

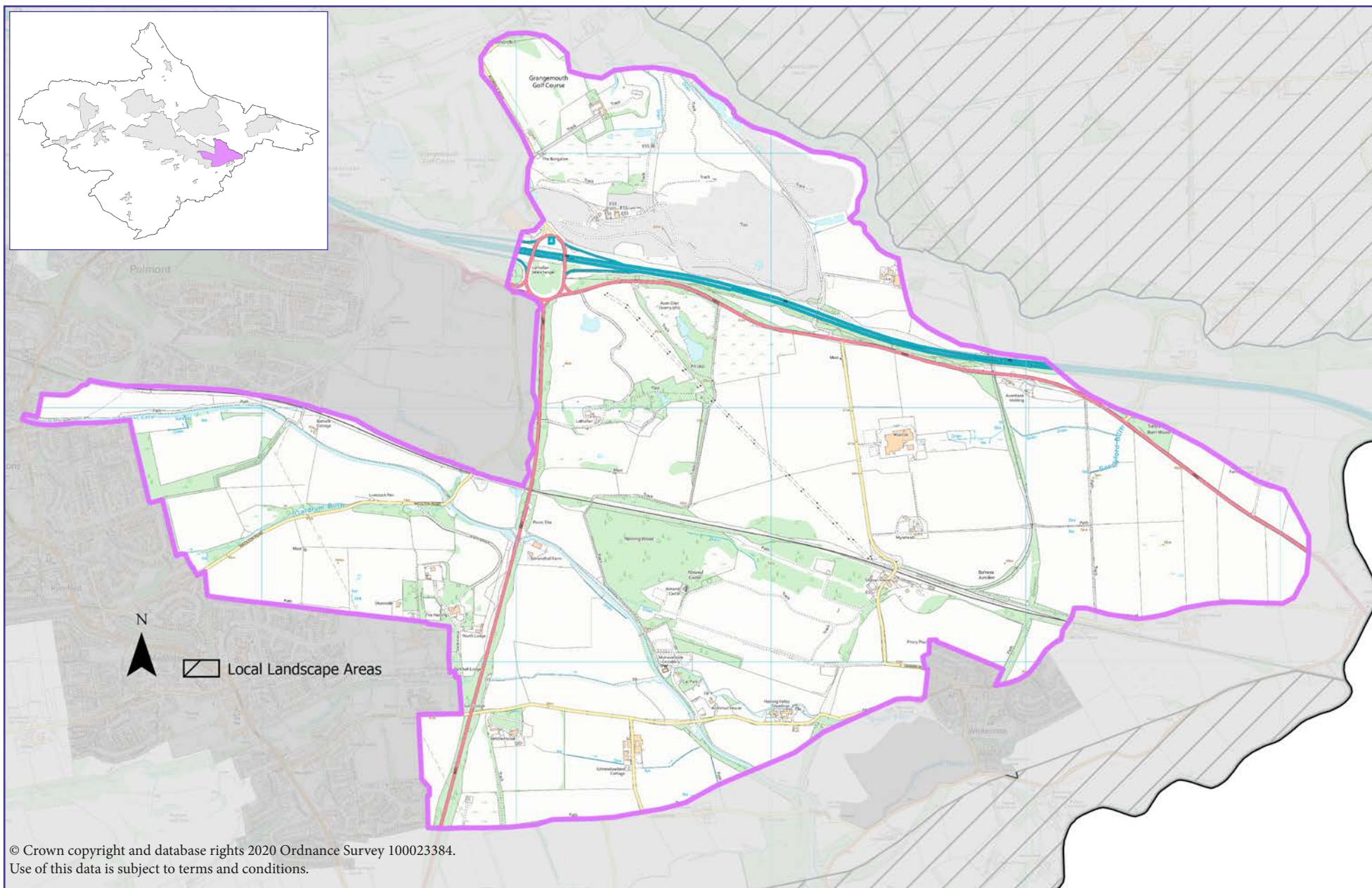
### 3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

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### 3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

#### Local Landscape Character Area 5(i) Manuel Farmlands

3.59



### 3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

#### Likely future forces for change

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

#### Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

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



### 3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

#### Guidelines 5(i) Manuel Farmlands

3.62

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

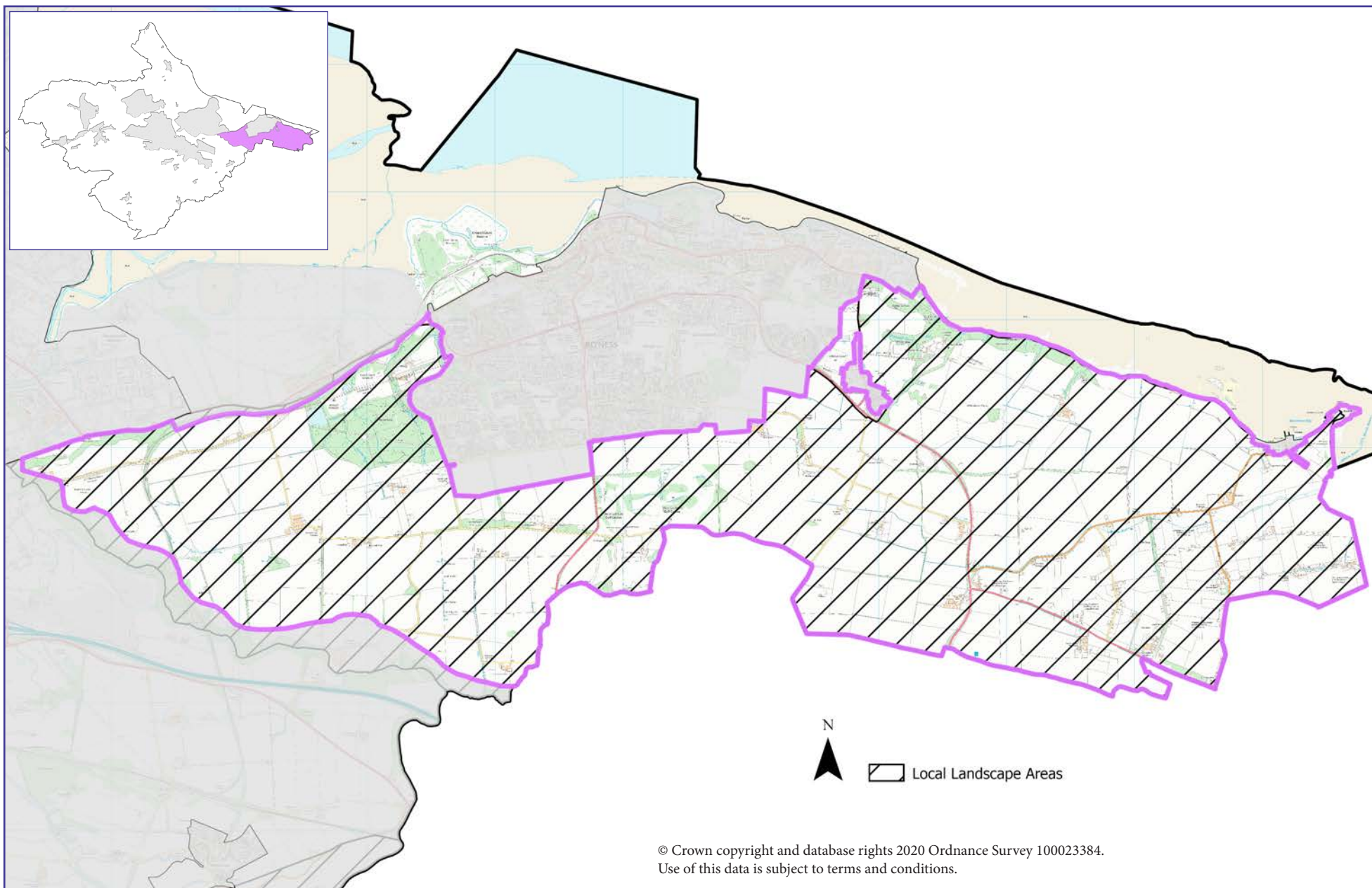




### 3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

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

3.63



### 3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

#### Likely future forces for change

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

#### Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

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



### 3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

#### Guidelines 5(ii) Bo'ness Coastal Hills

3.66

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

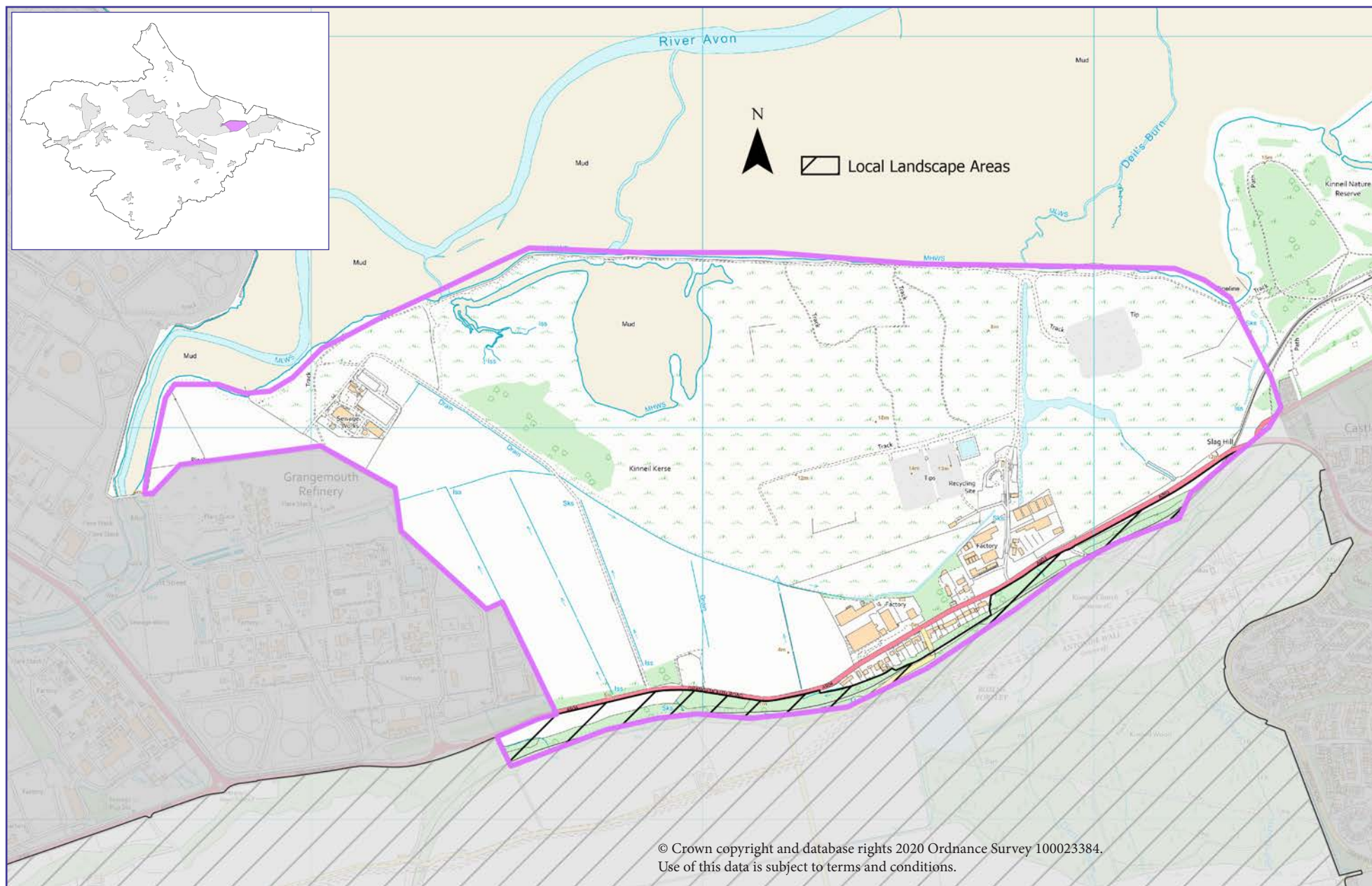




### 3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

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

3.67



### 3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

#### Likely future forces for change

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

#### Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

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



### 3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

#### Guidelines 5(iii) Grangemouth/Kinneil Flats

3.70

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

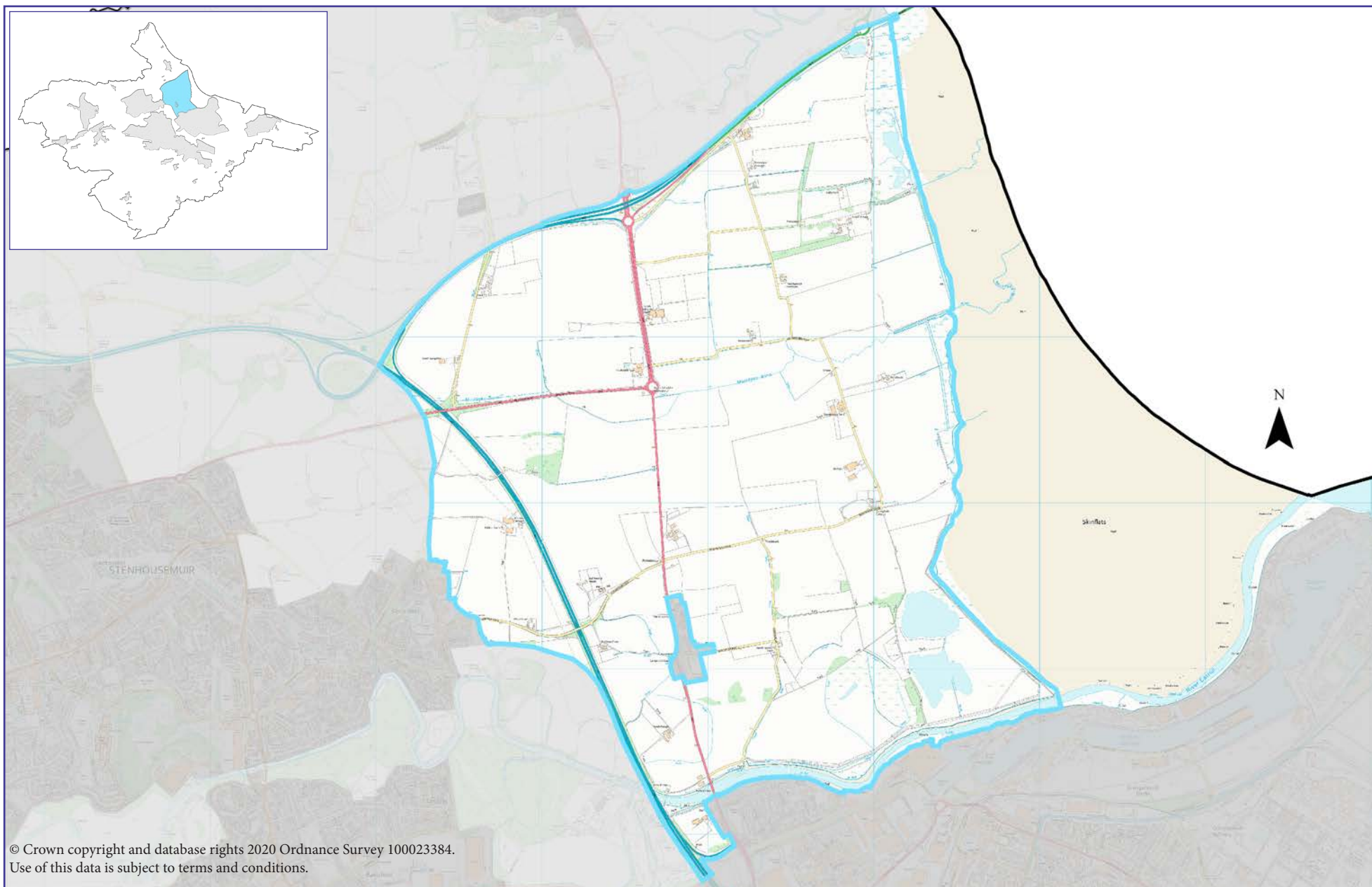




### 3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

#### Local Landscape Character Area 6(i) Skinflats

3.71



### 3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

#### Likely future forces for change

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

#### Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

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



### 3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

#### Guidelines 6(i) Skinflats

3.74

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

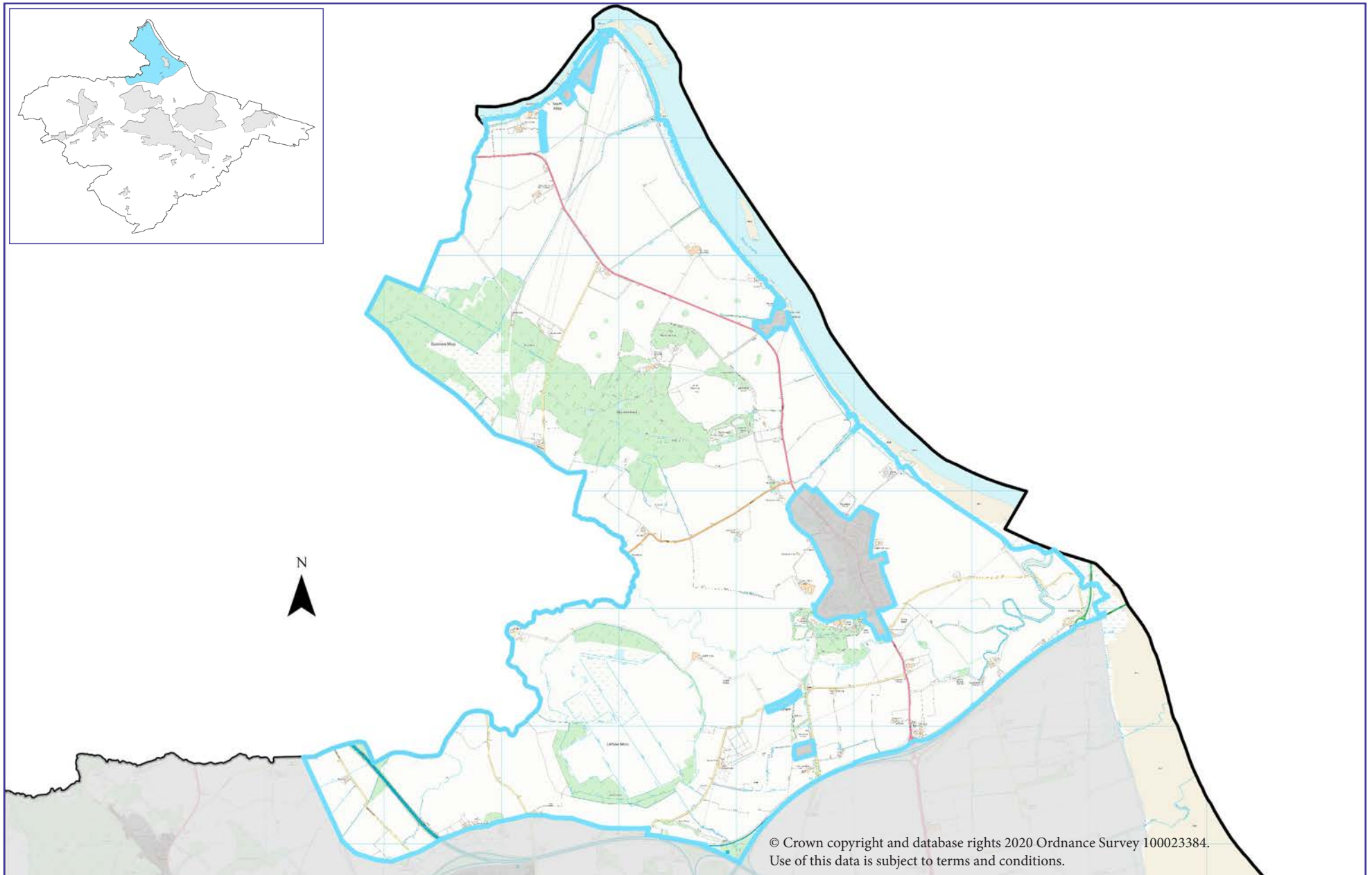




### 3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

#### Local Landscape Character Area 6(ii) Carse of Forth

3.75



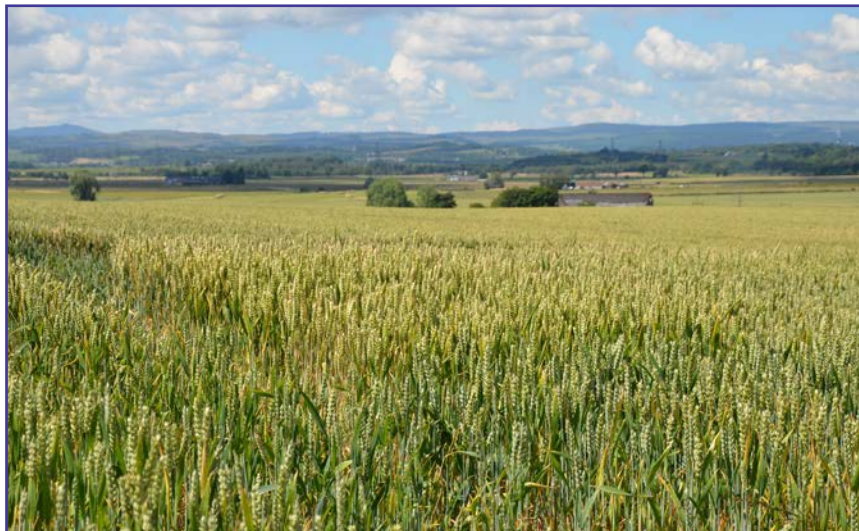
### 3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

#### Likely future forces for change

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

#### Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

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



### 3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

#### Guidelines 6(ii) Carse of Forth

3.78

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





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

### Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

### Structure of Information on Local Landscape Areas

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

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

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

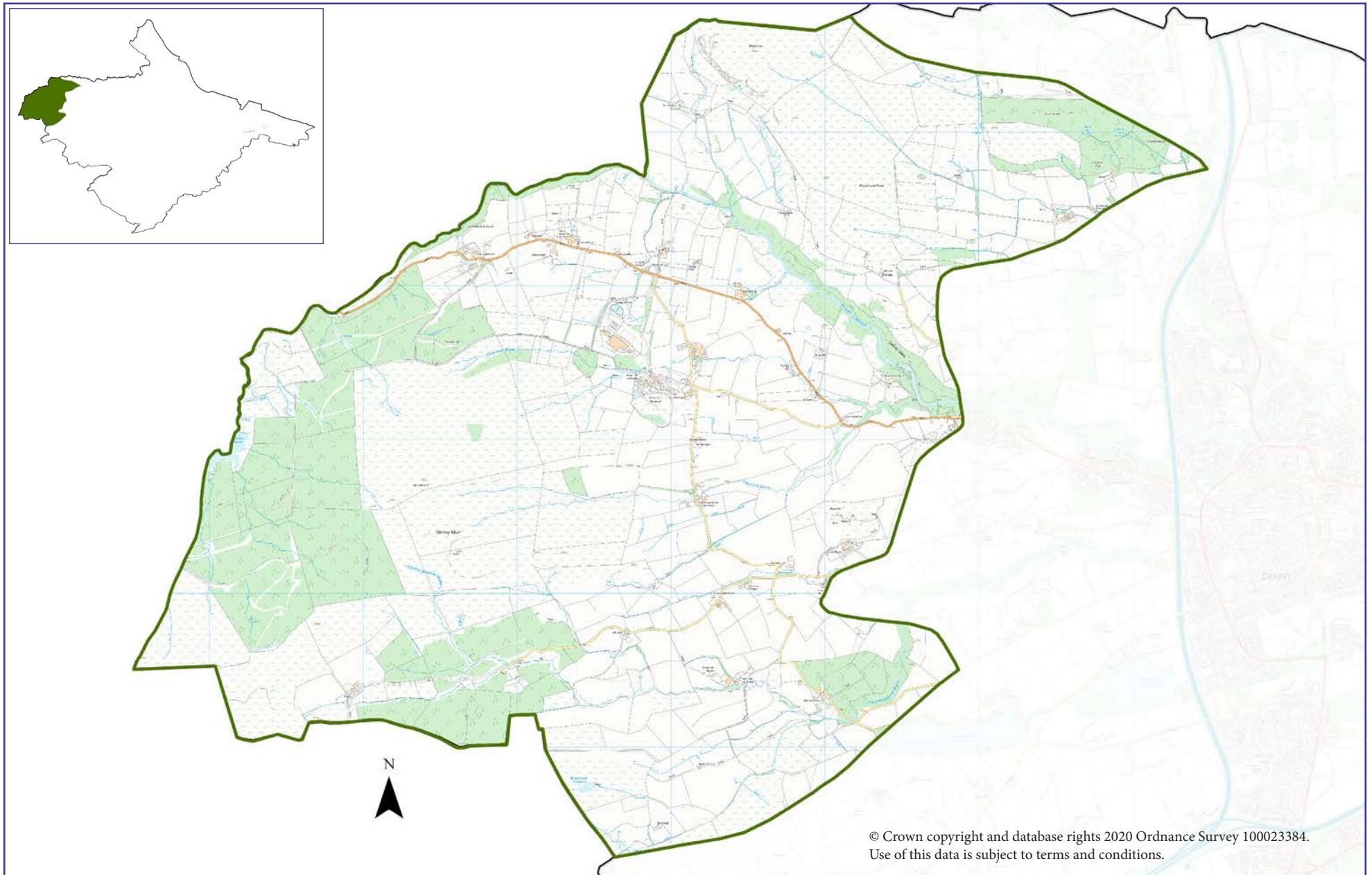
**3. Sensitivities within Local Landscape Area.** These are based on specific features and characteristics of the LLA identified in the statements of importance and from fieldwork.

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

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

### Denny Hills Local Landscape Area

4.4





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

### Likely future forces for change

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

### Sensitivities within Local Landscape Area:

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

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

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

#### 4.7 Forestry and Woodlands

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

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

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

#### Telecommunication/Transmission Apparatus

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

#### Wind Energy and Other Renewable Energy

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

#### Power Lines

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

#### Agricultural Buildings and Farm Steadings

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