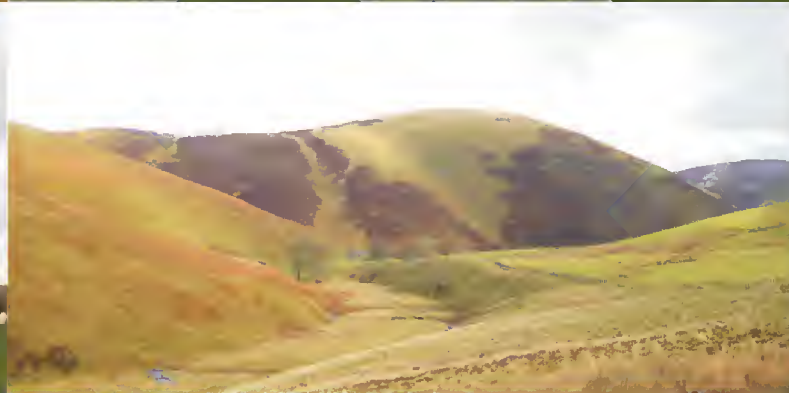
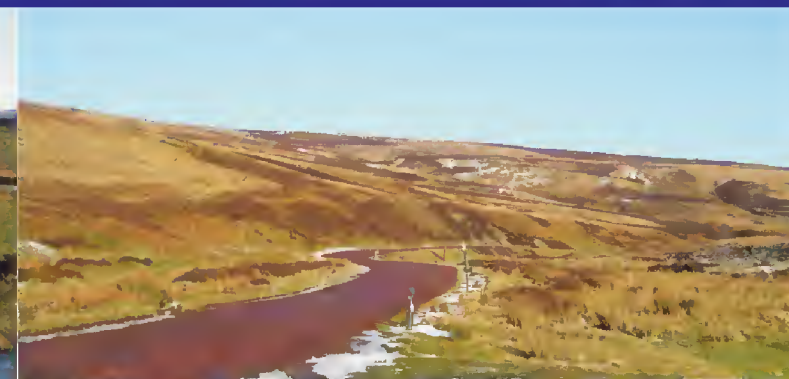
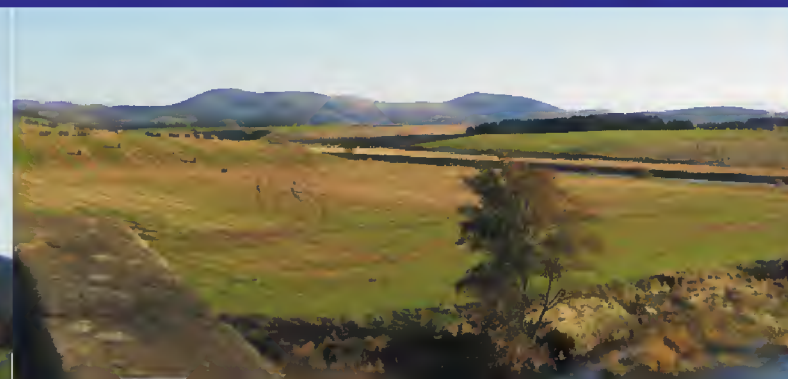
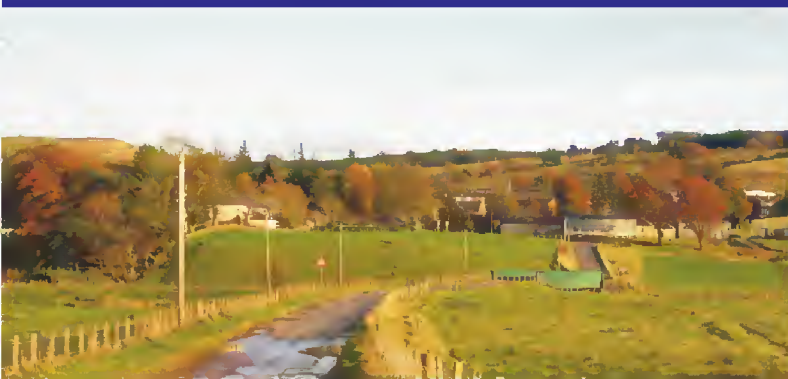


South Lanarkshire

Validating Local Landscape Designations



Report by

Ironside**Farrar**

7077 / November 2010

CONTENTS

	Page
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
2.0 EXISTING LOCAL LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS	1
3.0 LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS OVERVIEW	2
3.1 Landscape Character Assessment	2
3.2 Landscape Designation	2
3.3 Revisiting Local Landscape Designations	3
3.4 Coverage of Local Landscape Designations	3
3.5 Local Titles for Designated Areas	3
4.0 METHODOLOGY	3
4.1 Review Process	3
4.2 South Lanarkshire Review Process	4
5.0 PROPOSALS FOR REVISED DESIGNATED AREAS	4
5.1 Assessment Findings	4
5.2 Proposed Revisions	5
6.0 PROPOSED SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS	5
1. Lower Clyde & Calderglen	7
2. Middle Clyde Valley	9
3. Upper Clyde Valley and Tinto	11
4. Douglas Valley	15
5. Pentland Hills & Black Mount	17
6. Leadhills and The Lowther Hills	19
7.0 CONCLUSIONS/ THE NEXT STEPS	21
7.1 Study Findings	21
7.2 Key Changes to Local Landscape Designations	21
7.3 Future Changes to Local Landscape Designations	21

FIGURES

1. Study Area	2
2. Existing Landscape Designations	2
3. Proposed Special Landscape Areas	6
4. Comparison of Existing and Proposed Designated Areas	6
5. Proposed Special Landscape Areas and Landscape Character Areas	6
6. Proposed Special Landscape Areas	
i Lower Clyde & Calderglen	8
ii Middle Clyde Valley	10
iii Upper Clyde Valley and Tinto (sheets 1 & 2)	14
iv Douglas Valley	16
v Pentland Hills and Black Mount	18
vi Leadhills and The Lowther Hills	20

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Current local landscape designations in South Lanarkshire originate from Strathclyde Regional Council in the 1970's. They include two Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) and a Regional Scenic Area (RSA), which together cover an extensive proportion of the local authority area. There are development plan policies for landscape protection based on these areas. Nevertheless, there is no original written citation or justification for the areas, or distinction between the status and function of an AGLV or RSA. Furthermore, boundaries are sometimes difficult to relate to features on the ground. In recent years extensive cumulative development, including housing, motorways, opencast mining and windfarms has taken place or been consented in some of these areas. All of this raises questions as to the purpose of local landscape designations and their robustness, suggesting that a review process should be carried out.

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 review of related landscape designations for the Council area'.

Recent guidance has been published: *Guidance on Local Landscape Designations (2005); SNH and Historic Scotland*. 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 following review of South Lanarkshire's designations has been undertaken in response to the requirements of the Local Plan, taking into account SNH and Historic Scotland's guidance. The area covered is shown in Figure 1. An important input to the review of landscape designations is the review of South Lanarkshire's landscape character resource which has been carried out in response to the Local Plan (*South Lanarkshire: Landscape Character Assessment, (Ironside Farrar, 2010)*). This is based on the original landscape character assessment (LCA): *Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Landscape Assessment. SNH Review No.116. (Land Use Consultants, 1999)*. The review has verified the broad thrust of the original LCA, refining and updating the landscape character map.

This review of local landscape designations is based on the existing designations and the updated LCA of South Lanarkshire. The previous version, issued at the end of 2009 was subject to consultation with statutory and public stakeholders. The final version takes account of the consultation responses. The council has prepared a report on the results of the consultations.

2.0 EXISTING LOCAL LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS

There are currently three areas of local landscape designation in South Lanarkshire. There are no nationally designated areas. Their locations are shown in Figure 2, together with other local and national landscape designations in neighbouring local authority areas.

1) Clyde Valley Area of Great Landscape Value

This area includes the Middle Clyde Valley between Lanark and Hamilton and its major tributary, the River Avon between Strathaven and Hamilton. The designated area takes in a significant area of farmland beyond the immediate river valleys, and includes a number of other tributaries such as the River Nethan and the Mouse Water. The AGLV is contiguous with the Clydesdale RSA, joining it south and east of Lanark between the confluence of the Clyde and Douglas Water and south of the railway coal terminal at Ravenstruther. In the north the AGLV is contiguous with an AGLV based around Dalzell Park in North Lanarkshire. The northern limit is at the confluence of the Clyde and Avon at M74 junction 6.

The Clyde Valley AGLV was subject to detailed assessment and review by Land Use Consultants in 1999. Amendments were made to boundaries and only minor amendments are proposed as a result of this study.

2) Douglas Valley Area of Great Landscape Value

This AGLV lies in the Douglas Water valley, between the small settlements of Glespin in the west and Rigside in the east. It is centred around the historic town of Douglas and the designed landscape around the ruined Douglas Castle. The southern limit includes the valley side up to the watershed and the northern limit includes Hagshaw Hill, being partly determined by a line on the OS grid and the higher ground around Poniel Water and Happendon Wood. This AGLV does not share a boundary with any other designated landscape areas although its eastern edge is close to the RSA.

3) Clydesdale Regional Scenic Area

The RSA is considerably more extensive than either of the AGLVs and includes most of eastern and southern South Lanarkshire including:

- The Pentland Hills within South Lanarkshire
- Biggar and surroundings
- The Upper Clyde Valley between Thankerton and Elvanfoot
- Tinto Hill
- The Southern Uplands within South Lanarkshire

The western boundary lies within South Lanarkshire. From the Dumfries and Galloway border it lies west of the Duneaton Water valley crossing the M74 northwards to the western end of Tinto Hill, from where it includes part of the Douglas Water valley before sharing a boundary with the Clyde Valley AGLV. It then passes southwest along the A72 and west to Elsrickle, where the boundary then follows the A721 to near Carnwath and then passes north to join the A70, encompassing the Pentland Hills to its east.

The northern area of the RSA is contiguous with the Pentland Hills AGLVs in Scottish Borders and West Lothian. On the eastern boundary between the A702 at Dolphinton and the Biggar Water there is no designation across the border in Scottish Borders. The

boundary from Biggar Water south to the A701 at Tweedswell is contiguous with the Upper Tweedale and Tweedsmuir Hills AGLV in Scottish Borders. Between here and the southern end of South Lanarkshire there is no contiguous designation in Dumfries and Galloway, but the southwestern boundary from Earncraig Hill to Slough Hill is contiguous with the Upper Nithsdale RSA.

There are no designated landscapes on the western side of South Lanarkshire. Two Sensitive Landscape Areas lie across the boundary in East Ayrshire: south of the A70 at Glenbuck and northwards, between the A70 and A71 at Darvel.

It is clear that the locally designated areas cover some of the key scenic, cultural and recreational landscapes of South Lanarkshire. Nevertheless, with the exception of the Clyde Valley AGLV, there are no written descriptions or justifications for the areas and the choice of boundaries, and no clear distinctions between categorisation as AGLV or RSA.

3.0 LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS OVERVIEW

3.1 Landscape Character Assessment

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. This has been greatly assisted by the development of Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) techniques and the programme of national landscape character assessment which has covered all of Scotland and systematically classified landscapes according to type throughout the country.

3.2 Landscape Designation

An all-landscapes approach is however not a substitute for designation and updating designations to ensure they reflect key trends and community aspirations to safeguard landscape quality and heritage. Landscape designation is recognised as having three inter-linked roles:

- **Recognising Quality - Accolades**
Recognition that a specific area has special importance or value and should be celebrated and/ or promoted.
- **As means to identify policy priorities and objectives**
Recognition that decisions need to be made about the acceptability of landscape change. Designations can serve an important role in flagging up to decision-makers particular landscape values requiring safeguarding.
- **As a tool for management**
Recognition of the need to prioritise effort and resources for management.

The process to be adopted in determining areas for designation should be systematic, consistent and transparent. The initial part of the process should involve the survey and description of local landscapes. This should be followed by a selection and validation process for designated areas.

The guidance suggests that description should incorporate **landscape character** and **landscape qualities** and suggests the following information is recorded.

Aspects of Landscape Character	Definition	Description
Typicality	Elements of landscape character which are particularly common within the assessment area as a whole.	Landscape features or combination of features that recur throughout the area.
Rarity or uniqueness	Particular aspects of landscape character which are rare or unique in the area.	Landscape feature or combination of features which are rare or unique within the assessment area as a whole.
Condition or quality	The degree to which individual characteristics of landscape character are in a good state of repair or health	Landscape features or combination of features which are in a good state of repair.

Landscape Qualities	Definition	Description
Scenic	Aspects of the landscape and our reaction to it which contribute to its natural beauty and aesthetic appreciation.	Landscapes with strong visual, sensory and perceptual impacts and experiential appeal. May contain a pleasing combination of features, visual contrasts or dramatic elements.
Enjoyment	Aspects of the landscape and our reactions to it which contribute to its potential for recreation and amenity.	Landscapes of importance as local greenspace, as tranquil areas and/or for countryside recreation. May contain viewpoints and landmarks.
Cultural	Aspects of the landscape and our reactions to it which contribute to the understanding of its historic character and the wider cultural record.	Landscapes rich in archaeology, built heritage literary, artistic and other associations and local history. May include historic gardens and designed landscapes.
Naturalness	Aspects of the landscape and our reactions to it which contribute to its naturalness.	Landscapes with extensive semi-natural habitat and lack of human presence and perceived qualities of wildness. May include areas of wild land.

South Lanarkshire

Validating Local Landscape Designations

Legend

- SLC Boundary
- Other Local Authority Boundaries

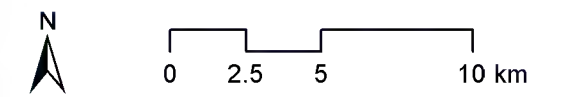
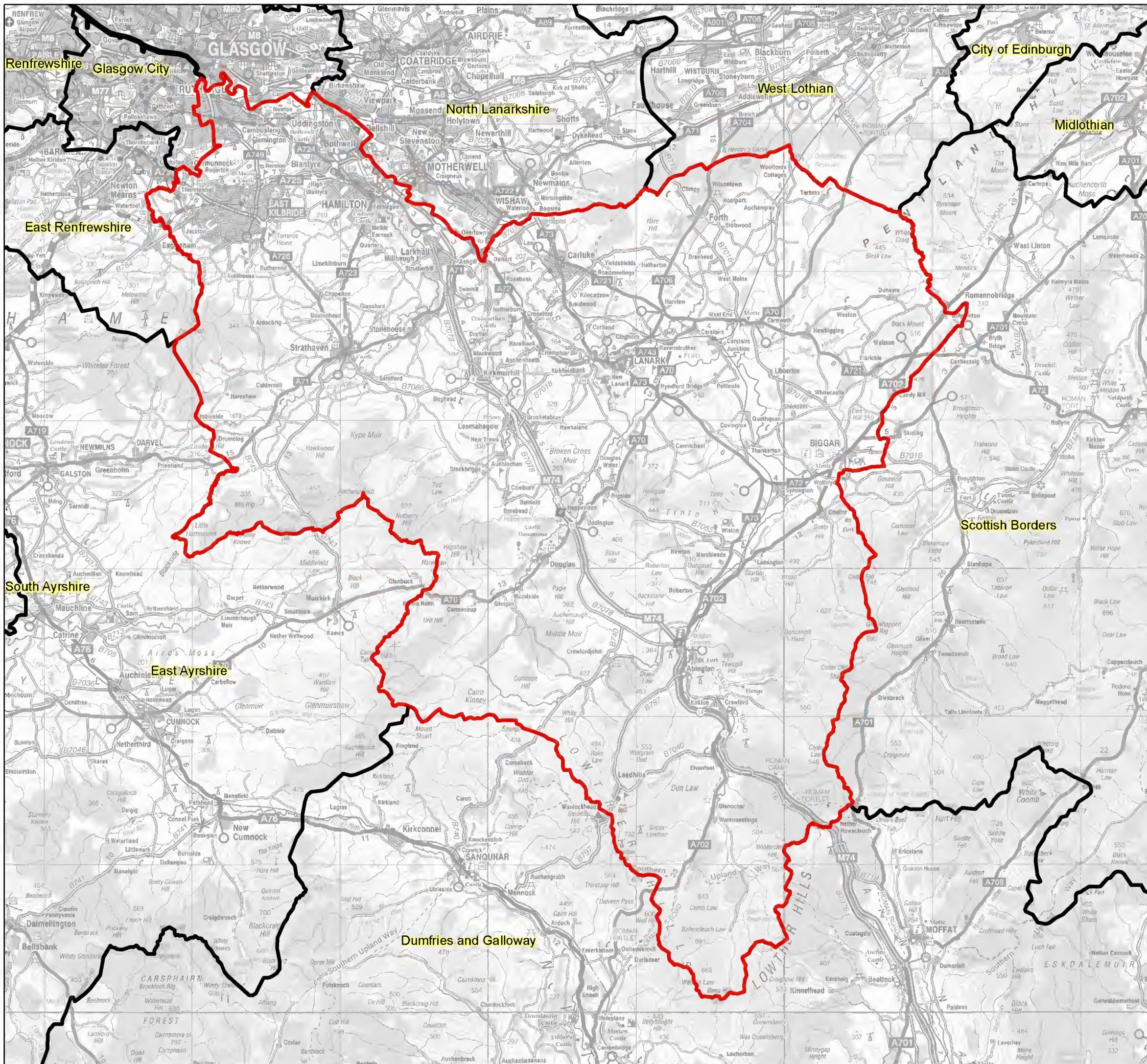


Figure 1
Study Area

This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright 2010. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. 100020730

South Lanarkshire

Validating Local Landscape Designations

Legend

- SLC Boundary
- Clyde Valley AGLV
- Douglas Valley AGLV
- Clydesdale Regional Scenic Area
- Other Local Authority Boundaries
- National Scenic Areas
- Regional Scenic Area Dunfries and Galloway
- East Ayrshire Sensitive Landscape Areas
- Sites of Special Landscape Importance Glasgow
- Areas of Great Landscape Value outside South Lanarkshire

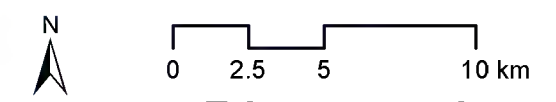
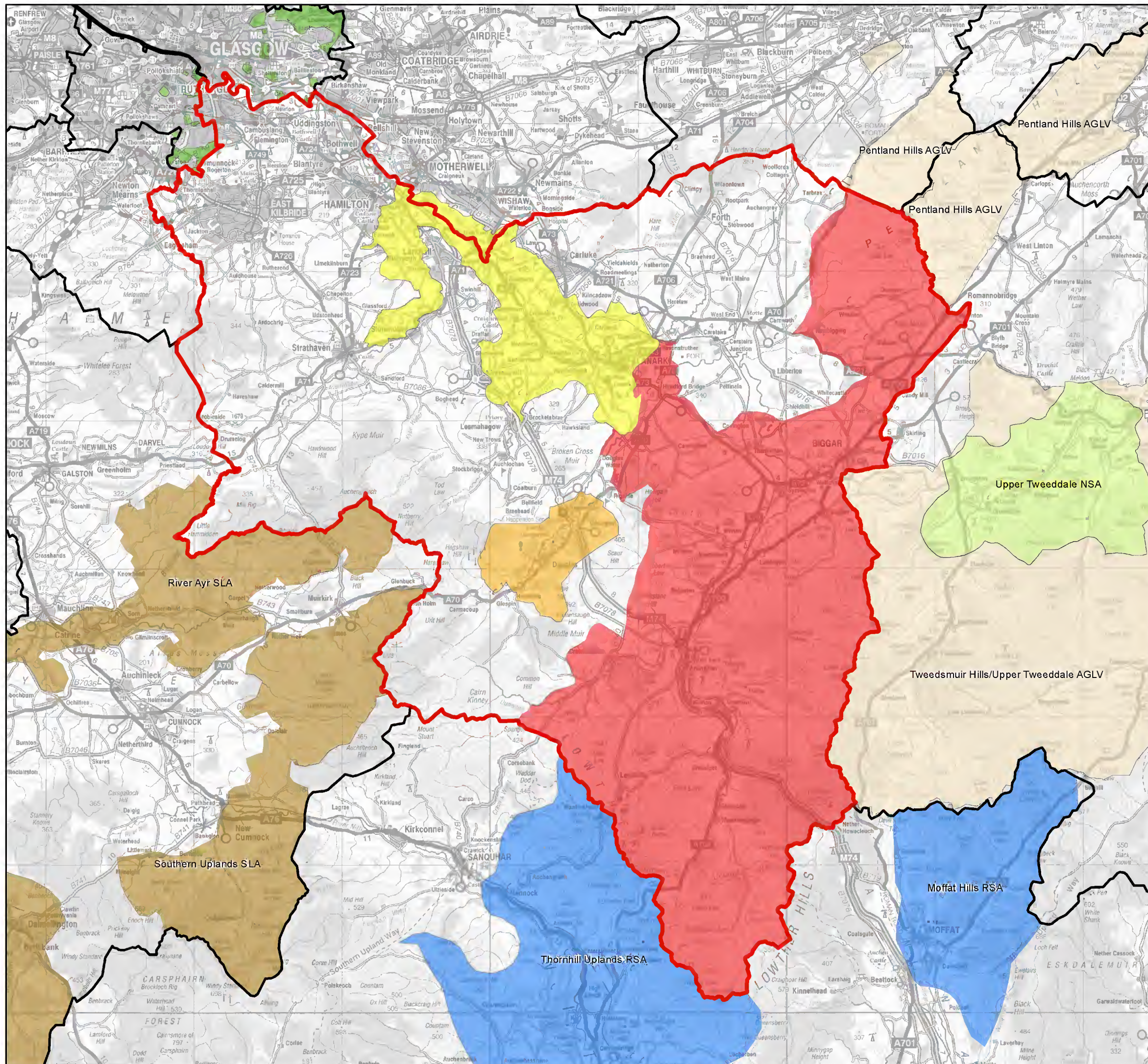


Figure 2
Previous
Landscape
Designations

This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright 2010. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. 100020730

The selection process should address a number of criteria for designation, including **landscape criteria** and **practical criteria**.

Landscape Criteria	Description
Significance	To what extent do the character and qualities of a particular landscape have special importance in the context of the local authority area?
Representativeness	To what extent do the character and qualities of a particular landscape contribute to the distinctive local or regional identity of the local authority area?
Relative Merit	To what extent do the character and qualities of a particular landscape merit designation compared to other parts of the local authority area?

Practical Criteria	Description
Need	To what extent will designation provide for more effective safeguard, management or promotion of the special attributes of the area being considered for designation?
Integrity	Is the area to be designated both coherent enough and of sufficient size to make it practical to develop policies for its protection, management and promotion?
Support	Is there sufficient support for the area to be designated, among both communities and other stakeholders within the proposed area?

Providing the above information, and applying the criteria, should greatly assist the selection of defensible designated landscapes.

3.3 Revisiting Local Landscape Designations

Local landscape designations are not necessarily permanent fixtures. Neither the judgements made on the character of local landscapes nor the qualities for the selection of specific areas for local landscape designations remain unchanged over time. Both may need to be reviewed during subsequent community and development planning cycles. In particular, the effectiveness of the local landscape designation in landscape protection and the management of the area, and any role it may have in promoting wider social and economic objectives of the local authority, should be examined.

3.4 Coverage of Local Landscape Designations

In terms of the extent of coverage by local landscape designations, a number of factors are important, including:

- The context for designation provided by the 'all-landscapes' approach developed by the local authority including current designations and the robustness of this assessment;

- The degree of overlap between the local landscape designations and other regional and local designations (e.g. Regional Parks, Country Parks, Gardens and Designed Landscapes, National Nature Reserves, local nature reserves and green belts etc); and
- The extent of wider regional designations / National Scenic Areas within the local authority area and the relationship of designations across LA boundaries.

The extent of land designated is a matter for the local authority, although NPPG 14 recommends that the authorities should avoid the 'unnecessarily proliferation of designations' (para 61). Local authorities with a high proportion of their area designated by others (eg. National Scenic Areas) should consider carefully the purpose and extent of their local landscape designations. Equally, all local authorities should explore the relationship between local landscape designations and other national and local designations. The fit with local authority-wide landscape policies may also be important in determining coverage of local landscape designations, particularly if a significant number of these policies are essentially protective in nature.

3.5 Local Titles for Designated Areas

The naming of locally designated landscapes should be more consistent across Scotland and would generally help to make the development plan system more comprehensible to all users. SNH recommend the naming of local landscape designations as:

[Name of place] eg. Middle Clyde Valley **Special Landscape Area (SLA)**

A common approach to the naming of local landscape designations can also assist where local authorities agreed to jointly designate an area which crosses the administrative boundary between them. This may be of particular importance for local landscapes identified in city region plans, in joint structure plans and in other development plans.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Review Process

The *Guidance on Local Landscape Designations* recommends a process for review of local landscape designations that is based on a 'bottom-up' approach. This starts by establishing the key qualities and characteristics of the landscape and develops areas of designation in a staged process together with stakeholder consultation. The following key steps are defined:

- 1) Describe the key characteristics and qualities of the landscapes of the local authority area
- 2) Develop objectives to underpin all-landscape approach
- 3) Review role of, and need for, local landscape designation
- 4) Develop criteria to select areas of search for designation

- 5) Identify and agree areas of search
- 6) Identify and agree specific areas for designation
- 7) Identify and agree boundaries for each area to be designated
- 8) Develop planning and other policies for each designation area

Whilst recommending this process the guidance emphasises that it is not always necessary for these stages to be followed slavishly by local authorities, depending on the other processes they are committed to and the resources they have available.

4.2 South Lanarkshire Review Process

South Lanarkshire Council's recent Local Plan review process included review of its landscape policies and the location and extent of its local landscape designations. The process involved public and statutory consultation and the existing areas and boundaries were not challenged. From this the Council has concluded that the local landscape designations are broadly supportable, and that radical or wholesale revision is unlikely to be required or warranted.

Nevertheless Policy ENV 9 requires 'an assessment of the landscape character of South Lanarkshire council area and review of related landscape designations for the council area'.

Based on the Local Plan review findings and the need to validate local landscape designations, the Council has determined that the most appropriate course of action is to undertake a review process comprising the following stages:

- 1) An initial review of the established areas and boundaries, informed by the updated landscape character assessment, providing a model and rationale for updated local landscape designation.
- 2) The recommendations of this review will then be subject to public consultation. The process will interrogate the location, extent and rationale behind the proposed areas and the inclusion or exclusion of areas.
- 3) The consultation findings will be incorporated into the review process leading to the establishment of robust areas and detailed boundaries.
- 4) Appropriate management and development control policies will be developed for each area.

This process has been carried out and the current areas identified in this report are the result. The purpose of this report is to inform the Council in their process of designating and adopting these Special Landscape Areas.

5.0 PROPOSALS FOR REVISED DESIGNATED AREAS

The reassessment of the local landscape designations has been informed by the updated landscape character assessment undertaken in response to the Local Plan requirements (*South*

Lanarkshire: Landscape Character Assessment, 2010, Ironside Farrar). In addition to recording changes in the landscape that have taken place since the 1999 assessment, this has provided information that has allowed a finer grained analysis of landscape character and qualities.

5.1 Assessment Findings

The following observations were made in relation to the existing local landscape designations:

- 1) The areas covered by the designations broadly represent areas that are the most scenic landscapes in South Lanarkshire and/ or have a high recreational and cultural heritage interest. However the areas are large and, in some cases, ill defined.
- 2) The designated areas have a distinct rural bias, with only the northern end of the Clyde Valley AGLV adjacent to the main urban area in South Lanarkshire.
- 3) Significant changes have taken place in the designated areas since the original designation, including: the construction of the M74, the Strathaven to Carlisle 400kV interconnector, extensive windfarm development (existing and under construction); extensive opencast mining (and restoration) and expansion of suburban and commercial development around settlements.
- 4) The Regional Scenic Area covers a large area of highly varied landscape character with several areas of differing focus of character or identity. It is also subject to areas of significant and ongoing landscape change, including forestry planting and cropping; the development of the M74 corridor; the 400kV interconnector; opencast mining and the ongoing construction of the extensive Clyde windfarm in the Southern Uplands.
- 5) The northern boundary of the Douglas Valley AGLV is ill-defined and does not relate to identifiable landscape features. Within the area, there would appear to have been significant change in the landscape since the AGLV was designated. These changes included the construction of the Hagshaw Hill Windfarm, together with opencast workings under way and now being restored.
- 6) The boundaries of the designated areas in South Lanarkshire that abut the local authority boundary broadly coincide with similar designations in North Lanarkshire, West Lothian, Scottish Borders and Dumfries and Galloway. However this is not so in the case of East Ayrshire, where two Sensitive Landscape Areas abut the western boundary, with no equivalent designation extending into South Lanarkshire.

These findings indicate that, whilst likely to be broadly acceptable in the context of current guidance, South Lanarkshire's local landscape designations require updating and refocusing in order to improve their legibility and robustness. A distinct and recognisable identity, in terms of topography, landuse and character, has been an important factor in determining the focus and boundaries to individual SLAs. This is particularly the case where two or more SLAs abut, such as the Middle and Upper Clyde which are distinct in river and valley characteristics. In the case of the Upper Clyde Valley, it has been decided to amalgamate three distinct landscape types

into one SLA: the areas are complementary, each requiring the other as part of its setting, creating a unified landscape. However, their differing character and land uses means that each is subject to differing threats and opportunities and would require a different management approach.

5.2 Proposed Revisions

The specific proposals for amendment of local landscape designations take the findings of the survey into account and are as follows:

- 1) Designation of the Lower Clyde and Rotten Calder valleys in recognition that landscapes intimately associated with urban areas can provide dramatic scenic contrast, have high cultural significance, provide easy access and local recreational potential.
- 2) Retention with only minor change of the existing boundaries of the Middle Clyde Valley AGLV, which have been reviewed in the past 10 years.
- 3) Significant revision of the Clydesdale Regional Scenic Area as follows:
 - i. The proposed Sub-division into three more tightly defined designated areas based on character and landscape qualities that are defined by key features and landscape elements:
 - Upper Clyde Valley and Tinto (including Biggar, Tinto and the Southern Uplands Fault)
 - Pentlands and Black Mount
 - Leadhills and the Lowther Hills
 - ii. Excision of the Southern Uplands area focused around the uppermost part of the Clyde, containing the M74/ west coast railway/ 400kV interconnector corridor and the consented Clyde windfarm. This reflects the adverse impacts of extensive development and existing commercial forestry on the key characteristics of the landscape character types within this area. The area that will be significantly influenced by Clyde windfarm, currently under construction, has been excluded as the windfarm will be very extensive and will change the key characteristics of the landscape by becoming a dominating feature in the area. This gap reflects a similar gap between the two Dumfries and Galloway Regional Scenic Areas either side of the M74/ Clyde corridor.
- 4) Amendment to the boundaries of the Douglas Valley AGLV to better define the northern boundary in particular by relating it to landscape features.

In the case of the moorland areas adjacent to the two Sensitive Landscape Areas in East Ayrshire it was decided that the areas in South Lanarkshire differed significantly from those in East Ayrshire. Firstly they are significantly more afforested with commercial plantations and only thin strips of unforested land abut the boundary. Secondly, within the context of South Lanarkshire, and by comparison with the proposed SLAs, they are not of notable scenic quality,

with only limited recreational or cultural importance. They have not, therefore, been included in the proposed designated areas.

The position adopted on landscape designations in relation to windfarms is not one of mutual exclusion. A judgement is made as to whether the effect of the windfarm on the landscape is sufficiently significant and extensive to change the key defining characteristics of an area. If the affected characteristics are important in the designation (eg. uninterrupted panoramic views, a sense of remoteness) then the decision has been taken not to designate the area. If the windfarm is a landscape element that is notable but not so extensive or dominant that it redefines landscape character it may be included within the designated area. This is exemplified by the different decisions taken in relation to the Southern Uplands around the Clyde Valley and Clyde windfarm and the Douglas Valley in relation to Hagshaw Hill windfarm.

6.0 PROPOSED SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS

The following sections describe the proposed Special Landscape Areas (SLAs). Each section describes one area and has the following format:

- 1) **Name and Location of the SLA**
- 2) **Landscape Character Types within the SLA**
Each landscape character type and sub-type within the proposed SLA is listed, with those most critical to the designation highlighted in bold. This requires reference to the Landscape Character Assessment report (*South Lanarkshire: Landscape Character Assessment, 2010. Ironside Farrar*).
- 3) **Overview**
A summary of the key characteristics and qualities of the proposed SLA.
- 4) **Landscape Description**
A more detailed description of the landscape including its cultural history and recreational potential.
- 5) **Choice of Boundary**
A detailed description of the boundary and its rationale.
- 6) **Landscape Conservation Issues and Opportunity for Change**
A list of landscape conservation issues and opportunities for landscape or recreational management and improvement.

Each area is illustrated by a graphic showing its location in South Lanarkshire; a detailed map; photographs showing landscape characteristics and text covering the key defining characteristics and reasons for designation. Larger scale maps of the Special Landscape Areas are available from South Lanarkshire Council, Planning & Building Standards HQ (Tel: 01698 454743).

The proposed Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) are summarised in the following table. Their locations are shown in Figure 3. Figure 4 shows the proposed SLAs superimposed on the existing designations and Figure 5 in relation to the 2010 landscape character areas. The individual areas are described and illustrated in detail in the following sections in Figures 6i to 6vi.

Proposed Designated Area (SLA)	Existing Landscape Designation	Change from existing/ Focus of Identity
1. Lower Clyde & Calderglen	None (but located in Green Belt)	New designated area focused on the incised river valleys of the lower Clyde and Calderglen. Boundaries defined by valley landform and urban edges.
2. Middle Clyde Valley	AGLV	No significant changes recommended. Area focused on the incised river valleys of the Clyde and Avon between the conurbation and the towns of Lanark and Strathaven.
3. Upper Clyde Valley and Tinto	Regional Scenic Area	A subdivision of the RSA focused on the specific character of the broad valley of the Upper Clyde lying between the Southern Uplands and their foothills including Tinto. This large area includes the valley and enclosing hill ranges. Boundary to the south defined by the enclosing hills and ridgelines together with the Clyde windfarm. To the west Tinto and its surrounding lower hills are included with the boundary defined by landform and roads to the west. One area extending beyond current RSA boundary to include the loop of river between Lanark and Quothquan.
4. Douglas Valley	AGLV	Slightly revised area focused on the broad river valley of the Douglas Water and the village of Douglas, enclosed by rolling moorland hills. Boundary amended to follow clear landscape features.
5. Pentland Hills & Black Mount	Regional Scenic Area	A subdivision of the RSA focused on the specific character of the Pentland Hills in South Lanarkshire. Southeastern boundary amended to better merge with AGLV designation in Scottish Borders.
6. Leadhills and Lowther Hills	Regional Scenic Area	A subdivision of RSA focused on the specific character of the Southern Uplands west of the Clyde and M74. Boundary constrained by the influence of the M74 corridor, areas of commercial forestry planting and the Clyde Windfarm.

South Lanarkshire

Validating Local Landscape Designations

Legend

- SLC Boundary
- Special Landscape Areas (SLA) for South Lanarkshire
- Special Landscape Areas (SLA) for South Lanarkshire
- 1 - Lower Clyde & Calderglen
- 2 - Middle Clyde Valley
- 3 - Upper Clyde Valley and Tinto
- 4 - Douglas Valley
- 5 - Pentland Hills and Black Mount
- 6 - Leadhills and the Lowther Hills
- Other Local Authority Boundaries

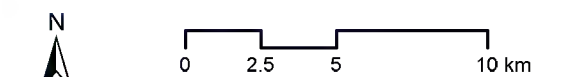
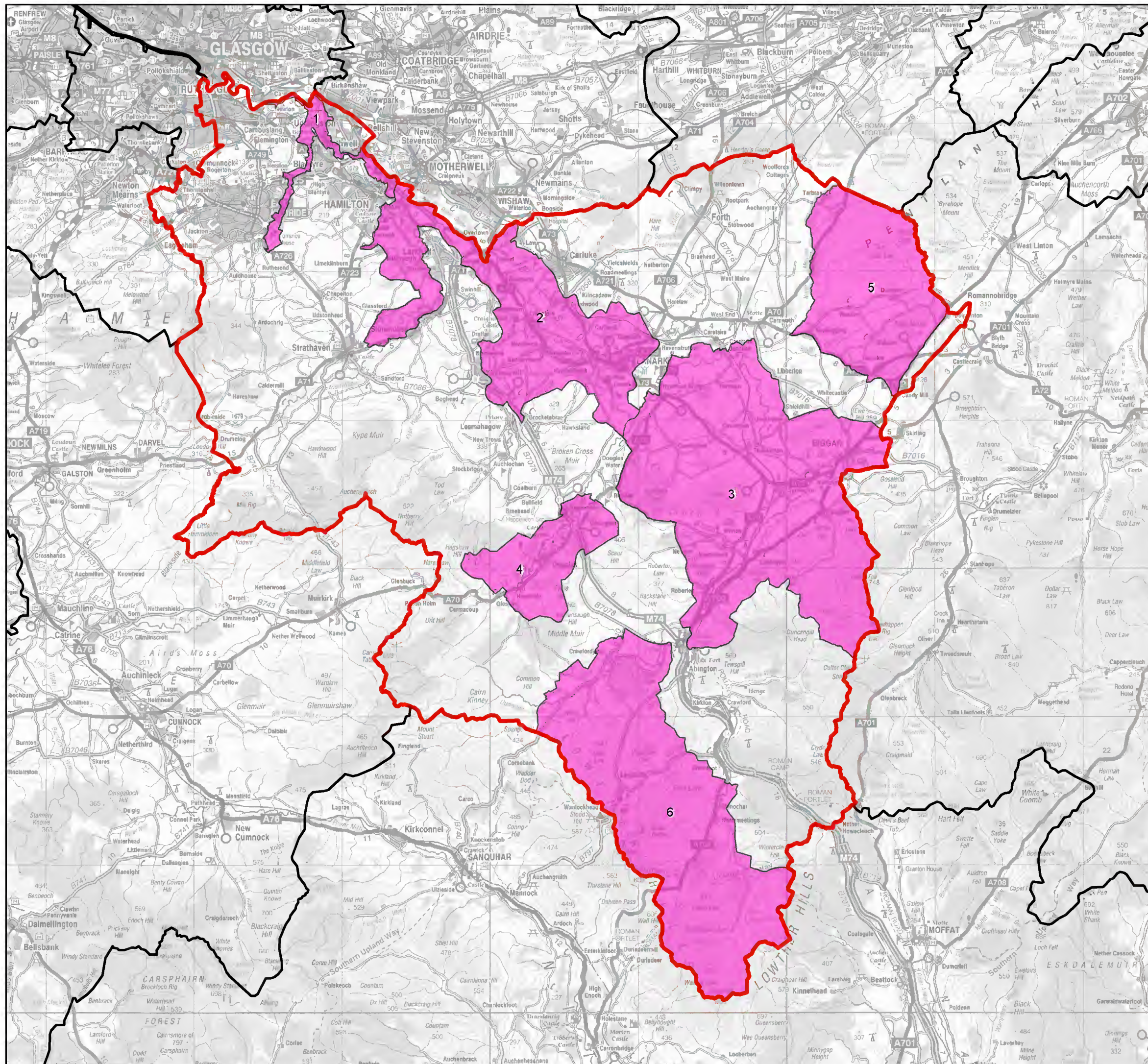


Figure 3
Special Landscape Areas

This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright 2010. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. 100020730

South Lanarkshire

Validating Local Landscape Designations

Legend

- SLC Boundary
- Previous Designations**
- Clyde Valley AGLV
- Douglas Valley AGLV
- Clydesdale Regional Scenic Area
- Designations (2010)**
- Special Landscape Areas (SLA) for South Lanarkshire
 - 1 - Lower Clyde & Calderglen
 - 2 - Middle Clyde Valley
 - 3 - Upper Clyde Valley and Tinto
 - 4 - Douglas Valley
 - 5 - Pentland Hills and Black Mount
 - 6 - Leadhills and the Lowther Hills
- Other Local Authority Boundaries
- National Scenic Areas
- Regional Scenic Area (Dunfries and Galloway)
- Sensitive Landscape Areas (East Ayrshire)
- Sites of Special Landscape Importance (Glasgow)
- Areas of Great Landscape Value (outside South Lanarkshire)

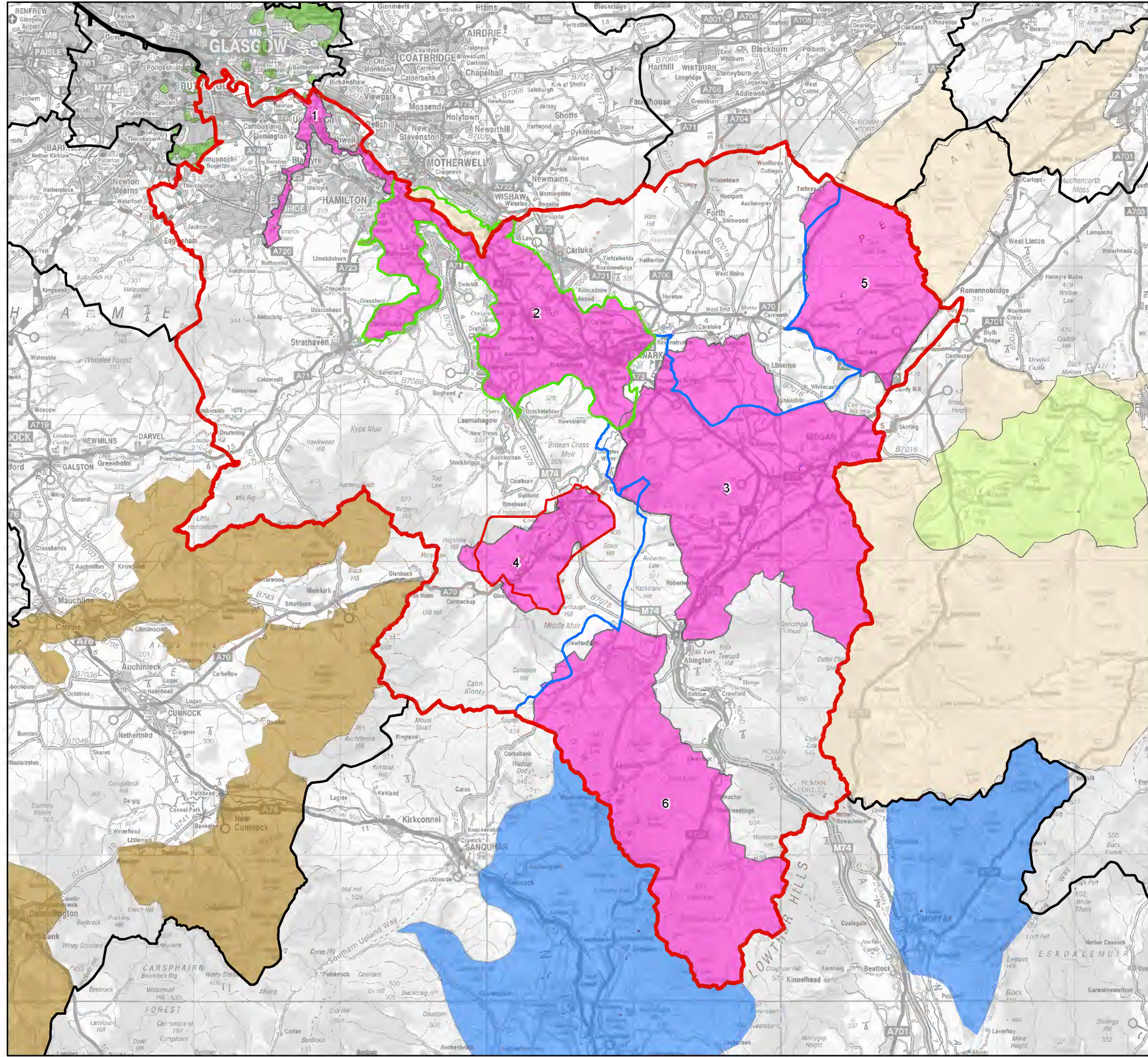


Figure 4
Comparison of
Previous and
Designated Areas
(2010)

This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright 2010. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. 100020730

Validating Local Landscape Designations

Legend

- SLC Boundary
 - Designations (2010)
 - Special Landscape Areas (SLA) for South Lanarkshire
 - 1 - Lower Clyde & Calderglen
 - 2 - Middle Clyde Valley
 - 3 - Upper Clyde Valley and Tinto
 - 4 - Douglas Valley
 - 5 - Pentland Hills and Black Mount
 - 6 - Leadhills and the Lowther Hills
-
- ### 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 Opencast Mining
 - 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
 - Other Local Authority Boundaries

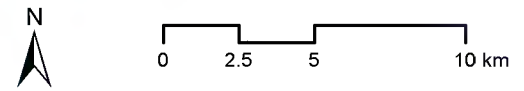
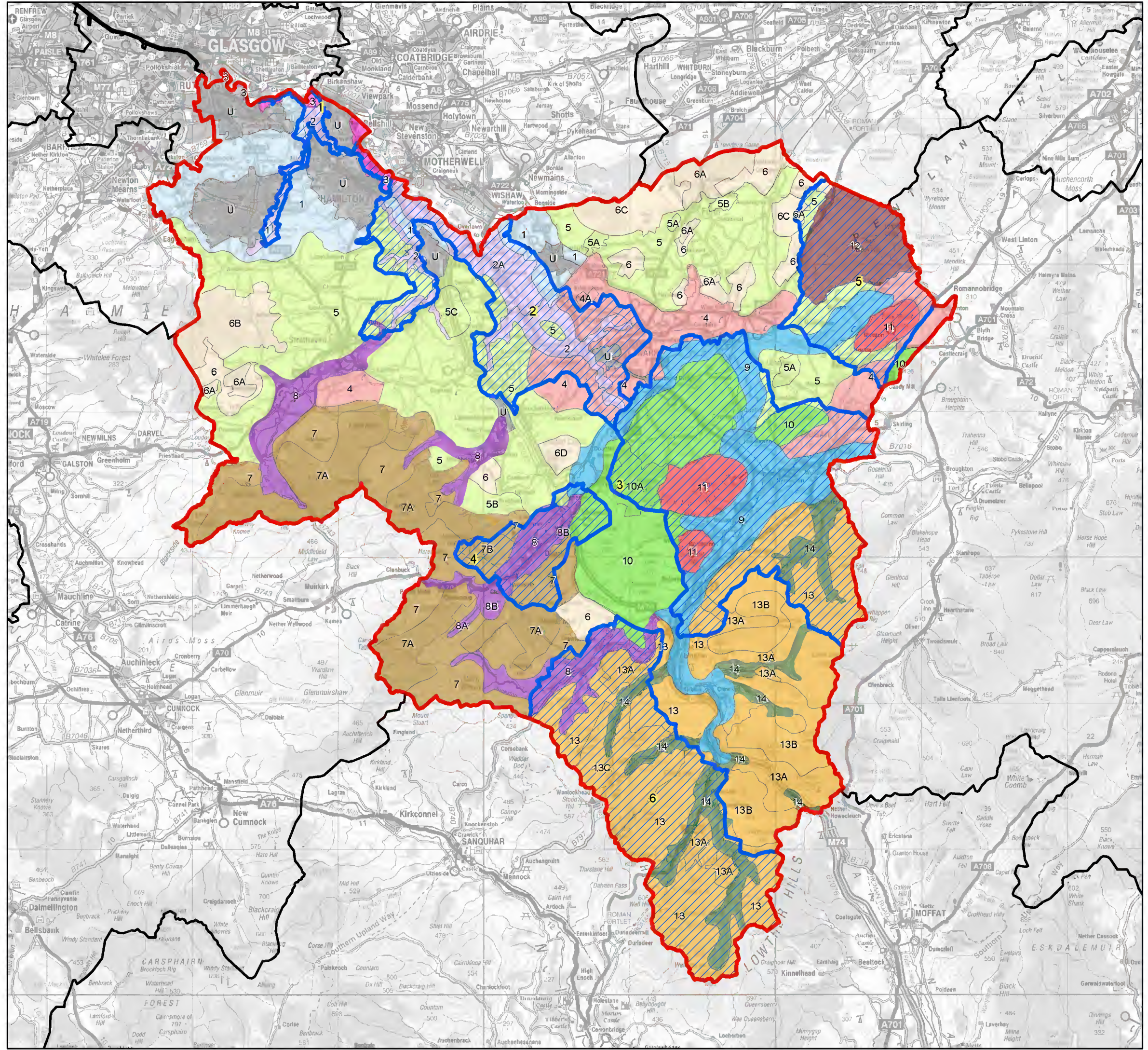


Figure 5
Special Landscape
Areas and
Landscape
Character
Areas

This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright 2010. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. 100020730



1 Lower Clyde & Calderglen

Name and Location

Lower Clyde & Calderglen

Located to the north west of South Lanarkshire the proposed SLA relates to the Clyde and Calderglen river corridors associated with East Kilbride, Blantyre, Hamilton, Uddingston and Cambuslang.

Landscape Character Types

- 1 Urban Fringe Farmland
- 2 **Incised River Valley**
- 3 **Broad Urban Valley**

Overview

The often deeply incised and densely wooded Lower Clyde valley and Calderglen areas provide landscapes that are highly accessible and offer substantial recreational and educational opportunities. These provide, in many instances, a dramatic contrast to the surrounding conurbations. Some areas of the river corridors have been impacted on by development or former industry and show signs of urban fringe problems. However they have overall value as being part of continuous landscape corridors which contains attractive scenery, historic landscapes, semi natural and ancient woodland and buildings of significant historical and cultural interest.

Landscape Description

The lower Clyde Valley and Calderglen area is a landscape associated with the continuing history and importance of the Clyde and its tributaries in the development of the conurbations to the east and south of Glasgow. As such it is a landscape of varying qualities but with important connectivity and areas of high quality and significance.

The Clyde Valley within the Bothwell / Blantyre area is set within a heavily wooded incised valley. This is in marked contrast to the broad, open character of the River Clyde to the immediate north and south where development and road infrastructure dominate. Whilst the landscape contains some sections of derelict, under utilised land, particularly to the north and west, the overall qualities are of a dramatic section of accessible riverside of considerable landscape quality.

This section of the River Clyde contains both the David Livingstone Centre (NTS) and Bothwell Castle (Historic Scotland), which are linked by the David Livingstone Memorial footbridge and the Clyde Walkway. Historic Scotland considers Bothwell Castle to be the largest and finest 13th

Century Castle in Scotland and make note of its impressive setting on a rocky bluff above the River Clyde. Located at a turn in the river and associated with ancient semi-natural woodland this provides a significant and dramatic landmark. East of Hamilton the designated area follows the river as it crosses the M74 north of the designed landscape of the former Hamilton Palace (Hamilton Low Parks). This area, much modified by development such as the M74 and Hamilton Racecourse, is nevertheless a designed landscape, associated with the former Hamilton Palace and described by Historic Scotland as being of 'outstanding' historical and scenic importance. This publicly accessible area links the Lower Clyde with the proposed Middle Clyde SLA, south of M74 junction 6.

The tributary to the Clyde, the Rotten Calder lies a narrow, often incised, wooded valley which provides a strong green edge to East Kilbride and to Blantyre. Within East Kilbride, Calderglen Country Park includes this valley and associated designed landscape. The park provides a series of recreational opportunities to enjoy this landscape which is broadly screened and in marked contrast to the character of the adjacent conurbation. Further down the Rotten Calder, the Council is currently restoring a derelict land site at Redlees quarry north of Blantyre to create an informal urban fringe park.

Much of the value of this section of the River Clyde is the accessibility of this landscape in terms of its connection to existing conurbations and transport links and its marked and dramatic contrast with the urban character that surrounds it. As such it provides a particularly valuable recreational, environmental and cultural resource. There is recognition of the importance of the Clyde walkway, in particular as a strategic route and the landscape associated with it contributes greatly to the understanding of the history and development of the Greater Glasgow conurbation from pre-industrial times onwards.

Choice of Boundary

The boundary of the proposed Lower Clyde & Calderglen SLA is broadly defined by the distinctive landscape character of the river valleys of the Clyde and Rotten Calder which is in marked contrast to the surrounding conurbations.

The upstream boundary with the proposed Middle Clyde SLA lies along the River Avon. To the north of here it is defined along the middle of the river to the east by North Lanarkshire Council. To the west it includes the grounds of the former Hamilton Palace, excluding the racecourse but including Strathclyde Country Park golf course, Hamilton Low Parks and the M74 maintaining continuity with the Middle Clyde Valley. To the west of Bothwell Bridge the Clyde lies between the built up areas of Bothwell and Blantyre, the SLA boundaries defined by the edge of built up areas and upper edge of the incised landform. It opens out at Uddingston to the north, merging with the Calderglen corridor. To the west of the confluence with the Rotten Calder, the SLA is a narrow strip extending as far as the A763 Clydeford Road Bridge at Carmyle. The boundaries are defined to the south of the river by developed areas and higher ground and along the middle of the river by the boundary with the Glasgow City Council.

The Calderglen corridor is defined to the west by the ridge of Manse Brae and to the east by the western edge of Blantyre. South of this the corridor narrows, defined to the west by landform,

trees and a dismantled railway before East Kilbride. To the east the boundary is defined by minor roads at the crest of the valley landform, reaching its southern extent at the southern end of Calderglen Country Park and the A726.

Conservation and Opportunity for Change

The following landscape conservation issues and positive opportunities for change have been identified:

- Protect the upper and outer edges of the river corridors from encroachment by inappropriate development.
- Protect and enhance historic and designed landscapes, encouraging low-key sustainable tourism.
- Continue to develop the Clyde Walkway and associated links to conurbations as a contiguous long distance route.
- Consider potential for additional recreational uses associated with river corridor.
- Encourage woodland and riparian planting to further develop landscape quality and habitat potential of river corridor and reduce visual intrusion from existing conurbations.
- Support semi-natural regeneration of existing woodland through careful management.

This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright 2010. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. 100020730



South Lanarkshire

Validating Local Landscape Designations

The often deeply incised and densely wooded Lower Clyde valley and Calderglen areas provide landscapes that are highly accessible and offer substantial recreational and educational opportunities. These provide, in many instances, a dramatic contrast to the surrounding conurbations. Some areas of the river corridors have been impacted on by development or former industry and show signs of urban fringe problems. However they have overall value as being part of continuous landscape corridors which contains attractive scenery, historic landscapes, semi natural and ancient woodland and buildings of significant historical and cultural interest.

This landscape of wooded river gorges and enclosed valleys is a typical feature of the northern part of South Lanarkshire and around the Glasgow conurbation where the Urban Fringe Farmlands fall to the Clyde valley. Each incised valley provides a pleasing contrast to the much more extensive surrounding urban and plateau landscapes. The landscape is often of high scenic quality although its condition varies; many areas suffering from urban fringe problems such as vandalism, tipping and remnants of unmanaged farmland. The boundaries are relatively well defined by the edges of the incised landforms and built up areas.

The key significance of these areas lies in the combination of landscape qualities:

- scenic qualities in the combination of dramatic landform, meandering rivers, waterfalls, extensive woodland, shelter and tranquillity;
- cultural features, including buildings, designed landscapes, historic industry and historic and literary associations;
- extensive semi-natural woodlands and a high quality water environment
- accessibility due to proximity to urban areas, paths and walkways and country parks

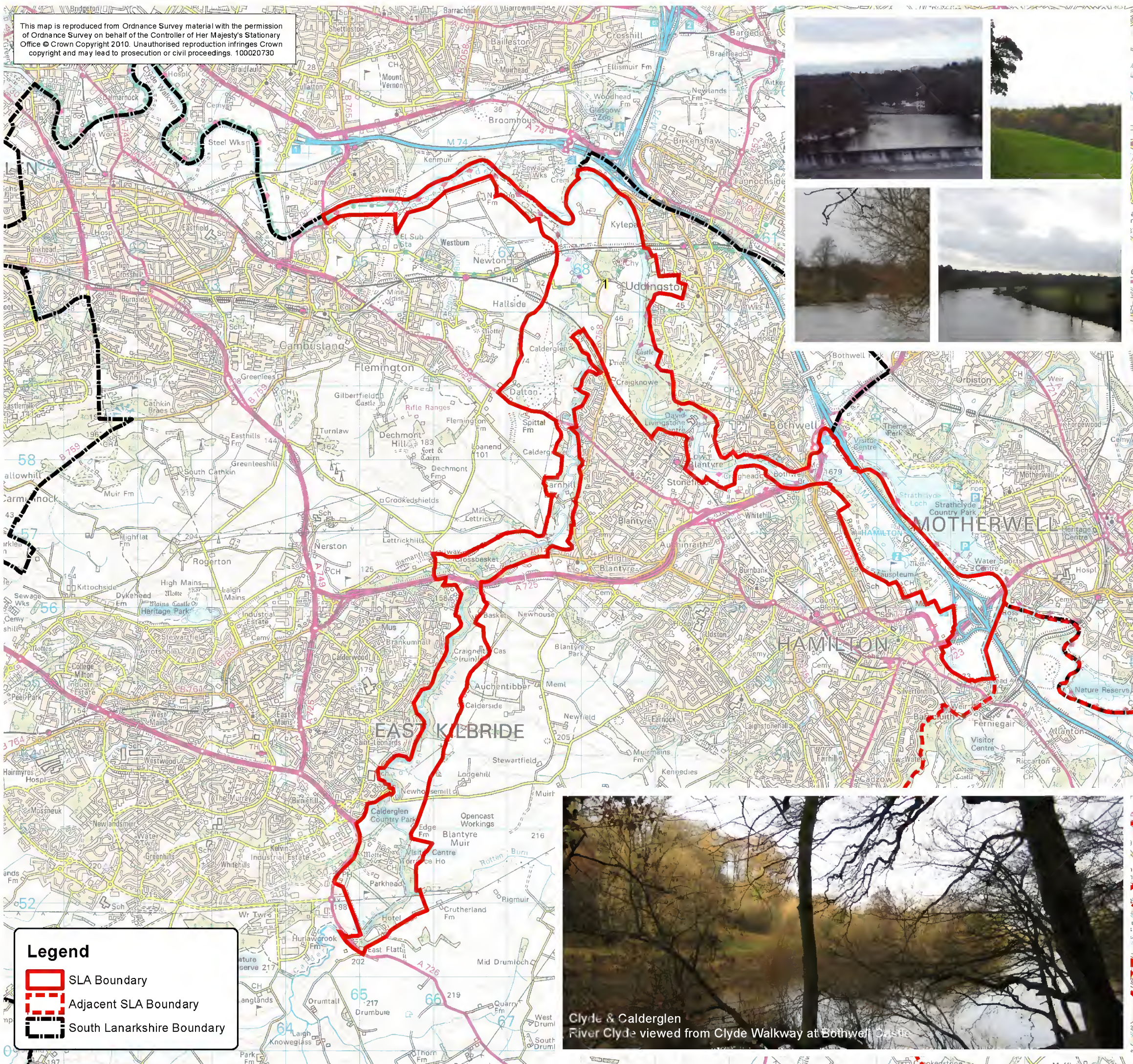
Given this concentration of qualities in a relatively restricted area and proximity to a large population, the Lower Clyde and Calderglen merit designation by comparison with other areas within or in close proximity to the conurbation.

Designation would recognise the unique landscape and recreational qualities of this area in a way that the existing Green Belt designation does not. It also links them to other proposed Special Landscape Areas, creating a continuum with the more rural parts of the Clyde valley that eventually stretches into the Southern Uplands. It also visualises them as a coherent landscape type centred around the rivers for which a focused range of management and promotion policies can be developed.

Figure 6i
Special Landscape Area 1
Lower Clyde & Calderglen

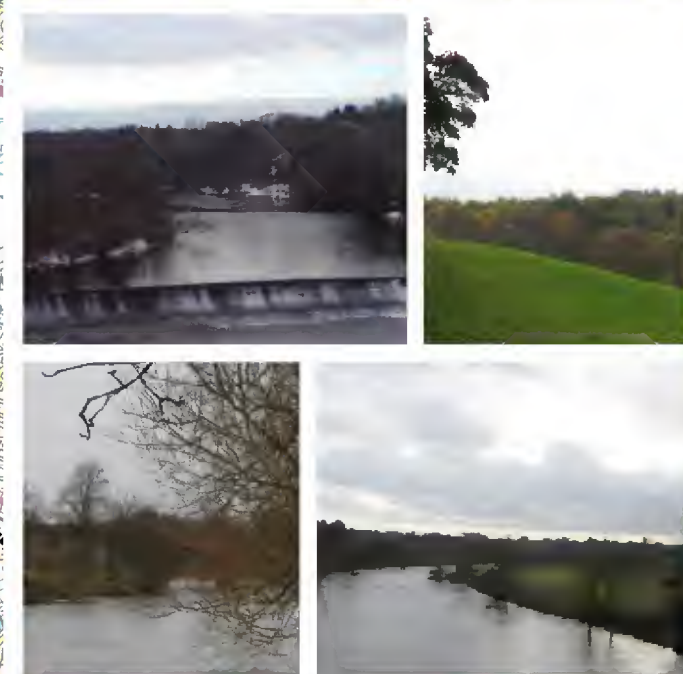


Scale 1:50k 0 0.5 1 2 km



Legend

- SLA Boundary
- Adjacent SLA Boundary
- South Lanarkshire Boundary



2 Middle Clyde Valley

Name and Location

Middle Clyde Valley

The middle section of the Clyde Valley and associated tributaries is located between the towns of Hamilton in the north and Lanark in the South.

Landscape Character Types

- 1 Urban Fringe Farmland
- 2 Incised River Valley
- 2A Incised River Valley Broad Valley Floor
- 4 Rolling Farmland
- 5 Plateau Farmland
- 8 Upland River Valley

Overview

The Clyde Valley and associated tributaries have long been recognised as a significant landscape in terms of its scenic, cultural and historic qualities. This has included an existing Area of Great Landscape Value designation. The New Lanark World Heritage site and the dramatic Falls of Clyde are set within this landscape. The settlement pattern of linear villages along the valley connected with winding roads, policy landscapes, woodland, castles, rich agriculture and agricultural heritage, including distinctive orchards, is perhaps unique in a Scottish context and is a very popular visitor destination. The major tributary, the Avon Water, includes the designed landscape of Chatelherault which is part of Hamilton High Parks.

Landscape Description

The generally incised river valley of the Clyde includes sections of fertile, flat valley floor. It passes through the underlying carboniferous coal basin of central Scotland and south eastwards into a band of carboniferous limestone. The valley sides are generally steep and well defined with areas of gorges where burns and rivers have cut through harder rock. Most notable of these gorges is perhaps the spectacular Falls of Clyde, created by a nickpoint where the bordering areas to north and south of old red sandstone meets the softer carboniferous rocks of the river valley. These falls historically powered the textile mills at New Lanark, Robert Owens's model settlement on the edge of the Clyde at Lanark.

The Clyde and the Avon Water are bounded by a series of smaller watercourses, which run perpendicularly into the larger course creating a distinctive 90° lattice effect, which is often echoed by well structured shelterbelts, fields and road patterns in the landscape. Within the Clyde Valley, the land is predominantly arable on wider sections of the fertile flat valley bottoms.

Elsewhere In the narrower tributary valleys, land cover tends to be predominantly deciduous woodland - in some cases, this is ancient woodland. The steep underlying topography which renders these valleys relatively inaccessibility has in many instances have been likely to have, prohibited agricultural use and therefore assisted in their preservation. As well as their contribution to the scenic qualities of the landscape, these older woodlands have considerable conservation value and there are a number of SSSIs, SACs and SINCs within their limits.

Field boundaries are often hedged with beech or hawthorn and there remain significant remnants of a field boundary tree structure with large mature specimen trees evident within the landscape. The Clyde Valley has traditionally been used for orchard fruit production and market gardening. Orchard remnants make up a significant percentage of land cover. There are approximately 70 remaining, both managed and derelict, on the valley slopes within the Clyde Valley particularly around Kirkfieldbank. Several species of fruit were grown within these orchards, including many varieties of plums. These orchards could be regarded as being unique within Scotland, providing fruit to the central belt conurbations as well as for the production of jam. Agriculture tends to comprise arable cultivation or market gardening on the flatter valley floors in fairly small fields. The historical and cultural importance of the Clyde Valley for the production of fruit and vegetables, such as tomatoes remains evident within the landscape. Farmsteads are spread out along the river valleys in a linear pattern controlled by the landform and by transport links.

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. The roads are often subject to subsidence due to the erosion caused by river action in the incised river valleys.

Opportunities to experience the landscape are considerable with a number of well established visitor destinations including New Lanark, the Falls of Clyde and Chatelherault Country Park. The long distance Clyde Walkway and footpaths along the Avon water associated with Chatelherault and Hamilton High Parks designed landscape, in particular provide a significant and popular recreational resource which is continuing to be developed and improved.

The Incised River Valleys create 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. Within the Clyde valley Lee Castle and the Falls of Clyde together with Barncluith and Chatelherault, within the Avon Gorge are all listed in An Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland (2007 edition). The Falls of Clyde have an international significance in terms of the development and influence of picturesque landscape design in the U.K and Europe visited by artists such as Jacob More (1760s), Alexander Nasmyth (1791) and J.M.W. Turner (1801) as well as poets William and Dorothy Wordsworth and Sir Walter Scott (1827). The path network associated with the Falls was developed in the 18th and 19th century together with viewpoints, planting and other incidents to enhance the visitor experience of this landscape.

In addition, New Lanark, Robert Owen's model settlement, has been designated by Unesco as a World Heritage Site. Unesco describe it as follows:

“New Lanark is a small 18th- century village set in a sublime Scottish landscape where the philanthropist and Utopian idealist Robert Owen moulded a model industrial community in the early 19th century. The imposing cotton mill buildings, the spacious and well-designed workers’ housing, and the dignified educational institute and school still testify to Owen’s humanism.”

Choice of Boundary

The boundary follows the line of the existing AGLV boundary as modified in 1998 following a report by Land Use Consultants, and is considered robust. This identifies the key characteristics of the landscape, and provides defensible boundaries by attaching them to permanent physical landscape features. Two small changes have been made at the south eastern end, excluding the area affected by Hyndford Quarry and realigning the boundary with the Upper Clyde along the transition between the Incised River Valley and Broad Valley Upland LCAs.

Conservation and Opportunity for Change

The following landscape conservation issues and positive opportunities for change have been identified:

- Continue to develop Clyde Walkway as a contiguous long distance route.
- Encourage replanting of shelterbelts, field boundaries and hedges with native tree and shrub species.
- Protect and enhance historic landscapes, encouraging low-key sustainable tourism.
- Support semi-natural regeneration of existing woodland through careful management.
- Consider strategies for encouragement of traditional land-uses associated with fruit growing, horticulture and market gardening.
- Reduce potential of visual encroachment of housing and commercial developments by careful consideration of existing construction materials, architectural styles and spatial arrangements together with the use of woodland and appropriate screen planting.

This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright 2010. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. 100020730



South Lanarkshire

Validating Local Landscape Designations

The Clyde Valley and associated tributaries have long been recognised as a significant landscape in terms of its scenic, cultural and historic qualities. This has included an existing Area of Great Landscape Value designation. The New Lanark World Heritage site and the dramatic Falls of Clyde are set within this landscape. The settlement pattern of linear villages along the valley connected with winding roads, policy landscapes, woodland, castles, rich agriculture and agricultural heritage, including distinctive orchards, is perhaps unique in a Scottish context and is a very popular visitor destination. The major tributary, the Avon Water, includes the designed landscape of Chatelherault which is part of Hamilton High Parks.

The Middle Clyde Valley and Avon Water lie in the heart of South Lanarkshire's farmlands. It is a varied landscape of wooded river gorges and more open, farmed areas with a number of settlements. The landscape is generally of high scenic quality although its condition varies: northern areas are influenced by the urban fringes; agricultural changes have led to a decline in hedgerows and orchards and a number of large garden and retail centres are located in the Clyde valley.

The significance of the Middle Clyde Valley lies in a combination of landscape qualities and uniquely important sites:

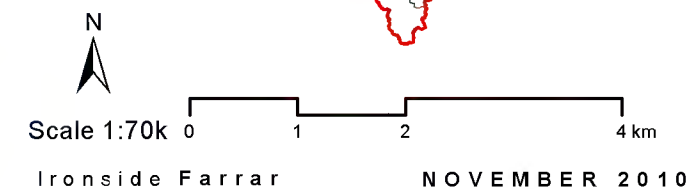
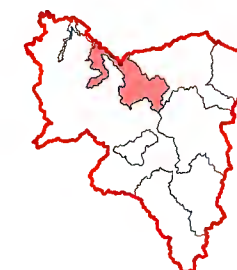
- scenic qualities in the combination of large valleys surrounding major rivers; enclosure contrasting with the surrounding farmlands; dramatic side gorges; extensive woodland; shelter and tranquility;
- cultural features, including the New Lanark World Heritage Site; designed landscapes; historic buildings and settlements; extensive orchards and historic and literary associations;
- extensive semi-natural woodlands, orchards, meadows and a high quality water environment;
- accessibility to urban and local populations via footpaths, walkways, minor roads and the A72 tourist route.

The qualities of the Middle Clyde Valley have long been recognised by AGLV designation which was recently reviewed. The area merits continued designation as a Special Landscape Area.

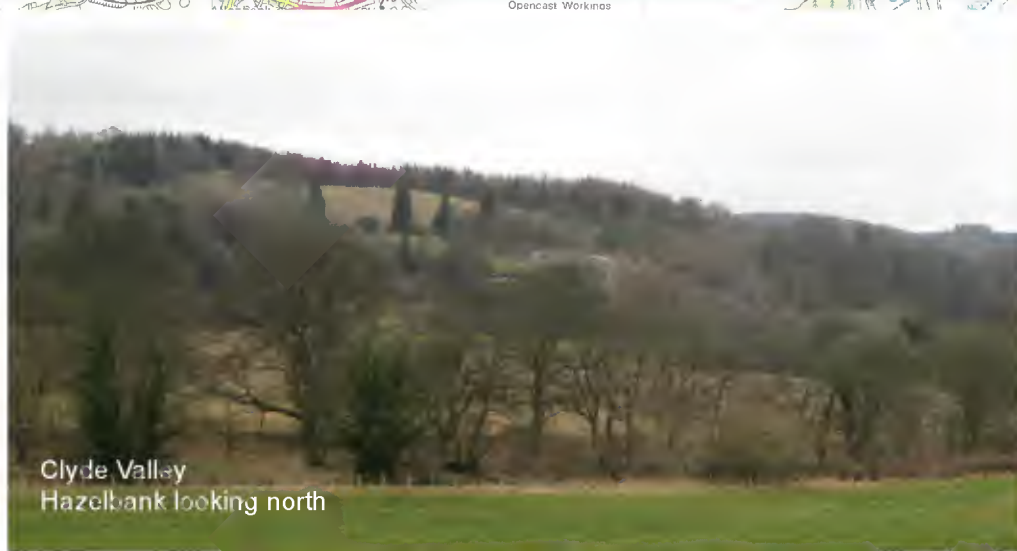
The boundaries of the area are relatively well defined by the edges of the incised landform but also include some of the surrounding farmland which provides a setting for the valleys. Minor changes are proposed at the southwestern end where extensive quarrying has taken place.

Designation recognises the unique landscape and historic qualities of this area. With links to other proposed SLAs along the Clyde it is a lynchpin in a continuum that follows the Clyde on its journey from the Southern Uplands to the Glasgow conurbation. Recognising this as an area distinct from the upper and lower reaches of the Clyde also allows the development of a coherent set of landscape management and promotion policies based around its unique character.

Figure 6ii
Special Landscape Area 2
Middle Clyde Valley

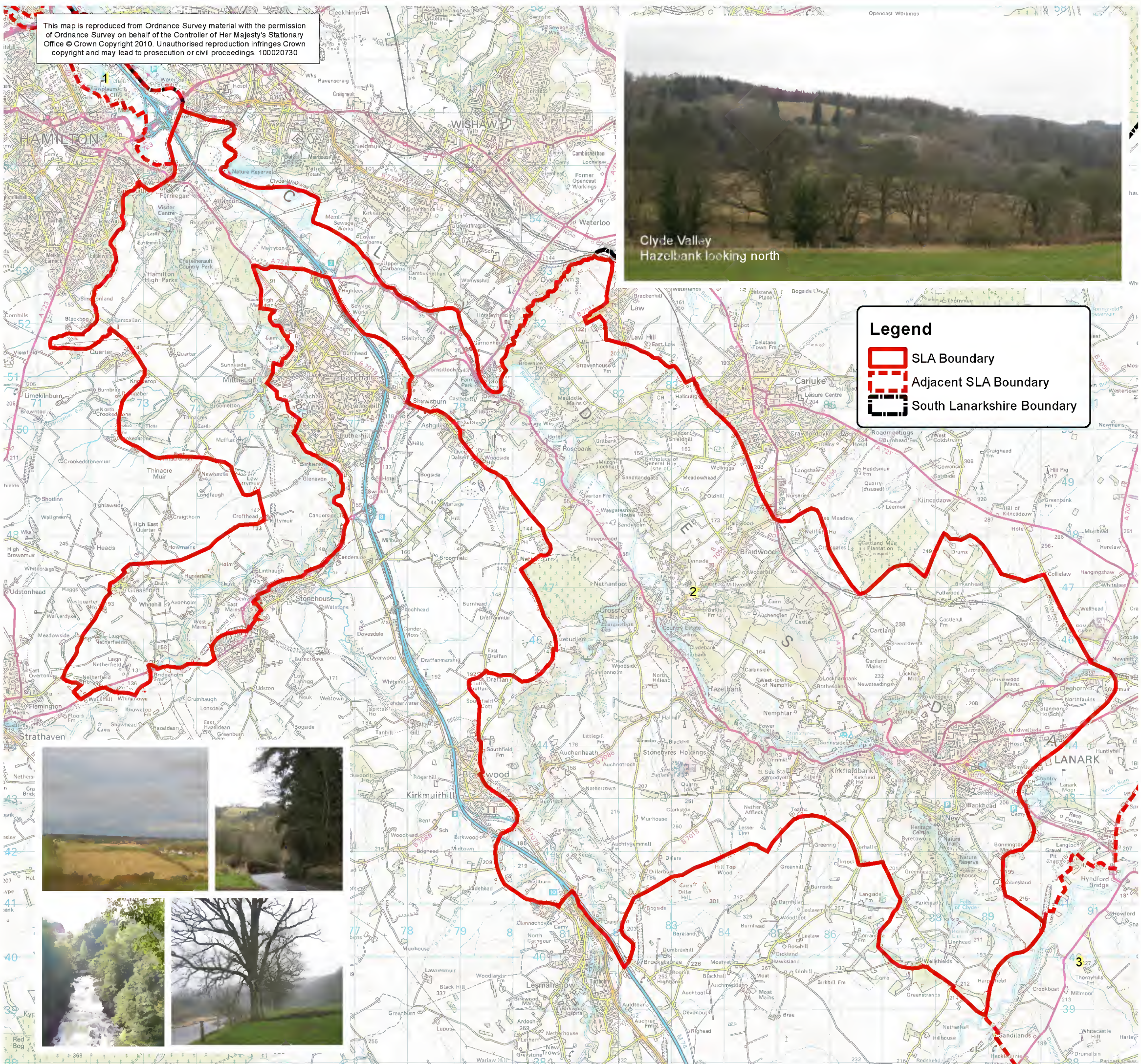


Clyde Valley
Hazelbank looking north



Legend

- SLA Boundary
- Adjacent SLA Boundary
- South Lanarkshire Boundary



3 Upper Clyde Valley and Tinto

Name and Location

Upper Clyde Valley and Tinto

The upper section of the Clyde Valley is located in the east of South Lanarkshire to the south of Lanark. The designated area includes the river valley; Tinto and its surrounding hills to the west; the hills of the Southern Uplands fault to the south east and the town of Biggar to the east.

Landscape Character Types

- 4 Rolling Farmland
- 5 Plateau Farmland
- 9 **Broad Valley Upland**
- 10 **Foothills**
- 10A Foothills Forestry
- 11 **Prominent Isolated Foothills**
- 13 **Southern Uplands**
- 13A Southern Uplands Forestry
- 14 **Upland Glen**

Overview

The Upper Clyde Valley forms a broad and distinctive semi-upland horseshoe of land, as it meanders through the landscape, in marked contrast to the enclosed character of the river immediately upstream. This contrast is associated with a more open, and expansive landscape in which the imposing Tinto Hill and the steep rolling Southern Uplands are ever present, defining much of the valley floor.

At a height of 707 m and bound on three sides by the Clyde Valley, Tinto's distinctive, graceful, conical form can be viewed from the major conurbations to the north. As an exceptionally well used and long established recreational walking route offering panoramic views, with considerable historical interest and designated a SSSI, Tinto offers a distinctive landscape feature of regional importance.

The Southern Uplands provide a very distinctive and scenic landscape of high hills with smooth and rounded relief. Culter Fell and the valleys of Culter Water and Cowgill are a compact area that defines the most northerly edge of the Southern Upland Fault in South Lanarkshire, forming a backdrop to the broad Clyde Valley south of Biggar. The tightly enclosed upland glens and ridges of rounded hills are typical of the Southern Uplands and provide easily accessible walking. Culter Fell is the highest point in South Lanarkshire, the area lies beyond the northern edge of Clyde windfarm and is largely unaffected by commercial forestry. These hills thus

exemplify many of the characteristics such as smooth rolling profiles, openness and feelings of remoteness that define the character of the Southern Uplands.

This landscape is strongly rural in character and the influence of the major conurbations to the north is very limited, marking a transition in regional character associated with the Southern Uplands Fault. The attractive burgh town of Biggar lies to the east of the river in the broad valley formed by the former course of the Tweed.

Landscape Description

The Upper Clyde Valley, which broadens as it approaches the Southern Uplands to form a broad, distinctive enwrapping triangle of farmland, 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. The valley is partially enclosed to the west and north by the foothills and the significant presence of Tinto Hill, and to the south east by the steep rolling wall presented by the Southern Uplands. There is a symbiotic relationship between the landscape of the valley and the hills which provide its setting, with the prominence and apparent stature of these hills emphasised by the scale of this broad valley.

The change of character of the Clyde to a broad elevated upland river south of Lanark reflects the wider changes in the landscape towards the Southern Upland Fault. At about 200 metres AOD, the basin is comparatively elevated and exposed. This is reflected in the mature 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 mature riverside trees which contribute positively to the setting of the river. In some areas there has been a recent re-introduction of coppice woodland. Boundaries also reflect this increased elevation with drystone walling becoming a more common element within the landscape.

As elevation is gained on the valley sides a series of shelterbelts and small plantation woodlands enclose fields. These are sometimes associated with minor policy landscapes. The fields and trees give way to open pasture on higher slopes, with extensive areas of heather moorland on the highest slopes and summits.

Tinto Hill is a prominent outlier to the north and west of the main Southern Upland hills and is arguably the most prominent landmark within South Lanarkshire, being in marked contrast to surrounding valley landscapes. Near the summit there are areas of exposed red felsite rock from which the name Tinto (Fire) is believed to have been derived. At the top there is a substantial cairn, and the prominent nature, location and form of the hill has resulted in it being a major recreational resource for South Lanarkshire and a very popular hill walk as evinced by the broad path to its summit. The summit of the hill provides 360° panoramic views.

The Southern Uplands fault lies to the south of the valley, and provides this landscape with a distinctive setting. It is part of a bold, expansive upland area which extends south well beyond South Lanarkshire's boundary. Its character contrasts dramatically with the lower moorlands and

hills to the north and provides a strong and distinctive signifier that one is entering another region of Scotland. This character is derived from the hills' height (up to 748 m AOD), form, geology (Ordovician rocks, predominantly more resistant greywackes) and the influence of glacial erosion.

The area is characterised by steep, smooth slopes rising to highly distinctive, rounded summits. These summits are relatively regular in form and in their spacing within the landscape. 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 landscape has a sense of remoteness as a result of very limited settlement and the dominance of coarse grassland and heather moorland. The land is generally unenclosed and with little semi-natural woodland limited to a few more sheltered glens, gullies and clefts. The form of the hills has increased the prominence of the few small coniferous plantations within the landscape. The pattern of this forestry often consists of bold geometric lines which are usually well below the domed peaks of the hills.

The Southern Uplands provide recreational opportunities to explore this remote landscape with many paths given access to the hills. Culter Fell is the highest hill within this area and one of the main focuses for walkers, accessible from a minor road penetrating the hills.

With a series of small villages and the historic burgh town of Biggar the valley floor and lower slopes 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) and the West Coast Mainline pass through the valley, providing many with an experience of this landscape. The landscape around Biggar, in particular presents recreational opportunities and a series of footpaths are associated with Biggar Common.

Settlement in the upland areas is comparatively sparse, confined to a scatter of farmsteads and country houses on the more gentle and sheltered lower slopes. Archaeological evidence suggests that this landscape was more 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 skirt the lower slopes of Tinto but the Southern Uplands, on the edge of a much wider area of hills, is only penetrated by minor dead end roads following the narrow glens to reservoirs and farms.

Choice of Boundary

The boundary of the proposed Upper Clyde Valley SLA is broadly defined by the distinctive landscape character of the valley and the hills which surround it. The southern (upstream) end of the SLA is defined by the impact of the M74 corridor just north of Abington. Travelling downstream the SLA is defined by the rising slopes of the enclosing hills of the Southern Uplands to the south and the foothills to the west.

To the west the boundary encloses Tinto Hill and its associated satellite hills and intervening valleys. South of Dungavel Hill the boundary passes from Nap Bridge west of Robertson,

following a minor road to the B7055. It passes west along this road to the A70 north of Rigside and then north along the A70 to meet the Middle Clyde SLA boundary near Sandilands.

To the south the boundary has been selected to include the area that most exemplifies the undisturbed Southern Uplands landscape. Following consideration of the visual impact of the M74 corridor and the approved Clyde windfarm on this landscape, the boundary follows the river south from Duneatonfoot Bridge turning east opposite the A702/M74 junction to enclose the ridge of White Hill/ Priestgill Rig, following the Coldchapel Burn, Green Cleuch and the Wandel Burn to Sheil Burn. It then turns northwest, generally linking the crests of hills above the Clyde Valley from Whiteside Hill, eventually swinging east to the summit of Broad Hill, above Cowgill Reservoir. At this point it passes south, taking the reservoir into the SLA, passing over Windgate Bank down to the Grains Burn, which it follows southeast to the summit of Coombs Dodd, on the boundary with Scottish Borders. From here the Scottish Borders boundary lies along the ridgeline of the watershed between Tweeddale and Clydesdale, eventually descending to the Biggar Water. Beyond this lies an existing AGLV designation by Scottish Borders Council.

To the south and east of Biggar, the boundary follows the South Lanarkshire Boundary with Scottish Borders until Wintermuir Farm, where it heads west following the track between Biggarshiels Farm and Lodge to the B7016 at Carwood, and then west along the minor roads to Quothquan. From near Quothquan it turns north, following minor roads and crossing the Medwin Water, turning west just south of Carnwath, where it follows slightly higher ground enclosing the Clyde before following the A70 to Hyndford Bridge. Here it follows the edge of Hyndford Quarry to meet the Middle Clyde Valley SLA boundary, crossing the Douglas Water at Sandilands to meet the A70.

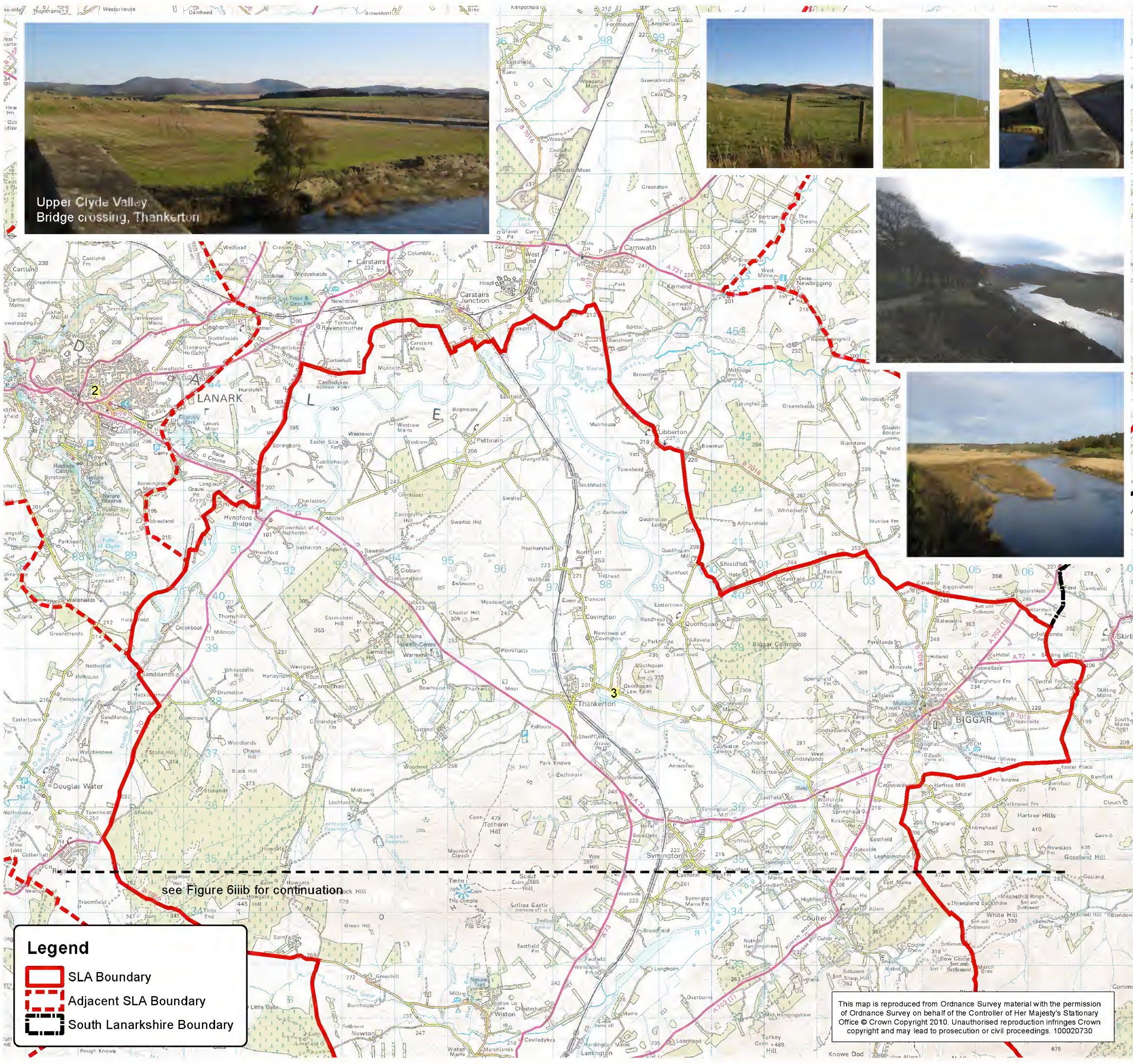
Conservation and Opportunity for Change

The following landscape conservation issues and positive opportunities for change have been identified:

- Discourage commercial scale windfarm developments and large wind turbines, particularly in relation to key hilltops in this area. Carefully consider the effects of smaller scale 'farm' size turbines including positioning away from prominent locations and in relation to cumulative effects.
- Consider improving recreational use of the Clyde including potential footpaths. Possible routes include Biggar – Symington, Biggar – Thankerton and Carstairs Junction – Bonnington Linn.
- Encouraging recreational access to Tinto whilst protecting landscape from impact of use, for example footpath erosion.
- Encourage replanting and strengthening of shelterbelts, field boundaries and hedges throughout valley and lower hillslopes, maintaining distinctive valley-hillside transition.
- Encourage retention and repair of vernacular detailing such as dry stone walling to field boundaries.
- Reduce potential of visual encroachment of housing developments by careful consideration of existing construction materials, architectural styles and spatial arrangements together with the use of woodland and appropriate screen planting.

- Encourage agricultural management practices which increase habitat potential and biodiversity opportunities.
- Improvements to the form and species composition of existing forestry or any reforestation.
- In particular consider issues of access, visual encroachment of settlements and improved structure of shelterbelts and field boundaries along the Clyde between Thankerton and Hyndford Bridge.

Validating Local Landscape Designations



Upper Clyde Valley
Bridge crossing, Thankerton

see Figure 6iiiib for continuation

Legend

- SLA Boundary
- Adjacent SLA Boundary
- South Lanarkshire Boundary

This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright 2010. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. 100020730

The Upper Clyde Valley forms a broad and distinctive semi-upland horseshoe of land, as it meanders through the landscape, in marked contrast to the enclosed character of the river immediately upstream. This contrast is associated with a more open, and expansive landscape in which the imposing Tinto Hill and the steep rolling Southern Uplands are ever present, defining much of the valley floor.

At a height of 707 m and bound on three sides by the Clyde Valley, Tinto's distinctive, graceful, conical form can be viewed from the major conurbations to the north. As an exceptionally well used and long established recreational walking route offering panoramic views, with considerable historical interest and designated a SSSI, Tinto offers a distinctive landscape feature of regional importance.

Culter Fell and the valleys of Culter Water and Cowgill are a compact area that defines the most northerly edge of the Southern Upland Fault in South Lanarkshire, forming a backdrop to the broad Clyde Valley south of Biggar. The tightly enclosed upland glens and ridges of rounded hills are typical of the Southern Uplands and provide easily accessible walking. Culter Fell is the highest point in South Lanarkshire, the area lies beyond the northern edge of Clyde windfarm and is largely unaffected by commercial forestry. These hills thus exemplify many of the characteristics such as smooth rolling profiles, openness and feelings of remoteness that define the character of the Southern Uplands.

This landscape is strongly rural in character and the influence of the major conurbations to the north is very limited, marking a transition in regional character associated with the Southern Uplands Fault. The attractive burgh town of Biggar lies to the east of the river in the broad valley formed by the former course of the Tweed.

Text continues on Figure 6iiiib

Figure 6iiiia
Special Landscape Area 3
Upper Clyde Valley
(Sheet 1 of 2)






N

Scale 1:70k 0 1 2 4 km

Ironside Farrar NOVEMBER 2010

Legend

-  SLA Boundary
-  Adjacent SLA Boundary
-  South Lanarkshire Boundary

This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright 2010. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. 100020730



South Lanarkshire

Validating Local Landscape Designations

The Upper Clyde Valley contrasts with the Middle and Lower valleys in that it is a topographically gentler landscape of markedly greater openness and scale, framed by the foothills and hills of the Southern Uplands, with an entirely rural character. Whilst the farmlands and lower hill slopes are typical of much of rural South Lanarkshire, the meandering course of the Clyde is a core feature of South Lanarkshire together with the hilltops of Tinto and the Southern Uplands. The significance of the Upper Clyde Valley lies in its location at the heart of South Lanarkshire, on the major watercourse and transport routes, marking the transition between the upland landscapes of the south and the farmlands to the north.

The key qualities include:

- scenic qualities of a meandering river in a broad semi-upland valley setting that contrasts with the enclosing hills of the Southern Uplands and the prominent Tinto Hill;
- cultural features include country houses set in designed policies, small settlements and the historic burgh of Biggar in the valley and many signs of prehistoric settlement in the hills;
- a network of mature policy woodlands and shelterbelts, a high quality water environment and vast areas of heather moorland and rough grasslands;
- frequently visited, as it is traversed by major transport routes to the south and includes popular hillwalking destinations such as Tinto Hill and Culter Fell.

Much of the Upper Clyde Valley area has been included in the existing RSA designation together with the Lowther and Pentland Hills. The area merits continued designation as a Special Landscape Area distinguished from these different landscape areas.

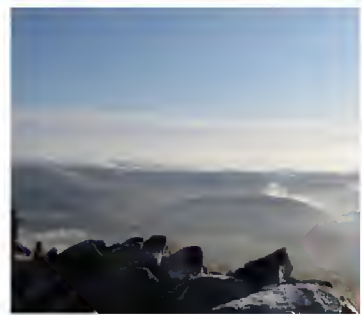
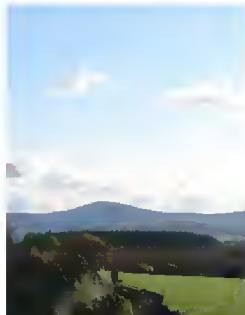
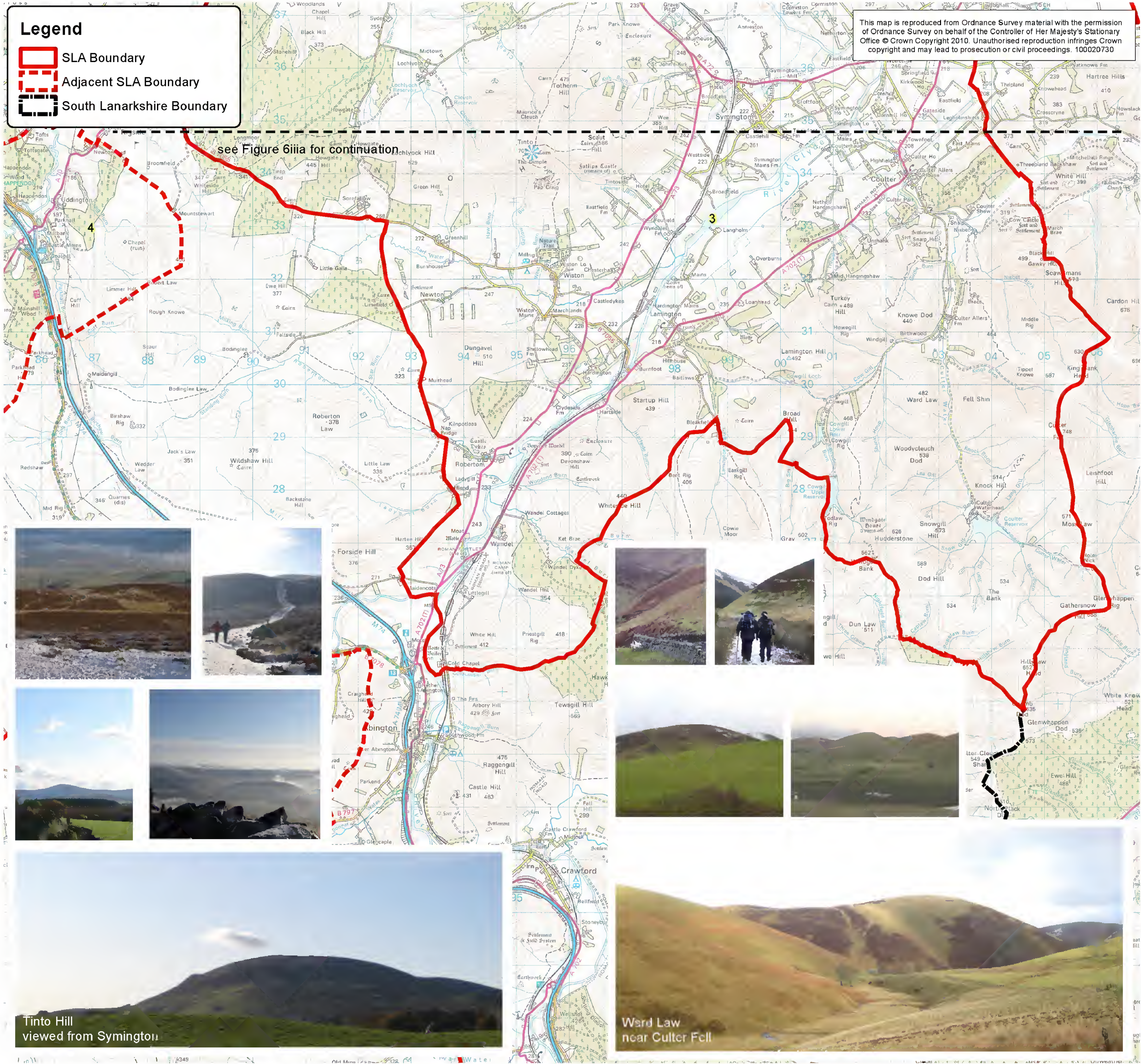
The boundary of the proposed area is mainly defined by the valley landform and enclosing hills. To the west this is defined by the roads surrounding Tinto and its associated satellites. To the south it is defined by the influences of the M74 corridor and the hills north of Clyde windfarm. In the lower reaches of the river north of Thankerton the boundary is determined by a combination of topography, tree belts and man made features. Compared with the RSA, the designation boundaries have been expanded to include this lower section, forming a continuous designation along the river.

Designation recognises the importance of the River Clyde, Tinto Hills and Southern Uplands as part of a continuum between the Southern Uplands and the Glasgow conurbation. Recognising this as an area distinct from lower areas of the Clyde and together with the enclosing hills also allows the development of a coherent set of landscape management and promotion policies based around a single main valley in its full setting of foothills and hills.

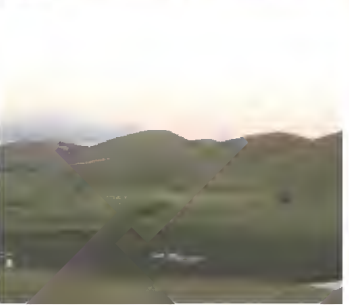
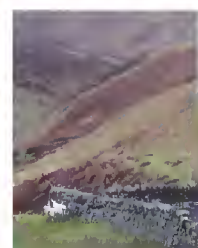
**Figure 6iib
Special Landscape Area 3
Upper Clyde Valley
(Sheet 2 of 2)**



Scale 1:70k 0 1 2 4 km



Tinto Hill viewed from Symington



Ward Law near Culter Fell

4 Douglas Valley

Name and Location

Douglas Valley

Located centrally within South Lanarkshire along the Douglas Water, either side of the M74 corridor and centred on the village of Douglas.

Landscape Character Types

5	Plateau Farmland
7	Rolling Moorlands
8	Upland River Valley
8A	Upland River Valley Opencast Mining
9	Broad Valley Upland
10	Foothills

Overview

The Douglas Valley is a sheltered valley containing a well preserved designed landscape with significant mature woodland planting. It is centred around the historic village of Douglas and provides an accessible, contained and tranquil landscape in contrast to the open and expansive rolling moorland to both the south and north of the valley. It has an existing Area of Great Landscape Value designation.

Landscape Description

To the east of its confluence with the Glespin Burn the character of the Douglas Water valley changes: it widens a little and the Douglas Water swings in a series of attractive meanders across a fertile, narrow floodplain. The valley slopes comprise a mixture of improved, gently rolling pasture and woodland, predominantly coniferous. A considerable amount of woodland is associated with the designed landscape to the east of Douglas. Much of this is beech, oak, Scots pine and larch. Elsewhere within the valley there are shelter belts and small groups of field boundary trees or individual specimens, many of which have considerable presence within the landscape. These serve to mark a strong contrast with the surrounding, relatively bleak and open moorland to the south, north and upstream of Glespin.

The valley's historic role as a communication corridor is reflected in the presence of castles and motes. Much of the history of the valley bound with the history of the Douglas family who have been associated with the area for circa. 1000 years. The designed landscape to the east of Douglas includes three lochs adjacent to the river, the remains of Douglas Castle, referred to as "Castle Dangerous" after being utilised as a setting for a Walter Scott novel, and well preserved stone boundary walling and other associated masonry work such as bridges associated with the

estate. The village itself contains monuments to the Covenanter James Gavin and the Cameronians regiment, raised by James Douglas, Earl of Angus in 1689 and disbanded in 1968. A memorial garden near the village celebrates the wartime presence of Polish soldiers in the village.

There have been works in recent years to improve and create accessible footpaths within this area, with associated environmental and habitat improvements. This has included access into the designed landscape and as a result there are a number of recreational opportunities linking directly to Douglas.

The Douglas Valley contains a rich coal seam and formerly contained coal mines. In relatively recent years there have been considerable open cast workings. There is presently a large working to the immediate south of Glespin (excluded from the proposed western boundary of the SLA) and a new site to the east of Douglas at Mainhill Wood has begun working. Additionally to the north and west of Douglas the presence of the windfarm on Hagshaw Hill influences the landscape.

Choice of Boundary

The boundary considers the visual envelope and setting of the valley. To the southwest, it reflects the change in character as the Douglas Water follows a more meandering route, downstream from the confluence of the Glespin Burn. It also includes Hagshaw Hill which encloses the valley in views to the west and north. The boundary follows watercourses and boundaries to the Douglas Water just east of Glespin.

To the south the boundary follows the minor road to the west of Glespin Burn, then the watercourse itself to the forestry boundary, to head northeast and follow the crest of the watershed in Rolling Moorland, including Auchensauth Hill, Pagie Hill and Park Hill, crossing the M74 to Limmer Hill and Robert Law.

The eastern boundary descends the hill to take in shelterbelts around Newtonhead, crossing the A70 and Douglas Water at Easter Tofts, missing out mine tips but including the woodland adjacent to the B7078 and Happendon Wood.

The northwestern boundary crosses the M74 south of Happendon junction, following the hill crest and forestry boundary of Curly Brae towards Douglas West. It then rises to meet the hill crest and forestry on Hagshaw Hill to join the western boundary at Wedder Hill.

Conservation and Opportunity for Change

The following landscape conservation issues and positive opportunities for change have been identified:

- Continue to develop footpath and recreational opportunities.
- Encourage replanting of shelterbelts, field boundaries and hedges.

- Protect and enhance historic landscapes and monuments, encouraging low-key sustainable tourism.
- Support semi-natural regeneration of existing woodland through careful management.
- Consider potential for improvements to landscape and habitat value that may occur, such as new woodland, through landscape restoration of open-cast sites including the newly opened Mainhill to the east of Douglas.

Validating Local Landscape Designations

The Douglas Valley is a sheltered valley containing a well preserved designed landscape with significant mature woodland planting. It is centred around the historic village of Douglas and provides an accessible, contained and tranquil landscape in contrast to the open and expansive rolling moorland to both the south and north of the valley. It has an existing Area of Great Landscape Value designation.

The proposed SLA is a relatively compact area focused around the sheltered upland river valley of the Douglas Water and Douglas village, enclosed by rolling moorland hills. Whilst containing many features typical of the hills and valleys of South Lanarkshire, the combination of features and overall scenic quality and condition of the landscape distinguishes this area from other similar settings and from areas disturbed by opencast mining further upstream or downstream. The expanded Hagshaw Hill windfarm and opencast mining have and will continue to affect the landscape. However, it is considered that these developments are relatively limited or transient features that will not affect the key landscape characteristics sufficiently to be excluded from the designated area.

The significance of the Douglas Valley relates to a combination of scenic and cultural features:

- scenic compositional qualities of a meandering upland river passing through a sheltered, mature pastoral landscape enclosed by moorland hills;
- cultural features include the designed landscape of Douglas Castle and the historic village of Douglas together and their historic associations with the Douglas family, the Cameronians regiment and literary associations with Sir Walter Scott;
- a network of mature policy woodlands and shelterbelts and a high quality water environment;
- frequently visited, as the M74 passes through the eastern end of the designated area and intersects with the main east-west route of the A70 which passes along the valley. The village and castle are visitor destinations with well maintained footpaths through the designed landscape.

The Douglas Valley has long been recognised as an AGLV. The area merits continued designation as a Special Landscape Area.

The boundary of the proposed area is defined by the combination of hills and valley providing the broader setting or 'visual envelope' focused on Douglas. To this end it follows the moorland watersheds to the northwest and south east and the boundaries of relatively undisturbed fields and woodlands to the southwest and northeast. The boundaries are slightly changed from the original AGLV to be better defined by landscape features.

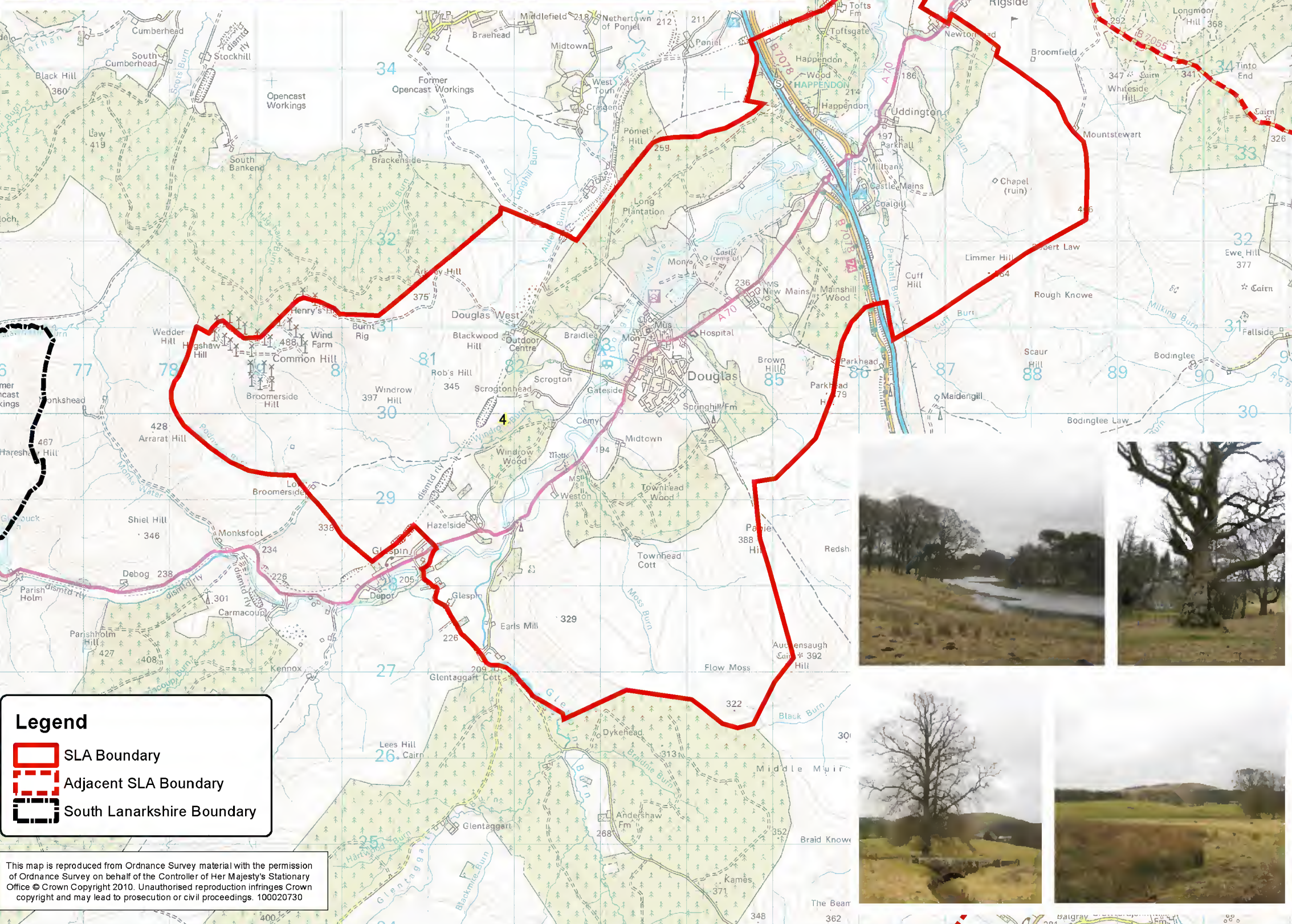
Designation recognises the scenic and historic qualities of the Douglas Valley and its setting. A coherent set of landscape management and promotion policies can be based around this combination of features.

**Figure 6iv
Special Landscape Area 4
Douglas Valley**



Scale 1:50k 0 0.5 1 2 km

Douglas Valley
Looking east from west of Douglas



Legend

- SLA Boundary
- Adjacent SLA Boundary
- South Lanarkshire Boundary

This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright 2010. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. 100020730



5 Pentland Hills & Black Mount

Name and Location

Pentland Hills & Black Mount

Located towards the north eastern boundary of South Lanarkshire, to the north east of the village of Carnwath.

Landscape Character Types

- 4 Rolling Farmland
- 5 Plateau Farmland
- 6 Plateau Moorland
- 6A Plateau Moorland Forestry
- 9 Broad Valley Upland
- 11 Prominent Isolated Foothills**
- 12 Old Red Sandstone Hills**

Overview

The south western extent of the expansive Pentland Hills range lies within South Lanarkshire. The Pentland Hills have regional importance in terms of their scenic qualities and as a major recreational resource, with the area to the north being designated a Regional Park as well as an AGLV. The area in South Lanarkshire comprises high rolling moorland dropping steeply in places to sheltered valleys and farmland and includes locally important hills such as Dunsyre Hill and Black Mount. The Pentland Hills area contains significant archaeology sites and the area within South Lanarkshire is the location of 'Little Sparta', Ian Hamilton Finlay's internationally important garden/ artwork, which fuses poetic and sculptural elements with those of the natural landscape.

Landscape Description

The Pentland Hills area lies in the north east of South Lanarkshire and forms the south western end of the range which extends in an unbroken chain approximately thirty kilometres to the north east. Much of the range outwith South Lanarkshire was designated a Regional Park in 1984.

The area within South Lanarkshire's boundaries is consistent with the open rolling hill character of the Regional Park and is contiguous with the range of hills which provides a backdrop to the more populated Midland Valley to the north. These characteristics therefore contribute to the overall landscape character and value of the hills. Views to adjacent landmark hills such as Mendick Hill are commonly found.

The predominant underlying geology consists of Upper Old Red Sandstone of the Devonian period with some areas of igneous rocks. To the west the landscape character consists predominantly of consolidated rolling moorland, presenting an open bleak view from the A70, a road known locally as the 'Lang Whang'. To the east the landform is more steeply rolling, in some cases falling steeply to the outlying valley. This is particularly true within the Dunsyre area where Dunsyre Hill drops steeply to the village of Dunsyre and where the pre-eminent local landmark, Black Mount, rises to 516 m to the south, enclosing the broad South Medwin valley. The western edge and southeastern end of the hills grades out into rolling or undulating farmland and open river valleys draining towards the Clyde. Settlement within the Pentland Hills area is restricted to these areas, including small villages such as Dunsyre, Elsrickle and Dolphinton, and limited isolated farmhouses and steadings.

Whilst there is some coniferous planting, the overall quality of the hills is one of comparative isolation and exposure. There is limited agricultural activity, predominantly sheep farming and much of the landscape remains unfarmed with expanses of heather and peat moorland. This sense of 'wildness' has a quality which attracts recreational use with footpaths crossing the hills, for example to the Covenanter's Grave.

The landscape also includes areas of archaeological interest including cairns, cultivation terraces at Dunsyre, crosses, towers and henges all of which add to its value. Also close to Dunsyre, at Stonypath, is Little Sparta, the garden / artwork by Ian Hamilton Finlay, which contrasts with the bleak, windswept elements of the Pentlands landscape. It is recognised internationally as a unique and outstanding synthesis of art and landscape and is included within the Inventory of Designed Gardens and Landscapes (2007).

Choice of Boundary

The Pentland Hills area relates to a landscape which extends beyond the South Lanarkshire boundary and therefore the local authority boundary line with West Lothian and Scottish Borders forms the proposed boundary to the north east and east from the A70 in the north to the A702 near Dolphinton. Southwest from here the boundary follows the A702 along the lower slopes of Black Mount to Candy Mill. From here it follows the minor road west and north to Strathbogie Bridge, heading west along a tributary of the Biggar Burn and then north along Biggarshiels Road to the A721 west of Elsrickle.

From the crossroads it heads west along the A721 to Kaimend, near Carnwath and then turns north along the minor Stanemuir Road to the A70. To the northwest the A70 forms a robust boundary up to Redford Bridge, encompassing the area of farmland and shelterbelts around Bertram House above the North Medwin. North of here the boundary follows the North Medwin and Greenfield Burn west of Lawhead House and Tarbrax along the foot of the Pentland slopes to the boundary with West Lothian where it meets the West Lothian AGLV.

Conservation and Opportunity for Change

The following landscape conservation issues and positive opportunities for change have been identified:

- Conserve the sense of wildness and contiguous undeveloped area of hills by discouraging the development of large scale wind energy developments or large scale commercial forestry planting.
- Encourage replanting of shelterbelts, field boundaries and hedges to lower slopes and valleys.
- Improvements to the form and species composition of any reforestation.
- Improvements to existing footpaths and facilities relating to them.

Validating Local Landscape Designations

The south western extent of the expansive Pentland Hills range lies within South Lanarkshire. The Pentland Hills have regional importance in terms of their scenic qualities and as a major recreational resource, with the area to the north being designated a Regional Park as well as an AGLV. The area in South Lanarkshire comprises high rolling moorland dropping steeply in places to sheltered valleys and farmland and includes locally important hills such as Dunsyre Hill and Black Mount. The Pentland Hills area contains significant archaeology sites and the area within South Lanarkshire is the location of 'Little Sparta', Ian Hamilton Finlay's internationally important garden/ artwork, which fuses poetic and sculptural elements with those of the natural landscape.

The Pentland Hills in South Lanarkshire lie at the end of a range of rounded, often steep sided hills which extends north eastwards into the Lothians and Scottish Borders. Whilst containing moorland and hill landscapes that compare with the Southern Uplands and other borders hills they are distinguished by being smaller of scale and geographically distinct as a range. They are located close to Edinburgh and provide a scenic contrast to the surrounding lowland farming and urban areas.

The significance of the western Pentland Hills relates to a combination of scenic, natural and cultural features:

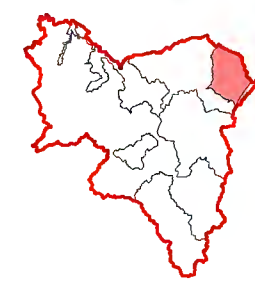
- scenic qualities of moorland and rounded hills contrasting with sheltered pastoral valley and farmland around the edges;
- cultural features within South Lanarkshire include the designed landscape of Little Sparta and sites of archaeological significance;
- extensive areas of peatland, heather and moorland vegetation;
- proximity of accessible and open countryside to a large population via the A70 and A720. Crossed by footpaths and tracks and part of a larger designated and highly popular area.

The Pentland Hills lie within the current RSA designation that also includes the Clyde Valley and Southern Uplands. The area merits continued designation as a Special Landscape Area distinguished from these distinctly different landscape areas and linked with neighbouring AGLV designations covering the rest of the Pentland Hills.

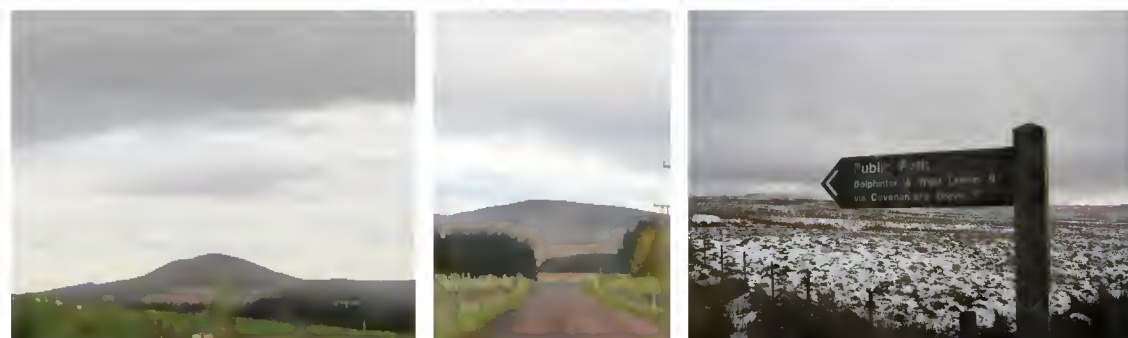
The boundary of the proposed area is defined by the extent of the hills including the prominent isolated hill of Black Mount. It is mainly defined by watercourses, the bordering main roads and the desirability of creating a coherent designated area together with adjoining AGLV boundaries in the Lothians and Scottish Borders. The boundary is slightly changed from the original RSA so as to be more clearly defined by landscape features and to separate it from the Upper Clyde Valley.

Designation recognises the distinctive qualities of the western end of the Pentland Hills and its geographical location as part of a larger range. A coherent set of landscape management and promotion policies can be based around this area and linked with those in neighbouring local authority areas.

Figure 6v
Special Landscape Area 5
Pentland Hills and
Black Mount



Scale 1:55k 0 0.5 1 2 km



Legend

- SLA Boundary
- Adjacent SLA Boundary
- South Lanarkshire Boundary



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright 2010. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. 100020730

6 Leadhills and The Lowther Hills

Name and Location

Leadhills and The Lowther Hills

Located within the Southern Uplands, in the south of South Lanarkshire, adjacent to the boundary with Dumfries and Galloway. Includes the Lowther Hills and the village of Leadhills.

Landscape Character Types

- 7 Rolling Moorland
- 8 **Upland River Valley**
- 10 Foothills
- 13 **Southern Uplands**
- 13A Southern Uplands Forestry
- 13C **Southern Uplands Leadhills**
- 14 **Upland Glen**

Overview

The Leadhills and Lowther Hills area forms part of the more extensive Lowther Hills range, which extends into Dumfries & Galloway. This landscape of remote rounded hills and isolated upland glens is characterised by a general sense of emptiness. Much of the landscape is treeless, with only a few small forestry plantations. Between the hills a number of scenic glens pass southwest from the Clyde valley into Dumfries and Galloway. The Conservation Village of Leadhills is located at the head of two glens, 400m above sea level. With the adjacent village of Wanlockhead (Dumfries and Galloway) they represent the highest settlements in Scotland and the industrial archaeology associated with these villages, including working railway, museum, mine spoil and former mines, permeates into the adjoining landscape. The Southern Upland Way passes through this landscape, providing many with the opportunity to explore and enjoy it.

Landscape Description

Leadhills and the Lowther Hills lies in the south west of South Lanarkshire and forms part of the larger Lowther Hills range within the Southern Uplands, extending into Dumfries and Galloway. The landscape is characterised by steep hills with smooth rolling summits, in bold contrast with the lower moors and plateaus to the north and west. Cut into the uplands are distinctive glacial valleys sometimes with steep side slopes, waterfalls, crags and screes. These glens and valleys include Duneaton Water, Glengonnar Water, Elvan Water, Potrail Water and Daer Water.

Much of this character is derived from the geology (Ordovician rocks, predominantly more resistant greywackes) and the influence of glacial erosion. There are very few settlements and little agriculture with the exception of hill sheep farming. This has resulted in a landscape with

qualities of apparent wilderness and isolation. In some areas there are no field boundary walls, fences or hedges between roads and rivers and burns, allowing access to water and contributing to a sense of remoteness. There is comparatively little afforestation and substantial areas are largely treeless.

The main settlement within the area is the small conservation village of Leadhills, the second highest village in Scotland (the highest is the adjacent Wanlockhead in Dumfries and Galloway). This is located at the head of two glens, in marked contrast to settlement patterns elsewhere within the Southern Uplands. Leadhills has significance in terms of Scottish mining and social improvement history. The impact of lead mining, in particular, is strongly apparent within the landscape with remnants of structures, spoil heaps and former mines. Leadhills contains Scots Mining Company House which is included within the updated Inventory of designed gardens and landscapes (2007). An extensive area around Leadhills is designated as an ancient monument.

This industrial archaeology includes a working narrow gauge railway built to serve the mining industry. This fascinating contrast between the former lead mine industry and upland landscape would appear to be unique in a Scottish context.

The landscape affords considerable recreational potential with well utilised footpaths (including the Southern Upland Way) and visitor attractions at Leadhills such as the narrow gauge railway. The elevation of the road network also allows panoramic views to be enjoyed whilst travelling through the landscape.

Choice of Boundary

The landscape boundary of Leadhills and the Lowther Hills extends to Dumfries & Galloway and therefore the south western, southern, and southeastern boundary follows the Local Authority boundary line. On the western side it abuts a Regional Scenic Area in Dumfries and Galloway.

To the north the Duneaton Water valley provides the setting for these hills and the transition in landscape character between the Southern Uplands and the Rolling Moorland to the north. The valley is included within the proposed designation and the boundary predominantly follows the edge of the first line of hills above B740 and the small settlement of Crawfordjohn to the north.

The boundary passes north east of Crawfordjohn to the B7078, enclosing Black Hill and on the crest of Craighead Hill, crossing the Glengonnar Water to Ravengill Dodd and crossing the Elvan Water at Toddle Moss. Passing over Watchman Hill, it crosses the A702 south of Elvanfoot, taking in the Daer Water valley, linking the crests of hills above the minor road to Daer Reservoir from where it follows the Southern Upland Way on Hods Hill to the Dumfries and Galloway boundary in the east.

Conservation and Opportunity for Change

The following landscape conservation issues and positive opportunities for change have been identified:

- Improve footpath system, including associated low-key facilities and interpretation, particularly centred on Leadhills and the connections to the Southern Uplands Way.
- Encourage replanting of shelterbelts and field boundary trees where appropriate.
- Protect and improve interpretation of landscapes of heritage importance, encouraging low-key sustainable tourism.
- Improvements to the form and species composition of forestry within the landscape or to any reforestation.
- Discourage large scale commercial windfarm developments that could lead to significant cumulative impacts with Clyde windfarm or unacceptable effects on the historic landscape of the Leadhills area.

This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright 2010. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. 100020730



South Lanarkshire

Validating Local Landscape Designations

The Leadhills and Lowther Hills area forms part of the more extensive Lowther Hills range, which extends into Dumfries & Galloway. This landscape of remote rounded hills and isolated upland glens is characterised by a general sense of emptiness. Much of the landscape is treeless, with only a few small forestry plantations. Between the hills a number of scenic glens pass southwest from the Clyde valley into Dumfries and Galloway. The Conservation Village of Leadhills is located at the head of two glens, 400m above sea level. With the adjacent village of Wanlockhead (Dumfries and Galloway) they represent the highest settlements in Scotland and the industrial archaeology associated with these villages, including working railway, museum, mine spoil and former mines, permeates into the adjoining landscape. The Southern Upland Way passes through this landscape, providing many with the opportunity to explore and enjoy it.

This area of the Southern Uplands typifies many of their characteristics, being largely unaffected by forestry or windfarm development, but is more extensive than the Culter Fell area and traversed by a number of high roads in scenic upland glen. It is notable for the legacy of the mining industry in the area surrounding Leadhills, one of the small settlements located in the hills.

The significance of the Leadhills/ Lowther Hills area arises from:

- An extensive area of high, smooth, rolling, hills and varied upland glens with a sense of emptiness engendered by a lack of extensive forestry or windfarm development;
- cultural features include the mining heritage surrounding Leadhills and remains of settlements on the sides of glens;
- extensive areas of rough grassland and heather moorland vegetation;
- the Southern Upland Way and other walking routes accessible via the M74 and main roads passing through to the west; visitor attractions at Leadhills and fishing on the Daer reservoir.

The area lies within the current RSA that includes all of the Southern Uplands in South Lanarkshire. It merits continued designation as a Special Landscape Area, distinguished from the Southern Uplands to the east of Daer and the Clyde which are more affected by forestry, wind energy development and the M74 corridor.

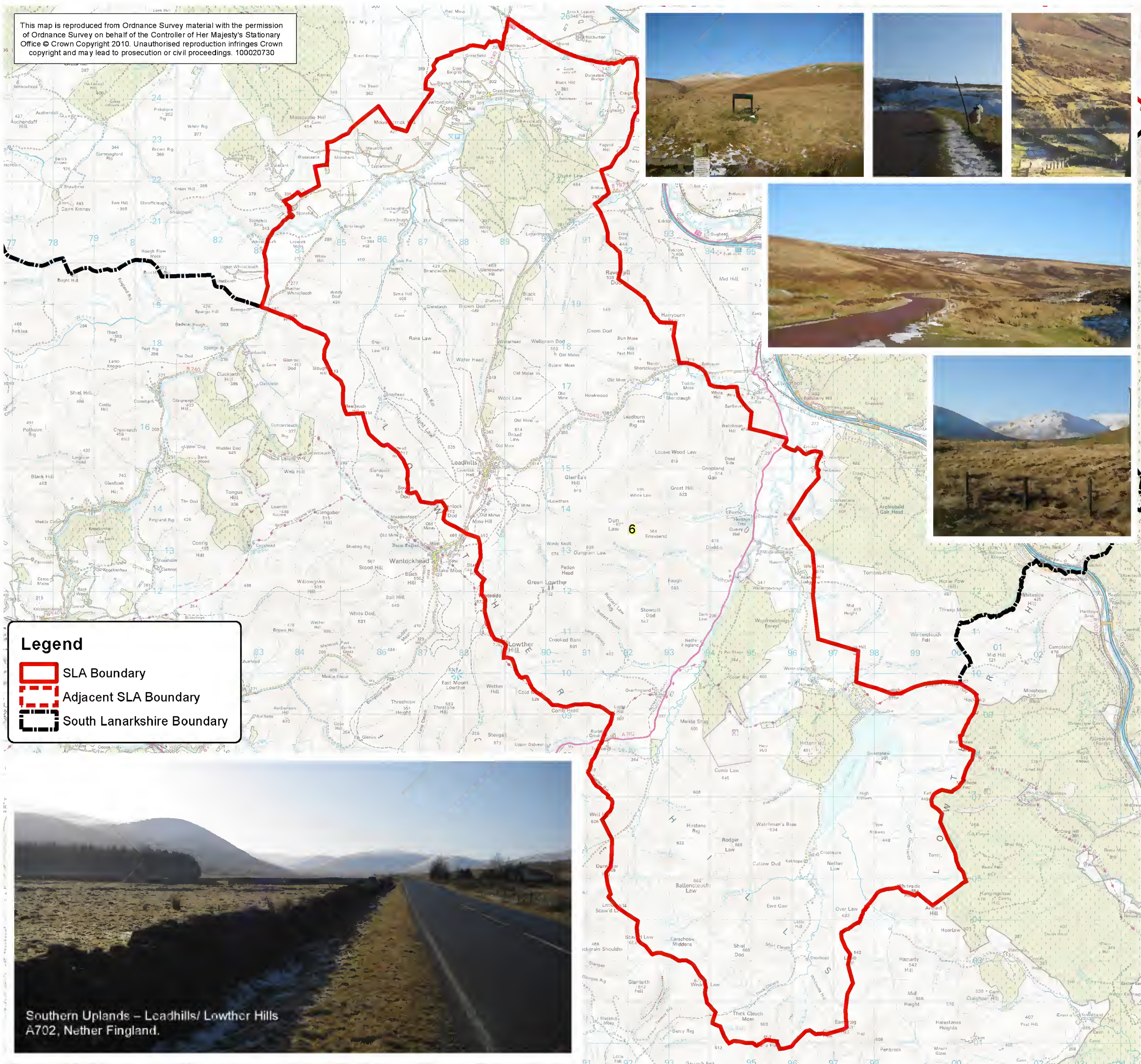
The boundary of the proposed area is defined to the southwest and southeast by the boundary with Dumfries and Galloway, with another RSA abutting the west side. The northern boundary encompasses the upland valley of the Duneaton Water and village of Crawfordjohn. To the east the boundary is largely defined along the crests of hills, fencelines or watercourses to encompass areas that are not directly affected by windfarm and forestry development or the M74 corridor.

Designation recognises Leadhills and the Lowther Hills as a landscape exemplifying the characteristics of the Southern Uplands to the west of the Clyde, together with considerable industrial heritage interest and recreational access. A coherent set of landscape management and promotion policies can be based around this area in order to protect it and distinguish it from areas further to the east which have been changed by more recent development.

**Figure 6vi
Special Landscape Area 6
Leadhills and the
Lowther Hills**



Scale 1:90k 0 1 2 4 km



Southern Uplands – Leadhills/ Lowther Hills
A702, Nether Finland.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS/ NEXT STEPS

7.1 Study Findings

The findings of this study support the findings of the Local Plan process; namely that the location and extent of local landscape designations in South Lanarkshire broadly conforms with the qualities and criteria applied by recent guidance. Nevertheless, changes since the original designations were made have identified the need to revise some areas and boundaries. This information includes:

- the updated landscape character assessment for South Lanarkshire;
- cumulative development within areas since designation; and
- the introduction of guidance promoting a systematic and focused designation process and criteria.

The proposed SLAs identified in this process have been subject to public consultation, with publication of a report in early 2010. Responses were received from SNH but not from members of the public. The issues raised by SNH have been discussed directly and addressed through amendments to the report including detailed boundary changes where appropriate.

7.2 Key Changes to Local Landscape Designations

The key proposed changes to local landscape designations are as follows:

- 1) Designation under one category, *Special Landscape Area*, with each area given a local name, overview, description and clear definition of boundaries;
- 2) Adjustment to the boundaries of most areas based on landscape character, reasons for designation and identification of readily identifiable and robust local boundary features;
- 3) A new designated area covering the Lower Clyde and Calderglen;
- 4) Breakdown of the Regional Scenic Area into three separate areas, each focused around distinctive assemblages of landscape character types or features;
- 5) Inclusion in the designation of an area of the Upper Clyde currently outside the RSA and AGLV;
- 6) Removal of part of the RSA in the Southern Uplands from designation, based on cumulative development in that area which conflicts with the key characteristics of the underlying landscape.

Compared with the existing designated areas, the resulting proposed Special Landscape Areas cover a reduced area. They are also more transparent in their origin and description, more robust in their justification and clearly related to identifiable areas and features on the ground.

The proposed SLAs will be incorporated into the South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan in due course.

7.3 Future Reviews of Local Landscape Designations

The current SLA boundaries represent decisions made on the basis of landscape character, value and land use in 2010. Future landscape change, positive or negative, will inevitably occur within South Lanarkshire and attitudes to landscape may change. Accordingly the basis and decisions for local landscape designations will be reviewed periodically in the future and may lead to changes in the SLA boundaries.