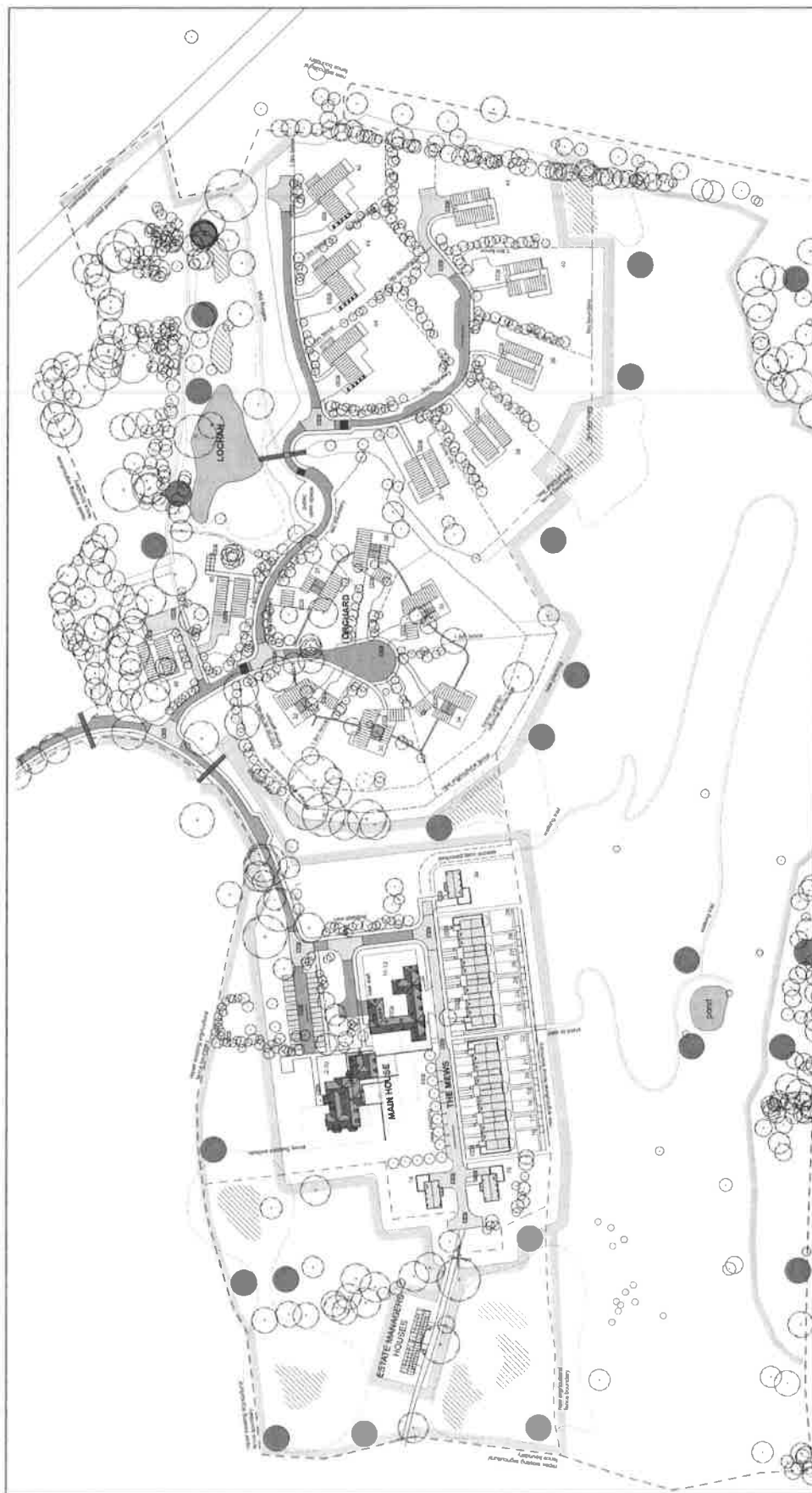


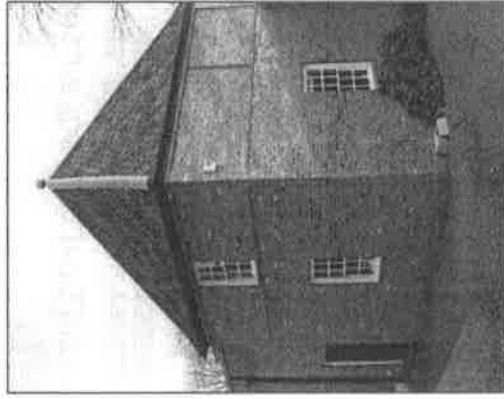
5.52



Lathallan Estate Site Plan showing enabling development within the estate

5. Design Guidance

- 5.53** The best examples of enabling development respond to the unique architectural and historic character of buildings and their settings by mitigating visual and physical impact on existing buildings and their setting and by enhancing special character. Enabling development at the Walled Garden of Tynninghame House took the form of small pavilions built up from the garden wall behind a 19th century greenhouse. The traditional design and materials preserve the character and appearance of the walled garden.



New Pavilions adjoining existing garden wall at Tynninghame House
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Aerial View: Walled Garden at Tynninghame House
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5. Design Guidance

5.54 Design Principles Checklist

Location	The impact of larger buildings should be minimised through siting, landscaping, massing and use of colour and all new development should take advantage of existing features and topography to effect an “nestling effect” within the rural landscape.
Layout	New development should be orientated to take advantage of natural shelter and solar gain and should respect and retain existing site features such as boundaries, walls, woodland and trees. Where extensions to existing groups of buildings are proposed, interventions should mirror established development patterns including footprints, plot patterns and spatial relationships between buildings.
Design	Originally designed, innovative buildings that fit the local landscape using local, natural materials will be encouraged.
Scale	New development should be of a scale and density to fit with the surroundings. Reference should be taken from local vernacular building tradition of simple forms and moderate height and width.
Detailed Design	Contemporary interpretation of the architectural detailing of local vernacular buildings will be encouraged - take reference from traditional windows, rooflights, doors, chimneys, roof verges etc.
External Finishes	The use of natural building materials will be encouraged - e.g. stone, slate, timber, harling.
Sustainable Design	Use locally sourced and recycled / salvaged building materials wherever possible and design new development to maximise energy efficient and to withstand the impacts of climate change. Position new buildings to take advantage of solar gain and natural shelter.
Boundary Treatments, Access and Parking	The design of boundary treatments, access and parking should reflect local character and materials; simple low key designs using natural materials are preferable to complex, over - size solutions more suited to an urban setting.
Landscaping	Existing landscape features should be retained; new planting can provide shelter and can mitigate the visual impact of larger buildings.
Conversion of Existing Buildings	Traditional rural buildings should be retained and remodelled as required to provide contemporary uses and to maintain local distinctiveness and character. Total or substantial demolition will be discouraged.
Infill Development	Limited development - up to 3 houses - will only be acceptable where it has no impact on the character of established clusters of buildings.
Enabling Development	Enabling development will only be encouraged where it secures the long term future of a significant place via development of high design quality which protects the setting and special cultural or natural interest of the place.

Please Refer to pages 33 - 45 for Detailed Guidance

Appendix 1 - List of relevant Local Development Plan Policies

6.1 List of relevant Local Development Plan Policies (found within Supporting Policies Chapter)

Policy	Topic
Policy INF02	Developer Contributions to Community Infrastructure
Policy INF07	Walking and Cycling
Policy INF10	Transport Assessments
Policy INF12	Water and Drainage Infrastructure
Policy BUS01	Business and Tourism
Policy BUS05	Major Hazards and Pipelines
Policy GN02	Landscape
Policy GN03	Biodiversity and Geodiversity
Policy GN04	Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows
Policy GN05	Outdoor Access
Policy D02	Sustainable Design Principles
Policy D04	Low and Zero Carbon Development
Policy D07	Antonine Wall
Policy D08	Sites of Archaeological Interest
Policy D09	Listed Buildings
Policy D12	Historic Gardens and Design Landscapes
Policy D13	Battlefield Sites
Policy RW04	Agricultural Land, Carbon Rich Soils and Rare Soils
Policy RW06	Flooding
Policy RW07	Air Quality
Policy RW09	Waste Reduction in New Development
Policy RW10	Vacant Derelict and Contaminated Land
Policy HSG05	Infill Development and Subdivision of Plots
Policy HSG07	House Extensions and Alterations
Policy HSG08	Gypsy/Traveller Sites

Appendix 2 - Useful Contacts

6.2

Information on Planning Permission, Permitted Development, Listed Building and Conservation Area control can be obtained from:

Development Management

Development Services
Falkirk Council
Abbotsford House
David's Loan
Falkirk FK2 7YZ
Tel: 01324 504748
Email: dc@falkirk.gov.uk

Building Warrant information can be obtained from:

Building Standards

Development Services
Falkirk Council
Abbotsford House
David's Loan
Falkirk
FK2 7YZ
Tel: 01324 504985
Email: buildingcontrol@falkirk.gov.uk

Information on Roads Construction Consent can be obtained from:

Roads and Development

Development Services
Falkirk Council
Abbotsford House
David's Loan
Falkirk
FK2 7YZ
Tel: 01324 504950
Email: roads@falkirk.gov.uk

A list of architects and advice on employing a Chartered Architect can be obtained from:

The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS)

15 Rutland Square
Edinburgh
EH1 2BE
Tel: 0131 229 7545
Email: info@rias.org.uk
Helpful information also available on the RIAS website: www.rias.org.uk

Information on protected species can be obtained from:

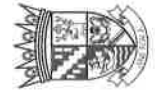
Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)

Forth Region
Silvan House
3rd Floor East
231 Corstorphine Road
Edinburgh
EH12 7AT
Tel: 0131 316 2600
Email: forth@snh.gov.uk

Finalised Supplementary Guidance SG01

August 2014

SG01				

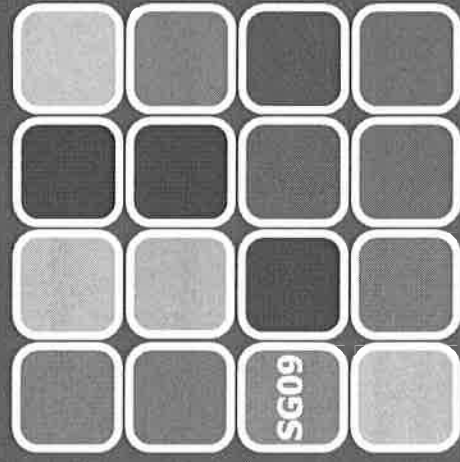


Falkirk Council
Development Services

Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Designations

Finalised
Supplementary Guidance SG09

October 2014



Falkirk Council
Development Services

Supplementary Guidance

A suite of supplementary guidance (SGs) is currently being produced by the Council. Most of these SGs are updated versions of previous Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) whilst others cover new topic areas (★denotes new SGs). There are 16 SGs in the series, all of which seek to provide more detailed guidance on how particular local development plan policies should be applied in practice.

These SGs form a statutory supplement to the Local Development Plan, and are intended to expand upon planning policies and proposals contained in the proposed plan.

A full list of the supplementary guidance available in this series is found below.

SG01	Development in the Countryside ★
SG02	Neighbourhood Design
SG03	Residential Extensions and Alterations
SG04	Shopfronts
SG05	Biodiversity and Development
SG06	Trees and Development
SG07	Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site
SG08	Local Nature Conservation and Geodiversity Sites ★
SG09	Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Designations ★
SG10	Education and New Housing Development
SG11	Healthcare and New Housing Development ★
SG12	Affordable Housing
SG13	Open Space and New Development
SG14	Spatial Framework and Guidance for Wind Energy Development
SG15	Low and Zero Carbon Development ★
SG16	Design Guidance for Listed Buildings and Unlisted Properties in Conservation Areas ★

Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Designations

1. Introduction



2. Planning Policy, Guidance and Initiatives



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

(see Appendix 1 & 2)



4. Local Landscape Designations: Special Landscape Areas (SLAs)

(see Appendix 3)



5. National and Local Designed Landscapes



6. Appendices

- Appendix 1 Landscape Character Type and Local Landscape Character Area Descriptions
- Appendix 2 Background to Falkirk Landscape Character Assessment and National Landscape Character Assessment
- Appendix 3 Statements of Importance and Descriptions for Special Landscape Areas
- Appendix 4 Further Guidance and Sources of Information for Developers



1. Introduction

Why is Landscape Important ?

1.1 The very varied rural landscape of the Falkirk area plays a vital role in providing a setting and backdrop for settlements, industry, transport routes and recreation. The key rural industries of farming and forestry make a major contribution to the appearance of this rural landscape. The rural landscape is a key element of the area's image and identity and is valued by local residents and visitors to the area.

Falkirk's natural rural landform ranges from flat land around the Forth coast, to river valleys, areas of lowland plateau, hill fringes and lowland hills. The rural landscape contains a range of different land uses and development. These include: open hill land, arable farmland, grazing land, broadleaf woodland, commercial forestry, agricultural buildings, equestrian centres, small rural industries, energy production and transmission, telecommunication apparatus, reservoirs, transport routes, minerals, former opencast areas, recreational land, water courses, water bodies, villages and dwellings. Increasing pressures for development in rural areas, together with other changes in land use and land management practices, can result in dramatic changes in the appearance of the rural landscape through the addition of new features and the loss of the defining landscape elements that may make a particular landscape locally distinct or valued.

The purpose of this supplementary guidance is to help developers, land managers and decision makers to take appropriate steps to protect, manage and enhance the rural landscapes of Falkirk. The guidance is intended to ensure that Falkirk's rural landscape is protected, enhanced and well managed for future generations as a place to live and work.

2. Planning Policy, Guidance and Initiatives

Policy Context

2.1 This supplementary guidance document supports European and national policies and initiatives relating to landscape. It also supports policies in the Council's Local Development Plan together with associated strategy documents that relate to protection and enhancement of landscape character, landscape designations (Special Landscape Areas) and designed landscapes. The information below outlines the hierarchy of landscape policy guidance and initiatives.

European Initiatives

2.2 **The European Landscape Convention (ELC)** is an initiative from the Council of Europe that highlights the importance of all landscapes and encourages further attention to their protection, management and planning. In 2006, the UK signed up to the convention; this now provides the framework for Scottish Natural Heritage's (SNH) work on Scotland's landscapes. The ELC initiative is based on a set of principles that recognise:

- (1) people from all cultures and communities lie at the heart of work for landscape and that we all share an interest in and responsibility for its well being,
- (2) all landscapes are important, whether beautiful or degraded and not just in special places,
- (3) landscapes will continue to evolve in response to needs, but this change needs to be managed,
- (4) a better understanding and awareness of our landscapes and the benefits they provide is required, and
- (5) an inclusive, integrated and forward looking approach to managing landscapes we have inherited and in creating new landscapes, is required.

Specific measures cover: awareness raising of the value of landscapes, training and education in all aspects of landscape policy, protection, management and planning, the identification and assessment of all landscapes to improve knowledge, the defining of landscape quality objectives for identified landscapes and the implementation of landscape policies.

National Policy and Initiatives

The **Scottish Planning Policy (2014)** recognises the importance of landscape. It highlights that the planning system should facilitate positive change while maintaining and enhancing distinctive landscape character. The policy document also affirms that the purpose of local landscape designations should be to (a) safeguard and enhance the character and quality of a landscape which is important or locally valued, (b) to promote understanding and awareness of the distinctive character and special qualities of local landscapes or (c) to safeguard and promote important local settings for outdoor recreation and tourism. In relation to development management, the policy requires that siting and design of development should take account of local landscape character and that decisions should consider the potential effects on landscapes and the natural and water environment, including cumulative effects. The importance of protection and expansion of woodland and the need to maximise green infrastructure are also issues covered in the SPP that relate to landscape. The policy also requires planning authorities to protect and seek to enhance gardens and designed landscapes of national and local importance.

Scotland's Landscape Charter (2010) encourages action from everyone to fulfil its vision to ensure that all Scotland's landscapes are protected for future generations. Individuals and organisations are encouraged to sign it to demonstrate their concern and responsibility for Scotland's distinctive landscapes and to put into practice the actions suggested.

2. Planning Policy, Guidance and Initiatives

Local Policies and Strategies

2.4

Falkirk Local Development Plan

This supplementary guidance has been prepared specifically to provide further detail on the application of the following LDP policies:

Policy GN02 Landscape

1. The Council will seek to protect and enhance landscape character and quality throughout the Council area in accordance with Supplementary Guidance SG09 'Landscape Character and Assessment'.
2. Priority will be given to safeguarding the distinctive landscape quality of the Areas of Great Landscape Character identified on the Proposals Map.
3. Development proposals which are likely to have a significant landscape impact must be accompanied by a landscape and visual assessment demonstrating that, with appropriate mitigation, a satisfactory landscape fit will be achieved.

It should be noted that 'Areas of Great Landscape Value' are now termed 'Special Landscape Areas', (see Section 4.1).

Policy D12 Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes

1. There will be a presumption against development which would adversely affect the character or setting of sites identified in the 'Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland', as identified on the Proposals Map.
2. The value of other historic gardens and designed landscapes not listed in the Inventory will be given due weight in the planning process, having regard to their historical significance, integrity and condition. Non-inventory sites will be identified within Supplementary Guidance SG09 'Landscape Character and Assessment'.
3. The Council will seek to encourage sensitive restoration and management of historic gardens and designed landscapes.

2.5

In addition to the core landscape policies above, a number of other LDP policies and proposals support the promotion and development of the green network in Falkirk, under the banner of the Central Scotland Green Network, of which landscape improvement is a key part. The revised **Falkirk Greenspace Strategy** develops the core objectives of the Falkirk Greenspace Initiative and expands on priorities identified in both the Local Development Plan and the Council's Open Space Strategy. The guidelines relating to tree and woodland planting for landscape mitigation, existing woodland management and new planting in this landscape supplementary guidance are also intended to meet the Priority Actions detailed in the Falkirk Greenspace Strategy. A **'Forestry and Woodland Strategy'** will also be prepared for the Falkirk Council area which will set out the priorities for woodland expansion and management, with descriptions of the opportunities and constraints that should be taken into account in new planting and restocking. This 'Forestry and Woodland Strategy' document will accord with the landscape sensitivities and guidelines covered in this Landscape Character and Landscape Designations supplementary guidance.

2.6

The **Supplementary Guidance SG01 'Development in the Countryside'** elaborates on key countryside policies in the Local Development Plan and provides detailed site design guidance to developers and others on matters to be taken into account when considering development in the countryside. SG09 'Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Designations' (this document) deals with the broader issues relating to the rural landscape and designations and details steps to protect, manage and enhance the landscapes of Falkirk.

2. Planning Policy, Guidance and Initiatives

Assessment of Effects on the Landscape

- 2.7 All development and changes in land use and land management will have some effect on the landscape. In accordance with Policy GN02, large developments or developments with a potential for major effects on the landscape or on key viewpoints may need to be assessed by the process of **Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment**, either as part of an Environment Impact Assessment or as part of the appraisal of a development. **Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)** is a tool used to identify and assess the significance of and the effects of change resulting from development on both the landscape as an environmental resource in its own right and on people's views and visual amenity. Such assessments should be in accordance with the 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment' 3rd Edition, produced by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment. The Council would normally expect LVIA's to be carried out by a chartered landscape architect.

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Introduction

3.1 The aim of this section of the landscape Supplementary Guidance is to:

- Provide assistance to developers, land managers and decision makers on appropriate actions to ensure the local landscape is effectively protected and enhanced. It also provides assistance to the Council in planning decisions, commenting on land management proposals and monitoring of landscape change.
- Explain **Landscape Character, Landscape Character Assessment, Landscape Character Types, Local Landscape Character Areas** and the **Special Landscape Area** designation (Special Landscape Areas are fully detailed with guidelines in section 4).
- Explain the purpose of revising the **Landscape Character Assessment** for the Falkirk Council area and the reassessment of the **Special Landscape Areas**. The relationship between **Local Landscape Character Areas** and **Special Landscape Areas** is also explained.

Terminology

3.2 **Landscape Character** is the distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another. The Falkirk Council area, as with every part of Scotland, has a number of different landscapes of distinctive character. It is recognised that protection and, where appropriate, enhancement of our existing local landscape character is vitally important. To achieve this, guidelines are required to ensure Falkirk's landscape is not eroded by development and changes in land management practices.

Landscape Character Assessment is defined as the process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape and using this information to assist in managing change in the landscape. It seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of elements and features that make landscapes distinctive. The process results in the production of a Landscape Character Assessment document for a specific area.

Landscape Character Types (LCTs) are the distinctive types of landscape that are relatively homogeneous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different areas in different parts of the country, but wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation and historical land use and settlement pattern, and perceptual and aesthetic attributes.

Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCAs) are single unique areas which are the discrete geographical areas of a particular Landscape Character Type. Names of the LLCAs normally reflect the names of local topographic features, settlements or water courses so that they are locally identifiable and unique.

Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) 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 adopted different names for their local landscape designations; the term 'Area of Great Landscape Value' (AGLV) has been used historically for these designations in Falkirk. However, the Scottish Government and Scottish Natural Heritage are encouraging a standardisation for the name of local landscape designations to avoid confusion. The term 'Special Landscape Area' is now being used.

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Purpose of Revised Landscape Character Assessment

3.3 Landscape Character Assessments provide detailed descriptions of landscapes and give guidelines (based on forces for change and sensitivities) for landscape protection and enhancement. These were undertaken in the 1990s in partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage and local authorities; they cover all rural areas of Scotland. The Falkirk Council area is covered by two of these original landscape character assessments: The Central Region Landscape Character Assessment Supplement - Stirling to Grangemouth (1998) and the Central Region Landscape Character Assessment (1999). The information in these two documents remains valid in terms of the description of historical processes and cultural influences that have shaped the local landscape and the detailed description of the landscape; some aspects of the guidance in these documents also remains valid. However, the forces for landscape change have now altered and it is recognised that some of the landscape character areas originally identified require refining and sub-division to enable more effective and specific guidelines to be developed.

3.4 This section of the Supplementary Guidance document provides a refinement of the locally distinct landscape character areas together with a description of the key characteristics for each and provides practical guidelines based on likely future forces for change and landscape sensitivities. For brevity, this document does not include the descriptions of historical processes and cultural influences on the landscape or the fully detailed landscape descriptions of the originally identified landscape character areas; reference should be made to the two original landscape character assessments for this information.

3.5 A summary of key characteristics of each Local Landscape Character Area within the Falkirk Council area is detailed in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 details the background to the revised landscape character assessment for Falkirk and its relationship to the national landscape character assessments that were undertaken in partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage.

Reassessment of Special Landscape Areas

3.6 There are three long standing **Special Landscape Areas** (formerly AGLVs) in Falkirk Council area. These are fully detailed in Section 4 with guidelines:

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

3.7 A **'Statement of Importance'** for each SLA has been developed in accordance with SNH's 'Guidance on Local Landscape Designations' and is provided in Appendix 3. 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.

3.8 The landscape quality, key landscape characteristics and boundaries of these designations have also been reassessed for this landscape guidance. The locations of the SLA designations, their boundaries and the landscape quality of each were found to be broadly consistent with the original intention of the AGLV designation. Therefore no boundary changes are currently intended. However, it is recognised that landscapes are dynamic and that further reviews of this landscape supplementary guidance may highlight the need for extensions to the current SLAs or designation of new SLAs. Each SLA has also been assessed for new predicted pressures for change and sensitivity to development to enable guidelines to be produced.

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Relationship between Local Landscape Character Areas and Special Landscape Areas

3.9 The relationship between Local Landscape Character Areas and Special Landscape Areas is set out below:

Local Landscape Character Areas	Special Landscape Areas
Unique, discrete geographical areas of a particular Landscape Character Type which are mapped and described to cover the whole of the local authority area. Used to distinguish between different landscape areas and identify landscape sensitivity. Based on defined and described landscape features.	Special landscapes in the local authority area which are discreet areas that are locally valued due to particular qualities and characteristics, relative to the surrounding areas and that merit designation. They may cover a combination of different local landscape character areas.
Determined by a systematic assessment and description of the full local authority area through the process of Landscape Character Assessment.	Determined through an assessment of an area's local importance, value and special qualities.
Boundaries of Local Landscape Character Areas are normally transitional in nature and are not necessarily distinct on the ground or defined by distinct landscape features.	The boundaries of a landscape designation are generally more precise and defined by visual envelopes, topographic and other landscape features as well as the general landscape character.
Used to help to inform general landscape policies and provide guidelines for an entire local authority area.	SLA designation results in specific planning policy or guidance to ensure enhanced protection and management of an identified area.

Guideline Terminology

3.10 The following terms used in the guidelines for Local Landscape Character Areas and Special Landscape Areas are defined below for clarification:

Sensitive Design: precise detailed design of a building or structure to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the local landscape character, landscape quality, landscape elements, important viewpoints and surrounding habitats.

Sensitive siting/locating: positioning of a building or structure in a location that avoids or minimises adverse impacts on landscape character, landscape quality, landscape elements, important viewpoints and surrounding habitats.

Sensitive forest/woodland management: detailed level of forest management to avoid adverse impacts on landscape character, landscape quality, landscape elements and on the surrounding and internal important viewpoints and habitats; enhancement of the landscape and biodiversity value of the woodland is also an element of sensitive management.

Sympathetic Design: design that is in accord with the local landscape context and with the scale, layout, design and appearance of other development in the area.

Sympathetic Siting/Locating: siting that is in accord with the local landscape context and with the scale, layout, design and appearance of other development in the area.

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Structure of Information on Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

3.11 Information is structured for each Local Landscape Character Area as follows:

1. **A map showing the location and boundaries of the Local Landscape Character Area.** It is important to note that the transition between one Local Landscape Character Area and another is often very gradual and boundaries are rarely effectively represented by a single narrow line on a map.
2. **Likely future forces for change.** The predicted types of future development and land management operations which are likely to impact on landscape character. These are based on current local knowledge, recent planning applications and known national factors that could influence landscape change. Since future development cannot be predicted, the listed forces for change are unlikely to be exhaustive.
3. **Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area.** These are based on specific features and characteristics identified in the landscape character area descriptions and from fieldwork.
4. **Guidelines.** These relate to new and existing development, permitted development and land management operations (e.g. forestry and agriculture); they are intended to mitigate adverse effects on the landscape and enhance the existing landscape. Guidelines beginning with **'ensure'** generally relate to actions affecting the landscape where there would be a level of statutory control, whereas guidelines commencing **'encourage'** relate to actions that are generally considered voluntary, but would still make a positive contribution to the landscape. Due to the unpredictability of future development, the guidelines may not cover all eventualities. Guidelines for the LLCAs have also been used to inform the guidelines for the Special Landscape Areas in Section 4. There are specific landscape guidelines for wind energy detailed in the 'Spatial Framework and Guidance for Wind Energy Development' Supplementary Guidance.

The key characteristics of each of the 16 Local Landscape Character Areas and the six generic Landscape Character Types are detailed in Appendix 1.

Structure of Information on Special Landscape Areas and Guidelines (Section 4)

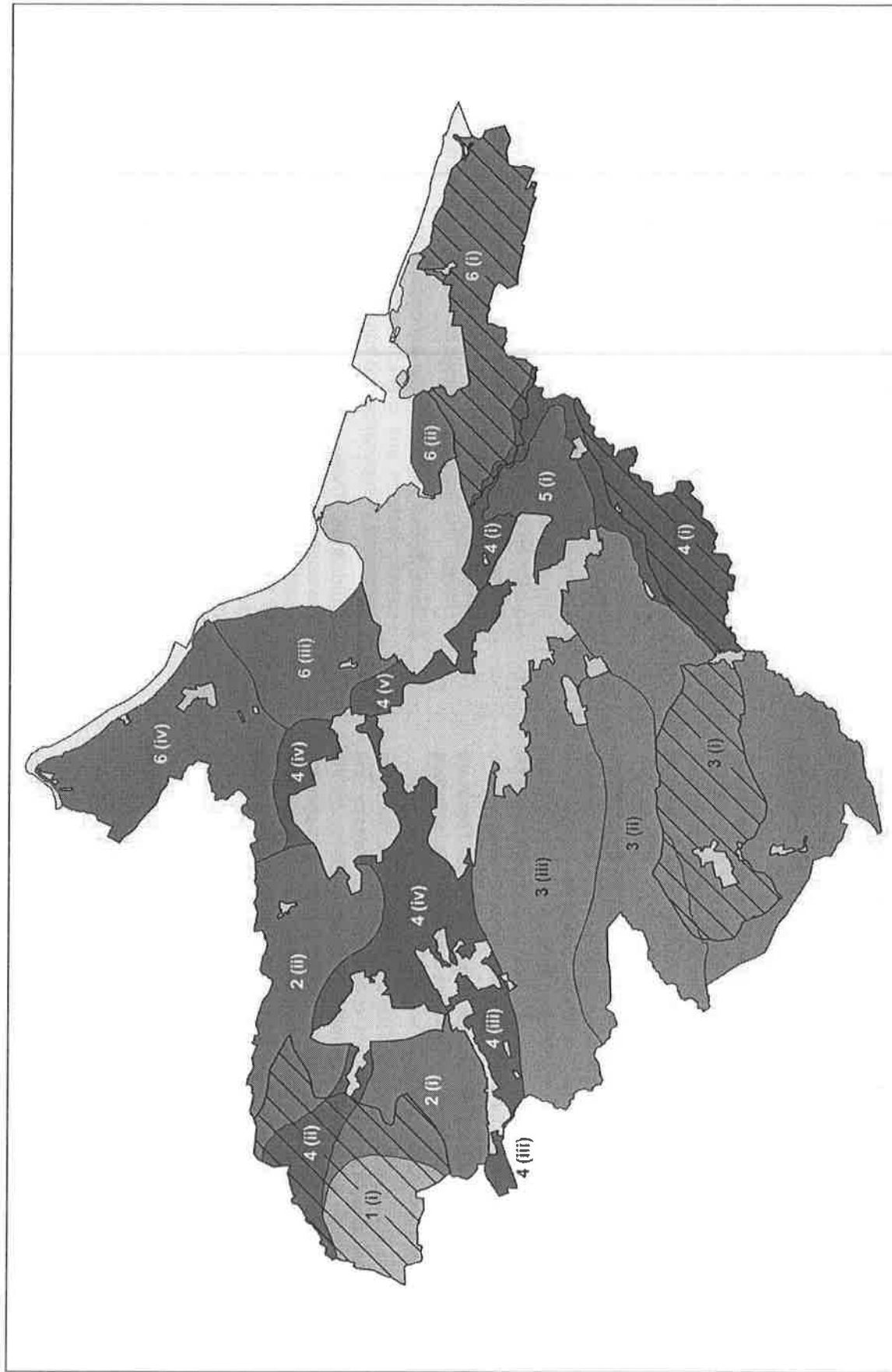
3.12 The structure of information for each Special Landscape Area in Section 4 is also provided here for ease of reference and understanding:

1. **A map showing the location and boundaries of the Special 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 Special Landscape Area.** These are based on specific features and characteristics of the SLA 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 SLA designation through land management operations. The guidelines are divided into different categories of development and land management. Although the guidelines for each Special Landscape Area have been determined separately on the basis of the relevant sensitivities and forces for change specific to the SLA, they have also been informed by LLCA guidelines. They are frequently similar to guidelines of the component Local Landscape Character Areas that fall within the boundary of the SLA.

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

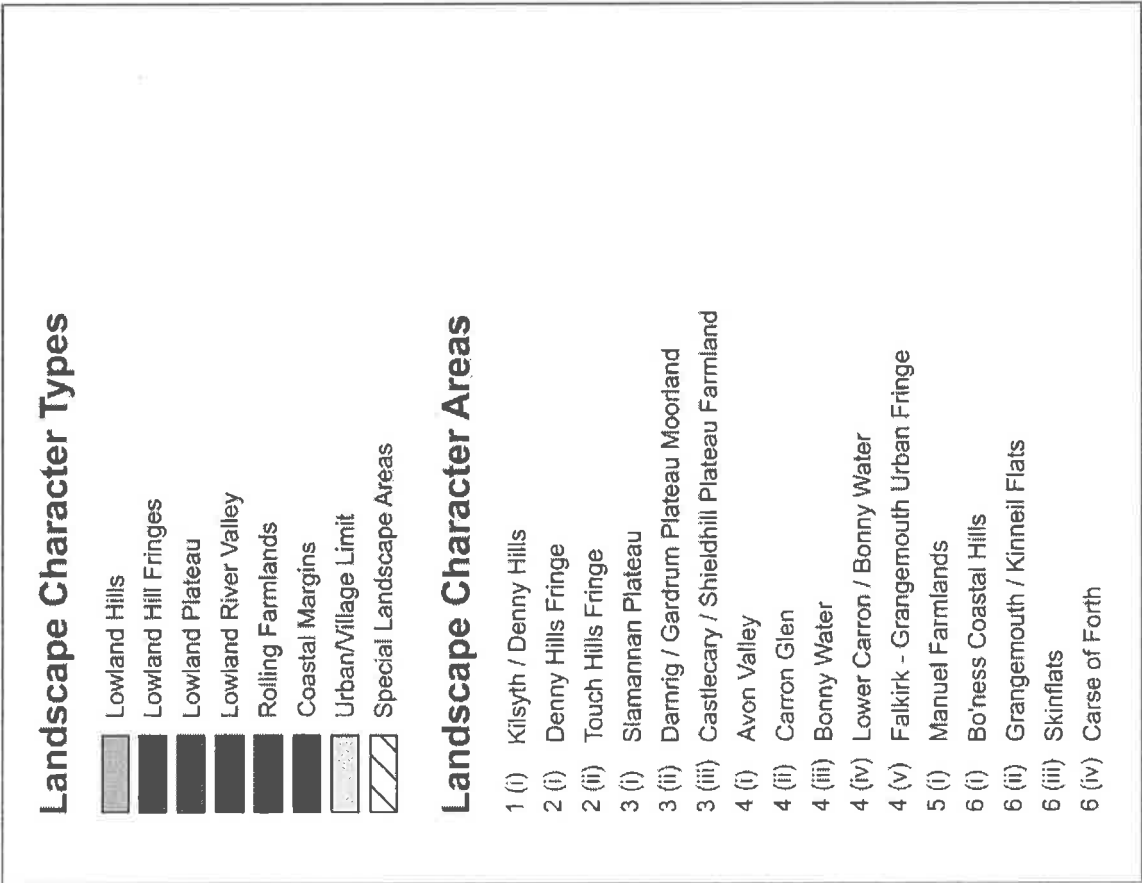
Local Landscape Character Areas: Likely Future Forces for Change, Sensitivities and Guidelines

3.13 Figure 1: The location of the Local Landscape Character Areas and the generic Landscape Character Types with Special Landscape Areas.



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

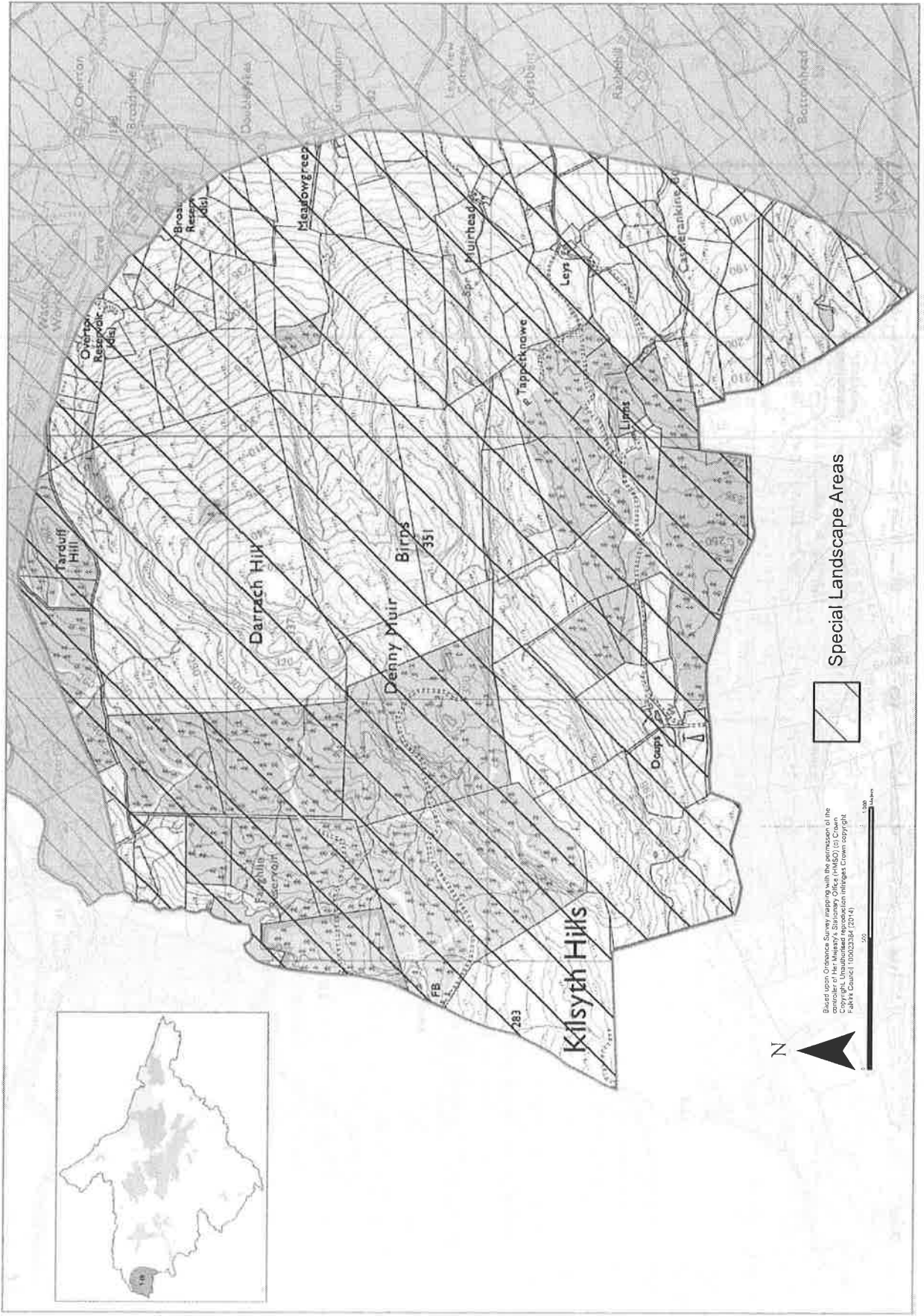
3.14 The following pages provide detailed location maps, details of forces for change, sensitivities and guidelines for each of the 16 Local Landscape Character Areas covering Falkirk Council area:



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

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

3.15



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

- 3.16 Additional forestry expansion. Telecommunication apparatus. Wind turbine development with associated access tracks. Solar energy development. New agricultural buildings and single dwellings on lowest slopes.

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

- 3.17 Large scale hill landform incorporating highest land in Falkirk Council area (375m) with a prominent skyline and an extensive level of visibility over lower land and settlements to the east. This results in a high sensitivity to any development generally and in particular a very high sensitivity to tall structures. Incised burns into hill slopes, rough grazing land, hill vegetation and forestry on hill sides provide a diverse visual backdrop which is very sensitive to change or loss to any development, particularly as seen from lower ground. Particularly high sensitivity to any extensive poorly designed commercial forestry planting. LLCA falls within Denny Hills Special Landscape Area.



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

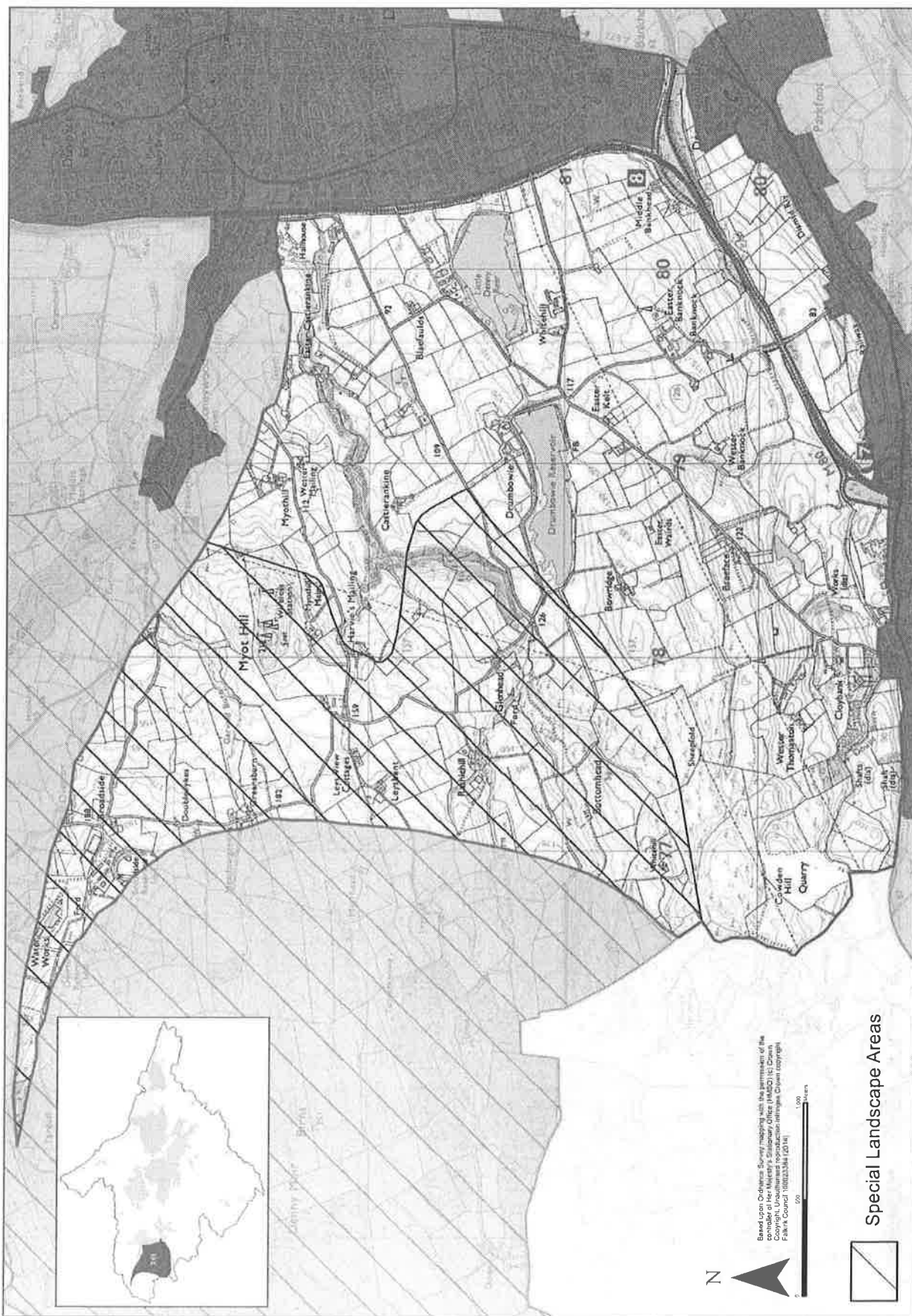
Guidelines: 1(i) Kilsyth / Denny Hills

- 3.18
- Encourage improvement of design of existing forestry plantations at edges, along watercourses and along forest roads to address visual sensitivity.
 - Ensure any new forestry planting is in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard Guidelines: Forests and Landscape.
 - Encourage retention, management and expansion of native broadleaf trees and woodland along watercourses and lower hill slopes to provide linkages with existing woodland and to contribute to Falkirk's green network.
 - Telecommunication apparatus, small wind turbines and power lines on prominent ridges or hill tops will not be acceptable due to the identified sensitivity of skylines; elsewhere ensure these elements are only located where their scale and design relates well to the existing landscape.
 - Ensure any proposals for wind energy development follow the landscape guidance in the Supplementary Guidance 'Spatial Framework and Guidance for Wind Energy Development'.
 - Ensure solar energy developments are sensitively sited and landscape and visual impact assessments support proposals.
 - Ensure 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 views; mitigating screen planting must be incorporated where appropriate to address the identified visual sensitivity of area.
 - Encourage retention, maintenance and reinstatement of stone field boundary walls and boundary trees; there is landscape sensitivity to the loss of these features.

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Local Landscape Character Area 2(i) Denny Hills Fringe

3.19



Finalised SG09 Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Designations

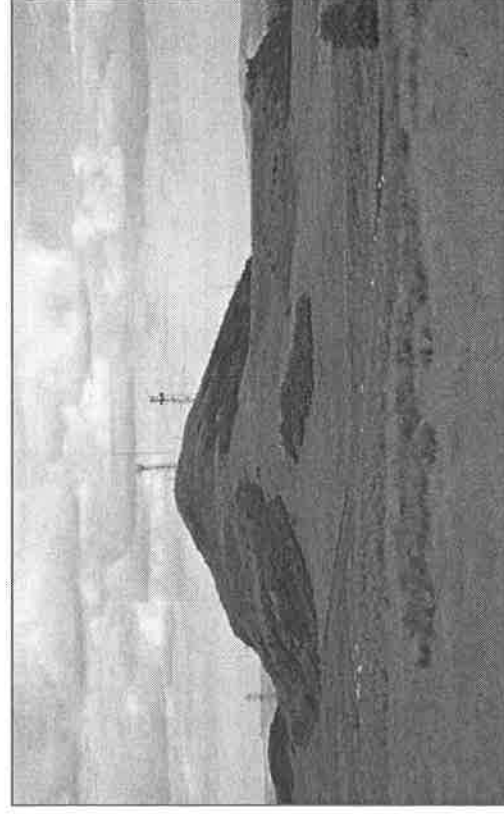
3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

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

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

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



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Guidelines 2(i) Denny Hills Fringe

3.22

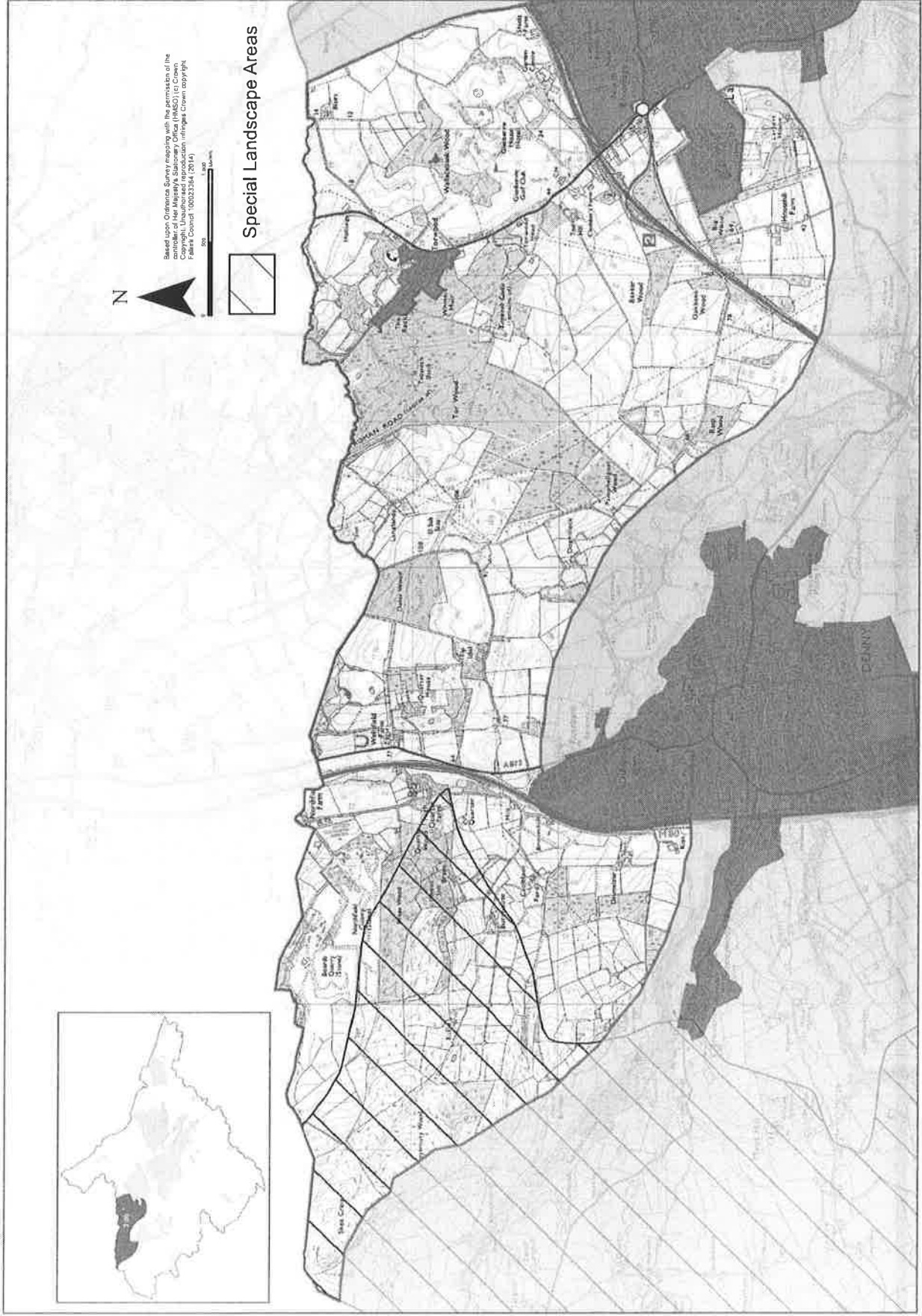
- Encourage management and expansion of native broadleaf trees and woodland along watercourses, field boundaries and as a backdrop to settlements to enable linkages to other woodland areas for improvement of landscape, biodiversity value, and access routes; this will contribute to Falkirk's green network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

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Local Landscape Character Area 2(ii) Touch Hills Fringe

3.23



Finalised SG09 Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Designations

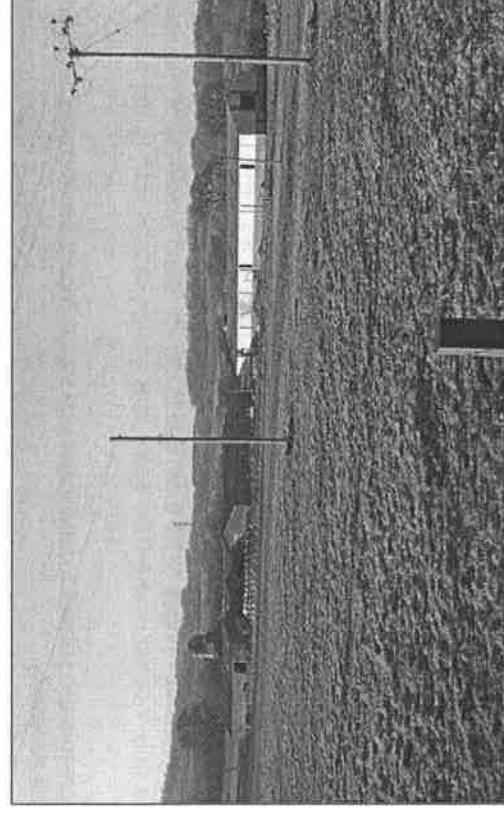
3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

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

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

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



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

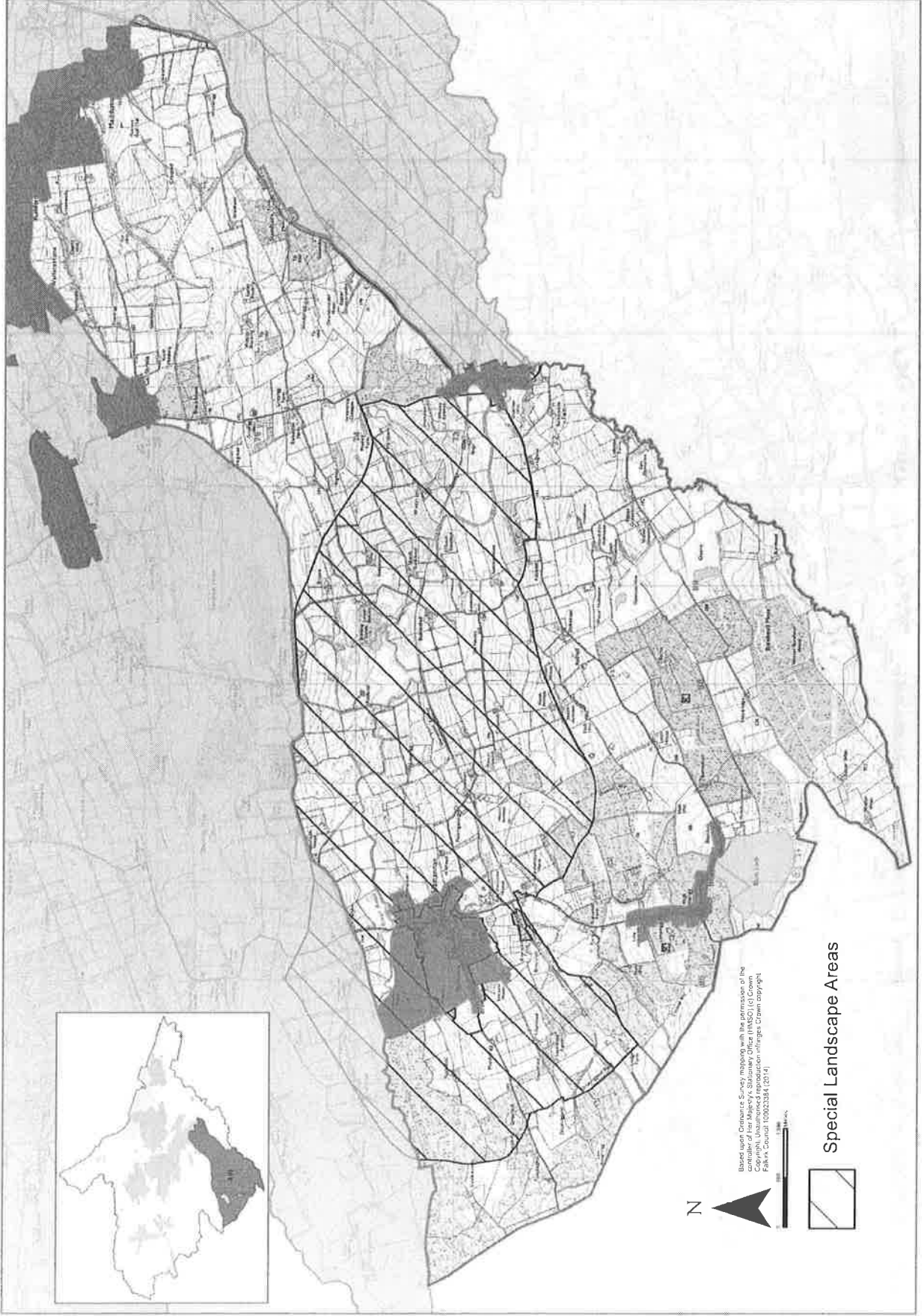
Guidelines 2(ii) Touch Hills Fringe

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

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Local Landscape Character Area 3(i) Slamannan Plateau

3.27



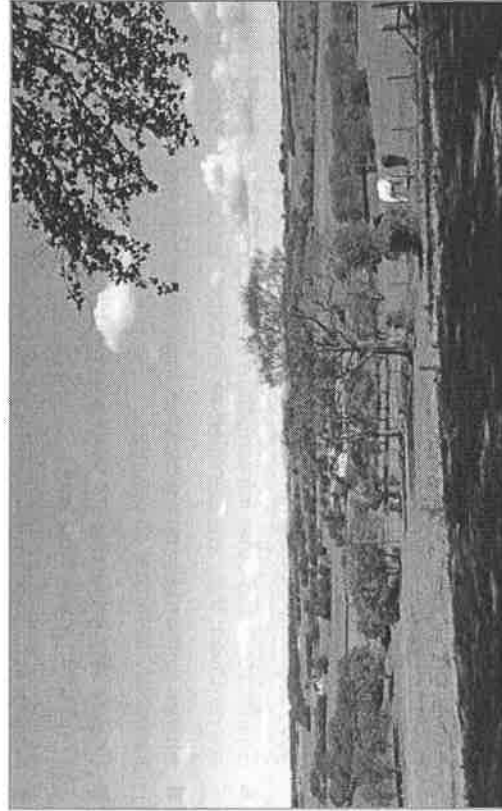
3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

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

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

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



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Guidelines 3(i) Slamannan Plateau

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

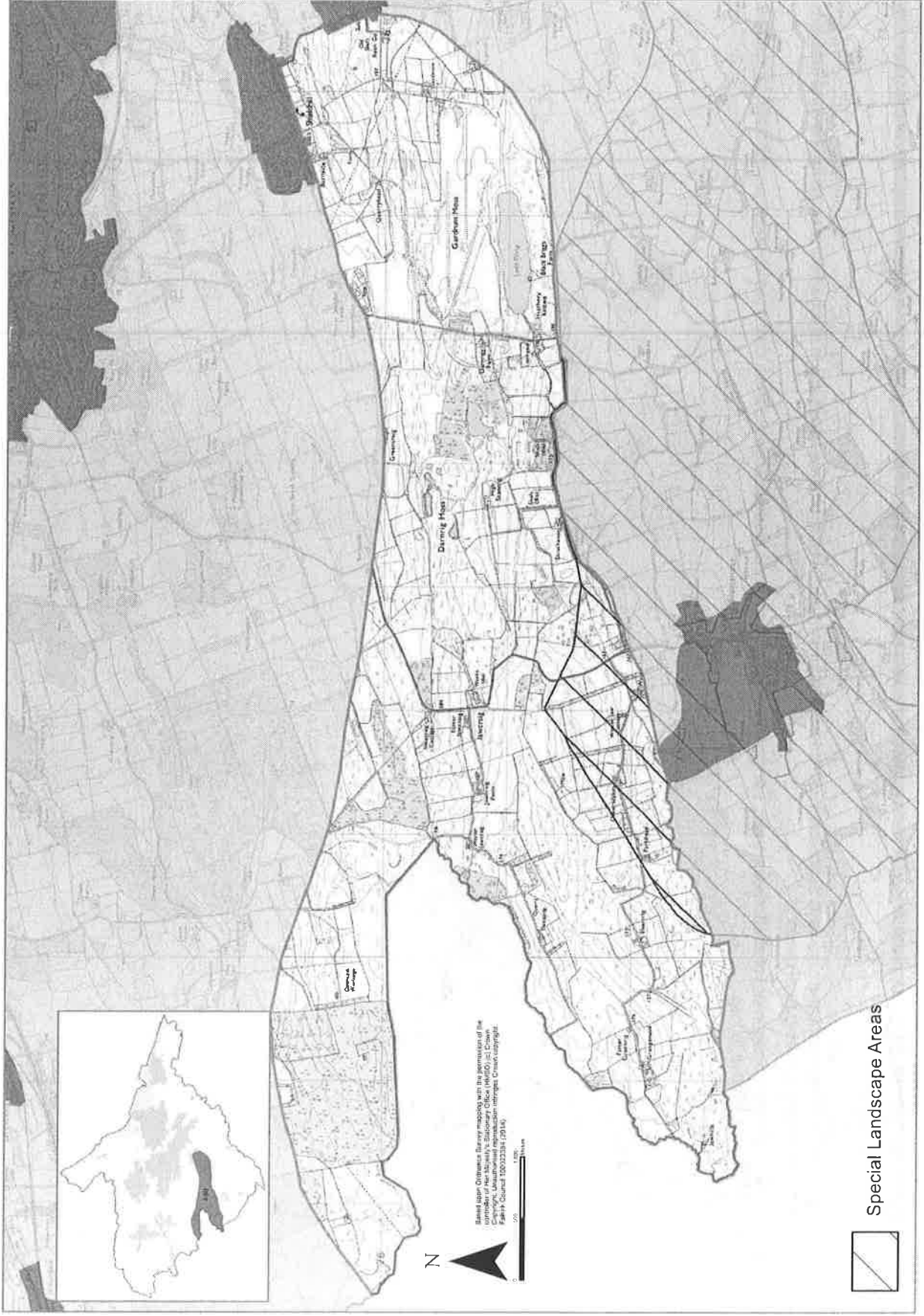
3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

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

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

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

3.31



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

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

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

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



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Guidelines 3(ii) Darnrig/Gardrum Plateau Moorland

3.34

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

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

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

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Likely future forces for change

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

Sensitivities within Local Landscape Character Area

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



3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Guidelines 3(iii) Castlecary/Shieldhill Plateau Farmland

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

3. Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

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