

Supplementary Guidance SG09

April 2021






Falkirk Council

Supplementary Guidance

A suite of 14 supplementary guidance notes (SG's) is currently being produced by the Council in conjunction with LDP2. The number of SGs is reducing from seventeen to fourteen, as three of the adopted SGs are being consolidated to provide a more comprehensive and integrated approach to guidance. The SGs seek to provide more detailed guidance on how particular local development plan policies should be applied in practice.

These SGs form a statutory supplement to LDP2, and are intended to expand upon planning policies and proposals contained in the plan.

A full list of the supplementary guidance in this series is found below.

-  **Development in the Countryside**
-  **Neighbourhood Design**
-  **Residential Extension and Alterations**
-  **Shopfronts**
-  **Green Infrastructure and New Development**
-  **Affordable Housing**
-  **Biodiversity and Development**
-  **Local Nature Conservation and Geodiversity Sites**
-  **Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Designations**
-  **Trees and Development**
-  **Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Sites**
-  **Listed Buildings and Unlisted Properties in Conservations Areas**
-  **Developer Contributions**
-  **Renewable and Low Carbon Energy**

Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Designations

1. Introduction

2. Planning Policy, Guidance and Initiatives

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

(see Appendix 1)

4. Local Landscape Designations: Local Landscape Areas (LLAs)

(see Appendix 2)

5. National and Local Designed Landscapes

6. Appendices

- Appendix 1 Landscape Character Type and Local Landscape Character Area Descriptions
- Appendix 2 Statements of Importance and Descriptions for Special Local Landscape Areas
- Appendix 3 Further Guidance and Sources of Information for Developers

1. Introduction

Why is Landscape Important?

- 1.1 The very varied rural landscape of the Falkirk area plays a vital role in providing a setting and backdrop for settlements, industry, transport routes and recreation. The key rural industries of farming and forestry make a major contribution to the appearance of this rural landscape. The rural landscape is a key element of the area's image and identity and is valued by local residents and visitors to the area.

Falkirk's natural rural landform ranges from flat land around the Forth coast, to river valleys, areas of lowland plateau, hill fringes and lowland hills. The rural landscape contains a range of different land uses and development. These include: open hill land, arable farmland, grazing land, broadleaf woodland, commercial forestry, agricultural buildings, equestrian centres, small rural industries, energy production and transmission, telecommunication apparatus, reservoirs, transport routes, minerals, former opencast areas, recreational land, water courses, water bodies, villages and dwellings. Increasing pressures for development in rural areas, together with other changes in land use and land management practices, can result in dramatic changes in the appearance of the rural landscape through the addition of new features and the loss of the defining landscape elements that may make a particular landscape locally distinct or valued.

The purpose of this supplementary guidance is to help developers, land managers and decision makers to take appropriate steps to protect, manage and enhance the rural landscapes of Falkirk. The guidance is intended to ensure that Falkirk's rural landscape is protected, enhanced and well managed for future generations as a place to live and work.

2. Planning Policy, Guidance and Initiatives

Policy Context

- 2.1 This supplementary guidance document supports European and national policies and initiatives relating to landscape. It also supports policies in the Council's Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) together with associated strategy documents that relate to protection and enhancement of landscape character, landscape designations (Local Landscape Areas) and designed landscapes. The information below outlines the hierarchy of landscape policy guidance and initiatives.

European Initiatives

- 2.2 **The European Landscape Convention (ELC)** is an initiative from the Council of Europe that highlights the importance of all landscapes and encourages further attention to their protection, management and planning. In 2006, the UK signed up to the convention; this now provides the framework for NatureScot's work on Scotland's landscapes. The ELC initiative is based on a set of principles that recognise:

- (1) people from all cultures and communities lie at the heart of work for landscape and that we all share an interest in and responsibility for its well being;
- (2) all landscapes are important, whether beautiful or degraded and not just in special places;
- (3) landscapes will continue to evolve in response to needs, but this change needs to be managed;
- (4) a better understanding and awareness of our landscapes and the benefits they provide is required, and
- (5) an inclusive, integrated and forward looking approach to managing landscapes we have inherited and in creating new landscapes, is required.

Specific measures cover: awareness raising of the value of landscapes, training and education in all aspects of landscape policy, protection, management and planning, the identification and assessment of all landscapes to improve knowledge, the defining of landscape quality objectives for identified landscapes and the implementation of landscape policies.

National Policy and Initiatives

- 2.3 **The Scottish Planning Policy (2014)** recognises the importance of landscape. It highlights that the planning system should facilitate positive change while maintaining and enhancing distinctive landscape character. The policy document also affirms that the purpose of local landscape designations should be to (a) safeguard and enhance the character and quality of a landscape which is important or locally valued, (b) to promote understanding and awareness of the distinctive character and special qualities of local landscapes or (c) to safeguard and promote important local settings for outdoor recreation and tourism. In relation to development management, the policy requires that siting and design of development should take account of local landscape character and that decisions should consider the potential effects on landscapes and the natural and water environment, including cumulative effects. The importance of protection and expansion of woodland and the need to maximise green infrastructure are also issues covered in the SPP that relate to landscape. The policy also requires planning authorities to protect and seek to enhance gardens and designed landscapes of national and local importance.

Scotland's Landscape Charter (2010) encourages action from everyone to fulfil its vision to ensure that all Scotland's landscapes are protected for future generations. Individuals and organisations are encouraged to sign it to demonstrate their concern and responsibility for Scotland's distinctive landscapes and to put into practice the actions suggested.

2. Planning Policy, Guidance and Initiatives

Local Policies and Strategies

2.4 Falkirk Local Development Plan 2

This supplementary guidance has been prepared specifically to provide further detail on the application of the following LDP2 policies:

PE18 Landscape

1. The Council will seek to protect and enhance landscape character and enhance landscape quality throughout the Council area in accordance with Supplementary Guidance SG09 'Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Designations';
2. Development within Local Landscape Areas should be designed to minimise any adverse effects on the landscape character and scenic interest for which the area is designated ; and
3. Development proposals which are likely to have significant landscape and visual effects must be accompanied by a landscape and visual assessment demonstrating that, with appropriate mitigation, a satisfactory landscape fit will be achieved.

PE10 Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes

1. There will be a presumption against development which would adversely affect the character, condition, integrity or setting of sites identified in the 'Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland', as identified on the Proposals Map;
2. The value of other historic gardens and designed landscapes not listed in the Inventory will be given due weight in the planning process, having regard to their historical significance, integrity and condition, and relationship to other associated historic buildings or structures. Non-inventory sites will be identified within Supplementary Guidance SG09 'Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Designations';
3. Where development is within or adjacent to any historic garden or designed landscape, developers will be required to provide an assessment of the effects of their proposals on the character and setting of these sites and demonstrate how they will be protected and managed in conjunction with the development; and
4. The Council will seek to encourage sensitive restoration and management of historic gardens and designed landscapes.

2. Planning Policy, Guidance and Initiatives

- 2.5 In addition to the core landscape policies above, a number of other LDP2 policies and proposals support the promotion and development of the green network in Falkirk, under the banner of the Central Scotland Green Network, of which landscape improvement is a key part. **Falkirk Greenspace - A Strategy for our Green Network** develops the core objectives of the Falkirk Greenspace Initiative and expands on priorities identified in the LDP and the Council's Open Space Strategy. The guidelines relating to tree and woodland planting for landscape mitigation, existing woodland management and new planting in this landscape supplementary guidance are also intended to meet the Priority Actions detailed in the Falkirk Greenspace Strategy. A 'Forestry and Woodland Strategy' has also been prepared for the Falkirk Council area which sets out the priorities for woodland expansion and management, with descriptions of the opportunities and constraints that should be taken into account in new planting and restocking. This 'Forestry and Woodland Strategy' document accords with the landscape sensitivities and guidelines covered in this Landscape Character and Landscape Designations supplementary guidance.
- 2.6 The **Supplementary Guidance SG01 'Development in the Countryside'** elaborates on key countryside policies in LDP2 and provides detailed site design guidance to developers and others on matters to be taken into account when considering development in the countryside. SG09 'Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Designations' (this document) deals with the broader issues relating to the rural landscape and designations and details steps to protect, manage and enhance the landscapes of Falkirk.

Assessment of Effects on the Landscape

- 2.7 All development and changes in land use and land management will have some effect on the landscape. In accordance with Policy PE18, development proposals which are likely to have a significant landscape and visual effect must be accompanied by a **Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment**. This can either be as part of an Environment Impact Assessment or as part of the appraisal of a development. **Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)** is a tool used to identify and assess the significance of and the effects of change resulting from development on both the landscape as an environmental resource in its own right and on people's views and visual amenity. Such assessments should be in accordance with the 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment' 3rd Edition, produced by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment. The Council would normally expect LVIA's to be carried out by a chartered landscape architect.

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Introduction

3.1 The aim of this section of the landscape Supplementary Guidance is to:

- Provide assistance to developers, land managers and decision makers on appropriate actions to ensure the local landscape is effectively protected and enhanced. It also provides assistance to the Council in planning decisions, commenting on land management proposals and monitoring of landscape change;
- Explain **Landscape Character, Landscape Character Assessment, Landscape Character Types, Local Landscape Character Areas** and the **Local Landscape Area** designation (Local Landscape Areas are fully detailed with guidelines in section 4).;
- Explain the purpose of revising the relationship between **Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA's)** and **Local Landscape Areas (LLA's)**.

Terminology

3.2 **Landscape Character** is the distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another. The Falkirk Council area, as with every part of Scotland, has a number of different landscapes of distinctive character. It is recognised that protection and, where appropriate, enhancement of our existing local landscape character is vitally important. To achieve this, guidelines are required to ensure Falkirk's landscape is not eroded by development and changes in land management practices.

Landscape Character Assessment is defined as the process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape and using this information to assist in managing change in the landscape. It seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of elements and features that make landscapes distinctive. The process results in the production of a Landscape Character Assessment document for a specific area.

Landscape Character Types (LCTs) are the distinctive types of landscape that are relatively homogeneous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different areas in different parts of the country, but wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation and historical land use and settlement pattern, and perceptual and aesthetic attributes.

Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCAs)¹ are single unique areas which are the discrete geographical areas of a particular Landscape Character Type. Names of the LLCAs normally reflect the names of local topographic features, settlements or water courses so that they are locally identifiable and unique.

Local Landscape Areas (LLAs)¹ are locally valued special landscapes with particular qualities and characteristics relative to the surrounding area that merit designation by the local authority. Local authorities in Scotland have adopted different names for their local landscape designations; the term 'Area of Great Landscape Value' (AGLV) has been used historically for these designations in Falkirk, and latterly 'Special Landscape Areas'. However, the Scottish Government and NatureScot are encouraging a standardisation for the name of local landscape designations to avoid confusion. The term 'Local Landscape Area' is now being used.

¹Within this Supplementary Guidance document, where the term 'wildness' is used, it is a descriptive term, distinct from wild land areas set out in Scottish Planning Policy (2014).

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Purpose of Landscape Character Assessment

- 3.3 **Landscape Character Assessments** provide detailed descriptions of landscapes and give guidelines (based on forces for change and sensitivities) for landscape protection and enhancement. These were originally undertaken in the 1990s in partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage and local authorities. They identified, mapped and described the landscape character of all of Scotland. These studies have been used widely by local authorities in Scotland, but have recently been superseded by a single digital map-based data set created by SNH in 2019. This shows Landscape Character Types (LCT's) which are areas of consistent and recognisable landscape character, and can be viewed within the Scottish Landscape Character Types Map and Descriptions on NatureScot's website (www.nature.scot)
- 3.4 This section of the Supplementary Guidance document provides a description of the key characteristics for each landscape character area and provides practical guidelines based on likely future forces for change and landscape sensitivities.
- 3.5 A summary of key characteristics of each Local Landscape Character Area within the Falkirk Council area is detailed in Appendix 1.

Local Landscape Areas

- 3.6 There are three long standing Local Landscape Areas (formerly AGLVs/ SLAs) in Falkirk Council area. These are fully detailed in Section 4 with guidelines:
- Denny Hills Local Landscape Area;
 - Slamannan Plateau/Avon Valley Local Landscape Area;
 - South Bo'ness Local Landscape Area.
- 3.7 A '**Statement of Importance**' for each LLA has been developed in accordance with SNH's 'Guidance on Local Landscape Designations' and is provided in Appendix 3. The 'Statement of Importance' provides an overview of the designated area, describes the key landscape characteristics along with information on other natural heritage, cultural heritage and recreational interests; it also defines the boundary of the designation and details the designation's special qualities.
- 3.8 It is recognised that landscapes are dynamic and that further reviews of this landscape supplementary guidance may highlight the need for extensions to the current LLAs or designation of new LLAs in the future. Each LLA has been assessed for new predicted pressures for change and sensitivity to development to enable guidelines to be produced.

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Relationship between Local Landscape Character Areas and Local Landscape Areas

- 3.9 The relationship between Local Landscape Character Areas and Local Landscape Areas is set out below:

Local Landscape Character Areas	Local Landscape Areas
<p>Unique, discrete geographical areas of a particular Landscape Character Type which are mapped and described to cover the whole of the local authority area. Used to distinguish between different landscape areas and identify landscape sensitivity. Based on defined and described landscape features.</p> <p>Determined by a systematic assessment and description of the full local authority area through the process of Landscape Character Assessment.</p> <p>Boundaries of Local Landscape Character Areas are normally transitional in nature and are not necessarily distinct on the ground or defined by distinct landscape features.</p> <p>Used to help to inform general landscape policies and provide guidelines for an entire local authority area.</p>	<p>Local landscapes in the local authority area which are discrete areas that are locally valued due to particular qualities and characteristics, relative to the surrounding areas and that merit designation. They may cover a combination of different local landscape character areas.</p> <p>Determined through an assessment of an area's local importance, value and special qualities.</p> <p>The boundaries of a landscape designation are generally more precise and defined by visual envelopes, topographic and other landscape features as well as the general landscape character.</p> <p>LLA designation results in specific planning policy or guidance to ensure enhanced protection and management of an identified area.</p>

Guideline Terminology

- 3.10 The following terms used in the guidelines for Local Landscape Character Areas and Local Landscape Areas are defined below for clarification:

Sensitive Design: precise detailed design of a building or structure to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the local landscape character, landscape quality, landscape elements, important viewpoints and surrounding habitats.

Sensitive siting/locating: positioning of a building or structure in a location that avoids or minimises adverse impacts on landscape character, landscape quality, landscape elements, important viewpoints and surrounding habitats.

Sensitive forest/woodland management: detailed level of forest management to avoid adverse impacts on landscape character, landscape quality, landscape elements and on the surrounding and internal important viewpoints and habitats; enhancement of the landscape and biodiversity value of the woodland is also an element of sensitive management.

Sympathetic Design: design that is in accord with the local landscape context and with the scale, layout, design and appearance of other development in the area.

Sympathetic Siting/Locating: siting that is in accord with the local landscape context and with the scale, layout, design and appearance of other development in the area.

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Structure of Information on Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

- 3.11 Information is structured for each Local Landscape Character Area as follows:

1. A map showing the location and boundaries of the Local Landscape Character Area. It is important to note that the transition between one Local Landscape Character Area and another is often very gradual and boundaries are rarely effectively represented by a single narrow line on a map.

2. Likely future forces for change. The predicted types of future development and land management operations which are likely to impact on landscape character. These are based on current local knowledge, recent planning applications and known national factors that could influence landscape change. Since future development cannot be predicted, the listed forces for change are unlikely to be exhaustive.

3. Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area. These are based on specific features and characteristics identified in the landscape character area descriptions and from fieldwork.

4. Guidelines. These relate to new and existing development, permitted development and land management operations (e.g. forestry and agriculture); they are intended to mitigate adverse effects on the landscape and enhance the existing landscape. Guidelines beginning with 'ensure' generally relate to actions affecting the landscape where there would be a level of statutory control, whereas guidelines commencing 'encourage' relate to actions that are generally considered voluntary, but would still make a positive contribution to the landscape. Due to the unpredictability of future development, the guidelines may not cover all eventualities. Guidelines for the LLCAs have also been used to inform the guidelines for the Special Landscape Areas in Section 4. There are specific landscape guidelines for wind energy detailed in the 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy' Supplementary Guidance.

The key characteristics of each of the 16 Local Landscape Character Areas and the six generic Landscape Character Types are detailed in Appendix 1.

Structure of Information on Local Landscape Areas and Guidelines (Section 4)

- 3.12 The structure of information for each Local Landscape Area in Section 4 is also provided here for ease of reference and understanding:

1. A map showing the location and boundaries of the Local Landscape Area. Boundaries remain the same as the originally designated AGLVs for the Falkirk Council area and these are defined by visual envelopes, topography and landscape features which encompass an area of high local landscape merit. The boundaries are generally more clearly defined on the ground than the gradual transitional boundaries of Local Landscape Character Areas.

2. Likely future forces for change. These are the predicted types of future development and land management which may impact on the quality and local importance of the designated landscape. Forces for change are based on current local knowledge, recent planning applications and known national factors that could influence landscape change. The likely future forces for change listed are not exhaustive.

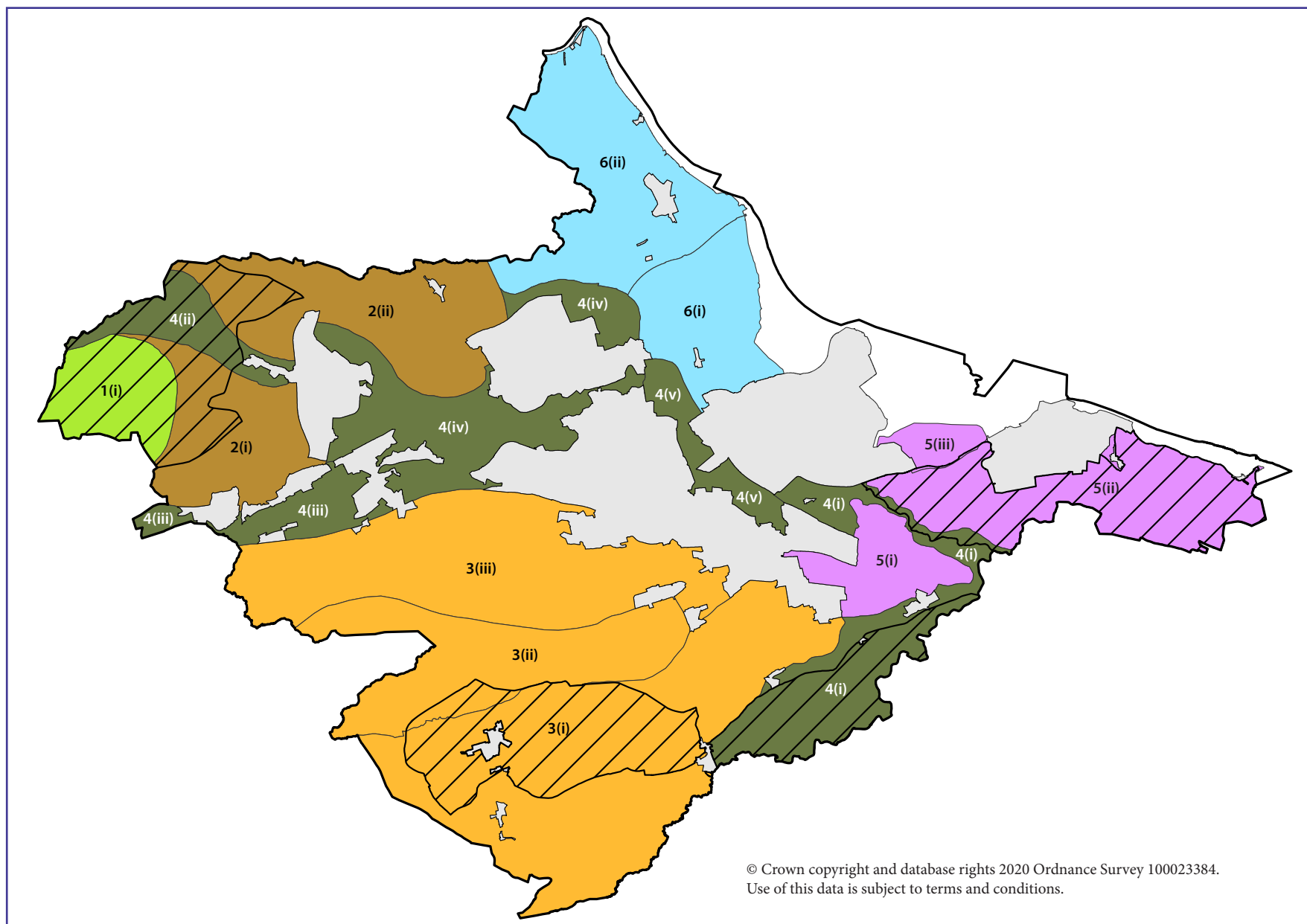
3. Sensitivities within Local Landscape Area. These are based on specific features and characteristics of the LLA identified in the statements of importance and from fieldwork.

4. Guidelines. These relate to steering new development, permitted development and land management practices to ensure landscape quality is protected; they also highlight opportunities for enhancement of the LLA designation through land management operations. The guidelines are divided into different categories of development and land management. Although the guidelines for each Local Landscape Area have been determined separately on the basis of the relevant sensitivities and forces for change specific to the LLA, they have also been informed by LLCA guidelines. They are frequently similar to guidelines of the component Local Landscape Character Areas that fall within the boundary of the LLA.

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Local Landscape Character Areas: Likely Future Forces for Change, Sensitivities and Guidelines









3.13 Figure 1: The location of the Local Landscape Character Areas and the generic Landscape Character Types with Local Landscape Areas.



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

3.14 The following pages provide detailed location maps, details of forces for change, sensitivities and guidelines for each of the 16 Local Landscape Character Areas covering Falkirk Council area:

Landscape Character Types

	Lowland Hills
	Lowland Hill Fringes
	Lowland Plateau
	Lowland River Valley
	Coastal Farmlands
	Carselands
	Urban/Village Limit
	Local Landscape Areas

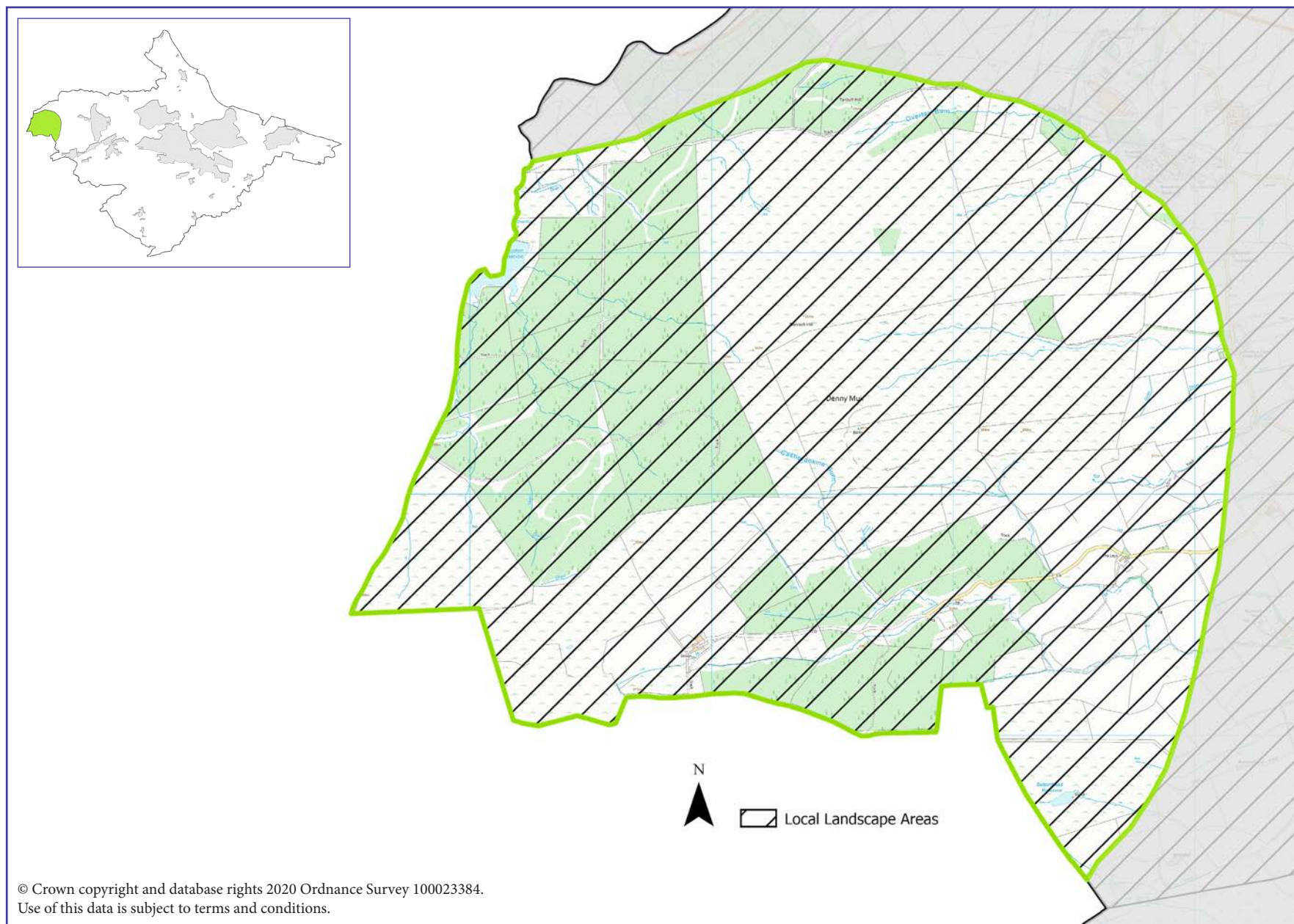
Landscape Character Areas

- 1 (i) Kilsyth/Denny Hills
- 2 (i) Denny Hills Fringe
- 2 (ii) Touch Hills Fringe
- 3 (i) Slamannan Plateau
- 3 (ii) Darnrig/Gardrum Plateau Moorland
- 3 (iii) Castlecary/Shieldhill Plateau Farmland
- 4 (i) Avon Valley
- 4 (ii) Carron Glen
- 4 (iii) Bonny Water
- 4 (iv) Lower Carron/Bonny Water
- 4 (v) Falkirk - Grangemouth Urban Fringe
- 5 (i) Manuel Farmlands
- 5 (ii) Bo'ness Coastal Hills
- 5 (iii) Grangemouth/Kinneil Flats
- 6 (i) Skinflats
- 6 (ii) Carse of Forth

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Local Landscape Character Area 1(i) Kilsyth / Denny Hills

3.15



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

3.16 Additional forestry expansion. Telecommunication apparatus. Wind turbine development with associated access tracks. Solar energy development. New agricultural buildings and single dwellings on lowest slopes.

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

3.17 Large scale hill landform incorporating highest land in Falkirk Council area (375m) with a prominent skyline and an extensive level of visibility over lower land and settlements to the east. This results in a high sensitivity to any development generally and in particular a very high sensitivity to tall structures. Incised burns into hill slopes, rough grazing land, hill vegetation and forestry on hill sides provide a diverse visual backdrop which is very sensitive to change or loss to any development, particularly as seen from lower ground. Particularly high sensitivity to any extensive poorly designed commercial forestry planting. LLCA falls within Denny Hills Local Landscape Area.



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Guidelines: 1(i) Kilsyth / Denny Hills

3.18

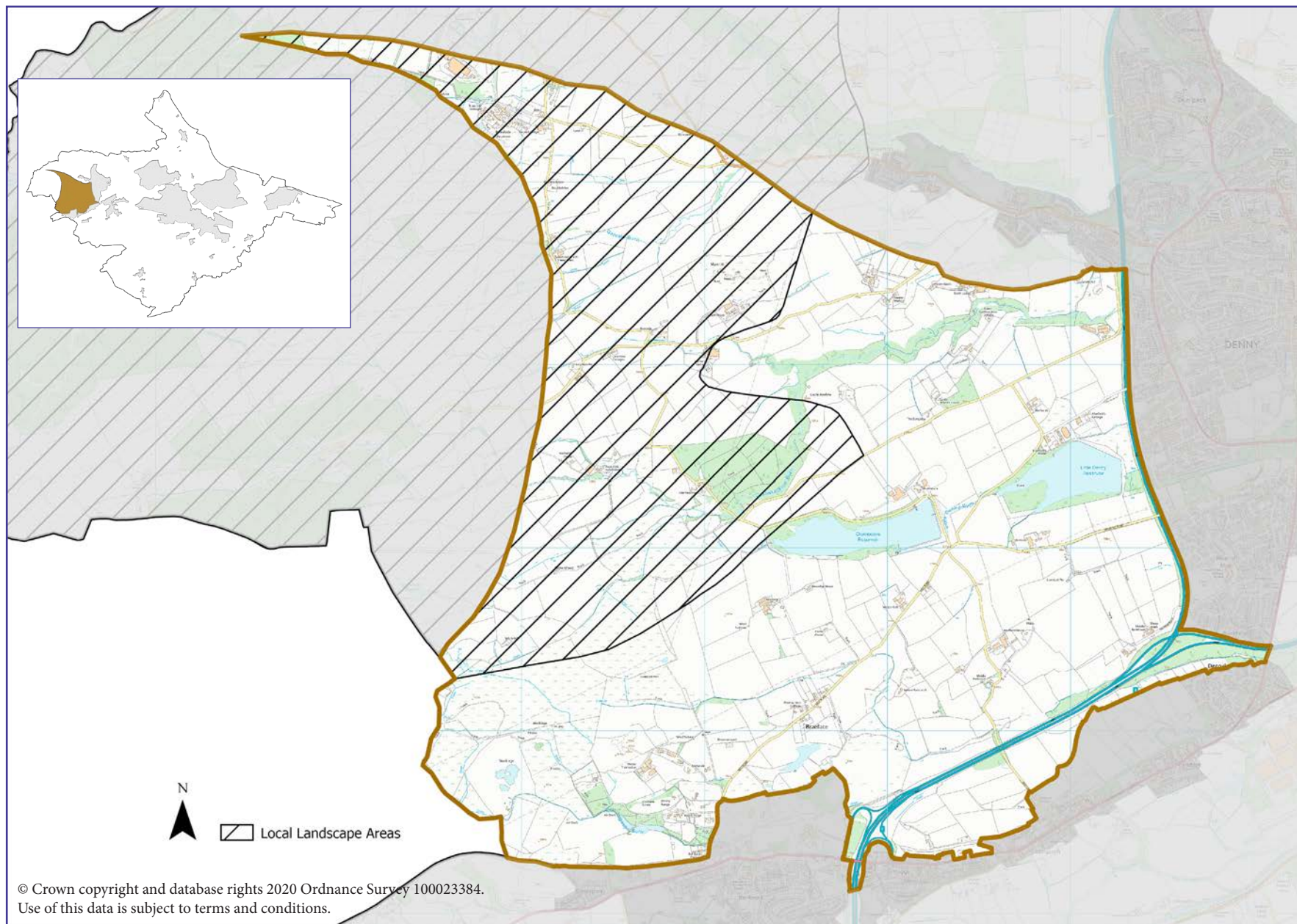
- Encourage improvement of design of existing forestry plantations at edges, along watercourses and along forest roads to address visual sensitivity;
- Ensure any new forestry planting is in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard Guidelines: Forests and Landscape;
- Encourage retention, management and expansion of native broadleaf trees and woodland along watercourses and lower hill slopes to provide linkages with existing woodland and to contribute to Falkirk's green network;
- Telecommunication apparatus, small wind turbines and power lines on prominent ridges or hill tops will not be acceptable due to the identified sensitivity of skylines; elsewhere ensure these elements are only located where their scale and design relates well to the existing landscape;
- Ensure any proposals for wind energy development follow the landscape guidance in the Supplementary Guidance 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy';
- Ensure solar energy developments are sensitively sited and landscape and visual impact assessments support proposals;
- Ensure new agricultural buildings, other large new buildings and structures are sympathetically designed for the landscape setting, are associated with existing building clusters and are orientated to minimise visual effects from key views; mitigating screen planting must be incorporated where appropriate to address the identified visual sensitivity of area;
- Encourage retention, maintenance and reinstatement of stone field boundary walls and boundary trees; there is landscape sensitivity to the loss of these features.

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Local Landscape Character Area 2(i) Denny Hills Fringe

3.19



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

3.20 New telecommunication apparatus. Wind turbine and associated infrastructure. Electricity transmission lines. Solar energy development. New works associated with water treatment works and associated pipelines. New farm buildings. Surface coal mining. Potential quarry expansion in longer term. Single dwellings. Conversion of farm steadings. Road improvements. Loss of field and road boundary trees, hedgerows and walls. New woodlands. Biomass crops. Northern expansion of Banknock, Dennyloanhead/housing development.

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

3.21 Area forms prominent western backdrop of high ground to Denny, adjacent settlements and to the main transport corridors to south; development in the area is potentially visually prominent over a large area. Tall structures or large buildings (telecommunication apparatus, turbines, powerlines, water works buildings, large agricultural buildings in particular) have the potential to be visible over an extensive area as well as interrupting views out from this landscape. There are incised wooded valleys with watercourses on upper slopes, broadleaf cover on lower watercourses, other tree cover and hedgerows/trees/walls on road and field boundaries, and all are important landscape elements that are sensitive to loss through any development or through a lack of management. Quarrying/mineral extraction or major excavation works on lower hill slopes would be highly sensitive due to visibility over an extensive area and specifically visibility from nearby settlements and transport routes to the east and south. North western part of LLCA falls within the Denny Hills Local Landscape Area.



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Guidelines 2(i) Denny Hills Fringe

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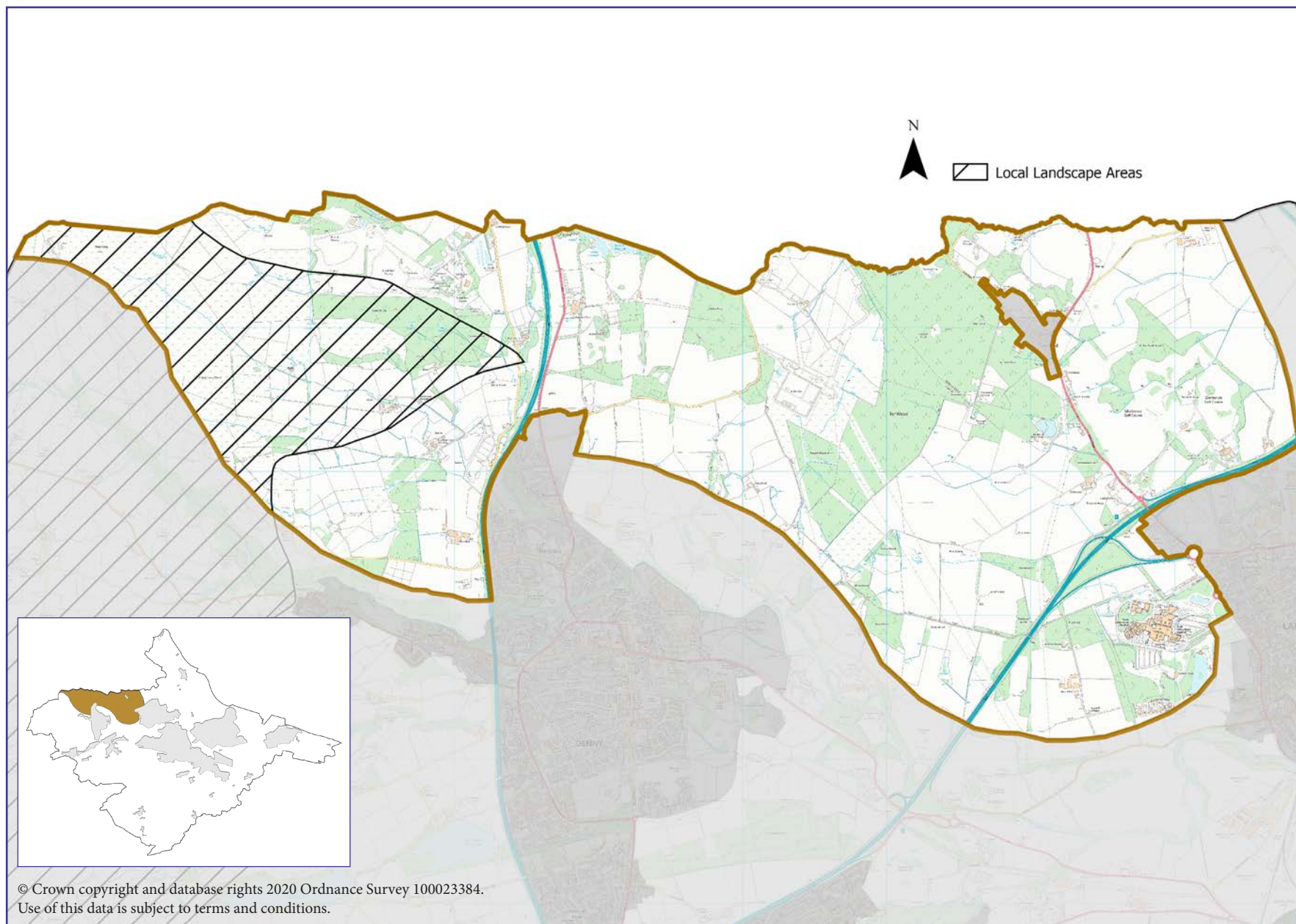
- Encourage management and expansion of native broadleaf trees and woodland along watercourses, field boundaries and as a backdrop to settlements to enable linkages to other woodland areas for improvement of landscape, biodiversity value, and access routes; this will contribute to Falkirk's green network and address sensitivities;
- Ensure all new forestry planting is in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard Guidelines: Forests and Landscape and ensure the opportunity is taken for landscape and biodiversity enhancement in next rotation of existing plantations; this will ensure appropriate integration into the sensitive landscape. Ensure principles of good landscape design practice are followed for biomass crops.
- Ensure all road and other infrastructure improvements and pipeline routes reinstate boundary trees, hedges and drystone walls; these are important landscape elements which are highlighted as being sensitive to loss;
- Further telecommunication apparatus, wind turbines and major power lines will not be acceptable on prominent ridges or hill tops due the sensitivity identified; elsewhere, these elements must be located where their scale and design relates well to the existing landscape;
- Ensure any proposals for wind energy development follow the landscape guidance in the Supplementary Guidance 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy';
- Ensure solar energy developments are sensitively sited and landscape and visual impact assessments support proposals;
- Ensure any proposals for surface coal mining, quarries and quarry extensions are subject to a full landscape and visual assessment; landscape mitigation must be undertaken during the works and full landscape reinstatement undertaken following extraction; reinstatement must be undertaken to match the existing natural landform and gradients of the locality and incorporate appropriate boundary treatments, landscape features, native woodland planting, appropriate habitat creation and habitat linkages to the surrounding area. Long term maintenance and management following initial restoration will be required through planning conditions or agreements;
- Ensure new agricultural buildings, other large new buildings and structures and outlying dwellings are sympathetically designed for the landscape setting, are associated with existing building clusters and are orientated to minimise visual effects over a wide area; mitigating screen planting must be incorporated;
- Ensure all development is well designed and integrated, positively restores the landscape character and features and incorporates native woodland structure/ screen planting; this will help to address the identified landscape sensitivities;
- Expansion of settlements must not encroach above the existing building line on hill sides in order to address visual sensitivities;
- Ensure boundary treatments (fences, gates, hedges) on any new development and steading conversions are sympathetic to this sensitive rural location;
- Encourage retention, maintenance and reinstatement of stone walls, hedges and hedgerow trees throughout area; these are important landscape elements which are identified as sensitive to loss through agricultural operations and development.

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Local Landscape Character Area 2(ii) Touch Hills Fringe

3.23



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

3.24 Additional transmission lines and new telecommunication apparatus. Road improvements. Long term northern expansion of Dunipace, Torwood, Hospital area and north Larbert/Glenbervie House area. Quarry expansion. Wind energy development and associated infrastructure. Solar energy developments. New large agricultural buildings. Conversion of farm steadings. Individual dwellings. Leisure/tourism development. Additional woodland planting. Biomass crops. Loss of woodland, boundary trees, tree groups, hedgerows and stone walls for rural development, road improvements and agricultural operations. Railway improvements with introduction of overhead line equipment and associated structures.

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

3.25 Higher ground forms northern and north western backdrop to Denny and western backdrop to Torwood and Larbert; rural development on higher ground would be highly visible from settlements, paths and the transport corridors of M80/ A872, M876 and A9. Tall structures or large buildings (telecommunication apparatus, turbines, powerlines, large agricultural buildings), in addition to quarries/mineral workings and new commercial forestry all have the potential to be visible over an extensive area in this character area. Broadleaf, mixed and coniferous woodland, individual trees, tree groups, boundary hedgerows, stone walls, watercourses and fields are all important elements forming a mosaic and are vulnerable to loss to development or poor management. Higher ground also contains Core Paths/ Rights of Way and minor roads, and extensive views to the south and east from these routes could be interrupted by insensitive development. The setting of archaeological features, and views to and from them, are also highly sensitive (Torwood Castle, Broch, route of Roman Road). Glenbervie House, grounds and adjacent golf course form a locally important designed landscape of parkland character, which is highly sensitive to inappropriate development or loss of landscape elements. Part of the area to the west of M80 falls within the Denny Hills Local Landscape Area.



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Guidelines 2(ii) Touch Hills Fringe

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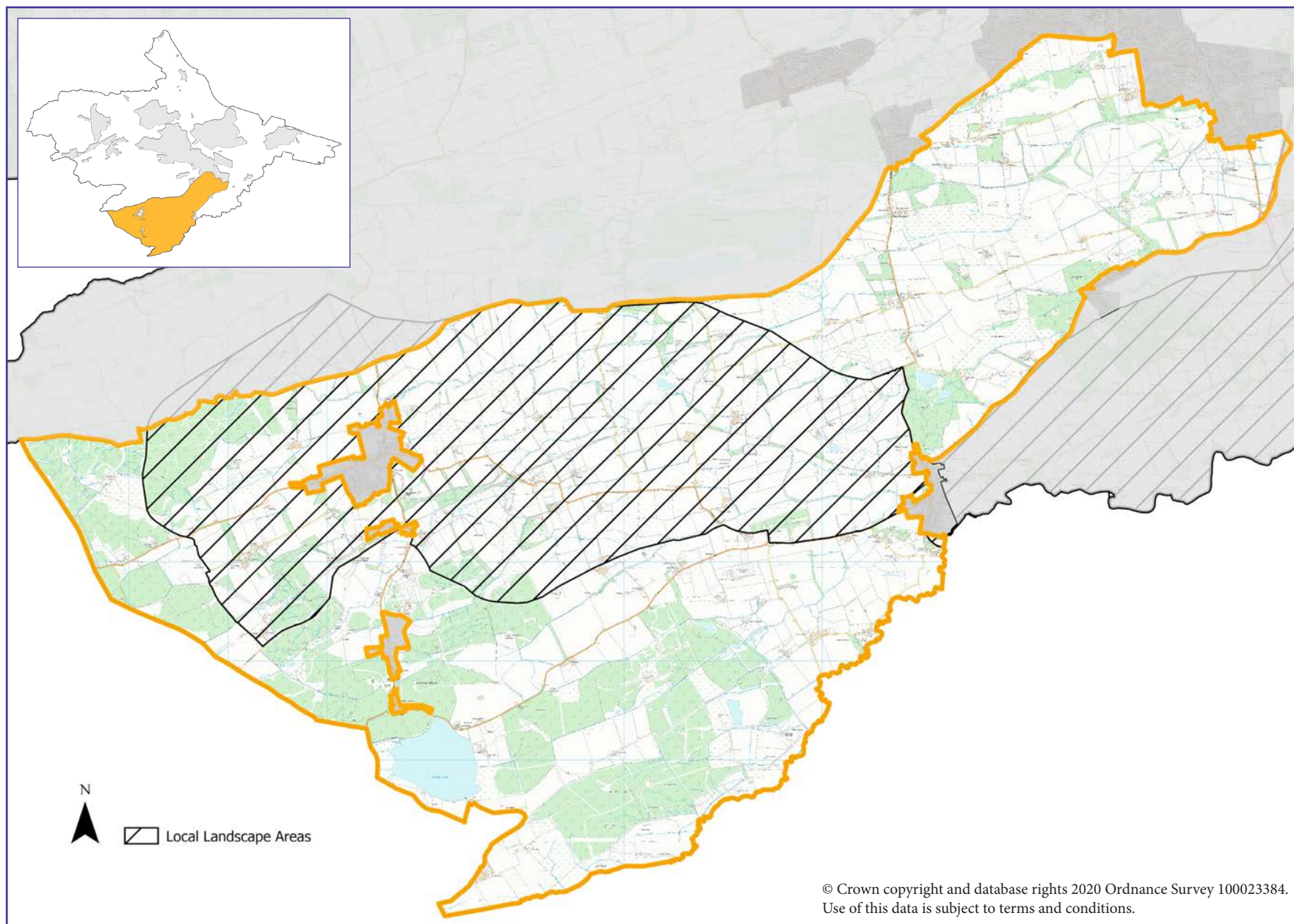
- Encourage management and expansion of native broadleaf trees and woodland (and reinstatement where lost) along watercourses, field boundaries and as a backdrop to settlements to enable linkages to other woodland areas for improvement of landscape, biodiversity value, and access routes; this will contribute to Falkirk's green network;
- Ensure restructuring of existing commercial forestry plantations and new planting is in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard Guidelines: Forests and Landscape; areas of poorly designed forestry are identified as visually sensitive as seen from lower ground. Also ensure principles of good landscape design practice are followed for biomass crops;
- Ensure replacement of trees, hedgerows and drystone walls where removed for road and other infrastructure improvements; these are important landscape features which are highly sensitive to loss;
- Telecommunication apparatus, wind turbines and power lines will not be acceptable on prominent ridges or hill tops, due to the identified sensitivity of extensive visibility from surrounding populated area; elsewhere, ensure these elements are only located where their scale and design relates well to the existing landscape. Tall structures are identified as a particular sensitivity;
- Ensure all proposals for new power lines, quarry expansion and other major developments are subject to landscape and visual impact assessment, including investigation of alternative routes or sites; this is essential due to the identified visual sensitivity;
- Ensure any proposals for wind energy development follow the landscape guidance in the Supplementary Guidance 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy';
- Ensure solar energy developments are sensitively sited and landscape and visual impact assessments support proposals; there is high sensitivity to these structures on high ground;
- Ensure all proposals for quarries and quarry extensions are subject to a full landscape and visual assessment; landscape mitigation must be undertaken during the works and full landscape reinstatement undertaken following extraction. Reinstatement must be undertaken to match the existing natural landform and gradients of the locality and must incorporate appropriate boundary treatments, landscape features, native woodland planting, habitat creation and habitat linkages to the surrounding area. Long term maintenance and management, following initial restoration, will be required through planning conditions or agreements;
- Ensure new agricultural buildings, other large new buildings and structures, tourism developments and outlying dwellings are sympathetically designed for the landscape setting, are associated with existing building clusters, and are orientated to minimise visual effects from key viewpoints; these structures are identified as being potentially highly visible on hillsides in this sensitive landscape. Mitigating screen planting must be incorporated;
- Ensure expansion of settlements and associated infrastructure is well designed, sensitively integrated, positively restores and reinforces the landscape character and addresses the identified landscape sensitivities. Ensure incorporation of appropriate new native woodland structure and screen planting;
- Encourage retention, maintenance and reinstatement of stone walls, hedges and hedgerow trees throughout area; these are important landscape elements which are identified as sensitive to loss through agricultural operations and development.

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Local Landscape Character Area 3(i) Slamannan Plateau

3.27



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

- 3.28 Long term expansion of Slamannan, Limerigg, Avonbridge, Standburn, California and Wallacestone/Maddiston. Individual rural dwellings. Recreational development. Overhead power lines. Telecommunication masts. Wind energy and associated infrastructure. Solar energy. Loss of field and road boundary trees, hedgerows and drystone walls. Decline of smaller mixed woodlands and shelterbelts due to limited management. Expansion of commercial forestry plantations. Biomass crops. New large scale agricultural buildings. Steading conversions. Surface coal mining.

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

- 3.29 Area has a very diverse landcover with a rolling plateau landform. There is sensitivity to the loss of the defining landscape elements (such as woodland cover, shelterbelts, tree groups, hedgerows, stone walls). In open areas where distant views are available and on the edges of settlements, there is particular sensitivity to development of very tall or large structures (wind turbines, telecommunication apparatus, power lines, large agricultural/industrial scale buildings) and to large scale poorly designed commercial forestry. The area is also sensitive to development on the elevated edges of Slamannan, Avonbridge, Limerigg, Standburn and California where buildings have the potential to be visible over a wider area. Derelict land on the edges of settlements has an adverse effect. Inappropriate boundary treatments / gateways on outlying dwellings and farms can be sensitive as viewed from rural roads. Black Loch is sensitive to any development, since there would be an effect on its rural setting and interruption of open views beyond the water. Some of the narrow lanes and tracks that run through the area are of a distinctive rural character and are sensitive to widening/engineering works that could result in loss of strong boundary features. The north western part of the area is covered by the Slammanan Plateau /Avon Valley Local Landscape Area.



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Guidelines 3(i) Slamannan Plateau

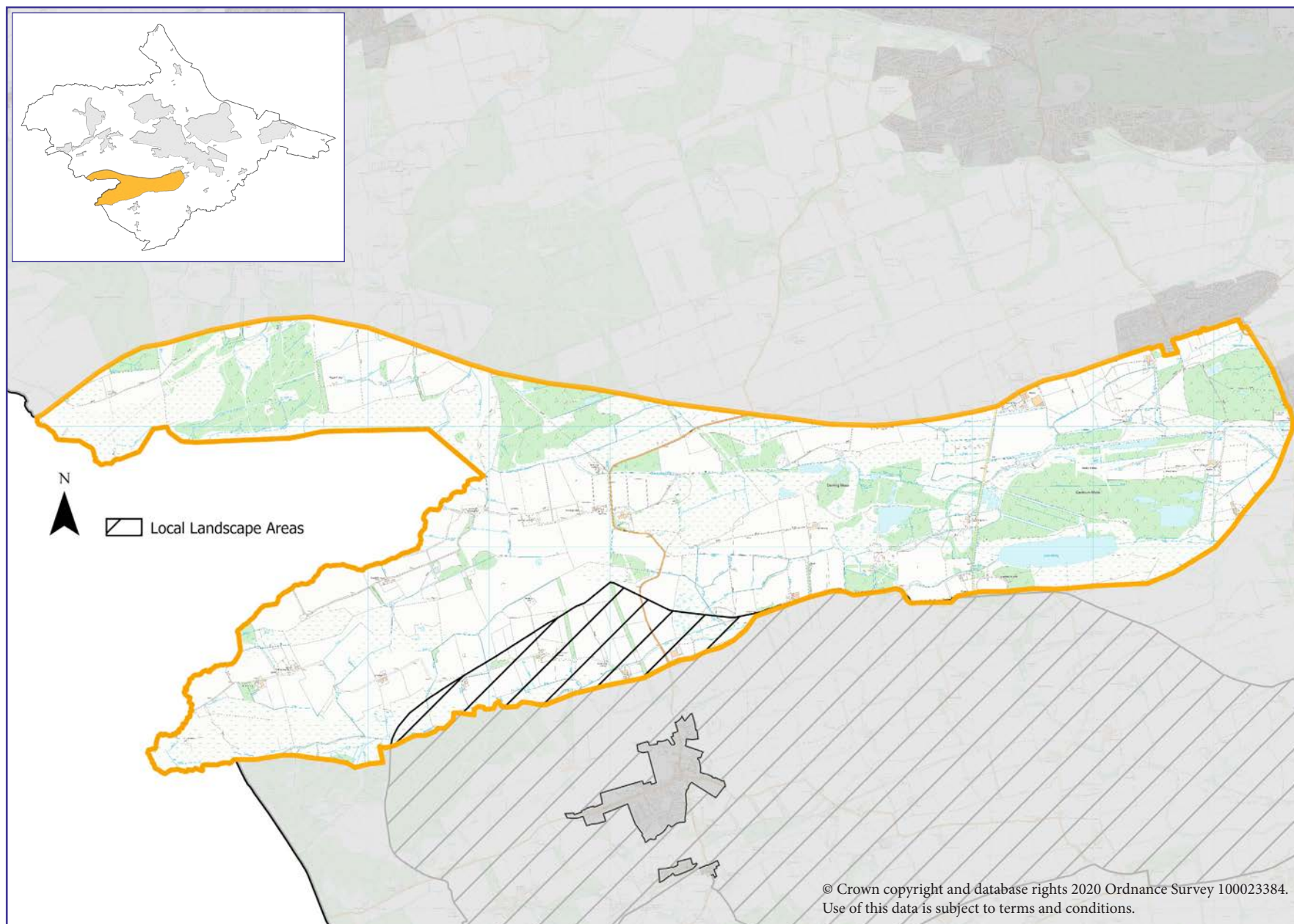
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- Encourage management and expansion of native broadleaf trees and woodland along watercourses, field boundaries and as backdrops to settlements to enable linkages to other woodland areas for improvement of landscape, biodiversity value and access routes. This will continue to ensure a diversity of landcover and will contribute to Falkirk's green network;
- Ensure existing forestry and new commercial forestry follows the UK Forestry Standard Guidelines: Forests and Landscape and ensure the opportunity is taken for landscape and biodiversity enhancement at next rotation of existing plantations; there is sensitivity to poorly designed forestry. Ensure principles of good landscape design practice are followed for any biomass crops;
- Ensure road and other infrastructure improvements incorporate appropriate replacement tree, hedgerow and stone wall reinstatement where these features are removed; they are identified as important landscape elements which are sensitive to loss;
- Ensure further telecommunication towers are concentrated at sites with existing installations and encourage mast sharing; there is an identified landscape sensitivity to further structures;
- Ensure any proposals for wind energy development follow the landscape guidance in the Supplementary Guidance 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy';
- Ensure solar energy developments are sensitively sited and landscape and visual impact assessments support proposals;
- Ensure all proposals for surface coal mining, quarries and quarry extensions are subject to a full landscape and visual assessment. Landscape mitigation must be undertaken during the works and full landscape reinstatement undertaken following extraction; reinstatement must be undertaken to match the existing natural landform and gradients of the locality and incorporate appropriate boundary treatments, landscape features, native woodland planting, appropriate habitat creation and habitat linkages to the surrounding area. Long term maintenance and management following initial restoration must be undertaken through planning conditions or agreements;
- Encourage further restoration of former opencast sites where there is evidence of poorer original restoration;
- Ensure new agricultural/equestrian buildings, other large new buildings and structures, steading conversions and outlying dwellings are sympathetically designed for the landscape setting, are associated with existing building clusters and are orientated to minimise visual effects from key viewpoints; mitigating screen planting must be incorporated. Particular attention must be paid to the identified sensitivity of settlement edges;
- Ensure any large new development proposals, (including transmission lines, pipelines, transmission masts and industrial and commercial developments) are subject to Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment in accordance with good practice guidelines and that proposals examine alternative locations or routes, that they are well designed with a minimal visual effect, and that they enhance and restore the diverse landscape character;
- Ensure new native species structure/screen planting is undertaken in association with expansion of settlements and with new housing and industrial development; settlement edges are identified as particularly sensitive;
- Encourage new native structure planting around existing outlying housing and industrial buildings to mitigate visual effects;
- Encourage re-use and restoration of unused and derelict land on the edges of settlements and elsewhere where appropriate; this has an adverse effect on the setting;
- Ensure new boundary treatments and gateways associated with new development and steading conversions are of sympathetic design for the rural location; this is noted as a sensitivity along rural roads;
- Encourage retention and management of shelterbelts, trees, hedgerows and drystone walls along field boundaries; these are identified as important landscape elements which are sensitive to loss.

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Local Landscape Character Area 3(ii) Darnrig/Gardrum Plateau Moorland

3.31



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

- 3.32 Overhead power lines. Telecommunication masts, transmitter masts. Wind energy and associated infrastructure. Solar energy. Tourism/recreational development. Long term expansion of California and Shieldhill. Loss of field and road boundary trees, hedgerows and drystone walls. Decline of smaller mixed woodlands and shelterbelts due to limited management. Expansion of commercial forestry plantations. Biomass crops. Peat extraction. Single rural dwellings. New large scale agricultural buildings and expansion of existing non-agricultural commercial buildings. General development pressure to subsidise land restoration on derelict sites. Surface coal mining.

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

- 3.33 There is particular sensitivity to the loss of the defining landscape elements (such as woodland cover, shelterbelts, tree groups, hedgerows, stone walls) to development or through loss of management due to the existing open character. From the highest points and on the northern edge of the area there would be sensitivity to development of very tall or large structures (wind turbines, telecommunication apparatus, power lines, large agricultural/industrial scale buildings) and to large scale poorly designed commercial forestry (this is due to the greater visibility of these locations from the wider area and views out to the Forth carseland, Ochils, Touch Hills, along the Forth Valley and along the Avon Valley). The moorland with lochs near Gardrum Moss/Darnrig is of distinct open character and is particularly sensitive. A small section of the Slammanan Plateau/Avon Valley Local Landscape Area extends into the south west corner of the area.



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Guidelines 3(ii) Darnrig/Gardrum Plateau Moorland

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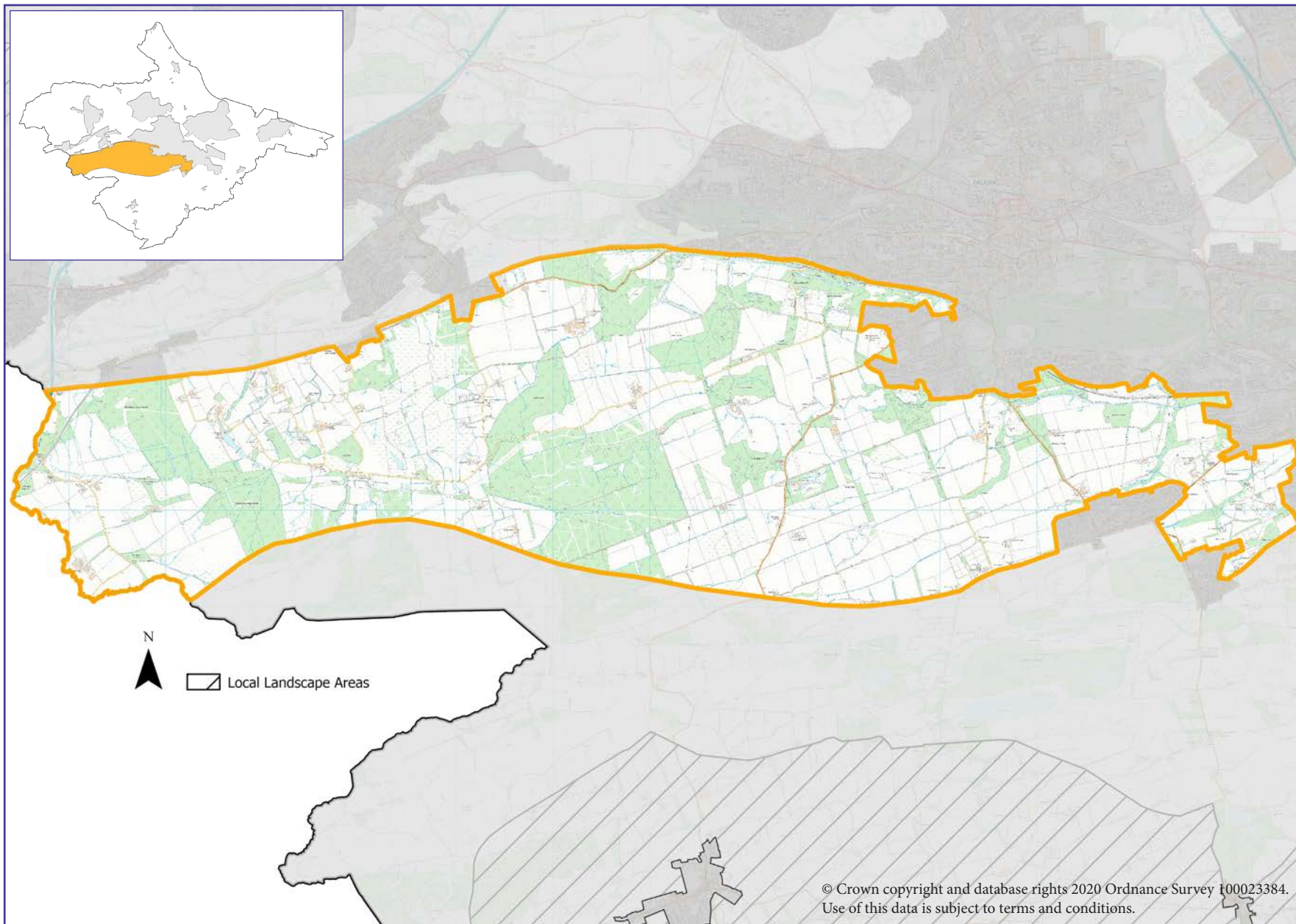
- Encourage management and expansion of native broadleaf trees and woodland along watercourses, field boundaries and as backdrops to settlements to enable linkages to other woodland areas for improvement of landscape character, biodiversity value, and access routes; this will contribute to Falkirk's green network;
- Ensure existing forestry and new commercial forestry follows the UK Forestry Standard Guidelines: Forests and Landscape and ensure the opportunity is taken for landscape and biodiversity enhancement at the next rotation of existing plantations; there is identified sensitivity to poorly designed forestry. Ensure principles of good landscape design practice are followed for biomass crops;
- Ensure road and other infrastructure improvements incorporate appropriate replacement tree, hedgerow and stone wall reinstatement where these features are removed; there is high sensitivity to the loss of these landscape elements;
- Ensure further telecommunication and transmission towers are concentrated at sites with existing installations and encourage mast sharing; there is sensitivity to these structures on highest land and on the northern boundary;
- Ensure any proposals for wind energy development follow the landscape guidance in the Supplementary Guidance 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy';
- Ensure solar energy developments are sensitively sited and landscape and visual impact assessments support proposals;
- Ensure any proposals for surface coal mining, quarries and quarry extensions are subject to a full landscape and visual assessment. Landscape mitigation must be undertaken during the works and full landscape reinstatement undertaken following extraction; reinstatement must be undertaken to match the existing natural landform and gradients of the locality and incorporate appropriate boundary treatments, landscape features, native woodland planting, appropriate habitat creation and habitat linkages to the surrounding area. Long term maintenance and management following initial restoration will be required through planning conditions or agreements;
- Encourage further restoration of former opencast sites where there is evidence of poorer original restoration;
- Ensure appropriate detailed restoration proposals are developed for peat extraction areas;
- Ensure new agricultural/equestrian buildings, other new buildings and structures, tourism development and rural dwellings are sympathetically designed for the landscape setting, are associated with existing building clusters and are orientated to minimise visual effects from key viewpoints; there is general landscape sensitivity to these structures. Mitigating screen planting must be incorporated;
- Ensure all large new development proposals, (including transmission lines, pipelines, transmission masts and industrial and commercial developments) are subject to Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment in accordance with good practice guidelines and that proposals examine alternative locations or routes. Ensure that they are well designed, with minimal visual effect from key viewpoints, and that they enhance and restore landscape character; there is general sensitivity in this LLCA to such development;
- Ensure new native species structure/screen planting is always undertaken in association with expansion of settlements (Shieldhill, California) and with new housing and new industrial buildings;
- Encourage new structure planting around existing housing, farms and industrial buildings; this will enable landscape enhancement and contribute to Falkirk's green network;
- Ensure new boundary treatments and gateways associated with new and existing development are of sympathetic design for the rural location; inappropriate boundary treatment will be a particular sensitivity due to the open character of the LLCA;
- Ensure the area surrounding Gardrum Moss/Darnrig Moss retains its open character; this is particularly sensitive to development;
- Encourage retention and management of shelterbelts, trees, hedgerows and drystone walls along field boundaries; these important landscape elements are sensitive to loss.

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Local Landscape Character Area 3(iii) Castlecary/Shieldhill Plateau Farmland

3.35



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

- 3.36 Long term expansion of settlements/industry on northern and eastern boundary (High Bonnybridge, Shieldhill, Reddingmuirhead/ Wallacestone). Individual rural dwellings. Overhead power lines. Telecommunication masts, transmitter masts. Wind energy and associated infrastructure. Solar energy. Loss of field and road boundary trees, hedgerows and drystone walls. Decline of smaller mixed woodlands and shelterbelts due to limited management. Expansion of commercial forestry plantations. Biomass crops. Recreational and tourism facilities due to proximity to settlements and views north. New large scale agricultural buildings and conversions / new buildings for equestrian centres/stables. Surface coal mining. Railway improvements with introduction of overhead line equipment and associated structures.

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

- 3.37 There are extensive views north from this area, as well as to the area from the main settlements and more distantly from the north side of the Forth; the area also forms an important part of the setting of the settlements and has a network of paths, cycle tracks and rural lanes. All development, forestry and other changes in land management practices in this character area therefore have the potential to be highly visually sensitive. In particular, the character area has a high sensitivity to tall or large structures (such as telecommunication masts, transmission masts, wind turbines, power lines/pylons, large agricultural/equestrian buildings and industrial buildings). In addition, there is also sensitivity to the loss of the existing defining landscape elements to development or through loss of management (such as the existing woodland cover, shelterbelts, tree groups, hedgerows, stone walls). A section of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site Buffer Zone is located within northern part of character area.



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Guidelines 3(iii) Castlecary/Shieldhill Plateau Farmland

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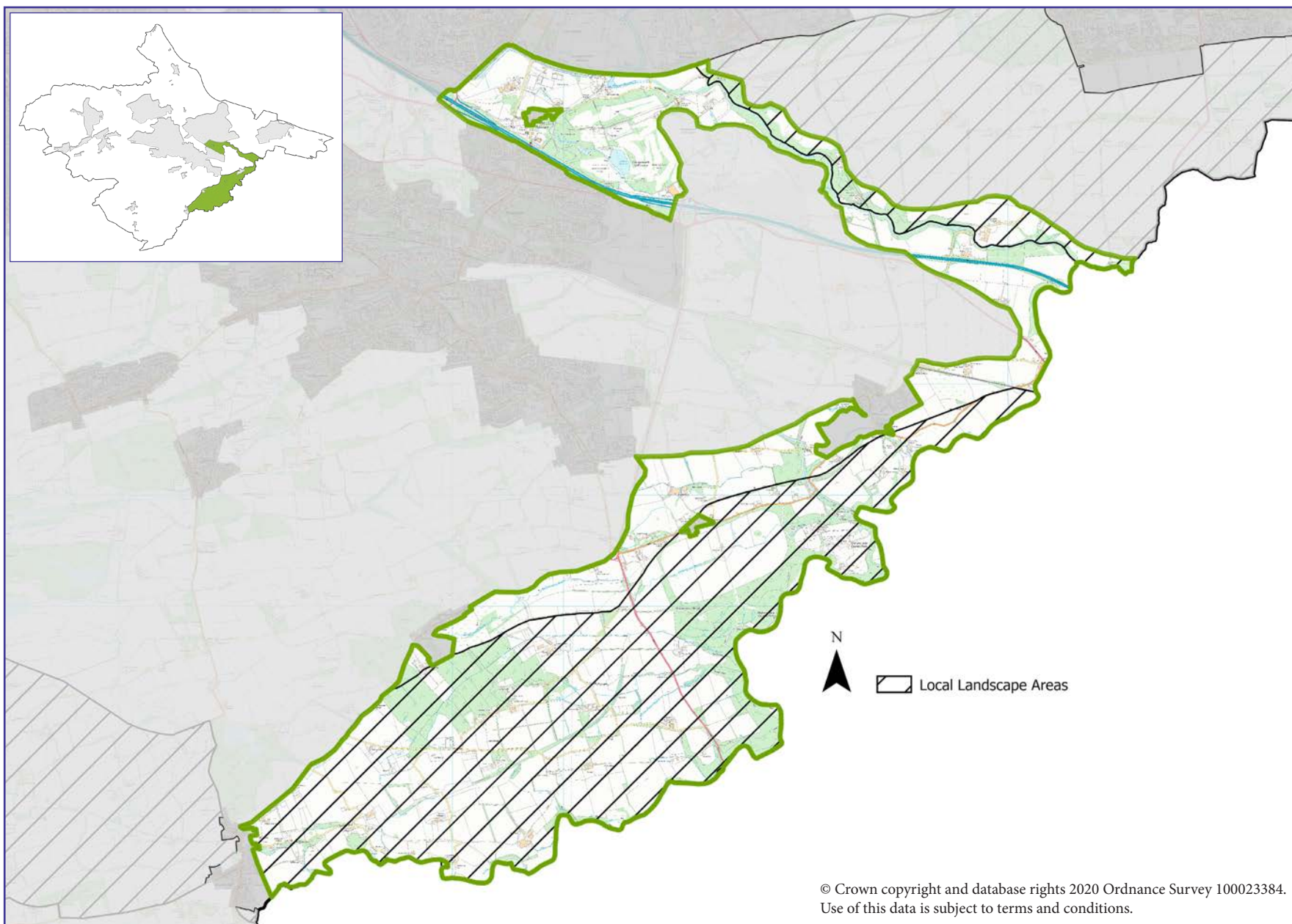
- Encourage management of existing woodland and expansion of native broadleaf trees and woodland along watercourses, field boundaries and as backdrops to settlements; this will enable linkages to other woodland areas for improvement of landscape, biodiversity value and access routes (including the John Muir Way); this will make an overall contribution to Falkirk's green network;
- Ensure existing forestry and new commercial forestry follows the UK Forestry Standard Guidelines: Forests and Landscape and ensure the opportunity is taken for landscape and biodiversity enhancement of existing plantations at next rotation; sensitivity to poorly designed forestry is identified. Ensure principles of good landscape design practice are followed for biomass crops;
- Ensure road and other infrastructure improvements incorporate appropriate replacement tree, hedgerow and stone wall reinstatement where these features are removed; these important landscape elements are sensitive to loss;
- Ensure further telecommunication and transmission towers are concentrated at sites with existing installations and encourage mast sharing; a very high sensitivity to these structures is identified due to extensive visibility northwards;
- Ensure any proposals for wind energy development follow the landscape guidance in the Supplementary Guidance 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy';
- Ensure solar energy developments are sensitively sited and landscape and visual impact assessments support proposals; views of any proposals from the north will be a major sensitivity;
- Ensure all proposals for surface coal mining, quarries and quarry extensions are subject to a full landscape and visual assessment. Landscape mitigation must be undertaken during the works and full landscape reinstatement undertaken following extraction; reinstatement must be undertaken to match the existing natural landform and gradients of the locality. Appropriate boundary treatments, landscape features, native woodland planting, appropriate habitat creation and habitat linkages to the surrounding area must be incorporated. Long term maintenance and management following initial restoration must be undertaken through planning conditions or agreements;
- Encourage further restoration of former opencast sites where there is evidence of poorer original restoration;
- Ensure new agricultural/equestrian buildings, other new buildings and structures and rural dwellings are sympathetically designed for the landscape setting, are associated with existing building clusters where possible and are orientated to minimise visual effects; there is an identified sensitivity to these structures. Mitigating screen planting must be incorporated;
- Ensure all large new development proposals, (including transmission lines, pipelines, transmission masts and industrial and commercial developments) are subject to Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment in accordance with good practice guidelines and proposals examine alternative locations or routes; ensure that they are well designed with minimal visual effect, and that they enhance and restore landscape character. The high level of visual sensitivity to development in this LLCA must be considered;
- Ensure new native species structure/screen planting is undertaken in association with expansion of settlements and with new housing and new industrial buildings; there is high sensitivity to development as seen from the populated lower land to the north;
- Encourage new planting around existing housing areas/industrial buildings;
- Encourage re-use and restoration of unused and derelict land on the edges of settlements and elsewhere where appropriate;
- Ensure new boundary treatments and gateways associated with new and existing development are of sympathetic design for the rural location and sensitivity of the landscape character;
- Encourage retention and management of shelterbelts, trees, hedgerows and drystone walls along field boundaries; these landscape elements are sensitive to loss;
- Ensure the guidance contained within the 'Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Sites' Supplementary Planning Guidance is followed for areas within the buffer zone.

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Local Landscape Character Area 4(j) Avon Valley

3.39



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

3.40 Power lines. Telecommunication apparatus. Conversion of steadings to residential and business/industrial use. Single rural dwellings. Road improvements and other infrastructure resulting in tree and hedgerow loss. Expansion of settlements in long term (Avonbridge, Standburn, Whitecross, Loan/Muiravonside, Polmont). Tourism/hotel, recreational and canal related developments and expansion of existing developments. Poor management of some woodland. New woodland planting. Biomass crops. Reversion of some areas of improved pasture to unimproved pasture. New farm buildings. Wind energy and associated infrastructure. Solar energy. Surface coal mining. Railway improvements with introduction of overhead line equipment and associated structures.

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

3.41 The area has high sensitivity to tall or large structures (such as telecommunication masts, transmission masts, wind turbines, power lines/pylons, large agricultural/equestrian buildings and industrial buildings) on the highest ground on the valley edges due to the extensive visibility (particularly from West Lothian to the east) and on lower ground where the strong enclosed rural valley character would cause such features to interrupt views and appear out of scale. The area is sensitive to the loss and lack of management of the existing defining landscape elements (such as the strong existing woodland cover, shelterbelts, tree groups, individual trees, hedgerows, stone walls); loss of these features would reduce the intimate wooded valley character and erode the enclosure pattern. The area is also sensitive to development on the edges of settlements (Avonbridge, Whitecross, Standburn, Loan/Muiravonside, Polmont) due to the potential for erosion of the integrity of the well managed, rural and intimate wooded valley character through insensitive development. The remaining features of the designed landscapes at Candie are also sensitive to loss. The majority of the area is covered by the Slammanan Plateau/Avon Valley Local Landscape Area



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Guidelines 4(i) Avon Valley

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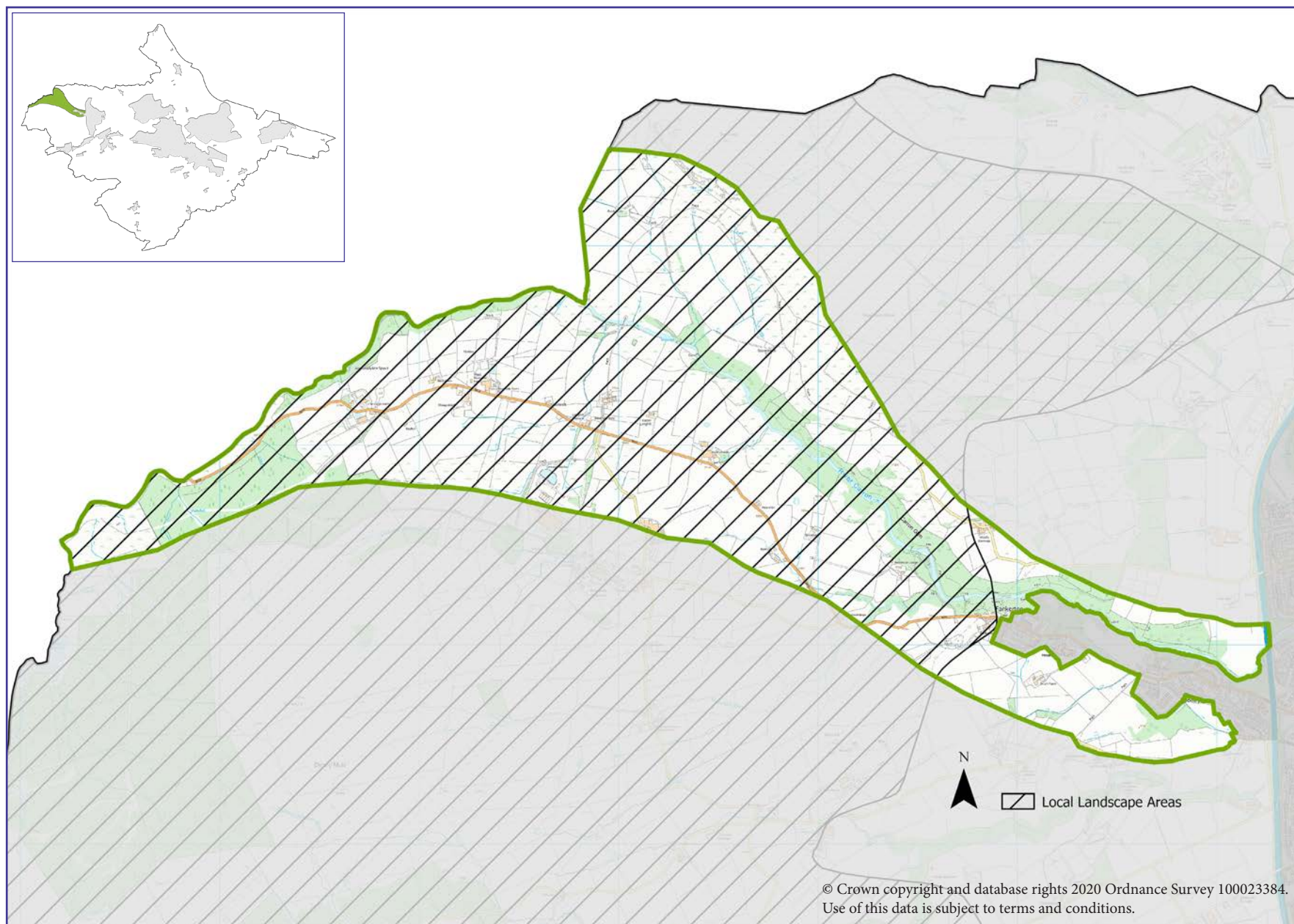
- Encourage expansion of areas of native broadleaf trees and woodland along field boundaries and as backdrops to settlements, particularly in northern part of area to improve screening of Grangemouth complex; this should also enable linkages to other woodlands, hedges and watercourses, improvement of landscape, biodiversity value, and access routes (including the John Muir trail and Antonine Wall) as well as contributing to Falkirk's green network;
- Encourage sound management of existing woodlands and ensure they meet the UK Forestry Standard Guidelines: Forests and Landscape and good biodiversity practice; there is high sensitivity to the loss of this important landscape element. Ensure principles of good landscape design practice are followed for biomass crops;
- Ensure road and other infrastructure improvements and design are appropriately mitigated to minimise landscape and visual effects and that any tree and hedgerow loss in particular is reinstated; the sensitivity to loss of these defining elements is highlighted;
- Ensure any proposals for wind energy development follow the landscape guidance in the Supplementary Guidance 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy';
- Ensure solar energy developments are sensitively sited and landscape and visual impact assessments support proposals; there is landscape sensitivity to these structures in open areas;
- Ensure solar energy developments are sensitively sited and landscape and visual impact assessments support proposals;
- Ensure all proposals for surface coal mining, quarries and quarry extensions are subject to a full landscape and visual assessment. Landscape mitigation must be undertaken during the works and full landscape reinstatement undertaken following extraction; reinstatement must be undertaken to match the existing natural landform and gradients of the locality and incorporate appropriate boundary treatments, native woodland planting, appropriate habitat creation and habitat linkages to the surrounding area. Long term maintenance and management following initial restoration must be undertaken through planning conditions or agreements;
- Ensure new agricultural buildings, other new industrial buildings and structures, and tourism/recreational developments are sympathetically designed for the landscape setting, are associated with existing building clusters where possible and are orientated to minimise visual effects from key viewpoints; there is sensitivity to these developments within the LLCA . Mitigating screen planting must be incorporated;
- Encourage sensitive restoration and conversion of traditional steadings and encourage removal of non-traditional unused/dilapidated farm buildings;
- Ensure that all proposals for major developments are subject to landscape and visual impact assessment in accordance with good practice guidelines, including examination of alternative sites or routes, and that they are well designed and sympathetic to the character of the Avon Valley; development that is visually intrusive or not in scale with the sensitivities and character of this small scale intimate landscape will not be acceptable;
- Ensure new native species structure/screen planting is undertaken in association with expansion of settlements (Avonbridge, Standburn, Whitecross) and with any new housing and new industrial buildings; there is identified landscape sensitivity to development on settlement edges;
- Encourage new planting around existing housing and industrial buildings;
- Ensure compliance with Green Belt Policy (Policy PE15) and Antonine Wall Policy (Policy PE05) of Local Development Plan for parts of character area affected;
- Ensure the guidance contained within the 'Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Sites' Supplementary Planning Guidance is followed for areas within the buffer zone;
- Encourage reinstatement and management of field boundary trees and hedgerows; these important elements are sensitive to loss.

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Local Landscape Character Area 4(ii) Carron Glen

3.43



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

- 3.44 New farm buildings. Conversion of farm steadings to residential use/equestrian centres. New agricultural dwellings/single rural dwellings. Tourism development and accommodation. Telecommunication masts. Small scale wind energy development and associated infrastructure. Solar energy. Potential expansion of Fankerton and Stoneywood in long term. Road widening and improvements. Loss of road and field boundary trees, hedges and drystone walls. New transmission lines and pipelines. Expansion of water treatment works. New woodland planting.

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

- 3.45 This area has particularly high sensitivity to tall or large structures (such as telecommunication masts, transmission masts, wind turbines, power lines/pylons, large agricultural/equestrian buildings and industrial buildings) within the valley or on the valley sides where these structures would be out of scale, intrude on the intimate rural character of the valley and interrupt views along the valley. The area is also highly sensitive to the loss of, or lack of management of, the existing defining landscape elements through agricultural/forestry operations and development (such as the woodland cover, tree groups, boundary trees and stone walls); loss of these features would reduce the intimate valley character and erode the enclosure pattern. Any expansion of Fankerton and Stoneywood in the long term and individual dwellings could impact on the rural valley character. There is also sensitivity to any increase in commercial forestry, which could limit views along the valley and change the open character, if poorly designed. New pipelines, utility routes, major drainage operations and tracks are sensitive operations in this location due to the time taken for surface vegetation to effectively re-establish on the uncultivated and visible valley sides. The Landscape Character Area also falls within the Denny Hills Local Landscape Area



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Guidelines 4(ii) Carron Glen

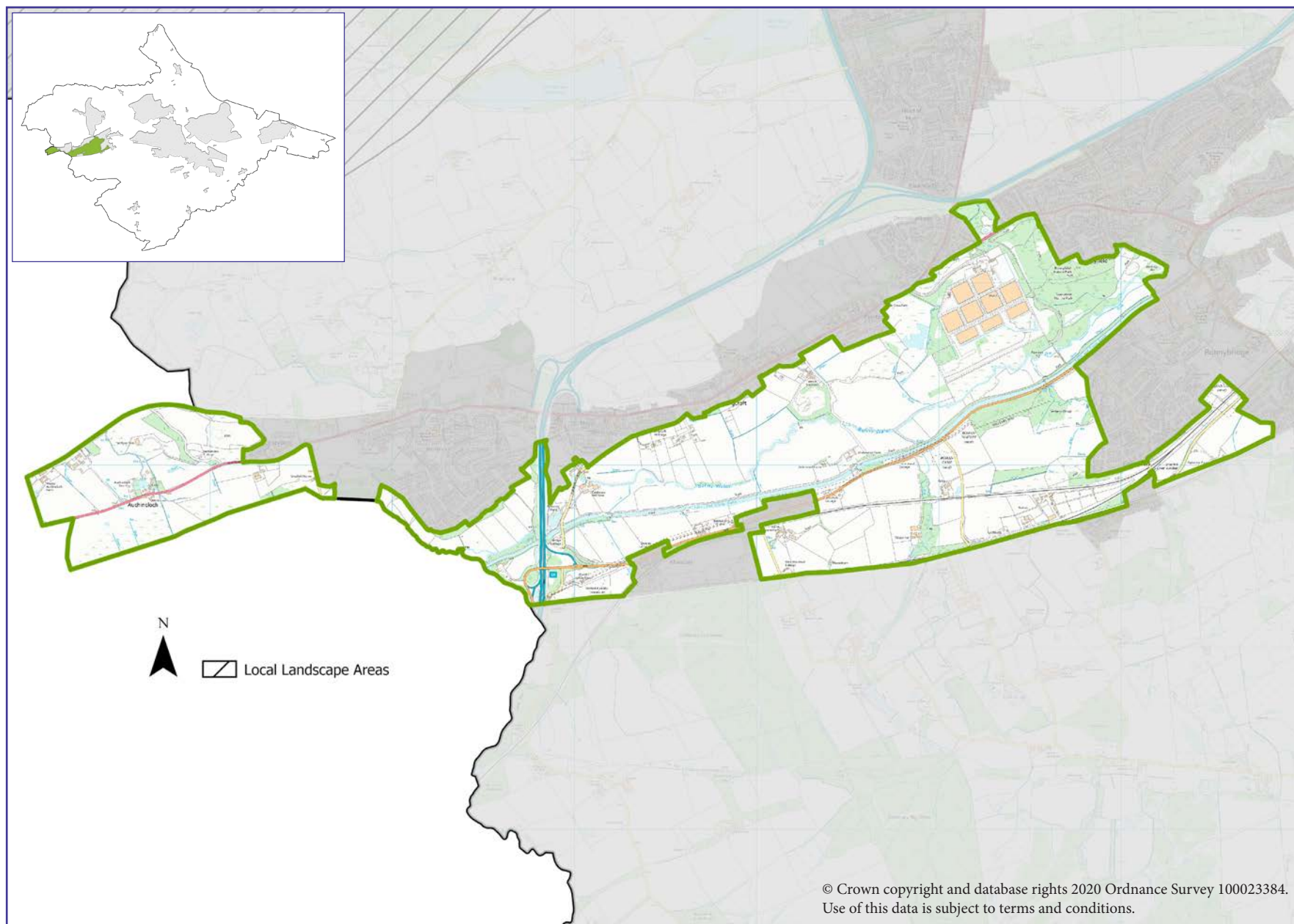
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- Encourage sensitive management of existing woodland and encourage expansion of well designed native broadleaf woodland within the valley and along watercourse to provide linkages to other woodland areas for landscape and biodiversity value, and for access routes along the River Carron; this will contribute to Falkirk's green network;
- Ensure design of existing commercial forestry at restructuring and areas of new forestry meet the UK Forestry Standard Guidelines: Forests and Landscape; poorly designed forestry in the LLCA is a particular sensitivity. Ensure that the opportunity is taken for landscape and biodiversity enhancement at the next rotation;
- Ensure all road and other infrastructure improvements and any pipeline routes fully reinstate boundary trees, walls and hedgerows; these important landscape elements are sensitive to loss;
- Ensure sensitive siting of telecommunication equipment, new and replacement powerlines and small scale wind turbines; the glen has a high sensitivity to such development;
- Ensure any proposals for wind energy development follow the landscape guidance in the Supplementary Guidance 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy';
- Ensure solar energy developments are sensitively sited and landscape and visual impact assessments support proposals; there is a high level of sensitivity to such development;
- Ensure new agricultural buildings, other large new industrial buildings and structures (particularly those associated with the water treatment works) are sympathetically designed for the landscape setting, are associated with existing building clusters and are orientated to minimise visual effects from key viewpoints; there is a high sensitivity to such development. Mitigating screen planting must be incorporated;
- Ensure steading conversions, tourism developments and other new buildings plus associated fences, gates and boundary treatments are of sympathetic design to the rural setting;
- Ensure all developments are well designed and integrated and positively restore the landscape character and features; there is high sensitivity to development in this glen;
- Ensure new native species structure/screen planting is undertaken in association with expansion of settlements (Fankerton, Stoneywood) and with other new buildings; this will contribute positively to landscape character;
- Encourage new planting around existing housing and industrial buildings where appropriate;
- Encourage retention, maintenance and reinstatement of field boundary trees, hedgerows and stone walls; these are noted as important landscape elements which are sensitive to loss.

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Local Landscape Character Area 4(iii) Bonny Water

3.47



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

- 3.48 Expansion of settlements in long term along A 803 (Banknock, Haggs, Longcroft, Allandale). Canalside/recreational development. Mixed use/housing development. Single dwellings. Agricultural buildings. Extension to existing commercial buildings on settlement edges. Road improvements. Quarrying and access routes. Loss of boundary trees and hedges. Woodland planting. Biomass crops. Further dilapidation of stone walls. Small scale wind energy and associated infrastructure. Solar energy. Railway improvements with introduction of overhead line equipment and associated structures.

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

- 3.49 The open character of the Bonny Water valley, with its proximity to settlements and the presence of the Forth and Clyde Canal as a recreational route/path, and the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site increases sensitivity to large or very tall industrial scale structures which could impact on the setting of these features and the residential areas of nearby villages. There is sensitivity to the further expansion of settlements on the northern boundary leading to an increased coalescence of development; this could impact on the landscape character generally and setting of the canal route and the Antonine Wall. There is also a general sensitivity to the loss, or lack of management of, the few existing woodlands, tree groups and stone walls.



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Guidelines 4(iii) Bonny Water

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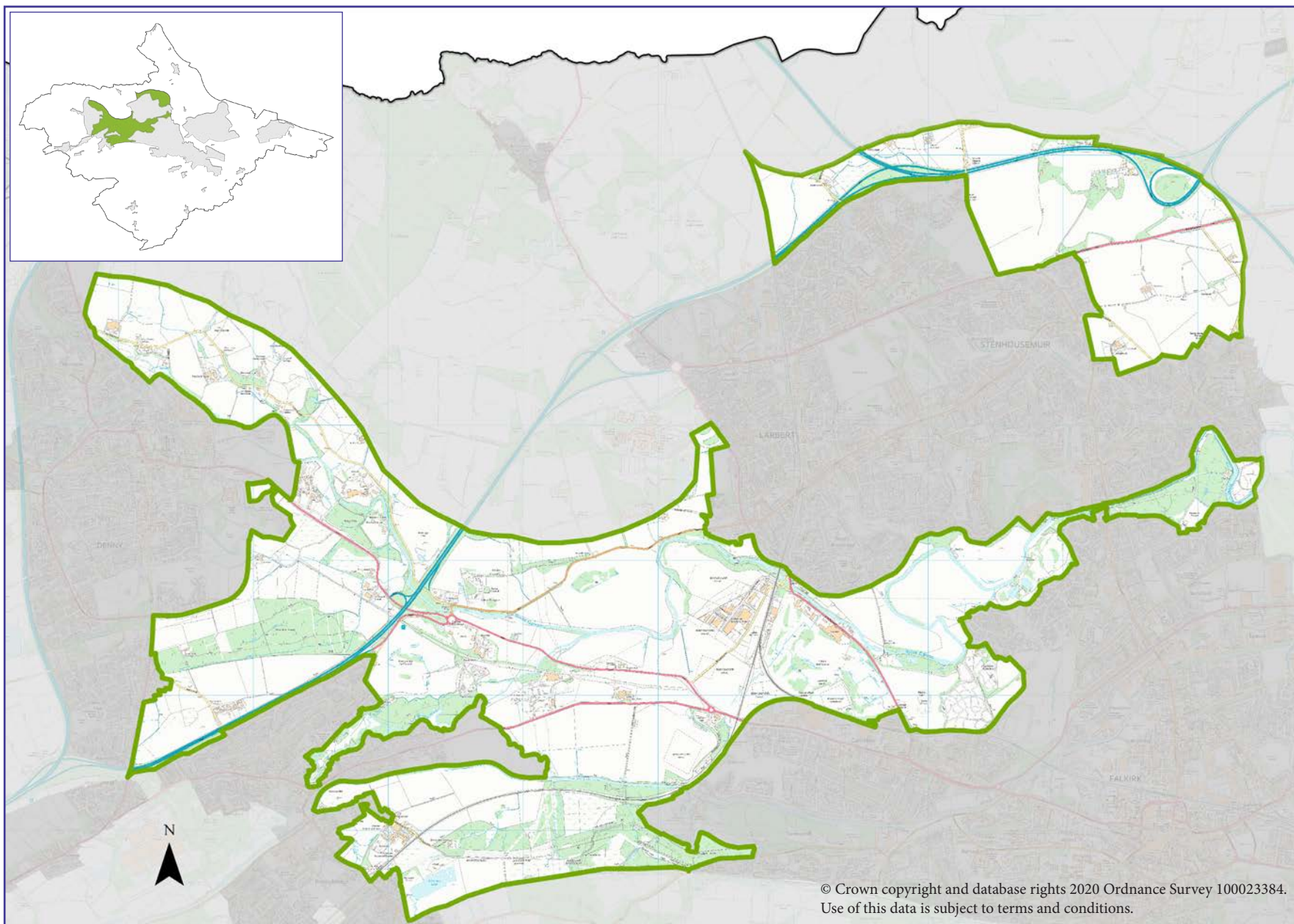
- Encourage expansion of native broadleaf trees and woodland along watercourses, field boundaries, around settlements and on derelict land, to enable linkages to other woodland areas, open spaces, recreational routes (eg John Muir Way, Forth and Clyde Canal towpath, Antonine Wall) and wildlife corridors (eg Bonny Water); this will enhance landscape, biodiversity value, and access routes, making a positive contribution to Falkirk's green network;
- Encourage sound management of woodlands and ensure they meet the UK Forestry Standard Guidelines: Forests and Landscape and good biodiversity practice; the existing woodlands are an important landscape element which are identified as being sensitive to loss. Ensure principles of good landscape design practice are followed for biomass crops;
- Ensure all road and other infrastructure improvements incorporate appropriate replacement tree, hedgerow and stone wall reinstatement where these features are removed; these important landscape elements are identified as being sensitive to loss;
- Ensure any proposals for wind energy development follow the landscape guidance in the Supplementary Guidance 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy';
- Ensure solar energy developments are sensitively sited and landscape and visual impact assessments support proposals;
- Ensure all proposals for quarries and quarry extensions are subject to a full landscape and visual assessment. Landscape mitigation must be undertaken during the works and full landscape reinstatement undertaken following extraction; reinstatement must be undertaken to match the existing natural landform and gradients of the locality and incorporate appropriate boundary treatments, landscape features, native woodland planting, appropriate habitat creation and habitat linkages to the surrounding area. Long term maintenance and management following initial restoration must be undertaken through planning conditions or agreements;
- Ensure new agricultural buildings, other large new industrial buildings and structures are sympathetically designed for the landscape setting, are associated with existing building clusters where possible and are orientated to minimise visual effects from key viewpoints. Mitigating screen planting must be incorporated;
- Encourage new planting around existing housing and industrial buildings where appropriate;
- Ensure all new development on edges of settlements is of sympathetic design with appropriate landscape treatment; there is sensitivity to poor design of development on the edges of settlements;
- Encourage removal of derelict industrial structures and buildings on edges of settlements; settlement edges are identified as sensitive;
- Ensure new native species structure/screen planting is undertaken in association with expansion of settlements (Banknock, Haggs, Longcroft, Allandale) and with other new housing and new industrial buildings;
- Encourage reinstatement of field boundary trees, hedges and stone walls; there is sensitivity to loss of these few remaining landscape elements;
- Ensure the guidance contained within the 'Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage' Supplementary Guidance is followed for areas within the buffer zone;
- Ensure compliance with Antonine Wall Policy (Policy PE05) of Local Development Plan 2.

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Local Landscape Character Area 4(iv) Lower Carron/Bonny Water

3.51



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

3.52 Expansion of Denny, Bonnybridge, Stenhousemuir/Larbert and Falkirk in the long term, for industrial and residential uses, including extension of development into greenbelt. Single dwellings. Recreation developments. New power transmission lines, extensions to substations, water treatment works and telecommunication masts. Further road improvements and pipeline routes. Development resulting in an overall loss of field boundary trees, roadside trees and hedgerows. Loss of tree cover providing valuable screening to urban edge. New woodlands. Biomass crops. Small scale wind energy development and associated infrastructure. Solar energy. Small scale quarrying. Surface coal mining. Coal bed methane extraction (eastern area). Railway improvements with introduction of overhead line equipment and associated structures.

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

3.53 Area includes the River Carron corridor, a section of the Bonny Water, the Forth and Clyde Canal, wildlife sites, a section of the Antonine Wall and the important local tourist attraction of the Falkirk Wheel on the southern boundary; a substantial portion of Greenbelt is also in this area. The area is particularly sensitive to further infrastructure and large scale industrial development which could further erode the setting of these locally accessible and highly valued features, the views from them, and the existing landscape elements. The accessibility of the area from residential areas of the surrounding settlements and views from settlements to this landscape character area suggests a high level of sensitivity to poorly screened/unsympathetic development. There is also sensitivity to the loss of, or poor management of, existing landscape elements such as woodland, tree groups, individual trees, and stone walls and hedgerows that form field and road boundaries.



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Guidelines 4(iv) Lower Carron/Bonny Water

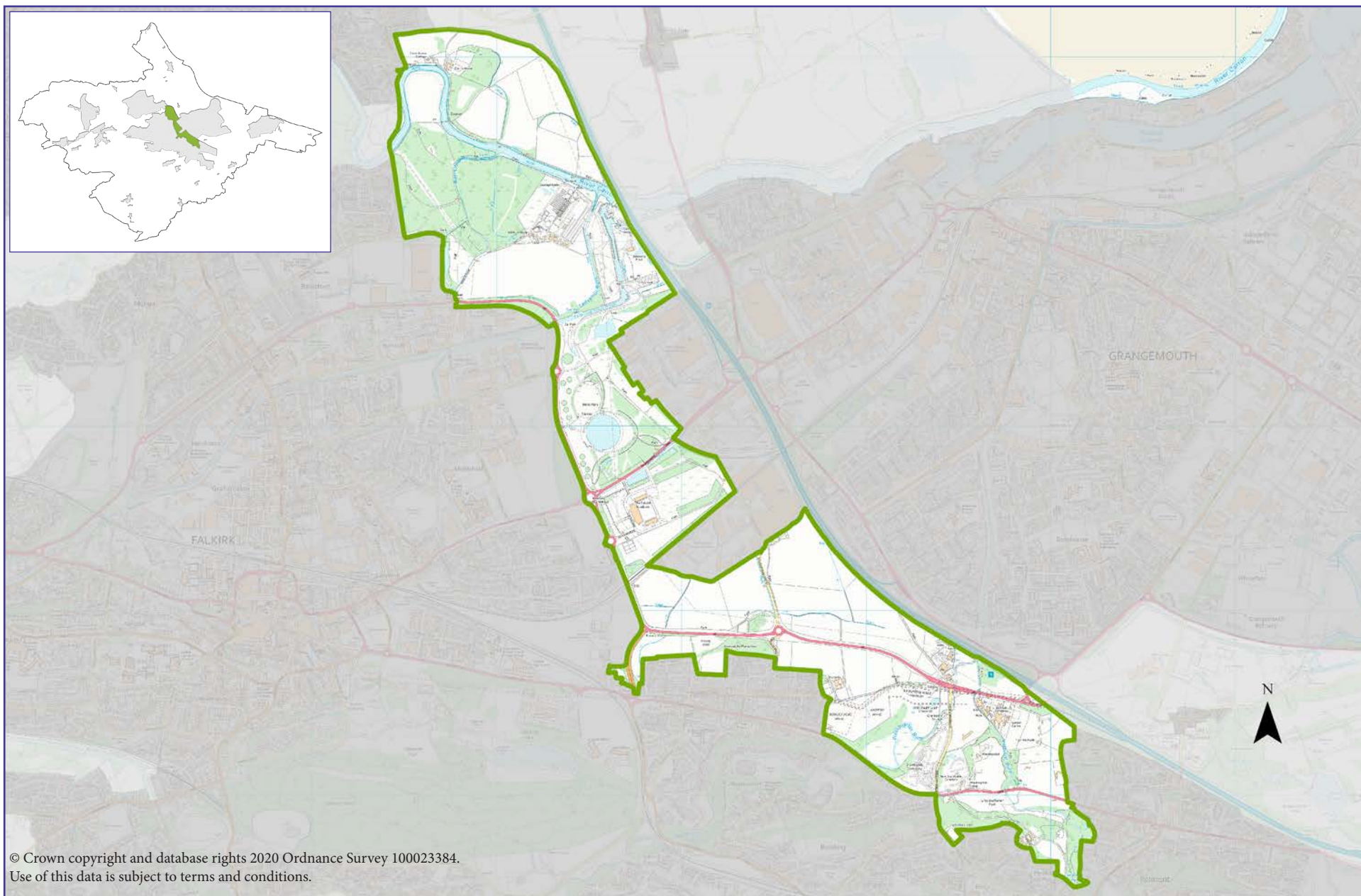
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- Encourage expansion of native broadleaf trees and woodland along watercourses, field boundaries, around settlements and on derelict land to provide screening and definition of the urban edge and to enable linkages to other woodland areas, open space and recreational routes; this will enhance landscape character, biodiversity value, and access (including the River Carron route, and the Forth and Clyde canal towpath) and contribute to Falkirk's green network;
- Encourage sound management of existing woodlands and ensure they meet the UK Forestry Standard Guidelines: Forests and Landscape and good biodiversity practice; these important landscape features are identified as being sensitive to loss;
- Ensure principles of good landscape design practice are followed for biomass crops;
- Ensure all new road and other infrastructure improvements incorporate appropriate planting and that field boundary trees, hedges and stone walls are maintained and replaced where lost; these important landscape elements are identified as being sensitive to loss;
- Ensure any proposals for wind energy development follow the landscape guidance in the Supplementary Guidance 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy';
- Ensure solar energy developments are sensitively sited and landscape and visual impact assessments support proposals;
- Ensure all proposals for surface coal mining, quarries and quarry extensions are subject to a full landscape and visual assessment. Landscape mitigation must be undertaken during the works and full landscape reinstatement undertaken following extraction. Reinstatement must be undertaken to match the existing natural landform and gradients of the locality and incorporate appropriate boundary treatments, landscape features, native woodland planting, appropriate habitat creation and habitat linkages to the surrounding area. Long term maintenance and management following initial restoration must be undertaken through planning conditions or agreements;
- Ensure coal bed methane extraction points and associated works are appropriately sited, utilising existing landscape features and new planting for screening; where landscape features (trees, hedgerows, stone walls) are removed they must be replaced;
- Ensure conversions of existing farm steadings and new rural dwellings are of appropriate design, scale and materials to enable integration into the surrounding area;
- Encourage screen planting around existing outlying visually intrusive buildings and structures;
- Ensure all new development and recreational features and their boundary treatments are well designed and integrated with appropriate structure planting to enhance the setting and provide screening;
- Ensure new native species structure/screen planting is undertaken in association with expansion of settlements (Denny, Bonnybridge, Stenhousemuir and Falkirk) and with new housing and new industrial buildings; this will ensure a level of visual containment to address the identified landscape and visual sensitivities at settlement edges;
- Ensure designated sites of nature conservation and watercourses are fully protected and carefully integrated into any new development, road improvement, pipeline and powerline routes; this will also assist in addressing the identified landscape sensitivities;
- Ensure compliance with Green Belt Policy (Policy PE15) and Antonine Wall Policy (Policy PE05) of Local Development Plan 2 for parts of character area affected;
- Ensure the guidance contained within the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site Supplementary Guidance is followed for areas within the buffer zone.

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Local Landscape Character Area 4(v) Falkirk - Grangemouth Urban Fringe

3.55



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

- 3.56 Urban expansion, particularly industrial and business parks. General pressure on Green Belt. Further road improvements with associated signage and lighting. New transmission lines and telecommunication masts. New pipelines/pipeline replacement. Recreational development, particularly associated with canal and cycle paths. Further loss of field structure and associated boundary trees and hedgerows. New woodland planting. Loss of tree cover providing valuable screening to urban edge. Biomass crops. Small scale wind energy development and associated infrastructure. Solar energy.

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

- 3.57 This character area is predominantly Green Belt and includes the Helix, Grange Burn, River Carron, part of the Forth and Clyde Canal, a section of the Antonine Wall and recreational areas and paths. The area is particularly sensitive to further infrastructure development and large industrial development on its edges which could further erode the setting of these locally accessible and highly valued features and the views out from them. The accessibility of the landscape character area from residential areas of the surrounding settlements (Stenhousemuir, Falkirk, Grangemouth, Laurieston, Polmont), and views from these settlements to this landscape character area, gives rise to a high level of landscape and visual sensitivity to any development. Particular issues are poorly screened and designed development and the loss of, or poor management of, existing landscape elements that define the area (e.g woodland, tree groups, individual trees and the stone walls and hedgerows that form field and road boundaries).



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Guidelines 4(v) Falkirk - Grangemouth Urban Fringe

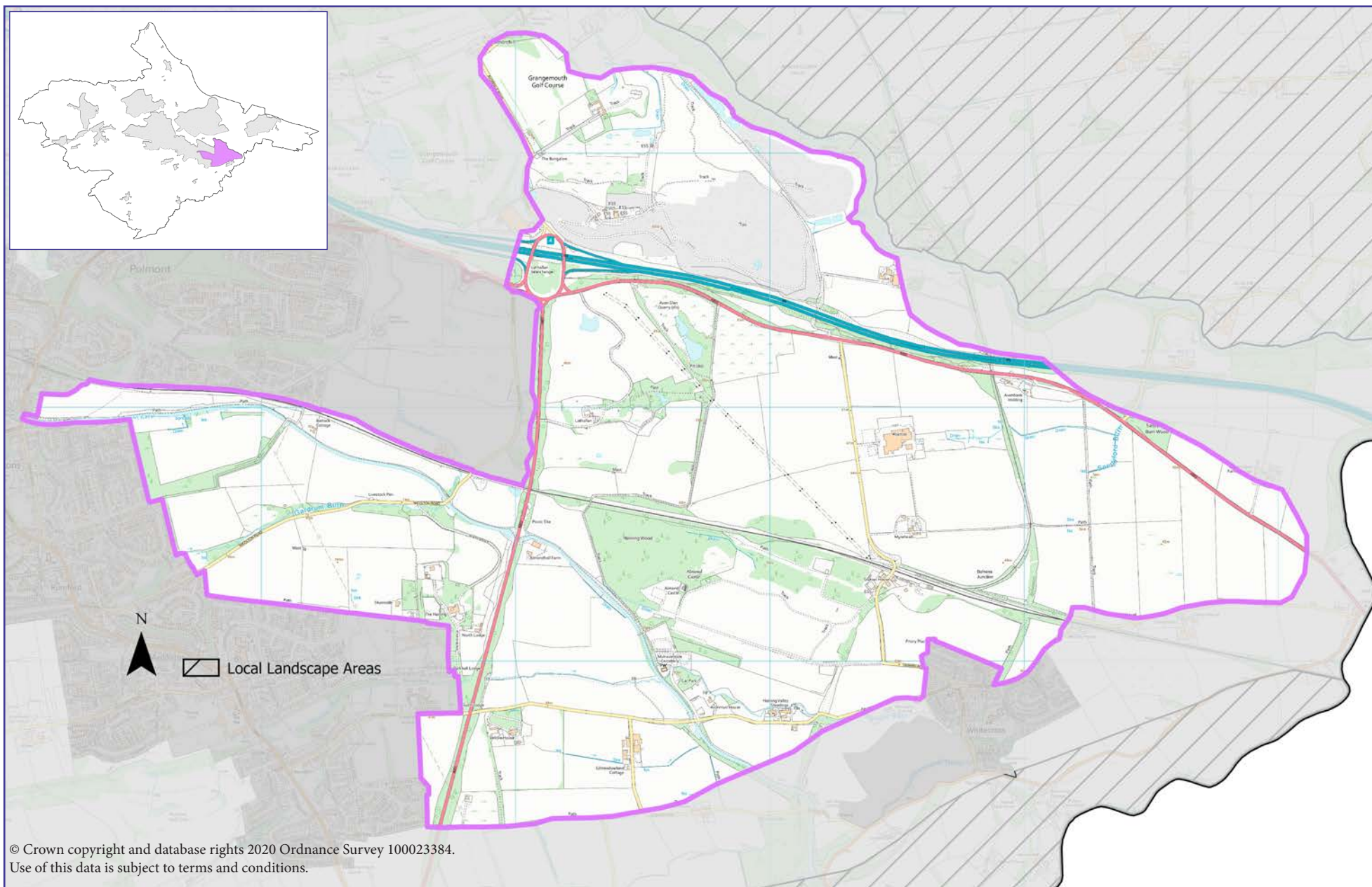
3.58

- Encourage management and expansion of native broadleaf trees and woodland along field boundaries, around settlements and on derelict land to enable linkages to other woodland areas, wildlife sites, and paths to recreational areas (The Helix, Langlees, and watercourses) for improvement of landscape, biodiversity value, and access ; this will contribute to Falkirk's green network. This LLCA is highly sensitive to woodland loss;
- Ensure new woodland planting follows the UK Forestry Standard Guidelines: Forests and Landscape; there is high sensitivity to poorly designed woodland in this location. Ensure principles of good landscape design practice are followed for biomass crops;
- Ensure all new road and other infrastructure improvements incorporate appropriate levels of planting and that any boundary trees, hedges and walls removed for road improvements or new pipelines are replaced; these important landscape elements are sensitive to loss;
- Ensure any proposals for wind energy development follow the landscape guidance in the Supplementary Guidance 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy';
- Ensure solar energy developments are sensitively sited and landscape and visual impact assessments support proposals;
- Encourage removal of derelict industrial structures and buildings on edges of settlements; settlement edges are of high sensitivity;
- Ensure new native species structure / screen planting is undertaken in association with expansion of settlements and new industrial buildings;
- Encourage new screen planting around existing industrial buildings, structures and housing on adjacent urban edge; the setting of the recreational features in the area, views to and from the green belt and views from the housing areas are sensitive;
- Ensure all new development on edges of settlements is of sympathetic design with appropriate landscape treatment;
- Ensure recreational features and other development permitted within the Green Belt, including associated ancillary structures, are well designed and integrated with appropriate structure and screen planting; this LLCA is sensitive due to proximity of the urban area;
- Ensure sites of nature conservation value and watercourses are protected and carefully integrated into any new development, road improvements or pipeline routes; this will also assist in addressing the identified landscape sensitivities;
- Encourage the retention and maintenance of existing field boundary trees and hedges; these few remaining landscape elements are highly sensitive to loss in this area;
- Ensure compliance with Green Belt Policy (Policy PE15) and Antonine Wall Policy (Policy PE05) of Local Development Plan 2;
- Ensure the guidance contained within the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site Supplementary Guidance is followed for areas within the buffer zone.

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Local Landscape Character Area 5(i) Manuel Farmlands

3.59



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

- 3.60 Expansion of Maddiston/Polmont eastwards to A801, for large scale housing / mixed use development in the long term. Major development at Whitecross. Single rural dwellings. Conversion of steadings to residential and business/industrial use. Enabling developments for renovation of old buildings and sites. Waste management facilities and expansion. Road improvements and other infrastructure resulting in loss of trees and hedgerows and lack of their management. New woodland planting. Biomass crops. Power lines. Telecommunication apparatus. New farm buildings. Canal related recreational/tourism developments. Small scale wind energy development and associated infrastructure. Solar energy. Railway improvements with introduction of overhead line equipment and associated structures.

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

- 3.61 A section of the Union Canal passes through the area, along with the associated cycle path and tow path; a section of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site is also on the northern border. The setting of these features and views from them together with the proximity to Polmont/Brightons/Maddiston and Whitecross indicates a high level of sensitivity to any development that is poorly screened or designed. The higher ground within the area is particularly sensitive to large or very tall structures, (such as telecommunication masts, transmission masts, wind turbines, power lines/pylons, large agricultural/equestrian buildings and industrial buildings) due to the potential for visibility over the wider area. In addition, this landscape character area would be particularly sensitive to the loss of the existing defining landscape elements, or to a lack of management of these features (e.g. existing woodlands, shelterbelts, tree groups, hedgerows, stone walls). The area is also sensitive to the expansion of the adjacent settlements which could impact on these landscape elements and associated habitats.



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Guidelines 5(i) Manuel Farmlands

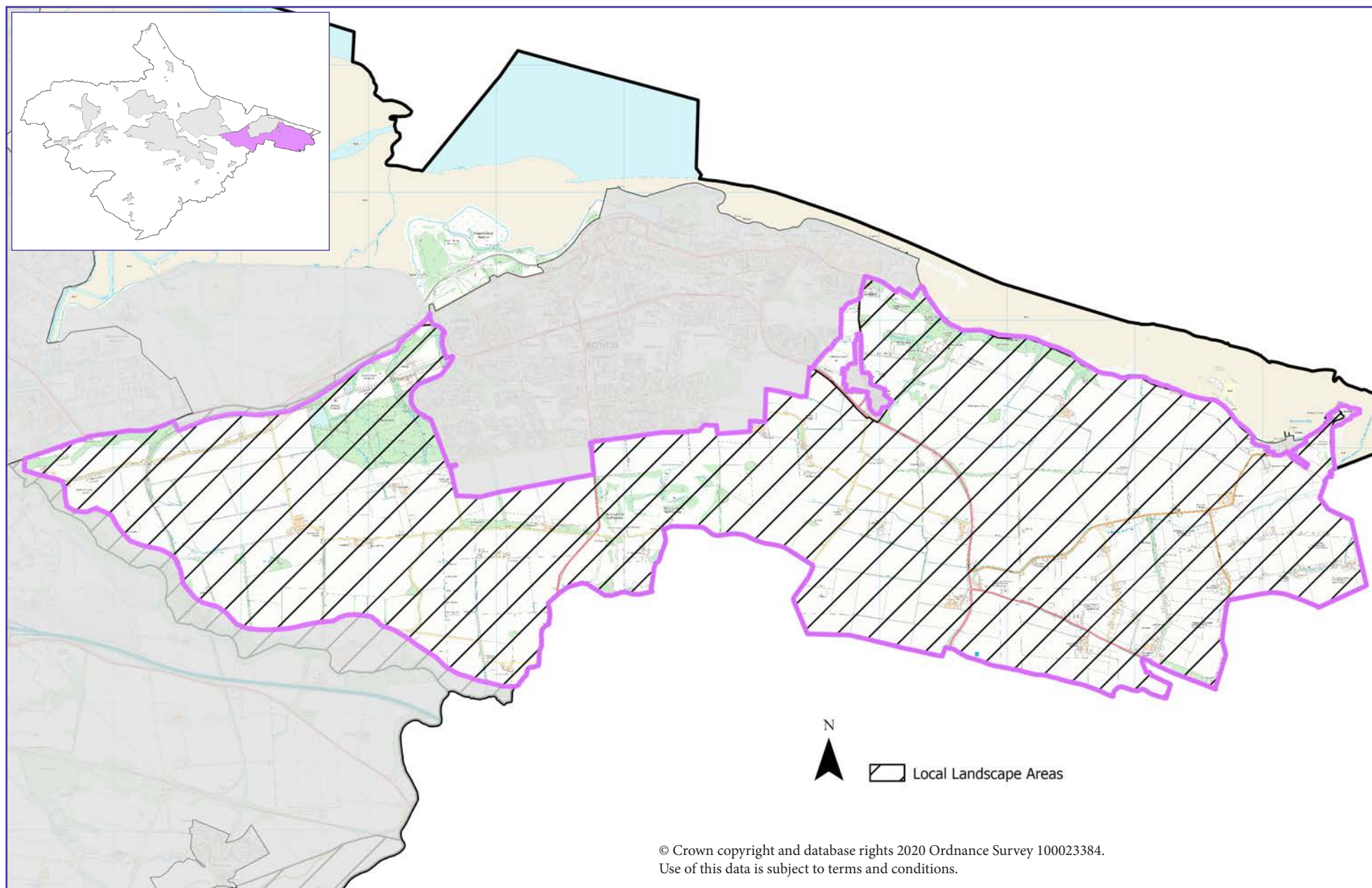
3.62

- Encourage expansion of native broadleaf trees and woodland along watercourses, field boundaries and as backdrops to settlements to enable linkages to other woodland areas and wildlife areas for improvement of landscape, biodiversity value, and access routes; this will contribute to Falkirk's green network;
- Encourage sound management of woodlands and ensure they meet the UK Forestry Standard Guidelines: Forests and Landscape and good biodiversity practice; ensure principles of good landscape design practice are followed for biomass crops. There is sensitivity to the loss of woodland as an important landscape element;
- Ensure all road and other infrastructure improvements and design are appropriately mitigated to minimise landscape and visual effects and that tree and hedgerow loss in particular is reinstated; there is sensitivity to the loss of defining landscape elements;
- Ensure telecommunication and transmission towers are not located on prominent ridges and are concentrated at sites with existing installations with mast sharing; the LLCA is sensitive to these structures;
- Ensure any proposals for wind energy development follow the landscape guidance in the Supplementary Guidance 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy';
- Ensure solar energy developments are sensitively sited and landscape and visual impact assessments support proposals;
- Ensure new agricultural buildings/equestrian centres, steading conversions, and other new buildings and structures are sympathetically designed for the landscape setting, are associated with existing building clusters where possible and are orientated to minimise visual effects from key viewpoints; mitigating screen planting must be incorporated. The LLCA is sensitive to these structures;
- Encourage sensitive restoration and conversion of traditional steadings and encourage removal of non- traditional unused/dilapidated farm buildings;
- Ensure that all proposals for large scale developments are subject to landscape and visual impact assessment in accordance with good practice guidelines and include examination of alternative sites. Design must be of high quality and sympathetic to the character of the Avon Valley with mitigating structure planting; development that is visually intrusive or not in scale with the character of this small scale intimate landscape will not be acceptable;
- All new development on the edge of the urban area and settlements must be of appropriate scale, design and siting; ensure native species structure/screen planting is undertaken in association with expansion of settlements (Maddiston/Polmont, Whitecross) and with other new housing . The LCA has high sensitivity to poor design and siting;
- Encourage new planting around existing housing and industrial buildings where appropriate;
- Ensure compliance with Green Belt Policy (Policy PE15) of Local Development Plan;
- Encourage replacement and management of field boundary trees and hedgerows; there is sensitivity to loss of these defining landscape elements;
- Ensure the guidance contained within the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site Supplementary Guidance is followed for areas within the buffer zone.

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Local Landscape Character Area 5(ii) Bo'ness Coastal Hills

3.63



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

- 3.64 Expansion of Bo'ness to south and east in long term. Conversion and expansion of former farm steadings to residential/business/equestrian use. New large agricultural/equestrian buildings. New single rural dwellings. Recreational facilities. Garden centre/allotment expansion, including polytunnels. Loss of field boundary features. Loss of mature tree cover. New woodland planting. Biomass crops. Road improvements resulting in tree/hedgerow loss and loss of rural character. New buildings, conversions of existing buildings and commercial development in area of Cauldcoats/Mannerston Holdings, leading to cumulative effect. Telecommunication structures. Small scale wind energy development and associated infrastructure. Solar energy.

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

- 3.65 From much of this landscape character area, including the Bo'ness to Blackness coast, there are extensive views outwards into adjacent character areas and towards Fife, due to the elevated character. The area has a very high sensitivity to development of any tall structures or large structures with extensive mass; these could be extensively visible from within the area and from outside (examples are telecommunication masts, transmission masts, wind turbines, renewable energy projects, power lines/pylons, large agricultural/equestrian buildings and industrial buildings). The prominent ridge of high ground between Bo'ness and Linlithgow, in particular, is very sensitive to any development or change in land management practices due to its elevation and greater visibility from the south. The setting of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site, Blackness Castle, the village of Blackness and the undeveloped coast with coastal path (part of John Muir Way) have valued landscape settings and would therefore be sensitive to development in the surrounding area. National Cycle Route 76 and the Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway are also tourist features and the views from these are sensitive to change. The Grangemouth industrial complex abuts the north west boundary of the character area and is a dominant feature in views from the highest land; any development in the west of the character area that would add to the visual effects of the Grangemouth complex or would result in the loss of any tree cover would also be sensitive. The character area would be particularly sensitive to the visual effects from expansion of Bo'ness onto higher ground and to poorly designed development on the edges of Bo'ness and Muirhouses. The open character of the area around Cauldcoats/Mannerston Holdings and the higher density of small buildings make this area sensitive to further development. There is a particular sensitivity to the loss and lack of management of the existing defining landscape elements (such as the strong existing woodland cover, shelterbelts, tree groups, individual trees, hedgerows, stone walls). The entire landscape character area is covered by the South Bo'ness Local Landscape Area.



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Guidelines 5(ii) Bo'ness Coastal Hills

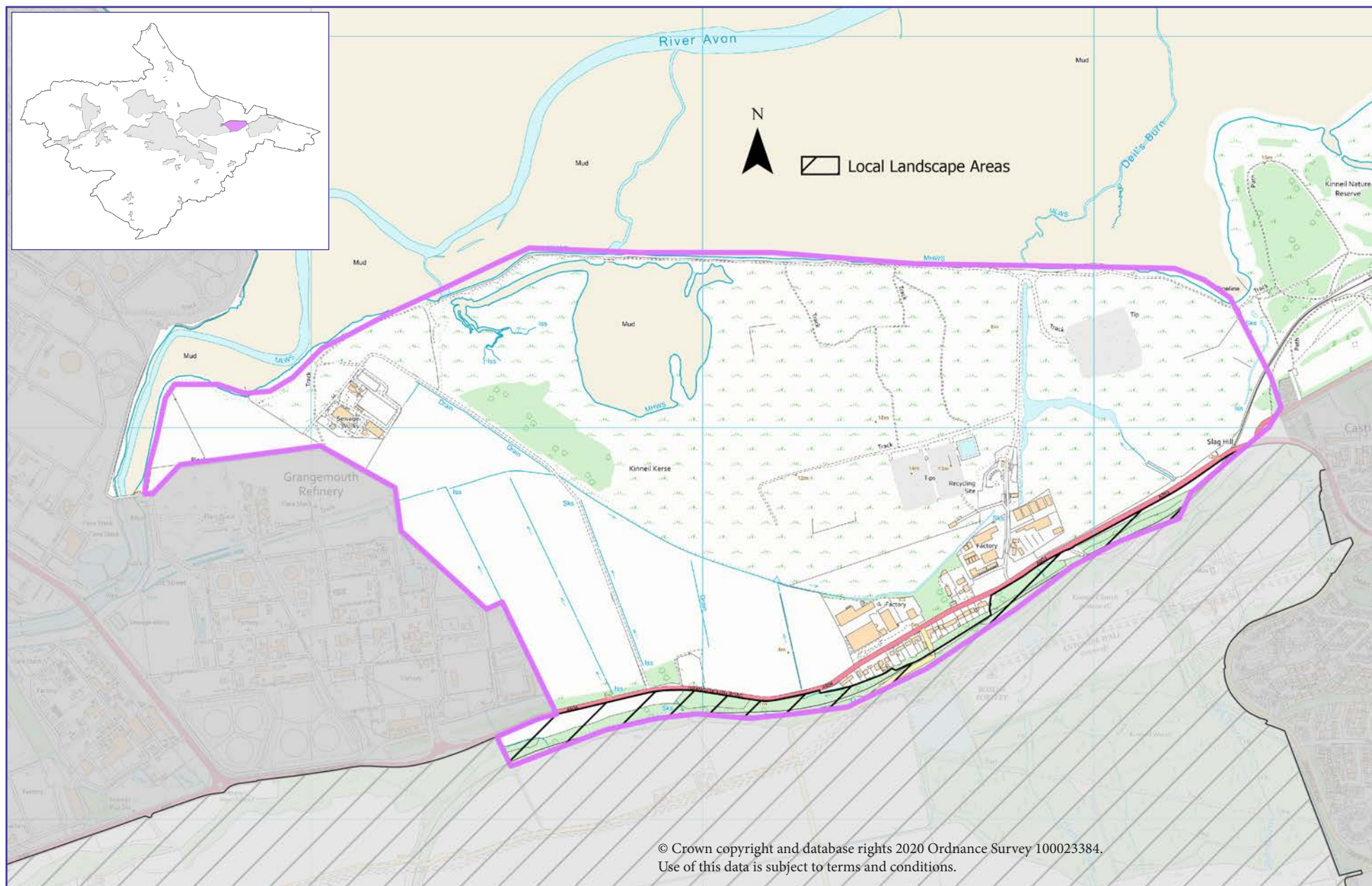
3.66

- Encourage expansion of native broadleaf trees and woodland planting along watercourses, field boundaries, access routes and in strategic locations to improve screening of the Grangemouth complex and to create a woodland framework around Bo'ness; this must enable linkages to other woodland areas and habitats for improvement of landscape, biodiversity value, access routes, and will help to mitigate the effects of different development types to address the sensitivity of the area. Sensitive woodland expansion will make an overall contribution to Falkirk's green network;
- Encourage sound management of woodlands and ensure they meet the UK Forestry Standard Guidelines: Forests and Landscape and to good biodiversity practice; the woodland cover is an important landscape element and is sensitive to loss through poor management and neglect. Ensure principles of good landscape design practice are followed for biomass crops;
- Ensure new road and other infrastructure proposals and improvements incorporate appropriate replacement tree planting, hedgerows and boundary walls where these features are removed; these are important landscape elements which are sensitive to loss;
- Ensure telecommunication and transmission towers are not located on prominent ridges and are concentrated at sites with existing installations with mast sharing; the LLCA is sensitive to these structures;
- Ensure any proposals for wind energy development follow the landscape guidance in the Supplementary Guidance 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy';
- Ensure solar energy developments are sensitively sited and landscape and visual impact assessments support proposals;
- Ensure new agricultural buildings, horticultural developments, other large new buildings and structures and recreational developments are sympathetically designed for the landscape setting, are associated with existing building clusters where possible and are orientated to minimise visual effects from key viewpoints; high sensitivity to such development on high ground is identified. Mitigating structure/screen planting must be incorporated;
- Ensure new buildings and conversions in the Cauldcoats/Mannerston Holdings areas are carefully sited and designed to avoid a cumulative visual effect from the surrounding area; the area is sensitive to a high level of development and low key sensitive structure planting may be required to minimise effects;
- Ensure conversions of farm steadings and new rural dwellings are of appropriate design, scale and materials and that appropriate mitigating screen/structure planting is undertaken where buildings are in visually prominent areas;
- Ensure all proposals for new power lines, pipelines and major industrial development are subject to landscape and visual impact assessment, including investigation of alternative routes or sites, and that all developments are well designed and integrated and can positively restore the landscape character and features; high sensitivity to such development is identified;
- Ensure all new development on outer edges of Bo'ness, Muirhouses and Blackness is of sympathetic design, scale, siting and materials; ensure appropriate landscape treatment with mitigating structural planting. There is high sensitivity identified to development in these locations;
- Ensure a high level of protection from any tall structures and large buildings on the upper part of the ridge running west to east between Bo'ness and Linlithgow; this has a very high sensitivity to development;
- Ensure views from Blackness Castle and views inland from the undeveloped coast between Blackness and Bo'ness (part of John Muir Way) are protected from inappropriate development; this area is identified as being particularly sensitive to development that would impact on views from these features;
- Encourage reinstatement and management of lost boundary trees, hedgerows and stone walls along field boundaries; these are important landscape elements which are sensitive to loss;
- Ensure compliance with Green Belt Policy (Policy PE15) and Antonine Wall Policy (Policy PE05) of Local Development Plan for parts of character area affected;
- Ensure the guidance contained within the 'Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage' Supplementary Guidance is followed for areas within the buffer zone.

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Local Landscape Character Area 5(iii) Grangemouth/Kinneil Flats

3.67



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

3.68 Further expansion of Grangemouth eastwards. Expansion of Bo'ness westwards and building along A904 approach to Bo'ness. Loss of the few remaining tree and hedgerows. Road improvement. Expansion of waste water treatment facilities, recycling facilities and petrochemical plant. Large scale wind energy development and associated infrastructure. Solar energy.

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

3.69 The adjacent Forth Estuary is a designated SPA and SSSI and there is sensitivity to development on nature conservation grounds. There is landscape and visual sensitivity to the loss of the existing coastal native tree and shrub cover in the eastern part of the area, which contributes to providing some structure and screening and contributes to the setting of Bo'ness. The southern boundary (A904/A905) forming the western approach to Bo'ness incorporates residential and small industrial development and would be sensitive to any development that would extend or exaggerate the scale and extent of Bo'ness as a settlement or would lead to a coalescence of Bo'ness and Grangemouth. There is limited landscape sensitivity in the north western part of the area due to the dominating effect of the Grangemouth complex.



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Guidelines 5(iii) Grangemouth/Kinneil Flats

3.70

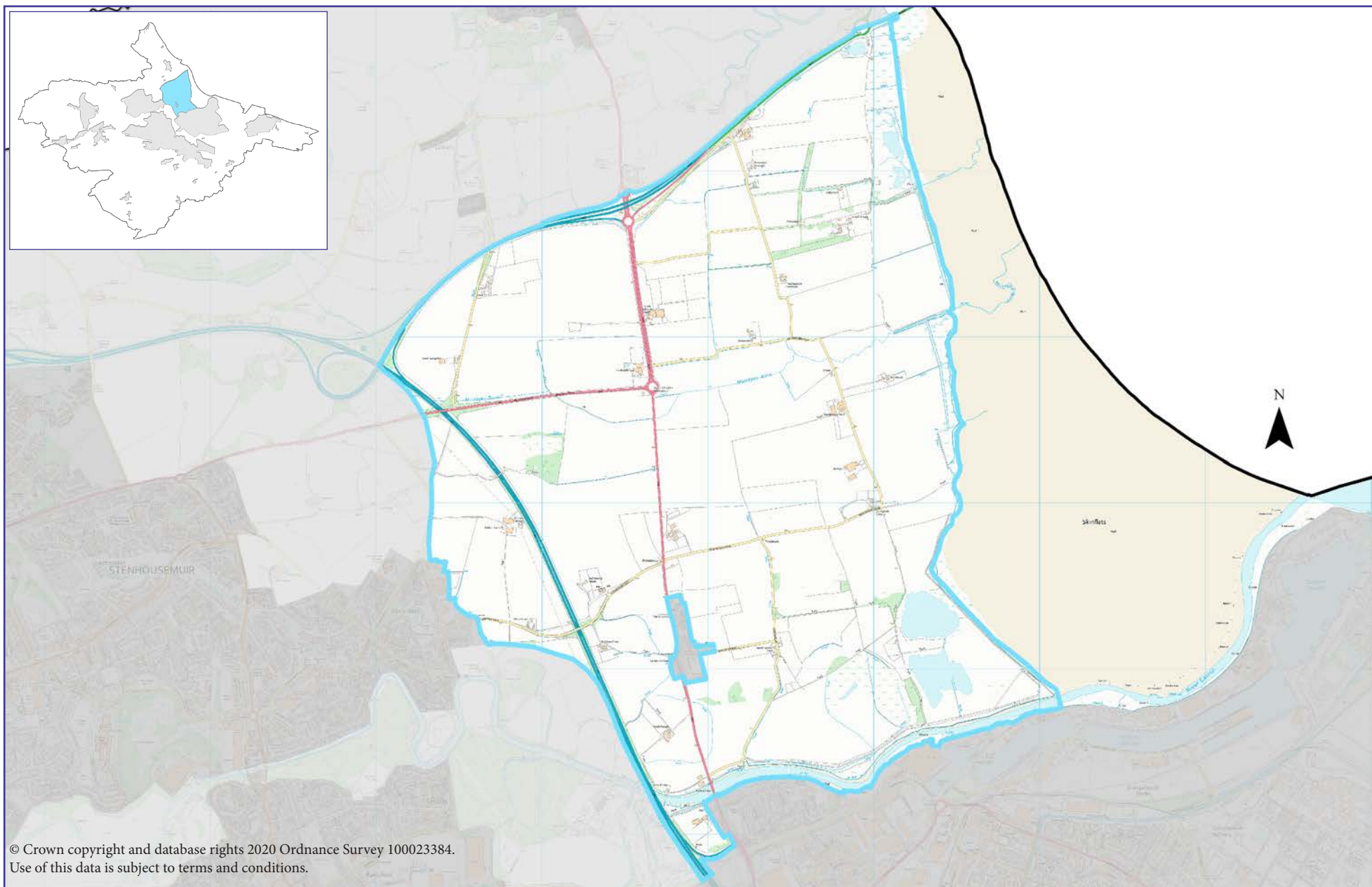
- Encourage expansion of native broadleaf trees and woodland planting at Kinneil and new structure planting on western and southern boundary of character area to improve screening of Grangemouth industrial complex and to enable linkages to other woodland areas for improvement of landscape, biodiversity value, and access routes; this will contribute to Falkirk's green network.
- Encourage management of existing woodland; the remaining areas have an identified sensitivity to loss;
- Ensure any proposals for wind energy development follow the landscape guidance in the Supplementary Guidance 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy';
- Ensure solar energy developments are sensitively sited and landscape and visual impact assessments support proposals;
- Encourage new planting around existing industrial buildings where appropriate; this will contribute to mitigating the visual effects of industry;
- Ensure proposals for all new power lines, pipelines and major industrial development are subject to landscape and visual impact assessment, including investigation of alternative routes or sites and that all developments are well designed and integrated and positively restore the landscape character and features with incorporated mitigating planting;
- Ensure new development within area and on approaches to Bo'ness are of sympathetic design, scale, siting and materials with mitigating structural landscape treatment; the approaches are identified as being sensitive to development;
- Ensure new native species structure/screen planting is undertaken in association with any expansion of Bo'ness and Grangemouth and with other new industrial buildings; landscape sensitivity to expansion of settlements is identified;
- Encourage replacement and management of lost boundary trees, hedgerows and walls along field boundaries and road corridors; these are important landscape elements which are sensitive to loss;
- Ensure compliance with Green Belt Policy (Policy PE15) of Local Development Plan 2 for parts of character area affected.

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Local Landscape Character Area 6(i) Skinflats

3.71



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

3.72 Expansion of Carronshore and Skinflats in long term. Individual rural dwellings. Cumulative effects of householder permitted development. Unauthorised advertising. Land reclaim and coastal realignment/flood projects. Road improvements and associated engineering works and structures with increased signage and lighting creating visual clutter. Pipelines and additional transmission lines. Conversions and additions to steadings. New farm buildings. Coal bed methane extraction and ancillary structures at surface. Loss of trees/tree group cover. New woodland planting. Biomass crops. Loss of hedgerows and hedgerow trees to development and road improvements. Loss of policy woodland around Powfoulis area. Wind energy development and associated infrastructure. Solar energy.

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

3.73 The flat, low lying and generally open character of the area along with limited hedgerow cover allows long views within this landscape character area and across it to higher ground to the north east to the Forth Estuary and Ochils and to the south and west. All development will therefore have the potential to be highly visible over a long distance and interrupt views to the higher ground beyond; the area is therefore particularly sensitive to large or vertical structures (such as telecommunication masts, telegraph poles, large road signs, lighting columns, transmission masts, wind turbines, power lines /pylons, large agricultural/equestrian buildings, industrial buildings), particularly where there is a lack of existing tree screening. The policy woodland, avenues and tree groups around Powfoulis, the old plantations near the coastal lagoons, and a small number of field boundary trees and tree groups provide the only internal screening and contribute to restricting views of the Grangemouth industries, Longannet power station, motorways and the glare from night time illumination of Grangemouth; this tree cover is valuable and highly sensitive to removal or a lack of management. However, the open flat character of the area means that a balance must be maintained between open areas and woodland; therefore, extensive woodland expansion could itself be a landscape sensitivity. The route of the National Cycle Route 76 and core paths are also sensitive visual receptors to development due to the generally open and flat character of the area.



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Guidelines 6(i) Skinflats

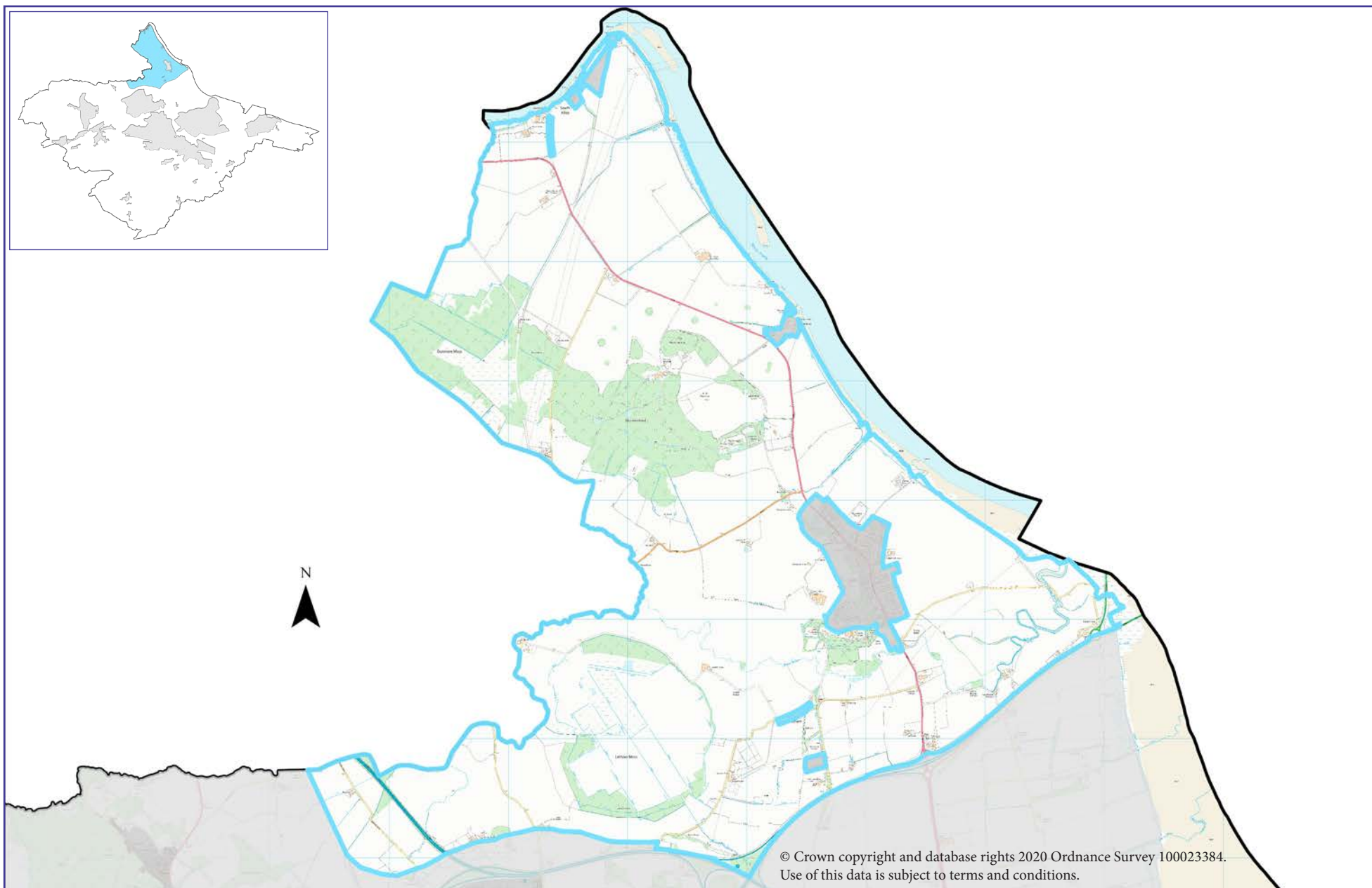
3.74

- Encourage native broadleaf trees and woodland planting in strategic locations in southern part of area to improve screening of Grangemouth complex and to enable linkages to other woodland areas and habitats for improvement of landscape, biodiversity value, and for incorporation of access routes; this will contribute to Falkirk's green network. However, retention of the balance between open ground and woodland and avoidance of blocking of key views are also sensitivities;
- Encourage sound management of woodlands and shelterbelts and ensure they create habitat linkages and meet the UK Forestry Standard Guidelines: Forests and Landscape and good biodiversity practice; woodlands are important landscape elements which are identified as being sensitive to loss through poor management;
- Ensure principles of good landscape design practice are followed for biomass crops;
- Encourage new tree and hedgerow planting on field boundaries and along watercourses; replant where these are removed in Powfoulis area. These are important landscape elements which are sensitive to loss;
- Ensure all new road and other infrastructure proposals and improvements incorporate appropriate replacement tree and hedgerow planting where these features are removed; these features are identified as being sensitive to loss;
- Ensure any proposals for wind energy development follow the landscape guidance in the Supplementary Guidance 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy';
- Ensure solar energy developments are sensitively sited and landscape and visual impact assessments support proposals;
- Ensure coal bed methane extraction points and associated works are appropriately sited, utilising existing landscape features and new planting for screening; where landscape features (trees, hedgerows, stone walls) are removed they must be replaced;
- Ensure all new proposals for high voltage overhead power lines, pipelines, major road improvements, flood prevention projects, major engineering works and all major industrial/commercial developments are subject to LVIA in accordance with good practice guidelines; examine alternative routes/sites and that they maximise opportunities to enhance landscape character.
- Ensure all new development on edge of Carronshore, Grangemouth and Skinflats and steading conversions are of appropriate scale, design, materials and siting and include appropriate structural landscape treatment; edges of settlements are highlighted as sensitive to development;
- Ensure all new agricultural buildings, other large new buildings and structures are sympathetically designed for the landscape setting, are associated with existing building clusters and are orientated to minimise visual effects from key viewpoints; mitigating structure/screen planting must be sensitively incorporated where appropriate;
- New, large buildings or structures in open countryside will not be acceptable; there is a noted high sensitivity to development in open areas and where screen planting itself could also be visually inappropriate;
- Ensure all new developments retain trees, stone walls, hedges and woodlands and replacement is undertaken where removed, in addition to incorporating appropriate new structure/screen planting; in areas where they exist, these features are sensitive to loss;
- Signage, vertical structures and advertising on main transport corridors and minor roads must be kept to a minimum; there is high sensitivity to such features;
- Ensure sustainable management of intertidal mudflats for landscape and biodiversity value and avoid further land claim from the Firth of Forth; these are recognised as an important element of the landscape and are sensitive to loss/change;
- Ensure retention of open agricultural character and views across farmland; this LLCA is sensitive to change from inappropriate development or inappropriate locating of woodland planting;
- Ensure compliance with Green Belt Policy (Policy PE15) of Local Development Plan 2.

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Local Landscape Character Area 6(ii) Carse of Forth

3.75



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

- 3.76 Long term expansion of Airth and Letham. New roads/road improvements with increased signage and lighting. New agricultural buildings. Conversions and extensions of farm steadings for residential/commercial use. Rural dwellings. Additional transmission lines. New mineral workings. Coal bed methane extraction and ancillary structures at surface. Surface coal mining. New/extended waste water treatment works. Loss of hedgerows and hedgerow trees to development and road improvements. Loss of woodland/policy woodland due to lack of management/development (and permitted development) pressure. New woodland. Biomass crops. Wind energy development and associated infrastructure. Solar energy. Railway improvements with introduction of overhead line equipment and associated structures.

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

- 3.77 The flat, low lying and generally open character of the area along with limited hedgerow cover allows long views within this landscape character area and across it to higher ground across the Forth estuary to the Ochils to the north and east and to the south and west. Large or vertical structures (such as telecommunication masts, telegraph poles, large road signs, lighting columns, transmission masts, wind turbines, power lines/pylons, large agricultural/equestrian buildings, industrial buildings) will be particularly sensitive in the area, since they will be highly visible over a long distance and may interrupt long views to the higher ground beyond. In the southern part of this area, there is a particular sensitivity to development of new agricultural buildings/equestrian centres and farm building conversions into residential or business uses. Policy woodland and tree groups around Dunmore and Airth Castle plus the woodland around Dunmore Moss and Letham Moss provide some screening and containment of views within the area and this woodland is sensitive to loss. Dunmore Estate and the Pineapple are listed in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland and there is sensitivity to development that would adversely affect the environs and approaches to these sites and views from them. The tree cover in this character area is valuable and highly sensitive to removal or a lack of management due to its value for screening of existing and future development and framing of views. The open flat character of the eastern part of the area means that a balance must be maintained between open areas and woodland; inappropriate extensive woodland expansion could itself be a landscape sensitivity. The effects of future development on views from the National Cycle Route 76 and from coastal paths are also a sensitivity.



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Guidelines 6(ii) Carse of Forth

3.78

- Encourage sound management of woodlands and shelterbelts and ensure they create linkages between habitats, provide path routes and meet the UK Forestry Standard Guidelines: Forests and Landscape and meet good biodiversity practice; ensure the principles of good landscape design are followed for biomass crops. This LLCA is sensitive to woodland loss in its eastern area;
- Encourage expansion of well designed native broadleaf woodland along field boundaries and watercourses to create a woodland framework to Airth and the M876 corridor; this will provide landscape enhancement, allow integration of path routes and provision of strong linkages to other habitats, contributing to Falkirk's green network. Retention of the balance between open ground and woodland and avoidance of blocking of key views are important considerations;
- Ensure new road and other infrastructure proposals and improvements incorporate appropriate replacement tree and hedgerow planting where these features are removed; these features are important landscape elements which are sensitive to loss;
- Ensure any proposals for wind energy development follow the landscape guidance in the Supplementary Guidance 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy';
- Ensure solar energy developments are sensitively sited and landscape and visual impact assessments support proposals;
- Ensure any proposals for surface coal mining, quarries and quarry extensions are subject to a full landscape and visual assessment. Landscape mitigation must be undertaken during the works and full landscape reinstatement undertaken following extraction; reinstatement must be undertaken to match the existing natural landform and gradients of the locality and must incorporate appropriate boundary treatments, landscape features, native woodland planting, appropriate habitat creation and habitat linkages to the surrounding area. Ensure long term maintenance and management following initial restoration through planning conditions or agreements;
- Ensure coal bed methane extraction points and associated works are appropriately sited, utilising existing landscape features and new planting for screening. Where landscape elements (trees, hedgerows, stone walls) are removed they must be replaced; these are sensitive to loss;
- Encourage restoration of remaining areas of former mineral extraction;
- Ensure new proposals for high voltage overhead power lines, pipelines, major road improvements, flood prevention projects, all major engineering works and major industrial/commercial developments are subject to LVIA in accordance with good practice guidelines; examine alternative routes/sites and ensure that they maximise opportunities to enhance landscaper character. The LLCA has an identified sensitivity to such development;
- New buildings and structures in open countryside outside villages or existing building groups where no woodland cover exists will not be acceptable due to the high potential for visual intrusion. There is an identified sensitivity in this LLCA to such development;
- Ensure areas of settlement expansion, new dwellings, new agricultural buildings, other new large buildings and structures are sympathetically designed for the landscape setting, are associated with existing building clusters and are orientated to minimise visual effects; incorporate mitigating screen planting where appropriate;
- Ensure new development and steading conversions are of appropriate scale, design, material and siting along with appropriate structural landscape treatment where appropriate;
- Ensure new developments retain trees, stone walls, hedges and woodlands and that these elements are replaced where removed, in addition to incorporating appropriate sensitively designed new structure / screen planting; these landscape elements are sensitive to loss;
- Encourage sensitively designed new planting around existing housing and industrial buildings where appropriate;
- Avoid excessive signage, vertical structures and advertising on main transport corridors and minor roads; a high sensitivity to these features is identified;
- Ensure retention of overall open agricultural character and views across farmland; this is an important aspect of the local character and is sensitive to loss;
- Encourage new tree planting and hedgerow reinstatement on field boundaries and along watercourses where these have been lost; these are important landscape elements which are identified as being sensitive to loss;
- Ensure appropriate detailed restoration proposals are developed from peat extraction areas.

4. Local Landscape Designations: Local Landscape Areas (LLAs)

Introduction

4.1 **Local Landscape Areas (LLAs)** are locally valued special landscapes with particular qualities and characteristics relative to the surrounding area that merit designation by the local authority. Local authorities in Scotland have historically adopted different names for their local landscape designations; the term 'Area of Great Landscape Value' (AGLV) and subsequently 'Local Landscape Areas' has been historically used for these designations in Falkirk. However, the Scottish Government and NatureScot are encouraging a standardisation for the name of local landscape designations to avoid confusion. The term 'Local Landscape Areas' is now being used. There are three long standing Local Landscape Areas in Falkirk Council area:

- Denny Hills Local Landscape Area;
- Slamannan Plateau/Avon Valley Local Landscape Area;
- South Bo'ness Local Landscape Area.

The beginning of Section 3 of this Supplementary Guidance explains the relationship between Local Landscape Areas and Local Landscape Character Areas.

4.2 A 'Statement of Importance' for each LLA has been developed in accordance with SNH's 'Guidance on Local Landscape Designations' and is provided in Appendix 2. The 'Statement of Importance' provides an overview of the designated area, describes the key landscape characteristics along with information on other natural heritage, cultural heritage and recreational interests; it also defines the boundary of the designation and details the designation's special qualities.

4. Local Landscape Designations: Local Landscape Areas (LLAs)

Structure of Information on Local Landscape Areas

- 4.3 The structure of information for each Local Landscape Area in this section is set out as follows :

1. A map showing the location and boundaries of the Local Landscape Area. Boundaries remain the same as the originally designated AGLVs for the Falkirk Council area and these are defined by visual envelopes, topography and landscape features which encompass an area of high local landscape merit. The boundaries are generally more clearly defined on the ground than the gradual transitional boundaries of Local Landscape Character Areas.

2. Likely future forces for change. These are the predicted types of future development and land management which may impact on the quality and local importance of the designated landscape. Forces for change are based on current local knowledge, recent planning applications and known national factors that could influence landscape change. The likely future forces for change listed are not exhaustive.

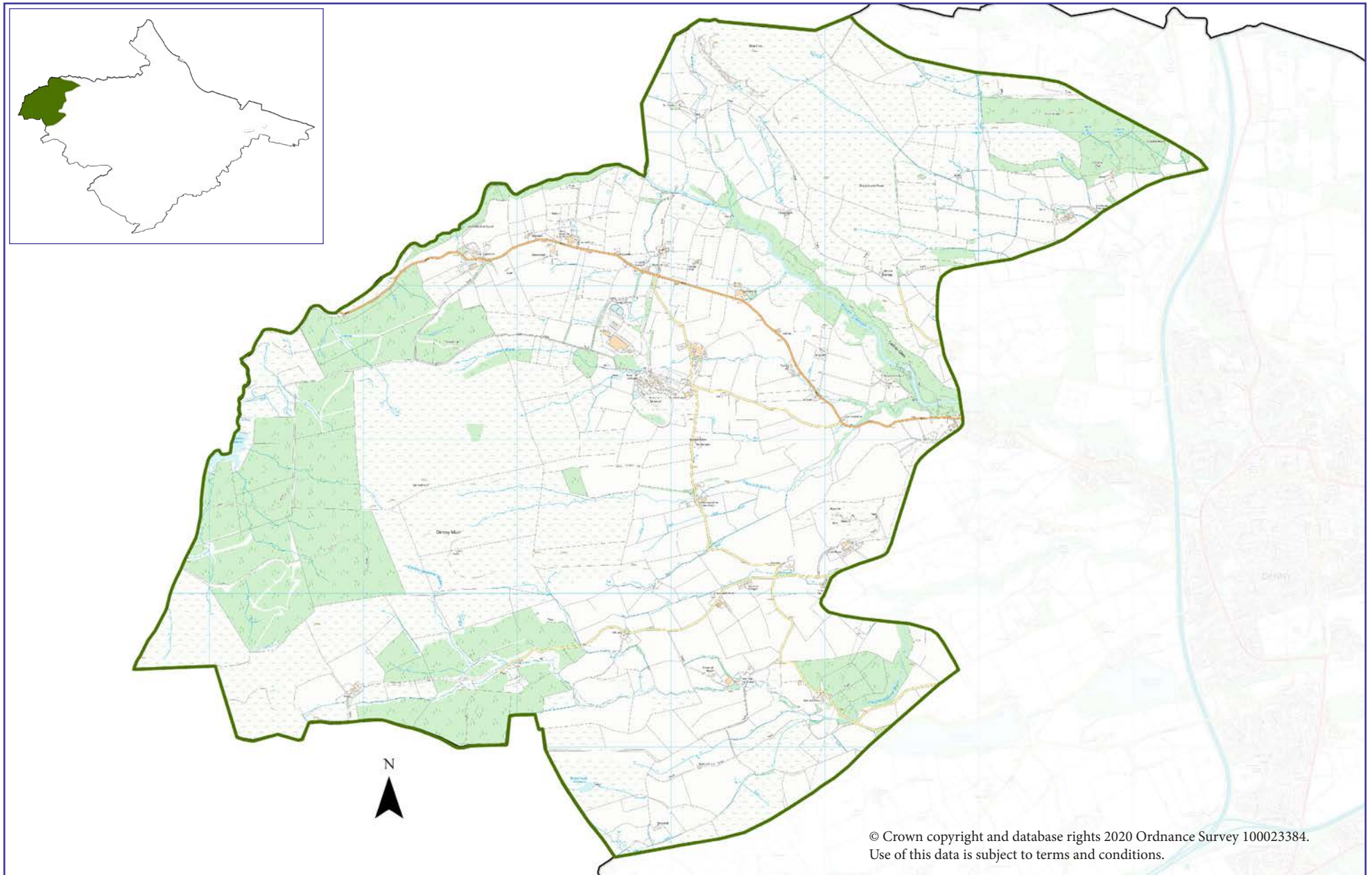
3. Sensitivities within Local Landscape Area. These are based on specific features and characteristics of the LLA identified in the statements of importance and from fieldwork.

4. Guidelines. These relate to steering new development, permitted development and land management practices to ensure landscape quality is protected; they also highlight opportunities for enhancement of the LLA designation through land management operations. The guidelines are divided into different categories of development and land management. Although the guidelines for each Local Landscape Area have been determined separately on the basis of the relevant sensitivities and forces for change specific to the LLA they have also been informed by the LLCA guidelines. LLA guidelines are frequently similar to guidelines of the component Local Landscape Character Areas that fall within the boundary of the LLA (see beginning of Section 3 for guideline terminology).

4. Local Landscape Designations: Local Landscape Areas (LLAs)

Denny Hills Local Landscape Area

4.4



4. Local Landscape Designations: Local Landscape Areas (LLAs)

Likely future forces for change

- 4.5 Wind energy, solar energy and associated infrastructure; telecommunication apparatus; power lines and pipelines; new forestry and felling/restocking of existing woodland; new agricultural buildings and equestrian centre development; conversion of farm steadings; new rural dwellings; road improvements; countryside access, tourism and recreational development; quarry expansion; water treatment works; loss of landscape features such as field boundary trees, hedgerows, stone walls and tree groups.

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Area:

- 4.6
- The Denny Hills, lower slopes and the Carron Valley are highly sensitive to change due to their elevated location and strong rural character with a low level of settlement;
 - Large or tall structures would be highly visible on hills or slopes, may break skylines, and will reduce sense of remoteness, openness and scale; they may also interrupt or block important views;
 - Inappropriate forestry design could reduce scale, openness/wildness, and result in loss of views internally and externally as well as affect biodiversity value;
 - Linear features, such as power lines, pipeline routes, tracks, new fences, forestry edges or other edges associated with differing land management operations can be visually prominent, interrupt important views and reduce sense of remoteness and wildness;
 - Expansion of roads and tracks could compromise sense of remoteness and perception of rural character;
 - Buildings and other structures could be visually prominent due to bulk, inappropriate materials, colour, poor orientation and siting, or poor design; in open locations they can reduce sense of undeveloped character and remoteness and interrupt or block internal and external views;
 - Conversions of existing buildings could be visually prominent due to inappropriate external materials and poor design, reducing sense of remoteness in open locations;
 - Engineering works on open hill sides (for tracks and pipelines) are visually prominent and will take time to recolonise with vegetation due to exposure/conditions;
 - Removal or loss of management of existing landscape features such as trees, woodland cover or boundary hedges and walls can incrementally change the appearance of the landscape over time resulting in an adverse change to the rural character.

4. Local Landscape Designations: Local Landscape Areas (LLAs)

Denny Hills Local Landscape Area: Guidelines for Future Development and Opportunities for Landscape Enhancement

4.7 Forestry and Woodlands

- Improve design of existing forestry plantations at next rotation, particularly at edges, along watercourses and along paths and forest roads;
- New forestry planting, felling and restocking should be in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard Guidelines: Forests and Landscape and in accordance with good biodiversity practice;
- Expand and reinstate native broadleaf trees and woodland along watercourses, lower hill slopes and in valleys to provide habitat linkages with existing woodland and to reinforce the landscape framework;
- Manage existing native broadleaf trees and woodlands and continue sensitive management of existing semi-native woodland along Carron Glen.

Roads, Agricultural Tracks, Fields Boundaries, Pipeline Routes and Boundary Features

- Retain and maintain stone walls, hedges and hedgerow trees throughout area and encourage reinstatement where these features have to be removed;
- All road and infrastructure improvement works, new pipeline routes, new tracks and new access points to public roads should involve reinstatement of stone walls, hedgerows and hedgerow trees where these features are removed;
- Road improvements, new agricultural tracks and associated structures and earthworks should be sensitively designed and located to minimise landscape and visual effects.

Telecommunication/Transmission Apparatus

- Apparatus must be avoided on prominent ridges or hill tops; elsewhere ensure locations are only acceptable where scale and design relates well to the existing landscape and where some partial screening can be achieved by landform and woodland.

Wind Energy and Other Renewable Energy

- Wind turbines must be avoided on prominent ridges or hill tops; elsewhere these features must only be located where their scale and design relates well to the existing landscape;
- Any proposals for wind energy development must follow the landscape guidance in the Supplementary Guidance 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy';
- Other renewable developments (eg solar) must be sensitively sited and only located where their scale and design relates well to the existing landscape.

Power Lines

- All new power lines and renewal of lines must avoid prominent ridges or hill tops; elsewhere ensure routes are sensitively selected to minimise visual effects.

Agricultural Buildings and Farm Steadings

- Large new agricultural buildings must be sensitively designed and sympathetically sited and orientated to minimise visual effects from public roads, popular walking routes and areas of informal and formal public recreation; incorporate mitigating screen planting where appropriate;
- Undertake native tree and woodland planting around existing large scale agricultural buildings and new buildings where these are visually prominent features;
- Steading conversions and associated new buildings, extensions and boundary treatments should be of sympathetic design relative to the surrounding rural setting.

4. Local Landscape Designations: Local Landscape Areas (LLAs)

Industrial Buildings and Infrastructure Apparatus

- Sensitive design, sympathetic siting and orientation of new rural infrastructure apparatus and structures plus other new rural industrial buildings should be undertaken; mitigating native species screen planting should be incorporated into the design where necessary;
- New tree planting around existing infrastructure apparatus and structures (eg pumping stations/sub stations) and existing rural industrial buildings (eg. water treatment works/workshops) should be undertaken where appropriate.

Housing and Settlement Expansion

- New, sympathetically designed, native tree planting around existing new rural dwellings and housing groups is encouraged where appropriate;
- Expansion of settlements must not encroach above the existing building line on lower hill sides;
- Native species screen and structure planting must be undertaken in association with any future expansion of settlements (Fankerton/Stoneywood) and other new housing.

Boundary Treatments

- All boundary walls, fences, gates and planting treatment on all new development (including steading conversions) should be of sympathetic design to the rural setting of the area.

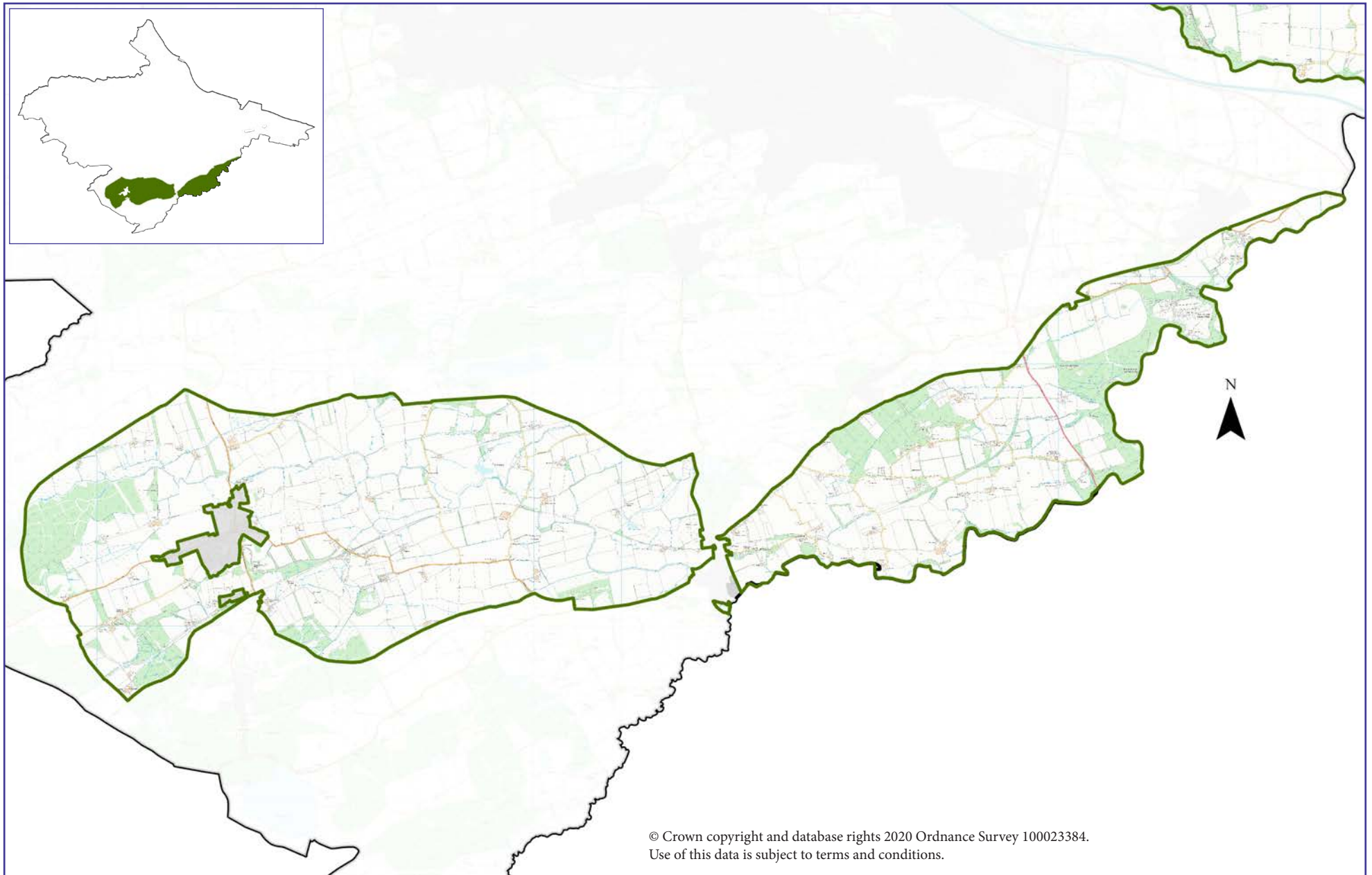
General Development Mitigation in the Countryside

- All development, including expansion of settlements and associated infrastructure, must be well designed and integrated into the setting, positively restore the landscape character and local features, and incorporate native tree and woodland structure and screen planting;
- Proposals for all major developments (including new quarries and quarry extensions, power lines) must be subject to Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) including investigation of alternative sites and routes; ensure assessment is in accordance with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment - Third Edition (produced by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment);
- Avoid any development that is not of sympathetic design to the small scale intimate character of the Carron Valley;
- Ensure compliance with Development Plan Policy PE19 relating to Local Wildlife Sites and the Sites of Special Scientific interest at Denny Muir and Carron Glen, within the Special Landscape Area.

4. Local Landscape Designations: Local Landscape Areas (LLAs)

Slamannan Plateau/Avon Valley Local Landscape Area

4.8



4. Local Landscape Designations: Local Landscape Areas (LLAs)

Likely future forces for change

- 4.9 Expansion of Slamannan and Avonbridge in the long term; wind energy, solar energy and associated infrastructure; overhead power lines; telecommunication apparatus; new large scale agricultural buildings; conversion of farm steadings to business and residential/industrial use; single rural dwellings; tourism development/outdoor recreation facilities; road and other infrastructure improvements resulting in loss of hedges, trees/tree groups and stone walls; general loss of field boundary trees, hedgerows and stone walls through agricultural practices; decline of smaller mixed woodland and shelterbelts due to lack of management; expansion of commercial forestry and new small woodland planting; biomass crops; reversion of some areas of improved pasture to unimproved pasture.

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Area:

- 4.10
- The land around the upper and middle sections of the Avon Valley is sensitive to change due to the potential for loss of the varied land cover and enclosure pattern and in particular the loss of woodland cover and other landscape features;
 - Large or tall structures could be distinctly visible on ridges, slopes, or in open areas without tree cover; these may break skylines, and will reduce sense of scale as well as interrupt or block important views. They may also result in the loss of woodland cover;
 - Inappropriate large scale forestry planting could reduce scale, lead to an undesirable level of enclosure, and result in loss of views internally and externally as well as affect biodiversity value;
 - Linear features, such as power lines, pipeline routes, tracks, new fences, can be visually prominent on ridges or higher ground, and could result in partial loss of the characteristic hedgerow/varied woodland cover of the area and may interrupt important views;
 - Other engineering works (for road improvements and other structures) can also be visually prominent; disturbed ground will take time to re-vegetate as well as boundary features and woodland cover being lost, compromising the perception of the rural character;
 - Buildings and other large structures may be visually prominent due to bulk, inappropriate materials, colour, poor orientation and siting, or poor design; in open locations they can reduce sense of undeveloped rural character and interrupt or block internal and external views; in some areas they could result in the loss of characteristic woodland cover or historic policy woodland planting;
 - Conversions of existing buildings could be visually prominent due to inappropriate external materials and poor design, reducing the sense of a rural location in open areas;
 - Removal or loss of management of existing landscape features such as trees, woodland cover or boundary hedges and walls can incrementally change the appearance of the landscape over time resulting in an adverse change to the rural character of the area.

4. Local Landscape Designations: Local Landscape Areas (LLAs)

Slamannan Plateau/Avon Valley Local Landscape Area: Guidelines for Future Development and Opportunities for Landscape Enhancement

4.11 Forestry and Woodlands

- Improve design of existing forestry plantations at next rotation, particularly at edges, along watercourses and along paths and forest roads;
- New forestry planting, restocking/felling and biomass crops must be in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard Guidelines: Forests and Landscape and in accordance with good biodiversity practice;
- Undertake further enhancement of native woodland character through planting of appropriate woodland types and sensitive management of existing depleted woodland; encourage creation of strong habitat network linkages between other woodlands, hedges and watercourses for biodiversity enhancement and to reinforce the landscape framework.

Roads, Agricultural Tracks, Fields Boundaries, Pipeline Routes and Boundary Features

- Retain and maintain stone walls, hedges and hedgerow trees throughout area and encourage reinstatement where these features have to be removed;
- All road and infrastructure improvement works, new pipeline routes, new tracks and new access points to public roads should reinstate stone walls, hedgerows and hedgerow trees where these features are removed;
- All road improvements, new agricultural tracks and associated structures and earthworks must be sensitively designed and located to minimise landscape and visual effects.

Former Opencast/Mineral Working Sites and Derelict Land

- Undertake further restoration work on former opencast and mineral working sites where the planning authority has identified a poor level of original restoration or a failure of vegetation establishment;
- Re-use and restore unused and derelict land on the edges of settlements and elsewhere.

Telecommunication/Transmission Apparatus

- Telecommunication apparatus must be avoided on prominent ridges or hill tops and further apparatus must be concentrated at sites with existing installations or where masts can be shared; elsewhere ensure locations are only where scale and design relates well to the existing landscape and some screening can be achieved by landform and woodland.

Wind Energy and Other Renewable Energy

- Wind turbines must be avoided on prominent ridges or hill tops; elsewhere these features must only be located where their scale and design relates well to the existing landscape;
- Any proposals for wind energy development must follow the landscape guidance in the Supplementary Guidance 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy';
- Other renewable developments (eg solar) must be sensitively sited and only located where their scale and design relates well to the existing landscape.

Power Lines

- All new power lines and renewal of existing routes must avoid prominent ridges or hill tops; elsewhere ensure routes are sensitively selected to minimise visual effects.

4. Local Landscape Designations: Local Landscape Areas (LLAs)

Agricultural Buildings and Farm Steadings

- Large new agricultural and equestrian centre buildings should be appropriately designed and sympathetically sited and orientated to minimise visual effects from public roads, popular walking routes and areas of informal and formal public recreation; incorporate mitigating screen planting where appropriate;
- Native tree and woodland planting must be encouraged around existing large scale new agricultural buildings where these are visually prominent features;
- Steading conversions and associated new buildings, extensions and boundary treatments must be of sympathetic design to the surrounding rural setting;
- Encourage removal of non-traditional farm buildings that are unused/dilapidated.

Industrial Buildings and Infrastructure Apparatus

- Sensitive design and sympathetic siting and orientation of new rural infrastructure apparatus and structures and other new rural industrial buildings must be undertaken and mitigating native species screen planting incorporated into the design;
- Native species screen tree planting should be undertaken around existing infrastructure apparatus, structures and existing rural industrial buildings where appropriate.

Housing and Settlement Expansion

- Undertake new, sensitively designed native tree planting around existing new rural dwellings and housing groups where appropriate;
- Undertake new native species screen and structure planting in association with any expansion of the settlements of Slamannan and Avonbridge (on the boundary of the designated area) and with other new housing.

Boundary Treatments

- All boundary walls, fences, gates and planting treatment on all new development (including steading conversions) must be of sympathetic design to the rural setting of the area.

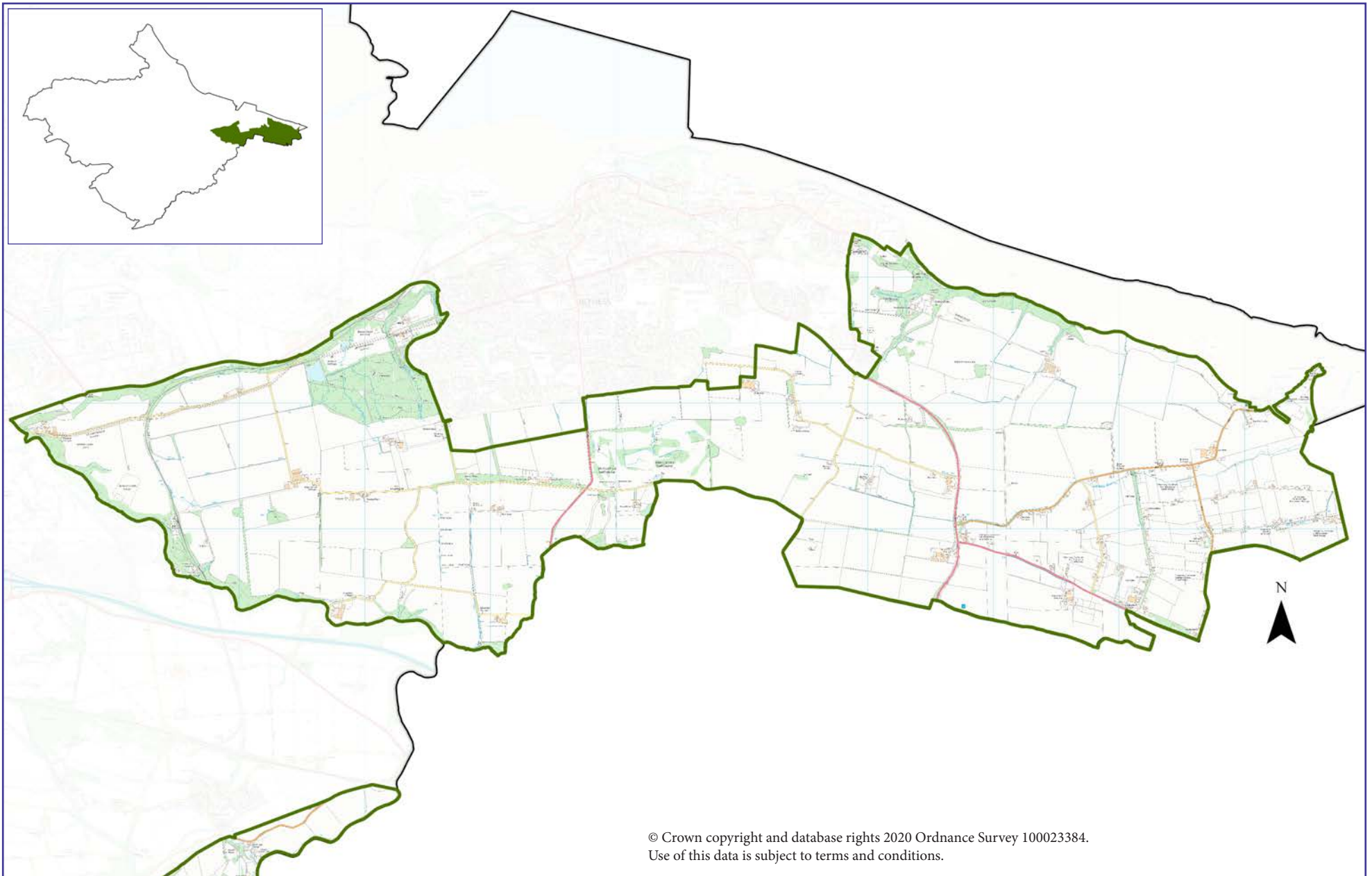
General Development Mitigation in the Countryside

- All development, including expansion of settlements at the outer edges of the LLA and associated infrastructure, must be well designed and integrated and positively restore the landscape character and local features; it must incorporate native tree and woodland structure and screen planting;
- Avoid any development that is not sympathetic to the small scale intimate character of the Avon Valley;
- Proposals for all major developments (including new quarries, quarry extensions, power lines) must be subject to Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) including investigation of alternative sites and routes; ensure assessment is in accordance with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment - Third Edition (produced by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment);
- Ensure compliance with Development Plan Policy PE19 relating to Local Wildlife Sites and specifically the need to protect the Bean Geese wintering area within the LLA.

4. Local Landscape Designations: Local Landscape Areas (LLAs)

South Bo'ness Local Landscape Area

4.12



4. Local Landscape Designations: Local Landscape Areas (LLAs)

Likely future forces for change

4.13 Expansion of Bo'ness in long term; conversion of farm steadings to residential/business use and farm diversification; new agricultural buildings and livery stables; horticultural buildings/polytunnels; single rural dwellings and extensions to dwellings; loss of field boundary trees, hedgerows and stone walls; loss of mature trees; road improvements resulting in tree/hedgerow loss and loss of rural character; poor woodland management; new woodland planting; biomass crops; expansion, extensions, conversions and commercial development in Cauldcoats Holdings area; telecommunication structures; small scale wind energy development; solar energy development.

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Area:

- 4.14
- The area is sensitive to change due to its elevated position causing certain development and land management practices to be highly visible at close range from settlements;
 - The potential loss of the varied land cover, enclosure pattern, trees, woodland cover and other landscape features would be very prominent at close range from settlements and rural recreation participants;
 - Large or tall structures could be distinctly visible on ridges, slopes, or in open areas without tree cover; these may also break skylines, and will reduce the sense of scale as well as interrupt or block important views. They could also result in the loss of woodland cover;
 - Inappropriate woodland planting could lead to an undesirable level of enclosure, and result in a loss of views internally and externally as well as impact on biodiversity value;
 - Linear features, such as power lines, pipeline routes, tracks, new fences, can be particularly visually prominent on ridges or higher ground, and could result in partial loss of the characteristic hedgerow and varied woodland cover of the area, as well as interrupting important views;
 - Other engineering works (for road improvements and other structures) can also be visually prominent, resulting in loss of boundary features and woodland cover which can compromise the perception of the rural character;
 - Conversions of existing buildings could be visually prominent due to inappropriate external materials and poor design, reducing the sense of rural location in open areas;
 - Removal or loss of management of existing landscape features such as trees, woodland cover or boundary hedges and walls can incrementally change the appearance of the landscape over time, resulting in an adverse change to the rural character of the area.

4. Local Landscape Designations: Local Landscape Areas (LLAs)

South Bo'ness Local Landscape Area: Guidelines for Future Development and Opportunities for Landscape Enhancement

4.15 Forestry and Woodlands

- Encourage new woodland planting in appropriate locations; in particular, new planting in the western part of the Local Landscape Area should be encouraged to improve screening of the Grangemouth complex, as well as enhancing the woodland framework around Bo'ness and creating strong habitat linkages between other woodlands, hedgerows and watercourses
- New small scale native species woodland planting should be encouraged in appropriate locations elsewhere to provide linkages between other woodlands, hedgerows, watercourses and other habitats;
- Any new forestry planting and biomass crops should be in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard Guidelines: Forests and Landscape and in accordance with good biodiversity practice;
- Encourage sensitive management of existing native broadleaf trees, woodlands and shelterbelts.

Roads, Agricultural Tracks, Fields Boundaries, Pipeline Routes and Boundary Features

- Retain and maintain stone walls, hedges and hedgerow trees throughout area and encourage reinstatement where these features have to be removed;
- All road and infrastructure improvement works, new pipeline routes, new tracks and new access points to public roads must reinstate stone walls, hedgerows and hedgerow trees where these features are removed;
- All road improvements, new agricultural tracks and associated structures and earthworks must be sensitively designed and located to minimise landscape and visual effects.

Former Opencast/Mineral Working Sites and Derelict Land

- Undertake further restoration work on former opencast and mineral working sites where the planning authority has identified a poor level of original restoration or a failure of vegetation establishment;
- Re-use and restore unused and derelict land on the edges of settlements and elsewhere.

Telecommunication/Transmission Apparatus

- All telecommunication apparatus must be avoided on prominent ridges or hill tops; elsewhere ensure location is only where scale and design relates well to the existing landscape and where screening can be achieved by landform and woodland.

Wind Energy and Other Renewable Energy

- Wind turbines on prominent ridges or hill tops must be avoided; elsewhere ensure these features are only located where their scale and design relates well to the existing landscape;
- Proposals for wind energy development must follow the landscape guidance in the Supplementary Guidance 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy';
- Other renewable developments (eg solar) must be sensitively sited and only located where their scale and design relates well to the existing landscape.

Power Lines

- New power lines and renewal of lines must be avoided on prominent ridges or hill tops; elsewhere ensure sensitive routes are selected to minimise visual effects.

4. Local Landscape Designations: Local Landscape Areas (LLAs)

Agricultural Buildings and Farm Steadings

- Large new agricultural buildings must be sensitively designed and sympathetically sited and orientated to minimise visual effects from public roads, popular walking routes and areas of informal and formal public recreation; incorporate mitigating screen planting where appropriate;
- Encourage native tree and woodland planting around existing large scale new agricultural buildings where these are visually prominent features;
- Steading conversions and associated new buildings, extensions and boundary treatments must be of sympathetic design to the surrounding rural setting;
- New and replacement buildings within Cauldcoats Holdings and Mannerston Holdings must be sympathetic design, scale, siting and materials.

Industrial Buildings and Infrastructure Apparatus

- Ensure appropriate design, siting, orientation and materials of new rural infrastructure apparatus and structures and other new rural industrial buildings within the area and on the edge of Bo'ness; ensure that mitigating native species screen planting is incorporated into the design;
- New tree planting around existing infrastructure apparatus and structures and existing rural industrial buildings should be encouraged.

Housing and Settlement Expansion

- New, sensitively designed, native tree planting around existing new rural dwellings and housing groups should be encouraged where appropriate;
- Ensure single new, rural dwellings are of appropriate design, scale and materials and that appropriate mitigating planting is undertaken where dwellings are in visually prominent locations;
- Housing expansion on the rural edge of Bo'ness and Muirhouses and within Blackness must be of sympathetic design, scale, siting, and materials.
- Ensure native broadleaf species screen and structure planting is undertaken in association with new housing expansion on the border of Bo'ness and the LLA.

Boundary Treatments

- Boundary walls, fences, gates and planting treatment on all new development (including steading conversions) must be of sympathetic design to the rural setting of the area.

General Development Mitigation in the Countryside

- All development, including expansion of settlements and associated infrastructure, must be well designed and integrated into the setting, positively restore the landscape character and local features, and incorporate native tree and woodland structure and screen planting;
- Proposals for all major developments (including new quarries, quarry extensions, power lines) must be subject to Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) including investigation of alternative sites and routes; ensure assessment is in accordance with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment - Third Edition (produced by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment);
- Ensure compliance with Green Belt Policy (Policy PE15) of Local Development Plan for parts of LLA that fall within this designation;
- Ensure compliance with the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site (Policy PE05) of Local Development Plan and the associated Supplementary Guidance, for parts of LLA that fall within the buffer zone;
- Ensure compliance with Development Plan Policy PE19 relating to Kinneil Local Wildlife Site, Muirhouses Local Wildlife Site, the Forth Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest and the Forth Special Protection Area.

5. National and Local Designed Landscapes

National Designed Landscapes: Inventory Sites

- 5.1 The 'Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland' is a list of nationally important designed landscapes that meet certain criteria published in the Scottish Historic Environment Policy. Historic Environment Scotland has a statutory duty under the Historic Environment Amendment Act 2011 to compile and maintain the Inventory on behalf of Scottish Ministers. The Inventory was first compiled in 1987, with supplementary regional editions published in 2001-2005. Information in the inventory raises the awareness of each site's significance and assists in their protection and management for the future. The inventory is a major resource for enhancing the appreciation and enjoyment of gardens and designed landscapes, for promoting education and for stimulating further research. The Inventory provides details of the garden or designed landscape, including location, setting, historical context, different components and detailed maps. A detailed indication of each site's significance measured against the criteria for determining national importance is also given. The online Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland is now the legal inventory and it supersedes the original published volumes that covered all the inventory sites in Scotland. This online national inventory includes three sites in the Falkirk Council area:
- Dunmore Park - near Airth;
 - The Pineapple - a site within the wider Dunmore estate, near Airth;
 - Callendar Park - surrounding Callendar House in Falkirk.
- 5.2 Planning authorities are required to consult Historic Environment Scotland on development proposals that they consider may affect an Inventory Garden or Designed Landscape. Historic Environment Scotland provides advice and support in aid of the protection, management, and interpretation of gardens and designed landscapes, including the development of a grant scheme to support the planning and management of gardens and designed landscapes. These sites are covered by **Falkirk LDP2 Policy PE10: Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes** (see Local Policy section in Section 2 this document).

5. National and Local Designed Landscapes

Other Designed Landscape in Falkirk Council Area: Non-Inventory sites

- 5.3 The Falkirk Council area, as with other parts of Scotland, has a number of historic designed gardens and landscapes that do not meet the criteria published by Historic Environment Scotland and are not, therefore, included in the national 'Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland'. These 'Non-Inventory' designed landscapes have often lost many of their original features, have become very fragmented, or may contain only remnant features of the original designed landscape (such as walls, gateways and mature trees). Many of the 'Non-Inventory' designed landscapes and their remnant features remain locally valued and make an important contribution to the local landscape and cultural heritage. The sites include remaining parts of parkland, meadow, woodland, gardens, driveways, paths, walls, water features, gatehouses and often surrounded a mansion house; others were designed specifically as public parks. Many sites with associated houses are privately owned, but some are in public ownership and managed by Falkirk Council and other organisations.
- 5.4 A list of the known non-inventory designed landscapes in the Falkirk area which still have some remnant features of a former designed landscape are listed in Table 1. Sites listed vary in size and have varying levels of intactness and existence of original features (buildings, structures, boundary features, driveways/paths, woodland and planting). It is intended that this list will be updated on an ongoing basis.
- 5.5 More recently, Scotland's Garden and Landscape Heritage (SGLH) set up a two year pilot project (2015-17) involving Falkirk Council called Glorious Gardens. It comprised two phases GG1 and GG2, with the aim of developing a conservation strategy for the valued designed landscapes in the Falkirk Council area which are not listed in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes.. The strategy is designed to provide a framework for a strategic approach to conserving valued designed landscapes, rather than a detailed management plan for the sites which were researched. Alongside the strategy, reports have been prepared for 14 non-inventory sites which are highlighted in Table 1 with an asterisk and can be accessed at: www.sglh.org/conservation

5. National and Local Designed Landscapes

Table 1: Non - Inventory Designed Landscapes and Sites with Remnant Designed Landscape Features within Falkirk Council Area

5.5

Site Name
Airth Castle *
Avondale House
Avonhill
Balquhatstone
Bellsdyke Hospital
Camelon Cemetery*
Candie House
Carriden House*
Carron House*
Carronvale House*
Castlecary
Darroch
Denovan House
Dollar Park/Arnotdale House*
Dunipace House
Glenbervie/Woodside/Torwood Castle*
Glebe Park, Bo'ness
Glenellrig
Haining/Parkhall
Kinnaird House
Kinneil House/Estate
Larbert House*
Lathallan/Laurence Park
Manuel House
Millfield
Muiravonside House*
Parkhill House/Gray-Buchanan Park*
Polmont Park/Polmont Bank
Powfoulis*

Site Name
Quarter House
Royal Scottish National Hospital
South Bantaskine House*
Souththfeld House
Summerford Park / Glenfuir
Vellore
Victoria Park, Bo'ness
Zetland Park, Grangemouth*

*Each report sets out a brief history of each estate including a historical map review, a timeline of key events, a description and photographs of surviving elements, and a summary of significance of the site in a local, regional or national context.

5. National and Local Designed Landscapes

Guidelines applicable to Inventory and all Non- Inventory Designed Landscapes in Falkirk Council Area

- 5.6 To ensure protection of the three national 'Inventory' designed landscapes and all the local 'Non-Inventory' designed landscapes in the Falkirk Council area, generic guidelines are provided below. Guidelines are intended to help conserve original features and ensure development and land management practices do not have an adverse effect on the character and setting of these sites and their remaining features. More detailed guidance may be developed following a future detailed assessment of the 'Non-Inventory' sites:

General

- All development and land management operations within the boundary of an original designed landscape, on its approaches, in its environs, or adjacent to the remnant designed landscape features must:
 - Avoid an adverse effect on the character and setting of the designed landscape or its remnant features;
 - Seek to protect and retain the original remaining features of the designed landscape (buildings, structures, earthworks, art works, walls, walled gardens, gate lodges, paths, steps, boundary treatments, gates, driveways, water features, trees, policy woodland, hedgerows and planting areas);
 - Take account of key vistas in the original design (where these remain), including the visual envelope of views to and from the designed landscape;
 - Be informed by physical evidence on site and documentary evidence (such as old maps, estate records) of the original designed landscape);
 - Demonstrate how the design of any development will be effectively integrated with the designed landscape or remnant designed landscape features.

Site Survey, Supporting Assessment for Proposed New Development and Management Plans

- Prior to design for any development, a detailed survey and assessment of the site must be undertaken with respect to all existing original designed landscape features and the original layout should be determined from old ordnance survey maps;
- Development proposals within a non- inventory designed landscape must be supported by an assessment (depending on the scale of the designed landscape, remaining features and development type) detailing the ways in which the character and setting of the original designed landscape will be protected without adverse effect;
- A supporting management plan or management statement (depending on the scale of the designed landscape, remaining features and development type) may be necessary to detail the long term management of the remaining features of the designed landscape and how these features will be protected, managed and maintained in conjunction with new development.

Existing Trees, Woodlands, Hedgerows and Shrub Planting

- Where any development is proposed and tree cover exists on the site, a survey of all trees likely to be affected by any development, including those adjacent to the boundary, must be undertaken in accordance with BS5837:2012 and the Council's Supplementary Guidance SG10 'Trees and Development'; all other areas of designed planting must be mapped, including shrub areas and hedges. As with all developments affecting trees, a tree constraints plan and tree protection plan will be required;
- Where there are extensive areas of existing parkland trees, policy woodland, other woodland, hedgerows and other planting, a long term management plan should be compiled; this must be based on a detailed woodland survey and should detail ongoing maintenance for safety, felling, thinning and replacement planting.

5. National and Local Designed Landscapes

Protection and Maintenance of Original Designed Landscape Features

- Removal of the original designed landscape layout and its features must be avoided (structures, buildings, walls, walled gardens, gate lodges, fences, gates, art works, steps, driveways, earthworks, water features, remaining tree/policy woodland, hedgerows and shrub planting); where removal is unavoidable on safety grounds, a level of reinstatement of landscape elements will be required;
- Seek to use and maintain local materials and building style traditions in repairs to the original designed landscape features (structures, walls, gates, fences);
- Where parkland trees, policy woodland, hedgerows or planting areas have been removed in the past, or where some removal is essential for safety management, replacement planting should be of a similar species, density and layout to the original planting of the designed landscape.

Design of New Development

- Where there is no adverse effect on the character and setting of the original designed landscape or its remaining features, any new development must be sensitively integrated into the designed landscape layout;
- The design and layout of new development must be in keeping with the original landscape design and setting of the remaining designed landscape features;
- Materials used for all new buildings, structures, hard landscaping, and boundary treatments should be similar to or match the original remaining features;
- Lowering and removing original boundary walls, railings and gate widening for new access points must be avoided (these are frequently the only remaining features on some sites); alternatives for access should be investigated.

Effects of Land Management on Designed Landscapes: (Agriculture and Forestry)

- Encourage protection of historic designed landscape features from farm machinery movements, stock damage and general damage from agricultural and forestry operations (for example, original walls, walled gardens, gate houses, gates, railings, earthworks, ha-has, water features, structures, steps, paths, driveways, mature parkland trees, policy woodland, hedgerows);
- Avoid large scale tree planting and planting of biomass crops over original gardens, parkland and fields which form the original designed landscape layout; avoid timber extraction over original hard landscape features.

Appendix 1 - Landscape Character Type (LCT) and Local Landscape Character Area (LLCA) Descriptions

Background

- 6.1 In 2019 NatureScot produced a single national dataset in a digital version identifying Landscape Character Types (LCT's) in Scotland. These are areas of consistent and recognisable landscape character. This new dataset builds on rather than replaces the original landscape character assessments prepared in the 1990's, as much of the information including boundaries and descriptions remains valid. NatureScot's online portal can be accessed at:

<https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/landscape/landscape-character-assessment/scottish-landscape-character-types-map-and-descriptions>

Within this national framework, the key characteristics of LLCA's in Falkirk are based on a Landscape Capacity Study prepared in 2012 for the 'Spatial Framework and Guidance for Wind Energy Developments'. This information is provided below and gives more locally specific detailed assessment of landscape sensitivities, providing the detailed background information for planning applications in Falkirk.

Refer to **Figure 1** for the overall location of LCTs and LLCAs and the detailed location maps with the guidelines in **Section 3**.

Landscape Character Type 1: Lowland Hills	Local Landscape Character Area 1(i) Kilsyth/Denny Hills
Landscape Character Type 2: Lowland Hill Fringes	Local Landscape Character Area 2(i) Denny Hills Fringe Local Landscape Character Area 2(ii) Touch Hills Fringe
Landscape Character Type 3: Lowland Plateau	Local Landscape Character Area 3(i) Slamannan Plateau Local Landscape Character Area 3(ii) Darnrig/Gardrum Plateau Moorland Local Landscape Character Area 3(iii) Castlecary/Shieldhill Plateau Farmland
Landscape Character Type 4: Lowland River Valleys	Local Landscape Character Area 4(i) Avon Valley Local Landscape Character Area 4(ii) Carron Glen Local Landscape Character Area 4(iii) Bonny Water Local Landscape Character Area 4(iv) Lower Carron/Bonny Water Local Landscape Character Area 4(v) Falkirk - Grangemouth Urban Fringe
Landscape Character Type 5: Coastal Farmland	Local Landscape Character Area 5(i) Manuel Farmlands Local Landscape Character Area 5(ii) Bo'ness Coastal Hills Local Landscape Character Area 5(iii) Grangemouth/Kinneil Flats
Landscape Character Type 6: Carselands	Local Landscape Character Area 6(i) Skinflats Local Landscape Character Area 6(ii) Carse of Forth

Appendix 1 - Landscape Character Type (LCT) and Local Landscape Character Area (LLCA) Descriptions

Local Landscape Character Type 1: Lowland Hills

Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCAs)

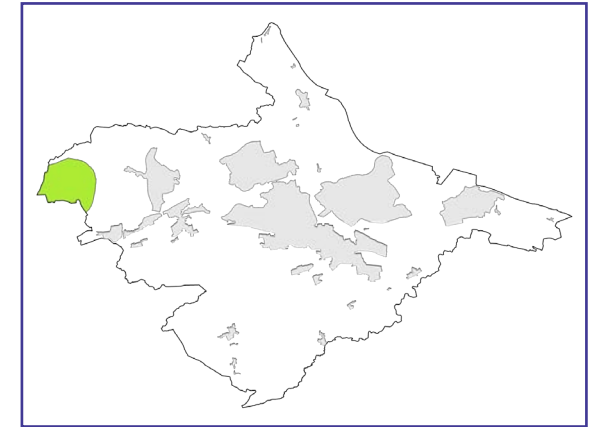
6.2 There is one LLCA in this LCT within the Falkirk Council area:

● LLCA1(i) Kilsyth/Denny Hills

Local Landscape Character Area 1(i) Kilsyth/Denny Hills

Key Characteristics of the LCT/LLCA

- A relatively small area to the west, forming the eastern extreme of the Campsie Fells/Kilsyth Hills north of Glasgow, with a common geology being underlain by basalts more resistant to glacial and fluvial erosion than surrounding rocks;
- Distinctive, open or semi-open, medium-large scale, lowland hill character created by the combination of elevation, rugged landform (limited within Falkirk), moorland vegetation and a predominant lack of modern development;
- Some sense of naturalness, remoteness and wildness (limited in Falkirk), which contrasts strongly with the farmed and developed lowland areas;
- Distinctive stepped or terrace slopes formed from lavas which cap the extrusive volcanic rocks;
- Moorland vegetation including pockets of heather and rough grassland on the more open, exposed tops and lower slopes, with extensive commercial conifer plantations in various stages of maturity/felling/re-planting in between which reduces the scale and openness of the landscape;
- Large rough grassland fields are sheep grazed, with post and wire fencing and/or dry stone dyke boundaries and characteristic lack of hedgerows or hedgerow trees;
- Sparse settlement limited to isolated properties at Doups and Linns on a middle terrace;
- Drained by a series of minor burns flowing northwards or eastwards to the River Carron;
- Faughlin Reservoir is inconspicuous being located within a dip and between conifer plantations;
- Wind farms at Craigengelt and Earlsburn are located between 3-6km distance to the northwest in the Touch Hills and are conspicuous features from some parts of the LCT/LLCA, and from many locations in the Falkirk area;
- Terraced landform provides a variety of views ranging from panoramic (e.g. from the viewpoint on the TacMaDoon Road in North Lanarkshire just beyond the Falkirk boundary) to views confined by dense woodland (except during felling and replanting operations).

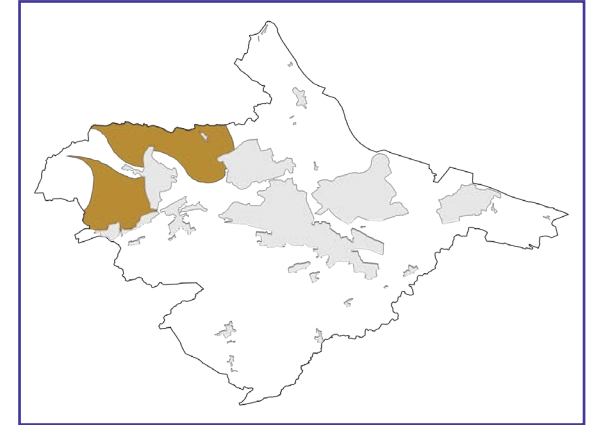


Part of Denny Muir 'Landscape Character Area' in original landscape character assessment.

Local Landscape Character Type 2: Lowland Hill Fringes

6.3 Key Characteristics of the LCT

- Transitional undulating topography rising and contrasting with the wide, flat carselands of the Forth Estuary or the lowland river valleys of central Falkirk, and the steeper and more elevated Lowland Hills to the west (which predominantly lie within North Lanarkshire or Stirling Council areas);
- Ridges and valleys, occasionally steep sided, formed by burns often cascading over rocks and fast flowing eastwards and southwards in to the River Carron which bisects the character area, or in to the Bonny Water;
- Generally small-medium scale, intimate mosaic of woodland and farmland, dominated by grassland;
- Reservoirs and small lochs are local, flat features contrasting with the rolling landscape, though not widely conspicuous;
- Rough and semi-improved grassland, sheep grazed, with gorse scrub on higher ground changing to improved grazing pasture with some arable on lower ground;
- Woodland generally lies on the lower slopes, ranging from large mixed plantations, broadleaved woodlands, policy woodland, shelterbelts, avenues and dense semi-native burn-side woods;
- Mix of dry stone dykes, with post and wire fencing on higher ground, and beech or hawthorn hedgerows, generally clipped and well maintained, with occasional hedgerow trees;
- Traversed by a network of minor roads generally on low ridges above burns and linking numerous steadings, estate houses, cottages, and small settlements;
- Major transport corridors follow the flatter land through the hill fringes;
- Overhead power lines and pylons, and other large masts, are distinctive, incongruous features. Stone quarries reflect the value of the dolerite rocky outcrops;
- There are historic buildings and other features throughout the character area;
- Extensive views from high ground where there is often a feeling of height and exposure.



Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCAs)

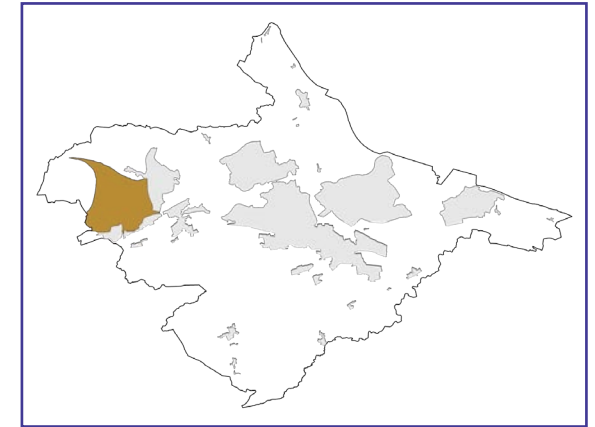
There are two LLCAs in this LCT within the Falkirk Council area:

- **LLCA 2(i) Denny Hills Fringe**
- **LLCA 2(ii) Touch Hills Fringe**

Local Landscape Character Area 2(i) Denny Hills Fringe

6.4 Key Characteristics of the LLCA

- Distinctive west-east grain to the gently rolling landscape, defined by the gorge of the Carron Glen to the north, the steep sided valley of the Bonny Water to the south, and sinuous, often steep sided, fast flowing burns in between;
- Dense, semi-native woodland alongside the rivers and burns accentuates the pattern of the predominantly small-medium scale landscape which otherwise is generally open and comprises rough and semi-improved grassland with little tree cover except around Drumbowie Reservoir and Little Denny Reservoir;
- Some wet, tussocky grassland, sheep grazed, throughout the area, with predominantly post and wire boundary fencing with stone dykes on high ground and hedgerows mainly limited to around the properties where they are well maintained with occasional hedgerow trees including mature ash;
- Pockets of improved grassland with horse paddocks and associated fencing;
- A network of minor lanes generally follows the west-east pattern of the landscape, linking numerous small steadings, isolated cottages and small settlements. No major roads within the area although the M80 follows the foot of the hill fringes to the east and south;
- Stone quarry at Cowden Hill to the south, two major overhead power lines through the area, numerous telegraph poles and telephone wires, a single transmitter mast at Easter Banknock, and the Myot Hill Wireless Station on more rugged, high ground at 212m AOD, are all conspicuous features in the landscape to varying extents;
- Extensive views east across the built up area and Grangemouth and to the Forth and the Ochil Hills beyond, and southwards into North Lanarkshire where two large wind turbines at Greendykeside, two large masts and other masts in the distance are recognisable features contrasting with the surrounding farmland;
- Views northwards across the Carron Glen towards the shoulders of the Touch Hills Fringe, including the rocky outcrops at Skea Craig.

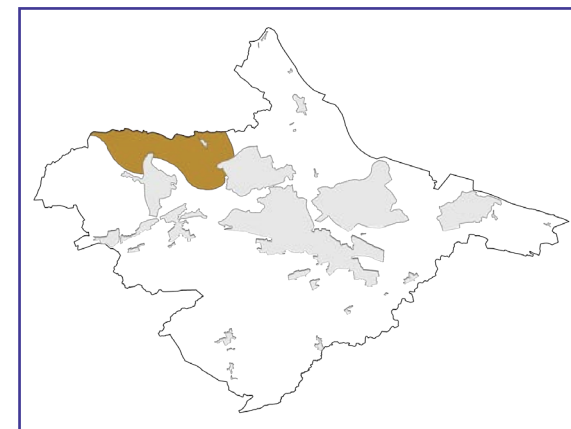


Part of Denny Muir 'Landscape Character Area' in original landscape character assessment.

Local Landscape Character Area 2(ii) Touch Hills Fringe

6.5 Key Characteristics of the LLCA

- Rugged, craggy rock outcrops of dolerite on the higher steeper fringes in the west at Skea Craig, where the hill fringes rise up to the Touch Hills;
- Distinctive conical shape of hills above Dunipace;
- Lower and less well pronounced topography in the east and southeast at the transition with the Coastal Margins and Lowland River Valleys respectively;
- Minor burns, generally inconspicuous, flow west-east into the River Carron to the south or into the Tor Burn on the Council boundary along the northern edge of the LLCA;
- The Avon Burn follows a more sinuous, steep-sided valley within a wider, flatter corridor from north to south through the centre of the LLCA, in to the River Carron;
- Small lochs at Torwood Head and north of Wells Field Farm cater for anglers;
- Extensive mixed plantation at Tor Wood above Torwood village; elsewhere numerous hillside woods ranging in size and predominantly semi-native broadleaved, policies, shelterbelts and avenues (in particular at Quarter House and Glenbervie House (hotel and golf club) give the landscape a confined, and in parts, enclosed character;
- Elsewhere predominantly small-medium scale, intimate, mixed farmland;
- M80 and A872 bisect the LLCA through the flatter central corridor of the Avon Burn, and the M876 and A9 meet on the eastern urban fringe at North Broomage where road embankments, bridging structures and telecommunications masts in the road corridor fragment the landscape and restrict many views;
- Large stone quarries at Boards Quarry and Northfield Quarry disrupt the hillside landform but are relatively well screened (for example by Braes Wood);
- Large new NHS hospital at Larbert impinges on to the lower hill slopes on the eastern edge of the LLCA;
- Numerous overhead power lines and pylons are distinctive features marching across the lower slopes in north-south and east-west directions;
- Historical evidence of more ancient settlement includes Torwood Castle (remains of) and the course of a Roman road through Tor Wood.



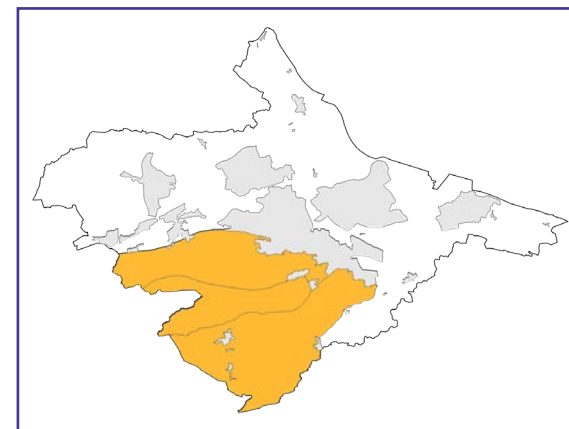
East Touch Fringe 'Landscape Character Area' in original landscape character assessment.

Appendix 1 - Landscape Character Type (LCT) and Local Landscape Character Area (LLCA) Descriptions

Local Landscape Character Type 3: Lowland Plateau

6.6 Key Characteristics of the LCT

- Large expanse of elevated, gently undulating lowland plateau, gently rising from north to south and averaging approximately 200m AOD;
- Underlain by Carboniferous coal seams, the presence of several minor dolerite intrusions creates distinctive folds and a pronounced west-east pattern to the landform;
- Between the flattened, soft contoured ridges, numerous burns, small streams and small river courses lie in shallow, visually unobtrusive valleys;
- Black Loch and Loch Ellrig are medium sized waterbodies;
- Predominantly open, often featureless landcover of heather and grass moorland and blanket, raised or intermediate bog on poorer, wetter soils, including a complex of small wetland habitats of wildlife importance;
- Large coniferous and mixed Forestry Commission plantations to the south, with other mixed woodland to the west, occasional policy woodland to the northeast, frequent gnarled wind-sculptured beech shelterbelts and estate planting, and scattered birch trees;
- Range of field boundaries include post and wire fences, stone dykes, hedges of clipped hawthorn, beech and gorse, with beech and ash hedgerow trees;
- Grid-like pattern of improved and semi-improved, neutral and lowland dry acidic grassland dominates beyond the central raised mire of Darnrig Moss;
- The plateau is crossed by a grid pattern of north-south and east-west 'B' roads and other minor lanes - the east-west routes run along the ridges of slightly higher ground whilst the north-south routes climb and dip across the shallow ridges and valleys;
- Medium-sized, former mining villages lie alongside the 'B' roads, where the traditional roadside ribbon pattern has often been added to with more modern housing, with frequent cottages and farmsteads in-between;
- Legacy of past mine working, including opencast fireclay, peat and coal workings, quarries in varying stages of operation and restoration, dismantled railways, disused works, tall chimneys and spoil heaps;
- Distinctive northern edge provides extensive views northwards and eastwards across the urban areas and the Forth Estuary, to the Ochil Hills beyond;
- Tall masts at the Westerglen Transmitting Station are conspicuous features on the north-facing ridge;
- Overhead power lines and pylons run across the north and east of the area.



Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCAs)

There are three LLCAs in this LCT within the Falkirk Council area:

- LLCA 3(i) Slamannan Plateau
- LLCA 3(ii) Darnrig/Gardrum Plateau Moorland
- LLCA 3(iii) Castlecary/Shieldhill Plateau Farmland

Local Landscape Character Area 3(i) Slamannan Plateau

6.7 Key Characteristics of the LLCA

- Expansive rolling plateau covering the southern half of the wider LCT, lying south of an approximate line from the upper reaches of the River Avon northwest of Slamannan and south of Loch Ellrig, and between California and Maddiston;
- The complexity and variety in landcover and frequent though often subtle landform changes are the key characteristics of this LLCA;
- Predominantly large scale, open, largely featureless improved and semi-improved grass moorland with patches of heather, wet bog with few trees east of Slamannan and south of the River Avon;
- Areas of peatland and rough and improved grassland are of national and international important for rare overwintering flocks of Bean Geese;
- Extensive Forestry Commission coniferous plantations and mixed woodland in the south and west, and to a lesser extent to the east;
- Policy woodland and shelterbelts in a smaller-scale, more intimate, hummocky area south of Loch Ellrig;
- Visibility within the LLCA is predominantly limited by the undulating topography and landcover, but with extensive glimpses out from higher, more exposed areas, in particular south-westwards across Black Loch, and from a number of locations from minor roads on shallow ridges to the Ochil Hills and the Pentlands in the distance;
- The area drains west-east into the open, featureless, shallow River Avon via a series of small tributary burns, some fast flowing;
- Burnhead Moss lies in the south on the highest part of the plateau at around 225m AOD, and feels particularly remote and bleak;
- A largely settled, worked landscape as evidenced by the numerous opencast and other works and associated infrastructure;
- Overhead power lines and pylons run across the east of the area;
- Some distant views to tall wind turbines at Greengairs to the west.

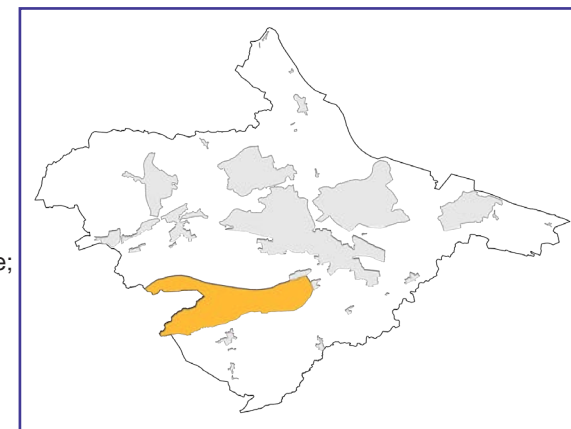


Part of Slamannan Plateau 'Landscape Character Area' in original landscape character assessment.

Local Landscape Character Area 3(ii) Darnrig/Gardrum Plateau Moorland

6.8 Key Characteristics of the LLCA

- Occupying the generally featureless, wetter, poorer soils on the central plateau, in between the more undulating and complex Slamannan Plateau to the south and the terraced slopes of the north-facing, well wooded farmland to the north;
- Large-scale, open, featureless plateau centred on the Darnrig Moss Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and extending westwards to Garbethill Muir and Fannyside Muir (into North Lanarkshire) and eastwards to Gardrum Moss;
- A landscape well-managed to retain these important habitats, including acidic grassland management at California Wildlife Site;
- Areas of peatland and rough and improved grassland are of national and international important for rare overwintering flocks of Bean Geese;
- Generally few trees or field boundaries, and large areas of standing waterlogged ground;
- Small woodland copses, coniferous and other wind-blown shelterbelts, are uncharacteristic;
- A low knoll of slightly higher ground to the north of Wester Jaw is also uncharacteristic;
- Sparsely settled, with isolated cottages and small farmsteads;
- From the higher ground the open character allows extensive views out to the south towards the Pentland Hills, and to the southwest into North Lanarkshire where the two wind turbines at Greendykeside are visible together with the major radio and TV transmitter masts at Kirk o'Shotts (one mast) and Black Hill (two masts).

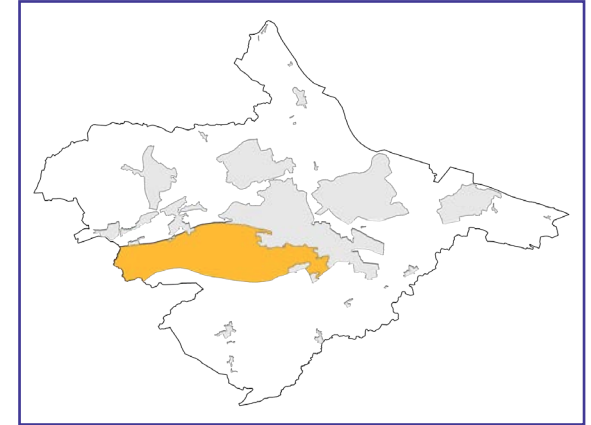


Part of Slammanan Plateau 'Landscape Character Area' in original landscape character assessment.

Local Landscape Character Area 3(iii) Castlecary/Shieldhill Plateau Farmland

6.9 Key Characteristics of the LLCA

- Gently undulating farmland, characterised by the transitional location between the sheltered, largely urbanised lowland river valley and the exposed moorland plateau;
- Mixed farming with improved grassland for sheep and horse grazing and arable fields on the lower, more sheltered ground;
- Much less exposed or remote in character than LLCAs 3(i) and 3(ii);
- Due to this location, there are extensive views northwards and the northern plateau farmlands are very evident in views from the urban edge and are important to its setting;
- Network of Core Paths provide important outdoor recreation including circular walking and cycle routes to a large number of people living close by;
- Underlying geology of predominantly Carboniferous millstone grit with glacial tills and moderate quality soils to the west, with some Westphalia coal measures in the central and eastern parts;
- Drained by a series of mostly inconspicuous tributaries of the River Carron and River Avon; small waterbodies dot the landscape;
- Land cover is predominantly uniform, with regular rectilinear and evenly spaced fields associated with large estates including the Callendar Estate, with a maintained, well managed character including clipped hedges of beech, hawthorn and gorse, and well maintained stone dykes;
- This estate feel gradually weakens further south on the higher ground, where field boundaries are increasingly defined by post and wire fences, with some gappy stone dykes and gappy hedges;
- Well-wooded character, with an extensive coniferous plantation and numerous broadleaved or mixed woods, and roadside shelterbelts, provides a medium scale, semi-open character to the landscape;
- Sparsely settled, with a scatter of regularly spaced farmstead's and isolated cottages linked by a few minor roads running grid-like in either a north-south or east-west direction;
- Overhead power lines and pylons zigzag across the area, where the tall mast of the Westerglen Transmitting Station are also conspicuous features on the north-facing ridge;
- Some evidence of past coal mining with disused workings and associated infrastructure.

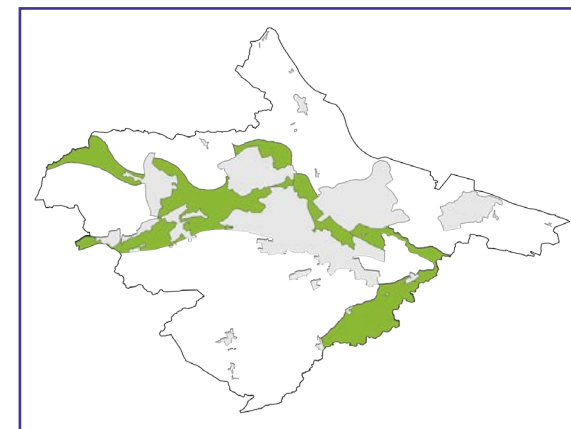


Part of Slammanan Plateau 'Landscape Character Area' in original landscape character assessment.

Local Landscape Character Type 4: Lowland River Valleys

6.10 Key Characteristics of the LCT

- Valleys cut by rivers generally flowing west-east into the River Forth, ranging from narrow, deep, gorge-like valleys to wide, almost flat valleys through the urban fringe.
- The Carron Glen and the Avon Gorge are mostly densely wooded, enclosed, steep-sided valleys but occasionally follow wider, flatter valleys.
- These gorge-like valleys contain mostly semi-natural broadleaved woodland, and are sparsely settled with isolated steadings amongst pastoral farmland on the higher, shallower slopes;
- The River Carron, Bonny Water and tributaries flow in wider, very gently rolling, shallow valleys through the urban fringe, between the hill fringes in the west to the flat floodplain carselands of the Forth to the east;
- The main built up areas and major transport routes are found in the urban fringe valleys, including major roads, railways and canals, with almost continuous development in an east-west corridor through the centre of the Falkirk Council area;
- Although dominated by extensive development between Banknock, Dunipace/Denny, Falkirk and Polmont, there is a mixture of pasture and arable fields, occasional mature deciduous or mixed woodland and fragmented lines of trees, open recreational areas and typical urban fringe areas of scrub and waste ground;
- Beyond the built up areas, much of the river valley landscape through the urban fringe is covered by Green Belt policy to protect its open character;
- Network of Core Paths and a wide range of other routes provide valuable recreational amenity and commuting links for the local community and non-motorised visitors.



Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCAs)

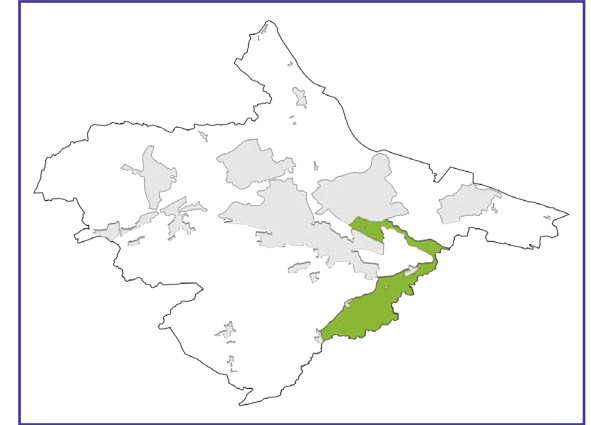
There are five LLCAs in this LCT within the Falkirk Council area:

- **LLCA 4(i) Avon Valley**
- **LLCA 4(ii) Carron Glen**
- **LLCA 4(iii) Bonny Water**
- **LLCA 4(iv) Lower Carron/Bonny Water**
- **LLCA 4(v) Falkirk - Grangemouth Urban Fringe**

Local Landscape Character Area 4(i) Avon Valley

6.11 Key Characteristics of the LLCA

- Deep, gorge-like, narrow, incised river valley in two distinct areas:
 - (i) Along the south-eastern Falkirk Council boundary from Kaemuir Farm to Whitecross.
 - (ii) From the Falkirk Council boundary with West Lothian Council at Linlithgow to the Polmont/Grangemouth urban edge, running between the rolling farmlands and the coastal hills;
- Beyond the deep, narrow valley along the Falkirk Council boundary, the valley widens out to the west of Kaemuir Farm and between Whitecross and Linlithgow, into a gently rolling, well-treed landscape of good quality arable farmland interspersed with a small scale field pattern of permanent pasture close to the river, designated as an Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV);
- Intimate, small-scale, enclosed valley, with dense mixed and ancient semi-natural woodland in the gorge, with woodland policies and avenues of trees at Candie House, roadside hedges and shelterbelts, overgrown hedgerows and individual trees elsewhere adding to the well-wooded character of the area;
- The River Avon Heritage Trail between Avonbridge and Linlithgow is a significant recreational resource following the river bank, with features of interest including weirs, waterfalls, the Westfield Viaduct, Avon Viaduct (taking the Edinburgh to Glasgow railway across the River Avon) and the Avon Aqueduct (the second longest in Britain, taking the Union Canal over the River Avon) and the Muiravonside Country Park;
- Millhall Reservoir and Grangemouth Golf Course lie to the north of the M9, north of Polmont;
- Several small, narrow, sinuous burns flow southwards or eastwards into the River Avon, and are attractive features in the landscape, especially where they also cut deeper, wooded valleys as at North Glen and South Glen;
- A801 bisects the area from north to south, with a number of minor roads running east-west, linking the larger settlements of Avonbridge, Standburn, Muiravonside and Whitecross along the northern boundary of the LLCA and numerous regularly spaced farmsteads throughout the area;
- Two large overhead power lines and pylons cut north-south through the area;
- Enclosed river valley limits views but elsewhere on the rolling ridges there are extensive distant views to the south towards the Pentland Hills and northwards across the Firth of Forth to the Ochil Hills.

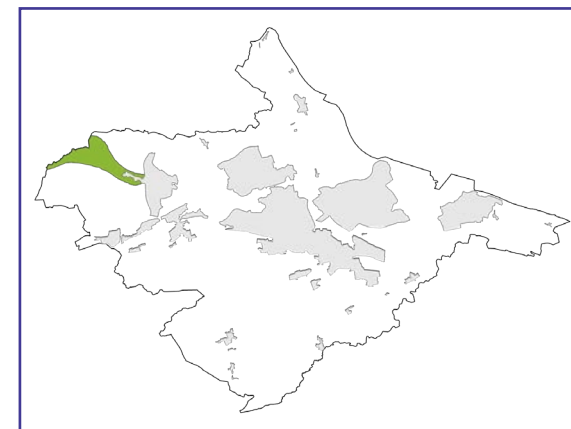


Avon Valley 'Landscape Character Area' in original Landscape Character Assessment.

Local Landscape Character Area 4(ii) Carron Glen

6.12 Key Characteristics of the LLCA

- The middle course of the River Carron bisects the Lowland Hill Fringes as it winds its way from the upper Lowland Hills in North Lanarkshire in the west, through the urban fringe and coastal margins to the north of Grangemouth, and out into the River Forth;
- Formed by glacial and fluvial erosion, it cuts a shallow course through a narrow, steep sided valley between the more resistant surrounding igneous, intrusive rocks of the Touch Hills and Kilsyth Hills, opening out into a wider valley defined by the extent of views up the shoulders of the Lowland Hill Fringes, including the rocky outcrops at Skea Craig;
- Within the wider valley the river cuts through the narrow, steep sided Carron Glen, with ancient semi-native oak and beech/ash woodland;
- The Buckie Burn flows into the River Carron from the Touch Hills in a distinctive, steep sided 'V' shaped wooded valley;
- More diverse landscape of pasture, scrub, bracken and rough grassland on the upper valley sides and shoulders;
- A series of weirs, waterfalls and spouts, and small footbridges add features of interest to the valley landscape;
- B818 follows the valley from Stoneywood in the east to Carron bridge and beyond to the west, with a number of small farmsteads in the valley accessed from narrow tracks either side of the 'B' road;
- Two large overhead power lines and pylons cut north-south through the area;
- Views are generally enclosed, confined to the valley sides, although the intimate, small scale, natural character of the valley is somewhat compromised by views of wind turbines at the Craigenfelt and Earlsburn wind farms in the Touch Hills, and of the old reservoir building and modern water works building on the south side of the valley.

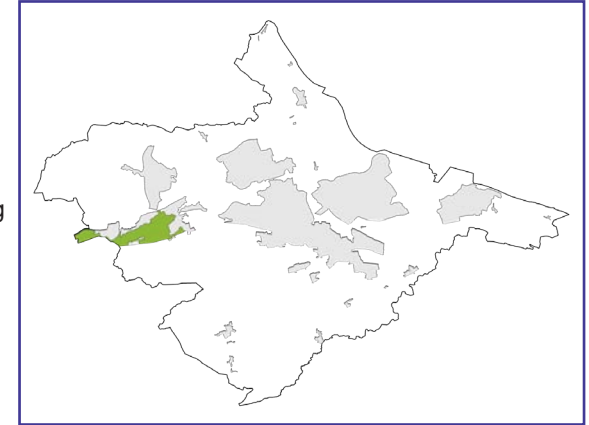


Middle Carron 'Landscape Character Area' in original Landscape Character Assessment.

Local Landscape Character Area 4(iii) Bonny Water

6.13 Key Characteristics of the LLCA

- Open, medium-large scale valley of the Bonny Water closely follows the southern edge of the urban conurbation comprising Banknock, Haggs, Longcroft, Parkfoot and Dennyloanhead, including the roadside settlement of Allandale, and extends eastwards to Bonnybrideg/Greenhill;
- Underlain by a variety of rocks, principally millstone grits and limestones, proving less resistant to erosion than the surrounding harder basalts;
- South of Banknock, the Bonny Water follows the same narrow course through a steep sided, tree lined valley as the Forth & Clyde Canal, before separating and opening out in to the wider, flatter, larger scale valley;
- Historically an important route for communication, with roads, railway lines and associated infrastructure, the canal and locks, river and the Antonine Wall, with Roman forts and camps, all within the river valley;
- Urban influences, including warehousing and an industrial estate south of Dennyloanhead, have a significant influence on the character of the landscape - however there are small areas of pasture and arable fields on the floodplain, with small clumps of riverside deciduous woodland, and there is an important area of wooded open space between Dennyloanhead and Bonnyfield.

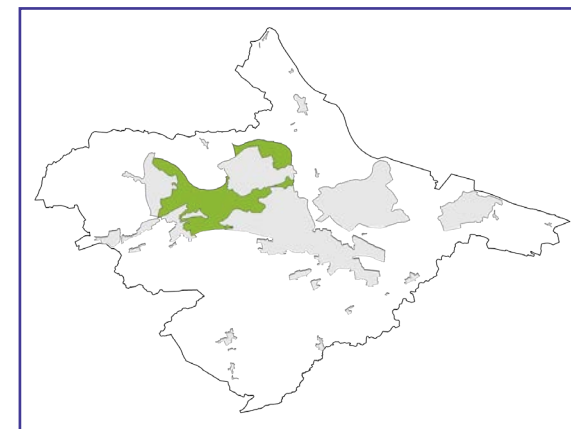


Part of Denny Muir 'Landscape Character Area' & part of Falkirk / Denny Urban Fringe 'Landscape Character Area' in original Landscape Character Assessment.

Local Landscape Character Area 4(iv) Lower Carron/Bonny Water

6.14 Key Characteristics of the LLCA

- A wide swathe of low, very gently rolling land where the Bonny Water meets the lower stretches of the River Carron between Denny, Bonnybridge, Larbert and Falkirk, and continues eastwards in a narrow, shallow valley between Carron and Bainsford/Langlees;
- The LLCA lies between the rising ground of the Lowland Hill Fringes to the north and the elevated Lowland Plateau to the south;
- An area of raised ground beyond a ridgeline lies above the floodplain carselands to the north and east of Stenhousemuir/Antonshill, representing an area of 'raised beach' landscape characterised by its relatively level, raised platform historically used for settlement (Kinnaird House is located here) and communication (the M9 including Junctions 7 & 8, and the A88 pass through the area) which have a considerable influence on the urban edge, transitional area;
- Urban influences have a significant influence on the character of the area, with major transport routes, associated structures and other infrastructure and development impacting on the openness of the valley;
- Numerous power lines and pylons branch out from the electricity sub-station, with other land uses within the densely settled, industrialised valley including housing, business parks, factories and other industrial buildings, hospitals and a sewage works, although golf courses maintain some openness;
- The expansion of development creates an inharmonious landscape, with much fertile farmland being lost and the setting of the Antonine Wall and Roman Fort remains at Rough Castle being compromised;
- The Falkirk Wheel is now a major tourist attraction, with panoramic views to the north, east and west;
- Urban influences have less of an impact on the character of the River Carron valley east of Denny where mixed farming, riverside and roadside tree belts and deciduous woodland (for example at Headswood House) provide an attractive, more intimate valley landscape with views northwards into the wooded hill fringes;
- Tree belts, avenues and policy woodland at Kinnaird House, with boundary stone dykes, give a designed-landscape feel to this part of the LLCA.
- To the east the well-wooded meanders of the River Carron, and the Carron Dams SSSI, are features of landscape interest in contrast to the surrounding residential development;
- Maintaining the open, undeveloped nature of these parts of the LLCA is recognised by the Local Plan Green Belt designation;
- Grangemouth petrochemical developments and the Ochil Hills form important backdrops in many views.

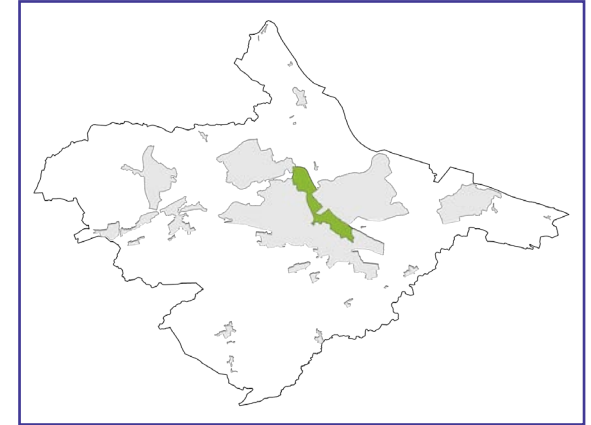


Part of Falkirk/Denny Urban Fringe 'Landscape Character Area' in original Landscape Character Assessment.

Local Landscape Character Area 4(v) Falkirk - Grangemouth Urban Fringe

6.15 Key Characteristics of the LLCA

- A relatively narrow, flat valley between Falkirk and Grangemouth, its character heavily influenced by nearby industrialisation and other development including the petrochemical works, large warehousing, the West Mains Industrial Estate, sewage works, Falkirk Football Stadium and other urban fringe uses;
- M8 motorway and trunk roads including the A9 pass through or alongside the character area, with roadside facilities including a Travelodge and Premier Inn;
- At the northern end the River Carron meets the Forth & Clyde Canal where a series of locks provide landscape interest (the location of the major visitor attraction of 'The Helix', an imaginative project to provide a sustainable new gateway to Falkirk and Grangemouth, including a new canal hub with boating facilities to improve access to and from the Forth Estuary and Scotland's canal network, within an attractive greenspace parkland setting linked by paths and cycleways);
- Areas of woodland and grassland are important in maintaining separation between Falkirk and Grangemouth, including woodland at Langlees and the designed garden at Carron House in the north of the LLCA either side of the River Carron, recognised by its designation as Green Belt;
- The southern edge of the valley at Laurieston rises up to a ridge of higher ground above the A9, the sloping fields and in parts wooded edge providing relief from the surrounding development;
- An area opens out between Laurieston and Polmont and includes remnants of the Antonine Wall and Roman Fort at Mumrills;
- Several burns wind their way through this predominantly open, undulating part of the LLCA.



Part of Falkirk/Denny Urban Fringe 'Landscape Character Area' in original Landscape Character Assessment.

Appendix 1 - Landscape Character Type (LCT) and Local Landscape Character Area (LLCA) Descriptions

Local Landscape Character Type 5: Coastal Farmland

Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCAs)

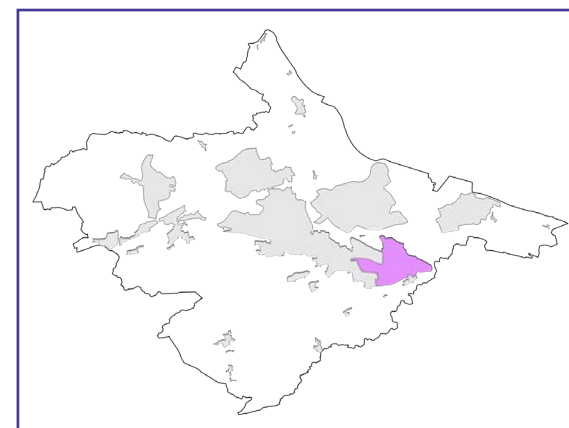
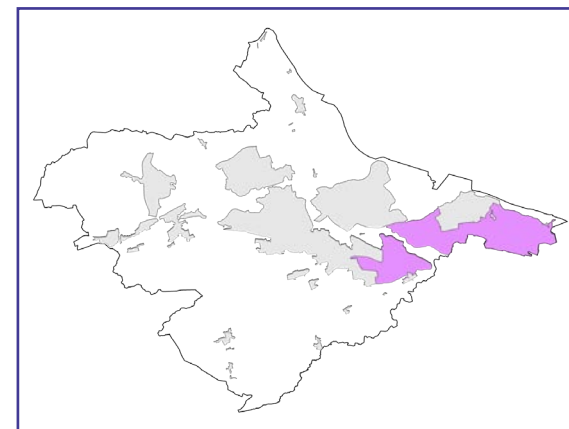
6.16 There are three LLCA's in this LCT within the Falkirk Council area:

- **LLCA 5(i) Manuel Farmlands**
- **LLCA 5(ii) Bo'ness Coastal Hills**
- **LLCA 5(iii) Grangemouth/Kinneil Flats**

Local Landscape Character Area 5(i) Manuel Farmlands

Key Characteristics of the LCT/LLCA

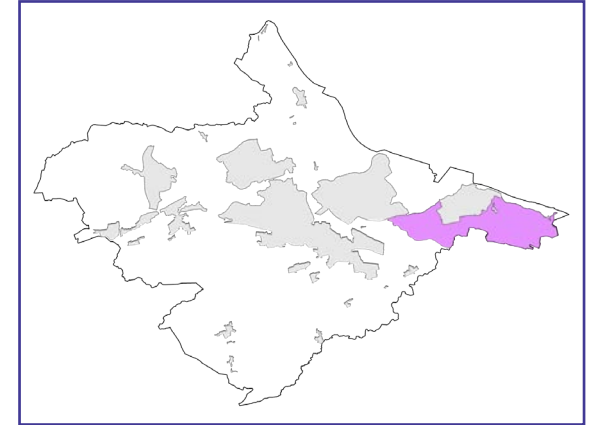
- The Rolling Farmlands lies to the east of the Falkirk Council area, east of Polmont and between two areas of the Avon Valley which envelopes the LLCA to the north, east and south;
- Underlying geology is Carboniferous millstone grit with glacial till and generally good quality soil;
- The Rolling Farmlands LLCA is distinguished from the Castlecary/Shieldhill Plateau Farmland by its lower altitude and more undulating landform as a result of glacial and fluvio-glacial action;
- The ground rises from the Avon Valley, from the north and east, westwards, at first in a series of minor, smooth hummocks and wet hollows at between 50-60m AOD, then more gradually and uniformly towards the urban edge at Polmont at around 100m AOD, creating a small-medium scale, smoothly rolling landscape;
- The character of the area is largely derived from its location and its underlying geology; due to its location it is heavily influenced by the major transport routes of the M9, A801 and A803, and the Edinburgh to Glasgow railway and the Union Canal which also pass through the area;
- Due to its underlying geology, this is a disturbed, previously worked landscape, with the former Manuel brick works at the centre of the LLCA, served by a now dismantled railway, and a former fireclay mine is now a major landfill site in various stages of operation and restoration, to the north of the LLCA;
- Surrounding the former brick works, the mixed use farmland is generally unsettled with only a few farmsteads, and large estate houses at Lathallan, Avondale House and The Haining, providing evidence of the good quality soils;
- Policy woodland and avenues around the estates are features in the landscape, whilst broadleaved woodland at Haining Wood and coniferous plantations help to screen the Whitecross Industry Park and reduce the visual impact of the former brick works;
- Narrow burn-side tree belts provide areas of nature conservation importance which are generally lacking due to the extensive agricultural and developed landuse of the Rolling Farmlands;
- The ruinous Almond Castle provides archaeological heritage interest and is a feature in the landscape in views from the railway and canal.



Local Landscape Character Area 5(ii) Bo'ness Coastal Hills

6.17 Key Characteristics of the LLCA

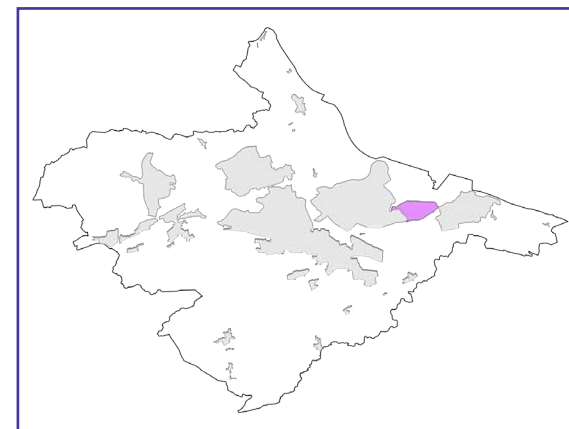
- A series of east-west aligned rolling coastal hills extending from the edge of Grangemouth, around Bo'- ness to Blackness, approximately between 100-150m AOD with a general down slope to the north to Bo'ness and to the south to the River Avon;
- Mudflats at Blackness Bay between the mean low and high water tides of the Firth of Forth, designated SPA and SSSI, and Bo'ness Foreshore wildlife site and Nature Reserve provide estuarine habitat supporting various plants and animals;
- Flat coastal margin at Bo'ness is developed with industrial units and the disused dock, with the Bo'ness steam railway line running from the former docks southwards;
- A series of minor burns drain the area either northwards to the Forth or south to the steep, well-wooded gorge of the River Avon which marks the southern boundary of the LLCA;
- A network of 'B' roads and other minor lanes generally run east-west along slightly raised ridges, providing extensive views in all directions, whilst two 'A' roads roll north-south through the LLCA providing extensive views from high ground northwards across the Forth to the Ochil Hills and southwards to the Pentland Hills;
- In contrast, views are limited from lower-lying areas, providing a more enclosed, small-scale, strong rural character;
- Network of Core Paths, including a circular path around Blackness Castle, foreshore path from Blackness past the fishery near Stacks Farm to Kinneil Nature Reserve, Sustrans National Cycle Network Route 76 and path to the steam railway and Birkhill Clay Mine, provide valuable recreational and commuting routes for the local community and non-motorised visitors.
- Airngath Hill just over the boundary in West Lothian is a localised high point at 171m AOD, where the West Lothian Golf Clubhouse is conspicuous, and the folly tower at the House of the Binns is another landmark feature just beyond the Falkirk Council area, on Binns Hill at 113m AOD;
- Predominantly medium-large scale, open or semi-open farmland mostly ley grassland but with arable cultivation reflecting the fertile nature of the well-drained soils;
- Large fields where hedges have been removed, elsewhere a mix of post and wire fences, dry stone dykes and hawthorn and beech hedges which provide a mostly well maintained, well managed appearance to the landscape which is designated as AGLV;
- Woodlands are rare but there are frequent lines of roadside trees and narrow shelterbelts;
- A steep escarpment with mature broadleaved woodland and a conifer plantation lies between the River Avon and the designed grounds and wood at Kinneil House, providing a strong, well defined edge to the LLCA;
- Similarly a steep escarpment runs between Carriden Brae and Blackness Bay, and includes the mature broadleaved woodland at Shore Woods;
- Many historical and archaeological features, including the course of the Antonine Wall and Roman Camp remains, Blackness Castle, Carriden House and Roman Fort;
- In the extreme eastern corner of the LLCA is a smaller scale landscape divided into small rectilinear fields with a grid pattern of minor roads and numerous regularly-spaced single storey small-holdings alongside the roads, with large farm estates of the Champany Holdings, Cauldcoats Holdings, and the Mannerston Holdings in-between, and other landuses including a garden centre, reflecting the fertile nature of the soils.



Local Landscape Character Area 5(iii) Grangemouth/Kinneil Flats

6.18 Key Characteristics of the LLCA

- A unique, developed character due to the presence of the huge petrochemical works, docks and other industrial installations on the wide, extensive, large scale coastal flats alongside the Firth of Forth;
- Flat land at Kinneil between Grangemouth and Bo'ness lies on land reclaimed from the Forth saltmarsh and comprises a sewage works, industrial units and an extensive area of land-raise, with horticultural land uses and wet grassland in-between;
- Mudflats between the mean low and high water tides of the Firth of Forth are designated SPA and SSSI, and together with Kinneil saline lagoon provide important estuarine habitat supporting various plants and animals;
- Kinneil Nature Reserve to the east provides an important feeding and roosting area for birds and is a former landfill site.



Local Landscape Character Type 6: Coastal Carselands

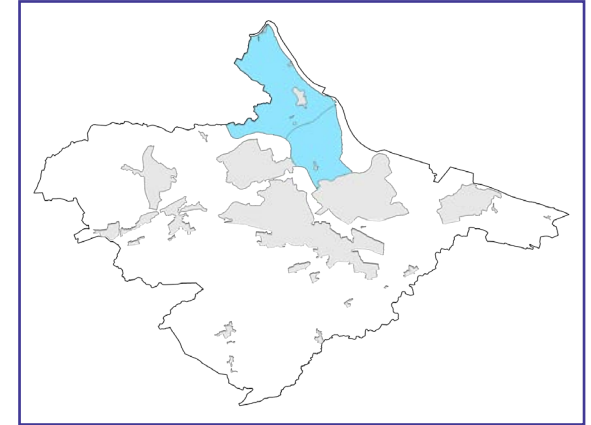
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCAs)

6.19 There are two LLCA's in this LCT within the Falkirk Council area:

- **LLCA 6(i) Skinflats**
- **LLCA 6(ii) Carse of Forth**

Key Characteristics of the LCT

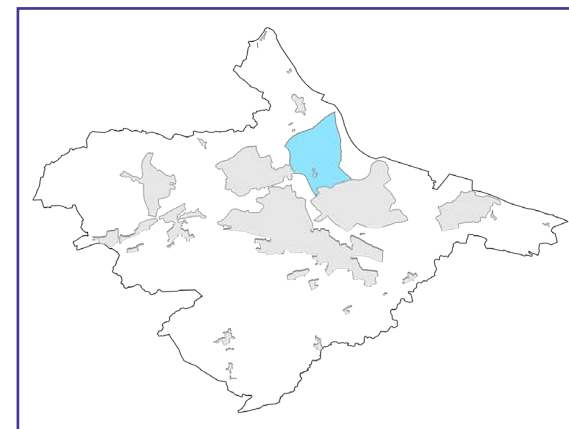
- A broad swathe of land alongside the Firth of Forth and influenced by it, ranging from inter-tidal mudflats, to flat, low-lying and largely unsettled carselands, designed landscapes and mansion houses, areas dominated by built development and industrial infrastructure, to rolling coastal hills;
- The low-lying carseland in the northeast and east are the main arable and mixed farming areas of the Falkirk Council area;
- Complex inter-relationships between coastal processes, including flooding, erosion and sea level rise, pollution, internationally important habitats, and development and recreational pressures, gives the coastal zone a distinctive character more specifically distinguished as either developed or un-developed coast.



Local Landscape Character Area 6(i) Skinflats

6.20 Key Characteristics of the LLCA

- Extending from the M876/A876 to Grangemouth, and bounded by the M9 and the urban edge of Carronshore to the west;
- Very low lying, flat coastal margin at between 4-8m AOD, and including the internationally important Skinflats Nature Reserve on the mudflats between the mean low and high water springs of the Firth of Forth, designated SPA and SSSI;
- Predominant land use is arable farmland in large scale, rectilinear fields with few hedges and mostly post and wire fences as boundaries;
- Small woodland copses are conspicuous within the flat landscape;
- A905 cuts a very straight course through the LLCA, with a roundabout junction to the A88 link road to Stenhousemuir, otherwise minor roads and tracks link to small isolated farmsteads with Skinflats, a narrow ribbon village alongside the A905 being the only settlement of any size;
- The Muirdyke Burn is inconspicuous and follows a shallow, narrow course through the area to the Forth, with the River Carron marking the northern edge of Grangemouth;
- Brackish/saline lagoons at Bothkennar Pools are a priority estuarine habitat supporting various plants and animals;
- Usually unnoticeable features such as lamp columns and telegraph poles are conspicuous in the open landscape;
- Northern views of the Ochil Hills provide a dramatic contrast to the flat landscape, whilst the Longannet Power Station (in particular the tall chimney) and similar structures at Grangemouth also provide contrasting views;
- Network of Core Paths, including route alongside the River Carron and past Bothkennar Pools, and links to Sustrans National Cycle Network Route 76, provide valuable recreational and commuting routes for the local community and non-motorised visitors.

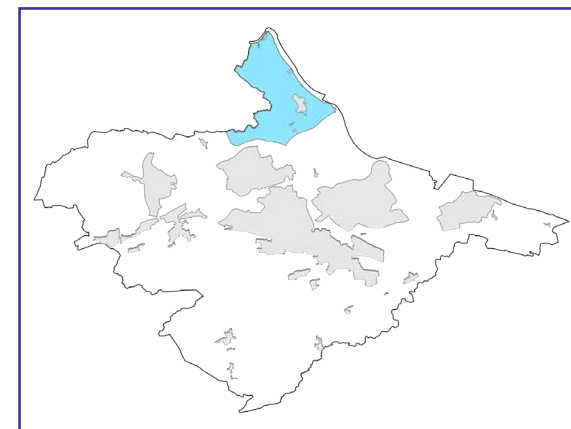


Part of Falkirk/Denny Urban Fringe 'Landscape Character Area' in original Landscape Character Assessment.

Local Landscape Character Area 6(ii) Carse of Forth

6.21 Key Characteristics of the LLCA

- Extends from the Falkirk Council northern boundary to the M876/A876/Kincardine Bridge;
- Generally flat, expansive, large scale, horizontal carseland with a gradual transition to the Lowland Hill Fringes and Lowland River Valleys to the west and south, to a maximum height of 15m AOD;
- Hill of Dunmore and Hill of Airth are conspicuous features above the carseland, rising to around 30m AOD and 38m AOD respectively;
- Predominantly arable cultivation of good quality soils, with permanent improved pasture for sheep grazing on poorer soils;
- Extensive wooded peatlands at Dunmore Moss and Letham Moss, including in part artificial drainage in unnatural, long straight lines;
- Very large scale fields with few hedges or hedgerow trees and predominantly post and wire boundary fencing;
- Occasional shelterbelts and policy woodland associated with the designed landscape at Dunmore and around Airth Castle;
- Includes the northern end of the internationally important Skinflats Nature Reserve on the mudflats between the mean low and high water springs of the Firth of Forth, designated SPA and SSSI;
- Occasional shelterbelts and policy woodland associated with the designed landscape at Dunmore and around Airth Castle;
- Includes the northern end of the internationally important Skinflats Nature Reserve on the mudflats between the mean low and high water springs of the Firth of Forth, designated SPA and SSSI;
- Settlement is concentrated on the high ground at Airth but with smaller settlement inland at Letham and on the coastline at Dunmore and South Alloa where there are piers and slipways in to the Forth;
- Elsewhere a small number of isolated farmsteads accessed off the A905 or one of the small number of minor roads;
- Network of Core Paths, including routes alongside the River Forth, through woodlands, farmland and past historic buildings of The Pineapple and Airth Castle, and links to Sustrans National Cycle Network Route 76, provide valuable recreational and commuting routes for the local community and non-motorised visitors;
- A number of small burns meander across the carseland in shallow, narrow courses and into the Forth;
- Extensive views from the flat carselands across the Forth to the Ochil Hills which provide a dramatic contrast in landform and a backcloth to the coastline;
- Occasionally views are foreshortened by woodland;
- Overhead power lines and pylons, including two close parallel lines and two huge pylons at either side of the Forth with continuously flashing lights on the top are significant, conspicuous features across the flat landscape;
- The Clackmannanshire Bridge and Kincardine Bridge are obvious built features although their low, horizontal form is in-keeping with the flat carseland landscape.



Part of Carse of Forth (East Stirling) 'Landscape Character Area' in original Landscape Character Assessment.

The Denny Hills Local Landscape Area: Statement of Importance

7.1 Overview:

Highly visually prominent area of lowland hills and hill fringes, forming the eastern edge of the Campsie/Kilsyth Hills range. This high ground together with the enclosed character of the Carron Valley and the relatively low level of development form a landscape of distinct character that is unique within Falkirk Council area. The area forms a strong contrast to the highly settled area on lower ground to the east and south.

Landscape Description:

- Local Landscape Character Areas falling within/partially within SLA: 1 (i) Kilsyth/Denny Hills (entire area), 2(ii) Denny Hills Fringe (western part), 2(ii) Touch Hills Fringe (western part), 4 (ii) Carron Glen (main section west of Fankerton);
- Locally distinctive area of lowland hills, hill fringes and incised valley of River Carron to the west of Denny containing the highest land within Falkirk Council area which forms a strong western backdrop to the main settlements;
- Highest ground (rising to 357m) is open, of medium to large scale upland character, with land cover of moorland, commercial forestry plantations and unimproved rough grazing land and a lack of development. Hills include some craggy rock outcrops. Middle hill slopes with large improved and unimproved grazing fields enclosed with fencing or stone dykes, shelterbelts. Lower hill ground of small to medium scale, rolling landform, open character, with rough/ semi-improved/improved grassland and arable fields, including some hedges and hedgerow trees, small blocks of broadleaf and mixed woodland;
- River Carron forms a steep sided glen, developing into a distinctive broadleaf wooded gorge as it flows east, with semi-natural woodland, forming a distinctive feature in the lower eastern part of the area; a diverse vegetation cover is located on the valley sides of the Carron Valley includes pasture, native shrub cover and woodland as well as rough grassland. Minor burns flow into river;
- Farms, equestrian centres and outlying dwellings form main development; some dwellings are steading conversions. Telecommunication masts on Myot Hill and the transmission line on the eastern lower ground on the edge of the SLA are visually prominent; also large buildings associated with the water works on the edge of the Carron Valley and a quarry on the north-east boundary. Some boundary treatments of dwellings not in keeping with rural location;
- Roads limited to B818 along Carron Valley and minor roads on lower slopes on eastern side of LLA;
- Strong sense of relative wildness, naturalness and remoteness of 'upland' character, experienced particularly from highest ground and the upper Carron Valley. Area is unique within the Council area, forming strong contrast to the developed lowland to the east;
- Highest land is visually prominent from outside LLA over an extensive area of lower ground to the east, including Falkirk, surrounding settlements, roads, railways, canals and notably from the Falkirk Wheel which is a nationally important visitor attraction;
- Extensive panoramic views are obtained from minor roads and higher ground within and across this LLA over the Forth Valley and to the Pentlands to east, southwards, northwards and eastwards to where Craigengelt and Earlsburn windfarms are prominent;
- Enclosed internal views along the lower Carron Glen and to the open upper valley sides and woodland along the river are locally distinctive and unique within the Falkirk Council area;
- Area covers approximately 21km².

The Denny Hills Local Landscape Area: Statement of Importance

Other Natural Heritage, Cultural Heritage and Recreational Interests:

- B818 is important scenic route to Fintry and the Carron Reservoir with associated forest recreational activities (eg mountain biking sites); it is also the most direct route from Denny and Falkirk to the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park;
- SSSIs at Denny Muir and Carron Glen, Scottish Wildlife Trust Reserve at Carron Glen, three Falkirk Wildlife Sites;
- Hill forts at Myot Hill and Braes.

Boundary:

Continuous to Council border to north and linking with Southern Hills Local Landscape Area of Stirling Council and the Regional Scenic Area of North Lanarkshire Council to the west and south. Southern and eastern boundaries generally defined by visual horizon and ridges as viewed from lower ground and approaches, following the 150m contour, but excluding the settlement of Fankerton and quarry to the north. Boundary extends from Council border north of Cowden Hill quarry, eastwards to the north side of Drumbowie reservoir, then northwards around the east side of Myot Hill, crossing the Carron Glen on the west side of Fankerton towards Middle Barnago; boundary then takes in upper hill slopes and woodland north east to Braes and the M80, then extends north west around the quarry to the Falkirk/Stirling border.

Special Qualities:

- Includes area of highest ground in Council area with locally distinct and diverse 'upland' and hill fringe character forming important western backdrop and setting to main settlements and a prominent area of hill land seen from majority of the lowland area of Falkirk Council area;
- Limited development, forming strong contrast with developed lowland to south and east;
- Extensive panoramic views from minor roads and paths within area;
- River Carron, with steep wooded slopes and gorge like character in eastern part of area and diverse vegetation cover along valley sides;
- Carron Valley, with B818 (Denny-Fintry) providing a scenic route through valley with views from it of distinct 'upland' character, unique within Falkirk;
- Enclosed views along lower Carron Valley to valley sides with more open views from upper valley.



Slamannan Plateau/Avon Valley Local Landscape Area: Statement of Importance

7.2 Overview:

Combines two distinct areas separated by Avonbridge. Area of varied land cover and landform to west comprising of worked agricultural land and forestry contrasting with a more intimate and wooded agricultural valley landscape to the east. Settled, but incorporating the most intact and representative areas of landscape in the southern part of the Falkirk Council area.

Landscape Description:

Area West of Avonbridge

- Local Landscape Character Areas: 3(i) Slamannan Plateau (western part of LLCA), 3 (ii) Darnrig/Gardrum Plateau Moorland (small southern area of LLCA directly north of Slamannan);
- Excludes settlements of Slamannan and Avonbridge and associated areas allocated for future development;
- Generally rolling plateau with very varied landcover and frequent changes in landform; large-medium scale and open with improved and semi-improved grassland and areas of arable land; includes part of area of rough and improved grassland which is nationally important for overwintering flocks of bean geese;
- Settled, agriculturally worked landscape, with evidence of former opencast area and associated infrastructure in surrounding area;
- Generally covers area of improved land and lower more fertile valley area of plateau;
- Coniferous plantation and mixed woodland in the western part of area; policy woodland and shelterbelts in the smaller scale, intimate and hummocky area south of Loch Elrig, in northern part of area; elsewhere, blocks of broadleaf woodland, policy woodland, tree groups, shelterbelts, tree avenues; overgrown hedges with individual trees, broadleaf woodland along field edges and watercourses;
- Area to west is more open and of moorland character with conifer plantation;
- Central and eastern part of area of small to medium fields, with hedgerow enclosure;
- Wind turbines evident within area;
- Area drains west to east into River Avon via tributary burns.



Slamannan Plateau/Avon Valley Local Landscape Area: Statement of Importance

Landscape Description:

Area East of Avonbridge

- Local Landscape Character Areas: 4 (i) Avon Valley (main part of LLCA, excluding small northern section);
- Rolling landform in north and east with gradual transition southwards to south facing valley side of river Avon; deep, narrow, gorge-like river valley of River Avon marks southern boundary and Council boundary with West Lothian;
- Generally small fields of grassland and arable, but some areas of rough pasture and poor drainage and well maintained boundaries;
- Valley widens westwards near Kaemuir and east of Whitecross into gently rolling wooded landscape with arable farmland interspersed with small scale fields of permanent pasture close to the river;
- Strongly wooded character; many small areas of broadleaf woodland, particularly along watercourses, road and field boundaries; tree avenues and policy woodlands; overgrown hedgerows with individual trees frequently forming field boundaries; limited stone boundary walls;
- River valley is intimate, small scale and enclosed with dense mixed and ancient semi-natural woodland beside the river, with woodland policies and tree at Candie;
- Small burns from area flow west and south into river Avon and form important attractive landscape features where they cut deeply into wooded valleys;
- A801 is only main road cutting through the area, but a number of minor roads run through the area which link Avonbridge, Standburn, Muiravonside, Whitecross and numerous farm steadings;
- Settled with numerous farm steadings and outlying dwellings;
- Two major overhead power lines cross area running north - south.

Generally:

- Very varied landcover and landform in western part provides differing sense of tranquility and naturalness depending on location. Area east of Avonbridge has strong intimate wooded character with sense of enclosure and naturalness;
- Eastern section of LLA is unique within the Council area due to intimate character, whereas western area locally unique due to its very varied and changing character within a relatively small area;
- Visibility within the area is limited by undulating topography and landcover (particularly in the east), although extensive views are obtained out of area towards the Denny Hills, the Ochils and the Pentlands from higher exposed areas and minor roads on ridges;
- Higher points within AGLV are visible from the surrounding outside area and from high points in adjacent authority areas (eg from Cockleroy and Cairnpapple Hill and environs in West Lothian Council area);
- Overall area of LLA covers 27km².

Slamannan Plateau/Avon Valley Local Landscape Area: Statement of Importance

Other Natural Heritage, Cultural Heritage and Recreational Interests:

- Muiravonside Country Park in east of LLA;
- The River Avon Heritage Trail (between Avonbridge and Linlithgow) is an important recreational feature following the river with a range of features along the route (weirs, waterfalls, Avon Viaduct, Avon Aqueduct);
- Falkirk Wildlife Sites throughout area;
- Bean geese have high fidelity to the fields around Slamannan and Avonbridge;
- Battlefield site near extreme east of LLA.

Boundary:

Western Section: The AGLV boundary generally follows the ridge lines and area of improved land that surrounds the valley of the upper tributary of the River Avon. The north boundary follows ridgeline north of Wester Jaw and westwards following the minor road between Strathavon and Broom and across a ridge to Hareburn. The boundary then follows B8028 south to the western edge of Avonbridge and then west along the B825 to the junction with the B8022. The boundary runs west along the watercourse flowing from Arnloss and along the ridge through woodland to Binniehill. From Binniehill the boundary follows the minor road as far as Lodge Farm and returns north on the minor road running to Greenhill and then north to include an area of forestry, running to Parkhead before linking with the ridgeline north of Wester Jaw. The area excludes the settlement of Slamannan and the areas allocated for future development on the western and northern sides of the village.

Eastern Section: The northern boundary generally follows the route of the B825 and the ridgeline that visually apparent from this road, before following the River Avon on its southern boundary. The southern boundary forms the boundary of West Lothian Council and this is also continuous with The Bathgate Hills and River Avon Valley LLA designation within that Council area. The western boundary runs along the eastern side of Avonbridge, then extends eastwards forming the northern boundary along the B825 to just south of Standburn. From here, the boundary extends along the ridge south of Standburn, (also forming the boundary of a commercial forestry plantation), along the edge of a shelterbelt to cross the A801 and then follow the northern side of the A825 after Muiravonside; it crosses the Union Canal, generally following the B825 and sections of the visual envelope from this road as far as the railway viaduct over the B825 and the River Avon.

Special Qualities:

- Incorporates the most intact and least developed sections of countryside to the south side of Falkirk;
- In west, generally rolling plateau with localised variations and very varied land use, with changing landcover, enclosure size and pattern;
- In east, transition from rolling landform to shallow south facing valley side of River Avon which flows eastwards into distinctive narrow, gorge-like river valley;
- Farmed and populated rural lowland surrounded by plateau river catchment area and extending to lower ground down river valley eastwards;
- Eastern area has strongly wooded character and is distinctively more intimate in character with small fields and limited extensive views out;
- Wide range of woodland and tree cover overall: conifer plantation, small broadleaf blocks, woodland along watercourses, policy woodland, tree avenues, overgrown hedge and field boundary trees and tree groups and small areas of recent woodland;
- Provides an important contribution to setting of Avonbridge, Slamannan, Standburn and Muiravonside.

South Bo'ness Local Landscape Area: Statement of Importance

7.3 Overview:

Locally distinctive area of rolling hills comprising of agricultural land, forming a strong backdrop and setting to the settlements of Bo'ness and Linlithgow and providing a physical separation between them. Includes sites and features of historic and recreational importance, undeveloped coastline and minor roads. The area forms a strong contrast to the adjacent industrial complex at Grangemouth and the settlement of Bo'ness. The area has a high recreational value due to its juxtaposition with Bo'ness.

Landscape Description:

- Local Landscape Character Areas: 6(i) Bo'ness Coastal Hills (entire area), 4 (i) Avon Valley (north eastern edge of river corridor);
- Gently rolling coastal hills extending from east of Grangemouth to Blackness, and from immediate south of Bo'ness to border with West Lothian. Rising to 150m above seal level and sloping northwards to Bo'ness and southwards to Linlithgow with minor watercourses to Forth and River Avon. Internally, landform includes small shallow valley on higher ground above Bo'ness.
- Extends to Forth Estuary coast with mudflats at Blackness (SPA and SSSI designation); predominant aspect is to north;
- Steep, wooded, narrow, incised River Avon valley on south western boundary;
- Farmland mostly ley grassland and arable land comprising medium to large scale fields, open or semi-open farmland. Field boundaries comprise a mix of post and wire fences, well maintained hedges with individual trees and tree groups; few dry stone walls;
- Champany, Cauldcoats and Mannerston Holdings in eastern part of AGLV have distinct small scale rectilinear field pattern with small holdings dwellings and buildings extending along minor roads;
- Areas of woodland cover at Kinneil, small to medium shelterbelts and broadleaf woodland groups elsewhere; field boundary/roadside broadleaf trees frequent. Coastline east of Muirhouses on wooded escarpment; includes some untypical areas with limited woodland/tree cover;
- Steep wooded escarpment on northern boundary between Grangemouth and Kinneil, providing a distinct boundary; also steep wooded escarpment along northern coastal boundary between Carriden and Blackness;
- Roads generally west to east through area on ridges at different elevations, providing extensive views outwards;
- Limited sense of remoteness due to proximity of settlements, but locations on minor roads and paths on higher ground have a strong rural and managed agricultural character with distant views out;
- Rural internal part of area and coastline near Blackness and Avon Valley area contrast strongly with adjacent settlements of Bo'ness, Grangemouth and Linlithgow;
- Extensive panoramic views out from internal minor roads/paths and high points in all directions, across settlements of Bo'ness, Grangemouth and Linlithgow to open countryside beyond; highest point on border at West Lothian Golf Club (170m) provides distinct panoramic views in all directions. Views north across Forth to Ochils are dominant from the highest points and northern slopes; internally, views within the LLA are limited by landform and tree cover;
- In west of area, views to the Grangemouth complex from the high minor road between Nether Kinneil and the A905 are a very dominant feature in the middle ground and form a strong contrast with the more distant views to hills in the west;
- Views of the upper part of the LLA from outside are prominent from the south, where the area forms a backdrop to Linlithgow; the northern slopes of the LLA are also a prominent feature forming a backdrop to Bo'ness when viewed from the Fife coastline on the north side of the Forth. Approaching Bo'ness from the west, the wooded escarpment alongside the A904/A905 is visually prominent, forming the northern boundary of the AGLV; the higher ground is also visible from the eastern end of Falkirk/Grangemouth;
- Area covers approximately 18km².

South Bo'ness Local Landscape Area: Statement of Importance

Other Natural Heritage, Cultural Heritage and Recreational Interests:

- Recreational features include: a network of core paths, John Muir Way, National Cycle Network Route 76, part of the Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway, and a golf course;
- Historical and archaeological features, including a section of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site, Roman camps, Blackness Castle and Carriden House;
- Landmark features also include Airngath Hill at 171m, the tower at House of Binns on Binns Hill (just in West Lothian);
- Adjoins Site of Special Scientific Interest and Special Protection Area on Forth coast;
- Local Wildlife Site at Kinneil and east of Carriden;
- Bومains Meadows SSSI (south of Bo'ness) and Avon Gorge SSSI (in west of area);
- Greenbelt to south and west of Bo'ness.

Boundary:

Contiguous with the River Avon on south west boundary and the Falkirk/West Lothian boundary to the south and east. Eastern boundary is contiguous with the Forth Shore LLA in West Lothian. Northern boundary is marked by the distinct steep wooded escarpment running down to the A 904/A905, by the outer western and northern limit of built development of Bo'ness and Muirhouses and by the Forth coast between Carriden and Blackness.

Special Qualities:

- Area of small rolling hills comprising well tended farmland and some woodland blocks / shelterbelts forming an important rural backdrop to Bo'ness and to Linlithgow and providing a strong boundary between these settlements;
- Area forms the landward setting of Bo'ness and uniquely extends to the settlement boundary; incorporates an important stretch of undeveloped coast to north;
- Elevated location near coast enables notable long panoramic views out from high points to the Forth, Ochils and Pentlands and ensures much of the area is visible from the surrounding countryside;
- Includes steep wooded escarpments on northern side and wooded valley and gorge of River Avon to south;
- High recreational usage, framing countryside surrounding Bo'ness.



Appendix 3 - Further Guidance and Sources of Information for Developers

Further Guidance and Sources of Information for Developers

8.1 In addition to this Supplementary Guidance on landscape character and landscape designations, the following are a selection of local and national documents that are related to landscape issues and provide further information and guidance:

- Falkirk Council Supplementary Guidance SG01: Development in the Countryside
- Falkirk Council Supplementary Guidance SG07: Biodiversity and Development
- Falkirk Council Supplementary Guidance SG08: Local Nature Conservation and Geodiversity Sites
- Falkirk Council Supplementary Guidance SG10: Trees and Development
- Falkirk Council Supplementary Guidance SG11: Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Sites
- Falkirk Council Supplementary Guidance SG14: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy
- **Scottish Planning Policy (June 2014)**
- **New Housing, Settlement Expansion and the Natural Heritage (NatureScot)** gives guidance on working with the planning system to ensure positive outcomes for landscape and natural heritage.
- **PAN 44 - Fitting New Housing Development into the Landscape** considers design principles for larger developments on the edge of built up areas and provides suggestions to achieve residential developments which are in harmony with their landscape setting and make a positive contribution to existing character.
- **PAN 72 - Housing in the Countryside** sets out key design principles, with the purpose of creating opportunities for good quality rural housing which respects Scottish landscapes and building traditions.
- **PAN 65 - Planning and Open Space** provides advice on the role of the planning system in protecting and enhancing existing open spaces and providing high quality new spaces.
- **PAN 39 - Farm and Forestry Buildings**
- **PAN 60 - Planning for Natural Heritage**
- **Scottish Government: Guide to Farm Diversification & Planning Permission in Scotland**
- **NatureScot: Central Region Landscape Character Assessment:** <http://www.nature.scot/naturescot-review-123-central-region-landscape-character-assessment>
- **NatureScot: Stirling to Grangemouth Landscape Character Assessment:** <http://www.nature.scot/naturescot-review-124-stirling-grangemouth-landscape-character-assessment>
- **NatureScot: A range of guidance on landscape, planning and development can be found at:** <http://www.nature.scot/information-hub/information-library>
- **Scottish Forestry: Forests and Landscape: UK Forestry Standard Guidelines**
- **Scottish Forestry Guideline Note: Short Rotation Coppice in the Landscape**
- **Scottish Forestry: Conserving and Managing Trees and Woodlands in Scotland's Designed Landscapes**
- **Scottish Forestry: Forest Design Planning - A Guide to Good Practice**

