

City of Edinburgh Council Landscape Character Assessment 2026 Update

City of Edinburgh Council

Final report

Prepared by LUC

February 2026



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1	Pilot LCT/LCA profile and draft methodology	LUC	LUC	LUC	21/10/2025
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Acknowledgements

LUC would like to thank the Planning and Building Standards team at the City of Edinburgh Council for their inputs.

Chapter 1

Introduction and Context

Background and purpose

1.1 LUC was commissioned in September 2025 to prepare an update to the Landscape Character Assessment for City of Edinburgh Council covering the local authority area.

1.2 This study updates [LUC's 2010 Edinburgh Landscape Character Assessment \(LCA\)](#). The approach to this updated landscape character assessment broadly follows that of the 2010 LCA. The landscape character types and landscape character areas identified in the 2010 LCA were reviewed and updated to reflect changes in the baseline. The methodology detailed in Chapter 2 highlights where the approach reflects guidance published since the original study.

1.3 The location of the study area for the 2026 Edinburgh Landscape Character Assessment (i.e. the local authority boundary) is shown on Figure 1.2 and Figure 2.1.

1.4 As for the previous 2010 Landscape Character Assessment, the purpose of the study is to undertake a local landscape character assessment of landscape within the City of Edinburgh Council area, including urban open spaces and the peri-urban environment. The assessment provides information to understand how Edinburgh's landscape character may be conserved or enhanced, guiding development that responds to local character and the qualities of the landscape. It can help inform locational policies for strategic development as well as appropriate design and mitigation, providing baseline evidence for more detailed Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA).

1.5 The LCA baseline also provides a framework for more detailed landscape studies, including the Local Landscape Designation Review (LUC, 2026), Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (LUC, 2026) and Green Belt Review (LUC, 2026).

1.6 The use of local landscape character assessment can inform both development management decisions and landscape management. This update was specifically commissioned to inform the preparation of the Council's next local development plan – City Plan 2040, reflecting the information planning authorities may wish to prepare, as outlined in the [Scottish Government's 2023 Local Development Planning Guidance](#).

1.7 Whilst change in the landscape is often a long-term process, land use pressures and the climate and the nature emergencies are accelerating the pace of landscape change, requiring periodic review of baseline data.

1.8 A map of the Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas within Edinburgh is shown on Figure 2.1. Further detail on the landscape classification is provided in Appendix A: Updates to the Landscape Character Classification.

1.9 The Landscape Character Types and their component Landscape Character Areas are detailed in Chapter 3.

The role of Landscape Character Assessment

1.10 Landscape character is defined as:

“A distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse”

(Source: [Scottish Natural Heritage and Countryside Agency's 2002 Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland](#))

1.11 The European Landscape Convention (ELC) came into force in the UK in March 2007. It established the need to recognise landscape in law; and develop landscape policies dedicated to the protection, management, and planning of landscapes; and to establish procedures for the participation of the general public and other stakeholders in the creation and implementation of landscape policies. The ELC remains relevant despite the UK's departure from the EU.

1.12 The ELC definition of 'landscape' recognises that all landscapes matter, be they ordinary, degraded, or outstanding:

“Landscape means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.”

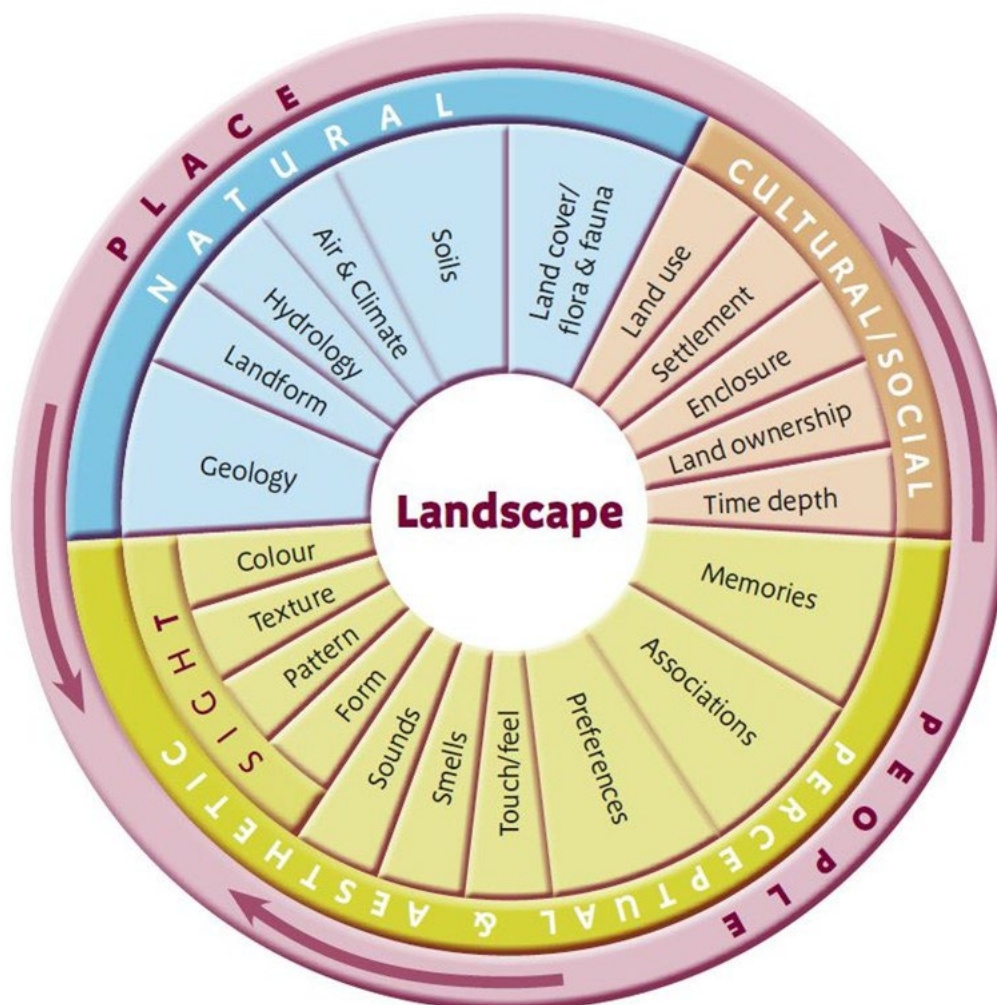
1.13 Signing up to the ELC means that the UK is committed to protect, manage, and plan our landscapes for the future. The Convention also advocates work to raise landscape awareness, involvement and enjoyment amongst local and visiting communities. Landscape character is defined in the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment – 3rd Edition (GLVIA3) as *“a distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different*

from another, rather than better or worse”. Again, this reinforces the underlying message that all landscapes matter.

1.14 Landscape Character Assessment is the process of identifying and describing such variations in character across a landscape. It seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of features and attributes (characteristics) that make different landscapes distinctive. The landscape is the result of the interaction between people and place which gives an area a local identity. The ‘landscape wheel’ below (Figure 1.1) illustrates how the different natural, cultural, and perceptual attributes of a landscape combine to influence the landscape character.

Figure 1.1: Landscape influences (from 'An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment' (Natural England, 2014))

Figure 1: What is landscape?



1.15 The process of Landscape Character Assessment is described in Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland (2002). Updated guidance for Landscape Character Assessment in England was published in 2014 (refer to [Natural England's 2014 An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment](#)). The [Landscape Institute's 2016 Technical Information Note 08/2015: Landscape Character Assessment](#) confirmed that the previous (2002) guidance remains relevant to Landscape Character Assessment in Scotland, albeit the methodology and approach described by both versions of the guidance document is broadly similar. The 2014 guidance includes an additional section on updating landscape character assessment, which is of relevance as this study forms an update to the 2010 Landscape Character Assessment.

1.16 As such, Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland (2002) is considered the primary source of guidance for this study, though reference is made to the 2014 Landscape Character Assessment guidance where relevant. Methodology is discussed further in Chapter 2.

1.17 Understanding the character of a place and evaluating an area's defining characteristics is a key component in managing growth sustainably and ensuring that the inherent character and qualities of Edinburgh's landscape can continue to be appreciated. An understanding of character can be used to ensure that any change or development does not undermine whatever is valued or characteristic in a particular landscape, and can help guide positive change that conserves, enhances or restores local character.

Relationship to published landscape and related studies

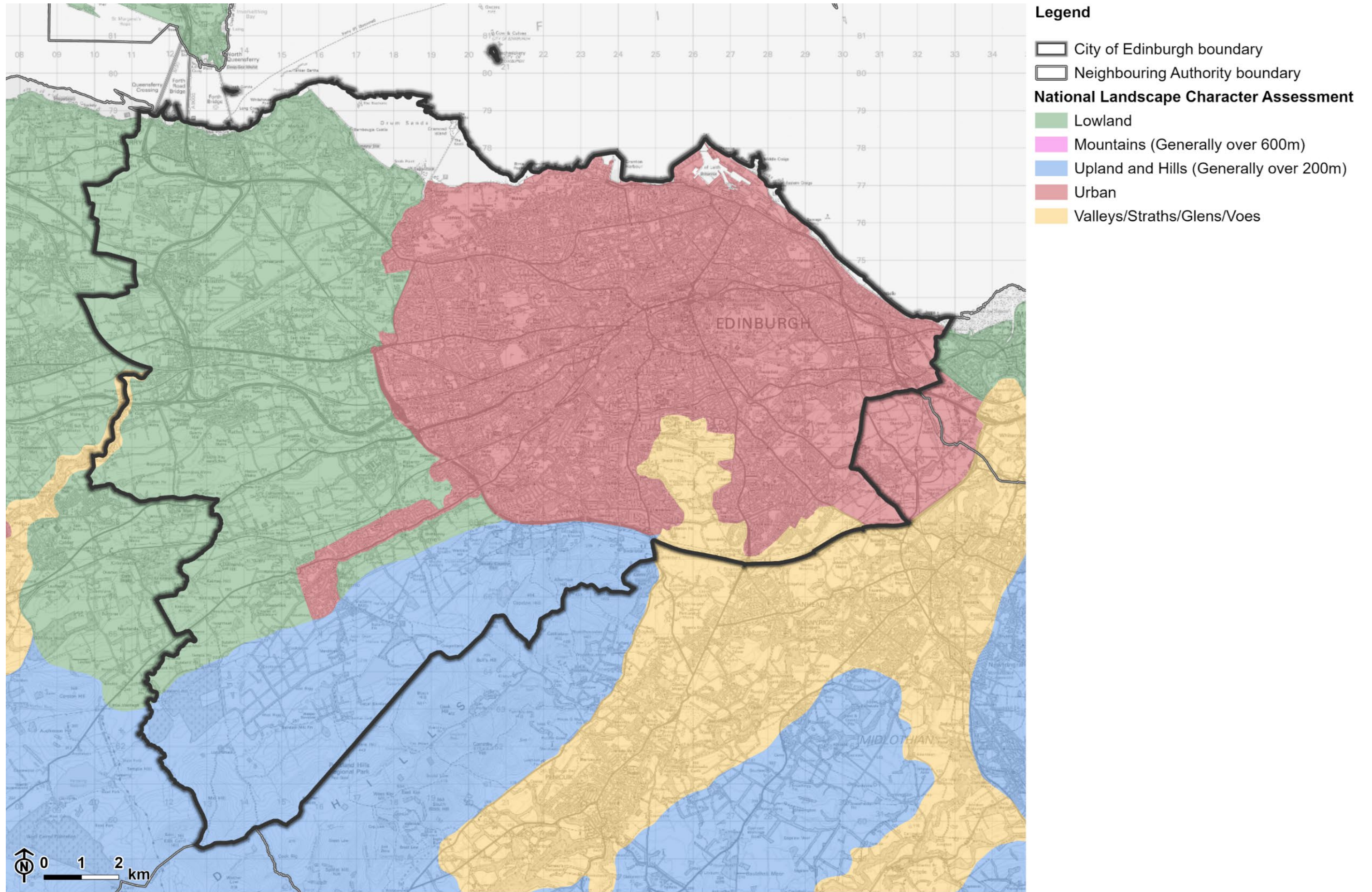
1.18 Landscape Character Assessment can be undertaken at a variety of scales and levels of detail. The Edinburgh Landscape Character Assessment is part of a hierarchy of Landscape Character Assessment information cascading down from the national to the local level.

National level

1.19 Landscape character in Scotland is described at a national level in the 2019 Landscape Character Type map and associated Landscape Character Type Descriptions published in [NatureScot's 2019 Scottish Landscape Character Types Map and Descriptions](#), shown on Figure 1.2. These national level LCTs replace the

previous regional landscape character assessment studies (as found on [NatureScot's Landscape Character Assessment in Scotland webpage](#)).

Figure 1.2: National Character Areas



1.20 The central urbanised part of Edinburgh is classified as an ‘Urban’ area within the national LCT dataset. ‘Urban’ areas are identified as settlements with a population exceeding approximately 25,000. They are not classified as LCTs and do not have a description. National landscape character types within the local authority area (as shown on Figure 1.2), outside of the ‘Urban’ area, include the following:

- Upland Hills – Lothians (LCT 268): comprising the northern and western summits and slopes of the Pentland Hills, in the south of the local authority area and extending into the Midlothian and West Lothian local authority areas;
- Upland Fringes – Lothians (LCT 269): comprising the western fringes and lower slopes of the Pentland Hills in the south-west of the local authority area and extending into the West Lothian local authority area;
- Lowland River Valleys – Lothians (LCT 270): comprising North and South Esk valleys which run broadly parallel to the eastern flanks of the Pentland Hills, in the south and south-east of the local authority area and extending into the Midlothian and East Lothian local authority areas;
- Lowland River Corridors – Lothians (LCT 271): comprising a small part of the Upper Almond Valley in the south-west of the local authority area, though mainly extending into the West Lothian local authority area;
- Lowland Plain (LCT 274): comprising the gently rolling farmed and settled lowland in the west of the local authority area and extending into the West Lothian local authority area; and
- Coastal Farmland – Lothians (LCT 280): comprising the low-lying farmed and settled coastal fringe in the north-west of the local authority area and extending into the West Lothian local authority area.

1.21 Coastal character in Scotland is described at a national level with the thirteen Coastal Character Types (CCTs) identified by NatureScot (as found on [NatureScot's Coastal Character Assessment webpage](#)). The coastline of Edinburgh is located within Coastal Character Type 5: Developed Inner Firths. Key characteristics of this CCT include *“low rock platforms, small rocky headlands and raised beaches, often highly modified by settlement and communications”* (as defined in [Scottish Natural Heritage's 2005 Commissioned Report No. 103: An assessment of the sensitivity and capacity of the Scottish seascape in relation to windfarms](#)). The Forth is noted as a *“focus in views, the flat plane of light reflective water, although narrow, acting as a foil to land either side; the strong containment of hills direct views towards the water”*.

1.22 National datasets identify broad differences in landscape character at a wider scale. However, the national dataset does not reflect nuances in the landscape at a more local level. As advocated in guidance, landscape character assessment should

be undertaken to a level of detail and scale appropriate to its use. A local landscape character assessment, as undertaken for this study, enables a greater level of detail to be provided to help inform and guide appropriate development.

Edinburgh Slavery and Colonial Legacy Review

1.23 In 2022, an independent review – the [Edinburgh Slavery and Colonialism Legacy Review Group’s Report and Recommendations](#) – was published identifying links between Edinburgh’s street names, buildings and monuments and the history of slavery, colonialism and the abolition movement. Numerous areas considered within this assessment are referenced in the document, including the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Edinburgh’s New Town and the Riccarton Estate (now Heriot-Watt University campus). The document provides information which can be used to further understand the history and historic features of Edinburgh, however the focus of this LCA is on the pattern of elements and features which are currently present, and which contribute to the distinctive landscape character which is seen today.

Adjoining local authorities

1.24 Landscape does not stop at administrative boundaries but continues seamlessly into surrounding local authority areas. This assessment therefore sits alongside the Landscape Character Assessments of the adjacent authorities (West Lothian, East Lothian, Midlothian and the Scottish Borders), which were reviewed to inform this study. Cross-boundary relationships in terms of landscape features are noted in the study (e.g. ridgelines, watercourses or woodland features which continue into neighbouring local authorities), as well as intervisibility (e.g., views to landform, landscape features, and notable landmarks within adjacent authorities).

Chapter 2

Methodology

2.1 This Landscape Character Assessment follows the method promoted by NatureScot (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage) through 'Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland' (2002) and, more broadly, Natural England's 'An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment' which embeds the principles of the European Landscape Convention (ELC) within it.

2.2 The approach to the evaluation of each Landscape Character Area also draws on the [NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland \(HES\) 2020 Guidance on Designating Local Landscape Areas](#), in distinguishing different landscape character types or areas and identifying sensitive landscape features. However, landscapes of particular merit or value, and the special qualities of these landscapes, are considered in further detail in the accompanying Local Landscape Designation review update.

Existing Landscape Character Classification

Study area

2.3 The study area for this Landscape Character Assessment is broadly similar to that used for the 2010 LCA, and focuses on the peri-urban and rural environment, mainly to the south and west of the city, as well as the coastline to the north-east, north and north-west of the city. As described in the 2010 LCA, open spaces within the urban area of Edinburgh which make a significant contribution to Edinburgh's landscape or townscape were also included within the study area. The original 2010 LCA identified open spaces for inclusion based on the following criteria:

- Prominence – open spaces which are particularly prominent, for example by virtue of their landform (hills and crags) or location close to the historic core of the city are included.
- Contribution to the wider character and setting of the city and its surrounding area – open spaces which make a significant contribution to the wider character of the city's townscape and the wider landscape of the Lothians are included.
- Contribution to iconic elements of the historic townscape – several open spaces form a critical and interrelated part of Edinburgh's historic townscape and have strong cultural associations.

- Continuity and strong visual connection with open countryside or other significant open spaces identified above.

2.4 Open spaces within the urban area of Edinburgh which were considered within the assessment are broadly consistent with those considered in the 2010 LCA, and include:

- Calton Hill;
- Corstorphine Hill;
- Craiglockhart Hills;
- Granton and Leith Waterfront;
- Leith Links;
- Princes Street Gardens and Castle Rock;
- Queen Street Gardens;
- The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links;
- The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and Inverleith Park;
- The swathe of open space extending along the north-western edge of the city, which encompasses the Cramond Coast, Silverknowes Golf Course, Barnton Golf Course and Lauriston Policies;
- The swathe of open space extending to the south of the city across the Braid Hills, Liberton Fringes and Mortonhall Policies;
- The swathe of open space extending from Holyrood Park to the south-eastern edge of the city, including Duddingston Golf Course, Prestonfield Golf Course, Craigmillar Policies and Little France Park; and
- The Water of Leith (with this update providing an assessment of the entire length of the river within Edinburgh).

Classification

2.5 Classification is concerned with dividing the landscape of the study area into areas of distinct, recognisable, and consistent common character and grouping areas of similar character together. The Landscape Character Types (LCTs) and Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) identified in the previous study were reviewed against the current baseline. Changes to the LCA or LCT boundaries, classification and the addition or rationalisation of LCA boundaries are detailed in Appendix A.

2.6 For consistency with the existing dataset and in recognition of the importance of the continuity of this open space within the city, two new LCAs were added to cover the full length of the Water of Leith within the local authority boundary.

2.7 As described in the 2010 Landscape Character Assessment, Landscape Character Types (LCTs) were defined on the basis of broadly similar patterns of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, human influences and perceptual characteristics. The influence of these contributing characteristics will vary across the study area, with, for example, topography dominating in some areas and the pattern of settlement and development having a more profound influence elsewhere. These character types may occur in several locations within the study area, or in just one place. Landscape character types were assigned names which reflect the dominant influences on landscape character making use of descriptors relating to topography, landcover and settlement.

2.8 Landscape character areas (LCAs) represent specific geographic locations where the LCTs occur. While they share the 'generic' characteristics associated with a given LCT, they will also have their own characteristics and identity. Landscape character areas were assigned names which are specific to their location and underlying LCT.

2.9 The boundaries of the LCTs and LCAs are shown on Figure 2.1. It is important to note that boundaries between one LCT (or LCA) and the next are transitional and there is rarely a clear-cut change 'on the ground'.

2.10 Boundaries of the existing classification were reviewed against changes in the baseline and amended where relevant. As for the 2010 LCA, this assessment focuses on the peri-urban and rural environment. Planning data provided by the City of Edinburgh Council pertaining to consented and built developments was reviewed with reference to the existing LCAs to review changes to the landscape which may have occurred since the previous study, or (in the case of consented developments) are likely to change the landscape in the near future. Areas where settlement expansion, or areas of likely future expansion (based on the planning data provided), were generally excluded from the revised LCA boundaries, although these were reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Refer to Appendix A for more information regarding changes to the boundaries of the LCAs.

2.11 1:25,000 scale was considered an appropriate scale of review for the LCT and LCA boundaries, and this approach is aligned with best practice guidance.

2.12 LCTs and LCAs considered within this assessment include the following (as shown on Figure 2.1):

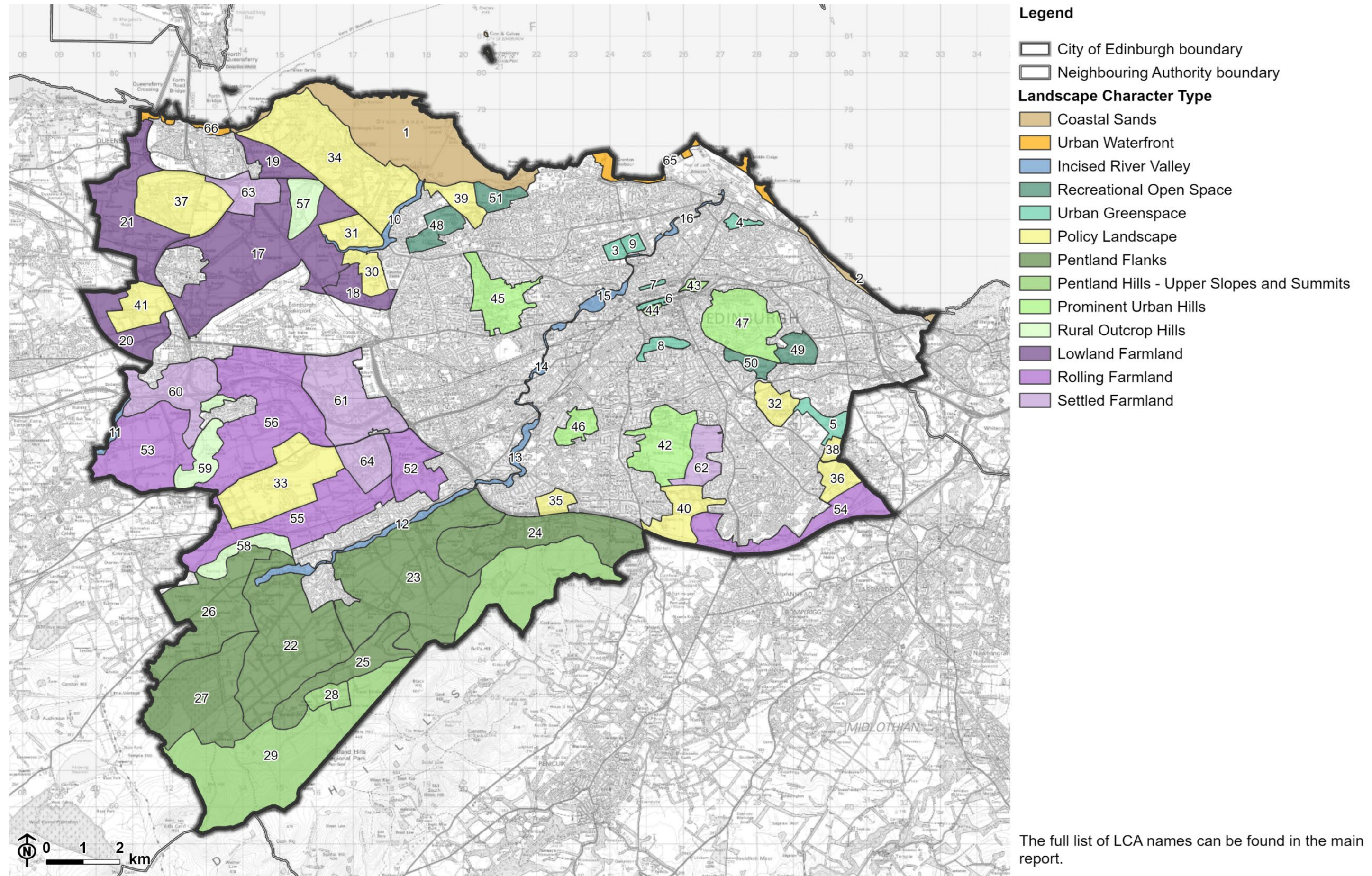
- Coastal Sands LCT

- LCA 1: Cramond Coast
- LCA 2: Portobello Sands
- Urban Greenspace LCT
 - LCA 3: Inverleith Park
 - LCA 4: Leith Links
 - LCA 5: Little France Park
 - LCA 6: Princes Street Gardens
 - LCA 7: Queen Street Gardens
 - LCA 8: The Meadows
 - LCA 9: The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
- Incised River Valley LCT
 - LCA 10: Lower Almond Valley
 - LCA 11: Upper Almond Valley
 - LCA 12: Water of Leith – Balerno to Juniper Green
 - LCA 13: Water of Leith – Spylaw to Slateford
 - LCA 14: Water of Leith – Slateford to Roseburn
 - LCA 15: Water of Leith – New Town
 - LCA 16: Water of Leith – Canonmills to the Shore
- Lowland Farmland LCT
 - LCA 17: Almond Farmland
 - LCA 18: Cammo Fringes
 - LCA 19: Dalmeny Fringes
 - LCA 20: Newbridge/Broxburn Farmland
 - LCA 21: Newton Farmland
- Pentland Flanks LCT
 - LCA 22: Cockburn Farmland and Shelterbelts
 - LCA 23: Currie Farmland Slopes
 - LCA 24: North Pentland Slopes
 - LCA 25: Redford Basin
 - LCA 26: Water of Leith Farmland Slopes

- LCA 27: West Pentland Fringe
- Pentland Hills – Upper Slopes and Summits LCT
 - LCA 28: Bavelaw Farmland and Shelterbelts
 - LCA 29: Pentland Hills and Ridges
- Policy Landscape LCT
 - LCA 30: Cammo Policies
 - LCA 31: Craigiehall Policies
 - LCA 32: Craigmillar Policies
 - LCA 33: Dalmahoy Policies
 - LCA 34: Dalmeny Policies
 - LCA 35: Dreghorn Policies
 - LCA 36: Drum Policies
 - LCA 37: Dundas Policies
 - LCA 38: Edmonstone Policies
 - LCA 39: Lauriston Policies
 - LCA 40: Mortonhall Policies
 - LCA 41: Newliston Policies
- Prominent Urban Hills LCT
 - LCA 42: Braid Hills
 - LCA 43: Calton Hill
 - LCA 44: Castle Rock
 - LCA 45: Corstorphine Hill
 - LCA 46: Craiglockhart Hills
 - LCA 47: Holyrood Park
- Recreational Open Space LCT
 - LCA 48: Barnton Golf Courses
 - LCA 49: Duddingston Golf Course
 - LCA 50: Prestonfield Golf Course
 - LCA 51: Silverknowes Golf Course
- Rolling Farmland LCT

- LCA 52: Baberton Farmland
- LCA 53: Bonnington Farmland
- LCA 54: Burdiehouse Farmland
- LCA 55: Gowanhill Farmland
- LCA 56: Ratho Farmland
- Rural Outcrop Hills LCT
 - LCA 57: Craigie Hill
 - LCA 58: Kaimes Hill
 - LCA 59: Ratho Hills
- Settled Farmland LCT
 - LCA 60: Craigpark Fragmented Farmland
 - LCA 61: Gogar Farmland
 - LCA 62: Liberton Fringes
 - LCA 63: Queensferry Fragmented Farmland
 - LCA 64: Riccarton Campus
- Urban Waterfront LCT
 - LCA 65: Granton and Leith Waterfront
 - LCA 66: Queensferry Waterfront

Figure 2.1: Landscape Character Areas (refer to paragraph 2.12 above for full list of LCA names)



The full list of LCA names can be found in the main report.

Process of assessment

2.13 The process for undertaking the study involved the following key stages:

- Baseline data collection/collation of mapped data in GIS;
- Review of boundary classification (see Appendix A for more information);
- Field survey from publicly accessible locations to check/identify key characteristics, collecting aesthetic/perceptual information, take photographs and observe forces for change within the landscape; and
- Draft and final reporting.

Data collection/collation

2.14 The initial desk-based stage involved the collation of a wide range of up-to-date mapped information to 'sense-check' the existing landscape classifications and to update the baseline. Designations relating to nature conservation (Figure 2.2) and cultural heritage (Figure 2.3), where these were judged to influence landscape character, were checked for any changes since the previous 2010 Landscape Character Assessment. Planning data pertaining to key consented and built developments was reviewed with reference to the existing classification, to help inform key areas within which changes to the landscape may have occurred since the previous study. Aerial imagery from the past 15 years was also reviewed to understand changes in the landscape. Data used within the study, including data collated in the GIS database is shown in Appendix C.

Figure 2.2: Nature Conservation Designations

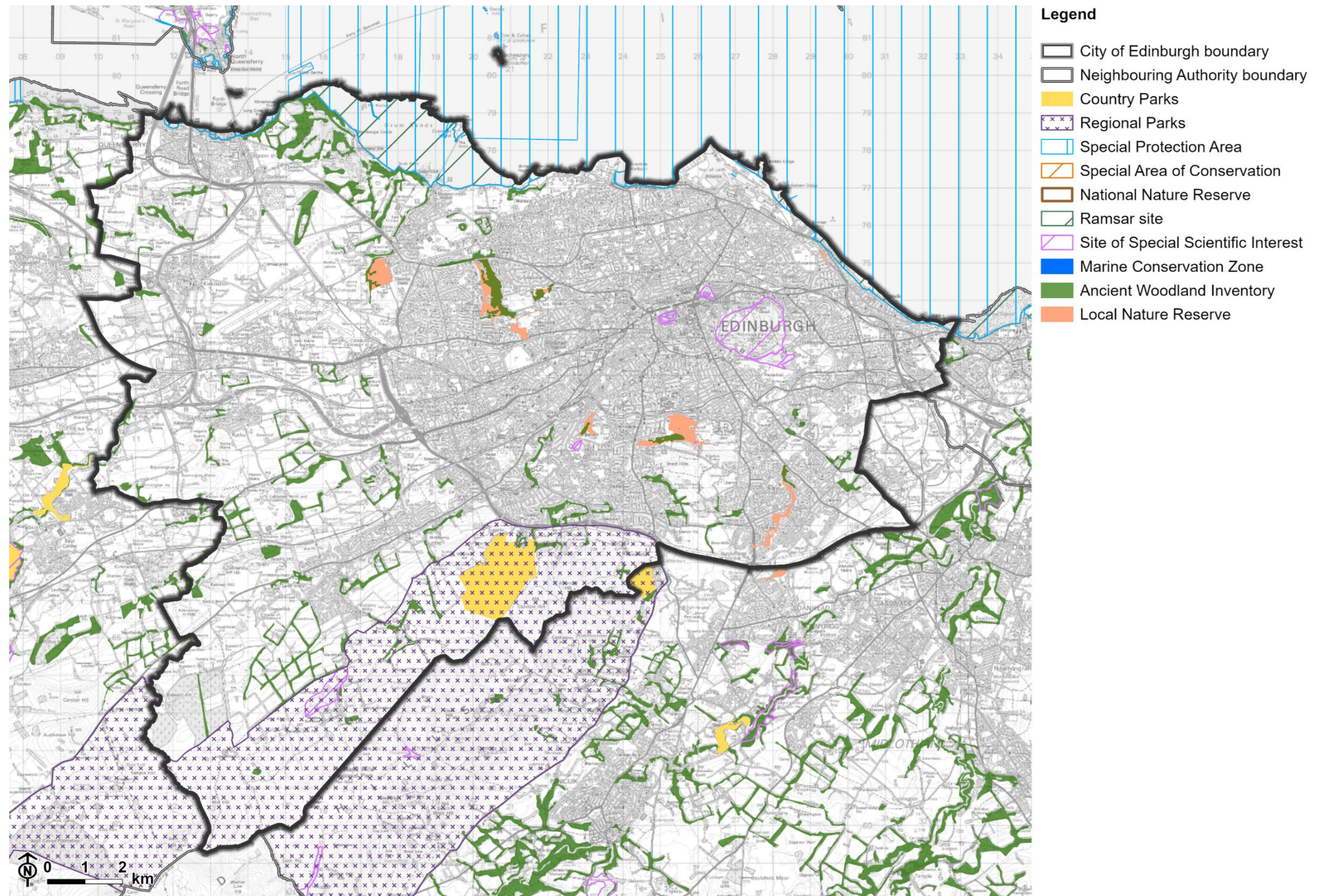
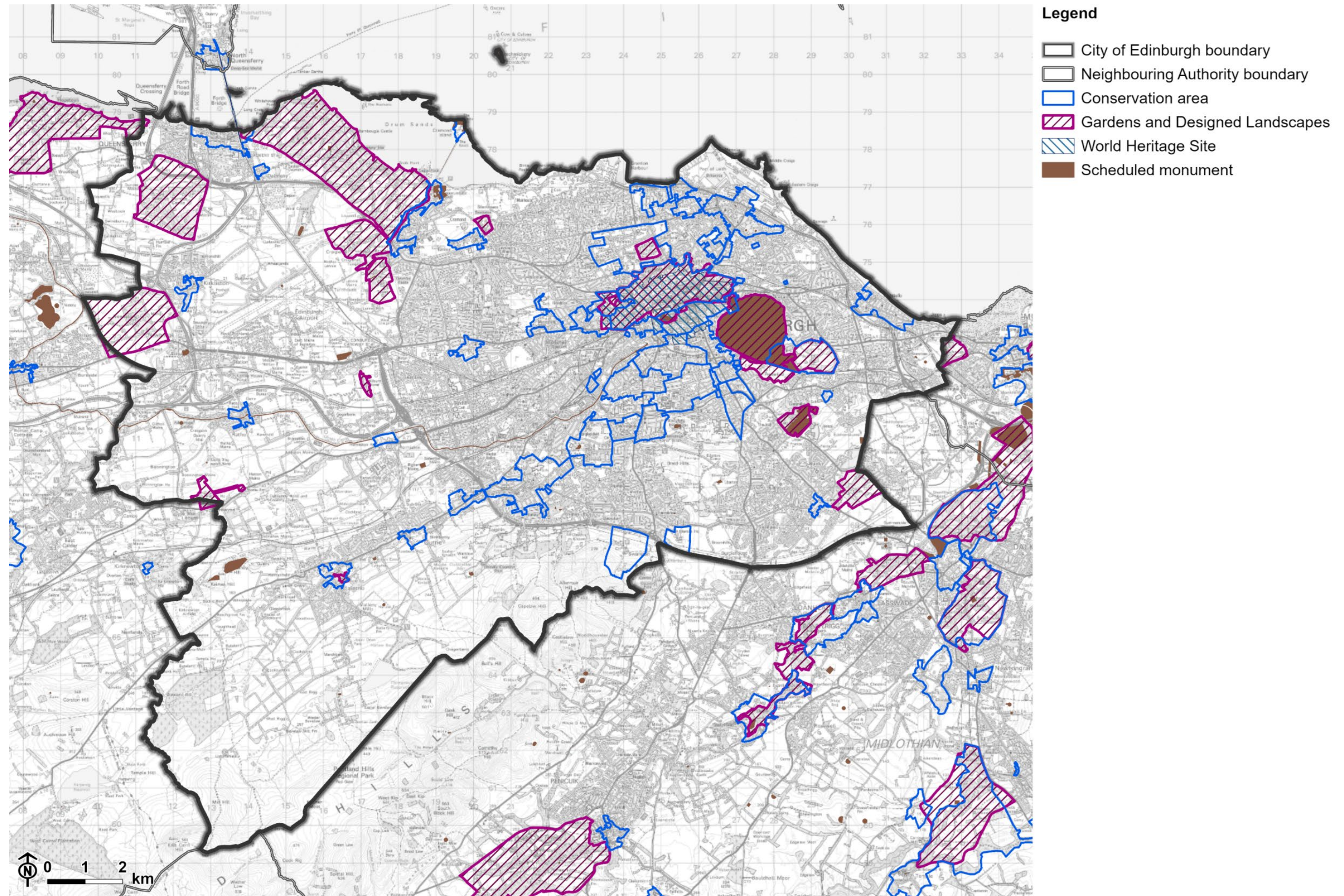


Figure 2.3: Historic Environment Designations



Outputs

2.15 The Landscape Character Assessment is presented by Landscape Character Area (LCA), arranged by their respective Landscape Character Type (LCT) in Chapter 3.

2.16 As for the previous 2010 LCA, each LCT profile lists the component LCAs, followed by the overarching key characteristics of the LCT with a representative photograph. Forces for change and landscape management guidelines are included for each LCT. Landscape management guidelines should be read in conjunction with wider Council strategies, guidance, planning briefs, frameworks and masterplans which provide further advice around design, biodiversity, historic environment, sustainability, forestry and woodland.

2.17 The 66 individual LCA profiles are structured as follows:

- Location map and description illustrating the extent of the LCA;
- A representative photograph of the LCA;
- A landscape description, comprising:
 - Key characteristics in bullet point format, providing a summary description of the character of the LCA in relation to:
 - Geology, hydrology and topography;
 - Land cover;
 - Cultural influences (including land use and time depth; and settlement and infrastructure);
 - Prominence/intervisibility and visual character; and
 - Receptors – including perceptual or experiential characteristics.
- An evaluation providing a description of what is important in each LCA and why, comprising:
 - Key Sensitivities and Valued Features which identifies the qualities that are particularly valued for their contribution to landscape character (i.e. if any one of these attributes ceased to exist, it would change the character to the detriment of the landscape). Qualities identified in the ‘Landscape Assessment’ section of the previous 2010 LCA were reviewed and integrated into this section, where relevant, to identify important characteristics relating to:
 - Rarity/typicality;
 - Scenic qualities (including prominence and intervisibility);

- Enjoyment;
 - Cultural qualities; and
 - Naturalness.
- The Changing Landscape which identifies the current condition of the landscape, and forces that are driving landscape change in the LCA. This section was reviewed to ensure that it reflects current pressures on the landscapes of Edinburgh as seen through planning inquiries and applications, and should be read in conjunction with the Forces for Change identified for the overarching LCT.

Chapter 3

Landscape Character Assessment Profiles

Coastal Sands Landscape Character Type

Landscape Character Areas

3.1 The Coastal Sands Landscape Character Type (LCT) features the following Landscape Character Areas (LCAs):

- Cramond Coast (1)
- Portobello Sands (2)

Figure 3.1: Low-lying sandy beaches with views focused across the Firth of Forth, at Portobello, influence the strong maritime character



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCT are:

- Low-lying coastal areas, and large areas of mud flats, with sandy beaches and rocky outcrops.
- The Firth of Forth provides an open character, with views to coastal islands and Fife.
- A sea wall forms a hard edge to the coast in more developed areas, with some areas of more naturalistic coastline.
- The coastal areas are important for recreation with pedestrian esplanades and activities including kayaking and paddle boarding.
- The ebb and flow of the tide imparts a dynamic character to this land and seascape.
- Views inland are limited by urban development, or woodland and rising landform, with the coastal edge of this character type being defined by these features.
- The land and seascape have a strong maritime character which results from the visual relationship with the water and coastal activities.

Forces for change

3.2 The following section sets out key changes and pressures relating to the Coastal Sands LCT:

- Changes in sea level and storm events associated with climate change and any associated change in coastal management regimes may affect coastal land uses, access and the character of more naturalistic parts of the coastline. This includes the woodland edge which defines the southern edge of the Cramond Coast, as well as any works to strengthen sea defences at Portobello.
- Changes in the management of the area for recreation and provision of facilities may intensify the modified character of the coastline in the east. This could include changes to accommodate intensification in footfall due to redevelopment of adjacent urban areas.

Landscape management guidelines

3.3 The following section sets out recommended landscape management guidelines for the Coastal Sands LCT:

- Restore and enhance biodiversity using appropriate tree species that are resilient to coastal conditions.
- Integrate new coastal defences with the landscape; use nature-based or green engineering solutions where appropriate.
- Manage and improve paths and access to water-based recreational activities to promote responsible recreational access and encourage stewardship whilst protecting important biodiversity features.
- Promote interpretation of local maritime history to highlight cultural and natural heritage for education, recreation and tourism.
- Incorporate cultural heritage features, which reflect an important maritime history, as part of any development of the area.
- Retain important views across the Firth of Forth and Fife, including views looking across the Coastal Sands LCT from adjoining areas.

LCA 1: Cramond Coast

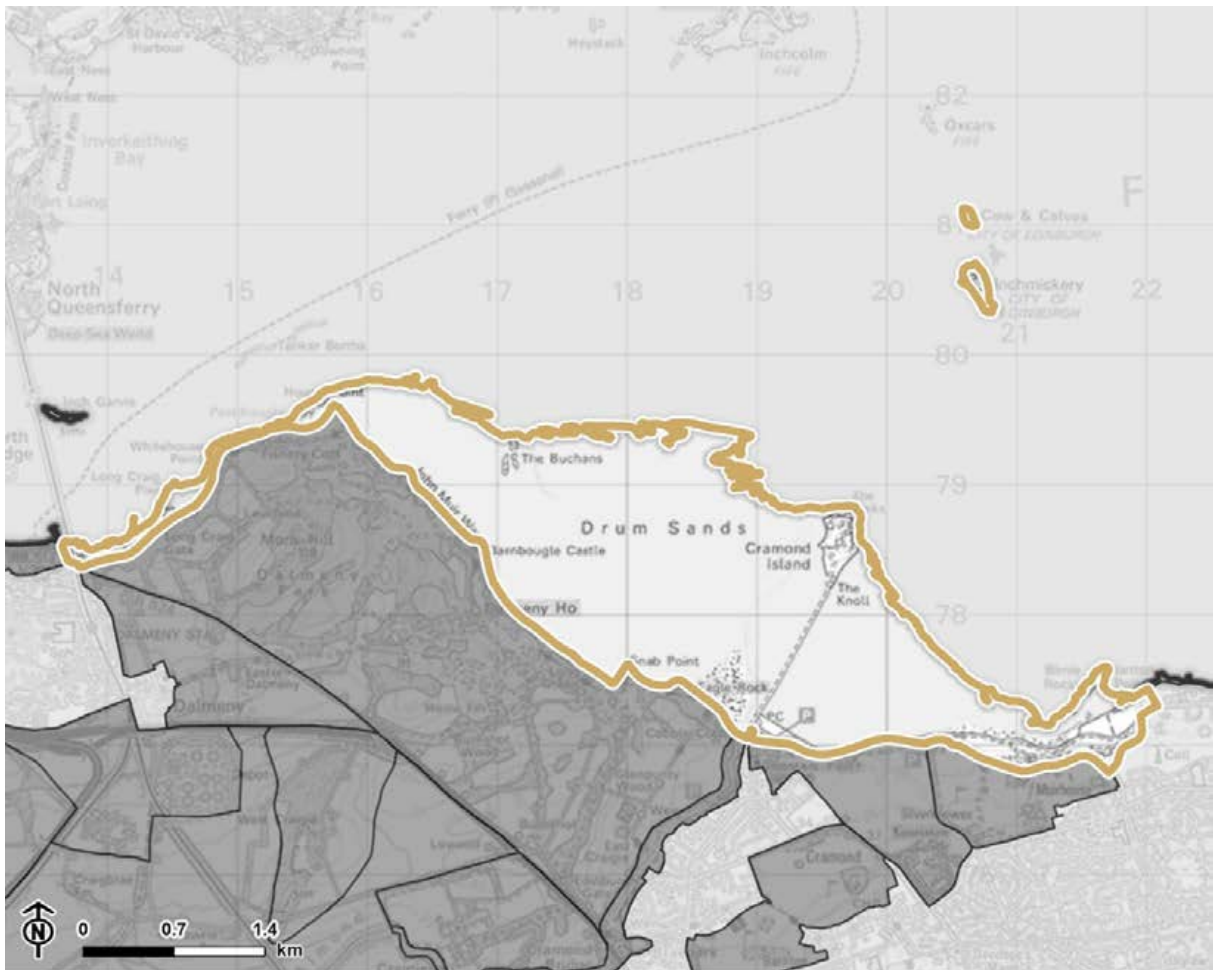
Location

3.4 This character area comprises the coastal edge of the Firth of Forth, lying between the urban area of Granton and the mouth of the River Almond at Cramond, and the coastal islands of Cramond Island, Cow and Calves and Inchmickery.




Figure 3.2: Views are focused looking towards the small, craggy Cramond Island and across the Firth of Forth



Figure 3.3: Cramond Coast LCA



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-  Coastal Sands: Cramond Coast
-  City of Edinburgh boundary
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- A low-lying coastline formed of rocky outcrops, boulder beaches and an extensive swathe of intertidal sand and mudflats.
- A more modified coastline in the east, including a broad esplanade, flat angular sports pitches which extend into the Firth of Forth, and the low concrete sea wall which forms a hard built edge.
- The coastal edge in the centre and west (Dalmeny) has a more irregular and naturalistic character, comprising rocky outcrops, boulder beaches and small sandy bays, forming an undeveloped coastline stretching to the Forth Bridge.
- A strong relationship between the low coastline, the woodland along the coastal fringe, and the rising wooded scarp slopes, grassy banks, and remnant policy parkland landscape to the south, occasionally with distinctive former mansion houses.
- The coastal landscape forms an important part of the maritime setting to numerous Listed buildings, including Cramond village, Cramond Island and Cramond Roman fort forming part of the Cramond Conservation Area.
- The pedestrian esplanade, Cramond Causeway, sandy beaches, harbour and coastal waters provide recreational opportunities. The John Muir Way passes along the coastal edge in the centre and west.
- Rising wooded landform along the steep coastal edge contains views to the south, although more distant, and scenic, views are available along the coastline and across the Firth of Forth.
- The small, craggy Cramond Island forms a key focus within the Firth, with the islands of Inchmickery and Cow and Calves and the conical Berwick Law seen on the more distant eastern horizon.
- The Granton and Leith area, including a mix of 1960s and contemporary tall buildings and the former gas holder are prominent in views seen looking along the coastline to the east.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.5 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Cramond Coast LCA include:

- The dynamic quality of intertidal flats and sands, with a complex pattern of rivulets exposed at low tide, and elemental qualities associated with the flux of tides and weather contributes to sense of place and a unique seascape pattern.
- The presence of islands contributes to the diversity of landform and naturalistic qualities of this area.
- The relationship of the coastline to the parkland policy landscape, and wooded coastline to the south, particularly in the centre and west, contributes to the sense of place and time depth of the adjoining landscape.
- Intertidal habitats are highly valued for their biodiversity benefits, recognised through the designation of the Firth of Forth SPA, Ramsar Site and SSSI.
- Access to the coastline, including the esplanade, Cramond Island, coastal parks in the east, and via the John Muir Way contributes to recreational value.
- Cramond Island, including its visual and functional relationship to the wider Firth of Forth and coastline, and its distinctive wartime structures, contributes to a sense of history.
- The light reflective qualities of water and sand provide a sense of openness and a distinctive visual character, with open views across the water also contributing to a sense of seclusion from the urban area of the city.
- The small, craggy islands (notably Cramond Island, as well as the more distant islands of Inchmickery and Cow and Calves and the conical Berwick Law) enhance the diversity of the visual experience characteristic of this area.

The changing landscape

3.6 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Cramond Coast LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Coastal Sands LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.7 Generally well-maintained, although distinctive woodland on scarp and within policy landscape does not always appear to be managed, and esplanade, information and public facilities require upgrading in places.

Forces for change

3.8 In the east of the area, regeneration of former industrial land at Granton is underway to provide 3,500 homes, community facilities and new public parkland centred on the gas holder and coastal edge, incorporating nature-based coastal defences.

3.9 Loss of woodland, through changes in management, storm damage, or increase in pests and diseases associated with climate change or lack of management, may result in a change in character of the enclosing wooded scarp slopes to the south of the coastal edge.

LCA 2: Portobello Sands

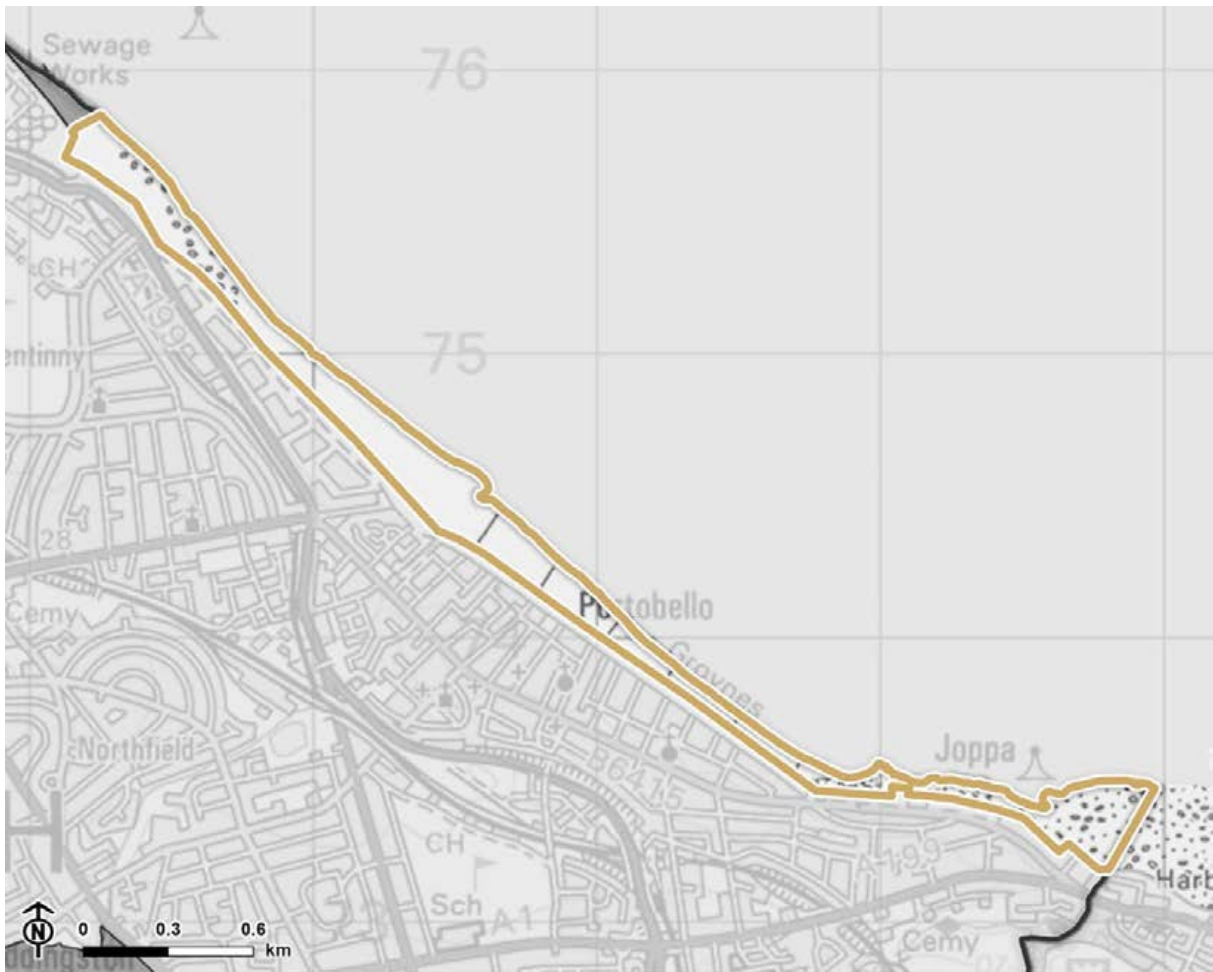
Location

3.10 This character area comprises part of the seascape along the coastal edge of the Firth of Forth, extending from the sewage treatment works at Seafield to the mouth of the Brunstane Burn at Joppa.

Figure 3.4: Long sandy beaches backed by the pedestrian esplanade and urban edge



Figure 3.5: Portobello Sands LCA



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-  Coastal Sands: Portobello Sands
-  City of Edinburgh boundary
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Flat, low-lying, long sandy beaches are permanently exposed between Seafield and rocky outcrops at Joppa, with frequent wooden groynes and rock armour in places.
- 19th Century seafront housing and leisure facilities back the broad esplanade at Portobello and contribute to its seaside resort character, forming part of the Portobello Conservation Area.
- Narrow, ornamental linear public gardens and esplanades abut the coast to the south-east of Portobello near the B6415.
- A modified character, with a concrete sea wall forming a hard edge along much of this coast. The hinterland is densely urban, occasionally with large-scale buildings including the bus depot and car showrooms.
- The broad pedestrian esplanade, active travel route, sandy beaches and coastal waters provide recreational opportunities, including in the evenings, when the promenade can be lively.
- Open views over the Firth of Forth to Fife and to the East Lothian coast are a feature from the well-used esplanades and occasionally, where gaps allow, from the B6415 and A199.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.11 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Portobello Sands LCA include:

- Broad sandy beaches, and adjacent active travel routes, contribute to scenic quality and recreational value.
- The open views across Firth of Forth contribute to the sense of place and unique maritime character.
- Intertidal habitats are highly valued for their biodiversity benefits, recognised through the designation of the Firth of Forth SPA, Ramsar Site and SSSI.
- The pedestrian esplanade and sandy beaches are integral to Portobello's traditional seaside resort character, including the nature of evening lighting, contributing to time depth and sense of place.

- Intervisibility with the wider landscape and seascape, resulting from the exposed character of the coastline and the scale and grain of the adjacent urban landscape, contributes to the sense of place and character of views.
- The exposed character of the coastline and dynamic tidal qualities contribute to a sense of naturalness associated with the coastal waters, contrasting with the urbanised influence of the adjacent settlement edge.

The changing landscape

3.12 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Portobello Sands LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Coastal Sands LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.13 Sandy beaches and esplanades are generally well-managed, with some pressures around recreational use.

3.14 Preparatory and demolition works associated with redevelopment at Seafield are exerting a temporary influence adjacent to the edge of the LCA.

Forces for change

3.15 Increased demand for residential and associated development, including regeneration at Seafield, may intensify the urban influence along the edge of the LCA, and may change the character of views and the adjacent traditional townscape and gardens of Portobello. Redevelopment may present opportunities for extension or enhancement of the pedestrian promenade and access to green space.

3.16 Increased coastal erosion as a result of climate change and sea level rise may alter the profile of the sandy beach.

Urban Greenspace Landscape Character Type

Landscape Character Areas

3.17 The Urban Greenspace Landscape Character Type (LCT) features the following Landscape Character Areas (LCAs):

- Inverleith Park (3)
- Leith Links (4)
- Little France Park (5)
- Princes Street Gardens (6)
- Queen Street Gardens (7)
- The Meadows (8)
- The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (9)

Figure 3.6: Princes Street Gardens form a focus for recreation within the city centre, with important visual links to landmarks



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCT are:

- With the exception of Princes Street Gardens, flat to gently undulating areas of formal green space and gardens within the city.
- Laid out for both sports and informal recreation activities.
- Predominantly characterised by a relatively simple pattern of grass lawns bordered by trees, shrubs and some ornamental planting. Avenues of trees are frequently associated with paths through the spaces.
- Historical significance within the context of the city.
- The often low-lying nature of these spaces, in combination with the urban development which extends along their perimeters, frequently reduces intervisibility.
- Mature trees contribute to the continuity of woodland within the urban context when viewed from elevated urban hills.
- Popular recreational spaces which serve as important locations for cultural events.

Forces for change

3.18 The following section sets out key changes and pressures relating to the Urban Greenspace LCT:

- Temporary changes caused by cultural events including annual festivals may result in increased erosion to paths and grass lawns.
- Increased visitor or recreational pressure may result in expansion or introduction of additional recreational facilities or infrastructure, changing the landscape pattern and visual character.
- Climate change, including increases in the frequency and severity of storm events, may damage the structure and density of trees, and cause waterlogging or drought.
- Pests and diseases may alter the landscape character through changes to the linear structure of trees avenues, and through loss of individual trees.
- Increased rainfall, as a result of climate change, may result in periodic inundation of low-lying areas. Proposals for expansion or intensification of

drainage solutions may change the landscape pattern and visual character, although sustainable drainage systems may also offer opportunities to enhance amenity and biodiversity.

- New development within the surrounding urban context may change the visual character of enclosing skylines.

Landscape management guidelines

3.19 The following section sets out recommended landscape management guidelines for the Urban Greenspace LCT:

- Restore and enhance biodiversity and habitat connectivity through appropriate maintenance regimes and planting; urban parks are reserves of local biodiversity.
- Manage grassland to prevent erosion in high use areas and support biodiversity through the introduction of different mowing regimes or wildflower and shrub planting on banks and margins.
- Protect mature woodland and specimen trees and restock with long-lived, large growing species (with a preference for native species where possible) for linear avenues along paths and boundaries.
- Design new planting to maintain views and avenues, define boundaries, enhance screening and manage water with enhancement or creation of wet habitats.
- In choosing species, consider using more native shrub and herbaceous species that will enrich biodiversity, are more tolerant to drought and disease, and will reduce the need for less sustainable traditional planting of short lived annuals.
- Design new recreational facilities to integrate with the landscape pattern of the parks and gardens.
- Guide landscape change through green space management plans to balance current and future uses.

LCA 3: Inverleith Park

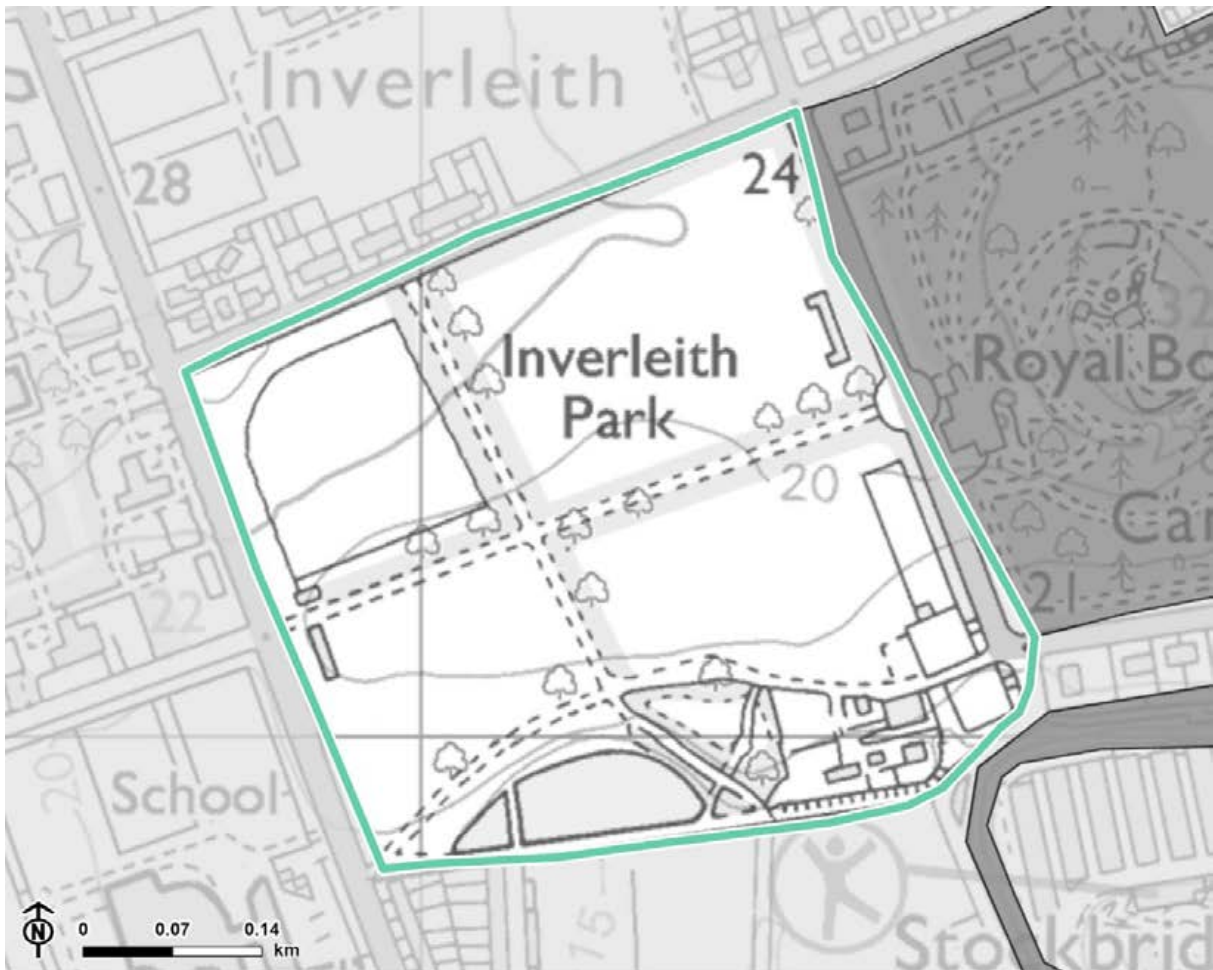
Location

3.20 Inverleith Park is a large formal park located in the north of Edinburgh. The park comprises allotments, sports facilities, several sports pitches, and a formal boating pond with a wildlife area.



Figure 3.7: Distinctive avenues of trees delineate open low-lying fields



Figure 3.8: Inverleith Park LCA



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-  Urban Greenspace: Inverleith Park
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Gently undulating topography, with steeper slopes partially framing the pond in the south.
- Simple pattern of largely mown grass fields and sports pitches defined by formal tree avenues and paths, contrasted by naturalistic vegetation around Inverleith Pond to the south and allotments to the north-west.
- There are few buildings within the park, with a low brick building at the western side and council maintenance depot in the south-east corner.
- 19th century urban park (officially opened in 1891) within the Inverleith Conservation Area, with some modern recreational facilities and buildings within and adjacent to the LCA.
- Open views looking across mown grass fields to the city skyline, with some screening and filtering of views provided by mature tree avenues.
- Important views towards the distinctive profile of the New Town and Old Town skyline are available from the south of the park.
- Low-lying landform and tree cover limits visibility of the park from other landmarks within the city or the adjacent Royal Botanic Gardens, alongside which the park forms part of a wider swathe of open space in the north of the city centre when viewed from elevated locations.
- Well used for formal sports activities and informal recreation, including for cultural events.
- A distinctive network of main paths on a north-south and east-west axis, also used for cycling, occasionally punctuated by built elements such as the Kinloch Anderson sundial and John Charles Dunlop Fountain.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.21 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Inverleith Park LCA include:

- Distinctive linear pattern of mature tree-lined avenues provides structure and visual contrast to areas of open, low-lying fields, contributing to sense of place and the park's scenic qualities.

- Visual links to the distinctive New Town and Old Town skyline contribute to the sense of place and wider scenic outlook.
- The formal network of paths, sports facilities, allotments and open fields contribute to recreational value.
- The sense of openness within the park provides a sense of contrast to the surrounding urban context, forming part of a wider open space network to the north of the city centre.
- The pond and associated wetland habitat contrasts with the gently undulating open fields, contributing to sense of place and biodiversity.
- The value of this landscape is recognised as part of a Local Landscape Area applying to Inverleith, which includes the adjoining Royal Botanic Gardens (LCA 9), and its inclusion in the Inverleith Conservation Area.

The changing landscape

3.22 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Inverleith Park LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Urban Greenspace LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.23 Generally well maintained, although some buildings, signage and park furniture show signs of damage from weathering or graffiti.

Forces for change

3.24 Inverleith Park is subject to a masterplan to improve its play and recreational facilities, entrances, paths and lighting. The masterplan also includes tree planting to restore avenues, and to increase biodiversity, alongside the wildflower grassland. Other measures seek to improve active travel and surface water management.

3.25 The relocation of The Council's maintenance depot from Inverleith Park Depot presents the opportunity for re-use of the south-eastern corner of the park for improved community facilities, set within new areas of parkland grounds.

LCA 4: Leith Links

Location

3.26 Leith Links is located in the north of the city, close to the Firth of Forth and Leith Docks, connecting residential areas within central and east Leith to the industrial area of Seafield. Leith Links is made up of two parts lying to the east and west of the Links Gardens road.

Figure 3.9: Tree avenues line the paths in the west part of Leith Links



Figure 3.10: Leith Links LCA



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-  Urban Greenspace: Leith Links
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- A largely flat area, with some distinctive mounds, lying only a few metres above sea level.
- Predominantly mown grass with an orchard, and tree avenues bounding linear paths, which are particularly dense in the west.
- A more open character in the east allows longer distance views, focused west. More trees are present in the easternmost area near Seafield Place, resulting in this edge of the park being less open.
- The arboretum, recently planted at the east end of the Links, hosts tree species from across the world. The adjacent Leith Links Orchard has seen continued development over the years.
- Allotments in the east and a community croft in the west contribute a more complex landscape pattern.
- Visible historic remains include two gun emplacement mounds from 1560 when the French-held citadel was under siege by an English Battery.
- Historic links to golfing are commemorated by a statue in the west of the park.
- Leith Conservation Area covers the Links and the surrounding residential area.
- Surrounding 19th century residential tenements, houses and churches enclose outward views, with important sightlines towards church spires and historical towers.
- Contemporary residential development is present to the north, forming a prominent feature and harsher built edge in views from the park.
- Leith Links hosts numerous sports and recreational facilities, including playing fields and an associated cricket club in the east, tennis courts in the west, formal play facilities and opportunities for informal recreation. The park forms a venue for cultural festivals and events.
- Leith Links forms part of a connected cycle and path network which leads from the eastern park to Seafield and Easter Road.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.27 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Leith Links LCA include:

- The Leith Links arboretum and orchard, in the east, contribute to biodiversity and together provide a more diverse and dense area of tree cover enhancing scenic qualities and providing shelter and tranquillity.
- The linear pattern of mature tree avenues in the west and around the periphery of the park provide structure, scenic qualities and visual contrast to areas of open, low-lying fields.
- Leith Links provides an important area of open space for the surrounding homes and businesses, local primary schools, and wider community. The formal network of paths, sports facilities, allotments and open fields contribute to recreational value.
- Leith Links contributes to a wider recreational and nature network via the paths and cycle routes which connect the east of Leith Links to Seafield and Easter Road. This is part of the Claremont and Easter Road Core Path.
- The Links have a number of historical and cultural associations, with a number of festivals and events hosted at the park, contributing to a strong sense of local community.
- Leith Links artillery mounds are Scheduled Monuments, contributing to a sense of history and providing well used focal points of interest.
- The Links are within Leith Conservation Area and many features within and around the park contribute to the historic landscape.

The changing landscape

3.28 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Leith Links LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Urban Greenspace LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.29 The condition of some elements such as the paths is variable, and the choice of plant species has not always been in keeping with the existing character.

3.30 Contemporary development to the north contrasts with the 19th century architecture surrounding the park, replacing former industry with homes benefitting from proximity to the Links.

3.31 Over the years, some trees have had to be removed due to disease or storm damage.

Forces for change

3.32 Implementation of proposals for biodiversity enhancement may change landcover across parts of the park to accommodate features such as areas of biodiverse meadows.

3.33 Growth of trees planted in the east of Leith Links will change the character of the park and the perimeter setting, by enclosing views. The arboretum aims to protect at risk species which require conservation, and may add greater contrast and varied habitats within the park. These trees may change the landscape pattern in the east of the park, which is more open in character than the west.

3.34 Potential temporary effects of cultural event uses, including annual festivals, may affect the quality of recreational facilities including informal playing fields, or result in erosion of the path network and grass lawns.

LCA 5: Little France Park

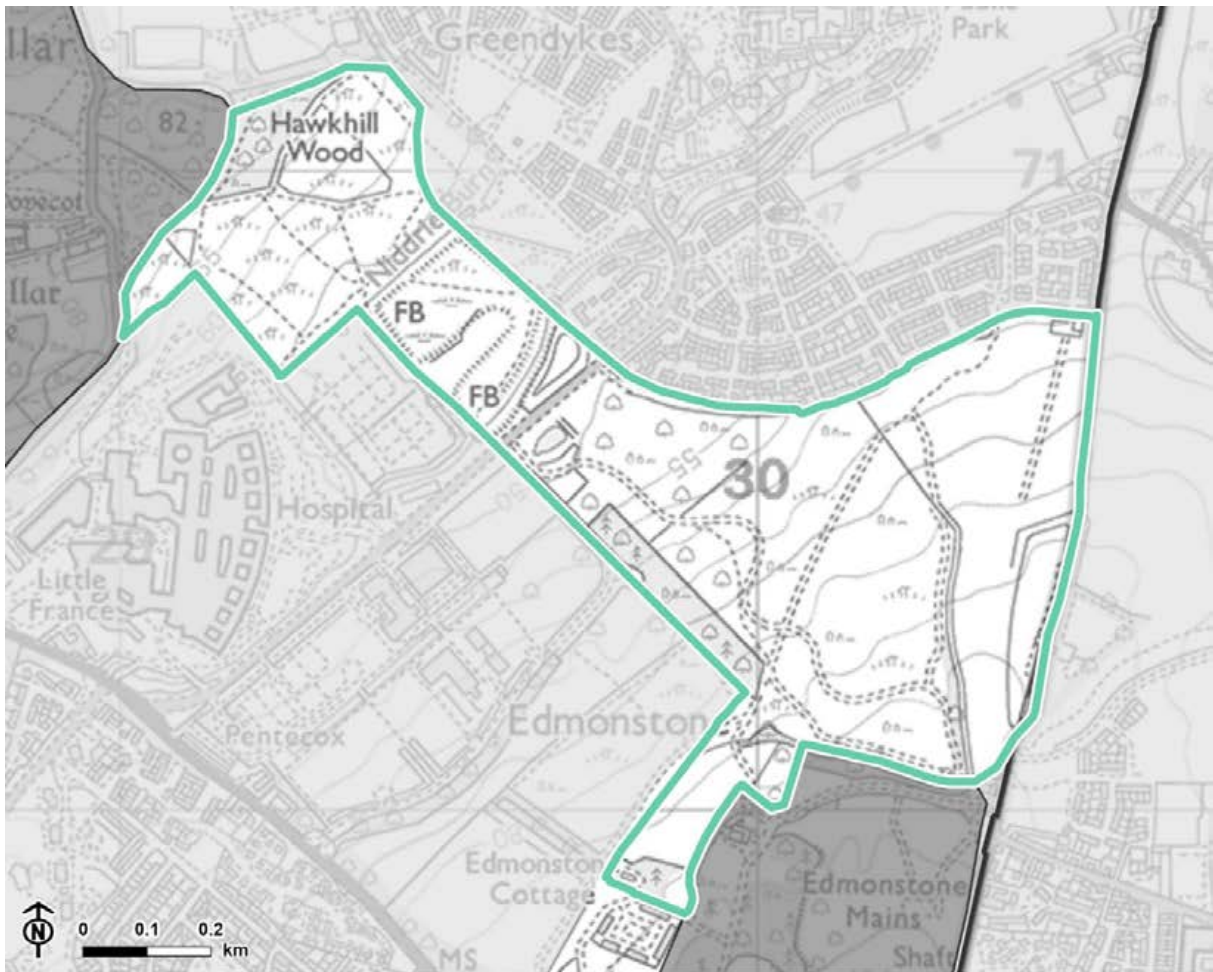
Location

3.35 The Little France Park LCA is situated to the south-west of the city and encompasses an area of green space extending from Craigmillar Castle Park to The Wisp.




Figure 3.11: Young trees extend across extensive areas of meadows and grassland adjacent to paths, with the Royal Infirmary and BioQuarter forming prominent features beyond the landscape



Figure 3.12: Little France Park LCA



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-  Urban Greenspace: Little France Park
-  City of Edinburgh boundary
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- A gently undulating landscape which rises to the north to the low ridge with Craigmillar Castle Park and Hawkhill Wood, and towards Edmonstone to the south.
- Landcover predominantly consists of wildflower meadows and amenity grassland, in addition to a large swathe dedicated to wetland habitat.
- Policy woodland in the adjacent Craigmillar Castle and Edmonstone areas extends into the edges of this landscape, particularly in the north.
- Young trees are scattered throughout the landscape and will result in a parkland character once mature. Other areas of young woodland supplement enclosure from adjacent development.
- An interconnected network of meandering footpaths and cycle routes passes through the landscape connecting with surrounding built up areas in Edinburgh and Midlothian, as well as Craigmillar Castle Park.
- Meadows and grassland contribute to an open character with views to Holyrood Park and Arthur's Seat, Edinburgh Castle, the Braid Hills, and Craigmillar Castle.
- Contemporary residential development at Greendykes is prominent in views to the east but partially softened by maturing trees and shrubs. The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and BioQuarter influence views west.
- The park forms a landscape setting in southerly views from Craigmillar Castle, along with the wooded Edmonstone ridge.
- The parkland provides an important strategic recreational resource between the areas of Craigmillar, Greendykes, the Royal Infirmary, BioQuarter, and Shawfair and Danderhall in Midlothian.
- Little France Park forms part of a wider green swathe extending from Holyrood Park to the edge of the city, which is visible in elevated views.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.36 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Little France Parkland LCA include:

- The landscape contributes to the wider expanse of open space extending between Holyrood Park, Duddingston and Craigmillar, and part of the transition to the rural hinterland to the south-west of the city.
- The landscape forms part of the setting in elevated views from Craigmillar Castle, contributing to a sense of history.
- Views towards Arthur's Seat, Edinburgh Castle and Craigmillar Castle from within the landscape contribute to the sense of place and scenic qualities.
- Parkland trees, once mature, will contribute to wider continuity of the policy woodlands at Craigmillar and Edmonstone.
- The wetlands and wildflower meadows provide opportunities for biodiversity and contribute diversity to the landscape pattern.
- The landscape is of high recreational value, with footpaths and cycle routes forming important connections between the landscape and adjacent residential areas.

The changing landscape

3.37 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and pressures relating to the Little France Parkland LCA, which are additional to the more generic key changes and pressures identified for the Recreational Open Space LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.38 The landscape is well managed with evidence of ongoing planting and maintenance to fulfil the visions of the Little France Park Management Plan.

3.39 There is some damage to the main tarmac footpath, in addition to temporary damage due to antisocial behaviour (including evidence of fire damage).

Forces for change

3.40 Little France Park is situated within a rapidly evolving part of the city, with several large-scale masterplans being built out in adjacent landscape areas.

3.41 Future phases of development of the adjacent BioQuarter area may alter outward views from the park. As new buildings are likely to be large in scale, they could be dominant in views.

3.42 Views across the landscape internally will continuously change as the newly planted trees mature, giving rise to a stronger parkland character.

3.43 Increased flooding, as a result of climate change, may seasonally alter the character of the wetland in the middle of the park, although this landscape feature also presents opportunities for biodiversity and seasonal interest.

3.44 Increased pressure for active travel opportunities, resulting from further development in the adjoining urban areas, may result in additional footpaths and cycle routes within or near the park and further opportunities to experience the landscape.

3.45 Further development opportunities within the park (subject to funding) include provision for play, public art, interpretation, therapeutic gardens, development of wetland habitat and an arboretum.

3.46 Pressure for development within the adjoining urban context more widely may alter the character of distant views to key landmarks, including Arthur's Seat, Edinburgh Castle and Craigmillar Castle.

LCA 6: Princes Street Gardens

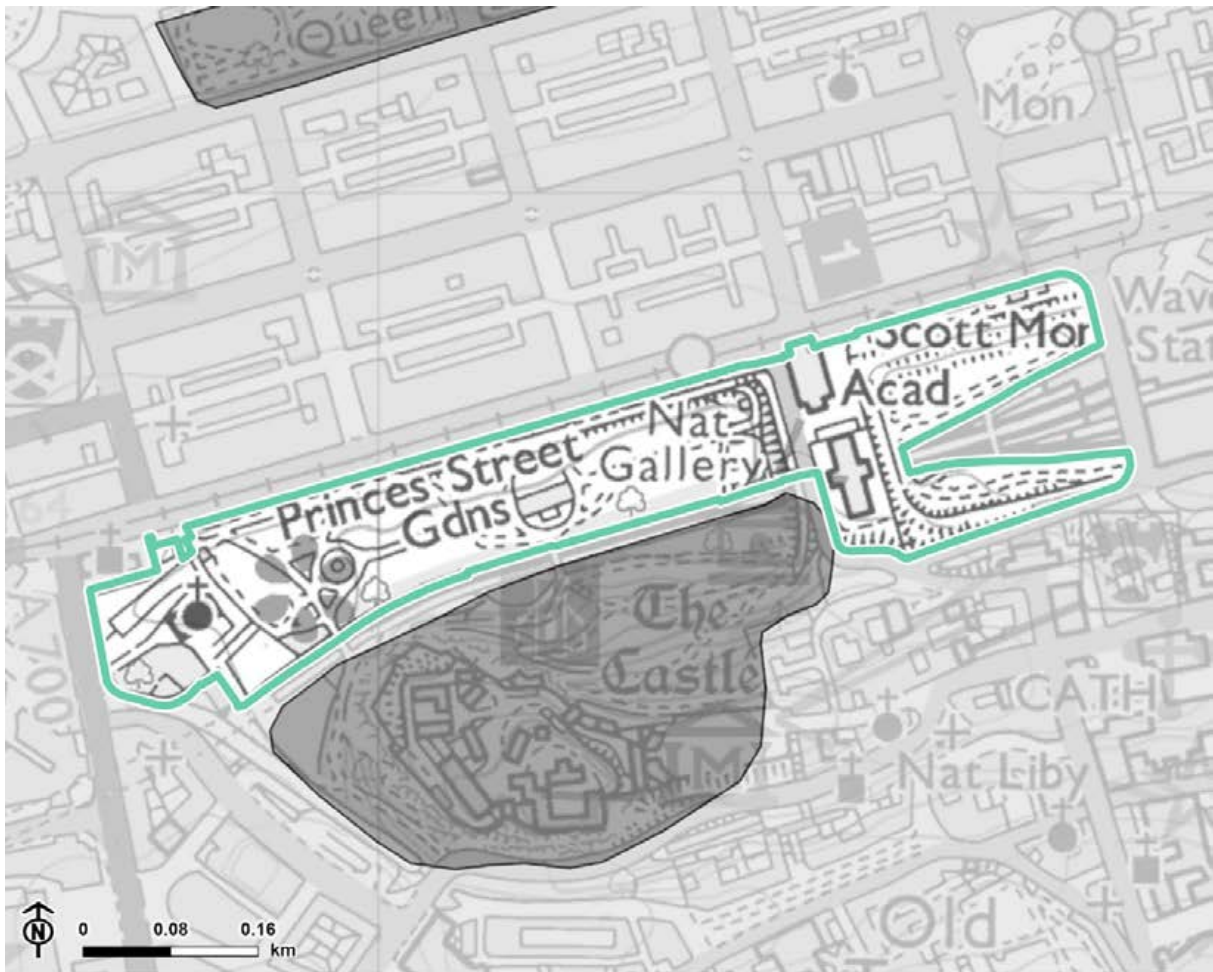
Location

3.47 Princes Street Gardens are located in the city centre, in a valley between the Castle Rock and ridge of the Old Town to the south, and the New Town to the north. East and West Princes Street Gardens are separated by the land bridge of The Mound.

Figure 3.13: Formal flower beds and borders with specimen trees reflect seasonality and the Victorian layout of Princes Street Gardens



Figure 3.14: Princes Street Gardens LCA



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-  Urban Greenspace: Princes Street Gardens
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Low-lying valley, gently sloping from west to east and contained by the more steeply rising landform of Castle Rock and the Old Town to the south, The Mound in the centre and Princes Street and the New Town to the north.
- A contrast between the simple layout of open lawns and areas of built and horticultural ornamentation, including the floral clock, colourful areas of planting, and the gold-painted ornate Ross Fountain, as well as much statuary.
- Mature trees line paths and the boundaries of the gardens on Princes Street and The Mound, and are scattered across the grassy slopes of the park.
- The underlying layout and ornamentation of the gardens largely date back to the late Victorian era.
- Located within the New Town and Old Town Conservation Areas, New Town Gardens Garden and Designed Landscape and the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The 1930's Ross Bandstand forms a focus in the western gardens. Other built elements include a play area, cafés, public toilets, shelters, monuments and memorials and the Gardener's Cottage.
- Broad tree-lined walks are aligned along the valley floor and on steep south-facing terraces, lined with timber memorial benches.
- The railway line along the bottom of the valley, is audible but often screened by a bank of thick evergreen shrubs and trees, and more visible in the eastern gardens.
- Castle Rock provides a dramatic backdrop to the western gardens, with important views towards the castle available throughout the west of the garden.
- The adjacent St Cuthberts and St John's churches form landmarks in views from the West Gardens and their treed burial grounds add to the sense of planted enclosure at the West End.
- The tall, narrow buildings of the Old Town, the classical galleries on the Mound, and the Scott Monument provide a backdrop to the eastern gardens.

- Although not widely visible from the city, the central location of Princes Street Gardens results in them being very well-used by both visitors and local people.
- The gardens form a venue for important cultural events, including the summer festivals, and Hogmanay celebrations.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.48 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Princes Street Gardens LCA include:

- The location of the gardens within the valley means it serves to separate the Old and New Towns, and provides a relatively tranquil contrast to the surrounding dense urban context.
- The well-maintained areas of ornamental planting contribute to the landscape pattern, scenic qualities, biodiversity value and historic interest of the gardens.
- The spatial and visual relationship between the gardens and the surrounding dramatic urban areas, including Edinburgh Castle, the Scott Monument, and the National Galleries, contributes to sense of place and scenic qualities of the gardens.
- The strong visual relationship between key features within the Old and New Towns, ornamentation originating from the late Victorian era contributes to a sense of time depth, recognised by the inclusion of the gardens within the New Town and Old Town Conservation Areas, New Town Gardens Garden and Designed Landscape, and Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site.
- Areas of open lawns, paths lined with benches, points of interest including statuary and ornamental garden displays, and use of the gardens for cultural events contribute to the high recreational and cultural value of the area.
- The value of this landscape is recognised as part of a Local Landscape Area applying to Princes Street Gardens and the adjacent burial grounds to their west.

The changing landscape

3.49 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Princes Street Gardens LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Urban Greenspace LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.50 The gardens are well maintained, though with occasional temporary erosion resulting from pressures by cultural event use. The shelters in the West of the Gardens and structures to the rear of buildings behind the Ross Bandstand show signs of weathering and graffiti.

3.51 Erosion of the exposed crags of Castle Rock (within LCA 44), including rock falls, has led to some temporary restrictions in accessing the gardens from the south-west.

3.52 The refurbishment and extension of the National Galleries has changed the frontage and access to the galleries and gardens from the east of Princes Street Gardens, introducing new accessible paths and terracing.

Forces for change

3.53 The playground in the west of the gardens has been refurbished. Further pressure to increase or expand recreational facilities or infrastructure may influence the garden's landscape pattern, scenic qualities and historic character.

3.54 Use of the gardens during seasonal markets or other events may lead to further erosion or changes to grass lawns and tree cover, altering the visual character and landscape pattern within the gardens.

3.55 The need to improve accessibility for all throughout the gardens is likely to require new sensitively designed path networks, to retain the formal layout and drama of its steep valley slopes.

3.56 Council maintenance facilities in the west of the gardens are well screened from view by surrounding vegetation. Future operational changes could impact on the appearance of these areas.

3.57 Further erosion of Castle Rock (within LCA 44) may result in a need for engineered solutions along the rock face, altering the character of views towards this landmark feature experienced from the gardens.

3.58 Development within the surrounding urban context may change the visual character of the distinctive enclosing skylines and outward views from the gardens.

LCA 7: Queen Street Gardens

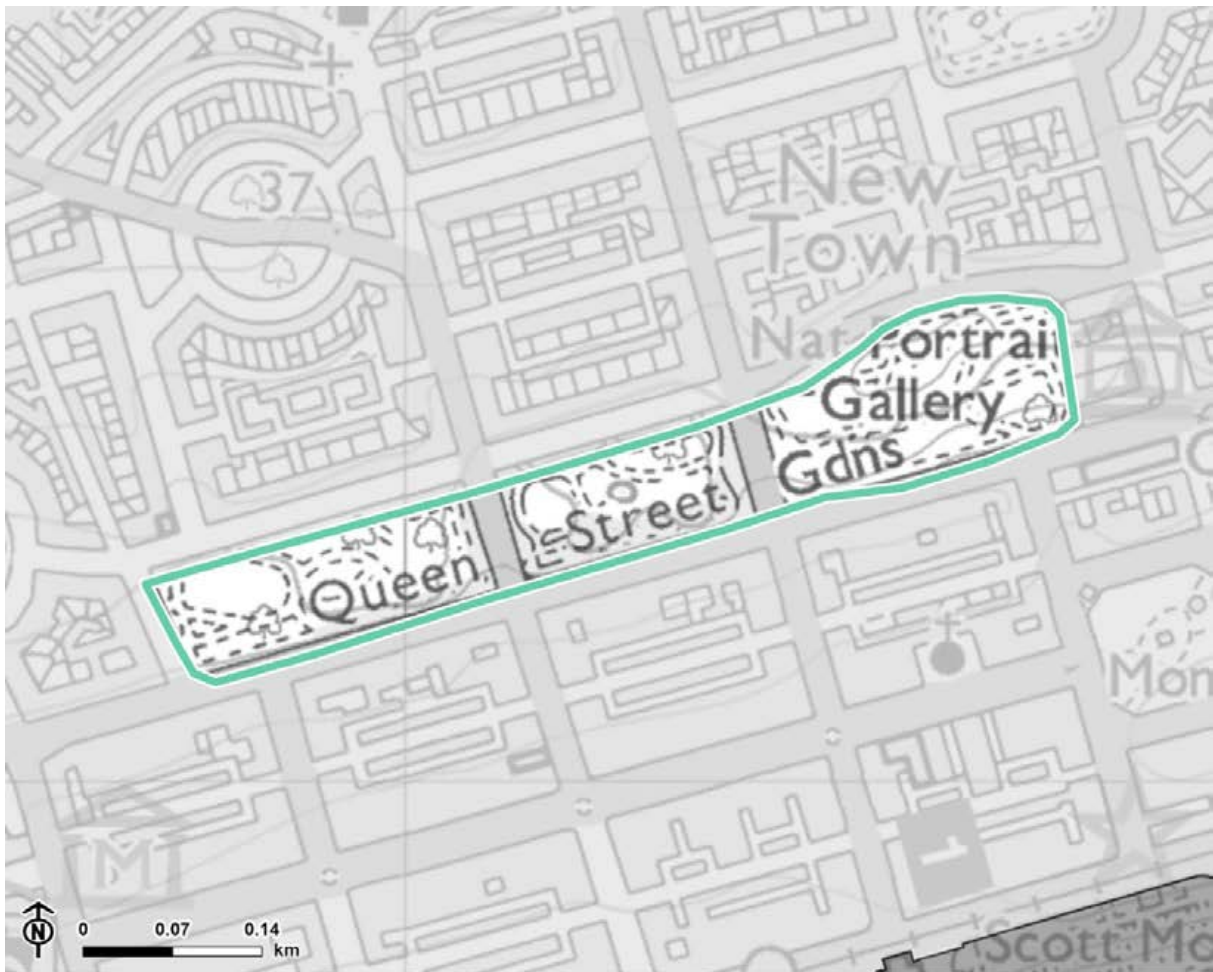
Location

3.59 Queen Street Gardens are situated close to the city centre and form an integral part of Edinburgh’s New Town. There are three separate gardens stretching the length of Queen Street, divided by roads and enclosed by railings and boundary planting.

Figure 3.15: Perimeter shrubs and trees contribute to an enclosed character within Queen Street Gardens



Figure 3.16: Queen Street Gardens LCA



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-  Urban Greenspace: Queen Street Gardens
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Undulating, broadly north-facing slopes, becoming gentler in the west, with some small, gently mounded landforms.
- Grassy slopes and mown lawns are punctuated by predominantly native specimen trees, shrubs and crossed by a network of paths.
- East Queen Street Gardens principally comprises long undulating grassy slopes, sweeping down from a top terrace and footpath adjacent to Queen Street to the north.
- The Central Gardens are the most diverse with a circular pond and specimen trees providing a focus, and a denser network of gravel paths.
- The West Gardens have a gently mounded landform which adds interest to the simple layout of perimeter paths and shrubs.
- The gardens were laid out in the early 19th Century as formal parkland for the use of local residents and mark a transition between different phases of development of the New Town.
- The gardens remain private but are occasionally accessible to the public on special open days.
- The visible experience of green space and mature tree canopy seen from adjacent public areas, as well as elevated landmarks within the city, provides a break in the urban form and accentuates the transitional nature of the slopes.
- Enclosure by railings and a robust framework of perimeter evergreen hedges and shrubs such as yew, holly and laurel and broadleaved trees result in a private and enclosed character throughout.
- Views from within the gardens are mainly focused internally with occasionally glimpsed views to the surrounding urban context. A raised terrace on the southern boundary of the West Gardens offers views over the gardens to Heriot Row and India Street.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.60 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Queen Street Gardens LCA include:

- The dense network of native specimen trees and shrubs provide seasonal interest, a sense of place and habitat connectivity.
- The continued use of the gardens by local residents, their traditional layout, and functional relationship between different parts of the New Town contributes to a sense of history, local distinctiveness and recreational value.
- The gardens form an integral part of the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site, New Town Conservation Area and New Town Gardens Garden and Designed Landscape.
- The gardens provide a break in the surrounding urban context and contribute to the wider green network of the New Town Gardens when viewed from distant key elevated landmarks within the city, contributing to scenic quality and sense of place.
- The robust framework of hedges and trees contributes to a sense of seclusion and tranquillity within the city centre.
- Glimpsed outward views from the garden contribute to the important visual and spatial relationship with the surrounding historic New Town context, particularly the surrounding Georgian terraces.

The changing landscape

3.61 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and pressures relating to the Queen Street Gardens LCA, which are additional to the more generic key changes and pressures identified for the Urban Greenspace LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.62 The gardens are generally in good condition and well maintained via a series of proprietors' management committees. Storm events have caused some damage to trees, including historic elms, within the gardens.

Forces for change

3.63 An increase in severe storm events and pests and diseases, associated with climate change, may result in loss of historic specimen trees in the gardens, altering their secluded and private character and contribution to the wider townscape.

3.64 Proposals to increase biodiversity, such as introduction of wildflower meadows, may alter the landscape pattern of the gardens, although there is opportunity for these interventions to increase the scenic quality and habitat value of the gardens.

3.65 Increased pressures for contemporary recreational provision in the gardens may alter the historic layout and landscape pattern.

LCA 8: The Meadows

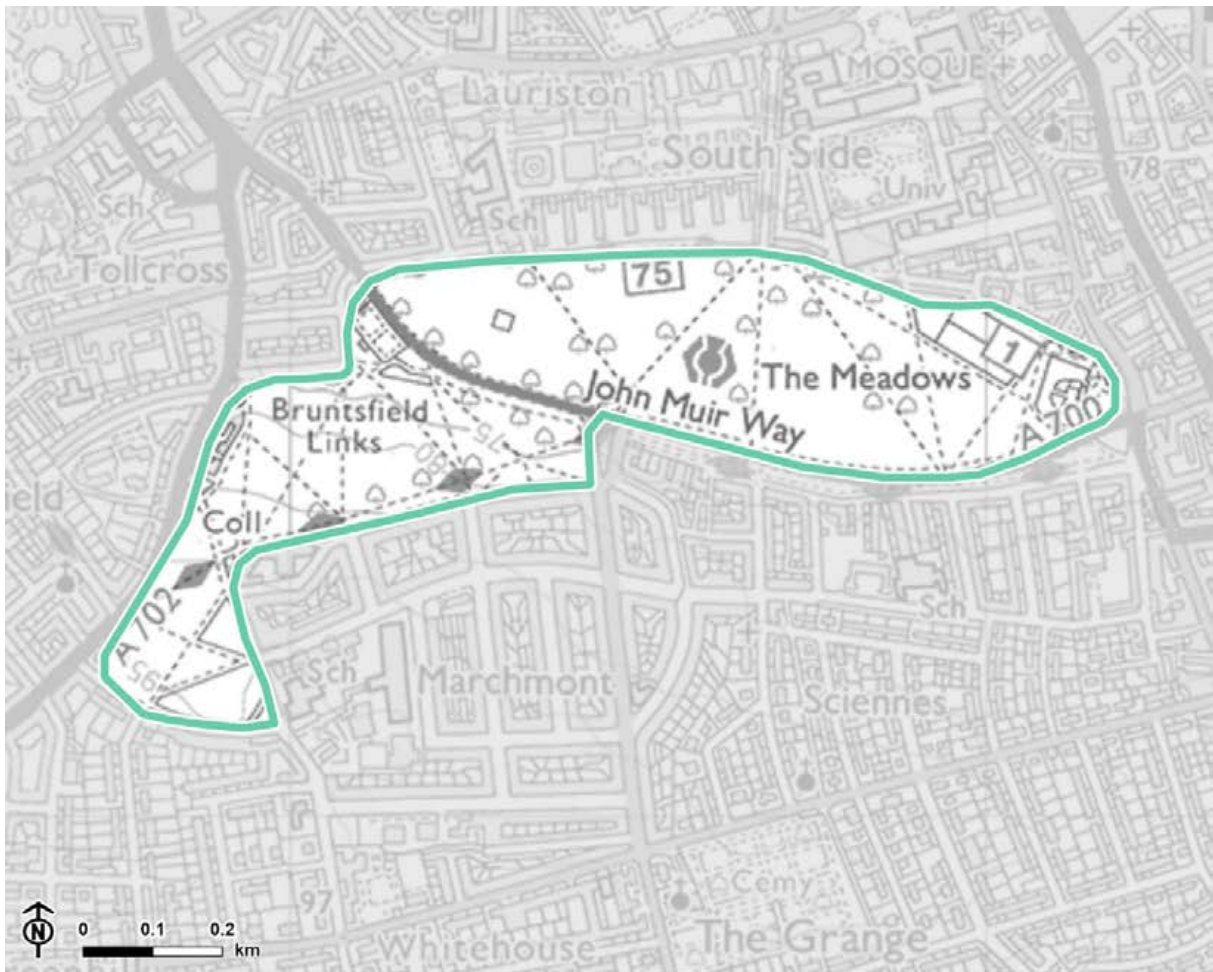
Location

3.66 The Meadows LCA comprises an area of tree-lined parkland bordered by the residential area of Marchmont and Bruntsfield to the south and The University of Edinburgh and Quartermile to the north. Melville Drive, a busy through road, separates the flat expanse of the Meadows to the north from the more undulating Bruntsfield Links to the south.


Figure 3.17: Tree avenues line paths and divide grass lawns at The Meadows



Figure 3.18: The Meadows LCA



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-  Urban Greenspace: The Meadows
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Flat and low-lying fields to the north and north-east, rising to gently undulating slopes in the west and south-west.
- Simple pattern of mown grassy fields with some unmown or wildflower meadow margins, seasonal displays of spring bulbs and a community garden.
- Double avenues of trees, still with a proportion of elm, align Melville Drive and the wide axial route of Middle Meadow Walk. Smaller cherry trees are planted along a series of narrower but well used path crossings e.g. Coronation Walk.
- Play areas are located on the eastern edge of the Meadows and within Bruntsfield Links, where a pitch and putt course is also a feature.
- The Meadows was laid out as a pleasure ground in 1827 and short hole golf courses at Bruntsfield Links have been established for almost 500 years.
- The Meadows are crossed by a pattern of broad walks, principally radiating from Middle Meadow Walk, which provide access between the city and residential areas to the south and are well-used by cyclists and pedestrians.
- Lawns are used for group sports, informal recreation and provide a venue for a range of summer festivals.
- Few buildings, typically located on the edges of the park, including public toilets, sports pavilions adapted to provide cafe facilities and the pitch and putt hut.
- This area is not widely visible from the surrounding area due to its low-lying topography and the screening provided by the tall buildings bordering it.
- Important views are available towards key skyline features include Edinburgh Castle and Arthur's Seat.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.67 Key sensitivities and valued features of The Meadows LCA include:

- Distinctive tree-lined walks contribute to the landscape structure and pattern, providing seasonal interest, a sense of place and habitat connectivity.

- The undulating topography of Bruntsfield Links contrasts with the low-lying flat expanse of The Meadows and forms a functional transition between different parts of the city.
- Elevated and open views available from Bruntsfield Links, looking towards the distinctive skyline formed by Edinburgh Castle, Arthur's Seat and Salisbury Crags contribute to sense of place.
- Un-mown grassy margins, wildflower meadows and spring bulbs contribute to seasonal interest and diversity in the otherwise simple landscape pattern, providing habitat opportunities.
- Open fields which facilitate the playing of outdoor sports, the play park, the community garden, cafe facilities and the dense network of footpaths and cycle paths contribute to the high recreational value of the LCA.
- These spaces form the central focus of the Marchmont, Meadows and Bruntsfield Conservation Area, contributing to the historic landscape of the area.

The changing landscape

3.68 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to The Meadows LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Urban Greenspace LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.69 The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links are generally in good condition, though with some signs of recreational pressure including erosion of paths and grass lawns. Some avenue trees require management and replacement.

Forces for change

3.70 The construction of an underground storm water tank along Marchmont Road resulted in temporary disturbance to the southern edge of the Bruntsfield Links. The area has been restored with a wildflower meadow which, when established, will contribute to a more diverse landscape pattern.

3.71 Public toilets have recently been constructed near Middle Meadow Walk and the playground in the east of the LCA has recently been refurbished. Increased pressure for recreational provision or facilities may change the landscape pattern of open fields and introduce additional built elements.

3.72 Recent planting of hedgerows at Bruntsfield Links, once mature, will change the open landscape pattern and visual character of this part of the LCA. These areas will add a greater contrast to the landscape pattern and more varied habitats within the LCA. Additional areas of tree and copse planting, informed by guidance in the Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Park Improvement Plan, will further alter the landscape pattern of parts of the park, providing more varied habitats and scenic contrast.

3.73 Increased pressure associated with temporary use during summer festivals may lead to further erosion or damage to grassed fields.

LCA 9: The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

Location

3.74 The Royal Botanic Garden is located to the north of the city centre with Inverleith Terrace and the Water of Leith to its south, Arboretum Place and Inverleith Park to its west and Inverleith Place and Inverleith Row to its north and east.

Figure 3.19: A network of paths crosses the gardens, with varied specimen trees forming a distinct skyline locally, The Rock Garden at The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh



Figure 3.20: The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh LCA



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-  Urban Greenspace: The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Gently undulating topography, rising to a low hill near Inverleith House which overlooks the city in the centre of the garden.
- The Royal Botanic Garden was laid out in the policies of Inverleith House in 1820.
- Sweeping grassy slopes below Inverleith House accommodate majestic specimen trees, while rhododendrons are planted within a more wooded setting on the northern side of the house.
- Other plant collections have a more intricate layout and include the rock garden in the south-east corner, a long herbaceous border backed by a tall beech hedge, and beds used for research and trials and community growing and engagement, alongside the relocated Botanic Cottage.
- Other features include an alpine courtyard in the north-east and a pond with associated areas of bog to the east.
- Strong cultural associations with plant collectors, who transferred plants (for food, medicinal purposes and science) during colonial expansion but also ongoing scientific research programmes.
- The 18th century Inverleith House forms a central focus, located on a hill overlooking the city. The two 19th century Palm Houses and later 20th century glasshouses form key built features.
- Other buildings include educational and visitor facilities at The John Hope Gateway, single storey cafe facilities to the west of Inverleith House, the East Lodge and Caledonian Hall.
- The tall glass-domed roof of the Palm House is conspicuous from elevated parts of the city where it is seen in an extensive landscape setting of trees and green space, stretching west to merge with Inverleith Park and the grounds of Fettes College.
- Views from the gardens are mainly focused within the immediate context, although more distant views of the spectacular and distinctive skyline of the New Town, Old Town and Pentland Hills are available from the lawn in front of Inverleith House.

- The gardens and associated facilities are well-used for recreation and form a popular destination for tourists and locals. Despite their popularity, a sense of seclusion and tranquillity can be experienced.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.75 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh LCA include:

- The diverse plant collections and complex layout of these gardens are unique and highly scenic, contributing to sense of place.
- Mature and varied plant species contribute to biodiversity and a complex landscape pattern that changes seasonally and provides a setting for public artworks.
- The 18th century Inverleith House and 19th century Palm and Temperate Houses contribute to the sense of time depth, as they are part of Scotland's architectural heritage. The gardens are located in the Inverleith Conservation Area and are recognised as a GDL.
- Mature specimen trees and the historic origins of the plant collection within the gardens contribute to the sense of scientific importance and time depth.
- The green space of the gardens provides tranquillity and a sense of contrast to the surrounding urban context.
- The network of footpaths and visitor facilities contribute to the high recreational value of the gardens. Additionally, the gardens support community engagement programmes and provide a venue for seasonal events.
- Visual links to the distinctive New Town and Old Town skyline contribute to the sense of place and scenic qualities of the gardens.
- The value of this landscape is recognised as part of a Local Landscape Area applying to The Royal Botanic Garden and Inverleith Park.

The changing landscape

3.76 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Urban Greenspace LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.77 The gardens are highly maintained and in excellent condition.

3.78 Some specimen trees have been lost due to storm events or reaching the end of their life cycles, resulting in a localised change to the landscape pattern in parts of the gardens, and creating opportunities for new planting.

3.79 Restoration of historic buildings within the gardens is ongoing with a temporary working area around these.

Forces for change

3.80 The Edinburgh Biomes project will see the 19th century Palm Houses and 1960s glasshouses restored, replanted and visitor routes replanned.

3.81 Changing weather patterns may influence the species that can be grown within the gardens, changing the variety of patterns, textures and colours found within the gardens' important plant collections.

3.82 Increases in the frequency and severity of storm events, as a result of climate change, as well as an increase in pests and diseases, may damage the structure, density and species variety of the distinctive specimen trees and woodland groves within the gardens.

3.83 Increased visitor pressure may result in expansion or introduction of additional visitor facilities or infrastructure, changing the landscape pattern and visual character of the gardens.

Incised River Valley Landscape Character Type

Landscape Character Areas

3.84 The Incised River Valley Landscape Character Type (LCT) features the following Landscape Character Areas (LCAs):

- Lower Almond Valley (10)
- Upper Almond Valley (11)
- Water of Leith – Balerno to Juniper Green (12)
- Water of Leith – Spylaw to Slateford (13)
- Water of Leith – Slateford to Roseburn (14)
- Water of Leith – New Town (15)
- Water of Leith – Canonmills to The Shore (16)

Figure 3.21: Wooded banks of the River Almond



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCT are:

- Steeply incised valley sides above a river bed which is sometimes narrow and occasionally opens out to a broader valley, with areas of grassland.
- There are often exposed rock outcrops within the river bed and along the valley sides.
- Woodland is frequently associated with the steep valley sides and a semi-natural character exists in many places.
- Around the city's edge and in the urban area, the wooded and naturalistic character of the LCT is often enhanced by adjacent policy planting or green spaces.
- There is a legacy of mills in the valleys, and weirs along the rivers.
- Secluded and intimate character provided by landform and vegetation which limits views into and out of the character type, and limits the influence of lighting at night.
- Settlement typically extends to the edge of incised valleys and in places abuts the water's edge.
- Recreational routes extend along the river sides providing important local connections to nature, as well as longer distance recreational routes from the Firth of Forth, extending through city neighbourhoods to the surrounding rural landscape.

Forces for change

3.85 The following section sets out key changes and pressures relating to the Incised River Valley LCT:

- Increased precipitation due to climate change may increase water flows, fluvial flooding, and erosion of riverbanks. Additional engineered features may be required along watercourses, such as flood defences and weirs, which could detract from the sense of naturalness and visual character of the valleys.
- A shift in riparian flora species composition due to a warming climate, increasing the risk of spread of pests and diseases as well as the presence of invasive non-native species, may change the patterns and textures found within the landscape.

- Increases in the frequency or severity of storm events may result in accelerated loss or damage to woodland, or landslips due to the saturation of soils.
- Greater pressure for recreation along the river valley may increase erosion of paths and reduce the tranquillity of the valleys, including through the introduction or intensification of lighting, affecting wildlife.
- Development pressure may result in river corridors being narrowed or character being altered, unless development is carefully controlled and designed.

Landscape management guidelines

3.86 The following section sets out recommended landscape management guidelines for the Incised River Valley LCT:

- Protect and expand riparian woodland with diverse native species of local provenance to benefit habitat diversity, water quality, and bankside stability.
- Use green engineering solutions for bank reinforcement and flood management; naturalise or daylight watercourses where possible.
- Observe development set-backs to riversides, balancing the provision of local access with limiting access to sensitive areas to support nature conservation.
- Improve woodland diversity by increasing the mixture of native tree species and age, retain deadwood where safe to do so, monitor effects of pests and disease, and control invasive species.
- Conserve the secluded character, sense of tranquillity, and darkness in natural areas away from urban edges.
- Strengthen the role of river valleys within green blue networks by sensitively improving furniture, seating, paths and connectivity along the valleys.

LCA 10: Lower Almond Valley

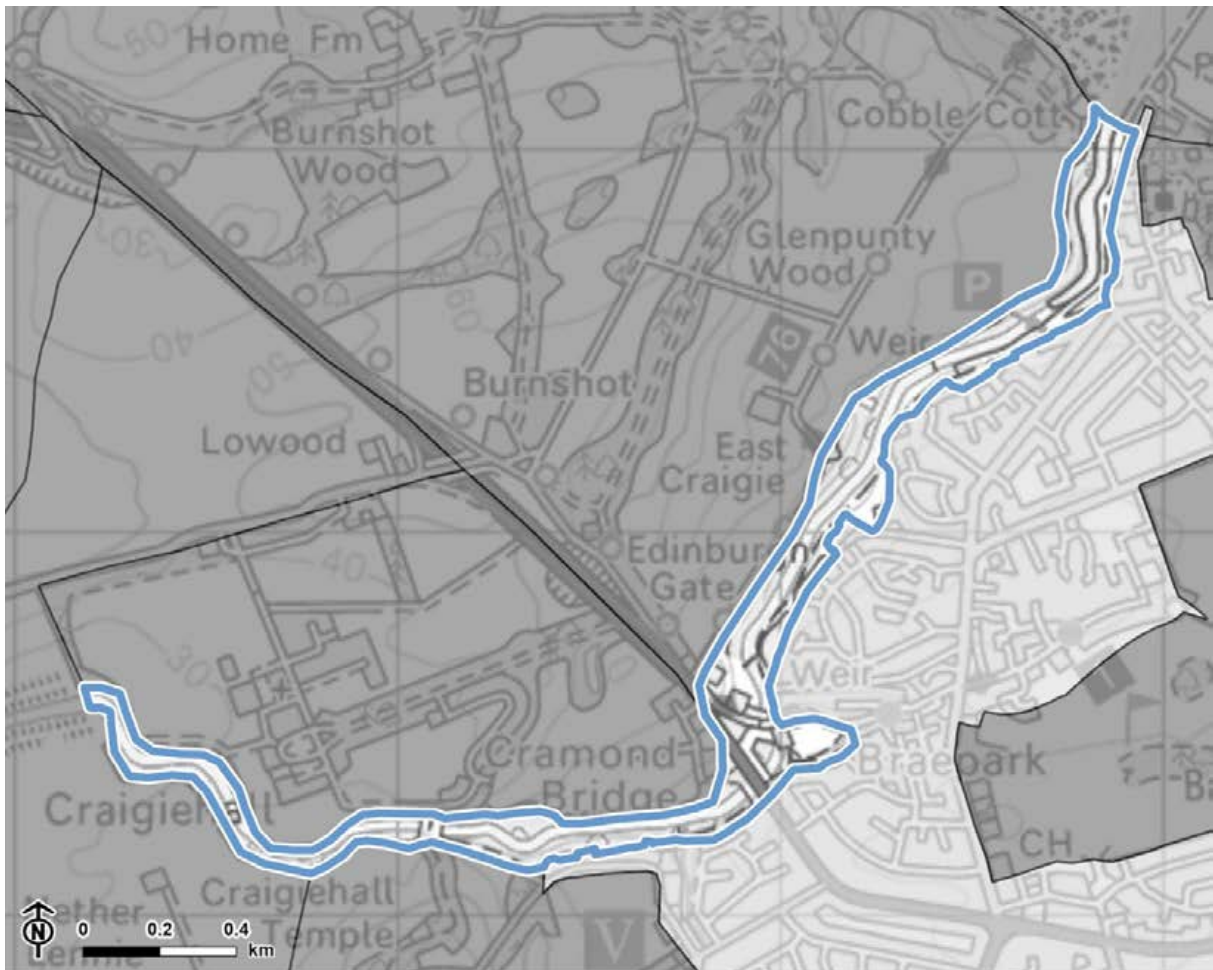
Location

3.87 The Lower Almond Valley landscape character area comprises the lower stretch of the River Almond as it becomes increasingly more incised between Craighiehall and the river mouth at Cramond.

Figure 3.22: Views of Cramond Harbour at the mouth of the River Almond



Figure 3.23: Lower Almond Valley LCA



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-  Incised River Valley: Lower Almond Valley
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

The key characteristics of this LCA are:

- A steep narrow valley, becoming increasingly more incised as it travels from Craigiehall towards Cramond, with a notable pinch point at Grotto Bridge, creating very steep river banks.
- Underlying bedrock is exposed along the river, with harder igneous rock creating waterfalls and rapids near Grotto Bridge, and softer sedimentary rock visible in cliff faces along the banks of the river.
- Human influences along the valley contrast with the natural flow and meanders of the river, including sea walls near the mouth of the river, walkways, bridges and weirs.
- The mouth of the river opens out into a series of winding channels divided by intertidal muds and sands in the Firth of Forth, the composition of which are ever changing as the tides vary.
- Dense riparian and Ancient Woodland lines the river valley, providing ecological connectivity along this corridor, and softening and framing views focused along the incised valley.
- The valley contributes strongly to the history of the area, highlighted by its inclusion within the Cramond Conservation Area. Listed buildings include old industrial mill workings dating back to the 18th Century, weirs and bridges.
- Riparian vegetation along the banks of the river contributes to the wooded character of the Craigiehall and Dalmeny Garden and Designed Landscapes, visible primarily from the southern banks of the river.
- More open, elevated views are available at occasional crossing points, such as the historic Cramond Brig, and further upstream at Craigiehall.
- Strongly wooded nature of the valley provides a sense of enclosure and perception of seclusion, and darkness at night, away from the more built up area of Cramond.
- Maritime influences including moored sailing boats and sea life at the mouth of the River Almond contrasts with the more enclosed freshwater character further upstream.
- The River Almond Walkway along the southern bank of the river is well-used and valued, providing recreational access along the river. Sections of the John Muir Way pass along the river banks.

- Cramond Harbour, at the mouth of the River Almond, offers a sheltered location for the mooring of small sailing boats, providing a gateway for recreational access into the Forth.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.88 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Lower Almond Valley LCA include:

- Steeply incised river valley with wooded banks provides a sense of containment, seclusion and darkness which contributes to sense of place and the quality of focused views along the valley.
- Underlying geology creates dramatic changes in the flow of the river, providing visual diversity through the presence of rapids and waterfalls, and contributing to the sense of place.
- Dense riparian woodland and the meandering river contribute strongly to the structure of the landscape and provide ecological connectivity with associated benefits for biodiversity.
- Historic buildings and crossing points along the watercourse contribute to the history of the area which is deep-rooted in the overall sense of place.
- The maritime influence at the mouth of the river provides a recreational and visual gateway into the Firth of Forth, strongly contrasting with the character further upstream.
- Walk and cycleways along much of the length of this section of the river contribute to the recreational value of this valley.

The changing landscape

3.89 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Lower Almond Valley LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Incised River Valley LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.90 This section of the River Almond is generally in good condition; however, ongoing maintenance is required to maintain recreational access (including signage) and ensure nearby vegetation is not eroded away due to footfall.

3.91 Riparian woodland is dense along this stretch of the river and could benefit from careful maintenance, though ensuring deadwood habitat is retained, to ensure trees are thriving and not becoming overcrowded or dominated by sycamore or invasive species.

Forces for change

3.92 Sea level change, due to a changing climate, may alter the character and use of the river mouth which currently features a small harbour for mooring of boats.

3.93 More frequent storm events may increase the occurrence of damaged and fallen trees along the river valley, which may alter the sense of shelter and seclusion.

3.94 Increased recreational pressure along the River Almond Walkway may result in upgrades being required along this stretch, including to the Salvesen Steps and new development such as the introduction of lighting.

3.95 Construction of a rock ramp at Dowies Mill weir will improve access for migrating fish, whilst maintaining a more natural character to the water course. Landscaping and a boardwalk will help enhance recreational access for people along this stretch of the river.

LCA 11: Upper Almond Valley

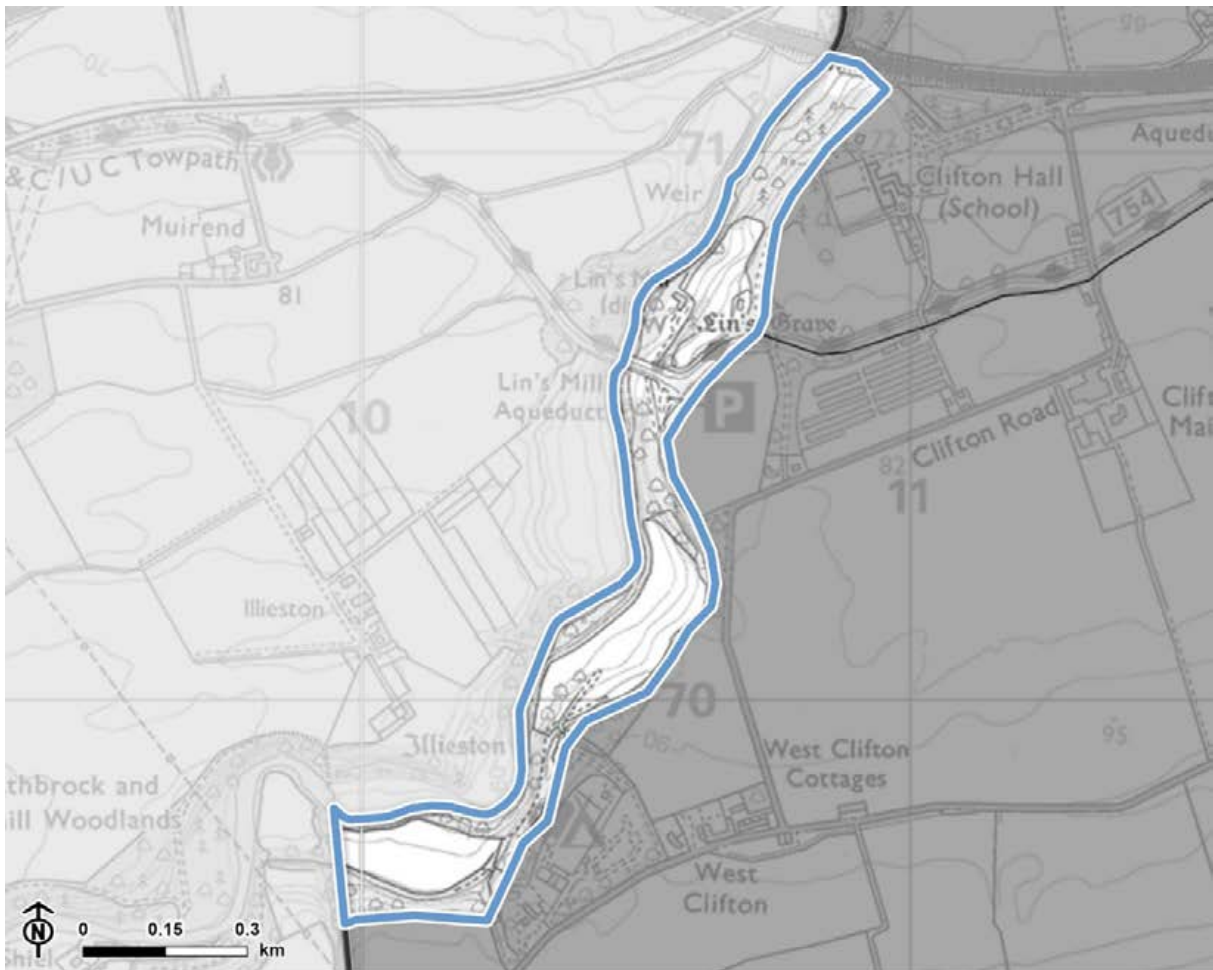
Location

3.96 This character area comprises the incised valley of the River Almond upstream of its crossing by the M8 and up to the West Lothian Council boundary.

Figure 3.24: Lin's Mill Aqueduct passing over rapids in the River Almond, a sluice allows excess water to fall from the canal into the river below



Figure 3.25: Upper Almond Valley LCA



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



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- A steep-sided river valley with a few small, flatter areas on the valley floor.
- The River Almond descends via rapids over horizontally bedded rock outcrops at various points.
- Landcover includes mixed woodland, with influences by policy woodland in the north of the area, and some areas of pasture.
- Lin's Mill Aqueduct carries the Union Canal over the River Almond. It is a historically important and spectacular feature, with massive stone arches.
- The remains of Lin's Mill (a private residence) lie on the valley floor north of the aqueduct, while to the south an old mill lade runs along the valley side.
- The Union Canal towpaths, and almost continuous paths running along the valley towards Almondell and Calderwood Country Park in West Lothian, form important recreational routes.
- The incised landform combined with the wooded character contributes to an intimate and enclosed landscape with limited views into and out of the area, and which is dark at night.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.97 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Upper Almond Valley LCA include:

- The combination of dense native woodland, fast-flowing water and steep valley sides within the area is of high scenic value.
- Lin's Mill Aqueduct is a historically important and visually impressive feature that contributes strongly to the sense of place experienced within the area.
- The paths in the area are important recreational routes, providing access and connecting the area with surrounding areas and the Almondell and Calderwood Country Park.
- The native woodland and steep sides of the valley, as well as darkness at night, create a sense of seclusion and tranquillity.

The changing landscape

3.98 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Upper Almond Valley LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Incised River Valley LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.99 Woodland generally appears to be in reasonable condition, although sycamore regeneration should be controlled to prevent it dominating the species composition.

3.100 Paths are in good condition. However, continuity of the path network along the River Almond could be improved as currently there is no path leading north from Lin's Mill aqueduct.

Forces for change

3.101 More frequent storm events may increase the occurrence of damaged and fallen trees along the river valley, which may alter the sense of seclusion and tranquillity.

3.102 Development and greater pressure for recreation along the river valley, including from the expansion of East Calder in West Lothian, may increase wear of paths or alter its character through lighting, unless carefully controlled and designed.

LCA 12: Water of Leith – Balerno to Juniper Green

Location

3.103 This section of the Water of Leith extends from the rural upper reaches of the valley west of Balerno, downstream to the urban area of Juniper Green.




Figure 3.26: Woodland lines the winding banks of the river near Balerno



Figure 3.27: 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



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- A relatively narrow, incised valley along which the river falls over a number of weirs. Landform is gentler to the west.
- Woodland, some of which is ancient in origin, extends up the steep banks and emphasises the course of the river when seen from the surrounding area.
- Steep farmed slopes enclose the valley and extend to the south, rising to the Pentland Hills.
- The linear settlements of Juniper Green and Currie occupy the top of the valley to the north, and in places houses extend down the valley slopes and abut the banks of the river.
- The river forms an important setting to adjacent settlements, which developed historically around the mills along the river.
- Historic mill sites in flatter parts of the valley have predominantly been redeveloped, some of which retain their original historic character.
- The former railway line, previously used to service the mills, is now used as a popular cycle path and walkway, supplemented by other informal paths along the valley.
- In the upper reaches of the Water of Leith west of Balerno, the settlement along the valley becomes more dispersed, comprising large houses set in wooded grounds and interspersed with pasture.
- The urban edge and noise from traffic using the A70 and City Bypass influences parts of the valley, particularly where housing extends down into the valley slopes.
- The valley forms an important transition between settlement to the north and the sparsely settled landscape of the Pentland Hills to the south.
- The steep slopes and woodland focus views along the valley floor, resulting in an enclosed and sheltered character, which is dark at night.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.104 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Water of Leith – Balerno to Juniper Green LCA include:

- The transition, marked by the valley, between areas of settlement to the north and the rural landscape of the Pentland Hills to the south, contribute to the sense of place.
- The density of woodland, including areas of Ancient Woodland and policy woodland, enclosure by steep landform, and the aural and dynamic qualities of the river contribute to a sense of naturalness, shelter, darkness and seclusion, in close proximity to the urban edge.
- The historic relationship between the river and the core of the Balerno, Currie and Juniper Green Conservation Areas remains legible in the landscape today, contributing to the sense of history in the landscape.
- The former railway line and informal paths provide recreational opportunities and important active travel links between urban areas, as well as enabling access to the wider countryside beyond.
- The combination of the incised narrow wooded valley and surviving remnants of the mills along the river, including weirs and historic mill buildings, contribute to scenic quality.

The changing landscape

3.105 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Water of Leith – Balerno to Juniper Green LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Incised River Valley LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.106 The Water of Leith Walkway and cycle path is generally in good condition, with appropriate wayfinding signage. Other informal paths show signs of erosion. Given the recreational pressure and steep slopes, ongoing discreet maintenance which is appropriate to a rural environment is required.

3.107 Recent storm events have caused damage to some areas of woodland. Some erosion control and slope stabilisation installations are at odds with the natural character of the valley.

3.108 Development within or adjacent to the valley has generally been integrated sensitively into the landscape context.

3.109 Demolition of derelict buildings and further redevelopment is actively changing localised parts of the valley.

Forces for change

3.110 Remaining historic sites in the valley may be developed for housing or commercial uses, which may adversely affect its secluded character and darkness at night, and alter the densely wooded landscape pattern.

3.111 Changes to weather as a result of climate change, such as increased seasonal rainfall or drought, will result in greater fluctuation in water levels and may result in more frequent landslips. More frequent flooding and landslips will affect the valley and access to the Water of Leith Walkway.

3.112 Increased recreational pressure may cause erosion of paths, demands for intervention, and may change the tranquil character of parts of the valley.

LCA 13: Water of Leith – Spylaw to Slateford

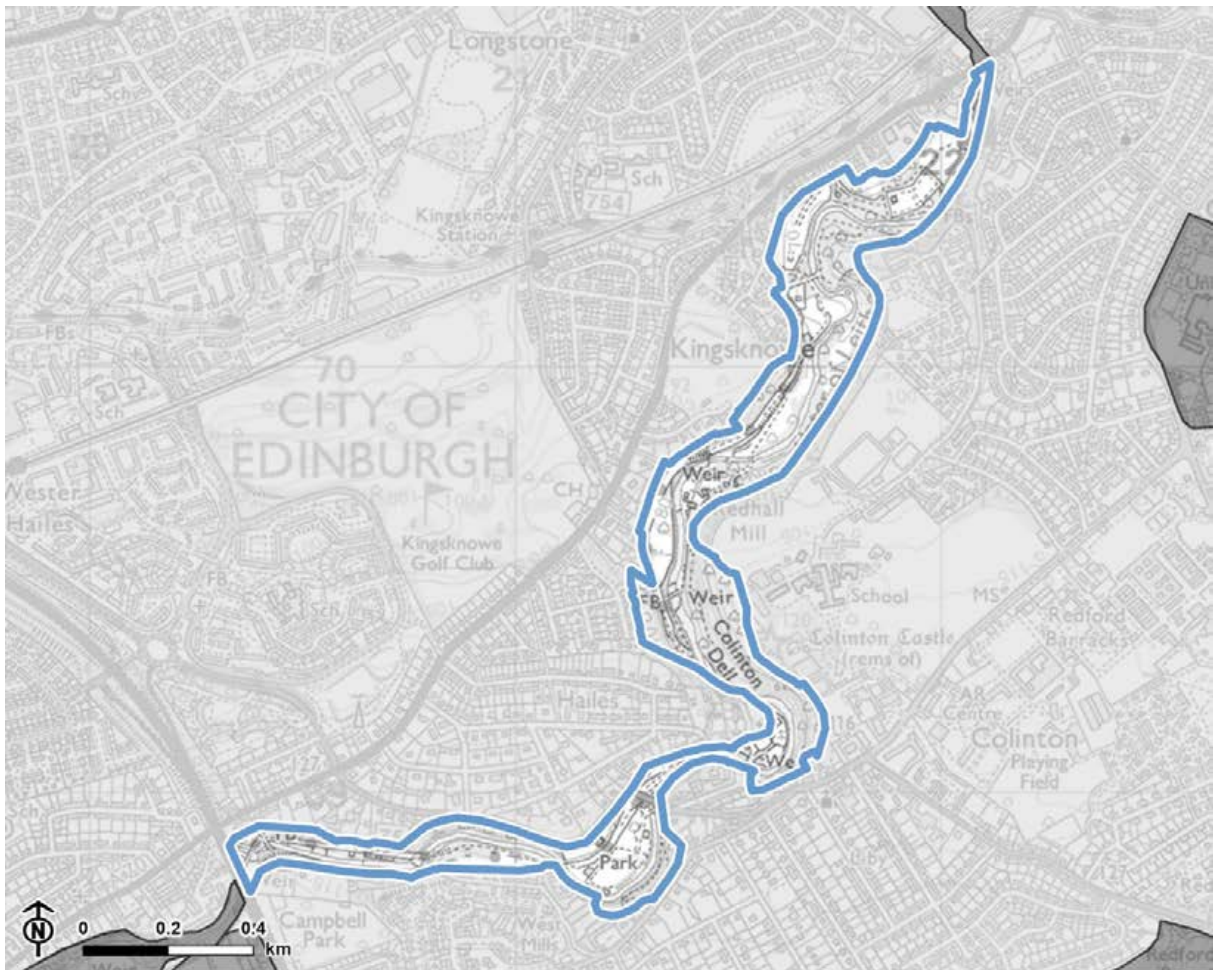
Location

3.113 This section of the Water of Leith extends downstream from the City Bypass, passing Colinton Dell and ending at the Water of Leith Visitor Centre near Slateford.



Figure 3.28: Steeply incised wooded slopes line the valley, with Spylaw House enclosed by surrounding trees



Figure 3.29: Water of Leith - Spylaw to Slateford LCA



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-  Incised River Valley: Water of Leith - Spylaw to Slateford
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- A narrow, deeply incised valley where the river tumbles over small rocky falls and weirs.
- Woodland, some of which is ancient in origin, cloaks the steep banks and emphasises the course of the river when seen from the surrounding area.
- Woodland of policy character is particularly evident on the eastern slopes where the historic grounds of Redhall House and Colinton House (which became Merchiston Castle School) spill down the valley, including at Colinton Dell.
- Small areas of grassland and scrub occur where the valley floor flattens, providing openness and light contrasting with the predominantly shaded character of most of the valley.
- Clustered traditional stone buildings of the former Redhall Mill, a series of stone bridges, Craiglockhart Grotto, and various other stone buildings form a focus when walking along the riverside.
- The river forms an important setting to settlement at Colinton, which historically developed around the mills lining the river.
- The former railway line, previously used to service historic mills, is now used as a popular cycle path and walkway, supplemented by other informal paths along the valley. Colinton Tunnel forms a local landmark with its painted mural interior.
- A strong sense of seclusion and naturalness, owing to the extent of woodland, enclosure by steep slopes, and limited intrusion, including by lighting, from the surrounding urban area.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.114 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Water of Leith – Spylaw to Slateford LCA include:

- The density of woodland, including areas of Ancient and policy woodland, enclosure by steep landform, darkness at night, and the aural and dynamic qualities of the river contributes to a sense of naturalness, shelter and seclusion in close proximity to the urban edge.

- The contrast between woodland and small areas of open grassland and scrub contributes to diversity in landscape pattern and the sense of place experienced when moving along the river valley.
- The historic relationship between the river and the historic core of the Colinton Conservation Area remains legible in the landscape today, contributing to the sense of history.
- The combination of the incised narrow wooded valley and historic stone buildings and bridges contribute to scenic quality.
- The former railway line and informal paths provide recreational opportunities to experience the wooded valley landscape and are important active travel links between urban areas.

The changing landscape

3.115 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Water of Leith – Spylaw to Slateford LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Incised River Valley LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.116 The Water of Leith Walkway and cycle path is generally in good condition, with appropriate wayfinding signage. Other paths show some signs of erosion. Given the recreational pressure and steep slopes, ongoing and appropriate maintenance, which should be rural in character, is likely to be required.

3.117 Storm events have caused damage to some areas of woodland. Some highly engineered erosion control and slope stabilisation installations are at odds with the natural character of the valley.

3.118 Some stone structures or monuments show signs of damage by weathering or from antisocial behaviour and should be carefully conserved.

Forces for change

3.119 Changes to weather as a result of climate change, such as increased seasonal rainfall or drought, will result in greater fluctuation in water levels and may result in more frequent landslips. More frequent flooding and landslips will affect the valley and access to the Water of Leith Walkway.

3.120 The redevelopment of historic buildings located along the river valley may alter the sense of time depth within the landscape.

3.121 Further recreational pressure or footfall may increase erosion of paths, or lead to lighting, which may change the tranquil character of parts of the valley.

LCA 14: Water of Leith – Slateford to Roseburn

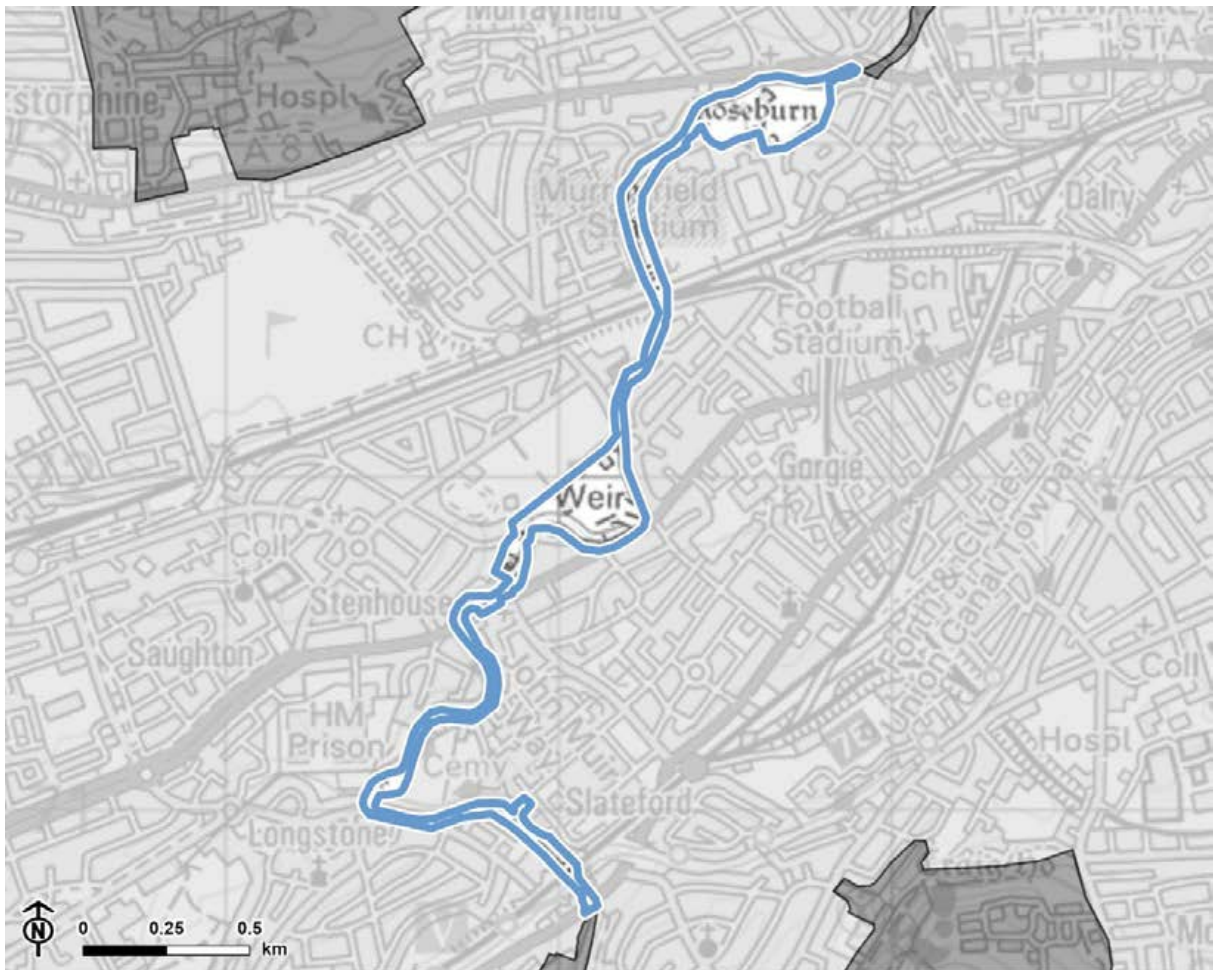
Location

3.122 This section of the Water of Leith extends between the Water of Leith Visitor Centre at Slateford to Roseburn Park near Murrayfield, in the west of the city.

Figure 3.30: A narrow wooded river channel influenced by the urban settlement edge



Figure 3.31: Water of Leith - Slateford to Roseburn LCA



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-  Incised River Valley: Water of Leith - Slateford to Roseburn
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Low-lying and narrow river valley with relatively shallow slopes.
- Dense woodland lines sections of the river, contrasting with areas of development adjacent to some stretches of the river.
- Modified watercourse in places, with the profile of riverbanks varying from natural to hard engineered banks. Buildings and fencing form a hard edge to the valley in places.
- Punctuated with green spaces located within broader parts of the valley, including Saughton Park, Saughton Cemetery and Allotments, as well as Roseburn Park.
- Saughton Park comprises a walled garden with a formal layout, including flower beds, hedges, statues, a band stand and winter gardens.
- Woodland and buildings adjacent to the valley edge contribute to an enclosed character, with a strong urbanised influence along some sections.
- Views are mainly focused along the river, though more open views are available along sections of the valley near Murrayfield.
- The Water of Leith Visitor Centre on Lanark Road provides for recreational interest and a base for conservation volunteers, set against the backdrop of the B Listed Slateford Aqueduct and Slateford Viaduct.
- The Water of Leith Walkway and cycle path and sections of the John Muir Way follow the course of the river, with public parks adding to recreational opportunities.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.123 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Water of Leith – Slateford to Roseburn LCA include:

- Woodland and the dynamic qualities of the river contribute to a sense of naturalness within close proximity to the urban edge, providing a localised sense of seclusion and tranquillity.
- Woodland provides a sense of containment, adding texture and diversity to the views along the river corridor, and helping to conserve darkness at night.

- Paths along much of the length of this section of the Water of Leith, as well as public parks and other public green spaces, contribute to the high recreational value of this river corridor.

The changing landscape

3.124 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Water of Leith – Slateford to Roseburn LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Incised River Valley LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.125 The adjoining urban edge strongly influences this section of the river. Issues with antisocial behaviour such as fly tipping and graffiti are prevalent in parts of this area.

3.126 Surfacing of the Water of Leith Walkway and cycle path is generally in good condition.

Forces for change

3.127 Conflict between the natural forces of the river and the settlement edge have resulted in some flood damage, including to buildings. Wetter winters and an increase in the severity and frequency of storm events will result in very high flows within the river, and further flood risk within these areas. Pressures to construct additional engineered flood defences are likely to continue to alter the character of this stretch of the river.

3.128 Increased recreational pressure along the Water of Leith may result in more significant upgrades required along this stretch, including reinforcement of paths or introduction of lighting.

3.129 Development proposals close to the river corridor, where these are visually prominent or impact on remaining areas of semi-natural landcover found on its banks, may alter the sense of seclusion.

LCA 15: Water of Leith – New Town

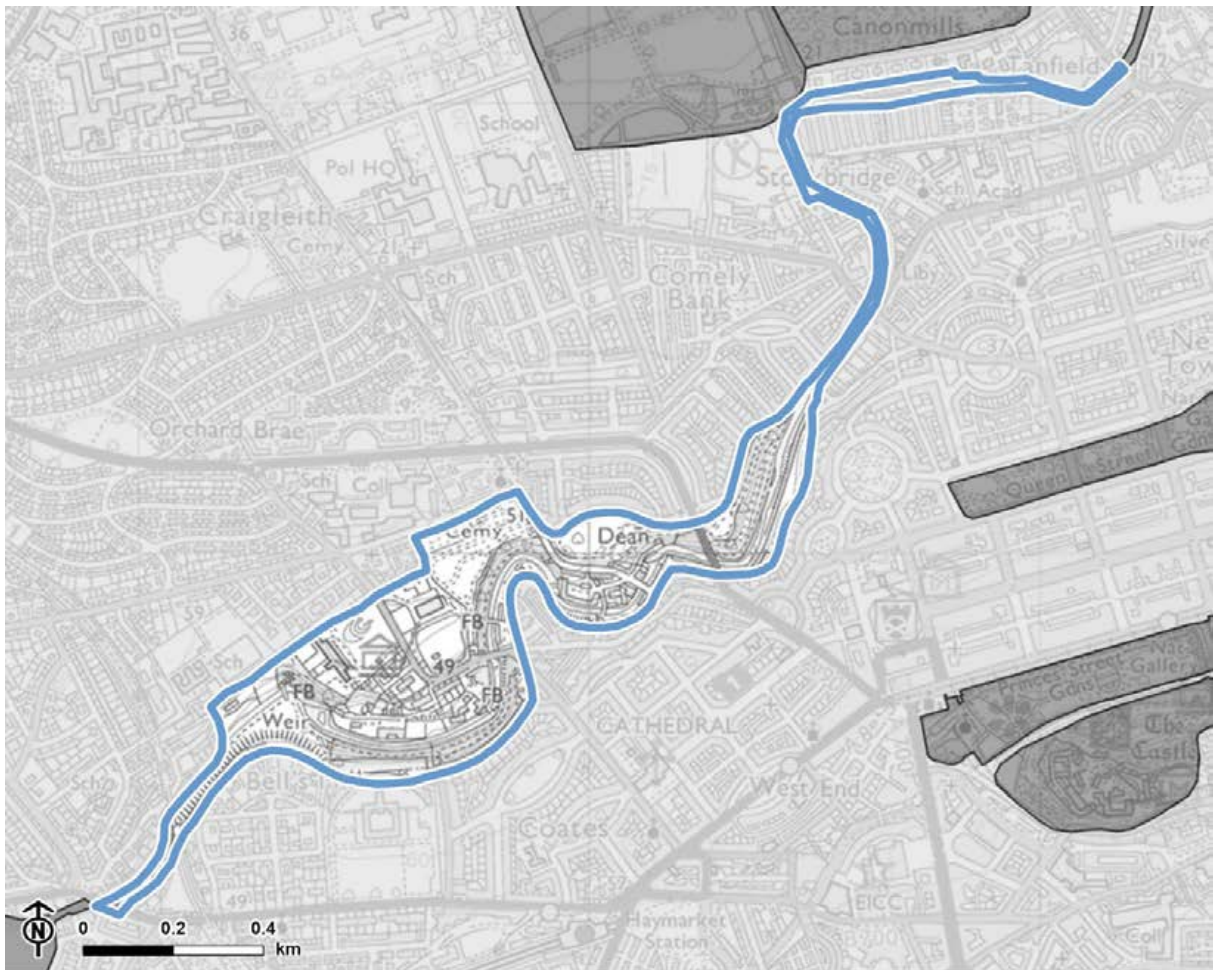
Location

3.130 This section of the Water of Leith forms a deeply incised valley with steep wooded slopes extending from Wester Coates near Roseburn to Dean Terrace.

Figure 3.32: The former mill at Dean Village, above the Water of Leith



Figure 3.33: Water of Leith - New Town LCA



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-  Incised River Valley: Water of Leith - New Town
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Steep and narrow incised valley landform, enclosed in places by the densely built surrounding urban edge, and opening out at broader meanders.
- Dense woodland follows the course of the Water of Leith and extends to Belgrave Gardens, Dean Cemetery and the grounds of the Modern Art Galleries adjacent to the valley.
- The river has a naturalistic course in this area, tumbling over slabby rock outcrops and a series of dramatic weirs, which are attractive features and served the former mill lades.
- Designed landscapes of Moray and Dean Gardens on steep terraced valley sides with snaking paths, ornamental trees and woodland and grassed areas sit below their respective neoclassical stone terraces.
- A splay of scrubby grassland opens out on the floodplain below the Modern Art Gallery, contrasting with the uniformly steep wooded banks of the valley.
- Occasional rocky outcrops, with local stone also reflected in 19th century retaining wall, Dean Bridge and buildings along the surrounding urban edge.
- The Water of Leith valley forms an integral part of the planned late 18th and early 19th century New Town of Edinburgh in the east of the LCA.
- The Doric rotunda of the 18th century St Bernard's Well provides a focal point and contributes to the romanticism of this landscape.
- The former mills and other buildings of Dean Village abut the river contrasting with the natural sections of the valley and the New Town above through their informal layout and materials.
- The incised and wooded character, and auditory qualities of moving water and wildlife contribute to a degree of seclusion and tranquillity, despite the proximity of the urban edge.
- Views within the valley are contained and generally follow the snaking course of the Water of Leith.
- The Dean Bridge offers dramatic vertiginous views down into the valley and to the Firth of Forth in the east, with its immense piers and arches framing views along the Water of Leith Walkway. There are elevated views over the valley from nearby residences.

- The Water of Leith Walkway, next to the river within the damp, shaded valley floor, is very well-used in this area. Steep steps at numerous access points provide pedestrian links.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.131 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Water of Leith – New Town LCA include:

- Dramatic incised landform contributes to the secluded character, focused nature of views, and sense of tranquillity, contrasting with the adjacent New Town terraces.
- Riparian woodland and aquatic habitat contribute to the landscape pattern and provide opportunities for biodiversity.
- The sense of naturalness, including darkness at night, and seclusion contrasts with built features in the surrounding urban context, contributing to sense of place.
- The naturalistic and romantic qualities of the Water of Leith contribute to the designed landscapes within the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site, New Town Gardens GDL and the New Town, Dean and Coltbridge, Wester Coates and Inverleith Conservation Areas, enhancing the sense of time depth. The management of these historic landscapes also serves to enhance the secluded setting of the Water of Leith, its naturalistic character and scenic qualities.
- The Water of Leith Walkway and other path connections contribute to the high recreational value of the LCA.
- Elevated views available overlooking the Water of Leith, and the focused nature of views along the valley contribute to the sense of place.

The changing landscape

3.132 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Water of Leith – New Town LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Incised River Valley LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.133 This section of the Water of Leith is generally in good condition, though given the recreational pressure and steep slopes, ongoing maintenance is required.

3.134 A landslide required closure of parts of the Water of Leith Walkway near Dean Village, although this was restored and reopened. Storms have caused damage to some areas of woodland, walkways and bridges.

3.135 Sections of the path that forms part of the Water of Leith Walkway are eroded, and informal access to the riverbanks near Dean Village are causing damage to bankside vegetation.

Forces for change

3.136 Changes to weather patterns as a result of climate change, such as increased seasonal rainfall coupled with drought conditions, will result in greater fluctuation in water levels. More frequent flooding will affect sections of the valley, including parts of the Water of Leith Walkway. Pressures to construct engineered flood defences will influence the visual character of the valley.

3.137 Increased frequency of drought conditions may influence the species composition and health of riparian woodland and habitats, changing the landscape pattern and visual character of the LCA.

3.138 An increase in the frequency and severity of storm events, as a result of climate change, may lead to tree or woodland loss and more frequent landslips.

3.139 Increased run-off into the Water of Leith, as a result of increased seasonal rainfall or development within the adjacent urban edge, may alter the water quality and species composition and visual character of the valley.

3.140 Greater pressure for recreation, particularly along the stretch of the Water of Leith Walkway between Dean Village and Stockbridge, will increase path erosion, may potentially demand lighting, and may change the tranquil character of parts of the valley.

LCA 16: Water of Leith – Canonmills to the Shore

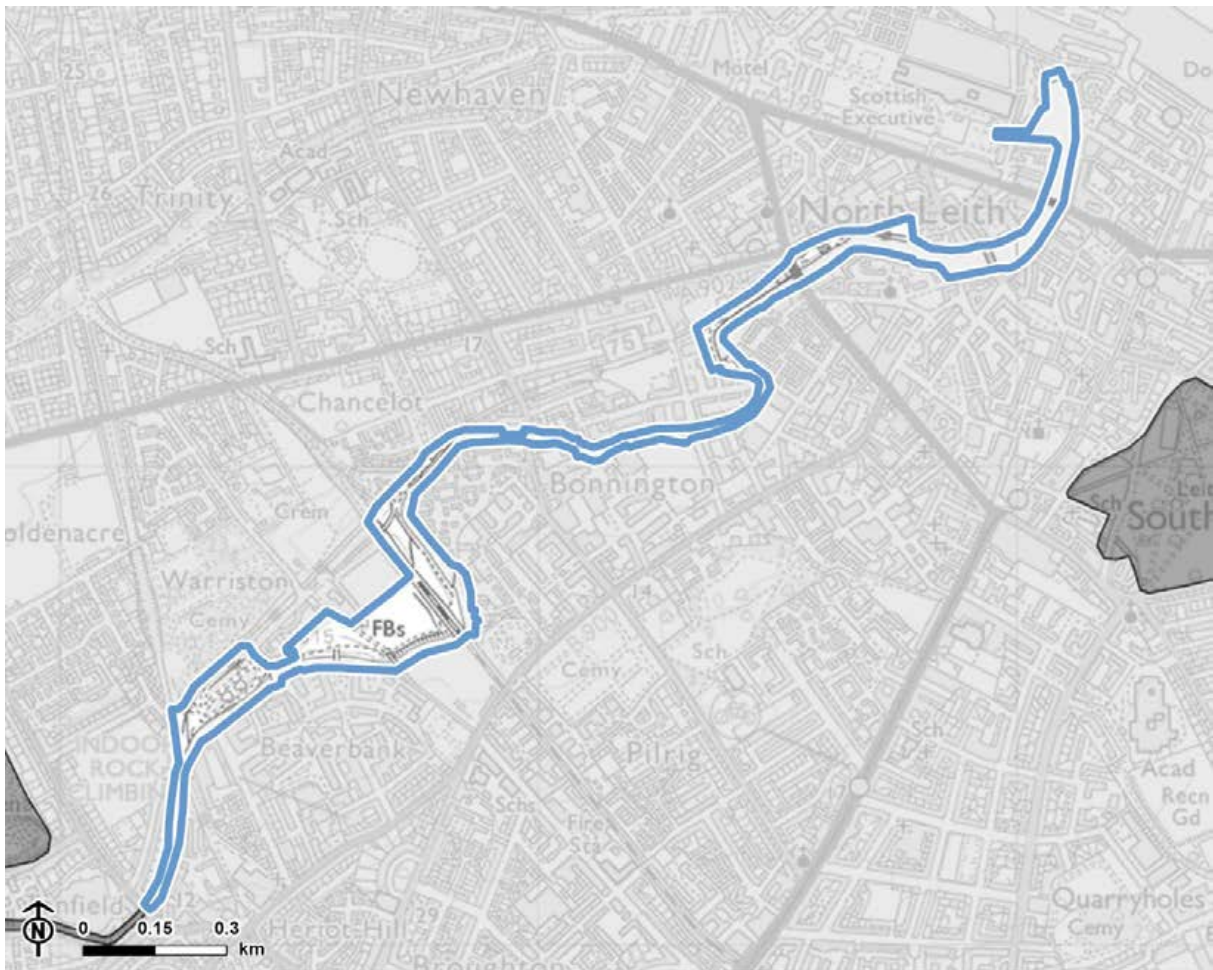
Location

3.141 This section of the Water of Leith comprises the lower stretch of the Water of Leith as it passes from Canonmills to The Shore before entering the Port of Leith.

Figure 3.34: The Water of Leith as it flows alongside The Shore



Figure 3.35: Water of Leith - Canonmills to The Shore



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-  Incised River Valley: Water of Leith - Canonmills to the Shore
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

The key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Low-lying and narrow river valley which extends between Canonmills and Port of Leith, widening to include St. Marks Park between Beaverbank and Bonnington.
- Highly modified watercourse in places, with riverbanks varying from natural to hard engineered banks and flood walls, with some buildings located immediately adjacent to the river.
- Riparian woodland found adjacent to much of the river provides ecological connectivity, with the density and depth of vegetation varying in different locations.
- Soft edge of riparian vegetation on one side often contrasts with urban development, and lighting, adjacent to the river on the other side.
- The Water of Leith forms a key feature of the Leith Conservation Area, and contributes to the setting of many Listed buildings around The Shore dating back to the 17th Century, including the Listed Leith Signal Tower and Victoria Swing Bridge.
- The Water of Leith contributes to the strong history of Leith, a harbour since the Anglo-Saxon times and becoming a busy cargo destination as well as welcoming notable people including Mary Queen of Scots and King George IV.
- Strong maritime influence at Leith is reflected through the presence of historic warehouses and wharf buildings along the waterfront, and several monuments and sculptures.
- Views focused along the valley, framed by trees and large traditional and more contemporary buildings along the riverbanks, especially along its northern reaches between Bonnington and Leith. Bridged crossings in the built up areas offer framed views along its course.
- Wooded stretches of the river provide a localised sense of enclosure and being in a natural environment, away from the built up area of Edinburgh, with darkness at night, and opportunities for seeing wildlife.
- The semi-natural character along some sections of the Water of Leith contrast with the industrial and more maritime influences at Leith, where the river flows into the Port of Leith.

- The Water of Leith Walkway which runs along most of the northern bank of the river, is a well-used path providing recreational access along the river and connections into the wider North Edinburgh Path network.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.142 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Water of Leith – Canonmills to The Shore LCA include:

- The river valley provides a semi-natural green corridor which flows through the urban area of Edinburgh, providing a localised sense of place, seclusion, darkness at night, and tranquillity.
- Wooded riverbanks provide a sense of containment, adding texture and diversity to the views along the river corridor.
- Riparian vegetation, trees along cycle paths and the Water of Leith itself are important for their role in connecting and diversifying the ecological network.
- The mouth of the river, at The Shore and Port of Leith, contributes to the strong maritime history of area, which is locally distinctive and contrasts with the river's natural channel further upstream.
- Natural sections of the river contrast with the hard engineered and traditional urban edge, creating a juxtaposition which contributes to the unique character of this stretch of the river.
- The Water of Leith is an important focal feature in the setting of heritage assets around Stockbridge, Canonmills, and Leith.
- Walkways along much of the length of this section of the Water of Leith contribute to the high recreational value of this river corridor.
- High quality green spaces and public realm at St Mark's Park, Coalie Park and The Shore enhance the Water of Leith's setting and provide important places for people to connect with their environment.

The changing landscape

3.143 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Water of Leith – Canonmills to The Shore LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Incised River Valley LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.144 This section of the Water of Leith and its adjacent open spaces are generally in good condition; however, ongoing maintenance is required to maintain recreational access, address erosion, and the consequences of antisocial behaviour.

3.145 Evidence of detritus within the Water of Leith, and brought down by flood events, can detract from the character of the area. Impounded waters by the Port of Leith are prone to silt and debris build up.

3.146 Engineered flood prevention schemes and bank reinforcement have altered the natural character in places, with softer green engineering solutions being more sympathetic.

Forces for change

3.147 Changes to weather as a result of climate change, such as increased seasonal rainfall or drought, will result in greater fluctuation in water levels and may result in more frequent landslips. More frequent flooding will affect the valley and access to the Water of Leith Walkway. The design of any additional flood defences will have an important bearing on the local character of the urban area and riverbank.

3.148 Increased recreational pressure along the Water of Leith may result in more significant upgrades required along this stretch, including reinforcement of paths, lighting or addition of new recreational space.

3.149 Development proposals close to the river corridor may alter its sense of seclusion where these are visually prominent or impact on remaining areas of semi-natural landcover found on its banks.

Lowland Farmland Landscape Character Type

Landscape Character Areas

3.150 The Lowland Farmland Landscape Character Type (LCT) features the following Landscape Character Areas (LCAs):

- Almond Farmland (17)
- Cammo Fringes (18)
- Dalmeny Fringes (19)
- Newbridge/Broxburn Farmland (20)
- Newton Farmland (21)

Figure 3.36: View from the Cammo Fringes LCA across the Almond Farmland LCA, with an influence from Edinburgh Airport and the more distant woodland of Craigie Hill and Dundas Policies



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCT are:

- Low-lying flat to gently undulating landform.
- Mixture of arable and pastoral farmland with medium to large fields with some hedgerows and field boundary trees and areas of policy woodland.
- Frequently crossed by transport corridors including railways and main roads.
- River Almond is the most significant watercourse.
- Dispersed settlement and villages.
- Open and simple landscape resulting from a combination of gently sloping topography and medium to large scale fields laid out in a regular pattern.
- Distant outward views are focused towards the Pentland Hills to the south, Corstorphine Hill and the city to the east, and Firth of Forth and Forth Bridges to the north.
- The Core Paths Network, including the Union Canal and its towpath, provide a recreational resource to the west of Edinburgh.

Forces for change

3.151 The following section sets out key changes and pressures relating to the Lowland Farmland LCT:

- Expansion of the City and of its surrounding settlements into areas of open farmland may decrease the rural character of the landscape.
- Urban growth may impede long-distance views towards adjacent landscape, including the Pentland Hills, Firth of Forth and Forth Bridges, and Corstorphine Hill within Edinburgh, by introducing buildings into open views.
- Further expansion of transport infrastructure, including to accommodate and connect new residential development, may result in the removal of farmland and field boundary vegetation which contributes to the rural character.
- Changes to agricultural land, including installation of renewable energy developments or habitat creation, could change the scale and landscape pattern of the fields and reduce the openness of the landscape.

- Higher temperatures and a changing climate could result in the potential to grow different crop types which could alter the visual quality and character of the landscape. Longer and more intense periods of drought could also result in withdrawal of arable land from cropping and reversion to grassland.

Landscape management guidelines

3.152 The following section sets out recommended landscape management guidelines for the Lowland Farmland LCT:

- Enhance hedgerows and wooded field boundaries, using native species where possible to connect habitats, create shelter and screen roads.
- Create native wildflower meadows and buffer strips along field margins to benefit pollinators and add contrast to the landscape pattern.
- Protect and expand remnant policy woodland and riparian woodland and restock with appropriate species mixes that reflect the character of the area. Expansion of riparian woodland will benefit wildlife, water quality and bankside stability. Control invasive species to enhance the landscape.
- Retain long-distance views as part of any landscape change to the city's urban hills, surrounding hills (including the Pentlands), the Firth of Forth and its bridges.
- Respect the open, rural character of the lowlands, maintaining views to key landmarks and avoiding visually intrusive development.

LCA 17: Almond Farmland

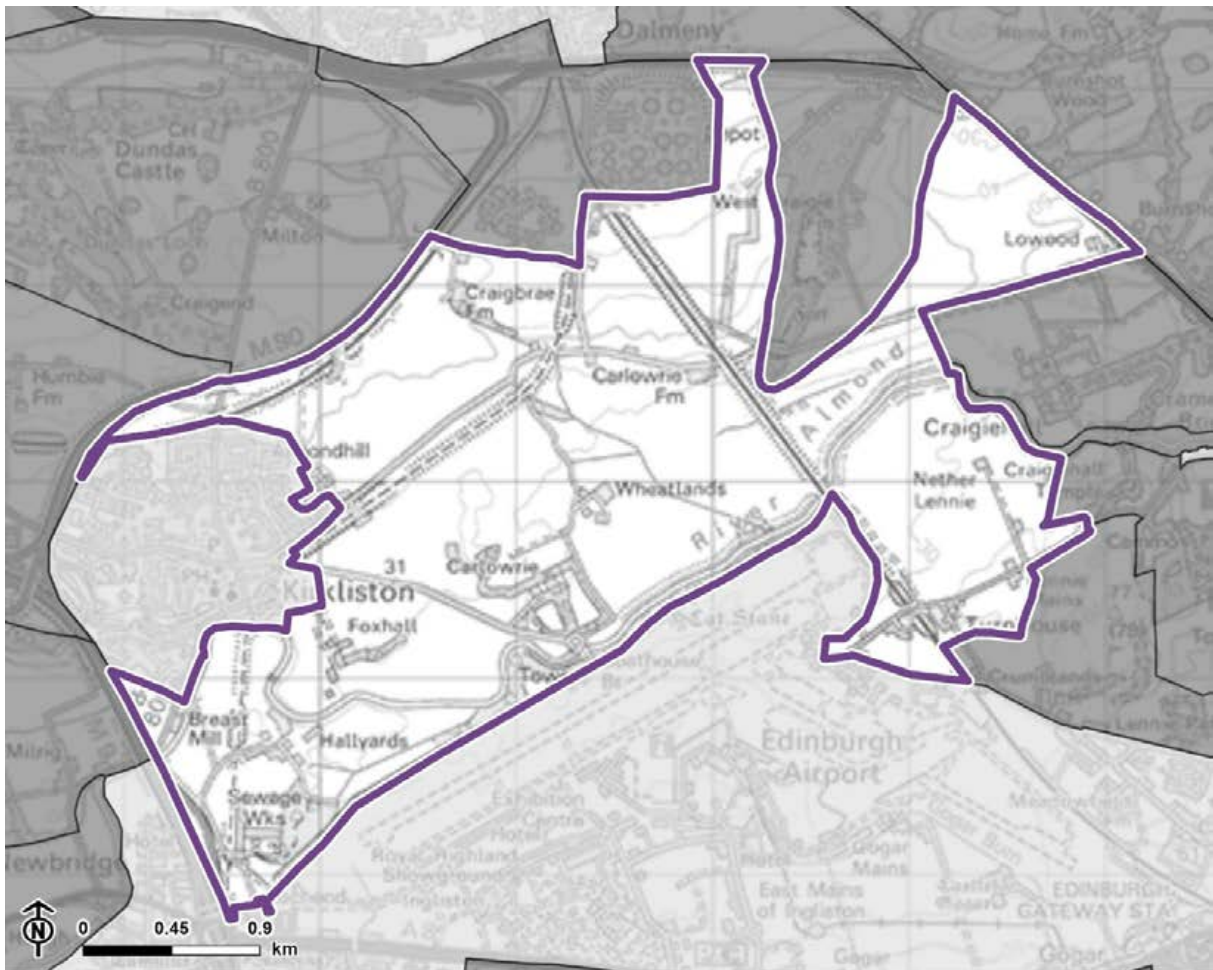
Location

3.153 Located in the north-west of Edinburgh, this landscape forms an extensive area between the gently sloping farmland around Craigie Hill to the north, Cammo and Craigiehall Policies to the east, Dundas Policies and Kirkliston to the west, and the flatter landscape surrounding the River Almond and Edinburgh Airport to the south.

Figure 3.37: Frequent views towards the distant Pentland Hills seen beyond the airport, with the wooded Craigie Hill also visible across farmland

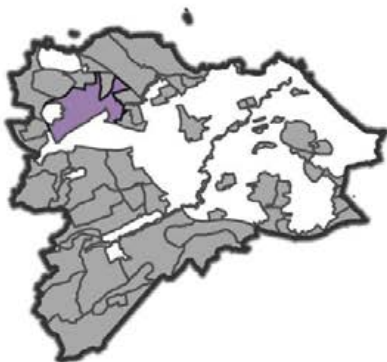


Figure 3.38: Almond Farmland LCA



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-  Lowland Farmland: Almond Farmland
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Subtle dips and knolls are sometimes emphasised by woodland, particularly around the Carlowrie Estate.
- Gently sloping outer fringes define a large river basin for the Almond.
- The River Almond meanders across the flat valley floor, and is different in character here from its incised and distinct upper and lower reaches.
- Predominantly arable fields with hedgerows, wire fencing and stone walls in places. Field boundaries are occasionally demarcated by mature deciduous field trees.
- Small areas of policy woodland, particularly in the north-west, and linear woodland along the River Almond and disused railway.
- The constant movement of planes to and from Edinburgh Airport has visual and noise impacts.
- Major transport corridors including the M90, M9 and A9000 pass along the edges of the area, with railway routes also crossing the landscape.
- Bridges and trees lining the disused railway between Kirkliston to South Queensferry are visually prominent.
- Sparsely settled with scattered stone farmhouses and steadings. Some infrastructure including a sewage works in the south.
- The west of the area forms part of the rural setting for the settlement of Kirkliston.
- The flat to gently undulating landform and filtering of views by woodland means that there is relatively low intervisibility with the wider landscape.
- Views to the distant Pentland Hills, are available from across much of the area. There are local views to prominent outcrops such as Craigie Hill.
- Numerous paths provide recreational opportunities, including the disused railway line footway and cycle path which extends from South Queensferry to Newbridge.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.154 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Almond Farmland LCA include:

- The River Almond forms a prominent feature which meanders through the farmland, contrasting with the linear field pattern and providing areas of naturalness amongst the managed landscape, particularly where there are areas of associated woodland.
- The policy woodland provides some natural heritage value and provides visual links to nearby wooded areas, including the River Almond, Craigie Hill and Dundas Policies, contributing to a wider landscape framework.
- The landscape is well managed and in reasonable condition, including the quality of agricultural fields and field boundary vegetation, which contributes to its rural character and strong landscape pattern.

The changing landscape

3.155 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and pressures relating to the Almond Farmland LCA, which are additional to the more generic key changes and pressures identified for the Lowland Farmland LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.156 The farmland is well managed and the landscape features are largely intact.

Forces for change

3.157 Decline of policy woodlands, resulting from effects of climate change or changes to land use (including intensification of agriculture), could affect the visual character and network of wooded areas in the landscape.

3.158 Pressure to expand the settlement of Kirkliston, Edinburgh Airport or changes to its operation could potentially impact the rural character in the south of the LCA.

LCA 18: Cammo Fringes

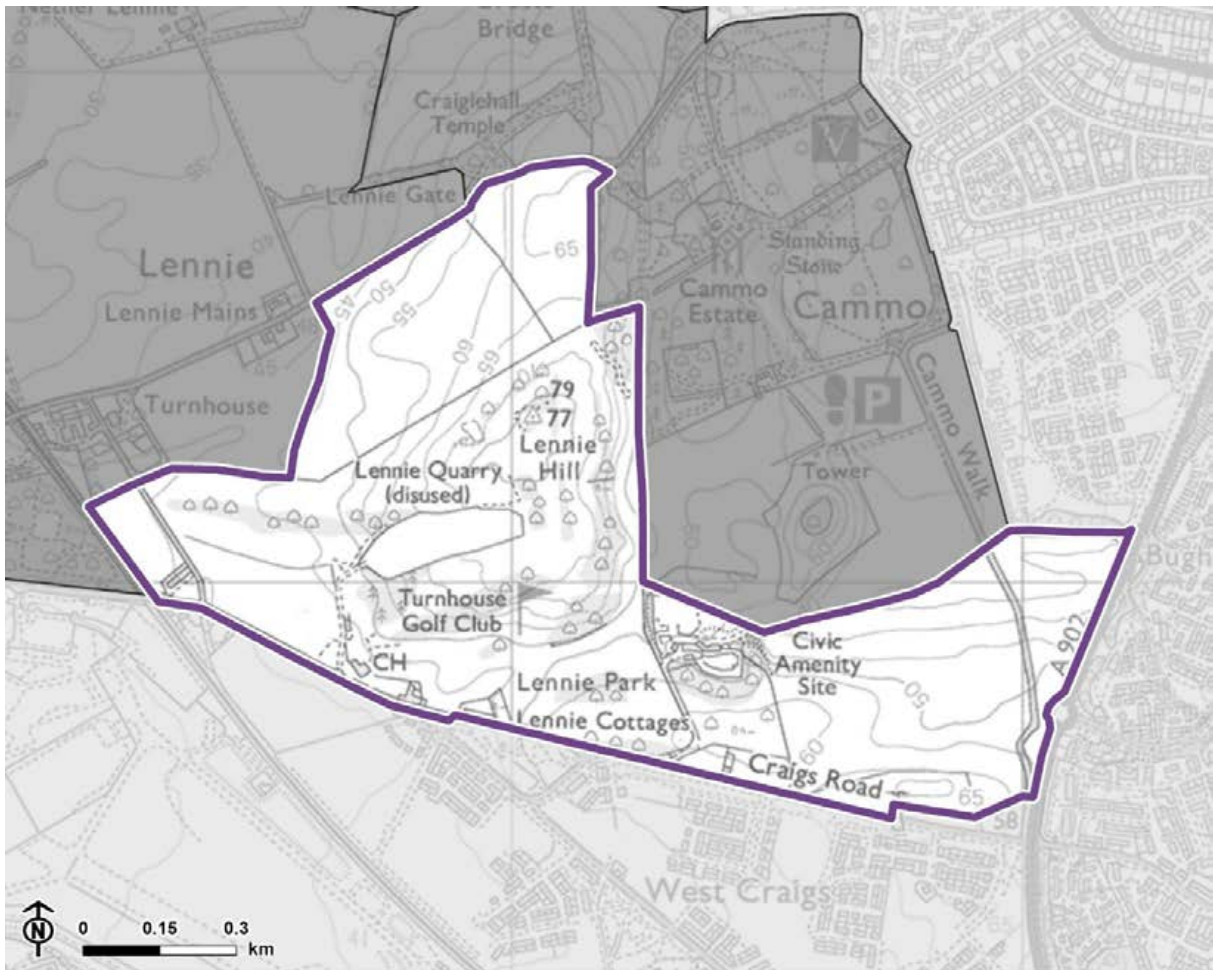
Location

3.159 This landscape is located in the north-west of Edinburgh, on the south and west facing slopes of Lennie Hill (77m AOD) which forms part of a distinct area of low, knoll like hills between the airport and Barnton.

Figure 3.39: View across Turnhouse Golf Club towards Cammo Tower, backclothes by development along Maybury Road, and the wooded Corstorphine Hill beyond

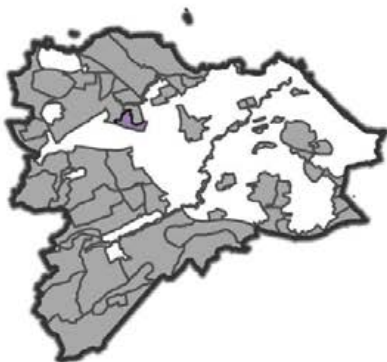


Figure 3.40: Cammo Fringes LCA



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- Lowland Farmland: Cammo Fringes
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Undulating landform rises to a high point at Lennie Hill (77m AOD) north of the local ridge at Craigs Road. In the east, the land falls to a low point by the Bughtlin Burn, a tributary of the River Almond.
- Strongly influenced by the golf course in the west of the LCA, which includes managed fairways and greens, tree groups and areas of scrub and gorse. The eastern parts of the landscape contain more open fields.
- The golf course retains the outline and some features of the original 19th century field pattern, whereas to the east fields are open and amalgamated, with sparse boundary planting and remnant stone walls.
- Buildings, including facilities associated with the golf course and scattered cottages are focused to the south, along Craigs Road.
- A composting facility in the former Braehead Quarry influences the land cover pattern, although partial screening by trees minimises the wider visibility of this land use.
- Lennie Hill and the golf course provide a backdrop setting for the Cammo Policies to the east. They are divided by a stone wall, and trees within the north-east of the golf course connect to the woodland within Cammo Estate.
- The dense urban edge, mainly comprising residential development, is prominent in views south and east from the landscape, and the passing of aeroplanes overhead occasionally results in visual and noise impacts.
- Cammo Tower, sited next to the tree topped knoll of Mauseley Hill, (located in the Cammo Policies LCA) forms a prominent feature in close to middle distance views from the golf course and fields in the east of the LCA.
- The gently rising open fields in the east of the LCA provide views south to the Pentland Hills from Mauseley Hill.
- From the highest point at Lennie Hill, there are panoramic views to the adjacent landscape and green spaces, looking west and north to Fife, east towards Edinburgh (with the wooded ridge of Corstorphine Hill appearing prominent) and south towards the Pentland Hills.
- The golf course provides for recreational use of the landscape to the west, whilst in the east Cammo Walk provides a well used recreational and active travel link passing from the urban edge.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.160 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Cammo Fringes LCA include:

- Surviving 19th century field patterns present in the structure and some features of the golf course, which contribute to historic value.
- The area provides an important setting to the Cammo GDL and Local Landscape Area, with high levels of intervisibility which contribute to the scenic value of the wider landscape.
- Areas of scrub and mixed trees provide some biodiversity value, contrasting textures and colours within the landscape pattern, and help to screen and filter views of contemporary development.
- Distant views towards Corstorphine Hill in Edinburgh, the wooded Cammo Estate, and the Pentland Hills contribute to the scenic value of the LCA.
- Although close to the urban edge, the landscape provides for countryside access to areas with rural qualities at the golf course or via Cammo Walk.

The changing landscape

3.161 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Cammo Fringes LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Lowland Farmland LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.162 This area is partially managed as a golf course, which involves intensive management to maintain a relatively consistent landcover. Agricultural areas in the east currently lie fallow.

3.163 Recent tree planting is present in multiple areas, in keeping with the structure of existing tree pattern, i.e. within linear strips.

3.164 The boundary walls appear well maintained overall.

Forces for change

3.165 Further maturing of the woodland planting on the golf course and within the urban area to the south and east at Lennie Park and adjacent Craigs Road and the Bughtlin Burn, will continue to change the character of the area.

3.166 A new junction between Craigs Road and Maybury Road, along the south-eastern edge of the LCA, is under construction which will include new tree planting and reinstatement of field boundary walls.

3.167 The further expansion of West Edinburgh to the south of the railway and east of the airport will introduce new settlement in the backdrop of outward views from Lennie Hill.

3.168 An increase in the frequency or severity of periods of drought, as a result of climate change, could influence the character of the golf course or the agricultural practices in surrounding farmland.

LCA 19: Dalmeny Fringes

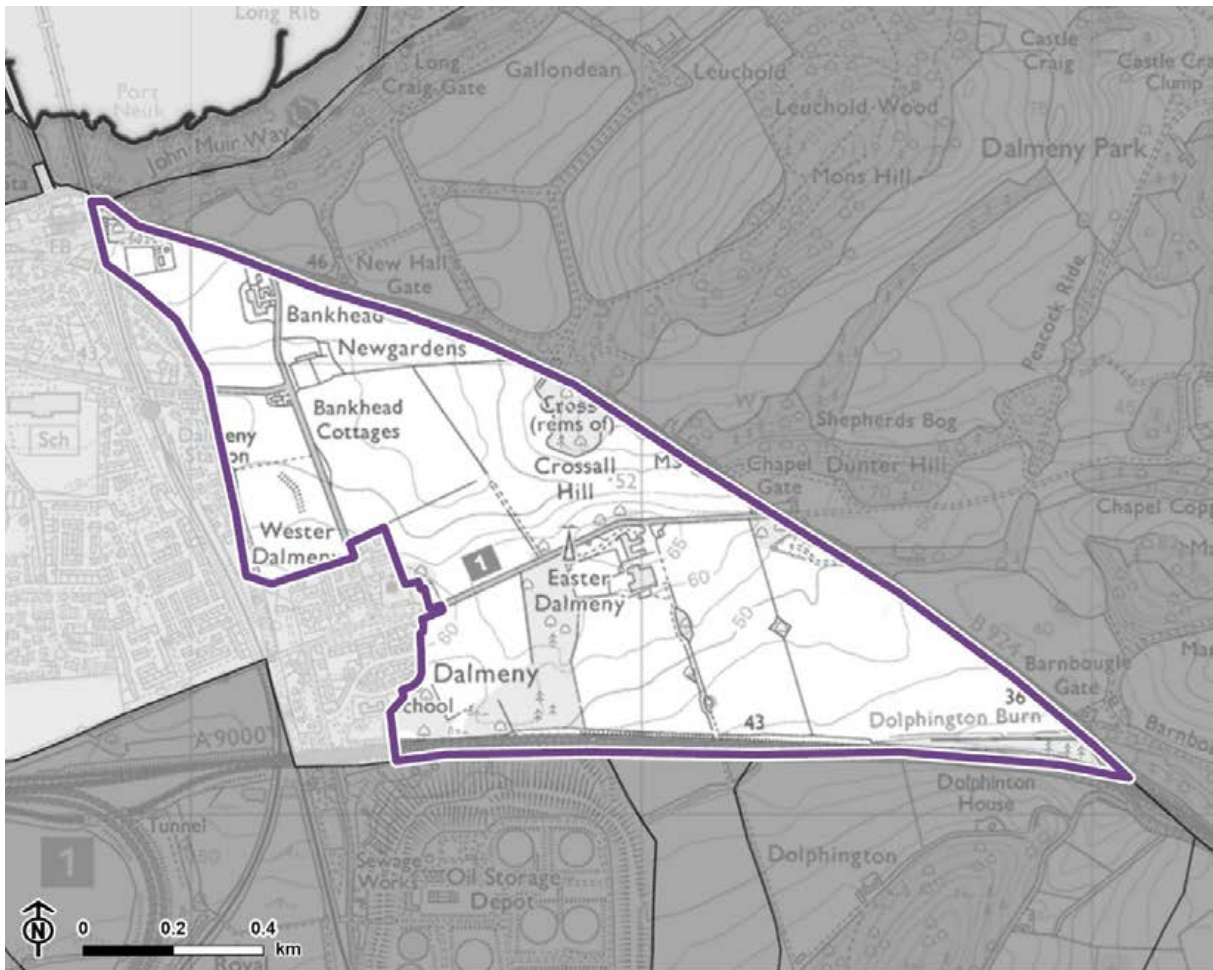
Location

3.169 This landscape is located in the north-west of Edinburgh, between the designed landscape of Dalmeny Estate and the eastern edge of South Queensferry and village of Dalmeny. The area of gently undulating to rolling farmland is contained by hills and policy woodlands to the east, a subtle ridge which screens the A90 to the south and the embankment of a former railway line to the west.

Figure 3.41: View north-west towards the Forth Bridges and north towards the policy woodlands of Dalmeny Estate

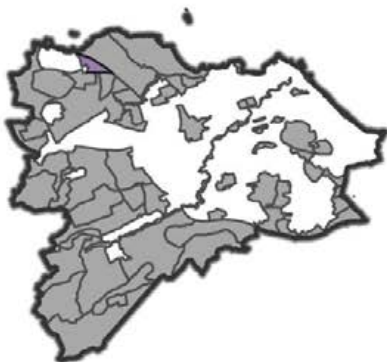


Figure 3.42: Dalmeny Fringes LCA



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



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Undulating fields gently descend to the north and south, rising to the wooded local high point of Crossall Hill.
- Well-managed farmland with trimmed hedgerows and mature field trees which coalesce in views to give the impression of a well-wooded landscape.
- Residential development at South Queensferry meets the area to the west, where woodland along the former railway softens settlement edge, enclosing the landscape and providing a degree of screening.
- Woodland extending on the distinct spur of Crossall Hill and the strong framework of field and roadside trees contribute to the sense of transition in the landscape, between the designed landscape to the east and settled areas to the west.
- Woodland in the south-west forms part of the setting to the historic Dalmeny village which is sited on a slight rise, with glimpsed views towards the medieval stone church and cottages available from the surrounding landscape. Elsewhere settlement is limited to dispersed farmsteads and cottages.
- Open views north are available from parts of the landscape and focus on the dramatic structure of the Forth Bridge and Queensferry Crossing on the approach to South Queensferry.
- Views south are more enclosed, partially due to the wooded area to the east of Dalmeny, and the rise of the wooded bund which screens the Oil Storage Depot to the south of the area.
- National Cycle Network Route 1 provides recreational opportunities within the landscape.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.170 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Dalmeny Fringes LCA include:

- The well-managed farmland with its strong enclosure pattern of hedgerows and field trees, policy woodland and relationship with the historic Dalmeny village contribute to scenic quality.

- There are local views to the Forth Bridge from Dalmeny village and protected views to this World Heritage Site are located to the north and east on Bankhead Road and Main Street.
- The village is directly associated with the Dalmeny Estate to the north-east, and woodland on Crossall Hill within the landscape helps to visually link these areas.
- The National Cycle Network Route 1 provides an important route between the settled areas to the west and the surrounding landscape.

The changing landscape

3.171 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Dalmeny Fringes LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Lowland Farmland LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.172 The farmland and tree belts are well managed, with dense roadside planting of well managed hedgerows.

Forces for change

3.173 Pressure for settlement expansion around the existing settlements of Dalmeny and South Queensferry may reduce the important transitional qualities of this landscape or its sense of wooded enclosure.

3.174 Changes to the quality of woodland and the framework of field and roadside trees and hedgerows, as a result of climate change, may affect the continuity of woodland, which gives the impression of a well-wooded landscape.

LCA 20: Newbridge/Broxburn Farmland

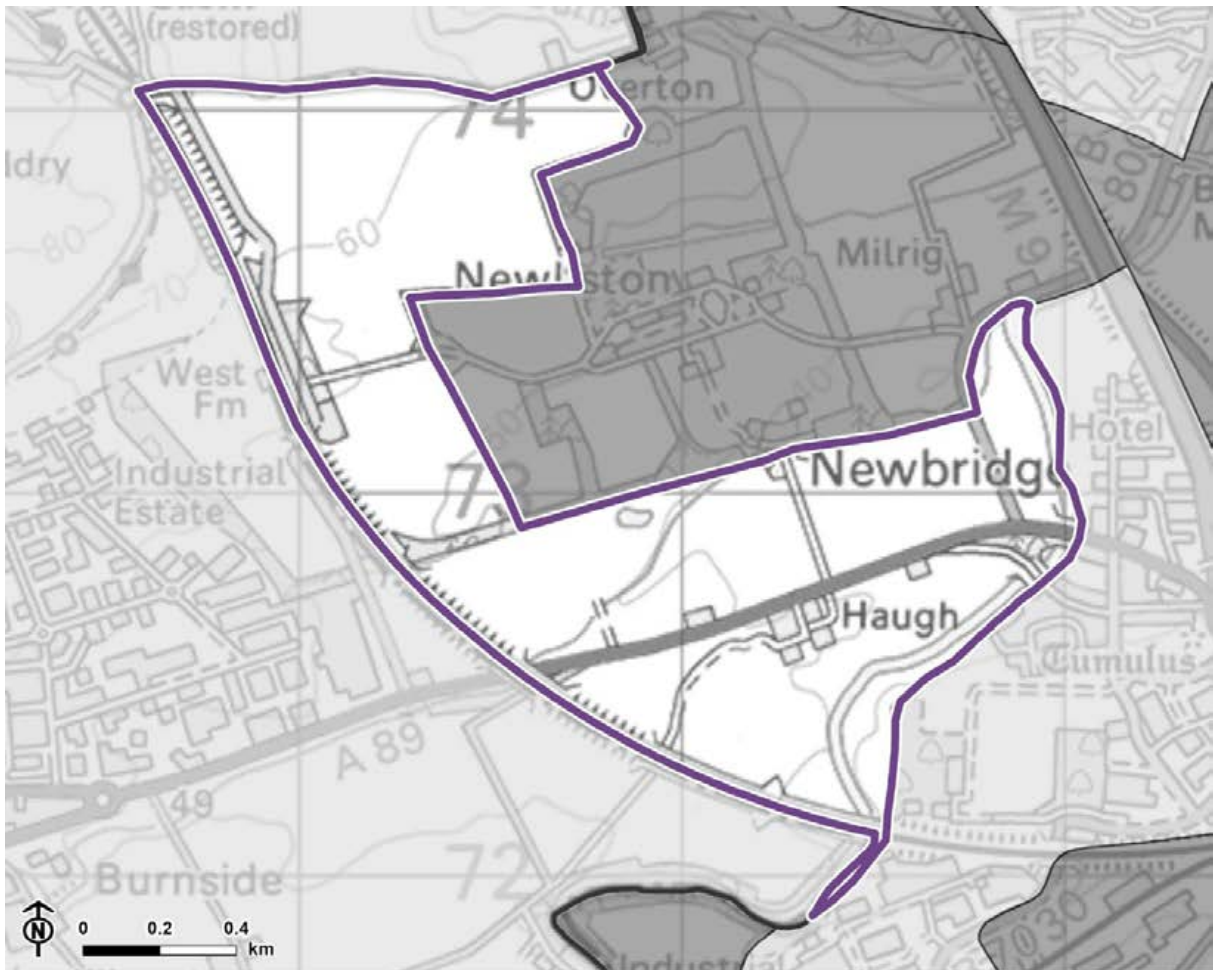
Location

3.175 This landscape is located in the west of Edinburgh along the western boundary of the council area, occupying the area between the settlements of Newbridge and Broxburn, and the Newliston Policies.




Figure 3.43: View across fields towards the Pentland Hills, seen beyond the policy woodland of Newliston Estate



Figure 3.44: Newbridge/Broxburn Farmland LCA



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-  Lowland Farmland: Newbridge/
Broxburn Farmland
-  City of Edinburgh boundary
-  Neighbouring Landscape
Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- A gently undulating area of farmland descending to the Brox Burn and River Almond in the south.
- Medium to large well-managed arable fields are enclosed by gappy thorn hedgerows.
- Some field boundaries include stone walls in varying condition.
- The landscape has a generally open character, however native woodland along the watercourses partially encloses views, and there is a greater amount of field boundary and roadside vegetation along the western LCA edge, partially associated with the railway line.
- The 19th century stone-built Almond Valley viaduct carrying the railway line defines the edge of the area to the south-west. The elegant tall stone arches form a focal feature in views along with native woodland adjacent to the railway line.
- Small farmsteads and cottages are located near the edges of the LCA, along main roads.
- The A89 creates a prominent linear feature in the south.
- Industrial development to the south of the area is largely screened by trees and hedgerows located along the River Almond.
- Woodland from the adjacent Newliston Policies forms a distinctive backdrop to this area viewed against foreground fields.
- From the more elevated north of the landscape and open areas in the south, the Pentland Hills are visible on the distant horizon to the south.
- Distant views are also available from the more open areas in the south of the landscape including towards Arthur's Seat, Edinburgh Castle, and Corstorphine Hill.
- Oil-shale bings, a feature of the post-industrial landscape in West Lothian, are prominent in views from the north of the landscape.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.176 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Newbridge/Broxburn Farmland LCA include:

- The Listed Almond Valley viaduct provides a distinctive focal feature, contributing the scenic and historic interest.
- Field boundary trees, roadside vegetation and the policy woodlands of Newliston Estate provide screening to some built elements adjacent to the area, including large scale industrial development at East Mains Industrial Estate.
- There are open, distant views, primarily towards the Pentland Hills across a rural landscape, which contribute to visual amenity. The lack of built development in these views provides a rural character which extends visually beyond the area.

The changing landscape

3.177 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Newbridge/Broxburn Farmland LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Lowland Farmland LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.178 Farmland appears well managed.

3.179 Stone walls along field boundaries are clearly aged, but generally in good condition. There is little in the way of field boundary vegetation, particularly in the north.

Forces for change

3.180 Possible upgrading of transport routes, primary the A89, may bring increased noise disturbance and greater traffic through the landscape.

3.181 Settlement and industrial expansion at Newbridge and Broxburn would introduce new levels of visual and noise disturbance, detracting from the rural character of the landscape and the current lack of intervisibility with settlements.

3.182 Climate change impacts could reduce the native woodland and field boundary hedgerows, which would alter the character by decreasing the screening towards

adjacent industrial areas. The ongoing management of the adjacent Newliston Policies could also affect the sense of enclosure experienced in the LCA.

LCA 21: Newton Farmland

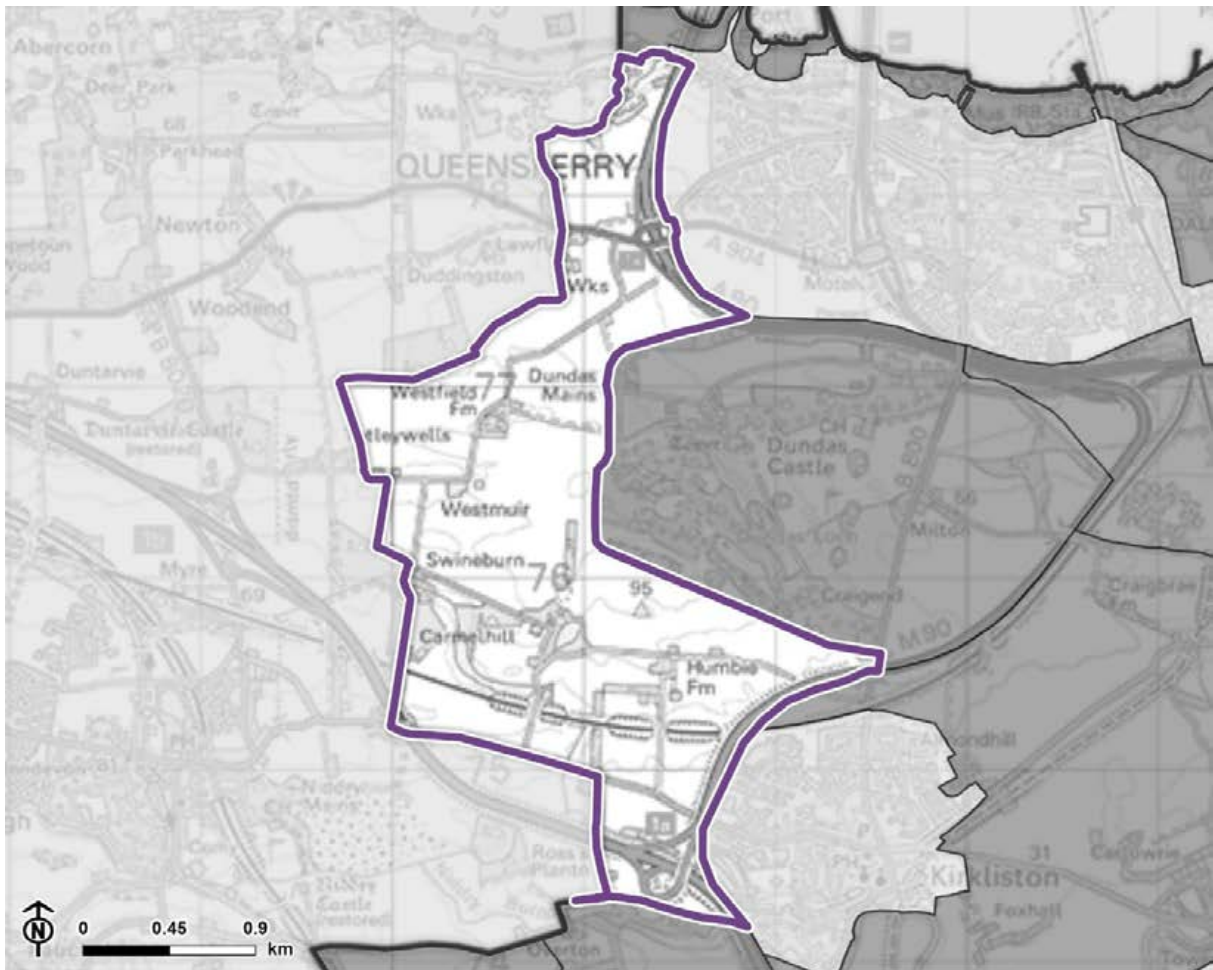
Location

3.183 This landscape is located to the north-west of Edinburgh, occupying an area of gently undulating farmland between the M90/A90 and settlement of South Queensferry to the north, Dundas Estate to the east and the M90 to the south-east.

Figure 3.45: Overlooking undulating fields towards woodland which has a distinct policy character, connecting to the policy woodlands of Dundas Estate

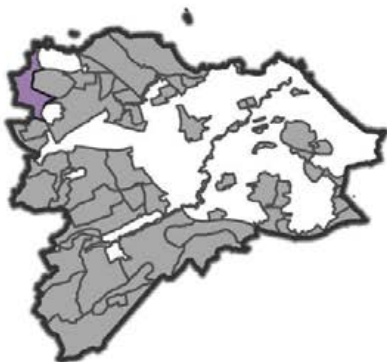


Figure 3.46: Newton Farmland LCA



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



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Landform gently rises from the steeper coastal edge of the Firth of Forth, slackening to the south to form a broad, gently undulating and slightly elevated area of farmland.
- Fields are broken by blocky mixed woodlands, particularly in the south, some of these located around water features including a small loch and Swine Burn.
- Some areas of woodland have a distinctive policy character or are viewed in the context of the backdrop of policy woodlands at Dundas Estate.
- Fields are enclosed by largely intact hedgerows, which in combination with areas of woodland in the south-west and the adjacent Dundas Policies, create a richly vegetated layered landscape.
- Narrow, angular minor roads contribute to the sense of a rural landscape with minimal urban influences although there is evidence of past small-scale quarrying and mining.
- Main roads and motorways in cuttings on the edges of the area are not visually prominent from the landscape but create noise pollution.
- The pink oil-shale bings east of Winchburgh in West Lothian can be glimpsed from the south.
- The low wooded rise of Dundas Hill, around which the Dundas Policies are centred, contains views to the east.
- To the south-east, the Pentland Hills can be glimpsed above the undulating landform and woodland belts.
- Views to the Firth of Forth are a feature in the north of this area and focus on the Forth Bridge and Queensferry Crossing, with Fife seen beyond.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.184 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Newton Farmland LCA include:

- Woodland, water features, and the relationship to the coast in the north of the area contribute to the scenic qualities of the landscape.

- Woodland provides scenic contrast with fields in the landscape pattern, forms part of a wider wooded area in combination with the policy woodlands of the Dundas Policies, and contributes to screening and filtering of the large roads and infrastructure located near the area.
- Views towards the Forth Bridge and Queensferry Crossing, in addition to distant, open views of the Pentland Hills, provide scenic interest.

The changing landscape

3.185 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Newton Farmland LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Lowland Farmland LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.186 The landscape has integrity resulting from its well-managed farmland and wooded character and general lack of fragmentation by built development.

3.187 There are areas of semi-derelict land associated with historic, small scale mining and quarrying activity in the south-west.

Forces for change

3.188 Changes in land use, such as subdivision of fields for grazing or paddocks, has altered the pattern of field boundaries by introducing post and wire fencing. Intensification of these land uses would result in further alteration to the field pattern.

3.189 Expansion of or increased use of major roads along the peripheries of the LCA, including M90 and A90, may impact on the rural character of the landscape.

3.190 Expansion of South Queensferry may impact the rural character of the landscape in the north of the area by increasing the presence of urban development.

Pentland Flanks Landscape Character Type

Landscape Character Areas

3.191 The Pentland Flanks Landscape Character Type (LCT) features the following Landscape Character Areas (LCAs):

- Cockburn Farmland and Shelterbelts (22)
- Currie Farmland Slopes (23)
- North Pentland Slopes (24)
- Redford Basin (25)
- Water of Leith Farmland Slopes (26)
- West Pentland Fringe (27)

Figure 3.47: Views across farmland on the lower flanks of the Pentland Hills



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCT are:

- Sloping hillsides rising up towards a ridgeline of hills, with some knolly outcrops.
- Upland vegetation with moorland pasture and some areas of gorse and scrub.
- Areas of forestry and woodland.
- Sparsely populated with scattered farmsteads.
- Deeply incised burns and some wetland areas with associated marshy vegetation and reservoirs.
- Not highly prominent due to 'stepping' up of landform which isolates this landscape character type from the more settled lowland areas, however provides the setting for the hills and ridges.

Forces for change

3.192 The following section sets out key changes and pressures relating to the Pentland Flanks LCT:

- Changes in agricultural land use and farming activities, including management of the woodlands and shelterbelts, will influence the landscape character.
- The risk of wildfires is likely to increase with climate change as summers become hotter and drier. Fire damage to vegetation, particularly shelterbelts, riparian woodland and policy woodland, would alter the landscape pattern, which contrasts with the more open moorland ridges and hills beyond the LCT.
- Climate change may cause long term changes in temperatures and rainfall, more extreme weather events such as storms and droughts, and increased prevalence of pests and diseases. These factors may lead to the loss of woodland and hedgerow habitats, adversely affecting landscape character.
- An increase in recreational pressure could lead to increased traffic on local minor roads, erosion of paths, or introduction of more infrastructure and facilities such as car parking which may alter the rural qualities of the landscape.

Landscape management guidelines

3.193 The following section sets out recommended landscape management guidelines for the Pentland Flanks LCT:

- Enhance hedgerows, wooded field boundaries and shelterbelts, with a focus on reinforcing their geometric pattern and using native species to connect habitats, create shelter and screen roads.
- Create native wildflower meadows and buffer strips along field margins to benefit pollinators and add contrast to the landscape pattern.
- Improve woodland diversity by increasing the mixture of native tree species and age, retain deadwood where safe to do so, manage the effects of pests and disease, and control invasive species.
- Improve informal access and recreation with paths and cycle routes connected to the Pentland Hills and surrounding areas, reducing parking pressures.

LCA 22: Cockburn Farmland and Shelterbelts

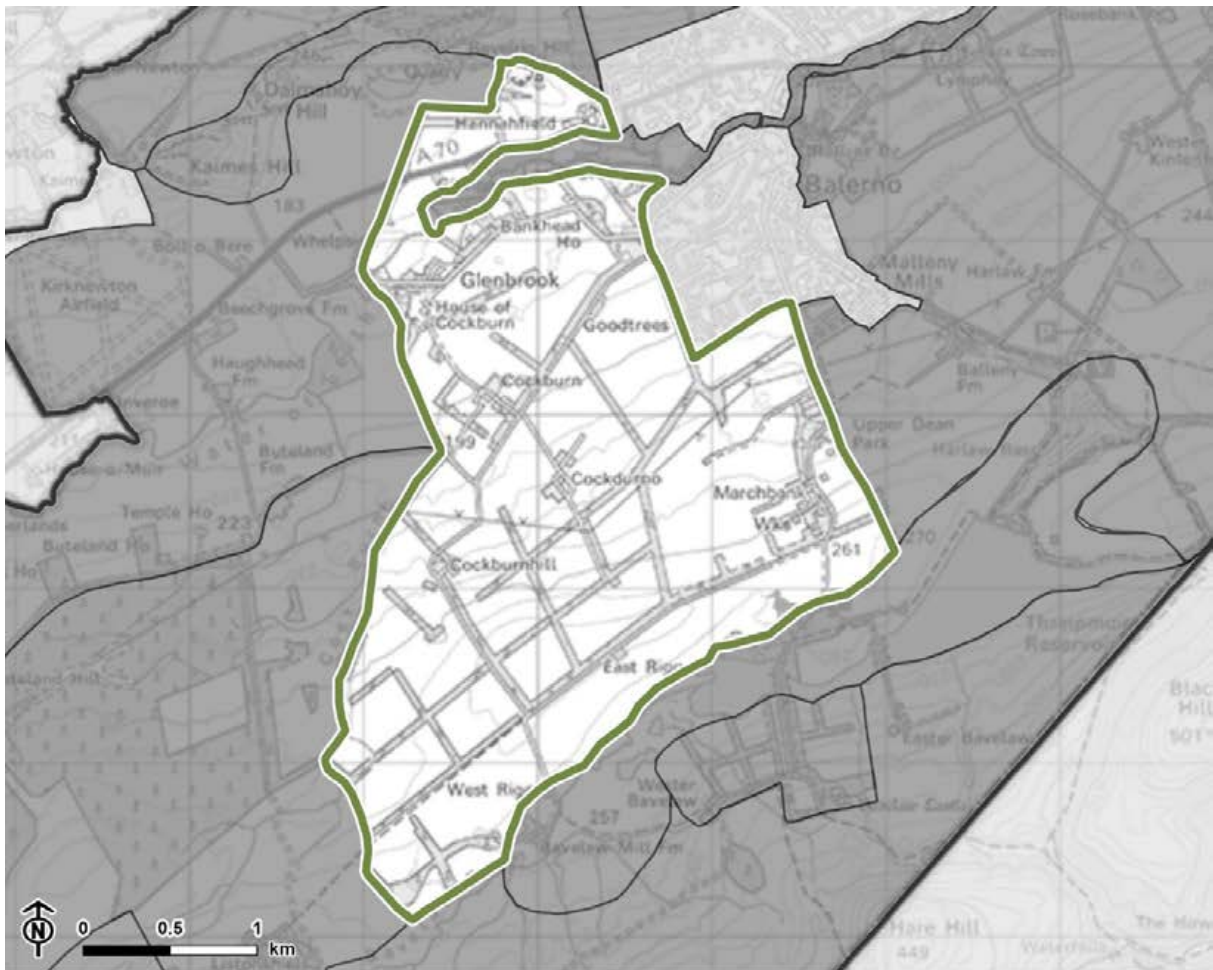
Location

3.194 The Cockburn Farmland and Shelterbelts LCA extends from the settlement edge of Balerno to Threipmuir Reservoir in the south. The western boundary of the LCA broadly follows the Cock Burn and skirts around the eastern edge of Ravelrig Quarry.

Figure 3.48: Views towards the Pentland Hills, with the distinctive geometric pattern of avenues and tree belts visible in the middle distance

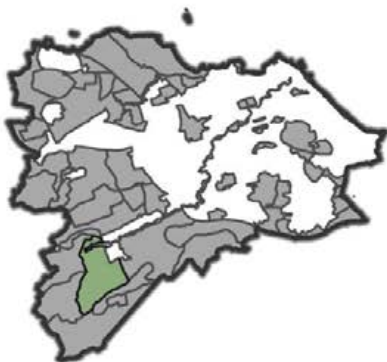


Figure 3.49: Cockburn Farmland and Shelterbelts LCA



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- Pentland Flanks: Cockburn Farmland and Shelterbelts
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

The key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Landform gently rises in elevation from a low point around Balerno and the Water of Leith, to a low ridge which reaches a high point of 279m AOD.
- The north-west facing slope of this landscape forms the lower slopes and transition into the more prominent Pentland Hills in the south-east.
- Strong agricultural character, with medium scale rectilinear fields bounded by mature shelterbelts, threaded with well used paths, which form a distinctive geometric pattern. The farmland is used for a mixture of arable and pasture, with occasional farmsteads scattered through the landscape.
- Geometric network of shelterbelts provides structure to the landscape and ecological connectivity across the area, connecting into the Water of Leith and fields which lie to the north.
- These shelterbelts are long-established and comprise mixed tree species although some are more dominated by conifers. The area has historic associations with the pattern of farmland and shelterbelts at Bavelaw to the south of Threipmuir Reservoir.
- Several burns and drains are present throughout the landscape, broadly following the boundaries of fields.
- The area around Glenbrook is more contained, with woodland following a more natural pattern compared to geometric shelterbelts elsewhere.
- Cluster of Listed 19th Century properties extending along the roads in Glenbrook have associations with the policy woodlands and contribute to the historic character of the area.
- The Pentland Hills form a prominent backdrop in more open views, rising above the lower-lying fields and shelterbelts, creating a distinctive elevated skyline.
- The strong presence of shelter belts can restrict views into and out of the landscape and provides a sense of enclosure, including when travelling along minor roads.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.195 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Cockburn Farmland and Shelterbelts LCA include:

- Rectilinear pattern of fields, bounded by mature shelterbelts creates a unique geometric pattern of trees, with associated recreational routes, contributing strongly to local character and sense of place.
- Widespread network of shelterbelts restricts views across the area in places, providing a sense of enclosure and creating a smaller-scale landscape in places.
- Strong rural character comprising fields, shelterbelts with associated paths, and scattered farmsteads, away from the built up settlement helps create a sense of seclusion.
- The prominent Pentland Hills form an elevated skyline in more open views from within the landscape, highlighting the role of this landscape in transitioning to the higher land.
- The value of the landscape is recognised in its inclusion in a Local Landscape Area which extends across the Pentland Hills and its north-western slopes.

The changing landscape

3.196 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Cockburn Farmland and Shelterbelts LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Pentland Flanks LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.197 Generally, the landscape is in good condition, with shelterbelts comprising well established trees and providing strong structure in the landscape. However, there is some evidence of lack of management of the shelterbelts, with some loss of trees creating gaps.

Forces for change

3.198 Increased recreational pressures, particularly given the proximity of the Pentland Hills, may require additional maintenance to paths within the woodlands and fields.

3.199 Climate change may cause long term changes in temperatures and rainfall, more extreme weather events such as storms and droughts, and increased prevalence of pests and diseases. These factors may lead to the loss of woodland in the shelterbelts, adversely affecting the landscape character and historic field pattern of the area, and the favourable conditions which the tree belts provide for livestock and pasture.

LCA 23: Currie Farmland Slopes

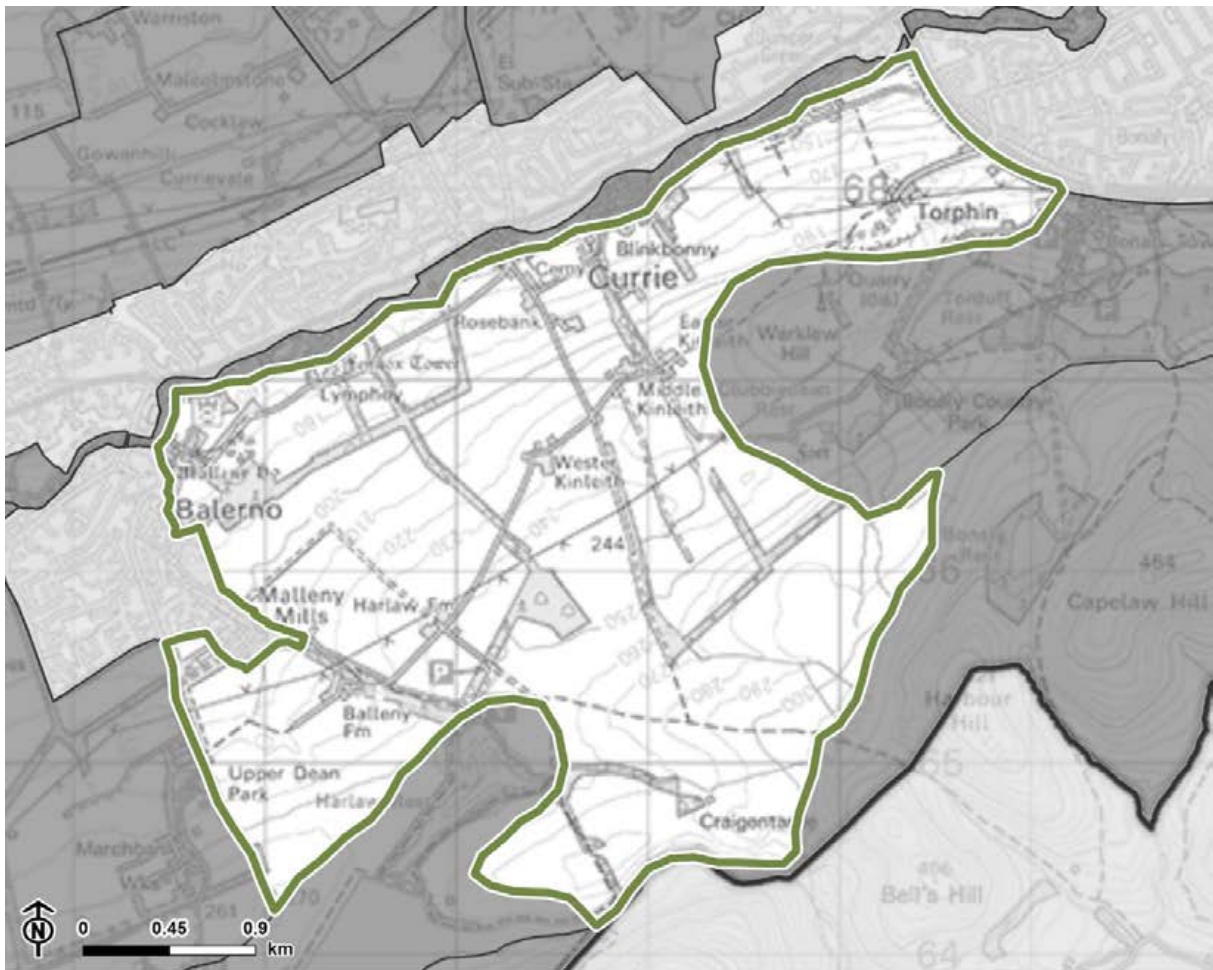
Location

3.200 The Currie Farmland Slopes LCA extends south-west from the City Bypass to Balerno to the south of the Water of Leith, and south-east towards the upper Pentland Hills.




Figure 3.50: View south-east across arable farmland and tree belts from minor road near Middle Kinleith, with northern summits of the Pentland Hills visible on the skyline



Figure 3.51: Currie Farmland Slopes LCA



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-  Pentland Flanks: Currie Farmland Slopes
-  City of Edinburgh boundary
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- A gradual, north-west facing slope which rises from approximately 150m AOD at the Water of Leith to 300m AOD at the south-eastern boundary where the hills begin to rise more steeply.
- The narrow valley of the Water of Leith forms the north-western boundary of the LCA. Tributaries including the Bavelaw Burn and the Kinleith Burn flow through the area down incised, wooded valleys.
- Landcover is predominantly a mixture of arable farmland and pasture, with rough moorland vegetation at higher elevations in the south-east.
- Distinctive mixed shelterbelts run along the edges of some fields, similar to those in the Cockburn Farmland and Shelterbelts LCA and Bavelaw Farmland and Shelterbelts LCA, and merge into the riparian woodland to the north.
- Other field boundaries include stone walls, hedgerows, post and wire fencing, and tree lines.
- The area is sparsely populated except for housing in the north-west at the edges of Currie and Balerno, and scattered farms mainly in the north and west, connected by minor roads.
- A high voltage power line crosses the upper slopes of the area from south-west to north-east.
- In the west, Malleny at Balerno has a designed landscape with policy woodland, numerous Listed buildings, and a National Trust for Scotland garden.
- The area also includes sections of the Balerno and Currie Conservation Areas and provides some of the rural context to these areas.
- A popular car park at Harlaw in the south-west provides access to the Pentland Hills and Harlaw Reservoir.
- The area is visible from parts of the adjacent settlements of Balerno, Currie, Juniper Green and south-west Edinburgh.
- Nearby summits in the Pentland Hills are visible from the area, and there are also longer views towards the distant Highlands, Ochil Hills, Fife and West Lothian.

- The landscape forms part of the Pentland Hills Regional Park and a small area in the east is also within Bonaly Country Park. A popular Core Path runs through the hills from the car park at Harlaw to Glencorse in Midlothian, and another path links the area with Bonaly to the north-east.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.201 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Currie Farmland Slopes LCA include:

- Although the landscape is not very distinctive in itself, it performs an important role as a setting for Currie, a backdrop to the Water of Leith and a foreground to the Pentland Hills.
- The area has recreational value, providing an important access point for the Pentland Hills at Harlaw, and well used paths into the hills.
- The Pentland Hills form an elevated skyline to the south and east, highlighting the role of this area as a transitional landscape between the Water of Leith below and the uplands above.
- There are policy woodlands and gardens near the Water of Leith, and other small areas of woodland within the area, which contribute to the landscape pattern.
- The value of the landscape is recognised as part of a Local Landscape Area extending across the Pentland Hills and its surrounding slopes.

The changing landscape

3.202 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Currie Farmland Slopes LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Pentland Flanks LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.203 Farmland appears to be mainly in good condition.

3.204 Paths appear to be well used and maintained.

Forces for change

3.205 Pressure for housing development at the edges of nearby settlements could impact on the rural character of the area and the transition between the Water of Leith and upland landscape to the south.

3.206 Increasing recreational pressures, including visitors passing through this area into the wider Pentland Hills, could lead to increased traffic on local minor roads and erosion of paths.

3.207 The risk of wildfires is likely to increase with climate change as summers become hotter and drier. Fire damage to vegetation, particularly the distinctive shelterbelts and policy woodland, would alter the landscape pattern.

LCA 24: North Pentland Slopes

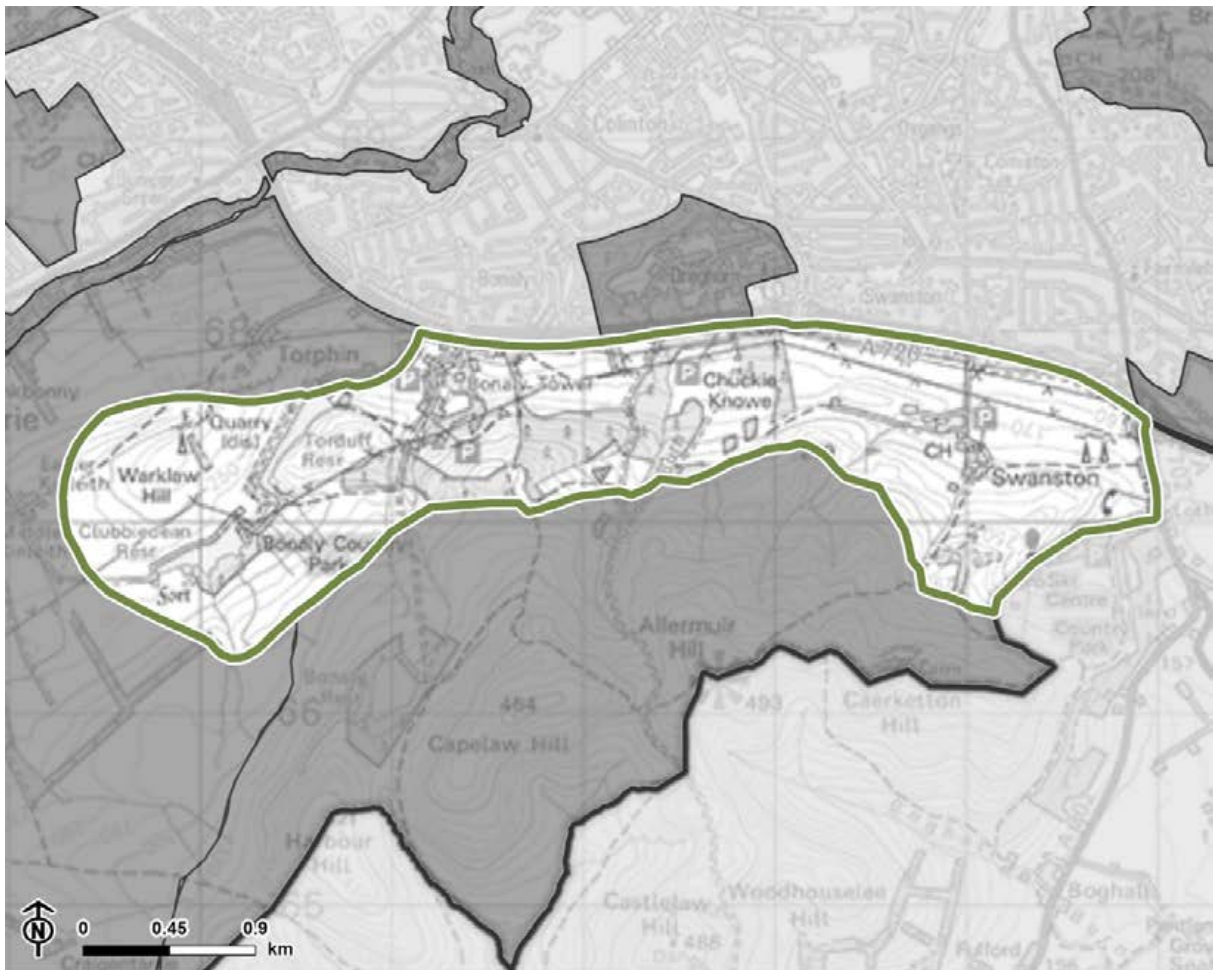
Location

3.208 The North Pentland Slopes LCA is located south of the City Bypass, between Currie and Lothianburn.




Figure 3.52: View north-east from Torduff Hill in Bonaly Country Park, the centre and east of the area can be seen extending along the southern edge of Edinburgh



Figure 3.53: North Pentland Slopes LCA



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-  Pentland Flanks: North Pentland Slopes
-  City of Edinburgh boundary
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Predominantly north-facing slopes between approximately 150m AOD and 300m AOD, below the upper slopes of the Pentland Hills.
- A number of minor burns cut deeply into the hillside. The Bonaly Burn valley cuts through the west of the area, with two reservoirs. There are knolly outcrops to its east and the more rounded form of Warklaw Hill to its west, which has evidence of quarrying.
- Land cover is varied, including paddocks and grazing land, a golf course and driving range, woodland and forest, and areas of gorse and heather.
- Woodland is an important landscape feature, including naturalistic mixed policy woodlands around Bonaly and Dreghorn, blocks of coniferous planting, mixed woodland along the City Bypass and the 'T' Wood at Swanston.
- The historic village of Swanston is situated at the foot of Pentland Hills in the east of the LCA. Other habitations include scattered farms, some 1950s residential properties and Bonaly Tower in the west.
- Two power lines cross the lower slopes, entering from the western end and converging in the valley floor.
- The northern Pentland Hills are among the most prominent features in the city skyline and they dominate the surrounding landscape. The upper slopes and summits are most prominent, but the lower slopes located within this area are also visible in many views.
- Although screened in part by woodland planting along its edge, the City Bypass along the northern boundary of the LCA introduces a strong sense of movement and noise into the landscape.
- The entire area is within the Pentland Hills Regional Park, and the south-west is also within Bonaly Country Park. Bridges and an underpass to the City Bypass enable active travel to the hills, and several car parks also connect with a network of popular paths. The golf course, driving range and club house at Swanston provide further recreational opportunities.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.209 Key sensitivities and valued features of the North Pentland Slopes LCA include:

- The North Pentland slopes provide a transition between the city and the dramatic landscape of the higher Pentland Hills.
- The area is prominent in many views across Edinburgh, forming an important part of the visual backdrop to the city.
- The valley of the Bonaly Burn, the reservoirs within it, and the surrounding knolly outcrops, are also distinctive features close to the city boundary.
- Woodland is another important feature, including areas of Ancient Woodland and policy woodland which contribute to the landscape pattern.
- The historic village of Swanston, designated as a Conservation Area, contributes to the sense of history in the landscape.
- Bonaly Country Park, fishing in the reservoirs nearby, and access points to the Pentland Hills Regional Park all provide important recreational opportunities close to Edinburgh.
- The value of the landscape is recognised as part of a Local Landscape Area extending across the Pentland Hills and their surrounding slopes.

The changing landscape

3.210 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the North Pentland Slopes LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Pentland Flanks LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.211 Paths in Bonaly Country Park are well managed.

3.212 Woodland appears to be in reasonably good condition. Expansion of native woodland is also underway to support biodiversity and for climate change adaptation.

Forces for change

3.213 Owing to climate change, increased rainfall could lead to high water flow and localised flooding in Bonaly Burn and other streams in the area, contrasting with periods of drought and low flows.

3.214 The risk of wildfires is likely to increase with climate change as summers become hotter and drier. Fire damage to vegetation, particularly areas of Ancient Woodland and policy woodland, would alter the landscape pattern.

3.215 Increasing recreational pressures could lead to increased traffic on local minor roads, erosion of paths in particular on shallower hill soils, and expansion of recreational infrastructure.

3.216 The landscape character of the North Pentland Slopes may also be influenced by ongoing development of the Midlothian Snowsports Centre to the south-east of the Council's boundary.

LCA 25: Redford Basin

Location

3.217 The Redford Basin LCA is located a few kilometres to the south of Balerno, to the south-west of the city.




Figure 3.54: View south-east across the wooded shores of Harlaw Reservoir, with the profile of Black Hill visible on the skyline



Figure 3.55: Redford Basin LCA



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-  Pentland Flanks: Redford Basin
-  City of Edinburgh boundary
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- A shallow, linear basin oriented south-west to north-east, along the slopes of the Pentland Hills.
- The Bavelaw Burn flows north-east through the area, forming the Threipmuir and Harlaw Reservoirs which have angular grassed dams.
- Harlaw Reservoir is fringed by trees including pine and birch. The lower reaches of Threipmuir Reservoir are more open in character with moorland and farmland reaching to the shores, while the shoreline further west is fringed by scrubby birch and alder woodland.
- There is an area of wetland at the head of Threipmuir Reservoir.
- The area is sparsely settled, with Bavelaw Mill Farm and West Rigg in the south-west being the key residential dwellings. There is also a visitor centre at Harlaw in the north-east and an education centre at Threipmuir Farm Steading.
- This LCA forms a dip between the softly rolling farmland in the Cockburn area and the steep slopes of the Pentland Hills and as such is largely hidden from view, except from nearby paths, hill tops and ridge paths offering a sense of seclusion.
- The nearby Pentland Hills dominate views from the area, especially the rounded form of Black Hill which rises south-east of Threipmuir Reservoir.
- The area is within the Pentland Hills Regional Park. There are popular paths close to the shores of Harlaw Reservoir and part of Threipmuir Reservoir, and an important access point for the Pentland Hills runs across the reservoir at Redford Bridge from a car park to the north.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.218 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Redford Basin LCA include:

- This landscape is unique within the City of Edinburgh because of the naturalistic characteristics of woodlands, wetlands, moorland and the indented water body west of Redford Bridge.

- The area includes the largest reservoirs in the City of Edinburgh area. While many reservoirs in the wider region have an upland context, very few of these are set within an extensive moorland basin.
- The reservoirs and their varied shorelines contribute to the high scenic value of this area, enhanced by the backdrop of the Pentland Hills. Bavelaw Marsh is also notified as a SSSI.
- This is a secluded landscape located some distance from major settlements and transport routes.
- However, the area is also relatively accessible by car, making the reservoirs a popular recreational resource for visitors from Edinburgh and beyond.
- The western end of the basin has a more remote character rare in the Edinburgh area, being less visited and showing fewer signs of development.
- The value of the landscape is recognised as part of a Local Landscape Area extending across the Pentland Hills and their surrounding slopes.

The changing landscape

3.219 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Redford Basin LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Pentland Flanks LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.220 Farmland, woodland and paths appear to be in good condition.

3.221 Harlaw Visitor Centre is closed as of November 2025, with plans to use it for a proposed Ranger Service.

Forces for change

3.222 The reservoirs are currently used for flood prevention. Increasing prevalence of droughts owing to climate change could damage the wetlands at the head of Threipmuir Reservoir. This would also lower the waterline in the reservoirs, leading to exposed banks and sediments.

3.223 Changes in rainfall patterns could necessitate additional land and waterway engineering that would affect the landscape character of the area.

3.224 Increasing recreational pressures, including for overnight camping, could lead to increased traffic on local minor roads, erosion of paths and damage to land cover.

3.225 The risk of wildfires is likely to increase with climate change as summers become hotter and drier. Fire damage to woodland lining the reservoir would alter the landscape pattern. Camping can exacerbate this risk.

LCA 26: Water of Leith Farmland Slopes

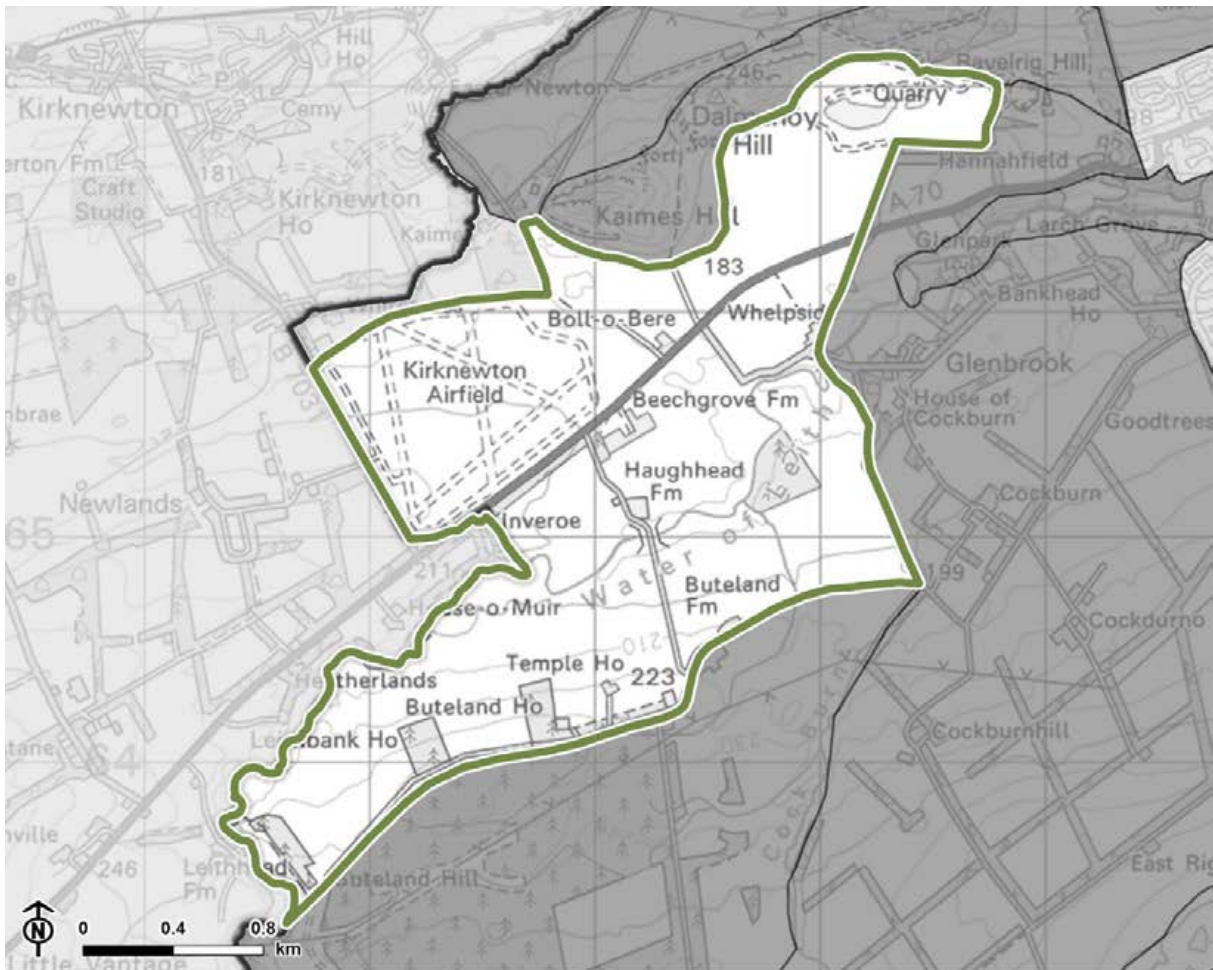
Location

3.226 The Water of Leith Farmland Slopes LCA extends to the west of Balerno, from Ravelrig Quarry and Glenbrook in the east, to the border with West Lothian in the west. It is located to the north of Buteland Road, extending to the base of Kaimes Hill. It includes the area of Kirknewton Airfield and Ravelrig Quarry.

Figure 3.56: Views towards Kaimes Hill from the minor road south of Haughead Farm



Figure 3.57: 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



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Shallow farmed valley associated with the upper reaches of the Water of Leith, rising to high points in the north and south, as the landscape starts to transition to Kaimies Hill and the Pentland Hills.
- The Water of Leith forms a small meandering channel cutting across farmland, lined in places by broadleaved woodland.
- Rectilinear farmland to the south of the A70 is used for a mixture of arable and pasture farming, interspersed with some small blocks of forestry.
- Fields are bounded primarily by post and wire fencing, with occasional hedgerow trees located along field boundaries. Where hedgerows are present, they are low and often gappy.
- Kirknewton Airfield sits on a gentle plateau to the north of the A70, comprising three short, tarmacked runways which dissect an area of grassland. Associated hangers abut the B7031.
- Large-scale agricultural buildings adjacent to farmsteads, and new build housing development near Inveroe (in West Lothian) are prominent in the landscape.
- The pattern of fields and presence of trees and woodland along field boundaries and the Water of Leith contribute towards the strong rural character of the area, appreciated by users of paths and routes.
- The A70, airfield and Ravelrig Quarry in the north of the area, locally reduce the levels of tranquillity experienced.
- Trees along field boundaries and more extensive areas of forestry to the south restrict views, contrasting with the A70 which is afforded longer ranging views out towards the Pentland Hills.
- The network of Core Paths offers recreational access up Kaimies Hill and around Buteland, with the airfield offering recreational opportunities for gliding and flying.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.227 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Water of Leith Farmland Slopes LCA include:

- Shallow farmed valley of the Water of Leith contrasts strongly with the higher slopes of Kaimes Hill and the Pentland Hills which form elevated backdrops to the landscape, contributing to the sense of place.
- Woodland and forestry juxtaposed against smooth agricultural fields provide texture and visual diversity to the area, enhancing the rural character and scenic nature of views.
- Kirknewton Airfield offers recreational opportunities for gliders and flying small planes, contributing to the unique recreational value of the area.
- The Water of Leith and its riparian woodland form a key natural blue and green corridor, enhancing ecological connectivity and structure across the landscape, as well as bringing recreational opportunities.

The changing landscape

3.228 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Water of Leith Farmland Slopes LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Pentland Flanks LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.229 Farmland is generally well-managed although the more limited use of hedgerows and greater use of post and wire fencing has resulted in some loss of structure across the landscape.

Forces for change

3.230 The planned extension of Ravelrig Quarry south to the A70 will have localised effects on landscape character and views within the north-east of the area.

3.231 The relatively open nature of the landscape in this location could result in new agricultural buildings or the conversion of older steadings for housing or commercial uses appearing more visually prominent, in the absence of traditional shelter planting of trees and hedgerows.

3.232 Trees and woodland within the area may become more susceptible to pests and diseases in a changing climate, and prone to damage due to more frequent storm events. Loss or damage to woodland would alter the landscape pattern, which contributes to the rural character of the landscape. Riparian woodland along the Water of Leith and hedgerow trees are particularly sensitive to change.

3.233 More frequent and severe storm events, as a result of climate change, will contribute to greater flood risk across the floodplains of the Water of Leith, impacting species composition and land use.

LCA 27: West Pentland Fringe

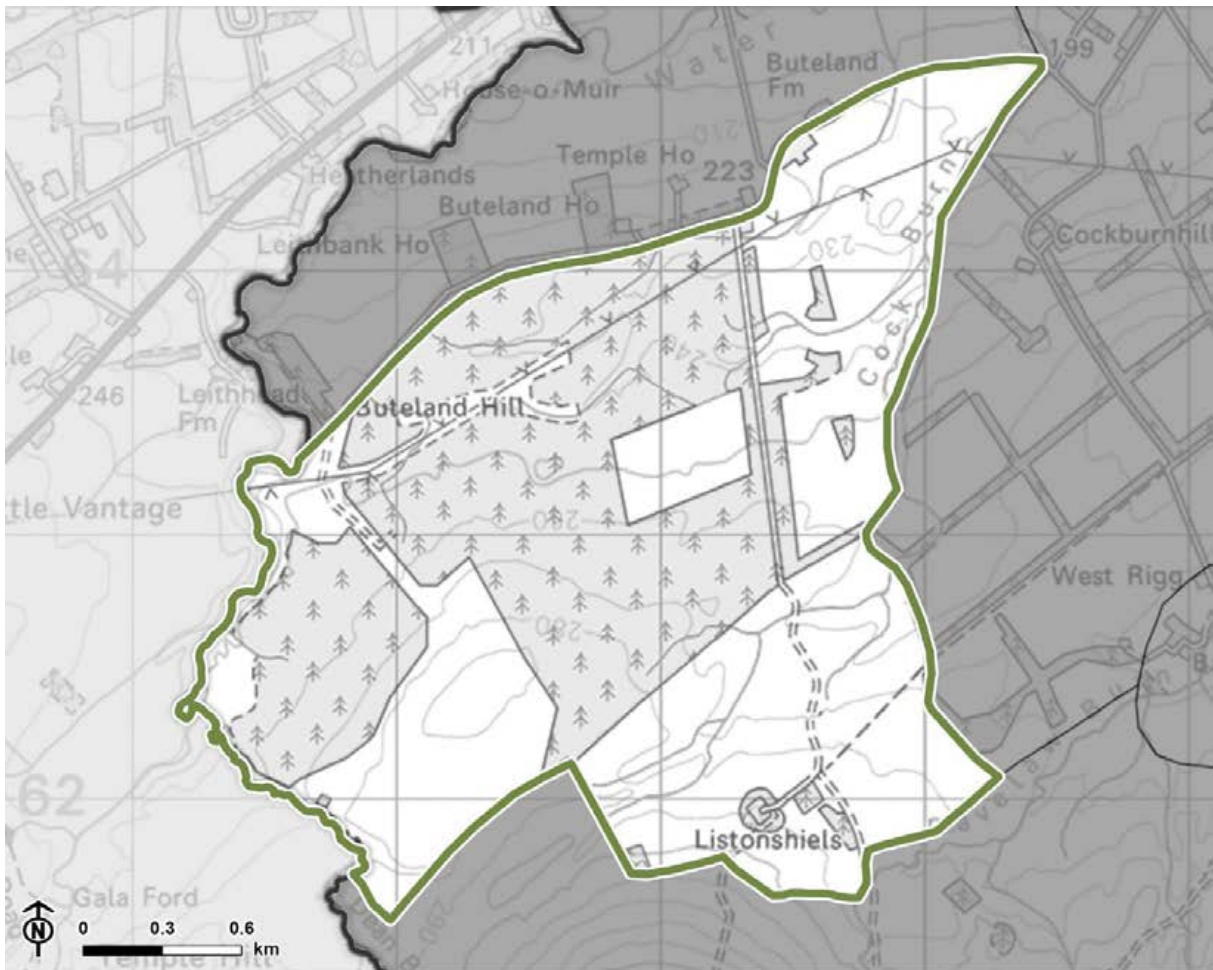
Location

3.234 The West Pentland Fringe LCA extends between the Cock Burn in the east and Dean Burn at the Council’s boundary with West Lothian. It is located to the south of Buteland Road and extends to the lower slopes of Mid Hill in the south.




Figure 3.58: A wayleave for an overhead line cuts through commercial forestry, with more natural scrub and trees regenerating along the forestry edge just south of Buteland Road



Figure 3.59: West Pentland Fringe LCA



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-  Pentland Flanks: West Pentland Fringe
-  City of Edinburgh boundary
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Undulating landscape which rises gently from a low point of 205m AOD in the north to 300m AOD in the south, at the foot of Mid Hill, one of the western peaks of the Pentland Hills.
- Commercial forestry operations cover much of the landscape, creating a patchwork pattern with forestry blocks, with substantial felling and restocking having been undertaken in recent years.
- Pockets of native woodland and scrub are found along the edges of the forestry, including along the wayleave for the overhead line cutting through the area.
- Contrasts strongly with the geometric pattern of shelterbelts to the east, and more open moorland extending to Harperrig Reservoir to the south-west in West Lothian.
- Further east, medium-scale fields used for grazing are bounded predominantly by post and wire fencing create a more open landscape with a smoother texture.
- Presence of mature forestry restricts longer ranging views across the landscape, enhancing the sense of enclosure.
- More open and longer ranging views experienced in more localised areas, including near Buteland Farm, with the rounded summits of the Pentland Hills forming a focal point and elevated skyline.
- Strongly modified landscape, with the extensive forestry and overhead line infrastructure reducing the sense of naturalness, yet being physically remote from built up area and sparsely populated by widely dispersed farmsteads.
- A small number of public rights of way offer recreational opportunities, enabling access into the Pentland Hills in the south.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.235 Key sensitivities and valued features of the West Pentland Fringe LCA include:

- The presence of broad areas of forestry adds texture to the landscape, juxtaposed against the more open and smooth moorland found across the Pentland Hills.

- The highly undulating and vegetated nature of the area contributes to the unique character and sense of place.
- The dense pattern of forestry blocks connects into the network of geometric shelterbelts further east and a variety of small burns, providing ecological connectivity throughout the area with enhanced biodiversity value, as well as recreational paths and routes.
- Forestry restricts views, creating a sense of containment which contrasts with more open views afforded further east, contributing to the sense of place.
- The few rights of way are well-used, contributing to the recreational value of this landscape, particularly as it transitions into the Pentland Hills.

The changing landscape

3.236 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the West Pentland Fringe LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Pentland Flanks LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.237 The condition of forestry and trees varies. The majority of forestry is well managed. However, some shelterbelts appear to be thinning in some locations.

3.238 The maintenance of newly planted trees to ensure successful establishment is essential. There is evidence of native trees being planted along the forestry edge, however native woodland requires ongoing care and management.

Forces for change

3.239 Changes in forestry management, including felling cycles of different forestry blocks, will continue to influence the character of the landscape. Some forestry edges have been softened by native broadleaf species. The change will benefit biodiversity and landscape character.

3.240 Increasing recreational pressures could create demand for further paths and car parks.

3.241 Given the proximity to overhead electricity transmission infrastructure, there may be pressures for intensification of electricity infrastructure or introduction of renewable energy development within the landscape. This would alter the rural

character of the landscape, requiring careful siting, and associated planting strategies.

Pentland Hills – Upper Slopes and Summits Landscape Character Type

Landscape Character Areas

3.242 The Pentland Hills – Upper Slopes and Summits Landscape Character Type (LCT) feature the following Landscape Character Areas (LCAs):

- Bavelaw Farmland and Shelterbelts (28)
- Pentland Hills and Ridges (29)

Figure 3.60: Capelaw Hill seen from Dalmahoy Hill



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCT are:

- The Pentland Hills form a prominent ridgeline extending to the south-west of Edinburgh.
- Upper slopes and hill summits are highly prominent from Edinburgh, other surrounding settlements, and further afield and offer extensive long range views across the city and beyond.
- Lower slopes within the LCT are less prominent but provide part of the setting for the more prominent summit areas.
- Incised burns and cleughs run down the hill slopes.
- Landcover is mainly rough moorland vegetation, with pasture farmland on some lower slopes near Threipmuir Reservoir.
- Tree cover is limited to rectilinear shelterbelts near Bavelaw and a few small conifer plantations.
- Sparsely populated, with a few isolated dwellings near Threipmuir Reservoir.
- The whole area lies within the Pentland Hills Regional Park and is a popular area for recreational access, crossed by numerous Core Paths and desire lines.

Forces for change

3.243 The following section sets out key changes and pressures relating to the Pentland Hills – Upper Slopes and Summits LCT:

- The risk of wildfires is likely to increase with climate change as summers become hotter and drier. Increases in the frequency of wildfires may damage the composition of scrub, moorland and woodland habitats, altering the landscape pattern of the LCT.
- Increased recreational pressure is likely to continue to contribute towards degradation of habitats, particularly in high-traffic areas. Changes in how the hills are managed for recreational purposes may affect the land cover and visual amenity of the area.
- Climate change is expected to result in increased temperatures, wetter winters and drier summers. Changes in climatic conditions may increase pressure on

flora and fauna, with precipitation increasing rates of erosion, and drought causing soils and vegetation to dry out. This will change the landscape pattern and contrasting textures and colours of the LCT.

Landscape management guidelines

3.244 The following section sets out recommended landscape management guidelines for the Pentland Hills – Upper Slopes and Summits LCT:

- Maintain moorland character while exploring opportunities for small, contrasting woodlands at lower elevations or mosaic habitats.
- Manage and improve paths and wayfinding to promote responsible recreational access and prevent path erosion.
- Improve woodland diversity by increasing the mixture of native species and age and retain deadwood where safe to do so.
- Expand woodland in keeping with the pattern of geometric shelterbelts on lower slopes, and wooded cleughs, burns and reservoirs.
- Respect the distinctive skyline of the hills, avoiding visually intrusive structures in the landscape and maintaining the undeveloped character.

LCA 28: Bavelaw Farmland and Shelterbelts

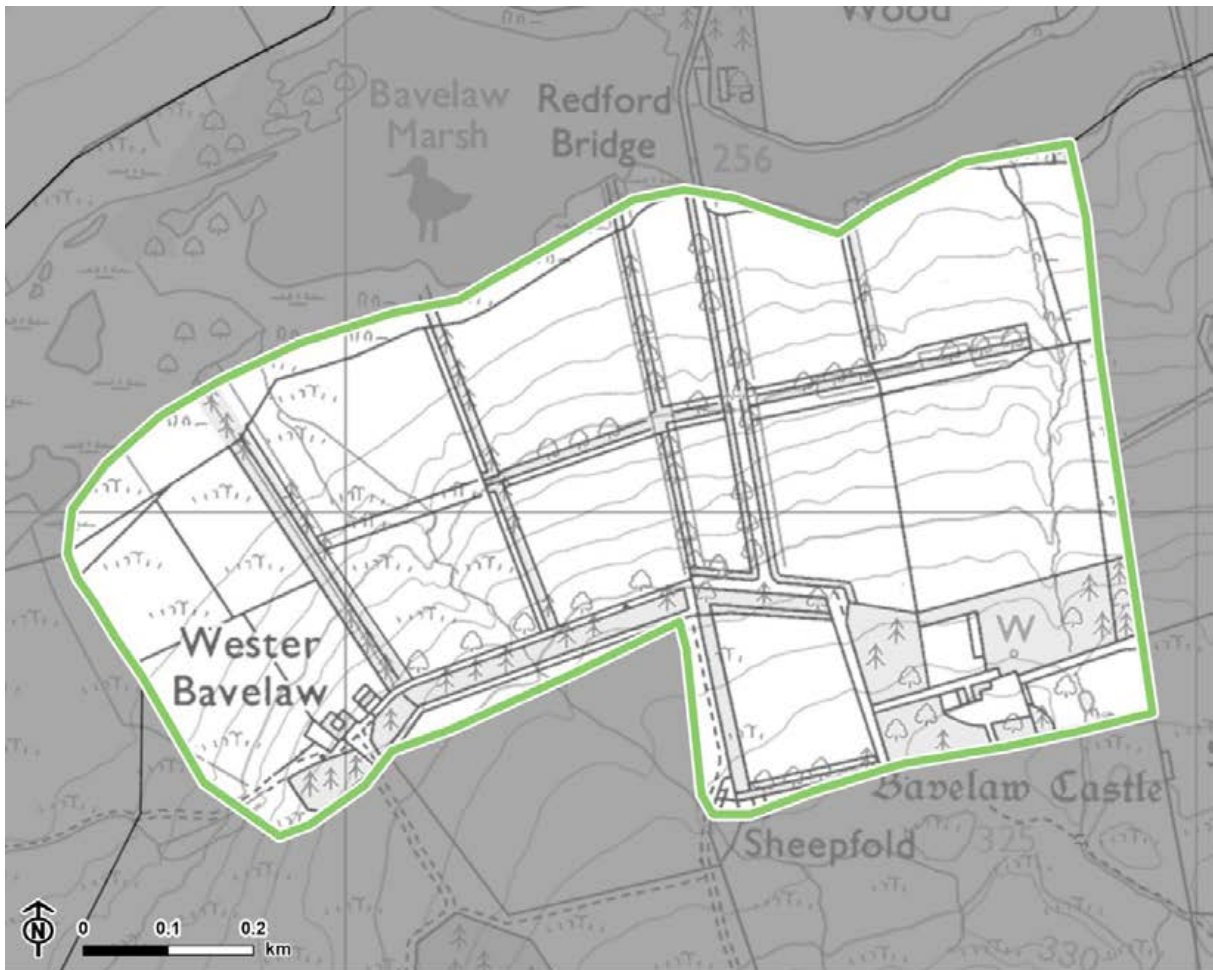
Location

3.245 This small LCA comprises the lower slopes of the Pentland Hills, south of the western section of Threipmuir Reservoir.

Figure 3.61: View of the area from the minor road to the north, showing the characteristic rectilinear shelterbelts



Figure 3.62: Bavelaw Farmland and Shelterbelts LCA



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-  Pentland Hills - Upper Slopes and Summits: Bavelaw Farmland and Shelterbelts
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- North-facing slopes rise from approximately 260m AOD near the reservoir shores to approximately 320m AOD near Bavelaw Castle.
- Pasture fields enclosed by shelterbelts of beech and conifer form distinctive rectilinear patterns, strongly contrasting with the steeper slopes and open moorland of the upper Pentland Hills above.
- Geometric shelterbelts predominantly define the field pattern, supplemented by linear drainage ditches, post and wire fencing and some stone walls.
- Forming part of a wider area of geometric fields with a historic pattern extending beyond the northern edge of the area, separated by Threipmuir Reservoir.
- Limited influence of settlement contributes to a remote character, with scattered farmsteads at Bavelaw Castle in the south-east and Wester Bavelaw in the south-west, accessed by unmetalled farm tracks.
- The Listed Bavelaw Castle is built around a 16th century tower house.
- Rising slopes are visible from the immediately surrounding area, and forms part of the foreground in views towards the Pentland Hills from more distant elevated viewpoints.
- Densely wooded shelterbelts partially filter views from within the area, but nearby summits in the Pentland Hills are glimpsed beyond to the south and east, while there are some distant views to the north across the Threipmuir Reservoir.
- The area is within the Pentland Hills Regional Park, and a popular pedestrian access route into the hills passes through the area near Bavelaw Castle.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.246 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Bavelaw Farmland and Shelterbelts LCA include:

- Dense, rectilinear shelterbelts are distinctive and form part of a wider landscape pattern with the nearby Cockburn Farmland and Shelterbelts (LCA 22). This landscape pattern contributes to sense of place.

- The distinctive pattern of wooded shelterbelts and Ancient Woodland reflect 18th century agricultural improvement and enclosures, which contribute to the sense of time depth in the landscape.
- Owing to its remoteness from transport routes and settlements, and screening provided by the shelterbelts, a sense of seclusion and tranquillity can be experienced in this area.
- An important pedestrian access route to the Pentland Hills passes through the area, contributing to the recreational value of the area more widely.
- The Pentland Hills form an elevated skyline to the south and east, highlighting the role of this area as a transitional landscape between the more settled areas below and the wilder heights above.
- The value of the landscape is recognised as part of a Local Landscape Area applying to the Pentland Hills, which also includes the adjoining Pentland Hills and Ridges (LCA 29), Redford Basin (LCA 25) and other nearby LCAs.

The changing landscape

3.247 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Bavelaw Farmland and Shelterbelts LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Pentland Hills – Upper Slopes and Summits LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.248 Field boundary features, including shelterbelts, walls and fences appear to be in reasonably good condition.

3.249 Tracks and paths are in good condition.

Forces for change

3.250 Climate change may cause long term changes in temperatures and rainfall, more extreme weather events such as storms and droughts, and increased prevalence of pests and diseases. These factors may lead to the loss of woodland in the shelterbelts, adversely affecting the landscape character, and the historic field pattern and favourable conditions for livestock and grassland which they create.

3.251 Rising temperatures may also result in changes to grassland habitats, which form an important part of the geometric field pattern. Management by sustainable grazing will be an important aspect of grassland management.

3.252 The risk of wildfires is likely to increase with climate change as summers become hotter and drier. Loss of woodland due to wildfires could erode the distinctive field pattern which it frames.

3.253 Increased numbers of recreational visitors, passing through this area into the wider Pentland Hills, could lead to erosion along the margins of tracks or paths and damage to habitats.

LCA 29: Pentland Hills and Ridges

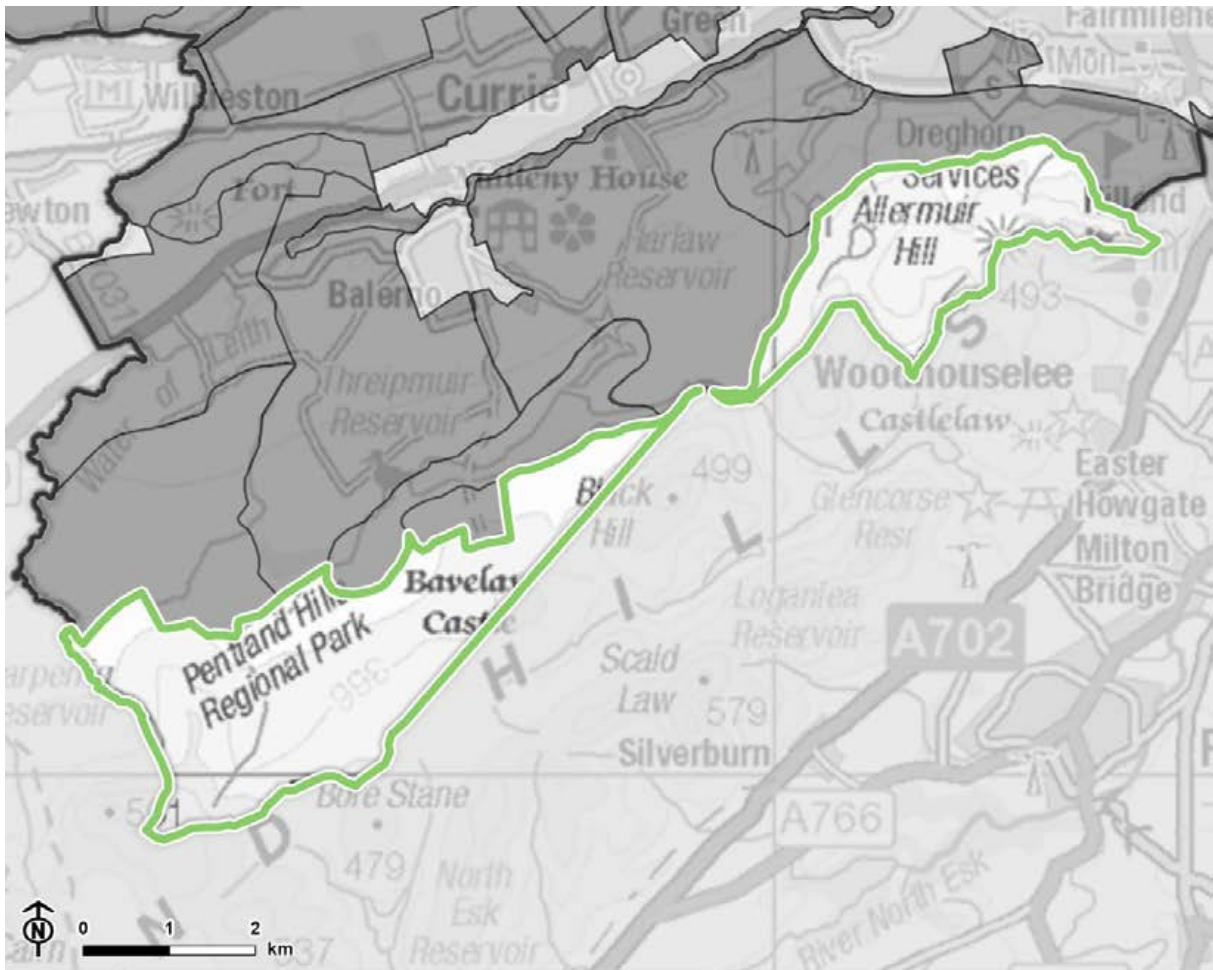
Location

3.254 The Pentland Hills and Ridges LCA extends across the summits of the Pentland Hills to the south-west of Edinburgh, between Swanston close to Midlothian and the City of Edinburgh boundary with West Lothian and the Scottish Borders. It includes the notable summits of Allermuir Hill, Capelaw Hill and East Cairn Hill.

Figure 3.63: Panoramic views across Edinburgh and the Firth of Forth, experienced from the summit of Allermuir Hill

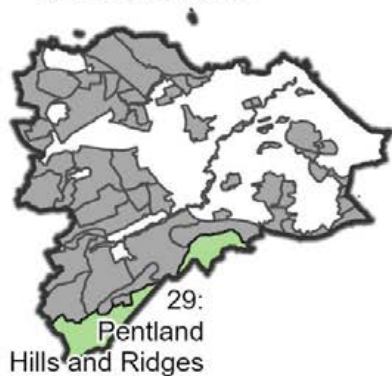


Figure 3.64: Pentland Hills and Ridges LCA



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- Pentland Hills - Upper Slopes and Summits: Pentland Hills and Ridges
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- The Pentland Hills form a prominent ridgeline extending to the south-west of Edinburgh, rising to a maximum elevation (within the City of Edinburgh boundary) of 567m AOD at East Cairn Hill.
- The ridgeline rises up above the surrounding lowland plains, including Edinburgh in the north, forming a steep hillside which creates a dramatic backdrop to the city and its surroundings.
- In the north of the Pentland Hills, the hills of Allermuir and Caerketton are most prominent with steep slopes marked by scree and cut by cleughs and burns leading up to well-defined summits. Hare and Black Hills to the east of the LCA (within Midlothian) form an elongated backdrop to the city's western settlements of Currie and Balerno.
- Underlying geology has a strong influence on the landform, with periods of orogeny and volcanic activity, and subsequent erosion during glacial periods forming the striking landform experienced today.
- The Pentland Hills have a simple landcover of heather, heathland scrub, and grassy moorland, creating an open character and smooth texture which emphasises the landform.
- Small but increasing areas of woodland add texture to the landscape and provide valuable habitats for biodiversity.
- The importance of this dramatic landscape, both for scenery and recreation, is recognised through its local landscape designation, and designation as a Regional Park and Country Park at Bonaly.
- The Pentland Hills are steeped in history, with evidence of Celtic tribes settling in the area over 2,000 years ago during the Iron Age.
- The hill range has long been a source of inspiration in art, poetry and literature, including the works of Robert Louis Stevenson and Sir Walter Scott.
- The hills offer a wealth of recreational opportunities for hikers, mountain bikers, skiers and campers, through a network of well-used paths along narrow incised valleys and the ridgeline.

- The elevated summits offer panoramic views across neighbouring low-lying areas, including the City of Edinburgh and Firth of Forth, the Lothians, and Scottish Borders.
- Strong perception of naturalness experienced within the hills due to the upland character and lack of human-made features.
- The striking form of the Pentland Hills provides a visual focus and dramatic backdrop in views from the city, notably from the Prominent Urban Hills LCT, as well as towards the city from further afield.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.255 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Pentland Hills and Ridges LCA include:

- The dramatic juxtaposition between the prominent ridgeline and the surrounding lowland and city landscape contributes to the unique character of the hill range.
- The Pentland Hills form a dramatic and famous backdrop in views looking south from the city, contributing strongly to Edinburgh's sense of place and setting.
- Panoramic views out across the surrounding lowlands, including across the Firth of Forth to Fife, and more distant undeveloped uplands (Lammermuir, Moorfoot, and Lowther Hills) contribute to the visual diversity and scenic nature of views.
- The hill range is easily accessible from Edinburgh, and is widely recognised for its important recreational value, offering opportunities for hiking, cycling and camping.
- Large scale and unmodified landscape provide a sense of openness, exposure and wildness, with a general absence of influence by lighting, away from the built up area of the city.
- The unique character of the area has been the source of inspiration for many poets, authors and artists, recognising the cultural significance of this range of hills.

The changing landscape

3.256 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Pentland Hills and Ridges LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Pentland Hills – Upper Slopes and Summits LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.257 The uplands generally appear to be well-managed; however, moorland management practices (e.g. muirburn) and recreational pressure are resulting in habitat erosion in some places.

3.258 Desire lines are highly visible across the hill range with soil compaction seen along high-traffic areas (e.g. main ridgeline and Allermuir and Caerketton Hill). Human activities affect naturalness and condition in honey-pot destinations.

3.259 The formation of hill tracks, vehicle barriers, lighting and signage associated with MOD land, the neighbouring Midlothian ski centre and alpine coaster, and presence of the City Bypass and overhead lines can detract from the wildness and naturalness of the area in places.

Forces for change

3.260 Increased recreational pressure is likely to continue to contribute towards degradation of habitats, particularly in high-traffic areas. Changes in how the hills are managed for recreational purposes may affect the character of the area.

3.261 Periods of drought may increase risk of wildfires which could cause large-scale devastation to the area's vegetation, character and appearance.

3.262 Changes in moorland management practices will alter landscape character, noting that the aftermath of muirburn leaves a patchwork pattern across the landscape. Pressure for afforestation of the hills would also alter landscape character.

3.263 Ongoing grazing of sheep and cattle in the Pentland Hills may prevent natural regeneration of trees on the upper slopes, notably near Swanston where trees and scrub extend higher up the slopes. Conflicts with recreational activities and access may increase.

3.264 The hills and the upland seen from them may be under pressure as sites for masts and wind turbines, as corridors for overhead lines, or further MOD activities, leading to more developed skylines and a less natural character.

3.265 Lighting on roads or developments seen from the hills, or within the hills, may further affect the dark skies.

Policy Landscape Landscape Character Type

Landscape Character Areas

3.266 The Policy Landscape Character Type (LCT) features the following Landscape Character Areas (LCAs):

- Cammo Policies (30)
- Craigiehall Policies (31)
- Craigmillar Policies (32)
- Dalmahoy Policies (33)
- Dalmeny Policies (34)
- Dreghorn Policies (35)
- Drum Policies (36)
- Dundas Policies (37)
- Edmonstone Policies (38)
- Lauriston Policies (39)
- Mortonhall Policies (40)
- Newliston Policies (41)

Figure 3.65: Views across parkland at Dalmeny Estate



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCT are:

- Varied landform, although where a central house exists it is frequently located on a low rise.
- Mature woodland in the form of tree groups, avenues and parkland surrounding areas of farmland or recreational land use.
- Central residence and other estate properties of varying age (although predominantly 18th century), in varied states of preservation.
- Strong boundary features, typically comprising stone walls with perimeter trees.
- Settlement may extend up to some of the estate boundaries, although the majority remain connected to the nearby farmland or other landscape features.
- Woodland and rolling landform result in an enclosed character, although some historic buildings form landmarks in the landscape more widely.

Forces for change

3.267 The following section sets out key changes and pressures relating to the Policy Landscape LCT:

- An increase in the frequency and severity of storm events coupled with periods of drought or an increase in pests and diseases, as a result of climate change, may result in damage to veteran trees or changes to the pattern of woodland, avenue trees, grassland, parkland habitats, water features, as well as expansion of non-native invasive species. This may alter the landscape pattern or enclosed, wooded character of the landscape.
- Climate change could also affect built heritage assets which are integral to designed landscapes due to increased precipitation, storm events and hotter, drier summers affecting the integrity of stone structures and other landscape features.
- Changes in landscape management that results in a loss or increase in trees will alter the visual character of the landscape. This could stem from woodland or estate management changes, and tree planting as part of enhancement initiatives.

- The risk of wildfires will increase with climate change as summers become hotter and drier, which could lead to loss of woodland and alter the structure and pattern of woodland cover.
- Pressure for development will alter the landscape, including through increased recreational pressure, changes to views and landscape patterns, and altering the character of areas with a prevailing undeveloped or rural character.

Landscape management guidelines

3.268 The following section sets out recommended landscape management guidelines for the Policy Landscape LCT:

- Restore and enhance biodiversity and habitat connectivity by implementing nature conservation measures within the historic structure of the landscape. The historic designed landscape often forms an important reserve of local biodiversity.
- Conserve historic character by protecting and maintaining woodland, designed features including water features, and historic built assets including boundary features.
- Improve woodland diversity on balance with retaining the species mix and layout of the historic landscape, and through the removal of invasive non-native species.
- Safeguard specimen plants and veteran trees notable for their historic and botanical value; plan for succession such as restocking parkland trees.
- Sustain avenues of trees through good arboricultural practice, such as regenerative pruning, phased replanting or establishing second outer avenues, with consideration for increasing the diversity of tree species.
- Promote interpretation of local history to highlight cultural and natural heritage for education, recreation and tourism.
- Retain views to features of the wider landscape, including urban hills, and safeguard setting views within the designed landscape.
- Guide landscape change in historic landscapes through management plans which balance current and future uses.

LCA 30: Cammo Policies

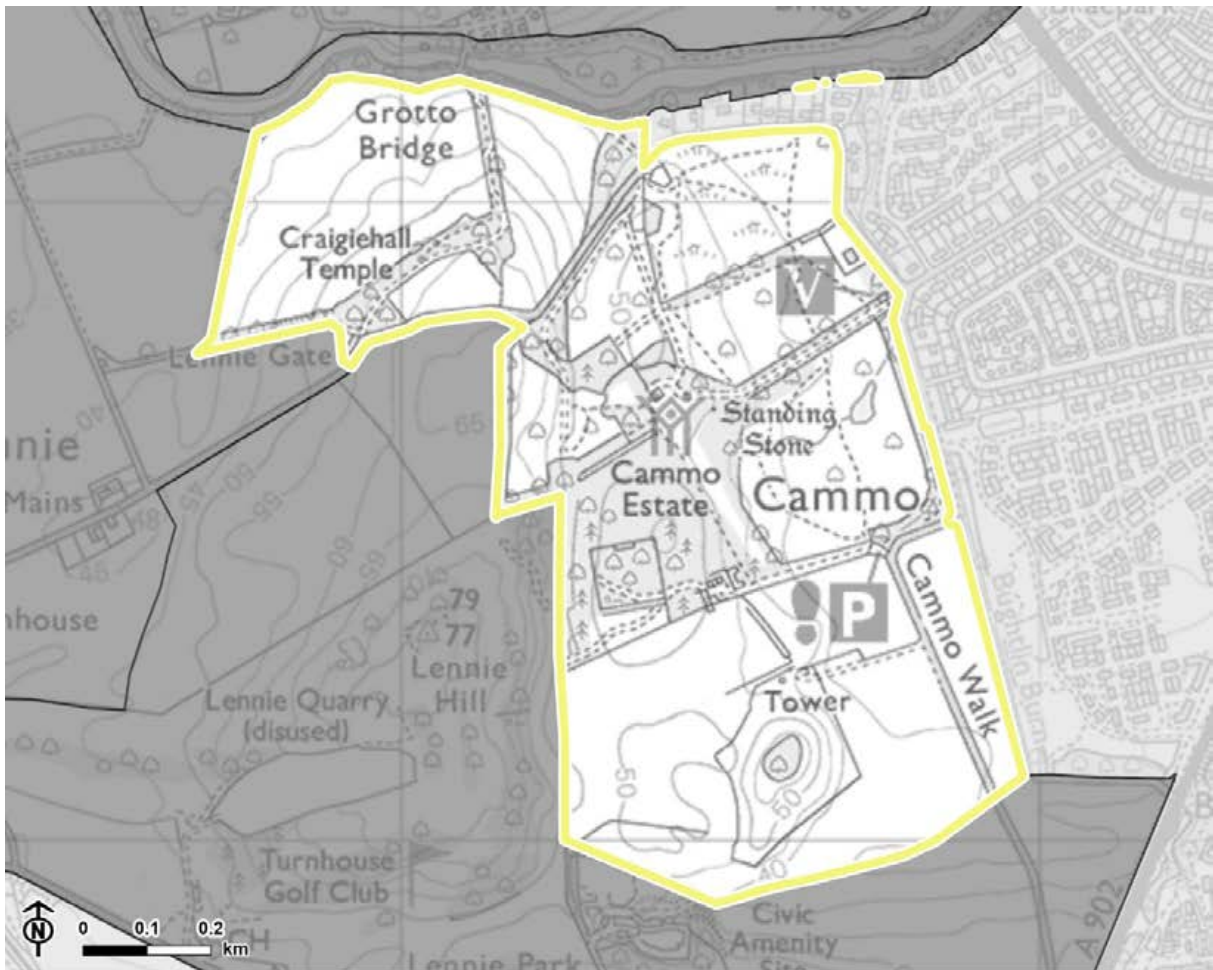
Location

3.269 The Cammo Policies are located in the west of Edinburgh, extending west from the settlement edge across the parkland landscape surrounding Cammo House and to the south of the Almond Valley.

Figure 3.66: The Cammo Water Tower forms a distinctive landmark on the skyline rising above rectilinear fields, with woodland seen beyond



Figure 3.67: Cammo Policies LCA



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-  Policy Landscape: Cammo Policies
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Undulating low hills, reaching to between 50-55m AOD, but distinctive within the adjacent low-lying landscape.
- Parkland trees, important veteran trees, avenues and tree groups across hill tops, contrasting with areas of open pasture and grassland, with particularly dense woodland towards the centre.
- Fields in the south are mainly rectilinear and bounded by a combination of stone walls, post and wire fencing and low hedges, resulting in a more open character.
- Fields in the north are more irregular in shape, with dense wooded field boundaries, resulting in a more enclosed character.
- An influence of water resulting from the presence of the designed canal, wetland habitats, and the River Almond in the north.
- Historic 19th century structures, including the ruins of Cammo House, stables, walled garden and the circular castellated water tower, form focal points in the landscape.
- Woodland surrounds the 18th century Craigiehall Temple on the northern flanks of the hills above the River Almond, which were part of the nearby Craigiehall Estate.
- Narrow minor roads and an interconnected network of paths provide access to the area, which is well used for recreation as a public park.
- The dense urban edge, mainly comprising residential development, is prominent in views south and east from the landscape, and aeroplanes overhead occasionally interrupt the sense of tranquillity.
- Extensive views to the Pentland Hills – including a planned vista, and to Corstorphine Hill and Dalmeny, particularly from the south of the LCA.
- The water tower and wooded roundel, combined with the underlying rolling hills, form a prominent focus of views from parts of the A902 and adjacent urban edge.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.270 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Cammo Policies LCA include:

- The combination of historic built elements and woodland form a distinctive skyline and focal point in views from the surrounding landscape and urban edge, contributing to sense of place.
- The maturity and variety of the parkland landscape, with its combination of woodland, parkland trees, lawns and avenues, contributes to scenic value and sense of history.
- The combination of woodland, fields and aquatic habitats contribute to a sense of naturalness, contrasting with the adjacent urban context, and form part of a local nature reserve.
- The Cammo, Craigiehall (LCA 31) and Dalmeny Policies (LCA 34) form a wider wooded green swathe extending along the north-western periphery of Edinburgh.
- Numerous Listed remains of historic buildings and other features, including the Cammo Canal and a standing stone (both Scheduled Monuments) contribute to the sense of history and provide scenic contrast to the wooded landscape. The designed landscape is a significant example of Sir John Clerk's early work as an 18th century improvement landscape and is designated as a GDL.
- The dense network of paths, interpretative signage and accessibility of this landscape from the urban edge contributes to its high recreational value.
- Important views experienced from the landscape, including towards the Pentland Hills, Corstorphine Hill and Dalmeny, contribute to visual amenity and sense of place.
- The value of the landscape is recognised in its designation as part of a Local Landscape Area.

The changing landscape

3.271 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Cammo Policies LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Policy Landscape LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.272 Recent and ongoing residential development to the south and east of the landscape is visually prominent and has an exposed edge, influencing the setting of the landscape.

3.273 Historical changes in use and management have altered the landscape pattern, although enhancement initiatives are improving the condition and structure of the parkland. Tree guards, protecting more recently planted woodland, and hedgerows are in varying condition.

3.274 Some stone boundary walls are damaged and would benefit from repair.

3.275 The structure of the landscape remains, however there is overall decline in the quality of built features with some signs of damage from antisocial behaviour such as graffiti.

Forces for change

3.276 Recent landscape enhancement initiatives, such as tree and hedgerow planting and creation of wetlands, are increasing biodiversity and adding contrast to the landscape pattern. Continued management and enhancement of the landscape may alter character locally, although contributing to a greater coherence of the landscape framework, and greater ecological value.

3.277 An increase in the frequency and severity of storm events, as a result of climate change, or an increase in antisocial behaviour, may result in further deterioration of historic buildings.

3.278 Continued pressure for development in the surrounding less developed landscape may affect the setting to the landscape and important views experienced to and from it. However, as new woodland and green spaces on the urban edge mature, views towards the settlement edge will be more effectively screened.

LCA 31: Craigiehall Policies

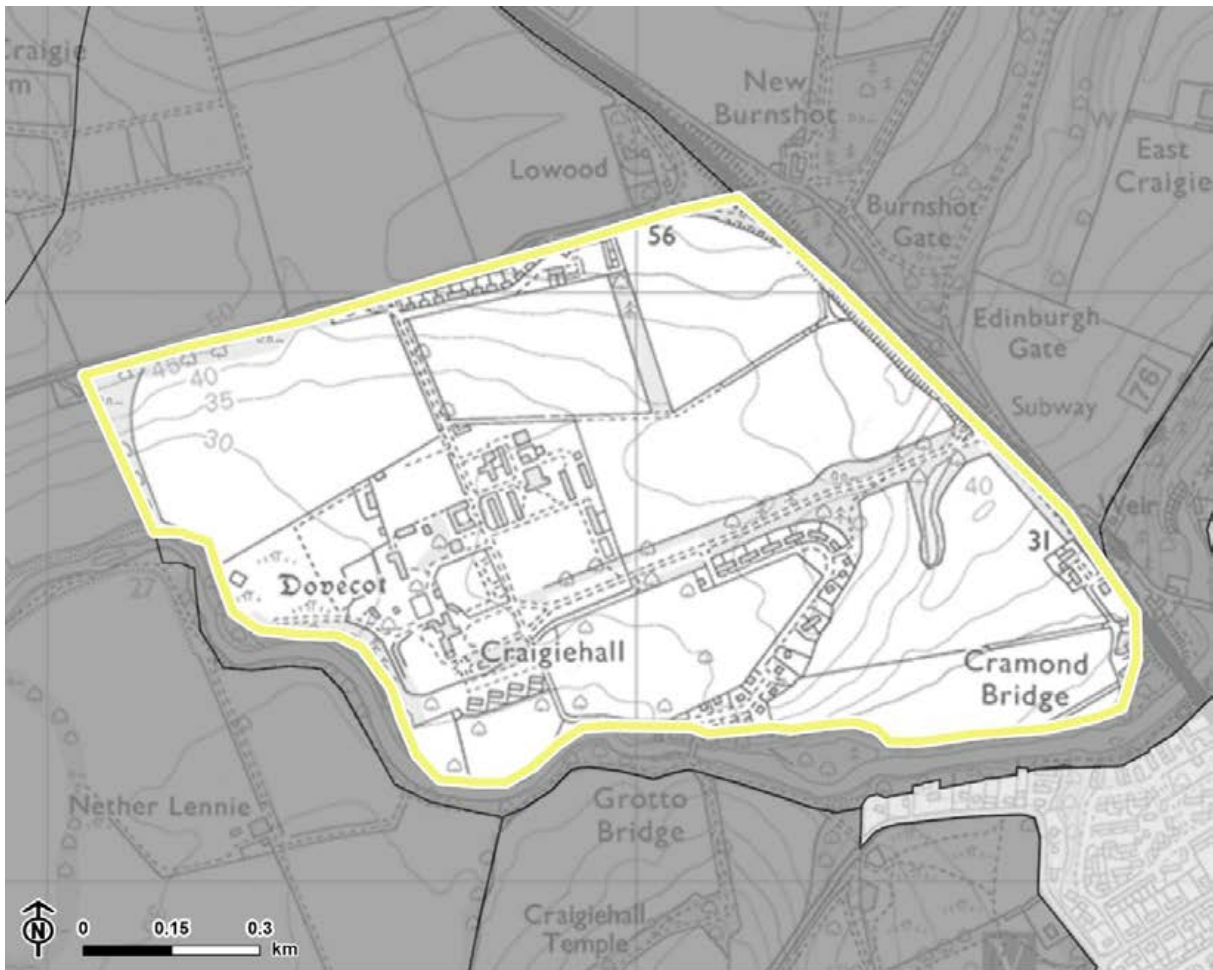
Location

3.279 Located in the north-west of Edinburgh, Craigiehall Policies are sited on the gently sloping south-facing slopes of the Lower Almond Valley.

Figure 3.68: An avenue of trees, including cedar and oak, along the main drive frames views towards Craigiehall House



Figure 3.69: Craighall Policies LCA



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-  Policy Landscape: Craighall Policies
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Landform gently descends from the north and east, towards Craigiehall House which lies towards the bottom of the slope.
- A designed landscape principally laid out during the 18th century around Craigiehall House, requisitioned during the Second World War and in the 1960s Craigiehall became the Scottish Command Headquarters of the Army.
- More recent development, including the barracks and housing, influence the landscape, although key buildings and features of the original design still exist.
- Original features include the Listed Craigiehall House set on a meander of the River Almond, the walls of the garden and stable block, parkland, perimeter woodland and tree avenues to the north and east.
- Large areas of open space have also been retained as parade grounds and playing fields.
- Public access is restricted by security fencing, although parts of the parkland can be appreciated from the River Almond Walkway.
- Woodland on the rising slopes to the north and east results in an enclosed and relatively secluded character for the lower-lying parts of the area, although Edinburgh Airport's flight path overhead impacts on tranquillity.
- Surrounding fields in agricultural use are more open in character, with distant views available from elevated slopes in the north-east, looking towards the Pentland Hills, the wooded ridges of Corstorphine Hill and Craigie Hill, and the Queensferry Crossing.
- Views towards Craigiehall House and the surrounding ex-army buildings and woodlands are visible from the elevated roads to the north of Craigie Hill, although other views into the landscape are limited.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.280 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Craigiehall Policies LCA include:

- While there are few features of the historic designed landscape remaining, the woodlands contribute to scenic value and are remnant of more extensive policy woodland within the area, which is recognised as a GDL.

- The woodlands and well-managed farmland of this character area, together with the Cammo (LCA 30) and Dalmeny (LCA 34) estates, as well as the River Almond, form a wider wooded green swathe extending along on the north-western periphery of Edinburgh.
- Many features of the designed landscape have been affected by built development, although woodland, rolling farmland and tree avenues contribute to scenic qualities and biodiversity value.

The changing landscape

3.281 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and pressures relating to the Craigiehall Policies LCA, which are additional to the more generic key changes and pressures identified for the Policy Landscape LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.282 The Ministry of Defence has now disposed of its barracks at Craigiehall. Buildings related to the army base are in a state of disrepair, however some former military housing has been refurbished for private sale.

3.283 The woodlands are largely in good condition, although some trees close to derelict parts of the former army base appear not to be managed, and there are areas of scrub forming the understorey of avenues.

Forces for change

3.284 Pressures to redevelop the landscape, including for residential development, may alter the character of woodland and rolling farmland by introducing more buildings into views.

3.285 In the absence of increased management or restoration, features within the landscape are likely to continue to degrade and areas of trees or woodland may be lost or damaged, including through the influence of climate change (drought and storms), pests and disease.

LCA 32: Craigmillar Policies

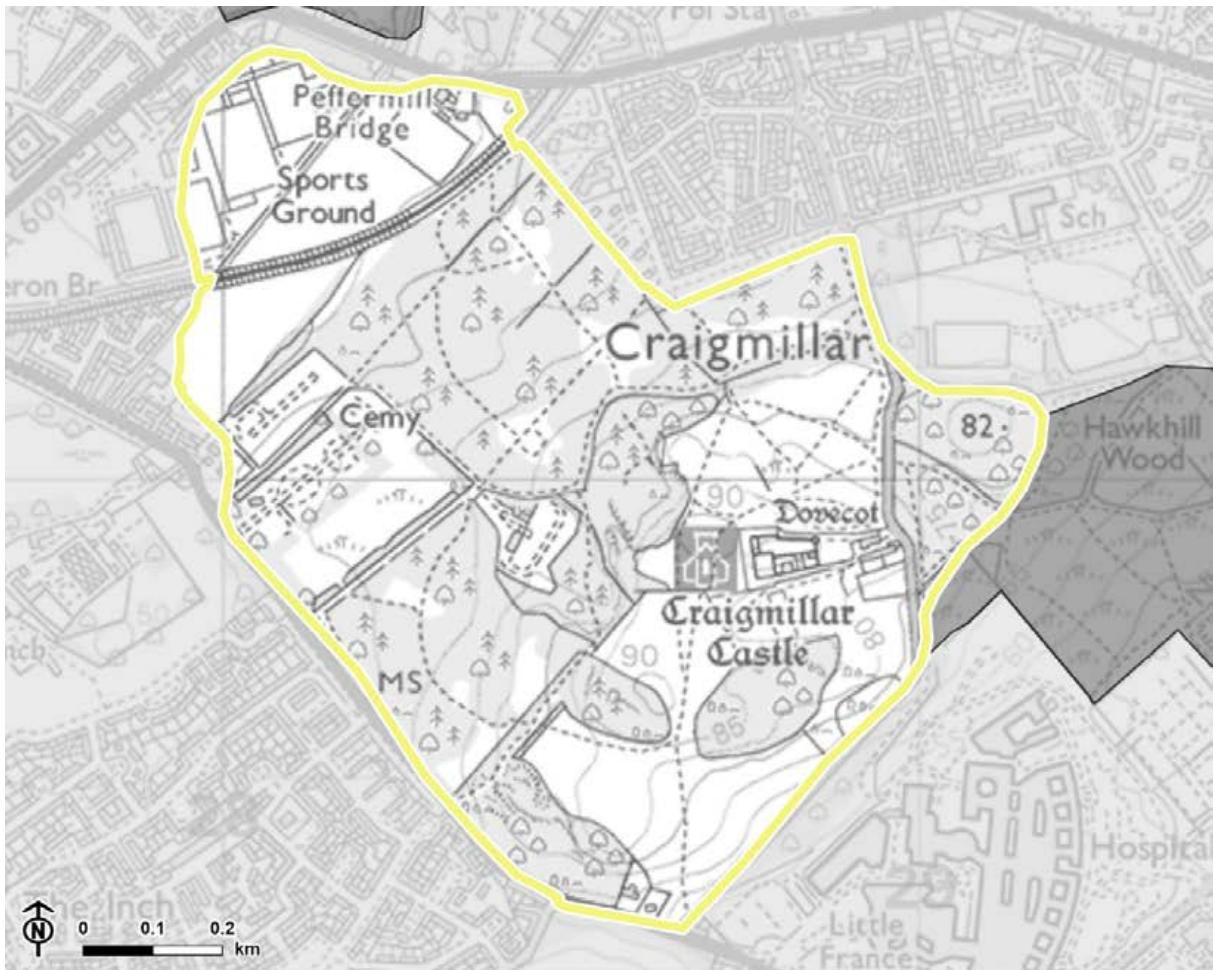
Location

3.286 Located in the south-east of Edinburgh, Craigmillar Policies are located on a low rise above Craigmillar and Little France, and predominantly comprise Craigmillar Castle and the surrounding policy woodlands.

Figure 3.70: Craigmillar Castle situated on a low hill, surrounded by woodland



Figure 3.71: Craigmillar Policies LCA



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-  Policy Landscape: Craigmillar Policies
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- A low hill topped by Craigmillar Castle, rising above a lower-lying surrounding urban context.
- Extensively wooded with tree avenues in the west, in addition to open grass fields between woodland areas. Sports fields in the north of the area maintain an open character.
- Mature parkland trees include horse chestnut, sycamore and ash. The immature tree planting includes species such as birch, cherry, willow and rowan.
- Tower blocks at Craigmillar have some visual influence on the northern edge of the policies.
- Busy roads skirt the east and west of the area, though woodland largely filters views to and from the road, particularly on the western edge.
- Stone estate walls stand around some of the woodland, closer to the castle.
- A dense network of paths connects the landscape with the surrounding residential areas, and traverses through a varied landscape ranging from enclosed avenues to more open fields.
- Craigmillar Castle is prominent in the local landscape due to its location on a small rise and the extensive wooded surroundings.
- The policies form part of a wider green swathe, extending from Holyrood Park to the edge of the city with Inch Park also to the west of Old Dalkeith Road.
- The elevated position of the area allows for open views in multiple directions, including towards Holyrood Park and Arthur's Seat, and the more distant Braid Hills and Pentland Hills.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.287 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Craigmillar Policies LCA include:

- A castle has stood on the site since the 15th century with surviving walls and towers allowing views to the surrounding countryside. It is recorded as one of the most perfectly preserved late medieval castles in Scotland, and its value is recognised through multiple designations including a Scheduled Monument and

GDL. The castle and its setting contribute strongly to a sense of history and cultural value within the landscape.

- The combination of the low wooded hill close to the city centre and the prominent castle on the top makes Craigmillar special as a policy landscape within Edinburgh, contributing to distinctiveness and sense of place.
- Craigmillar Policies are of high importance for recreation, with multiple Core Paths, and play or sports facilities. The area also includes Bridgend Farmhouse – a community-owned centre and allotments, and Craigmillar Castle Park Cemetery.
- The contrast in textures between the stone castle and the surrounding wooded context results in a high scenic value.
- The policy woodlands and areas of more recent tree planting provide biodiversity benefits, and also help provide a buffer between the park and the busy A7 road to the west.
- Open views in multiple directions, including towards Holyrood Park and Arthur's Seat, and the more distant Braid Hills and Pentland Hills, contribute to scenic interest and the setting of the landscape within the wider green swathe.
- The value of the landscape is recognised in its designation as a Local Landscape Area.

The changing landscape

3.288 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and pressures relating to the Craigmillar Policies LCA, which are additional to the more generic key changes and pressures identified for the Policy Landscape LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.289 Areas of the policy woodlands have experienced damage by recent storm events, pests and diseases.

3.290 Some areas of stone walls are in poor condition and would benefit from repair.

3.291 More recent tree planting has altered some of the original policy landscape features.

3.292 Outward views looking south-east have been altered by development at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and BioQuarter.

Forces for change

3.293 New and maturing planting may diversify the species and structure of policy woodlands, but support woodland succession and biodiversity.

3.294 Further development outside of the LCA at the Edinburgh BioQuarter is likely to alter views towards the wooded ridge of Edmonstone. This would increase the level of urban influence in an area with a relatively undeveloped character.

LCA 33: Dalmahoy Policies

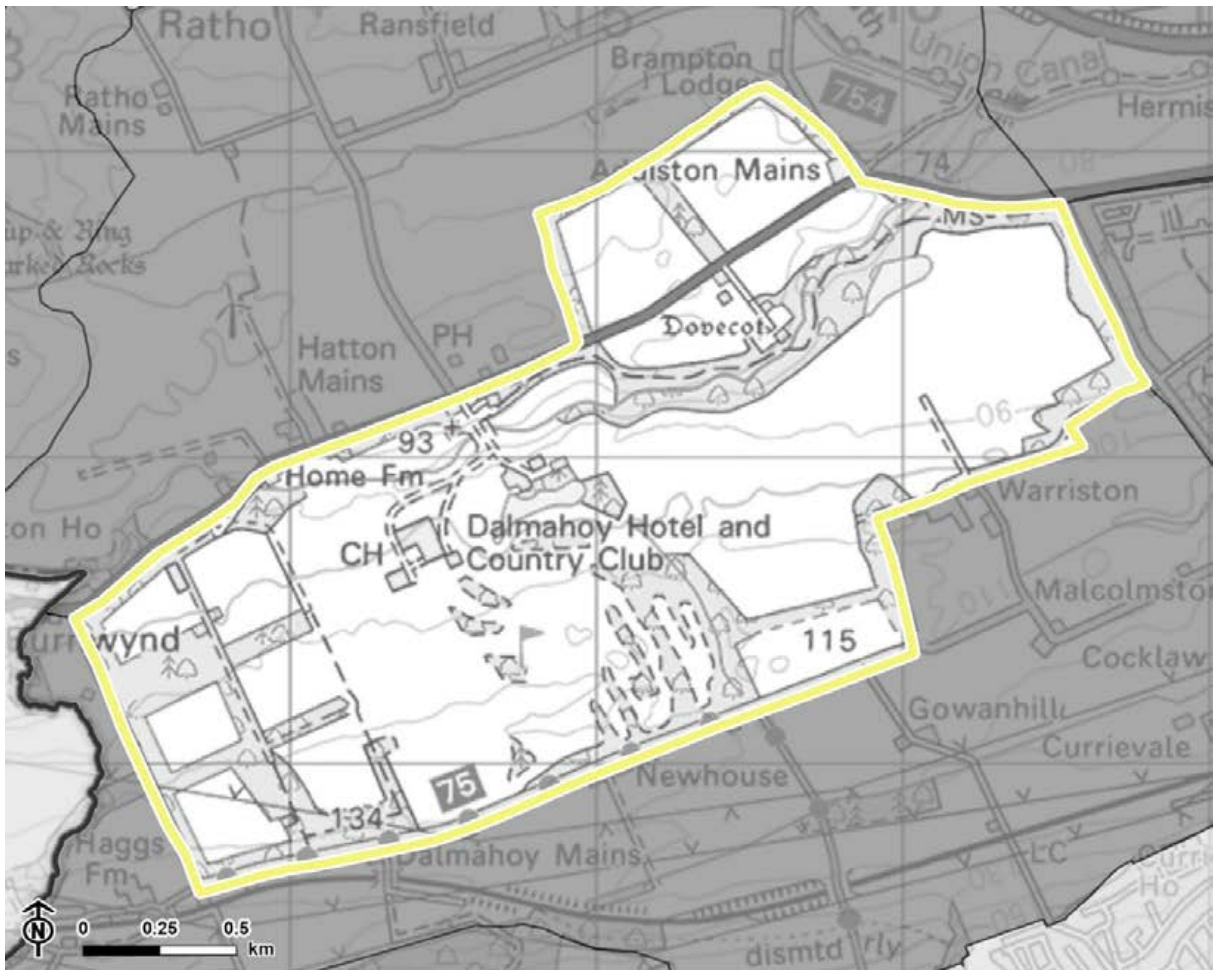
Location

3.295 The Dalmahoy Policies comprise the policy landscape at Dalmahoy Hotel and Country Club and the surrounding area, to the west of Edinburgh.

Figure 3.72: View up the partially wooded Gogar Burn valley from the bridge near the entrance to Dalmahoy Estate



Figure 3.73: Dalmahoy Policies LCA



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



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- A gentle north-facing slope between approximately 80m AOD and 135m AOD.
- The Gogar Burn forms a deeply incised valley in the north of the area, and another stream flows through the centre of the area into a pond near Dalmahoy House.
- A variety of land cover including a golf course, grassland and pasture, policy woodlands including areas of parkland, and more recently planted areas of woodland.
- Most buildings are located in the north and east, including Dalmahoy Hotel and Country Club, Addistoun House, and a few farms and houses near the area's perimeter.
- The designed landscape at Dalmahoy House has been extensively altered since its original 18th century design. The golf course covers much of the original deer park, although some open parkland remains in the east.
- The designed landscape at Addistoun house is more intact and there is also a tree-lined entrance avenue.
- Dense geometric tree belts result in a regular field pattern in the west and north-east. Woodland on the golf course reflects the course structure of fairways, greens and bunkers. Woodland along Gogar Burn and in the parkland landscape is more naturalistic in pattern.
- Some ornamental planting remains, for example yew, sweet chestnut and lime in the vicinity of Dalmahoy House, cherry and lime trees near Addistoun House, and conifers near Gogar Burn.
- Notable architectural and historic features, include the Listed Dalmahoy House, the nearby bridge across the Gogar Burn, and a dovecot near Addistoun House, as well as St Mary's Church and an ancient cross slab (a Scheduled Monument) in its grounds.
- A relatively quiet and secluded character in parts of the landscape away from the hotel, country club and A71.
- There is no formal public recreational access within the LCA, but National Cycle Network Route 75 runs along its the southern perimeter.

- Perimeter walls and policy woodlands result in an enclosed character, and filter views into the area, although the landscape is seen from some elevated locations nearby such as Kaimes Hill and the Ratho Hills.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.296 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Dalmahoy Policies LCA include:

- The area contains numerous notable architectural and historic features which contribute to a sense of history locally, although they are not prominent in views across the wider area.
- The geometric wooded belts in the west and north, which are Ancient Woodland, contrast with the more naturalistic pattern of riparian and parkland woodland elsewhere in the area.
- Surviving elements of the designed landscape add to the area's sense of history and distinctiveness. These include specimen trees and woodland, with some remnants of Ancient Woodland which enclosed the former deer park.
- The incised, partially wooded valley of Gogar Burn provides a contrast with the more open field and parkland landscape elsewhere in the area.
- Walls and woodland around the area's perimeter contribute to its sense of seclusion and tranquillity. The tree-lined formal entrances to Dalmahoy House and Addistoun House also contribute to the area's sense of place.
- Although the area is not widely prominent, it forms a wooded foreground in panoramic views from Kaimes and Ratho Hills, looking towards the Pentland Hills, Firth of Forth and more distinctive features within the city.

The changing landscape

3.297 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Dalmahoy Policies LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Policy Landscape LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.298 Modern buildings, parking, golf course planting and farm management have altered the historic landscape features at Dalmahoy, which was removed from Historic Environment Scotland's Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in 2015.

3.299 The grounds of the hotel and country club appear to be actively managed.

3.300 Boundary walls mainly appear to be in good condition, with small sections needing maintenance or repair.

Forces for change

3.301 Further development of Dalmahoy Hotel and Country Club may lead to additional loss or erosion of the surviving historic qualities of the designed landscape.

3.302 Veteran parkland trees and historic-lined avenues in areas of the designed landscape may be particularly vulnerable to the changing conditions associated with climate change, and loss of these trees would result in alteration to the landscape pattern and sense of place.

3.303 Climate change may also affect the riparian habitats around the Gogar Burn, for example causing changes in vegetation growth which would alter land cover and landscape pattern.

LCA 34: Dalmeny Policies

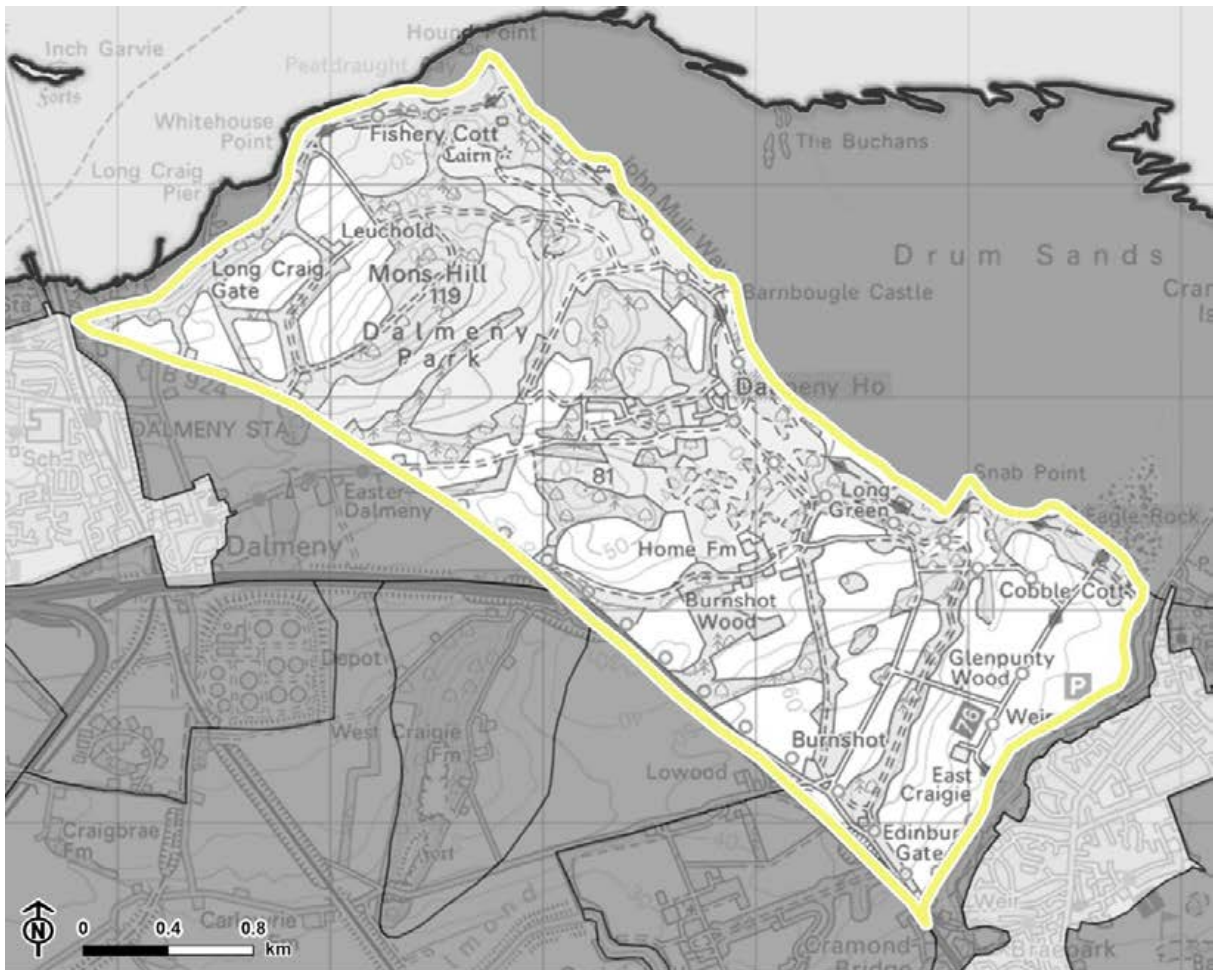
Location

3.304 The Dalmeny Policies LCA is located in the north-west of Edinburgh, situated along the shore between South Queensferry and Cramond. It encompasses Dalmeny Estate, including the extensive parkland associated with Dalmeny House.

Figure 3.74: Views across the Firth of Forth from Dalmeny Estate, with a strong presence of woodland along the coastline



Figure 3.75: Dalmeny Policies LCA



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



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- An undulating landscape, characterised by its underlying basalt outcrops, dolerite sills and oil shales, raised beach deposits and glacial till, rising from sea level to an elevation of 119m AOD at Mons Hill.
- A number of small burns, lined with riparian trees, drain from the higher land within the estate directly into the Firth of Forth in the north and north-east.
- Extensive areas of Ancient Woodland and trees dating back to the 18th Century, avenues of beech and parkland trees, plus one of Scotland's oldest oak trees.
- Areas of woodland are interspersed with areas of rolling pasture and arable land. The estate is famed for its snowdrops in early spring.
- Strong sense of history associated with the Listed Dalmeny House, Barnbogle Castle, and several other buildings, including gate lodges, farm buildings and a walled garden.
- The extensive GDL associated with Dalmeny House dates back to the early 19th Century, providing a sense of time-depth.
- Long ranging views from the shoreline and elevated areas (including Mons Hill), looking across the Firth of Forth, including towards its islands and towards Fife.
- Within the estate, views are filtered by rolling landform and woodland. From Mons Hill, distant inland views towards the Pentland Hills are available.
- Barnbogle Castle is a notable feature seen in views along the coastline from Cramond.
- Extensive recreational opportunities, encompassing parts of the John Muir Way and National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 76, a wider network of paths and tracks, and a 9-hole golf course.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.305 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Dalmeny Policies LCA include:

- Extensive areas of Ancient Woodland and veteran trees underpin the character of the area, providing both scenic and biodiversity value. Displays of snowdrops in early spring contribute to sense of place and seasonality.
- Highly scenic views out from Dalmeny Estate across the Firth of Forth, encompassing distant views of Inchmickery, Inchcolm and Cramond islands, contribute to sense of place.
- The juxtaposition of the varied colours and textures of the landscape against the simplicity of the Firth of Forth creates visual diversity, contributing to the quality of views.
- The estate and its numerous Listed buildings contribute to the strong sense of history, with many features dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries.
- The wooded estate forms a backdrop and shelter for the adjacent intertidal mudflats which are important for migratory birds.
- The Cammo (LCA 30), Craigiehall (LCA 31) and Dalmeny Policies, alongside the River Almond, form a wider wooded green swathe extending along the north-western periphery of Edinburgh.
- A network of paths, including part of the John Muir Way and NCN Route 76 provide easy access around the estate, providing highly valued recreational opportunities.
- The value of the landscape is recognised by its designation as part of a Local Landscape Area covering the Southern Forth Coast, including parts of the Cramond Coast (LCA 1) and Lauriston Policies (LCA 39).

The changing landscape

3.306 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Dalmeny Policies LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Policy Landscape LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.307 The landscape of Dalmeny Policies is in good condition, and areas of woodland, farmland and recreational routes are all well-maintained.

3.308 Recreational pressure is apparent in some areas, including for parking, and evidence of erosion by footfall.

3.309 Restoration of key buildings is underway to improve their condition and cater for private hire and corporate events.

Forces for change

3.310 Trees and woodland on the estate may become more susceptible to pests and diseases in a changing climate. It is noted that Dutch Elm disease and Ash Dieback is present on the estate and is likely to continue to spread.

3.311 Increased storm events and drought due to climate change may result in damage to veteran trees on the estate. Furthermore, flooding and increased coastal erosion and sea level rise may alter the character of the beaches found along this stretch of the coastline, altering the sense of transition in the landscape between the Dalmeny Policies and the Cramond Coast (LCA 1).

3.312 Changes to the estate management, including the management of trees and woodland, would potentially alter the overall structure and character of the landscape. The increased dominance of woodland by sycamore is likely to reduce its biodiversity value and requires management.

LCA 35: Dreghorn Policies

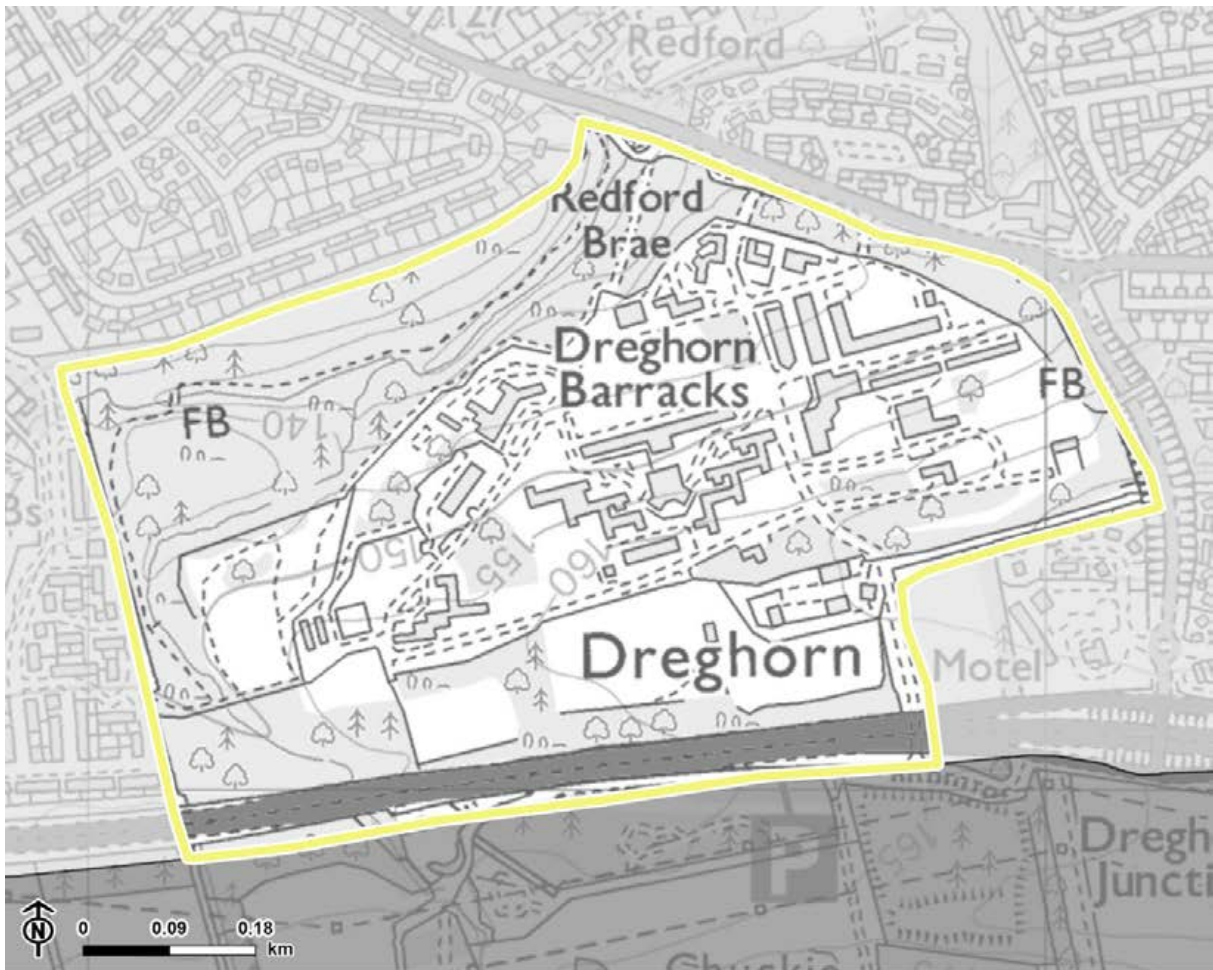
Location

3.313 This area comprises the remnant policies of Dreghorn Castle, demolished in 1955, following the requisition of the estate by the War Department. It is located on the southern edge of Edinburgh, below the steep slopes of the northern Pentland Hills.

Figure 3.76: Woodland along the Braid Burn contributes to an enclosed character

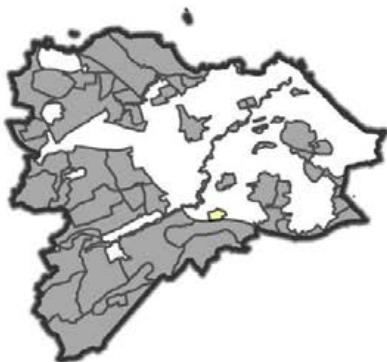


Figure 3.77: Dreghorn Policies LCA



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-  Policy Landscape: Dreghorn Policies
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Landform rises from the incised wooded valley of the Braid Burn and its tributaries of the Bonaly Burn and the Howden Burn to shallow upper slopes to the south and east.
- Dreghorn Barracks occupy the upper slopes above Braid Burn, built in 1937-42 and upgraded in 1989-92 and is set within the former grounds of Dreghorn Castle which was demolished in 1955.
- The area contains numerous features of historical interest, including the sites of demolished buildings, Redford Bridge, the Covenanters' Monument, and trenches used for military training in the First and Second World Wars.
- The barracks are set within parkland with specimen trees of lime, oak and sycamore, and mown grass around buildings.
- Woodland belts along the north-eastern and southern edges of the barracks, and security fencing along the whole perimeter, contribute to an enclosed and wooded character.
- Dense woodland along the Braid Burn valley includes beech, sycamore and oak punctuated by occasional tall exotic conifers.
- Informal paths to the north and west of the barracks meander through the woodland and along the burns. Another path skirts the south-eastern edge of the barracks and passes under the City Bypass, giving access to the Pentland Hills.
- The area is visible from the northern slopes of the Pentland Hills, from where the woodlands of the area are visually linked with those south of the City Bypass, despite their physical severance.
- Owing to its wooded character, views within the area are relatively enclosed, although the summits of the Pentland Hills are visible above the treetops in views south.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.314 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Dreghorn Policies LCA include:

- Woodland contributes to an enclosed character, offering a sense of seclusion and tranquillity at the edge of the city.

- The area is richly wooded with a presence of Ancient Woodland, with individual specimen conifers providing contrasting textures among the mainly deciduous woodlands.
- The area contains numerous historic assets, including architectural features and trenches used for military training. Information boards show the sites of these features, contributing to the recreational experience of the landscape.
- The valley woodlands along the Braid Burn and path networks, including access to the Pentland Hills, are of important recreational value.
- The value of the landscape is recognised through its designation as part of a Local Landscape Area covering the Pentlands.

The changing landscape

3.315 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Dreghorn Policies LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Policy Landscape LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.316 The paths are mainly in reasonably good condition.

3.317 There is evidence of woodland management including tree felling.

3.318 Most of the parkland in the area is within the barracks which are not accessible to the public. A small area of parkland extending to the north and west of the barracks does not appear to be actively managed, and is covered by long grass and weeds.

Forces for change

3.319 New facilities at the barracks may alter the character and spatial pattern of the remnant designed landscape. Consideration of historic landscape character and the pattern of trees, woodland and open parkland will be important.

3.320 Veteran parkland trees may be particularly vulnerable to changing conditions associated with climate change, and the loss of these features would change the landscape pattern.

3.321 Increased rainfall, as a result of climate change, could lead to high water flow and localised flooding in Braid Burn and its tributaries, contrasting with periods of

drought and low flows. This may affect the riparian habitats around Braid Burn and its tributaries, for example causing changes in vegetation growth which would alter landscape pattern.

LCA 36: Drum Policies

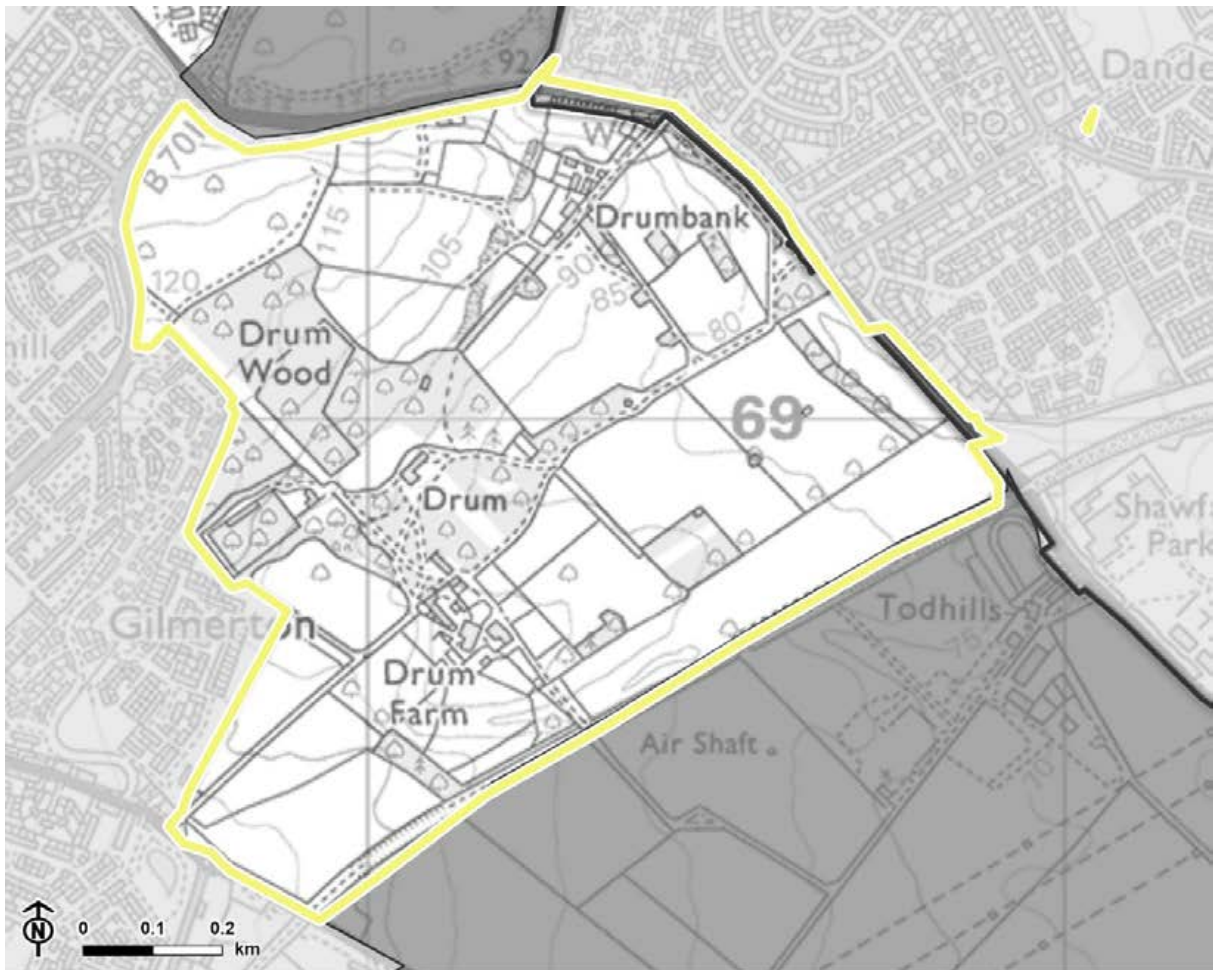
Location

3.322 This landscape extends across a small hill east of Gilmerton, to the south-east of Edinburgh near the boundary with Midlothian, and is bounded by the A68 to the east and A7 to the west.




Figure 3.78: Drum House is set amidst dense woodland and lawns lined by avenue trees



Figure 3.79: Drum Policies LCA



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



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Gently sloping landform descends from the north-west to south-east from a high point north of Drum Wood with Drum House located on a low ridge.
- Parkland enclosed by perimeter woodlands and beech avenues leading to Drum House, which is backed by Drum Wood to the north. Some commercial plantations in fields to the east.
- The ornamental landscape near the house includes lawns, specimen trees and shrubs, including cedar and rhododendron, and remnants of a canal.
- The designed landscape provides the setting for the Palladian-style 18th century mansion of Drum House (designed by William Adam) and forms the framework for extensive axial views to the south-east.
- Other notable buildings within the estate include the stables, 19th century dower house of Drumbank villa to the north-east and the late 18th century East Lodges, linked by quadrant walls on Old Dalkeith Road.
- Drum Farm is a riding centre for the disabled. Horse paddocks occupy fields to the south of the house with the wider pasture and arable land contributing to a rural setting.
- There is public access via paths and drives around the estate. Active travel links also run on the former railway line to the south.
- 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 by dense woodland.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.323 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Drum Policies LCA include:

- The Listed Drum House provides historical and architectural value to the landscape. Alongside the perimeter walls, parkland and policy woodland have local importance and contribute to the recreational and scenic value.
- The historic structure of the landscape, which remains relatively intact, reflects William Adam's formal style of landscape design carried out in the 1700s as the setting for his design for Drum House and is designated as a GDL.

- The policy woodlands and parkland that provide the landscape setting to the mansion house are of high scenic value and make an important contribution to the landscape in the south-east of the city.
- The woodlands provide biodiversity value, in addition to enclosing the main avenues, contributing to a sense of tranquillity.
- Alongside its riding centre, the estate contributes to local recreational access via its path network, as well as seasonal events.
- The value of the landscape is recognised through its designation as a Local Landscape Area.

The changing landscape

3.324 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and pressures relating to the Drum Policies LCA, which are additional to the more generic key changes and pressures identified for the Policy Landscape LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.325 Some recent improvements include tree and hedgerow planting however, estate walls, woodlands and the canal water feature require ongoing conservation.

3.326 A number of features of the designed landscape have been lost due to past coal mining activity. Housing development has reduced the area of parkland and altered the original vista along the north avenue.

3.327 Pylons can be glimpsed across the adjacent fields to the south-east, and the Edinburgh City Bypass is a source of noise which reduces the tranquillity of the landscape.

Forces for change

3.328 Further expansion of existing residential areas adjacent to the LCA, including Gilmerton to the west and Danderhall to the east, could intensify the urbanising influence within or near the landscape and detract from its rural setting.

3.329 Degradation of the policy woodlands, as a result of an increase in the frequency and severity of storm events coupled with periods of drought or an increase in pests and diseases, associated with climate change, could influence the character of the wooded hill as seen in views from the surrounding area. Loss of

trees could also reduce the scenic quality of views experienced from Drum House, by reducing the filtering of views towards surrounding properties and roads.

LCA 37: Dundas Policies

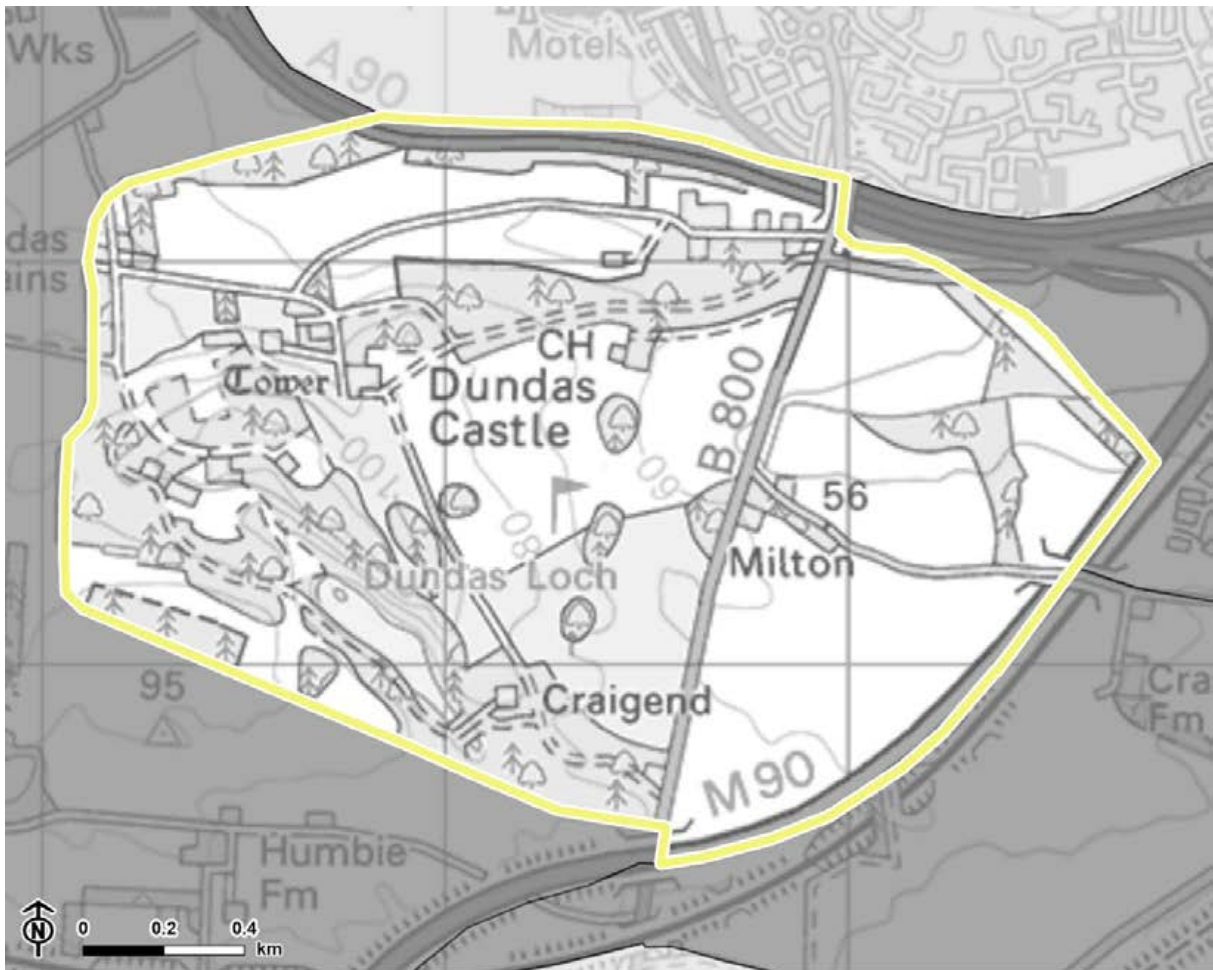
Location

3.330 Located in the north-west of Edinburgh, this landscape is situated on Dundas Hill which rises within a context of more gently undulating farmland to the south-west of South Queensferry, and is bounded by the M90 to the north and south-east.

Figure 3.80: View across Dundas Loch to the rocky, wooded outcrop which screens views towards Dundas Castle

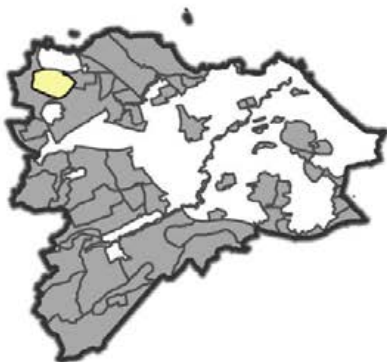


Figure 3.81: Dundas Policies LCA



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



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Varied landform, generally rising in elevation from gentle fields in the east towards Dundas Hill in the south-west, with a steep drop towards Dundas Loch creating a sharp cliff face.
- The designed landscape in the west includes parkland across east facing slopes below Dundas Castle, extensive policy woodlands and the 19th century Picturesque Dundas Loch and ornamental woodland gardens set within a narrow valley below the craggy south-west facing scarp of Dundas Hill.
- A golf course occupies most of the parkland, with clumps of trees planted in the 19th century still evident, along with more recent planting along fairways. The golf course is flanked by the B800 to the east, which cuts through the landscape.
- Arable farmland extends northwards to the A90 on the edge of South Queensferry and eastwards between the B800 and M90, Fields are divided by pockets of woodland and the Dolphington Burn.
- Dense invasive rhododendron along the main drives within the estate chokes woodlands in many areas and restricts views from drives.
- Publicly accessible paths run between Dundas Hill and the golf course, and along the southern side of Dundas Loch. Dundas Castle, whilst not publicly accessible, is seen in views from the paths.
- The woodland, along with the varied landform, results in an enclosed character, limiting visibility of features including the Castle and Loch from the landscape more widely.
- Dundas Hill forms a wooded backdrop to South Queensferry when viewed from the Forth Bridges; this setting to the town is also echoed to the east by the wooded hills of the designed landscape of Dalmeny.
- Open views are available from the path through the estate and golf course towards the iconic architecture of the Forth Bridge, with Fife seen beyond. Looking south-east, the Pentland Hills form a distant skyline.
- Arable land in the east is more open in character, though large blocks of woodland with a policy character are present.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.331 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Dundas Policies LCA include:

- The steep landform of Dundas Hill forms a local landmark within the landscape, contributing to sense of place and forms part of the setting to South Queensferry. The secluded Dundas Loch, surrounding ornamental woodland and crags have a picturesque and romantic character unusual in Edinburgh's designed landscapes.
- The parkland, extensive policy woodlands, loch and ornamental gardens are of high scenic quality. The range of tree species within the designed landscape provides an array of colours and visual interest throughout the seasons.
- The presence of designed landscape features, and the Castle, contribute to historic value which is legible in the landscape today.
- The wooded quality of the designed landscape screens views of contemporary development from the interior of the estate, including views from Dundas Loch, contributing to a strong sense of tranquillity.
- The value of the landscape in the west is recognised through its designation as a Local Landscape Area.

The changing landscape

3.332 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and pressures relating to the Dundas Policies LCA, which are additional to the more generic key changes and pressures identified for the Policy Landscape LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.333 Woodland is generally in good condition and appears well managed, however in some places the dense and invasive rhododendron suppresses regeneration and should be removed.

3.334 Tree planting within the golf course is out of character with the policy woodlands in the designed landscape, with newer planting along fairways altering the simplicity and boldness of the original design.

3.335 Some of the historic buildings are in a state of disrepair or have been altered through conversion to holiday accommodation.

3.336 Some influence by road noise on the M90 and the B800 alters the sense of tranquillity.

Forces for change

3.337 Further diversification for recreation could weaken the relatively intact structure and scenic value of the historic landscape unless carefully managed.

3.338 Loss of woodland which forms a screening function between the landscape and surrounding main roads would alter the landscape pattern and affect the sense of tranquillity and seclusion within the landscape.

3.339 Further alteration to historic buildings, if not sensitively restored, would alter the sense of time depth and scenic quality of the landscape.

LCA 38: Edmonstone Policies

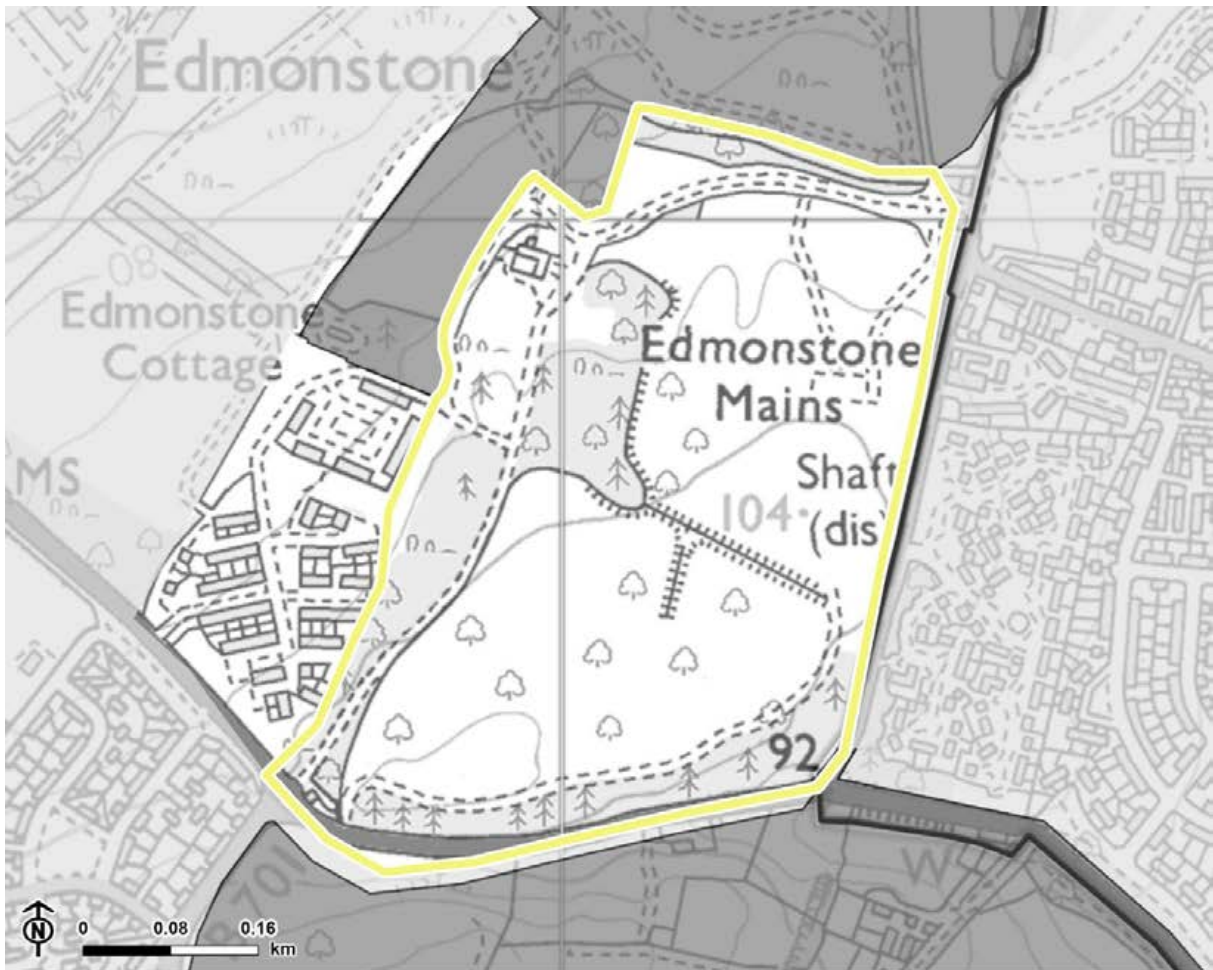
Location

3.340 This area is located on a distinct ridge south of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary site and is bounded to the east by the elevated ridge-top road of The Wisp, which forms the boundary between Edinburgh and Midlothian, and by the A7 to the south-west. The landscape is currently undergoing a significant change in character, resulting from the construction of housing to the east of the wooded ridge.

Figure 3.82: The wooded ridge of Edmonstone forms a containing skyline beyond the Edinburgh BioQuarter



Figure 3.83: Edmonstone Policies LCA



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



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Landform forms a low, but prominent, wooded ridge, rising above Niddrie Burn valley, which falls to the north.
- Remnants of the designed landscape, associated with the former Edmonstone House, are focused around a core area of woodland surrounding the south drive, delineated by a ha-ha and stone boundary walls.
- Remains of stables, an ice house, gates and associated lodges present built historic features in the landscape.
- A strong influence of ongoing change associated with residential development within parkland to the east, with a further residential cluster planned around the former house and stables in the north-west.
- Paths provide connectivity between the landscape and Little France Park to the north, although recreational access is currently limited by construction.
- Ridge-top woodland forms a treed skyline and containment to south of city, notably in views from Craigmillar Castle and Arthur's Seat.
- Woodland results in an enclosed character within the interior of this landscape, with a visual connection to the policy woodlands of The Drum (LCA 36) and remnant tree belts extending north towards the Edinburgh BioQuarter.
- Slightly elevated position of the wooded ridge enables glimpsed outward views to Craigmillar Castle, Arthur's Seat, the city skyline, Braid Hills and Pentland Hills.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.341 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Edmonstone Policies LCA include:

- The wooded ridge provides visual containment and a natural backdrop beyond residential neighbourhoods and Little France Park. The policy woodlands are visible from elevated parts of Edinburgh such as Craigmillar Castle and Arthur's Seat, from where the Edmonstone ridge provides containment to the city and contributes to sense of place.
- Retained woodland forms part of a wider swathe, in combination with policy woodland within The Drum (LCA 36), contributing to biodiversity value.

- Remnant policy woodland, parkland trees and historic built features have some scenic qualities.

The changing landscape

3.342 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and pressures of relevance to the Edmonstone Policies LCA, which are additional to the more generic key changes and pressures identified for the Policy Landscape LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.343 A large part of this area is being developed into housing, with construction currently limiting access for the public.

3.344 Individual trees have been removed, however the main areas of woodland that are remnants of the policy parkland remain. The policy woodland is dominated in places by sycamore.

3.345 Gate lodges, gates and estate walls are in a state of disrepair and would benefit from restoration or stabilisation.

Forces for change

3.346 Development of the area near Tweedsmuir Gate (which was previously located within the LCA) has altered the character of the landscape from open fields to a residential development. Whilst the walls of the former walled garden have been retained, dense residential development and car parking is located within the interior of the walls.

3.347 Further development is ongoing within the parkland landscape to the east of the wooded ridge. Whilst some trees have been retained (and a landscape scheme will be implemented), the introduction of relatively dense residential development will alter the character of the landscape from an open, undeveloped area of parkland to a developed residential area.

3.348 An increase in the frequency and severity of storm events coupled with periods of drought or an increase in pests and diseases, as a result of climate change, may result in damage to remaining areas of woodland. Woodland areas may also become further dominated by sycamore or invasive, non-native species. The loss of woodland on the ridge would affect the scenic value and the sense of place associated with the backdrop formed by the ridge.

3.349 Further development planned for parts of the wooded ridge near the former Edmonstone House may alter the prevailing undeveloped, scenic and wooded character of the ridge.

3.350 Development will alter recreational access to the area, however there are opportunities to improve access, connectivity with paths at Little France Park, and to integrate interpretation of the historic landscape and cultural heritage assets in the landscape.

3.351 Increased residential use and recreational pressure may place greater demand on management of remaining landscape features.

LCA 39: Lauriston Policies

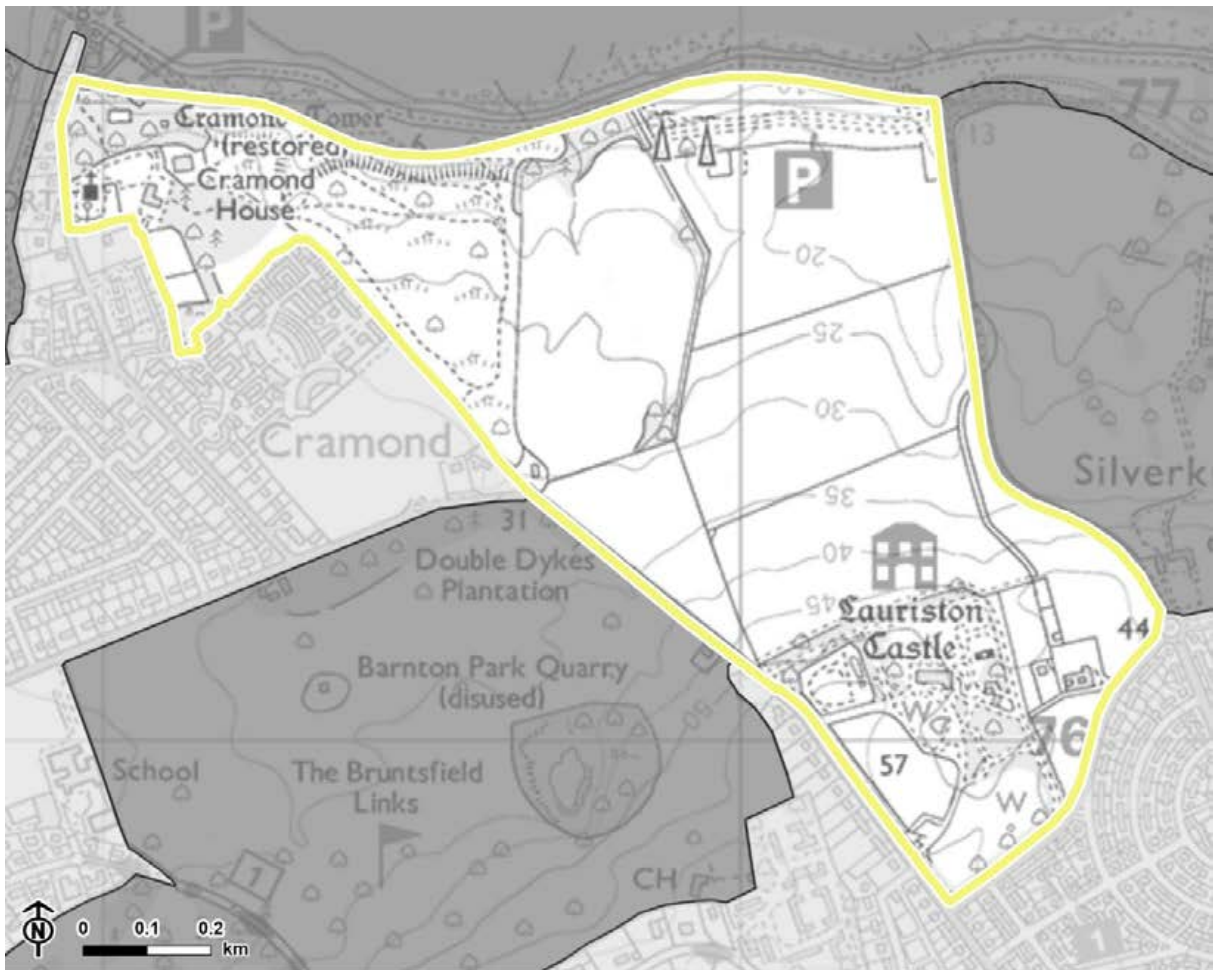
Location

3.352 The Lauriston Policies are located in the north-west of Edinburgh, between the urban areas of Silverknowes and Cramond. It encompasses Lauriston Castle and its gardens and the open coastal fields extending to north Cramond.

Figure 3.84: Avenue of trees within the grounds of Lauriston Castle



Figure 3.85: Lauriston Policies LCA



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-  Policy Landscape: Lauriston Policies
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Gently undulating landscape rising in elevation from the Firth of Forth in the north to the flattened ridge upon which Lauriston Castle sits in the south.
- Large rectilinear agricultural fields are primarily bounded by post and wire fencing, with some hedgerows and tree belts in the north-west.
- The farmland is occupied by Lauriston Farm, an urban farm for community food growing. It encourages nature-friendly and holistic farming techniques, which provides habitat creation and access for the community.
- The openness of the agricultural land and designed gardens extends into the neighbouring Barnton and Silverknowes golf courses, and out towards the Firth of Forth.
- Lauriston Castle, a Listed building dating back to the 16th century, sits within a designed landscape. The castle and its grounds are enclosed by mature woodlands and stone walls.
- Lauriston GDL dates back to the 19th century, featuring mature avenues, a Japanese garden, and veteran trees including beech, sycamore and willow.
- Cramond Tower and Cramond House, dating back to the 15th and 17th century, respectively, are situated near the shoreline at Cramond and surrounded by mature parkland trees.
- Long ranging views out across the Firth of Forth to the north, encompassing Cramond, Inchmickery and Incholm islands and the distant Fife coastline.
- The settlement edges of Silverknowes and Cramond are visually prominent from across the farmland, partially obscured by mature trees.
- Access to the grounds of Lauriston Castle and along the coastline near Cramond present a variety of recreational opportunities, including cultural events within the Castle and its grounds.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.353 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Lauriston Policies LCA include:

- Uninterrupted views from Lauriston Castle out across the Firth of Forth are important for the setting of the castle and its grounds.

- Extensive areas of Ancient Woodland and veteran trees within Lauriston Castle GDL underpin the character of this area, providing both scenic and biodiversity value.
- Large scale agricultural land provides a sense of openness within the landscape, extending to neighbouring green space and out to the Firth of Forth.
- Juxtaposition of undulating farmland against a backdrop of open water provides variety and distinctiveness in views.
- Lauriston Castle and its grounds contribute to the history of the area, with many features dating back to pre-19th century.
- Coastal walks and the grounds of Lauriston Castle are important for their recreational value.
- The value of the landscape is recognised through its designation as part of a Local Landscape Area extending across the Southern Forth Coast, including parts of the Cramond Coast (LCA 1) and Dalmeny Policies (LCA 34).

The changing landscape

3.354 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Lauriston Policies LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Policy Landscape LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.355 The designed landscape at Lauriston Castle is of high quality, with the woodlands and gardens being well maintained. Elsewhere, agricultural land is well maintained, however there has been some loss of field boundaries.

Forces for change

3.356 Changes in the management of the area due to recreational pressure may lead to provision of new facilities, particularly along the shore between Cramond and Silverknowes, and in the grounds at Lauriston Castle.

3.357 Loss of veteran trees of trees within mature avenues would alter the landscape pattern.

3.358 Lauriston Farm is transforming the surrounding fields back into a nature-rich, community food growing farm. This includes new woodland, hedge and meadow planting, and crop and grazing regimes designed to benefit birdlife.

LCA 40: Mortonhall Policies

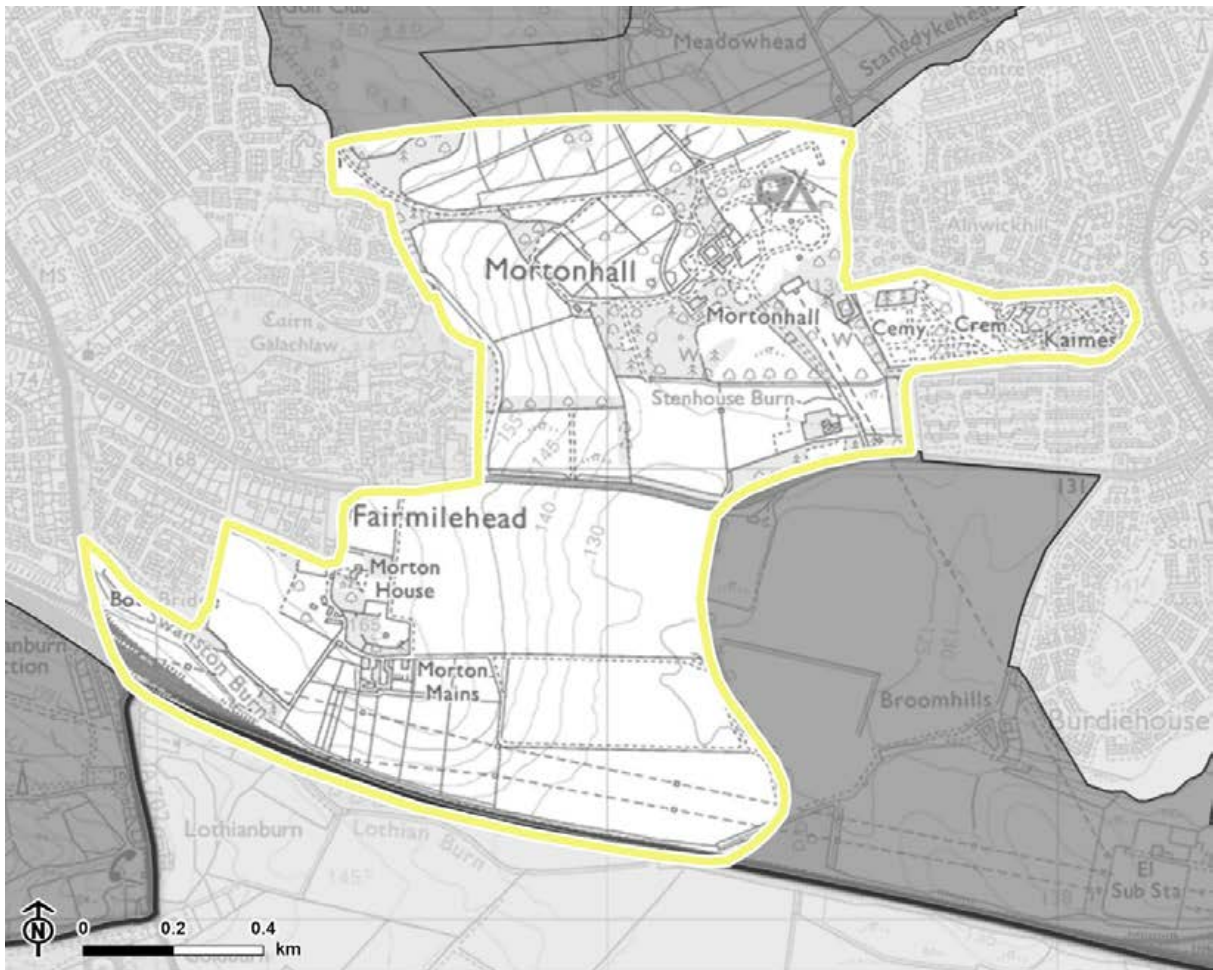
Location

3.359 The Mortonhall Policies encompasses an area of east-facing sloping wooded farmland located to the south of the Braid Hills, in the south of the city, near the boundary with Midlothian.

Figure 3.86: Gentle slopes of the wooded parkland landscape enclosing Mortonhall

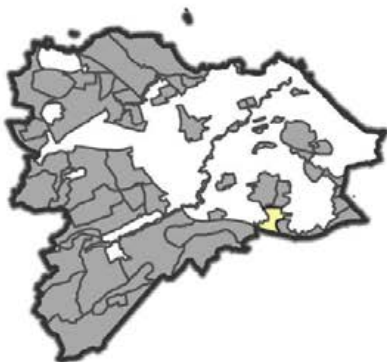


Figure 3.87: Mortonhall Policies LCA



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



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Landform is concave, gently rising from 130m AOD in the east to 175m AOD in the west.
- Mature parkland trees, an arboretum, dense woodland, tree avenues and wooded field boundaries contribute to a well-wooded character, although agricultural fields between Mortonhall and Morton House are more open.
- Stone boundary walls and Listed historic buildings of Mortonhall, Morton House and its belvedere tower contribute to a cohesive architectural vernacular. Field boundaries are delineated by post and wire fencing in places.
- The Stenhouse Burn rises near Mortonhall, in the north of the landscape, and has been channelised with stone walls.
- The designed landscape surrounding Mortonhall and Morton House are separated by the B701 and agricultural fields but retain a similar character of tree belts, boundary walling and views across the surrounding landscape.
- The garden centre and caravan and camping park exert localised influences on the landscape, though are largely in keeping with the intimate scale and contained by the robust landscape structure.
- Mortonhall cemetery and crematorium occupies a wooded site alongside the Stenhouse Burn in the east, formerly part of the Mortonhall estate, and providing a setting to Basil Spence's Listed crematorium buildings.
- To the north of the B701, remnant concrete bases of Nissen huts reflect the wartime use of the estate by the army which add to its cultural interest.
- A network of signed paths crosses the north of the LCA connecting with local residential neighbourhoods. The caravan and camping park offer opportunity for recreation. Green space near the cemetery and crematorium also form an important civic use.
- Woodland and sloping landform result in an enclosed character and sense of rural tranquillity despite proximity to urban areas. The Pentland Hills form a focus of views to the south, rising above the wooded skyline of the immediate landscape.
- Pylons and the City Bypass are large-scale human influences in the south.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.360 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Mortonhall Policies LCA include:

- The enclosing nature of sloping landform and wooded character contributes to the sense of seclusion, shelter and tranquillity, particularly around Mortonhall.
- The surviving designed landscape around Mortonhall and Morton House, with its mature trees and established landscape structure, contributes to the sense of place and provides scenic contrast with the historic buildings.
- Numerous Listed historic buildings, a walled garden and remains of other structures, such as statues, entrance gates, and stone estate walls, contribute to the sense of history, also reflected in the inclusion of the south-west of the area in the Morton Mains Conservation Area.
- The area forms part of a broader green swathe, with the Braid Hills LCA and Liberton Fringes LCA, which extends and merges with the Braid Hills in views from the Pentland Hills to the south.
- Views towards the Pentland Hills contribute to sense of place and scenic quality.
- The network of paths contributes to recreational value and provides important connectivity between the surrounding urban context and the Braid Hills to the north.
- The value of the landscape is recognised in its inclusion in a Local Landscape Area which also extends across the Braid Hills LCA and Liberton Fringes LCA.

The changing landscape

3.361 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Mortonhall Policies LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Policy Landscape LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.362 Woodland and the parkland landscape are in good condition, although some walls and remains of other historic built elements show signs of deterioration or have been damaged due to antisocial behaviour (graffiti), and rhododendron is invasive in places.

3.363 Recent wooden enclosures and metal tree guards in paddocks near Mortonhall have altered the open parkland character of the landscape, although these are in good condition.

3.364 Features like the garden centre, carpark, caravan park and campsite, and associated traffic, have a suburban influence but sit within a relatively intact landscape structure.

Forces for change

3.365 Intensification of use at the caravan park and campsite may alter the less developed historic character of the landscape surrounding Mortonhall.

3.366 Pressures to expand facilities to accommodate recreational visitors to Mortonhall may result in alteration to the landscape pattern and sense of seclusion and tranquillity.

3.367 Future management of the Stenhouse Burn for water quality and biodiversity objectives to naturalise its setting may alter the visual appearance and pattern of the landscape along the watercourse.

3.368 Pressure for intensification or reinforcement of electricity infrastructure, particularly focused around existing infrastructure in the south of the landscape, may influence important sightlines between the landscape and the Pentland Hills.

3.369 Further expansion of sycamore or non-native invasive species like rhododendron may reduce the quality and diversity of woodland, if not controlled.

LCA 41: Newliston Policies

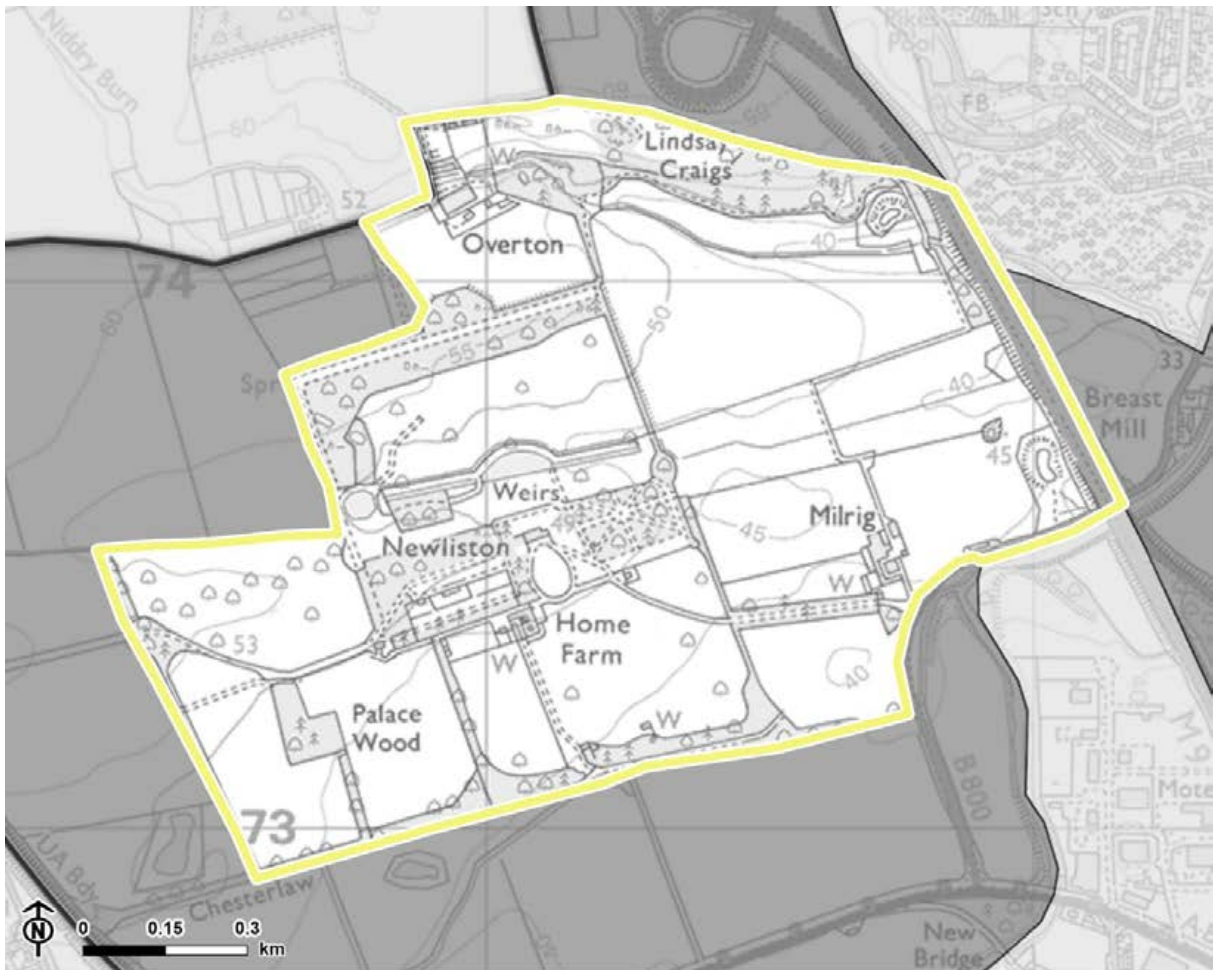
Location

3.370 Located in the west of Edinburgh near the boundary with West Lothian, the Newliston Policies are located to the south-west of Kirkliston and comprise the designed landscape, woodland and fields surrounding Newliston House.

Figure 3.88: Woodland avenue lining the main entrance to Newliston Estate

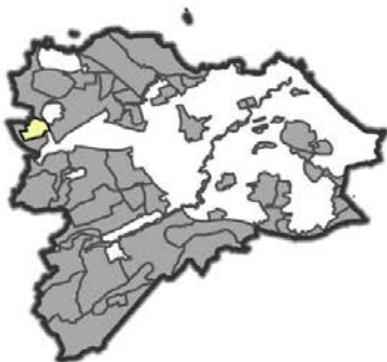


Figure 3.89: Newliston Policies LCA



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



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Low-lying, though situated on a slight rise with slopes gently descending to the south-east towards the River Almond.
- The Niddry Burn and Brox Burn feed the water features in the designed landscape, which include two ponds with linking canals.
- Woodland blocks, avenues and water features surround the house, laid out in a Formal French style, with open fields and more naturalistic areas of woodland located on the peripheries.
- Open fields are enclosed by metal estate fencing. Formal gardens are enclosed by a stone boundary wall defining a ha-ha terminating in circular bastions at the corners.
- The Listed Newliston House (designed by Robert Adam) forms a focus in the landscape.
- Other historic buildings include the Listed East Lodge, lectern doocot and 18th century coach house and stables.
- Although the A89 and M9 do not lie far from the area, the landscape itself is only crossed by the private estate roads, and there is no formal public access.
- The perimeter trees and shallow landform result in an enclosed character and high degree of privacy, which is enhanced by the limited public access.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.371 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Newliston Policies LCA include:

- The historic value of the designed landscape, with its combination of woodland, avenues and water features and the relative intactness of the landscape and architectural features, is recognised as a GDL, and contributes to sense of place.
- Situated on a low rise with areas of policy woodland and parkland, the landscape has high scenic value. The screening to and from nearby road and rail corridors, provided by perimeter planting, increases the scenic value and contributes to a sense of seclusion and tranquillity.

- The policy woodlands provide value for biodiversity, which could be threatened by expansion of non-native invasive species.

The changing landscape

3.372 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and pressures relating to the Newliston Policies LCA, which are additional to the more generic key changes and pressures identified for the Policy Landscape LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.373 The features of the designed landscape have been well maintained, with replacement planting being evident. Additionally, the main house and estate buildings are intact.

Forces for change

3.374 Changes to the management of trees and woodland, or impacts upon these due to a changing climate or plant pathogens, may affect the visual screening they provide, the level of noise from the M9, and the sense of enclosure and privacy experienced from within the estate.

3.375 Rising temperatures and increased rainfall, due to climate change, may result in drought or flooding of the tributaries of the River Almond which run through and along the edge of the landscape, and may in turn alter the water features in the designed landscape.

Prominent Urban Hills Landscape Character Type

Landscape Character Areas

3.376 The Prominent Urban Hills Landscape Character Type (LCT) features the following Landscape Character Areas (LCAs):

- Braid Hills (42)
- Calton Hill (43)
- Castle Rock (44)
- Corstorphine Hill (45)
- Craiglockhart Hills (46)
- Holyrood Park (47)

Figure 3.90: View from Arthur's Seat overlooking Salsbury Crags, with Castle Rocks and Corstorphine Hill in the distance



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCT are:

- Steeply rising volcanic hills with craggy outcrops of rock vegetated with mature trees or scrub and open grass.
- With the exception of Arthur's Seat, settlement extends up the lower slopes of the hills which has varying impact on the prominence.
- Important for recreational use, which includes golf courses and informal recreation.
- The hills provide important vantages to experience dramatic views over the city.
- Steeply rising hills standing distinct from the surrounding landform and of geological significance.
- Iconic landmarks within the city, prominent from the wider area.
- Cultural importance with built features of historical significance and cultural events and associations with the hills.

Forces for change

3.377 The following section sets out key changes and pressures relating to the Prominent Urban Hills LCT:

- Pressure for development, particularly tall buildings, within the surrounding urban context, or features such as masts on the hills themselves, may affect the distinctive profile and prominence of the hills as viewed from across the city and the surrounding rural context.
- Increases in the frequency and severity of storm events or wild fires, as a result of climate change, as well as an increase in pests and diseases, may damage the structure, density and species composition of woodland, rugged scrub and grassland landcover.
- More frequent and intense rainfall and contrasting periods of warm dry spells, as a result of climate change, may exacerbate erosion of craggy and rugged slopes, in addition to paths.
- Shallow soils on the hills are vulnerable to erosion from recreational pressures. Combined with wetter winters and hotter drier summers associated with climate

change, the regeneration of grassland may require management alongside regular path maintenance.

- Increase in recreational use may influence the sense of naturalness or tranquillity experienced within the landscape, especially in the case where upgraded visitor facilities and infrastructure are necessary, altering the landscape pattern and visual character.

Landscape management guidelines

3.378 The following section sets out recommended landscape management guidelines for the Prominent Urban Hill LCT:

- Respect the skyline and hills' profile avoiding tall or visually intrusive structures on the hills or in the surrounding urban area.
- Design new planting to maintain views and sightlines, improve the age and species diversity of woodland, and use pioneer species suitable for exposed slopes and compatible with existing native woodland.
- Respect the character of the hills and the sense of contrast between woodland, open parkland, rugged scrub and exposed summits.
- Manage and improve wayfinding and interpretation to promote responsible recreational access and encourage stewardship.
- Manage and improve paths and grassland using low profile or naturalistic boundary treatment to prevent erosion in high use areas and support biodiversity by limiting access to sensitive habitats.

LCA 42: Braid Hills

Location

3.379 The Braid Hills are located in the south of the city and extend across the two main summits of Blackford Hill and Buckstone Snab.



Figure 3.91: Tufted grassland interspersed with long banks of scrubby gorse, with open and expansive views from Buckstone Snab



Figure 3.92: Braid Hills LCA



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-  Prominent Urban Hills: Braid Hills
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Steeply rising summits of Blackford Hill (164m AOD) and Buckstone Snab (206m AOD) with distinct craggy outcrops in the west and more gentle slopes in the east, forming an overall landform of long 'whale-back' ridges.
- Elevated landform is cut by narrow valleys, the most significant of these being the wooded valley of the Braid Burn.
- Open and often exposed character with drifts of finely tufted grassland interspersed with long banks of scrubby gorse and woodland on steeper ground. Broken stone dykes are a feature within the hills.
- The coarse textured vegetation cover and rocky outcrops accentuate the rugged qualities of this landscape and offer a sense of naturalness within the city.
- Numerous golf courses on gentler slopes influence the landscape pattern, though these generally fit with the wider landscape and 'grain' of contours.
- The Blackford Hill prehistoric hill fort (Scheduled Monument) forms a legible feature on the hill summit.
- The 19th century Royal Observatory building is a focus on Blackford Hill with its distinctive red stone plinth surmounted by green metal classical cylinders.
- The Hermitage of Braid 18th century villa is less visible, being situated within the intimate wooded valley of the Braid Burn.
- Many informal foot and cycle paths which criss-cross the hills and follow the Braid Burn valley. The former quarry is popular with rock climbers.
- Braid Hills Drive dissects the hills and some tracks also provide access, some of these to the former quarries which cut into hill sides.
- Telecommunication masts below Buckstone Snab and Blackford Hill form a vertical focus, with lights, on the skyline.
- Although not high, the hills form a distinctive outcrop of knolly hills visible over much of the city and are distinguishable by their craggy landform and semi-natural landcover, with contrasting features such as Midmar Paddock, with its ridge-and-furrow.
- Views from the hills are exhilarating, with a strong visual connection between the Pentland Hills, the Braid Hills and Holyrood Park.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.380 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Braid Hills LCA include:

- Though relatively low-profile compared to other urban hills, the craggy summits and semi-natural landcover contribute to the hills' unique identity and sense of place.
- The long eastern flanks of the hills (within the Liberton Fringes LCA) extend to Liberton and form an integral part of the landscape setting of the more distinct hill tops, contributing to the transitional qualities of the landscape and skyline profile of the hills.
- The contrast between the hill summits, Midmar Paddock with its ridge-and-furrow, and the incised wooded Braid Burn valley contributes to the scenic quality and diversity of views experienced within the landscape.
- Scrub, gorse and woodland on slopes and within the Braid Burn valley provide diversity in landscape pattern and habitat connectivity, and form part of a local nature reserve.
- Remnants of the prehistoric Blackford Hill fort (a Scheduled Monument) form a legible landscape feature and reflect the hill's strategic position above the surrounding landscape, contributing to time depth.
- The 19th century Royal Observatory complex contributes to time depth and forms part of the distinctive skyline of Blackford Hill within the city. As well as its important role in UK and world astronomy, it attracts visitors and school visits to the hill.
- The Hermitage of Braid 18th century villa contributes to time depth and scenic quality, though experienced more locally within the sheltered valley setting.
- The wooded character, dynamic quality of the burn and steeply incised landform of the Braid Burn valley contributes to a sense of shelter and tranquillity.
- The sense of exposure and open views experienced from hill tops contributes to scenic quality and sense of place.
- The visual relationship between the Braid Hills and other elevated areas (including the Pentland Hills and Holyrood Park) contributes to the sense of place within Edinburgh more widely.
- The network of paths and rock climbing opportunities contribute to the high recreational value of the landscape.

- The value of the landscape is recognised by a Local Landscape Area applying to the Braid Hills, alongside areas to the east (within the Liberton Fringes LCA) and south (within the Mortonhall Policies LCA).

The changing landscape

3.381 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Braid Hills LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Prominent Urban Hills LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.382 Some golf facilities contrast visually with the landscape pattern and textures found within the LCA. Some footpaths on the main approaches to Blackford Hill show signs of erosion.

3.383 Stone dykes are in a decaying state, and some signage and furniture show signs of weathering.

3.384 Access tracks to the telecommunications masts, and the lighting of the compounds on Blackford Hill, form detractive features in the landscape.

Forces for change

3.385 Pressure for development of increased height or density around the base of the hills, or increased height or quantity of telecommunications masts on the hills, may affect the prominence and profile of the Braid Hills, particularly given the relatively low profile of the hills compared to other more prominent urban hills.

3.386 Expansion or intensification of infrastructure at golf courses, or at access points such as Midmar Paddock may further affect or change areas of distinctive topography (including ridge-and-furrow or semi-natural landcover), which contribute to the distinctive landscape pattern.

3.387 Changes to weather patterns, with increased droughts coupled with more frequent or intense storms, may change the riparian character of the Braid Burn valley.

3.388 Further extension of the Royal Observatory may change the distinctive profile of the hill and the sense of time depth contributed by the existing 19th century building.

LCA 43: Calton Hill

Location

3.389 Calton Hill is located in the north-east of the city centre of Edinburgh, at a transition between the Old Town, New Town and Broughton/Leith.


Figure 3.93: Monuments on Calton Hill form a focal feature locally and more widely on the iconic city skyline



Figure 3.94: Calton Hill LCA



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-  Prominent Urban Hills: Calton Hill
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Prominent volcanic hill of steeply rising stack of lavas and tuffs some 200m thick and dipping towards the east, rising to over 100m AOD.
- A mixture of land cover with areas of gorse, scrub, woodland, parkland, amenity and semi-natural grassland, tarmac and aggregate paths.
- Woodland is denser around the steep slopes of the hill, and within the private Regent Gardens which adjoin the public area of Calton Hill.
- The wider flanks of the hill include Calton Crags, St Andrew's House and the former Royal High School, together with other green spaces in the surrounding urban area which accentuate its landform.
- The important geology and grassland species of the hill form part of the Arthur's Seat Volcano Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which covers Calton Hill, Arthur's Seat and Castle Rock.
- Buildings, mainly focused around the City Observatory, and numerous monuments are integral to the visual character of the hill and form iconic elements of the wider city skyline.
- The road, car park and café building exert a more modern influence.
- The hill is crossed by a network of access paths, including formal tarmac paths and more informal routes which encircle and criss-cross the grassed top of the hill.
- The hill is of high value to the people of Edinburgh and tourists for its numerous viewpoints, informal recreational area, and cultural events.
- Strong influence of the adjacent urban edge which sits below the hill, including the former Royal High School on the southern face and more modern development along Leith Street and Leith Walk to the west.
- Extensive views across Edinburgh are available from the hill, despite its diminutive size when compared to the adjacent summit of Arthur's Seat.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.390 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Calton Hill LCA include:

- The steep, rugged landform of the hill combined with the monuments creates a distinctive and prominent skyline within the city centre of Edinburgh, contributing widely to sense of place.
- Woodland, scrub and grassland habitats contribute to biodiversity and contrast with the surrounding dense urban context.
- Parkland trees surrounding the monuments and buildings on the top of the hill contribute to the landscape pattern and sense of place.
- Grassland habitats and exposed rock contribute to the Arthur's Seat SSSI, contributing to habitat connectivity.
- Monuments and buildings on the hill, and their intervisibility with the wider Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site, New Town Conservation Area and New Town Gardens GDL, contribute to time depth.
- The network of formal and informal paths, numerous viewpoints, recreational amenities and association with cultural events contributes to the high recreational and cultural value of the hill.
- Views from and towards the hill contribute to the sense of place widely across the Edinburgh city centre.
- The value of the landscape is recognised through a Local Landscape Area which applies to Calton Hill.

The changing landscape

3.391 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Calton Hill LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Prominent Urban Hills LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.392 Buildings and monuments are generally in good condition. In places the appreciation of the height and focus provided by the hill has been reduced by the scale and proximity of modern built development around its base, including on Leith Street and the St James Quarter.

3.393 Some areas of trees, woodland and scrub are in degraded condition. Signage and park furniture show signs of damage from weathering or graffiti.

3.394 Visitor pressure, coupled with periods of drought and increased severity of storm events, has resulted in erosion of paths and turf damage.

Forces for change

3.395 The restoration and conversion of the Calton Hill Observatory as the Collective Gallery, including a pavilion café, has changed part of the hill's skyline whilst improving public access and presenting new opportunities for visitors to experience panoramic views. Further pressure for development or refurbishment of buildings or monuments on the hill may result in changes to the visual character, sense of time depth, and distinctive profile of the hill.

3.396 Further development within the surrounding urban context may change the scenic quality of views experienced from the hill and views towards it, and may impinge upon the distinctive skyline and sense of time depth formed by the hill and its monuments, including light spillage after dark.

3.397 Increased visitor pressure from use during cultural events may lead to further erosion or damage to paths and amenity/semi-natural grassland.

3.398 Increased pressure for visitor facilities and to upgrade park furniture, such as toilet facilities, rubbish bins, benches and signage, may change the scenic quality of the hill and degrade the sense of time depth.

LCA 44: Castle Rock

Location

3.399 Castle Rock is located within the Old Town in the centre of Edinburgh. The LCA is focused on the steeply rising rocky outcrop upon which the castle is located, with rough rock faces to the south, west and north.



Figure 3.95: Castle Rock forms a prominent and iconic skyline feature



Figure 3.96: Castle Rock LCA



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-  Prominent Urban Hills: Castle Rock
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Distinctive and prominent urban hill comprised of a core of hard rock which cuts through early Carboniferous sandstones, likely to have been formed by solidified magma in the conduit to an overlying volcano.
- Steep rocky outcrops to the north, west and south. To the east the landform tapers giving the typical 'crag and tail' formed by the passage of ice over the area.
- Edinburgh Castle is built on the summit of the rock, and mainly comprises stone buildings with small areas of grass lawn. The walls and castle meld with the rock beneath.
- The steep rocky slopes to the north, west and south are covered with sparse vegetation, though some trees and scrub lines the base of the slopes.
- The Castle Bank (in the north of the LCA) comprises grassy slopes with trees, forming part of the wider Princes Street Gardens (LCA 6) and also includes the remains of the historic Wellhouse Tower.
- The castle is of great historic significance within Scotland with a turbulent history of battles, sieges and military use, occupied from the late Bronze Age to the present day. Edinburgh Castle (Scheduled Monument) forms an integral feature of the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage site, the Old Town Conservation Area, and New Town Gardens GDL.
- Edinburgh Castle is a key tourist destination in the city and hosts numerous cultural events.
- Castle Rock is an iconic feature within Edinburgh and visible from extensive areas of the city and beyond to Fife and the Lothians.
- Extensive views over the city from The Esplanade and ramparts, enabled by Castle Rock's commanding position and steeply sloping side slopes, are backdropped by the Pentland Hills to the south-west and the Firth of Forth to the north.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.400 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Castle Rock LCA include:

- The combination of geological and cultural heritage significance, reflected in numerous designations, contributes to the unique landscape pattern of this LCA and its distinctive visual identity.
- Castle Rock forms one of the most prominent landmark features on the Edinburgh skyline, rising from the dense surrounding urban context against open sky, and contributing to the sense of place widely within the city and beyond.
- Views from Edinburgh Castle and its surrounding elevated landform contribute to the sense of place and provide opportunities to appreciate the sense of time depth within the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh more widely.
- Edinburgh Castle and publicly accessible areas near the castle contribute to the high recreational and cultural value of the LCA.
- The value of the landscape is recognised through a Local Landscape Area which applies to Castle Rock.

The changing landscape

3.401 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Castle Rock LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Prominent Urban Hills LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.402 The central part of the LCA around Edinburgh Castle is well maintained, though with some signs of pressure from tourism.

3.403 The rocky crags, particularly to the north-west and west of the castle, and slopes to the north are subject to erosion, requiring installation of rock traps and netting, which can detract from their natural form and impact on public access.

3.404 The grandstand installed for the summer festivals temporarily influences the distinctive skyline profile of Castle Rock, including during installation and removal.

Forces for change

3.405 Pressure for development, particularly tall buildings, within the surrounding urban context may affect the distinctive profile and prominence of Castle Rock, and may also impact outward panoramic views available from the LCA.

3.406 More frequent and intense rainfall and contrasting periods of warm dry spells, as a result of climate change, will exacerbate erosion of craggy slopes. This may increase the need for stabilisation of slopes and potentially alter the visual character of the LCA.

3.407 Improvements to path condition and accessibility at the Castle Bank, and associated changes in planting regimes, may change the landscape pattern and visual perception of these slopes, in particular as they are seen in views from the north, such as from Princes Street.

3.408 An increase in the number of tourists visiting the castle or an increase in cultural events hosted at the esplanade may increase pressure for additional infrastructure, altering the landscape pattern and visual character of the LCA.

LCA 45: Corstorphine Hill

Location

3.409 Corstorphine Hill is located in the west of the city, amidst primarily residential areas including Corstorphine, Murrayfield, Clermiston, Blackhall, and Davidson's Mains. It occupies a densely wooded hill, a large golf course, and Edinburgh Zoo.

Figure 3.97: Dense, predominantly broadleaved woodland on the main ridge of the hill, including sycamore, beech, and oak

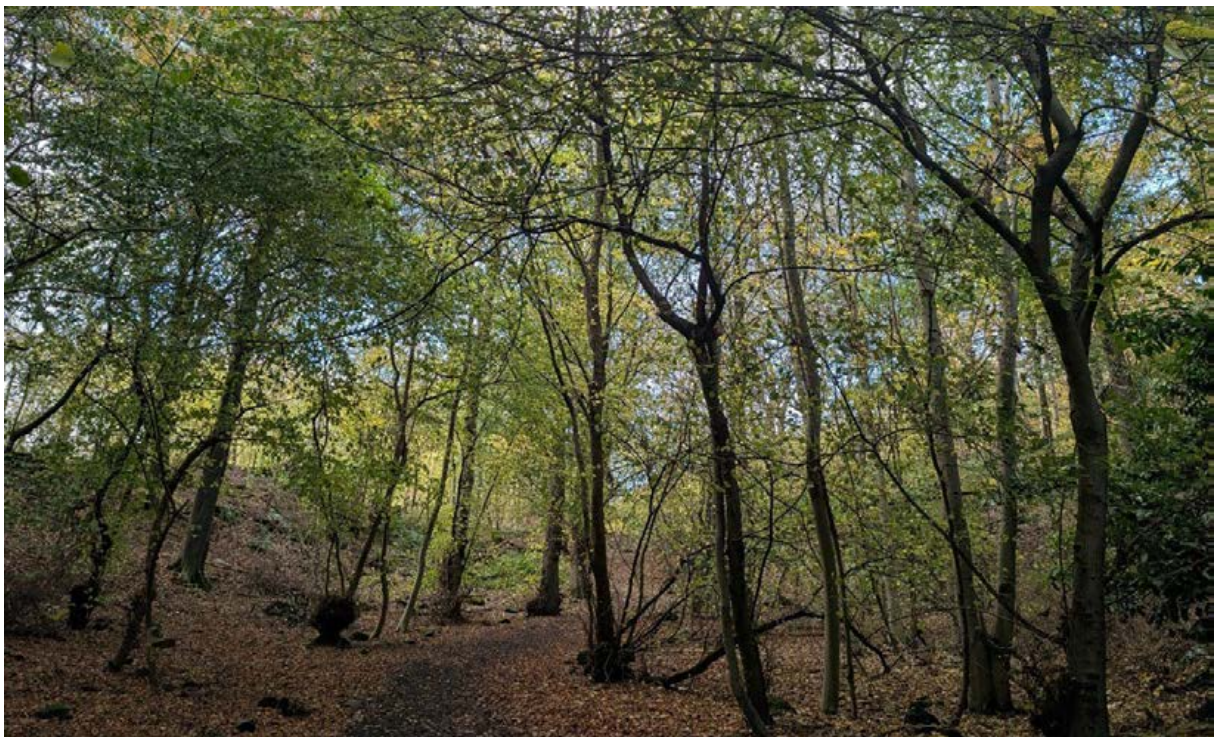
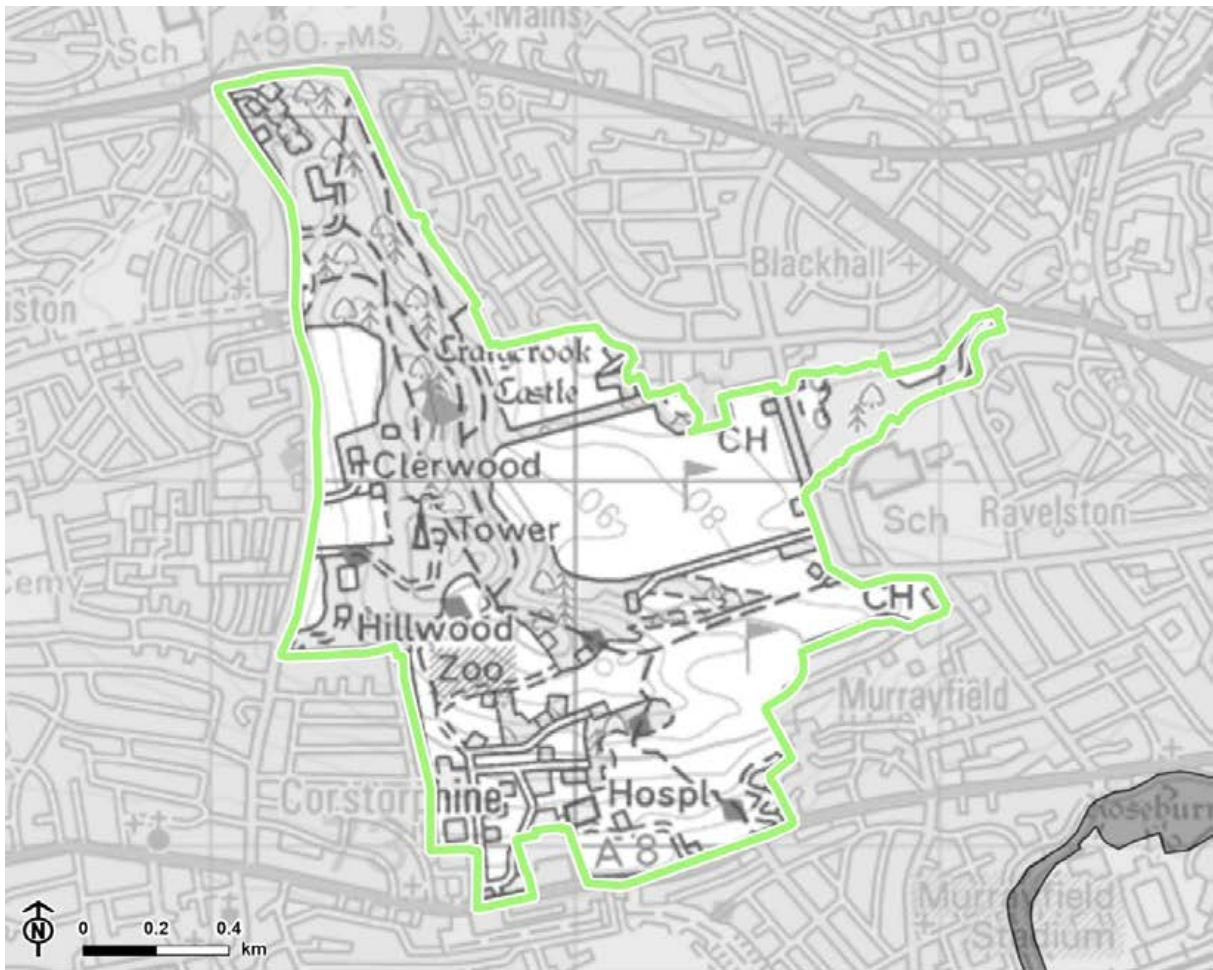


Figure 3.98: Corstorphine Hill LCA



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-  Prominent Urban Hills:
Corstorphine Hill
-  Neighbouring Landscape
Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- An elongated, low wooded ridge with gentler slopes extending south-east to merge with golf courses and parkland.
- The main ridge of the hill is covered with dense, predominantly broadleaved woodland with sycamore, beech and oak forming one of the largest wooded areas in the city.
- Localised rocky outcrops contrast with wooded areas, notably in the north of the hill.
- Some exotic conifers and ornamental broadleaved trees extend from the remnant policy landscapes of the large late 19th century villas of Clerwood and Hillwood, situated on the steep western slopes of the hill.
- Corstorphine Hill Tower, built in 1871, is just visible amongst the trees although it is dwarfed by two telecommunication masts.
- The former Barnton quarry, now used as a storage yard, and Barnton Bunker are located at the northern end of the hill.
- Edinburgh Zoo is located on the steep south-facing slopes of the hill. The park has a naturalistic, wooded design with former quarries and rocky outcrops utilised for animal enclosures. A high stone wall and fencing form the boundary between the zoo and the hill.
- Surrounded by dense development to the east, west and south, which occasionally directly abuts the steep wooded slopes.
- The eastern slopes of the hill are more open as woodland gives way to a golf course and parkland around Craigmillar Castle, before becoming more wooded at Ravelston Woods. Though more scattered in pattern, parkland trees retain a visual connection to the densely wooded ridge of the hill.
- Where the woodland canopy opens, views from the hill are extensive; those over north Edinburgh to the Firth of Forth and its islands being particularly striking.
- Despite its relatively low height (160m AOD), the distinctive long wooded ridge of Corstorphine Hill is a prominent landmark visible from much of Edinburgh and the surrounding rural area to the west. The gentler south-eastern slopes of the hill are visible locally.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.410 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Corstorphine Hill LCA include:

- The landform of this outcrop hill, combined with its distinctive woodland and remnant parkland on its lower slopes contribute to the high scenic quality of Corstorphine Hill.
- Although Corstorphine Hill lacks the distinctive landform of many of the other 'focal' Edinburgh urban hills, its long, densely wooded ridge is an unusual feature which makes it unique and prominent in views from much of the city and from the western rural area.
- The extent of woodland cover within the urban context is rare and the value of these woodlands is recognised in its designation as two local nature reserves.
- A degree of tranquillity and seclusion can be experienced within wooded areas, given the enclosed nature of views which screen and filter visibility of the surrounding urban context.
- The value of this landscape is recognised through a Local Landscape Area which applies to Corstorphine Hill which also includes Davidson's Mains to the north.
- Numerous 17th-19th policies associated with Corstorphine Hill House and villas, Clerwood House, Listed Craigmack Castle and Listed Beachwood House (now the Murrayfield Hospital), Clermiston Tower and Barnton Bunker contribute to the sense of history.
- The network of paths and the Zoo sited on the south-facing slopes of this hill contribute to the recreational value of the area.

The changing landscape

3.411 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Corstorphine Hill LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Prominent Urban Hills LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.412 Paths and woodlands are under ongoing management. There is evidence of erosion on foot paths and at the base of tree covered banks.

3.413 Occasional damage to trees during storms has affected the quality of the woodland.

3.414 The built-up boundary between the wooded hill and Edinburgh Zoo detracts from the degree of tranquillity and seclusion experienced within wooded areas internally.

Forces for change

3.415 Increases in the frequency and severity of storm events, as a result of climate change, as well as an increase in pests and diseases may damage the structure, density and species composition of woodland which is a prominent feature of this LCA.

3.416 Pressures for urban development on lower hill slopes, including particularly tall buildings, may impede on the distinctive skyline of the hill as seen from across the city, and result in a change to visual character.

3.417 Expansion or intensification of infrastructure at golf courses may encroach on and potentially remove areas of woodland that are a distinctive trait of the landscape.

3.418 The opening of Barnton Bunker as a visitor attraction, and further expansion of facilities and enclosures at Edinburgh Zoo, could alter the landscape pattern and visual character of the landscape.

3.419 Proposals for additional telecommunications masts, and associated lighting, may further impact the appearance of the ridgeline as seen from other areas across Edinburgh.

LCA 46: Craiglockhart Hills

Location

3.420 The Craiglockhart Hills are formed of the summits of Easter and Wester Craiglockhart, located in the west of the city.

Figure 3.99: Open panoramic views available from Wester Craiglockhart looking towards Easter Craiglockhart, Arthur's Seat and Edinburgh Castle



Figure 3.100: Craiglockhart Hills LCA



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-  Prominent Urban Hills:
Craiglockhart
-  Neighbouring Landscape
Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Volcanic outcrops forming the Easter and Wester Craiglockhart Hills, separated by the glacial valley of Glenlockhart.
- Wester Craiglockhart (165m AOD) is smaller in area but rises more steeply with a more rugged and exposed character.
- Easter Craiglockhart (157m AOD) is more extensive and includes several areas of woodland.
- Outcrops of rock and areas of gorse extend across steep slopes and summits. Mature woodland blankets the slopes of both hills.
- The manicured greens of golf courses, located on the lower gentler slopes of both hills, contrasts with the more natural and rugged landcover elsewhere.
- The presence of modern buildings at Edinburgh Napier University and development at Craighouse reflects the proximity of the dense urban edge, contrasting with more natural areas within the interior of the LCA.
- Remains of an Iron Age hill fort are located on the summit of Wester Craiglockhart Hill, and the remains of the 15th century Craiglockhart Castle are located near the university buildings (both Scheduled Monuments).
- Significant historic buildings from various periods and of different architectural styles, including Old Craighouse, the Royal Edinburgh Asylum and the Hydropathic Institute, reflecting the previous use of the area for health-related institutions.
- Although locally prominent, the Craiglockhart Hills are not largely prominent within Edinburgh as a whole, which is partly due to the extent to which development rises up against the hills.
- Despite their modest vertical scale, sweeping panoramic views are available from the summits, with a strong visual connection to the Pentland Hills, Braid Hills and Holyrood Park.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.421 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Craiglockhart Hills LCA include:

- The profile of the twin summits and their relationship to other volcanic hills across Edinburgh contribute to sense of place and the scenic quality of views.
- The intimate and enclosed character of Glenlockhart provides a contrast to the steep profile of the hills, contributing to the diversity of scenery.
- Unimproved grassland habitats on Wester Craiglockhart, notified as a SSSI, contribute to the rough and exposed character of the summit and provide valued habitats.
- Woodland and scrub habitats extending across both hills and the golf courses provided habitat connectivity and contribute to naturalistic qualities, with part of Easter Craiglockhart Hill recognised as a local nature reserve.
- The legible remains of the Iron Age hill fort on Wester Craiglockhart (a Scheduled Monument), and the numerous surviving historic buildings contribute to time depth, reflecting uses and occupation of the hill across many centuries.
- The network of paths crossing the hill are an important resource for recreation. Interpretative materials and ranger-led events at Easter Craiglockhart provide further opportunities to experience the landscape, enhancing recreational value.
- Sweeping panoramic views available from the hills, contrasting with the intimate nature of views within wooded areas, contribute to the sense of place and scenic quality.
- The value of the landscape is recognised through a Local Landscape Area which applies to the Craiglockhart Hills.

The changing landscape

3.422 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Craiglockhart Hills LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Prominent Urban Hills LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.423 The interior of the LCA is generally in good condition, although some signage shows signs of weathering or damage. The path network is mostly in good condition, with some limited areas of erosion.

3.424 Redevelopment at Craighouse and expansion of the university buildings has intensified the presence of modern buildings along the edges of the LCA. Some compensatory planting associated with the redevelopment has not yet matured.

3.425 Public access is restrictive and curtailed by barriers around the golf course, resulting in a path network which could be considerably improved.

Forces for change

3.426 Further pressure for development within the LCA, including at Craighouse, the university or proposals for additional telecommunications masts and associated lighting, may alter the sense of naturalness, the locally-distinctive profile of the hills and the sense of history expressed through the distinctive architecture of surviving historic buildings.

3.427 Changes in management regimes of unimproved grassland habitats on Wester Craiglockhart may influence the landscape pattern, degrade the ruggedness and sense of exposure, and alter the legibility of the prehistoric hill fort.

LCA 47: Holyrood Park

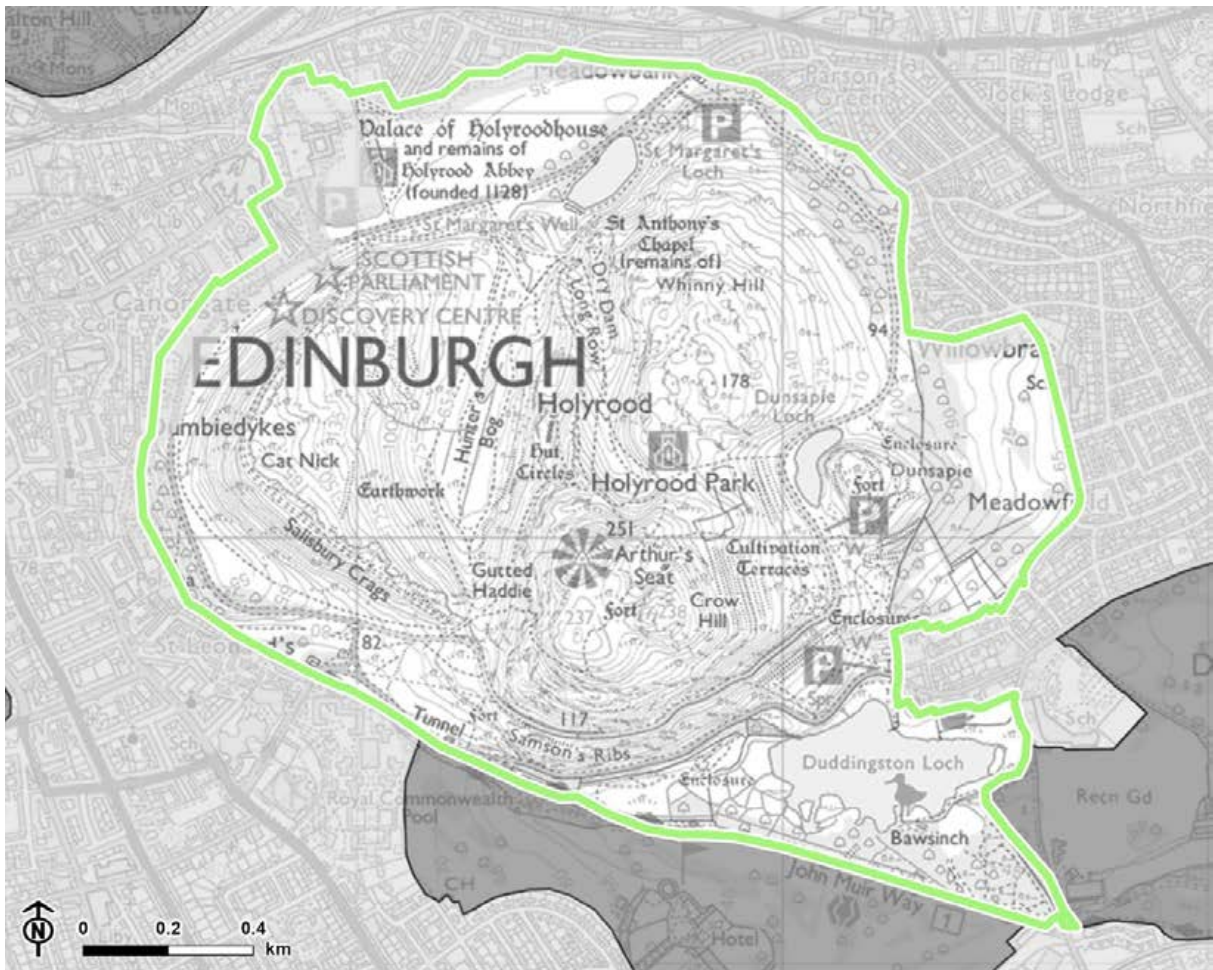
Location

3.428 Holyrood Park is located to the east of the Edinburgh city centre. The LCA is focused on the summit of Arthur's Seat, with landform descending towards the lower-lying parts of Holyrood Park, including Dunsapie, St Margaret's and Duddingston lochs.

Figure 3.101: The iconic profile of Arthur's Seat, Whinny Hill and Salisbury Crags form a distinctive skyline rising above the city



Figure 3.102: Holyrood Park LCA



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- Prominent Urban Hills: Holyrood Park
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Prominent volcanic rugged peak of Arthur's Seat and the red sandstone sill of Salisbury Crags, set high above sheer scree slopes and separated from Arthur's Seat by the broad flat-bottomed valley of Hunter's Bog.
- Parallel, long gently arched ridges lie to the east of Hunter's Bog, orientated north-south and appearing as rocky spines leading the eye to the high craggy top of Arthur's Seat.
- The narrow, enclosed valleys of the Dasses and Dry Dam accommodate well-worn paths set below the main ridge lines which enable appreciation of the 'interior' of the park.
- Playing fields lying east of the Palace of Holyrood act as a simple 'plinth' setting off the more complex landform and vegetation cover of Arthur's Seat, Whinny Hill and Salisbury Crags.
- The coarse textures of the semi-natural vegetation cover of gorse and rough grassland accentuate the area's upland characteristics.
- Unimproved grassland, complex geology and the diversity of biological species supported by the varying underlying rock types (notified as a SSSI).
- Small lochans and the picturesque ruins of St Anthony's Chapel add interest while Holyrood Palace also contributes to the sense of history.
- A dense concentration of legible historic features, including prehistoric or early historic forts, cultivation terraces and remnants of religious features such as St Anthony's Chapel.
- A strong sense of naturalness and openness, providing a striking contrast with the surrounding urban area and some experience of tranquillity.
- The iconic landform of Holyrood Park is highly prominent and a key component of the landscape setting of Edinburgh, closely linked to Castle Rock, Calton Hill and the long spine of the Royal Mile.
- The Queen's Drive encircles the Park, and a number of well-used paths offer a variety of experiences and spectacular views over the city and the wider landscape of the Lothians.
- The iconic and scenic qualities of the park is reflected in extensive historic, literary and artistic associations.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.429 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Holyrood Park LCA include:

- The iconic volcanic landform and distinctive geology contribute widely to sense of place within Edinburgh and forms an iconic skyline.
- The rugged nature of the landform of Arthur's Seat increases the perception of vertical scale, despite its relatively lowly height of 251m AOD, contributing to scenic qualities and sense of place.
- The low-lying valleys of Hunter's Bog, the Dasses and Dry Dam provide contrast and further emphasises the vertical scale of the hill and crags.
- Semi-natural landcover including rough grassland, gorse and aquatic habitats around lochs contribute to the diverse landscape pattern and opportunities for biodiversity, and forms part of the Arthur's Seat SSSI.
- The concentration and diversity of legible historic features, reflected in multiple designations including the Holyrood Park Scheduled Monument, Palace of Holyroodhouse GDL and Duddingston Conservation Area, contributes to time depth and the distinct identity of the park.
- The sense of exposure and open views experienced from hill tops contributes to scenic quality and sense of place.
- The sense of naturalness and areas of tranquillity experienced in more secluded parts of the park contribute to the sense of place and offer refuge from the dense surrounding urban context.
- The network of paths and managed access via Queen's Drive contribute to the high recreational value of the LCA.
- Historic, literary, and artistic associations, for example the Radical Road, contribute to cultural value. The Hutton Section, at the south end of Salisbury Crags is of historic interest for its role in the development of geological theory.
- The value of the landscape is recognised through a Local Landscape Area which applies to Holyrood Park, Duddingston Golf Course (LCA 49) and Prestonfield Golf Course (LCA 50).

The changing landscape

3.430 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Holyrood Park LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Prominent Urban Hills LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.431 Arthur's Seat is prone to rock fall and wild fires. Recent occurrences have required closure of parts of the park.

3.432 Due to an active risk of rock fall, the Radical Road has been closed but is anticipated to partially re-open in 2026. The closure of the path beneath Salisbury Craggs limits access and the possibility to experience dramatic views over the city.

3.433 Elsewhere, main paths show signs of erosion due to an increase in footfall.

Forces for change

3.434 Pressure for development, particularly tall buildings, within the surrounding urban context may affect the distinctive profile and prominence of Arthur's Seat and Salisbury Craggs, and may also impact outward panoramic views available from the LCA.

3.435 More frequent and intense rainfall and contrasting periods of warm dry spells, as a result of climate change, will exacerbate erosion of craggy and rugged slopes, influencing the iconic profile of the hill. This may increase the need for stabilisation of slopes and rock faces, including near Salisbury Craggs, which could alter the visual character of the LCA.

3.436 An increase in recreational use coupled with increases in the frequency and severity of periods of drought and alternating periods of increased intense rainfall, as a result of climate change, is likely to further impact path erosion.

Recreational Open Space Landscape Character Type

Landscape Character Areas

3.437 The Recreational Open Space Landscape Character Type (LCT) features the following Landscape Character Areas (LCAs):

- Barnton Golf Courses (48)
- Duddingston Golf Course (49)
- Prestonfield Golf Course (50)
- Silverknowes Golf Course (51)

Figure 3.103: Manicured golf greens separated by mature trees at the Royal Burgess Golf Course



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCT are:

- Flat to gently undulating landform.
- Mature parkland trees with some areas of younger trees.
- Often influenced by golf courses with typical bunkers, greens and fairways.
- Contiguous with other open spaces within the city.
- Typically originating as historic designed landscapes or surrounding buildings and assets of historic significance.
- Intervisibility with wider areas is generally limited, although the areas may be visible from distant or elevated locations.
- Formal and informal opportunities for recreation, including golf, walking and cycle routes.

Forces for change

3.438 The following section sets out key changes and pressures relating to the Recreational Open Space LCT:

- Increased recreational activity within these areas presents a pressure for the provision and management of other recreational facilities, in addition to golf (such as walking and cycling routes), which may modify the scenic qualities and pattern of the landscape.
- Trees and woodland within and around the landscape may become more susceptible to pests and diseases in a changing climate, and more prone to damage due to more frequent and severe storm events (wind and flooding), which may alter the landscape pattern and enclosed character of the landscape.
- An increase in the frequency or severity of periods of drought, as a result of climate change, could influence the character of the golf greens or amenity grassland, for example through the requirement for irrigation facilities.
- Pressure for development such as masts within open areas would introduce large-scale vertical infrastructure and alter skylines.

Landscape management guidelines

3.439 The following section sets out recommended landscape management guidelines for the Recreational Open Space LCT:

- Expand and connect woodland including remnant policies, seeking to improve the age and species diversity of woodland.
- Enhance golf courses through varied mowing and maintenance regimes around the edges of greens that increase contrast in texture and opportunities for biodiversity. Discourage use of pesticides and herbicides to develop a more natural appearance to the landscape.
- Improve informal access and recreation with paths and cycle routes connected to the surrounding areas, encouraging responsible access.
- Retain views to landmark features such as distinctive hills, the Firth of Forth, or historic landmarks, and avoid visually intrusive development.
- Design new recreational facilities sensitively to reduce visual prominence within the open space through appropriate siting, planting and screening.

LCA 48: Barnton Golf Courses

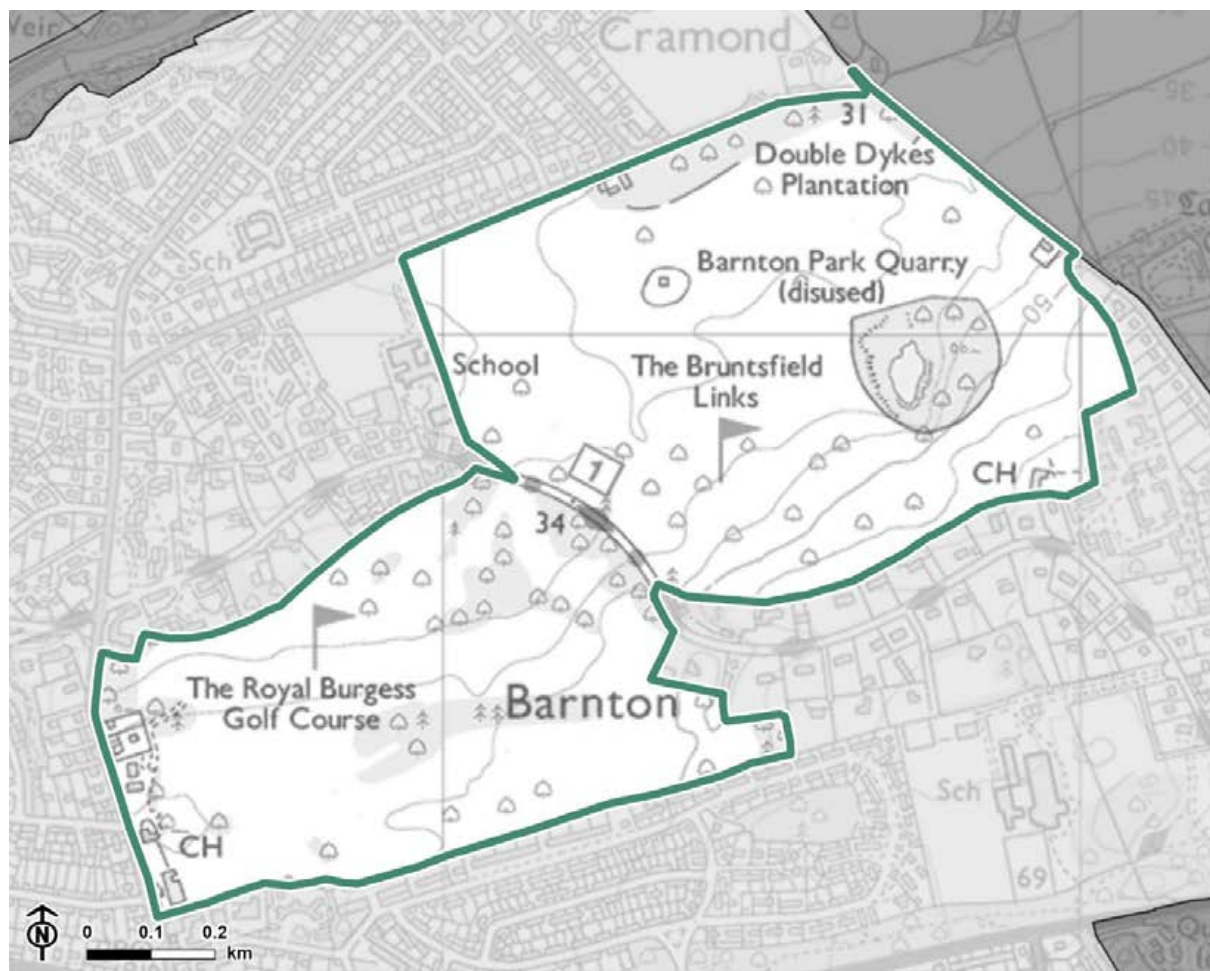
Location

3.440 The Barnton Golf Courses landscape character area is located between Barnton and Cramond in north-west Edinburgh and comprises the Bruntsfield Links golf course to the east and Royal Burgess golf course to the west.

Figure 3.104: Mature trees and woodland restrict longer ranging views across the Royal Burgess golf course



Figure 3.105: Barton Golf Courses LCA



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- Recreational Open Space:
Barnton Golf Courses
- Neighbouring Landscape
Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Gently undulating landform which gradually slopes down from a high point of 60m AOD near Barnton to 30m AOD near Cramond.
- Both golf courses have a parkland character with mature woodland and tree belts providing separation between the various golf greens. Increasingly, further rough or less managed areas are promoted, increasing biodiversity and landscape interest.
- Large areas of Ancient Woodland associated with the disused Barnton Park Quarry.
- The Royal Burgess golf club is widely considered the oldest golf club in the world. Its Listed clubhouse dates to 1896 and is recognised for its Jacobean harl and timber design.
- The elevated nature and proximity to the coast enables a transition to a more natural landscape, and long ranging views of the Firth of Forth and distant Fife coastline between trees, including from the Bruntsfield Links Golf Course.
- Woodland and trees across the courses may restrict longer ranging views, often directing views along the greens, with some buildings in surrounding built up area glimpsed through these trees around the Royal Burgess Golf Course.
- Golf courses and the associated areas of green space and woodland offer highly valued recreational opportunities. The John Muir Way and National Cycle Network Route 1 offer wider opportunities, passing between both golf courses.
- The golf courses contribute to the wider setting of green space which extends from the coast to include Lauriston and Cramond, and Silverknowes Golf Course.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.441 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Barnton Golf Courses LCA include:

- World renowned golf courses which are highly valued for the formal recreational opportunities they provide, as well as the informal use of associated green space and woodlands.

- Mature trees and woodland provide variety and texture in views, increase visual diversity and direct views along golf greens, creating a strong sense of place.
- Views out across the Firth of Forth are valued for their scenic nature and contribution to the sense of place, including at Bruntsfield Links Golf Course.
- Extensive tree cover underpins the character of the area, providing strong landscape structure and enhancing ecological connectivity.

The changing landscape

3.442 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Barnton Golf Courses LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Recreational Open Space LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.443 The landscape of the Barnton golf courses is in good condition, with the golfing greens and extensive areas of mature trees and woodland being well maintained.

Forces for change

3.444 Increased pressure for housing and other development around the golf courses could introduce more development in and around the periphery of the golf courses, increasing visibility of the settlement edge or altering the focus of views out across the Firth of Forth.

3.445 Changes to the management of golf courses, such as an expansion of less managed areas, would potentially alter the overall structure and character of the landscape but may provide biodiversity and climate change adaptation benefits.

LCA 49: Duddingston Golf Course

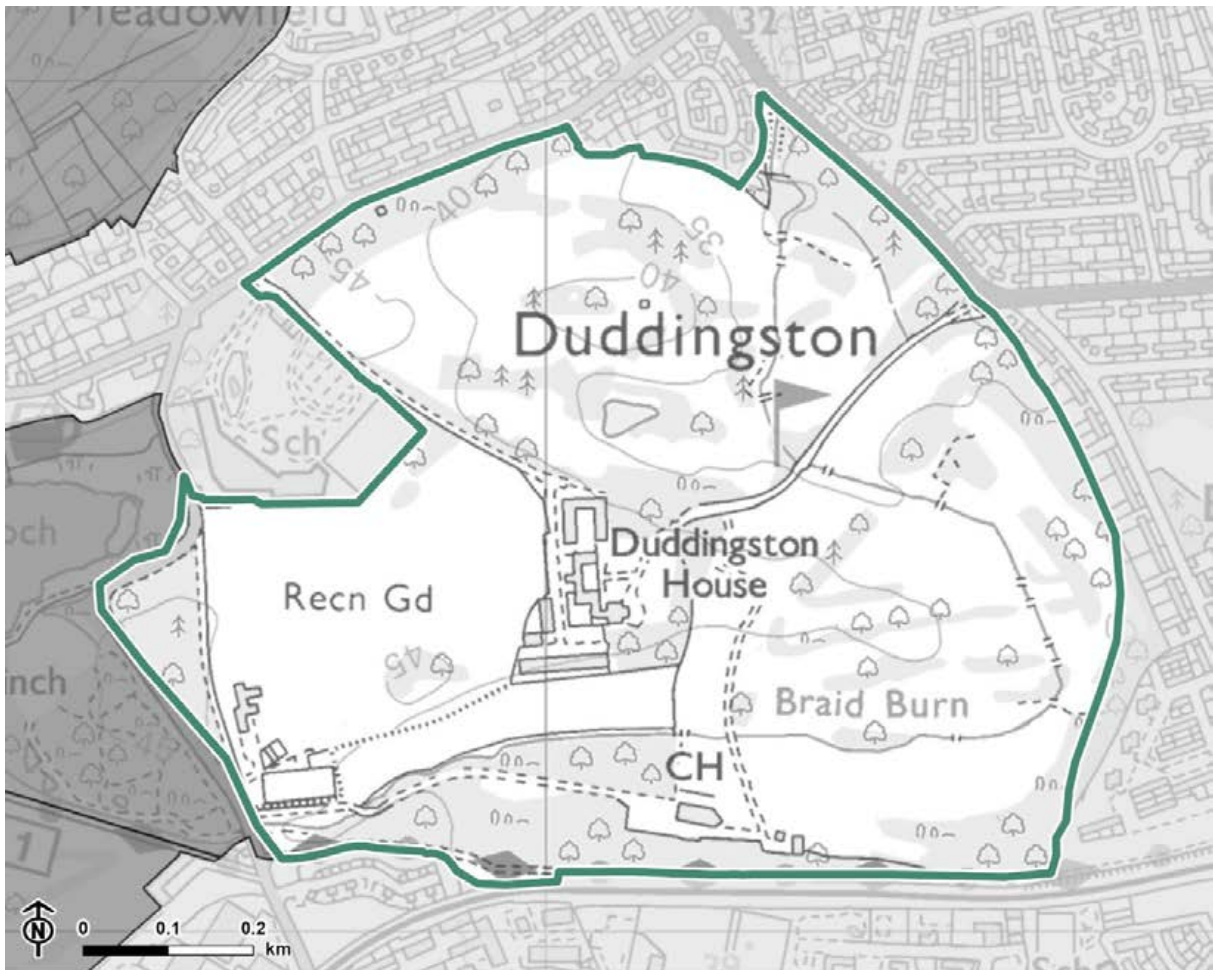
Location

3.446 Located in a low-lying area to the south-east of Holyrood Park, the landscape primarily comprises the golf course set within the former deer park of Duddingston House.

Figure 3.106: The golf course is dotted with bunkers and woodland, with glimpsed views towards elevated hills in Holyrood Park



Figure 3.107: Duddingston Golf Course LCA



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-  Recreational Open Space: Duddingston Golf Course
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Low-lying gently undulating landform which historically formed the extent of the large post glacial lake, of which Duddingston Loch (within LCA 47) is all that remains.
- Strongly influenced by use as a golf course crossed by the modified course of Braid Burn.
- Perimeter woodland and mature parkland trees are associated with the former deer park around Duddingston House, with further wooded areas within the golf course.
- Playing fields in the west, near Holyrood High School, have a more open character.
- The classical country house at Duddingston House forms a local focal point, although surrounding woodland results in an enclosed and sheltered character.
- Woodland surrounding housing built in the 1990s and other small buildings associated with recreation limit the influence of development within the landscape.
- The area forms part of a large green swathe extending between Holyrood Park, Duddingston and Craigmillar, with open views overlooking the landscape available from Holyrood Park.
- The low-lying and wooded nature limits intervisibility and encloses views experienced from within the landscape, although the Pentland Hills and Arthur's Seat form part of the skyline of outward views above the tops of the trees.
- The John Muir Way walking and cycling route is located along the southern edge of the LCA, and a right of way provides connectivity to Holyrood Park. The golf course and sports fields provide other recreational opportunities.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.447 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Duddingston Golf Course LCA include:

- Mature woodland influences the parkland character of the golf course, the sense of shelter within the landscape (particularly around Duddingston House) and contributes to the scenic quality of views overlooking the landscape from Holyrood Park.
- The diverse species composition and structure of parkland trees and woodland contribute to the landscape pattern and a sense of contrast with golf fairways and greens.
- The Listed Duddingston House and Temple form a focus within the GDL and Duddingston Conservation Area, contributing to the sense of history within the landscape.
- The landscape contributes to the wider expanse of open space extending between Holyrood Park, Duddingston and Craigmillar, which forms part of the setting in elevated views from Holyrood Park and Craigmillar.
- The parkland and wooded character of the landscape contribute to the secluded setting of the historic Duddingston Village, providing a break in the surrounding dense urban context.
- Recreational walking and cycling routes form important linkages to Duddingston Village and Holyrood Park, facilitating opportunities to experience the landscape from the surrounding urban context.
- The value of the landscape is recognised by a Local Landscape Area applying to Duddingston Golf Course, which also extends to Holyrood Park (LCA 47) and Prestonfield Golf Course (LCA 50).

The changing landscape

3.448 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Duddingston Golf Course LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Recreational Open Space LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.449 The landscape is generally well maintained. Some boundary treatments, including stone walls and fences, are in declining condition or at odds with the overarching character of the landscape.

Forces for change

3.450 Intensification or additional infrastructure around the golf course may alter the wooded and enclosed character of the landscape and would also alter views from Holyrood Park.

3.451 Pressure for development around Duddingston House and the high school adjacent to the area may alter the sense of history, landscape pattern, enclosed character of views and sightlines to important landmarks outside of the area (such as the Pentland Hills and Arthur's Seat).

3.452 Changes in management of the golf course may alter or limit opportunities for access through the landscape, which provides an important functional link for pedestrians and cyclists to Duddingston Village and Holyrood Park.

LCA 50: Prestonfield Golf Course

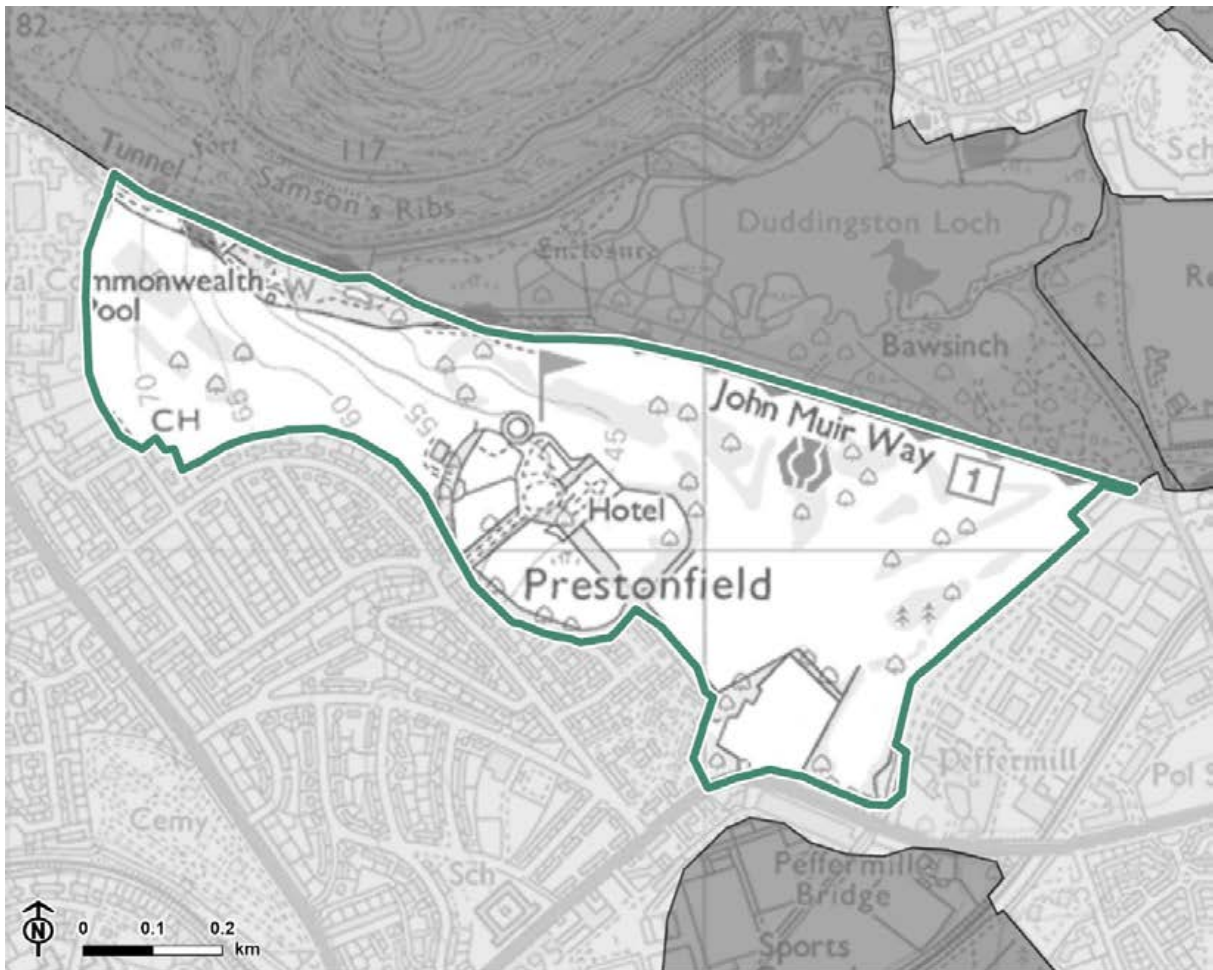
Location

3.453 Prestonfield Golf Course extends over a low-lying area adjacent to Duddingston Loch, in the east of the city centre.

Figure 3.108: The surviving ridge-and-furrow field systems at Prestonfield golf course viewed from Holyrood Park



Figure 3.109: Prestonfield Golf Course LCA



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-  Recreational Open Space:
Prestonfield Golf Course
-  Neighbouring Landscape
Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Flat to gently undulating low-lying area, in the past forming part of Duddingston Loch.
- Managed as a golf course, and for other events, with many mature trees and some formal grounds around the hotel.
- Manicured golf greens and bunkers contrast with unmown margins.
- The white painted exterior of the 17th century Prestonfield House (now run as a hotel) forms a distinctive focal feature.
- Surviving examples of medieval ridge-and-furrow field systems influence the landscape pattern of the golf course.
- Open views overlooking the landscape are available from Holyrood Park, although its low-lying location and wooded nature limits intervisibility and encloses views from within the golf course.
- The golf course forms part of a large green swathe extending between Holyrood Park, Duddingston and Craigmillar.
- The John Muir Way walking and cycling route follows the northern edge of the LCA, although recreational use is mainly limited to golf.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.454 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Prestonfield Golf Course LCA include:

- Mature woodland influences the parkland character of the golf course, and contributes to the scenic quality of views overlooking the landscape from Holyrood Park.
- The combination of golf greens, unmown margins and woodland contributes to a relatively diverse landscape pattern.
- Surviving examples of medieval ridge-and-furrow field systems contribute to the sense of history and landscape pattern of the golf course.
- The Listed Prestonfield House forms the focus of the GDL, contributing to the sense of history and scenic quality of views.

- The golf course contributes to the wider expanse of open space extending between Holyrood Park, Duddingston and Craigmillar, which forms part of the city's landscape setting in elevated views from Holyrood Park and Craigmillar.
- The wider expanse of open space also contributes to habitat connectivity and provides a sense of contrast with the surrounding dense urban context.
- The value of the landscape is recognised by a Local Landscape Area applying to Prestonfield Golf Course, which also encompasses Holyrood Park (LCA 47) and Duddingston Golf Course (LCA 49).

The changing landscape

3.455 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Prestonfield Golf Course LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Recreational Open Space LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.456 The golf course and grounds of the hotel are well maintained. Boundary walls along the north side of the golf course show some signs of damage.

3.457 There has been additional immature tree planting on the golf course which affects the mature parkland character of the area, although this will help ensure succession of woodland.

Forces for change

3.458 Further development related to formal and informal recreation or expansion around the hotel would change the character of the landscape and would also alter views from Holyrood Park.

3.459 Erosion or loss of the surviving ridge-and-furrow field patterns, as a result of changing weather patterns associated with climate change, changes in management regimes, or development pressures requiring alterations to topography, would adversely alter the landscape pattern and sense of history within the landscape.

LCA 51: Silverknowes Golf Course

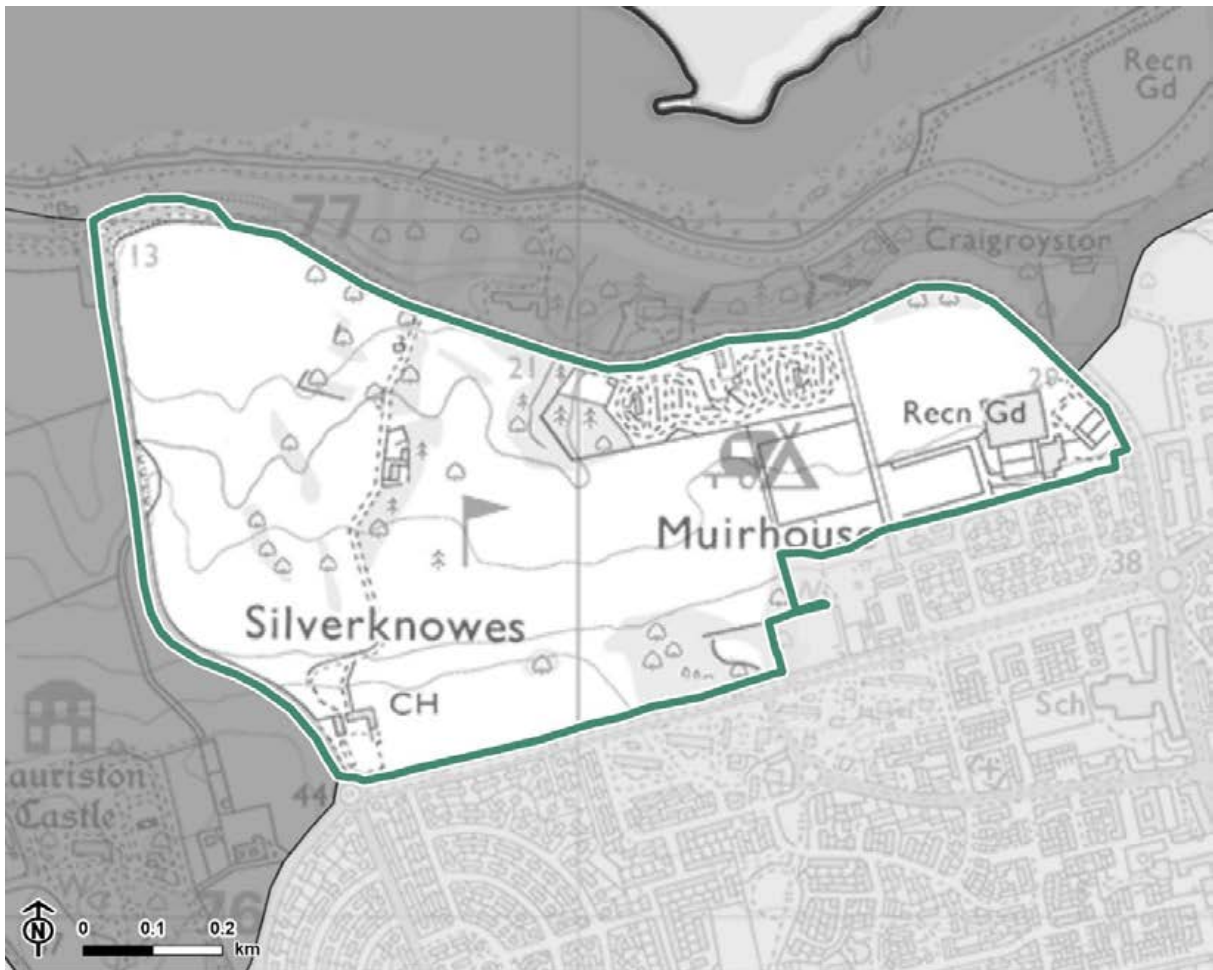
Location

3.460 The Silverknowes Golf Course LCA comprises the golf course and Silverknowes Park together with recreational grounds. It is located in the north-west of Edinburgh between the residential areas of Muirhouse and Silverknowes and the coastal bluff to the north of Marine Drive. Lauriston Castle sits to its west, whilst Granton waterfront lies to the east.

Figure 3.110: Scenic views across the Firth of Forth from Silverknowes Golf Course



Figure 3.111: Silverknowes Golf Course LCA



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



Key characteristics

The key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Largely undeveloped open space which provides a backdrop and transition to the Firth of Forth coastline in the north.
- Gently sloping landform descends towards the Silverknowes Esplanade to the north. The wide road of Marine Drive runs east-west to the landward side of the steep coastal bluff.
- Comprises a variety of recreational land uses including a golf course, public park, large sports grounds and a caravan park, which subdivide the overall character of the area.
- A managed landscape, with extensive areas of mown grass at the golf course, playing fields and public park, but increasingly with areas that are left uncut or promoted for wildflowers, to enhance biodiversity.
- Tree belts around the golf course and stands of trees between fairways are intermittent, often appearing as small clusters or clumps.
- Larger native woodland blocks, some ancient in origin and associated with the historic Muirhouse estate, are found around the cluster of 19th century sandstone properties located off Marine Drive and provide some screening to the caravan park. The 1960's golf club house and sports facilities to the east sit more prominently in the landscape.
- Silverknowes Golf Course extends the presence of open green space to the east of Lauriston Castle and its surrounding farmland, providing a continuous stretch of open landscape between the urban edge and coastline.
- Strong visual relationship with the Firth of Forth, with open views afforded across the water to the islands of Inchmickery, Inchcolm and Cramond, and the distant Fife coastline.
- Open views across the Forth in the north contrast with the built up nature of views to the south around Silverknowes and the sports complex in the east.
- Strong exposure to the elements due to the open nature of the landscape and its proximity to the coast.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.461 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Silverknowes Golf Course LCA include:

- Strong visual relationship with the Firth of Forth, valued for its scenic qualities, creating a clear juxtaposition with the settlement edge to the south.
- A variety of land uses provide a range of both indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities, highly valued by their users.
- Part of a wider open landscape between the settlement edge of Edinburgh and the coastline, providing a sense of separation from the built up area, and providing an undeveloped backdrop to the Firth of Forth.
- The increasing areas which are less managed and left uncut, or for wildflowers, as part of aims to improve biodiversity and landscape interest.

The changing landscape

3.462 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Silverknowes Golf Course LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Recreational Open Space LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.463 The condition of the landscape is generally good, however the structure of tree planting across the golf course is sporadic, with tree coverage being patchy.

3.464 Greater care could be given to the ongoing maintenance of newly planted trees to ensure successful establishment. Some trees are establishing well, whilst others are damaged or outgrowing their tree guards.

3.465 The wide urban roads bounding the area, constructed during the post-war expansion of the surrounding suburbs, detract from the scenic enjoyment of the landscape and have potential to be retrofitted for leisure and active travel use.

Forces for change

3.466 Changes to the management of the golf course and parks including the management of trees and grassland, and a general trend for reduced mowing and chemical use may alter the overall structure and character of the landscape, but may provide biodiversity and climate change adaptation benefits.

3.467 A number of trees have been planted on the golf course which will continue to mature over time, creating a more established parkland character and with the aim of enhancing overall quality of the landscape.

3.468 Increased recreational pressure may require new facilities, paths and cycle routes, altering the local character of the area.

3.469 New residential and mixed-use developments at Granton and Muirhouse will extend the urban influence to the east of the area, with urban redevelopment visible.

Rolling Farmland Landscape Character Type

Landscape Character Areas

3.470 The Rolling Farmland Landscape Character Type (LCT) features the following Landscape Character Areas (LCAs):

- Baberton Farmland (52)
- Bonnington Farmland (53)
- Burdiehouse Farmland (54)
- Gowanhill Farmland (55)
- Ratho Farmland (56)

Figure 3.112: Gently sloping arable field, with the Pentland Hills visible in the distance



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCT are:

- Gently undulating slopes and low hills.
- Land use is mainly arable farming.
- Small areas of woodland, including remnants of policy woodland, although generally not heavily wooded.
- Close to major transport routes, industrial development and settlement, which impinge on perceptions of rural character in many places.
- Forming part of the wider rural surroundings in panoramic views from nearby hills including views towards settled areas.

Forces for change

3.471 The following section sets out key changes and pressures relating to the Rolling Farmland LCT:

- In locations close to the urban edge, pressure for settlement expansion could alter the rural character of these areas.
- Higher temperatures could result in the potential to grow different crop types which could change the visual quality and character of the landscape or result in withdrawal of arable land from cropping and reversion to grassland.
- Changes to agricultural land, including installation of renewables or habitat creation, could change the scale and landscape pattern of the fields.
- Woodland and hedgerow cover may be affected by climate change, including more storms, droughts and plant pests and diseases, adversely affecting biodiversity and landscape character.

Landscape management guidelines

3.472 The following section sets out recommended landscape management guidelines for the Rolling Farmland LCT:

- Enhance hedgerows and wooded field boundaries, using native species to connect habitats, create shelter and screen roads.

- Create native wildflower meadows and buffer strips along field margins to add contrasting textures to the landscape pattern and benefit pollinators.
- Expand and connect woodland, restock with long-lived, mixed native species while protecting policy woodlands and fields pattern from changes, particularly within the Ratho Farmland LCA and Baberton Farmland LCA.
- Respect the open, rural character of the lowlands, maintaining views to the Pentland Hills and avoiding visually intrusive development.
- Reduce the effects of expansion or intensification of electricity transmission on the landscape by sensitive routing, rationalisation or undergrounding, with consideration for cumulative effects.

LCA 52: Baberton Farmland

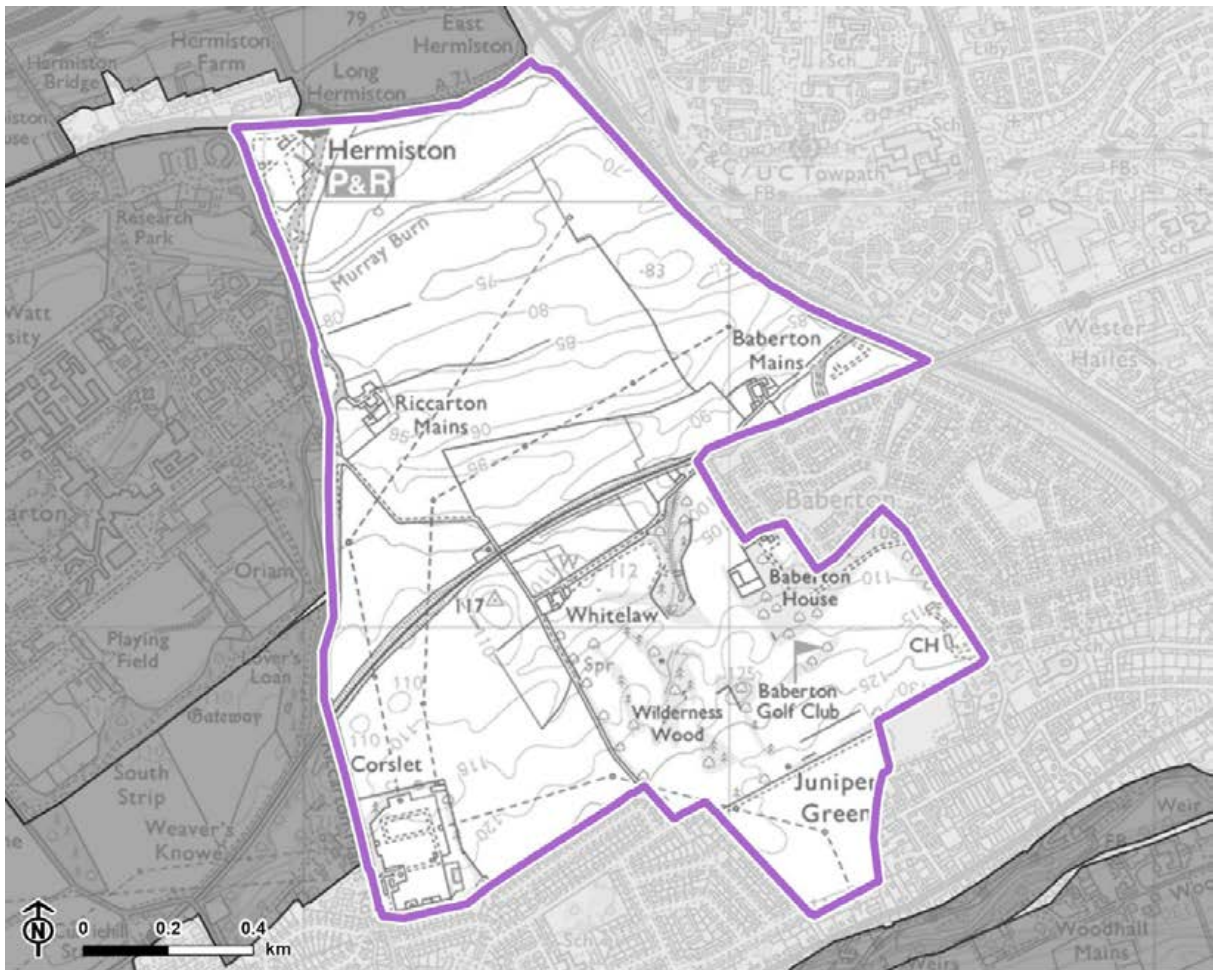
Location

3.473 This LCA is located to the west of the City Bypass and Baberton, north-west of, Juniper Green, north of Currie, and east of Heriot-Watt University.

Figure 3.113: View south-east across rolling slopes with transmission lines, towards the settlement edge of Baberton and the rising Pentland Hills



Figure 3.114: Baberton Farmland LCA



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-  Rolling Farmland: Baberton Farmland
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- A gradually rising series of softly rounded, stepped ridges from approximately 75m AOD near the A71 in the north to almost 140m AOD at the edge of the urban area to the south.
- The Murray Burn crosses the northern part of the LCA, trending south-west to north-east, in an inconspicuous dip, lined by scrub and field margins.
- Landcover is mainly larger scale, amalgamated arable fields, enclosed by post and wire fences and occasional hedgerows, with a golf course located south of the railway.
- A more wooded character associated with the golf course in the south of the area, which is located in the former policies of Baberton House and merges in views with the tree-lined margins of the railway line.
- Although there are no public roads within the area, it is bordered by the A720 City Bypass to the north-east, the A71 to the north, and Riccarton Mains Road to the west.
- Influence of linear and electricity infrastructure, including a substation, high voltage transmission lines and Edinburgh-Glasgow via Shotts railway line.
- The settlement edges of Currie, Juniper Green and Baberton are adjacent to the south and east of the area, influencing some views. Within the area there are scattered farmsteads and cottages.
- The area is largely screened from the historic Juniper Green Conservation Area, except at its edges and the perimeter woodland belts at Heriot-Watt University also limit outward views to the area from the campus.
- Although comprising a band of open farmland views of high rise buildings and industrial development on the edge of the city, road infrastructure and traffic noise diminish the perceived rural qualities of this landscape.
- While the urban edge of Edinburgh is visible, the backdrop provided by the Pentland Hills offers a more dramatic rural prospect and this area provides a simple, open foreground to views of the hills from the A71 and the City Bypass.
- The area plays some recreational role, with informal paths linking Riccarton, Currie, Baberton and the public park (outside of the area) in Juniper Green.

The golf course also provides formal access and there are allotments near Baberton Mains.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.474 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Baberton Farmland LCA include:

- While this landscape is not intrinsically unique or rare, it provides a simple foreground to views of the much more dramatic Pentland Hills.
- The tree-lined route of the railway, backed by the policy woodland of Baberton Golf Club in the south, contribute a mature wooded edge to Baberton.
- The LCA also provides part of the setting of Juniper Green (including the historic core of the settlement designated as a Conservation Area) and Currie. However, appreciation of the historic form of the settlements has been diminished in places by intrusive infrastructure and post-war housing development.

The changing landscape

3.475 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Baberton Farmland LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Rolling Farmland LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.476 Farmland and golf course are generally well-managed although hedgerows are intermittent.

3.477 Electricity infrastructure impinges on the rural character of the area, and pylons detract from long-distance views towards hill ranges.

3.478 Scope exists to increase naturalised vegetation along the Murray Burn and its overall contribution to the local landscape.

Forces for change

3.479 At the urban edge, pressure for settlement expansion could alter the rural character of the area or the distinct identities of Juniper Green and Currie.

3.480 Given the proximity to overhead electricity transmission infrastructure, there may be pressures for intensification of electricity infrastructure or introduction of renewable energy development within the landscape. This would alter the rural character of the landscape and views to the Pentland Hills, requiring careful siting and associated planting strategies.

3.481 Loss of trees along the railway line and within remnant policy woodland would alter the structure of the wooded edge to Baberton.

LCA 53: Bonnington Farmland

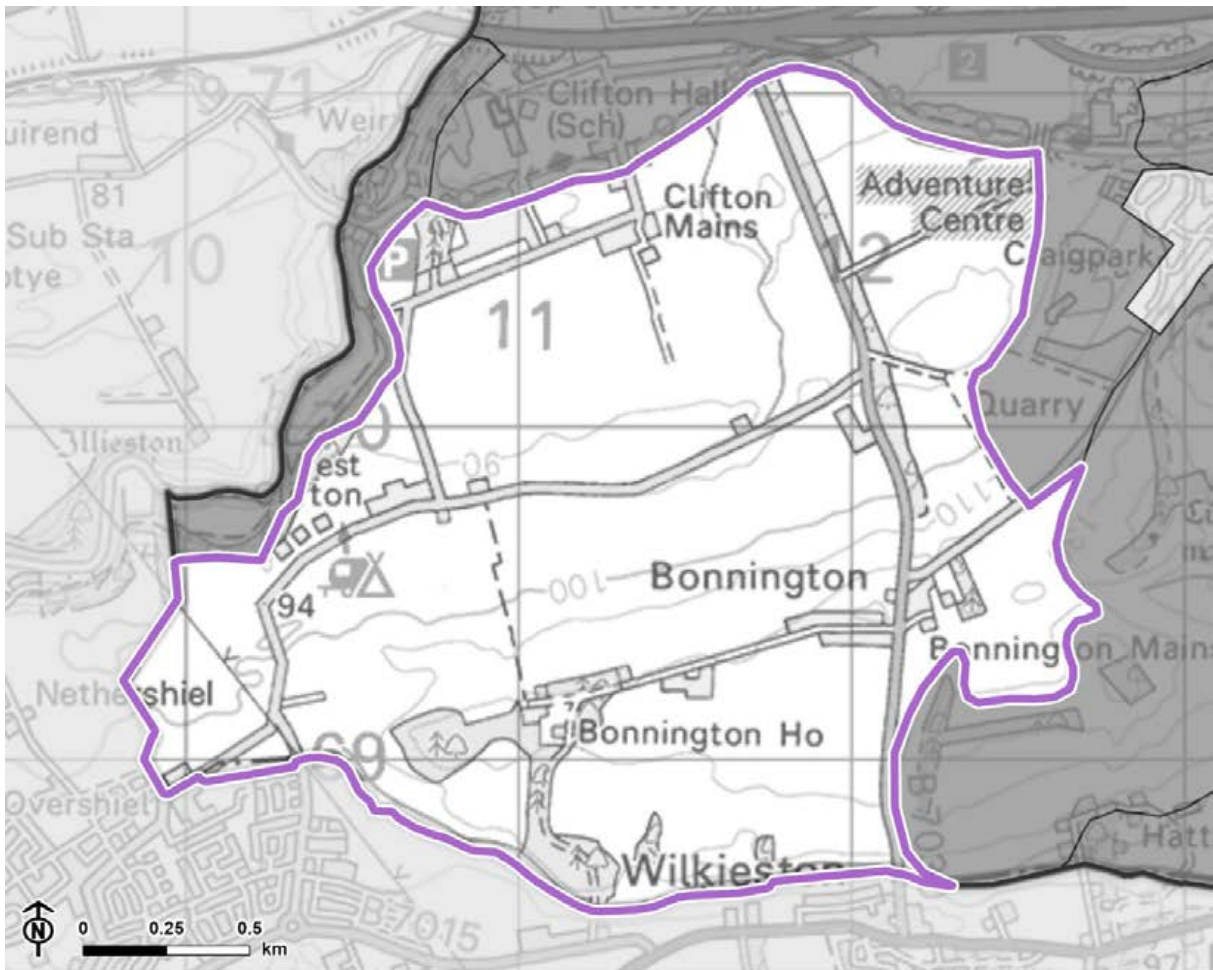
Location

3.482 The Bonnington Farmland LCA is located between Edinburgh and East Calder, near Livingston. It lies between the Union Canal to the north, the B7030 to the east, the A71 to the south, and the incised valley of the River Almond to the west. Its southern boundary is adjacent to the West Lothian Council area.

Figure 3.115: View across the agricultural land in the north of the area, with remnant trees and thorn hedgerows

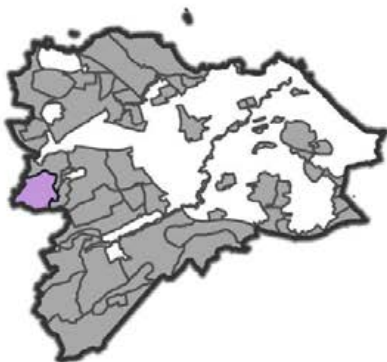


Figure 3.116: Bonnington Farmland LCA



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



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Gently undulating slopes rising from approximately 75m AOD in the north to 135m AOD in the south, where a shallow ridge forms an extension of the more rolling Ratho Hills east of the area.
- Arable farmland with an occasional influence of large agricultural and industrial sheds, particularly in the north.
- Dispersed farmsteads are linked by minor road sand the B7030. The grander Bonnington House, and a row of houses at Bonnington, sit on the ridge in the south.
- Areas of woodland are focused near Bonnington House in the south, while at the northern boundary of the area, the Union Canal is fringed by woodland and scrub. Elsewhere, remnant trees marking former enclosure patterns feature in enlarged fields while thorn hedgerows form intermittent boundaries along roadsides.
- The grounds of the Listed Bonnington House form the popular attraction of Jupiter Artland, which includes large-scale outdoor sculptures and land art set within its partially wooded grounds.
- The Union Canal passes along the northern edge of the area and forms an important recreational route crossing the River Almond to the west of the area.
- The operational Breedon Bonnington quarry is located within part of the east of the area but is well screened, although a large shed across the B7030 is more visually prominent. A poultry farm in the north of the area is relatively unobtrusive.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.483 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Bonnington Farmland LCA include:

- While the type of landscape found in this area is not rare within the region, here it provides a contrast with the complexity of built development and infrastructure found to the north.
- The wooded policies of Bonnington House lie on the crest of the low ridge in the south, accentuating the landform.

- Jupiter Artland in the grounds of Bonnington House is a popular attraction. The surrounding farmland forms an important rural context to Jupiter Artland and contributes to the visual amenity of visitors.
- The area is visible as part of the rural surroundings in the middle distance of views from local hills such as Tormain, Kaimes and Dalmahoy Hills, towards the distant Ochil Hills and the Highlands.
- The value of the landscape in the south-east is recognised as part of a Local Landscape Area, extending across the Ratho Hills to the east. Fields in the east of the LCA form an important setting to the more elevated parts of the Ratho Hills.

The changing landscape

3.484 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Bonnington Farmland LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Rolling Farmland LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.485 Farmland appears to be well managed.

3.486 There is evidence of field amalgamation which has weakened the field pattern and eroded some field boundaries (e.g. north and east of Bonnington House).

Forces for change

3.487 There has been extensive housebuilding at Calderwood within West Lothian, to the south-west of the area resulting in some changes to the rural character and visual amenity of the area.

3.488 Continued quarrying activity in the east of the area could lead to loss of existing trees and hedgerows as well as new screen planting, earthworks and reinstatement features.

3.489 Further development at Jupiter Artland could lead to changes in land use of nearby agricultural land to increase space for artworks or visitor facilities.

LCA 54: Burdiehouse Farmland

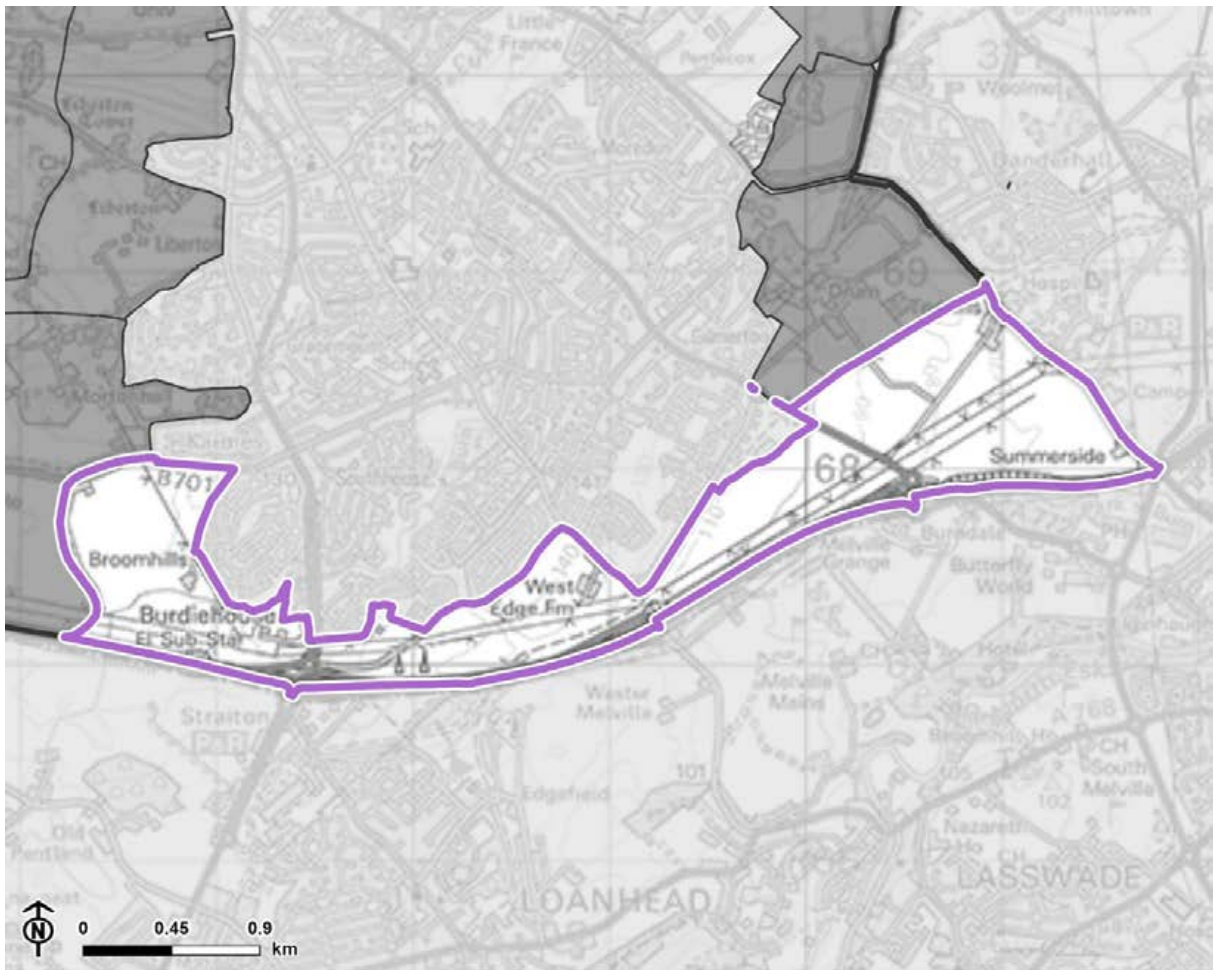
Location

3.490 Burdiehouse Farmland LCA extends between the south-western edge of Edinburgh and the City Bypass, between Burdiehouse and Gilmerton, near the boundary with Midlothian.

Figure 3.117: View from Loanhead Railway Path (foot and cycleway) looking across farmland towards the Moorfoot Hills, with overhead transmission infrastructure extending across the view



Figure 3.118: Burdiehouse Farmland LCA



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



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Rolling landform which forms a distinct ridge rising south-east from the Burdiehouse Burn and extending to Gilmerton before gradually falling to merge with gently undulating farmland near Danderhall in Midlothian.
- The long and smoothly even slopes of the ridge are farmed, with arable fields predominantly enclosed by post and wire fences, although some stone walls are also present.
- A limited presence of woodland combined with the elevation of landform gives this landscape an open character, although field boundary hedgerows on lower lying landform and the former railway line create a soft vegetative layer in views, and woodland often encloses the edges of the landscape.
- To the south, the A720 (City Bypass) abuts the edge of the LCA; the linearity of the road emphasised by a double row of pylons which run broadly parallel with the road but cut across part of the high ground of the ridge.
- The City Bypass is relatively wooded and screened from views from the landscape, though occasionally glimpsed in between breaks in vegetation, and the noise of traffic audible.
- A large electricity substation, roads and transmission lines are particularly prominent in the south-west of this area. Overhead lines cross through the entire LCA, broadly east-west.
- Striking open views are available from elevated areas and are focused towards Arthur's Seat to the north, the Pentland Hills to the south-west, the distant Lammermuir Hills, south-east, and Moorfoot Hills, south.
- The urban edge of Burdiehouse is visible from more elevated areas, though other adjacent areas of housing are further screened by trees and woodland and the gently undulating landform.
- Beyond the urban edge, West Edge Farm and the steading at Broomhills typify the more rural settled areas, whilst to the east there are commercial uses at Todhills.
- Loanhead Railway Path forms a Core Path which provides recreational access between Danderhall and Roslin.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.491 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Burdiehouse Farmland LCA include:

- Distant views are afforded including towards Arthur's Seat, the Pentland Hills, and the distant Moorfoot Hills, contributing to scenic value.
- The presence of field boundary hedgerows between the large open fields, coupled with the gently undulating landscape, provide a layered, vegetated landscape which softens the visual effect of overhead powerlines.
- Woodland along the City Bypass contributes to the layered character of the landscape and screens the road, allowing for focused views south towards the Pentland Hills and Moorfoot Hills. The backdrop of open fields on the ridge contributes an open setting to views from the City Bypass.
- The Loanhead Railway Path contributes to recreational value by connecting several settlement areas through a traffic free route.

The changing landscape

3.492 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Burdiehouse Farmland LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Rolling Farmland LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.493 Farmland appears to be well managed, with field boundary hedgerows in good condition.

3.494 Pylons which pass through the landscape form the focus of immediate views and detract from long-distance views towards hill ranges, whilst also detracting from the rural character of the landscape.

3.495 Recent housing development on the edge of Edinburgh around Burdiehouse and Gilmerton is present in views from the LCA, particularly along the Lang Loan and Lasswade Road, where there is limited established tree or hedgerow cover. This provides a strong urban influence and detracts from the rural character of the landscape.

Forces for change

3.496 At the urban edge, pressure for settlement expansion could alter the rural character of the area or the distinct identities of Edinburgh and Midlothian.

3.497 Additional overhead energy lines could increase the visual effect of existing infrastructure on the open landscape and views to the Pentland Hills.

3.498 Given the proximity to overhead electricity transmission infrastructure, there may be pressures for introduction of renewable energy development within the landscape. This would alter the open character of the landscape and views to the Pentland Hills, requiring careful siting and associated planting strategies.

LCA 55: Gowanhill Farmland

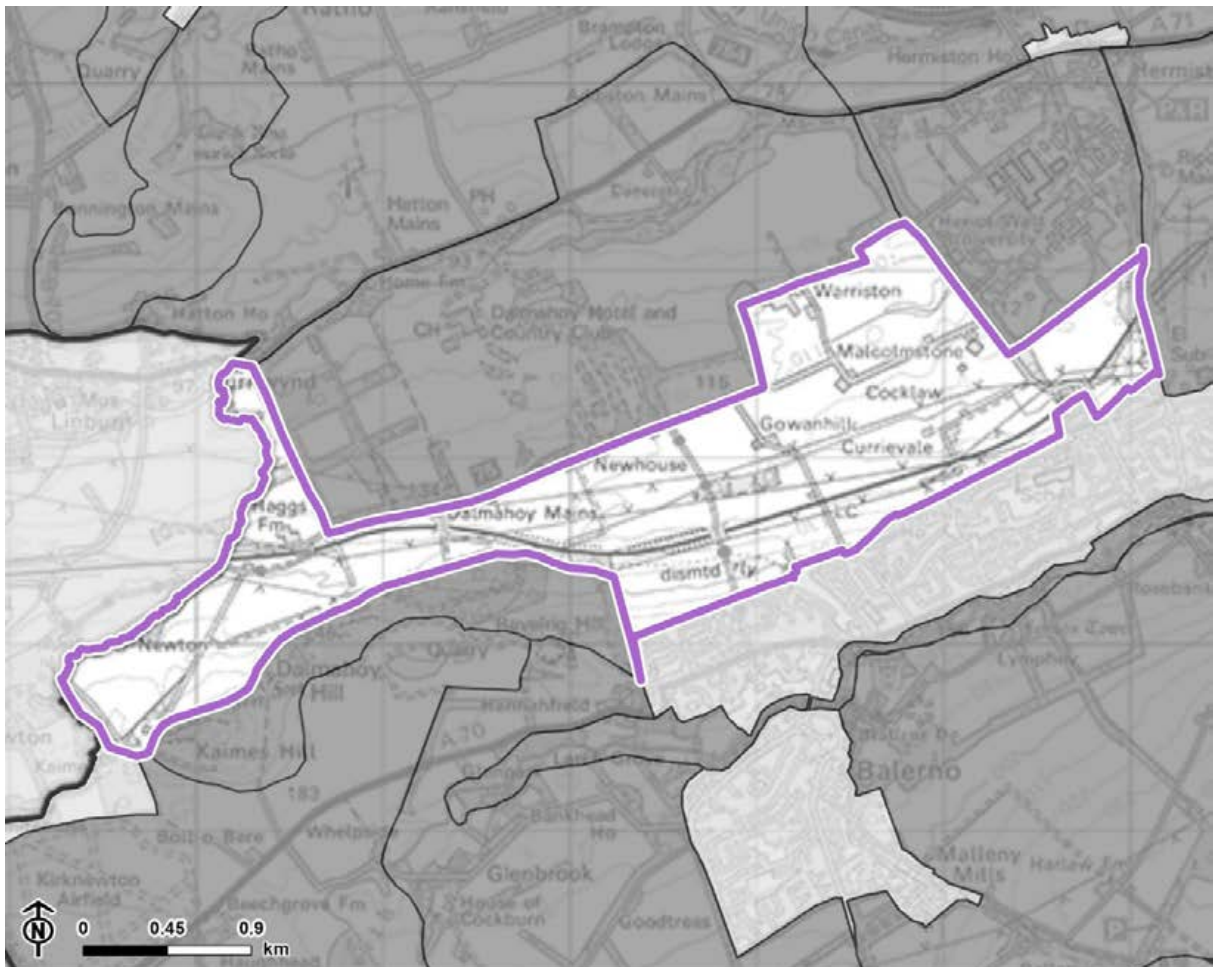
Location

3.499 The Gowanhill Farmland LCA is aligned broadly from east to west, extending along the northern edge of Currie and further west, where it adjoins the West Lothian Council area close to Kirknewton.

Figure 3.119: View south-west towards Dalmahoy Hill from Ravelrig Road, looking across farmland and transmission lines



Figure 3.120: Gowanhill Farmland LCA



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



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Gently dipped valley of the channelised Murray Burn, contained to the south by a long ridge extending east.
- Just beyond the southern boundary, very steep slopes rise to the summits of Dalmahoy Hill and Kaimes Hill.
- Landcover is predominantly arable farmland, with some pasture mainly in the west of the area, and a few small areas of woodland. The area is bordered by policy woodland at Dalmahoy to the north and Riccarton to the north-east.
- The settlement edges of Currie and Balerno occupy the ridgeline to the south, partly screened by pockets of woodland, hedgerows and field boundary trees.
- Relatively straight minor roads pass through the area and along its northern boundary, connecting dispersed farmsteads.
- Other infrastructure in the area includes a railway and two electricity transmission lines passing from east to west, and a waste transfer station near Higgs Farm in the west of the area.
- National Cycle Network Route 75 follows a Core Path along a minor road through the area and along its northern edge. Other Core Paths also cross the area north of Currie, linking with the Union Canal and River Almond to the north and the Water of Leith and Pentland Hills to the south.
- Communications, settlement and industry have a strong influence within the area and impinge on its agricultural character.
- The rugged forms of Dalmahoy Hill and Kaimes Hill, to the south-west of the area, are prominent in views, while the Pentland Hills form a distant backdrop.
- The landscape of the area is open in character and has high inter-visibility with the northern edge of Currie, Balerno, Kaimes Hill and Dalmahoy Hill.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.500 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Gowanhill Farmland LCA include:

- The area forms part of the setting to the settlement of Currie and Balerno.

- The area is visible as open farmland in the foreground of views towards Edinburgh from Dalmahoy Hill, leading the eye towards the city and the distinctive form of Arthur's Seat in the distance.

The changing landscape

3.501 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Gowanhill Farmland LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Rolling Farmland LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.502 Farmland appears to be well managed.

3.503 Remnant thorn hedgerows are gappy and woodlands are sparse.

Forces for change

3.504 At the urban edge, pressure for settlement expansion could alter the rural character of the area, particularly given the sloping ridge to the south.

3.505 Whilst relatively low-lying, expansion of the waste transfer station near Hags Farm could add to influence of industrial development in the west of the area.

3.506 Additional overhead energy lines could also amplify the visual effect of existing infrastructure on the open landscape and views to the surrounding hills.

3.507 Given the proximity to overhead electricity transmission infrastructure, there may be pressures for introduction of renewable energy development within the landscape. This would alter the rural character of the landscape, requiring careful siting and associated planting strategies.

LCA 56: Ratho Farmland

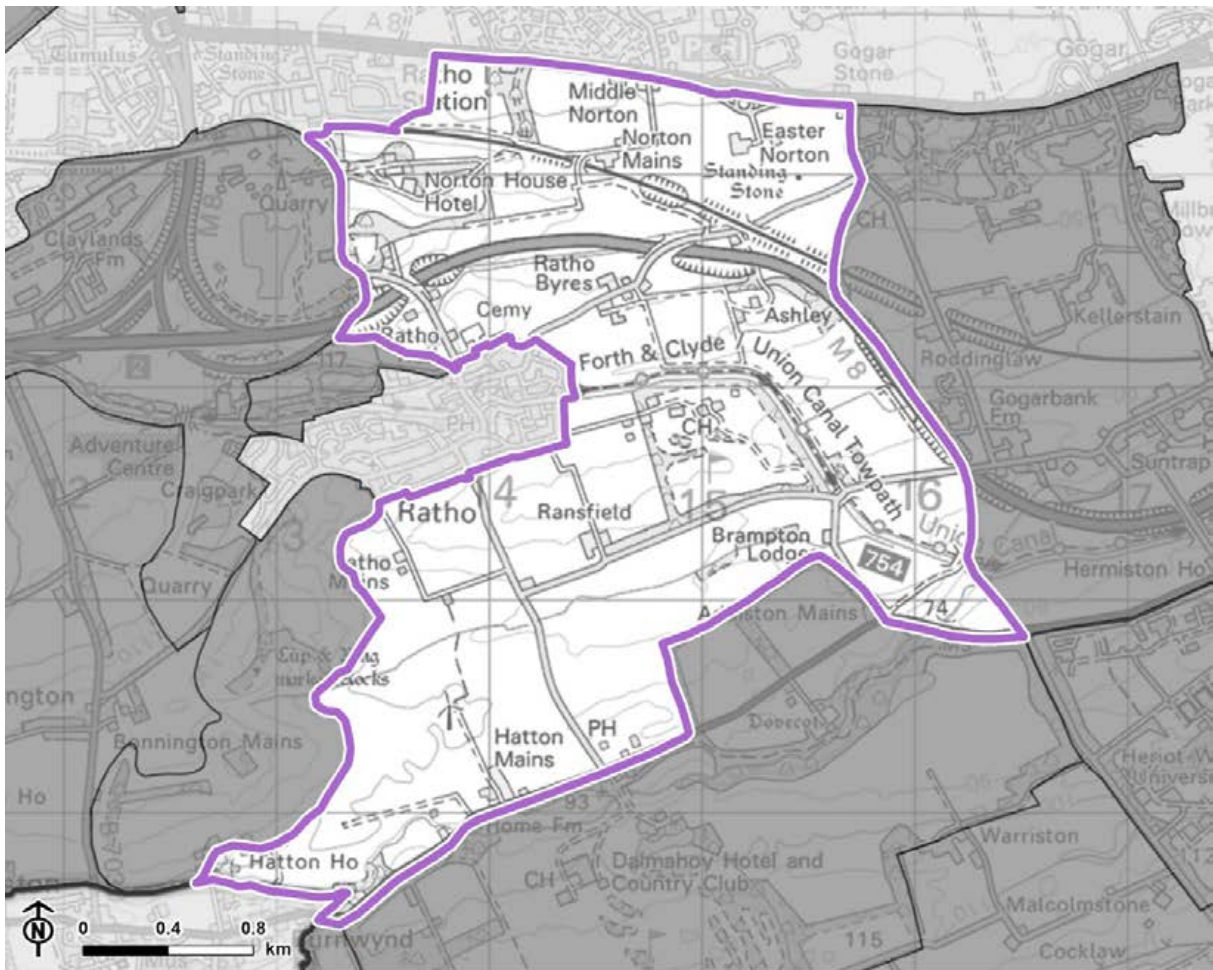
Location

3.508 The Ratho Farmland LCA is located to the west of Edinburgh, covering a fairly large area to the north, east and south of Ratho village.

Figure 3.121: View east from the Ratho Hills looking across gently rolling fields in the Ratho Farmland area, with the city of Edinburgh in the distance



Figure 3.122: Ratho Farmland LCA



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



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Gently undulating slopes rise from the north to the south-west, below the steeper upper slopes of the Ratho Hills (LCA 59).
- Landcover is predominantly arable fields bounded by hedgerows, areas of policy woodland, and tree belts, occasionally reinforced by post and wire fencing and some stone walls.
- The area adjoins the eastern part of Ratho village which is visible from the landscape, extending east-west along a low ridge. There are also a number of scattered farmsteads within the area, linked by minor roads.
- Transport links form major features in the north, with the M8 and Edinburgh-Glasgow mainline railway passing through the area, and the the A8 forming its northern boundary.
- An influence of policy landscapes with designed gardens and woodland associated with Hatton House, Ratho Park and Norton House Hotel.
- The Union Canal canal and its towpath is a popular recreational route for boaters, cyclists and pedestrians. There is also a golf course at Ratho Park.
- The open character of the landscape offers extensive views to Fife and the Pentland Hills, which form a dramatic backdrop.
- The area has a strong visual relationship with the Ratho Hills to the west, and forms the middle ground of the extensive views from the hills towards Edinburgh and the Pentland Hills.
- The farmland has a rural character and, away from the M8 and airport, is relatively tranquil.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.509 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Ratho Farmland LCA include:

- The landscape is visible from important transport routes which pass through the area. Arable fields with hedgerows, policy woodland and tree lines accentuate the landform.
- Notable historic buildings and gardens at Hatton House and Ratho Park contribute to the sense of time depth and landscape pattern.

- The area forms part of the rural setting of the Union Canal, as it passes between Edinburgh and Ratho. The towpath is a popular recreational route for boaters, cyclists and pedestrians.
- While not highly distinctive in itself, the area is important as open farmland in the middle distance of extensive views towards Edinburgh from the adjacent Ratho Hills.
- The landscape of the area is open in character and offers extensive views to Fife and the Pentland Hills, which form a dramatic backdrop.
- The value of the landscape in the south-west is recognised as part of a Local Landscape Area, extending across the Ratho Hills to the west. Fields in the south-west of the LCA form an important setting to the more elevated parts of the Ratho Hills.

The changing landscape

3.510 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Ratho Farmland LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Rolling Farmland LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.511 Farmland appears to be well managed and most field boundaries in reasonable condition.

3.512 There is evidence of field amalgamation which has weakened the field pattern and eroded some field boundaries (e.g. south of Ransfield Farm).

Forces for change

3.513 At the urban edge, pressure for settlement expansion could alter the rural character of the area or the setting of the Union Canal. Pressure may arise for more housebuilding at the edge of Ratho village, which could encroach into the area and detract from its undeveloped character.

3.514 Pressure for further housing development or recreational facilities could alter the character of policy landscapes in the area.

Rural Outcrop Hills Landscape Character Type

Landscape Character Areas

3.515 The Rural Outcrop Hills Landscape Character Type (LCT) features the following Landscape Character Areas (LCAs):

- Craigie Hill (57)
- Kaimes Hill (58)
- Ratho Hills (59)

Figure 3.123: View east from cup and ring marked stone on Tormain Hill



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCT are:

- Elongated hills volcanic in origin rising above the surrounding landscape.
- Ridges and hill summits often punctuated by woodland.
- Some outcropping of rock and quarrying is a common feature.
- The hills are locally important for recreational use and provide opportunity to experience extensive views across the surrounding landscape.

Forces for change

3.516 The following section sets out key changes and pressures relating to the Rural Outcrop Hills LCT:

- An increase in the frequency and severity of storm events coupled with an increase in pests and diseases, as a result of climate change, may result in tree or woodland loss and an alteration to the landscape pattern and distinctive wooded skylines of the hills.
- Intensification of quarrying may result in loss of landscape features, such as woodland, or further alteration to the distinctive profiles of the hills.
- Expansion of settlement or infrastructure may result in loss of areas with a remaining sense of naturalness and may alter the character of outward views experienced from the hills.
- An increase in the frequency and severity of rainfall events, coupled with periods of erosion, may result in erosion or alteration to hill slopes.

Landscape management guidelines

3.517 The following section sets out recommended landscape management guidelines for the Rural Outcrop Hills LCT:

- Expand woodland and shelterbelts prioritising native species, whilst retaining panoramic views out from the hills.
- Respect the skyline and profile of the hills avoiding visually intrusive structures on the hills, and near their bases or side slopes.

- Restore former quarry sites to reinstate the natural profile of the hill slopes, retain exposures where appropriate and enhance biodiversity through new tree planting.
- Improve informal access and recreation focusing on connectivity of paths between the hills and settled areas to encourage responsible access.

LCA 57: Craigie Hill

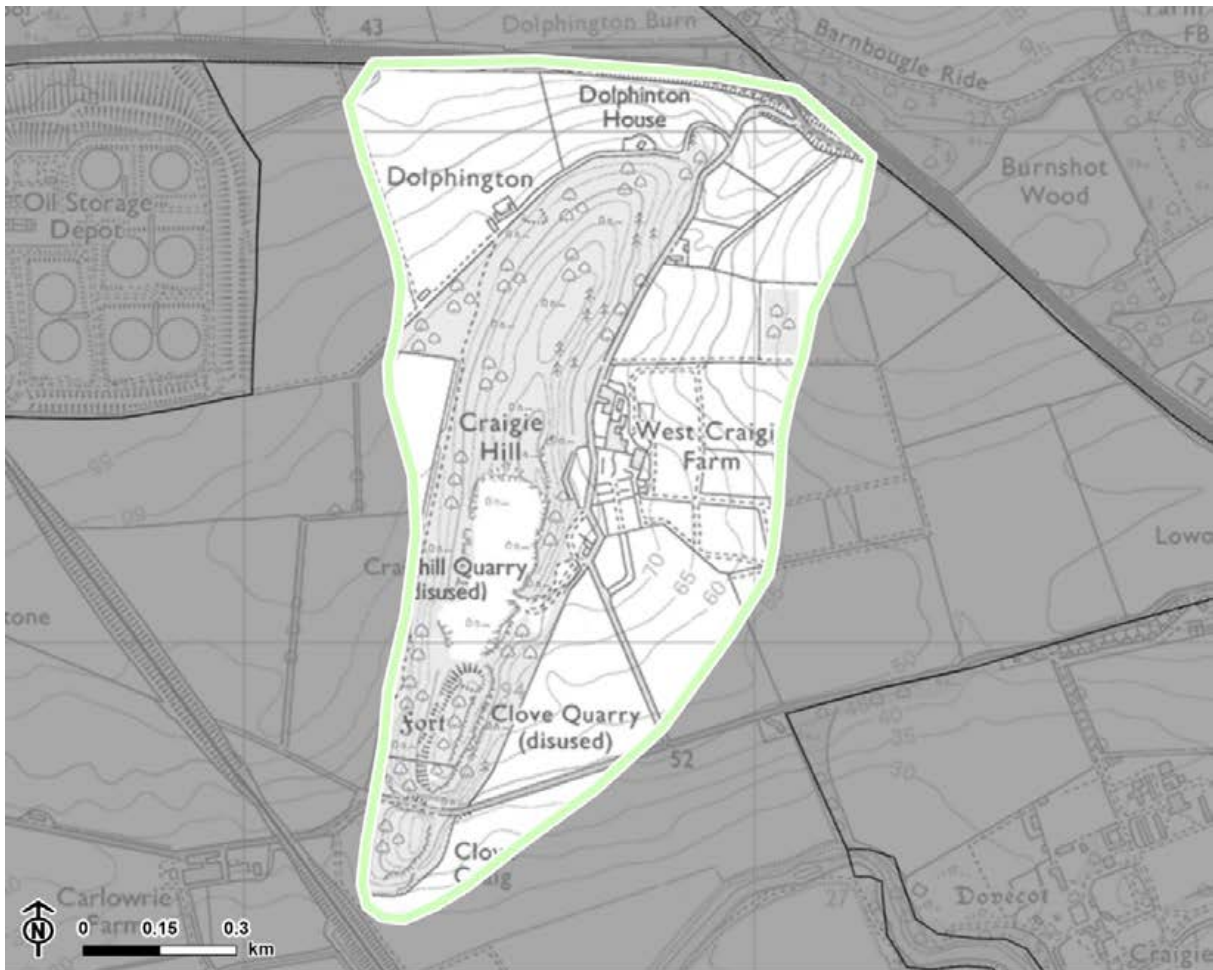
Location

3.518 Craigie Hill is located between policy landscapes, namely the Dalmeny Estate to the north and Craigiehall Estate to the south-east. The LCA is flanked by the A90 to the north and north-east.

Figure 3.124: The enclosed nature of the wooded ridge of Craigie Hill with glimpsed views to the adjacent landscape, including the infrastructure of the oil storage depot to the west



Figure 3.125: Craigie Hill LCA



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-  Rural Outcrop Hills: Craigie Hill
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- The distinctive elongated Craigie Hill, comprising a volcanic intrusion, rises to approximately 110m AOD. Lower slopes gently descend to the surrounding undulating farmland of the Almond Valley.
- The long, steep rocky ridge covered with managed mixed woodland of mature beech and sycamore.
- The hill has a similar character to the wooded hills and ridges of the adjacent Dalmeny Estate, although its isolated location and elevation within the undulating farmland of the Almond Valley, increases its prominence.
- Gentler slopes in the north and east are more open in character, comprising gently undulating agricultural fields. West Craigie Farm, in the east of the LCA, cultivates fruit and vegetables, with polytunnels set out on long fields.
- A number of stone buildings circle the base of the steep wooded ridge; some in a derelict state.
- A large former quarry on the ridge forms a jagged notch against the skyline, although this is screened by woodland when trees are in leaf. The openness of the quarry area contrasts with the enclosed character of the rest of the hill.
- Paths and an Iron Age fort are present within this wooded ridge and offer striking views over the Dalmeny Estate to the Firth of Forth.
- Facilities including a car park, café and farm shop at West Craigie Farm, located at the base of the hill, are open to the public and offer opportunity to experience panoramic views across the Forth and eastwards to the city skyline.
- The hill is highly visible from the surrounding Almond Valley and forms a backdrop to views from the A90.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.519 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Craigie Hill LCA include:

- The distinctive north-south wooded ridge of the hill forms a locally distinctive landmark, contributing to sense of place and visual amenity.

- The elevated landform and wooded character of Craigie Hill form an extension of the rolling landform of the Dalmeny Estate, contributing to sense of place more widely.
- Woodland contributes to the landscape pattern, biodiversity and character of views experienced from paths.
- The Iron Age fort in the south of the area contributes to the sense of history in the landscape locally, although woodland obscures the legibility of this feature more widely.
- The informal network of paths offers woodland walks, views to the wider landscape, as well as public access to farm based experiences at West Craigie Farm.
- Elevated and panoramic views are afforded from parts of the LCA, particularly looking north-east.
- The value of this landscape is recognised as part of a Local Landscape Area.

The changing landscape

3.520 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and pressures to the Craigie Hill LCA, which are additional to the more generic key changes and pressures identified for the Rural Outcrop Hills LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.521 Woodland management is evident and Craigie Farm is also well-managed.

3.522 The derelict houses around the base of the hill are in poor condition.

3.523 The quarry creates a scar on the landscape and its derelict appearance detracts from the intimate, winding nature of the woodland paths.

Forces for change

3.524 New farm buildings have changed this landscape, in addition to the expansion of the farm shop and cafe. Changes to farm operations in the future may alter the character of views and landscape pattern.

3.525 Whilst Craigiehill Quarry remains protected for its mineral deposits by the local development plan, backfilling is underway and its scheme of restoration will feature mixed native woodland, wildflower meadows, stabilised quarry faces and scree.

LCA 58: Kaimes Hill

Location

3.526 This LCA comprises the steep upper slopes of Kaimes Hill and Dalmahoy Hill, along with an area of north-facing slopes further east. The area is located between Balerno and Kirknewton, in the rural landscape to the west of the Edinburgh close to the boundary with West Lothian.

Figure 3.126: Scrub, gorse and woodland covers the slopes of Dalmahoy Hill, as seen from Kaimes Hill



Figure 3.127: Kaimes Hill LCA



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



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Located along the line of the Colinton fault which is a steep change in landform between more gentle slopes to the north and south. Both hills are dolerite sills.
- Kaimes Hill (259m AOD) was subject to quarrying in the past and the quarry has been subsequently filled by tipping, resulting in a jagged rocky ridge.
- The large, active Ravelrig Quarry is located to the east of Dalmahoy Hill (264m AOD). Processing facilities on the north side of the ridge are clearly visible from the A71 and the Edinburgh-Glasgow rail line.
- The reclaimed tip area of Kaimes Hill is used for grazing. Landcover on Dalmahoy Hill is scrubland, including gorse, bracken and rough grass. Woodland is denser in the east.
- Both hills are crowned with Iron Age hillforts, although the vitrified fort on Kaimes Hill has been largely destroyed by quarrying.
- Although there are no formal recreational routes in the LCA, there are numerous informal paths.
- Both hills provide extensive views over the surrounding area, with a trig point marking the summit of Dalmahoy Hill.
- Both hills are prominent in views from the surrounding landscape. The jagged and modified outline of Kaimes Hill is particularly distinctive.
- The wild, craggy character of the hilltops contrasts with developed character of the surrounding landscape, which is influenced by quarries, transmission lines, roads and railways.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.527 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Kaimes Hill LCA include:

- These hills together form a landmark feature in the west of the Edinburgh area, contrasting with surrounding areas of low-lying farmland.
- Both hills have ancient hillforts (Scheduled Monuments) on their summit areas, which contributes to a sense of history.

- Woodland in the east of the area provides contrast in landscape pattern and textures, particularly compared to the more rugged character of hill tops and the open character of surrounding farmland.
- The hills provide informal recreational access and offer extensive views from their summits, contributing to sense of place and recreational amenity.

The changing landscape

3.528 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and pressures relating to the Kaimes Hill LCA, which are additional to the more generic key changes and pressures identified for the Rural Outcrop Hills LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.529 The landscape of the area has been fragmented by quarrying.

3.530 There is limited evidence of active land management on the hilltops.

Forces for change

3.531 Continued quarrying at Ravelrig, which is extending southwards towards the A70 will influence the character of the landscape alongside the opportunities for enhancement of woodland and scrub.

3.532 Urban residential development has expanded the north-western suburbs of Balerno, close to the wooded edge of Ravelrig Hill. This may increase recreational pressures but provide scope for access improvements.

3.533 Intensification of electricity transmission infrastructure may result in further influence of human development in the east. Pressure for larger or taller pylons may detract from the wooded skyline formed by the hills.

LCA 59: Ratho Hills

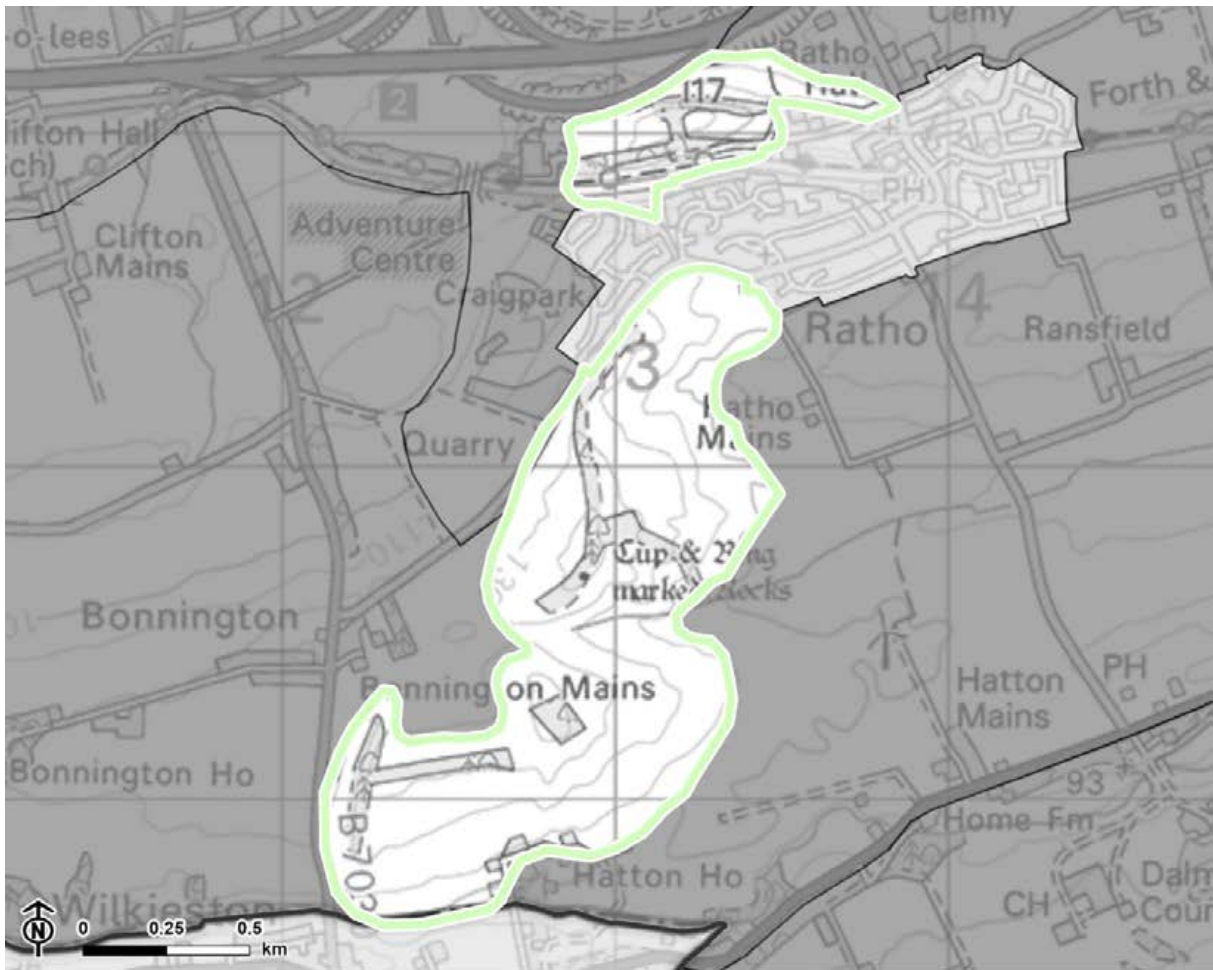
Location

3.534 The Ratho Hills form a long, undulating ridge, located to the north and south of a narrow valley containing the village of Ratho and the Union Canal. The southern part comprises the ridge to the south of the village, while the smaller northern part includes a short section of the Union Canal and a small hill to its north.

Figure 3.128: Grassland contrasts with areas of woodland extending across the undulating rounded summits



Figure 3.129: Ratho Hills LCA



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



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Long, rounded slopes rise to the elongated ridge of the hills, reaching high points at Tormain Hill (149m AOD) and Craw Hill (144m AOD).
- Slopes gently descend to rolling farmland to the east.
- The hills comprise arable farmland and grassland with a narrow, well-managed shelterbelt including beech and sycamore snaking southwards over the softly undulating ridge.
- The north of the area is more densely wooded with shelterbelt, field boundaries and woodland along the Union Canal.
- The large, operational Breedon Bonnington Quarry and the Lost Shore Surf Resort are located on the western slopes just outside the area.
- Ancient cup and ring marked stones near the summit of Tormain Hill contribute to a sense of history locally. The former deer park to the north of Hatton House, extends into the south-west of the LCA.
- The Union Canal and towpath is a popular recreational route for boats, cyclists and pedestrians. Informal paths at Tormain Hill offer further opportunity to experience the landscape.
- Although the Ratho Hills are not high, the surrounding low-lying farmland and the shelterbelt tracing the ridge make them prominent in local views, such as those from Ratho village and the Union Canal.
- Elevated views from the hill summits are extensive, across a farmed foreground to Arthur's Seat and the city's skyline in the east, the Firth of Forth, Fife, the Cleish Hills and Ochils to the north, the Almond valley to the west and the Pentland Hills in the south.
- Despite the proximity of Ratho village and nearby roads, a sense of seclusion and tranquillity can be experienced in this area, especially at the wooded hill summits in the south.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.535 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Ratho Hills LCA include:

- The distinctive wooded ridge and isolation of the Ratho Hills set within a well-managed rural landscape make it a relatively rare feature within Edinburgh.
- Whilst affected to some extent by quarrying and development, the Ratho Hills are locally prominent and form an attractive overall landscape composition along with well-managed farmland to the east.
- Ancient cup and ring marked stones, and part of the Hatton House Garden and Designed Landscape, are located within the LCA and contribute to the sense of history within the landscape.
- The Union Canal is an important recreational route, and the Tormain Woods ridge provides informal recreational access.
- Views from elevated parts of the area are very extensive and contribute to a sense of place and visual amenity.
- The value of this landscape is recognised as part of a Local Landscape Area.

The changing landscape

3.536 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Ratho Hills LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Rural Outcrop Hills LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.537 Paths and woodlands appear to be well-managed, with evidence of woodland management such as tree felling.

3.538 Farmland also appears to be well-managed.

Forces for change

3.539 Whilst part of the policy woodland of the former Craigpark House is retained along the ridge of Wilkiestone Road, regeneration of the former Craigpark Quarry has introduced residential development across the hillside to the west of Ratho. The Lost Shore Surf Resort, with associated accommodation, has also been established within the main void and perimeter of the quarry, alongside associated landscaping and habitat enhancement measures. As part of these developments, public access has

been extended through the former quarry site. The steep slopes between the resort and the existing housing would limit further residential expansion into the area.

3.540 Intensification of use at the Breendon Bonnington Quarry or the Lost Shore Surf Resort could result in further alteration of outward views from the hills and surrounding paths.

3.541 Changes in temperatures and rainfall, more extreme weather events such as storms and droughts, and increased prevalence of pests and diseases, as a result of climate change, may lead to the loss of woodland and hedgerow habitats, which would alter the pattern or composition of the distinctive linear woodland tracing the ridgeline.

Settled Farmland Landscape Character Type

Landscape Character Areas

3.542 The Settled Farmland Landscape Character Type (LCT) features the following Landscape Character Areas (LCAs):

- Craigpark Fragmented Farmland (60)
- Gogar Farmland (61)
- Liberton Fringes (62)
- Queensferry Fragmented Farmland (63)
- Riccarton Campus (64)

Figure 3.130: Gently undulating landscape with a mix of land uses, including an influence of development



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCT are:

- Generally gently undulating landform, occasionally rising to local ridges.
- Often a fragmented landscape with a mix of land uses.
- Areas of industrial, commercial and educational land use, and electricity and transportation infrastructure are found within the landscape.
- Areas of development exert a strong influence on landscape character. However, some parcels of farmland between developed parts of the landscape retain more rural qualities.
- Woodland and field boundaries are often remnant policies.
- Lack of prominence where low-lying or visually enclosed, although some parts of the landscape have an important relationship to settlements or other more distinctive landscape features.
- Typically forming a transitional landscape between areas of dense settlement and the less developed areas of landscape beyond.

Forces for change

3.543 The following section sets out key changes and pressures relating to the Settled Farmland LCT:

- Expansion of settlement or industrial land uses may result in a loss of the remaining parts of the landscape with a rural or policy character.
- Potential expansion of transportation infrastructure may also result in an intensification of noise and visual influences within the landscape, including at night.
- Changes to land use amidst ambitions to reach Net Zero, including installation of renewable energy projects, may result in loss of the remaining parts of the landscape with a rural or policy character and would intensify the human influences within the landscape.
- The effects of climate change, including an increase in the frequency and severity of storm events, coupled with an increase in pests and diseases, may alter the structure and density of woodland, including that which has a remnant

policy woodland character or serves a function to screen and filter views of major transportation routes and more modern development.

Landscape management guidelines

3.544 The following section sets out recommended landscape management guidelines for the Settled Farmland LCT:

- Enhance hedgerows and wooded field boundaries, using native species to connect habitats, create shelter and screen roads, railways and industrial areas.
- Expand and connect woodland including remnant policies and restock with long-lived native species with a mix of ages and structure.
- Respect the open, rural character of settled farmland and its role as a setting to more sensitive landscapes such as the policy landscapes at Gogar, the Braid Hills and the River Almond.
- Reduce the effects of modern development on the landscape through sensitive siting, design, and screening to retain the rural and policy character.

LCA 60: Craigpark Fragmented Farmland

Location

3.545 The Craigpark Fragmented Farmland LCA is located between Newbridge to the north, Ratho to the east and the incised valley of the River Almond to the west, which forms a boundary with West Lothian.

Figure 3.131: View west from the edge of Ratho village, with part of Lost Shore Surf Resort set within the former Craigpark Quarry in the middle distance



Figure 3.132: Craigpark Fragmented Farmland LCA



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-  Settled Farmland: Craigpark
Fragmented Farmland
-  City of Edinburgh boundary
-  Neighbouring Landscape
Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Gentle slopes in the west, transitioning to the Ratho Hills in the east, with landform elsewhere modified by quarrying.
- Roads, including the large-scale M8 and M9 interchange, and railways cross the landscape and sub-divide parcels of land between them.
- Landcover within these parcels includes arable farmland and patches of mixed woodland, grassland and scrub including gorse. Newbridge Industrial Estate partly extends into the landscape from the north.
- Policy woodlands surround the Listed 19th century buildings at Clifton Hall School in the south-west.
- Ongoing quarrying has substantially modified the landform in the east of the area, eroding the northern and western edges of the Ratho Hills. The void and asphalt plant at Hillwood Quarry in the north-east is screened by perimeter woodlands and landform, and Breedon Bonnington in the south-east is also largely screened from its surroundings.
- The disused Craigpark Quarry west of Ratho village now forms the Lost Shore Surf Resort, with an artificial lake, accommodation, and landscaped setting, as well as retained exposed rock faces.
- The Union Canal in the south-east is a popular recreational route for boaters, cyclists and pedestrians. Adjacent to the canal, the disused Ratho Quarry is one of the most important venues for outdoor climbing in the Edinburgh area, while the indoor Edinburgh International Climbing Arena has been built over part of the quarry.
- Strong influences of transport and industrial development result within the area. The influence of traffic noise and industrial operations limit tranquillity.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.546 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Craigpark Fragmented Farmland LCA include:

- The Listed 19th century buildings at Clifton Hall School in the south-west, and the surrounding policy woodland, contribute to a sense of history in the

landscape and retain a more natural character, marking a transition to the River Almond.

- The Union Canal is an important recreational route. The value of the narrow, wooded corridor along the Union Canal, bordered to the north and south by the remains of quarrying activity, is recognised in its inclusion in a Local Landscape Area which extends across the Ratho Hills.
- The disused Ratho Quarry, adjacent to the indoor Edinburgh International Climbing Arena, is one of the most important sites for outdoor climbing in the Edinburgh area.

The changing landscape

3.547 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Craigpark Fragmented Farmland LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Settled Farmland LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.548 Areas of derelict land and quarrying give a perception of poor landscape condition.

3.549 The landscape of the area is heavily fragmented by transport routes, and industrial and leisure development.

3.550 The Lost Shore Surf Resort is prominent in views from nearby housing and paths at the west end of Ratho village. The restoration of the quarry has opened up leisure routes around the former Craigpark Quarry within a landscaped setting.

Forces for change

3.551 Continued quarrying operations at Hillwood and Breedon Bonnington may further erode the edges of the Ratho Hills, altering the landforms and thereby the character of the area.

3.552 Further expansion of Newbridge Industrial Estate could encroach into the farmland in the west of the area, altering one of the few remaining parts of the area that retains a rural character. Development in this area could also affect the relatively secluded and tranquil character of the River Almond which runs beside the farmland.

3.553 Climate change may impact upon remaining woodland habitats in the area such as the policy woodland at Clifton Hall School and trees along the Union Canal, adversely affecting landscape character and visual amenity.

LCA 61: Gogar Farmland

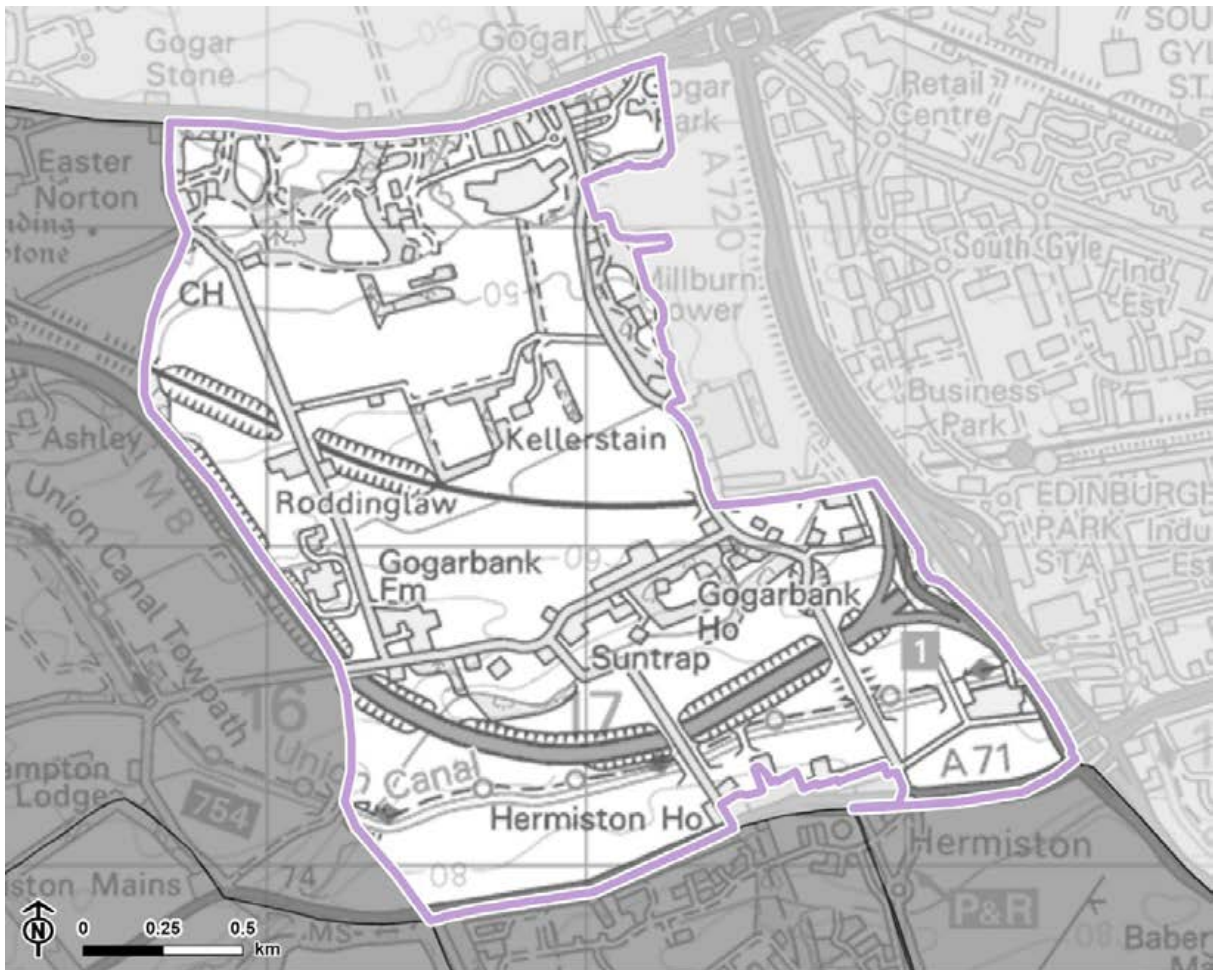
Location

3.554 This LCA is located to the west of the urban area of Edinburgh. The boundaries of this character area are formed by the road corridors of the A8, M8, A71 and to the east, the City Bypass and designed landscapes of Millburn Tower and Gogar Park.

Figure 3.133: Gogar Bank House is set within woodland, with gently undulating rectilinear fields providing a wider rural context

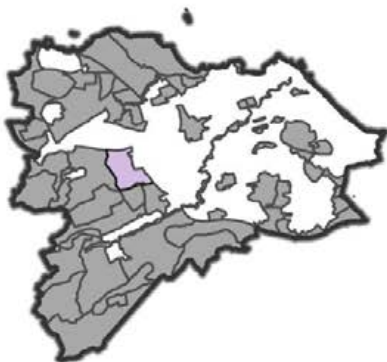


Figure 3.134: Gogar Farmland LCA



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-  Settled Farmland: Gogar Farmland
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Gently undulating north-facing slopes descend towards the Almond floodplain, with a narrow valley following the Gogar Burn in the north.
- Rectilinear fields extend between areas of policy woodland, with industrial development interspersed in the south-east and business campuses in the north and west.
- Woodland provides screening for major road and rail corridors that cut through the area, reducing their visual impact. In the south-west, the landscape is more open resulting in greater influence by noise and movement along transportation corridors.
- The 19th century Millburn Tower and its surrounding GDL adds to the historic character of the area through its Listed buildings and long-established woodland.
- Clusters of non-Inventory policy landscapes occur throughout the LCA, combining to create a landscape of well wooded character. These include: Gogar Mount, Hanley, Gogarburn, Gogar Park, Kellerstain, Kirkland House, Gogar Bank and Hermiston House.
- Hermiston village retains a traditional rural character with a sense of tranquillity with a strong connection to the Union Canal where it forms a feature of local views.
- The tree-lined Union Canal and towpath is a major walking, cycling and boating route, linking to the Riccarton Core Path to the south. Minor roads and tracks also provide recreational access through the area, and Gogarburn Golf Club is located in the north of the area.
- The Royal Bank of Scotland campus creates a more developed character in the north-east, although surrounding woodland limits this influence within the wider landscape.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.555 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Gogar Farmland LCA include:

- The density and quantity of policy woodlands, many of which adjoin each other in clusters, provide a rural context to the western outer edge of the city and contribute to the historic character of the area.
- Millburn Tower is recognised as a GDL, noted for veteran trees from its American collection. The Listed building and its 19th century informal grounds contribute to a sense of history.
- The Hermiston Conservation Area, notable for its garden settings, mature trees and stone walls is a picturesque agricultural village. It is a key amenity area associated with the Union Canal and contributes to the sense of history and sense of place in the south-east.
- The Union Canal is an important recreational asset and connects to the Riccarton Core Path to the west of Hermiston. Gogar Station Road forms part of the A8 Link Core Path, with other local paths provide access through the area. Gogarburn Golf Club, enclosed by long-established woodland, also provides recreational interest.
- Policy woodland, field boundaries and woodland located along Gogar Burn and the Union Canal contribute to connectivity of habitat and a strong wooded landscape pattern.
- Policy woodlands contribute to the historic and rural character of the area by enclosing farmland and screening industrial and commercial buildings, major roads, including the M8, A71, A720, and the railway.

The changing landscape

3.556 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and pressures relating to the Gogar Farmland LCA, which are additional to the more generic key changes and pressures identified for the Settled Farmland LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.557 Woodland and field boundaries are generally in good condition. In places, field boundaries have been reinforced by post and wire fencing in varied condition.

3.558 Experimental cropping associated with the Scottish Agricultural Science Agency (SASA) alters the simple landcover pattern in the fields of the landscape, although generally in keeping with the rural character.

Forces for change

3.559 Development pressure across this area of remnant farmland may result in changes to its rural and historic character, the separate identity of Hermiston village or the recreational enjoyment of the area.

3.560 Increases in pests, diseases, the frequency and severity of storm events and drought, as a result of climate change, may result in a loss of woodland, which would negatively impact the rural perception of the area, particularly where this may result in decreased screening of transit corridors and industrial sites. Loss of policy woodland would alter the historic qualities of the landscape.

3.561 Flooding associated with the Gogar Burn valley may alter the surrounding vegetation and the management of invasive species requires attention.

LCA 62: Liberton Fringes

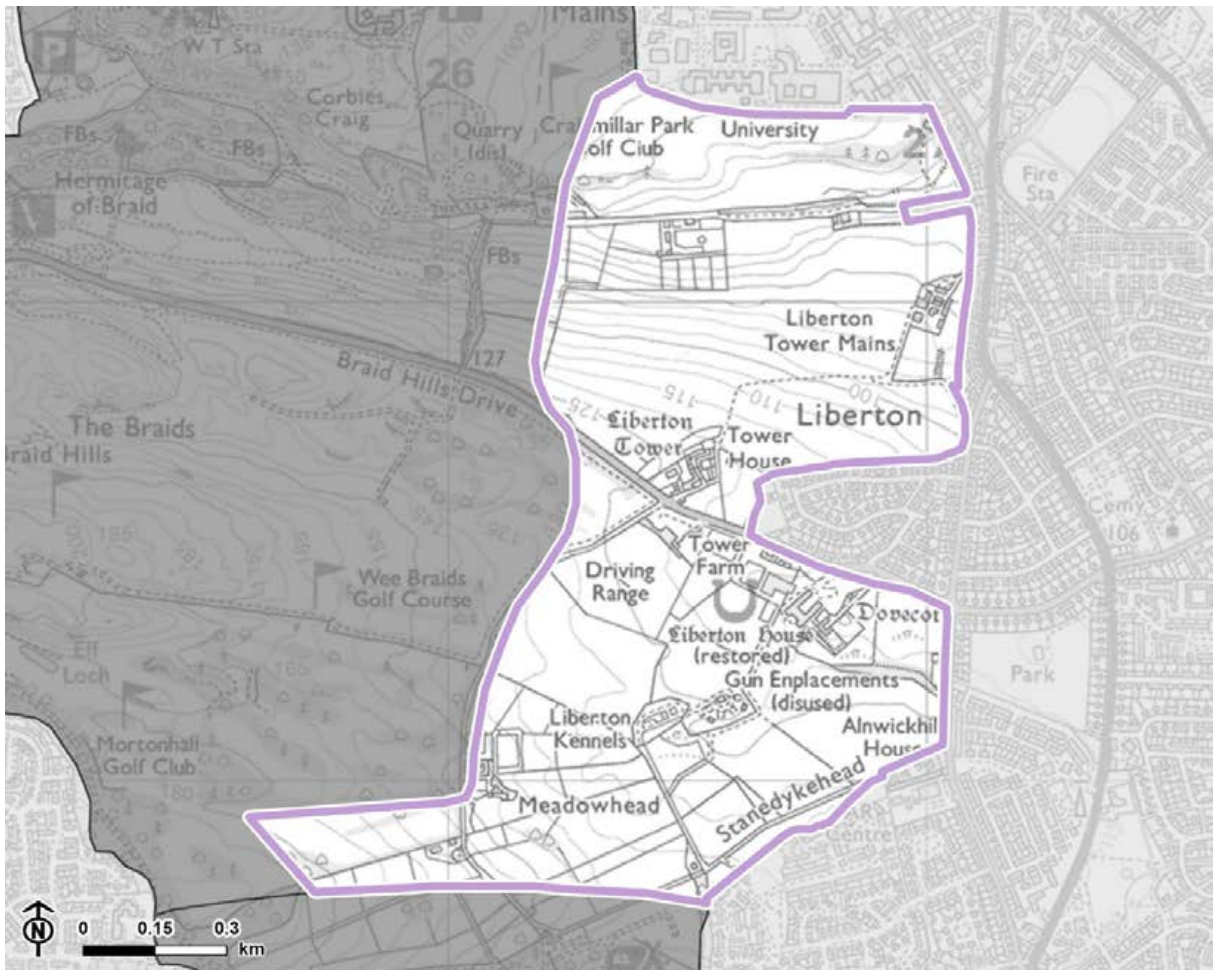
Location

3.562 The Liberton Fringes LCA comprises the long eastern flanks of the Braid Hills which extend down to the urban area of Liberton. The area is bounded by Edinburgh University’s King’s Buildings to the north and the remnant policy landscape of Mortonhall to the south.

Figure 3.135: Open slopes descending to Braid Burn to the north, with Liberton Tower forming a landmark on the skyline



Figure 3.136: Liberton Fringes LCA



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- Settled Farmland: Liberton Fringes
- Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Simple, elevated topography of gently sloping plateau which continues the east-west ridge of the Braid Hills in the south, with part of the parallel Blackford Hill ridgeline to the north, falling to the distinct valley of the Braid Burn in between.
- Open farmland and piecemeal built development within this area contrasts with the craggy landform and semi-natural vegetation of the adjacent Braid Hills and Blackford Hill.
- A mix of arable fields, rough grassland, golf courses and paddocks with some dispersed stone farmsteads.
- Woodland and hedges primarily delineate golf courses or form shelterbelt around farmsteads and the 16th century Liberton House, and result in a more enclosed character in the south.
- In the north, the planting at Craigmillar Park Golf Course and along the campus boundary filter some views, resulting in a more enclosed character in the north.
- Fields are enclosed by stone walls, in varying condition, and some hedgerows, dotted with occasional trees. Paddocks are further subdivided with electric fencing.
- A former anti-aircraft gun battery position dating from the Second World War (a Scheduled Monument) contrasts with the wider rural character.
- The ochre-rendered late medieval Liberton Tower forms a focus on the skyline in the open landscape given its location on elevated ground above the Braid Burn valley.
- The dense urban edge of nearby Liberton is visually prominent and contrasts with the rural character of the landscape.
- The elevation and prevailing open character result in this landscape being visible from other more elevated parts of the city, including eastward views from Blackford Hill and the Braid Hills and southward views from Arthur's Seat.
- Views from the elevated areas within this landscape are striking and tend to focus northwards to the city, where Arthur's Seat is the principal focus, with

the Firth of Forth and Fife extending beyond. From Blackford Glen road, within the valley, there is a sense of seclusion from the urban area.

- The area is experienced from a network of tracks, informal paths and Braid Hills Drive. Golf courses and the driving range provide other opportunities for recreation.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.563 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Liberton Fringes LCA include:

- The combination of open fields and simple landform contribute to the setting of Blackford Hill and the Braid Hills, providing a transition between the dense urban edge and the rugged, natural character of the hills.
- The rural character in the south of the area contributes to a sense of transition to the wooded policy landscape of Mortonhall (LCA 40).
- Historic buildings, including Liberton Tower and Liberton House, form landmarks and contribute to a sense of history.
- The Second World War anti-aircraft gun battery contrasts with the surrounding rural character, although adding another dimension to the sense of history within the landscape.
- The open character of the landscape and striking views available towards the city and the Firth of Forth contribute to visual amenity and sense of place.
- Tracks and informal paths provide important recreational links between Blackford Hill, the Braid Hills, Mortonhall and Liberton, with golf courses also providing recreational value.

The changing landscape

3.564 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and pressures relating to the Liberton Fringes LCA, which are additional to the more generic key changes and pressures identified for the Settled Farmland LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.565 Some field boundaries, including fencing and stone walls, are in poor condition. Subdivision of fields by electric fencing contrasts with the rural character and wider pattern of stone and hedge field boundaries.

3.566 The kennels and golf driving range, and dark leylandii hedging associated with the latter, are highly visible in this open landscape.

3.567 Residential development of the former Alnwickhill water works has strengthened the urban edge to the east. The demolition of the Darwin Tower to form a lower rise bioscience hub has opened views across the skyline to the north of the area.

Forces for change

3.568 Changes in land management or development associated with the recreational use of the area could impact on the rural character of the open landscape.

3.569 Development within the rural landscape or on the urban edge could alter the sense of transition within this landscape which provides a substantial green swathe of open land to the south of the city and is visually prominent from recreational paths and elevated viewpoints. Views of historic buildings within their rural context could also be altered.

LCA 63: Queensferry Fragmented Farmland

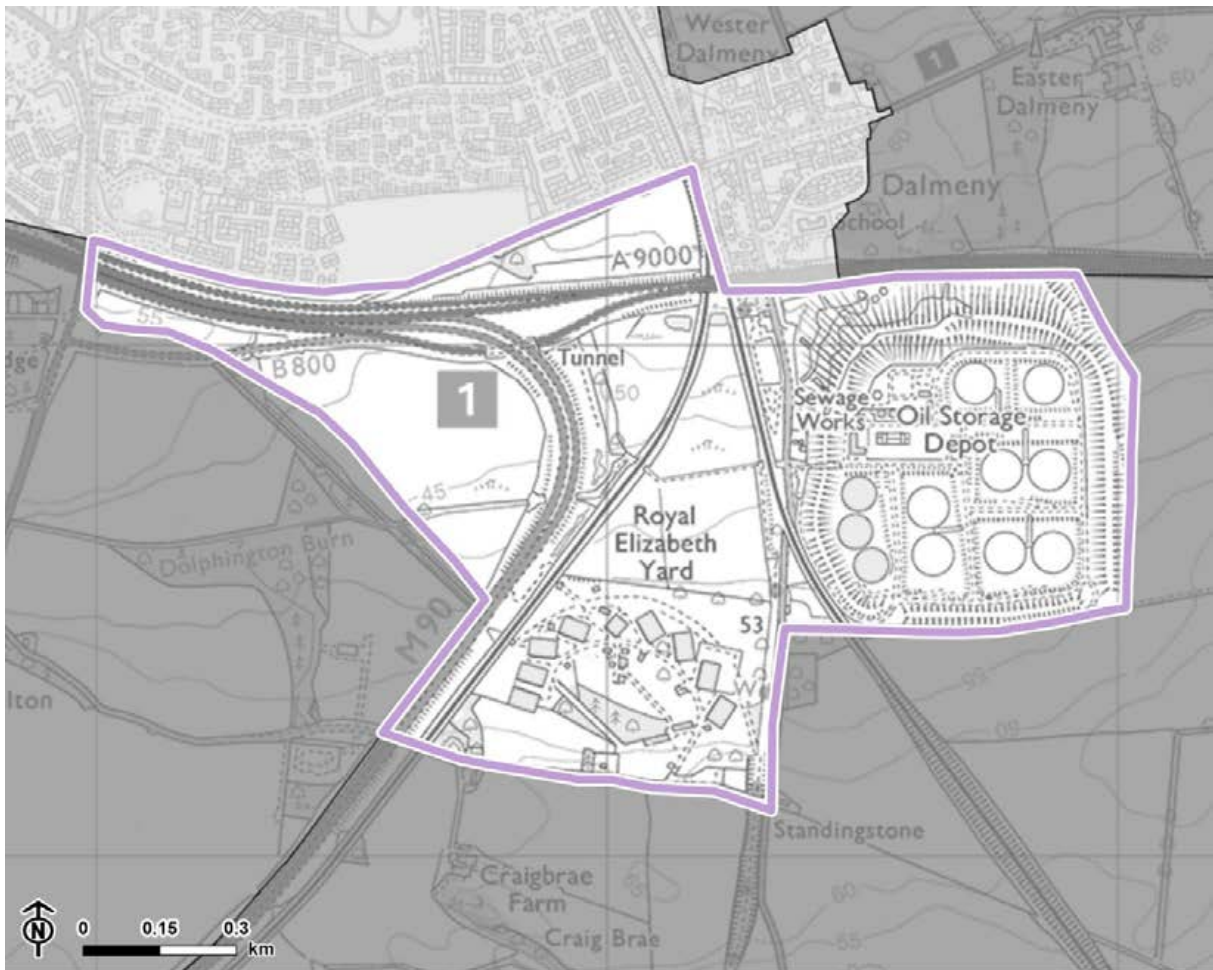
Location

3.570 The Queensferry Fragmented Farmland LCA comprises a flat to gently undulating area of land to the south-west of South Queensferry.

Figure 3.137: Trees partially screening the raised railway line, looking towards the wooded bunds that screen the oil storage depot

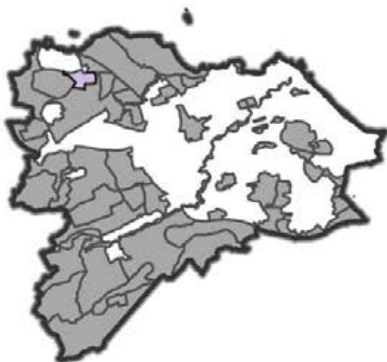


Figure 3.138: Queensferry Fragmented Farmland LCA



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-  Settled Farmland: Queensferry Fragmented Farmland
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Relatively flat and consistent landform in the west, with large bunds providing a more elevated area to the south of Dalmeny. The Dolphinton Burn incises the landscape.
- A mixture of land uses, including arable farmland and derelict areas. Other significant land uses include the large oil storage depot, containment bunds and its health and safety exclusion zone, and industrial units at Royal Elizabeth Yard (a former Royal Naval stores station).
- The area is fragmented by transport routes which pass through the landscape including the two converging railway lines which provide access to Fife, the Newbridge to Queensferry and Kirkliston Core Path on a former rail line, the A90 and the M90 and their interchange. The transport routes create significant noise disturbance.
- A remnant avenue of trees extends west of Dalmeny along an old road alignment to the south of Queensferry and there is woodland associated with the railway line and along roads (M90, Standingstane Road).
- The depot is screened by large bunds and planting from the surrounding landscape. However, associated infrastructure is visible by the entrance on Standingstane Road. Trees also screen the Royal Elizabeth Yard with glimpsed views possible from the elevated M90.
- Distant views towards the Pentland Hills are available from the north-west of the LCA, including from the busy M90 where outward views are fleeting, but the low-lying topography generally contains views.
- The Newbridge to Queensferry and Kirkliston Core Path passes through the landscape broadly north-south to the west of Standingstane Road, but planted embankments limit views of the wider surroundings.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.571 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Queensferry Fragmented Farmland LCA include:

- Relatively dense roadside vegetation and blocks of woodland partially screen views of large-scale infrastructure including the oil storage depot and busy

roads, in particular from locations along Standingstone Road, where a sense of isolation can be found. The trees also contribute to local levels of biodiversity.

- Long distance views towards the Pentland Hills provide a degree of scenic interest.
- The Newbridge to Queensferry and Kirkliston Core Path provide recreational value.

The changing landscape

3.572 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and pressures relating to the Queensferry Fragmented Farmland LCA, which are additional to the more generic key changes and pressures identified for the Settled Farmland LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.573 The landscape is highly fragmented by different land uses, with no clear sense of place.

3.574 The areas of derelict land give the impression of a poorly managed landscape.

Forces for change

3.575 Additional industrial development could further fragment the landscape by enclosing areas of open ground.

3.576 Maturing roadside planting along the M90 and A90 would coalesce with existing pockets of woodland, resulting in a more consistent wooded character and reducing the fragmentation.

LCA 64: Riccarton Campus

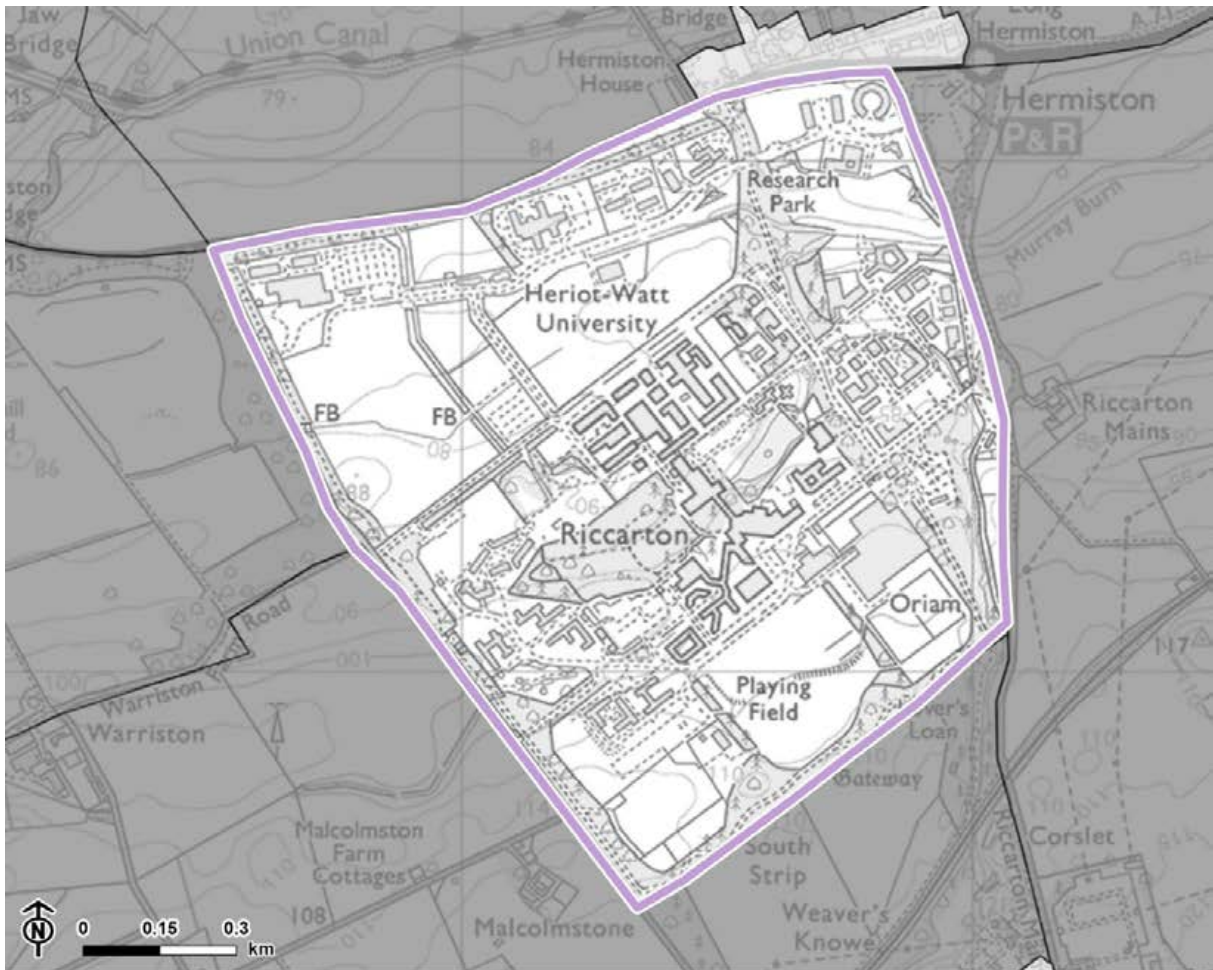
Location

3.577 The Riccarton Campus LCA is located to the south-west of Edinburgh and north of Currie. The area is mainly focused around the Heriot-Watt University Campus, and is bounded by the A71 to the north, Riccarton Mains Road to the east and Curriehill Road to the west.

Figure 3.139: University halls of residence, grassland, scrub, and a mixture of remnant policy trees and more recent planting



Figure 3.140: Riccarton Campus LCA



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-  Settled Farmland: Riccarton Campus
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Gentle north-facing slopes between approximately 75m AOD and 110m AOD. The Murray Burn runs along the eastern boundary of the area.
- Centred around the site of the former Riccarton estate, a demolished 18th century mansion with surrounding parkland. It is now the location of Heriot-Watt University, developed since the late 1960s.
- The landscape is strongly influenced by development, including the university buildings and associated infrastructure, light industrial and office buildings in the north, and the Oriam Sports Performance Centre in the south.
- Many parts of the historic 18th century landscape structure remain, including specimen trees and a lime avenue with sycamores at the east entrance, ornamental loch, formal gardens and lawn, the wooded burial ground, ice house, boundary walling and mixed species perimeter tree belts.
- The Listed North Gate Lodge is one of the few remaining historic estate buildings, with more modern buildings at the university mainly built of brick. Recent buildings within the research park are more varied in form and materials.
- In addition to the policy woodland, there is more recent tree planting along roads and car parks, grassland and scrub, and small areas of arable farmland within undeveloped areas of the research park.
- The numerous paths and tracks in the area provide recreational opportunities with the campus centre being car free and served by perimeter parking. Former fields in the south of the LCA are laid out as sports pitches.
- The perimeter tree belts, a combination of Ancient Woodland of plantation origin and new woodland belts to the north, serve to limit views both into and out of the LCA, including those from the adjacent A71.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.578 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Riccarton Campus LCA include:

- The planting structure of the 18th century estate remains, and there are a few remnant features including a lime avenue with sycamores at the east entrance and mixed species perimeter tree belts, which contribute to landscape pattern.

- Areas of woodland within and around the perimeter of the area, including remnants of the policy landscape and more recent planting, provide a green backdrop to the university buildings and contain views to the area.
- The area is experienced from a network of paths and tracks, contributing to recreational value.

The changing landscape

3.579 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Riccarton Campus LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Settled Farmland LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.580 Although the university development has strongly influenced the landscape and overlain much of the historical Riccarton estate, the university grounds are well maintained and the historic planting structure has been retained.

3.581 Roadsides are well tended, with recent tree planting.

3.582 Paths around the university appear to be well maintained.

Forces for change

3.583 Continued expansion and intensification of facilities at the university and research park may further alter the policy landscape character of the area.

3.584 Veteran parkland trees and historic-lined avenues in designed landscapes such as Riccarton may be particularly vulnerable to climate change due to the potential for storm damage or pest and disease threats.

3.585 An increase in the frequency or severity of periods of drought, as a result of climate change, could influence the character of the grassland in the area, for example through the requirement for irrigation facilities.

Urban Waterfront Landscape Character Type

Landscape Character Areas

3.586 The Urban Waterfront Landscape Character Type (LCT) features the following Landscape Character Areas (LCAs):

- Granton and Leith Waterfront (65)
- Queensferry Waterfront (66)

Figure 3.141: Wardie Bay, a small sandy beach adjacent to Granton Harbour and the built-up edge of Edinburgh, is typical of the Urban Waterfront LCT



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCT are:

- Narrow edge of natural coast with rocky outcrops and small sandy beaches.
- Highly modified coastal edge with retaining walls, harbours and made-up ground.
- Urban edge abuts the coast with a range of industrial and urban development along the shore.
- Strong visual relationship with the coastal islands and Fife.
- The Firth of Forth has a naturalistic quality which contrasts with the urban character of the coastal edge.
- Constant movement of boats on the water and activities of seabirds and wildlife.
- Limited access and visibility to some areas of the waterfront due to the industrial and urban development.

Forces for change

3.587 The following section sets out key changes and pressures relating to the Urban Waterfront LCT:

- Rising sea levels and increased storm events arising from a changing climate may lead to increased coastal erosion and sediment transportation along more natural stretches of the coastline. Existing hard engineered coastal defences, such as sea walls, will experience greater pressure due to these changing conditions.
- Increased recreational activity along the waterfront presents pressures for the provision and management of recreational facilities or infrastructure, which may modify the character of the coastline.
- Redevelopment of areas along the coastline may alter the existing character but may also offer opportunities to enhance the sense of naturalness or legibility of the historic maritime character, and improve recreational access.

Landscape management guidelines

3.588 The following section sets out recommended landscape management guidelines for the Urban Waterfront LCT:

- Reflect the coastal edge context; development along the coastline should be designed sensitively with cognisance of visual prominence in views along the coastline.
- Improve public access to the coast and incorporate appropriate recreational infrastructure whilst protecting important biodiversity features.
- Restore and enhance biodiversity using appropriate tree species that are resilient to coastal conditions.
- Incorporate cultural heritage features, which reflect an important maritime history, as part of any development of the area.
- Integrate new coastal defences with the landscape; use nature-based or green engineering solutions where appropriate.

LCA 65: Granton and Leith Waterfront

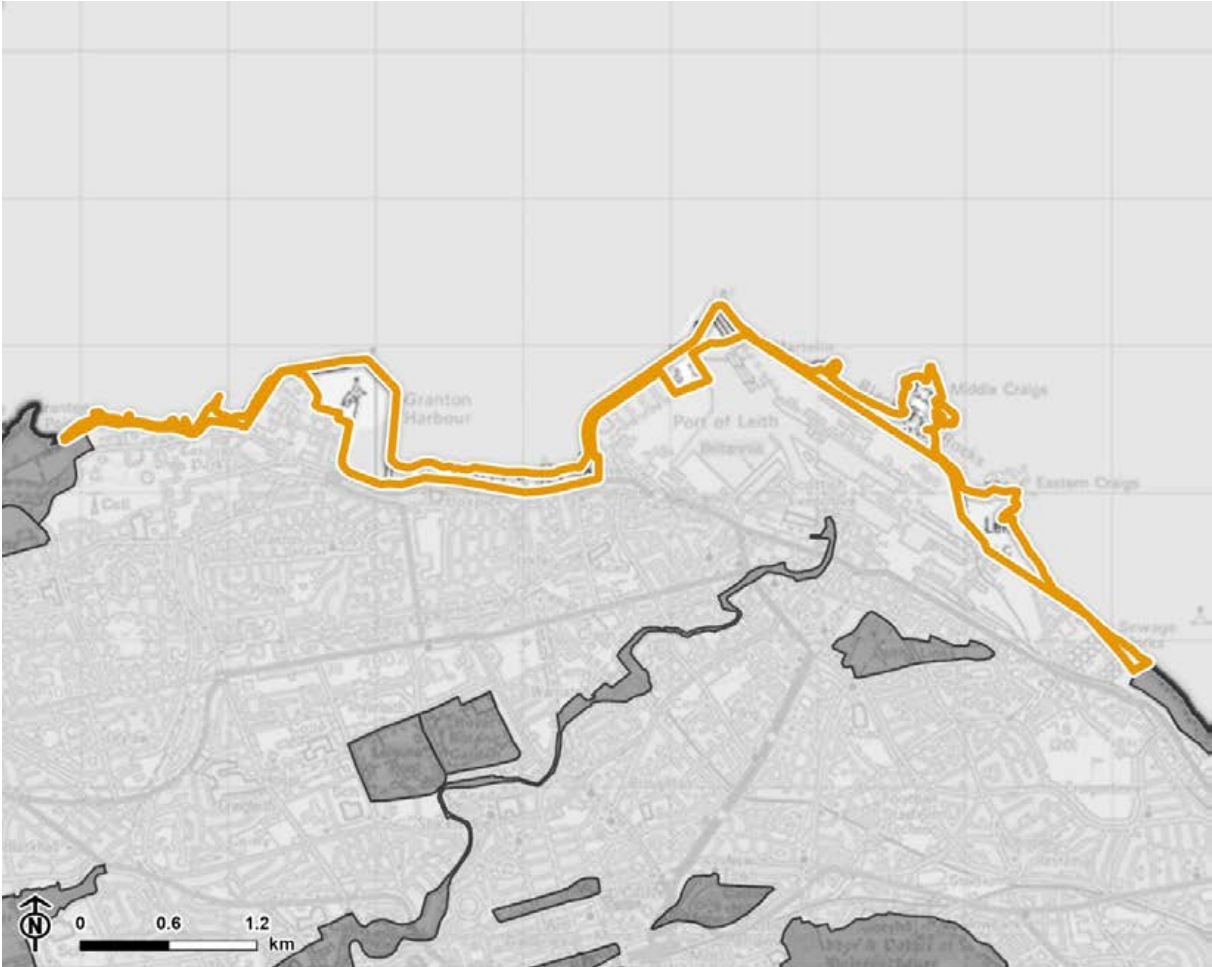
Location

3.589 The Granton and Leith Waterfront comprises the coastal edge between Seafield in the east, and Granton Point in the west. The area includes Leith Docks as well as several smaller fishing harbours at Newhaven and Granton.




Figure 3.142: The small fishing harbour at Newhaven, with Newhaven Lighthouse forming a landmark feature at the entrance to the harbour



Figure 3.143: Granton and Leith Waterfront LCA



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-  Urban Waterfront: Granton and Leith Waterfront
-  City of Edinburgh boundary
-  Neighbouring Landscape Character Area



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- A narrow, highly modified coastline immediately adjacent to the urban edge of the city. Leith Docks, fishing harbours, breakwaters and sea walls along much of the length of the coastline introduce human-made elements which create hard boundaries to the sea.
- Small sandy beaches form in more sheltered areas whilst jagged sedimentary outcrops protrude out from the coastline. Islands in the Firth of Forth form notable features in distant views.
- The docks, fishing harbours and numerous lighthouses contribute to the strong maritime history of the area which dates back to the 14th century.
- Expansive open views available out across the Firth of Forth to the shoreline of Fife, including small, jagged islands within the Forth and distant views of the Forth Bridge, Forth Road Bridge and Queensferry Crossing.
- Industrial and tall residential buildings are highly visible along the coast, restricting distant views and creating a strong juxtaposition between the land and water.
- A landscape of continuous movement, with a steady flux of small fishing and sailing boats, and larger ships and cruise liners within the port or anchored off the coast.
- Promenades, harbours and beaches provide easy access to the coastline for recreation, with the more industrial areas remaining largely restricted.
- Exposure to the winds, sound of waves and seabirds, and the smell of the sea all contribute to the maritime character of the area and, occasionally, a sense of naturalness.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.590 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Granton and Leith Waterfront LCA include:

- A strong juxtaposition of urban and industrial development against a natural coastline comprising small sandy bays and rocky outcrops, and distant islands, enhancing the visual diversity of the area.

- The openness of the coastline along with the sea breeze and sound of waves and seabirds contributes to a sense of exposure. Long ranging, open views across the Firth of Forth offer a sense of separation from the urban environment.
- Intertidal habitats are highly valued for their biodiversity benefits, recognised through the designation of the Firth of Forth SPA, Ramsar Site and SSSI.
- Coastal promenades and small beaches provide easy access to the coastline, promoting a range of recreational opportunities including walking, cycling, swimming, fishing and sailing.
- Panoramic views across the Firth of Forth to the shoreline of Fife and along the coastline to Portobello and Cramond contribute to sense of place. The three distinctive bridges crossing the Forth are notable landmark features in distant views to the west.
- Newhaven Harbour which expanded around a historic fishing village, and the large Leith Docks area have played a significant role in the maritime history of the region since the 14th and 15th centuries.
- Occasional lighthouses along the coastline form prominent landmark features, reflecting the maritime industry of the area.

The changing landscape

3.591 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Granton and Leith Waterfront LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Urban Waterfront LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.592 The condition and appearance of the waterfront varies from a relatively well managed landscape between Leith Docks and Granton, to areas with scope for enhancement to the west of Granton and at Seafield.

Forces for change

3.593 Granton waterfront is undergoing a major regeneration project which will provide 3,500 homes, community facilities and new public parkland centred on the gas holder and coastal edge, incorporating nature-based coastal defences.

3.594 The Port of Leith continues to operate as one of Scotland's largest deep-water ports, supporting the logistics and manufacturing for offshore wind farms in the North Sea. Future development around the docks will deliver mixed-use developments, including housing, retail and leisure uses, and public spaces.

3.595 Increased coastal erosion as a result of climate change and sea level rise may alter the character of the small sandy beaches found along this stretch of the coastline.

LCA 66: Queensferry Waterfront

Location

3.596 The Queensferry Waterfront comprises the coastal edge of South Queensferry, extending from the Forth Bridge in the east to the City of Edinburgh Boundary, which lies to the west of the Queensferry Crossing.

Figure 3.144: View of the Forth Bridge from the shoreline of South Queensferry



Key characteristics

Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- A highly modified stretch of coastline immediately adjacent to the settlement edge of South Queensferry. Built features including bridges, piers and marinas reduce the perceived sense of naturalness.
- Rocky outcrops protrude from coastline, becoming increasingly more visible and accessible during low tide, contrasting with several small shingle beaches.
- Intertidal areas provide a range of habitats including mudflats, rocky shores and saltmarsh.
- The town of South Queensferry abuts the coastline, however the landform becomes flatter and more open near the Forth Bridge in the east and Port Edgar in the west, often backdropped by dense woodland along the route of the disused railway.
- The coast becomes increasingly wooded in character further west, with trees extending down to the shoreline.
- Long ranging views out across the Firth of Forth to the shoreline of Fife, strongly influenced by the Forth Bridge, Forth Road Bridge, and the Queensferry Crossing.
- The coastal landscape forms an important part of the maritime setting to numerous Listed buildings and the Queensferry Conservation Area.
- The striking red cantilever Forth Bridge contributes strongly to the history of the area, recognised by its World Heritage Site status.
- Port Edgar marina and its naval base, harbours and piers all contribute to the maritime heritage of the area, recognising the important role of South Queensferry as a trading port.
- Easy access to the waterfront via piers, beaches, promenades and Port Edgar marina provides recreational opportunities both on land and water.
- A landscape of continuous movement, with a steady flux of ships and sailing boats on the water, road traffic and trains crossing the bridges.
- The natural sound of waves and seabirds contrasts with the sound of traffic and trains passing overhead.

Key sensitivities and valued features

3.597 Key sensitivities and valued features of the Queensferry Waterfront LCA include:

- Views of the bridges are world-renowned, with the Forth Bridge recognised by its World Heritage Site status, contributing strongly to the historic value of the area.
- Varied and distinctive views take in the waters, rocky shores and islands, strongly contrasting with the three bridges which tower over the shore, contributing to the unique sense of place.
- Marinas, harbours and piers contribute strongly to the history of the area, recognising their key role in the development of the maritime industry since the 16th century.
- The coastal promenade forms part of the John Muir Way, offering recreational opportunities connecting more widely to Dalmeny and Cramond in the east and West Lothian in the west.
- Exposure to the elements, including the winds and waves provide a sense of exposure, heightened by the sound of water crashing against the shores and birdsong.
- Intertidal habitats are highly valued for their biodiversity benefits, recognised through the designation of the Firth of Forth SPA, Ramsar Site and SSSI.
- Promenades, beaches, harbours and marinas are valued for the recreational opportunities they provide both on land and water.
- The landscape value of the eastern part of the waterfront is recognised through its designation as a Local Landscape Area applying to the Southern Forth Coast and extending east across the Dalmeny Policies (LCA 34), Cramond Coast (LCA 1), and Lauriston Policies (LCA 39).

The changing landscape

3.598 The following section sets out the condition, key changes and specific pressures relating to the Queensferry Waterfront LCA, which are additional to those identified for the Urban Waterfront LCT as a whole.

Condition

3.599 Generally, this is a well maintained landscape, comprising both built and natural elements, with some increasing pressures around recreational use.

3.600 At Port Edgar in the west, the landscape includes open spaces actively used for boat storage, and areas of natural regeneration around the former naval buildings along the Shore Road.

Forces for change

3.601 Larger-scale residential development around South Queensferry and Dalmeny may lead to greater recreational pressure along the coastline.

3.602 Port Edgar's historical interest as a former naval base is overlain by today's leisure-based marina, sailing school and related businesses. Opportunities exist to improve its amenity and wildlife value, and to celebrate its heritage.

3.603 The conversion to housing of the Listed former naval barracks to the west of Port Edgar, alongside a cafe/restaurant and serviced apartment will retain historic buildings and establish new green spaces for residents.

Appendix A

Updates to the Landscape Character Classification

Table 3.1: LCT and LCA classification and boundary changes

LCT	LCA No.	LCA Name	Changes to Name or Classification	Changes to Boundary
Coastal Sands	1	Cramond Coast	N/A	N/A
Coastal Sands	2	Portobello Sands	N/A	Clipped to extents of LCA within the Council area.
Urban Greenspace	3	Inverleith Park	N/A	N/A
Urban Greenspace	4	Leith Links	N/A	Boundary slightly extended to include Leith Community Croft, sports pitches and fields in the north-west, and allotments in the north-east.
Urban Greenspace	5	Little France Park	Name changed from Craigmillar Farmland LCA; classification changed from Settled Farmland LCT to Urban Greenspace LCT.	Boundary contracted to remove areas of existing and planned development. Open fields in north-west of Edmonstone Policies LCA absorbed into Little France Park LCA. Boundary clipped to extents of LCA within the Council area.
Urban Greenspace	6	Princes Street Gardens	N/A	Slight amendment to extend LCA across the churchyards and cemeteries associated with St John's and St Cuthbert.
Urban Greenspace	7	Queen Street Gardens	N/A	N/A
Urban Greenspace	8	The Meadows	N/A	N/A
Urban Greenspace	9	The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh	Name changed from Royal Botanic Gardens LCA.	N/A

LCT	LCA No.	LCA Name	Changes to Name or Classification	Changes to Boundary
Incised River Valley	10	Lower Almond Valley	N/A	Slight amendments to remove areas of settlement along edges of LCA.
Incised River Valley	11	Upper Almond Valley	N/A	Clipped to extents of LCA within the Council area.
Incised River Valley	12	Water of Leith – Balerno to Juniper Green	Name changed from Water of Leith Colinton to Balerno.	Slight amendments to remove areas of settlement along edges of LCA.
Incised River Valley	13	Water of Leith – Spylaw to Slateford	Name changed from Water of Leith Slateford to Colinton Dell.	Slight amendments to remove areas of settlement along edges of LCA.
Incised River Valley	14	Water of Leith – Slateford to Roseburn	New LCA added to cover full length of Water of Leith within the Council area.	New LCA.
Incised River Valley	15	Water of Leith – New Town	N/A	Boundary extended north-east to Canonmills (Warriston Place).
Incised River Valley	16	Water of Leith – Canonmills to the Shore	New LCA added to cover full length of Water of Leith within the Council area.	New LCA.
Lowland Farmland	17	Almond Farmland	N/A	Contraction of boundary in the west to remove areas of development near Kirkliston.
Lowland Farmland	18	Cammo Fringes	Renamed from Lennie Golf Course LCA.	Small part of former Cammo Fringe Farmland LCA absorbed into east of LCA. Small part of Cammo Policies LCA absorbed into north-west of LCA.

LCT	LCA No.	LCA Name	Changes to Name or Classification	Changes to Boundary
Lowland Farmland	19	Dalmeny Fringes	N/A	Slight contraction of south-western boundary to remove settled area at Dalmeny village (due to infill of residential development).
Lowland Farmland	20	Newbridge/Broxburn Farmland	N/A	Clipped to extents of LCA within the Council area and combined with former Niddry Farmland LCA.
Lowland Farmland	21	Newton Farmland	N/A	Clipped to extents of LCA within the Council area. North-eastern boundary amended due to M90/Queensferry Crossing.
Pentland Flanks	22	Cockburn Farmland and Shelterbelts	N/A	N/A
Pentland Flanks	23	Currie Farmland Slopes	N/A	Slight amendments to western boundary to remove area of settlement.
Pentland Flanks	24	North Pentland Slopes	N/A	N/A
Pentland Flanks	25	Redford Basin	N/A	N/A
Pentland Flanks	26	Water of Leith Farmland Slopes	Renamed from Leith Plateau Farmland LCA.	Clipped to extents of LCA within the Council area.
Pentland Flanks	27	West Pentland Fringe	N/A	Clipped to extents of LCA within the Council area.

LCT	LCA No.	LCA Name	Changes to Name or Classification	Changes to Boundary
Pentland Hills – Upper Slopes and Summits	28	Bavelaw Farmland and Shelterbelts	Renamed from Bavelaw Geometric Wooded Farmland LCA.	N/A
Pentland Hills – Upper Slopes and Summits	29	Pentland Hills and Ridges	Renamed from Pentland Heights LCA.	Clipped to extents of LCA within the Council area.
Policy Landscape	30	Cammo Policies	N/A	Slight amendment to remove areas of settlement along north-eastern boundary. Slight extension of south-eastern boundary to edge of residential development at Cammo Meadows. Removal of open fields in east (added to Cammo Fringes LCA and Almond Farmland LCA).
Policy Landscape	31	Craigiehall Policies	N/A	N/A
Policy Landscape	32	Craigmillar Policies	N/A	N/A
Policy Landscape	33	Dalmahoy Policies	N/A	N/A
Policy Landscape	34	Dalmeny Policies	N/A	N/A
Policy Landscape	35	Dreghorn Policies	Renamed from Dreghorn Woodland and Barracks LCA.	Contraction of western boundary to remove area of settlement.
Policy Landscape	36	Drum Policies	N/A	N/A
Policy Landscape	37	Dundas Policies	N/A	Refinements of northern and eastern boundaries to reflect M90/Queensferry Crossing.

LCT	LCA No.	LCA Name	Changes to Name or Classification	Changes to Boundary
Policy Landscape	38	Edmonstone Policies	N/A – area currently undergoing substantial change.	Contraction of western boundary due to existing and planned development at Edinburgh BioQuarter and Tweedsmuir Gait. Open fields in north-west added into Little France Park LCA. Area currently undergoing substantial change, with recommendations to revisit LCA once development is complete.
Policy Landscape	39	Lauriston Policies	N/A	N/A
Policy Landscape	40	Mortonhall Policies	N/A	N/A
Policy Landscape	41	Newliston Policies	N/A	N/A
Prominent Urban Hills	42	Braid Hills	N/A	N/A
Prominent Urban Hills	43	Calton Hill	N/A	N/A
Prominent Urban Hills	44	Castle Rock	N/A	N/A
Prominent Urban Hills	45	Corstorphine Hill	N/A	Extension of eastern boundary to include Ravelston Wood.
Prominent Urban Hills	46	Craiglockhart Hills	N/A	Slight amendment to southern boundary to remove area of development at former mast site.
Prominent Urban Hills	47	Holyrood Park	N/A	Addition of former Duddingston Loch LCA in south-east. Slight amendments to

LCT	LCA No.	LCA Name	Changes to Name or Classification	Changes to Boundary
				boundaries elsewhere to align with Holyrood, Duddingston and Prestonfield LLA.
Recreational Open Space	48	Barnton Golf Courses	N/A	N/A
Recreational Open Space	49	Duddingston Golf Course	Renamed from Duddingston Policies LCA. Change in classification from Policy Landscape LCT.	Contraction of north-western boundary to remove area of Holyrood High School.
Recreational Open Space	50	Prestonfield Golf Course	N/A	N/A
Recreational Open Space	51	Silverknowes Golf Course	N/A	Slight amendment in south-east to remove area of development.
Rolling Farmland	52	Baberton Farmland	N/A	Slight amendment in south-east to remove area of development.
Rolling Farmland	53	Bonnington Farmland	N/A	Clipped to extents of LCA within the Council area. Amendment to eastern boundary to remove area of Breedon Bonnington Quarry (now solely located within Craigpark Fragmented Farmland LCA).
Rolling Farmland	54	Burdiehouse Farmland	N/A	Clipped to extents of LCA within the Council area. Absorbed small area of former Danderhall Settled Farmland LCA in

LCT	LCA No.	LCA Name	Changes to Name or Classification	Changes to Boundary
				east. Northern boundary contracted to remove areas of settlement.
Rolling Farmland	55	Gowanhill Farmland	N/A	Clipped to extents of LCA within the Council area. Slight amendments to southern boundary to remove areas of settlement.
Rolling Farmland	56	Ratho Farmland	N/A	Clipped to extents of LCA within the Council area. Slight amendments to western boundary to remove areas of settlement. Absorbed area of former West Craigs Farmland LCA in north.
Rural Outcrop Hills	57	Craigie Hill	N/A	N/A
Rural Outcrop Hills	58	Kaimes Hill	N/A	Extension of eastern boundary to include full area of woodland at Dalmahoy Hill Plantation and Ravelrig Hill.
Rural Outcrop Hills	59	Ratho Hills	N/A	Removal of settled areas near Ratho.
Settled Farmland	60	Craigpark Fragmented Farmland	N/A	Slight amendments to south-eastern boundary to remove areas of settlement.
Settled Farmland	61	Gogar Farmland	Renamed from Gogar Farmland and Institutions LCA.	Amendment to eastern boundary to remove area of planned development at Redheughs. Addition of former East Hermiston Farmland LCA.
Settled Farmland	62	Liberton Fringes	N/A	N/A

LCT	LCA No.	LCA Name	Changes to Name or Classification	Changes to Boundary
Settled Farmland	63	Queensferry Fragmented Farmland	N/A	Slight contraction of northern boundary due to development. Slight amendment to western boundary due to M90/Queensferry Crossing.
Settled Farmland	64	Riccarton Campus	Renamed from Riccarton Institutional Landscape.	N/A
Urban Waterfront	65	Granton and Leith Waterfront	N/A	Minor amendments to remove area of development at Western Harbour.
Urban Waterfront	66	Queensferry Waterfront	N/A	Slight contraction of southern boundary to remove areas of settlement. Absorption of former Hopetoun Waterfront LCA in west.

Table 3.2: Other LCT and LCA changes

LCT	LCA Name	Change
Coastal sands	Hopetoun Waterfront	Removed, with small part of the LCA within the Council area absorbed into Queensferry Waterfront LCA.
Informal open space	Duddingston Loch	Removed, absorbed into Holyrood Park LCA.
Lowland farmland	Cammo Fringe Farmland	Removed, north of LCA developed and remaining part of LCA absorbed into Cammo Fringes LCA.
Lowland farmland	Danderhall Settled Farmland	Removed, with small part of the LCA within the Council area absorbed into Burdiehouse Farmland LCA.
Lowland farmland	Niddry Farmland	Clipped to the Council area and combined with Newbridge/Broxburn Farmland LCA.

LCT	LCA Name	Change
Lowland farmland	West Craigs Farmland	Areas of existing or planned development at West Craigs and Edinburgh Airport removed, remaining area absorbed into Ratho Farmland LCA.
Settled farmland	Airport	Removed as area planned for development.
Settled farmland	Broomhill Farmland	Clipped to the Council area, remaining area absorbed into Burdiehouse Farmland LCA.
Settled farmland	Brunstane Farmland	Remove as area developed/planned for development.
Settled farmland	East Hermiston Farmland	Area in north removed due to planned development at Redheughs. Remaining area absorbed into Gogar Farmland LCA.
Settled farmland	Queensferry Settled Farmland	Area in east removed due to development, remaining area absorbed into Newton Farmland LCA.

Appendix B

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 Urban 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.

Appendix C

GIS Data Sources

Table C.1: GIS data sources

Category	Name	Source
Mapping	Aerial Imagery	ESRI
Mapping	Topography	ESRI
Mapping	OS 25k	City of Edinburgh Council
Mapping	OS 50k	City of Edinburgh Council
Administrative Boundaries	Local authority boundary	OS boundary line
Landscape Character and Designated Landscapes	National Landscape Character Assessment	NatureScot
Landscape Character and Designated Landscapes	Edinburgh 2010 Landscape Character Assessment	City of Edinburgh Council
Landscape Character and Designated Landscapes	Edinburgh 2026 Landscape Character Assessment	LUC
Landscape Character and Designated Landscapes	Edinburgh 2010 Local Landscape Areas	City of Edinburgh Council
Landscape Character and Designated Landscapes	Edinburgh 2026 Local Landscape Areas	LUC
Landscape Character and Designated Landscapes	Local Landscape Areas (national dataset)	Scottish Government Open Data
Natural Heritage	SPA	NatureScot
Natural Heritage	SSSI	NatureScot
Natural Heritage	LNR	NatureScot
Natural Heritage	Ancient woodland inventory	NatureScot
Historic Environment	Listed Buildings	Historic Environment Scotland
Historic Environment	Scheduled Monuments	Historic Environment Scotland
Historic Environment	Gardens and Designed Landscapes	Historic Environment Scotland

Category	Name	Source
Historic Environment	World Heritage Sites	Historic Environment Scotland
Historic Environment	Conservation Areas	City of Edinburgh Council
Access and Recreation	National Cycle Network	Sustrans
Access and Recreation	Core Paths	City of Edinburgh Council
Planning	Green Belt	Scottish Government Open Data
Planning	Countryside Policy Area	City of Edinburgh Council
Planning	Settlement boundaries (urban area)	City of Edinburgh Council
Planning	Consented housing sites	City of Edinburgh Council
Planning	Local Development Plan Legacy Allocation Sites	City of Edinburgh Council
Planning	Business and Industry Areas	City of Edinburgh Council

Appendix D

User Guide

D.1 This User Guide is designed for Development Managers at City of Edinburgh Council to inform their review of applications, to ensure landscape character and visual amenity is considered. The guide is relevant to landscape and visual considerations only and it should be recognised that the suitability of proposals overall will come down to need, commercial considerations and the wider planning balance.

D.2 The steps set out below should also be considered by applicants before submitting a planning application in order to ensure that key characteristics, key sensitivities and valued features, and landscape guidelines are considered at an early stage and taken into account in the planning and design of the proposed development.

D.3 Development proposals must demonstrate, as part of a planning application, how landscape character has influenced their siting, scale and design. Proposals which are likely to have a significant impact on the landscape and/or visual amenity will require a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) to be undertaken. For proposals which are not likely to result in significant effects on the landscape and/or visual amenity, an informal landscape and visual appraisal (LVA) can be undertaken in agreement with the Council.

Step 1: What type of change is proposed?

Think about the parameters of change.

- Type: e.g. housing, employment, renewables
- Scale/size: area, height, scale, bulk, mass

Step 2: Is the proposal in, or close to the edge of, a Local Landscape Area?

If yes, the relevant Statement of Importance should be consulted, with particular reference to the special qualities of the designated landscape.

Step 3a: Which Landscape Character Area (LCA) is the proposal in?

If the proposal is close to the edge of two or more landscape character areas, all relevant profiles need to be consulted. This is because boundaries are usually zones of transition with shared characteristics and because a change within one area can also affect neighbouring areas.

Step 3b: Will any of the key characteristics of the LCA be affected by the proposal?

If so, which ones and how? And does this matter to overall character? Think about impact on natural, cultural and perceptual/experiential characteristics of the landscape.

Step 3c: Will any of the key sensitivities or valued features of the LCA be affected by the proposal?

If so, which ones and how? Can adverse effects be avoided through better location or design? Can any of the key sensitivities and valued features of the LCA be enhanced or restored?

Step 3d: Will the proposal contribute to or conflict with any of the landscape management or development management guidelines (identified for each LCT)?

If so, which ones and how? Can better location or design reduce or remove conflicts with the landscape or development management guidelines?

Summary

- Can the proposal be altered in any way to avoid adverse effects on key characteristics, sensitivities, valued features or landscape and development management guidelines?
- If not, can the adverse effects be reduced or mitigated? How? Use the information in the relevant LCA or overarching LCT profile to inform appropriate mitigation.
- What new elements of local character could be created in association with the change?

Checklist

D.4 The following general prompts can also be considered:

- Does the proposal reinforce and enhance local distinctiveness and local landscape character?
- Does the proposal enhance the sense of place through careful design (including consideration of siting, massing, scale and materials)?
- Does the choice of materials and colours for structures reflect the landscape around them, as well as traditional building styles?
- Does the proposal retain key views within, to and from LCAs, including views to and from Local Landscape Areas? Or does the proposal detract from skylines, landmark features and focal points within the landscape?
- Does the proposal retain key views into, out of, and across settlements?
- Does the proposal retain existing vegetation and enhance with new planting that is in keeping with local landscape character?
- Does the proposal use existing roads and tracks for site access? Do new roads and tracks fit in with the landscape character and complement the pattern of existing road networks?
- Does the proposal improve access to the Core Path network?
- Does the proposal include aspects of green infrastructure, integrated with biodiversity enhancement where suitable?
- Does the proposal minimise effects on tranquillity relating to light pollution/dark skies?
- Have cumulative effects (including in-combination effects) with other existing or planned developments been considered?

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