

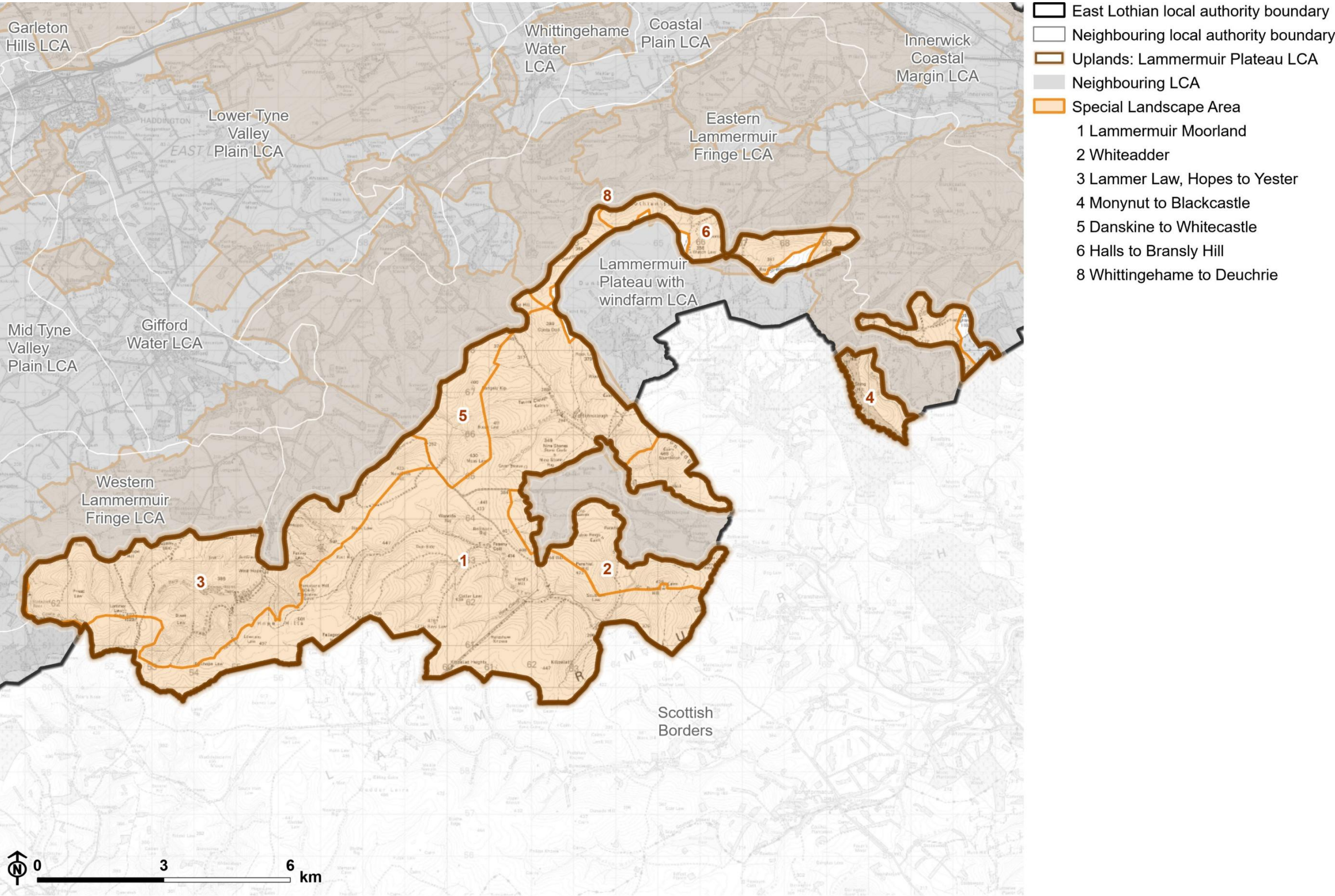
Appendix A

Landscape Sensitivity Profiles

A.1 Landscape sensitivity assessment profiles for the LCAs within East Lothian.

Lammermuir Plateau LCA (Uplands LCT)

Figure A.1: Contextual map of the LCA



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LCA landscape character overview

A.2 The Lammermuir Plateau LCA is located within the Uplands LCT in the south-eastern extents of the East Lothian local authority area. The LCA covers much of the Lammermuir Hills which fall within the local authority area, extending from Lammer Law (527m AOD) in the south-west to Wester Dod (412m AOD) in the north-east.

A.3 The key characteristics of this LCA which are of relevance to the LSA include:

- *“The hills and ridges interweave to form a gently undulating upland plateau.”*
- *“The skyline, especially where unbroken, characterises East Lothian.”*
- *“Smooth complex hill slopes are dissected by a complex tracery of valley landforms varying in scale and appearance.”*
- *“Several small man-made reservoirs.”*
- *“Field boundary features are uncommon although post and wire fences line several of the roads and access tracks.”*
- *“Heather moorland and rough pastures forms the predominant vegetation cover.”*
- *“Tree cover is generally absent except for infrequent clumps of mature deciduous trees and small coniferous and broadleaved shelterbelts.”*
- *“Grouse butts are in evidence along the hill slopes.”*
- *“The isolated character [of this LCA] is emphasised by a lack of settlement or woodland, but naturalness is detracted by manmade elements including the dominant pylon line, prominent access tracks and wind turbines.”*
- *“Wilder land quality derived from high degree of perceived naturalness of land cover, and relative lack of fragmentation by roads, settlements and other urban features.”*
- *“Panoramic views across the hill fringes and coastal plain to the Firth of Forth to the north and the North Sea to the east [...] Unobstructed, long distance views.”*
- *“Grandeur of scale.”* **[See reference 1]**

Designated landscapes

A.4 Almost the entirety of the LCA is covered by SLAs (as shown on **Figure A.1**):

- Lammermuir Moorland SLA (1);

- Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA (3);
- Danskine to Whitecastle SLA (5);
- Whiteadder SLA (2);
- Whittingehame to Deuchrie SLA (8);
- Halls to Bransly Hill SLA (6); and
- Monynut to Blackcastle SLA (4).

A.5 Lammermuir Moorland SLA (1) covers much of the LCA, while the other SLAs cover the transitions between the hills and lower lying land, such as the fringes and upland valleys. The reasons for the designations are set out in the East Lothian Special Landscape Area Supplementary Planning Guidance [\[See reference 1\]](#).

Existing renewable energy and other large-scale development

A.6 There are no operational or under construction wind farms, solar PV, or BESS developments in the LCA.

A.7 The following wind farms are within 5km of the LCA:

- Crystal Rig Phases 1-3 (101 turbines, 100-125m to tip);
- Aikengall Phases I-III (54 turbines, 125-145m to tip);
- Fallago Rig (48 turbines, 125m to tip);
- Ferneylea Farm (2 turbines, 71m to tip);
- Hoprigshiels (3 turbines, 125m to tip);
- Keith Hill (5 turbines, 76m to tip);
- Pogbie and Pogbie Extension (12 turbines, 74-76m to tip);
- Dun Law Phases 1 and 2 (61 turbines, 63.5-75m to tip); and
- Kinegar Quarry (2 turbines, 110m to tip).

A.8 The turbines of Crystal Rig Phases 1-3, Fallago Rig, Aikengall I-III are seen at close distances (<1km) from the LCA. These turbines would be seen on land of a similar character to the LCA (upland plateau moorland). Turbines of other wind farms (Hoprigshiels, Keith Hill, Kinegar Quarry, Dun Law, Pogbie, and Pogbie Extension) would be seen in middle distance views in lower lying land (plateau grasslands and farmland).

A.9 Crystal Rig Phase 4, located <2km from the LCA, is currently under construction. It will comprise 11 turbines, 200m to tip.

A.10 There is a planning application to repower Crystal Rig Phase 1 with 10 wind turbines, with maximum tip heights of up to 230m. The possible cumulative effects of the repowering proposal are discussed in the Overall Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development section.

Figure A.2: Looking east to the adjacent wind farms



Figure A.3: Within the upper valley of Whiteadder Water



Figure A.4: Moorland near Redstone Rig I



Figure A.5: Long-distance views north-west from Bransly Hill look towards Bass Rock and North Berwick Law



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

A.11 The following table sets out an assessment of sensitivity of the LCA in relation to each of the criteria set out in **Chapter 2**.

Table A.1: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for the Lammermuir Plateau LCA

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Landform and scale	■ A medium-to-large scale upland, undulating plateau with a complex landform of interlocking hills and ridges scored with cleughs. “<i>The area’s raised rolling hill tops [contrasting] with the steep, narrow, wooded deans</i>” is one of the special qualities of the Halls to Bransly Hill SLA (6). Similarly, the “<i>strongly rhythmic pattern of predominantly open topped hills split by steep wooded valleys</i>” is one of the special qualities of the Monynut to Blackcastle [See reference 1]. The intimate cleughs and deans contribute to the special qualities of other SLAs, including the Lammermuir Moorland; Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester; and Whittingehame to Deuchrie [See reference 1]. ■ The openness and expansiveness of the moor is one of the special qualities of the Lammermuir Moorland SLA (1) [See reference 1]. ■ “<i>The main valleys of Faseny and Whiteadder have a more enclosed feel,</i>” which is one of the special qualities of the Lammermuir Moorland SLA (1). The special qualities of Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA (3) describe the “<i>height and steepness</i>” of Nipper Knowes, Fennie Law, and Kingside Rig which, in combination with combined with the low canopy of native oak woods, can feel “<i>oppressive, dominating and enclosing.</i>” This contrasts to how the view “<i>opens out</i>” at Hopes Reservoir [See reference 1]. ■ The hills are modest but relative to the surrounding lowlands they appear large. ■ While not a prominent summit, Meikle Says Law (535m AOD) is the highest point in the Lammermuirs and is one of the relative hills of the U.K. It is also one of the features which make up the special qualities of the Lammermuir Moorland SLA (1). Similarly, the rounded summit of Lammer Law is “<i>the most prominent point of the East Lothian Lammermuir Hills when viewed from the East Lothian plain to the north</i>” – this is one of the special qualities of the Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA (3) [See reference 1]. ■ Other prominent hills and landforms include Spartleton (668m AOD), which contributes to the special qualities of the Whiteadder SLA (2) [See reference 1].	High The landform is distinct, indicating a high sensitivity to all scales of wind energy development. While the LCA is an extensive, large-scale plateau, which generally indicates lower sensitivity, the LCA also contains small-scale, intimate landforms in the form of the cleughs and deans. Introducing turbines into these areas would overwhelm their intimate scale. Turbines could also detract from the visually important hills of Meikle Says Law and Lammer Law – particularly turbines >150m, which would undermine the relative height of these hills.	High While a gently undulating and extensive plateau generally indicates reduced sensitivity to solar PV and BESS development, landscapes with prominent landforms and hills are highly sensitive because arrays of panels or BESS units are more easily perceived and widely visible on elevated slopes. Additionally, the angular form of solar and BESS structures would contrast with the underlying smooth hills. Also, the presence of the small-scale, intimate landforms of the cleughs and deans indicates high sensitivity as these places could be overwhelmed by the extent of solar PV and the bulk of BESS developments.	High While the medium-to-large scale upland plateau generally indicates a lower sensitivity to other large-scale development, landscapes with prominent landforms such as the hills of Meikle Says Law and Lammer Law are highly sensitive, as large, bulky buildings would be highly conspicuous in these elevated locations and could detract from these visually important landforms. Furthermore, the small-scale, intimate landforms of the cleughs and deans indicate high sensitivity, as these places would easily be overwhelmed by the large footprint and 20-30m height of large-scale developments. The complex landform of interlocking hills and ridges would also provide scale comparison, making it easier to perceive the large scale of development compared to its surroundings.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	The northern extents of the LCA comprise the higher elevations of the Lothian Edge, which is an important landscape feature that contributes to the special qualities of several SLAs, including Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester; Danskine to Whitecastle; Halls to Bransly Hill; and Whittingehame to Deuchrie.			
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	- The LCA is characterised by the large swathes of heather moorland – which is one of the special qualities of the Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA (3) and the Lammermuir Moorland SLA (1) – along with areas of rough pasture [See reference 1]. - The landscape is generally exposed. This characteristic is one of the special qualities of the Lammermuir Moorland SLA (1): “<i>the exposed plateau allows for little woodland, other than a limited amount of mainly scrubby deciduous trees within the cleughs</i>” [See reference 1]. - Few boundary markers besides some post and wire fences and occasional stone walls. - Extensive muirburn, the patchwork pattern of which produces “<i>a mosaic of texture and muted colour</i>” is noted as a special quality of the Lammermuir Moorland SLA (1) [See reference 1]. - Semi-natural landcover in places, such as within the local biodiversity sites and SSSIs, including Lammer Law SSSI and Rammer Cleugh SSSI (see Figure B.4). The habitats of Lammer Law SSSI are one of the special qualities of the Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA (3) [See reference 1]. - There is native woodland on the banks of Hopes Reservoir, some of which is ancient in origin. The “<i>native mixed cleugh woodland of old willow, birch and alder</i>” in this area is one of the special qualities of the Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA (3) [See reference 1]. - There is sparse built development, which is one of the special qualities of Lammermuir Moorland SLA (1); Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA; and Danskine to Whitecastle SLA (5) [See reference 1].	Medium-High The LCA is characterised by sparse built development, indicating higher sensitivity. It has some areas of semi-natural land cover, including large swathes of heather moorland, and the SSSI designations recognise the area’s biodiversity value. Furthermore, the extensive muirburn creates a complex landcover pattern. The texture and more complex landcover pattern indicate higher sensitivity to wind energy development of any scale, as such development could interrupt or overwrite the landcover pattern. Additionally, the LCA contains some human-scale features such as scrubby deciduous trees within the cleughs and valleys. These elements are of higher sensitivity, as turbines >50m can overwhelm smaller human-scale features.	Medium-High The LCA has little overt human influence from built development. It has some areas of semi-natural land cover, including large swathes of heather moorland, and the SSSI designations recognise the area’s biodiversity value. The introduction of built structures and hard surfacing could detract from the LCA’s more naturalistic land cover. Also, the extensive muirburn creates a complex landcover pattern. The more complex landcover pattern indicates higher sensitivity to solar PV and BESS due to the risk of masking the landscape patterns with the regular, linear shapes of such development. Also, the open and exposed character of this LCA means that there would be little screening for this development type. While there are some instances of woodland, these are contained to steep-sided slopes. Also, their human-scale is of higher sensitivity to BESS development which may overwhelm smaller human-scale features.	High The LCA has little overt human influence from built development. It has some areas of semi-natural land cover, including large swathes of heather moorland, and the SSSI designations recognise the area’s biodiversity value. These elements indicate higher sensitivity to the large, bulky buildings of this development type, which could detract from the LCA’s character which is currently defined by its lack of overt human influence. Also, the open and exposed character of this LCA means that there would be little screening for this development type. While there are some instances of woodland, these are contained to steep-sided slopes. Also, their human-scale is of higher sensitivity to this type of development which would seem incongruous with these smaller human-scale features.
Historic landscape character	A strong sense of time depth contributed to by several archaeological remains: hill forts and agricultural settlement that is post-medieval and	Medium-High	Medium-High	Medium-High

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	possibly earlier (see Figure B.5). Such historic features are among the special qualities of the Monynut to Blackcastle SLA (4) and the Halls to Bransly Hill SLA (6). The area's rich archaeological remains and monuments make up the special qualities of the Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA (3) [See reference 1]. ■ The infrequent settlement of the area is often vernacular – this is one of the special qualities of the Whittingehame to Deuchrie SLA (8) [See reference 1].	The many historic features important to the area, which contribute to the LCA's strong sense of time depth, indicate higher sensitivity to development. This is because introducing large energy infrastructure would starkly contrast with this historic character.	The many historic features important to the area, which contribute to the LCA's strong sense of time depth, indicate higher sensitivity to development. This is because introducing large energy infrastructure would starkly contrast with this historic character.	The many historic features important to the area, which contribute to the LCA's strong sense of time depth, indicate higher sensitivity to development. This is because introducing large energy infrastructure would starkly contrast with this historic character.
Visual receptors	■ The LCA is highly accessible with many access tracks. ■ As seen in Figure B.6, there are several core paths throughout the LCA, including core path 228/Herring Road, a ScotWays Heritage Path, which passes through the north-western areas of the LCA.	High While the LCA is sparsely settled, it is popular and important for recreation, indicating higher sensitivity to this type of development.	High While the LCA is sparsely settled, it is popular and important for recreation, indicating greater higher to this type of development.	High While the LCA is sparsely settled, it is popular and important for recreation, indicating higher sensitivity to this type of development.
Visual amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)	■ The LCA is enjoyed for its scenic qualities and is important for recreation, this is one of the special qualities of the Whittingehame to Deuchrie and Monynut to Blackcastle SLAs. There are many walks throughout the area. For example, core path route 55, which is valued for its scenic and perceptual characteristics and contributes to the special qualities of the Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA (3) [See reference 1]. ■ The Lammermuir Plateau forms an important skyline that characterises East Lothian. The LCA plays an important role as a backdrop in views from the East Lothian plain, foothills, and Scottish Borders. Its role as a backdrop is one of the special qualities of the Lammermuir Moorland SLA (1), Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA, Whittingehame to Deuchrie SLA, and Halls to Bransly Hill [See reference 1]. Similarly, its high visibility is one of the special qualities of the Danskine to Whitecastle SLA (5) [See reference 1]. ■ Panoramic views from higher ground are special qualities of the Lammermuir Moorland; Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester; Danskine to Whitecastle; Whittingehame to Deuchrie; Halls to Bransly Hill; and Monynut to Blackcastle SLAs [See reference 1]. For example, the views experienced from Lammer Law (Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA) and those from Rangely Kip (Danskine to Whitecastle SLA).	High The prominent and distinctive skyline that the plateau forms is highly visible and characterises East Lothian. Furthermore, the LCA has important visual relationships with many other areas in that it forms the backdrop to many views. Consequently, the visual character of this LCA is highly sensitive to wind energy development.	High The LCA has a high sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development as such development could detract from the LCA's prominent and distinctive skyline. The LCA has important visual relationships with many other areas in that it forms the backdrop to many views. Its high visibility indicates high sensitivity as arrays of panels or BESS containers would be widely visible across many other areas of East Lothian.	High The LCA has a high sensitivity to other large-scale development as such development could detract from the LCA's prominent and distinctive skyline. The LCA has important visual relationships with many other areas in that it forms the backdrop to many views. Its high visibility indicates high sensitivity as large-scale development would be widely visible across many other areas of East Lothian.
Perceptual and scenic qualities	■ There are visible signs of manmade elements and activity, such as infrastructure (high voltage overhead line Thornton to Strathaven (400kV) and wind turbines) and management for grouse moor (muirburn, grouse butts,	Medium-High The attractive character of the LCA with its pleasing	Medium-High The LCA does not have an overt human influence from built	Medium-High The LCA does not have an overt human influence from built

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	access tracks). However, the LCA’s grandeur of scale and lack of modern fragmentation counterbalance the presence of contemporary infrastructure and human activity. There is a perceived sense of remoteness and wildness, which are special qualities of the Lammermuir Moorland and Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLAs [See reference 1]. ■ While the moorland is intensively managed as evidenced by muirburn, the highest ground can appear to have a “<i>less managed look</i>,” which is one of the special qualities of the Danskine to Whitecastle SLA (5) [See reference 1]. ■ Similarly, the limited light pollution and qualities of peacefulness and wildness are also special qualities of the Lammermuir Moorland and Monynut to Blackcastle SLAs [See reference 1]. ■ The single-track roads throughout the LCA contribute to its traditional character. This is one of the special qualities of the Monynut to Blackcastle SLA. ■ A highly scenic landscape, such as around Hopes and Lammerloch Reservoirs and the visual contrasts between the expansive open moorland and the intimate cleughs. The “<i>highly scenic area around Lammerloch Reservoir</i>” is one of the special qualities of the Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA (3) [See reference 1].	combinations of features and visual contrasts indicate greater sensitivity to wind energy development. This is because such development may detract from the LCA’s scenic qualities. The LCA is also perceived as a naturalistic landscape and imbues feelings of remoteness, peacefulness, and wildness. These feelings are the special qualities of several SLAs. Wind energy development could negatively impact these special qualities. Similarly, turbines >150m would have aviation lighting at night which could impact on relative wildness.	development, indicating a greater sensitivity to this type of development, which would be seen as intrusive in a LCA that is perceived as remote, wild, and natural. Such development could detract from the LCA’s attractive character and pleasing combination of features and visual contrasts. Particularly if sited in areas valued for their scenery, such as around Hopes and Lammerloch Reservoirs.	development, indicating a greater sensitivity to this type of development, which would be seen as intrusive in a LCA that is perceived as remote, wild, and natural. Such development could detract from the LCA’s attractive character and pleasing combination of features and visual contrasts. Particularly if sited in areas valued for their scenery, such as around Hopes and Lammerloch Reservoirs.

Overall landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

A.12 Landscape features of a medium-high sensitivity include the large swathes of semi-natural landcover, its biodiversity designated with several SSSIs; the light settlement pattern; and the strong sense of time depth indicated from hill forts and historic agricultural remnants. Despite the evidence of grouse moor management, pylons, and proximity to wind farms, the LCA retains a sense of wildness, particularly within the cleughs from which there is a feeling of isolation and remoteness. Wind energy development in this LCA would further diminish the area's sense of remoteness and wildness.

A.13 The landscape features with the highest sensitivity to wind energy development include the distinctive landform of the LCA – with its smoothly rolling hills scored with intricate cleughs. The more intimate character of the cleughs would be compromised by wind energy development, which in relation to them would seem out of scale. Of highest sensitivity is the highly visible skyline of the LCA, which characterises the views throughout East Lothian and plays an important role as a backdrop in views from the East Lothian plain, foothills, and Scottish Borders. Consequently, the LCA is of regional importance in terms of its landform and visual amenity. Existing wind energy development is discretely sited in a “cluster and space” pattern and so currently the skyline of the LCA is only intermittently broken and spaces of the skyline are left open. Further wind energy development would further break the skyline and compromise its integrity.

A.14 While there is existing wind energy development in proximity to this LCA, this does not reduce its sensitivity. Similarly, while smaller scales of turbines (<50m tip height) may be more easily screened by the landform, they could lead to visual confusion when viewed with the existing, nearby wind energy development.

A.15 The operational life of wind farms tends to be between 20 and 30 years. Older wind farms located in proximity to the LCA that reach the end of their operational life may be repowered. Repowering tends to replace the decommissioned turbines with fewer, taller turbines often >200m to tip. Taller turbines can bring about more significant landscape and visual effects; although, this can be counterbalanced by the smaller number of turbines. Wind farms within 5km of the LCA that may be approaching the end of their operational life are:

- Crystal Rig Phase 1 (operational since 2003);
- Crystal Rig Phase 2 (operational since 2010);
- Aikengall I (operational since 2009);
- Dun Law Phase 1 (operational since 2000); and

- Dun Law Phase 2 (operational since 2009).

A.16 An application has been submitted to repower Crystal Rig Phase 1, the possible effects of which are discussed later in the cumulative effects section.

Table A.2: Sensitivity scores to wind energy development in the Lammermuir Platform LCA

Wind Energy Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score
Up to 49.9m tip height	High
50m to 99.9m tip height	Medium-High
100m to 149.9m tip height	Medium-High
150m to 199.9m tip height	Medium-High
Over 200m tip height	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.17 Areas and features of the highest sensitivity include the unbroken skyline, prominent hills (including Lammer Law, Spartleton, and Meikle Says Law), the Lothian Edge, and the intimate cleughs and deans. These areas and features make up the special qualities of several SLAs, including Lammermuir Moorland; Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester; Whiteadder; Danskine to Whitecastle; Halls to Bransly Hill; and Whittingehame to Deuchrie.

Cumulative effects

A.18 The LCA is in close proximity to existing wind farms. This does not make the LCA less sensitive to wind farms; rather, the LCA is more sensitive as wind energy development here would blur the distinction between the LCA and surrounding areas, including the Lammermuir Plateau with Windfarm LCA. Wind energy development in the Lammermuir Plateau could extend the existing influence of turbines on the landscape character of this LCA.

A.19 Wind energy development in the Lammermuir Plateau LCA would further break the skyline of the Lammermuir Hills, which is currently only partially broken by existing wind energy development that follows a “cluster and space” pattern. Wind energy development within the LCA could lead to the perception of a combined and large mass of turbines. Wind energy development could also risk there being few or no areas within the East Lothian Lammermuirs that are not significantly impacted or dominated by wind energy development.

A.20 An application has been submitted to repower Crystal Rig Phase 1. The proposed wind farm would consist of 10 turbines, with maximum tip heights of up to 230m. As these proposed turbines are >150m, they will have aviation lighting at night, which may reduce feelings of wildness in the area. Crystal Rig Phase 4 (11 turbines, 200m to tip), will also have aviation lighting. Taller turbines may have more widespread significant landscape and visual effects, although this may be counterbalanced by fewer turbines, which may result in a more cohesive layout. While Crystal Rig I Repower and Crystal Rig Phase 4 are sited lower in the catchment of Bothwell Water, the very large turbines may not benefit from screening from the landform and may detract from the integrity of the skyline.

Overall landscape sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development

A.21 Landscape features of higher sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development include the LCA's prominent, visible slopes; the generally open character of the LCA and lack of enclosure; the relatively limited development and areas of biodiverse semi-natural landcover as recognised via the designation of SSSIs; the light settlement pattern; the strong sense of time depth contributed to by many historic features such as hill forts and former agricultural settlements; and the LCA's scenic qualities, such as around Hope and Lammerloch Reservoirs, and the visual contrast between the open moorland and the intimate cleughs. The landscape features of the highest sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development are the LCA's highly visible skyline that characterises East Lothian and the important role the LCA plays in relationship to other areas – serving as the backdrop to views.

A.22 Solar PV and BESS development would introduce uncharacteristic built elements into the landscape which would be visible in long distance views throughout the surrounding area. Such development could detract from these views, especially as the skyline currently features wind turbines – solar PV panels/BESS developments could result in visual confusion due to differences in scale. Solar PV panels/BESS developments would introduce a new land cover of built structures into a relatively undeveloped and naturalistic landscape of biodiverse, semi-natural landcover. Highly visible solar PV panels/BESS developments could undermine or diminish the LCA's sense of time depth. Furthermore, solar PV and BESS development may be perceived as intrusive, undermining the LCA's feelings of remoteness and its scenic qualities.

Table A.3: Sensitivity scores to solar PV/BESS development in the Lammermuir Plateau LCA

Solar PV/BESS Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score Solar PV	Sensitivity Score BESS
Small (up to 4.9ha for solar PV/BESS)	High	High
Medium (5-15ha for solar PV/5-9.9ha for BESS)	High	High
Large (15-50ha for solar PV/10-15ha for BESS)	High	High
Very large (more than 50ha for solar PV/more than 15ha for BESS)	High	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.23 Much of the LCA is sensitive to solar PV and BESS development owing to the LCA's highly visible slopes and the open, exposed character of the landscape with its general lack of screening from vegetation. Other sensitive areas include those valued for their scenic qualities, such as Hopes and Lammerloch Reservoirs, and the landscape that makes up the views from valued viewpoints (e.g. Lammer Law) or walks (e.g. Core Path 228/Herring Road).

Cumulative effects

A.24 There are no operational or under construction solar PV or BESS developments in the LCA and currently none have been consented or proposed. Consequently, such development would not bring about cumulative effects in terms of solar PV or BESS specifically. However, such development in combination with the existing surrounding wind turbines and their associated infrastructure – such as the substations by Friardykes Dod and Mean Cleugh Rig – could impact on the relatively naturalistic and remote nature of the landscape.

Overall landscape sensitivity to other large-scale development

A.25 The area is of high sensitivity to other large-scale developments (e.g. converter stations, substations, data centres etc.). This is owing to the LCA's prominent visible slopes – large-scale development would be seen in many longer-distance views towards and within the LCA. Such development would be afforded little screening owing to the open and exposed character of the LCA. Furthermore, the large

massing of such development could undermine the scale of the intimate cleughs if sited in proximity to them.

A.26 The biodiverse habitats increase the LCA’s sensitivity to other large-scale development as such development would introduce a new land cover of built structures, reducing the existing naturalistic landcover. This in turn could detract from the perceptions of remoteness and wildness, which are special qualities of the Lammermuir Moorland and Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLAs [See reference 1]. The LCA’s sparse built development contribute to these feelings of wildness and remoteness. Furthermore, other large-scale development could undermine and seem incongruous with the LCA’s strong sense of time depth.

Table A.4: Sensitivity scores to other large-scale development in the Lammermuir Plateau LCA

Other Large-scale Development	Sensitivity Score
Other large-scale development	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.27 Within the LCA, areas more sensitive to other large-scale development include areas valued for their scenery, such as around Hopes and Lammerloch Reservoirs. Such development is likely to detract from the scenic qualities of these places. Other areas more sensitive to other large-scale development include the cleughs. This is because the smaller scale of the cleughs could be lost if read alongside the large massing of such development. As such, development is likely to detract from the scenic qualities of these areas.

Cumulative effects

A.28 There is currently no existing other large-scale development in the LCA. However, there are two existing substations in proximity (<1km) to the LCA. If other large-scale development was built in proximity to this existing development, this could give rise to cumulative effects which may detract from the landscape character of the LCA. These effects would be concentrated in the north-eastern extents of the LCA, near Wester Dod and Bransly Hill. Large-scale development sited in other areas, particularly in proximity to wind farms, could impact on the relatively naturalistic and remote character of the landscape.

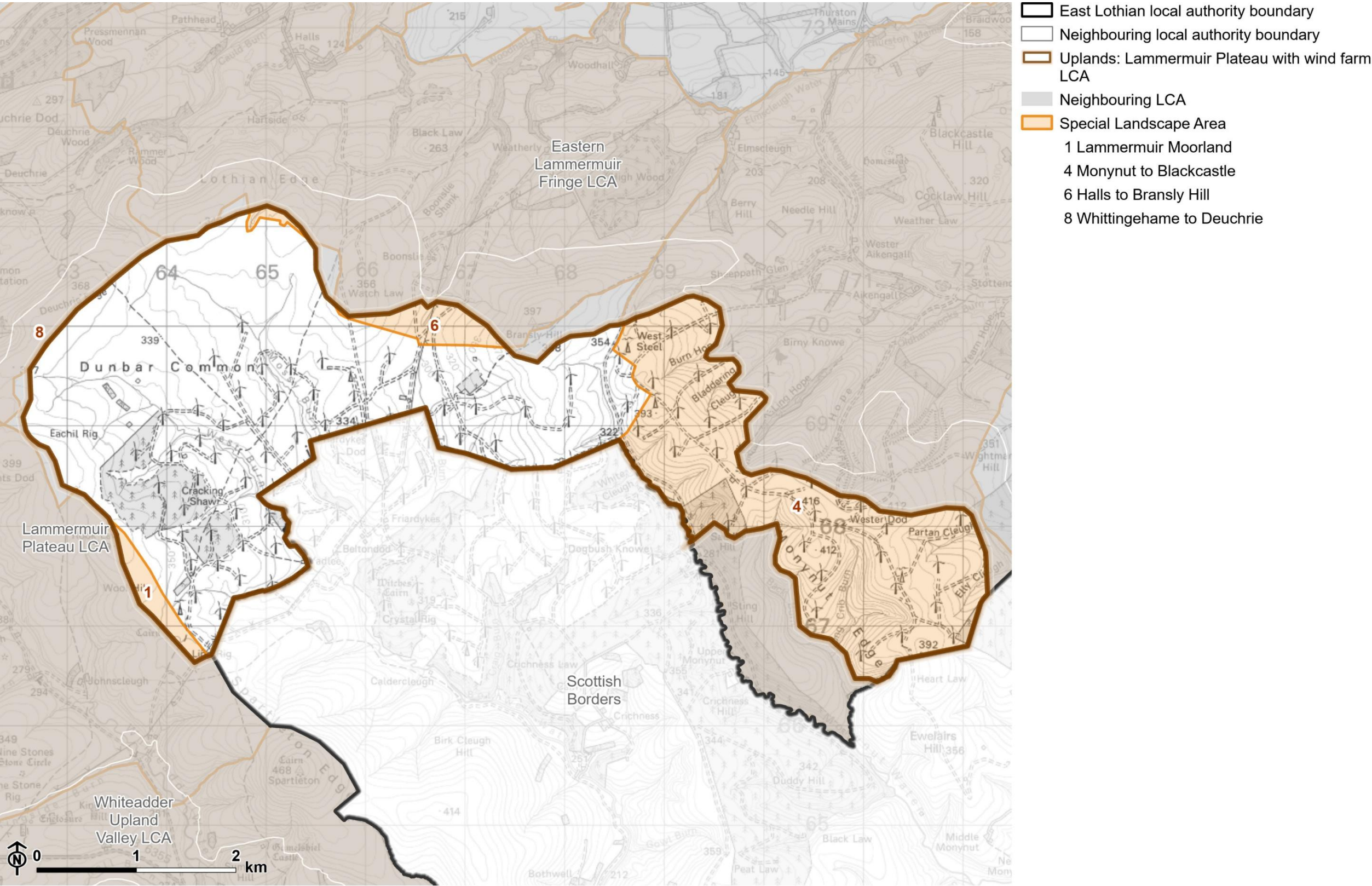
Siting and design guidance

A.29 Siting and design guidance specific to this LCA is set out below. This should be read in conjunction with LCA specific guidance set out in the Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Planning Guidance [\[See reference 1\]](#) and the higher level guidance for the relevant LCT provided in **Chapter 4**.

- Avoid siting development along the northern edge of the plateau where it would be highly visible on these elevated slopes when viewed from the lowlands and coastal plain to the north. This is particularly important when considering the siting of wind turbines.
- Focus development across larger scale landform, avoiding the smaller scale, more intimate cleughs found between the larger hills.

Lammermuir Plateau with Wind Farm LCA (Uplands LCT)

Figure A.6: Contextual map of the LCA



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LCA landscape character overview

A.30 The Lammermuir Plateau with Windfarm LCA is located within the Uplands LCT, in the south-east of East Lothian. The LCA is mostly comprised of the upper catchments of Bothwell Water and Monynut Water, within the upland plateau of the Lammermuir Hills. It contains a group of large wind farms that extend into the Scottish Borders to the south.

A.31 The key characteristics of this LCA which are of relevance to the LSA include:

- “[The LCA forms] a lower bowl area known as Dunbar Common to the eastern end which has enabled the development of windfarms with minimal visual impact on the wider landscape of East Lothian.”
- “The surrounding hills interweave to form a gently undulating upland plateau enclosing the bowl.”
- “The hills form a ridge along the Monynut Edge to the east of the area [...which is a] distinctive landscape feature.”
- “The eastern hill slopes are dissected by a number of narrow incised gullies (cleughs and deans) formed by minor burns [...] The dramatic landscape form of the steep sided cleughs and deans [are a positive attribute].”
- “Heather moorland and rough pastures form the predominant vegetation cover of this character area.”
- “Field boundary features are uncommon although post and wire fences line several of the roads and access tracks and separate grazing areas.”
- “The plantation woodland at Dunbar Common [was] removed to make way for windfarm development [...]. The area has recolonised with rough grassland with natural regeneration of heather moorland underway in places.”
- “Access tracks [...] to serve the windfarms [...] are locally prominent. Existing roads are single track and of a rural character. There are several rights of way and core path routes through the area.”
- “The area is still sparsely habited, generally around the valley bottoms.”
- “The major pylon line still remains highly visible across the centre of the area however the visual impact of this is reduced by the sheer number and scale of wind turbines within this character area.”
- “[On] the eastern margin [...] the turbines’ visibility is increased due to their prominence on edge ridges and hill tops.”

- *“Naturalness is detracted by manmade elements [...]. However the size and scale of the turbines fits well within this large scale landscape creating a juxtaposition of wild and manmade elements that combine to form a new landscape. [...] The sensitive siting of the turbines [...] creates a contrast of colour to the natural vegetation that adds to the setting and scenic quality of the views.”*
- *“Panoramic views across the hill fringes and coastal plain to the Firth of Forth to the north and the North Sea to the east can be obtained at the northern fringes of the area.” [See reference 1]*

Designated landscapes

A.32 There are three SLAs which partially cover the LCA: Lammermuir Moorland (1), Halls to Bransly Hill (6), and Monynut to Blackcastle (4). Only the special qualities for Monynut to Blackcastle (4) are of relevance to the wider LCA, as Lammermuir Moorland (1) and Halls to Bransly Hill (6) only cover small areas of the LCA. The reasons for designation are set out in the East Lothian Special Landscape Area Supplementary Planning Guidance [See reference 1].

Existing renewable energy and other large-scale development

A.33 Currently, there are no operational or under construction solar PV developments within the LCA, but consent has been granted for Crystal Rig Solar located <1km from the LCA.

A.34 Within the LCA there is a consented BESS development and four operational wind farms, namely:

- Crystal Rig – Phase 2a (9 turbines, 110m to tip);
- Crystal Rig – Phase 3 (6 turbines, 125m to tip);
- Aikengall I (16 turbines, 125m to tip); and
- Aikengall II (19 turbines, 145m to tip).

A.35 There are also other operational wind farms within proximity to the LCA (<2km), forming part of the same grouping of turbines in the uplands:

- Crystal Rig Phase 1/1a (25 turbines, 100m to tip);
- Crystal Rig Phase 2 (51 turbines, 125m to tip); and
- Aikengall IIa (19 turbines, 145m to tip).

A.36 There are several wind farms which are relatively close to the LCA, these are located to the east on the fringes of the Lammermuirs:

- Ferneylea Farm (2 turbines, 71m to tip);
- Hoprigshiels (3 turbines, 125m to tip); and
- Kinegar Quarry (Neuk) (2 turbines, 110m to tip).

A.37 Crystal Rig Phase 4, located <1km from the LCA, is currently under construction. It will comprise 11 turbines, 200m to tip.

A.38 There is a planning application to repower Crystal Rig Phase 1 with 10 wind turbines, with maximum tip heights of up to 230. The possible cumulative effects of the repowering proposal are discussed in the Overall Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development section.

A.39 Other large development within the LCA comprises two substations: one by Friardykes Dod and another by Mean Cleugh Rig.

Figure A.7: Overlooking Aikengall



Figure A.8: Overlooking Aikengall



Figure A.9: West of Aikengall, overlooking Crystal Rig Phase I



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

A.40 The following table sets out an assessment of sensitivity of the LCA in relation to each of the criteria set out in **Chapter 2**.

Table A.5: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for the Lammermuir Plateau with Wind Farm LCA

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Landform and scale	■ The LCA is medium scale, owing to the enclosed bowl shape of the landform, which slopes south-eastwards and comprises the catchments of Bothwell Water and Monynut Water. The bowl landform is bounded by Lothian Edge to the north. ■ The south-eastern extents of the LCA comprise the Monynut Edge, which is a distinctive ridge that is highly visible. ■ The smoothly sloping eastern hill slopes are scored by incised cleughs and deans formed by minor burns, such Burn Hope and Bladderding Cleugh, as well as Long Crib Burn and the other tributaries of Monynut Water. The “<i>strongly rhythmic pattern</i>” of the landform – “<i>predominantly open topped hills split by steep wooded valleys</i>” – is one of the special qualities of the Monynut to Blackcastle SLA (4) [See reference 1]. The landforms of the cleughs are very distinctive.	Medium-High The distinct landforms of the LCA, particularly the Monynut Edge and the cleughs, indicate greater sensitivity to wind energy development, which could detract from these visually important landforms. Taller turbines (>50m) may appear out of scale if sited in proximity to the cleughs.	Medium-High The highly visible and prominent landforms of the LCA indicate greater sensitivity to this type of development, particularly larger development (>10ha).	Medium-High The highly visible and prominent landforms of the LCA indicate greater sensitivity to this type of development, particularly larger development (>10ha).
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	■ Open and exposed heather moorland with areas of rough grasses and intense muirburn. ■ Semi-natural landcover in places, such the biodiverse habitats within Burn Hope, Bladderding Cleugh, and Ling Hope as recognised through the designation of Lammermuir Deans SSSI. This, along with the natural groundcover of the LCA, make up some of the special qualities of the Monynut to Blackcastle SLA (4) [See reference 1]. ■ Areas of land that were formerly blocks of conifer plantation are now naturally regenerating. ■ General lack of enclosure, some post and wire fencing and infrequent conifer shelterbelts. Sparse habitation and lack of human-scale features besides occasional stone sheepfolds. ■ The landcover is characterised by built elements in the form of turbines and substations, as well as the network of access tracks which serve the wind farms. Such development has altered the vegetation and surface patterns of the LCA.	Low-Medium There are areas of semi-natural landcover, indicating higher sensitivity. The presence of existing turbines reduces sensitivity to wind energy development of a similar scale (100m to 149.9m) as the landcover is already characterised by this type of development. The general lack of human-scale features indicates reduced sensitivity to wind energy development of similar scales to existing development (100m to 149.9m), as the lack of human scale features allows for the LCA to absorb large infrastructure	Medium The areas of semi-natural landcover and general lack of enclosure indicate greater sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development as such development would be introducing a new hard landcover that could cover the existing semi-natural landcover and which would not be afforded screening from vegetation. However, since solar PV/BESS developments would introduce a new land cover (of built structures), landscapes containing existing hard surfacing or built elements are likely to be less sensitive to	Medium The areas of semi-natural landcover and general lack of enclosure indicate greater sensitivity to large-scale development. However, landscapes containing existing large-scale built elements or extensive hard surfacing are likely to be less sensitive to other large-scale development than more undeveloped or naturalistic landscapes. This is the case with the LCA as the landcover is already characterised by large-scale development in the form of substations, consequently, the landcover of the LCA has

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
		without overwhelming more intimate elements.	solar PV development than more undeveloped or naturalistic landscapes. This is the case with the LCA, as it already accommodates significant industrial infrastructure (wind farms and substations). Consequently, this indicates a reduced sensitivity of the landcover to solar PV/BESS development of a similar scale (<5ha) to existing large-scale development.	reduced sensitivity to this type of development. The lack of human-scale features also indicates reduced sensitivity as it would be it harder to perceive the apparent scale of large-scale development. Introducing development with a large footprint and massing into a landscape with a complex landcover carries a higher risk of overriding the characteristic landscape patterns. As such, the LCA's simple landcover pattern indicates reduced sensitivity to the large footprints of large-scale development.
Historic landscape character	- There are no Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments, GDLs, or nationally important battlefields in this LCA. However, there are undesignated historical features, including abandoned sheilings and farms, various cairns and enclosures that are potentially prehistoric. There is therefore a higher degree of time depth in this area. - Core path 228/Herring Road is a ScotWays Heritage Path which passes through the LCA (see Figure B.6).	Medium-High The LCA has many historic features important to the character of the area and a strong sense of time depth. The perceived time depth is evident through the continuity of past land uses.	Medium-High The LCA has many historic features important to the character of the area and a strong sense of time depth. The perceived time depth is evident through the continuity of past land uses.	Medium-High The LCA has many historic features important to the character of the area and a strong sense of time depth. The perceived time depth is evident through the continuity of past land uses.
Visual receptors	- The LCA is highly accessible with many access tracks, as seen in Figure B.6. The easy and open access across the moorland is one of the special qualities of the Monymut to Blackcastle SLA (4) [See reference 1]. - The Herring Road and Clints Dod walk passes through the LCA and are enjoyed for the views towards the North Sea. The walks make use of the Deuchrie to Cranshaws and Halls to Lauder Rights of Way, the latter being core path 228/Herring Road, a ScotWays Heritage Path. Another Right of Way that passes through the LCA is Halls to Whiteadder Reservoir (see Figure B.6).	Medium People access this LCA for recreational purposes and to experience panoramic views. The density of receptors is relatively low, and views are already affected by wind turbines.	Medium People access this LCA for recreational purposes and to experience panoramic views. The density of receptors is relatively low, and views are already affected by wind turbines.	Medium People access this LCA for recreational purposes and to experience panoramic views. The density of receptors is relatively low, and views are already affected by wind turbines.
Visual amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)	Panoramic views can be experienced from the northern extents of the LCA, looking across the coastal plain to the Firth of Forth to the north and the North Sea to the east. These views, <i>"in particular [the view] towards the cliffs at St</i>	Medium-High The high visibility of some areas of the landform (such as the	High The high visibility of some areas of the landform (such as the	High The high visibility of some areas of the landform (such as the

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	<i>Abbs [...] is one of the best views in East Lothian</i>” and make up the special qualities of the Monynut to Blackcastle SLA (4) [See reference 1]. ■ The highly visible and distinctive Monynut Edge forms part of the skyline of the wider plateau. Its visibility and prominence and its role as part of a backdrop to views from lowland East Lothian is one of the special qualities of the Monynut to Blackcastle SLA (4) [See reference 1].	Monynut Edge) and the role they play as part of the skyline and backdrop in views indicate greater sensitivity to this type of development. However, the existing turbines reduce sensitivity to wind energy development of a similar scale (100m to 149.9m). The visual amenity of the LCA has a greater sensitivity to smaller wind energy development (<100m) as well as large wind energy development (150m+) as, read in combination with existing turbines, it could cause visual confusion, both in terms of varying scales and how quickly the different blades move.	Monynut Edge) and the role they play as part of the skyline and backdrop in views indicate greater sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development. While the skyline is already developed with wind turbines, sensitivity remains high as solar PV/BESS development, when seen amongst existing turbines, would risk creating a cluttered, discordant skyline.	Monynut Edge) and the role they play as part of the skyline and backdrop in views indicate greater sensitivity to other large-scale development. While the skyline is already developed with wind turbines, sensitivity remains high as large-scale development, when seen amongst existing turbines, would risk creating a cluttered, discordant skyline.
Perceptual and scenic qualities	■ <i>“The shadows [...] of the deep steep-sided cleughs contrast with the surrounding open moorland and create scenic diversity and a sense of mystery.”</i> This is one of the special qualities of the Monynut to Blackcastle SLA (4) [See reference 1]. ■ The darkness of Monynut Edge at night imbue feelings of wildness. This is one of the special qualities of the Monynut to Blackcastle SLA (4) [See reference 1]. ■ The LCA is characterised by wind energy development and so perceptions of naturalness are reduced by the turbines and associated infrastructure. However, the presence of the turbines creates a compelling <i>“juxtaposition of wild and manmade elements that combine to form a new landscape”</i> [See reference 1]. ■ However, the turbines are not altogether visually detracting as their colours contrast with the surrounding landscape, creating a pleasing visual juxtaposition. This is one of the special qualities of the Monynut to Blackcastle SLA (4) [See reference 1].	Medium-High The pleasing visual contrasts between the cleughs and open moorland and the feelings of wildness indicate greater sensitivity to wind energy development. However, the scale of existing development, which does make some contribution to the special qualities of the Monynut to Blackcastle SLA (4), reduces sensitivity to development of a similar scale (100m to 149.9m). Although, the perceptual and scenic qualities of the LCA have a greater sensitivity to smaller wind energy development (<100m) as well as large wind energy development (150m+)	Medium-High The pleasing visual contrasts between the enclosed cleughs and open moorland; the high naturalness experienced in the cleughs; and the feelings of wildness indicate greater sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development. Although, the perceptual qualities of the LCA are strongly influenced by contemporary energy infrastructure, which reduces sensitivity. However, there is currently a carefully balanced and pleasing juxtaposition between “wild and manmade elements”. Introducing a new type of contemporary energy infrastructure (solar PV/BESS)	Medium The pleasing visual contrasts between the enclosed cleughs and open moorland; the high naturalness experienced in the cleughs; and the feelings of wildness indicate greater sensitivity to other large-scale development as such development would appear incongruous and out of place. Although, the perceptual qualities of the LCA are strongly influenced by contemporary energy infrastructure, which reduces sensitivity. However, there is currently a carefully balanced and pleasing juxtaposition between “wild and manmade elements”.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
		as, read in combination with existing turbines, it could cause visual confusion, both in terms of varying scales and how quickly the different blades move. This visual confusion could detract from the current pleasing juxtaposition between the coherent turbine layouts and the enclosing landscape. Furthermore, turbines >150m would have aviation lighting at night which could impact on perceptions of wildness.	could disrupt this carefully balanced scenic juxtaposition and create visual clutter.	Introducing other large-scale infrastructure could disrupt this carefully balanced scenic juxtaposition and create visual clutter.

Overall landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

A.41 Overall, the Lammermuir Plateau with Wind Farm LCA has a lower sensitivity to wind energy development of a similar scale to existing turbines (100m to 149.9m). However, the LCA has a increasingly greater sensitivity to smaller scales of wind energy development, as well as larger scales. When seen in combination with existing turbines, much smaller or larger development could cause visual confusion, both in terms of varying scales and how quickly the different blades move.

A.42 The operational life of wind farms tends to be between 20 and 30 years. Older wind farms located within and in proximity to the LCA that reach the end of their operational life may be repowered. Repowering tends to replace the decommissioned turbines with fewer, taller turbines usually >200m to tip. Taller turbines can bring about more widespread significant landscape and visual effects, although this can be counterbalanced by the smaller number of turbines. Wind farms in and close to the LCA that may be approaching the end of their operational life are:

- Crystal Rig Phase 1 (operational since 2003);
- Crystal Rig Phase 2 (operational since 2010); and
- Aikengall I (operational since 2009).

A.43 An application has been submitted to repower Crystal Rig Phase 1, the possible effects of which are discussed later in the cumulative effects section.

Table A.6: Sensitivity scores to wind energy development in the Lammermuir Plateau with Wind Farm LCA

Wind Energy Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score
Up to 49.9m tip height	High
50m to 99.9m tip height	Medium-High
100m to 149.9m tip height	Low-Medium
150m to 199.9m tip height	Medium-High
Over 200m tip height	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.44 One landscape feature with a higher sensitivity to larger scales of wind energy development is the Monynut Edge. While it already has turbines on it, it is nonetheless very distinctive and highly visible, forming part of the skyline of the Lammermuir Hills that forms the backdrop to views from the East Lothian plain.

Large-scale wind energy development in this area (150m+) could compromise the area's contribution to the wider landscape character of East Lothian.

A.45 The land ascending towards Deuchrie Edge also has a higher sensitivity to wind energy development of any scale. This is because turbines sited here would be seen atop the skyline that forms the backdrop to views from the East Lothian plain. Existing wind energy development is sited within the “bowls” of the catchments of Bothwell Water and Monynut Water, making use of the screening provided by these landforms. Siting turbines on the slopes ascending Deuchrie Edge would mean that turbines would no longer be within the “bowls” and would thus be highly visible, as they would appear to sit on top of the hills, rather than being contained within them.

Cumulative effects

A.46 This LCA is already characterised by wind energy development, so further wind energy development of similar scales to existing development would not change the current character of the landscape area. Turbines that are considerably smaller or larger than those currently present may give rise to cumulative effects of a more visual nature.

A.47 Crystal Rig Phase 4, located <1km from the LCA, is currently under construction. It will be comprised of 11 turbines, 200m to tip. An application has been submitted to repower Crystal Rig Phase 1. The proposed wind farm would consist of 10 turbines, with maximum tip heights of up to 230m. These turbines would be significantly larger than those of the existing Crystal Rig Phases (100-125m to tip). As these proposed turbines are >150m, they will have aviation lighting at night, which may reduce feelings of wildness in the area. Taller turbines may have more widespread significant landscape and visual effects, although this may be counterbalanced by fewer turbines, which may result in a more cohesive layout. While Crystal Rig I Repower and Crystal Rig Phase 4 are sited lower in the catchment of Bothwell Water, the very large turbines may not benefit from screening from the landform and may detract from the integrity of the skyline.

Overall landscape sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development

A.48 Within this LCA, landscape features of higher sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development include the distinctive landforms of the Monynut Edge and the highly visible slopes. Solar PV/BESS development in these areas would not be afforded screening from vegetation and would be visible in many long distance views. Other areas of higher sensitivity include the incised cleughs.

A.49 The LCA is characterised by wind energy development. As such, sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development is somewhat reduced. For example, the presence of contemporary manmade infrastructure reduces perceptions of wildness and naturalness. However, solar PV/BESS development seen alongside wind energy development could appear visually confusing owing to differences in scale, form, and massing. Although, as there is currently large scale development in the form of substations, visual confusion could be avoided if solar PV/BESS development was sensitively sited and designed.

Table A.7: Sensitivity scores to solar PV/BESS development in the Lammermuir Plateau with Windfarm LCA

Solar PV/BESS Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score Solar PV	Sensitivity Score BESS
Small (up to 4.9ha)	Medium	Medium
Medium (5-9.9ha)	Medium-High	Medium-High
Large (10-15ha)	High	High
Very large (more than 15ha)	High	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.50 The flatter landform of Dunbar Common indicates reduced sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development. However, there is very little enclosure in this area, so such development would not be afforded screening. Although, there are some shelterbelts so it may be possible for small scale solar PV/BESS development to be sensitively sited to make use of the flatter landform and available screening from shelterbelts.

A.51 Other areas with reduced sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development are those in proximity to the existing substations. In these locations, the landcover of hard surfacing and built structure reduces sensitivity. Small scale solar PV/BESS (<4.9ha) development could be sited in association with the substations, concentrating landscape and visual effects in one discrete area.

Cumulative effects

A.52 Currently, there are no operational or under construction solar PV developments within the LCA, but there is a consented BESS development. As the LCA is already characterised by contemporary manmade infrastructure, it is likely that some restrained and sensitively sited solar PV/BESS could be accommodated in the landscape.

Overall landscape sensitivity to other large-scale development

A.53 Landscape features indicating greater sensitivity to such development include the visible slopes and distinctive landforms (Monynut Edge and the cleughs); areas of semi-natural landcover; and general lack of enclosure. Such development would introduce a new hard landcover, the massing of which would not be afforded screening from vegetation and would be visible in many long distance views.

A.54 The LCA is characterised by wind energy development. As such, sensitivity to other large-scale development is somewhat reduced. For example, the presence of contemporary manmade infrastructure reduces perceptions of wildness and naturalness. However, there is a possibility that other large-scale development seen alongside wind energy development would appear visually confusing owing to differences in scale, form, and massing. Furthermore, the general lack of enclosure and highly visible slopes increase sensitivity as large-scale development may be visible in longer distance views.

Table A.8: Sensitivity scores to other large-scale development in the Lammermuir Plateau with Wind Farm LCA

Other Large-scale Development	Sensitivity Score
Other large-scale development	Medium

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.55 Areas of reduced sensitivity to large-scale energy related development are those around the two existing substations – one by Friardykes Dod and the other by Mean Cleugh Rig. In these locations, the landscape is not a highly naturalistic environment but rather one already influenced by contemporary manmade infrastructure. Large-scale development could be sited in association with the substations, concentrating landscape and visual effects in one discrete area. Regard must still be had to other potential impacts, such as visibility of further development on the Monynut Edge.

Cumulative effects

A.56 Introducing new large-scale development within the LCA may intensify the concentration of large development already existing within the LCA. A greater concentration of this type of development may result in cumulative effects which could detract from the character of the landscape. Concentrating development near

one another would result in the intensification of landscape and visual effects across a smaller spatial extent. The more sporadic placing of large-scale development throughout the LCA would result in cumulative effects being experienced across a wider area.

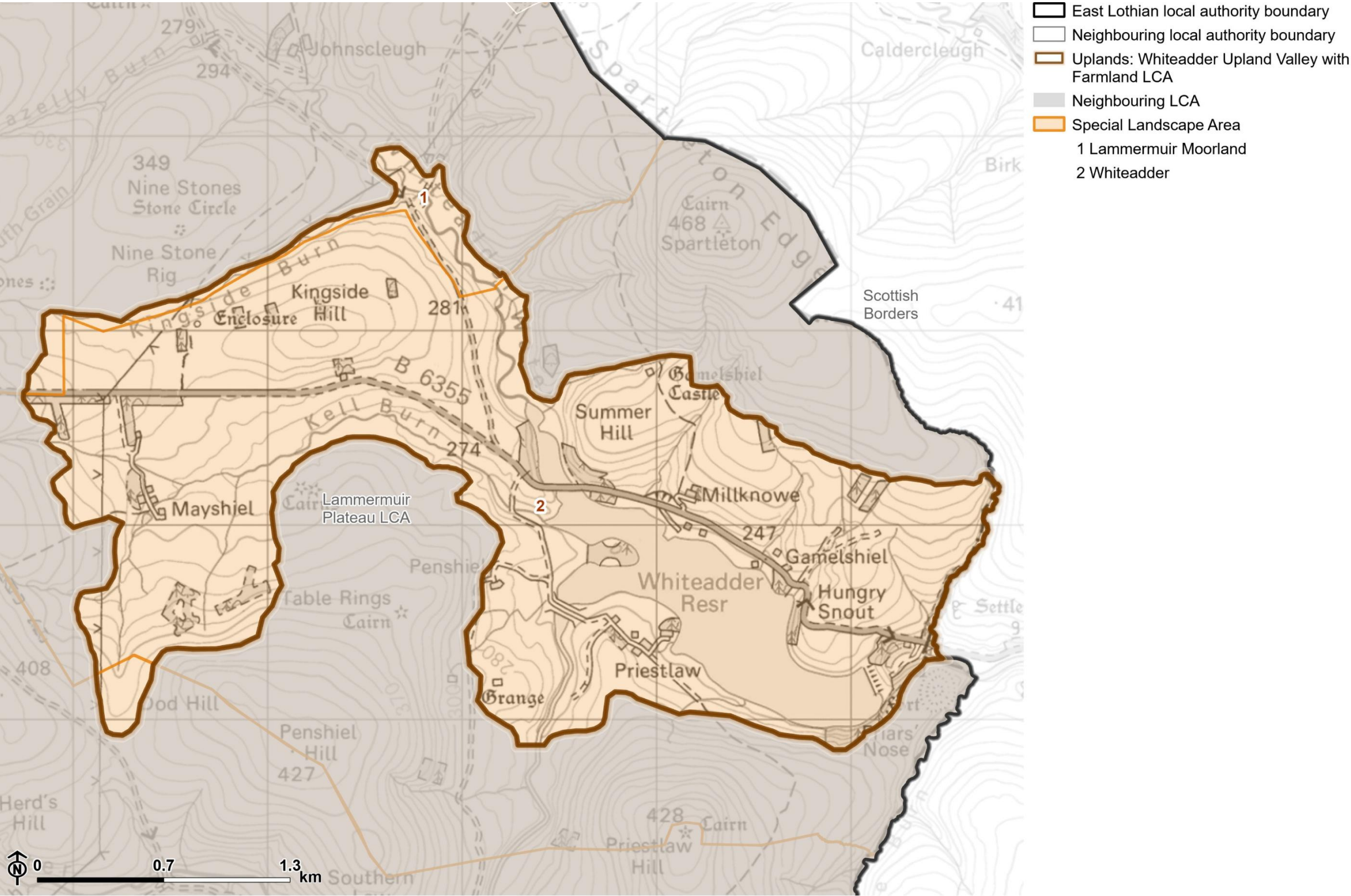
Siting and design guidance

A.57 Siting and design guidance specific to this LCA is set out below. This should be read in conjunction with LCA specific guidance set out in the Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Planning Guidance [\[See reference 1\]](#) and the higher level guidance for the relevant LCT provided in **Chapter 4**.

- Avoid siting development along the northern edge of the plateau where it would be highly visible on these elevated slopes when viewed from the lowlands and coastal plain to the north. This is particularly important when considering the siting of wind turbines.
- When considering the siting of wind turbine development, consider cumulative interactions with existing wind turbines within this and nearby LCAs.

Whiteadder Upland Valley with Farmland LCA (Uplands LCT)

Figure A.10: Contextual map of the LCA



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LCA landscape character overview

A.58 The Whiteadder Upland Valley LCA is located within the Uplands LCT, in the southern extents of the East Lothian local authority area. The LCA makes up the valleys of Whiteadder Water and Kell Burn and includes the Whiteadder Reservoir, as shown on **Figure A.10**. It is surrounded by the Lammermuir Plateau LCA except in the east, where the Whiteadder Water flows into the Scottish Borders.

A.59 The key characteristics of this LCA which are of relevance to the LSA include:

- *“Broad flat valley floor with distinct floodplain and meandering river channel (dammed to form a large reservoir in this instance) with evenly sloping valley sides.”*
- *“Land cover of improved pasture with medium to large sized fields giving way to unimproved grassland approaching the plateau edge.”*
- *“Poorly drained soils may carry rush pastures or wet flush vegetation.”*
- *“Hedgerows, hedgerow trees, clumps of mature deciduous trees, small coniferous and broad-leaved shelterbelts and plantations are all locally prominent particularly close to farmsteads and the reservoir margins.”*
- *“The B6355 crosses through the area from north to south. Minor roads access farmsteads.”*
- *“Several rights of way and core path routes cross the area. [...] Opportunities for picnicking and sailing [at the Reservoir].”*
- *“The area is still sparsely habited, with scattered farmsteads along the valley floor and the lower side slopes.”*
- *“There is little infrastructure other than that associated with the reservoir.”*
- *“Views along the valley are long and open, contained by the lower valley sides and the surrounding upland plateau.”*
- *“Strong topographic and geological identity.”*
- *“Distinct land cover pattern with well-defined field boundary network of hedgerows and shelterbelts.”*
- *“Rich in archaeological remains.” [See reference 1]*

Designated landscapes

A.60 The entire LCA is covered by SLAs, as shown on **Figure A.10**. Almost the entirety of the LCA is covered by the Whiteadder SLA (2), while some small areas at higher elevations are covered by the Lammermuir Moorland SLA (1). The reasons for designation are set out in the East Lothian Special Landscape Area Supplementary Planning Guidance [\[See reference 1\]](#).

Existing renewable energy and other large-scale development

A.61 There are no operational or under construction wind farms, solar PV or BESS, or other large-scale energy related developments in the LCA.

A.62 The following wind farms are within 5km of the LCA:

- Crystal Rig Phases 1-3 (101 turbines, 100-125m to tip) and Aikengall, Aikengall IIa, and Aikengall – Wester Dod (54 turbines, 125-145m to tip), form a large group of turbines to the north-east; and
- Fallago Rig (48 turbines, 125m to tip) lies slightly further away to the south-west.

A.63 Overall, the visibility of turbines is limited by the landform of the LCA. Although, turbines are visible from the lower valley slopes to the west of Whiteadder Reservoir, where there is some visibility of Crystal Rig Phase 2 and Aikengall IIa. Also, the turbine blades of Fallago Rig are visible from the B6355 to the east of the valley.

A.64 Crystal Rig Phase 4, is currently under construction. It will be comprised of 11 turbines, 200m to tip.

A.65 There is a planning application to repower Crystal Rig Phase 1 with 10 wind turbines, 6 with a maximum tip height of up to 230m and 4 with a maximum tip height of up to 200m. The possible effects of the repowering scheme are discussed in the cumulative effects section of the Overall Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development section.

Figure A.11: B6355 looking south-east towards Priestlaw Hill (428m AOD)



Figure A.12: B6355 looking south-west across Whiteadder Reservoir



Figure A.13: B6355 looking south-west to the valley sides



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

A.66 The following table sets out an assessment of sensitivity of the LCA in relation to each of the criteria set out in **Chapter 2**.

Table A.9: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for the Whiteadder Valley LCA

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Landform and scale	■ A small scale and distinctive landscape, which is comprised of a flat-bottomed valley which is wider than many of the incised gullies found scoring in the surrounding plateau. ■ The valley sides are smooth, convex hill slopes. ■ The namesake of the Whiteadder Valley, the Whiteadder Water, flows through the Valley. ■ The man-made water body, Whiteadder Reservoir, takes up a large expanse of the LCA. Several tributaries flow into the reservoir and “<i>cut little valleys into the hill, with a charm of their own,</i>” this is one of the special qualities of the Whiteadder SLA (2) [See reference 1].	High The small scale of this LCA makes indicates a high sensitivity to wind energy development. This is because turbines, especially large turbines (>50m) would appear out of scale and “too large” in this intimate landscape.	Medium-High Similar to wind, the small scale of this LCA indicates a higher sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development. This is because such development, especially larger development (>5ha), would appear out of scale in this intimate landscape. Furthermore, the smooth hills indicate higher sensitivity as the angular and engineered form of solar panels and BESS development would contrast with the underlying landform, appearing incongruous.	High The small-scale, intimate landform of the LCA indicates a higher sensitivity to other large-scale development. This is because the valley acts as a scale comparison, making it easier to perceive the large size and footprint of large-scale developments. Furthermore, the smooth hills indicate higher sensitivity as the bulky massing of other large-scale development would contrast with the underlying landform, appearing incongruous.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	■ Improved pasture of medium to large fields at lower elevations, unimproved grassland and grouse moorland at higher elevations. ■ Field boundary network in places made up of hedgerows, hedgerow trees, small blocks of deciduous trees, shelterbelts, and conifer plantations. A couple of instances of woodland are ancient. However, the landscape is generally open and exposed. ■ Rush pastures and wet flush vegetation owing to poorly drained soils. ■ The LCA is sparsely habited, the settlement pattern being made up of scattered farmsteads at lower elevations. ■ There is little infrastructure and built development. This is one of the special qualities of the Whiteadder SLA (2) [See reference 1]. ■ The “<i>traditional [...] cottages of slate and stone or white harl at Gamelshiel and Millknowe, [...] [and the] more substantial stone and slate farmhouse at Priestlaw</i>” contribute to the vernacular and make up the special qualities of the Whiteadder SLA (2) [See reference 1].	High While there is a mix of landcover types, the much of the landcover pattern is relatively simple being primarily made up of improved grassland, with medium to large fields. This indicates reduced sensitivity to wind energy development as turbines relate better to a simpler, uniform landcover and/or large fields, as opposed to an irregular or complex landcover pattern. Although, the upper slopes transition to a semi-natural landcover of unimproved grassland	Medium-High While the medium to large field sizes indicate reduced sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development, the human scale features (including the hedgerow trees, clumps of broadleaf trees, shelterbelts, plantations) indicate greater sensitivity to BESS development as it may overwhelm smaller-scale features. Furthermore, the LCA’s sparse settlement pattern and little built development indicates higher sensitivity to both solar PV and	High While the medium to large field sizes indicate reduced sensitivity to other large-scale development, the human scale features of the LCA (including the hedgerow trees, clumps of broadleaf trees, shelterbelts, plantations) indicate greater sensitivity as it may overwhelm smaller-scale features. Furthermore, the LCA’s sparse settlement pattern and little built development indicates higher sensitivity as it would be incongruous with the traditional rural landcover pattern.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
		approaching the plateau edge, indicating higher sensitivity. The human scale features (including the hedgerow trees, clumps of broadleaf trees, shelterbelts, plantations) indicate greater sensitivity. This is because turbines, especially larger turbines (>50m), may seem out of scale in comparison. Furthermore, the LCA's sparse settlement pattern and little built development also indicate higher sensitivity.	BESS development as it would be incongruous with the traditional rural landcover pattern. Furthermore, while there are hedgerows, shelterbelts, and woodland blocks the LCA is generally quite exposed, indicating greater sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development larger than 5ha due to reduced opportunity for screening.	Furthermore, while there are hedgerows, shelterbelts, and woodland blocks the LCA is generally quite exposed, indicating greater sensitivity owing to less opportunity for screening.
Historic landscape character	- There are several important historical agricultural remains evident in the LCA, such as plantation banks, rig and furrow, enclosures, and sheepfolds, as well as a number of putatively prehistoric cairns, standing stones and forts. Heritage assets within the area are shown on Figure B.5. <i>“Ruins, such as those at Penshiel Grange and Gamelshiel Castle, and archaeological remains such as the Table Rings cairn, give a sense of the passage of time”</i> and make up the special qualities of the Whiteadder SLA (2) [See reference 1]. - The traditional cottages at Gamelshiel and Millknowe and the farmhouse at Priestlaw contribute to the sense of time depth.	Medium-High The LCA has many historic features important to the character of the area and a strong sense of time depth.	Medium-High The LCA has many historic features important to the character of the area and a strong sense of time depth.	Medium-High The LCA has many historic features important to the character of the area and a strong sense of time depth.
Visual receptors	- The LCA is sparsely settled. - The LCA is popular for recreation, including walking, cycling, picnicking, and sailing. - Several rights of way and core paths pass through the LCA, including Herring Road, a ScotWays Heritage Path, which passes through the centre of the LCA. Refer to Figure B.6. The recreation of the area and its walking routes are some of the special qualities of the Whiteadder SLA (2) [See reference 1].	Medium-High While there is a low density of receptors, the LCA is a highly valued recreational landscape, offering opportunities to experience the landscape, indicating higher sensitivity to this type of development.	Medium-High While there is a low density of receptors, the LCA is a highly valued recreational landscape, offering opportunities to experience the landscape, indicating higher sensitivity to this type of development.	Medium-High While there is a low density of receptors, the LCA is a highly valued recreational landscape, offering opportunities to experience the landscape, indicating higher sensitivity to this type of development.
Visual amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)	At lower elevations, long and open views are experienced along the length of the valley, contained by the valley sides.	High The undeveloped and distinctive skyline of the valley sides and enclosing hills	High Views along the valley floor are long and open, indicating higher sensitivity as solar PV/BESS	High Views along the valley floor are long and open, indicating higher sensitivity as other large-scale

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	■ The more elevated plateau which surrounds the valley creates a skyline of smooth hills. This undeveloped and distinctive skyline contains the valley and creates a sense of enclosure. ■ “<i>The Whiteadder reservoir is important in views from within the area and from the surrounding hills.</i>” This is one of the special qualities of the Whiteadder SLA (2) [See reference 1].	indicates a higher sensitivity to wind energy development as it would detract from the skyline as a characteristic feature. Furthermore, the LCA has important visual relationships with neighbouring areas, indicating higher sensitivity to wind energy development. For example, Whiteadder Reservoir plays an important role in views from higher ground (including from Spartleton). Also, views along the valley floor are long and open, indicating higher sensitivity as turbines could easily interrupt the visual experience.	development would interrupt the visual experience. Furthermore, the LCA has important visual relationships with neighbouring areas, indicating higher sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development. For example, Whiteadder Reservoir plays an important role in views from higher ground (including from Spartleton). Also, the undeveloped and distinctive skyline of the valley sides and enclosing hills indicates a higher sensitivity as the engineered structures of solar PV/BESS would detract from the skyline as a characteristic feature.	development would interrupt the visual experience. Furthermore, the LCA has important visual relationships with neighbouring areas, indicating higher sensitivity to large-scale development. For example, Whiteadder Reservoir plays an important role in views from higher ground (including from Spartleton). Also, the undeveloped and distinctive skyline of the valley sides and enclosing hills indicates a higher sensitivity as bulky massing of other large-scale development would detract from the skyline as a characteristic feature.
Perceptual and scenic qualities	■ While there are some visible manmade elements, such as the high voltage Thornton to Strathaven overhead line (400kV), the overall feelings of the LCA are those of remoteness and tranquillity. ■ The surrounding hills enclose the valley, preventing views out to the lowland area. This enclosure gives the valley “<i>a peaceful, remote atmosphere,</i>” and the “<i>varied land cover [...provides] visual contrast to the setting.</i>” These elements are recognised in the special qualities for the Whiteadder SLA (2) [See reference 1]. ■ The LCA’s “<i>very limited light pollution [...]</i> [add] <i>to the remote feel of the area</i>” as noted in the special qualities for the Whiteadder SLA (2) [See reference 1]. ■ As noted in the special qualities for the Lammermuir Moorland SLA (1), “[the valley of] <i>Whiteadder [has] a more enclosed feel with appeal from both the sight and sound of the water of the burns winding through wide flat bottomed valleys and tripping over rocks.</i>” [See reference 1]. ■ The LCA feels different to the enclosing upland plateau, the valley has a peaceful, remote atmosphere as it is hidden from the surrounding Lammermuir Plateau and thus provides a sense of surprise when discovered.	High The peaceful, remote atmosphere of this LCA indicates higher sensitivity to wind energy development. As does its attractive character and pleasing combinations of features, such as the Reservoir set within rolling hills. Wind energy development would detract from these qualities. Introducing wind turbines with a tip height of over 150m would require aviation lighting, which would negatively impact the LCA’s dark skies and feelings of remoteness. Furthermore, introducing wind turbines into the LCA would diminish its individual identity by disrupting the scenic contrast between the	Medium-High The peaceful, remote atmosphere of the LCA and its highly valued scenic qualities indicate greater sensitivity to solar PV/BES development of >5ha as it would increase the perceived human and industrial influence, detracting from the tranquil, remote character of the LCA.	High The LCA has an attractive character with a peaceful, remote atmosphere with little overt human influence from built development, indicating higher sensitivity to other large-scale development. Such development, such as data centres or converter stations, typically involve large, bulky buildings up to 20m to 30m in height. Their introduction into the LCA would increase the perceived human influence and seem incongruous.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	This is one of the special qualities for the Whiteadder SLA (2) [See reference 1] .	sheltered valley and the enclosing open moorland where wind energy development is more visible.		

Overall landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

A.67 Landscape features of higher sensitivity to wind energy development include the frequent human-scale features (hedgerows, woodland blocks, shelterbelts, farmsteads, etc.); enclosing skylines; archaeological remains and vernacular architecture; its recreational value and walking routes; and its peaceful, remote character. The characteristic of the highest sensitivity to wind energy development is its scale. Turbines of any size but particularly larger ones (>50m) could seem out of scale or “too large” for this small and intimate landscape.

Table A.10: Sensitivity scores to wind energy development in the Whiteadder Upland Valley LCA

Wind Energy Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score
Up to 49.9m tip height	High
50m to 99.9m tip height	High
100m to 149.9m tip height	High
150m to 199.9m tip height	High
Over 200m tip height	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.68 The valley floor has a higher sensitivity to all scales of wind energy development. This is because turbines, even a standalone turbine, could be seen to be “filling” the valley, detracting from its small and intimate scale. Also, the long views experienced along the length of the valley would be disrupted by turbines. Development on the upper valley sides would disrupt characteristic open skylines.

Cumulative effects

A.69 There are no operational or under construction wind farms in the LCA. However, there are wind farms within 5km of the LCA. These turbines are partially screened in views by the valley landform.

A.70 However, larger turbines further up the valley slopes may be seen alongside existing turbines from areas outside the LCA, resulting in cumulative effects. This upland valley plays an important role in maintaining separation between the Fallago Rig cluster of turbines and those at Crystal Rig and Aikengall, and introducing turbines within the LCA could bridge that gap.

A.71 Crystal Rig Phase 4, located approximately 3km from the LCA, is currently under construction. It will be comprised of 11 turbines, 200m to tip. Also, an application has been submitted to repower Crystal Rig Phase 1. The proposed wind farm is named Crystal Rig I Repower and would consist of 10 turbines, 6 with a maximum tip height of up to 230m and 4 with a maximum tip height of up to 200m. These turbines would be significantly larger than those of the existing Crystal Rig Phases 1-3 (100-125m to tip) and they would be seen from the LCA, detracting from the LCA’s sense of seclusion and remoteness provided by the valley landform. As the proposed turbines of Crystal Rig Phase 4 and Crystal Rig I Repower are >150m, they will have aviation lighting at night, which may reduce feelings of wildness in the area. Taller turbines may have more significant landscape and visual effects; although, this may be counterbalanced by fewer turbines, which may result in a more compact and cohesive layout.

Overall landscape sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development

A.72 Landscape features of higher sensitivity to this type of development include the small scale of the LCA; the limited built development; the generally exposed character of the LCA; the many historical features and sense of time depth; and the high recreational value and scenic qualities, especially of Whiteadder Reservoir. Solar PV/BESS development could look out of place within this small scale landscape which retains a traditional character.

Table A.11: Sensitivity scores to solar PV/BESS development in the Whiteadder Upland Valley LCA

Solar PV/BESS Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score Solar PV	Sensitivity Score BESS
Small (up to 4.9ha)	Medium-High	Medium-High
Medium (5-9.9ha)	High	High
Large (10-15ha)	High	High
Very large (more than 15ha)	High	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.73 The area around Whiteadder Reservoir would be the most sensitive to solar PV/BESS development as the slopes descending towards the water are highly visible within this area, which is also valued for its scenic qualities and recreational opportunities.

A.74 The west of the LCA is of lower sensitivity to development, given the greater intervening distance from the highly sensitive Whiteadder Reservoir in the east. Areas which are more contained by vegetation such as shelterbelts would be of lower sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development, due to the potential for these landscape features to provide screening of smaller scale (<4.9ha) development. Furthermore, the west of the LCA is influenced by existing infrastructure, a high voltage, which locally reduces sensitivity.

Cumulative effects

A.75 There are no operational or under construction solar PV or BESS developments in the LCA and no such development is visible outside of the LCA. It is unlikely that solar PV or BESS in this LCA would give rise to cumulative effects.

Overall landscape sensitivity to other large-scale development

A.76 Landscape features of a higher sensitivity to such development include the small scale of this landscape; the relatively little infrastructure and built development (one of the special qualities of the Whiteadder SLA (2) [\[See reference 1\]](#)); the generally exposed nature of the LCA; the frequent human-scale features (farmsteads, woodlands, and hedgerows); the many historical features and sense of time depth; the long views experienced along the valley; the attractive character and scenic qualities of the LCA and its high recreational value. Large-scale energy related development could look out of place in this LCA which feels secluded and traditional. The large-scale “blocky” massing of such development could interrupt the long views along the valley and look too large for the frequent, human-scale landscape features.

Table A.12: Sensitivity scores to other large-scale development in the Whiteadder Upland Valley LCA

Other Large-scale Development	Sensitivity Score
Other large-scale development	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.77 Similar to solar PV/BESS development, the area around Whiteadder Reservoir would be the most sensitive to large-scale development as the slopes descending towards the water are highly visible within this area, which is valued for its

recreational opportunities. Large-scale development in this area could detract from the area's scenic qualities.

Cumulative effects

A.78 There is no operational or under construction large-scale energy related developments in the LCA or nearby. Therefore, it is unlikely that such development would give rise to cumulative effects.

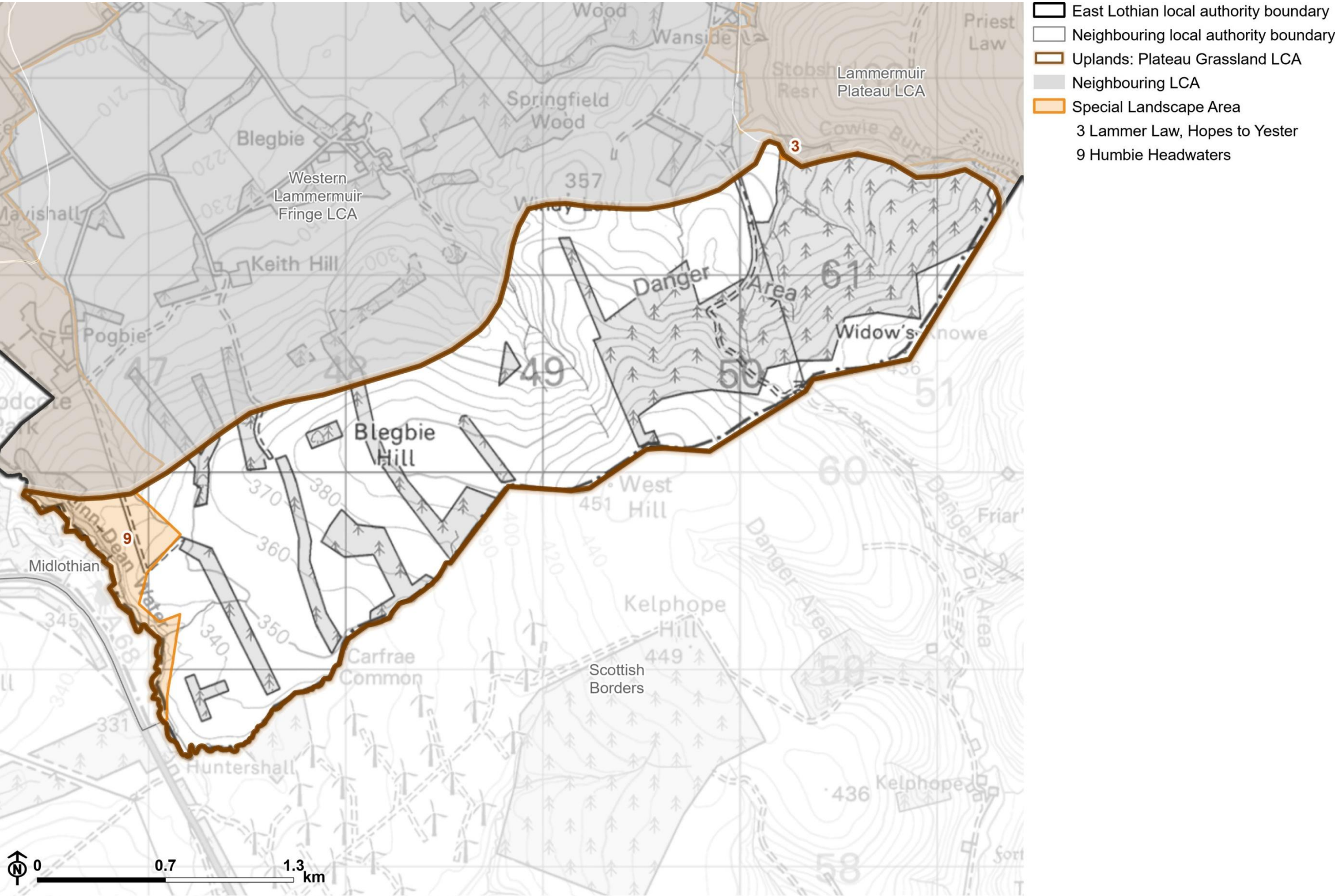
Siting and design guidance

A.79 Siting and design guidance specific to this LCA is set out below. This should be read in conjunction with LCA specific guidance set out in the Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Planning Guidance [\[See reference 1\]](#) and the higher level guidance for the relevant LCT provided in **Chapter 4**.

- Avoid siting development on the undeveloped and highly distinctive open skylines which enclose the valley, instead opting to site development further back from the enclosing ridge (in neighbouring LCAs).
- Avoid siting development on the highly visible slopes which rise up from Whiteadder reservoir which form a focus of views.
- Lower-lying development such as solar PV/BESS may be able to be sited in the west where they could utilise existing landscape features (hedgerows and shelterbelts) to maximise screening.

Plateau Grassland LCA (Uplands LCT)

Figure A.14: Contextual map of the LCA



Created by LUC - 16637_000_r0_Figures/LCAProfiles_A3A 05/05/2026
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LCA landscape character overview

A.80 The Plateau Grassland LCA is located within the Uplands LCT, in the west of East Lothian local authority area. The LCA extends between Linn-Dean Water and Cowie Burn and comprises a large-scale rolling plateau with grassy slopes and bands of coniferous shelter belts. The LCA is on the boundary of the Scottish Borders to the south and Midlothian to the west, as shown on **Figure A.14**.

A.81 The key characteristics of this LCA which are of relevance to the LSA include:

- *“Extensive, smooth, level moorland plateau contrasting with the encircling rounded farmed hill slopes at its edges.*
- *Numerous small stream courses, deeply incised in upper reaches.*
- *Uninterrupted, grass-flecked blanket bog and heather moorland on flat plateau.*
- *Improved pasture on hill slopes, with marshy grassland at the edges of the moorland and in damp hollows.*
- *Distinctive and abundant shelterbelts and woodland areas which are predominantly coniferous on hill slopes and along moor edges.*
- *Post and wire fence field boundaries with sparse low stone walls and hedgerows.*
- *High degree of tranquillity, except adjacent to the busy A68.*
- *Extensive unobstructed views over agricultural plains northwards and eastwards towards Edinburgh, the River Forth and the Fife coast.*
- *Forms the skyline when viewed from the lower land to the north.*
- *Simple, secluded landscape.”* **[See reference 1]**

Designated landscapes

A.82 Less than a quarter of the LCA is covered by a SLA, as shown on **Figure A.14**. The Humble Headwaters SLA (9) extends along the south-western boundary of the LCA. The Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA (3) is immediately to the north-west, in the adjoining Lammermuir Plateau LCA. The reasons for designation are set out in the East Lothian Special Landscape Area Supplementary Planning Guidance **[See reference 1]**.

Existing renewable energy and other large-scale development

A.83 There are three operational wind farms in the south-west of area: Pogie (six turbines, blade tip height 76m), Pogie Extension (six turbines, blade tip height 74m), and Keith Hill (five turbines, blade tip height 76m).

A.84 These wind farms form part of a large cluster of wind turbines extending south-west across the A68. This includes the Dunlaw Windfarm Phase 1 (26 turbines, blade tip height 63.5m) and Dunlaw Phase 2 (35 turbines, blade tip height 75m). These turbines are visible from the LCA, particularly from areas of grassy slopes with minimal woodland screening.

A.85 The operational life of wind farms tends to be between 20 and 30 years. Older wind farms located in proximity to the LCA that reach the end of their operational life may be repowered. Repowering tends to replace the decommissioned turbines with fewer, taller turbines usually >200m to tip. Taller turbines can bring about more significant landscape and visual effects; although, this can be counterbalanced by the smaller number of turbines. Wind farms within 5km of the LCA that may be approaching the end of their operational life are:

- Dunlaw Windfarm Phase 1 (operational since 2000); and
- Dunlaw Windfarm Phase 2 (operational since 2010).

Figure A.15: In the west, existing wind farms contribute to the perception of a larger scale and developed skylines



Figure A.16: North-facing slopes look across East Lothian to the Firth of Forth



Figure A.17: Linn Dean Water's incised valley contributes to its smaller scale



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

A.86 The following table sets out an assessment of sensitivity of the LCA in relation to each of the criteria set out in **Chapter 2**.

Table A.13: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for the Plateau Grasslands LCA

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Landform and scale	- A large-scale rolling plateau that rises from approximately 320 AOD in the west to high points at West Hill (451 AOD) and Widow’s Knowe (436 AOD) in the east. Minor burns create shallow gullies in the plateau. - The landform slopes gently in the west to the steeply incised Linn Dean Water cleugh, which is smaller scale and has stronger sense of enclosure. The cleugh is included as one of Linn Dean Water’s qualities in the Humber Headwaters SLA (9) [See reference 1]. - The landform slopes steeply to the north from the summit of Widow’s Knowe and West Hill.	Medium-High The west of the LCA would be less sensitive to development due to its flatter landform and large scale. The steeper slopes in the north would cause wind turbines to sit at varying height, which would create visual confusion. The small scale of Linn Dean Water would be more sensitive to development.	Medium-High While the large scale of the landform reduces sensitivity, the rolling nature of the plateau increases its sensitivity to solar PV/BESS because screening is likely to be less effective.	Medium-High The large scale of the plateau reduces sensitivity to other large-scale development. The elevated nature of the landform would cause other large-scale development to be more prominent in the landscape. Development could form a scaling feature, reducing the apparent scale of the underlying landform. This increases sensitivity to this type of development.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	- The landcover is predominantly grassland with bands of coniferous shelter belts and small-scale plantations. - A coniferous woodland in the east, with smaller woodland blocks and shelter belts in the west, contributes to a sense of enclosure and smaller scale. - Patches of heather moorland are found at higher elevations, near to Widow’s Knowe. Intermittent areas of scrub are found along burns in the landscape. - There is no settlement or regular field pattern in the area. - Several existing wind farms are located within the LCA. Ancillary infrastructure, including a number of access roads, extend from the A68.	Medium Woodlands and shelter belts provide human scale features throughout the landscape, increasing sensitivity to all scales of turbines. However, the simple landcover reduces sensitivity. The perceived scale of the landscape increases in the west due to the more open nature, more limited forestry and presence of existing wind turbines.	Medium There is a lack of built elements in the east of the landscape, increasing sensitivity. However, wind turbines and ancillary infrastructure in the west decrease sensitivity. Development less than 10ha could fit within existing shelter belts in the west, reducing their impact on the existing landcover pattern due to screening.	Medium There is a lack of built elements in the east of the landscape, which increases sensitivity to large scale development. However, the simple landcover pattern and perception of human influence in the west would decrease sensitivity.
Historic landscape character	There are limited heritage assets within the LCT. In the east, the remains of a farmstead south of Wanside is a Scheduled Monument. Its 17th century, stone-built structure is valued for high degree of preservation and associated field system (see Figure B.5).	Low There is a limited perception of time depth in the landscape.	Low There is a limited perception of time depth in the landscape.	Low There is a limited perception of time depth in the landscape.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Visual receptors	- There are no settlements within the LCA. - There are limited recreational opportunities within the LCA, with some local paths extending from the Western Lammermuir Fringe LCA. Visual receptors are shown on Figure B.6.	Low The landscape is unpopulated with limited opportunities to engage in recreation.	Low The landscape is unpopulated with limited opportunities to engage in recreation.	Low The landscape is unpopulated with limited opportunities to engage in recreation.
Visual amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)	- Long, expansive views from elevated points in the landscape look northward over agricultural plains towards the coast. - Visual enclosure is locally created by the incised valley of Linn Dean Water and by woodlands and shelterbelts. However, the Humber Water SLA (9) recognises that <i>“the height of this section of the area on the edge of the Lammermuir Hills enables panoramic breath-taking views over East Lothian”</i> [See reference 1]. - Turbines from existing windfarms within the LCA add a perception of human influence to the skylines in the west of the LCA. These are highly visible from the A68. - The northern slope of the LCA forms part of the backdrop to the neighbouring Western Lammermuir Fringe LCA and Humber Water LCA and the wider Lammermuir skyline. - The LCA borders the Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA (3) to the north-east and the Scottish Borders’s Lammermuir Hills SLA to the south. Views into the LCA are visible from high points within both SLAs.	Medium-High The northern slopes of the plateau have important visual relationships with neighbouring LCAs, making them sensitive to all scales of turbines. A developed skyline is created by existing windfarms in the west. While this reduces sensitivity to development, it increases potential for cumulative effects.	Medium-High Intervisibility with surrounding landscapes increases the LCA’s sensitivity to solar PV/BESS, which would be visible on the skyline when viewed from the north. There could be opportunities to screen development less than 15ha.	Medium-High Intervisibility and the prominent skyline would increase sensitivity to large scale developments which would appear highly visible.
Perceptual and scenic qualities	- In areas of open grassland, long distance views over the rolling landscape contribute to a scenic quality. - The Linn Dean Water is valued for its ecologic and scenic qualities. As noted in the Humber Headwaters SLA (9), <i>“the area contains areas of naturalness and has a lack of artificial elements particularly along its wooded river banks. The steepness of the banks and rushing water adds to this feeling of wildness, although paths and the limited scale of the landscape limit this. The night sky satellite images from NASA from 2012 show this area to have limited light pollution although no very dark areas.”</i> [See reference 1]. - There is a strong perception of modification in the landscape resulting from existing windfarms and woodland plantations. However, much of the LCT retains a tranquil quality due to its lack of development in the east.	Medium While existing windfarms contribute to a modified perception in the west, the LCA retains a tranquil quality. Dark skies in the LCA further increase sensitivity, especially to larger scale turbines (<150m) which would require aviation lighting.	Medium The lack of development and modern infrastructure in much of the LCA increases its sensitivity. However, development less than 15ha may have reduced impact if sensitively sited.	Medium As with solar PV/BESS, the lack of modern development in the east creates greater sensitivity to large scale development. There may be opportunities to sensitively site large scale developments in the west of the landscape, where the perception of development is greater – though the area will be more sensitive to cumulative effects.

Overall landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

A.87 The area is characterised by a large-scale rolling plateau with open grassland and woodland plantations and shelterbelts, contributing to some areas with a stronger sense of enclosure. In the west, the Linn Dean Water valley is valued for its scenic qualities and has a smaller scale than the surrounding landscape. The landscape scale is larger in the south-west due to the presence of wind turbines, which are a maximum of 75m blade tip height. Introducing wind turbines of a greater scale than the existing turbines may result in visual confusion in the landscape due to the varying heights.

A.88 The area acts as a backdrop to the Western Lammermuir Fringe LCA and Humber Water LCA. It benefits from scenic views northwards across the landscape to the North Sea. Plantation forestry and existing wind energy developments contribute to a modified character. In the west, a high number of turbines are visible, both within the LCA and to the south-west. While the presence of turbines lowers sensitivity due to the perception of development, cumulative effects may impact the landscape. As a result of this, the LCA is of particular sensitivity to the largest scales of turbine.

Table A.14: Sensitivity scores to wind energy development in the Plateau Grassland LCA

Wind Energy Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score
Up to 49.9m tip height	Medium
50m to 99.9m tip height	Medium
100m to 149.9m tip height	Medium-High
150m to 199.9m tip height	High
Over 200m tip height	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.89 Linn Dean Water’s small scale, sense of enclosure and highly scenic qualities would put it at a much higher sensitivity to wind energy development.

A.90 Steeper slopes and less development in the east of the landscape, north of West Hill and Widow’s Knowe, would increase sensitivity to wind energy development at all scales.

Cumulative effects

A.91 Existing turbines at Pogie and Keith Hill Wind Farms are 74-76m tall and have an influence on the western area of the LCA. Visible wind farms in neighbouring councils, including the turbines associated with Dunlaw that are as close as 330m from the LCA, contribute to its developed character. The north facing slopes provide containment for existing wind energy development, creating an elevated ridgeline which when viewed from the north has wind farm development set back from the edge [See reference 4]. Extending wind energy development further north would result in this containment being lost. Wind energy development further east in Lammermuir Plateau LCA and south in the Scottish Borders Council cause breaks in the skyline of the Lammermuir Hills. Further development within this LCA would reduce gaps between developments and contribute to a wider spread of turbines in the landscape. This could result in visual clutter and exacerbate the perception of modification.

A.92 Existing turbines in the LCA are a maximum blade tip height of 76m. Turbines of a greater blade tip height may lead to visual confusion, resulting in higher sensitivity to larger scales of turbines. Larger scales of turbines may also reduce the distinctive pattern in East Lothian of clustered large scale wind energy development in the uplands and smaller scales in the lowlands [See reference 4].

Overall landscape sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development

A.93 The elevated, sloping landform increases sensitivity to solar PV/BESS. There is a strong sense of modification to the western area as a result of existing windfarms and forestry plantations, which reduces sensitivity to solar PV/BESS. However, in open areas of the landscape, solar PV/BESS would detract from the scenic quality of long-distance views northward. Existing forestry and shelterbelts would provide screening opportunities for smaller scales of solar PV/BESS. However, the screening opportunities provided by forestry plantation may change over time due to felling.

Table A.15: Sensitivity scores to solar PV/BESS development in the Plateau Grassland LCA

Solar PV/BESS Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score Solar PV	Sensitivity Score BESS
Small (up to 4.9ha for solar PV/BESS)	Medium	Medium
Medium (5-15ha for solar PV/5-9.9ha for BESS)	Medium	Medium

Solar PV/BESS Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score Solar PV	Sensitivity Score BESS
Large (15-50ha for solar PV/10-15ha for BESS)	High	Medium-High
Very large (more than 50ha for solar PV/more than 15ha for BESS)	High	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.94 The steep slopes and natural perception of the Linn Dean Water would cause solar PV/BESS to be highly visible within the enclosed valley. This area would be at a high sensitivity to all scales of development.

A.95 To the east of the LCA, while there is plantation forestry, there is less development and ancillary infrastructure than in the west, where there are wind farms. The lack of infrastructure reduces the perception of man-made development, increasing sensitivity to solar PV/BESS.

Cumulative effects

A.96 Currently there are no existing, consented or proposed solar PV or BESS developments within the LCA.

A.97 Opportunities to site development in lower sensitivity areas (e.g. near existing wind development) may concentrate cumulative effects across a smaller area. However, the development of solar PV/BESS elsewhere throughout the LCA would result in cumulative effects being experienced across a wider area. In either case, additional developments alongside the impacts of existing wind development in the area is likely to increase the perception of the landscape as one that is characterised by contemporary energy infrastructure.

Overall landscape sensitivity to other large-scale development

A.98 The elevated, open nature of the landscape would increase visibility of large-scale developments and their prominence on the skyline.

A.99 Due to the modified nature of the landscape, it would be less sensitive to large-scale development. However, there are limited built elements in the landscape, particularly to the east. The introduction of large-scale development would alter the perception of these areas. While there are shelterbelts and woodlands that may

provide some form of screening, it will be important to consider how the felling of commercial plantations could affect this in the long term.

Table A.16: Sensitivity scores to other large-scale development in the Plateau Grassland LCA

Other Large-scale Development	Sensitivity Score
Other large-scale development	Medium-High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.100 The perception of human influence is stronger in proximity to the existing wind farms to the west. However, the east of the landscape – which is primarily a mix of open grassland and woodland plantation – has no existing infrastructure or modern development. This would cause large-scale development to be more intrusive, and this area would be of medium-high sensitivity.

Cumulative effects

A.101 The perception of development on the skyline would increase through the introduction of a new, large-scale development in the LCA. In the west, where there are existing wind farms within the LCA and on the edge of its boundary, this would likely create visual clutter.

A.102 Placing large-scale developments throughout the LCA, away from existing wind farms, would result in the cumulative effects of development being experienced across a wider area. This may result in the landscape being characterised by contemporary infrastructure.

Siting and design guidance

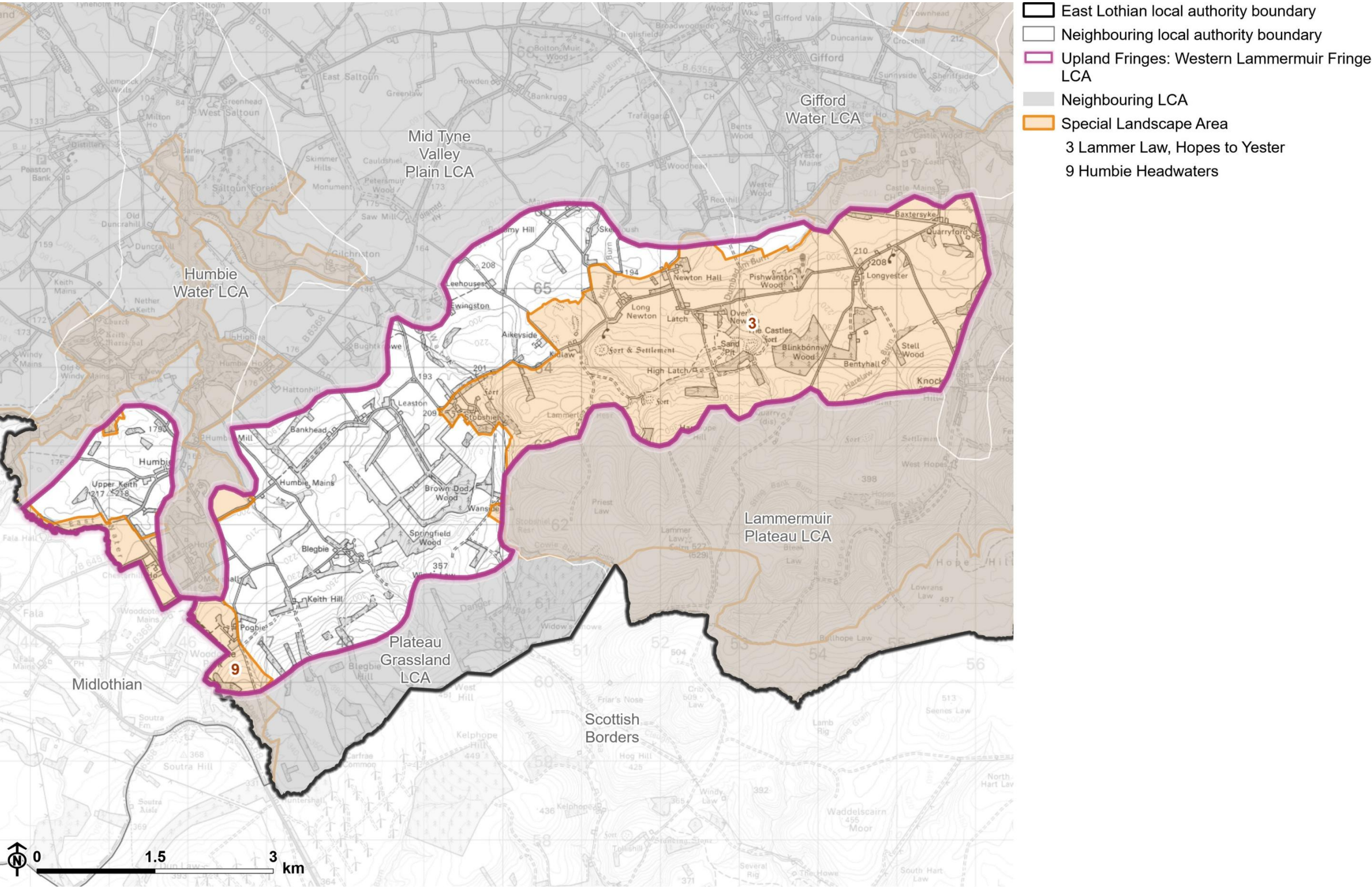
A.103 Siting and design guidance specific to this LCA is set out below. This should be read in conjunction with LCA specific guidance set out in the Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Planning Guidance [\[See reference 1\]](#) and the higher level guidance for the relevant LCT provided in **Chapter 4**.

- Focus development across larger scale landform, avoiding the smaller scale, more intimate valley of Linn Dean Water.
- Avoid siting development on the steeper slopes of West Hill and Widow’s Knowe where development would be widely visible from the surrounding area.

- Take opportunities to maximise screening provided by vegetation, including areas of plantation.

Western Lammermuir Fringe LCA (Upland Fringe LCT)

Figure A.18: Contextual map of the LCA



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LCA landscape character overview

A.104 The Western Lammermuir Fringe LCA forms extensive, sweeping hill slopes extending east to west from the Hopes Water to the administrative border on Midlothian at East Water, as shown on **Figure A.18**. The area forms a transition from lowland to upland at the northern margin of the Lammermuir Hills and is part of the Upland Fringe LCT.

A.105 The key characteristics of this LCA which are of relevance to the LSA include:

- *“Extensive sweep of hill slopes forming an east-west band stretching along the northern margin of the Lammermuir Hills. Smoothly undulating landform, intersected by numerous water courses forming enclosed V-shaped valley.”*
- *“The unimproved pasture of good rough grassland with stonewall and fence boundaries of the higher ground bordering the Lammermuirs merges with large expanses of arable fields with clipped mixed hedgerow boundaries on the lower ground.”*
- *“There are many established coniferous and mixed shelterbelts throughout the farmland.”*
- *“Many small roads wind through the slopes.”*
- *“There are many signs of ancient settlement in the form of forts which cap higher ground.”*
- *“One line of pylons runs northwards through the hill slopes generally well absorbed by the rolling landform and shelterbelts.”*
- *“The area has a transitional character merging from lowland to up lands visible through the changing landform and land cover.”*
- *“Views out are generally focused north towards and over the lowlands to the coast, however the combination of numerous wooded areas and undulations in landform often create more intimate and enclosed depressions.”* **[See reference 1]**

Designated landscapes

A.106 Approximately half the LCA is covered by SLAs (as shown in **Figure A.18**):

- Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA (3); and
- Humbie Head Waters SLA (9).

A.107 Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA (3) covers almost half the LCA in the east, extending from Stobshiel to the eastern boundary of the LCA at Hopes Water and into surrounding LCAs. The Humble Head Waters SLA (9) is primarily located in the neighbouring Humble Water LCA, though extends into the west of the LCA at Linn Dean Water. The reasons for designation are set out in the East Lothian Special Landscape Area Supplementary Planning Guidance [\[See reference 1\]](#).

A.108 The Humble Head Waters SLA (9) extends along the boundary of the LCA with Midlothian Council, which is also designated as the Midlothian Fala Rolling Farmland and Policies SLA.

A.109 In the north-east, the Yester House GLA extends into the LCA. Four local GDLs are also located within or partially within the LCA (see **Figure B.5**).

Existing renewable energy and other large-scale development

A.110 There are no operational or under construction wind farms, solar PV/BESS or other large-scale developments in the LCA.

A.111 In the west, there is some intervisibility with Keith Hill (5 turbines, 76m blade tip height), Pogie Wind Farm (5 turbines, 76m blade tip height), and Pogie Wind Farm extension (6 turbines, 74m blade tip height). However, these windfarms are screened by the landform in most views.

Figure A.19: The distinctive, undulating landform contributes to a sense of enclosure



Figure A.20: Stone field boundaries contribute to a historic character and open, expansive skyline

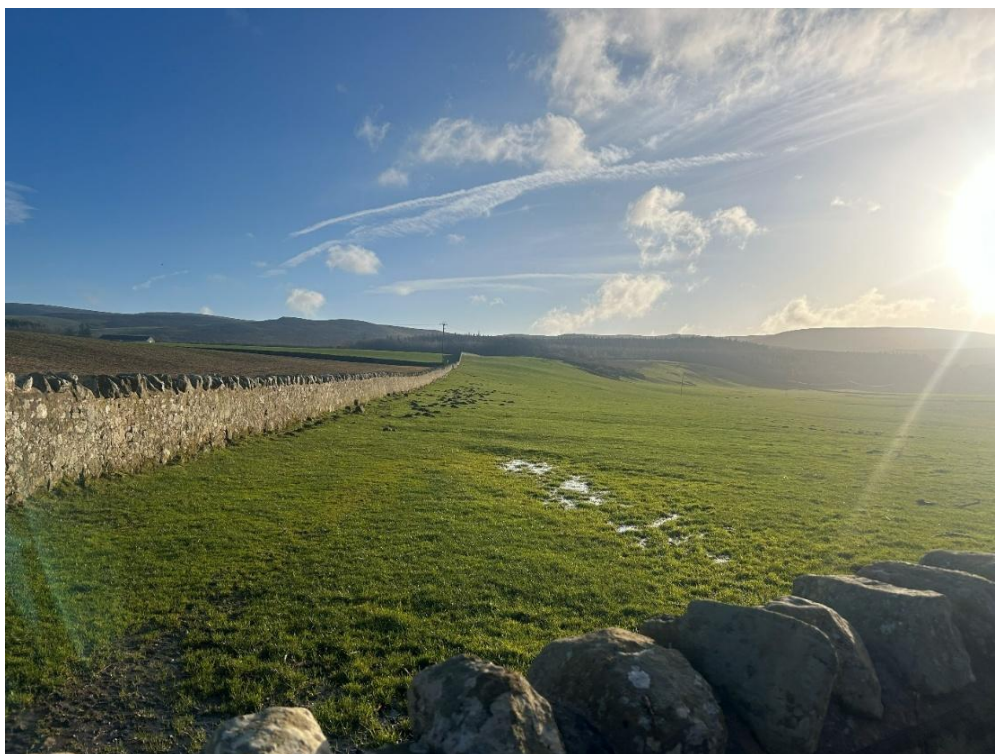


Figure A.21: Long distance views across the area are found at higher elevation, including over open fields adjacent to Blinkbonny Wood



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

A.112 The following table sets out an assessment of sensitivity of the LCA in relation to each of the criteria set out in **Chapter 2**.

Table A.17: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for the Upland Fringe: Western Lammermuir Fringe LCA

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Landform and scale	■ A sweep of extensive, undulating, east-west hill slopes along the margin of the Lammermuir Hills with numerous water courses. The hills provide a sense of enclosure, particularly in the west where undulations are more pronounced. ■ The landform has a transitional upland to lowland character, with its scale becoming greater in the east where open slopes connect with Gifford Water LCA. ■ There are some locally distinctive hills, including the Kidlaw Erratic, which is recognised in the Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA (3): as an “<i>example of glacial erosion and transport of large mass of bedrock with national/regional significance protected as a geodiversity site</i>” [See reference 1].	High Pronounced undulations contribute to a higher sensitivity all scales of wind energy. The sloping nature of the landform would also likely result in turbines sitting at different heights, causing visual confusion. Taller turbines (>100m tip height) may appear out of scale with the landform and detract from transition into the Lammermuir Hills.	High The elevated slopes of the landform would cause solar PV/BESS to be more visible throughout the landscape and in longer distance views. Scales of solar PV/BESS development up to 15ha would be less likely to mask the characteristic undulating topography, particularly in the west where the landform is flatter.	High The elevated nature of the landscape would cause large scale development to be prominent in the landscape, by introducing a bulky feature within the landscape, which would provide a scale comparison for the hills.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	■ The landcover is a mix of unimproved pasture with rough grassland and large expanses of arable fields, with an irregular pattern. ■ Dry stone dyke and post-and-wire boundaries are common, with coniferous forest and mixed shelterbelts found throughout the landscape. This contributes to a smaller scale and localised sense of enclosure. ■ A number of wooded burns run through fields, with “<i>areas of ancient woodland... identified in the lower areas of land providing contrast with the surrounding arable land</i>” being a special quality of the Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA (3) [See reference 1]. ■ There is minimal development, with few buildings that are associated with farms. There is also a sand and gravel in the east, however it is screened by the landform. The “<i>sparse built development</i>” is a feature of the Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA (3) [See reference 1]. ■ Wooded river valleys in the west are valued for their habitats with the special landscape qualities for the Humble Head Water SLA (9) noting that “<i>their habitats and wildlife [as] indicated by the designation several Local Biodiversity Sites</i>” [See reference 1]. Refer to Figure B.4.	Medium-High Wind turbines of any scale would detract from the characteristic lack of development in the LCA. The mix of landcover and the intact historic field pattern in many places indicate greater sensitivity to wind development. The field boundaries, shelterbelts and woodlands also provide human-scale references in the landscape and would emphasise the scale of wind turbines. However, existing vegetation may afford screening opportunities for wind turbines <49.9m tip height.	Medium-High The irregular fields and undeveloped landscape with minimal settlement would be more sensitive to the introduction of solar PV/BESS development. Such development would introduce man-made built structures and reduces the existing naturalistic land cover and could risk diluting or masking the characteristic landscape patterns including landcover and field patterns. There may be opportunities for screening from existing shelterbelt and woodlands, particularly for scales of solar PV/BESS up to 4.9ha.	Medium-High The introduction of new landcover from large-scale development would reduce the undeveloped character of the area. The irregular field pattern may also be susceptible to damage from large scale development that would be likely to span over multiple fields. Such development would also provide a scaling feature for smaller scale landscape features such as trees and woodland.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	An overhead line cuts through the area near Stobshiel, introducing tall man-made features into the landscape.			
Historic landscape character	- There are eight scheduled monuments in the LCA, including forts and enclosures, which are in prominent positions on rising ground (see Figure B.5). These “<i>upstanding prehistoric remains</i>” are a special quality of the Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA (3) [See reference 1]. - The archaeological remains throughout the LCA form part of its designation in the Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA (3), acknowledging “<i>the area is rich in archaeological remains [including Kidlaw Fort and Stobshiel Fort] and monuments and has a high potential for previously unknown sites</i>” [See reference 1]. - In the west, there are listed buildings at Pogbie House and near Leaston. - The Yester House GDL extends into the north-east of the area. Four local GDLs are also within or partially within the LCA, including Johnstounburn in the west with its associated listed lodge (see Figure B.5).	Medium-High The LCA has several historic features which contribute to the time depth of the area.	Medium-High The LCA has several historic features which contribute to the time depth of the area.	Medium-High The LCA has several historic features which contribute to the time depth of the area.
Visual receptors	- Settlement in the area is primarily associated with farms. In the west, the village of Humbie village extends between the LCA and the Humbie Water LCA. - In the east, a public right of way connects core path 56, a special quality of the Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA (3), at the southern boundary of the catchment with Longyester [See reference 1]. A number of informal paths connect to paths in the Lammermuir Plateau LCA into the south. A core path also connects Longyester to a wider path network in Gifford Water LCA (see Figure B.6). - In the west, two public rights of way connect Humbie to path networks in the Humbie Water LCA (see Figure B.6).	Medium There is sparse settlement and limited opportunities for recreation in the landscape. However, existing paths play an important role in providing access to recreation in neighbouring LCAs, resulting in a higher sensitivity to visual receptors.	Medium There is sparse settlement and limited opportunities for recreation in the landscape. However, existing paths play an important role in providing access to recreation in neighbouring LCAs, resulting in a higher sensitivity to visual receptors.	Medium There is sparse settlement and limited opportunities for recreation in the landscape. However, existing paths play an important role in providing access to recreation in neighbouring LCAs, resulting in a higher sensitivity to visual receptors.
Visual amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)	- Smooth, undulating hills form prominent elevated skylines which are primarily undeveloped. Similar views are available to hills within the Lammermuir Plateau LCA to the south. - An overhead line running north to south through the centre of the LCA contributes to a localised sense of development on the skyline. - Scenic, long-distance views across fields are found at higher elevations, near the boundary with the Lammermuir Plateau LCA.	High The LCA has an important visual relationship with adjacent LCAs and is highly visible in long distance views towards the Lammermuir Hills throughout East Lothian. Wind turbines would introduce vertical features into these views and would impact the undeveloped	High Solar PV/BESS development would introduce man-made features into views which could impact both open and more contained views depending on development scale and location. While screening may be possible, development would likely still be visible in open	High Given the massing, these large-scale developments are likely to be highly visible within the landscape, particularly if sited on higher slopes. Such development would also likely be visible when viewed from the higher slopes and summits within the LCA and

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	- There is significant intervisibility between the LCA and surrounding LCAs as it forms part of the view of Lammermuir Hills when viewed from the north. It is part of the backdrop to the Humble Water LCA, Mid Tyne Valley Plain LCA, and the Gifford Water LCA. - It is also visible in long distance views north from the Plateau Grassland LCA, Lammermuir Plateau LCA and high points in the west of the Eastern Lammermuir Fringe LCA. This includes views from Lammer Law, which is a special quality of the Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA (3) [See reference 1]. - The LCA partly forms the setting of Lammerloch Reservoir. While the reservoir sits within the Lammermuir Plateau LCA, the Western Lammermuir Fringe LCA is highly visible from the reservoir and contributes to the “<i>highly scenic area around Lammerloch Reservoir</i>” [See reference 1]. - Prehistoric forts in the LCA are often on ridgelines and associated with views; as described in the Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA (3); “<i>There is a concentration of significant prehistoric settlement remains along the ridgeline [with significant view points]</i>” [See reference 1]. - Locally distinctive landforms like the Kidlaw Erratic are visible on the skyline from roads and paths within the LCA. “<i>Significant views points which highlight the importance of a number of Prehistoric sites</i>” are a special quality of the Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA (3) [See reference 1].	skyline in these views. However, some screening due to landform and vegetation may be possible for smaller scale wind turbines (<100m tip height).	views from elevated locations or if sited on highly visible slopes. This may result in solar PV/BESS being visible in long distance views. At scales of development up to 15ha, sensitively sited development may cover minimal changes in elevation, resulting in more effective screening opportunities, particularly in the west where the landform is flatter.	neighbouring LCAs. Given their height and massing, there is limited potential for effective mitigation screening.
Perceptual and scenic qualities	- Traditional field boundaries and lack of development contribute to the LCA's tranquil, rural character. The undeveloped nature of the LCA contributes to its perceived attractive character, particularly in the east, as noted in the Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA (3), “<i>the presence of reservoirs, with very little built development give strong aesthetic and sensory appeal. The relative wildness and remoteness means few artificial sounds</i>” [See reference 1]. - On the western boundary with Midlothian, the Humble Head Water SLA (9) recognises the “<i>naturalness and has a lack of artificial elements particularly along its wooded river banks... [which] adds to this feeling of wildness.</i>” It also recognises the limited light pollution of the area [See reference 1]. - The contours of the hill slopes are recognised for the scenic way they interact with light in the Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA (3) [See reference 1].	Medium-High Man-made features such as turbines may detract from the natural characteristics and scenic nature of the landscape, particularly in the east and along the western boundary. Wind development of any scale may detract from these qualities and contribute to a more developed perception, by introducing tall vertical features into the landscape. Additionally, wind turbines with a tip height of 150m and over would require	Medium-High The relatively undeveloped nature of the LCA, and its associated sense of remoteness contributes to a higher sensitivity to solar PV/BESS. However, if sensitively sited and screened, development less than 15ha may have limited impact on the tranquil, undeveloped character, due to potential for development of this size to be partly screened from views.	Medium-High Other large-scale development would impact the tranquil nature of the LCA and its special qualities designated in its SLAs as a result of its large scale, perceived modern and developed nature.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
		aviation lighting, which would impact dark skies.		

Overall landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

A.113 The extensive hill slopes, with pronounced undulations, human-scale features such as woodlands and a lack of existing development would indicate higher sensitivity to wind energy development. However, wind turbines up to 49.9m tip height may be less disruptive to the LCA where they could be partly screened by existing woodland and shelterbelts or associated with existing farm infrastructure.

A.114 The historic hill forts, which are often associated with viewpoints and skylines, and the GDLs further increase sensitivity as wind energy development would alter their relationships with the surrounding landscape. The LCA also has a strong visual connection with neighbouring areas, which would result in wind energy development being highly visible in views both from adjacent LCAs and longer distance views within East Lothian. Wind energy development would also detract from the LCA’s tranquil character that benefits from a wild and natural perception in certain areas.

Table A.18: Sensitivity scores to wind energy development in the Western Lammermuir Fringe LCA

Wind Energy Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score
Up to 49.9m tip height	Medium
50m to 99.9m tip height	High
100m to 149.9m tip height	High
150m to 199.9m tip height	High
Over 200m tip height	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.115 Sensitivity to wind energy developments would be high throughout the LCA. However, the steeper slopes which border the Lammermuir Plateau would be particularly sensitive to wind energy due to their highly visible nature and the likelihood that wind turbines would sit at varying heights, resulting in visual confusion.

Cumulative effects

A.116 There are no existing, proposed or consented wind energy developments in the LCA. However, existing wind energy developments in neighbouring LCAs, Midlothian, and the Scottish Borders would increase the impact of cumulative effects. Existing wind energy developments in East Lothian have a degree of containment.

Wind turbines in the LCA would draw the impact of wind energy development in East Lothian further north. This may further break the skyline of the Lammermuir Hills, which is currently only intermittently broken by existing development.

Overall landscape sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development

A.117 The extensive hill slopes, with pronounced undulations indicate higher sensitivity to solar PV/BESS. Their elevated nature would increase visibility of development. The irregular field patterns and lack of development in the LCA further increases sensitivity to solar PV/BESS, though there may be some capacity to site development less than 15ha within the existing field pattern.

A.118 A number of scheduled monuments and historic features contribute to the historic character of the LCA. Features like hill forts have a historic relationship with views accessed from their location. Solar PV/BESS may introduce new landcover and create a more modern perception in views from these assets. The LCA is highly visible from adjacent LCAs and views would likely be impacted by solar PV/BESS, particularly at larger scales. At smaller scales, screening opportunities from the landform and vegetation could cause development to be less intrusive if sensitively sited.

Table A.19: Sensitivity scores to solar PV/BESS development in the Western Lammermuir Fringe LCA

Solar PV/BESS Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score Solar PV	Sensitivity Score BESS
Small (Up to 4.9ha)	Medium	Medium-High
Medium (5-15ha for solar PV/5-9.9ha for BESS)	Medium-High	Medium-High
Large (15-50ha for solar PV/10-15ha for BESS)	High	High
Very large (more than 50ha for solar PV/more than 15ha for BESS)	High	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.119 The upper slopes of the LCA, where it borders the Lammermuir Plateau LCA, would be of high sensitivity to all scales of development. The steep nature of these slopes would likely result in screening being less effective.

Cumulative effects

A.120 There is no existing, proposed or consented solar PV/BESS development in the LCA. While the LCA would be less sensitive to small scales of solar PV/BESS, should a number of developments be introduced to the landscape, it may create a more developed perception.

Overall landscape sensitivity to other large-scale development

A.121 The elevated nature of the extensive hill slopes and the lack of built elements in the landscape would increase the prominence of large-scale development. Woodlands and shelterbelts may provide screening opportunities for other large-scale development. However, the effectiveness of screening may be limited due to the landform.

A.122 Undeveloped skylines, with some distinctive features, and their association to historic hill forts further increases sensitivity. Landscape features such as ancient woodlands and drystone dykes would also be susceptible to damage as a result of introducing other larger-scale developments. The modern perception of large-scale development would also detract from the LCA’s traditional, historic nature and its areas of natural character that are a special quality in overlapping SLAs.

Table A.20: Sensitivity scores to other large-scale development in the Western Lammermuir Fringe LCA

Other Large-scale Development	Sensitivity Score
Other large-scale development	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.123 The entirety of the LCA would be at high sensitivity to large-scale development. However, areas of particular sensitivity includes the steep hill slopes bordering the Lammermuir Plateau LCA and Plateau Grassland LCA.

Cumulative effects

A.124 There is no existing, proposed or consented large-scale development in the LCA. Cumulative effects would be strongest in the west however, where wind energy development in neighbouring areas has resulted in a more developed perception.

The addition of large scale development within the LCA would extend this perception across a wider area.

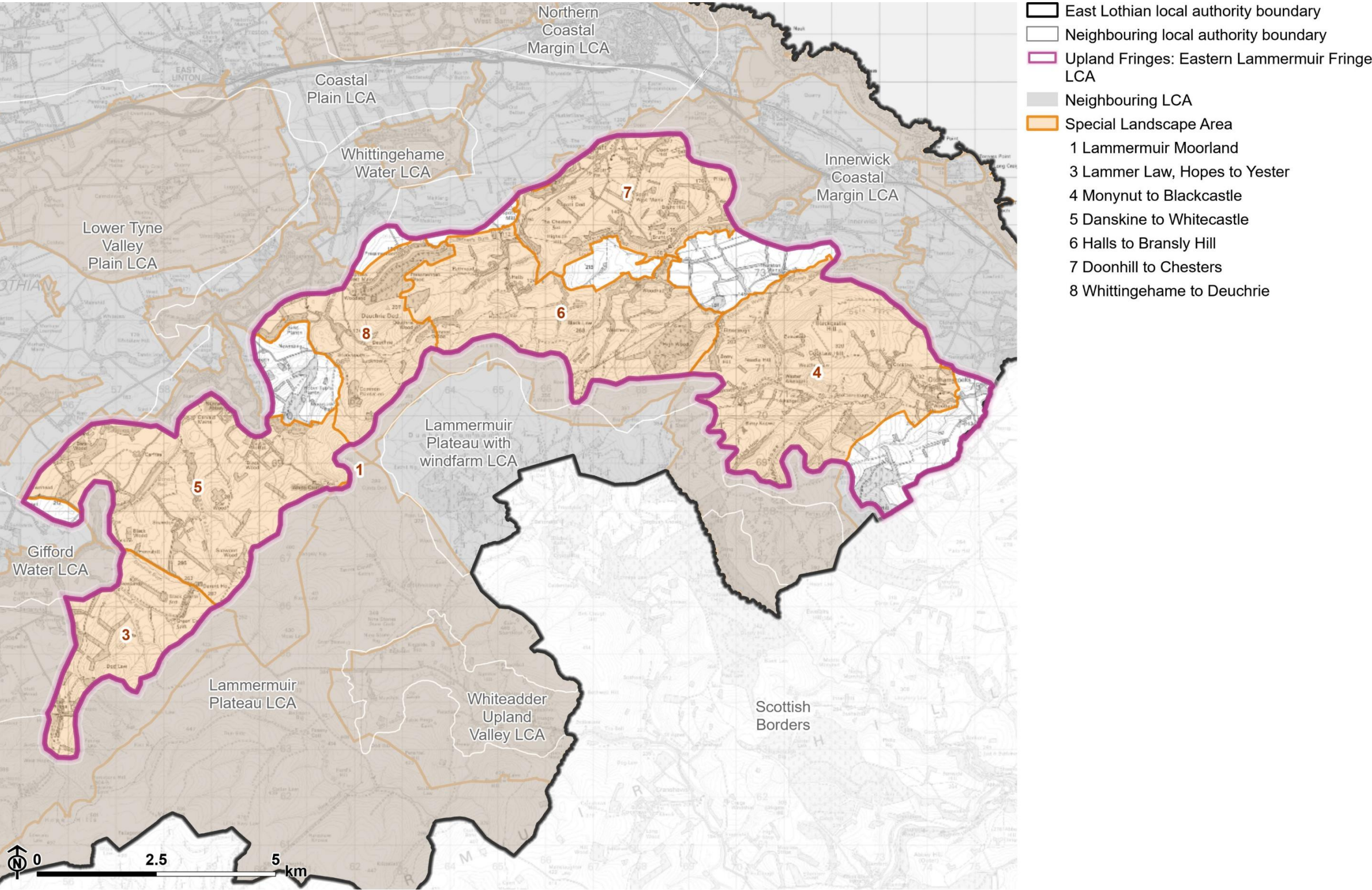
Siting and design guidance

A.125 Siting and design guidance specific to this LCA is set out below. This should be read in conjunction with LCA specific guidance set out in the Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Planning Guidance [\[See reference 1\]](#) and the higher level guidance for the relevant LCT provided in **Chapter 4**.

- Avoid siting development on highly visible and steep slopes which rise up to the Lammermuir plateau.
- Consider sites where areas of existing landscape components, such as shelterbelts could screen lower-lying elements of development, such as the areas in the west near Blegbie and Stobshi.

Eastern Lammermuir Fringe LCA (Upland Fringe LCT)

Figure A.22: Contextual map of the LCA



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LCA landscape character overview

A.126 The Eastern Lammermuir Fringe LCA is located within the Upland Fringe LCT, in the south-east of the East Lothian local authority area. The LCA extends from Hopes Water in the west to Oldhamstocks in the east by the Scottish Borders local authority area, as shown on **Figure A.22**. It comprises the transitional land between the plateau moorland of the Lammermuir Hills to the south and the lowland and coastal plain to the north and north-east.

A.127 The key characteristics of this LCA which are of relevance to the LSA include:

- *“The strongly moulded landform is composed of an intricately interwoven series of smooth, rounded low hills and slopes, dissected by an abundance of streams.”*
- *“The watercourses pass through deeply incised steep-sided valleys (‘cleughs’ and ‘deans’).”*
- *“Sharp contrast in landform between smooth upland slopes and steep sided deans.”*
- *“There are several small lochs, ponds and reservoirs scattered within the area often hidden within depressions.”*
- *“Large scale fields of improved pasture and [...] rough grassland changes to arable ground as the hill slopes merge with the coastal plain.”*
- *“[At higher elevations,] field boundaries consist of stone walls and post and wire fences, interspersed with occasional hedgerows. Hedgerow trees of beech, oak, ash and sycamore are widely scattered throughout the lower arable slopes.”*
- *“Steep valley sides are uncultivated and clothed by deciduous woodland or areas of gorse, bracken and scrub [...] Significant areas of ancient oak woodland.”*
- *“Medium scale coniferous plantations, shelterbelts, tree clumps and areas of mixed woodland are evident across the hill slopes and close to farm buildings.”*
- *“Distinctive character of dense rural road network, including local features such as fords and bridges.”*
- *“A scattering of traditional farmsteads often dwarfed by large modern sheds or barns.”*
- *“Two highly visible pylon lines extend east to west across the hill slopes. Two wind turbines at Ferneylea and one at Woodhall Farm intrude on this area.”*

- *“The large scale, open landscape affords extensive views towards the coast from the smooth domed hill tops.” [See reference 1]*

Designated landscapes

A.128 A large proportion of the LCA is covered by six Special Landscape Areas (SLAs), as shown on **Figure A.22**. These SLAs are Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester (3), Danskine to Whitecastle (5), Whittingehame to Deuchrie (8), Halls to Bransly Hill (6), Doonhill to Chesters (7) and Monynut to Blackcastle (4). The reasons for designation are set out in the East Lothian Special Landscape Area Supplementary Planning Guidance [See reference 1].

A.129 In addition, two Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs) are partially located within the LCA. Parts of Yester House GDL are located in the western extents of the LCA and part of Dunglass GDL is located in the eastern extents, as shown on **Figure B.5**. These are noted for their formal landscapes dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries.

A.130 There are also several local GDLs in the LCA, namely: Hopes House GDL in the south-west; Whittingehame GDL and Pressmennan GDL in the north-east; and Spott House GDL and Thurston GDL in the north.

Existing renewable energy and other large-scale development

A.131 There is one operational wind farm in the LCA: Ferneylea Farm (2 turbines, 71m to tip), located in the east. In addition, there is a single turbine (78m to tip) located in the east at Woodhall Farm. There is a small operational BESS facility at Aikengall which was granted permission in 2024.

A.132 Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm (54 turbines, 208m to tip) is located approximately 36km north-east from the LCA. From higher ground in the east, Neart na Gaoithe can be seen on the distant horizon on clear days.

Figure A.23: North of the Dod, looking north-west towards the Brunt



Figure A.24: North-west of West Mains Wood, looking west across the coastal plain



Figure A.25: Within Halls to Bransly Hill (6) SLA: on Channel Brae, overlooking Channel Wood and Ice Cleugh



Figure A.26: Within Halls to Bransly Hill (6) SLA: on Channel Brae, looking south-east with the Thornton to Strathaven overhead line on the skyline



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

A.133 The following table sets out an assessment of sensitivity of the LCA in relation to each of the criteria set out in **Chapter 2**.

Table A.21: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for the Eastern Lammermuir Fringe LCA

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Landform and scale	■ The LCA is defined by a strongly moulded landform of an intricately interwoven series of smooth, rounded low hills dissected by cleughs and deans. This topographic contrast is a special quality of several SLAs: Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester (3), Monynut to Blackcastle (4), Doonhill to Chesters (7), and Whittingehame to Deuchrie (8). ■ The landscape is uniquely modified by glaciation, containing delicate, small-scale features like kame terraces, eskers, and meltwater channels. The Danskine to Whitecastle (5), Halls to Bransly Hill (6) and Whittingehame to Deuchrie (8) SLAs highlight these intricate landforms. ■ The north-eastern extents comprise the characteristic transition between the open upland and the coastal plain to the north. For example, the areas where hills descend towards the plain, such as Doon Hill, Brunt Hill, and Blackcastle Hill. ■ More intimate, small scales can be experienced within Rammer Cleugh, Bladderling Cleugh, and the cleughs of Woodhall Dean, Ling Hope, and Burn Hope.	Medium-High Whilst the smooth slopes of the hills indicate lower sensitivity to wind energy development, the interplay between the smooth, rounded low hills and the deep cleughs and deans is complex, indicating a higher sensitivity to wind energy development as turbines >50m could detract from the distinctive landform. Similarly, turbines of >50m could overwhelm the small-scale glaciation features and intimate cleughs and deans.	Medium-High While the rolling landform itself is relatively simple, indicating lower sensitivity to this type of development, the complex interplay between the smooth, rounded low hills and the deep cleughs and deans has a higher sensitivity to larger scales of solar PV (>15ha) and BESS (>5ha) development as the angular, engineered forms of such development could disrupt the LCA’s flowing topography. Small to medium developments may sit within the landscape without masking the topography of the area, particularly in flatter areas. Surrounding landform could provide some screening of development in such areas.	High The complex interplay between the smooth, rounded low hills and the deep cleughs and deans has a higher sensitivity to this type of development as the large massing would disrupt the LCA’s flowing topography. Similarly, the small-scale glaciation features and intimate cleughs and deans indicate higher sensitivity as such development may overwhelm these features. Introducing a bulky feature would provide a scale comparison for both the hills and the more intricate cleughs.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	■ Mix of land uses across the area, with large scale fields of improved pasture and rough grassland changing to arable as the hill slopes merge with the coastal plain. There are some large fields bounded by shelterbelts. ■ Semi-natural landcover is present and notable in the form of SSSIs, such as Papan Water SSSI, Danskine Loch SSSI, Rammer Cleugh SSSI, Woodhall Dean SSSI, Lammermuir Deans SSSI, and Lammermuir Deans SSSI. Rammer Cleugh SSSI is one of the special qualities of the Whittingehame to Deuchrie (8) SLA [See reference 1]. ■ Several human-scale features including woodland. “<i>Shelter belts, generally coniferous [...give] the landscape structure and variety</i>” – this is one of the special qualities of the Danskine to Whitecastle (5) SLA [See reference 1].	Medium-High The settlement pattern is historic and much of the historic field pattern remains intact, and there are frequent human scale features, indicating higher sensitivity to wind energy development. Larger turbines (>50m) would overwhelm such features.	Medium-High The relatively undeveloped character of the LCA and the areas of semi-natural land cover indicate greater sensitivity to this type of development. Such development would introduce man-made built structures and reduces extent of existing naturalistic land cover. Consequently, this type of development (particularly larger	Medium-High As for solar PV/BESS. Large-scale developments would be most suited to larger field patterns, as it could extend across several smaller-scale fields, disturbing the landcover pattern. Such development could also provide a scaling feature for smaller scale landscape features such as trees and woodland. However, the presence of shelterbelts

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	- Deciduous woodland is often confined to river channels, some of which is ancient woodland, such as within the Hopes Water Valley. This valley is “<i>identified as a local biodiversity site for its river valley with woodland habitat</i>,” which is one of the special qualities of the Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester (3) SLA [See reference 1]. - There is very little built development. Settlement pattern consists of scattered farmsteads and clusters of cottages with occasional small villages, located primarily along the small valleys and lower slopes near rivers and burns. The large farmsteads with old farmhouses, such as Newlands, is one of the special qualities of the Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester (3) SLA [See reference 1]. - Historic field pattern is intact in some lower-lying area, evidenced by small scale, irregular fields bounded by beech and hawthorn hedges. At higher elevations, fields become larger in scale and transition to open rough grazing land. Higher up, boundaries are demarcated by post and wire fencing and walls. Beech and hawthorn hedges are common at lower elevations.		solar PV/BESS development of 10ha+) could risk diluting or masking the characteristic landscape patterns including landcover and historic field patterns. The frequent small scale features also increase sensitivity to BESS development as such development may seem out of scale. However, the presence of shelterbelts may be able to provide screening.	may be able to provide screening.
Historic landscape character	- The LCA retains a strong historic settlement pattern, featuring traditional hillfoot villages nestled into the topography. Fords and bridges contribute to the vernacular. As do the traditional farmhouses, steadings, and cottages, which contribute to the “<i>historic nature of the area</i>” as identified in the special qualities for the Whittingehame to Deuchrie (8) and Doonhill to Chesters (7) SLAs. - The Conservation Area of Oldhamstocks relies heavily on its wider landscape setting, which extends to the surrounding hilltops. The landscape setting of Oldhamstocks helps to define its medieval agricultural character. - The LCA contains several nationally and locally designated GDLs (see Figure B.5). The historic landscape features of these GDLs (including walled gardens, stone bridges, and policy woodlands) and their important historical connections contribute to the historic landscape character of the LCA. - Some of these historic landscape features, such as policy woodlands, are particularly noticeable from higher slopes within the LCA. - The LCA has a strong sense of time depth. The ridges and hillfoots contain a dense concentration of prehistoric remains which make up the special qualities of several SLAs (Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester (3), Danskine to Whitecastle (5), and Doon Hill to Chesters (7)). Key scheduled monuments include Whitecastle Fort and the Chesters Hill Fort, which were built to exploit	High The LCA has a high density of historic features important to the character of the area and an extensive time depth, indicating a high sensitivity to contemporary energy infrastructure. The LCA displays a rich, coherent and layered expression of history, with numerous well-preserved features. The perceived time depth, through continuity, is dominant and defines the landscape’s character. Introducing contemporary energy infrastructure would intrude upon important views into and out from historical assets, harming their contemporary landscape settings. For example, key scheduled monuments like	High The LCA has a high density of historic features important to the character of the area and an extensive time depth, indicating a high sensitivity to contemporary energy infrastructure. The LCA displays a rich, coherent and layered expression of history, with numerous well-preserved features. The perceived time depth, through continuity, is dominant and defines the landscape’s character. Introducing contemporary energy infrastructure would intrude upon important views into and out from historical assets, harming their contemporary landscape settings. For example, key scheduled monuments like	High The LCA has a high density of historic features important to the character of the area and an extensive time depth, indicating a high sensitivity to contemporary energy infrastructure. The LCA displays a rich, coherent and layered expression of history, with numerous well-preserved features. The perceived time depth, through continuity, is dominant and defines the landscape’s character. Introducing contemporary energy infrastructure would intrude upon important views into and out from historical assets, harming their contemporary landscape settings. For example, key scheduled monuments like

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	the strategic, panoramic views over the East Lothian plain. The high number of these historic assets is one of the special qualities of the Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester (3) SLA [See reference 1]. Core Path 228 is Herring Road, a ScotWays Heritage Path, which begins in the centre of the LCA (see Figure B.6).	Whitecastle Fort and the Chesters Hill Fort were built to exploit strategic, panoramic views and so their wider contemporary landscape setting is sensitive to the introduction of contemporary energy infrastructure.	Whitecastle Fort and the Chesters Hill Fort were built to exploit strategic, panoramic views and so their wider contemporary landscape setting is sensitive to the introduction of contemporary energy infrastructure.	Whitecastle Fort and the Chesters Hill Fort were built to exploit strategic, panoramic views and so their wider contemporary landscape setting is sensitive to the introduction of contemporary energy infrastructure.
Visual receptors	- There are several core paths throughout the LCA, providing access into the Lammermuir Hills (see Figure B.6). The highly scenic core path 54 passes through the glen of Hopes Water. Core path 228/Herring Road passes through the LCA and is one of the special qualities of Halls to Bransly Hill (6) SLA. Core path 233 passes through Pressmennan Wood and is one of the special qualities of Whittingehame to Deuchrie (8) SLA. - Residential receptors are scattered throughout the area, although primarily focused along the small valleys and lower slopes near rivers and burns. Historic hillfoot villages nestled into the valleys, including settlements such as Oldhamstocks (Monynut to Blackcastle (4) SLA), Garvald (Danskin to Whitecastle (5) SLA), and Spott (Doonhill to Chesters (7) SLA) contain higher concentrations of sensitive residential receptors. - The recreational importance of the area is recognised in the special qualities for the Doonhill to Chesters (7) SLA which states <i>“the area is important for recreation with great viewpoints from higher ground... where the steep slopes provide dramatic views from the top”</i>.	Medium-High Wind turbines within the LCA would likely to be visible from a variety of receptors including residential receptors and those engaging in recreational activity. Visibility would increase with taller turbines.	Medium-High Solar PV/BESS developments of varying sizes would be experienced in views from residential and recreational receptors as they travel through the area, particularly, larger-scale schemes which extend across greater spatial extents and may be more visible on slopes.	Medium-High Other large-scale developments would be experienced in views from residential and recreational receptors as they travel through the area, particularly if sited on more visible slopes.
Visual amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)	- The LCA encompasses sections of the Lothian Edge and fault line scarps, which make up a highly visible defining backdrop to the East Lothian plain below. This characteristic is a special quality of several SLAs, including the Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester (3), Danskin to Whitecastle (5), Halls to Bransly Hill (6), Doonhill to Chesters (7), and Whittingehame to Deuchrie (8) SLAs. - The LCA is a transitional landscape between the uplands and the lowland plain and valleys. Within the valleys, screening by landform and shelterbelts and woodland blocks creates a greater sense of enclosure, compared to the more open hill tops. - Some slopes are steep sided and others are more gentle. Steeper slopes are those that descend from hills (such as Deuchrie Dod, Mid Hill and Blackcastle Hill) and into water bodies (such as Donolly and Thorters Reservoirs and	High The elevated ridges have a higher sensitivity to wind energy development as erecting turbines on these slopes would detract from the LCA’s characteristic skyline. Wind turbines would introduce vertical features into views towards the Lammermuir Hills from the coastal plain to the north and east. Turbines would impact intervisibility between the LCA and other neighbouring LCAs.	High The highly visible slopes and backdrops have a high sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development as such development would be widely visible in these locations. Solar PV/BESS development would introduce man-made features into views which could impact both open and more contained views depending on development scale and location. Schemes would likely be more	High The foothills and elevated fault line scarps indicate a high sensitivity to other large-scale development as these areas function as a highly visible, defining visual backdrop and important skyline to the East Lothian plain. Introducing large bulky buildings onto these widely visible, exposed slopes would detract from their scale and the visual relationship

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	Pressman Lake). Highly visible slopes include those of Dod Law, Deuchrie Dod, Deuchrie Edge, the Chesters, Blackcastle Hill, and Doon Hill. ■ The high visibility of the north facing fault line scarp (which includes the slopes of Mid Hill) is one of the special qualities of the Danskine to Whitecastle (5) SLA as, along with the foothills, it forms the backdrop to views from the East Lothian lowlands [See reference 1]. ■ There are many valued vantage points enjoyed for their panoramic views, including Whitecastle Fort (Danskine to Whitecastle (5) SLA), Deuchrie Dod and Deuchrie Edge (Whittingehame to Deuchrie (8) SLA), Bransly Hill and Hartside (Halls to Bransly Hill (6) SLA), and Doon Hill (Doonhill to Chesters (7) SLA) [See reference 1].	These adjacent areas are strongly interrelated as this LCA is highly visible across East Lothian.	visible on elevated slopes. Schemes could also be visible from elevated locations when sited lower down the slopes. Smaller developments (<5ha) may be able to be sited so as to maximise screening by vegetation and landform; although, larger schemes (>5ha) are likely to be more widely seen.	between the uplands and the lowlands.
Perceptual and scenic qualities	■ The LCA has an attractive character owing to the visual juxtaposition between open, sweeping hilltops and the enclosed “<i>mystery</i>” of steep, wooded cleughs and deans. This scenic contrast makes up the special qualities of several SLAs: Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester (3), Monynut to Blackcastle (4), Halls to Bransly Hill (6), Doonhill to Chesters (7), Whittingehame to Deuchrie (8). ■ The LCA’s historic hillfoot villages, such as the Oldhamstocks Conservation Area and Garvald (SLAs Monynut to Blackcastle (4) and Danskine to Whitecastle (5)), nestle into steep-sided, wooded valleys. This landscape setting is important to their picturesque character. The presence of traditional farmhouses and cottages provides are attractive and make up the special qualities of the Danskine to Whitecastle (5) and Doonhill to Chesters (7) SLAs. Similarly, the picturesque character of the LCA’s limited and vernacular settlement is one of the special qualities of the Whittingehame to Deuchrie (8) SLA [See reference 1]. ■ Folds within the landform containing scenic waterbodies (such as Danskine Loch, Bara Loch, and Dunolly and Thorters Reservoirs) make up the special qualities of the Danskine to Whitecastle (5). Similarly, the scenic water body of Pressmennan Lake is one of the special qualities of Whittingehame to Deuchrie (8) SLA [See reference 1]. “<i>High naturalness</i>,” “<i>relative wildness</i>,” and a “<i>lack of modern artefacts</i>” are the special qualities of the Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester (3), Monynut to Blackcastle (4), Halls to Bransly Hill (6), and Whittingehame to Deuchrie (8) SLAs. ■ There are picturesque ancient woodlands which make up the special qualities of the Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester (3), Monynut to Blackcastle (4), Halls to Bransly Hill (6), and Whittingehame to Deuchrie (8) SLAs. Also, “<i>areas of native woodland</i> [...] [such as] <i>around the Sounding Burn, Dunolly Reservoir</i>	Medium-High Turbines may detract from the natural characteristics and scenic nature of the landscape, including the pleasing combinations of features. The LCA is more naturalistic with little modern human influence. Introducing tall vertical moving features may reduce the apparent scale of the landscape and its transitional role between the lowlands to the north and the Lammermuir Hills to the south. The perceptual and scenic qualities of the LCA are of a high sensitivity to turbines >50m, particularly as turbines >150m would have aviation lighting at night which could impact perceptions of tranquillity.	Medium-High Solar PV/BESS may detract from the natural characteristics and scenic nature of the landscape, including the pleasing combinations of features. Siting such development in more contained parts of the landscape, such as the valleys, could detract from the perceived sense of naturalness experienced in these areas.	Medium-High Other large-scale development may detract from scenic qualities associated with the landscape. Siting on elevated slopes may detract from the rural, largely undeveloped character and tranquillity experienced in these areas, by introducing large-scale man-made features. Furthermore, siting other large-scale development in more contained parts of the landscape, such as the valleys, could detract from the perceived sense of naturalness experienced in these areas.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	<i>and the Papana Water valley are attractive” and are one of the special qualities of the Danskine to Whitecastle (5) SLA.</i> ■ The widely visible landform contributes to the LCA’s scenic qualities, such as the “<i>dramatic, steep sided, heathery interlocking spurs of Dod Law, Nipper Knowes and Fennie Law to the east and Kingside Rig to the west.</i>” [See reference 1]. ■ There is some contemporary infrastructure within and in proximity to the LCA: wind farms, masts (the large transmitter mast on Blackcastle Hill), and high voltage overhead lines Thornton to Strathaven (400kV) and Torness to Dunbar (132kV). The presence of these features results in localised reduction in scenic quality and the sense of remoteness. ■ Despite the presence of some contemporary energy infrastructure, the LCA is relatively wild and remote. This is one of the special qualities of the Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester (3) SLA. The single track roads of the LCA contribute to its remote, rural character, which is the one of the special qualities of the Danskine to Whitecastle (5) SLA [See reference 1].			

Overall landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

A.134 Landscape features of higher sensitivity to wind energy development include the frequent human-scale features such as woodlands; the frequent areas of semi-natural landcover as recognised via SSSIs; the traditional settlement and field patterns; the many historic landscape features such as hill forts; and the attractive and scenic qualities of the LCA.

A.135 The LCA’s visual amenity and historic landscape character are the most sensitive criteria to wind energy development. This is owing to the role the LCA plays in views to and from the coastal plain and the Lammermuir Hills. Currently, a large cluster of existing turbines are visible on the Lammermuir Hills, including the turbines at Aikengall I-IIA (54 turbines, 125-145m to tip) and Crystal Rig Phases 1-3 (91 turbines, 100-125m to tip), to the south of the LCA. Crystal Rig Phase 4, located approximately 3km from the LCA, is currently under construction; it will be comprised of 11 turbines, 200m to tip. Wind energy development in the eastern extents of this LCA could give rise to the impression that the turbines on the Lammermuir Plateau are “spilling” off the Plateau and down the foothills. This could impact skyline views from the lower-lying LCAs in the north.

A.136 The LCA’s historic features and extensive time depth has a high sensitivity to wind energy development. Introducing such development would intrude upon important views into and out from historical assets, harming their contemporary landscape settings.

Table A.22: Sensitivity scores to wind energy development in the Eastern Lammermuir Fringe LCA

Wind Energy Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score
Up to 49.9m tip height	Medium
50m to 99.9m tip height	High
100m to 149.9m tip height	High
150m to 199.9m tip height	High
Over 200m tip height	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.137 The area most sensitive to wind energy development is the eastern half of the LCA as it is located between the existing turbines on the Lammermuir Hills and those offshore. Any wind energy development in this area would give rise to the feeling of

being surrounded by wind energy development. Other areas include those in proximity to the Lammermuir Plateau, as wind energy development in these locations could be seen to merge with existing turbines on the Plateau.

Cumulative effects

A.138 In addition to the point discussed previously, further wind energy development in this LCA would give rise to the perception that wind turbines are “spilling” down the Lammermuir Plateau onto the coastal plain. Currently, this is the case with the existing turbines at Ferneylea and Woodhall Farm which create the impression that the turbines of Crystal Rig Phases 1-4, Aikengall, Aikengall IIa, and Aikengall III are “*creeping off the plateau and closer to the lowland*” [See reference 1]. These potential effects would be concentrated in the eastern half of the LCA.

Overall landscape sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development

A.139 The landform of the LCA is undulating and incised by valleys. There are visible slopes as well as areas that are more hidden. While some areas lack screening, other areas have a greater sense of enclosure owing to shelterbelts and woodland blocks.

A.140 Landscape features of higher sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development include the frequent areas of semi-natural landcover as recognised via SSSIs; the historic settlement and field patterns; the many historic landscape features such as hill forts; and the attractive character of the LCA.

A.141 The LCA’s visual amenity and historic landscape character is the most sensitive criterion to solar PV/BESS development. This is owing to the role the LCA plays in views to and from the coastal plain and the Lammermuir Hills, acting as an important transitional landscape between the open upland and the coastal plain to the north. Consequently, any scale solar PV/BESS development would need to be carefully sited to avoid visible slopes and make use of screening from the undulating landform and vegetation such as shelterbelts.

A.142 The LCA’s historic features and extensive time depth have a high sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development. Introducing such development would intrude upon important views from and to historical assets, harming their contemporary landscape settings.

Table A.23: Sensitivity scores to solar PV/BESS development in the Eastern Lammermuir Fringe LCA

Solar PV/BESS Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score Solar PV	Sensitivity Score BESS
Small (up to 4.9ha for solar PV/BESS)	Medium	Medium
Medium (5-15ha for solar PV/5-9.9ha for BESS)	Medium	Medium-High
Large (15-50ha for solar PV/10-15ha for BESS)	Medium-High	Medium-High
Very large (more than 50ha for solar PV/more than 15ha for BESS)	High	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.143 Areas less sensitive to solar PV/BESS development include those near existing contemporary man-made infrastructure – such as pylons and masts – and/or areas where shelterbelts and the gently undulating landform would provide screening, such as the area north-west of Thurston Mains and around Spott West Mains and Castle Moffat. However, these fields are part of historic field patterns and so the historic field boundaries must be preserved and enhanced.

A.144 Highly visible slopes, such as those of Dod Law, Deuchrie Dod, Deuchrie Edge, the Chesters, Blackcastle Hill, and Doon Hill would be particularly sensitive to this type of development.

Cumulative effects

A.145 Currently there are no operational solar PV developments within the LCA. A small BESS facility at Aikengall has been constructed. As this is currently the only scheme of this type, and it appears to be afforded screening by landform and vegetation, it would not heavily influence the sensitivity of the LCA.

Overall landscape sensitivity to other large-scale development

A.146 The LCA is absent of other large-scale development, the largest existing developments being large agricultural sheds. The landform of the LCA is undulating and incised by valleys. Consequently, there are visible slopes as well as areas that are more hidden. While some areas lack screening, other areas have a greater sense of enclosure owing to shelterbelts and woodland blocks. Areas that are

afforded screening by landform and vegetation are less sensitive to other large-scale development. However, given the scale of such development (e.g. 20-30m high and large footprints), it is unlikely that vegetation would provide full screening of these types of developments.

A.147 Landscape features of higher sensitivity to other large-scale development include the frequent areas of semi-natural landcover as recognised via SSSIs; the historic settlement and field patterns; the many historic landscape features such as hill forts; and the attractive character of the LCA.

A.148 The LCA’s visual amenity, landform, and historic landscape character are the most sensitive criteria to other large-scale development. This is owing to the role the LCA plays in views to and from the coastal plain and the Lammermuir Hills. Consequently, any other large-scale development would need to be carefully sited to avoid visible slopes and make use of screening from the undulating landform and vegetation such as shelterbelts. The LCA’s distinctive landform – the complex contrast between the smooth low hills and the deep cleughs and deans as well as the small-scale glaciation features – has high sensitivity as the large massing would disrupt the LCA’s flowing topography and overwhelm small-scale landform features.

A.149 The LCA’s historic features and extensive time depth have a high sensitivity to other large-scale development. Introducing such development would intrude upon important views into and out from historical assets, harming their contemporary landscape settings.

Table A.24: Sensitivity scores to other large-scale development in the Eastern Lammermuir Fringe LCA

Other Large-scale Development	Sensitivity Score
Other large-scale development	Medium-High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.150 Areas less sensitive to other large-scale development include those near existing modern manmade infrastructure – such as pylons and masts – and/or areas where shelterbelts and the gently undulating landform would provide screening, such as the area north-west of Thurston Mains and around Spott West Mains and Castle Moffat. However, these fields are part of historic field patterns and so the historic field boundaries must be preserved and enhanced. Any development in areas such as these should ensure that the landform, shelterbelts, and woodland provide screening.

Cumulative effects

A.151 Currently, there is no large-scale development within the LCA. It is unlikely that a restrained number of carefully sited developments that are relatively small in scale would alter the landscape character of the LCA.

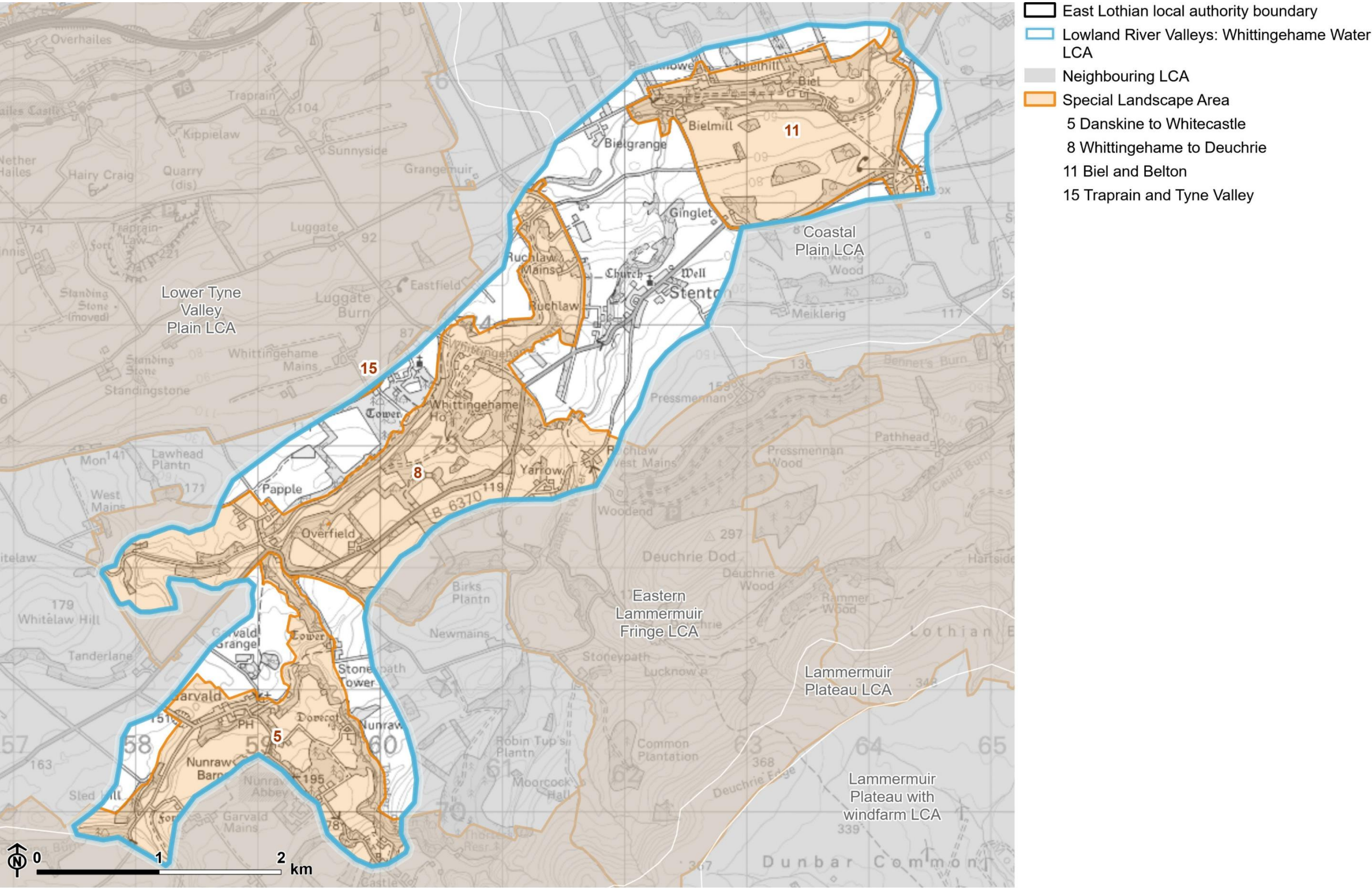
Siting and design guidance

A.152 Siting and design guidance specific to this LCA is set out below. This should be read in conjunction with LCA specific guidance set out in the Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Planning Guidance [\[See reference 1\]](#) and the higher level guidance for the relevant LCT provided in **Chapter 4**.

- Avoid development in the more intimate, steep sided valleys of Oldhamstocks Burn and Aikengall Water.
- Site development closer to existing development which locally reduces sensitivity, such as overhead lines and masts, though with consideration of potential cumulative effect.
- Consider sites where areas of existing landscape components, such as woodland, hedgerows or stone walls, could screen lower-lying elements of development, rather than an open and unenclosed landscape.
- Avoid the highly visible slopes at Dod Law, Deuchrie Dod, Deuchrie Edge, Brunt Hill, Doon Hill, the Chesters, and Blackcastle Hill.

Whittingehame Water LCA (Lowlands River Valleys LCT)

Figure A.27: Contextual map of the LCA



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LCA landscape character overview

A.153 The Whittingehame Water LCA is located within the Lowland River Valleys LCT, in the eastern half of the East Lothian local authority area. From the confluence of the Sounding Burn and the Papan Water, the LCA extends north-eastwards to Biel. The LCA comprises the valley carved by the Whittingehame Water, the Biel Water and their tributaries. It includes the villages of Garvald and Stenton, as shown on **Figure A.27**.

A.154 The key characteristics of this LCA of relevance to the LSA include:

- *“A progression of strongly-defined, interweaving slopes encloses the small twisting river, which lies within a predominantly narrow valley occasionally opening out into areas of flatter ground.”*
- *“The river and its numerous tributaries have cleft deeply into the underlying red sandstone, often exposing slopes of conspicuous, rich rusty earth.”*
- *“The valley is rich in mixed and broadleaved estate woodlands, which extend across the slopes and merge with sweeps of riparian deciduous planting fringing the river and its tributaries. Adjoining the woodland of the valley floor and curving up the rising slopes, shelterbelts of mature mixed woodland and broken lines of dark Scots pine define field and farm boundaries.”*
- *“Across the more gentle slopes, low thorn hedges and post and wire fences subdivide the extensive arable land cover [...]. Scattered hedgerow trees and occasional lines of mature oak or ash roadside trees occur throughout the farmland.”*
- *“On steeper ground or along the damper valley floor there are small areas of improved grassland.”*
- *“The common use of local pink red sandstone for buildings provides a sense of architectural congruity through the area. The villages of Garvald and Stenton [...centre] on well-defined village greens and parish churches. They are both within Conservation Areas which has ensured that modern development has been carefully integrated into the villages.”*
- *“Signs of settlement dating from medieval times and including several 15th and 16th century tower houses are common along the minor roads.”*
- *“Estate landscapes are also present including the designed landscape of Whittingehame and its associated listed buildings.”*

- *“In general there is little large infrastructure within the area and that which exists where possible is well screened and does not detract from the character of the area.”*
- *“The strong topographical enclosure and plentiful woodland of the valley create a secluded sheltered landscape.”*
- *“The intimate surroundings of the valley floor are replaced along the open valley slopes by views of the surrounding coast and hills and the nearby local landmark of Traprain Law.”* [See reference 1]

Designated landscapes

A.155 Over half of the LCA is covered by SLAs, as shown on **Figure A.27**. Danskine to Whitecastle SLA (5) covers the southern extents of the LCA; Whittingehame to Deuchrie SLA (8) covers much of the centre of the LCA; and Biel and Belton SLA (11) covers much of the northern extents. The reasons for designation are set out in the East Lothian Special Landscape Area Supplementary Planning Guidance [See reference 1].

A.156 In addition, two GDLs are located within the LCA: Whittingehame GDL in the centre and Biel GDL in the north. These are noted for their formal landscapes dating back to the 19th and 17th centuries respectively. Several other local GDLs further contribute to the wooded character of the LCA, including Eastfield, Clint and Ruchlaw House, amongst others. Designed landscapes within the area are illustrated on **Figure B.5**.

Existing renewable energy and other large-scale development

A.157 There are no operational or under construction solar PV or BESS developments in the LCA. There is a single operational wind turbine at Ruchlaw Mains (48m tip height).

Figure A.28: On the B6370 north-east of Overfield, looking north



Figure A.29: On the B6370 north-east of Overfield, looking north-west towards Traprain Law



Figure A.30: By Whittingehame Water south of Bielgrange, looking west towards Traprain Law



Figure A.31: By Whittingehame Water south of Bielgrange, looking south towards the turbine at Ruchlaw Mains



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

A.158 The following table sets out an assessment of sensitivity of the LCA in relation to each of the criteria set out in **Chapter 2**.

Table A.25: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for the Whittingehame Water LCA

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Landform and scale	- Well-defined river valley landscape that descends from the fringe of the Lammermuirs into the broad lowland plain of the Biel Water. - The Whittingehame Water/Biel Water and its tributaries are incised valleys, particularly in the upper reaches where they are enclosed and narrow. The narrow, deeply incised landform of the valley is forms special qualities for both the Whittingehame to Deuchrie (8) and the Biel and Belton (11) SLAs [See reference 1].	High The LCA is a small scale and intimate landscape, indicating higher sensitivity to wind energy development, as turbines >50m may appear out of scale.	Medium-High The small scale of this LCA indicates a higher sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development, especially development greater than 10ha, as such development may seem out of scale within the intimate valley landform.	Medium-High As for solar PV/BESS, with the addition that the vertical landform features of the valley could help provide scale comparison, making it easier to perceive the scale and massing of large-scale development compared to its surroundings.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	- Deciduous woodland is common throughout the LCA, particularly in the form of riparian woodland. There is also mature mixed policy woodland associated with Whittingehame and Biel estates. Much of the woodland is ancient (refer to Figure B.4). The ancient woodland found along the banks of the river as it passes through Whittingehame GDL contribute to the special qualities of the Whittingehame to Deuchrie SLA (8) [See reference 1]. The strong woodland structure is also noted as a special quality for the Biel and Belton SLA (11) [See reference 1]. - Mixed woodland shelterbelts, field boundary trees, and dense hedging are common. The “<i>hedgerow trees of beech, oak, ash and sycamore</i>” are noted as a special quality for the Danskine to Whitecastle SLA (5) [See reference 1]. - The LCA is predominately made up of arable farmland which descends into some areas of pasture and scrub on damper ground by the rivers and tributaries. In places, the field pattern is irregular and retains its historic structure. - There is relatively little infrastructure. The general lack of lack of modern human elements and the small scale nature of settlements are highlighted as special qualities for both the Whittingehame to Deuchrie (8) and the Biel and Belton (11) SLAs [See reference 1].	High The irregular and smaller scale field patterns and the dense distribution of human-scale features (woodland, villages, farmsteads, and hedgerows) indicate higher sensitivity to wind energy development as turbines, particularly turbines >50m, may dominate smaller scale features within the landscape.	Medium-High The small-scale, traditional field patterns indicate higher sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development. As does the relatively undeveloped character of the LCA, its historic settlement pattern, and the dense distribution of human-scale features (woodland, villages, farmsteads, and hedgerows). Development greater than 10ha may mask the characteristic landscape pattern and dominate the smaller scale features. The frequent shelterbelts and woodlands may provide screening.	Medium-High As for solar PV/BESS with the addition that the larger scale (both in height and massing) of this type of development may appear incongruous with smaller-scale field patterns and dense distribution of human scale features (woodland, villages, farmsteads, and hedgerows). Shelterbelts and woodlands may provide partial screening.
Historic landscape character	Policy woodlands contribute to sense of time depth.	High	High	High

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	- The great yew tree at Whittingehame is an important landscape feature dating back 700 years. Its importance is acknowledged in the special qualities for the Whittingehame to Deuchrie SLA (8) which notes a connection with Mary Queen of Scots [See reference 1]. - The vernacular architecture of local pink red sandstone and the Conservation Areas at Garvald and Stenton contribute to the historic character of the LCA, with a large concentration of Listed Buildings located within them. The small hamlet of Pitcox, which has medieval origins, also contains a number of Listed Buildings. Refer to Figure B.5. - Inventory listed and local GDLs contribute to the wooded character and time-depth of the valley, alongside evidence of medieval settlement, listed buildings, and scheduled monuments, including the Whittingehame Tower. Refer to Figure B.5.	There is a high density of historic features important to the character of the LCA and which contribute to a deep sense of time depth. This indicates a high sensitivity to this type of development.	There is a high density of historic features important to the character of the LCA and which contribute to a deep sense of time depth. This indicates a high sensitivity to this type of development.	There is a high density of historic features important to the character of the LCA and which contribute to a deep sense of time depth. This indicates a high sensitivity to this type of development.
Visual receptors	- There are several core paths and rights of way throughout the LCA. Core paths 236 and 22 are particularly scenic and contribute to the special qualities of the Danskine to Whitecastle SLA (5) [See reference 1]. Refer to Figure B.6. - Recreational receptors include people visiting Whittingehame GDL and Biel GDL. “<i>There are attractive paths and avenues within the Biel estate, giving good public access on foot,</i>” as noted in the special qualities of the Biel and Belton SLA (11) [See reference 1]. - There are several farmsteads and small villages throughout the LCA, including Pitcox, Stenton, and Garvald.	Medium-High While the density of receptors is relatively low, the LCA has high recreational value locally with frequent opportunities to experience the landscape, indicating a higher sensitivity to this type of development.	Medium-High While the density of receptors is relatively low, the LCA has high recreational value locally with frequent opportunities to experience the landscape, indicating a higher sensitivity to this type of development.	Medium-High While the density of receptors is relatively low, the LCA has high recreational value locally with frequent opportunities to experience the landscape, indicating a higher sensitivity to this type of development.
Visual amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)	- Views are mostly contained by the valley sides and woodlands. The landform focusses “<i>the eye up the valley from the Whittingehame Tower, past the interlocking hill slopes and strips of woodland to the exposed hill slopes and rounded hill top</i>” as stated in the special qualities for the Whittingehame to Deuchrie SLA (8) [See reference 1]. - The sense of enclosure provided by the landform and woodland within the valley is noted in the special qualities for the Whittingehame to Deuchrie (8) Biel and Belton (11) SLAs [See reference 1]. - Outward views are experienced from upper slopes, where the surrounding coast and hills can be seen, including the prominent Traprain Law. - Similar views can be experienced from Biel GDL towards Traprain, which are one of the special qualities of the Biel and Belton SLA (11) [See reference 1].	Medium The LCA has limited intervisibility with neighbouring areas owing to its landform and vegetation which mostly contains views within the valley. Whilst reduced intervisibility with surrounding landscapes indicates lower sensitivity to this type of development, the complex interaction of smaller scale features including woodland which creates naturalistic skylines in many	Medium Solar and BESS development would introduce man-made features into views which could impact more open views across the areas of farmland within the LCA. Development greater than 5ha would likely be more visible, especially if sited in more open locations. The strong presence of woodland within the valley may provide screening opportunities.	Medium Other large-scale development would introduce man-made features into views experienced from more open locations towards the edges of the valley. Given their spatial footprint and massing, these developments are likely to be highly visible. The strong presence of woodland may provide screening opportunities, however is unlikely to fully screen infrastructure.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	As are the views to Belhaven Bay, Bass Rock, and Fife from Beesknowe and views towards the Forth Islands from the Deer Park. The Biel and Belton SLA (11) “<i>is an important element in wider views from the surrounding area for example over the extended Tyne valley</i>” [See reference 1].	places is of higher sensitivity to tall vertical turbines with moving features. Where more open outward views are available, the skylines formed by the valley sides are simple and given their more elevated nature are more visible, indicating higher sensitivity to this type of development.		
Perceptual and scenic qualities	- The meandering Whittingehame Water and its tributaries are highly scenic. The “<i>relatively extensive stretches of ancient woodland</i>” contribute to the LCA’s high naturalness, which is noted as a special quality for the Whittingehame to Deuchrie (8) and the Biel and Belton (11) SLAs [See reference 1]. - The LCA has a rural, tranquil, and secluded character. - The small scale and vernacular of settlements, including the attractive traditional farmhouses, steadings, and cottages contribute to picturesque character of the LCA and is noted in the special landscape qualities of the Danskine to Whitecastle SLA (5) and the Whittingehame to Deuchrie SLA (8) [See reference 1]. Similarly, “<i>the highly scenic red sandstone buildings of [...]</i> Pitcox” is one of the special qualities of the Biel and Belton SLA (11) [See reference 1]. - Within the valley, the steep banks of the valley and the rushing water contribute to the natural scenic quality of the area. The sense of enclosure within the valley elicits a feeling of mystery. These are both special qualities of the Whittingehame to Deuchrie (8) and the Biel and Belton (11) SLAs [See reference 1]. - Deer Park is particularly scenic, the “<i>mature woodland strips and copses [complementing] and [adding] interest to the landform [...], merging with riparian planting.</i>” This is one of the special qualities of the Biel and Belton SLA (11) [See reference 1].	High The LCA has a high scenic value owing to its combination of woodland with narrow, incised valley landform and picturesque historic and traditional settlement patterns, indicating high sensitivity to wind energy development. Furthermore, the LCA is relatively undeveloped and has a tranquil character. Turbines >50m may seem intrusive in this LCA.	Medium-High The LCA has relatively little modern development and has an attractive character, indicating higher sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development. This is because such development could be seen as intrusive. Although, such development would be less intrusive if smaller in scale and well screened by vegetation.	Medium-High The LCA has relatively little modern development and has an attractive character, indicating higher sensitivity to other large-scale development. Other large-scale development could be seen as intrusive and out of character with this landscape given their more modern appearance, and large spatial extent and massing. Other large-scale development may be less intrusive if it extends across smaller spatial footprints, is of less massing, and is well screened by woodland.

Overall landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

A.159 Landscape features of a higher sensitivity to wind energy development include the irregular and small scale field patterns that retain much of their historic structure; the dense distribution of human-scale features (woodland, villages, farmsteads, and hedgerows); the high density of historic features and sense of time depth; its recreational value; and its high scenic value and feelings of tranquillity.

A.160 The landscape feature of the highest sensitivity to wind energy development is the small scale of the LCA. The valley landform is intimate and secluded. Turbines >50m could dominate this valley whether within the valley or on the adjacent skylines.

Table A.26: Sensitivity scores to wind energy development in the Whittingehame Water LCA

Wind Energy Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score
Up to 49.9m tip height	Medium-High
50m to 99.9m tip height	High
100m to 149.9m tip height	High
150m to 199.9m tip height	High
Over 200m tip height	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.161 There are no substantive variations in the level sensitivity for each wind scenario across the LCA.

Cumulative effects

A.162 Currently, there is one operational turbine, and no other wind energy development is under construction or has been granted planning permission. The characteristic progression of views unfolding through the LCA could be affected if multiple turbines were built, even if they were not intervisible with each other.

A.163 The current wind turbine at Ruchlaw Mains is small (48m to tip). Turbines noticeably larger than 50m and sited nearby could give rise to visual confusion owing to the differing scales.

Overall landscape sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development

A.164 Many landscape criteria of the LCA are of a higher sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development. These include the small scale of the LCA, its intimate valley landform; the small-scale traditional field patterns and its relatively undeveloped character; its dense distribution of human-scale features (woodland, villages, farmsteads, and hedgerows); its historic settlement pattern, the high density of historic features, and sense of time depth; its high recreational and scenic value; and its attractive character.

A.165 However, the strong woodland structure of the LCA could provide screening to carefully sited and designed small-scale solar PV/BESS development. Similarly, the LCA has relatively limited inter-visibility with surrounding areas, indicating reduced sensitivity as small-scale solar PV/BESS development could be somewhat hidden within the valley.

Table A.27: Sensitivity scores to solar PV/BESS development in the Whittingehame Water LCA

Solar PV/BESS Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score Solar PV	Sensitivity Score BESS
Small (up to 4.9ha for solar PV/BESS)	Medium-High	Medium-High
Medium (5-15ha for solar PV/5-9.9ha for BESS)	Medium-High	Medium-High
Large (15-50ha for solar PV/10-15ha for BESS)	High	High
Very large (more than 50ha for solar PV/more than 15ha for BESS)	High	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.166 Flatter, larger fields bounded by woodland and shelterbelts have lower sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development as they are afforded screening and have less inter-visibility than the more visible slopes. Fields at the edges of the LCA, where the valley merges into the adjacent more open landscapes, are likely to be less sensitive.

Cumulative effects

A.167 There is a small BESS development in planning. The Pitcox BESS development would be at the eastern end of the LCA, on the land to the south of Dunbar Grid Substation. It would cover an area approximately 1.4ha in size. Given the close proximity of the Pitcox BESS development to Dunbar Grid Substation, there are likely to be views of both developments from some locations.

A.168 If solar PV/BESS development was constructed elsewhere in the LCA, the established woodland structure could provide screening which would reduce the likelihood of some cumulative landscape and visual interactions, preventing the development from being seen in the same views. However, if further solar PV/BESS development was constructed in proximity to the proposed BESS development and the existing substation, it could lead to cumulative effects that are concentrated within this area.

Overall landscape sensitivity to other large-scale development

A.169 Landscape criteria of higher sensitivity to other large-scale developments (e.g. converter stations, substations, data centres, etc.) include the small scale of the LCA; its intimate landform contained by the valley sides; the smaller-scale field patterns; dense distribution of human scale features (woodland, villages, farmsteads, and hedgerows); the relatively undeveloped character of the LCA; its historic settlement pattern, high density of historic features, and sense of time depth; and its high recreational and scenic value and attractive character.

A.170 The strong woodland structure indicates reduced sensitivity as the woodland and shelterbelts could provide screening to large-scale development. Furthermore, the relatively little inter-visibility between the LCA and surrounding areas also indicate reduced sensitivity as other large-scale development which is of a smaller spatial extent or massing may be better concealed within the valley landscape and afforded some screening by vegetation. However, other large-scale development which has considerable massing (e.g. converter stations and data centres) are likely to be harder to screen with vegetation. In any case, most other large-scale development types are likely to be out of scale with the receiving valley landscape, unless they occupy a smaller footprint and are of smaller massing.

Table A.28: Sensitivity scores to other large-scale development in the Whittingehame Water LCA

Other Large-scale Development	Sensitivity Score
Other large-scale development	Medium-High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.171 Similar to the solar PV/BESS, the flatter larger fields bounded by woodland and shelterbelts have lower sensitivity to large-scale development as they are afforded screening and have less inter-visibility than the more visible slopes. This would follow the existing development pattern within the LCA. Dunbar Grid Substation is small in scale both in terms of footprint (approximately 0.4ha) and massing and has been sensitively sited to make use of screening from woodland. However, other large-scale development which is more extensive (both footprint and massing) would be more difficult to integrate into the landscape in a sensitive manner.

A.172 The area surrounding the substation has somewhat reduced sensitivity to further large-scale development as the substation has already introduced landcover of built structures. However, within the LCA, the surrounding land still has a higher sensitivity owing to its slopes which are of higher elevations and so more visible, as well as the designation of the Biel GDL.

Cumulative effects

A.173 If large-scale development was constructed at considerable distances from Dunbar Grid Substation, it would be unlikely that cumulative effects would arise as the established woodland structure across the LCA would provide screening. Whilst this screening may reduce cumulative visual effects from the development being seen in the same views as other development, there is still potential for wider cumulative landscape effects as more large-scale contemporary development is introduced into a small scale landscape rich in historic character and natural features such as woodland.

A.174 However, if large-scale development was constructed in proximity to Dunbar Grid Substation, it could lead to a concentration of cumulative landscape and visual effects within this area.

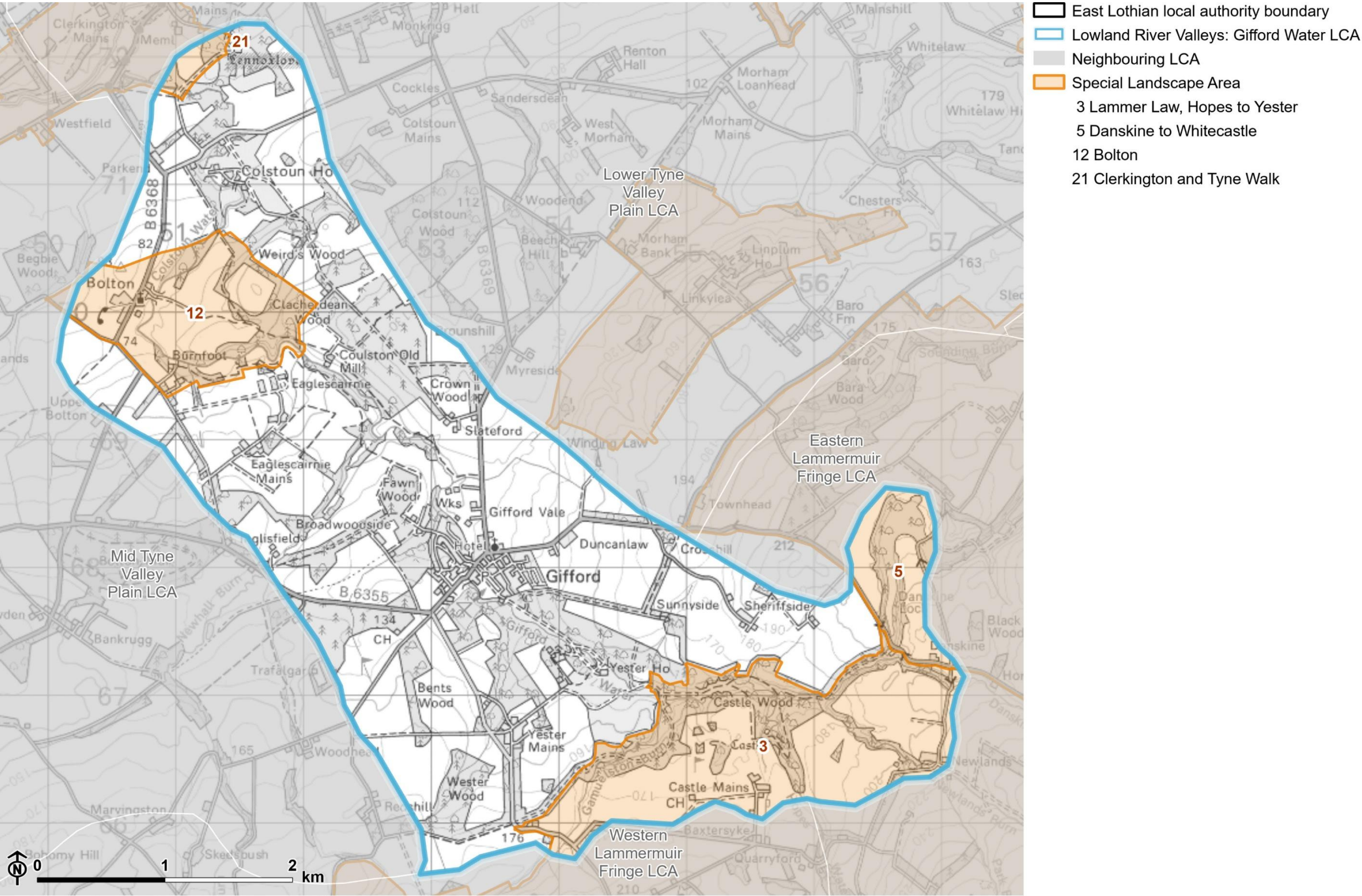
Siting and design guidance

A.175 Siting and design guidance specific to this LCA is set out below. This should be read in conjunction with LCA specific guidance set out in the Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Planning Guidance [\[See reference 1\]](#) and the higher level guidance for the relevant LCT provided in **Chapter 4**.

- Avoid siting development within or near to the Biel and Whittingehame GDLs where it could locally impact the wooded policy character of these areas.
- Prioritise site development in areas which are afforded screening by vegetation, away from the intimate water course of the Whittingehame Water.
- Site development in locations which protect the landscape character of Conservation Areas (including views integral to their character) notably the Garvald and Stenton Conservation Areas.

Gifford Water LCA (Lowland River Valley LCT)

Figure A.32: Contextual map of the LCA



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LCA landscape character overview

A.176 The Gifford Water LCA forms a distinctive river valley that extends from the fringes of the Lammermuir Plateau in the south to the River Tyne in the north-west (see **Figure A.32**). The area is part of the Lowland River Valley LCT.

A.177 The key characteristics of this LCA which are of relevance to the LSA include:

- *“The river winds its way north-westwards along a shallow-sided valley which occasionally opens into narrow areas of more level ground. Enclosed by higher expanses of undulating farmland. Fed by several minor stream courses which etch into the smooth slopes.”*
- *“The valley is covered by extensive swathes of woodland, much of which is associated with riverside estate policies. Thick fringes of mixed tree planting follow the line of the river and adjoining streams, blending with mature estate policy woodlands and carefully-scaled coniferous and mixed plantations across higher valley slopes.”*
- *“Ongoing woodland management has led to tree felling and thinning of plantations in some areas, opening out wooded areas in places. The large arable fields of the surrounding land are bounded by mixed hedgerow planting with abundant hedgerow trees and numerous shelterbelts.”*
- *“There is good access by numerous roads and footpaths throughout the area. Core paths have further improved pedestrian and cycle access along the river valley.”*
- *“The only large settlement is Gifford notable for its broad main street edged by one and two storey sandstone buildings focused on the large white village church. The designed landscape of Yester House lies to the south of with its high estate walls, grand red sandstone gateposts and lodge.”*
- *“Gifford golf course lies within the higher flatter areas of the valley to the southwest of the area. Little industry and infrastructure exists within the area.”*
- *“The dominance of mature woodland throughout this landscape surrounds and obscures settlements, emphasising the secluded and small scale character of the valley. Views outwards become possible from higher surrounding land.”*

[See reference 1]

Designated landscapes

A.178 Approximately one quarter of the LCA is covered by designated landscapes, as shown in **Figure A.32**. The Bolton SLA (12) covers an area in the north-west of

the LCA, the Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA (3) extends into the LCA's southern boundary, and the Danskin to Whitecastle SLA (5) extends into the south-east of the LCA. A small area of the Clerkington and Tyne Walk SLA (21) extends into the north of the LCA. The reasons for designation are set out in the East Lothian Special Landscape Area Supplementary Planning Guidance [\[See reference 1\]](#).

A.179 In addition, two GDLs are located within the LCA; Lennoxlove (Lethington) GDL in the north and Yester House GDL in the south. There are seven local GDLs within the LCA, including Colstoun GDL that covers approximately half the north of the LCA. The Gifford Conservation Area also covers a central area in the LCA (see **Figure B.5**).

Existing renewable energy and other large-scale development

A.180 There are no wind energy, solar PV/BESS developments or other large-scale developments operational within the LCA.

A.181 There is no intervisibility with wind energy, solar PV/BESS or other large-scale developments in other LCAs.

Figure A.33: Wooded valleys provide screening and create a sense of enclosure



Figure A.34: Long distance views towards the Lammermuir Hills are seen at open, elevated points in the landscape



Figure A.35: Narrow, wooded valleys, such as Newlands Burn, contribute to a naturalistic perception of the landscape



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

A.182 The following table sets out an assessment of sensitivity of the LCA in relation to each of the criteria set out in Chapter 2.

Table A.29: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for the Gifford Water LCA

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Landform and scale	■ The landform is varied in scale, with the prominent, shallow, north-west winding river valley of Gifford Water being small in scale. It opens into areas of undulating, arable land that is of a medium scale. ■ The landform rises from Lennoxlove in the north (AOD 52m) to Newlands in the south (AOD 200m), where it borders the Eastern and Western Lammermuir Fringe LCAs. The raised, rolling landform of Lennoxlove is recognised in the Clerkington and Tyne SLA (21) for defining the “<i>setting of the river to the west of Haddington</i>” [See reference 1]. ■ A number of tributaries of Gifford Water, such as Newlands Burn, have incised valleys that reinforce the small scale of the landform. ■ In the north, Colstoun Water’s incised valley, rolling fields, and the area’s “<i>bowl nature</i>” are recognised in the Bolton SLA (12) [See reference 1] and contribute to a small-scale character.	Medium-High The small scale of the river valleys increases sensitivity. Turbines of any scale may reduce the apparent scale of these valleys. However, in areas of undulating arable land, sensitively sited turbines up to 49.9m may not detract from the landform.	Medium-High Scales of development up to 10ha could sit within the arable land without masking the LCA’s undulating topography. Larger scales of development, greater than 10ha may detract from the contrast of the undulating land and valleys.	Medium-High Large-scale development would detract from the valley landform. The valley makes it easier to perceive scale, resulting in a higher sensitivity. The undulating arable land has a larger scale but would provide minimal screening for development.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	■ Extensive areas of woodland associated with riverside estate policies and plantations are found throughout Gifford Water, providing a strong sense of enclosure. This is reflected in the Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA (3), which notes that the “<i>steeply wooded valley of the Gifford Water combine to give this SLA a strong sense of place</i>” and that “<i>other areas of ancient woodland are identified in the lower areas of land providing contrast with the surrounding arable land, such as... the woods within the Yester designed landscape along the Gifford Water.</i>” [See reference 1]. ■ Irregular, arable fields found in the upper areas of the valley have hedgerows and shelterbelts reinforcing the wooded character and small scale of the LCA. ■ The village of Gifford is located centrally in the LCA and the village of Bolton is in the north. Numerous small farmsteads are found scattered throughout the LCA. ■ The contrasting nature of landcover is a quality of the Danskine to Whitecaslte SLA (5): “<i>The high productivity of the lower land gives a rich fertile cultivated appearance contrasting with the less managed look of the valleys and highest ground.</i>” [See reference 1].	High Irregular landcover and extensive woodland that provides human scale references throughout the landscape contribute to high sensitivity to all scales of wind energy development.	Medium-High A lack of existing hard infrastructure and irregular field pattern increases sensitivity. However, there may be some opportunities for scales of development up to 10ha to sit within existing field patterns.	High The small scale and undeveloped character of the landscape increase its sensitivity to development.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Historic landscape character	- The 17th century Lennoxlove (Lethington) GDL and its associated listed buildings extends into the north of the LCA. It is notable for being the first enclosed park in Scotland. - The Yester House GDL and its associated listed buildings encompass an expansive area in the south of the LCA. The 18th century country estate has significant policy woodlands and paths. The Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA (3) recognise the woodland in Gifford Water for “<i>forming part of Yester Woodlands local biodiversity site for its estate woodland habitat.</i>” [See reference 1]. - An additional seven local GDLs are found within the LCA, including Colstoun with its extensive policy woodlands (see Figure B.5). - Seven scheduled monuments, including prehistoric forts, medieval pottery kilns, enclosures, and a castle contribute to a strong sense of time (see Figure B.5). - The village of Gifford and its surrounding area sit within the Gifford Conservation Area (see Figure B.5). It is notable for 18th century architecture, mature trees and proximity at the foot of the Lammermuir Hills.	High The high number of historic features throughout the landscape contribute to a strong historic character and increase sensitivity to development.	High The high number of historic features throughout the landscape contribute to a strong historic character and increase sensitivity to development.	High The high number of historic features throughout the landscape contribute to a strong historic character and increase sensitivity to development.
Visual receptors	- Residential receptors include the village of Gifford and farmsteads throughout the LCA. - A number of core paths, particularly along the river valley, connect the Gifford Water to surrounding LCAs and provide cycle and pedestrian access (see Figure B.6). Core paths are listed as qualities in the Bolton SLA (12), Danskin to Whitecastle SLA (5), and Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester SLA (3) for the connectivity they provide [See reference 1].	Medium The LCA has a moderate concentration of visual receptors whose attention may be focussed on the landscape.	Medium The LCA has a moderate concentration of visual receptors whose attention may be focussed on the landscape.	Medium The LCA has a moderate concentration of visual receptors whose attention may be focussed on the landscape.
Visual amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)	- Woodland is predominant on the skyline, particularly from within the valley. - Areas of arable land at higher elevation provide long distance views to the Lammermuir Hills. Views to Arthur’s Seat and the Pentland Hills can also be found, though more limited. - There is negligible vertical development on the skyline, contributing to a natural character. - Views are a quality of the Bolton SLA (12): “<i>The bowl nature of the valley allows scenic views from Bolton looking south along the incised, heavily-wooded, winding river valley. There are picturesque views from the south and from the B6368 of Bolton in its valley setting with the church tower, doo’cot</i>	High Wind turbines may detract from undeveloped skylines and impact long distance views, though there may be some scope to sensitively site developments up to 49.9m with existing infrastructure.	Medium-High Long ranging views across fields increase sensitivity to solar PV/BESS, as do the natural skylines, though development less than 10ha may be effectively screened by woodland.	High All large-scale development would be likely to detract from the naturalistic skyline.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	<i>and established trees. There are open views from the higher surrounding ground of the wider landscape and out to the Garleton Hills to the north.” [See reference 1].</i>			
Perceptual and scenic qualities	■ The mature woodland and strong sense of enclosure in this LCA contribute to its tranquil, scenic nature. This is one of the qualities attributed in the Bolton SLA (12): <i>“The Colstoun Water valley with its incised nature and wooded slopes provides an attractive, tranquil and peaceful area for recreation.” [See reference 1].</i> ■ The historic architecture and lack of modern development in the LCA reinforce a traditional perception of the landscape, as noted in the Bolton SLA (12): <i>“The village of Bolton nestles in a fold in the river valley surrounding the Grade B listed picturesque parish church and churchyard and related buildings” [See reference 1].</i>	High The tranquil, undeveloped character of the landscape would make it highly sensitive to all scales of wind turbine development. Man-made features, including ancillary infrastructure associated with turbines, would be likely to detract from this perception.	Medium-High The undeveloped character of the landscape increases sensitivity but the extensive woodland provides screening opportunities, reducing sensitivity particularly to scales of development up to 10ha.	High Large scale development would detract from the perception of the LCA as tranquil and undeveloped.

Overall landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

A.183 Due to the small scale of the valley landform, which is reinforced by its wooded character, wind energy would be likely to be out of scale in the landscape. Though there may be some limited scope to sensitively site smaller scales with exiting infrastructure.

A.184 While visual receptors are limited, core paths and a wide range of historic features provide cultural and recreational interest. The LCA retains a strong sense of time depth, which contributes to its perceived traditional character. Wooded valleys opening into long ranging views also contribute to its scenic quality. The introduction of wind turbines and ancillary infrastructure would contrast this character and contribute to contemporary energy infrastructure on the skyline.

Table A.30: Sensitivity scores to wind energy development in the Gifford Water LCA

Wind Energy Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score
Up to 49.9m tip height	Medium-High
50m to 99.9m tip height	High
100m to 149.9m tip height	High
150m to 199.9m tip height	High
Over 200m tip height	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.185 The arable land in the LCA would be less sensitive than the valleys due to its open landform and larger scale. However, the irregular field patterns and frequent human-scale features would result in wind energy appearing out of scale in the landscape. As a result, this part of the LCA would still be highly sensitive to wind energy development.

Cumulative effects

A.186 There are currently no wind energy developments within the LCA and no intervisibility with wind energy developments in other LCAs.

Overall landscape sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development

- A.187** The small-scale valleys of the LCA would be sensitive to the introduction of solar PV/BESS, as the sloping landform would increase visibility. The wooded character of the LCA also provides human-scale features throughout the landscape that would make the scale of these developments more visible. However, it would also provide screening opportunities, particularly in areas of flatter, arable land.
- A.188** The historic character and tranquil nature of the LCA are valued qualities. The lack of development within it, as well as naturalistic skylines, would further increase sensitivity to the perception of solar PV/BESS.

Table A.31: Sensitivity scores to solar PV/BESS development in the Gifford Water LCA

Solar PV/BESS Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score Solar PV	Sensitivity Score BESS
Small (up to 4.9ha for solar PV/BESS)	Medium-High	Medium-High
Medium (5-15ha for solar PV/5-9.9ha for BESS)	Medium-High	Medium-High
Large (15-50ha for solar PV/10-15ha for BESS)	High	High
Very large (more than 50ha for solar PV/more than 15ha for BESS)	High	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

- A.189** The sloping nature of the valleys and their recreational value would put them at high sensitivity to all scales of solar PV/BESS development. Any scale of development within the wooded valleys would detract from their naturalistic perception. While woodland would provide screening opportunities, it would likely be less effective on the sloping landform.

Cumulative effects

- A.190** There are currently no existing or proposed solar PV/BESS developments within the LCA. However, should multiple small or medium sized solar PV/BESS developments be introduced in the LCA, this would likely contribute to a more developed perception.

Overall landscape sensitivity to other large-scale development

A.191 The small-scale of the landform, which is reinforced by its wooded nature, would result in other large-scale development being easily perceived.

A.192 While woodland would provide some opportunities for screening, large-scale development would detract in views across fields in the open arable land. It would also detract from naturalistic views within the valley that are valuable to recreation. The LCA has a traditional and tranquil quality that would be highly sensitive to the modern perception of other large-scale development.

Table A.32: Sensitivity scores to other large-scale development in the Gifford Water LCA

Other Large-scale Development	Sensitivity Score
Other large-scale development	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.193 The LCA would be most sensitive to large scale development within the valleys, where it would be likely to dominate the small scale and contrast strongly with the wooded, natural character of the area.

Cumulative effects

A.194 While there are no wind, solar PV/BESS or other large-scale developments in the LCA, the introduction of large-scale developments would likely be seen to be drawing large scale development out of the more built-up area of Haddington in the north towards the Lammermuir Hills in the south.

Siting and design guidance

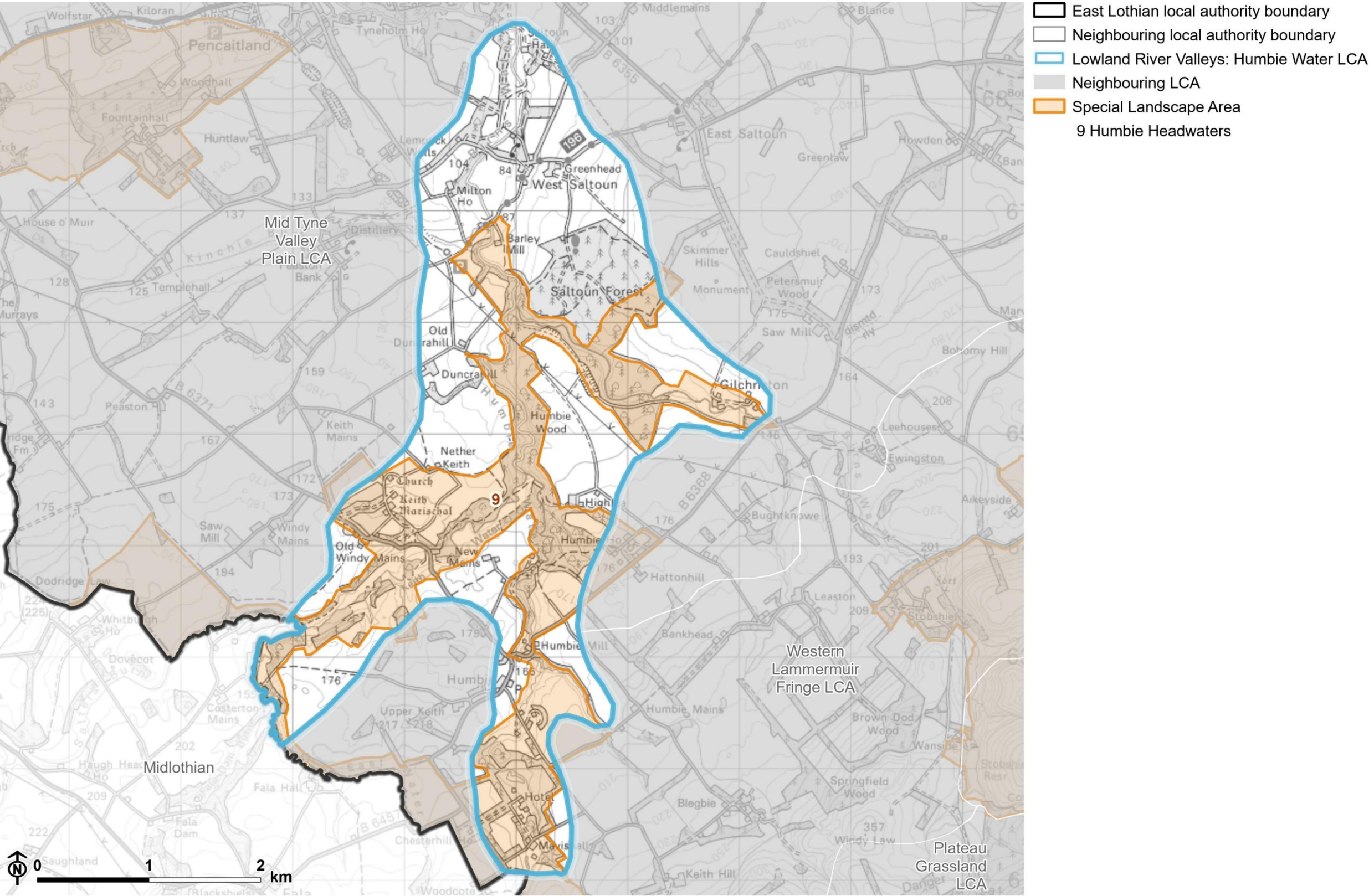
A.195 Siting and design guidance specific to this LCA is set out below. This should be read in conjunction with LCA specific guidance set out in the Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Planning Guidance [See reference 1] and the higher level guidance for the relevant LCT provided in Chapter 4.

- Prioritise sites located on arable farmland over the more intimate valley of the Gifford Water. Woodland along the river would be able to provide some screening of views if sited in the surrounding farmland.

- Avoid siting development within or near to the Yester House and Lennoxlove GDLs where it could locally impact the wooded policy character of the area.

Humbie Water LCA (Lowland River Valley LCT)

Figure A.36: Contextual map of the LCA



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LCA landscape character overview

A.196 The Humbie Water LCA is located within the Lowland River Valleys LCT, in the west of East Lothian local authority area. The LCA extends between Saltoun Hall and Mavishall (on the administrative border with Midlothian Council), and comprises the shallow Humbie river valley, with minor settlements at its southern and northern boundaries.

A.197 The key characteristics of this LCA which are of relevance to the LSA include:

- *“The river forms a generally shallow, basin-shaped valley following a sinuous, meandering northwards route from the western fringe of the Lammermuir plateau.”*
- *“Strongly moulded convex hill-slopes enclose the head of the valley becoming flattened and subdued in form further north towards the confluence with the river Tyne. The interlocking and undulating spurs of land are emphasised by smaller stream tributaries forming incisions in the slopes.”*
- *“Semi-natural mixed woodland and occasional slopes of bramble, gorse and thorn scrub generally fringe and conceal the watercourse, opening out into farmland across the upper valley slopes. Fields of mainly arable land are intermingled with good pasture land along the more hummocky land to the south. Neat hedgerows of hawthorn and beech, often with many oak and ash trees, or post and wire fences separate the fields.”*
- *“The large coniferous plantation of Saltoun Forest sits conspicuously on the eastern slopes of the valley above the Birns Water. The policy woodlands and parks of Saltoun Hall fringe the northern boundary of the area.”*
- *“The valley is relatively free from transport routes. The B6368 crosses the southern edge of the area and runs through Humbie. Minor roads connect the scattering of farmsteads and minor settlements.”*
- *“The disused railway line from Pencaitland to Gifford is used as a core access path through the area and walks exist through Saltoun Forest and along the banks of the Humbie Water.”*
- *“The river valley has no major settlement. The village of Humbie lies to its southwest and West Saltoun within the northern end.”*
- *“The estates of Johnstounburn, Keith Marischal and Saltoun Hall and their associated listed buildings exist within the area together with Humbie Church and the distinctive 1930s buildings of the Humbie Children’s village.”*

- *“A single pylon line cuts across the centre of the valley from northwest to southeast. There is little other industry or infrastructure.”*
- *“Views are restricted within the valley due to the interknitted swelling forms of the valley sides. More extensive views of the wider landscape of nearby hills and coastal plains can be gained from the valley crests.”* [See reference 1]

Designated landscapes

A.198 Approximately a third of the LCA is covered by a Special Landscape Area (SLA), as shown on **Figure A.36**. The Humbie Headwaters SLA (9) covers the Humbie river valley and surrounding areas of woodland. The reasons for designation are set out in the East Lothian Special Landscape Area Supplementary Planning Guidance [See reference 1].

A.199 Additional designations include the 19th century Saltoun Hall GDL located in the north and number of local GDLs cover approximately half of the southern area of the LCA, (as shown on **Figure B.5**).

Existing renewable energy and other large-scale development

A.200 There are no operational, under construction wind farms, solar PV or BESS, or other large-scale developments in the LCA.

Figure A.37: Elevated points in the landscape provide long distance views towards the Western Lammermuir Fringe and Lammermuir Hills



Figure A.38: Convex hill slopes contribute to a small scale that is reinforced by human scale features including trees



Figure A.39: The wooded Humble Water has an intimate character that is reinforced by stone bridges and a sense of enclosure



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

A.201 The following table sets out an assessment of sensitivity of the LCA in relation to each of the criteria set out in **Chapter 2**.

Table A.33: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for the Humbie Water LCA

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Landform and scale	■ A small-scale landscape with a shallow, basin-shaped valley that gently slopes northward, from an elevation of approximately 210m AOD in the south-west to an elevation of 84m AOD in the north. ■ Convex hill slopes enclose the valley to the south, becoming more open and flatter in form towards the confluence with the River Tyne in the north. Throughout the landscape, small tributary streams interlock with the meandering Humbie Water, Keith Water and Birns Water, creating spurs of land and incisions in the slopes. ■ Glacial processes shaped the landform, as described in the Humbie Headwaters SLA: “<i>There are exposed sections along Keith Water which illustrate interbedded till and sand and glacial deposits and are of considerable interest for the light they throw on the glacial processes of the last ice age, recognised by designation as a SSSI.</i>” [See reference 1].	High The landform has a small, intimate scale. Wind turbines of all scales would detract from the intimate and complex landform.	Medium-High Sensitivity varies through the landscape, being most sensitive in the convex hill slopes. The more open landform in the north would be less sensitive to development less than 10ha, as it could sited without masking the topography. Development greater than 10ha would be more likely extend into the sloping valley and may mask the topography.	High Valleys and hill slopes give a perception of scale that creates a higher sensitivity to large-scale developments.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	■ Semi-natural mixed woodland with occasional slopes of scrub, gorse and bramble surround watercourses and contribute to a complex landcover pattern and sense of enclosure. ■ The upper valley slopes open onto predominantly arable farmland with an irregular, often small scale, field pattern. Fields are separated by well-maintained hedgerows and post and wire fences. ■ In the north-east, Saltoun Forest is a large area of plantation woodland. In the north, policy woodlands and parks associated with Saltoun Hall GDL extend into the LCA. ■ The wooded nature of the landcover is recognised in the Humbie Headwater SLA: “<i>The area as a whole contains a high proportion of ancient woodland and established native broadleaved woods.</i>” [See reference 1]. ■ Several Local Biodiversity Sites are designated throughout the river valleys, recognising their wildlife and habitats. The designations are included in the Humbie Headwater SLA [See reference 1].	High Small scale fields and frequent human-scale features, including woodlands, increase sensitivity. The apparent scale of turbines may be increased by the presence of human and landscape scale features (e.g. buildings and trees).	Medium-High Limited hard surfacing and built elements, along with small-scale fields and human-scale features increase sensitivity. The existing field pattern may be able to accommodate development less than 4.9ha, with some areas able to accommodate development up to around 10-15ha. Larger scales would be likely to impact on the existing pattern.	Medium-High Large scale development would detract from the scale of woodland in the LCA and may mask field patterns as it would be likely to extend across several fields.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	There is limited settlement within the LCA, with the villages of Humbie in the south-west, and West Saltoun in the north. Other settlement stems from the Johnstounburn, Keith Marischal and Saltoun Hall estates and farmsteads throughout the landscape.			
Historic landscape character	- A variety of heritage assets are found throughout the landscape, with listed buildings often found in clusters around historic estates and industrial sites (see Figure B.5). - The Saltoun Hall GDL, which contributes policy woodlands and parkland to the surrounding scenery, extends into the north of the LCA. It is associated with a cluster of listed buildings, including four category A buildings. - There is a strong time depth in the area, with the Humbie Headwaters SLA recognising that “<i>the area is rich in archaeological remains and monuments</i>”, including four scheduled monuments: an enclosure, a ring ditch, Costerton Fort, and Keith Kirk [See reference 1]. - In the south-west, the historic character benefits from a cluster of listed buildings associated with “<i>the Scottish Baronial Country House of Keith Marischal... set to the north of the Keith Water.</i>” [See reference 1]. Keith Marischal is also associated with the North Berwick Witch Trials, as noted in the Humbie Headwaters SLA [See reference 1]. - Keith Marsichal is a local GDL, with a number of other local GDLs found in the south of the LCA. - The Humbie Children’s Village in the east, which “<i>was built over a period up to the 1920s in a colourful ‘Arts and Crafts’ style, on an eleven acre site on a hillside to the south of Humbie</i>”, further contributes to historic character and cultural interest [See reference 1]. - Further historic and cultural interest is provided by “<i>the attractive Humbie Church in its countryside location</i>”, “<i>the extensive woodlands of Humbie Wood</i>” and their associated parkland which extends into the LCT, and “<i>locally identified designed landscapes including the grand Johnstounburn House on the Johnstounburn Water</i>” [See reference 1].	High Numerous historic elements with varying time depths are found throughout the landscape, resulting in a high sensitivity to wind energy development.	High Numerous historic elements with varying time depths are found throughout the landscape, resulting in a high sensitivity to solar PV/BESS.	High Numerous historic elements with varying time depths are found throughout the landscape, resulting in a high sensitivity to other large-scale development.
Visual receptors	- Visual receptors include residents of the villages of Humbie and West Saltoun. - The Humbie Headwaters SLA notes that “<i>the area around Humbie is very accessible... [with numerous core paths] providing easy access to the woods and rivers.</i>” [See reference 1]. Core paths connect with local path networks,	Medium-High While settlement is limited, the numerous core paths and cycle route contribute to high recreational value.	Medium-High While settlement is limited, the numerous core paths and cycle route contribute to high recreational value.	Medium-High While settlement is limited, the numerous core paths and cycle route contribute to high recreational value.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	including along the disused railway between Pencaitland and Gifford. Saltoun Forest is also popular for walking. Route 196 of the National Cycle Network crosses through the north of the LCA, connecting it to greater cycling routes. Refer to Figure B.6.			
Visual amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)	- Visual enclosure is created by the “[highly] <i>scenic... incised wooded valleys of the Johnstonburn Water, Keith Water, Birns Water and Humble Water</i>” [See reference 1]. - Views to the water and from the valleys are valued for their scenic qualities in the Humble Head Waters SLA, including long-distance views towards the Lammermuir Hills [See reference 1]. - There is limited vertical infrastructure within the LCA, with a single pylon line running through its centre.	Medium-High The naturalistic skylines contribute to a higher sensitivity to wind turbines. The lack of vertical infrastructure would cause turbines of any scale to disrupt long distance views, including towards the neighbouring Western Lammermuir Fringe LCA.	Medium-High Development greater than 4.9ha would be more disruptive to visual amenity, particularly where development may be seen across fields in long distance views.	Medium-High The scenic sense of enclosure and valued views to and from the water, along with a lack of vertical infrastructure, would cause other large-scale development to be highly disruptive to visual amenity.
Perceptual and scenic qualities	- The lack of development in the LCA contributes to a highly tranquil quality, with minimal major transport routes crossing through it. Within the valley, views restricted by woodland reinforce the sense of tranquillity. - The well-managed farmland with hedgerows and field trees give the LCA a rural quality. - The Orniston to Gifford Line overhead line crosses south-east to north-west, south of Saltoun Forest, running parallel to the Pencaitland Railway Walk, locally reducing the sense of tranquillity. - The “<i>high scenic value with the several incised wooded valleys... linking together...</i>” and “<i>the importance of the river valleys for their habitats and wildlife</i>” contribute to the Humble Headwater SLA designation. - The SLA additionally raises that Humble Headwaters has “<i>areas of naturalness and has a lack of artificial elements particularly along its wooded river banks. The steepness of the banks and rushing water adds to this feeling of wildness, although paths and the limited scale of the landscape limit this.</i>” [See reference 1]. - The lack of development contributes to “<i>the darkness of the area at night [making] this a wilder feeling area.</i>” [See reference 1].	High Approximately a third of the LCA is designated for its scenic features. The LCA also has a consistently attractive character through wooded river valleys opening to well-managed farmland. Wind turbines and ancillary infrastructure would detract from these qualities. Wind turbines may be subject to aviation lighting, particularly if over 150m, which would intrude on the darkness of the area.	Medium-High The LCA has a rural perception, with river valleys and well-managed farmland contributing to its attractive character. While areas of arable farmland contribute to a perception of human activity, the introduction of solar PV/BESS to the landscape, particularly at scales greater than 10ha, would contribute to a more developed perception of the landscape.	Medium-High Other large-scale development may detract from the scenic, naturalistic qualities of the LCA. Farmland would be less sensitive to development than the naturalistic valleys. Introducing large man-made features would contrast the lack of development in the area and reduce its tranquil rural perception.

Overall landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

A.202 The area is characterised by wooded valleys opening on to arable farmland with hedgerows. The small scale of the landscape raises its sensitivity to wind energy as it would be likely to dominate in the landscape. The complex pattern of landcover, which is amplified by irregular fields and interlocking spurs, also puts the LCA at a higher sensitivity to wind energy development.

A.203 The LCA has a number of valued historic features, including areas of policy woodland and parkland associated with the Saltoun Hall GDL. The historic features of the LCA benefit from their rural landscape, increasing sensitivity to wind energy development.

A.204 The lack of development and vertical structures on the skyline contribute to the tranquil perception of the landscape. Within the valley, slopes and woodland contribute to a strong sense of enclosure and a naturalistic perception. The arable farmland, with limited structures, has a rural character. Wind energy development would strongly contrast the perception of this landscape with its modern infrastructure.

Table A.34: Sensitivity scores to wind energy development in the Humble Water LCA

Wind Energy Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score
Up to 49.9m tip height	High
50m to 99.9m tip height	High
100m to 149.9m tip height	High
150m to 199.9m tip height	High
Over 200m tip height	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.205 The river valley, which is included in the Humble Water SLA (9), would be particularly sensitive. The naturalistic perception of the valley, the strong sense of enclosure, and the sloping landform would cause wind energy developments to be highly visible.

Cumulative effects

A.206 Although there are no turbines located within the LCA, there is some limited intervisibility with existing turbines in neighbouring LCAs, though views are largely screened by the landform. Pogie Wind Farm 2 (6 turbines, 74m blade tip height) is situated approximately 900m from the LCA’s south-east boundary near Mavishall but only has localised influence and is screened throughout much of the LCA by the landform.

A.207 Introducing wind turbine development within the LCA would draw turbines further north from the Lammermuir uplands where they are largely contained at present. This would result in a wider spread of turbines, and the appearance of turbines spilling out down the enclosing slopes of the Lammermuir Hills, which could lead to visual confusion, and broaden the perception of a highly modified landscape.

Overall landscape sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development

A.208 The irregular-shaped fields and complex land pattern, which is reinforced by tributary streams creating spurs of land, would contrast the typically linear pattern of solar PV. While there are some larger fields in the LCA, few are greater than 15ha, with many fields being less than 10ha. As a result, the introduction of solar PV/BESS greater than 10ha would be likely to change existing field patterns.

A.209 The numerous historic elements that contribute to the sense of time depth in the LCA increase its sensitivity to new development. Development less than <4.9ha would have more opportunities to be sensitively sited as to limit impact on historic features and field patterns. The rural and tranquil character of the LCA also increases its sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development. Solar PV/BESS development would introduce new landcover and may create a more modern perception in the LCA if not screened properly.

Table A.35: Sensitivity scores to solar PV/BESS development in the Humble Water LCA

Solar PV/BESS Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score Solar PV	Sensitivity Score BESS
Small (up to 4.9ha for solar PV/BESS)	Medium-High	Medium-High
Medium (5-15ha for solar PV/5-9.9ha for BESS)	High	High

Solar PV/BESS Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score Solar PV	Sensitivity Score BESS
Large (15-50ha for solar PV/10-15ha for BESS)	High	High
Very large (more than 50ha for solar PV/more than 15ha for BESS)	High	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.210 The river valley, which is included in the Humbie Water SLA (9), would be of high sensitivity to all scales of solar PV/BESS development. The naturalistic perception of the valley would strongly contrast the modern perception of solar PV/BESS.

A.211 While woodland plantation contributes to a more modified perception of the landscape and a sense of enclosure in the east, the rotational felling of trees will alter the screening provided by this landscape.

Cumulative effects

A.212 Currently there are no existing, consented or proposed solar PV or BESS developments within the LCA.

Overall landscape sensitivity to other large-scale development

A.213 The sloping, enclosed landform of the river valleys increases sensitivity. The lack of development in the landscape and the more irregular field pattern further increases sensitivity. The undeveloped skyline, numerous historic features, natural character in the valley, and rural character in the arable land, would be highly sensitive to the modern influence of large-scale development.

Table A.36: Sensitivity scores to other large-scale development in the Humbie Water LCA

Other Large-scale Development	Sensitivity Score
Other large-scale development	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.214 While the sense of enclosure in the landscape is strongest in the valleys, their intimate nature and naturalistic character would put them at the highest sensitivity for large-scale development.

A.215 Plantation woodlands at Saltoun Forest in the east of the landscape lessen sensitivity to large scale development and would provide screening opportunities. However, the rotational felling of plantation woodland limit how effective this screening would be. Additionally, core paths within the plantation provide recreational opportunities that contribute to the area maintaining a high sensitivity to large scale.

Cumulative effects

A.216 There are no large-scale developments operating, consented or proposed in the LCA.

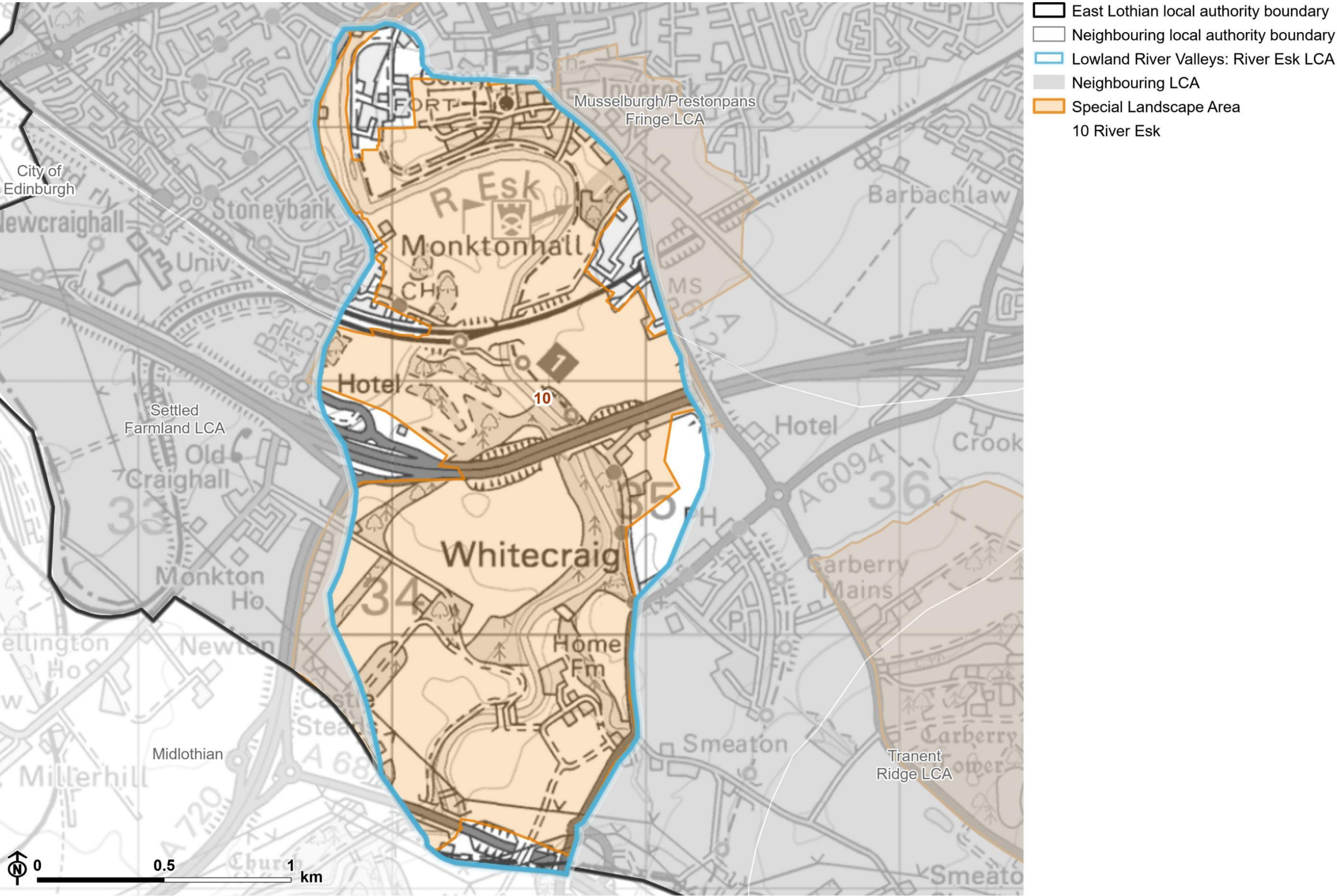
Siting and design guidance

A.217 Siting and design guidance specific to this LCA is set out below. This should be read in conjunction with LCA specific guidance set out in the Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Planning Guidance [\[See reference 1\]](#) and the higher level guidance for the relevant LCT provided in **Chapter 4**.

- Select sites in the more simple, regular landscape of agricultural fields which are well screened by landscape features such as forestry and woodland (e.g. around Saltoun Forest).
- Avoid siting development within the floor of the river valley which is more enclosed with natural vegetation and more intimate in scale.

River Esk LCA (Lowland River Valley LCT)

Figure A.40: Contextual map of the LCA



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LCA landscape character overview

A.218 The River Esk LCA is located within the Lowland River Valley LCT, in the west of the East Lothian local authority area, bordering Midlothian Council to the south. The LCA extends south from the settlement of Musselburgh and is centred around a stretch of the River Esk. It is situated between Old Craighall to the west and Whitecraig to the east.

A.219 The key characteristics of this LCA which are of relevance to the LSA include:

- *“The river follows an extremely confined steep-sided valley, in places bordered by sheer bluffs of exposed rock.”*
- *“The land rises either side to enclosing slopes of smooth undulating ground.”*
- *“The steep valley sides are heavily wooded by extensive swathes of mixed and deciduous planting including oak, ash, beech, elm and sycamore. The surrounding farmland is mainly arable.”*
- *“Dalkeith House designed landscape covers the southern half of this area with its policy woodlands forming a dominant feature.”*
- *“Musselburgh Golf Course is located to the north half of the area on the lower lying floodplain of the area.”*
- *“The major routes of the A720 Edinburgh City Bypass, A1 trunk road, new extension to the A68 and the east coast rail line cut through this landscape character area detracting from its peaceful enclosed nature.”*
- *“The large settlement of Musselburgh lies to the north of the area.”*
- *“The distinctive high stone boundary walls of the Dalkeith Estate form a dominant feature along the road and river walkway to the eastern boundary of the area.”*
- *“Several lines of pylons cut across the south-western edge of the area... Read together with the new road structures in this location the southern corner of the character area has a built-up industrialised feel.”*
- *“The proximity of the city is evident within this character area where farmland is interrupted by roads, rail line and pylon lines.”*
- *“The variety of settlement and industry, combined with the heavily wooded farmland creates a landscape of well-tended and long inhabited character.”*
- *“Views are enclosed within the valley bottom due to its steep sided wooded nature. Views outwards become possible from the more open surrounding land.” [See reference 1]*

Designated landscapes

A.220 Almost all of the LCA is covered by the River Esk SLA (10), with only very small portions at the edges of the LCA not within the SLA. The reasons for designation are set out in the East Lothian Special Landscape Area Supplementary Planning Guidance [\[See reference 1\]](#).

A.221 In addition, the Dalkeith House Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL) is located within the LCA, covering much of the area to the south of the A1. Several local GDLs are located near Inveresk, contributing to the wooded character of the River Esk, as shown on **Figure B.5**. As illustrated on **Figure B.5**, almost all the LCA is designated as Green Belt.

Existing renewable energy and other large-scale development

A.222 There are no operational or under construction renewable energy developments within this LCA. Two high voltage overhead lines cut through the south of the LCA, crossing the River Esk near the A68.

Figure A.41: View from Inveresk across fields sloping towards the wooded River Esk valley with Arthur's Seat visible in the distance



Figure A.42: View from Monktonhall looking into Musselburgh Golf Course with the Inveresk and Edinburgh skyline seen beyond containing trees



Figure A.43: Characteristic woodland, screening views towards A1 around the services at Old Craighall Roundabout



Figure A.44: Wooded and sharply incised valley of the River Esk, with walkway and river underneath the railway bridge



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

A.223 The following table sets out an assessment of sensitivity of the LCA in relation to each of the criteria set out in **Chapter 2**.

Table A.37: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for the River Esk LCA

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Landform and scale	■ The LCA is focussed on the River Esk which meanders through the area flowing from the south towards the Firth of Forth in the north. ■ The river creates a confined, steep-sided valley with areas of exposed rock found along the river banks, as recognised in the special qualities for the River Esk SLA (10) which states “<i>dramatic wooded valley is deeply cut, with steep sides in places and a flat bottomed valley</i>” [See reference 1]. ■ Beyond the watercourse, the land rises either side to form a relatively flat floodplain, which is particularly wide at the meander occupied by Musselburgh Golf Club.	Medium-High The landform of the valley has a small, intimate scale. The scale becomes larger across the flatter adjacent land. Wind turbines of all scales would be likely to be out of scale within the valley, however turbines <50m could be sited in the surrounding flatter land without detracting from the scale of the landform.	Medium Sensitivity varies through the landscape, being most sensitive within the valley and least sensitive in the open, flatter land each side of the watercourse and its valley. Development less than 5ha may be able to sit within the flatter landscape without masking the underlying topography. Development greater than 5ha would be more likely to mask the gently sloping topography which drops in elevation towards the river.	Medium-High Sensitivity varies through the landscape, being most sensitive within the valley. This type of development is unlikely to be suitable within the valley given the steeper slopes. The valley gives a perception of scale that creates a higher sensitivity to large-scale developments. Other large-scale development would be least sensitive in the open, flatter land each side of the watercourse and its valley, where it would have less of an impact on the underlying flatter landform.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	■ The valley of the River Esk is heavily wooded as recognised in the special qualities for the River Esk SLA (10) which describes a “<i>wooded enclosed valley</i>” and “<i>wooded river valley important for its variety of bank habitats and its varied long established policy woodlands</i>” [See reference 1]. ■ The surrounding farmland is primarily arable, comprising small to medium scale rectilinear fields. Fields are primarily enclosed by post and wire fencing, however, some fields are bounded by policy woodland. ■ The main road A1 cuts through the middle of the landscape, broadly east-west, broadly parallel to the east coast main line railway further north. The A68 cuts through the very south of the landscape. ■ Dalkeith House GDL covers the southern half of the LCA, and its policy woodlands forms a prominent feature in the landscape. ■ Musselburgh Golf Course is located to the north half of the area on the lower lying floodplain, occupying a large portion of the LCA to the north of the A1.	High Small-to-medium scale fields and frequent human-scale features, including woodlands, increase sensitivity. The apparent scale of turbines may be increased by the presence of human and landscape scale features (e.g. buildings and trees).	Medium-High The presence of small-to medium scale fields and human-scale features such as buildings and woodland increase sensitivity. The existing field pattern may be able to accommodate development less than 5ha. However, development greater than 5ha would be likely to impact on the existing field patterns.	High Large scale development is likely to detract from the scale of woodland in the LCA and would likely mask field patterns as such development would likely extend across several of the small to medium scale fields found in this LCA.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Historic landscape character	- There is a rich variety of heritage assets including many Listed Buildings, with a particularly strong concentration in Inveresk, which is also designated as a Conservation Area. Refer to Figure B.5. - The historic buildings of Inveresk Mills are located in this area, concentrated along the watercourse. - The policy woodlands, walls and entrance gates of Dalkeith House provide a scenic contribution to the surrounding area. The high stone walls form a dominant feature along the road and river walkway. The woodlands of the GDL are noted as being “<i>visible from the surrounding area and particularly from the main roads to the north</i>” [See reference 12]. Refer to Figure B.5. - Several local GDLs around Inveresk contribute to the wooded character along the River Esk. - There are several Scheduled Monuments extending across a large proportion of the LCA. These relate to Inveresk Roman Fort and Vicus, and roman field systems and prehistoric enclosures. - The Battle of Pinkie (1547) inventory listed Battlefield extends across much of the LCA.	High The LCA has a large number of historic features found throughout the landscape which contribute to the historic character and sense of time depth. In particular a large portion of the area is designated as either an inventory or local GDL.	High The LCA has a large number of historic features found throughout the landscape which contribute to the historic character and sense of time depth. In particular a large portion of the area is designated as either an inventory or local GDL.	High The LCA has a large number of historic features found throughout the landscape which contribute to the historic character and sense of time depth. In particular a large portion of the area is designated as either an inventory or local GDL.
Visual receptors	- The settlements of Musselburgh and Inveresk are located to the north, with a small portion of the settlements located within the LCA. Intervisibility from residential receptors is limited overall, due to the strong presence of woodland along the River Esk. - A number of small paths provide connections into the River Esk valley. Given the incised nature of the valley the only access following the route of the river is the River Esk walkway/cycleway between Whitecraig to Musselburgh. This route is noted in the special qualities for the River Esk SLA (10), noting that “<i>the area has high recreation and enjoyment value</i>” [See reference 1]. Refer to Figure B.6. - National Cycle Network Route 1 offers both on road and traffic free cycle routes, partly running adjacent to the River Esk. The presence of NCN Route 1 is recognised in the special qualities for the River Esk SLA (10) [See reference 1]. - These routes provide strong recreational value along with other recreational receptors at Musselburgh Golf Course, located on the flat floodplain near Inveresk.	Medium Although there is a concentration of residential receptors in the north, there is limited visibility into the River Esk valley. Recreational routes are concentrated along the valley are valued for the recreational opportunities they provide. There are limited receptors in the south, making this area less sensitive to development.	Medium Although there is a concentration of residential receptors in the north, there is limited visibility into the River Esk valley. Recreational routes are concentrated along the valley are valued for the recreational opportunities they provide. There are limited receptors in the south, making this area less sensitive to development.	Medium Although there is a concentration of residential receptors in the north, there is limited visibility into the River Esk valley. Recreational routes are concentrated along the valley are valued for the recreational opportunities they provide. There are limited receptors in the south, making this area less sensitive to development.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	- The main road A1 cuts through the middle of the landscape, broadly east-west, offering limited views across the landscape. - Access in the south of the LCA is limited, with very few receptors.			
Visual amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)	- Views within the valley are largely contained due to the steep valley sides and wooded nature of the valley. - The skyline is wooded from Musselburgh Golf Course, however, buildings within Musselburgh and Inveresk including church spires can be glimpsed. - The contrast between the enclosed valley and more open areas including the Dalkeith House GDL and Musselburgh Golf Course provides “<i>visual contrast</i>” as noted in the special qualities for the River Esk SLA (10) [See reference 1]. - Distant views to Arthur’s Seat are afforded intermittently, including from the edge of Inveresk village, seen beyond the tree line of the River Esk. Beyond these views, there is limited intervisibility with other LCAs. - Medium distance views are afforded from the south of the LCA, which is more open in character, overlooking the open fields which are bounded by policy woodland belts. - Elsewhere, views are longer ranging across the more open character of the surrounding farmland, including from the south of Inveresk along Wedderburn Terrace. The views overlook the gently sloping farmland towards the densely wooded river valley. - Overhead line development in the south of the LCA, and the presence of the A1 introduces man-made elements into views.	Medium Wind turbines would introduce vertical features into views from more open areas of the LCA. From these locations turbines would form skyline features, although would be seen on skylines which are not particularly distinctive. Turbines may impact intervisibility with surrounding areas. If sited in the south, there is potential for turbines to cause visual confusion with the existing overhead line. From within the valley, outward views would be largely screened by vegetation.	Medium Solar and BESS development would introduce man-made features into views which could impact more open views across the areas of farmland. Development greater than 5ha would likely be more visible, especially if sited in flat and open locations. The strong presence of woodland may provide screening opportunities.	Medium Other large-scale development would introduce man-made features into views experienced from more open locations, such as the flatter areas of farmland. Given the massing, these developments are likely to be highly visible. The strong presence of woodland may provide extensive screening opportunities, particularly from the main transport routes. However, given the scale of this type of development it is unlikely to be entirely screened. Potential for greater cumulative effects in the south due to the presence of several overhead lines.
Perceptual and scenic qualities	- The proximity of Edinburgh city and other adjacent settlements is evident within this character area where farmland is interrupted by roads, the railway line, overhead lines, and urban development. - Key transport routes and overhead lines detract from the peaceful enclosed character of the LCA. - However, there is still a strong sense of tranquillity and seclusion experienced due to the enclosure by riverside woodland, and the natural scenic qualities of the River Esk. This is reflected in the special qualities for the River Esk SLA (10) which states “<i>sections of the southern deeply incised wooded valley provide a feeling of remoteness and naturalness</i>” noting that this feeling is reduced due to the “<i>proximity to urban development in the north of the area</i>” [See reference 1].	Medium-High Man-made features such as turbines may detract from the natural characteristics, scenic nature and tranquillity of the valley landscape. Likewise, it could detract from the semi-rural character experienced in the surrounding agricultural land. Introducing tall vertical features (e.g. turbines >50m) may result in new skyline features. Turbines could result	Medium Man-made features such as solar PV and BESS developments may detract from the natural characteristics experienced in proximity to the more intimate and contained river valley which has a greater perceived sense of naturalness. While settlement and areas of arable farmland contribute to a perception of human activity, the introduction of solar	Medium Other large-scale development may detract from some of the scenic qualities associated with the LCA. The surrounding farmland would be less sensitive than the valley.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	The lack of access, particularly in the south of the LCA, increases the sense of seclusion.	in visual confusion and a reduction in the perceived semi-rural feel if sited in the south and experienced in combination with the existing overhead line.	PV/BESS to the landscape, particularly at larger scales (>5ha), would contribute to a more developed perception of the landscape, particularly in the south if experienced in combination with the overhead line.	

Overall landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

A.224 The area is characterised by a strongly wooded valley surrounded in the north by dense settlement, and in the south by farmland. Most of the area is designated as an SLA. The smaller scale of the landform and landcover raises its sensitivity to wind energy development which would introduce tall vertical features into views.

A.225 The GDL occupying the south of the LCA increases the sensitivity, particularly due to the presence of policy woodlands. The policy woodlands coalesce with woodland along the River Esk to create a well wooded landscape and form local skylines. They provide human scale features which would be impacted by large scale vertical development such as wind turbines.

A.226 The wooded landscape along with the intricate feature of the River Esk contribute locally to a sense of naturalness and tranquillity, which lead to a higher sensitivity to this type of development.

Table A.38: Sensitivity scores to wind energy development in the River Esk LCA

Wind Energy Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score
Up to 49.9m tip height	Medium-High
50m to 99.9m tip height	High
100m to 149.9m tip height	High
150m to 199.9m tip height	High
Over 200m tip height	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.227 Localised areas near the main roads and existing overhead lines are of lower sensitivity, due to the fact that these areas already have a reduced sense of tranquillity and naturalness from the main road. However, siting near overhead lines would require careful consideration to minimise visual confusion from the introduction of further vertical infrastructure into views.

Cumulative effects

A.228 Currently there are no existing wind energy developments within the LCA, and none proposed.

Overall landscape sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development

A.229 The small-to-medium scale fields and contrast in landcover from agricultural land, settlement and river valley increases sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development. There are few fields greater than 10ha within the LCA. As a result, the introduction of development greater than 10ha would be likely to change existing field patterns by removing hedgerows. For development less than 5ha, woodland and hedgerows could provide screening opportunities for solar PV/BESS, reducing their impact on the surrounding landscape.

A.230 The landscape is also well screened from surrounding areas, including from settlement. The screening potential of the woodland slightly reduces the sensitivity to low-lying solar PV and small-scale BESS development.

Table A.39: Sensitivity scores to solar PV/BESS development in the River Esk LCA

Solar PV/BESS Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score Solar PV	Sensitivity Score BESS
Small (up to 4.9ha)	Medium	Medium
Medium (5-15ha for solar PV/5-9.9ha for BESS)	Medium-High	Medium-High
Large (15-50ha for solar PV/10-15ha for BESS)	High	High
Very large (more than 50ha for solar PV/more than 15ha for BESS)	High	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.231 There are small, localised areas of lower sensitivity in close proximity to main roads. These include areas which already have contemporary development associated with the road, including services located by the A1 and Edinburgh City Bypass roundabout. In areas where the main road is already a strong influence, there is a lower level of naturalness, scenic quality, and tranquillity, thus the area is less sensitive to solar PV/BESS development. The areas adjacent to the main roads are also relatively well screened from the rest of the LCA, due to woodland and roadside vegetation. Therefore, development located within these small pockets could be screened by nearby woodland and visual impact could be limited to a small geographical extent. However, it is noted that much of this LCA is designated as Green Belt, which could form an additional constraint to development.

A.232 The south of the LCA has fewer receptors, both recreational and residential, which slightly decreases the sensitivity compared to the north. Although it is less settled, it does feature several large overhead lines, which locally reduce the sense of naturalness. Policy woodlands associated with Dalkeith House GDL are locally of higher sensitivity.

A.233 Fields at the edges of the LCA, where the valley merges into the adjacent Settled Farmland LCA which is more open, are likely to be less sensitive.

Cumulative effects

A.234 Currently there are no existing solar PV or BESS developments within the LCA, and none proposed.

Overall landscape sensitivity to other large-scale development

A.235 The small-scale and enclosed nature of the river valley increases sensitivity, compared to the larger scale areas of farmland. However, other large-scale development would likely extend across several fields, altering the landform, and masking landcover and field pattern. The numerous historic features, including the large spatial extent of Scheduled Monuments, increases sensitivity to the modern influence of large-scale development. Large scale development would appear out of place with the local vernacular and other human-scale features including the woodland and narrow nature of the River Esk valley.

Table A.40: Sensitivity scores to other large-scale development in the River Esk LCA

Other Large-scale Development	Sensitivity Score
Other large-scale development	Medium-High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.236 There are small, localised areas of lower sensitivity in close proximity to main roads and existing overhead lines, which reduce the sense of naturalness and tranquillity locally. Likewise, the area around the services located by the A1 and Edinburgh City Bypass roundabout (partially within the adjacent Settled Farmland LCA) are likely to be less sensitive to this type of development.

A.237 Compared to the smaller scale of the river valley, the areas of farmland are less sensitive to development of this type, which may be able to be sited to have less impact on the underlying landform, and to take advantage of screening provided by vegetation along the valley and key transport routes.

Cumulative effects

A.238 Currently there are no existing other large-scale developments within the LCA, and none proposed.

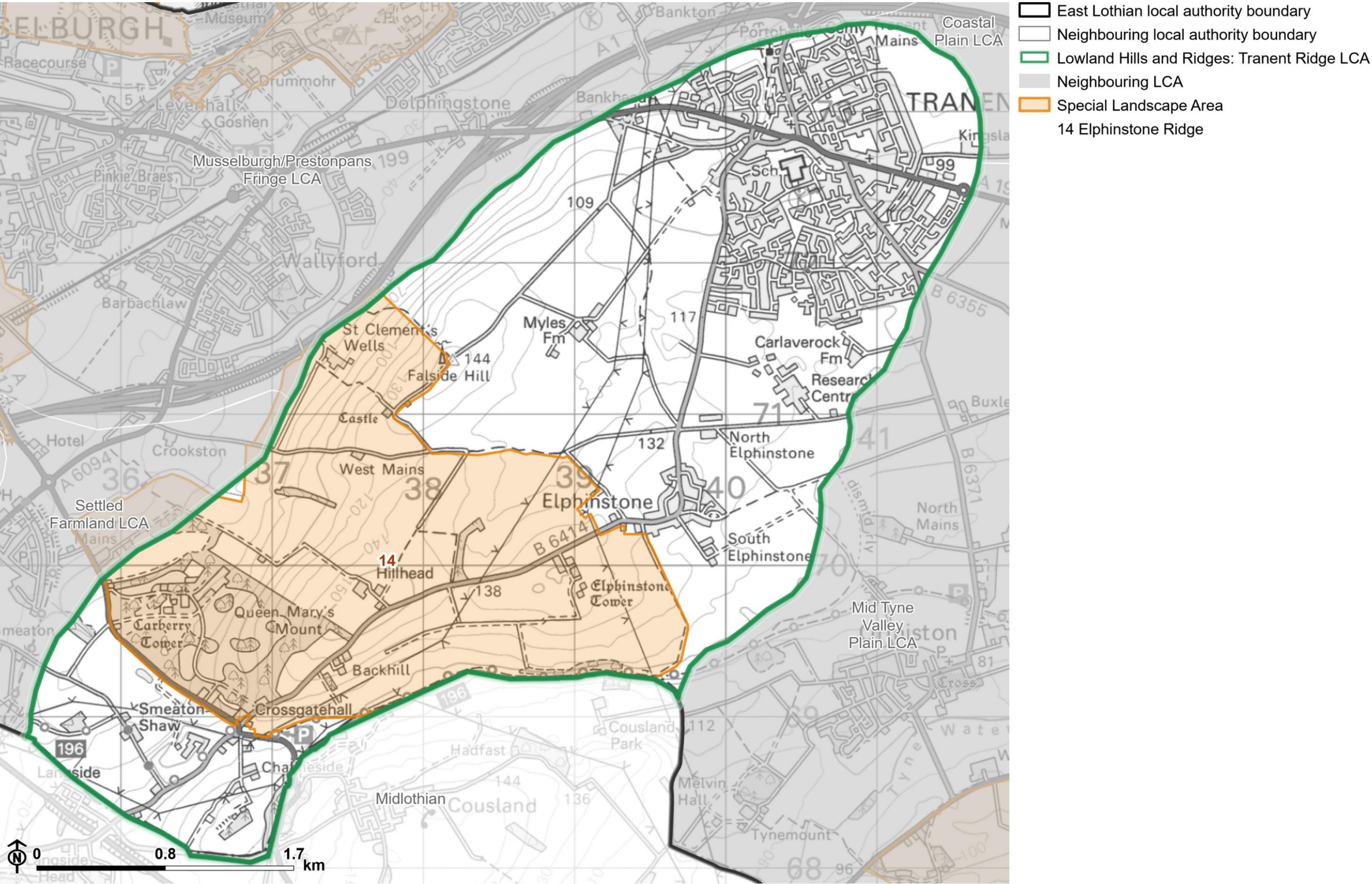
Siting and design guidance

A.239 Siting and design guidance specific to this LCA is set out below. This should be read in conjunction with LCA specific guidance set out in the Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Planning Guidance [\[See reference 1\]](#) and the higher level guidance for the relevant LCT provided in **Chapter 4**.

- Select sites outwith the main wooded valley along the River Esk, opting for the simpler landscape of arable fields.
- Consider siting development near existing development which reduces sensitivity, such as the overhead lines and major transport routes.
- When siting development, care should be taken to avoid visual confusion which may arise from interactions with other types of development, notably overhead lines in the south of the area.
- Avoid siting development within or close to the Dalkeith House GDL where it could locally impact the wooded policy character of the area.

Tranent Ridge LCA (Lowland Hills and Ridges LCT)

Figure A.45: Contextual map of the LCA



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LCA landscape character overview

A.240 The Tranent Ridge LCA forms the north end of the watershed between the River Esk Valley and the Tyne Water Valley. The ridgeline extends from the administrative boundary with Midlothian north-east of Dalkeith, to the village of Tranent, as shown on **Figure A.45**. It overlooks the settled coast of Musselburgh to the north. This area is part of the Lowland Hills and Ridges LCT.

A.241 The key characteristics of this LCA which are of relevance to the LSA include:

- *“A plateau like upper surface is bounded by smooth, steeply rolling side slopes which shelve down to river valleys. The north-western side is markedly steeper than the southeast.”*
- *“An agricultural landscape of large arable fields divided by fences and low hedgerows occasionally dotted with mature oak, ash, sycamore and beech trees.”*
- *“Small farm woodlands are common and distinctive features throughout this predominantly open landscape, curving along the hill slopes and enclosing farmsteads and villages. The policy woodlands of the Carberry Tower designed landscape are particularly prominent from many viewpoints within Edinburgh and the eastern coastal plain.”*
- *“A noticeable feature of former opencast mining is the altered field pattern and scarcity of mature trees.”*
- *“A network of paths crisscrosses the area providing good pedestrian access.”*
- *“The north end of the ridge contains the historic ex-mining settlement of Tranent, with the smaller ex-mining settlement of Elphinstone to its south.”*
- *“A double line of pylon lines extends up the ridge at Tranent and runs along the ridge to the southwest, forming a strong detracting element in this open landscape.”* **[See reference 1]**

Designated landscapes

A.242 Around one third of the LCA is covered by SLA 14: Elphinstone Ridge, located in the south-west of the LCA. It is located between Carberry Tower GDL and the western edge of the settlement of Elphinstone. It extends to the north and south LCA boundaries with a small portion of the SLA located in adjacent LCA: Settled Farmland (Lowland Plain LCT).

A.243 The reasons for designation are set out in the East Lothian Special Landscape Area Supplementary Planning Guidance [\[See reference 1\]](#).

A.244 Along with the Carberry Tower GDL, there are three local GDLs in the area (see **Figure B.5**).

Existing renewable energy and other-large scale development

A.245 There is one small scale, consented BESS development. The Smeaton Energy Storage Project is a BESS compound of 100 energy storage containers (200-250 megawatt capacity) in an area of approximately three hectares located between Dalkeith and Whitecraig. It is in close proximity to existing overhead lines. There is one existing wind turbine (20.0m blade tip height) at Fa'side Castle. There are no other consented or under construction wind energy developments or solar PV developments in the LCA.

A.246 There is a strong presence of overhead line infrastructure through the entire landscape, and due to the elevation of the landscape, more distant pylons are also prominent in views.

A.247 Small scale wind turbines outwith the LCA can be seen, including to the south of Elphinstone near Cousland (within Midlothian Council).

Figure A.46: An existing wind turbine at Fa'side Hill is partially screened by woodland, overlooking the plateau-like upper surface of the ridge



Figure A.47: View west from minor road in west of LCA overlooking Settled Farmland LCA with gappy hedgerow and hedgerow trees in the foreground and the Pentland Hills and Arthur's Seat in the distance



Figure A.48: Fa'side Castle is prominent on the ridge, with sloping grassland affording views south-west across East Lothian towards the Pentland Hills



Figure A.49: The crossing wirelines and multiple pylons from two overhead lines at the western edge of the Tranent settlement create visual confusion in the skyline



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

A.248 The following table sets out an assessment of sensitivity of the LCA in relation to each of the criteria set out in **Chapter 2**.

Table A.41: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for the Tranent Ridge LCA

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Landform and scale	■ This ridgeline forms the watershed between the valleys of the River Esk and the Tyne Water. ■ The north-western side is markedly steeper than the south-east. Tranent Ridge forms a prominent boundary with adjacent Musselburgh/Prestonpans Coast. This ridge forms the steepest topographical feature in the LCA, with the remaining areas of more gently rolling landform. ■ A plateau like upper surface is bounded by smooth, steeply rolling side slopes which shelve down to river valleys. ■ The landform is relatively open due to the plateau and elevation compared to surrounding lower lying areas. The rolling landform results in intermittent enclosure.	High The landform is of high sensitivity to wind turbines due to the sloping, elevated nature of the ridge, which is locally distinctive. Wind turbines would sit at different heights, causing visual confusion, and could introduce a scaling feature which would reduce the apparent scale of the ridge.	Medium-High The landform is of medium-high sensitivity to solar PV/BESS due to the importance of the Tranent Ridge forming a prominent boundary with adjacent LCAs, and being highly visible as the inland setting to coastal settlements. The sloping nature of the landform would likely increase visibility of solar PV/BESS development.	Medium-High The landform is of medium-high sensitivity to other large-scale development. Other large-scale development, which has large spatial footprints and massing would provide a scale comparison to the locally distinctive landform of the ridge.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	■ A generally agricultural landscape of large arable fields divided by fences and hedgerows, though it is influenced by modern energy infrastructure. Fields are typically medium to large in scale, although localised areas of smaller fields are noted, and the pattern has been altered by open cast mining. ■ The Elphinstone Ridge SLA (14) recognises the landcover as a special landscape quality, acknowledging that “<i>the small-scale fields with well-defined wooded boundaries and heavily wooded hillslope of the Carberry designed landscape provide visual interest and diversity</i>” [See reference 1]. ■ The hedgerows are occasionally dotted with mature oak, ash, sycamore and beech trees. ■ Small farm woodlands are common and distinctive features throughout this predominantly open landscape, curving along the hill slopes and enclosing farmsteads and villages. ■ The policy woodlands of the Carberry Tower designed landscape are particularly prominent from many viewpoints within Edinburgh and the eastern coastal plain. ■ The north-east of the LCA is densely settled at Tranent, with the smaller settlement of Elphinstone located nearby.	Medium-High Frequent human-scale features, such as hedgerows, farmsteads and woodlands, increase sensitivity to wind energy development as its scale would be more apparent. Overhead lines are prominent in the LCA.	Medium The generally agricultural landscape contains a number of built elements and areas of hard landcover associated with dense settlement, overhead lines and large-scale infrastructure, which reduces sensitivity to solar PV/BESS. The existing field pattern could accommodate scales of development up to 15ha but would be more sensitive to larger scales.	Medium-High The existing field pattern would be susceptible to change from other large-scale development, which may extend across multiple fields. Frequent human-scale features in the landscape may also contribute to development looking out of scale within the LCA. The presence of existing buildings could help accommodate development, resulting in a medium-high sensitivity.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	- Tranent connects to other nearby settlements and large-scale human infrastructure via main roads, including the A1 which is located just outwith this LCA, broadly following the north-western boundary. - The B6414 is one of the main roads through the landscape, which follows the southern edge of the plateau from Tranent to Elphinstone and Carberry. The northern boundary of the plateau is followed by a minor road between Tranent and Fa'side. - There are several overhead lines crossing through the landscape.			
Historic landscape character	- The north end of the ridge contains the historic ex-mining settlement of Tranent, with the smaller ex-mining settlement of Elphinstone to its south. Part of Tranent contains a Conservation Area (see Figure B.5). - Carberry Tower Garden and Designed Landscape is located in the south-west. Its <i>"mixed woodlands and contains large areas of native ancient woodland"</i>, as is recognised in the Elphinstone Ridge SLA (14), contribute to scenic value [See reference 1]. - There are several listed buildings within the area, including Elphinstone Tower, and several within the GDL and Conservation Area. Fa'side Castle is recognised in the Elphinstone Ridge SLA (14) as <i>"visible sitting high on the northern edge of the ridge"</i> [See reference 1]. - There are three local GDLs within the area (see Figure B.5). - There are Scheduled Monuments at Queen Mary's Mount and West Mains forts. - Approximately half the LCA is covered by Battlefield Inventories with the Battle of Pinkie Battlefield Inventory in the north-west and the Battle of Prestonpans Battlefields Inventory boundary extending into the north-east (see Figure B.5).	Medium A number of historic features increase sensitivity to development.	Medium A number of historic features increase sensitivity to development.	Medium A number of historic features increase sensitivity to development.
Visual receptors	- The settlements of Tranent and Elphinstone are located in the LCA. - There are several Core Paths providing good recreational access, in addition to CN Route 196 which crosses through the south-west and along the southern boundary of the LCA (see Figure B.6). The LCA's paths are recognised as a special landscape quality in the Elphinstone Ridge SLA (14) [See reference 1]. - The off road NCN route is located on a lower part of the ridge to the majority of the LCA (see Figure B.6).	Medium-High The settlements, core paths and NCN route result in a higher density of visual receptors whose attention may be on the landscape, increasing sensitivity.	Medium-High The settlements, core paths and NCN route result in a higher density of visual receptors whose attention may be on the landscape, increasing sensitivity.	Medium-High The settlements, core paths and NCN route result in a higher density of visual receptors whose attention may be on the landscape, increasing sensitivity.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Visual amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)	■ The landscape is relatively open, partially due to its elevation compared to surrounding areas and overall lack of woodland cover (away from the south-west). ■ Views from Tranent overlook the rolling, open arable fields, with the skyline occupied by overhead lines. Roadside hedgerows screen some views. ■ Tranent Ridge forms a prominent ridge in views south-east from coastal settlements. As noted in the Elphinstone Ridge SLA (14), <i>“In views from the A1 the area forms the backdrop to the Musselburgh Prestonpans fringe and is important to the setting of the settlement there”</i> [See reference 1]. ■ The Elphinstone Ridge SLA (14) recognises how <i>“the height of the ridge affords fantastic views in all directions”</i> [See reference 1]. This includes <i>“panoramic views over East Lothian, the Firth of Forth and...Edinburgh... as well as to the south towards the Lammermuir Hills”</i> [See reference 1]. ■ A double line of pylon lines extends onto the Tranent Ridge traveling from south to north, forming a strong visual feature in the open landscape. ■ From some parts of the LCA, overhead lines form the only notable skyline feature due to the extensiveness of the plateau which can reduce the intervisibility with surrounding areas. This is particularly the experience in the north and centre. ■ The wooded landscape of Carberry Tower provides more enclosed views in the south of the LCA, coupled with the fact it is situated on the lowest lying region. The policy woodlands contribute to scenic value. ■ Fa’side Castle forms a prominent feature at the top of the ridge and its values to views is a special landscape quality in the Elphinstone Ridge SLA (14): <i>“The established wooded landscape of Carberry and farmland of the ridge along to Fa’side Castle are important in views as you leave Edinburgh along the A1 and A199, providing a scenic frame to the entrance to East Lothian”</i> [See reference 1]. ■ The entire battle landscape of the Battle of Pinkie Cleugh is seen in the view from Fa’side ridge and has an associated path and signage. ■ Long distance visibility is afforded from roads, including into adjacent character areas.	High The LCA is of high sensitivity to wind turbines due to its openness and prominence from surrounding LCAs. The sloping nature of the ridge may result in wind turbines sitting at different heights, creating visual confusion. The impact of existing vertical infrastructure has a strong impact on the visual character of the LCA. New wind energy developments would further impact the open skyline and likely be highly visible in views of the ridge from settlements within the lower coastal margins to the north.	Medium-High The sloping nature of the landform could contribute to solar PV/BESS being more prominent in views from the coast. Panoramic views in the LCA further increase sensitivity. Development less than 4.9ha would be less intrusive in views.	Medium-High Other large-scale development may lead to visual confusion when situated in views with the overhead lines. Development may also detract from panoramic views, particularly if it were to extend over multiple fields. Intervisibility with the coast further increase sensitivity as other large-scale development may draw attention away from the ridge if not sited carefully.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Perceptual and scenic qualities	■ The Elphinstone Ridge SLA (14) notes that “<i>the large rolling arable fields to the southern slopes provide a hidden landscape, close to settlements yet rural and tranquil</i>” [See reference 1]. ■ The long-distance visibility, including across the Firth of Forth and towards Arthur’s Seat, coupled with the elevation of the landscape and prominence of the Tranent Ridge, results in a strong sense of place within East Lothian. ■ However, the presence of the overhead lines which are highly visible across the landscape somewhat detract from the sense of rurality and scenic value. ■ The busy A1 which is located just outwith the LCA exerts an influence on the landscape, although it is relatively well screened by woodland.	Medium-High Areas with a rural perception would be higher sensitivity to wind energy development. The introduction of turbines may add to the perception of development by the existing overhead lines. At larger scales (>100m tip height), wind turbines may detract from the prominence of Tranent Ridge, reducing sense of place.	Medium-High The new landcover introduced by solar PV/BESS may detract from its rural, tranquil character. Screening opportunities from vegetation, particularly at scales of development up to 15ha, locally reduce sensitivity.	Medium-High While overhead lines detract from the rurality of the LCA, it retains a tranquil character in much of the LCA that would be sensitive to the creation of other large-scale development.

Overall landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

A.249 The landform, particularly the elevated ridge, has an open character which increases the sensitivity to wind energy development. The lack of woodland and significant vegetation within the LCA increases the openness and intervisibility with surrounding areas.

A.250 Other criteria which indicate a higher sensitivity include the intervisibility with residential areas in the LCA, particularly from Tranent where open and long-distance views are available. Wind turbines would create additional skyline features in key long-distance views, including to and from the Firth of Forth.

A.251 Other characteristic long-distance views that would be impacted by wind turbines include towards Arthur’s Seat, which is visible from many of the Core Paths.

Table A.42: Sensitivity scores to wind energy development in the Tranent Ridge LCA

Wind Energy Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score
Up to 49.9m tip height	Medium-High
50m to 99.9m tip height	High
100m to 149.9m tip height	High
150m to 199.9m tip height	High
Over 200m tip height	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.252 The area occupied by the GDL at Carberry Tower is of increased sensitivity to wind turbines which would be out of character with the policy woodland landscape and detract from its scenic and historical value.

Cumulative effects

A.253 There is a strong presence of overhead line infrastructure. Given this, multiple wind turbines could result in clutter on the skyline and detract from the prominence of the landform of the Tranent Ridge. However, siting wind turbines in proximity to overhead line infrastructure may reduce the spread of energy infrastructure through the LCA, helping to concentrate cumulative landscape and visual effects.

Overall landscape sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development

A.254 Areas of the landscape that have a rural character would be of higher sensitivity to development which would occupy a large footprint. Areas with a greater human influence, such as around Tranent, would be less sensitive. Similarly, the landform of Tranent Ridge is highly visible from coastal regions of East Lothian and is particularly sensitive to development which would be seen to extend across the ridge in containing views from the coast.

A.255 The presence of roadside hedgerows could help to reduce sensitivity, as there is opportunity for solar PV to be partially screened. However, the lack of significant vegetation and the gappy nature of field boundary hedgerows results in less opportunity for BESS to be well screened. Given the existing pattern of fields and the rurality of the landscape, further mitigation planting could fit within the character and result in screening for potential development.

Table A.43: Sensitivity scores to solar PV/BESS development in the Tranent Ridge LCA

Solar PV/BESS Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score Solar PV	Sensitivity Score BESS
Small (up to 4.9ha)	Medium	Medium
Medium (5-15ha for solar PV/5-9.9ha for BESS)	Medium	Medium
Large (15-50ha for solar PV/10-15ha for BESS)	Medium-High	Medium-High
Very large (more than 50ha for solar PV/more than 15ha for BESS)	High	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.256 Localised areas near Carberry Tower may be less sensitive to small scale solar PV or BESS development, due to the screening opportunity by the policy woodlands. However, the policy woodlands including the scenic and historical value they provide are a sensitive feature in their own right, contributing to the special qualities of the Elphinstone Ridge SLA (14).

A.257 Areas within the centre of the plateau are of decreased sensitivity to low lying development such as solar PV, due to the lack of prominent skyline features (due to

the elevation and expanse of the plateau), lack of invisibility with surrounding areas, and presence of existing overhead line infrastructure.

Cumulative effects

A.258 There is no existing renewable energy development within the LCA, however the small scale, consented Smeaton Battery Storage is located in the south-west of the LCA, and there is a strong presence of overhead line infrastructure within this same area. Additional development within this area should be sensitively sited to avoid clusters. However, given the lower-lying nature of this area and its proximity to more settled areas and main roads, there could be opportunity for further development to be carefully sited so it is associated with existing development or the consented Smeaton Battery Storage, subject to design and mitigation.

Overall landscape sensitivity to other large-scale development

A.259 Criteria which are of higher sensitivity include the landform, primarily the prominence of Tranent Ridge in the wider East Lothian landscape and its elevation compared to surrounding lower-lying areas. The lack of significant levels of vegetation further results in an open character, which would result in high visibility of large-scale development.

A.260 The existing presence of contemporary settlement buildings and influence of overhead lines influences the perceived character of the area as one which is less rural, and as such these contemporary features contribute to locally decreasing the sensitivity to large scale development. Depending on the size of other large-scale development, new development could potentially be accommodated around the settlement edge of Tranent.

Table A.44: Sensitivity scores to other large-scale development in the Tranent Ridge LCA

Other Large-scale Development	Sensitivity Score
Other large-scale development	Medium-High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.261 As is the case for wind energy development and solar PV and BESS development, the steeper landform of Tranent Ridge is of increased sensitivity due to

its containing character for coastal regions. Large scale development in the ridge would detract from the sense of scale the landform provides.

A.262 Sensitivity would be reduced in lower lying areas where development could be associated with existing commercial or industrial infrastructure, such as in the south-east where the existing Elphinstone Research Centre contributes to a more modern, developed character.

A.263 Likewise, well-screened areas on the settlement fringes of Tranent may be of locally reduced sensitivity and would help concentrate human influence in the area around the built-up settlement. This would depend on the siting and scale of the development.

Cumulative effects

A.264 There is little in the way of other large-scale development, as within settlements the buildings tend to be smaller in scale and contain human-scale features. Any introduction of other large-scale development would need to be sensitivity sited within the existing contemporary development of settlements and avoid appearing in views that are currently uninterrupted by close distance settlement and overhead lines. Siting other large-scale development near Elphinstone Research Centre may help to concentrate cumulative effects within this area.

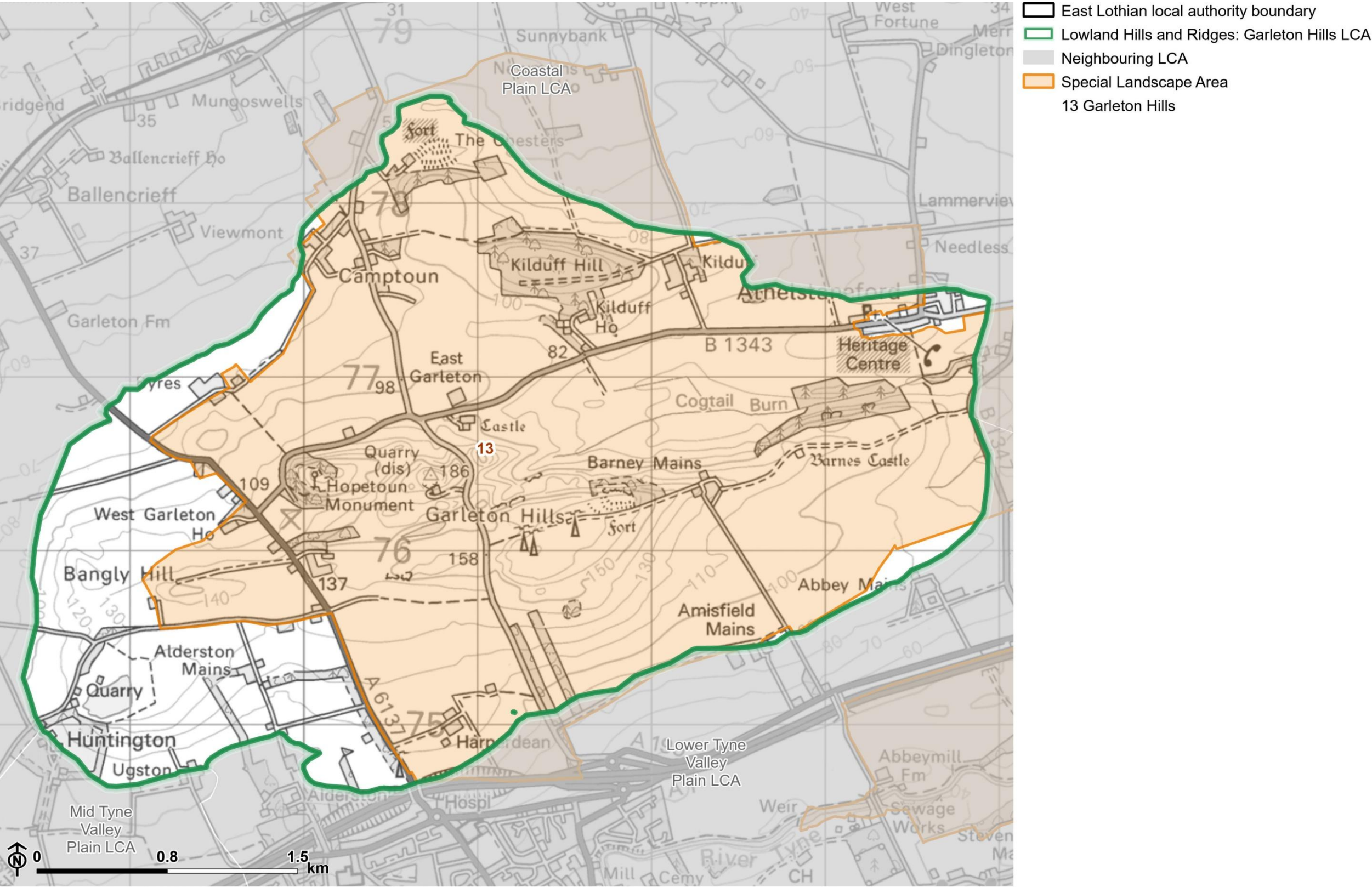
Siting and design guidance

A.265 Siting and design guidance specific to this LCA is set out below. This should be read in conjunction with LCA specific guidance set out in the Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Planning Guidance [\[See reference 1\]](#) and the higher level guidance for the relevant LCT provided in **Chapter 4**.

- Avoid siting development near the more intimate landscapes around Carberry Tower GDL which could locally impact the wooded policy character in this part of the LCA.
- Consider siting larger scale development lower down the slopes of the ridge, to minimise their visual intrusion.
- Consider siting lower-lying development within the interior of the plateau, as this area benefits from a lack of prominent skylines and intervisibility with surrounding areas, so development here would be less noticeable compared to the rising slopes.

Garleton Hills LCA (Lowland Hills and Ridges LCT)

Figure A.50: Contextual map of the LCA



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LCA landscape character overview

A.266 The Garleton Hills LCA is located centrally within the East Lothian local authority area and is within the Lowland Hills and Ridges LCT. The LCA extends between Haddington to the south-west and Athelstaneford to the east. It is situated between the A1 and the B1377, as shown on **Figure A.50**. The LCA comprises an arable plain that transitions into a compact group of hills, rising from 60m AOD in the north to 186m AOD at its highest point. The LCA lies between the Tyne valley to the south and the coastal plain to the north.

A.267 The key characteristics of this LCA which are of relevance to the LSA include:

- *“A compact [hill] group on the boundary between the lower Tyne valley and the coastal plain... Steeper on the western and northern sides with well defined north facing crags.”*
- *“Hill slopes of good rough grassland with gorse scrub on the steepest ground. Scattered areas of deciduous woodland on north facing slopes and below the Hopetoun monument.”*
- *“Kilduff Hill to the north is covered in extensive unbroken mixed woodland.”*
- *“Two roads cross the hills in a north to south direction – the A6137 Aberlady road to the west and a minor road... across the main ridge. The B1343 runs east to west along the valley between the main outcrop of the Garletons and Kilduff Hill.”*
- *“A track follows the ridge line past Barnes Castle (The Vaults) and Barney Mains to the top of the hills to access the telecommunications masts and encourage public access.”*
- *“The village of Athelstaneford lies to the eastern edge of the area on lower ground. Several large farmsteads are sited on the lower ground including Kilduff House, Barney Mains and Alderston Mains to the west... Recent farm buildings at West Garleton Holdings form large, modern, intrusive structures.”*
- *“There are the remains of two major hill forts and the more modern structure of the Hopetoun Monument.”*
- *“The Garleton Hills represent a distinct visual unit interrupting the East Lothian plains... Their rugged form, steep slopes and characteristic land cover provide additional diversity to the predominantly pastoral character of the surrounding area.”*

- *“The Hopetoun monument is an important visual reference point in many views from the Haddington and North Berwick plains and from further west as far as Hopetoun House, to the west of Edinburgh.” [See reference 1]*

Designated landscapes

A.268 Approximately two-thirds of the LCA is covered by the Garleton Hills Special Landscape Area (SLA), as shown on **Figure A.50**. The reasons for designation are set out in the East Lothian Special Landscape Area Supplementary Planning Guidance [See reference 1].

A.269 Six local GDLs are located either entirely or partially within the LCA (see **Figure B.5**).

Existing renewable energy and other large-scale development

A.270 There is a single, domestic-scale turbine located at Alderston Mains. There are no operational, or under construction solar PV/BESS or other large-scale developments in the LCA.

A.271 There is one consented development to rebuild an existing section of wooden pole overhead line which crosses the southern slope of the LCA south of the Garleton Hills and Barney Mains.

Figure A.51: View west from Barney Hill of the rolling hills and craggy outcrops of the Garleton Hills, with Hopeton Monument breaking the skyline and the Firth of Forth beyond



Figure A.52: Areas of rough grassland afford views to the outcrops and towards the Firth of Forth



Figure A.53: The landcover of the Garleton Hills contrasts with the surrounding arable land



Figure A.54: The sloping nature of the landform increases the visibility and perceived scale of a wind turbine at Alderston Mains



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

A.272 The following table sets out an assessment of sensitivity of the LCA in relation to each of the criteria set out in **Chapter 2**.

Table A.45: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for the Garleton Hills LCA

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Landform and scale	■ A compact hill group that rises to a peak of 186m AOD, and is notably larger in extent than other volcanic landforms in East Lothian. The Garleton Hills SLA (13) notes this as a special landscape quality: “<i>Volcanic outcrops are typical of East Lothian; the Garleton Hills are the largest area of volcanic intrusion within East Lothian forming a uniquely iconic landform</i>” [See reference 1]. ■ The landform of the hills is steeper in the north and west, with well-defined north-facing craigs. There are localised areas of enclosure within the hills, created by outcrops. ■ The hills transition into a plain of smoothly rolling, open arable fields, that slope away from the hills. ■ The landform is valued for its exposures of quartz-trachyte lava flows and associated tuffs, which are designated as the Garleton Hills SSSI. The exposures are recognised as a special quality in the Garleton Hills SLA (13) along with the “<i>ice sculpted bedrock and crag and tail landforms [that] is an excellent example of glaciated escarpment and lowland forms of glacial erosion</i>” [See reference 1].	High Wind energy development would be highly visible when viewed against the distinctive landform of the Garleton Hills LCA and may detract from it. Turbines of any scale may also reduce the perceived contrast in scale between the Garleton Hills and the surrounding landscape. The sloping nature of the landform may also cause turbines to sit at different heights and result in visual confusion.	High The distinctiveness and elevation of the landform increases its sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development, which may mask characteristic features or detract from them, particularly at scales greater than 4.9ha. The open, arable land surrounding the Garleton Hills would be less sensitive to solar PV/BESS than the hills themselves, due to its simpler landform. However, the sloping nature of this landform may increase the visibility of new development.	High The landform’s elevated and distinct nature and would result in other large-scale development being highly visible, though the surrounding arable land would be less sensitive due to its simpler landform.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	■ At higher elevations, the rough grassland of the Garleton Hills is marked by gorse. ■ At lower elevations, the landcover is predominantly arable farmland of varying field sizes with an irregular pattern that is divided by shelterbelts and drystane dykes. ■ The landcover is a special quality of the Garleton Hills SLA (13), which explains that the outcrop hills, gorse and farmland, “<i>together with the steep sided river valley and wooded hillsides gives a prominent landscape of diverse landcover and hidden elements</i>” [See reference 1]. ■ An extensive area of mixed woodland is found on Kilduff Hill. ■ In the west, Bangley Quarry is an active quarry and geological SSSI for its exposures of lava (see Figure B.4).	Medium-High Wind energy development would be likely to alter the contrasting landcover pattern of the LCA. The diversity of the landcover may be altered by the introduction of wind turbines and their associated infrastructure.	Medium-High Solar PV/BESS development would introduce new, built landcover to the LCA, which may detract from its diversity and alter existing features such as drystane dykes. Existing shelterbelts may provide some screening from new development though. The LCA would be less sensitive to small scales of development (<4.9ha), which could be able to fit within the existing field pattern at lower elevations.	Medium-High Other large-scale development would be likely to extend across multiple fields, altering field patterns and landscape features like drystane dykes. It would also detract from the contrasting landcover.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	The village Athelstaneford is located on the eastern boundary of the LCA with the Coastal Plain LCA. The limited settlement throughout the rest of the LCA is mainly associated with farmsteads. Larger sheds associated with farms are found in the west.			
Historic landscape character	- A number of listed buildings sit within the Athelstaneford Conservation Area, which extends into the LCA in the east (see Figure B.5). - The Garleton Hills SLA (13) notes that “<i>the area is rich in archaeological remains and monuments and has a high potential for previously unknown sites</i>” [See reference 1]. Scheduled monuments include prehistoric forts, enclosures, prehistoric houses, and a pit alignment, with a “<i>significant Scheduled remains of a number of prehistoric hill forts along and around the Garleton Ridge</i>” [See reference 1]. - Barnes Castle and Garleton Castle are also scheduled, with Barnes Castle being “<i>another prominent feature along the ridge</i>” and a special landscape quality of the Garleton Hills SLA (13) [See reference 1]. Garleton Castle is also located within a local GDL (see Figure B.5). - The column of the category B listed, 19th century Hopetoun Monument on Byres Hill is prominent in the East Lothian skyline and is a special quality of the Garleton Hills SLA (13) [See reference 1]. - Six local GDLs are located partially or entirely within the LCA, often containing listed buildings (See Figure B.5). The local GDLs are primarily located on lower-lying slopes.	High The LCA has a high concentration of historic and designated features that contribute to its historic character.	High The LCA has a high concentration of historic and designated features that contribute to its historic character.	High The LCA has a high concentration of historic and designated features that contribute to its historic character.
Visual receptors	- A Core Path connects Athelstaneford in the east through the LCA to Haddington. An additional Core Path in the east extends from the B1343 towards Newmains (see Figure B.6). - There are additional local paths, with the Garleton Hills SLA (13) explaining that “<i>the Garletons are important for recreation with several walking routes across the area</i>” [See reference 1]. - The Hopetoun Monument is publicly accessible, with visitors being able to climb up the monument to a viewing platform. Its path is listed in the Garleton Hills SLA (13) [See reference 1]. - Settlement within the LCA is limited, with the village of Athelstaneford in the east. Athelstaneford is also home to the Flag Heritage Centre and Saltire Memorial tourism attraction.	Medium-High While sparsely settled, a number of popular walking routes and the Hopetoun Monument provide frequent opportunities to experience the landscape and contribute to a higher density of visual receptors.	Medium-High While sparsely settled, a number of popular walking routes and the Hopetoun Monument provide frequent opportunities to experience the landscape and contribute to a higher density of visual receptors.	Medium-High While sparsely settled, a number of popular walking routes and the Hopetoun Monument provide frequent opportunities to experience the landscape and contribute to a higher density of visual receptors.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Visual amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)	- The rugged form and steeply rising landform of the Garleton Hills forms a prominent and elevated skyline, contrasting with the rolling arable land on the lower slopes. - Vertical infrastructure including telecommunication masts on the Barney Hill and a single turbine near Alderston Mains contribute to a locally more modified perception of the landscape within the LCA. However, they are negligible in long distance views into the LCA. - Long distance views across East Lothian are found throughout the LCA. From lower elevations, the sloping landform provides long distance views across the arable plain to the Firth of Forth in the north and the Lammermuir Hills in the south. Panoramic views are accessed at higher elevation. - The dramatic views from the LCA are considered a special landscape quality in the Garleton Hills SLA (13): <i>“There is a dramatic viewpoint looking East to Athelstaneford and across the North Berwick Coastal Plain beyond from the minor road at Skid Hill. Panoramic views are obtained from the A6137 both north to Aberlady Bay and the coast and south across the Mid Tyne plain to the Lammermuirs. There are also good views from the Chesters Hillfort”</i> [See reference 1]. - Panoramic views of East Lothian, the Firth of Forth, Edinburgh, Fife, the Lammermuir Hills and the Pentland Hills are special quality of paths in the Garleton Hills SLA (13) [See reference 1]. - The Garleton Hills are a recognisable landform in long distance views throughout East Lothian, including in the adjacent Coastal Plain, Lower Tyne Valley Plain and Mid Tyne Valley Plain LCAs. The Hopetoun monument is also distinctive in views. They are also highly visible from transportation corridors, including the A1 and A6137. - The Garleton Hills also form a backdrop to the town of Haddington. As noted in the Garleton Hills SLA (13), <i>“Historically the Garleton Hills are an important and very dominant backdrop to the historic county seat of Haddington, which although situated outside the area is key to the setting of these hills from a Historic Environment perspective”</i> [See reference 1].	High Wind turbines would be likely to detract from the distinctive nature of the Garleton Hills (186m AOD), particularly at larger scales (>150m tip height) where they may diminish the perceived contrast in scale between the Garletons and the surrounding landscape. Sensitivity would be higher as well due to the prominence of the LCA in views from surrounding LCAs, which would increase the visibility of turbines. The impact of existing modern infrastructure on views of the Garleton Hills from other LCAs is limited. Introducing new wind energy development have more of an impact, resulting in the perception of a skyline modified by contemporary infrastructure.	Medium-High A high degree of intervisibility with the surrounding LCA and the rugged landform’s prominence forming an elevated skyline increases sensitivity to solar PV/BESS, which may impact views of the Garleton Hills. However, the rolling arable plains, such as near Abbey Mains or Camptoun, would be less sensitive to the introduction of small and medium scales of solar PV/BESS as they are at lower elevation with less distinctive landform. As a result, solar PV/BESS would be less impactful on views.	High Other large-scale development would add more built infrastructure to the skyline, which may alter views to the Garleton Hills both within the LCA and in views towards it. This would also introduce a new kind of infrastructure to the skyline, which has greater massing, and could result in visual confusion and contribute to an increasingly modified perception of the skyline. There would be limited scope for siting or screening that would reduce potential impacts on visual amenity.
Perceptual and scenic qualities	- The Garleton Hills are highly scenic, with a rugged character and steep slopes and crags contrasting the surrounding arable landcover. - The contrast between landcovers is a special landscape quality of the Garleton Hills SLA (13): <i>“The hills have high scenic value with an open,</i>	High The LCA retains a rugged character that contrasts the more modified character of adjacent LCAs. Wind energy	High Solar PV/BESS development may detract from the valued contrast in landcover by masking it, particularly at larger	High The dramatic change in scale between the open, arable plain and the imposing Garletons could be impacted by other

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	<i>rugged outcrops and gorse covered crags, contrasting with the surrounding farmland” [See reference 1].</i> ■ While there is some human influence, resulting from quarries, transmission towers, and large farm sheds, much of the LCA retains a pastoral and natural quality as a result of the imposing Garleton Hills.	development may create a more developed perception of the LCA. The dramatic change in scale from the arable land to the hills could also be reduced by the introduction of additional vertical infrastructure, even at smaller scales (<50m tip height).	scales. Sensitively sited development less than 4.9ha would be less impactful on the scenic landcover as the spatial footprint of development would extend over a smaller area. This is particularly the case if sited on the higher slopes where the perceived contrast in landcover is greatest.	large-scale developments. Developments could also detract from the scenic contrast in landcover.

Overall landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

A.273 The volcanic landform with steep slopes opening to arable farmland is valued for its outcrops and distinctive form, indicating a higher sensitivity to wind energy development. The varied landcover of gorse and grassland at higher elevations, that contrasts with arable fields at lower elevations, further increases sensitivity as wind energy development may reduce the diversity in landcover.

A.274 Some historic features in the LCA benefit from their location on lower slopes or ridgelines and associated views. Similarly, elevated paths in the area have frequent open views of the landscape. Wind turbines of any scale would be likely to interrupt long distance views in the LCA. The Garleton Hills are distinctive in long distance views throughout East Lothian. Wind energy development would be highly visible as a result, and could also detract from the pastoral perception of the LCA.

Table A.46: Sensitivity scores to wind energy development in the Garleton Hills LCA

Wind Energy Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score
Up to 49.9m tip height	High
50m to 99.9m tip height	High
100m to 149.9m tip height	High
150m to 199.9m tip height	High
Over 200m tip height	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.275 Sensitivity to wind energy development is consistently high throughout the LCA. However, the LCA would be extremely sensitive to larger scales of development. The Garleton Hills reach a height of 186m AOD. Wind turbines of a similar scale would not benefit from screening provided by the landform and would detract from the scale of the Garletons.

Cumulative effects

A.276 While much of the skyline remains undeveloped, some existing vertical infrastructure creates a perception of a more modified skyline. The introduction of wind turbines would amplify and extend this perception.

Overall landscape sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development

A.277 The distinctive, steeply sloped landform of the Garletons would be highly sensitive because its elevated nature would increase visibility and reduce the effectiveness of screening. Solar PV/BESS at larger scales may also mask the landform, which is valued for its visible geology. The arable land on the lower slopes would be less sensitive to small scales of development, where the landform may provide some screening opportunities. The landcover pattern, which benefits from its diversity and the contrast of the gorse-covered crags with the farmland, would be highly sensitive to the introduction of new landcover from solar PV/BESS. However, existing shelterbelts could provide screening opportunities for small scales of development.

A.278 Historic features of the LCA, such as the Hopetoun monument, benefit from their position on ridgelines and their views overlooking the surrounding landscape. Solar PV/BESS would be highly visible in these views, particularly due to its materiality contrasting with the otherwise limited development in the LCA. The introduction of new landcover resulting from solar PV/BESS may also impact the historic character of local GDLs on lower slopes and the Athlestaneford Conservation Area. The intervisibility of the LCA with the surrounding landscape would also increase its sensitivity to solar PV/BESS. The rugged character of the Garleton Hills would be sensitive to the introduction of contemporary infrastructure, further increasing sensitivity.

Table A.47: Sensitivity scores to solar PV/BESS development in the Garleton Hills LCA

Solar PV/BESS Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score Solar PV	Sensitivity Score BESS
Small (up to 4.9ha)	Medium-High	Medium-High
Medium (5-15ha for solar PV/5-9.9ha for BESS)	High	High
Large (15-50ha for solar PV/10-15ha for BESS)	High	High
Very large (more than 50ha for solar PV/more than 15ha for BESS)	High	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

- A.279** The LCA would be most sensitive to solar PV/BESS development on the upper slopes of the Garleton Hills, where all scales of development would be highly visible to the surrounding landscape due to the nature and intervisibility of the landform.
- A.280** Where the arable farmland is flatter towards the LCA’s boundary in the north-east and south-east, there may be scope for small scales (<4.9ha) of solar PV/BESS to be sensitively sited and screened.

Cumulative effects

- A.281** In the west of the LCA, Bangley Quarry, a wind turbine, and large farm sheds contribute to a localised perception of development. Concentrating solar PV/BESS in this area may increase the perception of development. However, development in other parts of the LCA may extend this perception.

Overall landscape sensitivity to other large-scale development

- A.282** The distinctive landform, with its steep slopes that open into rolling arable plains, would increase sensitivity to other large-scale development, which may mask characteristic features and reduce the dramatic change in scale. Other large-scale development may also reduce the variation and contrast in the landcover, which has minimal development, further increasing sensitivity.
- A.283** The density of historic features and visual receptors increase sensitivity to other large-scale development. Other large-scale development would introduce new infrastructure which is tall and of bulky massing to the skyline and may detract from views to and from the Garleton Hills both from within the LCA and from adjacent LCAs.

Table A.48: Sensitivity scores to other large-scale development in the Garleton Hills LCA

Other Large-scale Development	Sensitivity Score
Other large-scale development	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.284 Sensitivity to large-scale development would be high throughout the LCA.

Cumulative effects

A.285 Existing vertical infrastructure, such as transmission towers, creates a more modified perception in parts of the LCA. The introduction of other large-scale development would amplify and extend this perception. Similarly, the perception of development in the west, resulting from the Bangle Quarry, a wind turbine, and large farm sheds may be extended by new other large-scale infrastructure.

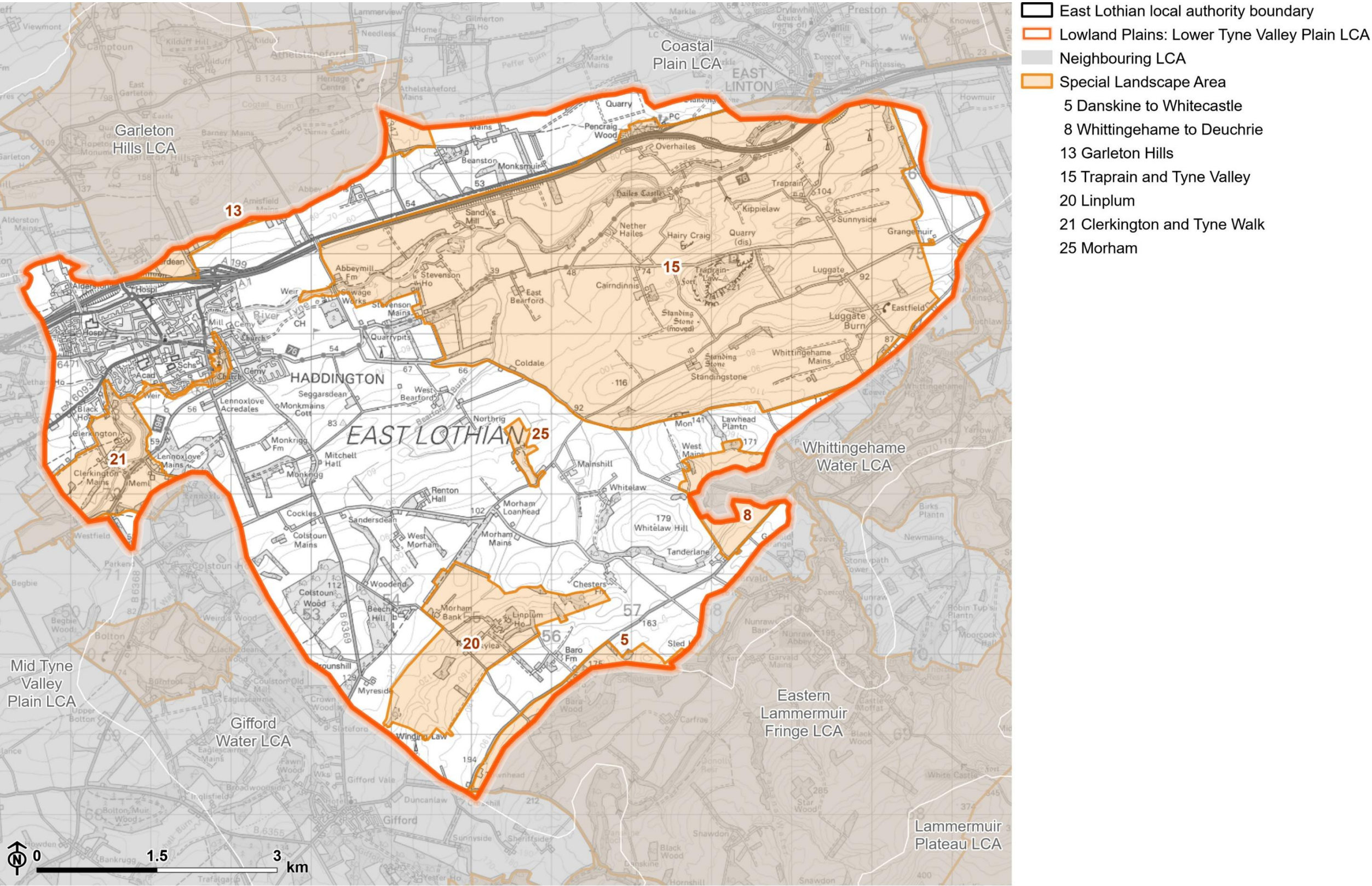
Siting and design guidance

A.286 Siting and design guidance specific to this LCA is set out below. This should be read in conjunction with LCA specific guidance set out in the Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Planning Guidance [\[See reference 1\]](#) and the higher level guidance for the relevant LCT provided in **Chapter 4**.

- Avoid siting development on the prominent landform of Garleton Hills, where it would be highly visible from the surrounding landscape and could detract from the scale of this notable landform.
- Seek to locate development in areas of flatter landform to the north of the Garleton Hills, where it would be less visible and could be afforded some backclothing by landform.

Lower Tyne Valley Plain LCA (Lowland Plain LCT)

Figure A.55: Contextual map of the LCA



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LCA landscape character overview

A.287 The Lower Tyne Valley Plain LCA is located within the Lowland Plain LCT, in the centre of the East Lothian local authority area, as shown on **Figure A.55**. The LCA includes the settlement of Haddington, and extends eastwards towards East Linton and south towards the fringes of the Lammermuir Hills. The area comprises gently undulating agricultural land which forms the transition between the higher Lammermuir fringes and the flatter coastal plain.

A.288 The key characteristics of this LCA which are of relevance to this LSA include:

- *“Agricultural land... undulates gently a series of east-west aligned ridges, rising gradually to the Lammermuir Hills.”*
- *“The significant volcanic mass of Traprain Law sits within the centre of this area interrupting the plain.”*
- *“Broken clipped hedgerows, scattered hedgerow trees, numerous post and wire fences and occasional stone walls divide the land cover of large arable fields. An abundance of mixed small-scale shelterbelts throughout the farmland strengthen the chequerboard field pattern.”*
- *“Several designed landscapes with their associated policy woodlands within the area mainly set along the Tyne valley.”*
- *“The main settlement within the area is Haddington consisting of a largely traditional core surrounded by 20th century housing developments. The area also contains a scattering of farmsteads and small clusters of houses.”*
- *“The area does not contain much large infrastructure or industry. There are a few smaller sized wind turbines within the southeast corner of the area that have been sited to fit with the scale of the landscape.”*
- *“The rough textures and angular forms of the igneous outcrops contrast strongly with the surrounding expanses of low, gently rolling farmland.”*
- *“Views are wide-reaching and can be spectacular from higher ground such as Pencraig Hill, the Balfour Monument and Traprain Law, encompassing coast to the north and hills to the south. The views in the lower areas are more enclosed by the rolling valley form and woodland landscape.”* **[See reference 1]**

Designated landscapes

A.289 Approximately half of the LCA is covered by Special Landscape Areas (SLAs), as shown on **Figure A.55**. This includes the Traprain and Tyne Valley SLA (15),

Linplum SLA (20), Clerkington and Tyne Walk SLA (21), and Morham SLA (25). In addition, several other SLAs which are primarily located within other LCAs extend a small amount into this LCA, including Whittingehame to Deuchrie SLA (8), Danskin to Whitecastle SLA (5), and Garleton Hills SLA (13). The reasons for designation are set out in the East Lothian Special Landscape Area Supplementary Planning Guidance [\[See reference 1\]](#).

A.290 In addition, two GDLs are located within the LCA; Stevenson House GDL in the north, adjacent to the River Tyne; and Lennoxlove GDL in the west near Haddington. These are noted for their formal landscapes dating back to the 16th and 18th centuries. Several local GDLs are found throughout the area, further contributing to localised parkland character, including at Linplum House, Clerkington, and around Stevenson House. These are shown on **Figure B.5**.

Existing renewable energy and other large-scale development

A.291 There are no operational or under construction wind farms comprising more than two turbines within the LCA. There are two turbines (21.5m to tip) located at Limekilns Phantassie Farm, in the far north of the LCA. There are no operational or under construction solar PV/BESS or other large-scale developments within the LCA.

A.292 Long ranging views are afforded towards the Lammermuir Hills in the south, from the minor roads within the LCA, more open areas within Haddington, and from the summit of Traprain Law. A large cluster of wind turbines within the eastern end of the Lammermuir Hills is visible from parts of the LCA. This includes Crystal Rig Phases 1-3 (91 turbines, 100-125m to tip), and Aikengall I-IIA (54 turbines, 125-145m to tip). The under construction Crystal Rig 4 (11 turbines, up to 200m to tip) may also be visible from these locations during construction and once operational.

A.293 In addition, from more elevated locations, turbines at Fallago Rig (48 turbines, 125m to tip) are visible to the south, in the centre of the skyline along the ridge. However, views of these turbines are largely limited to tips and hubs. In the south-west, the large cluster of turbines associated with Keith Hill (5 turbines, 76m to tip), Pogie and its extension (12 turbines, 74-76m to tip) and Dun Law (61 turbines, 63.5-75m to tip) start to become visible on the distant horizon. In clear weather, the offshore wind turbines at Neart Na Gaoithe (54 turbines, up to 208m to tip) are visible on the distant horizon, approximately 27.5km offshore.

Figure A.56: Views towards Traprain Law and the North Sea from Balfour Monument



Figure A.57: Undulating farmland drops down to the intimate valley of the Luggate Burn



Figure A.58: Large flat agricultural fields near Morham



Figure A.59: Snow covered Lammermuir Hills visible to the south of the LCA



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

A.294 The following table sets out an assessment of sensitivity of the LCA in relation to each of the criteria set out in **Chapter 2**.

Table A.49: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for the Lower Tyne Valley Plain LCA

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Landform and scale	■ A landscape comprising medium-to-large scale rolling landform used predominantly as farmland. It gradually rises in elevation from low points along the River Tyne toward the fringe of the Lammermuir Hills in the south. ■ The Tyne River meanders across the north of the LCA from west to east, creating a relatively flat and gently undulating flood plain which gets narrower and steeper between Hailes Castle and East Linton. ■ Traprain Law is a highly distinctive volcanic hill rising up above the lower-lying agricultural plain to elevations of 221m AOD. The influence of this hill extends across the entire LCA and neighbouring LCAs, given its prominent position. Traprain Law is within the Traprain and Tyne Valley SLA (15) and is the focus of several of its special qualities including one which notes “<i>Traprain Law is of a size and form to create a uniquely iconic landform, prominent and unmistakeable within the landscape</i>” [See reference 1]. ■ Small valleys including along the Tyne River, Morham Burn and Luggate Burn are smaller in scale.	Medium-High The iconic landform of Traprain Law is particularly susceptible to wind turbines which would provide vertical scaling features in the landscape. Turbines would also be highly visible when viewed against the distinctive landform of the Garleton Hills to the north-west of the LCA. Elsewhere, away from the agricultural land surrounding Traprain Law, turbines >100m may reduce the apparent scale of the rolling farmland. Turbines <100m, if sited sensitively, may not detract from the scale of the landform.	Medium-High Developments less than 15ha could sit within the existing landscape without masking the topography of the area. Development greater than 15ha may result in the characteristics of the landform (e.g. rolling hills and small valleys) being lost or covered. Development could fragment the landform and could be seen to diminish the scale of the rolling hills.	Medium-High All large-scale development is likely to detract from the scale of the surrounding rolling landform, by introducing a bulky feature within the landscape. Such development could provide both a scale comparison and be highly visible if sited in more elevated locations. Introducing such development near Traprain Law could provide a scaling feature and detract from the scale and uniqueness of this landform. Likewise, introducing large-scale development near small valleys could detract from the smaller scale of the landscape in these areas.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	■ Land use across the area is primarily agriculture. The rolling farmland comprises mostly large rectilinear fields generally contained by hedgerows and post and wire fencing. Some areas comprise smaller scale fields, for example, near Standingstone. Field boundaries comprising grassy verges create the impression of larger scale fields. ■ Scrub and broadleaved woodland is found along the valleys of the Tyne River and several smaller burns such as Luggate Burn and Bearford Burn. This contributes to diverse landcover across the area. This is recognised in the special qualities of the Traprain and Tyne Valley SLA (15) which notes the Tyne River has a “<i>wide tree lined riparian zone identified along its length as a local biodiversity site for its variety of bank habitats</i>” [See reference 1].	Medium Single or small groups of turbines (<100m) could be sited within the existing field pattern if sited and designed sensitively. For example, turbines associated with farms. The apparent scale of turbines >100m may be increased by the presence of human and landscape scale features (e.g. buildings and trees).	Low-Medium Development less than 15ha could sit within the existing field pattern, which comprises many fields around 15ha in size. However, larger developments may extend across several fields and would risk losing the field and landcover pattern. Localised areas around Haddington have reduced sensitivity to developments with a smaller footprint (e.g. <5ha), if	Low-Medium Areas with larger field patterns would be more suitable for large-scale development, as it may sit within the existing field pattern. Developments of this type would likely extend across several smaller-scale fields, disturbing the landcover pattern. Localised areas around Haddington have reduced sensitivity to other large-scale development which extends

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	■ The volcanic nature of Traprain Law supports mineral-rich unimproved grassland which includes rare species. This is recognised in the special qualities for the Traprain and Tyne Valley SLA (15), and in its designation as a SSSI. ■ Stronger presence of woodland in the west associated with Lennoxlove GDL, and more localised areas along the burns of Morham and Luggate. ■ Beyond the town of Haddington in the north-west, the area is sparsely settled. Residential development is scattered throughout the area comprising small farmsteads and clusters of properties.		the development can be sensitively sited in an area which is afforded screening. This would help concentrate human influence in the area around the main settlement and prevent the spread of development into the wider landscape of the LCA.	across smaller spatial footprints (e.g. <5ha), if it can be sited in an area which is afforded screening. The development may therefore appear to form part of the built up area of the settlement. This would be highly dependent on the specifics of the development (e.g. spatial extent) and the site (e.g. field size, level of screening, proximity to other similar scale developments etc.).
Historic landscape character	■ There is a rich variety of heritage assets including many Listed Buildings, with a particularly strong concentration in Haddington, which is also designated as a Conservation Area. Refer to Figure B.5. ■ The Stevenson House and Lennoxlove GDLs create localised areas of parkland character in the north and west of the LCA, respectively. The woodlands at Stevenson House are noted as being “<i>of scenic significance when viewed from the A1... and from the minor roads which form the southern boundaries</i>” [See reference 13]. ■ There is a high concentration of Scheduled Monuments, including the hillfort at Traprain Law, Hailes Castle, and numerous standing stones and enclosures. ■ Hailes Castle, located along the River Tyne, adds time depth and historic character to the river valley. ■ Balfour Monument is a well visited and highly prominent monument located in an elevated position overlooking the lower-lying plain. ■ Features within the landscape, including minor roads and some field layouts contribute to the historic character of the area. Many of the extant roads are medieval or earlier in their origins and the majority of the field systems date back to at least the 18th century.	Medium-High The LCA has a high concentration of historic features which make an important contribution to the historic character and sense of time-depth experienced throughout the area.	Medium-High The LCA has a high concentration of historic features which make an important contribution to the historic character and sense of time-depth experienced throughout the area.	Medium-High The LCA has a high concentration of historic features which make an important contribution to the historic character and sense of time-depth experienced throughout the area.
Visual receptors	■ The town of Haddington is located within the north-west of the LCA and has a large concentration of residential receptors who may be more sensitive to changes in views. Elsewhere, farmsteads are scattered throughout the area.	Medium The LCA has a number of sensitive visual receptors whose attention may be focussed on the landscape,	Medium The LCA has a number of sensitive visual receptors whose attention may be focussed on the landscape,	Medium The LCA has a number of sensitive visual receptors whose attention may be focussed on the landscape,

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	- The area features a few notable locations which attract visitors, including Traprain Law which is noted as being “<i>important for recreation</i>” and having “<i>panoramic views across East Lothian</i>” in the Traprain and Tyne Valley SLA (15). Likewise, other scenic lookouts such as Balfour Monument attract visitors. - National Cycle Network Route 76 offers both on road and traffic free cycle routes, broadly adjacent to the River Tyne. The presence of the NCN Route 76 is recognised in the special qualities for the Traprain and Tyne Valley SLA (15). Refer to Figure B.6. - A network of core paths and public rights of way provide recreational access around Haddington and along the River Tyne, with connectivity elsewhere within the LCA more limited.	including residents and recreational receptors. Recreational receptors are found throughout the LCA, primarily concentrated within Haddington, along the River Tyne and at Traprain Law. Residential receptors are scattered throughout the LCA, with localised concentrations in the town of Haddington.	including residents and recreational receptors. Recreational receptors are found throughout the LCA, primarily concentrated within Haddington, along the River Tyne and at Traprain Law. Residential receptors are scattered throughout the LCA, with localised concentrations in the town of Haddington.	including residents and recreational receptors. Recreational receptors are found throughout the LCA, primarily concentrated within Haddington, along the River Tyne and at Traprain Law. Residential receptors are scattered throughout the LCA, with localised concentrations in the town of Haddington.
Visual amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)	- Small valleys along the watercourses locally create a strong sense of enclosure, due to views being more restricted by vegetation. In area of farmland, the rolling fields often restrict views, creating a greater sense of enclosure compared to the vast open views experienced from elevated locations such as Traprain Law and Balfour Monument. - Traprain Law, rising to elevations of 221m AOD is a highly prominent landmark feature visible from across the landscape. - From elevated locations, large clusters of wind turbines are visible in the Lammermuir Hills to the south, south-east and south-west. - Distant views out across the North Sea are available from elevated locations. In good weather conditions, the offshore wind turbines at Neart na Gaoithe Wind Farm are visible above the horizon. - From lower elevations, the rolling farmland across the plain limits opportunities for longer ranging views. The rolling landform can create elevated skylines when viewed from lower locations. Field boundary vegetation and shelterbelts further restrict views in places.	Medium-High Wind turbines may introduce vertical features into views towards the unique and highly prominent landmark of Traprain Law. Given the rolling nature of the landscape, turbines would likely form skyline features, particularly if sited at slightly higher elevations. Views of turbines may impact intervisibility between this LCA and the Lammermuir Hills in the south, or from elevated locations, impact intervisibility between this LCA and the coast. There is potential for smaller scale turbines (<50m) to be sited sensitively, although visibility would increase with taller turbines.	Medium Solar PV and BESS development would introduce man-made features into views which could impact both open and more contained views depending on development scale. Development over 5ha would likely be more visible, especially if sited across rolling hills which form visible slopes and elevated skylines. From elevated locations such as Traprain Law and Balfour Monument, development of any scale within the northern half of the LCA is likely to be visible. Developments less than 4.9ha may be able to be sited so as to maximise screening by vegetation and landform.	Medium-High Other large-scale development would introduce man-made features into views throughout the LCA. Given the massing, these developments are likely to be highly visible and impact both elevated and lower-lying horizons, with limited potential for effective mitigation screening.
Perceptual and scenic qualities	Strong scenic qualities associated with the juxtaposition of a lowland farmed landscape against a highly prominent volcanic hill (Traprain Law). This is recognised as a special quality in the Traprain and Tyne Valley SLA (15),	Medium-High Man-made features such as turbines may detract from the natural characteristics and	Medium-High Man-made features such as solar PV/BESS developments may detract from the natural	Medium-High Other large-scale development may detract from scenic qualities associated with the

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	which notes “<i>the law forms the focal point in the view set within a patchwork of arable fields</i>” [See reference 1]. ■ The naturalness of the River Tyne contributes to the sense of tranquillity experienced along the valley, with both the special qualities for the Traprain and Tyne Valley (15) and Clerkington and Tyne (21) SLAs noting the valley is “<i>an attractive, rural, peaceful area, teaming with wildlife.</i>”. ■ The contrast between the more natural characteristics of small wooded burns such as at Morham with the well managed surrounding arable land provides visual diversity and is recognised in the special qualities for the Morham SLA (25). ■ Perceptual characteristics are shaped by the varied topography of the area, including large-scale rolling farmland, and more intimate river valleys, and importantly, the rising mass of Traprain Law. In addition, the varying land cover, particularly between wooded valley and intensively farmed agricultural land, contributes to the diversity of the area. A diverse range of views include distant views out to sea and more contained views within rolling farmland and valleys.	scenic nature of the landscape, particularly when seen alongside Traprain Law, and elsewhere across the landscape where human influence is largely limited to farms. Introducing tall vertical features (e.g. turbines >100m) may reduce the apparent scale of the landscape features, notably Traprain Law, and detract from the rural feel of the area.	characteristics and scenic nature of the landscape, particularly if sited in proximity to Traprain Law or within more contained parts of the landscape, which have a greater perceived sense of naturalness. Potential for localised areas of lower sensitivity, near existing built up areas which are already highly characterised by contemporary development.	landscape. Such development located within an agricultural landscape may detract from the rural character. Likewise, siting on elevated and more visible slopes in the rolling farmland may detract from the rural character and tranquillity experienced in these areas. Potential for localised areas of lower sensitivity, near existing built up areas which are already highly characterised by contemporary development.

Overall landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

A.295 The area is characterised by rolling farmland which gradually drops in elevation from the south to north where it meets the River Tyne valley. The rolling farmland and field boundary vegetation locally contains views. The landscape becomes more open and undulating, with longer ranging views across farmland, near Traprain Law. Longer ranging views out towards the coast and North Sea are available from elevated locations such as Balfour Monument and Traprain Law. The iconic Traprain Law and smaller scale landform associated with river valleys would be sensitive to wind turbine development.

A.296 The area provides the foreground to views towards the Lammermuir Hills and the iconic Traprain Law which rises dramatically above the surrounding farmland. The introduction of turbines >50m within this LCA would result in turbines appearing in the foreground of views towards the Lammermuir Hills. From much of the LCA, the turbines visible in the Lammermuirs sit behind the ridgeline, with the lower parts of the towers and more distant turbines largely screened by the intervening hills. This helps reduce the apparent scale of these turbines with relation to the landform. Turbines in this LCA would bring this type of development closer to the lowlands, and in the foreground of views towards the ridgeline. This could result in the perceived scale of the Lammermuir Hills being reduced. Importantly, introducing turbines may interrupt views to and from Traprain Law, which forms the focus of views from much of the LCA.

A.297 Given the rolling nature of the landscape, turbines would likely be seen on elevated skylines and would introduce tall vertical features which may reduce the perceived scale of the landscape, particularly of features such as Traprain Law.

Table A.50: Sensitivity scores to wind energy development in the Lower Tyne Valley Plain LCA

Wind Energy Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score
Up to 49.9m tip height	Medium
50m to 99.9m tip height	Medium
100m to 149.9m tip height	Medium-High
150m to 199.9m tip height	High
Over 200m tip height	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.298 Areas which are more contained by surrounding rolling landform and with simpler land cover (e.g. agricultural land) may have localised lower sensitivity to smaller scale turbines (< 50m) due to potential for more contained views from the landform and field boundary vegetation. These turbines (<50m) would likely still be visible against the skyline in some views, and they would be visible from elevated locations within the LCA (e.g. Traprain, Balfour Monument) and from the Lammermuir Hills to the south. The smaller-scale and more naturalistic wooded valleys and the area containing the GDLs at Stevenson House and Lennoxlove are of higher sensitivity, as is the area immediately surrounding Traprain Law.

Cumulative effects

A.299 Currently, the small number of turbines within the area are associated with farms. Visibility of turbines offshore and in neighbouring LCAs, including a single turbine in the Whittingehame Water LCA, as well as clusters of turbines along the Lammermuir Hills, have some influence on the character of the LCA.

A.300 Introducing wind turbine development within the LCA would draw turbines further north out of the Lammermuir plateau where they are largely contained at present, particularly if turbines are in medium or large groups or of a scale greater than 100m to tip. This would result in a wider spread of turbines, and the appearance of turbines spilling out of the Lammermuir Hills into the surrounding lowlands.

A.301 Within this area, there are small number of single turbines or small clusters of turbines visible within the surrounding farmland. These are of a smaller scale (<50m to tip) and afforded more screening as the viewer moves through the area. However, there is potential for cumulative effects on landscape and visual receptors to arise if a greater number of single or small groups of turbines were to be introduced across the area. The introduction of wind turbines could contribute towards the increased perception of a landscape which has been modified by human activity and development.

Overall landscape sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development

A.302 The area is a tranquil, rural landscape with limited built development other than farmsteads scattered throughout the area. Solar PV/BESS could detract from views of the rolling farmland within the LCA, and from views to and from Traprain Law if sited within the surrounding farmland around this prominent hill. BESS would

be of greater massing in views, whilst solar PV would tend to occupy a larger spatial extent of views.

A.303 Solar PV/BESS development would introduce uncharacteristic built elements into the landscape, potentially detracting from the underlying character of the landform, particularly if sited further south where it tends to be more rolling. However, the rolling nature of the landform would help to screen development. Introducing this type of development into the flatter, more open land around Traprain Law could detract from the rural character experienced in this area. Siting solar PV/BESS developments (particularly >10-15ha) in the rolling farmland may result in masking of the underlying landform and field pattern.

Table A.51: Sensitivity scores to solar PV/BESS development in the Lower Tyne Valley Plain LCA

Solar PV/BESS Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score Solar PV	Sensitivity Score BESS
Small (up to 4.9ha for solar PV/BESS)	Medium	Medium
Medium (5-15ha for solar PV/5-9.9ha for BESS)	Medium	Medium
Large (15-50ha for solar PV/10-15ha for BESS)	Medium-High	Medium-High
Very large (more than 50ha for solar PV/more than 15ha for BESS)	High	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.304 Although the flatter landform and larger scale of the landscape north of Morham and the Balfour Monument indicates lower sensitivity, this area is important to the setting of Traprain Law, and the views experienced from within the LCA towards this prominent hill. Therefore, this area is of higher sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development. Localised areas which are afforded more screening by landform would be less sensitive to small-medium scale development. Likewise, well-screened areas on the settlement fringes of Haddington may be of locally reduced sensitivity and would help concentrate human influence in the area around the settlement.

Cumulative effects

A.305 Currently there are no existing solar PV or BESS developments within the LCA, and none proposed.

Overall landscape sensitivity to other large-scale development

A.306 The rolling landscape has a strong rural character with a lack of large-scale development. The introduction of large-scale development would likely physically affect the rolling landform and the more contained valleys along watercourses. Depending on the scale of development, landform and vegetation may provide some containment and screening. Areas with more sensitive landscape features, such as proximity to Traprain Law, will be more sensitive to development as the large massing in this location would interfere with views out across the landscape, including the highly valued views to and from Traprain Law. Similarly, the River Tyne valley or other smaller scale valleys will be more sensitive, with development affecting the sense of intimacy and enclosure experienced in these locations. Development of large massing in this location would interfere with views out across the landscape, including the highly valued views to and from Traprain Law.

Table A.52: Sensitivity scores to other large-scale development in the Lower Tyne Valley Plain LCA

Other Large-scale Development	Sensitivity Score
Other large-scale development	Medium-High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.307 Although the flatter landform and large scale of the landscape north of Morham and the Balfour Monument indicates lower sensitivity, this area is important to the setting of Traprain Law, and the views experienced from within the LCA towards this notable hill. Therefore, this area is of higher sensitivity to large-scale development which are of large massing and could interrupt views towards the hill and provide a scaling feature within an otherwise largely undeveloped landscape. Localised areas which are afforded more screening may be less sensitive to development. Likewise, well-screened areas on the settlement fringes of Haddington may be of locally reduced sensitivity and would help concentrate human influence in the area around the settlement. This would depend on the siting and scale of the development.

Cumulative effects

A.308 Currently there are no existing other large-scale developments within the LCA, and none are proposed.

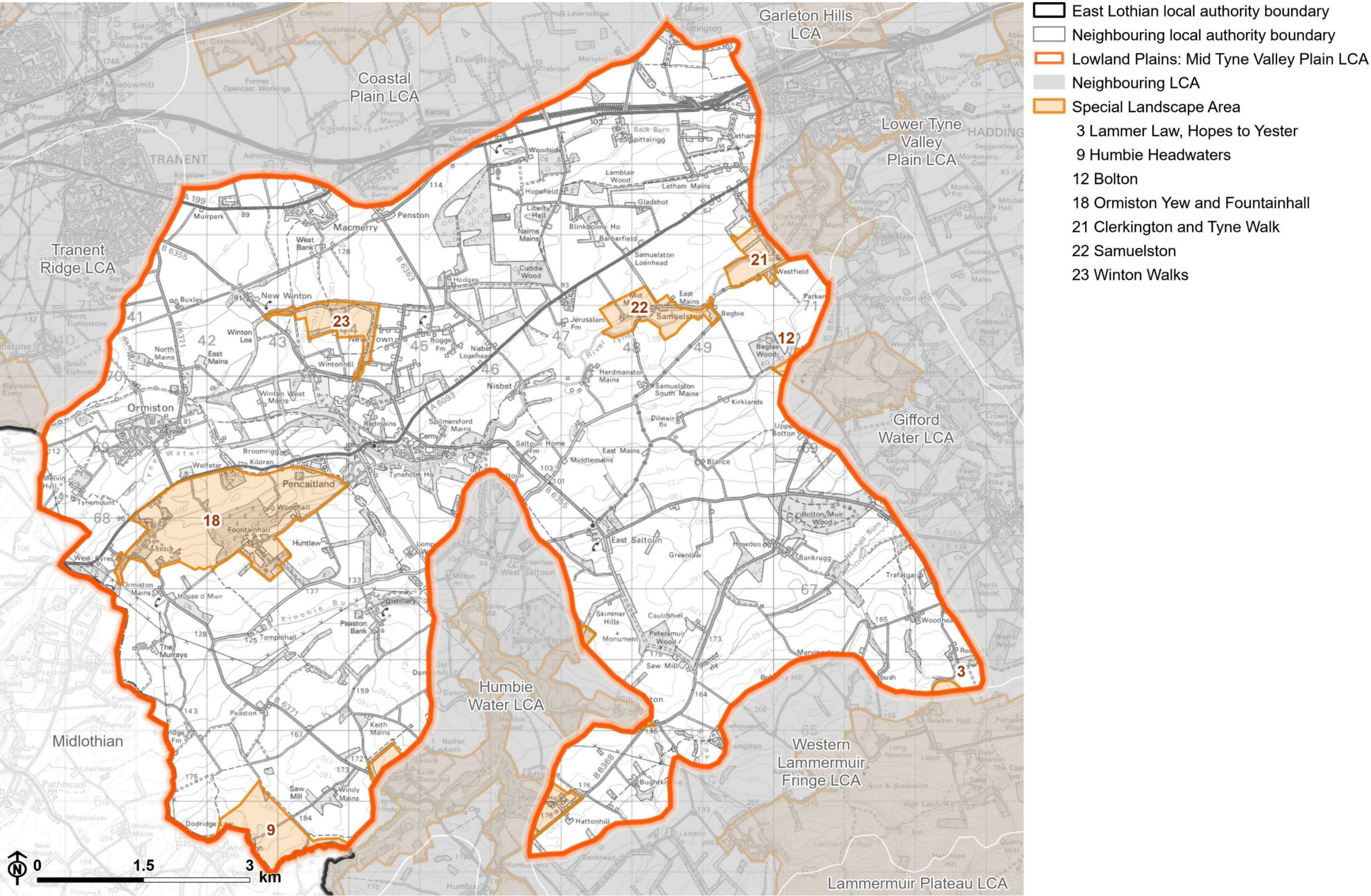
Siting and design guidance

A.309 Siting and design guidance specific to this LCA is set out below. This should be read in conjunction with LCA specific guidance set out in the Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Planning Guidance [See reference 1] and the higher level guidance for the relevant LCT provided in **Chapter 4**.

- Site development away from dramatic or rugged landforms or valued landform features, particularly the landmark Traprain Law which rises up above flatter agricultural land.
- Avoid siting development within or close to the more intimate landscapes around Stevenson House and Lennoxlove GDLs where it could locally impact the wooded policy character of these areas.
- Consider siting development in areas more contained by surrounding landform and vegetation, to maximise screening of views. For example, further south within the LCA away from the open agricultural plain around Traprain Law.
- Avoid development which would have significant effects on views from important viewpoints, notably from the summit of Traprain Law and the Balfour Monument.
- Consider siting development in well screened locations on the settlement edge of Haddington, to concentrate human influence in and around the built up area.

Mid Tyne Valley Plain LCA (Upland Fringe LCT)

Figure A.60: Contextual map of the LCA



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LCA landscape character overview

A.310 The Mid Tyne Valley Plain LCA is an extensive agricultural plain located in the Lowland Plain LCT, in the west of East Lothian. The LCA extends west of Haddington to the western administrative boundary with Midlothian, east of Pathhead. In the south, the LCA transitions into the fringes of the Lammermuir Hills, as shown on **Figure A.60**.

A.311 The key characteristics of this LCA which are of relevance to the LSA include:

- *“This extensive agricultural plain undulates gently in a series of east-west aligned ridges, rising gradually towards the fringes of the Lammermuir Hills. The River Tyne meanders through the area also in an east-west direction forming a visually insignificant valley.”*
- *“Broken clipped hedgerows, scattered hedgerow trees, numerous post and wire fences and occasional stone walls divide the land cover of large arable fields. An abundance of mixed small-scale shelterbelts and woodlands throughout the farmland strengthen the chequerboard field pattern.”*
- *“The main routes through the area the A199, A6093 and B6368 also follow an east-west direction.”*
- *“The remainder of the area is accessed by a network of minor roads and tracks with an extensive network of paths and cycle routes following the banks of the River Tyne, access tracks and old railway lines.”*
- *“There are several medium and small villages located across the area including Macmerry and the conservation villages of Pencaitland, New Winton, Ormiston, Glenkinchie and East Saltoun. Three of these conservation areas - East Saltoun, Pencaitland and New Winton – extend significantly into the surrounding rural landscape.”*
- *“The area does not contain much large infrastructure or industry apart from the large structures of the malting at Pencaitland and Glenkinchie Distillery – an important tourist attraction.”*
- *“There are several pylon lines towards the western edge of the area that are highly visually intrusive.”*
- *“There are several generally smaller sized wind turbines dotted across the area that have been sited to fit with the scale of the landscape.”*
- *“Views can be wide-reaching and spectacular from higher ground... However views in the lower areas are more enclosed by the rolling valley form and woodland landscape.” [See reference 1]*

Designated landscapes

A.312 Seven SLAs lie within or partly within the LCA, covering less than a quarter of the LCA (as shown in **Figure A.60**):

- Ormiston Yew and Fountainhall (18);
- Samuelston (22);
- Winton Walks (23);
- The Humbie Headwaters (9);
- Bolton (12);
- Clerkington and Tyne Walk (21); and
- Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester (3).

A.313 The Humbie Headwaters (9), Bolton (12), Clerkington and Tyne Walk (21), and Lammer Law, Hopes to Yester (3) SLAs cover small areas, extending into the Mid Tyne Valley Plain LCA from adjacent LCAs where they are primarily located. The reasons for designation are set out in the East Lothian Special Landscape Area Supplementary Planning Guidance [\[See reference 1\]](#).

A.314 The LCA's western boundary is also adjacent to two SLAs in Midlothian: the Tyne Valley SLA and the Fala Rolling Farmland and Policies SLA.

A.315 There are also several GDLs including Winton Castle GDL, Pilmuir GDL and Saltoun Hall GDLs. Thirteen local GDLs sit within or partly within the LCA (see **Figure B.5**).

Existing renewable energy development and other large-scale development

A.316 There are four existing three-bladed turbines in the LCA: Samuelston South Mains (34.4m blade tip height), Samuelston East Mains (35.5m blade tip height), Nisbet Farm (34.4m blade tip height), and Templehall (42.0m blade tip height). There is one two-bladed single turbine: Howden Farm Turbine, Gifford (48.2m blade tip height). There are no other operational or under construction wind farms, solar PV/BESS or other large-scale development in the LCA.

Figure A.61: Open, expansive, southern views across arable fields towards the Lammermuir Hills



Figure A.62: The undulating agricultural plain is partially screened by a shelterbelt in views north from East Salton to the Garleton Hills



Figure A.63: Multiple overhead lines give the skyline a more developed perception in views west from the B6371



Figure A.64: A domestic turbine near Samuelston appears large in scale against the human-scale features of the landscape such as shelterbelts and small farm buildings



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

A.317 The following table sets out an assessment of sensitivity of the LCA in relation to each of the criteria set out in **Chapter 2**.

Table A.53: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for the Mid Tyne Valley Plain LCA

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Landform and scale	■ An extensive, gently undulating agricultural plain with a series of east-west ridges that rises gradually south towards the Lammermuir Hills. ■ The meandering Tyne River cuts through the landscape from east-west. While its valley is visually insignificant, its wide spreading nature is recognised as a SLQ in the Clerkington and Tyne Walk SLA (21). The landform is generally large in scale and open, with its openness being recognised as a SLQ in the Samuelston SLA (22) [See reference 1]. ■ Some deeper valleys are associated with burns in the LCA, including Belsis Burn, which is recognised in the Ormiston Yew and Fountainhall SLA (18) and the Clerkington and Tyne Walk SLA (21) as a SLQ [See reference 1].	Medium The large scale of the landform reduces sensitivity to wind energy development. However, the ridges particularly towards the south of the LCA would be more sensitive to the introduction of wind energy development due to increased visibility.	Medium-Low The gently undulating landform is less sensitive to solar PV/BESS as screening would likely be more effective in this lower-lying landscape. Deeper valleys associated with burns would be more sensitive to development.	Medium-Low The gently undulating landform and lack of vertical landform features would cause the scale of development to be less easily perceived. Deeper valleys associated with burns would be more sensitive to development.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	■ The landcover is primarily arable fields that vary in size and shape, ranging between approximately 4 to 30ha. The fields are recognised as an SLQ in the Clerkington Tyne Walk SLA and in the Samuelston SLA (22), which both note that “<i>arable fields set around the shallow valley of the River Tyne is typical of the Mid Tyne Plain</i>” [See reference 1]. ■ There are numerous shelter belts and small woodlands throughout the LCA that provide a localised sense of enclosure. The Winton Walks SLA (23) recognises them as an SLQ: “<i>Woodland strips providing shelter between fields are a typical feature of the core of the agricultural Mid Tyne Plain, with those [in the SLA] being particularly wide and extensive</i>”. They are also recognised in the Clerkington and Tyne Walk SLA (21): “<i>The river is defined by arable fields surrounded by long-established mixed-species shelter belts</i>” [See reference 1]. ■ In addition to shelterbelts, fields are divided by post and wire fencing and occasionally dry stone dykes. ■ Riparian woodland is also characteristic of the LCA, with the Clerkington and Tyne Walk SLA (21) noting, “<i>The [Tyne] river itself has a wide native tree-lined riparian zone along much of its length</i>” [See reference 1]. ■ Larger plantation woodlands are located at Cuddie Wood and Butterdean Wood in the north, Fountainhall in the west, and Bolton Muir Wood in the east.	High Frequent human-scale features resulting from woodlands and historic settlements contribute to higher sensitivity as wind turbines of any scale may overwhelm landscape features.	Medium-High Frequent human-scale features contribute to the perception of a smaller scale landscape, though shelterbelts and woodland may provide screening opportunities. Scales of solar PV/BESS up to 15ha would also be able to fit within the existing field pattern. Larger developments may extend across several fields, masking the underlying field pattern. Development less than 4.9ha, if sited in very large scale fields, could be seen to fragment the large-scale field pattern.	Medium-High The irregular field pattern would be more sensitive to the introduction of bulky developments, which could compromise landscape features and extend across multiple fields.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	- There are a number of small settlements in the LCA, including the conservation villages of Pencaitland, New Winton, Ormiston, Glenkinchie and East Saltoun. The north-east of the LCA also borders the town of Haddington. The Samuelston SLA (22) recognises the character of settlements, noting “<i>the well-maintained, traditional, small-scale buildings... are typical of the vernacular of the Mid Tyne Plain and agricultural East Lothian in general. New development has successfully retained the character of the older buildings</i>” [See reference 1]. - The Pencaitland Maltings Plant is a large-scale development that is associated with nearby barley fields, which are a special quality of the Ormiston Yew and Fountainhall SLA (18) [See reference 1].			
Historic landscape character	- There are a large number of elements in the landscape that contribute to its strong historic character. This includes GDLs and conservation areas with associated listed buildings, scheduled monuments and a battlefield inventory (see Figure B.5). - Scheduled monuments found throughout the LCA add to the sense of time depth and include forts, prehistoric settlements, and enclosures. The Ormiston Yew and Fountainhall SLA (18) recognises that “<i>the listed stone road bridge joining the settlement on either side of the Tyne is an attractive focal point</i>” [See reference 1]. - Several GDLs within the landscape contribute to parkland and wooded character, including Saltoun Hall GDL, Yester House GDL and Winston Castle GDL. The 17th century Pilmuir GDL is valued for its walled garden, improvement field system and category A listed laird’s house. - In the west, the Winton Castle GDL – with its gardens, parkland and woodland – overlaps with the extensive Pencaitland Conservation Area. The Conservation Area recognises the treed setting and open landscape as well as the traditional buildings within the village. - Additionally, there are thirteen local GDLs within or partially within the LCA, which contribute historic value to the area and often contain listed buildings and scheduled monuments. - Four Conservation Areas are found in the LCA, including at Ormiston, New Winton, East Saltoun and Glenkinchie, which all contribute to the historic character of the area. - The Ormiston Yew and Fountainhall SLA (18) also notes the ancient Ormiston Yew tree, which sits within the Ormiston Hall local GDL, as a special quality:	High The area has a large number of historic features that contribute to its varied time depth.	High The area has a large number of historic features that contribute to its varied time depth.	High The area has a large number of historic features that contribute to its varied time depth.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	“[The Yew] <i>one of few examples of layering yews known in Scotland and is purported to be as much as one thousand years old</i>” [See reference 1]. - While many listed buildings are associated with designated areas, additional listed buildings are found throughout the landscape. This includes “<i>Fountainhall (formerly Penkaet Castle) [which] is a Category A listed early to mid-17th century Lairds House... [with a] woodland setting and ruinous buildings</i>” and is a special quality of the Ormiston Yew and Fountainhall SLA (18), Winton Walks SLA (23) and is a local GDL [See reference 1]. - The Humbie Headwaters SLA (9) lists Humbie House as an SLQ in the LCA: “<i>Humbie House with its smaller scale landscape and listed former sawmill, still has a historic layout with the sheltered gardens, orchards and smaller areas of parkland and parkland trees surrounded by the extensive woodlands of Humbie Wood</i>” [See reference 1]. - The Battlefield Inventory Boundary for the Battle of Prestonpans extend into the north-west of the LCA, north of the A199.			
Visual receptors	- The LCA is popular for recreation, with the Pencaitland Railway Path, numerous core paths that connect to local path networks and the National Cycle Network crossing east to west. Paths along the Tyne Valley also connect GDLs (see Figure B.6). The value of access in the LCA is recognised in the Samuelston SLA (22) and the Clerkington and Tyne Walk SLA [See reference 1]. - The Pencaitland Railway Path is recognised in both the Clerkington and Tyne Walk SLA (21) and the Ormiston Yew and Fountainhall SLA (18), each noting that “<i>views from the [Pencaitland railway] path are good both westwards to the Pentlands and south to the Lammermuirs</i>” [See reference 1]. - Woodlands are valuable to recreation, as noted in the Winton Walks SLA (23), “<i>the woodlands provide an attractive setting for recreation, laid out and way-marked by the Winton Estate as part of a pleasant network of walking, cycling and horse-riding routes</i>” [See reference 1]. - The villages of Pencaitland, New Winton, Ormiston, Glenkinchie and East Saltoun sit within conservation areas, which reference their setting in the landscape and views to it as a key feature of their designations (see Figure B.5). - Glenkinchie Distillery at Pencaitland is a popular tourist attraction.	High The number of villages and popular core paths contribute to a high concentration of visual receptors whose attention may be on the landscape.	High The number of villages and popular core paths contribute to a high concentration of visual receptors whose attention may be on the landscape.	High The number of villages and popular core paths contribute to a high concentration of visual receptors whose attention may be on the landscape.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Visual amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)	■ Skylines in the landscape generally lack overt human influence, with frequent long-distance views across fields both towards the Lammermuir Hills in the south and the Coastal Plain and Garleton Hills LCAs, with some views to the Firth of Forth, in the north. These views are a SLQ of the Clerkington and Tyne Walk SLA (21), with the arable fields and shelterbelts “[providing] a feeling of history and enclosure whilst allowing long distance views south and west across the arable fields of the spreading mid-Tyne plain out to the Lammermuir Hills to the south” [See reference 1]. ■ At the western boundary of the LCA, two overhead lines contribute to a more developed character and cluttered skyline, with one overhead line extending to the east of the LCA. ■ Large structures associated with the malting at Pencaitland and Glenkinchie Distillery are visible in surrounding landscape. ■ The Ormiston Yew and Fountainhall SLA (18) recognises views as a SLQ: “There are panoramic views from the A6093 looking south. There are also good views of the inventory Winton House Garden and Designed Landscape from this point. From the western end of the track along the southern boundary of the area there are fine views across into Midlothian, as well as northwards over the SLA and beyond.” [See reference 1]. ■ Winton Walks SLA (23) also considers views to be a SLQ: “the raised elevation on the brow of the hill enables stunning wide-ranging views across and out of East Lothian” [See reference 1].	Medium-High Long distance views north and south would be highly impacted by wind energy development. The frequency of these views would result in wind energy being highly visible on the skyline throughout the LCA. Visibility would increase with taller turbines.	Medium Long distance views across arable fields are a common feature of the LCA that would be impacted by solar PV/BESS development. At smaller scales, solar PV/BESS may have less of an impact where it can fit within existing field and shelterbelt patterns for screening. At scales of development greater than 15ha), the need for new planting for screening would be more likely to impact existing views.	Medium-High As with solar PV/BESS, screening would likely impact existing views. Additionally, the height of other large-scale developments may contribute to a more developed skyline in views from elevated points in the LCA.
Perceptual and scenic qualities	■ The Tyne Valley is valued for its scenic qualities and contributes to a sense of tranquillity in the LCA. This is recognised in multiple SLAs, with the Clerkington and Tyne Walk SLA (21) noting it as an “attractive, rural, peaceful area, teaming with wildlife”. The Samuelston SLA (22) also values the River Tyne as “a central feature of this area, as a scenic water body providing sound and movement, as well as a home for wildlife” [See reference 1]. ■ The extensive areas of undulating farmland contribute to the tranquil and rural perception of this landscape. This is reinforced by the historic architecture found throughout the LCA and the abundant shelterbelts. The contrast of this character in the wider context of East Lothian is recognised in the Winton Walks SLA (23): “General lack of built development gives the area a ‘countryside’ character in an area relatively close to large areas of population and built development” [See reference 1].	Medium-High Wind energy development would detract from the peaceful, rural perception of the LCA, though smaller scales (<49.9m tip height) would be less disruptive where they could be associated with existing infrastructure.	Medium-High Human activity is evident throughout the landscape, however the LCA retains a rural perception that is reinforced by conservation area villages and the scenic Tyne River Valley. The river valley contrasts with surrounding areas of built development and higher population, which would be reduced by the introduction of solar PV/BESS, particularly at larger spatial scales that would	Medium-High Other large-scale development would detract from the rural and peaceful character of the LCA, which benefits from its lack of development, particularly around water courses. Large-scale development would contribute to a more modern and built perception of the landscape.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
			have a stronger influence on landcover.	

Overall landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

A.318 The LCA’s gently undulating landform is less sensitive to development. The number of human-scale features however, including trees and buildings associated with historic settlements, could result in wind energy impacting the landscape, particularly at larger scales.

A.319 The LCA has a strong historic character resulting from Conservation areas, GDLs, and scheduled monuments found throughout the landscape. The introduction of wind energy development could detract from the historic character and its contrast to more developed neighbouring LCAs.

A.320 Wind energy development could also detract from the experience of visual receptors in the landscape, including users of core paths and cycle routes that are valued qualities in the LCA. This further increases sensitivity to development.

A.321 Skylines are generally undeveloped, with the landscape benefiting from long distance views across the area. This contributes to the tranquil and rural perception of the LCA. Wind energy developments could be disruptive to the perception of the landscape.

Table A.54: Sensitivity scores to wind energy development in the Mid Tyne Valley Plain LCA

Wind Energy Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score
Up to 49.9m tip height	Medium
50m to 99.9m tip height	Medium
100m to 149.9m tip height	Medium-High
150m to 199.9m tip height	High
Over 200m tip height	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.322 Visual receptors will be greater in the north-west and north-east where the LCA borders the settlements of Tranent and Haddington. This would result in sensitivity being high to all scales of development.

A.323 The presence of existing development, such as the overhead lines in the west, may locally reduce sensitivity. However, this would depend on the siting and scale of development, and the potential for visual confusion to be avoided.

Cumulative effects

A.324 Overhead lines in the west of the landscape on the boundary with Midlothian create a more developed perception of the skyline. Concentrating wind turbines in this area may result in greater cumulative visual effects locally. However, wind energy development in other areas of the landscape would increase the spatial spread of cumulative effects. The movement of turbines seen alongside static overhead lines may also result in visual confusion.

Overall landscape sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development

A.325 The gently undulating landform’s sensitivity is increased by frequent human-scale features, including woodlands and historic settlements. The irregular field pattern also increases sensitivity to the typically linear pattern of solar PV/BESS. However, up to 15ha may be able to fit within the existing field pattern and benefit from screening from existing woodland and shelterbelts.

A.326 The modern character of solar PV/BESS would contrast with the historic nature of the landscape and its traditional, tranquil character, particularly at larger scales where it may extend across multiple fields. This may also impact longer distance views across fields, which are frequently accessed from roads and paths. Views would be less impacted by smaller scales of solar PV/BESS, where screening could be less intrusive on existing views.

Table A.55: Sensitivity scores to solar PV/BESS development in the Mid Tyne Valley Plain LCA

Solar PV/BESS Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score Solar PV	Sensitivity Score BESS
Small (up to 4.9ha)	Medium	Medium
Medium (5-15ha for solar PV/5-9.9ha for BESS)	Medium	Medium
Large (15-50ha for solar PV/10-15ha for BESS)	Medium-High	Medium-High
Very large (more than 50ha for solar PV/more than 15ha for BESS)	High	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.327 In the south-east, where the LCA borders with the Western Lammermuir Fringe LCA, the landform has a north facing slope that is visible throughout much of the area. Solar PV/BESS is likely to be highly visible on this slope, resulting in a high sensitivity to all scales of development. The presence of existing development, such as the overhead lines in the west, may locally reduce sensitivity. However, this would depend on the siting and scale of development.

Cumulative effects

A.328 Where the perception of the LCA is already impacted by OHLs in the west, solar PV/BESS may further contribute to the developed perception of the landscape. Opportunities to maximise screening and reduce visual confusion should be considered.

Overall landscape sensitivity to other large-scale development

A.329 The open, gently undulating landform’s sensitivity to development is increased by its irregular field pattern and human-scale references. The historic character of the area, resulting from numerous historic features that add a strong variation of time depth, increases sensitivity as a result of the modern perception of large-scale developments.

A.330 Visual receptors including in settlements, at tourist attractions, and along path networks further increase sensitivity, as does the traditional perception of the landscape and its long-distance views. However, there are areas of existing development, including overhead lines and sand and gravel extraction sites.

Table A.56: Sensitivity scores to other large-scale development in the Mid Tyne Valley Plain LCA

Other Large-scale Development	Sensitivity Score
Other large-scale development	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.331 The LCA would be of high sensitivity to other large-scale development on its south-eastern slopes due to the increased visibility and impact on the often-wooded skyline that generally lacks overt human influence.

A.332 The LCA would also be of high sensitivity to other large-scale development immediately surrounding the existing conservation villages, which benefit from their relationship to the surrounding landscape. Other large-scale developments would detract from their historic character by adding modern influence.

A.333 The presence of existing development, such as the overhead lines in the west, may locally reduce sensitivity. However, this would depend on the siting and scale of the development.

Cumulative effects

A.334 Where the landscape is already influenced by overhead lines in the west, other large-scale development would have the potential to cause greater cumulative visual effects by adding further development. The bulkier massing of the development in contrast with the overhead line may also result in visual confusion.

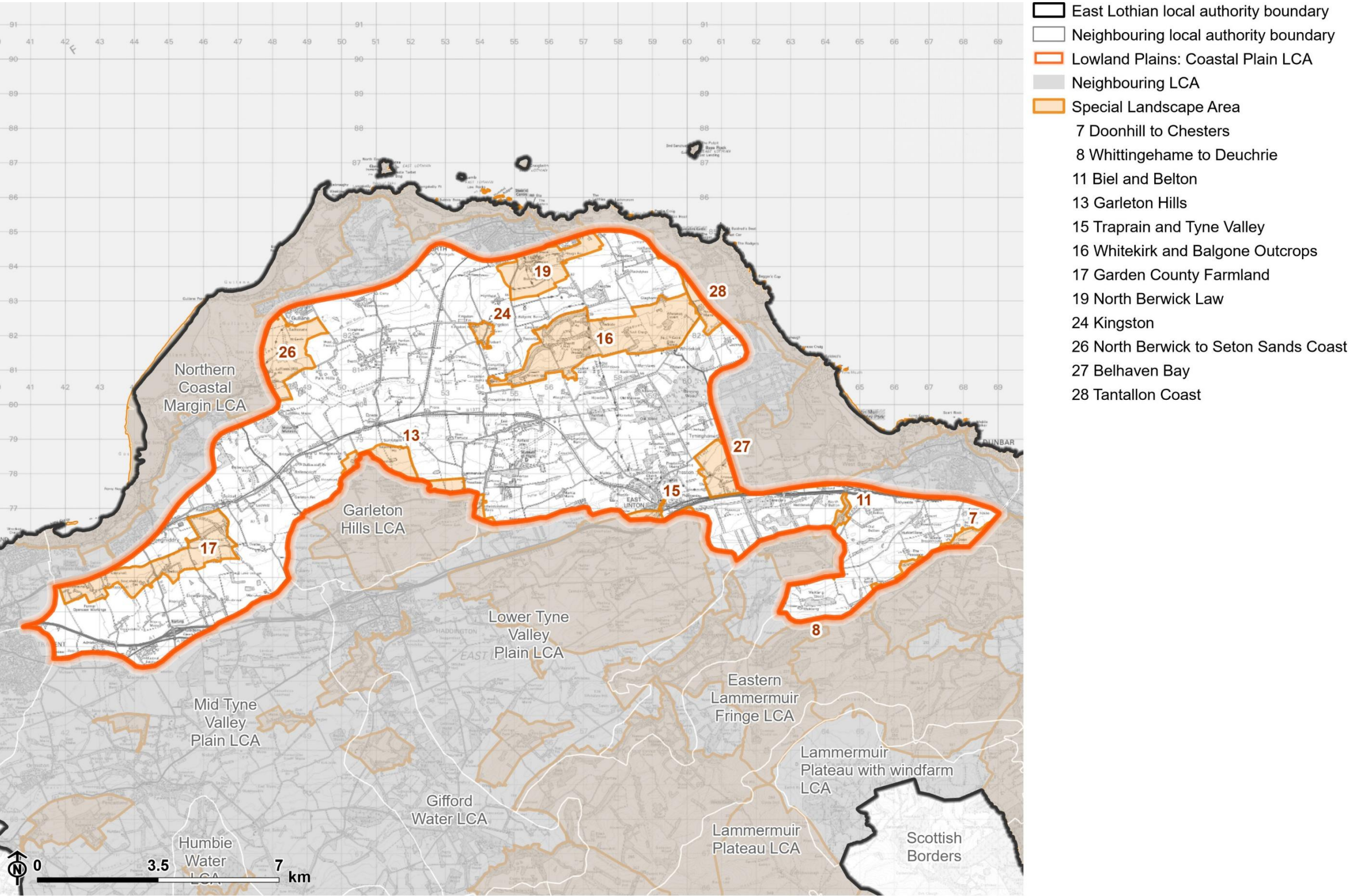
Siting and design guidance

A.335 Siting and design guidance specific to this LCA is set out below. This should be read in conjunction with LCA specific guidance set out in the Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Planning Guidance [See reference 1] and the higher level guidance for the relevant LCT provided in **Chapter 4**.

- Avoid siting development on the highly visible slopes in the south as they ascend towards the Lammermuir fringe. Development here would be more visible across large parts of the landscape.
- Consider siting development closer to existing infrastructure which locally reduces sensitivity, such as the overhead lines in the west, being careful not to cause visual confusion.
- Site development in locations which protect the landscape character of Conservation Areas (including views integral to their character) notably the New Winton, Ormiston, East Saltoun, and Pencaitland Conservation Areas.

Coastal Plain LCA (Lowland Plains LCT)

Figure A.65: Contextual map of the LCA



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LCA landscape character overview

A.336 The Coastal Plain LCA is located within the Lowland Plain LCT, in the northern extents of East Lothian local authority area. The LCA covers the coastal farmed plain between Dunbar in the east and Tranent in the west. It forms the transition from the coastal margin in the north to the River Tyne valley plain in the south, as shown on **Figure A.65**.

A.337 The key characteristics of this LCA of relevance to the LSA include:

- *“Extensive coastal plain [...] [with a] subdued topography.”*
- *“Prominent views of distinctive igneous outcrops. Such as North Berwick Law, Kingston Hill, Balgone, and Rockville Heughs.”*
- *“The plain is virtually flat immediately inland of the coast, becoming gently undulating further south.”*
- *“The only river to run through the plain is the lower end of the Tyne [...]. The few burns which flow across the plain have generally been straightened and incorporated into the field pattern.”*
- *“Dominant arable land cover, with distinctive large scale field pattern. [...] The fields are bounded by clipped hedgerows and occasional stone walls and fences with occasional hedgerow trees.”*
- *“The historic village of East Linton can be found in the southeast corner of the area... There are a couple of other small villages within the area at Drem and Whitekirk whose conservation areas extend significantly into the surrounding rural landscape providing a wide setting for the villages.”*
- *“The area also contains a large scattering of farmsteads and small clusters of houses and larger mansion houses.”*
- *“The area has a number of designed landscapes and associated policy woodlands including Balgone House, Leuchie House and Elvingston. [...] The area also contains a large scattering of farmsteads and small clusters of houses and larger mansion houses.”*
- *“There is a comprehensive minor road network through the area [...]. The main east coast rail line passes across the southern part of this area [...]. A rail link runs across the area north to south linking North Berwick to Edinburgh.”*
- *“There is little heavy industry within the area. A number of large barns and sheds exist at Fenton Barns. [...] A number of wind turbines have been constructed in the area.”*

- *“This is an attractive landscape of large expanses of crops.”*
- *“Extensive views. [...] Long range views are common to most of the area both across the sea as well as inland to the Lammermuir Hills to the south, emphasising the open, level nature of the coastal plain.” [See reference 1]*

Designated landscapes

A.338 There are several SLAs within or partially within the LCA as shown on **Figure A.65**. Garden County Farmland SLA (17) is located within the western extents of the LCA. The North Berwick to Seton Sands Coast SLA (26), North Berwick Law SLA (19), Whitekirk and Balgone Outcrops SLA (16), Tantallon Coast SLA (28), and Kingston SLA (24) are located to in the north of the LCA. In the southern extents are Garleton Hills SLA (13), Belhaven Bay SLA (27), Biel and Belton SLA (11), Traprain and Tyne Valley SLA (15), and Doonhill to Chesters SLA (7). Only small areas of the latter two are within the LCA. The reasons for designation are set out in the East Lothian Special Landscape Area Supplementary Planning Guidance [See reference 1].

A.339 Four GDLs are located within the LCA: Leuchie, Balgone House, Gosford House, and Tynninghame. These are noted for their formal landscapes dating back to the 18th and 19th centuries. There are an additional 26 local GDLs within or partially within the LCA.

Existing renewable energy and other large-scale development

A.340 There are no operational solar PV developments in the LCA; although, planning permission has been granted for solar panels at Dunbar Waste Water Treatment Works. A planning application has been submitted for solar panels at Smeaton Nursery Garden. Both are within the eastern extents of the LCA.

A.341 There is one small scale BESS development under consultation in the LCA. The Pitcox BESS development would be approximately 1.4ha and located north of Pitcox.

A.342 There are a number of domestic, small-scale turbines in the LCA: two turbines at Blackdykes Farm (21.9m tip height), one turbine at Waughton (34m tip height), three turbines at Dirleton (21m tip height), one turbine at Hoprig (24.9m tip height), two turbines at Luffness Mains (24.8m tip height), two turbines at East Fenton (21.0m tip height), two turbines at Castlemains Farm (21.0m tip height), one turbine at Ferrygate Farm (24.4m tip height), two turbines at Blackdykes (22.0m tip height), two turbines at Muirton farm (24.8m tip height), two turbines at Byres Garleton (24.8m tip

height) and one turbine at East Fortune (24.0m tip height). There is one medium-scale turbine in the LCA at J Haig Hamilton and Sons Potato Factory (67m tip height).

Figure A.66: Long distance views at elevation near Hurkletillane in the east look over the plain towards the Firth of Forth, with North Berwick Law distinctive on the horizon



Figure A.67: View from near B1345, north of Drem, overlooking arable fields towards the wooded Kilduff Hill and Hopetoun Monument



Figure A.68: View across open fields, south of Longniddry, with distant views to Arthur's Seat and the Pentland Hills beyond local woodland cover



Figure A.5: Panoramic view from North Berwick Law towards distant Lammermuir Hills and coastline



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

A.343 The following table sets out an assessment of sensitivity of the LCA in relation to each of the criteria set out in Chapter 2.

Table A.57: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for the Coastal Plain LCA

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Landform and scale	■ A large-scale, gently undulating arable plain with occasional volcanic outcrops forming local landmarks, the most prominent being North Berwick Law. ■ Volcanic outcrops are important to SLAs in the LCA. A “<i>raised large rocky volcanic outcrop</i>” creates the setting of Kingston. The Whitekirk and Balgone Outcrops SLA (16) also benefits from “<i>the numerous volcanic outcrop features</i>”. North Berwick Law is the focal point of the North Berwick Law SLA (19). The Law “<i>is a distinctive landmark feature over much of the coastal plain as well being visible across the Firth of Forth in Fife and the Lammermuir Hills to the south. The Law [...] contributes greatly to North Berwick’s sense of place</i>” [See reference 1]. ■ The Garden Country Farmland SLA (17) recognises the “<i>gently undulating, broad scale landscape</i>” in the west of the LCA. In the east, “<i>the large agricultural fields of the area undulate down towards the flat bottom of the Tyne valley showing the effect of a previous sea level</i>” and is a special landscape quality of the Belhaven Bay SLA (27) [See reference 1]. ■ Beyond the Tyne River, there are limited watercourses in the LCA, with most burns having been straightened and incorporated into the field pattern. ■ A number of landforms are important to the Whitekirk and Balgone Outcrops SLA (16), including “<i>the linear, basalt outcrops of the Heughs [hills, which]... rise dramatically from the surrounding relatively flat land... and [create] a significant landscape feature</i>”. The SLA also values the area’s channelised watercourse and “<i>knobby land around Waughton Crossroads</i>” [See reference 1].	Medium The large-scale, gently undulating nature of the landform reduces its sensitivity to wind energy development. However, volcanic outcrops are a valued feature of the landform. Wind turbines, particularly of larger scales (>100m tip height), may appear out of scale with the outcrops and detract from their prominence in the landscape. The landform would be less sensitive to scales of wind energy development less than 99.9m tip height. Sensitivity would be lowest to small scale development (<49.9m tip height), which could be sensitively sited away from valued landform features.	Medium-Low The large-scale, gently undulating landform reduces sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development as screening would likely be effective within the arable plain. The LCA contains a number of distinctive landform features though, which may be masked by development. Development less than 15ha could be sited to avoid sensitive features.	Medium The gently undulating plain of the landform would be less sensitive to other large-scale development due to there being fewer features to provide scale reference. However, the prominent volcanic outcrops would increase sensitivity to development as its scale would be more easily perceived.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	■ A predominantly high quality, agricultural landscape that has divided into a pattern of large fields. ■ Some areas have retained a historic field pattern, including in the Kingston SLA (24) which “<i>has... a traditional field pattern with small scale fields enclosed by stone walls</i>”. In the Whitekirk and Balgone Outcrops SLA (16), “<i>much of the agricultural field pattern still follows 19th century and in places</i>	Medium-High The generally large fields of the LCA reduce its sensitivity to wind energy development. Sensitivity is increased by the LCA’s traditional character, resulting from its agricultural landcover with areas of historic	Medium The mix of large-scale and small-scale fields with traditional enclosure result in a medium sensitivity to solar PV/BESS. Scales of development should align with the scales of fields to avoid masking field pattern by	Medium-High Larger scale fields reduce sensitivity to other large-scale development. However, areas of historic field pattern will be less accommodating and may result in other large-scale development appearing out of

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	<i>medieval field boundaries, giving fields which are relatively small scale</i>” [See reference 1]. - Field boundaries defined by clipped hedgerows and occasional stone walls, fences, and hedgerow trees. - Occasional woodland blocks and shelterbelts, some of which is ancient and associated with historic field patterns or the policy woodlands of GDLs. These woodland blocks and shelterbelts along with tree lined avenues make up the special qualities of the Garden County Farmland SLA. In the north-east, the Tantallon Coast SLA (28) recognises “<i>New Mains Farm... [as] a good example of old farm buildings sheltered by mature trees which give diversity to the landscape</i>” [See reference 1]. - Mature trees are also important to the Whitekirk and Balgone Outcrops SLA (16), the Kingston SLA, and the Garden County Farmland SLA, where they add “<i>interest and shelter to the area</i>” [See reference 1]. - The landcover in the Kingston SLA (24) is valued for its “<i>contrast [between the landform and] the surrounding arable land with its dramatic gorse covered slopes and rough land and scrubby trees with cottages</i>” [See reference 1]. - In the east, “<i>the Biel water runs through a deeply incised wooded valley highly typical of many of the river valleys through East Lothian</i>” [See reference 1]. - The historic village of East Linton is located in the east with smaller villages found at Drem and Whitekirk. Other residential settlement is associate with farmsteads scattered throughout the area. - In the west near Prestonpans and Tranent, former opencast workings and an industrial estate contribute to a locally more developed character, as do large barns and sheds associated with Fenton Barns in the north. - A number of transportation corridors, including multiple rail lines and the A1 cross through the LCA.	field pattern and frequent human-scale features from shelterbelts, woodlands and farmsteads. Wind turbines up to 99.9m may be less intrusive where they could be associated with existing development, such as farm buildings.	placing large scale development over multiple smaller fields or fragmenting large fields by placing small scale development within them. The limited urban influence of the LCA increases its sensitivity to new landcover. However, existing vegetation may provide screening opportunities for development.	scale with landscape features. Human-scale features, such as shelterbelts and woodlands, will also increase sensitivity to the scale of development, however such features may be able to provide some screening.
Historic landscape character	- Estate houses and policy woodlands contribute to the historic character of the LCA. - There are several Conservation Areas in the LCA: Drem, Gullane, Whitekirk, Athelstaneford, East Linton, and Tynninghame. The Conservation Areas of Drem and Whitekirk “<i>extend significantly into the surrounding rural landscape providing a wide setting for the villages.</i>” [See reference 1]. - The Tynninghame, Balgone House, Leuchie, Gosford House GDLs contribute to the historic character of the LCA. The Balgone House GDL is valued for its	High There is a high density of historic features, including multiple GDLs and Conservation Areas that benefit from their relationship with the landscape, increasing sensitivity to development.	High There is a high density of historic features, including multiple GDLs and Conservation Areas that benefit from their relationship with the landscape, increasing sensitivity to development.	High There is a high density of historic features, including multiple GDLs and Conservation Areas that benefit from their relationship with the landscape, increasing sensitivity to development.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	mixed woodland, wetland and how “<i>the natural attractive landform has been added to by design</i>” [See reference 1]. ■ The Kingston SLA (24) lists a number of historic features in its special landscape qualities, including the scheduled Kingston Hill cemetery, listed buildings such as Fenton Tower, and traditional cottages [See reference 1]. ■ Three Battlefield Inventory Boundaries extend into the western and eastern boundaries of the LCA, including Battle of Prestonpans, Battle of Dunbar I, and Battle of Dunbar II (see Figure B.5). ■ There is a significant number of scheduled monuments found throughout the area, including North Berwick Law, Drylawhill, the East Fortune airfield, prehistoric enclosures, prehistoric forts, and prehistoric settlements (see Figure B.5). ■ There are 26 local GDLs that often contain multiple listed buildings (see Figure B.5).			
Visual receptors	■ The high recreational value of North Berwick Law, with its panoramic views, is one of the special landscape qualities of the North Berwick Law SLA (19) [See reference 1]. ■ There are several core paths and rights of way across the LCA as well as the NCN route 76, which passes through the southern extents (see Figure B.6). “<i>The Longniddry railway path [which] provides active travel access and recreational value</i>” is one of the special qualities of the Garden County Farmland SLA (17) [See reference 1]. ■ The John Muir Way crosses the LCA north to south in the east, connecting with the Northern Coast LCA and extends through a smaller area in the north-west near to Gullane. Within the LCA, it connects the North Berwick to Seton Sands Coast SLA (26), North Berwick Law SLA (19), Whitekirk and Balgone Outcrops SLA (16), and Belhaven Bay SLA (27). The North Berwick SLA recognises how it contributes to the area’s status as a “<i>valuable recreational resource both to local people and visitors from further afield</i>” [See reference 1]. ■ Transit corridors, including the A198 and the East Coast Main Line and North Berwick Line rail lines, increase the number of visual receptors (see Figure B.6).	Medium-High While settlement is limited, core paths, the John Muir Way, the NCN and transit corridors increase the number of visual receptors of the area whose attention may be focussed on the landscape.	Medium-High While settlement is limited, core paths, the John Muir Way, the NCN and transit corridors increase the number of visual receptors of the area whose attention may be focussed on the landscape.	Medium-High While settlement is limited, core paths, the John Muir Way, the NCN and transit corridors increase the number of visual receptors of the area whose attention may be focussed on the landscape.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Visual amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)	■ The LCA is characterised by its extensive and long views out to the sea and inland to the Lammermuir Hills. These views emphasise the open and flat landform of the coastal plain. ■ Long distance views are a frequent quality of SLAs. “<i>Superb panoramic views</i>” are found in the Kingston SLA (24) including towards the coastal plain and Garleton Hills. The area of the Tantallon Coast SLA (28) within the LCA also benefits from views over agricultural fields with “<i>views out to the sea and the islands of the Firth of Forth giving a feeling of openness and expansiveness</i>”. The special qualities of Garden County Farmland SLA (17) include the open views across the farmland towards the Forth or the Garleton Hills. The special qualities of the North Berwick Law SLA (19) include the open views from the Law [See reference 1]. ■ The LCA is prominent from Skid Hill, a “<i>dramatic viewpoint looking... across the North Berwick Coastal Plain</i>” in the Garleton Hills LCA, which is a special landscape quality of the Garleton Hills SLA (13) [See reference 1]. ■ Some settlements within the Kingston SLA (24) benefit from “<i>tremendous views over the plain</i>” [See reference 1]. ■ Locally important views within the Whitekirk and Balgone Outcrops SLA (16) include “<i>the Heughs and related mature trees</i>”, the distinctive Whitekirk Hill volcanic outcrop, and panoramic views afforded from Whitekirk Hill [See reference 1]. ■ The LCA is highly visible and plays a key part in views throughout East Lothian. For example, the coastal plain is important in views from the Lammermuir Hills towards the sea. It is also important in views towards the Garleton Hills. ■ One of the special qualities of North Berwick Law SLA (19) is the visual relationship between the Law “<i>and the volcanic islands of Craigleith and the Bass Rock in the Forth, with views of all three allowing the viewer to imagine a previous volcanic landscape</i>” [See reference 1]. ■ While there is limited vertical infrastructure in the LCA, domestic turbines (34m and 67m tip height) between Fenton Barns and Direlton have impacted the otherwise open, undeveloped skyline. ■ Some scheduled monuments in the area, like Drylawhill, benefit from their prominent position in elevated locations and associated views both to the surrounding landscape and to other historic features.	Medium-High Wind turbines of larger scales (>50m tip height) would likely have an impact on the otherwise undeveloped skyline. Long distance views are a valued feature of the LCA and are noted in multiple SLAs. The visual relationship between the LCA and adjacent LCAs is also highly important, which further contributes to sensitivity. This includes towards the Garleton Hills, which wind turbines may appear out of scale with. Smaller scale turbines (<49.9m) may be less disruptive if sited where they could be associated with existing infrastructure.	Medium-High The modern appearance of solar PV/BESS in the otherwise agricultural plain would result in it being highly visible in the long distance and panoramic views found at elevated points in the LCA and in adjacent LCAs, particularly at larger scales (>15ha) where it may extend across multiple fields. Scales of development up to 15ha would have more opportunities to be sensitively sited and screened by landform or existing woodland and shelterbelts.	Medium-High Due to the undeveloped nature of the skyline, other large-scale development may be prominent in views. Sensitivity is further increased by the important visual relationship the LCA has with adjacent LCAs and the role it plays in long-distance views towards the coast. Other large-scale development, which may extend across multiple fields, would be likely to detract from this.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Perceptual and scenic qualities	■ The Garden County Farmland SLA (17) has an attractive character with “<i>houses both grand and simple,</i>” which add “<i>to the scenic appeal of the area.</i>” [See reference 1]. ■ Traditional-style farm buildings and cottages that are “<i>beautifully set in their landform</i>” add to the scenic quality of the landscape and provide a “<i>focal point in the [landscape]</i>” of the Whitekirk and Balgone Outcrops SLA (16) [See reference 1]. ■ Biel Water in the east “<i>contains areas of naturalness and has a lack of artificial elements particularly along its wooded river banks</i>”. A rural character is found in parts of the LCA, including in the Whitekirk and Balgone Outcrops SLA (16) where “<i>some of the roads are single track adding to the rural ambience</i>” [See reference 1]. ■ The Whisky Bottle reservoir at the base of North Berwick Law is a scenic waterbody and noted as a special quality in the North Berwick Law SLA (19) [See reference 1].	Medium-High The LCA is characterised by arable farmland that contributes to its attractive rural character. Many areas are highly scenic and feelings of tranquillity can be experienced, indicating higher sensitivity to wind energy development as turbines of any scale may be seen as intrusive.	Medium-High The LCA is characterised by arable farmland, contributing to its attractive character. This results in a higher sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development, which may be seen as intrusive. While shelterbelts and woodland blocks would locally reduce sensitivity where they could provide screening, the contemporary perception of solar PV/BESS may detract from scenic qualities stemming from traditional buildings and natural perceptions of the landscape.	Medium-High The LCA is attractive rural character of the LCA would be sensitive to other large-scale development, which would introduce contemporary energy infrastructure. Developments would likely feel intrusive to the tranquil perception of the landscape.

Overall landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

A.344 Landscape features of higher sensitivity to wind development include the areas of historic field pattern; its frequent human-scale features (shelterbelts, woodlands, and farmsteads); the high density of GDLs, historic features like local GDLs and scheduled monuments and long-distance views. The latter is highly sensitive to wind energy development as turbines of any scale could disrupt and detract from these long views.

A.345 While a gently undulating landform like that of the Coastal Plain is typically less sensitive to wind turbines due to its large scale and simple topography, the distinctive volcanic outcrops of the LCA increase its sensitivity. Turbines at scales greater than 100m could undermine their prominence in the landscape.

A.346 Turbines up to 99.9m may be less intrusive where they can be sited near to existing infrastructure and sensitively sited to avoid key views.

Table A.58: Sensitivity scores to wind energy development in the Coastal Plain LCA

Wind Energy Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score
Less than 49.9m tip height	Medium
50m to 99.9m tip height	Medium
100m to 149.9m tip height	Medium-High
150m to 199.9m tip height	High
Over 200m tip height	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.347 Volcanic outcrops and GDLs are more sensitive to wind development. Turbines could undermine the scale of distinctive volcanic local landmarks, such as North Berwick Law, which are key focal points in many views. Volcanic outcrops would be high sensitivity to all scales of development. Turbines sited near historic features would introduce contemporary energy infrastructure into the landscape setting of these historic features.

Cumulative effects

A.348 There are several existing small-scale turbines in the LCA, generally under 25.0m tip height and one medium scale turbine (J Haig Hamilton and Sons Potato

Factory, 67m tip height). Larger scale wind energy development (>100m) could lead to visual confusion owing to differing sizes of turbines across the LCA. There is also a possibility that further wind development spread across the LCA could detract from long views, undermining the existing natural landmarks of volcanic outcrops.

Overall landscape sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development

A.349 Landscape features of higher sensitivity to solar PV/BESS include the relatively undeveloped character of the LCA; the high density of historic features; the long distance views from higher elevations; and the attractive character of the LCA.

A.350 However, the shelterbelts and woodland blocks along with the gently undulating landform indicate reduced sensitivity as they provide opportunities for screening, particularly for development up to 15ha. The larger fields also indicate reduced sensitivity as solar PV/BESS development could fit within the existing field pattern.

Table A.59: Sensitivity scores to solar PV/BESS development in the Coastal Plain LCA

Solar PV/BESS Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score Solar PV	Sensitivity Score BESS
Small (less than 4.9ha for solar PV/BESS)	Medium	Medium
Medium (5-15ha for solar PV/5-9.9ha for BESS)	Medium	Medium
Large (15-50ha for solar PV/10-15ha for BESS)	Medium-High	Medium-High
Very large (more than 50ha for solar PV/more than 15ha for BESS)	High	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.351 The volcanic outcrops would be of high sensitivity to all scales of solar PV/BESS development.

Cumulative effects

A.352 Planning permission has been granted for solar panels at Dunbar Waste Water Treatment Works and a planning application has been submitted for solar

panels at Smeaton Nursery Garden, both within the eastern extents of the LCA. If both of these developments are constructed it is unlikely they would give rise to cumulative effects locally as each location is already influenced by infrastructure and development (the infrastructure of the waste treatment works in the case of Dunbar and the horticultural buildings in the case of Smeaton). Furthermore, both areas have a woodland structure and, in the case of Smeaton, estate walls that could provide screening.

A.353 These developments are also unlikely to give rise to cumulative effects at the scale of the LCA, particularly if the developments and future developments make use of screening from landform and vegetation.

A.354 The Pitcox BESS development is in planning and would be approximately 1.4ha and located north of Pitcox on the land south of Dunbar Grid Substation. Given the proximity of Pitcox BESS to the Dunbar Grid Substation, these developments may result in cumulative effects locally. Given the close proximity of the Pitcox BESS development to Dunbar Grid Substation, there is likely to be views of both developments from some locations.

Overall landscape sensitivity to other large-scale development

A.355 The distinctive volcanic outcrops have higher sensitivity to other large-scale energy related developments (e.g. converter stations, substations, data centres, etc.) as the large massing of such development could detract from the prominence of these landmarks. Other landscape features of a higher sensitivity include the smaller fields where the more intricate historic pattern has been retained as large-scale development could mask these landscape patterns. Similarly, human-scale features (woodlands, farmsteads, hedgerows) also increase sensitivity as the large massing of such development could seem out of scale. The high density of historic features also increase sensitivity – large-scale development would seem out of place in areas where a sense of deep time depth can be experienced. Similarly, the attractive character of the LCA indicates greater sensitivity as large-scale development could seem intrusive. Large-scale development could disrupt the role of the LCA in long distance views north towards the firth and sea throughout East Lothian.

A.356 However, the gently undulating plain indicates reduced sensitivity as the landform may provide opportunities for screening. The larger fields indicate reduced sensitivity as large development could fit within the existing field pattern more easily. Areas of stronger woodland and shelterbelt structure also indicate reduced sensitivity as they provide opportunities for screening.

Table A.60: Sensitivity scores to other large-scale development in the Coastal Plain LCA

Other Large-scale Development	Sensitivity Score
Other large-scale development	Medium-High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.357 Areas with reduced sensitivity to other large-scale development are likely to be larger fields bounded by woodland and shelterbelts that could provide screening.

A.358 As with wind energy development and solar PV/BESS, volcanic outcrops would be of high sensitivity to other-large scale development.

Cumulative effects

A.359 If sited near to existing, consented or under construction energy development in the LCA, other large-scale development may give rise to cumulative effects. Where exiting turbines are prominent in views, new development may contribute to visual clutter in skylines. If sited away from existing development, other large-scale development may extend a perception of contemporary energy infrastructure through the LCA.

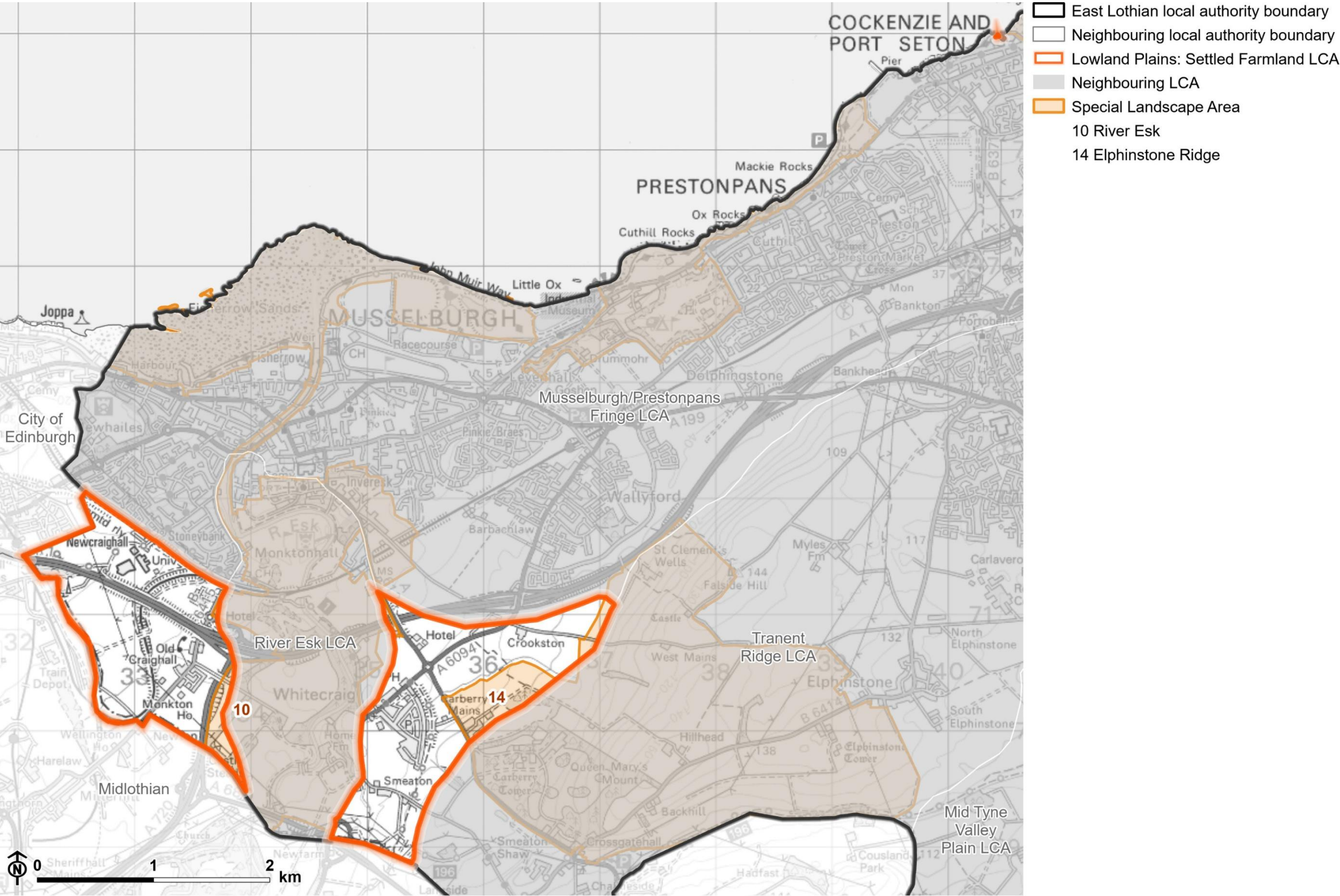
Siting and design guidance

A.360 Siting and design guidance specific to this LCA is set out below. This should be read in conjunction with LCA specific guidance set out in the Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Planning Guidance [See reference 1] and the higher level guidance for the relevant LCT provided in **Chapter 4**.

- Avoid siting development in close proximity to large igneous outcrops, notably the highly prominent North Berwick Law, where development could interrupt views to and from this hill, and also provide scale comparison.
- Consider siting development in locations which would not interrupt key vistas towards the coast and North Sea, or the Lammermuir Hills in the south.

Settled Farmland LCA (Lowland Plain LCT)

Figure A.69: Contextual map of the LCA



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LCA landscape character overview

A.361 The Settled Farmland LCA is located within the Lowland Plain LCT, in the west of the East Lothian local authority area. It borders City of Edinburgh Council to the west and Midlothian Council to the south. The LCA lies to the south of Musselburgh and is split into two units located each side of the River Est LCA. See **Figure A.69**.

A.362 The key characteristics of this LCA of relevance to the LSA include:

- *“Low lying [landscape] with a flat to gently undulating landform.”*
- *“The area has a lack of prominence due to the low lying nature of the landscape.”*
- *“It is a fragmented arable landscape.”*
- *“Large arable fields are bounded by fences and intermittent hedges. In places tracks with no boundary define the fields.”*
- *“The shape of open farmland is often irregular and fragmented where it is severed by transport routes, settlement and industrial warehousing.”*
- *There is “little woodland although tree and scrub planting bound the edges of transport routes”.*
- *“The A1 trunk road severs the western section of this area on a prominent embankment and bounds the northern edge of the eastern section. The A720 Edinburgh City Bypass runs along the eastern edge of the western section. The East Coast Railway bounds the western section to the north.”*
- *“There are pylon lines and major transport routes throughout the area. Dismantled railways, the marshalling yard and tall lighting gantries abut farmland to the west.”*
- *“The Shawfair development within Midlothian... extend[s] close to the western boundary.”*
- *“The large development of buildings for Queen Margaret University creates visual intrusion to the coastal views from the A1 heading east out of Edinburgh.”*
- *“Its low lying nature and severance by raised road and rail networks prevent views out from the area although enable the area to be highly visible from major roads, railways and settlement.” [See reference 1]*

Designated landscapes

A.363 The majority of the LCA is not within a designated landscape. A very small portion of the River Esk SLA (10) extends into this LCA, where it extends up to the A720 City of Edinburgh Bypass. Likewise, a small area of the Elphinstone Ridge SLA (14) covers the Carberry Mains areas of the LCA. The reasons for the River Esk SLA (10) and Elphinstone Ridge SLA (14) designations are set out in the East Lothian Special Landscape Area Supplementary Planning Guidance [\[See reference 1\]](#). As illustrated on **Figure B.5**, a large part of the LCA is designated as Green Belt, particularly the eastern LCA unit around Whitecraig.

Existing renewable energy and other large-scale development

A.364 There are no operational or under construction renewable energy developments, or other large-scale development, within this LCA. Two high voltage overhead lines pass through the LCA to the south of Smeaton, with one of these lines continuing to the north-west through the LCA towards Newcraighall.

Figure A.70: Large, flat agricultural fields near Crookston



Figure A.71: View towards the Tranent Ridge LCA in the east



Figure A.72: The A1 road is visible on an high embankment, with views of Queen Margaret University beyond, and an overhead line crossing in the middle distance



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

A.365 The following table sets out an assessment of sensitivity of the LCA in relation to each of the criteria set out in **Chapter 2**.

Table A.61: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for the Settled Farmland LCA

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Landform and scale	■ The topography is relatively flat, gently rising towards the Tranent ridge to the south-east which begins to rise more steeply. ■ Large embankments associated with main transport routes are present throughout the LCA, providing localised variation in topography.	Low-Medium The relatively flat nature of the landform would be less sensitive to wind energy. Smaller turbines (<100m), if sited sensitively, are unlikely to detract from the local landform, but may provide a scale contrast with the Tranent ridge to the south-east.	Low-Medium Development up to 15ha could sit within the relatively flat, low-lying landscape without masking the topography of the area. Development could fragment the lower-lying landform and may provide a scale contrast with the distinctive Tranent Ridge.	Low-Medium The relatively flat low-lying landscape may be able to accommodate this type of development. The landform in the eastern portion of the LCA has elevated sensitivity because development could provide a scaling feature for the landform of the Tranent Ridge to the south-east or the embankments associated with the A1.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	■ Arable fields of medium to large scale and bounded by post and wire fencing, creating the perception of larger scale fields. ■ Occasional hedgerows with hedgerow trees provide separation between fields. ■ Several key transport routes traverse the LCA, including the A1 on a raised embankment, the City of Edinburgh bypass and the east coast railway line. ■ Larger shelterbelts are found adjacent to the A1 and around the small settlement of Whitecraig. ■ The presence of woodland within the neighbouring River Esk LCA can be appreciated from the south of the LCA. The long established woodlands around Dalkeith House are noted as a special quality for the River Esk SLA (10) [See reference 1]. ■ Large scale buildings associated with Queen Margaret University are present in the west, to the north of the A1. ■ Whitecraig is the largest settlement, with smaller residential areas at Old Craighall. However, the majority of the area to the west and north of Old Craighall will be developed into a large mixed-use development extending up	Low-Medium Frequent human scale features including buildings and trees are of increased sensitivity to vertical features such as wind turbines. Wind turbines would be out of scale with human scale features within the more settled areas of the landscape. However, the more open areas of farmland in the south would be less sensitive.	Low-Medium Depending on the location, development up to 10ha could sit within the existing field pattern. Larger developments greater than 10ha may extend across several larger fields and would risk losing the field and landcover pattern. The large, flat agricultural fields near the main transport routes or large development at Queen Margaret University would be less sensitive to development. Siting in these locations would also help concentrate human influence and built development in these areas.	Low-Medium Areas with larger field patterns would be more suitable for large-scale development, as it may sit within the existing field pattern. Developments of this type would likely extend across several smaller-scale fields, disturbing the landcover pattern. There is opportunity for other large-scale development to be accommodated within the context of existing large scale buildings near Queen Margaret University.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	to the area around Queen Margaret University. The large new build development to the north of the A1 near Monktonhall forms part of this masterplan area. Several overhead lines are present crossing the LCA, converging at a substation in the south-east of the area.			
Historic landscape character	- There are a small number of Listed Buildings scattered throughout the area which locally contribute towards the historic character and time-depth of the area, primarily due to their stone construction. Refer to Figure B.5. - The high stone wall around Dalkeith House adds to the historic character of the area locally, and is noted as a special quality for the River Esk SLA (10) [See reference 1]. - A large portion of the LCA is covered by the Battle of Pinkie Battlefield site (1547) and the battle landscape is still understandable in this area. Refer to Figure B.5.	Low There are a small number of heritage assets within the landscape. Whilst these locally contribute to the perception of time-depth, it is not experienced more widely across the landscape.	Low There are a small number of heritage assets within the landscape. Whilst these locally contribute to the perception of time-depth, it is not experienced more widely across the landscape.	Low There are a small number of heritage assets within the landscape. Whilst these locally contribute to the perception of time-depth, it is not experienced more widely across the landscape.
Visual receptors	- Whitecraig forms the largest settlement in the area, though there are smaller areas of settlement including at Old Craighall and near Monktonhall. However, the majority of the area to the west and north of Old Craighall will be developed into a large mixed-use development extending up to the area around Queen Margaret University. - Beyond these residential areas, much of the LCA is sparsely settled and used for agriculture. - Road users travelling along the A1, the City of Edinburgh Bypass and the east coast railway line pass through this area. - A network of core paths and public rights of way provide recreational access throughout the area. Refer to Figure B.6. - National Cycle Network Route 1 provides recreational opportunities along the disused railway. Refer to Figure B.6.	Medium The LCA has a number of sensitive visual receptors whose attention may be focussed on the landscape, including residents and recreational receptors. Recreational receptors found on routes located primarily near settlements. Residential receptors are found throughout the LCA, with concentrations in Whitecraig, Old Craighall and the Burgh Gate development. However, it is noted much of the area around Old Craighall will be developed in the future.	Medium The LCA has a number of sensitive visual receptors whose attention may be focussed on the landscape, including residents and recreational receptors. Recreational receptors found on routes located primarily near settlements. Residential receptors are found throughout the LCA, with concentrations in Whitecraig, Old Craighall and the Burgh Gate development. However, it is noted much of the area around Old Craighall will be developed in the future.	Medium The LCA has a number of sensitive visual receptors whose attention may be focussed on the landscape, including residents and recreational receptors. Recreational receptors found on routes located primarily near settlements. Residential receptors are found throughout the LCA, with concentrations in Whitecraig, Old Craighall and the Burgh Gate development. However, it is noted much of the area around Old Craighall will be developed in the future.
Visual amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)	The LCA itself features no prominent skylines. Given the flat nature of the area, the distant landform of Arthur's Seat and the Tranent ridge are notable features on the skyline.	Low-Medium Wind turbines would introduce vertical moving features into views across the relatively flat farmland, where they would	Low-Medium Solar and BESS development would introduce man-made features into views from settlements and main transport	Low-Medium Other large-scale development would introduce man-made features into views. Given the massing, these developments

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	■ The area is dominated by agricultural land, and the character of the landscape is heavily influenced by human development in the form of key transport routes, overhead lines and residential development. ■ From the elevated A1, in clear weather conditions it is possible to experience glimpsed views of the Firth of Forth in the distance, with Fife visible beyond. ■ Woodland associated with nearby designed landscapes contributes to visual diversity and interest of the area, with the “<i>heavily wooded slopes of the Carberry designed landscape</i>” noted as a special quality for the Elphinstone Ridge SLA (14) [See reference 1].	likely be seen against the skyline. They would be seen in the context of overhead line development and major transportation routes, further contributing to cumulative visual effects arising from contemporary infrastructure and the perception of a modified landscape.	routes. All scales of these types of development would likely be visible, given the flat and open nature of the landscape. Depending on siting, there is potential for visual confusion caused by the introduction of a new type of development (solar PV/BESS) in addition to the existing presence of various contemporary infrastructure. This could result in views of a landscape which appears incoherent and fragmented. The presence of vegetation around the edge of Whitecraig may help to screen views of low-lying development such as solar PV/BESS from residents here.	are likely to be highly visible with limited potential for effective mitigation screening. Views of the large buildings at Queen Margaret University from the A1 and west of the LCA may reduce sensitivity for this type of development in the area surrounding the university.
Perceptual and scenic qualities	■ The presence of major transport infrastructure and overhead lines reduce the scenic qualities and sense of tranquillity experienced within the landscape. ■ Away from these areas, there is stronger perceived tranquillity in the more rural areas, particularly east of Whitecraig and near Carberry.	Low-Medium The presence of major transport infrastructure and overhead lines contributes to a reduction in tranquillity and scenic quality of views in places. Sensitivity to this type of development is therefore lower particularly closer to the other contemporary development such as main transport routes and overhead line development. Turbines <49.9m would be less sensitive than taller turbines >50m.	Low-Medium Given the strong human influence within this LCA, scenic qualities and sense of tranquillity is reduced. Therefore, sensitivity to this type of development is lower, particularly closer to the main transport routes and overhead line development.	Low-Medium Given the strong human influence within this LCA, scenic qualities and sense of tranquillity is reduced. Therefore, sensitivity to this type of development is lower, particularly closer to the main transport routes and overhead line development.

Overall landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

A.366 The area is characterised by relatively flat farmland with limited variety in landcover. This reduces its sensitivity to wind energy development which would introduce tall vertical features into views.

Table A.62: Sensitivity scores to wind energy development in the Settled Farmland LCA

Wind Energy Development Scenario	Sensitivity score
Up to 49.9m tip height	Low-Medium
50m to 99.9m tip height	Medium
100m to 149.9m tip height	Medium-High
150m to 199.9m tip height	High
Over 200m tip height	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.367 Localised areas near the main roads and existing overhead lines are of lower sensitivity, due to the fact that these areas already have a reduced sense of tranquillity and naturalness. Siting near overhead lines would require careful consideration because of the potential for visual confusion from the introduction of further vertical and moving infrastructure into views.

Cumulative effects

A.368 Currently there are no existing wind energy developments within the LCA, and none proposed.

Overall landscape sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development

A.369 The relatively flat nature and medium-to-large scale fields indicates a lower sensitivity to low-lying development such as solar PV/BESS. There are few fields greater than 10ha within the LCA. As a result, solar PV/BESS development greater than 10ha would be likely to change existing field patterns and could impact the relatively few hedgerows where they are present. For developments less than 5ha, the limited areas of woodland and hedgerows could provide some screening opportunities for solar PV/BESS, reducing their impact on the surrounding landscape.

Table A.63: Sensitivity scores to solar PV/BESS development in the Settled Farmland LCA

Solar PV/BESS Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score Solar PV	Sensitivity Score BESS
Small (up to 4.9ha)	Medium	Medium
Medium (5-15ha for solar PV/5-9.9ha for BESS)	Medium	Medium
Large (15-50ha for solar PV/10-15ha for BESS)	High	High
Very large (more than 50ha for solar PV/more than 15ha for BESS)	High	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.370 There are localised areas of lower sensitivity in close proximity to main roads and overhead line infrastructure. In areas where the main road is already a strong influence, there is a lower level of naturalness, scenic quality, and tranquillity, thus the area is less sensitive to solar PV/BESS development. However, some locations near the main road are of locally higher sensitivity due to the greater presence of woodland which contributes to the scenic quality of the area. For example, the woodland associated with designed landscapes at Dalkeith House, which is also largely designated as a SLA. In addition, it is noted that much of the eastern unit of the LCA is designated as Green Belt, which could form an additional constraint to development.

A.371 The east of the LCA, although still near the A1, has less development and a stronger rural feel. It is seen in the context of the wooded Carberry Tower GDL and the Elphinstone Ridge SLA (14). This area may be locally of higher sensitivity to this type of development. As noted above, most of this area is designated as Green Belt, which may form a further constraint to development.

Cumulative effects

A.372 Currently there are no existing solar PV or BESS developments within the LCA, and none proposed.

Overall landscape sensitivity to other large-scale development

A.373 Given the flat nature of the landscape, the presence of medium-to-large scale fields, and the influence of human modification (major transport routes and overhead lines), there is the potential for other large-scale development to be sited in this LCA.

A.374 However, the flat nature and lack of vegetation would result in this type of development being highly visible in the landscape, particularly from the elevated A1. Road users travelling along the A1 would be less susceptible to changes in views given the transient nature of the views.

Table A.64: Sensitivity scores to other large-scale development in the Settled Farmland LCA

Other Large-scale Development	Sensitivity Score
Other large-scale development	Medium

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.375 There are localised areas of lower sensitivity near main roads and overhead line infrastructure. In areas where the main road is already a strong influence, there is a lower level of naturalness, scenic quality, and tranquillity, thus the area is less sensitive to other large-scale development. In addition, the area around Queen Margaret University would be of lower sensitivity given the existing presence of large-scale buildings, and extensive consented development.

A.376 The east of the LCA, although still near the A1, has less development and a stronger rural feel. This area may be locally of higher sensitivity to this type of development.

Cumulative effects

A.377 Currently there are no existing other large-scale developments within the LCA, although the Millerhill Energy Centre is located to the west, within the City of Edinburgh council area.

A.378 The large mixed-use development around Craighall includes extensive areas of employment/commercial and innovation land. Development within these uses could include large-scale buildings which could result in cumulative landscape and visual impacts on the surrounding area. Concentrating this type of development near the existing energy centre, major transport routes and the large buildings at Queen

Margaret University would help to concentrate cumulative effects within this area. It is noted that much of the eastern unit of the LCA is designated as Green Belt, which could form an additional constraint to development.

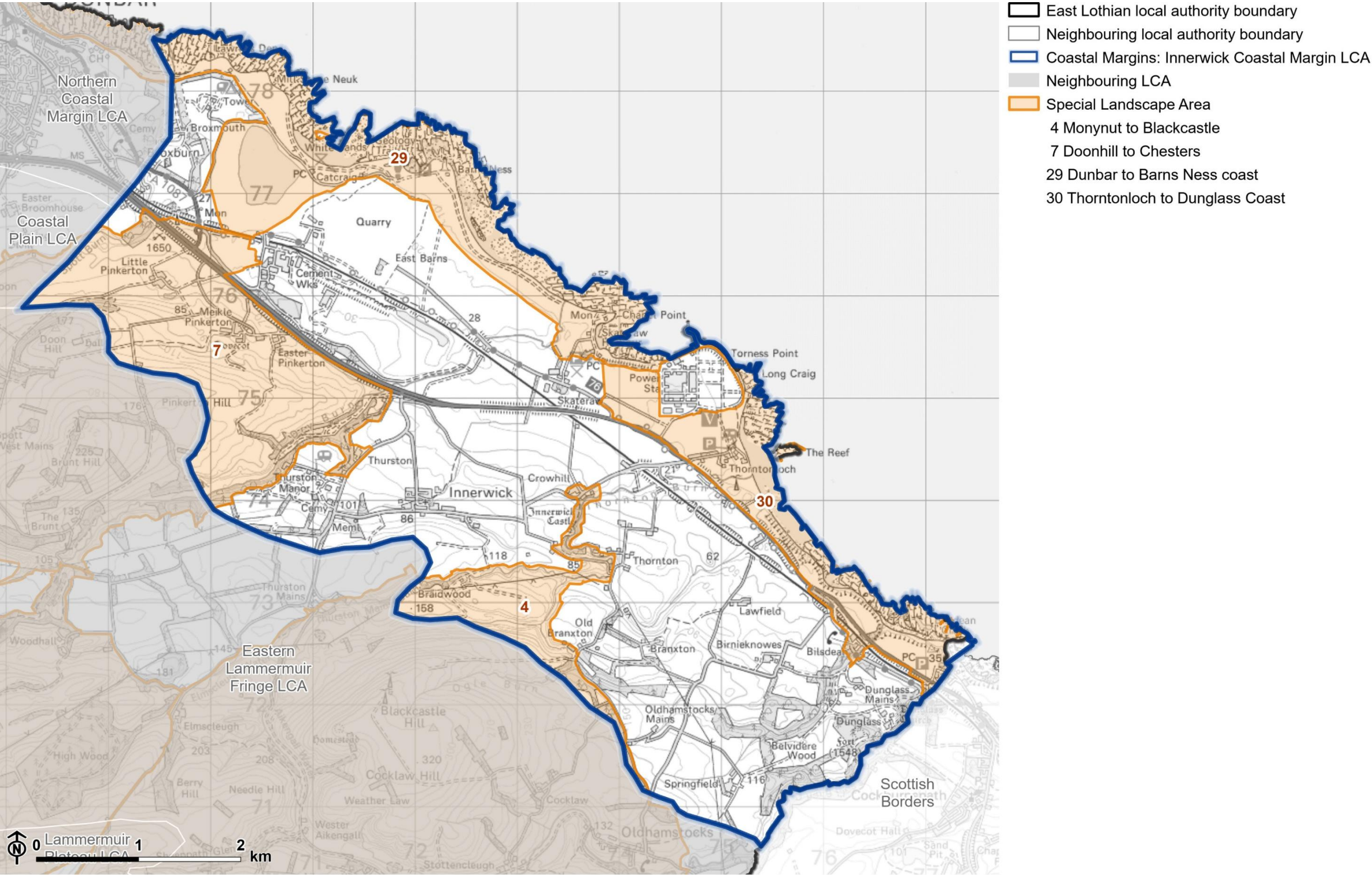
Siting and design guidance

A.379 Siting and design guidance specific to this LCA is set out below. This should be read in conjunction with LCA specific guidance set out in the Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Planning Guidance [\[See reference 1\]](#) and the higher level guidance for the relevant LCT provided in **Chapter 4**.

- Consider siting development near existing development, including overhead lines, key transport routes of the A1, A720 and railway line, and Queen Margaret University.
- Utilise screening provided by roadside vegetation and field boundary vegetation to minimise visibility of lower-lying development.

Innerwick Coastal Margin LCA (Coastal Margins LCT)

Figure A.73: Contextual map of the LCA



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LCA landscape character overview

A.380 The Innerwick Coastal Margin LCA is located within the Coastal Margins LCT, in the east of East Lothian local authority area. The LCA extends between Dunglass Burn (which forms the administrative border with the Scottish Borders) and Broxburn, and comprises a rocky stretch of coastline, interspersed by large sandy bays, and further inland is predominantly agricultural land comprising medium to large scale arable fields. The LCA forms the transition from the sea to the north-eastern fringes of the Lammermuir Hills. The upland edge of the Lammermuir Hills forms the inland boundary to the LCA, running broadly north-west to south-east, from Doon Hill at its northernmost point, to Dunglass Burn near Oldshamstocks in the south, as shown in **Figure A.73**.

A.381 The key characteristics of this LCA which are of relevance to the LSA include:

- *“Coastal plain forms the transition between the north-eastern fringes of the Lammermuir Hills and the sea.”*
- Closer to the Eastern Lammermuir Fringe LCA, the landscape comprises *“rolling lowlands cut by numerous steep-sided stream valleys. The terrain opens out towards the coast into a broad, gently undulating plain.”*
- Coastline *“defined by a series of rounded headlands bounded by extensive rocky cliffs with numerous sheltered small sand and pebble beaches backed by grass turfed dunes.”*
- *“The dominant land cover consists of medium to large arable fields... generally contained by clipped thorn hedgerows and post and wire fencing with isolated hedgerow trees.”*
- *“Where valley sides are steep small stretches of improved grassland can be found with the stream courses delineated by scrub and broadleaved woodland. Other woodland is mainly in the form of shelterbelts and clumps of trees associated with farmsteads.”*
- *“Numerous small roads twist from the hillsides down to the sea. The parallel routes of the A1 trunk road and the East Coast rail line sweep along the open plain. The embankments, bridges and structures associated with the transport corridor are often also highly visible features.”*
- *“The area is highly accessible... [and] is a popular recreational resource.”*
- *“The settlement of Innerwick sits on the hillside above Torness... The area has a scattering of further farms and minor settlements, many houses and steadings dating from the 18th and 19th centuries.”*

- *“There is much industrial development located along the coast within this area. The most prominent being the cement works and associated quarrying and landfill site at Oxwell Mains and Torness Power Station.”*
- *“Extensive views from the predominantly unwooded plain towards the coast. The open sea dominates the views providing an atmosphere of tranquillity.”*
[See reference 1]

Designated landscapes

A.382 Approximately one third of the LCA is covered by Special Landscape Areas (SLAs), as shown on **Figure A.73**. The Thorntonloch to Dunglass Coast SLA (30) and Dunbar to Barns Ness Coast SLA (29) cover the entirety of the coastline. Further inland, parts of the LCA are covered by the Monynut to Blackcastle SLA (4) and the Doonhill to Chesters SLA (7). The reasons for designation are set out in the East Lothian Special Landscape Area Supplementary Planning Guidance [See reference 1].

A.383 In addition, two Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs) are located within the LCA; Dunglass GDL in the south-east and Broxmouth Park GDL, as shown on **Figure B.5**. These are noted for their formal landscapes dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries.

Existing renewable energy and other large-scale development

A.384 There are no operational, or under construction wind farms, solar PV or BESS developments in the LCA.

A.385 Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm is situated approximately 27.5km offshore, in the North Sea. It comprises 54 turbines up to 208m in height which can be seen on the distant horizon from the coastline and coastal plain, and from more elevated slopes and summits inland.

A.386 A large cluster of wind turbines within the elevated interior of the Lammermuir Hill range are visible from the LCA, particularly from elevated summits and more open stretches of the coastal plain such as near Innerwick. This includes a cluster of operational wind turbines at Aikengall I-IIA (54 turbines, 125-145m to tip). Some turbines associated with Crystal Rig Phases 1-3 (91 turbines, 100-125m to tip) may also be visible in the distance, and the under-construction Crystal Rig 4 (11 turbines, 149.9-200m to tip) may also be visible in views from these locations during construction and once operational.

A.387 The two operational turbines at Kinegar Quarry (2 turbines, 110m to tip) within the Scottish Borders are visible from the south of the LCA, including along the coastline at Thorntonloch, and around Dunglass and Springfield.

A.388 Torness Power Station is located along the coastline, on the Torness Point headland. Its large massing is often seen against the skyline in views along the coast, and from inland out to the sea. Likewise, the Tarmac cement plant near Broxburn, and the nearby Energy from Waste Plant, are visible throughout the LCA, with the former more prominent due to its larger massing. The tall and blocky nature of the buildings, and their location along the coastline, also results in them being seen against the skyline in views along the coast and in views out to sea.

Figure A.74: Open views from Innerwick towards the sea



Figure A.75: Views of the prominent cement works from Innerwick



Figure A.76: The large sandy beach at Thorntonloch



Figure A.77: Rolling farmland creates elevated skylines, near Branxton



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

A.389 The following table sets out an assessment of sensitivity of the LCA in relation to each of the criteria set out in **Chapter 2**.

Table A.65: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for the Innerwick Coastal Margin LCA

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Landform and scale	■ A landscape comprising predominantly medium scale rolling landform used predominantly as farmland, reflected in the special qualities of the Doon Hill to Chesters SLA (7) which states <i>“rolling hills comprise fertile well-managed arable farm land”</i> [See reference 1]. ■ It forms the transition between the fringes of the more elevated Lammermuir Hills in the west and south-west and the flatter, lower-lying coastal plain near the sea in the north-east. The landform is highly varied, with elevation rising from sea level up to approximately 160m AOD near Springfield and Braidwood. The contrast between the lower-lying coastline and rolling hills further inland contributes to the perceived larger scale of these hills, particularly in locations where both the coast and hills can be experienced such as along the A1. ■ Between Little Pinkerton and Thornton the landscape comprises rolling lowlands cut by numerous steep-sided stream valleys including Dry Burn and Thornton Burn. Likewise, the rolling landscape to the south-east of Thornton is dissected by several small burns. The larger sized fields help reinforce the scale of the landscape to west of the A1 which contrasts with the smaller scale of the valleys. ■ Towards the coast, the landform opens out into a broad, gently undulating plain used primarily for agriculture. ■ The coastline in the east is defined by a series of headlands and rocky cliffs separated by several sandy and pebble beaches, as recognised in the special qualities of the Thorntonloch to Dunglass Coast SLA (30) which states the area has a <i>“varied coastline facing onto open sea, ranging from rugged red cliffs... to the wide, sandy beach at Thorntonloch”</i> [See reference 1].	Medium-High The smaller-scale valleys are particularly susceptible to wind turbines, compared to medium-scale hills which may be more accommodating. Turbines >100m may reduce the apparent scale of the rolling farmland. However, turbines <99.9m, if sited sensitively, are unlikely to detract from the scale of the landform.	Medium-High Developments less than 15ha could sit within the existing landscape without masking the topography of the area. Developments greater than 15ha may result in the characteristics of the landform (e.g. rolling hills) being lost or covered. Development could fragment the landform and could be seen to diminish the scale of the rolling hills.	Medium-High All large-scale development is likely to detract from the surrounding landform, by introducing a bulky feature within the landscape, which could provide both a scale comparison and block views of the landform, particularly if sited on highly visible on slopes. In particular, large-scale development would contrast greatly with the small scale of the valley landform. This type of development is unlikely to be suitable within the valley given the steeper slopes.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	■ Rolling farmland which drops in elevation to sea-level, comprising medium to large rectilinear fields generally contained by hedgerows and post and wire fencing. Shelterbelts and clumps of trees are often associated with farmsteads. ■ Improved grassland, scrub and broadleaved woodland in the steep sided valleys, contributes to diverse landcover across the area. This is recognised in	Medium-High Single or small groups of turbines <99.9m could be sited within the existing field pattern if designed sensitively. For example, single turbines associated with farms.	Medium-High Developments less than 15ha could sit within the existing field pattern in places. However, developments greater than 15ha may extend across several fields and would risk	Medium-High Areas with larger field patterns would be more suitable for large-scale development, as it may sit within the existing field pattern. Developments may extend across several smaller-

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	the special qualities of the Doon Hill to Chesters SLA (7) which notes “<i>Narrow incised valleys of the Spott Burn... and Dry Burn form the boundaries of the area. These valleys have a variety of mixed deciduous woodland and grassland habitats and rich flora and fauna.</i>” [See reference 1]. ■ Sparsely settled beyond the small settlement of Innerwick. ■ A rugged coastline comprising sandy beaches and rocky outcrops, partly designated as the Barns Ness Coast SSSI for its beaches, rocky outcrops and dune habitats. ■ Land uses related to both industry and energy are present. Industry, including Torness Power Station, a quarry and cement plant, and waste management facilities, are present along the coastline. Overhead lines are present further inland, to the west of Thornton and east of Oldhamstocks. Torness Power Station is noted as being “<i>angular</i>” and “<i>futuristic</i>” [See reference 1].	The apparent scale of turbines >100m may be increased by the presence of human and landscape scale features (e.g. buildings and trees).	losing the field and landcover pattern. In areas with smaller field sizes, smaller scales of development such as less than 4.9ha may be able to be accommodated.	scale fields, disturbing the landcover pattern.
Historic landscape character	■ There is a rich variety of heritage assets including many Listed Building, with a particularly strong concentration in Innerwick, which is also designated as a Conservation Area. Refer to Figure B.5. ■ The Broxmouth Park and Dunglass Garden and Designed Landscapes (GDLs) create localised areas of parkland character in the north and south of the LCA, respectively (see Figure B.5). The woodlands at Dunglass are noted as being “<i>important features in the local landscape</i>” [See reference 13] and the policies at Broxmouth Park are “<i>prominent from Dunbar and the A1087 to the south</i>” [See reference 14] and around the lake near Broxmouth. ■ Several Scheduled Monuments associated with forts and enclosure present throughout the area, some managed by Historic Environment Scotland. ■ The sites of the Battle of Dunbar I (1296) and Battle of Dunbar II (1650) lie within the area and are on Scotland's Inventory of Historic Battlefields (see Figure B.5).	Medium-High The LCA has a high concentration of historic features which make an important contribution to the historic character of the area and the sense of time depth experienced throughout the LCA.	Medium-High The LCA has a high concentration of historic features which make an important contribution to the historic character of the area and the sense of time depth experienced throughout the LCA.	Medium-High The LCA has a high concentration of historic features which make an important contribution to the historic character of the area and the sense of time depth experienced throughout the LCA.
Visual receptors	■ The village of Innerwick is located within the LCA, and farmsteads are scattered throughout the area. ■ The coastline is a highly accessible and popular location for recreation, particularly along the coastline, with the John Muir Way following the coastline for the entire length of the area. Refer to Figure B.6. ■ National Cycle Network Route 76 offers both on road and traffic free cycle routes, broadly adjacent to the A1. The presence of the John Muir Way and	Medium-High The LCA has many sensitive visual receptors whose attention may be focussed on the landscape. Recreational receptors found throughout the LCA, primarily concentrated along the coast	Medium-High The LCA has many sensitive visual receptors whose attention may be focussed on the landscape. Recreational receptors found throughout the LCA, primarily concentrated along the coast	Medium-High The LCA has many sensitive visual receptors whose attention may be focussed on the landscape. Recreational receptors found throughout the LCA, primarily concentrated along the coast

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	NCN Route 76 is recognised in the special qualities for the Thorntonloch to Dunglass Coast SLA (30). Refer to Figure B.6. ■ A network of core paths and public rights of way provide recreational access into the Lammermuir Hills. ■ Single-track country roads provide access between the coast and the Lammermuir Hills. These minor roads are noted as contributing to the scenic quality of the Monynut to Blackcastle SLA (4).	and in the foothills of the Lammermuirs. Residential receptors are scattered throughout the LCA, with localised concentrations in the village of Innerwick.	and in the foothills of the Lammermuirs. Residential receptors are scattered throughout the LCA, with localised concentrations in the village of Innerwick.	and in the foothills of the Lammermuirs. Residential receptors are scattered throughout the LCA, with localised concentrations in the village of Innerwick.
Visual amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)	■ Long expansive open views out across the North Sea and along the coastline from elevated locations inland and from along the flatter coastal plain. “<i>Scenic and wide ranging views... with views from higher ground being exceptionally good</i>” are noted in the special qualities for Monynut to Blackcastle SLA (4), and “<i>uninterrupted, undeveloped views out to sea</i>” from the Dunbar to Barns Ness Coast SLA (29) [See reference 1]. ■ A stronger sense of enclosure is present within the valleys along the burns, with views often more restricted by vegetation and landform. ■ The contrast and diversity of views, including frequent experience of views to the uplands and the coast reflect the transitional nature of the LCA. ■ Industrial development along the coast interrupts the skyline, introducing tall vertical features of large massing which is juxtaposed against the horizon of the sea. Likewise, distant offshore wind turbines at Neart na Gaoithe Wind Farm are visible protruding above the horizon, from both elevated summits and the flatter coastline. ■ Elevated views experience greater visibility of turbines within the Lammermuir Hills, and the lack of turbines further east towards the coast help to highlight the transitional nature of the LCA and its views. ■ The rolling landform of the foothills, in the west of the LCA limits opportunities for longer ranging views. The rolling landform can create elevated skylines when viewed from lower locations. Field boundary vegetation further restricts views in places.	High Wind turbines may introduce vertical features into views towards the coast which are largely focussed on the horizon of the sea and the flat coastal plain. Turbines could form skyline features, particularly on the elevated skylines formed by the foothills of the Lammermuirs in the west, and if over 150m in height would also introduce lighting into nighttime views. Views of turbines may impact intervisibility between this LCA and other neighbouring LCAs, notably the Eastern Lammermuir Fringe and Lammermuir Plateau further west.	Medium-High Solar and BESS development would introduce man-made features into views which could impact both open and more contained views depending on development scale. Developments greater than 15ha would likely be more visible, especially if sited in flat and open locations, or on visible slopes within the foothills. Developments less than 4.9ha may be able to be sited so as to maximise screening by vegetation and landform.	Medium-High Other large-scale development would introduce man-made features into views throughout the LCA. Given the massing, these developments are likely to be highly visible and impact both elevated and lower-lying horizons, with limited potential for effective mitigation screening. Potential for greater cumulative effects along the coastline due to the existing concentration of this type of development.
Perceptual and scenic qualities	■ Strong scenic qualities associated with the wildness and ruggedness of coastline, with an increased sense of exposure to the elements in the east. ■ Most of the coastline is designated as the Dunbar to Barns Ness Coast (29) and the Thorntonloch to Dunglass Coast (30) SLAs. Key reasons for these designations include “<i>the relatively undeveloped nature of the rocky coastline and separation from the land by low rocky cliffs creates a sense of wildness and isolation</i>” (SLA 29) and the “<i>rocky area has some qualities of wildness,</i>	High Man-made features such as turbines may detract from the natural characteristics and scenic nature of the landscape, particularly in the foothills of the Lammermuir Hills where human	Medium-High Man-made features such as solar PV and BESS developments may detract from the natural characteristics and scenic nature of the landscape, particularly if sited in more	Medium-High Other large-scale development may detract from scenic qualities associated with the landscape, particularly along the coastline. Such development juxtaposed

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	<i>deriving from its ruggedness, exposure to the elements and lack of visible built development” (SLA 30).</i> ■ Industrial development and the key transport corridors of the A1 and East Coast railway line introduce built development into the landscape, reflected in the citation for the Dunbar to Barns Ness Coast SLA (29), which notes that the “<i>cement works and quarrying in the area</i>” has an “<i>intrusive effect</i>” on the low-lying nature of the coastline. ■ Perceptual characteristics are shaped by the varied topography of the area, including rolling farmland and narrow valleys, contributing to the transitional character of the area. In addition, the varying land uses, and relationship with both the Lammermuir Hills and the coast enhance this transitional feel. A diverse range of views include distant views out to sea and more contained views within rolling farmland and valleys. ■ Inland, overhead lines contribute to a reduced sense of tranquillity and naturalness, by introducing large man-made features into the landscape. These overhead lines contrast with the natural rolling nature of the landscape in this area.	influence is largely limited to farms. Introducing tall vertical features (e.g. turbines >100m) may reduce the apparent scale of the landscape and its transitional role between the coast and the Lammermuir Hills. Turbines would contribute to a more developed perception of the landscape in the foothills, particularly if requiring aviation lighting (for turbines over 150m) or if experienced in combination with the existing overhead lines.	intimate and contained parts of the landscape, which have a greater perceived sense of naturalness.	against the natural coastline and sea may reduce the sense of wildness and tranquillity. The cumulative impact of interactions with other similar types of development along the coastline may further detract from the perceptual and scenic qualities experienced along the coastline. Likewise, siting on elevated slopes in the foothills in the west may detract from the rural character and tranquillity experienced in these areas.

Overall landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

A.390 The area is characterised in the west by rolling landform which forms the foothills of the Lammermuir Hills. These foothills are partly enclosed by surrounding landform and field boundary vegetation, and feature a scattering of farmsteads, with longer ranging views afforded out towards the coast and North Sea. More complex landform features including the narrow, incised and wooded valleys and areas of parkland associated with the Garden and Designed Landscapes would be sensitive to wind turbine development.

A.391 The area provides the foreground to views towards the Lammermuir Hills and more open views across the coastal plain out to the North Sea. The introduction of turbines on lower slopes of the Lammermuir Hills would result in turbines spilling out of the interior of the Lammermuirs (i.e. the hills further inland which are set back from the escarpment edge of the hill range, which forms the transition between the uplands and coastal plain). This would result in turbines appearing to encroach down the containing slopes of the hill range towards the lower-lying coastal plain and coastline, blurring the transition between these landscapes. They would be seen on elevated skylines from the low-lying coastline. Turbines along the coastline would introduce tall vertical features into views dominated by the horizon and would interrupt highly scenic views out towards the North Sea.

Table A.66: Sensitivity scores to wind energy development in the Innerwick Coastal Margin LCA

Wind Energy Development Scenario	Sensitivity score
Up to 49.9m tip height	Medium
50m to 99.9m tip height	Medium-High
100m to 149.9m tip height	High
150m to 199.9m tip height	High
Over 200m tip height	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.392 Areas which are more contained by surrounding rolling landform and with simpler land cover (e.g. agricultural land) may have localised lower sensitivity to smaller scale turbines (<99.9m) due to potential for more contained views from the surrounding lowland areas. However, these turbines (<99.9m) would still be visible from elevated locations to the west and would be seen in the context of other forms of development (e.g. other-large scale development along the coastline). The more

naturalistic wooded valleys which drop towards the sea in the east, and the area containing the GDLs at Dunglass and Broxmouth Park are of higher sensitivity, as is the open coastline.

Cumulative effects

A.393 Although there are no turbines located within the LCA, visibility of turbines offshore and in neighbouring LCAs, including the large cluster of turbines associated with the Crystal Rig and Aikengall schemes within the Lammermuir Hills, the two turbines at Kinegar Quarry in the Scottish Borders and the scheme at Drone Hill have some influence on the character of the LCA.

A.394 Introducing wind turbine development within the LCA would draw turbines further east out of the Lammermuir uplands where they are largely contained at present. This would result in a wider spread of turbines, and the appearance of turbines spilling out down the enclosing slopes of the Lammermuir Hills. Interactions between new wind turbines and other development such as overhead lines and other large-scale industrial developments along the coast (e.g. Torness Power Station, Tarmac cement plant etc.) could lead to visual confusion, due to the contrast in height and massing, and the introduction of moving elements (e.g. moving turbine blades). The introduction of wind turbines could contribute towards the increased perception of a landscape which has been highly modified by human activity and development.

Overall landscape sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development

A.395 The area is a tranquil, rural landscape with limited large-scale built development away from the concentration of industrial development along the coast which locally reduces sensitivity. Solar PV and BESS would detract from views of the North Sea from within the LCA if located along the flatter and more open coastal edge. BESS would be of greater massing and could interrupt views of the horizon, whilst solar PV would occupy a larger spatial extent of views despite being lower-lying.

A.396 Solar PV and BESS development would introduce uncharacteristic built elements into the landscape, detracting from the underlying character of the landform if sited further west in the undulating lower slopes of the Lammermuir Hills. The undulating nature of the landscape would help to screen development, however the introduction of solar PV/BESS would detract from the rural character experienced further west. Siting solar PV/BESS developments (particularly >15ha) in these foothills may result in masking of the underlying landform and field pattern and may

reduce the appreciation of this landscape in providing a transition between the low-lying coastal plain and the uplands of the Lammermuir Hills.

Table A.67: Sensitivity scores to solar PV/BESS development in the Innerwick Coastal Margin LCA

Solar PV/BESS Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score Solar PV	Sensitivity Score BESS
Small (up to 4.9ha for solar PV/BESS)	Medium	Medium
Medium (5-15ha for solar PV/5-9.9ha for BESS)	Medium	Medium
Large (15-50ha for solar PV/10-15ha for BESS)	High	Medium-High
Very large (more than 50ha for solar PV/more than 15ha for BESS)	High	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.397 Although the flatter landform and medium scale of the landscape near the coast indicate lower sensitivity, this area is important to the setting of the coastline, and the views experienced from within the LCA out towards the sea. Therefore, this area is of higher sensitivity to solar PV and BESS development. However, localised areas which are afforded more screening, such as the area around the quarry, cement works and waste facilities, would be less sensitive to small-medium scale development.

Cumulative effects

A.398 Currently there are no existing solar PV or BESS developments within the LCA, however several schemes have been consented or are proposed, including:

- Branxton Energy Storage Facility (Consented);
- Braxbess Storage (Consented);
- Thorntonloch BESS (Proposed – consultation stage); and
- Springfield Solar PV and BESS (Proposed – in planning).

A.399 Should the above schemes all be consented and built, this landscape is likely to become heavily influenced by energy development. Introducing solar PV and

BESS developments into the LCA could therefore result in significant cumulative effects on the character of the landscape.

A.400 Interactions between new solar PV/BESS development and other development such as overhead lines and other large-scale industrial developments along the coast (e.g. Torness Power Station, Tarmac cement plant etc.) could lead to visual confusion, due to the contrast in height and massing of these types of development.

A.401 Opportunities to site development in lower sensitivity areas (e.g. near existing development at the quarry and cement works) may concentrate cumulative effects across a smaller area. However, the development of solar PV and BESS elsewhere throughout the LCA would result in cumulative effects being experienced across a wider area. In either case, additional development is likely to result in the landscape becoming one characterised by man-made industrial elements, especially when considered alongside other developments such as overhead lines, and large-scale development along the coast.

Overall landscape sensitivity to other large-scale development

A.402 The area is of high sensitivity to other large-scale developments related to energy (e.g. converter stations, substations, data centres etc.) particularly along the coastline where there is already a concentration of industrial development. Development of large massing in this location would interfere with views out towards the sea, by obstructing views and introducing vertical features into an otherwise horizontal landscape, and may alter the *“Uninterrupted, undeveloped views out to sea along the entire stretch of coastline”* noted in the special qualities for the Dunbar to Barns Ness Coast SLA (29) [\[See reference 1\]](#). Such development would likely have significant cumulative effects with existing industrial development, especially if spread out along the coastline. Further development of this type along the coast would create more developed views along the coastline and may detract from the *“sense of wildness and isolation”* experienced along the coast [\[See reference 1\]](#).

A.403 The tranquil undulating landscape further west has a strong rural character with a lack of large-scale development. The introduction of large-scale built elements into the landscape would physically affect the undulating landform and detract from the rural character and the transitional role of the landscape between the coastal plain and the Lammermuir Hills. However, depending on the scale of development, landform may provide some containment and screening. Areas with more sensitive landscape features, such as the steep valleys and areas of woodland will be more sensitive with the development affecting the sense of intimacy and enclosure experienced in these locations.

Table A.68: Sensitivity scores to other large-scale development in the Innerwick Coastal Margin LCA

Other Large-scale Development	Sensitivity Score
Other large-scale development	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.404 Although the flatter landform and medium scale of the landscape near the coast indicates lower sensitivity, this area is important to the setting of the coastline, and the views experienced from within the LCA out towards the sea. Therefore, this area is of higher sensitivity to large-scale development which are of large massing. Localised areas which are afforded more screening and located near existing large-scale industrial development (such as the cement works), may be less sensitive to development. This would depend on the siting and scale of the development.

Cumulative effects

A.405 Introducing new large-scale development within the LCA is likely to intensify the concentration of large and blocky industrial development already existing within the LCA. It is noted that in addition to the existing Torness Power Station and cement works, the consented Berwick Bank substation would be located within this LCA.

A.406 A greater concentration of this type of development along the coastline is likely to result in cumulative effects which detract from the character of the landscape. Concentrating development near one another would result in the intensification of landscape and visual effects, across a smaller spatial extent along the coastline. However, the more sporadic placement of large-scale development throughout the LCA would result in cumulative effects being experienced across a wider area. In either case, additional development may result in the landscape becoming one characterised by large, distinctive, man-made elements.

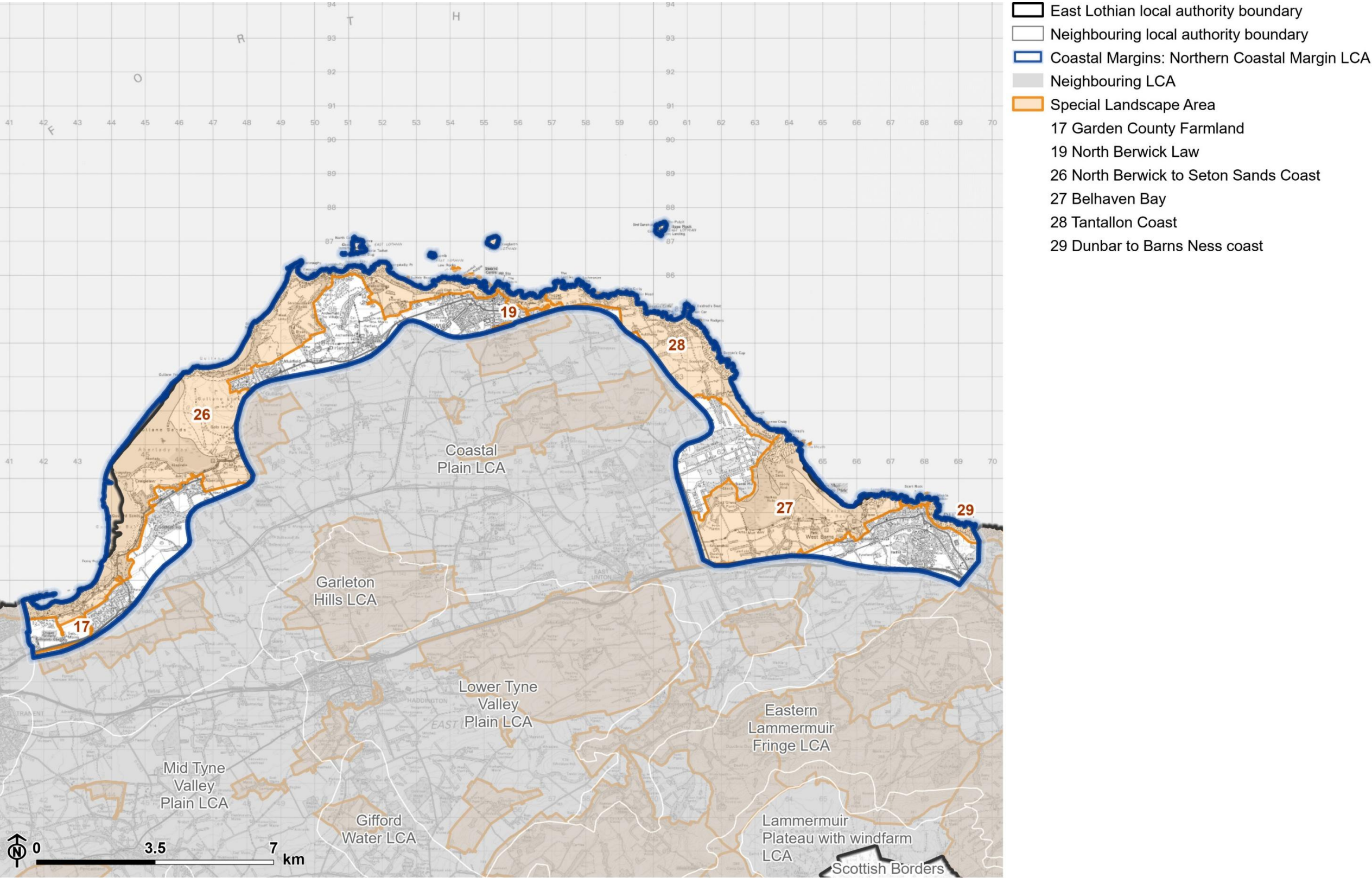
Siting and design guidance

A.407 Siting and design guidance specific to this LCA is set out below. This should be read in conjunction with LCA specific guidance set out in the Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Planning Guidance [\[See reference 1\]](#) and the higher level guidance for the relevant LCT provided in **Chapter 4**.

- Consider siting development in locations associated or adjacent to existing built elements, such as the Torness power station or cement works, where sensitivity is locally reduced. This will help concentrate effects in localised areas.
- Avoid siting development in open areas along the coastline, where it would be highly visible in views towards the North Sea or along the coast.
- Consider siting development further inland where landform and landscape features such as woodland and hedgerows would help to screen views.
- Avoid siting development within or close to the Broxmouth Park or Dunglass GDLs where it could locally impact the wooded policy character of these areas.

Northern Coastal Margin LCA (Coastal Margins LCT)

Figure A.78: Contextual map of the LCA



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LCA landscape character overview

A.408 The Northern Coastal Margin LCA is located within the Coastal Margins LCT, in the north of the East Lothian local authority area. The LCA follows the coastline between Dunbar in the east and the edge of Port Seton in the west. It includes several coastal settlements including Longniddry, Aberlady, Gullane, Dirleton, North Berwick and Dunbar. The LCA comprises a rocky stretch of coastline, interspersed by sandy coves backed by sand dunes. The LCA forms the transition from the sea to the coastal plain.

A.409 The key characteristics of this LCA which are of relevance to the LSA include:

- *“Craggs and rocky outcrops form much of the northern coastal edge and enclose numerous sandy coves backed by dunes.”*
- *“The area is virtually flat immediately inland of the coast, consisting of raised beach deposits.”*
- *“Sandy beaches and dune systems are more extensive at Aberlady and Gullane to the west and around Tynninghame and the mouth of the Tyne to the east.”*
- *“Several islands are located within the waters close to the coast.”*
- *“The proximity to the coast has led to the formation of distinctive wind sculpted areas of woodland.”*
- *“The dunes and links also provide ideal conditions for golf and many golf courses exist along the coast including Luffness and the ancient world-renowned course of Muirfield at Gullane.”*
- *“Settlement is concentrated along the coastal fringe.”*
- *“There is little industry or infrastructure within the area.”*
- *“A highly attractive landscape (and seascape) of great diversity from the varied coastline and locally distinctive villages to the extensive estate woodlands.”*
- *“Long range views are common to most of the area both across the sea as well as inland to the Lammermuir Hills to the south, emphasising the open, level nature of the coastal margin.”*
- *“Some seascape views focus on the distinctive islands in the Firth of Forth, others are funneled towards the open sea.”* **[See reference 1]**

Designated landscapes

A.410 Approximately three quarters of the LCA is covered by Special Landscape Areas (SLAs), including the entirety of the coastline itself, as shown on **Figure A.78**. The entire coastline is designated as, from west to east, the North Berwick to Seton Sands SLA (26), Tantallon Coast SLA (28), Belhaven Bay SLA (27) and the Dunbar to Barns Ness Coast SLA (29). The reasons for designation are set out in the East Lothian Special Landscape Area Supplementary Planning Guidance [\[See reference 1\]](#).

Existing renewable energy and other large-scale development

A.411 There are no solar PV or BESS developments within the LCA. There is one small turbine (approximately 21m to tip) to the south of Dirleton. There do not appear to be any other wind turbines within the LCA. An additional three turbines (21m to tip) are located to the south of Dirleton, within the neighbouring Coastal Plain LCA.

A.412 Neart na Gaoithe Offshore Wind Farm is situated approximately 27.5km offshore, in the North Sea. It comprises 54 turbines up to 208m in height which can be seen on the distant horizon from the coastline and coastal plain east of North Berwick, and from more elevated slopes and summits inland.

A.413 From flat and/or open stretches of the coastline (e.g. near Gullane and east of North Berwick), long ranging views are afforded towards the Lammermuir Hills in the south. A large cluster of wind turbines within the elevated interior of the Lammermuir Hill range are visible from parts of the LCA. This includes a cluster of operational wind farms including Crystal Rig Phases 1-3 (91 turbines, 100-125m to tip), and Aikengall I-IIA (54 turbines, 125-145m to tip). The under construction Crystal Rig 4 (11 turbines, 200m to tip) may also be visible in views from these locations once operational. Fallago Rig (48 turbines, up to 125m to tip) is visible in distant views to the south, in the central portion of the Lammermuir ridge. A larger cluster of turbines comprising Dun Law Phases 1 and 2 (61 turbines, up to 75m to tip), Poggie (12 turbines, 74-76m to tip) and Keith Hill (5 turbines, 76m to tip) are visible further to the south-west.

Figure A.79: Wide expanse of white sandy beach at Belhaven Bay



Figure A.80: Sandy beach at West Bay beach contrasts with the settlement of North Berwick



Figure A.81: Views across Gullane golf course, with the elevated ridgeline of the Garleton Hills and distant Lammermuir Hills visible in the distance



Figure A.82: Tantallon Castle is a prominent historic feature in views towards the North Sea



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

A.414 The following table sets out an assessment of sensitivity of the LCA in relation to each of the criteria set out in **Chapter 2**.

Table A.69: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for the Northern Coastal Margin LCA

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Landform and scale	■ A low-lying (below 45m AOD) and primarily flat coastal plain used predominantly as farmland. This contrasts with the more complex and varied landform of the coastline which includes big sandy bays, craggy outcrops and tall rugged cliffs. ■ Large sandy bays found along the coast, including at Gullane Bay, Yellowcraig Beach, Ravensheugh Sands and Belhaven Bay. These bays are often backed by extensive dune systems. The sandy beach at Belhaven Bay is identified as a special quality in the Belhaven Bay SLA (27), with the citation stating that the bay “<i>is a wide expanse of sandy beach backed by dunes... [the bay has] a dynamic coastline changing from year to year</i>” [See reference 1]. ■ Estuaries along the coast are found at Aberlady Bay and Belhaven Bay. ■ Small rocky islands, comprising volcanic rock, protrude out of the sea, including Fidra, The Lamb, Craigleith and Bass Rock. ■ Further east, between North Berwick and Peffer Sands, and around Dunbar, the coastline is more rugged with red cliffs rising up from the sea. These cliffs are noted as a special quality for the Tantallon Coast SLA (28) and Belhaven Bay SLA (27). The special quality for the Tantallon Coast SLA (28) notes that “<i>the cliffs of the coast, particularly around Tantallon are a significant landscape feature... The red rock here is striking, with erosion from wind and wave giving a rounded, almost sensuous appearance in places</i>” [See reference 1]. ■ Inland from the coast, large-scale relatively flat landform is used predominantly as farmland.	High Given the complex and varied nature of the landform along the coastline, it is highly susceptible to wind turbine development. Turbines being vertical features would contrast strongly with the largely horizontal landscape associated with coastal plain further inland and the horizon of the sea, including interactions with the rocky islands seen offshore. Turbines <49.9m, if sited sensitively further inland, would have less interaction with the coastline. The flatter landform of the coastal plain would be less sensitive to this type of development.	Medium-High Developments less than 4.9ha could sit within the existing inland coastal plain landscape without masking the topography of the area. Developments greater than 5ha may result in the characteristics of the landform being lost or covered.	High All large-scale development is likely to detract from the coastline, by introducing a bulky feature within the landscape. Such development could provide a scale comparison when seen in the context of coastal cliffs and coastal islands.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	■ A rugged coastline comprising sandy beaches and rocky outcrops, which is mostly designated as the Firth of Forth Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Protection Area (SPA) for its coastal habitats such as estuaries, mudflats, dunes and saltmarsh, and the bird populations this supports. The saltmarsh and mudflats at Aberlady are noted in the special qualities for the North Berwick to Seton Sands Coast SLA (26).	High Single turbines (<50m) could potentially be sited within the existing pattern of landcover, if set back far from the coastline and sited sensitively.	High Developments less than 10ha could sit within the existing field pattern, which are commonly up to 10ha in size. Locating development less than 5ha in these fields may fragment the	High Larger-scale development is most suited to large field patterns, as it may be able to sit within the existing field pattern. This scale of field is not commonly found in this LCA.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	■ Dense settlement concentrated along the coastline, with several villages and towns present, and a scattering of farmsteads beyond the settlements. ■ Numerous golf courses are present along the coastal edge, set back behind the dune systems which are found extensively along the sandy bays. ■ Inland, agricultural land comprises medium scale rectilinear fields. These are generally contained by post and wire fencing, ditches or low hedgerows. Where hedgerows are not present, the perceived scale of these fields is larger. ■ Strong presence of policy woodland near Gosford House, Tynninghame and Archerfield.		perceived scale and pattern of these fields. Development could be located within agricultural areas which would be less sensitive than other landcover types such as woodland or estuaries. However, developments greater than 10ha may extend across several fields and would risk losing the field and landcover pattern.	Therefore, large-scale developments may extend across several smaller-scale fields, disturbing the landcover pattern, especially boundary vegetation.
Historic landscape character	■ There is a rich variety of heritage assets including many Listed Buildings which are largely concentrated within the settlements of Aberlady, Gullane, Dirleton, North Berwick and Dubar, and primarily associated with Conservation Areas within these settlements. Refer to Figure B.5. ■ The inventory listed Tynninghame, Luffness and Gosford House Garden and Designed Landscapes (GDLs) together with the local GDLs at Archerfield and Seacliff create localised areas of parkland character along the coastline. The woodland canopy at Gosford House is noted as <i>“greatly contributing to the surrounding scenery”</i> [See reference 15] and the policy woodlands at Luffness are <i>“significant in the views from the surrounding area, particularly from the north-east, and the main gateway onto the A198 is a distinctive feature along the route”</i> [See reference 16]. In the flat landscape to the east, the woodland at Tynninghame <i>“contrasts with the open parkland... and the designed landscape contributes significantly to local scenery”</i> [See reference 17]. ■ Several Scheduled Monuments associated with castles, churches and burial grounds, prehistoric settlement and enclosure are present throughout the area, both within settlements and in more rural locations. ■ Tantallon Castle, a Scheduled Monument dating back to the 14th Century is a prominent historic feature on the cliffs above the sea. It attracts a large number of visitors. ■ The sites of the Battle of Dunbar I (1296) and Battle of Dunbar II (1650) lie within the area and are on Scotland’s Inventory of Historic Battlefields.	High The LCA has a high concentration of historic features which contribute greatly to the historic character and sense of time depth experienced throughout the LCA.	High The LCA has a high concentration of historic features which contribute greatly to the historic character and sense of time depth experienced throughout the LCA.	High The LCA has a high concentration of historic features which contribute greatly to the historic character and sense of time depth experienced throughout the LCA.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Visual receptors	- Several settlements are located within the LCA, including Longniddry, Aberlady, Gullane, Dirleton, North Berwick and Dunbar. Beyond these settlements, farmsteads are scattered throughout the area. - The coastline is a highly accessible and popular location for recreation, particularly along the coastline, with the John Muir Way following the coastline through much of the area. The John Muir Country Park, near Dunbar, is a popular location for visitors. The presence of the John Muir Way and Country Park is recognised in the special qualities for the Belhaven Bay SLA (27), and North Berwick to Seton Sands Coast SLA (26). Refer to Figure B.6. - National Cycle Network Route 76 offers both on road and traffic free cycle routes, near Dunbar. - A network of core paths and public rights of way provide recreational access to the coastline. - Several golf courses along the coastline offer formal recreational opportunities. - The A198 broadly follows the coastline, offering open views out towards the coast, and across the coastal plain towards the Lammermuir Hills, as noted as a special qualities in the Tantallon Coast SLA (28). - There are many locations along the coastline which attract a large number of visitors, for example, Gullane and Yellowcraig beaches, Belhaven Bay, and Tantallon Castle, to name a few.	High The LCA has a high density of sensitive visual receptors whose attention may be focussed on the landscape. Recreational receptors found extensively throughout the LCA, primarily concentrated along the coast. The area is densely populated, with several settlements located along the coastline, and scattered properties found elsewhere throughout the rest of the LCA.	High The LCA has a high density of sensitive visual receptors whose attention may be focussed on the landscape. Recreational receptors found extensively throughout the LCA, primarily concentrated along the coast. The area is densely populated, with several settlements located along the coastline, and scattered properties found elsewhere throughout the rest of the LCA.	High The LCA has a high density of sensitive visual receptors whose attention may be focussed on the landscape. Recreational receptors found extensively throughout the LCA, primarily concentrated along the coast. The area is densely populated, with several settlements located along the coastline, and scattered properties found elsewhere throughout the rest of the LCA.
Visual amenity (including skylines and intervisibility)	- Long expansive open views out across the North Sea and along the coastline from open areas inland along the flatter coastal plain. The <i>“picturesque Fidra Island sits off the coast at Yellowcraig... It creates a focal point and frames views from the shore and contrasts with the soft white sands of the beach”</i> is noted in the special qualities for North Berwick to Seton Sands Coast SLA (26), and <i>“views are often wide and changing due to weather patterns and shifting tides”</i> from the Belhaven Bay SLA (27) [See reference 1]. - Long ranging views are available inland, across the coastal plain towards the Garleton Hills and Lammermuir Hills in the south. The views of the Lammermuirs from the A198 are noted as a special quality in the Tantallon Coast SLA (28). - A landscape with highly diverse and contrasting views, including views of the sea, sandy bays, rocky outcrops and islands, flat agricultural land and extensive areas of policy woodland.	High Wind turbines may introduce vertical features into views towards and along the coast which are largely focussed on the horizon of the sea and the flat coastal plain.	High Solar and BESS development would introduce man-made features into views which could impact open views towards the sea. Schemes greater than 5ha would likely be more visible, especially given the flat and open nature of the coastal edge. Developments less than 4.9ha may be able to be sited so as to maximise screening by vegetation.	High Other large-scale development would introduce man-made features into views throughout the LCA. Given the massing, these developments are likely to be highly visible and impact the coastal horizon, with limited potential for effective mitigation screening. Such development could block views of the distinctive coastal islands.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	■ From the coastline to the east of North Berwick, the offshore wind turbines at Neart na Gaoithe Wind Farm are visible on clear days protruding above the distant horizon. ■ Localised areas of policy woodland provides a sense of enclosure, with views restricted in places, including around Tynninghame and Gosford House. A greater presence of woodland near Dirleton locally contains views.			
Perceptual and scenic qualities	■ Strong scenic qualities associated with the wildness, ruggedness and strong sense of exposure along the coastline. ■ The entirety of the coastline is designated as the North Berwick to Seton Sands Coast (26), Belhaven Bay (27), Tantallon Coast (28) and Dunbar to Barns Ness Coast (29) SLAs. Key reasons for these designations often relate back to the sea, with special qualities noting “<i>the constant sounds of the breaking waves and seabirds and the invigorating smell of salty sea air</i>” and the “<i>offshore islands here... are among East Lothian’s most remote areas</i>” (SLA 26), qualities of wildness “<i>due to the sea with its elemental force</i>” (SLA 27), and “<i>when the sea haar rolls in cutting out views and muffling sounds the feeling of remoteness can be overpowering</i>” (SLA 28). ■ Perceptual characteristics are shaped by the complex interaction of coastal features, including contrast of farmland, sandy bays and rocky cliffs and outcrops, the sounds associated with crashing waves and seabirds, the continuous movement of waves, tides and channels, and the changing weather.	High Man-made features such as turbines may detract from the natural characteristics and scenic nature of the coastline, where human influence is largely limited to settlement and farms.	High Man-made features such as solar PV/BESS developments may detract from the natural characteristics and scenic nature of the landscape, particularly if sited along the coastal edge, which has a greater perceived sense of naturalness.	High Other large-scale development may detract from scenic qualities associated with the landscape, particularly along the coastline. Such development juxtaposed against the natural coastline and sea may reduce the sense of wildness and tranquillity.

Overall landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

A.415 The area is characterised by the distinctive coastline which extends from Dunbar in the east to Port Seton in the west. It features a complex variety of coastal features including sandy bays and estuaries, rocky cliffs and outcrops, islands, and a flat coastal plain which is well-settled. Long ranging and scenic views are afforded along the coast and out to the North Sea. The complex landform features associated with the coastline are highly sensitive to wind turbine development which would diminish the sense of naturalness. Given the proximity to the coastline, adjacent agricultural land is also sensitive to wind turbine development.

A.416 The area provides the foreground to open views across the coastal edge out to the North Sea. Development of wind turbines on this coastal edge would result in the introduction of this type of development into the LCA. Given the flat nature of the landscape, siting turbines along the coastline would introduce tall vertical features into views dominated by the horizon and would interrupt highly scenic views out towards the North Sea.

Table A.70: Sensitivity scores to wind energy development in the Northern Coastal Margins LCA

Wind Energy Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score
Up to 49.9m tip height	High
50m to 99.9m tip height	High
100m to 149.9m tip height	High
150m to 199.9m tip height	High
Over 200m tip height	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.417 The entire area of the LCA, including inland areas, are important to the setting of the coastline, and are highly valued for the many recreational opportunities that are provided. Scenic views out to the North Sea are a key defining feature of the area. Therefore, the whole area of the LCA is of high sensitivity to wind turbine development. Agricultural land further inland may have localised lower sensitivity to wind turbines <49.9m due to increased separation from the coastline and potential for some screening by nearby vegetation. However, this would be largely limited to single turbines, for example those installed at farms. These areas would still be of higher sensitivity to larger groups of turbines. Suitability would be dependent on sensitive siting and design.

Cumulative effects

A.418 Although there is only one small turbine located within the LCA, it is approximately 21m to tip and located to the south of Dirleton on the boundary with the Coastal Plain LCA. The small village of Dirleton provides separation between the turbine and the coastline. There is distant visibility of turbines in other LCAs, including three further turbines just south of Dirleton and then very distant visibility of turbines within the Lammermuir Hills and Neart na Gaoithe offshore. These have some limited influence on the character of the LCA.

A.419 The installation of wind turbines within the LCA would introduce this type of development into a landscape which currently is perceived as having no turbines. The introduction of wind turbines could detract from a landscape which has a strong rural or natural character with limited human influence beyond settlement.

Overall landscape sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development

A.420 Solar PV/BESS would detract from views of the North Sea from within the LCA if located along the relatively flat coastal edge. BESS development could have a greater impact on views of the horizon as it is of greater massing, whilst solar PV could occupy a larger spatial extent of views.

A.421 Solar PV/BESS development would introduce uncharacteristic built elements into a landscape currently devoid of this type of development. It would detract from the natural and wild character of the coastline, particularly if sited in the east near Tantallon where flat fields are present. Elsewhere such development may detract from views experienced by recreational receptors along the coastline.

Table A.71: Sensitivity scores to solar PV/BESS development in the Northern Coastal Margin LCA

Solar PV/BESS Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score Solar PV	Sensitivity Score BESS
Small (up to 4.9ha for solar PV/BESS)	High	High
Medium (5-15ha for solar PV/5-9.9ha for BESS)	High	High
Large (15-50ha for solar PV/10-15ha for BESS)	High	High
Very large (more than 50ha for solar PV/more than 15ha for BESS)	High	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.422 Although the flatter landform and medium to large scale of the landscape near the coast indicate lower sensitivity, this area is highly important for recreation and to the setting of the coastline, and the views experienced from within the LCA out towards the sea. Therefore, the whole area of the LCA is of high sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development. However, localised inland areas which are afforded extensive screening by vegetation, would be less sensitive to the smallest scale of this type of development. Suitability would be dependent on sensitive siting and design.

Cumulative effects

A.423 Currently there are no existing solar PV or BESS developments within the LCA, and none proposed.

Overall landscape sensitivity to other large-scale development

A.424 The area is of high sensitivity to other large-scale developments (e.g. converter stations, substations, data centres etc.) given the largely undeveloped and highly scenic nature of the coastline. Development of large massing in this location would interfere with views out towards the sea, by obstructing views and introducing vertical features into an otherwise horizontal landscape, and may alter views of, for example, the *“large flat agricultural fields and big skies with views out to the sea and the islands of the Firth of Forth giving a feeling of openness and expansiveness”* noted in the special qualities for the Tantallon Coast SLA (28) [\[See reference 1\]](#). Such development would detract from the tranquil and strong rural character experienced along the coastline away from the built-up areas of settlements. The area closer to the settlements is also of high sensitivity given the proximity to a large number of sensitive residential receptors.

Table A.72: Sensitivity scores to other large-scale development in the Northern Coastal Margin LCA

Other Large-scale Development	Sensitivity Score
Other large-scale development	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.425 Although the relatively flat landform and medium to large scale of the landscape near the coast indicates lower sensitivity, this area is highly important to the setting of the coastline, and the views experienced from within the LCA out towards the sea. Therefore, the whole area of the LCA is of high sensitivity to large-scale development which are of large massing, and it is not considered that there are areas of lesser sensitivity which may be more suitable for this type of development.

Cumulative effects

A.426 Currently there are no existing other large-scale developments within the LCA, and none are proposed.

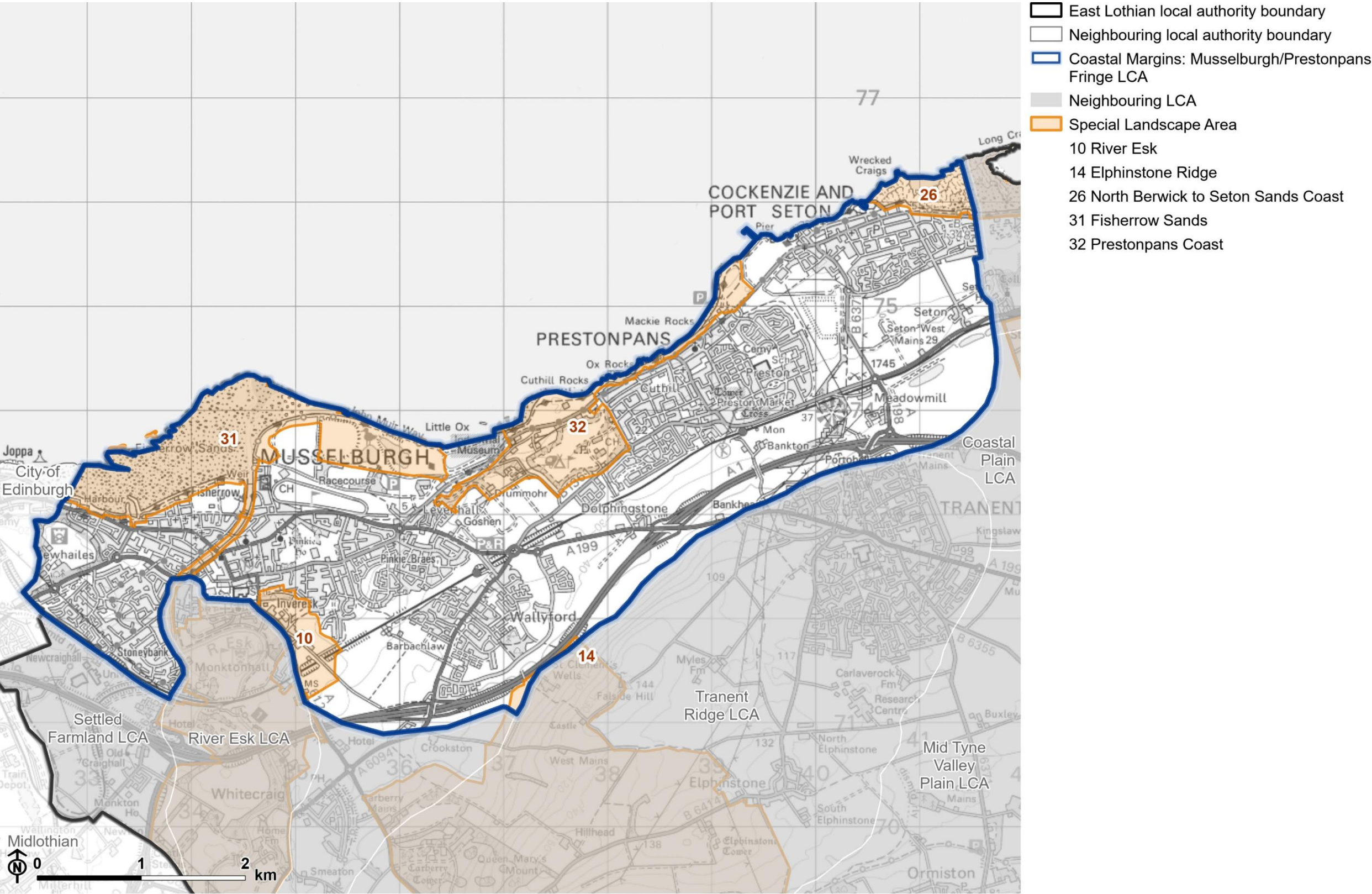
Siting and design guidance

A.427 Siting and design guidance specific to this LCA is set out below. This should be read in conjunction with LCA specific guidance set out in the Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Planning Guidance [\[See reference 1\]](#) and the higher level guidance for the relevant LCT provided in **Chapter 4**.

- Avoid siting development along the coastal edge, where it would appear prominent in the open views out towards the sea and along the coast. Development should seek to be sited as far inland as possible to reduce the impact of development in coastal views.
- Consider siting in locations which have fewer sensitive receptors, including residents and recreational receptors, such as those engaging in activity along the coast or at the many golf courses located along this stretch of coastline.
- Avoid selecting sites which could impact views towards the prominent historic landmark of Tantallon Castle.
- Utilise existing landscape features such as shelterbelts and hedgerows to maximise screening of lower-lying development, while avoiding locations near the GDLs where it could locally impact the wooded policy character of the area.

Musselburgh/Prestonpans Fringe LCA (Coastal Margins LCT)

Figure A.83: Contextual map of the LCA



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LCA landscape character overview

A.428 The Musselburgh/Prestonpans Fringe LCA is located within the Coastal Margins LCT, in the east of the East Lothian local authority area, bordering Edinburgh City Council to the west. The LCA extends between Newhailes in the west, towards Cockenzie and Port Seton in the east, as shown on **Figure A.83**. It comprises a densely settled stretch of coastline with several settlements, primarily Musselburgh, Wallyford, Prestonpans and Cockenzie and Port Seton. The LCA comprises a developed coastline, with sandy beaches and bays at Musselburgh and Prestonpans, backed by farmland and transport routes. The LCA forms the transition from the sea to the Tranent ridge and nearby settled farmland in the south.

A.429 The key characteristics of this LCA which are of relevance to the LSA include:

- The LCA is *“defined by the Tranent Ridge and Settled Farmland to the south and includes the lower floodplain of the River Esk.”*
- *“The coastline consists of a sandy beach at Fisherrow and the open mudflats and mussel beds of the River Esk estuary.”*
- *“Land has been reclaimed at Musselburgh with waste ash from the former Cockenzie Power Station to form an extensive area of lagoons separated from the sea by a concrete retaining wall.”*
- *“At Prestonpans and Cockenzie and Port Seton the foreshore consists low rocky platforms and small rocky headlands.”*
- *“Large arable fields of prime agricultural land divided by broken hedgerows and fences with occasional hawthorn or beech hedgerow trees.”*
- *“The area between Musselburgh and Prestonpans contains both the policy woodlands of Drummohr House and the wooded grounds of the Royal Musselburgh Golf Course, protected by tree preservation orders.”*
- *“The A1 trunk road and East Coast Rail line both pass through this area.”*
- *“The coastal strip provides recreation in the form of Musselburgh Racecourse and the Musselburgh and Royal Musselburgh Golf Courses as well as Levenhall Links.”*
- *“The John Muir Way follows the coast through the area and links with the River Esk cycle/walkway and Core Path routes to Tranent Ridge.”*
- *“Historically the fishing industry has been important and harbours at Cockenzie and Port Seton remain in use today.”*

- *“The villages have continued to expand with modern housing developments due to their proximity to Edinburgh.”*
- *“Inventory Garden and Designed Landscapes at Newhailes and Pinkie and wooded Drummohr designed landscape breaks up the built development.”*
- *“The former Cockenzie Power Station a previously dominant landmark has been demolished leaving a brownfield site.”*
- *“The expansion of the settlement in this area is significantly increasing the built nature of the area.”*
- *“The majority of the area is settled with the burgh town of Musselburgh spanning the mouth of the River Esk to the west with its harbour at Fisherrow. Prestonpans, Cockenzie and Port Seton are also located adjacent to the coast and have a strong relationship with it.”*
- *“Occasional open views can be gained across the plain towards the coast to the north and Edinburgh to the west. A viewpoint from the top of the ‘pyramid’ at Meadowmill provides panoramic views over the area.” [See reference 1]*

Designated landscapes

A.430 There are several SLAs within the LCA which occupy less than a quarter of the entire LCA, as shown on **Figure A.83**. These are primarily situated along the coastline between and just outwith the main areas of settlement, including Fisherrow Sands SLA (31) and Prestonpans Coast SLA (32) which are located entirely within this LCA, in addition to a small portion of North Berwick to Seton Sands Coast SLA (26). Further inland, a small part of River Esk SLA (10) is located in the west. The reasons for designation are set out in the East Lothian Special Landscape Area Supplementary Planning Guidance [See reference 1].

A.431 In addition, two GDLs are located at Newhailes and Pinkie House, providing a more wooded character adjacent to the surrounding settlement. Several local GDLs are also located throughout the area, including two more extensive areas at Preston Grange House and Drummohr. These contribute to the area of green space between Musselburgh and Prestonpans, as shown on **Figure B.5**. As illustrated on **Figure B.5**, a large part of the LCA is designated as Green Belt.

Existing renewable energy and other large-scale development

A.432 There are no operational or under construction, or consented wind farm developments in the LCA. Distant wind farms in Fife can be seen across the Firth of Forth.

A.433 There are no operational or under construction solar PV or BESS developments in the LCA. There are several large substations located in the north-east of the LCA between Prestonpans and Cockenzie. A large SPEN substation with nearby overhead line approaching from the south-east forms a prominent feature in views. A substation associated with Inch Cape Offshore Wind Farm is located on the site of the former Cockenzie Power Station, however, is well screened from the surrounding area by large landscape bunding.

Figure A.84: Old Bridge within Musselburgh, crossing the River Esk where footpaths follow the watercourses amidst a narrow parkland with mature trees



Figure A.85: Stony Prestonpans Beach with properties along shore and distant views to Arthur's Seat and the Pentland Hills, with dramatic open sky view



Figure A.86: View north-west from Prestonpans Viewpoint overlooking Prestonpans, with the Firth of Forth, Arthur's Seat and Fife beyond



Figure A.87: View north from Prestonpans Viewpoint overlooking woodland and large scale pylons, with Port Seton visible beyond



Figure A.6: View north-west from the John Muir Way between Musselburgh and Prestonpans, with Fife and islands in the Firth of Forth visible



Landscape Sensitivity Assessment

A.434 The following table sets out an assessment of sensitivity of the LCA in relation to each of the criteria set out in **Chapter 2**.

Table A.73: Landscape Sensitivity Assessment for the Musselburgh/Prestonpans Fringe LCA

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
Landform and scale	■ The topography is relatively flat, gently rising from sea level in the north to elevations of approximately 50m AOD in the south. ■ The rising landform meets the Tranent ridge to the south-east which begins to rise more steeply, containing and defining the edge of this LCA. ■ The River Esk forms an incised valley through the town of Musselburgh, flowing into the Firth of Forth. ■ The coastline consists of expansive mudflats at Fisherrow, by Musselburgh, with much rockier platforms in the east by Prestonpans, Cockenzie and Port Seton, where small, jagged headlands are present. ■ There are very limited areas of greater elevation, however a manmade spoil heap near Meadowmill forms a pyramid which is more open in character compared to the surrounding lower-lying landscape.	Medium The coastline is highly susceptible to wind turbine development. The vertical nature of turbines would contrast strongly with the largely horizontal landscape associated with the coastline. Turbines <100m, if sited sensitively, would have less interaction with the coastline if sited further inland in the more open farmland. However, it would likely provide a scaling feature for the landform of the Tranent Ridge further south.	Medium Developments less than 10ha could sit within the relatively flat, low-lying land further inland from the coast without masking the topography of the area.	Medium If sited near the coast large-scale development is likely to detract from the coastline, by introducing a bulky feature within the landscape. Further inland, the relatively flat low-lying landscape may be able to accommodate this type of development. It could provide a scaling feature for the landform of the Tranent Ridge further south.
Landcover (including field and settlement patterns)	■ The coastal strip of this landscape is densely settled with various individual settlements in close proximity to each other. ■ Between settlements, several transport routes cut through the landscape, including the busy A1 which traverses the majority of the south of the LCA, and the east coast railway line which runs along the southern edge of Musselburgh and Prestonpans. ■ Arable fields of medium scale and bounded by hedgerows and fences occupy the space to the south of the railway line and A1, further inland. ■ A small area of policy woodland is found at Drummohr, between Musselburgh and Prestonpans. This woodland is situated between the wooded grounds of Royal Musselburgh Golf Course and Levenhall Links Leisure Park. Together they create a large green swathe in the centre of the LCA, between Fisherrow Sands and Prestonpans. ■ Riparian planting along the River Esk provides a green corridor within the densely settled Musselburgh area.	Medium Frequent human scale features including buildings and trees increase the sensitivity to vertical features such as wind turbines. Larger wind turbines would be out of scale with human scale features within the settled areas of the landscape but more open areas of farmland in the south would be less sensitive given the existing presence of overhead lines and simple landcover.	Medium Developments less than 4.9ha could sit within the existing field pattern on the fringes of the settlement. The presence of woodland and vegetation around the settlement edge may help to screen views of low-lying development such as solar PV/BESS. Larger developments may extend across several fields and would risk overriding the landcover pattern. Siting near the settlement, in suitably screened locations, would help concentrate human influence in	Medium Areas with larger field patterns may be less sensitive to large-scale development, as it may sit within the existing field pattern. Developments of this type would likely extend across several smaller-scale fields, overriding the landcover pattern. There is opportunity for other large-scale development to be accommodated within the context of existing large scale industrial buildings near Cockenzie and Port Seton.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	Large scale industrial buildings are present in the east , including a substation and extensive area of brownfield land near Cockenzie and Port Seton.		the area around the main settlement.	
Historic landscape character	- The designed landscapes of Newhailes House and Pinkie House GDLs create wooded green spaces within the urban area of Musselburgh, and include areas of ancient woodland. - Several local GDLs are also located throughout the area, contributing locally to the historic character of the area. This includes two more extensive local GDLs at Preston Grange House and Drummohr. Refer to Figure B.5. - There are many Listed Buildings within the area, primarily concentrated within the several Conservation Areas within the LCA. These contribute to the historic character of the area. This includes Conservation Areas at Musselburgh, Inveresk, Preston, Harlawhill and Cockenzie and Port Seton. - A large portion of the LCA is covered by the Battle of Pinkie Battlefield site (1547) and the Battle of Prestonpans Battlefield site (1745). Refer to Figure B.5. - The former industrial coal bing south of Prestonpans is a visitor attraction providing information on the Battle of Prestonpans, 1745. This elevated viewpoint overlooks the area of the Inventory listed Battlefield. - Several landscape-scale Scheduled Monuments relating to roman field systems and prehistoric enclosures are present in the west near Lewisvale Park.	Medium The LCA has a number of heritage assets within it. Heritage assets are primarily concentrated within the settlements and unlikely to be impacted by development outside the main settlements. Potential for development to impact on views and historic character.	Medium The LCA has a number of heritage assets within it. Heritage assets are primarily concentrated within the settlements and unlikely to be impacted by development outside the main settlements. Potential for development to impact on views and historic character.	Medium The LCA has a number of heritage assets within it. Heritage assets are primarily concentrated within the settlements and unlikely to be impacted by development outside the main settlements. Potential for development to impact on views and historic character.
Visual receptors	- Musselburgh forms the largest settlement in the area, though several other settlements are present along the coastline, namely Prestonpans, Cockenzie and Port Seton. Wallyford is located further inland. - The south of the LCA is less densely settled and used for agriculture. Road users travelling along the A1 pass through this area, as do people travelling along the east coast railway line. Refer to Figure B.6. - Historically the fishing industry has been important and the harbours at Fisherrow, Cockenzie and Port Seton remain used to this day. This is reflected in the special qualities for the Fisherrow Sands SLA (31) which states “<i>Fisherrow harbour is scenic and a focus for activity</i>” [See reference 1].	High The LCA has many visual receptors whose attention may be focussed on the landscape. Residential receptors are densely concentrated in the settlements of Musselburgh, Prestonpans, Cockenzie and Port Seton, and Wallyford. Recreational receptors are found throughout the LCA, primarily concentrated within the settlements and along the coastline.	High The LCA has many visual receptors whose attention may be focussed on the landscape. Residential receptors are densely concentrated in the settlements of Musselburgh, Prestonpans, Cockenzie and Port Seton, and Wallyford. Recreational receptors are found throughout the LCA, primarily concentrated within the settlements and along the coastline.	High The LCA has many visual receptors whose attention may be focussed on the landscape. Residential receptors are densely concentrated in the settlements of Musselburgh, Prestonpans, Cockenzie and Port Seton, and Wallyford. Recreational receptors are found throughout the LCA, primarily concentrated within the settlements and along the coastline.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	- A network of core paths and public rights of way provide recreational access to the coastline, along the River Esk and the built up settlement. Refer to Figure B.6. - The long-distance John Muir Way follows the entirety of the coastline within this LCA, and is noted as a special quality in the Fisherrow Sands (31) and Prestonpans Coast (32) SLAs [See reference 1]. Outward views across the Firth of Forth are of importance. - National Cycle Network Route 1 provides recreational opportunities along the River Esk, whilst other areas of greenspace such as Musselburgh Racecourse and Levenhall Links provide further opportunities. Refer to Figure B.6.	Given the well settled nature of the landscape, development would likely only be possible in the south of the LCA, beyond the settlement boundaries.	Given the well settled nature of the landscape, development would likely only be possible in the south of the LCA, beyond the settlement boundaries.	Given the well settled nature of the landscape, development would likely only be possible in the south of the LCA, beyond the settlement boundaries.
Visual character (including skylines and intervisibility)	- The LCA has a strong relationship with the sea and coastline, where distant views towards Fife are available, as reflected in the special qualities for the Fisherrow Sands SLA (31) which states “<i>Open, large scale views to the sea and sky and along the coast, to Fife and Edinburgh and Arthur’s seat – Fisherrow</i>” [See reference 1]. This occurs both within settled areas, where streets are oriented to provide vistas across the sea, and properties are found immediately overlooking the shoreline, and along the coastal edge. - Inland, the Tranent ridge is locally prominent forming an elevated skyline which contains the settled areas of Musselburgh and Wallyford to the south. - Prominent skyline feature across the coastline include Arthur’s Seat and the Pentland Hills in the distance. Islands within the Firth of Forth are also focal features. - The area is dominated by residential and industrial development, and the character of the landscape is heavily influenced by human development. - Between settled areas, there is a strong presence of woodland which frames and contains views. For example, woodland to the west of Prestonpans provides a wooded backdrop to the town, as noted in the special qualities for the Prestonpans Coast SLA (32) which states “<i>the woodlands to the west of Prestonpans set on raised land provide a strong scenic green backdrop to the town when viewed from the coast</i>” [See reference 1]. Other areas of woodland include the golf courses, the designed landscapes of Newhailes House and Pinkie House, and the River Esk corridor. - There is intervisibility between the settlement edges of Musselburgh, Inveresk, Prestonpans and Wallyford, and the open farmland and Tranent Ridge which encloses the LCA to the south of the LCA. Much of this land is	Low-Medium Development would likely only be possible in the south of the LCA, beyond the settlement boundaries. Therefore, turbines are unlikely to interrupt views towards the coast. The visual character of the coast would be highly sensitive to all scales of development, as it would detract from the scale of features within the settlement, interrupt views across the Firth of Forth and could detract from views towards the distinctive skyline of Edinburgh. Wind turbines if sited in the south of the LCA would introduce vertical features into views across the farmland in the south of the LCA, where they would likely be seen against the skyline, although may be afforded some backclothing by the Tranent Ridge. Turbines could interrupt views towards	Low-Medium Solar PV and BESS development would introduce man-made features into open views available from the southern edge of settlements and from the more open farmland to the south of these settlements. Development greater than 5ha would likely be more visible, especially given the flat and open nature of the landscape. Developments less than 4.9ha may be able to be sited so as to maximise screening by vegetation. Depending on siting, there is potential for visual confusion caused by the presence of the railway line, A1, and several overhead lines. Potential opportunities to site within the brownfield and industrial area near Cockenzie and Port Seton, with minimal impact on views.	Low-Medium Other large-scale development would introduce man-made features into views. Given the massing, these developments are likely to be highly visible with limited potential for effective mitigation screening. Potential opportunities to site within the brownfield and industrial area near Cockenzie and Port Seton, with minimal impact on views. However, there is potential for cumulative effects to arise from interaction with the existing large substation located here.

Landscape Sensitivity Criterion	Criterion Description	Overall Sensitivity Score: Wind Energy Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Solar PV/BESS Development	Overall Sensitivity Score: Other Large-scale Development
	designated as green belt, enabling more open views across the area due to less intervening development. The Tranent Ridge is noted as forming the backdrop to the LCA, and being of importance to the setting of the settlements within the LCA in the special qualities for the Elphinstone Ridge SLA (14) [See reference 1].	the ridge and wooded GDL at Carberry Tower. Turbines would also be seen in the context of overhead line development and major transportation routes, which may result in cumulative visual effects. Turbines less than 100m would cause less visual intrusion compared to turbines greater than 100m.		
Perceptual and scenic qualities	- A sense of tranquillity and naturalness is experienced along the coastline where the continuous movement of the sea can be experienced, along with an increase sense of exposure to the elements. Fisherrow Sands is noted as <i>“having some wild qualities due to their expansiveness and proximity to the sea, which masks the sounds of the urban area, and their associated birdlife”</i> [See reference 1]. - The built up settlements and traffic associated with these reduce the tranquillity experienced, however it provides strong visual contrast. - The demolition of Cockenzie Power Station has left a large brownfield site in the north-east, in close proximity to an existing, large-scale substation which both locally impact on the scenic value of the coastline. - Inland, the rural feel of agricultural land is reduced by the presence of major transport infrastructure and overhead lines. - The Tranent Ridge is noted in the special qualities for the Elphinstone Ridge SLA (14) as forming part of the setting of settlements within the LCA and Carberry designed landscape contributing to the <i>“visual interest and diversity”</i> of the area [See reference 1].	Low-Medium The settled nature of the coastal strip means it would be unlikely wind turbines of any scale could be developed along the coastline or within the settlements. In any case, these areas would be of higher sensitivity to wind turbines. The presence of major transport infrastructure and overhead lines inland from the coast, contributes to a reduction in tranquillity. Likewise, these features also detract from the scenic quality of views in places. Sensitivity to this type of development is therefore lower further inland, particularly for turbines <49.9m.	Low-Medium Given the strong human influence within this LCA, scenic qualities and sense of tranquillity are reduced. Therefore, sensitivity to this type of development is lower, particularly further inland and around the area of brownfield land near Cockenzie and Port Seton.	Low-Medium Given the strong human influence within this LCA, scenic qualities and sense of tranquillity are reduced. Therefore, sensitivity to this type of development is lower, particularly further inland and around the area of brownfield land near Cockenzie and Port Seton.

Overall landscape sensitivity to wind energy development

A.435 The high density of receptors within the north of this LCA, including residential and recreational receptors, contributes to a higher sensitivity in the northern part of the LCA. The settlements provide human scale features, including attractive buildings associated with Conservation Areas, and woodland associated with the River Esk, golf courses, and designed landscapes. These features provide a sense of scale which could be overwhelmed by tall vertical features such as wind turbines, indicating a greater sensitivity for this landscape. The area’s strong relationship with the coastline both visually and perceptually creates a higher sensitivity in the north where the coastal horizon is an important view from this LCA.

A.436 To the south of the settlements, the landscape comprises primarily flat open farmland with large-scale infrastructure present (e.g. the A1, railway line and several overhead lines). In the south of the LCA there is less intervisibility with the coast, with views more focussed on surrounding farmland and the Tranent Ridge which forms a subtle but locally prominent enclosing ridge to the south. Given the simple nature of the landscape in the south, and presence of existing infrastructure, the southern area of the LCA is of lower sensitivity to wind turbines less than 100m to tip. Turbines greater than 100m may have more interaction with the coastline and could provide a scaling feature for the landform of the Tranent Ridge.

Table A.74: Sensitivity scores to wind energy development in the Musselburgh/Prestonpans Fringe LCA

Wind Energy Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score
Up to 49.9m tip height	Low-Medium
50m to 99.9m tip height	Medium
100m to 149.9m tip height	High
150m to 199.9m tip height	High
Over 200m tip height	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.437 Although the landform is flat and relatively simple along the coastline, this area of the LCA is of the highest sensitivity due to its densely settled nature, expansive outward views and strong perceptual relationship between the settlements and sea. Tall vertical development such as wind turbines would be highly visible from the wider landscape, including from Fife, and could detract from outward views from the settlement to sea.

A.438 The south and south-east of the LCA is of lower sensitivity to wind turbines due to the much simpler landcover pattern of the agricultural fields, and the presence of the large-scale infrastructure of the A1, east coast railway line and several overhead lines. This area is partly screened from settlement views due to field boundary vegetation and roadside vegetation along the A1, indicating potential lower sensitivity. Where open views are afforded, they overlook the open farmland towards the Tranent Ridge. Although the open farmland has minimal scenic quality, the Tranent ridgeline has some scenic quality and is noted for its role in the setting of the settlements. Turbines could therefore interfere with views towards the ridge. Turbines (<50m) in proximity to the Tranent Ridge may be afforded some partial backclothing which would help reduce their apparent scale.

Cumulative effects

A.439 Currently there are no existing wind energy developments within the LCA, and none proposed. However, introducing turbines into this landscape could result in cumulative effects with other large scale industrial development in the LCA including substations and overhead lines, which could result in visual clutter and detract from the human scale elements of the landscape.

Overall landscape sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development

A.440 The relatively flat landform, settled nature, and simple landcover of the non-settled areas indicates a lower sensitivity to low-lying development such as solar PV/BESS. The densely settled nature of the coastal towns increases the sensitivity to solar PV/BESS development. However, there may be opportunities to site development around the settlement fringes in more screened locations.

A.441 The areas of open space amidst the residential areas are important to the setting and appreciation of the towns and often form sensitive features in their own right. Woodland within these areas and tree planting along the River Esk provide human scale features and contribute to local skylines. Solar PV/BESS development which extends across larger spatial scales could result in the loss of physical landscape features such as trees and would impact the wider landscape setting of the historic towns.

Table A.75: Sensitivity scores to solar PV/BESS development in the Musselburgh/Prestonpans Fringe LCA

Solar PV/BESS Development Scenario	Sensitivity Score Solar PV	Sensitivity Score BESS
Small (up to 4.9ha for solar PV/BESS)	Low-Medium	Low-Medium
Medium (5-15ha for solar PV/5-9.9ha for BESS)	Medium	Medium
Large (15-50ha for solar PV/10-15ha for BESS)	High	Medium-High
Very large (more than 50ha for solar PV/more than 15ha for BESS)	High	High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.442 The coastal area is of increased sensitivity due to its important outward views across the Firth of Forth, and the perceived connection between the landscape and sea. In addition, the coastline has a wilder character, relative to the adjacent built-up landscape, and development could detract from this.

A.443 Localised areas along the coastline which feature extensive brownfield sites will be of lower sensitivity compared to the rest of the coastline. For example, at the large brownfield site in the east which is adjacent to the existing substation.

A.444 The farmland in the south of the LCA is of lower sensitivity given its simple landform and landcover, and its greater distance from sensitive residential receptors.

Cumulative effects

A.445 Although there are no operational solar PV or BESS developments in the LCA, there is a consented BESS development (102MW) in the east, close to the settlement of Cockenzie and Port Seton. In addition, a further BESS development (63MW) has been consented in a more rural location at Dolphinstone Farm, to the south of the A1. Further solar PV/BESS development in this area could result in the perception of an increasingly modified landscape, with such schemes becoming notable feature in views as people travel through the area.

Overall landscape sensitivity to other large-scale development

A.446 Given the settled nature of the landscape and the presence of existing industrial development in localised areas (e.g. near Cockenzie and Port Seton), there is the possibility for other large-scale development to be accommodated and partially screened from sensitive views by existing buildings and infrastructure.

A.447 The majority of the settled areas consists of smaller scale features (e.g. residential buildings and areas of woodland etc.) which could be overwhelmed by other large-scale contemporary development, increasing the perceived scale of other large-scale development.

Table A.76: Sensitivity scores to other large-scale development in the Musselburgh/Prestonpans Fringe LCA

Other Large-scale Development	Sensitivity Score
Other large-scale development	Medium-High

Variations in sensitivity at the LCA level

A.448 The area near the exiting substation and overhead line, which is also adjacent to the large brownfield site of the former Cockenzie Power Station, is of lower sensitivity to large-scale development. This is due to the limited presence of human scale features and sensitive landscape features such as woodland. The landcover is simpler overall and there is a degree of industrialisation.

A.449 Furthermore, the southern fringes of settlements and the more open farmland (inland from the coast) are of lower sensitivity to large-scale due to the simple landcover and the presence of contemporary development, transport infrastructure and overhead lines further inland. However, such development could interrupt views towards the locally prominent Tranent Ridge which is noted as being of importance to the setting settlements.

A.450 Areas of greenspace create important distinctions between settlements, as recognised in their designation as green belt. These areas are of higher sensitivity as development which occupies the space between settlements may result in the settlements being seen to merge, losing their distinct boundaries and qualities.

Cumulative effects

A.451 The area is already densely settled, and the existing infrastructure is legible, forming localised focal points, including the substation in the east. Increasing the presence of large-scale development could have cumulative effects on receptors within settlements, however there are opportunities to concentrate this type of development near existing industrial development at Cockenzie and Port Seton which would minimise wider cumulative effects.

Siting and design guidance

A.452 Siting and design guidance specific to this LCA is set out below. This should be read in conjunction with LCA specific guidance set out in the Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Planning Guidance [\[See reference 1\]](#) and the higher level guidance for the relevant LCT provided in **Chapter 4**.

- Consider locations associated or adjacent to existing hard surfacing or built elements e.g. near the substations at Cockenzie and Port Seton where there is an extensive area of brownfield land.
- With the exception of the large brownfield site near Cockenzie and Port Seton, avoid siting development along the coastline, and in all cases consider views along the coast.
- Prioritise siting development within the agricultural land further inland, which may be able to accommodate larger developments given the simple landcover and separation from sensitive receptors.
- Consider siting development closer to main transport routes and existing infrastructure, where sensitivity to development is reduced, and in well screened locations on the settlement edge to concentrate human influence in the built up areas.