

City of Edinburgh Council Local Landscape Designation Review 2026 Update

City of Edinburgh Council

Final report
Prepared by LUC
February 2026



Version	Status	Prepared	Checked	Approved	Date
1	Draft Methodology and Pilot LLA Profile	LUC	LUC	LUC	29/09/2025
2	Draft Report	LUC	LUC	LUC	16/12/2025
3	Final Report	LUC	LUC	LUC	25/02/2026



Land Use Consultants Limited

Registered in England. Registered number 2549296. Registered office: 250 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8RD. Printed on 100% recycled paper

Contents

Chapter 1	5
Introduction and Context	
Background and purpose	5
Methodology	10
Chapter 2	18
Statements of Significance	
Local Landscape Area 1: Southern Forth Coast	18
Local Landscape Area 2: Lower Almond	23
Local Landscape Area 3: Cammo	27
Local Landscape Area 4: Dundas	32
Local Landscape Area 5: Upper Almond	37
Local Landscape Area 6: Gogar	41
Local Landscape Area 7: Ratho Hills	46
Local Landscape Area 8: Water of Leith – west	50
Local Landscape Area 9: Pentlands	55
Local Landscape Area 10: Corstorphine Hill	61
Local Landscape Area 11: Craiglockhart	66
Local Landscape Area 12: Water of Leith – New Town	71
Local Landscape Area 13: Inverleith	76
Local Landscape Area 14: Castle Rock	80
Local Landscape Area 15: Princes Street Gardens	85
Local Landscape Area 16: Calton Hill	90
Local Landscape Area 17: Holyrood, Duddingston and Prestonfield	95
Local Landscape Area 18: Craigmillar Castle	101
Local Landscape Area 19: The Drum	105
Local Landscape Area 20: Braids, Liberton and Mortonhall	109
Local Landscape Area 21: Craigie Hill	115
Appendix A	119
Comparison of Designation Criteria	
Appendix B	122

Changes Identified within Local Landscape Areas and Boundary Recommendations

Appendix C	134
Summary Evaluation of Local Landscape Areas	
Appendix D	137
Data Sources	
Appendix E	139
Glossary	

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 undertake a review of local landscape designations for City of Edinburgh Council covering the local authority area.

1.2 This study updates [LUC's 2010 Review of Local Landscape Designations](#). The approach takes into account the [Scottish Government's 2023 National Planning Framework 4](#), the [Scottish Government's 2023 Local Development Planning Guidance](#), and [Historic Environment Scotland and NatureScot's revised 2020 Guidance on Designating Local Landscape Areas](#).

1.3 NPF4 Policy 4 supports the protection and restoration of natural places, which includes sites designated as a local landscape area (LLAs) under criterion d. This approach is complemented by design policies which reflect the European Landscape Convention, by recognising the value of all landscapes to local character, in particular through the design of Liveable Places.

1.4 The candidate Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) identified in the 2010 review (and subsequently adopted in the [City of Edinburgh Council's 2016 Edinburgh Local Development Plan](#) and re-affirmed by the [City of Edinburgh Council's 2024 City Plan 2030](#)) were reviewed and updated to reflect changes in the baseline, to confirm these reflect the qualities for which they are designated and that their boundaries are appropriately defined. These areas are now referred to as Local Landscape Areas (LLAs) to better align with NPF4 Policy 4.

1.5 This review was undertaken to inform preparation of the next local development plan, City Plan 2040. Whilst landscape change is a long-term process, land use pressures, climate and the nature emergency are accelerating the pace of landscape change. The scope of this review reflects the existence of a comprehensive suite of existing local landscape designations, rather than the process to determine new local landscape areas. However, consultation through the local development plan preparation process, including consideration of Local Place Plans, may highlight the need for other local landscapes to be designated.

1.6 The methodology for the review of existing local landscape designations is detailed in Chapter 2.

1.7 A map of the existing Local Landscape Areas (identified in the 2010 review) within Edinburgh is shown on Figure 1.1. A map of the new confirmed boundaries of the Local Landscape Areas within Edinburgh is shown on Figure 1.2 and overlaid with Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) on Figure 1.3.

1.8 A summary of the updates or changes to LLAs following on from the 2010 local landscape designation review is set out in Appendix B. The Local Landscape Areas and their Statements of Significance are detailed in Chapter 3.

Edinburgh Landscape Character Assessment

1.9 An updated Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) was undertaken in tandem with this local landscape designation review. The LCA provides a framework for more detailed landscape studies, including this local landscape designation review, the Landscape Sensitivity Assessment and the Green Belt Review.

Adjoining local authorities

1.10 Landscape does not stop at administrative boundaries but continues seamlessly into surrounding local authority areas. This assessment therefore sits alongside the local landscape designations 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 valued landscape features are noted in the study, as well as intervisibility (e.g. views to landform, landscape features, and notable landmarks within adjacent authorities, where relevant to local landscape designations).

Figure 1.1: Existing Local Landscape Areas

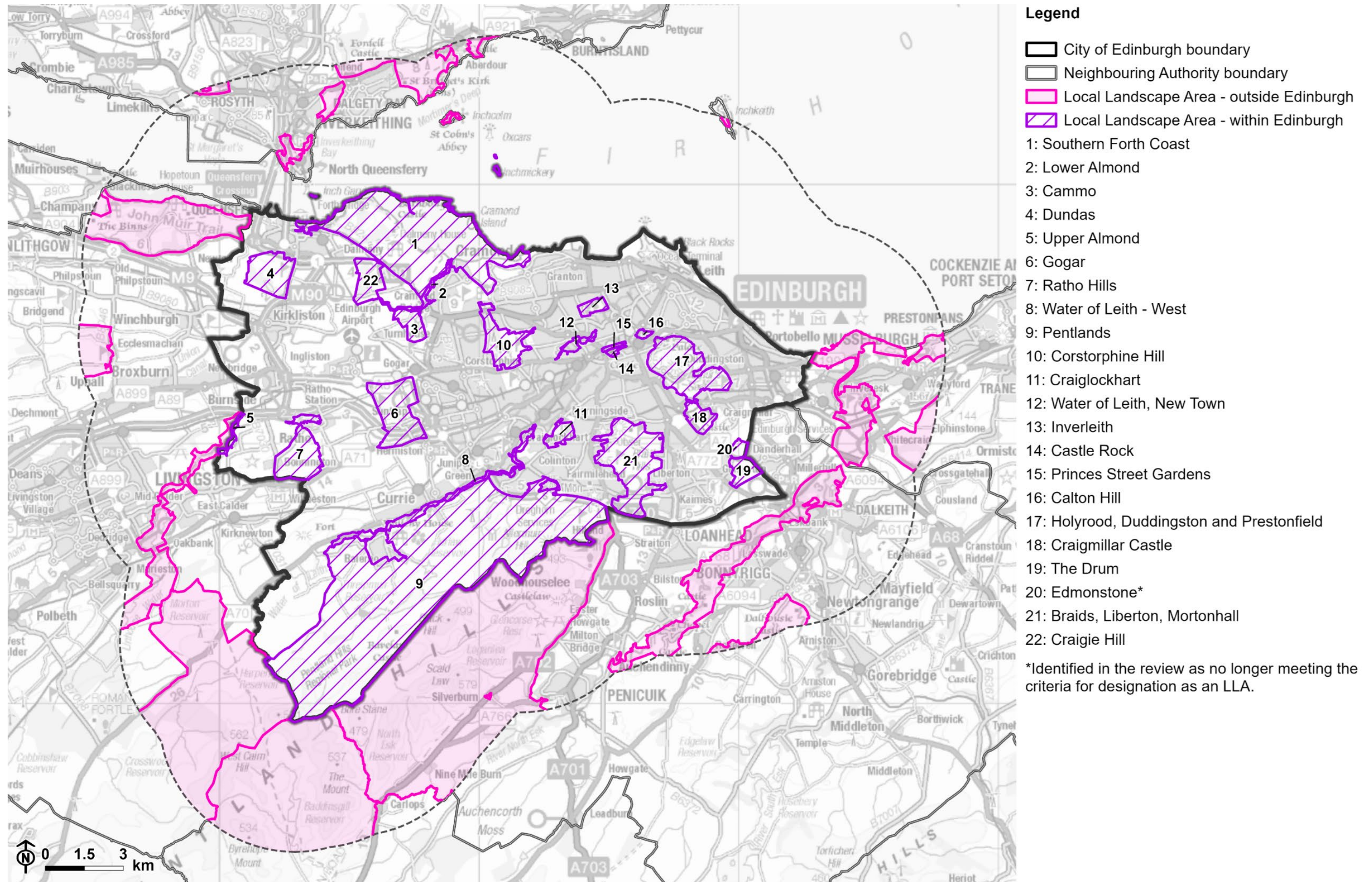


Figure 1.2: 2026 Confirmed Local Landscape Areas

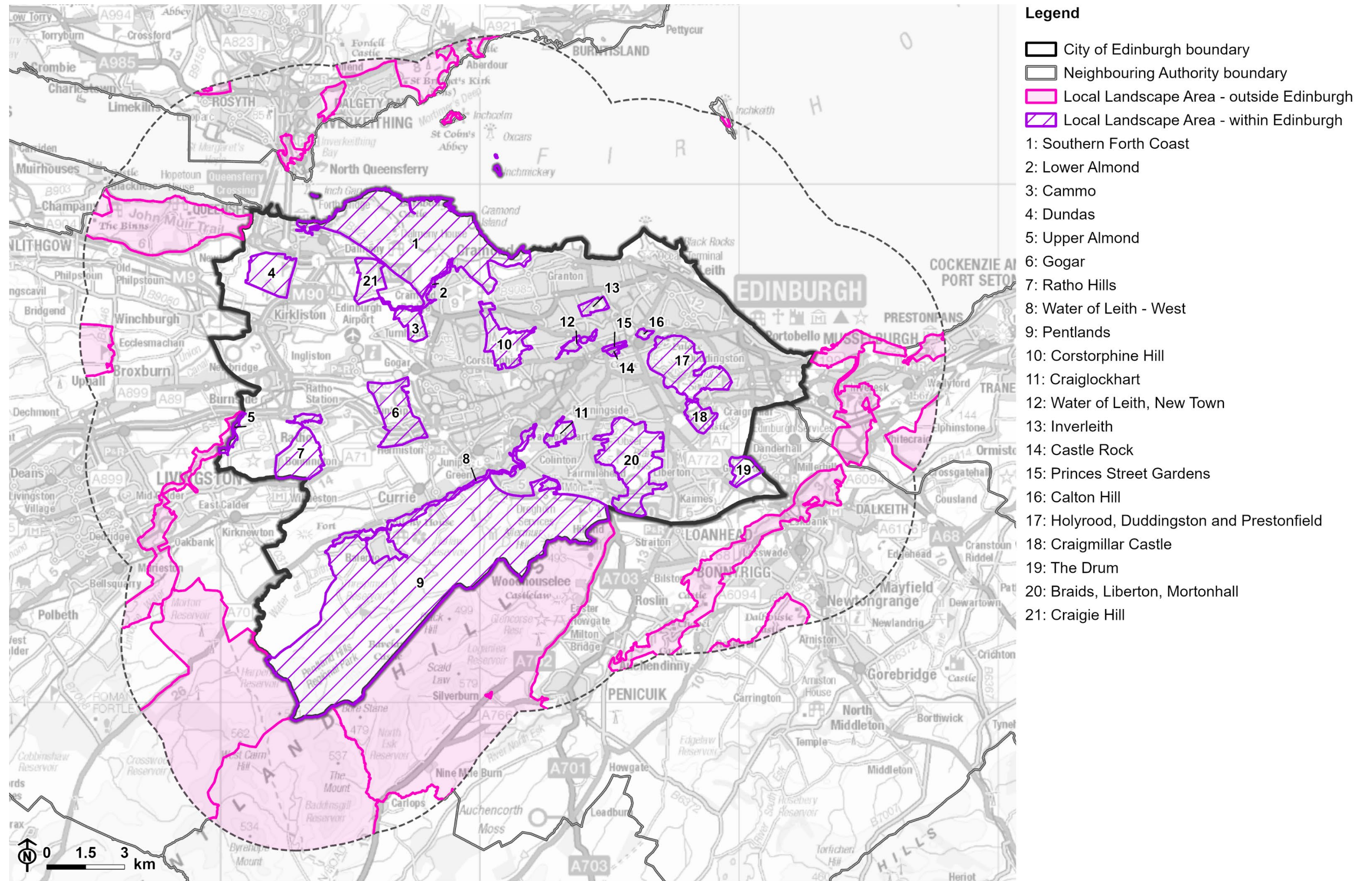
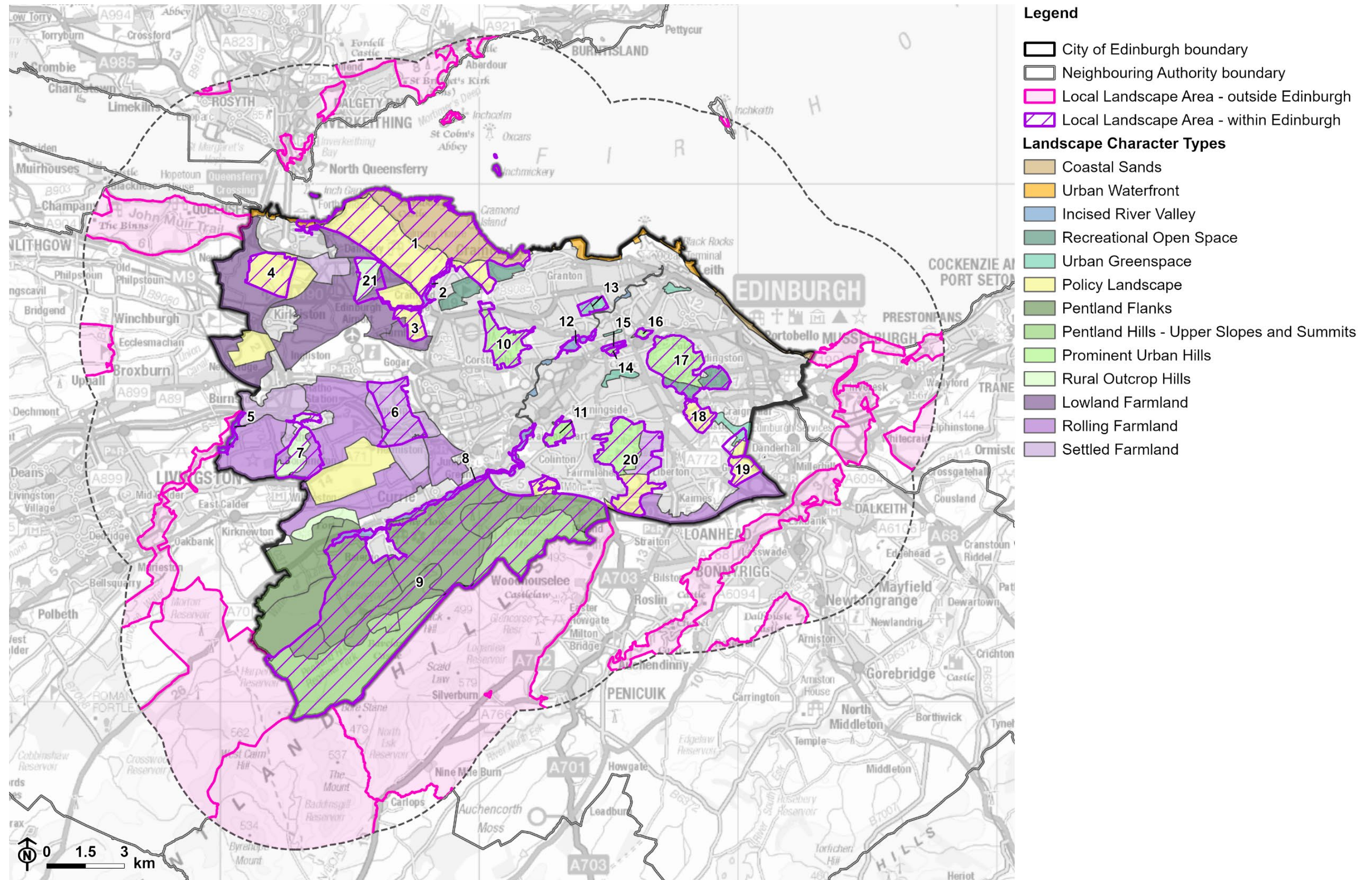


Figure 1.3: Local Landscape Areas and Landscape Character Types



Methodology

1.11 This Local Landscape Designation review follows the method promoted by NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland (HES) Guidance on Designating Local Landscape Areas (2020), which embeds the principles of the European Landscape Convention (ELC) within it.

1.12 The UK Government ratified the European Landscape Convention (ELC) in 2006. This defines landscape as *“an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors”*.

1.13 The ELC establishes the need to recognise landscape in law; to 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.

1.14 The NatureScot and HES Guidance on Designating Local Landscape Areas (2020) notes that the process of designation for local landscapes serves three main objectives:

- *“Accolade – Designation recognises that a specific area has special importance. Celebrating these values raises awareness and understanding amongst communities and wider stakeholders.*
- *Policy – The designation process provides a useful opportunity to engage communities in identifying policy priorities and objectives. Landscapes will evolve, and this change is managed better if the values of a landscape are well understood. Designation highlights the landscape values that are important to communities.*
- *Management – Designation of areas that are specifically valued provides a useful means to concentrate effort and prioritise resources for positive action and management.”*

1.15 The guidance states [emphasis added] – *“Designations may need revision due to, for example:*

- *new development*
- *subsequent other local designations*
- *new reasons or emphasis for designation – such as the historic environment, natural heritage or health and well-being*
- *the need for a clearer statement of the qualities and values of the LLA that provide the basis for their designation”*

1.16 It is also acknowledged that “*when reviewing existing local landscape areas, it may not be necessary to carry out as comprehensive a review as when designating new areas*”.

1.17 The current Landscape Institute/IEEMA Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3) also include a helpful summary of the range of factors that can help in the identification of valued landscapes, set out in Box 5.1:

- Landscape quality (condition);
- Scenic qualities;
- Rarity;
- Representativeness;
- Conservation interests;
- Recreation value;
- Perceptual aspects; and
- Associations.

1.18 The methodology for this study draws from the above guidance as well as LUC’s experience in undertaking designation reviews elsewhere in the UK.

Key stages and tasks

1.19 The key steps of local landscape designation process are set out in the 2020 NatureScot and HES guidance. This study relates mainly to Steps 3 to 6 of the guidance, with engagement on the evidence base undertaken more widely by City of Edinburgh Council through the Development Plan scheme. The process for undertaking the study involved the following key stages:

- Identification of study area and assessment criteria;
- Desk review, including baseline data collation;
- Review of LLA boundaries (see Appendix B for more information);
- Field survey to check/ identify special qualities, collecting aesthetic/perceptual information, take photographs and observe forces for change within the landscape; and
- Draft and final reporting.

Identification of Study Area and Assessment Criteria

Study Area

1.20 The geographic scope of this study includes a review of the existing Local Landscape Areas (LLAs, formerly referred to as Special Landscape Areas (SLAs)) within the City of Edinburgh local authority area, as shown on Figure 1.1.

1.21 Local landscape designations in adjoining local authority areas, where these are located directly adjacent or near to (within c. 5km) the local authority area boundary were also reviewed, for consideration of cross-boundary consistency.

Assessment Criteria

1.22 Table 1 of the 2020 NatureScot and HES guidance sets out the criteria commonly used for the assessment of locally designated landscapes, and notes *“this is not a fixed list as the criteria need to be appropriate to each designation process. Not all the criteria need to be met in every case: a landscape might be deemed so valued under one criterion that it merits designation on that basis alone”*.

1.23 The guidance also notes that *“local authorities should tailor the evaluation criteria to suit local circumstances and reflect the nature of their landscapes and what is valued in the area”*.

1.24 The designation criteria identified in the previous 2010 Review of Local Landscape Designations were reviewed (refer to Appendix A), with reference to the nuances of the updated 2020 NatureScot and HES guidance. The character and qualities of the LLAs were considered against the criteria below, which are broadly consistent with the original designation criteria. A comparison of the original and updated designation criteria is provided in Appendix A. As advocated by the 2020 NatureScot and HES Guidance, the assessment of the LLAs assigned qualitative ratings of high, medium and low against these criteria (refer to Appendix C).

Distinctiveness, rarity and sense of place

1.25 Spatial functions of the landscape which positively influence the sense of place include areas which contribute to the historic core or setting of Edinburgh, and areas with a strong visual identity. This criterion also considers features which contribute positively and uniquely to the identity of Edinburgh, reflecting individual features or combinations of landform, land use and land cover.

- High: Landscape includes highly distinctive features or combination of features which are important to Edinburgh’s identity and setting.

- Medium: Fairly distinctive or representative of Edinburgh and some key characteristics or combination of features which are important to Edinburgh's identity and setting.
- Low: Landscape has little or no role in relation to Edinburgh's identity and setting.

Scenic qualities

1.26 The combination of landscape features, visual contrasts or dramatic landscape elements which contribute to scenic quality.

- High: Pleasing combination of features which provide a high scenic value.
- Medium: Some features of scenic value.
- Low: Few features of scenic value.

Enjoyment

1.27 The use and enjoyment of the landscape for recreational activity, or a landscape which makes a notable contribution to health and wellbeing.

- High: Good level of access provision/recreational use and high numbers of users and/or visual receptors. Landscape facilities and features which are well-used and valued by local communities and visitors.
- Medium: Some access provision/recreational use and medium levels of users and receptors.
- Low: Limited or no access provision/recreational use.

Culture

1.28 The influence of cultural heritage features on the landscape and influence of time depth on the experience of the landscape. This reflects the presence of built features, landscape planning and field boundaries, or cultural associations with the landscape.

- High: Significant cultural heritage features which dominate the landscape and strongly influence the landscape character and value. A landscape with strong artistic or literary connections, or other cultural associations.
- Medium: Some cultural heritage importance, artistic or literary connections, or other cultural associations.
- Low: Limited cultural heritage importance, artistic or literary connections, or other cultural associations, or cultural heritage features may have limited

influence on landscape (e.g. archaeological remains which do not influence the experience of the landscape).

Naturalness

1.29 The presence of features which contribute a sense of naturalness such as water, woodland, distinctive topography or geology, with limited levels of modification. A quarry may be designated a SSSI, but it would not score highly for naturalness because of the strong influence of human activity.

- High: Strong sense of naturalness with limited human influence.
- Medium: Some natural features with some influence from human modifications and management.
- Low: Highly modified or managed landscape with little or no natural features.

Variations in quality and overall judgements

1.30 The criteria used for the previous LLD included a category regarding the 'Variations in quality' of the landscape. In undertaking this updated review, these criteria were updated, and considered specifically in relation to the boundaries and condition of the LLAs:

- Does all the of the LLA have similar quality?
- Association or connectivity with adjoining landscapes – does the LLA relate to adjoining landscapes, and is this relationship important?

1.31 Many of these selection criteria are interrelated, and the overall weighting afforded to different criteria will vary depending on the landscape and professional judgement. The extent to which each criterion is met, together with the level of consistency across the landscape, are key factors in determining whether the LLA continues to fulfil the reasons for designation.

Desk review and identification of 'focus areas'

1.32 In addition to review of the updated Local Landscape Character Assessment, the initial desk-based stage involved the collation of a wide range of up-to-date mapped information to 'sense-check' the existing LLAs and to update the baseline.

1.33 Designations relating to nature conservation and cultural heritage, where these were judged to influence landscape character and special landscape qualities, were checked for any changes since the previous 2010 Review of Local Landscape Designations.

1.34 Planning data provided by City of Edinburgh Council pertaining to consented and built developments was reviewed with reference to the existing LLAs, to review changes to the landscape which have occurred since the previous study, or (in the case of consented developments) are likely to change the landscape in the near future. Aerial imagery from the past 15 years was also reviewed to understand changes in the landscape.

1.35 Data used within the study, including data collated in the GIS database is shown in Appendix D.

Evaluation of SLAs and refinement of boundaries

1.36 Field survey was undertaken to check and identify special landscape qualities, collect aesthetic/perceptual information, take photographs and observe forces for change within the landscape.

1.37 As identified in the 2010 Review of Local Landscape Designations, the process of boundary identification is based on the definition of robust and defensible boundaries. The choice of boundary feature was determined by the options available and the best fit these have with the reasons for which the area is designated. The following criteria were identified in the 2010 Review of Local Landscape Designations to guide boundary selection:

- *“Identify where key characteristics of the landscape e.g. landform and land cover change, and look to the nearest physical boundary.*
- *Where there are variations in quality within a LCA move inwards from areas of lower quality.*
- *Consider the role of the physical relationship of the candidate area in relation to quality of other adjacent LCAs and in creating a ‘logical’ and cohesive area for designation and in providing a setting for the understanding and appreciation of a landscape.*
- *Boundaries will be chosen to be robust and clearly identifiable on the ground, and where possible associated with a prominent physical landscape feature, such as road or railway, watercourse, field boundary, changes in landform and vegetation cover or combination of these features.”*

1.38 Appendix B of this report sets out the following recommendations, to be considered during the plan preparation process and its associated consultation stages:

- Where there should be no change to the existing boundary;

- Where the boundary should be extended or contracted due to changes in the baseline since the previous study; or
- Where an LLA is considered to no longer meet the criteria for local designation.

1.39 This updated study reviewed changes to the landscape baseline, such as development or changes in land use/land management, to understand how these have influenced the underlying key characteristics, quality and setting of an LLA. Changes to the baseline were also reviewed with specific focus on features which define the boundary or edges of the LLAs.

1.40 The presence or introduction of development within an LLA does not preclude its designation. The nature and scale of development that has taken place within or along the boundary of an LLA was reviewed on a case-by-case basis to understand if a change to the boundary is warranted due to:

- Changes to the strength of expression of the special qualities of the LLA; or
- A variation in the quality or character of the landscape, resulting from the introduction of development, which substantially differs from the overall quality of the LLA.

1.41 The boundaries defining other designations that interact with LLA boundaries, such as Inventory-listed Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs) or Conservation Areas, were also reviewed for updates and rationalised where relevant. Where the LLA boundary deviates from the line of other designations, this is based on landscape considerations.

Confirmation of new Local Landscape Areas and update to Statements of Importance

1.42 As for the previous 2010 Review of Local Landscape Designations, Statements of Importance are presented for each individual LLA. The 21 individual LLA profiles are structured as follows:

- Description of location and boundaries;
- Representative photograph;
- Special landscape qualities;
- Summary evaluation against designation criteria;
- Potential pressures upon landscape integrity; and
- Condition and enhancement potential.

1.43 Description of landscape changes which have occurred since the previous 2010 Local Landscape Designation Review and boundary recommendations are provided in Appendix B.

1.44 Each individual LLA Statement of Importance incorporates the boundary recommendations provided in Appendix B.

1.45 An assigned rating of high, medium or low against each designation criterion is provided in Appendix C.

1.46 Twenty-one of the twenty-two existing LLAs (identified in the 2010 review) were confirmed to meet the criteria for designation.

1.47 Given the extent of change (current and future) which has or will be occurring within the Edmonstone LLA, the recommendations of this review are to remove the area from designation. Further information is provided in Appendix B, with summary criteria ratings for the Edmonstone LLA provided in Appendix C. A separate Statement of Importance is not provided for the Edmonstone LLA, as its special qualities are no longer considered to be strongly expressed throughout the area.

Chapter 2

Statements of Significance

Local Landscape Area 1: Southern Forth Coast

Location and boundaries

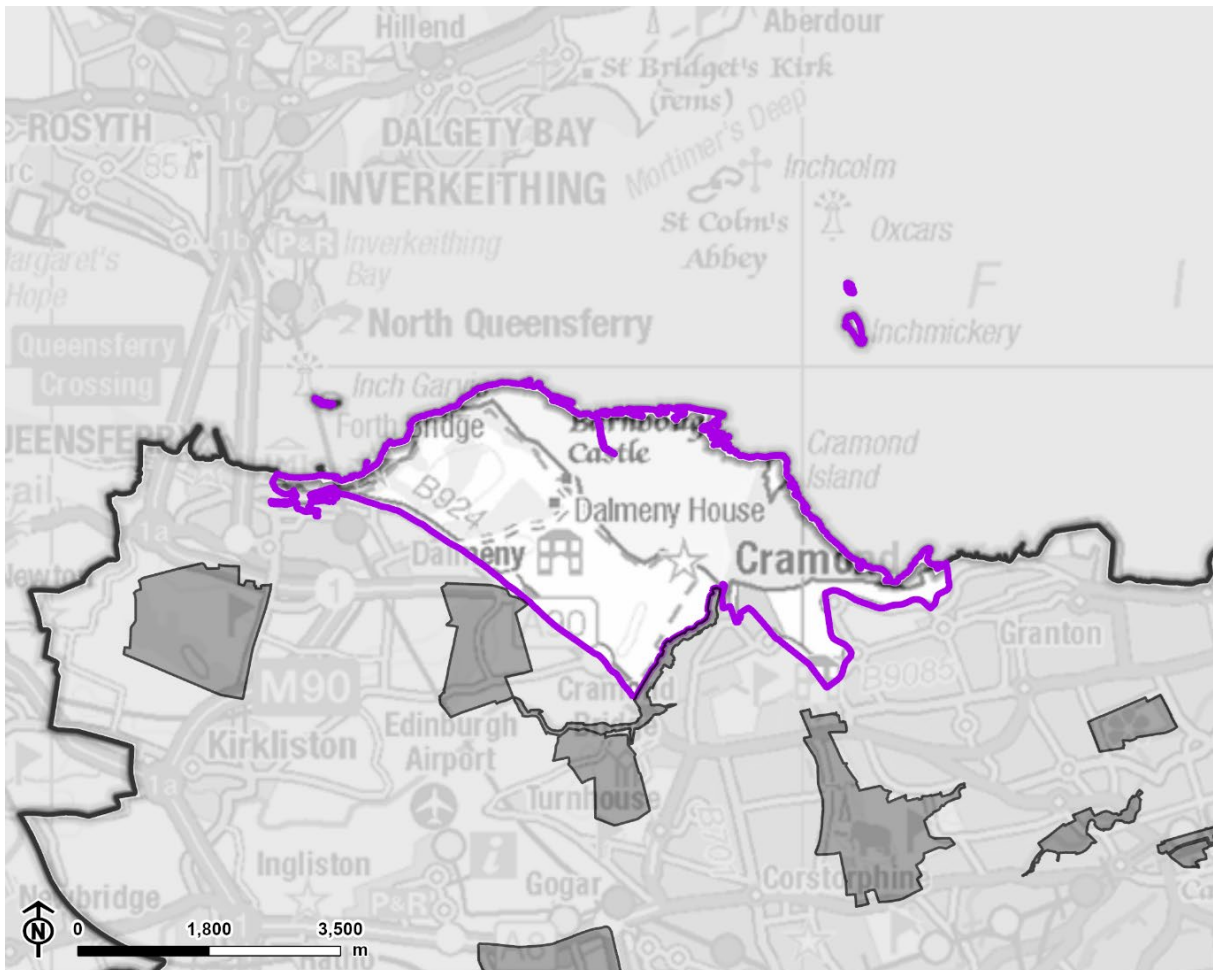
2.1 The Southern Forth Coast LLA is located along the coastline to the north-west of Edinburgh. It comprises the coastline between South Queensferry and Granton Point, including the extensive Dalmeny Estate, and the intertidal zone and islands within the Firth of Forth. The LLA extends across 1623 hectares and is located within the Cramond Coast LCA (1), Dalmeny Policies LCA (34), Lauriston Policies LCA (39) and a small part of the Queensferry Waterfront LCA (66).

2.2 The boundary follows the coastline, extending inland to include the policies of Dalmeny Estate and Lauriston. The inland boundary broadly follows the A90, Cramond Road South, Silverknowes Road and Marine Drive. The LLA extends out across Drum Sands and includes the islands of the Forth.




Figure 2.1: View across the extensive tidal flats towards Cramond Island

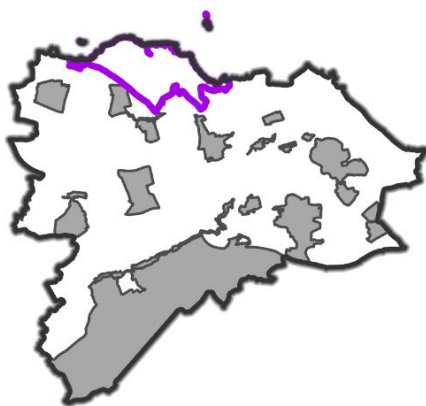


Figure 2.2: Southern Forth Coast LLA



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2025. Ordnance Survey AC0000849421.

-  Southern Forth Coast
-  City of Edinburgh boundary
-  Neighbouring Local Landscape Area



Special landscape qualities

2.3 A diverse coastal landscape incorporating natural shoreline, sands and islands, grassland and low dunes, agricultural land and policy parkland which contrasts with the urban waterfront. This contributes to the visual diversity and biodiversity of the area, recognised through the designation of the Firth of Forth SPA, Ramsar Site and SSSI.

2.4 The landscape is important for recreation, providing connectivity along the shore, and forms a key component in views towards Edinburgh from the Forth Estuary and Forth Bridges.

2.5 The landscape includes many distinctive features such as the dramatic association between the steep coastal profile formed by raised beaches and coastal woodland, and views to the Forth crossings.

2.6 Within the Dalmeny GDL, rolling landform and extensive woodlands, with carpets of snowdrops in Spring, avenues and parklands provide a backdrop to South Queensferry and setting to western Edinburgh when viewed from the north. At the Lauriston GDL, sloping pastures retain a rural character within the urban context and reveal a series of raised beaches, the most significant of which is delineated by the wooded slope which is prevalent along this section of coast.

2.7 The diverse topography along the coastal edge directs views across the Firth of Forth to the Fife coast, resulting in a high scenic value enhanced by the ever-changing movement of the tides and atmospheric conditions. Features in the views include the rocky shoreline, expansive intertidal sands revealed at low-tide, and Cramond Island, Inchgarvie Island, Inchmickery Island and Cow and Calves.

2.8 The coastal landscape is influenced by the movement of vehicles, trains and boats at South Queensferry which contrasts with the more tranquil and isolated coast of Dalmeny, and recreational environment at Cramond.

2.9 The area has a wealth of cultural heritage, which together with the historic structures provide a focus for informal recreation. These include the iconic Forth Bridge and Forth Road Bridge, and several notable buildings such as Dalmeny House and its grounds, Barnbogle Castle on the coastline, Cramond House and Tower, and Lauriston Castle and its grounds.

2.10 The paths and tracks along the coast, the causeway to Cramond Island and sailing in the Forth further enhance the recreational value of the area.

Summary of evaluation against designation criteria

2.11 The reasons for local landscape area designation and its boundaries continue to reflect the special contribution of the Southern Forth Coast LLA to the city's local landscape character through its combination of a distinctive natural landform, historic environment and cultural heritage associations, scenic nature of views and high recreational value.

Potential pressures upon landscape integrity

2.12 Potential pressures upon the landscape integrity of the Southern Forth Coast LLA include:

- Recreational pressure may require new visitor facilities or erode sensitive habitats like grasslands and dunes, reducing scenic and wildlife value.
- Coastal development, such as at the Granton waterfront, may create a more visually prominent urban edge, contrasting with the area's natural qualities.
- Changes to land management at Lauriston Farm could alter the character of this open area, affecting views towards the coastline from inland, and from the Firth of Forth.
- Sea level rise and an increase in the frequency and severity of storms may erode or alter the character of the coastline and increase the need for provision of engineered coastal defences.
- Trees and woodland along the coast may face higher risks from pests, disease, storms and drought due to climate change.
- Woodlands may suffer greater spread of non-native invasive species or sycamore dominance, if not managed to maintain a diverse and open structure. The ground flora and snowdrops are susceptible to disturbance.

Condition and enhancement potential

2.13 Condition and enhancement potential for the Southern Forth Coast LLA includes:

- Policy landscapes are of high quality and well-managed, however woodland along the coastal scarp requires management to sustain the distinctive wooded backdrop to the coast.

- Directing access via prescribed routes, to reduce erosion from desire lines through the grassland and low dunes at Cramond beach, will reduce disturbance to habitats and enhance recreational opportunities.
- Some recreational facilities, including signage and seating, would benefit from upgrading along the promenade at Cramond, using furniture appropriate to the coastal context and scenic views.
- Farmland is generally well managed, however agricultural land at Lauriston would benefit from reinstatement and enhancement of field boundaries for habitat connectivity and landscape benefits.

Local Landscape Area 2: Lower Almond

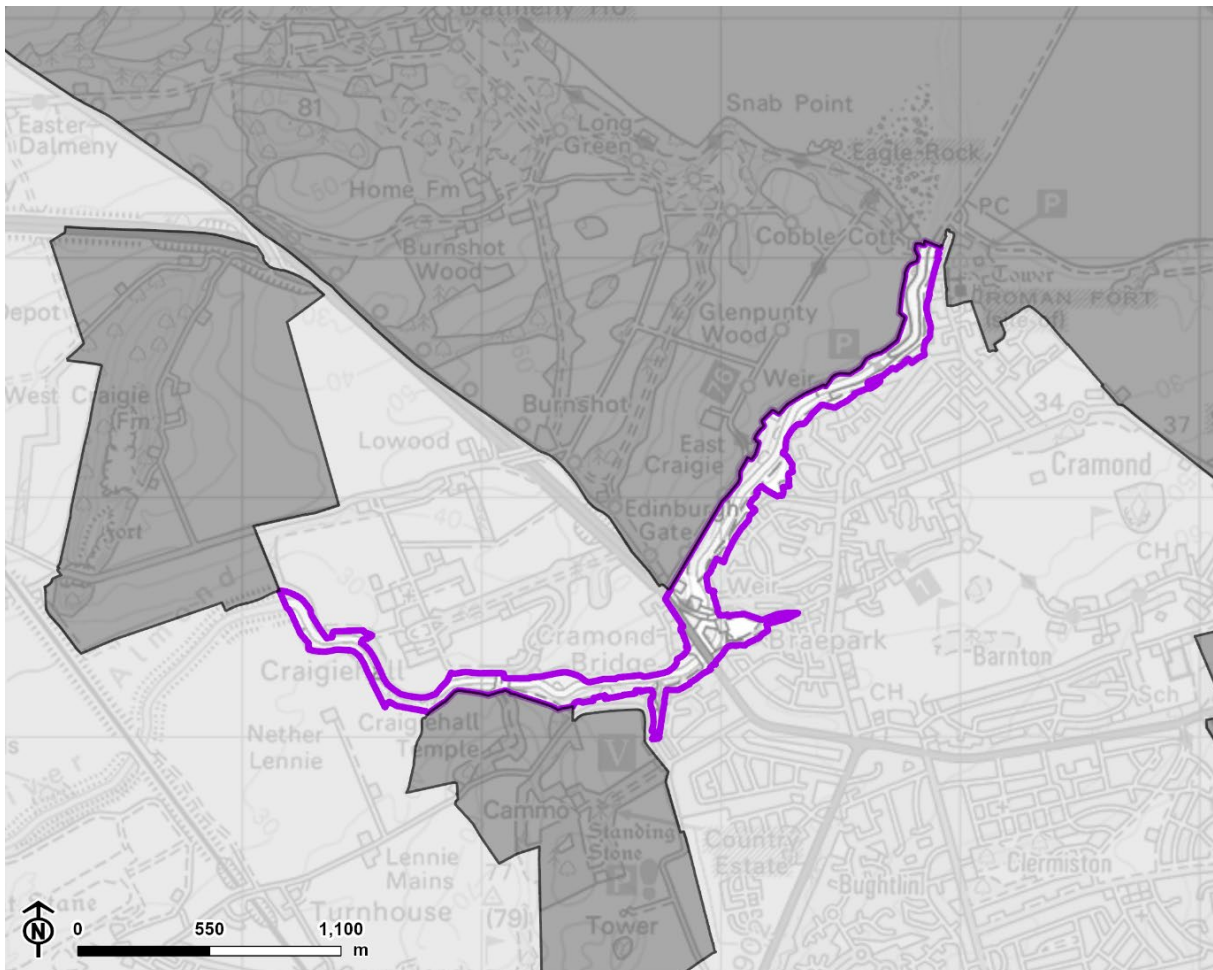
Location and boundaries

2.14 The Lower Almond LLA is in the north-west of Edinburgh. It comprises the incised, wooded valley of the River Almond between its mouth at Cramond and Craigiehall to the west. The boundary reflects the linear nature of the valley, the valley landform and its association with the adjoining built edge of Cramond and open spaces of Cammo, Craigiehall and Dalmeny estates. The LLA extends across 45 hectares and is predominantly located within the Lower Almond Valley LCA (10).




Figure 2.3: View along the Lower Almond River from Cramond Brig

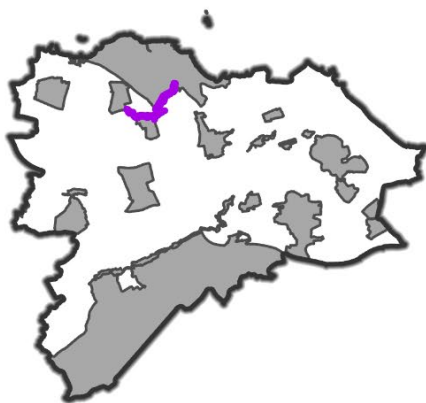


Figure 2.4: Lower Almond LLA



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2025. Ordnance Survey AC0000849421.

-  Lower Almond
-  City of Edinburgh boundary
-  Neighbouring Local Landscape Area



Special landscape qualities

2.15 The incised, lower valley of the River Almond is enclosed by steeply wooded slopes and features rocky outcrops, waterfalls, weirs, former mills, Cramond's quayside, sand and mudflats.

2.16 The Lower Almond is distinguished by the change in character and landform between the meandering freshwater course of the River Almond and its fall to sea level, and a maritime environment, at Cramond Quay.

2.17 The River Almond valley provides a strong boundary to the edge of the city and the wider setting of the historic Cramond Village.

2.18 Historic and cultural influences are evident along the river's edge including the industrial archaeology of former mills, Cramond Brig and the Craighiehall Grotto Bridge and estate parkland, which is visible in the upper reaches of the LLA.

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

2.20 Views are focused along the river by the wooded valley sides and have a strong sense of naturalness and seclusion, including darkness at night. A glimpse of the riverside woodland is experienced where the A90 enters the city near Cramond Brig.

2.21 The River Almond provides important recreational routes including riverside paths, the John Muir Way and part of the National Cycle Network on the west edge of the city. These are well connected to popular locations such as Dalmeny, Cramond, Silverknowes and Cammo.

Summary of evaluation against designation criteria

2.22 The reasons for local landscape area designation and its boundaries continue to reflect the special contribution of the Lower Almond LLA to the city's local landscape character through its distinctive incised landform, natural woodland, historic associations of former mills, high recreational value and scenic value.

Potential pressures upon landscape integrity

2.23 Potential pressures upon the landscape integrity of the Lower Almond LLA include:

- Prominent development or associated light spillage near the river corridor and its woodland could adversely affect the integrity of the landscape, detracting from the valley's secluded character.
- Increased recreational pressure may result in upgrading of paths and recreational facilities which could alter the scenic qualities and rural character of the valley.
- More frequent storms or droughts due to climate change may alter the wooded character of the valley, affecting the growing conditions for some species or causing landslips and bankside erosion due to floodwaters.
- Climate change may alter species composition and increase the spread of pests and diseases or expansion of non-native invasive species, altering the character of the valley's woodland.

Condition and enhancement potential

2.24 Condition and enhancement potential for the Lower Almond LLA includes:

- Much of the valley is in good condition, but improved management of recreational routes and interpretation of historic structures would enhance recreational value.
- There is opportunity to provide a new crossing between Cramond and Dalmeny Estate near Cramond Harbour. This would enable more direct recreational access along the coastline and would provide better connectivity into the wider network of Core Paths.
- Maintaining the river valley as an area of darkness without light spillage or lit paths is important for its landscape, recreational and ecological value.
- Ongoing management of the valley woodland would enhance landscape quality and biodiversity, including removing non-native invasive species and reducing sycamore dominance. Retain standing deadwood, where possible, for habitat value.
- Construction of a rock ramp at Dowies Mill Weir will improve access for migratory fish and provide landscaping and a boardwalk to enhance recreational access.
- Where river engineering is required to manage floodwaters or erosion, nature-based or green engineering solutions should be prioritised. Any hard engineering should tie in with the character of the river corridor's historic built structures.

Local Landscape Area 3: Cammo

Location and boundaries

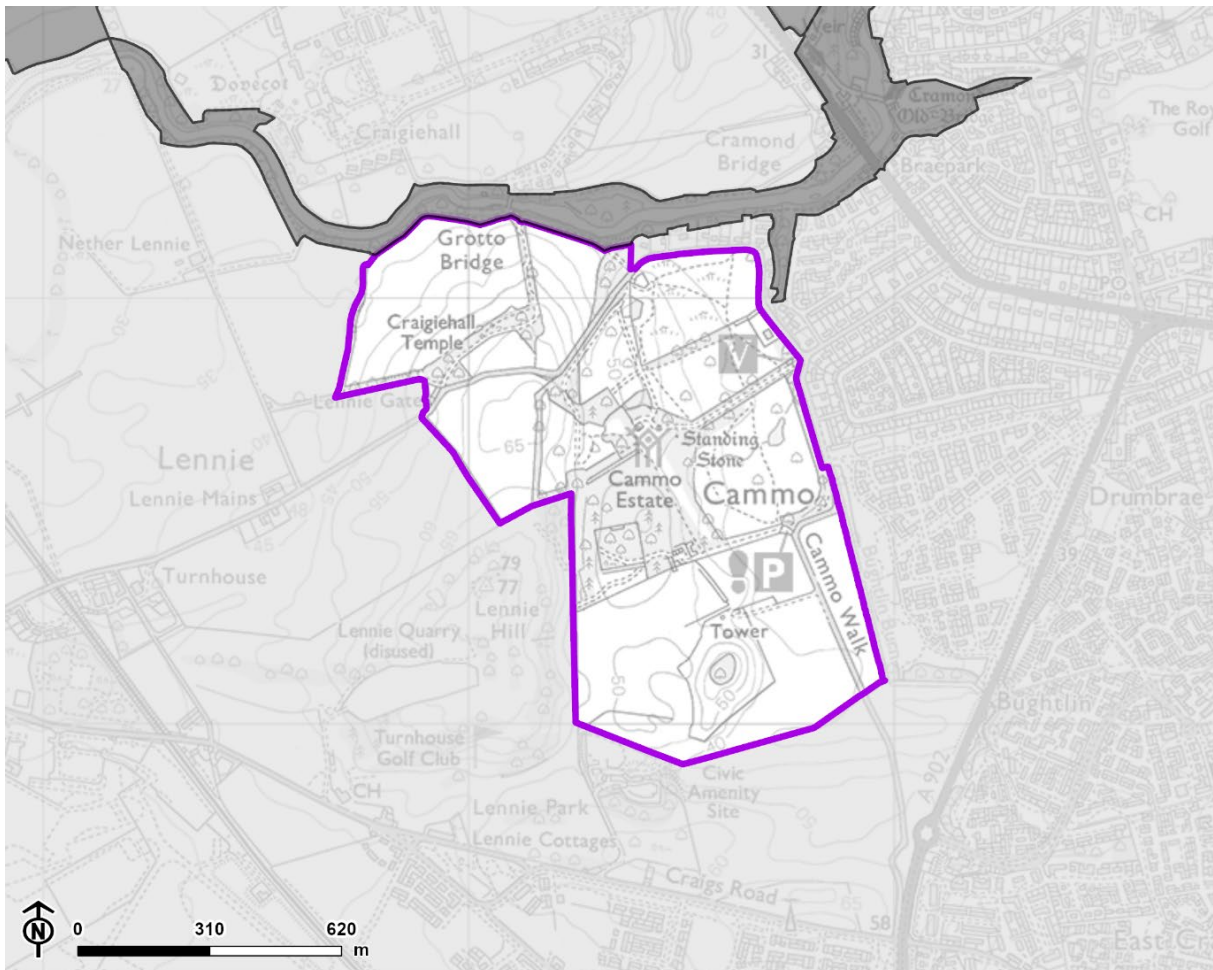
2.25 The Cammo LLA is located adjacent to the Barnton area of Edinburgh to the west of the city, south of the River Almond and north-east of Edinburgh Airport.

2.26 The LLA extends across 96 hectares within the Cammo Policies LCA (30) and encompasses the designed landscape features of Cammo, including the water tower and Craigiehall temple, together with its farmland fringe.

Figure 2.5: The Cammo Water Tower forms a distinctive landmark on the skyline rising above rectilinear fields, with woodland seen beyond

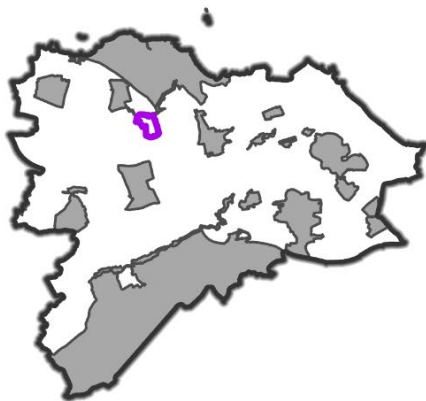


Figure 2.6: Cammo LLA



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2025. Ordnance Survey AC0000849421.

-  Cammo
-  Neighbouring Local Landscape Area



Special landscape qualities

2.27 The distinctive character of Cammo, and its recreational and cultural value is derived from its designed landscape of parkland, woodland and eye-catching structures, centred on low lying hills to the south of the River Almond valley. The area is also designated as a GDL.

2.28 The core area of parkland surrounds the ruined 19th century house, stable block and walled garden. Parkland and important veteran trees, avenues and tree groups located across hill tops, contrast with areas of open pasture, grassland and aquatic habitats associated with ponds and along burns.

2.29 Craigiehall temple is located to the north-west, within a densely wooded context above the River Almond.

2.30 To the south, the 19th century, circular, castellated water tower stands as a landmark adjacent to a low hill crowned by a walled wooded roundel.

2.31 Cammo Estate Park is a popular recreational resource and is served by a small visitor centre and parking facilities. The path network provides an important link between the dense urban edge and the River Almond and wider landscape beyond.

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

2.33 Appreciation of the designed landscape of Cammo also relies upon the foreground setting of surrounding agricultural fields to the south, east, west and north-west. The Cammo Policies LCA (30), Craigiehall Policies LCA (31) and Dalmeny Policies LCA (34) form a wider wooded green swathe extending along the north-western periphery of Edinburgh.

2.34 Views of the tower and roundel are important, as seen from the A902, other roads and adjacent settlement edge. To the west of Cammo, Lennie Hill provides an essential setting to the landscape. Elevated areas within the landscape provide views over the adjacent urban development towards the distant Pentland Hills, Corstorphine Hill and Dalmeny.

Summary of evaluation against designation criteria

2.35 The reasons for local landscape area designation and its boundaries continue to reflect the special contribution of the Cammo LLA to the city's local landscape character through its combination of scenic quality, high recreational value, and

cultural heritage features, which form landmarks in views seen from the surrounding landscape, and a sense of naturalness.

Potential pressures upon landscape integrity

2.36 Potential pressures upon the landscape integrity of the Cammo LLA include:

- Development in the open fields along the edges of the LLA would alter the open landscape character, visual amenity and the setting of and ability to appreciate the historic features and buildings.
- Historic built features are in decline, including stone walls, which require active management and can be vulnerable to damage from antisocial behaviour and climate change effects.
- Increasing recreational pressures as the city expands westwards may require upgraded paths and recreational facilities, altering the estate's naturalistic qualities.
- Damage to notable and veteran trees, changes to the pattern of woodland, grassland and parkland habitats, and expansion of non-native invasive species may be worsened by climate change, including the increased risk of severe storms, droughts and spread of pests and diseases.
- The management of remnant surrounding field boundary hedgerows and planting of large growing hedgerow tree species would enhance the setting to the designed landscape formed by surrounding agricultural land.

Condition and enhancement potential

2.37 Condition and enhancement potential for the Cammo LLA includes:

- Landscape enhancement, such as tree and hedgerow planting and creation of wetlands, are increasing biodiversity and adding contrast.
- Ongoing management and enhancement of the parkland landscape and woodlands should be encouraged to maintain and enhance the landscape framework, and to provide habitat corridors of greater ecological value.
- Opportunities to enhance features such as the roundel of beech trees should be encouraged, ensuring young trees are established so that this landscape feature endures.

- Maintenance of historic structures and walls should focus on restoring their character using traditional techniques, providing interpretation and managing access to enable appreciation and prevent further damage.

Local Landscape Area 4: Dundas

Location and boundaries

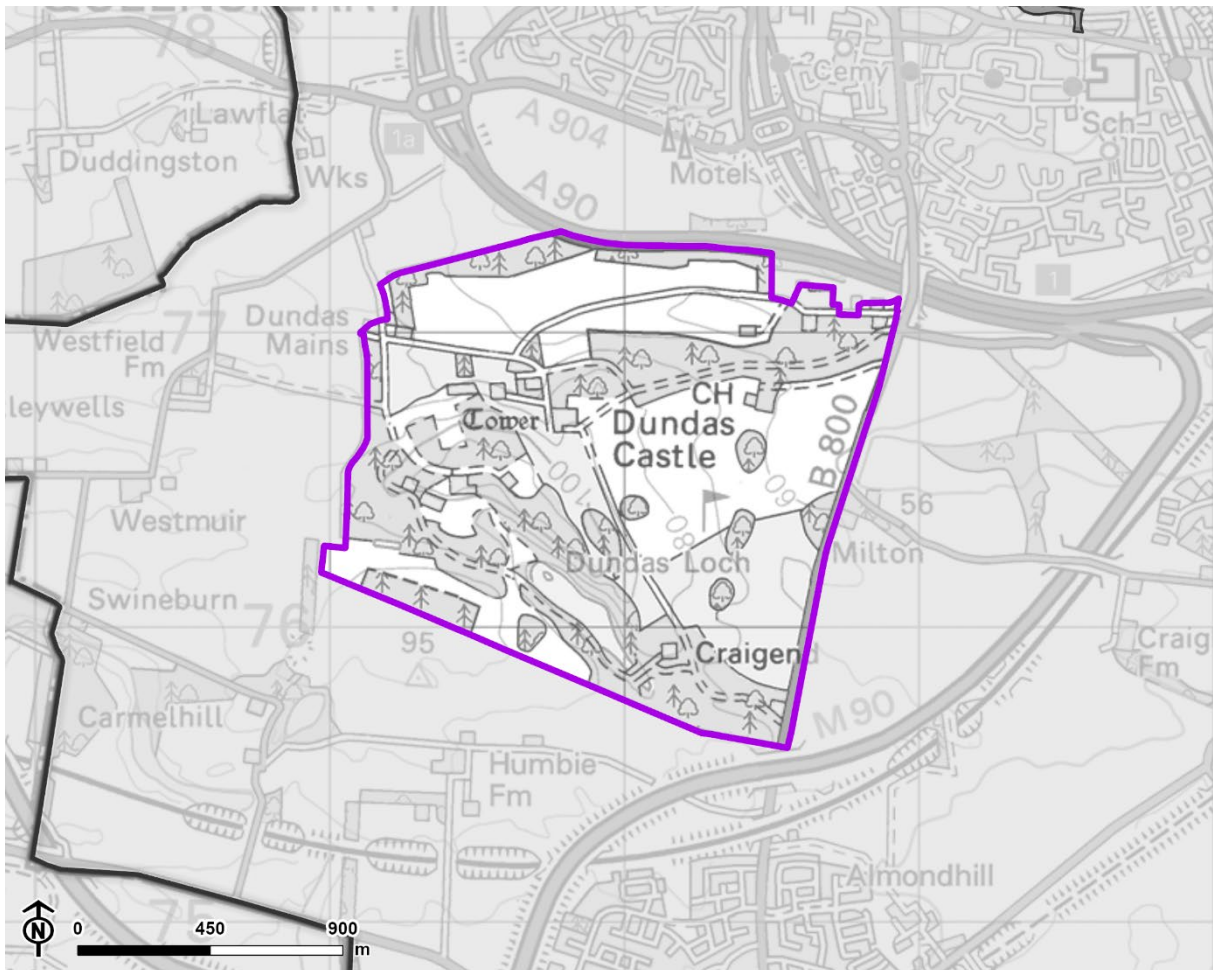
2.38 This LLA is located to the west of Edinburgh, to the south-west of South Queensferry and M90, and occupies 236 hectares within the Dundas Policies LCA (37).

2.39 The LLA boundary reflects the woodland and parkland surrounding Dundas Castle which extends westwards from the B8000 across the low rise of Dundas Hill.




Figure 2.7: The Listed Dundas Castle is set within a context of well-managed farmland with woodland and shelterbelts

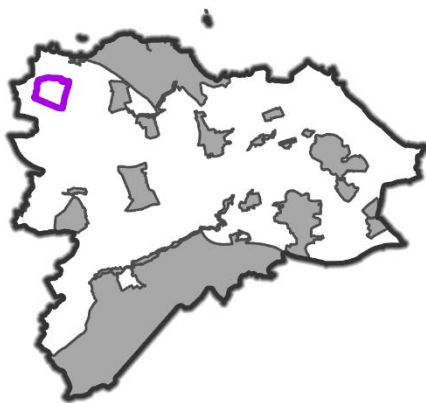


Figure 2.8: Dundas LLA



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2025. Ordnance Survey AC0000849421.

-  Dundas
-  City of Edinburgh boundary
-  Neighbouring Local Landscape Area



Special landscape qualities

2.40 An extensive, well wooded, designed landscape (also designated as a GDL), centred around the low but distinctive rise of Dundas Hill (110m AOD) and country house of Dundas Castle.

2.41 Parkland, ornamental trees and perimeter woodlands read together to form a wooded mount flanked by farmland, which is a recognisable and scenic feature in views seen from the main arterial routes of the A904, B800, A8000, M90 and M9 to the north-west of the city.

2.42 Dundas provides a verdant backdrop to South Queensferry, seen in southbound views from the Forth Road Bridge and Queensferry Crossings, echoing the wooded landform of Dalmeny Estate to the east.

2.43 Dundas is a relatively intact example of the designed landscapes found on Edinburgh's periphery. Extensive woodlands, ornamental woodland gardens and the Dundas (or Lily) Loch are set out in the 19th century Picturesque manner, below the dramatic crag and south-west scarp of Dundas Hill. This topography prevents outward views from and serves as a dramatic backdrop to the loch.

2.44 The main parkland, now in use as a golf course, is laid out across east-facing slopes below the Listed Dundas Castle. This gives way to well-managed farmland, shelter belts and woodlands to the east which contribute to the estate's setting.

2.45 There is no public access to Dundas Castle itself, however the castle can be viewed from the path between Dundas Hill and the golf course. A well-used recreational path loop extends from the south-east of Dundas Loch round to North Lodge.

2.46 There are long distance outward views from the path adjacent to the golf course towards the Pentland Hills, Edinburgh, Firth of Forth and Fife beyond, and the Forth Bridges. From much of the path, particularly the more elevated part on the approach to the castle, distant panoramic views are available.

Summary of evaluation against designation criteria

2.47 The reasons for local landscape area designation and its boundaries continue to reflect the special contribution of the Dundas LLA to the city's local landscape character through its combination of a distinctive natural landform around Dundas Loch, extensive presence of policy woodlands, cultural heritage associated with the

castle and estate, and scenic value associated with the tranquillity experienced within the LLA, and the long-distance outward views.

2.48 The LLA as described incorporates a minor recommended boundary change. Refer to Appendix B for further detail.

Potential pressures upon landscape integrity

2.49 Potential pressures upon the landscape integrity of the Dundas LLA include:

- Diversification of the farmland within and surrounding the LLA could affect outward views and result in changes to the policy woodlands around the edge of the LLA.
- Recreational development including the expansion of the golf course or other recreational pressures could result in loss to the original designed landscape features, affecting scenic value and visual amenity.
- Poor maintenance of or damage to woodland along the M90, for example from storms or fire, would increase the presence of the motorway in views and reduce the sense of tranquillity experienced from the LLA.
- Changes resulting from pests, disease, weather and climate may result in damage to the policy woodlands around the edge of the LLA, altering the original structure and species composition of the woodland.
- Pressure for changes of use, upgrades or restoration, new development and associated lighting could alter the integrity and landscape character of the estate, and its associated visual amenity.

Condition and enhancement potential

2.50 Condition and enhancement potential for the Dundas LLA includes:

- Enhance woodland to ensure its long term retention through control of non-native invasive species (e.g. rhododendron) and replacement planting to promote species diversity and the designed landscape character.
- Monitor woodland cover and succession for tree belts along the estate's north boundary with the M90 to ensure that suitable screening to the motorway is maintained.
- Measures to enhance recreational potential should have regard to the historic designed landscape and be considered through a historic landscape management plan.

- Opportunities to tie in publicly accessible path routes with the wider access network around South Queensferry could be explored to reduce the severance effect of the M90.
- Ongoing, sensitive restoration of historic buildings and features should be considered to maintain their value as focal points in the landscape.

Local Landscape Area 5: Upper Almond

Location and boundaries

2.51 The LLA is located to the far west of Edinburgh and follows the incised valley of the River Almond, extending south from the M8 and covering approximately 29 hectares.

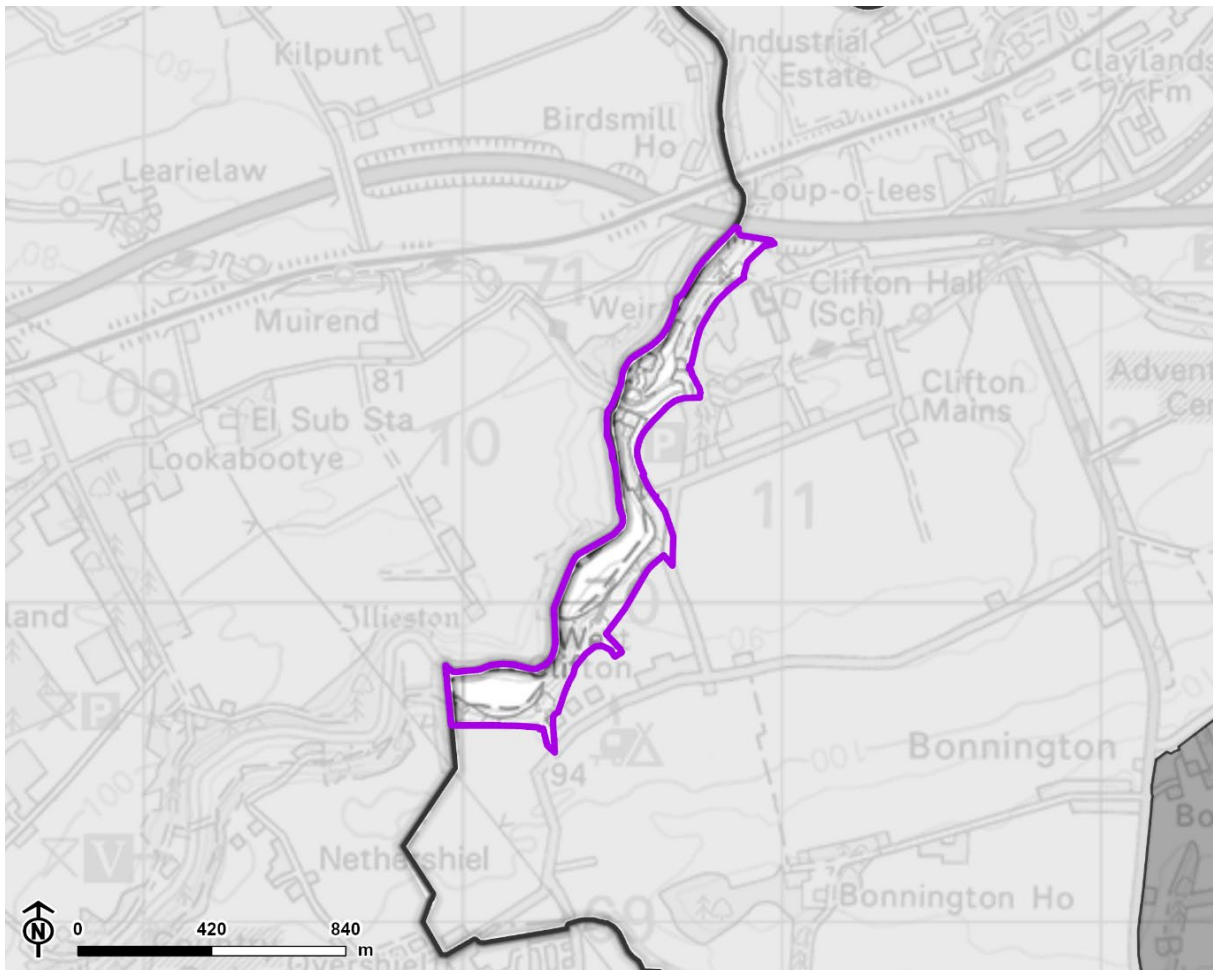
2.52 Almost all of the area is within the Upper Almond Valley LCA (11), while a very small section at the eastern edge is within the Bonnington Farmland LCA (53). The western boundary of the LLA follows the river, which also forms the boundary with West Lothian, and the eastern boundary reflects the valley landform and adjacent woodland and field boundaries.

2.53 The LLA is continuous with the Almond and Linhouse Valleys LLA in West Lothian.




Figure 2.9: View south from Lin's Mill Aqueduct upstream along the River Almond

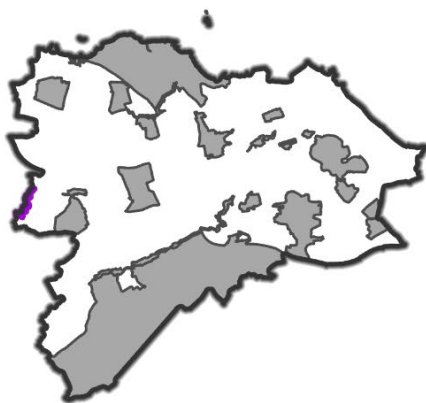


Figure 2.10: Upper Almond LLA



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2025. Ordnance Survey AC0000849421.

-  Upper Almond
-  City of Edinburgh boundary
-  Neighbouring Local Landscape Area



Special landscape qualities

2.54 A deeply incised river valley with side slopes of woodland and pasture, set within an agricultural landscape at the western edge of the Edinburgh area.

2.55 Flowing north-east, within a wide, wooded gorge, the Upper Almond is not prominent in views from the wider landscape. Within the area, views are directed along the river's enclosed valley setting, where steep river banks, fast-flowing water and Ancient Woodland contribute towards a strong sense of naturalness, tranquillity and scenic value.

2.56 The Almond's riverside paths provide an important recreational resource, connecting with the Almondell and Calderwood Country Park to the south-west, in West Lothian. The Upper Almond is crossed by the Union Canal, which has a popular pedestrian and National Cycle Network route along its towpath, offering further links to the surrounding countryside.

2.57 Cultural influences are revealed along the course of the River Almond including the striking Lin's Mill Aqueduct, which carries the Union Canal over the valley, industrial heritage at Lin's Mill (now a private residence) on the valley floor, and the policy woodlands of Clifton Hall, which contribute to the landscape setting.

Summary of evaluation against designation criteria

2.58 The reasons for local landscape area designation and its boundaries continue to reflect the special contribution of the Upper Almond LLA to the city's local landscape character through its distinctive incised landform, natural woodland, historic associations of former mills, and scenic and recreational value.

Potential pressures upon landscape integrity

2.59 Potential pressures upon the landscape integrity of the Upper Almond LLA include:

- More frequent storms or droughts due to climate change may alter the wooded character of the valley, affecting the growing conditions for some species or causing landslips and bankside erosion due to floodwaters.
- Increased water flows may require additional engineered features along watercourses, such as flood defences and weirs, which could detract from the visual character of the valley.

- Climate change may alter species composition and increase the spread of pests and diseases or expansion of non-native invasive species, altering the character of the valley's woodland.
- Greater pressure for recreation along the river valley may increase erosion of paths and reduce the tranquillity of the valley, affecting wildlife.
- Adjacent development and associated lighting may affect landscape character and visual amenity of this undeveloped green and largely natural corridor.
- Lack of ongoing management and planting within woodland may lead to loss of trees or reduction in species diversity.

Condition and enhancement potential

2.60 Condition and enhancement potential for the Upper Almond LLA includes:

- The landscape features are in generally good condition. Ongoing management would benefit long-term continuity and retention of the woodland, prevent spread of non-native invasive species or dominance by sycamore.
- Continuity of the path network along the River Almond could be improved. Currently there is no path leading north from Lin's Mill Aqueduct.
- Maintaining the river valley as an area of darkness without light spillage or lit paths is important for its landscape, recreational and ecological value.
- Additional recreational or associated facilities should respond to the valley's rural character.
- Where engineering is required to manage floodwaters or erosion, nature-based or green engineering solutions should be prioritised. Any hard engineering should tie in with the character of the river corridor's historic built structures.

Local Landscape Area 6: Gogar

Location and boundaries

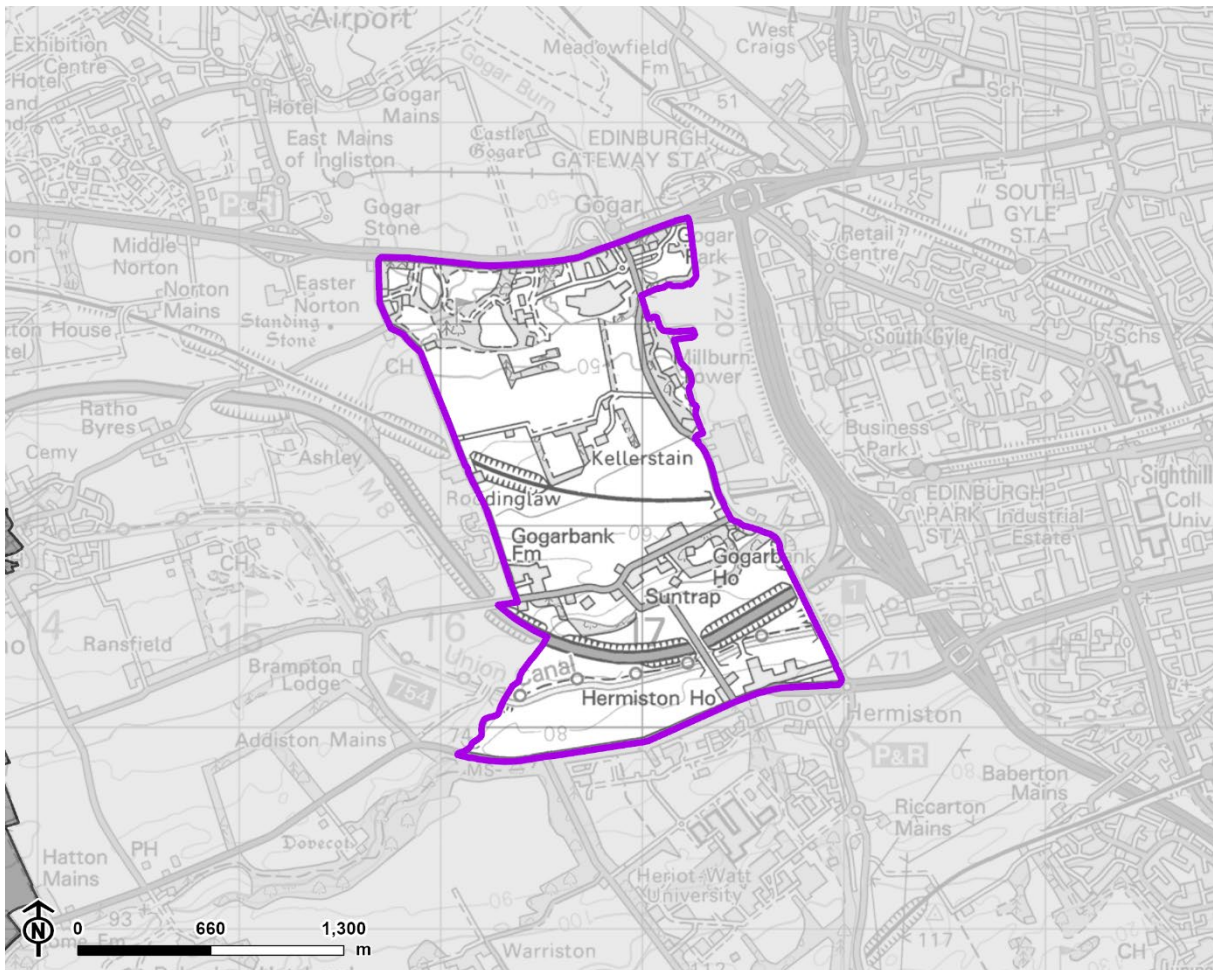
2.61 The Gogar LLA reflects a series of relatively intact designed landscapes and gently undulating 18th-19th century rectilinear fields on the western edge of the city. The boundary encompasses the pockets of designed landscapes and their farmland context. The LLA extends across 326 hectares and is predominantly located within the Gogar Farmland LCA (61).

2.62 The LLA boundary follows the major road corridors of the A8 and A71 to the north and south, respectively. The western edge of the LLA extends north-east from Addistoun, through Jaw Bridge, tracing the minor road at Roddinglaw to Gogar Stone. The eastern edge generally passes along Gogar Station Road, also encompassing dense tree belts surrounding Millburn Tower and Gogar Park to the east of the road.

Figure 2.11: The policy woodland surrounding Gogar Bank House contrasts with areas of gently undulating rectilinear fields, which provide a wider rural context

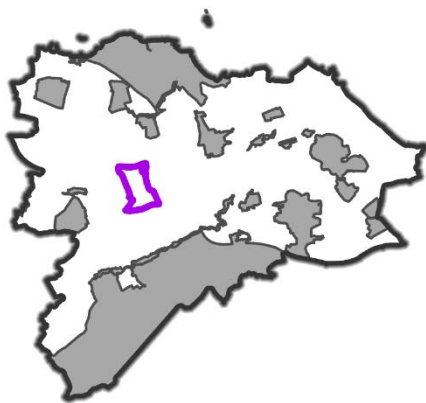


Figure 2.12: Gogar LLA



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2025. Ordnance Survey AC0000849421.

-  Gogar
-  Neighbouring Local Landscape Area



Special landscape qualities

2.63 In the north and east of the LLA, the grounds of Gogar Mount, Hanley, Gogarburn, Gogar Park and Millburn Tower GDL form a wooded backdrop to the west of the city, coalescing to screen views from the major routes of the A8 and City Bypass. This contributes to a sense of separation and contrast between the city, airport and settlements to the west.

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

2.65 The central part of the LLA descends gradually to the north and is defined by a pattern of rectilinear 19th century to present day amalgamated fields, subdivided by shelterbelts, housing and smaller scale formal designed landscapes aligned to the north of the Gogar Burn, including Gogar Bank and Kirklands House.

2.66 North of Hermiston, there are extensive views across the Gogar farmland towards the Firth of Forth, including the Queensferry Crossing and Fife to the north, Pentland Hills to the south and city bounds to the south-east and east.

2.67 The pattern of woodland contributes to screening and filtering of the major transportation routes which pass through the LLA. The M8 is generally concealed from views, running in a wooded cutting between Hermiston Gait and Roddinglaw.

2.68 At lower elevations, woodland also helps screen views of the urban area to the east, contributing to the sense of naturalness in views from minor roads and the Edinburgh-Glasgow railway line, which passes through the landscape to the south of Kellerstain House and its associated policy parkland.

2.69 The area is served by a number of paths including the tree-lined corridor of the Union Canal and towpath, which crosses the open landscape to the north of Hermiston and provides a major facility for walking, cycling and boating. Gogarburn golf course also offers recreational opportunity to experience the landscape.

Summary of evaluation against designation criteria

2.70 The reasons for local landscape area designation and its boundaries continue to reflect the special contribution of the Gogar LLA to the city's local landscape

character through its density and quantity of policy woodlands which contribute to a sense of naturalness and rural setting, historic value of the policy landscapes and recreational value.

2.71 The LLA as described incorporates a recommended boundary change. Refer to Appendix B for further detail.

Potential pressures upon landscape integrity

2.72 Potential pressures upon the landscape integrity of the Gogar LLA include:

- Development of the open farmland within and adjacent to the LLA or increasing recreational pressures as the city expands westwards may alter the area's historic, rural character.
- Loss of policy woodland or the and the historic designed landscapes would alter the distinctive pattern of the landscape and its historic value.
- Development in the south of the LLA may alter the separate identity of Hermiston village, reducing the sense of history within the landscape.
- The effects of climate change, including increased storms, droughts, or spread of pests and disease or invasive species, may alter woodland and tree belts which screen adjacent transport corridors and the urban edge, contributing to the rural character.

Condition and enhancement potential

2.73 Condition and enhancement potential for the Gogar LLA includes:

- Planned development of the area directly east of Millburn Tower (outside of the LLA) presents the opportunity to enhance the pattern of policy woodland and field boundaries in this area.
- In places, field boundaries are reinforced by post and wire fencing that is in a varied condition. Field boundaries, including traditional walls, hedges, and hedgerow or roadside trees, should be maintained and enhanced to reflect the surrounding designed landscape influences and to enhance the landscape structure.
- Potential exists to enhance boundary treatments to existing developments of an industrial character situated to the south and east of the LLA boundary.
- Management of woodland should be promoted to maintain and enhance its condition, species diversity, and habitat value as connected ecological corridors.

Control non-native invasive species and manage sycamore dominance to enhance ground flora.

Local Landscape Area 7: Ratho Hills

Location and boundaries

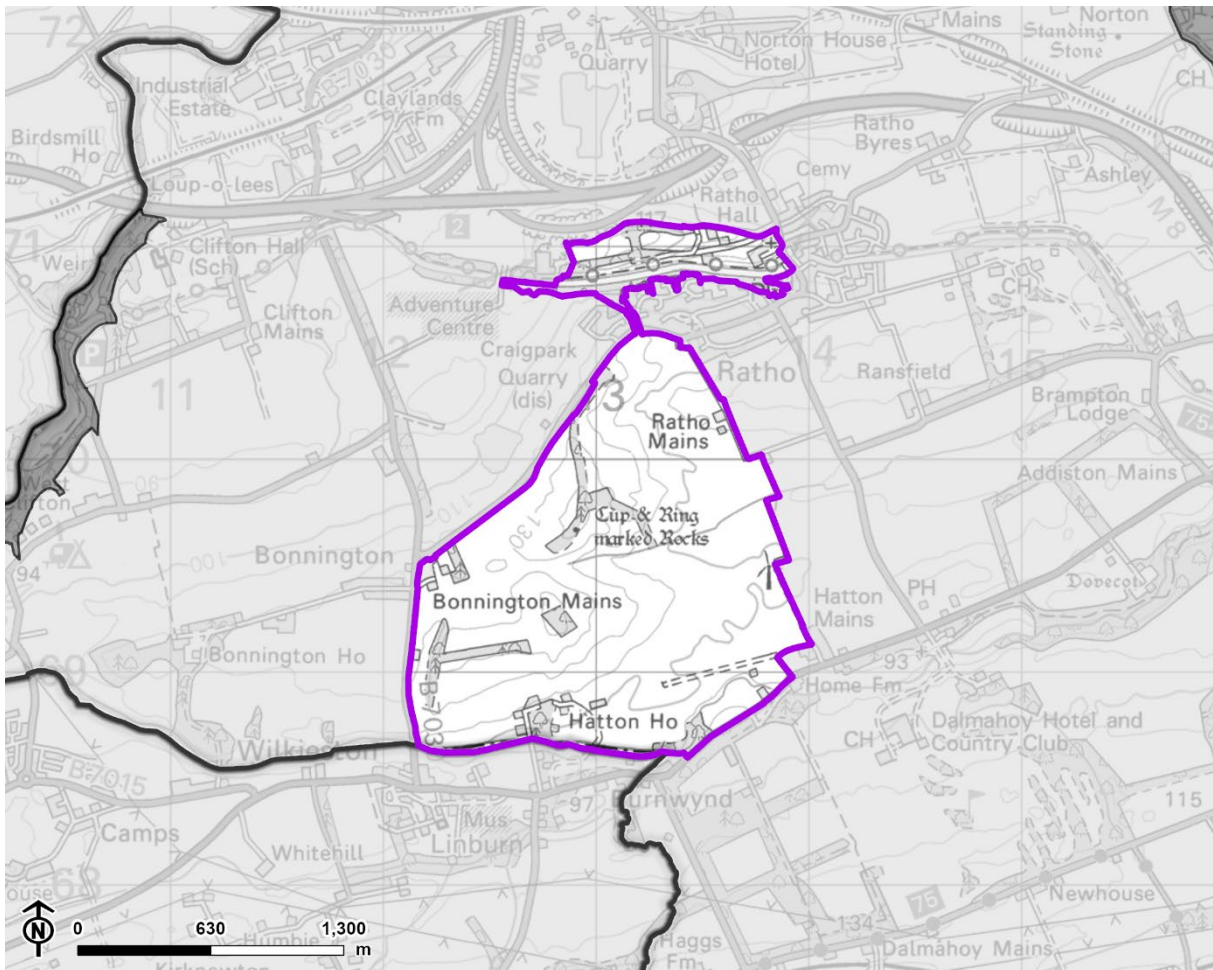
2.74 Located to the west of Edinburgh and tracing the eastern plain of the River Almond, the Ratho Hills form an undulating ridge extending between the M8 and Ratho in the north, and Linburn on A71 to the south. The LLA extends across 279 hectares, predominantly across the Ratho Hills LCA (59) and their farmland setting within the Bonnington Farmland LCA (53) and Ratho Farmland LCA (56). The LLA also includes a short section of the Union Canal within the Craigpark Fragmented Farmland LCA (60).

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

Figure 2.13: View east from cup and ring marked stones on Tormain Hill, Arthur's Seat is visible in the distance across farmland

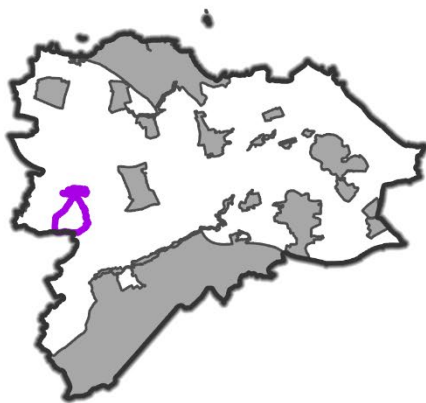


Figure 2.14: Ratho Hills LLA



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2025. Ordnance Survey AC0000849421.

- Ratho Hills
- City of Edinburgh boundary
- Neighbouring Local Landscape Area



Special landscape qualities

2.76 The wooded corridor of the Union Canal, and remnant parkland on the slopes in the north of the area near Ratho Hall and former Craigpark House, provide a wooded backdrop and enclosure to Ratho village (including its Conservation Area). To the south of the village, a ridgeline rises above well-managed farmland.

2.77 An intermittent shelterbelt of trees snakes along the ridgeline and accentuates its shape, providing a distinctive local landmark. The southern slopes of the ridge are laid out with woodland blocks and form part of the setting to the Hatton House GDL.

2.78 Despite the nearby presence of the M8, the Lost Shore Surf Resort and quarrying activity to the west of the area, the combination of landform and land cover is of local scenic value and contributes to Ratho's identity and relatively tranquil setting.

2.79 Ratho is a popular mooring point for boaters on the Union Canal which skirts the northern edge of the village, and the towpath is well used by walkers and cyclists. The Canal towpath connects to local paths serving the Edinburgh International Climbing Area. Informal paths at Tormain Hill offer further opportunity to experience the landscape.

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

Summary of evaluation against designation criteria

2.81 The reasons for local landscape area designation and its boundaries continue to reflect the special contribution of the Ratho Hills LLA to the city's local landscape character through its combination of a distinctive natural landform, cultural heritage associations, scenic quality and recreational value.

2.82 The LLA as described incorporates a minor recommended boundary change. Refer to Appendix B for further detail.

Potential pressures upon landscape integrity

2.83 Potential pressures upon the landscape integrity of the Ratho Hills LLA include:

- To regenerate the former Craigpark Quarry, residential development was introduced to the hillside west of Ratho. Some policy woodland associated with Craigpark House is retained as treed corridors.
- The relatively narrow woodland belt on the ridgeline could be vulnerable to climate change including extreme storms and droughts, and increased prevalence of pests and diseases or non-native invasive species.
- The combination of the canal and marina, climbing centre and surf resort, including visitor accommodation and accessible parkland to its edge, could lead to other opportunities for recreation in the wider landscape.
- Whilst mainly screened by topography, intensification of use at Bonnington Quarry could alter the extensive, elevated views available from the LLA. This includes pressure for any additional lighting at night.
- Changes to agricultural practice in the future, in particular in response to climate change, may alter the balance and composition of arable and grassland in the area, which provides a well-managed context to the hills.

Condition and enhancement potential

2.84 Condition and enhancement potential for the Ratho Hills LLA includes:

- Paths and woodlands appear to be well-managed, with evidence of woodland management on Tormain Hill. Continued maintenance should ensure the distinctive pattern of woodland along the ridgeline is retained.
- Farmland is generally well-managed. Field boundaries of hedges and walls could be enhanced to reflect the parkland landscape influences of the surrounding environment, and to promote habitat links.
- Management of tree cover should ensure that the screening of quarrying operations is retained using appropriate native species.
- Additional tree and hedgerow planting along Wilkieston Road could strengthen the connectivity of woodland across the ridge associated with the former Craigpark policies.
- New recreational facilities should seek to respond to the local landscape context and deliver landscape and biodiversity enhancements.

Local Landscape Area 8: Water of Leith – west

Location and boundaries

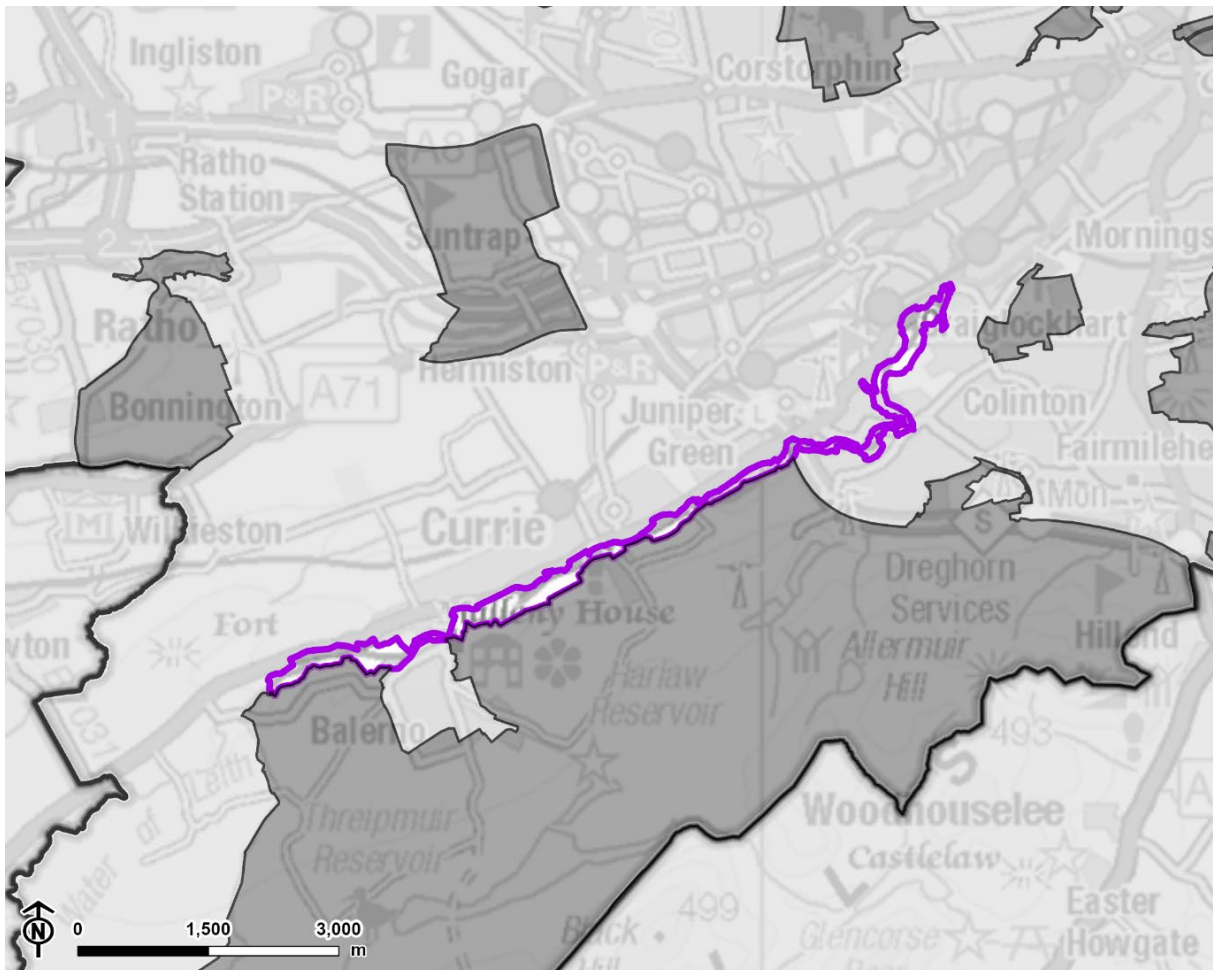
2.85 Located to the south-west of Edinburgh, the LLA follows a section of the incised wooded valley of the Water of Leith. The LLA encompasses an area of 168 hectares across the Water of Leith – Balerno to Juniper Green LCA (12) and Water of Leith – Spylaw to Slateford LCA (13).

2.86 The LLA boundary extends from the Council boundary at Inveroe to the west of Balerno, eastwards through Balerno, Currie, Juniper Green and Colinton. The LLA extends to Lanark Road to the east, beyond which point the valley profile becomes less incised and changes to a broad floodplain. The LLA boundary reflects the valley landform, incorporating the associated open spaces.




Figure 2.15: Views are focused along the narrow, incised, wooded river valley of the Water of Leith, and have a strong sense of naturalness

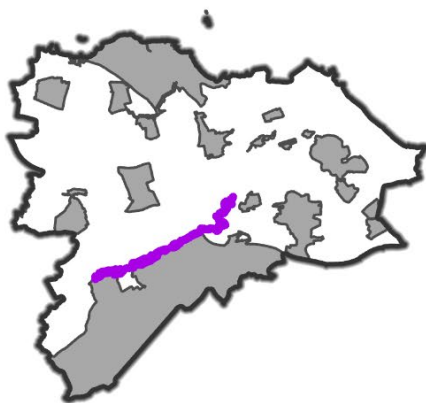


Figure 2.16: Water of Leith – west LLA



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2025. Ordnance Survey AC0000849421.

-  Water of Leith - West
-  City of Edinburgh boundary
-  Neighbouring Local Landscape Area



Special landscape qualities

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

2.88 The river's history as a power source ties it closely to the built heritage along its route, partly reflected in the linear settlement patterns of Balerno, Currie and Juniper Green, and the historic core of Colinton. The Water of Leith forms an important setting to the Conservation Areas of these historic settlements.

2.89 The river's many mills, around which surrounding agricultural settlements expanded during the 19th century, were served by a railway along the steep valley sides. This now forms the route of the Water of Leith Walkway and cycle path, an important access route linking the urban areas to the wider countryside, providing enjoyment for many visitors and residents. Colinton Tunnel forms a local landmark along the route, with its painted mural interior. A number of informal paths contribute further recreational value.

2.90 The built heritage along the river's route adds to its cultural value. The upper valley sides include the remains of Lennox Tower (Scheduled Monument), Listed Lymphoy House, Listed Currie Kirk and historic kirkyard, multiple historic bridges, Listed Redhall House and the Malleny GDL.

2.91 East of the City Bypass, the wider and more sinuous, tree-lined course of the river can be traced through the surrounding built environment. Its wooded corridor coalesces in views with parkland and tree-lined grounds and incorporates open spaces on the valley floor at Spylaw Park and Colinton Dell.

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

Summary of evaluation against designation criteria

2.93 The reasons for local landscape area designation and its boundaries continue to reflect the special contribution of the Water of Leith – West LLA to the city's local landscape character through its combination of a distinctive incised landform, cultural

heritage associations, strong sense of naturalness, scenic quality and recreational value.

Potential pressures upon landscape integrity

2.94 Potential pressures upon the landscape integrity of the Water of Leith – West LLA include:

- More frequent flooding due to climate change will affect the valley and walkway. Pressures to construct engineered flood defences may detract from the scenic quality and sense of naturalness of the valley.
- Increased frequency of drought conditions may influence the species composition of riparian woodland and habitats, changing the sense of naturalness and distinctive enclosed wooded character of the valley.
- More frequent and severe storms due to climate change may lead to tree or woodland loss and landslips. Slope stabilisation may influence the visual character and sense of naturalness of the valley.
- Non-native invasive species within woodland may spread and extend their influence upon the valley.
- Built development extending to the edge of the river corridor or its historic mill sites could detract from the distinctive architectural vernacular, relationship between built features and the natural environment, and the secluded, natural character of the valley.

Condition and enhancement potential

2.95 Condition and enhancement potential for the Water of Leith – West LLA includes:

- To mitigate the effects of storm damage, enhance woodlands through appropriate maintenance and succession planting to ensure the wooded character and naturalness of the valley is retained. Increase native species diversity, remove invasive species, and encourage woodland regeneration where appropriate.
- Management and enhancement of woodland should balance a desire to maintain open views available at key vantage points and the structural integrity of built features within the LLA.

- Highly engineered erosion control and slope stabilisation installations are at odds with the natural character of the valley. Nature-based or green engineering solutions to erosion control should be prioritised where appropriate.
- The Water of Leith Walkway is generally in good condition and well signed, however some erosion is evident. Its high use and steep slope, require ongoing maintenance, with surfacing and seating suited to its rural character.
- Some stone structures or monuments show signs of damage by weathering or from antisocial behaviour and should be carefully conserved.
- Development within or adjacent to the valley has generally been integrated sensitively with its context. Visually prominent development or associated light spillage near the river could adversely affect the integrity of the landscape, detracting from the valley's secluded character.
- Changes to lighting of paths should seek to maintain or enhance the quality of darkness, as this is part of the character of this generally unlit valley.

Local Landscape Area 9: Pentlands

Location and boundaries

2.96 The Pentlands LLA encompasses an extensive 4455 hectares of farmland, woodland and hillsides to the south-west of the city, rising to the prominent ridgeline and summits of the Pentland Hills. The LLA extends across the Cockburn Farmland and Shelterbelts LCA (22), Currie Farmland Slopes LCA (23), North Pentland Slopes LCA (24), West Pentland Fringe LCA (27), Bavelaw Farmland and Shelterbelts LCA (28), Pentland Hills and Ridges LCA (29) and Dreghorn Policies LCA (35).

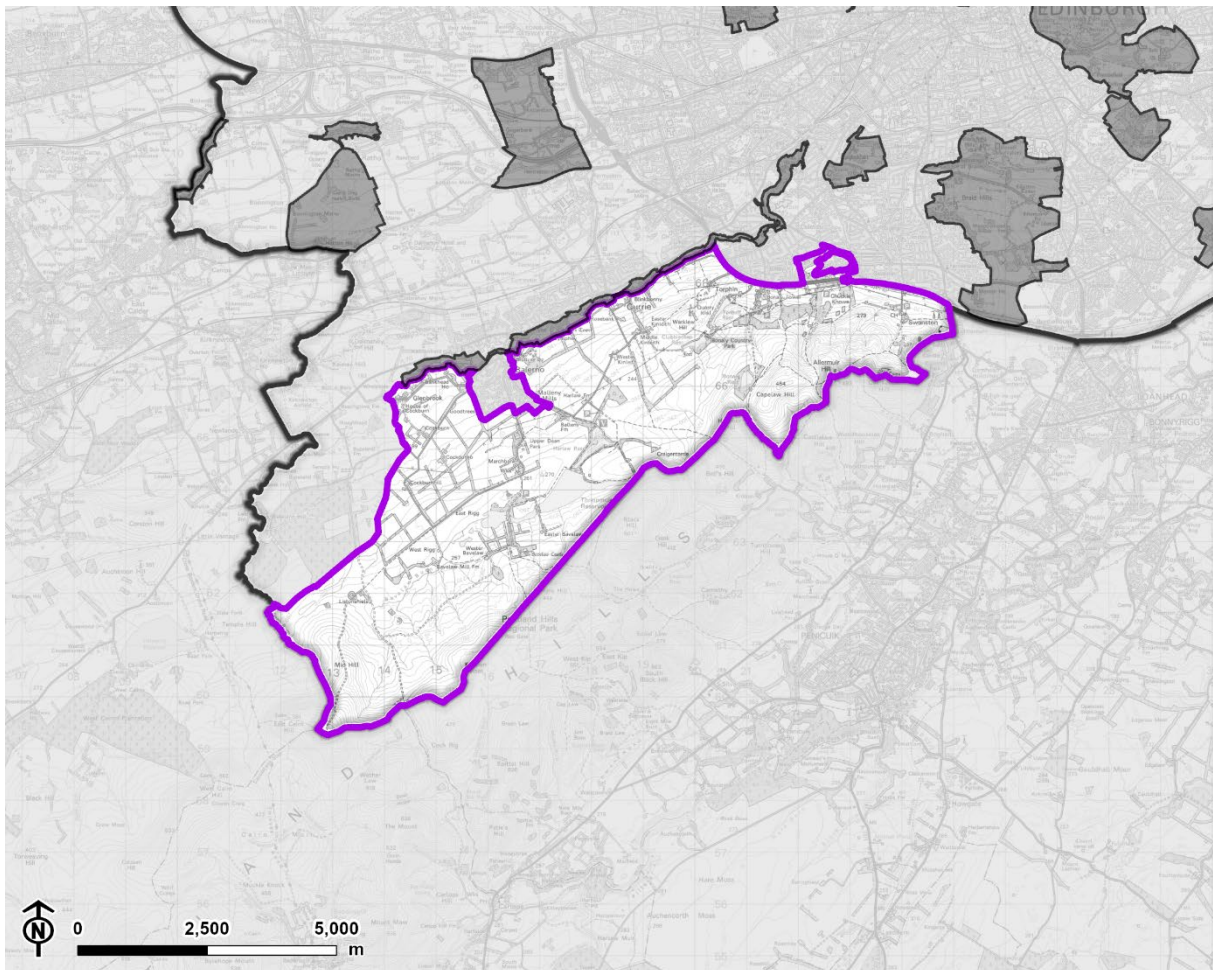
2.97 The boundaries of the Pentlands LLA broadly follow the A720 in the north (although also encompassing the woodland around Dreghorn), and the Water of Leith and Cock Burn in the west (excluding the settlement of Balerno). The south-western boundary follows Dean Burn, and the eastern edge follows the boundary of Edinburgh City Council’s administrative area.

2.98 Local designation of the Pentlands extends across the administrative boundary of Edinburgh, with neighbouring Midlothian, West Lothian and Scottish Borders also designating the hill range as a Local Landscape Area.




Figure 2.17: Snow covered Pentland Hills rising above surrounding lower farmland

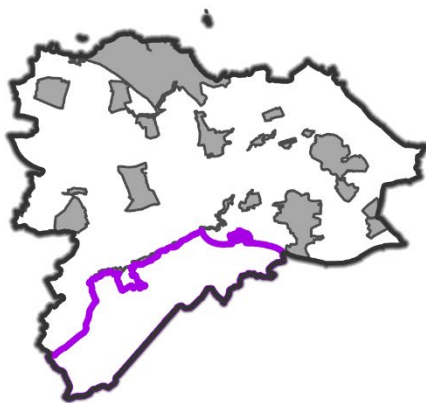


Figure 2.18: Pentlands LLA



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2025. Ordnance Survey AC0000849421.

-  Pentlands
-  City of Edinburgh boundary
-  Neighbouring Local Landscape Area



Special landscape qualities

2.99 The Pentland Hills form a dramatic backdrop to the city of Edinburgh. They are one of the most prominent features of the city skyline and dominate the surrounding landscape. The hills rise from flanking woodland and rolling farmland to merge into the rugged upland summits and ridgelines of the hill range, which can seem higher than they are, particularly under winter snow cover.

2.100 The full hill range is the product of Devonian volcanic rocks and sandstones, extending across some 25km from north-east to south-west outside the LLA, and rising to a height of 579m AOD. The Pentland Hills form two parallel ridge lines (with the western ridge located within Edinburgh), cut by minor burns and separated by an internal valley containing the Loganlea and Glencorse Reservoirs (within Midlothian).

2.101 In the north-east, the narrow band of flanking foothills steepens dramatically to the prominent crags and scree slopes at Caerketton, which command a prominent position above lowland farmland to the south of the city.

2.102 Areas of mixed farmland, improved grassland and unimproved pasture upslope, give way to open hill and heather moorland; marking a transition in land cover and land management.

2.103 At the foot of the main side slopes, gorse and often sparse tree cover line narrow, incised burns passing through cleughs, which drain from the hills. Several of these watercourses feed the reservoirs of Threipmuir, Harlaw, Bonaly, Clubbidean and Torduff, which occupy localised dips in landform to the north of the main ridge.

2.104 Across the lower-lying land in the west of the LLA, the landscape is characterised by a regular layout of 18th-19th century fields, enclosed by stone walls, hedgerows, tree lines and shelterbelt planting. To the east, the landscape is more open in character featuring moorland, hillside golf course, a knolly landform and exposed rock at Torphin Quarry, alongside planting of designed landscape origin. This includes the notable wedge of plantation, parkland and woodland extending into the urban area at Dreghorn and the 'T' Wood at White Hill.

2.105 Cultural influences across the landscape range from literary associations to features such as areas of ridge-and-furrow, prehistoric forts, Swanston Village Conservation Area, Malleny House GDL and remnant policy landscapes of Dreghorn Castle, Bonaly, Harmeny and Cockburnhill.

2.106 The Pentlands LLA provides an identifiable undeveloped skyline, setting and containment to the city and surrounding settlements of Juniper Green, Currie and Balerno.

2.107 The Pentland Hills form a distinctive profile when viewed from the urban hills of Edinburgh, open spaces and peripheral neighbourhoods. This backdrop is key to the setting of the city and the well-managed agricultural landscape and reservoirs on the lower slopes, contributing to the high scenic value of the area.

2.108 Hilltops such as Allermuir Hill (493m AOD) and Caerketton Hill (450m AOD), offer extensive panoramas across Edinburgh, the Firth of Forth, and the Lothians. Views to the south and east extend across the Southern Uplands, Moorfoots, North Esk valley and Lammermuir Hills.

2.109 The higher hills of the Pentlands have a rugged and wild character of rocky outcrops and windswept heather moorland, which contrasts with lower wooded glens and farmland, which have a greater sense of enclosure.

2.110 The hills provide a natural landform barrier to the major road network of the A702 and A70. Whilst the City Bypass reduces tranquillity within the north of the Pentlands, its impact on views is reduced by the complexity of the surrounding scenery and its partial concealment through roadside planting and cuttings.

2.111 Recreation and enjoyment are a significant element of the landscape, which provides for a range of outdoor activities including fishing, skiing, mountain biking, walking, running, horse riding, and grouse shooting. Military training near Dreghorn may place restrictions on access during exercises. The upland hills within the LLA form part of the Pentland Hills Regional Park, which includes Bonaly Country Park to the north-west and Hillend Country Park to the north-east in Midlothian.

2.112 A network of roads and paths provide valued access routes into the area and hills beyond from the Water of Leith and city limits. The main access points include Bonaly, Dreghorn and Harlaw Reservoir within Edinburgh.

Summary of evaluation against designation criteria

2.113 The reasons for local landscape area designation and its boundaries continue to reflect the important contribution of the Pentlands LLA to the city's local landscape character, recognising that they form a highly prominent and unique landform which forms a distinctive backdrop visible throughout the city, and contributes to highly valued scenic views, cultural importance and recreational opportunities.

2.114 The LLA as described incorporates a minor recommended boundary change. Refer to Appendix B for further detail.

Potential pressures upon landscape integrity

2.115 Potential pressures upon the landscape integrity of the Pentlands LLA include:

- Increased recreational pressure is likely to continue to contribute towards degradation of habitats, particularly in high-traffic areas where desire lines develop and parking pressures exist. Changes in how the hills are managed for recreational purposes may affect the character of the area and impact the views experienced from across the landscape.
- Changes in land management and farming, particularly moorland management, grazing, grouse moors and afforestation may alter the character of the hills and the scenic views available from within them.
- The hills and their surrounding uplands may be under pressure from masts, wind turbines, overhead lines, or further MOD activities, adding intrusive features to their perceived wild and tranquil character and altering the skyline and panoramic views from within the hills.
- Lighting on roads or developments seen from the hills, or within the hills, may further affect the dark skies of the Pentland Hills, detracting from the sense of wildness experienced from within hills.
- Increased temperatures, wetter winters and drier summers due to climate change may increase pressure on flora and fauna from erosion, drought and larger scale wildfires, affecting biodiversity, landscape character and views.

Condition and enhancement potential

2.116 Condition and enhancement potential for the Pentlands LLA includes:

- The presence of pylons in the north and west of the hills tends to be diminished by the scale and backcloth of the upland landscape. Any further transmission infrastructure should be sensitively routed or consider rationalisation or undergrounding to avoid affecting important views to and from the Pentland Hills.
- Positive management and maintenance of the structure of woodland belts, hedgerows and dry stone walls will improve and enhance the structure of the transitional landscape on the lower slopes of the Pentland Hills.
- Seek opportunities for natural woodland regeneration, including expanding and managing regeneration at Dreghorn and Swanston, to provide diversity and structure to the landscape and enhance ecological connectivity. This should

include reducing sycamore dominance, promoting mixed native woodland, managing out non-native invasive species and sitka spruce.

- Recreational pressure, particularly in high-traffic areas, is causing habitat erosion and soil compaction, reducing the sense of naturalness. Opportunities should be sought to improve visitor management activities and restore degraded areas of habitat. This includes facilitating better path links to and from the city to reduce pressure for parking and sensitive rural design of any car parking provided.

Local Landscape Area 10: Corstorphine Hill

Location and boundaries

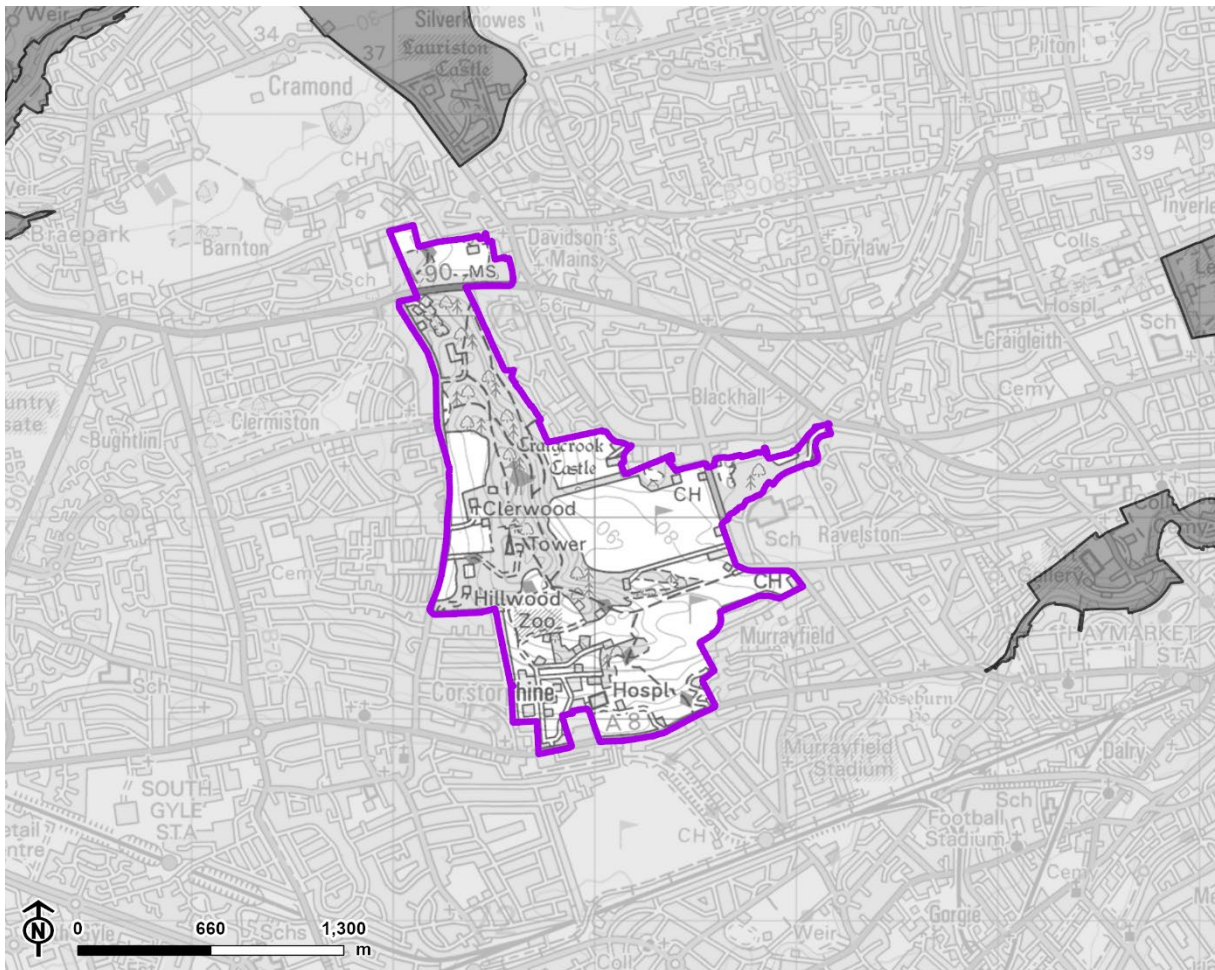
2.117 Located in north-west Edinburgh, Corstorphine Hill is bounded by Corstorphine Road (A8) to the south, Queensferry Road (A90) to the north, Clermiston Road to the west and the residential neighbourhoods of Murrayfield, Ravelston and Blackhall to the east.

2.118 The LLA occupies 229 hectares within the Corstorphine Hill LCA (45), which includes the footprint of the hill’s landform, patterns of long-established semi-natural woodland, former parkland and pasture. This incorporates Edinburgh Zoo, and the open spaces of Ravelston Golf Course, Ravelston Woods and Davidson’s Mains.

Figure 2.19: Long-distance views of the Firth of Forth glimpsed between woodland, overlooking Ravelston Golf Course

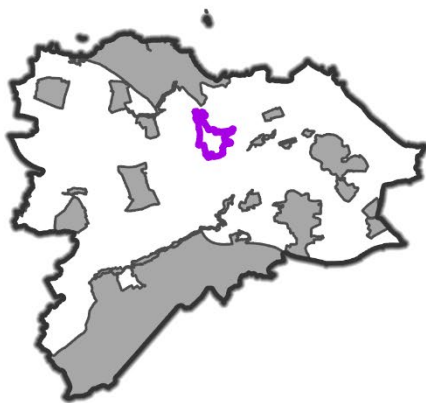


Figure 2.20: Corstorphine Hill LLA



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2025. Ordnance Survey AC0000849421.

-  Corstorphine Hill
-  Neighbouring Local Landscape Area



Special landscape qualities

2.119 Corstorphine Hill is conspicuous amongst Edinburgh's urban hills, comprising a distinctive and scenically attractive, low, elongated north-south ridge and having a unique wooded character, which contrasts with surrounding built development and the exposed character of many other urban hills.

2.120 A strong sense of naturalness and tranquillity can be experienced from within the woodland which form a semi-natural park and Local Nature Reserve within the city, with outward views to the built-up area only experienced from its edges, open grassed slopes to the west and Edinburgh Zoo. Its walled garden, maintained by volunteers adds to its recreational appeal.

2.121 Trees and woodland within Davidson's Mains, Ravelston Golf Course, Ravelston Woods and Edinburgh Zoo contribute to the continuity of tree cover, whilst grassland on the gentler slopes to the east also form an important part of the setting to the hill.

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

2.123 Whilst generally enclosed in character, a series of woodland clearings offer elevated views towards Ben Lomond in the west, and the Forth Estuary and Fife to the north. To the east, central Edinburgh, the Lammermuir Hills and flatter terrain of East Lothian are visible. To the south, the view focuses on the Pentland Hills. Scheduled openings of the 19th century Corstorphine Hill Tower, a memorial to Sir Walter Scott, enable wide views in all directions to the surrounding landscape from high above the tree canopy.

2.124 Numerous 17th-19th century policy landscapes with villas on Corstorphine Hill continue to contribute to its landscape character, including Listed Corstorphinehill House which became Edinburgh Zoo, the former Clerwood House, Listed Hillwood, Listed Craigmillar Castle and Listed Beechwood and Beechmount. Corstorphine Hill Tower and Barnton Bunker (an underground Cold War facility set in the disused Banton Quarry) contribute to the sense of history.

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

Summary of evaluation against designation criteria

2.126 The reasons for local landscape area designation and its boundaries continue to reflect the special contribution of the Corstorphine Hill LLA to the city's local landscape character through its combination of a distinctive wooded landform which can be appreciated from across Edinburgh, sense of naturalness experienced from within the woodland, and scenic and recreational value.

Potential pressures upon landscape integrity

2.127 Potential pressures upon the landscape integrity of the Corstorphine Hill LLA include:

- Urban development on lower hill slopes, including particularly dense or tall buildings, may impede on the distinctive character and wooded skyline of the hill as seen from across the city and outward views to the Pentland Hills, central Edinburgh and the Firth of Forth, affecting scenic value.
- Increased recreational demand, including potential expansion of Edinburgh Zoo or the golf courses, could result in the loss of woodland areas to accommodate buildings or infrastructure, increasing the urban influence on the landscape and reducing the sense of naturalness.
- Long term woodland change associated with pest, disease, weather threats, expansion of non-native invasive species, and climate trends could affect woodland cover, and impact the sense of naturalness and tranquillity experienced from within the woodland.
- Proposals for additional telecommunications masts, and associated lighting, may further impact the appearance of the ridgeline as seen from other areas across Edinburgh.

Condition and enhancement potential

2.128 Condition and enhancement potential for the Corstorphine Hill LLA includes:

- Landscape management for recreation and wildlife benefit should seek to promote a diverse age and species structure of woodland cover, whilst retaining important view corridors and the balance of open parkland and scrub vegetation. Dominance of sycamore should be managed to encourage a more diverse ground flora, and dead wood retained as habitat where appropriate.

- There is evidence of erosion on treed banks near paths. Maintenance should seek to secure the path structure and prevent damage to tree roots, enhancing recreational value.
- Communications infrastructure should seek to make use of or upgrade the existing mast tower to minimise the impact of further vertical structures and lighting on the hill's distinctive skyline.
- Refurbishment of the Barnton Bunker has brought about some landscape improvements, including a community garden and tree planting. The Council's Depot to the north is now leased. Further enhancement of boundaries and any degraded land should continue to be encouraged.

Local Landscape Area 11: Craiglockhart

Location and boundaries

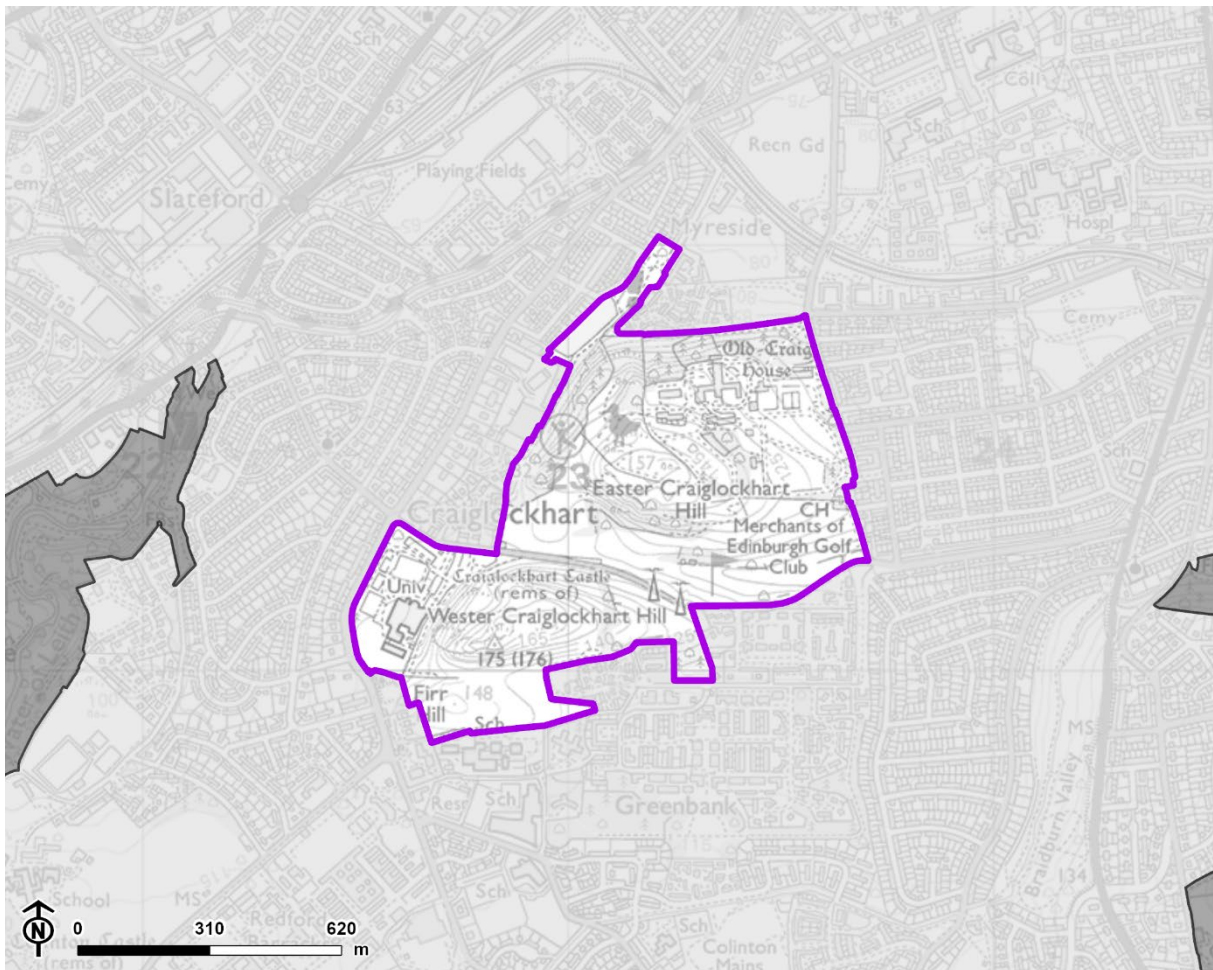
2.129 Located in south-west Edinburgh, Easter and Wester Craiglockhart Hills form a watershed between the Water of Leith and Braidburn valleys. Glenlockhart Road follows the glacial valley of Glenlockhart, which runs from east-west between the two hills. The LLA is located in the Craiglockhart Hills LCA (46) and covers an area of approximately 71 hectares.

2.130 The LLA boundary reflects the footprint of the hills' landform and the grounds of former manor houses and health institutions. The two hills are surrounded by the residential neighbourhoods of Craiglockhart, Colinton, Slateford, Oxgangs, Greenbank and Morningside.

Figure 2.21: Open panoramic views available from Easter Craiglockhart looking towards Wester Craiglockhart and the Pentland Hills

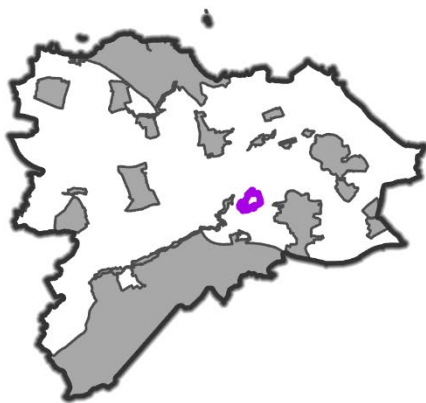


Figure 2.22: Craiglockhart LLA



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2025. Ordnance Survey AC0000849421.

-  Craiglockhart
-  Neighbouring Local Landscape Area



Special landscape qualities

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

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

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

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

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

2.136 The hills have strong cultural connections, exemplified by the Iron Age hill fort (a Scheduled Monument) on the summit of Wester Craiglockhart, the remains of the 15th century Craiglockhart Castle and 19th century Italianate Hydropathic Institute, and on Easter Craiglockhart, the 16th century Old Craighouse and Royal Edinburgh Asylum. The LLA is located within the Craiglockhart Hills Conservation Area.

Summary of evaluation against designation criteria

2.137 The reasons for local landscape area designation and its boundaries continue to reflect the special contribution of the Craiglockhart LLA to the city's local landscape character through its combination of locally-distinctive natural landform with rocky outcrops, legibility of surviving historic features within the landscape, sense of naturalness contrasting with the surrounding urban context, scenic quality of views and high recreational value.

2.138 The LLA as described incorporates two minor recommended boundary changes. Refer to Appendix B for further detail.

Potential pressures upon landscape integrity

2.139 Potential pressures upon the landscape integrity of the Craiglockhart LLA include:

- Further pressure for development, and associated lighting, may detract from the profiles of the hills, or affect the appreciation of their volcanic geology and historic features within the LLA.
- An increased risk in wildfire, as a result of drought and higher temperatures associated with climate change, may result in changes to the rugged landcover (particularly areas of grassland, gorse and scrub) of the hills.
- Changes in management regimes of unimproved grassland on Wester Craiglockhart may influence the landscape pattern, alter the perception of ruggedness and exposure, and affect the legibility of the prehistoric hill fort.
- Increases in severe storms and pests and diseases due to climate change, may alter the structure, density and species composition of woodland which extends across hill sides and along Glenlockhart. An increasing dominance by sycamore, which seeds profusely, would reduce landscape and habitat diversity.
- Intensification in recreational use of the hills, or conflicts between different recreational uses, may result in reinforcement of fencing or recreational infrastructure, altering the sense of naturalness and the scenic quality of views available from the hills.

Condition and enhancement potential

2.140 Condition and enhancement potential for the Craiglockhart LLA includes:

- Paths are generally in good condition. Low-profile or natural boundary features should be encouraged to guide recreational use on the hills, reduce erosion and avoid the visual intrusion of fencing in the landscape. Some signage and furniture show signs of weathering or damage, which influences the scenic quality of views experienced from the hills. Regular maintenance should be undertaken to repair or restore signage, which should be discreet and rural in character.
- Redevelopment at Craighouse is ongoing. Once mature, tree planting associated with the development will contribute to the wooded character of Easter Craiglockhart.

- Expansion of the Edinburgh Napier University buildings in the south-west of the LLA has intensified the presence of modern buildings. Expansion and connectivity of woodland habitat could soften the built edge in this part of the LLA.
- Woodland should be monitored and appropriate management ensured to promote its landscape and habitat value, including potential removal of non-native trees (unless specimens in an ornamental context), and other invasive and non-native species. Dead wood should be retained to provide habitat.

Local Landscape Area 12: Water of Leith – New Town

Location and boundaries

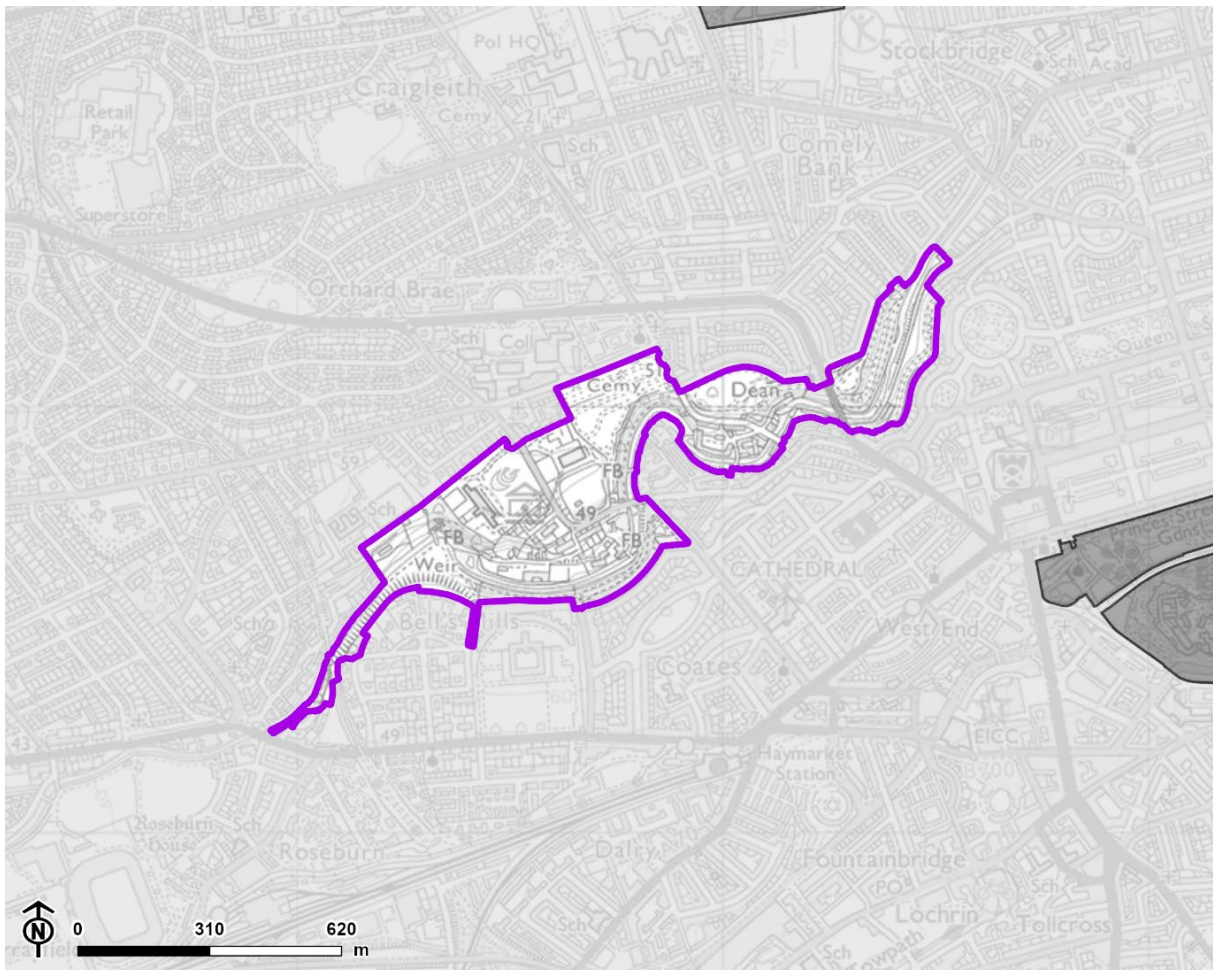
2.141 This section of the Water of Leith is located to the north-west of the city centre. The LLA is located within the Water of Leith – New Town LCA (15) and covers an area of approximately 38 hectares.

2.142 The boundary follows the deeply incised river valley, its wooded side slopes and associated open spaces between Roseburn and St Bernard’s Bridge at Dean Terrace in Stockbridge.



Figure 2.23: A weir within the Water of Leith reflects the area's industrial heritage, contrasting with the densely wooded banks of the river

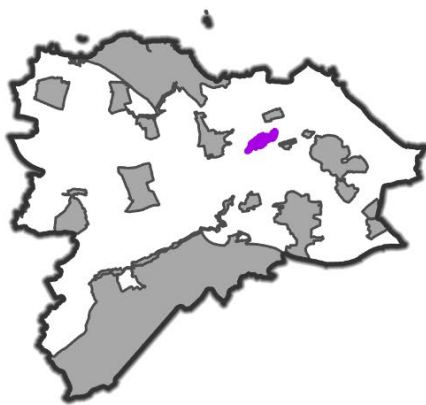


Figure 2.24: Water of Leith – New Town LLA



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2025. Ordnance Survey AC0000849421.

-  Water of Leith, New Town
-  Neighbouring Local Landscape Area



Special landscape qualities

2.143 Providing a dramatic natural contrast with the built elegance of Edinburgh New Town, the Water of Leith cuts deeply through the urban landscape. It forms an integral element of the 18th and 19th century New Town and its gardens and designed landscapes which line the valley. The river's industrial past of paper and flour milling, alongside the neo-classical New Town add to its cultural appeal. The landscape also forms part of the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh UNESCO World Heritage Site, New Town Gardens GDL, and New Town, Dean and Coltbridge and Wester Coates Conservation Areas.

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

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

2.146 To the west of the towering Dean Bridge, the valley narrows to pass through the former milling settlement of Dean Village and below the Dean Cemetery to the north. The river corridor widens again to the west at 'The Haugh' and 'Cauldron', an area of floodplain with a broad weir serving a former mill. To the north, the wooded slopes extend into the grounds of the National Galleries of Scotland's modern art galleries, a valued parkland setting with outdoor sculpture.

2.147 The Water of Leith Walkway and associated open spaces surrounding the valley are an important resource for walking, cycling and informal recreation. The route connects the city with open countryside to the south-west and the port of Leith to the north-east, connecting neighbourhoods and destinations such as the galleries.

Summary of evaluation against designation criteria

2.148 The reasons for local landscape area designation and its boundaries continue to reflect the special contribution of the Water of Leith – New Town LLA to the city's local landscape character through its combination of the distinctive incised valley landform, dramatic contrast between the natural character of the Water of Leith and

surrounding historic New Town context, its contribution to the sense of place experienced within the New Town more widely, and its scenic and recreational value.

Potential pressures upon landscape integrity

2.149 Potential pressures upon the landscape integrity of the Water of Leith – New Town LLA include:

- Development, including associated lighting, extending to the edge of the river corridor or its historic mill sites could detract from the distinctive architectural vernacular, relationship between built features and the natural environment, and the secluded and natural character of the valley.
- Pressure to improve or expand recreational infrastructure along the Water of Leith Walkway to accommodate an increase in tourism may affect the scenic quality of views and sense of naturalness within the LLA.
- More frequent flooding, as a result of climate change, will affect sections of the valley, including parts of the Water of Leith Walkway. Pressures to construct engineered flood defences may detract from the scenic quality and sense of naturalness of the valley.
- An increase in the frequency and severity of storm events coupled with periods of drought, as a result of climate change, may lead to tree or woodland loss and more frequent landslips. Pressures for engineered solutions to stabilise slopes may influence the visual character and sense of naturalness of the valley.

Condition and enhancement potential

2.150 Condition and enhancement potential for the Water of Leith – New Town LLA includes:

- The landscape is generally well managed, although an increase in severe storms has damaged some woodland and caused land slips. Management of woodland and steep slopes should limit access to sensitive habitats to prevent further erosion. Nature-based solutions should be encouraged to stabilise slopes.
- Management and enhancement of woodland should be considered, balancing a desire to maintain open views available at key vantage points and the structural integrity of built features within the LLA, with an objective to increase native species diversity, remove invasive species, and to encourage woodland regeneration, where appropriate.

- Storm events cause damage to walkways and bridges. Repairs to these features should seek to maintain the distinct architectural vernacular and the rural qualities within the LLA and adjoining parts of the New Town. Nature-based or green engineering solutions for repair and flood management should be encouraged.
- Weathering and footfall along the Water of Leith Walkway, particularly near Dean Village, has resulted in path erosion with graffiti also present on furniture and signage. Changes to recreational infrastructure should be sensitively designed with consideration of the valley's context.
- Changes to lighting should seek to maintain or enhance the quality of darkness, as this is part of the character of this generally unlit valley.
- Maintaining the landscape character and qualities of the valley relies on the combined management of multiple owners and stakeholders with an interest in the river corridor and its wider environs. The continued coordination of management activity is essential.

Local Landscape Area 13: Inverleith

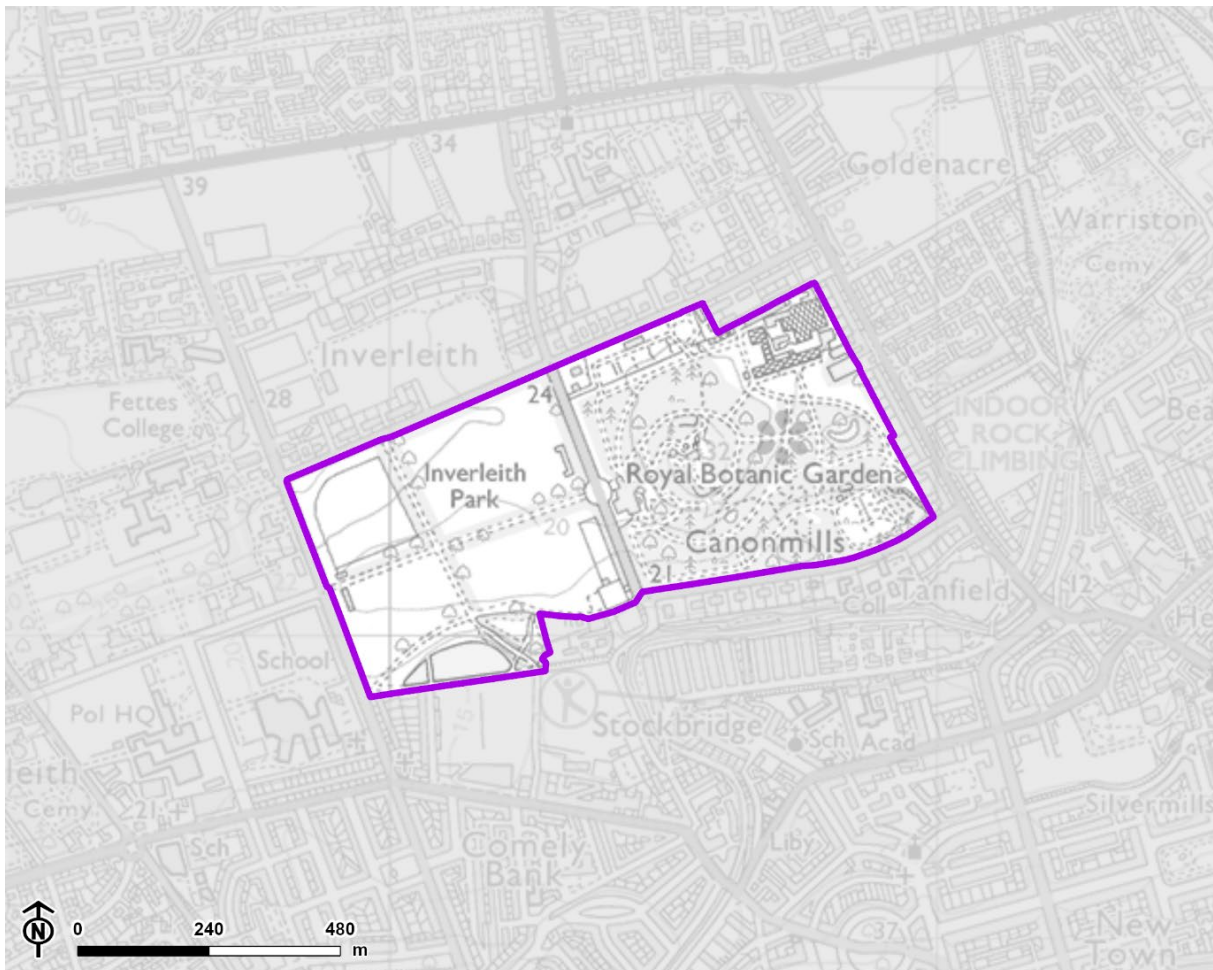
Location and boundaries

2.151 Located to the north of the city centre, the LLA encompasses and follows the boundaries of Inverleith Park (LCA 3) and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (LCA 9), extending to 49 hectares.

Figure 2.25: Paths meander through the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh's grass lawns, punctuated by specimen trees and herbaceous borders

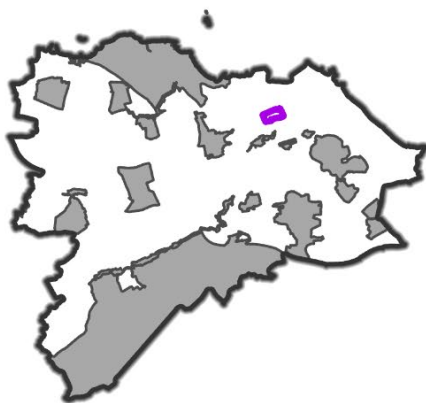


Figure 2.26: Inverleith LLA



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2025. Ordnance Survey AC0000849421.

-  Inverleith
-  Neighbouring Local Landscape Area



Special landscape qualities

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

2.153 The LLA forms part of an extensive, green, wooded swathe contrasting with surrounding built development, which stretches from the Water of Leith and Warriston Cemetery in the east to the grounds of Fettes College in the west.

2.154 The diverse plant collections and complex layout of the Royal Botanic Garden (a GDL), with its mature specimen trees, structured herbaceous borders, hedges and lawns, contrasting with more naturally planted areas, are unique and highly scenic.

2.155 Views south from Inverleith Park and the lawn in front of Inverleith House reveal the dramatic skyline of the Edinburgh's Old and New Towns, Arthur's Seat and Salisbury Crags.

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

2.157 The landscapes are culturally significant as longstanding green spaces within the city. The Royal Botanic Garden pre-dates Inverleith Park, re-locating to Inverleith in 1820 and expanding to the existing designed landscape of Inverleith House. Its architectural features, arboretum, plant collections and archive are of international significance. Inverleith Park was formally opened as a public park in 1891. The LLA is located within the Inverleith Conservation Area.

Summary of evaluation against designation criteria

2.158 The reasons for local landscape area designation and its boundaries continue to reflect the special contribution of the Inverleith LLA to the city's local landscape character. This includes the sense of place and rarity of the Botanic Garden and its connectivity with the wooded avenues of Inverleith Park, which contribute to a distinct identity, scenic quality and sense of history. The LLA continues to provide a highly valued recreational and cultural resource.

Potential pressures upon landscape integrity

2.159 Potential pressures upon the landscape integrity of the Inverleith LLA include:

- The Edinburgh Biomes project will see the 19th century Palm Houses and mid-20th century glasshouses restored, replanted and visitor routes replanned. Construction currently influences the area but will ensure the longevity of these distinctive buildings within the gardens.
- The Edinburgh Biomes project also introduces new maintenance and propagation facilities. An increase in infrastructure or further introduction of new buildings, if not sensitively designed, may adversely affect the layout and historic character within the LLA.
- Masterplanning of Inverleith Park is underway to respond to community aspirations to enhance its value for recreation, active travel, wildlife and role in managing surface water, set within the structure of its formal layout.
- Increases in the severity of storms due to climate change, as well as an increase in pests and diseases may damage the structure, density and species variety of tree cover, adversely affecting the continuity of the green swathe formed by the Botanic Garden and Inverleith Park.
- Increased visitor or recreational pressure may result in expansion or introduction of additional visitor facilities or infrastructure, changing the landscape pattern, visual character, and legibility of historic features within the LLA.

Condition and enhancement potential

2.160 Condition and enhancement potential for the Inverleith LLA includes:

- The Royal Botanic Garden is highly maintained and in excellent condition. Some specimen trees have been lost due to storm events or life cycles, resulting in a localised change to the landscape pattern in parts of the gardens.
- Management of trees and woodland should seek opportunities for succession to ensure longevity of the distinctive wooded green swathe across the Botanic Garden and Inverleith Park due to its value to the city's landscape structure and scenery.
- Some buildings, signage and park furniture within Inverleith Park show signs of damage from weathering or graffiti. Regular upkeep of these features should ensure the recreational value and scenic qualities of the park are not affected.

Local Landscape Area 14: Castle Rock

Location and boundaries

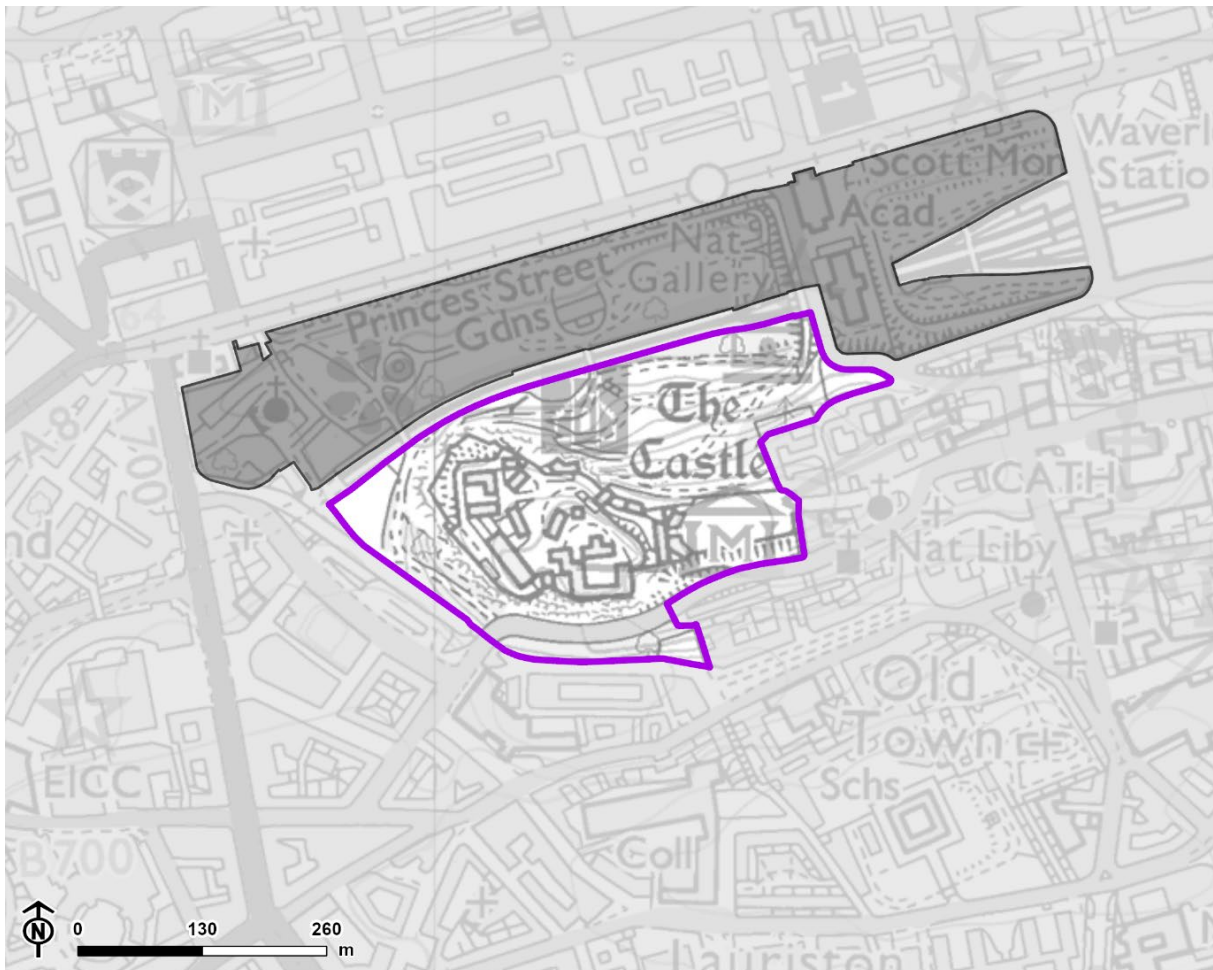
2.161 The Castle Rock LLA encompasses the flanking steep slopes and hill summit upon which Edinburgh Castle stands. The LLA is located within the Castle Rock LCA (44) and covers an area of approximately 12 hectares.

2.162 The western, southern and eastern boundaries pass along the urban edge of the Old Town. The northern boundary passes along the railway line which separates the Old and New Towns.

Figure 2.27: The volcanic landform and buildings at Edinburgh Castle form a distinctive skyline

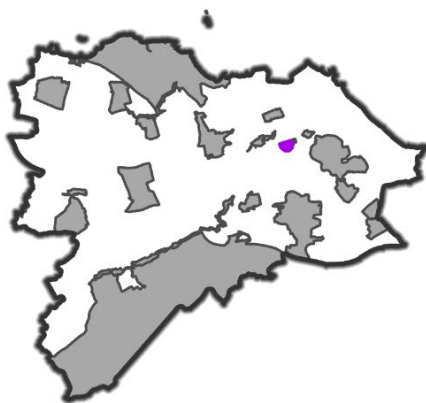


Figure 2.28: Castle Rock LLA



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2025. Ordnance Survey AC0000849421.

-  Castle Rock
-  Neighbouring Local Landscape Area



Special landscape qualities

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

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

2.165 Its western rock ledges are characterised by their sparse vegetation cover, with trees and scrub restricted to the deeper soils at the base of the Castle Rock. As landform tapers to the east, towards the 'tail' feature of the Old Town Ridge, a grassed bank clothes the slope above Johnston Terrace. Informal parkland descends the Castle Bank to the north, adjoining the formal layout of West Princes Street Gardens (within the Princes Street Gardens LLA).

2.166 The Castle Rock is part of an intervening valley landscape which provides a foil to the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh. Its rugged topography has natural qualities which complement the contrasting patterns of the built form.

2.167 As a vantage point, Castle Rock offers extensive panoramic views across the city's rooftops and terrain of hills and valleys. More distant views are available to the Firth of Forth and Fife to the north and backdrop of the Pentland Hills to the south.

2.168 The Castle (a Scheduled Monument) has huge significance as witness to many defining moments in Scotland's history and is set within the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site, the New Town Gardens GDL and the Old Town Conservation Area.

2.169 The Castle is a major visitor attraction, and venue for events, including the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, numerous concerts and stage setting for the Hogmanay fireworks.

Summary of evaluation against designation criteria

2.170 The reasons for local landscape area designation and its boundaries continue to reflect the special contribution of the Castle Rock LLA to the city's local landscape character given its status as the most iconic landmark within the city, distinguished by

its geology, historical significance and contribution to the urban landscape. The LLA is important for its scenic, recreational and cultural value.

Potential pressures upon landscape integrity

2.171 Potential pressures upon the landscape integrity of the Castle Rock LLA include:

- Development in close proximity to the Castle may affect key outward views. Tall buildings within the surrounding urban context may affect the distinctive profile and prominence of Castle Rock, degrading its visual significance as a city centre landmark.
- More frequent and intense rainfall and contrasting periods of warm dry spells, as a result of climate change, may exacerbate erosion of exposed rock. This may increase the need for stabilisation of slopes which may adversely affect the natural qualities of the LLA's rugged topography and its drama and high scenic value.
- An increase in the number of tourists visiting the castle or cultural events hosted at the esplanade may increase pressure for additional infrastructure, altering the legibility of historic features within the LLA and its scenic qualities by introducing additional modern elements.

Condition and enhancement potential

2.172 Condition and enhancement potential for the Castle Rock LLA includes:

- The central part of the LLA around Edinburgh Castle is well maintained but with some signs of pressure from tourism. Expansion or enhancement of infrastructure to accommodate increased numbers of visitors should be sensitively designed to manage access and avoid degradation of the historic character of the LLA.
- The rocky crags, particularly to the north-west and west of the castle, and slopes to the north on the Castle Bank are subject to erosion, requiring installation of rock traps and netting, which detracts from their natural form and affects public access. Any further required engineering works should be designed with consideration of the scenic qualities of the LLA, favouring nature based or green engineering solutions which are less visible.
- The path network on the Castle Bank requires ongoing maintenance. The steep slopes mean that improvements are unlikely to offer accessible routes for all

and continue to require sections of steps. The visibility of the banking as a backdrop from Princes Street is an important consideration for how this area is managed and laid out.

Local Landscape Area 15: Princes Street Gardens

Location and boundaries

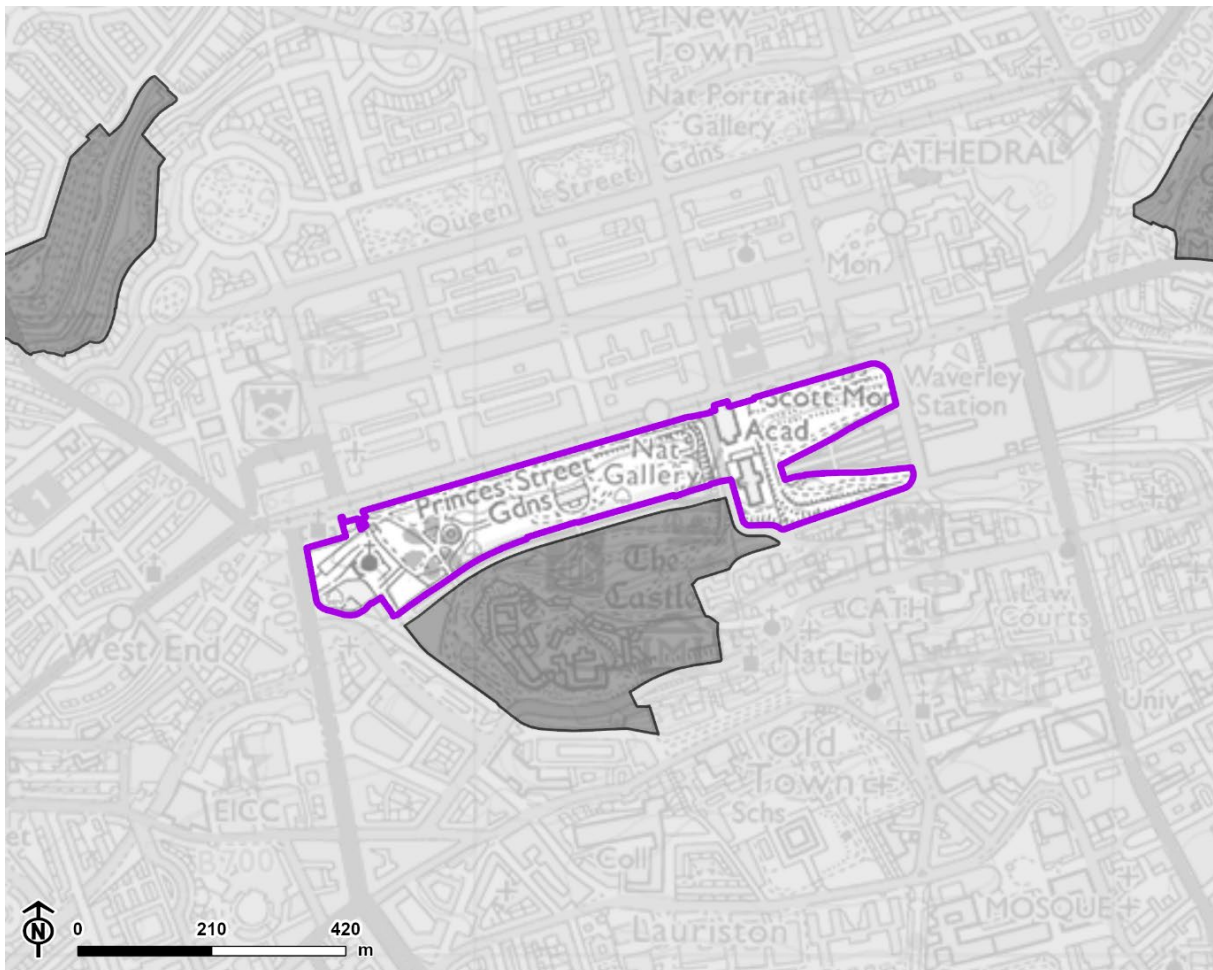
2.173 Princes Street Gardens are located in central Edinburgh within the glacial valley between Edinburgh’s Old Town and New Town. The LLA is located in the Princes Street Gardens LCA (6) and covers an area of approximately 13 hectares.

2.174 The LLA boundary follows the extent of East and West Princes Street Gardens, and the grounds of St Cuthbert’s and St John’s Churches to the west.



Figure 2.29: Grassy slopes with specimen trees descent to the valley, with the iconic Edinburgh Castle enclosing the skyline

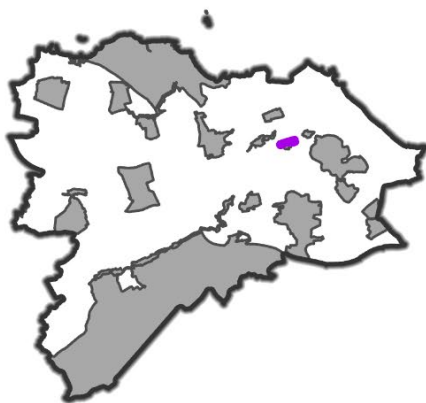


Figure 2.30: Princes Street Gardens LLA



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2025. Ordnance Survey AC0000849421.

-  Princes Street Gardens
-  Neighbouring Local Landscape Area



Special landscape qualities

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

2.176 The Gardens' natural hollow is the product of eastward glacial scour around the volcanic crag formation of Castle Rock to form the Nor'Loch, a feature enhanced as part of the Old Town's defences. In the 18th century the area became part of the ensemble of the neo-classical New Town. The West Gardens were first laid out as private pleasure ground for residences at the west end of Princes Street. Both gardens were altered by the routing of the railway through the valley by the mid-19th century, with the West Gardens joining the East Gardens to form one of the first public parks established within Scotland.

2.177 Partly contained by the valley landform, the Gardens provide a relatively tranquil setting within the city from which to view Edinburgh Castle and the skyline of the Old Town.

2.178 Other buildings or skyline features which the Gardens have an important visual or spatial relationship with include St Cuthbert's spire, the Scott Monument, the former Railway hotels at either end of Princes Street, The Mound's Greek revival galleries and the National Monument upon Calton Hill.

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

2.180 The Gardens are an important feature in views from elevated viewpoints such as Castle Rock, The Mound, North Bridge and Calton Hill, and for those arriving in the city by train. They form a unique foil between the Medieval and Renaissance Old Town and neo-classical New Town. The Gardens are located within the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh UNESCO World Heritage Site, New Town Gardens GDL, and New Town and Old Town Conservation Areas.

2.181 The Gardens are an important recreational resource within the city centre and are well used by residents and visitors, playing host to a range of events and festivals.

Summary of evaluation against designation criteria

2.182 The reasons for local landscape area designation and its boundaries continue to reflect the special contribution of the Princes Street Gardens LLA to the city's local landscape character through its combination of a distinctive incised valley landform, historic character of the Garden's layout and strong visual and functional relationship with historic features in the Old and New Towns, and their scenic, recreational and cultural value.

Potential pressures upon landscape integrity

2.183 Potential pressures upon the landscape integrity of the Princes Street Gardens LLA include:

- Increased pressure to extend or enhance recreational infrastructure or facilities, such as the Ross Bandstand, park furniture, improving accessibility of the network of paths, playgrounds or public toilets, may influence the scenic value and legibility of historic layout and features within the Gardens by introducing more modern influences.
- Use of the Gardens during seasonal markets or other events may lead to further erosion or changes to grass lawns and tree cover, temporarily changing the visual character and landscape pattern within the Gardens.
- Development within the surrounding urban context or refurbishment of existing buildings may change the visual relationship between the Gardens and its enclosing skyline.
- Further erosion of Castle Rock (within LCA 44 and the Castle Rock LLA) may result in a need for engineered solutions along the rock face or at its base, altering the character of views towards this landmark feature experienced from the Gardens.
- Increases in severe storms due to climate change, as well as an increase in pests and diseases may damage the structure, density and species composition of distinctive wooded areas.
- Increases in periods of drought, alternating with period of increased intense rainfall, as a result of climate change, may exacerbate path erosion or inundation of low-lying areas.

Condition and enhancement potential

2.184 Condition and enhancement potential for the Princes Street Gardens LLA includes:

- The Gardens are well maintained, though with occasional temporary damage resulting from pressures for cultural event use. Erosion of lawns is particularly noticeable following use of the Gardens during winter events. Damage to lawns and trees should be monitored and repaired.
- The Gardens are susceptible to flooding in wet weather. Nature-based solutions for management of run-off and stormwater, which are compatible with the traditional Victorian layout, should be encouraged.
- Features such as the shelters in the west of the Gardens and Ross Bandstand show signs of weathering and damage from graffiti. Regular upkeep of built features is required to ensure the recreational value and scenic qualities of the park are not adversely affected.
- Erosion of the exposed crags of Castle Rock (within LCA 44 and the Castle Rock LLA), including rock falls, has led to some restrictions in accessing the Gardens from the south-west. Any further required engineering works should be designed with consideration of the scenic qualities and relationship between the LLA and Castle Rock. Reopening this area to the public should be a key objective.
- Expansion or enhancement of infrastructure, including cafe facilities should be sensitively designed to improve landscape and visual fit, reduce negative influences on character and to manage responsible access.
- Further refurbishment of structures within the Gardens, such as the Ross Bandstand, should be sensitively undertaken to uphold the traditional layout and scenic quality of vistas within and overlooking the Gardens, with opportunities to improve access to steeply sloping parts of the Gardens.
- Areas of ornamental planting require ongoing upkeep and maintenance. Greater use of perennials or shrubs, with planting designed around sustainability, drought and flood tolerance, could provide greater visual appeal and biodiversity value.

Local Landscape Area 16: Calton Hill

Location and boundaries

2.185 Calton Hill is located on the north-east edge of the city centre. The LLA is located within the Calton Hill LCA (43) and covers an area of approximately 16 hectares. The LLA reflects the wooded slopes and grassed summit of this volcanic crag feature.

2.186 The LLA is bounded by Regent Terrace Gardens to the east, and roads including Regent Road to the south, Calton Hill and Greenside Row to the west, and Royal Terrace to the north.

Figure 2.31: Buildings and monuments on the grassed hill summit of Calton Hill form an iconic skyline

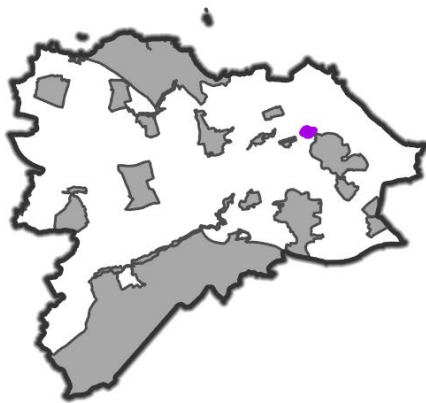


Figure 2.32: Calton Hill LLA



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2025. Ordnance Survey AC0000849421.

-  Calton Hill
-  Neighbouring Local Landscape Area



Special landscape qualities

2.187 A prominent low hill occupying a dominant location in the city centre, marrying built features and rugged natural form. The hill forms an integral part of the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh UNESCO World Heritage Site, New Town Gardens GDL, and New Town Conservation Area, and is notified as part of the Arthur's Seat Volcano SSSI.

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

2.189 The eastern slopes of the hill, a geological 'tail' feature, were laid out as Regent Gardens. This private pleasure ground was established in the 1830s following the feuing of the hill's middle section to create the Listed terraces of Royal Terrace, Regent Terrace and Carlton Terrace. Separated from the public park by a ha-ha, the gardens' wooded character provides contrast with the open hill to the west.

2.190 The lower slopes of the hill, some of which extend beyond the LLA, also contribute to the hill's sense of place and rugged, treed side slopes, forming a wider swathe of open space extending to Calton Road, Calton Crag, Old and New Calton Burial Grounds and Regent Road Park.

2.191 The iconic Greek revival Royal High School (designed by Thomas Hamilton) on the hill's south side creates a unique composition with other Listed buildings sited on the hill. The combination of these monuments, including the National Monument, the City Observatory, the Dugald Stewart monument and the Nelson Monument contribute to the setting of the city.

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

2.193 The hilltop was left open as a garden with buildings and slopes linked by path circuits and formal walks. Spectacular elevated, panoramic views are available from these routes, in which foreground detail of the city centre contrasts with distant landscape features. From its northern summit expansive views towards Leith and its docks are backed by the Firth of Forth and Fife coast. To the south, the eye is drawn

westwards along Princes Street to Corstorphine Hill and southwards to the Old Town Ridge and Holyrood Park.

2.194 Calton Hill is a popular recreational area and location for cultural events enjoyed by city residents and visitors alike. The combination of historic monuments and buildings, signage, network of paths punctuated with park furniture and availability of panoramic views adds to the Hill's status as a top destination for recreation and tourism within the city centre.

Summary of evaluation against designation criteria

2.195 The reasons for local landscape area designation and its boundaries continue to reflect the special contribution of the Calton Hill LLA to the city's local landscape character through its combination of a distinctive elevated natural landform, iconic combination of landform and monuments which contribute to sense of place, cultural heritage and historic value, scenic quality and recreational value.

2.196 The LLA as described incorporates a recommended boundary change. Refer to Appendix B for further detail.

Potential pressures upon landscape integrity

2.197 Potential pressures upon the landscape integrity of the Calton Hill LLA include:

- The restoration and conversion of the Calton Hill Observatory as the Collective Gallery, including a pavilion café, has changed parts of the hill's skyline and the vernacular locally. Development within or adjacent to the hill may affect the appreciation of the distinctive skyline formed by the hill's landform and its monuments. Pressure for development adjacent to the hill may influence the panoramic views experienced from the hill and its visual relationship with other important city landmarks.
- The lower slopes of the hill, some of which extend beyond the LLA, are sensitive to development and play a role in the appreciation of the hill's form.
- 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, including its surviving elms, and parkland trees.
- Increased visitor pressure and footfall, including during cultural events, 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, may result in further erosion of paths and the hill's grassy summit.

- Increased pressure for visitor facilities and park furniture, such as toilet facilities, rubbish bins, benches and signage, may change the scenic quality of the hill and degrade the legibility of the historic landscape.
- The approved redevelopment of the former Royal High School to create the National Centre for Music, including new publicly accessible gardens, once implemented, has potential to contribute positively to the landscaped setting of the hill.

Condition and enhancement potential

2.198 Condition and enhancement potential for the Calton Hill LLA includes:

- 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 development, and associated lighting, around its base, particularly the redevelopment of the St James Quarter.
- Proposals for development around the base of the hill should avoid further substantial alteration to the skyline where key views towards the hill are available. Care is required with changes to development on the hill itself, with surfacing materials, signage, railings and barriers, as well as lighting and other street furniture to be appropriate to the existing vernacular.
- In places, vegetation management regimes have resulted in removal of native woodland and have exacerbated the erosion of the grassland on the hill summit. Vegetation management should seek to improve connectivity of native woodland to maintain the contrast between wooded slopes or parkland areas and the more open or exposed summit. Management of woodland should be considered, balancing the need to retain the open and panoramic character of important viewpoints, against the need to restore and enhance woodland cover.
- Increased recreational and tourism pressure has resulted in erosion of paths and grassland areas. The path network should be managed and enhanced with consideration to visitor access balanced with the need to protect the important habitats which contribute to the hill's distinct landscape pattern.

Local Landscape Area 17: Holyrood, Duddingston and Prestonfield

Location and boundaries

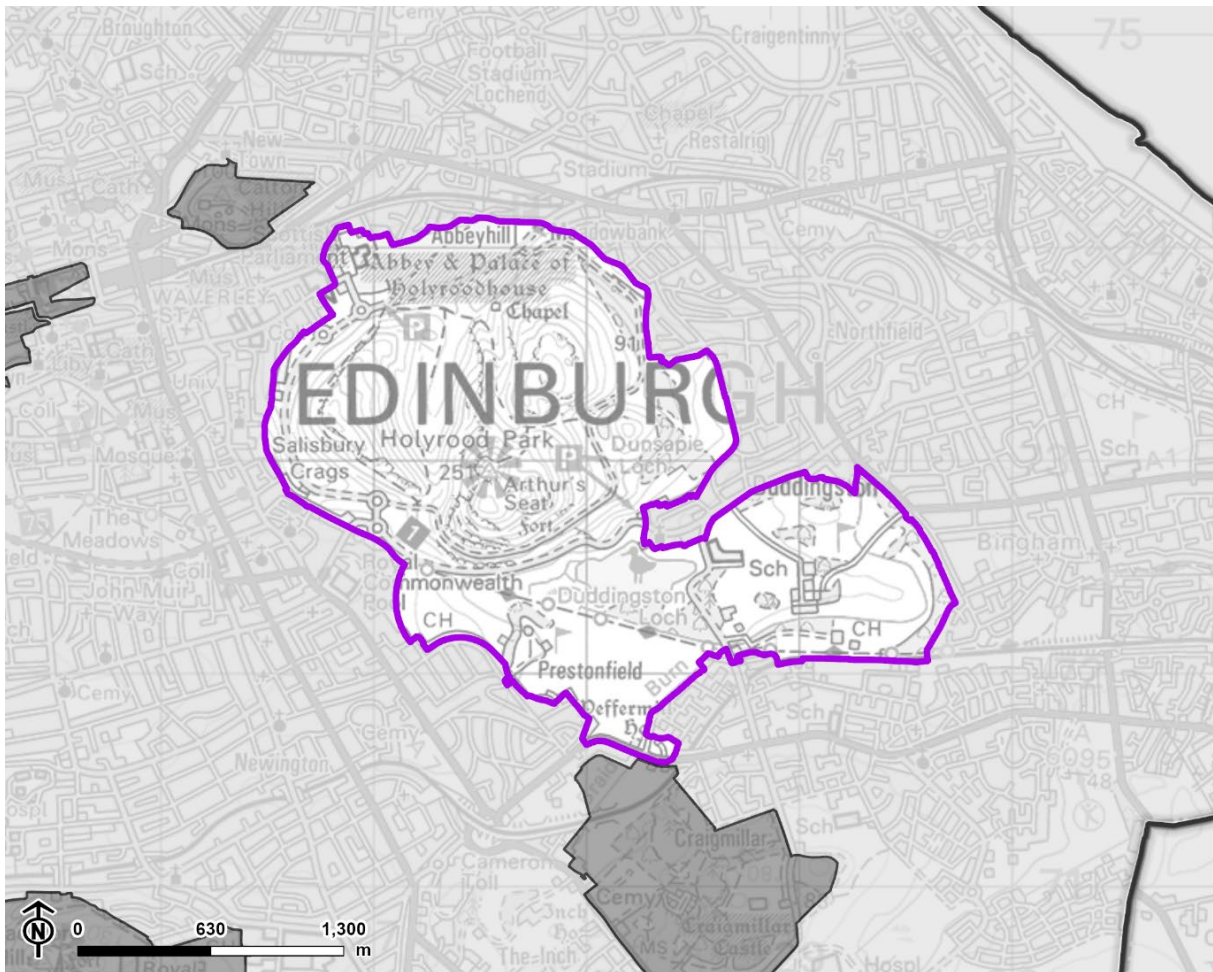
2.199 Located to the east of the city centre, the LLA includes Holyrood Park and Duddingston Loch (LCA 47), Prestonfield Golf Course (LCA 50) and Duddingston Golf Course (LCA 49). The LLA extends across an area of open green space of approximately 441 hectares.

2.200 The LLA boundaries are defined in all directions by the surrounding densely built urban context.




Figure 2.33: Lower-lying area of grassland within Holyrood Park form the setting to the rugged Salisbury Crags

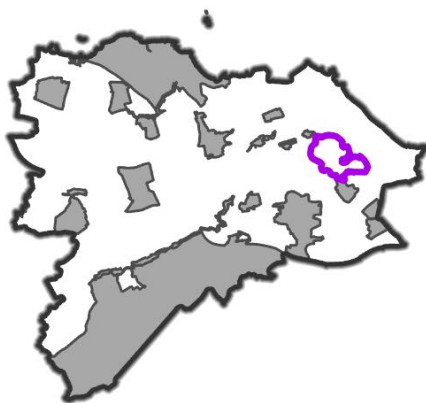


Figure 2.34: Holyrood, Duddingston and Prestonfield LLA



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2025. Ordnance Survey AC0000849421.

-  Holyrood, Duddingston and Prestonfield
-  City of Edinburgh boundary
-  Neighbouring Local Landscape Area



Special landscape qualities

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

2.202 The remnant volcanic plug of Arthur's Seat introduces a rugged, upland character within the city, accentuated by its broad landform mass, semi-natural vegetation cover, the exposed rock sill of Salisbury Crags and its steep scree slopes. Arthur's Seat and the Crags are set apart by the broad flat-bottomed valley of Hunter's Bog, The Dasses and the Dry Dam, which has an enclosed and secluded character. Located on the Crags, Hutton's Section is of international interest in the development of geological theory, and the area is notified as a SSSI.

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

2.204 Duddingston Loch is the largest post-glacial water body in the urban area and has a natural and tranquil character conferred by its indented form, extensive reed beds, margins of willow and alder and wooded backdrop. The loch is of cultural renown as the setting to Raeburn's painting of the skating Reverend Robert Walker. The adjacent Dr Neil's Garden and areas of community space further enhance this area.

2.205 The mature policies of Prestonfield Golf Course and Duddingston House (both of which are GDLs) lie to the south and south-east of Holyrood Park, occupying low lying ground which would have formed part of a much larger Duddingston Loch in prehistoric times. Incorporating perimeter woodlands and parkland trees, both areas provide settings to Listed buildings and their associated golf courses. The landscape surrounding Duddingston Loch and Duddingston House forms an integral setting to the Duddingston Conservation Area.

2.206 The policy parklands and Duddingston Loch form the foreground to the spectacular panoramic views from the summit of Arthur's Seat. This encompasses Edinburgh's Old and New Towns, hills and valleys, public parks and tree-lined neighbourhoods. More distant views are available towards the Firth of Forth, Fife

coast, Ochil Hills, East Lothian, Pentland Hills, North and South Esk Valleys, Moorfoot Hills and Lammermuir Hills.

2.207 In combination with Holyrood Park, the low-lying land at Duddingston and Prestonfield, and the grounds of Peffermill House, form part of a significant open swathe of grassland and woodland within the built environment. This extends south-eastwards towards Craigmillar Castle, Little France Park and Midlothian beyond.

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

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

2.210 Access to the policy landscape around Duddingston and Prestonfield is more limited by their golf use, however the John Muir Way and National Cycle Network Route 1 pass between these areas of landscape in the south of the LLA. The Scottish Wildlife Trust's nature reserve at Duddingston Loch provides a bird hide for members, with informal access to the shore available to the west of Duddingston Village, including Dr Neil's Garden and adjacent community gardens.

Summary of evaluation against designation criteria

2.211 The reasons for local landscape area designation and its boundaries continue to reflect the special contribution of the Holyrood, Duddingston and Prestonfield LLA to the city's local landscape character through its combination of a distinctive natural landform which forms an iconic landmark on the city skyline, geological interest, legible historic landscape, scenic quality and recreational value.

Potential pressures upon landscape integrity

2.212 Potential pressures upon the landscape integrity of the Holyrood, Duddingston and Prestonfield LLA include:

- 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, influencing the iconic profile of the hill. This may also increase the need for engineered stabilisation of slopes.

- Path erosion, resulting from an increase in recreational use coupled with increases weather events resulting from climate change, may adversely affect the recreational experience of the LLA and scenic quality of views.
- Increased recreational use may influence the sense of tranquillity experienced within Holyrood Park.
- Pressure for development, particularly tall buildings, within the surrounding urban context may affect the distinctive profile and prominence of Arthur's Seat and Salisbury Crags, and may also alter outward panoramic views available from the LLA.
- An increase in the frequency and severity of storm events, as a result of climate change, may damage areas of woodland and parkland trees in the south of the LLA, which form an important setting and contrast to the more open and exposed character of Holyrood Park.

Condition and enhancement potential

2.213 Condition and enhancement potential for the Holyrood, Duddingston and Prestonfield LLA includes:

- The main paths which ascend Arthur's Seat and Salisbury Crags are eroded and show signs of pressure from footfall. Path surfacing options should provide for responsible access, balanced against the need to protect valued habitats and the sense of naturalness within the park. Nature based solutions should be preferred.
- Rock traps and safety fencing around areas of rockfall or slope instability result in a localised influence on the perception of naturalness and landcover of craggy slopes. Any further required engineering works should be designed with consideration of the scenic qualities of the LLA, preferring solutions that minimise visual impact.
- An increase in recreational infrastructure or facilities should be sensitively designed so as to not degrade the sense of naturalness and scenic quality of views within the LLA. Furniture such as signage should be discreet and carefully designed and positioned to respect the natural environment, landscape character and views.

- Opportunities for further access connectivity between Holyrood Park and the areas of policy landscape to the south, including those for active travel, should be considered on balance with managing recreational pressure within the park.
- The wooded and parkland areas focused in the south of the LLA are generally in good condition. Opportunities to further enhance habitat diversity and strategic and connected wildlife corridors, particularly to the south towards Craigmillar, should be encouraged. Native species of local provenance should be preferred, and management should be considered where non-native invasive species are present, or where sycamore regeneration is becoming dominant.

Local Landscape Area 18: Craigmillar Castle

Location and boundaries

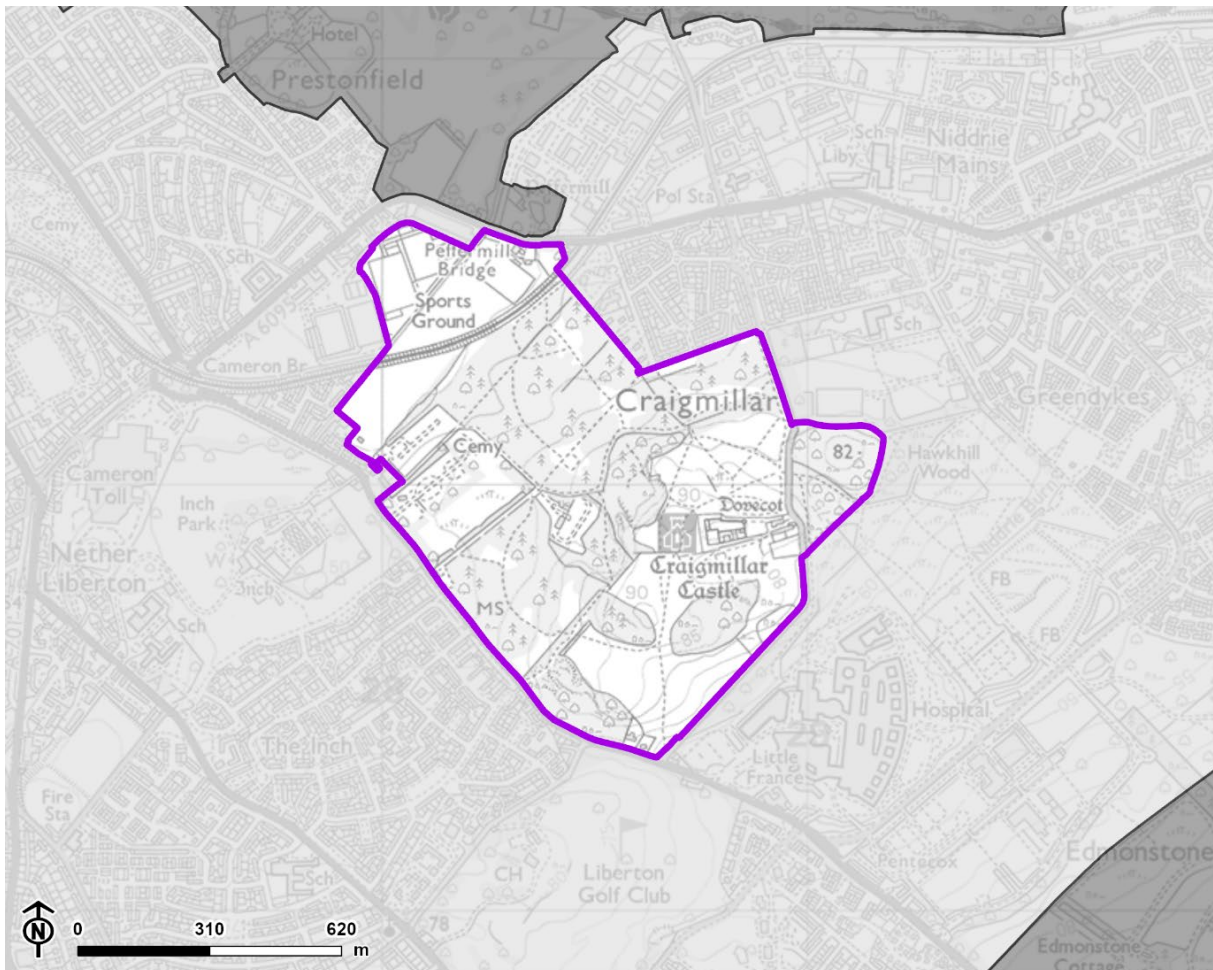
2.214 Located in the south-east of the city, Craigmillar Castle LLA is situated between the residential areas of Craigmillar to the north-east, and Liberton to the south-west, occupying an area of 91 hectares.

2.215 The LLA is bounded by the A7 (Old Dalkeith Road) to the south and west, and the A6095 (Peffermill Road) and part of the University of Edinburgh sports grounds to the north. The LLA meets the wooded parkland of Little France Park to the east. To the south-east, Craigmillar Castle Road divides the LLA from the Royal Infirmary Hospital and Edinburgh BioQuarter.

Figure 2.35: Craigmillar Castle situated on top of the hill, surrounded by policy woodland

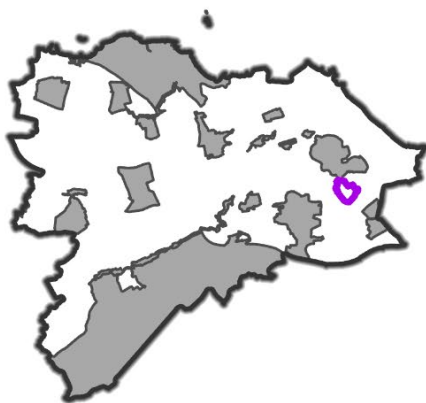


Figure 2.36: Craigmillar Castle LLA



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2025. Ordnance Survey AC0000849421.

-  Craigmillar Castle
-  Neighbouring Local Landscape Area



Special landscape qualities

2.216 The historic Craigmillar Castle and its surrounding wooded parkland are situated on the strategic site of a low hill to the south of the Braid Burn and north of the Niddrie Burn. The wooded landscape acts as a setting for the Listed 15th century Castle, accentuating its prominence in views from across the city.

2.217 The LLA forms part of a wider strategic wedge of open space stretching across south-east Edinburgh from Holyrood Park to the edge of the city. There are strong visual links with these surrounding areas of landscape. The Castle and its setting form key elements in views across the open landscape which extends southwards from Holyrood Park, and more locally from the A7 and A6095.

2.218 The ruined Castle later became a romantic feature of the Inch estate and has visual links to Edmonstone to the south. The Castle's elevated position permits a panorama across the city and surrounding landscape, in which Arthur's Seat and Salisbury Crags form a focus.

2.219 The Castle has historical significance as the seat of the Preston and Gilmour families and has associations with the Scottish royal family. The Castle and its setting are recognised as a Scheduled Monument and GDL. It has been a longstanding visitor destination, in addition to a local recreational resource. A network of paths pass through the woodland surrounding the Castle connecting to adjacent residential areas and Little France Park.

2.220 The combination of wooded landform and the focal point of the Castle provides scenic value and a sense of naturalness.

Summary of evaluation against designation criteria

2.221 The reasons for local landscape area designation and its boundaries continue to reflect the special contribution of the Craigmillar Castle LLA to the city's local landscape character, through its historic value with the important iconic feature of Craigmillar Castle, scenic value provided by contrasting woodland and built elements, the visual connection to the wider landscape which contributes to sense of place, and recreational value.

Potential pressures upon landscape integrity

2.222 Potential pressures upon the landscape integrity of the Craigmillar Castle LLA include:

- Further development pressures within south-east Edinburgh will alter views to and from the LLA. Development at the Edinburgh BioQuarter and Edmonstone will be highly visible from the LLA and will alter the panoramic views from Craigmillar Castle, potentially affecting scenic value.
- Increased recreational demand within the LLA may lead to additional infrastructure, such as new paths or widening of paths, additional play facilities, or a larger car park for Craigmillar Castle visitors.
- Long term woodland change associated with pest, disease, higher temperatures and storm events associated with climate change will affect the wooded character and structure of the landscape, and may influence the spread of non-native invasive species.

Condition and enhancement potential

2.223 Condition and enhancement potential for the Craigmillar Castle LLA includes:

- Woodland management should ensure that important views are maintained. Important views include those looking north-west towards Arthur's Seat, south-east towards the wooded ridge of Edmonstone, and from within the LLA towards Craigmillar Castle.
- Woodland management should aim to regenerate tree cover, using native species appropriate to the designed landscape. Management of woodland should create more diverse woodland habitats through sensitive thinning to enable more light to reach the woodland floor in selected areas, for example where sycamore dominates; removal of non-native invasive species; and retention of deadwood habitat.
- Stone walls should be maintained and their condition enhanced, with a programme of repair being ongoing.

Local Landscape Area 19: The Drum

Location and boundaries

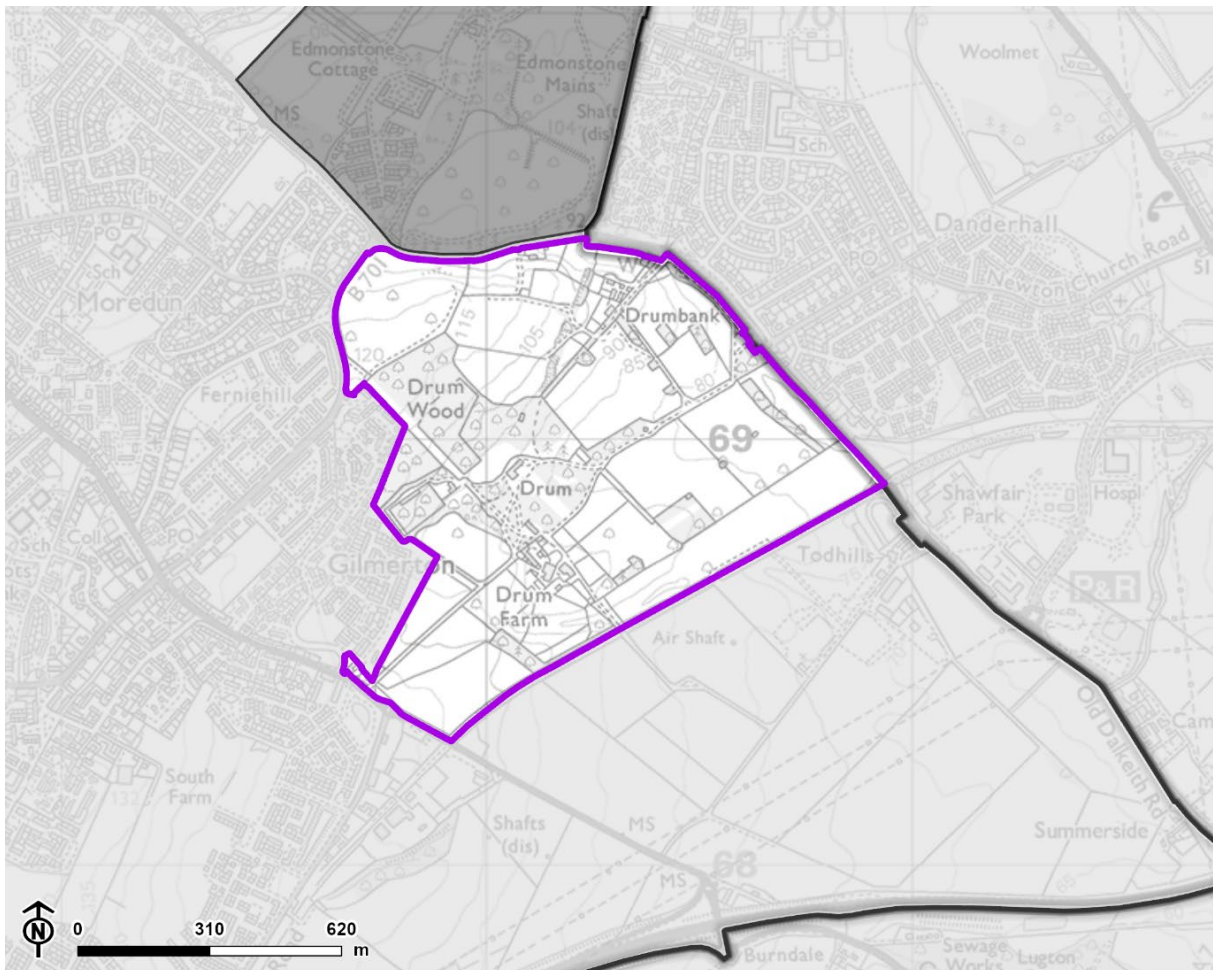
2.224 The Drum is located on the south-eastern periphery of Edinburgh, between the residential areas of Danderhall and Gilmerton, occupying an area of 89 hectares. The LLA boundary reflects the core of the designed landscape and flanking fields around Drum House.

2.225 The LLA boundary is defined by the A7, the B701, the urban edge of Gilmerton, the A772 and the disused railway to the south-east, following the Drum Policies LCA (36) boundary.




Figure 2.37: Drum House surrounded by policy woodlands

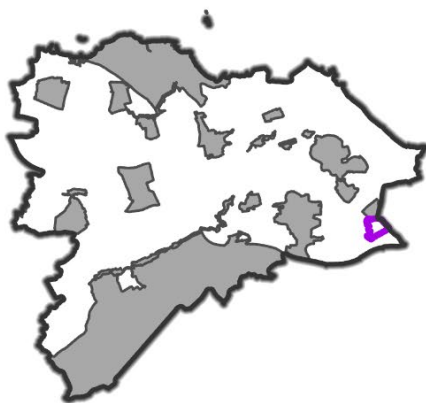


Figure 2.38: The Drum LLA



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2025. Ordnance Survey AC0000849421.

-  The Drum
-  City of Edinburgh boundary
-  Neighbouring Local Landscape Area



Special landscape qualities

2.226 The landscape provides a highly scenic wooded setting for the Palladian-style mansion of the Listed Drum House, built in the early 18th century. The house and landscape were both designed by the architect William Adam and are recognised as a GDL.

2.227 The landscape forms part of a swathe of woodland and green open space extending from Holyrood Park to the wider countryside of Midlothian, which includes Craigmillar Castle Park, Little France Park, and the remnant policy woodland of Edmonstone.

2.228 Drum House and its immediate landscape setting are screened from the surrounding area, including internal views, by avenue trees along drives and perimeter woodlands, which form a significant feature on the summit of a low hill. The enclosing nature of the woodland around the house can be observed from south-east of the house, where a formal axial view extends out over open fields. The combination of woodland enclosure and unobstructed views to the south confers a strong rural character to the designed landscape despite its proximity to the city.

2.229 The quality of the estate's perimeter walls, gate piers, East Lodge, parkland and policy woodlands contribute to local character and scenic value. Ornamental grounds near the house include lawns, specimen trees and shrubs and remnants of a canal feature.

2.230 The rural qualities of the landscape can be experienced from the tree-lined paths providing access between Gilmerton and Danderhall. The paths offer recreational qualities, in addition to the equestrian facilities in the south.

Summary of evaluation against designation criteria

2.231 The reasons for local landscape area designation and its boundaries continue to reflect the special contribution of The Drum LLA to the city's local landscape character through its combination of cultural heritage value, scenic quality associated with designed landscape and well managed semi-natural woodland which form the setting to architectural features, and recreational value.

Potential pressures upon landscape integrity

2.232 Potential pressures upon the landscape integrity of the Drum LLA include:

- Recreational demands and the effects of increased footfall on paths and surrounding areas.
- Changes in agricultural practices affecting the management and character of the farmland and field boundaries.
- Long term change to the quality and structure of the policy woodland due to pest, disease, and climate change which brings higher temperatures and increased rainfall, in addition to increased storms, and potentially expansion of non-native invasive species.
- Urban development at the edge of the designed landscape could affect the Drum's scenic value in the landscape to the south-east of the city, including appreciation of its wooded setting and walled boundaries. Changes to the landscape which impact on outward views from the core of the estate would also detract from its rural character.

Condition and enhancement potential

2.233 Condition and enhancement potential for The Drum LLA includes:

- The woodland appears not to be actively managed. Management to promote tree renewal and ongoing maintenance and protection of the range of species would help to ensure integrity of the original design features which remain. Non-native invasive species should be removed.
- Currently, wayfinding is challenging in the north-east of the estate. Designing better access and ensuring connectivity of routes could increase the recreational value of the landscape and create a better flow from the entrance to the main publicly accessible paths.
- Historic boundary and internal walls, gateways and gate houses are an important part of the policy landscape and their careful retention and repair should be ensured.

Local Landscape Area 20: Braids, Liberton and Mortonhall

Location and boundaries

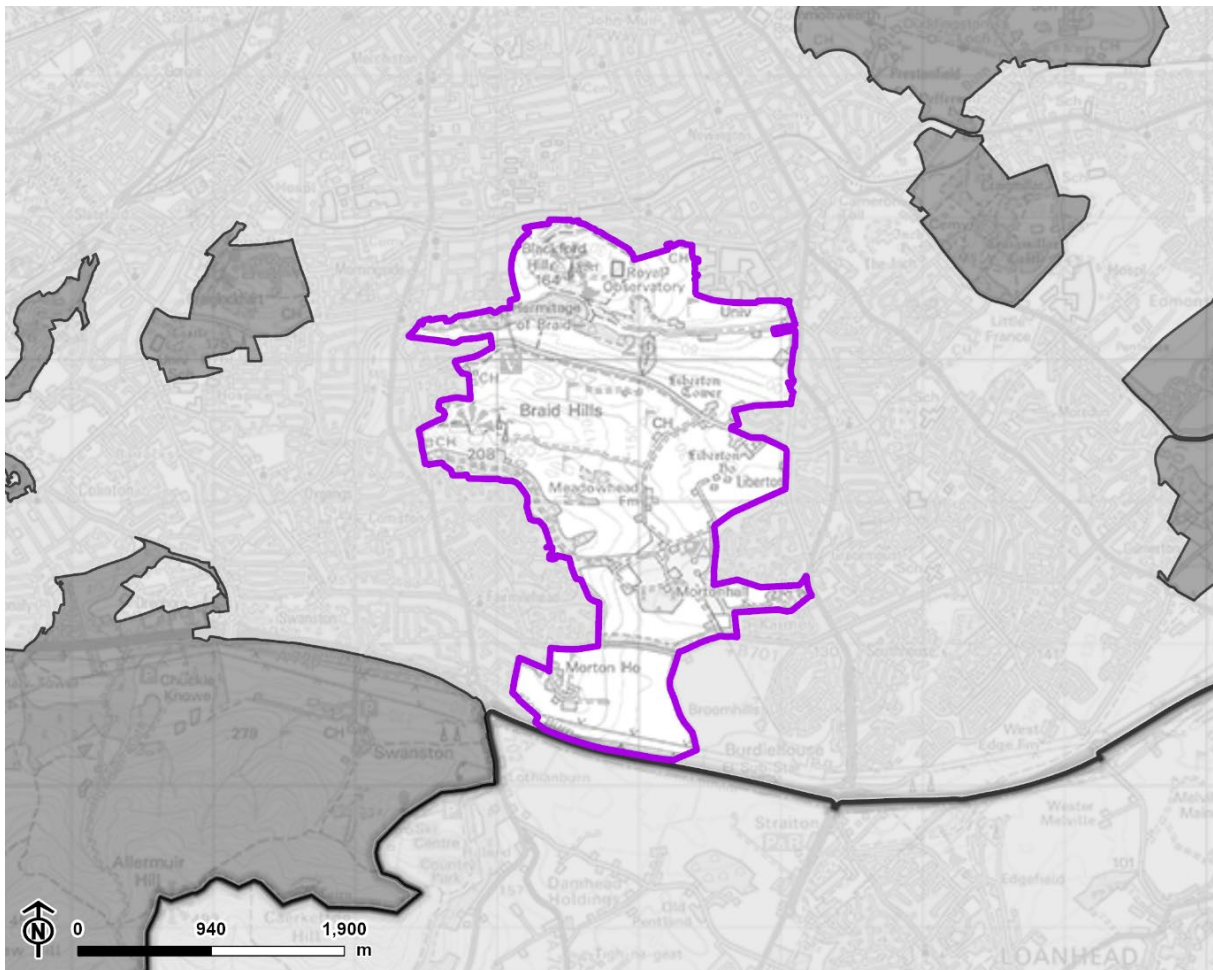
2.234 The LLA is located along the southern edge of the city centre, and incorporates Blackford Hill and Midmar Paddock, Hermitage of Braid, Braid Hills, estate parkland at Mortonhall, and farmland surrounding Morton House and Morton Mains to the south of Frogston Road West. The LLA extends across an area of approximately 573 hectares within the Braid Hills LCA (42), Liberton Fringes LCA (62) and Mortonhall Policies LCA (40).

2.235 The southern boundary is formed by the A720 bypass. The eastern, northern and western boundaries are enclosed by the dense urban edges of Comiston, Blackford, Morningside and Liberton, respectively.




Figure 2.39: Open and expansive views from Buckstone Snab looking towards Blackford Hill and Holyrood Park

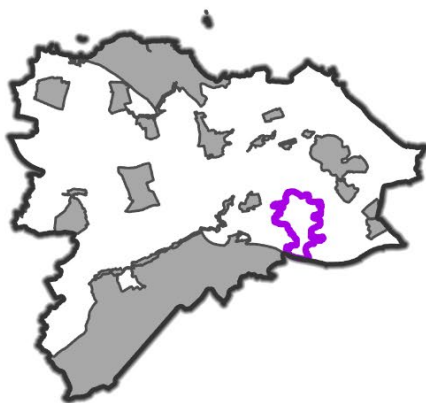


Figure 2.40: Braids, Liberton and Mortonhall LLA



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2025. Ordnance Survey AC0000849421.

-  Braids, Liberton, Mortonhall
-  City of Edinburgh boundary
-  Neighbouring Local Landscape Area



Special landscape qualities

2.236 The Braids, Liberton and Mortonhall LLA comprises part of a significant expanse of hills, farmland and semi-rural land extending south from the city centre towards the Pentland Hills and farmland in Midlothian.

2.237 The Braid Hills are separated by a glacial valley and comprise broad east-west ridges rising to the main hill tops of Blackford Hill (164m AOD) and Buckstone Snab (206m AOD). The hills have steep craggy western slopes clothed by woodland, scrub and rocky outcrops. The Braids Hills are part of the Pentland Hills volcanic formation.

2.238 Golf courses extend across gentler slopes and the smoother eastern flanks, which give way to open farmland, remnant estate parkland and paddocks at Midmar, Mortonhall and Liberton House, some with distinctive ridge-and-furrow patterns. To the south, the policy influences of Mortonhall and underlying landform ridge extend to Morton House and Morton Mains (a Conservation Area), which is located within a farmland setting.

2.239 The hills and their environs form a prominent skyline of knolly hills distinguishable by their craggy landform and semi-natural landcover. This landscape contributes to the character of adjacent residential neighbourhoods and serves as a landmark in views from the main hills encircling the city. Similarly, the leafy green adjacent residential neighbourhoods, and grain of the buildings and green space around Astley Ainslie contribute to the quality of northward views from the hills.

2.240 The hills have a rich cultural heritage from all periods including prehistoric activity, Iron Age hill forts (designated as a Scheduled Monument), the Listed buildings of Royal Observatory and Astronomer's House on Blackford Hill, the 18th century Hermitage of Braid and Mortonhall, and Listed Liberton Tower and Listed Liberton House. War time use, evident from the disused gun emplacements at Liberton Kennels (designated as a Scheduled Monument), provides further cultural interest.

2.241 The main hilltops of Blackford Hill and Buckstone Snab reveal spectacular panoramic views of the city and its context of the Firth of Forth, East and West Lothian plateau and the hinterland of the Pentland, Moorfoot and Lammermuir Hills. Similar views can be gained from vantage points throughout the northern part of the LLA, whilst outward views from farmland and parkland to the south are dominated and enhanced by the presence of the Pentland Hills.

2.242 The landscape is a significant recreational resource within the city, including golf courses, informal opportunities for rock climbing and an extensive network of paths, including within the woodlands surrounding the golf courses. These cross the

hills and pass through the parkland at Mortonhall to link with a camping and caravan park. Braid Hills Drive crosses the north of the LLA and offers further opportunity to access and experience the landscape.

2.243 The hills' rugged landform and semi-natural vegetation, the enclosed and wooded Hermitage and Braid Burn valley and parkland planting at Mortonhall contribute to the high scenic quality within the LLA and its contrast with the surrounding built environment.

2.244 The expanse of the LLA, its exposed hilltops, secluded Hermitage and Braid Burn valley, parkland planting, paddocks, farmland and views to the wider rural landscape, offers a sense of naturalness and tranquillity in close proximity to the urban core.

Summary of evaluation against designation criteria

2.245 The reasons for local landscape area designation and its boundaries continue to reflect the special contribution of the Braids, Liberton and Mortonhall LLA to the city's local landscape character through its combination of a distinctive natural landform, semi-natural landcover, important spatial relationship between the urban city centre and surrounding countryside which contributes to sense of place, cultural heritage, and scenic and recreational value.

Potential pressures upon landscape integrity

2.246 Potential pressures upon the landscape integrity of the Braids, Liberton and Mortonhall LLA include:

- Pressure for development of increased height or density around the base of the hills, or increased height or quantity of telecommunications and associated lighting masts on the hills, may affect the prominence and profile of the Braid Hills.
- Changes in farming practices and the management of field boundaries may alter the rural open farmland setting provided by the eastern flanks to the hills.
- Changes to weather patterns, with increased droughts coupled with more frequent or intense storms, may change the riparian character of the Hermitage and Braid Burn valley and the parkland character of the landscape around Mortonhall.
- Fire is a risk and is seen frequently across the hills, including as a result of hotter summers or antisocial behaviour, particularly in areas of dense gorse.

- Changes in management of the land for recreation, including the provision of additional recreational facilities, may affect the sense of tranquillity and naturalness experienced within the LLA.
- Pressure for additional pylons or an increase in the scale of pylons in the south of the LLA near Mortonhall may exacerbate the adverse influence of electricity infrastructure on the open rural landscape, and the visual relationship of the LLA to the Pentland Hills.

Condition and enhancement potential

2.247 Condition and enhancement potential for the Braids, Liberton and Mortonhall LLA includes:

- Some field boundaries, including stone walls and fencing near Liberton, are in poor condition. Management and repair of field boundaries should be ongoing and in keeping with the rural character of the landscape, with use of local stone and building styles being encouraged.
- Any intensification of the existing garden centre and caravan park uses should seek to respond to the designed landscape character and its scenic value. Changes which affect outward views from the area should be carefully considered in terms of the height, density, and character of buildings and open space, lighting at night and the relationship with the Old Town spine, Pentland Hills and Arthur's Seat on the horizon.
- Non-native invasive species like rhododendron are spreading, often within woodland, across parts of the gardens and parkland, and should be managed to prevent spread or result in its removal. Similarly, native gorse is dominant across some areas of the hills, which can exacerbate fire risk. Maintaining fire breaks will assist.
- Some golf facilities contrast with the landscape pattern and textures found within the LLA. Areas of woodland and scrub within the golf courses should be managed to form a continuation of the semi-natural landcover found elsewhere within the LLA, and to continue to facilitate and enhance public access via paths through them.
- Telecommunications masts on Blackford Hill and Buckstone Snab have altered the profile of the hills in views from the wider city centre. Intensification of telecommunications masts and associated lighting within the LLA should be avoided. If necessary, siting of vertical infrastructure should avoid altering the profile of the hills, and lighting should be minimised.

- Pylons alter views towards the Pentland Hills, although these form recessive features when seen in views further north within the LCA. Proposals for reinforcement or upgrading of electricity infrastructure should be sensitively sited with consideration of key views between the LLA and the Pentland Hills.

Local Landscape Area 21: Craigie Hill

Location and boundaries

2.248 The LLA is located in the north-west of Edinburgh and to the east of Dalmeny village.

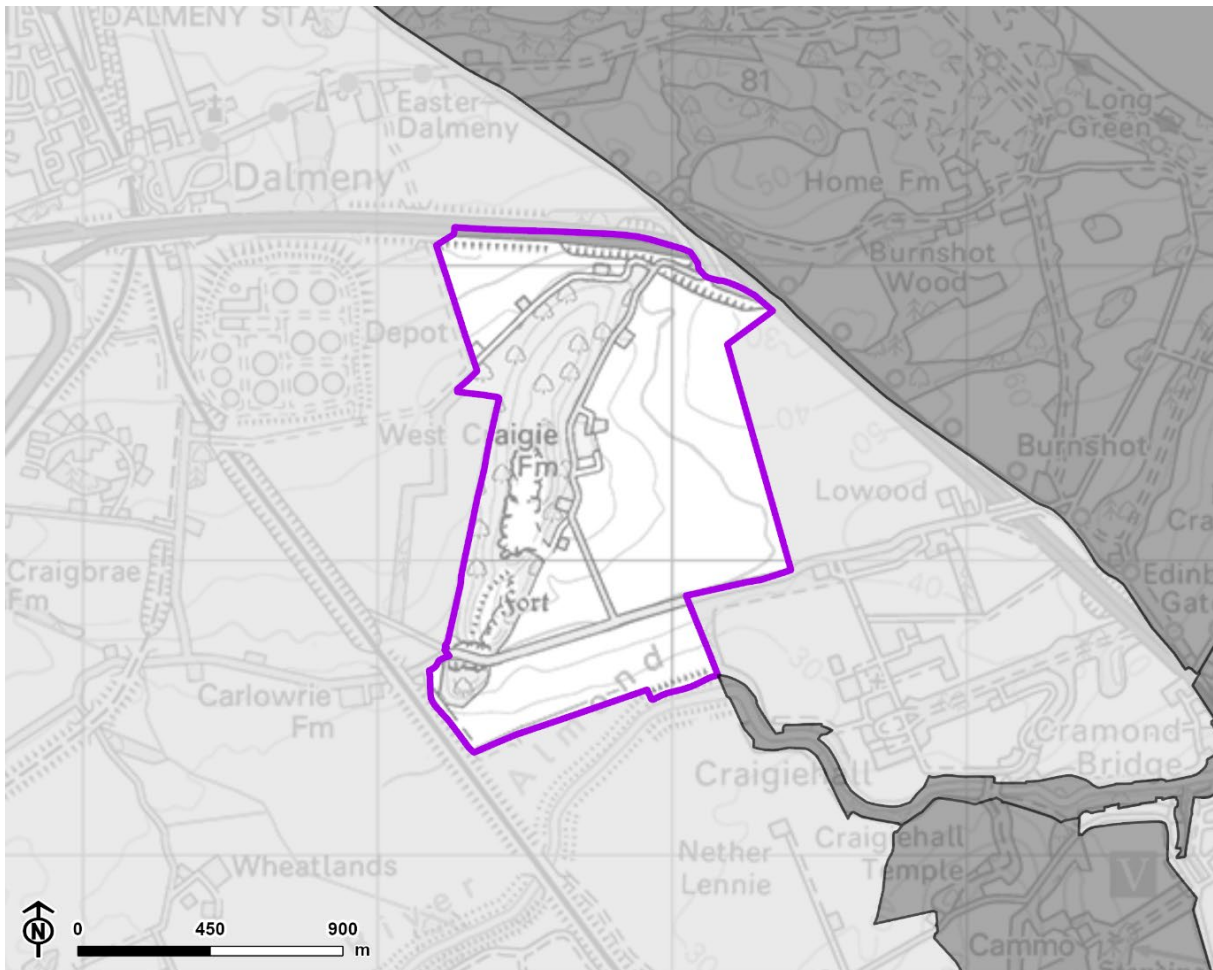
2.249 The LLA boundary is focused on Craigie Hill's distinct, north-south aligned wooded ridge and farmed side slopes to the north and east. The boundary reflects the hill form and is marked by the nearest adjacent field boundaries, although also following the A90 to the north and the Edinburgh-Fife railway line to the south-west.

2.250 The LLA extends across 152 hectares of the Craigie Hill LCA (57), primarily, and part of the Almond Farmland LCA (17) in the east and south of the LLA.

Figure 2.41: The distinctive wooded ridge of Craigie Hill viewed across Almond Farmland and farmland within the Craigie Hill LLA

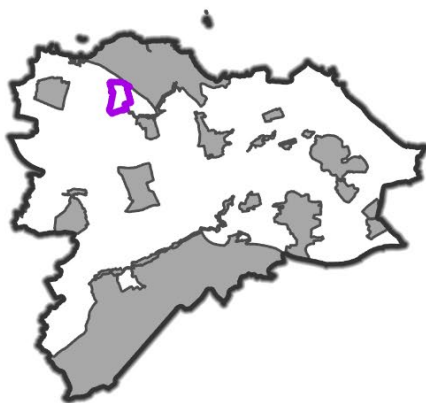


Figure 2.42: Craigie Hill LLA



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2025. Ordnance Survey AC0000849421.

-  Craigie Hill
-  Neighbouring Local Landscape Area



Special landscape qualities

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

2.252 Craigie Hill is prominent in views on the approach to Edinburgh and Fife from the A90. Its wooded crest merges with and reinforces the parkland setting to the Dalmeny Estate to the north-east and woodland within the River Almond valley to the south.

2.253 Whilst woodland filters many outward views, the hill provides a viewpoint with glimpsed views overlooking wide vistas of the Dalmeny Estate and Firth of Forth to the north, and across the River Almond valley and towards the Pentland Hills to the south. More open views can be experienced from the fields around the base of the hill.

2.254 The woodland is managed for recreation with local path networks winding through the trees. West Craigie farm provides visitor interest and access to the countryside and farm environment.

2.255 The hill's tree cover conceals the Iron Age Hill Fort (a Scheduled Monument) and former quarry at the top, which highlights past human connections with this landscape and contributes to the hill's sense of history.

Summary of evaluation against designation criteria

2.256 The reasons for local landscape area designation and its boundaries continue to reflect the special contribution of Craigie Hill to the city's local landscape character through its combination of a distinctive natural landform which contributes to sense of place, sense of naturalness provided by the woodland, and scenic and recreational value.

Potential pressures upon landscape integrity

2.257 Potential pressures upon the landscape integrity of the Craigie Hill LLA include:

- Intensification or expansion of the existing visitor facilities at West Craigie Farm, could affect long-distance views to and from the hill and detract from the naturalness experienced from Craigie Hill.

- Changes to the quality and structure of the woodland due to pest, disease, expansion of non-native invasive species, and climate change, bringing higher temperatures and increased rainfall in addition to increased storms, would affect the integrity of the woodland and the sense of naturalness it provides.

Condition and enhancement potential

2.258 Condition and enhancement potential for the Craigie Hill LLA includes:

- Landscape management for recreation and wildlife benefit should seek to promote a diverse age and species structure of woodland and associated ground flora, reduce any presence of non-native invasive species, and encourage the use of native species of local provenance.
- Although well screened by woodland, restoration of the former Craighill Quarry along with associated proposals for mixed native woodland and wildflower meadows could enhance the sense of naturalness associated with the woodland across the hill.
- Derelict buildings at the base of the hill should be managed to ensure that further damage does not occur, and to provide enhancement if opportunities arise.
- Development, including further development associated with the farm shop and café, should seek to ensure that important long-distance views (e.g. towards the Firth of Forth and the Pentland Hills) are retained, in order to protect the scenic value of the landscape.

Appendix A

Comparison of Designation Criteria

Table 2.1: Comparison of Designation Criteria from 2010 Local Landscape Designation Review and 2026 Updated Review

Previous Designation Criteria (2010)	Description	Updated Designation Criteria (2026)	Description of Change to Criteria
Edinburgh distinctiveness	Features which contribute positively to the identity of Edinburgh, reflecting individual features or combinations of landform, land use and land cover. Examples include prominent volcanic hills and policy landscapes.	Distinctiveness, rarity and sense of place	Combines: Edinburgh distinctiveness, Contribution to historic core, Contribution to setting of Edinburgh, and Key views
Contribution to historic core	This is a key criteria for the central Edinburgh landscapes, landscapes which lie outside the core of Edinburgh are not scored on this criterion. The historic core is defined as the boundary of the WHS.	Distinctiveness, rarity and sense of place	Combines: Edinburgh distinctiveness, Contribution to historic core, Contribution to setting of Edinburgh, and Key views
Contribution to setting of Edinburgh	The landscape must have a visual relationship with the city in the context of views to and views from the area.	Distinctiveness, rarity and sense of place	Combines: Edinburgh distinctiveness, Contribution to historic core, Contribution to setting of Edinburgh, and Key views
Key views	This relates to views to and from the LCA and is based on a combination of prominence and visibility.	Distinctiveness, rarity and sense of place	Combines: Edinburgh distinctiveness, Contribution to historic core, Contribution to setting of Edinburgh, and Key views
Scenic	Combination of landscape features which contribute to scenic quality.	Scenic qualities	No change
Enjoyment	The use and enjoyment of the landscape for recreational activity.	Enjoyment	No change
Culture	The influence of cultural heritage features on the landscape. This reflects the presence of built features, landscape planting and field	Culture	No change

Previous Designation Criteria (2010)	Description	Updated Designation Criteria (2026)	Description of Change to Criteria
	boundaries, or cultural associations with the landscape.		
Naturalness	<p>Naturalness is assessed in relation to the presence of features which contribute a sense of naturalness such as water, woodland, limited levels of management and modification.</p> <p>A quarry may be designated a SSSI but it would not score highly for naturalness because of the strong influence of human activity.</p>	Naturalness	Combines: Naturalness and Geology and geomorphology
Geology and geomorphology	The influence of geological and geomorphological features on the experience of the landscape.	Naturalness	Combines: Naturalness and Geology and geomorphology

Appendix B

Changes Identified within Local Landscape Areas and Boundary Recommendations

B.1 This appendix sets out landscape-scale changes within the LLAs that have occurred since the 2010 review. Refer to Figure 1.1 for the existing LLAs (identified in the 2010 review) within Edinburgh. Refer to Figure 1.2 for the new confirmed boundaries of the LLAs within Edinburgh.

Local Landscape Area 1: Southern Forth Coast

B.2 Identified in 2010 and first designated in 2016, this LLA has undergone change in relation to:

- Changes in land management at Lauriston, with the development of an urban farm which extends across a 100 acre area of open space between Lauriston Castle and Cramond.
- Construction of a wooden boardwalk at Cramond to connect the promenade to the beach and avoid habitat erosion of the grassland and sand dunes.
- Ongoing maintenance and repairs to coastal defences.

Boundary recommendations

B.3 No changes are recommended to the boundaries of this LLA.

Local Landscape Area 2: Lower Almond

B.4 Identified in 2010 and first designated in 2016, this LLA has undergone change in relation to:

- Construction of a larinier fish pass at Fair-a-far weir in 2017-2018, which has introduced further human influence within the watercourse, enabling fish to bypass the weir and migrate up and downstream.

Boundary recommendations

B.5 No changes are recommended to the boundaries of this LLA.

Local Landscape Area 3: Cammo

B.6 Identified in 2010 and first designated in 2016, this LLA has undergone change in relation to:

- Changes in the management of open fields within the LLA including the planting of trees and hedges and introduction of wildflower meadows. This has increased the contrasts in the landscape pattern and biodiversity opportunities.
- Creation of a wetland and boardwalk in the east of the LLA, which has also increased contrasts in the landscape, opportunities for recreation, and biodiversity opportunities.
- Recent and ongoing residential development to the south and east of the LLA, which is visually prominent and has an exposed edge where boundary landscaping has yet to mature, and has altered the undeveloped character of fields located to the east of the LLA.

Boundary recommendations

B.7 No changes are recommended to the boundaries of this LLA. The retention of open fields in the south and west of the LLA is important to the setting and appreciation of the wider policy landscape.

Local Landscape Area 4: Dundas

B.8 Identified in 2010 and first designated in 2016, this LLA has undergone change in relation to:

- The introduction of the M90 extension to the Queensferry Crossing, which has introduced large-scale transportation infrastructure in the north of the LLA and loss of woodland (within the Echline Strip) enclosing the north of the LLA. Compensatory planting to the south of the road, once mature, will partially restore the wooded character of this boundary.
- Expansion of the settlement of south Queensferry to the immediate north of the M90, which is visible from the northernmost part of the LLA and seen in filtered views in front of the Forth Bridges. The introduction of this development, in combination with the M90, has formed a more defined transition between the undeveloped landscape of the LLA and its surrounding context to the north.

Boundary recommendations

B.9 The northern boundary of the LLA should be brought south of the M90, due to the expansion of the M90 and residential expansion of South Queensferry.

Local Landscape Area 5: Upper Almond

B.10 Identified in 2010 and first designated in 2016, this LLA has undergone change in relation to:

- Intensification of land use for static caravans at the Linwater Caravan Park to the south of the LLA, however woodland lining the river helps to limit visibility of caravans in views from within the LLA.

Boundary recommendations

B.11 No changes are recommended to the boundaries of this LLA.

Local Landscape Area 6: Gogar

B.12 Identified in 2010 and first designated in 2016, this LLA has undergone change in relation to:

- Expansion of parking for the RBS Campus, which has locally altered the landscape pattern in the north of the LLA. However, associated woodland planting has made a positive contribution to the wooded character around the campus.
- Planned development at Redheughs, which may alter the landscape pattern and undeveloped character in the north-east of the LLA.

Boundary recommendations

B.13 Given the likely character and density of planned development at Redheughs, it is recommended that the north-eastern boundary of the LLA is amended to extend along dense tree belts surrounding Millburn Tower and Gogar Park (excluding the area of land to be developed).

Local Landscape Area 7: Ratho Hills

B.14 Identified in 2010 and first designated in 2016, this LLA has undergone change in relation to:

- Regeneration of the former Craigpark Quarry, which has introduced residential development across the hillside to the west of Ratho and extending into the LLA, also resulting in some loss of woodland.

Boundary recommendations

B.15 The north-western boundary of the LLA should be amended to exclude areas of modern residential development at the former Craigpark Quarry, although stone boundary walls and retained woodland of the former Craigpark House policy landscape should continue to be included within the LLA boundary.

Local Landscape Area 8: Water of Leith – west

B.16 Identified in 2010 and first designated in 2016, this LLA has undergone change in relation to:

- Redevelopment of the former Kinleith Mill site for housing with green spaces and walkways which connect into the Water of Leith Walkway.
- Management undertaken by the Water of Leith Conservation Trust including maintenance and improvements to the Water of Leith Walkway, and habitat creation.

Boundary recommendations

B.17 No changes are recommended to the boundaries of this LLA.

Local Landscape Area 9: Pentlands

B.18 Identified in 2010 and first designated in 2016, this LLA has undergone change in relation to:

- Construction of a new residential development at Dreghorn (the Miller Homes Polofields development) which delivered up to 75 new homes to the north of the A720 and west of Dreghorn Barracks. Retained areas of woodland near Dreghorn continue to form a link with woodland south of the City Bypass.

- Management of recreational facilities, including upgrade and expansion of car parks and their access tracks near Bonaly and Threipmuir Reservoir, and upgrades to surfaces and facilities at Swanston Golf Course.
- Introduction of an equestrian centre in the north of the LLA, between Woodhall Road and the Water of Leith.
- Expansion of woodland around Dreghorn, with 24,000 trees (23 hectares) planted by the Woodland Trust Scotland in 2014-2015 which are continuing to mature. Ongoing planting of woodland on the northern slopes, including around Bonaly and Swanston, continues to alter the character and reinforce the structure of woodland in this part of the LLA.
- Outward views from the upper slopes and summits of the Pentland Hills have changed due to an intensification of onshore wind energy development in surrounding areas, including West Lothian, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, Scottish Borders and East Lothian.

Boundary recommendations

B.19 It is recommended that the LLA boundary is amended to the north of the A720 to exclude the residential area at Dreghorn.

Local Landscape Area 10: Corstorphine Hill

B.20 Identified in 2010 and first designated in 2016, this LLA has undergone change in relation to:

- Expansion of Edinburgh Zoo, including installation of a solar PV development.
- Maintenance and management of habitats and paths as part of the Corstorphine Hill Local Nature Reserve Management Plan.
- Adjacent to the south-western boundary, the former Corstorphine Hospital has been redeveloped for housing.

Boundary recommendations

B.21 No changes are recommended to the boundaries of this LLA. Whilst a legacy allocated site is located within the boundary of the LLA, there are no current proposals to develop this site. Should this site be developed in the future, the boundary should be reviewed with reference to the density, scale and type of

development, and in comparison to parts of the LLA which already accommodate development (such as the Edinburgh Zoo).

Local Landscape Area 11: Craiglockhart

B.22 Identified in 2010 and first designated in 2016, this LLA has undergone change in relation to:

- Development at Craighouse including construction of new residential buildings and refurbishment of historic buildings.
- Expansion of the university campus.

Boundary recommendations

B.23 A slight amendment to the southern boundary of the LLA is recommended to exclude areas where residential development has been infilled (at the former mast site). For continuity, a slight amendment to the north-western boundary of the LLA is recommended to include the entirety of the woodland within the Easter Craiglockhart Hill Local Nature Reserve.

Local Landscape Area 12: Water of Leith – New Town

B.24 Identified in 2010 and first designated in 2016, very few changes have occurred within this LLA. Re-development within the adjacent urban context beyond the boundary of the LLA, including at Donaldson’s Hospital and College, has influenced parts of the urban edge. Management undertaken by the Water of Leith Conservation Trust includes maintenance and improvements to the Water of Leith Walkway and habitat creation.

Boundary recommendations

B.25 No changes are recommended to the boundaries of this LLA.

Local Landscape Area 13: Inverleith

B.26 Identified in 2010 and first designated in 2016, this LLA has undergone change in relation to:

- The Edinburgh Biomes project, which is currently underway, will see the 19th century Palm Houses and 1960's glasshouses restored, and replanted and visitor routes replanned.
- The Botanic Cottage was relocated from Leith Walk to the northern edge of the Botanic Gardens and is now used as a community and education centre.

Boundary recommendations

B.27 No changes are recommended to the boundaries of the LLA.

Local Landscape Area 14: Castle Rock

B.28 Identified in 2010 and first designated in 2016, this LLA has undergone change in relation to:

- Stabilisation works on the western face of Castle Rock to prevent further rock falls.
- Temporary closure of the network of paths on the Castle Bank for maintenance and restoration work to prevent further erosion.

Boundary recommendations

B.29 No changes are recommended to the boundaries of the LLA.

Local Landscape Area 15: Princes Street Gardens

B.30 Identified in 2010 and first designated in 2016, this LLA has undergone change in relation to:

- Refurbishment and restoration of the Ross Fountain, play area in the west of the gardens, and the National Galleries.
- Introduction of new memorials.

Boundary recommendations

B.31 No changes are recommended to the boundaries of the LLA.

Local Landscape Area 16: Calton Hill

B.32 Identified in 2010 and first designated in 2016, this LLA has undergone change in relation to:

- The restoration and conversion of the Calton Hill Observatory as the Collective Gallery, including a pavilion café.
- The adjacent redevelopment of the former Royal High School to create the National Centre for Music, including new publicly accessible gardens to the east and west of the category A Listed Thomas Hamilton building.

Boundary recommendations

B.33 To reflect the former Royal High School's integral relationship with Calton Hill and the newly proposed gardens, it is recommended that the LLA boundary is extended to include the building and its landscaped grounds.

Local Landscape Area 17: Holyrood, Duddingston and Prestonfield

B.34 Identified in 2010 and first designated in 2016, this LLA has undergone change in relation to:

- Wildfire damage, erosion, landslips and rock falls which have resulted in temporary closure of some parts of Holyrood Park for maintenance and introduction of safety fencing and rock traps.
- Introduction of boundaries for traffic control, with a prioritisation of pedestrians and cyclists on some roads within Holyrood Park.

Boundary recommendations

B.35 No boundary changes are recommended for this LLA.

Local Landscape Area 18: Craigmillar Castle

B.36 Identified in 2010 and first designated in 2016, this LLA has undergone change in relation to:

- The introduction and expansion of additional sports pitches in the north, associated with the University of Edinburgh.
- Changes to outward views south-east due to development associated with the BioQuarter and Edmonstone Estate, affecting views towards the wooded Edmonstone ridge.

Boundary recommendations

B.37 No boundary changes are recommended for this LLA.

Local Landscape Area 19: The Drum

B.38 Identified in 2010 and first designated in 2016, limited change has occurred within the LLA during this time. There has been an ongoing intensification of residential development along the western and northern boundaries of the LLA, including at the Edmonstone estate, which has altered the character of outward views experienced from within the LLA.

Boundary recommendations

B.39 No changes are recommended to the boundaries of this LLA.

Local Landscape Area (formerly 20): Edmonstone

B.40 Identified in 2010 and first designated in 2016, this LLA has undergone change in relation to:

- Residential development and associated infrastructure and landscaping (comprising an area of approximately 4.8 hectares) in the west of the LLA at Tweedsmuir Gate, within the former walled garden. Whilst the walls of the garden have been retained, the prevailing character within this area is now of dense residential development and car parking.
- The development of open fields in the north of the LLA into the new greenspace of Little France Park, managed by the City of Edinburgh Council. The introduction of this park has altered the character of the landscape from arable fields and pasture to that of a managed park with wildflower meadows, amenity grassland, wetland habitat and trees set amongst a network of meandering footpaths and cycle routes.

- Construction of a residential development in the east of the LLA. 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. Temporary access restrictions are in place due to this construction.
- Redevelopment and expansion of the Edinburgh BioQuarter. Although most of this development has taken place beyond the western boundary of the LLA, further development is anticipated to come forward in the fields in the west of the LLA, and is likely to comprise relatively dense residential development which would alter the prevailing character of the landscape. Changes associated with the Edinburgh BioQuarter that exist in the current landscape baseline have altered the sense of a continuous green open space extending south-eastwards from Holyrood Park, through Craigmillar, and across the LLA to Midlothian.
- Further residential development is planned to introduce flats and commercial space, with associated infrastructure and landscaping, to the central wooded ridge within the LLA near the former house and stables, although there is less certainty around how these proposals will manifest changes to the landscape.

Boundary recommendations

B.41 The evaluation of the LLA against the designation criteria (Appendix C) has been considered under the current baseline, at time of writing (2025-2026). The majority of the east of the LLA comprises an under-construction housing development, which has temporarily restricted public access to a large portion of the LLA.

B.42 The introduction of multiple developments at varying stages (built, under construction and planned) has resulted in a cumulative contraction of remaining areas of the landscape which strongly express the special qualities and designation criteria for the LLA.

B.43 Whilst the wooded ridge of Edmonstone continues to form a local landmark, particularly in views from Craigmillar Castle and Holyrood Park, the immediate setting to this wooded ridge has been, and will continue to be, changed.

B.44 The influence of existing development and development currently under construction has influenced the scenic quality of the LLA by introducing modern features which characterise the landscape, and will result in a prevailing highly modified or managed character to the landscape.

B.45 Whilst it is acknowledged that public access to the area will be reinstated following construction, the recreational opportunities available within the LLA are currently limited. The amenity of views experienced from the landscape, once construction is complete, will be substantially altered.

B.46 Whilst surviving historic features have been retained, including the wooded south drive, stone boundary walls, the ha-ha around core woodland, and remains of the former stables and gate lodges, the wider legibility of the historic policy landscape will be substantially altered by development.

B.47 Based on the above, lower scores are attributed to the LLA when considered under the criteria for designation (refer to Appendix C). Combined with the substantial variation in the quality of the landscape and its expression of the special qualities, it is recommended that this area no longer meets the criteria for designation as a Local Landscape Area.

Local Landscape Area 20: Braids, Liberton, Mortonhall

B.48 Identified in 2010 and first designated in 2016, this LLA has undergone change in relation to:

- Improvements and expansion of buildings at the Royal Observatory.
- Redevelopment or infill of the urban edge adjacent to the LLA boundary, including at the King's Buildings university campus and residential areas to the west and east of the LLA.
- Expansion of the garden centre at Mortonhall.

Boundary recommendations

B.49 No changes are recommended to the boundaries of this LLA.

Local Landscape Area 21: Craigie Hill

B.50 Identified in 2010 and first designated in 2016, this LLA has undergone change in relation to:

- Expansion of West Craigie's Farm and the introduction of the associated shop and café in the centre of the LLA.

- Backfilling of Craighill Quarry is underway, and restoration will feature mixed native woodland, wildflower meadows, stabilised quarry faces and scree.

Boundary recommendations

B.51 No changes are recommended to the boundaries of this LLA.

Appendix C

Summary Evaluation of Local Landscape Areas

Table 2.2: Evaluation against designation criteria

LLA	Distinctiveness, Rarity and Sense of Place	Scenic Qualities	Enjoyment	Culture	Naturalness
1: Southern Forth Coast	Medium	High	High	High	High
2: Lower Almond	Medium	High	High	High	High
3: Cammo	Medium	High	High	High	High
4: Dundas	Medium	High	Medium	High	High
5: Upper Almond	Medium	High	Medium	Medium	High
6: Gogar	Medium	High	Medium	High	Medium
7: Ratho Hills	Medium	High	High	Medium	Medium
8: Water of Leith – west	High	High	High	High	High
9: Pentlands	High	High	High	Medium	High
10: Corstorphine Hill	High	High	High	Medium	Medium
11: Craiglockhart	Medium	High	High	Medium	Medium
12: Water of Leith – New Town	High	High	High	High	High
13: Inverleith	High	High	High	High	Medium
14: Castle Rock	High	High	High	High	Medium
15: Princes Street Gardens	High	High	High	High	Medium
16: Calton Hill	High	High	High	High	Medium
17: Holyrood, Duddingston and Prestonfield	High	High	High	High	High
18: Craigmillar	High	High	High	High	High

LLA	Distinctiveness, Rarity and Sense of Place	Scenic Qualities	Enjoyment	Culture	Naturalness
19: The Drum	Medium	High	Medium	High	High
(formerly LLA 20): Edmonstone	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low
20: Braids, Liberton and Mortonhall	High	High	High	High	High
21: Craigie Hill	High	Medium	High	Medium	High

Appendix D

Data Sources

Table D.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 Local Landscape Areas	City of Edinburgh Council
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
Natural heritage	Priority habitats	NatureScot
Historic environment	Listed Buildings	Historic Environment Scotland
Historic environment	Scheduled Monuments	Historic Environment Scotland
Historic environment	Gardens and Designed Landscapes	Historic Environment Scotland
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

Category	Name	Source
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 E

Glossary

Table E.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.
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.
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

Term	Definition
	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.
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.
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 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.

Report produced by LUC

Report produced by LUC

Bristol

12th Floor, Beacon Tower, Colston Street, Bristol BS1 4XE
0117 389 0700

Cardiff

Room 1.12, 1st Floor, Brunel House, 2 Fitzalan Rd, Cardiff CF24 0EB
0292 254 0920

Edinburgh

Atholl Exchange, 6 Canning Street, Edinburgh EH3 8EG
0131 326 0900

Glasgow

5th Floor, The Garment Factory, 10 Montrose Street, Glasgow G1 1RE
0141 403 0900

London

250 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8RD
020 7199 5801

Manchester

4th Floor, 57 Hilton Street, Manchester M1 2EJ
0161 802 2800

Sheffield

32 Eyre Street, Sheffield, S1 4QZ
0114 392 2366

Email address for general enquiries: hello@landuse.co.uk

landuse.co.uk

Landscape Design / Strategic Planning & Assessment / Transport Planning
Development Planning / Urban Design & Masterplanning / Arboriculture
Environmental Impact Assessment / Landscape Planning & Assessment
Landscape Management / Ecology / Historic Environment / GIS & Visualisation