

PROFILE

- 18.1 Blackness has a population of about 155, and lies on the shore of the Firth of Forth at the eastern extremity of the Council area. Dominated by Blackness Castle, this attractive coastal village contains dwellinghouses of varied character, a ribbon of local authority houses along St Ninian's Way, a flatted development at the Guildry and privately constructed houses along the shores of Blackness Bay. Blackness also has a primary school, although it is removed from the village itself.
- 18.2 The village was not identified as being capable of any significant growth in the previous local plan.

KEY LOCAL ISSUES

- 18.3 The key issues for the village are:
- The need to protect and enhance the character of the village and the setting of Blackness Castle; and
 - The potential to capitalise on the tourism potential of Blackness Castle.

LOCAL PLAN SUMMARY

- 18.4 The Local Plan proposes the following key provisions for Blackness:
- No further outward growth of the village.
 - Progressing implementation of the Forth Foreshore Path to Bo'ness.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

- 18.5 Blackness Castle is a Category A listed building and a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Two other buildings are listed within the village: Lower Valley House is Category C.(S) and Blackness House is Category B. Developments affecting listed buildings will be subject to the provisions of Policy EQ14.
- 18.6 Blackness Bay forms part of the Firth of Forth Special Protection Area (SPA) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

SUSTAINING COMMUNITIES

Housing

- 18.7 While there may be opportunities for infill developments within the village boundary, the remote location, lack of services and distinctive character of the village continue to make it unsuitable for any significant new housing and therefore no new allocations are proposed.

Recreation and Community Facilities

- 18.8 The coastal position of Blackness provides recreational opportunities such as the small stretch of beach, walks along the Forth foreshore and the water based activities which operate from the Blackness Boat Club within the village. There is a large area of open space between the village and the castle.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

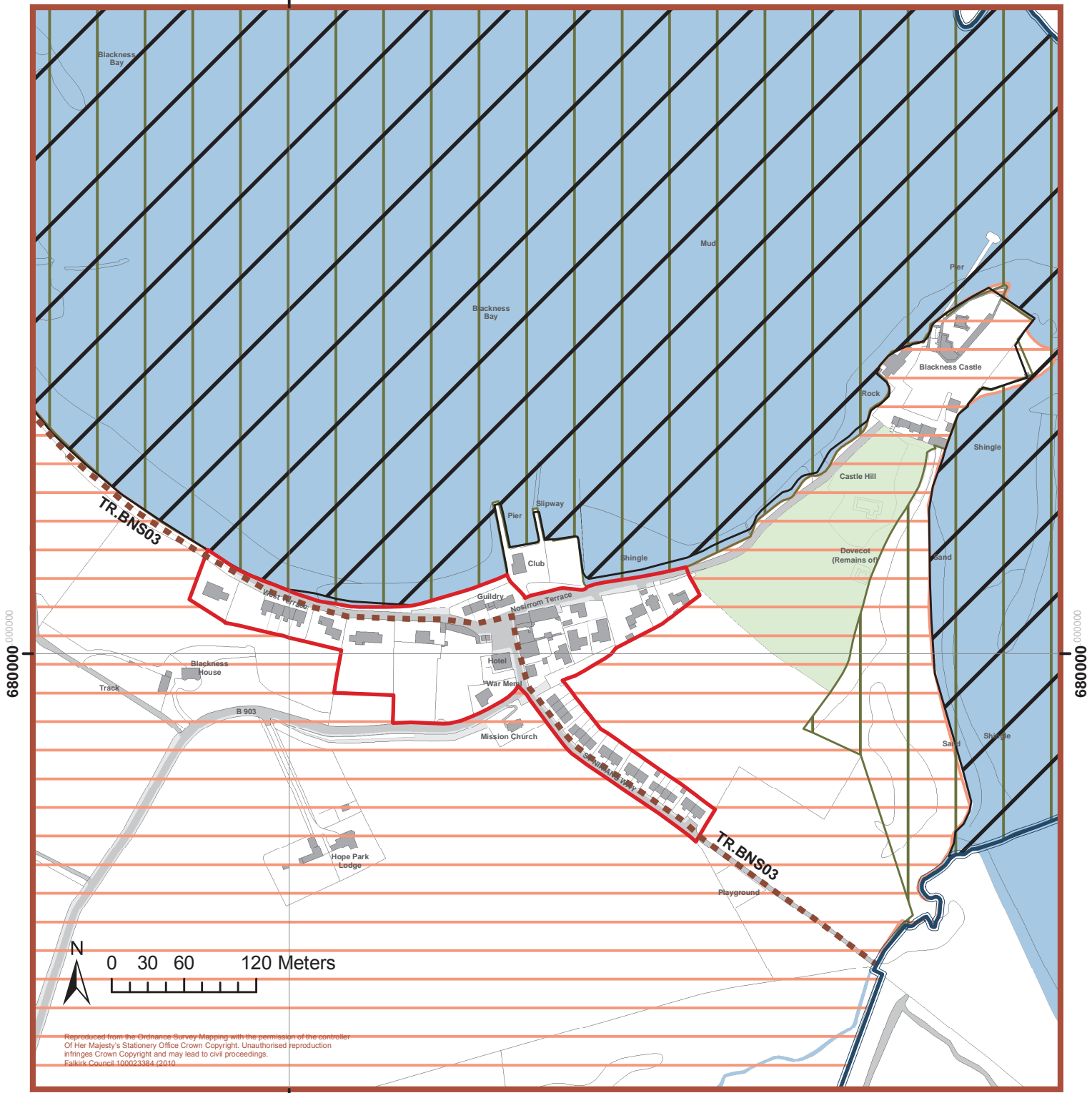
- 18.9 Blackness Castle is an important attraction and local landmark, which has considerable tourism potential. Tourism related businesses will be encouraged in the village and the surrounding area, in accordance with Policy EP15. It is recognised that parking and traffic congestion can be significant constraining factors during the summer months and at weekends.

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

- 18.10 The implementation of the Forth Foreshore Path to Bo'ness is a key proposal which should provide enhanced recreational and tourism opportunities for the village (see TR.BNS03).

Blackness

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Key

Falkirk Council Unitary Boundary

Policies

- Village Limit (EQ19)
- Special Protection Area (EQ 24)
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (EQ24)
- Open Space (SC12)
- Areas of Great Landscape Value (EQ23)

Proposals & Opportunities

Path Proposals