

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

Industrial Buildings and Infrastructure Apparatus

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

Housing and Settlement Expansion

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

Boundary Treatments

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

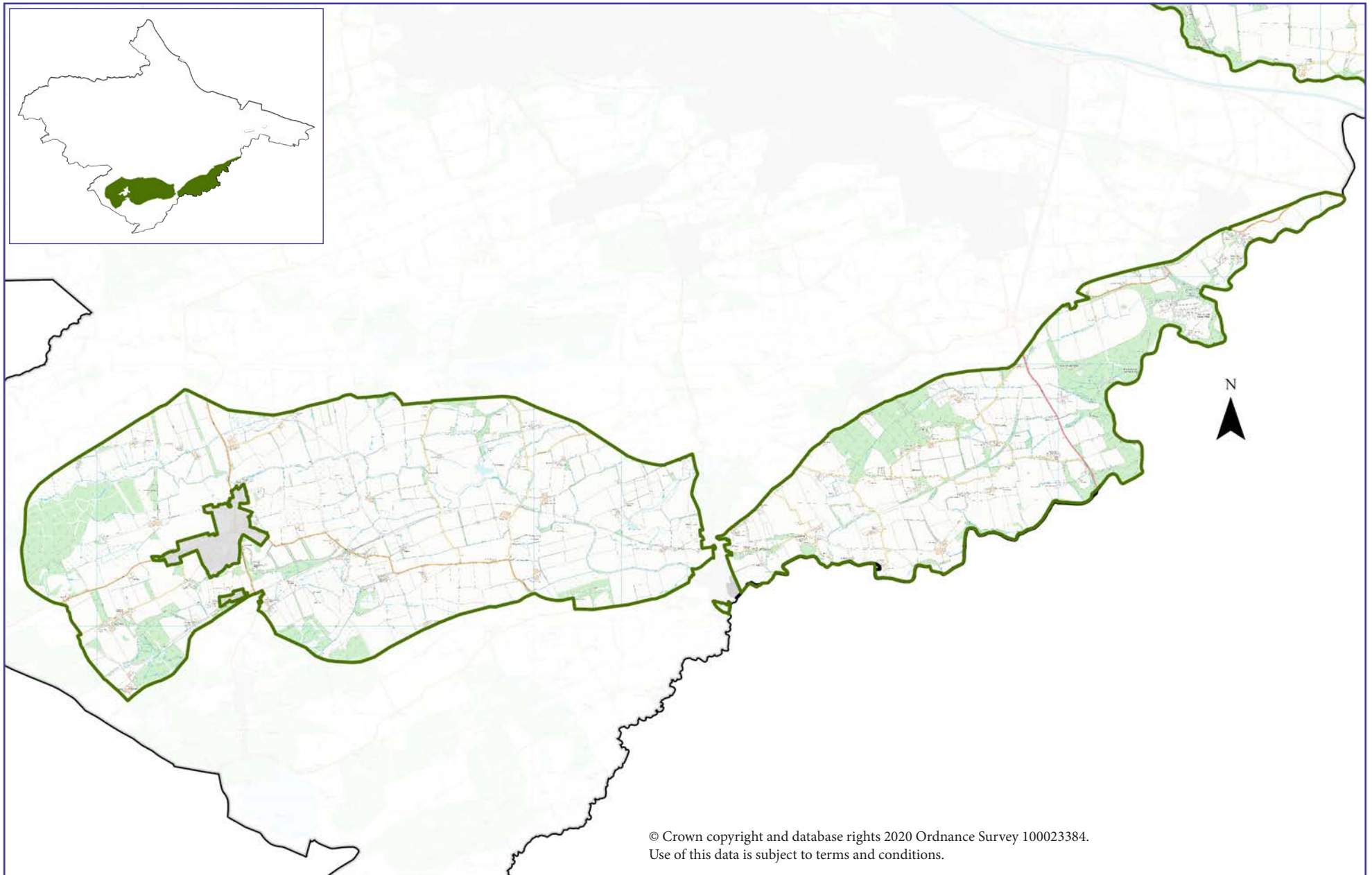
General Development Mitigation in the Countryside

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

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

Slamannan Plateau/Avon Valley Local Landscape Area

4.8



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

Likely future forces for change

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

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Area:

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

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

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

4.11 Forestry and Woodlands

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

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

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

Former Opencast/Mineral Working Sites and Derelict Land

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

Telecommunication/Transmission Apparatus

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

Wind Energy and Other Renewable Energy

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

Power Lines

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

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

Agricultural Buildings and Farm Steadings

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

Industrial Buildings and Infrastructure Apparatus

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

Housing and Settlement Expansion

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

Boundary Treatments

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

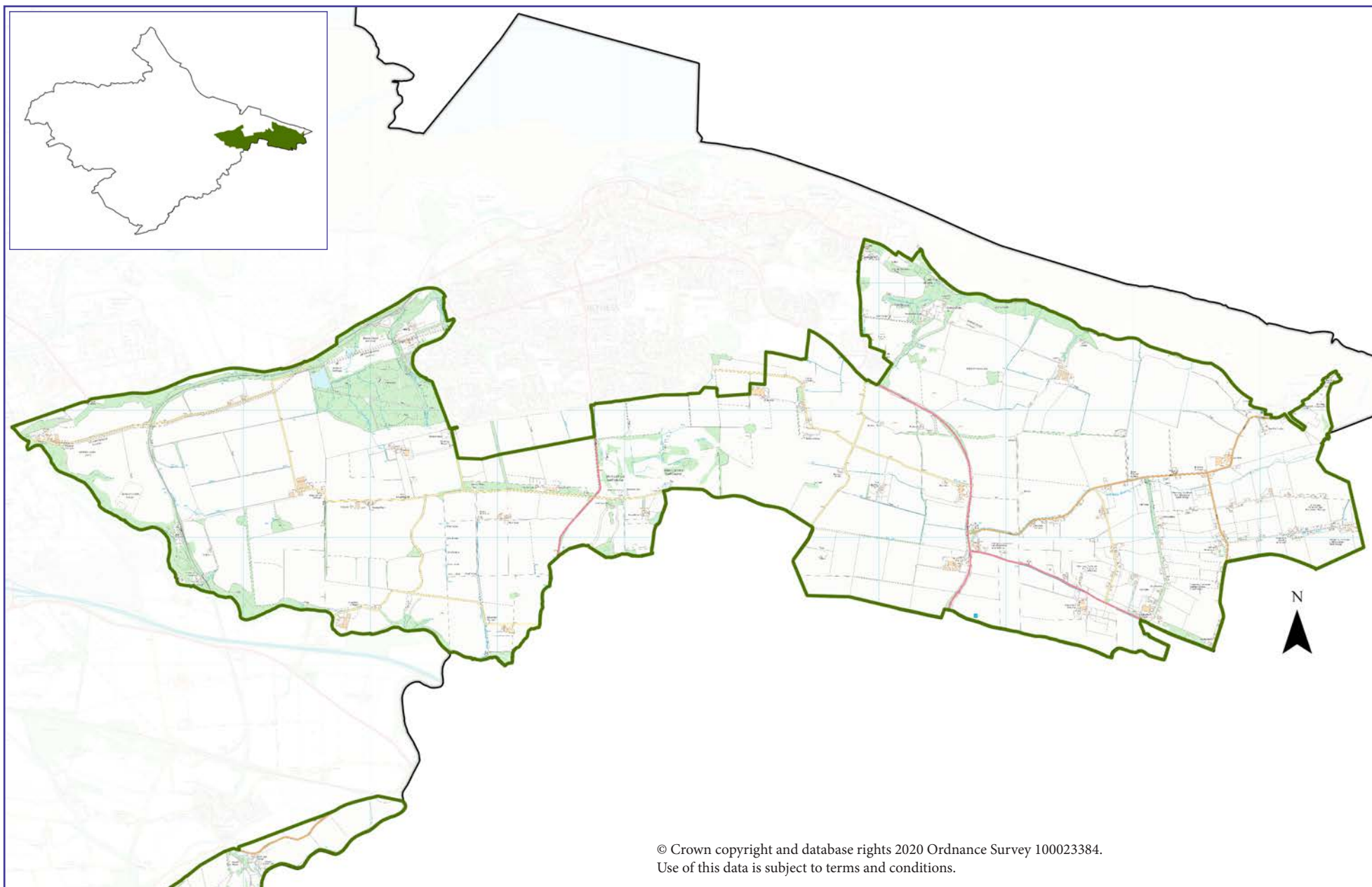
General Development Mitigation in the Countryside

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

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

South Bo'ness Local Landscape Area

4.12



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

Likely future forces for change

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

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Area:

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

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

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

4.15 Forestry and Woodlands

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

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

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

Former Opencast/Mineral Working Sites and Derelict Land

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

Telecommunication/Transmission Apparatus

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

Wind Energy and Other Renewable Energy

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

Power Lines

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

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

Agricultural Buildings and Farm Steadings

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

Industrial Buildings and Infrastructure Apparatus

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

Housing and Settlement Expansion

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

Boundary Treatments

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

General Development Mitigation in the Countryside

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

5. National and Local Designed Landscapes

National Designed Landscapes: Inventory Sites

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

5. National and Local Designed Landscapes

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

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

5. National and Local Designed Landscapes

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

5.5

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

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

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

5. National and Local Designed Landscapes

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

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

General

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

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

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

Existing Trees, Woodlands, Hedgerows and Shrub Planting

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

5. National and Local Designed Landscapes

Protection and Maintenance of Original Designed Landscape Features

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

Design of New Development

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

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

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

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

Background

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

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

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

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

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

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

Local Landscape Character Type 1: Lowland Hills

Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCAs)

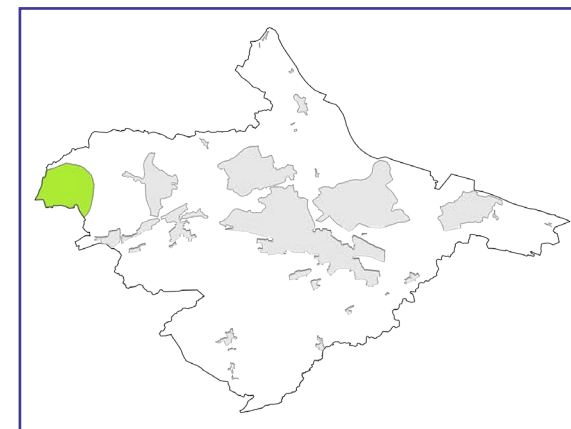
6.2 There is one LLCA in this LCT within the Falkirk Council area:

● LLCA1(i) Kilsyth/Denny Hills

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

Key Characteristics of the LCT/LLCA

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

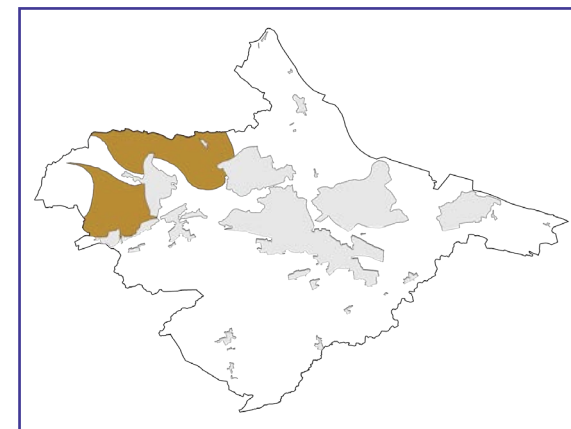


Part of Denny Muir 'Landscape Character Area' in original landscape character assessment.

Local Landscape Character Type 2: Lowland Hill Fringes

6.3 Key Characteristics of the LCT

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



Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCAs)

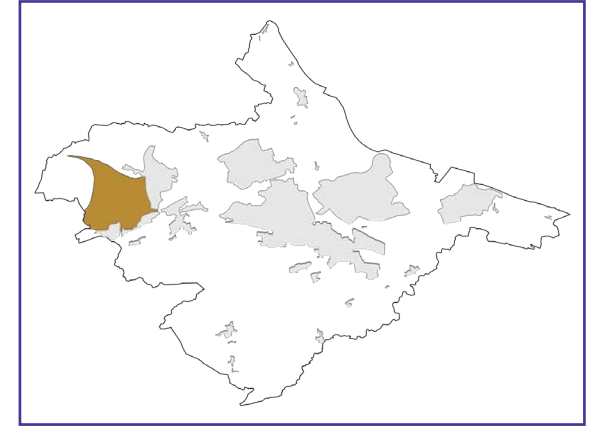
There are two LLCAs in this LCT within the Falkirk Council area:

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

Local Landscape Character Area 2(i) Denny Hills Fringe

6.4 Key Characteristics of the LLCA

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

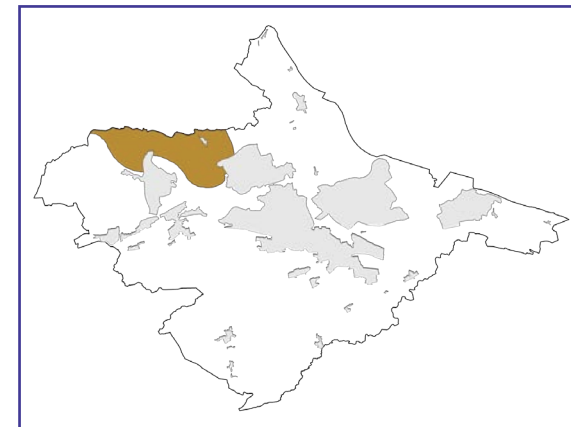


Part of Denny Muir 'Landscape Character Area' in original landscape character assessment.

Local Landscape Character Area 2(ii) Touch Hills Fringe

6.5 Key Characteristics of the LLCA

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

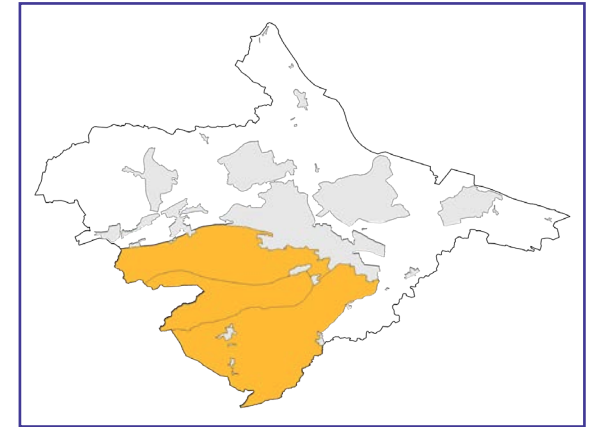


East Touch Fringe 'Landscape Character Area' in original landscape character assessment.

Local Landscape Character Type 3: Lowland Plateau

6.6 Key Characteristics of the LCT

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



Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCAs)

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

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

Local Landscape Character Area 3(i) Slamannan Plateau

6.7 Key Characteristics of the LLCA

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

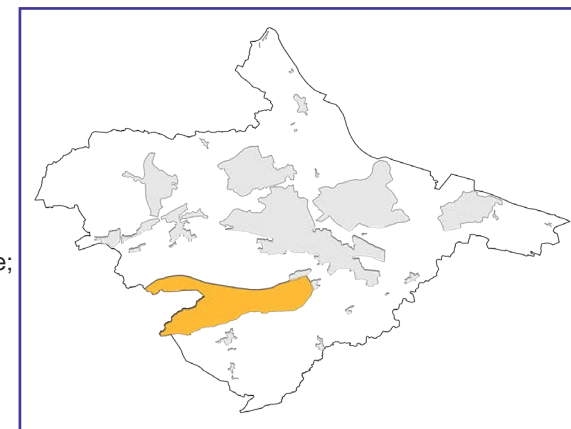


Part of Slamannan Plateau 'Landscape Character Area' in original landscape character assessment.

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

6.8 Key Characteristics of the LLCA

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

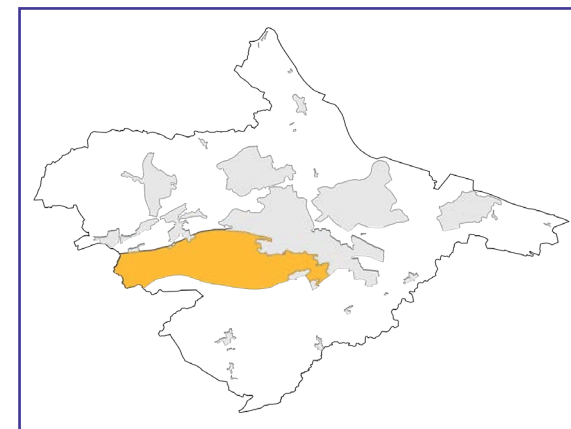


Part of Slammanan Plateau 'Landscape Character Area' in original landscape character assessment.

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

6.9 Key Characteristics of the LLCA

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

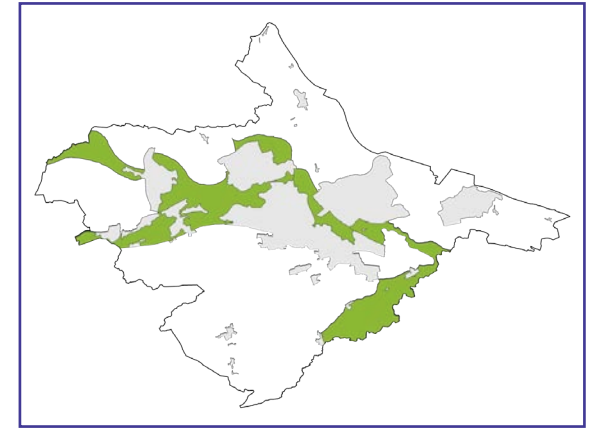


Part of Slammanan Plateau 'Landscape Character Area' in original landscape character assessment.

Local Landscape Character Type 4: Lowland River Valleys

6.10 Key Characteristics of the LCT

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



Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCAs)

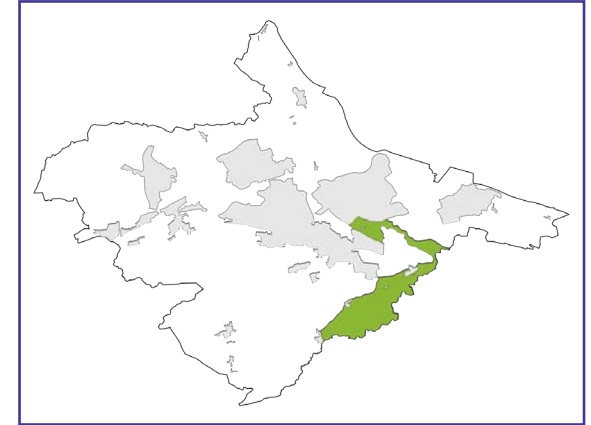
There are five LLCAs in this LCT within the Falkirk Council area:

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

Local Landscape Character Area 4(i) Avon Valley

6.11 Key Characteristics of the LLCA

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

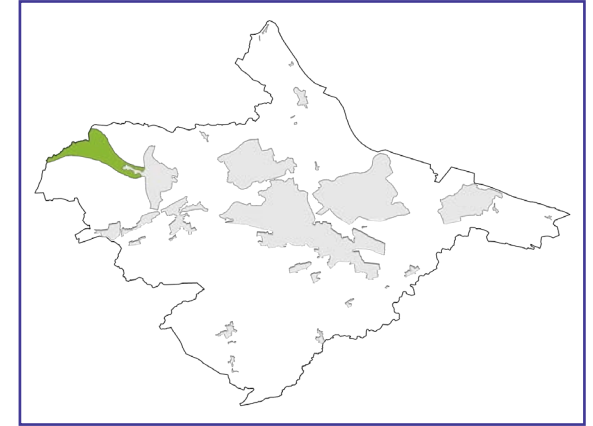


Avon Valley 'Landscape Character Area' in original Landscape Character Assessment.

Local Landscape Character Area 4(ii) Carron Glen

6.12 Key Characteristics of the LLCA

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

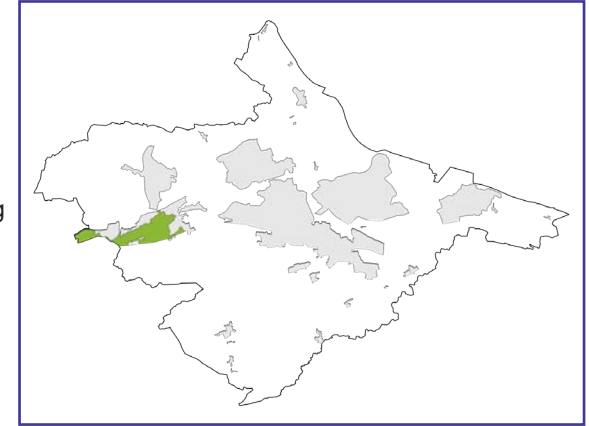


Middle Carron 'Landscape Character Area' in original Landscape Character Assessment.

Local Landscape Character Area 4(iii) Bonny Water

6.13 Key Characteristics of the LLCA

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

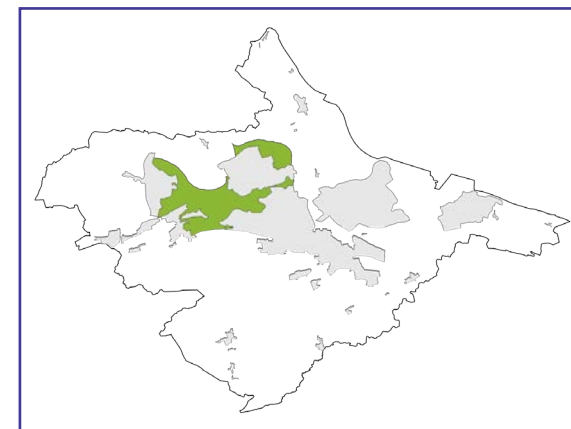


Part of Denny Muir 'Landscape Character Area' & part of Falkirk / Denny Urban Fringe 'Landscape Character Area' in original Landscape Character Assessment.

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

6.14 Key Characteristics of the LLCA

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

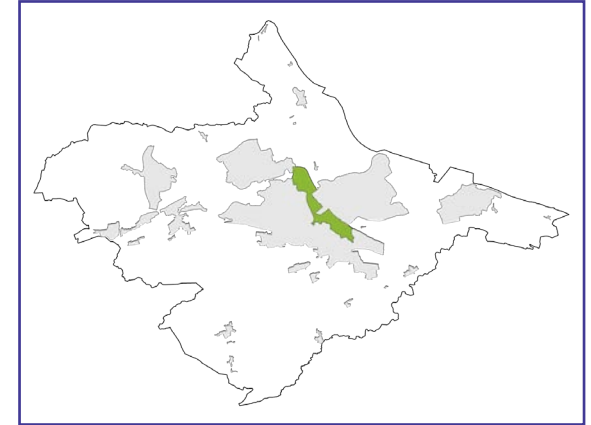


Part of Falkirk/Denny Urban Fringe 'Landscape Character Area' in original Landscape Character Assessment.

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

6.15 Key Characteristics of the LLCA

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



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

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

Local Landscape Character Type 5: Coastal Farmland

Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCAs)

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

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

Local Landscape Character Area 5(i) Manuel Farmlands

Key Characteristics of the LCT/LLCA

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

