

**EDINBURGH LANDSCAPE
CHARACTER ASSESSMENT**

**Prepared for
the City of Edinburgh Council
by
Land Use Consultants
in association with Carol Anderson**

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Appendices

Appendix 1: Fieldwork survey form

Appendix 2: List of LCAs sequenced by map reference

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In 2006 Land Use Consultants (LUC) was commissioned by the City of Edinburgh Council to undertake a landscape character assessment of the landscape of the City of Edinburgh local authority area.
- 1.2. The purpose of the study is to undertake a landscape character assessment of landscape within City of Edinburgh Council including urban open spaces and the peri-urban environment. The assessment provides information to understand how Edinburgh's landscape character may be conserved, enhanced or restructured as appropriate. This baseline will in turn enable a systematic review of local landscape designations.

Lothians Landscape Character Assessment

- 1.3. The Lothians Landscape Character Assessment¹ (LLCA) was published in 1998 as part of a national programme of regional landscape assessment undertaken by SNH. The City of Edinburgh Landscape Character Assessment develops the LLCA at a detailed scale and may be referenced alongside it.

European Landscape Convention

- 1.4. The European Landscape Convention² recognises the value of landscapes both in everyday terms and as outstanding landscape areas. It sets out the duty of public authorities to define the general framework for ensuring landscape quality. The definition of landscape within the Convention covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas, and includes land, inland water and marine areas.
- 1.5. Whilst recognising the breadth of the Convention's definition of landscape, for the purposes of this study there has been a focus on the landscape areas outwith the built up areas. This reflects the different pressures on urban areas and also that townscape and built heritage are covered by a suite of designations separate from wider landscape designations.
- 1.6. The landscape character assessment also covers a number of discrete significant open spaces within the city as required by the project brief. The approach to identifying these spaces is set out in more detail in the methodology.

Use of the Edinburgh Landscape Character Assessment

- 1.7. The Edinburgh Landscape Character Assessment provides descriptive information on the landscape character of Edinburgh. This information will be of benefit to those involved in development planning and management. It will also be of value to a range of other agencies and organisations such as SNH and Forestry Commission Scotland when considering issues affecting landscape character.

¹ ASH Consulting Group (1998) *The Lothians landscape character assessment*. Scottish Natural Heritage Review No 91.

² http://www.coe.int/t/e/cultural_co-operation/environment/landscape/

Report Structure

1.8. The remainder of the report is structured as follows:

- Chapter 2 sets out the methodology of identifying open spaces to include within the study and for carrying out the landscape character assessment;
- Chapter 3 includes the landscape character type and landscape character area descriptions.

2. METHOD

INTRODUCTION

- 2.1. This chapter of the report sets out the method used to undertake the landscape character assessment and to identify the open spaces within the city to include in the study. It also defines the approach adopted in relation to landscape character types and landscape character areas where they cross the City of Edinburgh Council boundary.

STUDY AREA

Open Spaces within the city

- 2.2. The project specification required that those open spaces which make a significant contribution to Edinburgh's landscape or townscape should be included in the landscape character assessment.
- 2.3. Potential open spaces for inclusion were identified in discussion with the project steering group and reviewed for inclusion in the study based on a number of related criteria, including:
- Prominence – open spaces which are particularly prominent, for example by virtue of their landform (hills and crags) or location close to the historic core of the city are included (this includes the seven hills upon which the city has been built);
 - Contribution to the wider character and setting of the city and its surrounding area – open spaces which make a significant contribution to the wider character of the city's townscape and the wider landscape of the Lothians are included;
 - Contribution to iconic elements of the historic townscape – several open spaces form a critical and interrelated part of Edinburgh's historic townscape and have strong cultural associations.
 - Continuity and strong visual connection with open countryside or other significant open spaces identified above.
- 2.4. This approach has ensured that the study focuses on those open spaces that make a significant contribution to the wider landscape (and townscape) of Edinburgh, without including a larger number of sites which are of more local significance.
- 2.5. The following evaluation identifies sites 1-13 for inclusion in this study, and illustrates where other open spaces did not fulfil the criteria for inclusion:

	open spaces which are particularly prominent	wider character and setting of the city and its surrounding area	iconic elements of the historic townscape	Continuity with open countryside or other significant open spaces
1. Cramond and Silverknowes	x	✓	x	✓
2. Corstorphine	✓	✓	x	x
3. Princes Street Gardens and Castle Rock	✓	x	✓	x
4. Botanic Gardens and Inverleith Park	x	✓	✓	x
5. The Meadows	x	x	✓	x
6. Calton Hill	✓	x	✓	x
7. Braid Hills	✓	✓	x	✓
8. Arthur's Seat, Duddingston and South East Wedge	✓	✓	✓	✓
9. Craiglockhart	✓	✓	x	x
10. Water of Leith	x	✓	x	✓
11. Leith Links	x	x	✓	x
12. Queen Street Gardens	x	x	✓	x
13. Kingsknowe Golf Course	x	x	x	x
14. Carrick Knowe Golf Course	x	x	x	x
15. Portobello Golf Course	x	x	x	x
16. Craigentiny Golf Course	x	x	x	x
17. Union Canal	x	x	x	x
18. Cameron Toll/Inch Park	x	x	x	x

Cross boundary issues

- 2.6. The approach to evaluating landscape character areas and types which extend across the City of Edinburgh local authority boundary was based on the inclusion of the full extent of an identified landscape character area. This approach ensures that whole landscape units can be considered comprehensively, and will assist with the

second stage of the study which will identify potential areas for local landscape designation.

METHODOLOGY

2.7. This section describes the stages of landscape character assessment. The methodology is based on the approach recommended in the Scottish Natural Heritage and Countryside Agency document *Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland* (2002). The approach to evaluation draws on the joint SNH and Historic Scotland *Guidance on Local Landscape Designations* (2005). It comprises the following key stages:

- desk analysis (including GIS analysis)
- field survey
- classification and description
- evaluation
- reporting

Desk Analysis

2.8. The desk study focuses on the assembly and analysis of data to identify draft landscape character types and areas prior to the survey work. It provides an opportunity for a systematic analysis of the factors that jointly contribute to landscape character. This includes topography and geology, habitats and other natural and semi-natural influences, the pattern of land cover and historic land use, incidence of cultural sites and areas, culminating in the pattern of settlement.

Data assembly

2.9. Where possible, the desk work has made use of digital datasets, and this has included reference to other types published data sources where relevant and appropriate. Key data sources of mapped data are set out in Table 3.1, below.

Table 3.1: Desk study data sources

Data	Source	Format
Geology	Solid and drift RGS Maps	Paper
Topography	OS contour data	Digital 1:50k, 1:25k
	Rivers and watercourses	Digital (1:50k OS base)
Soils	Soil capability maps	Paper
	Prime agricultural land	Digital
Land cover	Land cover map of Scotland	Digital
	Scottish semi-natural woodland inventory	Digital
Biodiversity	Phase 1 Habitat Survey	Digital
	Phase 2 Habitat Survey	Digital
	Ancient and semi-natural woodlands	Digital
	Heritage Trees	Digital
	Native Woodland Sites	Digital
	Notable Species	Digital
	Notable Habitats	Digital
	Sites of Special Scientific Interest	Digital
	Special Protection Areas	Digital
	Local Nature Reserves/ Neighbourhood Nature Areas	Digital
	Edinburgh Urban Forests (community woodlands) and forest compartments	Digital
Cultural heritage	Historic Landuse Assessment	Digital
	Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes	Digital
	World Heritage Site	Digital
	Holyrood Park	Digital
	Conservation Areas	Digital
	Historic OS maps	Paper
Settlement	Urban Areas	Digital
	Scottish Paths Record (SPR)	Digital
	Pentland Hills Regional Park	Digital
	Allotments	Digital
	Locations of Parks	Digital
	Green Belt	Digital
	Development plan allocations	Digital
	Landscape designations	Digital

2.10. The assessment of each landscape character area also assessed the following criteria.

- Typicality –to what extent is the character of the landscape representative of (a) City of Edinburgh and (b) the Lothians more widely?
- Rarity or uniqueness –to what extent is the character of the landscape either rare or unique within (a) City of Edinburgh and (b) the Lothians more widely?
- Prominence –to what extent is the area in question prominent, visible or hidden within the landscape of (a) City of Edinburgh and (b) the Lothians more widely?

- Scenic qualities –to what extent is the landscape of scenic value in its own right or to what extent does it contribute to the scenic qualities of the wider area? This will be informed by the key characteristics and qualities identified, and by the extent of intervisibility indicated by the GIS analysis and subsequent field survey.;
- Enjoyment –to what extent is the landscape enjoyed by local people and visitors, for example in the form of walking, cycling or horse riding, or in the form of more formal recreation activities? This would be informed by the presence of walking and cycling routes, designation as a country or regional park, proximity to major visitor sites and visibility from key transport routes.
- Cultural qualities –does the landscape have specific historic or cultural associations, or does it contribute to the wider cultural heritage of the area? This would be informed by analysis of the Historic Landuse Assessment (HLA) and the presence of cultural heritage designations including sites on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland and Conservation Areas;
- Naturalness –does the landscape support natural and semi-natural habitats or allow appreciation of key geological or geomorphological features? This would be informed by analysis of international, national and local biodiversity designations and the presence of important geological features. We will also consider ‘natural’ landscape characteristics such as remoteness, tranquility and ‘wildness’.
- Condition or quality - is the landscape intact or has it experienced a decline in quality for example as a consequence of changes in landscape management, patterns of development or the influence of development in adjacent areas? Are future changes in condition or quality possible or likely as a consequence of anticipated forces for change?

GIS analysis

- 2.11. GIS has been used to undertake a systematic analysis of digital datasets, and to carry out targeted intervisibility mapping to identify key landmarks and visual relationships. This has included overlays of the data sources listed in Table 3.1 to build up a picture of key patterns within the landscape.
- 2.12. Mapping has also been undertaken to also allow strategic patterns of intervisibility to be explored. This has involved the preparation of ‘zone of theoretical visibility’ maps (ZTV maps) which identify the extent of views to or from a series of agreed landmarks or viewpoints.
- 2.13. This analysis does not incorporate the screening effect of buildings, although this data exists in the form of the City of Edinburgh Digital Surface Model. However it is not practicable to apply this very detailed data set for city-wide level analysis.
- 2.14. For the hills within the city two ZTVs have been generated. One relates to the visibility of the hill as a whole, and one which relates to an area on the summit of the hill. This allows comparison of the visibility of the whole hill as a distinct feature, and illustrates the proportion of the hill which is visible and the summit of the hill. The following bullets summarise the visibility of the following hills.
 - **Arthur’s Seat and Salisbury Crags:** Parts of Arthur’s Seat are visible from the majority of the city, with the exclusion of the deeply incised river valleys, parts of the coastal edge which lie beneath the scarp slope, areas to the west of Corstorphine and south of the Braid Hills and Craiglockhart Hills. Arthur’s Seat is

visible from all of the major transport corridors including the M8, M9, A720, A1, A8, and A68. The main area without visibility is to the west of Corstorphine Hill.

- **Blackford Hill and Braid Hill:** These two hills are most visible from the southern areas of Edinburgh, to both the east and west, and with some visibility from the north western area of the city, inland from Granton and Silverknowes. Blackford and Braid Hills are visible from many of the main routes into the city centre, including the A8, A71, A70, A702, A701, A772 and A7 parts of the M8 and western sections of the A720.
- **Calton Hill:** The additional height of the monuments and buildings on Calton Hill has not been included in the calculation of the viewshed and will be a notable factor in the actual visibility of the hill. Calton Hill is highly visible from the northern area of the city from Corstorphine to the west and to Portobello in the east. To the south views are more limited, requiring an elevated viewpoint such as from the Braid Hills. Calton Hill is visible from the main transport corridors in the north of the city, however the screening effect of buildings is likely to limit the extent of visibility.
- **Corstorphine Hill:** Views to and from Corstorphine Hill are possible from a large area of the city with only the eastern area beyond Holyrood Park and the area around Queensferry which drops down to the coast have no visibility. Corstorphine Hill is visible from several road transport routes including the M8, M9, A8, and western parts of the A720, A71.
- **Easter Craiglockhart and Wester Craiglockhart::** The hills are most visible from the west and centre of the city, and are screened from the east by the Braid hills. There is some visibility to the north inland over an area stretching between Granton and Cramond. These hills are visible from the main western approaches to the city including the M8, M9, A720, A70, A71 and A8.
- **Edinburgh Castle:** The Castle is particularly prominent in views to the north and south west although there are several elevated locations which give views from the south. There is some screening from the east by Holyrood Park and to the west by Corstorphine Hill. Views from main transport corridors include the A8, M8, M9, A70, and A71.
- **Allermuir, Caerketton, and Capelaw (Pentland Hills):** These northern summits of the Pentlands are highly visible from most areas. This includes all major roads into and out of the city.

Other data sources

2.15. The desk stage also involves the review and analysis of non-mapped information including:

- aerial photographs (vertical) provided by the City of Edinburgh Council;
- a selection of guide books and anthologies to explore ways in which Edinburgh is commonly portrayed and described.

2.16. We also reviewed existing landscape information including the Lothians Landscape Character Assessment (1998).

Preliminary landscape classification

- 2.17. The information gathered from this stage of the work was layered to identify draft landscape character types and character areas (at a scale of 1:25,000) for testing during the fieldwork.

FIELD SURVEY

- 2.18. The draft landscape types and areas were tested and verified on the ground during the fieldwork stage. The survey work also identifies aesthetic and perceptual qualities and information on strength of character, quality, sensitivity and opportunities for enhancement for use in the evaluation stage of the study. The field survey was carried out during 2007.
- 2.19. Tailored survey forms (Appendix 1) have been used incorporating criteria to record landscape and visual features and elements that may be important.

CLASSIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.20. The landscape classification has been refined and finalised through the survey work and subsequent analysis.
- 2.21. **Landscape character types** are defined on the basis of broadly similar patterns of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use, field patterns, settlement and intervisibility. The influence of these contributing characteristics will vary across the study area, with, for example, topography dominating in some areas and the pattern of settlement and development having a more profound influence elsewhere. These character types may occur in several locations within the study area, or in just one place. Landscape character types will be assigned names which reflect the dominant influences on landscape character making use of descriptors relating to topography, landcover and settlement.
- 2.22. **Landscape character areas** represent specific geographic locations where the landscape character types occur. While they share the 'generic' characteristics associated with a given landscape character type, they will also have their own characteristics and identity. Landscape character areas have been assigned names which are specific to the location in question and which refer to the character type in question.
- 2.23. The boundaries of these landscape character areas are illustrated on Figure 1, and Figure 2 illustrates the landscape character types. In most cases, the boundaries represent areas of transition rather than hard and fast boundaries that are evident on the ground.

3. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

Introduction

- 3.1. This section of the report sets out the descriptions of the landscape character types and areas within Edinburgh and provides an evaluation of the qualities of the landscape character areas.
- 3.2. The descriptions are structured to include analysis of:
 - Geology and Topography
 - Land cover
 - Cultural heritage
 - Settlement
 - Prominence
 - Receptors
 - Landscape condition
- 3.3. The descriptions draw out perceptual qualities and characteristics, record issues of condition and note key forces for change. The visibility of the landscape character areas is assessed in two ways. The assessment of prominence records the extent to which the landscape character area stands out physically from the surrounding area. The assessment of receptors reflects the extent to which people experience the landscape. The Water of Leith is a prime example of a landscape character area with low physical prominence, but relatively high numbers of receptors due to the popularity of the associated recreational routes alongside the river.
- 3.4. Table 3.1 provides an overview of the landscape character types and areas identified by the study. In addition it identifies the four broad regional character areas which have been defined for the study. These are:
 - Forth Waterfront: incorporates the immediate coastal fringe;
 - City of Edinburgh: includes landscapes within the urban environment;
 - Pentland Hills: covers the upland area;
 - Lothian Farmland: extends over the remaining farmland areas.
- 3.5. The following text provides a summary description of each landscape character type and the associated landscape character areas. Figure 1 provides an overview of the location of the character areas. A numerically ordered list is provided in Appendix 2 to aid interpretation of Figure 1.

Table 3.1 Regional character areas, landscape character types and landscape character areas, grouped by landscape character type

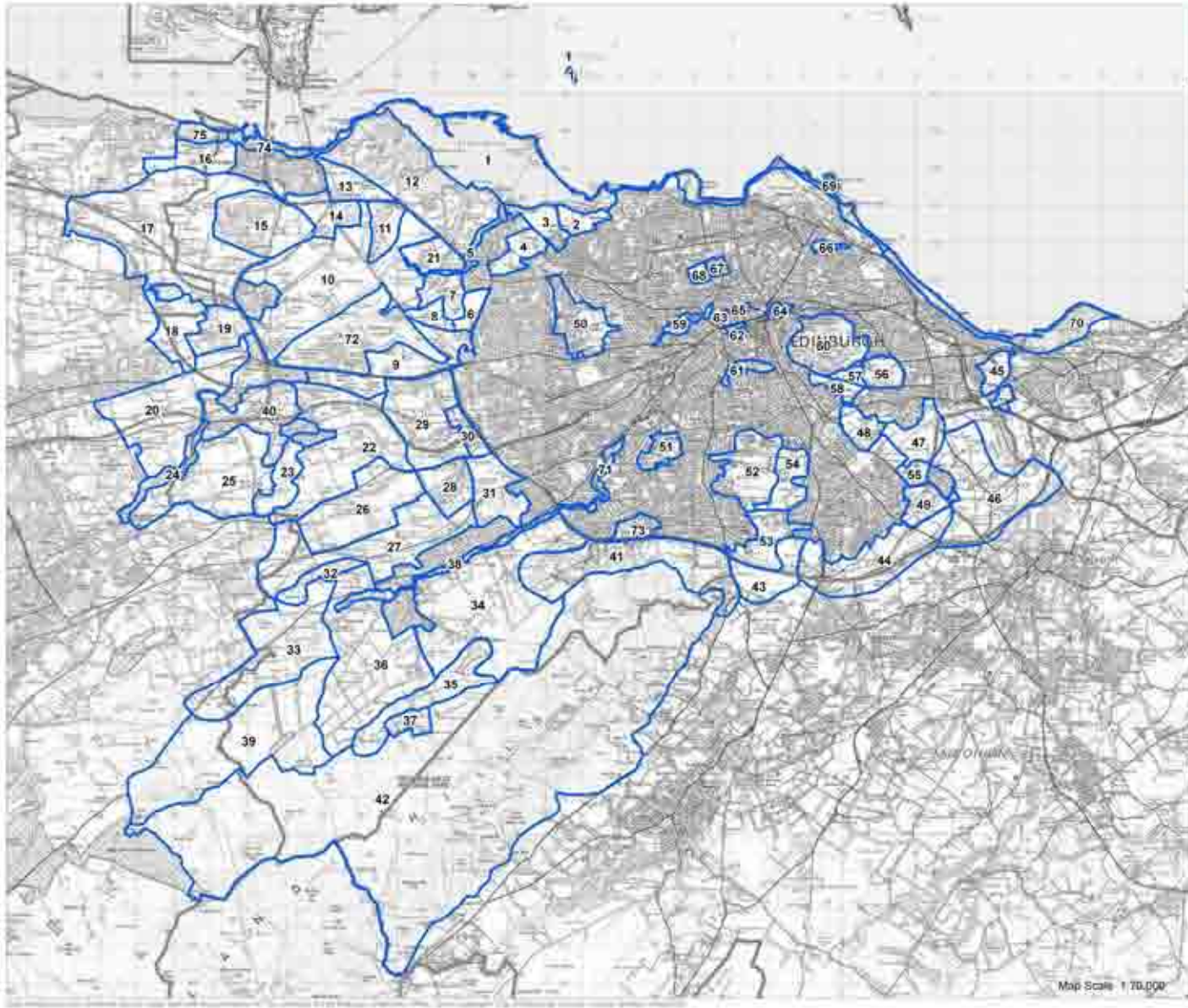
Regional Character Area	Landscape type	Landscape Character Area	LCA Map Ref No
Forth Waterfront	Coastal sands	Cramond coast	1
Forth Waterfront	Coastal sands	Portobello sands	70
Forth Waterfront	Coastal sands	Hopetoun coast	75
City of Edinburgh	Formal urban greenspace	Inverleith Park	68
City of Edinburgh	Formal urban greenspace	Leith Links	66
City of Edinburgh	Formal urban greenspace	Princes Street Gardens	63
City of Edinburgh	Formal urban greenspace	Queen Street Gardens	65
City of Edinburgh	Formal urban greenspace	Royal Botanic Gardens	67
City of Edinburgh	Formal urban greenspace	The Meadows	61
Lothian farmland	Incised river valley	Lower Almond Valley	5
Lothian farmland	Incised river valley	Upper Almond Valley	24
City of Edinburgh	Incised river valley	Water of Leith Colinton to Balerno	38
City of Edinburgh	Incised river valley	Water of Leith New Town	59
City of Edinburgh	Incised river valley	Water of Leith Slateford to Colinton Dell	71
City of Edinburgh	Informal open space	Duddingston Loch	57
Lothian farmland	Lowland farmland	Almond farmland	10
Lothian farmland	Lowland farmland	Cammo fringe farmland	6
Lothian farmland	Lowland farmland	Dalmeny fringes	13
Lothian farmland	Lowland farmland	Danderhall settled farmland	46
Lothian farmland	Lowland farmland	Lennie golf course	8
Lothian farmland	Lowland farmland	Newbridge/Broxburn farmland	20
Lothian farmland	Lowland farmland	Newton farmland	17
Lothian farmland	Lowland farmland	Niddry farmland	18
Lothian farmland	Lowland farmland	West Craigs farmland	9
Pentland Hills	Pentland flanks	Cockburn geometric wooded farmland	36
Pentland Hills	Pentland flanks	Currie sloping wooded farmland	34
Lothian farmland	Pentland flanks	Leith plateau farmland	33
Pentland Hills	Pentland flanks	North Pentland slopes	41
Pentland Hills	Pentland flanks	Redford basin	35
Pentland Hills	Pentland flanks	West Pentland fringe	39
Pentland Hills	Pentland hills - upper slopes and summits	Bavelaw geometric wooded farmland	37
Pentland Hills	Pentland hills - upper slopes and summits	Pentland heights	42
Lothian farmland	Policy landscape	Cammo policies	7
Lothian farmland	Policy landscape	Craigiehall policies	21
Lothian farmland	Policy landscape	Craigmillar policies	48
Lothian farmland	Policy Landscape	Dalmahoy policies	26
Forth Waterfront	Policy landscape	Dalmeny policies	12
Lothian farmland	Policy Landscape	Dreghorn Woodland and Barracks	73
Lothian farmland	Policy landscape	Drum policies	49
City of Edinburgh	Policy landscape	Duddingston policies	56
Lothian farmland	Policy landscape	Dundas policies	15
Lothian farmland	Policy landscape	Edmonstone Policies	55
City of Edinburgh	Policy landscape	Laurieston policies	3
Lothian farmland	Policy Landscape	Mortonhall policies	53
Lothian farmland	Policy landscape	Newliston policies	19
City of Edinburgh	Prominent urban hill	Calton Hill	64
City of Edinburgh	Prominent urban hill	Castle Rock	62

Regional Character Area	Landscape type	Landscape Character Area	LCA Map Ref No
City of Edinburgh	Prominent urban hill	Holyrood Park	60
City of Edinburgh	Prominent urban hills	Braid Hills	52
City of Edinburgh	Prominent urban hills	Corstorphine Hill	50
City of Edinburgh	Prominent urban hills	Craiglockhart Hills	51
City of Edinburgh	Recreational open space	Barnton golf courses	4
City of Edinburgh	Recreational open space	Prestonfield golf course	58
City of Edinburgh	Recreational open space	Silverknowes golf course	2
Lothian farmland	Rolling farmland	Baberton farmland	31
Lothian farmland	Rolling farmland	Bonnington farmland	25
Lothian farmland	Rolling farmland	Burdiehouse farmland	44
Lothian farmland	Rolling farmland	Gowanhill farmland	27
Lothian farmland	Rolling farmland	Ratho farmland	22
Lothian farmland	Rural outcrop hills	Craigie Hill	11
Lothian farmland	Rural outcrop hills	Kaimes Hill	32
Lothian farmland	Rural outcrop hills	Ratho Hills	23
Lothian farmland	Settled farmland	Airport	72
Lothian farmland	Settled farmland	Broomhill farmland	43
Lothian farmland	Settled farmland	Brunstane farmland	45
Lothian farmland	Settled farmland	Craigmillar farmland	47
Lothian farmland	settled farmland	Craigpark fragmented farmland	40
Lothian farmland	Settled farmland	East Hermiston farmland	30
Lothian farmland	Settled farmland	Gogar farmland and institutions	29
Lothian farmland	Settled farmland	Liberton fringes	54
Forth Waterfront	Settled farmland	Queensferry settled farmland	16
Lothian farmland	Settled farmland	Riccarton institutional landscape	28
Forth Waterfront	Settled farmland	Queensferry fragmented farmland	14
Forth Waterfront	Urban waterfront	Granton and Leith waterfront	69
Forth Waterfront	Urban waterfront	Queensferry waterfront	74

Appendix 2 – provides a list of landscape character areas sequenced by map reference number

Figure 1
Landscape Character Areas

- Legend**
- Edinburgh Council Boundary
 - Landscape Character Area



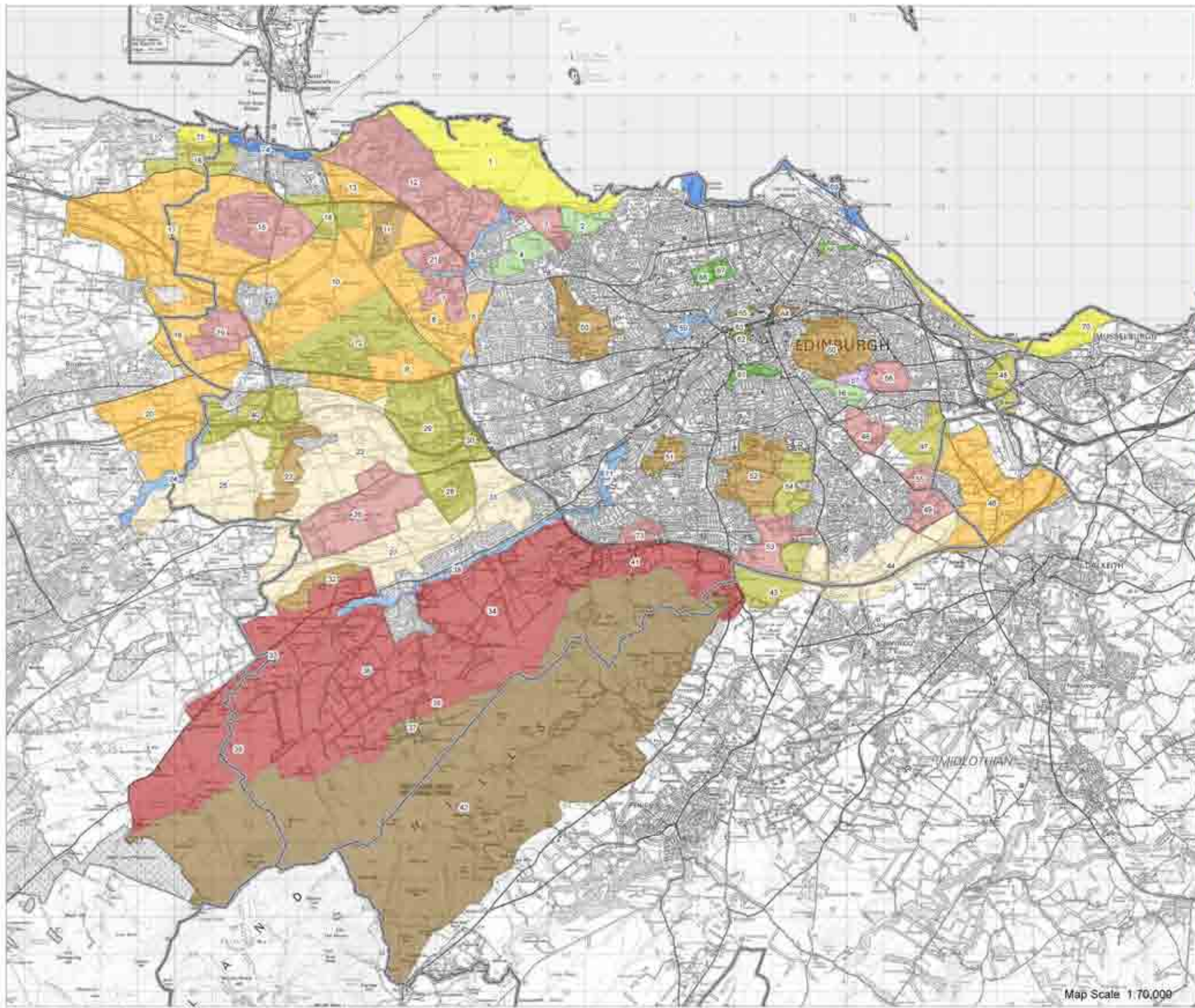


Figure 2
Landscape Character Types

Legend

Edinburgh Council Boundary

Landscape character types

- Coastal sands
- Formal urban greenspace
- Incised river valley
- Informal open space
- Lowland farmland
- Pentland flanks
- Pentland hills - upper slopes and summits
- Policy landscape
- Prominent urban hill
- Recreational open space
- Rolling farmland
- Rural outcrop hills
- Settled farmland
- Urban waterfront

Map Scale 1:70,000

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE: COASTAL SANDS

Character areas

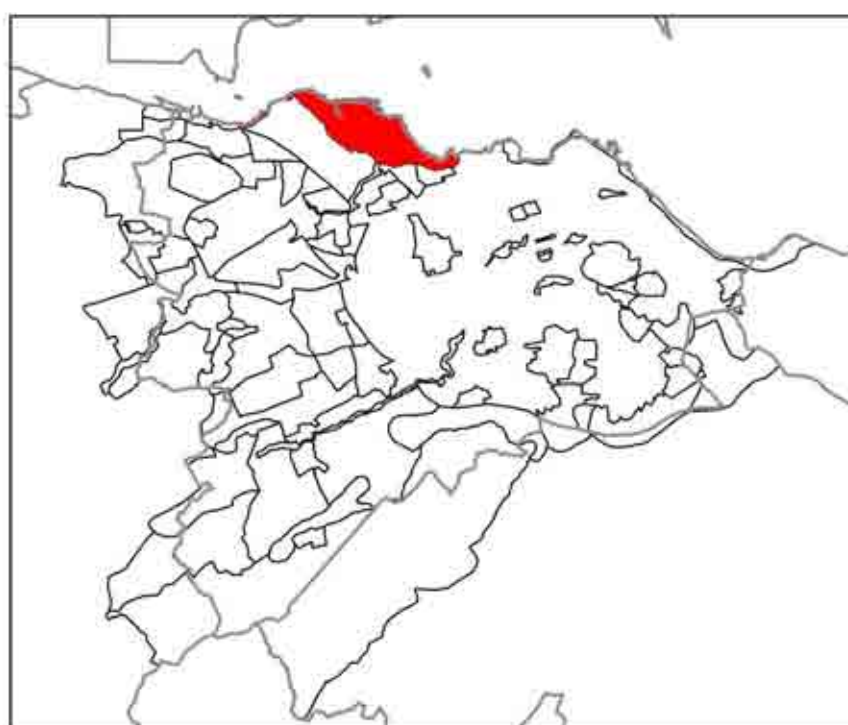
- Cramond Coast (1)
- Portobello Sands (70)
- Hopetoun Coast (75)

Key Characteristics

- Low lying coastal areas with sandy beaches and rocky outcrops;
- The Firth of Forth provides an open character, with views to coastal islands and Fife;
- A sea wall forms a hard edge to the coast in most places, with some limited areas of more naturalistic coastline;
- The coastal areas are important for recreation with pedestrian esplanades and sailing activities;
- The ebb and flow of the tides imparts a dynamic character to this landscape;
- Views inland are constrained by urban development and rising landform, and the coastal edge of this character type is not visually prominent. The landscape has a strong maritime character which results from the visual relationship with the water and coastal activities.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
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Cramond Coast	Coastal Sands	Forth Waterfront	1
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Description

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

- 3.7. The coastline is formed of rocky outcrops, boulder beaches and an extensive swathe of intertidal sands, which have a dynamic quality as a complex pattern of rivulets are exposed at low tide. Although the Firth is enclosed at this point and the coast of Fife is clearly visible, the light reflective qualities of water and sand provide a sense of openness. A broad esplanade and low concrete sea wall forms a hard built edge against the coast, backed by steep slopes which form a distinctive gently curving wooded scarp to the east, a steep grassy bank in its mid section and remnant policy parkland to the west, close to Cramond village. A number of large 19th century former mansion houses sit amongst mature ornamental conifers and broadleaved trees at the top of the wooded scarp to the east. A road at the top of the scarp provides access and car parking for the many people who use this coast for recreation. Towards Craigryston the coastal edge has been extended into the Firth to provide flat angular sports pitches which contrast with the more irregular and naturalistic shoreline present to the west.
- 3.8. While views into the hinterland are generally contained by the steep coastal edge, tall buildings and the gas container in the Granton and Leith area are prominent in views channelled along the coastline to the east. The small, craggy Cramond Island forms a key focus within the Firth and more distant islands of Inchmickery and Cow and Calves and the conical Bewick Law seen on the eastern horizon further enhance the diversity of the visual experience characteristic of this area. To the east, the historic core of Cramond village is hidden within the Almond valley and the policies of Dalmeny House form a backdrop of wooded hills and undeveloped coastline stretching to the Forth Rail Bridge. This character area provides a valuable sense of openness and a degree of seclusion from the urban area of the city and also has elemental qualities associated with the flux of tides and weather. However, tranquillity is rare due to constant low-flying air traffic on the flight path to the airport.

Summary of key characteristics

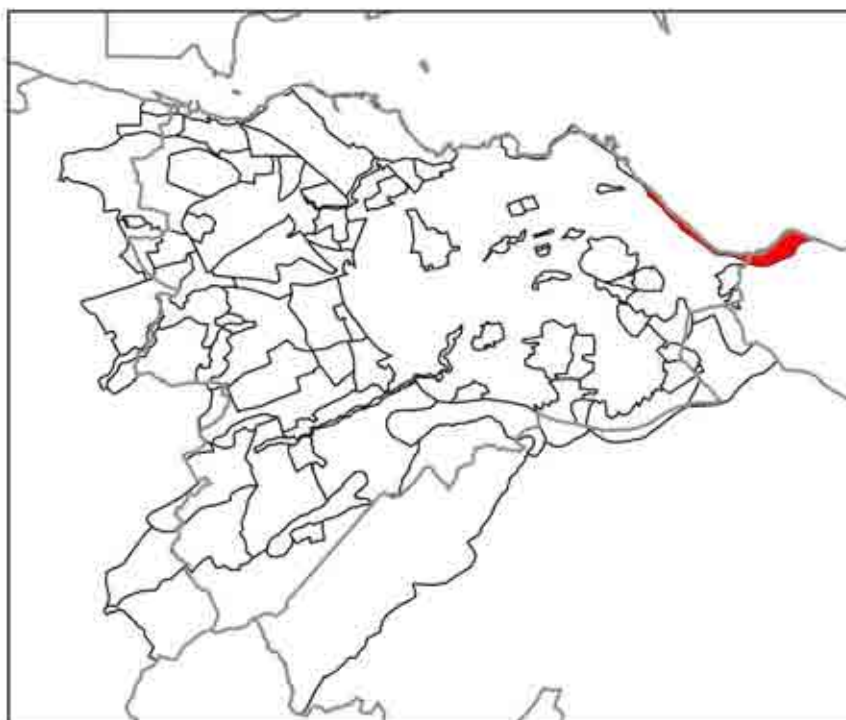
Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	High
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	High
Settlement	Medium
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	High
Landscape condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Much of the coastline of the Firth of Forth within Edinburgh has an urban character where the coastal edge has been modified by sea walls, harbours and landfill and the hinterland is built up. The esplanade and sea wall of this area are the only typical features of this character area also found on the Portobello coast.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Parts of the Inner Firth of Forth in West Lothian have a similar maritime context; semi-naturalistic coastline and hinterland of designed landscapes with some urban features.

Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This area is unique within Edinburgh in comparison with more modified sections of the coast where urban influences are more dominant. The dynamism of intertidal sands and presence of islands increase the diversity and naturalistic qualities of this area. The largely undeveloped hinterland of Silverknowes and Lauriston also limit the influence of the urban edge.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	While the East Lothian coast offers a more open maritime character and natural coastal edge, this seascape is surprisingly diverse and naturalistic despite its urban context
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	While this area is not visually prominent from the urban area, it is a very popular location for recreation and this increases sensitivity.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	The Cramond Coast is not visible from the Lothians (but can be seen from the Fife Coast).
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	Intertidal sands, islands and the Firth of Forth provide a diverse and dynamic seascape of high scenic quality.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	Not visually prominent but well-used esplanade increases visibility within the LCA
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	Broad esplanade against the coast to Cramond and tidal access to Cramond Island
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	The beach is accessible for informal recreation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	Minor road used for coastal access and parking
Culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLA and sites 	Cramond Roman fort and associated ancillary settlement is a scheduled ancient monument. Other Roman remains have been found in the vicinity. Numerous listed buildings, including A-listed parts of Cramond Village and Cramond Church, and B-listed Cramond House and Tower.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDL 	The policy influences surrounding Cramond House and Tower extend down to the coastal edge.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Areas 	Partly covered by Cramond Conservation Area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associations 	No identified associations
Naturalness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity 	International designation of Firth of Forth SPA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geodiversity 	No significant geodiversity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remoteness 	The popularity of this section of coast for recreation and proximity of the urban area and settlement visible in Fife precludes a sense of remoteness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tranquillity 	Tranquillity is affected by constant air traffic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildness 	Some elemental qualities associated with the flux of tides and weather.
Condition	Generally well-maintained although distinctive woodland on scarp does not appear to be managed and esplanade, information and café facilities require upgrading in places
Forces for change	Changes in the management of the area for recreation and provision of facilities will affect the character.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Portobello Sands	Coastal Sands	Forth Waterfront	70



Description

- 3.9. This seascape extends from the sewage treatment works at Seafield to the mouth of the River Esk at Musselburgh. The character of the coastal edge

changes east of the River Esk as past coal mining operations have created a series of man-made lagoons and infill areas along the coast.

- 3.10. Long sandy beaches are permanently exposed between Seafield and rocky outcrops at Joppa and in the Musselburgh area. Tidal mud flats occur at the mouth of the River Esk and are only exposed at low tide. A concrete wall forms a hard edge along much of this coast and rock armouring is a feature in places. A broad pedestrian esplanade backs the coastline at Portobello and east of the small stone harbour at Musselburgh. Small sailing boats congregated in this harbour give this area a distinctive maritime character.
- 3.11. The hinterland is densely urban with car showrooms and a bus depot adjacent to the coast in the Seafield area. 19th Century seafront housing and leisure facilities back the broad esplanade at Portobello and contribute to its seaside resort character. Links parkland and school playing fields give a more open character to the hinterland around the mouth of the North Esk. Narrow, ornamental linear public gardens and esplanades abut the coast to the south-east of Portobello where the B6415 is close to the coast.
- 3.12. Open views over the Firth of Forth to Fife and to the East Lothian coast are a feature from the well-used esplanades and occasionally, where gaps allow, from the B6415 and A199.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Medium
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	Low
Settlement	High
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	High
Landscape Condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The modified character of the coastline including sea walls and the hinterland of industry and housing are more typical of the Granton to Seafield coast than the more naturalistic Cramond Coast character area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Harbours and sea walls are typical of some other coastal areas located within urban areas in the Lothians although these are generally limited in extent and the coast has a more naturalistic character and rural context.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The broad sandy beach at Portobello and the short stretch of more naturalistic grass-backed beach around Musselburgh are rare features within Edinburgh. The maritime character of the Firth of Forth is also a key attribute of this coastline and forms a unique part of Edinburgh's setting. All these features contrast with the highly modified urban hinterland.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This character area is rare within the wider context of the Lothians only because of its urban context. Seascapes within East Lothian have a more naturalistic character.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This area is visually prominent from nearby residential areas and from limited sections of the A99 and B6415. The Firth of Forth is the most visible component of this seascape.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This area is visible from parts of the East Lothian coast.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	The modified coastline of sea walls and hinterland of housing is generally of low scenic quality although the Firth of Forth, sandy beaches at Portobello and Musselburgh and the small harbour of Musselburgh have some scenic qualities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	Visible locally and from East Lothian coast
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	Coastal esplanade and footpath
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	Small recreation grounds link with the coast in Portobello and Musselburgh
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	A901 coast road
Culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLA and sites 	No information available
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDL 	None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Areas 	Portobello Conservation Area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associations 	No identified associations
Naturalness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity 	Firth of Forth SPA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geodiversity 	No significant geodiversity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remoteness 	None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tranquillity 	None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildness 	Some limited elemental qualities experienced on more open stretches of this coast, particularly in stormy conditions
Condition	Sandy beaches and esplanades in Portobello and Musselburgh area generally well-managed
Forces for change	None identified

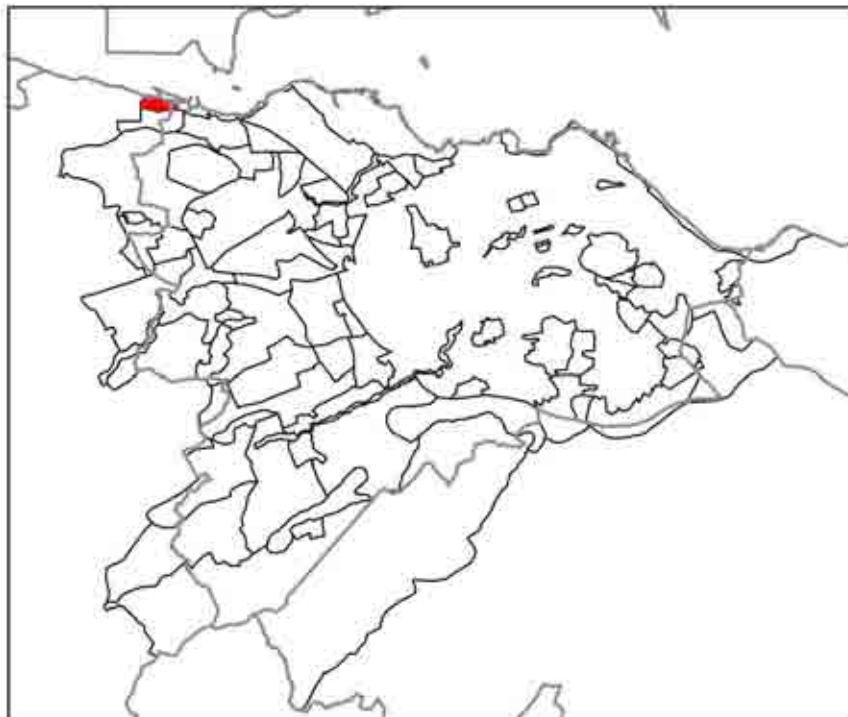
Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
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Hopetoun Waterfront

Coastal Sands

Forth Waterfront

75



Description

- 3.13. This landscape character area extends along the coastal edge where the Hopetoun Policies extend down the scarp slope at the edge of the Forth. This is a distinctive change in slope and similar to the landform at Cramond, and is a result of the isostatic adjustment following the melting of the ice at the

last ice age, which has created a number of former shorelines along the Firth of Forth. The access road to Hopetoun winds along the base of slope at the shore edge contained by estate walls on either side. There are extensive views across the Firth of Forth and occasional rocky outcrops along the shore edge.

- 3.14. The slope is covered by mixed woodlands which extend along the shore and link to the other policy woodlands of Hopetoun. Hopetoun is an Inventory listed garden and designed landscape, centred around the main house. Hopetoun is privately owned and the house and grounds are open to visitors. Hopetoun is also a frequent venue for corporate and private events. However the access road only provides access to the estate and is not a through route, although there is some recreational use. The woodlands do not appear actively managed and the estate walls are in some disrepair.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	High
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	High
Settlement	Low
Prominence	Low
Receptors	Low
Landscape Condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Much of the Edinburgh coastline has a strong urban character with a modified coastal edge and adjacent built development, however the coastline at Dalmeny and Cramond has a similar wooded scarp.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	The landscape character area extends into Mid Lothian and the wooded coastal scarp is found along the shore to Blackness.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This landscape character area is not unique within Edinburgh as it shares similarities with the coast at Dalmeny.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	The landscape character extends into West Lothian and extends to the west.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This area is not visually prominent within Edinburgh due to the coastal aspect of the landform.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape character area lies partly within West Lothian and can be viewed from the Fife coast.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	The wooded slope and narrow coastal edge along with containment of views out across the Forth give this landscape a peaceful and attractive quality with strong links to Hopetoun.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	The scarp slope, curve of the shore and lack of access means that this is not a highly visible landscape, although it features in views from Fife.
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	There is public access along the shore road.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	The grounds of Hopetoun are open to paying visitors.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	The minor road runs along the shore.
Culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLA and sites 	The landscape is predominantly influenced by the Hopetoun policies which are predominantly 18 th century in character.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDL 	Hopetoun House GDL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Areas 	There are no conservation areas within the LCA.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associations 	The area has been part of the Hopetoun Estate for the past three centuries.
Naturalness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity 	The woodland and shore provide some biodiversity value.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geodiversity 	The stepped shoreline illustrates the effect of isostatic adjustment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remoteness 	Although close to the Forth Road Bridge this area has some sense of remoteness due to the curving shoreline which limits views to the urban area to the east.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tranquillity 	The relatively low levels of movement and proximity to the water create some sense of tranquillity.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildness 	The beach and rocky outcrops are naturalistic in character, however the woodland on the scarp slope is plantation.
Condition	
	The woodlands and estate walls show some signs of lack of management
Forces for change	
	The development of the Forth Replacement Crossing may impact on the views from this landscape character area.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE: FORMAL URBAN GREENSPACE

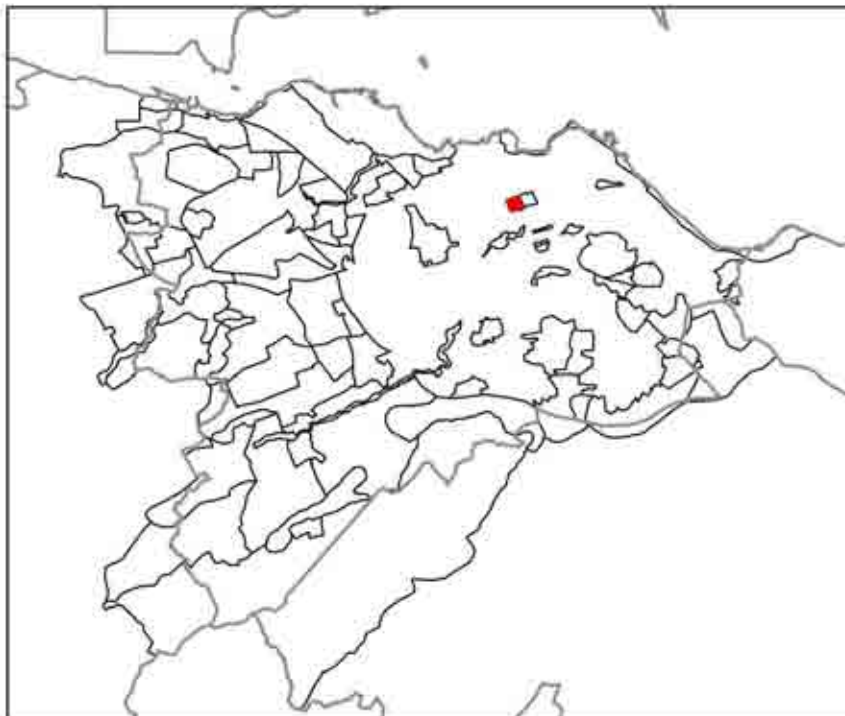
Character areas

- Inverleith Park (68)
- Leith Links (66)
- Princes Street Gardens (63)
- Queen Street Gardens (65)
- The Meadows (61)
- Royal Botanic Gardens (67)

Key Characteristics

- Flat to gently undulating areas of formal green space within the city
- Laid out for both sports and informal recreation activities;
- Characterised by grass, trees, shrubs and some flower beds. Avenues of trees are frequently associated with paths through the space;
- Historical significance within the context of the city;
- The open spaces often link visually when viewed from a distance, particularly where mature trees appear to merge with adjacent areas;
- The low lying nature of these spaces frequently reduces intervisibility, particularly in combination with the urban development which extends to their perimeter;
- Popular recreational spaces which also serve as important locations for cultural events.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Inverleith Park	Formal Urban Greenspace	City of Edinburgh	68



Description

- 3.15. Inverleith Park is a large formal park located in an area of gently undulating topography located in the north of Edinburgh. It includes allotments, sports

facilities, including several sports pitches, and a formal boating pond with a wildlife area. The park has a number of formal tree avenues alongside the main paths and the remainder of the park is mown grass.

- 3.16. Inverleith Park is well used for formal sports activities and informal recreation. It has a distinctive network of main paths on a north-south and east-west axis and is crossed by a cycle path. Inverleith Park was officially opened as a park in 1891. The park is supported by the Friends of Inverleith Park group and has an important role in the cultural events calendar.
- 3.17. To the south of the park the cricket ground and private sports pitches provide some visual continuity of the open space. There are few buildings within the park with a low brick built building at the western side and council workshops in the south east corner.
- 3.18. The low lying landform means that Inverleith Park is not very visible from other landmarks within the city or the adjacent Royal Botanic Gardens. However when viewed from locations such as Calton Hill, Inverleith Park continues the large swathe of open space to the north of the City Centre, which includes the Royal Botanic Gardens, Fettes College and Warriston Cemetery. Inverleith Park provides views to Edinburgh Castle and the New Town.
- 3.19. There have been small changes in the different sporting activities carried out in the park. A former ride which extended around the perimeter of the park no longer exists. The sports facilities have been refurbished, the allotments have a new perimeter fence and the wildlife area has been created within the boating pond. There has been pressure for the development of a skatepark facility within the park and it is possible that similar recreational developments may be proposed in the future. There is also pressure from telecoms masts.

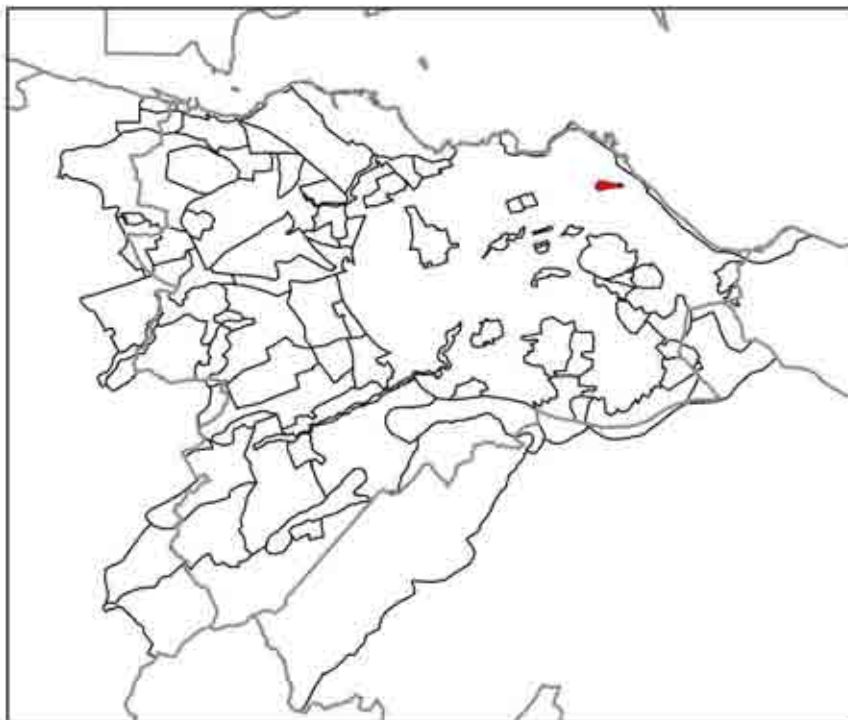
Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Low
Land cover	Medium
Land use	High
Cultural heritage	Medium
Prominence	Low
Receptors	Medium
Landscape condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Inverleith is a typical 19 th century urban park, and a number of other examples are found within Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Inverleith is typical of the larger urban parks within settlements in the Lothians with the layout of open space areas, mature tree avenues and recreational provision..
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The scale of Inverleith Park and its central location within the city distinguishes it from other urban parks within Edinburgh. Inverleith Park forms part of a continuous green swathe of stretching from the Botanic Gardens to Fettes College where the canopies of the mature trees coalesce on a south facing slope
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Inverleith Park is not rare or unique within the Lothians.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The relatively low lying landform and location in the north of the city means that Inverleith Park is not prominent within Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Inverleith Park is not prominent within the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	A large urban park with mature tree avenues and gently undulating topography.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	The surrounding landform limits visibility to this landscape.
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	A network of paths cross the park.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	The park is used for informal recreation and sport.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	Local roads pass around the perimeter of the park.
Culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLA and sites 	Dates from the 19 th Century, memorial fountain (1899) for Councillor John Charles Dunlop
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDL 	Adjacent to the Royal Botanic Garden inventory listed GDL.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Areas 	Located within the Inverleith Conservation Area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associations 	Hosts 400 events a year. Including family viewing for August Fireworks and Children's Festival in May.
Naturalness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity 	There is no significance for biodiversity, although a nature area has been created in the boating pond.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geodiversity 	There is no significant geodiversity.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remoteness 	Located within the city and popular with recreational users.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tranquillity 	A popular area for recreation, there is constant movement and activity.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildness 	A formal urban park
Condition	The landscape features within the park are well maintained.
Forces for change	Changes in the provision of recreational facilities and park management will affect the character of the landscape.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Leith Links	Formal Urban Greenspace	City of Edinburgh	66



Description

- 3.20. Leith Links is a largely flat area and lies only a few metres above sea level and is located in the north of the city, close to the Firth of Forth. Following the end of the last Ice Age the area would have been submerged due to the depression of the land beneath the ice.
- 3.21. Leith Links is an important recreational space and is predominantly mown grass with tree avenues along the linear paths. These are in greater number at the western end which contrasts with the more open character to the east. There are numerous sports pitches, an area of allotments and play facilities. The area was awarded Millennium Park Status in 2001.
- 3.22. Leith Links is an historic site and has been subject to a variety of uses in its past. This has included use for public executions, duels, battles and gatherings³. Visible remains include two gun emplacements from 1560 when the French-held citadel was under siege by an English Battery.
- 3.23. Leith Links is the historical home of the Honorable Company of Edinburgh Golfers and the location where the founding rules for golf were drawn up in 1744. It is the location for the annual Leith Festival held in the summer. The development surrounding the perimeter of the area comprises a mixture of older institutions, residential tenements and houses, new flats and warehouses, and the main date of influence is from 19th century.
- 3.24. Leith Links provides an important area of open space for the surrounding properties. There are roads around the perimeter and the Links are also bisected by a road which provides continual traffic movement. The area is important for local recreational uses including dog walking, jogging, play and sport. It is an important open space with strong historical and cultural connections. However, some elements such as the lighting are in poor condition and the replacement tree planting choice of species has not always been in keeping with the existing mix.
- 3.25. Change has included the provision of new play areas and sports changing buildings. Current maintenance regimes impact on the perceptions and use of the space which has scope for enhancement. Development and changing use of the buildings at the perimeter has a strong influence on the character of the area. The low lying nature of the landscape and peripheral built development limits views into and out of the area.

Summary of key characteristics

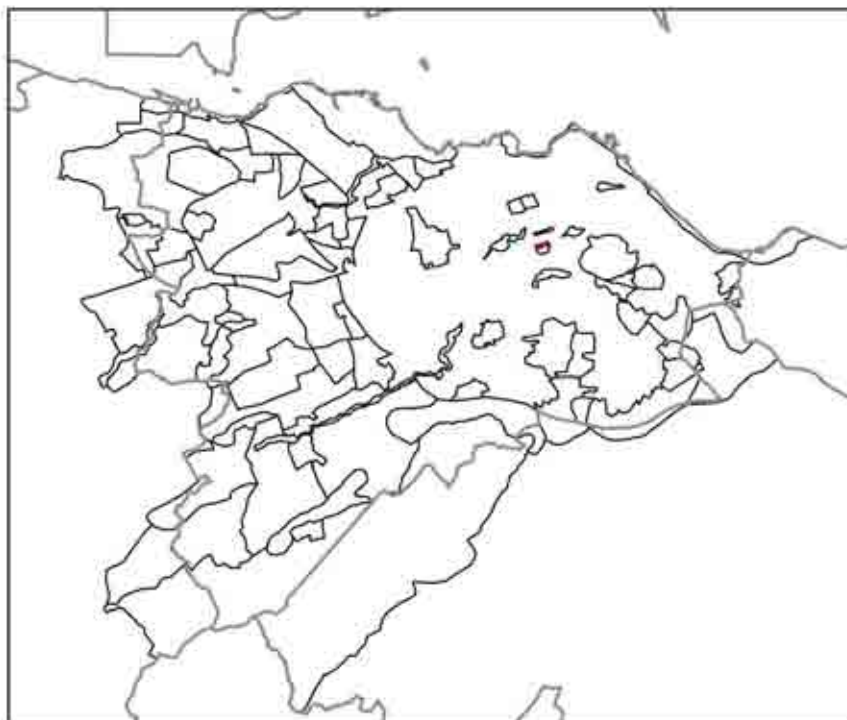
Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Medium
Land cover	Low
Land use	Medium
Cultural heritage	High
Prominence	Low
Receptors	Medium
Landscape condition	Medium

³ http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/internet/leisure/parks_and_recreation/gardens/premier_parks/CEC_leith_links

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Edinburgh has a number of historic open spaces and Leith Links provides a large open area with tree planting and is largely typical of these.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Leith Links is similar to other public parks and open spaces within settlements within the Lothians.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Leith Links shares a number of characteristics with the Meadows, including the flat topography and linear tree lined walkways.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Leith Links is not rare or unique within the Lothians.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Leith Links is not prominent within Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Leith Links is not prominent within the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	A flat low lying area with tree avenues along the paths, formal play facilities, sports facilities and areas for informal recreation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	The low lying topography and built development at the perimeter limits visibility except from the adjacent roads.
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	A network of tarmac paths crosses the area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	There are sports fields, play facilities and space for informal recreation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	A road passes to the south of the Links, and the area is also bisected by a local road.
Culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLA and sites 	The landscape dates predominantly from the 19 th Century to present. Leith Links artillery mounds are Scheduled Ancient Monuments.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDL 	There are no GDL close to the Links.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Areas 	Leith Conservation Area covers the Links and surrounding residential area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associations 	The Links have a number of historical associations and is the venue for the annual Leith Festival.
Naturalness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity 	There is no significant biodiversity associated with Leith Links.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geodiversity 	Leith Links lie on an area of raised beach created by isostatic uplift following the last ice age.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remoteness 	Leith Links lie within a busy part of the city.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tranquillity 	The surrounding roads and number of users mean this is a busy landscape.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildness 	The landscape is heavily modified by human influences.
Condition	
	The quality of the landscape features in terms of paths, lighting and benches, and choice of replacement tree species detracts from the character of the area.
Forces for change	
	Changes in the management of the area for recreation will affect the character.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Princes Street Gardens	Formal Urban Greenspace	City of Edinburgh	63



Description

- 3.26. Princes Street Gardens are located in the city centre, being sited within a valley between the Castle Rock and the elevated ridges of the High Street and the New Town. East and West Princes Street Gardens are separated by the Mound.

- 3.27. West Princes Street Gardens were originally laid out in the 1820s and opened to the public in 1875. The Castle Rock provides a dramatic backdrop to these gardens. Broad walks are aligned along the valley floor and on a terrace formed on the long south-facing slope of the gardens and are lined with memorial benches. The gardens are highly ornamental with a number of built and planted features originating from the late Victorian era. These include the floral clock, colourful seasonal bedding schemes and the gold-painted ornate Ross Fountain, as well as much statuary. The 1930's Ross Bandstand forms a focus in the centre of the gardens and a play area, temporary outdoor arena and café are located towards the western end. A railway line, aligned at the bottom of the valley, is screened by a bank of thick evergreen shrubs and trees. Mature trees align footpaths and the boundaries of the gardens on Princes Street and the Mound and are informally scattered over the grassy slopes of the park. The wooded graveyards of the adjacent St Cuthberts and St John's churches extend this green space and accommodate footpath links between the Gardens and the West End.
- 3.28. The present layout of East Princes Street Gardens largely dates from 1851, when the gardens were opened to the public. This part of the gardens has a more open character than to the west with fewer trees and the railway a visible feature within the valley. The distinctive tall, narrow buildings of the Old Town are the key focus here rather than the Castle, although the classical galleries on the Mound and the Scott Monument also set the scene. Steep southern slopes are terraced and laid out with broad tree-lined walks. A simple sunken lawn occupies the valley floor. Floral displays are set out on the broad top terrace adjacent to Princes Street and the Scott Monument.
- 3.29. Although not widely visible from the city, the central location of Princes Street Gardens, results in them being well-used by both visitors and local people. They form a venue for mass gatherings including the Festival fireworks, open air concerts and the Christmas and Hogmanay celebrations. Their presence allows open views towards the dramatic Castle Rock and the Old Town from Princes Street.

Summary of key characteristics

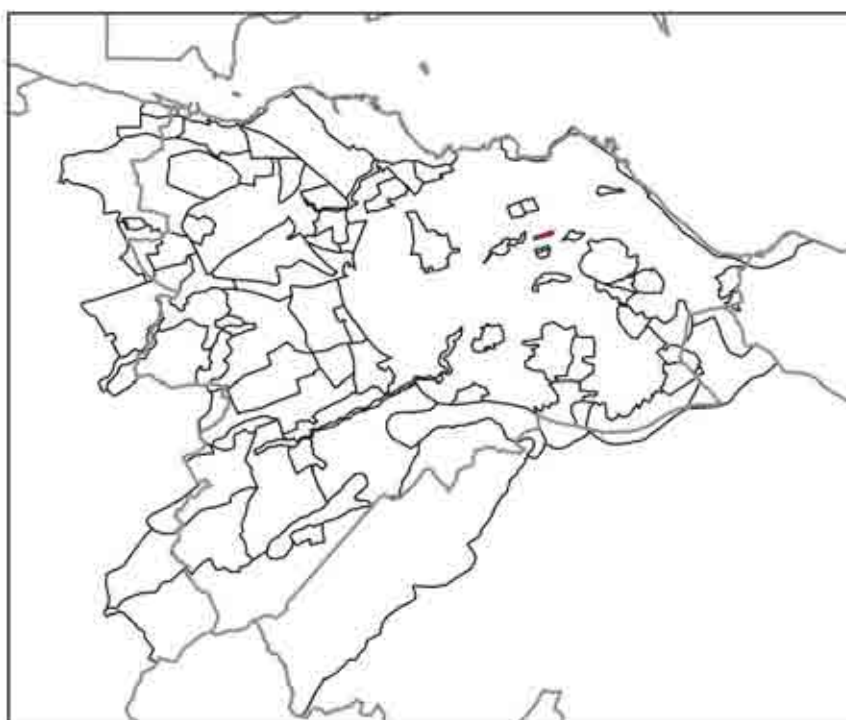
Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Medium
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	High
Settlement	High
Prominence	Low
Receptors	High
Landscape Condition	High

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The simple layout of paths, trees, grassed slopes and play areas are typical of other public parks in Edinburgh although none of these have the extent of ornamentation of Princes Street Gardens.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Other urban parks within the Lothians may have some similar components in terms of public facilities and typical arrangement of paths, trees and grassed areas

Rarity / uniqueness	
• Edinburgh	These gardens are unique within Edinburgh because of their dramatic urban context, distinctly ornamental character and cultural heritage.
• Lothians	These gardens are unique within the Lothians principally because of their dramatic urban context, distinctly ornamental character and cultural heritage associations.
Prominence	
• Edinburgh	This area is only visible from the Castle esplanade and nearby city centre streets. It is however very well-used and forms a venue for key events within the city.
• Lothians	This area is not visible from the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	The scenic qualities of this ornamental public park are significantly enhanced by the backdrop provided by the Castle Rock and Old Town. In combination these are considered to be high.
• Visibility	Locally prominent due to its central location
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	Network of footpaths and broad esplanades
• Recreation areas	Playground, band stand
• Transport routes	Urban streets
Culture	
• HLA and sites	The predominant period of influence is 19 th Century to present
• GDL	Princes Street Gardens
• Conservation Areas	New Town Conservation Area
• Associations	Many historical, literary and artistic associations
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	No significant biodiversity
• Geodiversity	No significant geodiversity
• Remoteness	None
• Tranquillity	None
• Wildness	None
Condition	The Gardens are highly maintained
Forces for change	Changes in the management of the area for recreation and provision of facilities

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Queen Street Gardens	Formal Urban Greenspace	City of Edinburgh	65



Description

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

- 3.31. The Gardens were laid out in the early 19th Century for the use of local residents. They remain private but are occasionally accessible to the public on special open days. Broadleaved trees and evergreen shrubs are planted on the perimeter of each garden and this limits their visibility from the street. Each garden has a slightly different character. The East Queen Street principally comprises long undulating grassy slopes, sweeping down from a top terrace and footpath adjacent to Queen Street to the north. Mature specimen trees dot these slopes and shrubberies are planted on the inside of the wooded perimeter of the gardens. The Central Gardens are the most diverse with a circular pond and specimen trees providing a focus within mown lawns at the centre of the garden. A network of Interlocking gravel paths are laid out within shrubberies and perimeter woodland. The West Gardens have a gently mounded landform which adds interest to the simple layout of perimeter paths and shrubberies. A raised terrace on the southern boundary offers views over the gardens to Heriot Row. The gardens are planted with mainly native trees including a number of large wych elm, lime but also occasional plane, these under-planted with yew, holly and laurel.
- 3.32. Perimeter tree and shrub planting around the gardens limits visibility with only glimpses of their interior layout of lawns, paths and shrubberies being possible from the surrounding streets.

Summary of key characteristics

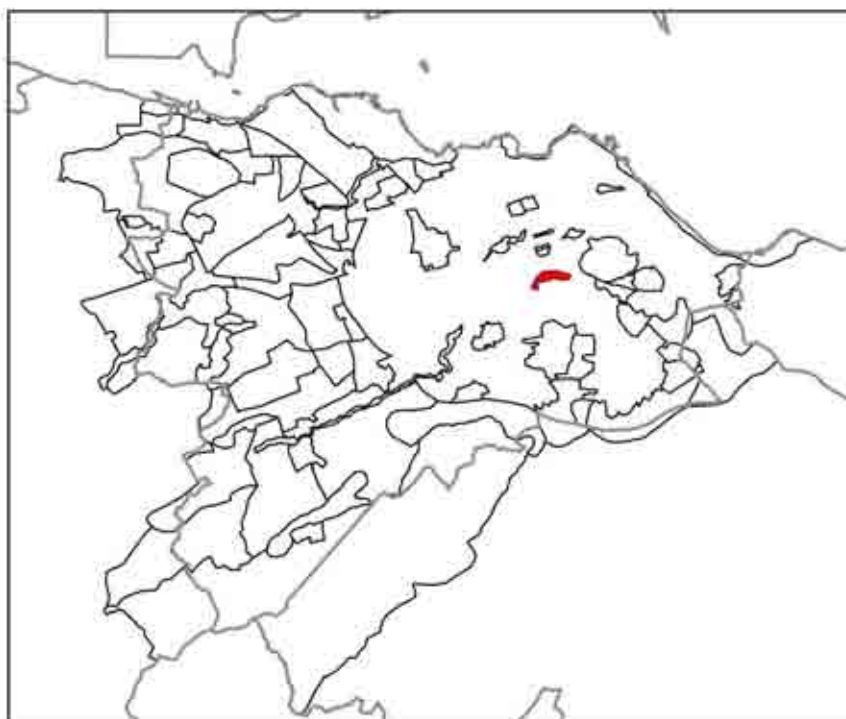
Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Low
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	High
Settlement	High
Prominence	Low
Receptors	Medium
Landscape Condition	High

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	These private gardens form an integral part of the New Town of Edinburgh and are similar in character to other private gardens within the city.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Other urban parks within the Lothians may have some similar components in terms of paths, trees and grassed areas
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	While these gardens are not rare within Edinburgh as they form one of a number of similar private gardens associated with the New Town, their value is recognised by the World Heritage Site designation and they are listed in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	These gardens are unique within the Lothians principally because of their association with Edinburgh's New Town
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Perimeter woodlands are visible from nearby roads although interior views are largely screened from view. There is limited public access to these gardens
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This area is not visible from the Lothians.

Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	While the simple layout of lawns, specimen trees and perimeter plantings give these gardens some intrinsic scenic qualities, these are significant enhanced by their visual association with the buildings of the New Town.
• Visibility	Locally visible
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	In private ownership
• Recreation areas	Informal play area in one of the gardens
• Transport routes	Urban streets
Culture	
• HLA and sites	The predominant period of influence is 18 th – 19 th century and the area forms part of the Edinburgh World Heritage Site
• GDL	New Town Gardens
• Conservation Areas	New Town Conservation Area
• Associations	Many historical and literary associations including RL Stevenson
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	No significant biodiversity
• Geodiversity	No significant geodiversity
• Remoteness	None
• Tranquillity	None
• Wildness	None
Condition	
Forces for change	The Gardens are generally well-maintained Changes in the management of the area and provision of facilities. The effects of Dutch Elm disease on mature trees

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
The Meadows	Formal Urban Greenspace	City of Edinburgh	61



Description

- 3.33. This character area comprises an area of grassland bordered by the residential area of Bruntsfield to the south and the University and former Royal Infirmary to the north. Melville Drive, a busy through road, separates

the flat expanse of the Meadows to the north from the more undulating Bruntsfield Links to the south. Both areas have a similar character and are largely inter-visible.

- 3.34. The Meadows was laid out as a pleasure ground in 1827. It is crossed by a pattern of broad walks principally radiating from Middle Meadow Walk which provides access between the city and residential areas to the south. Double avenues of trees, with a large proportion of Elm, align Melville Drive. Smaller cherry trees are planted along Coronation Walk. Play areas are located on the eastern edge of the Meadows and within Bruntsfield Links, where a pitch and putt course is also a feature. The overall character of this park is one of simplicity and function as grassed areas are used for group sports and provide a venue for a range of summer festivals. There are no ornamental planted areas and few built features; a painted timber pavilion, providing a tea room and changing facilities, comprising the only buildings.
- 3.35. This area is not widely visible from the surrounding area due to its level topography and the screening provided by the tall buildings bordering it. Because of its location close to residential areas and the University, it is a well-used thoroughfare for cyclists and walkers and a popular focus for recreation.

Summary of key characteristics

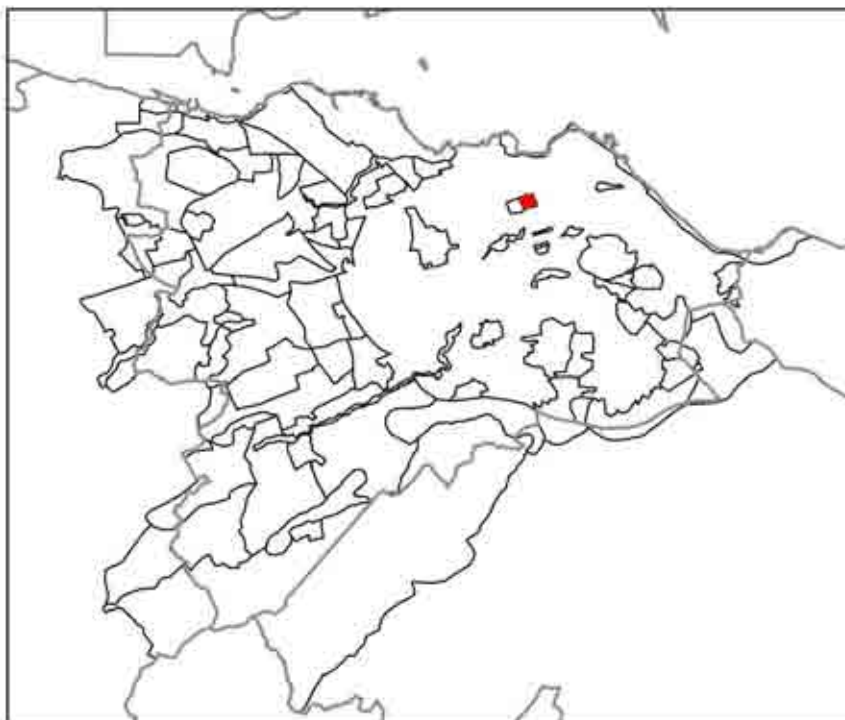
Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Low
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	High
Prominence	Low
Receptors	High
Landscape Condition	High

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The simple layout and limited diversity and ornamentation of The Meadows is similar to Inverleith Park and Leith Links.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This area is similar in layout and function to many urban parks found within the Lothians.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	While there are no physical aspects of landscape character which are rare within Edinburgh this landscape is unusual because of its particularly central location which influences the nature of its use and the focus it provides to communal activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape is not rare within the Lothians although the inner city context is.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This area is only visible from Melville Drive and surrounding housing although it is a well-used thoroughfare and recreational space.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This area is not visible from the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	

• Character/qualities	The simple landform and limited diversity of landcover of The Meadows is of limited scenic quality although it is valuable as an urban green space
• Visibility	Locally visible from residential areas and urban roads
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	Network of footpaths/cycleways
• Recreation areas	Pitch and putt, playgrounds, bowling green and informal sports pitches
• Transport routes	Urban roads
Culture	
• HLA and sites	The predominant period of influence is 19 th Century to present
• GDL	None
• Conservation Areas	Marchmont and Meadows Conservation Area
• Associations	Historical associations within Edinburgh. Possible plague pits on Bruntsfield Links
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	No significant biodiversity
• Geodiversity	No significant geodiversity
• Remoteness	This area is not remote
• Tranquillity	None
• Wildness	None
Condition	
	Generally good although some avenue trees require management and replacement
Forces for change	
	Changes in the management of the area for recreation and provision of facilities

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Royal Botanic Garden	Formal Urban Greenspace	City of Edinburgh	67



Description

- 3.36. The Royal Botanic Garden lies to the north of the city centre and was laid out in the policies of Inverleith House in 1820. Sturdy black iron railings enclose the garden, this boundary emphasised by an evergreen hedge. This landscape is listed in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes.

- 3.37. The 18th Century Inverleith House still forms a central focus within this landscape, being located on a hill overlooking the city. Sweeping grassy slopes below the house accommodate the majestic specimen trees of the arboretum while rhododendrons are planted within a more wooded setting on the northern side of the house. Other plant collections have a more intricate layout and include the rock and heath gardens in the south-east corner, a long herbaceous border and demonstration beds, separated by a tall beech hedge to the north, and pond with associated bog planting to the east. The C19th Palm and Temperate Houses and later C20th glasshouses are key built features within the landscape.
- 3.38. The tall glass-domed roof of the Palmhouse is conspicuous from elevated parts of the city where it is seen in an extensive landscape setting of coalescing trees and green space stretching west to merge with Inverleith Park and the grounds of Fettes College. Views from the gardens are limited because of tree cover although the spectacular skyline of the Old Town of the city is visible from the lawn in front of Inverleith House.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Medium
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	High
Settlement	High
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	High
Landscape Condition	High

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The diverse plant collections and complex layout of these gardens results in them being unlike any other landscape within Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape is not typical of any other found within the Lothians
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This landscape is unique within Edinburgh because of the diversity of its internationally renowned plant collections and layout and its strong cultural associations with collectors.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	These gardens are unique within the Lothians
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Mature trees on the perimeter of the gardens are visible from nearby roads and residential areas. This landscape is also visible from elevated viewpoints such as the Castle Esplanade within the city. The gardens are very well-used by visitors and local people.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This area is not visible from the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	The landform, plant cover and historic buildings of these gardens combine to produce a rich diversity and high scenic quality.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	Locally visible

Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	Network of footpaths
• Recreation areas	None
• Transport routes	Urban streets border the gardens
Culture	
• HLA and sites	The predominant period of influence is 19 th century to present and the garden contains a number of significant architectural features, including B-listed Inverleith House and A-listed glasshouses.
• GDL	Royal Botanic Gardens
• Conservation Areas	Inverleith Conservation Area
• Associations	Many historical and botanical associations with plant collectors
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	Significant biodiversity because of its Internationally renowned plant collections
• Geodiversity	No significant geodiversity
• Remoteness	None
• Tranquillity	Some limited tranquillity in contrast with its urban context
• Wildness	None
Condition	
Forces for change	The Gardens are highly maintained Changes in the management of the area and provision of new visitor facilities

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE: INCISED RIVER VALLEY

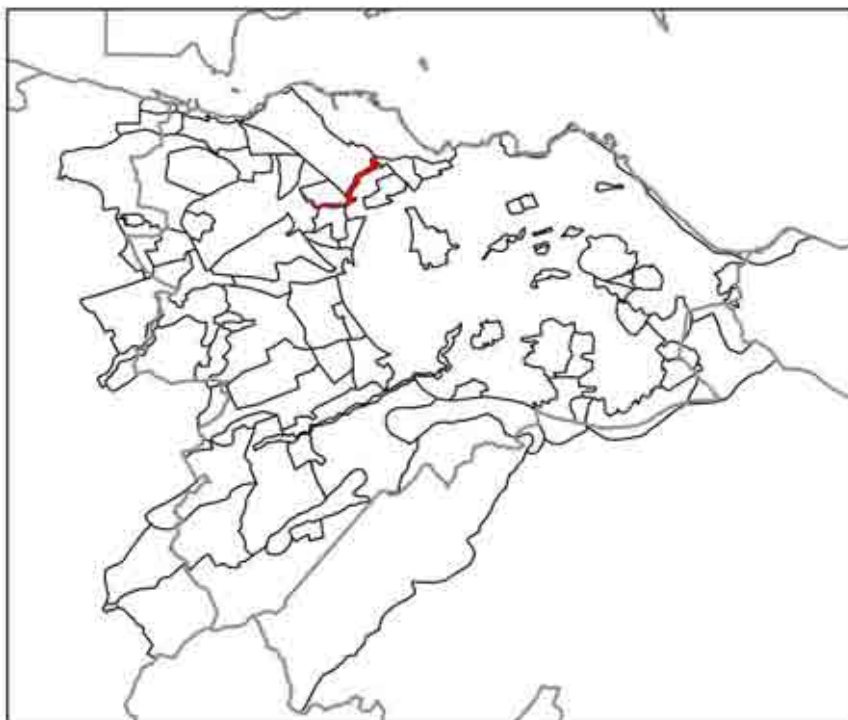
Character areas

- Lower Almond Valley (5)
- Upper Almond Valley (24)
- Water of Leith Colinton to Balerno (38)
- Water of Leith New Town (59)
- Water of Leith Slateford to Colinton Dell (71)

Key Characteristics

- Steeply incised valley sides above a river bed which is sometimes narrow and occasionally opens out to a broader valley with areas of pasture;
- There are exposed rock outcrops within the river bed and along the valley side;
- Woodland is frequently associated with the steep valley sides and a semi-natural character exists in many places;
- There is a legacy of mills in the valley and weirs along the river;
- Secluded and intimate character provided by the landform and vegetation which limits views into and out of the character area;
- Settlement extends to the edge of the incised valley and in places joins to the water's edge;
- Recreational routes extend along the river side and the area is popular for recreation.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Lower Almond Valley	Incised River Valley	Lothian farmland	5



Description

- 3.39. This character area comprises the lower section of the River Almond extending from its mouth at Cramond to the western edge of the wooded policies of Craigiehall, where the incised landform and wooded character of the valley is less pronounced.

- 3.40. A narrow incised valley with occasional exposed rock faces accommodates the River Almond which flows down to the coast in a series of small boulder falls and man-made weirs. Shifting banks of shingle and mud flats mark the mouth of the river and the edge of the channel is contained by a sea wall and the quay at Cramond. The valley is consistently wooded along its length and this accentuates the containment experienced from the well-used Almond Walkway which is aligned along the southern bank of the river. In places, this path adopts a tortuous route via long flights of steps to avoid sheer cliff faces.
- 3.41. Moored yachts sheltering in the narrow mouth of the river and views of the Firth of Forth give a distinctly maritime feel contrasting with the containment experienced upstream. There is a rich legacy of industrial features including mills and weirs close to Cramond. Small horse-grazed pastures are associated with an arc of low ground beside Cramond Old Bridge, while the influence of the designed landscape of Craigiehall is felt where the 18th century bridge and grotto give a romantic aspect to the valley upstream. Remnant parkland on the edge of Craigiehall slopes down to the northern bank of the river and is visible from the walkway on the opposite bank. These open areas close to the river provide an important contrast with the predominantly steep wooded slopes, varying the experience of walking along the valley. While the Lower Almond Valley can provide a degree of seclusion, particularly where modern housing is sited away from steep sides, the presence of air traffic approaching the airport limits the sense of tranquillity experienced.

Summary of key characteristics

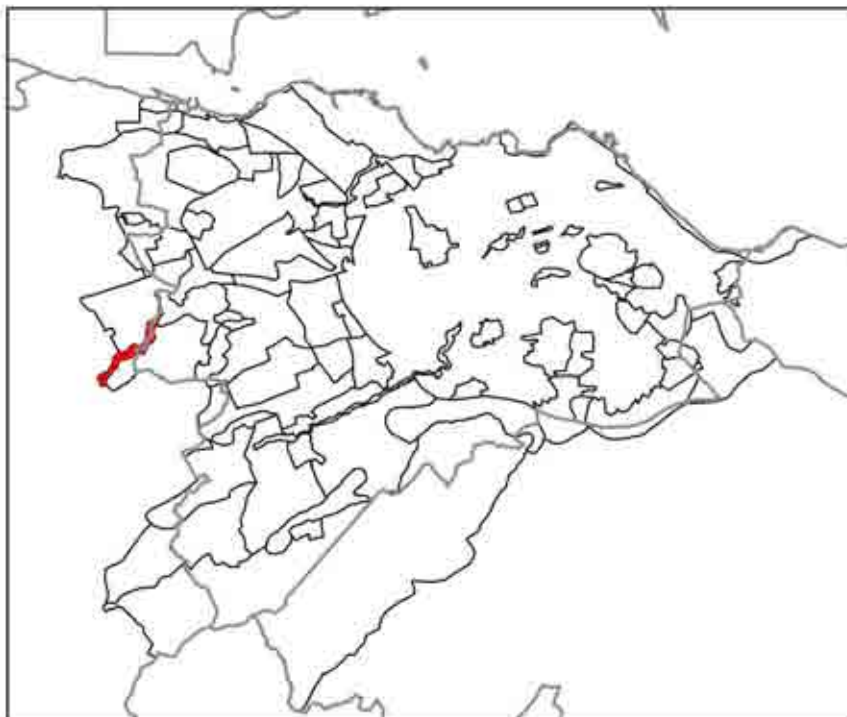
Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	High
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	Low
Prominence	Low
Receptors	High
Landscape Condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The narrow, incised form of the valley, the dense woodland cover and cultural heritage of this character area are also typically associated with the Water of Leith valley.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Typical of many incised wooded valleys within the Lothians. Some of these valleys have a similar cultural heritage and urban context, for example the Almond in West Lothian and stretches of the North Esk in Midlothian, although most are more rural in character.
Rarity / uniqueness	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This area is rare within Edinburgh in providing a relatively unmodified river valley where dense woodland and steep slopes can give a semi-natural character and a sense of seclusion. The maritime and built heritage associated with the quay at Cramond is a unique feature within the city. The Lower Almond valley is also important in providing a linear recreational access route on the edge of the city but close to urban areas and potential links to the designed landscapes of Cammo and Dalmeny and the wider countryside.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This character area is not rare within the wider context of the Lothians.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	While this area is not visually prominent from the urban area, the Cramond stretch of the valley in particular is a popular location for recreation and this increases sensitivity.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This area is not visible from the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	This incised narrow wooded valley with exposed rock outcrops and built heritage features is of high scenic quality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	Visibility is limited although it is seen by people walking within the valley
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	Popular walkway along the river between Cramond and Craigiehall
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	Harbour and yacht club at Cramond
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	The A90 crosses the valley
Culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLA and sites 	Predominantly 17 th – 19 th century in influence there is some industrial archaeology present, and the A-listed and Scheduled Old Cramond Bridge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDL 	Craigiehall is Inventory listed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Areas 	Partly covered by Cramond Conservation Area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associations 	No identified associations
Naturalness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity 	The valley provides a wildlife corridor with woodlands of particular value
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geodiversity 	A number of exposed rock faces
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remoteness 	While this river valley is visually contained and can feel secluded, the urban context of this area precludes a true sense of remoteness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tranquillity 	Tranquillity is affected by planes on flight path to airport and the A90
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildness 	Wildness is not experienced in this character area
Condition	
	Generally good, although built features of the Craigiehall GDL are decayed. Woodland also appears not to be managed in some areas with little regeneration apparent.
Forces for change	
	Significant change is unlikely to occur in this area.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Upper Almond Valley	Incised River Valley	Lothian farmland	24



Description

- 3.42. The Upper Almond Valley becomes an incised valley feature from close to where it is crossed by the M8. It is a wide gorge with valley sides of varying steepness along its length, with some areas of pasture and others covered by woodland. The incised river valley extends to Mid Calder, although the City of Edinburgh boundary only follows the river Almond for a relatively short distance before turning eastwards close to Illieston.
- 3.43. The River Almond is quite wide and the horizontally bedded rock outcrops at various points along the river bed are important features. The woodland associated with the valley sides is mixed, and in the vicinity of Clifton Hall school there are influences from the policy woodland.
- 3.44. The river is important for recreation and there are paths along the riverside. The river is crossed by Lin's Mill Aqueduct which carries the Union Canal, which is also an important recreational route. A short distance to the south of the aqueduct there are mill lades along the valley side. The remains of Lin's Mill is the other built feature within the landscape.
- 3.45. The incised landform combined with the wooded character means that this is an intimate and enclosed landscape with limited views into and out of the area. There are glimpse views from the M8 but the greatest experience of the landscape character area is through recreational use including the view from Lin's Mill aqueduct, and the network of paths. The decline of the use of the river as a power source for the mills and the development of the river as a recreational resource are key changes that occurred in the area.

Summary of key characteristics

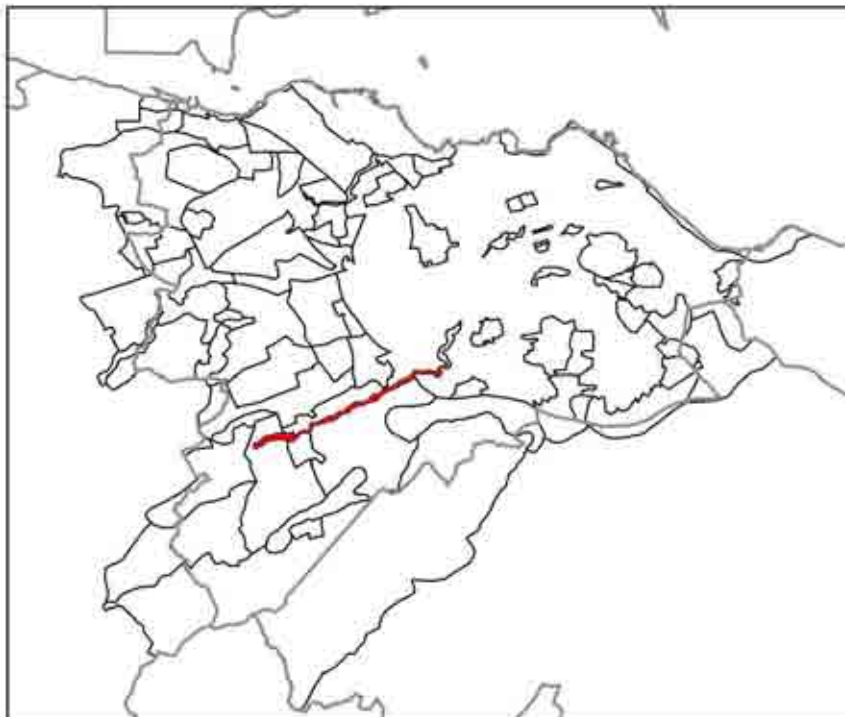
Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	High
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	Low
Prominence	Low
Receptors	Medium
Landscape condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The River Almond shares typical characteristics with the Water of Leith which is also an incised river valley.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	The River Almond has shared characteristics with other incised river valleys within the Lothians including the River Esk in East Lothian and the River Avon in West Lothian.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The Water of Leith is the only other river in Edinburgh which shares the deeply incised character of the Almond and together these features are rare within Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This character area is not rare within the wider context of the Lothians.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The incised nature of the landform means that this section of the River Almond is not prominent in Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	The River Almond is not prominent within the Lothians.

Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	The upper reaches of the River Almond vary in character with steep valley sides, woodland and rocky outcrops along the river bed.
• Visibility	Visibility is limited due to the incised nature of the landform
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	The river is important for recreation and a path runs alongside.
• Recreation areas	Almondell Country Park is located alongside the river.
• Transport routes	Minor roads provide access to the area.
Culture	
• HLA and sites	Mixed 18-20 th century influences.
• GDL	Clifton Hall school and its grounds are a designed landscape. A-listed and Scheduled Lin's Mill aqueduct on the Union Canal (also SAM), A-listed footbridge and A-listed and Scheduled footbridge and aqueduct at Almondell.
• Conservation Areas	No conservation areas adjoin the landscape character area.
• Associations	No identified associations.
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	The river itself and associated woodland provide biodiversity value
• Geodiversity	The river has created exposures of rock
• Remoteness	The incised landform restricts views to the adjacent landscape areas, however there is evidence of human influence both current and historical.
• Tranquillity	The flowing, river and wooded slopes create a sense of tranquillity.
• Wildness	The steep valley sides and rugged outcrops of rock contribute a sense of wildness, despite the evident human influences.
Condition	
Forces for change	The landscape features are generally in good condition. Changes to the management of the nearby farmland, woodland and recreational opportunities would affect the character of the landscape.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Water of Leith Colinton to Balerno	Incised River Valley	City of Edinburgh	38



Description

- 3.46. This section of the Water of Leith extends from the rural upper reaches of the valley, west of Balerno, to Colinton, at a point where the urban edge increasingly abuts the river bank.
- 3.47. The Water of Leith is aligned through a relatively narrow, incised valley. Woodland consistently colonises steep banks and emphasises the course of the river when seen from the surrounding area. Steep farmed slopes extend to the south, rising to the Pentland Hills. The policy woodlands surrounding the mansion house of Woodhall and the area around Blinkbonny and Lymphoy contribute to the bosky character of the valley. The linear settlements of Juniper Green and Currie align the top of the valley to the north and in places a number of houses extend down the valley slopes and abut the banks of the river. In the past mills occupied the occasional flat floodplain sites within the valley floor and were serviced by a railway aligned on the steep northern valley sides. Former mill sites are now occupied by industrial development and new housing, notably at Woodhall Mill, beneath the A720, although some derelict sites remain. The former railway solum is now utilised as a popular cycle path and walkway. In the upper reaches of the Water of Leith west of Balerno, settlement aligning the valley becomes more dispersed, comprising large houses set in wooded grounds and interspersed with pasture. The valley has a more rural character, gradually losing its incised and wooded character and becoming a less significant feature within farmland to the west.
- 3.48. The urban edge and noise from traffic using the A70 is prominent in some locations when walking in the valley and particularly in those places where housing extends down into the valley floor. Views of this character area from the surrounding area are limited due to the containment of the valley, however the valley slopes form a continuation of the slopes of the Pentlands to the south.

Summary of key characteristics

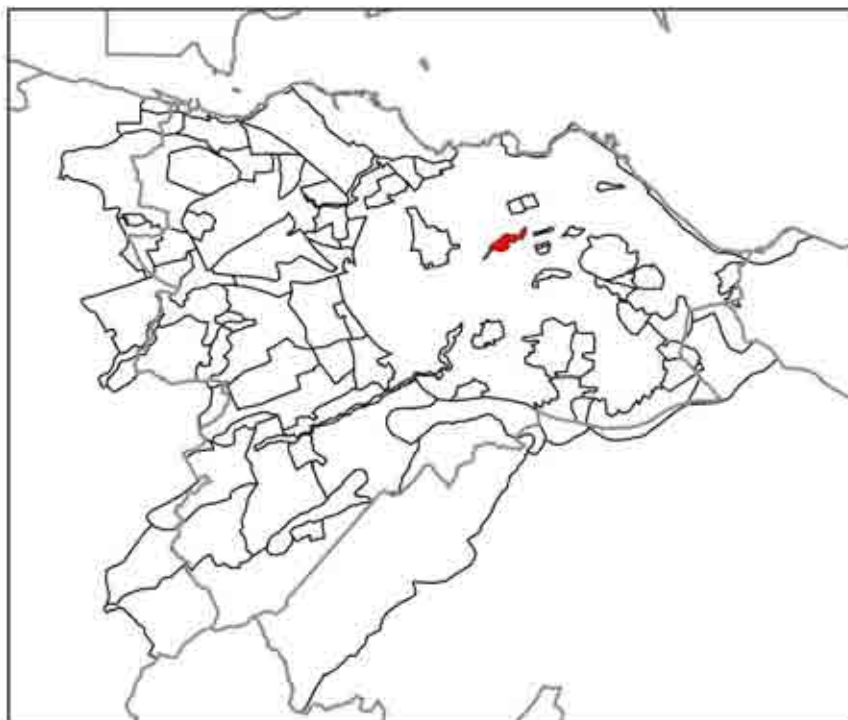
Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	High
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	High
Prominence	Low
Receptors	High
Landscape Condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The incised and wooded valley, cultural associations and recreational use of this area are typical of the lower Almond valley and parts of the Water of Leith, although it is more influenced by the urban edge and built development than these other character areas.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Typical of many incised wooded valleys within the Lothians. Some of these valleys have a similar cultural heritage and urban context, for example the Almond in West Lothian and stretches of the North Esk in Midlothian, although the majority of these valleys are more rural in character.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This character area is influenced by the urban edge in places and industrial development and derelict sites within the valley affect the sense of seclusion and naturalness. Although it is not rare within Edinburgh, this river valley as a whole is important in providing a linear recreational access route close to urban areas and links to the wider countryside.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This character area is not rare within the wider context of the Lothians.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	While this area is not visually prominent from the urban area, the valley is a popular location for recreation and this increases sensitivity.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This area is not visible from the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	The incised narrow wooded valley and some older built features are of high scenic quality although new housing development and derelict industrial sites are detractive features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	Visibility is limited although this area is seen by people walking within the valley
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	Water of Leith Walkway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	The A720 City bypass crosses the valley
Culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLA and sites 	The predominant period of influence is 18 th -20 th century. There is extensive industrial archaeology present and a number of listed buildings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDL 	Small section of Malleny (Wester Lymphoy) designated designed landscape
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Areas 	Partly in Balerno, Currie and Colinton Conservation Area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associations 	No identified associations
Naturalness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity 	The valley provides a wildlife corridor with woodlands of particular value
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geodiversity 	No significant geodiversity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remoteness 	While this river valley is visually contained and can feel secluded, the proximity of the urban edge precludes a true sense of remoteness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tranquillity 	A degree of tranquillity can be experienced within the valley away from the A70 and A720
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildness 	None
Condition	
	Woodlands do not appear to be managed with little regeneration evident. Occasional derelict industrial sites give an impression of poor condition.
Forces for change	
	Pressure for built development on former industrial sites.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Water of Leith New Town	Incised River Valley	City of Edinburgh	59



Description

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

- 3.50. The Water of Leith valley forms an integral part of the planned late 18th and early 19th century New Town of Edinburgh in the eastern part of this character area. The designed landscapes of Moray and Dean Gardens are laid out on steep terraced valley sides with snaking paths, ornamental trees and woodland and grassed areas below the towering neoclassical stone terraces of Eton Terrace and Moray Place. Rocky outcrops are a feature in parts of the southern valley side and a vaulted stone retaining wall was built in the 19th Century to prevent landslips. A path is aligned next to the river within the damp, shaded valley floor; the Doric rotunda of St Bernard's Well (b1788) providing an eyecatcher and contributing to the romanticism of this landscape. The river has a naturalistic course in this area, tumbling over slabby rock outcrops and small weirs. Beyond the immense piers of the Dean Bridge (b1831) the valley changes as the former mill buildings of Dean Village abut the valley floor. The valley narrows west of Dean Village. The wooded landscapes of Belgrave Gardens, Dean Cemetery and the grounds of the Dean and Modern Art Galleries abut the valley and while they have little visual association with this character area, there is a strong physical connectivity between them with steep steps providing pedestrian links. A splay of scrubby grassland opens out on the floodplain below the Modern Art Gallery and contrasts with the uniformly steep wooded banks of the valley. Despite the proximity of the urban edge, a degree of seclusion and tranquillity can be experienced within this character area as woodland and steep slopes provide containment and the sounds of birdsong and water drown out traffic.
- 3.51. The Dean Bridge offers dramatic vertiginous views down into the valley and to the Firth of Forth in the east. There are also elevated views over the valley from nearby residences. The Water of Leith Walkway is very well-used in this area.

Summary of key characteristics

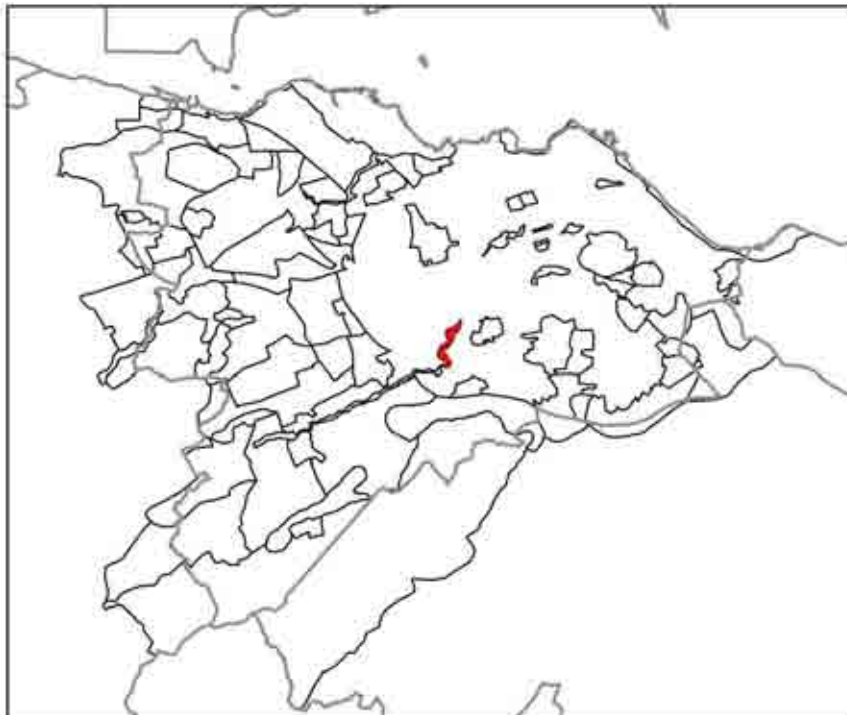
Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	High
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	High
Settlement	Medium
Prominence	Low
Receptors	High
Landscape Condition	High

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The incised and wooded valley, presence of former mill sites and recreational use of this area are typical of the lower Almond valley and other parts of the Water of Leith.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Typical of many incised wooded valleys within the Lothians. Some of these valleys have a similar rich cultural heritage and an urban context, for example the Almond in West Lothian and stretches of the North Esk in Midlothian, although the majority of these valleys are more rural in character.
Rarity / uniqueness	

• Edinburgh	This character area is unique principally because of its specific cultural heritage associations with Edinburgh's New Town and other features of built heritage. It is important in providing a foil to the densely built urban fabric at the core of the city. The river valley as a whole is important in providing a linear recreational access route close to urban areas with links to the wider countryside.
• Lothians	This character area is unique within the wider context of the Lothians because of its distinctive cultural heritage associations and city centre location.
Prominence	
• Edinburgh	This area is visually prominent from nearby residential areas and the Dean Bridge although is not visible in a wider context. The valley is a popular location for recreation and this increases sensitivity.
• Lothians	This area is not visible from the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	This often dramatic incised wooded valley of the Water of Leith, its visual association with the New Town and rich heritage of built features give this area high scenic qualities
• Visibility	Locally visible
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	Water of Leith Walkway
• Recreation areas	Private gardens of the New Town and other gardens accessible to the public adjoin this area
• Transport routes	The Dean Bridge carries the A90 across the valley
Culture	
• HLA and sites	Predominantly influenced from the 19 th Century this area lies partly within the Edinburgh World Heritage Site. Includes the A-listed 19 th century Gallery of Modern Art (originally John Watson's Hospital), Dean Gallery (former Dean Orphanage) and Well Court model housing
• GDL	New Town Gardens
• Conservation Areas	Yes
• Associations	Historical, literary and artistic associations
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	Water of Leith a wildlife corridor and woodlands of value
• Geodiversity	No significant geodiversity
• Remoteness	A sense of seclusion can be experienced in parts of this area due to the containment provided by the valley and woodland
• Tranquillity	A degree of tranquillity can be experienced in this area
• Wildness	The extensive woodlands and river provide a sense of naturalness in places
Condition	
	Appears generally well-managed
Forces for change	
	Changes in the management of the area

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Water of Leith Slateford to Colinton Dell	Incised River Valley	City of Edinburgh	71



Description

- 3.52. This section of the Water of Leith coincides with an area where the valley is deeply incised and relatively expansive, lying between the Water of Leith Visitor Centre at Slateford and the southern end of Colinton Dell.
- 3.53. The narrow brown river tumbles over small rocky falls and weirs, lying at the bottom of steep valley sides which are covered with dense broadleaved woodland. Occasional dark yew and specimen larch beech trees punctuate this woodland and a small stone doocot and remnant walled garden, contribute to the policy character particularly evident on the eastern slopes where the grounds of Redhall House and Colinton House (now Merchiston Castle School) spill down the valley. Small arcs of grassland and areas of scrub occur where the valley floor flattens and provide openness and light, contrasting with the predominantly wooded and shaded character of the valley. The clustered stone buildings of the former Redhall Mill form a focus when walking along the riverside. A disused railway line, perched high above the river on the western slopes of the valley, and originally built to service the numerous mills operating within the Water of Leith valley, is now used as a broad cycleway and footpath. This area can feel secluded from the city due to the extent of woodland and limited intrusion of the urban edge, which contributes a naturalistic quality. South-west of Colinton Dell, the 'green space' of the valley is increasingly constricted as the urban edge extends onto the valley floor.
- 3.54. This character area is not visually prominent from the surrounding area and views are largely insular, being confined to those obtained when using paths within the valley.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	High
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	Low
Prominence	Low
Receptors	High
Landscape Condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The incised and wooded valley, cultural associations and recreational use of this area are typical of the lower Almond valley and parts of the Water of Leith.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Typical of many incised wooded valleys within the Lothians. Some of these valleys have a similar cultural heritage and urban context, for example the Almond in West Lothian and stretches of the North Esk in Midlothian, although the majority of these valleys have a more rural context.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This character area is unique in providing a strong sense of seclusion and naturalness in places where the influence of the urban edge is minimal, despite its location within the urban area. The river valley as a whole is important in providing a linear recreational access route close to urban areas with links to the wider countryside.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This character area is not rare within the wider context of the Lothians. Parts of the North Esk and Almond valleys are close to urban areas and offer a similar sense of seclusion and naturalness.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	While this area is not visually prominent from the urban area, the valley is a popular location for recreation and this increases sensitivity.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This area is not visible from the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	The incised and densely wooded valley of this section of the Water of Leith is of high scenic quality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	This area is not widely visible from the surrounding area
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	Water of Leith Walkway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	None
Culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLA and sites 	Predominantly 19 th century to present in influence. Industrial archaeology present and the landscape includes some of former Colinton Castle policies, now the grounds of Merchiston Castle School
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDL 	None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Areas 	Partly in Colinton Conservation Area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associations 	No identified associations
Naturalness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity 	Water of Leith is an important wildlife corridor and woodland of value
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geodiversity 	No significant geodiversity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remoteness 	A strong sense of seclusion is experienced in this area due to the visual containment from the urban edge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tranquillity 	A significant degree of tranquillity can be experienced in this area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildness 	The extensive woodlands and river provide a sense of naturalness
Condition	
Condition	Condition is generally good although woodlands do not appear to be regenerating in places
Forces for change	
Forces for change	Possible pressure for built development on the fringes of this area and provision of recreational facilities

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE: INFORMAL OPEN SPACE

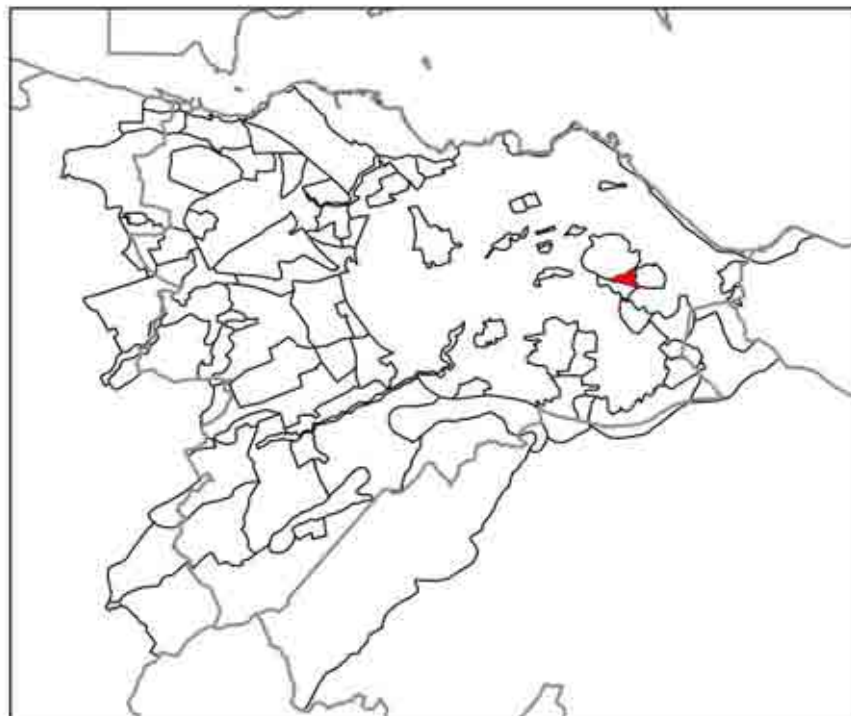
Character areas

- Duddingston Loch (57)

Key Characteristics

- Low lying area of land containing a large natural waterbody;
- Waterside trees and inundation vegetation contributes a naturalistic character;
- The area is important for recreational and wildlife value;
- Strong visual relationship with surrounding landscape character areas and historic settlement adjoins some boundary edges.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Duddingston Loch	Informal Open Space	City of Edinburgh	57



Description

- 3.55. Duddingston Loch lies to the south of Arthur's Seat and is a low lying wetland area. The loch is the remains of one of Edinburgh's largest post glacial lakes.

The loch itself has an indented shoreline with extensive reed beds and marginal willow and alder which provides a diversity of habitats and it is the only remaining freshwater loch in the Edinburgh area. Between the southern shore of the loch and the disused Innocent Railway (now a cycle path) is an area of deciduous woodland which provides significant biodiversity value.

- 3.56. The loch is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and managed by the Scottish Wildlife Trust as a nature reserve, and a viewing hide is provided for members. A parking area is provided close to the northern shore and this area is popular with visitors for feeding the birds. The road passes around two sides of the loch.
- 3.57. The Duddingston Conservation Area lies to the north of the loch and the area is historically important because of its relationship with the prehistoric settlement around Holyrood Park.
- 3.58. Duddingston Loch is very important in landscape terms regarding its relationship with Duddingston Policies and Prestonfield Golf Course, and also Holyrood Park as together they are viewed as a continuous swathe of green within the city.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	High
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	Low
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	Medium
Landscape condition	High

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Waterbodies are not a typical feature of Edinburgh, and Duddingston is the largest water body within the urban area. The water body at Redford Bridge (Threipmuir) at the edge of the Pentlands is similar in scale and character, however it adjoins a larger reservoir.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Within the wider context of Lothians there are relatively few naturalistic waterbodies, particularly located within such an urban setting.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Duddingston Loch is unique within Edinburgh due to the lack of similar naturalistic waterbodies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	There are relatively few lochs within the Lothians which are located in lowland areas or are not modified as reservoirs.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The low lying nature of the area means that it is not highly prominent.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Duddingston Loch is not prominent within the context of the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	A naturalistic loch lying within a larger area of low lying landscape at the foot of Arthur's Seat.

• Visibility	The loch is principally visible from the perimeter roads and in views from Arthur's Seat.
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	National Cycle Network Route 1 passes to the south of this landscape character area along the route of the disused Innocent Railway.
• Recreation areas	There is some access around the loch for recreation.
• Transport routes	Minor roads pass around the perimeter of the loch.
Culture	
• HLA and sites	The curling house at the edge of the loch is listed and the area lies within the Holyrood Abbey, Palace Gardens and Park scheduled ancient monument. The landscape includes influences from prehistoric to present.
• GDL	Duddingston Loch lies within the Holyrood Park inventory listed GDL, and adjacent to the inventory listed landscapes of Duddingston House and Prestonfield.
• Conservation Areas	The loch lies within the Duddingston Conservation Area.
• Associations	Famous painting "Reverend Robert Walker Skating on Duddingston Loch" by Henry Raeburn (1794)
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	The loch and surrounding wetlands designated as a SSSI.
• Geodiversity	The loch is the remains of one of Edinburgh's largest post glacial lakes.
• Remoteness	The proximity to the urban areas and Arthur's Seat mean that there is little sense of remoteness.
• Tranquillity	The open water and surrounding vegetation give the area a sense of tranquillity.
• Wildness	The lochside vegetation is naturalistic, but the influences of the urban area reduce any sense of wildness.
Condition	
Forces for change	Succession of the loch will gradually erode the open water.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE: LOWLAND FARMLAND

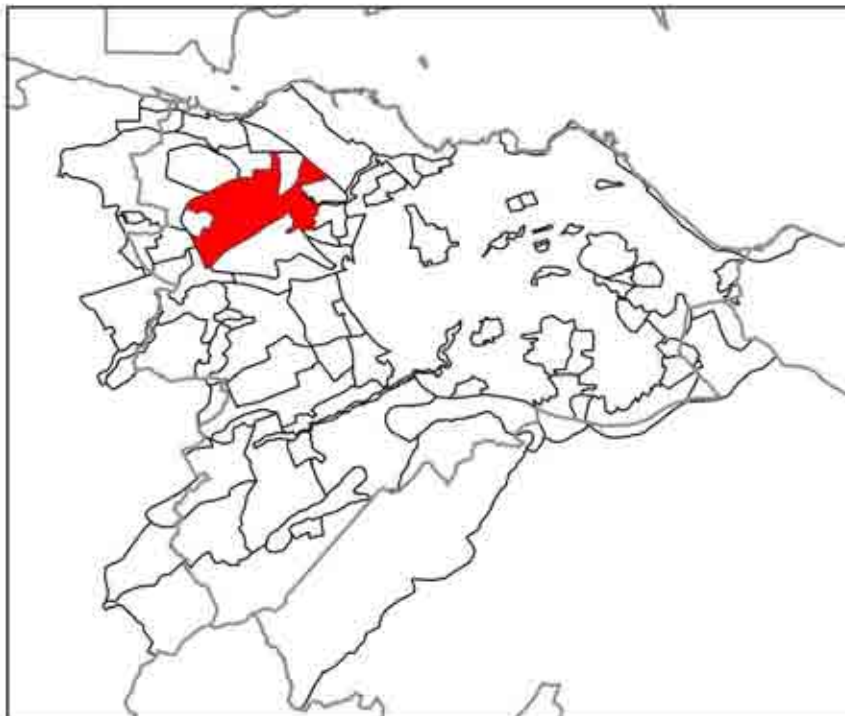
Character areas

- Almond farmland (10)
- Cammo fringe farmland (6)
- Dalmeny fringes (13)
- Lennie golf course (8)
- Newbridge/Broxburn farmland (20)
- Newton farmland (17)
- Niddry farmland (18)
- West Craigs farmland (9)

Key Characteristics

- Low lying flat to gently undulating landform;
- Mixture of arable and pastoral farmland with medium to large fields with some hedgerows and field boundary trees and some areas of policy woodland;
- Frequently crossed by transport corridors including railways and main roads;
- River Almond is the most significant watercourse;
- Dispersed settlement and villages
- Open and simple landscape results from a combination of gently sloping topography and medium to large scale fields laid out in a regular pattern;
- Some areas of recreational use, including footpath networks and the Union Canal, which forms a central recreational spine to the west of Edinburgh

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Almond Farmland	Lowland Farmland	Lothian farmland	10



Description

- 3.59. This is an extensive character area and the topography ranges from the gently sloping farmland around Craigie Hill, Cammo and Dundas to the flatter

landscape closer to Edinburgh Airport. The subtle dips and knolls are sometimes emphasised by woodland, particularly in the area around the Carlowrie Estate. The gently sloping outer fringes of this area define a large river 'basin' for the Almond. This character area is crossed by the River Almond which meanders across the flat valley floor, and is very different in character here from its more incised and distinct upper and lower reaches. The whole of the character area comprises arable fields with hedgerows, wire fencing and stone walls in places. The field boundaries are occasionally demarcated by mature deciduous field trees, and there are small areas of policy woodland, particularly in the north western area. There are a number of footpaths providing recreational opportunities within the area, including the disused railway line footway and cycle path which extends from South Queensferry to Newbridge.

- 3.60. The landscape is crossed by a series of minor roads and the main railway line to Fife. Edinburgh Airport has a strong influence on the landscape character as the constant landing and take-off of planes has a visual impact and the noise is intrusive. The extension to the M9 to link with the Forth Road Bridge (A8000) also crosses the north western part of this character area. A disused railway cuts from Kirkliston to Queensferry and this is visually prominent due to the trees associated with it. The area is quite sparsely settled with scattered stone farm houses and steadings.
- 3.61. The nature of the landform means that there is relatively low intervisibility with other character areas, other than those immediately adjoining. There are however views to the distant Pentlands.
- 3.62. The farmland is well-managed and the landscape features are largely intact. The development of the M9 link to the Forth road bridge was under construction at the time of field survey. Changes in agricultural support systems may influence the choice of crops grown which would impact on the landscape character. During the period of field survey the yellow flowered oilseed rape was a prominent characteristic of the farmland.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Medium
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	Low
Settlement	Low
Prominence	Low
Receptors	Medium
Landscape condition	High

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edinburgh 	This represents a large swathe of low lying, relatively unwooded arable farmland, broadly typical of the farmland found in the Edinburgh area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lothians 	This character area is commonly found within the wider Lothian context.
Rarity / uniqueness	

• Edinburgh	This landscape character area does not contain key landscape features which are unique or rare within the Edinburgh area. However the combination of high quality farmland in close proximity to the urban edge is distinctive.
• Lothians	This landscape character area does not contain key landscape features which are unique or rare within the Lothians.
Prominence	
• Edinburgh	The low lying nature of the landscape character area, and distance from Edinburgh city mean that this is not a prominent area.
• Lothians	This area is not prominent within the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	Gently undulating landscape with areas of woodland, and forming the lowland catchment for the river Almond.
• Visibility	Parts of this landscape are visible from main road and rail corridors
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	There are a number of footpaths within the area
• Recreation areas	There are no recreation areas within the area
• Transport routes	This area is crossed by the railway line to Fife and more minor roads connecting the smaller settlements
Culture	
• HLA and sites	There are listed buildings at Carlowrie and Foxhall and the majority of the farmland is 18 th – 19 th century and 19 th century to present influence.
• GDL	There are no inventory listed GDL within the landscape, although the policy influences of Carlowrie and Foxhall are evident and the area adjoins Dalmeny and Dundas.
• Conservation Areas	Part of Kirkliston is designated as a Conservation Area, and is adjacent to this landscape character area.
• Associations	No identified associations
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	The policy woodlands provide some natural heritage value, however the area is largely managed as farmland
• Geodiversity	The area is crossed by the river Almond which meanders across the farmland
• Remoteness	Although rural in character there are a number of urban influences which reflect the proximity of this landscape character area to the urban edge.
• Tranquillity	The proximity to the airport reduces any sense of tranquillity
• Wildness	This area is managed as productive farmland.
Condition	
Condition	The farmland is well managed and the landscape features are largely intact
Forces for change	
Forces for change	Changes to the agricultural support system and decline of the policy woodlands will further change the character of the area.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Cammo Fringe Farmland	Lowland Farmland	Lothian farmland	6



Description

- 3.63. This character area comprises a narrow band of gently undulating farmland lying between the A902 and the more pronounced landform and woodlands of the former Cammo estate.
- 3.64. The flat, open landform characteristic of the northern part of this area becomes more rolling to the south, rising to a distinct gorse-topped ridge at Craigs Road. This landscape is strongly contained by the more complex knolly landscape of Cammo and Lennie Hill, the ridge of West Craigs and the urban edge of Edinburgh. Arable fields have an open character with few trees, gappy thorn hedgerows and some small areas of scrub. A minor road, Cammo Walk, provides access to a small car park for walkers using the Cammo estate. A former tip on the southern fringes of this area is now used as a Council composting site and is fringed by patchy birch woodland.
- 3.65. This character area provides a simple, uncluttered foreground to views of the distinctive small hills and wooded policies of the designed landscape of Cammo from the A902. Part of this farmland is defined in the Inventory as forming the landscape setting to Cammo and views from the A902 to the 'eye catcher' provided by an early 19th century, castellated water tower are noted. A fragmented roundal of over-mature trees planted on the distinct knoll of Mauseley Hill also forms a focus in these views. Housing within Barnton is highly visible as it abuts this area to the north although woodland planting provides a robust screen to housing on the east side of the A902. Traffic and lighting infrastructure along this busy road are intrusive.

Summary of key characteristics

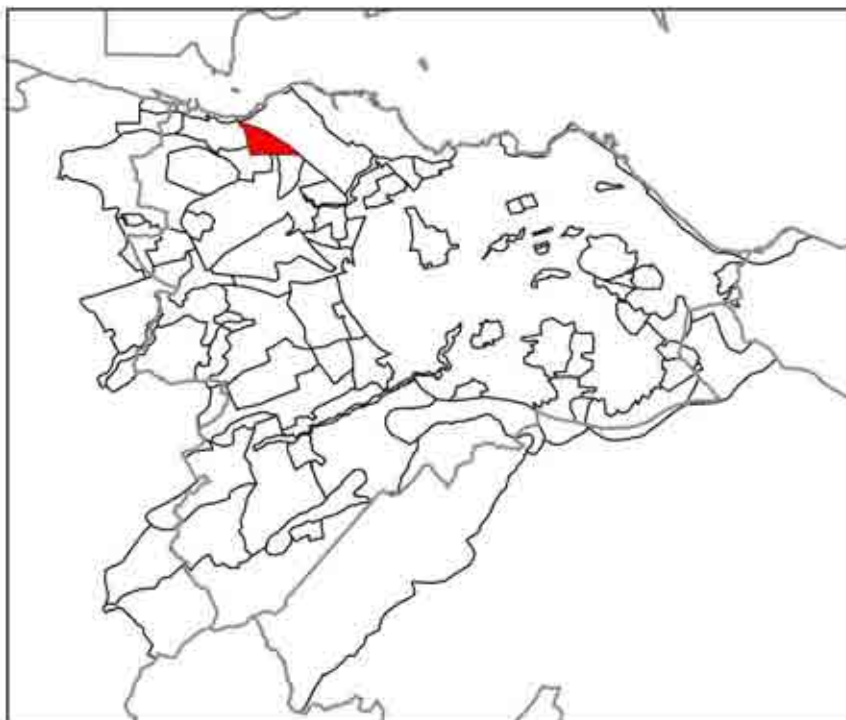
Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Low
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	Medium to High
Settlement	High
Prominence	Low
Receptors	High
Landscape Condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This character area is typical of a number of similarly fragmented landscapes found on the urban fringes of the city and strongly influenced by buildings and roads.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Typical of many landscapes with a similar fragmented character found on the urban fringe or between settlements
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	While this area is not unique or rare within Edinburgh, it has some value in terms of its role in providing a buffer of open ground adjacent to the designed landscape of Cammo.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This character area is not rare within the wider context of the Lothians.
Prominence	

• Edinburgh	This area is contained by more elevated ground west and south, but is highly visible from the A902, where it forms an uncluttered foreground to views of part of the Cammo remnant designed landscape. Views of this farmland from the urban area are restricted although it is visible from the more open knolls and monument within Cammo.
• Lothians	This area is not visible from the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	Gently undulating, open arable fields are strongly influenced by housing and roads. While of low intrinsic scenic quality, this area provides a simple foreground to the more scenic landform and features of the adjacent Cammo Estate.
• Visibility	Highly visible from nearby housing and roads
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	Minor roads provide access to the nearby Cammo Estate
• Recreation areas	None
• Transport routes	A902 is aligned on the eastern boundary of this area
Culture	
• HLA and sites	19 th century to present day rectilinear and amalgamated fields
• GDL	Inventory listed Cammo Estate abuts this area
• Conservation Areas	No conservation area
• Associations	No identified associations
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	No significant biodiversity
• Geodiversity	No significant geodiversity
• Remoteness	Close to major transport routes and housing so not remote
• Tranquillity	None due to urban context
• Wildness	None due to urban context
Condition	
	Hedgerows are intermittent and appear unmanaged although arable land appears well-managed.
Forces for change	
	Likely pressure for development

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Dalmeny Fringes	Lowland Farmland	Lothian farmland	13



Description

- 3.66. Located between the designed landscape of Dalmeny and the eastern edge of Queensferry, this area of gently undulating to rolling farmland is contained by: hills and policy woodlands to the east, a subtle ridge which screens the

A90 to the south and the embankment of a former railway line on the eastern edge of the urban area.

- 3.67. While this character area forms part of the wider policies of Dalmeny (as evidenced by the extension of policy woodlands on the distinct spur of Crossall Hill south of the B924 and the strong framework of field and roadside trees and the estate village of Dalmeny) it lacks the distinctively deeply rolling landform and pattern of woodland characteristic of the designed landscape. Farmland is well-managed with trim hedgerows and mature field trees; these coalescing in many views to give the impression of a well-wooded landscape. The estate village of Dalmeny is sited on a slight rise, its medieval stone church and clustered low cottages, set either side of a broad street and linear 'green', form a key focus within this landscape. Post-war housing extends the village to the south in a discrete area with limited visibility. Stone-built farmsteads, often framed by clumps of mature broadleaved trees, and a group of new white-rendered houses on the northern edge of Dalmeny also feature. Large scale industrial development abuts the western edge of Queensferry, although woodland along the former railway provides a degree of screening.
- 3.68. Views of this area are mainly from the B924, where it is briefly glimpsed prior to the more dramatic views of the Forth Rail Bridge on the approach to Queensferry. Views from Dalmeny village and Queensferry tend to be limited by woodland. The steep bund around the oil storage depot south of the A90 is visible from the higher ground to the south of this character area.

Summary of key characteristics

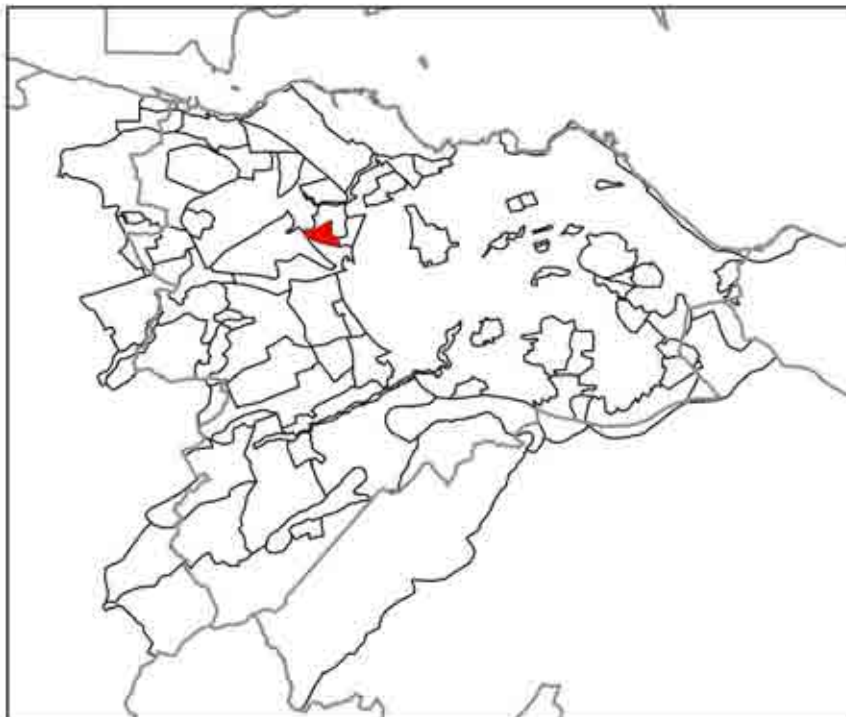
Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Low
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	Medium
Prominence	Low
Receptors	Medium
Landscape condition	High

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The well-managed farmland with largely intact hedgerows and field trees is typical of the Ratho Farmland character area. Woodlands and estate architecture are also typical features characteristic of the Dalmeny Estate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	The policy influences of this character area are typical of many landscapes within the Lothians.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This is a visually contained landscape close to the urban area of Queensferry. It is rare in comprising an area of well-managed farmland with a strong enclosure pattern and because it has an integrity largely unaffected by urban development despite its proximity.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This character area is not rare within the wider context of the Lothians with similar policy influenced agricultural landscapes being found adjacent to settlements such as Haddington in East Lothian.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This area is relatively visually contained with principal views being from the B924 on the approach to Queensferry. Views from the A90 are largely limited by the ridge between Easter Dalmeny and Dalmeny village
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This area is not visually prominent from the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	This area of well-managed farmland with its strong enclosure pattern of hedgerows and field trees, policies woodlands and estate village has some scenic qualities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	Visually contained with principal views from the B924
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	None known
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	B924 forms the northern boundary of this area while the A90 is aligned in a valley to the south (and not visible)
Culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLA and sites 	Lowland farmland is predominantly 18 th -19 th century in influence. The landscape includes the A-listed St Cuthbert's Church, and Dalmeny is a fine 12 th century Romanesque church with 16 th century and later additions. Dalmeny is a planned estate village, designed to service the nearby Dalmeny Estates. All cottages are listed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDL 	Associations with nearby Dalmeny estate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Areas 	Dalmeny Conservation Area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associations 	Village directly associated with the Estate
Naturalness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity 	Some value in hedgerows and small woodlands
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geodiversity 	No significant geodiversity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remoteness 	This area is not remote as it is relatively close to the urban edge and transport routes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tranquillity 	Traffic noise from A90 limits tranquillity in some places although the B924 is less busy and this area forms a relatively quiet rural pocket of land despite its proximity to Queensferry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildness 	None
Condition	
Condition	Well-managed farmland with evidence of recent hedgerow and tree planting
Forces for change	
Forces for change	There may be pressure for settlement expansion in this area

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Lennie golf course	Lowland Farmland	Lothian farmland	8



Description

- 3.69. Lennie golf course is located on the south and west facing slopes of Lennie Hill (77 AOD) which forms part of a distinct area of low, knoll like hills between

the airport and Barnton. The area is managed as a golf course and includes managed greens, tree groups with areas of scrub and gorse. This area abuts the designed landscape of Cammo and a stone wall forms a boundary with the estate and also along the road edge. There are a few cottages along the southern boundary of the golf course.

- 3.70. Lennie Hill and the golf course provide a setting for Cammo from the west, and also provides an open viewpoint to the west and north to Fife. The area is visible from the nearby airport and also the main railway line to Fife.
- 3.71. There is a disused quarry and disused tip which is used as a Council composting facility. The planting and management of the golf course will continue to affect the landscape character as the planting matures.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Medium
Land cover	Low
Land use	Medium
Cultural heritage	Low
Settlement	Low
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	Low
Landscape condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The golf course is located on a hill and is largely typical of many golf courses within Edinburgh and in the surrounding rural area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	The golf course is typical within the Lothians.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Not rare or unique within Edinburgh
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Not rare or unique within the Lothians
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Not highly prominent within Edinburgh due to the low height of the hill and lack of distinctive landscape features. Views from Edinburgh are more focused towards Cammo although Lennie Hill and the golf course form a backdrop to Cammo.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Not visible from the Lothians
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	Low rolling hills with areas of scrub and groups of trees providing a variety of textures, and visual relationship with Cammo.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	The proximity to the airport provides some visibility, but otherwise the area is not highly visible from main transport routes.
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	There are no recreation routes identified within the area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	Managed as a golf course.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	The Fife railway line and airport are the main transport routes which lie close to the landscape.
Culture	

• HLA and sites	The present golf course retains the outline and some features of the original 19 th century field pattern.
• GDL	The area lies adjacent to Cammo GDL
• Conservation Areas	There are no conservation areas adjacent to the landscape.
• Associations	No identified associations
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	The areas of scrub and mixed tree planting provide some biodiversity value.
• Geodiversity	The low rolling hills are typical of those found to the west of Edinburgh
• Remoteness	There are many urban related influences, particularly from the proximity to the airport.
• Tranquillity	Proximity to the airport reduces the tranquillity of the area
• Wildness	Modified landscape of a golf course

Condition	Managed as a golf course with some areas of gorse and mixed woodland planting which contrasts with the mature landscape of Cammo.
Forces for change	The maturation of the woodland planting on the golf course will change the character of the area. New developments associated with the airport may introduce new levels of visual and noise disturbance.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Newbridge/Brox burn farmland	Lowland farmland	Lothian farmland	20



Description

- 3.72. This character area extends south-west of Newbridge beyond the City boundary into West Lothian, terminating near Livingston where the elevation subtly increases and the farmed landscape changes to one where industry and settlement is a more dominant feature.

- 3.73. This gently undulating area of farmland is bordered to the south by the deeply incised River Almond. The landform is increasingly modified to the west by past mining activity and oil shale bings are a prominent feature seen on the fringes of this area. Medium to large well-managed arable fields are enclosed by patchy thorn hedgerows. There are few field trees or woodlands and the landscape has a generally open character. The M8 is a dominant feature bisecting this landscape with traffic clearly visible. The 19th century stone-built Almond Valley viaduct carrying the railway line similarly interrupts the flow of this open farmed landscape although its elegant tall stone arches provide a semi-permeable visual barrier. The canal is another important feature of industrial heritage in this area but has a more constrained visual impact as it winds its way through farmland and under the motorway. Large scale industrial buildings within Newbridge and the distinctly linear settlement of Broxburn are prominent features on the periphery of this area. Small farmsteads and cottages are dispersed within the farmland with poultry units a feature south of the M8. Although this landscape has a fragmented pattern in places due to the communications which cross it, this broad swathe of farmland retains some integrity, contrasting with the complexity of nearby settlement and infrastructure.
- 3.74. The openness of this landscape allows extensive views, although in many places these are interrupted by peripheral large scale built development. Views of Arthur's Seat and the castle can be briefly glimpsed from more open and elevated areas. This is a busy, noisy landscape where air and road traffic is a constant feature.

Summary of key characteristics

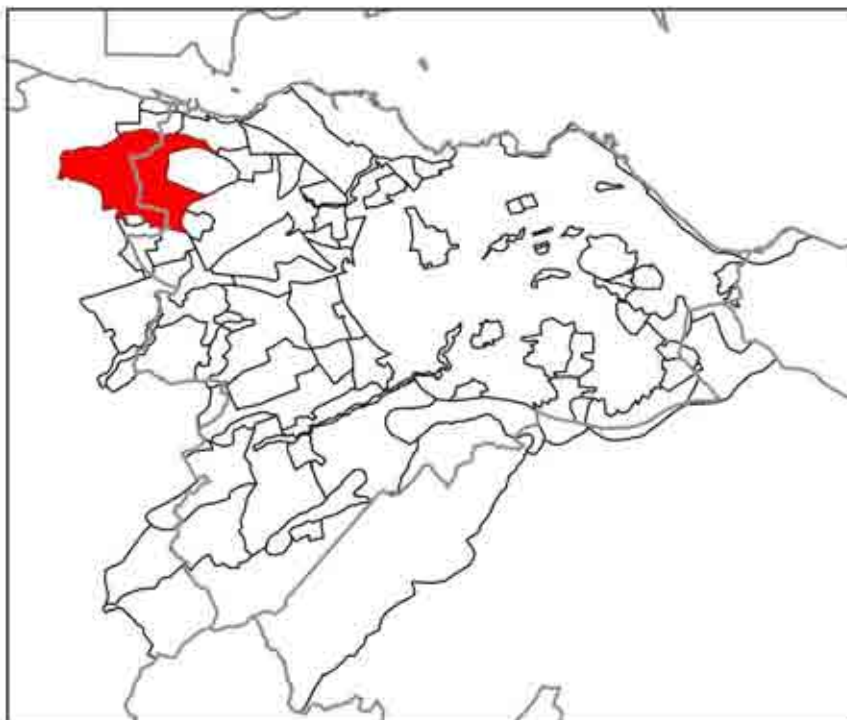
Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Low
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	High
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	High
Landscape condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This area is typical of other farmed areas found on the fringes of Edinburgh where communications, settlement and industry strongly influence character.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	The fragmentation and visual influence of industry, settlement and communications on this area of farmland is replicated in other parts of the Lothians.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	While this area is neither unique or rare within Edinburgh, it does provide a contrast with the complexity of built development and infrastructure and buffer of open space on the edge of the City
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	While this character area is neither rare or unique within the Lothians it does provide a contrast with the complexity of built development and infrastructure and buffer of open space between Newbridge and settlement within West Lothian

Prominence	
• Edinburgh	This area is not visually prominent from Edinburgh
• Lothians	This area is principally visible from the West Lothian settlements of Broxburn and Uphall, from the M8 and railway on the approach to Edinburgh and for people accessing the Union Canal which is an important recreational facility.
Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	Although built features such as the Almond valley viaduct and canal are key attractors, this area is generally of low scenic quality due to the lack of distinction of landform and farmland, and presence of transport infrastructure and industry
• Visibility	Highly visible from settlements within West Lothian and from major transport routes
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	The canal and its towpath
• Recreation areas	Playing fields south of Broxburn in NW of area
• Transport routes	M8 and A89
Culture	
• HLA and sites	Lowland Farmland is predominantly 19 th century to present in influence. The Union Canal is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and the Almond Valley viaduct is A-listed.
• GDL	None in the area although Newliston nearby
• Conservation Areas	None
• Associations	No identified associations
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	No significant biodiversity
• Geodiversity	No significant geodiversity
• Remoteness	This area is not remote
• Tranquillity	Presence of major transport routes preclude tranquillity
• Wildness	None
Condition	Degraded field boundaries and little woodland or field trees although farmland appears well-managed. Some small areas of derelict land
Forces for change	Possible upgrading of transport routes and settlement/industrial expansion.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Newton farmland	Lowland farmland	Lothian farmland	17



Description

- 3.75. An area of gently undulating farmland extending from the wooded policies of the Hopetoun Estate in the north to the M9, which forms a visual and

perceptual boundary to the south. This character area extends west beyond the Edinburgh boundary to a point near Craigton where the landscape becomes more rolling and influenced by the policies of Hopetoun and the House of the Binns.

- 3.76. The landform gently rises from the steeper coastal edge of the Firth of Forth, slackening to the south to form a broad, gently undulating and slightly elevated area of farmland. Predominantly arable fields are broken by blocky mixed woodlands, some of these planted around the small lochs and reservoirs which are a feature of this area. Many of these woodlands have a distinctive policy character, particularly where they form teardrop shaped copses enclosed by stone walls and accentuating small knolls either side of the A904. Small clumps of deciduous trees frame farmsteads and Duntarvie Castle, which is currently being restored, forms a minor focus. Fields are enclosed by largely intact hedgerows and post and wire fences and there is extensive horse grazing on fields west of the village of Newton. Narrow angular minor roads contribute to the sense of a rural landscape with minimal urban influences although there is evidence of past small-scale quarrying and mining within this area and the M9 and the extensive pink oil shale bings east of Winchburgh are highly visible features to the south-east beyond the boundaries of this area.
- 3.77. The wooded Dundas Hill contains views to the east. Views to the Firth of Forth are a feature in the north of this area and focus on the nearby Fife coast and the Forth bridges. This area is visible from the M9 and also from the A904, although the sloping landform limits the extent of this area visible from this latter road which has a distinct coastal aspect.

Summary of key characteristics

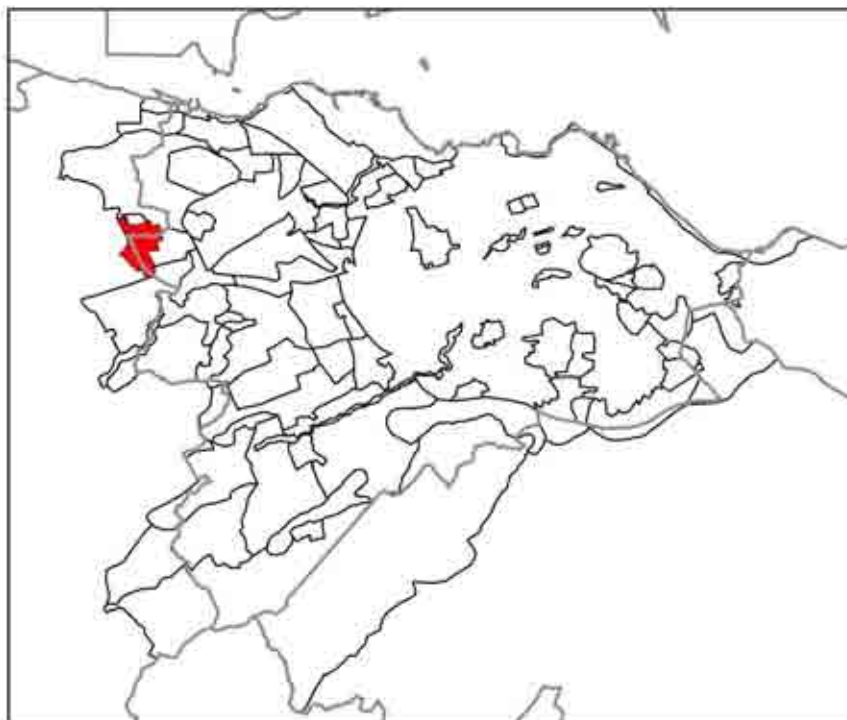
Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Low
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	Low
Settlement	Low
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	Medium
Landscape condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This area is typical of other farmed areas found in the more rural outer fringes of Edinburgh where there are some urban influences (M9 and oil bings) but where the landscape still has an integrity aided by its well-managed farmland and wooded character and general lack of fragmentation by built development.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Typical of many farmed landscapes close to major communications and piecemeal industry in other parts of the Lothians.
Rarity / uniqueness	

• Edinburgh	While this area is neither unique or rare, its policy influenced woodlands, lochans and the coastal aspect of parts of the area are important characteristics which contribute to the range of rural landscapes on the outer edge of Edinburgh.
• Lothians	This character area is neither rare or unique within the Lothians
Prominence	
• Edinburgh	This area is not visible from Edinburgh and views are very restricted from Queensferry
• Lothians	This area is principally visible from the M9. A small part of this area also forms the foreground of views over the Firth of Forth from the A704. Views from the West Lothian settlements of Winchburgh and Broxburn are restricted by oil shale bings.
Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	Well-managed farmland and woodlands give this area some limited scenic quality.
• Visibility	This area is not widely visible
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	Rural footpaths
• Recreation areas	Westmuir Riding Centre
• Transport routes	A904 and M9
Culture	
• HLA and sites	The lowland farmland is mixed 18 th -19 th century, 19 th -20 th century and 19 th century to present in influence. Duntarvie Castle is A-listed and a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Several listed farm buildings in LCA
• GDL	None in area although Dundas Castle nearby
• Conservation Areas	None
• Associations	No identified associations
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	Limited to woodlands and wetlands around Humble Reservoir
• Geodiversity	No significant geodiversity
• Remoteness	This area is not remote
• Tranquillity	The proximity of the M9 precludes tranquillity
• Wildness	None
Condition	
Condition	Farmland well-managed but woodlands less so. Some semi-derelict past mining and quarrying sites.
Forces for change	
Forces for change	Likely to be restricted to changes in agricultural management

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Niddry farmland	Lowland wooded farmland	Lothian farmland	18



Description

3.78. Niddry farmland is an area of gently undulating landform ranging from 60m-70m AOD and located close to the bings of Winchburgh and Broxburn. There is a mixture of large arable fields and pasture used for horse grazing and the

field boundaries include some stone walls, although these are partly in a state of neglect. Woodland from the adjacent Newliston policies forms a backdrop to this character area and is a feature of southern views as is Ross' plantation, an area of mixed coniferous and deciduous woodland located to the north.

- 3.79. A notable historic feature is Niddry Castle, a 16th century tower house which was restored in recent years and is now in private ownership. The castle is not highly prominent within the landscape due to the dominating presence of the adjacent bing which towers above it. Niddry Castle golf course surrounds the castle, and the Union canal is nearby which brings people to the area for recreation. There are a few scattered farmsteads and agricultural buildings in the landscape. The M9 motorway lies to the north of this character area, which is crossed only by minor roads and the Edinburgh – Glasgow railway line. Views from the landscape character area extend to the Pentlands and Corstorphine Hill. Although this landscape character area is visible from the M9 it has limited intervisibility with surrounding landscape character areas, excepting the farmland to the north of the motorway.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Low
Land cover	Low
Land use	Medium
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	Low
Prominence	Low
Receptors	Medium
Landscape condition	Medium

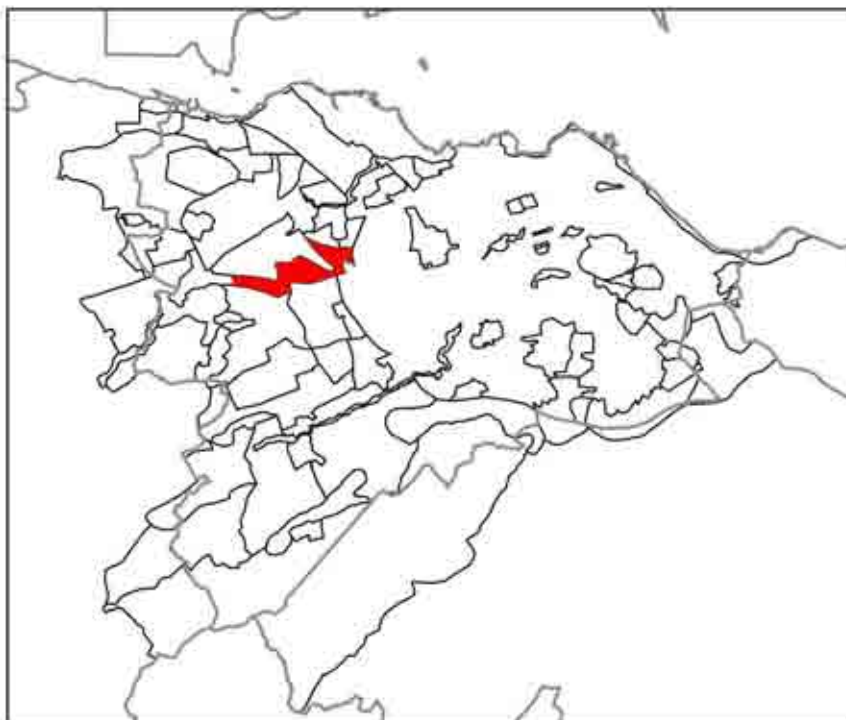
Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
• Edinburgh	This area is largely typical of the low lying farmland in the Edinburgh area.
• Lothians	This farmland is typical of the Lothians.
Rarity / uniqueness	
• Edinburgh	This farmland is not rare or unique within Edinburgh.
• Lothians	This farmland is not rare or unique within the Lothians.
Prominence	
• Edinburgh	This area is not prominent within Edinburgh.
• Lothians	This area is not prominent within the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	Gently undulating arable farmland and pasture with recreational use.
• Visibility	The main railway line provides some visibility to into this area and the bings enclose views to the west.
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	The Union canal forms an important nearby recreation route.
• Recreation areas	Niddry Castle golf course
• Transport routes	The Glasgow – Edinburgh railway line runs through the character area.
Culture	

• HLA and sites	16 th century Niddry Castle is an A-listed building. The surrounding gold course bears traces of medieval/post-medieval cultivation.
• GDL	Planned fields associated with Newliston policies, which are included within the Inventory Listed area, lie within the landscape character area.
• Conservation Areas	There are no designated conservation areas.
• Associations	The nearby bings are a strong visual reminder of the mining associated with the area.
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	The area is managed as arable farmland.
• Geodiversity	The area is important for oil shale mining.
• Remoteness	The area lies close to urban areas and transport routes.
• Tranquillity	Although crossed by the railway line, the area has some sense of tranquillity.
• Wildness	The landscape is highly modified by human activity.

Condition	This landscape has some attractive farmland character but is partly fragmented by the land uses in the area.
Forces for change	Pressure for additional recreational use and changes in farming practices will alter the character of the landscape.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
West Craigs farmland	Lowland wooded farmland	Lothian farmland	9



Description

- 3.80. This character area comprises an area of farmland lying to the west of the city and crossed by the A8, airport and railway line. To the south, this landscape

gradually merges with the Ratho Farmland which forms a more homogenous swathe of farmland with a distinctive enclosure pattern.

- 3.81. Gently undulating to flat farmland is contained to the north-east by a ridge of higher ground rising to Lennie Hill and bordered by industrial development on the edge of Edinburgh, the Airport and Ratho. Large arable fields have an open character, interrupted by the runway and former MOD buildings at Turnhouse and the busy A8. Fields are enclosed by intermittent thorn hedgerows and small clumps of woodland frame neat stone farmsteads and the early 17th century tower house of Castle Gogar, which forms a focus in this landscape. In the more elevated area of West Craigs, decayed stone walls form boundaries and some uncultivated fields are also present. Intensive poultry production is a feature in the Norton area. The area provides extensive views to the south and the distant Pentland Hills.
- 3.82. This is a highly fragmented landscape with farmland interrupted by transport corridors, the airport and industrial development. Despite the visual intrusion of built infrastructure, this area provides a pocket of predominantly well-managed farmland highly visible from the A8, the airport and the railway.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Low
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	Low
Settlement	High
Prominence	Low
Receptors	Medium
Landscape condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This character area is typical of a number of similarly fragmented areas of farmland strongly influenced by industry, infrastructure and transport corridors.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Typical of many landscapes with a similar fragmented character found on the edge or between settlements
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This area is not unique or rare within Edinburgh although it comprises a pocket of surprisingly well-managed farmland in a context where surrounding industry and transport infrastructure dominates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This character area is not rare within the wider context of the Lothians.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This area is contained by Lennie Hill and the ridge of West Craigs to the north. While it is highly visible from the A8 and railway, it tends not to form the focus of views, with the airport and RBS development at Gogar being dominant features.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This area is not visible from the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	

• Character/qualities	This area is of relatively low scenic quality due to the fragmentation of the landscape by built development and transport infrastructure
• Visibility	Highly visible from transport routes to the south
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	None known
• Recreation areas	None
• Transport routes	A8 forms the southern boundary of this area and a railway is aligned through it
Culture	
• HLA and sites	Mainly lowland farmland, largely 20 th century amalgamations of earlier fields. Small designed landscape associated with 17 th century A-listed Castle Gogar. Remains of a scheduled later prehistoric fort, palisaded enclosure and field system are located to the south of Castle Gogar, however no features visible on the surface.
• GDL	Small designed landscape associated with 17 th century A-listed Castle Gogar.
• Conservation Areas	None
• Associations	No identified associations
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	No significant biodiversity
• Geodiversity	No significant geodiversity
• Remoteness	None due to urban context
• Tranquillity	None due to urban context and presence of nearby airport and transport routes
• Wildness	None due to urban context

Condition	Farmland generally appears well-managed although decayed stone walls and some areas of land not under cultivation gives a perception of less than optimum condition
Forces for change	Pressures for transport infrastructure and built development likely in this area.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE: PENTLAND FLANKS

Character areas

- Cockburn geometric wooded farmland (36)
- Currie sloping wooded farmland (34)
- Leith plateau farmland (33)
- North Pentland slopes (41)
- Redford basin (35)
- West Pentland fringe (39)

Key Characteristics

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

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Cockburn geometric wooded farmland	Pentland flanks	Pentland Hills	36



Description

- 3.83. This landscape character area extends over a north west facing slope above the settlement of Balerno and the Water of Leith. The slope rises to a low ridge of about 265m AOD. The strong shelter belt influence also extends into some fields which lie to the north of the Water of Leith.
- 3.84. The dominant influence on the landscape is the regular layout of fields and shelterbelts which are imposed across the landscape. These shelterbelts are generally of mixed tree species although some are more dominant with conifers. Some minor watercourses run through the landscape character area and these have largely been modified to follow the field boundaries.
- 3.85. Some of the tree belts are in a declining condition with loss of trees and no replacement planting. The farmland is used for a mixture of arable and pasture. The roads within the landscape follow the lines of the shelter belts and there are a number of scattered farmsteads within the landscape character area. Above the Water of Leith a string of 19th century villas extend along the road and these have associated policy woodlands which reflect the shelterbelt pattern of the farmland to the south.
- 3.86. The woodland belts enclose and restrict views both into and out of this landscape character area. There is some intervisibility with landscape character areas 33 and 37 which are adjacent, however this is largely limited.
- 3.87. The recent construction of the Scottish Water facility has had a minor impact on the character of the area. Changes in farming activities could influence the use of the land and character of the shelter belts.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Low
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	Low
Settlement	Low
Prominence	Low
Receptros	Medium
Landscape condition	High

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The strong geometric shelterbelt influences of this landscape character area, make this area distinctive from the wider landscape of Edinburgh. However the intrinsic character of sloping farmland with shelterbelts is typical of the Edinburgh area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	The character of farmland with shelter belts is typical of the Lothians.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	In combination with Bavelaw geometric wooded farmland (which was historically linked to this landscape character area) the strong geometric character is unique within Edinburgh.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	The typical character of this landscape character area is found across the Lothians, and strong shelter belt patterns are also found to the east of the Pentlands close to Penicuik. However the geometric influence is particularly strong in this area.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This landscape character area is not prominent within Edinburgh due to its location on the lower slopes of the Pentland hills and lack of vantage points from which to view it. It can be glimpsed from the A70.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape character area is not prominent within the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	Gently sloping arable and pasture farmland with strong shelterbelt patterns overlaying the landform which creates enclosure and restricts views.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	The landform restricts views from nearby transport corridors.
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	The area does not contain key recreation routes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	The area is not important for recreation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	Only minor roads pass through the landscape.
Culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLA and sites 	Mainly 18 th and 19 th century planned rectilinear fields, with some 20 th century amalgamations. A-listed 17 th century Cockburn House set in planned fields.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDL 	House of Cockburn (Westbrook) designed landscape.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Areas 	There are no conservation areas adjoining the landscape character area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associations 	Nothing of note
Naturalness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity 	The area around Redford Wood is designated a SSSI and is an area of plantation ancient woodland, and this partly extends into this landscape character area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geodiversity 	The area is not significant for its geodiversity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remoteness 	The area lies close to Balerno, however intervisibility is limited and the southern area, close to Redford feels more remote due to the proximity to the Pentlands.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tranquillity 	The area is quite tranquil due to the lack of important transport routes and
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildness 	The landscape is heavily modified by human influences with the regular patterns of shelterbelts and farming activity.
Condition	
	There is evidence of some lack of management of the shelterbelt woodlands which appear poorly managed, in addition development such as the new water treatment facility introduces built features into the landscape.
Forces for change	
	Changes in agricultural land use and management of the woodlands will influence the landscape character.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Currie sloping wooded farmland	Pentland flanks	Pentland hills	34



Description

- 3.88. This landscape character area extends over a north west facing slope which rises from 150m AOD at the Water of Leith to 300m AOD at the base of the steeply rising Pentlands. The land is predominantly arable farmland, with some areas of pasture and the fields are defined by mixed shelterbelts and field trees of beech and Scots pine. Policy influences are notable alongside the Water of Leith where shelterbelts merge with the valley woodlands.
- 3.89. The Bavelaw burn extends from Harlaw Reservoir and is an incised wooded valley which joins the Water of Leith at Balerno. The Kinleith burn is also incised and wooded for a short distance. This landscape contains intact and well-managed farmland. The fields are bounded by stone walls, hedgerows and post and wire fencing, and this is reinforced by the shelter belts.
- 3.90. There are a number of farms dispersed throughout this landscape character area and more recent housing sited along the Kirkgate from Currie. Houses align the Bavelaw Burn in the area around Malleny Mills and a school is located within the extensive wooded grounds of Harmeny House.
- 3.91. Minor roads pass through the landscape character area and these follow the lines of the field boundaries. A high voltage power line also crosses the upper slopes of this area, and runs broadly parallel to the slope.
- 3.92. This landscape character area plays an important role in providing visual containment to Currie and a backdrop to the Water of Leith. There are extensive views from this character area to the Ochils, Fife and West Lothian. Harlaw Reservoir is an important location for recreation and there is car parking and a visitor centre which provides access to the Pentlands. Views to the Ratho Hills, Corstorphine Hill, the Pentlands and the city edge are important from this area.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Medium
Land cover	Medium
Land use	Medium
Cultural heritage	Low
Settlement	Low
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	Medium
Landscape condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This landscape character area is largely typical of Edinburgh farmland, however its proximity to the Pentlands imparts some rugged upland character.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	The large fields and enclosure pattern of woodlands of this area is typical of farmland found in the Lothians.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The combination of landscape features mean that this landscape is not rare or unique within Edinburgh
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape is not rare or unique within the Lothians.
Prominence	

• Edinburgh	This landscape character area is not highly prominent within Edinburgh as a whole, however it performs an important role as a setting for Currie and as foreground to the Pentlands.
• Lothians	This landscape character area has some intervisibility with West Lothian, due to its aspect and western location but it is not widely prominent.
Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	Sloping farmland with distinctive shelterbelts forming an important visual feature within the landscape. The large arable fields provide a foreground to the rugged character of the Pentland hills behind.
• Visibility	The elevated and sloping character of this landscape make it visible from main transport corridors and the city itself.
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	Footpaths and minor roads provide access between the Water of Leith and the Pentland Hills
• Recreation areas	The area provides an access point for the Pentland Hills regional park, and the Water of Leith is also important for recreation.
• Transport routes	The area is visible from the A70 and A720.
Culture	
• HLA and sites	18 th -19 th century field pattern and 20 th century shelterbelts.
• GDL	The grounds of Harmeny House, Lennox Tower/Lymphoy House and Malleny House provide policy influences, as do the grounds of Woodhall.
• Conservation Areas	The central areas of Balerno and Currie are conservation areas.
• Associations	Previous paper mill industry. Now commuter area for Edinburgh
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	Parts of the Bavelaw Burn and Water of Leith contain areas of plantation ancient woodland
• Geodiversity	The area is not significant for geodiversity.
• Remoteness	The area lies close to several settlements and is only a short distance from the city itself
• Tranquillity	Despite the proximity to settlement and importance for recreation, the area has some tranquillity.
• Wildness	The landscape is managed for agriculture, and strongly influenced by human activities, however the proximity to the rugged Pentlands contributes a sense of wildness.
Condition	
Condition	The landscape is well managed and the features are generally in good condition.
Forces for change	
Forces for change	Future development associated with the settlements and further recreation pressure could change the character of the landscape.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Leith Plateau farmland	Pentland flanks	Pentland hills	33



Description

- 3.93. This character area is associated with the upper reaches of the Water of Leith which is aligned at the foot of the Pentland Hills and forms the boundary with West Lothian.
- 3.94. This broad and open landscape comprises a plateau, occupied by an airfield north of the A70, and a shallow farmed valley to the south. The airfield is contained by Kaimes Hill to the east and edged by the strong woodland framework associated with Kirknewton House and farmland to the north and west. Cracked and overgrown concrete runways criss-cross grassland while former hangars and large sheds abut the B7031. A fluttering windsock emphasises the exposed nature of this area. The Water of Leith forms a visually insignificant channel south of the A70. Gently sloping arable fields are interspersed with some smaller areas of pasture; these becoming more dominant further south where the landform slackens at the foot of the Pentland Hills. Fields are enclosed by post and wire fences marked by clumps of overgrown thorn. Some small broadleaved woodlands are focussed along the Water of Leith valley and blocky coniferous plantations and shelterbelts sharply delineate the boundary with the more extensively farmed upland fringe pastures to the south. Poultry units form an isolated feature adjacent to the A70 while dispersed farms and some new housing are distinctively sited at the top of hill slopes south of the Water of Leith.
- 3.95. This landscape is visible from the A70, where the open and expansive airfield is a striking visual feature, although the Pentland Hills tend to form the key focus of these views. It is also visible from the Pentland Hills where it forms a small part of a wide panorama.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Low
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	Low
Settlement	Low
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	Medium
Landscape Condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This area is typical of a very small number of farmed landscapes found on the outer fringes of Edinburgh where the urban edge and communications do not greatly influence character. Examples of other similar landscapes include Newton and Ratho Farmland.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	There are a number of similar farmed landscapes with a strong rural character found within the Lothians
Rarity / uniqueness	

• Edinburgh	While this landscape is not intrinsically unique or rare, it does have a role in providing a simple foreground to the more dramatic Pentland Hills. It lacks the distinctive woodland enclosure pattern of the adjacent Cockburn farmland
• Lothians	This area is not unique or rare within the Lothians
Prominence	
• Edinburgh	This area is visible from the A70 where it forms the foreground to views of the Pentland Hills which are the key focus.
• Lothians	This area is visible from the eastern fringes of West Lothian but not from any settlements
Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	This area of rolling farmland has some scenic qualities and also provides a rural setting to the Pentland Hills in terms of the wider landscape composition
• Visibility	Visible from the A70
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	Rural footpaths
• Recreation areas	None known
• Transport routes	A70
Culture	
• HLA and sites	Mainly 18 th -19 th century field pattern. Some 20 th century amalgamation
• GDL	None
• Conservation Areas	None
• Associations	No known associations
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	Water of Leith and small woodlands likely to have some value
• Geodiversity	No significant geodiversity
• Remoteness	A degree of remoteness can be experienced due to the relatively sparse population of this area although it is close to the A70
• Tranquillity	A degree of tranquillity can be experienced away from the A70 and close to the Pentland Hill fringes
• Wildness	None
Condition	
Condition	Farmland is well-managed although hedgerows are not maintained in places.
Forces for change	
Forces for change	Changes in agricultural management

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
North Pentland slopes	Pentland Flanks	Pentland hills	41



Description

- 3.96. The north slopes of the Pentlands consist of an undulating landscape with knolly outcrops which are particularly pronounced at the western end in the

area around Bonaly. In some areas the irregular landform has been accentuated by quarrying activity.

- 3.97. Numerous burns flow down across the slopes cutting deeply into the hillside, and some are further pronounced by the associated woodland or scrub. There is a wide range of land cover types reflecting the different land uses. This includes grazing, golf courses, areas of established deciduous and coniferous woodland, new tree planting and areas of gorse and heather.
- 3.98. There are limited minor road links within the landscape giving access particularly for recreation. The city bypass is a major feature between the edge of the city and this landscape character area. Although screened in part by woodland planting along its edge, the bypass introduces a strong sense of movement and noise into the landscape.
- 3.99. Again, reflecting the variety of land uses there is a range of different field boundaries within the landscape. This includes some stone walls particularly at the western end of the slopes, although the majority is post and wire fencing. Woodland is an important feature within the landscape. There are influences from the policy woodlands around Bonaly and Dreghorn which include mixed mature deciduous and coniferous trees. There are also younger areas of coniferous planting and the immature mixed woodland belts alongside the city bypass.
- 3.100. There are three reservoirs at the western end of the Pentlands and these are used for fishing and Bonaly Country Park is important for recreation. Hillend Country Park and ski centre lie just outwith the City of Edinburgh boundary, and this provides another important access point to the Pentlands. Bonaly is also the location of a Scout centre and the area is also used as a training ground by Dreghorn Barracks. The small village of Swanston is the main settlement on the slopes and is a Conservation Area. The village has associations with Robert Louis Stevenson whose parents lived there for some years. Other settlement includes scattered farms, some 1950's residential properties and Bonaly Tower which is now converted to residential use. Two pylon lines cross the lower slopes, entering from the western end and converging in the valley floor.
- 3.101. The north facing slopes of the Pentlands are one of the most prominent features in the city skyline and dominate the surrounding landscape. They also form a key feature in views from the city bypass. The eastern slopes are a key feature of views from the eastern approaches to the Pentlands from the neighbouring areas.
- 3.102. There has been significant past change to this landscape character area through the construction of the reservoirs at the western end, the building of the city bypass and the development of the ski centre. Relocation of the golf course at Swanston was in progress at the time of field survey, which will alter the character of the lower fields by introducing woodland and trees.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	High
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	Low
Prominence	High
Receptors	High
Landscape condition	High

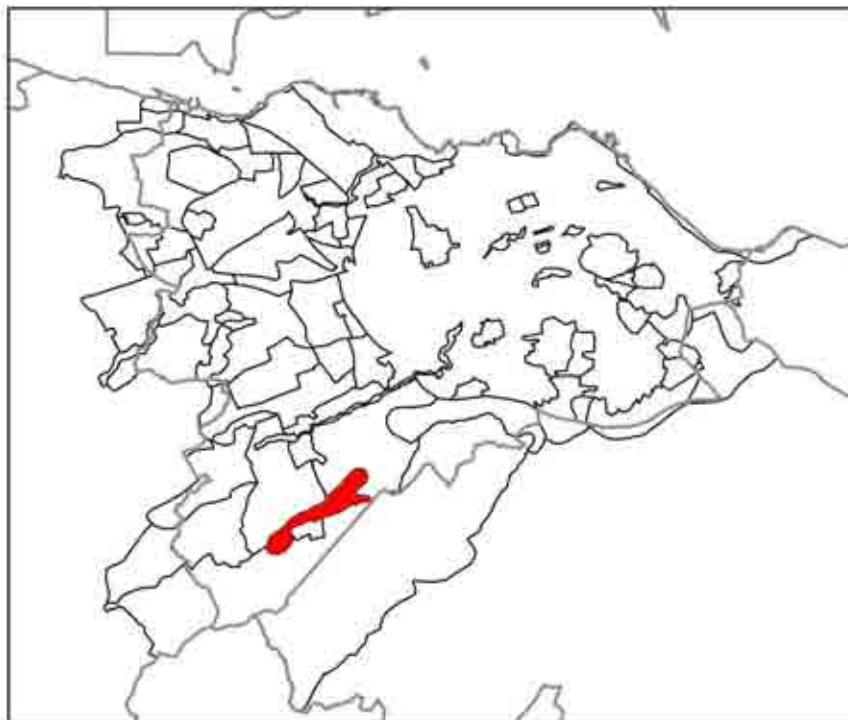
Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The north facing slopes are steep, and reach up to the Pentland hills. Although they share some characteristics with the western flanks they are distinctive within Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	The eastern slopes of the Pentlands rise steeply and to similar heights as the north slopes. Compared to other Lothian hills the Pentlands have additional drama which makes them outstanding above the other hills within the Lothians.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The North Pentland slopes are unique within Edinburgh providing the interface between the city and the dramatic landscape of the Pentlands.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	The North Pentland slopes are unique within the Lothians, as nowhere else do the Pentlands rise behind a city such as Edinburgh.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The North Pentland slopes are extremely prominent within Edinburgh, forming an important backdrop to the city.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	The North Pentland slopes are not highly prominent within the Lothians due to their north facing orientation which reduces visibility from surrounding areas. However they feature in views from the east and the city bypass.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	A varied landscape forming an important visual backdrop to the city. There is a knolly and undulating landform to the west with woodland, which contrasts with the smoother slopes to the east.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	The area is highly prominent from the main transport route of the A720.
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	Numerous routes pass through the landscape character area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	Bonaly Country Park, access points to the Pentland Hills Regional Park and the ski centre and slope all provide important recreation areas.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	The city bypass provides key views to the landscape and the area is accessed by minor roads.
Culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLA and sites 	A mixture of 18 th – 19 th century rectilinear fields, some 19 th -20 th century amalgamated fields and the rough grazing of the higher hills. A fort that is a scheduled ancient monument lies adjacent to Clubbiedean reservoir.

• GDL	Policy woodlands associated with Bonaly and Dreghorn influence the character of the landscape.
• Conservation Areas	Swanston village is a Conservation Area.
• Associations	Robert Louis Stevenston's parents lived in Swanston for some years.
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	The incised burns and woodland, combined with areas of extensively managed land give biodiversity value.
• Geodiversity	The steeply rising north slopes of the Pentlands
• Remoteness	The area lies close to the city edge and does not feel remote.
• Tranquillity	The constant noise and movement of traffic on the city bypass reduces any sense of tranquillity.
• Wildness	Some areas have more rugged upland vegetation, however the numerous urban influences and visual relationship with the city detract from any sense of wildness.

Condition	The landscape has a mix of uses and is generally well maintained although there is some decay of individual features such as stone walls,
Forces for change	The relocation of the golf course at Swanston will introduce a new character to the area, in addition the maturation of associated tree planting.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Redford basin	Pentland Flanks	Pentland hills	35



Description

- 3.103. This character area forms a shallow linear basin lying at the foot of the Pentland Hills, above the strongly enclosed Cockburn Farmland.
- 3.104. The reservoirs of Harlaw and Threipmuir occupy the eastern part of this basin and are contained by gently sloping farmland. In the eastern part of this

character area, the form of these reservoirs has an engineered character comprising angular grassed dams, drawdown margins and built infrastructure, this accentuated by even-aged coniferous woodland planted on the perimeter of Harlaw Reservoir. However, beyond Redford Bridge to the west, Threipmuir Reservoir has a naturalistic shoreline with the water body fringed by scrubby birch and alder woodland and wetlands and backed by a flat expanse of heather moorland, flecked with tussocky clumps of grass. This area is sparsely settled with dispersed farmsteads visible within adjacent character areas. A visitor centre with associated car park is housed in an old cottage at Harlaw and forms the starting point for popular walks around the reservoir and into the Pentland Hills.

- 3.105. This character area forms a dip between the softly rolling farmland in the Cockburn area and the steep slopes of the Pentland Hills and as such is largely hidden from view, except from nearby footpaths and from hill tops and ridge paths, where it forms part of an extensive panorama. The seclusion of this area can instil a sense of remoteness, this particularly experienced in the less modified western part of the basin which has some 'wild land' characteristics. This landscape forms a diverse visual composition with the distinctive enclosed Bavelaw farmland and the dramatic landform of the Pentland Hills.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Medium
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	Low
Settlement	Low
Prominence	Low
Receptors	High
Landscape Condition	High

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	A number of similar reservoirs are found within and on the fringes of the Pentland Hills. Coniferous woodlands are planted around the perimeter of many of these reservoirs and most form a focus for recreation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	There are a number of similar reservoirs found in upland and lowland situations within the Lothians
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This landscape is unique within Edinburgh because of the semi-natural characteristics of native woodland, wetlands, moorland and indented water body west of Redford Bridge.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	While many reservoirs in Midlothian and East Lothian have an upland context, very few of these are set within an extensive moorland basin. Gladhouse Reservoir in Midlothian may be the only other example making this landscape rare in the Lothians.
Prominence	

• Edinburgh	This area is not visible from settlements and roads. Vantage points within the Pentland Hills and popular footpaths in the area offer the only scope for views.
• Lothians	This area is not visible from the Lothians
Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	Native woodland, wetlands, moorland and naturalistic indented water body west of Redford Bridge contribute to the high scenic value of much of this area; this is enhanced by the backdrop provided by the Pentland Hills.
• Visibility	This area is not widely visible due to the containment of the basin landform
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	Extensive network of footpaths with links to the Pentland Hills
• Recreation areas	Part of Pentland Hills Regional Park, fishing on managed reservoirs
• Transport routes	Minor roads only
Culture	
• HLA and sites	19-20 th century reservoirs, rough grazing and some 20 th century amalgamated fields.
• GDL	None
• Conservation Areas	No conservation area
• Associations	No identified associations
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	Balerno Common raised bog and wetlands, and the western extent of Thriepmuir Reservoir designated SSSI
• Geodiversity	No significant geodiversity
• Remoteness	A degree of remoteness can be experienced in this landscape
• Tranquillity	This is a tranquil landscape located some distance from urban areas and major transport routes
• Wildness	None
Condition	Well-managed woodlands, water bodies and recreational facilities and farmland.
Forces for change	Changes in the management of the area for recreation and provision of facilities will affect the character.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
West Pentland fringe	Pentland Flanks	Pentland Hills	39



Description

- 3.106. This open and expansive area of sweeping grass moorland and semi-improved pasture lies at the foot of Mid Hill, one of the western peaks of the Pentland Hills. The character area extends into West Lothian where a distinct change occurs at Harperrig Reservoir as extensive coniferous forestry dominates the landscape.
- 3.107. Landform is gently sloping with a boggy shallow basin occurring around the Water of Leith, marked by drifts of tussocky pale-straw coloured rushes. Two long narrow coniferous shelterbelts form a distinct feature at the transition with the improved farmland of the Leith Plateau to the east. Dark heather moorland covers the steeper slopes of the Pentland Hills and abruptly marks the boundary with the uplands to the south. Fields of improved pasture are evident on more elevated ground, close to the A71 and are enclosed by post and wire fences, often supplementing decayed dry stone walls. This character area is sparsely populated with widely dispersed farmsteads located on the fringes of Harperrig Reservoir or on lower hill slopes; these often tightly surrounded by sheltering woodlands. Remnant woodlands of Scots pine form small point features, conspicuous within this open and expansive landscape. A transmission line and traffic using the A70 are prominent features on the edge of this character area.
- 3.108. The perceived emptiness and exposure of this character area and the visual dominance of the Pentland Hills give it a distinctive upland and seemingly remote character; this contrasting with the City of Edinburgh, where the distinctive landmarks of Arthur's Seat and Castle Rock can be seen in views funnelled eastwards along the Water of Leith. The openness of this character allows interrupted views from the A70 where the focus is the bulky, smoothly rounded East Cairn and Mid Hill of the Pentlands.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Low
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	Low
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	Medium
Landscape Condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Few components of this character area are typically found within Edinburgh although grass moorland/semi-improved pasture and angular coniferous shelterbelts are characteristic of parts of the Pentland Hills.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Similar areas of open and sparsely populated semi-improved upland fringe farmland are associated with the Lammermuir, Moorfoot and west Pentland Hills
Rarity / uniqueness	

• Edinburgh	This landscape is rare within Edinburgh because of its simple, open character and strong association with the uplands. Much of the rural area within Edinburgh is intensively farmed and is relatively well-populated in comparison with this area.
• Lothians	This landscape is not rare within the Lothians as a number of similarly extensively farmed and sparsely settled 'hill fringe' landscapes are associated with upland areas.
Prominence	
• Edinburgh	This area is not readily visible from the city or from settlements although there are views across this very open landscape from the A70. This area is visible from vantage points within the Pentland Hills and a footpath providing access to the hills although it does not form the key focus within these views.
• Lothians	This area is not visible from the Lothians (extensive forestry within West Lothian screens views from the A70)
Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	This area of extensive upland farmland and open moorland has some scenic qualities and also provides a rural setting to the Pentland Hills in terms of the wider landscape composition
• Visibility	Visible from the A70
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	Rural footpaths with access to the Pentland Hills
• Recreation areas	Fishing on Harperrig Reservoir
• Transport routes	A70
Culture	
• HLA and sites	A mixture of prehistoric-present moorland rough grazing and 18 th -19 th century rectilinear fields.
• GDL	None
• Conservation Areas	None
• Associations	No known associations
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	Water of Leith and moorland likely to have some value
• Geodiversity	No significant geodiversity
• Remoteness	A degree of remoteness can be experienced due to the sparse population of this area although it is close to the A70
• Tranquillity	A degree of tranquillity can be experienced away from the A70
• Wildness	A sense of naturalness is associated with this area due to the extensive sweeping moorland and upland fringe characteristics
Condition	
	Stone walls decayed in places and some pasture is infested with rushes. Coniferous shelterbelts are not managed.
Forces for change	
	Changes in agricultural management

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE: PENTLAND HILLS – UPPER SLOPES AND SUMMITS

Character areas

- Bavelaw geometric wooded farmland (37)
- Pentland heights (42)

Key Characteristics

- Steeply rising hills above the adjacent low lying plain with a series of tops extending to the south west;
- Cut by deep valleys, some with reservoirs and incised burns;
- Heather and grass moorland covers the slopes and hills contributing an upland character;
- There are few isolated and scattered properties within the landscape;
- The area is well used for recreation and numerous paths and tracks cross the landscape;
- The topography makes this area highly visible and provides extensive views of the surrounding area.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Bavelaw geometric wooded farmland	Pentland hills – upper slopes and summits	Pentland hills	37



Description

3.109. This small landscape character area covers the more gently rising lower slopes of the Pentland Hills from the shore of Threipmuir Reservoir at 256m

AOD to Bavelaw Castle 320m AOD. It is characterised by the distinctive mixed shelterbelts which enclose geometric pastures and strongly contrast with the steep slopes and open moorland of the surrounding upland landscape.

- 3.110. Bavelaw Castle is a built around a 16th century tower house and is now a private residence. Two other farms are found within the landscape and these are accessed from a minor access road.
- 3.111. This landscape character area shares key characteristics with area 36, Cockburn geometric farmland. Prior to the development of Threipmuir Reservoir the geometric shelterbelts extended across the valley linking the Bavelaw area with the Cockburn farmland and this is visible on the maps of William Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1747 -55).
- 3.112. This area has relatively low intervisibility with other landscape character areas due to its aspect, elevation and relative isolation. The area is popular for outdoor recreation, and access into the Pentlands can be gained by walking from the car park at Redford Wood and through the landscape character area.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Medium
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	Low
Settlement	Low
Prominence	Low
Receptors	Medium
Landscape condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The characteristic geometric shelterbelts are also found a short distance to the north, in the Cockburn geometric wooded farmland, although on a slightly larger scale.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	The character of farmland with shelter belts is typical of the Lothians.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Apart from the nearby Cockburn area of similar landscape type, the geometric shelterbelts are rare within the landscape of Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	The distinctive landscape pattern of strong shelterbelts is found occasionally within parts of the Lothians.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This landscape character area is not highly prominent within the Edinburgh area as it is located in a relatively remote area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape character area is not prominent within the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	This is a small area of distinctive woodland belts on the rising lower slopes of the Pentlands.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	The nearby landform limits views from the surrounding area.
Enjoyment	

• Recreation routes	A main access route to the Pentland Hills passes through this landscape.
• Recreation areas	There are no recreation areas within this landscape.
• Transport routes	There are no transport routes within this landscape.
Culture	
• HLA and sites	Some building from 18 th -19 th centuries. Bavelaw Castle is a listed building. The shelterbelts are visible on William Roy's Military Survey of Scotland 1747 – 55.
• GDL	The shelterbelts around Bavelaw Castle are designed landscape features.
• Conservation Areas	There are no conservation areas close to the landscape character area.
• Associations	Nothing of note.
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	The shelterbelts provide some biodiversity value and the adjacent Threipmuir reservoir is designated SSSI and the woodlands surrounding it are plantation ancient woodland.
• Geodiversity	The area is not significant for its geodiversity.
• Remoteness	The area does not have intervisibility with any settlements and a sense of remoteness can be experienced.
• Tranquillity	The lack of main transport routes or settlement nearby means that this area has a high level of tranquillity.
• Wildness	The upland character and proximity to the Pentland hills contributes a sense of wildness although this is a highly modified landscape.

Condition	The overall woodland structure is intact, however the management of the tree lines and belts could be improved.
Forces for change	Changes in the management of the farmland and the woodland belts would result in change to the character of this landscape.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Pentland heights	Pentland hills – upper slopes and summits	Pentland Hills	42



Description

- 3.113. Only the northern part of the Pentland Hills lie within the city boundaries and it is these peaks which are particularly prominent from central Edinburgh, although the western peaks, including Hare and Black Hills, form an elongated backdrop to views from outlying settlements and elevated western parts of the city.

- 3.114. The Pentlands are not high hills, rising to just under 500m in this area, but their isolated location within an expansive lowland plain increases the perception of height; this is accentuated by the steep escarpment of the northern peaks which abut the edge of Edinburgh. In this area, the Pentlands comprise particularly well-defined and shapely peaks, Allermuir and Caerketton Hills being the most prominent of these, with steep folded slopes, marked by scree and cut by narrow burns. The hills extend to the south-west, forming two parallel ridge lines separated by a deep valley containing the Glencorse and Loganlea reservoirs. This area has a simple landcover of heather and grass moorland giving the hills a distinctly open character and smooth texture which emphasises the landform. Although the Pentland Heights are unpopulated, isolated farmsteads are set within the valley of the Logan Burn and a MOD firing range occupies the northern hill slopes around Castlelaw. The dry ski slope at Hillend, located within the adjacent character area of the North Pentland Slopes, affects the integrity of the steep slopes of Caerketton Hill.
- 3.115. Well-used footpaths lead up narrow incised valleys providing intimately scaled routes into the hills while ridge footpaths offer panoramic airy views over Edinburgh, the Lothians and the Firth of Forth. The upland character and relative absence of man-made elements in these hills gives a strong perception of naturalness. The iconic profile of the Pentland Heights forms a striking visual focus and backdrop to both Edinburgh and the Lothians.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	High
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	Low
Prominence	High
Receptors	High
Landscape Condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	There are few components of this character area typically found within Edinburgh although areas of grass and heather moorland are characteristic of parts of the Redford Basin.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Similar hill ranges with semi-natural vegetation cover are found in the Lothians and comprise the Lammermuir, Moorfoot and west Pentland Hills.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This landscape is unique within Edinburgh because of its landform and relatively unmodified character. The hills form a key element in the landscape setting of the city, providing a foil to the visual complexity of dense urban development and a strong containing edge to settlement.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	While other hill ranges exist within the Lothians, the distinctive peaks of the northern Pentland Hills (and the part of the Pentland Hills within Midlothian) are unique as other hill ranges such as the Moorfoots generally form more homogenous plateau-like uplands
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This area is highly visible from surrounding roads and settlements and from open areas within the City. There are a number of popular walking routes within the hills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	The hill summits have easily recognisable profiles and form key foci in views from the wider Lothian area.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	The distinctive landform of iconic peaks, steep hill slopes and moorland landcover of the Pentland Heights gives this area a high scenic value
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	Prominent over a wide area
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	Extensive network of footpaths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	Pentland Hills Regional Park
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	A702 and A720 City bypass close to the hills
Culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLA and sites 	Prehistoric-present moorland rough grazing, and 20 th century, and late 20 th century to present managed moorland.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDL 	None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Areas 	None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associations 	Literary associations including those with RL Stevenson
Naturalness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity 	The moorland environments of the Pentlands support a range of characteristic upland species. Shelterbelts, plantations and reservoirs lend additional biodiversity potential
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geodiversity 	The Pentland Hills are the remains of volcanic activity concentrated along the Pentland fault. The complex of ash and lava-derived rocks are therefore of considerable interest. Black Hill is a felsite lacolith – giving it its distinctive conical shape.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remoteness 	A degree of remoteness can be experienced on hill tops and ridges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tranquillity 	Tranquillity is commonly experienced in these hills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildness 	Upland character and relative absence of man-made elements in these hills gives a strong perception of naturalness
Condition	
	Upland pasture appears well-managed although grazing prevents regeneration of some woodlands. Maintained recreational facilities
Forces for change	
	Changes in the management of the area for recreation and provision of facilities will affect the character.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE: POLICY LANDSCAPE

Character areas

- Cammo policies (7)
- Craigiehall policies (21)
- Craigmillar policies (48)
- Dalmahoy policies (26)
- Dalmeny policies (12)
- Dreghorn Woodland and Barracks (73)
- Drum policies (49)
- Duddingston policies (56)
- Dundas policies (15)
- Edmonstone Policies (55)
- Laurieston policies (3)
- Mortonhall policies (53)
- Newliston policies (19)

Key Characteristics

- Varied landform, although where a central house exists it is frequently located on a low rise;
- Mature woodland in the form of tree groups, avenues and parkland surrounding areas of farmland or recreational land use;
- Central residence of varying age (although predominantly 18th century) a wide range of state of preservation;
- Strong boundary features often a stone wall combined with perimeter trees;
- Settlement may extend up to some of the estate boundaries, although the majority remain connected to the nearby farmland;
- Significant variation in landscape quality from highly maintained policies to more fragmented and decaying landscapes influenced by changes in current land use;
- Relatively low prominence due to extensive perimeter woodlands and typically insignificant landform.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Cammo policies	Policy landscape	Lothian farmland	7



Description

3.116. The Cammo Hills, lying to the west of Edinburgh, are undulating low hills reaching to between 50-55m AOD but are distinctive within the adjacent low lying landscape. The policy landscape with parkland trees, avenues and tree

groups and open pasture accentuates the distinctiveness of the landscape character area. Cammo is an Inventory listed garden and designed landscape and is a significant example of Sir John Clerk's early work as an 18th century improvement landscape. To the north the landscape character area encompasses the policy woodland and Craigiehall Temple on the northern flanks of the hills above the River Almond, which were part of the nearby Craigiehall Estate.

- 3.117. The Inventory of Gardens and Designed landscapes notes that the top and second storey of the Temple was required to be removed by the British Airports Authority as it was thought to be a danger to approaching planes. At the same time an oak avenue leading to the Temple from Craigiehall bridge was removed. Craigiehall Temple now appears to have been converted into a domestic dwelling
- 3.118. The policy landscape is in an overall declining condition although the main structure is still evident. There are stone walls on the estate, although they are in some state of decay and other field boundaries are provided by post and wire fencing. The Cammo estate is bounded by narrow country lanes which provide access to the area for recreation, and the area is managed as a country park by the City of Edinburgh Council. There are a number of structures within the landscape including the ruins of the 19th century Cammo house, the 19th century stable block and walled garden. The most visually prominent remaining built feature is the 19th century circular castellated water tower, located to the south of the main area of parkland surrounding the house and stable block. Close to the water tower is a low hill with a circular area of woodland on its crown which forms a distinctive landscape feature.
- 3.119. Residential development lies close to the north eastern boundary of Cammo, and to the north, a strip of residential development separates Cammo from the River Almond. The urban edge is prominent in views from the landscape character area.
- 3.120. Cammo is currently managed as a country park and is well used for recreation. From the southern area there are extensive views to the Pentlands, Corstorphine Hill and Dalmeny. There are also prominent views to the water tower and wooded roundel from the A902, and the adjacent fields to the east of Cammo form an important part of the landscape setting for Cammo itself.
- 3.121. Lack of management of the policy woodland has led to decline in the quality of the landscape features and there is significant decay of the built structures within the landscape.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	High
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	High
Settlement	Low
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	High
Landscape condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Policy woodlands and remnant features of the designed landscape are found within a number of other policy landscapes within Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	There are other similar policy landscapes in the Lothians.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	There are a number of policy landscapes in the Edinburgh area, and in particular the west of Edinburgh. The use of this landscape for recreation and makes Cammo distinct from some of the other generally more managed or developed policy landscapes within Edinburgh
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	There are few features which are rare or unique within the context of the Lothians.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The water tower is a prominent feature, and combined with the rolling hills and policy woodland make Cammo locally prominent.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Cammo is not prominent within the wider context of the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	The low hills, policy woodland and parkland combined with the built features of the tower, gatehouse and other ruined buildings result in a distinct and diverse landscape.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	Cammo is visible from the A902, although the woodlands screen views into the landscape.
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	There are well-used recreation routes within Cammo
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	Cammo is managed as a country park and is important for recreation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	The nearby A902 provides views to the landscape, and the tower to the south is particularly prominent.
Culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLA and sites 	18 th -19 th century rectilinear fields and 19 th century to present amalgamated fields and 17 th – 19 th century policies and parkland. The buildings within Cammo are listed. Standing Stone ancient monument.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDL 	Cammo policies are listed in the inventory of GDL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Areas 	No conservation areas adjoin the landscape
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associations 	Nothing of note
Naturalness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity 	The main policies are plantation ancient woodland
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geodiversity 	Cammo is located on a low hill typical of those found to the west of Edinburgh
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remoteness 	Cammo lies close to the urban edge of Edinburgh and is not remote.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tranquillity 	The area is popular for recreation, and lies close to Edinburgh Airport, however the woodland absorbs some of these disturbances, giving some sense of tranquillity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildness 	The unmanaged nature of the woodland introduces a sense of wildness to the area, despite its proximity to the urban edge
Condition	
	The structure of the landscape remains, however there is overall decline in the quality of the woodland and built features.
Forces for change	
	Continued lack of management of the landscape will result in a loss of structure of the policy woodland and further decline in the built features.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Craigiehall policies	Policy landscape	Lothian farmland	21



Description

3.122. The Inventory listed designed landscape of Craigiehall is sited on the gently sloping south-facing slopes of the Lower Almond Valley on the western periphery of Edinburgh.

- 3.123. The designed landscape was principally laid out during the 18th century around Craigiehall House (c.1699). The estate was requisitioned during the Second World War and later in the 1960s the Scottish Command Headquarters of the Army was established at Craigiehall. Many of the original design features such as the walled garden, woodlands and parkland have been affected by the construction of barracks, housing and offices. Security fencing surrounds the core of the estate while peripheral policies are farmed. While the integrity of the designed landscape has been largely compromised by development, a number of key buildings and remnant design features still exist. These include Craigiehall House, the walls of the walled garden and stable block, parkland and woodlands. There is very little formal garden remaining around the house. An avenue of cedar and oak, mainly planted during the 19th century, aligns a long drive east of the house. Parkland on the lower slopes adjacent to the River Almond is still present although influenced by residential development around its edge.
- 3.124. The original designed landscape included the Almond Valley and an area of deer park set out in the latter half of the 18th century on the south side of the river near Cammo with classical built features such as the Grotto, Craigiehall Bridge and the Temple. Both the river valley and these former policy lands are visually divorced from the core of the designed landscape and they do not play a key role in the immediate setting of the A-listed Craigiehall House, particularly as the core of the estate now comprises an army base. They have therefore been defined as different landscape character areas.
- 3.125. Public access is restricted although parts of the parkland can be seen from the River Almond Walkway. Fleeting views of a small part of the policy woodlands and farmland are possible from the busy A90 and there are views of Craigiehall House surrounded by army buildings and woodlands from elevated roads to the north below Craigie Hill.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Low
Land cover	Low
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	High
Prominence	Low
Receptors	Medium
Landscape condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	There are a number of estate landscapes with policy woodlands located around the periphery of the Edinburgh urban area which have varying levels of intactness. The Craigiehall Estate has been substantially modified by development and is typical of remnant designed landscapes such as Duddingston and Prestonfield, New Hailes and Cammo which have all been affected by development. Craigiehall perhaps shares greater similarity to the remnant policies of Riccarton in terms of its location on the periphery of the city and the domination of recent built development at the core of the estate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	There are a number of similar remnant estates within the Lothians where significant development has impacted on their integrity, an example being the Bush Estate in Midlothian.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	While there are few features of the designed landscape remaining, the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes notes that the woodlands have some scenic value locally. The woodlands and well-managed farmland of this character area together with the Cammo and Dalmeny estates, form a broad band of policy influenced landscape on the north-west periphery of Edinburgh
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape is not unique or rare within the Lothians
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Views from the urban area are limited. There are brief views of a small part of the estate from the A90 and from some minor roads to the north of Craigiehall. Public access is restricted in this area although there are some views of parkland from the Almond Walkway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape is not visible from the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	Many features of the designed landscape have been affected by built development although woodland, rolling farmland and avenue trees give this area some scenic qualities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	Limited visibility
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	Public access prohibited
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	Footpaths with adjacent Almond valley
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	A90 forms eastern boundary of this area
Culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLA and sites 	17 th – 19 th century policy landscape, farmed fields are mainly 18 th -19 th century rectilinear fields and 19 th century to present amalgamated fields. Craigiehall House (A listed building).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDL 	Craigiehall
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Areas 	None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associations 	No identified associations
Naturalness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity 	Woodlands will be of value
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geodiversity 	No significant geodiversity

• Remoteness	This area is not remote
• Tranquillity	Army HQ and air traffic approaching airport precludes tranquillity
• Wildness	None

Condition	Woodlands and some other features of the designed landscape do not appear to be managed.
Forces for change	Built development associated with the use of this area as an Army HQ.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Craigmillar Castle Policies	Policy landscape	Lothian farmland	48



Description

3.126. Craigmillar Castle is located on a low rise above Craigmillar and Little France, and the policy woodlands extend over the surrounding slopes. There are

several areas of open grass, some grazing and significant areas of newly planted woodland.

- 3.127. A castle has stood on the site of Craigmillar Castle since the 15th century and currently comprises extensive walls and towers giving views to the surrounding countryside. It is recorded as one of the most perfectly preserved late medieval castles in Scotland⁴. In addition to the castle there is a small cluster of cottages at the castle entrance and a farm to the west and also a tip located to the north. The tower blocks at Craigmillar have some visual influence on the northern edge of the policies.
- 3.128. Busy roads skirt the east and west of the policies. Stone estate walls stand around some of the woodland closer to the castle. The mature parkland trees include horse chestnut, sycamore and ash and the younger tree planting includes species such as birch, cherry, willow and rowan.
- 3.129. Craigmillar Castle is quite prominent in the local landscape due to its location on a small rise and extensive wooded surrounds. There is a network of paths through the policy woodlands and connecting to the surrounding residential areas. Intervisibility with other key landscape features such as the Braid Hills and in particular views to Holyrood Park and Arthur's Seat are notable from this viewpoint.
- 3.130. The additional woodland planting in the castle policies has changed the character of the parkland. The development of the biomedical research facility at Little France will impact on Craigmillar Castle Policies by increasing the dominance of the urban environment in an area with a rural character.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	High
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	High
Settlement	Low
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	High
Landscape condition	High

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	There are a number of policy landscapes within Edinburgh, however the significance of Craigmillar Castle, and modifications in the woodland planting around the castle is not typical within Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	There are a number of remnant policy landscapes with historic built features within the Lothians.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The combination of the low wooded hill close to the city centre and the prominent castle on the summit make Craigmillar unique as a policy landscape within Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	There are a small number of similar landscapes within the Lothians.

⁴ Historic Scotland(2003) Craigmillar Castle Official Souvenir Guide, HMSO

Prominence	
• Edinburgh	Craigmillar Castle Policies are locally prominent within Edinburgh and this is enhanced due to their importance for recreation.
• Lothians	Craigmillar Castle Policies are not prominent within the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	Although influenced by surrounding built development the area has some scenic merit because of the built form of the castle and its policy woodlands and grassland
• Visibility	This landscape character area is located on a low rise and the presence of the castle on a high point increases visibility making it locally prominent
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	Footpaths in the surrounding policies
• Recreation areas	Historic Scotland own the castle which is open to the public.
• Transport routes	A7 to the west and minor road between Craigmillar and Little France
Culture	
• HLA and sites	Building from 20 th century and 19 th century. Craigmillar Castle (late 14 th early 15 th century) There are 18 th -19 th century rectilinear fields and later 20 th century woodland planting alongside 18 th -20 th century woodland and forestry
• GDL	Craigmillar Castle is on the GDL inventory (2001)
• Conservation Areas	Nothing of note.
• Associations	Craigmillar park is an Urban Wildlife Site (2000, Scottish Wildlife Trust)
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	The policy woodlands and areas of new tree planting provide biodiversity value.
• Geodiversity	No significant geodiversity interest
• Remoteness	The proximity of the urban edge and high intervisibility means that this area does not have a sense of remoteness.
• Tranquillity	Although adjacent to the busy A7 the policy woodlands provide some buffering from this influence.
• Wildness	This landscape has no qualities of wildness
Condition	
	Some of the policy woodlands and stone walls have experienced some decay, and the new tree planting has masked some of the policy landscape features.
Forces for change	
	New woodland planting and recreational use of the area, along with development in nearby locations will influence the character of the landscape.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Dalmahoy	Policy landscape	Lothian farmland	26



Description

3.131. The Dalmahoy policies extend over a north facing but gently undulating slope rising to 125m AOD at its highest point. Flowing through the woodland to the south a small stream feeds the lake adjacent to the stables and the Gogar

burn flows through the north of the area, abutting a more deeply incised valley which cuts to the rear of Addistoun House. A second lake is located in the eastern part of the grounds beyond Addistoun House. Dalmahoy is an inventory listed garden and designed landscape, and Addistoun House which lies within its policies has a separate inventory listing which relates to the garden surrounding the house.

- 3.132. Dalmahoy House is a category 'B' listed building used as a hotel and country club. The stable block remains and St. Mary's Episcopal Church, which is also listed category 'B', is located within the policies close to the northern entrance.
- 3.133. There are a variety of land uses on the Dalmahoy estate including the golf course, grazing, policy woodlands and areas of new woodland planting. Modern hotel buildings, car parking, the golf course with its new planting and the management of farmed areas, have affected the integrity of the historic components of this designed landscape.
- 3.134. Dalmahoy can be seen from some elevated locations to the north; however it is not significantly prominent within the landscape. Close to, the perimeter wall and policy woodlands limit views particularly from the A71 which runs along the northern boundary.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Medium
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	High
Settlement	Low
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	Medium
Landscape condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	There are a number of policy landscapes within the Edinburgh area and Dalmahoy is largely typical of these. The central main house is largely intact, with remnant features from the laid out grounds and gardens. There are perimeter woodlands and specimen trees within the parkland landscape. The grounds are now used as a golf course and have been modified for this use. This includes the planting of new trees and management of the greens and fairways. The modification of the landscape for use as a golf course is typical of Dundas and Prestonfield.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Dalmahoy is largely typical of policy landscapes within the Lothians which have been affected by development, particularly development for recreational use as hotels and golf courses, such as Archerfield in East Lothian.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The components and quality of Dalmahoy do not make it rare or unique within Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Dalmahoy is not rare or unique within the Lothians.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Dalmahoy is not highly prominent within Edinburgh.

• Lothians	Dalmahoy is not prominent within the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	This is an extensive area of policy landscape which has been significantly influenced by development as a country club. The landscape is fragmented and new development features have diminished the integrity of the designed landscape although woodlands, specimen trees and remnant parkland have some scenic qualities
• Visibility	The policy woodlands and landform limit visibility.
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	No key recreation routes
• Recreation areas	The main house is run as a country club and there is a golf course within the grounds.
• Transport routes	The A71 runs along the northern perimeter, although views are limited by the perimeter boundary and planting.
Culture	
• HLA and sites	Areas of 17 th to 19 th century parkland, 18 th -19 th century rectilinear fields and more recent fields. Mostly 19 th century buildings but some 20 th century development. The main house, gatehouse, stables and chapel, along with Addistoun House and estate buildings are listed.
• GDL	Dalmahoy is an inventory listed GDL, as is Addiston House and gardens and the nearby Hatton House.
• Conservation Areas	There are no conservation areas adjacent to Dalmahoy.
• Associations	Dalmahoy is well known for being a prestigious country club and for hosting golf tournaments.
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	The policy woodlands, mature trees and waterways provide biodiversity value
• Geodiversity	There is no significant geodiversity
• Remoteness	Dalmahoy is located only a short distance from the city, and the urban features within the landscape preclude any sense of remoteness.
• Tranquillity	There is much movement and activity within the landscape, although the more peripheral areas have greater tranquillity.
• Wildness	The introduction of urban features associated with the country club, and modified policy landscape mean there is no sense of wildness.

Condition	The new hotel buildings, car parking and golf course fragment the historic components of the landscape. The management of the farmland has led to the degradation of some of the woodland features.
Forces for change	Further recreational and associated infrastructure development will impact on the quality and character of the landscape.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Dalmeny Policies	Policy landscape	Lothian farmland	12



Description

3.135. The Dalmeny landscape has complicated underlying geology with basalt outcrops, dolerite sills and oil shales, raised beach deposits and glacial till.

There is a complex arrangement of low rolling hills ranging from 60-119m high (Mons Hill) with small extent of flatter ground to the north of the main house and adjacent to the shore. The designed landscape incorporates extensive areas of woodland including tree clumps, avenues, and parkland trees, which accentuate the landform. These areas of woodland are interspersed with areas of pasture and arable land. The landscape is used for farming and informal recreation, and the house itself is open to visitors only in July and August. The main cultural heritage features include the historic structures of the 19th century Dalmeny House, the restored Barnboug Castle, the Walled Garden, farm buildings, and the gatelodges.

- 3.136. Views both into and out of the landscape are channelled by the rolling landform. From the area around Dalmeny House there are key views to the coastal islands with distant views to high rise buildings along the coast of the Forth. Views to Barnboug Castle are possible from Cramond esplanade and there are glimpses into Dalmeny from the A90.
- 3.137. There has been replacement of stone walls and ha-has around tree groups with fencing. The landscape is largely intact with ongoing woodland management with areas of replacement planting.
- 3.138. The Edinburgh waterfront developments influence distant views from Dalmeny. The development of the Forth Replacement Crossing may impact on the setting and locality.

Summary of key characteristics

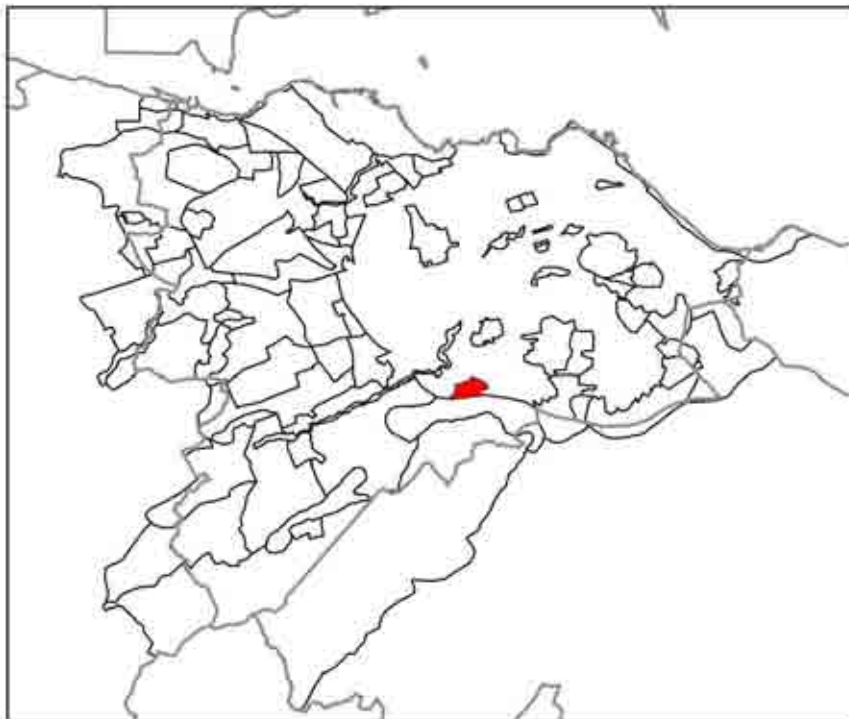
Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	High
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	High
Settlement	Low
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	Medium
Landscape condition	High

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	There are a number of estate landscapes with policy woodlands located around the periphery of the Edinburgh urban area which have varying levels of intactness. Dalmeny Estate is a particularly good example of a high quality estate landscape with policy woodlands. In addition, the rolling landform and coastal aspect contribute to give the landscape a more distinctive character
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Although the Hopetoun estate has a similar coastal aspect, the landform is less significant within the landscape, and the immediate surrounds of Hopetoun House itself are more structured to accommodate the large and imposing architecture. Dalmeny House has a more integrated relationship with the landform and tree planting.
Rarity / uniqueness	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The policy woodlands combined with the rolling landform contribute a unique landscape within Edinburgh. The Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes (1988) notes that the designed landscape has outstanding scenic value due to its scale and situation on the shores of the Firth of Forth.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Within the Lothians the designed landscape, and landform combined with its location on the shore of the Firth of Forth makes it valuable within the Lothians.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The low rolling hills and wooded character contribute to make this area not prominent within Edinburgh. The Dalmeny policies are a feature of views from the Forth Bridge and the A90 and B924, and the wooded hills provide continuity of the wooded landscape from Cramond. Other receptors are those who enter the policies for recreation or to visit the house and grounds.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Dalmeny has low landscape prominence within the Lothians as a whole due to its relatively low lying nature.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	This is a high quality designed landscape with undulating topography accentuated by the policy woodlands.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	The varied topography limits visibility of the full extent of this landscape, however it is important in views from Fife and Cramond
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	A coastal path passes along the shore
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	The house and grounds are open to the public in the summer months and there is a golf course
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	The policies are visible from the A90 and B924
Culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLA and sites 	Predominantly 17 th to 19 th century policies and parkland with 18 th to 19 th century rectilinear fields. 17 th to 19 th century buildings with some later additions. Dalmeny House is 'A' listed and the numerous estate buildings are listed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDL 	Dalmeny is listed in the inventory of GDL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Areas 	Nothing of note
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associations 	Nothing of note
Naturalness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity 	The policy woodlands are plantation ancient woodland and the Firth of Forth is designated an SPA, SAC and Ramsar site
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geodiversity 	The area has complicated geology which manifests as the rolling hills.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remoteness 	Although a highly managed landscape, it is relatively screened from strong urban influences.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tranquillity 	The landscape has a high level of tranquillity, due to the limited access by road and proximity to the Forth.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildness 	The policy woodlands and farmland contribute a managed character to the landscape.
Condition	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Condition 	The landscape features are well managed and in good condition.
Forces for change	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forces for change 	Changes to the estate management and particularly the woodland would influence the landscape character.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Dreghorn Woodland and Barracks	Policy landscape	Lothian farmland	73



Description

- 3.139. This character area comprises the remnant policies of Dreghorn Castle, demolished in 1955, following the requisition of the estate by the War Department. It is located on the southern edge of Edinburgh and contained by the steep slopes of the northern Pentland Hills.
- 3.140. Much of the area is occupied by an army barracks with the majority of buildings on the site constructed between 1942 and 1992. The barracks is set within parkland with specimen trees of lime, oak and sycamore with mown grass around buildings and is enclosed by security fencing. This parkland extends into an area open to the public and provides a contrast with the densely wooded valley of the Braid Burn which wraps around the north and western edge of the barracks. Woodland of beech and sycamore is punctuated by occasional tall exotic conifers and an under-storey of yew. Informal paths meander through the woodland, offering glimpses down steep, earthy slopes to the Braid Burn. A small field lies to the east of the burn and is edged by woodland which screens residential development in the Bonaly area although allows open views to the nearby northern scarp of the Pentland Hills. Footpaths from this area pass beneath the A720 City By-pass and provide access to the Dean Burn and Bonaly Reservoir. There is also a visual link between the woodlands of this character area and the distinct pattern of woodlands and roundels on the hills slopes south of Dreghorn Mains, despite the severance caused by the A720.
- 3.141. This landscape is not widely visible from the surrounding area and public access is not permissible within the barracks. Views are limited from the A720 due to its alignment in cutting and screening by roadside vegetation. There are some elevated views from the open hills within the Bonaly Country Park and from the Pentland Hills.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Medium
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	Medium
Prominence	Low
Receptors	Medium
Landscape Condition	Low

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	There are a number of remnant estate landscapes located on the periphery of the Edinburgh urban area. The Dreghorn estate is similar to the Craigiehall Estate and Riccarton Campus in that it has been substantially modified by development. Remnant and unmanaged woodlands and parkland are typical features of these landscapes and other former designed landscapes such as Edmonstone.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	There are a number of similar remnant estates within the Lothians where significant development has impacted on their integrity, an example being the Bush Estate in Midlothian.

Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This landscape is not Inventory listed and there are few features of the designed landscape remaining. The woodlands around the Braid Burn and pockets of parkland with mature specimen trees are rare but not unique features. Woodlands also have a visual and possibly historical link with planting on the northern slopes of the Pentland Hills.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape is not unique or rare within the Lothians
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Views from the urban area are limited and public access is restricted within MOD area. Woodlands are visible from Redford Road but only briefly glimpsed from the A720. They are visible however from open hill tops within the Bonaly Country Park and from the northern peaks of the Pentland Hills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape is not visible from the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	Remnant parkland and woodlands within the valley of the Braid Burn have some scenic quality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	Locally visible
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	Network of informal paths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	A720 City By-pass is aligned nearby
Culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLA and sites 	Predominantly 20 th century military camp with relict designed landscape.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDL 	The designed landscape originally surrounded Dreghorn Castle, however the landscape is strongly influenced by its use as a barracks and is largely screened by perimeter planting.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Areas 	No conservation area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associations 	No identified associations
Naturalness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity 	Woodlands will be of value
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geodiversity 	No significant geodiversity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remoteness 	A sense of seclusion can be experienced within woodland
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tranquillity 	A degree of tranquillity can be experienced within woodland
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildness 	None
Condition	
	The quality of this landscape is poor with woodland and specimen trees unmanaged and in places vandalised and some dumping evident.
Forces for change	
	Possible pressure for built development

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Drum policies	Policy landscape	Lothian farmland	49



Description

- 3.142. Located on a small hill south of Gilmerton and bounded by the A68 to the east and A7 to the west, this area comprises an Inventory listed designed landscape.

- 3.143. The designed landscape provides the setting for the Palladian-style mansion of Drum House, built in the early 18th century. Other notable buildings within the estate include the stables and the late 18th century East Lodge situated against the Old Dalkeith Road. The designed landscape includes parkland around the house and avenue plantings of beech along an east-west axis and an avenue north of the house. Ornamental trees and shrubberies are planted close to the house and include specimen cedar and rhododendron. A silted-up canal is also present to the east of the house. A number of features of the designed landscape have been lost due to past coal mining activity and housing development has diminished parkland and impacted on the original vista along the north avenue. The estate is used as a riding centre of the disabled and horse paddocks dominate fields to the south of the house. There is public access along the avenue through the estate, providing links from Danderhall and Gilmerton.
- 3.144. This landscape is visible as a distinct clump of woodland on top of the hill in views from Craigmillar Castle and other elevated parts of the city although the house and its immediate landscape setting are screened from the surrounding area by policy woodlands.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Medium
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	High
Settlement	Medium
Prominence	Low
Receptors	Medium
Landscape Condition	Medium

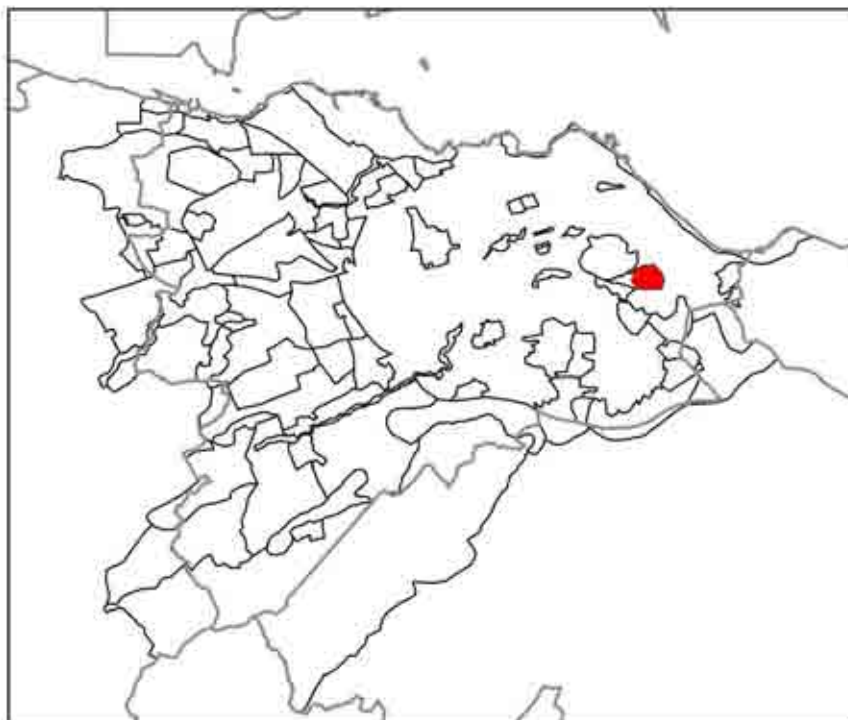
Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The policy woodlands and parkland of The Drum and its intact mansion house are typical components of other designed landscapes found within and on the periphery of Edinburgh
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	There are a number of designed landscapes within the Lothians with similar features.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Although this landscape is not unique within Edinburgh, a relatively intact and privately owned estate of this kind is rare, particularly within the city itself. The Inventory states that the landscape is outstanding in terms of its historical and architectural associations with the Grade A listed Drum House. Perimeter walls, parkland and policy woodlands also have some local importance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape is not unique or rare within the Lothians where a number of designed landscapes have been largely unaffected by surrounding development
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Policy woodlands are visible from elevated parts of Edinburgh although are not notably prominent in these views. The house and designed landscape are visually contained from the surrounding area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	While woodlands and parkland on the perimeter of the estate are visible from the A68 and parts of Danderhall in Midlothian, this area is not visually prominent from the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	The policy woodlands and parkland provide the landscape setting to the mansion house and are of high scenic value
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	This area is not widely visible
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	Footpath through the estate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	Riding stables
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	A68 forms the eastern boundary
Culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLA and sites 	17 th -19 th century policies and parkland and 18 th -19 th century rectilinear fields. Drum House (A listed building)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDL 	The Drum
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Areas 	Gilmerton Conservation Area lies beyond the west boundary of the LCA.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associations 	No identified associations

Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	Woodlands will be of value
• Geodiversity	No significant geodiversity
• Remoteness	This area is not remote also the visual containment of policy woodlands can give a sense of seclusion
• Tranquillity	The proximity of the urban edge and roads precludes tranquillity
• Wildness	None

Condition	A number of features of the designed landscape have been lost due to past coal mining activity and housing development. Estate walls, woodlands and water feature appear not to be managed.
Forces for change	Possible pressure for built development

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Duddingston Policies	Policy landscape	City of Edinburgh	56



Description

- 3.145. Duddingston Policies are located in the low lying area of ground which historically formed the extent of the large post glacial lake of which Duddingston Loch is all that remains.
- 3.146. A significant part of the grounds are laid out as a golf course and this is crossed by the Braid Burn which has been modified at various times during the course of the landscaping of the estate. To the north west lies Holyrood School which is a 1960's building with playing fields close by.
- 3.147. The land around Duddingston House was originally set out as a Deer Park and was well wooded. The perimeter woodlands form quite dense boundary features and a number of mature parkland trees survive within the grounds.
- 3.148. The house is recorded in the inventory listing as the only country house designed by Sir William Chambers in Scotland and is his only classical country house to survive unaltered. The house, stables and court offices are category A listed.
- 3.149. Duddingston Policies form part of the 'green swathe' which includes Duddingston Loch and Prestonfield golf course, which lie at the foot of Arthur's Seat. Together these areas form a visually continuous area of grassland and woodland when viewed from the elevation of Holyrood Park. The low lying nature of the area means that intervisibility is low and the perimeter woodland further restricts views into the landscape character area.

Summary of key characteristics

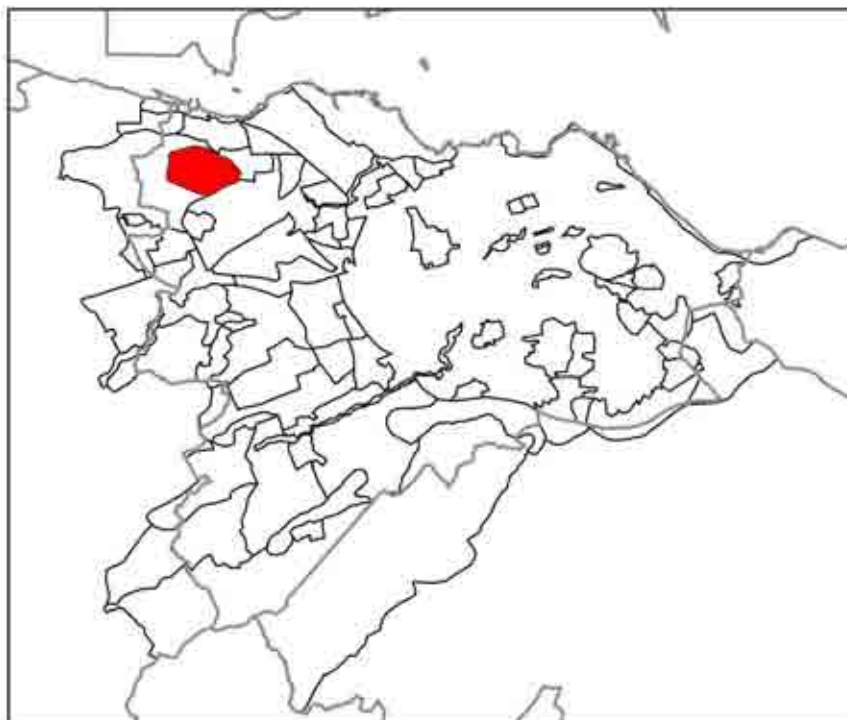
Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	High
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	Low
Prominence	Low
Receptors	Medium
Landscape condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	There are a number of remnant policy landscapes within Edinburgh and Duddingston Policies are a typical example.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Similarly there are a number of policy landscapes within the Lothians which share the typical characteristics of Duddingston Policies.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Duddingston Policies share several characteristics with Prestonfield golf course in terms of location, topography, land use and land cover.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Duddingston House is of particular architectural significance and the policies are important in its setting, however Duddingston Policies are not rare or unique within the Lothians.
Prominence	

• Edinburgh	The landscape character area has limited prominence within Edinburgh due to its location and low lying character. The main views into the landscape are from Holyrood Park.
• Lothians	This landscape character area is not prominent within the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	An area of flat low lying landform with policy influences, part of which is managed as a golf course.
• Visibility	Perimeter woodlands limit views from the nearby areas with only views down from Arthur's Seat providing an overview of the landscape character area.
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	National Cycle Network route 1 passes to the south of the landscape character area along the route of a disused railway.
• Recreation areas	There is a golf course within the area.
• Transport routes	Roads pass around the perimeter of the landscape character area.
Culture	
• HLA and sites	Predominantly 19 th century to present golf course overlying a relict 17 th – 19 th century designed landscape. 19 th century buildings. The temple, gates, ice house, main house, stables and offices are listed buildings.
• GDL	Duddingston House is an inventory listed GDL.
• Conservation Areas	The landscape lies within Duddingston Conservation Area.
• Associations	Duddingston house is the most completely preserved and one of the best examples of the work of Sir William Chambers.
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	Braid Burn complex and mature broadleaf woodland of local value.
• Geodiversity	The policies lie in an area which historically formed the extent of a large post glacial lake.
• Remoteness	The area is located with the city.
• Tranquillity	There is limited movement or traffic within the landscape which contributes a sense of tranquillity.
• Wildness	The landscape is heavily modified by human influences.
Condition	
Forces for change	The landscape features are well maintained. Further recreational development associated with the golf course would influence the character of the landscape.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Dundas Policies	Policy landscape	Lothian farmland	15



Description

3.150. This character area is situated on Dundas Hill which rises to 110m within a context of more gently undulating farmland to the south-west of Queensferry. It comprises an Inventory listed designed landscape.

- 3.151. The designed landscape includes parkland set out on long east-facing slopes below Dundas Castle, extensive policy woodlands and the Lily Loch and ornamental woodland gardens, set out in the 19th century Picturesque manner within a narrow valley below the dramatic craggy south-western scarp of Dundas Hill. A golf course occupies most of the parkland and while clumps of 19th century plantings are still evident, more recent planting along fairways diminishes the simplicity and boldness of the original design. Well-managed arable farmland extends northwards to the edge of Queensferry and the A904 from the core of policy woodlands and ornamental wooded grounds on Dundas Hill. Rhododendron chokes woodlands in many areas and restricts views from drives.
- 3.152. The castle and the Lily Loch are hidden from external view and the former parkland, and the policy woodlands framing it, form the principal features of the designed landscape visible from the east from the A8000, and, more distantly from the A90 and M9. This landscape is also visible from the Forth Road Bridge where Dundas Hill forms a wooded backdrop to Queensferry; this setting to the town is also replicated to the east by the wooded hills of the designed landscape of Dalmeny. There is very limited public access within the Dundas Estate although occasional public events are held within the grounds.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	High
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	High
Settlement	Low
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	Medium
Landscape condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	There are a number of estate landscapes with policy woodlands located around the periphery of the Edinburgh urban area which have varying levels of intactness. The Dundas Estate is typical of the more intact designed landscapes which include Dalmeny. Golf course within former parkland are typical features of a number of designed landscapes including Prestonfield and Duddingston.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	There are many similar Inventory listed designed landscapes within the Lothians with policy woodlands and ornamental garden features.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The policy woodlands combined with the rolling landform form a rare landscape within Edinburgh. The secluded Lily Loch, surrounding ornamental woodland and crags have a picturesque and romantic character unusual in Edinburgh's designed landscapes. The Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes (Supplementary Volume 1) notes that the designed landscape has high scenic value due to the views of parkland and woodland.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape is not rare within the Lothians and it lacks the integrity of many Inventory listed designed landscapes because of the modification of parkland by golf course development.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This character area is not prominent within Edinburgh although the wooded Dundas Hill provides a backdrop and setting to Queensferry in views from the north. There is limited public access to the estate and the more attractive features of the designed landscape are hidden from external views
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	There are some views of this character area from parts of West Lothian although the designed landscape is too distant to be distinctive.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	The parkland, extensive policy woodlands, Lily Loch and ornamental woodland gardens which comprise the designed landscape are of high scenic quality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	Visible from Queensferry and A8000 although core of the designed landscape is largely contained from view
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	Restricted public access
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	Golf course on former parkland
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	A8000 and A90
Culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLA and sites 	17 th to 19 th century policies and parkland, some 18 th -19 th century rectilinear fields and 19 th century farmland and the more recent golf course. Dundas Castle (A listed building).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDL 	Dundas Castle
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Areas 	No conservation area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associations 	No identified associations although historical records of GDL rated as 'outstanding' in Inventory
Naturalness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity 	Woodlands and water body will be of value
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geodiversity 	No significant geodiversity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remoteness 	The core of the designed landscape around the Lily Loch is visually contained and secluded although the proximity of urban areas and transport routes preclude true remoteness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tranquillity 	The core of the designed landscape around the Lily Loch has a strong degree of tranquillity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildness 	None
Condition	
	Woodland management poor in places with rhododendron suppressing regeneration although other areas relatively well-managed. Inappropriate tree planting within the golf course in context of designed landscape.
Forces for change	
	Changes in the management of the area for recreation and provision of facilities will affect the character.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Edmonstone policies	Policy landscape	Lothian farmland	55



Description

3.153. This character area comprises a remnant designed landscape associated with the former Edmonstone House which was demolished in the 1950s. It is

located on a distinct ridge south of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary site and is bounded to the east by the elevated ridge-top road of The Wisp, which forms the boundary between Edinburgh and Midlothian, and by the A7 to the south-west.

- 3.154. The landscape has been subject to a planning application for a private hospital which was approved. The site was undergoing landscape and access improvements prior to the development of the hospital. This includes restoration of the policy features including parkland trees, policy woodland, ha ha's and walls. Although the landscape features were previously in a declining condition, which affected the integrity of the landscape, the current restoration works will improve the landscape integrity of the site, although introducing a new building and use for the landscape. The extent to which the development of the new hospital influences the landscape integrity remains to be fully established, however the design seeks to maintain the integrity of the designed landscape
- 3.155. The ruinous West Lodge sits at the gates which provide access from the A7. Another entrance is located along The Wisp. A largely intact stone estate wall contains this landscape along these roads. A long and narrow access drive extends from the West Lodge and this is aligned by woodland and edged by a low stone ha ha to the south forming a boundary with parkland with mature plantings of oak and sycamore. The former walled garden and stone-arched stables at the core of the site are much degraded. A number of specimen trees are present in this area. A curving drive through parkland with more ornamental species, including specimen purple beech, provides access from the core of the estate to The Wisp.
- 3.156. The policy woodlands of this area are highly visible on the Edmonstone ridgeline and accentuate the containment provided by landform to development within the Little France area and to settlement within adjoining Midlothian. Perimeter walls and parkland are visible from the A7 and The Wisp, although the interior of this landscape is screened by woodland. There is a visual connection with the policy woodlands of The Drum in views from the parkland and West Drive, where the A7, which separates the two estates, is aligned in a cutting and is screened from view.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Medium
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	High
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	Low
Landscape Condition	Low

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	

• Edinburgh	The remnant policy woodlands and parkland of the former Edmonstone estate are typical components of other designed landscapes found within and on the periphery of Edinburgh
• Lothians	There are a number of designed landscapes within the Lothians with similar remnant designed landscape features.
Rarity / uniqueness	
• Edinburgh	Key landscape features of the designed landscape have been lost, other features are being restored and this will form the setting for the new development. This designed landscape is not Inventory listed. The woodlands and parkland of this landscape do have some value however in terms of the visual containment and backdrop they offer to the City.
• Lothians	This landscape is not unique within the Lothians.
Prominence	
• Edinburgh	Policy woodlands are visible from the ERI site and from elevated parts of Edinburgh such as Craigmillar Castle and Arthur's Seat where they accentuate the containment provided by the Edmonstone Ridge to the city.
• Lothians	The estate wall, woodlands and parkland on the perimeter of the estate are visible from the A7 and parts of Danderhall in Midlothian, although this area is not visible from much of the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	Remnant policy woodlands, parkland trees and built features have some scenic quality
• Visibility	Visible locally from southern parts of the city
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	Network of new paths providing links to surrounding routes
• Recreation areas	Accessible open space as part of access improvements.
• Transport routes	A68 and The Wisp
Culture	
• HLA and sites	17 th -19 th century policies and planting and 20 th century fields.
• GDL	Edmonstone policies retain much of the planting structure.
• Conservation Areas	No conservation area
• Associations	No identified associations
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	Woodlands will be of value
• Geodiversity	No significant geodiversity
• Remoteness	This area is not remote
• Tranquillity	A degree of tranquillity can be experienced within wooded areas
• Wildness	None
Condition	
	This area is currently being restored as part of the private hospital development. The development includes restoration of the policy landscape features and enhanced access.
Forces for change	
	Pressures for built development

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Lauriston policies	Policy landscape	City of Edinburgh	3



Description

- 3.157. Located between the urban areas of Silverknowes and Cramond, this character area forms part of a broad swathe of open space associated with the Firth of Forth extending from north-west Edinburgh to Queensferry.

- 3.158. Lauriston Castle sits atop a flattened ridge with long slopes which gently fall north to the Firth of Forth. The castle is an A listed building and comprises an original 16th century tower house, altered and extended in the late 19th century. The castle is set within a designed landscape principally laid out in the early 19th century and enclosed by mature woodlands and walls. Formal gardens, including a recently developed Japanese garden and parkland are present within the grounds, although views of these are restricted from the surrounding area. The Castle and designed landscape are owned by the City of Edinburgh Council and free access is permitted to the grounds which are also well-used for croquet and many cultural and arts events run by the Council.
- 3.159. Housing abuts the policies to the south, although to the north there are open views over farmland to the Forth, Cramond Island and the Fife coast from the castle and its grounds. This farmland has an open character with large pastures divided by post and wire fences and some intermittent thorn hedgerows. Gently undulating pastures fall to the coast with occasional dips providing seasonal pools of open water used by seabirds. Grazing sheep and Galloway cattle are a striking feature in this urban context. Towards the coastal edge the designed landscape surrounding Cramond Tower and Cramond Tower provides an attractive setting for these buildings. While Cramond is largely hidden from view across the farmland from Lauriston and from the public road providing access to the coast, housing currently under construction on the eastern edge of the village is visually prominent.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Medium
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	High
Settlement	Medium
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	High
Landscape Condition	High

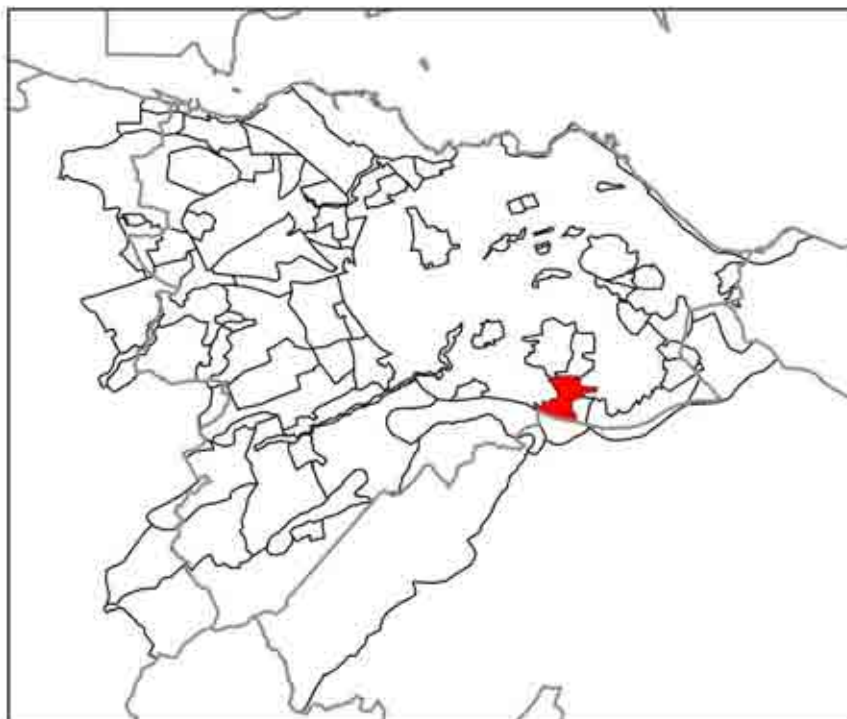
Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This character area forms part of a wider swathe of policies, farmland and golf course adjacent to the coast of the Firth of Forth extending from Edinburgh to Queensferry.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	The East Lothian coast offers a similar mix of policies, golf courses and farmland along the coast. The coastal aspect of the designed landscape and pastures has some similarities to Hopetoun in West Lothian.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This area is unique within Edinburgh because of the relative intactness of the Lauriston policies in comparison with other designed landscapes located within the urban area and the outstanding historical and architectural importance of the Inventory listed designed landscape. Grazed coastal pastures are unique in this urban context.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This character area is rare within the wider context of the Lothians because of its urban context, its location within the enclosed Inner Firth of Forth and the visual diversity of its seascape
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Perimeter woodlands around Lauriston and grazed farmland are visually prominent primarily from public roads. This area is not visible from much of the urban area although the popularity of the coast and the castle grounds for recreation increases sensitivity. The composition of key views from Lauriston to the Firth of Forth is notably fine.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This area is not visible from the Lothians (but can be seen from the Fife Coast).
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	The composition of castle and designed landscape and the importance of the wider setting provided by the Firth of Forth gives this area a high scenic quality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	Largely screened from outside views by woodlands although pastures more visible from roads and coast. Public accessibility of LCA increases visibility
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	Open and free access to the public throughout daylight hours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	Informal games area, picnic site, ornamental gardens and, croquet lawn
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	There are no public roads aligned through this area although it is partially visible from surrounding roads in the Silverknowes area
Culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLA and sites 	17 th -19 th century policies and parkland and 19 th century to present influenced farmland. Cramond Roman fort and civil settlement surround Cramond Tower.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDL 	Lauriston Castle and grounds are GDL inventory listed. The are also policy influences around Cramond Tower and Cramond House.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Areas 	No conservation area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associations 	Cultural arts events held in the grounds and tours of the Castle
Naturalness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity 	Some, primarily within woodlands and coastal pastures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geodiversity 	No significant geodiversity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remoteness 	This area is not remote
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tranquillity 	Nearby flight path to airport limits sense of tranquillity to some degree although perimeter woodlands provide containment from urban area traffic noise
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildness 	No qualities of wildness are experienced in this highly man-influenced and managed landscape

Condition	The quality of the designed landscape is notably high with woodlands and ornamental gardens very well maintained.
Forces for change	Changes in the management of the area for recreation and provision of facilities are likely to be minor in the context of the importance and protection afforded this Inventory listed landscape and the castle. New housing currently under construction on the edge of Cramond has potential to affect the wider landscape setting of pastures sloping down to the Firth of Forth.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Mortonhall policy landscape	Policy landscape	Lothian farmland	53



Description

- 3.160. Mortonhall encompasses an area of sloping wooded farmland associated with the Braid Hills, and with an eastern aspect. The land rises from 130m AOD to 175m AOD and the concave landform encloses views around Mortonhall itself, creating an intimate character. The landscape character area includes Morton House and Morton Mains which lie to the south and are separated from the Mortonhall policies by the main road. The policy landscape includes mature parkland trees, woodland and avenues and a ha-ha along which the Stenhouse Burn has been channelled. The fields are used for grazing and are mostly fenced with post and wire, the outer boundary wall of the policies remains intact.
- 3.161. Mortonhall itself is a residential conversion. There are remnants of a formal garden and pinetum close to the house.
- 3.162. The policies are influenced by the garden centre close to the main road and the camping and caravan site. The stable buildings have also been converted and are in use. The camping and caravan site does not have a significant negative impact on the character of the landscape as the landscape structure is maintained. The area is important for recreation and there is a network of signed paths through the policies. Pylons which originate from the sub station at Burdiehouse run parallel to the entrance drive and terminate a short distance for the main house, which introduces a large scale feature within an intimate scale landscape.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Medium
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	High
Settlement	Low
Prominence	Low
Receptors	Medium
Landscape condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Although influenced by the different land uses within it, Mortonhall retains a relatively intact character. However it is largely typical of other policy landscapes within Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Mortonhall is typical of other policy landscapes found within the Lothians where recent built development has affected the integrity of the designed landscape to some degree
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This policy landscape is not rare or unique within the Edinburgh context, however the relative intactness of the individual landscape features is relatively uncommon across the policy landscapes within Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape character area is not rare or unique within the Lothians.
Prominence	

• Edinburgh	The policy woodland and landform combine to make this landscape character area of low prominence within Edinburgh. The area is screened from the surrounding settlement and roads by the perimeter trees, however the area is important for recreation with a network or waymarked paths. In addition people coming to the camping and caravan site experience the landscape character area.
• Lothians	This landscape character area is not prominent within the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	Attractive mature parkland set in an area of gently undulating topography.
• Visibility	The landform and trees reduce the visibility of this area from nearby areas.
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	There is a network of paths within the landscape character area.
• Recreation areas	The area around Mortonhall itself is important for recreation
• Transport routes	The A720 provides some views to the area around Morton Mains and Morton House.
Culture	
• HLA and sites	17 th -19 th century policies and parkland around Mortonhall and Morton House and 18 th – 19 th century rectilinear fields.
• GDL	There is a policy landscape around Mortonhall and Morton House and Morton Mains.
• Conservation Areas	Morton Mains Conservation Area extends over the area around Morton Mains and Morton House.
• Associations	Nothing of note.
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	The mature woodland provides some biodiversity value.
• Geodiversity	The area lies on the lower slopes of Braid Hill which is a volcanic hill.
• Remoteness	The landscape is located within the urban area.
• Tranquillity	The landform and vegetation largely screen the area from influences from the adjoining urban area, although the area around Morton House and Morton Mains is more strongly influenced by the A720.
• Wildness	The landscape is heavily modified by human influences.
Condition	There is a lack of management of the parkland trees, remnant formal garden and pinetum, and fragmentation of the landscape from development and the pylon lines.
Forces for change	Further retail and recreational development will influence the character of this landscape.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Newliston policies	Policy landscape	Lothian Farmland	19



Description

3.163. This landscape character area lies to the south west of Kirkliston. The land is low lying rising to 55m AOD to the rear of the main house and slopes gently to the south east. It lies in the catchment of the River Almond and the three burns which flow through the landscape have been used to feed the water features in the designed landscape. The perimeter woodlands effectively

screen views both into and out of the landscape character area. The fields are enclosed by metal estate fencing and there is a stone boundary wall at the perimeter.

- 3.164. Key features of the landscape include woodland blocks, avenues and diagonals and water features. The largest water feature is the canal to the north of the house. The features of the designed landscape have been well maintained with replacement planting evident. The open areas are grazed. The house itself is an A listed building by Robert Adam. Other buildings of particular note include the B listed East Lodge and 18th century coach house and stables.
- 3.165. Although the A89 and M9 do not lie far from Newliston's boundaries the landscape character area itself is only crossed by the estate roads. Intervisibility between this character area and adjacent areas is limited due to the perimeter trees and shallow landform.
- 3.166. The estate buildings and grazing accommodate a livery yard and cookery school. Current management maintains the key components of the policy landscape.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Low
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	Medium
Prominence	Low
Receptors	Medium
Landscape condition	High

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	There are a number of 18th century estate landscapes within the Edinburgh area and Newliston is largely typical of these.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Newliston is very similar in character to many of the other policy landscapes within the Lothians.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The level of intactness of the landscape and architectural features makes Newliston a notable example of this landscape character type in comparison with the other policy landscapes within Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	The landscape character area is not unique or rare within the context of the Lothians.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The low lying landform and perimeter trees mean that Newliston is not prominent within Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Newliston lies close to the boundary with West Lothian but is not prominent within the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	Situated on a low rise with areas of policy woodland and parkland the main house and estate buildings are intact and the landscape has high scenic value.

• Visibility	This landscape is largely screened from the nearby road and rail corridors by the perimeter planting
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	No recreation routes
• Recreation areas	The grounds are occasionally open to the public
• Transport routes	The landscape is not visible from main transport routes
Culture	
• HLA and sites	17 th -19 th century policies and parkland and 19 th century to present amalgamated fields. The main house and a number of estate buildings are listed.
• GDL	The landscape is an inventory listed GDL
• Conservation Areas	The area does not have an association with any conservation areas.
• Associations	Nothing of note.
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	The policy woodlands provides some value for biodiversity
• Geodiversity	The landscape does not have significant geodiversity
• Remoteness	The landscape is close to urban areas and main transport routes
• Tranquillity	The perimeter woodlands effectively provide screening from the busy roads which pass close to the landscape area
• Wildness	The landscape is modified by human influences and does not have a sense of wildness.
Condition	
Condition	The main structure of the policy landscape is well maintained
Forces for change	
Forces for change	Further diversification of land uses, and changes to the management of the woodland and farmland would affect the character of this landscape.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE: PROMINENT URBAN HILLS

Character areas

- Braid Hills (52)
- Calton Hill (64)
- Castle Rock (62)
- Corstorphine Hill (50)
- Craiglockhart Hills (51)
- Holyrood Park (60)

Key Characteristics

- Steeply rising volcanic hills with craggy outcrops of rock vegetated with mature trees or scrub and open grass;
- Settlement extends up the lower slopes of the hills which has varying impact on the prominence;
- Important for recreational use, and this includes golf courses and informal recreation;
- The hills provide important view points and afford dramatic views over the city.
- Steeply rising hills standing distinct from the surrounding landform and of geological significance;
- Iconic landmarks within the city, prominent from the wider area;
- Significant cultural importance reflecting the built features of historical significance located on some of the hills, and the cultural events which take place there.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Braid Hills	Prominent urban hill	City of Edinburgh	52



Description

3.167. The Braid Hills are located in the south of the city and are surrounded by housing edging up its steep western slopes. There are two main summits,

Blackford Hill (164m) and Buckstone Snab (206m). These hills occur as distinct craggy outcrops within an overall landform of long ‘whale-back’ ridges orientated east/west and cut by narrow valleys, the most significant of these being the wooded valley of the Braid burn. The hill slopes extend more gently to the south-east, where a distinct change in landuse and vegetation occurs within the adjacent Liberton Farmland character area.

- 3.168. The hills have an open and often exposed character being covered with drifts of finely tufted grassland interspersed with long banks of scrubby gorse on steeper ground. The coarse textured vegetation cover and rocky outcrops accentuate the rugged qualities of this landscape and provide a sense of naturalness when walking on the many informal footpaths which criss-cross the hills. There are a number of golf courses on the hills although these generally tend to fit with the landscape with minimal infrastructure and clutter with the exception of the more modified landform and buildings associated with the Hermitage ‘Club Golf’ development. The Braids Hills Drive dissects the hills and some rough tracks also provide access, some of these to the former quarries which cut into hill sides and to the telecommunication masts below Buckstone Snab. Broken stone dykes are a feature within the hills. The Royal Observatory building (b.1892) is a focus on Blackford Hill with its distinctive red stone plinth surmounted by green metal classical cylinders, while the C18th villa, the Hermitage of Braid, is less visible, being situated within the intimately scaled wooded valley of the Braid burn.
- 3.169. Although not high, the hills form a distinctive outcrop of knolly hills visible over much of the city and are distinguishable by their craggy landform and semi-natural landcover. Open elevated viewpoints within the city, such as those within Holyrood Park, show the landscape context of the Braid Hills where the long eastern flanks of the hills extend to Liberton and form an integral part of the landscape setting of the more distinctly craggy hill tops. Views from the hills are exhilarating, with a strong visual connection occurring between the Pentland Hills, the Braid Hills and Holyrood Park.

Summary of key characteristics

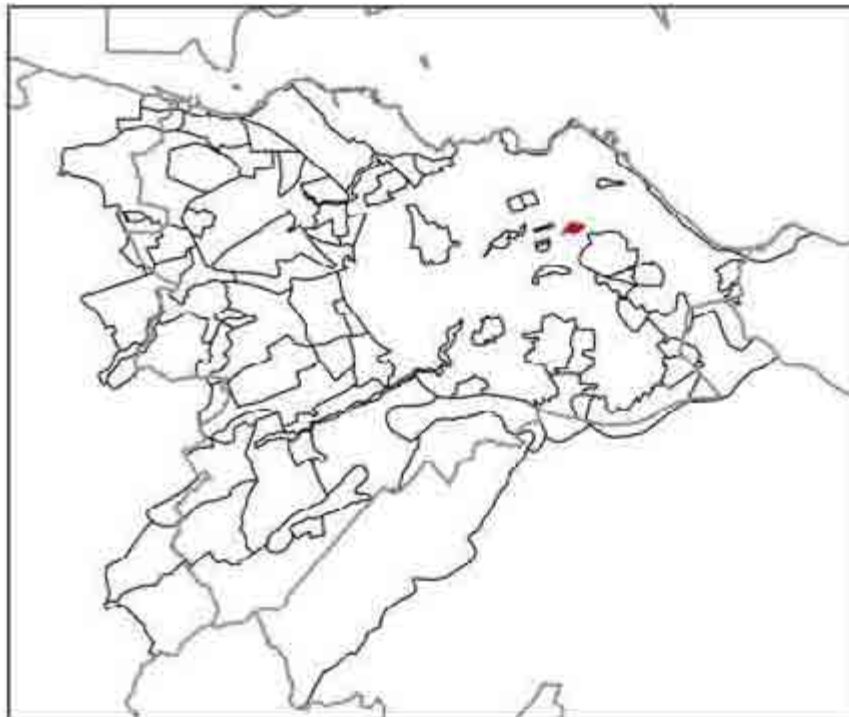
Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	High
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	Medium
Prominence	High
Receptors	High
Landscape Condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This landscape is typical of the hills which punctuate the built up areas of the city and are a key feature of its landscape setting. The semi-natural vegetation of the Braid Hills is similar to that found within Holyrood Park and parts of the Craiglockhart Hills, while the wooded Braid valley is typical of sections of the Water of Leith. Golf courses are a common feature associated with many of the hills within the city and elsewhere

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	There are a number of similar low craggy hills with semi-natural vegetation located within the Lothians, these include the Garleton Hills in East Lothian and the Bathgate Hills in West Lothian.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The rugged nature of the Braid Hills makes this landscape rare but not unique within Edinburgh. The relative extensiveness of the hills, the diversity of landform and the urban context of the hills are important aspects of character.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	While not unique within the Lothians, these hills are rare in terms of their urban context.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The Braid Hills are prominent from much of the city and from the southern rural area. The complexity of the landform is only appreciated close-by.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This area is not visually prominent from the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	The rugged landform and semi-natural vegetation of the Braid Hills and wooded Braid valley contribute to the high scenic quality of this area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	Widely visible within Edinburgh
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	Network of footpaths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	Golf courses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	A public road is aligned through the hills
Culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLA and sites 	Predominantly 19 th century to present recreational area Prehistoric Blackford Hill fort and settlement are Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Royal Observatory building on Blackford Hill.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDL 	None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Areas 	None
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associations 	Literary associations
Naturalness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity 	Woodland and scrub is of some value
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geodiversity 	Volcanic outcrop hills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remoteness 	This area is not remote although the wooded Braid valley can feel secluded
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tranquillity 	A degree of tranquillity can be experienced on hill tops in relation to the urban context of this area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildness 	Hill tops provide a sense of naturalness and exposure in relation to the urban context of this area
Condition	
Condition	Golfing facilities poorly designed and located in places and decayed stone walls and quarry tracks are detractive
Forces for change	
Forces for change	Changes in the management of the area for recreation and provision of facilities will affect the character.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Calton Hill	Formal urban greenspace	City of Edinburgh	64



Description

3.170. Calton Hill represents a stack of lavas and tuffs some 200m thick, dipping towards the east. The Calton fault controls the southern face of Calton Hill and caused the displacement of the stratified rocks of Calton Hill and Holyrood Park. Calton Hill rises to over 100m and provides extensive views

across Edinburgh, despite its diminutive size when compared to the adjacent bulk of Arthur’s Seat and Holyrood Park. The hill is part of the Arthur’s Seat Volcano Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which covers Calton Hill, Arthur’s Seat and Castle Rock. These sites are important for their geology and the grassland and plant species found there. There is a mixture of land cover with areas of gorse, scrub woodland, open grass, tarmac paths and parking. The hill is also crossed by a network of access paths.

- 3.171. The urban edge presses close to Calton Hill, and of particular note is the former Royal High School on the southern face. The monuments form an iconic element of the city skyline. In places the appreciation of the height and focus provided by the hill has been reduced by the scale and proximity of modern built development around its base.
- 3.172. Calton Hill is part of the Edinburgh World Heritage Site. Each of the buildings and monuments contributes to its distinctive skyline and give added height to this low hill.
- 3.173. A vehicular road and coach park allow access to the hill and a network of formal tarmac paths and more informal routes encircle and criss-cross the grassed top of the hill. The hill is of high value to the people of Edinburgh and tourists as a view point and recreational area. It is the location for the annual Beltane Fire festival and other events.
- 3.174. The private Regent Street Gardens adjoin the public area of Calton Hill and these are enclosed by a boundary wall and woodlands which visually contain this area. A conservation plan was prepared for the hill in 1999 which included proposals to improve visitor interpretation and facilities on the hill.

Summary of key characteristics

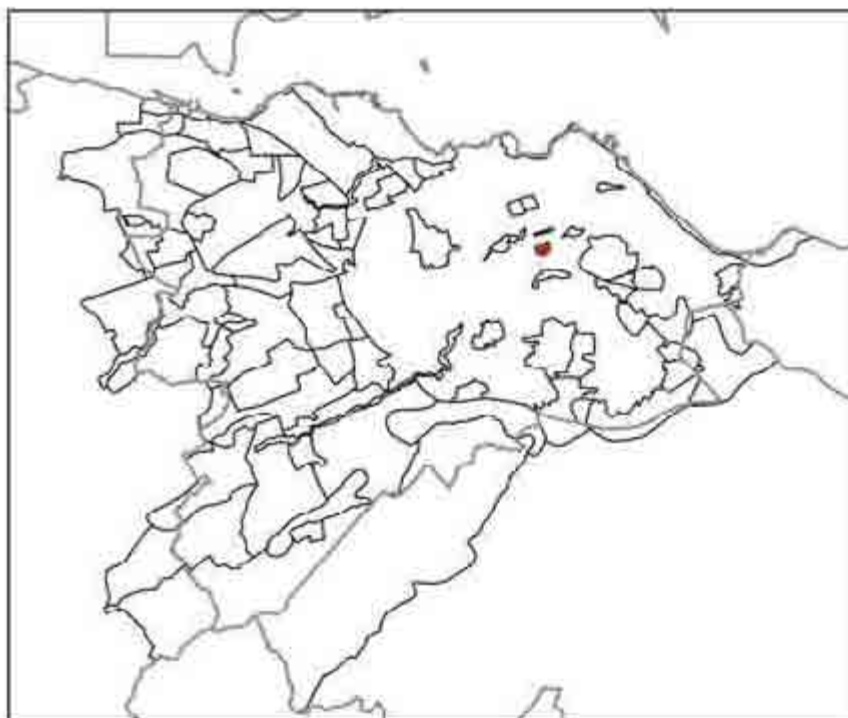
Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	High
Land cover	Low
Cultural heritage	High
Settlement	High
Prominence	High
Receptors	High
Landscape condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edinburgh 	Calton Hill forms one of several prominent volcanic hills within central Edinburgh, several of which are the setting for distinctive historic buildings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lothians 	Prominent volcanic hills are typical features of the Lothians.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edinburgh 	Within Edinburgh Calton Hill is unique in its collection of built features which combined with the distinctive topography contribute to make it an iconic landmark.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lothians 	The combination of topography and built features is unique within the Lothians.
Prominence	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edinburgh 	Calton Hill is prominent within the Edinburgh area, and this prominence is enhanced by the built features, and proximity to the city centre. Calton Hill is located in the centre of Edinburgh and popular with locals and visitors.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lothians 	Calton Hill is dwarfed by the larger mass of the Arthur's Seat volcano within the context of the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character/qualities 	An iconic hill within the centre of Edinburgh with distinctive built features.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visibility 	Located within the centre of Edinburgh, Calton Hill is a visible landmark.
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation routes 	There is a network of paths across the hill.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation areas 	The hill is important for recreation and provides an important viewpoint over the city, and is popular with visitors.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport routes 	The A1 and A900 pass around the base of Calton Hill
Culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HLA and sites 	17 th – 19 th century designed landscape, 19 th century to present recreation area. Buildings dating from 19 th century to the present. Various important early 19 th century monuments and buildings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GDL 	Calton Hill lies within the New Town Gardens inventory listed GDL.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Areas 	Calton Hill lies within the New Town Conservation Area and World Heritage Site.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associations 	Calton Hill is part of the reason why Edinburgh is known as the Athens of the North- due to the national monument and Dugald Stewart monument. Valued as a dramatic viewpoint over the city and commonly featured in film and TV.
Naturalness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity 	The hill is part of the Arthur's Seat Volcano Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which covers Calton Hill, Arthur's Seat and Castle Rock. These sites are important for their geology and the grassland and plant species found there.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geodiversity 	The hill is important for its geology as part of the Arthur's Seat Volcano SSSI.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remoteness 	Calton Hill is located in the centre of Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tranquillity 	The proximity to the city centre and main transport routes, and popularity with visitors means that there is little sense of tranquillity.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildness 	Outcropping rock and rugged vegetation contributes some sense of wildness in this landscape which is strongly influenced by the urban environment and human activities.
Condition	The features within the landscape have been influenced by the high levels of recreational use and there is erosion on the open grass areas. The vegetation and paths could be improved in quality.
Forces for change	Management of the hill for nature conservation and visitors will influence the character of the landscape.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Castle Rock	Prominent volcanic plug	City of Edinburgh	62



Description

3.175. Castle Rock is a steeply rising rocky outcrop with rough rock faces to the south, west and north. Castle Rock is comprised of a core of hard rock which

cuts through early Carboniferous sandstones. It is likely that this is the solidified magma in the conduit to an overlying volcano, (Clarkson and Upton, 2006). To the east the landform tapers giving the typical 'crag and tail' formed by the passage of ice over the area. Edinburgh Castle is built on the summit of the rock and the walls and castle meld with the rock beneath.

- 3.176. The steep rocky slopes to the south and north are covered with sparse vegetation and the built edge adjoins the landform to the east and south. To the north Castle Gardens comprise grassy slopes with trees and a path network provides access from the Castle to Princes Street Gardens. Edinburgh Castle is a key tourist destination in the City and both the castle and the gardens are visited by large numbers every year.
- 3.177. The castle has huge historic significance within Scotland with a turbulent history of battles, sieges and military use.
- 3.178. Edinburgh Castle lies within Edinburgh World Heritage site and is a key visitor location. The castle is the venue for a number of events which include the Military Tattoo, and New Year fire works.
- 3.179. Castle Rock is an iconic feature within Edinburgh and visible from extensive areas of the city and beyond to Fife and the Lothians. It provides extensive views over the city.

Summary of key characteristics

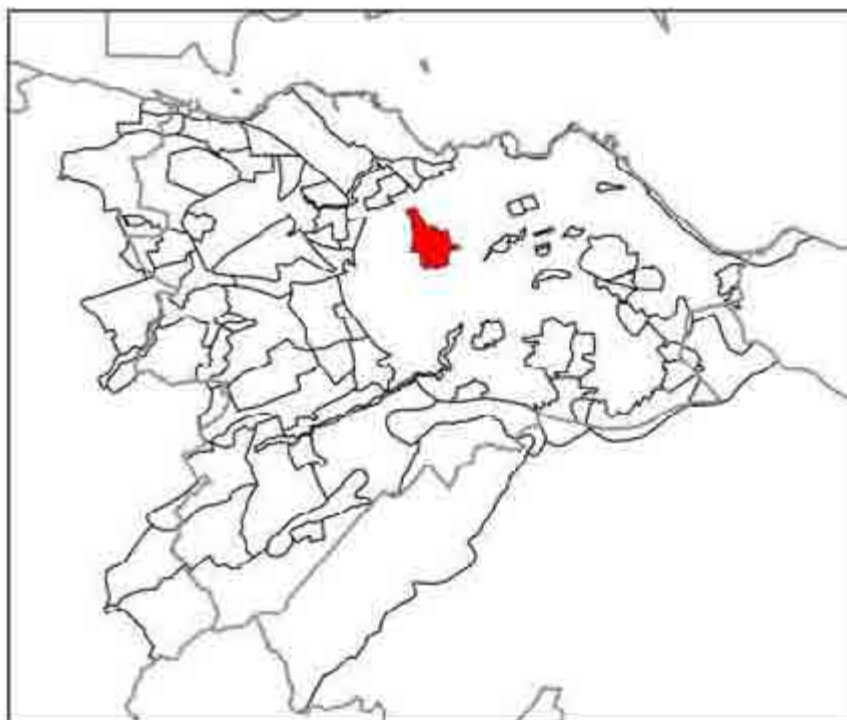
Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	High
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	High
Settlement	High
Prominence	High
Receptors	High
Landscape condition	High

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edinburgh 	Prominent geological features are a key element of the Edinburgh landscape with Calton Hill, Corstorphine Hill, the Craiglockhart Hills, Braid Hills, Salisbury Crags and Arthur's Seat examples of these. The distinctive landform feature is fairly typical of Edinburgh, however Castle Rock has a number of distinctive features (discussed under rarity/uniqueness below).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lothians 	Prominent geological features are typical of the Lothians landscape and beyond to Fife with several distinctive 'laws' within the area.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edinburgh 	The geological feature of Castle Rock with its distinctive crag and tail and relationship with the built form is unique within Edinburgh, although Salisbury Crags and Calton Hill are similar although less distinctive examples. However the location of Castle Rock within the centre of Edinburgh, combined with the architectural and historic significance of Edinburgh Castle makes Castle Rock a unique feature within the City of Edinburgh.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	There are other iconic hills with similar geological history to Castle Rock such as Bass Rock and Berwick Law within the Lothians. Castle Rock is unique in its combination of landform with the strong cultural heritage significance of Edinburgh Castle.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Castle Rock and Edinburgh Castle are highly prominent within Edinburgh and a key feature in views from numerous viewpoints around the city. Castle Rock is an important feature in many views from within the city and is a key destination for visitors to the city. The main railway line passes at the foot of the steeply rising slopes, and the castle can be seen from many surrounding areas.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Within the Lothians Salisbury Crags and Arthur's Seat are more dominant features within the landscape than Castle Rock due to their greater scale and extent. Castle Rock is still however significant in views from the west and south and seen in combination with but distinct from larger outcrop urban hills.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	An iconic rugged rocky hill with Edinburgh Castle located on its summit.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	Castle Rock is highly visible from main road, rail and pedestrian routes in the city centre, and in more distant views of the city.
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	There is a network of paths in Castle Gardens.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	Castle Gardens provide a recreation area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	The Royal Mile extends to the east from the castle.
Culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLA and sites 	Edinburgh Castle is a scheduled ancient monument and many of the buildings are listed. The surrounding landscape is 19 th century recreation area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDL 	Lies within the New Town Gardens inventory listed GDL.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Areas 	Lies within the Old Town Conservation Area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associations 	The Castle is highly significant in historic terms and in more contemporary associations include the Military Tattoo, and New Year fire works.
Naturalness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity 	Limited value within this urban context
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geodiversity 	Distinctive crag and tail formation. Castle Rock is part of the Arthur's Seat Volcano SSSI.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remoteness 	Located in the city centre
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tranquillity 	Proximity to the railway and local roads, combined with heavy volumes of visitors make the area a bustling and busy place.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildness 	Castle Rock is modified by urban development.
Condition	
Forces for change	The landscape components are in good condition. Development in close proximity to the castle would impact on its visual significance

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Corstorphine	Prominent urban hill	City of Edinburgh	50



Description

- 3.180. Corstorphine Hill is commonly seen as an elongated, low wooded ridge from many parts of the city, although gentler slopes extend south-east to merge with golf courses and parkland in the Ravelston area and are only visible locally.

- 3.181. The main ridge of the hill is covered with dense, predominantly broadleaved woodland with sycamore and beech common species. Some exotic conifers and ornamental broadleaved trees filter through this cover from the grounds of the large late C19 villas of Clerwood and Hillwood, situated on the steep western slopes of the hill. Rocky outcrops occur on the hill, although these are only appreciated when walking on the many paths meandering through the woodland. Corstorphine Hill Tower built in 1871, is just visible amongst the trees although is dwarfed by two telecommunication masts. The former Barnton quarry is located at the northern end of the hill. The long eastern slopes of the hill are more open as woodland gives way to a golf course and grazed parkland around Craigmillar Castle. The trees peppering these slopes retain a visual connection to the densely wooded ridge of the hill and also interlock with woodlands in the grounds of the former Ravelston House, now a school. The Scottish Zoological Park is located on the steep south-facing slopes of the hill. Established in 1913, the park has a naturalistic design with quarries and rocky outcrops utilised for animal enclosures and tree cover merging with the main wooded ridge of the hill. A high stone wall and fencing forms the boundary between the zoo and the hill, which is freely accessible to the public. Housing extends on the western hill slopes to Clermiston Road where grassland provides a simple foreground to the wooded ridge on the eastern side of this road. New housing encroaches on the more gently sloping pastures on the north-eastern side of the hill, directly abutting steep wooded slopes.
- 3.182. Where the woodland canopy opens, views from the hill are extensive; those over north Edinburgh to the Forth and its islands being particularly striking. Despite its relatively lowly height (160m), Corstorphine Hill is a prominent landmark hill visible from much of Edinburgh and the surrounding rural area to the west, its distinctive long wooded ridge making it instantly recognisable in views.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	High
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	Medium
Prominence	High
Receptors	High
Landscape Condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This landscape is typical of the hills which punctuate the built up areas of the city and are a key feature of its landscape setting. Hill slope golf courses and remnant parkland are typical of many landscapes within the city including the Braid Hills and the golf courses in the Barnton/Cramond area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	There are a number of similar low wooded hills located throughout the rural parts of the Lothians, many of these associated with estate landscapes.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Although Corstorphine Hill lacks the distinctive landform of many of the 'focal' Edinburgh hills, its densely wooded ridge is an unusual feature which makes it unique within Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	While not unique within the Lothians, this hill is rare in terms of the extent of woodland cover and its urban context.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The long wooded ridge of Corstorphine Hill is prominent from much of the city and from the western rural area. The more gentle south-eastern slopes of the hill are only visible locally.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This area is not visually prominent from the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	The landform of this outcrop hill, its distinctive woodland and remnant parkland on its lower slopes contribute to the high scenic quality of Corstorphine Hill
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	Highly visible within Edinburgh
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	Network of footpaths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	Royal Zoological Gardens sited on south-facing slopes of this hill
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	Urban streets on lower slopes
Culture	

• HLA and sites	18 th -20 th century managed woodland on Corstorphine Hill 17 th -19 th century policies of Clerwood House, B-listed Craigcrook Castle and A-listed Beechwood House (now the Murrayfield Hospital). 19 th century to present Edinburgh Zoo, on the site of former designed landscape and relict golf course and 19 th century to present golf courses. Also, B-listed Clermiston Tower and the remains of disused defence site (WW2-era secret operations centre for RAF Turnhouse, and Cold War-era emergency 'Regional Seat of Government' facility) in Barnton Park Quarry
• GDL	Numerous policies associated with Corstorphine Hill House and villas.
• Conservation Areas	No conservation area
• Associations	No identified associations
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	Woodlands are of value.
• Geodiversity	No significant geodiversity
• Remoteness	This area is not remote although woodland can give a sense of seclusion
• Tranquillity	A degree of tranquillity can be experienced within wooded areas
• Wildness	None

Condition	Footpaths and woodlands under ongoing management.
Forces for change	Pressures for housing on lower hill slopes

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Craiglockhart Hills	Prominent urban hill	City of Edinburgh	51



Description

3.183. Easter and Wester Craiglockhart Hills stand close together and rise to 157m and 165m AOD respectively. Wester Craiglockhart is smaller in area but rises

more steeply, and Easter Craiglockhart is more extensive and includes several areas of woodland. Both hills are composed of volcanic outcrops.

- 3.184. There are golf courses on both hills and there are outcrops of rock and areas of gorse. Areas of mature trees extend around Easter Craiglockhart Hill and there are small areas of mature woodland and new woodland planting on Wester Craiglockhart, which is a SSSI notified for its biological interest as an area of unimproved grassland in the Edinburgh area. This habitat is very uncommon in Edinburgh, and Wester Craiglockhart Hill is one of the largest remaining examples. Easter Craiglockhart is designated a local nature reserve and there is a nature trail and local ranger led events held throughout the year.
- 3.185. There are two scheduled ancient monuments on Wester Craiglockhart Hill. These include the remains of an Iron Age hill fort on the summit of Wester Craiglockhart Hill, and the remains of the 15th century Craiglockhart Castle close to the university buildings.
- 3.186. There are a number of significant buildings on and around the Craiglockhart Hills. Due to the location at the edge of the city, the area was suitable for the development of health related institutions. The oldest building on Easter Craiglockhart is Old Craighouse which was built in 1553, a tall building with crow stepped gables and currently harled and finished in a pale pink colour, which is category A listed. The Royal Edinburgh Asylum was built between 1889 and 1894 on Easter Craiglockhart in the style of a French chateau and is category A listed.
- 3.187. On Wester Craiglockhart is the 19th century Italianate Hydropathic Institute which is B listed. Also associated with Wester Craiglockhart is Greenlea Poorhouse which opened in 1870. The original buildings have now been converted for residential use and the site developed to provide additional residential accommodation.
- 3.188. Glenlockhart Road runs between the two hills and they are surrounded on all sides by development, therefore from many aspects views to the hills are limited by the surrounding development. Although locally prominent, the Craiglockhart Hills are not largely prominent within Edinburgh as a whole, which is partly due to the extent to which development rises up against the hills.
- 3.189. Wester Craiglockhart has been subject to the installation of a large transmitting mast, new woodland planting, and the construction of new university buildings. Easter Craiglockhart has undergone considerable change since it was purchased by Napier University and this has included the development and landscaping of the extensive car parking area

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	High
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	High
Settlement	High
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	High
Landscape condition	Medium

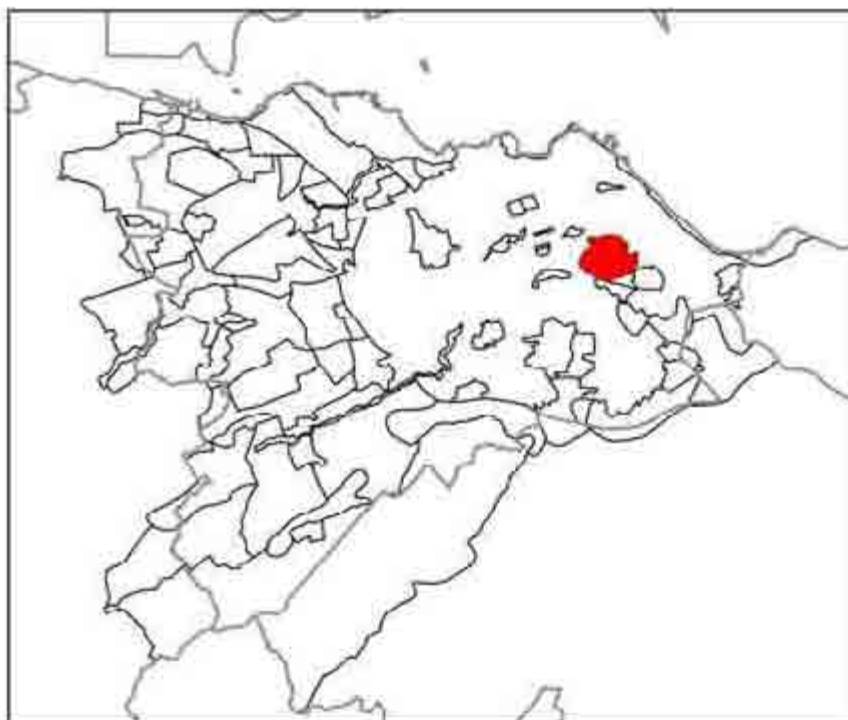
Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	A series of volcanic hills are found within the City of Edinburgh, of varying heights and prominence, although each has its own unique characteristics.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	A number of prominent hills are found within the Lothians and beyond to Fife, and these hills are typical landscape features.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The combination of the low hills with the distinctive buildings of strong architectural merit makes these hills distinctive within the City of Edinburgh. Edinburgh Castle and Calton Hill share the combination of landform and architecture, although these are characterised by more prominent features than Craiglockhart.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Although the form of the hill is not unique within the Lothians the urban context is rare.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	These hills are locally prominent within Edinburgh and are a feature of views particularly in the south of the city. The hills are a landmark within the local area and significant for those using them for recreation or the buildings which are associated with the hills.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Their low stature and location within the urban area means that the hills are not prominent within the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	Distinctively rugged but low hills with woodland and outcropping rock and built development clustered around their base have some scenic value within their urban context.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	The hills are visible from other elevated locations within the city and from the local road which passes between the two hills.
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	There is a network of paths on Easter Craiglockhart.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	There are golf courses on both hills.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	The hills do not provide a setting for any major transport routes.
Culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLA and sites 	Easter Craiglockhart incorporates 17 th – 19 th century policies and parkland, 18 th to 20 th century woodland and 19 th century to present recreational use. Wester Craiglockhart includes prehistoric to present moorland rough grazing and 19 th century to present recreational use. The remains of Craiglockhart Castle and Wester Craiglockhart Hill Fort are key features.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDL 	There are policy influences on the planting surrounding the buildings of Napier University.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Areas 	Both hills are covered by the Craiglockhart Hills conservation area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associations 	Cultural associations of Craiglockhart Hospital with First WW poets
Naturalness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity 	The summit of Wester Craiglockhart is a SSSI and Easter Craiglockhart is a Local Nature Reserve.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geodiversity 	Both hills are examples of volcanic outcrop hills.

• Remoteness	The location within the urban area means this area is not remote.
• Tranquillity	The elevation above the surrounding urban area provides some sense of tranquillity.
• Wildness	The landscape is heavily modified by human influence, however the rugged outcrops of rock and areas of mature woodland contribute some sense of wildness.

Condition	Both hills are managed for recreation and nature conservation, however urban influences such as the transmitting mast on Wester Craiglockhart and built development associated with Napier University fragment the landscape.
Forces for change	Further development associated with Napier University and recreational pressure will influence the character of this landscape character area.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Holyrood Park	Prominent urban hill	City of Edinburgh	60



Description

3.190. The iconic landform of Holyrood Park is a key component of the landscape setting of Edinburgh. Its volcanic origins are closely linked to the Castle Rock, Calton Hill and the long spine of the Royal Mile.

- 3.191. This is a very diverse landscape, principally comprising the remnant volcanic rugged peak of Arthur's Seat and the red sandstone sill of Salisbury Crags, set high above sheer scree slopes and separated from Arthur's Seat by the broad flat-bottomed valley of Hunter's Bog. Parallel, long gently arched ridges lie to the east of Hunter's Bog, orientated north-south and appearing as rocky spines leading the eye to the high craggy top of Arthur's Seat. The narrow, enclosed valleys of the Dasses and Dry Dam dip below these ridges and accommodate well-worn paths. The sloping playing fields lying east of the Palace of Holyrood act as a simple 'plinth' setting off the more complex landform and vegetation cover of Arthur's Seat and the Crags, and are an integral part of this character area. The rugged landform of Arthur's Seat increases the perception of vertical scale, despite its relatively lowly height of 251m. The coarse textures of the semi-natural vegetation cover of gorse and rough grassland within the Park also accentuates its upland characteristics. Arthur's Seat is a SSSI notified for its unimproved grassland, complex geology and diversity of biological species supported by the varying underlying rock types. Small lochans and the picturesque ruins of St Anthony's Chapel add interest while Holyrood Palace also contributes to the sense of history associated with the Park. A strong sense of naturalness and openness is commonly experienced within this landscape, providing a striking contrast with the urban area which surrounds it.
- 3.192. The distinctive form of Arthur's Seat and Salisbury Crags is highly prominent from Edinburgh and the surrounding rural area. The Queen's Drive encircles the Park, allowing vehicular access and close views of the landscape and its complex geological detail. Paths are well-used and offer a variety of experiences and spectacular views over the city and the wider landscape of the Lothians.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	High
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	High
Settlement	High
Prominence	High
Receptors	High
Landscape Condition	High

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This landscape has some similar characteristics to the isolated small hills which outcrop within the built up areas of the city and are a key feature of its landscape setting. The semi-natural vegetation of Holyrood Park is similar to that found within Holyrood Park, the Braid Hills and parts of the Craiglockhart Hills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	There are a number of similar isolated low craggy hills with semi-natural vegetation located within the Lothians although only a few of these hills have such a distinctive form, for example the volcanic plug of North Berwick Law.
Rarity / uniqueness	

• Edinburgh	The iconic form, distinctive geology, rugged naturalistic character and historical associations of this landscape make it unique within Edinburgh.
• Lothians	The iconic form, distinctive geology, rugged naturalistic character and historical associations of this landscape and its urban setting make this landscape unique within the Lothians.
Prominence	
• Edinburgh	Arthur's Seat and Salisbury Crags are highly prominent from much of the city and the surrounding rural area. The 'interior' landform of valleys and ridges and detailed geological features are only appreciated close-by from well-used paths and the Queen's Drive.
• Lothians	This area is visually prominent from much of the Lothians (and Fife) with Arthur's Seat being a particular landmark feature visible from key roads on the approach to the city.
Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	The diverse landform and semi-natural landcover give this small outcrop hill an iconic character and high scenic qualities
• Visibility	A prominent landscape both within the city and wider rural area
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	A network of footpaths
• Recreation areas	Playing fields
• Transport routes	Urban road circles the Park
Culture	
• HLA and sites	The land use influences are predominantly 19 th century recreation, although the area was historically a deer park and there is evidence of settlement and agriculture.
• GDL	None within this area although Prestonfield and Duddingston GDLs lie immediately to the south
• Conservation Areas	Partly in Old Town Conservation Area
• Associations	Extensive historic, literary and artistic associations and used as film location
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	Designated Site of Special Scientific Interest and a range of habitats provided by grassland, rock faces, water and scree slopes.
• Geodiversity	High geodiversity value due to volcanic origins and exposed features
• Remoteness	This area is not remote due to its urban context and the popular use of the Park for recreation
• Tranquillity	A degree of tranquillity can be experienced in relation to the urban context of this area although this lessens close to the road
• Wildness	The rugged hill tops provide a sense of naturalness and exposure in relation to the urban context of this area
Condition	
Condition	Generally good condition with on-going management of small areas of woodland and path maintenance evident
Forces for change	
Forces for change	Changes in the management of the area for recreation and provision of facilities

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE: RECREATIONAL OPEN SPACE

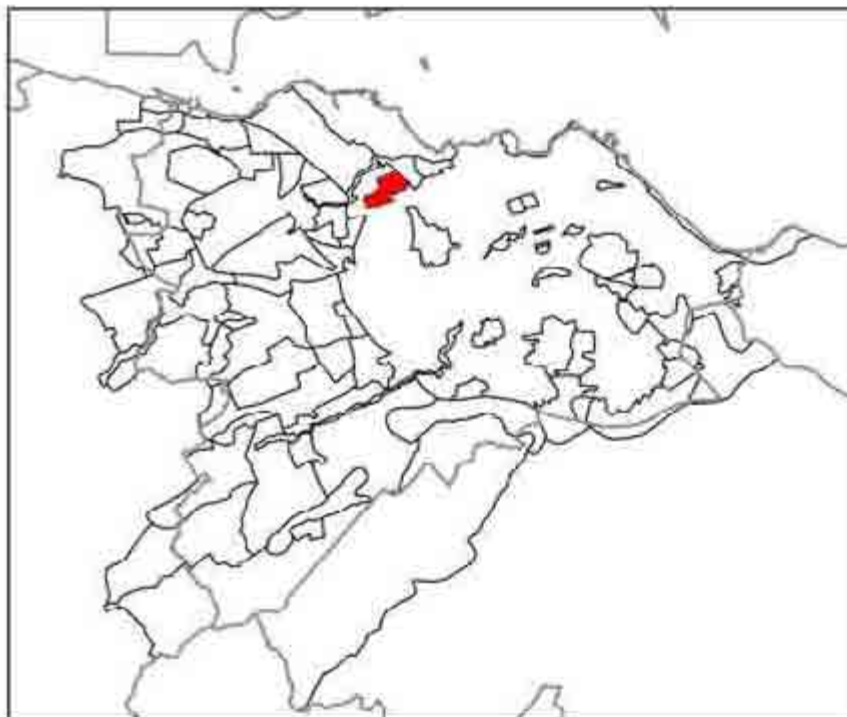
Character areas

- Barnton golf courses (4)
- Prestonfield golf course (58)
- Silverknowes golf course (2)

Key Characteristics

- Flat to gently undulating landform;
- Mature parkland trees with areas of younger planting and typical bunkers, greens and fairways;
- Contiguous with other open spaces within the city;
- Typically the golf course is historic in origin or surrounds some buildings of historic significance;
- Intervisibility is generally limited, although the areas may be visible from distant or elevated locations.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Barnton Golf Courses	Recreational open space	Lothian farmland	4



Description

3.193. The Barnton golf courses include Bruntsfield golf course to the east and the Royal Burgess golf course to the west. The two golf courses are separated

by what now serves as part of the off-road cycle network, and was originally a formal avenue within parkland. The courses cover an area of gently sloping north facing ground which rises from 30m AOD at Cramond to 55m AOD to the south. Bruntsfield golf course has a mature parkland character with a number of mature trees and includes a larger area of woodland surrounding the disused Barnton Park Quarry. Views of the imposing buildings of Cargilfield School and the Firth of Forth are glimpsed between tree belts.

- 3.194. The Royal Burgess clubhouse dates from 1896 and is a large white-painted building. The golf course is undulating and includes areas of woodland planting. Although the two golf courses are similar in character the main differences between the Bruntsfield and Royal Burgess are that the latter is more strongly influenced by the urban edge rather than the coast, has less mature woodland and more contained views.
- 3.195. Around both golf courses the mature gardens of the surrounding houses soften the urban edge with trees. Other than the club houses there are no buildings within the golf courses and the combination of gently sloping topography and parkland trees limits views both into and out of the character area. Replacement planting of tree groups has resulted in changes to the character of the landscape. The golf courses contribute to an expanse of green open space which extends from the coast to include Silverknowes, Laurieston and Cramond.

Summary of key characteristics

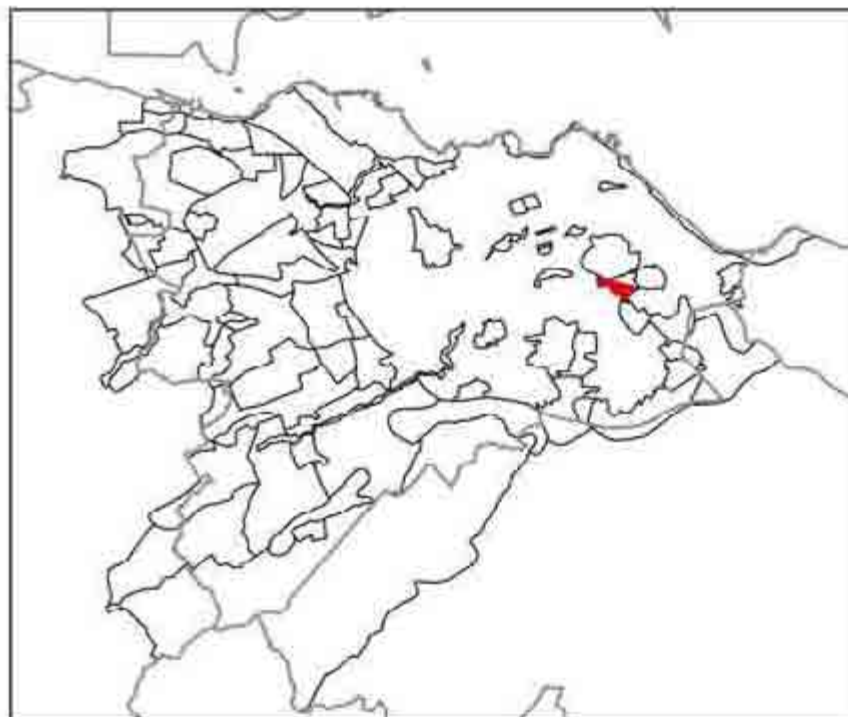
Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Low
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	Low
Settlement	Low
Prominence	Low
Receptors	Low
Landscape condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The golf courses are typical of urban golf courses within Edinburgh with a mature planting structure and new areas of planting which introduce a different range of species.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	The golf courses are typical of urban golf courses within the Lothians.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This landscape character area is not rare or unique within Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape character area is not rare or unique within the Lothians.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This landscape character area is not prominent within Edinburgh due to the low lying topography and trees at the perimeter.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape character area is not prominent within the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	Rolling landform, mature parkland trees and golf course

• Visibility	Topography and trees limit the visibility of this area
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	National cycle network 1 passes between the two golf courses
• Recreation areas	Golf course use
• Transport routes	Local roads pass round the perimeter of the area
Culture	
• HLA and sites	19 th century to present recreation area in former designed landscape. The Royal Burgess club house is a listed building.
• GDL	No
• Conservation Areas	Areas to the south east and north west of the golf courses are designated as Conservation Areas.
• Associations	No known cultural associations
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	Woodlands will have some limited biodiversity value
• Geodiversity	No significant geodiversity
• Remoteness	The proximity of the urban edge means that this area does not feel remote although a degree of seclusion can be experienced where woodland contains views
• Tranquillity	A degree of tranquillity can be experienced although traffic noise and planes on approach to airport limits this quality
• Wildness	This area has no qualities of wildness
Condition	
Forces for change	A highly managed landscape Possible built development associated with the golf courses or housing on the boundaries of this area

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Prestonfield golf course	Recreational open space	City of Edinburgh	58



Description

3.196. Prestonfield golf course is predominantly flat to gently undulating and extends over a low lying area adjacent to Duddingston Loch. In geological history it

would have been part of the prehistoric Duddingston Loch which extended over this area. The current Prestonfield House dates from the late 17th century and is 'A' listed and is now run as a hotel. The white painted exterior makes the house a distinctive landscape feature. Some formal grounds exist around the hotel and the remainder of the policies are managed as a golf course, and is an inventory listed Garden and Designed Landscape. The landscape contains many mature trees and there are areas of planting which have been incorporated into the golf course. The golf course also bears the obvious remains of medieval rig-and-furrow field systems.

3.197. Prestonfield is a prominent feature of the southern views from the High Road beneath Arthur's Seat. In combination with Duddingston House policies, and Duddingston Loch, Prestonfield forms part of a large green swathe that links Holyrood Park with Craigmillar Castle policies and through to the farmland beyond.

3.198. There has been additional younger tree planting on the golf course which affects the mature parkland character of the area.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	High
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	High
Settlement	Low
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	Medium
Landscape condition	High

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	There are several golf courses located within former policy landscapes in Edinburgh. In particular Prestonfield shares many characteristics with Duddingston, which has similar topographical features and the similar urban context.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Prestonfield is largely typical of golf courses to be found within the Lothians.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Prestonfield house and the proximity to Duddingston Loch contribute some unique characteristics to the landscape.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Prestonfield is not rare or unique within the Lothians.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The low lying nature of Prestonfield means that it is not prominent within Edinburgh. Prestonfield is only visible when viewed from the heights of Holyrood Park, however the large numbers of visitors who visit this location make it a notable element of the view.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Prestonfield is not prominent within the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	A flat and low lying area of landscape with policy woodland planting.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	The low lying landform limits views into the landscape which is most visible from Arthur's Seat.
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	There are no identified recreation routes.

• Recreation areas	There is a golf course within the grounds of the hotel and the grounds can be used by guests for recreation.
• Transport routes	No transport routes pass through the landscape.
Culture	
• HLA and sites	The parkland around Prestonfield House is 17 th to 19 th century policies and parkland, the wider golf course is 19 th century to present recreation area. Prestonfield House and stable block are category A listed buildings. Much of the golf course bears the remains of medieval 'broad rig' field systems
• GDL	The landscape is an inventory listed GDL.
• Conservation Areas	The nearby Blasket Conservation Area partly adjoins this LCA and it also adjoins the Duddingston Conservation Area which covers Duddingston Loch.
• Associations	Nothing of note.
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	The mature woodland provides some biodiversity value.
• Geodiversity	The area would have been part of the prehistoric Duddingston Loch which extended over this area.
• Remoteness	The area lies within the city.
• Tranquillity	The area is remote from main roads and has some sense of tranquillity.
• Wildness	The landscape is heavily modified by human activity.
Condition	
Condition	The landscape features are well maintained.
Forces for change	Further recreational and hotel related development would affect the character of the landscape.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Silverknowes golf course	Recreational open space	City of Edinburgh	2



Description

3.199. Silverknowes lies on a gently undulating north facing slope. As a golf course it is comprised mostly of mown grass with some remnant areas of older

woodland and areas of new tree planting. A road extends around the perimeter of the golf course and a camping and caravan park is located at Muirhouse. A former stables building is located close to the caravan park and is of a grand style constructed of buff coloured stone.

- 3.200. The landscape character area has a fragmented character due to the mix of uses with the caravan park and golf course and mix of tree species in the golf course planting. In addition the area is exposed to the weather from the Firth of Forth. Key features in views are the tower blocks to the south of Silverknowes and views north to the Firth of Forth include Cramond Island.
- 3.201. The intervisibility of this landscape character area with adjacent areas is limited due to the gently sloping, low lying topography. Silverknowes plays an important role in providing a landscape buffer between the urban edge and the grazing to the north of Laurieston Castle. It also provides an undeveloped backdrop to the coastal edge.
- 3.202. The development of the camping and caravan park and additional tree planting on the golf course has resulted in change in the landscape character. The maturing of the woodland planting will enhance the landscape quality. The new development at Granton Harbour will become more prominent within views owing to its large scale.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Medium
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	Low
Settlement	Low
Prominence	Low
Receptors	Low
Landscape condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Silverknowes is largely typical of other golf courses located within the urban edge in Edinburgh within a former policy influenced landscape and young woodland planting. However its location on the coastal edge and association with the Firth of Forth is distinctive
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Silverknowes is largely typical of other golf courses located within the urban edge in the Lothians.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	There are similar golf courses in Edinburgh and Silverknowes is not rare or unique within Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Silverknowes is not rare or unique within the Lothians.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Silverknowes is not prominent in Edinburgh due to its location and low lying landform.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Silverknowes is not prominent in the Lothians due to its location and gently sloping landform and low visual relationship with adjacent areas.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	A medium scale, fragmented and windswept landscape, strongly influenced in character by its use as a golf course

• Visibility	The aspect, landform and location limit visibility
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	The nearby coastal edge is popular for recreation
• Recreation areas	The area is managed as a golf course.
• Transport routes	Minor roads providing access to housing and the coast
Culture	
• HLA and sites	The landscape is predominantly 19 th century to present recreation area, with some remnant policies and parkland to the north. There are some listed buildings within the site and the adjacent stable block near the caravan site is also listed.
• GDL	No designated landscapes
• Conservation Areas	No designated conservation areas
• Associations	No identified associations
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	Some areas of planted woodland
• Geodiversity	Former area of raised beach
• Remoteness	Within urban area
• Tranquillity	Surrounding roads introduce noise and movement
• Wildness	A modified recreational landscape
Condition	
Forces for change	The choice and structure of the tree planting on the golf course detracts from the policy influences on the landscape. The maturing of the trees will add a more established character to the area and consolidate the links with existing areas of policy woodland.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE: ROLLING FARMLAND

Character areas

- Baberton farmland (31)
- Bonnington farmland (25)
- Burdiehouse farmland (44)
- Gowanhill farmland (27)
- Ratho farmland (22)

Key Characteristics

- Gently rolling open farmland, with predominantly arable fields;
- Transport and communication links are prominent in the landscape.
- Some remnant policy woodland and hedgerows;
- The rolling nature of the landform provides some elevation, although frequently contains views;
- Relatively strong influences from the nearby urban areas and some fragmentation;
- The landscape character area generally has low levels of settlement with some dispersed farmsteads.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Baberton farmland	Rolling farmland	Lothian farmland	31



Description

- 3.203. This character area forms a band of gently rolling farmland, lying to the west of the city by-pass and gradually rising in a series of softly rounded stepped ridges from the A71 in the north to the foot of the Pentland Hills to the south.

- 3.204. Arable fields, enclosed by post and wire fences and occasional hedgerows, cover softly rolling stepped ridges which rise towards the southern fringes of Juniper Green. A golf course is sited within the former policies of the early 17th century Baberton House. The house is contained by woodland and lies adjacent to the extensive late 20th century housing estate of Baberton, dislocated from Edinburgh by the by-pass and contrasting with the distinctly linear settlement form of Juniper Green which traces the incised valley of the Water of Leith. A small notch of farmland separates the settlements of Juniper Green and Currie. A railway dissects farmland and high voltage transmission lines are prominent features in the more open northern part of this landscape. Although comprising an uninterrupted band of farmland close to the city, urban influences are strong and views of high rise buildings and industrial development on the edge of the city, roads infrastructure and traffic noise diminish the rural qualities of this landscape.
- 3.205. This area is visible from the A720 and the A71 where it can appear cluttered by power lines, lighting columns and intrusive settlement edges. While the urban edge of Edinburgh is highly visible to the east, the backdrop provided by the Pentland Hills offers a more dramatic rural prospect and this area provides a simple, open foreground to views of the Pentlands from the A71 and the city by-pass.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Low
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	Low
Settlement	High
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	High
Landscape Condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This area is typical of other landscapes situated on the fringes of Edinburgh where the urban edge and communications have a strong influence on character.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	There are a number of similar landscapes primarily found on the fringes of large urban areas within the Lothians.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	While this landscape is not intrinsically unique or rare, it does have a role in providing a relatively simple foreground to views of the much more dramatic Pentland Hills and a setting to Juniper Green and Currie, although this is diminished in places by intrusive infrastructure and settlement expansion.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This area is not unique or rare within the Lothians.
Prominence	

• Edinburgh	This area is highly visible from parts of Juniper Green, Currie and Wester Hailes and from the A71 and A720. Baberton Golf Course is contained by remnant policy woodlands. There would appear to be limited public access.
• Lothians	This area is not visible from the Lothians
Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	This area of rolling farmland has limited intrinsic scenic qualities although it provides a simple foreground to the Pentland Hills in terms of the wider landscape composition.
• Visibility	Highly visible from settlement and major transport routes.
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	Footpaths
• Recreation areas	Golf course
• Transport routes	A720 City by-pass, A70 and A71
Culture	
• HLA and sites	19 th century to present amalgamated fields.
• GDL	The policies of Baberton House, which are now managed as a golf course contribute a mature wooded edge to Baberton.
• Conservation Areas	None
• Associations	No identified associations
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	No significant biodiversity
• Geodiversity	No significant geodiversity
• Remoteness	This area is not remote
• Tranquillity	The proximity of major transport routes precludes tranquillity
• Wildness	None

Condition	Farmland and golf course well-managed although hedgerows intermittent and few woodlands or field trees.
Forces for change	Possible pressure for settlement expansion and changes to agricultural management

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Bonnington farmland	Rolling farmland	Lothian farmland	25



Description

3.206. This character area comprises a gently undulating area of farmland, becoming more rolling at the transition with the Ratho Hills which form a

curving subtle ridge which contain this landscape to the south-east. The deeply incised Almond valley forms a boundary to the west while the M8 marks the transition to the urban area of Newbridge to the north.

- 3.207. Flat arable fields around Clifton Mains gently rise to a ridge which appears as a lowly extension of the Ratho Hills to the south. A distinctive dispersed pattern of farmsteads and the grander Bonnington House sit atop this ridge; their presence emphasised by the mixed woodlands which frame buildings. Remnant trees marking former enclosure patterns sit stranded in enlarged fields while thorn hedgerows form intermittent boundaries along road sides. Poultry rearing sheds are located in the northern part of this character area but are not overly intrusive. The baronial, mid 19th century Clifton Hall, now a school, is partially screened by wooded policies. Situated on the edge of the Almond Valley, its dramatic vantage is diminished by the close proximity of the busy M8. The Union Canal is aligned through this area and is fringed in places by woodland and scrub.
- 3.208. The containment provided by landform limits extensive views to and from this character area. The canal and the Almond Valley attract people to the area although views from paths are restricted by woodland and the incised landform of the valley. An operational quarry and large industrial shed associated with it is situated on the western edge of the Ratho Hills and is prominent in views from this area.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Low
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	Medium
Prominence	Low
Receptors	Medium
Landscape Condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This area is typical of a few other areas of farmland situated on the outer fringes of Edinburgh where there is a degree of influence from communications and some industrial development (quarrying) but where the landscape does not have a fragmented character
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	There are many pockets of farmland similarly largely unaffected by development throughout the Lothians.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	While this area is neither unique or rare within Edinburgh, it does provide a contrast with the complexity of built development and infrastructure found to the north and a rural buffer on the outer fringes of the city boundary strengthened by its proximity to the attractive Almond valley, Union Canal and Ratho Hills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	While this character area is not rare or unique within the Lothians, it does form part of the rural swathe of land bordering West Lothian.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The Bonnington Farmland character area is not visible from the city of Edinburgh and is visually contained by the Ratho Hills and by woodland against the M8 and within the Almond valley
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Although close to West Lothian, this area is largely screened by landform and woodland close to East Calder. It is not visible from the rest of the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	This relatively small pocket of farmland has some limited scenic quality principally associated with the canal and woodlands around Clifton Hall and Bonnington House
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	This area is contained by landform and not widely visible
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	Canal and towpath linking with footpaths within the Almond valley
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	None known
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	M8 and A71 nearby
Culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLA and sites 	Mixed 18 th -19 th century rectilinear fields and 19 th century to present amalgamated fields. 17 th – 19 th century policies and parkland around Bonnington House.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDL 	The wooded policies of Bonnington House lie on the crest of the low ridge, accentuating the landform.

• Conservation Areas	None
• Associations	No identified associations
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	Woodlands will have some limited value
• Geodiversity	No significant geodiversity
• Remoteness	This area is not remote
• Tranquillity	Nearby quarry and occasional noise from M8 limit tranquillity
• Wildness	None

Condition	Farmland appears well-managed although hedgerows are degraded and field trees in decline.
Forces for change	Changes in agricultural management

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Burdiehouse farmland	Rolling farmland	Lothian farmland	44



Description

3.209. This character area has a rolling landform which forms a distinct ridge rising south-east from the Burdiehouse Burn and extending to Gilmerton before

gradually falling to merge with the more gently undulating ground of the Danderhall Farmland close to Todhills. This landscape extends to the south beyond the A720 and City boundary to the fringes of the North Esk valley.

- 3.210. The long and smoothly even slopes of the ridge are farmed, with arable fields predominantly enclosed by post and wire fences, although some stone walls are also present. There is little woodland and few hedgerows and this, combined with the elevation of landform, gives this landscape an open character. To the south, the A720 cuts through this landscape; the linearity of the road emphasised by a double row of pylons which are aligned broadly parallel with the road, but which also cut across the high ground of the ridge. The industrial past of this area is marked by early 19th century lime kilns and later mine shafts although intensive farmland is a key characteristic of the area now. This character area abuts the urban edge of Edinburgh. Well-kempt stone farmsteads are sited on lower hills slopes while occasional industrial development occupies former derelict mine sites. A large electricity sub-station, roads and transmission lines are particularly prominent in the south-west of this area.
- 3.211. The minor public road, the 'Lang Loan', is aligned on the top of this ridge south of Burdiehouse and offers striking open views towards the city where Holyrood Park forms a key focus to the north and to the Pentland Hills to the south-west and the distant Moorfoot Hills to the south. Views to the urban edge of Burdiehouse from the City Bypass are largely contained by the ridge of this farmland although more elevated housing on the edge of Gilmerton is visible.

Summary of key characteristics

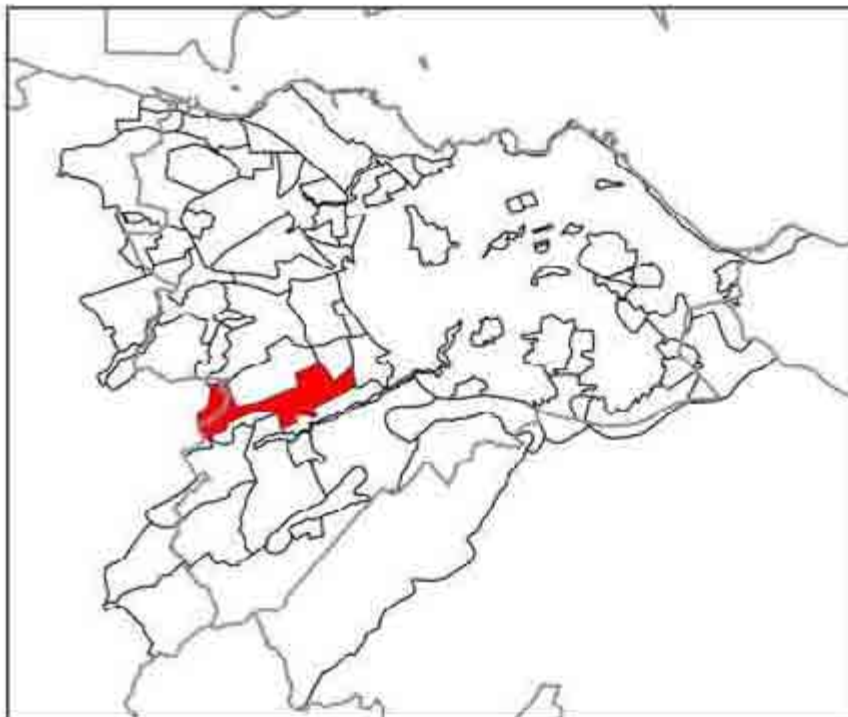
Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Medium
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	High
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	Medium
Landscape Condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Components of this area are typical of many farmed landscapes lying adjacent to the urban edge where roads, buildings and power lines influence character. The openness of this area and evidence of past mining activity are also typical of the Danderhall Farmland to the east
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape is typical of many farmed landscapes in the Lothians lying on the fringes of urban areas.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	While not unique or rare within Edinburgh, the characteristic rolling ridge landform of this landscape has some value in providing a containing edge to the city in views from the south
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This area is not unique or rare within the Lothians
Prominence	

• Edinburgh	The farmed south-facing slopes of this area are visible from the A720 but in general this landscape is not visually prominent.
• Lothians	This area is visible from parts of Midlothian although intervening woodland, landform and buildings limit views from within the populated North Esk valley
Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	Rolling farmland influenced by the urban edge of Edinburgh and with some detractive elements including old mine workings and high voltage power lines. This area is of limited scenic quality
• Visibility	Visible from the A720 City bypass
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	None known
• Recreation areas	None known
• Transport routes	Lang Loan elevated road and A720 City bypass
Culture	
• HLA and sites	Predominantly 19 th century to present amalgamated fields, some 18 th -19 th century rectilinear fields.
• GDL	None
• Conservation Areas	None
• Associations	No identified associations
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	No significant biodiversity
• Geodiversity	No significant geodiversity
• Remoteness	This area is not remote
• Tranquillity	The proximity of the A720 precludes tranquillity
• Wildness	None
Condition	
Condition	Occasional derelict sites and poorly maintained hedgerows and stone walls although farmland well-managed.
Forces for change	
Forces for change	Possible pressure for built development and changes to agricultural management.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Gowanhill farmland	Rolling farmland	Lothian farmland	27



Description

- 3.212. A narrow corridor of farmland lying between the wooded policies of Dalmahoy and the linear settlement of Currie and tapering south of Kaimes Hill towards its western boundary.
- 3.213. This area forms a gently dipped valley contained to the south by the twin hills of Kaimes and Dalmahoy and a long ridge extending east. The linear form of this area of farmland is accentuated by the railway and two electricity transmission lines which are aligned through it. Predominantly arable farmland has an increasingly fragmented character on the urban fringes of Currie and close to Dalmahoy Hill, where horse paddocks and stables are a feature. While there are few woodlands within this character area, wooded policies on the periphery of the Dalmahoy estate and the Riccarton campus form a backdrop to farmland. Remnant thorn hedgerows are patchy and areas of gorse and scrub colonise steeper slopes near areas of pasture. Dispersed farmsteads are sited against narrow angular roads and are visually dominated by tall transmission line towers. Landfill operations within the former quarry at Kaimes Hill are a highly visible feature on the western edge of this character area. Housing on sloping ground north of Currie visually influences this character area and forms a hard and visually exposed built edge against farmland.
- 3.214. The Pentland Hills form a distant backdrop to views from this area. While this area has high inter-visibility with Currie, it is largely screened from view from key roads and from Edinburgh due to the containment provided by adjacent landform and woodlands.

Summary of key characteristics

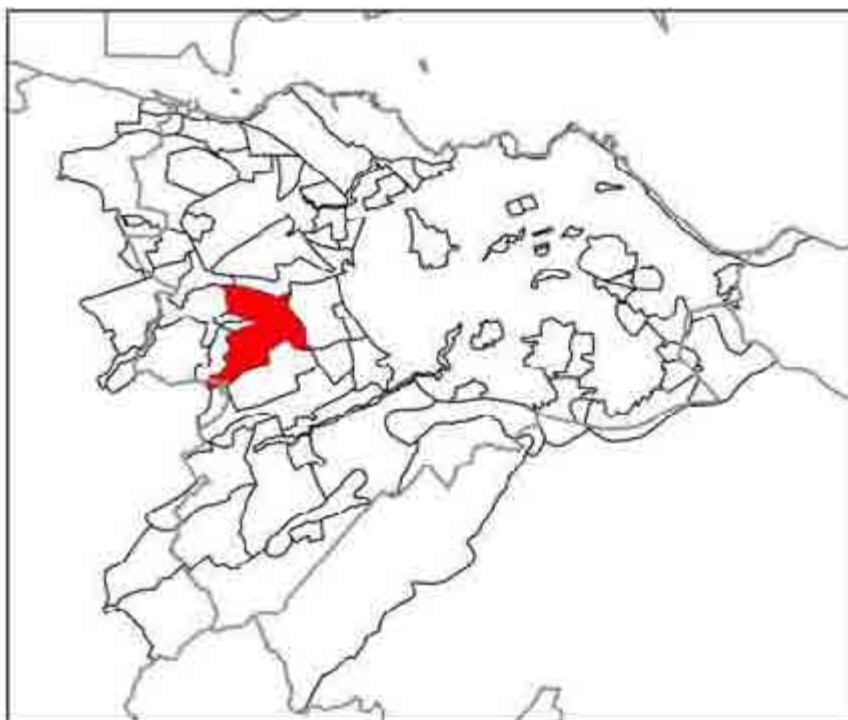
Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Low
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	Low
Settlement	High
Prominence	Low
Receptors	Medium
Landscape Condition	Low

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This area is typical of other farmed areas found on the fringes of Edinburgh such as the Burdiehouse Farmland, where communications, settlement and industry are a strong influence and result in a fragmented character
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	The fragmentation and visual influence of industry, settlement and communications on this area of farmland is replicated in other parts of the Lothians.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This area is not unique or rare within Edinburgh. However, it provides a degree of landscape setting to the settlement of Currie, although is in need of enhancement.

• Lothians	This area is not unique or rare within the Lothians
Prominence	
• Edinburgh	This character area is not visible from the city of Edinburgh and from key roads although is highly visible from housing in Currie and from the railway.
• Lothians	This area is not visible from the Lothians
Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	This area is of low scenic quality because of its fragmented pattern where high voltage power lines, settlement and industry influence character
• Visibility	Visible largely from the settlement of Currie and the railway
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	None known
• Recreation areas	None known
• Transport routes	Railway and minor roads
Culture	
• HLA and sites	18 th -19 th century rectilinear fields and 19 th century to present amalgamated fields.
• GDL	None within the area although Dalmahoy policies woodland form northern boundary
• Conservation Areas	None
• Associations	No identified associations
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	Likely to be limited as mainly mixed farmland
• Geodiversity	No significant geodiversity
• Remoteness	This area is not remote
• Tranquillity	Landfill operations and railway preclude tranquillity
• Wildness	None
Condition	Remnant thorn hedgerows are patchy and woodlands sparse although farmland is generally well-managed.
Forces for change	Changes in agricultural management and possible extension of horse grazing and stables

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Ratho Farmland	Rolling farmland	Lothian farmland	22



Description

3.215. Ratho farmland extends over a large area from the main line railway to the north, Gogar to the east, the Ratho hills to the west and Dalmahoy to the south. This landscape character area is in an area of gently undulating to flat

ground, rising from about 50m AOD to 90m AOD to the south. The landcover is predominantly arable fields with hedgerows, areas of policy woodland and tree lines and belts. There is a mixture of field boundaries including hedgerows, post and wire fencing and some stone walls. The canal passes through the landscape character area and there is also a golf course which provides recreational facilities.

- 3.216. The M8 passes through this landscape character area and there are a number of more minor roads which cross the landscape. The mainline railway between Edinburgh and Glasgow also provides views across the landscape. The main settlement within the landscape is Ratho which runs east – west along a low ridge. There are a number of scattered farmsteads within the landscape. The landscape is open and offers extensive views to Fife and the Pentland hills, which form a dramatic backdrop.
- 3.217. The area has a strong visual relationship with the Ratho Hills and the Gogar policy woodlands which provides a visual continuation of the woodland within the landscape character area itself. Combined with the pattern of regular field boundaries and policy woodland, this area has a distinctive character.
- 3.218. Although this landscape character area is typically intact, there has been some loss of woodland and damage to tree belts. The urban edge of Ratho is prominent within the landscape.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Medium
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	Low
Settlement	Medium
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	Medium
Landscape condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The large open fields and policy woodland are shared characteristics with other farmland areas found to the west of Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	The characteristics of Ratho farmland can be found within the Lothians.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The Ratho farmland does not have key features which are rare or unique within Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	The Ratho farmland is not rare or unique within the Lothians.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The Ratho farmland is relatively prominent due to the important transport routes which pass through the area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This area is not prominent within the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	

• Character/qualities	Rolling to flat arable fields with hedgerows, policy woodland and tree lines which accentuate the landform. This is a large scale open landscape with open views.
• Visibility	Parts of this landscape are visible from the M8 and local roads
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	The canal is an important recreation route and there are other recreation routes in the area
• Recreation areas	There is a golf course at Ransfield, in the former policies of Ratho House
• Transport routes	The M8 and local roads all pass through the area, and the Glasgow – Edinburgh railway line lies at the perimeter.
Culture	
• HLA and sites	The farmland is a mixture of 18 th to 19 th century rectilinear fields and 19 th century to present amalgamated fields. There are pockets of 17 th to 19 th century policies and parkland at Norton House and Ashley. There are a number of listed buildings in Ratho and throughout the area
• GDL	Hatton House is a small inventory listed GDL in the area which extends to the Ratho hills. Ratho House (now Ratho Park golf course clubhouse) has associated policy woodlands. Norton House, now used as an hotel, maintains policy influences on the landscape close to Ratho.
• Conservation Areas	Parts of Ratho are a Conservation Area
• Associations	Good site for access to the Union Canal. Site of Edinburgh International Climbing Arena
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	The area is intensively farmed
• Geodiversity	The area is not significant for its geodiversity
• Remoteness	There are many urban related influences
• Tranquillity	The farmland has a rural character and away from the M8 and airport is relatively tranquil
• Wildness	The managed farmland, proximity to transport routes and urban areas mean there is no sense of wildness
Condition	
Forces for change	The landscape features are typically of good quality New development, change of land use and changes in the management of the trees and hedgerows would affect the character of this area.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE: RURAL OUTCROP HILLS

Character areas

- Craigie Hill (11)
- Kaimes and Dalmahoy Hills (32)
- Ratho Hills (23)

Key Characteristics

- Elongated hills volcanic in origin rising above the surrounding landscape which may be punctuated by woodland;
- Some outcropping of rock and quarrying is a common feature;
- The hills are locally important for recreational use;
- The hills provide key locations for extensive views across the surrounding landscape.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Craigie Hill	Rural outcrop hills	Lothian farmland	11



Description

3.219. The distinctive elongated Craigie Hill comprises a volcanic intrusion rising to approximately 110m. This hill has a similar character to the wooded hills and

rounded ridges characteristic of the adjacent Dalmeny Estate, although its more isolated location, set within the context of the gently undulating farmland of the Almond Valley, increases its prominence.

- 3.220. The lower slopes of the hill are notably steeper on the north facing side as the hill is cut by the A90 and comprise pastures enclosed by hedgerows and occasional stone walls. West Craigie Farm cultivates fruit in polytunnels set out on long fields sloping to the south. Gentler slopes to the west abut the modified landform of bunding around an oil storage depot. The long, rocky ridge of Craigie Hill is covered with managed mixed woodland; mature beech and managed sycamore having a distinctive policy character. A former quarry on the ridge forms a jagged notch against the skyline, although in summer this is largely screened by woodland. A number of stone buildings circle the base of the steep wooded ridge; some of these in a derelict state.
- 3.221. Way-marked footpaths and an Iron Age fort are present within this wooded ridge and offer striking views over the Dalmeny Estate to the Firth of Forth. This hill is highly visible from the surrounding Almond Valley and the A90.

Summary of key characteristics

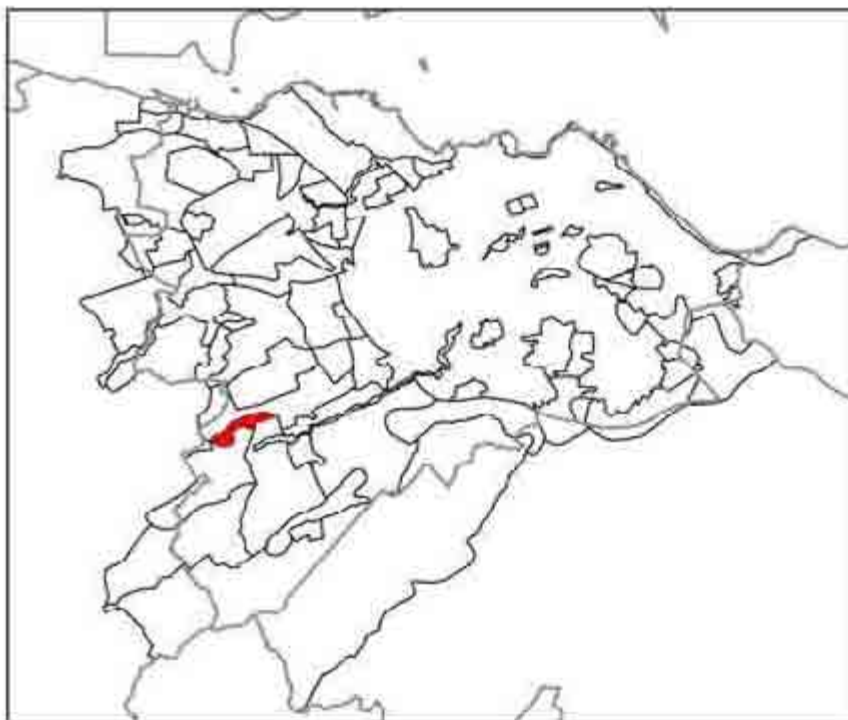
Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	High
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	Low
Prominence	High
Receptors	High
Landscape condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This character area is typical of a few isolated small hills such as the Ratho Hills and Dalmahoy Hill, which outcrop within more gently undulating agricultural landscapes in the wider rural area surrounding the City.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Similar igneous outcrop hills occur within the Lothians and include hills with a more distinctive conical form such as Berwick Law in East Lothian
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Although the distinctive wooded ridge and isolation of Craigie Hill make it a relatively rare feature within Edinburgh, it is often perceived as being an extension of the rolling landform of the Dalmeny Estate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This character area is not rare within the wider context of the Lothians.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Craigie Hill is visible from the surrounding Almond Valley area and from the A90. It is not readily visible from Edinburgh or Queensferry although footpaths and the seasonally popular fruit farm introduce people to this area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This area is not visually prominent from the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	A small outcrop hill with some scenic value in its landform, woodlands and association with the nearby Dalmeny GDL

• Visibility	Not widely prominent but rather forms part of the wider landform of small rolling hills north west of Edinburgh and highly visible from the A90
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	Footpaths within woodlands and fruit farm/café
• Recreation areas	None
• Transport routes	A90 aligned close to this area
Culture	
• HLA and sites	18th-19 th century rectilinear fields and 18 th -20 th century woodland and forestry, also 19 th century to present amalgamated fields. Iron Age fort
• GDL	Dalmeny GDL nearby
• Conservation Areas	No conservation area
• Associations	No identified associations
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	Woodlands will be of value
• Geodiversity	This outcrop hill has volcanic origins
• Remoteness	This area is not remote
• Tranquillity	Nearby transport routes and air traffic limit tranquillity
• Wildness	This area has no qualities of wildness
Condition	Woodland management evident and Craigie Farm also well-managed although derelict houses and former quarry give a perception of poor condition in places
Forces for change	New farm buildings have changed this landscape in the recent past and changes to farming operations may also continue to occur in the future

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Kaimes and Dalmahoy Hills	Rural outcrop hills	Lothian farmland	32



Description

3.222. Kaimes and Dalmahoy Hills lie along the line of the Colinton fault which is a steep change in landform from the gently rising farmland to the north and the

gently sloping hillsides to the south rising to the Pentlands. Kaimes Hill, 259m AOD has been subject to quarrying in the past and the quarry has been subsequently filled by tipping, leaving the jagged quarried ridge of rock standing above the adjacent modified landform. Dalmahoy Hill rises to 246m AOD and has also been quarried. Processing facilities for current quarrying lie on the north side of the ridge and are clearly visible from the A71 and the Edinburgh-Glasgow rail line. Both hills are dolerite sills, where magma rose through the rock strata but was trapped and solidified before reaching the surface.

- 3.223. The reclaimed tip area of Kaimes hill is used for grazing. Dalmahoy Hill has areas of gorse, bracken and rough grass. There is a trig point on Dalmahoy Hill and both hills provide extensive views over the surrounding area.
- 3.224. Both hills are prominent in the landscape and are visible from large areas of the west Edinburgh landscape. Kaimes Hill is particularly noticeable due to its jagged and modified outline. Both hills are crowned with scheduled Iron Age hillforts, although the vitrified fort on Kaimes Hill has been largely destroyed by quarrying.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	High
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	Low
Prominence	High
Receptors	Medium
Landscape condition	Medium

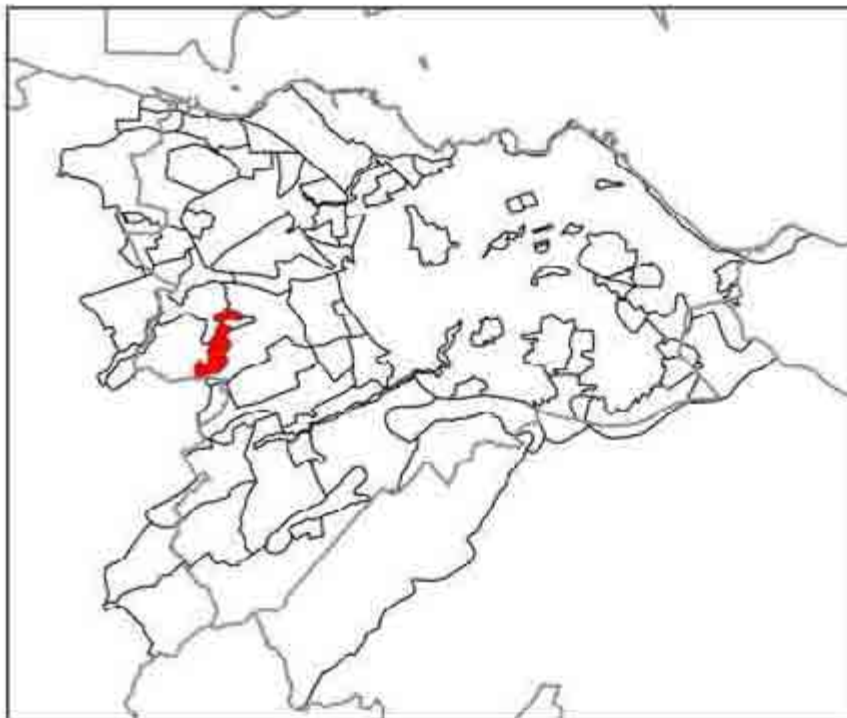
Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Dolerite sills form most of the hills of the west side of Edinburgh such as Corstorphine Hill, Turnhouse Hill, Mons Hill, Dalmahoy Hill and Binny Craig ⁵ . However Kaimes and Dalmahoy Hill lie along a locally prominent ridge line with an east west alignment and the steepness of the north slope is particularly notable.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	The landform is fairly typical of Edinburgh and the Lothians with a number of examples of steep and distinctive hills such as Cockleroy Hill in West Lothian.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	There is similarity between the steeply rising slopes with quarrying at Wardlaw and Torduff Hill at the northern edge of the Pentlands. However these hills are distinctive within Edinburgh. Dolerite sills form most of the hills on the west side of Edinburgh such as Corstorphine Hill, Turnhouse Hill, Mons Hill, Dalmahoy Hill and Binny Craig.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	There are a number of other examples of dolerite sills within the local area
Prominence	

⁵ http://www.snh.org.uk/publications/online/geology/edinburgh_wlothian/intrusions.asp

• Edinburgh	These hills form a landmark feature within the Edinburgh area, however they lack the prominence of the more isolated hills such as Corstorphine. These hills are a landmark feature from a number of nearby settlements and also the A71.
• Lothians	The rising backdrop of the Pentlands reduces the prominence of these hills. Due to their location close to the local authority boundary with West Lothian, the hills are visible from the nearby West Lothian settlements.
Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	Exposed, elevated peaks located on a ridge, modified by quarrying.
• Visibility	This area is visible from main road and rail routes.
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	There are paths providing access to the hill summits
• Recreation areas	The area is used for recreation.
• Transport routes	The A70 and A71 and Edinburgh – Glasgow Central railway pass close to this landscape.
Culture	
• HLA and sites	The hill summits are prehistoric to present rough grazing with 20 th century landfill, 20 th century drained rough grazing and quarrying. Some 20 th century buildings. There are forts on the summits of both Kaimes and Dalmahoy Hill which are scheduled ancient monuments.
• GDL	The GDL inventory listed Dalmohoy policies lie to the north of the hills, and to the west are the densely wooded policies of Kirknewton.
• Conservation Areas	There are no conservation areas close to the landscape character area.
• Associations	Kaimes hill has an abandoned land-fill site on its Western side which is now restored.
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	The area is not significant for biodiversity
• Geodiversity	The hills lie along the line of a fault and are dolerite sills
• Remoteness	The hills lie within a close distance to settlements and other built features.
• Tranquillity	The quarrying and proximity to road and rail routes reduces the sense of tranquillity.
• Wildness	Despite the modifications to the landform by quarrying, the proximity to the Pentlands conveys a sense of wildness, reinforced by the more rugged landform and vegetation.
Condition	
Condition	The landscape has been fragmented by quarrying and the proximity of features such as electricity pylons, road and rail.
Forces for change	
Forces for change	Continued quarrying and restoration work will influence the character of the landscape.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Ratho Hills	Rural outcrop hills	Lothian farmland	23



Description

- 3.225. The Ratho Hills form a long, undulating ridge, broken by the village of Ratho and the Union Canal which sit in a narrow valley to the north. An isolated small wooded hill, lying between the canal and the M8, forms an extension to the main ridge. Quarrying on the southern edge of Newbridge has disrupted the continuity of the ridge further north.

- 3.226. Long, smooth slopes of arable land rise gently to the elongated ridge of the hills. To the east, the hill slopes gradually merge with the Ratho Farmland character area with its distinctive pattern of field trees. A narrow well-managed shelterbelt of beech and sycamore, with a developing under-storey of cherry and ground flora, snakes over the softly undulating ridge of the hills. A large operational quarry occupies the west-facing slopes of the hills although is not readily visible from the ridge. 1940s housing on the edge of Ratho extends onto lower hill slopes and newer development is intrusive on the edge of farmland. Ratho Mains farmstead, tucked at foot of the hills to the east, has a more sympathetic relationship to this rural landscape.
- 3.227. Although relatively lowly, the surrounding low-lying farmland increases the prominence of the Ratho Hills while the sparse shelterbelt tracing its ridge makes it recognisable in distant views. Elevated views eastwards from the ridge-top footpath are extensive, taking in the broad swathe of attractive farmland and coalescing woodlands in the foreground to the distant City, where Arthur's Seat forms a focus.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	High
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	Medium
Prominence	High
Receptors	High
Landscape Condition	High

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This character area is typical of the isolated small hills, such as Craigie and Dalmahoy, which outcrop within more gently undulating landscapes. Arthur's Seat is the most distinctive of these hills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Similar outcrop hills occur within the Lothians and include hills with a more distinctive conical form such as Berwick Law in East Lothian
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The distinctive wooded ridge and isolation of the Ratho Hills set within a well-managed rural landscape make it a relatively rare feature within Edinburgh. While lacking the iconic form of Arthur's Seat and the rugged qualities of other outcrop hills, and affected to some extent by quarrying and development, the Ratho Hills form an attractive overall landscape composition with well-managed farmland to the east.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This character area is not rare within the wider context of the Lothians.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The Ratho Hills are locally prominent, visible from Ratho village and the Union Canal. They are not readily visible from the urban area of Edinburgh due to their relatively lowly height and intervening woodland and buildings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	While visible from parts of West Lothian, these hills are not notably distinctive in the same way as Arthur's Seat or Berwick Law or the much higher and more extensive hill range of the Pentlands
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	The distinctive rolling wooded ridge and well-managed farmed slopes of these small outcrop hills are of scenic quality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	Locally prominent
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	Footpath on ridge of hills with links to Ratho. The canal is also an important recreational route with walking, cycling and boat trips.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	None known
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	Relatively minor roads nearby
Culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLA and sites 	Mixture of 18 th -19 th century rectilinear fields and 19 th century to present amalgamated fields.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDL 	Hatton House with the remains of 17 th century formal gardens and planting is located at the southern end of the hills.

• Conservation Areas	No conservation area
• Associations	No identified associations
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	Some limited value from woodland
• Geodiversity	No significant geodiversity
• Remoteness	This landscape is not remote
• Tranquillity	A degree of tranquillity can be experienced in this area
• Wildness	None
Condition	Footpaths and woodlands well-managed with new planting evident. Farmland also well-managed.
Forces for change	Changes to agricultural management and possible quarrying adjacent to this LCA.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE: SETTLED FARMLAND

Character areas

- Airport (72)
- Broomhill Farmland (43)
- Brunstane farmland (45)
- Craigmillar farmland (47)
- Craigpark farmland and quarries (40)
- Danderhall farmland (46)
- East Hermiston farmland (30)
- Gogar farmland and institutions (29)
- Liberton fringes (54)
- Queensferry fragmented farmland (14)
- Queensferry farmland (16)
- Riccarton institutional landscape (28)

Key Characteristics

- Gently undulating landform;
- Arable farmland, pasture and set aside;
- Settlement extends to the perimeter of this landscape character type and piecemeal built development and communications links may be found within the landscape;
- Woodland and field boundaries are likely to be remnant policies;
- Lack of prominence due to low lying nature of the landscape;
- Fragmented landscape with a mix of land uses.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Edinburgh Airport	Settled farmland	Lothian farmland	72



Description

3.228. Edinburgh Airport occupies a large area of flat and low lying land located between the River Almond and the mainline railway to Fife and the A8 to the

south. The runways, airport buildings and constant arrival and departure of planes mean that there is a lot of movement and noise within the landscape. Historically the origins of Edinburgh airport are from the First World War when it was used as an aerodrome by the RAF.

- 3.229. The airport is prominent within the landscape from the areas in the west of Edinburgh, and particularly from the M9 and A7 where aircraft are seen low in the sky. The landscape character area encompasses the buildings which comprise the airport terminal, Exhibition Centre and Royal Highland Showground. The site of the Royal Highland Showground and Exhibition Centre is that of a former country house estate, although the perimeter woodlands are the main remaining evidence of this. Future expansion of the airport and buildings will impact on the character of this area.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Medium
Land cover	Low
Cultural heritage	Low
Settlement	High
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	High
Landscape condition	Low

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The landscape is notably flat within this area, however there are similar areas of low lying farmland nearby. There is little farmland in this LCA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Runways, hangers and industrial uses associated with the airport are typical of other WW2 airports such as East Fortune in East Lothian. The fragmented pattern of development and large scale buildings in open flat landscape also typical features
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The use as an airport is unique within Edinburgh
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	The use as an airport of this scale is unique within the Lothians
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The airport is relatively prominent within Edinburgh, particularly to the west where the movements of planes are particularly visible and audible.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	The landscape character area is not prominent within the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	The landscape is strongly influenced by the airport buildings and runways and is an extensive flat area with low scenic value.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	The low lying nature of the landform limits visibility.
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	The landscape is screened to some extent by the peripheral buildings and some trees but is visible from the A8 and Edinburgh – Glasgow and Fife railway lines.

Culture	
• HLA and sites	The airport has been heavily modified during the 20 th century to present.
• GDL	Former designed landscape on site of Royal Highland Showground.
• Conservation Areas	No
• Associations	Previously a RAF base took on commercial operations in 1947
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	No biodiversity value
• Geodiversity	No geodiversity value
• Remoteness	No sense of remoteness due to use as an airport
• Tranquillity	Constant disturbance due to movement of planes.
• Wildness	Heavily modified landscape due to use as an airport.
Condition	
Forces for change	The area is managed as a airport. Expansion of the airport and movement of the Royal Highland showground.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Broomhill settled farmland	Settled farmland	Lothian farmland	43



Description

- 3.230. This is an area of low lying to gently rising farmland extending from 125m AOD to 160m AOD. It extends to the south of the Edinburgh City bypass where the land rises to a low ridge.
- 3.231. This landscape character area is a mixture of arable fields and pasture with some hedgerows, stone walls and post and wire fencing. An area of woodland is sited within a slight depression in the centre of this farmland.
- 3.232. The Edinburgh city by-pass passes through the landscape character area and three pylon lines conjoin at a sub station to the south east.
- 3.233. Morton House and Morton Mains lie to the west of this landscape character area on a low knoll and are characterised by the associated trees. There are also trees along the line of the burn which crosses this landscape character area. Other watercourses include the Lothian Burn and Pentland Burn which follow modified routes. To the south of the by-pass there are a number of small holdings and some residential properties, and the landscape is more fragmented in this area.
- 3.234. This landscape character area has an important visual relationship with the Pentland Hills, particularly the northern slopes and area around the ski slope. Views from the City bypass and A702 are also important. The majority of the urban edge is well screened by woodland which forms a strong boundary.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Low
Land cover	Low
Cultural heritage	Low
Settlement	Low
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	High
Landscape condition	Medium

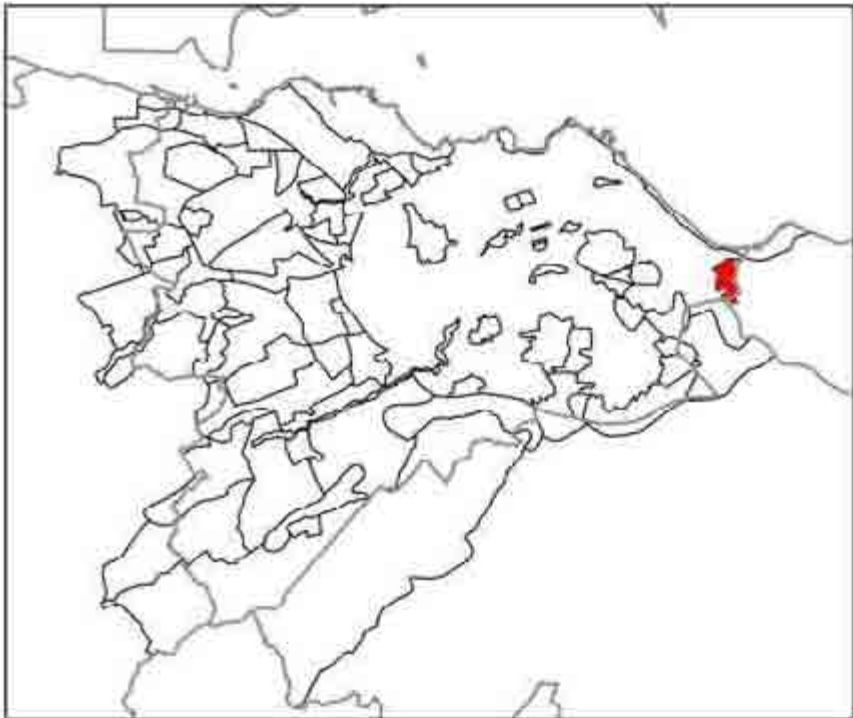
Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This area is largely typical of the lowland farmland landscapes of Edinburgh with large open fields and undulating topography.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This area is typical of the farmland of the Lothians.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	There are no key characteristics which identify this landscape as rare or unique within Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape character area is not rare or unique within the Lothians.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This area is quite prominent due to its proximity to the Edinburgh City bypass and the Pentland Hills.

• Lothians	This area has some visibility in the context of the Lothians due to its location close to the boundary with Midlothian and the Edinburgh City by-pass, however it is not prominent in physical terms.
Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	Gently rolling farmland with large arable fields, some hedgerows and areas of woodland.
• Visibility	There is high visibility from main transport corridors.
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	There is a network of local paths within the area.
• Recreation areas	There are no recreation areas.
• Transport routes	The A720 passes through the landscape character area.
Culture	
• HLA and sites	A mixture of 18 th to 19 th century rectilinear fields and 19 th century to present amalgamated fields.
• GDL	The nearby Mortonhall has introduced some policy landscape features such as stone walls and woodland into the landscape.
• Conservation Areas	The area around Morton Mains is a Conservation Area.
• Associations	Nothing of note.
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	The area is not significant for biodiversity.
• Geodiversity	The area is not significant for geodiversity.
• Remoteness	The urban influences of the city bypass and multiple pylon lines, along with the proximity to the city mean the area does not feel remote.
• Tranquillity	The proximity to the city bypass reduces any sense of tranquillity.
• Wildness	The farmed lowland landscape does not have a sense of wildness.

Condition	The landscape features are well managed.
Forces for change	New development and changes in agriculture would influence the character of the landscape.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Brunstane Farmland	Settled farmland	Lothian Farmland	45



Description

- 3.235. This is a largely flat to very gently undulating area of farmland lying between Brunstane, Newhailes in East Lothian and Newcraighall. The area comprises large arable fields with some outgrown hedgerows and trees. The area is crossed by the north east coast railway to North Berwick and a disused railway line, which is now an access route, runs alongside the current track.
- 3.236. Although adjacent to the policies of Newhailes, the influence of these does not extend into this landscape character area. The urban edge of Brunstane and Newcraighall is prominent in this landscape and comprises dense, modern housing estates. The landscape is also crossed by power lines which have a strong visual influence and there is noise intrusion from the A6095. The development of Queen Margaret College is taking place just over the local authority boundary in East Lothian.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Low
Land cover	Low
Cultural heritage	Low
Settlement	Medium
Prominence	Low
Receptors	Low
Landscape condition	Low

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This low lying arable farmland is typical of the landscape of the City of Edinburgh with a high degree of fragmentation by road and railway lines, areas of new development and the close proximity of the urban edge typical of urban fringe landscapes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape character area is typical of the Lothians. Large low lying arable fields are particularly common in East Lothian, and the recent settlement expansion in many of the towns linked by the railway means many areas adjoin the urban edge.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This landscape is not rare or unique within Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape is not rare or unique within the Lothians.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This landscape character area is not prominent within Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape character area is not prominent within the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	This is an open area of arable farmland with large scale fields, influenced by urban features such as pylons and built development

• Visibility	The area is visible from the main railway line.
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	The disused railway line provides a recreational route.
• Recreation areas	There are no recreation areas.
• Transport routes	The east coast mainline railway passes through the landscape character area.
Culture	
• HLA and sites	19 th century to present amalgamated fields. There are two scheduled ancient monuments but they are not prominent in the landscape.
• GDL	The area lies adjacent to Newhailes inventory listed GDL.
• Conservation Areas	There are no conservation areas adjacent to the landscape.
• Associations	Nothing of note.
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	The area has low biodiversity value, however the Brunstane Burn and nearby woodlands of Newhailes provide some value.
• Geodiversity	The area is not significant for geodiversity.
• Remoteness	The urban edge is highly visible from within this landscape character area.
• Tranquillity	The area is crossed by the east coast mainline railway which introduces intermittent noise and movement into the landscape.
• Wildness	The landscape is intensively managed for agriculture and is strongly influenced by the urban edge and features such as the pylons and railway.

Condition	The area is intensively farmed and some of the hedgerows are outgrown.
Forces for change	New development in nearby areas would impact on the character of this landscape which has an extensive and open character.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Craigmillar Farmland	Settled farmland	Lothian farmland	47



Description

3.237. This is a gently undulating landscape which rises to the north to the low ridge with Craigmillar Castle and Hawkhill Wood (82m AOD) and towards Edmonstone to the south 80m AOD. The low lying area of land between

these two points contains the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. The land associated with the hospital will be developed as a biomedical research facility.

- 3.238. There is a mixture of arable farmland and pasture with some small areas of woodland and the field boundaries include patchy hedgerows and outgrown hedgerow trees. There is some influence from the policy woodlands of Craigmillar Castle and Edmonstone. The surrounding residential area of Greendykes includes dense 2-3 storey houses, blocks of flats and occasional tower blocks. The urban edge is bounded by tree belts in places which soften the visual influence of the edge.
- 3.239. The fields are on a large scale and have an open aspect with views to Holyrood Park and Arthur's Seat, and the Braid Hills. Although the urban edge is prominent this landscape character area has an important role in separating the Greendykes area from the residential areas to the west of the A7. This area is also a feature in southerly views from Craigmillar Castle, although the Royal Infirmary building is prominent within the landscape.
- 3.240. The development of the Royal Infirmary has introduced a new and visually dominant feature into the landscape. Land which is reserved for future development is currently uncultivated and this influences the character of the area. The development of the new biomedical research facility at Little France will increase the dominance of built development within this landscape.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Low
Land cover	Low
Cultural heritage	Low
Settlement	High
Prominence	Low
Receptors	Medium
Landscape condition	Low

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Large fields with strong urban influences and a degree of new built development are largely typical of the lowland farmland found to the east of Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape character area is largely typical of the Lothians farmland, particularly close to Loanhead where there is a high degree of fragmentation by new development
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This landscape character area is not rare or unique within Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape character area is not rare or unique within the Lothians.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This landscape is not prominent within the Edinburgh context.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape is not prominent within the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	Lying within a shallow dip this is a gently undulating landscape with large open fields. The influence of the urban edge is prominent, as is the Royal Infirmary development.

• Visibility	This landscape can be viewed from Arthur's Seat and Craigmillar Castle, as well as from the A7.
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	There are no identified recreation routes.
• Recreation areas	There are no recreation areas
• Transport routes	The A7 runs alongside the landscape character area
Culture	
• HLA and sites	A mixture of 18 th to 19 th century rectilinear fields and 19 th century to present amalgamated fields. A prehistoric settlement which is a scheduled ancient monument is located on the southern ridge.
• GDL	The policy landscapes of Craigmillar Castle and Edmonstone are located to the north and south of the area.
• Conservation Areas	There are no conservation areas close to the landscape character area.
• Associations	No known associations
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	The area is not significant for biodiversity.
• Geodiversity	The area is not significant for geodiversity.
• Remoteness	The proximity of the urban edge and built development of the Royal Infirmary means that this landscape is not remote.
• Tranquillity	The A7 is a busy road and this introduces noise and movement to the landscape.
• Wildness	No qualities of wildness due to urban location and landuse
Condition	
Condition	The field boundaries are poorly managed and farmland is not cultivated.
Forces for change	
Forces for change	Development of the biomedical research facility at Little France will introduce more built development into the landscape, affecting the landscape character.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Craigpark Farmland and quarries	Settled farmland	Lothian farmland	40



Description

- 3.241. This area comprises the northern end of the Ratho Hills, which has a very different character to the hills south-east of Ratho village as it is significantly modified by quarrying and dissected by a complex network of roads.
- 3.242. The extensive industrial estate of Newbridge, concentrated around the junction of the M9/M8 junction and railway, abuts the lower hill slopes of this area to the north. A number of disused and operational quarries disrupt the landform of the hills, leaving odd slivers of wooded hill sides and banks of scrubby gorse around worked rock faces. This fragmented pattern is accentuated by the complexity of roads, railways and the M8 which dissect the landscape and create severed pockets of farmland. Craigpark quarry lies on the western slopes of the Ratho Hills and is largely disused with active quarrying only undertaken to the south where planted artificial bunds aligned on the edge of arable fields, form a screen against the B7030. The Edinburgh International Climbing Arena, squeezed between the narrow wooded cleft of the Union Canal and the M8, dramatically utilises quarried rock face. Occasional isolated houses are sited on the fringes of Hillwood and adjacent to partially restored/semi-derelict areas of land while the Norton House Hotel is located on long east-facing hill slopes, surrounded by parkland and policy woodlands.
- 3.243. This character area is visible from the B800 where it is seen as a backdrop of low scrubby hills behind the Newbridge industrial estate. A telecommunications mast is a prominent feature at Hillwood although the quarry void in this same area is screened by perimeter woodlands and retained hill slopes. Views from the east to this area are more attractive as the farmed hill slopes and woodlands around the Norton House Hotel screen the cluttered landscape of quarries and roads behind.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Medium
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	Low
Settlement	Low
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	Low
Landscape Condition	Low

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Disused quarries are a feature of most of the small outcrop hills within Edinburgh although few have been quarried as extensively and none are currently operational. The fragmented pattern of this area caused by communications and piecemeal industrial development is typical of other 'urban fringe' character areas, although few are as strongly modified.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	There are similar quarried hill ranges within the Lothians although none have the notably fragmented pattern or urban context of this area.
Rarity / uniqueness	

• Edinburgh	This character area is only rare within Edinburgh in terms of the degree of modification that has occurred to the landscape by extensive quarrying and built infrastructure.
• Lothians	This landscape is found occasionally within the Lothians on the fringes of larger urban areas
Prominence	
• Edinburgh	This area is not readily visible from surrounding roads (the M8 is aligned in cutting) and retained hill slopes and woodlands screen views of quarry voids in many places.
• Lothians	This area is not visible from the Lothians
Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	The fragmented pattern of this area caused by communications and piecemeal industrial development result in low scenic quality
• Visibility	Not readily visible from surrounding settlements and roads
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	Canal and towpath
• Recreation areas	Edinburgh International Climbing Arena
• Transport routes	M8 borders this area
Culture	
• HLA and sites	19 th century to present quarries, 19 th century to present amalgamated fields, and some 18 th -19 th century rectilinear fields.
• GDL	None
• Conservation Areas	None
• Associations	No identified associations
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	Scrub woodland may be of interest
• Geodiversity	Exposed rock faces may be of interest although no designated sites
• Remoteness	This area is not remote due to the close proximity of major transport routes, settlements and industrial areas
• Tranquillity	Traffic noise and quarry operations preclude tranquillity
• Wildness	None
Condition	
Condition	Areas of derelict land and quarrying give a perception of poor landscape condition
Forces for change	
Forces for change	Quarrying, restoration of former quarried areas and possible pressures for built development.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Danderhall farmland	Settled farmland	Lothian farmland	46



Description

- 3.244. This character area is largely located within Midlothian with just a small part falling within Edinburgh to the north-west of the junction of the A68 and A720. The A720 forms the southern boundary of this area while to the east a distinct

transition occurs where former mining activity has left a legacy of extensive derelict land and remnant infrastructure.

- 3.245. The landscape has a flat to gently undulating landform, rising to the north-west to form a distinct ridge of higher ground; this emphasised by the remnant wooded policies of Edmonstone. This area is crossed by roads and former railway lines and the A720 and parallel transmission lines are prominent features on the southern edge of this landscape. Large arable fields occupy the flatter ground to the south and are enclosed by intact stone walls; to the north the integrity of farmland is lost to some extent as fields become more fragmented around settlements and where farmland abuts pockets of derelict land and restored tips. This is a generally open landscape with the main area of woodland comprising the remnant policies and later plantings around the site of the demolished Woolmet House. Poplar trees are a characteristic feature aligning roads and former railway lines. The handsome late 17th century Newton House and church tower and occasional 19th century stone cottages, add interest to this landscape although utilitarian 1950's Coal Board housing in Danderhall and dispersed throughout the surrounding area tends to dominate. A large 'Park and Ride' facility is under construction on the south-western edge of this area against the A7.
- 3.246. This landscape is visible from the A720 where it forms the foreground to distant views of Edinburgh, Arthur's Seat and the Pentlands. The urban edge of Edinburgh is contained by the ridge of land between Edmonstone and Shawfair.

Summary of key characteristics

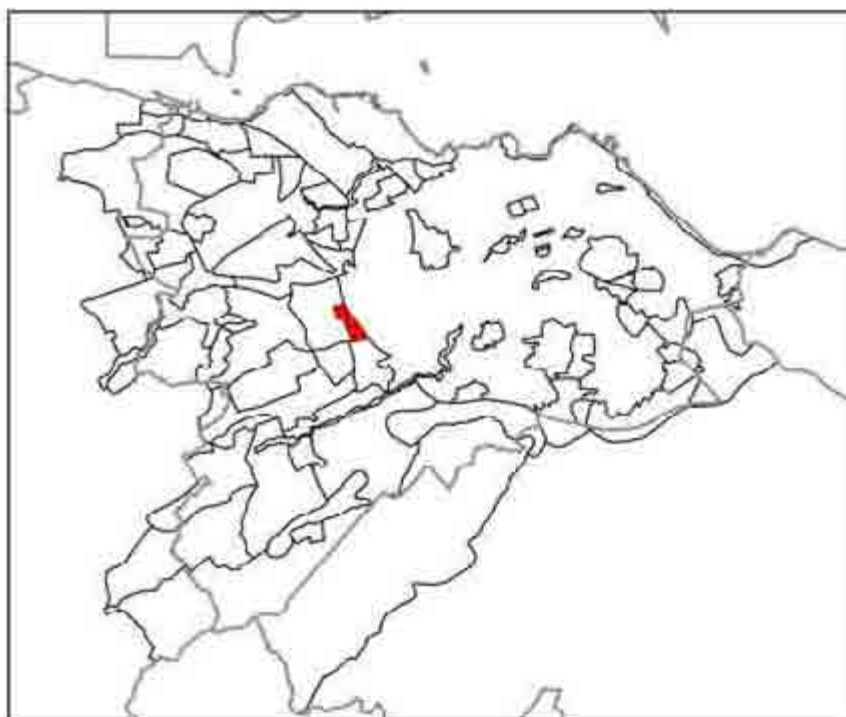
Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Low
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	High
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	Medium
Landscape Condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Components of this area are typical of many farmed landscapes lying adjacent to the urban edge where roads, buildings and power lines influence character. The openness of this area and evidence of past mining activity are also typical of the Burdiehouse Farmland to the west
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape is typical of many farmed landscapes in the Lothians lying on the fringes of urban areas.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This area is not unique or rare within Edinburgh although well-managed farmland and the buildings around Newton House are important in providing an attractive foreground to views towards Edinburgh from the A720
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This area is not unique or rare within the Lothians
Prominence	

• Edinburgh	This area is visible from the A720 but it is not readily seen from Edinburgh due to the containment offered by the ridge at Edmonstone on the City boundary.
• Lothians	This area is visible from parts of Midlothian although intervening woodland, landform and buildings limit views from within the populated Esk valleys
Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	Gently undulating to flat farmland influenced by the urban edge and with an often fragmented pattern of piecemeal development including old mine workings/restored sites, industrial railways and high voltage power lines. This area is of limited scenic quality
• Visibility	Visible from the A720 City bypass
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	Footpaths
• Recreation areas	Football pitches close to Danderhall
• Transport routes	A720 City bypass and minor roads
Culture	
• HLA and sites	18 th -19 th century rectilinear fields and 19 th century to present amalgamated fields.
• GDL	Newton House is an inventory listed GDL which is particularly noted for its historic and architectural significance.
• Conservation Areas	None
• Associations	No identified associations
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	No significant biodiversity
• Geodiversity	No significant geodiversity
• Remoteness	This area is not remote
• Tranquillity	The proximity of the A720 and the urban edge precludes tranquillity
• Wildness	None
Condition	
Condition	Occasional derelict sites and poorly restored tips give an impression of poor condition although farmland in the south of this area is well-managed.
Forces for change	
Forces for change	Shawfair/Millerhill proposed development plan will bring about considerable change to this area

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
East Hermiston Farmland	Settled farmland	Lothian farmland	30



Description

- 3.247. This area of farmland rises gently to the south towards Hermiston and the A71. The area is covered by arable farmland with some hedgerows and tree belts. An avenue of trees extends from close to Gogarburn Broiler Farm

towards the city bypass and similarly, an avenue of trees extending north from East Hermiston farm is truncated by the motorway.

- 3.248. The Union Canal runs east – west through the landscape between the M8 and the A71. The main settlement in the landscape includes the chicken farm units with associated workers pre-fabricated accommodation. There are a number of other industrial uses including a scrap yard, tool hire, car spares sales and a cash and carry. These developments are dispersed within farmland. The chicken sheds are low lying and muted in colour and the cash and carry screened by trees, but the scrap yard is particularly prominent.
- 3.249. There is a high density of transport corridors which create a great deal of movement and noise within the landscape. The city bypass creates a strong edge to the urban area with the roadside embankments and tree planting. This is a landscape fragmented by the numerous developments within it, but still retaining characteristics of remnant policies, and lying in close proximity to more intact rural landscapes.
- 3.250. The development of the M8 and city bypass are key areas of past change which have had significant impact on this landscape character area.

Summary of key characteristics

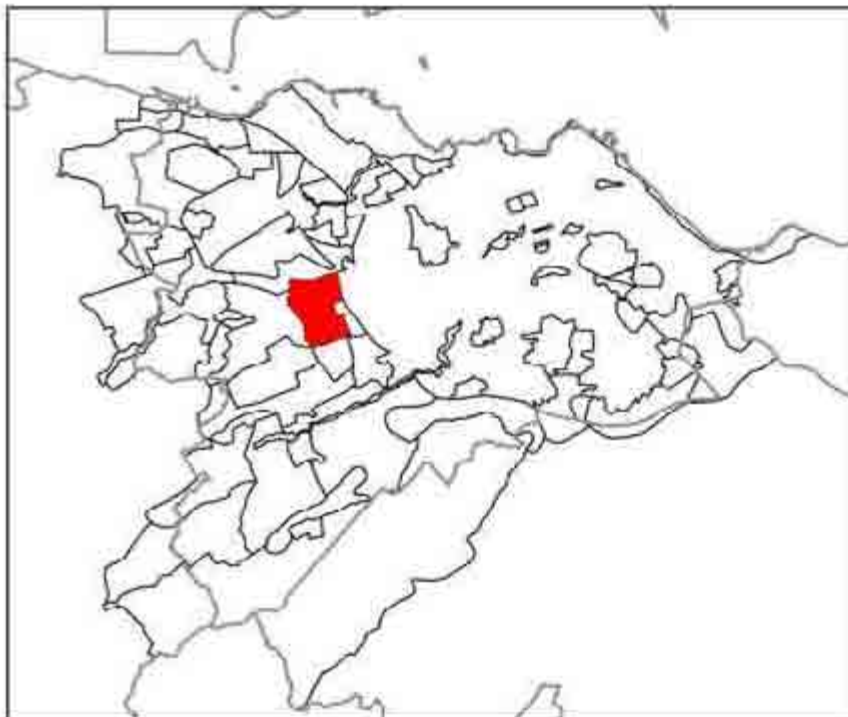
Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Low
Land cover	Low
Cultural heritage	Low
Settlement	Medium
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	Medium
Landscape condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Similar landscapes with a fragmented landuse pattern and strongly influenced by transport corridors occur on the urban fringes of Edinburgh
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Within the Lothians there are a greater number of examples of fragmented urban fringe
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This landscape character area is not rare or unique within Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape character area is not rare or unique within the Lothians.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This landscape character area is relatively prominent due to the transport routes which pass through it.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape character area is not prominent within the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	The fragmented pattern of farmland, industrial development and nearby transport corridors characterise this area although woodland and field trees have some value.

• Visibility	The area is partially visible from the A720 although planting screens these views, the area is highly visible from the railway.
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	There is limited access within this landscape character area although the canal is well used.
• Recreation areas	There are no recreation areas.
• Transport routes	The area lies adjacent to the A720 and is cross by the Glasgow – Edinburgh railway line.
Culture	
• HLA and sites	19 th century to present amalgamated fields.
• GDL	Millburn Tower to the north is an inventory listed GDL, and the nearby Gogarbank is a small designed landscape.
• Conservation Areas	The adjacent area at Hermiston Farm is designated a Conservation Area.
• Associations	No significant cultural associations.
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	There is limited biodiversity value in the area due to the urban land uses.
• Geodiversity	There is no significant geodiversity.
• Remoteness	The area lies adjacent to the city edge.
• Tranquillity	There is a great deal of noise and movement from the transport routes, and the business and industrial uses within the landscape.
• Wildness	The landscape is highly modified and influenced by urban development.
Condition	
Condition	Myriad of landuses gives an impression of poor condition and woodlands are in decline
Forces for change	
Forces for change	Pressures for built development

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Gogar Farmland and Institutions	Settled farmland	Lothian farmland	29



Description

- 3.251. The boundaries of this character area are formed by the major road corridors of the A8, A71 and the City By-pass. To the west, there is a more gradual transition as the gently undulating farmland and wooded remnant policies of this area merge with the adjacent Ratho Farmland.
- 3.252. The remnant wooded policies of the late 19th century Gogarburn House in the north of this area provide a containing edge for the Royal Bank of Scotland HQ, which is set in simple but well-designed grounds with ornamental lake and parkland. Wooded policies also form the setting for the Gogar golf course and the Inventory listed designed landscape of Millburn Tower; only evident by the occasional specimen conifers which punctuate its perimeter woodlands. Gently undulating land at the core of this character area is occupied by broad open fields used for experimental cropping associated with the Scottish Agricultural Science Agency (SASA), which is housed in a large new building at Roddinglaw.
- 3.253. The narrow valley of the Gogar Burn is aligned on its north side by housing, including the early 19th century Gogar Bank House and a collection of stone-built cottages. Large wooded grounds and trees within the Suntrap Garden contain this area and create an intimate scale, surprising in its proximity to the M8, railway and peripheral scrap yard to the east. Further to the south, the Union Canal threads through a narrow corridor, hemmed-in between the M8 and the A71.
- 3.254. Although close to major transport routes, policy woodlands visually contain this character area and also screen large scale buildings sited amongst them, giving an overall impression of a well-managed rural landscape. The Millburn Tower and Gogar Park policies form a continuous wooded backdrop set behind a foreground of arable fields, highly visible from the city by-pass. The railway offers open views over the farmland in the core of this area although views from the M8 are limited as it is aligned in a cutting.

Summary of key characteristics

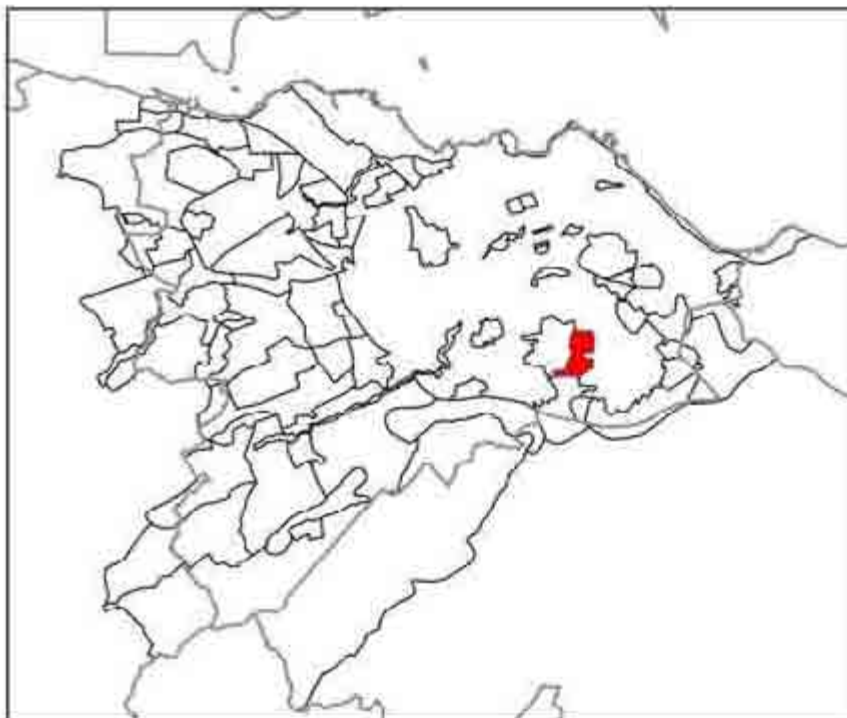
Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Low
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	Medium
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	High
Landscape Condition	High

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This area is typical of a few other landscapes situated on the outer fringes of Edinburgh where there is a degree of influence from communications and peripheral development but where former policy woodlands aid the integration of new uses and screen buildings. The Riccarton campus has similar features

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	There are a few landscapes comprising remnant policies and farmland throughout the Lothians which accommodate similar development. These include the Bush Estate in Midlothian
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	While not unique, this landscape is rare within Edinburgh because of its mix of landuses and the intactness of policy woodlands which are important in providing a backdrop to the western outer edge of the city.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This area is not unique or rare within the Lothians
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The policies of Gogar and Millburn Tower continue the long band of woodlands, including those of Riccarton, forming a containing edge and green backdrop to the city visible from the by-pass. This character area is not readily visible from the city of Edinburgh and from key roads due to perimeter woodlands although is visible from the railway. Public access is very limited.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This area is not visible from the Lothians
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	Remnant policy woodlands, new landscape features providing the setting to institutions and the intimately scaled valley and wooded grounds of handsome houses in Gogarbank have some scenic quality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	Visible from major transport routes
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	None known
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	Golf course and Suntrap Garden
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	M8 and A8 border this area
Culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLA and sites 	Predominantly 19 th century to present amalgamated fields with some areas of 17 th to 19 th century policies and parkland. The Union Canal is a Scheduled Monument.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDL 	Millburn Tower is GDL inventory listed. Other policy influences include Gogar Mount, Gogar Park, Gogarburn and Hanley, lying adjacent to the A8, Hermiston House, Kellerstain and Suntrap Garden.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Areas 	Hermiston village Conservation Area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associations 	No identified associations
Naturalness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity 	Woodlands are likely to be of some value
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geodiversity 	No significant geodiversity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remoteness 	This area is not remote
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tranquillity 	The presence of major transport routes and the airport precludes tranquillity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildness 	None
Condition	
	Experimental cropping areas are intensively managed and the landscapes associated with institutions are well maintained.
Forces for change	
	There may be pressure for built development in this area.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Liberton fringes	Settled farmland	Lothian farmland	54



Description

- 3.255. This character area comprises the long eastern flanks of the Braid Hills which extend down to the urban area of Liberton and are bounded by Edinburgh University's King's Buildings to the north and the remnant policy landscape of Mortonhall to the south.

- 3.256. The farmland and piecemeal built development characteristic of this area distinguishes it from the craggy landform and semi-natural vegetation of the adjacent Braid Hills, although this landscape forms a natural extension to the hills because of its similar elevated, albeit simpler, topography. The landform comprises a gently sloping plateau in the south, falling to the distinct valley of the Braid burn to the north. Arable farmland is the predominant landcover, forming an unusual pocket of rurality within an urban context. Fields are enclosed by semi-derelict stone walls and some hedgerows, dotted with occasional scrubby ash trees. The wooded policies and planted roundals associated with the former Mortonhall estate form a backdrop to the west although elsewhere this area has a more open character with only small groups of trees associated with the grounds and small paddocks around the late C16th Liberton House. In places, the integrity of farmland is diminished by dispersed built development including a former anti-aircraft gun battery position dating from the Second World War, riding stables, kennels and golf driving range; the dark leylandii hedging and large sheds of the latter development highly visible in this open landscape. The ochre-rendered late medieval tower house of Liberton forms a focus in the open landscape being located on elevated ground above the Braid valley. Neat clustered stone farmsteads, such as the C19th Liberton Tower Mains and Meadowhead, are dispersed and contrast with the dense urban edge of nearby Liberton which is visually prominent.
- 3.257. While this area is less distinctive than the adjacent Braid Hills, its elevation and open farmland result in this landscape being visible from other more elevated parts of the city. Views from this landscape are striking and tend to focus northwards to the city, where Arthur's Seat is the principal focus, because of the containment provided by the Braid Hills and a ridge of land north of Mortonhall.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	High
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	High
Prominence	High
Receptors	Medium
Landscape Condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The piecemeal built development characteristic of this area is typically found in many other landscapes close to the urban edge. Arable farmland is also common within the wider rural area of Edinburgh (but not within the city) as are remnant policy plantings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape is typical of many farmed areas found on the edge of urban areas where dispersed built development has created a fragmented landscape pattern
Rarity / uniqueness	

• Edinburgh	The managed farmland of this area makes this landscape rare within the urban context of the city although less rare within the wider Edinburgh rural area. The architectural heritage and remnant policy plantings of this area, while not particularly rare in the context of Edinburgh, are distinctive features within this landscape.
• Lothians	This area is not unique or rare within the Lothians.
Prominence	
• Edinburgh	This landscape is mainly prominent from southern and eastern parts of the city and from elevated viewpoints such as Arthur's Seat and Carlton Hill where it appears as a natural extension to the Braid Hills because of its elevated landform
• Lothians	This area is not visually prominent from the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	While this area of farmland and piecemeal built development is not of intrinsic scenic quality, its association with the Braid Hills increases its value
• Visibility	Visible locally and from elevated viewpoints within the city
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	Footpaths linking with the Braid Hills and Mortonhall
• Recreation areas	Golf driving range
• Transport routes	Urban roads
Culture	
• HLA and sites	18 th -19 th century rectilinear fields and 19 th century to present amalgamated fields.
• GDL	Formal gardens and policy woodland surround the restored Liberton House.
• Conservation Areas	No conservation area
• Associations	No identified associations
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	No significant biodiversity
• Geodiversity	No significant geodiversity
• Remoteness	This area is not remote
• Tranquillity	This area has limited tranquillity
• Wildness	None

Condition	Farmland appears well-managed although field boundaries are not maintained.
Forces for change	Pressure for built development.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Queensferry fragmented farmland	Settled farmland	Lothian farmland	14



Description

3.258. The character area comprises a flat to gently undulating area of land to the south west of Queensferry. This area contains a mixture of land uses and is subject to current change through the construction of the M9 link to the Forth

road bridge (A8000). There are some areas of arable farmland and set aside. A remnant avenue of trees extends west of Dalmeny and there is woodland associated with the railway line. Other significant land uses include the large oil storage depot south of Dalmeny. This area is screened by large bunds with immature woodland planting. Other significant developed features include an area of derelict land and the industrial units at Royal Elizabeth Yard which is a former Royal Naval stores station. The buildings of the Royal Elizabeth Yard are low density with industrial character brick buildings. The area is further fragmented by transport routes including the two converging railway lines which provide access to Fife, and the M9. The different land uses create a fragmented landscape.

- 3.259. The landscape character area is quite visually contained due to its low lying topography. The southern edge of Queensferry extends to the fields between the settlement edge and the A90.
- 3.260. Construction of the oil storage depots and bunds is a key development which has affected the landscape character in the past. The construction of the new link of the M9 to the Forth road bridge contributes to the fragmented nature of the landscape character area. The development of the Forth Replacement Crossing may impact on this landscape character area.

Summary of key characteristics

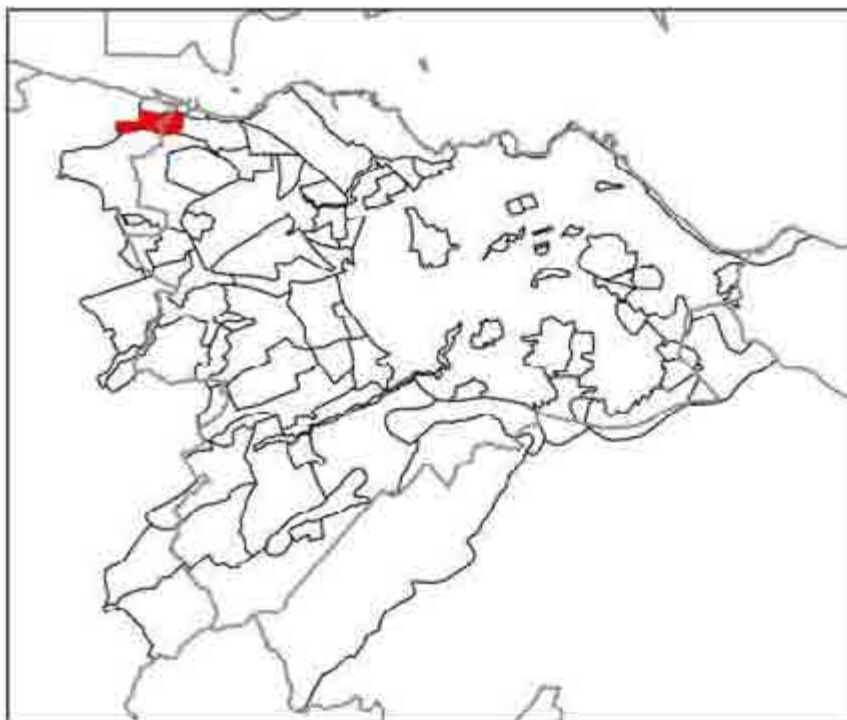
Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Low
Land cover	Low
Cultural heritage	Low
Settlement	High
Prominence	Low
Receptors	Medium
Landscape condition	High

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This is a relatively typical urban fringe landscape with a mixture of different developments and fragmentation by road and railway lines, however it contains a number of distinctive features such as the oil storage depot and Royal Elizabeth Yard.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	There are a number of fragmented urban fringe landscapes within Midlothian and East Lothian.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This character area is not rare or unique within Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This character area is not unique or rare within the wider context of the Lothians
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	This character area is not prominent in relation to the city of Edinburgh, however people travelling on the transport routes of the railway to Fife and the new M9 link to the Forth Road Bridge and the A90 are able to view this landscape character area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This character area is not prominent within the wider context of the Lothians.

Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	Flat to gently undulating landscape with strong influence of built features
• Visibility	The majority of this area is crossed by main transport routes
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	National Cycle route 1 passes through the area along the route of a disused railway line.
• Recreation areas	There are no recreation areas
• Transport routes	The area is crossed by the A90, the M9 extension and Fife railway line to the Forth Rail Bridge
Culture	
• HLA and sites	Predominantly 19 th century to present amalgamated fields.
• GDL	The inventory listed Dundas GDL lies to the west of the area.
• Conservation Areas	The village of Dalmeny is a Conservation Area
• Associations	The Royal Elizabeth Yard is a former Royal Naval stores
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	The area has low biodiversity value
• Geodiversity	The area has low geodiversity
• Remoteness	High level of urban influences
• Tranquillity	Proximity to urban areas, road and transport routes and industrial land uses
• Wildness	Industrial land uses and productive agriculture
Condition	The landscape is highly fragmented by different land uses
Forces for change	Changes in land use and further development will change the character of this landscape.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Queensferry farmland	Settled farmland	Lothian farmland	16



Description

3.261. The Firth of Forth was created as a result of glacial erosion and the depression of the land beneath the weight of the Pleistocene ice. Subsequent

uplifting of the land due to the reduced weight of melting ice and changes in sea level led to the creation of a succession of raised beaches along the coastline. The landform adjacent to the Firth of Forth in this landscape character area is an undulating north facing slope rising to nearly 60m AOD at Headrig Hill. The land is under arable cultivation with remnant hedgerows, post and wire fences and some shelterbelts. The policy woodland of the adjacent Hopetoun Estate creates a wooded character at the periphery of the landscape character area. There is a close relationship between this landscape character area and the adjacent Hopetoun Estate to the west and Dundas to the south. The Forth rail bridge is a key feature in views from this area.

- 3.262. The only settlement within this landscape character area is a large factory building, although the area also adjoins residential housing at the west of Queensferry. This urban edge is quite prominent with a poor relationship between the landform and urban edge and no strong boundary features.
- 3.263. The A904 runs through the south of this landscape character area and in combination with the proximity to the urban edge of Queensferry this makes the area quite visible. However the intervisibility with surrounding landscape character areas is limited to the Newton farmland to the south.
- 3.264. The construction of the factory and changes to the A904 including kerbs and street lighting have introduced new urban elements to this landscape. A second Forth crossing to replace the existing road bridge will be constructed and a potential route may affect this landscape character area.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Medium
Land cover	Low
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	Medium
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	Medium
Landscape condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	There are relatively few undeveloped north facing slopes which extend down towards the Forth within Edinburgh, however the farmland is typical of that found within the Edinburgh area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	The general farmland characteristics of this landscape character area are typical of the Lothians.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	Although the north facing aspect and proximity to the Forth is unusual within Edinburgh, the landscape character area is not rare or unique within Edinburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape character area is not rare or unique within the Lothians.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The relatively small extent, low elevation and north facing aspect mean that this landscape character area is not highly prominent within Edinburgh.

• Lothians	This landscape character area is not prominent within the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	This is a gently sloping area of farmland adjacent to the policy landscape of Hopetoun and the edge of Queensferry
• Visibility	Parts of this area are visible from main road routes
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	The area is used for informal recreation
• Recreation areas	There are no formal recreation areas
• Transport routes	The A904 and B924 provide views of this landscape, a key viewpoint for the bridges is located on the A904 which overlooks this landscape
Culture	
• HLA and sites	Some 17 th to 19 th century policies and parkland, 18 th to 19 th century rectilinear fields and 19 th century to present amalgamated fields. There are policy influences from Hopetoun and Dundas, with areas of policy woodland contributing borrowed landscape value.
• GDL	The area lies adjacent to the inventory listed Hopetoun Estate.
• Conservation Areas	There are no conservation areas nearby
• Associations	This area would have formerly been part of the Hopetoun Estate
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	The area has low value for biodiversity with fragmented hedgerows
• Geodiversity	The landscape is located along a former coastline created from isostatic uplift following the last ice age.
• Remoteness	Located close to the urban area of Queensferry and in close proximity to transport routes.
• Tranquillity	Proximity to important road routes
• Wildness	Agricultural land use and factory development
Condition	The landscape has a fragmented character which could be enhanced through planting to enhance the policy woodland associations of the area.
Forces for change	The development of the Forth Replacement Crossing.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Riccarton institutional landscape	Rolling farmland	Lothian farmland	28



Description

- 3.265. Riccarton is located on a north facing gently rising slope which extends from 80m to 110m AOD. The Riccarton site was formerly an estate dating back to the 14th century⁶. The main house, which is now demolished, dated from the 15th century. Few of the supporting buildings remain but these include three gate lodges and the 18th century walled garden, now surfaced and used as a carpark for Heriot-Watt University. A loch originally created as a fire pond lies close to the centre of the site.
- 3.266. Heriot-Watt University was built from 1967 and the use of the landscape as a university campus dominates the character of the area although the original planting structure of the landscape remains. This includes a lime avenue with sycamores at the east entrance and the dense mixed species perimeter tree belts. The combination of large car parking areas, dense 1970's brown brick buildings, lighting columns, kerbs and other urban features largely eclipse the former character of the policy landscape. The campus is enclosed by perimeter tree belts and these serve to limit views both into and out of this landscape character area. The campus is distinct from the urban edge with agricultural fields between the campus and the city bypass. The development of the university buildings, infrastructure and parking areas has had a significant impact on the quality of the landscape.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Low
Land cover	High
Cultural heritage	Low
Settlement	High
Prominence	Low
Receptors	High
Landscape condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	There are relatively few institutional landscapes in Edinburgh which exist within a former policy landscape. The institutional landscape at Gogar is similar to Riccarton, however the main difference between the two landscapes is the sensitivity by which the new land use has been integrated with the policy landscape, and the extent to which the landscape features remain intact.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	There are a few landscapes comprising remnant policies and farmland throughout the Lothians which accommodate similar development.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The Riccarton institutional landscape is not significantly rare or unique within Edinburgh as there are other examples of more significantly intact policy landscapes and institutional land uses such as Gogar.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This landscape area is not unique or rare within the Lothians.

⁶ The Buildings of Scotland – Lothian Colin McWilliam. Penguin 1978
<http://www.hw.ac.uk/archive/historic.htm>

Prominence	
• Edinburgh	The relatively shallow landform and perimeter trees mean that Riccarton is not prominent within Edinburgh. Although it is located close to the A71 and the city bypass Riccarton institutional landscape is only experienced by those entering the campus.
• Lothians	The Riccarton institutional landscape is not prominent within the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	This is a heavily modified former policy landscape which has been developed as a university campus with large areas of car parking and university buildings. This has largely eclipsed the policy landscape character.
• Visibility	The perimeter woodlands limit views into the landscape.
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	The area is accessed by large numbers of students, however there are not specific recreation routes.
• Recreation areas	There are large areas of playing fields in the grounds, synthetic playing surfaces and indoor recreation facilities.
• Transport routes	The only transport routes within the landscape are the access road for the university.
Culture	
• HLA and sites	19 th century to present farmland with remnant designed landscape features. Former Riccarton House and Estate gifted to university 1969.
• GDL	The landscape is a former designed landscape but is not listed in the inventory.
• Conservation Areas	The Hermiston Conservation Area abuts the northern boundary of the landscape character area
• Associations	Heriot Watt University has plans to expand on the site.
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	The policy woodlands provide some biodiversity value, however the landscape is heavily modified for university use.
• Geodiversity	The area is not significant for its geodiversity.
• Remoteness	The landscape character area lies close to the city of Edinburgh and although a campus, is well connected to the city and transport network.
• Tranquillity	The constant movement of people and vehicles means there is little sense of tranquillity.
• Wildness	The landscape is strongly modified by human influences and has no elements of wildness.
Condition	
	The elements of the former policy landscape which remain have been largely affected and modified by the surrounding development and land use change.
Forces for change	
	Further development of university buildings and facilities would affect the landscape character.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE: URBAN WATERFRONT

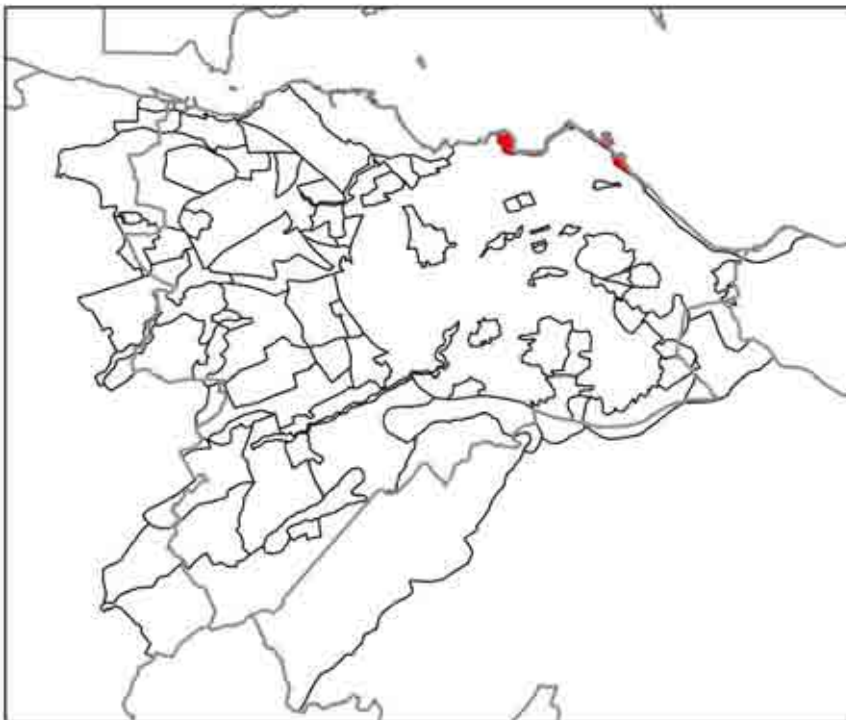
Character areas

- Granton and Leith Waterfront (69)
- Queensferry waterfront (74)

Key Characteristics

- Narrow edge of natural coast with rocky outcrops and small sandy beaches;
- Highly modified coastal edge with retaining walls, harbours and made-up ground;
- Urban edge abuts the coast with a range of industrial and urban development along the shore;
- Strong visual relationship with the coastal islands and Fife, and the Firth of Forth has a naturalistic quality which contrasts with the urban character of the coastal edge;
- Constant movement of boats on the water and activities of seabirds due to importance as feeding habitat;
- Limited access and visibility to some areas of the waterfront due to the industrial and urban development.

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Granton and Leith Waterfront	Urban Waterfront	Forth Waterfront	69



Description

- 3.267. This seascape extends from Granton Point to Seafield. The area is characterised by its consistent urban edge abutting the coast and the strongly modified shoreline of retaining walls, harbours and artificially made-up ground.

- 3.268. The hinterland comprises industrial development, extending into the Firth on flat infill land, west of Granton Harbour and east of Newhaven Harbour to Seafield. The residential area of Trinity and former fishing settlement of Newhaven lie adjacent to the busy coastal road of the A901. Granton Harbour with its long angled stone breakwater and the smaller Newhaven harbour, form a focus along the coast, and are busy with the movement of small sail boats. Extensive new high-rise housing is in the process of construction on infill land backing these harbours. The huge cream-painted towers of the Chancelot flour mill are a landmark visible over a wide area of the city. The Port of Leith forms a much more extensive area of docks and industry extending to the sewage treatment works at Seafield.
- 3.269. The natural coastline is narrow, comprising occasional flat rocky outcrops and small sandy beaches in the lee of Granton Harbour and against the eastern side of the Port of Leith breakwater. The tidal reach is generally limited in this area as sea walls abut the shore. Seabirds are a constant feature of the coast; wet and stormy weather bringing large flocks inland, their sound enforcing the maritime character of this area. The Firth of Forth forms a narrow, broadly even channel with the shore of Fife clearly visible. The island of Inchkeith, with its remnant military defences, is a focus in sea views. The movement of boats include regular coastguard, ferries and cruise liners which add a dynamic element to this seascape.
- 3.270. The presence of industry and docklands restricts access to the shoreline and limits visibility in many places. The coast road between the harbours of Granton and Newhaven offers open views over the Firth of Forth to Fife. Industry and recently built blocks of flats are highly visible from many key viewpoints within the city and the Firth of Forth forms an integral part of the dramatic natural setting of Edinburgh.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Medium
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	Medium
Settlement	High
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	Medium
Landscape Condition	Low

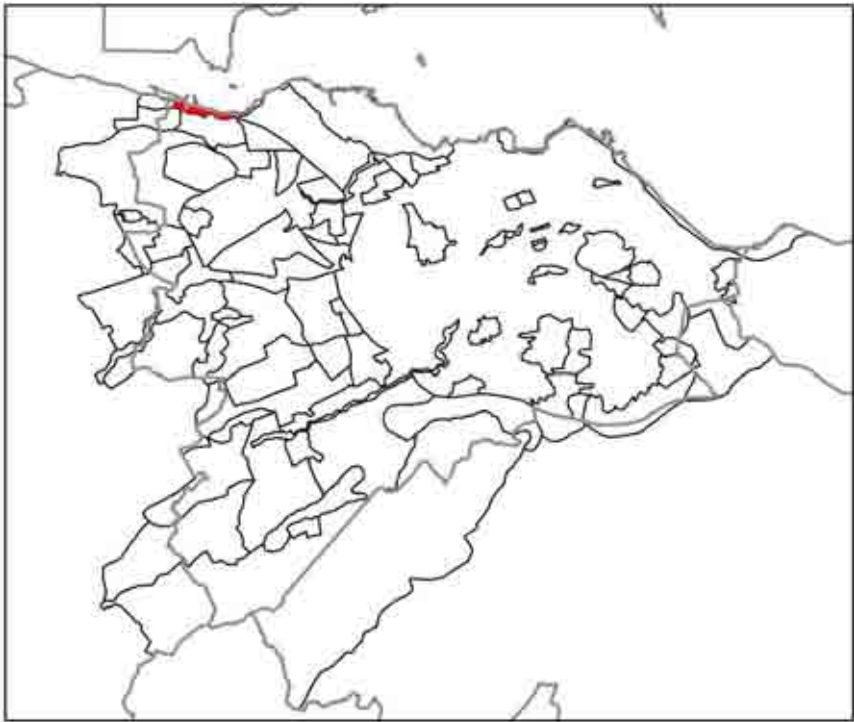
Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The modified character of the coastline including sea walls and harbours and hinterland of industry and housing are typical of the area between Portobello and Musselburgh.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Harbours and sea walls are typical of some other coastal areas located within urban areas in the Lothians although these are generally limited in extent and the coast has a more naturalistic character and rural context.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The naturalistic maritime character of the Firth of Forth and islands is the key attribute of this character area. This contrasts with the highly modified coastal edge and urban hinterland and forms a unique part of Edinburgh's setting

• Lothians	This character area is rare within the wider context of the Lothians only because of its urban context and highly modified coastal edge and hinterland. Seascapes within East Lothian are more naturalistic
Prominence	
• Edinburgh	This area is visually prominent from nearby residential areas and the A901 coast road. The Firth of Forth and tall buildings aligning the coast are visible rather than the coastline itself.
• Lothians	This area is not visible from the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
• Character/qualities	The highly modified coastline and hinterland of industry and housing is generally of low scenic quality although the Firth of Forth and the small harbour of Newhaven has some scenic qualities
• Visibility	Locally visible
Enjoyment	
• Recreation routes	Intermittent coastal esplanade and footpath
• Recreation areas	None
• Transport routes	A901 coast road
Culture	
• HLA and sites	No information available
• GDL	None
• Conservation Areas	No conservation area
• Associations	No identified associations
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	Firth of Forth SPA
• Geodiversity	No significant geodiversity
• Remoteness	None
• Tranquillity	None
• Wildness	Some limited elemental qualities experienced on more open stretches of this coast, particularly in stormy conditions

Condition	Derelict land along coast, piecemeal industry, dumping and development construction sites give an impression of poor condition along many parts of this coastline.
Forces for change	Pressure for built development. This area is in a state of flux as part of major redevelopment plans

Landscape Character area	Landscape Character type	Regional Character type	Map reference
Queensferry Waterfront	Urban Waterfront	Forth Waterfront	74



Description

3.271. This seascape extends from the Forth Rail Bridge to Port Edgar. The landscape is dominated by the presence of the two bridges which provide strong visual focus in

views from the shore. In addition various other built features extend out into the Forth including several piers and the marina at Port Edgar.

- 3.272. The urban edge of Queensferry extends up to the coast where a sea wall separates the settlement from the water. Within Queensferry access from the historic core of the town to the water is limited. Towards the rail bridge the landform flattens out a little at the coastal edge and there is a promenade and parking area providing extensive views to the rail bridge, Fife and the island of Inchgarvie. The policies of Dalmeny provide a backdrop to views to the east.
- 3.273. The natural coastline is narrow with a steeply rising shingle beach with occasional rocky outcrops which punctuate the shoreline. At Port Edgar a steep wooded slope rises above the low lying shore development, and this feature continues close to the Rail Bridge along the route of the disused railway. The movement of traffic and trains on the bridges combined with the movements of boats, birds and water makes this a busy landscape.
- 3.274. Port Edgar is a former Royal Naval Base and currently used as a marina and a sailing school. A proposal for redevelopment of the site is underway which will increase the capacity of the marina and create new houses, shops and public space.

Summary of key characteristics

Criteria	Influence
Geology and Topography	Medium
Land cover	Medium
Cultural heritage	High
Settlement	High
Prominence	Medium
Receptors	High
Landscape Condition	Medium

Landscape Assessment

Criteria	Explanation
Typicality	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The modified character of the coastline including sea walls and harbours is typical of the developed Edinburgh coast.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	Harbours and sea walls are typical of some other coastal areas located within urban areas in the Lothians although the wooded setting of Hopetoun and Dalmeny and influence of the bridges is distinctive.
Rarity / uniqueness	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The coastal edge and naturalistic maritime character of the Firth of Forth is strongly influenced by the proximity of built development and the two bridges which are iconic landmarks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This character area is rare within the wider context of the Lothians because of the influence of the bridges.
Prominence	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edinburgh 	The proximity to the two bridges means that this landscape character area is a frequent feature in views from these transport routes and from Fife. However views within the LCA are limited by built development, landform and the state of the tide.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lothians 	This area is not visible from the Lothians.
Scenic qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character/qualities 	The views across the Firth of Forth and the two bridges, along with the maritime influence of the Forth give this landscape character area some scenic value.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visibility 	Views to the coast are limited in places, however the popularity of the area and importance for visitors and transport makes this a visible landscape.
Enjoyment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation routes 	The former railway from Queensferry to Ratho Station is a cycle route and popular for recreation in Queensferry.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreation areas 	The waterfront area is popular with visitors.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport routes 	The Forth road and rail bridges are important transport routes.
Culture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLA and sites 	The urban core of Queensferry is medieval in date, the rest of the area is strongly influenced from the 19 th century. The island of Inchgarvie is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDL 	None

• Conservation Areas	The historic core of Queensferry is a Conservation Area.
• Associations	Queensferry is the historic location for a ferry crossing of the Forth, and the location of the Forth Rail bridge which was constructed in 1883
Naturalness	
• Biodiversity	The coast of the Firth of Forth is designated as a Ramsar site, Special Protection Area and Site of Special Scientific Interest.
• Geodiversity	The rocky outcrops of the coastal edge and stepped landform
• Remoteness	The built up area and transport movements mean that there is no sense of remoteness.
• Tranquillity	The constant traffic and rail movements, alongside the busy waterfront make this a dynamic landscape.
• Wildness	The landscape is highly modified by built features and there is no sense of wildness.

Condition	The landscape is influenced by the range of features both natural and manmade which occupy the shore. This creates a busy landscape, although the individual landscape features are of reasonable quality.
Forces for change	The redevelopment of Port Edgar and the construction of the Forth Replacement Crossing will strongly influence the character of the landscape.

Appendix 1

Field survey form

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT FIELD SURVEY

Location:	Date:
Draft Landscape Type:	
Draft Landscape Areas:	

Physical Influences
Topography
Geology/Soils
Hydrology
Landcover and habitats
Designations
Landscape Patterns
Communication
Field Boundaries
Woodland/trees (form, pattern, species, condition)
Cultural Influences
Settlement within Landscape
Pattern
Density
Age, style, materials

Relationship to landscape	
Aesthetic/Perceptual Qualities	
Intervisibility	
With adjacent landscape character areas:	
With key landmarks:	
With key viewpoints:	
With key transport corridors:	
Relationship with the urban edge	
Evaluation of Landscape Character	
Initial evaluation	Discussion
Negative	
Positive	
Sensitivity	
Value	

<p>Perception of landscape quality:</p> <p>Unique or distinctive rural character:</p> <p>Scenic qualities:</p> <p>Enjoyment qualities:</p> <p>Cultural qualities:</p> <p>Naturalness:</p>
<p>Sensitivity and Value</p>
<p>Mechanisms of change:</p> <p>Evidence of change:</p> <p>Has change so far resulted in positive, negative or neutral impacts?</p>
<p>Overall Objective: Conserve/Enhance/Regenerate/Create</p>
<p>Key features to bring forward through enhancement or regeneration:</p>
<p>Summary description:</p>

Sketch (relationship of key characteristics)

Appendix 2

Landscape character areas sequenced by map reference number

Regional Character Area	Landscape type	Landscape Character Area	Map reference number
Forth Waterfront	Coastal sands	Cramond coast	1
City of Edinburgh	Recreational open space	Silverknowes golf course	2
City of Edinburgh	Policy landscape	Laurieston policies	3
City of Edinburgh	Recreational open space	Barnton golf courses	4
Lothian farmland	Incised river valley	Lower Almond Valley	5
Lothian farmland	Lowland farmland	Cammo fringe farmland	6
Lothian farmland	Policy landscape	Cammo policies	7
Lothian farmland	Lowland farmland	Lennie golf course	8
Lothian farmland	Lowland farmland	West Craigs farmland	9
Lothian farmland	Lowland farmland	Almond farmland	10
Lothian farmland	Rural outcrop hills	Craigie Hill	11
Forth Waterfront	Policy landscape	Dalmeny policies	12
Lothian farmland	Lowland farmland	Dalmeny fringes	13
Forth Waterfront	Settled farmland	Queensferry fragmented farmland	14
Lothian farmland	Policy landscape	Dundas policies	15
Forth Waterfront	Settled farmland	Queensferry settled farmland	16
Lothian farmland	Lowland farmland	Newton farmland	17
Lothian farmland	Lowland farmland	Niddry farmland	18
Lothian farmland	Policy landscape	Newliston policies	19
Lothian farmland	Lowland farmland	Newbridge/Broxburn farmland	20
Lothian farmland	Policy landscape	Craigiehall policies	21
Lothian farmland	Rolling farmland	Ratho farmland	22
Lothian farmland	Rural outcrop hills	Ratho Hills	23
Lothian farmland	Incised river valley	Upper Almond Valley	24
Lothian farmland	Rolling farmland	Bonnington farmland	25
Lothian farmland	Policy Landscape	Dalmahoy policies	26
Lothian farmland	Rolling farmland	Gowanhill farmland	27
Lothian farmland	Settled farmland	Riccarton institutional landscape	28
Lothian farmland	Settled farmland	Gogar farmland and institutions	29
Lothian farmland	Settled farmland	East Hermiston farmland	30
Lothian farmland	Rolling farmland	Baberton farmland	31
Lothian farmland	Rural outcrop hills	Kaimes Hill	32
Lothian farmland	Pentland flanks	Leith plateau farmland	33
Pentland hills	Pentland flanks	Currie sloping wooded farmland	34
Pentland hills	Pentland flanks	Redford basin	35
Pentland hills	Pentland flanks	Cockburn geometric wooded farmland	36
Pentland hills	Pentland hills - upper slopes and summits	Bavelaw geometric wooded farmland	37
City of Edinburgh	Incised river valley	Water of Leith Colinton to Balerno	38
Pentland hills	Pentland flanks	West Pentland fringe	39
Lothian farmland	settled farmland	Craigpark fragmented farmland	40
Pentland hills	Pentland flanks	North Pentland slopes	41
Pentland hills	Pentland hills - upper slopes and summits	Pentland heights	42
Lothian farmland	Settled farmland	Broomhill farmland	43
Lothian farmland	Rolling farmland	Burdiehouse farmland	44
Lothian farmland	Settled farmland	Brunstane farmland	45
Lothian farmland	Lowland farmland	Danderhall settled farmland	46
Lothian farmland	Settled farmland	Craigmillar farmland	47
Lothian farmland	Policy landscape	Craigmillar policies	48

Regional Character Area	Landscape type	Landscape Character Area	Map reference number
Lothian farmland	Policy landscape	Drum policies	49
City of Edinburgh	Prominent urban hills	Corstorphine Hill	50
City of Edinburgh	Prominent urban hills	Craiglockhart Hills	51
City of Edinburgh	Prominent urban hills	Braid Hills	52
Lothian farmland	Policy Landscape	Mortonhall policies	53
Lothian farmland	Settled farmland	Liberton fringes	54
Lothian farmland	Policy landscape	Edmonstone Policies	55
City of Edinburgh	Policy landscape	Duddingston Policies	56
City of Edinburgh	Informal open space	Duddingston Loch	57
City of Edinburgh	Recreational open space	Prestonfield golf course	58
City of Edinburgh	Incised river valley	Water of Leith New Town	59
City of Edinburgh	Prominent urban hill	Holyrood Park	60
City of Edinburgh	Formal urban greenspace	The Meadows	61
City of Edinburgh	Prominent urban hill	Castle Rock	62
City of Edinburgh	Formal urban greenspace	Princes Street Gardens	63
City of Edinburgh	Prominent urban hill	Calton Hill	64
City of Edinburgh	Formal urban greenspace	Queen Street Gardens	65
City of Edinburgh	Formal urban greenspace	Leith Links	66
City of Edinburgh	Formal urban greenspace	Royal Botanic Gardens	67
City of Edinburgh	Formal urban greenspace	Inverleith Park	68
Forth Waterfront	Urban waterfront	Granton and Leith waterfront	69
Forth Waterfront	Coastal sands	Portobello sands	70
City of Edinburgh	Incised river valley	Water of Leith Slateford to Colinton Dell	71
Lothian farmland	Settled farmland	Airport	72
Lothian farmland	Policy Landscape	Dreghorn Woodland and Barracks	73
Forth Waterfront	Urban waterfront	Queensferry waterfront	74
Forth Waterfront	Coastal sands	Hopetoun coast	75