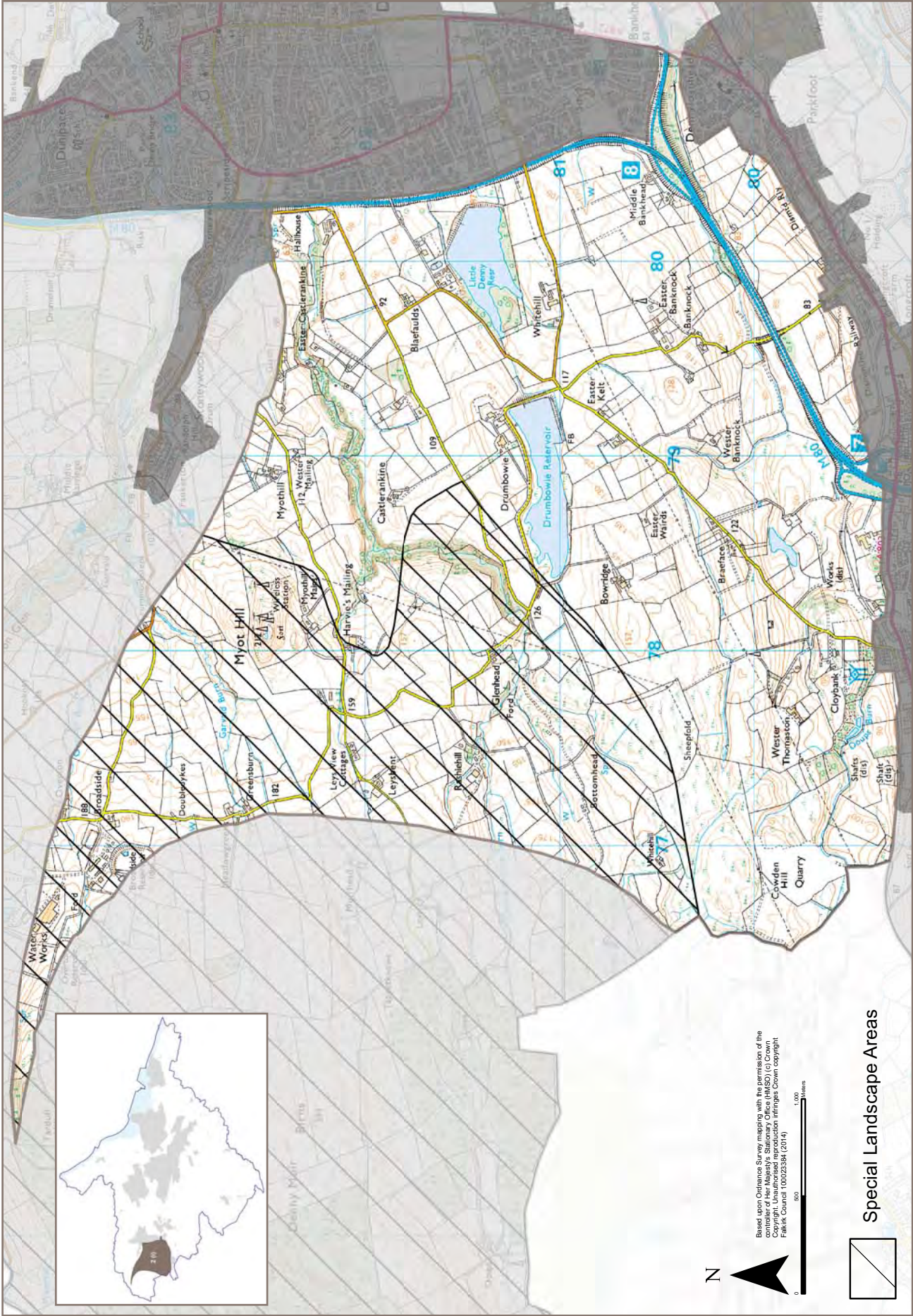


3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Local Landscape Character Area 2(i) Denny Hills Fringe

3.19



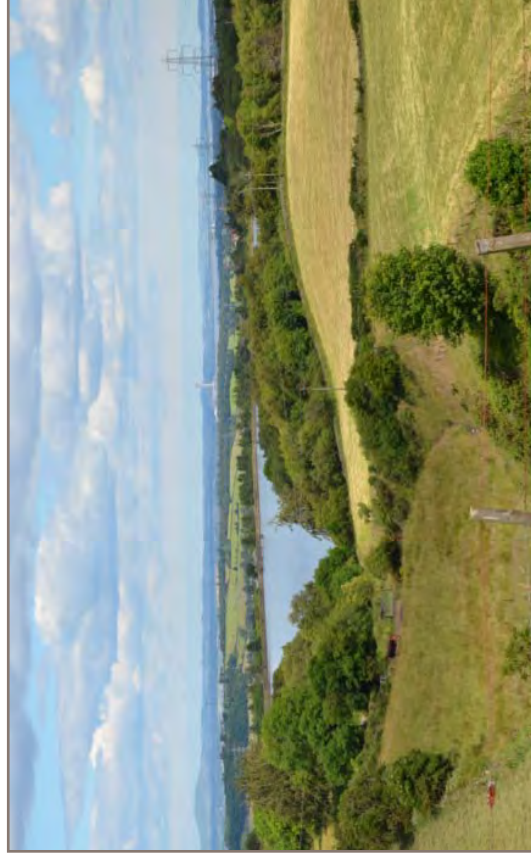
3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

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

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

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



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

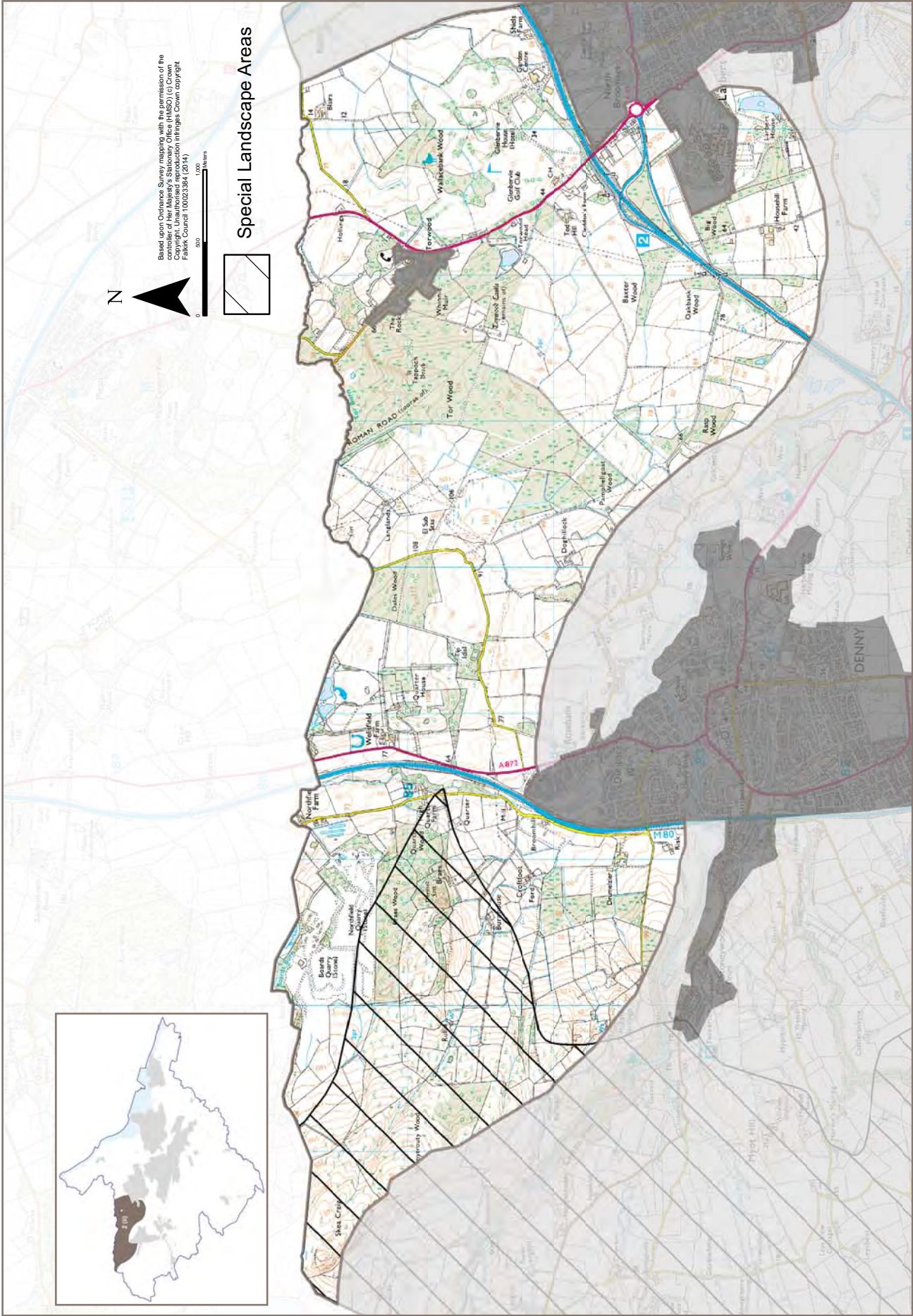
Guidelines 2(i) Denny Hills Fringe

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

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Local Landscape Character Area 2(ii) Touch Hills Fringe

3.23



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

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

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

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



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

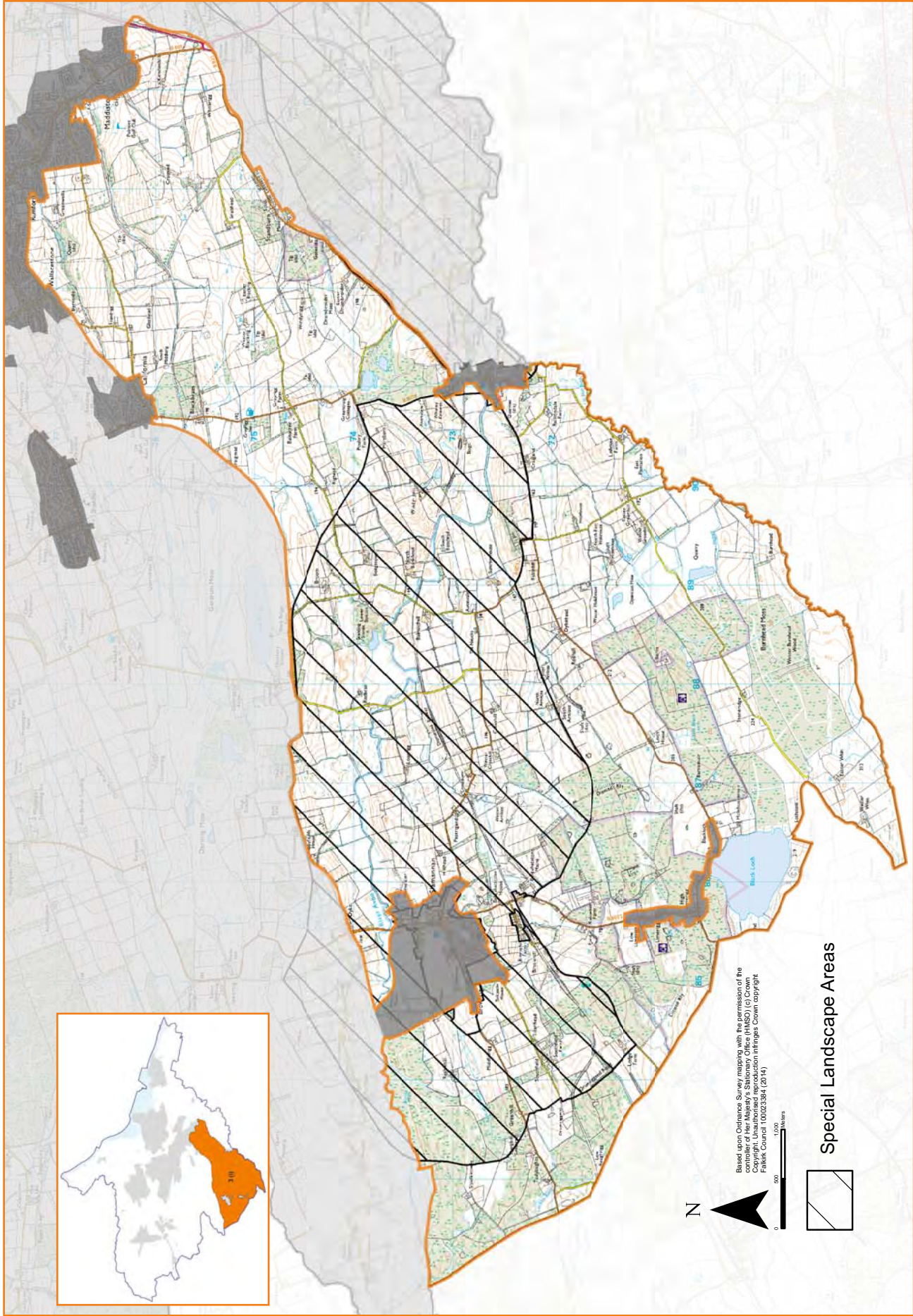
Guidelines 2(ii) Touch Hills Fringe

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

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Local Landscape Character Area 3(i) Siamannan Plateau

3.27



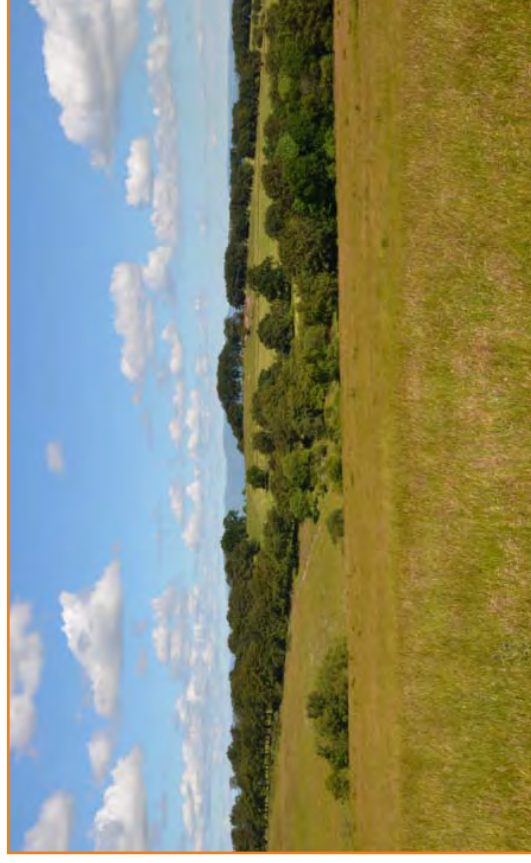
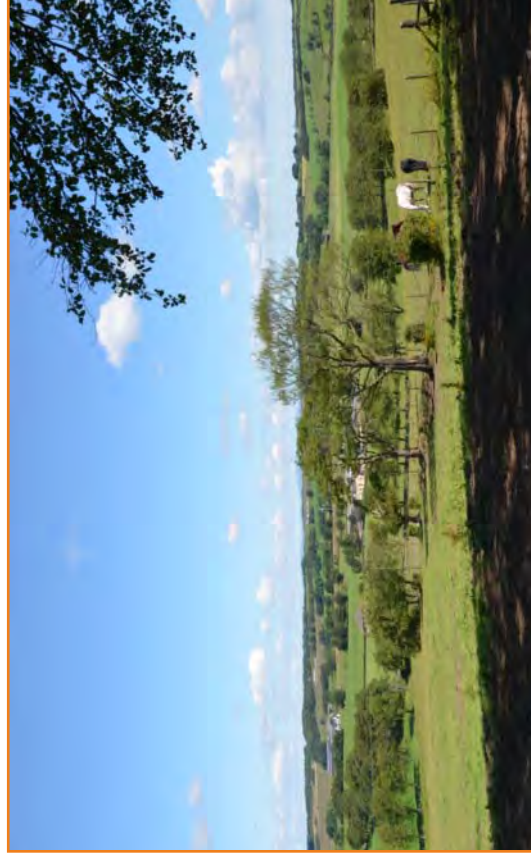
3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

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

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

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



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Guidelines 3(i) Slamannan Plateau

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

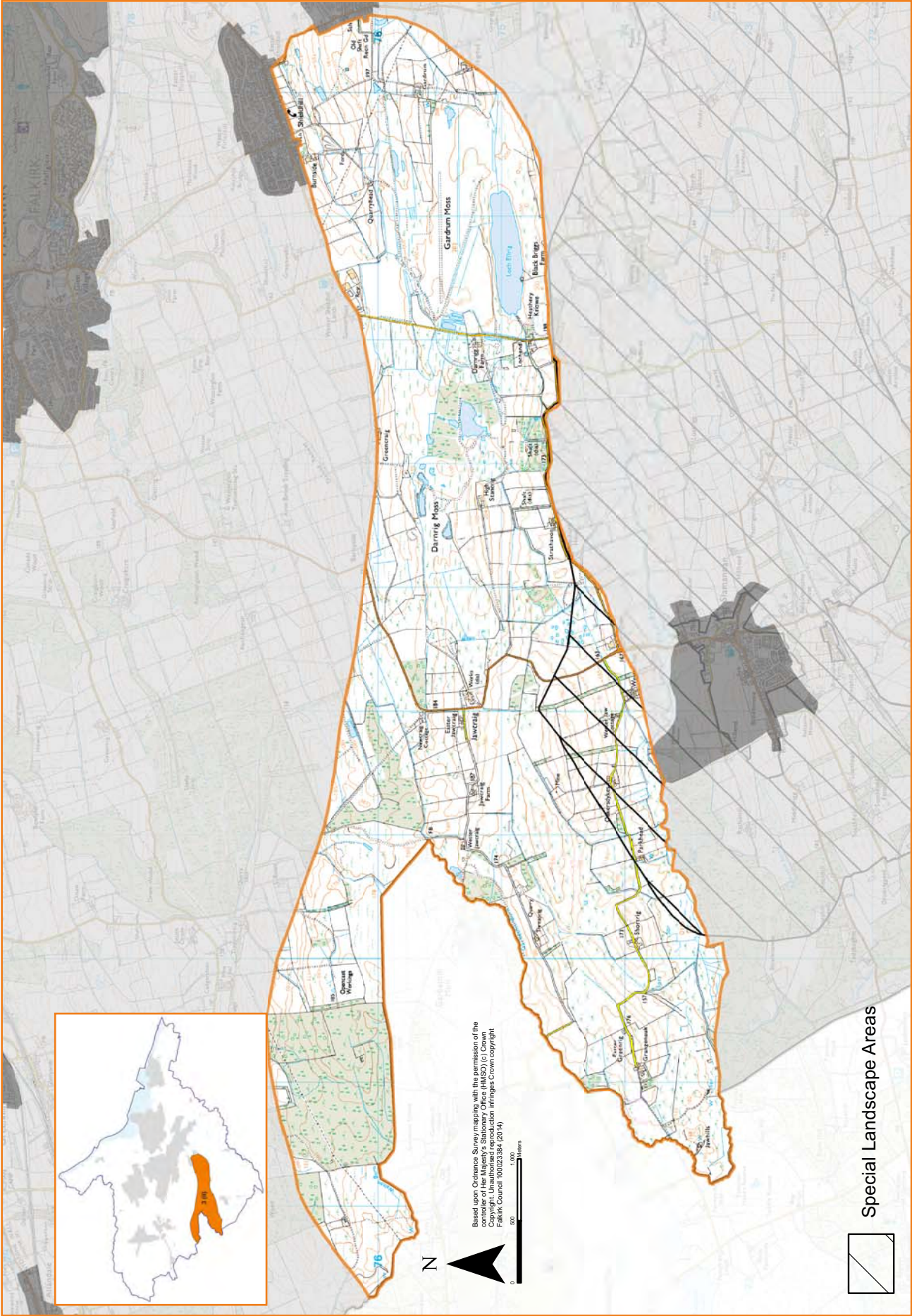
3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

- Ensure new boundary treatments and gateways associated with new development and steading conversions are of sympathetic design for the rural location; this is noted as a sensitivity along rural roads.
- Encourage retention and management of shelterbelts, trees, hedgerows and drystone walls along field boundaries; these are identified as important landscape elements which are sensitive to loss.

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

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

3.31



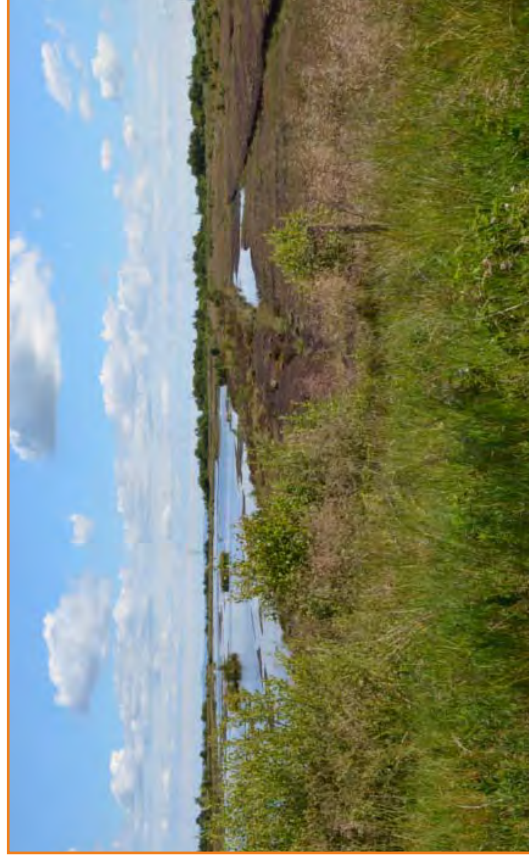
3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

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

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

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



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Guidelines 3(ii) Darnrig/Gardrum Plateau Moorland

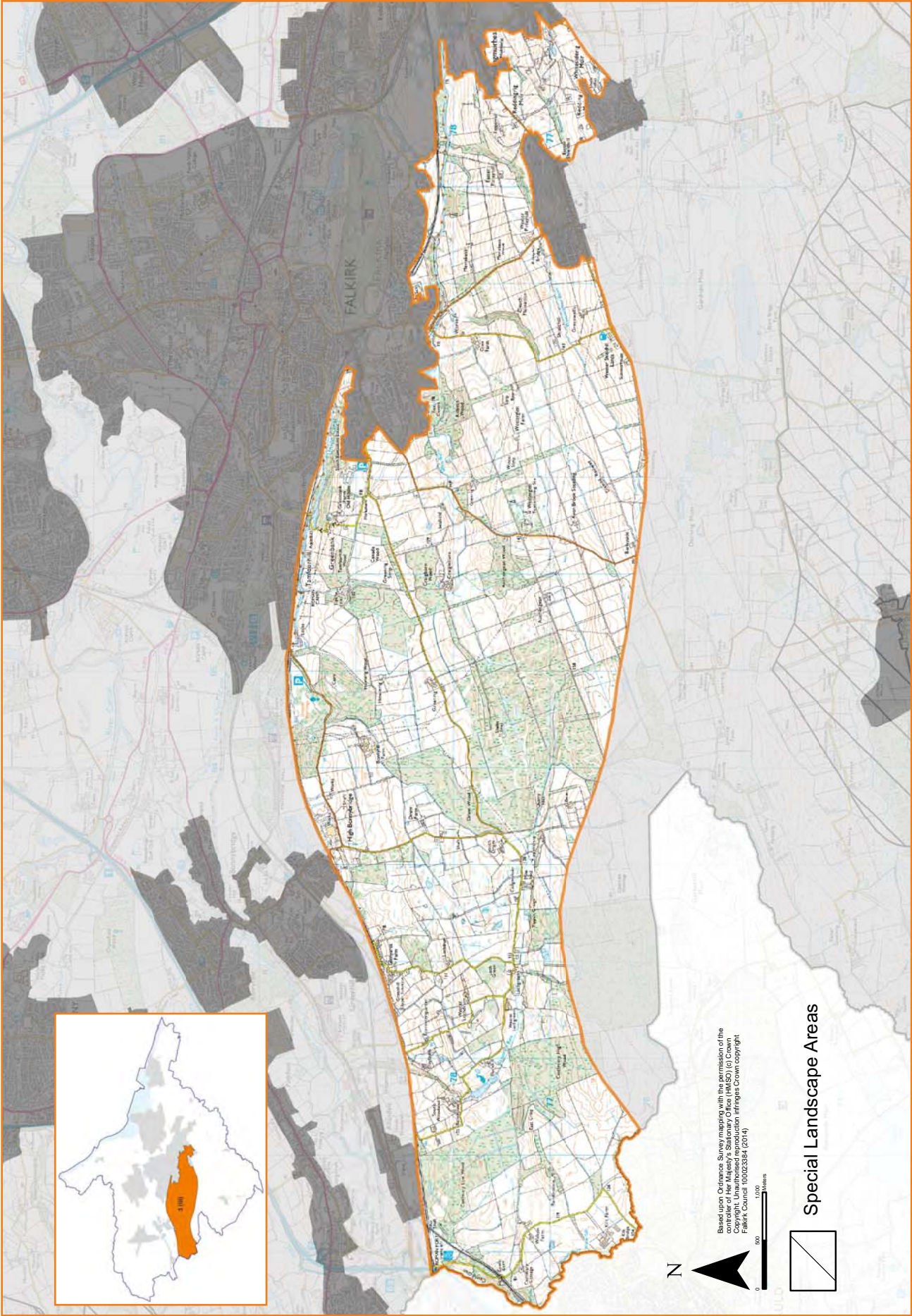
- 3.34** ■ Encourage management and expansion of native broadleaf trees and woodland along watercourses, field boundaries and as backdrops to settlements to enable linkages to other woodland areas for improvement of landscape character, biodiversity value, and access routes; this will contribute to Falkirk's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

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

- Ensure the area surrounding Gardrum Moss / Darnrig Moss retains its open character; this is particularly sensitive to development.
- Encourage retention and management of shelterbelts, trees, hedgerows and drystone walls along field boundaries; these important landscape elements are sensitive to loss.

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

3.35



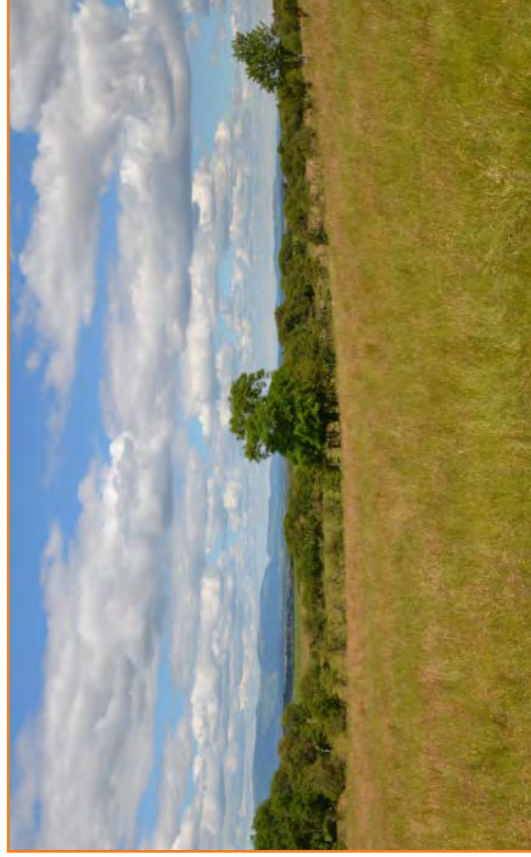
3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

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

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

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



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Guidelines 3(iii) Castlecary/Shieldhill Plateau Farmland

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

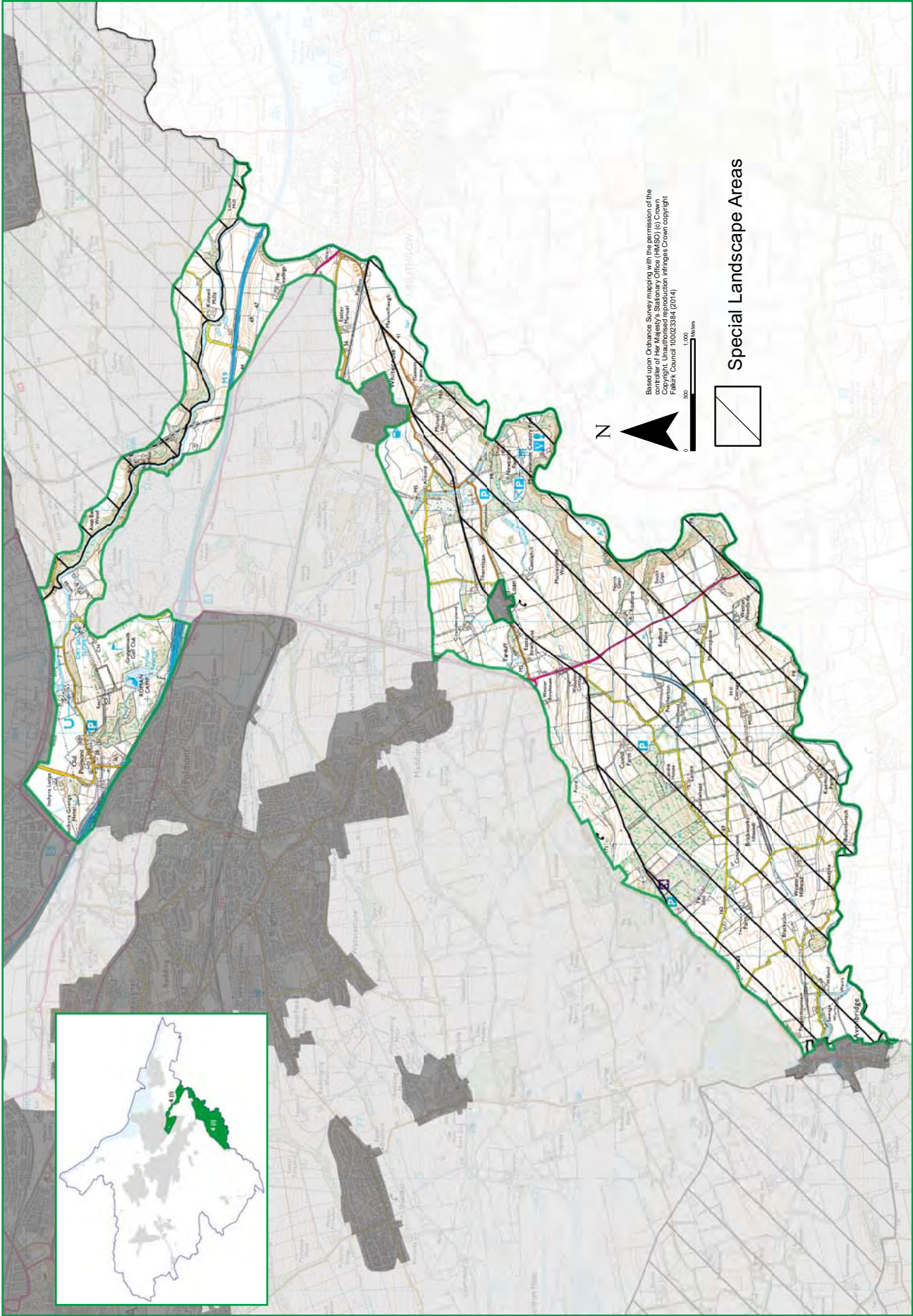
3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

- Encourage retention and management of shelterbelts, trees, hedgerows and drystone walls along field boundaries; these landscape elements are sensitive to loss.
- Ensure the guidance contained within the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site Supplementary Planning Guidance is followed for areas within the buffer zone.

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Local Landscape Character Area 4(i) Avon Valley

3.39



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

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

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

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



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Guidelines 4(i) Avon Valley

- 3.42** ■ Encourage expansion of areas of native broadleaf trees and woodland along field boundaries and as backdrops to settlements, particularly in northern part of area to improve screening of Grangemouth complex; this should also enable linkages to other woodlands, hedges and watercourses, improvement of landscape, biodiversity value, and access routes (including the John Muir trail and Antonine Wall) as well as contributing to Falkirk's green network.
- Encourage sound management of existing woodlands and ensure they meet the UK Forestry Standard Guidelines: Forests and Landscape and good biodiversity practice; there is high sensitivity to the loss of this important landscape element. Ensure principles of good landscape design practice are followed for biomass crops.
- Ensure road and other infrastructure improvements and design are appropriately mitigated to minimise landscape and visual effects and that any tree and hedgerow loss in particular is reinstated; the sensitivity to loss of these defining elements is highlighted.
- Ensure any proposals for wind energy development follow the landscape guidance in the Supplementary Guidance 'Spatial Framework and Guidance for Wind Energy Development'.
- Ensure solar energy developments are sensitively sited and landscape and visual impact assessments support proposals; there is landscape sensitivity to these structures in open areas.
- Ensure all proposals for surface coal mining, quarries and quarry extensions are subject to a full landscape and visual assessment. Landscape mitigation must be undertaken during the works and full landscape reinstatement undertaken following extraction; reinstatement must be undertaken to match the existing natural landform and gradients of the locality and incorporate appropriate boundary treatments, native woodland planting, appropriate habitat creation and habitat linkages to the surrounding area. Long term maintenance and management following initial restoration must be undertaken through planning conditions or agreements.
- Ensure new agricultural buildings, other new industrial buildings and structures, and tourism/recreational developments are sympathetically designed for the landscape setting, are associated with existing building clusters where possible and are orientated to minimise visual effects from key viewpoints; there is sensitivity to these developments within the LLCA. Mitigating screen planting must be incorporated.
- Encourage sensitive restoration and conversion of traditional steadings and encourage removal of non- traditional unused/dilapidated farm buildings.
- Ensure that all proposals for major developments are subject to landscape and visual impact assessment in accordance with good practice guidelines, including examination of alternative sites or routes, and that they are well designed and sympathetic to the character of the Avon Valley; development that is visually intrusive or not in scale with the sensitivities and character of this small scale intimate landscape will not be acceptable.
- Ensure new native species structure/screen planting is undertaken in association with expansion of settlements (Avonbridge, Standburn, Whitecross) and with any new housing and new industrial buildings; there is identified landscape sensitivity to development on settlement edges.
- Encourage new planting around existing housing and industrial buildings.
- Ensure compliance with Green Belt Policy (Policy CG02) and Antonine Wall Policy (Policy D07) of Local Development Plan for parts of character area affected.
- Ensure the guidance contained within the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site Supplementary Planning Guidance is followed for areas within the buffer zone.
- Encourage reinstatement and management of field boundary trees and hedgerows; these important elements are sensitive to loss.

