

**Fife Local Landscape Designation
Review**

**Final
Main Report**

**Prepared for Fife Council
by
Land Use Consultants in association
with Carol Anderson and the Small
Town and Rural Development
Group**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The Fife Review of Local Landscape Designations sets out the findings of a study commissioned by Fife Council to undertake a systematic and transparent review of the Fife landscape in order to identify and justify areas which warrant local designation. Local landscape designations act as an important tool for safeguarding and protecting Scotland's rich diversity of landscape.

Guidance was produced by SNH and Historic Scotland in 2004 to help local authorities refresh their approach to local landscape designations and provides greater consistency and transparency. This has informed the review of local landscape designations within Fife. The previous local landscape designations, Areas of Great Landscape Value, were not based on a robust and recognised methodology and therefore a need to review the Fife landscape was identified by Fife Council.

The study has assessed the landscape based on its current status, and did not assess potential impacts of future development. The three islands of the Isle of May, Inchcolm, and Inchkeith have been included in the assessment., however the offshore coastal environment, excluding the islands, lies outwith local authority planning control. The importance of the interrelationship between land and sea is recognised in the coastal candidate Special Landscape Areas (cSLA).

The identification of candidate SLA does not preclude development within these areas, however it will inform issues such as the scale of development and site layout and design where development proposals exist within the candidate SLA.

The Finalised Structure Plan Policy of Fife Council identifies Strategic Land Allocations within the Fife settlements to accommodate housing units to meet the projected population growth. The Finalised Structure Plan Policy identifies Strategic Land Allocations of over 1000 units in Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy East, Kirkcaldy South West, Lochgelly, Levenmouth, Cupar North and St. Andrews West. A number of other settlements are also identified for other Strategic Land Allocations at a smaller scale (minimum 300 houses). These are Glenrothes East/Markinch, Inverkeithing, East Neuk settlements, Newport/Tayport/Wormit, West Villages, Burntisland and Kelty/Lochore/Ballingry. Future development within these settlements may impact on cSLA.

Methodology: Stages in review of local landscape designations

The following bullet points summarise the key stages in a review of local landscape designations:

- The landscape is described through landscape character assessment;
- The character and qualities of the landscape are assessed according to agreed criteria and the ratings of high, medium or low from the evaluation tables are converted to numeric scores;

- The landscapes are ranked according to the outcomes of the assessment and candidate Special Landscape Areas are identified from the highest scoring landscapes;
- The candidate landscapes are evaluated for their value for designation and in terms of practical considerations, support from CEC and the community, cross boundary issues and the candidate Special Landscape Areas are refined and boundaries identified.
- The final list of candidate Special Landscape Areas are set out in a designation report and Statements of Importance are provided for each area, which describe the key characteristics of the landscapes.

The landscape character evaluation is based on the landscape character units identified in the David Tyldesley Associates (1999) *Fife Landscape Character Assessment*. The approach to the identification of candidate landscape areas for designation is based upon the guidance set out in Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Scotland (2004) *Guidance on Local Landscape Designations*.

The flow diagram overleaf illustrates the key stages in the project process and highlights where inputs from the project steering group and community consultation have fed in to the decision making process.

I. INTRODUCTION

- I.1. Fife Council commissioned Land Use Consultants in association with Carol Anderson and the Small Town and Rural Development Group to undertake the Fife Local Landscape Designation Review. The purpose of the work is to undertake a systematic and transparent review of the Fife landscape in order to identify and justify areas which merit local designation. This project has been administered by Fife Council with joint funding from the Council and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).
- I.2. The main purpose of the study is to identify Fife landscapes which have particular value and merit special attention as designated local landscapes. The current local landscape designations, Areas of Great Landscape Value, which were originally identified in the 1960s are not based on a robust and recognised methodology and therefore a need to review the Fife landscape was identified by Fife Council. This report sets out the findings from the landscape quality evaluation undertaken to identify a shortlist of Landscape Character Units (LCU) to be taken forward for consideration as local landscape designations during the preparation of the three new Local Plans for Fife, the Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife Local Plan, the Dunfermline and West Fife Local Plan and the St Andrews and East Fife Local Plan.
- I.3. The following bullet points summarise the key stages in a review of local landscape designations:
 - The landscape is described through landscape character assessment;
 - The character and qualities of the landscape are assessed according to agreed criteria and the ratings of high, medium or low from the evaluation tables are converted to numeric scores;
 - The landscapes are ranked according to the outcomes of the assessment and candidate Special Landscape Areas (cSLA) are identified from the highest scoring landscapes;
 - The candidate Special Landscape Areas (cSLA) are evaluated for their merit for designation and in terms of practical considerations, support from the community, Fife Council and cross boundary issues. The candidate Special Landscape Areas are then refined and boundaries identified;
 - The final list of candidate Special Landscape Areas are set out in a designation report and Statements of Importance are provided for each area, which describe the key features and values of the landscape which has led to its description.
- I.4. The remainder of this report is structured as follows:
 - Section 2 provides background on the D Tyldesley and Associates (1999) *Fife Landscape Character Assessment* which formed the basis for the study;
 - Section 3 provides information on the study context;
 - Section 4 sets out the methodology;

- Section 5 sets out the shortlist of Landscape Character Units and the process of selecting the final candidate Special Landscape Areas;
- Section 6 sets out the findings of the designation audit and policy recommendations;
- Section 7 includes the Statements Of Importance; and
- Section 8 sets out the process for monitoring and review.

1.5. This work has been overseen by a Project Steering Group of 5 members, representing Fife Council Development Services (3 members), Fife Council Community Services (1 member) and Scottish Natural Heritage (1 member). The Project Steering Group has undertaken the following tasks:

- Discussion of project implementation plan
- Ongoing liaison with appointed consultant to discuss and agree the development of the project methodology and its implementation
- Review of feedback from consultation stages of project
- Review of consultant's submissions at set stages during progress of work
- Ongoing liaison with the public and interested bodies regarding the development of the project, specifically in terms of its role in relation to wider land use planning issues in Fife.

2. FIFE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

- 2.1. The landscape character evaluation is based on the Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Units identified in the David Tyldesley and Associates (1999) *Fife Landscape Character Assessment*
- 2.2. Landscape Character Types are distinctive areas of landscape which have typical characteristics that apply to most landscapes of their particular type, and generally apply to a number of landscapes found in different locations across Fife.
- 2.3. These Landscape Character Types have variations within them and are further divided by more detailed aspects into a number of Landscape Character Units (LCU).
- 2.4. The Fife Landscape Character Assessment (1999) provided the basis for the assessment and evaluation of the Landscape Character Units (LCU).
- 2.5. Some minor alterations were made to the Landscape Character Units identified within the Landscape Character Assessment to draw together Landscape Character Units of very similar character, and sub divide those areas where a distinct variation in quality was identified. These amended units were then used as the basis for the description and evaluation for this work.
- 2.6. The Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Units which have been used for this work are listed in Table 2.1 below and illustrated in Figures 1, 2 and 3. Table 2.1 also identifies which of the Landscape Character Units extend into each of the forthcoming Local Plan areas. Table 2.2 provides a summary of the changes made to the Landscape Character Units identified in the Fife Landscape Character Assessment (1999) and the reasons for these changes.

Table 2.1

List of the David Tyldesley Associates (1999) Landscape Character Types and Units incorporating amendments from field work

Landscape Character Type	Ref	Landscape Character Unit (LCU) Name	Local Plan area/s
Uplands	UPI	The Ochil Hills	St Andrews and East Fife
	UP2	Lomond Hills	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife St Andrews and East Fife
	UP3	Benarty Hill	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife
	UP4	Cleish Hills	Dunfermline and West Fife
Upland Slopes	US5	Lomond Slopes North	St Andrews and East Fife
	US6	Lomond Slopes East	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife St Andrews and East Fife
	US7	Benarty Slopes	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife
	US8	Cleish Slopes North	Dunfermline and West Fife
	US9	Cleish Slopes West	Dunfermline and West Fife
	US10	Cleish Slopes East (Blairadam) <i>(subdivided to create additional unit US11)</i>	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife
	US11	Thornton Slopes <i>(new unit created from subdivision of US10)</i>	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife
Upland Foothills	UF11	Ochil Foothills Newport	St Andrews and East Fife
	UF12	Ochil Foothills Craigie Hill <i>(amalgamated with LG52)</i>	St Andrews and East Fife
	UF13	Ochil Foothills Galdry	St Andrews and East Fife
	UF14	Ochil Foothills Lucklaw	St Andrews and East Fife
	UF15	Ochil Foothills Brunton	St Andrews and East Fife
	UF16	Ochil Foothills Moonzie <i>(amalgamated with UF17 and LH31)</i>	St Andrews and East Fife

Landscape Character Type	Ref	Landscape Character Unit (LCU) Name	Local Plan area/s
	UF17	Ochil Foothills Kilmaron <i>(amalgamated with UF16 and LH31)</i> _	St Andrews and East Fife
	UF18	Ochil Foothills Letham <i>(amalgamated with UF19)</i>	St Andrews and East Fife
	UF19	Ochil Foothills Black Hill <i>(amalgamated with UF18)</i>	St Andrews and East Fife
	UF20	Lomond Foothills	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife
	UF21	Cleish Foothills	Dunfermline and West Fife
Pronounced Volcanic Hills and Craigs	UV22	Blebocraigs	St Andrews and East Fife
	UV23	Ceres	St Andrews and East Fife
	UV24	Clatto <i>(subdivided to create additional unit UV24a)</i>	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife St Andrews and East Fife
	UV24a	Tarvit <i>(new unit created from subdivision of UV24)</i>	St Andrews and East Fife
	UV25	Largoward	St Andrews and East Fife
	UV26	Largo Law	St Andrews and East Fife
	UV27	Redwell Hill	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife
	UV28	Cowdenbeath Hills	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife
	UV29	Cullaloe Hills	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife Dunfermline and West Fife
	UV30	Kincraig	St Andrews and East Fife
Lowland Hills and Valleys	LH31	North West Cupar <i>(amalgamated with UF17 and LH31)</i>	St Andrews and East Fife
	LH32	East Cupar	St Andrews and East Fife
	LH33	Tarvit Mill	St Andrews and East Fife
	LH34	Strathmiglo	St Andrews and East Fife
	LH35	NE Dunfermline	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife Dunfermline and West

Landscape Character Type	Ref	Landscape Character Unit (LCU) Name	Local Plan area/s
			Fife
	LH35	NE Dunfermline	Dunfermline and West Fife Dunfermline and West Fife
	LH36	Fordell	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife Dunfermline and West Fife
	LH36	Fordell	Dunfermline and West Fife Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife
	LH37	West Dunfermline	Dunfermline and West Fife
	LH38	South Dunfermline	Dunfermline and West Fife
	LH39	South Oakley	Dunfermline and West Fife
	LH40	Black Devon	Dunfermline and West Fife
	LH41	Bluther Burn	Dunfermline and West Fife
	LH42a	Devilla Forest	Dunfermline and West Fife
	LH43	Cameron	St Andrews and East Fife
	LH44	Prior Muir	St Andrews and East Fife
	LH45	Falkland	St Andrews and East Fife
Open sloping farmland	LF46	East Fife Slopes	St Andrews and East Fife
	LF47	Strathkinness	St Andrews and East Fife
Lowland Dens	LD48	Corbie Den	St Andrews and East Fife
	LD48a	Dura Den	St Andrews and East Fife
	LD49	Claremont	St Andrews and East Fife
	LD50	Kinaldy	St Andrews and East Fife
Lowland Dens	LD51	Largo	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife

Landscape Character Type	Ref	Landscape Character Unit (LCU) Name	Local Plan area/s
			St Andrews and East Fife
Glacial Meltwater Valleys	LG52	Motray Water (<i>amalgamated with UF12</i>)	St Andrews and East Fife
	LG53	Dunbog	St Andrews and East Fife
	LG54	Lindores	St Andrews and East Fife
Lowland River Basins	LR55	Collessie Howe of Fife East	St Andrews and East Fife
	LR56	Dunshelt Howe of Fife West	St Andrews and East Fife
	LR57	Mid Leven Valley	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife
Lowland Loch Basins	LB58	Leven	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife
	LB59	Ore	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife
	LB60	Gelly	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife
	LB61	Fitty	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife Dunfermline and West Fife
	LB62	Kilconquhar	St Andrews and East Fife
Coastal Hills	CH63	Tayport (<i>amalgamated with CB90</i>)	St Andrews and East Fife
	CH64	Balmerino	St Andrews and East Fife
	CH65	Ballinbreich (<i>amalgamated with CB94</i>)	St Andrews and East Fife
	CH66	North Strathkinness	St Andrews and East Fife
	CH67	South St Andrews	St Andrews and East Fife
	CH68	Kincardine to Culross	Dunfermline and West Fife
	CH69	Valleyfield to Charlestown	Dunfermline and West Fife
	CH70	Limekilns	Dunfermline and West Fife
	CH71	Castlelandhill	Dunfermline and West Fife
	CH72	Ferryhills	Dunfermline and West Fife

Landscape Character Type	Ref	Landscape Character Unit (LCU) Name	Local Plan area/s
	CH73	Letham Hill	Dunfermline and West Fife
	CH74	Aberdour Hills	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife Dunfermline and West Fife
	CH75	Wemyss	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife
	CH114	Kinghorn	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife
Coastal Terrace (Raised Beaches)	CT76	St Michael's Wood (<i>amalgamated with CT77, CT78, CT79</i>)	St Andrews and East Fife
	CT77	Leuchars – Guardbridge (<i>amalgamated with CT76, CT78, CT79</i>)	St Andrews and East Fife
	CT78	Nydies – Kincapple – N. Bank (<i>amalgamated with CT76, CT78, CT79</i>)	St Andrews and East Fife
	CT79	St Andrews (<i>amalgamated with CT76, CT77, CT78</i>)	St Andrews and East Fife
	CT80	Kingsbarns	St Andrews and East Fife
	CT82	Fife Ness	St Andrews and East Fife
	CT82	Crail- St Monans	St Andrews and East Fife
	CT83	Elie	St Andrews and East Fife
Coastal Cliffs	CC85	St Andrews	St Andrews and East Fife
	CC86	Kinkell Braes (<i>amalgamated with CC87 and CC88</i>)	St Andrews and East Fife
	CC87	Kittocks Den (<i>amalgamated with CC86 and CC87</i>)	St Andrews and East Fife
	CC88	Buddo Ness (<i>amalgamated with CC86 and CC87</i>)	St Andrews and East Fife
	CC89	South Kincaig	St Andrews and East Fife
Coastal Wooded Braes	CB90	Drybrae (<i>amalgamated with CB63</i>)	St Andrews and East Fife
	CB91	Kilburns (<i>amalgamated with CB92 and CB93</i>)	St Andrews and East Fife
	CB92	South Balmerino (<i>amalgamated with CB91 and CB93</i>)	St Andrews and East Fife

Landscape Character Type	Ref	Landscape Character Unit (LCU) Name	Local Plan area/s
	CB93	Flisk (<i>amalgamated with CB91 and CB92</i>)	St Andrews and East Fife
	CB94	Castlebank (<i>amalgamated with CH65</i>)	St Andrews and East Fife
	CB95	Culross	Dunfermline and West Fife
	CB96a	Torryburn to Crombie Point and Limekilns to Charlestown (<i>created by subdivision of existing unit</i>)	Dunfermline and West Fife
	CB96b	Charlestown to Crombie Point (<i>created by subdivision of existing unit</i>)	Dunfermline and West Fife
	CB97	Aberdour - Burntisland	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife Dunfermline and West Fife
Coastal Flats	CF98	Tentsmuir Forest	St Andrews and East Fife
	CF99	Morton – Leuchars	St Andrews and East Fife
	CF100	Earlshall Muir	St Andrews and East Fife
	CF101	Guardbridge (<i>amalgamated with CF101, CF103, CF104</i>)	St Andrews and East Fife
	CF102	Leuchars Airfield (<i>amalgamated with CF101, CF103, CF104</i>)	St Andrews and East Fife
	CF103	River Eden (<i>amalgamated with CF101, CF102, CF104</i>)	St Andrews and East Fife
	CF104	Edenside (<i>amalgamated with CF101, CF102, CF103</i>)	St Andrews and East Fife
	CF105	The Links	St Andrews and East Fife
	CF106	NW St Andrews	St Andrews and East Fife
	CF 107	Newburgh	St Andrews and East Fife
	CF108	Mugdrum Island	St Andrews and East Fife
	CF109	St Ford Links	St Andrews and East Fife
	CF110	Kincardine	Dunfermline and West Fife
	CF111	Longannet	Dunfermline and West Fife
	CF112	Valleyfield Ash Lagoons	Dunfermline and West

Landscape Character Type	Ref	Landscape Character Unit (LCU) Name	Local Plan area/s
			Fife
	CFI13	Rosyth	Dunfermline and West Fife
	F11	Inchcolm (<i>additional unit</i>)	Dunfermline and West Fife
	F12	Inchkeith (<i>additional unit</i>)	Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife
	F13	Isle of May (<i>additional unit</i>)	St. Andrews & East Fife

Summary of Landscape Character Changes

- 2.2. The Fife Landscape Character Assessment (1999) provided the basis for the assessment and evaluation of the landscape character units (LCU). Some minor alterations were made to the landscape character units identified within the landscape character assessment to draw together landscape character units of very similar character, and sub divide those areas where a distinct variation in quality was identified. These amended units were used as the basis for the evaluation.
- 2.3. A summary of the changes is provided in Table 2.2 below.

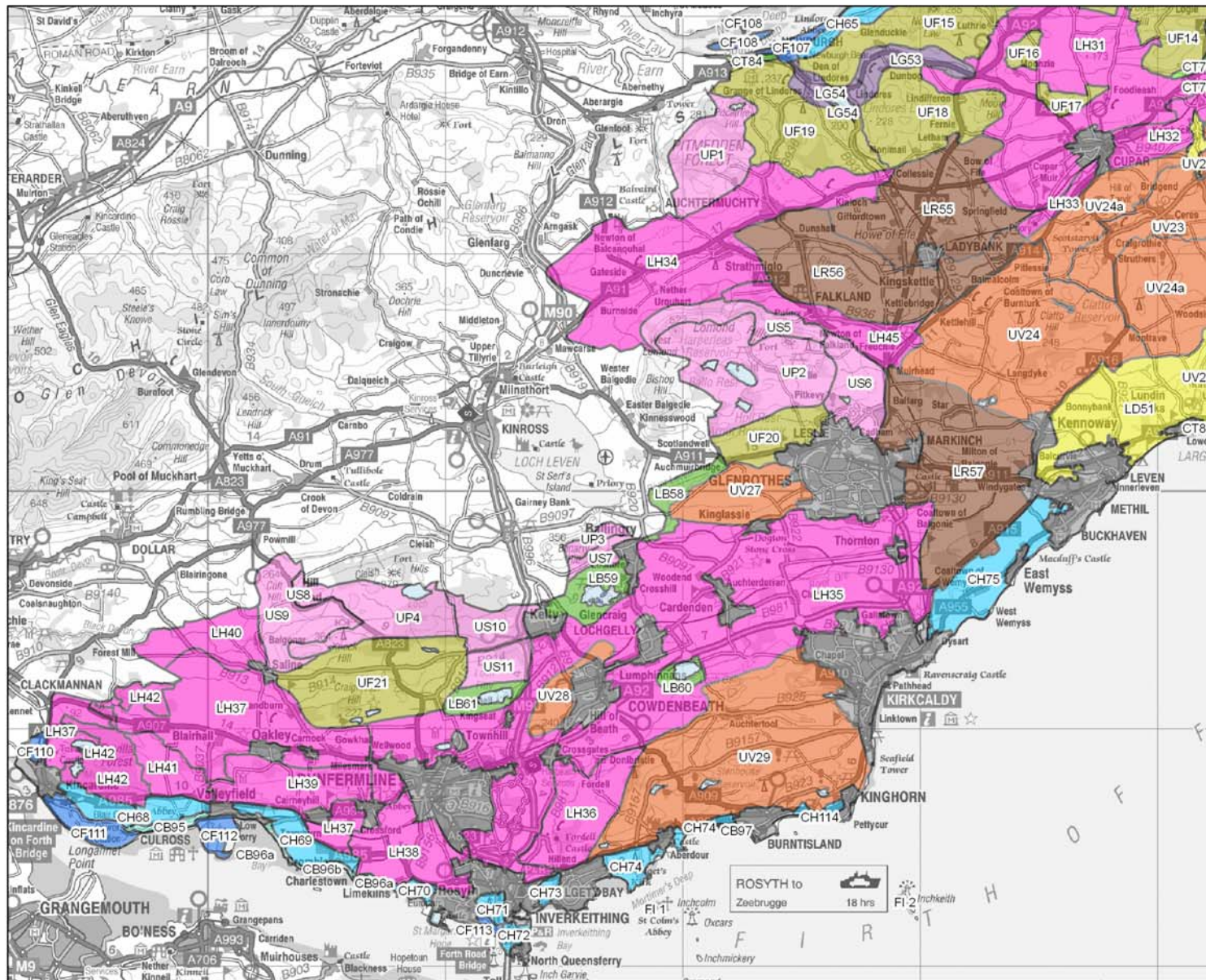
Table 2.2

Summary of changes to the Fife Landscape Character Units identified in the Fife Landscape Character Assessment (1999)

Landscape Character Units (LCU) changed	Nature of change	Name of new Landscape Character Unit(LCU)	Reason for change
UF 18, UF19	Amalgamation of LCU	Ochil Foothills Letham and Black Hill	Amalgamated due to similarities in landform and landcover.
LG52, UF12	Amalgamation of LCU	Motray Water	Amalgamated with LG52 due to the small extent of UF12 and similarity in height and landform to other hills within LG52.
UF16, UF17, LH31	Amalgamation of LCU	North West Cupar	Amalgamation of these character types due to their generally indistinct height and form when compared with the other hills which occur within LH31.
CT76, CT77, CT78, CT79	Amalgamation of LCU	Eden Coastal Terrace	This amalgamation of similar Landscape Character Units includes a small area categorised in the Fife LCA as coastal terraces CT79. This area does not accord with the general character type, comprising a steep sloping single field rising from the urban edge of St Andrews.

CC85	Not considered as a cSLA due to its geographic location		This is the only Landscape Character Unit within the LCA which lies below mean high water springs. In order to ensure consistency in the identification of cSLA and the definition of boundaries, this area is not taken forward for consideration as a cSLA
CC86, CC87, CC88	Amalgamation of LCU	Kinkell coastal cliffs	These LCU lie along the same stretch of coast to the south east of St Andrews and are largely similar in character and quality.
CH63, CB90	Amalgamation of LCU	Tayport	CB90 is a very small area of coastal wooded brae which is intrinsically part of CH63.
CH65, CB94	Amalgamation of LCU	Ballinbreich	Amalgamated due to small extent of CB94 and strong association with CH65.
CB91, CB92, CB93	Amalgamation of LCU	Birkhill coastal wooded braes	Amalgamated due to strong similarities in location and extent.
CF101, CF102, CF103, CF104	Amalgamation of LCU	Eden Coastal Flats	Amalgamated due to their similar characteristics and geographical location.
US10, US11	Subdivision of existing LCU	US11: Thornton Slopes	On the slopes above Loch Fitty, near Kely the mine is now being reworked. The impact of this change on the landscape has resulted in the identification of an additional LCU within the Upland Slopes Landscape Character Unit of US10, named US11 Thornton Slopes.
UV24, UV24a	Subdivision of existing LCU	UV24a: Tarvit	The Landscape Character Unit UV24 has been subdivided into UV24 and UV24a. This reflects the large extent of this Landscape Character Unit and variation in landscape quality and character. UV24a has a more intricate landform and greater policy influences than UV24.
CB96a, CB96b	Subdivision of existing LCU	CB96a: Torryburn to Crombie Point and Limekilns to Charlestown CB96b Charlestown to Crombie Point	The coastal wooded braes CB96a were subdivided into CB96a and CB96b to reflect the influence of RNAD Crombie on the landscape character of CB96b.
F11	Additional LCU	Inchcolm	The island was not individually described within the Fife Landscape Character Assessment (1999).
F12	Additional LCU	Inchkeith	The island was not individually described within the Fife Landscape Character Assessment (1999).
F13	Additional LCU	Isle of May	The island was not individually described within the Fife Landscape Character Assessment (1999).

- 2.7. Appendix 2 provides an overview of the key characteristics and features for each of the landscape character types and units identified in the Fife Landscape Character Assessment (1999) and includes the evaluation tables for each Landscape Character Unit. The descriptions of the landscape character types presented in this Appendix are taken from the Fife Landscape Character Assessment (1999) and are typical characteristics that apply to most landscapes of that particular type, and generally apply to a number of Landscape Character Units found in different locations across Fife. Summary descriptions are provided for each Landscape Character Unit based on observations from fieldwork and key characteristics from the Landscape Character Type descriptions.
- 2.8. Figures 1 and 2 illustrate the Landscape Character Types within the Fife Landscape Character Assessment (1999) and the Landscape Character Units- as amended by this study.



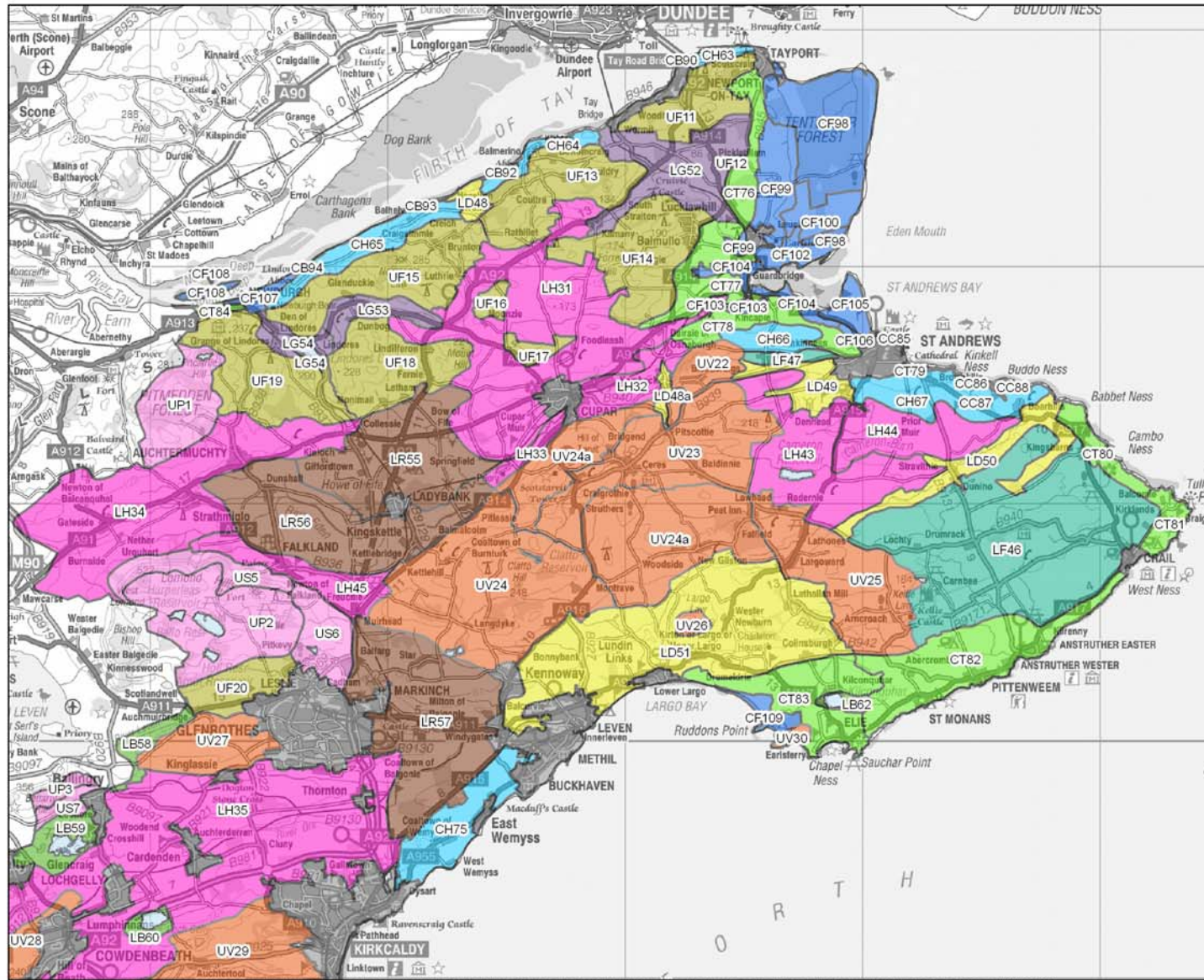
Fife Council
 Local Landscape Designation Review
 Dunfermline and West Fife and Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife Landscape Character Types

- David Tyldesley Associates (1999) Fife Landscape Character Assessment Landscape Character Types
- Coastal Braes
 - Coastal Cliffs
 - Coastal Flats
 - Coastal Hills
 - Coastal Island
 - Coastal Terraces
 - Inland Loch
 - Lowland Dens
 - Lowland Glacial Meltwater Valleys
 - Lowland Hills and Valleys
 - Lowland Loch Basin
 - Lowland Open Sloping Farmland
 - Lowland River Basin
 - Pronounced Volcanic Hills and Craigs
 - Upland Foothills
 - Upland Hills and Hill Slopes
 - Urban

Figure 1
 Scale 1:150,000

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 Local Landscape Designation
 Review
 St Andrews and East Fife
 Landscape Character Types

- David Tydesley Associates (1999)
 Fife Landscape Character Assessment
 Landscape Character Types
- Coastal Brans
 - Coastal Cliffs
 - Coastal Flats
 - Coastal Hills
 - Coastal Island
 - Coastal Terraces
 - Inland Loch
 - Lowland Cens
 - Lowland Glacial Melwater Valleys
 - Lowland Hills and Valleys
 - Lowland Loch Basin
 - Lowland Open Sloping Farmland
 - Lowland River Basin
 - Pronounced Volcanic Hills and Craigs
 - Upland Foothills
 - Upland Hills and Hill Slopes
 - Urban

Figure 2
 Scale 1:150,000



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3. STUDY CONTEXT

Background

- 3.1. Local landscape designations act as an important tool for safeguarding and protecting Scotland's rich diversity of landscapes. However within Fife the current Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) designations have not been based on recognised methodology, nor supported by any description or citation. At the request of Government, guidance was produced by SNH and Historic Scotland in 2005 to help local authorities refresh their approach to local landscape designations. The guidance is intended to provide a framework for achieving greater consistency and transparency in the use of local landscape designations across Scotland and has assisted the review of local landscape designations within Fife.

Aims and objectives

- 3.2. The objectives of the study are as follows:
- to identify Fife landscapes which have particular value and merit special attention as designated local landscapes;
 - to inform a Fife-wide 'all-landscapes' approach and future landscape objectives;
 - to inform the preparation of the Development Plan;
 - to inform future design guidelines, development briefs, masterplans and developers' concept statements;
 - to support Fife Council's wide ranging objectives, in terms of the key themes of the Fife Community Plan, including the Biodiversity Action Plan process and the Core Path Plan process.

Study Parameters

- 3.3. The study has involved the development of a systematic and transparent approach to selecting areas for landscape designation across the whole of Fife, taking into account the influence of landscapes beyond the local authority boundary where appropriate.
- 3.4. The UK Government adopted the Council of Europe's 'European Landscape Convention' in 2006. This identifies that the policies and measures mentioned in the convention must cover all the forms of landscape which countries possess. The Convention is concerned with the protection, management and planning of all landscapes regardless of their condition and including natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas, whether terrestrial, aquatic (lakes and areas of brackish water) or marine (coastal waters and the territorial sea). This supports the need to explore the links between the landscape surrounding urban areas and the network of green spaces within the settlements. Larger urban areas were excluded from the assessment process, and this reflects the policy framework of conservation areas which protects the most important built environment including open spaces within settlements.

- 3.5. It was agreed with the project steering group to assess the landscape based on its current state. This means the assessment of the landscape extended up to the visible developed edge of settlements. The description and evaluation therefore included areas of undeveloped land which were proposed for development but where construction was yet to commence. It was anticipated that the study would cover areas with development proposals of varying status, ranging from areas with planning permission for a range of development proposals to those being considered for future development in the progress of the Finalised Fife Structure Plan 2006 and the three forthcoming Local Plans. This approach was taken so that where appropriate the results of the description and evaluation could be used to inform thinking on current or future development proposals

Seascape

- 3.6. The Local Plan boundaries within Fife extend to the mean high water springs, however the coastal association of the candidate Special Landscape Areas which lie at the coastal edge is usually an important element of the landscape experience. The offshore coastal environment lies outwith local authority planning control, however in order to recognise the importance of the relationship between land and sea, the relationship between the landscape and the coast is explored within the assessment. Where candidate Special Landscape Areas have been proposed, coastal influence has been described in the Statements of Importance.
- 3.7. The mapped boundary of a coastal candidate Special Landscape Area is shown at mean high water springs, to align with the Local Plan boundaries. However, although undefined, the actual boundary as described in the Statement of Importance extends seaward and includes the inter-tidal area and the related offshore environment.
- 3.8. Fife Council submitted the Finalised Fife Structure Plan to the Scottish Executive in June 2006. While awaiting the Scottish Executive's decision on this Plan, Fife Council decided to undertake a reappraisal of the housing land policies that it contains in agreement with the Scottish Government. Between June 2007 and December 2007 Fife Council carried out this reappraisal. Together the Finalised Fife Structure Plan 2006 and the Housing Land Re-appraisal 2007 constitute the official Finalised Structure Plan Policy of Fife Council. Fife Council's recommended changes to the Finalised Fife Structure Plan were submitted to the Scottish Ministers in December 2007. Scottish Ministers have recently announced that they intend to modify the Finalised Structure Plan with its approval by Scottish Ministers expected by the end of 2008.
- 3.9. Fife Council submitted the Finalised Fife Structure Plan 2006 – 2026 to the Scottish Executive in June 2006 and following modifications it was approved by Scottish Ministers in May 2009.
- 3.10. A range of sites will be identified through the forthcoming Local Plans to meet the housing land requirements. The draft Kirkcaldy & Mid Fife Local Plan was published for consultation at the end of October 2007. It is intended to publish the St. Andrews & East Fife Draft Local Plan in May 2009 and the draft Dunfermline & West Fife Local Plan in the spring of 2009. The Structure Plan acknowledges that opportunities to redevelop brownfield land should be maximised, however this in

itself will not be sufficient to meet the needs of development, and Greenfield land will therefore be released in a planned and sustainable way through the Strategic Land Allocations.

- 3.10. These draft Local Plans will also contain a revised set of policies to guide decisions on proposed development. These will include policies relating to the protection of the built and natural environment, including specific reference to locally designated landscapes and the wider landscape, adopting an 'all landscapes' approach. Consultation on these Plans will enable comments to be received on future proposals for landscape designations and related policy.

Role of the work

- 3.11. The identification of candidate Special Landscape Area status within proposed development areas does not preclude development or allocations for development within Local or Structure Plan documents. However the candidate designation highlights the value of such landscapes on a Council wide basis and it is hoped that it will inform issues such as the scale of development, the site layout and matters of detailed design where appropriate.
- 3.12. The assessment of values within the study builds on the Landscape Character Units identified in the Fife Landscape Character Assessment (1999) which also provides a baseline on which to base the more detailed evaluation and assessment. Other landscape studies have been taken into account where appropriate.

How the report is to be used

- 3.13. Landscape Character Assessment is a descriptive process which identifies key characteristics and features of the landscape. Appendix 2 of this report provides an additional level of description of the Landscape Character Units within Fife and takes the areas through an evaluation process for the purposes of identifying areas which merit designation.
- 3.14. Appendix 2 contains a range of background information on Landscape Character Units which may be used to inform future decision making across all landscapes. It also summarises the key characteristics of landscapes which make them particularly important and evaluates their key qualities to identify candidate Special Landscape Areas which will be included in the draft Local Plans in 2008/09. The reports can be used to provide valuable information on the character and qualities of all Fife landscapes, not solely those which are proposed for designation

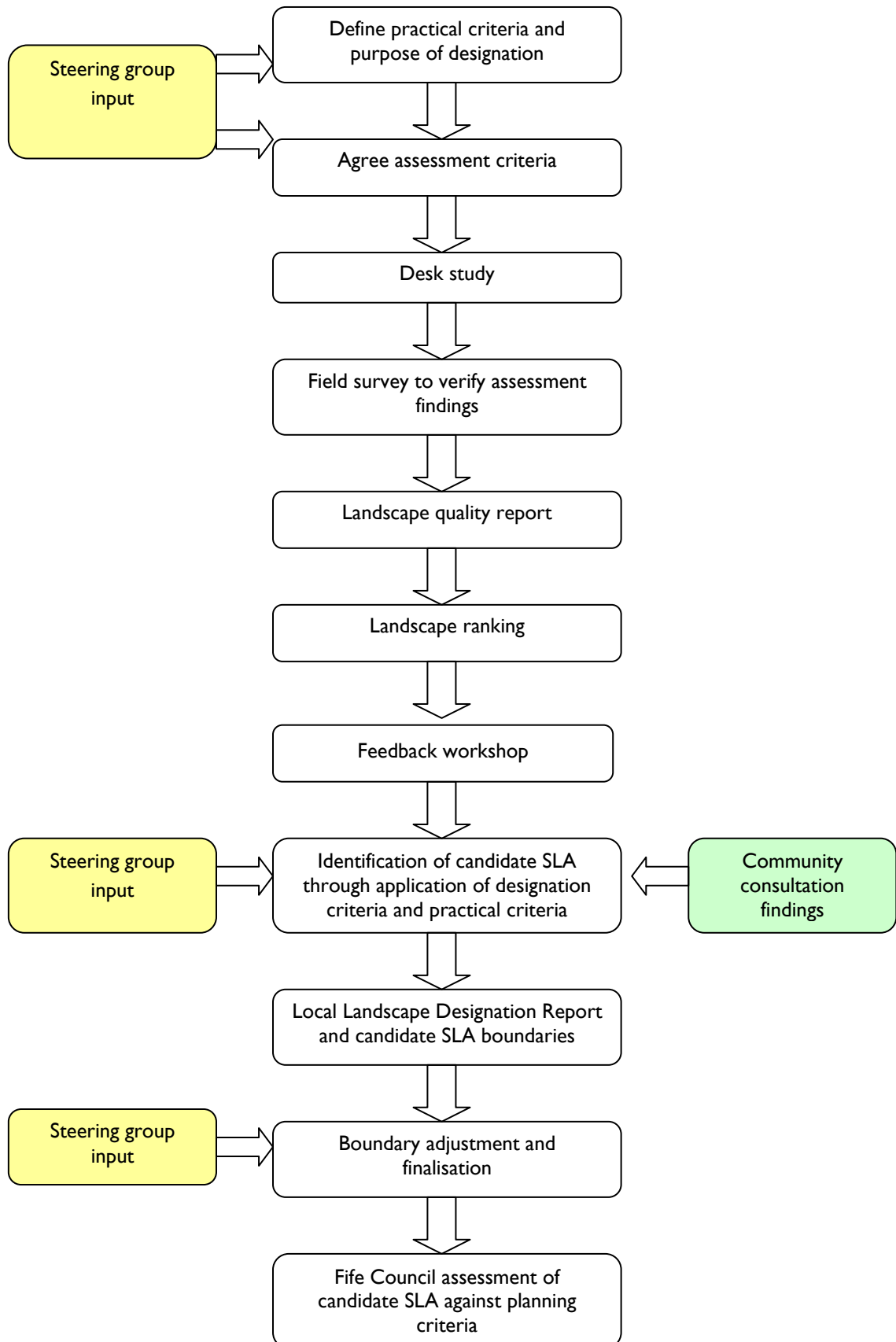
4. METHOD

INTRODUCTION

- 4.1. The landscape character evaluation is based on the Landscape Character Units identified in the David Tyldesley and Associates (1999) Fife Landscape Character Assessment. The information in the Fife Landscape Character Assessment is presented as a summary of the key characteristics and features of each Landscape Character Type. It includes discussion of the location of each of the Landscape Character Units within that type and a text description which draws out key features relating to the different landscape character areas.) The information in the Fife Landscape Character Assessment has also formed the basis for the evaluation of the landscape to identify candidate areas for designation, combined with the results of fieldwork.
- 4.2. Appendix 2 of this report presents the findings of the evaluation for each Landscape Character Unit, grouped by Landscape Character Type. The description for each type includes the summary of key characteristics and features of each Landscape Character Type from the Fife Landscape Character Assessment. The results of the fieldwork are presented as a summary description of the characteristics of the Landscape Character Unit and an evaluation table of landscape character and quality.
- 4.3. The approach to the identification of candidate landscape areas for designation is based upon the guidance set out in Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Scotland (2005) *Guidance on Local Landscape Designations*.
- 4.4. The criteria used in the study are based on a combination of those set out in the SNH and Historic Scotland Guidance and the more Fife-specific points contained in the Project Brief and as discussed with the Project Steering Group.
- 4.5. The criteria are grouped into a series of steps based on landscape character and quality, the purposes of designation and practical criteria.
- 4.6. The flow diagram overleaf illustrates the key stages in the project process and highlights those key stages where inputs from the Project Steering Group and community consultation have fed in to the assessment and decision making process.

Figure 3

Flow diagram illustrating key project stages and steering group and community input to the technical assessment process.



Development of parameters to guide the evaluation process

- 4.7. Parameters to guide the application of landscape character and quality criteria were developed and are set out in Appendix I.

Desk Study and Analysis

- 4.8. The first stage in the project process is a review of the desk based information sources. This included a review of relevant information in relation to each Landscape Character Area from the Fife Landscape Character Assessment (1999) and drawing in information from a range of existing data sources.
- 4.9. The following background data sources were used to inform the evaluation:
- Aerial photographs
 - Local Nature Reserves
 - Ramsar sites
 - Special Areas of Conservation
 - Special Protection Areas
 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest
 - Ancient woodland
 - Semi natural ancient woodland
 - Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes
 - Scheduled Monuments
 - Listed buildings
 - Country Parks
 - Regional Park
- 4.10. Relevant information was fed into the evaluation tables and the area descriptions.

Intervisibility

- 4.11. Geographic Information System (GIS) based intervisibility analysis was undertaken to inform our understanding of the landscape and also assists in the analysis of the relationship between key areas of landscape and areas surrounding main settlements and transport routes. Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) were generated from the following hill locations:
- The Binn
 - Cullaloe Hills
 - Hill of Beath

- Knock Hill
- Benarty Hill
- East Lomond

4.12. The results of the ZTV were used to inform the evaluation of the landscapes.

Landscape related studies

- 4.13. It is noted that David Tyldesley and Associates carried out a landscape assessment study of St Andrews in 1996¹. This study formed the basis for a subsequent study² on the justification for and potential boundaries of a Green Belt for St Andrews. The Landscape Character Areas identified within the Landscape Assessment study of St Andrews are compatible with those identified within the Fife Landscape Character Assessment (1999), which provides the most recent landscape character assessment for the whole of Fife.
- 4.14. The purpose of the Green Belt for St Andrews (1997) study was to consider the justification for a Green Belt for St Andrews and to make recommendations in respect of the outer and inner boundaries of any Green Belt considered to be appropriate. This considers the role of the landscape in maintaining the identity and distinctiveness of the town and maintaining the landscape setting. The review of local landscape designations includes a criterion which evaluates the role of landscapes in the identity and distinctiveness of Fife as a whole, and a criterion on the role of a landscape in providing setting for settlement, amongst eight other criteria. This highlights the difference in the study focus between review of local landscape designations and the Green Belt work.
- 4.15. The settlement studies by Alison Grant³ published between 2002 and 2004 have also been taken into account. However it is important to note that the scope of these studies is to examine the landscape capacity for development, whereas the scope of the review of local landscape designations is to identify the highest quality landscapes. Areas of landscape identified within the Alison Grant studies as not having capacity for development will not necessarily score highly against the criteria used to evaluate the landscapes for designation. For example a very prominent local landscape of intrinsically low scenic value may have been identified within the settlement study as having low capacity to absorb development, but may not be identified as a candidate area for local landscape designation.
- 4.16. A study 'Identifying Areas of Search for Groupings of Wind Turbines in Fife'⁴ (ASH design + assessment, 1996) was commissioned by Fife Council to identify areas of search for wind turbines in the landward area of Fife to implement the Policy inserted into the Fife Structure Plan (2002) by the Scottish Government. ASH design + assessment was then asked to provide advice on the scale of wind farm development

¹ David Tyldesley and Associates (1996) St Andrews Landscape Assessment Study

² David Tyldesley and Associates (1997) A Green Belt for St Andrews

³ Charleston and Limekilns, Cupar, Dunfermline, Glenrothes and Markinch, Kelty, Kincardine, Kirkcaldy, Levenmouth, Lochgelly, Newport and Wormit, Rosyth, St Andrews, Tayport.

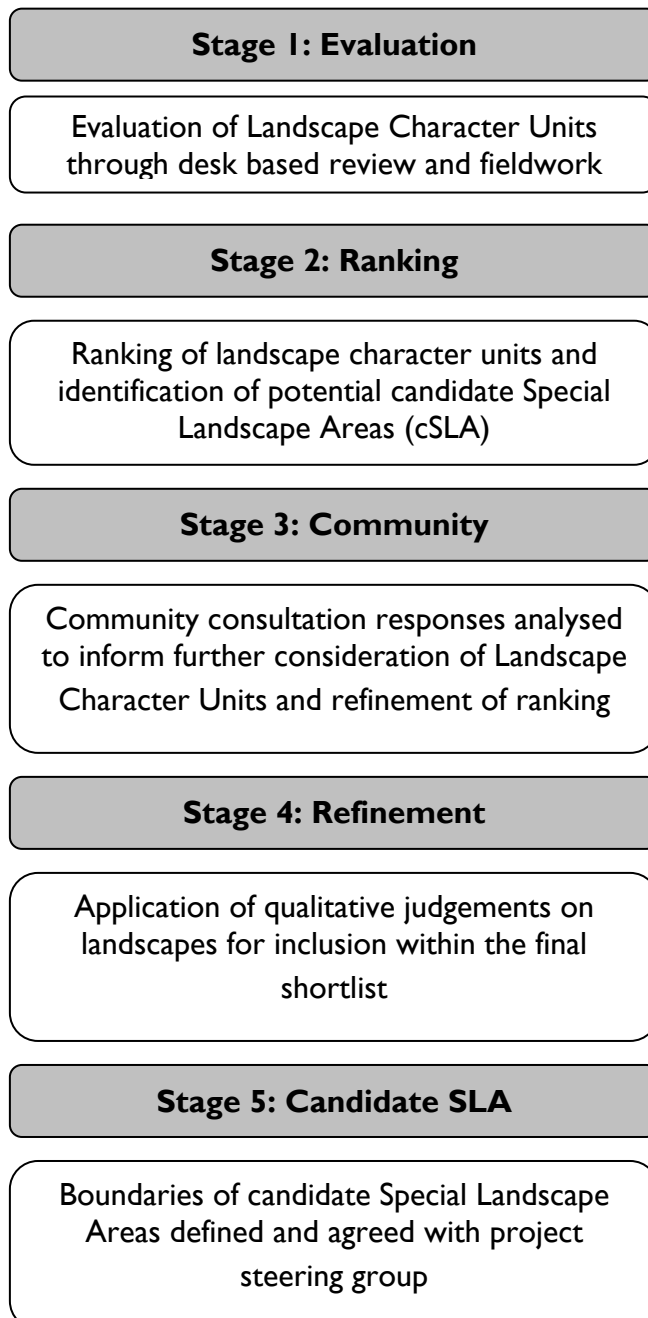
⁴ ASH design and assessment (1996) Identifying Areas of Search for Groupings of Wind Turbines in Fife

acceptable in the areas of search. The study also included an assessment of the potential for siting wind turbines in appropriate location along the coast, in the immediate off-shore area and in the waters up to 50m depth off the coast of Fife. The study was undertaken as a modified Strategic Landscape and Seascape Impact Assessment and considered the landscape in terms of scenic quality, landscape value and visual prominence.

- 4.17. This study was carried out for a specific purpose, related to the potential for wind turbine development and was a professional assessment without any Fife Council involvement. Again, it is important to note that the landscape assessment in that study will not necessarily concur with the assessment in this review of local landscape designations. This current work uses an approach based on Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Scotland's 'Guidance on Local Landscape Designations' (2005) and includes public involvement and input from a Steering Group.

Applying the assessment

- 4.18. Following the desk based review the assessment is applied to the updated Landscape Character Unit (LCU) and fieldwork is carried out. Each LCU is scored as high, medium or low in relation to each of the criteria set out in Table 2.1 and justification for this is provided in a text description.
- 4.19. The following flow diagram illustrates in more detail the key steps in applying the assessment.



Stage 1: Evaluation

- 4.18. The assessment of each Landscape Character Unit is carried out through the application of the evaluation criteria detailed in Appendix I: Parameters for application of landscape criteria

Stage 2: Ranking

- 4.19. Following completion of the desk based assessment and fieldwork the results are collated and the Landscape Character Units are ranked. An overall score for each LCU has been generated based on the scores from the tables presented in Chapter 3, whereby high = 3, medium = 2 and low = 1. This has been converted to a percentage score of the total potential score to allow the ranking of the landscapes.
- 4.20. Weighting is then applied to four of the evaluation criteria in order to reflect the policy purpose of designation and to highlight the criteria which are important for Fife Council. The following weighting was applied:
- Scenic qualities x 2
 - Enjoyment x 2
 - Rarity x 1.5
 - Views x 1.5
- 4.21. This weighting is reflected in the ranking of the candidate Special Landscape Areas Landscape Character Units.
- 4.22. It is important to note that the initial ranking process is based on quantitative information but that qualitative information is drawn into subsequent stages of the identification of candidate Special Landscape Areas.
- 4.23. The process of ranking and subsequent identification of a 'cut off' within that ranked list is a key stage of the project process. An initial 'cut off' was defined as landscapes scoring 67% or more (i.e. within the top third of scores). This provides a starting point from which to identify those landscapes which should be considered as candidate Special Landscape Areas. It is recognised that it is not realistic to use a single numeric score to decide the final list of candidate Landscape Character Units, as this approach will exclude landscapes which lie just below that level, but which may have sufficient merit to warrant consideration, and conversely include landscapes which are not of sufficient value for consideration as candidate Special Landscape Areas.
- 4.24. The method adopted recognises that there is a 'fuzzy' line between landscapes which should be considered for designation and those which should not. It is the subsequent project stages which allow the qualitative information which will inform this decision on the final candidate Special Landscape Areas to be taken into account.

Stage 3: Community and Stakeholder comments

- 4.25. There were two specific opportunities for community involvement in this project. These were a web survey in the initial stages of the project and a workshop aimed at gaining feedback on initial proposals for candidate Special Landscape Areas. The community consultation exercise is detailed in Appendix 3. The findings from the community consultation process are taken into account at this stage. Areas which are identified as being of particular value or importance to the community are considered through comparison of the initial shortlist areas with community responses. (see Appendix 3 Table A3)

Stage 4: Refinement

- 4.26. Further consideration of the community representations, and reasons for these, is combined with consideration of issues identified by the Project Steering Group including whether the areas reflect the requirements of the purpose of designation and the integrity of the area (is the area large enough, and with a clear enough identity to make designation appropriate).
- 4.27. Consideration of the criteria against which each Landscape Character Unit scored most highly, and consideration of the relative merit of different landscapes within Fife allows the identification of landscapes which have particular unique or special characteristics, but which may not score highly across all of the evaluation criteria.
- 4.28. A key element which is identified within the evaluation table is the identification of variations in landscape character and quality within the Landscape Character Units. This is particularly important when identifying landscapes for designation, as it assists in informing the subdivision of the Landscape Character Units to identify clear and cohesive candidate Special Landscape Areas for designation.

Stage 5: Candidate Special Landscape Areas

- 4.29. Following completion of the above project stages, the finalised candidate Special Landscape Areas are identified and boundaries are defined.

Identification of boundaries

- 4.30. The boundaries illustrated on the maps up to this point in the process correspond with the Landscape Character Units set out in the Fife Landscape Character Assessment (1999). The next stage in defining the areas for designation is the identification of more refined boundaries.
- 4.31. The process of boundary identification is based on the definition of robust and definable boundaries, and informed by the following decision criteria:
- Consider role of candidate area in relation to quality of other adjacent LCU and in creating a 'logical' and cohesive area for designation.
 - Where there are variations in quality within a LCU, move inwards from areas of lower quality.

- Identify where key characteristics of the landscape e.g. landform and land cover change, and look to the nearest physical boundary.
 - Boundaries will be chosen to be robust, and where possible associated with a key landscape feature, physical feature such as road or railway, field boundary, changes in topography and vegetation or combination of features.
- 4.32 This approach results in the inclusion of some smaller areas of lesser landscape value. However, it must be recognised that the actual location of the boundaries reflects the nearest robust boundary feature, and is not necessarily a direct reflection of a sharp change in landscape quality and character.
- 4.33 Chapter 5 takes the Landscape Character Units through the stages described in this chapter.

5. EVALUATION OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTER UNITS

- 5.1. This section of the report summarises the findings from the landscape character assessment and landscape quality evaluation and identifies a shortlist of LCUs with suitable rankings for further designation evaluation.
- 5.2. Table 5.1 provides a summary of the landscape character and quality assessment results and allows comparison between the different landscape units. The highest ranking criteria are highlighted and the comments section allows further analysis, for example, to highlight those areas which have unique characteristics.

Table 5.1 Overview of landscape character and landscape quality evaluation

Code	Name	Typicality	Rarity or uniqueness	Condition or quality	Scenic Qualities	Enjoyment	Cultural qualities	Naturalness	Setting	Views	Connectivity	Variation in quality	Comments
UPI	Ochil Hills	2	3	2	4	4	1	2	1	3	n/a	no	The rolling hills are a typical feature within the Fife landscape and are important in views.
UP2	Lomond Hills	3	4.5	2	6	6	2	3	2	4.5	n/a	Yes	This area scores highly across the suite of criteria.
UP3	Benarty Hill	3	4.5	2	6	4	2	2	3	4.5	n/a	Yes	This area scores highly across the suite of criteria.
UP4	Cleish Hills	3	3	1	4	4	2	2	3	4.5	n/a	yes	This area scores highly for its typicality, setting and views.
US5	Lomond Slopes North	3	4.5	2	4	4	3	2	2	4.5	n/a	yes	The slopes are a distinctive feature of the Fife landscape and are particularly important in views to the hills, and as part of the Lomond hills
US6	Lomond Slopes East	2	3	2	4	2	1	2	2	4.5	2	No	The slopes are very important in connection with the Lomond hills.
US7	Benarty Slopes	2	3	2	4	4	2	2	3	4.5	2	No	The Benarty slopes are an intrinsic element of Benarty Hill.
US8	Cleish slopes north	2	3	2	4	2	1	1	1	3	n/a	yes	
US9	Cleish slopes west	3	3	2	4	4	2	2	3	3	2	yes	This is typical of the Fife landscape and important in its role in providing a setting.
US10	Cleish slopes east	1	1.5	1	2	4	2	1	2	1.5	n/a	No	
US11	Thornton slopes	1	1.5	1	2	2	1	1	1	4.5	n/a	Yes	This area is highly visible from nearby transport routes.
UF11	Ochil Foothills Newport	2	4.5	2	6	4	2	2	3	3	3	no	The hills are a rare landscape feature with high scenic value and notable cultural influences, but also a sense of naturalness.
UF13	Ochil foothills Gauldry	2	3	2	4	4	2	2	2	3	2	no	
UF14	Ochil Foothills Lucklaw	2	3	2	4	4	2	1	2	3	2	yes	These hills are particularly important in local views, and are visible from the Leuchars area and main transport routes.
UF15	Ochil Foothills Brunton	2	4.5	2	6	4	3	3	2	3	n/a	no	These hills are very distinctive with high scenic value, they are also important for their cultural associations, naturalness and connections with other landscapes in providing a wider landscape composition.
UF18 and UF19	Ochil Foothills Letham and Black Hill	2	3	2	4	4	2	2	2	3	n/a	no	These hills are particularly important in local views.
UF20	Lomond Foothills	2	3	2	4	4	2	1	3	3	3	Yes	This area has high importance as a setting for Leslie and Glenrothes
UF21	Cleish Foothills	2	3	2	4	4	2	2	2	1.5	1	yes	
UV22	Blebocraigs	2	3	2	4	4	2	1	2	3	2	yes	
UV23	Ceres	2	3	2	4	4	2	2	2	3	2	yes	
UV24	Clatto	2	3	2	4	4	1	2	2	3	1	no	
UV24a	Tarvit	2	4.5	2	6	6	3	2	2	3	n/a	no	A rare landscape important for its scenic value, enjoyment and cultural associations.
UV25	Largoward	2	3	2	4	4	1	2	1	3	n/a	yes	
UV26	Largo Law	3	4.5	2	6	4	2	2	3	4.5	n/a	no	A local landmark with high scenic qualities, important in relation to setting, views and connectivity with surrounding landscapes.
UV27	Redwell hill	2	1.5	2	2	4	1	1	2	3	2	No	
UV28	Cowdenbeath hills	2	1.5	1	2	4	1	1	3	3	3	No	This area only scores highly in relation to its role as a setting to Cowdenbeath and is important in providing open space for settlement..
UV29	Cullaloe Hills	2	4.5	2	6	4	2	2	3	3	3	Yes	These hills are unusual with high scenic value and importance in providing setting for settlement and connecting to open space within settlement.
UV30	Kincraig	2	3	2	4	6	1	2	2	3	n/a	no	This area is important for its scenic qualities and also its role in providing a setting.
LH31, UF16, UF17	North West Cupar	2	3	2	4	2	2	1	2	3	2	yes	
LH32	East Cupar	2	3	2	4	2	2	1	2	3	2	yes	
LH33	Tarvit Mill	2	1.5	2	2	4	3	1	2	3	2	yes	This area is distinctive for its cultural associations.

Code	Name	Typicality	Rarity or uniqueness	Condition or quality	Scenic Qualities	Enjoyment	Cultural qualities	Naturalness	Setting	Views	Connectivity	Variation in quality	Comments
LH34	Strathmiglo	2	3	2	4	4	2	2	2	3	2	yes	This area is important in terms of its connectivity
LH35	NE Dunfermline	3	1.5	1	2	2	1	1	2	3	3	No	This area only scores highly for its typicality.
LH36	Fordell	2	3	2	4	4	3	2	2	1.5	2	no	The policy influence gives cultural heritage importance
LH37	West Dunfermline	3	1.5	1	2	4	1	1	2	1.5	3	yes	This area scores highly for its typicality and connectivity.
LH38	South Dunfermline	3	4.5	2	6	6	3	2	3	3	3	yes	This area scores highly across the suite of criteria.
LH39	South Oakley	2	1.5	2	4	6	2	1	2	1.5	1	no	This area only scores highly for its recreational and enjoyment value.
LH40	Black Devon	2	3	2	4	2	1	2	2	3	1	yes	
LH41	Bluther Burn	2	1.5	2	4	2	1	2	1	1.5	n/a	no	
LH42	Devilla Forest	1	3	2	2	6	2	2	2	3	n/a	yes	This area only scores highly for enjoyment.
LH43	Cameron	2	1.5	2	2	4	1	1	1	1.5	n/a	yes	
LH44	Prior Muir	2	1.5	2	2	2	2	1	1	1.5	n/a	No	
LH45	Falkland	2	3	3	4	4	3	3	2	3	3	yes	This is a high quality landscape with important cultural associations, and is associated with the slopes of the Lomond hills.
LF46	East Fife Slopes	2	1.5	2	2	4	2	1	1	3	n/a	yes	
LF47	Strathkinness	1	1.5	2	2	2	1	1	2	1.5	2	no	
LD48	Corbie Den	2	4.5	2	6	4	2	3	2	1.5	n/a	no	This landscape is rare within Fife and is important for its scenic qualities and naturalness.
LD48a	Dura Den	2	4.5	2	6	4	3	2	3	3	3	No	This landscape is rare within Fife and is important for its scenic qualities, cultural qualities and role in providing a setting for settlement.
LD49	Claremont	2	4.5	2	4	6	3	2	3	3	2	yes	This landscape is rare within the context of Fife and is important for recreation. It is also important in providing a setting for settlement.
LD50	Kinaldy	2	3	2	4	4	2	2	2	3	n/a	yes	
LD51	Largo lowland dens	2	4.5	2	6	4	3	2	2	3	2	yes	This landscape is distinctive for its strong cultural heritage influences and its important associations with Largo Law.
LG52, UF12	Motray Water	1	3	2	2	4	2	1	2	3	1	yes	
LG53	Dunbog	1	3	2	4	2	2	1	2	3	n/a	no	
LG54	Lindores	2	4.5	3	6	4	2	3	3	4.5	2	no	This is a distinctive and attractive landscape with strong naturalistic qualities, and associations with the surrounding landscapes. It is important in views from local transport routes.
LR55	Collessie Howe of Fife	2	3	2	2	6	2	1	1	1.5	1	no	This area includes a number of recreation facilities and visitor attractions and is important for recreation.
LR56	Dunshelt Howe of Fife	3	4.5	2	4	2	1	1	1	4.5	1	no	This landscape is distinctively recognisable as part of Fife and is a key feature in views from surrounding elevated locations.
LR57	Mid Leven Valley	2	1.5	2	2	4	2	1	2	1.5	2	Yes	
LB58	Leven	2	3	2	4	4	1	1	2	3	n/a	No	
LB59	Loch Ore	2	3	3	4	6	2	2	2	4.5	3	No	This area is highly managed for recreation and is important in views and in providing open space between settlement.
LB60	Gelly	2	3	2	4	2	1	2	2	3	n/a	No	
LB61	Fitty	2	3	2	4	6	1	2	1	1.5	n/a	no	This area is of high importance for enjoyment, but does not score so highly in relation to the other criteria
LB62	Kilconquhar	2	4.5	3	6	4	2	3	3	3	1	no	This landscape is rare within Fife, has high scenic value and naturalness and is important in providing a setting for settlement.
CH63, CB90	Tayport	2	3	2	4	4	2	1	2	3	2	no	This landscape is important in providing setting for settlement and is important in relation to other landscape units.
CH64	Balmerino	2	3	2	4	4	3	2	2	3	2	no	This landscape is important for its cultural qualities.
CH65, CB94	Ballinbreich	2	3	2	6	4	2	2	3	3	n/a	no	This landscape has high scenic value and is important in providing a setting for settlement.
CH66	North Strathkinness	2	1.5	2	2	4	1	1	2	3	n/a	no	
CH67	South St Andrews	2	3	2	4	4	2	1	3	4.5	3	yes	This landscape is particularly important for the setting of St Andrews and in views associated with the town.
CH68	Kincardine to	2	3	2	4	2	3	1	1	3	2	yes	This area scores highly for its cultural qualities.

Code	Name	Typicality	Rarity or uniqueness	Condition or quality	Scenic Qualities	Enjoyment	Cultural qualities	Naturalness	Setting	Views	Connectivity	Variation in quality	Comments
	Culross												
CH69	Valleyfield to Charlestown	2	1.5	2	2	2	1	1	1	3	2	yes	
CH70	Limekilns	2	1.5	2	4	4	2	2	2	2	3	no	This area provides an important area of open space between settlements.
CH71	Castlandhill	2	1.5	1	2	4	2	1	3	4.5	3	yes	This area is most important for setting and views, and providing open space between settlement.
CH72	Ferryhills	2	3	1	4	4	2	2	3	4.5	3	yes	This area is important for setting and views and also connecting areas of open space around settlements
CH73	Letham Hill	2	3	2	4	6	1	2	3	3	3	no	This area is important for recreation and in providing setting to settlement and open space between settlements.
CH74	Aberdour Hills	2	4.5	2	4	4	2	2	2	3	3	no	These hills are unusual and provide an important area of open space between settlement.
CH75	Wemyss	2	4.5	2	4	4	3	2	2	3	3	Yes	This area is of high typicality and also high cultural value, and plays a role in providing open space between settlement.
CH114	Kinghorn	2	3	2	4	4	1	2	2	4.5	3	Yes	
CT76, 77,78,79	Eden Coastal Terraces	2	1.5	2	4	4	1	1	2	3	2	yes	
CT80	Kingsbarns	2	3	2	4	6	2	2	2	3	n/a	yes	This landscape is important for enjoyment.
CT81	Fife Ness	2	1.5	1	4	4	3	2	1	3	1	yes	This landscape is particularly important for its cultural importance.
CT82	Crail - St Monans	3	3	2	4	4	3	2	3	4.5	3	yes	This landscape is representative of the Fife coastal landscapes and is important for enjoyment, its cultural qualities, role as a setting for settlement, views and connections to other landscape areas.
CT83	Elie	2	3	2	4	4	2	2	3	3	2	yes	This landscape is important in providing a setting for the historic settlements.
CT84	Newburgh	2	3	2	4	4	2	2	2	1.5	3	yes	This landscape is important in connection open space within settlement.
CC85	St Andrews	2	4.5	2	6	6	3	2	3	3	3	yes	This landscape is distinctive for its urban context and has high scenic value. It is also important for its recreation and enjoyment value and role in providing a setting for St Andrews.
CC86, CC87, CC88	Kinkell coastal cliffs	2	3	2	4	6	2	3	1	3	n/a	no	This landscape is particularly notable for its recreational value, and naturalness.
CC89	South Kincaid	2	4.5	2	6	6	2	2	2	3	n/a	yes	These grassy cliffs are unusual and of scenic quality. The area is important for recreation and for its associations with the adjacent landscape areas.
CB91, CB92, CB93	Birkhill coastal wooded brae	3	4.5	2	6	4	2	3	1	1.5	n/a	no	The coastal wooded braes are a distinctive and unusual feature of Fife with high scenic value and naturalistic characteristics. They are an important landscape feature in association with other landscape areas.
CB95	Culross	3	4.5	2	6	4	3	2	3	4.5	3	yes	This area scores highly across the suite of criteria.
CB96a	Torryburn to Crombie Point and Limekilns to Charlestown	3	4.5	2	6	6	2	3	3	4.5	3	yes	This area scores highly across the suite of criteria.
CB96b	Crombie Point - Limekilns	2	3	1	2	2	2	2	1	1.5	n/a	no	
CB97	Aberdour – Burntisland	3	3	2	6	4	1	3	3	4.5	3	no	This area scores highly across the suite of criteria.
CF98	Tents Muir	2	4.5	2	4	6	2	3	2	3	3	yes	This landscape is unusual in Fife, has importance for recreation and enjoyment and important natural qualities.
CF99	Morton - Leuchars	1	1.5	2	2	2	2	1	1	1.5	2	no	
CF100	Earlshall Muir	1	4.5	1	2	4	2	2	1	3	n/a	yes	This landscape is relatively rare within the context of Fife.
CF 101,102, 103, 104	Eden Coastal Flats	1	3	1	2	2	2	1	1	3	2	yes	
CF105	The Links	2	4.5	2	4	6	3	2	3	4.5	3	yes	This landscape is distinctive within Fife and has is very important for recreation and its cultural associations. It is particularly important in relation to the setting of St Andrews and a key feature in views.
CF106	NW St Andrews	2	1.5	2	4	4	2	2	2	3	2	yes	
CF107	Newburgh	2	3	2	4	2	2	2	2	1.5	3	no	This landscape is an important part f the wider landscape composition with the Tay and hills to the south.
CF108	Mugdrum Island	1	4.5	2	6	2	2	3	2	3	n/a	no	This is an unusual landscape feature with high scenic value and strongly natural character.
CF109	St Ford Links	2	3	1	4	4	1	2	1	4.5	n/a	yes	There are extensive seaward views from this area.
CF110	Kincardine	2	1.5	2	2	2	1	1	1	1.5	2	no	

Code	Name	Typicality	Rarity or uniqueness	Condition or quality	Scenic Qualities	Enjoyment	Cultural qualities	Naturalness	Setting	Views	Connectivity	Variation in quality	Comments
CF111	Longannet	1	1.5	1	2	4	2	1	2	4.5	1	yes	This area only scores highly in relation to its prominence in views.
CF112	Valleyfield Ash Lagoons	1	1.5	1	2	2	1	1	1	3	1	no	
CF113	Rosyth	1	3	1	2	2	1	2	1	3	3	n	
FI 1	Inchcolm	3	4.5	2	6	6	3	3	0	4.5	0	no	This area scores highly across the suite of criteria.
FI 2	Inchkeith	3	4.5	2	6	2	3	3	0	4.5	0	no	This area scores highly across the suite of criteria.
FI 3	Isle of May	3	4.5	3	6	4	3	3	0	4.5	0	no	This area scores highly across the suite of criteria.

Landscape Evaluation

- 5.3. Table 5.2 provides a summary of the findings from each stage of the project process and illustrates how these have been taken into account. Reference should be made to the more detailed record of community comments provided in Appendix 3, as these are summarised in Table 5.2.
- 5.4. For the purposes of this table, minor support is categorised as one to four nominations through the web survey and equivalent support identified through the workshop comments. Medium support is five to nine nominations through the web survey and equivalent support identified through the workshop comments. High level of community support is ten or more nominations through the web survey and equivalent support identified through the workshop comments.
- 5.5. Table 5.2 includes two columns identifying those areas identified as candidate areas at the draft stage of the process and those areas identified following the final revised and cross checked scores, following completion of the assessment process across all areas of Fife. The areas presented at the community workshops were draft areas and represented work in progress. Subsequent minor revisions to the scores and further exploration of the method and approach to defining the 'cut off' for those landscapes which should be considered as candidate Special Landscape Areas, and those which should not, is represented in the results presented in the 'results of technical assessment' column. The 'cut off' has been defined as a band of scores, rather than an absolute number in order to reflect the qualitative nature of landscape and the role of the practical and designation criteria in identifying candidate Special Landscape Areas. Areas have been identified as marginal if they lie within +/- 4 points of the 67% cut off which reflects areas which were discussed as potential candidates for inclusion. To be considered for designation, marginal areas require community, Project Steering Group or stakeholder support, and either proximity to other highly scoring candidate Special Landscape Areas (all or part of the area) or one or more 'high' scores in relation to the evaluation criteria. In addition other areas which give 'added value' to a proposed candidate Special Landscape Areas in terms of cohesiveness, integrity of the area, or where part of it is closely associated with an adjoining unit which fulfils these criteria are considered for designation.

Table 5.2 Summary of community support, stakeholder comments, practical criteria and designation criteria by landscape character unit

Landscape Character Unit/s reference	Landscape Character Unit name	Draft result of technical assessment	Final result of technical assessment (prior to application of practical and qualitative criteria)	Summary of community support	Application of practical and designation criteria	Outcome
CB90	Drybrae	Not short listed	Not short listed <i>Marginal</i>	No nominations or comments recorded	<i>This LCA is an intrinsic part of CH63.</i>	Proposed as part of Tay Coast cSLA
CB91	Kilburns	Not short listed	Short listed <i>Marginal</i>	Minor level of community support. Views from area noted.	This LCA is closely associated with the adjacent LCA CH64 and is included as part of the Tay Coast cSLA.	Proposed as part of Tay Coast cSLA
CB92	South Balmerino	Short listed	Short listed	Minor level of community support. Role of landscape in forming connections to adjoining coastal landscape areas noted.	This LCA is closely associated with the adjacent LCA CH64 and is included as part of the Tay Coast cSLA.	Proposed as part of Tay Coast cSLA
CB93	Flisk	Short listed	Short listed	No nominations or comments recorded	This LCA is closely associated with the adjacent LCA CH65 and is included as part of the Tay Coast cSLA.	Proposed as part of Tay Coast cSLA
CB94	Castlebank	Short listed	Short listed	No nominations or comments recorded	This LCA is closely associated with the adjacent LCA CH65 and is included as part of the Tay Coast cSLA.	Proposed as part of Tay Coast cSLA
CB95	Culross	Short listed	Short listed	Minor level of community support and suggested extension of area to include Torryburn.	The coastal braes are a typical landscape feature within Fife and contribute to the high scenic quality of the coastal settlement and define coastal views. A review of the policy influenced landscape around High Valleyfield, and the links to the coastal braes was undertaken (see CB96a), to identify if these landscapes would merit designation in association with the coastal brae. It was concluded that these areas do not have a strong coastal association and are of different character to the coastal braes. The coastal braes have a strong association with the historic settlement of Culross and provide a defining edge to the coast. This LCA is small in extent and is considered in combination with CB96a as part of an Upper Forth cSLA.	Proposed Upper Forth cSLA.
CB96a	Torryburn - Limekilns	Short listed	Short listed	Minor level of community support	The coastal braes extending from Torryburn to Crombie Point provide setting for Torryburn and at Charlestown and Limekilns are an intrinsic part of the settlement character. A review of the policy influenced landscape around High Valleyfield, and the links to the coastal braes was undertaken (see CB95), to identify if these landscapes would merit designation in association with the coastal brae. It was concluded that these areas do not have a strong coastal association and are of different character to the coastal braes. The naturalistic character of the braes complements the historic settlements and the steep rising coastal edge focuses views across the Forth and contributes high scenic value. This LCA is small in extent and should be considered in combination with CB95 as part of an Upper Forth cSLA.	Proposed Upper Forth cSLA.
CB96b	Charlestown to Crombie Point	Not short listed	Not short listed	No nominations or comments recorded	The influence of the built features and lack of public access to this area contribute to the relatively low value of this landscape.	No proposal
CB97	Aberdour - Burntisland	Short listed	Short listed	No nominations or comments recorded	The steep coastal braes are a distinctive feature of the Fife coast and this area is of particular prominence due to the passage of the railway line and recreational importance of Silversands and the Fife coastal path. This area has high scenic value due to the curve of the coast, visual association with the shore and height and steepness of the slope. Due to its limited extent, this area is only considered for designation in combination with CH74 and UV29, and is included as part of the Cullaloe Hills cSLA.	Proposed as part of Cullaloe Hills cSLA.
CC85	St Andrews	Short listed	Short listed	No nominations or comments recorded	The coastal cliffs, in combination with the historic built features of the castle and university buildings, are an intrinsic element of the St Andrews landscape. This area represents a contrast of the built and natural environment and coastal views are also an important and notable feature of this landscape. The seaward boundary for Local Planning policy purposes is defined by Mean High Water Springs plus coastal Conservation area boundaries. The area lies below MHWS and therefore is not included within the SLA designation.	No proposal.
CC86	Kinkell Braes	Short listed	Short listed	Minor level of community support. Visual importance in relation to St Andrews noted.	The landscape units are noted as having a small coastal extent and extension of this area to include a greater part of the coastal hinterland would provide greater robustness to this area and continuity with the proposed cSLA to the south.	Proposed as part of the St Andrews to Fife Ness cSLA.
CC87	Kittocks Den	Short listed	Short listed	Minor level of community support	The low rocky cliffs which extend east from St Andrews are an important feature of the coastal landscape providing access and enjoyment along the coast. The coastal den is a relatively uncommon landscape feature, and joins on to the rocky coastal edge forming a key element of the coastal landscape. It is an intimate and attractive feature within the coastal landscape. The inclusion of the coastal hills CH67 within this area was identified as important to providing context to the coastal edge.	Proposed as part of the St Andrews to Fife Ness cSLA.
CC88	Buddo Ness	Short listed	Short listed	No nominations or comments recorded		Proposed as part of the St Andrews to Fife Ness cSLA.
CC89	South Kinraig	Short listed	Short listed	No nominations or comments recorded	These steep slopes are an intrinsic part of Kinraig Hill and together these areas form part of the coastal landscape which is proposed for designation as the East Neuk cSLA.	Proposed as part of the East Neuk cSLA.
CF100	Earlshall Muir	Not short listed	Not short listed	Role as an extension of Tentsmuir noted.	Inclusion of Earlshall Muir as part of the Tentsmuir coast was discussed, and the discussion then focused on the significance of the coastal edge in elevating the score for the area as a whole. The boundary for this area should potentially reflect only the coastal edge as the landscape merit of more widely forested area is of lower value. The implications of including a large area of homogenous coniferous forestry of low landscape value within a designated area would potentially reduce the value of the designation. In addition it is the coastal edge which scores more highly on all of the evaluation criteria. Discussion also noted that forestry may be felled or restructured which may result in a more positive landscape contribution, and that future review of the quality of areas of change for inclusion as candidate SLA may be considered. Together with the coastal edge of Tents Muir, the coastal edge of this landscape unit provides continuity of landscape character, although the area as a whole scores less highly than Tents Muir. The coastal edge which extends from Tentsmuir point to the Eden Estuary incorporates the dunes and sands and provides extensive coastal views. The coastal edge of Earlshall Muir is an integral element of the coastal landscape and is of higher quality than the inland extent of the landscape unit.	Coastal edge is proposed as part of Tentsmuir Coast cSLA
CF101	Guardbridge	Not short listed	Not short listed	No nominations or comments recorded	A simple landscape which is negatively influenced by industry and communications, although the Eden estuary itself is distinctive and natural in character. The landscape itself does not score highly in relation to the evaluation criteria.	No proposal

Landscape Character Unit/s reference	Landscape Character Unit name	Draft result of technical assessment	Final result of technical assessment (prior to application of practical and qualitative criteria)	Summary of community support	Application of practical and designation criteria	Outcome
CF102	Leuchars Airfield	Not short listed	Not short listed	Suggested extension to include Leuchars Airfield as part of Tentsmuir cSLA		No proposal
CF103	River Eden	Not short listed	Not short listed	No nominations or comments recorded		No proposal
CF104	Edenside	Not short listed	Not short listed	Minor level of community support.		No proposal
CF105	The Links	Short listed	Short listed	High level of community support. Suggestion to extend to former railway line noted.	This is a high scoring area of landscape which is particularly significant in terms of its cultural, recreation and historical associations and use. As a result of this, it compares highly with other landscapes in Fife.	Proposed as St. Andrews Links cSLA.
CF106	NW St Andrews	Not short listed	Not short listed	Minor level of community support, role in views to St Andrews noted.	A simple, flat, coastal landscape with some policy influences which forms part of the coastal edge and although it contributes to the sense of arrival to St Andrews, lacks distinctiveness.	No proposal
CF107	Newburgh	Not short listed	Not short listed	Minor level of community support, suggestions to extend to include Lindores Abbey (CF107) as part of the proposed Tay Coast candidate SLA noted.	A simple, flat coastal edge which contrasts with the rising coastal hills and has a strong visual association with the Tay. Although a simple landscape, the juxtaposition of the hills and Tay contribute to make this an intrinsic element of the coastal landscape.	Proposed as part of Tay Coast cSLA
CF108	Mugdrum Island	Short listed	Short listed <i>Marginal</i>	No nominations or comments recorded	The Tay islands are an intrinsic element of the coastal landscape composition which includes the River Tay, and the coastal hills. Although simple in form, the role of the islands as part of the landscape of the Firth of Tay is important.	Proposed as part of Tay Coast cSLA
CF109	St Ford Links	Not short listed	Not short listed <i>Marginal</i>	Medium level of community support. Value of coast for recreation and nature conservation noted.	A low lying coastal landscape situated between Kincaig Hill and the coastal terrace to the north. Although an inherently simple landscape, this is an integral element of the coastal landscape which extends to the south and east of this area and has community and stakeholder support. Although this landscape is not high scoring, it has strong associations with the adjacent landscape areas and is part of the coastal landscape and therefore should be considered as part of the East Neuk cSLA	Proposed as part of the East Neuk cSLA.
CF110	Kincardine	Not short listed	Not short listed	No nominations or comments recorded	Open flat landscape, influenced by the ongoing construction of the Upper Forth crossing and fragmented by road and electricity transmission infrastructure.	No proposal
CF111	Longannet	Not short listed	Not short listed	No nominations or comments recorded	This landscape is dominated by the presence of Longannet power station and the landscape comprises an extensive area of reclaimed ground.	No proposal
CF112	Valleyfield Ash Lagoons	Not short listed	Not short listed	No nominations or comments recorded	An artificial landscape which has a strongly modified character.	No proposal
CF113	Rosyth	Not short listed	Not short listed	No nominations or comments recorded	An area of coastal flat lying in close proximity to urban influences, this landscape does not compare highly in relation to other Landscape Character Units.	No proposal
CF98	Tentsmuir Forest	Short listed	Short listed	High level of community support. Nature conservation noted as key reason for nomination.	Inclusion of Earls Hall Muir was discussed, and the discussion then focused on the significance of the coastal edge in elevating the score for the area as a whole. The boundary for this area should potentially reflect only the coastal edge as the landscape merit of more widely forested area is of lower value. The implications of including a large area of homogenous coniferous forestry of low landscape value within a designated area would potentially reduce the value of the designation. In addition it is the coastal edge which scores more highly on all of the evaluation criteria. Discussion also noted that forestry may be felled or restructured which may result in a more positive landscape contribution, and that future review of the quality of areas of change for inclusion as candidate SLA may be considered. Although predominantly covered by commercial coniferous forestry, the coastal edge comprises sand dunes with extensive beaches and tidal sand banks which provide diversity, scenic value and extensive views. The natural qualities of the area combined with the relative rarity of this landscape within Fife combine to provide the coastal edge with high landscape merit. The variation in quality within the Landscape Character Unit was identified as being notably higher at the coastal edge and therefore the designated area should focus on this area.	Coastal edge is proposed as Tentsmuir Coast cSLA.
CF99	Morton – Leuchars	Not short listed	Not short listed	No nominations or comments recorded	Extremely flat area of farmland characterised by large open arable fields and punctuated by woodland. The landscape lacks variety and distinctiveness.	No proposal
CHI14	Kinghorn	Short listed	Short listed	Minor level of community support.	The distinctive hills and coastal aspect provide this landscape with some significance within Fife, however this is tempered by the impact of built development. The distinctive topography and wooded slopes at the western end are an important landscape feature within Fife, although there are similar areas of coastal hills which are more intact than this Landscape Character Unit. This landscape should be considered for designation in combination with the Cullaloe hills.	Proposed as part of the Cullaloe Hills cSLA.
CH63	Tayport	Not short listed	Not short listed <i>Marginal</i>	Minor level of community support	These open sloping fields have strong association with the Tay, however they are not highly distinctive in character and are partially fragmented by land use. This landscape is visually detached from the hills to the south which are proposed as part of the Tay Coast cSLA, and does not score highly in relation to any one of the evaluation criteria.	No proposal
CH64	Balmerino	Not short listed	Short listed <i>Marginal</i>	High level of community support Role as part of coastal landscape noted.	Low rolling hills, accentuated by woodland with strong visual association with the Tay and providing important setting for Balmerino. This landscape unit is closely associated with the adjacent landscape units which are proposed for designation as part of the Tay Coast cSLA, scores highly in relation to cultural heritage value and has community and stakeholder support.	Proposed as part of Tay Coast cSLA
CH65	Ballinbreich	Short listed	Short listed	Medium level of community support	This landscape is an intrinsic part of the coastal composition which includes the River Tay and the coastal hills. The sloping coastal edge has a particularly important role as part of the coastal landscape extending from the edge of the Tay to the rising hills to the south.	Proposed as part of Tay Coast cSLA.
CH66	North	Not short	Not short listed	Minor level of community support	Gently rolling open slopes which rise gradually to the low ridge of Strathkinness. This is an open landscape which lacks	No proposal

Landscape Character Unit/s reference	Landscape Character Unit name	Draft result of technical assessment	Final result of technical assessment (prior to application of practical and qualitative criteria)	Summary of community support	Application of practical and designation criteria	Outcome
	Strathkinness	listed			distinction and diversity and does not score highly across the evaluation criteria.	
CH67	South St Andrews	Not short listed	Short listed	Medium level of community support, comments to extend proposed coastal cSLA into this area noted, and importance in setting to St Andrews.	Parts of this landscape contribute to the setting and experience of the coastal edge and St Andrews, and provide continuity with the coastal edge proposed for designation to the south. However the golf course development adjacent to the coast has altered the character of this area. It was agreed to review this area to include an area of the coastal hills as part of the St Andrews and Fife Ness cSLA.	Proposed as part of the St Andrews and Fife Ness cSLA
CH68	Kincardine to Culross	Not short listed	Not short listed	No nominations or comments recorded	Low rolling coastal hills, with some policy influences particularly notable to the east. The landscape is relatively intact with some attractive features, however it does not perform highly across all of the evaluation criteria.	No proposal
CH69	Valleyfield to Charlestown	Not short listed	Not short listed	No nominations or comments recorded	Low rolling hills at the coastal edge with an open aspect, partially fragmented by development and lacking in distinctive features.	No proposal
CH70	Limekilns	Not short listed	Not short listed <i>Marginal</i>	Minor level of community support	Low rolling hills at the coastal edge, with some scenic value, however lacking in distinctive features.	No proposal
CH71	Castlandhill	Not short listed	Not short listed	No nominations or comments recorded	A low hill which has been much diminished by urban development and quarrying, although locally prominent.	No proposal
CH72	Ferryhills	Short listed	Short listed	No nominations or comments recorded	Low knolly hills with distinctive rough vegetation, but which are fragmented by transport infrastructure. The hills have strong association as the landfall for the Forth road and rail bridges, and with the nearby settlements of north Queensferry and Inverkeithing. The landscape occupies an important and iconic location, and although the landscape is fragmented, and includes a quarry, the positive characteristics outweigh the influence of those which detract from the landscape value.	Proposed as FerryHills cSLA.
CH73	Letham Hill	Short listed	Short listed	Minor level of community support	This is a low wooded hill which plays an important role in setting and visual separation of Dalgety Bay and Inverkeithing.	Proposed as Letham Hill cSLA.
CH74	Aberdour Hills	Short listed	Short listed	Medium level of community support	The low rolling hills lying above the steep coastal braes have a distinctive woodland pattern and are characteristic of the coastal hills landscape character type. The landscape links to the adjacent Landscape Character Area of the Cullaloe hills, however the Landscape Character Unit also includes a large oil terminal which will be excluded in the boundary application.	Proposed as part of the Cullaloe Hills cSLA.
CH75	Wemyss	Short listed	Short listed	Medium level of community support. Extension of the area to the north and west noted.	Community support for the inclusion of the coastal edge was identified as primarily to reflect the cultural heritage importance of the caves. Although cultural significance is considered through the assessment process, the overall landscape value of the surrounding area is not sufficient to warrant inclusion in the candidate SLA. This landscape has some distinctive features with regard to the policy woodland and an attractive wooded coastal edge. The low rolling coastal hills are a distinctive feature of the Fife coast and in combination with the wooded coastal edge are important in the landscape of Fife. The southern part of this area and coastal edge are of higher merit than the more open farmland to the north.	Proposed area carried forward as Wemyss Coast cSLA.
CT76	St Michael's Wood	Not short listed	Not short listed	Minor level of community support	Open farmland with gently undulating landform typical of the east coast of Fife, but lacking distinction in landform or landcover.	No proposal
CT77	Leuchars - Guardbridge	Not short listed	Not short listed	No nominations or comments recorded		No proposal
CT78	Nydies – Kincaple – N. Bank	Not short listed	Not short listed	Minor level of community support		No proposal
CT79	St Andrews	Not short listed	Not short listed	Minor level of community support for this landscape and its role in providing a setting and identity for St Andrews.	A small, steep, sloping single field rising from the urban edge of St Andrews. This landscape is strongly influenced by development and lacks distinctive character or identity.	No proposal
CT80	Kingsbarns	Short listed	Short listed	High level of community support	Low lying coastal landscape adjoining rocky and sandy beaches, and of particular importance for access and enjoyment. This landscape comprises an attractive part of the Fife coast. This area of landscape has strong continuity with the coastal areas to the north and south.	Proposed as part of the East Fife Coast cSLA.
CT81	Fife Ness	Not short listed	Not short listed	Medium level of community support	The area around Fife Ness should be included as part of the East Fife Coast cSLA but the variation in quality within this landscape should be reflected in the extent of the area brought forward for designation, for example as a narrow coastal strip. This landscape has some scenic value, particularly attributed to the coastal edge, however some of the inland landscape is influenced by the former airfield and derelict buildings. The designation of the coastal edge as a cSLA requires continuity in the extent of the designation and although this landscape is of lower quality inland, the coastal edge retains the key naturalistic qualities which merit designation.	Proposed as part of the East Fife Coast cSLA.
CT82	Crail – St Monans	Short listed	Short listed	High level of community support.	This is a broad coastal swathe which incorporates the coastal edge and coastal fishing villages, and some of the policy landscapes which lie inland. The landscape is particularly important for its role in association with the coastal settlements and this is a distinctive characteristic of the area. This area of coastal landscape provides continuity with the coastal edge proposed for designation to the east and west.	Proposed as part of the East Fife Coast cSLA.
CT83	Elie	Short listed	Short listed <i>Marginal</i>	High level of community support. Representations to extend proposed cSLA covering CT82 west to include Elie and Earlsferry area, and to north noted.	This is a low lying coastal landscape which extends inland from Elie and Earlsferry. The association with settlement is particularly important, and the policies around Kilconquhar and Elie are particularly distinctive. The landscape does not have outstanding merit in relation to any of the evaluation criteria, however it connects to other landscape areas which are higher scoring and has community and stakeholder support.	Proposed as part of the East Fife Coast cSLA.
CT84	Newburgh	Not short listed	Not short listed <i>Marginal</i>	No nominations or comments recorded	This is a policy influenced coastal landscape which has some scenic value and visual associations with the Tay and settlement of Newburgh.	No proposal
FII	Inchcolm	-	Short listed	No nominations or comments recorded	One of the most visible and accessible islands of the Forth, Inchcolm has notable cultural heritage value and is a key	Proposed as Islands of the

Landscape Character Unit/s reference	Landscape Character Unit name	Draft result of technical assessment	Final result of technical assessment (prior to application of practical and qualitative criteria)	Summary of community support	Application of practical and designation criteria	Outcome
					landscape feature within the Forth.	Forth cSLA.
FI2	Inchkeith	-	Short listed	No nominations or comments recorded	Although inaccessible to visitors, Inchkeith has a distinctive profile and is an important landscape feature of the Forth, and has considerable cultural heritage importance.	Proposed as Islands of the Forth cSLA.
FI3	Isle of May	-	Short listed	Minor level of community support.	One of the larger islands of the Forth, the island has considerable natural heritage, cultural heritage and landscape value.	Proposed as Islands of the Forth cSLA.
LB58	Leven	Not short listed	Not short listed	Suggestion to extend this area to join the Lomond Hills cSLA (incorporating Landscape Character Units LB58, part of LH35, UV27 and UF20).	The low lying landform lacks distinctiveness and significance within Fife. The landscape is not representative of the lowland loch basin type and although of some limited value in providing a setting for the adjacent hills and for Loch Leven, the landscape does not score highly across the evaluation criteria. The purpose of local landscape designation is not to connect areas, but to celebrate areas of high quality landscape. To link Lochore and the Lomond Hills would require designation of areas of lower landscape quality.	No proposal
LB59	Ore	Short listed	Short listed	Minor level of community support	This loch basin has some distinctive character as a freshwater loch and associated basin landform. The area makes a contribution to the local area identity and mining heritage, but is not of wider significance within Fife. The landscape has some scenic value, which is aided by its visual connection to the slopes of Benarty Hill. The area is of particularly high value for recreation and enjoyment. This area should be considered for designation in combination with Benarty Hill and slopes which together provides landscape integrity.	Proposed as Loch Ore and Benarty Hill cSLA.
LB60	Gelly	Not short listed	Not short listed	Suggested for consideration as SLA due to its importance in views.	One of the inland lochs with some qualities of naturalness, although this is muted by the proximity of the ethylene plant. This is an attractive local landscape feature, however it lacks distinctiveness which would contribute merit in comparison with other landscape areas within Fife.	No proposal
LB61	Fitty	Not short listed	Not short listed <i>Marginal</i>	No nominations or comments recorded	Loch Fitty is of local importance for recreation and has some scenic value. The adjacent slopes are currently being worked for opencast coal and are also undergoing reclamation which affects the overall integrity of this landscape. The landscape scores highly for its recreational use only.	No proposal
LB62	Kilconquhar	Short listed	Short listed	High level of community support. Requested extension to include area between Kilconquhar and Barnyards noted.	A large naturalistic waterbody which has close associations with the historic settlement of Kilconquhar, which contributes to the high landscape value of this area. This area has a distinctive character in its own right, but also lies within the coastal band which extends along the coastline which will form the St Andrews and Fife Ness cSLA.	Proposed as part of the St Andrews and Fife Ness cSLA.
LD48	Corbie Den	Short listed	Short listed	Minor level of community support	This den is associated with the policies of Birkhill House and the policy woodlands add a distinctive character to the den. The coastal association and role of the den as part of the coastal landscape is an important aspect of the landscape quality. This area forms part of the coastal landscape along the north Fife coast and links closely to the adjacent coastal wooded braes which form part of the Tay Coast cSLA.	Proposed as part of Tay Coast cSLA
LD48a	Dura Den	Short listed	Short listed	Medium level of community support	Dura Den is one of the more deeply incised and large scale of the dens, and its accessibility and settlement are distinctive features of this den. This landscape is short listed and in combination with some of the surrounding Landscape Character Areas provides a distinct and recognisable unit.	Proposed as the Dura Den cSLA.
LD49	Claremont	Short listed	Short listed	Minor level of community support	A series of incised and wooded dens, Claremont Den is the most distinctive and intact of these. There is good access provided through footpath links and cultural heritage associations with Craigtoun Park. The dens have an important association with St Andrews providing setting and green space within the settlement. Claremont Den itself is more extensive and has a more intact rural character than the other dens within this character area.	Proposed as Craigtoun cSLA
LD50	Kinaldy	Not short listed	Short listed <i>Marginal</i>	No nominations or comments recorded	This is a long and incised wooded den, parts of the den are more limited in prominence and diversity although the diversity increases towards Boarhills. This Landscape Character Area extends to the coastal edge and there is variation in quality within this area and the den of the Kenly Water/Kinaldy Burn is more incised and wooded than the Kilduncan Burn and has some relationship with the coastal edge. The landscape does not score highly in relation to any one of the criteria. The area around Boarhills should be included as part of the coastal cSLA on the East Fife coast.	Part of this LCA proposed as part of the East Fife Coast cSLA.
LD51	Largo	Short listed	Short listed	High level of community support	This landscape has some rare features which make a contribution to overall scenic quality in combination with Largo Law. The dens and policy landscapes are of some importance to the identity of Fife. Part of this landscape is of greater scenic quality but should be considered for designation only in combination with Largo Law as the focus provided by the hill increases the distinctiveness of the area and the sense of place. This Landscape Character Area should not be considered for designation within the Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife Local Plan area as the area of higher scenic value lies within the St Andrews and East Fife Local Plan area.	Part of this LCA proposed as part of the Largo Law cSLA.
LF46	East Fife Slopes	Not short listed	Not short listed	Minor level of community support	This is an extensive area of open farmland which lacks distinctive features or diversity, and does not compare highly with other Landscape Character Units within Fife.	No proposal
LF47	Strathkinnes	Not short listed	Not short listed	Minor level of community support.	A small area of open arable farmland sloping gently from Strathkinness toward St Andrews, this landscape does not score highly and does not have a strong relationship with adjacent Landscape Character Areas. The landscape lacks positive distinctive features but plays some role in providing setting for the two settlements.	No proposal
LG52	Motray Water	Not short listed	Not short listed	High level of community support for the coastal edge at Wormit. Importance of views, access to the coastal edge and continuity with adjacent coastal areas noted.	An open undulating landscape with intensively farmed agricultural fields and influenced by sand and gravel extraction and communications. The landscape lacks positive distinctive landscape features, however a small part of this area forms part of the coastal edge at Wormit, and is an intrinsic element of the coastal landscape. The coastal part of this Landscape Character Area provides continuity with the coastal edge which is proposed for designation as part of the Tay Coast cSLA.	The coastal edge at Wormit is proposed as part of Tay Coast cSLA.
LG53	Dunbog	Not short listed	Not short listed	No nominations Suggested extension of Tay Coast cSLA to include part of this area noted.	This Landscape Character Unit comprises low lying farmland of some scenic value. However it lacks distinctive and identifiable features and does not compare highly with other landscapes within Fife. Extension of the proposed Tay Coast cSLA to the nearest defensible boundary incorporates up to the A913 to the south, part of which lies within LG53.	Part of area is proposed as part of Tay Coast cSLA.
LG54	Lindores	Short listed	Short listed	Minor level of community support.	Lindores Loch is notable as a naturalistic loch with high scenic value contributed by the interplay of the waterbody, the surrounding vegetation and the basin of hills. It is of high relative merit when compared with other areas of Fife. This landscape scores highly and has association with the adjacent hills of the proposed Tay Coast cSLA.	Proposed as part of Tay Coast cSLA.
LH31	North West Cupar	Not short listed	Not short listed	Medium level of community support.	This landscape comprises low hills with policy woodland in places. This is not a highly diverse landscape, with farmed fields and a predominantly open character which does not compare strongly with other landscape areas.	No proposal.
LH32	East Cupar	Not short listed	Not short listed	Minor level of community support	The main characteristics of the landscape are largely typical of Fife although the policy influences on the landscape around Dairsie create a more intimate and varied landscape. The policy influences at the mouth of Dura Den extend to include Kemback Wood and parts of the Eden Valley, which together contribute to the character of the Den and are proposed	Part proposed as part of Dura Den cSLA.

Landscape Character Unit/s reference	Landscape Character Unit name	Draft result of technical assessment	Final result of technical assessment (prior to application of practical and qualitative criteria)	Summary of community support	Application of practical and designation criteria	Outcome
					as part of the Dura Den cSLA.	
LH33	Tarvit Mill	Not short listed	Not short listed	No nominations or comments recorded	Although characterised by the course of the River Eden, this does not make a significant contribution to the overall landscape quality. The landscape forms part of the foreground to the rising hills to the south, but it lacks distinctive features and does not have sufficient merit in comparison with other areas within Fife.	No proposal.
LH34	Strathmiglo	Not short listed	Short listed <i>Marginal</i>	High level of community support.	This landscape has some scenic value contributed by the low rolling hills punctuated by areas of policy woodland and association with settlement. This provides the landscape with some distinctiveness and pattern. To the south the lower slopes of the Lomonds rise from the Eden Valley and have a visual association with the hills themselves. This Landscape Character Unit does not score highly in relation to any one of the evaluation criteria, but has strong community support, particularly in relation to the association of the slopes with the Lomond Hills.	Part of the area proposed as part of the Lomond Hills cSLA.
LH35	NE Dunfermline	Not short listed	Not short listed	Minor level of community support.	This landscape is of relatively low scenic quality and has no distinctive features. While this area is representative of the wider Fife landscape, it makes little positive contribution to regional identity.	No proposal.
LH36	Fordell	Not short listed	Not short listed <i>Marginal</i>	Minor level of community support.	This landscape has some distinctive features and provides the setting to Fordell Castle. This area is important in providing a small pocket of higher scenic quality landscape within a semi-urban context in this part of Fife. This landscape is of some merit in comparison with other areas within Fife. There is some community and stakeholder support for the inclusion of this area as part of the Cullaloe Hills cSLA. In practical terms a connection to Letham Hill is not feasible as the areas have very different characteristics which would require to be reflected in separate Statements of Importance.	Proposed as part of the Cullaloe Hills cSLA.
LH37	West Dunfermline	Not short listed	Not short listed	Minor level of community support	Largely typical of the Fife farmland this is an extensive Landscape Character Area, which although well wooded is influenced by areas of derelict ground. The landscape does not score highly across the evaluation criteria. Although there is some variation in quality within this Landscape Character Area, the slopes adjacent to Dunfermline are of not of sufficient landscape merit to warrant inclusion within the South Dunfermline cSLA.	No proposal.
LH38	South Dunfermline	Short listed	Short listed	Medium level of community support. Representations to extend this area to the west and north noted.	This is a distinctive area of policy influenced farmland with a notable rolling landform which contributes positively to the setting and context for Dunfermline and is significant in its association with the town. It performs highly in comparison with other landscape areas within Fife. In places the landscape is less distinctive in terms of its rolling landform and policy influence and is more influenced by the unscreened urban edge to the east and therefore the area proposed for designation excludes the area immediately adjoining the urban edge.	Proposed as South East Dunfermline cSLA
LH39	South Oakley	Not short listed	Not short listed	No nominations or comments recorded	This is an area of rolling wooded farmland common within Fife but lacking in distinctive character.	No proposal.
LH40	Black Devon	Not short listed	Not short listed	No nominations or comments recorded	This area comprises low rolling hills which extend down to the Black Devon, however this landscape does not perform highly across the evaluation criteria and does not compare highly in comparison with other landscapes in Fife.	No proposal.
LH41	Bluther Burn	Not short listed	Not short listed	No nominations or comments recorded	An area of low rolling farmland cut in places by burns and with areas of forestry, however this landscape is largely undistinguished and does not compare highly with other landscapes in Fife.	No proposal.
LH42	Devilla Forest	Not short listed	Not short listed <i>Marginal</i>	No nominations Recreational value noted.	A large area of commercial forestry which is fragmented in part by quarrying and transport routes, although there area areas of more diverse and intimate quality. This landscape has limited scenic value and does not compare strongly with other landscape areas in Fife, although important for recreation. There is limited community support and no stakeholder support for the inclusion of this area as a cSLA. It was agreed that the community support for Devilla primarily reflects its recreational value and that its inclusion would create a precedent for the inclusion of other areas of commercial forestry of low landscape value.	No proposal.
LH43	Cameron	Not short listed	Not short listed	High level of community support. The community support reflects the strong focus from a number of residents on the perceived potential role of the SLA designation in reinforcing the protection of the Green Belt around St Andrews.	This is a large scale landscape largely undistinguished, but with some areas of more distinctive character contributed by the policy influences. This landscape did not score sufficiently highly to warrant consideration as a cSLA, and does not have strong visual links to other cSLA.	No proposal.
LH44	Prior Muir	Not short listed	Not short listed	No nominations or comments recorded	This is an area of gently undulating farmland which is low scoring overall and lacks significant features.	No proposal.
LH45	Falkland	Short listed	Short listed	Medium level of community support	Lying at the foot of the Lomond Hills, this landscape has an important relationship with the surrounding hills and has strong cultural associations and role in relation to setting. This landscape compares favourably with the other landscapes within Fife. This landscape scores highly in its own right and forms part of the hill mass and therefore comprising part of the proposed Lomond Hills cSLA.	Proposed as part of the Lomond Hills cSLA.
LR55	Collessie Howe of Fife East	Not short listed	Not short listed	Minor level of community support	The Howe of Fife is a distinctive and recognisable feature which contrasts with the surrounding low hills. However the landscape lacks diversity and the eastern area is influenced by commercial forestry planting and this detracts from the scenic value of the area.	No proposal.
LR56	Dunshelt Howe of Fife West	Not short listed	Not short listed	Medium level of community support	This landscape comprises a recognisable and distinctive feature of the Fife landscape, but lacks the diversity to score highly across the evaluation criteria.	No proposal.
LR57	Milton Mid Leven Valley	Not short listed	Not short listed	Minor level of community support. Suggested inclusion of Balbirnie Park within Lomond Hills candidate SLA	This landscape is of relatively low scenic quality and has few distinctive features. This landscape is of low merit when compared with other areas within Fife. The Balbirnie Park area will not be included within the candidate SLA due to a lack of visual association with the Lomond Hills.	No proposal.
UF11	Ochil Foothills Newport	Short listed	Short listed	Medium level of community support	The low rolling landscape is accentuated by the woodland pattern and contributes scenic value to the landscape. In addition this is a prominent landscape in views from transport routes. Overall the character of this landscape compares favourably with other landscapes within Fife. This landscape scores highly in its own right and provides some continuity with the hills and coast to the west which comprise the Tay Coast cSLA.	Proposed as part of the Tay Coast.
UF12	Ochil Foothills Craigie Hill	Not short listed	Not short listed	No nominations or comments recorded	This landscape is a low hill which is an integral part of LG52.	No proposal.
UF13	Ochil Foothills Gauldry	Not short listed	Short listed <i>Marginal</i>	Medium level of community support.	The landscape is less complex than the hills to the west, however the association with the coastal edge which is proposed for designation and the continuity with the hills to the west supports the designation of this area. There is community and stakeholder support for the inclusion of this area as part of the Tay Coast cSLA.	Proposed as part of the Tay Coast.

Landscape Character Unit/s reference	Landscape Character Unit name	Draft result of technical assessment	Final result of technical assessment (prior to application of practical and qualitative criteria)	Summary of community support	Application of practical and designation criteria	Outcome
UF14	Ochil Foothills Lucklaw	Not short listed	Not short listed <i>Marginal</i>	Minor level of community support	The low hills are typical of Fife, and although there is some variation in the quality of the landscape it is largely of limited diversity and influenced by the poor landscape condition in places. While parts of this landscape are of greater scenic quality around the Logie and Craigfoodie area, these are relatively small in extent. The well-managed farmland of this landscape has some scenic quality overall although extensive quarrying on Lucklaw Hill affects integrity. There is limited community and stakeholder support for the inclusion of this area as a cSLA.	No proposal.
UF15	Ochil Foothills Brunton	Short listed	Short listed	High level of community support	This landscape is characterised by the distinctive craggy hill tops which together with the distinctive woodlands and historic features create a diverse landscape. In addition the association with the Firth of Tay further enhances the scenic value of the landscape. It is this diversity which results in this landscape comparing favourably with the other landscape areas. This area scores highly and has associations with adjacent landscape areas to form a cohesive unit.	Proposed as part of the Tay Coast.
UF16	Ochil Foothills Moonzie	Not short listed	Not short listed	No nominations or comments recorded	This hill is an integral element of LH31, comprising low hills with policy woodland in places. This is not a highly diverse landscape, with farmed fields and a predominantly open character which does not compare strongly with other landscape areas.	No proposal.
UF17	Ochil Foothills Kilmaron	Not short listed	Not short listed	No nominations Woodland walk view north to Perth		No proposal.
UF18	Ochil Foothills Letham	Not short listed	Short listed <i>Marginal</i>	Minor level of community support	Although this area has some visual association with the North Fife Coast cSLA, it does not share the coastal aspect which provides a strong identity to the more northerly hills. In addition this area does not score highly in relation to any one of the evaluation criteria.	No proposal.
UF19	Ochil Foothills Black Hill	Not short listed	Short listed <i>Marginal</i>	Minor level of community support		No proposal.
UF20	Lomond Foothills	Not short listed	Short listed <i>Marginal</i>	Minor level of community support	This landscape provides a setting to settlement and the Lomond Hills although it is of relatively low scenic value. This landscape is not representative of the wider Fife landscape and makes little positive contribution to regional identity. The upper slopes of this landscape are integral to the Lomond Hills in key views and this area should be considered for designation with regard to securing the integrity of the Lomond Hills.	Proposed as part of the Lomond Hills cSLA.
UF21	Cleish Foothills	Not short listed	Not short listed	Minor level of community support.	This is a low rolling landscape which rises gently towards the Cleish Hills. Although part of this LCU has association with the Cleish Hills cSLA the landscape itself lacks a strong identity or close association with the Cleish hills. A small part of this area is included in the proposed Cleish Hills cSLA to provide a robust boundary, and the wider area does not have a sufficiently strong visual relationship with the Cleish Hills.	Part of this area proposed as part of the Cleish Hills cSLA.
UP1	The Ochil Hills	Not short listed	Not short listed	Medium level of community support.	This is a complex rolling landscape which shares many characteristics of the low rolling hills found in north and east Fife. However it lacks significance in terms of identity and does not score highly in comparison with other landscapes within Fife.	No proposal.
UP2	Lomond Hills	Short listed	Short listed	High level of community support. Suggestion to draw southern boundary down to Leslie and eastern boundary down to the A92 noted.	This landscape is unique within Fife in terms of its visual prominence and scenic qualities. It forms the most elevated and complete hill range located within Fife. The distinctive peaks of the Lomond Hills are significant features in the identity of Fife. This landscape is of high merit when compared with other landscapes within Fife. This area should be considered in relation to its extent into the St Andrews and East Fife Local Plan area. There is community support for the designation of this area.	Proposed Lomond Hills UP2 and parts of US6 and UF20 identified as candidate SLA
UP3	Benarty Hill	Short listed	Short listed	Medium level of community support	This isolated hill is an important feature in terms of its prominence, character and the setting it provides to settlement within north-west Fife. This landscape is particularly important locally. The contribution this landscape makes to the character of this part of Fife, where fewer areas of unmodified landscape exist, its visual prominence and its value in providing a setting to settlement give it high relative merit. This area would need to be designated together with Benarty Slopes (US7) to support landscape integrity.	Proposed Benarty and Loch Ore candidate SLA including UP3, US7 and LB59 and a small proportion of LH35 identified as candidate SLA
UP4	Cleish Hills	Short listed	Short listed	Minor level of community support. Suggestion to include Blairadam Forest noted.	This landscape includes the higher summits of the Cleish Hills and contributes to the overall identity of the Cleish Hills as a whole. The area includes some distinctive peaks characterised by upland vegetation and compares favourably with other parts of the Fife landscape as a whole. The inclusion of areas of forestry with little landscape value would detract from the value of the landscape designation. The southern boundary is defined as reaching to the road at Steelend (B914).	Proposed as Cleish Hills cSLA.
URBAN	Lower Largo			Minor level of community support		
URBAN	Newport-on-Tay			Minor level of community support		
URBAN	Aberdour			Minor level of community support		
URBAN	Inverkeithing			Minor level of community support		
URBAN	Kirkcaldy			Minor level of community support		
URBAN	Kinghorn			Minor level of community support		
URBAN	St Andrews			Medium level of community support.		
US10	Cleish Slopes East (Blairadam)	Not short listed	Not short listed	No nominations or comments recorded	The slopes have a shallow topography and coniferous woodland cover and the lack of distinctive features reduces the significance of the landscapes. The landscape is not representative of Fife as a whole and is of low relative merit, and lacks sufficient distinctiveness to warrant inclusion as part of the Cleish Hills cSLA.	No proposal.
US11	Thornton Slopes	Not short listed	Not short listed	No nominations or comments recorded	These low slopes are heavily modified as a result of ongoing opencast coal mining and previous reclamation works, and disturbed ground is a common feature within Fife. This makes them of low significance and relative merit within Fife.	No proposal.
US5	Lomond Slopes North	Short listed	Short listed	High level of community support	The steeply rising northern slopes of the Lomond Hills are an integral feature of the Lomond Hills themselves and the northern slopes provide a strong contrast with the low lying farmland. Although the commercial forestry detracts from the drama of the slopes, the steeply rising hills are distinctive and recognisable as an important landscape feature. The slopes score highly and are an integral element of the Lomond Hills.	Proposed as part of Lomond Hills cSLA.
US6	Lomond Slopes East	Not short listed	Not short listed <i>Marginal</i>	Minor level of community support.	The slopes perform some role in providing a setting for the Lomond Hills, and this enhances their value as a representative landscape within Fife. The landscape has some scenic value which is enhanced by proximity to the Lomond Hills. The role of this landscape in providing setting to the Lomond Hills and as an intrinsic part of the hill mass requires inclusion of the eastern extent to the A92.	Proposed as part of Lomond Hills cSLA.
US7	Benarty Slopes	Short listed	Short listed	Medium level of community support.	This isolated hill (both hill top and slopes) is an important feature in terms of its prominence, character and the setting it provides to settlement within north-west Fife This landscape is particularly important locally. The contribution this landscape makes to the character of this part of Fife, where fewer areas of unmodified landscape exist, its visual	Proposed as part of Benarty and Loch Ore candidate SLA including UP3, US7 and LB59

Landscape Character Unit/s reference	Landscape Character Unit name	Draft result of technical assessment	Final result of technical assessment (prior to application of practical and qualitative criteria)	Summary of community support	Application of practical and designation criteria	Outcome
					prominence and its value in providing a setting to settlement give it high relative merit. This area would need to be designated together with Benarty Hill top (UP3) and has landscape association with Loch Ore.	and a small proportion of LH35.
US8	Cleish slopes north	Not short listed however included as part of Cleish Hills	Not short listed	No nominations or comments recorded	The Cleish Hills are a significant hill mass within Fife and are prominent within distant views. The northern slopes form part of the hills identity and are intrinsic to their character, although the coniferous forestry detracts from the quality of the landscape. Although not scoring highly as an individual landscape area, the slopes are an integral part of the Cleish hills and should be considered as part of the Cleish Hills cSLA.	Proposed as part of Cleish Hills cSLA.
US9	Cleish slopes west	Short listed	Short listed <i>Marginal</i>	Minor level of community support	The slopes form part of the Cleish Hills and comprise a steep landform and rugged upland character which contributes a strong and distinctive identity. The hill slopes compare favourably with other landscapes within Fife.	Proposed as part of Cleish Hills cSLA.
UV22	Blebocraigs	Not short listed	Not short listed <i>Marginal</i>	Medium level of community support.	This landscape is partially fragmented by different land uses, and lacks a strong and distinctive identity. However parts of this landscape are stronger in character and contribute to the landscape features in the adjacent Dura Den. Part of this landscape has strong associations with Dura Den and the policy influences which connect to this area.	Part proposed as part of Dura Den cSLA.
UV23	Ceres	Short listed	Short listed <i>Marginal</i>	High level of community support	This landscape is fairly typical of the Fife low hills and valleys however it is a fairly simple landscape which is enhanced by its proximity to the policy influenced woodlands around Tarvit and Teasses. The western part of this LCU is identified as being of higher quality due to its visual association with the hills at Tarvit and forms part of the Tarvit and Ceres cSLA.	Part proposed as part of Tarvit and Ceres cSLA.
UV24	Clatto	Not short listed	Not short listed	Medium level of community support.	There was some community support for the inclusion of Kennoway Den as a cSLA, however this was identified as playing an important role as an open space resource but comprises a comparatively small landscape feature and is not visually prominent within the wider landscape. UV24 scored quite well in relation to the evaluation criteria, however the landscape was not identified as having sufficient distinctive qualities to merit designation. The area north of Bonnybank/Kennoway will not be included within the candidate SLA. Kennoway Den will not be included within the candidate SLA. This landscape has some distinctive features and is important in providing a setting to settlement. These low rolling hills contribute to the overall diversity of Fife by providing a contrast with the nearby Howe of Fife. This landscape is of some merit when compared with other areas within Fife.	No proposal
UV24a	Tarvit	Short listed	Short listed	High level of community support.	This landscape scores highly and has an important landscape association with the area around Ceres. Low rolling hills accentuated by wooded dens and areas of policy woodland which combine to create a diverse and balanced landscape which is of some merit when compared to other landscapes within Fife.	Proposed as Tarvit and Ceres cSLA.
UV25	Largoward	Not short listed	Not short listed	Medium level of community support.	This landscape is largely typical of low rolling hills of the Fife landscape, however it has a lack of diversity and is intensively farmed and does not compare highly with other landscapes within Fife.	No proposal
UV26	Largo Law	Short listed	Short listed	Medium level of community support. Suggested extension of cSLA to include Hatton Law Hill and to extend west of Lundin Links noted.	This landscape scores highly and should be considered as a candidate cSLA. Largo Law is a distinctive and recognisable landscape feature which contributes positively to the Fife landscape. The distinctive landform, and prominence of this landscape compare favourably with other landscapes within Fife.	Proposed as Largo Law cSLA.
UV27	Redwell Hill	Not short listed	Not short listed	No nominations Suggested extension linking Loch Ore and Lomond Hills noted.	This landscape is of relatively low scenic quality when compared to other landscapes within the wider context of Fife. This landscape is not representative of the wider Fife landscape and makes little positive contribution to regional identity. The characteristics and qualities of the Redwell Hill character area do not compare favourably with other landscapes within Fife. The purpose of local landscape designation is not to connect areas, but to celebrate areas of high quality landscape and to link Lochore and the Lomond Hills would require designation of areas of lower landscape quality.	No proposal
UV28	Cowdenbeath Hills	Not short listed	Not short listed	Minor level of support	While this landscape is of relatively low scenic quality when compared to other landscapes within the wider context of Fife it plays an important role in the setting of Cowdenbeath and forms a local landmark. This landscape is not representative of the wider Fife landscape and makes little positive contribution to regional identity. The characteristics and qualities of the Cowdenbeath Hills do not compare favourably with other landscapes within Fife.	No proposal
UV29	Cullaloe Hills	Short listed	Short listed	High level of support across the area.	This landscape has some distinctive characteristics particularly at its core where the landform is more diverse and is important in providing a setting to the settlements of Burntisland and Kirkcaldy. The Cullaloe Hills contain some features which are important to the identity of Fife and are visually prominent from Edinburgh. The Cullaloe Hills are of some merit and could be designated together with the coastal hills and braes (CH74 and CB97) with which they share some similarities and are visually linked. There is some community support for the designation of this area including the coastal hills and inland area.	Proposed as part of Cullaloe Hills cSLA.
UV30	Kincraig	Short listed	Short listed <i>Marginal</i>	Medium level of support.	This landscape is a distinctive low coastal hill which forms part of the coastal landscape and contributes to the local identity of Earlsferry and Elie. It provides continuity with the coastal landscape and has community support.	Proposed as part of the East Neuk cSLA.

COMPARISON OF CANDIDATE SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS AND EXISTING AREAS OF GREAT LANDSCAPE VALUE (AGLV)

- 5.6. Figure 4 illustrates the location of the current Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) designations in comparison with the proposed candidate Special Landscape Areas. The following text summarises the extent of the previous AGLV within the current adopted Local Plan areas.
- 5.7. The Tay Coast Local Plan area is wholly designated as AGLV. The Cupar & Howe of Fife Local Plan area is largely designated as AGLV with both the North and South sides of the Howe included as designated areas. The exception is the central Howe of Fife/Eden Valley area running from Cupar to Strathmiglo. A small area to the west of Gateside is also not included in the designated area.
- 5.8. The St Andrews Local Plan area has 1 AGLV which covers the entire St Andrews local area from Lathockhar in the west, to Kilduncan in the east and Prior Muir in the north. There is a small section in the south east not covered which includes the Landscape Character Units LH44 and LD50.
- 5.9. The Largo and East Neuk Local Plan area has one AGLV which covers the entire area apart from a swathe running west to east, from Montrave in west to Whitehill in NE. The designation covers LCA areas CT80, CT81 and part of UV25, UV26 and LF46.
- 5.10. The Dunfermline and the coast Local Plan area has three AGLV designations.
- ‘Cullaloe Hills/ The Binn’ is located in the south-east corner of the area, with a western boundary at Cockairnie, running to the coast in the South. The designation partly covers LCA areas UV29 and CH74.
 - ‘Cleish Hills’ is located in two parts of the area, to the north-west of Dunfermline, running between Black Loch in the East to the West Villages Boundary in the west and in the far north-west around Loch Glow. Both parts are located in part of LCA area UF21.
 - ‘Broomhall/Belleknowes’ is located to the south-west of Dunfermline, running to Pitliver House in the west and Belleknowes in the south. It covers part of LCA area LH38.
- 5.11. The West Villages Local Plan area has one AGLV. ‘Cleish Hills’ is located in the north-east of the area, from Cowstrandburn in the south, to north-east border with Perth and Kinross and Dunfermline and the Coast and to Blairsgreen in the South West. It covers all of LCA areas: UP4, US9, US8 and part of areas UF21 and UP4
- 5.12. Cowdenbeath Local Plan has one AGLV designation, ‘Benarty Hill’. It is located between Kelty and Ballingry, in Lochore Meadow Country Park. The AGLV covers the LCA units of LB 59, US 7 and UP 3.
- 5.13. Kirkcaldy Local Plan has three AGLV designations. ‘Cullaloe Hills/ The Binn’ is located in the south-west of the area and covers LCA units CHI 14, UV29 and CB97. ‘Auchmuir-and-Whitehill’ is located in the north-west of the area and covers the LCA

unit UV27. The final AGLV is 'Wemyss Coast'; this is located east of Kirkcaldy on the coast and covers two distinct areas within the LCA unit CH75.

- 5.14. Glenrothes Local Plan has one AGLV designation, 'Leslie and Star', located on the northern fringes of Glenrothes. Partly covers LCA units, UV24, LR57 and UP2, and wholly covers UF20.
- 5.15. Levenmouth Local Plan has two AGLV designations. 'Durie' is located on the northern fringe of Leven and stretches to Balgrummo in the north: 'Durie' partly covers LCA unit LD51. 'Langdykes and Kilmux' is a swathe stretching from Colliston Hill in the east to Langdyke in the west; Langdykes partly covers LCA unit UV24.

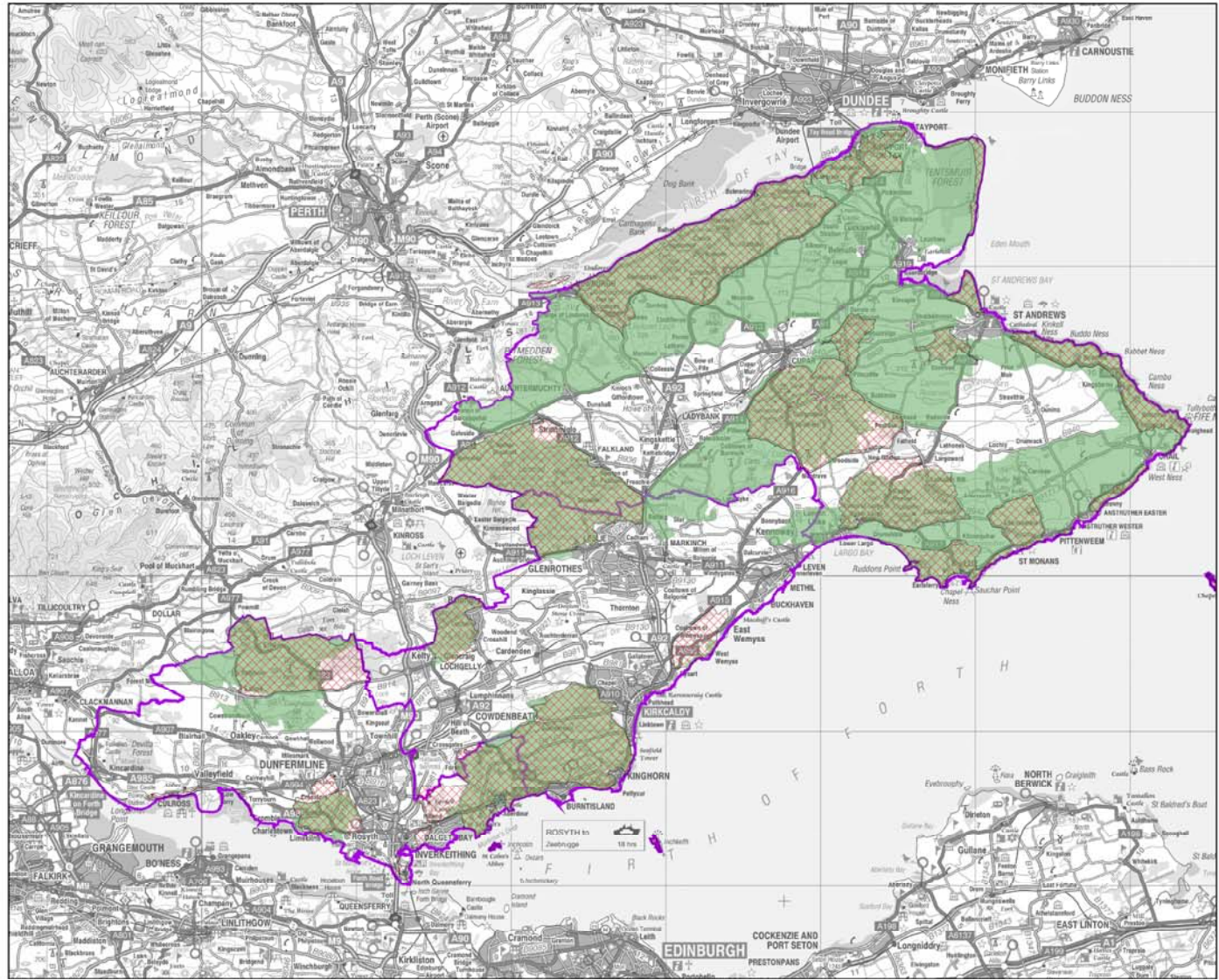
Council Boundary issues

- 5.16. The main discrepancy of the project findings for Fife with the designated areas within Perth and Kinross is the designation of the whole of the Cleish Hills within the Perth and Kinross boundary as AGLV. This area adjoins the low scoring Landscape Character Unit US10. However, the designation process and criteria used to inform the identification of these areas is not based upon the current SNH and Historic Scotland guidance and therefore absolute consistency between the processes would not be expected.

AGLV designations adjoining the Fife local authority boundary: Perth and Kinross

- 5.17. An AGLV encompassing Loch Leven and Benarty Hill was identified in the 1994 Local Plan. Its policy had a presumption against development within these areas. The Draft Plan proposed the removal of the AGLV but there was strong local support for its retention, albeit with amended boundaries and a different purpose. The Kinross Local Plan (2004) amends the AGLV by extending its boundaries to incorporate the hills and skylines to the south and west of Kinross-shire.
- 5.18. Policy 54 of the Kinross Local Plan (2004) sets out protection for the AGLVs and identifies that new developments will only be permitted where they can be shown to enhance the natural and man made landscape assets of the area.
- 5.19. The following descriptions summarise the location and extent of the AGLV within Perth and Kinross which adjoin the Mid Fife and Kirkcaldy Local Plan boundary:
 - The Cleish Hills AGLV extends from Blairadam in the east to the boundary with Kirkcaldy and Mid Fife at Wether Hill.
 - At Benarty Hill the AGLV extends around the western and northern slopes of Benarty Hill, incorporating Vane Hill and the north east facing slopes of Navitie Hill and down to the shores of Loch Leven.
 - At the Lomond Hills the AGLV extends along the A911, and around the base of the steep west facing slopes of the Lomond Hills.

5.20. Within Clackmannanshire, only one of the existing AGLV lies close to the boundary with Fife, and a small part of this is adjacent to the Bath Moor Plantation of Devilla Forest.



Fife Council
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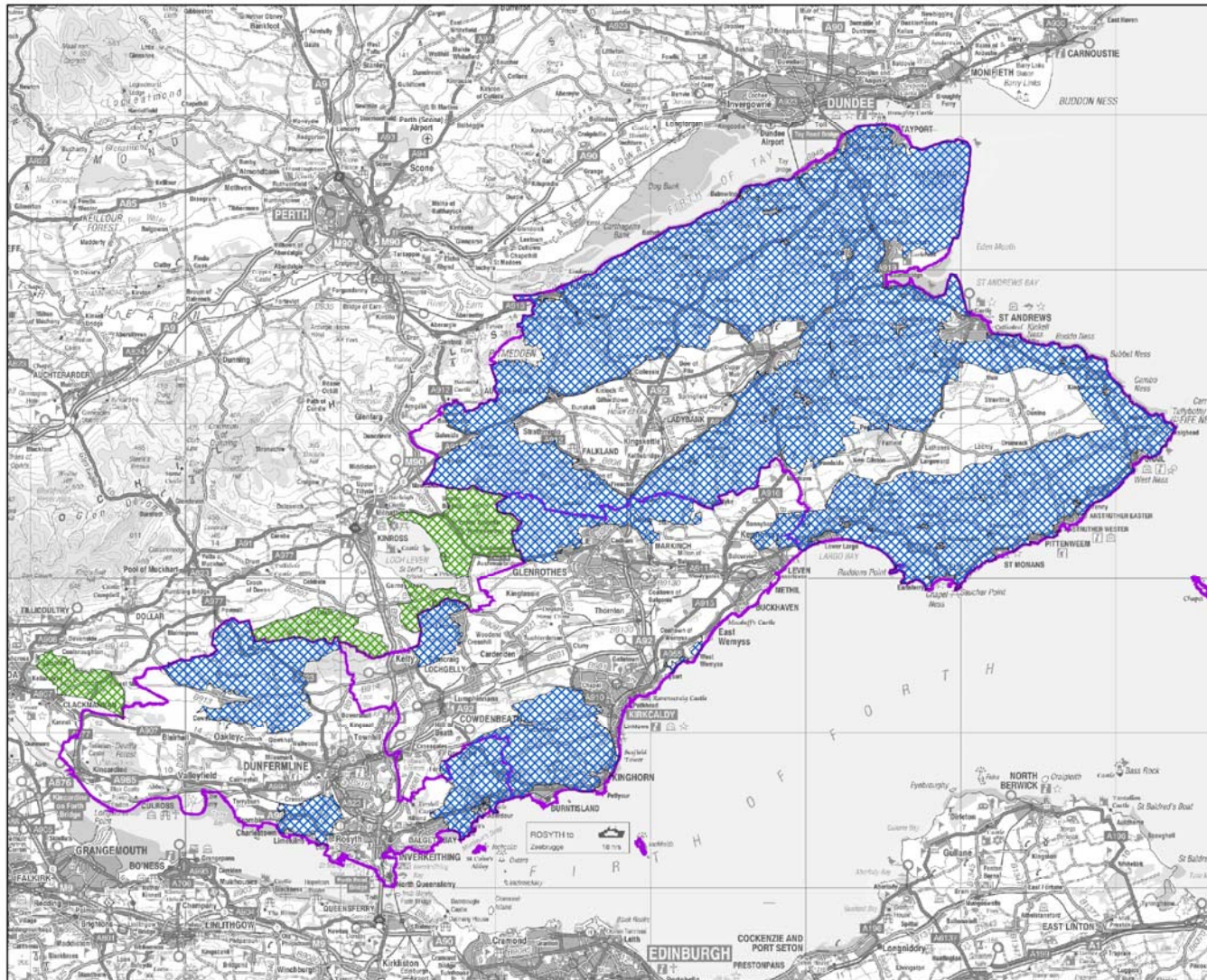
Fife Draft Candidate SLA and former AGLV

- Fife local plan areas
- Former Fife Council AGLV
- Candidate SLA

Figure 5.1
Scale 1:230,000



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Fife Council
Local Landscape Designation Review

Former Fife Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) and adjoining AGLV

- Fife local plan areas
- Former Fife Council AGLV
- Current AGLV within Perth and Kinross and Clackmannanshire

Figure 5
Scale 1:230,000



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6. DESIGNATION AUDIT AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

INTRODUCTION

- 6.1. This chapter of the report provides an overview of the existing policy framework for landscape protection within Fife, makes policy recommendations for landscape protection, and discusses the relationship between areas of high landscape value and future development areas.

LANDSCAPE POLICY

National

Guidance on Local Landscape Designations⁵

- 6.2. The SNH and Historic Scotland (2005) *Guidance on Local Landscape Designations* (LLDs) is designed to help local authorities refresh their approach to LLDs. The aims of the guidance are:
- to promote greater understanding and support for local designations among stakeholders;
 - reaffirm LLDs as part of the *all landscapes* approach;
 - secure greater consistency in selection and use of LLDs; and
 - clarify the relationship of LLDs to the wider family of Scottish landscape designations.
- 6.3. The guidance supports an all landscapes approach which reflects a broader approach to landscape planning and management and the continuity of landscapes across settlements and administrative boundaries. There is recognition that all views on the landscape should be respected, planning and management should facilitate positive change and there should be shared responsibility for the landscape.
- 6.4. Within the *all landscapes* approach LLDs have a role as accolades or recognition, for policy priorities and objectives, and as a tool for management. They serve to safeguard landscapes, promote settings for recreation and awareness and to inform development plans, strategies or planning proposals.
- 6.5. Development plan policies should recognise the positive contribution that appropriate development and other land use change can make to the landscape character and qualities of the designated area. The guidance identifies that development should generally only be permitted within a LLD when:
- It will not have significant adverse impact on the special character or qualities of the landscape of the area;

⁵ SNH and Historic Scotland (2004) *Guidance on Local Landscape Designations*

- The social and economic benefits of the development are considered to be of more than just local significance in the context of the local authority;
- For development that meets these tests, the location, scale, design, materials, and landscaping should be of a high standard and, where appropriate, should seek to enhance the special qualities and character of the landscape.

6.6. Authorities should also consider how other relevant policies in development plans can be used to support protection and enhancement of character qualities of LLDs.

NPPG 14: Natural Heritage⁶

6.7. NPPG 14 is the Scottish Government’s national planning policy document providing guidance on how the conservation and enhancement of Scotland’s natural heritage should be considered in land use planning. It provides a framework for local landscape designations for the purpose of safeguarding locally important areas of outstanding scenic character or quality from inappropriate development. The document confirms the relevance of local landscape designations but cautions that authorities should avoid the proliferation of unnecessary local designations. The boundaries of sites should be clearly defined in development plans and justification given for selection. NPPG 14 is currently being reviewed as part of the Scottish Government’s preparation of Scottish Planning Policy: Part Three Thematic Policies.

PAN 60⁷

6.8. PAN 60 supports NPPG 14 in providing policy and planning advice regarding Scotland’s natural heritage. Safeguarding and enhancing landscape character is an important planning objective, and planning authorities contribute by protecting the quality of their distinctive landscapes. To achieve this there need to be clear policy objectives in relation to landscape, promotion of high standards of siting and use of appropriate materials. A landscape designation is employed when an area is valued beyond its immediate surroundings.

6.9. Landscape designations are stated to be of more value when forming part of a wider land-use framework and habitat network; contributing to realisation of national natural heritage strategy.

6.10. Landscape designations can offer opportunities to develop a partnership between local authorities and stakeholders. Development guidelines should be designed to safeguard landscape and should play a supporting role in protecting designated landscape.

⁶ Scottish Office (1999) NPPG 14: Natural Heritage

⁷ Scottish Executive (2000) Planning Advice Note 60 Planning for Natural Heritage

Regional

Finalised Fife Structure Plan 2006-2026⁸

- 6.11. Landscape objectives are located in the section titled ‘Safeguarding and Improving Fife’s Environment’. The overall objective for landscape is to improve the character of Fife’s landscape and coastline, which includes areas within the built environment. There are aims to improve or restore degraded landscape, protect and enhance historical and built environments and to ensure that all development positively contributes to Fife’s sense of place.
- 6.12. It is stated that landscape setting should be conserved and enhanced, and local landscape designations are one method of achieving conservation. Local Landscape Designations, including boundaries and policies, are to be detailed in relevant Local Plans. The built environment is important to conserve as Fife has nationally important historic environments.

Strategic Land Allocations

- 6.13. The Finalised Structure Plan⁹ Policy of Fife Council identifies broad areas known as “Strategic Land Allocations” for housing and business development in order to accommodate population growth in Fife over the next 20 years. These allocations identify the general location and number of units required. Local Plans are expected to refine boundaries and specific elements required for such allocations. These Strategic Land Allocations are identified in relation to a number of settlements all with a minimum of 300 houses (see 3.8)¹⁰.

Adopted Local Plans

- 6.14. The adopted Local Plans for Fife have similar policies relevant to landscape protection and management which reflect the Finalised Fife Structure Plan 2006-2026.
- 6.15. The policy area of sustainability aims to ‘*protect and enhance the visual landscape and townscape*’. Relevant policy for countryside and environment includes, ‘*protect and improve the countryside and natural environment*’. Within this policy area a number of relevant principles are outlined which include:
- Protect and conserve natural features of landscape;
 - Promote landscape enhancement;
 - The character and appearance of countryside should be preserved;
 - Isolated development should be discouraged in open countryside;
 - Development should be justified in terms of being in the countryside.

⁸ Fife Council (2006) Finalised Fife Structure Plan

⁹ Fife Council (2006) Finalised Fife Structure Plan 2006 - 2026

¹⁰ Together the Finalised Fife Structure Plan 2006 and the Housing Land Re-appraisal 2007 constitute the official Finalised Structure Plan Policy of Fife Council

- 6.16. A number of other policies with some relevance to landscape issues include: promoting high standards of development, regenerating the urban environment and brownfield sites, and protecting and enhancing areas of shops, town and village centres. Countryside focused policies include: protection of agricultural land and protection of trees, woodland and hedgerows.
- 6.17. The Local Plans include supporting text which identifies that *new developments shall incorporate proposals to maintain the local diversity and distinctiveness of landscape character as identified in the Fife Landscape Character Assessment. This includes natural and built heritage features of landscape value such as woodland, hedges, ponds, stone walls and historic sites. New development must also enhance landscape characteristics where they have been weakened and need improvement.*
- 6.18. The Plans also include policy protection for Inventory listed Gardens and Designed Landscapes, avoiding development which would adversely affect their character. The Plans also include protection for non-inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes recorded in Fife Council's Sites and Monuments Record.
- 6.19. Three new Local Plans for Kirkcaldy & Mid Fife, St. Andrews & East Fife and Dunfermline & West Fife are currently being prepared. The draft of the Kirkcaldy & Mid Fife Plan was published for consultation in October 2008 and includes proposals for revised Areas of Great Landscape Value (the title given to the SLAs in the Plan). The remaining two Local Plans will be published in Draft during 2009 and will include proposals for reviewed landscape designations. In addition to identifying boundaries for revised areas, the Local Plans will include new policies to guide decisions on development proposals affecting these areas. The Local Plan consultation process for these 3 Plans provides a further opportunity for public comment on proposals and policies for landscape designations

Existing designated and managed areas

- 6.20. Table 6.1 summarises the existing designated and managed areas which lie within the candidate areas for designation. This illustrates where these areas are already protected or managed for other characteristics such as enjoyment, historic or nature conservation value
- 6.21. Figure 6 illustrates the existing designated and protected areas within Fife.

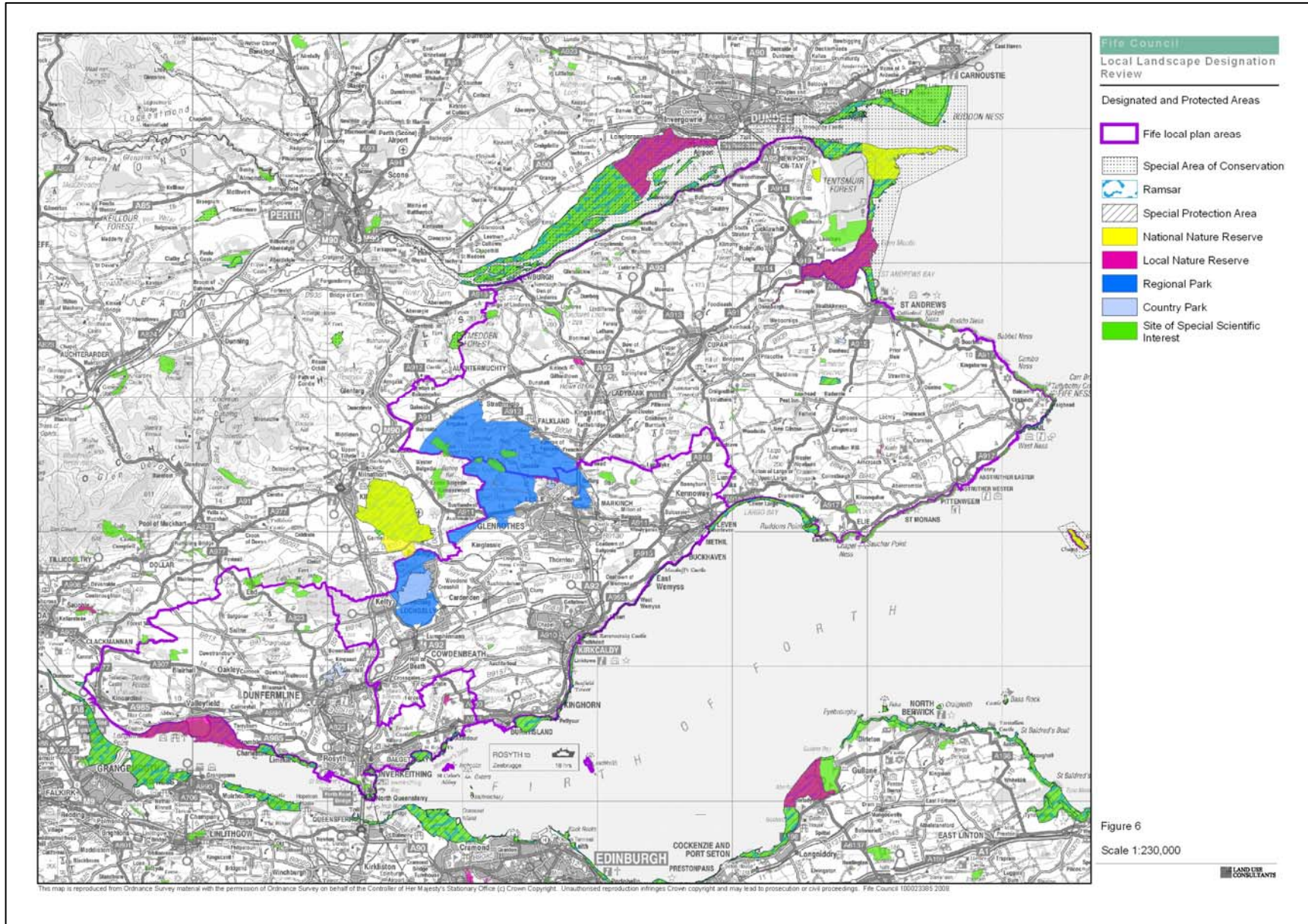


Table 6.1 Candidate Special Landscape Areas and existing designated and managed areas

Candidate Special Landscape Area	Country Park	Regional Park	Inventory listed Gardens and Designed Landscapes(GDL)	Nature conservation designations
Benarty Hill and Lochore Meadows	Lochore Meadows Country Park includes the Loch and immediate surrounds, and bounds the settlement of Lochore.	Lomond Hills Regional Park extends from the boundary with Perth and Kinross at Benarty Hill towards Lochgelly in the south, and bounded to the east by the B920 and to the west by the B996.		
Craigtoun	Craigtoun Country Park occupies a small part of the Craigtoun Park GDL.		Craigtoun Park (Mount Melville) GDL lies in the centre of the proposed landscape area.	
Cleish Hills				Wether Hill SSSI Park Hill and Tipperton Mosses SSSI Black Loch (Cleish) SSSI
Cullaloe Hills and Coast			Raith Park and Beveridge Park GDL lies to the west of Kirkcaldy. Fordell GDL lies to the north of Dalgety Bay.	SSSI include Camilla Loch, Cullaloe Reservoir and Orrock Hill. The coastal edge is part of the Firth of Forth SPA, Ramsar and SSSI.
Dura Den				
East Neuk			Balcaskie inventory listed GDL lies inland from St Monans and Pittenweem.	Kilconquhar Loch SSSI From Lower Largo to Anstruther, and Crail to Kilminning Castle the coastal edge forms part of the Firth of Forth SSSI. Other SSSI include Barnsmuir Coast SSSI south of Crail.
St Andrews to Fife Ness			Cambo inventory listed GDL lies on the east facing coast south of Kingsbarns.	Fife Ness Coast SSSI and St Andrews to Craig Hartle SSSI Crail to Fife Ness forms part of the Firth of Forth SPA and Ramsar.
Ferry Hills				Ferry Hills SSSI The coastal edge forms part of the

Candidate Special Landscape Area	Country Park	Regional Park	Inventory listed Gardens and Designed Landscapes(GDL)	Nature conservation designations
				Firth of Forth SPA and Ramsar.
Upper Forth			At Culross, part of the area includes the Culross Abbey House GDL and the Dunimarle Castle GDL.	The nearby coastal edge is part of the Firth of Forth SPA, Ramsar and SSSI.
Forth Islands				The Isle of May has the only natural heritage designations as the Isle of May SAC, part of the Forth Islands SPA and the Isle of May SSSI.
Largo Law			Lahill GDL extends north from the A917 and Charleton GDL and Balcarres GDL extend north from the B942 on the slopes to the east of the law.	
Letham Hill				
Lomond Hills	The Pitcairn Centre on the northern perimeter of Glenrothes is designated a country park and includes a small area of woodland.	The Lomond Hills Regional Park extends over the upland form of the Lomond Hills close to the edge of Glenrothes and Leslie, and including the low lying land adjacent to the River Leven.		Harperleas and Ballo Reservoirs are designated as SSSI. Holl Meadows SSSI includes the perimeter of Holl Reservoir and sections of the Lothrie Burn
South West Dunfermline				
Tarvit and Ceres			Hill of Tarvit GDL	The landscape includes the following SSSI: Bankhead Moss SSSI Craighall Den SSSI Fleecefaulds Meadow SSSI Waltonhill and Cradle Den SSSI
Tay Coast			Naughton House GDL is a small inventory listed garden at Bottomcraig.	The Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar extends along the coastal edge. The Inner Tay Estuary SSSI extends along the coast from Wormit to

Candidate Special Landscape Area	Country Park	Regional Park	Inventory listed Gardens and Designed Landscapes(GDL)	Nature conservation designations
				Newburgh and includes the coastal edge and the sandbanks and islands Lindores Loch SSSI Flisk Wood SSSI North Fife Heaths SSSI includes three small areas on Glenduckie Hill, Norman's Law and above Brunton
Tentsmuir Coast				The Eden Estuary LNR incorporates the coastal edge at Reres Wood and the coastal sands extending to the edge of the Earlshall Muir LCU adjacent to the coast. Tentsmuir NNR extends over the coastal sands and inland at Tentsmuir Point, and on the northern coast of the forestry. The Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar and Tayport – Tentsmuir Coast SSSI incorporating the coastal sands, and the inland edge at Tentsmuir Point and along the northern coast.
The Links			St Andrews Links GDL extends over much of the landscape area, however its southern extent reaches to the former railway line and the edge of the proposed cSLA extends to the A91.	The Eden Estuary LNR extends around the north west facing edge of the promontory, incorporating a small part of the landward extent at Out Head. The Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SPA, SAC and Ramsar and the Eden Estuary SSSI extend around the Links and incorporate

Candidate Special Landscape Area	Country Park	Regional Park	Inventory listed Gardens and Designed Landscapes(GDL)	Nature conservation designations
				part of the land at the northern tip and on the east facing shore.
Wemyss			The Wemyss Castle GDL lies between the A955 and the coast	The coastal edge is part of the Firth of Forth SPA, Ramsar and SSSI.

Model policies

- 6.22. Research carried out for SNH in 2003¹¹ identified draft appropriate wording for model policies on a range of topics, which include landscape considerations. The report acknowledges that local landscape designations are likely to have to accommodate a wider range of developments than the internationally and nationally important designation. The draft model policy is as follows:

Development within [Areas of Great Landscape Value or relevant name] will only be permitted where it does not significantly adversely affect the landscape character, natural beauty and visual amenity [and where appropriate the wild land character] of the area. When considering the grant of planning permission in these areas the planning authority will have regard to the need to preserve and, where necessary, to restore or enhance the character of the area and may use conditions or planning agreements to achieve these objectives.

- 6.23. The report also sets out a model policy for the conservation, restoration and enhancement of landscape character. The report notes that the explanatory text should refer to the Landscape Character Assessment and any further guidance on fitting development into the landscape including PANs. The policy is intended to ensure that new development makes a positive contribution to landscape character and the planning authority should be able to draw on the guidelines in the Landscape Character Assessment when interpreting and applying the policy. The draft model policy is as follows:

All development shall be of a nature and scale and shall be sited, laid out, designed and constructed of materials so as to make a positive contribution to landscape character. Where necessary, and particularly in the areas shown on the Proposals Map, new development shall contribute to the restoration and / or enhancement of the landscape character of the area and the planning authority may use conditions or planning agreements to achieve these objectives.

Policy framework recommendations

- 6.24. The Special Landscape Area designation policy should include a single SLA policy which sets out the protection and maintenance of the key characteristics of that landscape, and refers to the Statements of Importance for the SLA, which should be placed within an appendix. The SLA policy should sit within a wider framework of policies including a countryside and landscape policy, historic environment policy, natural heritage policies and Greenbelt policies where appropriate.
- 6.25. In forthcoming Local Plans, designated landscapes should be a 'countryside' designation and not included within defined settlement boundaries.
- 6.26. The boundaries of the candidate Special Landscape Areas shown in this report are indicative only. Where necessary these will be modified by Fife Council to sit around the final settlement edge of areas allocated to accommodate development. . The designation of an area as an SLA does not preclude development, however it

¹¹ David Tyldesley and Associates (2003) Model Policies for the Natural Heritage, Scottish Natural Heritage, Battleby.

provides a strong framework for identifying the landscape sensitivities of an area and guiding the scale and nature of development which would be permitted to take place within that area.

- 6.27. Development outwith the candidate SLA could also impact on their integrity. The proximity to and impact on views to SLA should be addressed within the wider landscape policy framework to ensure that the integrity and identity of the SLA is maintained.

7. STATEMENTS OF IMPORTANCE

- 7.1. This section of the report sets out the Statements of Importance for each of the candidate Special Landscape Areas (cSLA).
- 7.2. The structure and content of the Statements of Importance is outlined below:
- Map showing defined boundaries
 - Locally recognised name
 - Location and boundary description
 - Paragraph ‘celebrating’ the landscape and the reasons for designation and describing its character and qualities
 - Analysis of principal forces for change (negative and positive)
 - Management recommendations
- 7.3. The following summarises the LCU which form the basis for each of the Special Landscape Areas.
- The **Benarty and Loch Ore cSLA** includes the landscape character units UP3, US7 and LB59 and a small proportion of LH35 has been included in order to secure a robust boundary.
 - **Craigtoun cSLA** incorporates part of the landscape character unit LD49.
 - **Cleish Hills cSLA** incorporates the landscape character units UP4, US8, US9 and part of UF21.
 - **Cullaloe Hills and Coast cSLA** includes the landscape character units UV29, CB97, LH36 and parts of CH74 and CH114.
 - **Dura Den cSLA** incorporates the landscape character units LD48a and parts of LH32 and UV22.
 - **East Neuk cSLA** incorporates the landscape character units CC89, part of CT82, part of CT83, LB62 and UV30.
 - **Ferry Hills cSLA** incorporates the landscape character unit CH72.
 - **Upper Forth cSLA** incorporates the landscape character units CB95 and CB96a.
 - **Forth Islands cSLA** includes the landscape character units of FI1, FI2, and FI3.
 - **Largo Law cSLA** includes the landscape character units of LD51 and UV26.
 - **Letham Hill cSLA** incorporates the landscape character unit CH73
 - The **Lomond Hills cSLA** incorporates the landscape character unit UP2 and parts of US6 and UF20.

- **South West Dunfermline cSLA** incorporates the landscape character unit LH38.
- **St Andrews and Fife Ness cSLA** incorporates the landscape character units CC86, CC87, CC88, part of CH67, part of CFI09 CT80, part of LD50, part of LF46, and part of CT81.
- **Tarvit and Ceres cSLA** incorporates parts of the landscape character unit UV24a and UV23.
- **Tay Coast cSLA** incorporates the landscape character units CFI07, CFI08, part of LG53, LG54, UFI5, CB94, CH65, part of LH31, CB93, LD48, CH64, CB92, UFI3, CB91, part of LG52 and UFI1.
- **Tentsmuir Coast cSLA** incorporates the landscape character units CF98 and CFI00.
- **St. Andrews Links cSLA** incorporates the landscape character unit CFI05.
- **Wemyss Coast cSLA** includes part of the CH75 landscape character unit.

Special Landscape Area: Benarty and Loch Ore

Location and boundaries: The area lies to the west of the settlements of Ballingry and Lochore and extending to the B966 in the west. To the north and west the boundaries adjoin the neighbouring local authority area of Perth and Kinross. The area includes the summit of Benarty Hill, the south facing slopes and the basin of Loch Ore, extending to the Lochfitty Burn in the south.

Designation statement:

Benarty Hill is a **prominent** and isolated elongated hill which lies to the north of Loch Ore. The hill top is rugged and undulating with grass moorland landcover, which in combination with the steep wooded slopes to the south, create a diverse landscape of **scenic quality** which is relatively **rare** within Fife. The lower slopes of the hill extend down to the low lying valley floor which incorporates the loch basin of Loch Ore. The perimeter of the loch and islands have a wooded character and this provides some **continuity** with the mixed policy woodlands which extend up the slopes of Benarty Hill. The slopes provide a containing edge and distinctive **backdrop** to the settlements of Ballingry and Lochore.

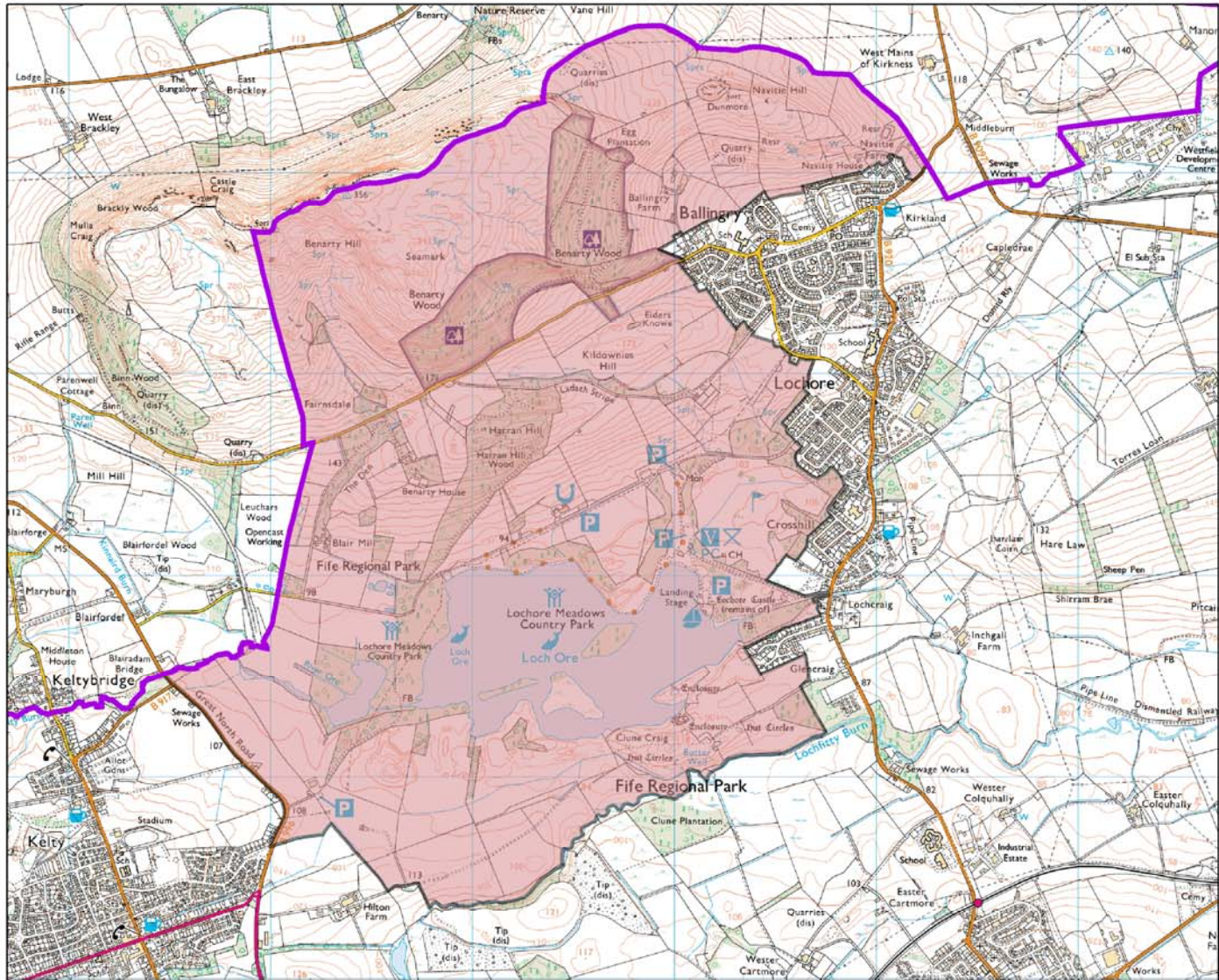
Loch Ore is managed as a country park and provides an important area for **recreation**, close to settlement. Footpaths provide access to Benarty where extensive views over Fife and Loch Leven are a feature from the top.

The prominence and distinctive form of Benarty Hill make it a **highly visible** landmark within north and west Fife. Similarly as a large waterbody, the loch provides an important local landscape feature with its islands providing a visual focus within the loch. There is a strong visual **connectivity** between Benarty Hill and Loch Ore and each component contributes to the rich diversity of the overall landscape composition.

In addition to the features described above, Loch Ore has important **cultural** value and associations both in its historical role as part of the area's mining heritage and the remains of Lochore Castle, Clune Craig hut circles and enclosures to the south of Loch Ore and the hill forts on Benarty Hill.

Forces for change: The hill has some areas of coniferous forestry which will be affected by future felling and restocking regimes.

Management recommendations: The upland top and slopes have little capacity to absorb built development and future management should focus on enhancement through forest restructuring and reinforcing the woodland areas associated with the hillside burns. Management to restructure the even-aged woodland planting around Loch Ore and creation of a more naturalistic loch fringe through the creation of wetlands, riparian and scrub woodlands would enhance the landscape value.



Fife Council
Local Landscape Designation
Review

Fife Draft Candidate SLA

- Benarty and Loch Ore
- Fife local plan area
- Candidate SLA

Scale 1:25,000



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Special Landscape Area: Craigtoun

Location and boundaries: Craigtoun includes the Kinness, Claremont, Lumbo and Cairns Dens which extend from the south west of St Andrews broadly from the B939 to the A919 and incorporating the wooded valleys which lie within this area and Craigtoun Country Park.

Designation statement:

Wooded dens are an infrequent feature within the Fife landscape and the four dens flow from the surrounding countryside east towards St Andrews. Each watercourse cuts along a narrow incised valley and the Claremont, Lumbo and Cairns Dens are defined by woodland.

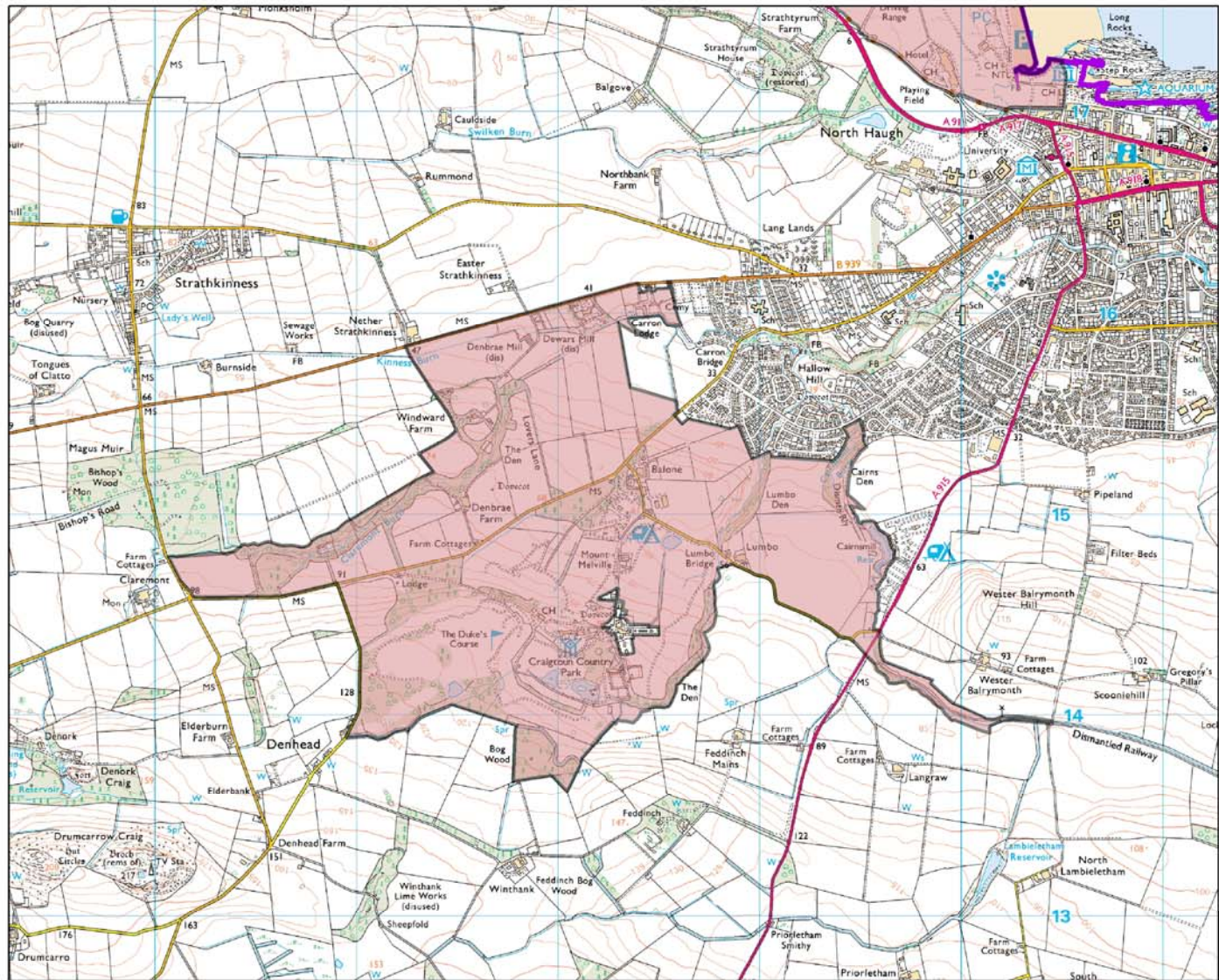
The relationship between Claremont Den and the policy landscape of Craigtoun Park contributes policy links to the den and the characteristic enclosure pattern within the farmland. The Kinness, Lumbo and Cairns Dens extend into St Andrews where they converge at Hallow Hill. This creates **continuity** between the urban and rural area, reinforced by the **access** links through the dens and recreational facilities at Craigtoun Country Park which provides an important area of **greenspace** on the edge of St Andrews. The relationship between the dens and St Andrews creates a valuable landscape feature within the settlement and contributes to the **setting and character** of the town.

Forces for change:

Further urban development will affect the rural character and wooded quality of the dens. Lack of woodland management will lead to a loss of the wooded character which defines the dens.

Management recommendations:

The relationship between the landform of the incised dens, the woodland which defines their course and the strong enclosure pattern and policy influences associated with the surrounding landscape are defining landscape features for this area. Maintaining the integrity of the landscape pattern and reinforcing the woodland structure is important in defining the landscape character.



Fife Council
Local Landscape Designation
Review

Fife Draft Candidate SLA

- Craigtown
- Fife local plan area
- Candidate SLA

Scale 1:25,000
LAND USE CONSULTANTS

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Special Landscape Area: Cleish Hills

Location and boundaries:

This area is located on the northern edge of West Fife and borders the Perth and Kinross boundary to the north. The minor road east of Loch Glow forms the eastern boundary while the A914 forms the southern boundary. To the west, the boundary follows the foot of Saline and Cult Hills.

Designation statement:

This area comprises the **three distinct hills** of Knock Hill, Saline Hill with its twin peak of Easter Cairn and Wether Hill and the smaller but shapely Cult Hill which lies on the northern edge of this area. Other distinct hills, such as the craggy-topped Dumglow and the Inneans, form part of the range although these lie outwith Fife.

Knock Hill is visually **prominent**, due in part to the masts that are sited on its top. The steep slopes of Wether Hill are masked with dense coniferous forestry with the conical hill top just standing above this cover. Coarse grassland covers the tops of these hills while semi-improved pasture extends on the upper slopes of Saline Hill and is patterned with gorse colonising the steeper slopes.

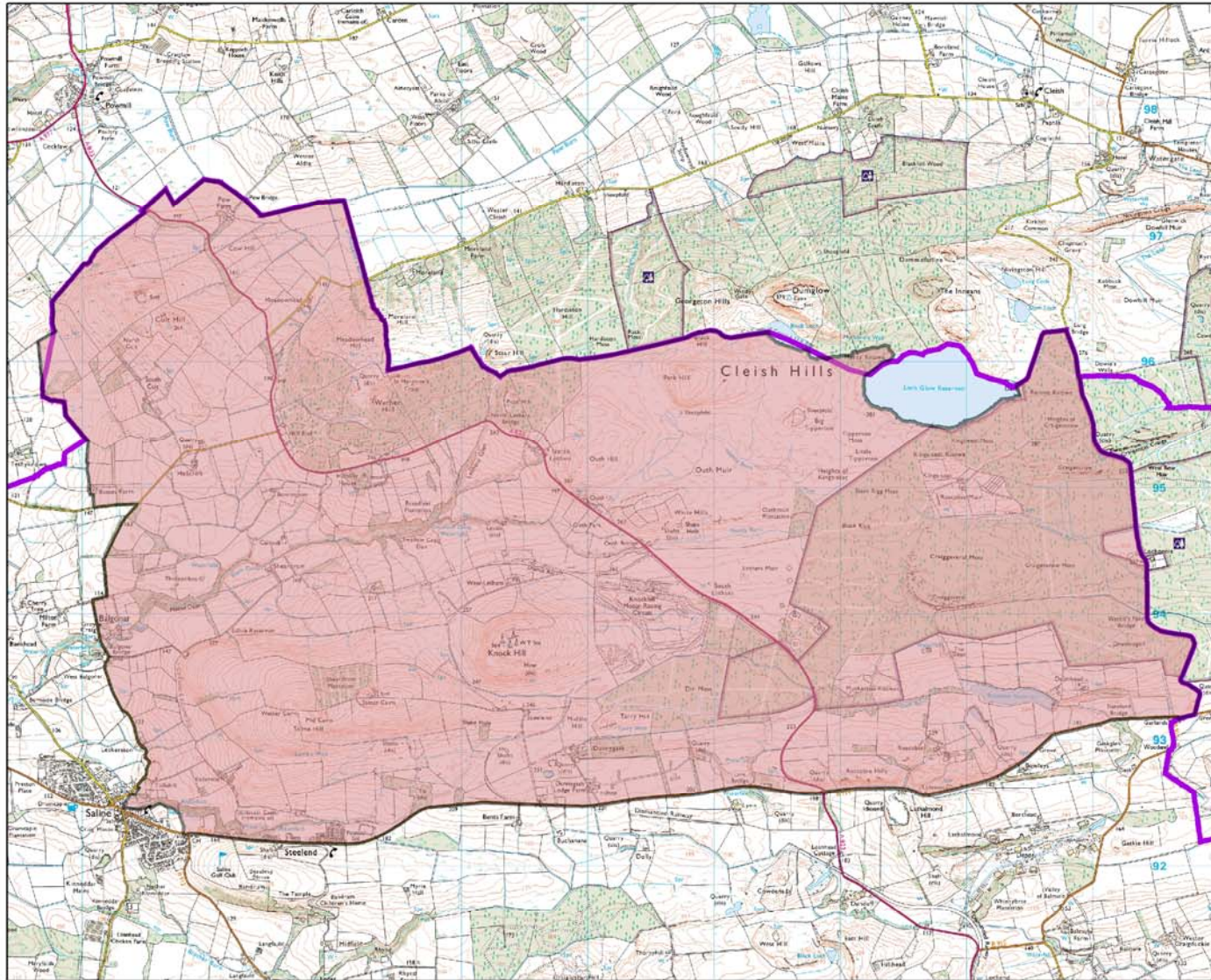
The Black Devon River cuts an often dramatically deep gorge through this area. At its headwaters the landform is more subdued around Outh and Park Hills, which arc around the low-lying bowl of Outh Muir. Loch Glow and a number of smaller lochans pepper the edge of this wet moorland. An extensive tract of coniferous forestry abuts the moor and extends to the east.

The more sheltered south-facing slopes of the Cleish Hills fall to the deeply incised wooded valley of the Black Devon. **A strong enclosure pattern of field and roadside trees and beech hedges** provides a distinctive geometry in the Balgonar area. Scots pine shelterbelts and stone walls, together with more naturalistic clumps of broadleaved trees, also feature on the steep western slopes of Saline Hill and the scenic and cultural qualities of this hill are further enhanced by the fort sited atop Easter Cairn and the line of handsome farms and houses bordering the minor road at its foot.

Forces for change: Forestry operations, possible windfarm development, open cast mining and potential development associated with the Knockhill Race Course. An absence of management of field boundaries and pasture is evident in more marginal areas.

Management recommendations:

Restructure poorly designed commercial forestry to improve angular margins and increase diversity by planting broadleaved species and varying the density of planting. Replace felled spruce with broadleaves on Wether Hill to expose its steep rugged slopes. Rehabilitation of stone walls and planting of field and roadside trees and beech hedges to enhance the strong landcover pattern on lower hill slopes.



Fife Draft Candidate SLA

- Cleish
- Fife local plan area
 - Candidate SLA

Scale 1:25,000



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Special Landscape Area: Cullaloe Hills and Coast

Location and boundaries:

This landscape covers a large area extending from the western edge of Kirkcaldy, beyond Aberdour and extending down toward the coastal edge. To the north the boundary extends along the minor road from Newliston on the perimeter of Kirkcaldy where it then continues along a ridge which is further defined by shelterbelts and woodland planting, and to the north of Camilla Loch. From here the boundary follows the minor road to Auchtertool, and then follows the route of the B925. The boundary then passes to the south of Moss Morran to Pitmethven Wood and joins the A909. The boundary extends along the B9157 and then follows the minor road to Goat Quarry where it extends west along a minor water course, taking in the policies of Fordell to the east of Clockluine Road and north of the A921, extending along the coastal edge to Aberdour.

Designation statement:

The Cullaloe Hills form an extensive area of **rounded interlocking hills** and lower rolling farmland. There is some variation across the area with a greater degree of complexity occurring at their core north of Burntisland where **craggy outcrops, distinctive summits and narrow gorge-like valleys** occur. Towards the coastal edge the landscape also alters subtly in character with lower, gently rolling coastal hills occurring between Burntisland and Kinghorn and between Aberdour and Burntisland. To the west the policies of Fordell provide an area of strongly wooded character. Low coastal hills are **typical** of the Fife coast and provide a distinct **setting** for settlements fringing the Firth of Forth. **Steep wooded braes** form a distinct scarp slope against the coast between Burntisland and Aberdour and these are also a characteristic landscape feature of Fife.

The Cullaloe Hills and coast provide a variety of **scenic qualities**. Within the higher core of the hills the landscape is characterised by the steep-sided wooded ridges, small reservoirs, narrow valleys and rugged hill tops, enhanced by coastal **views** in places. The policy woodlands associated with designed landscapes such as Raith Park and Beveridge Park in the north-east and north west of this area are of notable **scenic value** due to their distinct **pattern and integrity** which enhances the **rolling** landform, and provide **setting** to Kirkcaldy. At the coastal edge the steep deciduous wooded slopes of the coastal braes have high **scenic value**, and the semi natural broadleaved woodland and diverse shoreline provide a strong sense of **naturalness**.

Along the coastal edge between Kinghorn and Burntisland the higher hills (and notably The Binn) provide a backdrop and **setting** to Burntisland. The rolling farmland and policy landscapes in the north east of this area provide a high quality landscape **setting** to Kirkcaldy. Towards Kinghorn the curve of the bay increases the prominence of the hills in views from the coastal road and railway which pass at the foot of the steep hill slopes, along with the Fife Coastal Path.

The hills and coastal braes play an important role in providing **connectivity** between areas of countryside which lie between the settlements of Aberdour, Burntisland, Kinghorn and Kirkcaldy. **Views** are particularly important along the coastal edge where the coastal settlements are interspersed by the coastal hills and often steep wooded braes. The Cullaloe Hills are highly visible across the Firth from Edinburgh.

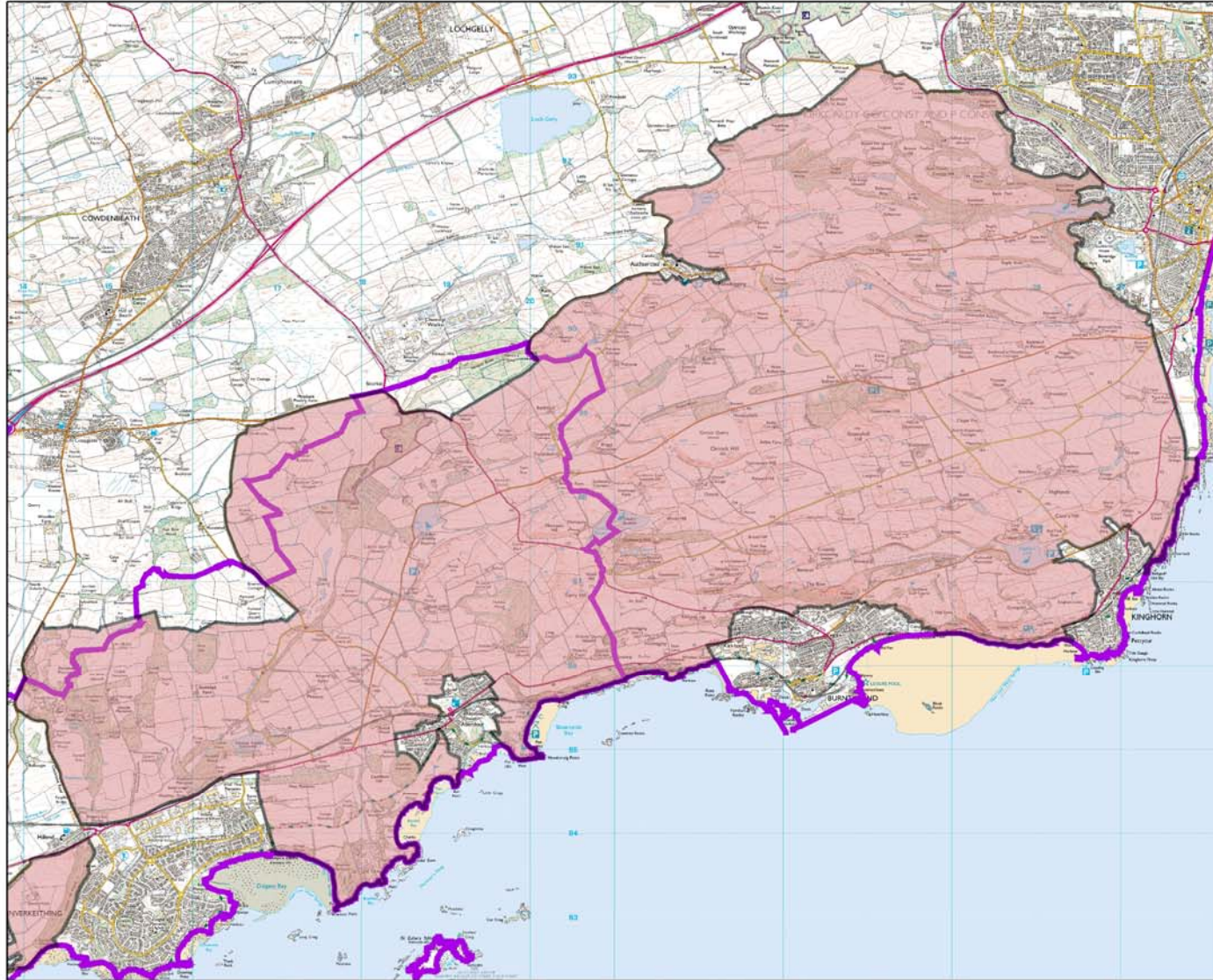
Forces for change: The landscape incorporates a wide range of landscapes, but also includes areas which have historically and are currently being quarried. Appropriate

screening of active workings and restoration of these areas should be undertaken to enhance the landscape. There is likely to be pressure for further development associated with the settlement edges and associated with recreational facilities such as caravan parks.

Management recommendations:

Larger scale or visually prominent coastal development should be avoided to maintain key views of the Firth of Forth and conserve the proportion of settlement to undeveloped coastal edge. Management to maintain woodlands at the coastal braes with replacement planting will enhance the character of these areas.



Views to the scarp slopes at the coastal edge are particularly important and should be maintained. The inland farmland is distinguished by the rolling farmland and the maintenance of the field boundaries accentuates the landform.



Fife Council
Local Landscape Designation
Review

Fife Draft Candidate SLA

Cullaloe Hills and Coast

-  Fife local plan area
-  Candidate SLA

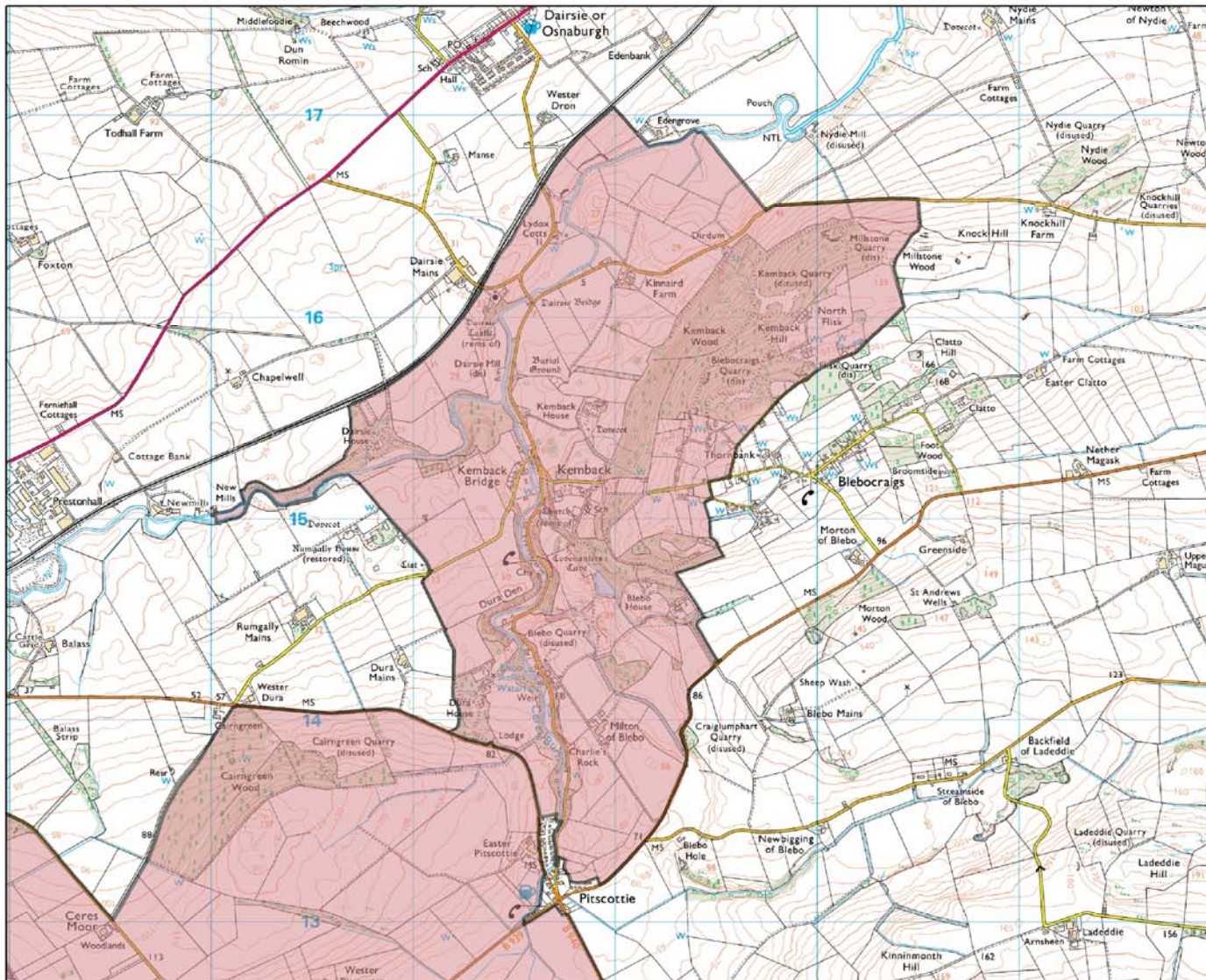
Note: The seaward boundary is shown as aligning with the Local Plan boundaries, however the actual boundary as described in the Statement of Importance extends seaward and includes the inter tidal area and related offshore environment.

Scale 1:60,000



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Special Landscape Area: Dura Den
Location and boundaries: Extending north from the B989 at Pitscottie and including the incised valley of the Den itself, the northern slopes of Kemback Hill and the policy influenced valley of the River Eden around Dairsie.
<p>Designation statement:</p> <p>Dura Den is a relatively rare landscape feature within Fife due to the scale of the den and its settled character.</p> <p>The scenic quality is contributed by the intimate character of the wooded valley with the burn and road winding along its course. The exposures of rock and tributary streams combine to create a sense of naturalness, although the den is also settled and modified by quarrying.</p> <p>The den also has notable cultural qualities reflected in the use of the burn as a power source for industry, the traditional cottages and policy influences on the landscape. The mixed policy woodlands on Kemback Hill and the designed landscape of Blebo House contribute to the high scenic quality of the Dura Den. In particular Kemback Wood is an important backdrop to Dura Den and the Eden Valley.</p> <p>The landscape also has a close association with Kemback and Pitscottie providing setting for the settlements.</p>
<p>Forces for change:</p> <p>The combination of landform, watercourses, settlement and woodland contribute to the landscape character. Key forces for change would be alterations to the woodland structure and additional development which did not reflect the historic character and settlement pattern.</p>
<p>Management recommendations:</p> <p>The management of this area should focus on ensuring that the woodland structure is maintained and enhanced. Development within the area should reflect the existing settlement pattern and scale.</p>



Fife Council
Local Landscape Designation
Review

Fife Draft Candidate SLA

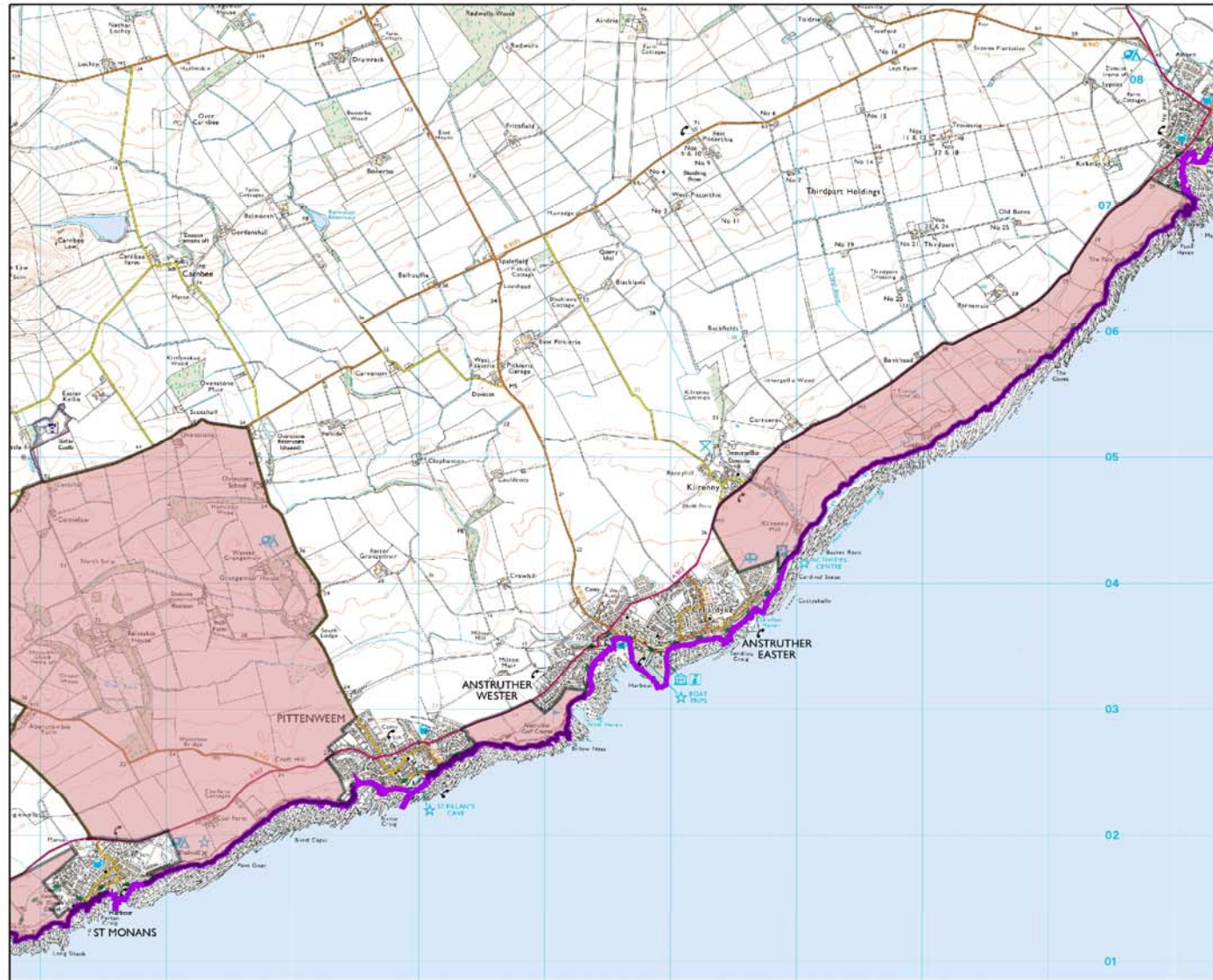
Dura Den
Candidate SLA

Scale 1:25,000



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Special Landscape Area: East Neuk
<p>Location and boundaries:</p> <p>The East Neuk candidate Special Landscape Area extends along the coastal edge from Crail, to Earlsferry and Kingcraig Hill, and incorporating the inland areas of Balcaskie and Kilconquhar.</p>
<p>Designation statement:</p> <p>This landscape area is defined by the relationship between settlement, coast and the contrast with the surrounding landscape. The Forth is particularly wide and open at this point, with extensive seaward views from the coast, and this is combined with the comparatively open character of the farmland landscape. This contrasts with the intimate character of the coastal villages, Kilconquhar Loch, and the policies around Kilconquhar and Balcaskie. The coastal edge at Elie and Kinraig is more varied and intricate in character with promontories and sandy bays, and the low hill of Kinraig with its steep cliffs. The policies at Elie link to the north to Kilconquhar and Barnyards and the wooded surrounds of Kilconquhar Loch, which provides a more enclosed and varied landscape. To the west the formal policies surrounding Balcaskie provide a wooded feature within a more open landscape.</p> <p>The coastal path provides a key access route along the coastal edge and is important for recreation and enjoyment. The historic villages and the areas of policy influenced landscape provide an important cultural heritage component to the landscape. The relationship between the settlements, the coast and surrounding landscape is particularly important in contributing to the settlement setting and providing visual separation.</p> <p>The coastal edge itself and relationship with the Forth provides some natural character which contrasts with the intensively managed farmland.</p>
<p>Forces for change:</p> <p>Pressure for residential development along the coastal edge, offshore development within the Forth and changes in the management of the policy woodlands will all influence the character of the landscape.</p>
<p>Management recommendations:</p> <p>The relationship with the coastal edge and views across the Forth is a particular characteristic of this landscape. The open sea views which extend to the southern shore of the Forth should be protected from inappropriate offshore development. The identity of the individual coastal settlements is also an important component of the landscape which should be protected from development which would be out of character with the landscape scale. The policy landscapes around Kilconquhar and Balcaskie also have a distinctive character contributed by the association between the policy woodlands, historic properties and Kilconquhar Loch.</p>



Fife Council
Local Landscape Designation
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Fife Draft Candidate SLA

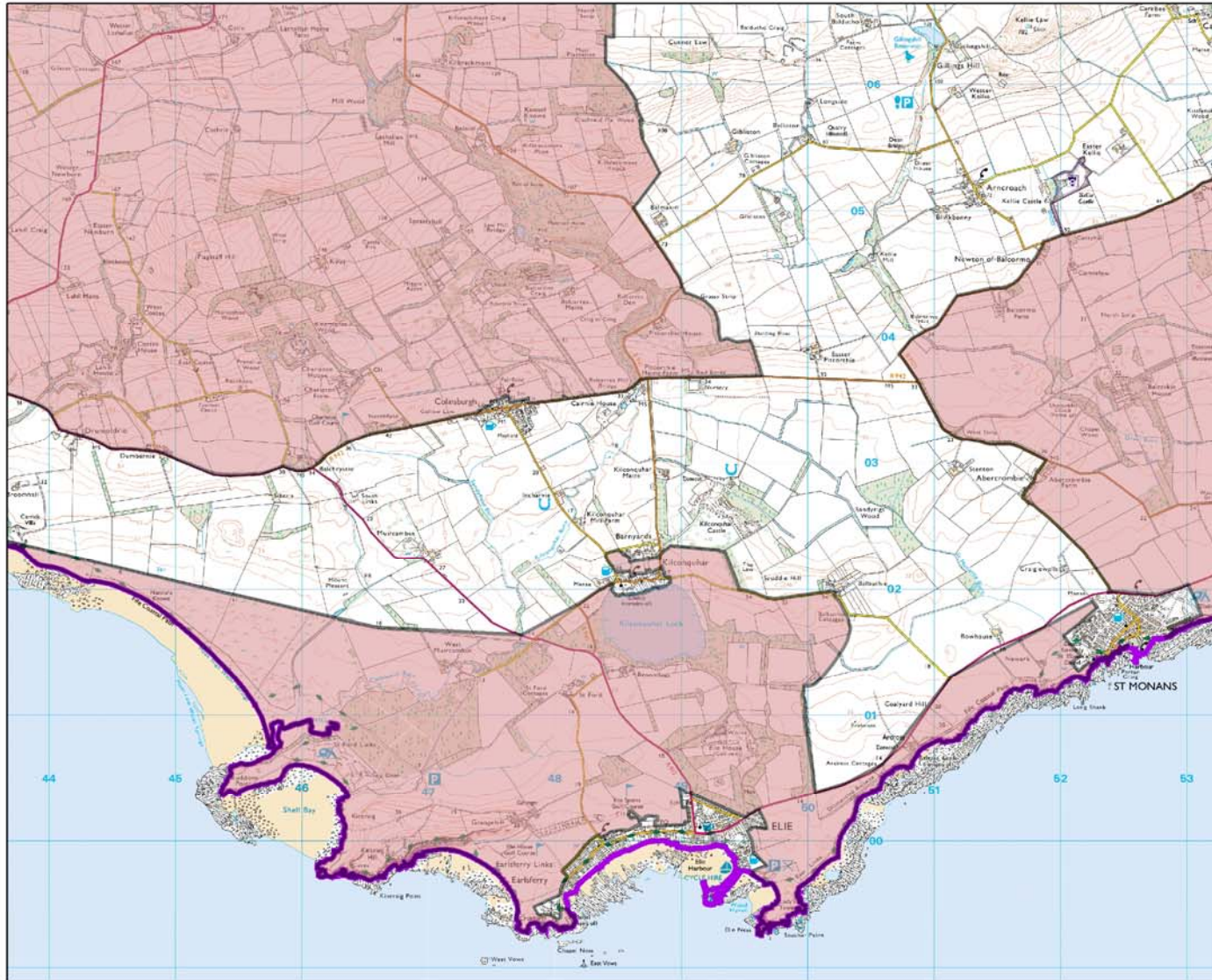
- East Neuk
- Fife local plan area
 - Candidate SLA

Note: The seaward boundary is shown as aligning with the Local Plan boundaries, however the actual boundary as described in the Statement of Importance extends seaward and includes the inter tidal area and related offshore environment.

Scale 1:40,000

LANDLINE CONSULTANTS

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Fife Council
Local Landscape Designation
Review

Fife Draft Candidate SLA

East Neuk

- Fife local plan area
- Candidate SLA

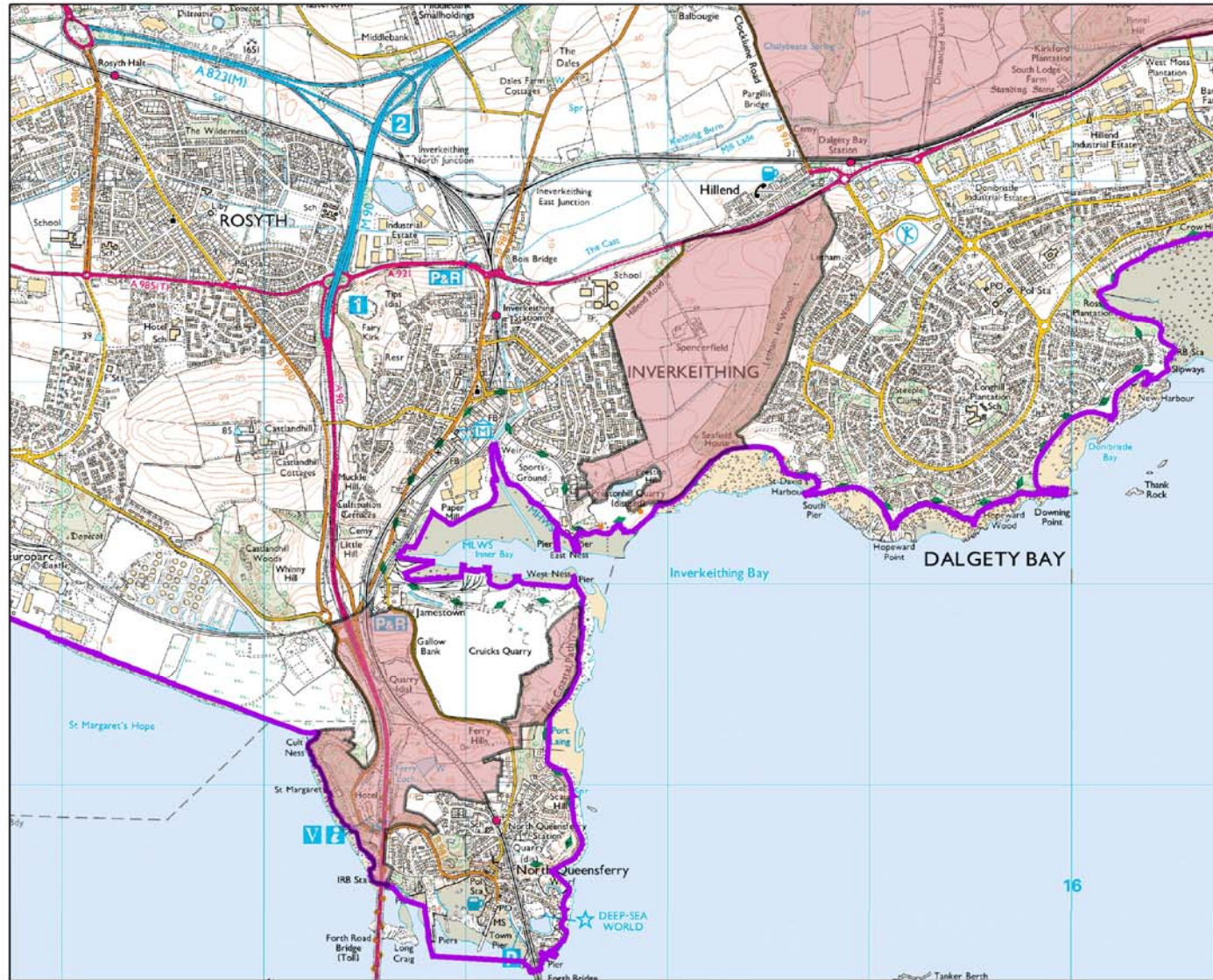
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Special Landscape Area: Ferryhills
Location and boundaries: The Ferryhills Special Landscape Area lies between North Queensferry and Inverkeithing, and bounded by Rosyth to the north west, but excluding Cruicks quarry.
<p>Designation statement:</p> <p>This is a locally prominent hill which is particularly important in its role providing at setting for the Forth Bridges and also the settlements of North Queensferry and Inverkeithing. Closely linked to this is the role of the landscape in views from the bridges, and as the landfall when arriving in Fife from the south. The landscape has a further important role as a greenspace providing connectivity between North Queensferry and Inverkeithing, and for informal recreation. Other characteristics which contribute to the value of this landscape are the low coastal hills landform combined with the rough vegetation which contributes a sense of naturalness, and the cultural associations with the bridges.</p>
<p>Forces for change: The development of the second Forth crossing is likely to impact on this landscape through creating further development and fragmentation of the landscape. The second bridge is likely to lie to the west of the existing road bridge, joining to the existing junction at the Ferry Toll interchange. The role of this landscape as an iconic location for the landfall of the bridges, and in accommodating further development is a key challenge.</p>
<p>Management recommendations: This landscape occupies an important iconic location and although fragmented by development and past industrial uses has a key role to play as part of the landscape experience when approaching Fife from the bridges. Management of this landscape should focus on creating a naturalistic backdrop to North Queensferry, whilst accommodating recreational access to this area and its role in providing views to the bridges. Opportunities include developing the influence of the wooded policies to the west, particularly along the northern edge, to reflect the policy influences important in the landscape experience when approaching South Queensferry, whilst maintaining the natural characteristics important for SSSI designation of the areas of unimproved grassland.</p>



Fife Council
Local Landscape Designation
Review

Fife Draft Candidate SLA

Ferry Hills

Letham Hill

□ Fife local plan area

■ Candidate SLA

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LAND USE CONSULTANTS

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Special Landscape Area: Upper Forth

Location and boundaries: The Upper Forth includes three areas of coastal brae along the coast of the Forth. This includes the coastal braes from Blair Castle to Low Valleyfield, the braes from Torryburn to Crombie Point, and those between Charlestown and Limekilns.

Designation statement:

Coastal braes are a **distinctive** feature of the Fife coast, both associated closely with settlement and in more rural context.

The steeply rising wooded slopes, combined with the historic settlement of Culross create an intimate landscape of high **scenic** value important in providing **setting** to Culross. The close association with the historic settlement, and the policy influences to the west and north of the town extend the **cultural heritage** associations beyond the braes themselves. The grounds of Culross Abbey House are also an inventory listed historic garden and designed landscape. As an intrinsic part of the town, the braes are important in **views** from the town and the coastal road, but also provide an area of green space providing **connectivity** between Culross and Low Valleyfield.

The coastal braes between Torryburn and Crombie point are lower and less densely wooded than other areas of coastal brae, but provide a continuity of landform and land cover with the adjacent coastal areas.

Between Limekilns and Charlestown the steep wooded braes have strong **natural** characteristics and the association with the settlement and coast combines to create a landscape with high **scenic** value. A network of paths extends through Rocks Plantation and is an important **recreational** open space for the two settlements. The strong association between the settlement and the coastal brae is important in providing **setting** to both Charlestown and Limekilns and in providing **connectivity** between the settlements. This close visual association also contributes to make **views** from the coastal road and settlement and out across the Forth important.

Forces for change: The steep coastal braes are relatively inaccessible and this has served to preserve their character, and at Culross and Limekilns and Charlestown the development abuts the edge of these areas. Pressure for small scale residential development at the foot of the braes is likely to result in the main development pressure for these areas. Lack of woodland management would result in a loss of the wooded character of the steep slopes.

Management recommendations: It is the combination of steep topography and woodland which distinguishes the landscape, and the management of the woodlands is key to maintaining this character. The scale and prominence of the landscape means that there is little opportunity to accommodate built development.



Fife Council
Local Landscape Designation
Review

Fife Draft Candidate SLA

Upper Forth

- Fife local plan area
- Candidate SLA

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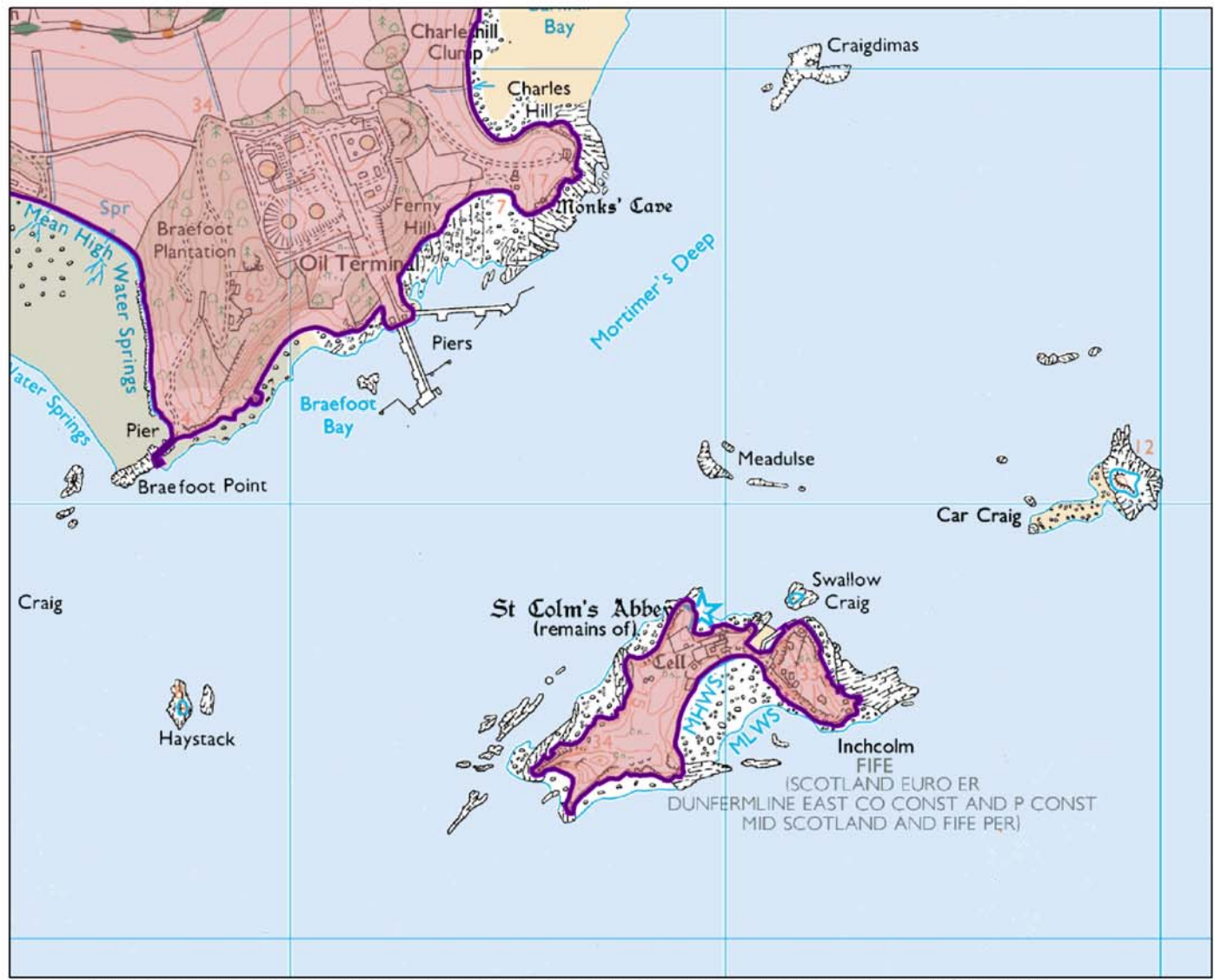
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Special Landscape Area: Forth Islands
Location and boundaries: The three Forth islands of Inchcolm, Inchkeith and the Isle of May are included in this area.
<p>Designation statement:</p> <p>Each of the three Forth islands is distinctive in individual character, their relationship to the Forth and shore and wider landscape significance.</p> <p>All three islands share similar characteristics as larger islands within the Forth, but are also each unique. The profile of each island is distinctive, with the two low peaks of Inchcolm, the taller rise of Inchkeith distinguished by the lighthouse on the summit, and the long, low extent of the Isle of May, also defined by the lighthouse building. The combination of built and natural features on the islands makes each unique.</p> <p>The landform provides a natural setting and frame for the Augustinian Abbey of Inchcolm, which contributes important cultural heritage value to the island, alongside the more modern WWI and WWII derelict military buildings. The combination of varied landform, historic monuments and areas of rugged vegetation create a contrasting and diverse landscape of scenic value. Inchcolm has particular enjoyment value as a visitor destination and as a landscape feature within the Forth. The rugged landform, influences from the sea and use by seabirds create a strong sense of naturalness, despite the influences from human activities. The island lies close to the shore at Braefoot and is important in views from the coast and bridges.</p> <p>Inchkeith lies midway across the Forth and has a rugged profile with cliffs, rocks and steep slopes which combined with the location within the Forth create a sense of naturalness. The lighthouse which sits on the highest point of the island is a distinctive defining feature and adds further elevation to the island. As with the other islands, Inchkeith has been important for navigation and as a military base which contribute to its rich cultural heritage value. Although inaccessible to the wider public, the island is prominent in views from Fife and Edinburgh.</p> <p>The Isle of May is the most remote and largest of the three islands and has a distinctive long, low profile with steep cliffs on the eastern shore and a central lighthouse. The island is located close to the mouth of the Forth and is more exposed and isolated than the inner islands, but less strongly influenced by former military activity. The combination of the rugged natural island with the cultural heritage features of the lighthouse buildings creates a diversity of landscape with high scenic value. The rugged rocky perimeter of the island and dramatic cliffs, alongside the clamour and constant motion of seabirds convey the strong sense of naturalness of the island. Views from the island are extensive, however views to the island from the shore are strongly influenced by the prevailing weather conditions, which sometimes limit visibility.</p>
<p>Forces for change:</p> <p>Further development to accommodate visitors and residents on Inchcolm and the Isle of May may introduce new built features into the landscape.</p>
<p>Management recommendations:</p> <p>Each of the islands has a distinctive character contributed by its past and current use.</p>

The importance of Inchcolm and Inchkeith for their cultural heritage value and the Isle of May for its nature conservation value are strongly defining attributes. The landscapes contain many features which are relicts from the past and these features contribute to the character and history of the islands. Although strongly guided by cultural and natural heritage management considerations, the management of the islands should have regard to maintaining their existing distinctive landscape characteristics which combine built and natural heritage features in the expansive landscape setting of the Forth.



Fife Council
Local Landscape Designation
Review

Fife Draft Candidate SLA

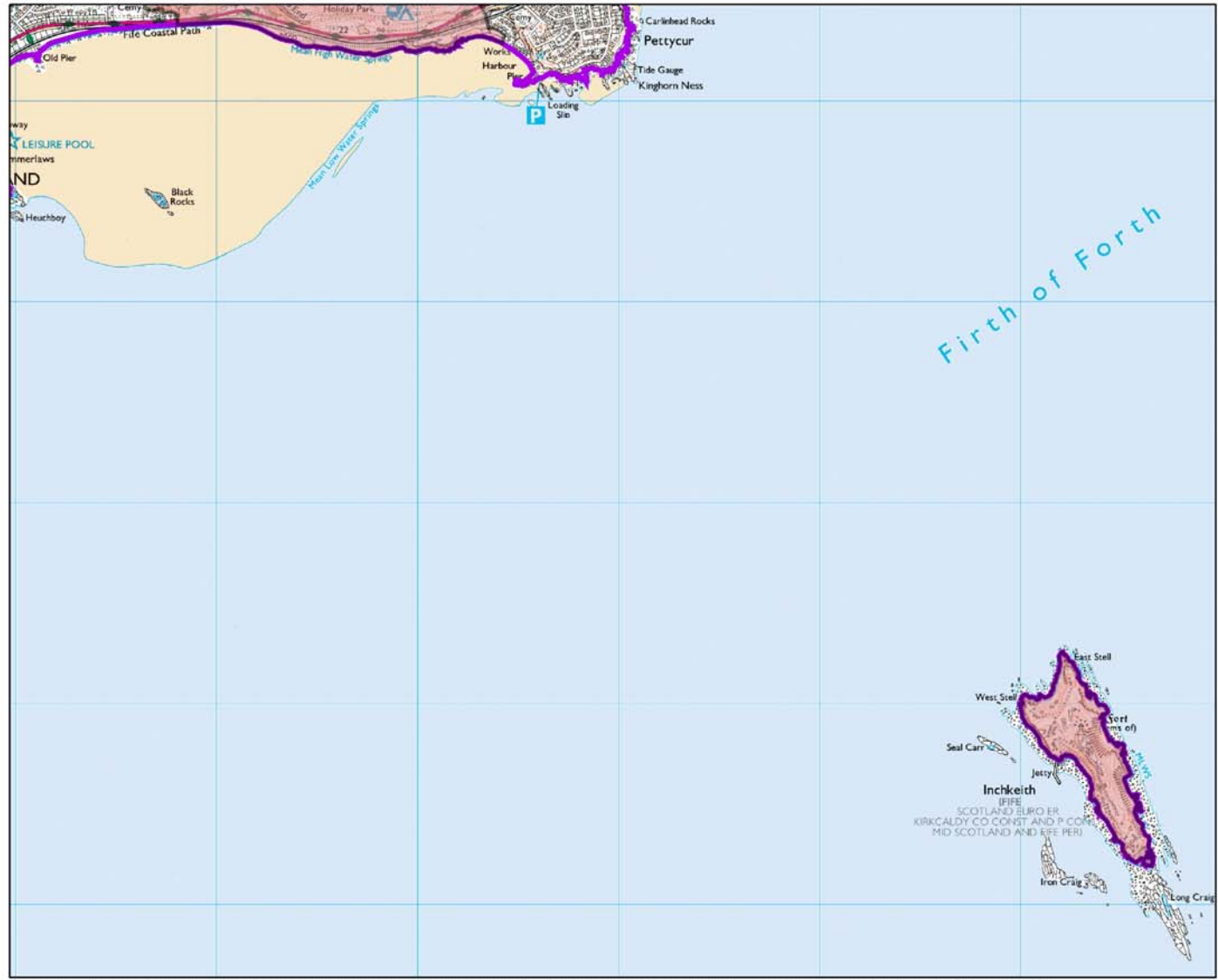
- Forth Islands
- Fife local plan area
 - Candidate SLA

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Scale 1:25,000



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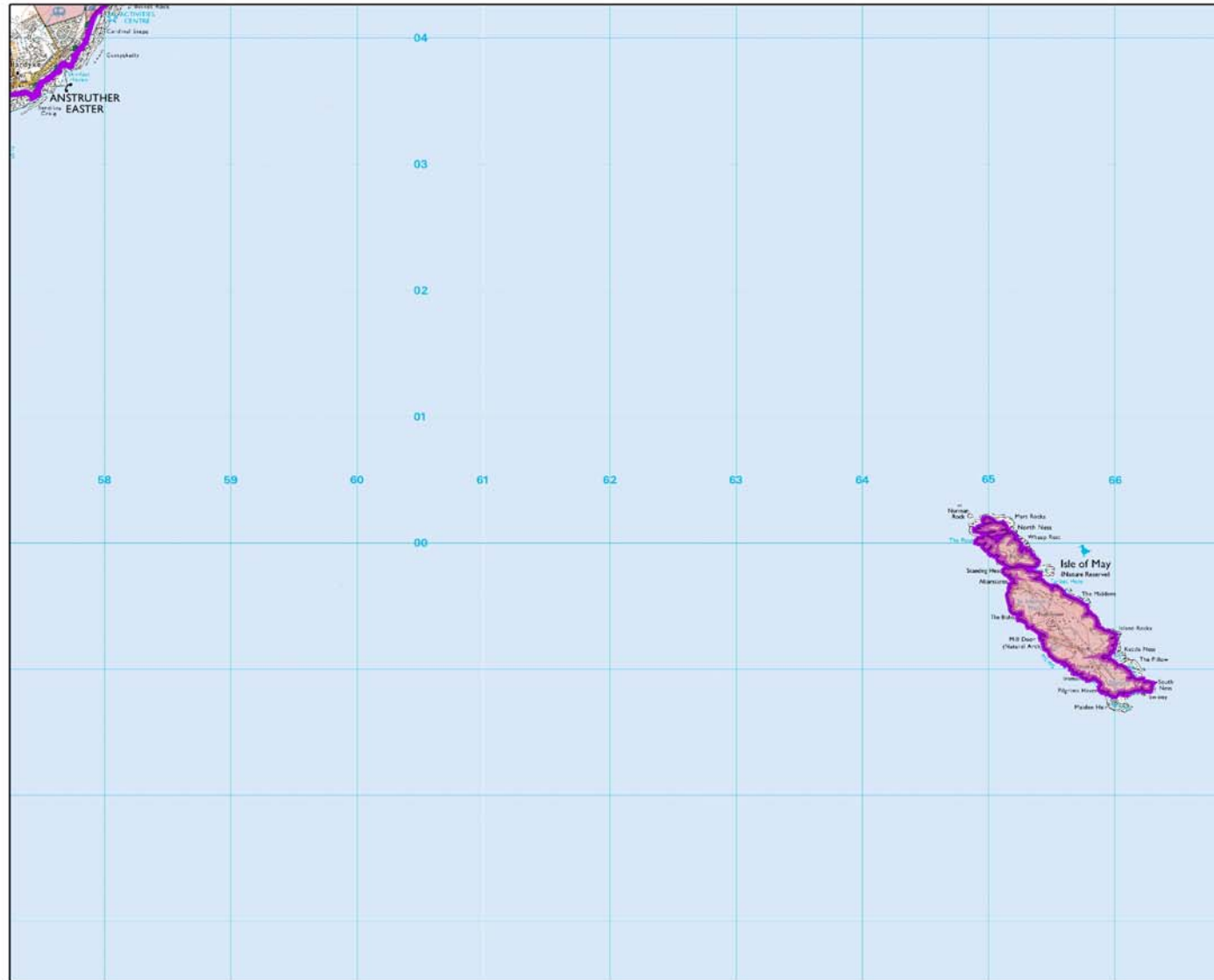
- Forth Islands Inchkeith
- Fife local plan area
 - Candidate SLA

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Fife Council
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Fife Draft Candidate SLA

Forth Islands

- Fife local plan area
- Candidate SLA

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Special Landscape Area: Largo

Location and boundaries:

The Largo area extends from Lower Largo, east along the A917 and B942 to Balcarres. It encompasses the rising slopes and low summits which surround Largo Law and to the north it extends along the summit of Flagstaff Hill.

Designation statement:

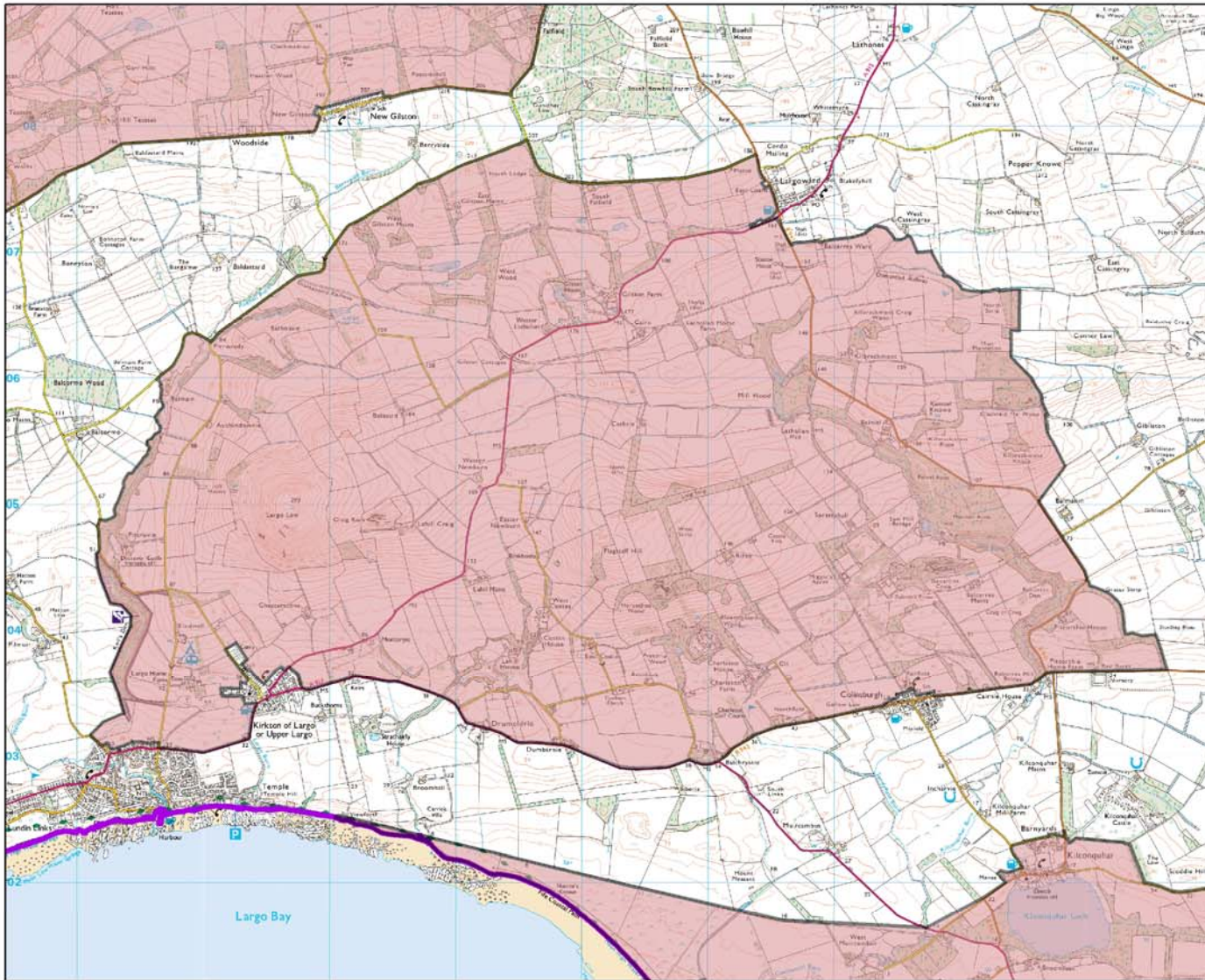
Largo Law forms a **pronounced and distinctive** isolated volcanic hill which contributes strongly to the sense of place within this part of Fife. The distinctive twin peaked profile of Largo Law is reinforced by the bare summit with scrubby gorse encircling the lower slopes. The surrounding land falls gently with a series of lowland dens cutting through the landscape, which combined with the policy woodlands and planting found to the east creates **pattern** within the landscape and contributes to the landscape composition of the slopes surrounding Largo Law. Keils Den is a particularly deep and strongly wooded landscape feature to the west, and to the east extensive wooded slopes are associated with Den Burn and Balcarres Den. The woodland planting along the summit and southern slopes of Flagstaff Hill creates a **strong and distinctive pattern** within the landscape. As a distinctive landscape feature, visible in distant **views**, the hill and surrounding policies contribute positively to the **setting** of Lower Largo and the coastal villages to the south and east.

Forces for change:

Pressure for telecommunications development, housing in the countryside and conversion of farm steadings, alongside changes in agricultural practices and management of woodland and forestry.

Management recommendations:

The distinctive profile of Largo Law should be maintained and telecommunications and other built development should be avoided where this would stand out against the skyline. The pattern of policy planting is also distinctive, and built development which would interrupt this pattern should also be avoided. The surrounding slopes are distinguished by their strong policy influences and the wooded dens and distinctive planting require continued maintenance and replacement planting.



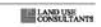
Fife Council
Local Landscape Designation
Review

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Largo Law

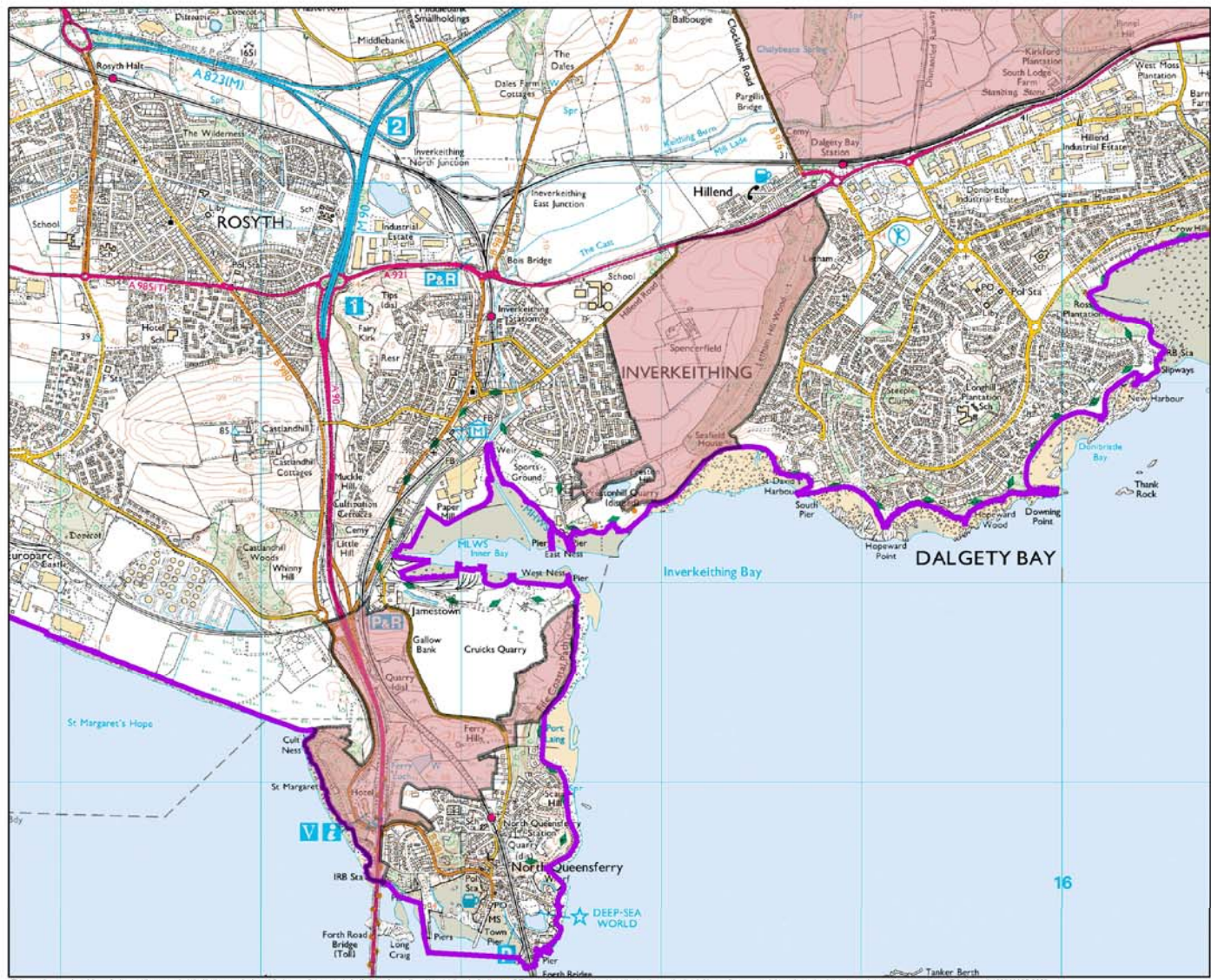
- Fife local plan area
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Special Landscape Area: Letham Hill
Location and boundaries: Letham Hill lies between the settlements of Dalgety Bay and Inverkeithing, and is bounded by Hillend to the north and the coast to the south.
<p>Designation statement:</p> <p>Letham Hill is a locally prominent landscape distinguished by the dense woodland and scarp slope which run along the spine of the hill.</p> <p>The hill is very important in contributing to the setting of both Dalgety Bay and Inverkeithing, and provides separation between the two settlements. The proximity to settlement means that Letham Hill is particularly important for recreation and enjoyment and includes a network of paths and tracks. Combined with its role in providing accessible open space, this area is important for green space connectivity for the two settlements.</p> <p>The hill is also highly visible from the local area and the Forth Road Bridge and South Queensferry.</p>
Forces for change: The close proximity to the urban edge means that there may be pressure for development on the sloping fields to the west.
Management recommendations: The wooded ridge is a distinctive and characteristic feature of this landscape and management to maintain this woodland cover will retain this. To the west the gently sloping fields provide a foreground and setting to the hill, adding to its local prominence and character. Features which reduce this foreground would negatively impact on the landscape character.



Fife Council
Local Landscape Designation
Review

Fife Draft Candidate SLA

Ferry Hills
Letham Hill

- Fife local plan area
- Candidate SLA

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Special Landscape Area: Lomond Hills

Location and boundaries:

The Lomond Hills Special Landscape Area lies to the north west of Glenrothes and is centred on the main hill summits and upland slopes. The designated area extends into the St Andrews and East Fife Local Plan area to the north and the area of upland extends into the neighbouring local authority area of Perth and Kinross.

The boundaries selected include the eastern, southern and northern slopes. To the west the boundary incorporates Pitcairn Country Park and reaches to the settlement edge of Glenrothes. To the south the boundary extends along the route of the Lothrie Burn to Holl Reservoir from where it follows the route of the access road to West Feal.

To the north the boundary extends to the A912 which runs along the foot of the Lomond Hills to Falkland and Strathmiglo, and along the course of the River Eden to the west.

Designation statement:

The Lomond Hills have a **distinctive** and recognisable landform comprising two distinct elevated summits, East and West Lomond, with an open moorland landcover and upland exposed character. They form the highest hills in Fife and this elevation, combined with their distinctive conical profile make these hills a unique landscape feature within Fife. From the north the steeply rising slopes add to the drama of the hills and provide a backdrop to the policy influence of House of Falkland and Falkland Palace.

The landscape has a rugged upland land cover of predominantly rough grazing, areas of commercial forestry and reservoirs. The combination of landform and land cover contributes a high **scenic value** to the landscape. Although strongly influenced by the management and modification of the landscape for these purposes, this area retains a sense of **naturalness** notable within the wider agricultural landscape of Fife. The sense of naturalness is reinforced by the upland, windswept character of the area.

The Lomond Hills are extremely important area for **recreation** and are designated a Regional Park and are managed for recreation. They comprise the only upland landscape managed specifically for recreation within Fife.

The Lomond Hills are a notable feature in **views** providing a prominent landmark within the Fife area, and from Perth and Kinross in the area around Loch Leven. The elevation of the landform within a predominantly low lying landscape means that the hills are widely visible from main transport routes including the A91 and A92. From within the area, and particularly from the hill summits there are extensive, elevated and panoramic views of the surrounding area for considerable distances.

The Lomond Hills have **strong associations** with the adjoining slopes and is a significant area of countryside associated with Glenrothes. The northern slopes are an integral part of setting to historic settlement of Falkland sitting at the foot of steep slopes of East Lomond Hill.

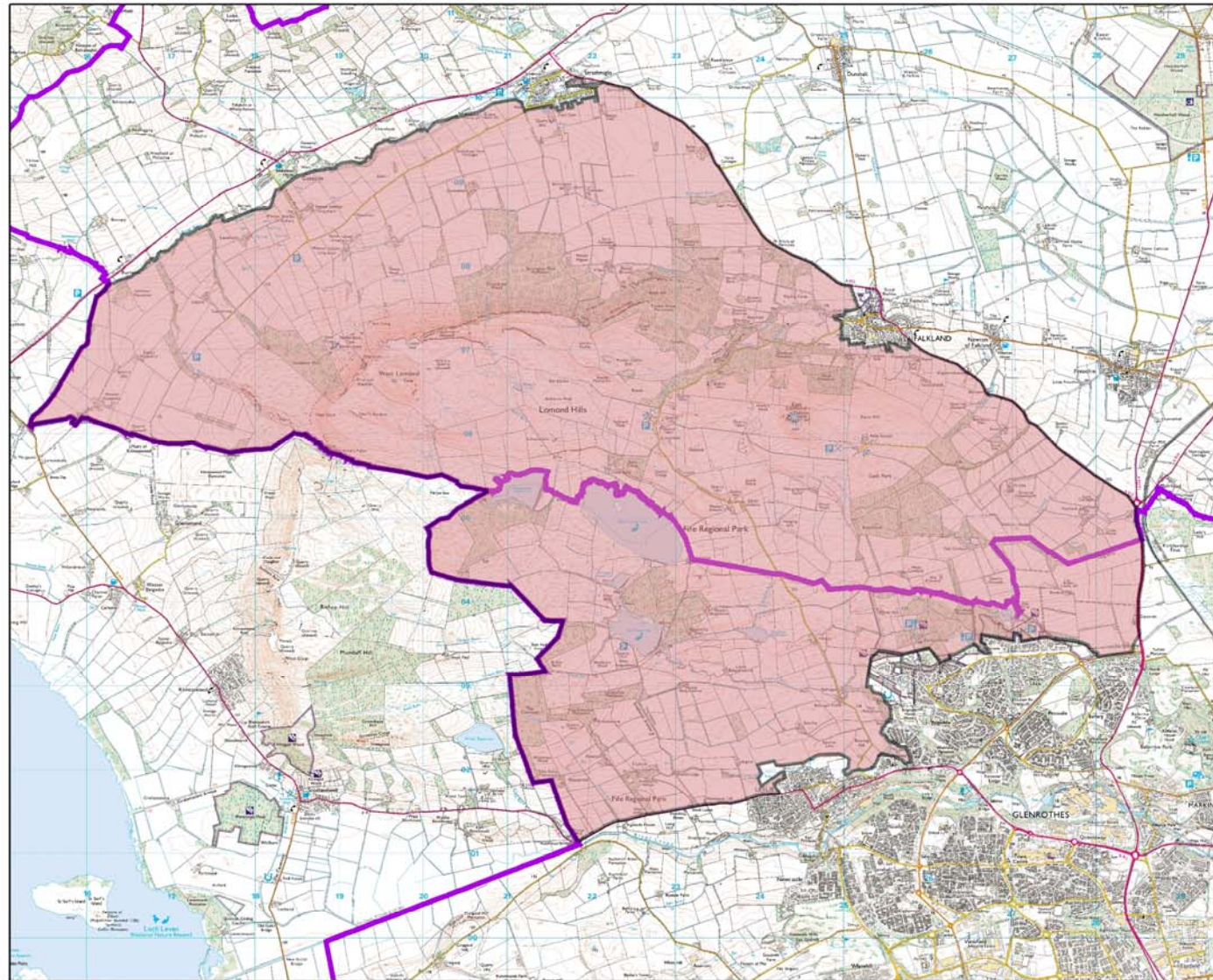
In addition to the features described above, the area is also noted for its cultural qualities with regard to the hill top forts and role in providing a setting for the

nearby settlements of Leslie and Glenrothes.

Forces for change: Future harvesting and replanting of the areas of commercial forestry will impact and possibly enhance the landscape. There is current restructuring of the coniferous woodland on the steep northern slopes, and new deciduous woodland planting.

Management recommendations:



The open upland character of the hills should be maintained in combination with continued management of the area for recreation provision. This landscape has strong visual associations with the landscape within Perth and Kinross surrounding Loch Leven, and the dramatic eastern slopes are a continuation of the steep northern slopes. Management of change within this area needs to be taken forward in association with Perth and Kinross Council.



Fife Council
Local Landscape Designation
Review

Fife Draft Candidate SLA

Lomond Hills

-  Fife local plan area
-  Candidate SLA

Scale 1:60,000



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Special Landscape Area: South West Dunfermline

Location and boundaries: The South West Dunfermline candidate Special Landscape Area extends south from the A994 to the A985 at Rosyth and extending to Limekilns and Charlestown and incorporating the policies of Pitliver House to the west.

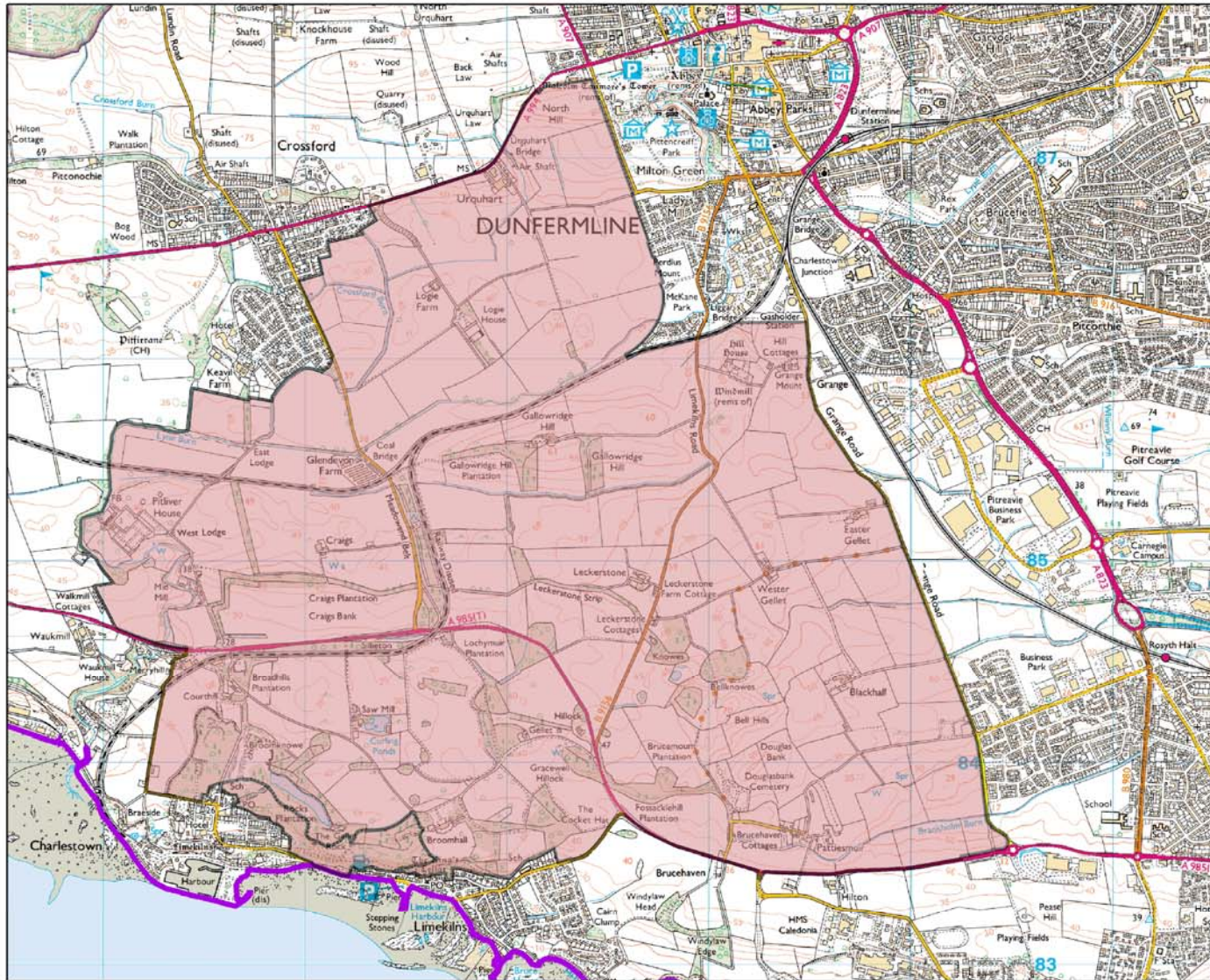
Designation statement:

This landscape is a high quality and intact farmland landscape which is representative of the Fife lowland farmland. The policy influences accentuate the landform and create **rhythm and pattern** within the landscape, which in combination with the **high landscape quality** of the farmland itself is relatively rare within Fife. The combination of landform and land cover creates a landscape of high scenic value. The area is also important for **enjoyment** with connections to settlement and a network of local paths in the Bell Hills. The **policy influences** which are particularly notable around Logie House, Broomhall and Pitlover and the **visual links** from this area to the historic core of Dunfermline and Pittencrieff Park provide notable cultural heritage value.

Forces for change: The area around the South West/West and North of Dunfermline is proposed for development as part of the expansion of Dunfermline within the Fife Structure Plan 2006 -2026. As a result of this expansion the development of new transport infrastructure and new development may occur within and adjacent to this landscape area.

Management recommendations:

The strong and distinctive landscape structure provided by policy planting combined with the subtly rolling landform are key features of this landscape which should be preserved and enhanced. Reflecting the alignment of Dunfermline there is a strong east – west emphasis within the landscape which should be reflected in development proposals.



Fife Council
Local Landscape Designation
Review

Fife Draft Candidate SLA

South West Dunfermline

- Fife local plan area
- Candidate SLA

Scale 1:25,000

LAND USE CONSULTANTS

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Special Landscape Area: St Andrews to Fife Ness

Location and boundaries:

The St Andrews to Fife Ness candidate Special Landscape Area incorporates the coastal edge which extends from the urban edge of St Andrews at the junction of the A917 and the B9131 incorporating Boarhills, Kingsbarns and the policies of Cambo and extending around the coastal edge of Fife Ness, to Crail.

Designation statement:

This is an extensive area of largely undeveloped coast, punctuated by the small settlements of Boarhills and Kingsbarns and including numerous isolated farms and larger properties.

The relationship between this open landscape which rolls down to the coastal edge and the **expansive seaward views** contribute a particular character and quality to this landscape, **typical** of the east coast area.

In contrast with the **open and exposed** areas of landscape, there are pockets of more **intimate landscape** quality associated with the settlements, and also the incised **wooded dens** at Boarhills and Cambo. The coastal edge itself is an intricate landscape with a **rugged coastal edge** comprising numerous incisions and promontories and visually isolated from the coastal landscape inland. These features combine to provide a landscape of some scenic quality.

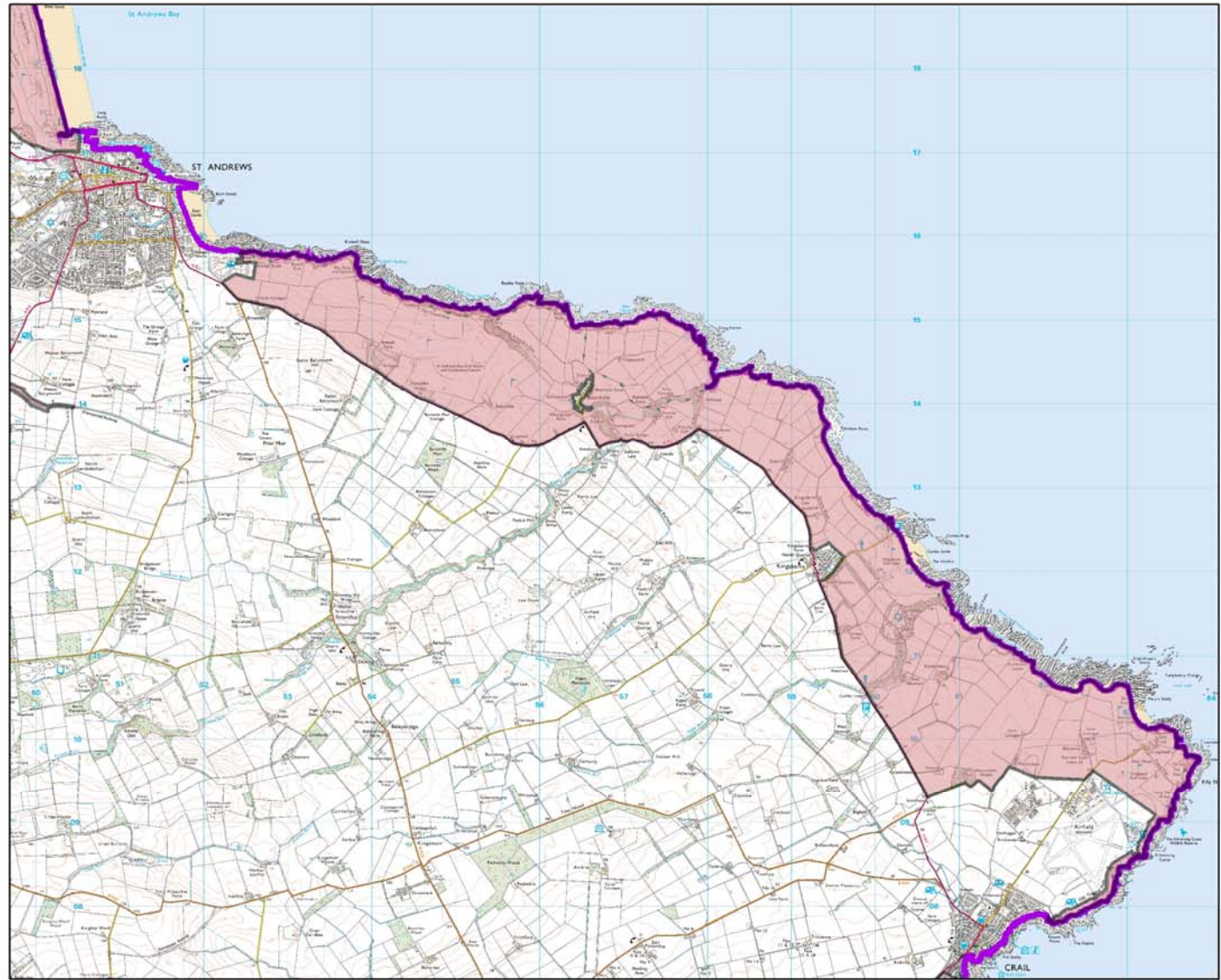
The Fife coastal path and numerous golf course developments along the coastal edge make this an important area for **recreation and enjoyment**. The **historic settlements** of Kingsbarns and Boarhills and the policy influences associated with properties such as Cambo provide **cultural heritage** within the area, and there is a strong relationship between the settlements and the surrounding landscape.

Forces for change:

Pressure for golf course related development is a key issue along the coastal edge and this has particular landscape impacts both through the modification and management of the land cover, and the introduction of built features into the landscape. Other recreational developments are also likely within this area. Development which reduces the open and expansive nature of the landscape and detracts from the focus of the sea within the coastal views should be avoided. In addition any development should reflect the existing settlement pattern reflecting the contrasting components of the landscape and relationship to landform.

Management recommendations:

The key characteristics of this landscape are the combinations of landscape features and the extensive coastal views, sense of openness and exposure which should be maintained. Several areas have notable policy influences and the stone walls and mature woodland are landscape features which should be protected and enhanced.



Fife Draft Candidate SLA

St Andrews to Fife Ness

- Fife local plan area
- Candidate SLA

Note: The seaward boundary is shown as aligning with the Local Plan boundaries, however the actual boundary as described in the Statement of Importance extends seaward and includes the inter tidal area and related offshore environment.

Scale 1:60,000



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Special Landscape Area: St Andrews Links

Location and boundaries: The Links Special Landscape Area extends from the northern edge of St Andrews and the A91 across the golf courses and dune system which extends across the mouth of the Eden Estuary.

Designation statement:

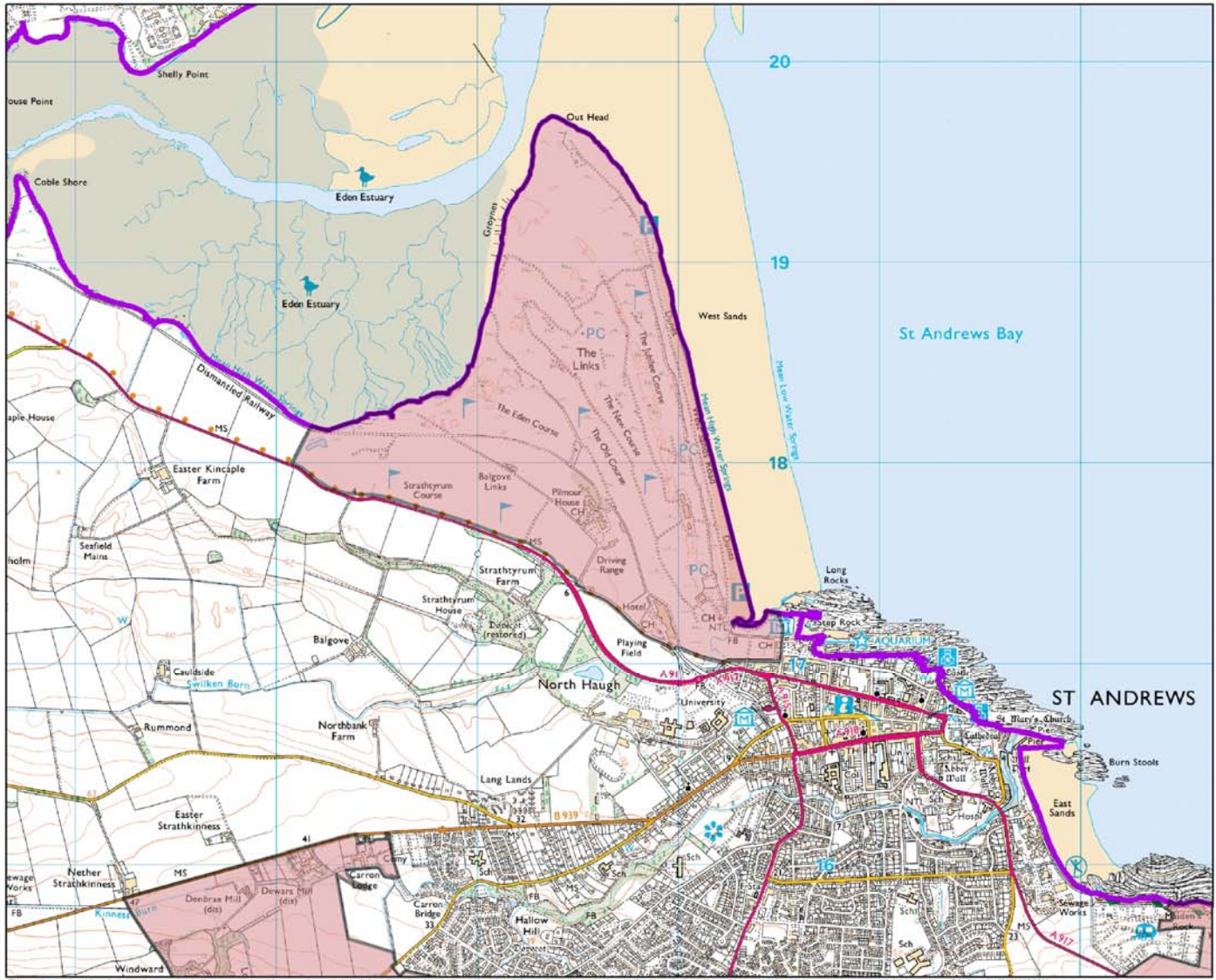
The low lying coastal landscape is defined by its close association with the Eden Estuary and the coastal sands. Combined with the historic associations of the area, it is a **rare** landscape feature, replicated only at Tentsmuir to the north. The coastal edge retains natural qualities with the dunes and extensive seaward views and is of higher scenic value than the more modified golf course development. In particular the **seaward views** and **visual association** with St Andrews are important.

The landscape is highly important for **recreation** and enjoyment, reinforced by the close proximity to St Andrews and role as a **green space**, and access to the beach and shore. The golf course developments within the landscape are an important part of the recreational use of the area, but are also significant in the **cultural associations** of the landscape which has importance in the development of golf at St Andrews.

Forces for change: Further development associated with the golf courses and visitor provision along the access road would introduce additional built features into the landscape. Although the landscape is important for both recreation and for its cultural heritage value, it is a modified landscape which has some natural characteristics which could be further undermined. Offshore wind development would potentially impact on the expansive open views.

Management recommendations:

The landscape provides an important and recognisable feature which has strong cultural and visual links to St Andrews. The role of this area as an area of green space on the approach to St Andrews and as a recreational area should be maintained. Enhancement of the coastal landscape to highlight the natural characteristics would be beneficial.



Fife Council
Local Landscape Designation
Review

Fife Draft Candidate SLA

- St Andrews Links
- Fife local plan area
- Candidate SLA

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Special Landscape Area: Tarvit and Ceres

Location and boundaries:

Extending south from the A914 at Cupar to the B940 at Pitscottie in the west, to Falfield, New Gilston and east to the A916.

Designation statement:

This area comprises **the valley of the Ceres and Craigrothie Burns** and the **softly rolling hills** which contain it. The hills form an extensive band located on the southern edge of the Howe of Fife where they form a distinctive steep-sided scarp rising from the gently undulating settled farmland around Cupar. Hill slopes are cut by narrow valleys, many of these forming deeply incised densely wooded dens, for example Glassy How, Craighall and Teasses Dens.

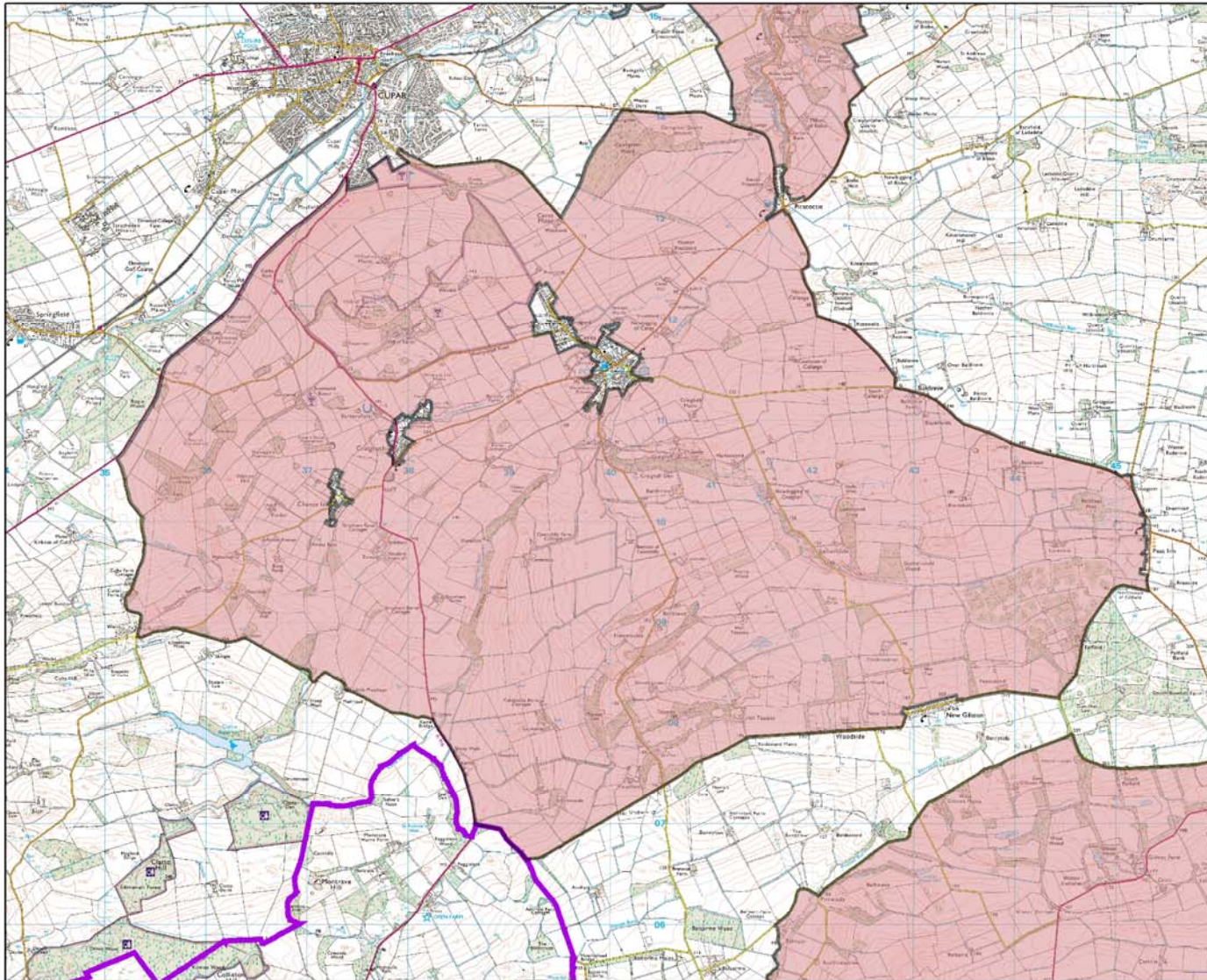
Arable fields, enclosed by a mix of stone walls and hedge, cover much of the valley and lower hill slopes with more mixed farmland occurring on steeper ground. There is little woodland cover within the valley floor although **distinctive mixed shelter woodlands** are associated with the Hill of Tarvit and Teasses policies and these, together with tree avenues, parkland and stone boundary walls of a number of estates and the densely wooded dens, make a significant contribution to the **diversity** of this area. The woodlands of Hill of Tarvit have a particularly distinctive spiral pattern, accentuating the rounded form of small hills. More extensive coniferous plantations occur in the Falfield area.

The **tightly clustered, historic villages of Ceres and Craigrothies** sit within a valley surrounded by hills. Farms and large houses, including the mansion house of Hill of Tarvit and Scotstarvit Tower, are located on the high ridges or south-facing hill slopes. The pronounced hills, distinct pattern of policy woodlands, wooded dens and rich rolling farmland produce a scenically diverse and balanced landscape which is further enhanced by occasional landmark historic buildings.

Forces for change: Changes to farming practices, windfarm development and possible pressure for settlement expansion.

Management recommendations:

Woodland management conserve the distinctive pattern of policy woodlands and densely wooded dens. A restoration programme should be adopted for the management and renovation of hedgerows and stone walls. The diversity of arable farmland within valleys should be enhanced by planting riparian woodlands and establishing small woodlands and hedgerows. It is important to conserve the historic integrity and scale of the settlements of Ceres and Craigrothie which make a strong contribution to the rural character of this landscape. Hill top masts should be avoided as should built development which would adversely affect the distinctive pattern of woodlands and the scale of the landscape.



Fife Council
Local Landscape Designation
Review

Fife Draft Candidate SLA

Tarvit and Ceres

 Fife local plan area

 Candidate SLA

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Special Landscape Area: Tay Coast

Location and boundaries:

A long band of low hills and coastal landscapes bordering the southern shores of the Firth of Tay and extending from Newport on Tay to Newburgh. The western boundary is formed by the slopes containing the basin of Lindores Loch while the south-western boundary follows the foot of Dunbog Hill. The A92 forms the southern boundary before heading towards the coast at the foot of hills to Wormit. In the east of the area, the southern boundary again follows lower hill slopes around St Fort and minor roads on the boundary of the Scotsraig Estate.

Designation statement:

A **richly diverse landscape** abutting the southern shores of the Firth of Tay and comprising steep wooded coastal braes, gently sloping farmland on coastal terraces, deeply incised wooded dens and policies backed by a long band of low rounded hills extending from Newburgh to Tayport.

The **Firth of Tay** provides a highly attractive setting to these landscapes and views tend to focus on its broad still waters and a number of **low-lying islands** fringed by extensive mudflats exposed at low tide, the largest of these being Mugdrum Island. The semi-natural vegetation of the pale orange-brown reed beds punctuated with scrub covering the islands and also intermittently fringing the southern bank of the Tay, contrasts with arable farmland on the narrow gently sloping coastal terrace.

Steep wooded coastal braes abut the southern shore of the Firth of Tay. A narrow rocky coastal margin traces the foot of the braes against the shore of the Tay and is interspersed with small shingle beaches. The coastal braes are covered with ancient and semi-natural broadleaved woodland although this is occasionally punctuated by tall ornamental conifers, where influenced by the policies of Birkhill.

A distinctive succession of craggy-topped hills is aligned parallel to the coast. The rugged Norman's Law, standing at 285m height, is the most prominent of these hills. Coniferous woodlands encircle the tops of these hills and these, together with areas of rough grassland, gorse scrub and gnarled Scots pine, accentuate individual peaks and the complex landform. Iron Age forts sit atop many of the hills. The coastal hills are lower and more gently rounded to the east. **The knolly elongated tops of hills such as Craig Law and North Hill are accentuated by a finely attuned and rhythmic pattern of woodlands** forming part of the policies of Scotsraig and St Fort. Roundals of broadleaved trees occur on gentler slopes to the south amidst broad fields of arable crops and pasture and add to the rich diversity and distinctive landcover pattern of this landscape. **Stone walls and field trees feature throughout this landscape** and are particularly prominent in the Scotsraig, Knock Hill and Dunbog area while beech hedgerows are characteristic of the historic Balmerino area. Policy woodlands also occur around Naughton House and around Montquhanie.

A notably rare feature of this landscape is **the natural loch of Lindores** which lies within a

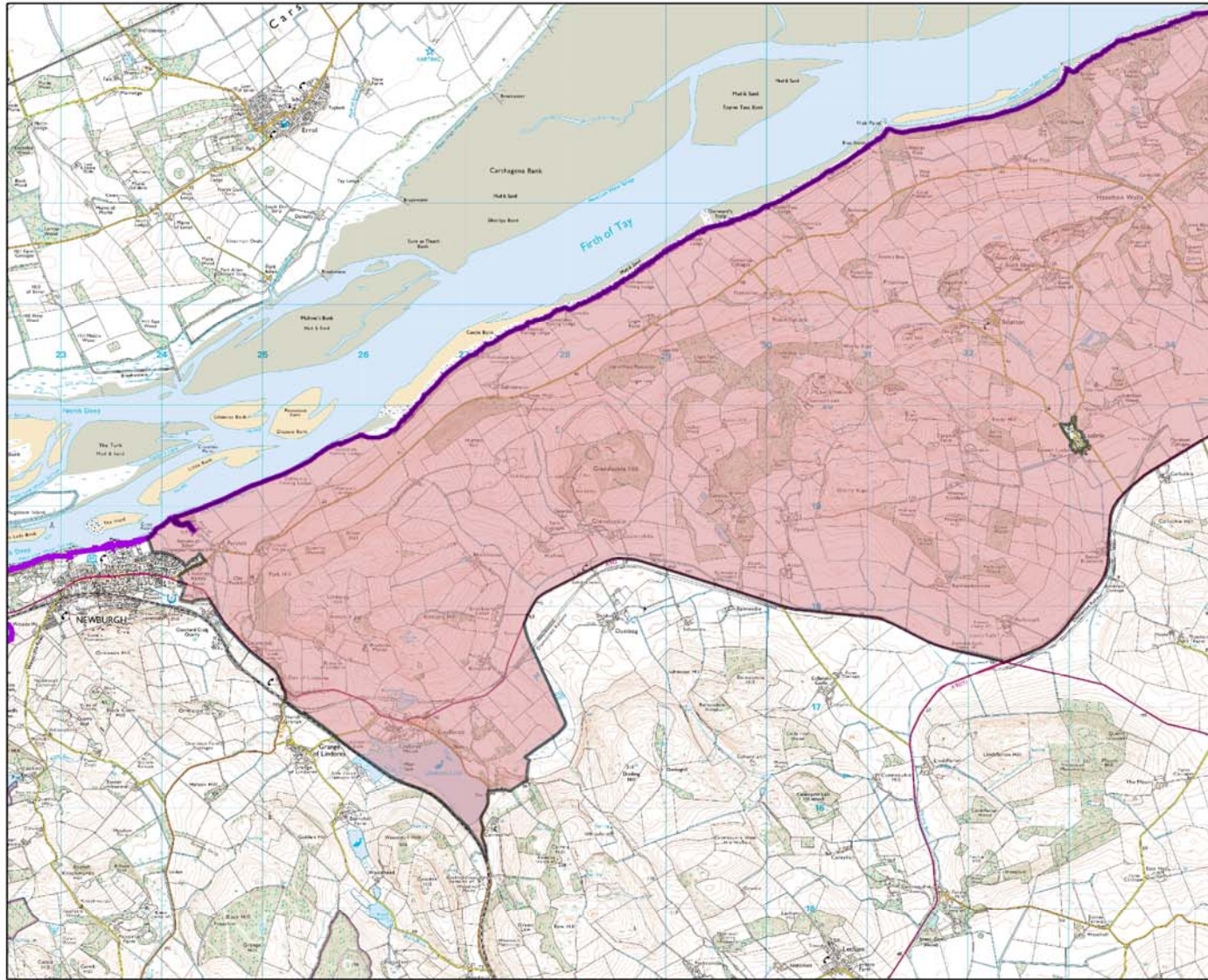
lowland glacial meltwater valley between rolling hills. The low lying fertile valley floor contrasts with the more rugged upland hill slopes surrounding the valley. The reed fringed loch has a naturalistic character and the remains of the historic Abbie Church and Lindores House, set within wooded grounds, contribute to the diversity and cultural heritage of this landscape.

This landscape is largely undeveloped with only small clustered settlements and minor roads traversing hills and the coast. **A strong sense of naturalness and feeling of seclusion** is associated with the less managed and remote coastal braes and the rugged coastal hills between Birkhill and Newburgh.

Forces for change: Decay of stone walls, field trees and wooded policies in areas where management is less active. Possible pressure for development in and around settlements.

Management recommendations:

Avoidance of masts and wind turbines as these would diminish the perception of vertical scale of relatively small but pronounced hills and would also adversely affect the notable integrity of policy woodlands to the east. Dense and often angular commercial forestry on the coastal hills between Birkhill and Newburgh should be replaced in the long term with broadleaved species as this would enhance the more rugged landform and setting to Iron Age hill forts. The distinctive policy woodlands characteristic of the eastern coastal hills should be protected and the design of other woodlands enhanced to improve diversity and their fit with the rolling landform. Restoration of stone walls and planting of field trees and hedgerows should be undertaken and footpath access could be improved along the coast between Flisk and Newburgh.



Fife Council
Local Landscape Designation
Review

Fife Draft Candidate SLA

Tay Coast West

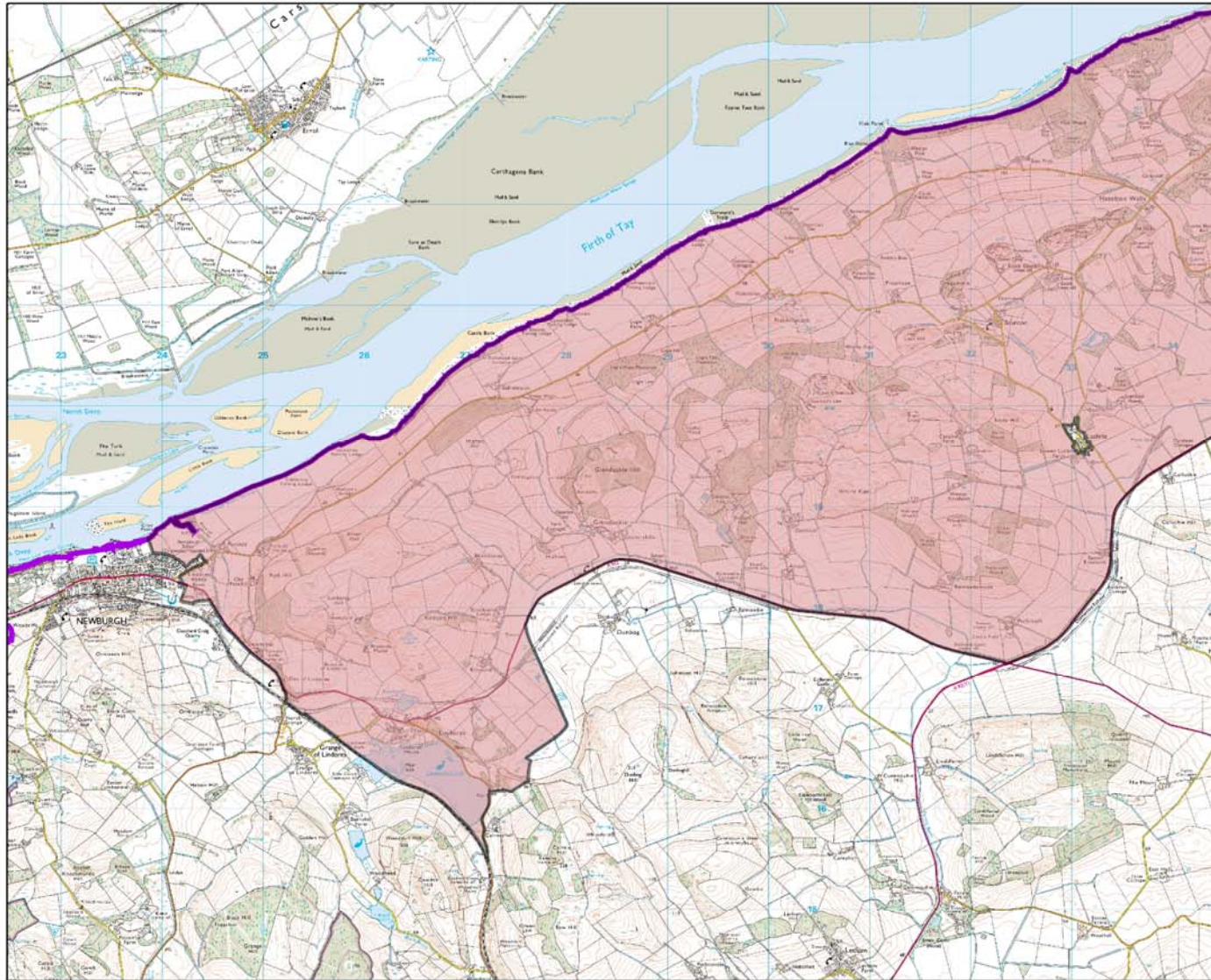
- Fife local plan area
- Candidate SLA

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Scale 1:50,000



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Tay Coast West

- Fife local plan area
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Special Landscape Area: Tentsmuir Coast

Location and boundaries:

This landscape comprises the coastal dunes and long sandy beach of Tentsmuir Sands extending from the River Eden estuary to Tayport. The western boundary of this area is drawn just inside the edge of the extensive Tentsmuir Forest.

Designation statement:

The long, broad **east-facing beach of Tentsmuir Sands** is backed by sand dunes with floristically rich grassy slacks and occasional marshy pools. Native scrub and broadleaved trees fringe the edge of an extensive forest predominantly planted with Scots pine on dunes and coastal flats from the 1920s onwards.

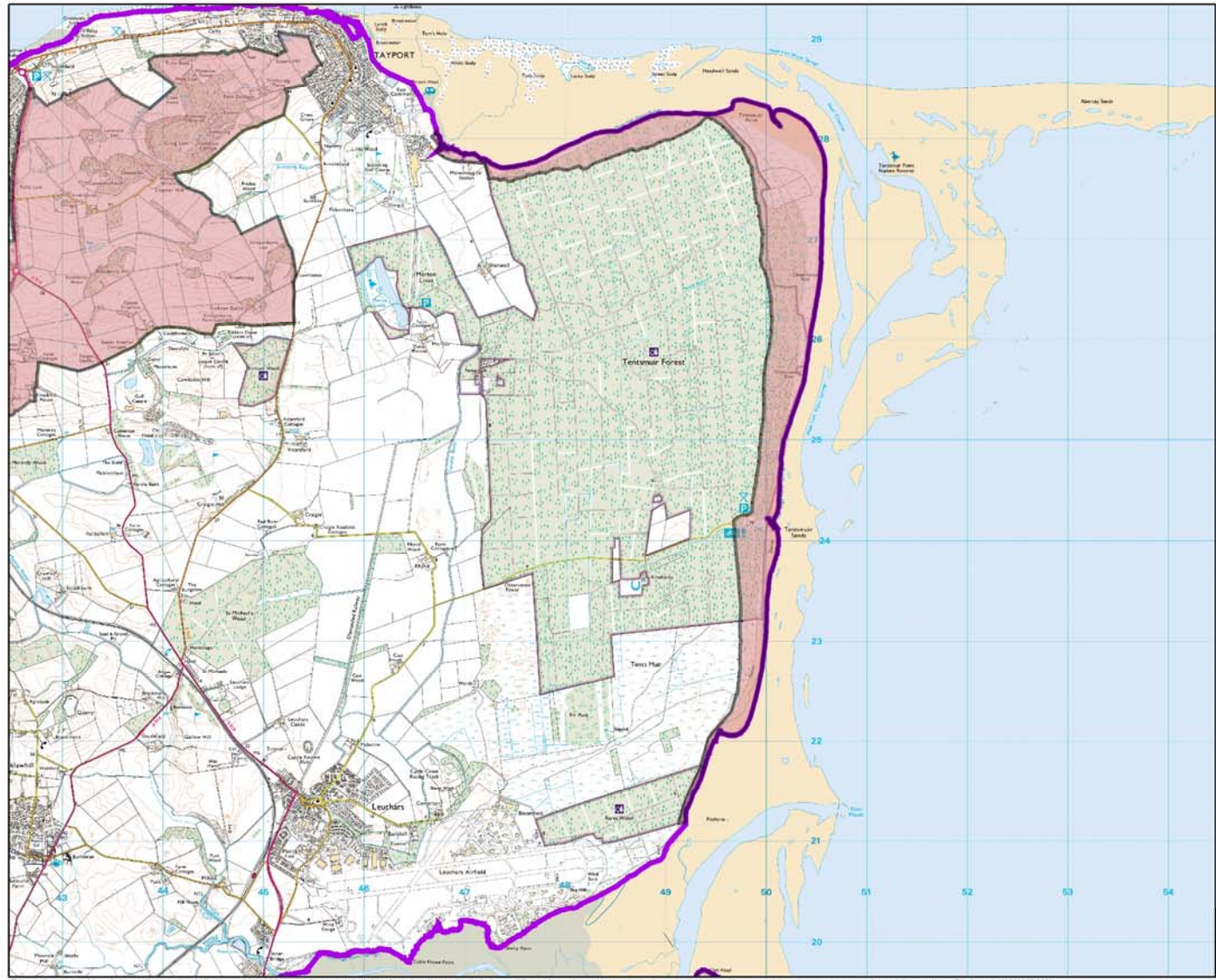
The **extensive shifting tidal sands** around Tentsmuir Point and the long sand bank of Abertay extending into the Firth of Tay, form a National Nature Reserve. The dynamic nature of shifting sands and dunes and elemental qualities of the sea give a **high degree of naturalness** to this coastal landscape which is much enhanced by the sounds of seabirds and presence of seals. The absence of roads and sparseness of settlement also contribute to the **sense of remoteness** which can be experienced.

Forest rides are used by cyclists and walkers; these particularly well-used close to the beach which is the main **recreational** attraction of this area. A 19th century ice house and pond and a number of World War II defences along the beach are of **historic** interest.

Forces for change: Coastal features are in a state of flux due to natural forces. Forestry operations and recreational facilities are principal forces for change.

Management recommendations:

Built development should be avoided on the open coastal edge of dunes and foreshore to retain its expansiveness and simple, uncluttered naturalistic qualities. Offshore development should also be avoided where could have significant impacts on views and the sense of remoteness that can be experienced from this landscape. Recreational facilities should be well-designed and sited within the forest edge to limit visibility. Forest management should continue to enhance diversity by increasing open space, scrub and species rich grasslands and native broadleaved woodland, particularly against the coastal margins.



Fife Council
Local Landscape Designation
Review

Fife Draft Candidate SLA

Tents Muir Coast

- Fife local plan area
- Candidate SLA

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Special Landscape Area: Wemyss Coast

Location and boundaries: The Wemyss Special Landscape Area extends from the built edge of Dysart, inland to the A915 and to the northern edge of Standingstone Park Plantation, around Wemyss Den and down to the coastal edge at East Wemyss.

Designation statement:

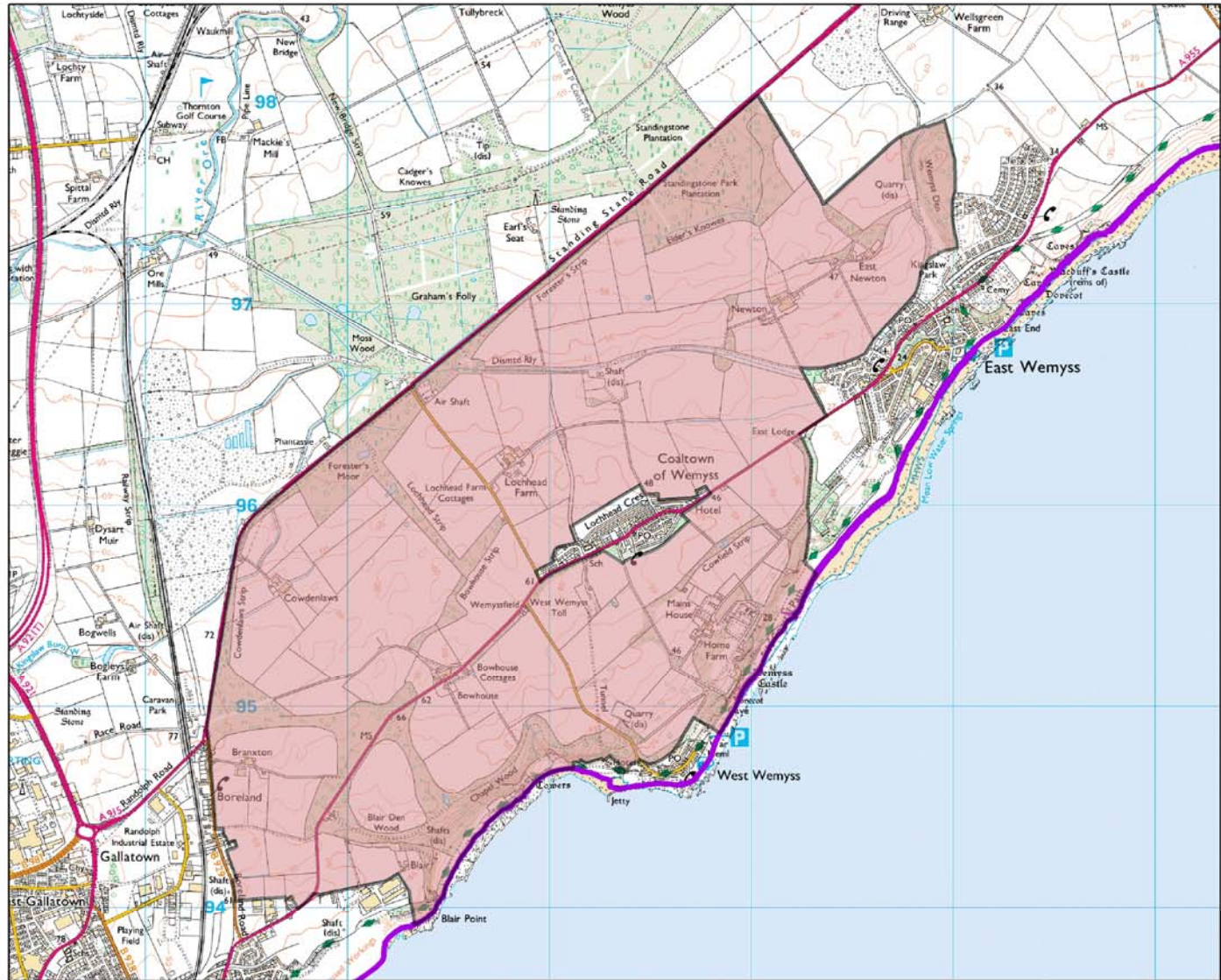
The low rolling hills are a **typical** feature of the Fife coast, and around West Wemyss the coast is defined by a steeply rising wooded coastal edge, which is again a defining feature of the Fife coastline. At the coastal edge there is a strong influence of the Firth of Forth.

The landscape is particularly important for its **cultural associations** which includes the policy influence associated with Wemyss Castle, evident in the strong pattern of woodland and shelterbelts enclosing undulating farmland above the coastal edge. The Fife Coastal Path allows **access** to this area and an experience of its rich heritage. The area has added significance through its associations with mining and Coaltown of Wemyss is a model village created by the Wemyss Coal Company, West Wemyss is a small coastal settlement originally developed as a port. Both settlements are recognised for their architectural value as conservation areas and they contribute positively to the landscape experience.

Forces for change: Changes in the management approach to the areas of woodland and field boundaries will affect the character of the landscape.

Management recommendations:

The landscape setting of the coastal villages should be maintained and the maintenance of the distinctive policy woodlands and shelterbelts will support the character of the landscape. In particular the integrity of the wooded coastal edge should be maintained.



Fife Draft Candidate SLA

- Wemys
- Fife local plan area
 - Candidate SLA

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8. MONITORING AND REVIEW

- 8.1. The candidate SLAs identified within this report have been designated for the features and combinations of features which make the landscapes distinctive, attractive and an important part of the Fife Landscape.
- 8.2. Landscapes change over time, and although characteristics such as landform remain largely consistent, factors such as built development, mining and quarrying, tree planting and felling, and changes in the management of our agricultural landscapes can influence the character and quality of the landscape.
- 8.3. Although each landscape is the result of a complex interplay of different characteristics, a key factor to take into consideration in the monitoring and review of the landscapes is changes in the quality of the characteristics for which each area was designated.
- 8.4. For example within the Lomond Hills the dramatic landform is a key characteristic, and the drama of this landform could be reduced by insensitive forestry planting which masks the shape and form of the hill. At the Wemyss Coast the policy woodlands are a defining character of the landscape and changes to the management of these landscape features could result in a change in landscape character.
- 8.5. It is recommended that the candidate SLA are monitored for changes in their key characteristics with a 10 year review period.
- 8.6. At a broader scale, monitoring should be undertaken of all landscapes across Fife to monitor landscape change and to inform wider landscape policy.

Appendix I
Parameters for application of landscape criteria

Landscape Character Unit name:			
Landscape Character Unit reference:			
Criteria	Evaluation questions	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria			
Typicality	<p>Does the landscape contain features or a combination of features that recur throughout Fife?</p> <p>Is the character of the landscape representative of the wider area and thus a contributor to its sense of place and distinctiveness?</p>	<p>High –The landscape contains features or combination of features that frequently recur throughout the area of Fife</p> <p>Medium – The landscape contains features or combination of features that occasionally recur throughout the area of Fife</p> <p>Low – the landscape does not contain features which recur throughout Fife</p>	
Rarity or uniqueness	Does the landscape contain features or a combination of features which are rare or unique within Fife or the wider locality?	<p>High – large number of rare or unique landscape features within the area of Fife</p> <p>Medium – some rare or unique landscape features within the area of Fife</p> <p>Low – no rare or unique landscape features within area of Fife</p>	
Condition or quality	<p>Are the landscape features or combinations of features in a good state of repair?</p> <p>Is the landscape intact or has it experienced a decline in quality for example as a consequence of changes in landscape management, patterns of development or the influence of development in adjacent areas?</p>	<p>High – the landscape is well managed and in a good state of repair in respect of its predominant land use.</p> <p>Medium – the landscape is generally in a good state of repair, although there are some elements which have been poorly maintained and managed</p> <p>Low – The landscape is in poor state of repair with many elements which have been poorly maintained and managed.</p>	
Variation in	Does the character or quality vary	Yes or no	

quality	significantly across the LCU?		
Landscape Quality Criteria			
Scenic Qualities	To what extent is the landscape of scenic value in its own right or to what extent does it contribute to the scenic qualities of the wider area?	<p>High – Pleasing combination of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. Strong visual, sensory, perceptual and experiential qualities which contribute to the natural beauty and appreciation of the landscape</p> <p>Medium – Some pleasing features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. Some visual, sensory, perceptual and experiential qualities. Landscape contributes to the setting of an adjacent area of high landscape quality</p> <p>Low – the landscape does not contain pleasing features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements, and lacks visual, sensory, perceptual and experiential qualities.</p>	
Enjoyment	To what extent is the landscape enjoyed by local people and visitors, for example in the form of walking, cycling or horse riding, or in the form of more formal recreation activities?	<p>High – the landscape is very important as a greenspace, tranquil area and/or outdoor recreation through provision of access routes, key viewpoints, landmarks and/or other recreational facilities</p> <p>Medium – the landscape is important as a greenspace, tranquil area and/or outdoor recreation through provision of access routes, key viewpoints, landmarks or other recreational facilities</p> <p>Low – the landscape has little or no greenspace, tranquil and/or outdoor recreational value. There are little or no provision of access routes, key viewpoints, landmarks or other recreational facilities</p>	
Cultural qualities	Does the landscape have specific historic or cultural associations (including literature,	High – the landscape is rich in features of archaeology, built heritage, literacy and artistic interest and other features of	

	music, art, local history or particular spiritual associations) or does it contribute to the wider cultural heritage of the area?	<p>cultural association</p> <p>Medium – the landscape has some features of archaeology, built heritage, literacy and artistic interest and other features of cultural association</p> <p>Low – the landscape has little or no features of archaeology, built heritage, literacy or artistic interest or other features of cultural association</p>	
Naturalness	Does the landscape support natural and semi-natural habitats or allow appreciation of key geological or geomorphological features?	<p>High – the landscape has extensive semi-natural habitat and is important for biodiversity</p> <p>Medium – the landscape has some semi-natural habitat and some elements of the landscape are important for biodiversity</p> <p>Low – the landscape has little or no semi-natural habitat and is not considered important for biodiversity</p>	
Setting	How important is the landscape in providing the setting for settlements as a whole or particular aspects of a settlement?	<p>High – the landscape performs a key function in relation to the setting of a settlement</p> <p>Medium – the landscape performs some function in providing the setting for settlements</p> <p>Low – the landscape is isolated from or does not perform a function in relation to the setting of settlements</p>	
Views	Does the landscape provide key views to and from important built and natural heritage assets or transport routes? Does the landscape form part of key views from locations outwith Fife's boundaries, including the sea and rivers Forth and Tay?	<p>High – The landscape is important in views from settlements or transport routes or provides a key landmark</p> <p>Medium – the landscape is important in views from settlements or transport routes or provides a local landmark</p> <p>Low – the landscape does not perform a key function in relation to views from</p>	

		settlements, transport routes or landmarks	
Connectivity	Does the landscape contribute to green corridors between settlements and the open countryside, or significant open spaces within settlements, or provide an important link to other LCU	<p>High – the landscape has a strong function as a green corridor (either singly or in combination with other landscape areas) or provides an important association with other LCU</p> <p>Medium – the landscape has some role as a green corridor (in combination with other landscape areas) or provides some setting for other LCU</p> <p>Low – the landscape does not perform a function as a green corridor and does not have strong associations with other LCU.</p>	

