

# Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Guidance



## PREFACE

**ADOPTED BY MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL OCTOBER 2018**

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## Using this Supplementary Guidance

**1.1** This Supplementary Guidance provides details on the location and extent of Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) in Midlothian. It provides details of the work undertaken to identify the SLAs (Appendices 2 and 3). This Supplementary Guidance includes Statements of Importance (Appendix 1) for each of the seven identified SLAs. These Statements of Importance should be referred to and their content be taken into account in the preparation of planning applications affecting SLAs. The Statements of Importance also provide information on opportunities for management within SLAs.

## Midlothian AGLV Review (2012)

**1.2** In 2012 Midlothian Council undertook a review of the Midlothian Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) in order to determine if they fulfilled current requirements for local landscape designations identified in the "Guidance on Local Landscape Designations" published by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Historic Scotland (HS) in 2006. The review identified the following seven separate candidate SLAs to replace the Midlothian AGLV:

- Fala Moor;
- Fala Rolling Farmland and Policies;
- Gladhouse Reservoir and Moorfoots Scarp;
- North Esk Valley;
- Pentland Hills;
- South Esk Valley and Carrington Farmland; and
- Tyne Water Valley.

**1.3** A full copy of the Midlothian AGLV Review (2012) is provided in Appendix 2 of this Supplementary Guidance.

**1.4** The AGLV Review was subject to public consultation as part of the wider consultation undertaken in 2013 on the Main Issues Report of the Midlothian Local Development Plan. Following assessment of the consultation responses received on the Main Issues Report, the Council made amendments to the proposed western boundaries of the South Esk Valley and Carrington Farmland and Fala Rolling Farmland and Policies candidate SLAs. No other changes were made to the boundaries of the special landscape areas as proposed in the Main Issues Report.



## 1 Introduction

### Midlothian Special Landscape Areas

**1.5** The final boundaries of the seven SLAs had been identified in the Proposed Midlothian Local Development 2014, which under went public consultation in 2015 and was subject to Examination by the Scottish Government. The Midlothian Local Development Plan was adopted in November 2017. This Supplementary Guidance forms part of the Development Plan for Midlothian.

**1.6** The boundaries of the seven SLAs are shown in Figure 1 below. Statements of Importance for each of the seven SLAs have been prepared and can be found in Appendix 1 of this Supplementary Guidance. These Statements of Importance supersede the Statements of Importance provided in the 2012 AGLV Review. The purpose of Statements of Importance is to provide information on the special landscape areas, in particular:

- identify the location of the designated area;
- provide an overview of why the area is designated as a special landscape area,
- provide a description of the landscape and qualities of the designated area;
- provide a justification of the boundaries chosen to delineate the designated area;
- set out factors to be taken into consideration in the preparation and assessment of development proposals; and
- help inform the application of the policy framework of the Midlothian Local Development Plan in the assessment of development proposals.

### Background Information on the AGLV Review (2012)

**1.7** Appendix 3 of this Supplementary Guidance provides the following background information on the Midlothian AGLV Review (2012):

1. purpose of the AGLV Review;
2. background to the Midlothian AGLV;
3. requirements of the AGLV;
4. the Study Area; and
5. findings and recommendations of the Midlothian AGLV Review 2012.

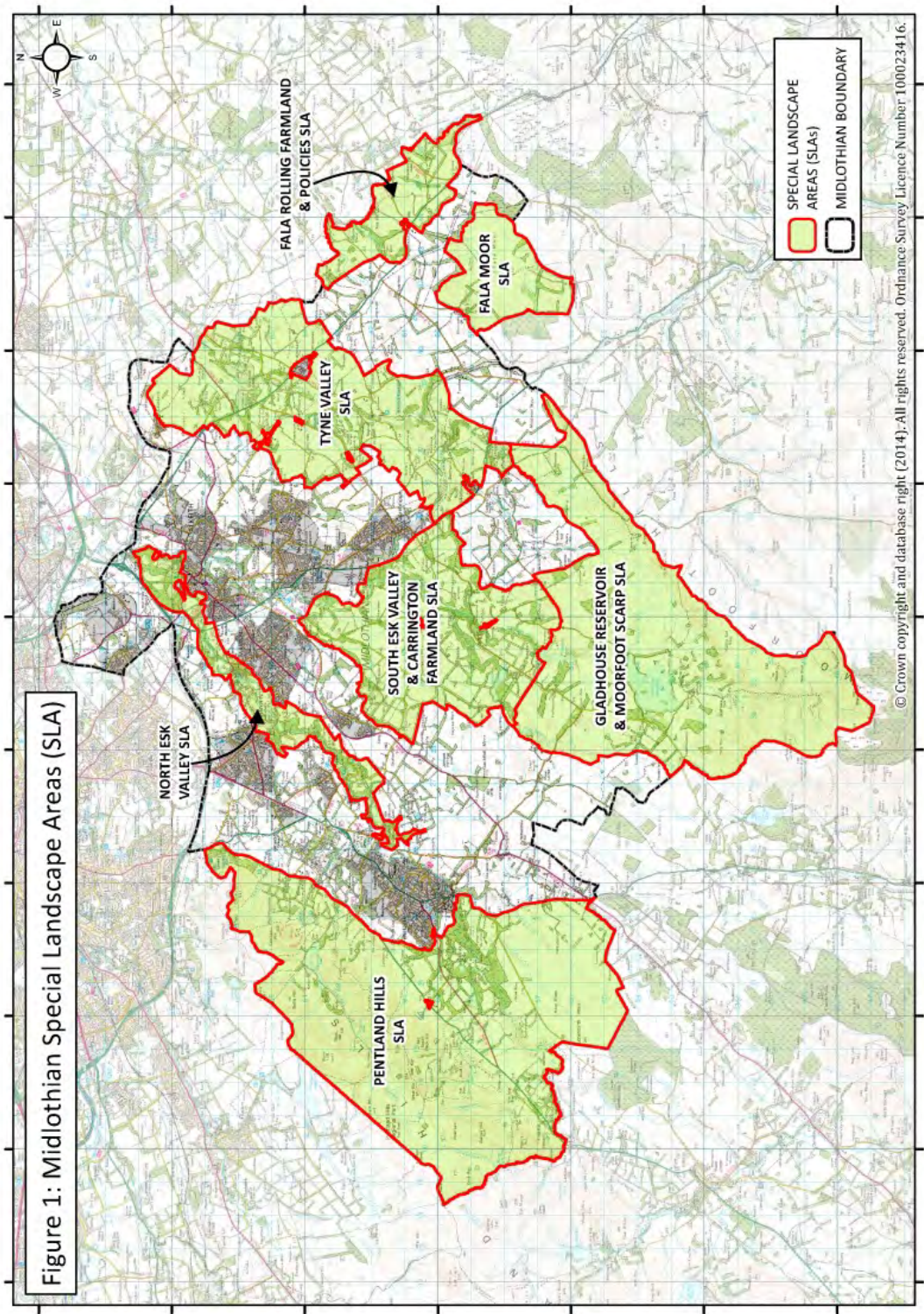


Figure 1: Midlothian Special Landscape Areas (SLA)

Special Landscape Area Overview

## Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance

### Statement of Importance

#### Fala Moor Special Landscape Area

#### Name and location

This Special Landscape Area (SLA) comprises the **Fala Moor** area. It is located in the south-eastern part of Midlothian, on the boundary with the Scottish Borders.



#### Overview

Key reasons why it is a SLA are:

- The rarity of this secluded and natural upland moorland in Midlothian.
- Extensive open views from the moor across the Lothians.

Fala Moor forms the main part of this SLA. Contained by foothills to the south, it is an open, seemingly remote landscape largely contained from views from the surrounding area yet offering dramatic and panoramic views over the Lothians to the north. The uninhabited plateau of blanket bog and moorland is a rare habitat within Midlothian that is of great ecological value, and contrasts with its surrounding farmed hill slopes and coniferous shelterbelts.

#### Landscape description

Key components of this landscape are:

- The simple composition, openness and expansiveness of the Fala Moor plateau which is covered with heather moorland and wetter areas of blanket bog.

## Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance

### Statement of Importance

#### Fala Moor Special Landscape Area

- Gently rolling hill slopes fringing the plateau and patterned by linear coniferous shelterbelts and some mixed streamside woodland associated with the grounds of Cakemuir Castle.
- Fields of improved or rough pasture on the slopes divided by post-and-wire fences or occasional stone walls and fragmented thorn hedges.

The landscape of the Fala Moor area is simple in its composition. The moor forms a transitional terrace between the larger scale Lammermuir uplands to the south in the Scottish Borders and the undulating smaller scale farmland of Midlothian to the north and north-west. The main central area of the moor is an expansive plateau, which gives way to gently rolling hill fringes to the south and west. The small open waterbody of Fala Flow Loch and a few other more minor pools are located within the moorland, with small burns running outwards from these to cut through the slopes surrounding the plateau.

The moor itself is open and unwooded, the exposed level ground being covered by a textured carpet of blanket bog and heather moorland. In contrast, the surrounding slopes are divided by blocky or linear, mainly coniferous shelterbelts, and some mixed streamside woodland near Cakemuir Castle. Fields of improved or rough pasture on the slopes are divided by post-and-wire fences or occasional stone walls and thorn hedges. The boundary to the north is predominantly edged by extensive plantations of conifers, which lie within the adjacent farmland and create a more enclosed character in views north-eastwards. Where the Fala Moor area abuts the Borders, it is enclosed by Cakemuir Hill and its plantations to the west and Brotherstone Hill to the south-east, further containing this SLA and adding to its sense of seclusion and remoteness. The high nature conservation value of Fala Moor has been recognised through RAMSAR, SPA and SSSI designations.

Little evidence of settlement is to be found within the moor itself, aside from the remaining wall of the now-ruinous 17thC Fala Luggie Tower which forms a focal point within the open expanse of the Moor. Nestled within the hill slopes to the north and sitting above a small stream valley, Cakemuir Castle with its stables and walled garden dates from the 16thC and is surrounded by ornamental planting and mature woodlands. The track that runs across the moorland is a way-marked right of way and a core path, offering open panoramic views northwards across the Lothians and the distant Firth of Forth. To the north and east, the secluded character of Fala Moor is intruded upon to some degree by a high-voltage power line and wind farm development.



## Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance

### Statement of Importance

#### Fala Moor Special Landscape Area

#### Choice of boundary

Where possible firm boundaries have been chosen for their longevity and robustness to define and identify the SLA. The boundaries of the Fala Moor SLA are formed by the adjacent administrative boundary with Scottish Borders in the west, south and south east; by the Cakemuir Burn in the north-west; and the woodlands, shelterbelts, power line and small burns in the north.

#### Opportunities for change

##### *Management*

The high nature conservation value of Fala Moor is recognised by its designation as an SSSI and a Natura site. This status, particularly the internationally important Natura designation, aims to protect the natural heritage value of the site through appropriate site management. Good management of the existing tree plantations and woodlands is important to the value and appearance of this landscape.

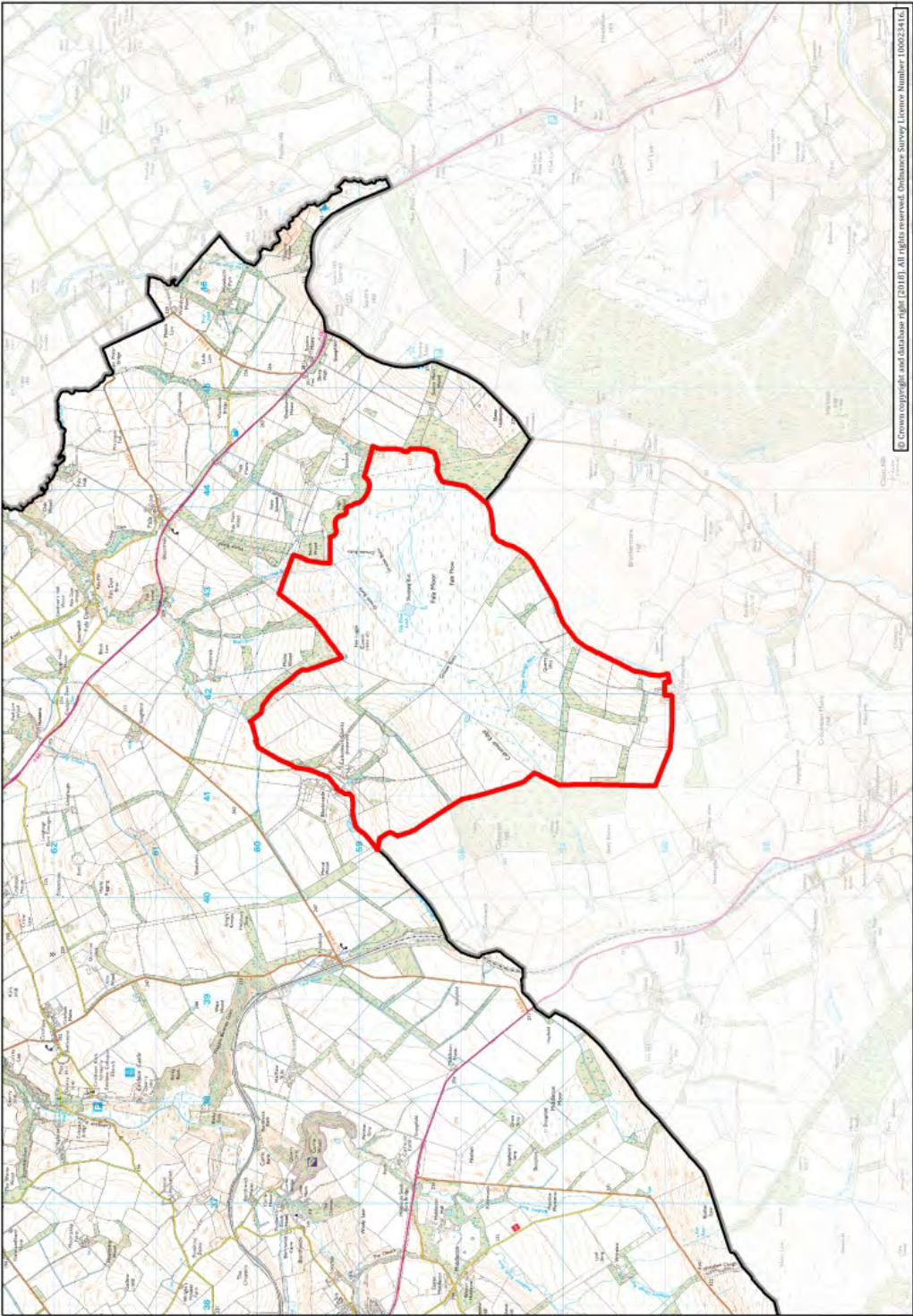
##### *Development*

Important considerations for landscape impact in the preparation and assessment of development proposals include:

- The impact of development and change on the relatively simple open landscape character of the area and how it might draw attention to individual parts of the SLA.
- The impact of development upon distant views in and out of the SLA.

Any development proposals should seek to maintain the essential open and remote character of this landscape.

Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance



Fala Moor SLA

## Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance

### Statement of Importance

#### Fala Rolling Farmland and Policies Special Landscape Area

##### Name and location

This Special Landscape Area (SLA) comprises the **Fala Rolling Farmland and Policies**. It is located in eastern Midlothian on its border with East Lothian.



##### Overview

Key reasons why this area is a SLA are:

- The rolling landform of this landscape which is cut by densely wooded burns and strongly patterned by woodlands, hedges and roadside trees.
- The rich architectural heritage of mansion houses and small villages which contributes to the diversity of this landscape.

The rolling pasture of this area is cut through by several well-wooded burns, and further divided by shelterbelts and farm woods, estate parkland and woodland, hedges and roadside trees. A scattering of farmsteads and small mansion houses, in addition to the small villages of Fala and Fala Dam, adds to the settled character of this landscape, which is in parts contained and intimate, and in other parts is characterised by a sense of openness where the ready and prominent background of the nearby hills is experienced.

##### Landscape description

Key components of the landscape are:

- The intimately scaled, deeply incised and often well-wooded valleys.

## Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance

**Statement of Importance****Fala Rolling Farmland and Policies Special Landscape Area**

- Rolling pastures strongly enclosed by hedgerows and small woodlands.
- Mature oak, ash and beech trees aligning narrow roads.
- The small tightly clustered settlements of Fala and Fala Dam which have a strong architectural integrity.
- The estates of Whitburgh and Woodcote Park which feature parkland and ornamental plantings.
- Views to the scarp of the Lammermuir Hills which provides a dramatic backdrop to this landscape particularly to the south-east within neighbouring East Lothian.

The SLA has a rolling landform which is deeply incised by a number of broadly parallel streams running from the Lammermuir Hills and hill fringes to the lower-lying agricultural plain of East Lothian to the north-east.

The routes of the watercourses – including the Linn Dean and Costerton Waters, and Fala Dam, Routing, Salters' and Dean Burns – are steep-sided valleys that, in the main, are well-defined and enclosed by dense mixed woodland and occasional areas of scrub. These valleys contrast with and divide rolling expanses of pastureland, within which mixed hedgerows, mature oak, beech and ash roadside trees, and small woodland blocks, copses and shelterbelts add further diversity to the well-wooded character of this SLA.

Some of the areas of woodland are associated with the policies of the small estates of Whitburgh House, an early 19thC mansion house at the north-western end of the SLA and, to a greater extent, the parklands and ornamental plantings of Woodcote Park to the south-east. Although Victorian in origin, the latter estate centres upon a 1970s modernist villa that replaced much of the original house, and contrasts with the more traditional stone farmsteads and cottages that are dotted across this landscape. In several places farm ponds, often fringed by large trees, are attractive farmland features. Aside from the roads that form the south and south-western boundaries to this area, the few other roads that run through the farmland tend to run in a north-easterly direction broadly parallel with the stream courses, with small stone bridges marking occasional crossing points. Both the hamlet of Fala Dam and the village of Fala are designated as Conservation Areas.

Views tend to be contained within this landscape through a combination of topography and mature woodland, adding to its intimately scaled character. Occasional glimpses can be obtained outwards towards the scarp of the Lammermuirs which is particularly dramatic



## Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance

### Statement of Importance

#### Fala Rolling Farmland and Policies Special Landscape Area

to the south-east within neighbouring East Lothian. This landscape is also important in forming the foreground to panoramic views of the Lothians and the Firth of Forth from the A68 as it crosses Soutra Hill.

### Choice of boundary

Where possible firm boundaries have been chosen for their longevity and robustness to define and identify the SLA. The boundaries of the SLA are formed by the administrative boundary between Midlothian and East Lothian to the north (which often follow major valleys), the A68 trunk road, a woodland strip west of Fala Mains and the Dean Burn to the south, and a minor road forking off from the A68 to the north-west.

### Opportunities for change

#### *Management*

Good management of the existing tree plantations and woodlands is important to the value and appearance of this landscape.

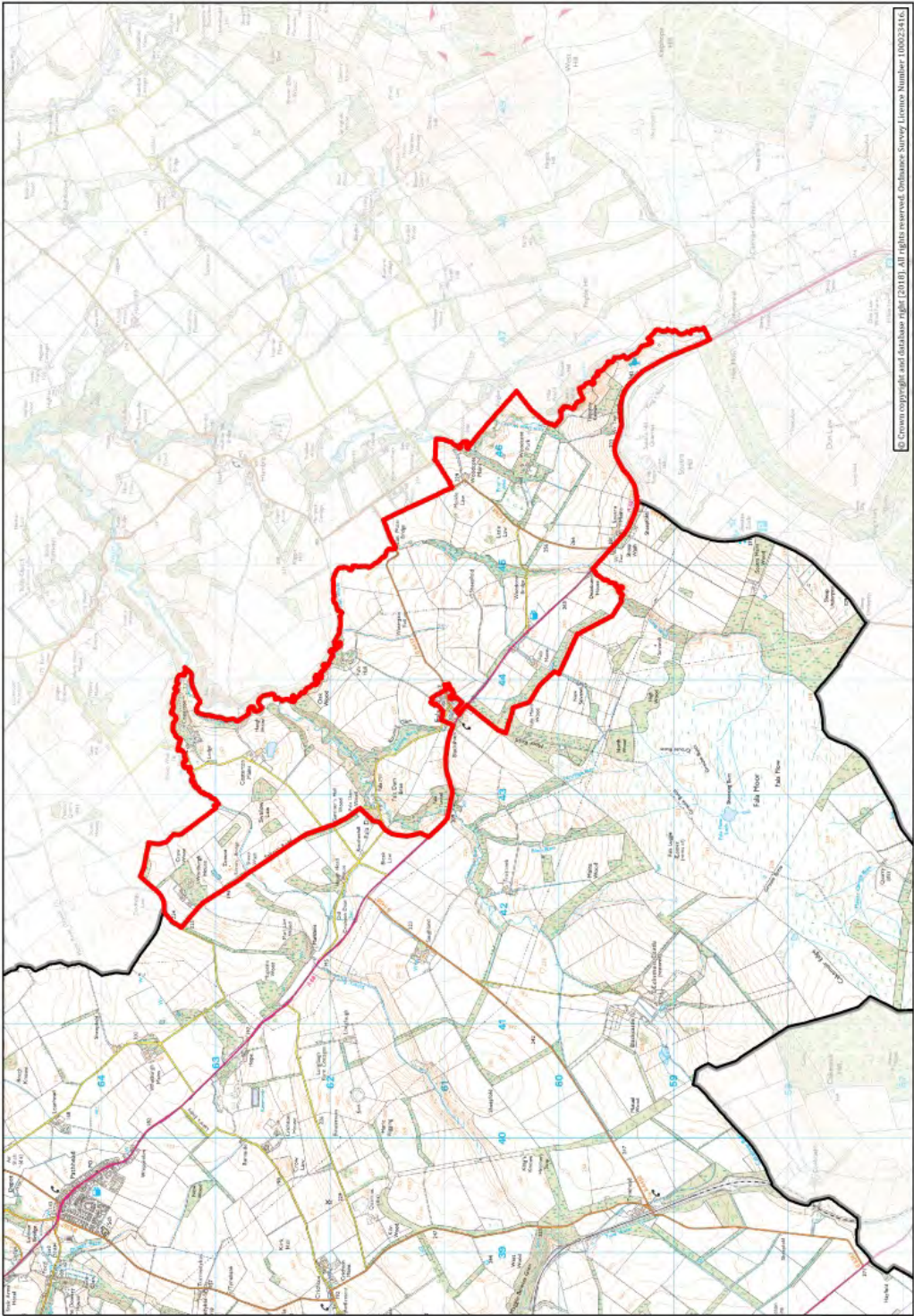
The focus for landscape improvements should be on management of mature field boundary trees and trees aligning roads with replacement planting where they are moribund or gaps have occurred. The management of parkland and woodlands within the Woodcote Park estate additionally requires attention. Improved access for walkers within the attractive wooded valleys of Costerton, Linn Dean and Fala Dam should also be considered where the terrain allows.

#### *Development*

Important considerations for landscape impact in the preparation and assessment of development proposals include:

- The impact of development on the often intimate scale of this landscape.
- Potential for intrusion on designed landscapes and any impacts on their key components.
- Impacts on the character and setting of historic settlements and buildings.
- Impacts on the character of the richly patterned rolling farmland and narrow tree-lined roads.

Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance



Fala Rolling Farmland and Policies SLA

## Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance

### Statement of Importance

#### Gladhouse Reservoir and Moorfoots Scarp Special Landscape Area

##### Name and location

The Special Landscape Area (SLA) comprises **Gladhouse Reservoir and the Moorfoots Scarp**. It is located at the southern boundary of Midlothian with the Scottish Borders, and is centred upon Gladhouse Reservoir and the moorland and farmland surrounding it together with the containing scarp and hill fringes of the Moorfoot Hills to the south and east.



##### Overview

Key reasons why this area is a SLA are:

- The open and naturalistic character of Gladhouse Reservoir and its scenic juxtaposition with the dramatic scarp of the Moorfoot Hills and the deeply incised South Esk valley.
- The mix of trees and woodland, and well-managed farmland, moss and moorland surrounding Gladhouse Reservoir.
- Important panoramic views from the B7007 across Midlothian and the Forth Valley.

The open and expansive landscape of Gladhouse Reservoir, viewed against the steep northern scarp of the Moorfoot Hills, forms a sparsely settled and secluded corner of Midlothian. The South Esk forms a dramatically incised valley cutting deep into the Moorfoots, strongly contrasting with the undulating basin which accommodates the reservoir

## Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance

**Statement of Importance****Gladhouse Reservoir and Moorfoots Scarp Special Landscape Area**

and which is patterned with improved farmland, shelterbelts, moss and wetlands. The fringes of the Moorfoots scarp to the east form the foreground to important panoramic views to and from the hills.

**Landscape description**

Key components of this landscape are:

- The irregularly shaped Gladhouse Reservoir and the fringing wetlands, mixed woodlands and small wooded islands which contribute to its naturalistic qualities.
- The dramatic steep scarp of the higher northern Moorfoot Hills and the deeply incised glen of the South Esk which cuts through these hills.
- Open and natural areas of moss and heather moorland.
- Well-managed farmland which is often enclosed by stone walls.
- The intimately scaled Rosebery Reservoir which is strongly contained by woodland and gently folded hills.
- The sense of seclusion that can be experienced in this sparsely settled landscape.
- Open and expansive views from this landscape to both the Moorfoot Hills and the Pentland Hills and also across the Lothians to the Firth of Forth.
- Revelatory views from the B7007 across the open moorland and farmland of this landscape to the distant Pentland Hills.

Lying between the Moorfoot Hills and the adjacent SLA of the South Esk Valley, Gladhouse Reservoir lies at the core of this landscape. To the north, broad areas of coniferous woodland and long mixed shelterbelts run across the farmland and form a transition between the tighter pattern of farm shelterbelts northwards within the South Esk Valley SLA and this more open and expansive landscape. Tucked away within these plantations and the surrounding rolling hill slopes, the intimately scaled Rosebery Reservoir is hidden by woodland and small folded hills, in contrast to the much larger Gladhouse Reservoir which is set within a broad gently undulating basin. Gladhouse Reservoir has a strongly naturalistic character featuring small wooded islands and with woodland, scrub and wetland fringing its banks. Fields of rough grassland and occasional improved pasture, lined with

## Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance

### Statement of Importance

#### Gladhouse Reservoir and Moorfoots Scarp Special Landscape Area

post-and-wire fences and sporadic hedges and walls, contrast with larger open areas of moorland and boggy ground within this basin. Mixed woodlands and shelterbelts associated with occasional farms ring the reservoir and angular coniferous plantations are prominently sited on the lower slopes of the Moorfoot scarp. Views from this elevated basin are panoramic with both the Moorfoot and Pentland Hills providing dramatic backdrops and with occasional long views across the Lothians.

Immediately south of Gladhouse Reservoir, the steep northern scarp of the Moorfoot Hills forms a distinctive and dramatic sculptural scarp cumulating in the high peaks of Blackhope Scar and Dundreich. The South Esk cuts a deep narrow valley within these hills, edged by the interlocking rounded spurs and deep gully tributaries of Hog and Huntly Cot Hills and the Kipps on its passage northwards. To the east, the hill scarp becomes lower but still forms a key element in views towards the Moorfoots from the north. Fringing this part of the scarp, a narrow band of gently sloping semi-improved grassland, moorland and long parallel coniferous shelterbelts is somewhat fragmented and undistinguished although forms an important foreground to a well-known view obtained from the B7007 road, which is also a National Cycle Route, as it emerges from the hills to the south.

The sparse settlement of the area, combined with its upland associations, lends a secluded and natural feel to this SLA. Several shelterbelts to the north are of semi-natural origin, and the reservoirs, bogs and stream woodlands are wildlife and nature conservation sites. Although roads and tracks are concentrated in the north, the circular route around Gladhouse Reservoir is waymarked and the Moorfoots are a popular walking destination.

### Choice of boundary

Where possible firm boundaries have been chosen for their longevity and robustness to define and identify the SLA.

The south-western and south-eastern boundaries of this SLA are formed by the administrative division between Midlothian and the Scottish Borders. The north-western edge follows the valleys of the Tweeddale Burn and Fullarton Water, with the boundary to the north being defined by a combination of roads, shelterbelts and field boundaries and partly abutting the South Esk Valley and Carrington Farmland SLA.

### Opportunities for change

#### *Management*



## Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance

**Statement of Importance****Gladhouse Reservoir and Moorfoots Scarp Special Landscape Area**

Gladhouse Reservoir and the surrounding area are covered by important nature conservation designations. Good management of farmland, field boundaries, woodlands, moss and moorland is important to the value and appearance of this landscape.

The focus for landscape improvement should be on the replacement of intrusive coniferous plantations on the scarp of the Moorfoot Hills with more sensitively designed native woodland. Any new woodland creation will need to reflect the sensitive nature of the location and respect the open character of the landscape. Neglected moorland, semi-improved pasture and shelterbelts in the eastern part of this SLA should be managed and the key stopping point on the B7007 should be enhanced. Increased car parking opportunities for walkers and visitors to Gladhouse Reservoir should be explored.

*Development*

Important considerations for landscape impact in the preparation and assessment of development proposals include:

- Potential for intrusion on key views to the Moorfoot Hills from the Gladhouse Reservoir area.
- Impacts on the openness and natural character of Gladhouse Reservoir and on areas of moss and moorland.
- Impacts on important views from the B7007 across Midlothian to the Pentland Hills.



## Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance

**Statement of Importance****North Esk Valley Special Landscape Area****Name and location**

The Special Landscape Area (SLA) comprises the **North Esk Valley**. It is situated in northern Midlothian, and follows the North Esk river and valley on its route between the outskirts of the towns of Penicuik in the south-west and Dalkeith in the north-east.

**Overview**

Key reasons why this area is a SLA are:

- The densely wooded and often dramatically incised North Esk Valley which accommodates a number of designed landscapes and is of high nature conservation interest.
- The rich cultural interest of this landscape and its popularity for recreation which is increased by its close proximity to urban areas.

This narrow, steep-sided river valley is densely wooded and lined by the estates of several country houses and castles, interspersed with fields of pasture. Overall it is of high scenic, cultural, ecological and recreational interest, and is well-used by people in adjacent settlements.

**Landscape description**

Key components of this landscape are:

- The densely wooded and deeply incised valley of the North Esk which is particularly dramatic and strongly contained in the Roslin Glen area.



## Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance

### Statement of Importance

#### North Esk Valley Special Landscape Area

- The strong sense of naturalness and seclusion that can be experienced in the valley, including in areas relatively close to transport corridors and settlements which lie on the valley fringes.
- Extensive policy woodlands and other designed landscape features associated with the Dalkeith, Melville Castle, Mavisbank and Auchendinny estates.
- Small pastures on valley sides, enclosed by hedgerows and shelterbelts.
- The rich cultural interest of this river valley which includes the internationally renowned Rosslyn Chapel and the romantic Roslin Glen, mansion houses and historic buildings as well as a number of industrial heritage sites.
- The wooded setting this landscape provides to the historic settlements of Lasswade, Polton and Dalkeith.
- The continuity of recreational routes through much of the valley.

Immediately north-west of Dalkeith lies the confluence of the North and South Esk rivers within Dalkeith Country Park. The sinuous route of the North Esk between Dalkeith and Penicuik is predominantly confined within a steep-sided valley; in some sections, such as Roslin Glen, the river is flanked by a precipitous gorge; in other parts, contrastingly, it becomes more open – such as the rounded valley shoulders that slope down to the river south-west of Lasswade and Roslin Castle. At Auchendinny at the southern end of this SLA, an incised fan of several small burns – mainly originating in the higher moorland to the south – feeds into the North Esk.

Much of the valley of the North Esk is heavily wooded. Around Dalkeith House, the land cover is a mix of parkland, handsome mature specimen trees, and woodlands. Policy woodlands, with occasional specimen conifers or spruce plantations, are also associated with other designed landscapes such as Mavisbank House, Roslin Glen and Melville Castle. Many woodlands are of ancient or semi-natural origin and much of the SLA is recognised and protected through wildlife designations. The woodlands line long stretches of the valley and are a strong and distinctive influence upon its lush, linear, contained character. Fields of improved pasture and occasional arable land occur on the more open valley slopes and terraces, often divided by well-kept hedgerows with hedgerow trees, and shelterbelts separate areas of farmland on the upper ground of the valley. Stone walling is commonly found as a boundary treatment surrounding or in the vicinity of the designed landscapes within the valley.

## Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance

### Statement of Importance

#### North Esk Valley Special Landscape Area

The 18thC country houses such as Dalkeith House, Mavisbank, Melville Castle and Auchendinny House – in addition to earlier buildings from the 14th to 17thC such as Rosslyn and Hawthornden Castles and Rosslyn Chapel – which line the valley of the North Esk, are prominent contributors to the highly diverse architectural and historical interest of the area. In contrast, some associations with the past mill and railway industrial heritage of the valley

remain in places. The site of the Battle of Roslin (1303) lies within the area and is listed on Scotland's Inventory of Historic Battlefields.

A network of B-roads, minor roads and access tracks runs parallel to and occasionally crossing the valley, connecting the adjacent settlements such as Loanhead and Lasswade, Rosewell and Roslin. Within the valley clusters of stone cottages and Victorian villas at Polton and Lasswade are designated Conservation Areas, fitting harmoniously into the surrounding wooded landscape. Connected with the towns and villages within and around the SLA are numerous paths, cycle routes and bridleways running along the river and through the designed landscapes – a section from Dalkeith to Penicuik forms part of the National Cycle Network. The high recreational value of the area is further enhanced by the Country Parks and associated visitor facilities at Roslin Glen and Dalkeith.

Topography and vegetation combine to give this area a predominantly enclosed and secluded character, with restricted views to the surrounding landscape. Views into it from nearby roads are also similarly limited to glimpses of castles and country houses within dense woodlands.

#### Choice of boundary

Where possible firm boundaries have been chosen for their longevity and robustness to define

and identify the SLA.

The boundaries of this SLA follow a combination of designed landscape and settlement edges in combination with roads, tributary valleys, field boundaries and woodlands.

## Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance

### Statement of Importance

#### North Esk Valley Special Landscape Area

#### Opportunities for change

##### *Management*

The North Esk valley woodlands are substantially covered by ancient/semi-natural woodland and ecological designations. The historical richness of this SLA is similarly acknowledged by the Conservation Area and the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes designations that cover much of the length of the valley. Good management of the existing designed landscapes, extensive woodlands and areas of well-managed and uncluttered open pasture is important to the value and appearance of this landscape.

The focus for landscape improvements should be on the management of built features and plantings within designed landscapes including visitor facilities within Dalkeith Country Park. Woodland planting should be undertaken to screen intrusive housing and industrial development seen on sensitive skylines above the valley in the Polton area. Establishment of new recreational routes is also needed within the valley between Dalkeith and Lasswade to improve connectivity.

##### *Development*

Important considerations for landscape impact in the preparation and assessment of development proposals include:

- Potential for intrusion on designed landscapes which are strongly contained by woodland and any impacts on their key components.
- Impacts on the character and setting of historic settlements and buildings.
- Impacts on sensitive skylines on the edge of the valley.

Further dispersed built development within the valley should be strongly discouraged to conserve the sense of seclusion and naturalness which is a key quality of this landscape.

Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance



North Esk SLA



## Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance

### Statement of Importance

#### Pentland Hills Special Landscape Area

##### Name and location

The Special Landscape Area (SLA) of the **Pentland Hills** comprises, in addition to the hills themselves, the designed landscape of Penicuik House, the upper North Esk valley and Auchencorth Moss. This landscape is located on the western boundary of Midlothian. The Pentland Hills extend into neighbouring City of Edinburgh, Scottish Borders and West Lothian, where they are covered by a similar landscape designation.



##### Overview

Key reasons why this area is a SLA are:

- The highly scenic shapely peaks of the Pentland Hills which are seen widely across the Lothians, form key components of the landscape setting to Edinburgh and Midlothian and are also well-used for recreation.
- The rich diversity of the upper North Esk Valley, lying at the foot of the Pentland Hills, which forms the focus for the well-wooded designed landscapes of Penicuik House and Newhall.
- The open and expansive low-lying Auchencorth Moss which strongly contrasts with the hills and contributes to the richness of this SLA.
- The simple, open and expansive low-lying Auchencorth Moss which strongly contrasts with the hills and their fringes, contributing significantly to the overall scenic diversity of this SLA.

## Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance

**Statement of Importance****Pentland Hills Special Landscape Area**

The Pentland Hills form the key focus of this SLA. The adjacent upper section of the North Esk valley – which comprises the setting for the designed landscapes of Penicuik House and Newhall – and the open and expansive moss of Auchencorth, provide strong contrasts with the hills and contribute to the richness of the overall composition. This landscape is highly scenic, and the more visually prominent Pentland Hills form an essential part of the setting to both Midlothian and Edinburgh. The Pentland Hills are a highly valued recreational resource and are designated as a Regional Park, which encourages public access to them. The Penicuik House Estate is also well used for recreation, particularly by local residents.

**Landscape description**

Key components of this landscape are:

- The rugged and little modified character of the Pentland Hills which contributes to the distinct sense of wildness that can be experienced and contrasts with nearby urban areas.
- The rolling and strongly enclosed farmland on south-eastern hill slopes at the foot of the Pentland Hills.
- The designed landscapes of Penicuik House and Newhall which are centred on the River North Esk and are strongly contained by wooded policies.
- The deeply incised open section of the River North Esk which adds to the diversity of views to the Pentland Hills seen from the unclassified Moor Road.
- The open and largely uncluttered expanse of the low-lying Auchencorth Moss which provides a simple open foreground and strong contrast with the Pentland Hills, accentuating their apparent height and drama in key views from the east.

The conical peaks, undulating ridges and steep slopes of the northernmost Pentland Hills – the highest and most shapely peaks within the range – form a distinctive and recognisable backdrop to Midlothian and Edinburgh. Deeply incised narrow valleys separate peaks, accentuating the sculptural landform of these hills. These include the valley of the Logan Burn, which penetrates deep into the hills, creating an intimately scaled interior landscape accommodating isolated farms and cottages and small reservoirs. Although lying close to settlement, a sense of wildness can be experienced within the hills, with formal recreational facilities in the form of the Ski and Ranger Centres being restricted to the northern tip. The upper slopes and summits are dominated by rough grassland and moorland, contrasting with the rolling landform and rich pattern of woodlands, drystone walls, hedgerows and

## Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance

### Statement of Importance

#### Pentland Hills Special Landscape Area

pastures of the sheltered south-east facing lower slopes of the Pentland Hills. These merge with the adjacent North Esk valley and the extensive wooded policies of Penicuik House, and add to the wide diversity of landform and land cover of this character area.

The North Esk valley is aligned at the foot of the Pentlands, and forms the setting for the designed landscapes of Penicuik House and Newhall. The river forms a natural amphitheatre of parkland at the core of the Penicuik House designed landscape, which is strongly contained by extensive policy woodlands and also features elevated walkways, avenues and planned vistas to follies and monuments. Newhall is also densely wooded, but with more ornamental gardens lying at its core. The valley of the upper North Esk is open and deeply incised between these two designed landscapes, with sheer, grassy slopes patterned by occasional crags and exposed scree.

No towns or villages lie within the SLA, with farmsteads scattered mainly across the lower hill slopes and adjacent valley, through which run the A702 and A766 main roads. A number of well-used tracks and paths criss-cross the Pentland Hills. Dramatic views, focusing on the shapely interlocking peaks of Carnethy Hill, Scald Law, South Black Hill and Cap Law, are experienced from the A701, the unclassified Moor Road and the A6094, where the low-lying and gently domed dark heathland and pasture of Auchencorth Moss provides a simple open foreground and strong contrast with the hills, accentuating their apparent height and drama. The site of the Battle of Rullion Green (1666) lies within the area and is listed on Scotland's Inventory of Historic Battlefields.

#### Choice of boundary

Where possible firm boundaries have been chosen for their longevity and robustness to define and identify the SLA. The boundaries to this SLA are formed by adjacent local authority boundaries, the A701, the outer edge of the Penicuik designed landscape and the A702.

#### Opportunities for change

##### *Management*

The Pentland Hills Regional Park Management Group working with the Pentland Hills Ranger Service are responsible for the management of the Regional Park. A long term programme of woodland restructuring and landscape restoration and management works is being carried out within Penicuik designed landscape.

## Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance

**Statement of Importance****Pentland Hills Special Landscape Area**

Opportunities for improvement focus on screening intrusive development visible from the Penicuik House designed landscape, management of Auchencorth Moss to enhance its natural qualities and creation of circular recreational routes within the North Esk Valley with links to the Pentland Hills.

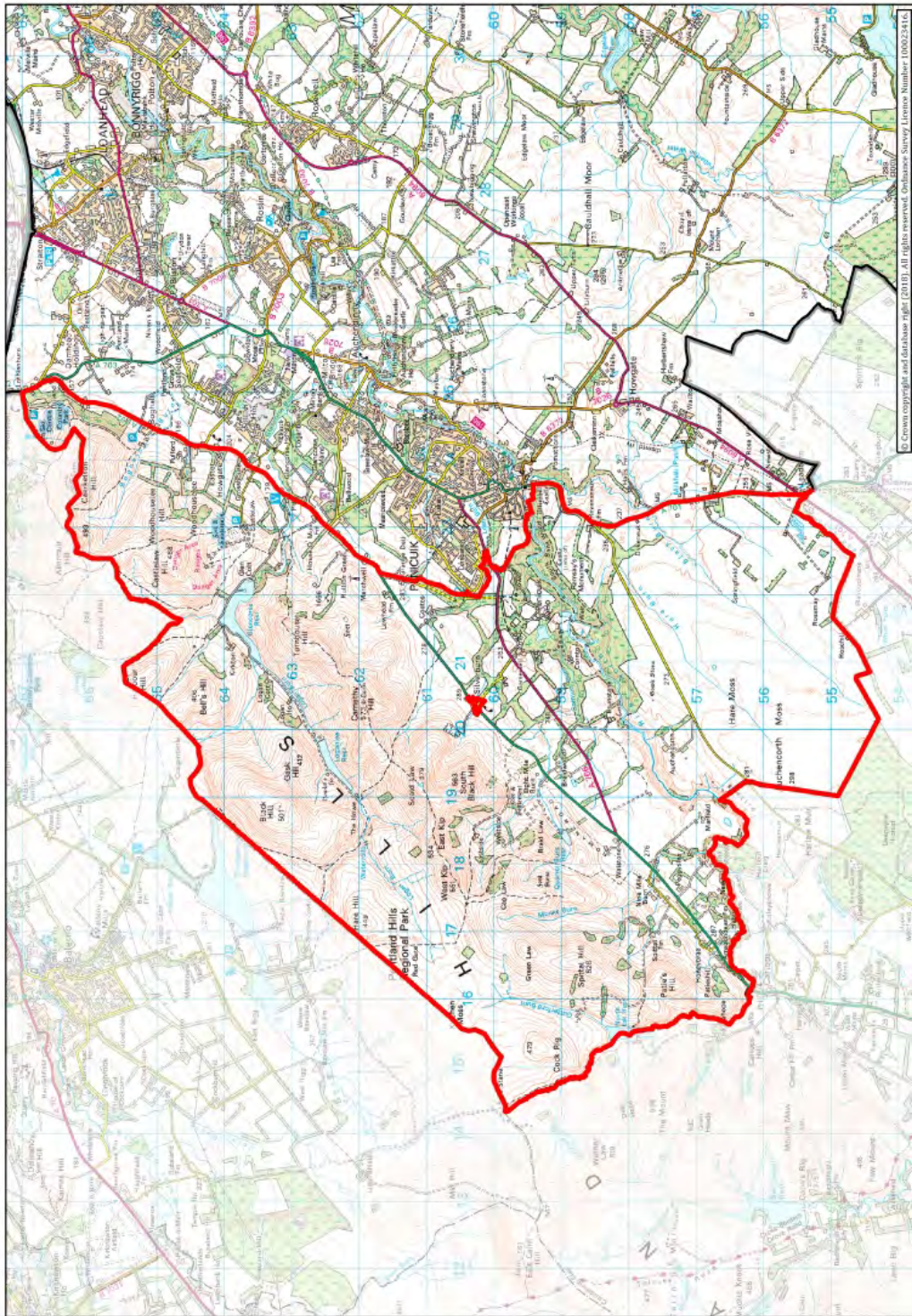
*Development*

Important considerations for landscape impact in the preparation and assessment of development proposals include:

- Impacts on the sense of wildness experienced within the Pentland Hills and potential for significant intrusion on key views to and from the hills.
- Potential for intrusion on the strongly contained nationally important designed landscapes of Penicuik House and Newhall and impacts on their key components.
- Any change that may occur to the simple and largely uncluttered character of Auchencorth Moss which may diminish its scenic juxtaposition with the Pentland Hills and intrude on key views.



# Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance



Pentland Hills SLA

## Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance

**Statement of Importance****South Esk Valley and Carrington Farmland Special Landscape Area****Name and location**

The Special Landscape Area (SLA) comprises the **South Esk Valley and Carrington Farmland**. It is located at the core of Midlothian, and broadly follows the river from the hamlet of Rosebery in the south to the outskirts of Bonnyrigg and Newtongrange in the north. The SLA then extends south-east and, to a greater extent, north- westwards from the river valley to incorporate adjoining farmland and estate policies.

**Overview**

Key reasons why this area is a SLA are:

- The densely wooded South Esk Valley which accommodates a number of designed landscapes and is of high nature conservation interest.
- The surrounding farmland is largely open, gently rolling and sparsely settled, patterned with extensive policy woodlands and field trees.

The valley of the South Esk is a lushly wooded, well-contained landscape that accommodates extensive designed landscapes which provide the setting to mansion houses and estate settlements. The area is well-accessed and is rich in cultural, landscape and nature conservation interest. The influence of the estate landscapes extends to the surrounding farmlands which are patterned with extensive policy woodlands and field trees and have a strong rural character.

**Landscape description**

## Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance

### Statement of Importance

#### South Esk Valley and Carrington Farmland Special Landscape Area

Key components of this landscape are:

- The intimately scaled, densely wooded and deeply incised valleys of the South Esk and its tributary Redside Burn.
- The nationally important designed landscapes of Arniston and Dalhousie Castle but also the wooded policies of other notable estates which contribute to the character of this SLA.
- The small, tightly clustered historic settlements of Temple and Carrington.
- The secluded Edgelaw Reservoir, contained by dense woodland.
- Broadleaved woodlands and mature oak and ash trees aligning field and roadside boundaries, and stone walls within well-managed surrounding farmland.
- The largely open, gently rolling, sparsely settled and strongly rural character of the farmlands.

The dominant focus of the SLA is upon the valley of the River South Esk and its major tributary the Redside Burn, both of which lie towards the southern and eastern sides of the SLA. In the south the two watercourses mark a transition in character from the higher, more exposed adjoining SLA landscape around Rosebery and Gladhouse Reservoirs to that of the more settled and intimately scaled South Esk Valley. They follow narrow, deeply incised valleys, which tend to be tightly defined and enclosed by landform and dense woodland. Neither valley is an especially visible element within wider views of the hillier landscape in the southernmost part of the SLA, in which also nestles the secluded Edgelaw Reservoir. North of the village of Temple the river and its tributary merge to create a meandering, still well-contained, but more visually prominent feature as the river flows northwards.

Extensive estate landscapes are set along the length of the valley and feature mixed woodlands, parkland and occasional groups of ornamental trees. The influence of the estates extends onto adjacent gently undulating farmland which is patterned by mature oak and ash aligning field and roadside boundaries and also by stone estate walls and historic buildings. The route of the South Esk is almost entirely covered by ancient/semi-natural woodland and ecological designations, marking the diversity and value of habitats along the valley. The historical richness of the area is similarly acknowledged by the overlapping Conservation Area and Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes designations that cover much of the length of the valley landscape,

## Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance

**Statement of Importance****South Esk Valley and Carrington Farmland Special Landscape Area**

along with a concentration of Listed Buildings. These include the historic village of Temple, the Adam-designed mansion house at Arniston, the mainly 13th-15thC Castle at Dalhousie, and associated buildings such as the distinctive steading and clocktower at Rosebery. The SLA includes the designed landscapes associated with Arniston House and Dalhousie Castle.

Extending north-west from the valley, the higher farmland area between the villages of Carrington and Rosewell forms part of the watershed between the South Esk and North Esk rivers. The landform is cut through by several small burns, with the densely wooded Dalhousie Burn and the associated policy landscape of Whitehill House being the most notable to the west. The estate village of Carrington with its prominent church spire is visible from several parts of the South Esk valley. Although there are fewer formally designated areas of landscape, ecological or cultural note within this adjacent farmland, the strong estate influence and richness of woodlands and mature trees means that this landscape forms a complementary backdrop to the South Esk river valley.

Both the valley and adjacent farmland are well-accessed through a network of roads and footpaths, following the valley and criss-crossing the farmland between settlements.

**Choice of boundary**

Where possible firm boundaries have been chosen for their longevity and robustness to define and identify the SLA. The boundary is defined by the A7 to the east, with the remaining boundaries marking the extent of designed landscapes together with streams, shelterbelts, and minor roads.

**Opportunities for change***Management*

The South Esk valley is almost entirely covered by ancient/semi-natural woodland and ecological designations. The historical richness of this SLA is similarly acknowledged by the overlapping Conservation Area and Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes designations that cover much of the length of the valley. Good management of the existing parkland, woodlands, field and roadside trees is important to the value and appearance of this landscape.



## Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance

### Statement of Importance

#### South Esk Valley and Carrington Farmland Special Landscape Area

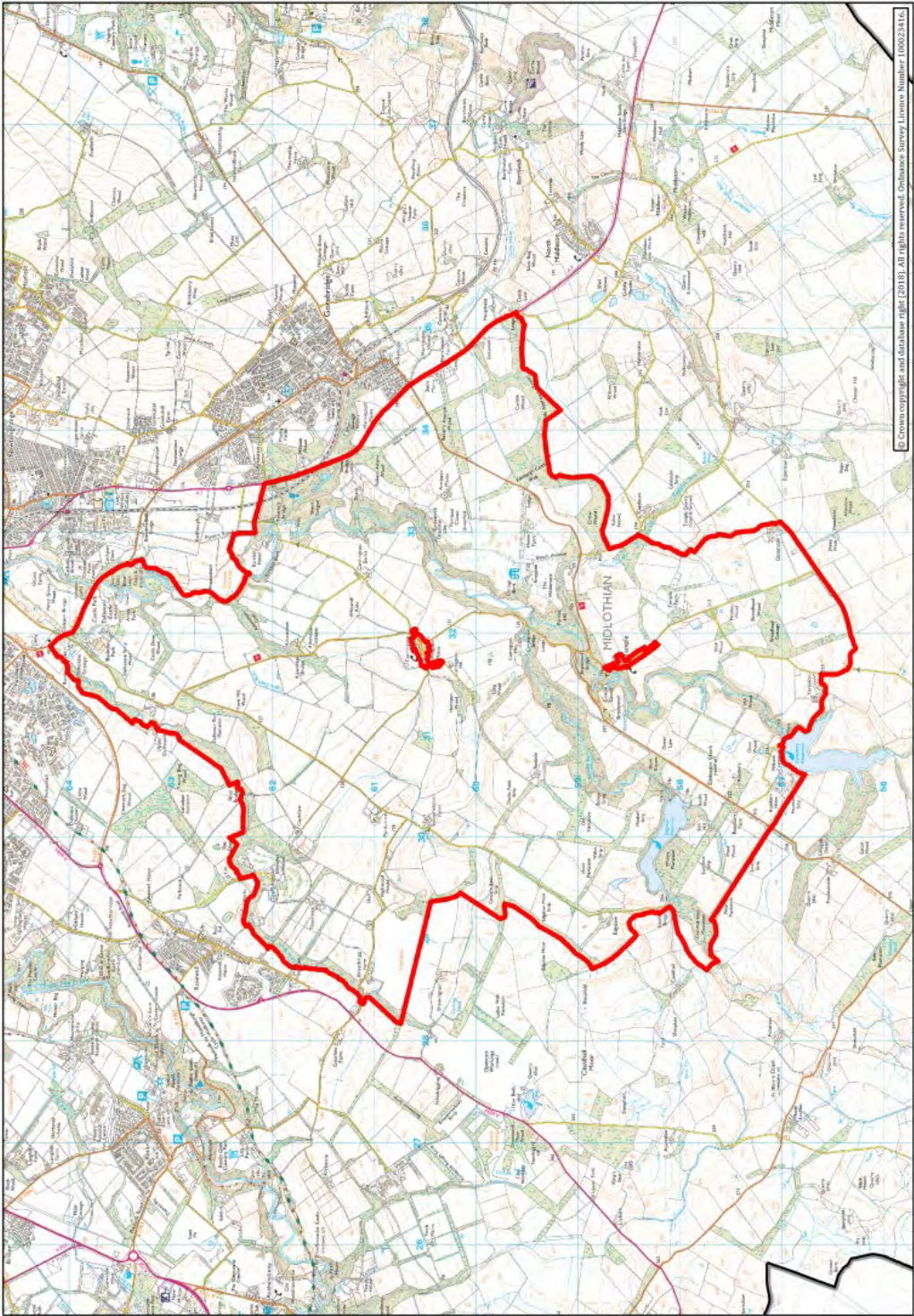
The focus for landscape improvements should be on management of mature field boundary trees and trees aligning roads with replacement planting where they are moribund or gaps have occurred. Woodlands and specimen trees within the Whitehill House area also require management to ensure longevity and screening of consented housing development.

#### *Development*

Development proposals include:

- Potential for intrusion on designed landscapes and any impacts on their key components.
- Impacts on the character and setting of historic settlements and buildings.
- Impacts on the character of the richly patterned farmland which makes a strong contribution to the SLA.

Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance



South Esk Valley and Carrington Farmland SLA

## Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance

### Statement of Importance

#### Tyne Water Valley Special Landscape Area

##### Name and location

The Special Landscape Area (SLA) comprises the **Tyne Water Valley**. It is located in the north-east of Midlothian, and follows the valleys of the Tyne and Gore Waters and adjacent ridges and valley slopes between Cousland in the north and Middleton in the south.



##### Overview

Key reasons why this area is a SLA are:

- The rich diversity of the Tyne Water Valley which is characterised by extensive designed landscapes and farmland patterned with woodlands and field trees.
- The more naturalistic upper valleys of the Tyne and Gore Waters which provide the setting for a number of landmark historic features.

The valley of the Tyne Water and surrounding farmlands is a highly diverse landscape. To the north, the valley floor is characterised by the historically important buildings and policies of several designed landscapes and surrounding farmlands and woodlands. The more open and naturalistic reaches of the upper valleys of the Tyne and Gore Waters to the south are more intimate in character. The higher farmed slopes of the valley to the east and west act as framing and complementary landscapes to the setting of the valley core.

##### Landscape description

Key components of this landscape are:

## Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance

**Statement of Importance****Tyne Water Valley Special Landscape Area**

- The intimately scaled upper valleys of the Tyne and Gore Waters which are strongly contained and secluded and which feature richly diverse rough grassland, scrub and broadleaved woodlands.
- Extensive policy woodlands, parkland and ornamental plantings which provide the setting to Oxenfoord Castle, Preston Hall, Vogrie and Middleton Hall.
- Strongly patterned farmland which form the wider setting to the more richly patterned lower Tyne valley but which also feature mature field trees and distinctive mixed woodlands on the ridges framing the valley.
- Historic buildings and structures, including Crichton and Borthwick Castles and the Lothian Bridge, which form landmark features within this landscape.
- The small and often tightly knit historic settlements which further enrich the cultural heritage of this landscape.

Much of the southern-most part of this SLA is dominated by the tightly confined and convoluted valley of the Gore Water, the landscape of which then merges with the upper reaches of the Tyne. The steep slopes of the Gore Water are marked by furrows of soil creep and rocky knolls, with wetland meadows lining the narrow floor. The upper valley slopes are mainly open hummocky expanses of rough grassland and scrub, transitional in character between the hillier moorland landscapes to the south and the more settled valley landscape to the north. Small mixed woodlands edge parts of the valley sides and line tributaries.

Sitting high above the Tyne and Gore Waters, the imposing edifices of Borthwick and Crichton Castles are prominent reminders of the area's importance in medieval times and, along with the churches of Crichton and Borthwick, form focal features seen from surrounding roads. At the southern tip of this SLA, the 18thC estate of Middleton Hall is enclosed by policy woodland and stone walls and separated by the A7. North of Crichton Castle, the Tyne Water follows a more gently meandering open route, gradually opening out to the north. The extensive policies of Vogrie House, and the contiguous designed landscapes of Oxenfoord Castle and Preston Hall, occupy almost the entire remaining length of the Tyne Water valley and its lower terraces, and dominate both landscape and built character. Mixed and deciduous woodlands, ornamental plantings and parkland dotted with specimen trees merge with well-managed farmland, patterned with hedgerows and scattered with hedgerow trees.



## Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance

### Statement of Importance

#### Tyne Water Valley Special Landscape Area

Throughout this richly varied landscape of often high scenic and wildlife value, historic interest is added by villages and hamlets including Pathhead, Ford and Dewartown, structures such as the elegant five-arched Lothian Bridge viaduct, and the lodges, stables, temples and stone walls associated with the estates. To the north-west near Mayfield and Cousland, and to the east around Pathhead, the gently rolling farmed upper valley slopes and often wooded ridges form an important backdrop to views in and out of the valley.

The recreational value of the area is concentrated along the river valley path network and around Vogrie Country Park, with fewer routes across the surrounding farmland. The SLA is well-served by roads along and across the valley and surrounding farmlands, with the A68 and A7 being prominent features as they cross the valley. These, along with other roads on the higher slopes, offer views into and across the landscape, whereas within the valley itself views are often constrained by landform and woodlands.

#### Choice of boundary

The eastern and western boundaries of the SLA follow the top of valley slopes, being locally defined by a combination of prominent woodlands, tracks and minor roads. To the north, the boundary skirts Cousland/Cousland Park and follows part of the conjunction with East Lothian, while to the south it is demarcated by the A7 and the wooded policies of Middleton Hall.

#### Opportunities for change

##### *Management*

Good management of the existing woodlands, field trees and hedgerows is important to the value and appearance of this landscape.

The focus for landscape improvements should be on the management of mature field boundary trees and trees aligning roads with replacement planting where they are moribund or gaps have occurred. Ridgeline woodlands on the edges of the SLA and woodlands and parkland within designed landscapes should also be managed to ensure longevity. Improvements to recreational access routes between Borthwick and Crichton Castle should also be explored.

##### Development

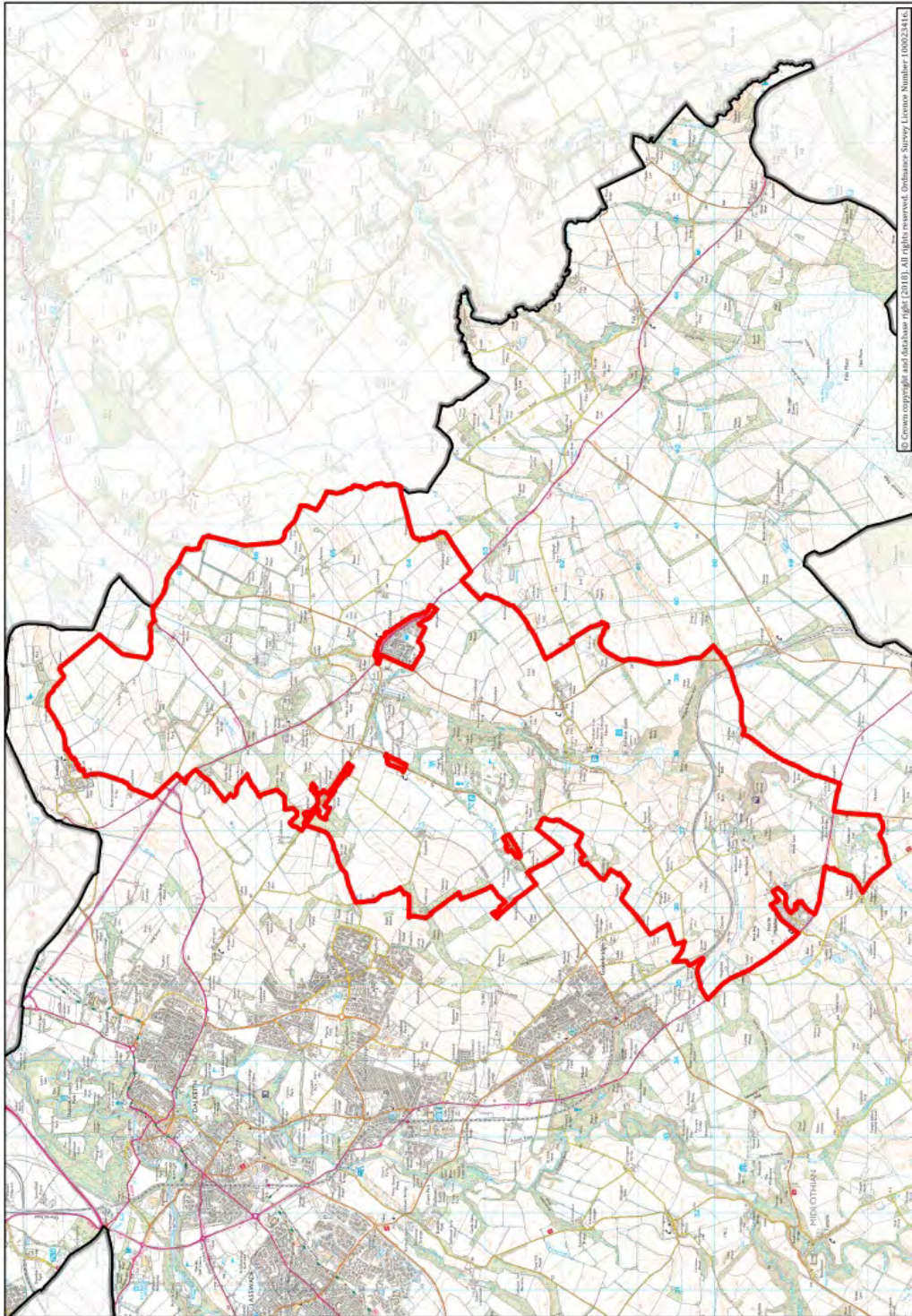
## Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance

**Statement of Importance****Tyne Water Valley Special Landscape Area**

Important considerations for landscape impact in the preparation and assessment of development proposals include:

- Potential for intrusion on designed landscapes and any impacts on their key components.
- Impacts on the character and setting of historic settlements, landmark built features.
- Impacts on the character of often strongly patterned farmland which features mature field trees, hedgerows and woodlands.
- Intrusion on sensitive skylines which contain the Tyne valley.
- Impacts on the often intimate scale of the narrow Gore Valley.

## Appendix 1 - Statements of Importance



**Tyne Water Valley SLA**

## Appendix 2 - Review of the Midlothian Areas of Great Landscape Value

Midlothian AGLV Review

Final Evaluation Report

Carol Anderson Landscape Associates

November 2012



**Scottish Natural Heritage**  
**Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba**

All of nature for all of Scotland  
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad

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Figure 8: Gladhouse Reservoir and the Moorfoots Scarp proposed boundary changes

Figure 9: Tyne Water Valley landscape character areas

Figure 10: Tyne Water Valley proposed boundary changes

Figure 11: Pentland Hills landscape character areas

Figure 12: Pentland Hills proposed boundary changes

Figure 13: Fala Area landscape character areas

Figure 14: Fala Area proposed boundary changes

Figure 15: Candidate Special Landscape Areas (SLAs)

Figure 16: AGLV and Candidate SLA designations

## **Acronyms used in this document**

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| AGLV   | Area of Great Landscape Value               |
| LBS    | Local Biodiversity Site                     |
| NCR    | National Cycle Route                        |
| ROW    | Right of Way                                |
| SAM    | Scheduled Ancient Monument                  |
| SLA    | Special Landscape Area                      |
| SNH/HS | Scottish Natural Heritage/Historic Scotland |
| SAC    | Special Area for Conservation               |
| SPA    | Special Protection Area                     |
| SPP    | Scottish Planning Policy                    |
| SSSI   | Site of Special Scientific Interest         |



# **1. Background**

## **Introduction**

- 1.1 This study reviews the existing Area of Great Landscape Value designation (AGLV) within Midlothian in accordance with the 2005 Guidance on Local Landscape Designations produced by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Historic Scotland. This study has been co funded by Midlothian Council and SNH and managed with a steering group comprising officers from both bodies.

## **The Midlothian AGLV designation**

- 1.2 The County of Midlothian Development Plan designated most of the rural parts of Midlothian south of Dalkeith as an AGLV. This designation remains except where the boundaries have been revised during local plan preparation. In 1975, the then Midlothian District Council agreed that the AGLV designated area should be reduced to include only those parts of the District which were of the highest scenic value, allowing for very strict control over development in these areas. The Lothian Region Structure Plan 1982 identified recommended geographic areas to which the AGLV should be restricted. The replacement Lothian Structure Plan 1985 did not specify those areas which should be safeguarded but urged local plans to identify such areas and seek ways to achieve their positive management.
- 1.3 There is currently a single, but not contiguous, AGLV in Midlothian covering different landscape types within Midlothian including the:
- Rolling hill country of the Pentland, Moorfoot and Lammermuir Hills;
  - Incised river valleys of the North and South Esk and the Tyne;
  - Estate landscapes of Penicuik, Arniston, Prestonhall, Oxenfoord and Vogrie; and
  - Gladhouse, Edgelaw, Glencorse, Rosebery, Loganlea and North Esk reservoirs.
- 1.4 The current boundaries of the AGLV were reviewed during the production of the now superseded Midlothian Villages and Rural Area Local Plan (adopted 1995). The definition of the boundaries in that Local Plan was based upon the identification of areas of outstanding amenity, principally based on the hill ranges, 'wild' landscapes, main river valleys and tracts of countryside linked visually and in landform where development would blight a highly valued landscape setting.
- 1.5 The boundaries of the AGLV have not been significantly altered since the adoption of the Midlothian Villages and Rural Area Local Plan. The current AGLV designated area is shown in Figure 1.
- ## **The Study brief**
- 1.6 The aim of the study is to provide an evaluation of the existing AGLV designation rather than a comprehensive full scale review of all of Midlothian's landscapes. The study brief required the following key tasks:

- A review of the existing Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) designation within Midlothian, determining whether it fulfils the landscape requirements for local landscape designations as identified in the Scottish Natural Heritage/Historic Scotland (SNH/HS) document 'Guidance on Local Landscape Designations' (2005).
- Consideration of any modifications that may be necessary to the existing AGLV designation in terms of its boundaries and extent.
- Definition of a clear methodology for identifying candidate Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) which would replace the existing AGLVs designations, together with any additional landscapes which merit designation.
- Preparation of 'Statements of Importance' describing the local landscape character and key qualities of each individual proposed candidate SLA.
- Review of landscape protection policies within the Midlothian Local Plan (2008) in relation to designated landscapes and the SNH/HS guidance.

### **Study methodology**

- 1.7 The SNH/HS 'Guidance on Local Landscape Designations' (2005) forms the key document to use when undertaking a review of local landscape designations. This guidance recommends using landscape character assessment as a basis for the selection of areas for designation. Although the methodology promoted in the guidance assumes a 'blank canvas' approach to defining SLAs over the whole of a local authority area rather than a review of existing designated landscapes alone, it is recognised that in taking forward the process of review....*"local authorities are not expected to follow these steps slavishly but rather to tailor them to other processes they are committed to and also to the resources they have available"* (4-1).
- 1.8 The evaluation of existing AGLV designated areas within Midlothian has been undertaken broadly in accordance with the guidance set out in SNH/HS guidance. The criteria set out in this document has, however, been simplified and tailored to fit with the principal aim of the study, which is to focus on undertaking a review of existing AGLV designated landscapes rather than a comparative assessment of all landscapes across Midlothian. This approach was supported by SNH who co-funded the study and were involved in the AGLV review as a steering group member.
- 1.9 The evaluation method involved the following key tasks:
  - Identification of broad study areas within the existing AGLV and detailed description of landscape character areas found within each of these, principally informed by review of the Lothians landscape assessment (1998), the Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Turbine Development in Midlothian (2007) and verified in the field.
  - Assessment of landscape character areas lying within each broad study area undertaken from key viewpoints using evaluation criteria adapted from the SNH/HS guidance.
  - Evaluation of each broad study area considering the contribution of individual landscape character areas to the designated area and identifying any less valuable areas within the AGLV or areas beyond the boundaries of the AGLV



which merit inclusion in a future designated area. Any boundary anomalies or issues have been identified as part of this evaluation.

### *Identification of broad study areas and detailed character areas*

1.10 Broad study areas have been defined within the existing AGLV designation as a means of focusing the evaluation and identifying candidate SLAs with a distinct identity and landscape character, including any strong inter-relationship with adjacent landscapes. The following broad study areas were identified within the Midlothian AGLV designated area:

- The Fala Moor area
- The Tyne Valley
- River South Esk Valley and Carrington Farmland
- Gladhouse Reservoir and the Moorfoot Hill scarp
- The Pentland Hills and River North Esk south-west of Penicuik
- The River North Esk valley between Dalkeith and Penicuik

1.11 The Broad Study Areas are shown in Figure 2. More detailed areas with a distinct character have been identified within these broad study areas for evaluation. These have been informed by existing landscape characterisation studies and through field work and are shown within the key maps illustrating the assessment of each Broad Study Area.

### *Evaluation criteria*

1.12 Having reviewed the SNH/HS guidance in relation to the aims and objectives of this study, we consider that while the range of criteria set out in the guidance are useful to consider in the assessment, not all of these lend themselves to a systematic evaluation process. This is demonstrated by the criteria of 'Typicality' or 'Rarity' listed under 'Aspects of landscape character' (3.3 of the guidance) which require value judgements to be made, and which can be judged either as a positive or negative aspect of landscape character depending on the landscape involved. We have therefore focused the evaluation on the key 'landscape qualities' identified in 3.4 of the guidance and to rate these on a five point scale of high, high-medium, medium, medium-low and low. The criteria considered in the evaluation are set out in the following table:

| <b>Criteria</b>  | <b>Factors considered in the assessment</b>   |
|------------------|---|
| Scenic Qualities | <p>The degree of diversity of landform, vegetation cover and settlement.</p> <p>Does the landscape form an iconic or landmark feature?</p> <p>Does the juxtaposition and contrast of this landscape character area with adjacent landscapes make an important contribution to wider scenic quality?</p> <p>Consideration of the setting the landscape may provide to key archaeological/historic features or settlements.</p> |

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
|                    | <p>The integrity of the landscape in terms of its composition, for example, is it fragmented by built infrastructure?</p> <p>Consideration of experiential qualities such as the 'sense of place' and aesthetic qualities (such as colour, texture, contrast, change).</p> <p>The quality of views, including consideration of whether there are focal points, revelatory or panoramic views to and from the landscape or whether views are more contained and intimate.</p> |
| Enjoyment          | Recreational use including the presence of core footpaths, cycle ways, tourist and visitor destinations. As access rights have considerably increased recreational opportunities within most landscapes, a judgement has been made on the likely intensity of use with the presence of a strong network of core paths, National Cycle Routes (NCR) and Rights of Way (ROW), Regional and Country Parks increasing the score.   |
| Cultural qualities | Historic site specific information including listed buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Conservation Areas and the presence of Inventory of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes inform this assessment  |
| Naturalness        | The presence of international and national designations such as SPAs, SACs, RAMSAR and SSSI sites, Local Biodiversity Sites (LBS) and ancient and semi-natural woodlands inform this assessment together with judgements made on more perceptual qualities such the relative modification of the landscape and the degree of seclusion or remoteness experienced. SNH's Wildness Mapping has also been reviewed as part of this assessment.                                  |

1.13 A range of other factors have additionally been considered in the assessment but have not been formally scored. These include consideration of the following:

- Typicality – what is identifiable with Midlothian? If a number of similar landscapes occur is this the best example?
- Rarity – whether this is a rare landscape or has some rare features within it when compared with other landscapes within Midlothian.
- Landscape condition – the condition of the landscape fabric will be noted where obvious but not evaluated as this is something that can change.
- Potential change – consideration of any future change that may occur to the landscape.
- The wider context including cross boundary issues and consideration of whether regional designations extend into adjacent local authority areas and any integrity/management issues that may be relevant.

1.14 The aim has been to adopt a clearly set out assessment, avoiding potentially complex matrices or weighting of scores across the key evaluation criteria, instead providing well-reasoned judgements based on thorough field work and assessment by two professional landscape architects. A matrix attributing numerical scores to the evaluation ratings has been used to cross-check the judgements made in the assessment and this is included in Appendix A.

### *Candidate Special Landscape Areas (SLAs)*

- 1.15 The findings of the evaluation have been reviewed and recommendations made on candidate SLAs. The boundaries for these candidate SLAs principally follow clear physical features such as water courses, roads and long-standing woodlands.

### *Statements of Importance*

- 1.16 Statements of Importance will be drafted for each of the candidate SLAs. These will accord with the SNH/HS guidance in terms of describing the location and character and key qualities of the SLA. The SNH report 'Identifying the Special Qualities of Scotland's Scenic Areas' (2007) also provides useful guidance and this has informed the recording of landscape, visual and perceptual attributes of the candidate SLAs which will be used as the basis for the Statements of Importance.

### **Report layout**

- 1.17 The report sets out the evaluation of each of the six identified broad study areas in turn. The evaluation focuses on smaller landscape character areas within each broad study area with this being set out in tabular form prior to providing a summary of findings and recommendations on any boundary changes and potential landscape enhancement measures. The report conclusions in section 8 outline recommendations for candidate SLAs and changes to policy related to local designations.



## **2. North Esk Valley Broad Study Area**

### **Location and boundaries**

- 2.1 This broad study area extends along the North Esk Valley between Dalkeith House designed landscape and Auchendinny. The boundary of the AGLV in the north-east is marked by the stone estate wall and dense policy woodlands of the Dalkeith House designed landscape. The wooded policies of Melville Castle, the A768 and, in most instances, the edge of settlements set above steep valley sides form boundaries to the AGLV south-west of Dalkeith to Polton. The existing AGLV boundaries then largely coincide with the extent of the Inventory listed designed landscape of Roslin Glen, following the top of the steep north-western slopes below the settlement of Roslin although the AGLV boundary to the south-east follows less distinctive field boundaries in part. The boundary of the AGLV generally lies at the top of steep wooded valley sides but extends to cover major wooded tributaries of the North Esk in the Auchendinny area.

### **Landscape character areas**

- 2.2 The whole of this broad study area is classified as a Lowland River Valley character type and the North Esk character area within the Lothians landscape character assessment (SNH 1998). The North Esk character area significantly extends beyond the boundaries of the AGLV and down river into neighbouring East Lothian. The North Esk Valley character area has been reviewed in the field within the area of the existing AGLV designation and has been sub-divided into the following detailed areas for the purposes of this assessment:

- Dalkeith policies
- Dalkeith to Polton
- Roslin Glen
- Roslin to Auchendinny

These character areas are shown in Figure 3.



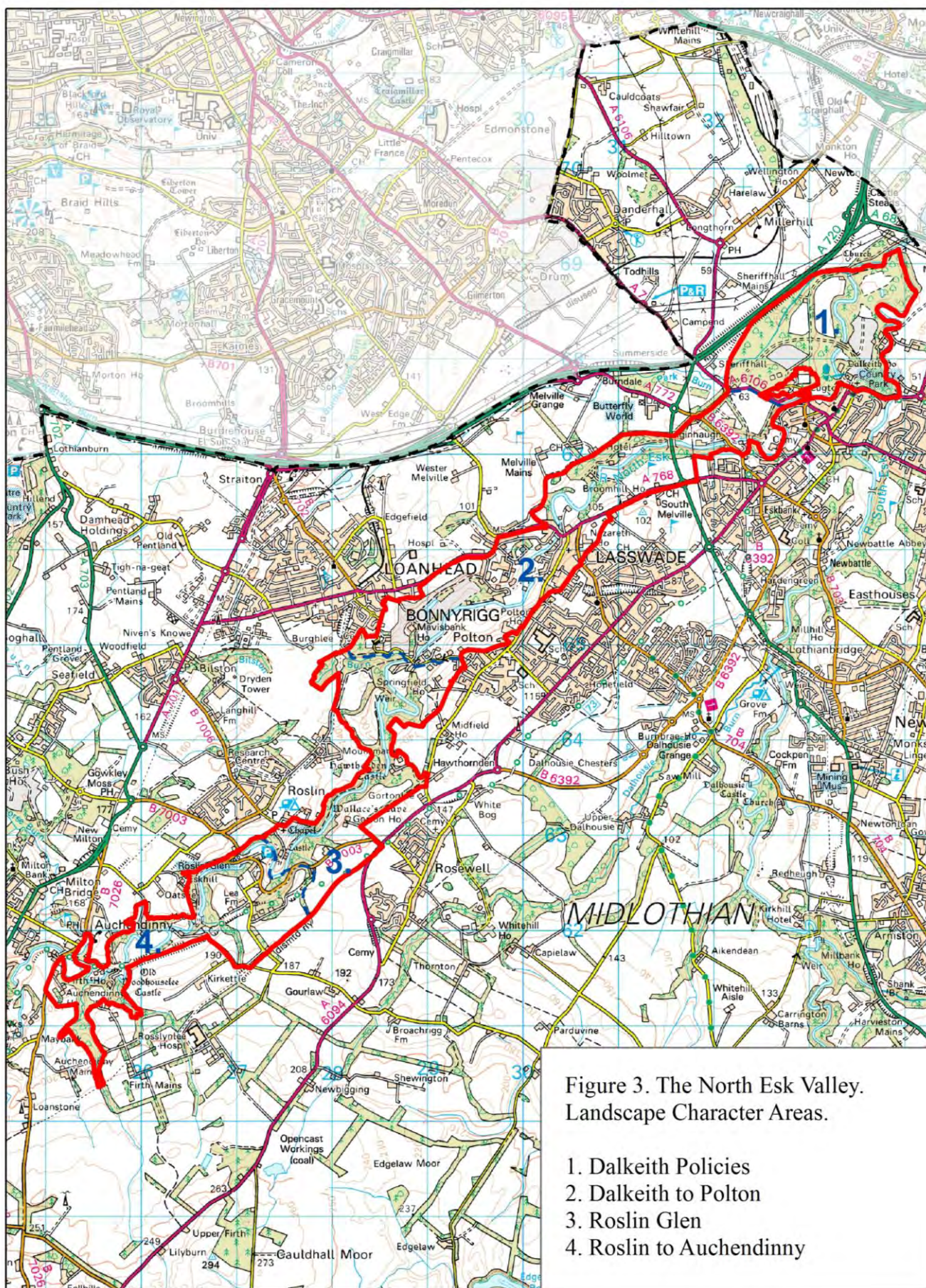


Figure 3. The North Esk Valley.  
Landscape Character Areas.

1. Dalkeith Policies
2. Dalkeith to Polton
3. Roslin Glen
4. Roslin to Auchendinny



| <b>Detailed Landscape Character Area: Dalkeith Policies</b>   |             |   |
|---|-------------|---|
| <b>Description</b>  |             |   |
| This character area comprises the extensive designed landscape which forms the setting to the early 18th century Dalkeith House. It is located on the north-eastern edge of the historic core of Dalkeith and close to the A720 Edinburgh City by-pass. |             |   |
| <b>Evaluation</b>   |             |   |
| Scenic Qualities  | High        | <p>The Rivers North Esk and South Esk wind contorted courses through the parkland, extensive woodlands, including relict oak woodland and ornamental specimen tree plantings around Dalkeith House. The broadleaved woodlands, strongly contained parkland and the presence of the fine mansion of Dalkeith House at the core of the designed landscape form the main scenic interest of this landscape. The incised River South Esk with its occasional exposed low rocky cliffs provides an immediate setting for a group of buildings, including the conservatory and stables, which form a secondary focus within the designed landscape.</p> <p>While views of the core of the designed landscape from the adjacent A68 and A720 City by-pass are limited, perimeter woodlands, estate walls and buildings are distinctive and highly visible features.</p> <p>The designed landscape provides a high quality setting to the historic town centre of Dalkeith.</p> |
| Enjoyment   | High        | The grounds of Dalkeith House are run as a Country Park and footpaths and a large adventure playground are well-used.   |
| Cultural qualities  | High        | This landscape is listed in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes and provides the setting to the Grade A listed Dalkeith House and a number of other scheduled monuments.   |
| Naturalness   | High/medium | <p>Extensive semi-native woodlands including ancient mixed woodlands and river terraces are designated SSSI. The Dalkeith Estate Country Park LBS covers much of this landscape.</p> <p>The proximity of the Edinburgh City by-pass and A68 limits the sense of tranquillity although woodlands largely screen views and provide a sense of seclusion.</p>  |
| <b>Other factors</b>  |             |   |
| This designed landscape forms one of many associated with the major river valleys of the South Esk, North Esk and Tyne within Midlothian.   |             |   |

| <b>Detailed Landscape Character Area: Dalkeith to Polton</b>  |        |   |
|---|--------|---|
| <b>Description</b>  |        |   |
| This character area comprises the section of the River North Esk south-west of Dalkeith Country Park to the boundary of the Roslin Glen Inventory listed designed landscape near Polton. This part of the valley is fringed by settlements and crossed by major roads with some development extending onto the floodplain and down valley sides.    |        |   |
| <b>Evaluation</b>   |        |   |
| Scenic Qualities  | Medium | <p>The River North Esk cuts a gently meandering route through a narrow floodplain and is contained by steep valley sides, these densely wooded around Melville Castle but more open south-west of Lasswade where undulating terraces on steep valley sides accommodate pastures and a golf course. Roads and built development give a more open and fragmented character to this section of the valley. In some places settlement can make a positive contribution to scenic value, such as around Lasswade where 19<sup>th</sup> century stone buildings cluster on steep wooded slopes above the Esk, but in other areas less sympathetically designed housing and industrial development is intrusive. Dense policy woodlands cover the steep sides of the valley and accentuate the strong containment and intimate scale of the valley in the Melville and Polton areas with tall conifers and other ornamental trees adding interest where remnant designed landscapes are present. Small floodplain pastures and more extensive grassland on steep undulating valley sides occur, particularly to the south-west and some disturbed ground is evident in the Bonnyrigg to Polton area.</p> <p>This section of the North Esk is highly visible from major roads and settlement.</p> |
| Enjoyment   | High   | <p>Many footpaths and bridle ways are located within the valley. This section of the North Esk valley lies close to settlements and is well-used for recreation.</p>  |
| Cultural qualities  | High   | <p>A rich industrial heritage and also former mansion houses and their remnant policies, including Mavisbank House and Melville Castle Inventory listed designed landscapes, add to the cultural interest of this character area. This section of the valley provides the setting to the Conservation Area of Lasswade.</p>   |
| Naturalness   | Medium | <p>Some disturbed ground and infrastructure, including transmission lines, roads, industry and more prominent housing limit the sense of naturalness and tranquillity although semi-natural woodlands, riverside grassland and scrub are more diverse and can feel secluded in places. This character area includes part of the Bilston Glen SSSI and the Melville Castle and Mavisbank LBS.</p>  |
| <b>Other factors</b>  |        |   |
| Some erosion of integrity on fringes particularly in the Bonnyrigg area where industrial development and housing within and on the edges of the AGLV are prominent. Sewage works, stables and other development interrupt the continuity of the valley floor and access along the valley for walkers is difficult in the Melville to Lasswade area. |        |   |

| <b>Detailed Landscape Character Area: Roslin Glen</b>   |      |  |
|---|------|--|
| <b>Description</b>  |      |  |
| <p>The North Esk is aligned through a deep and densely wooded rocky gorge between Polton and Roslin Castle. The north-eastern and south-western boundaries of this character area accord with the Inventory listed designed landscape of Roslin Glen. The existing AGLV boundaries coincide with the Inventory boundary on the top of the steep north-western slopes below the settlement of Roslin.</p>  |      |  |
| <b>Evaluation</b>   |      |  |
| Scenic Qualities  | High | <p>Roslin Glen has been popular with visitors since the 18<sup>th</sup> century for its romantic picturesque character where the wooded gorge serves as a dramatic setting to a number of historic buildings perched on the top of steep slopes above it. The densely wooded gorge with the tumbling North Esk, sheer rock faces and craggy promontories in combination with the historic buildings of Rosslyn Chapel, Rosslyn and Hawthornden castles create a dramatic and highly scenic landscape. Small open pastures provide valuable open foreground to views and contribute diversity to the overall composition. The gorge is not widely visible from the surrounding more developed and modified 'shoulders' of the valley with key views experienced from the castles and from walks within the gorge.</p> |
| Enjoyment   | High | <p>Riverside walks (these were laid out from 1600 onwards) and Rosslyn Chapel provide a focus for visitors. Springfield Mill and the Maiden Castle LBS with its extensive network of paths are also included in this character area.</p>   |
| Cultural qualities  | High | <p>This landscape is listed in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes. The valley provides the setting to three Category A listed buildings/SAMs including Rosslyn Chapel and Rosslyn Castle. Roslin Glen has strong cultural associations particularly with the literary figures of Burns, Scott, and Wordsworth but also with a number of well-known painters such as Alexander Nasmyth. It is also the site of Wallace's Cave, also known as Hawthornden Castle Cave and General Monck's Battery. The LCA is also adjacent to the site of the Battle of Roslin (1303).</p>  |
| Naturalness   | High | <p>The wooded gorge is within the Roslin Glen SSSI and part of the Roslin Glen Country Park LBS is within this character area. A strong sense of seclusion can be experienced within this landscape with the deeply incised gorge and woodland screening views of outlying roads and settlement.</p>   |
| <b>Other factors</b>  |      |  |
| <p>A woodland management and access improvement plan has been recently agreed for Roslin Glen.</p> <p>The tree-lined minor road between Bonnyrigg and Hawthornden Castle and rolling fields which fall down to the gorge form an integral part of the North Esk valley to the south-east. Fields above the Roslin to Rosewell road in contrast, have an open character and gently undulating landform which is more akin to the wider farmland of the 'Rosewell/Carrington Spur' character area to the south.</p> |      |  |

**Detailed Landscape Character Area: Roslin to Auchendinny****Description**

This section of the North Esk extends from Rosslyn Castle to Auchendinny where the narrow gorge of Roslin Glen opens out although the valley sides are still steep. The boundary of the AGLV generally lies at the top of steep wooded valley sides but extends to cover major wooded tributaries of the North Esk in the Auchendinny area.

**Evaluation**

|                    |        |   |
|--------------------|--------|---|
| Scenic Qualities   | Medium | The dense woodland found within Roslin Gorge extends to cover the steep valley sides of the North Esk south-west of Roslin Castle although larger areas of grassland occur within the narrow floodplain of the river and the valley is generally much more open. Woodland is mixed with plantings of spruce and sycamore in places. Poorly designed and sited built development in the Roslin area influences character in places but the landscape is more contained and intact in the Auchendinny area where dense broadleaved woodlands extend within a fan of narrow tributaries of the North Esk to the south which are separated by steeply rolling pastures. |
| Enjoyment          | High   | Roslin Glen Country Park features an extensive network of paths. The Penicuik-Dalkeith footpath and National Cycle Route (196) is aligned through this landscape. The Auchendinny policies which feature dense wooded tributaries of the North Esk are more difficult to access.  |
| Cultural qualities | High   | This section of the valley has a rich industrial heritage associated with 19 <sup>th</sup> century gunpowder mills at Roslin Glen Country Park. Auchendinny House and its wooded policies, the ruinous Woodhouselee Castle and the Firth railway viaduct also feature in the south-west of this landscape.  |
| Naturalness        | Medium | Semi-natural woodlands, Roslin Glen SSSI and the Roslin Country Park and Auchendinny Woods LBS designations lie within this character area.<br><br>The presence of housing, quarrying and disturbed ground and the Rosewell to Roslin Road (B7003) diminishes the sense of naturalness and seclusion to a degree.   |

**Other factors**

No boundary or other issues noted during field work.





*Parkland and diverse woodlands surround the fine mansion of Dalkeith Palace.*



*Extensive broadleaved woodlands on steep valley sides form the setting to the Conservation Area of Lasswade which lies within the AGLV*



*The valley is more open in the Polton area, featuring grassland and scrub and the remnant policies of Mavisbank*



*While much of the North Esk Valley is visually contained by woodland, industrial and residential development in the Bonnyrigg area is intrusive.*



*Roslin Glen is particularly rich in historical built features with these contributing to the strong 'sense of place' experienced within this landscape*



*The deep, narrow and densely wooded gorge of Roslin Glen.*

## Summary of findings

- 2.3 Four detailed character areas were assessed within the AGLV broad study area of the North Esk Valley. The findings were as follows in relation to key assessment criteria:

| Character type        | Scenic      | Enjoyment | Cultural | Naturalness |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Dalkeith Policies     | High/medium | High      | High     | High/medium |
| Dalkeith to Polton    | Medium      | High      | High     | Medium      |
| Roslin Glen           | High        | High      | High     | High        |
| Roslin to Auchendinny | Medium      | High      | High     | Medium      |

## Recommendations

- 2.4 Although scenic qualities and the sense of naturalness vary, these valley landscapes all share similarly high scorings on enjoyment and cultural qualities. The North Esk Valley is located within a densely populated area and is valued for its recreational opportunities and the sense of naturalness and respite provided to urban areas by the river and extensive semi-natural woodlands. Connectivity between the character areas is important because of recreational routes along the valley and it is recommended that the majority of this broad study area should form a candidate SLA, with some minor boundary amendments recommended to exclude areas that may have been developed since the AGLV was designated and to attain a stronger 'landscape' boundary as detailed below.

### *Proposed boundary alterations (keyed to Figure 4)*

- Exclusion of the industrial estate and new housing development around Polton House (A).
- Exclusion of fields above the Roslin to Rosewell road which crosses the valley south-west of the Penicuik-Dalkeith walkway car park near the A6094 (B)
- Inclusion of the tree-lined minor road between Rosewell and Bonnyrigg and the rolling fields which slope down from this road to the wooded gorge (C).

### *General management issues and enhancement measures*

- 2.5 Management agreements have recently been confirmed between the Council and landowners for the North Esk valley from Mavisbank to Roslin Glen. This agreement covers woodland management and improved public access and signage. A Heritage Lottery Funding bid for Mavisbank House is currently being considered and public access will be improved once ownership of the house is handed over to the Mavisbank Trust following its compulsory purchase by the Council.

Potential issues and enhancement opportunities noted during field survey include:

- Boundary walls and derelict buildings, such as the conservatory, within Dalkeith House designed landscape require rehabilitation. The adventure play area would benefit from refurbishment and opportunities investigated to create a more attractive immediate setting to the house by locating the car park away from open parkland and creating species-rich pasture to enhance initial views of the house from the current main approach.

- Prominent housing and industrial development seen on upper slopes and skylines in the Polton area should be screened in the long term by establishing woodland, where possible, on open valley sides.
- Woodland management, including rejuvenation of over-mature woodlands, specimen trees, roundals and avenue trees, is needed in the Melville Castle area.
- Improvements to access along the valley for walkers between Dalkeith and Lasswade to avoid major roads.
- Prevention of any further dispersed built development within the valley to enhance the sense of seclusion and naturalness.







### **3. South Esk Valley and Carrington Farmland Broad Study Area**

#### **Location and boundaries**

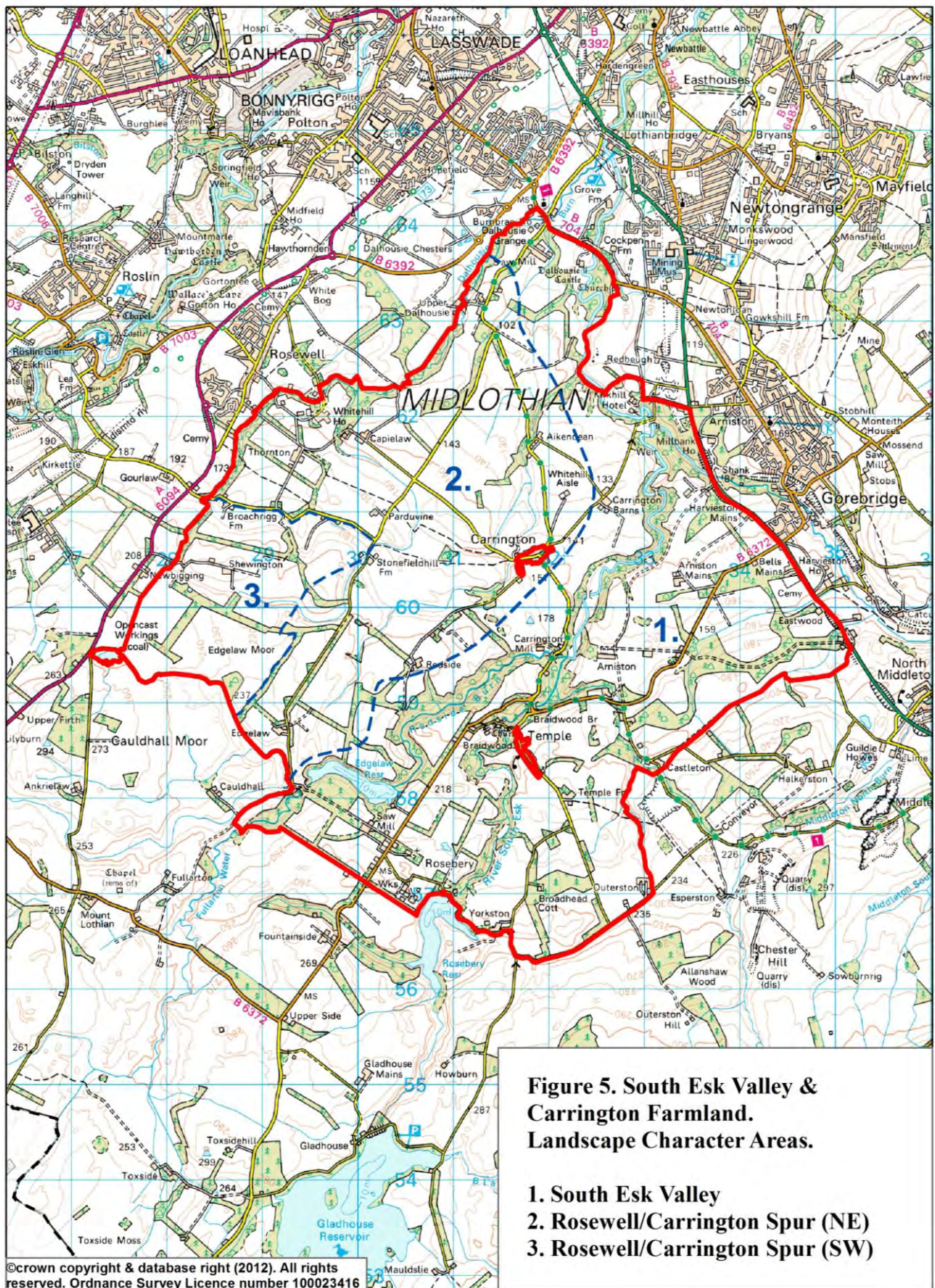
- 3.1 The south-western boundary of this broad study area marks the transition between the well-wooded and more contained South Esk character area with its rolling farmland and designed landscapes and the more open and sparsely settled Gladhouse Moorland Fringes character area. The AGLV boundary lies parallel to the A6094 before following the wooded policies of Whitehill House and Dalhousie Castle and the densely wooded valleys of the Gore Water and the Arniston estate policies to the south-east.

#### **Landscape character areas**

- 3.2 The Lothians Landscape Character Assessment (SNH 1998) identifies the South Esk Valley and the Rosewell/Carrington Spur landscape character areas within this broad study area. The Rosewell/Carrington Spur character area has been sub-divided following review in the field to reflect local differences in character. The following character areas form the basis for the assessment:
- South Esk Valley
  - Rosewell/Carrington Spur (North-east)
  - Rosewell/Carrington Spur (South-west)

These character areas are shown in Figure 5.







| <b>Detailed Landscape Character Area: South Esk Valley</b>  |      |   |
|---|------|---|
| <b>Description</b>  |      |   |
| The River South Esk and its tributary the Redside Burn form the focus of this character area. The south-western boundary of the broad study area marks the transition between the well-wooded and more contained South Esk character area with its rolling farmland and designed landscapes and the more open and sparsely settled Gladhouse Moorland Fringes character area. |      |   |
| <b>Evaluation</b>   |      |   |
| Scenic Qualities  | High | <p>The River South Esk and its tributary the Redside Burn, both aligned in densely wooded incised valleys, are key components of this landscape. The designed landscapes of Arniston and Dalhousie Castle utilise and enhance the dramatic setting of the South Esk valley. The Rosebery estate to the south-west of this area also includes parkland, more extensive mixed plantations and the Edgelaw Reservoir which sits within folded hills and woodlands. Extensive broadleaved woodlands, parkland and the deeply incised rivers combine with mansion houses, castles, boundary walls, lodges and the historic settlement of Temple to create a richly diverse landscape. Narrow roads are lined with mature oak and ash and field boundary trees are also a feature coalescing to provide a well-wooded scene.</p> <p>Occasional views across this landscape occur from roads although the extent of tree cover and the valley landform often restricts visibility and contributes to the intimate scale experienced within many parts of this landscape. The Arniston designed landscape is more widely visible with Dalhousie and Rosebery being more contained from external view. Close views of the South Esk are however possible from an extensive network of footpaths.</p> |
| Enjoyment   | High | Core paths through much of the South Esk and Redside valleys with links to minor roads and tracks. Promoted walks within the Gore Glen. There is free public access within the core of the Arniston and Dalhousie designed landscapes.  |
| Cultural qualities  | High | The Inventory listed landscapes of Dalhousie and Arniston provide the setting to Category A listed buildings. Numerous other listed buildings are concentrated within these designed landscapes and along the South Esk and there are large conservation areas around Arniston/Temple and Dalhousie. The Gore Glen is notable for its industrial heritage associated with 18 <sup>th</sup> century gunpowder production.  |
| Naturalness   | High | Extensive ancient and semi-natural woodlands and local designations cover estate woodlands, Arniston estate parkland and Edgelaw Reservoir. There are several LBS in this character area.   |
| <b>Other factors</b>  |      |   |
| The south-eastern boundary of the AGLV between the A7 and Castleton does not correspond to a strong landscape feature or viewshed seen from key views.  |      |   |

| <b>Detailed Landscape Character Area: Rosewell/Carrington Spur (NE)</b>   |             |  |
|---|-------------|--|
| <b>Description</b>  |             |  |
| <p>This landscape is elevated to the north-west above the South Esk valley. It has a rolling landform cut by narrow burns; the incised densely wooded valley of Dalhousie Burn being the most significant of these. Arable fields and pasture are contained by hedgerows with mature oak and ash trees aligning boundaries and narrow roads. Large farms, the former estate of Whitehill and the village of Carrington are located in this landscape.</p> |             |  |
| <b>Evaluation</b>   |             |  |
| Scenic Qualities  | High/medium | <p>The extensive woodlands associated with the Dalhousie Burn make a strong contribution to wider scenic quality being highly visible from the B6392 and recent housing in the Bonnyrigg area. Mature field trees of oak and ash enrich the rolling farmland which lies at the core of this landscape and give a well-wooded appearance in combination with broad mixed tree belts which form the policies of Whitehill House.</p> <p>Although this landscape character area forms an elevated area lying above the South Esk valley, the estate village of Carrington (and particularly its church spire) is an important feature in views from the designed landscape of Arniston and wooded policies and field trees are found in both landscape character areas.</p> |
| Enjoyment   | High        | <p>There is public access through Whitehill House grounds and core paths are also present within the wider policies with links to Carrington and Dalhousie from Rosewell and other surrounding settlements.</p>  |
| Cultural qualities  | Medium      | <p>Wooded policies provide the setting for the Category A listed Whitehill House although these are generally in poor condition and adversely affected by a golf course and other built development. Carrington village lies within a Conservation Area.</p>   |
| Naturalness   | Medium      | <p>There are several LBS within this landscape.</p>  |
| <b>Other factors</b>  |             |  |
| <p>The estate policies associated with Whitehill House are in poor condition and the consented housing development within the grounds of this property will further change the character of this estate (although will be unlikely to be widely visible across the AGLV).</p>   |             |  |

| <b>Detailed Landscape Character Area: Rosewell/Carrington Spur (SW)</b>  |            |  |
|--|------------|--|
| <b>Description</b>   |            |  |
| An elevated and predominantly gently undulating landscape located on the edge of the more open Cauldhall Moor in the south-west of Midlothian. Occasional narrow incised burns cut between long smooth ridges and angular mixed shelterbelts divide medium to large fields. Opencast coal mining is currently taking place in the Shewington area. |            |  |
| <b>Evaluation</b>  |            |  |
| Scenic Qualities   | Medium/low | <p>This gently undulating landscape has a broad and simple pattern of farmland and angular shelterbelts of broadleaves and spruce. The landscape becomes more open and extensive and upland in character at the transition with Cauldhall Moor. Opencast mining is currently taking place in the Shewington area. This character area strongly contrasts with the more richly patterned rolling farmland of the Rosewell/Carrington Spur (NE) which features a more rolling landform, field trees and woodlands and has a stronger relationship to the South Esk Valley.</p> <p>This landscape is visible from the A6094 and from minor roads although temporary earth mounding screens views in places.</p> |
| Enjoyment  | Low        | There are no core paths or other noted paths within this landscape.  |
| Cultural qualities   | Low        | There is some evidence of former estate policies in plantation names and other mapped features and woodlands lying on the south-eastern edge of this character area have a similar character to the wider policies associated with the Rosebery Estate in the South Esk Valley. This landscape is however not known for its cultural qualities.  |
| Naturalness  | Low        | <p>Ancient and semi-natural woodland sites include some coniferous planting although those on the south-eastern edge of this landscape have a higher proportion of broadleaves. The Shiel Burn LBS extends into this character area.</p> <p>Current opencast coal extraction negates any sense of naturalness.</p>   |
| <b>Other factors</b>   |            |  |
| New broadleaved woodland planting has been undertaken in the Shewington area close to present opencast coal extraction operations.   |            |  |



*A simple pattern of long mixed shelterbelts and pasture occurs in within the north-eastern part of the 'Rosewell/Carrington Spur' character area.*



*Edgelaw Reservoir has a naturalistic character and intimate feel, being enclosed by mixed woodlands.*



*The South Esk Valley is rich in policy landscapes, featuring parkland and extensive woodlands.*



*Mature oak field trees are a key characteristic of the gently rolling farmland within the South Esk Valley*



*Dense mixed woodlands clothes the steep slopes of the South Esk seen from the core of the Arncliffe designed landscape*



*The richly diverse woodlands and farmland dotted with field trees within the South Esk Valley and Carrington area seen from above Gorebridge.*

## Summary of findings

- 3.3 Three detailed character areas were assessed within the AGLV broad study area of the South Esk Valley and Carrington Farmland. The findings were as follows on the key assessment criteria:

| Character type                | scenic   | enjoyment | cultural | naturalness |
|-------------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| South Esk Valley              | High     | High      | High     | High        |
| Rosewell/Carrington Spur (NE) | High/Med | High      | Medium   | Medium      |
| Rosewell/Carrington Spur (SW) | Med/low  | Low       | Low      | Low         |

## Recommendations

- 3.4 Scenic quality varies in this broad study area. The south-western part has been affected by past and current opencast coal mining and this, together with the broad and simple pattern of farmland and mixed linear shelterbelts characteristic of this area, results in a lower scenic quality than the more richly patterned farmland and woodlands found in the Rosewell/Carrington Spur to the north-east and the South Esk Valley. Recreational use of this landscape character area and its cultural associations are also rated low in comparison with the other landscape character areas in this broad study area.
- 3.5 It is recommended that the South Esk Valley and the Rosewell/Carrington Spur (NE) should be put forward as a candidate SLA with the Rosewell/Carrington Spur (SW) omitted from the proposed designated area.

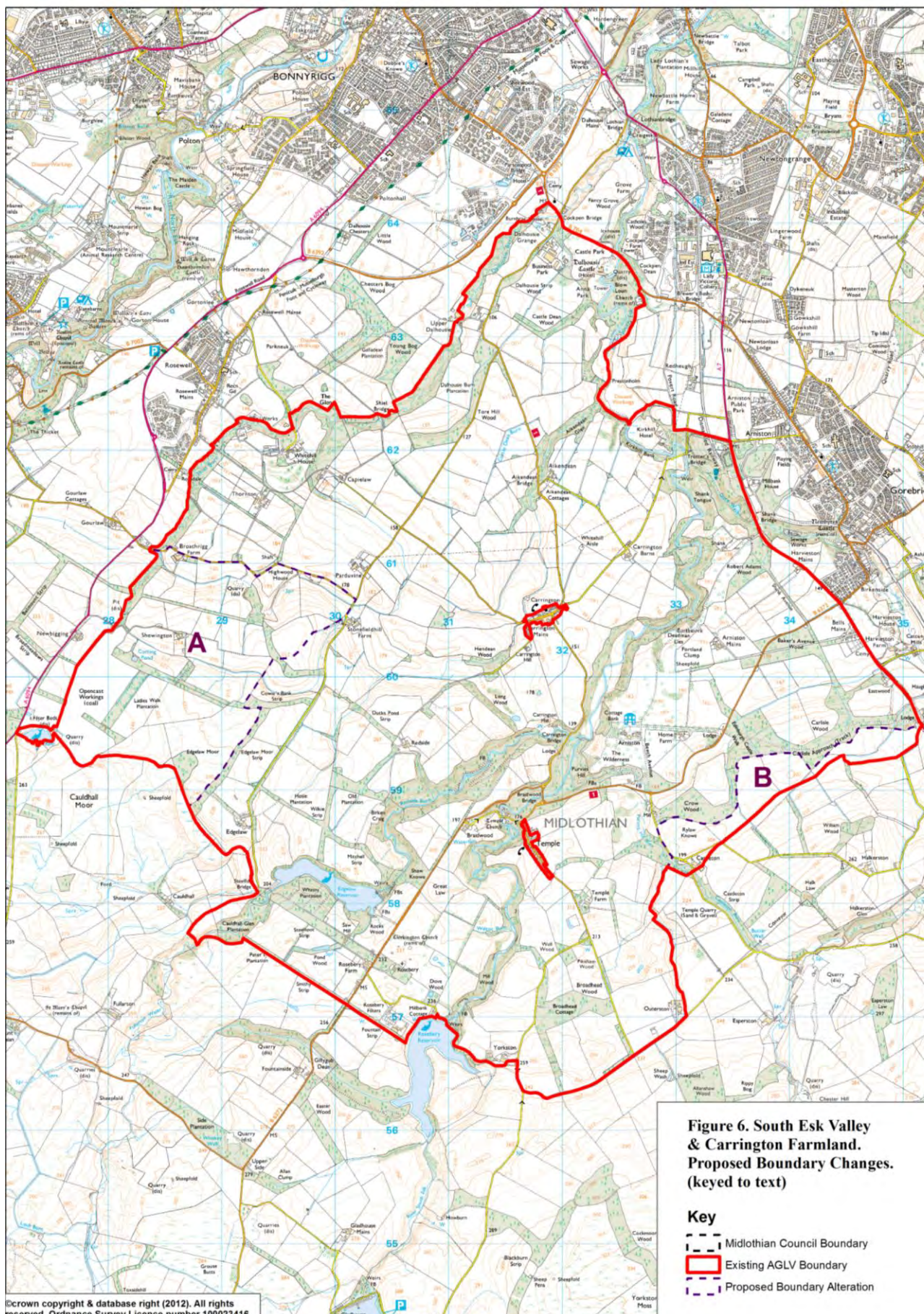
### *Proposed boundary alterations (keyed to Figure 6)*

- Exclusion of the south-western part of the Rosewell/Carrington Spur landscape character area with a new boundary taken to the plantation of Edgelaw Moor Strip, Cowie's Bank and the minor road to Broachrigg Farm (A)
- Exclusion of fields above the distinctive curving Carlisle and Crew Woods on the south-eastern boundary of the AGLV between Castleton and the A7 which do not make a strong contribution to the character of the South Esk valley or feature in key views from the valley (B).

### *General management issues and enhancement measures*

- 3.6 Potential issues and enhancement opportunities noted during field survey include:
- Management of woodlands around Whitehill House to ensure their longevity and role in both providing a setting to the Category A listed house and screening of consented housing development in this area. Specimen trees around the house also require management with new and appropriate replacement planting undertaken.
  - Management of field boundary trees and trees aligning roads with replacement planting where they are moribund or gaps have occurred.





## **4. Gladhouse Reservoir and Moorfoot Scarp Broad Study Area**

### **Location and boundaries**

- 4.1 This Broad Study Area comprises the open moorlands and farmland around the broad basin of Gladhouse Reservoir and the northern scarp of the Moorfoot Hills.
- 4.2 The northern boundary of this area borders the more wooded and contained South Esk Valley. The western boundary follows incised valleys and plantations within the wider Lowland Moorlands character area which extends beyond the AGLV. The top of the steep scarp slopes of the Moorfoot Hills, which is also the boundary with Scottish Borders, forms the southern extent of the AGLV. Boundaries accord with less distinctive field divisions and shallow watercourses within the flat open lowland moorlands which abut the Moorfoot scarp in the north-east of this broad study area.

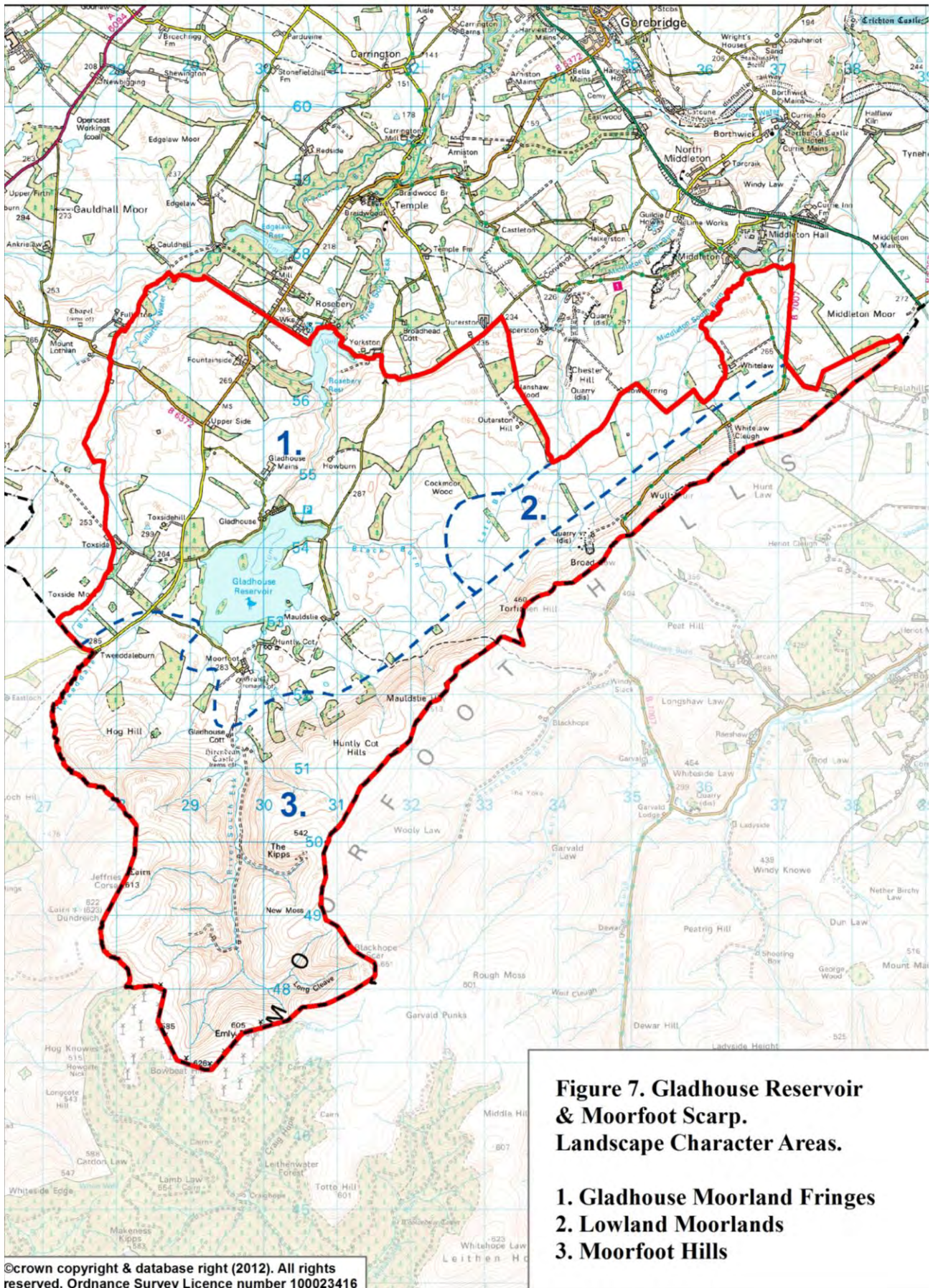
### **Landscape character areas**

- 4.3 The character areas identified in both the Lothians Landscape Character Assessment (SNH 1998) and the Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Turbine Development in Midlothian (2007) within this broad study area have been reviewed in the field with the following local character areas considered in the assessment:

- Gladhouse Moorland Fringes
- Lowland Moorlands
- Moorfoot Hills

These character areas are shown in Figure 7.





| <b>Detailed Landscape Character Area: Gladhouse Moorland Fringes</b>   |        |   |
|--|--------|---|
| <b>Description</b>   |        |   |
| An expansive and open landscape of flat to gently undulating mosses and pasture sitting at the foot of the steep northern scarp of the Moorfoot Hills. This character area borders the more wooded and visually contained South Esk Valley which lies to the north. The naturalistic Gladhouse Reservoir lies at the core of this landscape. |        |   |
| <b>Evaluation</b>  |        |   |
| Scenic Qualities   | High   | <p>Gladhouse Reservoir, which is fringed by a diverse mix of wetlands, scrub and woodland and is studded with wooded islands, sits within a broad basin and is a prominent feature in this landscape. Rosebery Reservoir is more visually contained by small folded hills on the edge of the densely wooded and intimately scaled South Esk Valley character area. Pockets of farmland with fields enclosed by overgrown beech hedges, mixed shelterbelts and small farm buildings strongly contrast with open mosses, contributing to the diversity of this part of the Lowland Moorlands.</p> <p>This landscape lies adjacent to the highest and most dramatic point on the Moorfoots scarp where the deep glen accommodating the upper River South Esk provides a striking backdrop to Gladhouse Reservoir. The juxtaposition of sharply contrasting low-lying moss and farmland and steep scarp edge creates a highly scenic landscape.</p> <p>The openness of this landscape allows extensive views to the Moorfoots and Pentland Hills across mosses and pasture. Views to the Firth of Forth, Fife and East Lothian are also a feature from high points.</p> |
| Enjoyment  | High   | There is a circular route using tracks and minor roads around Gladhouse Reservoir. Core paths also extend within the South Esk Glen and onto the Moorfoot scarp. Quiet minor roads are popular with cyclists.   |
| Cultural qualities   | Medium | Some listed buildings and SAMs are present although this sparsely settled area is less notable for its cultural qualities.  |
| Naturalness  | High   | <p>This LCA contains important designated nature conservation sites. These include; Gladhouse Reservoir (RAMSAR, SPA and SSSI); Peeswit Moss (SAC, SSSI, Scottish Raised Bog Inventory Site (SRBI)); Rosebery Reservoir (LBS); and part of the Toxside North LBS.</p> <p>The sparsely settled nature of this landscape, its closeness to the uplands and its diverse vegetation cover gives a strong sense of seclusion and naturalness.</p>  |
| <b>Other factors</b>   |        |   |
| Wind farm development in adjacent Scottish Borders is visible at the head of the South Esk Glen within the Moorfoot Hills and this, together with poorly designed coniferous plantations, are detractive elements in views.  |        |   |

| <b>Detailed Landscape Character Area: Lowland Moorland</b>  |            |   |
|---|------------|---|
| <b>Description</b>  |            |   |
| A relatively narrow band of gently sloping, partially drained moorland and semi-improved grazing lying at the foot of the north-eastern scarp of the Moorfoot Hills. This landscape merges imperceptibly to the south-west with the Gladhouse Moorland Fringes which is more patterned at its core. The edge of the Middleton Hall wooded policies forms the north-eastern extent of this character area. |            |   |
| <b>Evaluation</b>   |            |   |
| Scenic Qualities  | Medium     | <p>This area of gently sloping drained moorland, semi-improved grazing patterned by angular coniferous woodlands has a low intrinsic scenic quality due to the simplicity of its landform and land cover. The presence of derelict buildings, past small-scale quarrying and poorly designed plantations contribute to the fragmented character of this landscape. While there is a contrast between this area of Lowland Moorland and the north-eastern part of the Moorfoot scarp, the juxtaposition is less dramatic than occurs to the south-west due to the reduced height and more even profile of the scarp in this area.</p> <p>This landscape does however form the foreground to striking revelatory views over Midlothian obtained from the B7007 as it emerges from the more confined valley of the Heriot Water within the core of the Moorfoot Hills. There are views over this landscape to the north-eastern end of the Moorfoots scarp from the A7 and the Middleton area.</p> |
| Enjoyment   | Medium     | The B7007 and minor road to Middleton forms National Cycle Route 1.   |
| Cultural qualities  | Low        | No known features or associations   |
| Naturalness   | Medium/low | There is little recognised nature conservation interest. Although the absence of settlement gives a sense of seclusion, the experience of wildness overall is limited.  |
| <b>Other factors</b>  |            |   |
| Poorly drained pastures and derelict buildings give an impression of a landscape in decline.  |            |   |



| <b>Detailed Landscape Character Area: Moorfoot Hills</b>  |             |  |
|---|-------------|--|
| <b>Description</b>  |             |  |
| <p>The northern edge of the Moorfoot Hills lies within Midlothian. The majority of these uplands lie within Scottish Borders where they comprise an extensive dissected rolling plateau. Within Midlothian these hills form a distinct scarp which rises to over 600m in the south-west close to Gladhouse Reservoir and falls gradually to around 350m to the north-east near the A7. The northern boundary of this character area is aligned at the foot of steep scarp slopes and crosses the more undulating farmed lower hill slopes around the settlement of Moorfoot at the entrance to the deeply incised glen of the upper reaches of the South Esk. The valley of the Gala Water which accommodates the A7 forms the north-eastern extent of this character area.</p> |             |  |
| <b>Evaluation</b>   |             |  |
| Scenic Qualities  | High/medium | <p>The hills of Blackhope Scar and Dundreich form distinct high points on the south western part of the Moorfoot scarp. The deep glen of the South Esk, which cuts through the hills, is edged by rounded spurs, folds and gullies creating a strongly sculptural landform in this area. A particularly dramatic juxtaposition occurs where the high hills and deep cleft of the South Esk glen is seen in conjunction with the flat to gently undulating basin of Gladhouse Reservoir and the small scale settlement and woodlands which fringe it in this south-western area.</p> <p>The edge of the Moorfoots is lower to the north-east although it still forms a distinct scarp in views from minor roads in the Tyne valley, the Middleton area and from the A7.</p> |
| Enjoyment   | High        | Core paths provide access to the hills and the B7007 forms National Cycle Route 1. The peak of Dundreich (the highest point on the Moorfoots) is popular with walkers.   |
| Cultural qualities  | Medium/low  | Apart from the remains of Hirendean Castle there are no known notable cultural associations  |
| Naturalness   | High/medium | <p>Nature conservation designations include Dundreich Plateau, a SSSI.</p> <p>A strong sense of seclusion and naturalness can be experienced within the glen of the South Esk although wind farm development and forestry diminishes the experience of wildness in parts of these uplands.</p>   |
| <b>Other factors</b>  |             |  |
| <p>The Moorfoot Hills are not covered by any landscape or scenic designations in the adjoining authority of Scottish Borders.</p>   |             |  |





*The flat open expanses of heather-flecked mosses form the foreground to dramatic views of the Pentland Hills*



*Gladhouse Reservoir has a naturalistic character with diverse margins of scrub, wetlands and woodland and small wooded islands.*



*The steep south-western scarp of the Moorfoot Hills is dramatically juxtaposed with the gently undulating farmland, mosses and basins of the 'Gladhouse Moorland Fringes'.*



*Although the landform of the 'Gladhouse Moorland Fringes' is generally subtle, occasional deeply incised valleys provide points of interest.*



*More elevated areas within the 'Gladhouse Moorland Fringes' offer extensive views across the Lothians*



*The north-eastern end of the Moorfoots scarp is seen across a foreground of lower lying farmland in views from the A7*

## Summary of findings

- 4.4 Three detailed character areas were assessed within the AGLV broad study area of the Gladhouse Reservoir and the Moorfoots Scarp. The findings were as follows against key assessment criteria:

| Character type             | scenic   | enjoyment | cultural | Naturalness |
|----------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Gladhouse Moorland Fringes | High     | High      | Medium   | High        |
| Lowland Moorland           | Med/low  | Medium    | Low      | Low         |
| Moorfoot Hills             | High/med | High      | Low      | High/med    |

## Recommendations

- 4.5 The most scenic part of this broad study area occurs where the highest part of the Moorfoot scarp is juxtaposed with the low-lying basin of Gladhouse Reservoir which sits at its foot. The sculptural landform of steep-sided hills and deeply cut glen of the upper reaches of the South Esk provide a dramatic backdrop to this naturalistic water body, the small scale settlement, woodlands and farmland surrounding it and the flat open heathery moorland within the wider area.
- 4.6 Although the Lowland Moorland in the north-east has little intrinsic scenic value and scores less well in terms of other key criteria, it is important in forming the foreground to suddenly revealed panoramic views from the B7007 across Midlothian. There may also be potential for future enhancement of this landscape.
- 4.7 It is recommended that all this broad study area should be put forward as a candidate SLA but with some minor boundary alterations proposed in the Middleton area.

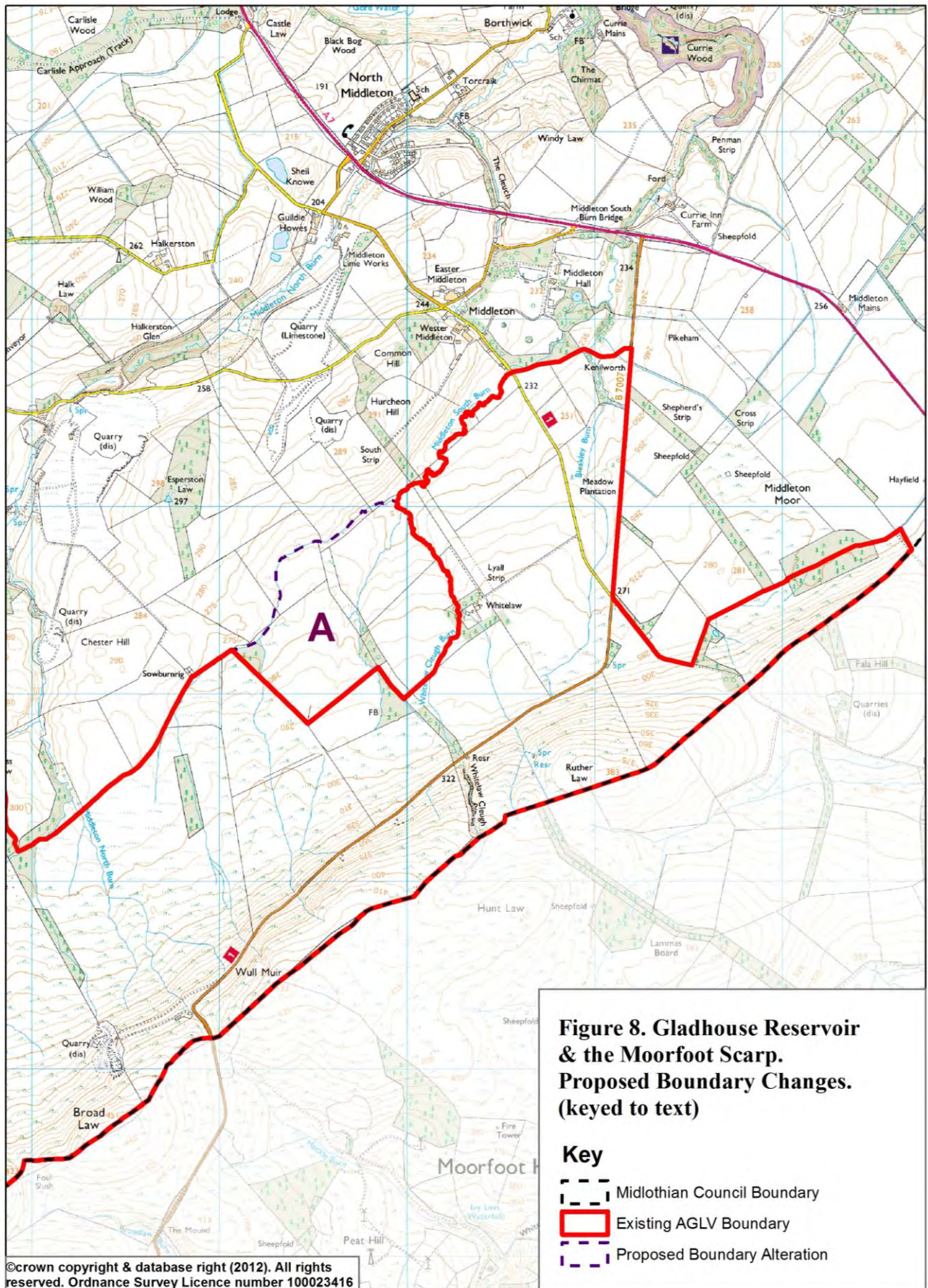
### *Proposed boundary alteration (keyed to Figure 8)*

- Extension of the northern boundary of the Lowland Moorlands landscape character area to the Middleton South Burn to attain an improved 'landscape' boundary to the candidate SLA (A)

### *General management issues and enhancement measures*

- 4.8 Potential issues and enhancement opportunities noted during field survey include:
- Oil drums, debris and former quarry spoil heaps at key corner viewpoint on B7007/National Cycle Route 1 detract from striking views across Midlothian to the Pentland Hills.
  - There is limited accessible car parking and other recreational facilities for walkers/visitors in the Gladhouse Reservoir area.
  - Intrusive coniferous woodlands on the highly visible scarp face of the Moorfoot Hills close to Gladhouse Reservoir should be felled and replaced with a more sensitively designed native woodland scheme.
  - Enhancement of neglected moorland/semi-improved pasture and shelterbelts in the eastern part of this broad study area by encouraging, for example, establishment of extensive native woodlands.





## **5. The Tyne Water Valley Broad Study Area**

### **Location and boundaries**

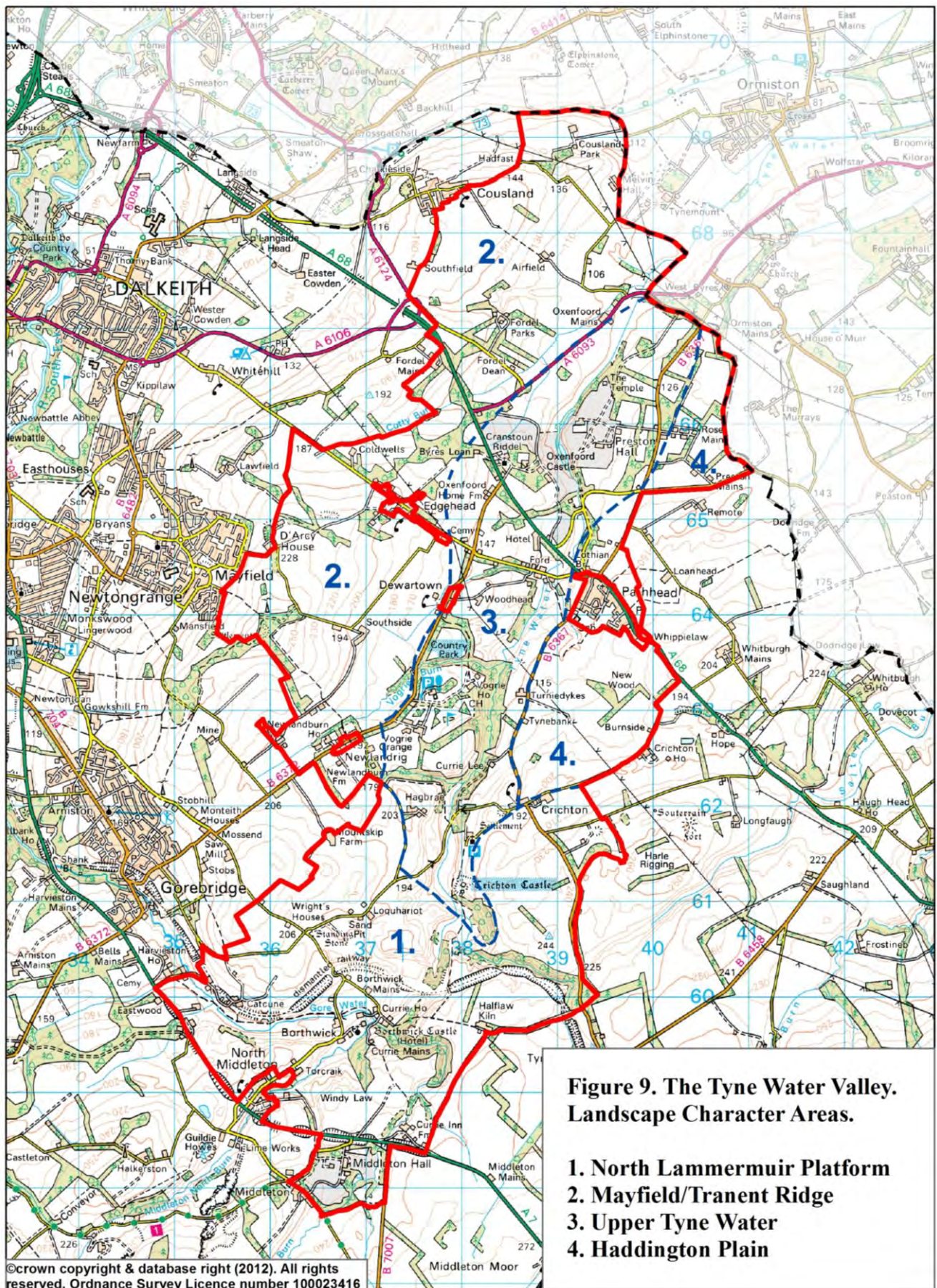
- 5.1 This broad study area is focused on the Tyne Water Valley and the smaller Gore Water at the south-western extremity of this landscape. The East Lothian boundary forms the northern extent of this area. The eastern boundary follows minor roads and some prominent ridgeline woodlands while the south-eastern boundary reflects a distinctive change in character from the smaller scale valleys and rolling farmland of the Gore Water area to a broader simpler upland fringe landscape. The wooded policies of Middleton Hall and the A7 form the division of this broad study area in the south-west. The western boundary of the AGLV accords with woodlands and minor roads.

### **Landscape character areas**

- 5.2 The following landscape character areas lie within this broad study area:
- North Lammermuir Platform
  - Mayfield/Tranent Ridge
  - Upper Tyne Water
  - Haddington Plain

These character areas are shown in Figure 9.







| <b>Detailed Landscape Character Area: North Lammermuir Platform</b>  |             |  |
|--|-------------|--|
| <b>Location</b>  |             |  |
| A complex small scale landscape of rolling farmland, cut by steep-sided valleys and narrow densely wooded cleughs. The village of Borthwick is located above the narrow floodplain of the Gore Water. The south-western boundary is largely marked by the A7 although the boundary deviates to include the designed landscape of Middleton Hall. |             |  |
| <b>Evaluation</b>  |             |  |
| Scenic Qualities   | High/medium | <p>Landform is particularly complex within the valleys where steep slopes and knolly deposits occur and densely wooded glens, wet floodplain pastures and rough scrubby pastures on steep slopes contribute to the diversity of this strongly contained landscape. Oak, ash and beech line roads and field boundaries and add to the richness of vegetation cover. The designed landscape of Middleton Hall is set back from the Gore Water valley and is separated by the A7. Lime works at Middleton and other piecemeal development are detractive elements influencing the edge of this broad study area.</p> <p>Long 'slot' views occur along valleys to the Moorfoot and Pentland Hills. Borthwick Castle and the church spire are key features in views from minor roads.</p> |
| Enjoyment  | Medium      | A network of Core and other paths are present between Crichton Castle and Borthwick and within the Gore Water valley. The Tyne/Esk Trail for horses uses minor roads and tracks and quiet minor roads also appear popular with cyclists. A historic Right of Way is aligned through the designed landscape of Middleton Hall.  |
| Cultural qualities   | Medium      | Borthwick with its castle and church has a strong historical integrity. Middleton Hall and its designed landscape although not Inventory listed are of interest.   |
| Naturalness  | Medium      | <p>The semi-native woodlands within the side glens of Maggie Bowies Glen and Currie Wood and wetter meadows near Borthwick have a natural character. Part of Crichton Glen SSSI and the Borthwick Glen LBS lie within this character area.</p> <p>The proximity of the busy A7 limits any sense of tranquillity on the southern edge of this landscape although the Borthwick area feels secluded due to the strong containment of landform and woodlands.</p>   |
| <b>Other factors</b>   |             |  |
| <p>The dismantled railway aligned through this landscape forms the basis of the route of the new Borders Rail Line.</p> <p>The AGLV extends beyond Middleton Hall to include the lower north-eastern scarp of the Moorfoot Hills although no similar landscape designation occurs within adjacent Scottish Borders.</p>                          |             |  |

| <b>Detailed Landscape Character Area: Mayfield/Tranent Ridge</b>  |             |   |
|---|-------------|---|
| <b>Description</b>  |             |   |
| This landscape largely comprises the long gentle hill slopes which contain the Tyne Water valley to the north-west. This landscape is farmed with medium-sized fields enclosed by hedges and with field trees occurring in places. Narrow roads cross these hill slopes and a number of farms and the settlement of Edgehead are also present.            |             |   |
| <b>Evaluation</b>   |             |   |
| Scenic Qualities  | High/medium | <p>Mixed 'ridge top' woodlands around Edgehead and Fordel have a designed appearance relating well to landform. These woodlands are important in framing views across the Tyne Valley. Field trees are also distinctive features in places and contribute to the well-wooded and diverse character of these upper valley sides.</p> <p>This landscape forms the wider setting to Oxenfoord Castle, Prestonhall and Vogrie designed landscapes and forms an integral part of the wider Tyne Valley.</p> <p>Transmission lines are locally detractive on the north-eastern edge of this character area.</p> |
| Enjoyment   | Medium      | Minor roads and tracks provide access opportunities and link with recreational routes within the lower Tyne valley.   |
| Cultural qualities  | Medium/low  | Although less notable for its cultural qualities, the Roman road that passes through Edgehead is of interest and woodlands and field trees have a strong estate influence.  |
| Naturalness   | Medium/low  | There are some semi-natural woodland sites and designations include the Hadfast Valley SSSI, and parts of the Crichton Glen SSSI and Camp Hill LBS. Managed farmland and transmission lines (in some areas) limit the sense of naturalness although narrow minor roads are quiet.   |
| <b>Other factors</b>  |             |   |
| <p>The AGLV designation does not extend into adjacent East Lothian.</p> <p>The boundary of the AGLV extends over the skyline of wooded ridges seen from roads and settlement concentrated within the floor of the Tyne Valley. This landscape appears well-managed although field enlargement and decay may have affected the numbers of field trees.</p> |             |   |

| <b>Detailed Landscape Character Area: Upper Tyne Water</b>   |             |  |
|--|-------------|--|
| <b>Description</b>   |             |  |
| <p>The Tyne Water follows a gently winding course, contained by steep wooded slopes in places but gradually opening out in its lower reaches. Landform is more complex and rugged in the south where the valley is more incised. The character of this area is defined by the three major estates of Prestonhall, Oxenfoord Castle and Vogrie with their extensive policy woodlands and parkland and with lodges, bridges and boundary walls also forming highly visible features.</p> |             |  |
| <b>Evaluation</b>  |             |  |
| Scenic Qualities   | High        | <p>The designed landscapes of Oxenfoord Castle and Prestonhall feature areas of parkland with specimen trees and ornamental plantings on the undulating valley floor and flatter terraces above the Tyne. Vogrie is more densely wooded and contained while the Crichton area is rugged in character with steep scrubby interlocking slopes enclosing along a more incised valley. This landscape is diverse and scenically rich with a strong contrast between parkland, woodland and farmland with Oxenfoord Castle and its pinetum, Prestonhall and historic structures such as Lothian Bridge, the picturesque village of Ford and the castle and collegiate church at Crichton adding interest to the scene. Views are often limited from nearby roads and settlement by boundary walls and woodlands. Footpaths in the Prestonhall area and from upper hill slopes in adjacent character areas allow more open views into this valley.</p> |
| Enjoyment  | High        | <p>Vogrie Country Park forms a key focus for recreation. Crichton Castle is also a visitor attraction. Core and other paths are concentrated along the valley with some aligned through the parkland of Prestonhall. The Oxenfoord Estate appears to be less easily accessible.</p>  |
| Cultural qualities   | High        | <p>Inventory listed designed landscapes of Prestonhall and Oxenfoord Castle which provide the setting to Category A listed buildings. Although not Inventory listed the designed landscape of Vogrie also contributes to the cultural interest of this landscape. There are many notable historic buildings and structures including Lothian Bridge, Crichton Collegiate Church and Crichton Castle and distinctive historic settlements such as Ford.</p>   |
| Naturalness  | High/medium | <p>The Crichton Glen SSSI extends into this LCA and the Vogrie Country Park, Stretchendean Wood, and the Tyne Water and Prestonhall Estate Woodland LBS' also lie within this LCA. Semi-natural woodlands, narrow densely wooded side glens and areas of scrub and rougher pasture, particularly in the less intensively managed southern part of this landscape have a naturalistic character. The southern area also can feel secluded due to the absence of major roads and sparser settlement.</p>   |
| <b>Other factors</b>   |             |  |
| <p>The confined valley of the Gore Water and the settlement of Borthwick within the 'North Lammemuir Platform' character area has a similar character to the upper reaches of the Tyne in the Crichton Castle area.</p>  |             |  |

| <b>Detailed Landscape Character Area: Haddington Plain</b>  |             |   |
|---|-------------|---|
| <b>Description</b>  |             |   |
| This character type is found in two small areas on the eastern side of the Tyne Valley where it forms gently undulating and more open farmed upper slopes above the densely wooded lower valley. Shelterbelts and field trees are distinctive features, particularly in the area south of Pathhead. |             |   |
| <b>Evaluation</b>   |             |   |
| Scenic Qualities  | High/medium | <p>Although less diverse and intrinsically scenic than the lower valley floor, this landscape forms an integral part of the wider Tyne valley in views from roads and settlement on the western side of the valley. Prominent woodlands and shelterbelts which comprise the present AGLV boundary form a distinct upper 'edge' to the valley in places.</p> <p>This landscape is seen briefly from the A68 on the approach to Pathhead and from the B6372 and more elevated minor roads on the western side of the Tyne valley.</p> |
| Enjoyment   | Medium      | There are limited core paths in the area to the north of Pathhead. Minor roads form core path routes in the southern area and these link with paths within the lower valley and Vogrie Country Park.  |
| Cultural qualities  | Medium      | The Roman Camps SAM near Pathhead is situated in this character area. The area to the north of Pathhead may have formed part of the Prestonhall Estate in the past. The estate settlement of Crichton has a strong architectural integrity.   |
| Naturalness   | Medium/low  | Some semi-natural woodlands although the managed farmland of this landscape precludes a strong sense of wildness.   |
| <b>Other factors</b>  |             |   |
| There is an inconsistency in the eastern AGLV boundary as it is defined lower down the valley sides in the area to the north of Pathhead.   |             |   |



*Well-managed farmland patterned with field trees and enclosed by hedgerows within the broad valley of the Tyne*



*The Tyne valley is rich in historical buildings and settlements including the landmark feature of Crichton Castle*



*Grassland and scrub woodland gives a more naturalistic character in the upper reaches of the Tyne Valley*



*Policy landscapes dominate the valley floor and feature parkland, ornamental trees and extensive woodlands*



*The northern part of the 'Mayfield/Tranent Ridge' character area is influenced by transmission lines and is less richly patterned than the core of the valley*



*The small settlement of Borthwick with its castle and church forming landmark features seen within the intimately scaled valley of the Gore Water.*



## Summary of findings

- 5.3 Four character areas were assessed within the AGLV broad study area of the Tyne Valley. The findings were as follows on the key assessment criteria:

| Character type            | scenic   | enjoyment | cultural | naturalness |
|---------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| North Lammermuir Platform | High/med | Medium    | Medium   | Medium      |
| Mayfield/Tranent Ridge    | High/med | Medium    | Med/low  | Med/low     |
| Upper Tyne Water          | High     | High      | High     | High/med    |
| Haddington Plain          | High/med | Med/low   | Medium   | Med/low     |

## Recommendations

- 5.4 This broad study area focuses on the highly scenic valley floor of the Tyne Water which is characterised by the richly diverse parkland, woodlands and built features of extensive designed landscapes and the more intimately scaled and naturalistic upper reaches of the Tyne and the Gore Water which are enhanced by a number of landmark buildings including Crichton and Borthwick castles. Although less intrinsically scenic than the very diverse Upper Tyne Water character area, the Agricultural Plain and Mayfield/Tranent Ridge character areas within this broad study area comprise the upper slopes of the Tyne valley which are widely seen in views from roads and settlement and form an integral part of the setting to the valley floor.
- 5.5 It is recommended that the majority of the broad study area should be put forward as a candidate SLA but with some amendments to the western and eastern boundaries to better reflect key landscape and visual features and exclude areas of reduced scenic quality which are less integral to the core of the Upper Tyne Water.

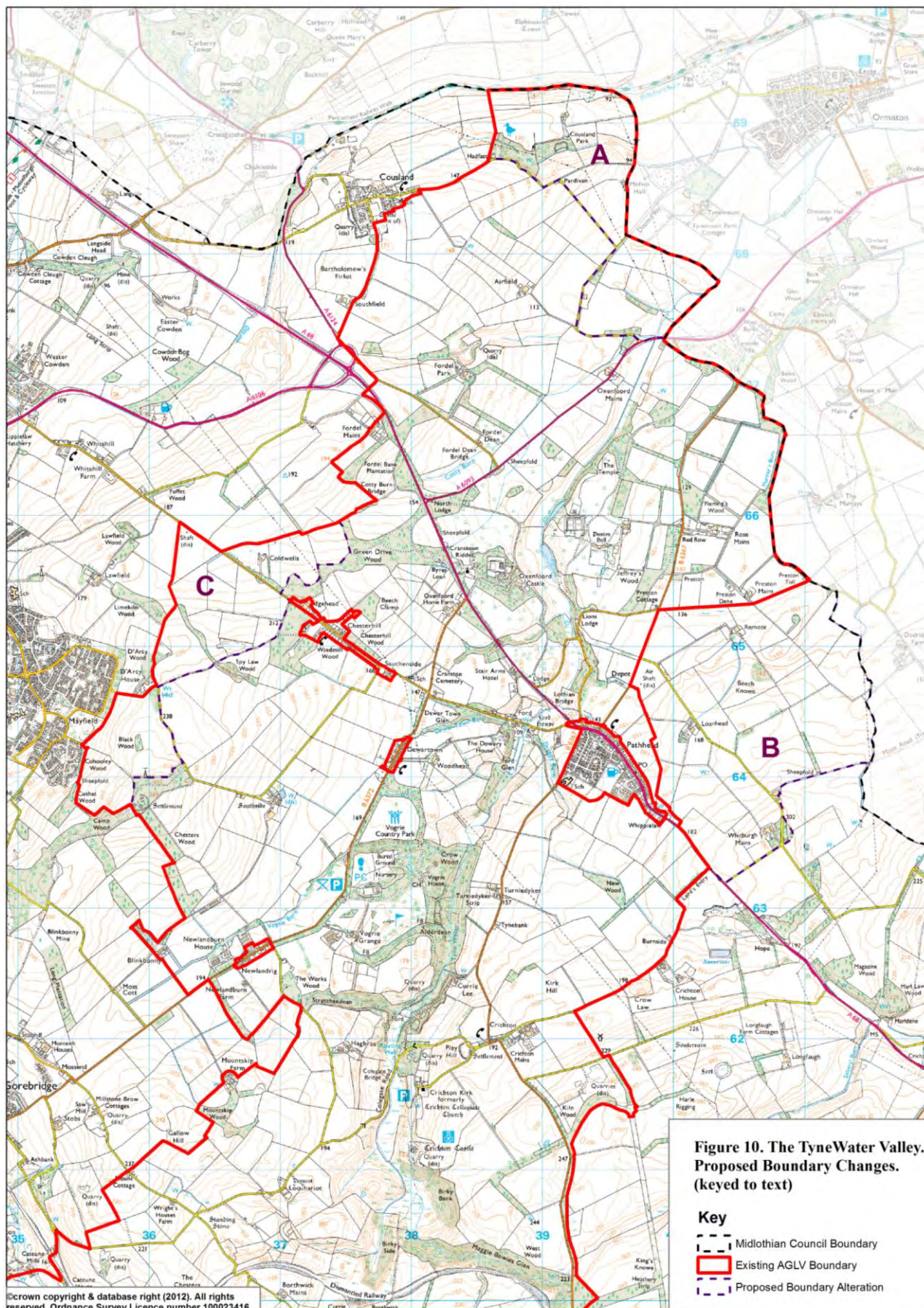
### *Proposed boundary alterations (keyed to Figure 10)*

- Exclusion of an area strongly influenced by high voltage transmission lines close to the East Lothian border and where the AGLV is not continued within this neighbouring authority. (A).
- Inclusion of an additional area of farmland on the upper hill slopes north-east of Pathhead which, although not especially diverse, provide a backdrop to the core of the Upper Tyne Valley character area and continue the visual envelope of the wider valley on this eastern side (B).
- Exclusion of part of the Mayfield/Tranent Ridge which does not have a strong visual or landscape relationship to the core area of the Upper Tyne Valley with the boundary better reflecting prominent ridgeline woodlands and a minor road running north east and south east from D'Arcy House (C)

### *General management issues and enhancement measures*

- 5.6 Potential issues and enhancement opportunities noted during field survey include:
- Footpaths are difficult to access within one of the most scenic and naturalistic parts of the valley between Borthwick and Crichton Castle.
  - Management of field boundary trees and trees aligning roads with replacement planting where they are moribund or gaps have occurred.

- Management of ridgeline woodlands on the edges of the candidate SLA which frame the valley and are highly visible from roads and settlements.
- Replacement of parkland trees and woodland management within the designed landscapes





## **6. The Pentland Hills Broad Study Area**

### **Location and boundaries**

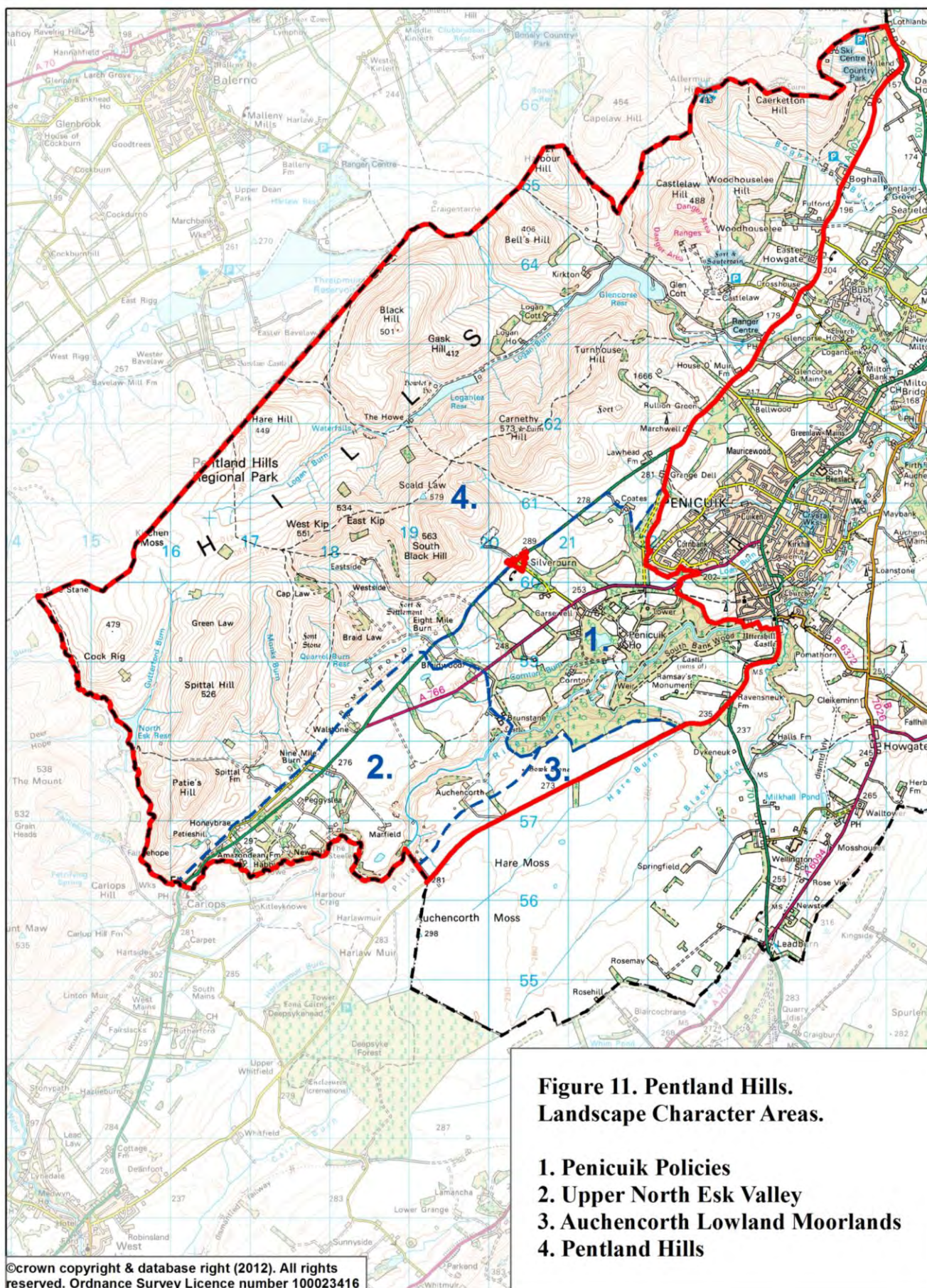
- 6.1 This broad study area is focused on the Pentland Hills, the designed landscape of Penicuik House and the River North Esk valley south-west of Penicuik to Newhall on the boundary with Scottish Borders.
- 6.2 The north-western boundary of the AGLV extends to the borders of West Lothian where it generally marks the start of steeper slopes of the higher Pentland Hills. The northern boundary of the AGLV is aligned on the high ridge of the Allermuir and Caeketton Hills which abut the City of Edinburgh Council border. The south-western boundary abuts Scottish Borders, running along the valley of the North Esk. The south-east boundaries of the AGLV are formed by the minor road which is aligned across Auchencorth Moor, the edge of the Penicuik House wooded policies and the A702 which marks the hill foot of the Pentlands.

### **Landscape character areas**

- 6.3 The Lothians Landscape Character Assessment (SNH 1998) and the Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Energy in Midlothian (2007) have been reviewed and this, together with further field work, has identified the following detailed landscape character areas which have formed the basis for evaluation in this study:
  - Pentland Hills
  - Penicuik policies
  - Upper North Esk Valley
  - Auchencorth Lowland Moorland

These character areas are shown in Figure 11.







| <b>Detailed Landscape Character Area: Pentland Hills</b>   |             |   |
|--|-------------|---|
| <b>Description</b>   |             |   |
| The Pentland Hills are spread across a number of local authority areas. These hills are higher and more defined towards the north within Midlothian, generally forming a broader undulating upland plateau and sparsely settled hill fringes to the south and west within the adjacent authorities of Scottish Borders and West Lothian. |             |   |
| <b>Evaluation</b>  |             |   |
| Scenic Qualities   | High        | <p>The distinctive shapely conical peaks, undulating ridges and steep-side slopes of pronounced hills, including Allermuir, Turnhouse, Scald Law, Carnethy, Turnhouse, Castlelaw, West Kip and East Kip, form an iconic skyline seen as a backdrop to Midlothian and also an essential part of Edinburgh's landscape setting.</p> <p>In contrast to the expansive openness of the hills, the valley of the Logan Burn creates an intimately scaled 'interior' landscape accommodating isolated farms and cottages and small reservoirs. Deeply incised narrow cleughs separate peaks, accentuating the sculptural landform of the hills. The rolling landform and rich pattern of woodlands, hedgerows and pastures of the sheltered south-east facing lower slopes of the Pentland Hills merge with the adjacent North Esk valley and the policies of Penicuik House and add to the diversity of landform and land cover of this character area.</p> <p>Views from these hills are expansive. The Pentland Hills are visually prominent, forming a backdrop and contrast with the more settled lowland landscapes of Midlothian. Some of the most striking views to these more defined and higher hills lying within Midlothian are experienced across the open low-lying Auchencorth Lowland Moorlands where their close proximity, isolated position and sharp visual contrast create a highly scenic juxtaposition.</p> |
| Enjoyment  | High        | The Pentland Hills are designated a Regional Park and are very well-used for recreation.  |
| Cultural qualities   | High/medium | A number of Iron Age settlements and hill forts designated SAMs lie within this landscape eg. Castlelaw Fort. The LCA also includes a section of Roman road and the site of the battle of Rullion Green (1666). There are also literary associations with the Pentland Hills.   |
| Naturalness  | High        | <p>The North Esk Valley and Habbies Howe – Logan Burn SSSIs are within this LCA, together with the Black Hill and Glencorse Reservoir and Glen LBS'.</p> <p>The openness, naturalistic moorland cover and sparse settlement of these hills can give a distinct sense of wildness.</p>   |
| <b>Other factors</b>   |             |   |
| Similar regional landscape designations apply to the Pentland hills area within the adjoining local authorities of West Lothian and the City of Edinburgh. The Pentland Hills AGLV has been reviewed in Scottish Borders with a candidate SLA put forward for final approval by the Council in 2012.                                     |             |   |

| <b>Detailed Landscape Character Area: Penicuik policies</b>   |             |  |
|---|-------------|--|
| <b>Description</b>  |             |  |
| This character area comprises both the Inventory listed designed landscape of Penicuik House and the more extensive wooded policies associated with the estate which influence the landscape character of the wider area. |             |  |
| <b>Evaluation</b>   |             |  |
| Scenic Qualities  | High        | <p>The core of the designed landscape is set around the deeply incised River North Esk which is contained by steep slopes – these are predominantly wooded but are open close to Old Penicuik House where a natural amphitheatre of parkland is revealed. The designed landscape is diverse featuring water bodies, elevated viewing terraces, parkland, avenue plantings and planned vistas to follies and monuments, which form key focal points.</p> <p>The extensive mixed woodlands which contain the designed landscape extend as shelterbelts within the wider policies and make a strong contribution to the rich diversity of the landscapes which lie at the south-western foot of the Pentland Hills.</p> <p>Although the core of this landscape is less visible from the surrounding area, perimeter woodlands are important in providing the setting to Penicuik and are widely seen from roads and settlement. The Pentland Hills are important in forming the backdrop and setting to the designed landscape.</p> |
| Enjoyment   | High        | The majority of this designed landscape is publicly accessible with a car park and an extensive network of footpaths present.  |
| Cultural qualities  | High        | This Inventory listed designed landscape provides the setting to the category A listed Old Penicuik House and New Penicuik House (former stables converted for residential use). Other listed historic built structures include the Flag Tower, bridges and the Ramsay Monument.   |
| Naturalness   | High/medium | Extensive semi-natural woodlands and the Penicuik House Estate LBS. Although managed and close to urban centres, a sense of seclusion can be experienced in parts of this densely wooded landscape.  |
| <b>Other factors</b>  |             |  |
| No additional factors noted during field work   |             |  |

| <b>Detailed Landscape Character Area: Upper North Esk Valley</b>  |        |  |
|---|--------|--|
| <b>Description</b>  |        |  |
| This character area focuses on the deeply incised River North Esk which lies at the foot of the Pentland Hills between the Penicuik policies and the boundary with Scottish Borders close to Carlops. It includes the Inventory listed designed landscape of Newhall. |        |  |
| <b>Evaluation</b>   |        |  |
| Scenic Qualities  | High   | <p>The North Esk is aligned within a deeply incised, sinuous valley, with sheer, grassy slopes patterned by occasional crags and exposed scree. Tributaries cut winding, narrow clefts into adjacent farmland, forming an increasingly complex landform between Marfield and Newhall. The valley forms the focus of the Newhall designed landscape where steep river banks are clothed with woodland and contain ornamental gardens and pool.</p> <p>Views to the North Esk valley are restricted with the unclassified Moor Road being one of the few areas where this landscape can be readily appreciated. The deeply incised cut of the valley traces the foot of the Pentland hills, adding interest to the simple foreground of moorland and pasture in views from this road and making a strong contribution to the overall scenic diversity when seen against the backdrop of the Pentland Hills. Views to Newhall designed landscape are limited although perimeter woodlands are seen from the A702 and surrounding footpaths including those in the Pentland Hills.</p> |
| Enjoyment   | Medium | There are no core paths within the more open section of the valley and access is sometimes difficult due to the presence of enclosed farmland. Core paths are aligned through the wider Newhall policies and there is also occasional public access to the gardens.  |
| Cultural qualities  | Medium | The Inventory listed designed landscape of Newhall and some listed buildings also within the Newhall area. The Gowk Stane SAM is within this LCA.  |
| Naturalness   | Medium | Although this landscape is predominantly farmed, the Newhall Glen SSSI woodlands and areas of scrub/rough grassland on steeper valley sides have a natural character. The proximity of the A702 limits the sense of seclusion experienced in places.   |
| <b>Other factors</b>  |        |  |
| The south-eastern part of this character area becomes more open and less managed at the transition with Auchencorth Moss.   |        |  |



| <b>Detailed Landscape Character Area: Auchencorth Lowland Moorlands</b>   |             |   |
|---|-------------|---|
| <b>Description</b>  |             |   |
| A narrow sliver of the Auchencorth Moss area lies within the AGLV. This character area extends beyond the boundaries of the AGLV and is much more extensive to the south-east. This assessment considers the more extensive area of Auchencorth Moss. |             |   |
| <b>Evaluation</b>   |             |   |
| Scenic Qualities  | High/medium | <p>This area of very gently domed open moorland is not intrinsically scenic although it plays an important role in providing a simple flat open foreground and strong contrast with the deeply incised North Esk Valley and the backdrop of the more dramatic peaks of the Pentland Hills which lie within Midlothian. Open moorland lying at the core of this landscape is fringed by dispersed settlement and some semi-improved pastures and shelterbelts.</p> <p>Views from the A701, the unclassified Moor Road and the A6094 provide vantage points and iconic views of the Pentland Hills where the simple, open low-lying moss lying at the core of this landscape accentuates their drama and apparent height.</p> |
| Enjoyment   | Low         | There are no core paths within this landscape.  |
| Cultural qualities  | Low         | This landscape is not noted for its cultural qualities.   |
| Naturalness   | High/medium | Although parts of this moorland are modified by peat extraction, it can appear natural. The Auchencorth Moss SSSI covers much of this character area.   |
| <b>Other factors</b>  |             |   |
| Peat extraction works are detractive and widely visible in this open landscape.   |             |   |



*The pronounced northerly peaks of the Pentland Hills are a landmark feature widely seen across Midlothian and Edinburgh*



*The gently domed low-lying Auchencorth Moss provides a striking counterpoint to the shapely peaks of the Pentlands, accentuating the perception of vertical scale.*



*Grass moorland and wetland cover within the open and expansive Auchencorth Moss*



*The deep, sheer-sided valley of the North Esk is an arresting feature seen against the backdrop of the Pentland Hills from the Moor Road.*



*The Pentland Hills provide the backdrop to the richly diverse designed landscape of the Penicuik Estate.*



*Historic built features within the core of the Penicuik Estate.*

## Summary of findings

- 6.4 Four detailed character areas were assessed within the AGLV broad study area of the Pentland Hills. The findings were as follows against the key assessment criteria:

| Character type                | scenic   | enjoyment | cultural | Naturalness |
|-------------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Pentland Hills                | High     | High      | Medium   | High        |
| Pencuik Policies              | High     | High      | High     | High/med    |
| Upper North Esk Valley        | High     | Medium    | Medium   | Medium      |
| Auchencorth Lowland Moorlands | High/med | Low       | Low      | High/med    |

## Recommendations

- 6.5 The juxtaposition of strongly contrasting landscapes in this part of Midlothian produces high quality scenery. The more pronounced peaks of the Pentland Hills lie within Midlothian and provide a consistent backdrop to its lowland landscapes. The diverse wooded policies of Penicuik and Newhall and the more open deeply incised River North Esk fringing the foot of the hills enrich the overall composition when seen against smooth open hill slopes, shapely tops and ridges. The Auchencorth Lowland Moorlands, although scoring less highly in terms of enjoyment and cultural aspects, also play an important role in the wider composition and visual appreciation of the Pentland Hills. It is recommended that the existing AGLV area and the whole of Auchencorth Moss should form a candidate SLA.

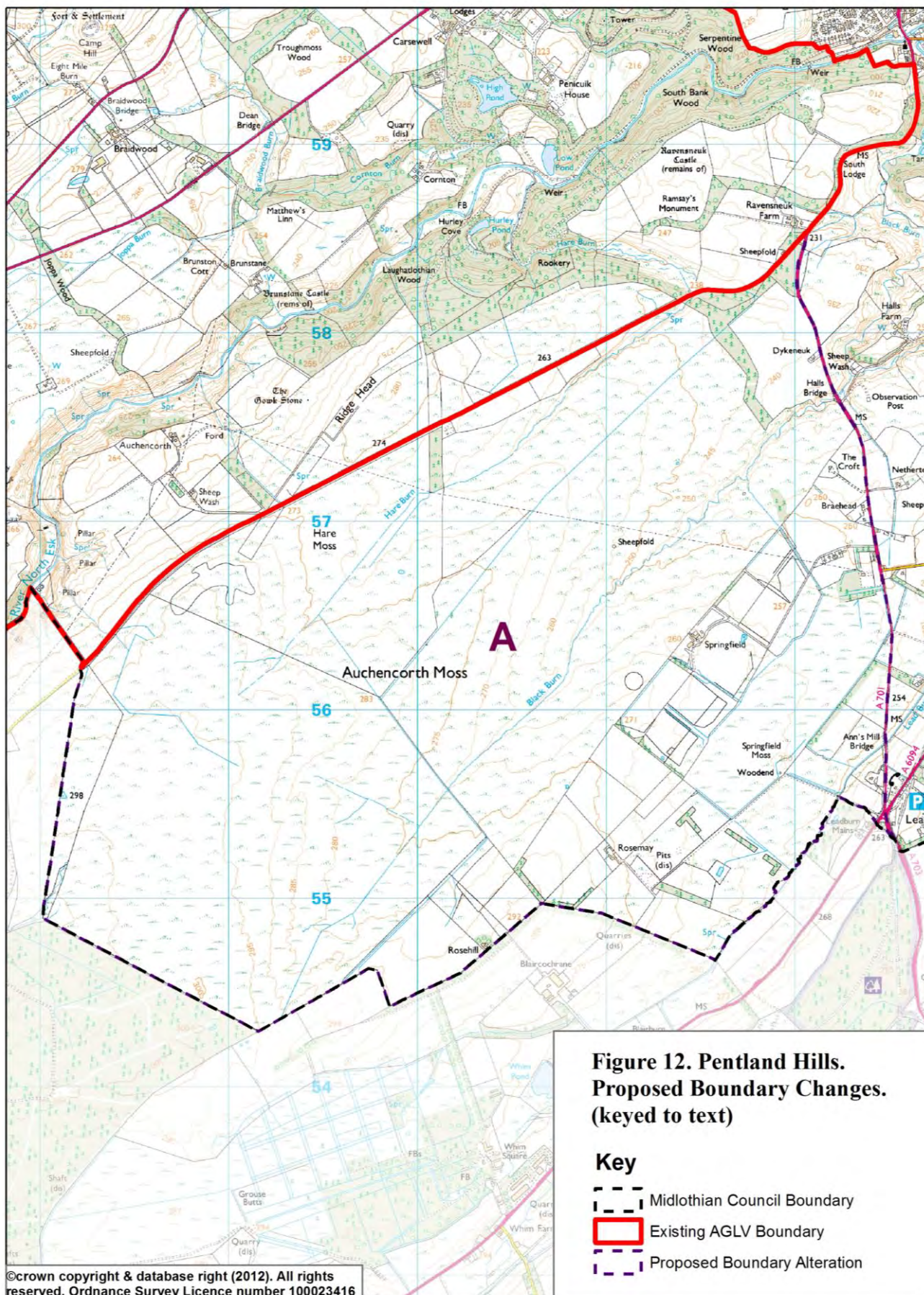
### *Proposed boundary alterations (keyed to Figure 12)*

- Extension of the boundary to include the whole of the Auchencorth Moss area to the Scottish Borders boundary and the A701 (A).

### *General management issues and enhancement measures*

- 6.6 The Pentland Hills Regional Park Management Group working with the Pentland Hills Ranger Service are responsible for the management of the Regional Park. A long term programme of woodland restructuring and landscape restoration and management works is being carried out within Penicuik designed landscape.
- Prominent industrial warehousing development on the fringes of Penicuik and seen on the skyline from the core of the Penicuik designed landscape should be screened in the long term by woodland.
  - Restoration of peat extraction areas and management of Auchencorth Moss to enhance its natural qualities.
  - Establishment of footpaths within the more open section of the upper North Esk Valley, establishing circular routes/links between Penicuik and Newhall and the Pentland Hills which together will help form the emerging Esk Valley Way.









## **7. The Fala Area Broad Study Area**

### **Location and boundaries**

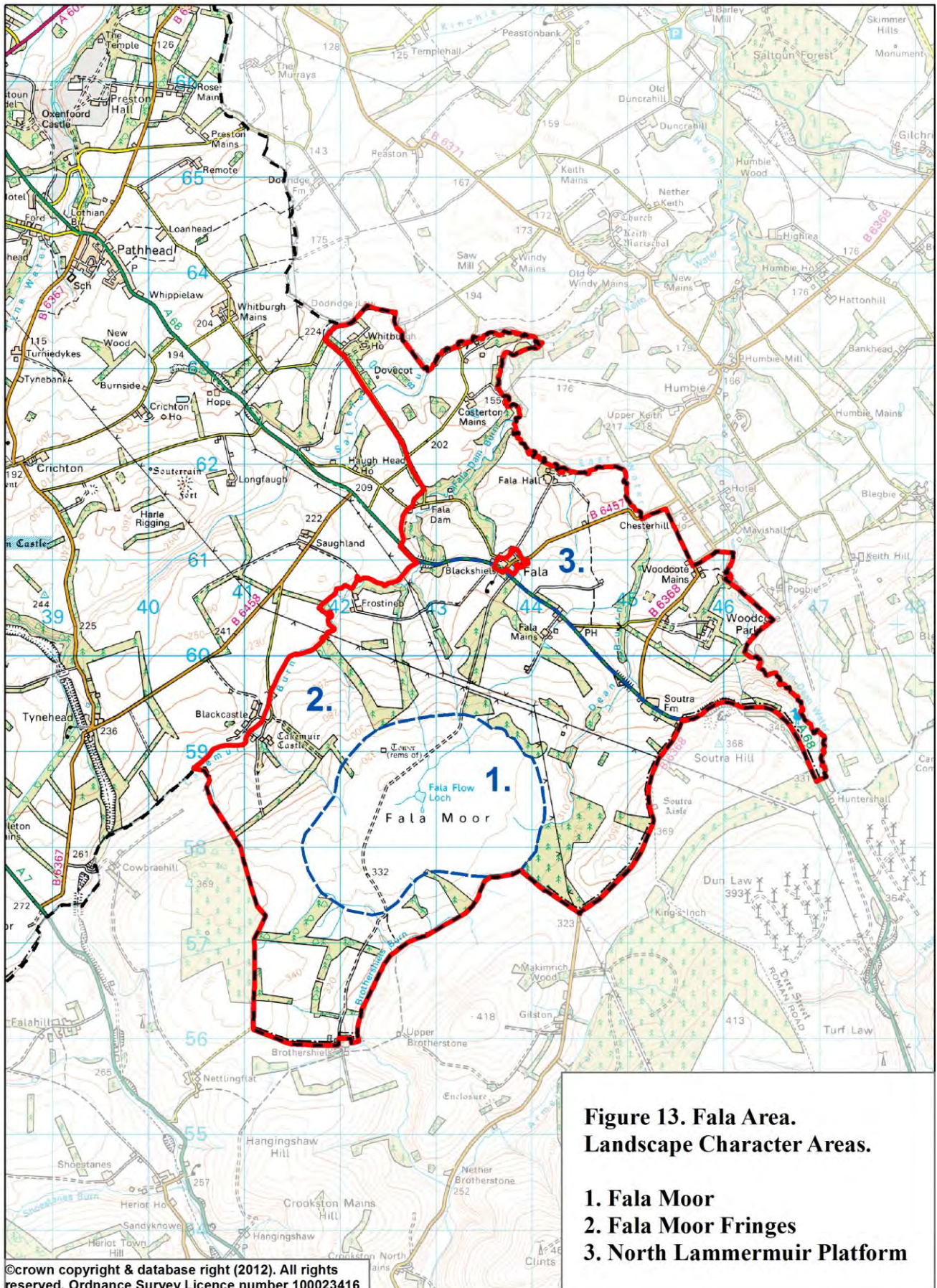
- 7.1 This broad study area lies in the south-eastern extremity of Midlothian where the AGLV mainly abuts the Scottish Borders and East Lothian boundaries. The northern boundary of this broad study area within Midlothian follows minor roads in the Whitburgh Estate area and a small burn at the foot of steep hill slopes below Fala Moor to the edge of Cakemuir Hill. The AGLV designation extends into neighbouring East Lothian, principally covering the northern scarp of the Lammermuir Hills. No similar regional landscape designation is present within the adjacent part of Scottish Borders.

### **Landscape character areas**

- 7.2 The Lothians landscape assessment (1996) identifies two character areas within this broad study area, the North Lammermuir Platform and Fala Moor. Considerable variation occurs within the Fala Moor character area and this has therefore been subdivided following review in the field. The south-eastern boundary of the North Lammermuir Platform character area has been extended to include the policies of Woodcote Park. The detailed landscape character areas considered in this assessment therefore comprise the following:

- Fala Moor
- Fala Moor Hill Fringes
- North Lammermuir Platform

These character areas are shown on Figure 13.



| <b>Detailed Landscape Character Area: Fala Moor</b>   |        |   |
|---|--------|---|
| <b>Description</b>  |        |   |
| A level expanse of blanket bog and heather moorland forming a terrace between the more expansive uplands of the Lammermuir plateau to the south and steep hill slopes which back the rolling farmland of Midlothian to the north. |        |   |
| <b>Evaluation</b>   |        |   |
| Scenic Qualities  | Medium | <p>The simple landform and land cover of Fala Moor limits its inherent scenic value. Although the detail of heather and blanket bog vegetation of the Moor and occasional foci such as Fala Flow Loch and the ruinous Luggie Tower are of interest, they are only appreciated from within this landscape and the Moor makes little contribution to the wider landscape of the AGLV broad study area due to its visual containment. Windfarm development sited in the adjacent Scottish Borders is visible on the skyline above the Moor and a high voltage power line and forestry is also visible on the fringes of this landscape.</p> <p>Fala Moor is not readily visible from surrounding landscapes although it is seen from the B6368 near Soutra Isle, where it forms the foreground to expansive views across the Lothians. This landscape also provides a 'platform' for extensive views across the Lothians for viewers situated within it where the simple open character of the Moor strongly contrasts with the richly patterned farmland and woodlands on lower ground.</p> |
| Enjoyment   | Medium | A core path is aligned on a track through the Moor and links to the A7.   |
| Cultural qualities  | Low    | The Fala Luggie Tower is listed although cultural value is generally relatively low.  |
| Naturalness   | High   | This landscape is internationally designated for its nature conservation value with the Fala Flow SPA, RAMSAR and SSSI located within this character area. A strong sense of naturalness and seclusion can be experienced when walking on the moor.   |
| <b>Other factors</b>  |        |   |
| There are no similar regional landscape designations within neighbouring Scottish Borders to the south of this landscape.   |        |   |



| <b>Detailed Landscape Character Area: Fala Moor Hill Fringes</b>  |            |  |
|---|------------|--|
| <b>Description</b>  |            |  |
| This landscape comprises the even hill slopes which wrap around Fala Moor and fringe the Lammermuir Plateau to the south. These hill slopes have a simple broad pattern of large fenced and walled semi-improved pastures and angular mixed shelterbelts.   |            |  |
| <b>Evaluation</b>   |            |  |
| Scenic Qualities  | Medium/low | <p>The simple landform of evenly graded hill slopes and broad pattern of pastures and mainly coniferous shelterbelts has limited scenic diversity and is affected by high voltage transmission lines in places. There are however some areas of interest within this landscape and these include Cakemuir Castle and its woodland setting, and occasional incised burns (although these are not readily appreciated due to dense coniferous plantings within valleys).</p> <p>This landscape is glimpsed from the A68 but with more open views possible of north facing slopes and Cakemuir Castle from the B6458.</p> |
| Enjoyment   | Medium/low | There are no core paths within this landscape although minor roads and estate tracks provide access.   |
| Cultural qualities  | Medium     | A SAM and a few listed buildings lie within this landscape, the most visually prominent of these being Cakemuir Castle which sits at the foot of these hill slopes. The remains of the church and medieval hospital complex at Soutra Aisle sit on the eastern boundary of this LCA within the Scottish Borders.   |
| Naturalness   | Medium     | There are some ancient/semi-natural woodland sites (although many planted with conifers). These hill slopes are sparsely settled and although transmission lines and forestry affects the perception of naturalness, they can feel tranquil and secluded in places.  |
| <b>Other factors</b>  |            |  |
| There are no similar regional landscape designations within neighbouring Scottish Borders to the south and west of this landscape. These hill fringes lie at the western extent of the Lammermuir Hills and border a less dramatic, lower undulating plateau than the central core of more defined higher hills and diverse rolling hill fringes present within East Lothian. |            |  |

| <b>Detailed Landscape Character Area: North Lammermuir Platform</b>   |             |   |
|---|-------------|---|
| <b>Description</b>  |             |   |
| This landscape of rolling farmland, narrow wooded valleys and policies, including those of Woodcote Park and Whitburgh house, lies to the east of the A68. The influence of the estates is evident in diverse plantings of field and roadside trees, roundels, hedges and parkland. |             |   |
| <b>Evaluation</b>   |             |   |
| Scenic Qualities  | High        | <p>The rolling landform of this landscape is cut by narrow and often densely wooded valleys including the Linn Dean Burn which extends into the Lammermuir Plateau near the A68, Fala Dam Burn and Costerton Water. Mixed pasture and arable fields are enclosed by hedges and woodlands. Field and roadside plantings of ash and oak add to the rich diversity of this landscape while small hamlets such as Fala Mill and occasional mansion houses provide additional points of interest.</p> <p>This landscape often has an intimate scale where landform and woodland contain views. Glimpsed views are possible to the Lammermuir scarp within East Lothian which provides a scenic backdrop to this and other similar foothill landscapes in the Humble area. This landscape forms part of wider expansive views across the Lothians from the A68 in the Soutra Hill area.</p> |
| Enjoyment   | Medium      | Some core paths are present.  |
| Cultural qualities  | Medium      | There are a number of listed buildings and Conservation Areas covering the historic settlements of Fala and Fala Dam.   |
| Naturalness   | High/medium | The small folded hills and narrow valleys found in areas such as Costerton and Fala Woods (West) and the Linn Dean (both LBSs) have a strong sense of naturalness and seclusion. Semi-natural woodlands are also present.   |
| <b>Other factors</b>  |             |   |
| The AGLV designation extends into neighbouring East Lothian where it principally covers the northern scarp of the Lammermuir Hills and part of the diverse hill foot landscapes which feature many estates with their wooded policies.  |             |   |

## Summary of findings

- 7.3 Three detailed character areas were assessed within the AGLV broad study area of the Fala Area. The findings were as follows in relation to key assessment criteria:

| Character type            | Scenic  | Enjoyment | Cultural | Naturalness |
|---------------------------|---------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Fala Moor                 | Medium  | Medium    | Low      | High        |
| Fala Moor Fringes         | Med/low | Low       | Medium   | Medium      |
| North Lammermuir Platform | High    | High      | High     | High/med    |

## Recommendations

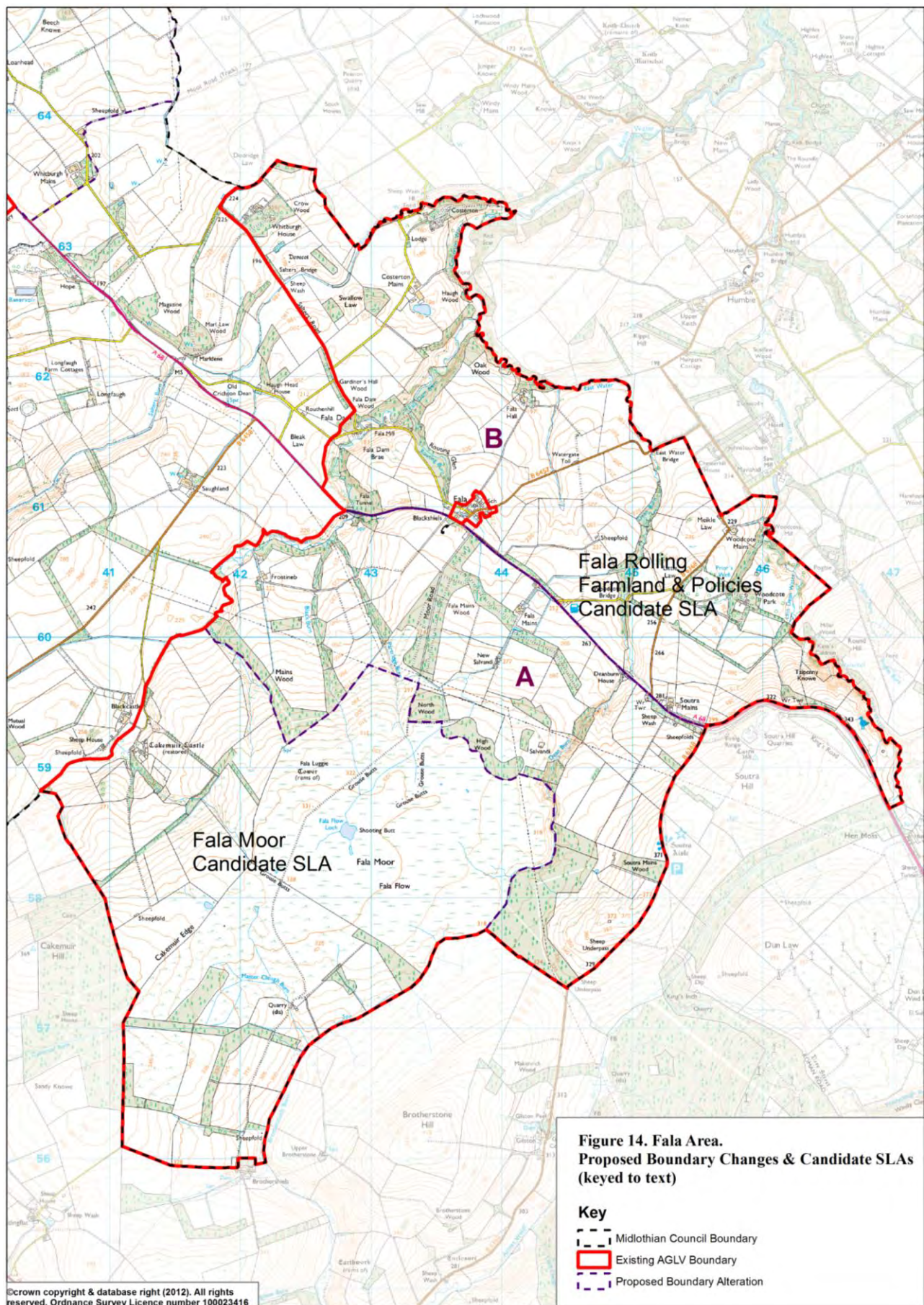
- 7.4 Scenic qualities vary widely across this broad study area. The North Lammermuir Platform landscape character area scores highly across key criteria. It also partially borders a similar AGLV designation within adjacent East Lothian which covers the more dramatic central section of the Lammermuir Hills and adjacent diverse 'foothill' landscapes. The Fala Moor area, while scoring highly on naturalness, has little intrinsic scenic value apart from the views that are a feature from the Moor where it strongly contrasts with the low-lying richly patterned farmland of the Lothians to the north. The Fala Moor Hill Fringes score less well across all criteria although the area around Cakemuir Castle is more scenically diverse and also has some cultural interest.
- 7.5 It is recommended that the Fala Moor and North Lammermuir Platform character area and the western part of the Fala Moor Fringes merit designation and that two separate candidate SLAs should be defined within this broad study area because of the clear differences in character and low inter-visibility between the lower rolling farmland and policies of the North Lammermuir Platform character area and the elevated Fala Moor area.

### *Proposed boundary alterations (keyed to Figure 14)*

- Exclusion of part of the less diverse Fala Moor Hill Fringes which are additionally affected by high voltage transmission lines (A).
- Formation of separate candidate SLAs of Fala Moor and the Fala Rolling Farmland and Policies (B).

### *General management issues and enhancement measures*

- 7.6 Potential issues and enhancement opportunities noted during field survey include:
- Management of field boundary trees and trees aligning roads with replacement planting where they are moribund or gaps have occurred.
  - Possible improved access for walkers within the attractive wooded valleys of Costerton, Linn Dean and Fala Dam where the terrain allows.
  - Management of parkland and woodlands within the Woodcote Park estate.







## 8. Conclusions

8.1 It is recommended that the following landscapes form candidate SLAs:

- The North Esk Valley
- South Esk Valley and Carrington Farmland
- The Tyne Valley
- Gladhouse Reservoir and Moorfoot Scarp
- The Pentland Hills
- Fala Rolling Farmland and Policies
- Fala Moor

These candidate SLAs are shown in Figure 15. Statements of Importance for each of the candidate SLAs are contained within Appendix C of this document. The differences between the existing AGLV designated area and the candidate SLA areas are shown in Figure 16.

8.2 Scottish Planning Policy (2010) states that the purpose of designating local landscape areas should be to:

- *Safeguard and enhance the character and quality of landscapes which are important or particularly valued locally or regionally*
- *Promote understanding and awareness of distinctive character and special qualities*
- *Safeguard and promote important settings for outdoor recreation and tourism locally.*

8.3 Current policy in relation to Areas of Great Landscape Value in the Midlothian Local Plan is outlined in Policy RP6 as:

*‘Development will not be permitted where it may adversely affect the special scenic qualities and integrity of the Areas of Great Landscape Value. The scale, siting, design, form, materials and impact on important landscape features are all aspects of a proposal that could have an adverse effect on the AGLV. These considerations will apply to developments to be located either within or affecting the setting of areas designated as AGLVs’*

8.4 It is recommended that the current policy be reworded in line with best practice outlined in the SNH/HS guidance as follows:

Development proposals within Special Landscape Areas will only be permitted where they incorporate high standards of siting and design and where they will not have a significant adverse effect on the special qualities of the area. Developments affecting the setting of SLAs will be subject to the same considerations.

8.5 The study brief also required review of Policy RP7 Landscape Character. This current policy states that:

*'Development will not be permitted where it may adversely affect the quality of the local landscape. Where development is acceptable, it will respect the local landscape character and contribute towards its maintenance and enhancement.*

*New development will incorporate proposals to:*

- A. Maintain the local diversity and distinctiveness of landscape character including natural and built heritage features of landscape value such as woodland, hedges, ponds, stone walls and historical sites; and*
- B. Enhance landscape characteristics where they have been weakened and need improvement and create new landscapes where there are few existing features.*

- 8.6 It is recommended that the wording of Policy RP7 Landscape Character is amended to better reflect the range of different development proposals likely to occur and their potential effects on landscape character, as follows:

*'Development will not be permitted where it may significantly and adversely affect local landscape character. Where development is acceptable, it should respect local landscape character being compatible in terms of scale, siting and design. New developments will normally be required to incorporate proposals to maintain the diversity and distinctiveness of local landscapes and to enhance landscape characteristics where they have been weakened'.*

## Appendix A: References

Ash Consulting Group. (1998). *The Lothians Landscape Character Assessment*. Scottish Natural Heritage Review No. 91.

Anderson, C and Grant, A. (2007). *Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Turbine Development in Midlothian*.

Land Use Consultants (2010). *Edinburgh Landscape Character Assessment*.

Land Use Consultants (2012). *Scottish Borders Local Landscape Designations Review (Revised Report)*

*Inventory of designed landscapes and gardens in Scotland*, Historic Scotland web-site

Scottish Natural Heritage/Historic Scotland (2006) *Guidance on Local Landscape Designations*.

David Tyldesley and Associates (2007) *Special Qualities of Scotland's National Scenic Areas*. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report 255.




| Appendix B: Numerical Scores Table       |                               |                 |                |                 |                 |             |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Broad study area                         | Character type                | Scenic          | Enjoyment      | Cultural        | Naturalness     | Total Score |
| North Esk Valley                         | Dalkeith Policies             | High (5)        | High (5)       | High (5)        | High/Medium (4) | 19          |
|  | Dalkeith to Polton            | Medium (3)      | High (5)       | High (5)        | Medium (3)      | 16          |
|  | Roslin Glen                   | High (5)        | High (5)       | High (5)        | High (5)        | 20          |
|  | Roslin to Auchendinny         | Medium (3)      | High (5)       | High (5)        | Medium (3)      | 16          |
| South Esk Valley and Carrington Farmland | South Esk Valley              | High (5)        | High (5)       | High (5)        | High (5)        | 20          |
|  | Rosewell/Carrington Spur (NE) | High/medium (4) | High (5)       | Medium (3)      | Medium (3)      | 15          |
|  | Rosewell/Carrington Spur (SW) | Medium/low (2)  | Low (1)        | Low (1)         | Low (1)         | 5           |
| Gladhouse Reservoir and Moorfoot Scarp   | Gladhouse Moorland Fringes    | High (5)        | High (5)       | Medium (3)      | High (5)        | 18          |
|  | Lowland Moorland              | Medium (3)      | Medium (3)     | Low (1)         | Medium/low (2)  | 9           |
|  | Moorfoot Hills                | High/medium (4) | High (5)       | Medium/low (2)  | High/medium (4) | 15          |
| Upper Tyne Valley                        | North Lammermuir Platform     | High/medium (4) | Medium (3)     | Medium (3)      | Medium (3)      | 13          |
|  | Mayfield/Tranent Ridge        | High/medium (4) | Medium (3)     | Medium/low (2)  | Medium/low (2)  | 11          |
|  | Upper Tyne Water              | High (5)        | High (5)       | High (5)        | High/medium (4) | 19          |
|  | Agricultural Plain            | High/medium (4) | Medium (3)     | Medium (3)      | Medium/low (2)  | 12          |
| Pentland Hills                           | Pentland Hills                | High (5)        | High (5)       | High/medium (4) | High (5)        | 19          |
|  | Penicuik Policies             | High (5)        | High (5)       | High (5)        | High/medium (4) | 19          |
|  | Upper North Esk Valley        | High (5)        | Medium (3)     | Medium (3)      | Medium (3)      | 14          |
|  | Auchencorth Lowland Moorlands | High/med (4)    | Low (1)        | Low (1)         | High/medium (4) | 10          |
| Fala Area                                | Fala Moor                     | Medium (3)      | Medium (3)     | Low (1)         | High (5)        | 12          |
|  | Fala Moor Fringes             | Medium/low (2)  | Medium/low (2) | Medium (3)      | Medium (3)      | 10          |
|  | North Lammermuir Platform     | High (5)        | High (5)       | High (5)        | High/medium (4) | 19          |

Scoring system: High=5, High/medium=4, Medium=3, Medium/low=2, Low=1.

## **Appendix C**

### **Statements of Importance for candidate Midlothian Special Landscape Areas**



|   |
|---|
| <p><b>Statement of Importance</b></p> <p><b>North Esk Valley candidate Special Landscape Area</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Name and location</b></p> <p>The candidate Special Landscape Area (SLA) comprises the <b>North Esk Valley</b>. It is situated in northern Midlothian, and follows the North Esk river and valley on its route between the outskirts of the towns of Penicuik in the south-west and Dalkeith in the north-east.</p>  |
|   |
| <p><b>Overview</b></p> <p>Key reasons why this area is proposed as a candidate SLA are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The densely wooded and often dramatically incised North Esk Valley which accommodates a number of designed landscapes and is of high nature conservation interest.</li> <li>• The rich cultural interest of this landscape and its popularity for recreation which is increased by its close proximity to urban areas.</li> </ul> <p>This narrow, steep-sided river valley is densely wooded and lined by the estates of several country houses and castles, interspersed with fields of pasture. Overall it is of high scenic, cultural, ecological and recreational interest, and is well-used by people in adjacent settlements.</p>  |
| <p><b>Landscape description</b></p> <p>Key components of this landscape are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The densely wooded and deeply incised valley of the North Esk which is particularly dramatic and strongly contained in the Roslin Glen area.</li> <li>• The sense of seclusion that can be experienced in sections of the valley away from roads and settlement.</li> <li>• Extensive policy woodlands and other designed landscape features associated with the Dalkeith, Melville Castle, Mavisbank and Auchendinny estates.</li> <li>• Small pastures on valley sides, enclosed by hedgerows and shelterbelts.</li> <li>• The rich cultural interest of this river valley which includes the internationally renowned Rosslyn Chapel and the romantic Roslin Glen, mansion houses and historic buildings as well as a number of industrial heritage sites.</li> <li>• The wooded setting this landscape provides to the historic settlements of Lasswade, Polton and Dalkeith.</li> <li>• The continuity of recreational routes through much of the valley.</li> </ul> |



|  |
|--|
| <p>Immediately north-west of Dalkeith lies the confluence of the North and South Esk rivers within Dalkeith Country Park. The sinuous route of the North Esk between Dalkeith and Penicuik is predominantly confined within a steep-sided valley; in some sections, such as Roslin Glen, the river is flanked by a precipitous gorge; in other parts, contrastingly, it becomes more open – such as the rounded valley shoulders that slope down to the river south-west of Lasswade and Roslin Castle. At Auchendinny at the southern end of this SLA, an incised fan of several small burns – mainly originating in the higher moorland to the south – feeds into the North Esk.</p> <p>Much of the valley of the North Esk is heavily wooded. Around Dalkeith House, the land cover is a mix of parkland, handsome mature specimen trees, and woodlands. Policy woodlands, with occasional specimen conifers or spruce plantations, are also associated with other designed landscapes such as Mavisbank House, Roslin Glen and Melville Castle. Many woodlands are of ancient or semi-natural origin and much of the candidate SLA is recognised and protected through wildlife designations. The woodlands line long stretches of the valley and are a strong and distinctive influence upon its lush, linear, contained character. Fields of improved pasture and occasional arable land occur on the more open valley slopes and terraces, often divided by well-kept hedgerows with hedgerow trees, and shelterbelts separate areas of farmland on the upper ground of the valley. Stone walling is commonly found as a boundary treatment surrounding or in the vicinity of the designed landscapes within the valley.</p> <p>The 18<sup>th</sup>C country houses such as Dalkeith House, Mavisbank, Melville Castle and Auchendinny House – in addition to earlier buildings from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>C such as Rosslyn and Hawthornden Castles and Rosslyn Chapel – which line the valley of the North Esk, are prominent contributors to the highly diverse architectural and historical interest of the area. In contrast, some associations with the past mill and railway industrial heritage of the valley remain in places. A network of B-roads, minor roads and access tracks runs parallel to and occasionally crossing the valley, connecting the adjacent settlements such as Loanhead and Lasswade, Rosewell and Roslin. Within the valley clusters of stone cottages and Victorian villas at Polton and Lasswade are designated Conservation Areas, fitting harmoniously into the surrounding wooded landscape. Connected with the towns and villages within and around the candidate SLA are numerous paths, cycle routes and bridleways running along the river and through the designed landscapes – a section from Dalkeith to Penicuik forms part of the National Cycle Network. The high recreational value of the area is further enhanced by the Country Parks and associated visitor facilities at Roslin Glen and Dalkeith.</p> <p>Topography and vegetation combine to give this area a predominantly enclosed and secluded character, with restricted views to the surrounding landscape. Views into it from nearby roads are also similarly limited to glimpses of castles and country houses within dense woodlands.</p> |
| <p><b>Choice of boundary</b></p>   |
| <p>Where possible firm boundaries have been chosen for their longevity and robustness to define and identify the SLA.</p> <p>The boundaries of this candidate SLA follow a combination of designed landscape and settlement edges in combination with roads, tributary valleys, field boundaries and woodlands.</p>  |
| <p><b>Opportunities for change</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Management</b></p> <p>The North Esk valley woodlands are substantially covered by ancient/semi-natural woodland and ecological designations. The historical richness of this SLA is similarly acknowledged by the Conservation Area and Inventory designations that cover much of the length of the valley. Good management of the existing designed landscapes, extensive woodlands and areas of well-managed and uncluttered open pasture is important to the value and appearance of this landscape.</p> <p>The focus for landscape improvements should be on the management of built features and plantings within designed landscapes including visitor facilities within Dalkeith Country Park. Woodland planting should be undertaken to screen intrusive housing and industrial</p>  |

development seen on sensitive skylines above the valley in the Polton area. Establishment of new recreational routes is also needed within the valley between Dalkeith and Lasswade to improve connectivity.

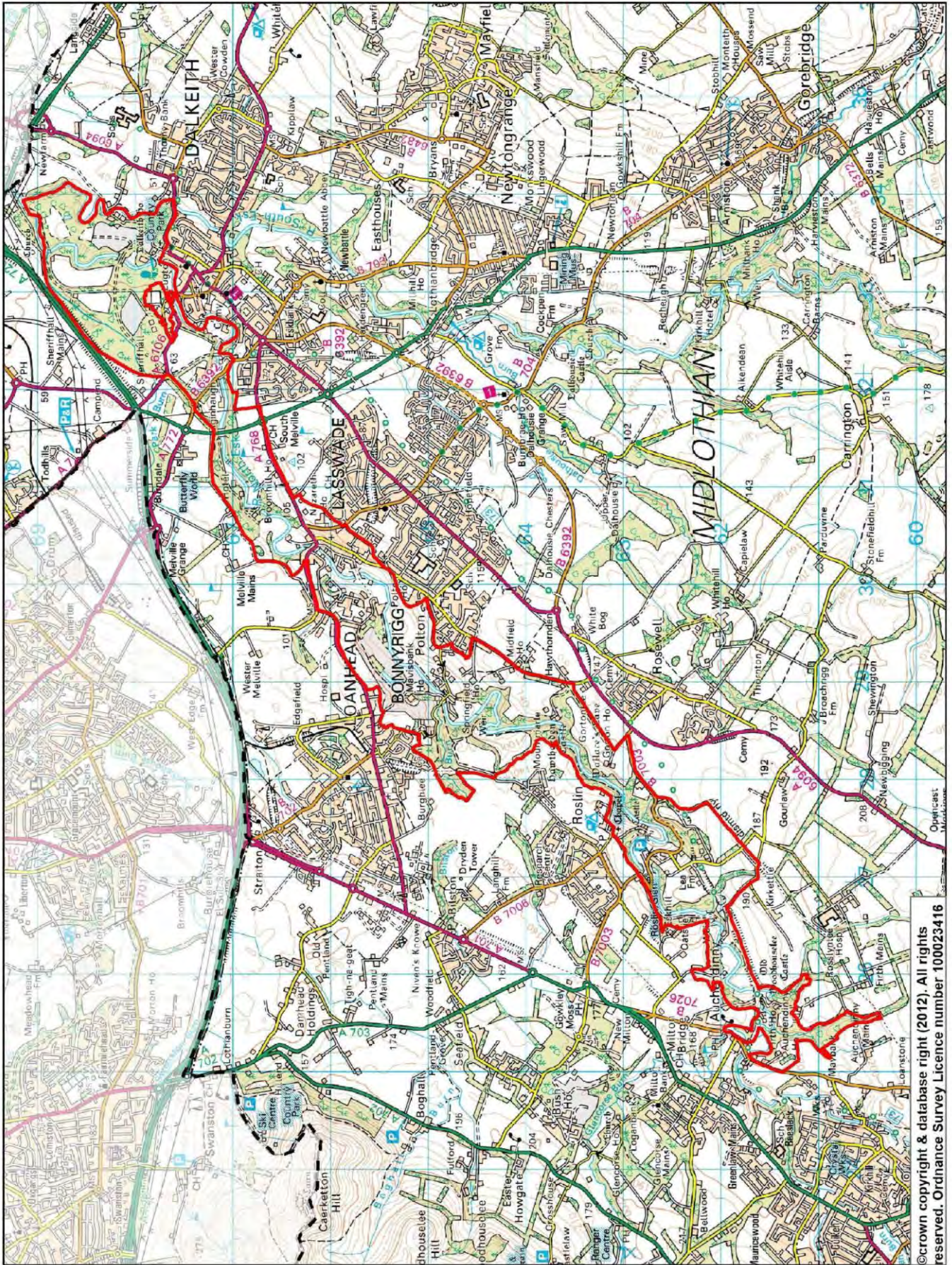
### **Development**

Important considerations for landscape impact in the preparation and assessment of development proposals include:

- Potential for intrusion on designed landscapes which are strongly contained by woodland and any impacts on their key components.
- Impacts on the character and setting of historic settlements and buildings.
- Impacts on sensitive skylines on the edge of the valley.


Further dispersed built development within the valley should be strongly discouraged to conserve the sense of seclusion and naturalness which is a key quality of this landscape.





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|   |
|---|
| <p><b>Statement of Importance</b></p> <p><b>South Esk Valley and Carrington Farmland candidate Special Landscape Area</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Name and location</b></p> <p>The candidate Special Landscape Area (SLA) comprises the <b>South Esk Valley and Carrington Farmland</b>. It is located at the core of Midlothian, and broadly follows the river from the hamlet of Rosebery in the south to the outskirts of Bonnyrigg and Newtongrange in the north. The candidate SLA then extends south-east and, to a greater extent, north-westwards from the river valley to incorporate adjoining farmland and estate policies.</p>  |
|    |
| <p><b>Overview</b></p> <p>Key reasons why this area is proposed as a candidate SLA are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The densely wooded South Esk Valley which accommodates a number of designed landscapes and is of high nature conservation interest.</li> <li>• The surrounding farmland which is patterned with extensive policy woodlands and field trees.</li> </ul> <p>The valley of the South Esk is a lushly wooded, well-contained landscape that accommodates extensive designed landscapes which provide the setting to mansion houses and estate settlements. The area is well-accessed and is rich in cultural, landscape and nature conservation interest. The influence of the estate landscapes extends to the surrounding farmlands which are patterned with extensive policy woodlands and field trees.</p>   |
| <p><b>Landscape description</b></p> <p>Key components of this landscape are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The intimately scaled, densely wooded and deeply incised valleys of the South Esk and its tributary Redside Burn.</li> <li>• The nationally important designed landscapes of Arniston and Dalhousie Castle but also the wooded policies of other notable estates which contribute to the character of this SLA.</li> <li>• The small, tightly clustered historic settlements of Temple and Carrington.</li> <li>• The secluded Edgelaw Reservoir, contained by dense woodland.</li> <li>• Broadleaved woodlands and mature oak and ash trees aligning field and roadside boundaries, and stone walls within well-managed surrounding farmland.</li> </ul> <p>The dominant focus of the candidate SLA is upon the valley of the River South Esk and its major tributary the Redside Burn, both of which lie towards the southern and eastern sides</p> |

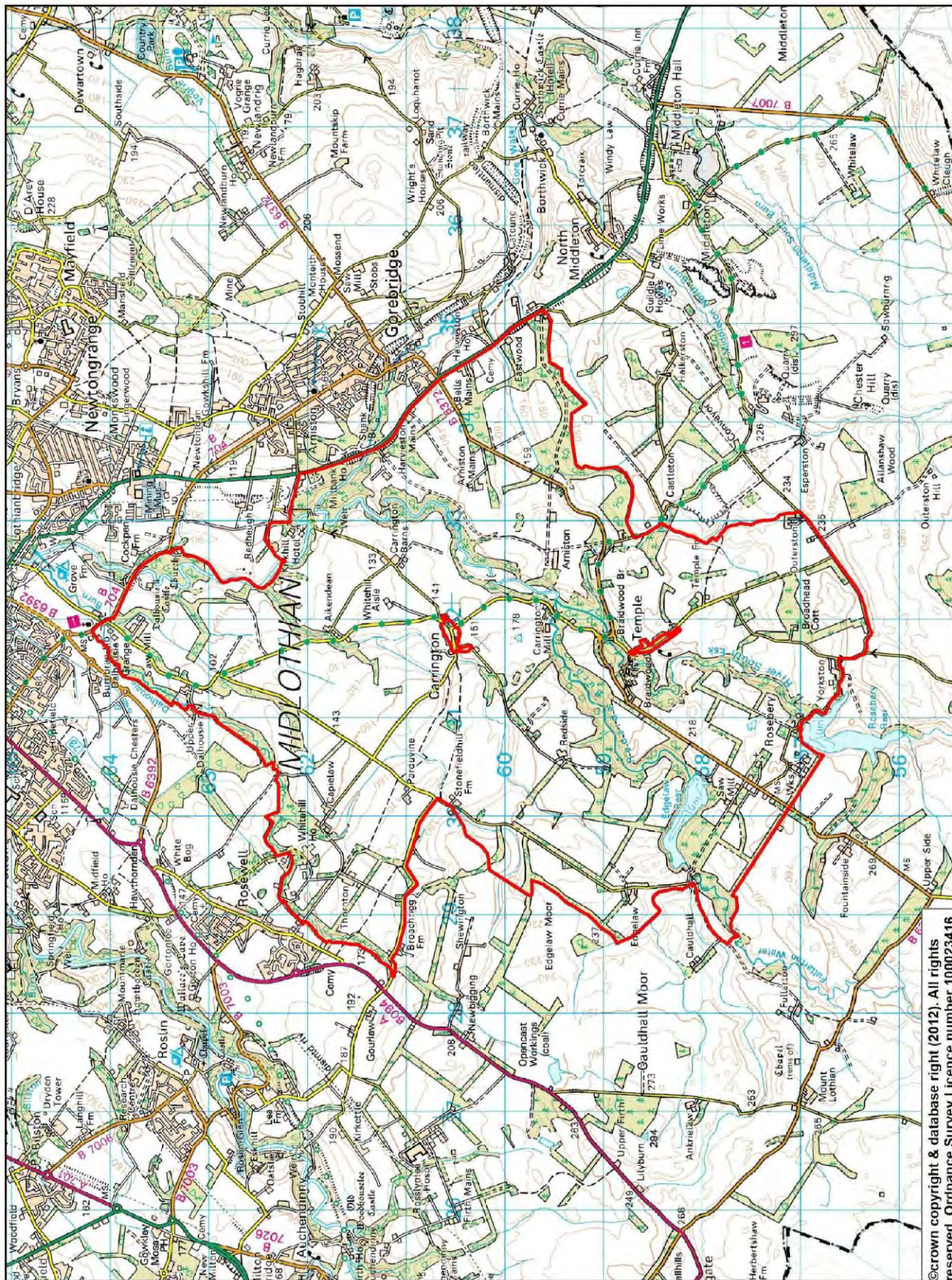


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| <p>of the SLA. In the south the two watercourses mark a transition in character from the higher, more exposed adjoining candidate SLA landscape around Rosebery and Gladhouse Reservoirs to that of the more settled and intimately scaled South Esk Valley. They follow narrow, deeply incised valleys, which tend to be tightly defined and enclosed by landform and dense woodland. Neither valley is an especially visible element within wider views of the hillier landscape in the southernmost part of the SLA, in which also nestles the secluded Edgelaw Reservoir. North of the village of Temple the river and its tributary merge to create a meandering, still well-contained, but more visually prominent feature as the river flows northwards. Extensive estate landscapes are set along the length of the valley and feature mixed woodlands, parkland and occasional groups of ornamental trees. The influence of the estates extends onto adjacent gently undulating farmland which is patterned by mature oak and ash aligning field and roadside boundaries and also by stone estate walls and historic buildings. The route of the South Esk is almost entirely covered by ancient/semi-natural woodland and ecological designations, marking the diversity and value of habitats along the valley. The historical richness of the area is similarly acknowledged by the overlapping Conservation Area and Inventory designations that cover much of the length of the valley landscape, along with a concentration of Listed Buildings. These include the historic village of Temple, the Adam-designed mansion house at Arniston, the mainly 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>C Castle at Dalhousie, and associated buildings such as the distinctive steading and clocktower at Rosebery. The candidate SLA includes the designed landscapes associated with Arniston House and Dalhousie Castle.</p> <p>Extending north-west from the valley, the higher farmland area between the villages of Carrington and Rosewell forms part of the watershed between the South Esk and North Esk rivers. The landform is cut through by several small burns, with the densely wooded Dalhousie Burn and the associated policy landscape of Whitehill House being the most notable to the west. The estate village of Carrington with its prominent church spire is visible from several parts of the South Esk valley. Although there are fewer formally designated areas of landscape, ecological or cultural note within this adjacent farmland, the strong estate influence and richness of woodlands and mature trees means that this landscape forms a complementary backdrop to the South Esk river valley.</p> <p>Both the valley and adjacent farmland are well-accessed through a network of roads and footpaths, following the valley and criss-crossing the farmland between settlements.</p> |
| <p><b>Choice of boundary</b></p>  |
| <p>Where possible firm boundaries have been chosen for their longevity and robustness to define and identify the SLA. The boundary is defined by the A7 to the east, with the remaining boundaries marking the extent of designed landscapes together with streams, shelterbelts, and minor roads.</p>  |
| <p><b>Opportunities for change</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Management</b></p> <p>The South Esk valley is almost entirely covered by ancient/semi-natural woodland and ecological designations. The historical richness of this SLA is similarly acknowledged by the overlapping Conservation Area and Inventory designations that cover much of the length of the valley. Good management of the existing parkland, woodlands, field and roadside trees is important to the value and appearance of this landscape.</p> <p>The focus for landscape improvements should be on management of mature field boundary trees and trees aligning roads with replacement planting where they are moribund or gaps have occurred. Woodlands and specimen trees within the Whitehill House area also require management to ensure longevity and screening of consented housing development.</p>  |
| <p><b>Development</b></p>   |

Important considerations for landscape impact in the preparation and assessment of development proposals include:


- Potential for intrusion on designed landscapes and any impacts on their key components.
- Impacts on the character and setting of historic settlements and buildings.
- Impacts on the character of the richly patterned farmland which makes a strong contribution to the SLA.





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| <b>Statement of Importance</b>  |
| <b>Gladhouse Reservoir and Moorfoots Scarp candidate Special Landscape Area</b>   |
| <b>Name and location</b>  |
| <p>The candidate Special Landscape Area (SLA) comprises <b>Gladhouse Reservoir and the Moorfoots Scarp</b>. It is located at the southern boundary of Midlothian with the Scottish Borders, and is centred upon Gladhouse Reservoir and the moorland and farmland surrounding it together with the containing scarp and hill fringes of the Moorfoot Hills to the south and east.</p>   |
| <b>Overview</b>   |
| <p>Key reasons why this area is proposed as a candidate SLA are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The open and naturalistic character of Gladhouse Reservoir and its scenic juxtaposition with the dramatic scarp of the Moorfoot Hills and the deeply incised South Esk valley.</li> <li>• The mix of well-managed farmland, moss and moorland surrounding Gladhouse Reservoir.</li> <li>• Important panoramic views from the B7007 across Midlothian.</li> </ul> <p>The open and expansive landscape of Gladhouse Reservoir, viewed against the steep northern scarp of the Moorfoot Hills, forms a sparsely settled and secluded corner of Midlothian. The South Esk forms a dramatically incised valley cutting deep into the Moorfoots, strongly contrasting with the undulating basin which accommodates the reservoir and which is patterned with improved farmland, shelterbelts, moss and wetlands. The fringes of the Moorfoots scarp to the east form the foreground to important panoramic views to and from the hills.</p> |
| <b>Landscape description</b>  |
| <p>Key components of this landscape are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The irregularly shaped Gladhouse Reservoir and the fringing wetlands, mixed woodlands and small wooded islands which contribute to its naturalistic qualities.</li> <li>• The dramatic steep scarp of the higher northern Moorfoot Hills and the deeply incised glen of the South Esk which cuts through these hills.</li> <li>• Open and natural areas of moss and heather moorland.</li> <li>• Well-managed farmland which is often enclosed by stone walls.</li> <li>• The intimately scaled Rosebery Reservoir which is strongly contained by woodland and gently folded hills.</li> <li>• The sense of seclusion that can be experienced in this sparsely settled landscape.</li> <li>• Open and expansive views from this landscape to both the Moorfoot Hills and the</li> </ul>   |



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pentland Hills and also across the Lothians to the Firth of Forth.</li> <li>• Revelatory views from the B7007 across the open moorland and farmland of this landscape to the distant Pentland Hills.</li> </ul> <p>Lying between the Moorfoot Hills and the adjacent candidate SLA of the South Esk Valley, Gladhouse Reservoir lies at the core of this landscape. To the north, broad areas of coniferous woodland and long mixed shelterbelts run across the farmland and form a transition between the tighter pattern of farm shelterbelts northwards within the South Esk Valley candidate SLA and this more open and expansive landscape. Tucked away within these plantations and the surrounding rolling hill slopes, the intimately scaled Rosebery Reservoir is hidden by woodland and small folded hills, in contrast to the much larger Gladhouse Reservoir which is set within a broad gently undulating basin. Gladhouse Reservoir has a strongly naturalistic character featuring small wooded islands and with woodland, scrub and wetland fringing its banks. Fields of rough grassland and occasional improved pasture, lined with post-and-wire fences and sporadic hedges and walls, contrast with larger open areas of moorland and boggy ground within this basin. Mixed woodlands and shelterbelts associated with occasional farms ring the reservoir and angular coniferous plantations are prominently sited on the lower slopes of the Moorfoot scarp. Views from this elevated basin are panoramic with both the Moorfoot and Pentland Hills providing dramatic backdrops and with occasional long views across the Lothians.</p> <p>Immediately south of Gladhouse Reservoir, the steep northern scarp of the Moorfoot Hills forms a distinctive and dramatic sculptural scarp cumulating in the high peaks of Blackhope Scar and Dundreich. The South Esk cuts a deep narrow valley within these hills, edged by the interlocking rounded spurs and deep gully tributaries of Hog and Huntly Cot Hills and the Kipps on its passage northwards. To the east, the hill scarp becomes lower but still forms a key element in views towards the Moorfoots from the north. Fringing this part of the scarp, a narrow band of gently sloping semi-improved grassland, moorland and long parallel coniferous shelterbelts is somewhat fragmented and undistinguished although forms an important foreground to a well-known view obtained from the B7007 road, which is also a National Cycle Route, as it emerges from the hills to the south.</p> <p>The sparse settlement of the area, combined with its upland associations, lends a secluded and natural feel to this candidate SLA. Several shelterbelts to the north are of semi-natural origin, and the reservoirs, bogs and stream woodlands are wildlife and nature conservation sites. Although roads and tracks are concentrated in the north, the circular route around Gladhouse Reservoir is waymarked and the Moorfoots are a popular walking destination.</p> |
| <b>Choice of boundary</b>  |
| <p>Where possible firm boundaries have been chosen for their longevity and robustness to define and identify the SLA.</p> <p>The south-western and south-eastern boundaries of this SLA are formed by the administrative division between Midlothian and the Scottish Borders. The north-western edge follows the valleys of the Tweeddale Burn and Fullarton Water, with the boundary to the north being defined by a combination of roads, shelterbelts and field boundaries and partly abutting the South Esk Valley and Carrington Farmland candidate SLA.</p>   |
| <b>Opportunities for change</b>  |
| <p><b>Management</b></p> <p>Gladhouse Reservoir and the surrounding area are covered by important nature conservation designations. Good management of farmland, field boundaries, woodlands, moss and moorland is important to the value and appearance of this landscape.</p> <p>The focus for landscape improvement should be on the replacement of intrusive coniferous plantations on the scarp of the Moorfoot Hills with more sensitively designed native woodland. Neglected moorland, semi-improved pasture and shelterbelts in the eastern part of this SLA should be managed and the key stopping point on the B7007 should be</p>  |

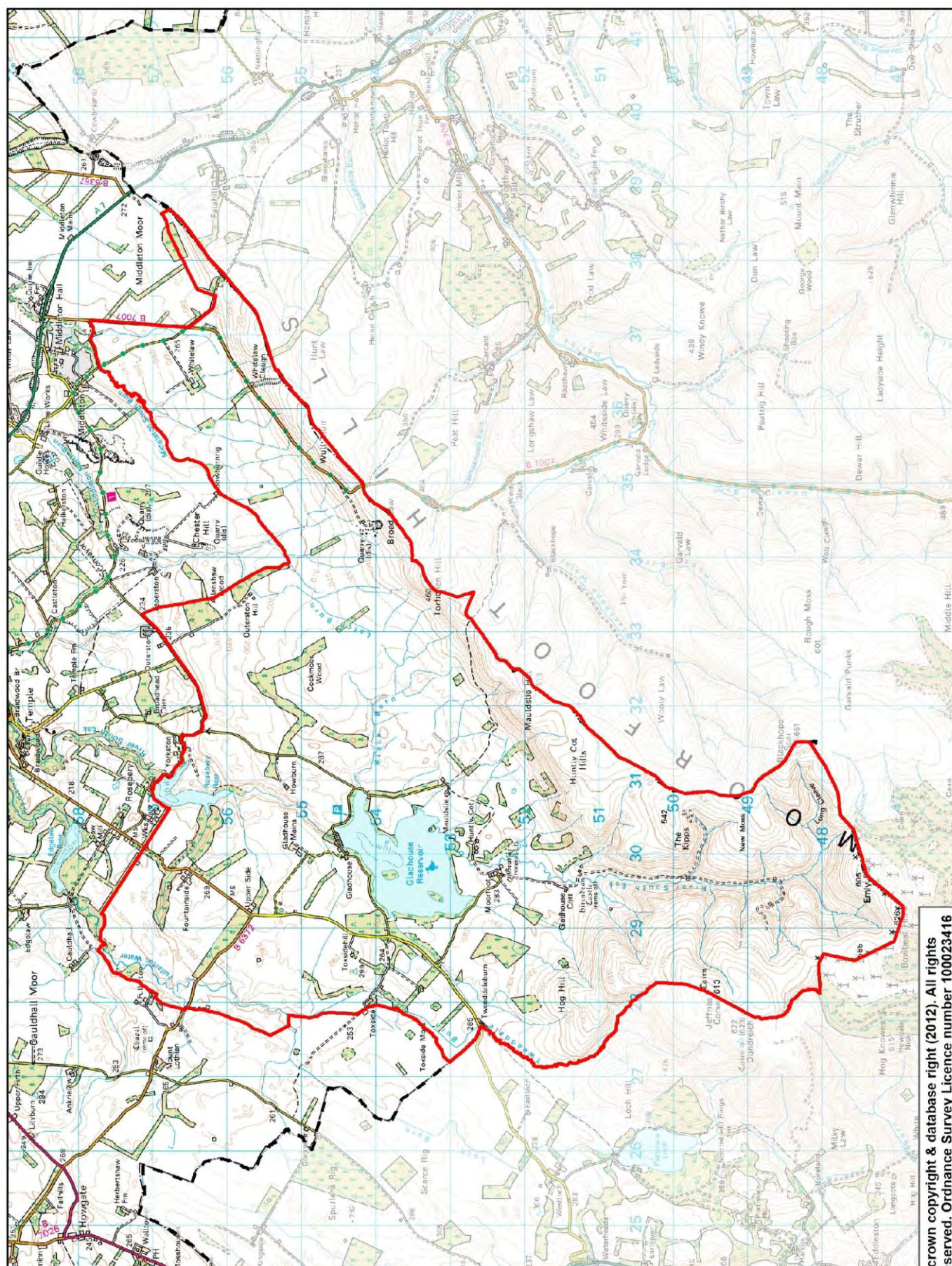
enhanced. Increased car parking opportunities for walkers and visitors to Gladhouse Reservoir should be explored.

### **Development**

Important considerations for landscape impact in the preparation and assessment of development proposals include:

- Potential for intrusion on key views to the Moorfoot Hills from the Gladhouse Reservoir area.
- Impacts on the openness and natural character of Gladhouse Reservoir and on areas of moss and moorland.
- Impacts on important views from the B7007 across Midlothian to the Pentland Hills.







## Statement of Importance

### Tyne Water Valley candidate Special Landscape Area

#### Name and location

The candidate Special Landscape Area comprises the **Tyne Water Valley**. It is located in the north-east of Midlothian, and follows the valleys of the Tyne and Gore Waters and adjacent ridges and valley slopes between Cousland in the north and Middleton in the south.



#### Overview

Key reasons why this area is proposed as a candidate SLA are:

- The rich diversity of the Tyne Water Valley which is characterised by extensive designed landscapes and farmland patterned with woodlands and field trees.
- The more naturalistic upper valleys of the Tyne and Gore Waters which provide the setting for a number of landmark historic features.

The valley of the Tyne Water and surrounding farmlands is a highly diverse landscape. To the north, the valley floor is characterised by the historically important buildings and policies of several designed landscapes and surrounding farmlands and woodlands. The more open and naturalistic reaches of the upper valleys of the Tyne and Gore Waters to the south are more intimate in character. The higher farmed slopes of the valley to the east and west act as framing and complementary landscapes to the setting of the valley core.

#### Landscape description

Key components of this landscape are:

- The intimately scaled upper valleys of the Tyne and Gore Waters which are strongly contained and secluded and which feature richly diverse rough grassland, scrub and broadleaved woodlands.
- Extensive policy woodlands, parkland and ornamental plantings which provide the setting to Oxenfoord Castle, Preston Hall, Vogrie and Middleton Hall.
- Strongly patterned farmland which form the wider setting to the more richly patterned lower Tyne valley but which also feature mature field trees and distinctive mixed woodlands on the ridges framing the valley.
- Historic buildings and structures, including Crichton and Borthwick Castles and the Lothian Bridge, which form landmark features within this landscape.
- The small and often tightly knit historic settlements which further enrich the cultural heritage of this landscape.

Much of the southern-most part of this candidate SLA is dominated by the tightly confined and



convoluted valley of the Gore Water, the landscape of which then merges with the upper reaches of the Tyne. The steep slopes of the Gore Water are marked by furrows of soil creep and rocky knolls, with wetland meadows lining the narrow floor. The upper valley slopes are mainly open hummocky expanses of rough grassland and scrub, transitional in character between the hillier moorland landscapes to the south and the more settled valley landscape to the north. Small mixed woodlands edge parts of the valley sides and line tributaries. Sitting high above the Tyne and Gore Waters, the imposing edifices of Borthwick and Crichton Castles are prominent reminders of the area's importance in medieval times and, along with the churches of Crichton and Borthwick, form focal features seen from surrounding roads. At the southern tip of this candidate SLA, the 18<sup>th</sup>C estate of Middleton Hall is enclosed by policy woodland and stone walls and separated by the A7. North of Crichton Castle, the Tyne Water follows a more gently meandering open route, gradually opening out to the north. The extensive policies of Vogrie House, and the contiguous designed landscapes of Oxenfoord Castle and Preston Hall, occupy almost the entire remaining length of the Tyne Water valley and its lower terraces, and dominate both landscape and built character. Mixed and deciduous woodlands, ornamental plantings and parkland dotted with specimen trees merge with well-managed farmland, patterned with hedgerows and scattered with hedgerow trees. Throughout this richly varied landscape of often high scenic and wildlife value, historic interest is added by villages and hamlets including Pathhead, Ford and Dewartown, structures such as the elegant five-arched Lothian Bridge viaduct, and the lodges, stables, temples and stone walls associated with the estates. To the north-west near Mayfield and Cousland, and to the east around Pathhead, the gently rolling farmed upper valley slopes and often wooded ridges form an important backdrop to views in and out of the valley.

The recreational value of the area is concentrated along the river valley path network and around Vogrie Country Park, with fewer routes across the surrounding farmland. The candidate SLA is well-served by roads along and across the valley and surrounding farmlands, with the A68 and A7 being prominent features as they cross the valley. These, along with other roads on the higher slopes, offer views into and across the landscape, whereas within the valley itself views are often constrained by landform and woodlands.

#### **Choice of boundary**

The eastern and western boundaries of the candidate SLA follow the top of valley slopes, being locally defined by a combination of prominent woodlands, tracks and minor roads. To the north, the boundary skirts Cousland/Cousland Park and follows part of the conjunction with East Lothian, while to the south it is demarcated by the A7 and the wooded policies of Middleton Hall.

#### **Opportunities for change**

##### **Management**

Good management of the existing woodlands, field trees and hedgerows is important to the value and appearance of this landscape.

The focus for landscape improvements should be on the management of mature field boundary trees and trees aligning roads with replacement planting where they are moribund or gaps have occurred. Ridgeline woodlands on the edges of the SLA and woodlands and parkland within designed landscapes should also be managed to ensure longevity. Improvements to recreational access routes between Borthwick and Crichton Castle should also be explored.

##### **Development**

Important considerations for landscape impact in the preparation and assessment of development proposals include:

- Potential for intrusion on designed landscapes and any impacts on their key components.
- Impacts on the character and setting of historic settlements, landmark built features.
- Impacts on the character of often strongly patterned farmland which features mature

field trees, hedgerows and woodlands.

- Intrusion on sensitive skylines which contain the Tyne valley.
- Impacts on the often intimate scale of the narrow Gore Valley.





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## Statement of Importance

### Pentland Hills candidate Special Landscape Area

#### Name and location

The candidate Special Landscape Area (SLA) of the **Pentland Hills** comprises, in addition to the hills themselves, the designed landscape of Penicuik House, the upper North Esk valley and Auchencorth Moss. This landscape is located on the western boundary of Midlothian. The Pentland Hills extend into neighbouring City of Edinburgh, Scottish Borders and West Lothian, where they are covered by a similar landscape designation.



#### Overview

Key reasons why this area is proposed as a candidate SLA are:

- The highly scenic shapely peaks of the Pentland Hills which are seen widely across the Lothians, form key components of the landscape setting to Edinburgh and Midlothian and are also well-used for recreation.
- The rich diversity of the upper North Esk Valley, lying at the foot of the Pentland Hills, which forms the focus for the well-wooded designed landscapes of Penicuik House and Newhall.
- The open and expansive low-lying Auchencorth Moss which strongly contrasts with the hills and contributes to the richness of this candidate SLA.

The Pentland Hills form the key focus of this candidate SLA. The adjacent upper section of the North Esk valley – which comprises the setting for the designed landscapes of Penicuik House and Newhall – and the open and expansive moss of Auchencorth, provide strong contrasts with the hills and contribute to the richness of the overall composition. This landscape is highly scenic, and the more visually prominent Pentland Hills form an essential part of the setting to both Midlothian and Edinburgh. The Pentland Hills are a highly valued recreational resource and are designated as a Regional Park, which encourages public access to them. The Penicuik House Estate is also well used for recreation, particularly by local residents.

#### Landscape description

Key components of this landscape are:

- The rugged and little modified character of the Pentland Hills which contributes to the distinct sense of wildness that can be experienced and contrasts with nearby urban



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| <p>areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The rolling and strongly enclosed farmland on south-eastern hill slopes at the foot of the Pentland Hills.</li> <li>• The designed landscapes of Pencuik House and Newhall which are centred on the River North Esk and are strongly contained by wooded policies.</li> <li>• The deeply incised open section of the River North Esk which adds to the diversity of views to the Pentland Hills seen from the unclassified Moor Road.</li> <li>• The open and largely uncluttered expanse of the low-lying Auchencorth Moss which provides a simple open foreground and strong contrast with the Pentland Hills, accentuating their apparent height and drama in key views from the east.</li> </ul> <p>The conical peaks, undulating ridges and steep slopes of the northernmost Pentland Hills – the highest and most shapely peaks within the range – form a distinctive and recognisable backdrop to Midlothian and Edinburgh. Deeply incised narrow valleys separate peaks, accentuating the sculptural landform of these hills. These include the valley of the Logan Burn, which penetrates deep into the hills, creating an intimately scaled interior landscape accommodating isolated farms and cottages and small reservoirs. Although lying close to settlement, a sense of wildness can be experienced within the hills, with formal recreational facilities in the form of the Ski and Ranger Centres being restricted to the northern tip. The upper slopes and summits are dominated by rough grassland and moorland, contrasting with the rolling landform and rich pattern of woodlands, drystone walls, hedgerows and pastures of the sheltered south-east facing lower slopes of the Pentland Hills. These merge with the adjacent North Esk valley and the extensive wooded policies of Penicuik House, and add to the wide diversity of landform and land cover of this character area.</p> <p>The North Esk valley is aligned at the foot of the Pentlands, and forms the setting for the designed landscapes of Penicuik House and Newhall. The river forms a natural amphitheatre of parkland at the core of the Penicuik House designed landscape, which is strongly contained by extensive policy woodlands and also features elevated walkways, avenues and planned vistas to follies and monuments. Newhall is also densely wooded, but with more ornamental gardens lying at its core. The valley of the upper North Esk is open and deeply incised between these two designed landscapes, with sheer, grassy slopes patterned by occasional crags and exposed scree.</p> <p>No towns or villages lie within the SLA, with farmsteads scattered mainly across the lower hill slopes and adjacent valley, through which run the A702 and A766 main roads. A number of well-used tracks and paths criss-cross the Pentland Hills. Dramatic views, focusing on the shapely interlocking peaks of Carnethy Hill, Scald Law, South Black Hill and Cap Law, are experienced from the A701, the unclassified Moor Road and the A6094, where the low-lying and gently domed dark heathland and pasture of Auchencorth Moss provides a simple open foreground and strong contrast with the hills, accentuating their apparent height and drama.</p> |
| <p><b>Choice of boundary</b></p>  |
| <p>Where possible firm boundaries have been chosen for their longevity and robustness to define and identify the SLA. The boundaries to this candidate SLA are formed by adjacent local authority boundaries, the A701, the outer edge of the Penicuik designed landscape and the A702.</p>   |
| <p><b>Opportunities for change</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Management</b></p> <p>The Pentland Hills Regional Park Management Group working with the Pentland Hills Ranger Service are responsible for the management of the Regional Park. A long term programme of woodland restructuring and landscape restoration and management works is being carried out within Penicuik designed landscape.</p> <p>Opportunities for improvement focus on screening intrusive development visible from the Penicuik House designed landscape, management of Auchencorth Moss to enhance its natural qualities and creation of circular recreational routes within the North Esk Valley with</p>   |

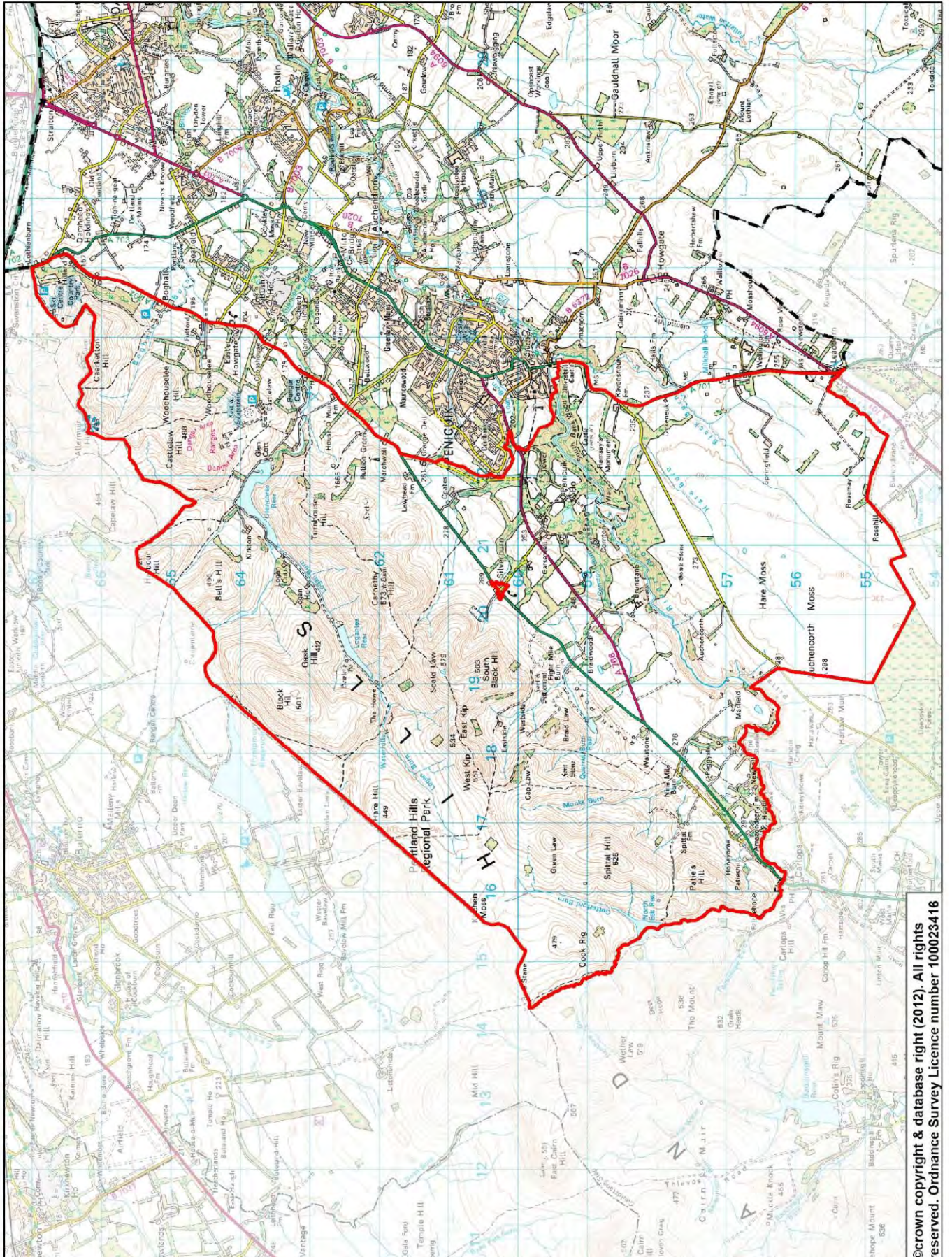
links to the Pentland Hills.

### **Development**

Important considerations for landscape impact in the preparation and assessment of development proposals include:


- Impacts on the sense of wildness experienced within the Pentland Hills and potential for significant intrusion on key views to and from the hills.
- Potential for intrusion on the strongly contained nationally important designed landscapes of Penicuik House and Newhall and impacts on their key components.
- Any change that may occur to the simple and largely uncluttered character of Auchencorth Moss which may diminish its scenic juxtaposition with the Pentland Hills and intrude on key views.





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| <p><b>Statement of Importance</b></p> <p><b>Fala Moor candidate Special Landscape Area</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Name and location</b></p> <p>This candidate Special Landscape Area (SLA) comprises the <b>Fala Moor</b> area. It is located in the south-eastern part of Midlothian, on the boundary with the Scottish Borders.</p>   |
| <p><b>Overview</b></p> <p>Key reasons why this area is proposed as a candidate SLA are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The rarity of this secluded and natural upland moorland in Midlothian.</li> <li>• Extensive open views from the moor across the Lothians.</li> </ul> <p>Fala Moor forms the main part of this candidate SLA. Contained by foothills to the south, it is an open, seemingly remote landscape largely contained from views from the surrounding area yet offering dramatic and panoramic views over the Lothians to the north. The uninhabited plateau of blanket bog and moorland is a rare habitat within Midlothian that is of great ecological value, and contrasts with its surrounding farmed hill slopes and coniferous shelterbelts.</p>   |
| <p><b>Landscape description</b></p> <p>Key components of this landscape are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The simple composition, openness and expansiveness of the Fala Moor plateau which is covered with heather moorland and wetter areas of blanket bog.</li> <li>• Gently rolling hill slopes fringing the plateau and patterned by linear coniferous shelterbelts and some mixed streamside woodland associated with the grounds of Cakemuir Castle.</li> <li>• Fields of improved or rough pasture on the slopes divided by post-and-wire fences or occasional stone walls and fragmented thorn hedges.</li> </ul> <p>The landscape of the Fala Moor area is simple in its composition. The moor forms a transitional terrace between the larger scale Lammermuir uplands to the south in the Scottish Borders and the undulating smaller scale farmland of Midlothian to the north and north-west. The main central area of the moor is an expansive plateau, which gives way to gently rolling hill fringes to the south and west. The small open waterbody of Fala Flow Loch and a few other more minor pools are located within the moorland, with small burns running outwards from these to cut through the slopes surrounding the plateau.</p> <p>The moor itself is open and unwooded, the exposed level ground being covered by a textured</p> |



carpet of blanket bog and heather moorland. In contrast, the surrounding slopes are divided by blocky or linear, mainly coniferous shelterbelts, and some mixed streamside woodland near Cakemuir Castle. Fields of improved or rough pasture on the slopes are divided by post-and-wire fences or occasional stone walls and thorn hedges. The boundary to the north is predominantly edged by extensive plantations of conifers, which lie within the adjacent farmland and create a more enclosed character in views north-eastwards. Where the Fala Moor area abuts the Borders, it is enclosed by Cakemuir Hill and its plantations to the west and Brotherstone Hill to the south-east, further containing this candidate SLA and adding to its sense of seclusion and remoteness. The high nature conservation value of Fala Moor has been recognised through RAMSAR, SPA and SSSI designations.

Little evidence of settlement is to be found within the moor itself, aside from the remaining wall of the now-ruinous 17<sup>th</sup> C Fala Luggie Tower which forms a focal point within the open expanse of the Moor. Nestled within the hill slopes to the north and sitting above a small stream valley, Cakemuir Castle with its stables and walled garden dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> C and is surrounded by ornamental planting and mature woodlands. The track that runs across the moorland is a way-marked right of way and a core path, offering open panoramic views northwards across the Lothians and the distant Firth of Forth. To the north and east, the secluded character of Fala Moor is intruded upon to some degree by a high-voltage power line and wind farm development.

#### **Choice of Boundary**

Where possible firm boundaries have been chosen for their longevity and robustness to define and identify the SLA. The boundaries of the Fala Moor candidate SLA are formed by the adjacent administrative boundary with Scottish Borders in the west, south and south east; by the Cakemuir Burn in the north-west; and the woodlands, shelterbelts, power line and small burns in the north.

#### **Opportunities for Change**

##### **Management**

The high nature conservation value of Fala Moor is recognised by a number of important designations. The management and maintenance of the moorland ecology and habitat is dictated by guidance from Scottish Natural Heritage and this should be observed at all times. Good management of the existing tree plantations and woodlands is important to the value and appearance of this landscape.

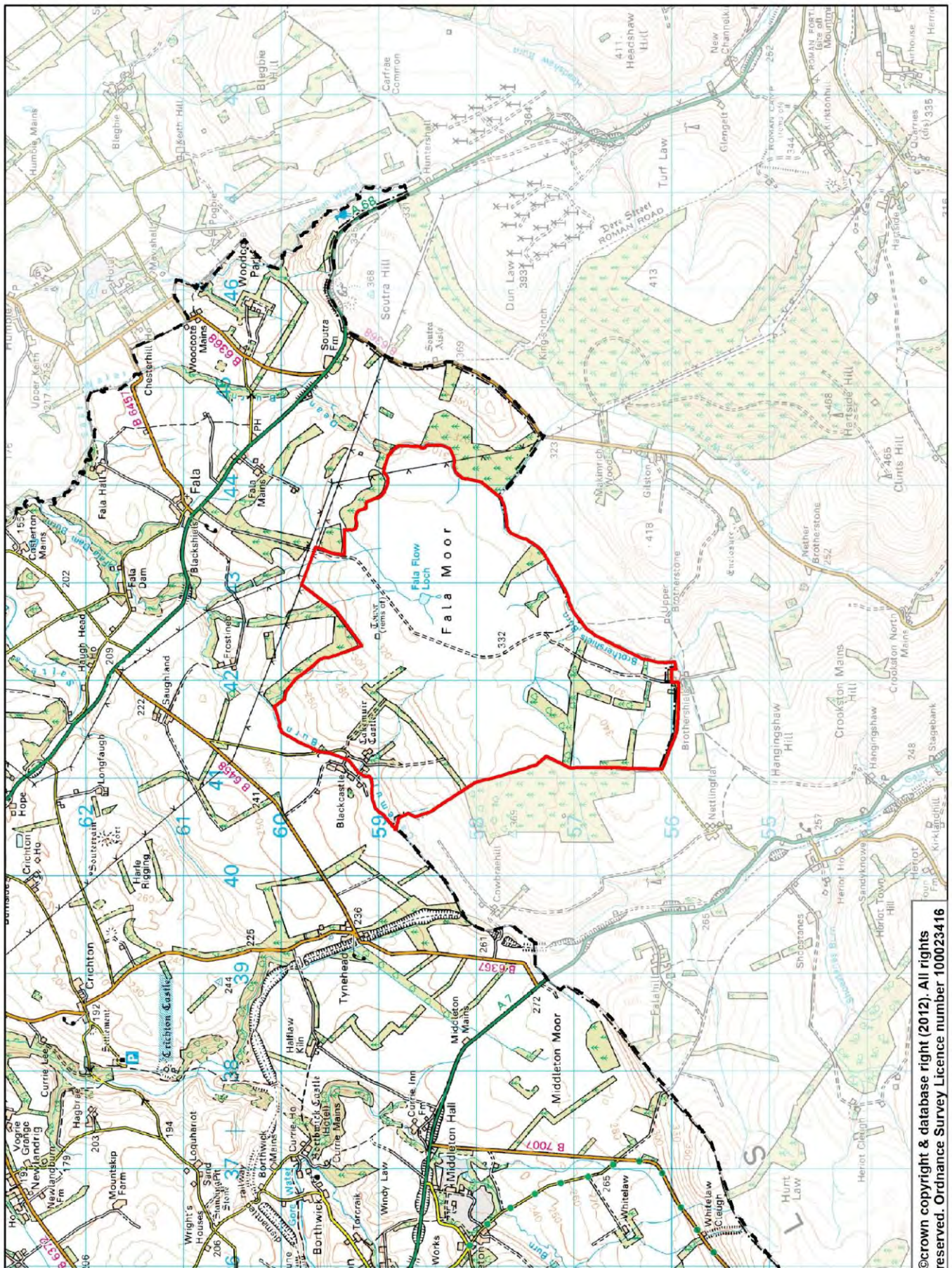
##### **Development**

Important considerations for landscape impact in the preparation and assessment of development proposals include:

- The impact of development and change on the relatively simple open landscape character of the area and how it might draw attention to individual parts of the SLA.
- The impact of development upon distant views in and out of the SLA.


Any development proposals should seek to maintain the essential open and remote character of this landscape.









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| <p><b>Statement of Importance</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Fala Rolling Farmland and Policies candidate Special Landscape Area</b></p>   |
| <p><b>Name and location</b></p>   |
| <p>This candidate Special Landscape Area (SLA) comprises the <b>Fala Rolling Farmland and Policies</b>. It is located in eastern Midlothian on its border with East Lothian.</p>    |
| <p><b>Overview</b></p>  |
| <p>Key reasons why this area is proposed as a candidate SLA are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The rolling landform of this landscape which is cut by densely wooded burns and strongly patterned by woodlands, hedges and roadside trees.</li> <li>• The rich architectural heritage of mansion houses and small villages which contributes to the diversity of this landscape.</li> </ul> <p>The rolling pasture of this area is cut through by several well-wooded burns, and further divided by shelterbelts and farm woods, estate parkland and woodland, hedges and roadside trees. A scattering of farmsteads and small mansion houses, in addition to the small villages of Fala and Fala Dam, adds to the well-settled character of this strongly contained and intimate landscape.</p>   |
| <p><b>Landscape description</b></p>   |
| <p>Key components of the landscape are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The intimately scaled, deeply incised and often well-wooded valleys.</li> <li>• Rolling pastures strongly enclosed by hedgerows and small woodlands.</li> <li>• Mature oak, ash and beech trees aligning narrow roads.</li> <li>• The small tightly clustered settlements of Fala and Fala Dam which have a strong architectural integrity.</li> <li>• The estates of Whitburgh and Woodcote Park which feature parkland and ornamental plantings.</li> <li>• Views to the scarp of the Lammermuir Hills which provides a dramatic backdrop to this landscape particularly to the south-east within neighbouring East Lothian.</li> </ul> <p>The candidate SLA has a rolling landform which is deeply incised by a number of broadly parallel streams running from the Lammermuir Hills and hill fringes to the lower-lying agricultural plain of East Lothian to the north-east.</p> <p>The routes of the watercourses – including the Linn Dean and Costerton Waters, and Fala</p> |



Dam, Routing, Salters' and Dean Burns – are steep-sided valleys that, in the main, are well-defined and enclosed by dense mixed woodland and occasional areas of scrub. These valleys contrast with and divide rolling expanses of pastureland, within which mixed hedgerows, mature oak, beech and ash roadside trees, and small woodland blocks, copses and shelterbelts add further diversity to the well-wooded character of this candidate SLA.

Some of the areas of woodland are associated with the policies of the small estates of Whitburgh House, an early 19<sup>th</sup>C mansion house at the north-western end of the candidate SLA and, to a greater extent, the parklands and ornamental plantings of Woodcote Park to the south-east. Although Victorian in origin, the latter estate centres upon a 1970s modernist villa that replaced much of the original house, and contrasts with the more traditional stone farmsteads and cottages that are dotted across this landscape. In several places farm ponds, often fringed by large trees, are attractive farmland features. Aside from the roads that form the south and south-western boundaries to this area, the few other roads that run through the farmland tend to run in a north-easterly direction broadly parallel with the stream courses, with small stone bridges marking occasional crossing points. Both the hamlet of Fala Dam and the village of Fala are designated as Conservation Areas.

Views tend to be contained within this landscape through a combination of topography and mature woodland, adding to its intimately scaled character. Occasional glimpses can be obtained outwards towards the scarp of the Lammermuirs which is particularly dramatic to the south-east within neighbouring East Lothian. This landscape is also important in forming the foreground to panoramic views of the Lothians and the Firth of Forth from the A68 as it crosses Soutra Hill.

### **Choice of Boundary**

Where possible firm boundaries have been chosen for their longevity and robustness to define and identify the SLA. The boundaries of the candidate SLA are formed by the administrative boundary between Midlothian and East Lothian to the north (which often follow major valleys), the A68 trunk road to the south, and a minor road forking off from the A68 to the north-west.

### **Opportunities for change**

#### **Management**

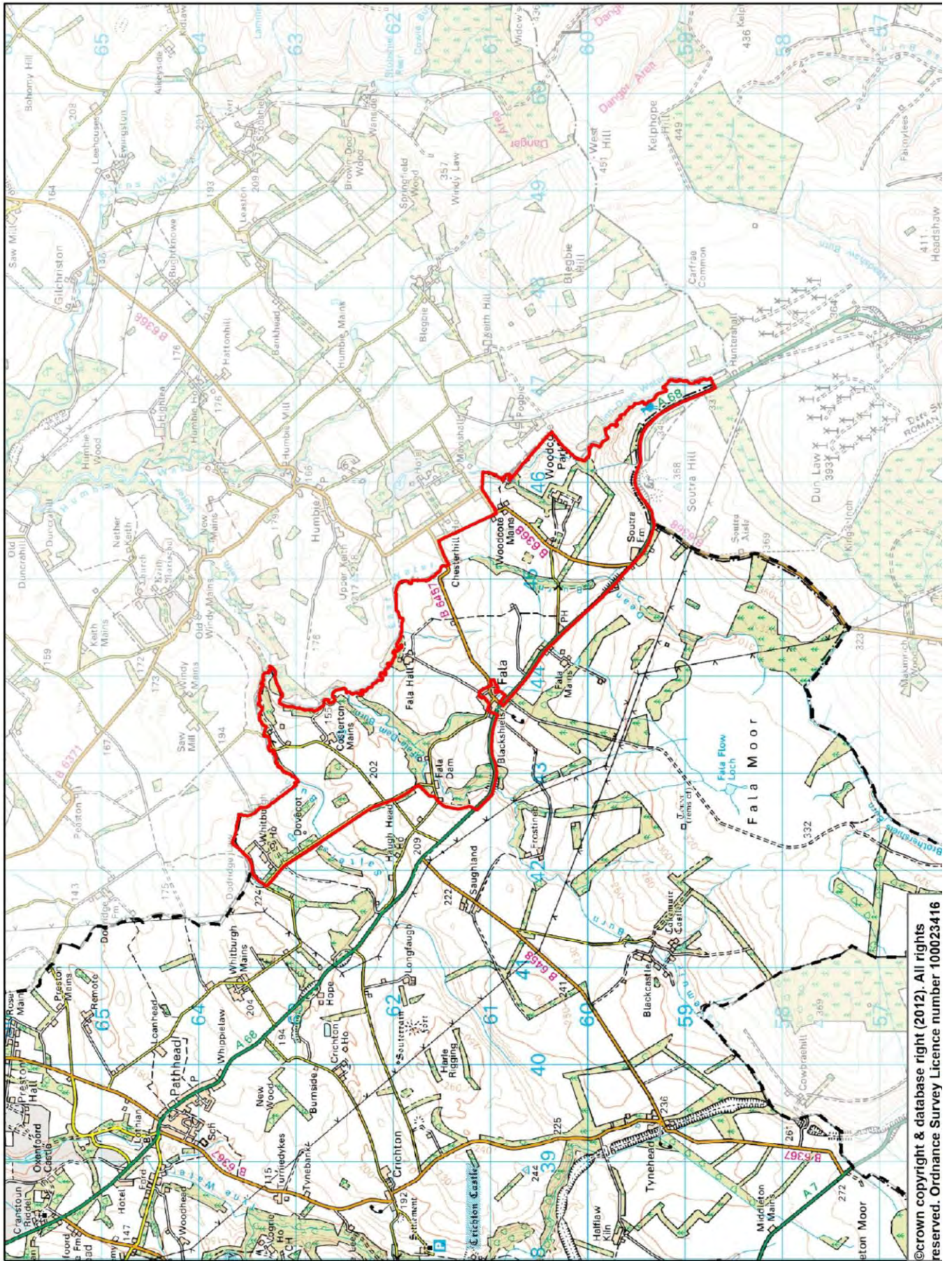
Good management of the existing tree plantations and woodlands is important to the value and appearance of this landscape.

The focus for landscape improvements should be on management of mature field boundary trees and trees aligning roads with replacement planting where they are moribund or gaps have occurred. The management of parkland and woodlands within the Woodcote Park estate additionally requires attention. Improved access for walkers within the attractive wooded valleys of Costerton, Linn Dean and Fala Dam should also be considered where the terrain allows.

#### **Development**

Important considerations for landscape impact in the preparation and assessment of development proposals include:

- The impact of development on the often intimate scale of this landscape.
- Potential for intrusion on designed landscapes and any impacts on their key components.
- Impacts on the character and setting of historic settlements and buildings.
- Impacts on the character of the richly patterned rolling farmland and narrow tree-lined roads.





## Appendix 3 - Background Information on the AGLV Review 2012

### 1. Background to the Midlothian AGLVs

1.1 The AGLVs in Midlothian covered different landscape types including the:

- Rolling hill country of the Pentland, Moorfoot and Lammermuir Hills;
- Incised river valleys of the North and South Esk and the Tyne;
- Estate landscapes of Penicuik, Arniston, Prestonhall, Oxenfoord and Vogrie; and
- Gladhouse, Edgelaw, Glencorse, Rosebery, Loganlea and North Esk reservoirs.

1.2 The origins of the Midlothian AGLVs date back to the 1956 County of Midlothian Development Plan which established most of the rural parts of Midlothian south of Dalkeith as "Area of Landscape Value". During the 1970s and 1980s the coverage of AGLVs was reduced, particularly to conform with the requirements of the 1982 and 1985 Lothian Structure Plans.

1.3 The boundaries of the AGLVs were reviewed during the production of the now superseded Villages and Rural Area Local Plan (adopted 1995). The definition of the boundaries in that Local Plan was based upon the identification of areas of outstanding amenity, principally;

- the hill ranges;
- "wild" landscapes;
- main river valleys; and
- tracts of countryside linked visually and in landform where development would blight a highly valued landscape setting.

1.4 The boundaries of the AGLVs were not significantly altered since the adoption of the Villages and Rural Area Local Plan (1995), or challenged in the production of either the 2003 or 2008 Midlothian Local Plans.

### Purpose of the AGLVs

2.1 In 2012 Midlothian Council undertook a review of the Midlothian Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) in order determine if they fulfilled current requirements for local landscape designations identified in the 2006 Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Historic Scotland (HS) document Guidance on Local Landscape Designations.

2.2 This national guidance recommends the replacement of AGLVs, and any other local landscape designations, with a single local landscape designation. It provides guidance and best practice in helping to identify candidate local landscape designations. The guidance sets out these designations can be termed Special Landscape Areas (SLAs). This is the terminology that Midlothian Council has used for the Midlothian Local Development Plan. AGLV was previously the only local landscape designation present in Midlothian.

## Appendix 3 - Background Information on the AGLV Review 2012

2.3 The review was part funded by SNH and their input was sought and received during the review process.

2.4 The Midlothian Local Plan (2008) has been replaced by the Midlothian Local Development Plan (2017). The 2008 Local Plan was the extant local plan at the time of the 2012 AGLV review.

### 3. Requirements of the AGLV Review

3.1 The requirements of the AGLV review undertaken were:

- Review the current AGLV designation and its boundaries to assess if they meet the requirements of local landscape designations set out in the 2006 SNH and HS guidance;
- Identify candidate Special Landscape Areas in line with the 2006 SNH/ HS Guidance;
- For each Special Landscape Area prepare a Statement of Importance to identify its local landscape character and qualities;
- Review the Midlothian Local Plan (2008) landscape protection policies RP6 Areas of Great Landscape Value and RP7 Landscape Character to determine whether these policies remain fit for purpose, and how, if considered appropriate and/ or necessary, they might be amended to take account of the 2006 SNH/ HS Guidance; and
- Prepare the above points 1-4 in a single report.

3.2 The Council considered the AGLV designations within its boundary to be robust. However, it wanted to assess the designations, and their boundaries to identify where, if necessary, it was appropriate to modify them in order to conform better with the 2006 SNH/ HS Guidance.

3.3 As part of the review the AGLV designations were checked and assessed against SNH's published mapping of relative wildness in Scotland's countryside.

3.4 In line with the requirement of the 2006 SNH/ HS Guidance, the Council sought to identify new candidate Special Landscape Areas that fulfilled the landscape quality criteria of the guidance. In addition the Council wanted to identify areas not previously designated as AGLV that were considered as meriting being within a local landscape designation.

3.5 For each candidate SLA a Statement of Importance was produced to identify its landscape character and qualities. The Statements of Importance were intended to:

- Provide practical background information on the key features of the proposed candidate designation, including a clear description of its character, qualities, rarity, condition and value;
- Identify the reasons for its candidacy as a special landscape area;
- Justify its status as a proposed candidate special landscape area; and
- Include any information and key advice relevant for management and Planning/Development Management purposes for the candidate area.



## Appendix 3 - Background Information on the AGLV Review 2012

3.6 The Council considered the review would provide a good opportunity to consider to what extent Midlothian Local Plan (2008) landscape protection policies RP6 Areas of Great Landscape Value and RP7 Landscape Character accorded with the 2006 SNH and HS guidance. This was undertaken as part of the AGLV review.

3.7 It was considered very important by the Council that candidate SLAs, the accompanying study review, and the Statements of Importance should be credible, robust and capable of standing up to scrutiny at public examination/ inquiry.

### **4. The Study Area**

4.1 The study area was all of the land within the Midlothian Council boundary that is outside of settlement boundaries as identified in the Midlothian Local Plan (2008).

### **5. Findings and Recommendations of the Midlothian AGLV Review (2012)**

5.1 The AGLV review report, contained in Appendix 2 of this Supplementary Guidance, identified seven potential candidate SLAs in Midlothian. These seven areas are:

- Pentland Hills;
- North Esk Valley;
- South Esk Valley and Carrington Farmland;
- Gladhouse Reservoir and Moorfoot Scarp;
- Tyne Water Valley;
- Fala Moor; and
- Fala Rolling Farmland and Policies.

### ***Boundary Changes***

5.2 The 2012 AGLV Review made recommendations on land which should come out of the AGLV and not be included within an SLA. These recommendations are listed below (also see Figure 16 of the AGLV Review 2016):

Recommended deletions (land previously designated as AGLV that would not be covered by an SLA designation):

- Land to east of Cousland, under overhead power lines, up to East Lothian boundary;
- Land north west of Edgehead and east of Mayfield;
- Hill slopes under overhead power lines between Fala Moor and west of A68; and
- Land at Shewington and Edgelaw Moor, including area of former opencast coal working.

5.3 The review also identified land not formerly designated as AGLV that merits having local landscape designation status. These areas are listed below:

## Appendix 3 - Background Information on the AGLV Review 2012

- Auchencorth Moss; and
- Land to east of Pathhead, up to the East Lothian Council boundary.

5.4 Figure 16 of the AGLV Review 2012 report allows for a comparison to be made of the extent of the former AGLV and the replacement candidate SLAs. However as stated at paragraph 1.5 of this Supplementary Guidance, following assessment of the consultation responses received on the Main Issues Report the Council made amendments to the proposed western boundaries of the South Esk Valley and Carrington Farmland and Fala Rolling Farmland and Policies special landscape areas identified in the Main Issues Report. The boundaries of the candidate SLAs identified in the Main Issues Report were taken directly from the AGLV Review 2012. These changes were made to reflect, after having considered the consultation responses on the Main Issues Report, what the Council considered to be more appropriate boundaries for these two candidate SLAs.

5.5 The AGLV review report provided Statements of Importance for each of the seven candidate SLAs, together with OS mapped boundaries to clearly identify the extent of their boundaries. The Statements of Importance provide practical background information on the key features of each SLA, including a clear description of its character, qualities, rarity, condition and value, reason for designation and guidance for preparing and assessing development proposals affecting the area. The Statements of Importance within the AGLV Review (2012) should not be used as they have now been replaced by the Statements of Importance in Appendix 1 of this Supplementary Guidance.

### **Review of Midlothian Local Plan (2008) Landscape Policies**

5.6 The AGLV review also provided recommended changes to the key policies of the now superseded Midlothian Local Plan (2008) that deal with landscape protection issues, namely, RP6 Areas of Great Landscape Value and RP7 Landscape Character.

*RP6 Areas of Great Landscape Value. "Development will not be permitted where it may adversely affect the special scenic qualities and integrity of the Areas of Great Landscape Value. The scale, siting, design, form, materials and impact on important landscape features are all aspects of a proposal that could have an adverse effect on the AGLV. These considerations will apply to developments to be located either within or affecting the setting of areas designated as AGLVs."*

5.7 The AGLV review recommended that policy RP6 be amended as follows in order that it was better in line with best practice outlined in the 2006 SNH/ HS Guidance: "Development proposals within Special Landscape Areas will only be permitted where they incorporate high standards of siting and design and where they will not have a significant adverse effect on the special qualities of the area. Developments affecting the setting of Special Landscape Areas will be subject to the same considerations."

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*RP7 Landscape Character “Development will not be permitted where it may adversely affect the quality of the local landscape. Where development is acceptable, it will respect the local landscape character and contribute towards its maintenance and enhancement. New development will incorporate proposals to:*

*A. Maintain the local diversity and distinctiveness of landscape character including natural and built heritage features of landscape value such as woodland, hedges, ponds, stone walls and historical sites; and*

*B. Enhance landscape characteristics where they have been weakened and need improvement and create new landscapes where there are few existing features.”*

5.8 The AGLV review recommended that policy RP7 Landscape Character be amended as follows to better reflect the range of different development proposals likely to occur, and their potential effects on landscape character: “Development will not be permitted where it may significantly and adversely affect local landscape character. Where development is acceptable, it should respect local landscape character being compatible in terms of scale, siting and design. New developments will normally be required to incorporate proposals to maintain the diversity and distinctiveness of local landscapes and to enhance landscape characteristics where they have been weakened”.

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ਅਸੀਂ ਮੰਗ ਕਰਨ ਤੇ ਖੁਸ਼ੀ ਨਾਲ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਅਤੇ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਤੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ਨ ਪ੍ਰਦਾਨ ਕਰਾਂਗੇ, ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਬਰੇਲ, ਟੇਪ ਜਾਂ ਵੱਡੀ ਛਪਾਈ ਸ਼ਾਮਲ ਹਨ।

Körler için kabartma yazılar, kaset ve büyük nüshalar da dahil olmak üzere, istenilen bilgileri sağlamak ve tercüme etmekten memnuniyet duyuyoruz.

اگر آپ چاہیں تو ہم خوشی سے آپ کو ترجمہ فراہم کر سکتے ہیں اور معلومات اور دستاویزات دیگر شکلوں میں مثلاً بریل (تایپا افراد کے لیے) بھرے ہوئے حروف کی لکھائی میں، ٹیپ پر یا بڑے حروف کی لکھائی میں فراہم کر سکتے ہیں۔