

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Guidelines 3(iii) Castlecary/Shieldhill Plateau Farmland

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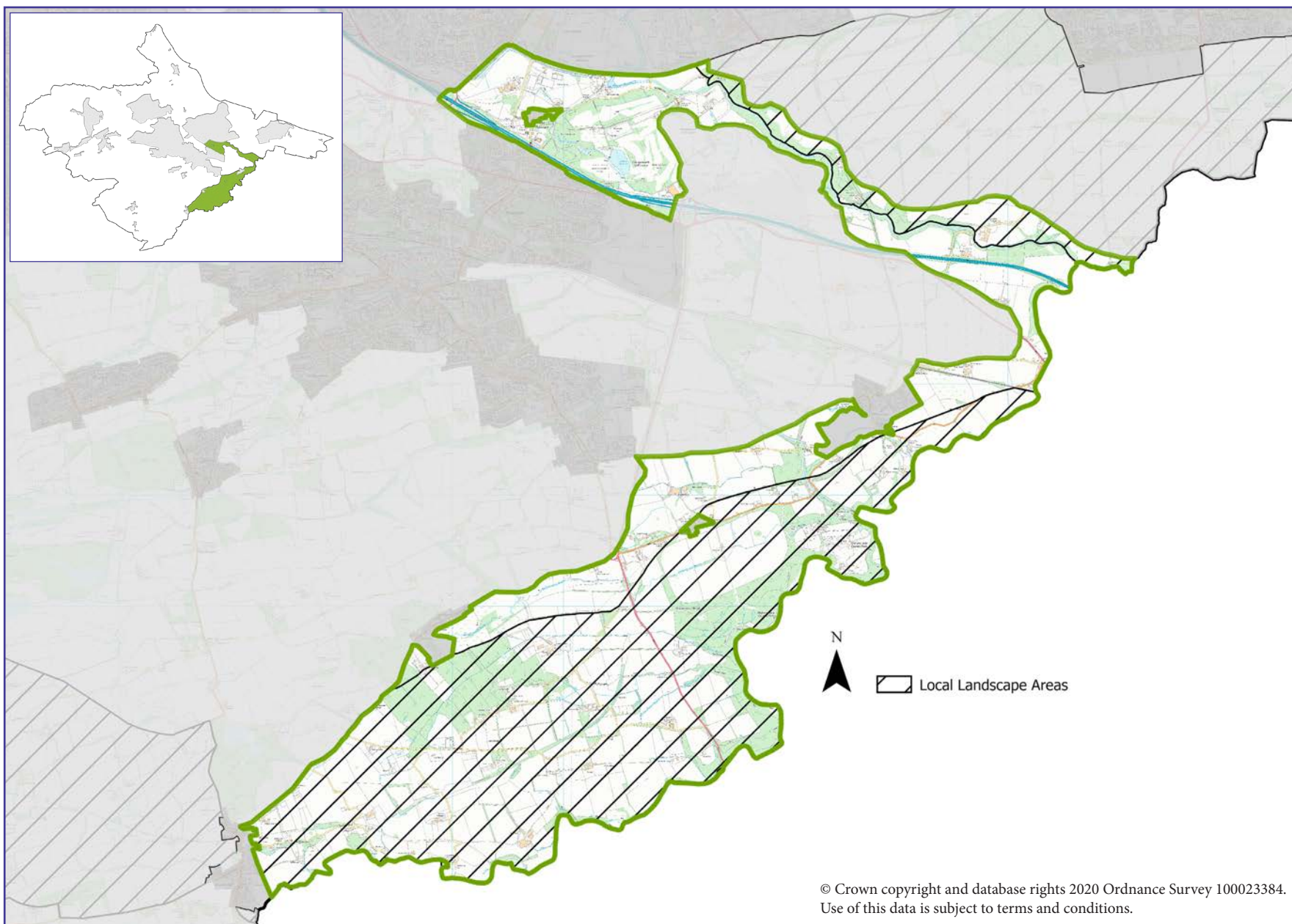
- Encourage management of existing woodland and expansion of native broadleaf trees and woodland along watercourses, field boundaries and as backdrops to settlements; this will enable linkages to other woodland areas for improvement of landscape, biodiversity value and access routes (including the John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

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Local Landscape Character Area 4(j) Avon Valley

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Likely future forces for change

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

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

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



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Guidelines 4(i) Avon Valley

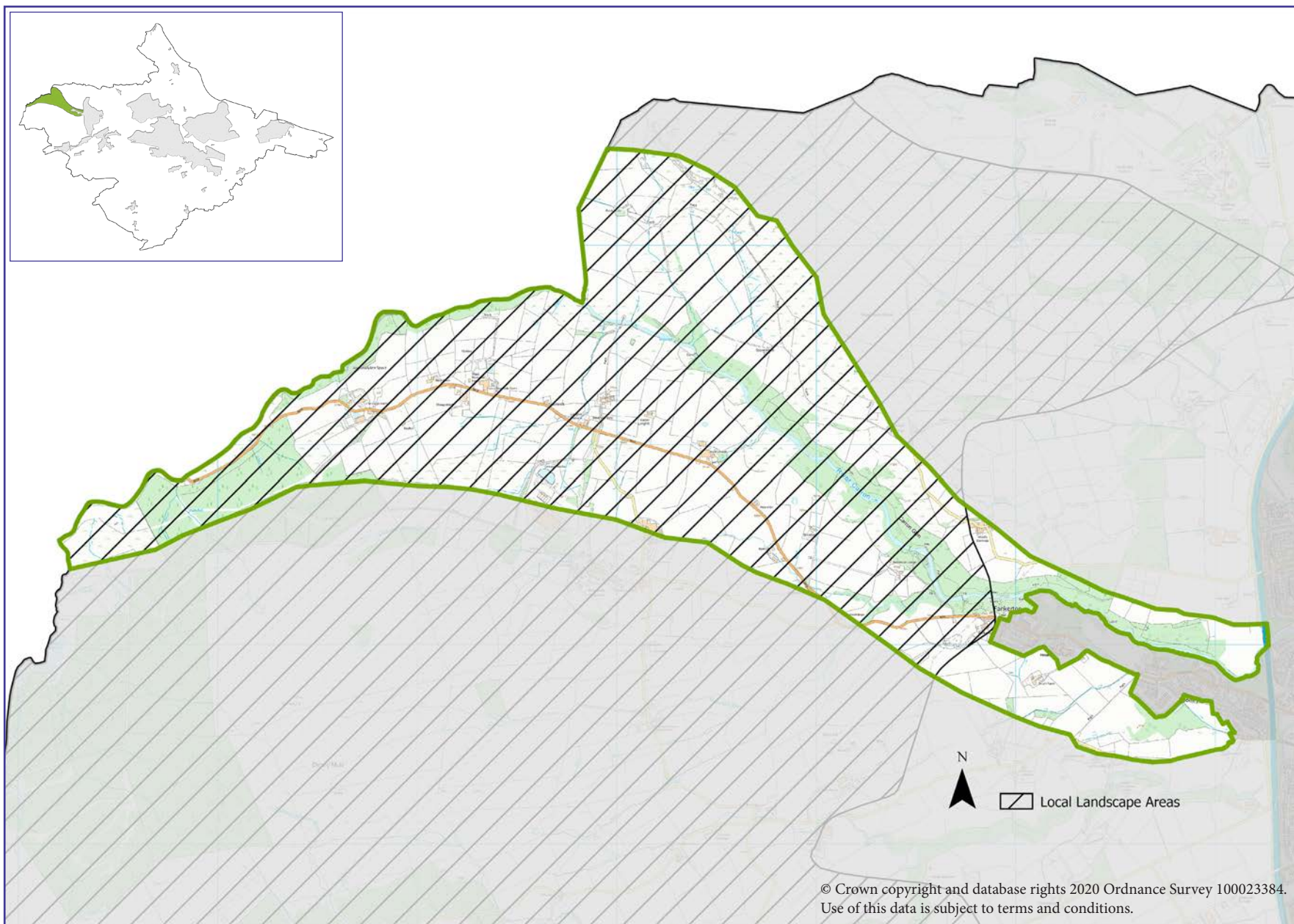
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- Encourage expansion of areas of native broadleaf trees and woodland along field boundaries and as backdrops to settlements, particularly in northern part of area to improve screening of Grangemouth complex; this should also enable linkages to other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

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Local Landscape Character Area 4(ii) Carron Glen

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Likely future forces for change

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

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

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



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Guidelines 4(ii) Carron Glen

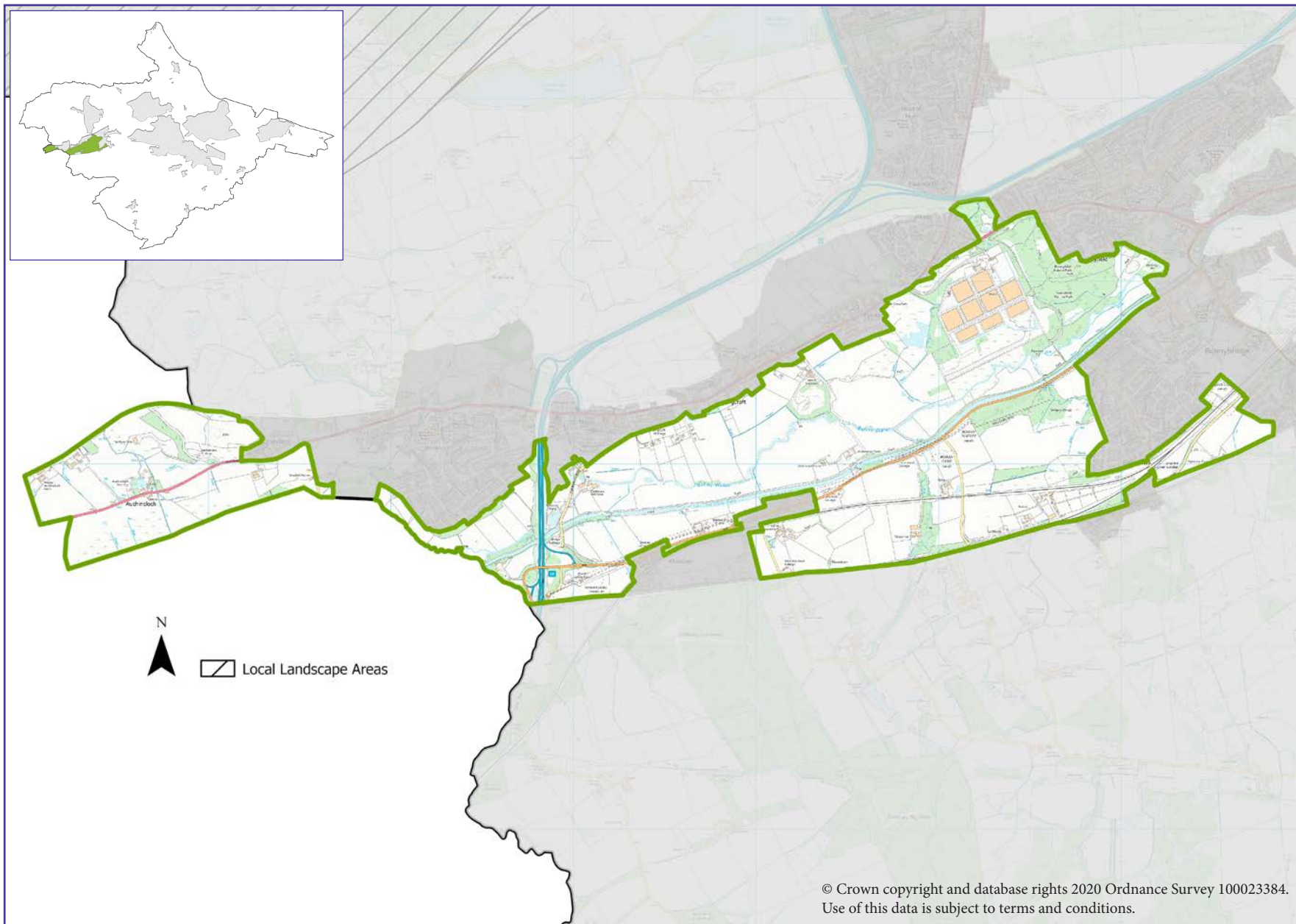
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- Encourage sensitive management of existing woodland and encourage expansion of well designed native broadleaf woodland within the valley and along watercourse to provide linkages to other woodland areas for landscape and biodiversity value, and for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

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Local Landscape Character Area 4(iii) Bonny Water

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3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

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

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

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



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Guidelines 4(iii) Bonny Water

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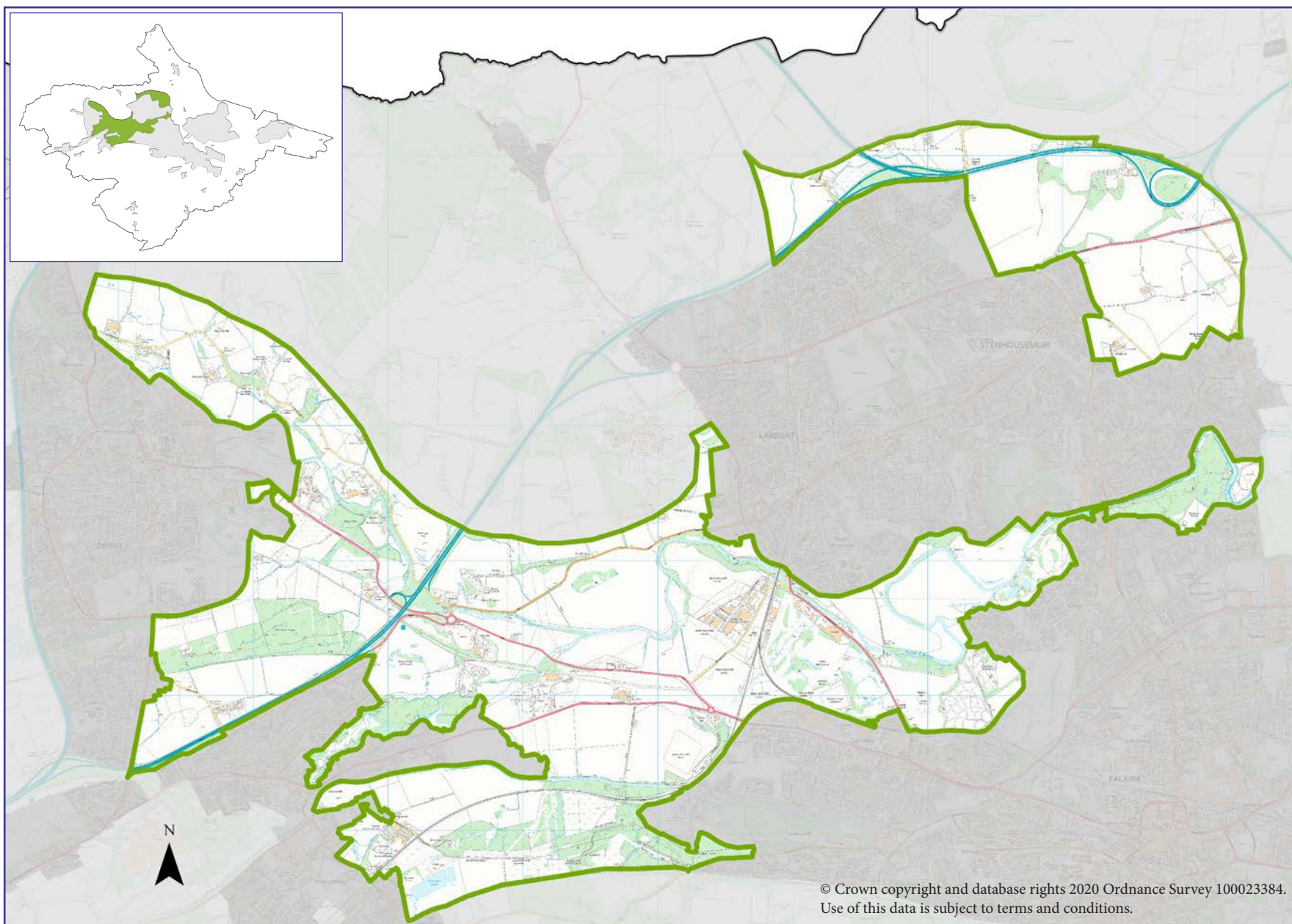
- Encourage expansion of native broadleaf trees and woodland along watercourses, field boundaries, around settlements and on derelict land, to enable linkages to other woodland areas, open spaces, recreational routes (eg John Muir Way, Forth and Clyde Canal towpath, Antonine Wall) and wildlife corridors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

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

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3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

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

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

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



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Guidelines 4(iv) Lower Carron/Bonny Water

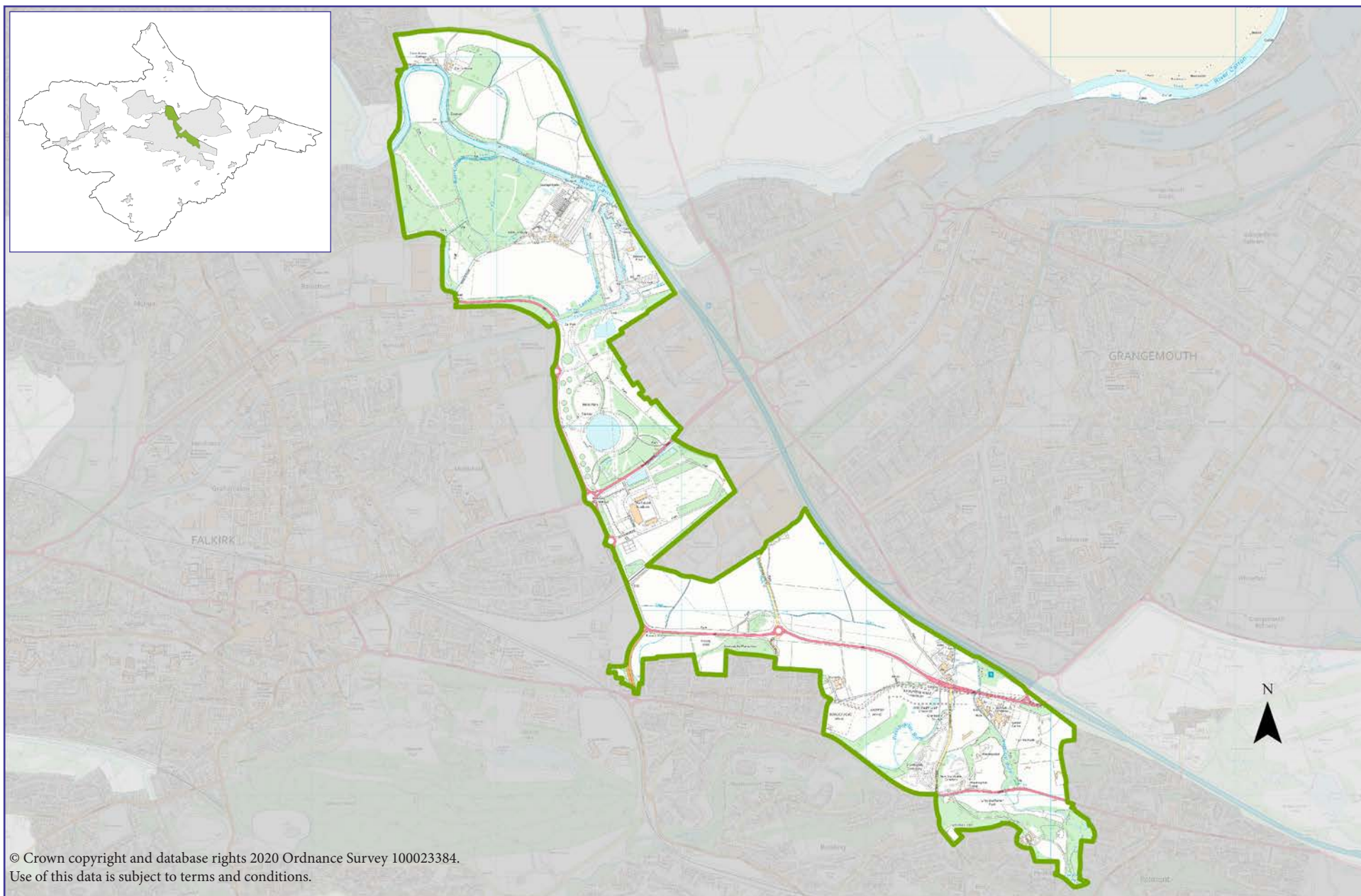
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- Encourage expansion of native broadleaf trees and woodland along watercourses, field boundaries, around settlements and on derelict land to provide screening and definition of the urban edge and to enable linkages to other woodland areas, open space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

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

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

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3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

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

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

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



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Guidelines 4(v) Falkirk - Grangemouth Urban Fringe

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