medium-low

Identity

- The area east of the M9, largely occupied by Hillwood Quarry, forms part of the context to the north of the Ratho Hills, which contribute to the identity of Ratho and Ratho Station. However, the hills to the south, outwith the area, are more distinctive and less affected by quarrying.

- As the west and centre of the area are not directly adjacent to or closely associated with any nearby settlements, they do not contribute to local settlement identity.

Identity evaluation

- Medium-low

Recreational use

- The Union Canal passes through the area just inside its southern boundary. The towpath is a popular core path for walkers and cyclists, linking with areas to the east and west.
- The disused Ratho Quarry, close to the Union Canal, is one of the most important venues for outdoor rock climbing in the Edinburgh area.
- Lost Shore Surf Resort is a paid visitor attraction. There are informal paths along its edge.
- There is no formal recreational access elsewhere in the area, and the potential for adding routes is limited by the presence of the M8 and M9 which form physical barriers.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- Not applicable.

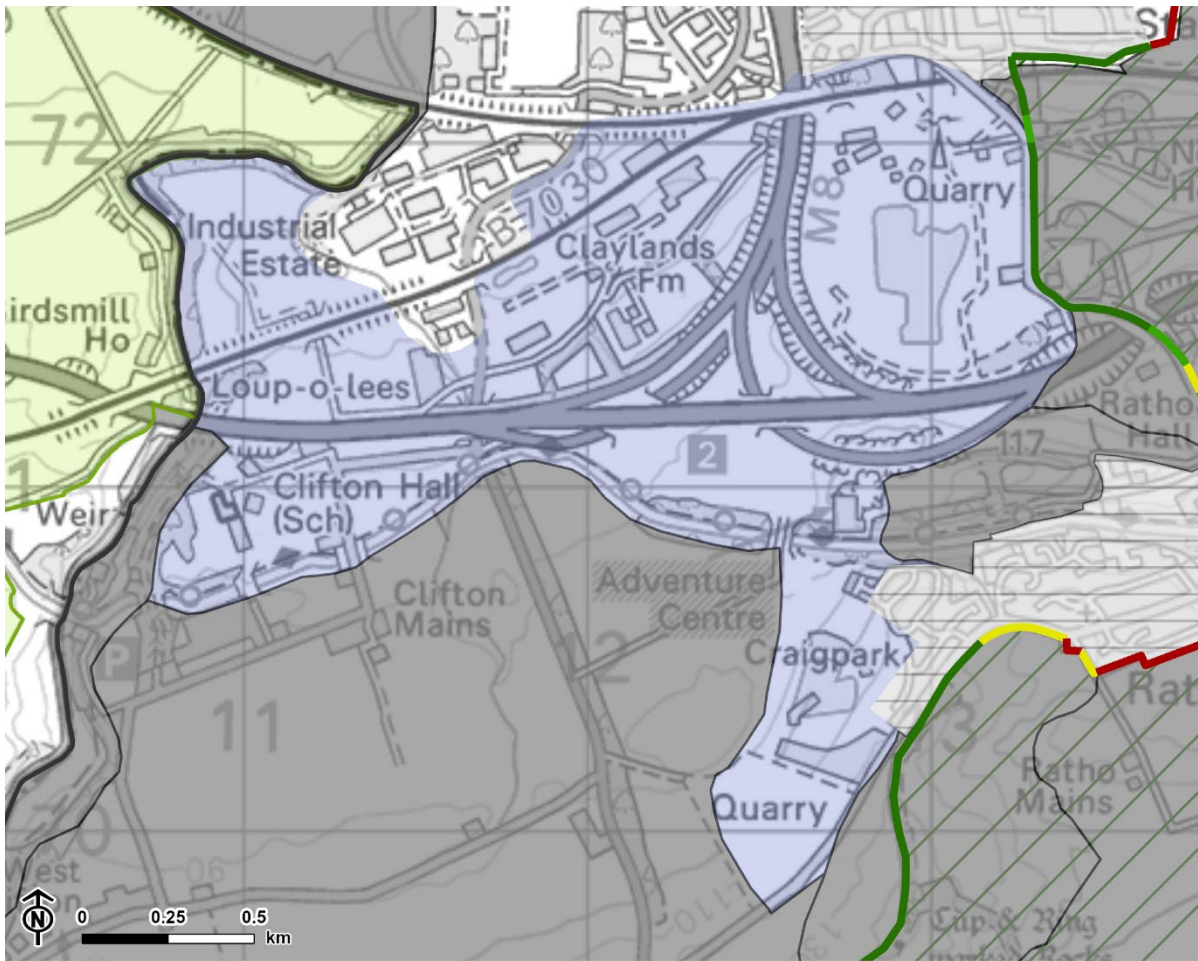
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable, refer to Ratho Farmland for boundary to east of Hillwood Quarry.

Presence of notable development

- The LCA includes extensive transport infrastructure, the Lost Shore Surf Resort, Breedon Bonnington Quarry, Hillwood Quarry, Edinburgh International Climbing Arena and part of Newbridge Industrial Estate.

Figure A.43: Craigpark Fragmented Farmland LCA

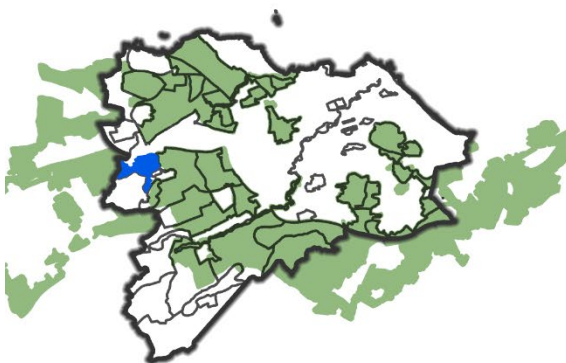


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- Settled Farmland: Craigpark Fragmented Farmland
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area
- Settlement
- Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt/countryside area in adjoining local authorities

Green belt boundary strength

- Robust
- Moderate to robust
- Moderate
- Weak to moderate
- Weak
- N/A



LCA 61: Gogar Farmland

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – All.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- Farmland in the south-east of the area forms the setting for Hermiston and is visible from the village. The south of the area is also visible from the A71 which runs along its boundary.
- The railway and M8 pass through the area. The railway offers open views across surrounding farmland, but views from the M8 are limited as it is aligned in a cutting lined with planting.
- Views into the area from the A720 City Bypass and the A8 are largely screened by roadside vegetation. However, there are glimpses toward the parkland landscape near the A8.
- The area forms part of the Gogar LLA, which recognises the contribution the area makes in forming a wooded backdrop to the west of the city through a grouping of designed landscapes and a rural setting to Hermiston.

Setting evaluation

- Medium

Identity

- The wooded and farmland landscape of the area contributes to the identity of Edinburgh by providing a clear contrast with the city to the east. However, planned housing development east of Millburn Tower will reduce the demarcation provided by the City Bypass.
- The farmland in the south-east of the area is important for the identity of Hermiston as a small village set apart from the city.

- The Garden and Designed Landscape at Millburn Tower is in the east of the area, and there are other undesignated designed landscapes in the area such as Gogarbank. Designed landscapes are a representative feature of the area west of Edinburgh.
- The RBS headquarters campus is also quite a distinctive feature, owing to its large scale.

Identity evaluation

- Medium-high (TBC)

Recreational use

- The Union Canal passes through the south of the area. The towpath is a popular core path for walkers and cyclists, linking with areas to the east and west.
- A core path runs along Gogar Station Road and another passes from this road and under the City Bypass to Edinburgh Park, linking the area with the city.
- There is a golf course at Gogarbun Golf Club in the north-west of the area.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium-high

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- The boundary with existing settlement at Sighthill/Edinburgh, follows the A720 City Bypass and is robust.
- The boundary with land released for housing west of the bypass follows a tree belt (robust) around the edge of Milburn Tower, a minor road (moderate) and a railway line (robust).
- The boundary with Hermiston mainly follows minor roads (moderate) and garden boundaries (weak).
- The boundary with Edinburgh Airport to the north follows the A8 (robust).

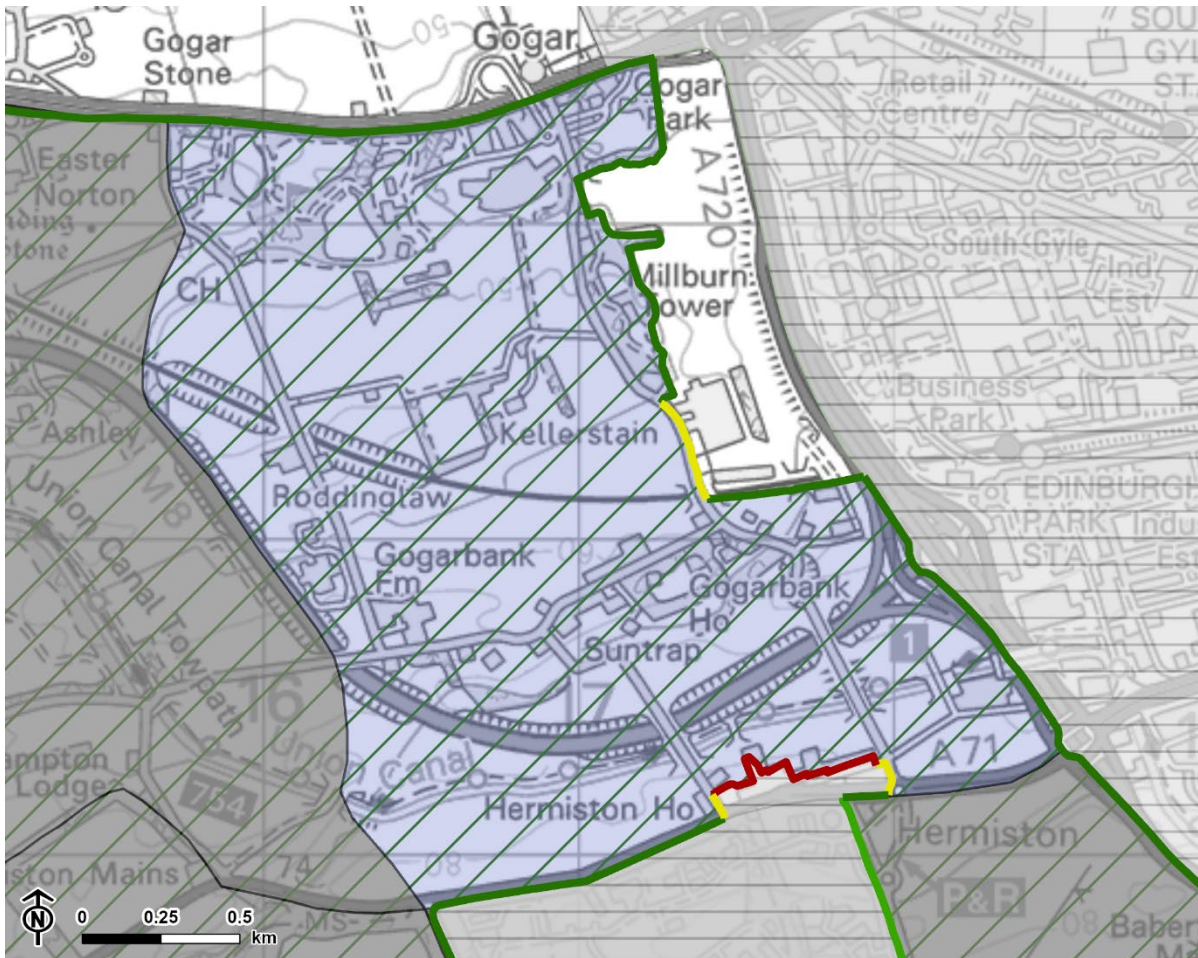
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.

Presence of notable development

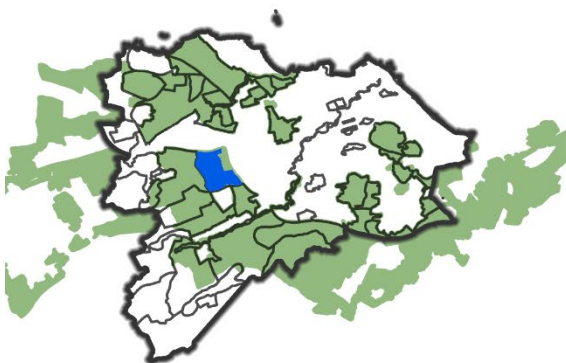
- The RBS headquarters in the north of the LCA is a major business premises.

Figure A.44: Gogar Farmland LCA



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- Settled Farmland: Gogar Farmland
 - City of Edinburgh boundary
 - Neighbouring Landscape Character Area
 - Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt boundary strength**
- Robust
 - Moderate to robust
 - Moderate
 - Weak to moderate
 - Weak
 - N/A



LCA 62: Liberton Fringes

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – All.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- The simple, elevated topography of the Liberton Fringes slopes northwards to the Braid Burn valley. Landcover is a mix of open farmland and some piecemeal development, contrasting with the craggy landform and semi-natural vegetation of the adjacent Braid Hills. It serves as a backdrop to the surrounding Liberton and Alnwickhill.
- It forms part of the Braids, Liberton and Mortonhall LLA, which recognises the farmland, remnant estate parkland and paddocks at the category A listed Liberton House. The LLA also recognises the rich cultural history of the area, which includes the Liberton Battery Scheduled Monument in the south and the category A listed Liberton Tower in the centre of the LCA.

Setting evaluation

- Medium-high

Identity

- The managed farmland of this area is unusual within the urban context of Edinburgh. The architectural heritage and remnant policy plantings are also distinctive.
- This landscape plays a key role in separating areas in the east of west within Edinburgh, it contributes to the characteristic settlement pattern and identity of the southern suburbs of Edinburgh where distinct open hills break up dense areas of housing.

Identity evaluation

- High

Recreational use

- Public access is restricted to some extent by the golf driving range, kennels and other development although minor roads and tracks are easily accessible from the Liberton area. The golf range itself and a riding stables provide some further recreational opportunities.
- The Braids Core Path runs through the LCA, both along Braid Hills Drive and further north along Blackford Glen Road, providing the surrounding settlement with access to the network of paths through the Braid Hills. Additional footpaths link with the Mortonhall camp site and designed landscape.

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium-high

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- To the north, the boundary with the University of Edinburgh follows a minor road lined with a tall hedge (moderate to robust).
- To the east, the boundary with Liberton mainly follows garden boundaries (weak) and minor roads (moderate).
- To the south-east, the boundary with Alnwickhill is moderate along Standykehead where it adjoins the wooded edge of Seven Acre Park but weak where it follows garden boundaries behind the road.

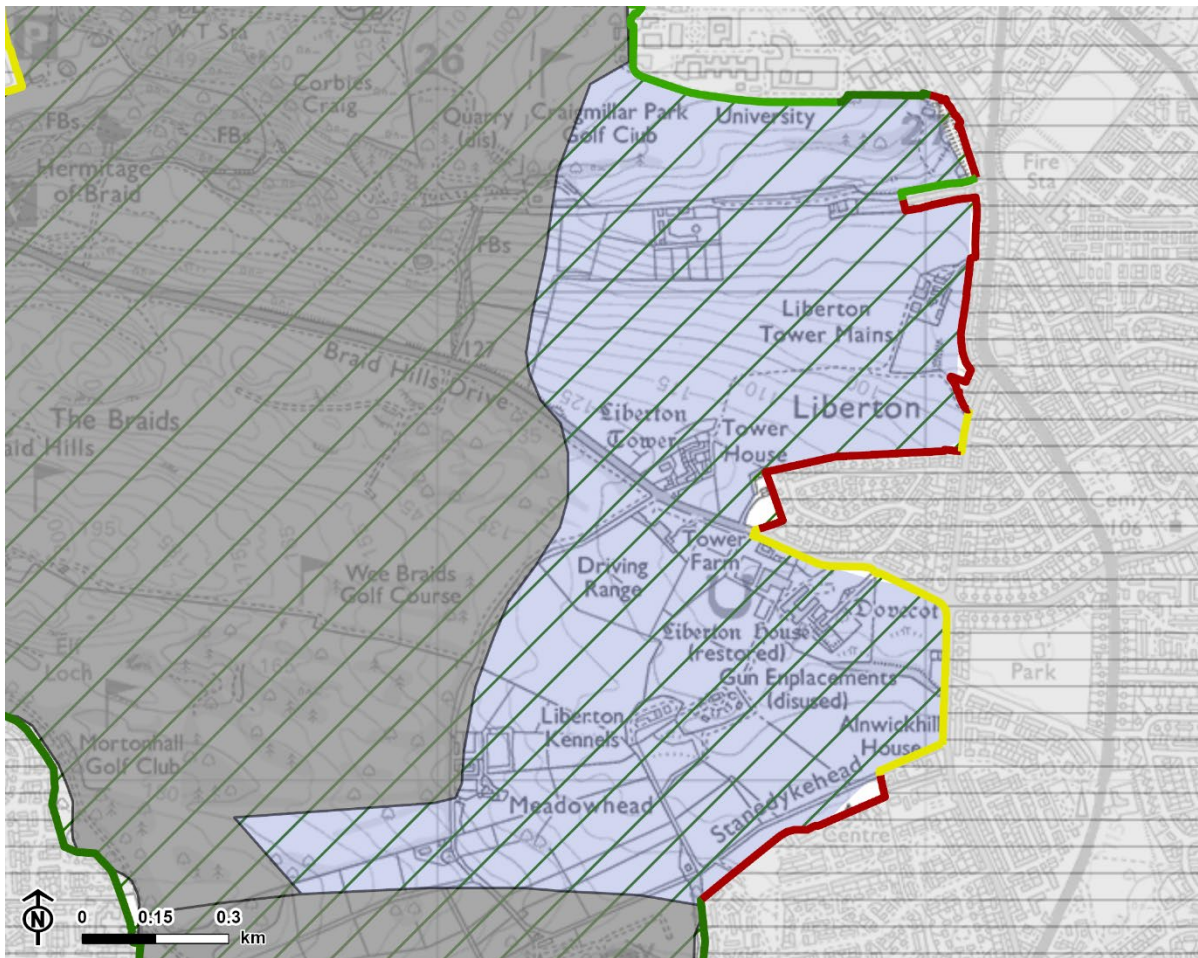
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.

Presence of notable development

- Not applicable.

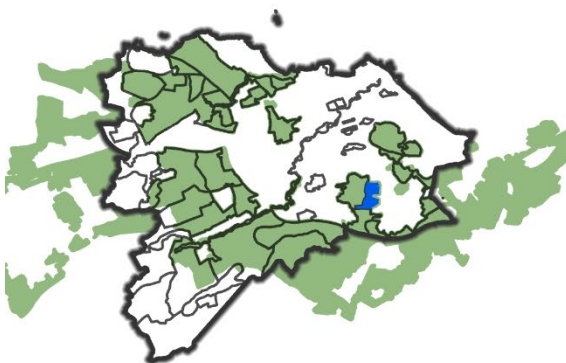
Figure A.45: Liberton Fringes LCA



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- Settled Farmland: Liberton Fringes
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area

- Settlement
- Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt boundary strength**
- Robust
- Moderate to robust
- Moderate
- Weak to moderate
- Weak
- N/A



LCA 63: Queensferry Fragmented Farmland

Existing Green Belt?

- Yes – All of the LCA except a small area north of the A9000, allocated for development.

In Countryside Policy Area?

- No.

Setting

- A semi-rural landscape with few distinctive landscape features. The area is dissected by key trunk roads including the M90 and A90, and features a large bunded oil storage depot and trading estate. These features result in a fragmented character.
- The landscape does not play a key role in the setting of South Queensferry as intervening vegetation and the A90 prevent views from the settlement as a whole, and the landscape does not contain any distinctive features of importance to the setting of South Queensferry.

Setting evaluation

- Low

Identity

- The location of the LCA primarily to the south of the A90, the lack of distinctive landscape features, and the limited visual relationship with South Queensferry results in the LCA playing a limited role in the identity of South Queensferry.
- The LCA plays a limited role in providing separation between South Queensferry and other settlements, and therefore does not contribute strongly to maintaining the identity of South Queensferry.

Identity evaluation

- Low

Recreational use

- The LCA offers limited recreational opportunities in the form of recreational routes and open space. Main roads and railway lines provide physical barriers to access within the LCA and into neighbouring LCAs.
- The disused railway path provides a formal footpath and traffic-free cycle route between South Queensferry and Newbridge (via the Almond Farmland LCA).

Recreational use evaluation

- Medium-low

Green Belt boundaries

Strength of inner boundaries

- There is an inner boundary with South Queensferry and Dalmeny to the north of the LCA, following the A90/A9000 (robust).

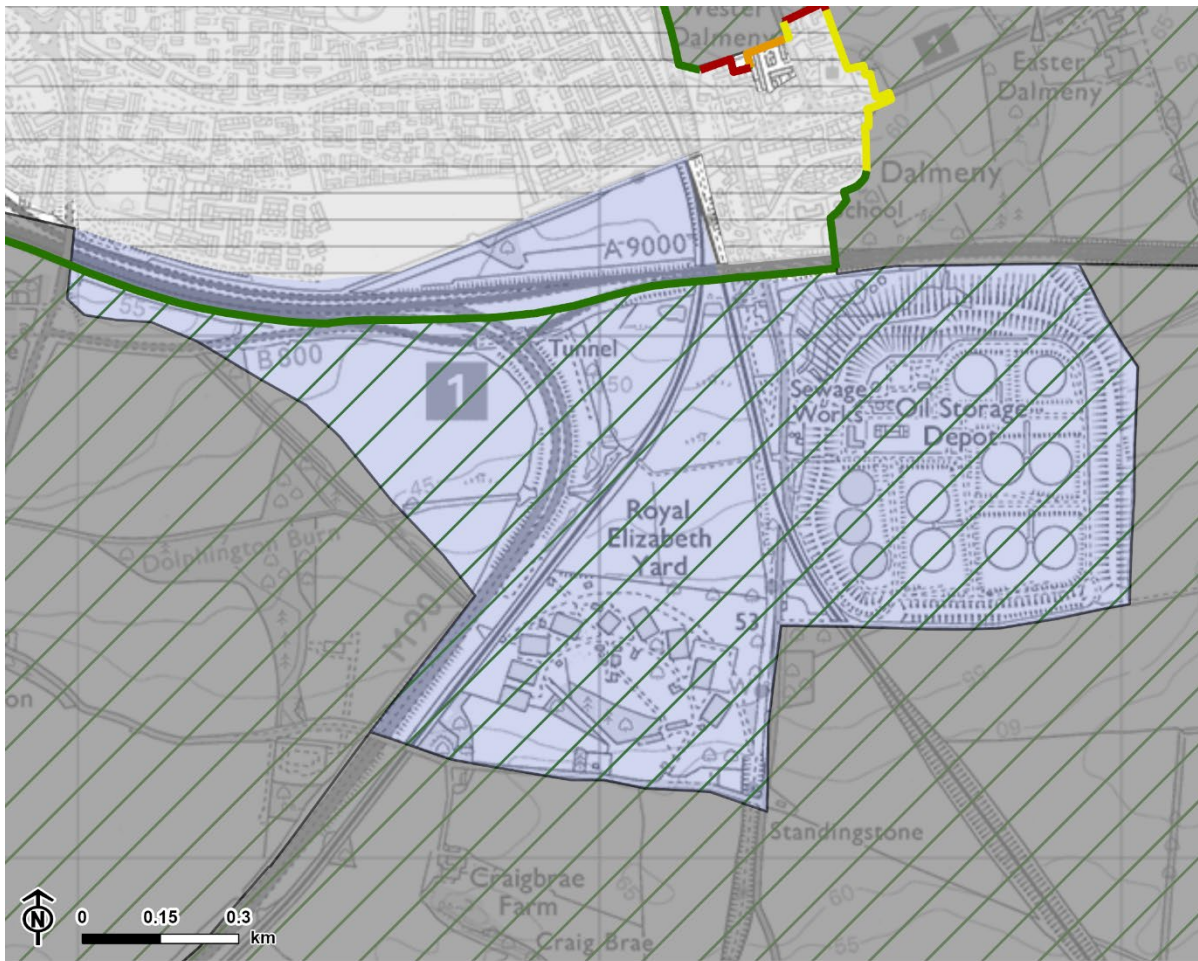
Strength of outer boundaries

- Not applicable.

Presence of notable development

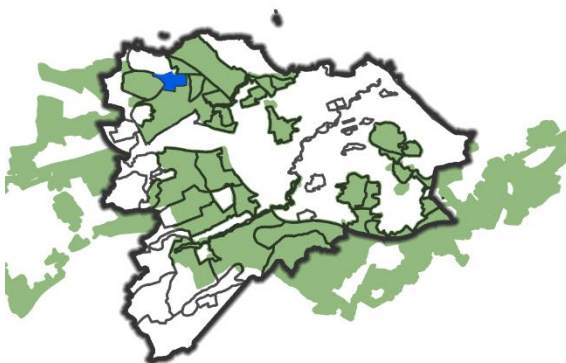
- Yes, a large oil storage depot is present within the area featuring 11 large, tall cylinders for storing oil screened by bunds. In addition, the Royal Elizabeth Yard trading estate features several large-scale business units which contribute to industrial/commercial influence in the area.

Figure A.46: Queensferry Fragmented Farmland LCA



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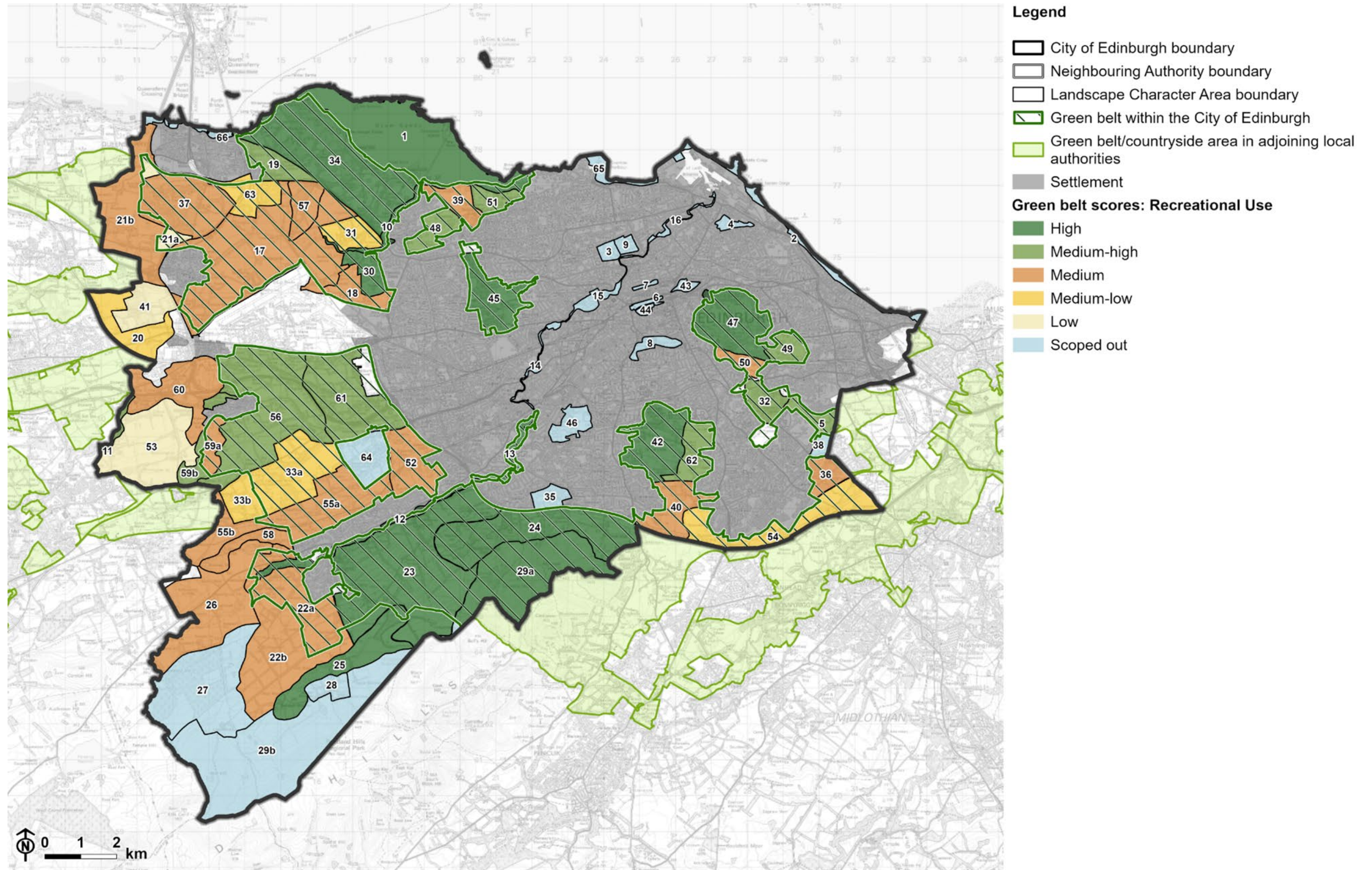
- Settled Farmland: Queensferry Fragmented Farmland
 - City of Edinburgh boundary
 - Neighbouring Landscape Character Area
 - Settlement
 - Green belt within the City of Edinburgh
- Green belt boundary strength**
- Robust
 - Moderate to robust
 - Moderate
 - Weak to moderate
 - Weak
 - N/A



Appendix B

Recreational Use Evaluation Scores

Figure 3.3: Heatmap of Green Belt evaluation – Recreational use



Created by LUC - 16181_003_Green_Belt_Figures/16181_Figure_04_r0_GreenBelt_Recreational_Use_Score 05/02/2026
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Appendix C

Evaluation of LCAs in the Countryside Policy Area

Approach to scoping areas in or out of the evaluation

C.1 The LCAs are discussed in geographical order starting in the north-west of the CEC area and ending in the south.

LCA 21: Newton Farmland

- Most of the LCA is within the CPA but there are two small areas within the green belt (covering approximately 10% of the total LCA area).
- The LCA adjoins settlement in the City of Edinburgh Council area and Countryside Belt in West Lothian, and it is therefore strategically important.
- Action: Scope in. Assign separate evaluations to green belt and CPA within the LCA.

LCA 37: Dundas Policies

- Almost all (over 90%) of the LCA is within the green belt. Two small areas to the north-west and south-west, adjacent to Newton Farmland LCA, are in the CPA.
- Action: Scope in. Assess evaluation based on green belt within the LCA. Consider potential for green belt expansion along with Newton Farmland LCA.

LCA 41: Newliston Policies

- This LCA is located entirely within the CPA.
- The LCA adjoins settlement in the City of Edinburgh Council area and Countryside Belt in West Lothian, and it is therefore strategically important.
- Action: Scope in.

LCA 20: Newbridge/Broxburn Farmland

- This LCA is located entirely within the CPA.
- The LCA adjoins settlement in the City of Edinburgh Council area and Countryside Belt in West Lothian, and it is therefore strategically important.
- Action: Scope in.

LCA 60: Craigpark Fragmented Farmland

- Approximately two thirds of the LCA is located within the LCA, with the remainder not designated. There is no green belt within the LCA.
- The LCA adjoins settlement in the City of Edinburgh Council area and Countryside Belt in West Lothian, and it is therefore strategically important.
- Action: Scope in. Assess evaluation across the LCA.

LCA 53: Bonnington Farmland

- This LCA is located entirely within the CPA.
- The LCA adjoins settlement and Countryside Belt in West Lothian, and it is therefore strategically important.
- Action: Scope in.

LCA 11: Upper Almond Valley

- This LCA is located entirely within the CPA.
- The LCA does not adjoin settlement. However, its north-western corner adjoins Countryside Belt in West Lothian, and it is therefore strategically important.
- Action: Scope in.

LCA 59: Ratho Hills

- The LCA contains sizeable areas within the green belt and CPA.
- Action: Scope in. Assign separate evaluations to green belt and CPA within the LCA.

LCA 56: Ratho Farmland

- Over 90% of the LCA is within the green belt. A small area in the north-west of the LCA is adjacent to Craigpark Fragmented Farmland LCA and Ratho Hills LCA, and a small area in the south-west is adjacent to Ratho Hills LCA, Dalmahoy Policies LCA, Gowanhill Farmland LCA, and the City of Edinburgh Council boundary with West Lothian.
- Action: Scope in. Assess evaluation based on green belt within the LCA. Consider potential for green belt expansion along with Ratho Hills LCA.

LCA 33: Dalmahoy Policies

- The LCA contains sizeable areas within the green belt and CPA.
- Action: Scope in. Assign separate evaluations to green belt and CPA within the LCA.

LCA 55: Gowanhill Farmland

- The LCA contains sizeable areas within the green belt and CPA.
- Action: Scope in. Assign separate evaluations to green belt and CPA within the LCA.

LCA 58: Kaimes Hill

- This LCA is located entirely within the CPA.
- The LCA adjoins settlement in the City of Edinburgh Council area, and it is therefore potentially strategically important.
- Action: Scope in.

LCA 26: Water of Leith Farmland Slopes

- Over 90% of the LCA is within the CPA. Only a small area in the north-east is within the green belt.
- Action: Scope in. Assess evaluation based on CPA within the LCA.

LCA 27: West Pentland Fringe

- This LCA is located entirely within the CPA.
- The LCA is not close to settlement, and although it has a boundary with West Lothian, it does not adjoin Countryside Belt. It is therefore unlikely to be considered for green belt expansion.
- Action: Scope out.

LCA 22: Cockburn Farmland and Shelterbelts

- The LCA contains sizeable areas within the green belt and CPA.
- Action: Scope in. Assign separate evaluations to green belt and CPA within the LCA.

LCA 23: Currie Farmland Slopes

- Most of the LCA is within the green belt (approximately 80%) while the remainder is within the CPA.
- The CPA within the LCA is not close to settlement. Although it adjoins Midlothian, it does not adjoin green belt in that council area. Considering these factors, the CPA within the LCA is not strategically important and does not need to be evaluated separately from the green belt area.
- Action: Scope in. Assess score based on green belt within the LCA.

LCA 25: Redford Basin

- Almost all (well over 90%) of the LCA is within the CPA. Only a small area in the north-east is within the green belt.
- Action: Scope in. Assess evaluation based on CPA within the LCA. Consider potential for green belt expansion along with Currie Farmland Slopes LCA.

LCA 29: Pentland Hills and Ridges

- This LCA is split into two non-adjacent units: an area to the north-east overlooking Edinburgh, and another, larger area to the south-west more remote from settlements. Over 95% of the north-eastern unit is within the green belt, while the remainder of this unit and the entire south-western unit are within the CPA.

- Action: Scope in north-eastern unit only. Assess score based on green belt within the LCA. Consider potential for green belt expansion along with Currie Farmland Slopes LCA.

Evaluation of Countryside Policy Area by LCA

LCA 21b: Newton Farmland and LCA 37: Dundas Policies

3.66 The current outer green belt lies to the west of the M90, and follows minor roads, the wooded policies of Dundas, field boundaries and minor access roads. The remaining part of the LCA to the west is CPA.

Reasons supporting Green Belt extension in Newton Farmland LCA/Dundas Policies LCA

- Both the setting and identity evaluation for the CPA area is medium-low, reflecting the more limited direct relationship to settlement, although there is some role in providing setting for the Dundas Castle policy landscape. The landscape lacks distinctive identity and the separation provided by the A90 and M90 limit the role of the landscape in settlement identity.
- New development at Winchburgh adjoins the CEC boundary for a very short distance and at this point the boundary is formed by the robust feature of the M9. At this location an area of development in West Lothian adjoins an area in CEC that is not currently green belt.
- There are some short weaker sections of current outer green belt boundary that could be enhanced.
- The western boundary of the LCA adjoins Countryside Belt in West Lothian. Designation as green belt would provide continuity with areas currently protected by the Countryside Belt policy.

Reasons against extending Green Belt in Newton Farmland LCA/Dundas Policies LCA

- The setting, identity and additional recreational use scores do not alone indicate the potential consideration for green belt.
- The existing inner boundary with settlements is overall strong.

Newton Farmland LCA/Dundas Policies LCA conclusion

3.67 Based on the above, the area is not recommended for consideration as potential green belt.

LCA 41: Newliston Policies

3.68 The LCA adjoins other areas of CPA to the east, at Kirkliston and to the north with Newton Farmland LCA, and to the west and south.

Reasons supporting Green Belt extension in Newliston Policies LCA

- The area scores medium-high for setting and identity reflecting the policy landscape, and contribution to maintaining the distinctive identity of Kirkliston, Newbridge and Broxburn.
- A short section of the north-eastern boundary adjoins the M9 near Kirkliston, and a short section in the south-east adjoins Newbridge and where there could be development pressure. However, both boundaries follow major roads and are robust.
- A short section of boundary adjoins the Countryside Belt in West Lothian. Designation as green belt would provide continuity with areas currently protected by the Countryside Belt policy.

Reasons against extending Green Belt in Newliston Policies LCA

- The area scores low for recreational use.
- The M9 provides a robust existing settlement boundary with Kirkliston.

Newliston Policies LCA conclusion

3.69 Based on the above, the LCA could be considered for green belt expansion. This should be in combination with Newbridge/Broxburn Farmland LCA, owing to their visual relationship, compatible scores and location between settlements in both the City of Edinburgh Council area and West Lothian.

LCA 20: Newbridge/Broxburn Farmland

3.70 The LCA does not adjoin any areas of the Edinburgh Green Belt and the entirety of the area is CPA.

Reasons supporting Green Belt extension in Newbridge/Broxburn Farmland LCA

- The area scores medium for setting and identity.
- In particular, the area provides the wider setting for the GDL at Newliston (which is in Newliston Policies LCA). It also contributes to the separate identities of Newbridge in the City of Edinburgh Council area and Broxburn in West Lothian.
- The western boundary is close to Broxburn in West Lothian, adjoining an area at the edge of the settlement that is not currently designated as Countryside Belt and is currently undeveloped. The railway line would provide a robust outer green belt boundary in this area.
- The eastern boundary adjoins Newbridge. The River Almond would provide a robust inner green belt boundary in this area.
- The northern and western boundaries of the LCA adjoin Countryside Belt in West Lothian. Designation as green belt would provide continuity with areas currently protected by the Countryside Belt policy.

Reasons against extending Green Belt in Newbridge/Broxburn Farmland LCA

- The area scores medium-low for recreational use.

Newbridge/Broxburn Farmland LCA conclusion

3.71 Based on the above, the LCA could be considered for green belt expansion, in combination with Newliston Policies LCA.

LCA 60: Craigpark Fragmented Farmland

3.72 All of the area to the south and east of the motorways is currently CPA. The area to the north and west of the M8 is not CPA.

Reasons supporting Green Belt extension in Craigpark Fragmented Farmland LCA

- The area scores medium for recreational use, due to the Union Canal which runs through the south of the area.
- The north-eastern boundary adjoins Ratho Station. The woodland-lined Harvest Road would provide a largely robust inner green belt boundary.
- The eastern boundary adjoins part of Ratho. The slope below the existing housing development would provide a moderately robust inner green belt boundary.
- The north-western boundary adjoins Countryside Belt in West Lothian. Designation as green belt would provide continuity with areas currently protected by the Countryside Belt policy.

Reasons against extending Green Belt in Craigpark Fragmented Farmland LCA

- The area scores medium-low for setting and identity.
- The area contains extensive transport, industrial and commercial infrastructure.
- The area is fragmented by transport infrastructure and development, particularly to the north of the M8.

Craigpark Fragmented Farmland LCA conclusion

3.73 Overall, based on the above, the area is not a strong candidate for green belt expansion. However, the area could be considered for partial expansion of the green belt into the area of the LCA south of the M8, alongside the Union Canal. Further consideration of the preferred designation of the area containing Breedon Bonnington Quarry and the Lost Shore Surf Resort could also be undertaken.

LCA 53: Bonnington Farmland

3.74 The area is entirely within the CPA. The green belt boundary to the east is beyond this LCA on the eastern slopes of the Ratho Hills.

Reasons supporting Green Belt extension in Bonnington Farmland LCA

- The LCA scores medium for setting and identity. In particular, the LCA contributes to the separate identities of Ratho in the City of Edinburgh Council area, and Calderwood in West Lothian. The area is bounded to the north by the Union Canal and the west by the Upper Almond Valley.
- The south-west of the LCA is adjacent to settlement at Calderwood in West Lothian.
- There are numerous potential features within or bordering the LCA that would provide outer green belt boundaries, depending on how far across the LCA the green belt was to be extended. They include the B7030 Cliftonhall Road or the wooded edge of the Almond valley at the north-western boundary of the LCA.
- The southern boundary adjoins Countryside Belt in West Lothian.

Reasons against extending Green Belt in Bonnington Farmland LCA

- The LCA scores low for recreational use.
- The south-western boundary with recent housing at Calderwood in West Lothian mostly follows garden boundaries, which would provide a weak green belt boundary. Minor roads a short distance to the east would provide a moderate boundary.

Bonnington Farmland LCA conclusion

3.75 Based on the above, the LCA could be considered for green belt expansion across part or all of the area. Furthermore, this would link with an extension of the green belt into the southern part of Craigpark Fragmented Farmland LCA, and the south-western part of Ratho Hills LCA, as discussed above.

LCA 11: Upper Almond Valley – Boundary and strategic considerations

3.76 The area is entirely within the CPA. The green belt boundary to the east is beyond this LCA and includes the eastern slopes of the Ratho Hills.

Reasons supporting Green Belt extension in Upper Almond Valley LCA

- The LCA scores medium for setting and identity, and medium-high for recreational use, particularly as the Union Canal crosses the Lin's Mill Aqueduct within the area.
- The western boundary of the LCA with West Lothian would provide a robust outer green belt boundary.

Reasons against extending Green Belt in Upper Almond Valley LCA

- The LCA is not close to any settlements.
- Owing to the steep topography of the valley sides and the river along its floor, there is very limited potential for development pressure within the LCA.
- The wooded course of the River Almond would provide a robust outer boundary if the green belt were to be extended across Bonnington Farmland LCA.
- Although the north-western edge of the LCA almost adjoins the corner of Countryside Belt in West Lothian, the two areas are separated by the M8, which acts as a barrier to connectivity between the two areas.

Upper Almond Valley LCA conclusion

3.77 Based on the above number of reasons against extending, the LCA should not be considered for green belt expansion. The Almond Valley is in itself an effective boundary feature and the location of any new green belt boundary would take into account a range of factors to ensure the most robust boundary line is identified.

LCA 56: Ratho Farmland and LCA 59: Ratho Hills

3.78 The green belt extends across the majority of Ratho Farmland LCA and across the eastern slopes of the Ratho Hills LCA. CPA in Ratho Farmland LCA covers a small area to the north of Ratho, and the area around Hatton House in the south. CPA in Ratho Hills LCA includes the western edge of the Ratho Hills.

Reasons supporting Green Belt extension in Ratho Farmland LCA and Ratho Hills LCA

- The Ratho Hills LCA area within the CPA scores medium for setting, and medium-high for both identity and recreational use.
- The Ratho Farmland LCA area within the CPA scores medium for setting, medium-high for identity and medium for recreational use.
- The northern area of the current CPA is adjacent to Ratho. This would provide a largely robust inner boundary along the canal and tree belts.
- The existing green belt boundary in the southern unit of the LCA is of mixed strength, with some weaker sections. Extending the green belt across the entire LCA unit, and the CPA area in Ratho Farmland LCA, would allow for a more consistently robust boundary to be followed.
- By extending the green belt across the entire southern LCA unit, the GDL at Hatton House would be included in the green belt.
- A short section of the southern boundary adjoins the Countryside Belt in West Lothian.

Reasons against extending Green Belt in Ratho Farmland LCA and Ratho Hills LCA

- The area of CPA in the south of the LCA has limited recreational use.

Ratho Farmland LCA and Ratho Hills LCA conclusion

3.79 Based on the above, the LCA should be considered for green belt expansion. Furthermore, expansion across the southern unit of the LCA could provide continuity with green belt expansion in Bonnington Farmland LCA, as discussed above.

LCA 33b: Dalmahoy Policies – Boundary and strategic considerations

3.80 The western part of the LCA is in the CPA and formed of regularly spaced tree belts and policy woodland.

Reasons supporting Green Belt extension in Dalmahoy Policies LCA

- The CPA within the LCA scores medium for identity, as part of the remnant policy landscape at Dalmahoy.
- The western boundary of the CPA is close (although not adjacent) to Countryside Belt in West Lothian.
- The existing outer boundary is between weak and moderate in strength. The woodland-lined road at the edge of the LCA would provide a more robust outer boundary.

Reasons against extending Green Belt in Dalmahoy Policies LCA

- The CPA within the LCA scores low for setting and medium-low for recreational use.
- The CPA within the LCA is not close to any settlements.

Dalmahoy Policies LCA conclusion

3.81 Based on the above, the LCA is not recommended for consideration as potential green belt expansion. The area does not score sufficiently high in green belt terms and does not have a strategic green belt role.

LCA 55b: Gowanhill Farmland

3.82 The green belt extends across this LCA to the mainline railway at the foot of Dalmahoy Hill in the west. The CPA then extends west to the boundary with West Lothian.

Reasons supporting Green Belt extension in Gowanhill Farmland LCA

- The CPA within the LCA scores medium for recreational use.
- The western boundary of the CPA area adjoins Countryside Belt in West Lothian.

Reasons against extending Green Belt in Gowanhill Farmland LCA

- The CPA within the LCA scores medium-low for setting and low for identity.
- The CPA within the LCA does not adjoin any settlements, whilst near to Balerno, intervening hill slopes limit a setting and identity relationship with this settlement.

Gowanhill Farmland LCA conclusion

3.83 Based on the above, the CPA within the LCA is not recommended for consideration as potential green belt expansion. The area does not score sufficiently high in green belt terms and does not have a strategic green belt role.

LCA 58: Kaimes Hill

3.84 The entirety of Kaimes Hill LCA is currently CPA and adjoins the green belt edge at Balerno.

Reasons supporting Green Belt extension in Kaimes Hill LCA

- The LCA scores medium for setting, identity and recreational use.
- The eastern boundary of the area adjoins the northern edge of Balerno. This would provide a moderate to robust boundary along hill slopes and degraded woodland.

Reasons against extending Green Belt in Kaimes Hill LCA

- Although Kaimes Hill and Dalmahoy Hill within the LCA are prominent in the local area, they are not visually associated with a particular settlement.
- The rural character of the area has been compromised by operational quarry workings.
- The area does not adjoin Countryside Belt in West Lothian.

Kaimes Hill LCA conclusion

3.85 Based on the above limited association with settlement and lack of strategic role, the LCA is not recommended for consideration as potential green belt expansion.

LCA 26: Water of Leith Farmland Slopes – Boundary and strategic considerations

3.86 The area adjoins the green belt to the west of Currie and Balerno, and includes a very small part of the green belt as it wraps around the Water of Leith valley. The majority of the LCA is CPA.

Reasons supporting Green Belt extension in Water of Leith Farmland Slopes LCA

- The LCA scores medium for recreational use.

Reasons against extending Green Belt in Water of Leith Farmland Slopes LCA

- The area scores medium-low for setting and identity.
- Most of the area is not close to any settlements. The north-eastern part of the area is within a few hundred metres of north Balerno, but the relationship with the settlement is limited.
- The rural character of the north-east of the area has been compromised by operational quarry workings.
- The eastern boundary of the LCA abuts existing green belt in Cockburn Farmland and Shelterbelts LCA. The existing outer boundary along woodland belts is largely robust.

Water of Leith Farmland Slopes LCA conclusion

3.87 Based on the above low scores, lack of association with settlement and no strategic role, the LCA is not recommended for consideration as potential green belt expansion.

LCA 22b: Cockburn Farmland and Shelterbelts

3.88 The LCA is green belt where it adjoins the settlement edge of Currie and Balerno and around the Water of Leith. Areas to the west are CPA.

Reasons supporting Green Belt extension in Cockburn Farmland and Shelterbelts LCA

- The CPA within the LCA scores medium for identity and recreational use.

Reasons against extending Green Belt in Cockburn Farmland and Shelterbelts LCA

- The CPA within the LCA scores medium-low for setting, largely because it is not close to any settlements and has limited visual relationship with the nearest settlement at Balerno (unlike the LCA to the east within the green belt).
- The existing outer green belt boundary within the LCA is mainly robust or at least moderate in strength, following woodland belts and minor roads.

Cockburn Farmland and Shelterbelts LCA conclusion

3.89 Based on the above lack of relationship with settlement and strategic green belt role, the LCA is not recommended for consideration as potential green belt expansion.

LCA 23: Currie Farmland Slopes, LCA 25: Redford Basin and LCA 29: Pentland Hills and Ridges

3.90 The majority of the area is currently green belt. Two small areas in the south-west adjacent to Redford Basin and the steeply rising slopes of the Pentlands are currently CPA.

Reasons supporting Green Belt extension in Currie Farmland Slopes LCA

- The Currie Farmland Slopes LCA scores medium-high for setting, and high for identity and recreational use.
- The existing outer green belt with the LCAs is mainly weak. Extending the green belt across the entire Currie Farmland Slopes LCA and further into Redford Basin LCA would allow for more robust boundaries to be followed, for example reservoir shores.

Reasons against extending Green Belt in Currie Farmland Slopes LCA

- The CPA within the LCA are not close to any settlements.
- The CPA within the LCA does not adjoin green belt or countryside belt in any other council areas.
- The CPA within the LCA would not play a strategic role as green belt.

Currie Farmland Slopes LCA conclusion

3.91 Based on the above lack of relationship with settlement or strategic role, the LCA is not recommended for consideration for potential green belt expansion.

Appendix D

Glossary

Table B.1: Glossary of terms and abbreviations

Term	Definition
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum (sea level).
Ancient Woodland	Woodland evidenced to have had continuous woodland cover since at least 1750 AD and has only been cleared for underwood or timber production. It is an extremely valuable ecological resource, with an exceptionally high diversity of flora and fauna.
Arable	Land used for growing crops.
Avenue	A tree-lined way or approach.
Biodiversity	The measure of the variety of organisms present in different ecosystems.
Bing	A heap or pile of storage, typically of waste from a mine or oil-shale extraction.
Cleugh	Steep valley or ravine.
Conservation Area	A designated area of special architectural or historic interest.
Core Path	Part of a system of paths or routes, including waterways, designated by the local planning authority to facilitate access rights under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.
Feueing	A system of historic land tenure in Scotland relating to the portioning off of land by a feudal superior to another party. This system allowed the feudal superior to control details such as the height and architectural style of buildings on the feud land.
GDL	Grounds which have been laid out for artistic effect designated on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland.
Green engineering	Approach to design of solutions, such as stormwater management or slope stabilisation, that prioritises environmental sustainability.
Landscape character	A distinct pattern or combination of elements that occurs consistently in a particular landscape.
Landscape character area (LCA)	A unique geographic area with a consistent character and identity, which forms part of a landscape character type.

Term	Definition
Landscape character type (LCT)	A generic term for landscape with a consistent, homogeneous character. Landscape character types may occur in different parts of the county, but wherever they occur, they will share common combinations of geology, topography, vegetation, or human influences.
Listed Building	A building, object or structure that has been judged to be of national importance in terms of architectural or historic interest.
LLA	Local Landscape Areas; landscapes that are locally designated for their high value and distinctiveness.
LNR	Local Nature Reserve.
NCN	National Cycle Network.
Parkland	Land that has historically been managed for grazing, with open grassland and old, open-grown trees.
Policies/Policy landscape	Enclosed ornamental grounds, forming part of a historic estate in which a large country house is situated.
PRoW	Public Right of Way.
Riparian	Relating to the wetlands and banks adjacent to rivers and streams.
Scheduled Monument	Nationally important archaeological sites or historic buildings, given protection against unauthorised change.
Shelterbelt	A line of trees or shrubs planted to provide a windbreak.
SPA	Special Protection Area (EC Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds).
Specimen tree	Typically a large tree which forms a focal point in the landscape.
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest.
SuDs	Sustainable Drainage Systems. Systems which manage stormwater by mimicking natural drainage.
Time depth	The time period expressed in the landscape, or the extent to which the landscape reflects a certain time period (a landscape with greater time depth will comprise older elements than a landscape with lesser time depth).
Topography	Combinations of slope and elevation that produce the shape and form of the land surface.
Veteran trees	Individual trees or groups of trees typically found within wood pastures, historic parkland, hedgerows, orchards, parks, and other areas. A veteran tree may or may not be very old, but it has

Term	Definition
	decay features, such as branch death and hollowing. These features contribute to its biodiversity, cultural and heritage value.
Weir	A low dam built across the width of a body of water to alter the flow of water.

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