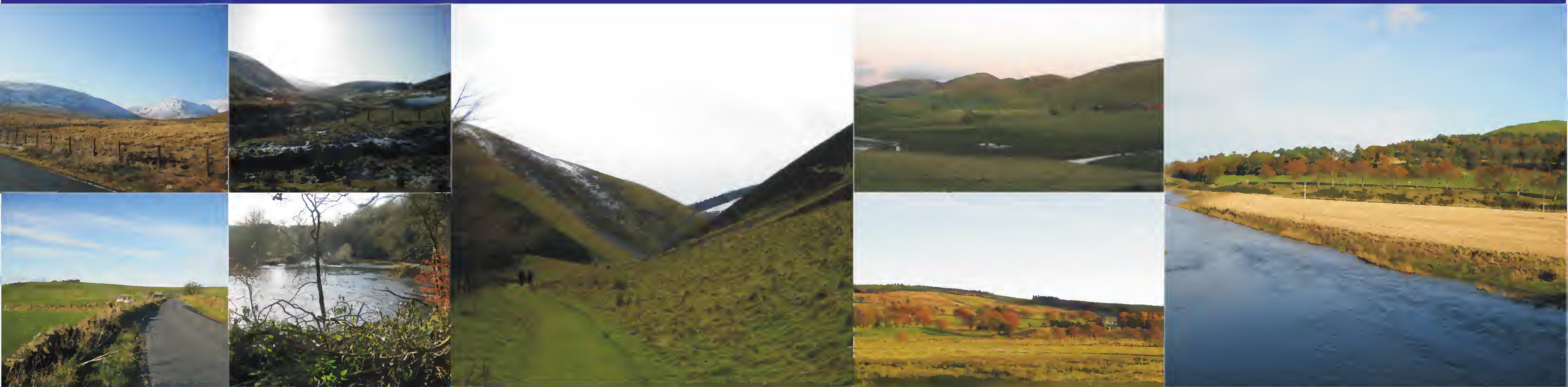


# South Lanarkshire Landscape Character Assessment



Report by

Ironside**Farrar**

7077 / November 2010



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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The *South Lanarkshire Local Plan*, adopted on 23 March 2009, contains Policy ENV 9: Review of Landscape Character, which states *'The Council will undertake an assessment of the landscape character of South Lanarkshire council area and a review of related landscape designations for the Council's area'*.

This Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) addresses this requirement, covering the local authority area of South Lanarkshire (see Figure 1). It builds upon the *Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Landscape Assessment. SNH Review No. 116. (Land Use Consultants, 1999)* which covers South Lanarkshire, North Lanarkshire, Glasgow, Renfrewshire, Dunbartonshire and Inverclyde. It is being undertaken in recognition that the current LCA is a broad regional study, is now ten years old and significant changes to the landscape have taken place, and will be taking place over the coming years. However, for a detailed description of the historical development of the landscape and a general overview of forces for change which have previously affected the landscape, refer to the 1999 LCA. This can be viewed on the SNH website:

<http://www.snh.org.uk/publications/on-line/LCA/glasgow.asp>

The updated and revised assessment will serve as baseline information that will inform landscape planning policies and guidance over the period of the Local Plan. It will address a number of areas including, in this case, the validation of local landscape designations and Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for Renewable Energy. It will also address other SPG and Spatial Frameworks in the future, such as minerals and urban expansion.

## 2.0 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

### 2.1 The Landscape Resource

The objective of assessing and understanding our landscape resource is to ensure that the distinct identity, the diverse character and the scenic quality of Scotland's landscapes as a whole can be safeguarded and enhanced. Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Scotland working with other stakeholders have been heavily involved in recent years to provide guidance on landscape character assessment. Landscape assessment provides the starting point for local authorities to develop specific zonal policies for the care, enhancement and sustainable use of their landscapes. These spatial policies can be adapted for use in development plans, but also a range of other strategies, most notably forestry, agriculture and design and, more recently, in the preparation of Supplementary Planning Guidance. Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) has also been used as the starting point for more detailed assessment of the sensitivity of landscapes to specific types of development, and Historic Landscape Assessment (HLA) can be used in a similar way.

Understanding the landscape and relationship with change and landscape management is a critical part of LCA. Safeguarding the quality of landscapes and the adoption of an 'all

landscapes' approach accepts the need to guide and manage change in accordance with broad principles:

- **Landscapes evolve but change should be guided**  
Landscapes are continually changing, but because of the increasing extent and pace of change, and the loss of distinctiveness resulting from it, a more proactive approach to landscape planning and management is required to ensure that the landscapes of tomorrow are of no less value than today's.
- **Landscape change should be positive in effect**  
Most change in our landscapes should fit with and enhance existing landscape character, particularly where present character is highly valued. But the character of a landscape cannot always be retained: some landscapes will be changed through land uses and development; some valued landscapes may merit restoration; and some landscapes may be the focus of effort to create a new landscape character. In all these cases the objective should be to ensure that the landscape is recognisable and valued as distinctive and appealing.
- **All landscapes deserve care**  
Safeguarding landscape has traditionally focused on designated areas (eg. Areas of Great Landscape Value and Regional Scenic Areas in South Lanarkshire). Nevertheless, it is the countryside as a whole (including settlements) that provides the valued diversity of distinctive landscapes, as well as the settings for most people's lives. All landscapes are of value to those who live and work in them, and are therefore deserving of care.
- **Some landscapes warrant special safeguard**  
Even within a universal approach, some landscapes are widely recognised as being of particular value, are therefore more sensitive to change, and justify special effort to ensure they are safeguarded. Their designation is an important planning and management tool to ensure they continue to be given care when proposals for change arise.
- **Quality should be the goal**  
In aiming for a marked improvement in our care for Scotland's landscapes, we need to place more emphasis on achieving higher standards of design and management, along with a more considered approach to the development and implementation of policies and actions which affect landscape.
- **Landscapes are a shared responsibility**  
Scotland's landscapes are important to us all. Many activities influence the landscape's appearance; their net effect is of legitimate concern to all those who live, work and seek recreation in these places. A more integrated and collective approach is therefore required, based on a broad agreement on the direction, nature, and extent of desirable landscape change.

## 2.2 South Lanarkshire's Landscape Character

The local authority area of South Lanarkshire is located in south-central Scotland, to the south-east of Glasgow, and is centred on the valley of the River Clyde. It is bounded by Glasgow, North Lanarkshire and West Lothian to the north; the Scottish Borders to the east; Dumfries and Galloway to the south and East Ayrshire and East Renfrewshire to the west and north west. It has a total area of 1,772 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of approximately 309,500.

The landscape of South Lanarkshire represents a transition from the urban area of greater Glasgow, and its neighbouring large towns, through a largely rural landscape, to the remote hills of the Southern Uplands. The River Clyde flows through South Lanarkshire from its source at Watermeetings in the south, to Cambuslang, at the southeastern edge of the Glasgow conurbation, in the north. The river valley forms one of the key features of South Lanarkshire, draining most of it to the north. Running through or near much of the Clyde Valley are the M74 motorway and West Coast Main Line, the main transport links through the area, which connect Glasgow with north-western England.

The middle and lower Clyde Basin and its tributaries are surrounded by extensive areas of farmland. This is relatively rolling and sheltered in lower areas of the Clyde Valley but grades into a more plateau-like and exposed form with lower tree cover as it extends to the upland areas in the north and west. Closer to the settlements in the north the farmland becomes influenced by urban fringe uses and the visual effects of settlements. A number of deeply incised river valleys, including the Clyde itself, cut through the farmlands.

Along the western boundary of the area is an extensive area of moorlands, which separate Lanarkshire from Ayrshire to the west. This band of hills runs south-east from Whitelee Moor, above the new town of East Kilbride, merging into the Southern Uplands at the Lowther Hills around Leadhills. Across the M74 corridor, the Southern Uplands continue past Culter Fell into the Scottish Borders. North of these hills is Biggar, at the south edge of an area of farmland which stretches to the western end of the Pentlands. North-west are the towns of Lanark and Carluke, with moorland beyond extending into North Lanarkshire and West Lothian.

Tinto is an isolated hill, forming a significant landmark in the Clyde Valley, and is located almost at the centre of South Lanarkshire. The Clyde Valley becomes more enclosed to the north, particularly around New Lanark and the Falls of Clyde. The valley and the M74 corridor become increasingly urban as they converge around Larkhall, and pass between Motherwell and Lanark. The Clyde here becomes a green corridor, linking parks and historic features through Hamilton, Blantyre, Cambuslang and Rutherglen, the latter two being suburbs of Glasgow.

## 2.3 The Need for Reassessment

The regional variations in character of South Lanarkshire and neighbouring authorities have been assessed and recorded in the regional Landscape Character Assessment: *Glasgow and Clyde Valley Landscape Assessment: Scottish Natural Heritage Review No. 116. (Land Use Consultants in association with Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division, 1999)*. This document is part of the national programme of Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) undertaken by SNH at the end of the last Millennium.

LCA provides a common framework for understanding and analysing the landscape. SNH includes Landscape Character Mapping for the whole of Scotland and identifies 274 distinct landscape types. Each Landscape Character Type (LCT) defines a landscape of consistent and recognisable landscape character and the key forces for change within this landscape. LCA enables the better assessment of the effect of actions upon the landscape, and supports a clearer understanding of future management requirements. LCA can be applied at a general level to national strategic approaches, or at a more detailed level to address regional, local and site specific issues down to specific development guidance. Allied techniques, such as landscape capacity studies, have been developed to explore the ability of different landscapes to accommodate development of particular types.

The landscape character assessment for Glasgow and the Clyde Valley was undertaken at a regional scale, identifying a number of broad Regional Character Areas (eg. Clyde Basin Farmlands, Southern Uplands) and subdividing each of these into Landscape Character Types relating to moorland, farmland, river valleys etc. Each type may occur one or more times within the study area as a separately named Landscape Character Unit. The Regional Landscape Areas located within South Lanarkshire are illustrated in Figure 2 and the Landscape Units in Figure 3.

Most of the Landscape Character Units identified are on a broad scale, suitable for broad strategic planning purposes but not necessarily for more detailed assessment of specific developments or development types. Furthermore, significant changes to the landscape have taken place over the past decade and are due to take place in coming years.

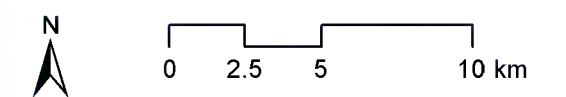
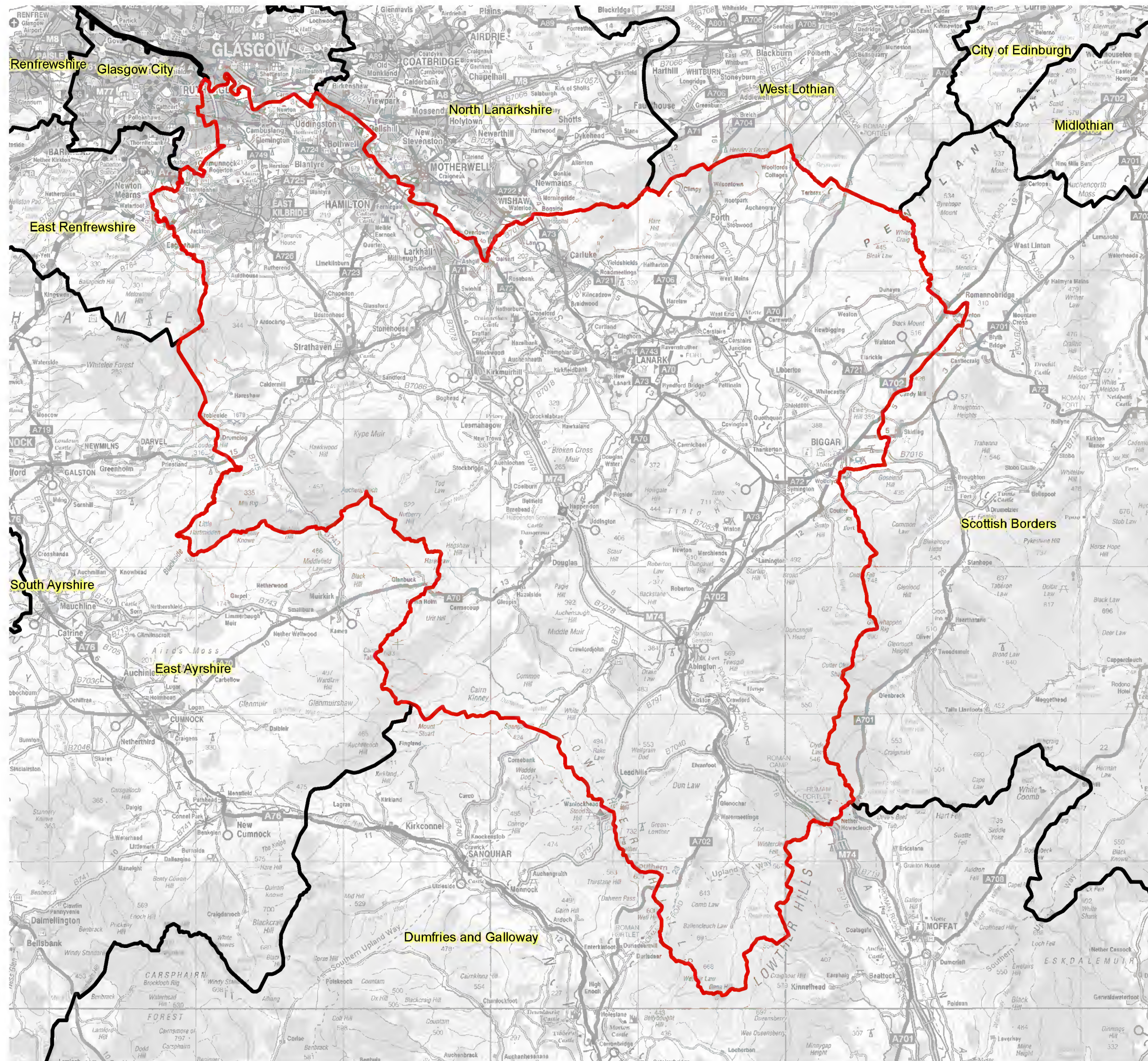
LCA at a strategic level in South Lanarkshire has not hitherto included a comprehensive review of designations or an assessment of development capacity for types of development such as windfarms and minerals. It is now recognised that a more detailed local assessment of the landscape character and landscape designations is required as committed in the Local Plan 2009. This assessment also informs the Spatial Framework for windfarms (See *South Lanarkshire: Validation of Local Landscape Designations (Ironsides Farrar 2010)* and *South Lanarkshire: Spatial Framework and Landscape capacity for Windfarms (Ironsides Farrar 2010)*)

# South Lanarkshire

## Landscape Character Assessments

### Legend

- SLC Boundary
- Other Local Authority Boundaries



**Figure 1**  
**Study Area**

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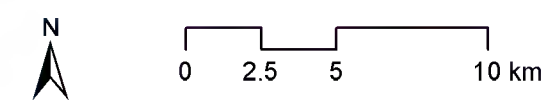
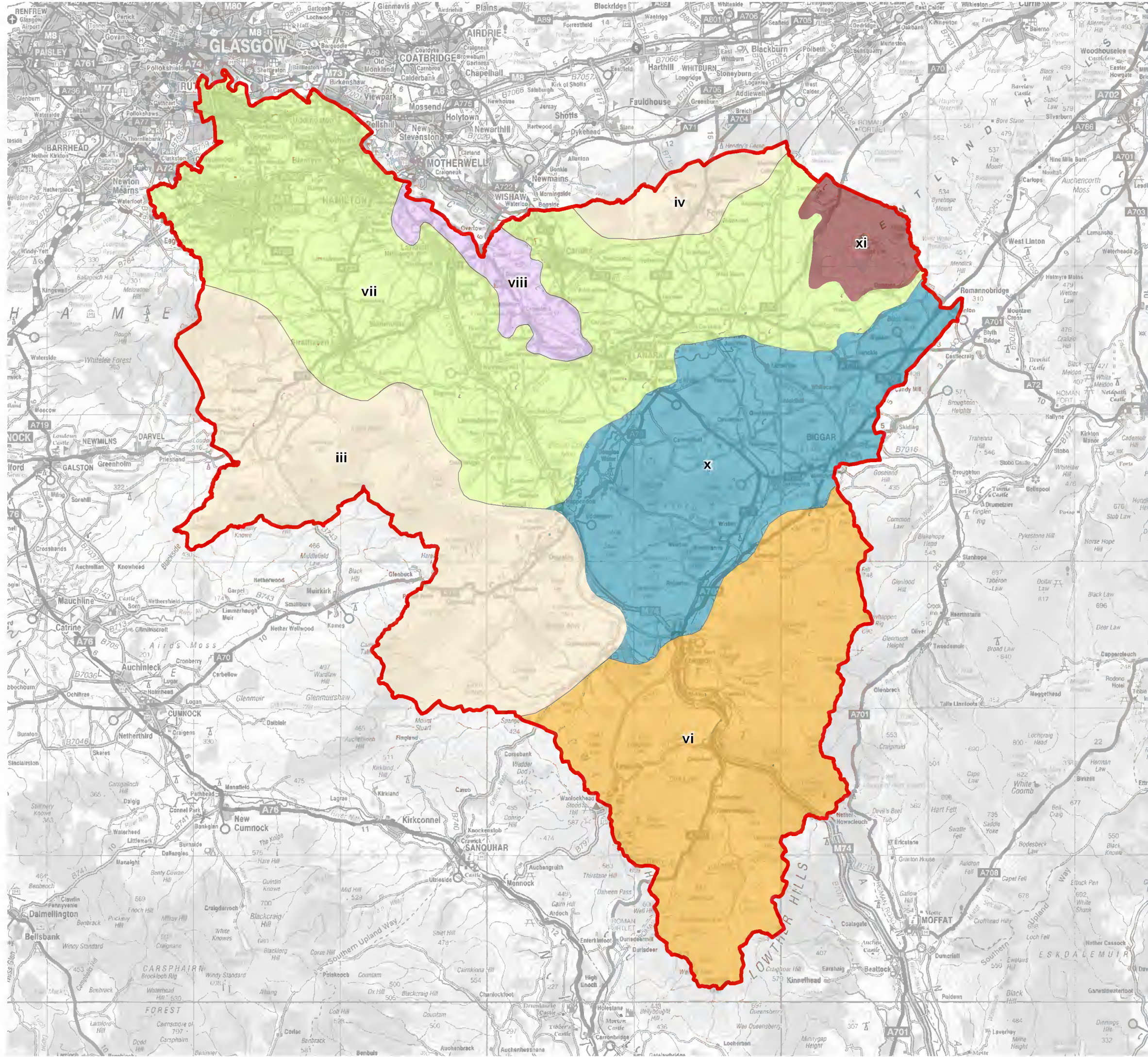


# South Lanarkshire

## Landscape Character Assessment

### Legend

- South Lanarkshire Local Authority Boundary
- SNH Regional Landscape Areas 1999**
- SNH Code**
- iii - Clyde and Ayrshire Basins Moorlands
- iv - Central Plateau Moorlands
- vi - Southern Uplands
- vii - Clyde Basin Farmlands
- viii - Inner Clyde Valley
- x - Southern Uplands Foothills
- xi - Pentland Hills



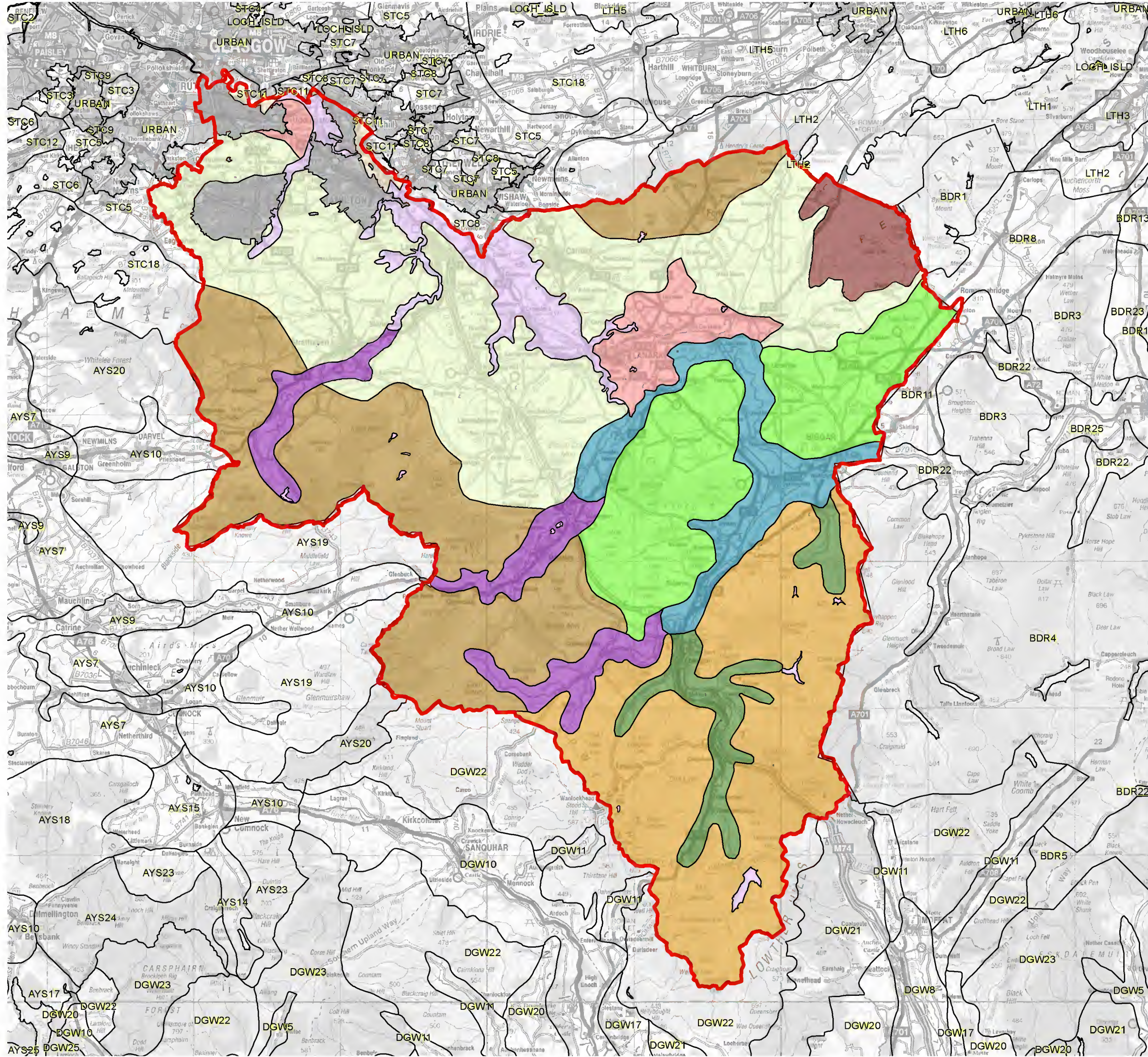
**Figure 2  
Regional  
Landscape Areas**

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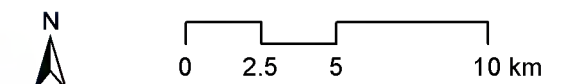
## South Lanarkshire

### Landscape Character Assessment



#### Legend

- South Lanarkshire Local Authority Boundary
- Landscape Character Areas in South Lanarkshire (SNH, 1999)**
- STC 8 - Incised River Valleys
- LOCH - Inland Loch
- LOCH ISLD - Loch Island
- STC11 - Broad Urban Valley
- STC7 - Fragmented Farmlands
- STC4 - Rolling Farmland
- STC13 - Broad Valley Upland
- STC5 - Plateau Farmland
- STC18 - Plateau Moorlands
- STC12 - Upland River Valleys
- STC15 - Foothills
- STC17 - Old Red Sandstone Hills
- STC21 - Southern Uplands
- STC14 - Upland Glen
- URBAN - Urban
- Landscape Character Areas in Neighbouring Authorities (SNH, 1999)**
- BDR1 - Dissected Plateau Moorland
- BDR4 - Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest
- BDR8 - Rolling Farmland
- BDR11 - Grassland with Hills
- BDR22 - Upland Valley with Pastoral Floor
- ASY10 - Upland River Valleys
- ASY19 - Plateau Moorland
- ASY20 - Plateau Moorland with Forest
- DGW11 - Upland Glens
- DGW21 - Foothills with Foerest
- DGW22 - Southern Uplands
- LTH1 - Uplands
- LTH2 - Upland Fringes



**Figure 3**  
**Landscape**  
**Character Areas**  
**from 1999**  
**SNH LCA**

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### 3.0 LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS

All landscapes are important, and regional landscape character assessments have allowed a broader 'all-landscapes' approach to be adopted in considering the planning and management of the landscape asset.

South Lanarkshire Council's Environmental Designations Map identifies a Regional Scenic Area (RSA) and areas designated as Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) and Policy ENV 28 offers policy protection against inappropriate or insensitive development.

Scottish Government guidance on local landscape designations is contained in Circular 2/1962 Development Plan: Areas of Great Landscape Value and Tourism Development Proposals, NPPG 14 Natural Heritage (paras 60 - 62) and PAN 60 Planning for the Natural Heritage.

SPPs and NPPGs have now been replaced by a consolidated Scottish Planning Policy covering all topics. This sets out the land use planning interpretation and application of national policy on Scotland's natural heritage. The SPP summarises the main statutory obligations in relation to natural heritage conservation, and explains how natural heritage objectives should be reflected in development plans. The SPP also confirms the need for planning to safeguard sites of national and international importance and to give appropriate consideration to local and non-statutory designations.

Recent guidance on local landscape designations has been published: *Guidance on Local Landscape Designations (SNH and Historic Scotland, 2005)*. This is specifically prepared to assist local authorities in reviewing their local landscape designations. The guidance adopts an 'all landscapes' approach that aims to promote a greater understanding of, and consistency in, selection of local landscape designations. The preferred terminology for a local designation is *Special Landscape Area*.

This current landscape character assessment provides the baseline information that will help to fulfil the aims of the guidance. A separate report: *South Lanarkshire: Validating Local Landscape Designations (Ironsides Farrar, 2010)* has been prepared using this revised LCA.

### 4.0 WINDFARM DEVELOPMENT CAPACITY

Landscape Character Assessment forms the baseline for assessment of sensitivity and capacity of the landscape to accommodate windfarm developments.

The SPP section on Renewable Energy refers to the need for local planning authorities to undertake broad criteria-based assessments to determine a spatial framework for windfarms within their area. A critical part of this process is to identify designated areas which should be given some level of protection against windfarm development and to identify areas where it is considered that cumulative windfarm development has reached the capacity of the landscape to absorb it without significant adverse effect.

Local landscape designations are discussed in section 3.0 above. They are one of the criteria considered in the spatial framework for windfarms.

#### Landscape Capacity

Landscape capacity is variously described as the ability of a landscape to accommodate (or absorb) change without a significant (or unacceptable) change in fabric or character. This is usually taken to mean whether or not one or more of the key defining characteristics of the landscape is changed such that the overall fabric or character of the landscape is changed, i.e. 'capacity threshold' is crossed. In the case of windfarms it is primarily landscape character that is being considered, particularly in cumulative assessments.

*Planning Advice Note 45 (PAN 45): Renewable Energy Technologies and Annexe 2 to PAN 45, together with Scottish Natural Heritage (Guidance: Cumulative Effect of Windfarms, Version 2 SNH, 2005) and Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland topic paper 6: Techniques and Criteria for judging capacity and sensitivity (SNH and the Countryside Agency 2002)* provide reference and guidance for the assessment of landscape capacity with regards to Windfarms.

A separate report informing the Spatial Framework has been prepared using information from this revised LCA and the revised local landscape designations discussed above.

### 5.0 APPROACH TO LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

The following Landscape Character Assessment has not been carried out from first principles. It is essentially a review and update of the South Lanarkshire area in the existing *Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Landscape Assessment (1999)*. It builds constructively on this and does not seek to challenge its principles and broad thrust.

The reassessment seeks to provide a more detailed record appropriate to the strategic planning uses which it will support. It has the following aims:

- 1) Review and verification of broad character types and areas
- 2) Identification and recording of significant change in the landscape that has taken place since the original assessment was carried out in the late 1990s.
- 3) Identification of more accurate/ precise boundaries between LCTs/ LCAs based on topography, land cover/use and landscape features
- 4) A greater degree of refinement and subdivision of areas, identifying individual topographic or land use features such as significant hills and valleys where this helps to understand the landscape at a more local level.
- 5) Identification of sub-types within the main LCTs based on land use, such as forestry, mining, windfarm development etc.

- 6) A reappraisal of landscape sensitivities and forces for landscape change based on the updated LCA, taking into account the refined definition of landscape types, units and their boundaries and the changes that have occurred in the decade since the original assessment was undertaken.
- 7) Revised landscape management guidelines based on the reassessment of sensitivities and forces for change. This includes specific guidelines for onshore wind energy for some of the LCTs.

The assessment has been carried out on desktop by review of the existing LCA; Ordnance Survey maps and aerial photography, together with confirmation by site survey.

## 6.0 MAIN FEATURES OF REVISED LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

### 6.1 Main Findings

The study has confirmed the broad extent of different landscape types, essentially confirming the robustness of the existing assessment. However, the finer-grained approach has identified a number of changes:

- 1) Updated descriptions of landscape types, updating where appropriate and providing descriptions for newly defined types.
- 2) Identification of three new landscape types reflecting the more detailed analysis and degree of subdivision.
- 3) Further sub-division of landscape types.
- 4) Change within the landscape since the 1999 Landscape Assessment was undertaken.

The suggested revisions to landscape character areas are illustrated in Figure 4, with a comparison of boundaries illustrated in Figure 5.

### 6.2 Specific Changes

The following describes the main specific amendments and refinements to the landscape character areas.

#### Urban Fringe Farmland

A further farmland landscape type has been newly defined: *Urban Fringe Farmlands*. This type is heavily influenced by adjacent urban areas together with identifiable landscape patterns and features. However it is not as fundamentally degraded as the *Fragmented Farmlands* to the east of Glasgow identified by the 1999 assessment. Generally there are close views of large settlements and the areas are extensively crossed by main roads and electricity transmission lines. Other land use distinctions include peri-urban recreation such as country parks, golf and horse riding as well as signs of past and present industry.

Pressures and changes within this landscape type have been apparent over recent years, for example the construction of the Glasgow Southern Orbital and the extension of urban development. The three areas are redefined principally from *Plateau Farmland* and *Rolling Farmland*:

- The farmland surrounding East Kilbride, Hamilton and Cambuslang
- The farmland surrounding Carluke and Law
- The farmland between Ferniegair and Larkhall

#### Broad Urban Valley

This type covers a limited area of the River Clyde to the east of Hamilton and to the north of Cambuslang in the 1999 LCA. Reassessment has extended the type into the area between Uddingston and Cambuslang, superseding *Incised River Valley*, as the surrounding urban influence, particularly on the Glasgow side of the river, is considered to override the relatively gentle topography in determining character. The Clyde gorge passing between Blantyre and Bothwell retains its classification as *Incised River Valley*.

#### Plateau Farmland and Rolling Farmland

An appraisal of topographical influence within the landscape suggested that the extensive areas of the landscape character type *Plateau Farmland* did not fully describe the changes in topography in some locations when considered in a more local context than the regional Glasgow and Clyde Valley Landscape Assessment. It was considered that some areas of *Plateau Farmland* with more small scale variation in topography, smaller fields and greater woodland and hedgerow tree cover should be reclassified as *Rolling Farmland*, an existing related lowland type. *Rolling Farmland* is a more sheltered, varied and intimate landscape than the flatter more exposed *Plateau Farmland*.

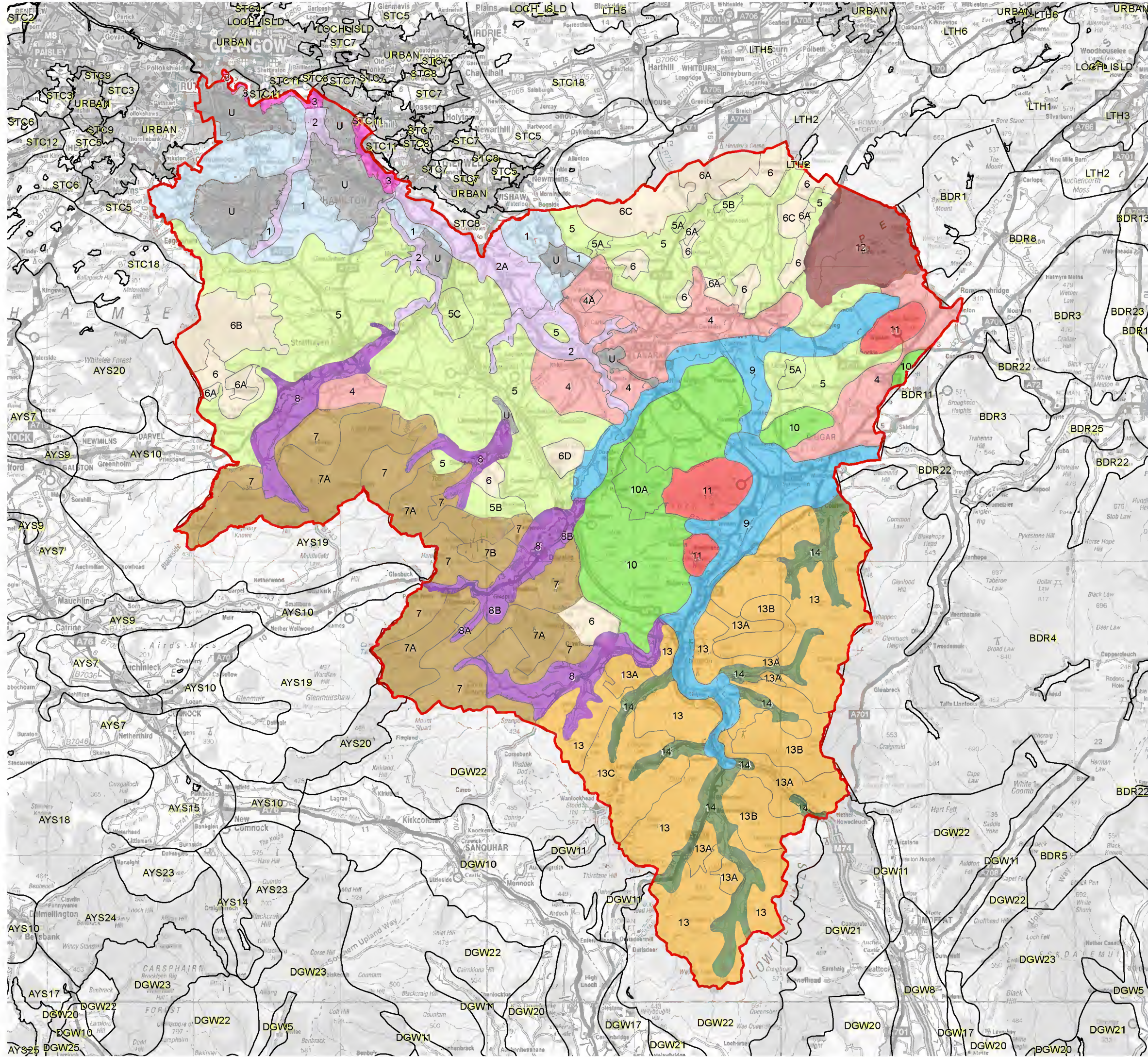
The new locations include:

- A small area on the south side of the Avon valley opposite Strathaven
- An area on east facing slopes to the south west of the Clyde Valley opposite Lanark.
- An extension of the area surrounding Lanark west towards Carluke, between the Clyde Valley and the A721 and east beyond Carnwath, to the southeast of the A70
- The area around Dunsyre, south of the Pentlands (this area merges with the lower farmland areas of the area around Biggar formerly described as *Foothills* –see below).

#### Plateau Moorland and Rolling Moorland

The appraisal of topographical influence within the landscape suggests that the extensive areas of landscape character type *Plateau Moorland* did not fully describe the changes in topography in some locations when considered in a more local context. It was considered that the landscape character within *Plateau Moorland* varied sufficiently for those areas where the topographical changes were most evident to be described as *Rolling Moorland*.

Landscape Character Assessment



Legend

- South Lanarkshire Local Authority Boundary
- Landscape Character Areas in Neighbouring Authorities (SNH, 1999) (refer to Fig 3)
- Landscape Character**
- 1 - Urban Fringe Farmland
- 2 - Incised River Valley
- 2A - Incised River Valley Broad Valley Floor
- 3 - Broad Urban Valley
- 4 - Rolling Farmland
- 4A - Rolling Farmland Forestry
- 5 - Plateau Farmland
- 5A - Plateau Farmland Forestry
- 5B - Plateau Farmland Opencast Mining
- 5C - Plateau Farmland Windfarm
- 6 - Plateau Moorland
- 6A - Plateau Moorland Forestry
- 6B - Plateau Moorland Forestry Windfarm
- 6C - Plateau Moorland Windfarm
- 6D - Plateau Moorland Opencast Mining
- 7 - Rolling Moorland
- 7A - Rolling Moorland Forestry
- 7B - Rolling Moorland Windfarm
- 8 - Upland River Valley
- 8A - Upland River Valley Incised
- 8B - Upland River Valley Opencast Mining
- 9 - Broad Valley Upland
- 10 - Foothills
- 10A - Foothills Forestry
- 11 - Prominent Isolated Hills
- 12 - Old Red Sandstone Hills
- 13 - Southern Uplands
- 13A - Southern Uplands Forestry
- 13B - Southern Uplands Windfarm
- 13C - Southern Uplands Leadhills
- 14 - Upland Glen
- U - Urban



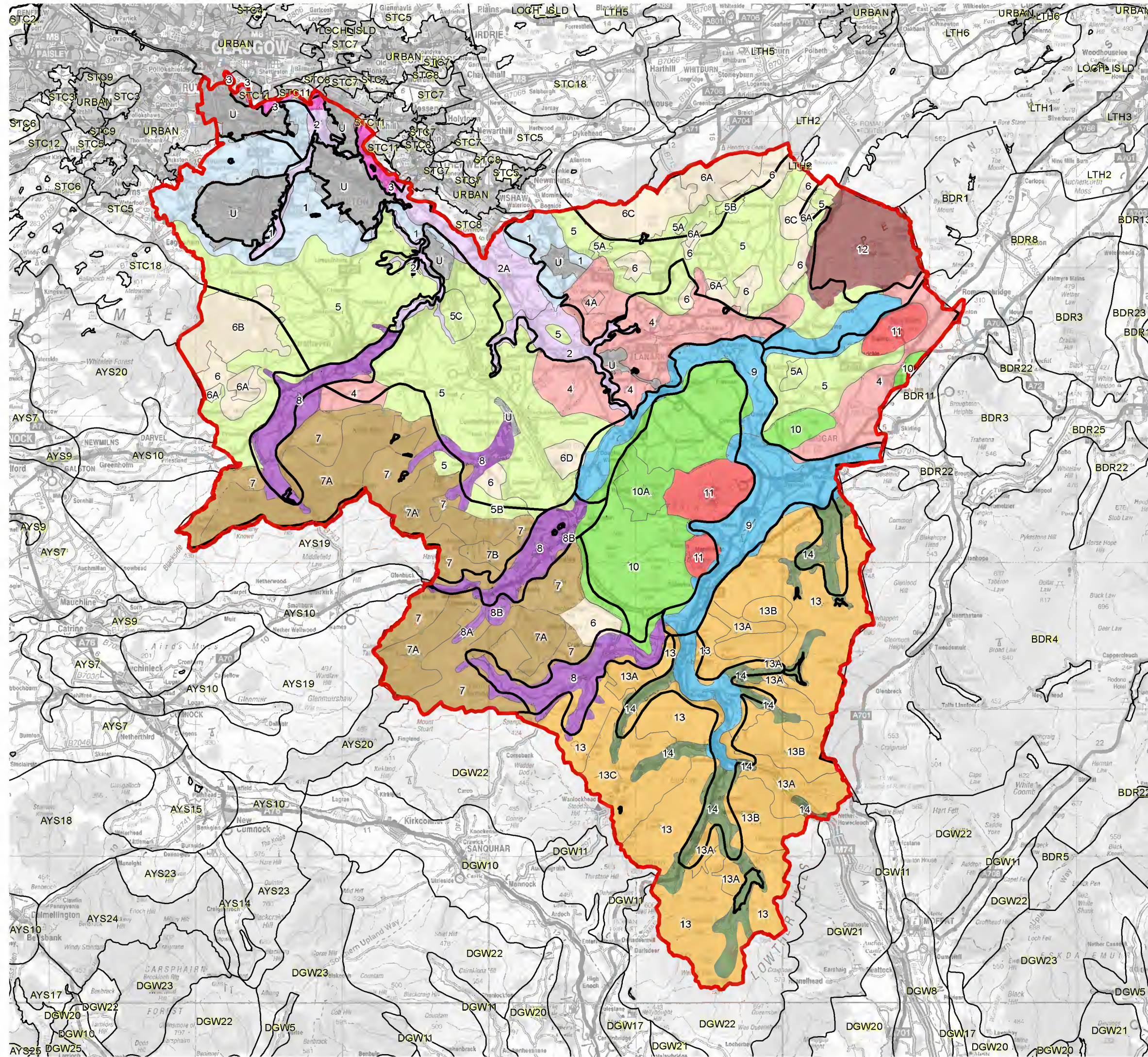
**Figure 4**  
**Landscape Character Areas**  
**2010**

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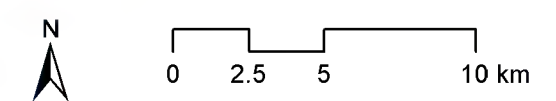




# Landscape Character Assessment



- Legend**
- South Lanarkshire Local Authority Boundary
  - Existing Landscape Character Areas (SNH, 1999)
- Landscape Character**
- 1 - Urban Fringe Farmland
  - 2 - Incised River Valley
  - 2A - Incised River Valley Broad Valley Floor
  - 3 - Broad Urban Valley
  - 4 - Rolling Farmland
  - 4A - Rolling Farmland Forestry
  - 5 - Plateau Farmland
  - 5A - Plateau Farmland Forestry
  - 5B - Plateau Farmland Opencast Mining
  - 5C - Plateau Farmland Windfarm
  - 6 - Plateau Moorland
  - 6A - Plateau Moorland Forestry
  - 6B - Plateau Moorland Forestry Windfarm
  - 6C - Plateau Moorland Windfarm
  - 6D - Plateau Moorland Opencast Mining
  - 7 - Rolling Moorland
  - 7A - Rolling Moorland Forestry
  - 7B - Rolling Moorland Windfarm
  - 8 - Upland River Valley
  - 8A - Upland River Valley Incised
  - 8B - Upland River Valley Opencast Mining
  - 9 - Broad Valley Upland
  - 10 - Foothills
  - 10A - Foothills Forestry
  - 11 - Prominent Isolated Hills
  - 12 - Old Red Sandstone Hills
  - 13 - Southern Uplands
  - 13A - Southern Uplands Forestry
  - 13B - Southern Uplands Windfarm
  - 13C - Southern Uplands Leadhills
  - 14 - Upland Glen
  - U - Urban



**Figure 5**  
**Comparison of**  
**Area Boundaries**

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This is a newly defined type. Whilst land use (open unimproved pasture and forestry) in *Rolling Moorland* is similar to *Plateau Moorland*, the landscape comprises separately defined hills of a generally greater elevation than the plateau areas (300-600m AOD, as opposed to 200-350m AOD), much more frequently dissected by drainage lines and more remote from the Glasgow conurbation.

The remaining areas of *Plateau Moorland* are concentrated in the north east (Black Law to Tarbrax) and the west (Whitelee). Notably, both of these areas have been extensively developed with windfarms by comparison with the *Rolling Moorlands*. There are other small areas with *Plateau Moorland* characteristics scattered across the *Plateau Farmland* and adjacent to *Rolling Moorland* where a lack of agricultural improvement and flatter topography prevail. These areas lack the extent of the two main areas and have not been developed as windfarms.

The areas of *Rolling Moorland* lie on the southwestern boundary of South Lanarkshire south of Whitelee: between the Avon valley to the north and the Duneaton Water to the south. In some locations (eg. Hagshaw Hill), the moorland comprises well defined hills comparable to the northern edge of the Southern Uplands and in many ways this type could be considered transitional between the classic *Plateau Moorland* and the *Southern Uplands* immediately to the south.

#### **Foothills and Prominent Isolated Foothills**

The 1999 LCA identifies two extensive areas of *Foothills* either side of the Upper Clyde valley. This is a transitional type with both lowland and upland characteristics related to topography and land use. In particular there are a number of prominent hills rising above more general farmland and moorland. It is suggested that Tinto Hill, Black Mount and Dungavel Hill are of sufficient elevation and prominence to be defined as the separate new landscape type *Prominent Isolated Foothills* rather than *Foothills*.

In the case of the eastern area of *Foothills* north of Biggar the removal of Black Mount takes out the only large scale hill. The remaining area is predominantly a rolling lowland in character with occasional higher, sometimes conical summits. This area has a complex mix of characteristics and is redefined as three existing types:

- the highest areas, around Biggar Common and Quothquan Law, and Broomy Law on the edge of Scottish Borders remains *Foothills*.
- *Plateau Farmland* in the undulating, exposed northern area between the Clyde, Medwin, Black Mount and Biggar Common
- *Rolling Farmland* around Biggar and north along the A702 to Dolphinton, and which continues north to Dunsyre and into the adjacent Borders area.

In the higher western area the removal of Tinto and Dungavel Hill leaves a transitional landscape of hilly farmland and low moorland hills that can still mainly be described as *Foothills*.

#### **River Valleys and Glens**

The reassessment of broad areas defined as moorlands and farmlands in the 1999 LCA has identified or extended the areas of a number of river valley types. This is an inevitable result of the finer grained assessment in which individual topographic features begin to be defined separately rather than as part of a whole.

The main areas include:

- Extension and refinement of *Upland River Valleys* including defining the River Nethan out of *Plateau Farmland* and *Rolling Moorland* above Lesmahagow
- Extension of the *Broad Valley Upland* of the River Clyde and tributaries east along the Medwin Water to Dunsyre (redefining *Plateau Farmland*) and south along the Clyde from Abington to Elvanfoot (redefining an *Upland Glen* area)
- Extension and refinement of *Upland Glens* within the Southern Uplands

#### **Sub-Types**

Landscape types have been, in some instances, further sub-divided. This is both in response to a smaller, finer grained, study area and also as a result of changes in Landscape Character allied to development in recent years. An example of this would be the influence on landscape character of recent windfarm developments on *Plateau Moorland* or opencast mining and forestry on various areas. In the case of the windfarm sub-type areas with operational windfarms or those under construction have been identified; and in the case of opencast mining, areas currently being extracted or undergoing restoration.

### **6.3 Future Changes**

At 2010 the current report represents a particular time in the development of the South Lanarkshire landscape, approximately ten years after the original SNH assessment of Glasgow and the Clyde Valley. In this ten year period there has been both gradual and significant change to extensive areas of South Lanarkshire, as described in this report. It is likely that in future years the landscape will continue to change and landscape characterisation methods will evolve. This will require the assessment to be periodically updated in order to reflect changes and provide an accurate base for strategic planning and decision making purposes. As this is now a GIS database the landscape character areas can be easily updated or used as the basis for more detailed area-specific assessments.



## 7.0 THE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES

The assessment identified 14 Landscape Character Types (with newly defined types underlined):

1. Urban Fringe Farmlands
2. Incised River Valleys
3. Broad Urban Valleys
4. Rolling Farmlands
5. Plateau Farmlands
6. Plateau Moorlands
7. Rolling Moorlands
8. Upland River Valleys
9. Broad Valley Upland
10. Foothills
11. Prominent Isolated Foothills
12. Old Red Sandstone Hills
13. Southern Uplands
14. Upland Glens

These are described and illustrated in detail in the following sections with key information in Figures 6 i to 6 xiv.



# 1 Urban Fringe Farmlands

## Location and Extent

Urban Fringe Farmlands landscapes are concentrated in the following areas:

- East Kilbride/ Hamilton/ Cambuslang.
- Larkhall/ Ferniegair
- Carluke

They are a new landscape type identified by this assessment. In the *Glasgow and Clyde Valley Landscape Character Assessment (1999)* the areas are identified as *Plateau Farmland* and *Rolling Farmland*, but are now considered to be more heavily characterised by urban fringe influences. This is partly as a result of the finer-grained assessment undertaken for this study but also reflects continuing urban expansion (e.g. on the fringes of Hamilton, East Kilbride and Carluke) and peri-urban infrastructure and recreational features (e.g. major roads, communications masts, electricity pylons, golf and horse riding, mineral extraction). Urban Fringe Farmlands are similar to *Fragmented Farmlands*, identified to the east and northeast of the Glasgow area, but are not as heavily influenced and fragmented by urban and industrial land use.

## Description

Urban Fringe Farmlands landscapes are defined by their urban-influenced character, which occurs where urban fringe, industrial/ commercial activity and leisure related activity has broken up or influenced agricultural land patterns and character to the extent that they are less dominant in the landscape. Many of the urban fringe landscapes still contain substantial tracts of intact and well managed farmland amongst other non-agricultural land uses, particularly south of East Kilbride, where it quickly grades into *Plateau Farmland*. In most parts of this landscape type, the nearby urban area has a direct or indirect effect on landscape character. In some instances urban fringe activities such as golf courses and country parks provide extensive recreational use within or adjacent to this landscape type.

Urban Fringe Farmlands mostly occur on the carboniferous coal basin and millstone grit plateaus that surround the south eastern side of Glasgow. This in part accounts for the industrial activity that started the processes of landscape change. Landform varies but is predominantly similar to undulating *Plateau Farmland* at various heights. The edges of much of this type descend into *Incised River Valleys*.

In some parts of the Urban Fringe Farmlands, the landform has been changed by mining, quarrying, landfill, open-cast mining and spoilheaps, which impart their own character to the local landscape. These landscapes are frequently traversed by railway lines, several no longer in use, and by major road corridors. Between Hamilton and East Kilbride areas of semi-natural vegetation and SSSIs are interrupted by areas of industrial and derelict land, including mineral workings and landfill sites. Notably the presence of a major

electricity substation near Hamilton and five electricity transmission lines characterises the skyline of this area when seen within and from its surroundings. There is also intense pressure for business, light industrial and residential development.

Land cover varies within the Urban Fringe Farmlands. Areas of pastoral and arable farmland still dominate, although there are also tracts of unfarmed or under farmed land. The Urban Fringe Farmlands include industrial or ex-industrial land, often contaminated and in need of reclamation or enhancement. Farm woodlands, hedges and field boundary trees may be found, but as is common throughout much of the study area, the trees are mature and hedges often in need of upkeep. Woodlands are more common towards the lower edges of the areas as they drop into Incised River Valleys such as the Clyde and Rotten Calder. In recent years there have been limited examples of new woodland planting within these areas, for example at Cathkin Braes, which will help to reinforce landscape structure. As a landscape under potential development pressure, these elements of an orderly land use pattern become even more important.

Typical settlement patterns in the Urban Fringe Farmlands include scattered farmsteads, often enclosed by urban or industrial development. Older villages and towns also exist. There are also a number of areas of new housing often associated with existing settlements, such as on the southwestern edge of Hamilton, or south of Law near Carluke. Development pressure is increased because, although much of this land is greenbelt, it is sometimes seen as despoiled and, therefore, less valuable. These areas are accessible to and from the city and to major transport routes such as the M74 and Glasgow Southern Orbital. Examples of new housing development in this fragmented landscape include the southern fringes of East Kilbride.

Many of the Urban Fringe Farmland landscapes are along or near major road or rail routes because the industry and the transport networks developed at the same time. This landscape character type is, therefore, an important strategic 'gateway' into the main South Lanarkshire towns of Cambuslang, East Kilbride, Hamilton, Larkhall and Carluke.

## Sub Types

No sub types have been identified.

## Key Landscape Issues

Key landscape issues affecting this landscape type include:

- The loss of former rural character due to physical and visual influence of urban areas leading to a landscape with reduced clear identity;
- The fragmentation of land by non-rural uses leading to a less cohesive landscape;
- The role of these areas in providing a 'gateway' to some of the main towns of South Lanarkshire;

- Some areas of farmland may be under threat from surrounding peri-urban land uses or which may no longer be viable and therefore lack effective landscape management;
- Continued and sustained development pressure on greenfield and greenbelt land with the long term risk of further urban coalescence and the potential loss of visual separation of settlements;
- The decline in traditional forms of landscape management and a consequent deterioration and loss of tree cover;
- The visual effects of past industrial activities and the potential to bring about reclamation of these sites.

## MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

### *Key characteristics*

The key characteristics, features and qualities of this landscape type are:

- Gently undulating to rolling landform;
- Mainly pastoral farming, often with small field patterns but also significant areas of non-farming use;
- Limited and generally declining tree cover often associated with field boundaries but often higher tree cover close to river valleys;
- Prominence and visual influence of urban areas;
- Visual influence of road and rail network, electricity pylons;
- Influence of residential, industrial/ commercial and leisure related development on the landscape;

***Landscape planning and management should aim to enhance and restore the rural character of the Urban Fringe Farmlands and to discourage the actual or visual coalescence of settlements.***

### *Trees and woodland: sensitivities and forces for change*

The Urban Fringe Farmlands are a key component of the South Lanarkshire Green Belt and, as such, represent important green spaces and 'buffers' between settlements. Trees and woodlands play a significant role in screening and filtering views between urban areas and in reinforcing the rural identity of the landscape. This landscape would, therefore, be extremely sensitive to the loss of existing woodlands, some of which are old policy plantations. Conversely, the establishment of new community woodlands around settlements may obscure previous relationships between town and country, unless their layout and composition is complementary to existing woodlands, and provides spatial patterns that facilitate amenity uses and views. The industrial archaeology present in this

landscape is also vulnerable to woodland planting which may obscure, or damage this resource if planned inappropriately.

Within the eastern part of this area, the Central Scotland Forest Strategy has placed an emphasis on expanding farm woodlands, establishing commercial forestry on poorer quality farmland, and creating new woodlands on the urban fringe and on derelict mineral sites.

### ***Trees and woodland: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type include:

- encourage landowners and farmers to bring existing field boundary trees and farm woodlands into positive management, with the objective of prolonging the life of existing specimens, and bringing forward replacements in the longer term ;
- encourage the positive management of surviving elements of policy woodlands with the aim of maintaining their contribution to local landscape character and to the setting of other features within the landscape;
- consider the scope for additional woodland planting around settlements, along transport corridors and on the periphery of other visually prominent land uses and activities, with the objective of reducing these features' impact on the wider landscape ; new woodland should be integrated with existing farm woods, and the denser, semi-natural woodland found within some of the incised river valleys which cut into this landscape ;
- where the planning policy framework indicates that future development is likely, encourage advance planting to create a screening framework and favour locations which make best use of natural screening provided by the landform.

### ***Agriculture: sensitivities and forces for change***

The agricultural land use of this landscape type is threatened by development pressures and by the incremental loss of greenbelt land to a range of developments, including housing, large scale business and retail parks. These developments can discourage agricultural investment, thereby causing the further degradation of farmland. This threatens to erode the essential character of the farmed landscape. Particular sensitivities related to countryside management are the decline or loss of hedgerows, loss of hedgerow trees, abandonment of fields and the discontinuation of livestock grazing close to settlements or new developments. Horse grazing and riding areas are also displacing traditional cattle and sheep grazing in certain urban fringe areas.

### ***Agriculture: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type include:

- encourage the retention of active farming in the urban fringe farmlands ;



- encourage the positive management and, where appropriate, restoration of hedgerows, field boundary trees and farm woodlands (see above) with the aim of conserving the area's surviving agricultural character and their role in providing screening for existing development ;
- influence the location, design and materials of new agricultural buildings to limit their visual impact and to maximise the integration of such structures with existing farm buildings and the wider landscape.

#### ***Minerals: sensitivities and forces for change***

Much of this landscape type is underlain by worked coal reserves. While some of these have been worked in the past, many have the potential for large scale open-cast extraction, which has been carried out in some locations. In the short term this results in the creation of uncharacteristic features including bunds, overburden and spoil bings which further weaken the area's surviving rural character. Mineral working can also result in the loss of local landscape features such as hedgerows, walls, streams and variations in topography and landcover.

Although restoration is now a condition of all new mineral working consents, the resulting landscape can often be overly bland and dislocated from its context. Although there may be arguments which favour the exploitation of remaining reserves in these areas in preference to those in more intact areas, this will lead to further landscape decline.

It is recognised that many features of past, smaller-scale mineral working now remain as important landscape features and components of local cultural heritage. While the aim, in many cases, will be to clear up past dereliction, the landscape would be sensitive to the wholesale reclamation of such sites.

#### ***Minerals: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type include:

- discourage large-scale mineral workings within the smaller pockets of Urban Fringe Farmlands; major extraction sites would further weaken the area's remnant rural character;
- where they are permitted, mineral workings should be sited so as to avoid locations where they would be particularly visible from higher ground (for example from the *Plateau Moorlands*) or where they would intrude on neighbouring lowland areas (for example close to *Incised River Valleys*);
- require the assessment of the visual and landscape effects associated with pits, overburden and spoil bings, processing plant and accommodation;
- encourage operators to adopt a 'restoration-led' approach which sets mineral working within the context of the end-use of the sites; there may be opportunities in this landscape to address damage and dereliction created in the past and to use the restoration process to create enhanced landscapes with positive land uses;

- encourage the use of detailed site surveys to identify landscape (and other) features of importance which should be conserved or which have potential for re-creation during restoration; the aim should be to restore the grain and character of the site's former appearance and to avoid overly bland restoration solutions;
- encourage the use of advance planting to screen the site during operation and to help tie it into the surrounding landscape framework on restoration;
- develop a strategy for the conservation and reclamation of historic, generally small - scale, mineral working sites; while in some areas these sites may contribute to a sense of neglect or dereliction, in others they now comprise a layer in the history of the landscape and may be of importance for local cultural heritage.

#### ***Transport: sensitivities and forces for change***

This landscape is potentially sensitive to a number of transportation developments. Strategic traffic plans designed to improve access to development sites may rationalise the road network by upgrading or renewing certain roads whilst stopping others. This will change the general perception of the landscape by road users, may encourage development in areas made more accessible and may reduce the management of roadside features on older minor roads.

One railway line, from Hamilton to Larkhall, has been restored in recent years. While it would appear unlikely that other new railway developments will occur in this landscape, the removal of disused railway lines and associated structures is a possibility. This would diminish the heritage interest of the landscape and preclude their future reinstatement as communication routes.

#### ***Transport: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type include:

- explore the use of additional woodland planting to create a screening framework for existing major roads;
- ensure that new elements of infrastructure are designed to make maximum use of natural landform screening, and that additional planting is provided to give screening and integration into the wider landscape;
- within the wider road network, the incremental spread of urban features such as lighting, signage, concrete kerbing and municipal shrub planting should be resisted since this will increase further the range of urban influences on this essential rural green belt area.

#### ***Development: sensitivities and forces for change***

This landscape type is subject to a range of development interests such as housing, business parks, road improvements, open-cast mining, etc. The already apparent urban influence on its character may make it difficult to resist these pressures, and consequently

the landscape is extremely sensitive to incremental urbanisation and potentially the loss of viable green space/farmland between communities.

There is a concentration of tall structures such as communications masts and electricity pylons in this landscape type and the surrounding higher *Plateau Moorlands* support a backdrop of extensive wind farm development. There are proposals for wind farms within or close to the Urban Fringe Farmland areas, leading to the potential for cumulative impacts of tall structures.

The landscape would be sensitive to any changes which led to the loss of natural or semi-natural water features including streams and ponds.

***Development: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type include:

- carefully plan further incremental releases of land for residential development, avoiding prominent locations which disproportionately increase the range of urban or suburban influences on the landscape;
- utilise existing landscape features such as ridges, watercourses, tree belts and roads to define the edges of settlements;
- encourage an increase in tree cover, particularly around the fringes of settlements to provide a screening framework for existing and proposed development;
- discourage the incremental development of dwellings or other buildings within the open countryside; favour the consolidation of existing villages and small settlements without detracting from their distinctive character;
- encourage the use of vernacular building designs and materials, including stone and slate; discourage the use of modern urban or suburban designs in a rural context; use the South Lanarkshire *Rural Building Conversion and New House Design Guide, 2001* and *PAN 72: Housing in the Countryside*;
- discourage the erection of wind turbines, masts or other tall structures in prominent locations, particularly in areas adjacent to lower ground where the development could be close to settlements and visible on the skyline, or in areas already subject to the influence of tall structures including electricity pylons and wind turbines; favour areas where tall structures would be provided with a backcloth to reduce their visual and landscape impacts.

## South Lanarkshire

### Landscape Character Assessment

#### Locations

Urban Fringe Farmlands are found within the following areas of South Lanarkshire:

- East Kilbride / Hamilton / Cambuslang
- Larkhall / Ferniegair
- Carluke

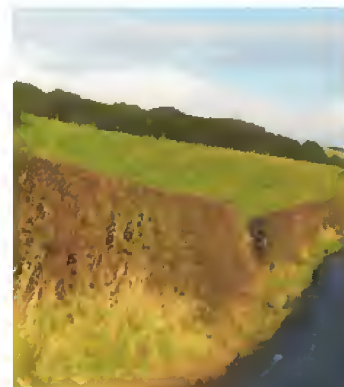
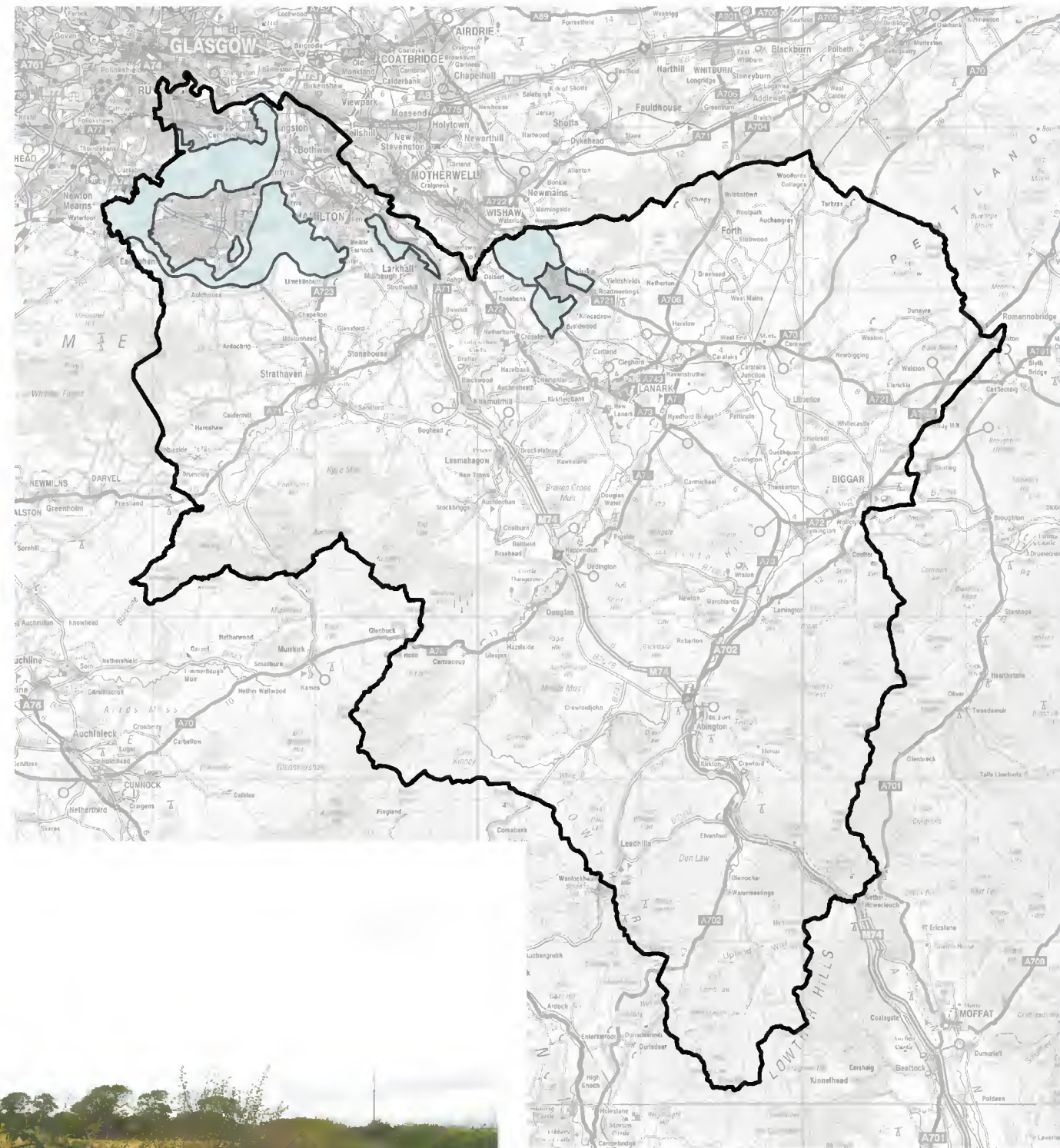
#### Key Characteristics

The key characteristics of this landscape type are:

- *gently undulating to rolling landform;*
- *mainly pastoral farming, often with small field patterns but also significant area of non farming use;*
- *limited and generally declining tree cover often associated with field boundaries but often higher tree cover close to river valleys;*
- *prominence and visual influence of urban areas;*
- *visual influence of road and rail network / electricity pylons;*
- *influence of residential , industrial commercial and leisure - related development on landscape.*

#### Sub – Types

No sub-types have been identified .



Characteristics



Urban Fringe Farmlands  
Area between East Kilbride and Hamilton

Figure 6i

### Details of Landscape Character Areas: 1

### Urban Fringe Farmlands

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## 2 Incised River Valleys

### Location and Extent

Incised River Valley landscapes occur in the following locations:

- River Clyde, Bothwell/ Blantyre;
- Rotten Calder Water;
- Mid-Clyde Valley;
- Avon Water;
- River Nethan;
- Mouse Water.

The assessment has slightly refined the areas covered by this type in the 1999 LCA.

### Description

The Incised River Valley of the Clyde passes through the underlying carboniferous coal basin of central Scotland and south eastwards into a band of carboniferous limestone. The Falls of Clyde are created by a nickpoint where the bordering areas to north and south of old red sandstone meet the softer carboniferous rocks of the river valley.

Incised River Valleys were entrenched during the last Ice Age. At this time, a fall in sea level sparked a major phase of erosion and downcutting. Although this has now ceased, erosion is still very active in the valleys and subsidence is a frequent issue. While the valley sides are generally steep and well defined, there are also gorge areas where the burns and rivers have cut through harder rocks to create vertical cliffs. Waterfalls and rapids are a frequent feature in these river valleys. An example of these is the Falls of Clyde, which historically powered the textile mills at New Lanark, Robert Owens' model settlement on the edge of the Clyde at Lanark.

The Incised River Valleys are bounded by a series of smaller watercourses, which run perpendicularly into the larger course creating a 90° lattice effect, which is often echoed by shelterbelts, fields and road patterns in the landscape.

The land in the Incised River Valleys is predominantly arable on the fertile flat valley bottoms if they are large enough (e.g. the floor of the Mid Clyde Valley). In the narrower tributary river valleys and on steeper slopes, land cover tends to be predominantly deciduous woodland - in some cases, this is ancient woodland. This is due to the relative inaccessibility of these valleys and slopes, prohibiting agricultural use. These older woodlands have considerable conservation value and there are a number of SSSIs, SACs and SINCs within their limits. Elsewhere, pasture and arable land is often hedged with beech or hawthorn and there are remnants of field boundary tree structure, often in decline and over-mature. Hedges, also, are being lost to post and wire fencing. The wider incised

valley of the Clyde has traditionally been used for orchard fruit production and market gardening. Orchard remnants, often in considerable decline, make up a significant percentage of land cover. In the more confined incised river valleys, e.g. the Nethan Valley, coppicing of woodland was undertaken as a cropable resource. This practice has died out in the last 50 years.

Agriculture tends to comprise arable cultivation or market gardening on the flatter valley floors in fairly small fields (larger in the main Clyde Valley). Orchards (both managed and derelict) are found on valley slopes in parts of the main Clyde Valley, particularly around Kirkfieldbank. Shelterbelts define fields in some areas but are more prevalent on the valley slopes where they emphasise the 90° lattice of the hydrology. Farmsteads are spread out along the river valleys in a linear pattern controlled by the landform and by transport links.

Small villages occur in the incised river valleys, often in a linear form along roadlines (e.g. Kirkfieldbank in the Clyde Valley). Their relation to main communication routes means that these villages are a dominant feature in the landscape. Larger towns lie generally outwith this landscape type, favouring less constrained and more accessible sites on surrounding plateau farmland. A number of these settlements, for example Lanark, Hamilton, Blantyre and Motherwell (North Lanarkshire) are visible from within the valleys.

Transport routes tend to run along the valley floor with steep and sinuous connecting routes down the valley sides. Again, a 90° lattice effect is created. In the Clyde Valley, there was also a tourist rail route, now defunct. The roads are often subject to subsidence due to the erosion caused by river action in the incised river valleys.

Industry in the Incised River Valleys tends to be predominantly agricultural, although tourism in the Clyde Valley plays a major role in the local economy. Hydroelectric power also exists on the Clyde, and there are a few more urban fringe type activities around the edge of towns, for example, a caravan site on the Mouse Water just outside Lanark.

The Incised River Valleys created strong defensive locations and historically housed a variety of towers and castles (e.g. Craignethan Castle on the River Nethan). Other common historic features include remnants of policy landscapes such as woodlands, walls, and bridges, a number of large houses, castles and designed landscapes. A number of these, for example the Falls of Clyde, are listed in *The Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes* maintained by Historic Scotland. New Lanark, Robert Owens's model settlement, has been designated a World Heritage Site.

The combination of physical features (incised valleys, gorges), woodland, characteristic patterns of land use and settlement (particularly the history of fruit growing and horticulture) has created a distinctive and high quality landscape. As a result the area has been designated as an AGLV (currently a candidate Special Landscape Area in the Local Landscape Designations Review).

The valleys of the Calder Water (flowing along the eastern edge of East Kilbride) exhibit similar physical characteristics, but are subject to urban fringe pressures in particular,

representing an important surviving corridor of undeveloped land in an increasingly pressured area. A number of these valleys provide a recreational resource. Calderglen Country Park, for example, combines access and interpretations.

### Sub Types

The following sub-types have been identified:

- **Incised River Valley, Broad Valley Floor (2a):**  
Landscape within the Mid-Clyde Valley where the valley widens to allow for a greater influence of agriculture including arable land, market gardens and existing and former orchards.

### Key Landscape Issues

Key landscape issues affecting this landscape type include:

- The pressure for expansion of housing from adjacent urban areas into comparatively narrow valleys, threatening the integrity of the green belt and quality of the landscape;
- The visual and landscape impact of inappropriate development, (e.g. certain suburban housing and retail developments in the middle Clyde Valley);
- The visual and landscape effects of urban fringe activities and recreational development pressures close to urban areas;
- The importance of ensuring that woodland, which makes an important contribution to landscape character and is often of particular nature conservation importance, is managed effectively and appropriately;
- The decline of orchards which were once characteristic of the main Clyde Valley;
- Decline of field boundaries - hedges, walls and trees in pockets of agricultural and other open land;
- Potential responses to subsidence and erosion along watercourses, and the importance of conserving natural river landscapes and of ensuring that management responses do not comprise major engineered solutions, which would be out of scale and character with the intimate valley landscapes;
- Concerns that minor or major road improvements could result in the loss of important landscape features or characteristic qualities, and that people's perceptions of the intimate valley landscapes could change as a result.

### MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

#### *Key characteristics*

The key characteristics, features and qualities of this landscape type are:

- narrow, steep sided valleys cut deeply into the farmlands;

- rich broadleaf woodlands on steep valley sides;
- agriculture where valleys are wide enough with a mixture of pastures, arable, market gardens and orchards;
- series of policy landscapes, castles and other historic sites;
- linear villages and winding roads;
- focal role of rivers and tributaries;
- rich, sheltered and settled areas, often hidden within the wider landscape.

*Landscape planning and management should aim to conserve and enhance the distinctive combination of landform, land cover and settlement features that distinguish the Incised River Valleys within South Lanarkshire. Conservation and appropriate management of woodlands, together with the sensitive control of development are central to this objective.*

#### *Trees and woodland: sensitivities and forces for change*

Woodland comprises a critical component of this landscape type, with broadleaf woodland clothing many of the steeper valley slopes. The landscape would be very sensitive to any loss of woodland cover, either as a result of clear felling, or due to poor management or neglect. Most of the woodland in this landscape type is currently unmanaged. In some cases, the semi-natural woodland which has survived is best left with minimal management. In many cases, however, positive management is required to prevent the continued decline of this important landscape feature. The Scotland Rural Development Programme has a series of priorities that aim to halt such decline and improve biodiversity and the landscape in the Clyde Valley through partnerships such as the Clyde Valley Woodlands, which have National Nature Reserve (NNR) status, and the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network.

Although there are some areas of coniferous woodland, particularly those associated with major estates and designed landscapes, the landscape would be very sensitive to any replanting of existing broadleaf woodland with conifers. Current landscape and biodiversity initiatives are intended to prevent this kind of change from occurring in the future. Similarly, the landscape would be sensitive, therefore, to large scale plantations which 'infilled' field blocks, obscured valley slope field patterns and which severed the visual relationship between the valley floor and its upper slopes.

Woodland makes a significant contribution to the farming landscapes along the valley floor and on shallower valley slopes. Tree cover comprises a combination of farm woodlands and field boundary trees, together with sections of riparian woodland. Many of these trees are poorly managed and are in decline.

The landscape will be sensitive to the loss of trees that will occur as existing trees become over mature and are either felled or fall of their own accord.

Within the main valley of the Clyde between Hamilton and Lanark there are a number of orchards, reflecting the area's history of fruit growing. These orchards make a significant contribution to the character of the valley. Many of these are derelict and in decline, reflecting the economic changes that have affected this sector of farming. The landscape is sensitive to the continued decline of these orchards. However, recent initiatives under the auspices of Clyde Valley Orchard Project are in place which may help to reverse this decline.

Within this landscape type, the Central Scotland Forest strategy places an emphasis on encouraging regeneration and more sustainable management of woodlands, with the aim of increasing their conservation and amenity value.

#### ***Trees and woodland: planning and management guidelines***

Woodland is a critical component of the landscape of the Incised River Valleys, clothing many of the steeper slopes and creating a strong contrast with the more open plateau landscapes above. Management should aim to:

- encourage the preparation of management/ conservation plans for historic gardens and designed landscapes which make a significant contribution to the landscape, and encourage their use to guide woodland and tree management;
- give strong support to the conservation of broadleaf woodlands within the incised river valleys, particularly those of ancient or semi-natural origin or otherwise of natural heritage importance;
- encourage the development and implementation of woodland management strategies to bring broadleaf woodland back into management where this is compatible with nature conservation objectives; where there is evidence that it has occurred in the past, support the reintroduction of coppice management;
- conserve and encourage the positive management of policy woodlands and landscapes within the incised river valleys;
- encourage the restructuring of existing conifer plantations to create more organic and varied patterns of woodland with a more varied species and age profile; this should help reduce the contrast with softer shapes of natural woodland;
- new deciduous or mixed woodland planting should be supported as a means of integrating and screening more recent developments on the valley sides; new woodland may provide a woodland framework for prominent houses, infrastructure such as sewage treatment plants, or larger urban areas such as the south western edge of Lanark;
- encourage the retention of the open, generally unwooded character of floodplains where they occur; encourage the positive management of riparian woodlands and trees.

#### ***Agriculture: sensitivities and forces for change***

Agriculture in the broader sections of Incised River Valleys has experienced considerable change, particularly with the decline of horticulture and fruit growing. Initial phases of diversification are reflected in the presence of large areas of glasshouses, many of which now stand empty and derelict. The landscape is sensitive to the continued decline of these structures, and the dereliction that results. Other farming enterprises have diversified into large garden centres and other forms of retailing and recreation. Taken together with extensive car parks, these developments are having a significant adverse effect on the sensitive and valued landscape of the Clyde Valley. It is particularly sensitive to the continued development and expansion of these activities.

Arable and silage cultivation is found on some broader areas of floodplain and on the shallower slopes. In some areas (e.g. between Overton and Crossford) this has resulted in a combination of field enlargement and decline or loss of hedges and woodland. This has created a more open landscape which contrasts with the enclosure provided elsewhere within these valleys. The landscape would be very sensitive to any further loss of field boundaries, or the decline or loss of farm woodlands and field boundary trees.

#### ***Agriculture: planning and management guidelines***

Agriculture within the Incised River Valleys comprises a mixture of pastoral farming, arable cultivation and fruit and vegetable growing. These activities are concentrated on the valley floor and the gentler valley slopes. Landscape planning and management should aim to:

- discourage the further enlargement or amalgamation of arable fields and the resultant loss of hedges;
- encourage the positive management, and where opportunities arise, the restoration, of hedges within the arable and pastoral parts of the valleys;
- allow new hedgerow trees to grow out;
- support the fruit industry with the objective of encouraging management and restoration of orchards within the larger valleys, particularly along the Clyde;
- discourage patterns of farm diversification which introduce inappropriate retail or leisure developments or activities;
- explore mechanisms to address areas of derelict or disused glasshouses.

#### ***Minerals: sensitivities and forces for change***

Parts of this landscape type are underlain by coal deposits. Historically, these have been worked on a small scale, creating a number of spoil tips, railway lines and viaducts. Following many decades, these sites have often become important cultural and landmark features, and many are of ecological interest. Although there may be instances where reclamation is preferable, the landscape would be sensitive to any significant loss of these features.

Present day coal working takes the form of open-cast mineral extraction, often on a large scale. This type of activity is incompatible with the small scale character of the Incised River Valleys, particularly since effective restoration would be impossible. Open-cast mineral working could also have an adverse effect where extraction sites are located within close proximity to the valleys.

#### ***Minerals: planning and management guidelines***

The Incised River Valleys have the potential to be affected by open-cast coal extraction in neighbouring plateau areas, and by pressures for the extraction of sands and gravels. Some of the valleys also contain small-scale remains from earlier periods of coal working. Landscape planning and management should aim to:

- resist mineral working in neighbouring areas which would have a visual impact on the valley landscapes;
- resist extensive working of sands and gravels on the valley floors since this could introduce activities that are out of scale with the landscape type and could result in features such as flooded pits being created in the longer term;
- strike a balance between the restoration and enhancement of areas damaged by earlier phases of coal working, and conserving locally significant parts of the cultural heritage.

#### ***Transport: sensitivities and forces for change***

These incised valleys are often narrow and winding, a characteristic reflected in the road system. Motorists travelling through the valleys engage actively with the landscape as the roads swing around the lower slopes of the valleys, or climb steeply up the valley sides. Rising traffic levels, together with the application of common design standards, have increased the pressure, both for incremental improvements to alignment or sightlines, or more substantive schemes. The landscape of these valleys is very sensitive to both forms of change since they could result in the loss of important local features, the imposition of engineered solutions in the rural landscape, and the continued growth of traffic.

The steep sided and narrow character of these valleys means that they can present an obstacle to modern road development. Although major elements of infrastructure tend to be concentrated in the plateau areas, the need to cross incised valleys can result in a significant landscape impact and severance as has been the case with the recent Garrion Bridge improvement.

The active erosion within some of the tributary valleys in particular, means that many minor roads are subject to subsidence and deterioration. The landscape of these small scale valleys would be particularly sensitive to the use of major engineering solutions to remedy these problems.

#### ***Transport: planning and management guidelines***

Roads which wind their way along the sides of the floodplain, and which climb steeply up the valley sides are a characteristic feature of the incised river valleys. They are typified by tight radii, steep gradients and substandard sight-lines. There is a concern that minor or major roadworks, designed to address these shortcomings, could have a significant impact on the intimate character of these valleys.

Landscape planning and management should aim to:

- discourage road engineering schemes which would result in:
  - the loss of characteristic landscape features such as steep and dissected valley sides resulting in twisting and often steep road alignments, allied to areas of extensive woodland;
  - adverse visual impacts;
  - changes in the way that motorists perceive the landscape through which they are passing;
- where improvements are required, alternatives such as traffic calming should be considered as alternatives to major infrastructural projects;
- encourage new road schemes or improvement proposals to follow the approach set out in the document entitled *Fitting Roads* (Scottish Office, 1995) and Scottish Government guidance including the *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges* and *Cost Effective Landscape: Learning from Nature* (Scottish Executive, 1998).
- the incremental use of urban features such as signage, road markings and concrete kerbing should be resisted; follow the approach set out in the document *Road Furniture in the Countryside* (Transport Scotland, 2006);
- in cases where subsidence is affecting the stability of minor roads, explore alternatives to major reconstruction works, including the use of weight limits or further road closures.

#### ***Development: sensitivities and forces for change***

This landscape type is sensitive to the encroachment of settlements located in surrounding Farmland areas, particularly where they have expanded onto the upper valley slopes and are consequently visible from within the valley.

The Incised River Valley landscapes are also sensitive to the recent pattern of dispersed suburban residential development which has taken place throughout the area, introducing buildings of inappropriate design and materials in often prominent locations.

The landscape is sensitive to the continued development of retail and recreation schemes within the rural landscape, particularly where this introduces new buildings, car parks and prominent signage.



The landscape is sensitive to the introduction of tall structures such as pylons and masts, either within the valley or in locations visible from within the valley, as is the case with wind turbines.

Rivers comprise a central and formative element in these landscapes. The character of these areas would be very sensitive to any measures which resulted in the loss of natural river landscapes, or the introduction of modern, engineered structures.

***Development: planning and management guidelines***

Although these areas are predominantly agricultural in character, development has affected them in a number of ways including:

- construction of modern housing;
- introduction of retailing, garden centre and leisure activities to compensate for the decline in horticultural incomes;
- the expansion of settlements from neighbouring plateau areas onto the upper valley slopes.

Landscape planning and management should aim to:

- discourage further incremental residential development within the incised valleys;
- examine the use of new screen planting to reduce the visual impact of some of the more prominent dwellings on valley slopes;
- encourage the use of traditional materials such as stone and slate in preference to prominent shades of brick and tile;
- follow the design guidance in South Lanarkshire's *Rural Building Conversion and New House Design Guide, 2001* and *PAN 72: Housing in the Countryside* when addressing issues of siting, design, materials and landscaping;
- control strictly further development of retail and leisure activities in former agricultural and horticultural buildings. Discourage inappropriate signage associated with existing enterprises;
- discourage further settlement expansion onto the upper slopes of the valleys where this would introduce further urban influences in the rural landscape;
- conserve natural river landscapes by discouraging schemes which introduce engineered features or structures.



## Landscape Character Assessment

### Locations

Incised River Valleys are found within the following areas of South Lanarkshire:

- River Clyde: Bothwell / Blantyre
- Rotten Calder Water
- Mid-Clyde Valley
- Avon Water
- River Nethan
- Mouse Water

### Key Characteristics

The key characteristics of this landscape type are:

- *narrow steep sided valleys deeply cut into the farmlands;*
- *rich broadleaf woodlands on steep valley sides;*
- *mixed agriculture where valleys are wider including pasture, arable, market garden and orchards;*
- *series of policy landscapes, castles and other historic sites;*
- *linear villages and winding roads;*
- *focal role of rivers and tributaries*
- *rich, sheltered and settled areas often hidden within the wider landscape.*

### Sub – Types

The following sub-types have been identified:

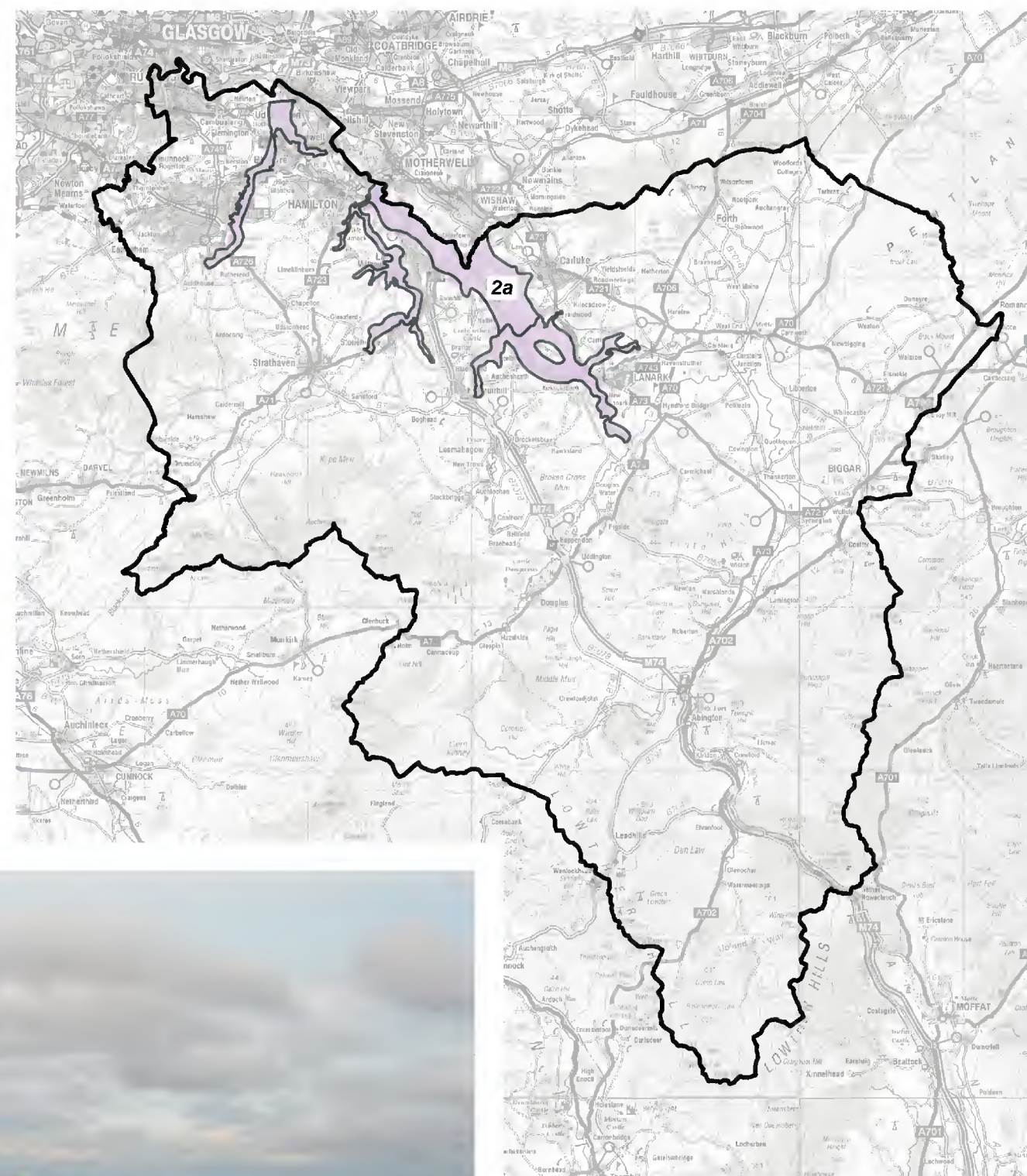
- 2a Incised River Valley, Broad Valley Floor
- Influence of agriculture including arable and market gardening within fertile land where valley widens

Figure 6ii

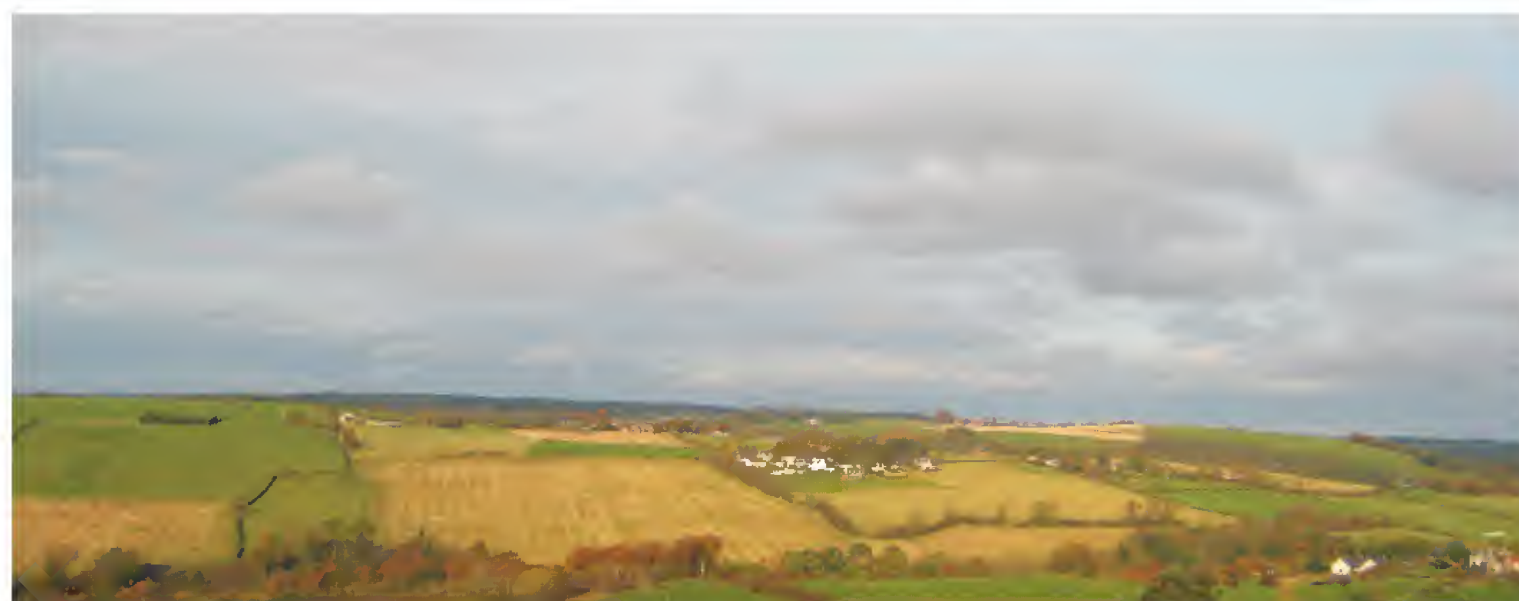
## Details of Landscape Character Areas: 2

### Incised River Valleys

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Characteristics



Incised River Valley (Broad Valley Floor)

Clyde Valley, viewed from west



### 3 Broad Urban Valleys

#### Location and Extent

Three areas of Broad Urban Valley are found within the study area:

- Lower River Clyde: Hamilton and Bothwell;
- Lower River Clyde: Kylepark to Carmyle;
- Lower River Clyde: Carmyle to Dalmarnock.

By comparison with the 1999 LCA, the extent of Broad Urban Valleys has been slightly increased. This is mainly supplanting *Incised River Valley* in the area of Hamilton and Cambuslang, as the surrounding urban influence, particularly on the Glasgow side of the river, is considered to override the relatively gentle topography in determining character.

#### Description

These sections of river valley, now often serving as transport corridors into the conurbation, are characterised by well-defined floodplains up to about a kilometre in width, bordered by valley slopes, above which lie neighbouring urban areas. These settlements have a strong visual relationship with the valleys. Furthermore, a range of past and present land uses within the valley floors means that the former rural character of these landscapes has been lost. Both sections of valley are dominated by road infrastructure and form important 'gateways' into the conurbation shared between South Lanarkshire, North Lanarkshire and Glasgow.

The Hamilton to Bothwell section of valley is bordered by urban areas located on the higher ground to the south west, north and east. Sited on higher ground, settlements such as Hamilton and Motherwell, in particular, are very visible from within the valley, especially where there are tall or high-rise buildings. The area is affected significantly by the presence of the M74, which runs along the valley floor and its major junctions with the A723 and A725, which cross the valley at right angles. Much of the remaining valley is given over to Strathclyde Country Park, (much of which is within North Lanarkshire's boundary) with a large (artificial) loch and watersports area. Remnants of the designed landscape associated with Hamilton Palace are visible on the south west side of the valley, particularly the Mausoleum. The impact of recent urban development including large scale retail has arguably further damaged the setting of this landscape.

Between Bothwell and Uddingston, the River Clyde re-enters a section of *Incised River Valley*, bordered closely by urban development. At Uddingston, the river once more emerges into a broader and shallower river valley continuing into the Glasgow conurbation. Again, urban influences are strong with the settlement edge and motorway corridor to the north and east very visible. A further influence is the legacy of derelict and often contaminated land that is associated with former industrial activity, which was concentrated in this area. Roads, railways, former railways, pylons and remaining

industrial activity add further to the fragmentation and damage of the landscape. Although the meandering course of the river remains, most other references to the pre-industrial landscape have been obliterated.

The Clyde Walkway is closely associated with the river along much of this corridor, providing pedestrian access from the heart of the conurbation into the countryside.

#### Key Landscape Issues

Key landscape issues affecting this landscape type include:

- The visual influence of neighbouring urban areas;
- The visual effects of dereliction, contamination and fragmentation of land and their implication for future patterns of development and land use;
- Development pressures associated with these urban areas and the tendency for these to be concentrated in areas of undamaged land;
- The visual, aural and severance effects of major transport corridors;
- The loss of original landscape character and features as a consequence of past patterns of land use and development;
- The importance of ensuring that future activities contribute positively to the enhancement of the landscape.

#### Sub Types

No sub types have been identified.

#### MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

##### Key Characteristics

The key characteristics, features and qualities of this landscape type are:

- broad sections of main river valley with well defined floodplains;
- past developments have resulted in significant modifications to landscape character;
- east of Hamilton and Bothwell, the valley is wide. East of the Clyde it lies in North Lanarkshire and is occupied by Strathclyde Country Park. West of the Clyde, within South Lanarkshire, it is occupied by Hamilton Low Parks which includes a golf course, a racecourse and the Mausoleum of the former Hamilton Palace, all set in mature woodland and parkland. However, surrounding urban areas, commercial development and the M74 have a significant visual and aural influence;
- between Carmyle and Kylepark, the valley comprises a mosaic of derelict, contaminated, restored and active industrial sites. The M74 is also a significant feature here on the Glasgow side of the valley.

- Between Carmyle and Dalmarnock the river is entirely surrounded by urban development but significant areas of undeveloped or semi-derelict land with trees, scrub and grassland remain on the floodplains between the meanders.

***Planning and management should aim to manage the existing landscape to reduce the visual influence of urban and transport features and to create a new and integrated landscape where former areas of countryside have been lost, and derelict or damaged land left in its place. A framework for the long term restoration of such areas should be established.***

#### **General: sensitivity of the landscape**

As noted above, the Broad Urban Valley landscape type has been subject to considerable landscape change, with the loss of many landscape features, and, in some areas, the creation of large tracts of damaged and despoiled land. Large parts of this landscape type are subject to the influence of industrial, minerals and waste activities and the presence of major transport corridors and the proximity of neighbouring urban areas. While this means that the landscape may be less sensitive than more intact landscapes elsewhere in the study area, the proximity of large populations means that these areas of considerable current or potential importance, and would be sensitive to continuation or introduction of intrusive land uses.

#### ***Trees and woodland: sensitivities and forces for change***

The scale of urban, industrial and transport development determines that the historic patterns of farm and policy woodlands had been fragmented in this landscape. This has been partially compensated by road corridor planting schemes; Central Scotland Forest planting and by the woodland planting in Strathclyde Country Park. Pressures for development may, however, continue to require the incremental removal of established woodlands and tree lines or cause their decline through lack of management. Nevertheless the Newton Community Growth Area (CGA) bordering this area provides an opportunity for major new planting.

#### ***Trees and woodland: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- support continued woodland management;
- explore opportunities for new woodland planting to screen and integrate prominent sections of the urban edge together with major elements of transport infrastructure;
- explore the wider use of new woodland planting to create a new landscape structure in the area adjacent to the Newton CGA.

#### ***Transport: sensitivities and forces for change***

The broad urban valley landscape contains major components of transport infrastructure which are intrinsic features creating visual and physical severance of the landscape in many areas. The M74 extension is currently being constructed across the Clyde at Dalbeth. Several transport corridors have received landscape improvements in recent years, these are beginning to take effect and may help to contain the influence of the roads in the future.

#### ***Transport: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- ensure that new elements of infrastructure are designed to make maximum use of natural landform screening, and that additional planting is provided to give screening and integration into the wider landscape;
- avoid overly elaborate and suburban planting schemes along sections of the road corridors where their context is agricultural;
- minimise the effects of road corridor lighting where it crosses open or undeveloped landscape areas;
- ensure that the Clyde Walkway corridor is maintained and pedestrian links are not compromised by new transport infrastructure.

#### ***Development: sensitivities and forces for change***

The presence of brownfield sites (albeit derelict or contaminated) and the accessibility of this landscape is likely to result in continued demands for a range of developments. While current trends suggest that further developments may be proposed in this area, some larger building types should be resisted as they generally have an unsympathetic, inappropriate character.

#### ***Development: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- continue the programme of decontamination and site restoration;
- create a landscape structure which:
  - restates and emphasises 'natural' landscape elements, particularly the course of the river itself. Open space, including access along the river should be included where possible;
  - facilitates positive re-use of currently derelict or redundant land;
  - facilitates the phased release of land for redevelopment;
- encourage new development which is of a scale, design and materials which are sympathetic to the location within a river valley adjoining urban areas.

## South Lanarkshire

### Landscape Character Assessment

#### Locations

Broad Urban Valleys are found within the following areas of South Lanarkshire:

- River Clyde: Hamilton / Bothwell
- River Clyde: Kylepark - Carmyle
- River Clyde: Carmyle - Dalmarnock

#### Key Characteristics

The key characteristics of this landscape type are:

- broad sections of main river valley with well defined floodplains;
- past developments have resulted in significant modifications to landscape character;
- east of Hamilton and Bothwell, the valley is wide. East of the Clyde it lies in North Lanarkshire and is occupied by Strathclyde Country Park. West of the Clyde, within South Lanarkshire, it is occupied by Hamilton Low Parks which includes a golf course, a racecourse and the Mausoleum of the former Hamilton Palace, all set in mature woodland and parkland. However, surrounding urban areas, commercial development and the M74 have a significant visual and aural influence;
- between Carmyle and Kylepark, the valley comprises a mosaic of derelict, contaminated, restored and active industrial sites. The M74 is also a significant feature here on the Glasgow side of the valley;
- between Carmyle and Dalmarnock the river is entirely surrounded by urban development but significant areas of undeveloped or semi-derelict land with trees, scrub and grassland remain on the floodplains between the meanders.

#### Sub - Types

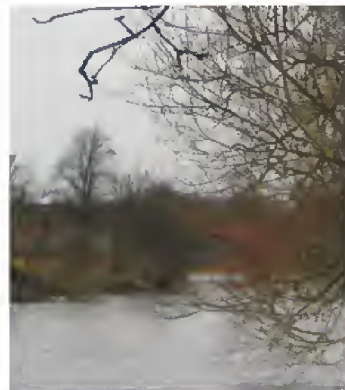
No sub-types have been identified.

### Figure 6iii

### Details of Landscape Character Areas: 3

### Broad Urban Valley

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Characteristics



Broad Urban Valley  
Uddingston, looking east





## 4 Rolling Farmlands

### Location and Extent

This type of landscape occurs within the following areas of South Lanarkshire:

- North and East of Lanark;
- West of Lanark and Clyde Valley;
- South of Strathaven;
- Biggar and Dunsyre

This significantly extends the area of Rolling Farmland compared with the 1999 assessment, which was restricted to an area north east of Lanark and a small area east of Cambuslang. The principal reasons are:

- Identification of areas of *Plateau Farmland* west of Lanark, east of Carluke and south of Strathaven with more rolling topography and greater enclosure by shelterbelts and field boundaries;
- More detailed assessment of the varied *Foothills* area north of Biggar, identifying an area best characterised by Rolling Farmland (which also extends north east into the area covered by the *Borders Landscape Assessment (SNH, 1998)*)

### Description

The underlying geology of the Rolling Farmlands landscape type varies in detail, but consists predominantly of carboniferous limestone with some areas overlying the carboniferous millstone grit that surrounds the Glasgow coal basin.

Rolling Farmlands are distinguished from *Plateau Farmlands* by their more complex landform. The physical characteristics of the rolling farmlands are greatly affected by glacial and fluvio-glacial deposition and in some areas may include drumlins, kettleholes, kames and eskers (e.g. at Carstairs). These features combine to create a topography of elongated hillocks, with mounds and ridges of sands and gravels in lower lying areas. Hence, the general character is strongly influenced by the undulating, medium-small scale landforms, which are soft in profile. The hydrology is complex as is usual with fluvio-glacial areas, but generally the Rolling Farmlands are traversed by small incised streams and larger incised rivers. Waterfalls and rapids occur where rock obstructs gorges and in areas of steeper topography. Kettleholes can lead to the formation of bogs and peats and small pools.

Agriculture is the predominant land use in the Rolling Farmlands landscape type. This comprises mainly pastoral farming, though small areas of arable occur on better quality well drained areas. Tree cover consists of coniferous plantations and shelterbelts. There are also farm woodlands, field boundary trees and isolated stands of Scots pine and beech, for example near Lanark. These form strong landmarks and distinctive patterns in

this undulating landscape and emphasise the form of the land, again distinguishing these areas from *Plateau Farmlands*. Field boundary trees and hedges are declining and post and wire fences are becoming more common. Stone walls are found in some parts of this landscape type. Remnants of policy woodlands also exist in the Rolling Farmlands relating to historic homes and estates.

The extensive agricultural use of the Rolling Farmland means that there are generally limited areas of conservation or ecological significance.

Settlement within this landscape type is limited to a scatter of farms and hamlets, many of which sit comfortably in the rolling hills. There are towns and villages in some areas of the Rolling Farmlands, e.g. Lanark and Biggar. These are generally dense compact settlements, usually in a dip of the land or on the slopes of a major valley.

Urban influences include pressure for housing development in what is seen as an attractive setting. Development pressure often leads to a drop in agricultural investment and then to pockets of underused or unfarmed land.

The presence of fluvio-glacial sand and gravel adds to development pressure in the form of mineral workings. Examples of gravel pits and quarries in the Rolling Farmlands include the gravel pits to the west of Lanark near Bonnington Mains. Other industrial pressures occur where the farmlands abut conurbations, for example around Carluke.

These areas are predominantly rural in character with comparatively few urban influences. Nevertheless, urban fringe land uses can be found in the Rolling Farmlands. This generally exists on the edge of conurbations where the previous landscape character has been weakened and fragmented by development. This has led to reclassification as *Urban Fringe Farmland* in the case of the area east of Cambuslang.

The Rolling Farmlands have a rich archaeological heritage and examples of remnants of policy landscapes associated with estates and stately houses exist especially in the long settled valleys. In the area around Lanark, there is a crannog in a small lochan and the remains of a Roman road.

### Sub Types

The following sub-types have been identified:

- **Rolling Farmland, Forestry (4a):**  
The influence of commercial coniferous forestry strongly impacts upon the visual quality of the landscape.

### Key Landscape Issues

Key landscape issues affecting this landscape type include:

- A decline in traditional agricultural activities, resulting in the deterioration of the farmland landscape and of hedges, walls and hedgerow trees in particular;

- The presence of glacial sand and gravel, together with some areas of hard rock means there is pressure for mineral working in some areas;
- Parts of this landscape type have been lost to urban expansion in recent years, and those areas adjacent to settlements continue to come under development pressure; this can have important implications for landscape management and investment;
- The importance of encouraging the positive management of historic landscapes and the conservation of elements of the historic environment.

## MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

### Key characteristics

The key characteristics, features and qualities of this landscape type are:

- distinctive undulating and rolling landform created by fluvio-glacial action;
- dominance of pastoral farming, varying in productivity according to elevation and exposure;
- importance of woodland in structuring the landscape and providing shelter for agriculture and rural settlement.

***Landscape planning and management should aim to conserve the distinctive agricultural character of these areas. In particular, management should aim to emphasise the role of woodland in these areas, and to limit the wider impact of mineral working activities.***

### ***Trees and woodland: sensitivities and forces for change***

The predominance of agriculture in this landscape determines that there is little opportunity or demand for the establishment of new forest areas and that recent woodlands are few and of small scale. This landscape would be sensitive to forestry developments which broke the existing patterns of the often interlinked, small scale, shelterbelt and farm woodlands. Large scale forests would not readily fit the small scale topography of this landscape. Smaller woodlands or shelterbelts may have less of an effect, particularly in the more upland parts of this landscape type (e.g. to the south and west of Lanark or north of Biggar), emphasising the natural variations in the landform,

This landscape is sensitive to the loss or decline of its existing woodlands due to lack of management. Farm woodlands, shelterbelts and policy woodlands are important components of the landscape, accentuating topographic variations and creating small to medium scale visual enclosure. Their loss would reduce the variety in the landscape and would make it more open, potentially allowing developments to become visually intrusive.

### ***Trees and woodland: planning and management guidelines***

This landscape type has the potential to accommodate additional woodland planting provided that this is of an appropriate scale, is correctly sited and reflects local patterns of species. New woodland can enhance the local landscape by emphasising the rolling landform created by glacial activity:

- in the area near Carstairs, the aim should be to conserve, and allow the regeneration of, semi-natural stands of birch and Scots pine; there may be opportunities to encourage the growth of new woodland on unwooded hillocks, or in the form of woodland belts linking existing woods;
- commercial plantations should be designed carefully to ensure that they do not undermine or obscure the small-scale nature of local topography ; where this type of forestry does occur, the aim should be to encourage planting patterns which retain a significant proportion of open land, which make use of organic shapes and outlines, and which avoid geometric edges and boundaries.

Existing broadleaf, mixed and policy woodlands should be managed to achieve continuous cover woodland with age/species diversity. Particular requirements are as follows:

- protection from undergrazing should be encouraged in certain areas to allow regeneration;
- control of invasive species should be encouraged in many policy woodlands and restocking with historically appropriate species undertaken to compensate for the decline of old trees and losses due to Dutch elm disease.

### ***Agriculture: sensitivities and forces for change***

This landscape type is sensitive to any pressures which result in agricultural change. Development pressures associated with urban expansion can cause uncertainty, a decline in investment and management and landscape blight. Similarly, demands for leisure facilities such as golf courses, golf driving ranges, sports pitches and riding centres may also result in a replacement of traditional land uses and consequent urbanisation of landscape character. The landscape would be sensitive to agricultural building developments which were of such a large scale that they required significant modifications to landforms or the removal of existing trees and hedgerows. The placement of buildings on ridges or hilltops could also be obtrusive unless they were carefully composed to relate to traditional buildings.

The landscape is also sensitive to deliberate measures or neglect which causes the loss or decline of its key features or conservation interest. These include:

- the decline of hedgerows and replacement by fences;
- the loss of and failure to replace mature trees from hedgerow lines, field corners and from around farmsteads;
- the drainage or infilling of small waterbodies, ditches and streams to improve agricultural production;

- the cultivation and improvement of small areas of grassland which previously provided nature conservation interest and visual variety;
- The improvement of poor grassland and heath areas on higher hilltops.

#### ***Agriculture : planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for the Rolling Farmlands landscape type are as follows:

- support the retention of a viable agricultural sector in these areas since this will help ensure that the traditional structure of the landscape is maintained;
- encourage the conservation, including appropriate management and, where opportunities arise, the restoration of drystone dykes on higher ground and hedges (beech and hawthorn) in lower areas;
- implement an urgent programme of field boundary tree management to encourage replanting and to prevent the complete loss of such trees in the coming decades; beech, ash and holly hedgerow trees are characteristics of this landscape type, replanting should use these species in accordance with the local patterns;
- encourage the conservation of areas of biodiversity such as grasslands, heathlands and poorly drained areas;
- discourage the development of agricultural buildings which, by their location, scale, design or materials, would have a prominent impact on the landscape; wherever possible, new farm buildings should be visually integrated with older farmsteads and should make full use of natural screening provided by the varied topography and tree cover.

#### ***Minerals: sensitivities and forces for change***

The presence of glacial sand and gravel, together with some areas of hard rock means there is pressure for mineral working. This is most evident to the south east of Lanark and in the vicinity of Carstairs and Carnwath. The rolling nature of the landscape has the potential capacity to absorb such activities providing they are of a suitable scale and are carefully sited within a landform framework. Conversely, the landscape would be extremely sensitive to large scale extraction on prominent ridges or hills.

#### ***Minerals: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for the Rolling Farmlands landscape type are as follows:

- sand and gravel working in these areas should be governed by the following factors:
  - the scale of working should be limited so as to minimise the extent of visual impacts within these comparatively intimate landscapes;
  - sites should be located so as to make full use of the natural screening provided by topographic variety and woodland cover;
  - mineral working should avoid the complete removal of features such as low hills;

- restoration plans should aim to re-integrate the site into the surrounding landscape context, and to establish a positive land use for the site in question; where land has been damaged in the past, restoration following mineral working may facilitate landscape enhancement;

- hard rock quarrying should be located to avoid major landscape impacts; important landscape features such as ridgelines, skylines and hill tops should be conserved intact.

#### ***Transport: sensitivities and forces for change***

A network of minor roads which wind, climb and descend in an informal manner are typical of this landscape. Many are lined by hedgerows and tree avenues and several pass the gate lodges and walls of country houses. The landscape would be sensitive to any road improvement works which removed these features and to any new road developments which did not respect the rolling topography in their alignment and elevation.

#### ***Transport: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for the Rolling Farmlands landscape type are as follows:

- conserve the existing character of the networks of minor country roads which lace these areas. Encourage the retention and positive management of field boundaries and field boundary trees along minor roads. Discourage upgrading schemes which would result in the loss of local features or which would introduce urban engineered features into the rural landscape.

#### ***Development: sensitivities and forces for change***

This landscape has the potential to provide comfortable, attractive and accessible sites for development, particularly close to urban areas. There are consequently demands for development, particularly residential and retail, some of which have already begun to change the character of local areas around Carluke, Lanark and Biggar. In the former case this has led to the area being classified as *Urban Fringe Farmland*. The urban fringe areas and main road corridors (the A73 and A721) are potential subjects of development interest which, if implemented, may change the relationship between existing settlements and the countryside.

There is also pressure for development of windfarms in the farmland areas of South Lanarkshire. Given the small to medium scale of the landscape and the number of domestic scale references such as houses and small roads, large scale wind turbines are likely to be in contrast with this landscape type and would dominate its surroundings.

The rolling topography of this landscape may allow natural screening of some smaller developments. However, the landscape would be sensitive to schemes which break ridgelines and fail to respond to topography.

***Development: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for the Rolling Farmlands landscape type are as follows:

- the aim should be to conserve the rural character of these areas of Rolling Farmland;
- developments should therefore generally be of a small scale, well sited so as to maximise the natural screening and integration provided by topographic and woodland variety;
- the imposition of developments which require medium to large scale modifications to the undulating topography should be resisted; developments and their external areas should be tailored to 'fit' the landscape or sites selected which permit their integration;
- large scale development is unlikely to be appropriate within this medium to small scale landscape type; where large areas of derelict land remain from previous activities, the emphasis, where practical should be upon restoring the land to 'rural' land uses such as agriculture, forestry or informal recreation;
- new land uses that would result in the loss of traditional features, or the introduction of new features, should be discouraged, particularly in more prominent areas;
- tall structures such as masts, aerals or wind turbines should generally be discouraged except where there are opportunities to provide a degree of backclothing and where unacceptable cumulative impacts will not result.

## Landscape Character Assessment

### Locations

Rolling Farmlands are found within the following areas of South Lanarkshire:

- North / East of Lanark
- West of Lanark and Clyde Valley
- South of Strathaven
- Biggar and Dunsyre

### Key Characteristics

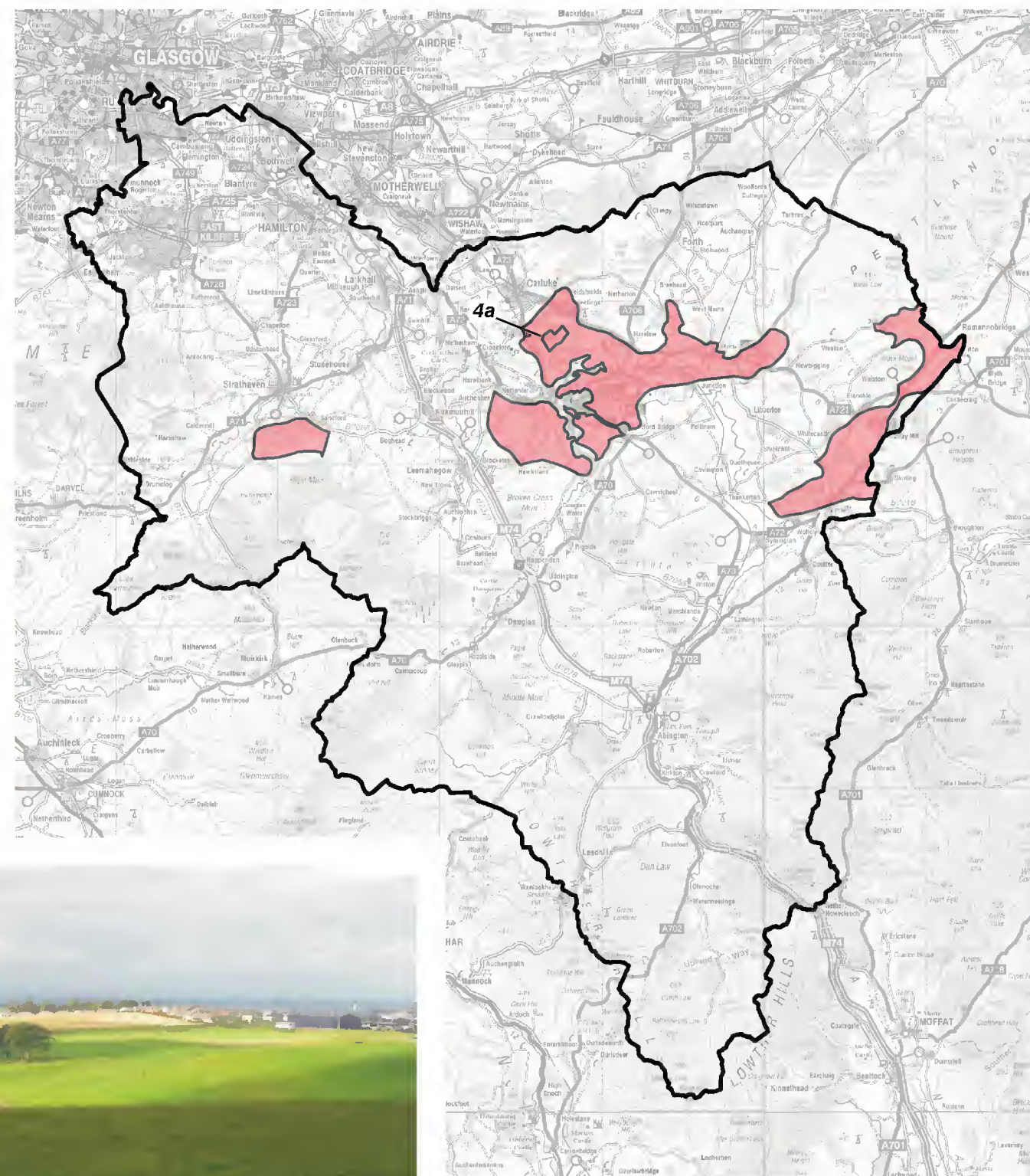
The key characteristics of this landscape type are:

- *distinctive undulating landform created by fluvio – glacial action;*
- *dominance of pastoral farming, varying in productivity according to elevation and exposure;*
- *importance of woodland and shelter belts in structuring the landscape and providing shelter for agriculture and rural settlement.*

### Sub – Types

The following sub-types have been identified:

- 4a Rolling Farmland Forestry
  - Dominance of commercial forestry often associated with more marginal agricultural land.



Characteristics



Rolling Farmlands

Looking south west to Carlisle

Figure 6iv

## Details of Landscape Character Areas: 4

### Rolling Farmlands

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## 5 Plateau Farmlands

### Location and Extent

Plateau Farmlands occur on the lower slopes of the *Plateau Moorland* and *Rolling Moorland* areas. Plateau Farmlands are characterised by their transitional location between the sheltered landscapes of *Rolling Farmlands* and *Broad Valley Upland*, and exposed uplands and moorlands. The Plateau Farmlands occur in the following areas:

- Western Plateau: Lesmahagow/ Strathaven
- Central Plateau: Carnwath, Forth and Libberton

The area of Plateau Farmlands has been reduced compared with the 1999 LCA. This is principally because of the reclassification of areas around the northern conurbation as *Urban Fringe Farmland* and the extension of areas of *Rolling Farmland*. A small additional area has been identified to the south of the Medwin. Plateau Farmlands or similar landscape types extend beyond South Lanarkshire into West Lothian, North Lanarkshire and Ayrshire.

### Description

The underlying geology of the Plateau Farmlands is predominantly carboniferous millstone grit and carboniferous limestone, bands of which encircle the Glasgow coal basin. The landform is predominantly flat, gently sloping or slightly undulating. In contrast to the more sheltered valleys and gorges, and the *Rolling Farmlands*, this is an exposed landscape, the uniformity of landform offering very little shelter from wind. Drainage in the Plateau Farmlands often takes the form of very meandering streams through broad and shallow valleys. Streams on the Plateau Farmlands have little visual impact on the landscape. A few fluvio-glacial features exist on the lower edges of the plateau farmlands. An escarpment of varying prominence marks the northern edge of the moors, and the transition to lower farmland or urban areas.

Agricultural land use is dominated by pastoral farming consisting mostly of sheep farming with some cattle farming. Some important mosses and patches remain unreclaimed and unimproved. Because of the uniformity of the landform, fields tend to be large, rectilinear and evenly spaced, suggesting rationalisation and improvements during the 18th and 19th centuries. Field boundaries are increasingly defined by post and wire fences. However, many older beech and hawthorn hedges still exist in various states of repair. In higher areas, drystone dykes and ditches can be found.

Tree cover is generally limited to sparse rows of windblown trees along field boundaries. However, there are also patterns of deciduous and coniferous shelterbelts, which define and shelter the fields (eg. near East Kilbride). The general trend in the tree population is towards over-maturity and there is a danger of significant loss of tree cover unless management policies are implemented soon. Areas of moorland vegetation and forestry

plantation occur in several areas of the Plateau Farmlands, for example north of Carnwath and Carstairs. These have generally been classified as the *Plateau Moorland* type.

The extensive agricultural use of the Plateau Farmlands means that there are few areas of conservation significance.

Settlement in this landscape type tends to be sparse and confined to a scatter of farmsteads, which are often identifiable from a distance by their sheltering woodlands. Again, these woodlands tend towards over maturity and are often in decline. The few existing settlements are often very prominent in the landscape because of the height of the land and the lack of sheltering / screening landform. Hamilton and Larkhall, for example, are visible over a wide area, including from parts of the Clyde Valley AGLV/ candidate Special Landscape Area. The lack of complex landform makes these plateau areas easier to build on.

Transport and communication routes also tend to favour this uniform and accessible landscape and it houses major roads, rail lines, pylons and telegraph poles, all of which have considerable impact in the exposed landscape.

Much of this landscape type is underlain with extensive coal deposits. Open-cast coal working, often undertaken on a very large scale, has taken place throughout the Plateau Farmlands.

The Plateau Farmlands contain examples of castles, and estate landscapes. There are various ancient sites in the farmlands including ancient enclosures and crop markings.

### Sub Types

The following sub-types have been identified:

- **Plateau Farmland, Forestry (5a):**  
Landscape character has been impacted upon by the dominance of commercial forestry often associated with more marginal agricultural land.
- **Plateau Farmland, Opencast Mining (5b):**  
Landscape character strongly influenced by the presence of opencast works.
- **Plateau Farmland, Windfarm (5c):**  
Landscape character strongly influenced by the presence of wind turbines.

### Key Landscape Issues

Key landscape issues affecting this landscape type include:

- The fragmentation of land use and ownership near built up areas resulting in a decline in the landscape quality (some areas becoming *Urban Fringe Farmland*);

- The effect of alternative activities and land uses such as mineral working and commercial forestry, together with the decline of farming in some of the more marginal areas, resulting in a reduction in traditional forms of landscape management;
- The open and extensive nature of the landscape means that new development is often visible over a wide area;
- A decline in management means that there has been loss of field boundary trees, hedges and walls;
- In areas where there has been coniferous afforestation, existing landscape character has been modified;
- Conservation and management of historic gardens and designed landscapes, together with surviving historic houses and castles;
- The visual and landscape impacts of wind turbines, electricity transmission and communication infrastructure within and adjacent to this open upland fringe landscape;
- The visual effects of past industrial activities and the importance of striking a balance between reclamation, enhancement and the conservation of features of greatest cultural heritage importance.

## MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

### Key Characteristics

The key characteristics, features and qualities of this landscape type are:

- extensive, gently undulating landform;
- dominance of pastoral farming, but with some mosses surviving;
- limited and declining tree cover;
- visually prominent settlements and activities such as mineral working;
- the rural character of the Plateau Farmlands has suffered as tree cover has declined and the visual influence of windfarms, settlements, transport infrastructure and mineral working has increased.

***Planning and management should aim to restore the rural landscape character by increasing appropriate tree cover particularly in relation to non-rural landscape elements. Planning policies should aim to prevent further visual intrusions. There may be opportunities for more radical enhancement of the landscape by the creation of a more extensive woodland framework.***

### ***Trees and woodland: sensitivities and forces for change***

The dominance of agricultural activity in the Plateau Farmlands landscape type means there has been comparatively little pressure or opportunity for commercial forestry, with most new woodlands being steered to less productive, higher ground. With the continuing decline of farm incomes, ageing farming population, and declining Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) budget there may be a decline or change in emphasis in farming. Reforms to the CAP focus subsidies on more environmentally friendly farming methods and rural diversification. It is possible that farmers and landowners will look to various means of diversifying out of mainstream agriculture including woodland, forestry and biofuel planting. Within the Plateau Farmlands, this could result in a significant change in the character of what is currently an open, rolling landscape with long views. However, it is possible that with the sensitive use of new planting, for example in the form of linked shelterbelts to form woodland frameworks, additional forestry could contribute to a new and more varied local landscape character. This landscape type would, however, be sensitive to more extensive planting which obscured the subtle topographic variations or which blurred the distinction between the wooded lowland valleys and the plateau landscapes of farmland and moorland above.

Although broadleaf woodlands do not currently make a significant contribution to landscape character, there are some more sheltered areas, particularly in the transitional areas close to incised valleys, where mature trees are more common along field boundaries. Many of these are mature or overmature and there is evidence that a proportion of trees have been lost already. The landscape would be sensitive to the continued loss of these trees. Where they occur, mixed and policy woodlands make an important contribution to character, and sometimes provide valuable screening in the otherwise open landscape. The loss of these woods would therefore have an adverse effect on the character of the landscape. Within the north eastern part of South Lanarkshire, the Central Scotland Forest Strategy places an emphasis on expanding farm woodlands, establishing commercial forestry on poorer quality farmland, and creating new woodlands on the urban fringe and on derelict mineral sites. A number of community woodlands have developed around settlements, such as Forth, in recent years.

### ***Trees and woodland: planning and management guidelines***

Despite recent woodland planting initiatives, tree cover in the Plateau Farmlands landscape type is generally confined to a declining population of mature or overmature field boundary trees, and, in some areas, coniferous shelterbelts and plantations. Continued decline of tree cover will have the combined effects of creating a more open and less structured landscape, and increasing the visual prominence of built elements and features created by activities such as mineral working. Management should therefore aim to:

- bring existing field boundary trees and farm woodlands into positive management, with the objective of prolonging the life of existing specimens, and bringing forward replacements in the longer term;



- consider the scope for additional woodland planting around settlements, along transport corridors and on the periphery of other visually prominent land uses and activities, with the objective of reducing these features' impact on the wider landscape;
- (where the planning policy framework indicates that future development is likely), require advance planting to create a screening framework and favour locations which make best use of natural screening provided by the landform;
- explore the potential for a more extensive framework of woodland planting within the Plateau Farmlands, comprising networks of shelterbelts defining and enclosing groups of pastoral fields; the proportion of planted land could be in the order of 15-20%; appropriate species, typical of woodland planting in such areas would include Scots pine and beech with rowan; the choice of species may be guided by the creation of a potential timber resource or the value of creating ecological corridors; although this would modify the existing landscape character of the Plateau Farmlands, it is considered that this could be a beneficial change overall. This process could be enhanced through Forestry Commission rural development funding for woodlands and woodland improvements;
- resist planting which would create large areas of continuous coniferous tree cover.

#### ***Agriculture: sensitivities and forces for change***

The agricultural land use is presently fundamental to the character of this landscape type. Recent reforms of the CAP could alter the viability or direction of agriculture in this area. Unless alternative land uses or management mechanisms could be found, the landscape would be sensitive to any changes which resulted in the further loss of field boundaries and tree cover. Nevertheless, the changes in rural funding are more balanced towards improvements in landscape and biodiversity.

The open nature of this landscape type means that it is sensitive to the development of large scale agricultural buildings including barns and sheds.

#### ***Agriculture: planning and management guidelines***

Farming is a defining feature of this landscape type and, as in other areas, provides the principal means of landscape management. An overarching aim should be to support retention of a viable agricultural economy within the area. In relation to landscape features, landscape management and planning, aim to:

- encourage the positive management and, where appropriate, restoration of field boundaries (hedges and drystone dykes) and field boundary trees (see above) in recognition of the contribution these features make to the grain of this otherwise large-scale landscape, and their cumulative role in providing screening;
- influence the location, design and materials of new agricultural buildings to limit their visual impact and to maximise the integration of such structures with existing farm buildings and the wider landscape.

#### ***Minerals: sensitivities and forces for change***

Some of this landscape type is underlain by worked coal reserves. While some of these have been worked in the past on a relatively small scale, many have the potential for large scale open-cast extraction. In the short term, this could result in the creation of uncharacteristic features including bunds, overburden and spoil bings which would be prominent in this otherwise gently sloping landscape. Mineral working can also result in the loss of local landscape features such as hedgerows, walls, streams and variations in topography and land cover. Although restoration is now a condition of all new mineral working consents, the resulting landscape can often be overly bland and dislocated from its context. The capacity of the landscape to accommodate such activity is closely related to the scale of working, the prominence of the site, the duration of operations, the quality of restoration works and the number of sites being worked in a given vicinity at any one time.

It is recognised that many features of past, smaller-scale mineral working now remain as important landscape features and components of local cultural heritage. While the aim, in many cases, will be to clear up past dereliction, the landscape would be sensitive to the wholesale reclamation of such sites.

#### ***Minerals: planning and management guidelines***

Parts of the Plateau Farmlands in South Lanarkshire are underlain with coal deposits. While these have been exploited on a small scale in the past, current practices are for larger scale open-cast workings which raise issues about the landscape impact of pits, overburden and spoil bings and, ultimately the nature of restoration schemes. Landscape planning and management should:

- discourage the concentration of mineral workings within limited areas or along particular routes where the result would be an unacceptable level of cumulative or sequential impact;
- encourage the siting of mineral workings so as to avoid locations where they would be particularly visible from higher ground (for example from the *Plateau Moorlands*) or where they would intrude on neighbouring lowland areas (for example close to *Incised River Valleys*); require the assessment of the visual and landscape effects associated with pits, overburden and spoil bings, processing plant and accommodation;
- encourage operators to adopt a 'restoration-led' approach which sets mineral working within the context of the end-use of the site; while the emphasis will often be upon restoring premium land uses, there may be cases where restoration can result in a significant enhancement of the landscape;
- encourage the use of detailed site surveys to identify landscape (and other) features of importance which should be conserved or which have potential for re-creation during restoration; the aim should be to restore the grain and character of the site's former appearance and to avoid overly bland restoration solutions;
- encourage the use of advance planting to screen the site during operation and to help tie it into the surrounding landscape framework on restoration;

- develop a strategy for the conservation and reclamation of historic, generally small-scale, mineral working sites; while in some areas these sites may contribute to a sense of neglect or dereliction, in others they now comprise a layer in the history of the landscape and may be of importance for local cultural heritage.

#### **Transport: sensitivities and forces for change**

Plateau Farmland areas have historically been favoured as transport corridors in preference to lower lying and often incised river valleys. In visual terms, the road infrastructure fits relatively easily into the large-scale landscape. However, the road corridors inevitably introduce movement, noise and, at night, light, into comparatively undeveloped areas of countryside. As a result, the capacity of these areas to accommodate additional routes is limited.

While it would appear unlikely that new railway developments will occur in this landscape, the removal of disused railway lines and associated structures is a possibility. This could diminish the heritage interest of the landscape and preclude their future reinstatement as communication routes or use as long distance cycle ways.

#### **Transport: planning and management guidelines**

As noted above, major elements of transport infrastructure, particularly roads, can have a significant visual and landscape impact within the Plateau Farmlands. Landscape planning and management should:

- explore the use of additional woodland planting to create a screening framework for existing major roads;
- ensure that new elements of infrastructure are designed to make maximum use of natural landform screening, and that additional planting is provided to give screening and integration into the wider landscape; the design of new or improved roads should follow the approach set out in the document entitled *Fitting Roads* (Scottish Office, 1995) and Scottish Government advice including the *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges* and *Cost Effective Landscape: Learning from Nature* (1998).
- within the wider road network, the incremental use of urban features such as signage, road markings and concrete kerbing should be resisted; follow the approach set out in the document *Road Furniture in the Countryside* (Transport Scotland, 2006).

#### **Development: sensitivities and forces for change**

The Plateau Farmlands have also provided locations for settlement, particularly in the middle part of the catchment where the River Clyde passes through an incised and comparatively narrow valley less suited to settlement. In the vicinity of Hamilton, East Kilbride and Carluke, where the influence of urban areas is particularly strong, the Plateau Farmland has been reclassified as *Urban Fringe Farmland* (see LCA 1). Strathaven, Forth

and Lesmahagow and many smaller villages are located in the remaining Plateau Farmland landscape, often within easy reach of the valley lowlands. Historically, such settlements would have been relatively small, constructed using local building materials, and set in a landscape with probably a higher degree of screening provided by field boundary trees. More recent development, particularly where it has included tall buildings or structures, is often more prominent and can have a visual impact over a considerable area of Plateau Farmland. It is concluded, therefore, that the open nature of this landscape type means that this landscape is sensitive to the development of tall buildings and structures. However, the capacity of the landscape type to accommodate developments of low or average height (even with large footprints) could be enhanced by additional planting or reinforcement of existing woodlands or tree belts. Some of this landscape type falls within the area designated as Green Belt. As such, the policy framework currently precludes such development.

Areas of Plateau Farmlands are already crossed by lines of electricity pylons, following routes which exploit the relatively simple topography of the area. Although they are often visible features in the open landscape, the scale of the landscape is such that they only become particularly intrusive within a limited vicinity. The landscape is most sensitive where tall structures would be viewed on the skyline, and least sensitive where higher ground (for example the *Plateau Moorlands*) provides an element of backclothing.

#### **Development: planning and management guidelines**

The expansion of settlements within the Plateau Farmlands, and the decline in farmland tree cover, has resulted in an increase in the visual influence of urban areas and of isolated developments within this landscape type. Landscape planning and management should aim to:

- encourage an increase in tree cover, particularly around the fringes of settlements to provide a screening framework for existing development;
- ensure that proposals for settlement expansion are designed to make best use of topographic screening, and are set within a woodland framework, with the objective of minimising the visual and landscape impact on surrounding areas;
- discourage patterns of urban growth which result in expansion into areas that are visible from within neighbouring lowland areas, thereby extending the range of landscape types affected by the development;
- discourage the incremental development of dwellings or other buildings within the open countryside; favour the consolidation of existing villages and small settlements;
- encourage the use of designs which respect vernacular building styles and materials, including stone and slate; discourage the use of modern urban or suburban designs in a rural context; use the South Lanarkshire *Rural Building Conversion and New House Design Guidance* and *PAN 72: Housing in the Countryside*;

***Windfarms: sensitivities and forces for change***

Recently the *Plateau Moorlands* backdrop to the *Plateau Farmlands* has become dominated by extensive windfarm development, with further developments in the planning and construction phase. In places this has led to significant changes in the views from the farmlands, with the areas closest to Black Law and Whitelee becoming dominated by the backdrop of turbines contrasting with the smooth open lines of the landform. A three turbine cluster has recently been built within the Plateau Farmland at Lochhead. This is extensively visible in the area between Strathaven, Carluke and Lanark and there is continuing pressure for such development.

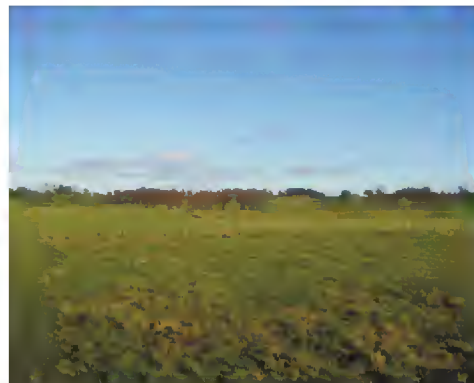
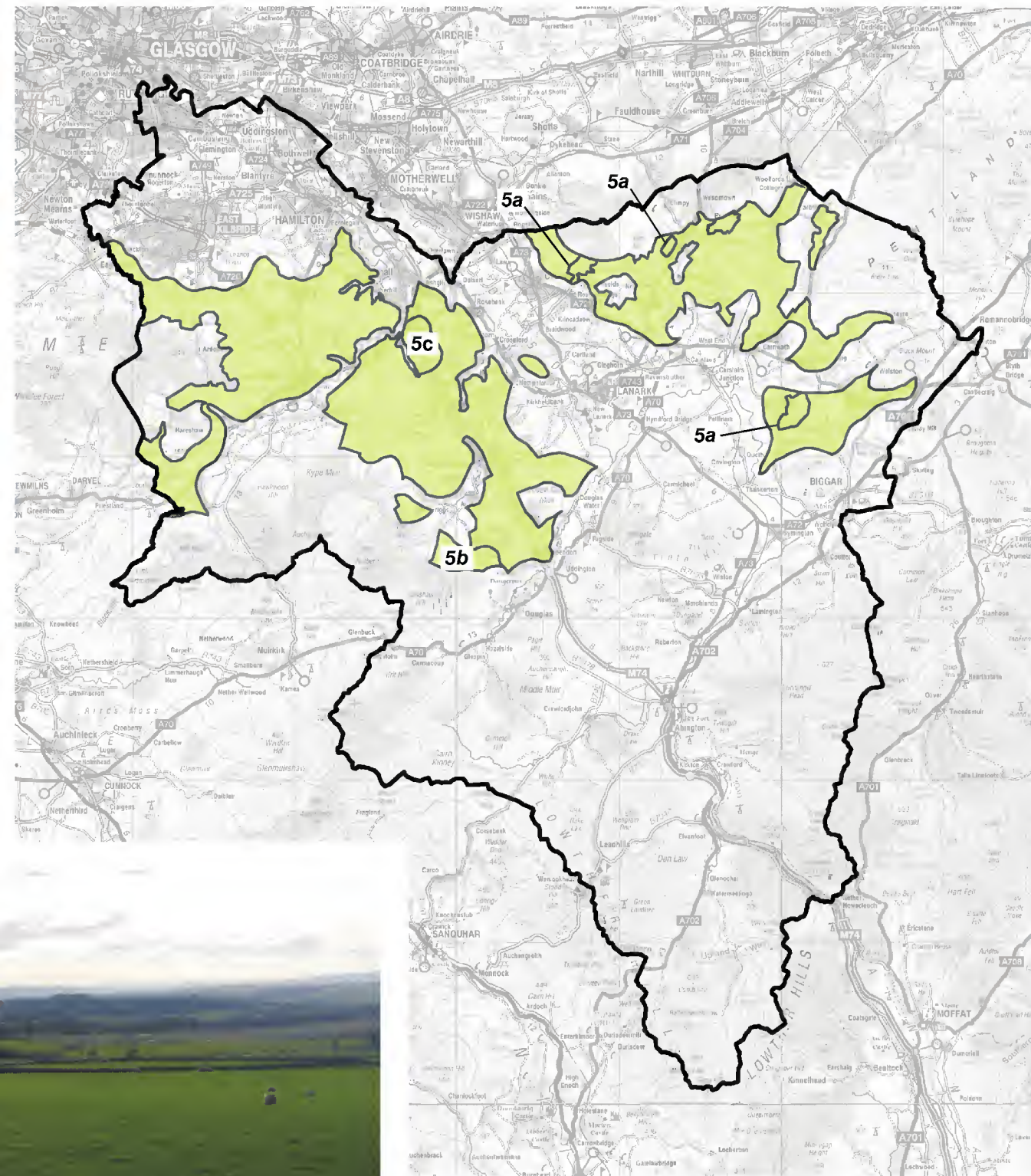
***Windfarms: planning and management guidelines***

Windfarm development has dramatically changed the backdrop and views in many locations. Landscape planning and management should aim to:

- discourage the erection of wind turbines or other tall structures in prominent locations particularly in areas adjacent to lower ground where the development could be visible on the skyline; favour areas where tall structures would be provided with a backcloth to reduce their visual and landscape impacts;
- maintain the separation and characteristics of wind farms between the Plateau Farmlands and *Plateau Moorlands* such that the boundaries between and characteristics of the two landscape types do not become blurred; avoid unacceptable cumulative impacts when siting windfarms within the Plateau Farmlands.
- Consider limited expansion of existing windfarms in upland areas rather than locating small numbers of turbines in Plateau Farmland, where impacts would be much greater.



Landscape Character Assessment



Characteristics



Plateau Farmland  
South of Forth, looking south west

Locations

Plateau Farmlands are found within the following areas of South Lanarkshire:

- Western plateau: Lesmahagow / Strathaven
- Central plateau: Carnwath, Forth and Libberton

Key Characteristics

The key characteristics of this landscape type are:

- extensive, gently undulating landform;
- dominance of pastoral farming, but with some mosses surviving;
- limited and generally declining tree cover;
- visually prominent settlements and activities such as mineral working;
- rural character has suffered as tree cover has declined and the visual influence of windfarms, settlements, transport infrastructure and mineral workings has increased.

Sub – Types

The following sub-types have been identified:

- 5a Plateau Farmland Forestry
  - Dominance of commercial forestry often associated with more marginal agricultural land.
- 5b Plateau Farmland Open Cast Mining
  - Influence of open cast works
- 5c Plateau Farmland Windfarm
  - Influence of wind turbines

Figure 6v

Details of Landscape Character Areas: 5

Plateau Farmlands

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## 6 Plateau Moorlands

### Location and Extent

Plateau Moorlands occur in two parts of South Lanarkshire:

- Central Plateau: Black Law/ Forth with smaller areas in adjacent *Plateau Farmland*;
- Western (Ayrshire) Plateau: Whitelee with smaller areas in adjacent *Plateau Farmland* near Coalburn, Douglas Water and Crawfordjohn.

By comparison with the 1999 assessment, the area of Plateau Moorlands has been considerably reduced. This is principally in the western area, where the moorlands south of the River Avon have largely been reclassified as *Rolling Moorland* due to their more dissected topography, with distinct rounded hill forms and greater elevation.

The two Plateau Moorland areas are distinguished geologically. The Ayrshire Rim is underlain by resistant basalts and tuffs. The Central Plateau is dominated by coal measures, though a number of igneous intrusions and dykes are present. The area is less faulted than the Ayrshire Rim within the western plateau. Both areas extend into neighbouring local authority areas of West Lothian, North Lanarkshire, East Renfrewshire and East Ayrshire.

### Description

The Plateau Moorlands consist primarily of blanket bog, heather and grass moorland. The topography is comparatively level with extensive plateau basins rising to very softly contoured ridges. Farmland, often with wind bent trees and thorn hedges, extends onto the lower slopes, particularly on the Central Plateau where exposure is less extreme. The open, exposed and rather wild character of the landscape described in the 1999 assessment has become modified by the presence of extensive commercial forestry and windfarms. Mosses, comprising areas of extensive peatland form an important ecological and landscape component of the Plateau Moorlands.

A subset of the Plateau Moorlands landscape type, Plateau Moorlands with Forest landscape type, occurs where significant afforestation has taken place. Both areas of plateau moorland have extensive conifer plantations. The Ayrshire Rim includes Whitelee Forest (which extends into Ayrshire). Examples on the Central Plateau include Kingshill Plantation above Carluke and Worm Law to the east. The afforestation has significantly modified the original character in terms of colour, textures and the length of views possible. However, there is a general lack of elevation which means that the forests create dark horizons, rather than being visible in their full extent. New plantations appear as dark speckled landscapes from a distance. The open ground and surrounding moorland contrasts in its mosaics of brown and ochre colours.

Latterly both of the largest Plateau Moorland areas have been distinguished by the development of extensive windfarms at Whitelee and Black Law, both of which extend into

neighbouring local authority areas. Large areas are now dominated by wind turbines, creating new landscape sub-types. Further developments have been approved. In turn this has led to a reduction in areas of forestry and the reinstatement of one significant opencast site at Black Law.

Settlement within these exposed landscapes has been historically sparse. The lesser exposure of the Central Plateau, together with a series of important transport corridors linking Glasgow and Edinburgh mean that settlement is more extensive here. The moorlands provide long views across the Glasgow conurbation, emphasising the contrast between the exposed upland and the developed lowlands.

Modern development in these areas takes a number of forms and can be very prominent in this otherwise open, expansive and simple landscape. Tall structures are often visible over a considerable distance. Examples of these include the windfarms at Whitelee (Western Plateau) and Black Law, Forth (Central Plateau). Many of the villages in the area have grown incrementally over time.

The presence of coal reserves and, to a lesser extent, hard rock deposits, has had a major effect on the landscape within the Central Plateau area. Coal working has experienced a number of clear phases of development. Historically it would have been worked on a small scale with surface pits, drift mines and shallow pits. Up until recent decades, deep mining also took place, though this has been replaced by open-cast working, often on a very large scale. Cumulatively, these activities have had a major influence on the landscape in the form of bings and tips, areas of derelict land, operating open-cast workings and associated industrial infrastructure including disused railway embankments.

### Sub Types

The following sub-types have been identified:

- **Plateau Moorland, Forestry (6a):**  
Landscape character influenced by areas of significant afforestation such as at Forth. This impacts upon colour, textures and the lengths of view possible.
- **Plateau Moorland, Forestry/ Windfarm (6b):**  
Landscape influenced by the presence of large scale windfarms, set within areas of extensive coniferous forestry such as Whitelee.
- **Plateau Moorland, Windfarm (6c):**  
Landscape influenced by the presence of large scale windfarms such as Blacklaw.
- **Plateau Moorland, Opencast Mining (6d):**  
Landscape character strongly influenced by the presence of opencast works such as Broken Cross.

## Key Landscape Issues

Key landscape issues affecting this landscape type include:

- Visual impact of extensive areas of windfarms on nearby settlements and landscape effects on adjacent farmland and river valleys;
- The prominence of any modern developments, including tall structures such as wind turbines, masts and pylons in this open upland landscape;
- The importance of striking a balance between large scale windfarms, conifer plantations and open moorland;
- The pressures for mineral extraction, particularly large scale open-cast working;
- The pressures for peat working in some areas;
- The marginal nature of agriculture where this extends onto the moorland plateau and the effect in terms of hedgerow maintenance;
- Possible pressures for transport infrastructure improvements;
- Potential presence of unrecorded archaeological sites, which may be at risk from development / land use change.

## MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

### Key characteristics

The key characteristics, features and qualities of this landscape type are:

- distinctive upland character created by the combination of elevation, exposure, smooth, plateau landform, moorland vegetation and, with the exception of windfarms, a comparative lack of modern development;
- these areas share a sense of apparent openness and exposure which contrasts with the farmed and settled lowlands but do not feel remote;
- increasingly these areas are subject to significant landscape change resulting from extensive large scale windfarm development and associated reduction in area of commercial forestry.

***Within the context of windfarm development, landscape planning and management should aim to conserve the upland character and vegetation of the Plateau Moorlands. New developments in addition to the existing windfarms, which introduce modern elements or which would further undermine the simple, exposed upland character or extend impacts into neighbouring landscapes should generally be resisted.***

### ***Trees and woodland: sensitivities and forces for change***

Large parts of this landscape type have been subject to afforestation in the past, resulting in the creation of large-scale conifer plantations of uniform age and species composition. At a distance these can echo the gentle slopes of the Plateau Moorlands. More locally, however, they create enclosure and can obscure natural features such as gullies and burns, and human features such as walls and tracks. The expansion of coniferous woodland within this landscape type would further alter the balance between forested and open land, with an adverse effect on its character. More recently, however, the trend has been for a reduction in forest cover in areas where windfarms have been developed.

Modern forestry practice favours the creation of more natural patterns of planting when coniferous plantations reach the end of the current rotation. In many cases, newly planted forests include a higher proportion of broadleaves, particularly around the fringes, and are more closely related to the underlying landform. Proposed replanting of some areas around windfarms includes more naturalistic planting. Within the northeastern part of this area, the Central Scotland Forest Strategy places an emphasis on expanding farm woodlands, establishing commercial forestry on poorer quality farmland, and creating new woodlands on derelict mineral sites.

### ***Trees and woodland: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- encourage the management of existing coniferous plantations in the Plateau Moorlands with the aim of developing more natural shapes and achieving more varied age and species composition;
- encourage replanting of native trees along the edges of coniferous areas partially felled to accommodate windfarm development;
- discourage significant expansion of existing conifer plantations in order that the balance between planted and unplanted land remains broadly constant;
- where new planting does occur, encourage designs which reflect and articulate local variations in topography and avoid the obscuring of local features such as burns, gullies, walls or archaeological sites;
- encourage forest developments to retain broad open space corridors which respect areas of historic occupation and cultivation where these occur;
- there may be opportunities to encourage the regeneration or expansion of broadleaf woodland and scrub along burnsides and in gullies creating a closer integration of lowland woodland and the moorland landscape;
- support new woodland planting where appropriate to provide screening around land uses such as mineral extraction, and along the principal transport corridors.



***Agriculture: sensitivities and forces for change***

This landscape type would be sensitive to any attempts to improve the land for grazing, including drainage or reseeded operations. These are most likely to occur in areas where lower elevation and exposure means that farmland and moorland are more intermixed. Improvement of land to provide additional pasture could result in a further blurring of the distinction between the upland and lowland areas.

On the other hand, the fringes of these uplands are characterised by farmland enclosed by hedges and drystone walls. The landscape type would be sensitive to any changes in agricultural practices which resulted in the further decline of these features.

***Agriculture: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- encourage the management of field boundaries where pastures extend onto the moorland areas, to conserve the contrast between farmland and open moorland; stone dykes should be conserved, and, where appropriate, field boundary trees managed or retained;
- agricultural improvements resulting in the further losses of moorland and mosses should be discouraged;
- support the enhancement of wildlife values through careful grazing regimes and heather management.

***Minerals: sensitivities and forces for change***

Some of this landscape type is underlain by worked coal reserves, many of which have potential for open-cast extraction. In the short term, this could result, and has resulted in the creation of uncharacteristic features including bunds, overburden and spoil bings which would be prominent in this otherwise gently sloping landscape. Mineral working can also result in the loss of local landscape features such as hedgerows, walls, streams and variations in topography and landcover. Although restoration is now a condition of all new mineral working consents, the resulting landscape can be overly bland and dislocated from its context. This landscape has the advantage that parts of it are relatively remote from settlements and roads, and the plateau landform is such that views over or into mineral workings are comparatively rare. The capacity of the landscape to accommodate such activity is closely related to the scale of working, the prominence of the site, the duration of operations, the quality of restoration works and the number of sites being worked in a given vicinity at any one time. Hard rock quarrying, may have a more visible effect, creating open rock faces. This has occurred in some instances where borrow pits have been excavated on windfarm sites. The restoration of many mineral sites includes a phase of landfilling of waste, an activity which can generate its own impacts on the surrounding countryside (visual impacts, noise, odours and heavy goods vehicle traffic generation).

It is recognised that many features of past, smaller-scale mineral working now remain as important landscape features and components of local cultural heritage. While the overall aim may be to encourage reclamation and restoration, there may be instances where conservation is more appropriate.

Parts of this landscape type outside South Lanarkshire are subject to peat cutting to supply horticultural demand. When undertaken on an extensive basis, this activity has the potential to modify large tracts of landscape, and could affect areas of nature conservation importance. This landscape type would be sensitive to any significant extension of the areas subject to peat cutting.

***Minerals: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- discourage the concentration of mineral workings within limited areas or along particular routes where the result would be an unacceptable level of cumulative or sequential impact;
- encourage the siting of mineral workings so as to avoid locations where they would be particularly visible from higher ground or where they would intrude on neighbouring lowland areas;
- require the assessment of the visual and landscape effects associated with pits, overburden and spoil bings, processing plant and accommodation;
- assess impacts of further peat extraction on bog and moss habitats;
- encourage operators to adopt a 'restoration-led' approach which sets mineral working within the context of the end-use of the site; where land has previously become degraded, restoration should result in landscape enhancement and the establishment of environmentally enhanced landcover;
- encourage the use of detailed site surveys to identify landscape (and other) features of importance which should be conserved or which have potential for re-creation during restoration ; the aim should be to restore the grain and character of the site's former appearance and to avoid overly bland restoration solutions;
- encourage the use of advance planting to screen the site during operation and to help tie it into the surrounding landscape framework on restoration;
- proposals for extensive peat workings should be assessed carefully in terms of the likely impact on landscape and other interests such as ecology and cultural heritage and resisted if there is the potential for any significant impacts.

***Transport: sensitivities and forces for change***

These moorland areas form physical barriers between areas of settled lowland. Outside South Lanarkshire a number of major routes including the M77, M8 and A8 cross the moors as a result. However this is less so in South Lanarkshire where only the Central Plateau is crossed by the A706 and A70. In visual terms, the road infrastructure fits

relatively easily into the large scale landscape. However, the road corridors inevitably introduce movement, noise and, at night, light, into comparatively remote areas of countryside. As a result, the capacity of these areas to accommodate additional routes is limited.

Open-cast coal mining in this landscape type may provide an opportunity to re-utilise and restore old railway lines instead of using road haulage. Equally, it is possible that the removal or gradual loss of disused railway lines and associated structures will occur. This could diminish the heritage interest of the landscape and preclude their future reinstatement as communication routes.

#### ***Transport: planning and management guidelines***

As noted above, transport infrastructure, particularly roads, can have a significant visual and landscape impact within the open areas of Plateau Moorland. Landscape planning and management should:

- ensure that new elements of infrastructure are designed to make maximum use of natural landform screening, and that, where appropriate, additional planting is provided to give screening and integration into the wider landscape;
- minimise the use of tall, vertical elements such as lights, signs, and overhead signs which could be intrusive features in the plateau landscape;
- within the wider road network, the incremental use of urban features such as signage, road markings and concrete kerbing should be resisted.

#### ***Development: sensitivities and forces for change***

This landscape type is relatively free from other forms of urban built development. In places, however, housing (e.g. near Forth) and light industrial development threaten to encroach onto the lower fringes of the moors. The open nature of these areas means that this landscape type would be very sensitive to such development. Many villages have also experienced incremental growth.

These moorlands have already accommodated tall structures such as masts and pylons. In recent years extensive large scale windfarm development has significantly changed their character. The effects and guidelines in relation to these are separately discussed below.

#### ***Development: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- discourage the encroachment of urban development into these otherwise unsettled areas;
- discourage the erection of additional masts or other tall structures within the hills;

- encourage operators to share infrastructure with the aim of minimising the number of masts that are needed;
- steer any new masts to sites where the landscape and visual impact is minimised;
- minimise the requirement for ancillary developments such as service roads or servicing buildings.

#### ***Windfarms: sensitivities and forces for change***

In recent years extensive large scale windfarm development has significantly changed the character of the Plateau Moorlands. The windfarms are often visible over a considerable distance and affect the character of neighbouring areas of *Plateau Farmland*. Given the originally open, horizontal and apparently wild character of these areas, the landscape type has been transformed by this concentration of wind farm development. The previously intrinsic undeveloped, open upland character has been weakened or lost, although elements of exposure, large scale and simplicity of landform still feature.

#### ***Windfarms: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- further scope for wind energy development in this landscape type is limited; further developments should be very carefully sited so as to avoid further significant expansion of the visual and landscape impacts, including cumulative impacts in areas already supporting extensive windfarm development;
- the spread of turbines towards or across the boundary with *Plateau Farmlands* should be avoided so as to avoid cumulative effects and blurring of the two landscape types;
- extensive visual effects or visual domination of *Plateau Moorland* turbines on nearby river valleys should be avoided.

## Landscape Character Assessment

### Locations

Plateau Moorlands are found within the following areas of South Lanarkshire:

- Central Plateau: Blacklaw / Forth
- Western (Ayrshire) Plateau: Whitelee
- Scattered smaller areas in Plateau Farmland

### Key Characteristics

The key characteristics of this landscape type are:

- *distinctive upland character created by the combination of elevation, exposure, smooth, plateau landform, moorland vegetation and, with the exception of windfarms, a comparative lack of modern development;*
- *these areas share a sense of apparent openness and exposure which contrasts with the farmed and settled lowlands but do not feel remote;*
- *increasingly these areas are subject to significant landscape change resulting from extensive large scale windfarm development and associated reduction in area of commercial forestry.*

### Sub – Types

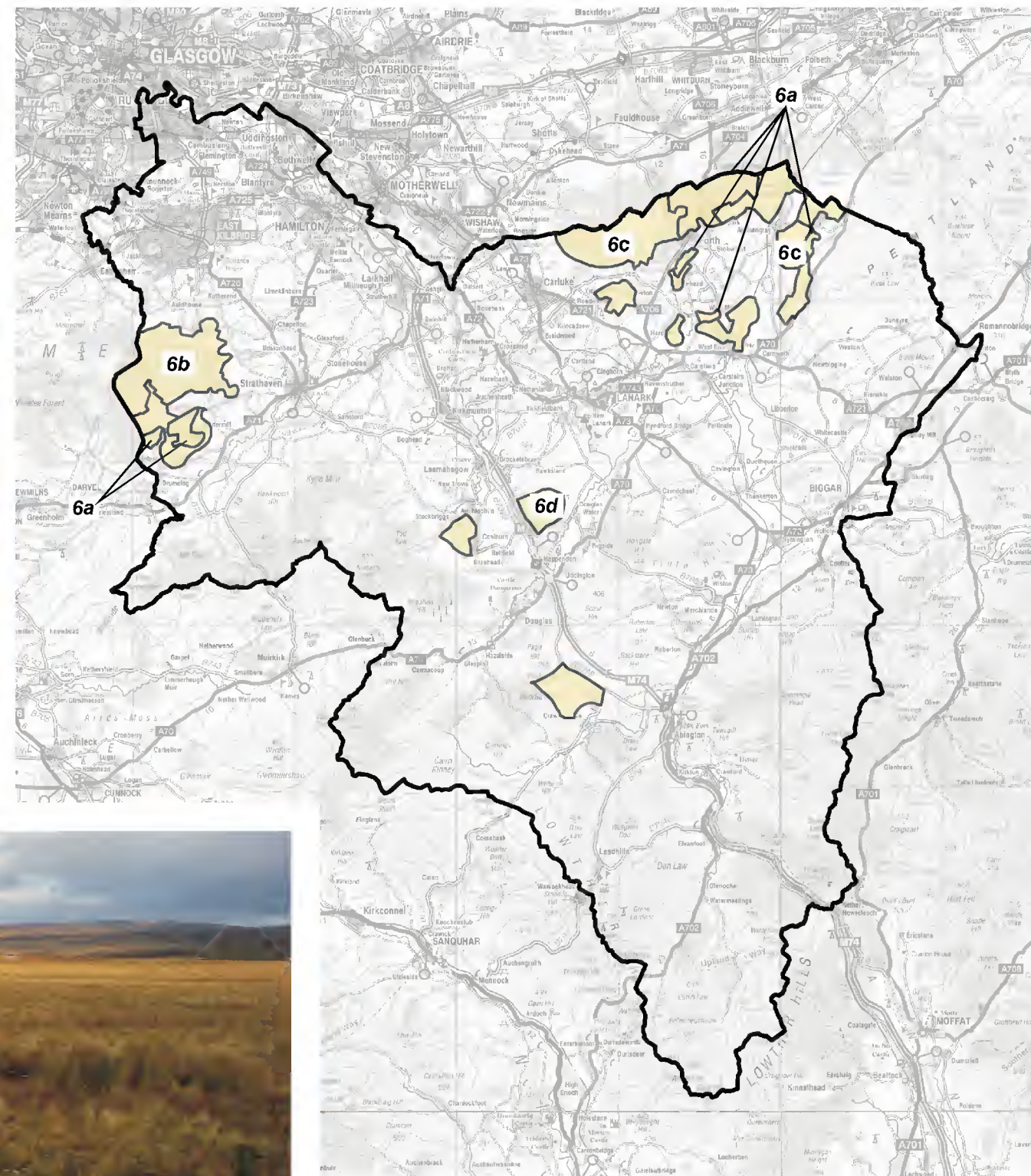
The following sub-types have been identified:

- 6a Plateau Moorland Forestry
  - Dominance of commercial forestry.
- 6b Plateau Moorland Forestry / Windfarm
  - Strong influence of windfarm development on landscape.
- 6c Plateau Moorland Windfarm
  - Strong influence of windfarm development on landscape.
- 6d Plateau Moorland Opencast Mining
  - Strong influence of opencast mining on Landscape.

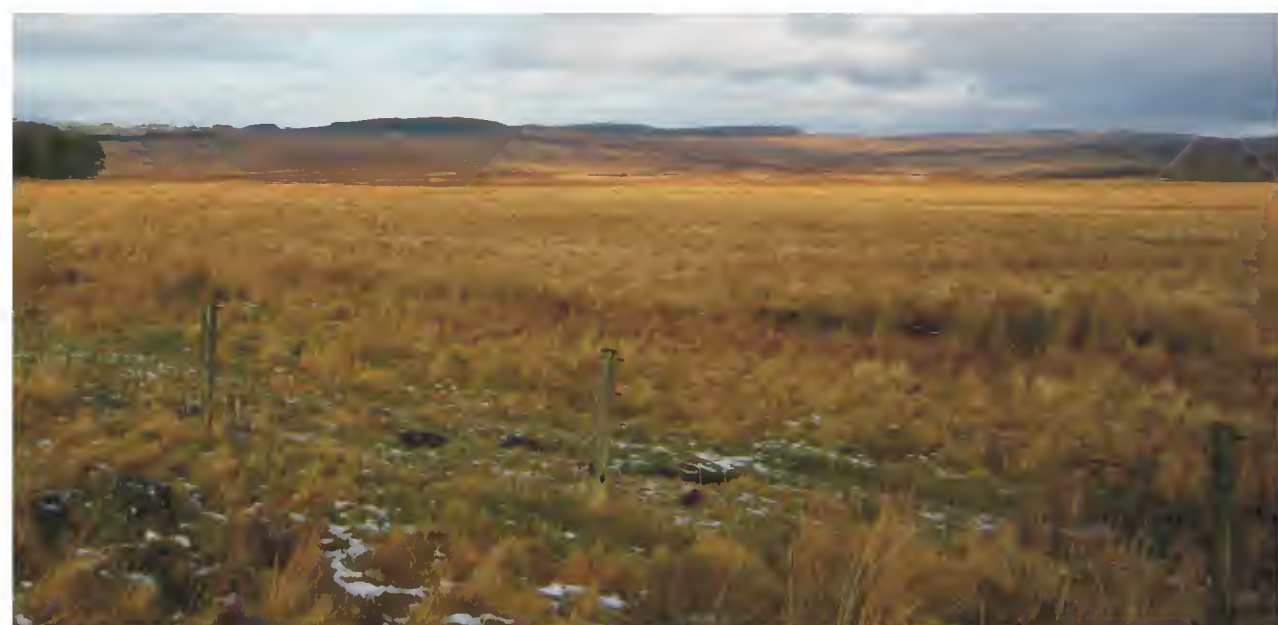
Figure 6vi

## Details of Landscape Character Areas: 6

### Plateau Moorlands



Characteristics



Plateau Moorland



# 7 Rolling Moorlands

## Location and Extent

Rolling Moorlands occur in the west of South Lanarkshire, on the border with East Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway:

- Hagshaw/ Dungavel
- Cairn Table/ Crawfordjohn.

## Description

The Rolling Moorlands are a new landscape type identified by this assessment. It was considered that the landscape character of *Plateau Moorland* areas identified in the 1999 assessment varied sufficiently for those areas where the topographical variation is most evident to be described as Rolling Moorland. Whilst land use (open unimproved pasture and forestry) in Rolling Moorland is similar to *Plateau Moorland*, the landscape comprises separately defined hills of a generally greater elevation, much more frequently dissected by drainage lines. These rise in scale as they approach the Southern Uplands. The moors along the Ayrshire Rim rise to almost 600 metres at Cairn Table in the south.

Geologically the Ayrshire Rim is underlain by resistant basalts and tuffs. Rivers draining these hills tend to follow fault lines and many have been glacially enlarged to form important lowland corridors through the moorlands. These valleys are described separately as *Upland River Valleys*. The Rolling Moorlands also includes a number of waterbodies such as Glengavel Reservoir, which have been enlarged to provide water supply.

The Rolling Moorlands consist of blanket bog, heather and grass moorland. As with the *Plateau Moorlands*, there has been extensive forestry planting, although the areas of forest tend to be more physically and visually separated by landforms, with hilltops remaining bare. The topography is rolling or undulating with generally soft contoured ridges together with more distinct individual hills falling to *Upland River Valleys*. Limited farmland, often with wind bent trees and thorn hedges or drystone walls, extends onto the lower slopes in some instances. The landscape is of an open, exposed and rather remote character despite areas of forestry, occasional isolated hill farms, and sheep and cattle grazing.

Settlement within these exposed landscapes has been historically sparse, restricted to scattered farmsteads. Typically, villages and towns favoured more sheltered valley locations. There are a few minor roads, with main roads crossing through via the *Upland River Valleys*. The moorlands in some locations provide long views across the Clyde farmlands to the Glasgow conurbation, to the north, and towards the Southern Uplands in the south, emphasising the contrast between the remote upland and the developed lowlands. However the influence of the topography provides landscapes which whilst expansive are often more contained than the adjacent *Plateau Moorlands*.

Modern development in these areas takes a number of forms and can be very prominent in this otherwise open, expansive and simple landscape. Tall structures are often visible over a considerable distance. Examples of these include the windfarms at Hagshaw Hill. This type has seen considerably less windfarm development than the *Plateau Moorlands* to the north.

The presence of coal reserves and, to a lesser extent, hard rock deposits, has had a significant effect on the landscape. Coal working has experienced a number of clear phases of development. Historically it would have been worked on a small scale with surface pits, drift mines and shallow pits. Up until recent decades, deep mining also took place, though this has been replaced by open-cast working, often on a very large scale. Cumulatively, these activities have had a major influence on the landscape in the form of bings and tips, areas of derelict land, operating open-cast workings, for example on the Rolling Moorland boundary with the Douglas valley to the south of Glespin; and associated industrial infrastructure including disused railway embankments.

## Sub Types

The following sub-types have been identified:

- **Rolling Moorland, Forestry (7a):**  
Landscape character influenced of areas of significant afforestation such as at Kype Muir. This impacts upon colour, textures and the lengths of view possible.
- **Rolling Moorland, Windfarm (7b):**  
Landscape influenced by the presence of windfarms such as at Hagshaw Hill.

## Key Landscape Issues

Key landscape issues affecting this landscape type include:

- Visual impact of tall structures including masts, pylons and particularly wind turbines in relation to the rolling landform and sense of remoteness;
- The prominence of any modern developments in this open upland landscape;
- The importance of striking a balance between large scale conifer plantations and open hilltops and ridges;
- The pressures for mineral extraction, particularly large scale open-cast working;
- The marginal nature of agriculture where this extends onto the moorland and the effect in terms of hedgerow and field boundary maintenance;
- Possible pressures for road improvements;
- Potential presence of unrecorded archaeological sites, which may be at risk from development / land use change.

## MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

### Key characteristics

The key characteristics, features and qualities of this landscape type are:

- distinctive upland character created by the combination of elevation, exposure, smooth, rolling or undulating landform, moorland vegetation and the predominant lack of modern development;
- these areas share a sense of apparent wildness and remoteness which contrasts with the farmed and settled lowlands and the windfarm-dominated *Plateau Moorlands*;
- there are extensive views over the surrounding Ayrshire and Lanarkshire lowlands from the hilltops.

***Landscape planning and management should aim to conserve the upland character and vegetation of the Rolling Moorlands. The extent of new developments which introduce modern elements or which would undermine the remote upland character to an unacceptable extent should be carefully considered.***

### ***Trees and woodland: sensitivities and forces for change***

As with the *Plateau Moorlands*, large parts of this landscape type have been subject to afforestation in the past, resulting in the creation of large-scale conifer plantations of uniform age and species composition. In some locations the forests respond well to the rolling topography. In others the often straight edges and unbalanced distribution of forest on one side of a ridge create an unnatural feature. The forests also create enclosure and can obscure natural features such as gullies and burns, and human features such as walls and tracks. The expansion of coniferous woodland within this landscape type would further alter the balance between forested and open land, with an adverse effect on the wilder aspects of its character.

Modern forestry practice favours the creation of more natural patterns of planting when coniferous plantations reach the end of the current rotation. In many cases, newly planted forests include a higher proportion of broadleaves, particularly around the fringes, and are more closely related to the underlying landform.

### ***Trees and woodland: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- encourage the management of existing coniferous plantations in the Rolling Moorlands with the aim of developing more natural shapes relating to hill and ridge topography and achieving more varied age and species composition;
- discourage significant expansion of existing conifer plantations in order that the balance between planted and unplanted land remains broadly constant;

- where new planting does occur, encourage designs which reflect and articulate the hilly topography and avoid the obscuring of local features such as hilltops, burns, gullies, walls or archaeological sites;
- encourage forest developments to retain broad open space corridors which respect areas of historic occupation and cultivation where these occur;
- there may be opportunities to encourage the regeneration or expansion of broadleaf woodland and scrub along burn-sides and in gullies and valleys, creating a closer integration of lowland woodland and the moorland landscape;
- support new woodland planting where appropriate to provide screening around land uses such as mineral extraction.

### ***Agriculture: sensitivities and forces for change***

This landscape type would be sensitive to any attempts to improve the land for grazing, including drainage or reseeding operations. These are most likely to occur along the northern and eastern edges and in the *Upland River Valleys* where lower elevation and exposure means that farmland and moorland are more intermixed. Improvement of land to provide additional pasture could result in a further blurring of the distinction between the upland and lowland areas.

On the other hand, the fringes of these uplands are characterised by farmland enclosed by hedges and drystone walls. The landscape type would be sensitive to any changes in agricultural practices which resulted in the further decline of these features.

### ***Agriculture: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- encourage the management of field boundaries where pastures extend onto the moorland areas, to conserve the contrast between farmland, valleys and open moorland; stone dykes should be conserved, and, where appropriate, field boundary trees managed or retained;
- agricultural improvements resulting in the further losses of moorland and mosses should be discouraged;
- support the enhancement of wildlife values through careful grazing regimes and heather management.

### ***Minerals: sensitivities and forces for change***

Some of this landscape type is underlain by worked coal reserves, many of which have potential for open-cast extraction. In the short term, this could result and has resulted in the creation of uncharacteristic features including bunds, overburden and spoil bings which would be prominent in this otherwise gently sloping landscape. Mineral working can also result in the loss of local landscape features such as hedgerows, walls, streams and variations in topography and landcover. Although restoration is now a condition of all new

mineral working consents, the resulting landscape can be overly bland and dislocated from its context. This landscape has the advantage that parts of it are relatively remote, and the landform is such that views over or into mineral workings are comparatively rare. The capacity of the landscape to accommodate such activity is closely related to the scale of working, the prominence of the site, the duration of operations, the quality of restoration works and the number of sites being worked in a given vicinity at any one time. Hardrock quarrying may have a more visible effect, creating open rock faces. Given the remoteness of these moorlands it is unlikely that the restoration of mineral sites would include a phase of landfilling of waste, an activity which can generate its own impacts on the surrounding countryside.

It is recognised that many features of past, smaller-scale mineral working now remain as important landscape features and components of local cultural heritage. While the overall aim may be to encourage reclamation and restoration, there may be instances where conservation is more appropriate.

#### ***Minerals: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- discourage the concentration of mineral workings within limited areas or along particular routes where the result would be an unacceptable level of cumulative or sequential impact;
- encourage the siting of mineral workings so as to avoid locations where they would be particularly visible from higher ground or where they would intrude on neighbouring lowland areas;
- require the assessment of the visual and landscape effects associated with pits, overburden and spoil bings, processing plant and accommodation;
- assess impacts of further peat extraction on bog and moss habitats;
- encourage operators to adopt a 'restoration-led' approach which sets mineral working within the context of the end-use of the site; where land has previously become degraded, restoration should result in landscape enhancement and the establishment of positive landcover;
- encourage the use of detailed site surveys to identify landscape (and other) features of importance which should be conserved or which have potential for re-creation during restoration ; the aim should be to restore the grain and character of the site's former appearance and to avoid overly bland restoration solutions;
- encourage the use of advance planting to screen the site during operation and to help tie it into the surrounding landscape framework on restoration;
- proposals for extensive peat workings should be assessed carefully in terms of the likely impact on landscape and other interests such as ecology and cultural heritage and resisted if there is the potential for any significant impacts.

#### ***Transport: sensitivities and forces for change***

The Rolling Moorland areas form physical barriers separating areas of settled lowland in South Lanarkshire from Ayrshire and Dumfries & Galloway. Due to their elevation there are only a few minor roads that penetrate the moorlands, serving upland farms and passing between valleys. A number of routes including the B743, A70, B740 cross via the *Upland River Valleys* that penetrate the moorlands. In visual terms, the road infrastructure fits relatively easily into the large scale landscape. However, the road corridors inevitably introduce movement, noise and, at night, light, into comparatively remote areas of countryside.

#### ***Transport: planning and management guidelines***

As noted above, transport infrastructure, particularly roads, could have a significant visual and landscape impact within the open areas of Rolling Moorland. Landscape planning and management should:

- ensure that new elements of infrastructure are designed to integrate with their surroundings, making maximum use of natural landform screening, and that, where appropriate, additional planting is provided to give screening and integration into the wider landscape;
- the incremental use of engineering hardworks solutions and urban features such as signage, road markings and concrete kerbing should be resisted; follow the approach set out in the document *Road Furniture in the Countryside* (Transport Scotland, 2006).

#### ***Development: sensitivities and forces for change***

This landscape type is relatively remote from urban areas and free from other forms of urban built development. The open nature of these areas means that this landscape type would be very sensitive to such development.

These moorlands have to date accommodated few tall structures such as masts and pylons. There is only one windfarm development, at Hagshaw Hill. Guidelines for windfarms are detailed in a separate section below.

#### ***Development: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- discourage the encroachment of built development into these otherwise unsettled areas;
- discourage the erection of additional masts or other tall structures within the hills;
- encourage operators to share infrastructure with the aim of minimising the number of masts that are needed;
- steer any new masts to sites where the landscape and visual impact is minimised;

- minimise the requirement for ancillary developments such as service roads or servicing buildings.

***Windfarms: sensitivities and forces for change***

These moorlands have to date accommodated only one windfarm development, at Hagshaw Hill, which has recently been extended although still of a significantly smaller scale than those on the *Plateau Moorlands*. There are however, several proposals for small/medium, medium and large size windfarms within the Rolling Moorlands, three of which have been consented. Given the open, and relatively remote and wild character of these areas, the landscape would be fairly sensitive to such change.

***Windfarms: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- wind energy developments in this area should be very carefully sited and limited in scale and number so as not to dominate the landscape character of this type as has occurred in the *Plateau Moorlands*;
- where possible, developments should be located away from prominent ridgelines and skylines above river valleys and provided with a degree of backclothing;
- the open character of the landscape means that the potential to accommodate several wind power developments or very large windfarms is likely to be limited; potential cumulative and sequential effects should be taken into account;
- windfarm developments should be of a small or medium scale and separated by landforms such as hills, ridgelines or valleys, thereby reflecting the topographic pattern of distinctly separated landforms.



## South Lanarkshire

### Landscape Character Assessment

#### Locations

Rolling Moorlands are found within the following areas of South Lanarkshire:

- Hagshaw / Dungavel
- Cairn Table / Crawfordjohn

#### Key Characteristics

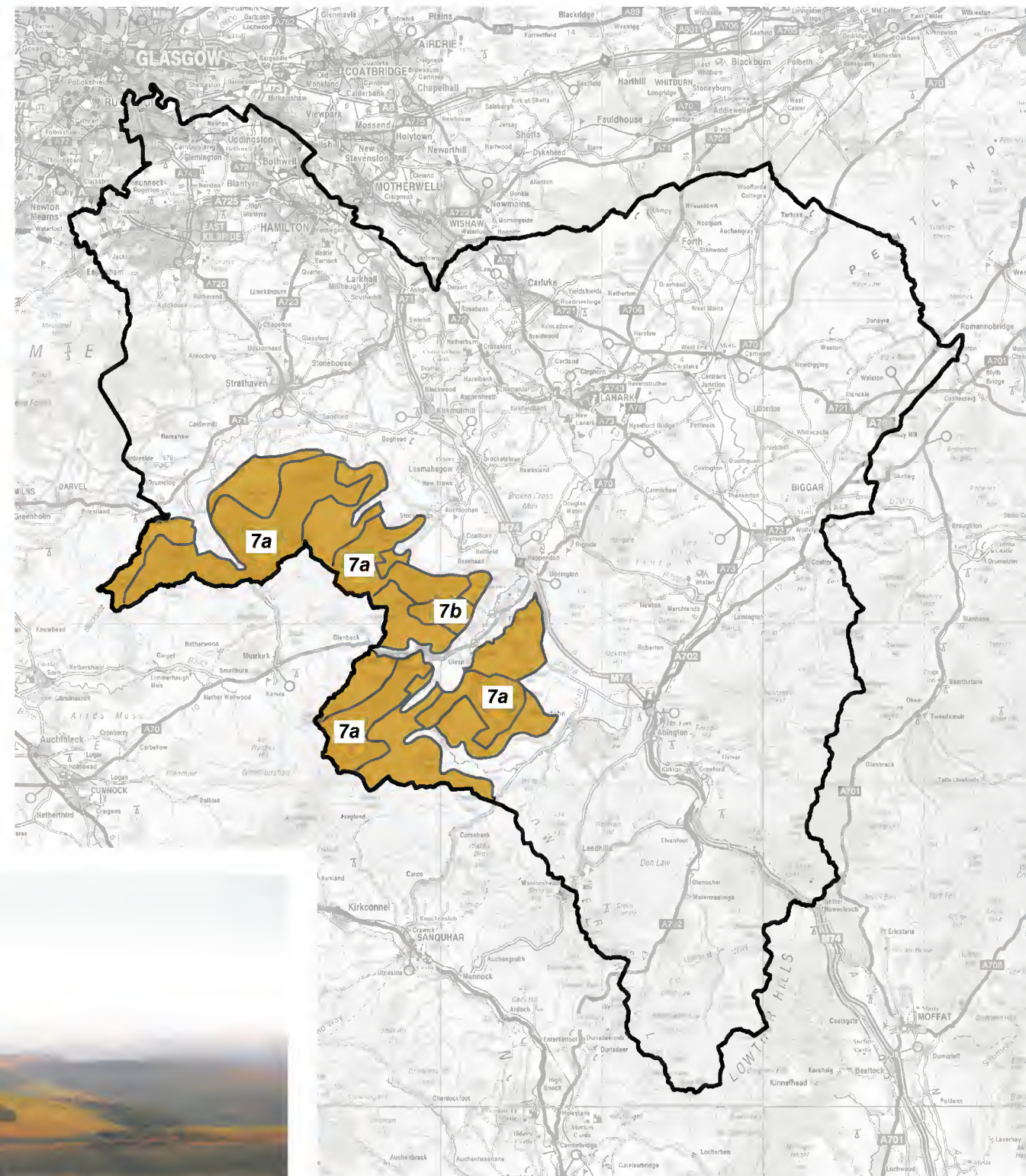
The key characteristics of this landscape type are:

- *distinctive upland character created by the combination of elevation, exposure, smooth, rolling or undulating landform, moorland vegetation and the predominant lack of modern development;*
- *these areas share a sense of apparent wildness and remoteness which contrasts with the farmed and settled lowlands and the windfarm-dominated Plateau Moorlands;*
- *there are extensive views over the surrounding Ayrshire and Lanarkshire lowlands from the hilltops.*

#### Sub – Types

The following sub-types have been identified:

- 7a Rolling Moorland Forestry
  - Dominance of commercial forestry.
- 7b Rolling Moorland Windfarm
  - Strong influence of windfarm development on landscape.



Characteristics



Rolling Moorland

South of Glespin, looking towards Mountherrick Hill

Figure 6vii

### Details of Landscape Character Areas: 7

#### Rolling Moorland

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## 8 Upland River Valleys

### Location and Extent

Upland River Valleys are found where tributaries of the Clyde have cut shallow valleys into the *Rolling Moorland* and *Plateau Farmland* between the Clyde Basin and the Ayrshire Basin. This landscape type is found in the following locations:

- Avon Water;
- River Nethan;
- Douglas Water;
- Duneaton Water.

These areas have been slightly redefined and extended by comparison with the 1999 assessment. In particular the River Nethan, above Lesmahagow, has been distinguished from the surrounding *Plateau Farmland* and *Rolling Moorland*.

### Description

While these do not form breach valleys through the upland mass, they tend to follow fault lines generally with a SW-NE trend, and are often mirrored by similar valleys to the west of the *Rolling Moorland* watershed. The valleys cut through the complex mixture of sandstones, limestones, millstone grits and coal measures which lie along to the north of the Southern Upland Fault. The Duneaton Water marks the transition from Central Valley to Southern Uplands.

Although each of these valleys has its own distinctive character, they share a number of common features, largely as a result of their scale, orientation and relationship with neighbouring areas of moorland. Settlement within the valleys is comparatively limited with generally low visual influence. Each is described below.

The valley of the Avon Water, to the south west of Strathaven, forms the broadest and shallowest of these valleys. However, rolling and rising land to the south (e.g. at Side Hill) and north (e.g. Mossmulloch) creates a sense of enclosure, and contrasts with the improved pastures of the valley floor and lower slopes. Loudoun Hill, a volcanic plug, is a prominent feature just beyond the boundary into Ayrshire. The Avon Water (and its principal tributary the Glengavel Water) meanders across a broad, level floodplain in its upper reaches, entering a narrower valley downstream near the town of Strathaven. Agriculture is dominated by pastoral farming, and the area has a quite dense scatter of farmsteads. In contrast with the afforested moorland to the north and south, there is little woodland in this open valley. The exception is a series of shelterbelts, which run at right angles to the river, and lines of beech trees along some field boundaries. However, the spread of forestry from neighbouring upland areas into the upper reaches of the Avon Valley is resulting in some loss of local character. Windfarm development at Whitelee to the north west of the valley provides a prominent skyline feature influencing the landscape

character. Like other valleys, the valley of the Avon Water has provided an important communication route between the lowlands.

A Roman road is known to have passed along the southern side of the valley, while a disused railway line and the existing A71 point to its more recent role. The upper part of the valley contains significant deposits of glacial sand and gravel. Many of these have been eroded by watercourses to create steep 'inner' valleys. Several areas have been worked in the past or are currently subject to mineral extraction. At Stonehouse the valley becomes narrower and more incised, forming an *Incised River Valley* tributary to the Clyde.

The valley of the River Nethan and Logan Water above Lesmahagow is somewhat smaller in scale than the other three, but has been defined because of its steep sides and sense of shelter and enclosure which clearly distinguish it from the surrounding moorland and farmland and provide a setting for the town of Lesmahagow. Reflecting this smaller scale there are no transport through routes, but only minor roads. In its lower reaches it becomes more incised and enclosed and is dominated by the town. Beyond the M74 it becomes an *Incised River Valley*, a tributary of the Clyde.

The valley of the Douglas Water, west of Douglas is more tightly enclosed between the steeply rising slopes leading to high ground to the north and south. The river once flowed into the Tweed, but was captured by the more aggressive Clyde. Below Douglas and east of the M74, the river valley broadens, but remains predominantly upland in character as a *Broad Valley Upland* until its confluence with the River Clyde to the south of Lanark. In its upper section, the valley is narrow, almost V-shaped with little or no floodplain. Here an *Incised* sub-type is identified. The valley slopes comprise rough moorland. Below its confluence with the Glespin Burn, the valley widens a little and the Douglas Water swings in a series of meanders across a narrow floodplain. The valley slopes comprise a mixture of improved pasture and coniferous woodland. A considerable amount of woodland is associated with the designed landscape to the east of Douglas. Much of this is beech, Scots pine and larch. The valley's historic role as a communication corridor is reflected in the presence of castles and motes. A dismantled railway runs along the north side of the valley, running alongside the existing A70 where it passes through the narrow, twisting part of the valley approaching the Ayrshire border. There are extensive areas of open-cast coal working on the boundary with *Rolling Moorland* to the south west of Douglas and within the valley to the west of the M74. Also highly evident are the windfarms on Hagshaw Hill above the valley and the M74 motorway where it crosses the lower valley.

The valley of the Duneaton Water, west of Crawfordjohn, lies close to the boundary of the Southern Uplands. The valley is sinuous in form, swinging in a series of broad curves. Like the Douglas, this river once formed one of the headwaters of the Tweed, but has since been 'captured' by the Clyde. In its upper sections, the valley flows through unsettled moorland, draining an extensive area of upland plateau. Lower and more sheltered areas in its middle section accommodate areas of pasture, enclosed by a series of shelterbelts around the village of Crawfordjohn. Like the other Upland River Valleys, the valley of the Duneaton accommodates a communication route, in this case the B740 between Sanquhar and the M74 corridor. More minor roads and tracks feed off into side

valleys, several leading to the mineral working area of Leadhills and Wanlockhead to the south.

### Sub Types

The following sub-types have been identified:

- **Upland River Valley, Incised (8a):**  
Landscape associated with the head of the valleys where the watercourse becomes narrow and steeply sided.
- **Upland River Valley, Opencast Mining (8b):**  
Landscape modified by opencast mining including the Glentaggart site and the recently consented Mainhill Opencast site northeast of Douglas.

### Key Landscape Issues

Key landscape issues affecting this landscape type include:

- Importance of maintaining the contrast between more sheltered valleys and the exposed uplands through which they pass;
- The importance of maintaining and managing the existing woodland cover in the form of field boundary trees, shelterbelts, riparian woodlands and policies, particularly in the valleys' lower sections;
- Coniferous plantations extend from higher moorland areas into a number of these valleys. The design, including species and age composition should be reviewed when the present rotation is complete and further coniferous planting discouraged;
- Mineral working (both coal and glacial sands and gravels) has the potential to effect considerable landscape change in these valleys, particularly where it occurs on a major scale or where there are cumulative effects associated with a number of different sites;
- The bland and anonymous nature of restoration schemes to mineral workings, whereby distinctive woodland patterns and species are not replanted;
- Road improvements could affect perceptions of the valleys' landscape character;
- Other infrastructure, including pylons, masts and wind turbines on neighbouring areas of high ground could affect these valley landscapes.

## MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

### Key characteristics

The key characteristics, features and qualities of this landscape type are:

- a series of valleys formed along faultlines through the *Rolling Moorlands* and *Plateau Farmlands* and often paired with valleys to the south and west in Ayrshire;

- strong contrast between the wooded and settled character of the valleys and the exposed enclosing uplands and farmlands;
- transition from the exposed upper reaches to more sheltered lowland areas.

***Planning and management should aim to conserve and enhance the distinctive character of the Upland River Valleys, emphasising the contrast with neighbouring uplands and farmlands and discouraging inappropriate forms of development.***

The main sensitivities of this landscape are described in the following paragraphs. It should be recognised, however, that the pressures experienced by each of the valleys described above varies. Typically, the greatest built development pressures are experienced in locations closest to the conurbation. Conversely, the potential effects of open-cast coal working, for example, may be greatest in some of the more remote areas such as the Douglas valley (location of the recently opened Mainhill site). Other issues, such as the conservation and management of woodland and agricultural features such as hedges, field trees and walls are more common themes affecting this landscape type more generally.

### ***Trees and woodland: sensitivities and forces for change***

This landscape type is sensitive to the loss and decline of its mature farm and policy woodlands which help to integrate valley floor and side slopes and which provide a contrast with the moorland hills which are often visible on higher ground to the north and south. The characteristic pattern is that of lines of field boundary trees (often beech), together with small to medium scale woodland belts (often coniferous) which extend up the slopes often following drainage channels, hugging gullies and framing terraces. The woodlands are predominantly broadleaved, although small conifer plantations (usually distinctive pine belts), occupy sites on the valley slopes. In the lower parts of some of these valleys, coniferous woodlands form policies as part of designed landscapes. The landscape would be sensitive, therefore, to the deliberate removal or, more probably, the gradual decline and loss of these features, particularly those associated with past patterns of land management.

The upper parts of these valleys have been subject to afforestation in some areas. Generally, the large scale of these semi-upland landscapes, and the visual links with moorland plantations means that the effect of these woodlands is relatively limited. However, the valleys would be sensitive to planting proposals which 'infilled' field blocks, obscured valley slope field patterns, natural features such as gullies and tributary valleys, which severed the visual relationship between the valley floor and its upper slopes and blur the distinction between the valley and the moorlands. The landscape would also be sensitive to an unbalanced pattern of afforestation, for example where one side of a valley was densely planted, while the opposing slopes remained as open farmland or moorland.

Wetland margins in the valley floor support scrub woodlands which would be sensitive to drainage works and clearance for development or cultivation.

### **Trees and woodland: planning and management guidelines**

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- encourage the positive management of field boundary trees and farm woodlands, with the objective of prolonging the life of existing specimens, and bringing forward replacements in the longer term;
- encourage the conservation and management of surviving elements of policy woodlands with the aim of maintaining their contribution to local landscape character; the preparation of historic landscape management plans should be encouraged for important sites;
- consider the scope for additional woodland planting in the form of broadleaf or mixed shelterbelts on the lower slopes, linking into riparian and other woodlands; the aim should be to create an enclosing framework for farmland and settlement, thereby emphasising further the contrast with the unwooded moors.

### ***Agriculture: sensitivities and forces for change***

This landscape is predominantly agricultural, encapsulating a transition from arable cultivation on some lower parts of the valley floor to grazing of diminishing quality on the valley sides. The resulting combination of colours and textures, together with the pattern of woodland and tree cover, make an important contribution to landscape character. On the valley floor, the juxtaposition of fertile fields and pastures and areas of uncultivated wetlands can be important and the landscape would be sensitive to measures designed to drain or rationalise wetland areas.

As noted above, hedgerows and hedgerow trees are important features of lower and middle valley slopes. The character of these valleys is very sensitive to the continued decline, and ultimate loss, of these trees, since the enclosure and contrast with uplands that they provide will be lost or weakened as a result. Drystone walls are more extensive on the higher ground and in upper parts of the valleys. They are also in need of upkeep.

Farmsteads are typically in prominent locations on knolls within the valley floor or higher on valley slopes. The landscape will be sensitive to the development of large scale agricultural buildings, due to the small scale and intimate nature of parts of these valleys, or the open views across other parts of the valleys.

### ***Agriculture: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- encourage the positive management and, where appropriate, restoration of hedgerows and field boundary trees (see above) with the aim of conserving the area's agricultural character and the role of these features in providing screening for existing development;

- influence the location, design and materials of new agricultural buildings to limit their visual impact and to maximise the integration of such structures with existing farm buildings and the wider landscape.

### ***Minerals: sensitivities and forces for change***

Open-cast coal and sand and gravel working has the potential to effect considerable landscape change within these valleys. This partly reflects the scale of likely working, the comparatively intimate nature of the landscape and the valleys' role in providing lowland communication corridors. Any mineral working within the valley would be very prominent, therefore, and would be likely to result in the permanent loss of important local landscape features. The landscape of these valleys could also be affected by mineral working in neighbouring upland areas.

### ***Minerals: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- discourage large-scale mineral workings within upland river valleys; major extraction sites would be out of scale with the valleys' small-scale nature and would weaken their predominantly rural character;
- where they are permitted, mineral workings should be sited so as to avoid locations where they would be particularly visible from principal transport corridors, settlement or other important viewpoints;
- require the assessment of the visual and landscape effects associated with pits overburden and spoil bings, processing plant and accommodation;
- encourage operators to adopt a 'restoration-led' approach which sets mineral working within the context of the end-use of the site; restoration may provide an opportunity for landscape enhancement and should not result in loss of character or quality;
- encourage the use of detailed site surveys to identify landscape (and other) features of importance which should be conserved or which have potential for re-creation during restoration ; the aim should be to restore the grain and character of the site's former appearance and to avoid overly bland restoration solutions;
- where appropriate, encourage the use of existing and advance planting to screen the site during operation and to help tie it into the surrounding landscape framework on restoration.

### ***Transport: sensitivities and forces for change***

Three of these Upland River Valleys provide important transport corridors through the moorland hills. e.g. the A70 which follows the Douglas Water and the A71 which follows the Avon Water. The smaller scale nature of these valleys means that they would be sensitive to any proposals to improve or upgrade the roads, particularly where this resulted

in the loss of local landscape features, or the introduction of modern and incongruous engineered features.

#### ***Transport: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- discourage road improvement schemes which would result in:
  - the loss of characteristic landscape features;
  - adverse visual impacts;
  - changes in the way that motorists perceive the landscape through which they are passing;
- where improvements are required, alternatives such as traffic calming should be considered as alternatives to major infrastructural projects, and the approaches set out in publications such as the *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges* and *Cost Effective Landscape: Learning from Nature* should be followed;
- the unnecessary use of urban features such as signage, road markings and concrete kerbing should be resisted; follow the approach set out in the document *Road Furniture in the Countryside* (Transport Scotland, 2006).

#### **Development: sensitivities and forces for change**

As stated above, this landscape type is sensitive to developments associated with the valleys' transportation corridors. The valley landscape is also sensitive to urban expansion which may target flat sites within the valley floor, potentially impinge on the floodplains, and require the removal of wetlands/productive fields. Urban expansion onto valley slopes is also potentially problematic as it may result in elevated developments which do not fit comfortably in the landscape. The more remote areas of Upland River Valleys are less likely to be subjected to these kinds of development.

The valleys are also sensitive to the development of wind energy, transmission and communication structures. The valley corridors may be considered for additional pylon lines. The valley slopes and hill ridges beyond have and may be targeted for wind turbines and/ or for telecommunication masts. These could introduce prominent developments on the skyline which would significantly change the perception of the hills as comparatively wild and undeveloped areas. This is particularly likely where more than one such structure or windfarm is visible from a given location or encountered when travelling through the area. Recent developments on feed in tariffs may also lead to the development of smaller farm or domestic scale wind turbines on the valley sides and floors.

Rivers comprise a central and formative element in these landscapes. The character of these areas would be very sensitive to any measures which resulted in the loss of natural river landscapes, or the introduction of modern, engineered structures.

#### ***Development: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- discourage incremental residential development within the Upland River Valleys;
- encourage the use of traditional materials such as stone and slate in preference to prominent shades of brick and tile;
- consider the preparation of a design guide addressing issues of siting, design, materials and landscaping;
- conserve natural river landscapes by discouraging schemes which introduce engineered features or structures;
- discourage wind power development in the valleys or neighbouring landscape types which would result in unacceptable cumulative impacts within a particular valley.

## South Lanarkshire

### Landscape Character Assessment

#### Locations

Upland River Valleys are found within the following areas of South Lanarkshire:

- Avon Water
- River Nethan
- Douglas Water
- Duneaton Water

#### Key Characteristics

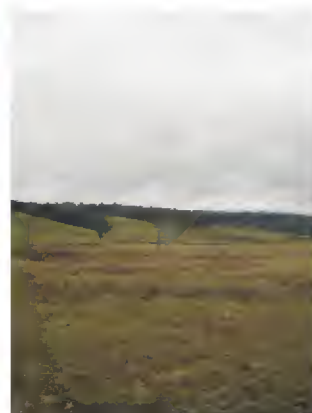
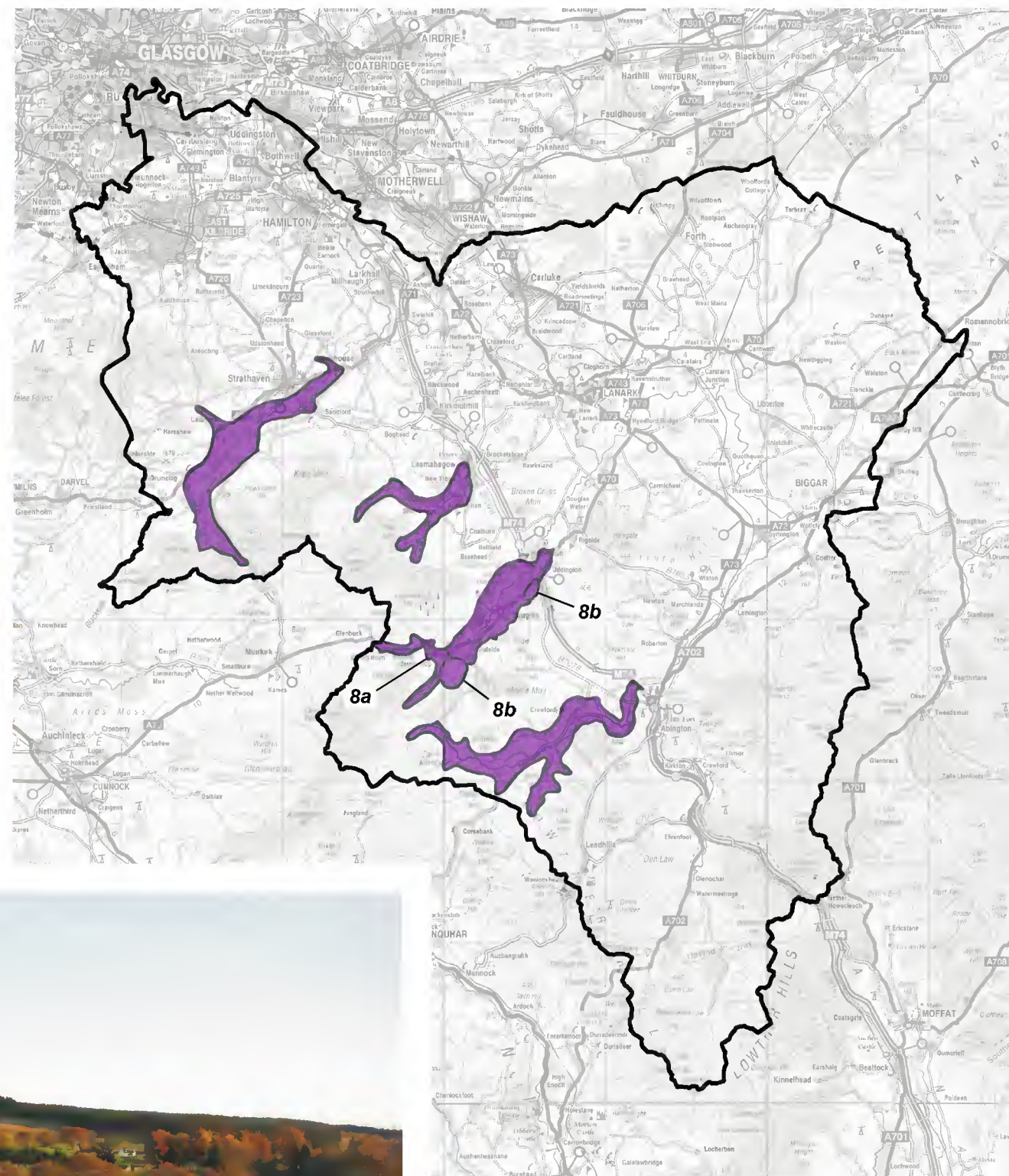
The key characteristics of this landscape type are:

- a series of valleys formed along faultlines through the Rolling Moorlands and Plateau Farmlands and often paired with valleys to the SW in Ayrshire;
- strong contrast between the wooded and settled character of the valleys and the exposed enclosing uplands and farmlands;
- transition from the exposed upper reaches to more sheltered lowland areas;

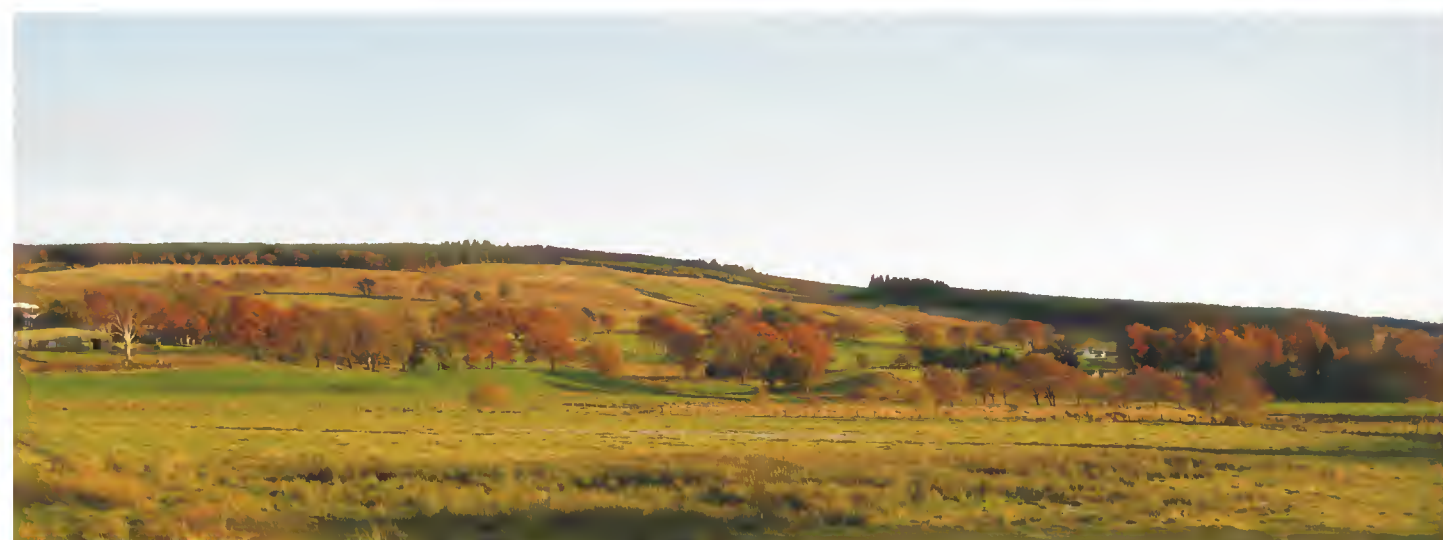
#### Sub – Types

The following sub-types have been identified:

- 8a Upland River Valley, Incised
  - Head of valley where water course becomes narrow and steeply sided.
- 8b Upland River Valley, Opencast Mining
  - Landscape modified by opencast mining



#### Characteristics



**Upland River Valley**  
Douglas water, Douglas

**Figure 6viii**

### Details of Landscape Character Areas: 8

### Upland River Valleys

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## 9 Broad Valley Upland

### Location and Extent

The Broad Valley Upland landscape type occurs as a contiguous area within the study area, comprising the following sections:

- Upper Clyde Valley: Elvanfoot- Abington
- Upper Clyde Valley: Abington- Thankerton
- Upper Clyde Valley: Biggar
- Upper Clyde Valley: Thankerton- Bonnington Linn
- Medwin Water
- Douglas Water

The reassessment of the 1999 LCA has extended the area covered by this type to include the River Clyde and tributaries east along the Medwin Water to Dunsyre and south along the Clyde from Abington to Elvanfoot. This is an inevitable result of the finer grained assessment in which individual topographic features begin to be defined separately rather than as part of a whole.

The Broad Valley Upland landscape character type at Biggar extends beyond the boundary of South Lanarkshire, corresponding to the *Upland Valley (with pastoral floor)* landscape character type identified in the Borders Landscape Assessment.

### Description

The Clyde Valley, which broadens as it approaches the Southern Uplands to form a broad triangle of lowland, was originally cut by headwaters of the River Tweed but was subsequently 'captured' by the River Clyde. These two phases of erosion, allied to glacial enlargement, contributed to the open, basin-like character of this part of the valley and the open (now riverless) gap to the south of Biggar. The valley is partially enclosed to the west and north by the *Foothills* and *Prominent Isolated Foothills*, to the north and east by *Rolling Farmlands* and to the south and east by the steep rolling walls presented by the *Southern Uplands*.

At about 200 metres AOD and higher, the basin is comparatively elevated and exposed. This is reflected in the broadleaved and mixed shelterbelts and small conifer plantations, which are very common on the lower valley sides and along the edge of the basin. The central part of the floodplain is more open and woodland is generally confined to bands of riverside trees and occasional outgrown hedges. Fields tend to be medium to large in size, enclosed by post and wire fences, drystone walls and gappy hawthorn hedges. South of Lamington, towards the upper reaches of the Clyde valley, and along the Douglas Water the landscape is more open due to fewer shelterbelts and trees, but still generally quite broad with a meandering river.

The Clyde tributary of the Medwin Water is similar in character but with a more rectilinear field pattern and smaller watercourse. It is enclosed by the *Old Red Sandstone Hills*, *Prominent Isolated Foothills*, *Plateau* and *Rolling Farmlands* at the southern end of the Pentlands.

The landscape around Biggar shares the basic landform but has no significant watercourse and is modified by the presence of the town.

This is a comparatively settled though very rural landscape, with a dense network of roads, farms and small villages. The A73 (formerly the main road link between Glasgow and Carlisle), M74 and the West Coast Mainline pass through the valley. Other main roads pass through Biggar and along the Douglas Water.

### Sub Types

No sub types have been identified.

### Key Landscape Issues

Key landscape issues affecting this landscape type include:

- The importance of encouraging the conservation of the distinctive pattern of shelterbelts and field boundaries on sides of the valley;
- The effects of development on the hillsides or along the hilltops that define and enclose the valley;
- The importance of encouraging the conservation of the more open basin floor along the river corridor;
- The need to promote conservation and management of semi-natural woodlands;
- The need to promote management of policy woodlands and other estate woodlands;
- The importance of maintaining control of new development in the open landscape.

### MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

#### Key characteristics

The key characteristics, features and qualities of this landscape type are:

- large scale landscape comprising a broad, flat bottomed valley enclosed by the rounded *Foothills* and *Rolling Farmlands* to the north and the *Southern Uplands* to the south;
- distinctive pattern of tree cover comprising shelterbelts on lower hill slopes and lines of mature trees along field boundaries;
- scattered pattern of rural settlement.

***Planning and management should aim to reinforce the distinctive character of the valley, reinforcing the pattern of woodland and emphasising the contrast with the open uplands.***

#### ***Trees and woodland: sensitivities and forces for change***

Woodland, in the form of shelterbelts, small plantations and field boundary trees makes an important contribution to the character of this otherwise open landscape, emphasising the contrast with enclosing uplands. The balance of wooded and open land is important, so the landscape would be sensitive either to any loss of woodland cover, or the expansion of plantations. It would also be sensitive to any significant changes in the geographical distribution of the woodlands.

The landscape of the Broad Valley Upland is sensitive to any changes in woodland cover (particularly large scale afforestation) in prominent neighbouring upland areas such as the *Foothills* or the *Southern Uplands*.

In some areas, field boundary trees, avenues and riparian woodland make an important contribution to landscape character, further emphasising the contrast with upland areas. The landscape would be sensitive to the decline or loss of these trees.

#### ***Trees and woodland: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- consider the scope for additional woodland planting in the form of broadleaf or mixed shelterbelts on the lower slopes, tying into a reinforced structure of field boundaries on the valley floor and linking into riparian and other existing woodlands;
- encourage the positive management of existing field boundary trees and farm woodlands, with the objective of prolonging the life of existing specimens, and bringing forward replacements in the longer term;
- encourage the conservation and management of surviving elements of policy woodlands, with the aim of maintaining their contribution to local landscape character;
- the expansion of coniferous plantations should be of medium scale and directed to valley slopes and neighbouring hills where connections with the strong pattern of shelterbelts could be made; coniferous planting should be fitted to local undulations and minor hills along the valley side but should retain the generally open character of the uplands; the graded use of larch to emphasise topography would be appropriate.

#### ***Agriculture: sensitivities and forces for change***

The agricultural land use is presently fundamental to the character of this landscape type. Uncertainties in the farming sector following recent crises such as the Foot and Mouth epidemic, allied to recent reforms of the CAP, could alter the viability of agriculture in this semi-upland area. Unless alternative land uses could be found, the landscape would be sensitive to any changes which resulted in the further loss of field boundaries and tree cover.

The comparatively open and undeveloped nature of these Broad Valley landscapes could, despite their large scale, be sensitive to the development of large scale agricultural buildings including barns and sheds, particularly if sited close to roads or requiring significant topographic alterations to provide building platforms.

#### ***Agriculture: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- encourage the positive management and, where appropriate, restoration of hedgerows and field boundary trees (see above) with the aim of conserving the area's agricultural character and the role of these features in providing the otherwise open landscape with grain and structure;
- influence the location, design and materials of new agricultural buildings to limit their visual impact and to maximise the integration of such structures with existing farm buildings and the wider landscape .

#### ***Minerals: sensitivities and forces for change***

The presence of glacial sands and gravels within this landscape and its potential accessibility from the valley roads has generated interest in aggregate extraction, including a recent application at Overburns, near Lamington. This could cause adverse visual impacts over a considerable distance due to the flatness of the valley floor and the ability to view developments from the valley sides. The upper end of the Douglas Water near Rigside is also affected by spoil from former coal mining.

#### ***Minerals: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- discourage large-scale mineral workings within the Broad Valley Uplands; major extraction sites would be particularly visible within the valley's open landscape and would weaken its predominantly rural character;
- where they are permitted, mineral workings should be sited so as to avoid locations where they would be particularly visible from principal transport corridors, settlements or other important viewpoints; sites close to the valley sides within

undulating ground and close to shelterbelts may offer the best opportunities for screening;

- require the assessment of the visual and landscape effects associated with pits, overburden and spoil bings, processing plant and accommodation;
- encourage operators to adopt a 'restoration-led' approach which sets mineral working within the context of the end-use of the site ; restoration should result in no loss of landscape quality or character, and, where appropriate should result in landscape enhancement;
- encourage the use of detailed site surveys to identify landscape (and other) features of importance which should be conserved or which have potential for re-creation during restoration ; the aim should be to restore the grain and character of the site's former appearance and to avoid overly bland restoration solutions;
- where appropriate, encourage the use of advance planting to screen the site during operation and to help tie it into the surrounding landscape framework on restoration.

#### ***Transport: sensitivities and forces for change***

The Broad Valley Upland landscape type accommodates a number of transport routes including main roads, the M74 and the main West Coast railway line. In visual terms, transport infrastructure fits relatively easily into the large scale landscape. However, the road corridors in particular introduce movement, noise and, at night, light, into comparatively undeveloped areas of countryside. As a result, the capacity of these areas to accommodate additional routes is limited. Dismantled railways also remain in several locations.

#### ***Transport: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- discourage road improvement schemes which would result in:
  - the loss or severance of characteristic landscape features such as shelterbelts and field boundary tree lines;
  - scarring of the valley sides through cuttings and embankments;
  - changes in the way that motorists perceive the landscape through which they are passing;
- where improvements are required, alternatives such as traffic calming should be considered as alternatives to major infrastructural projects;
- the incremental increase in use of urban features such as signage, road markings and concrete kerbing should be resisted; follow the approach set out in the document Road Furniture in the Countryside (Transport Scotland, 2006).
- Consider developing dismantled railway routes for cycling and walking links between roads and settlements.

#### ***Development: sensitivities and forces for change***

This is a moderately settled landscape with a scatter of farms, hamlets and villages as well as the town of Biggar. While it would be sensitive to large scale development, some minor development, focused on existing clusters of settlement may be appropriate.

The landscape would be sensitive to the development of tall structures including masts, pylons and wind turbines, on areas of high ground visible from within the valley and within the valley itself. Particular concerns would relate to situations where more than one upland windfarm, for example, is visible in relatively close proximity from within the valley. Recent developments on the feed-in tariff for smaller farm and domestic scale energy generation could also lead to a proliferation of smaller turbines within the valley.

Rivers comprise a central and formative element in this semi-upland landscape. The character of these areas would be very sensitive to any measures which resulted in the loss of natural river landscapes, or the introduction of modern, engineered structures.

#### ***Development: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- discourage incremental residential development in the open countryside; favour, instead, the consolidation of smaller rural settlements;
- encourage the use of traditional materials such as stone and slate in preference to prominent shades of brick and tile;
- follow the design guidance in South Lanarkshire's Rural Building Conversion and New House Design Guidance and PAN 72: Housing in the Countryside when addressing issues of siting, design, materials and landscaping;
- conserve natural river landscapes by discouraging schemes which introduce engineered features or structures;
- discourage wind power development in neighbouring landscape types which would result in unacceptable cumulative impacts on any particular section of the Broad Valley Uplands;
- carefully assess the landscape and visual impact of proposals for tall structures, including wind turbines, within the valleys;
- Consider the role of this LCT in maintaining an undeveloped buffer free of windfarms between existing areas of windfarm development in the *Plateau Moorlands* and *Southern Uplands*.



Landscape Character Assessment

Locations

Broad Valley Uplands are found within the following areas of South Lanarkshire:

- Upper Clyde: Elvanfoot - Abington
- Upper Clyde: Abington - Thankerton
- Upper Clyde: Biggar
- Upper Clyde: Thankerton - Bonnington Linn
- Medwin Water
- Douglas Water

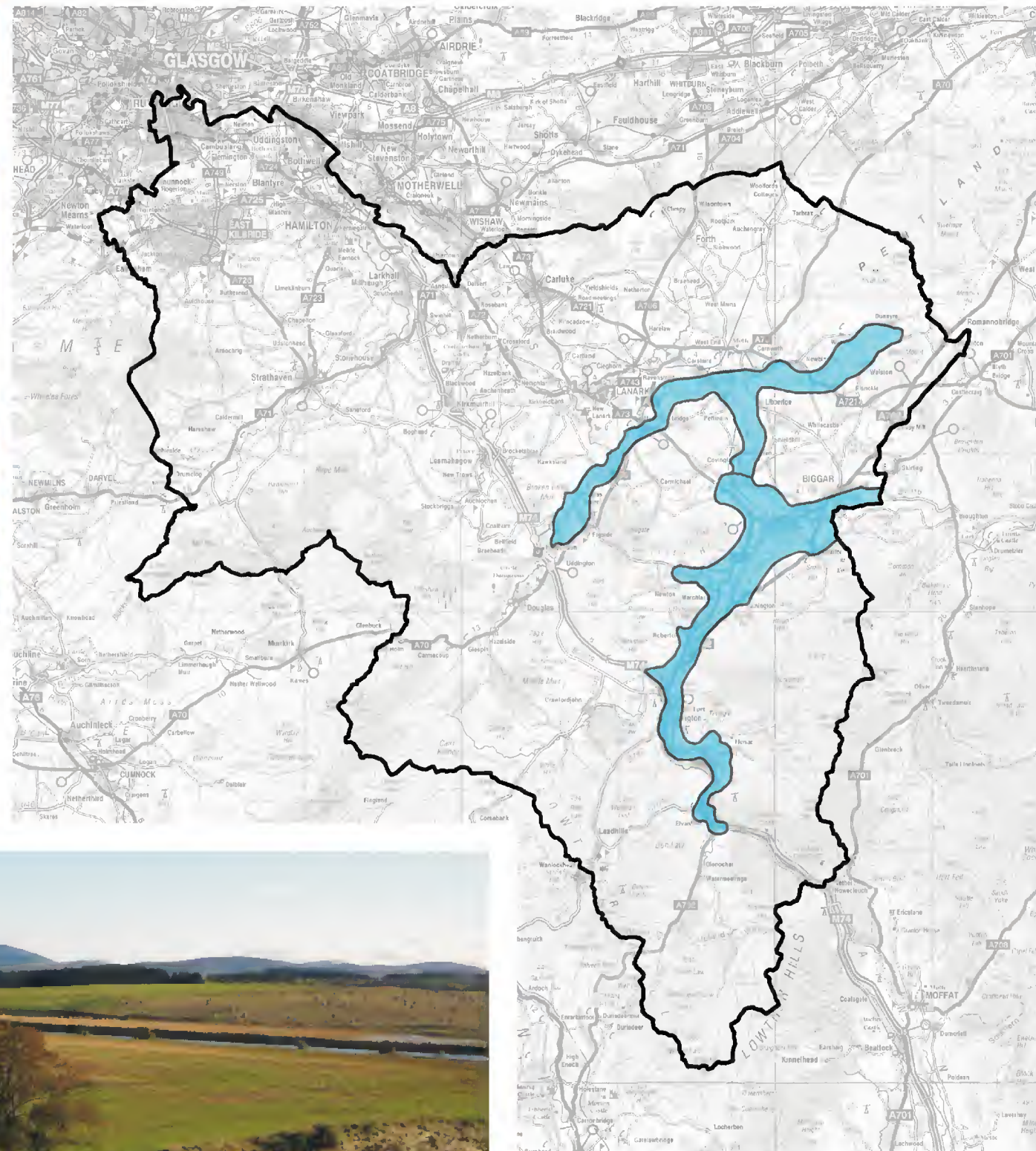
Key Characteristics

The key characteristics of this landscape type are:

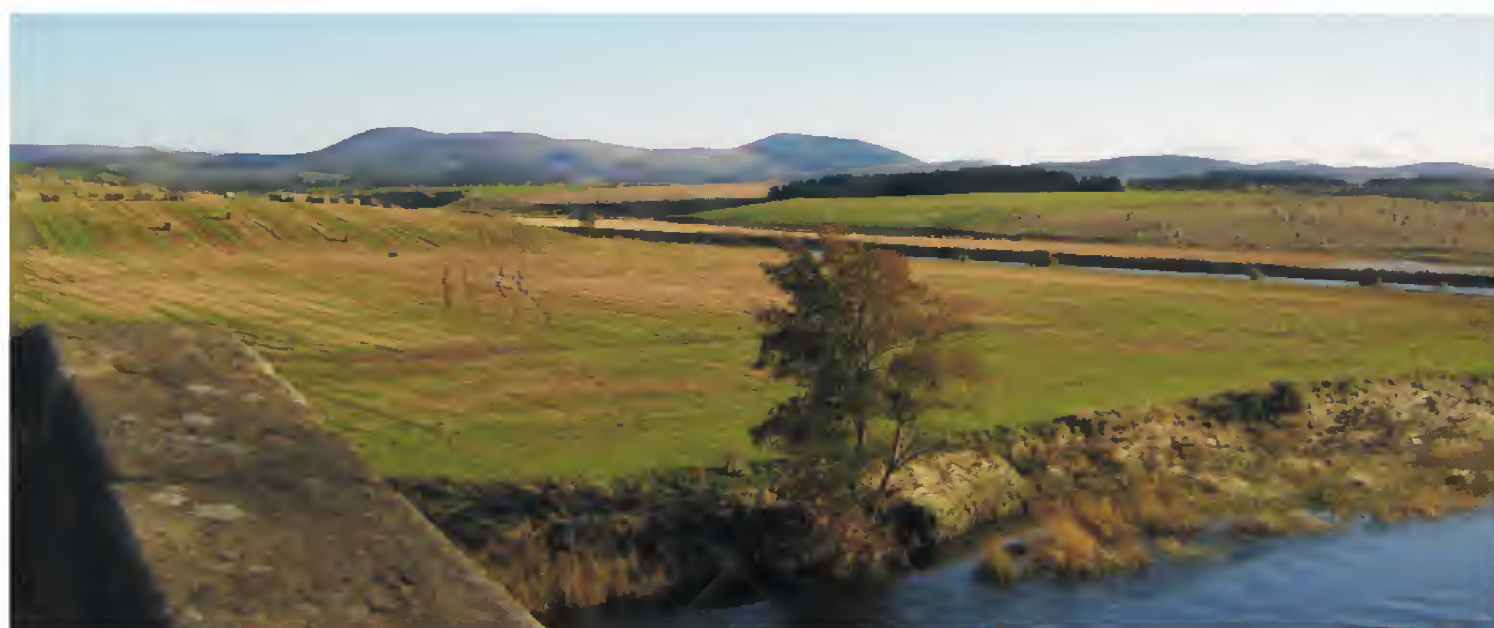
- *large scale landscape with broad flat bottomed valley enclosed by Southern Uplands to south and rounded Foothills and Rolling Farmland to north;*
- *distinctive pattern of tree cover, with shelter belts on lower hill slopes and lines of mature trees along field boundaries.*
- *Scattered pattern of rural settlement.*

Sub - Types

No sub-types have been identified.



Characteristics



Broad Valley Upland  
Thankerton

Figure 6ix

Details of Landscape Character Areas: 9

Broad Valley Upland

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# 10 Foothills

## Location and Extent

Foothills of the Southern Uplands lie within one main area in South Lanarkshire with two small outlying areas to the east:

- South, West and North of Tinto (Roberton – Carmichael).
- Between Biggar and the Clyde (Biggar Common)
- East of the A702, adjacent to Scottish Borders (Broomy Law)

Compared with the 1999 LCA this type has been reduced in area by distinguishing the largest most distinctive hills as *Prominent Isolated Foothills* and reclassifying the area north of Biggar partially as *Plateau Farmland* and *Rolling Farmland*. The remaining area is considered to be sufficiently transitional to exemplify the characteristics of the Foothills type.

## Description

The Foothills form the main transition between the *Southern Uplands* and the *Rolling Moorlands* and Clyde Basin Farmlands. They lie to the north west of the Southern Uplands Fault and comprise an area of complex geology, including limestones, millstone grits, basalts and sandstones. The area is significantly faulted and has been modified by periods of glacial and fluvial erosion. The more resistant pockets of rock have withstood the process of erosion, resulting in a number of hills, which remain as prominent features in the landscape. The transition to neighbouring areas of rolling moorland and farmland is very gentle.

The Foothills are broadly encircled by the upland valley occupied by the River Clyde and tributaries. A larger number of minor valleys cut into the Foothills, creating a dissected landform of valleys between gently rounded summits. Small hills can also be significant in particular locations, for example Forside Hill (376 m) to the north of Abington.

The Foothills exhibit a variety of landcover types, tending to reflect comparatively minor differences in elevation or exposure. The lower slopes typically have a pastoral character with medium sized fields, enclosed by fences, hedges and shelterbelts. The latter are a particular feature of the hills' lower slopes and of the lower farmland around, reflecting the importance of shelter in this semi-upland landscape. Some woodland belts and plantations are components of minor policy landscapes, which are locally significant features (eg. Carmichael). With increasing altitude, the proportion of rougher grazing rises, with the summits dominated by moorland vegetation and a number of areas of coniferous forestry.

Settlement in the Foothills is comparatively sparse, confined to a number of hamlets and a scatter of farmsteads on the more gentle and sheltered lower slopes. Archaeological evidence suggests that this landscape was intensively occupied during the Neolithic period and the legacy of subsequent occupants can be seen in the form of ceremonial and settlement sites, hill forts and castle sites. Many of these are testament to the importance of the Clyde Valley as a communication route in the past. Several major and more minor roads cross the area, threading their way between the low hilltops and ridges. The overall character now, however, is rural, comparatively remote and sparsely populated.

## Key Landscape Issues.

Key landscape issues affecting this landscape type include:

- Importance of maintaining the contrast between the more open hill tops and the surrounding farmland;
- Importance of managing and conserving the distinctive pattern of shelterbelts and field boundaries;
- Pressure for mineral working in this and adjoining areas, raising concerns about cumulative impacts;
- Pressure for windfarm development in western part of this area and potentially for smaller scale turbines elsewhere;
- Additional large-scale commercial forestry could result in significant landscape change;
- Importance of conserving areas and features of historic and archaeological significance;
- Importance of conserving character of minor roads, which cut through the foothills.

## Sub Types

The following sub type has been identified:

- **Foothills, Forestry (10a):**  
Areas of foothills where the impact of large scale commercial forestry dominate the landscape, between Tinto and Rigside.

## MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

### Key characteristics

The key characteristics, features and qualities of this landscape type are:

- a varied landscape of rounded hills, farmland and small valleys, forming a transition between the farmlands and the *Rolling Moorlands* and *Southern Uplands*;
- hilltops often dominated by heather moorland, with a transition to rough grazing and enclosed pastures on lower slopes; some areas of coniferous woodland;

- becoming higher and more open with poorer pasture towards the south west;
- scattered settlements and farms but the higher hills have little in the way of modern settlement.

***Landscape planning and management should aim to conserve the balance and transition between the generally open and undeveloped character of the hills and the more settled, enclosed nature of the surrounding farmlands.***

#### ***Trees and woodland: sensitivities and forces for change***

The Foothills have physical potential for forestry, reflected in the presence of a number of coniferous plantations in addition to the pattern of small geometric shelterbelts on the hills' lower slopes. The smooth rounded nature of the landform of the Foothills is a distinctive feature, contrasting with more settled and structured lowlands. The landscape would be sensitive to further large scale afforestation proposals, particularly where these extended onto higher slopes or into smaller scale farmland. There may be opportunities improve the appearance of existing plantations and to allow semi-natural regeneration of woodland within the Foothills

#### ***Trees and woodland: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- encourage the management of coniferous plantations on the plateau areas with the aim of developing more natural shapes fitted to topographic variations and achieving more varied age and species composition;
- conserve the dominant influence of agriculture in this landscape type, although locally it has a varying capacity to accommodate forestry and woodlands;
- discourage large scale expansion of conifer plantations on the more prominent upper hillslopes ; an open framework of woodlands and shelterbelts around the plateaux, smaller hills and lower hillslopes should be the objective of forest designs;
- linear conifer plantations and shelterbelts may be appropriate on the lower hillslopes, marking the transition to lower, farmed areas;
- there may be opportunities to encourage the regeneration or expansion of broadleaf woodland and scrub along burnbanks and in gullies, creating a closer integration of lowland woodland and the moorland landscape.

#### ***Agriculture: sensitivities and forces for change***

The agricultural sensitivities largely relate to the potential expansion of commercial forestry, the consequent loss of upland pastures or heath and the obscuring of archaeological sites. In lower areas where drystone walls and shelterbelts are characteristic, then the future upkeep of these features is an issue.

#### ***Agriculture: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- where pastures extend onto the flanks of the hills, field boundaries should be managed to maintain the contrast between farmland and open moorland; stone dykes should be conserved;
- there is potential to enhance the agricultural landscape through the extension of farm woodlands and shelterbelts to create medium to large scale pastoral enclosures;
- heather management schemes should be supported in higher moorland areas.

#### ***Minerals: sensitivities and forces for change***

The varied geology of the Foothills means there is potential pressure for additional mineral working in the area. Extensive quarrying already takes place in a prominent location on Cairngryffe Hill to the south east of Lanark. Sand and gravel and coal deposits also occur within or adjacent to this landscape type. Whilst the topography of these hills means that it may be possible to site quarries so that the wider visual impact is limited, the landscape will be sensitive to schemes in more prominent locations, particularly where operations affect the characteristically smooth and rounded hill summits. The landscape would be particularly sensitive to the cumulative effects of a number of mineral working sites, particularly where they are visible from important road corridors (e.g. the A73 Tourist Route) or areas used for formal or informal recreation.

#### ***Minerals: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- large scale mineral working within the Foothills should be resisted since it could have a significant adverse effect on distinctive landform and the wider landscape of the Foothills and surrounding lowland areas;
- where additional mineral working is permitted, it should be located in more low-lying parts of the hills and should avoid encroaching upon skylines or ridgelines ; areas to be quarried should be chosen to ensure that views of the mineral working areas from surrounding areas are limited and that important recreation areas within the hills are not affected directly or as a result of visual intrusion;
- require the assessment of the visual and landscape effects associated with pits, overburden and spoil bings, processing plant and accommodation;
- encourage operators to adopt a 'restoration-led' approach which sets mineral working within the context of the end-use of the site, and ability to restore it to its current condition, or where appropriate, an alternative, higher quality landscape;
- encourage the use of detailed site surveys to identify landscape (and other) features of importance which should be conserved or which have potential for re-



creation during restoration ; the aim should be to restore the grain and character of the site's former appearance and to avoid overly bland restoration solutions .

#### ***Transport: sensitivities and forces for change***

The Foothills are served by a small number of minor roads and crossed by the A73 in the north and M74 in the south west. Incremental improvements to more minor roads such as the use of concrete kerbs, signage introduction or road paint may combine to introduce urban influences into the upland landscape. Road engineering may also be required to upgrade routes for forestry vehicles or for access to construction sites, e.g. for a wind farm. These works may also result in changes to the roads' character.

#### ***Transport: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- the introduction of 'urban' road elements on minor roads should be resisted; road engineering works should aim to achieve a sympathetic rural character whilst fulfilling technical requirements. New schemes should follow the environmental design approaches described in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, the Scottish Government documents Cost Effective Landscape: Learning from Nature (Scottish Executive, 1998) and Fitting roads (Scottish Office, 1995);
- improvements which alter the minor, upland character of roads, for example, straightening or widening, should be resisted; alternative methods such as traffic calming or management should be considered;
- unavoidable road alterations should ensure that characteristic features such as stone dykes, stone bridges and milestones are restored close to their original location.

#### ***Development: sensitivities and forces for change***

This relatively remote and undeveloped landscape has limited building development pressures, although the northern area accessible to Lanark has experienced some development pressure in recent years. The large scale of topographic enclosure and potential for long views in this landscape, make the Foothills potentially sensitive to any development.

A key sensitivity, however, is the potential development of tall structures including masts and wind turbines, which are dealt with separately below.

#### ***Development: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- new development should generally be resisted; where circumstances require buildings they should be located and designed so as to limit visual intrusion and landscape impact and complement existing settlement patterns;

- the erection of tall structures such as masts and pylons can lead to disproportionate levels of landscape impact, affecting the remote character of the hills, and sometimes encroaching on the skyline when viewed from surrounding lowland areas; the aim of landscape planning and management should, in order of priority, be to:
  - discourage the erection of additional masts or other tall structures within the hills;
  - encourage operators to share infrastructure with the aim of minimising the number of masts that are needed;
  - steer any new masts to sites where the landscape and visual impact is minimised;
  - minimise the requirement for ancillary developments such as service roads or servicing buildings.

#### ***Windfarms: sensitivities and forces for change***

Higher areas of this landscape type satisfy most of the technical requirements for wind power generation and one application at Limmer Hill was recently turned down. Windfarm developments could weaken the apparently 'wild' character of some of the areas within the Foothills landscape and large turbines could also dominate what are relatively modest sized landforms. Windfarms could have extensive visual influence on the neighbouring Clyde Valley and Tinto Hill depending on location and the use of topography for visual containment. The relationship between the Foothills and the Southern Uplands may provide opportunities for backclothing such structures so that they are not always visible on the skyline. Nevertheless, particular concerns will apply, where wind farms are visible from key viewpoints, or where people travelling through this and adjacent landscape areas view a number of such developments in close succession.

#### ***Windfarms: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this development types are as follows:

- particular concerns relate to wind farm development on these hills; the limited extent and scale of the hills, their sometimes remote and apparently 'natural' character, and their proximity to key transport routes and the key viewpoint of Tinto Hill mean that it is very likely that any more than a minimal level of windfarm development would have a significant and adverse effect on the wider landscape character and how it is perceived;
- smaller 'farm' scale wind turbines may be more appropriate in this varied landscape but care should be taken in their siting, by avoiding the most prominent locations or leading to a high degree of cumulative impacts.



## South Lanarkshire

### Landscape Character Assessment

#### Locations

Foothills are found within the following areas of South Lanarkshire:

- South, West and North of Tinto (Roberton - Carmichael)
- Between Biggar and the Clyde (Biggar Common)
- East of the A702: adjacent to Scottish Borders (Broomy Law)

#### Key Characteristics

The key characteristics of this landscape type are:

- a varied landscape of rounded hills, farmland and small valleys, forming a transition between the farmlands and the Rolling Moorlands and Southern Uplands;
- hilltops often dominated by heather moorland, with a transition to rough grazing and enclosed pastures on lower slopes; some areas of coniferous woodland;
- becoming higher and more open with poorer pasture towards the south west;
- scattered settlements and farms but the higher hills have little in the way of modern settlement.

#### Sub - Types

The following sub-types have been identified:

- 10a Foothills Forestry
- Foothills where coniferous forestry dominates land use.

Figure 6x

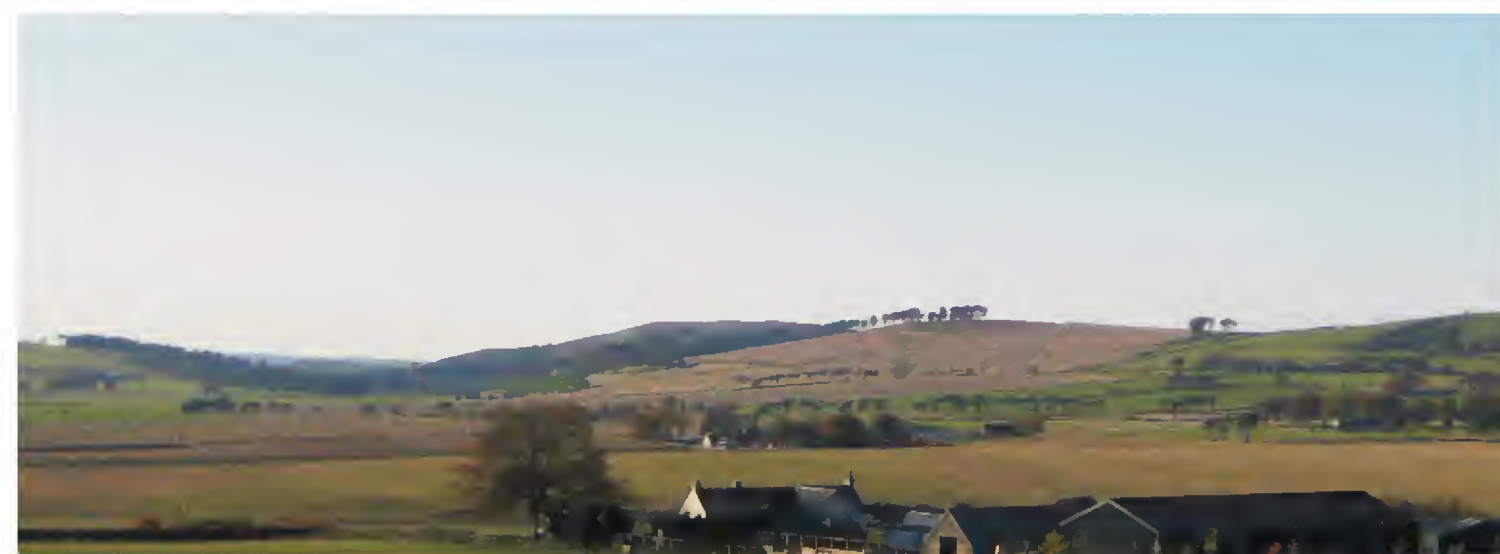
### Details of Landscape Character Areas: 10

#### Foothills

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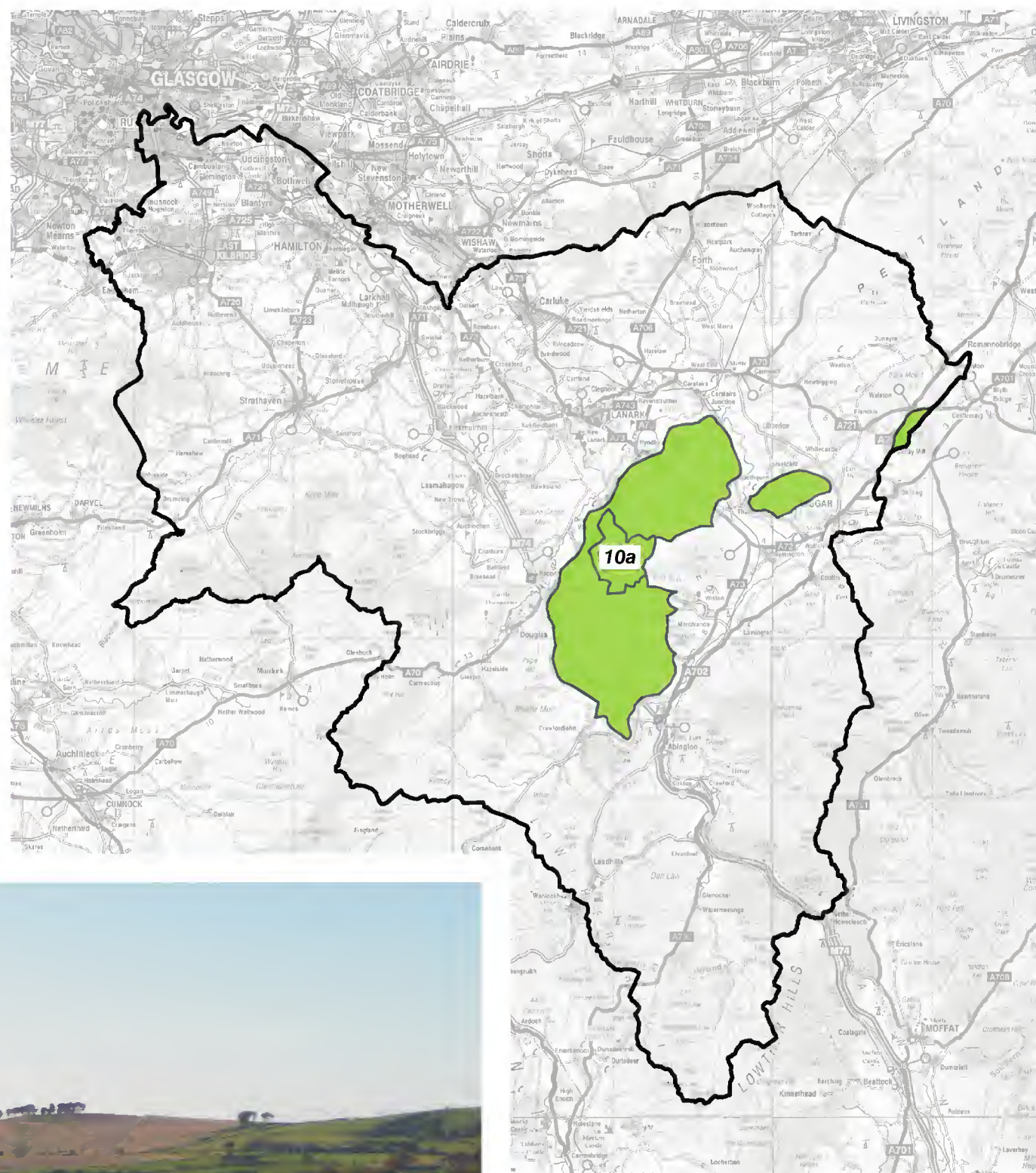


Characteristics



Foothills

Chester Hill / Swaithe Hill west of Quothquan





# 11 Prominent Isolated Foothills

## Location and Extent

Prominent Isolated Foothills are found within the following three locations in the study area:

- Tinto
- Black Mount
- Dungavel Hill.

This is a newly defined landscape type resulting from a finer-grained analysis of the *Foothills* areas defined in the 1999 assessment. The three hill masses identified are significantly higher than their surroundings, relating more in scale to the nearby Southern Uplands or Pentland Hills, and sufficiently prominent to be distinguished as a separate character type.

## Description

The Prominent Isolated Foothills lie to the north west of the Southern Uplands fault and can be differentiated from the adjacent Foothills by their apparent isolation as a result of division by the Clyde Valley and associated tributaries. The area has been modified by periods of glacial and fluvial erosion. The more resistant pockets of rock have withstood the process of erosion resulting in hills which are prominent features in the landscape. This small group of hills has an overall conical form with long shoulders.

- Tinto Hill reaches a height in excess of 700m and forms a prominent landmark when seen from much of South Lanarkshire, when viewed from considerable distances from the plateau landscapes to the north and from hills and moorlands to the south.
- Black Mount rises to 516m and similarly has long shoulders with a broadly conical top. It's prominence within the landscape is more local than that of Tinto and it is seen as an outlier of the Pentland Hills.
- Dungavel Hill rises to 510m. Whilst overshadowed by the nearby Tinto it is separated by the Garf Water and appears prominent when viewed from the Clyde Valley and hinterland of the *Foothills* west of Roberton.

The lower slopes typically have a pastoral character with medium sized fields, enclosed by fences, hedges and shelterbelts. The latter are a particular feature of the hills' lower slopes and of the lower farmland around, reflecting the importance of shelter in this semi-upland landscape. Some woodland belts and plantations are components of minor policy landscapes, which are locally significant features. With increasing altitude, the proportion of rougher grazing rises, with the higher summits dominated by moorland vegetation (heather moorland in the case of Tinto and Black Mount).

Settlement in the Prominent Isolated Foothills is minimal, confined to a scatter of farmsteads and houses on the more gentle and sheltered lower slopes. Archaeological evidence suggests that this landscape was occupied during the Neolithic period and the legacy of subsequent occupants can be seen in the form of ceremonial and settlement sites and castle sites. One or two minor roads skirt the lower slopes and more major roads pass nearby, from which the hills are seen as important landmarks.

## Sub Types

No sub types have been identified.

## Key Landscape Issues.

Key landscape issues affecting this landscape type include:

- Importance of maintaining the contrast between the more open hill tops and the surrounding farmland;
- Importance of ensuring that the distinctive, round, open, profiles of these prominent hills are maintained;
- Managing and conserving the distinctive pattern of shelterbelts and field boundaries at the base of the hills;
- Importance of managing recreational use of the hills.

## MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

### Key characteristics

The key characteristics, features and qualities of this landscape type are:

- Prominent, rounded, sometimes conical hills, set within the *Rolling Farmlands* and the *Foothills* but significantly larger in scale and height than the surrounding landscape;
- Wide ranging panoramic views are available from the summits of these hills
- Highest hilltops dominated by heather moorland, with rough grazing on lower tops or slopes and enclosed pastures on the lowest slopes; some areas of coniferous woodland;
- The hills have few settlement or buildings, these being restricted to the lowest slopes.

***Landscape planning and management should aim to conserve the open and undeveloped character and profiles of the Prominent Isolated Foothills and the quality of the panoramic views.***

***Trees and woodland: sensitivities and forces for change***

The Prominent Isolated Foothills have physical potential for forestry, reflected in the presence of a number of coniferous plantations on or close to the hills' lower slopes in addition to the pattern of small geometric shelterbelts. The smooth, sometimes conical nature of the landform of the hills is a distinctive feature, contrasting with more settled and structured surroundings. The landscape would be sensitive to afforestation proposals, particularly where these extended onto higher slopes. There may be opportunities to improve the appearance of existing plantations and to allow semi-natural regeneration of woodland.

***Trees and woodland: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- encourage the management of coniferous plantations on the hillsides with the aim of developing more natural shapes fitted to topographic variations and achieving more varied age and species composition;
- conserve the dominant influence of the smooth, open hilltops and upper slopes;
- discourage large scale expansion of conifer plantations on the more prominent upper hillslopes; an open framework of woodlands and shelterbelts around the lower hillslopes should be the objective of forest designs;
- linear conifer plantations and shelterbelts may be appropriate on the lower hillslopes, marking the transition to lower, farmed areas;
- there may be opportunities to encourage the regeneration or expansion of broadleaf woodland and scrub along burnbanks and in gullies, creating a closer integration of lowland woodland and the moorland landscape.

***Agriculture: sensitivities and forces for change***

The agricultural sensitivities largely relate to the potential expansion of commercial forestry, the consequent loss of upland pastures or heath and the obscuring of archaeological sites. In lower slopes where drystone walls and shelterbelts are characteristic, then the future upkeep of these features is an issue.

***Agriculture: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- where pastures extend onto the flanks of the hills, field boundaries should be managed to maintain the contrast between farmland and open moorland; stone dykes should be conserved;
- heather management schemes should be supported in higher hilltop areas.

***Minerals: sensitivities and forces for change***

The geology of Prominent Isolated Foothills means that there is the potential for mineral working. Extensive quarrying already takes place in a prominent location on Cairngryffe Hill in the *Foothills* north of Tinto and there are abandoned minor workings on all three hills. Whilst the topography of the *Foothills* means that it may be possible to site quarries so that the wider visual impact is limited, the Prominent Isolated Foothills are such that any significant mineral working would be widely visible and would particularly affect the characteristically smooth and rounded hill summits. Such workings would be visible from important road corridors (e.g. the A702 and A73 Tourist Routes) and to those climbing the hills for recreational purposes.

***Minerals: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- mineral working within the Prominent Isolated Foothills should be resisted since it could have a significant adverse effect on distinctive landform and the wider landscape of the *Foothills* and surrounding lowland areas;

***Development: sensitivities and forces for change***

These hills have few building development pressures but would be highly sensitive to any such development on all but the lowest slopes. The key sensitivity, however, is the potential development of tall structures including masts and wind turbines. The latter are discussed separately below.

***Development: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- built development on the open hillsides should generally be resisted; although some agriculturally related buildings may be acceptable on enclosed lower slopes;
- the erection of tall structures such as masts and pylons can lead to disproportionate levels of landscape impact, affecting the open character of the hills, and sometimes encroaching on the skyline when viewed from surrounding lowland areas; the aim of landscape planning and management should be to discourage the erection of masts or other tall structures on these hills.

***Windfarms: sensitivities and forces for change***

The hills would satisfy most of the technical requirements for wind power generation. However, any such developments would adversely affect the apparent scale and prominence of the landform, their open character and could have extensive visual influence as there is little if any visual containment.

***Windfarms: planning and management guidelines***

Particular concerns relate to the potential for wind farm development on these hills: their prominence in views, open character, and their distinctive summits and skylines, mean that any wind farm proposal should be resisted strongly.





## South Lanarkshire

### Landscape Character Assessment

#### Locations

Prominent Isolated Foothills are found within the following areas of South Lanarkshire:

- Tinto
- Black Mount
- Dungavel Hill

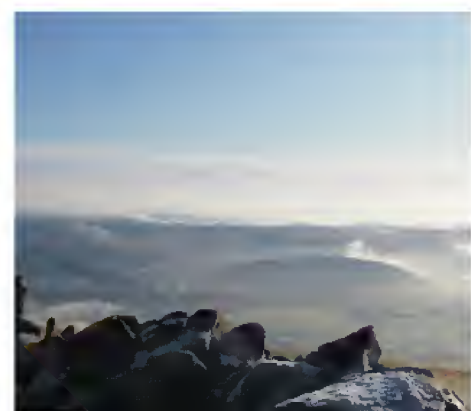
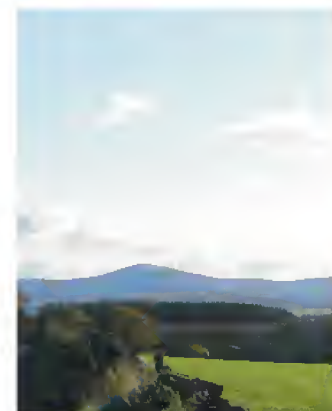
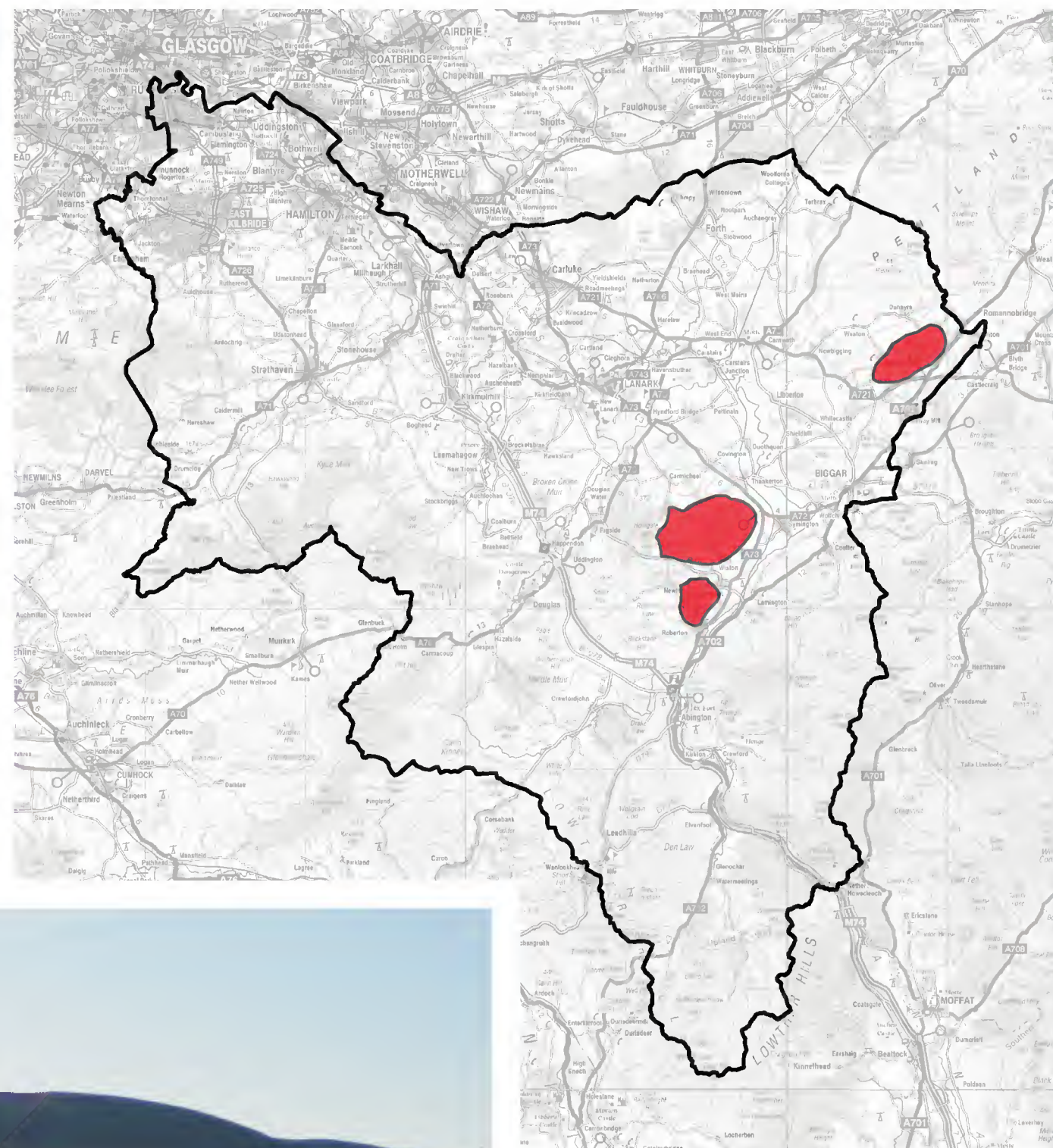
#### Key Characteristics

The key characteristics of this landscape type are:

- *prominent, rounded, sometimes conical hills, set within the Rolling Farmlands and the Foothills but significantly larger in scale and height than the surrounding landscape;*
- *wide ranging panoramic views are available from the summits of these hills;*
- *highest hilltops dominated by heather moorland, with rough grazing on lower tops or slopes and enclosed pastures on the lowest slopes; some areas of coniferous woodland;*
- *The hills have few settlement or buildings, these being restricted to the lowest slopes.*

#### Sub – Types

No sub-types have been identified.



Characteristics



Prominent Isolated Foothills  
Tinto viewed from Symington

Figure 6xi

### Details of Landscape Character Areas: 11

### Prominent Isolated Foothills

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# 12 Old Red Sandstone Hills

## Location and Extent

The Old Red Sandstone Hills character type occurs in one location within South Lanarkshire:

- Western Pentland Hills.

The area within South Lanarkshire is the south western tip of a range of hills extending north east to the outskirts of Edinburgh. Compared with the 1999 assessment the area defined is slightly reduced: being redefined as *Plateau Farmland* and *Plateau Moorland* west of the A70; *Plateau Farmland* around Weston and *Rolling Farmland* around Dunsyre.

## Description

The uplands here rise to over 400m AOD and consist of a consolidated rolling moorland landscape of fairly even height dropping, in some cases quite steeply, to the outlying valleys (for example at Dunsyre where Dunsyre Hill drops steeply 150m down to the village of Dunsyre to the south). Generally, the geology consists of Upper Old Red Sandstone of the Devonian period, with some outer areas of igneous rock.

Several watercourses feed from this group of hills down to the outlying valleys. These include the West Water and the Westruther Burn which both feed into the Medwin Water, a tributary of the Clyde. The watercourses have distinct valleys between the hills but often meander through flatlands on the valley floor.

The area is predominantly heather and peat moorland and is unfarmed on the upper slopes. Lower down, there are areas of rough grazing used for sheepfarming. There are also areas of coniferous plantation including some which have recently been planted.

The area is unsettled and inaccessible by road. It is isolated in character, exposed and can appear bleak. The main agricultural activity is sheepfarming. There are several areas of archaeological interest including cairns, cultivation terraces, crosses, towers and henges, most of which occur on the lower slopes.

This is the southwestern end of the Pentland Hills and although lower than the hills to the north it is part of an unbroken chain stretching to the outskirts of Edinburgh. It provides a distinctive skyline and undeveloped backdrop to the *Plateau Farmlands* and settlements of the Central Belt as well as separating it from the more rural landscapes to the north of Biggar.

## Sub Types

No sub types have been identified.

## Key Landscape Issues

Key landscape issues for this landscape type include:

- The importance of protecting the apparently 'wild' undeveloped character of the landscape;
- Recreational use and access;
- The effects of consented and proposed windfarm development nearby and within the hills on their undeveloped character and skyline profile;
- The importance of ensuring conservation and interpretation of historic features;
- The role of farming as a means of maintaining the landscape of the lower slopes and grazed moorlands.

## MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

### Key characteristics

The key characteristics, features and qualities of this landscape type are:

- western tail of the Pentland Hills, comprising areas of rolling moorland dropping steeply in places to the surrounding lowlands;
- dominance of heather and peat moorland and rough grazing with small areas of coniferous plantation;
- largely unsettled and undeveloped landscape although with areas of archaeological interest.

***Landscape planning and management should aim to conserve the open, unsettled character and undeveloped skyline of the Old Red Sandstone Hills. New developments which introduce modern elements, break the skyline or which would undermine the sense of 'wildness' and remoteness should be resisted.***

### Trees and woodland: sensitivities and forces for change

The Old Red Sandstone Hills are characterised by the open moorland which covers much of the Pentland Hills. Forestry cover is limited and mostly confined to small - medium sized plantations on lower slopes. Although there may be opportunities for small scale woodland on lower slopes and along burns and valleys, the landscape is likely to be sensitive to anything more extensive, particularly where complete cover of hilltops may be proposed.

***Trees and woodland: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- encourage the management of existing coniferous plantations on the hills with the aim of developing more natural shapes and achieving more varied age and species composition;
- expansion of conifer plantations on upper slopes should be strongly discouraged, though there may be scope for additional new planting on lower slopes, particularly where this provides shelter for farmland; such new planting should ideally be of mixed species composition and include Scots pine;
- in all areas open ground should remain dominant with woodlands creating an informal pattern of partially connected belts; these should not obscure archaeological sites or views to hilltops from popular recreation areas.

***Agriculture: sensitivities and forces for change***

The rough moorland of the Old Red Sandstone Hills is used for extensive grazing. Reductions in grazing could alter the existing equilibrium, possibly resulting in the natural regeneration of indigenous scrub woodland. Conversely, the character of the landscape would be sensitive to any attempts to increase the productivity of the hill pastures, for example by improving drainage, applying fertilisers or even reseeding. The landscape would also be sensitive to the erection of large agricultural buildings, particularly in prominent locations.

***Agriculture: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- where pastures extend onto the flanks of the hills, field boundaries should be managed to maintain the contrast between farmland and open moorland; stone dykes should be conserved, and, where appropriate, field boundary trees and shelterbelts encouraged or retained;
- the nature conservation interests of unimproved grasslands should be preserved through appropriate grassland management regimes;
- heathland management schemes should be supported to maintain the variety of the landscape;
- agricultural management should respect the presence of archaeological sites in the hills.

***Minerals: sensitivities and forces for change***

Much of the Old Red Sandstone Hills landscape type is covered in surface peat deposits. Although not worked at present, any large scale exploitation of these resources could result in significant and long-lasting landscape change. The landscape would also be

sensitive to the development of hardrock quarries since these would introduce focal point features into the simple and open landscape.

***Minerals: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- mineral working, both for surface peat deposits and hard rock should be resisted strongly.

***Development: sensitivities and forces for change***

This relatively remote and inhospitable landscape has few development pressures. The large scale of topographic enclosure and potential for long views in this landscape, make it potentially sensitive to any development in open country and especially where new roads and other infrastructure elements are required.

***Development: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- an important part of the character is derived from the lack of development of any sort; new development should therefore generally be resisted;
- discourage the erection of masts or other tall structures such as electricity pylons within the hills;
- steer any new masts to sites where the landscape and visual impact is minimised;
- minimise the requirement for ancillary developments such as service roads or servicing buildings;

***Windfarms: sensitivities and forces for change***

A key sensitivity is the potential development of wind turbines. These would compromise the apparently 'wild' values of the landscape and may have extensive visual influence depending on location and the use of topography for visual containment or backclothing. Large turbines would also break the existing skyline and affect the perceived scale of the hills when viewed from the north. Given the proximity of a number of operating and consented windfarms to the northwest, particular concerns relating to cumulative impacts will apply where more than one wind farm is visible from a given location, or where people travelling through this and adjacent landscape areas view a number of such developments in close succession.

***Windfarms: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

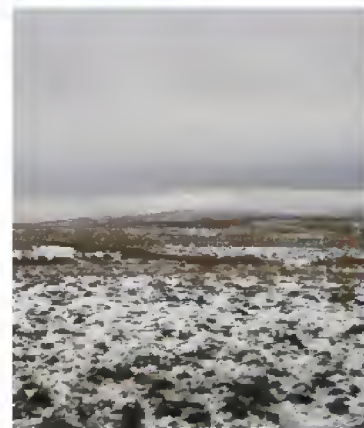
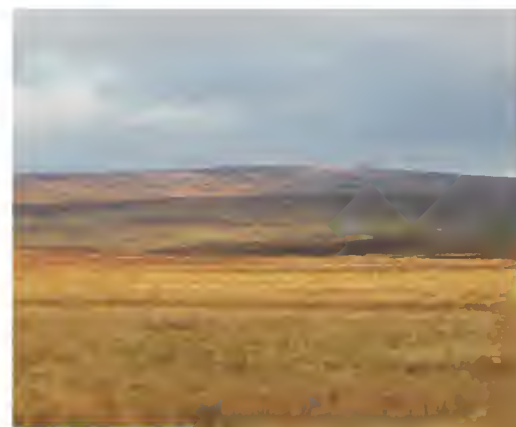
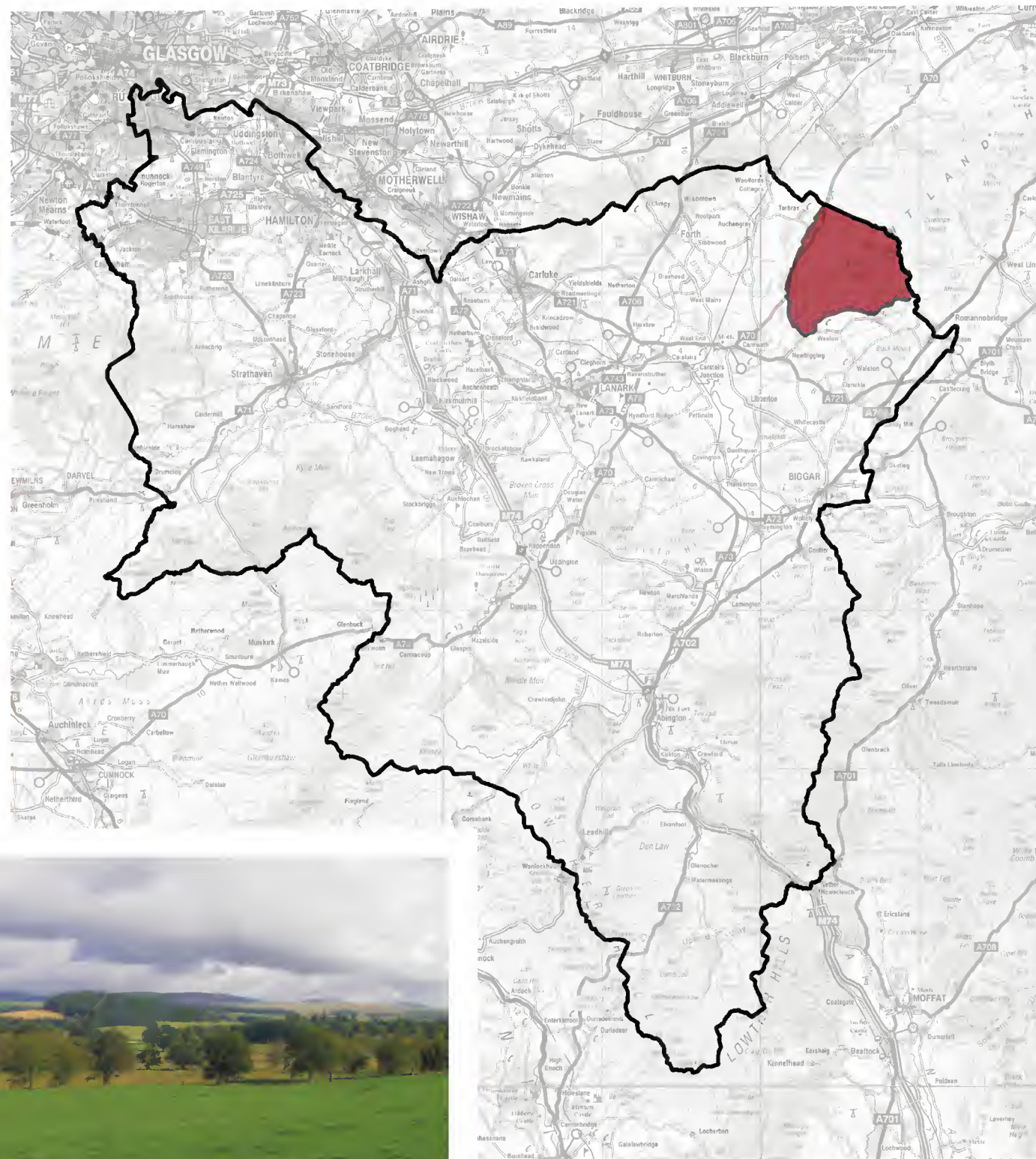
- Windfarm development in this limited area of hills would lead to significant landscape change and cumulative impacts with windfarms to the northwest as well

as affecting views of the Pentland Hills from the Central Belt. The role of this area in providing a distinctive skyline and undeveloped backdrop to the *Plateau Farmlands* and settlements of the Central Belt must be addressed when considering wind energy proposals of any scale.

- It is recommended that little if any wind energy development is permitted in this area. Any such development in this area must be small in scale and very carefully sited so as to minimise the visual and landscape impacts; developments should be located away from prominent ridgelines and summits and provided with a degree of backclothing; any proposals affecting the relatively more visually and topographically sensitive eastern side of the watershed should be strongly resisted; potential cumulative and sequential effects within and beyond this landscape type should be taken into account.



Landscape Character Assessment



Characteristics



Old Red Sandstone Hills  
Pentlands viewed from near Westfield

Location

Old Red Sandstone Hills are found within the following area of South Lanarkshire:

- Western Pentland Hills

Key Characteristics

The key characteristics of this landscape type are:

- the western tail of the Pentland Hills range comprising areas of rolling moorland dropping steeply in places to the surrounding lowlands;
- dominance of heather and peat moorland together with areas of rough grazing and small amounts of conifer plantation;
- largely unsettled and undeveloped landscape although with areas of archaeological interest.

Sub - Types

No sub-types have been identified.

Figure 6xii

Details of Landscape Character Areas: 12

Old Red Sandstone Hills

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# 13 Southern Uplands

## Location and Extent

The Southern Uplands landscape type occurs within the following areas of South Lanarkshire:

- Southern Uplands to the east of Abington and the Clyde
- Lowther Hills (west of the Clyde and south of Elvanfoot)

This landscape type extends to the east, south and west, well beyond the boundaries of South Lanarkshire. There are minor changes compared with the 1999 assessment, mainly resulting from a finer grained definition of *Upland River Valley*, *Broad Valley Upland* and *Upland Glen* LCAs.

## Description

Immediately south of the Southern Upland Fault lie a number of bold upland areas, which have a character very different to the lower moorlands and hills to the north and west. This character is derived from the hills' height (up to 775 m AOD in South Lanarkshire), their geology (Ordovician rocks, predominantly more resistant greywackes) and the influence of glacial erosion. The hills are characterised by steep, smooth slopes rising to rounded summits. Cut into the uplands are a series of distinctive glacial valleys, with U-shaped cross sections, sometimes with precipitous side slopes, hanging valleys, waterfalls, crags and screes. The combination of these features, and the contrast with lower moorlands and the lowlands to the north, gives an impression of uplands, which are perhaps more extensive, remote and higher than is actually the case.

Landcover in the Southern Uplands is typically coarse grassland, though the highest areas often comprise heather moorland. Areas of rough grazing generally lack walled enclosures. Semi-natural woodland is scarce, limited to a few more sheltered glens, gullies and clefts. There are also extensive areas of coniferous plantations, particularly around the fringes of the higher hills.

Modern settlement is absent from these exposed uplands, being concentrated in river valleys and the larger glens. It is likely that settlement was more extensive during milder periods in the past. Masts and radar stations are prominent on a number of hilltops, however, for example at Lowther Hill and Green Lowther.

Southern Uplands with Forests comprise a subset of this landscape type. The most extensive area of this sub-type is found between the Clyde Valley and Annandale, enclosing the A74 corridor. In topographic respects, the Southern Uplands with Forests landscape type is the same as the Southern Uplands type. Its character is, however, considerably different due to the dominant forestry landcover. Indeed, as a result of topography and the extensive planting of high land, the visual influence of these forests extends over considerably larger areas than the forested area itself. The forestry is

predominantly Sitka spruce, the main variations being in mixes with larch, which provides colour contrasts between the dark green of spruce and the light greens to browns of larch. The forests generally extend over the summits or are concentrated on the side slopes leaving the domed peaks exposed. The rotational nature of forest management provides long term textural and colour changes related to the felling and replanting coups. Many of the forest edges consist of bold, geometric lines, which provide strong contrast to the surrounding exposed landscape.

Hitherto unaffected by windfarm development within South Lanarkshire, much of this area, east of a line between Abington and the Daer Reservoir, will see very significant change as a result of the 152 turbine Clyde Windfarm currently under construction.

## Sub Types

The following sub types have been identified:

- **Southern Uplands, Forestry (13a):**  
Areas of Southern Uplands where the visual influence of commercial forestry plays a prominent role in the landscape. This often takes the form of bold geometric forms. The main areas are to the east and south of the Clyde.
- **Southern Uplands, Windfarm (13b):**  
Areas of Southern Uplands where the influence of wind turbines and associated tracks and infrastructure is significant.
- **Southern Uplands, Leadhills (13c):**  
Areas around Leadhills, distinguished from other areas within the Southern Uplands by influence of former industry on landscape and settlement pattern together with limited impact of commercial forestry.

## Key Landscape Issues

Key landscape issues affecting this landscape type include:

- Management and enhancement of existing coniferous plantations to minimise landscape impact and maximise landscape fit;
- Careful assessment of proposals for additional plantations;
- Visual impact of existing tall structures, particularly those relating to the main transport corridor along the Clyde Valley and on key hill tops such as Lowther Hill;
- Pressure for windfarm development;
- Particular sensitivity of the main Southern Uplands scarp and of other prominent areas;
- Cultural and landscape importance of historic sites, including forts castles, Roman Roads and more recent industrial heritage;
- Management of upland vegetation and the potential to explore natural regeneration in some areas.

## MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

### *Key characteristics*

The key characteristics, features and qualities of this landscape type are:

- large scale upland landscape with strong but smooth rolling relief and extensive panoramic views from summits and ridges;
- glacial carved and smoothed landforms, including U-shaped valleys, hanging valleys and corries;
- extensive mosaics of heath and rough grassland;
- significant archaeological sites, particularly from the Bronze and Iron Age periods;
- prominent isolated coniferous plantations and old stands of Scots pine;
- with the exception of Clyde windfarm largely undeveloped, except for occasional upland farms and shielings, the M74 corridor and occasional masts and pylons.

***Landscape planning and management should aim to conserve the largely open and undeveloped moorland character of this landscape type and thereby preserve the balance between the open and afforested areas and windfarms within this landscape type .***

### ***Trees and woodland: sensitivities and forces for change***

The Southern Uplands landscape type has significant physical potential for forestry as evidenced by the existing large scale plantations. This landscape is, therefore, sensitive to the large scale development of commercial forests which, by covering previously open areas, could change the balance between afforested and grassland/moorland hills . This could diminish the 'wild land' qualities of these hills and may be a constraint to public access. In addition, the Southern Uplands landscape has a wealth of archaeological sites, especially Bronze and Iron Age remains which might be obscured or rendered inaccessible by forestry.

### ***Trees and woodland: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- the Southern Uplands landscape type is now predominantly influenced by its extensive forest cover; further afforestation of the remaining open areas must therefore be carefully assessed to determine whether it would be prejudicial to the overall balance between the perceived wildness and integrity of the open moorland areas ; there is a need to define special areas which should be safeguarded from forestry; these should incorporate areas of particular visual and heritage sensitivities; these should include:

- areas with significant archaeological concentrations, e.g, settlement patterns, fortified hill sites, ancient communication routes and later mining heritage;
- areas that are visually sensitive and currently lack forestry cover, i.e., creating a distinctive character of undeveloped moorland hills ; large areas of the Southern Uplands visible from the A702 and M74 fall into this category;
- in less sensitive Southern Upland Areas and where forestry is already present, the approach to forest design should be guided by the large scale of topography; this determines that large scale forest planting is appropriate in order to avoid incongruous isolated plantations ; a perceptual dominance of open hills should be preserved; approximately 30-40% planted ground would be an appropriate maximum limit for forestry in the less sensitive areas of this landscape type;
- forestry planting should employ variety in the mix of species, the broad patterns of open space and the size and shape of coups ; generally, attempts at 'feathering' on smooth hillsides are not successful and a bolder approach of forest cover or open space extending over hilltops is more likely to achieve visual integration;
- in the areas where large forests already exist, the emphasis should be on achieving a more integrated pattern of forest through restructuring; future forest design plans should be encouraged to improve the shape of margins and examine the opportunities to use broadleaves in gullies and in forest fringes; graduated mixes of conifers to highlight landforms and should leave open spaces which provide visual variety and recognise historic field or settlement patterns; restructuring due to windfarm development in forested areas may contribute to this process;
- isolated stands of mature Scots pine are characteristic features relating to upland farming and their conservation should be encouraged; other incongruous belts of spruce should be restructured or replanted to 'fit' the landform.

### ***Agriculture: sensitivities and forces of change***

The agricultural sensitivities largely relate to the potential expansion of forestry and consequent loss of upland pastures or heath. In addition, the heather moorland areas are sensitive to decline through a lack of positive management in some areas. This is associated with the levels of upland sheep grazing and the absence of heather management schemes. In lower areas where drystone walls and curiously shaped shelterbelts are characteristic, then the future upkeep of these features is an issue.

### ***Agriculture: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- heather moorlands are an important part of this landscape ; their health and long term survival depends on appropriate management ; support should therefore be given to the adoption and continuance of heather management schemes;

- drystone walls and structures relating to sheep management are characteristic features of certain parts of the Southern Uplands; these should be conserved, restored and protected from obscurity within forests;
- hill grasslands of nature conservation value should be protected from disturbance such as reseeded or fertiliser applications.

#### ***Minerals: sensitivities and forces for change***

The Southern Uplands contain the legacy of lead mining which now represents an important aspect of industrial heritage. Recognition, understanding and appropriate conservation of these features is a potential sensitivity in this landscape.

#### ***Minerals: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- the legacy of mining activity in the Southern Uplands should be appropriately researched and features identified and interpreted; this should be used to ensure adequate protection is given to the mining heritage from disturbance, agricultural or forestry operations and windfarm development.

#### ***Development: sensitivities and forces for change***

This relatively remote and inhospitable landscape has few building development pressures that are unrelated to agriculture or forestry. The large scale of topographic enclosure and potential for long views in this landscape make it potentially sensitive to any development in open country and especially where new roads and other infrastructure elements are required.

A key sensitivity within the Southern Uplands is, however, the potential development of tall structures related to energy generation and transmission, namely wind turbines and pylons. The latter is discussed in the following section.

#### ***Development: planning and management guidelines***

The main development pressures for this landscape relate to wind energy, radar, power lines and telecommunications. These are discussed below.

#### ***Windfarms: sensitivities and forces for change***

This landscape type satisfies most of the technical requirements for wind power generation and a very large windfarm (152 turbines) is being constructed in the area west of Abington and the Clyde. Windfarms have already been established in neighbouring hill areas. These developments may compromise the 'wild land' values of the landscape and may have extensive visual influence depending on location and the use of topography for visual containment or backclothing. The precedent of windfarm developments within this

landscape type (some outside the study area) may cause the cumulative and sequential impact of windfarms to be an issue.

#### ***Windfarms: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- with the development of Clyde windfarm, the siting of further such developments in this scenically valued landscape will require careful guidance and detailed assessment; this must address the potential cumulative impact of windfarms within South Lanarkshire and the neighbouring council areas; Supplementary Planning Guidance is being prepared which will identify areas to be protected from further development and potential Broad Areas of Search in which further windfarm development may be located, nevertheless it is unlikely that further significant development can be accommodated within the Southern Uplands in South Lanarkshire without compromising key characteristics over the whole landscape character area;
- strategic limitations notwithstanding, in siting windfarms or individual turbines, certain types of landscape within the Southern Uplands would be most suited: in general, areas of extensive forestry, blander landforms, remote from settlements, main communication routes and popular recreation areas; ideally, wind turbines should be located so as to avoid breaking the skyline from key viewpoints; cols and hill shoulders may provide such sites and enable turbines to be kept below the general horizon level;
- there should be a significant distance, preferably in excess of 10km between upland windfarms. This distance represents the separation between two ridges and valleys in this landscape, or between the two hill groups, using intervening landform where possible to reduce significant cumulative impacts;
- the impact of turbine platforms and new access roads should also be carefully assessed, as these can create intrusive scars in this landscape; existing hill and forestry roads should be used whenever possible and siting of turbines and tracks in areas of steeper topography should be avoided.



## Landscape Character Assessment

### Locations

Southern Uplands are found within the following areas of South Lanarkshire:

- Southern Uplands to east of Abington and the Clyde
- Lowther Hills (west of Clyde and south of Elvanfoot).

### Key Characteristics

The key characteristics of this landscape type are:

- large scale upland landscape with strong but smooth rolling relief and extensive panoramic views from summits and ridges;
- glacial carved and smoothed landforms, including U-shaped valleys, hanging valleys and corries;
- extensive mosaics of heath and rough grassland;
- significant archaeological sites, particularly from the Bronze and Iron Age periods;
- prominent isolated coniferous plantations and old stands of Scots pine;
- with the exception of Clyde windfarm largely undeveloped, except for occasional upland farms and shielings, the M74 corridor and occasional masts and pylons.

### Sub – Types

The following sub-types have been identified:

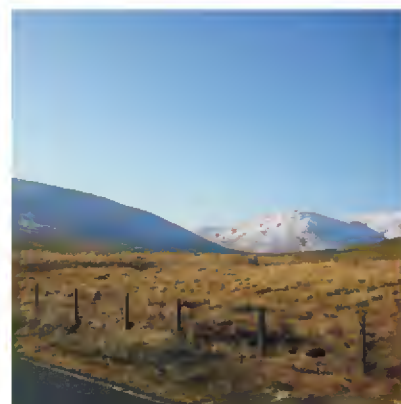
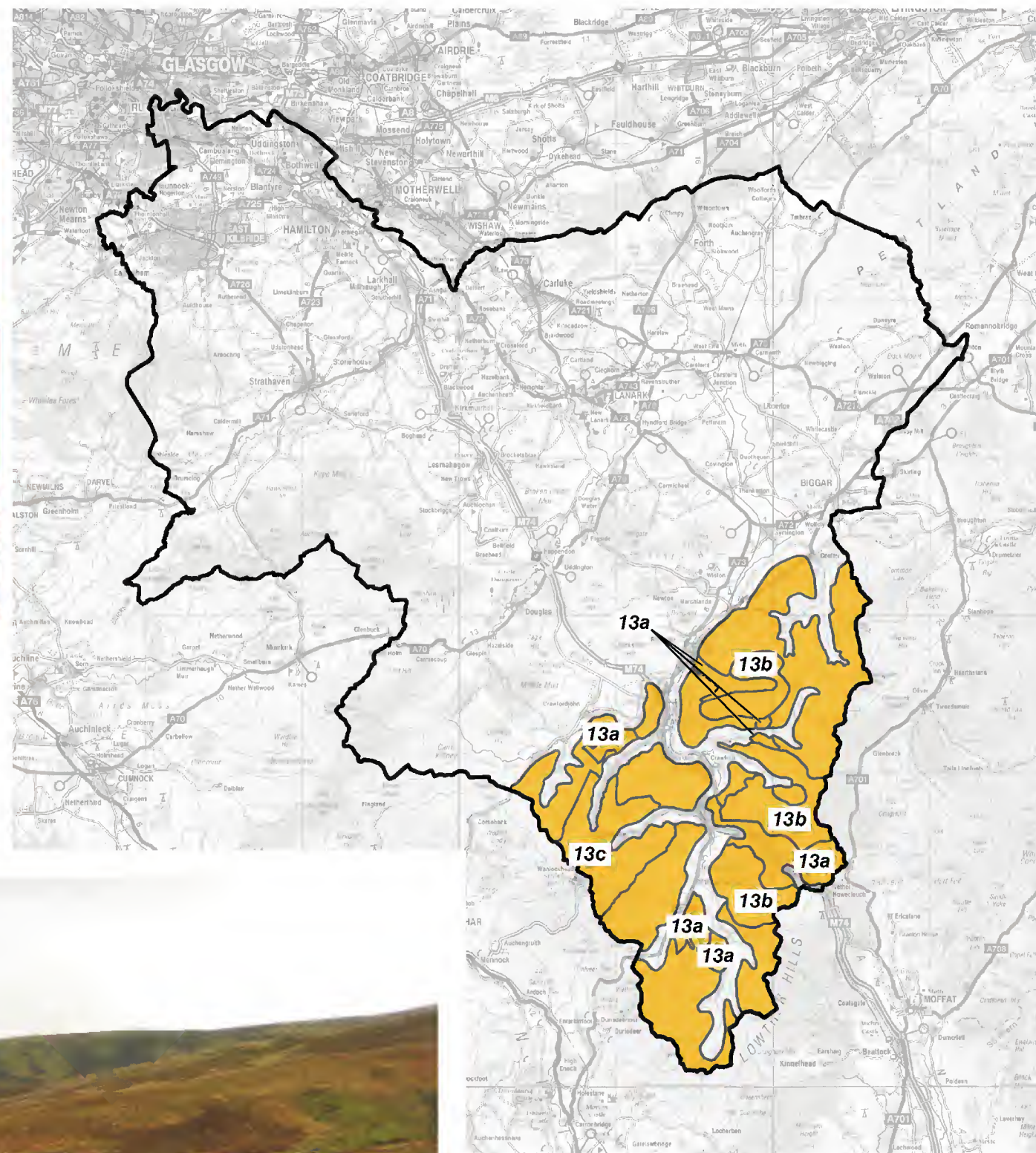
- 13a Southern Uplands Forestry
  - dominance of commercial forestry often in bold geometric shapes.
- 13b Southern Uplands Windfarm;
  - influence of wind turbines and associated infrastructure
- 13c Southern Uplands Leadhills
  - area around Leadhills distinguished by influence of former industry on the landscape and settlement pattern

Figure 6xiii

## Details of Landscape Character Areas: 13

### Southern Uplands

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Characteristics



Southern Uplands

Southern Uplands, viewed near Lead Burn, B7040, Leadhills



# 14 Upland Glens

## Location and Extent

The Upland Glens are found in the Southern Uplands, in following locations:

- Glengonnar Water
- Elvan Water
- Daer Water and Potrail Water
- Clydes Burn and Evan Water
- Midlock Water
- Camps Water
- Culter Water and Cow Gill;

The reassessment of the 1999 LCA has defined more Upland Glen areas dissecting the *Southern Upland* hills, including either side of Beattock Summit, where the M74 and West Coast Main Line pass south in Dumfries and Galloway. In contrast, the Upper Clyde from Abington to Elvanfoot is considered to be sufficiently broad of scale to be redefined as *Broad Valley Upland*.

## Description

The Southern Uplands are characterised by a series of deep troughs, which have been created where glacial erosion has enlarged river valleys draining the upland mass. The solid geology of the glen is similar to the enclosing Southern Uplands, comprising sedimentary greywackes and shales of the Ordovician period. The process of glacial erosion has created a distinctive valley profile comprising steep, in places craggy, valley slopes and a rounded valley floor, containing a comparatively small 'misfit' river. Fast flowing rivers cut into morainic deposits left by retreating ice sheets on the valley floor.

The valley floor, together with some of the shallower and lower valley slopes, comprise improved pastures, enclosed within drystone dykes constructed from distinctive shaley boulders. The pastures give way rapidly to rough grassland and in places heather moorland on slopes above the valley floor. Broadleaf woodland is scarce, usually comprising lines of trees tracing the course of the river, a few field boundary trees and small farm woodlands. Extensive coniferous plantations are found on the hills between the Clyde Valley and Annandale, and these extend onto the eastern valley slopes near Elvanfoot and either side of Beattock Summit.

The Upper Clyde has long provided an important communication route through the Southern Uplands. Roman roads linking through to both Nithsdale and Annandale converged near Elvanfoot before following the Clyde northwards. These routes are followed by modern roads and railways. The M74 follows the upper Clyde to Beattock and has substantially modified the landscape, both in physical terms (including cuttings,

embankments and overbridges) and through the introduction of new sources of noise and movement. The western glens (Glengonnar Water, Elvan Water and Potrail Water contain roads passing through the hills to Nithsdale in Dumfries and Galloway. Eastern and southern glens (Culter Water, Daer Water, Midlock Water and Camps Water) are dead ends surrounded by hills, with minor roads servicing farms and reservoirs.

## Sub Types

No sub types have been identified.

## Key Landscape Issues

Key landscape issues affecting this landscape type include:

- The cumulative impact of electricity pylons, motorway, main road and rail corridors between the upper Clyde and Annandale;
- The visual effects of extensive conifer plantations in some parts of the glens;
- The visual impact of tall structures, including wind turbines, along the sides of the glens, particularly on prominent hill tops;
- Value of conserving the floors of the glens, which have a small scale, domesticated character which contrasts with the enclosing uplands;
- Visual importance of small broadleaf woodlands, enclosed pastures and settlement on the glen floor.

## MANAGING LANDSCAPE CHANGE

### Key characteristics

The key characteristics, features and qualities of this landscape type are:

- glacially enlarged, smoothly contoured, U-shaped valleys cutting into the upland mass of the Southern Upland;
- transition from moorland vegetation on upper slopes, through rough grassland and enclosed, improved pastures on valley floor;
- limited amounts of broadleaf woodland which tends to be concentrated along the course of rivers, on steeper sheltered slopes and in gullies and side glens;
- some are important corridors for communication and settlement;
- significant cumulative impacts of transport infrastructure in the areas either side of Beattock Summit.

***Planning and management should aim to conserve the distinctive upland character of the glens, emphasising the contrast with neighbouring uplands and discouraging inappropriate forms of development.***

***Trees and woodland: sensitivities and forces for change.***

The Upland Glen landscapes demonstrate a range of glacial features and provide some awe-inspiring views of scenic grandeur. The steep glacially sculpted valley slopes are sensitive to new forests which could interrupt long views down the glen, break the integrity of the U-shaped profiles or provide incongruous fringes on the high valley slopes. The glens are less sensitive where the topography is more uneven and glen width less consistent; these areas provide greater scope for landscape fit. This landscape type is particularly sensitive to the presence of small and geometric shaped plantations, especially on higher and more visible slopes.

The Upland Glens contain numerous small broadleaf woodlands on the glen floor, in gullies and hanging on to steep slopes. Some of these are sensitive to grazing pressures, lack of management and potential clearance for road or other developments.

***Trees and woodland: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- encourage the positive management of existing trees and small woodlands, with the objective of prolonging the life of existing specimens; protection from undergrazing may allow the regeneration of certain small woodlands;
- explore opportunities for additional broadleaf planting in the lower parts of the glen where this can help screen or integrate existing large-scale developments such as roads and pylons;
- explore scope for facilitating natural regeneration of broadleaf woodland and scrub in some hillside locations; examine the impacts of protective fencing required for such initiatives;
- encourage landowners to remove, or improve, the appearance of geometric conifer plantations on valley slopes; improvements may include 'feathering' the upper margins and extending the plantation to fit the topography better or to connect with lower woodlands or shelterbelts;
- discourage the expansion of upland conifer plantations onto upper glen slopes;
- encourage the restructuring of existing large-scale conifer plantations by adopting a more varied age and species structure (including a higher proportion of broadleaves in lower areas) and designing planting and felling coupes to reflect variations in local topography;
- ensure that archaeological sites on the glen sides and on adjacent hills are kept clear of forestry planting and their visual context is respected by the patterns of open ground retained.

***Agriculture: sensitivities and forces for change***

Part of the character of the Upland Glens is derived from the pattern of pastures along the valley floor and on some of the lower slopes and the transition to higher areas of rough grazing and moorland. The character of the area is sensitive to economic or policy changes which alter the viability of farming in the area. It is particularly sensitive to the decline and possible loss of field enclosures along the valley floor, particularly where there is evidence of longstanding agricultural use.

Other sources of potential agricultural change within the upland glens include developments such as roads, or alternative land uses such as forestry, either of which could result in the direct loss of land and which could affect the viability of existing farming units.

***Agriculture: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- discourage significant agricultural intensification where this would result in the improvement of pasture (for example) or an expansion of upland drainage;
- encourage the conservation of traditional agricultural buildings and structures; this includes shielings, sheep gathering pens and drystone walls;
- support moorland management initiatives which could preserve scenic variety of the landscape and achieve agricultural and wildlife benefits.

***Minerals: sensitivities and forces for change***

The topographic confinement of this landscape and the presence of transport routes along the glen floors would be likely to make any quarry developments obtrusive. The old hard rock quarry adjacent to the A74 at Coatsgate in Dumfries and Galloway demonstrates this sensitivity very clearly. Besides major quarry developments, this landscape may be subject to requirements for small borrow pits and aggregate extraction for future road works and wind farm developments. These may also have considerable local impact.

As with the *Southern Uplands* landscape type, the legacy of lead (and other mineral extraction) is a locally significant heritage resource which may be sensitive to changes in land management or reclamation.

***Minerals: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- discourage large-scale mineral workings within Upland Glens. Major extraction sites would have a significant and adverse impact on the comparatively small scale character of the Glens' landscape.



***Transport: sensitivities and forces for change***

This landscape type is sensitive to road (and potentially rail) improvement programmes which could make the transport infrastructure a dominant feature in the landscape due to its scale, the extent of engineering works required and the traffic carried. The upgrading of the construction of the M74 motorway has had significant short and long term impacts on the landscape of the upper section of the Clyde.

***Transport: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- seek to integrate major elements of transport infrastructure more fully into the landscape; although this can be difficult in the upland landscape, the sensitive alignment and design of new roads could mitigate impacts through minimising cuttings and embankments and utilising bridges and tunnels to avoid large scale landform alterations;
- opportunities for some broadleaf planting may also be present in the lower glen, which could tie road corridors into the existing structure of the landscape.
- discourage further improvement schemes for the secondary road network which would result in:
  - the loss of characteristic landscape features such as dry stone walls or small pine plantations;
  - adverse visual impacts;
  - adverse changes in the way that motorists perceive the landscape through which they are passing;
- where improvements are required, alternatives such as traffic calming should be considered as alternatives to major infrastructural projects;
- the incremental use of urban features such as signage, road markings and concrete kerbing should be resisted; follow the approach set out in the document *Road Furniture in the Countryside* (Transport Scotland, 2006).

***Development: sensitivities and forces for change***

In addition to the development pressures described above, the Upland Glens are sensitive to the impacts of tall structures along the glen sides and particularly where they break the skylines. Pylons lines are particularly detrimental to landscape character and add to the general dominance of infrastructure 'corridors' in parts of the glens. Consented and potential windfarms may compound the visual impacts described above.

Rivers comprise a central feature of the Upland Glen landscapes. The character of these areas would be very sensitive to any measures which resulted in the loss of natural river landscapes, or the introduction of modern, engineered structures.

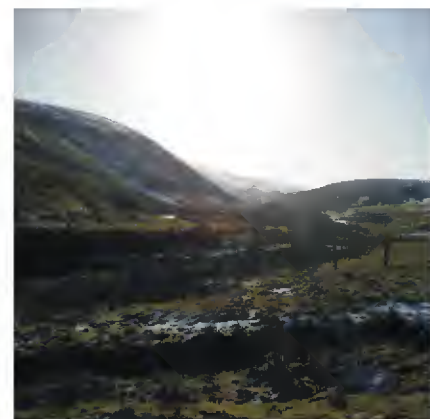
***Development: planning and management guidelines***

Guidelines for this landscape type are as follows:

- discourage incremental residential development in the open glen; favour, instead, limited consolidation of existing settlements;
- encourage the use of traditional materials such as stone and slate in preference to prominent shades of brick and tile;
- consider the preparation of a design guide addressing issues of siting, design, materials and landscaping; this should reflect how the characteristic groupings of traditional buildings can be harmoniously integrated in the glen landscape;
- conserve natural river landscapes by discouraging schemes which introduce engineered features or structures;
- discourage wind power development in neighbouring landscape types which would result in unacceptable cumulative impacts within a particular glen, especially those currently unaffected by windfarm development.



Landscape Character Assessment



Characteristics



Upland Glens  
Culter Water

Locations

Upland Glens are found within the following areas of South Lanarkshire:

- Glengonnar Water
- Elvan Water
- Daer Water and Potrail Water
- Clydes Burn and Evan Water
- Midlock Water
- Camps Water
- Culter Water and Cow Gill

Key Characteristics

The key characteristics of this landscape type are:

- *glacially enlarged, smoothly contoured, U-shaped valleys cutting into the upland mass of the Southern Upland;*
- *transition from moorland vegetation on upper slopes, through rough grassland and enclosed, improved pastures on valley floor;*
- *limited amounts of broadleaf woodland which tends to be concentrated along the course of rivers, on steeper sheltered slopes and in gullies and side glens;*
- *some are important corridors for communication and settlement;*
- *significant cumulative impacts of transport infrastructure in the areas either side of Beattock Summit.*

Sub – Types

No sub-types have been identified.

Figure 6xiv

Details of Landscape Character Areas: 14

Upland Glen

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