

**Scottish Borders
Local Landscape Designation Review
REVISED REPORT**

**Prepared for Scottish Borders Council
by
Land Use Consultants**

June 2012



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1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Local Landscape Designation Review (LLDR) was designed to update the suite of locally protected landscapes within the Scottish Borders Council area. The existing suite of Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) lack robust justification for their location, extent and boundaries, and are not considered fit for purpose.
- 1.2 A methodology for the LLDR was developed, based on the approach set out in Guidance on Local Landscape Designations, published jointly by Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Scotland in 2005. The methodology was designed to identify candidate Special Landscape Areas (cSLA), which will be subject to further consultation by the Council.
- 1.3 Existing national, regional and local landscape-related policy and guidance relevant to the Scottish Borders Council area was reviewed as an initial stage, in order to gain an understanding of the Borders landscape and the issues surrounding landscape protection.
- 1.4 The LLDR examined the existing landscape of the Borders, drawing on the published landscape character assessment of the area. A series of criteria were employed to make a quantitative evaluation, which led to a ranking of character areas by landscape quality. The evaluation was carried out initially as a desk-based exercise, and subsequently expanded through field work. The result of this first stage was the definition of an area of search.
- 1.5 A qualitative analysis was then carried out, looking at the area of search in more detail. This enabled a move away from landscape character areas towards potential candidate cSLAs, focusing on areas of combined character where landscape qualities are most evident. After the application of practical criteria, to ensure all cSLAs represented coherent, recognisable landscapes, with appropriate boundaries, the set of cSLAs was finalised.
- 1.6 A Statement of Importance was developed for each cSLA, providing a robust justification for its extent and boundaries, together with its key qualities, and recommendations for management guidelines. The LLDR also includes recommendations on framing new policies for local landscape protection.

Post-consultation revision

- 1.7 Following completion of the LLDR, Scottish Borders Council drafted Supplementary Planning Guidance on local landscape designations. This was subject to public consultation in 2011, along with the LLDR report as a supporting document. Over 120 responses were received in relation to both the SPG and the LLDR report.
- 1.8 Comments on the content and methodology of the LLDR were reviewed and considered, and amendments to the LLDR report were discussed with the steering group. This revised report presents the finalised results of the LLDR process. A summary of the consultation responses, and the resulting actions taken, is presented in **Appendix 5**.

- I.9 The following sections have been revised based on the consultation, and the subsequent discussions with the steering group:
- **Section 3** Methodology; updated to reflect minor changes to the methodology;
 - **Section 4** Planning Policy Context: updated to reflect recent changes;
 - **Section 7** Landscape Evaluation; updated to reflect detailed comments and amended evaluation findings;
 - **Section 8** Qualitative Analysis; updated to reflect amended evaluation findings; and
 - **Section 9** Candidate Special Landscape Areas: updated to reflect amended conclusions of the evaluation and analysis.
- I.10 The outcome of the revised LLDR is a set of nine cSLAs, representing a series of highly valued and high quality landscapes, across a range of landscape character types. The area of land within the cSLAs is greater than that included in the current AGLVs, and they are considered to contain a more representative selection of the Borders landscapes. Each is backed up by a detailed statement of importance presenting reasoned justification for the proposed designation.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 Local landscape designations, in the form of Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV), were introduced into the Scottish Borders in the 1960s. Over the intervening period, a number of amendments have been made to these areas, without formal examination of their landscape qualities or value. Scottish Borders Council identified that these areas therefore lack robust justification. The following statement was included under Policy EP2: Areas of Great Landscape Value, in the 2008 Adopted Local Plan:

‘As the designation of these AGLVs took place many years ago, the Council proposes to carry out a review of the whole Council area, with a view to designating additional areas where the operation of Policy EP2 would be desirable and appropriate.’

- 2.2 In December 2009, Land Use Consultants (LUC) was appointed to carry out this review. Although Policy EP2 refers to “designating additional areas”, LUC’s brief was to carry out comprehensive review aimed at replacing the current set of designations with a new, more robustly justified suite of designated landscapes, and did not refer to increasing or decreasing the amount of land protected.
- 2.3 The LLDR involved the development of a systematic and transparent approach to selecting areas for designation as Special Landscape Areas (SLA), based on the approach set out in *Guidance on Local Landscape Designations*, published jointly by Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Scotland in 2005.
- 2.4 The LLDR sought to identify ‘special landscapes’ within the Borders, which would merit additional protection within an ‘all-landscapes’ approach, as described in the guidance. Under this model, the value of all landscapes is recognised through criteria-based policies, while those landscapes which merit special attention are recognised through SLA.
- 2.5 The LLDR was divided into two phases. The first phase was a desk-based exercise, reviewing policy and guidance; developing the methodology; and carrying out a quantitative evaluation of the Scottish Borders landscape. Phase I also included an audit of the existing suite of locally and nationally protected landscapes within the council area. The findings of Phase I were presented in an Interim Report, dated March 2010.
- 2.6 Phase II of the LLDR involved targeted field work to refine the evaluation process, and developing a system of weighting for the criteria which emphasised the sought-for qualities of special landscapes. This was followed by qualitative analysis which led to the identification of specific areas as ‘candidate Special Landscape Areas’ (cSLA), and the development of a supporting statement for each. Phase II also included the development of recommendations on the application of SLA in terms of land use planning and landscape management.
- 2.7 This revised report presents the findings of Phases I and II of the LLDR, as amended following public consultation.

PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.8 The objectives of the local landscape designation review (LLDR) were identified in the consultant's brief, as follows:
- To review the purpose, coverage and function of the existing AGLVs.
 - To define and implement a clear methodology for proposing new regionally significant SLAs based on the process recommended by the SNH/ HS publication 'Guidance on Local Landscape Designations'.
 - To assess the Borders landscapes to identify areas which merit protection as SLAs and areas that do not. This should be a systematic and transparent approach for defining proposals for new designations.
 - To identify the local landscape character and qualities of individual SLAs and existing AGLVs. Production of clear descriptions of the character, qualities and value of the proposed/ designated areas and identification of justifiable boundaries.
 - To develop draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) based on the review of AGLVs and identification of SLAs. The SPG will encourage and support development that conserves and enhances the essential character and quality of SLAs, whilst recognising that all landscapes are dynamic and subject to change.
 - To improve the effectiveness of Local Plan Policy EP2 by providing robust and defensible SLAs. This will also provide a better informed policy framework for all landscapes in the Scottish Borders.

STUDY AREA

- 2.9 The study area for the LLDR has been defined as the whole of the Scottish Borders Council area, plus a 5km buffer on all landward boundaries. This buffer was defined to enable the examination of landscapes which continue across the administrative boundary. It was also used to identify the extent of protected landscapes established by neighbouring local or national authorities. The study area is illustrated in **Figure 2.1**.

STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

2.10 The remainder of this report is structured as follows:

- **Section 3:** Methodology and Approach
- **Section 4:** Planning Policy Context
- **Section 5:** Landscape Evidence Base
- **Section 6:** Audit of Landscape Designations in the Scottish Borders
- **Section 7:** Landscape Evaluation
- **Section 8:** Qualitative Analysis
- **Section 9:** Candidate Special Landscape Areas
- **Section 10:** Planning Policy Recommendations

2.11 The report is supported by the following appendices:

- **Appendix 1** presents the methodology used to calculate relative 'habitat value';
- **Appendix 2** is an example of the field survey form used;
- **Appendix 3** includes the detailed findings of the quantitative landscape evaluation;
- **Appendix 4** includes the detailed findings of the qualitative landscape analysis; and
- **Appendix 5** sets out the comments received on the LLDR during public consultation, and the amendments made to the report.

3 Methodology and Approach

- 3.1 This Section describes the method and approach that has been adopted in carrying out the LLDR. The diagram in **Figure 3.1** provides an overview of the project stages within both phases.

PHASE 1

- 3.2 Phase I comprised the following main tasks:

- Desk-based review of background material;
- Audit of existing landscape designations;
- Desk-based landscape evaluation; and
- Development of a field survey programme.

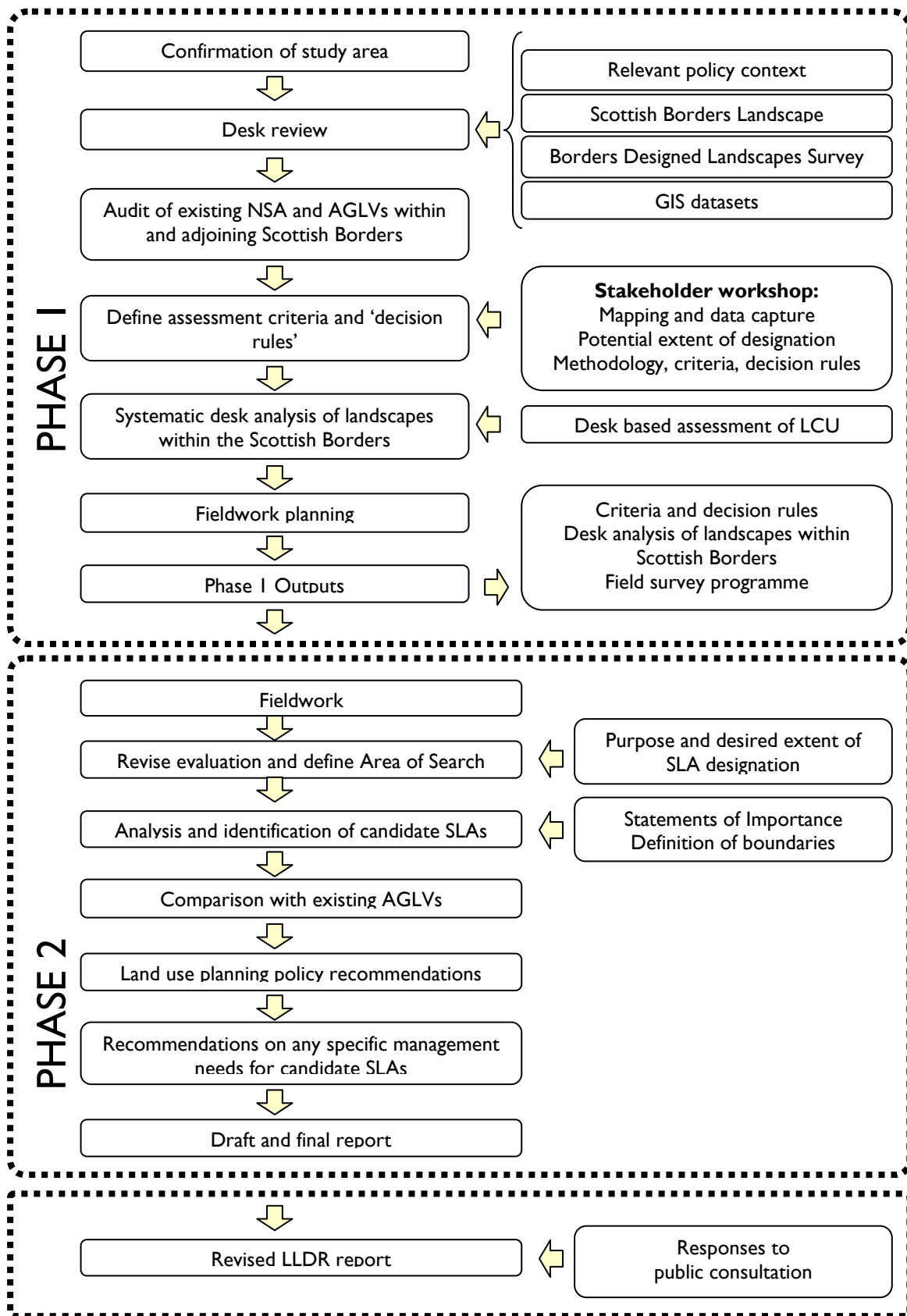
Desk Review

- 3.3 The first stage was a detailed review of a range of national, regional, and local planning policy and guidance relating to landscape designations in general, and the Scottish Borders landscape in particular. Local Plan documents were used to identify key areas of future change in order that these proposals can be taken into account in the assessment process.
- 3.4 The Council has prepared a range of supplementary planning guidance (SPG) and strategies relating to the landscape, including a woodland strategy and a survey of gardens and designed landscapes. Note was taken of how the designation of SLAs may support or conflict with the various policy aims identified. The findings of the policy review are set out in **Section 4**.
- 3.5 The principal source of information on the Scottish Borders landscape is *The Borders Landscape Assessment*, prepared by ASH Consulting and published in 1998 by SNH.¹ This is reviewed in detail in **Section 5**.
- 3.6 Other background data sources were used to inform the evaluation as follows:
- Aerial photographs;
 - Ordnance Survey mapping at 1:50,000 scale;
 - Natural heritage designations (Local Nature Reserves, National Nature Reserves, Ramsar sites, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Ancient Woodland);
 - Cultural heritage designations (Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Scottish Borders Gardens and Designed Landscapes Survey, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, listed buildings);
 - Access information (public rights of way, Core Paths, Country Parks, Regional Park); and
 - Existing local and national landscape designations.

¹ ASH Consulting Group (1998) *The Borders landscape assessment*. Scottish Natural Heritage Review No.112

3.7 Relevant information was fed into the evaluation process outlined below.

Figure 3.1: Outline of phases and tasks



Audit of Existing Landscape Designations

- 3.8 A brief audit was carried out of the existing suite of local and national landscape designations in the Study Area. This focused on those designations within the Scottish Borders, although note has been taken of landscape designations immediately adjacent to the Council area boundary.
- 3.9 A standard set of information is described for each area, including its location, extent, boundaries, key attributes or 'special qualities', and its designation history where this is known. The audit is included in **Section 6** of this report.

Landscape Evaluation

- 3.10 The main part of Phase I was the desk-based quantitative evaluation of the landscape of the study area. The methodology for the evaluation was based on *Guidance on Local Landscape Designations*², published by SNH and Historic Scotland, and was developed based on LUC's past experience in designation reviews. Further refinement was undertaken based on the specific needs of the present study, and through consultation with the steering group.
- 3.11 The evaluation was based on the landscape classification set out in *The Borders Landscape Assessment*. This was refined, as described in **Section 5**, to a baseline of 76 landscape character units (LCU), which were individually evaluated against a series of criteria.
- 3.12 The criteria used are based on the detailed requirements set out in the project brief, and were developed into a series of evaluation questions, with four possible 'ranks' for each question: low, medium, high or very high. Two additional non-ranked criteria identify differences in relative value within LCUs, and important relationships with other LCUs. The criteria were discussed in detail during a workshop session with the steering group, and were further refined following initial testing. The criteria are defined in **Table 3.1**, and the evaluation questions and decision rules are set out in **Table 3.2**.
- 3.13 The interim report presented the initial findings of the evaluation process, based purely on desk-based analysis drawing on GIS datasets, mapping, and aerial photography. Further baseline information was gathered during the workshop session. Following comment from the steering group, and through field work on the ground, the initial results were refined. The findings of the final evaluation are discussed in **Section 7**.
- 3.14 Significant changes to the evaluation methodology, between the Interim Report and the Final Report, are noted below:
- It was found impossible to consistently assess the condition and intactness criteria based on desk study alone. It was therefore agreed that these criteria would be primarily assessed in the field.
 - The criterion relating to other strategies and plans was not assessed for the Interim Report, and has since been omitted, since it was found difficult

² Scottish Natural Heritage/Historic Scotland (2006) *Guidance on Local Landscape Designations*.

to apply a detailed survey of ongoing planning consistently across the study area. This criterion is to some extent secondary, and has been considered in more detail during the refinement of the Area of Search (see **Section 9**).

- The Interim Report included a ‘naturalness’ criterion. Following discussion with the Council, it was decided to make greater use of available Phase I habitat data. The naturalness criterion was therefore replaced with a habitat value criterion, drawing on Phase I habitat data and natural heritage designations. It was agreed that aspects of perceived naturalness were adequately covered under the wildness criterion. The detailed method for ranking the habitat value criterion is set out in **Appendix I**.

Changes to the evaluation following consultation

- 3.15 Following consultation, the term ‘typicality’ was replaced with ‘representativeness’, to better reflect the qualities being assessed, and in line with the SNH/HS guidance. The term ‘wild land’ was replaced with ‘wildness’ to reflect recent work carried out by SNH. The report, *Mapping Scotland’s Wildness*,³ has informed a re-appraisal of the evaluation against the wildness criterion.
- 3.16 Specific comments on the evaluation and the rankings assigned were received during consultation. In many cases these included detailed information on aspects of the landscape, and their incorporation adds important local knowledge to the LLDR. Consultation comments are set out in **Appendix 5**.

³ Scottish Natural Heritage (2012) *Mapping Scotland’s Wildness Phase I – Identifying Relative Wildness*.

Table 3.1: Evaluation criteria

Criteria	Definition
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>	
Representativeness	The extent to which a landscape is 'typical' of the Scottish Borders, and contributes to its wider identity and sense of place
Rarity	Identifies landscapes or features which are rare or unusual within the Scottish Borders, or which are known to be uncommon elsewhere
Condition	The state of repair of the landscape, in terms of the apparent level of ongoing land management and maintenance of landscape features
Intactness	The extent to which a landscape has changed in the past, or is currently changing, as a result of development or changing land management
Wildness	The relative remoteness of the landscape, including lack of human features, distance from settlement, and ruggedness of terrain.
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>	
Scenic qualities	The extent to which the landscape contains pleasing combinations of features, or to which it prompts strong sensory appeal
Enjoyment	The importance of the landscape as a recreational resource, including accessibility and provision of opportunities for appreciation of the landscape or views
Cultural qualities	The extent to which the landscape is the setting for features of historic value, including buildings, archaeology and designed landscapes. Also the influence of intangible literary or artistic associations.
Habitat value	The importance of the area in terms of valued habitats which are present, and in terms of recognised natural heritage value in the form of designated sites.
Settlement setting	The extent to which the landscape allows the appreciation of settlement form, including framing of views to and from settlements
Views	The extent and importance of views in and out of the landscape, including the relative visibility of the landscape from key routes and locations
Tourist economy	The importance of the landscape to the Borders tourist economy, in terms of the presence of landscape-related tourist attractions, and the area's importance in relation to key tourist centres
<i>Non-ranked criteria</i>	
Landscape consistency	The extent to which a LCU is consistent in terms of the above criteria
Landscape relationships	Identifies the most important adjacent LCUs, which may combine to form groupings with high value

Table 3.2: Evaluation questions and decision rules

Criteria	Evaluation questions	Rank	
Landscape Character Criteria			
Representativeness	Does the landscape contain features or a combination of features that recur throughout the Scottish Borders and therefore contribute to its wider identity, image and sense of place locally, regionally or nationally?	Very high	The landscape contains features or combination of features that are highly representative of the Scottish Borders, and has a very strong sense of place
		High	The landscape contains features or combination of features that frequently recur throughout the Scottish Borders, and has a strong sense of place
		Medium	The landscape contains features or combination of features that occasionally recur throughout the Scottish Borders, and has some sense of place
		Low	The landscape does not contain features which recur throughout the Scottish Borders, and has a reduced sense of place
Rarity	Does the landscape contain features or a combination of features which are rare or unique within the Scottish Borders, or which are known to be uncommon elsewhere?	Very high	Large number of landscape features which are unique within the Scottish Borders, and may be rare across Scotland
		High	Large number of landscape features which are rare or unique within the Scottish Borders
		Medium	Some landscape features which are rare or unique within the Scottish Borders
		Low	No landscape features which are rare or unique within the Scottish Borders
Condition	Are the landscape features or combinations of features in a good state of repair?	Very high	The landscape is clearly well managed and maintained, and overall is in a good state of repair
		High	The landscape is generally well managed and in a good state of repair in respect of its predominant land use, although there may be less important elements in poorer repair
		Medium	The landscape is generally in a good state of repair, although there are some elements which have been poorly maintained and managed
		Low	The landscape is in poor state of repair with many elements which have been poorly maintained and managed.

Criteria	Evaluation questions	Rank	
Intactness	Is the landscape intact or has it experienced a decline in quality? Are present and future changes likely to lead to such decline, for example as a consequence of changes in landscape management, patterns of development or the influence of development in adjacent areas?	Very high	The landscape show no signs of past, present or potential decline in quality
		High	The landscape show little signs of past, present or potential decline in quality
		Medium	The landscape has experienced some past decline in quality but is not currently or potentially subject to further decline
		Low	The landscape has experienced past decline in quality, and is potentially subject to further decline
Wildness	Does the landscape have significant wildness characteristics?	Very high	The landscape has a strong wildness character
		High	The landscape has some wildness character
		Medium	The landscape has little wildness character
		Low	The landscape shows no wildness character
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?	Very 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
		High	Some pleasing features or combinations of features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements. Visual, sensory, perceptual and experiential qualities which contribute to the natural beauty and appreciation of the landscape
		Medium	Few 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
		Low	The landscape does not contain pleasing features, visual contrasts and/or dramatic elements, and lacks visual, sensory, perceptual and experiential qualities.

Criteria	Evaluation questions	Rank	
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, which are focused on enjoyment of the landscape?	Very high	The landscape is well-used, and is very important as a greenspace, tranquil area and/or outdoor recreation area. Extensive provision of access routes, key viewpoints, landmarks and/or other recreational facilities
		High	The landscape is important as a greenspace, tranquil area and/or outdoor recreation area. Good provision of access routes, key viewpoints, landmarks and/or other recreational facilities
		Medium	The landscape has some importance as a greenspace, tranquil area and/or outdoor recreation area. Some provision of access routes, key viewpoints, landmarks or other recreational facilities, potentially less well-used
		Low	The landscape has little or no greenspace, tranquillity and/or outdoor recreational value. There is little or no provision of access routes, key viewpoints, landmarks or other recreational facilities
Cultural qualities	Does the landscape have specific historic or cultural associations (including literature, music, art, local history or particular spiritual associations) or does it contribute to the wider cultural heritage of the area?	Very high	The landscape is very rich in visible features of archaeology and built heritage, and has strong, direct literary or artistic associations
		High	The landscape is rich in visible features of archaeology and built heritage, and has some literary or artistic associations
		Medium	The landscape has some visible features of archaeology and built heritage. Literary and artistic associations less direct
		Low	The landscape has few visible features of archaeology or built heritage, and few or no literary or artistic associations
Naturalness	See methodology in Appendix I		

Criteria	Evaluation questions	Rank	
Settlement setting	How important is the landscape in providing the setting for settlements as a whole or particular aspects of a settlement?	Very high	The landscape performs a key function in providing the setting of a settlement or settlements
		High	The landscape performs some function in providing the setting of a settlement
		Medium	The landscape performs a limited function in providing the setting for settlements
		Low	The landscape is isolated from or does not perform a function in relation to the setting of settlements
Views	Does the landscape provide key views to and from important built and natural heritage assets or transport routes?	Very high	The landscape is very important in views from recognised key viewpoints, settlements or transport routes, and/or includes key landmarks
		High	The landscape has some importance in views from recognised viewpoints, settlements or transport routes, and/or includes a key landmark
		Medium	The landscape is important in a limited number of views from settlements or transport routes, and/or includes a local landmark
		Low	The landscape does not perform a key function in relation to views from viewpoints, settlements, transport routes or landmarks
Tourist economy	To what extent does the landscape contribute to the Scottish Borders tourist economy?	Very high	The landscape is central to the Scottish Borders tourist economy
		High	The landscape makes a significant contribution to the Scottish Borders tourist economy
		Medium	The landscape makes some contribution to the Scottish Borders tourist economy
		Low	The landscape makes no significant contribution to the Scottish Borders tourist economy
Non-ranked criteria			
Landscape consistency	Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?	Consistent / Not consistent	If not consistent , consider subdividing by quality or character, if taken forward for consideration as a cSLA
Landscape relationships	Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?	List related landscapes	Consider grouping with related LCUs, or parts of LCUs, if taken forward for consideration as a cSLA

PHASE II

Field Survey

- 3.17 The initial findings of the evaluation were used to select a 'long list' of LCUs to be considered in more detail through field survey. In order to carry out efficient and targeted field work, the study area was divided in two, based on the results of the preliminary evaluation. All areas were surveyed in the field, but a different approach was taken in each of the two groups.
- 3.18 The highest-scoring 50% of LCUs were evaluated in detail in the field, to verify the results of the initial assessment, and also to gather more specific information on the key qualities of each area. These LCUs were each assessed from one or more static vantage points, depending on the extent of the area, using a standard recording sheet, which is included at **Appendix 2**. The field work also examined whether parts of each LCU perform better or worse than the whole, and gathered data on how LCUs may be split or grouped to form candidate SLAs.
- 3.19 The lower-scoring 50% of LCUs were also surveyed, in order to validate the initial assessment stage, and to gather information for the condition and intactness criteria. However, for these areas a less detailed assessment was carried out: the initial evaluation results were taken in to the field and checked, and the information on condition and quality added. Revisions were made as necessary, and in some cases, where rankings were amended significantly, a full field survey was carried out.

Field Survey Form

- 3.20 The survey form, an example of which is included at **Appendix 2**, comprised two sections. The first part was designed to gather information on each of the evaluation criteria, and check the rankings as necessary. An important aspect of the field survey process was the recording of 'group value', where neighbouring LCUs combine to form valuable assemblages of landscape.
- 3.21 The second stage of the survey form looked ahead to the identification of candidate SLAs, and involved the recording of descriptive prose relating to three aspects:
- Objective description of landscape features, with reference to landform, land cover, land use, settlement pattern, distinctive features;
 - Objective description of visual relationships and contrasts which are important to the landscape, including relationships between LCUs; and
 - Subjective description or personal response to the landscape.
- 3.22 This approach drew on the SNH methodology employed in the definition of special qualities of National Scenic Areas.⁴ It seeks to draw out the key characteristics of an area, which form part of the justification required for each candidate SLA.

⁴ SNH (2008) *Guidance For Identifying The Special Qualities Of Scotland's National Scenic Areas*

- 3.23 The field survey was therefore an iterative process, designed to verify and expand on the initial desk-based evaluation. Completed recording sheets, viewpoint locations and photographs have not been included in the report, but are available on request.

Revision of the Evaluation and Defining Area of Search

- 3.24 Following the field survey, the quantitative evaluation was refined based on the additional data gathered. Consultation with the steering group generated a range of detailed comments, resulting in further revisions to the rankings. Once finalised, a suitable weighting was applied to the results, to emphasise the relative importance of certain criteria in the perception of 'special landscapes'. The finalised rankings and weighting are discussed in **Section 7**.
- 3.25 The results of the evaluation were used to generate a list of the highest scoring LCUs, which forms the Area of Search within which the cSLAs were identified. As noted above, the evaluation was amended following consultation, leading to variations in the Area of Search. This is set out in **Section 7**.

Qualitative Analysis of the Area of Search

- 3.26 In order to refine the Area of Search a more detailed qualitative analysis was carried out, adding detail to the initial quantitative evaluation. This analysis was applied to each of the highest-scoring LCUs in turn. The following questions were explored in relation to each LCU:
- Which parts of the cSLA Area of Search perform best against each criterion?
 - Are there parts of the cSLA Area of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?
- 3.27 The purpose of the qualitative analysis was to enable a move away from the pre-defined LCUs, towards potential cSLAs, given that the landscape character areas are not focused on landscape quality. It was recognised that significant variations in landscape quality can occur across LCUs, which are not brought out by the evaluation process which looked at LCUs as a whole. Several high-scoring LCUs contain areas of lower quality, while some lower scoring LCUs contain features of value.
- 3.28 The qualitative analysis led to a refinement of the Area of Search, again amended after consultation. This is presented in **Section 8**.

Identification of Candidate Special Landscape Areas

- 3.29 At this stage, the practical criteria set out in the SNH/HS guidance were applied to inform choices over inclusion. These practical criteria are:
- identity and coherence;
 - suitable size;
 - other policy/strategy considerations; and
 - boundary features.

- 3.30 It is important that cSLAs represent recognisable landscape units, with a logical theme or focus: for example upland hills, a coastal landscape, or a group of river valleys. Smaller areas of identified quality were not taken forward in isolation since it would be impractical to apply policy at this scale. Similarly, larger areas of high quality have been reduced to focus the cSLA on the core landscapes which most merit designation.
- 3.31 The initial set of cSLAs was revised based on feedback from the steering group, including comments on the extent of the overall coverage, and the inclusion or exclusion of certain areas. It was decided at this stage that areas already within a NSA would be excluded from any cSLA, in order to avoid potentially conflicting policy overlaps. This approach is supported by the SNH/HS guidance which notes that “*the use of local landscape designations would normally not be considered to be appropriate for areas already designated as a National Scenic Area or a National Park because of the measures already in place within these areas to protect and manage their landscapes*” (Paragraph 6.6).
- 3.32 In terms of boundary features, the aim has been to select strong and permanent boundaries for the cSLAs, which include roads and tracks, field boundaries, streams, topographic features and coastal features. Where there is a lack of obvious boundaries, it has occasionally been necessary to move outwards and to include areas of lower merit, rather than to move inwards and reduce the area of higher merit landscape included within the cSLA, particularly where this has an impact on the integrity of the area in question.
- 3.33 In response to comments received during the consultation process, further consideration was given at this stage to additional information from the public consultation.
- 3.34 Consultation responses raised the issue of landscape designations extending up to and across administrative boundaries. Concerns were expressed that some of the cSLAs as originally proposed did not match well with landscape designations in neighbouring areas, and a more ‘joined-up’ approach was encouraged. It is recognised that there are benefits to establishing consistency of policy across landscapes which extend over administrative boundaries.
- 3.35 At the same time, it must be borne in mind that different authorities designate different areas for different reasons. The status and written justification of designations outside the Scottish Borders was considered, as some are now dated and lack robust support, while others have been recently reviewed and updated. The presence of a designation in an adjacent authority area does not always relate to the need for a Scottish Borders designation.
- 3.36 The consultation process enabled the consideration of additional information relating to the different potential designations. Where other criteria were satisfied, note was taken of areas which attracted a high level of interest during the consultation.

Statement of Importance

- 3.37 Once the cSLAs had been agreed, a Statement of Importance (Sol) was drawn up for each. The Sol is designed to highlight the key characteristics and

qualities which underpin the cSLA. It also outlines key forces for change and sets out guidelines for specific development management and landscape management within the designated area. These are intended to be suitable for use by prospective developers and development management staff. The Sols have been amended in this revised report, based on additional information from the public consultation.

- 3.38 A brief comparison with existing AGLVs was carried out, in order to highlight any major differences in terms of gain or loss of protected landscape, the representation of different landscapes character types, and the geographic and community representation within the proposed suite of SLAs.
- 3.39 The nine candidate SLAs identified by the LLDR are illustrated in **Figure 9.1**, and Statements of Importance are set out in **Section 9**.

Planning Policy Recommendations

- 3.40 The area-specific recommendations included in the Sols have been supplemented with recommendations for an overall policy setting out the council's approach to development in SLAs, and referring to the key characteristics which development will be required to conserve or enhance. These recommendations are set out in **Section 10**.

4 Planning Policy Context

- 4.1 This section gives an overview of relevant national planning policy on local landscape designations, and reviews related themes in strategic and local development plans.
- 4.2 The Development Plan for the Scottish Borders comprises the updated Scottish Borders Structure Plan (2009) and the Approved Scottish Borders Local Plan (2008). Scottish Borders Council has also prepared a range of supplementary planning guidance (SPG) and strategic studies.

SCOTTISH PLANNING POLICY AND ADVICE

National Planning Framework

- 4.3 The National Planning Framework for Scotland 2 (NPF2)⁵ celebrates the diversity and value of Scotland's landscapes. In particular, it recognises the role of natural and historic landscapes in creating a sense of place, contributing to quality of life, and as a rich resource for tourism and leisure, creative industries, education and national and regional marketing. '*Nationally important landscape characteristics*' are recognised, including '*openness, intervisibility, perceived naturalness, and remoteness*' (paragraph 97).
- 4.4 NPF2 also recognises the wide ranging pressures on landscapes and the resultant changing character, particularly in response to the challenge of climate change. At the same time, these and other changes offer opportunities to support landscape enhancement, with the ultimate aim '*to build environmental capital and pass well-managed, high quality landscapes on to future generations*' (paragraph 100).

Scottish Planning Policy

- 4.5 Scottish Planning Policy⁶ (SPP) is the Scottish Government's policy on nationally important land use planning matters. The policy outlines the need for planning authorities to support opportunities for enjoyment and understanding of the natural heritage, whilst protecting and preserving it. The policy recognises the dynamic nature of the landscape in countryside and urban areas and the aim of the policy is to facilitate positive change whilst maintaining and enhancing its distinctive character.
- 4.6 SPP notes that '*local designations should be clearly identified and protected through the local development plan*' and that '*the reasons for designation should be clearly explained and the on-going relevance and function of local designations should be considered when development plans are prepared*' (paragraph 139). It identifies that local landscape areas and local nature conservation sites are to be the only two non-statutory local designations for natural heritage. The document notes that the purpose for designating a local landscape area should be to:

⁵ Scottish Government (2009) National Planning Framework for Scotland 2

⁶ Scottish Government (2010), Scottish Planning Policy

- *'Safeguard and enhance the character and quality of landscapes which are important or particularly valued locally or regionally, or*
- *Promote understanding and awareness of the distinctive character and special qualities of local landscapes, or*
- *Safeguard and promote important settings for outdoor recreation and tourism locally'* (paragraph 140).

National Planning Policy Guidance 14

- 4.7 NPPG 14: Natural Heritage⁷ has been superseded by Scottish Planning Policy, and no longer has a role in planning guidance. However, it formerly provided the main source of guidance on how the conservation and enhancement of Scotland's natural heritage should be considered in land use planning. It provided 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 confirmed the relevance of local landscape designations but cautioned that authorities should avoid the proliferation of unnecessary local designations. It advised that the boundaries of sites should be clearly defined in development plans and justification given for selection. NPPG 14 recognised the need for advice to be provided to planning authorities to ensure greater consistency in the use of local landscape designations.

Planning Advice Note 60

- 4.8 PAN 60: Planning for Natural Heritage⁸ provides policy and planning advice regarding Scotland's natural heritage. Safeguarding and enhancing landscape character is an important planning objective. To achieve this there needs 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.
- 4.9 Landscape designations are stated to be of more value when forming part of a wider land-use framework and habitat network and contributing to realisation of national natural heritage strategy (paragraph 39). Landscape character assessment can provide the means of determining the extent of landscapes to be designated (paragraph 26).
- 4.10 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 (paragraph 40).

Circular 2/1962

- 4.11 Circular 2/1962⁹, published by the Scottish Development Department, outlined the purpose of Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV). They were

⁷ Scottish Office (1999) NPPG 14: Natural Heritage

⁸ Scottish Executive (2000) Planning Advice Note 60: Planning for Natural Heritage

⁹ Scottish Development Department (1962) Circular 2/1962 Development Plans: A - Areas of Great Landscape Value

originally designated by local authorities to safeguard areas of regional or local landscape importance.

Guidance on Local Landscape Designations

- 4.12 This guidance¹⁰ was developed by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Historic Scotland from a review of local landscape designations initiated in 2003. The guidance offers advice to local authorities on reviewing their local landscape designations. It seeks to;
- *‘promote greater understanding and support for local landscape designations among local authorities, the public and other key stakeholders;*
 - *reaffirm the role of local landscape designations as part of an ‘all landscapes’ approach and define the circumstances when they could be used;*
 - *secure greater consistency in the selection and use of local landscape designations by local authorities; and*
 - *clarify the relationship of local landscape designations to the wider family of Scotland’s landscape designations’ (paragraph 1-5).*
- 4.13 This guidance forms the basis for the approach to the current study, and is discussed further in relation to the methodology in **Section 3**.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Edinburgh and South East Scotland Strategic Development Plan

- 4.14 This document is currently in development by the new Edinburgh and South East Scotland Strategic Development Plan Authority, and when completed it will replace the existing Edinburgh and Lothians Structure Plan, the Fife Structure Plan and the Scottish Borders Structure Plan. The NPF2 states that strategic development plans should seek to achieve a net enhancement of landscape quality.
- 4.15 The Main Issues Report¹¹ sets out the authority’s preferred approach to the environment, noting that: *“The preparation of up to date Local Biodiversity Action Plans and the designation of landscape areas of quality will also continue to be supported”* (paragraph 7.85).

Scottish Borders Structure Plan

- 4.16 The updated Scottish Borders Structure Plan 2001 – 2018¹² provides the long term strategic policy framework for protection of the built and natural environment. The following policies provide relevant guidance for this study:
- Policy N8 – River Tweed

¹⁰ Scottish Natural Heritage/Historic Scotland (2006) Guidance on Local Landscape Designations.

¹¹ Edinburgh and South East Scotland Strategic Development Plan Authority (2010) SESplan Main Issues Report.

¹² Scottish Borders Council (2002) The New Way Forward Structure Plan - Consolidated Version 2001-2018.

- Policy N9 – Maintaining Landscape Character
- Policy NI0 – National Scenic Areas
- Policy NI1 – Areas of Great Landscape Value
- Policy NI2 – Coastline
- Policy NI3 – Gardens and Designed Landscapes
- Policy NI4 and NI5 – Archaeological Sites
- Policy NI8 – Development Affecting Conservation Areas
- Policy C6 – Open space
- Policy C8 – Access Network

LOCAL PLANNING

Scottish Borders Local Plan

4.17 The Local Plan¹³ (approved 2008) provides detailed policy and site specific allocations to guide planning decisions on building and land use. The following policies provide relevant guidance for this study:

- Policy BE2 – Archaeological Sites and Ancient Monuments
- Policy BE3 – Gardens and Designed Landscapes
- Policy BE4 – Conservation Areas
- Policy BE6 – Protection of Open Space
- Policy EP1 – National Scenic Areas
- Policy EP2 – Areas of Great Landscape Value
- Policy EP3 – Prevention of Settlement Coalescence
- Policy EP4 – Coastline
- Policy NE4 – Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows

Scottish Borders Local Development Plan

4.18 As the first stage in the Local Development Plan, a Main Issues Report has been published for consultation.¹⁴ The Report confirms the Council's intention to integrate work on green space, open space and landscape designations into the forthcoming plan (paragraph 2.15).

Supplementary Planning Guidance

4.19 A range of Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) and supporting studies have been prepared, offering more detailed policy on a range of subjects. The relevant documents are briefly discussed below under their subject headings.

¹³ Scottish Borders Council (2008) Approved Scottish Borders Local Plan.

¹⁴ Scottish Borders Council (2012) Scottish Borders Local Development Plan Main Issues Report.

Biodiversity

- 4.20 The SPG for Biodiversity¹⁵ (2005) explains the application of Structure and Local Plan policies on biodiversity assets in the Borders. It sets out the hierarchy of biodiversity interests, ranging from international (SAC, SPA and Ramsar sites), through national (NNR and SSSI), to local (local wildlife sites and key habitats identified in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)). The document stresses the importance of ecological networks relating to ancient woodland, upland habitats, designed landscapes and other habitats.
- 4.21 The LBAP¹⁶ identifies objectives and targets for eight groups of habitat types:
- Sea and shore;
 - Coastal braes and deans;
 - Woods and scrub;
 - Hummels, haughs and knowes;
 - Mosses, lochs and clarty holes;
 - Hills, heather and high tops;
 - Rivers and burns; and
 - Towns and villages.
- 4.22 Protected sites and key habitats have been used as indicators for the habitat value criterion within the evaluation. Phase I habitat data supplied by the Council is illustrated in **Figure 4.1**, and protected sites are illustrated in **Figure 4.2**.

Woodlands and Forestry

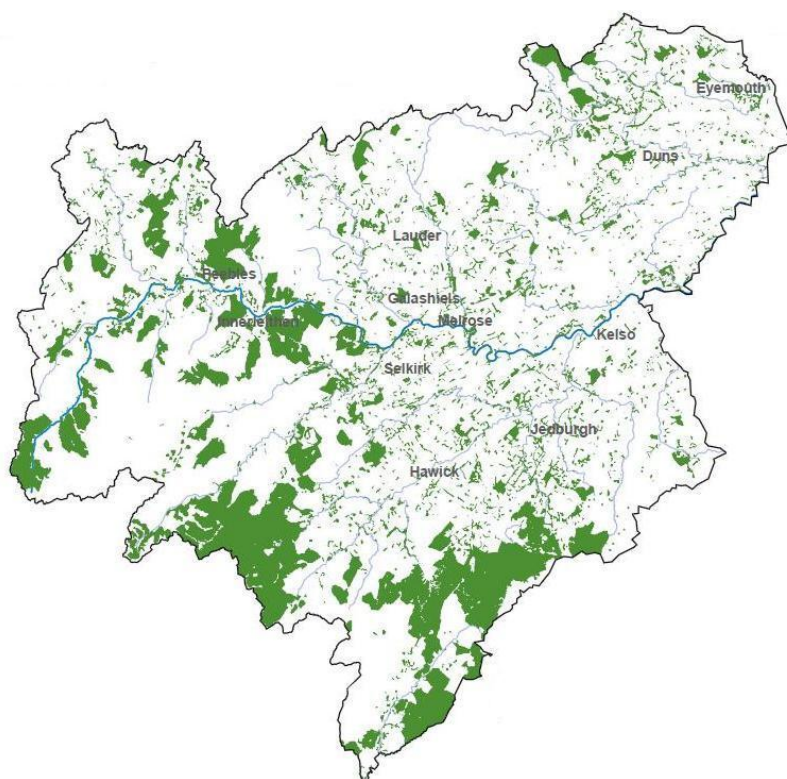
- 4.23 The Scottish Borders Woodland Strategy¹⁷ recognises the importance of trees, woodlands and forests to the Borders landscape. In particular, the landscape value of native woodland is highlighted. 18.5% of the Borders is currently covered by woodlands and forest, as shown in **Figure 4.3**, although less than 2% of this is ancient woodland.
- 4.24 In line with national policy, the strategy promotes a major expansion of woodland cover, up to 25% of land cover in the next 50 years. A key theme of the strategy is the enhancement of landscape, biodiversity and cultural heritage. Actions include the promotion of maintenance of existing woodland, particularly in designed landscapes, expansion of native woodland, and the importance of considering landscape in forest design plans.

¹⁵ Scottish Borders Council (2005) Supplementary Planning Guidance for Biodiversity.

¹⁶ Scottish Borders Council (nd) Scottish Borders Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

¹⁷ Scottish Borders Council (2005) Scottish Borders Woodland Strategy.

Figure 4.3 Existing woodland in the Scottish Borders



Settlement and Development

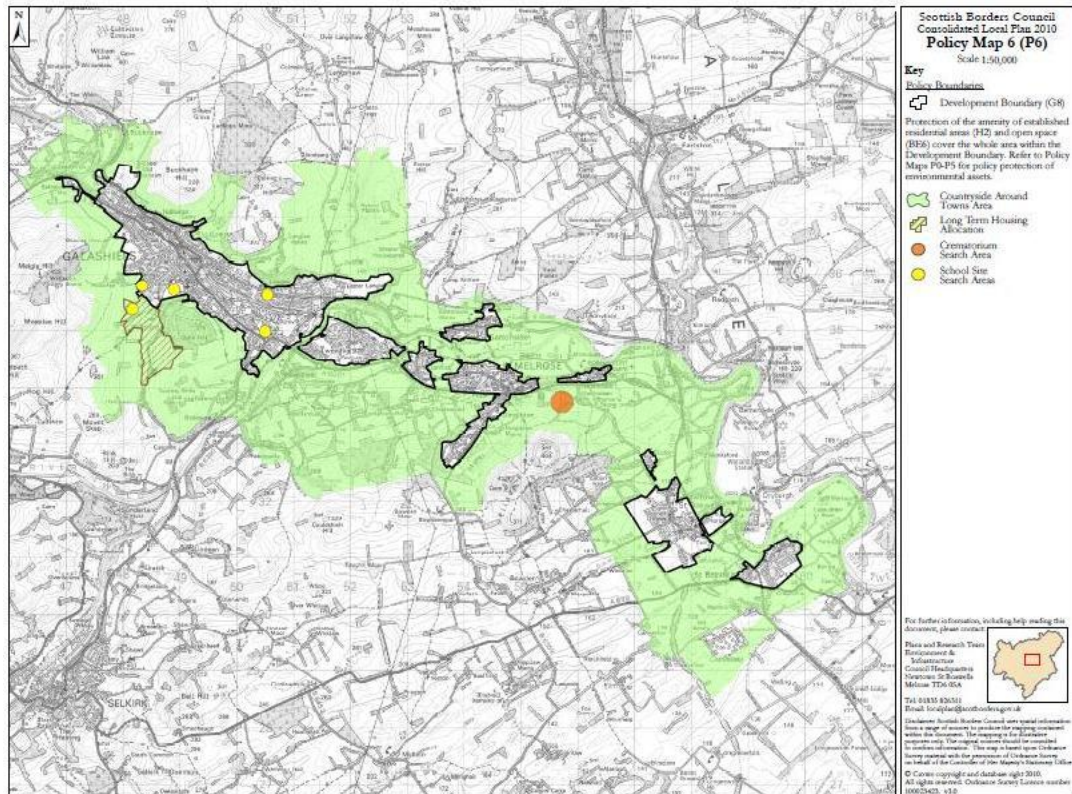
- 4.25 The Scottish Borders Development and Landscape Capacity Study¹⁸ explored the potential of the landscape around a number of Borders settlements to accommodate housing development. It sought to identify areas where expansion of settlements might be appropriate in landscape terms, and developed design guidance relating to the identified locations.
- 4.26 A report for each settlement sets out detailed analysis, sensitivity assessment, opportunities and constraints, and potential enhancements. The study focused on individual land parcels adjacent to settlements. The first phase of the study examined Duns, Eyemouth, Galashiels, Hawick, Innerleithen, Walkerburn, Jedburgh, Kelso, Newstead, Melrose, Darnick, Tweedbank, Peebles, Selkirk, and Stow. A second phase looked at Chirnside, Coldstream, Earlston, Fountainhall, Gattonside, Lauder, and West Linton.
- 4.27 New SPG on Countryside Around Towns¹⁹ extends Policy EP3 (prevention of coalescence) around the Galashiels-Melrose-St Boswells corridor. The approach to the Countryside Around Towns study has some overlap with the present work: one of the objectives is stated as “*to conserve and enhance the character, landscape and identity of settlements within the Galashiels-Melrose-St Boswells corridor.*” However, this forms part of a broader aim related to development management at settlement edges.

¹⁸ Alison Grant and Carol Anderson (2007) Scottish Borders Development and Landscape Capacity Study.

¹⁹ Scottish Borders Council (2011) Supplementary Planning Guidance on Countryside Around Towns.

- 4.28 One of the criteria that proposals within this area must meet is to enhance the existing landscape, in terms of “trees, woodland, natural and man-made heritage, access and recreational facilities”. The defined area (see **Figure 4.4**) overlaps with the existing Eildon and Leaderfoot NSA and the Eildon Hills and Bowhill AGLV, extending landscape protection beyond the designated areas.

Figure 4.4 Countryside around towns policy map

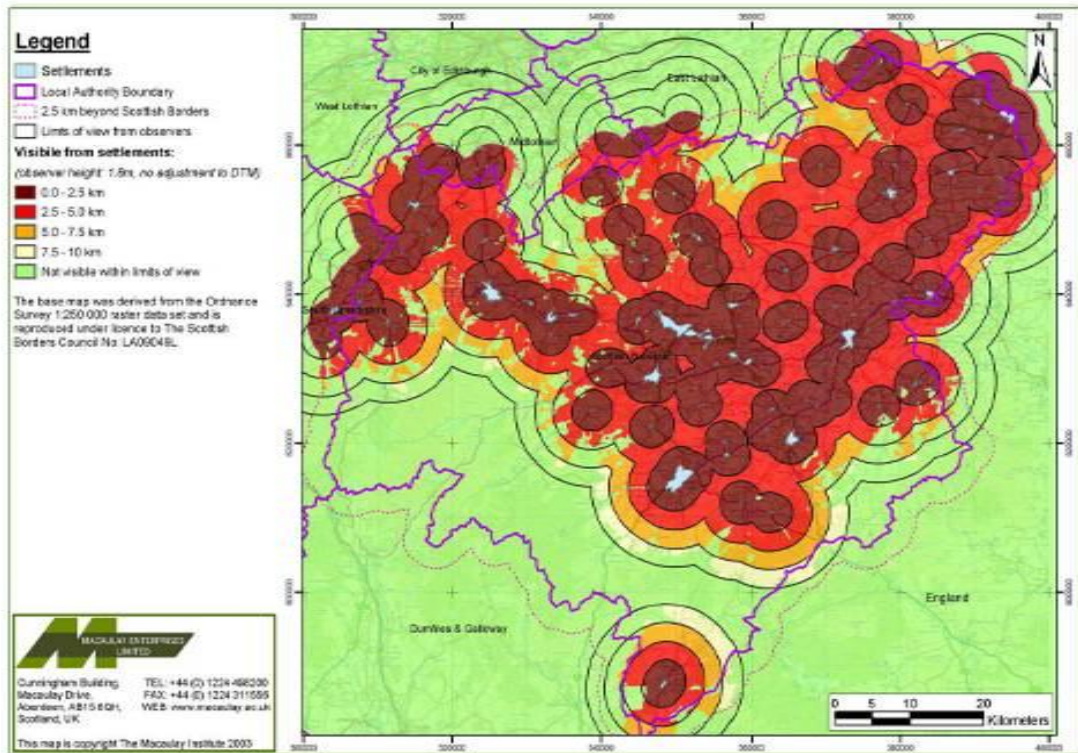


Windfarm Development

- 4.29 The 2003 study *Visibility Mapping for Windfarm Development*²⁰ attempts to map the relative visibility of potential wind farm sites across the Scottish Borders landscape. The analysis was based on two classes of receptors: main settlements; and ‘residential foci’, based on the locations of residential properties outside settlements, with an assumed turbine tip height of 100m. The resulting maps give an indication of where wind farms are likely to be visible from. It is notable that almost all the Council area is visible from the residential foci, although large parts of the south west are outside the visual ranges for the settlements, as shown in **Figure 4.5**.

²⁰ Macaulay Enterprises (2003) *Visibility Mapping for Windfarm Development – The Scottish Borders*.

Figure 4.5 Visibility from main settlements (observer height 1.8m, no adjustment to DTM)

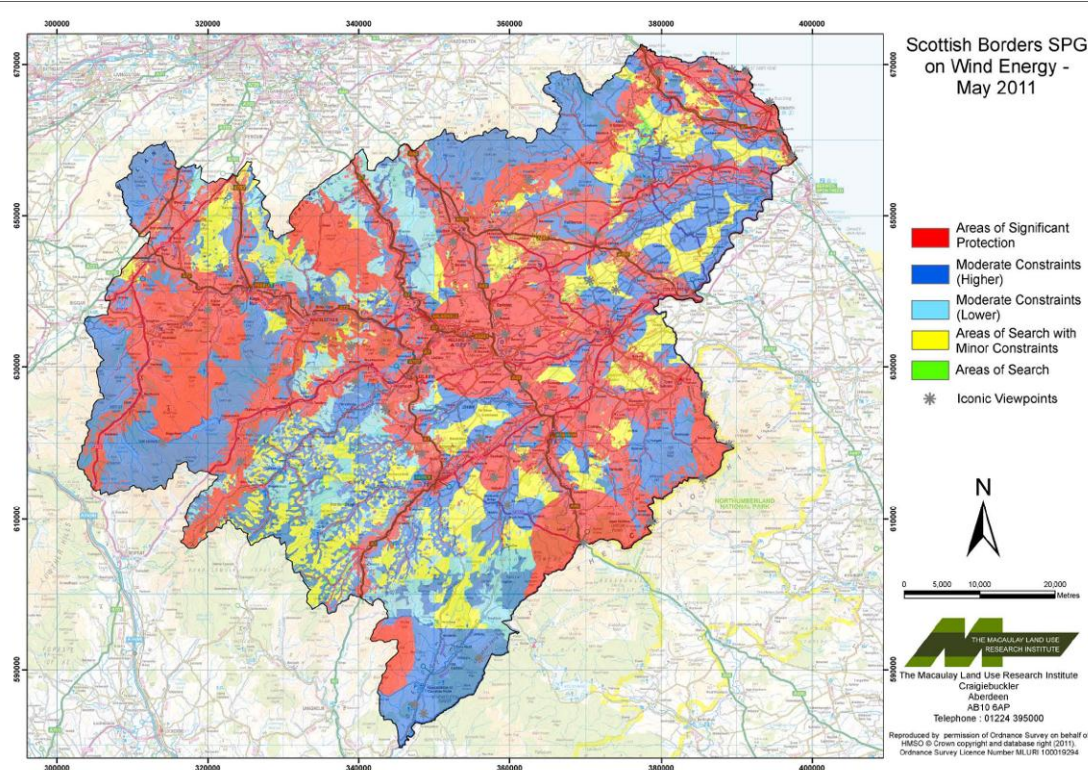


- 4.30 SPG on wind energy development was published in May 2011.²¹ The SPG follows the methodology set out in PAN 45 Annex 2,²² defining a 'spatial framework' based on a hierarchy of constraints. National Scenic Areas are identified at Stage 1 of the hierarchy ('areas to be afforded significant protection'). The existing AGLVs are identified at Stage 2 as 'areas of constraint with higher significance', although the report notes that the AGLV designation is under review, and that any new designations should be fed into a revised spatial framework.
- 4.31 **Figure 4.6** shows the Spatial Strategy map from the SPG. It is notable that 'areas of least constraint' are extremely limited, and that areas of minor constraint are also very restricted. The great majority of the Council area is defined as areas of significant protection or of higher moderate constraints.
- 4.32 Appendix D of the SPG identified a series of 'iconic viewpoints' from hill tops, walking routes and some roads. These have informed the selection of viewpoints when carrying out field work, and have influenced the ranking of the 'views' criterion of the evaluation process (see **Section 3**).

²¹ Scottish Borders Council (2011) Supplementary Planning Guidance: Wind Energy.

²² Scottish Government (2008) Planning Advice Note 45 Annex 2: Spatial Frameworks and Supplementary Planning Guidance for Wind Farms.

Figure 4.6 Wind Energy SPG: Spatial Strategy



Access and open space

- 4.33 The green space strategy for the Borders²³ seeks to ensure adequate provision of and protection for accessible open spaces. It is focused on open spaces within and around towns, including parks, play areas, playing fields, allotments, and other green spaces. The study comprised an audit of existing green space within settlements, in terms of its provision and accessibility. The strategy then sets out a series of management aims and objectives by which to improve the provision and quality of green space. SPG on green space²⁴ sets out mechanisms for developer contributions, which are identified as one means of achieving this aim.
- 4.34 The access strategy²⁵ carried out a similar audit on open access across the wider landscape. The strategy sets out a series of objectives relating to access and establishes a framework for the development of a network of core paths. Core paths are defined as routes, including waterways, which will assist the public in accessing the outdoor environment. The Council adopted a core path plan in December 2009. However, not all of the 2,000 km of public rights of way (PRoW) in the Borders are designated as core paths.
- 4.35 Among the core paths are several longer-distance routes. These include the Southern Upland Way, a nationally-designated Long Distance Route, and a section of the Pennine Way, an English National Trail. Longer-distance

²³ Halcrow and Kit Campbell Associates (nd) A Green Space Strategy for the Scottish Borders.

²⁴ Scottish Borders Council (2009) Supplementary Planning Guidance: Green Space.

²⁵ Land Use Consultants, The Small Town and Rural Development Group, The Scottish Agricultural College and Edinburgh University (2003) An Outdoor Access Strategy for the Scottish Borders.

routes are listed in **Table 4.1**. Public access to the countryside is illustrated in **Figure 4.7**.

Table 4.1: Longer-distance Routes

Route	Start/end
Berwickshire Coast Path	Berwick to St Abbs
Borders Abbeys Way	Melrose/Hawick/Jedburgh circular
Dere Street	Melrose to Hadrian's Wall
John Buchan Way	Peebles to Broughton
Pennine Way	Kirk Yetholm to Edale
St Cuthbert's Way	Melrose to Lindisfarne
Southern Upland Way	Portpatrick to Cockburnspath

Gardens and Designed Landscapes

- 4.36 The Borders Designed Landscapes Survey²⁶ was undertaken to review the extent and quality of designed landscapes in the area. There are currently 30 nationally designated Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs) within the Borders, and the survey identified a further 184 sites. The survey grades sites as nationally, regionally or locally significant, with a value of outstanding, high, some or little. GDLs are illustrated, along with other cultural heritage features, on **Figure 4.8**.
- 4.37 GDLs are present within all the regional landscape areas, but are most sparse in the Central Southern Uplands and Cheviot Hills. The landscape character types which have greatest coverage of GDLs are upland valley with woodland, upland fringe valley with settlements, pastoral upland valley, wooded upland fringe valley, pastoral upland fringe valley, rolling farmland, lowland valley with farmland, grassland with hills, lowland with drumlins and rolling lowland margin. As such the GDLs generally lie within river valley or lowland landscapes and their coverage generally overlaps with areas of ancient woodland.

²⁶ Peter McGowan Associates (2008) Borders Designed Landscapes Survey and Outline Strategy.

5 Landscape Evidence Base

- 5.1 This section sets out the landscape baseline for the Scottish Borders, and reviews the sources of information related to the Borders landscape. Existing landscape designations are discussed in more detail in **Section 6**.

THE BORDERS LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

- 5.2 The landscape character assessment (LCA) of the Scottish Borders was published in 1998 as part of the national programme of LCA, promoted by SNH. The study describes the evolution of the landscape, forces for change, and establishes a landscape classification. 30 landscape character types (LCT) are identified, which fall into five main types (upland, upland fringe, lowland, coastal and river valley). The LCTs are further divided into 70 landscape character areas, which are grouped into six Regional Landscape Areas. The landscape character types are illustrated in **Figure 5.1**.
- 5.3 The Borders LCA contains detailed descriptions of each LCT and character area, as well as an outline evaluation of sensitivity. While the sections relating to forces for change are now somewhat dated, the landscape classification is considered robust, and has formed the baseline for the current study.
- 5.4 Other LCAs within the study area include Edinburgh and Lothians, Glasgow and the Clyde Valley, and Dumfries and Galloway LCAs, all of which were prepared through the SNH programme. On the English side of the border, LCAs for Cumbria, Tynedale and Northumberland National Park, and the emerging Northumberland LCA, were consulted.
- 5.5 A review of the Borders LCA was undertaken, together with the neighbouring studies. No major changes in the landscape were identified that would entail alterations to the character areas. However, a number of modifications were made to facilitate the evaluation process. These generally involved subdividing larger areas, and extending the classification into the 5km buffer forming the outer study area. These extensions were informed by the LCA studies for Dumfries and Galloway, the Clyde Valley, the Lothians, Northumberland, and Cumbria.
- 5.6 These changes resulted in a total of 76 landscape character units (LCU), which form the basis for the evaluation. The LCUs are illustrated in **Figure 5.2**, and **Table 5.1** contains a list of LCUs, noting any changes from the Borders LCA.

Table 5.1: Landscape character units

LCU No.	LCU NAME	Changes from BLCA	LCT No. (BLCA)	Landscape Character Type (BLCA)	TYPE (BLCA)
UP1	Western Pentlands	Extended into South Lanarkshire and Lothian	1	Dissected Plateau Moorland	Upland
UP2	Lammermuir Plateau	Extended into Lothian	1	Dissected Plateau Moorland	Upland
UP3	Moorfoot Plateau	Extended into Lothian	1	Dissected Plateau Moorland	Upland
UP4	Lauder Common	Extended into Lothian	2	Plateau Grassland	Upland
UP5	Broughton Heights		3	Plateau Outliers	Upland
UP6	Eddleston/Lyne Interfluve		3	Plateau Outliers	Upland
UP7	Broadlaw	Part of Broadlaw Group	4	Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest	Upland
UP8	Hart Fell	Part of Broadlaw Group, extended into Dumfries and Galloway	4	Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest	Upland
UP9	Culter Fell	Part of Broadlaw Group, extended into South Lanarkshire	4	Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest	Upland
UPI0	Minch Moor	Part of Broadlaw Group	4	Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest	Upland
UPI1	Black Knowe	Part of Broadlaw Group	4	Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest	Upland
UPI2	Dun Knowe Group		4	Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest	Upland
UPI3	Cauldcleuch Head Group	Extended into Dumfries and Galloway	4	Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest	Upland
UPI4	Craik	Extended into Dumfries and Galloway	5	Southern Uplands Forest Covered	Upland
UPI5	Wauchope Forest	Part of Wauchope/Newcastleton, extended into Northumberland	5	Southern Uplands Forest Covered	Upland
UPI6	Larriston Fells	Part of Wauchope/Newcastleton, extended into Northumberland and Cumbria	5	Southern Uplands Forest Covered	Upland
UPI7	Cocklaw Group	Extended into Northumberland	6	Cheviot Uplands	Upland
UPI8	Falla Group		7	Cheviot Foothills	Upland
UF19	Lempitlaw	Extended into Northumberland	8	Rolling Farmland	Upland Fringe
UF20	Oxnam		8	Rolling Farmland	Upland Fringe
UF21	Westruther Platform		8	Rolling Farmland	Upland Fringe
UF22	Minto Hills		8	Rolling Farmland	Upland Fringe
UF23	West Linton Synclinal Belt	Extended into South Lanarkshire and Lothian	8	Rolling Farmland	Upland Fringe
UF24	Eye Water Platform		9	Platform Farmland	Upland Fringe

LCU No.	LCU NAME	Changes from BLCA	LCT No. (BLCA)	Landscape Character Type (BLCA)	TYPE (BLCA)
UF25	Whitehaugh		10	Grassland with Rock Outcrops	Upland Fringe
UF26	Chisholme		10	Grassland with Rock Outcrops	Upland Fringe
UF27	Allan Water		10	Grassland with Rock Outcrops	Upland Fringe
UF28	Midgard		10	Grassland with Rock Outcrops	Upland Fringe
UF29	Rubers Law		11	Grassland with Hills	Upland Fringe
UF30	Bonchester/Dunion		11	Grassland with Hills	Upland Fringe
UF31	Knock Hill		11	Grassland with Hills	Upland Fringe
UF32	Skirling	Extended into South Lanarkshire	11	Grassland with Hills	Upland Fringe
UF33	Eildon Hills		11	Grassland with Hills	Upland Fringe
UF34	West Gala		12	Undulating Grassland	Upland Fringe
UF35	East Gala		12	Undulating Grassland	Upland Fringe
UF36	Leadburn	Extended into Lothian	13	Poor Rough Grassland	Upland Fringe
UF37	Greenlaw Common		14	Upland Fringe Moorland	Upland Fringe
LO38	North Merse	Part of Lower Merse	15	Lowland with Drumlins	Lowland
LO39	Lower Tweed Valley	Part of Lower Merse, extended into Northumberland	15	Lowland with Drumlins	Lowland
LO40	Eye Water Lowland		16	Rolling Lowland Margin	Lowland
LO41	Maxwellheugh		16	Rolling Lowland Margin	Lowland
LO42	Gordon Platform		17	Lowland Margin Platform	Lowland
LO43	Black Hill/Hume Crags		18	Lowland Margin with Hills	Lowland
CO44	Coldingham		19	Coastal Farmland	Coastal
CO45	Cockburnspath	Extended into Lothian	19	Coastal Farmland	Coastal
CO46	Lamberton Moor	Extended into Northumberland	20	Coastal Pasture	Coastal
CO47	Coldingham Moor		21	Coastal Moorland	Coastal
RV48	Upper Ettrick		22	Upland Valley with Pastoral Floor	River Valley
RV49	Upper Yarrow	Extended to include St Mary's Loch	22	Upland Valley with Pastoral Floor	River Valley
RV50	Upper Tweed		22	Upland Valley with Pastoral Floor	River Valley
RV51	Liddel Water	Extended into Dumfries & Galloway and Cumbria	22	Upland Valley with Pastoral Floor	River Valley
RV52	Lyne Water		22	Upland Valley with Pastoral Floor	River Valley
RV53	Manor Water		22	Upland Valley with Pastoral Floor	River Valley

LCU No.	LCU NAME	Changes from BLCA	LCT No. (BLCA)	Landscape Character Type (BLCA)	TYPE (BLCA)
RV54	Biggar Water	Extended into South Lanarkshire	22	Upland Valley with Pastoral Floor	River Valley
RV55	Eddleston Water		23	Pastoral Upland Valley	River Valley
RV56	Gala Water		23	Pastoral Upland Valley	River Valley
RV57	Upper Whiteadder		24	Upland Valley with Farmland	River Valley
RV58	Upper Leader		24	Upland Valley with Farmland	River Valley
RV59	Middle Tweed		25	Upland Valley with Woodland	River Valley
RV60	Lower Ettrick/Yarrow		25	Upland Valley with Woodland	River Valley
RV61	Upper Teviot		26	Pastoral Upland Fringe Valley	River Valley
RV62	Bowmont Water	Extended into Northumberland	26	Pastoral Upland Fringe Valley	River Valley
RV63	Borthwick Water		26	Pastoral Upland Fringe Valley	River Valley
RV64	Eye Water		26	Pastoral Upland Fringe Valley	River Valley
RV65	Lower Leader		26	Pastoral Upland Fringe Valley	River Valley
RV66	Kale Water		26	Pastoral Upland Fringe Valley	River Valley
RV67	Tweed/Gala/Ettrick confluence		27	Upland Fringe Valley with Settlements	River Valley
RV68	Jed Water		28	Wooded Upland Fringe Valley	River Valley
RV69	Middle Whiteadder		28	Wooded Upland Fringe Valley	River Valley
RV70	Slitrig Water		28	Wooded Upland Fringe Valley	River Valley
RV71	Ale Water		28	Wooded Upland Fringe Valley	River Valley
RV72	Rule Water		28	Wooded Upland Fringe Valley	River Valley
RV73	Lower Tweed		29	Lowland Valley with Farmland	River Valley
RV74	Lower Teviot		29	Lowland Valley with Farmland	River Valley
RV75	Lower Kale		29	Lowland Valley with Farmland	River Valley
RV76	Lower Eye Water		30	Coastal Valley	River Valley

6 Audit of Landscape Designations in the Scottish Borders

INTRODUCTION

- 6.1 This section presents a brief audit of the existing suite of national and local landscape designations in or immediately adjacent to the Scottish Borders Council area. The audit presents a brief overview of each designation, its background (where available), key characteristics, and any recent changes.
- 6.2 Within the Scottish Borders are two National Scenic Areas (NSA), and six locally-designated Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV). These are listed in **Table 6.1** and illustrated in **Figure 6.1**.

Table 6.1: Landscape designations within the Scottish Borders

Name	Area (Ha)
Eildon and Leaderfoot NSA	3,600
Upper Tweeddale NSA	10,500
Berwickshire Coast AGLV	1,970
Cheviot Foothills AGLV	20,911
Eildon Hills and Bowhill AGLV	12,702
Lammermuir Hills AGLV	26,914
Pentland Hills AGLV	5,400
Tweedsmuir Hills and Upper Tweeddale AGLV	61,397

NATIONAL SCENIC AREAS

- 6.3 The two NSAs in the Scottish Borders are among 40 NSAs originally identified by the Countryside Commission for Scotland (CCS), and described as being ‘*of unsurpassed attractiveness which must be conserved as part of our national heritage*’.²⁷ The designation came into effect in 1980.

NSAs were reviewed in the late 1990s, and this led to a process of identifying ‘special qualities’ for each NSA. This process was based on a standard methodology,²⁸ and began in 2007. Draft material was initially made available, and this was considered during preparation of the Interim Report. The work has now been published,²⁹ and updated information is included in the audit.

²⁷ Countryside Commission for Scotland (1978) *Scotland’s Scenic Heritage*.

²⁸ David Tyldesley & Associates (2006). *Identifying the Special Qualities of Scotland’s National Scenic Areas*. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No.255.

²⁹ Scottish Natural Heritage (2010). *The special qualities of the National Scenic Areas*. SNH Commissioned Report No.374

AREAS OF GREAT LANDSCAPE VALUE

- 6.4 There are six AGLVs currently identified in the Adopted Scottish Borders Local Plan, covering 27.4% of the Council area. These designations originated in the 1960s, when the County Councils of Peeblesshire, Berwickshire and Roxburghshire identified specific areas to be protected under their development plans. Written reports outlining their character and quality were prepared at this time.
- 6.5 Over the intervening period, development plans have been repeatedly rewritten and revised, and the areas of AGLV have been reiterated. No formal justification in terms of landscape character or value currently exists for the protection of these landscapes.
- 6.6 The Adopted Local Plan contains Policy EP2, referring to Policy N11 of the Scottish Borders Structure Plan, which states that, within AGLVs, the Council will *'seek to safeguard landscape quality, and will have particular regard to the landscape impact of the proposed development'*. In the justification, AGLVs are described as *'areas of identified landscape quality, as defined by the local authority'*. It is stated that the Council will be *'guided by the Borders Landscape Character Assessment'*, and that *'protection is less stringent than needs to be the case for NSAs.'* The text of the plan also acknowledges that the designated areas are potentially dated, and proposes a review of local landscape designations across the Council area.
- 6.7 The audit seeks to identify recent changes to the landscapes within the AGLVs. It also describes likely key characteristics and special qualities of each area, based on desk review of the Borders LCA. No attempt has been made to justify the existing AGLV boundaries or areas, as the Borders-wide evaluation process undertaken for this LLDR study will lead to the redefinition of local landscape designations.

PROTECTED LANDSCAPES IN NEIGHBOURING AREAS

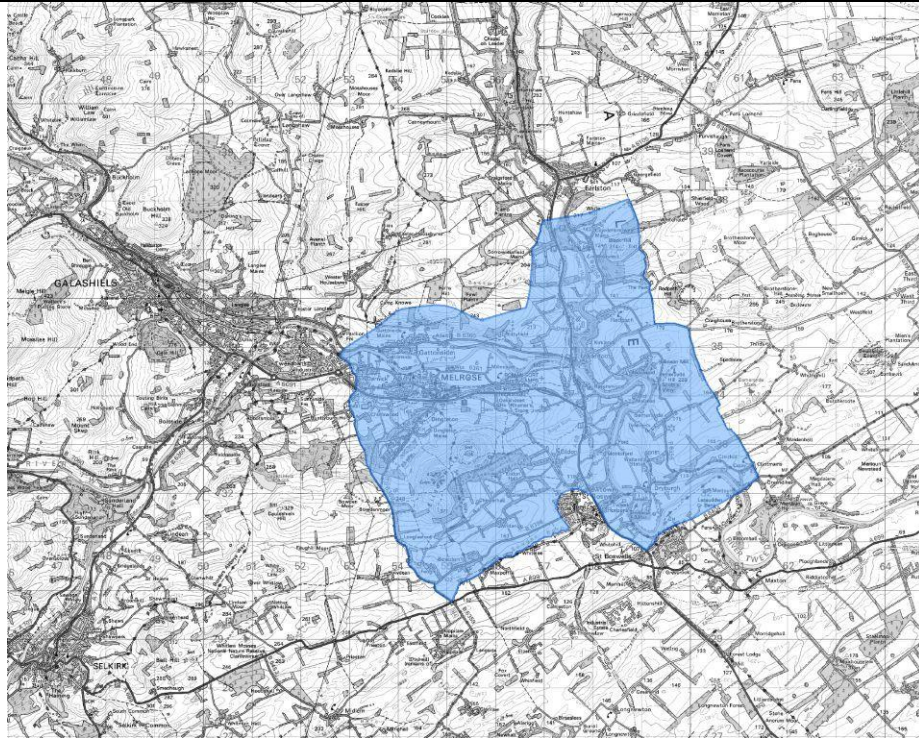
- 6.8 A study area extending 5km from the boundaries of the Scottish Borders was used to identify designations in neighbouring areas. These include the Northumberland National Park and Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), as well as local landscape designations in Northumberland, Cumbria, Dumfries and Galloway, South Lanarkshire, West Lothian, Midlothian and East Lothian. These designations have not been examined in detail, but are listed in **Table 6.2** and illustrated in **Figure 6.1**.

Table 6.2: Landscape designations adjacent to the Scottish Borders

Local Landscape Designation	Local authority area
Lammermuir Hills AGLV	East Lothian
Pentlands, Moorfoots and Lammermuirs AGLV	Midlothian
North and South Esk and the Tyne AGLV	Midlothian
Penicuik, Arniston and Vogrie AGLV	Midlothian
Gladhouse, Edgelaw, Glencorse, Roseberry, Loganlea and North Esk Reservoirs AGLV	Midlothian
Pentland Hills AGLV *	Edinburgh
Pentland Hills AGLV*	West Lothian
Pentlands SLA*	South Lanarkshire
Upper Clyde Valley SLA*	South Lanarkshire
Southern Uplands Culter Fell SLA*	South Lanarkshire
Upper Annandale Regional Scenic Area (RSA)	Dumfries and Galloway
Eskdale RSA	Dumfries and Galloway
Liddesdale Landscape of County Importance	Cumbria
Northumberland National Park	Northumberland
Kyloe Hills and Glendale Area of High Landscape Value (AHLV) *	Northumberland
Tweed Valley AHLV *	Northumberland

* Local landscape designations in these areas are currently under review.

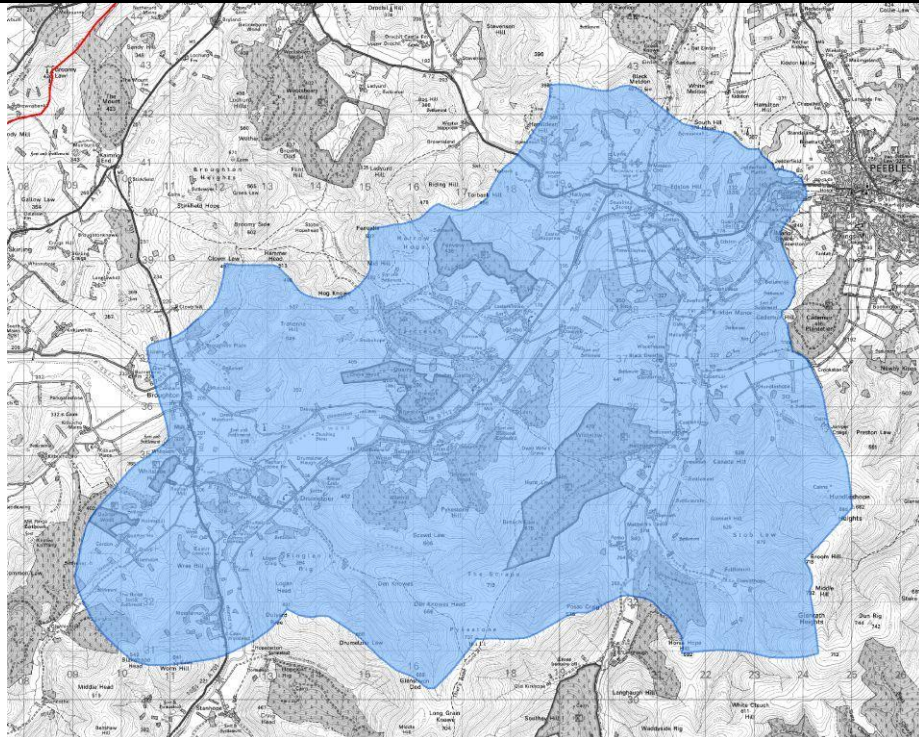
Eildon and Leaderfoot NSA



Location, extent and boundaries	This NSA lies on the River Tweed, between Melrose and St Boswells, and covers 3,600 ha. The boundary follows the B6359 to the west of the Eildon Hills, turning east along the north bank of the Tweed and taking in the Leader valley as far as Cowdenknowes. The eastern boundary follows minor roads and tracks; the southern boundary is drawn tightly around the north edges of St Boswells and Newtown St Boswells.
Attributes	The two centres of the designated area are the three peaks of the Eildon Hills, and the confluence of the Tweed and the Leader Water at Leaderfoot. The area includes the town of Melrose, as well as the smaller settlements of Gattonside, Bowden and Dryburgh.
Overlapping designations	There are Inventory-listed designed landscapes at Bemersyde and Chiefswood, with SBC designed landscapes at Dingleton, Eildon Hills, Monksford, Dryburgh Abbey, Ravenswood, Gledswood, Drygrange and Cowdenknowes. Darnick, Gattonside, Melrose, Newstead, Maxpoffle, Dryburgh, Drygrange and St Boswells are all conservation areas. There are extensive SAMs at Newstead, Melrose Abbey, Dryburgh Abbey, and Eildon North Hill. The River Tweed and its tributaries, and the adjacent woodland, are SACs. The Eildon Hills and Bowhill AGLV includes the whole NSA, and extends west.
Recent development	Proposals are in progress for redevelopment and expansion of Newtown St Boswells.
Date of designation / review and any justification	This area was designated with the other NSAs in 1980. The area is described in <i>Scotland's Scenic Heritage (1978)</i> as follows: <i>'Between its confluence with the Ettrick and that with the Teviot, the Tweed exhibits neither the youthful characteristics of an upland river, nor the mature nature of a lowland river that it assumes below Kelso, but its valley is wide and moderate, open and fertile, while still affording fine views of the surrounding hills. The scene comprises shapely uniform hills enclosing the valley, the winding, incised and wooded course of the river, mixed land use of arable, pasture, plantation and moorland, and a settlement pattern that still bears a scale and form closely related to the topography. Adding drama to the landscape the trio of the volcanic Eildon Hills</i>

	<p><i>elegantly overhangs the valley, and dominates from this position a wide area of Border scenery. Across the Leader, Black Hill echoes their shape and character, the whole area being seen to best advantage from the famous Scott's View above Dryburgh. Abbeys, bridges and mansion houses add variety of incident to this very humanised and cultivated landscape.'</i></p>
<p>Key characteristics and special qualities</p>	<p>The special qualities report describes this area as <i>'the essence of the Borders landscape'</i>, at the meeting point of three Regional Landscape Areas: the Tweed Lowlands; the Lammermuir and Moorfoot Hills; and the Central Southern Uplands. The special qualities are listed as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'Great landscape diversity within a compact area;</i> • <i>The distinctive triad of the Eildon Hills;</i> • <i>Spectacular views from the hill summits;</i> • <i>A strongly united landscape pattern of lively rhythm and colour;</i> • <i>A richly wooded scene of great variety;</i> • <i>The Tweed, an iconic river of international renown;</i> • <i>A rich array of historic buildings, structures and estates;</i> • <i>The hub of Border settlement;</i> • <i>A harmonious and varied prospect from unequalled viewpoints;</i> • <i>Inspiration for the arts, literature and painting;</i> • <i>Border country ballads and battles.</i> <p><i>'Location-specific qualities'</i> are identified for the historic crossings of Leaderfoot, Scott's View, and the William Wallace statue above Dryburgh.</p> <p>It is clear from the detail of the report that variety and diversity, combined with recognisable pattern, is the key aspect of this landscape. Depth is provided by associations of the Tweed, Walter Scott, and other cultural and historic associations which make this a nationally important landscape. A series of established viewpoints allow it to be appreciated.</p>


Upper Tweeddale NSA



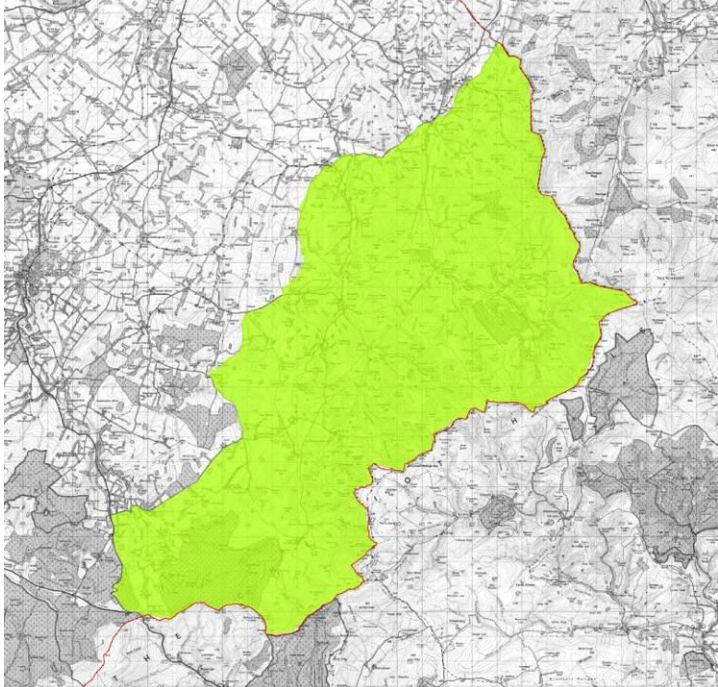
<p>Location, extent and boundaries</p>	<p>This NSA takes in the upper part of the Tweed Valley, west of Peebles. It covers 10,500 ha, and includes the surrounding hills and tributary valleys. Boundaries follow ridgelines to the north and south of the Tweed Valley, defining a visually contained area.</p>
<p>Attributes</p>	<p>The NSA includes the Tweed Valley, which in this location has upland characteristics, though with a complex mix of landcover. There are areas of policy woodlands associated with historic buildings; both medieval tower houses such as Neidpath and later country houses as at Stobo. There are small settlements within the valley, but the uplands are sparsely populated. The small-scale valley contrasts sharply with the large-scale uplands which surround it.</p>
<p>Overlapping designations</p>	<p>There are Inventory-listed designed landscapes at Dawyck and Stobo, as well as SBC designed landscapes at Broughton Place, Rachan, Neidpath Castle and Barns House. The upland area to the south is part of the Tweedsmuir Hills SSSI, while the Tweed and tributaries are part of the Tweed SAC. The Tweedsmuir Hills and Upper Tweeddale AGLV covers the whole NSA and extends to the south.</p>
<p>Recent development</p>	<p>No major recent developments have been identified.</p>
<p>Date of designation and any justification</p>	<p>This area was designated with the other NSAs in 1980. The area is described in <i>Scotland's Scenic Heritage</i> (1978) as follows:</p> <p><i>'The upper course of the River Tweed is contained in a narrow steep-sided valley flanked by rounded hills of considerable stature. The general sense of containment created by the narrow valley is given interest and variety by the inter-relationship of woodlands, sometimes shelterbelt, hedgerow or plantation, and both deciduous and coniferous, with farmland which ranges from rough grazing on the hill, through parkland, pasture and arable to riverside meadows. The valley floor widens at each of the confluences of the Holm, Lyne and Manor Waters to give longer views into these tributary glens and the higher summits at their heads, and then narrows again at Neidpath where the castle guards the defile between Cademuir and the Meldons. The river itself contributes greatly to the scene, winding through its haugh lands with a majesty that assumes greater magnitude than it really possesses. The dale is ornamented with castles,</i></p>

	<p><i>mansions, kirks, and prosperous farmhouses, and the hills marked with the innumerable remains of ancient occupation.'</i></p>
<p>Key characteristics and special qualities</p>	<p>The special qualities report describes this area as a richly diverse landscape. It is considered to have more sharply-defined valleys, with steeper and more rugged surrounding hills, than the surrounding landscape. There are also significant cultural elements to the landscape. The special qualities are listed as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'Diverse scenery of great charm and soft beauty;</i> • <i>The historical continuity of settlement;</i> • <i>Green, intimate pastoral valleys;</i> • <i>Expansive, open hills with panoramic views;</i> • <i>The variety of woodlands and trees;</i> • <i>The large, geometric fields;</i> • <i>The distinctive vernacular buildings;</i> • <i>Tranquil riverine landscapes.'</i> <p>Again, the special qualities revolve around variety, although in this case the contrast of the open uplands and the intimate wooded valleys is the key aspect of the NSA. The tranquillity of this area is in contrast to the Eildon and Leaderfoot NSA. The report emphasises the importance of the cultural aspect of the landscape, including the wealth of historic features and the settled nature of the landscape, with distinctive vernacular and Scots baronial architecture. The ability to appreciate the landscape in 360 degree views from accessible landmark summits is considered important.</p>

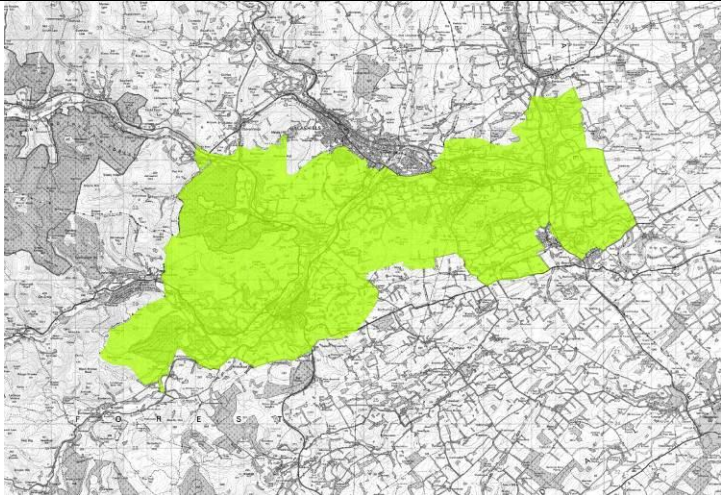
Berwickshire Coast AGLV

	
<p>Location, extent and boundaries</p>	<p>This is a linear AGLV which extends along the east coast of the Scottish Borders Council area. Its northern extent is at Dunglass Mains on the border with East Lothian Council and its southern extent is at Catcairn Bushes, around 2km north of the English border. The AGLV covers an area of 1,970 hectares.</p> <p>To the north the area is physically bounded by the coastline. To the south the boundary is physically defined by the A1107 and minor roads. Some sections of the boundary to the south are not physical.</p>
<p>Attributes</p>	<p>This is a coastal landscape with undulating topography, steep coastal edges and cliffs. Land cover comprises agricultural fields and settlement is formed by scattered farmsteads and the small town of Eyemouth. Access is via minor roads and footpaths. The area includes the viewpoint and visitor centre of St Abb's Head.</p>
<p>Overlapping designations</p>	<p>The Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast SAC follows the coastal edge for the southern half of the AGLV. There are a number of SSSIs along the coast and a NNR at St Abb's Head. There are Conservation Areas at Eyemouth and St Abbs. Part of the Gunsreen SBC designed landscape is within the AGLV.</p>
<p>Recent development</p>	<p>No major recent developments have been identified.</p>
<p>Date of designation and any justification</p>	<p>This designation originated in the 1960s, but no detailed justification is currently available.</p>
<p>Key characteristics and special qualities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High, near-vertical cliffs with strongly-folded rocks of geodiversity interest • Dominant, dramatic coastline • Expansive, unobstructed views along the coast and out to sea • Diversity of smaller-scale landscape features • Close relationship between setting, landform, and climate • Relative tranquillity arising from lack of transport routes • Cultural heritage features associated with strategic importance of the coastal route

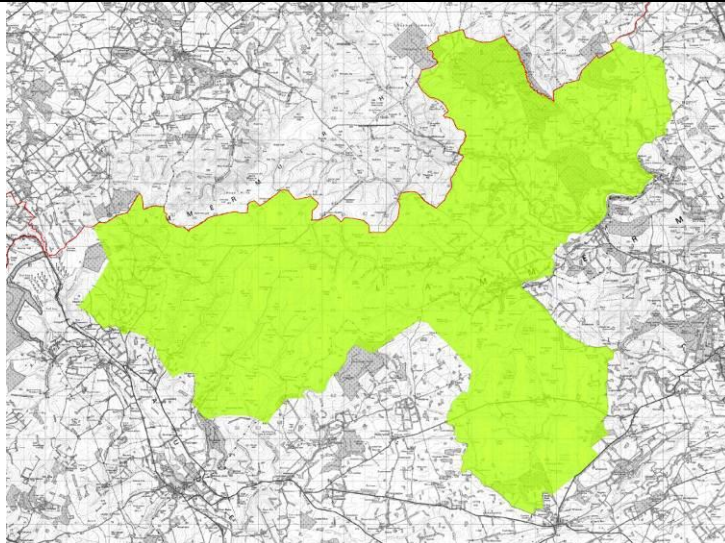
Cheviot Foothills AGLV

	
<p>Location, extent and boundaries</p>	<p>The Cheviot Foothills AGLV lies along a section of the east border of the Scottish Borders Council area and covers the north side of the Cheviot Hills. The AGLV's northern extent begins at Kirk Yetholm and the valley of Bowmont Water. It stretches south west along the Cheviots to the A68 and Leithope Forest. It covers an area of 20,911 hectares. Boundaries are formed by the Scottish Borders Council area boundary to the east and mainly by roads to the west.</p>
<p>Attributes</p>	<p>This is an upland landscape formed by a continuously undulating landform of rounded hill tops and a combination of steep and gentle valleys. Land cover comprises a mix of agricultural fields, upland grassland, heather moorland and a portion of coniferous forest. There are numerous valley streams including the larger watercourses of Bowmont Water and Kale Water. Settlement is formed by individual farmsteads in valley bottoms. Access is via minor roads, tracks and a network of footpaths. The Pennine Way follows part of the east edge of the AGLV.</p>
<p>Overlapping designations</p>	<p>Northumberland National Park adjoins this area to the south and west. The larger watercourses are part of the Tweed SAC.</p>
<p>Recent development</p>	<p>Whitton Wind Farm is at application stage and lies on the west edge of the AGLV near Morebattle.</p>
<p>Date of designation and any justification</p>	<p>This designation originated in the 1960s, but no detailed justification is currently available.</p>
<p>Key characteristics and special qualities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinctive dome- and cone-shaped hills resulting from igneous geology • Simple, uniform character • Lack of large-scale detractive features • Long-range, unobstructed views • Recreational value of walking routes • High archaeological heritage value

Eildon Hills and Bowhill AGLV

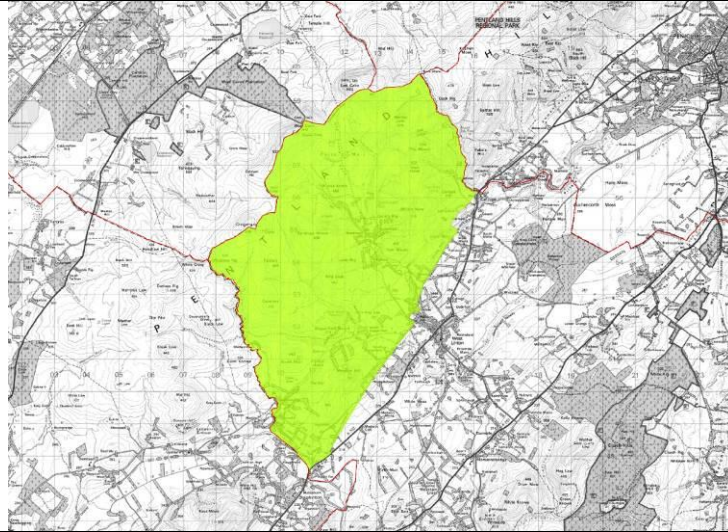
	
<p>Location, extent and boundaries</p>	<p>This AGLV lies to the south of Galashiels, covers Melrose and Selkirk and follows the valleys of the River Tweed and tributaries. It stretches in a linear form from Pernassie Hill in the west to Lauderdale in the east. It covers an area of 12,702 hectares. Boundaries are in part formed by settlement edges and minor roads.</p>
<p>Attributes</p>	<p>This is a lowland landscape formed by undulating low hills and river valleys. Land cover comprises a patchwork of agricultural fields on lower ground, interspersed with areas of woodland and field trees. Higher ground is covered by upland grassland, heather moorland and areas of plantation forest. The River Tweed flows through the area. Settlement is situated in the bottom of the river valleys. Larger settlement within the AGLV includes the towns of Selkirk and Melrose. Galashiels borders the northern edge of the AGLV. Other settlement comprises small villages and some individual farmsteads. The area is easily accessible through the network of roads servicing the towns.</p>
<p>Overlapping designations</p>	<p>The eastern half of the AGLV is covered by the Eildon and Leaderfoot NSA. Much of the AGLV is covered by designed landscapes and there are a number of ancient woodlands. The River Tweed is designated as an SAC. The area is covered by many footpaths and PRowWs.</p>
<p>Recent development</p>	<p>Broadmeadows Wind Farm is at application stage and lies close to the west edge of the AGLV. Proposals are in progress for redevelopment and expansion of Newtown St Boswells.</p>
<p>Date of designation and any justification</p>	<p>This designation originated in the 1960s, but no detailed justification is currently available.</p>
<p>Key characteristics and special qualities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dramatic Eildon Hills are an iconic Borders landmark • Contrast of enclosed wooded Tweed valley, and open hills above • Heart of 'Scott Country' including Scott's View and Abbotsford House • Accessible hills offering broad views • Visual diversity of elements: woodland, forestry, moorland, rocky outcrops, pasture, arable land and settlement • Rich heritage of historic features, including major Roman sites, medieval abbeys and tower houses, and country houses with designed landscapes

Lammermuir Hills AGLV



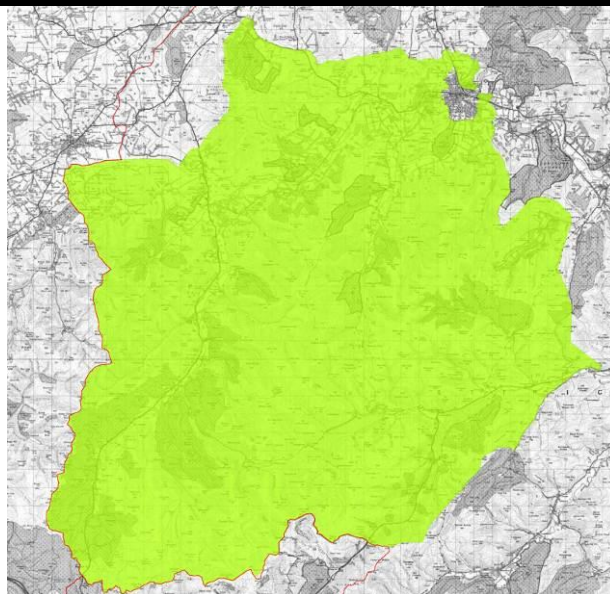
Location, extent and boundaries	This AGLV lies on the north border of the Scottish Borders Council area. It covers the southern half of the Lammermuir Hills. The area extends from Headshaw Hill in the west to Paits Hill and Ecclaw Hill in the east, and down to Greenlaw in the south. It covers an area of 26,914 hectares. The northern boundary is defined by the edge of the Council area. The remaining boundaries are defined by a combination of roads, rivers and topography.
Attributes	This is an upland landscape formed by the broad Lammermuir Hills and a series of river valleys. Land cover is formed by heather moorland on the higher hills and a patchwork of agricultural fields in lower valley areas. There is plantation forest present in the east of the area. Settlement is sparse and limited to valley bottoms. The area is accessed by minor roads and footpaths.
Overlapping designations	There are two SBC designed landscapes, Rathburne and Longformacus, in the central south section of the area. The River Tweed is designated as an SAC and a number of its tributaries flow through the area. Greenlaw Moor, in the south of the area, is a SSSI and Ramsar site, and the nearby Dogden Moss is a SAC. Lammer Law SSSI abuts the north west boundary of the AGLV. To the north, the landscape forms part of the Lammermuir Hills AGLV in East Lothian.
Recent development	400kV overhead power lines were constructed across the plateau in the 1980s. In the north of the AGLV Crystal Rig Wind Farm has been operational since 2004. The nearby Fallago Rigg Wind Farm has been consented following an appeal. In addition, operational wind farms lie close to the edge of the AGLV at Aikengall, Black Hill, and Dunlaw. Planning permission has been given to extend Soutra Hill Quarry close to the west edge of the AGLV.
Date of designation and any justification	This designation originated in the 1960s, but no detailed justification is currently available.
Key characteristics and special qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large-scale open landscape, with high-degree of naturalness and some wild land character • Unobstructed, long-range views • Distinctive dome-shaped Dirrington Hills • Features of biodiversity, geodiversity and historic interest • Visual diversity of the Whiteadder valley contrasts with the upland

Pentland Hills AGLV



Location, extent and boundaries	This AGLV covers a section of the Pentland Hills on the north west border of the Scottish Borders Council area. The AGLV covers a ridge from Bleak Law to Scald Law, including the high point of Byrehope Mount (534m). The AGLV covers an area of 5,400 hectares. It is defined to the north, west and south by the border of SBC and to the south-east by the base of the hills.
Attributes	This is an upland landscape with rounded hill tops and steep valleys. High points are around 500m AOD and valleys descend to around 330m AOD. Land cover comprises upland grassland and heather moorland. There are a number of reservoirs in the area including Baddingsgill, North Esk and West Water. Settlement is minimal and mainly comprises a hamlet at Baddingsgill. West Linton borders the east edge of the area. A few minor roads and footpaths cross the area.
Overlapping designations	There is an SBC designed landscape at Baddingsgill, with others on the lower ground to the south-east. West Water reservoir is a SPA and Ramsar site and there are a number of SSSIs. The Pentlands extend north into Midlothian, Edinburgh and West Lothian, where they are covered by AGLV designations, and also form the Pentland Hills Regional Park. To the south-west the hills are part of the Upper Clyde RSA in South Lanarkshire, and also the draft Pentlands SLA.
Recent development	A wind farm proposal has come forward at Harrows Law, to the west of the AGLV in South Lanarkshire/West Lothian.
Date of designation and any justification	This designation originated in the 1960s, but no detailed justification is currently available.
Key characteristics and special qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large-scale open landscape, with a high degree of naturalness and some wild land character • Unobstructed, long-range views • Distinctive Old Red Sandstone geology • Features of biodiversity, geodiversity and historic interest • Relationship with the lowland to the south-east

Tweedsmuir Hills and Upper Tweeddale AGLV



Location, extent and boundaries	This AGLV is situated on the west edge of the Scottish Borders Council area. The area extends from close to the A74 in the west to Peebles in the north and St Mary's Loch in the south east. It covers an area of 61,397 hectares. The west and south boundaries are defined by the Council area boundary. To the east and north the boundaries are defined by topography, roads, footpaths and settlement edges.
Attributes	This is an upland landscape of high hills, up to 840m AOD on Broad Law. There is a mix of steep hillsides with narrow valleys in the higher areas, with gentler slopes and broader flatter valleys. Land cover is formed by patchworks of agricultural fields and woodland copses on lower ground, and heather moorland and plantation forest on higher ground. Settlement is concentrated in Peebles and there are scattered hamlets and properties in valley bottoms. There are a number of large reservoirs in the south of the area. The A701 runs from north to south through the west side of the area.
Overlapping designations	The Upper Tweeddale NSA covers the northern part of the area. There are Inventory-listed designed landscapes at Stobo, Dawyck and The Glen, as well as several SBC designed landscapes around Peebles and along the Tweed valley. The Moffat Hills SAC borders the south of the AGLV, and a number of the rivers and St Marys Loch are part of the Tweed SAC. The large Tweedsmuir SSSI lies in the centre of the AGLV. The Upper Clyde RSA is adjacent to the AGLV in South Lanarkshire, and the Upper Clyde Valley and Southern Uplands draft SLAs include part of this area.
Recent development	Glenkerie Wind Farm has been consented within the AGLV, on the west side of the upper Tweed. Clyde Wind Farm is under construction in South Lanarkshire, on a site adjacent to the AGLV.
Date of designation and any justification	This designation originated in the 1960s, but no detailed justification is currently available.
Key characteristics and special qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinctive smooth rolling landforms • Grand scale, combined with remoteness gives the area wild land characteristics • Visual diversity of Tweed Valley woodlands and farmland contrasts with the open uplands • Attractive valley landscape of designed landscapes and policy woodland • Open, long-range views from hill summits • Large areas of biodiversity interest

7 Landscape Evaluation


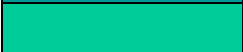


- 7.1 This section discusses the findings of the landscape evaluation. The landscape evaluation process is largely quantitative, and is described in **Section 3**. The findings have been updated based on responses to public consultation.
- 7.2 The Interim Report presented the findings of the first draft of this evaluation. The final evaluation presented here has been further refined through consultation with the steering group, and through targeted field survey work. An appropriate weighting has also been applied to the results, as described below.
- 7.3 As set out in **Section 3**, detailed field work was targeted at the highest-scoring 50% of LCUs, based on the initial desk-based evaluation, although all LCUs were visited in order to validate the initial assessment stage. LCUs which were surveyed in detail are listed in **Table 7.1** and illustrated in **Figure 7.1**.

Table 7.1: LCUs included in detailed field survey

LCU	Name	LCU	Name
UPI	Western Pentlands	CO47	Coldingham Moor
UP2	Lammermuir Plateau	RV48	Upper Ettrick
UP3	Moorfoot Plateau	RV49	Upper Yarrow
UP5	Broughton Heights	RV50	Upper Tweed
UP7	Broadlaw	RV53	Manor Water
UP8	Hart Fell	RV54	Biggar Water
UP9	Culter Fell	RV56	Gala Water
UPI0	Minch Moor	RV57	Upper Whiteadder
UPI3	Cauldcleuch Head Group	RV58	Upper Leader
UPI7	Cocklaw Group	RV59	Middle Tweed
UF23	West Linton Synclinal Belt	RV60	Lower Ettrick/Yarrow
UF29	Rubers Law	RV61	Upper Teviot
UF30	Bonchester/Dunion	RV62	Bowmont Water
UF31	Knock Hill	RV65	Lower Leader
UF32	Skirling	RV67	Tweed/Gala/Ettrick confluence
UF33	Eildon Hills	RV68	Jed Water
UF34	West Gala	RV69	Middle Whiteadder
LO39	Lower Tweed Valley	RV72	Rule Water
LO43	Black Hill/Hume Crag	RV73	Lower Tweed
CO44	Coldingham	RV74	Lower Teviot
CO45	Cockburnspath	RV76	Lower Eye Water
CO46	Lamberton Moor		

RESULTS BY EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 7.4 The evaluation tables for each of the 76 LCUs are included in **Appendix 2**. These tables have been amended following public consultation, and the results have been updated accordingly, as noted in **Section 3**. The findings have been mapped separately for each of the twelve criteria, resulting in the series of maps presented in **Figures 7.2 to 7.13**. The key to Figures 7.2 to 7.13 is given below:

	Very High
	High
	Medium
	Low

Representativeness

- 7.5 The Representativeness map (**Figure 7.2**) shows the majority of the Borders scoring high, since the common features of hills and valleys recur across large areas. Only the central sections of the Tweed Valley (RV59 and RV67) were rated very high, as these areas are considered to have a particularly strong sense of place, and are often considered to be the ‘heart of the Borders’. The coast, the Merse, the Cheviot Hills, and some of the moorland on the northern fringe of the Council area, were all evaluated as less representative of the Borders.

Rarity

- 7.6 Conversely, rarity (**Figure 7.3**) was assessed as low or medium across the majority of LCUs. The rolling hills and river valleys recur across large areas and do not have rarity value. Particular combinations of features, or unusual or distinctive landforms, were rated more highly. Very high rarity value was assigned to the Cheviots (UPI7), the coastal moorland at Coldingham Moor (CO47), the distinctive Dirrington Laws (UF37), and the iconic Eildon Hills (UF33).

Condition

- 7.7 Condition (**Figure 7.4**) was assessed as high in the majority of the areas, with the well-kept coastland around Coldingham rated very high (CO44). The moorlands to the north, west and south of the Borders, and the Cheviots and neighbouring areas were the main locations ranking medium for condition.

Intactness

- 7.8 No areas were ranked very high for intactness (**Figure 7.5**). Most of the western uplands, and the Teviot Valley and surroundings, were rated high, with the majority of LCUs rated medium. Extensively afforested areas in the

south were rated low, as well as coastal areas affected by the busy A1 corridor.

Figure 7.2 Representativeness

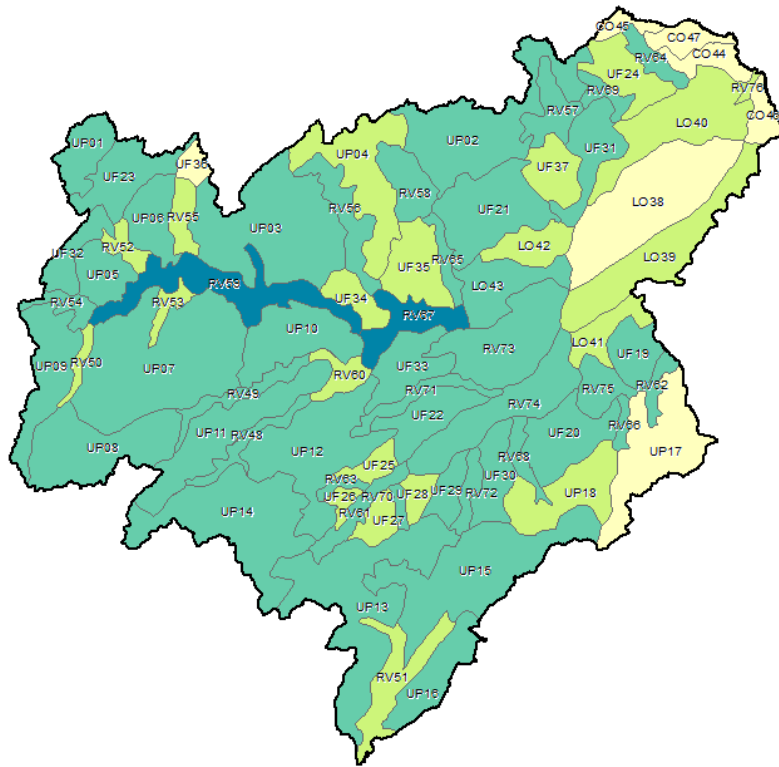


Figure 7.3 Rarity

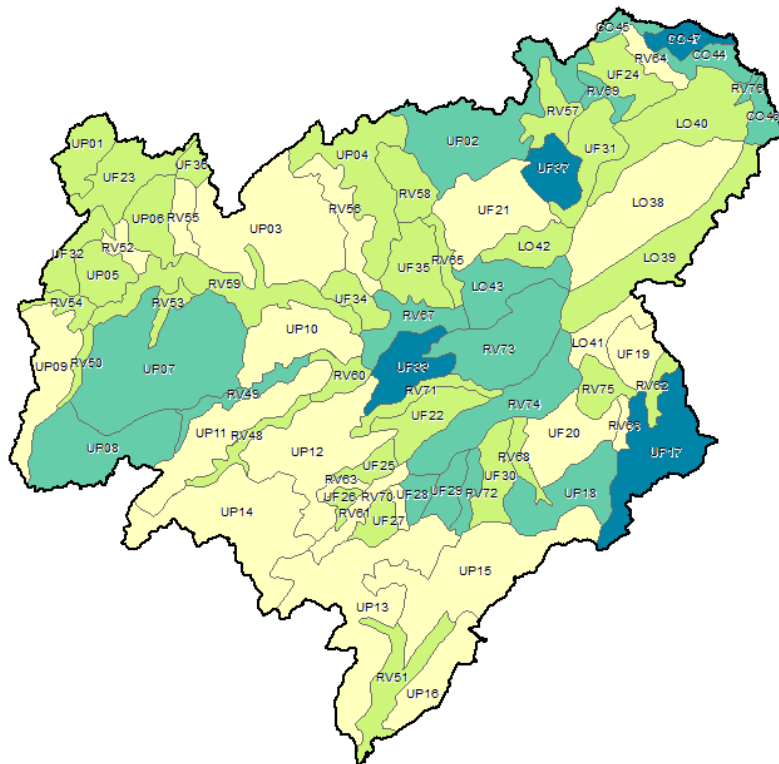


Figure 7.4 Condition



Figure 7.5 Intactness



Wildness

- 7.9 Wild land is limited within the Borders, though there are areas with significant wildness character (**Figure 7.6**). Only the remote uplands of the west were evaluated as very high, with high also limited to uplands, with one exception (UF37 Greenlaw Common). The remaining uplands and most upland fringe were considered to be of medium wildness value, with the lowland and river valleys almost exclusively low.

Scenic quality

- 7.10 The generally high quality of the Borders landscape is reflected in the scenic quality map (**Figure 7.7**). Only one LCU (UF36 Leadburn) was assigned low value under this criterion. Very high value was assessed for the Cheviot Hills, part of the coastal strip, much of the Tweed and tributary valleys, and the central area around St Boswells and the Eildon Hills. The medium-scoring areas correspond to the forested upland areas, parts of the lowland, and some of the north-west fringe of the Council area

Enjoyment

- 7.11 Again, the majority of the Borders scored well in this criterion (**Figure 7.8**). Only one LCU (UF26 Chisholme), corresponding to a very small area, was ranked as low. Medium value was assigned to relatively large areas including the forested uplands and some less accessible upland fringe areas. Large areas were evaluated as high value, including the Teviot and Liddel valleys, the lower Tweed, the Lammermuirs and the A702 corridor. The upper Tweed, the Tweedsmuir Hills, the central Borders, the coast, the Cheviot Hills and the Pentlands were all rated high as accessible destinations for recreation.

Cultural qualities

- 7.12 The map of cultural heritage value (**Figure 7.9**) shows a concentration in river valleys, reflecting denser settlement, and the pattern of designed landscapes. The Tweed, Gala, Teviot, Jed, Liddel and Whiteadder valleys all score very high. Low value was evaluated for some upland and upland fringe areas, which contain fewer historic features. However, several other upland LCUs were evaluated as high under this criteria due to concentrations of hill forts and other features, as at Minch Moor.

Habitat Value

- 7.13 The highest value under this criterion (**Figure 7.10**) was assigned to upland areas with extensive valued heath and bog habitats, and large natural heritage designations including SPA, SAC and Ramsar sites. These areas include the Tweedsmuir Hills, Moorfoots, Lammermuirs and Pentlands. The lower scoring areas are generally related to arable lowlands with limited valued habitat and few designations.

Figure 7.6 Wildness



Figure 7.7 Scenic Quality

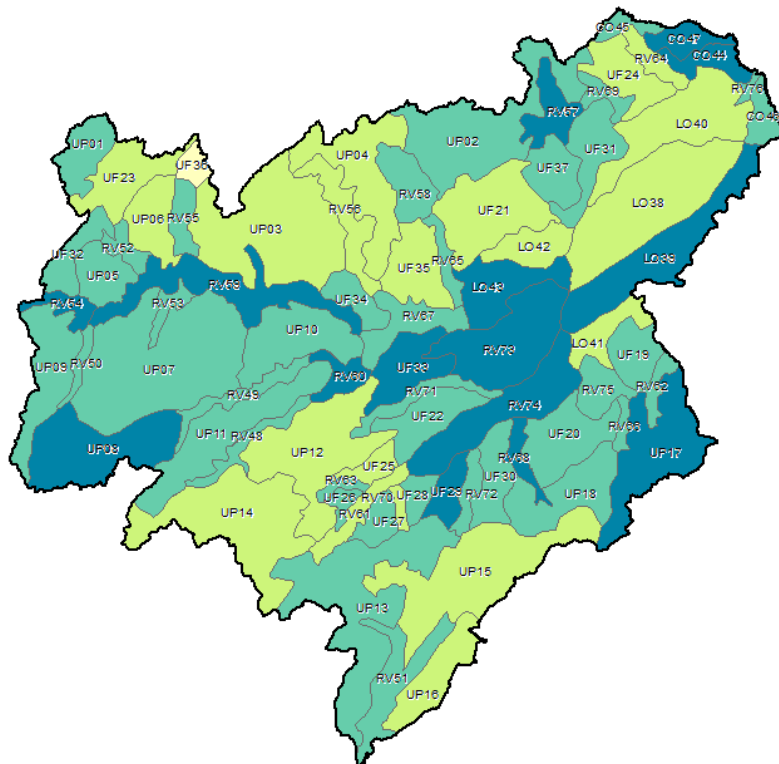


Figure 7.8 Enjoyment

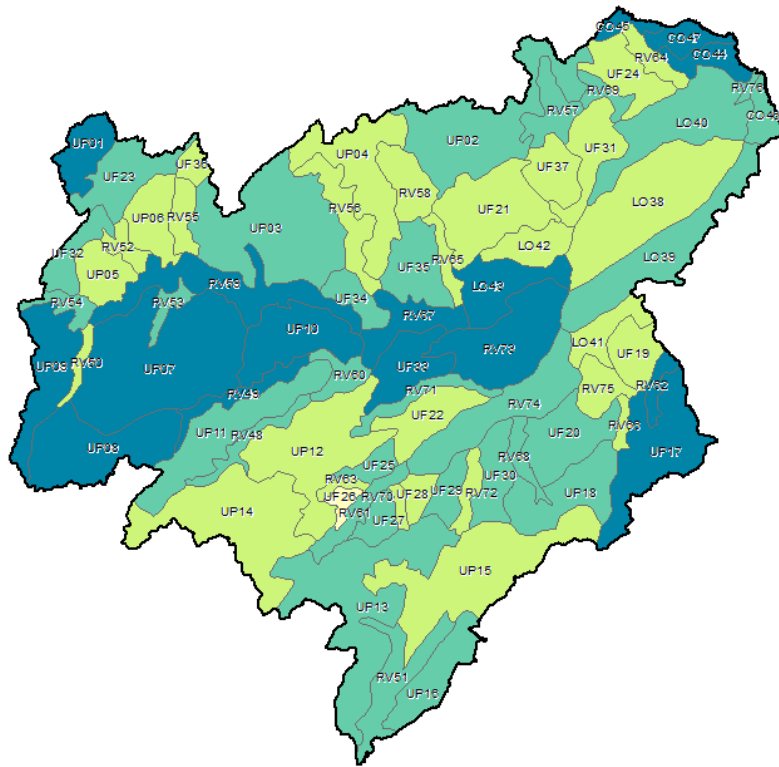


Figure 7.9 Cultural Qualities

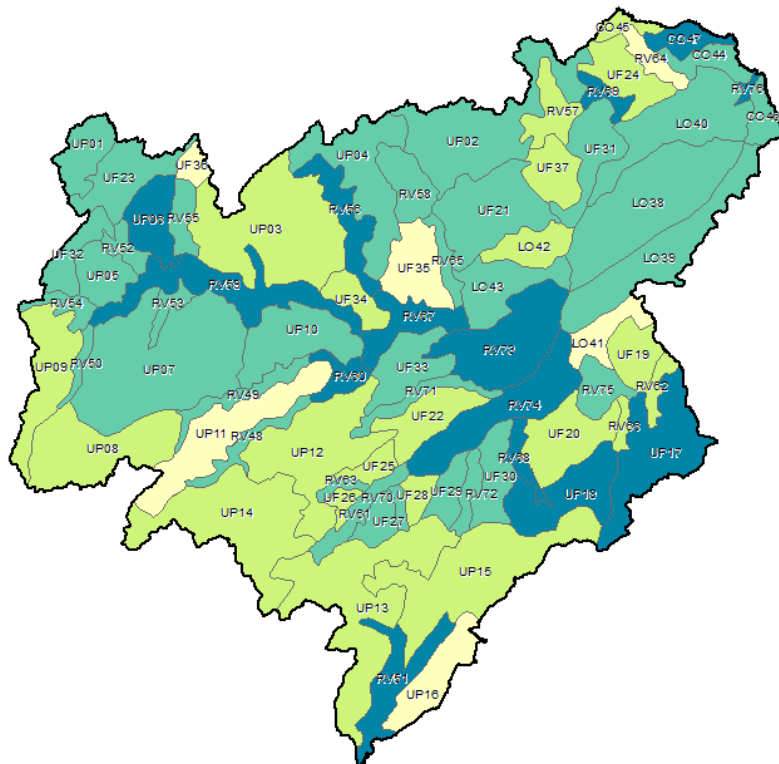


Figure 7.10 Habitat Value

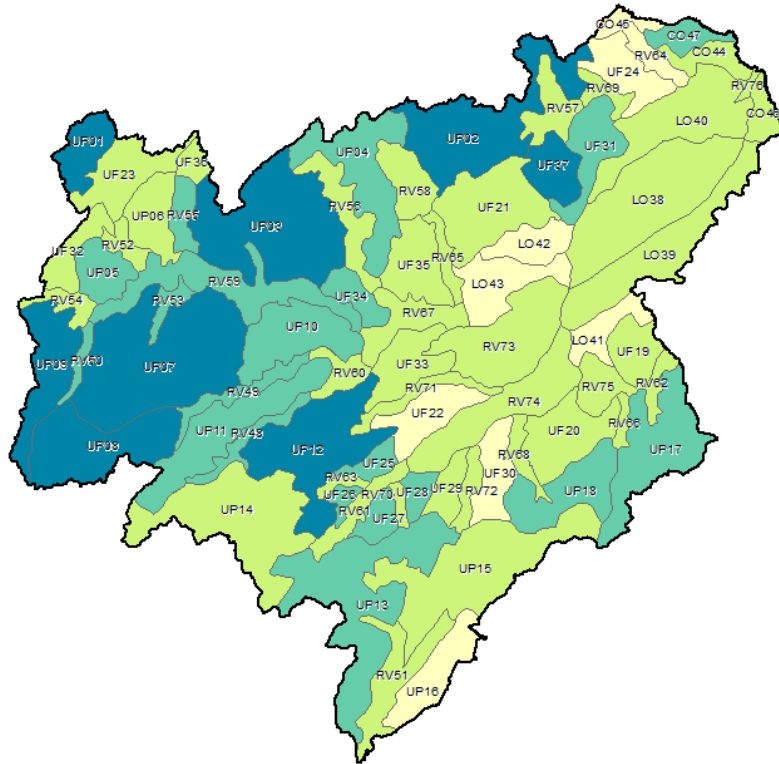


Figure 7.11 Settlement Setting

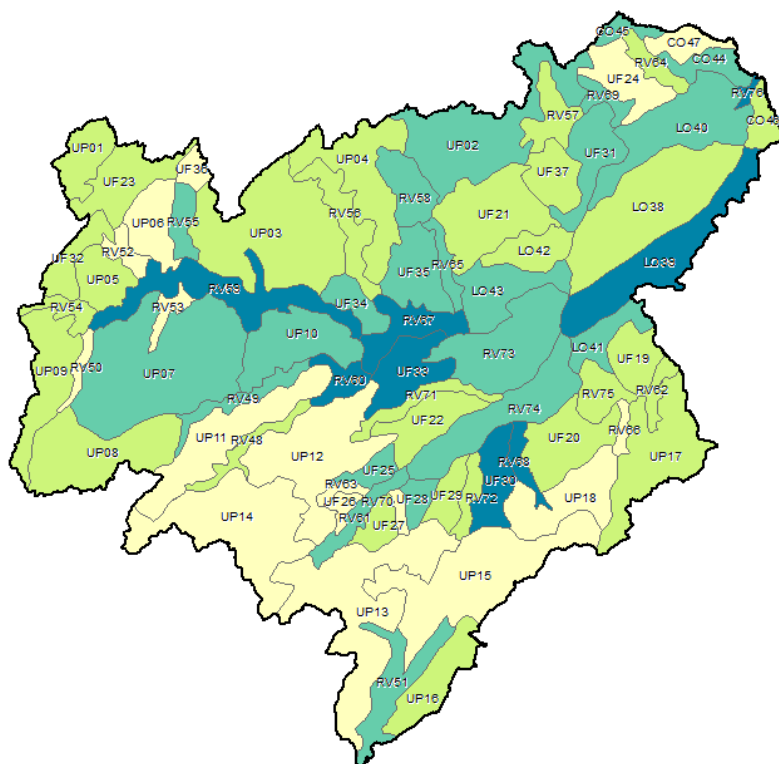


Figure 7.12 Views

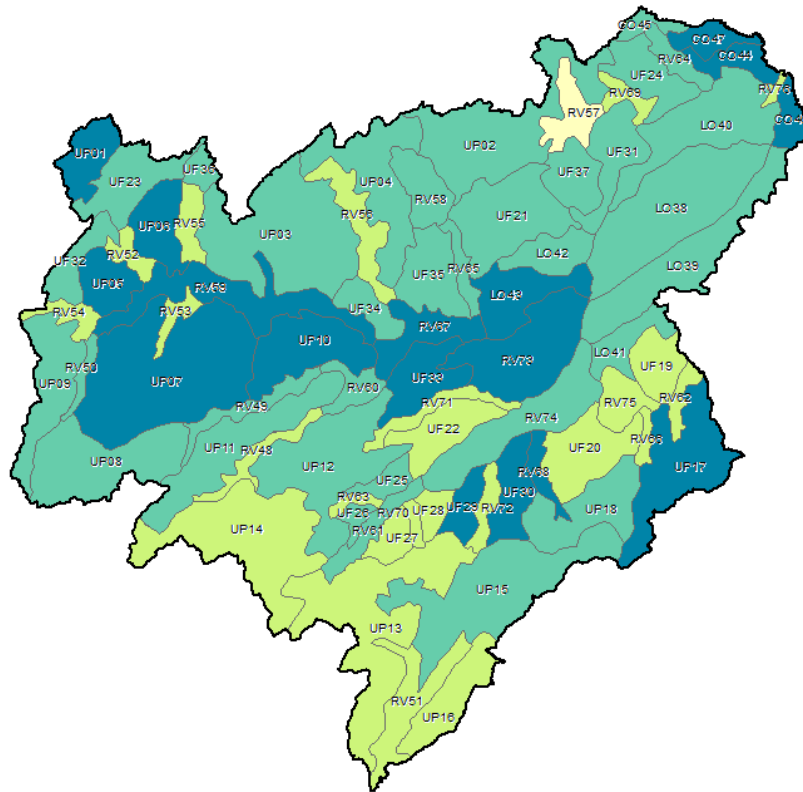
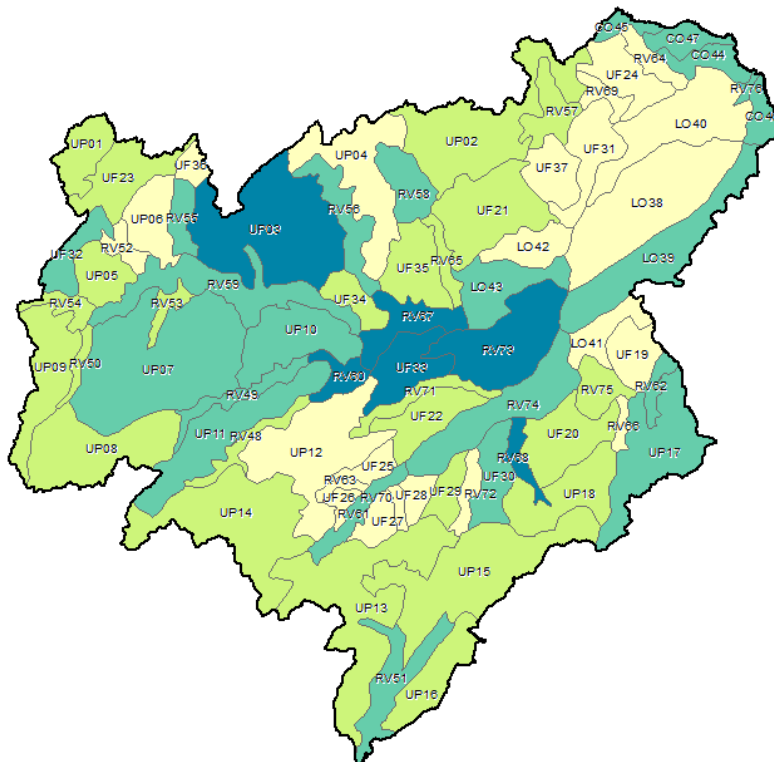


Figure 7.13 Tourist Economy



Settlement setting

- 7.14 The map for this criterion (**Figure 7.11**) corresponds closely to the settlement pattern within the Borders, as is to be expected. Very high value is located along river valleys, and in areas associated with the main settlements of Peebles, Galashiels, Melrose, Selkirk, Hawick, Kelso and Coldstream. Landmarks such as Dunion Hill and the Eildon Hills also contribute to settlement setting. High-scoring areas including the Lammermuirs which are important to the setting of settlements in East Lothian. Low value is assigned to sparsely settled or uninhabited upland and upland fringe landscapes.

Views

- 7.15 The map of views assessment (**Figure 7.12**) also reflects the settlement pattern to some extent, recognising the higher visibility of these areas. High value is also assigned to landscapes which are traversed by important tourist routes, including the A1, A68 and A72, and those which form a backdrop to other landscapes, including the Cheviots (UF17). Low value has been assessed for more isolated river valleys and forested uplands.

Tourist economy

- 7.16 Landscapes which have been assessed as of importance to the tourist economy (**Figure 7.13**) again shows very high value concentrated in the heartland around Melrose, St Boswells and the Eildon Hills. This criterion was assessed largely on the basis of the presence of visitor attractions, such as the mountain biking centre at Glentress (UP03 Moorfoot Hills), with less weight accorded to outdoor recreation, eg walking, which is included under the enjoyment criteria. Accordingly several LCUs which score highly under enjoyment fare less well under this criteria. Low value was assigned to landscapes with fewer obvious visitor attractions, as well as those away from main tourist routes.

TOTAL SCORES

- 7.17 A combined map was prepared using the total 'score' for each LCU. Total scores were calculated by assigning a value of 1 to a 'low' evaluation, 2 to 'medium', 3 to 'high' and 4 to 'very high', giving a possible range of total scores of between 12 and 48. These total scores are illustrated on **Figure 7.14**, showing which landscapes were ranked highly under the most criteria. The total scores are set out in **Table 7.2**.
- 7.18 UP7 Broadlaw Group and UF33 Eildon Hills were the highest-scoring LCUs with 39 points. RV59 Middle Tweed, RV67 Tweed/Gala/Ettrick Confluence and RV73 Lower Tweed each scored a total of 38.
- 7.19 The lowest-scoring landscape was UF36 Leadburn, at the north-west fringe of the Moorfoot Hills, with a total score of 18 points. LO41 Maxwellheugh and RV64 Eye Water followed with 21 points.

Table 7.2: Total scores

LCU	Representativeness	Rarity	Condition	Intactness	Wildness	Scenic qualities	Enjoyment	Cultural qualities	Naturalness	Settlement setting	Views	Tourist economy	TOTAL
UPI1	3	2	2	3	3	3	4	3	4	2	4	2	35
UP2	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	2	35
UP3	3	1	2	3	3	2	3	2	4	2	3	4	32
UP4	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	3	1	27
UP5	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	2	4	2	32
UP6	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	4	2	1	4	1	28
UP7	3	3	2	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	39
UP8	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	2	4	2	3	2	37
UP9	3	1	2	3	4	3	4	2	4	2	3	2	33
UPI10	3	1	3	2	3	3	4	3	3	3	4	3	35
UPI11	3	1	3	3	3	3	3	1	3	1	3	3	30
UPI12	3	1	3	2	3	2	2	2	4	1	3	1	27
UPI13	3	1	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	1	2	2	27
UPI14	3	1	3	1	3	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	24
UPI15	3	1	3	1	3	2	2	2	2	1	3	2	25
UPI16	3	1	3	1	3	2	3	1	1	2	2	2	24
UPI17	1	4	2	3	3	4	4	4	3	2	4	3	37
UPI18	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	4	3	1	3	2	30
UF19	3	1	2	2	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	23
UF20	3	1	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	26
UF21	3	1	3	3	1	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	27
UF22	3	2	3	3	1	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	26
UF23	3	2	2	2	1	2	3	3	2	2	3	2	27
UF24	2	2	3	3	1	2	2	2	1	1	3	2	24
UF25	2	2	3	2	1	2	3	2	3	3	3	1	27
UF26	2	2	3	3	1	3	1	2	3	1	3	1	25
UF27	2	2	3	2	1	3	3	3	3	2	2	1	27
UF28	2	3	3	3	1	3	2	2	3	3	2	1	28
UF29	3	3	3	3	2	4	3	3	2	2	4	2	34
UF30	3	2	2	3	2	3	3	3	1	4	4	3	33
UF31	3	2	3	1	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	1	29
UF32	3	2	3	2	1	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	30
UF33	3	4	2	3	2	4	4	3	2	4	4	4	39
UF34	2	2	3	3	1	3	3	2	3	3	3	2	30
UF35	2	2	3	2	1	2	3	1	2	3	3	2	26
UF36	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	3	1	18
UF37	2	4	3	2	3	3	2	2	4	2	3	1	31
LO38	1	1	3	2	1	2	2	3	2	2	3	1	23
LO39	2	2	3	2	1	4	3	3	2	4	3	3	32

LCU	Representativeness	Rarity	Condition	Intactness	Wildness	Scenic qualities	Enjoyment	Cultural qualities	Naturalness	Settlement setting	Views	Tourist economy	TOTAL
LO40	2	2	3	2	1	2	3	3	2	3	3	1	27
LO41	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	3	3	1	21
LO42	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	3	1	22
LO43	3	3	2	2	2	4	4	3	1	3	4	3	34
CO44	1	3	4	3	1	4	4	3	2	3	4	3	35
CO45	1	3	3	2	1	3	4	2	1	3	3	3	29
CO46	1	3	2	1	2	3	3	3	2	2	4	3	29
CO47	1	4	2	1	2	4	4	4	3	1	4	3	33
RV48	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	29
RV49	3	3	3	3	2	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	36
RV50	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	3	3	1	3	2	28
RV51	2	2	3	2	2	3	3	4	2	3	2	3	31
RV52	2	1	3	2	2	3	2	3	2	1	2	1	24
RV53	2	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	1	2	2	29
RV54	3	2	3	3	1	4	3	3	2	2	2	2	30
RV55	2	1	3	3	1	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	29
RV56	3	1	2	2	1	2	2	4	2	2	2	3	26
RV57	3	2	3	2	2	4	3	2	2	2	1	2	28
RV58	3	2	2	2	1	3	2	3	2	3	3	3	29
RV59	4	2	3	2	1	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	38
RV60	2	2	3	3	1	4	3	4	2	4	3	4	35
RV61	3	1	3	3	1	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	30
RV62	3	2	2	2	1	3	4	2	2	2	2	3	28
RV63	3	1	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	1	2	1	26
RV64	3	1	3	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	3	1	21
RV65	3	2	3	3	1	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	30
RV66	3	1	3	3	1	3	2	2	2	1	2	1	24
RV67	4	3	3	2	1	3	4	4	2	4	4	4	38
RV68	3	2	3	3	1	4	3	4	2	4	4	4	37
RV69	3	3	2	3	1	3	3	4	2	3	2	1	30
RV70	3	1	2	2	1	2	2	3	2	1	2	1	22
RV71	3	2	3	3	1	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	29
RV72	3	3	3	3	1	3	2	3	2	2	2	1	28
RV73	3	3	3	3	1	4	4	4	2	3	4	4	38
RV74	3	3	3	3	1	4	3	4	2	3	3	3	35
RV75	3	2	3	2	1	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	27
RV76	2	3	3	2	1	3	3	4	2	4	2	3	32

Note: Low=1 Medium=2 High=3 Very high=4

WEIGHTING

- 7.20 In order to reflect the importance of those criteria which are most influential in the perception of 'special landscapes', a system of weighting was devised. Certain criteria were given additional weight, as follows:
- The rarity criterion was double-weighted, as a characteristic of special landscapes; and
 - The scenic qualities, settlement setting and views criteria were triple-weighted, as these were seen as the most significant qualities in terms of landscape perception.
- 7.21 These criteria were agreed with the steering group following a number of trials with alternative weightings. It was notable that similar results were obtained regardless of the weighting applied, with the same core areas scoring continuously highly. The weighted scores have a possible range of between 19 and 76. They are set out in **Table 7.3**, and are illustrated on **Figure 7.15**.
- 7.22 UF33 Eildon Hills was the single highest-scoring LCU, with 67 points, followed by RV59 Middle Tweed with 64 points. RV67 Tweed/Gala/Ettrick Confluence, RV68 Jed Water and RV73 Lower Tweed all scored 63 points.
- 7.23 The lowest-scoring landscape remained unchanged: UF36 Leadburn with 30 points. The next-lowest-scoring LCUs were RV70 Slitrig Water with 33 points and UPI4 Larriston Fells with 35 points.

Table 7.3: Total weighted scores

LCU	Representativeness	Rarity x2	Condition	Intactness	Wildness	Scenic qualities x3	Enjoyment	Cultural qualities	Naturalness	Settlement setting x3	Views x3	Tourist economy	WEIGHTED TOTAL
UPI1	3	4	2	3	3	9	4	3	4	6	12	2	55
UP2	3	6	3	2	3	9	3	3	4	9	9	2	56
UP3	3	2	2	3	3	6	3	2	4	6	9	4	47
UP4	2	4	3	2	2	6	2	3	3	6	9	1	43
UP5	3	4	3	2	3	9	2	3	3	6	12	2	52
UP6	3	4	2	2	3	6	2	4	2	3	12	1	44
UP7	3	6	2	3	4	9	4	3	4	9	12	3	62
UP8	3	6	3	3	4	12	4	2	4	6	9	2	58
UP9	3	2	2	3	4	9	4	2	4	6	9	2	50
UPI10	3	2	3	2	3	9	4	3	3	9	12	3	56
UPI11	3	2	3	3	3	9	3	1	3	3	9	3	45
UPI12	3	2	3	2	3	6	2	2	4	3	9	1	40
UPI13	3	2	2	2	3	9	3	2	3	3	6	2	40
UPI14	3	2	3	1	3	6	2	2	2	3	6	2	35
UPI15	3	2	3	1	3	6	2	2	2	3	9	2	38
UPI16	3	2	3	1	3	6	3	1	1	6	6	2	37
UPI17	1	8	2	3	3	12	4	4	3	6	12	3	61
UPI18	2	6	2	2	2	9	3	4	3	3	9	2	47
UF19	3	2	2	2	1	9	2	2	2	6	6	1	38
UF20	3	2	2	2	2	9	3	2	2	6	6	2	41
UF21	3	2	3	3	1	6	2	3	2	6	9	2	42
UF22	3	4	3	3	1	9	2	2	1	6	6	2	42
UF23	3	4	2	2	1	6	3	3	2	6	9	2	43
UF24	2	4	3	3	1	6	2	2	1	3	9	2	38
UF25	2	4	3	2	1	6	3	2	3	9	9	1	45
UF26	2	4	3	3	1	9	1	2	3	3	9	1	41
UF27	2	4	3	2	1	9	3	3	3	6	6	1	43
UF28	2	6	3	3	1	9	2	2	3	9	6	1	47
UF29	3	6	3	3	2	12	3	3	2	6	12	2	57
UF30	3	4	2	3	2	9	3	3	1	12	12	3	57
UF31	3	4	3	1	2	9	2	3	3	9	9	1	49
UF32	3	4	3	2	1	9	3	3	2	6	9	3	48
UF33	3	8	2	3	2	12	4	3	2	12	12	4	67
UF34	2	4	3	3	1	9	3	2	3	9	9	2	50
UF35	2	4	3	2	1	6	3	1	2	9	9	2	44
UF36	1	4	2	1	1	3	2	1	2	3	9	1	30
UF37	2	8	3	2	3	9	2	2	4	6	9	1	51
LO38	1	2	3	2	1	6	2	3	2	6	9	1	38
LO39	2	4	3	2	1	12	3	3	2	12	9	3	56

LCU	Representativeness	Rarity x2	Condition	Intactness	Wildness	Scenic qualities x3	Enjoyment	Cultural qualities	Naturalness	Settlement setting x3	Views x3	Tourist economy	WEIGHTED TOTAL
LO40	2	4	3	2	1	6	3	3	2	9	9	1	45
LO41	2	2	2	2	1	6	2	1	1	9	9	1	38
LO42	2	4	2	2	1	6	2	2	1	6	9	1	38
LO43	3	6	2	2	2	12	4	3	1	9	12	3	59
CO44	1	6	4	3	1	12	4	3	2	9	12	3	60
CO45	1	6	3	2	1	9	4	2	1	9	9	3	50
CO46	1	6	2	1	2	9	3	3	2	6	12	3	50
CO47	1	8	2	1	2	12	4	4	3	3	12	3	55
RV48	3	4	2	2	2	9	3	3	3	6	6	2	45
RV49	3	6	3	3	2	9	4	3	3	9	9	3	57
RV50	2	4	3	2	2	9	2	3	3	3	9	2	44
RV51	2	4	3	2	2	9	3	4	2	9	6	3	49
RV52	2	2	3	2	2	9	2	3	2	3	6	1	37
RV53	2	4	3	3	2	9	3	3	3	3	6	2	43
RV54	3	4	3	3	1	12	3	3	2	6	6	2	48
RV55	2	2	3	3	1	9	2	3	3	9	6	3	46
RV56	3	2	2	2	1	6	2	4	2	6	6	3	39
RV57	3	4	3	2	2	12	3	2	2	6	3	2	44
RV58	3	4	2	2	1	9	2	3	2	9	9	3	49
RV59	4	4	3	2	1	12	4	4	3	12	12	3	64
RV60	2	4	3	3	1	12	3	4	2	12	9	4	59
RV61	3	2	3	3	1	6	3	3	2	9	9	3	47
RV62	3	4	2	2	1	9	4	2	2	6	6	3	44
RV63	3	2	3	3	2	9	2	3	2	3	6	1	39
RV64	3	2	3	1	1	6	2	1	1	6	9	1	36
RV65	3	4	3	3	1	9	2	3	2	9	9	2	50
RV66	3	2	3	3	1	9	2	2	2	3	6	1	37
RV67	4	6	3	2	1	9	4	4	2	12	12	4	63
RV68	3	4	3	3	1	12	3	4	2	12	12	4	63
RV69	3	6	2	3	1	9	3	4	2	9	6	1	49
RV70	3	2	2	2	1	6	2	3	2	3	6	1	33
RV71	3	4	3	3	1	9	3	3	2	6	6	2	45
RV72	3	6	3	3	1	9	2	3	2	6	6	1	45
RV73	3	6	3	3	1	12	4	4	2	9	12	4	63
RV74	3	6	3	3	1	12	3	4	2	9	9	3	58
RV75	3	4	3	2	1	9	2	3	2	6	6	2	43
RV76	2	6	3	2	1	9	3	4	2	12	6	3	53

Note: Low=1
Low x2=2
Low x3=3
Medium=2
Medium x2=4
Medium x3=6
High=3
High x2=6
High x3=9
Very high=4
Very high x2=8
Very high x3=12

AREA OF SEARCH

- 7.24 The highest-scoring LCUs in the evaluation process form the Area of Search for candidate SLAs. It was agreed with the steering group that the highest-scoring one-third of LCUs would form the Area of Search, to be examined in greater detail at the next stage. While one third is recognised as an arbitrary cut-off, it is considered that the very best of the Borders landscapes, ie those that most merit designation, will be found within these LCUs.
- 7.25 Following the revised evaluation process, 28 LCUs were selected as the Area of Search, being those that scored 50 points or more in the final evaluation, after weighting was applied. This equates to slightly more than one third of LCUs. The Area of Search is illustrated in **Figure 7.16**, while the LCUs which make up the Area of Search are listed in **Table 7.4**.

Table 7.4: Highest-scoring one third of LCUs

LCU	Name	Total score	Rank
UF33	Eildon Hills	67	1
RV59	Middle Tweed	64	2
RV67	Tweed/Gala/Ettrick confluence	63	=3
RV68	Ed Water	63	=3
RV73	Lower Tweed	63	=3
UP7	Broadlaw Group	62	6
UP17	Cocklaw Group	61	7
CO44	Coldingham	60	8
LO43	Black Hill/Hume Crag	59	=9
RV60	Lower Ettrick/Yarrow	59	=9
UP8	Hart Fell	58	=11
RV74	Lower Teviot	58	=11
UF29	Rubers Law	57	=13
UF30	Bonchester/Dunion	57	=13
RV49	Upper Yarrow	57	=13
UP2	Lammermuir Plateau	56	=16
UP10	Minch Moor	56	=16
LO39	Lower Tweed Valley	56	=16
UPI	Western Pentlands	55	=19
CO47	Coldingham Moor	55	=19
RV76	Lower Eye Water	53	21
UP5	Broughton Heights	52	22
UF37	Greenlaw Common	51	23
UP9	Culter Fell	50	=24
UF34	West Gala	50	=24
CO45	Cockburnspath	50	=24
CO46	Lamberton Moor	50	=24
RV65	Lower Leader	50	=24

8 Qualitative Analysis

- 8.1 The evaluation process described in **Section 7** looked at each LCU as a whole, but did not seek to identify variations within these units. The LCUs are the product of landscape characterisation, an accepted method of classifying landscapes, but not one which is directed at the identification of landscape quality. The SNH/HS guidance notes that “*the coverage of designated areas can often bear little direct resemblance to landscape character areas*” (paragraph 2.12). As such, the guidance makes clear that landscape character assessments can provide a useful tool for analysis, but cannot be used as the direct basis for SLAs.
- 8.2 The quantitative scoring of LCUs, while providing a sound basis for selecting the most valuable areas, does not correlate directly to the definition of cSLAs. Many LCUs within the Borders have significant local variation in landscape qualities. Some high-scoring LCUs contain less valuable areas, combined with high-scoring features. Similarly, some LCUs which score lower overall may contain valuable features, or form important groupings. Because of these variations, the wholesale adoption of high-scoring LCUs as cSLAs would have been inappropriate.
- 8.3 It was therefore considered important to look in more detail within LCUs, identifying where the variations in landscape quality occur, and looking for those locations where important interrelationships arise between different landscape types. In order to do this, the following questions were explored in relation to each LCU.

Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

This question was considered with reference to the evaluation criteria. A descriptive breakdown of the relative qualities within each LCU is provided, noting which specific locations contribute to the highest scores. This is particularly focused on the weighted criteria (see **Section 7**).

Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

This question was considered with reference to the consistency and relationships criteria within the evaluation. These did not form part of the overall ranking, but seek to identify where differences in character occur within LCUs, and where adjacent landscapes of differing type combine to create valuable composite landscapes. The result of this step indicates where natural sub-character areas occur within LCUs, and whether these can be associated with adjacent areas in other LCUs.

- 8.4 In some cases, the decision as to whether or not to include a specific area in the Area of Search was clear cut. However, most of the landscape is not so easily defined, and landscape quality is often variable at a detailed level. In many cases therefore, the decision required fine judgements to be made.

- 8.5 The following sections summarise the findings of the analysis, and are presented by LCU, in order of rank as set out in **Table 7.4**. The complete analysis is included in **Appendix 4**. The findings have been updated based on responses to public consultation, as set out in **Section 3**.

SUMMARY OF THE ANALYSIS

UF33 Eildon Hills

- 8.6 The Eildon Hills and the adjacent landscapes around the Tweed were considered suitable for inclusion within a cSLA. The iconic hills are closely related to the Tweed landscapes around St Boswell's and form an important composite landscape particularly when seen from Scott's View.
- 8.7 The western fringe of the LCU was also considered suitable for inclusion, since it forms an important part of the setting of the Tweed and Ettrick valley landscape, including Selkirk, Abbotsford and dramatic views from the western A699 as it descends into the valley.
- 8.8 The remaining areas in the centre and south of the LCU, which comprise less dramatic rolling farmland, score less highly against the evaluation criteria. The central areas form part of the setting of the Eildon Hills, while the southern areas of this LCU are physically detached from the Eildon Hills and the Tweed Valley, and were not considered for inclusion in a cSLA.

RV59 Middle Tweed

- 8.9 The western part of the LCU, west of Peebles, was considered suitable for inclusion as it includes the picturesque gorge at Neidpath and the more remote upper valley around Stobo and Dawyck. It has a strong relationship with the surrounding foothills, forming a coherent area focused on the upland valley.
- 8.10 The central area of the Tweed valley, between Peebles and Walkerburn, scores highly against a number of criteria, but has a different character from the western end. This is largely the result of more extensive settlement development. This area was considered suitable for inclusion, but separately from the upper valley and lower valley sections.
- 8.11 The eastern section, below Walkerburn, serves as a gateway from the core settlement area around Galashiels, into the Tweed Valley. The narrow lower section is considered to have a stronger relationship with the downstream valley and the Ettrick confluence. Again this area has been considered for inclusion separately.

RV67 Tweed/Gala/Ettrick Confluence

- 8.12 The area to the south-west around Selkirk was considered suitable for inclusion as a cSLA. This area forms a gateway into the Border valleys, and is closely associated with the upland areas which contribute to the valley setting, including Minch Moor and West Gala.
- 8.13 The western section of the Tweed valley, west of Melrose, was also considered suitable for inclusion. This area is closely associated with the landmark Eildon Hills and iconic features such as Scott's View.

- 8.14 The developed parts of the LCU and the settlement fringe areas have not been considered for inclusion, since the density of development is not considered appropriate. These areas are also covered by the Countryside Around Towns policy (see **Section 4**).

RV68 Jed Water

- 8.15 Most of this LCU was considered suitable for inclusion. The wooded valley of the Jed has high scenic value and importance as a gateway into the Borders. The valley forms the setting of the town of Jedburgh, and is associated with Dunion Hill above. The upper valley, which is less wooded and is more closely associated with the uplands along the Anglo-Scottish border, has not been considered further.

RV73 Lower Tweed

- 8.16 The central area of this LCU, which is focused on the River Tweed, was considered suitable for inclusion. The highest-scoring parts of the LCU are in the north-west, where woodland and designed landscapes predominate. The wider setting of the Tweed to north and south has also been considered, between Smailholm and Lilliardsedge, as the extent of the land with a strong relation to the river. An area to the north-east, which is more intensively farmed and more distant from the river, has not been considered further.

UP07 Broadlaw Group

- 8.17 This whole area was considered suitable for inclusion, as one of the key areas of open upland. It is strongly associated with the hills to the south, and the surrounding river valleys.

UP17 Cocklaw Group

- 8.18 The whole of this LCU was considered suitable for inclusion. The LCU forms a coherent area of upland character which scores highly against a number of criteria. It has strong associations with the surrounding valleys which define the upland area.

CO44 Coldingham

- 8.19 The coastal edge of this landscape was considered suitable for inclusion, incorporating that part of the LCU which has a clear marine influence. Inland, beyond the A1107, the character of the area becomes less dramatic. The coastal strip is strongly linked north and south as part of a continuous landscape/seascape along the whole of the Berwickshire coastline.

LO43 Black Hill / Hume Crags

- 8.20 The south-western part of this LCU was considered for inclusion in a cSLA. This area is focused on the River Tweed, and those areas which contribute to the setting of the Tweed include the areas around Smailholm which provide the setting to this important landmark, and Black Hill which is important to the lower section of Lauderdale and Leaderfoot. Other features which do not relate to the Tweed valley, such as Hume Castle, although they score

relatively highly against a range of criteria, are detached from a focal point and have not been considered further.

RV60 Lower Ettrick/Yarrow

- 8.21 The majority of this LCU was considered suitable for inclusion. The core of this area is the confluence of the Yarrow and Ettrick which hosts designed landscapes and, like the Ettrick/Tweed confluence to the north (RV67), forms a gateway from the settled areas into the Border valleys. The valley sections around the confluence have strong associations with the hills that define and separate them, including Minch Moor to the north.

UP08 Hart Fell

- 8.22 The whole of this area was considered for inclusion. This area forms an extensive, coherent block of upland, scoring consistently highly against a range of criteria. It is strongly related to the surrounding valleys, and to the Broadlaw Group of hills to the north (UP07), which also score highly.

RV74 Lower Teviot

- 8.23 The majority of this LCU was considered for inclusion. The area between Hawick and Peniel Heugh contains a number of landmark features which are the highest-scoring parts of the LCU, including Minto Crags, Fatlips Castle and Peniel Heugh. This section of the valley is also strongly interrelated with the landmark hills which define it and neighbouring valleys, the most prominent being Rubers Law to the south. The area of the LCU east of Monteviot is less dramatic and has not been considered further.

UF29 Rubers Law

- 8.24 Rubers Law was considered for inclusion as an iconic feature visible across wide areas of the Borders. It is a key feature of the adjacent valleys of Rule and Teviot, and scores highly against a range of criteria. The southern part of the LCU beyond the A6086 was not considered further, since it is a less remarkable landscape, not closely related to the hill.

UP30 Bonchester / Dunion

- 8.25 This area includes the landmark hills of Bonchester and Dunion, which define the surrounding valleys of Jed, Rule and Teviot. Dunion Hill is also important to the setting of Jedburgh. Much of the LCU has therefore been included for consideration as part of a composite landscape. The south and south-west parts of the LCU scores relatively less well compared to the main hills.

RV49 Upper Yarrow

- 8.26 The area around St Mary's Loch was considered for inclusion, as it is a popular recreational destination scoring highly against a range of criteria. It relates strongly to the surrounding upland, particularly Bridge End Hill above the loch, and to the nearby Megget Reservoir. The loch also provides a key gateway into the uplands from the A702.
- 8.27 The central part of the LCU scores relatively lower than the area around the loch. This area forms the setting of hills to north and south, while the

eastern tip of the LCU is closely related to the confluence of the Ettrick and Yarrow.

UP02 Lammermuir Plateau

- 8.28 The main plateau west of the Whiteadder forms a coherent upland landscape which scores highly against a range of criteria. Adjacent areas in the upper Whiteadder valley also score well. Areas east of the Whiteadder score relatively less well, as they are more affected by forestry and wind turbines. The Lammermuir Plateau LCU forms part of the wider Lammermuir Hills, extending north and east into Lothian, and the whole LCU was therefore considered for inclusion.

UP10 Minch Moor

- 8.29 All areas of this LCU scored highly against the criteria. The LCU has strong links with both the Tweed valley to the north, the Yarrow to the south, and the hills to the west. The area is important to the settings of neighbouring river valleys, and the whole LCU was considered for inclusion.

LO39 Lower Tweed Valley

- 8.30 The western part of this LCU, between Kelso and Coldstream, contains the Tweed-Teviot confluence, and the designed landscapes of Floors and The Hirsell. It scores highly on scenic quality and settlement setting, and is contiguous with the high-scoring Lower Tweed LCU (RV73). Over the rest of the LCU, only the north bank of the Tweed is within the Borders, with the south bank in Northumberland, and any designation would lack coherence as a result.

UP01 Western Pentlands

- 8.31 This LCU represents a coherent block of upland landscape which, as a whole, scores highly against a range of criteria. The hills have a strong relationship with the lowland area around West Linton. The whole LCU was therefore considered for inclusion.

CO47 Coldingham Moor

- 8.32 The coastal strip was considered suitable for inclusion in a cSLA. The inland moors are less intact, but have rarity value at a national level. The coastal strip is strongly linked north and south as part of a continuous landscape/seascape along the whole of the Berwickshire coastline.

RV76 Lower Eye Water

- 8.33 The coastal areas around Eyemouth were considered suitable for inclusion in a cSLA. These small areas relate to the coastal strip north and south, as part of a continuous landscape/seascape along the whole of the Berwickshire coastline. Inland areas of the Eye valley have not been considered for inclusion since they do not relate directly to the coast.

UP05 Broughton Heights

- 8.34 This area is a discrete upland hill group, formed by valley landscapes on all sides. It is consistent in terms of character and quality, though there are variations in the relationships with neighbouring valleys. To the south, the transition to the Tweed valley is more gradual, while to the north the hills present a steep slope facing the Pentlands. The whole area is considered for inclusion.

UF37 Greenlaw Common

- 8.35 This LCU can be divided between the distinctive Dirrington Laws in the north, and the flat open moorland to the south. The Dirrington Laws are landmark features which form a key part of the wider Lammermuir Hills, and have a visual relationship with the plateau to the north. To the south are the Kaims, an important geomorphological feature, though this area is protected as a SSSI and for biodiversity reasons.

UP09 Culter Fell

- 8.36 This is a consistent upland landscape, which is continuous across the Council boundary to the west. It frames the upper Tweed valley, along with the hills to the east, and forms part of the setting of Broughton and the Upper Tweed NSA. The whole area has been considered for inclusion.

UF34 West Gala

- 8.37 The southern and eastern parts of this LCU were considered suitable for inclusion, since they relate strongly to the confluence of the Tweed and Ettrick, an area where several high-scoring LCUs coincide (RV60, RV67). West Gala as a whole is not integral to this area, but the southern and western flanks along the Tweed form part of the valley landscape. The north-east area also forms part of the setting of Galashiels, and the hills are visible from the Tweed valley. The parts of the LCU to the north-west do not relate to the Tweed and Ettrick valleys and have not been considered further.

CO45 Cockburnspath

- 8.38 The coastal strip was considered suitable for inclusion in a cSLA. It is distinctly different from the inland areas of this LCU, beyond the A1, East Coast Mainline railway and A1107, and scores higher on a number of the assessment criteria. The coastal strip is strongly linked north and south as part of a continuous landscape/seascape along the whole of the Berwickshire coastline.

CO46 Lamberton Moor

- 8.39 Again, the coastal strip was considered suitable for inclusion in a cSLA, with the A1 forming a distinct boundary to landward. The areas to the west were not considered further, as the landscape qualities are generally identified along the marine edge. The coastal strip is strongly linked north and south as part of a continuous landscape/seascape along the whole of the Berwickshire coastline.

RV65 Lower Leader

- 8.40 The lower part of this LCU was considered suitable for inclusion. This lower part of the valley, being to the south of Earlston where the valley locally widens, scores more highly against a number of criteria, and is more closely associated with Black Hill and the Tweed valley at Leaderfoot.
- 8.41 The northern part of the valley was not considered further, as it scores lower against some criteria, and also because it presents a narrow strip with lower-scoring LCUs to either side. The area would therefore lack the required integrity without the inclusion of large areas of lower-scoring landscape.

REFINED AREA OF SEARCH

- 8.42 **Figure 8.1** illustrates a refined Area of Search, based on the findings of the qualitative analysis. This represents a final stage in the selection of areas by quality, and before the application of practical criteria to define coherent candidate SLAs with clear boundaries.

9 Candidate Special Landscape Areas

- 9.1 Following the refinement of the Area of Search set out in **Section 8**, the final stage was the application of practical criteria, as follows:
- identity and coherence;
 - suitable size;
 - other policy/strategy considerations; and
 - boundary features.
- 9.2 These were partly addressed in the qualitative analysis, particularly the issue of coherence. The final stage therefore focused on boundaries, and the inclusion of areas outside the Area of Search, which contributed to the integrity of potential cSLAs.
- 9.3 As noted in the methodology (**Section 3**), at this stage it was decided that National Scenic Areas would be excluded from the cSLAs. This affected the areas being considered within the upper Tweed valley and Eildon Hills areas. It was also decided that settlements would be excluded, based on the boundaries defined in the Local Plan.
- 9.4 As noted in **Section 3**, the responses to consultation suggested further information which has been drawn in to the revised LLDR.
- 9.5 A total of nine coherent cSLAs have been identified. They have been named as follows:
1. Tweedsmuir Uplands
 2. Tweed Valley
 3. Tweed, Ettrick and Yarrow Confluences
 4. Tweed Lowlands
 5. Teviot Valleys
 6. Lammermuir Hills
 7. Berwickshire Coast
 8. Cheviot Foothills
 9. Pentland Hills
- 9.6 Coverage of the cSLAs across the Borders is illustrated in **Figure 9.1**, and individual cSLAs are shown in **Figures 9.2 to 9.10**.
- 9.7 This section presents the Statement of Importance for each cSLA, together with a short discussion of the principal reasons for its selection, and boundaries, drawing on the analysis presented in **Appendix 4** and summarised in **Section 8**.
- 9.8 A comparison was made between the cSLAs and the existing suite of landscape designations. This is discussed at the end of this section.

CSLA 1: TWEEDSMUIR UPLANDS

Introduction

- 9.9 This cSLA covers the extensive area of the Southern Uplands in the west of the Council area. The area of the NSA has been excluded. The area around St Mary's Loch was included in the cSLA as this high-scoring area is closely related to the uplands.
- 9.10 This cSLA comprises the whole of LCU's UP07 Broadlaw Group, UP08 Hart Fell Group, UP09 Culter Fell and UP05 Broughton Heights, with parts of UP10 Minch Moor, UP11 Black Knowe and RV49 Upper Yarrow. It is illustrated on **Figure 9.2**.

Statement of Importance

Special Landscape Area: Tweedsmuir Uplands
Location and boundaries: <p>This area comprises an extensive block of upland landscape, extending from Minch Moor, above the Tweed and the Yarrow in the east, to the Council boundary in the west. It is bounded by the A708 and the hills beyond St Mary's Loch to the south-east, and by the edges of the Upper Tweeddale NSA and Tweed Valley cSLA to the north-east. It includes the main group of hills around Broad Law and Hart Fell, extending west to Culter Fell and north to Broughton Heights.</p> <p>The boundaries generally follow roads, tracks and paths. To the north-east, a combination of watercourses, ridgelines and forestry edges form the boundary between this cSLA and the Tweed Valley cSLA. Other short sections follow watercourses.</p>
Designation statement: <p>This extensive area represents the Southern Uplands within the Borders. It comprises steep rolling landform, with deep valleys and rounded peaks of glacial origin. The area lacks the blanket forest cover that affects other areas, and is predominantly open moorland of rough grass and heather. This is a highly scenic area of dramatic landform, and has a significant degree of wildness. The more rugged, rocky summits in particular have a strong sense of remoteness, with little overt human influence on the landscape. The large reservoirs are the only substantive human incursion, but add variety rather than reducing remoteness. Together with St Mary's Loch they form the only substantial water bodies in the Borders, and the Loch in particular provides scenic variety in combination with the hills. Key summits include Minch Moor overlooking the Tweed, Broad Law, the highest in the Borders, and Culter Fell on the South Lanarkshire boundary. The uplands extend north to Broughton Heights, providing the setting for the NSA.</p> <p>The uplands are well used for recreation, with the Southern Upland Way among many signposted routes in the area. Notable features include high peaks such as Broad Law, and the reservoirs at Talla and Megget which offer water-based activities, and provide access into the hills. St Mary's Loch is also a popular recreational destination, offering outdoor access and water-based activities. The upper Tweed is an important route through the Borders, as well as providing access into the hills.</p>
Forces for change: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recreational development pressures around St Mary's Loch• Footpath erosion and access management• Proposals for wind farm development, and associated development including tracks• Pressure for afforestation

Management recommendations:

- Focus land-use management around recreational access
- Positive management of valued habitats in line with LBAP, including ongoing protection of international-level designations
- Seek to maintain the wildness character of the great majority of the hills
- Promote the use of forest design plans for areas of proposed afforestation
- Consider visual effects of tall development on views to and from this landscape
- Seek cross-border cooperation on management of boundary areas such as Culter Fell

CSLA 2: TWEED VALLEY

Introduction

- 9.11 This cSLA covers the Tweed Valley from Peebles in the west to Thornielee in the east. It is focused on the river valley and the hills which contain it. The cSLA comprises the central section of LCU RV59 Middle Tweed, together with fringes of upland LCUs including UPI0 Minch Moor. It is illustrated on **Figure 9.3**.

Statement of Importance

Special Landscape Area: Tweed Valley**Location and boundaries:**

This area includes the Tweed valley between Peebles and Thornielee. It is bounded to the north and south by ridges which contain the valley. To the west the cSLA extends to the boundary of the NSA, while to the east the edge of the Elibank and Traquair Forests forms the boundary between the Tweed Valley and Tweed, Ettrick and Yarrow Confluences cSLAs. The cSLA excludes the settlements of Peebles, Cardrona, Innerleithen and Walkerburn.

The boundaries of this area are based on a combination of ridge-lines, watercourses, tracks, paths, settlement boundaries and forest edges. These have been selected as the most suitable available features, particularly with less 'defined' features being used where stronger features such as roads were not available.

Designation statement:

The broad Tweed Valley is typical of the Borders, and is the most familiar of the Borders valleys. Accordingly it has a strong sense of place, with certain views being instantly recognisable. The varied mix of landscape elements is highly representative, with forestry, woodland, open hillsides and pastoral farmland all juxtaposed. Added to this mix is a range of settlement types, with the valley providing the setting to several settlements. The landscape unfolds as the viewer follows the river through the valley, presenting new vistas alternately dominated by forestry, as around Walkerburn, or by the steep rocky slopes above Innerleithen. The contrast between the well-settled valley and the bare heather and grass moors and landmark hills is striking. Well-designed forestry actively contributes to this visual experience in places.

There are numerous opportunities for enjoying this landscape, including the cycle routes at Glentress and elsewhere, golf courses, equestrian centres, and walking routes. The tourist potential of the area is also significant, with Peebles being a key centre, and several attractions including Traquair House. Time depth is evident in estate landscapes and historic buildings. Horsburgh Castle provides a sharp contrast to new development around Cardrona, although landscape works around the new settlement are now maturing, folding this latest addition into the patchwork of the valley.

Forces for change:

- Development pressures at settlement edges, for housing and commercial developments
- Potential pressure for road upgrading
- Changes to forestry management
- Potential for visual impact of development on hills outside the cSLA
- Creation of hillside access tracks

Management recommendations:

- Careful management of land use at settlement edges
- Consider landscape and visual impacts of proposed developments in and around settlements, particularly the treatment of their edges
- Seek opportunities to better integrate existing development into the landscape
- Promote the restructuring of forests, and the use of forest design plans for new areas of afforestation
- Consider the effects of development on hilltops, such as masts or wind farms, which may be visible within the valley

CSLA 3: TWEED, ETRICK AND YARROW CONFLUENCES

Introduction

- 9.12 This cSLA brings together a number of high-scoring LCUs of differing types, which together form a composite landscape of hills and valleys, and act as a key node within the central Borders. The LCU was formed by grouping interrelated sections of LCUs UPI0, UPI1, UF33, UF34, RV60 and RV67. It is illustrated on **Figure 9.4**.

Statement of Importance

Special Landscape Area: Tweed, Etrick and Yarrow Confluences
Location and boundaries:

This area covers the confluences of the rivers Tweed, Etrick and Yarrow, with areas of adjoining upland, which form part of the valleys' settings. Boundaries are formed by the ridges which contain the valleys to east, south and north-west, with the settlement of Galashiels forming the north-east edge.

The western edge follows the boundary of cSLA 1 Tweedsmuir Uplands and cSLA 2 Tweed Valley, along the edge of the Elibank and Traquair Forest. To the south-west the boundary follows watercourses and tracks. The southern boundary follows tracks and roads, extending east to the Eildon and Leaderfoot NSA. The settlement boundary forms the north-east edge, and tracks and watercourses form the northern boundary. These boundaries were selected as the most appropriate available, seeking to include the highest value landscape, without including extensive areas of lesser value.

Designation statement:

The confluence of these three valleys forms a key node within the Borders, linking the main population centre with the highly typical Border valley landscapes. The area has a strong sense of place, and contains representative Border features, albeit that each valley retains its own character. The enclosing uplands and upland fringes offer contrast and an attractive wider setting, and enable views across the valleys, the descending approach to Selkirk along the A699

being particularly scenic.

East of Thornielee, the Tweed flows in to a narrower section, winding between steep valley sides which are often densely forested. The Yarrow enters a narrow, picturesque section around Yarrowford, characterised by woodland and estate buildings. The Yarrow flows into the Ettrick south of Selkirk, where the valley broadens, and is characterised by parkland influences, with mixed woodland climbing the valley sides. North of Selkirk the Ettrick joins the Tweed, which here broadens as it approaches the Galashiels area. The valley sides running east form a major part of the setting of Galashiels, Tweedbank and Melrose. A series of estate landscapes give visual diversity to these valleys, including Abbotsford, Sunderland and Bowhill. The area forms the setting for Selkirk, the town with its prominent spire forming an attractive feature in the landscape since, unusually for the Borders, it is located on higher ground.

Although several A roads pass through the landscape, there are many tranquil areas. The Southern Upland Way follows the ridge between Tweed and Yarrow, offering views across the area, before crossing the Tweed towards Galashiels, and there are numerous other paths. Attractions in the area include Abbotsford and Bowhill, and the area is very accessible from the main Borders settlements and further afield.

Forces for change:

- Changes to forestry management practices
- Changes to estate management practices, which may affect large areas
- Development pressure at the edges of Galashiels and Selkirk
- Proposals for development of wind farms and wind turbines, and hillside access tracks

Management recommendations:

- Continue to promote sustainable estate management to balance the needs of biodiversity, recreation and tourism
- Careful management of land use at settlement edges
- Consider landscape and visual impacts of proposed developments in and around settlements
- Consider the effects of development on hilltops, such as masts or wind farms, which may be visible within the valley
- Carefully consider the effects of smaller wind energy proposals, and the cumulative effects that may arise

CSLA 4: TWEED LOWLANDS

Introduction

- 9.13 This cSLA initially brought together the high-scoring LCUs around the Eildon Hills and the Tweed. However, following the exclusion of the NSA, the focus moved east to the section of the Tweed between St Boswells and Kelso. The cSLA comprises the central part of RV73 Lower Tweed, with smaller parts of LO39, LO43 and RV74. It is illustrated on **Figure 9.5**.

Statement of Importance

Special Landscape Area: Tweed Lowlands

Location and boundaries:

This area is focused on the River Tweed as it flows through largely lowland landscapes between St Boswells and Kelso. It is bounded by higher ground to north and south.

The northern boundary follows roads, while the southern boundary is formed by Dere Street, Lilliardsedge, and the dismantled railway to Kelso. These boundaries were selected as they visually contain the Tweed and its setting in this area. To the north-east the Eildon and Leaderfoot NSA forms the boundary, and the east boundary is at the settlement edge of Kelso. The cSLA excludes the settlements of St Boswells, Maxton and Roxburgh.

Designation statement:

While the Eildon and Leaderfoot NSA covers some of the iconic landscapes at the heart of the Scottish Borders, including Scott's View and the Eildon Hills, this area includes the less dramatic but still distinctive landscape of the lower Tweed. It is a recognisable Borders landscape of rolling mixed farmland, well-wooded and mature, with attractive vistas over its visual diversity available from several locations. In views from the A699 it forms the foreground to the view of the Eildon Hills.

The area retains a rich cultural heritage with many historic and literary associations. The remains of Roxburgh Castle across the river from the grandeur of Floors Castle reflect two very different phases in the long history of the area. The area is of importance to recreation and tourism, containing numerous opportunities for enjoying the landscape, including some key attractions such as Smailholm Tower, Floors Castle and the Borders Abbeys Way/St Cuthbert's Way. This landscape is held together by the River Tweed, which runs through the geographical and cultural heart of the Borders. The extensive estate landscapes give this area strong visual diversity, and add to the evident time-depth inherent in features such as Dere Street, Smailholm Tower and the battlefield monument at Lilliardsedge.

Forces for change:

- Changes in agricultural practices, crops and methods
- Farm diversification
- Changes in management of hedges and hedgerow trees
- Introduction of new woodlands
- Development pressure at settlement edges

Management recommendations:

- Encourage the sustainable management of hedges, and where possible seek the reinstatement of hedges and hedgerow trees
- Seek to direct farm diversification towards aims in keeping with the landscape, such as the creation of native broadleaf woodland

CSLA 5: TEVIOT VALLEYS

Introduction

- 9.14 This cSLA was designed to bring together a number of individual landmark features which share the context of the Teviot, Jed and Rule valleys. The cSLA combines parts of several LCUs of different types, creating a composite landscape of hill and valley. LCUs included are UF29, UF30, RV68 and RV74. In order to form a coherent cSLA, part of UF22 Minto Hills and a large part of RV72 Rule Water were included. It is illustrated on **Figure 9.6**.

Statement of Importance

Special Landscape Area: Teviot Valleys

Location and boundaries:

This area covers sections of the Teviot, Jed and Rule valleys as they converge to the north-east of Hawick. It is located between Hawick and Jedburgh, with boundaries formed by ridges which contain the valleys, and by the A6088 to the south.

To the south the boundary follows an A road, and to the south-east, a forest edge. The eastern boundary is formed by minor roads and forest edges above the Jed, and by the settlement boundary of Jedburgh. The boundary follows the A68 north of Jedburgh, and then mirrors the Monteviot designed landscape boundary to the north-east. The north and north-west boundary follows roads, tracks and a disused railway to Hawick, which forms the western edge. These boundaries were selected as they visually contain the valleys and their settings in this area.

Designation statement:

This area covers a series of distinctive Borders valleys and hills, and has been defined to draw together a number of landmark features with their pastoral and woodland settings. Visually prominent hills include Minto Crag, Peniel Heugh, Dunion Hill, Minto Hills and Rubers Law, each of which has a strong relationship with the adjacent valleys and the wider landscape. The three valleys each have their own distinctive character and scale.

Minto Crag is a dramatic feature contrasting strongly with the gentle farmed valley Teviot below. Long views along the Teviot valley are terminated by the monument on Peniel Heugh. The romantic setting of Fatlips Castle is a reminder of a historic past, when the landscape was dominated by wealthy landowning and military classes, and extensive designed landscapes make a positive contribution. The smooth, rounded grassy Minto Hills contrast with the rugged, wooded Minto Crag. Rubers Law has a distinctive craggy summit, dissected and rocky. Bonchester Hill is almost a reduced version of the same, while Dunion Hill is a landmark above Jedburgh.

The Jed valley is important as a key gateway into the Borders along the A68, including the sense of sudden arrival at Jedburgh after the scenic drive through the wooded valley. Rocky cliff features of red sandstone along the Jed are particularly attractive against the spring green of trees. The Rule Water is smaller in scale than the Jed valley, and is densely wooded with beech trees along the road. It is an intimate, picturesque valley with traditional stone buildings and bridges, and intriguing gateways into estates. There is evidence of management which suggests a well-established and well-loved landscape.

Forces for change:

- Changes in agricultural practices, crops and methods
- Farm diversification
- Changes in management of hedges and hedgerow trees
- Introduction of new woodlands
- Potential for visual impact of development on hills outside the cSLA
- Proposals for development of wind farms and wind turbines, and access tracks

Management recommendations:

- Continue to promote sustainable land management to balance the needs of biodiversity, recreation and tourism
- Encourage the sustainable management of hedges, and where possible seek the reinstatement of hedges and hedgerow trees
- Promote the restructuring of forests, and the use of forest design plans for new areas of afforestation

- Consider the effects of development on hilltops, such as masts or wind farms, which may be visible within the valleys

CSLA 6: LAMMERMUIR HILLS

Introduction

- 9.15 This LCU covers the Lammermuirs between the A68 and Abbey St Bathans. It comprises UP02 Lammermuir Plateau, RV57 Upper Whiteadder, and parts of UF37 Greenlaw Common and RV58 Upper Leader. It is illustrated on **Figure 9.7**.

Statement of Importance

Special Landscape Area: Lammermuir Hills
<p>Location and boundaries:</p> <p>This area includes the open moorland of the main Lammermuir Plateau, from Lauderdale in the west to the Abbey St Bathans in the east. It includes the Lammermuir plateau, the upper Whiteadder, Durrington Laws and the fringes of upper Lauderdale.</p> <p>The western boundary follows the A68 and A697, taking in the fringes of the Lammermuirs in Lauderdale. The southern boundary follows tracks, paths, watercourses and forest edges, selected to represent the moorland edge, where open land gives way to enclosed farmland. To the south-east the boundary follows the B6456 to the south of Durrington Little Law, then runs northwards along tracks, watercourses, roads and the Whiteadder Water to Abbey St Bathans. The eastern edge follows the Monynut Water and a minor road to the Council boundary.</p>
<p>Designation statement:</p> <p>This large area of open upland is representative of the moorlands and valleys of the northern Borders. It is the largest area of moorland in the Borders, with remote, wild qualities, despite its managed nature. Within the plateau, there is little visual diversity aside from the mottled patchwork resulting from muirburn, and views often present a seemingly endless succession of moorland ridges. The extent and uninterrupted openness of the landscape lend scenic value. To the south the moorland extends onto the striking conical Durrington Laws, unique landscape features. The upper Whiteadder is a broad, relatively shallow upland valley, which serves as a visual foreground to the Lammermuir Plateau. The landscape becomes more intricate in the east, around Abbey St Bathans and the incised cleughs of the Monynut valley. Forestry and wind turbines are prominent around the valley of the Bothwell Water.</p> <p>The area is popular with recreational users, with the Southern Upland Way passing through the area. The B6356, following the Whiteadder, is the main access into and through the hills. The area is valued especially for its upland and heathland habitats. Although the area is very sparsely settled, the wider Lammermuir plateau forms an important part of the setting of settlements in East Lothian. Visually, the edges of the hills are important to the Leader and Whiteadder valleys.</p>
<p>Forces for change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals for wind farm development, and associated development including tracks • Changes in estate management practices • Construction of vehicle access tracks and associated erosion
<p>Management recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to balance the needs of biodiversity, recreation, access and tourism with estate management practices • Positive management of valued habitats in line with LBAP, including ongoing protection of natural heritage designations

- Seek to maintain the strong wildness character of the plateau, including the sense of isolation where this is apparent

CSLA 7: BERWICKSHIRE COAST

Introduction

- 9.16 This cSLA is designed to form a continuous landscape and seascape corridor along the Berwickshire Coast, and takes in parts of LCUs CO44, CO45, CO46, CO47 and RV76. It is illustrated on **Figure 9.8**.

Statement of Importance

<p>Special Landscape Area: Berwickshire Coast</p>
<p>Location and boundaries:</p> <p>This cSLA covers the coastal edge of the Scottish Borders Council area, from the East Lothian boundary in the north to the English Border in the south. For the most part it comprises a narrow strip broadening to include the coastal moorland of Coldingham Common. The cSLA is bounded on the landward side by the A1 and A1107, or by landforms which mark the extent of overt marine influence. The settlements of St Abbs, Coldingham and Eyemouth are excluded.</p>
<p>Designation statement:</p> <p>The cSLA covers the rocky coastline of the Borders. Although untypical of the wider Borders landscape, this stretch of cliffs and bays represents one of the most dramatic sections of Scotland's east coast. Around Cockburnspath the coast is dramatic and wild, expansive and exciting. The steeply-sloping landform results in a pleasing, occasionally secluded landscape with attractive colours. Coldingham Moor is wild and rugged, and of very high scenic quality, with distinctive rocky outcrops and long views to Fife. The elevated coastal moorland is unique along the Scottish east coast. Coldingham Bay is very attractive, and the surrounding cliff features make for a distinctive section of coast. The bay itself is a tranquil, calm environment in comparison with the wilder seas around St Abbs. Important coastal landmarks include St Abbs Head, and sites of biodiversity and geodiversity interest such as Siccar Point. Dramatic cliffs continue south of Eyemouth, though the A1 has a greater influence in this area.</p> <p>The valued coastal landscape is well used for recreation. A continuous coastal footpath now links East Lothian and Berwick, passing Fast Castle, Siccar Point. The area provides the settlement settings of Eyemouth, St Abbs, Coldingham and Cockburnspath. The fishing village of Eyemouth is an important coastal access point, with a historic harbour.</p>
<p>Forces for change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational development pressures such as caravan parks • Proposals for wind farm development, and associated development including tracks • Development pressure at settlement edges • Road improvements along the A1 corridor
<p>Management recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the wild nature of the marine edge, and continue to protect the internationally-designated natural heritage assets • Recognise the importance of the open coastal moorlands and headlands as a unique landscape resource on the east coast of Scotland

CSLA 8: CHEVIOT FOOTHILLS

Introduction

- 9.17 This cSLA is largely formed from a single LCU, which presents a largely coherent, high-scoring area. UPI7 Cocklaw Group comprises the majority of this area, with small parts of RV62 Bowmont Water and RV66 Kale Water added for context. Parts of UPI8 and UPI5 extend the cSLA west to Carter Bar. It is illustrated on **Figure 9.9**.

Statement of Importance

Special Landscape Area: Cheviot Foothills
Location and boundaries: <p>This area covers the Cheviot Foothills, which occupy the south-east corner of the Borders, and adjoin Northumberland National Park across the border. It is bounded to the north by the B6401, the Bowmont Water, and a minor road. To the west the boundary follows a minor road which runs along the Kale Water, then paths to Pennymuir, and minor roads west to the A68 and A6088. These boundaries contain those hills which are most representative of the Cheviot landform, and the area which forms the foreground to the Carter Bar viewpoint.</p>
Designation statement: <p>The Cheviot uplands are distinct from typical Borders hills, being of different form with more frequent rocky outcrops. The area has a very remote feel, with wildness value at the summits. The rocky outcrops enliven the green grass moorland expanse of some hills. Layers of hills give visual depth to views into and within the area. It can be an exciting, dramatic landscape which draws you in with the promise of fine views from higher ground. The surrounding valleys have a quieter, unthreatening drama. Flat valley floors without tree cover allow open views to the hills.</p> <p>Carter Bar is a key access point into the Borders, and indeed into Scotland. The border car park offers panoramic views across wide areas of the Southern Uplands. The Cheviots are a well-used recreational resource, contiguous with the Northumberland National Park, and including sections of the Pennine Way and St Cuthbert's Way. The valley is a minor gateway into the Borders from Northumberland. Yetholm is an important settlement for recreation as it lies at the end of the Pennine Way. The Kale valley has prominent cultivation terraces on its east slope, presenting a clear sign of past habitation.</p>
Forces for change: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Changes in moorland management practices• Potential for afforestation• Recreational pressures including footpath erosion• Increasing marginality of hill sheep farming• Afforestation or changes in forestry management• Proposals for development of wind farms and wind turbines, and access tracks
Management recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seek to balance management needs of recreation, biodiversity and farming• Seek to maintain the largely unforested and undisturbed wild land character of the hills• Promote the reintroduction of native broadleaf woodland in valleys and along burns• Positive management of valued habitats in line with LBAP, including ongoing protection of natural heritage designations

CSLA 9: PENTLAND HILLS

Introduction

- 9.18 This cSLA includes the Pentland Hills at the north-west of the Scottish Borders. It covers UP01 Western Pentlands and UF23 West Linton. It is illustrated on **Figure 9.10**.

Statement of Importance

Special Landscape Area: Pentland Hills
Location and boundaries: This area covers the section of the Pentland Hills which lie within the Scottish Borders. The south-east boundary follows the A702, while the other edges are formed by the Council boundary. The cSLA includes the uplands and the farmland foreground, though the settlement of West Linton is excluded.
Designation statement: The Pentlands form a distinct and recognisable hill group, running south-west from Edinburgh into Lanarkshire, and forming the physical boundary between the Borders and West Lothian. Though less dramatic than the northern hills, the Borders' section of the Pentlands is an integral part of this wider landscape. They are underlain by Old Red Sandstone, in contrast to other Borders Uplands, and this gives rise to a distinctive topography. The rolling, rounded hills have wildness character despite their small extent and proximity to settlement. A patchwork of heather and grass is divided by occasional stone walls and isolated dwellings in upper valleys. The Pentlands are a popular recreational resource for the Borders and the wider region. The area to the north is a Regional Park which, although not extending into the Borders, encourages high levels of use across the hills. The area is readily accessible from Edinburgh on the A702, which enables framed views into the hills from the road. The farmland at the foot of the hills serves as a foreground in these views.
Forces for change: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Changes in estate management practices, including afforestation• Pressures for enhanced recreational opportunities and access• Potential loss of wildness character• Proposals for development of land at the foot of the hills, including along the A702
Management recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain wildness character of the hills and upland glens• Enhance native woodland cover in valleys• Promote recreational access whilst minimising conflicts with other land uses• Seek integration of management across Council boundaries

COMPARISON WITH EXISTING LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS

- 9.19 This section discusses the main differences between the current AGLV designations and the candidate SLAs.
- 9.20 The total area of the nine cSLAs is 152,913ha. The area of each cSLA is given in **Table 9.1**.

- 9.21 The area currently within AGLV designations is 129,294ha. The area of each AGLV is set out in **Table 6.1**.
- 9.22 The area currently within NSA designations is 14,100ha. The area of each NSA is also set out in **Table 6.1**.
- 9.23 It should be noted that the cSLAs exclude the areas within NSA designations, while the AGLVs and NSAs overlap. Therefore the total area currently covered by landscape designations (AGLV + NSA) is 129,294ha, the same as for AGLVs alone.
- 9.24 The total area covered by cSLAs and the two NSAs would be 167,013ha.
- 9.25 The cSLAs would cover an area some 23,600ha greater than the existing AGLVs. Including the NSAs, the implementation of these cSLAs would extend the area of land subject to some form of landscape designation by around 37,700ha, as compared to the present situation.
- 9.26 **Figure 9.11** illustrates the NSA, AGLV and cSLAs together.

Table 9.1: Areas of the cSLAs

Name	Area (Ha)
1 Tweedsmuir Uplands	53,569
2 Tweed Valley	10,959
3 Tweed, Ettrick and Yarrow Confluences	11,794
4 Tweed Lowlands	6,819
5 Teviot Valleys	15,693
6 Lammermuir Hills	25,057
7 Berwickshire Coast	4,469
8 Cheviot Foothills	18,603
9 Pentland Hills	5,950

National Scenic Areas

- 9.27 There is no overlap between the cSLAs and the NSAs. This is in contrast to the AGLVs, which extended across the NSAs.

Areas of Great Landscape Value

- 9.28 cSLA 1 Tweedsmuir Uplands covers similar territory to the Tweedsmuir Hills AGLV. The cSLA excludes the NSA, but includes Minch Moor and a slightly larger area of Broughton Heights. cSLA 2 Tweed Valley covers part of the Tweedsmuir Hills AGLV around Peebles, but extends designation across a large area not previously designated.
- 9.29 cSLA 3 Tweed, Ettrick and Yarrow Confluences is similar in outline to the Eildon Hills and Bowhill AGLV. However, the cSLA excludes the NSA to the east, while adding Brown Knowe to the west.

- 9.30 cSLA 4 Tweed Lowlands and cSLA 5 Teviot Valleys extend designation across large areas of lowland and upland fringe which have not previously been subject to designation.
- 9.31 cSLA 6 Lammermuir Hills covers most of the area of the Lammermuir AGLV: it excludes the eastern fringe and Greenlaw Moor, but includes the western fringe along the A68. cSLA 7 is similar to the Berwickshire Coast AGLV, although the cSLA extends south to the Anglo-Scottish border, and extends further inland around Coldingham and Coldingham Common.
- 9.32 cSLA 8 is very similar to the Cheviot Foothills AGLV, but excludes the hills west of the Kale Water. cSLA9 is identical to the Pentlands AGLV, except that it extends to the A702.

Conclusion

- 9.33 The cSLAs are considered to represent a wider range of Borders landscape types than the AGLVs, which were largely restricted to upland areas and the coastal strip. The cSLAs include a number of key valleys which are highly typical of the Scottish Borders. Thus the cSLAs extend designation across a greater area, covering a more representative range of landscapes.

10 Planning Policy Recommendations

MODEL POLICIES

- 10.1 Research carried out for SNH in 2003³⁰ 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 nationally important NSA designations.
- 10.2 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” (paragraph 7.8).*
- 10.3 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 that 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” (paragraph 7.9).*

POLICY FRAMEWORK RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.4 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, NSA policy and the Countryside Around Towns policy, as appropriate.
- 10.5 In forthcoming Local Plans, Special Landscape Areas should be a ‘countryside’ designation and not included within defined settlement boundaries. Settlements have been excluded from the cSLAs on this basis.

³⁰ David Tyldesley and Associates (2003) Model Policies for the Natural Heritage. Scottish Natural Heritage.

- 10.6 The extent and boundaries of the cSLAs shown in this report are the result of the process outlined in the methodology (**Section 3**). Following wider consultation, it may be necessary for Scottish Borders Council to modify the boundaries, for example to accommodate areas allocated for development.
- 10.7 The designation of an area as an SLA does not preclude development; however it 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.
- 10.8 Development outwith an SLA could also impact on its integrity. The proximity of development to SLAs, and impacts on views to and from SLAs, should be addressed within the wider landscape policy framework to ensure that the integrity and identity of each SLA is maintained.
- 10.9 Development has the potential to affect different SLAs in different ways. The cSLAs defined in this report represent a range of landscape types across the Scottish Borders, and there may be a need to 'fine-tune' policy to reflect differing pressures within different landscapes. Key distinctions which could be drawn include:
- Upland SLAs, where the emphasis of policy should be on retaining their largely undeveloped and remote character. This means ensuring that any developments are located and designed to limit their wider visibility and, as far as possible, protecting open skylines and rugged summits.
 - Valley SLAs, where the emphasis of policy should be on maintaining the current patterns of land use and settlement, with development focused within towns and villages. Elsewhere, development should be located on the lower slopes or floor of the valley and carefully sited, designed and landscaped to integrate within the valley landscape. Development proposals in surrounding upland areas should be assessed to minimise the visual impact on the SLA, including views and vistas along the valley.
 - Lowland SLAs, where the emphasis of policy should be to retain the distinctive rural character of the landscape. Isolated developments in the open countryside should be avoided wherever possible. Agricultural development and proposals for diversification or conversion of agricultural buildings should retain their character and avoid the creation of incongruous elements.
 - Coastal SLA, where the emphasis of policy should be to maintain the focus of development within existing coastal settlements in order to retain the undeveloped character of the coast. Development within these settlements should be of scale and character that respects and complements their historic character. The effects of development along the coastal edge and within the hinterland adjacent to the SLA should be carefully considered.
- 10.10 This distinction could also be utilised to target management requirements, for example focusing on recreational access in upland and coastal SLAs, while looking at farm management and maintenance in lowland SLAs. Individual differences between the cSLAs are reflected in the management guidelines set out within the Statements of Importance.

10.11 The coverage of the cSLAs, and the specific management guidelines identified, can also be utilised as a reference for future landscape or environmental grant funding applications.

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Appendix I

Methodology for Ranking the Habitat Value Criterion

HABITAT VALUE CRITERION – METHODOLOGY

The habitat value criterion was assessed on a more quantitative basis than the other criteria (see Section 3). Following discussion with the Council, it was decided to replace the naturalness criterion, since aspects of perceived naturalness were covered under the wildness criterion. The habitat value criterion drew on analysis of phase I habitat data and natural heritage designations.

Ranking of phase I habitats

Phase I data was supplied by the council, and an agreed list of ‘valued habitats’ were selected. These valued habitats were assigned relative values of very high (4), high (3) and medium (2), with other habitat types assigned a value of low (1). Values for each habitat type are set out in **Table A1**. Through a GIS analysis, the area of each value within each LCU was calculated. A weighting was then applied, to enhance the influence of the most valued habitats. Following the application of this weighting, the value with the highest weighted score was assigned to the LCU as a whole. Worked examples are shown below:

Habitat value	Area (ha)	Weighting	Weighted score	Rank
<i>LCU UPI Western Pentlands</i>				
Low	201.0179	x1	201	
Medium	234.4677	x2	469	
High	1345.7048	x3	4037	
Very high	2676.7301	x4	10707	4
<i>LCU UPI 6 Larriston Fells</i>				
Low	970.0294	1	970	
Medium	3086.5784	2	6173	2
High	1379.8979	3	4140	
Very high	795.5218	4	3182	

Ranking of designated sites

A map of natural heritage designations was then overlaid onto the LCUs. The designations considered were:

- Ramsar sites;
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC);
- Special Protection Areas (SPA);
- National nature Reserves (NNR);
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI); and
- Local wildlife sites (LWS).

A simple scoring system was developed, as follows:

Designation within LCU	Score
Extensive internationally-designated site:	Very high (4)
Internationally-designated site, or extensive nationally-designated site	High (3)
Nationally-designated site, or extensive locally designated site:	Medium (2)
Locally designated site:	Low (1)
No designated sites:	None (0)

For the purposes of the assessment, an 'extensive' site was defined as one covering 20% or more of the area of an LCU.

The results of these two analyses were then combined to create an overall habitat value ranking. It was considered that the presence of designated sites was less important to the study, since they are not readily perceived, while habitat types are more apparent in the landscape. On this basis, the Phase I ranking was double weighted when the two scores were combined. The results of the two analyses, and the combined rankings, are set out in **Table A2**.

Table A1 Phase I habitat types

Phase I habitat type	Score	Phase I habitat type	Score
Acid grassland - semi-improved	High	Intertidal - shingles/cobbles	High
Acid grassland - unimproved	High	Introduced shrub	Low
Bare ground	Low	Marginal and inundation - marginal vegetation	Low
Blanket sphagnum bog	Very high	Maritime cliff and slope	High
Boundaries	Low	Marsh/marshy grassland	High
Bracken - continuous	Medium	Mixed parkland/scattered trees	Low
Bracken - scattered	Medium	Mixed woodland - plantation	High
Broadleaved parkland/scattered trees	Low	Montane heath/dwarf herb	Very high
Broadleaved woodland - plantation	High	Neutral grassland - semi-improved	High
Broadleaved woodland - recently felled	Low	Neutral grassland - unimproved	High
Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural	Very high	Other exposure - acid/neutral	High
Built land	Low	Other habitat	Low
Calcareous grassland - semi-improved	High	Other rock exposure	High
Caravan site	Low	Other tall herb and fern - non ruderal	Low
Coastal grassland	High	Other tall herb and fern - ruderal	Low
Coniferous parkland/scattered trees	Low	Poor semi-improved grassland	High
Coniferous woodland - plantation	Medium	Quarry	High
Coniferous woodland - recently felled	Low	Raised sphagnum bog	Very high
Cultivated/disturbed land - amenity grassland	Low	Recently felled woodland	Low
Cultivated/disturbed land - arable	Low	Refuse-tip	High
Cultivated/disturbed land - ephemeral/short perennial	Low	Running water	High
Dry dwarf shrub heath - acid	Very high	Scree	High
Dry dwarf shrub heath - basic	Very high	Scree - acid/neutral	High
Dry heath/acid grassland	Very high	Scrub - dense/continuous	Low
Dry modified bog	Very high	Scrub - scattered	Low
Dune grassland	High	Spoil	High
Fen - basin mire	Very high	Standing water	High
Fen - flood plain mire	Very high	Swamp	Low
Fen - valley mire	Very high	Wet dwarf shrub heath	Very high
Flush and spring - acid/neutral flush	Very high	Wet heath/acid grassland	Very high
Flush and spring - basic flush	Very high	Wet modified bog	Very high
Gardens	Low		
Hard cliff	High		
Hedge with trees	Low		
Improved grassland	Low		
Intact hedge	Low		
Intertidal	High		
Intertidal - boulders/rocks	High		
Intertidal - mud/sand	High		

Table A2 Habitat value ranking

LCU	Phase I score	Designation score	Combined Score	Habitat value rank
UPI	4	3	4	Very high
UP2	4	3	4	Very high
UP3	4	4	4	Very high
UP4	3	2	3	High
UP5	4	0	3	High
UP6	3	1	2	Medium
UP7	4	3	4	Very high
UP8	4	3	4	Very high
UP9	4	3	4	Very high
UPI0	4	2	3	High
UPI1	4	2	3	High
UPI2	4	3	4	Very high
UPI3	3	4	3	High
UPI4	2	3	2	Medium
UPI5	2	3	2	Medium
UPI6	2	0	1	Low
UPI7	3	3	3	High
UPI8	3	3	3	High
UF19	1	3	2	Medium
UF20	1	3	2	Medium
UF21	1	3	2	Medium
UF22	1	2	1	Low
UF23	1	3	2	Medium
UF24	1	2	1	Low
UF25	3	2	3	High
UF26	3	3	3	High
UF27	3	3	3	High
UF28	3	2	3	High
UF29	3	1	2	Medium
UF30	1	0	1	Low
UF31	3	3	3	High
UF32	1	3	2	Medium
UF33	1	3	2	Medium
UF34	3	3	3	High
UF35	1	3	2	Medium
UF36	3	0	2	Medium
UF37	4	3	4	Very high
LO38	1	3	2	Medium
LO39	1	3	2	Medium
LO40	1	3	2	Medium
LO41	1	2	1	Low
LO42	1	2	1	Low
LO43	1	2	1	Low
CO44	1	3	2	Medium
CO45	1	2	1	Low

LCU	Phase I score	Designation score	Combined Score	Habitat value rank
CO46	1	3	2	Medium
CO47	3	3	3	High
RV48	3	3	3	High
RV49	3	4	3	High
RV50	3	3	3	High
RV51	3	1	2	Medium
RV52	1	3	2	Medium
RV53	3	3	3	High
RV54	1	3	2	Medium
RV55	3	3	3	High
RV56	1	3	2	Medium
RV57	1	3	2	Medium
RV58	1	3	2	Medium
RV59	3	3	3	High
RV60	1	3	2	Medium
RV61	1	3	2	Medium
RV62	1	3	2	Medium
RV63	1	3	2	Medium
RV64	1	2	1	Low
RV65	1	3	2	Medium
RV66	1	3	2	Medium
RV67	1	3	2	Medium
RV68	1	3	2	Medium
RV69	1	3	2	Medium
RV70	1	3	2	Medium
RV71	1	3	2	Medium
RV72	1	3	2	Medium
RV73	1	3	2	Medium
RV74	1	3	2	Medium
RV75	1	3	2	Medium
RV76	1	3	2	Medium

Appendix 2

Field Survey Recording Sheet

Part I: Checking and completing the evaluation

LCU:			
Location		Grid ref.	
Date		Surveyor	
Time		Weather	
Representativeness			
Does the landscape contain features or a combination of features that recur throughout the Scottish Borders and therefore contribute to its wider identity, image and sense of place locally, regionally or nationally?			
Revised rank:			
Rarity			
Does the landscape contain features or a combination of features which are rare or unique within the Scottish Borders, or which are known to be uncommon elsewhere?			
Revised rank:			
Condition			
Are the landscape features or combinations of features in a good state of repair?			
Rank:			
Intactness			
Is the landscape intact or has it experienced a decline in quality? Are present and future changes likely to lead to such decline, for example as a consequence of changes in landscape management, patterns of development or the influence of development in adjacent areas?			
Rank:			
Wildness			
Does the landscape have significant wildness characteristics?			
Revised rank:			

Part I: Checking and completing the evaluation

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?
Revised rank:
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, which are focused on enjoyment of the landscape?
Revised rank:
Cultural qualities
Does the landscape have specific historic or cultural associations (including literature, music, art, local history or particular spiritual associations) or does it contribute to the wider cultural heritage of the area?
Revised rank:
Naturalness
Does the landscape feature high biodiversity values (e.g. presence of statutory and non-statutory nature conservation sites, Local Biodiversity Sites, areas of valued LBAP habitats) or geodiversity values?
Revised rank:
Settlement setting
How important is the landscape in providing the setting for settlements as a whole or particular aspects of a settlement?
Revised rank:

Part I: Checking and completing the evaluation

Views
Does the landscape provide key views to and from important built and natural heritage assets or transport routes?
Revised rank:
Consistency
Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?
Landscape relationships
Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?

Part 2: Identifying potential key qualities

Identification of key qualities
Landscape features
Objective description of landscape features: Landform, land cover, land use, settlement pattern, distinctive features.
Visual analysis
Visual relationships and contrasts which are important to the landscape
Personal response
Subjective description of personal response to the landscape

Appendix 3

Landscape Evaluation

Landscape Character Unit name:		Western Pentlands
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UPI
Landscape Character Type		Dissected Plateau Moorland
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	High	Several LCUs of this type occur across the northern edge of the Borders.
Rarity	Medium	Underlying geology of Old Red Sandstone is unique within the Borders, although resulting topography is similar to the other areas of this type.
Condition	Medium	The moorland is overgrazed in places, but is clearly actively managed. Stone walls are generally in a good state of repair.
Intactness	High	Baddinsgill Reservoir represents change in the landscape, as do the surrounding coniferous plantations. Plantations are localised and the majority of this landscape is intact. No obvious pressure for ongoing change. The proposed Harrows Law wind farm is outside SBC area but may affect views.
Wildness	High	High level of wildness within glens and on the summits. Influenced by settlement and the A702 along the south-eastern edge.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	Scenic hills and valleys with dramatic views within and outward over surrounding landscapes
Enjoyment	Very high	Well used area for outdoor recreation, adjacent to the Regional Park with good access. Paths are well signposted, and the area is very accessible.
Cultural qualities	High	A single Scheduled Monument and very few undesignated heritage assets. The undesignated assets are predominately robbed burial cairns and post-medieval structures, and are not immediately apparent in the field. Historic drove roads cross the hills, and there are associations with Allan Ramsay and R L Stevenson
Habitat Value	Very high	Extensive valued upland habitats. SPA/ Ramsar site at Westwater Reservoir.
Settlement setting	Medium	The area forms the backdrop to West Linton, when viewed from the lower-lying ground to the south-east. There are no settlements within this LCU.
Views	Very high	Highly visible landscape, particularly from the lower ground to the south-east. Within the landscape, views are contained within the valleys, but are more extensive from hilltops. Some of the hilltops are landmark features. There are interesting views into valleys from the A702. The Pentlands are a landmark range from beyond the Borders.
Tourist economy	Medium	The Pentlands are popular with regional residents, particularly those from Edinburgh, but less central to the tourist economy of the Scottish Borders
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Consistent upland landscape with limited significant variation in landcover or character.
Key Landscape relationships		UF23 West Linton Synclinal belt – long boundary with visual links. The hills provide a backdrop to the Rolling Farmland. Strong relationships with other parts of the Pentland Hills outside the Borders.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Lammermuir Plateau
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UP2
Landscape Character Type		Dissected Plateau Moorland
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	High	Several LCUs of this type occur across the northern edge of the Borders. However, the extent of this area of moorland is unrepeated within the study area. The area has a strong sense of place as a Borders landscape.
Rarity	High	Upland plateau with strong ridges and hills. As above, the scale of this landscape is unusual, being the largest extent of such moorland in the area.
Condition	High	Heather management has resulted in a patchwork of moorland landcover. Overgrazing is apparent in some locations, but generally the area is well maintained. Stone walls are well-kept.
Intactness	Medium	There are areas of improved and semi-improved grassland, with other areas of new woodland planting, within the moorland landscape. Felled woodland is occasionally prominent. The Crystal Rig wind farm lies at the north-east corner of the area, and does not significantly impinge upon the integrity of the plateau. The consented Fallago Rig wind farm will be located more centrally and may therefore have a more widespread influence.
Wildness	High	The LCU has strong wildness quality despite overhead power lines, access tracks and coniferous forest, access tracks and pylon lines. This is clearly a man-modified landscape, but has isolated and remote qualities. Development of wind farms locally affects wildness character.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	This is an open landscape with little overt human influence, except localised as noted above. There are limited dramatic contrasts, but the extent of the undeveloped moorland is remarkable.
Enjoyment	High	Used for outdoor recreation and is well covered by paths and tracks, although access to some parts is seasonally limited by sport shooting. The Southern Upland Way runs through the southern part.
Cultural qualities	High	There are a number of SAMs including forts and settlements. Upland environment contains a number of prehistoric ritual and funerary structures which contributes to a sense of a 'ritual landscape' though many of these have been robbed. Good preservation of 18 th and 19 th century agricultural features and landscape.
Habitat Value	Very high	Very extensive valued upland habitats, chiefly heathland including Lammer Law SSSI.
Settlement setting	High	The area forms a limited part of the settlement setting for Lauder, but generally the area is uninhabited and the majority has no role in the setting of Borders settlements. The Lammermuir Hills are important to the setting of many settlements to the north, within East Lothian.
Views	High	Unobstructed, long distance views are available from the edges of this landscape, although further in the views are limited due to the plateau nature of the landform. Visible landscape at the edges due to upland topography, though the interior remains 'hidden' from adjacent areas. The western edge is important in views from the A68 gateway corridor. Two 'iconic views' on the Southern Upland Way.
Tourist economy	Medium	Regionally important for outdoor recreation, the landscape makes some contribution to the Scottish Border's tourist economy.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	This is a consistent upland landscape, however presence of coniferous forest in the east fringes creates a localised variation in character.

Key Landscape relationships	Relationships	RV57 Upper Whiteadder and RV58 Upper Leader The moorland blends gently into the neighbouring river valleys without strong physical relationships between the two. Important cross-boundary relationships, where the landscape continues into East Lothian.
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Landscape Character Unit name:		Moorfoot Plateau
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UP3
Landscape Character Type		Dissected Plateau Moorland
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	High	Several LCUs of this type occur across the northern edge of the Borders. A typical landscape of the Border uplands. The landforms and the patchwork patterns of heather moor are similar to the Lammermuir area.
Rarity	Low	Deeply dissected distinctive hill masses are not rare within the Borders. There are few distinctive features with rarity value.
Condition	Medium	The heather moorland is actively managed, and the distinction between heather with muirburn, and grazed rough pasture, is often sharp. Stone walls are in good condition. There is widespread bracken encroachment, although there are also signs of control being attempted.
Intactness	High	Farms with stands of broadleaf woodland appear well-established. There is evidence that large areas have been drained. Extensive commercial forestry occupies the western part of the area. There are two operational wind farms at Bowbeat and Carcant, the latter well-contained within the landform.
Wildness	High	Much of the LCU has a sense of wildness, arising from its emptiness. However this is tempered by the presence of coniferous forest and wind farm development, particularly in the west section of the LCU.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Medium	Distinct hill masses and upland terrain. Attractive combinations of hills and valleys but lacking distinctive landform features. A particularly striking approach from Midlothian along the B7007. There is relatively little drama, this is a gently rolling upland.
Enjoyment	High	The LCU is well used for outdoor recreation, with frequent signed paths.
Cultural qualities	Medium	Upland fringe of the Eddleston Valley from Portmore Loch to Peebles is marked by a number of prehistoric settlements and funerary monuments, some Scheduled. Moorfoot hills contain surviving medieval and post-medieval agricultural landscapes and features. ;There are SBC designed landscapes on the fringes of the LCU, although these relate more to the neighbouring valleys.
Habitat value	Very High	A large portion of the LCU is covered by the Moorfoot Hills SAC and SSSI. Extensive valued upland habitats.
Settlement setting	Medium	The hills around Glentress Forest provide a setting to Peebles and Innerleithen. There are no substantive settlements within the LCU.
Views	High	Internal views are limited by topography, forming vistas along the valleys, with occasional longer views. There are few dominant visual foci as the hills are rounded. Important in views from the A703 and A7 gateway corridors. There are key views north from the main ridge, towards Lothian and Edinburgh.
Tourist economy	Very high	The mountain biking and Forestry Commission centres at Glentress attract a high number of visitors.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	This is a consistent upland landscape, however presence of coniferous forest in the west of the LCU creates a variation in the character. The level of landscape management does vary to a degree.
Key Landscape relationships	-	UP4 Lauder Common RV59, RV55, RV56: Steep interface with the River Tweed, Eddleston Water and Gala Water valleys. The LCU is a minor gateway into the Borders from Midlothian, largely for recreational users accessing the hills.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Lauder Common
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UP4
Landscape Character Type		Plateau Grassland
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	Medium	This is the only <i>Plateau Grassland</i> character area within the Scottish Borders, although it does have some recurring features. The underlying landform reflects the typical uplands of the northern Borders.
Rarity	Medium	Despite being the only example of its type, the characteristic features do occur elsewhere and there is little rarity value.
Condition	High	The moorland is not overgrazed, though there has been some erosion of landscape structure.
Intactness	Medium	There is extensive drained moorland and relatively extensive commercial forests. Some of these have been restructured as 'patches' rather than 'blocks'. There are wind farms at Dun Law and Toddleburn in the north, and Long Park in the south, which influence the whole LCU.
Wildness	Medium	Large scale of the landform and lack of enclosure contributes to a feeling of remoteness, but this is tempered by wind farm development, coniferous forest and pylons.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Medium	Large scale open landscape with low diversity. Enlivened by outward views.
Enjoyment	Medium	A number of paths across the southern half of the LCU.
Cultural qualities	High	Roman, prehistoric and medieval SAMs including a Roman road (Dere Street). Remains of medieval hospital at Soutra Aisle. Preserved relict agricultural landscapes. Several SBC designed landscapes including Cathpair and Wooplaw extend into this LCU from the neighbouring LCUs.
Habitat value	High	Some valued heathland and grassland habitats. SSSI at Airhouse Wood.
Settlement setting	Medium	Forms part of the wider setting for Lauder, Oxnam and Stow in the adjacent valleys. There is no substantive settlement within this LCU.
Views	High	Open panoramic views over surrounding landscapes, for example to the Eildon Hills from Lauder-Stow road. Prominent landscape in views from the A68 and A7 which cross it at gateways into the Borders from the north. The A68 gateway offers extensive views along Lauderdale, while the A7 gateway is less dramatic.
Tourist economy	Low	No direct contribution to the Scottish Borders tourist economy, although small parts of the LCU act as gateways to the Borders.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Generally large scale and open in character. Some variation in landcover/land use, and wind farms have introduced local variation.
Key Landscape relationships	Relationships	RV56 Upper Gala RV58 Upper Leader The river valleys define this area, the transition to the Gala is steep, to the Leader more gentle. The southern part of the LCU merges more gradually with UF35 East Gala

Landscape Character Unit name:		Broughton Heights
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UP5
Landscape Character Type		Plateau Outliers
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	High	Domed hills with a mosaic of landcover are relatively common features.
Rarity	Medium	Discrete hill masses separated from main plateau by river valleys, this type is limited to the north-west of the Borders. The hills are relatively angular and irregular, compared to other upland areas, though not to an extent that they could be considered 'rare'.
Condition	High	Clear evidence of ongoing management of the landscape, such as repairs to stone walls. There are areas where overgrazing is apparent. Pine woodlands within stone walled enclosures may lack management, and appear vestigial.
Intactness	Medium	Plantations of forestry are the most obvious change, and there are examples of particularly harsh forest edges. There are no obvious pressures for significant future change.
Wildness	High	Large scale, open landscape, with qualities of remoteness and tranquillity, although it is a man-modified landscape.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	Visual interest is largely based on the sculptural qualities of the landform, which is emphasised by the moorland landcover. Geometric plantations occasionally interrupt these forms.
Enjoyment	Medium	The southern half is within the Tweeddale NSA. A number of paths cross the LCU, including the John Buchan Way.
Cultural qualities	High	Three SBC designed landscapes lie on the edges of the LCU, which are part of the valley, although they provide the approach into this landscape. There are a number of SAMs present including hill forts.
Habitat value	High	Extensive valued upland habitats, though no areas designated for biodiversity interest.
Settlement setting	Medium	Provides part of the setting for small settlements in the adjacent river valleys, eg Broughton, but there is no settlement in this LCU.
Views	Very high	Wide horizons and distant views at higher elevations, key viewpoints overlook the Tweed valley. This landscape is visible from the A701 and A72 corridors. 'Iconic view' at Stobo on the John Buchan Way.
Tourist economy	Medium	Visitors attracted to outdoor recreation and historic sites.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Smooth ridges and dome shaped hills, with no significant variation.
Key Landscape relationships	Relationships	UF32, RV52, RV53, RV59: Steep interface of valleys sides to the Lyne Water and the River Tweed, and to the upland fringe to the west.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Eddleston / Lyne Interfluve
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UP6
Landscape Character Type		Plateau Outliers
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	High	Domed hills with a mosaic of landcover are relatively common features.
Rarity	Medium	Discrete hill masses separated from main plateau by river valleys, this type is limited to the north-west of the Borders.
Condition	Medium	The landscape appears to be reasonably well maintained.
Intactness	Medium	Much of this landscape has been afforested with large-scale coniferous plantations.
Wildness	High	An open upland landscape, away from settlement and human influence. The presence of coniferous forest dilutes the wildness of the landscape.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Medium	Domed hills and mosaic of land cover contribute to the scenic qualities of the area.
Enjoyment	Medium	A number of paths cross the LCU. The southern tip is within the Tweeddale NSA. There is public access and picnic sites on the minor road between Black and White Meldons.
Cultural qualities	Very high	Extensive well-preserved prehistoric SAMs in the south area of the LCU, notably hill forts. Black and White Meldon are significant historic settlement sites. One of the few 'palimpsest' landscapes in the Borders.
Habitat value	Medium	Much of the LCU is covered by coniferous forest, though there are some valued upland habitats, and two local wildlife sites (Clich bog (wet modified bog) and Haggin Hope burn(wetland/grassland).
Settlement setting	Low	There are no substantive settlements in the area, and those in valleys have limited intervisibility with the hills
Views	Very high	Distant views from higher elevations in the west half of the LCU. Important in views from the A703 and A72 gateway corridors into the Borders, and from the A702 Tweed valley route.
Tourist economy	Low	No significant contribution.
Landscape consistency	Partially consistent	Topography is consistent but land cover is split between grassland / moorland and plantation forest.
Key Landscape relationships		RV52 Lyne Water, RV55 Eddleston Water, also related to UF23 from which the hills are more visible, marking the edge of this lower-lying belt.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Broadlaw
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UP7
Landscape Character Type		Southern Uplands with scattered forest
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	High	Part of a large area of large scale rolling landform. Typical of the high Borders fells, with forestry and rough grazing.
Rarity	High	Similar areas present at a large scale within the west of the Scottish Borders, and there are no rare features. However, the scale of landscape is larger and more dramatic than other Border Hills.
Condition	Medium	Marginal hill farming with much rushy pasture. Some hill areas appear overgrazed, and bracken encroachment is apparent in the upper Manor Water. There are few stone walls, though these are well maintained.
Intactness	High	There are a few visually intrusive tracks leading into the hills. Blocks of forestry are undergoing restructuring into more diffuse patterns. Generally the landscape has not been disturbed by overt human intervention.
Wildness	Very high	Significant wild land atmosphere created by remoteness of high summits. There is little overt human influence, although this is still present. The more rugged hills in particular have wildness character.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	High summits with glacially sculpted features, grand scale and dramatic landform. Contrast of rugged hills surrounding deep valleys. Landmark hills with extensive views.
Enjoyment	Very high	The north west area of the LCU is designated as an NSA. A number of paths cross the LCU and it is popular with hill walkers, accessible from the Manor Water and from Cappercleuch / Megget. Southern Upland Way on east side..
Cultural qualities	High	The inventory-listed The Glen is within the LCU, with associated category A listed buildings. Several SBC designed landscapes extend into the LCU from the Tweed Valley, as well as the Inventory Dawyck. Several extensive prehistoric SAMs.
Habitat value	Very high	Extensive valued upland habitats. Majority of the west area of the LCU is covered by the Tweedsmuir Hills SSSI which includes blanket bog and heath as well as important montane habitat.
Settlement setting	High	Provides part of the wider setting for Innerleithen and Peebles in the Tweed valley. There are no substantive settlements in this LCU.
Views	Very high	The high hills are key to views from transport routes in adjoining valleys, including the A72, A701 and A708. There are extensive views from hill summits, taking in large parts of the Borders. Some hills are clearly recognisable landmarks, though others are less distinct.
Tourist economy	High	Associated with key tourist centres along the Tweed Valley
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Continuous upland landscape over a large area.
Key Landscape relationships	Relationships	RV53 Manor Water RV59 Middle Tweed Steep valley sides at margins with valleys, also extends across to other upland groups.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Hart Fell
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UP8
Landscape Character Type		Southern Uplands with scattered forest
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	High	Part of a large area of large scale rolling landform. Typical Border uplands of high, rounded peaks, an upland pastoral landscape.
Rarity	High	The reservoirs are of some rarity, being among the few large areas of open water in the Border uplands. There are some particularly rugged hills, such as the scree slopes to the south of Talla Reservoir, and the area is of larger scale than other parts of the Southern Uplands.
Condition	High	There are few signs of neglect within this landscape, there are relatively few stone walls, though these are generally in good repair. The reservoir landscapes are positively managed. It is a heavily grazed upland in places.
Intactness	High	The creation of large reservoirs has introduced large-scale engineered features into the upland landscape. There is also some forestry, and restructuring is underway. The bulk of the area remains as intact moorland.
Wildness	Very high	Significant wild land atmosphere created by remoteness of high summits. Away from dams and other infrastructure, the reservoirs do not detract from this. Isolated dwellings emphasise the remoteness of the landscape. A very quiet landscape, away from main roads at the fringes (A701, A708).
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Very high	High summits with glacially sculpted features, grand scale and dramatic landform. The Talla valley is particularly dramatic, with steep rocky slopes reflected in the reservoir. Contrast in the combination of man-made features and upland scenery, particularly around Talla dam.
Enjoyment	Very high	There are few formal paths but the landscape is widely accessible and popular with hill walkers. There is access from the National Trust reserve at the Grey Mare's Tail waterfall. Public access to reservoirs for boating, fishing, picnics, etc. Evidently a popular destination.
Cultural qualities	Medium	The reservoirs are of historic engineering interest. The source of the Tweed is of symbolic cultural significance, with associated prehistoric and medieval SAMs. Prehistoric settlement and funerary sites on either side of the Fruid reservoir.
Habitat value	Very high	Extensive valued upland habitats including blanket bog and upland heath. Moffat Hills SAC/SSSI across the Dumfries and Galloway border, and upper tributaries of Tweed SAC. SSSI at Craigdilly, and several local wildlife sites.
Settlement setting	Medium	There is no substantive Borders settlement within or adjacent to this LCU. The wider LCU plays a role in the setting of Moffat.
Views	High	Views from the A708 and A701, both of which are gateways into the Borders from the south-west. Distant and panoramic views from high ground within the LCU. Views are channelled along valleys, with key viewpoints including the head of the Megget and Talla valleys.
Tourist economy	Medium	Outdoor recreation provides some contribution, though this area is distant from the main centres. It is accessible from the M74 via Moffat.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Consistent upland landscape of high summits.
Key Landscape relationships	Relationships	Continues into upland areas of UP7 Broadlaw and UP9 Culter Fell. Transition of steep valley sides to the Moffat Water valley. North-eastern hills are important features when viewed from Yarrow valley and St Mary's Loch.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Culter Fell
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UP9
Landscape Character Type		Southern Uplands with scattered forest
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	High	Part of a large area of large scale rolling landform. Typical grassy, rounded hills with deep valleys. Isolated dwellings and occasional trees.
Rarity	Low	Similar areas present at a large scale within the west of the Scottish Borders. There are no apparent features of rarity value.
Condition	Medium	There are many overgrazed hillsides. Remnant stands of broadleaf woodland do not appear to be being replaced. Some stone walls are in a poor state of repair, others have been replaced by fences.
Intactness	High	Enclosure and improvement of pasture has taken place on lower ground. Tracks into the hills have caused scarring on occasional hillsides. Glenkerie and Clyde wind farms are currently under construction, and will alter the character of parts of this area.
Wildness	Very high	Significant wild land atmosphere created by remoteness of high summits. The upland valleys are bleak, with the hills being very open and exposed. The few dwellings appear very isolated.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	High summits with glacially sculpted features, grand scale and dramatic landform. Where the hills are more rounded there is less drama, and more limited visual diversity.
Enjoyment	Very high	A small part of the north east area of the LCU is designated as an NSA. The area is a popular hill walking destination, as evidenced by the litter bins along minor roads which access the hills.
Cultural qualities	Medium	There are a scattering of SAMs in the north and south of the LCU, mostly prehistoric, but including March Burn to Little Clyde Roman Road. There are few obvious visible signs.
Habitat value	Very high	Extensive valued upland habitats. Upper parts of Tweed SAC, and a local wildlife site at Glenmuck Bog.
Settlement setting	Medium	Forms part of the wider setting to Biggar and Symington in South Lanarkshire, and to Broughton and Tweedsmuir. There are no substantive settlements within this area.
Views	High	Important in views from the A701 and A702 corridors. Distant and panoramic views from high ground within the LCU. The rounded dome-shaped hills do not provide obvious landmarks.
Tourist economy	Medium	Visitors are attracted to the area for outdoor recreation, though this area is distant from the main centres.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Consistent upland landscape with high hills and tracts of coniferous forest.
Key Landscape relationships	Relationships	UP8 Hart Fell, and other uplands which form part of the wider group of hills. Extends westwards into South Lanarkshire forming a hill group dividing the Tweed and Clyde. RV50 Upper Tweed, RV54 Biggar Water; these valleys define this sub-group of hills.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Minch Moor
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UPI0
Landscape Character Type		Southern Uplands with scattered forest
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	High	Part of a large area of large scale rolling landform with tracts of coniferous forest.
Rarity	Low	Similar areas present at a large scale within the west of the Scottish Borders.
Condition	High	Heather moorland is not generally overgrazed, there are some stone walls in good repair. The forestry is highly managed.
Intactness	Medium	Large-scale forestry blankets sections of the hills, though restructuring is underway. A large number of tracks access the hills. Elsewhere heather moorland is largely intact, though some sheltered areas have been drained and improved for pasture.
Wildness	High	Degree of remoteness and elevation of hills give some wild land quality.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	A large section of the area is covered by the coniferous plantation of Elibank and Traquair Forest. The topography of dome shaped summits is visually appealing in open areas. There are attractive views into some of the more secluded glens.
Enjoyment	Very high	The area is popular for outdoor recreation including mountain biking routes and a network of paths. A long section of the Southern Upland Way passes through.
Cultural qualities	High	Fringes of several SBC designed landscapes extend into these hills. An ancient Drove Road across the ridge is of at least iron Age date, and has deep historic associations. It provides the context for SAMs such as Wallace' Trench.
Habitat value	High	Extensive valued upland heathland habitats, with much coniferous plantation. SSSIs at Williamhope and Glenkinnon Burn.
Settlement setting	High	Forms part of the setting for Innerleithen, Walkerburn and Selkirk.
Views	Very high	Visibility from and to open hill tops. This landscape is visible in views from the A72 and A708 corridors, and is an important element in views from the Tweed valley. Minch Moor, Brown Knowe and Three Brethren are all 'iconic viewpoints' on the Southern Upland Way.
Tourist economy	High	Outdoor recreation, particularly mountain biking and hill walking, attracts visitors to the area and local towns. Important in views from key areas and routes, though there are few tourist attractions.
Landscape consistency	Partly consistent	Distinct division between the open upland areas and forested upland areas.
Key Landscape relationships	-	Key relationships with RV49 Upper Yarrow and RV60 to the south and RV59 Middle Tweed to the north, and westward to the main body of the uplands (UP07).

Landscape Character Unit name:		Black Knowe
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UPII
Landscape Character Type		Southern Uplands with scattered forest
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	High	Part of a large area of large scale rolling landform with tracts of coniferous forest. This group is typical of the more rugged Border fells.
Rarity	Low	Similar areas present at a large scale within the west of the Scottish Borders. There are no features of great rarity, though some moorland is rocky in places.
Condition	High	Open moorland of patchy heather, overgrazed in places, eg above the eastern end of the Yarrow valley. Numerous stone walls and sheepfolds are located in the hills.
Intactness	High	Changes in moorland management are apparent to some degree, and there are areas where drainage is apparent. There is more bracken and areas of forestry to the west.
Wildness	High	Degree of remoteness and elevation of hills give some wildness quality, particularly to the south-west around the Ettrick Horseshoe.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	Distinctive rolling landform and upland topography create impressive large scale landscapes. The rugged hills are often dramatic, and enable broad views across the neighbouring valleys and uplands.
Enjoyment	High	Well connected network of public paths accessible from valleys to north-west and south-east. Southern Upland Way links Ettrick and Yarrow.
Cultural qualities	Low	No SAMs. Bowhill inventory designed landscape lies at the north east edge of the LCU. Kirkhope Tower is a prominent category A listed tower house.
Habitat value	High	Extensive valued upland habitats including upland heathland, modified bog and heathland/grassland mosaics, with some coniferous forestry. Some ancient woodland in cleuchs, including Hermanshiel and Muckra SSSIs. Upper tributaries of Tweed SAC.
Settlement setting	Low	There are no substantive settlements in this LCU, or along the Ettrick Water and Yarrow Water.
Views	High	Open views to surrounding hills and into river valleys. An important range of hills in views from the A708 tourist route and the popular St Mary's Loch. Visible from the Southern Upland Way, with an 'iconic view' at Pikestone Rig.
Tourist economy	High	Attracts visitors for outdoor recreation, and is on the Southern Upland Way.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Consistent ridgeline of undulating hill tops with areas of coniferous forest.
Key Landscape relationships		RV48 Upper Ettrick RV49 Upper Yarrow

Landscape Character Unit name:		Dun Knowe Group
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UPI2
Landscape Character Type		Southern Uplands with scattered forest
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representative-ness	High	The Southern Uplands type is common across the south and west of the Scottish Borders, with features that recur extensively.
Rarity	Low	Not a rare or unique landscape
Condition	High	Heather moorland is managed and not generally overgrazed. There are few stone walls, though more wire fences. New shelter planting has been carried out.
Intactness	Medium	There are several coniferous shelterbelts which do not reflect the underlying landscape structure. Erosion has occurred along hill roads. The lack of stone walls suggests some loss of landscape structure has occurred. The Langhope Rig wind farm has been consented in this area.
Wildness	High	Remote, wild land character, though with commercial forestry.
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	Medium	Interesting mix of lower hills and scattered small lochs. Impressive longer views, eg to the Eildon Hills from above Essenside.
Enjoyment	Medium	Network of paths across the LCU, apparently well-used.
Cultural qualities	Medium	Prehistoric and Roman SAMs, medieval tower house at Todrig. The Haining SBC designed landscape is at the north east corner of the LCU. Monument to poet William Ogilvie, literary associations of Ale Water. Clearly visible rig and furrow along the Ale Water.
Habitat value	Very high	Extensive valued upland habitats including modified bog, heathland/grassland mosaics. A number of small SSSIs are present, covering lochs and mosses. Burns forming upper parts of the Tweed SAC, and there are several local wildlife sites.
Settlement setting	Low	The northern edge has some role in the wider setting of Selkirk, but there is no substantive settlement within this landscape, and only small hamlets such as Ettrickbridge and Ashkirk in the adjacent valleys.
Views	High	Extensive views across to Craik Forest. Views from the A7, B711 and B7009.
Tourist economy	Low	Although a popular area for outdoor recreation, this area makes little direct economic contribution.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Consistent undulating landscape with small lochs and coniferous forest.
Key Landscape relationships	Relationships	Gentle transition of undulating hills to adjoining hills and river valleys. The edge of Craik Forest marks the transition to the higher upland of UPI4 Craik.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Cauldcleuch Head Group
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UPI3
Landscape Character Type		Southern Uplands with scattered forest
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	High	The Southern Uplands type is common across the south and west of the Scottish Borders, with features that recur extensively. Typical high Borders hills, deeply dissected. Grass covered, with patches of heather.
Rarity	Low	Not a rare or unique landscape, there are no features which suggest rarity value, though there are some landmark hills.
Condition	Medium	The area is heavily grazed, with much bracken encroachment. Stone walls are relatively well maintained. Newly-planted areas of coniferous forest.
Intactness	Medium	There are few coniferous plantations, although those that are present tend to be blocky and hard-edged in character. Drainage of moorland is evident.
Wildness	High	Remote, wild land character, though with commercial forestry. An empty landscape with few overt signs of human intervention, other than isolated cottages. Still, an enclosed landscape grazed by cows.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	Extensive heather moorland and grassland. Dramatic large scale, 'grand and remote character' of high summits. Overlapping hills and saddles seen in views along valleys. Grass cover tends to be monochrome, occasionally lacking visual interest, but is enlivened by patches of heather and bracken.
Enjoyment	High	Limited network of paths across the LCU, hill walking destination.
Cultural qualities	Medium	The north east area of the LCU between Skelfhill Pen and Pike Fell contains a number of visible settlements (prehistoric and medieval), linear earthworks including segments of the Catrail, and relict cultivation remains. Elsewhere there is little visible cultural heritage.
Habitat value	High	Extensive valued upland habitats, though tending to be grasslands rather than heath and bog. The Langholm – Newcastleton Hills SSSI and SPA covers much of the southern half of the LCU. Upper Teviot and tributaries are part of the Tweed SAC.
Settlement setting	Low	The southern part of the area has some role in the wider setting of Newcastleton but there are no substantive settlements in this large area.
Views	Medium	An area to the west is visible from the A7 Borders Tourist Route, which is a gateway into the Borders. Extensive coniferous plantation is prominent in views to adjacent LCUs. Longer views are available to landmark hills such as Rubers Law.
Tourist economy	Medium	Outdoor recreation provides some contribution.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Consistent undulating topography and landcover with patches of coniferous forest.
Key Landscape relationships	Relationships	Edge of forestry marks the transition into UPI5 Wauchope Forest. More distinctive transition into RV51 Liddesdale.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Craik
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UPI4
Landscape Character Type		Southern Uplands forest covered
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	High	The Southern Uplands type is common across the south and west of the Scottish Borders, with features that recur extensively.
Rarity	Low	Not a rare or unique landscape, other than in terms of the sheer extent of coniferous forest
Condition	High	Intensively managed for forestry, with few other land uses. Ongoing restructuring work is improving the appearance of the forestry. The details of the landscape appear less well cared for.
Intactness	Low	Forestry obscures the detail of the landform; although hills can be discerned, the underlying nature of the terrain cannot.
Wildness	High	The area is remote from settlement, and is relatively inaccessible. Much of the landscape has been developed for commercial forestry, lending extensive human influence.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Medium	Simple, uniform landscape with a positive landform, though visual monotony arises from forestry plantations.
Enjoyment	Medium	The Forestry Commission promotes access for outdoor recreation at Craik. Some provision of PRoWs. The Southern Upland Way passes along the north-west fringe.
Cultural qualities	Medium	Roman road runs south-west from Craik. Scheduled enclosures and a number of visible settlements. Earthworks between Craik and Deanburnhaugh
Habitat value	Medium	Dominated by commercial forestry, with only small areas of heathland and ancient woodland. Upper parts of the Tweed SAC (Ettrick Water, Rankle Burn, Borthwick Water), and Kingside Loch SSSI in the north east of the area.
Settlement setting	Low	The LCU is isolated from settlement.
Views	Medium	Minimal visibility from within the LCU. South-west area visible from the Southern Upland Way.
Tourist economy	Medium	Some contribution from outdoor recreation.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Continuous coniferous forest cover.
Key Landscape relationships		UPI2 and UPI3 merge in terms of landform, though the edges of the forest mark the boundaries.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Wauchope Forest
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UPI5
Landscape Character Type		Southern Uplands forest covered
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	High	The Southern Uplands type is common across the south and west of the Scottish Borders, with features that recur extensively. There are large areas of undulating forested hills in the study area.
Rarity	Low	Not a rare or unique landscape. The distinctive serrated ridge of hills centred on Philip Law, north of Carter Bar, are an unusual landmark.
Condition	High	Intensively managed landscape, although the smaller-scale features (fences, walls) are often in a poorer state of repair. Cleared areas are temporarily unsightly, though ongoing restructuring is already resulting in positive change.
Intactness	Low	Almost entirely forested, masking the detail of the landform and landscape features. Areas between the forest appear intensively grazed, with cattle on Anton Fell above Liddesdale.
Wildness	High	Remote and inaccessible, this area is distant from settlements and major roads. Although much of the landscape has been developed for commercial forestry, there are areas with strong wildness qualities, particularly along the Anglo-Scottish border.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Medium	Simple, uniform landscape with a positive landform, though visual monotony arises from forestry plantations.
Enjoyment	Medium	The Forestry Commission encourage outdoor recreation in certain parts of the forest.
Cultural qualities	Medium	Small presence of archaeological remains, including Nine-stane Rig stone circle within forestry. Edges of Priesthaugh and Wauchope SBC designed landscapes on the north border.
Habitat value	Medium	Dominated by commercial forestry, with only relatively small areas of modified bog, heathland and grassland. Kielderhead Moors SSSI covers the most extensive area of upland habitat.
Settlement setting	Low	The LCU is generally isolated from settlement.
Views	High	Generally confined by coniferous forest but open views from higher points on the moorland areas. Viewpoint on the A68 at Carter Bar is an important gateway into the Borders with extensive views over this LCU.
Tourist economy	Medium	Some contribution from outdoor recreation, links with Kielder, a major destination in Northumberland.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Simple uniform character.
Key Landscape relationships		UPI6 Larriston Fells are a continuation of this landscape to the south. Anton Fell provides a visual termination to views up Liddesdale.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Larriston Fells
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UPI6
Landscape Character Type		Southern Uplands forest covered
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representativeness	High	The Southern Uplands type is common across the south and west of the Scottish Borders, with features that recur extensively.
Rarity	Low	Not a rare or unique landscape
Condition	High	Intensively managed forests, with ongoing restructuring improving the overall picture. Details of the landscape tend to be neglected.
Intactness	Low	Large-scale coniferous forestry has masked the detail of the landscape in this area, though it may mature into a semi-natural appearance with restructuring.
Wildness	High	Although extensive areas have been developed for commercial forestry, there are rugged areas of this landscape away from settlement and roads, with strong wildness character along the border.
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	Medium	Simple, uniform landscape with a positive landform, though visual monotony arises from forestry plantations.
Enjoyment	High	Mountain biking centre and visitor centre at Newcastleton Forest and Forestry Commission promoted access for outdoor recreation, plus a network of paths across the area.
Cultural qualities	Low	Minimal archaeological remains, and limited apparent cultural dimension to the landscape.
Habitat value	Low	Dominant cover of coniferous forest, with only relatively small areas of modified bog, heathland/grassland and grassland. No areas designated for biodiversity interest.
Settlement setting	Medium	Provides part of the wider setting for Newcastleton within Liddesdale.
Views	Medium	Generally confined by coniferous forest. 'Iconic view' at Larriston Fell. Not visible from A roads.
Tourist economy	Medium	Visitors are attracted for outdoor recreation, particularly mountain biking. Some links with Kielder, a major destination in Northumberland.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Dominated by coniferous forest.
Key Landscape relationships		UPI5 Wauchope Forest is a continuation of this landscape. A key part of the setting of Liddesdale

Landscape Character Unit name:		Cocklaw Group
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UPI7
Landscape Character Type		Cheviot Uplands
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	Low	The features of this landscape type do not recur across the Borders. The hills have a different shape, with more frequent rocky outcrops. Arable land also occurs within the upland to a greater extent.
Rarity	Very high	As the only example of its type, the distinctive topography of this LCU contrasts with the other Borders hills and has rarity value.
Condition	Medium	For what would appear to be a marginal landscape, there are several farms; this is a working landscape, and appears unkempt in places. Walls are generally in good condition, and the uplands are heavily grazed. Along the Bowmont Water, recent flood damage and repair work is still 'raw' resulting in scarring.
Intactness	High	There is some overgrazing and enclosure of upland areas, but they are generally intact. Small conifer plantations and large farm buildings have been introduced to the valleys.
Wildness	High	Distinctive topography and sparse settlement give the landscape a dramatic, remote quality. Even in settled areas such as the upper Bowmont, this landscape feels remote, though human-influenced.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Very high	Harmony of character and diversity of small scale detail. 'Dramatic and rugged' landscape, with remote qualities and diverse detail. Rocky outcrops enliven some hills, others are smoother and grassy.
Enjoyment	Very high	The Cheviots are a popular destination for outdoor recreation due to a good network of hill tracks and paths. The Pennine Way National Trail runs along the English border across the high points of the Cheviots and adjacent to Northumberland National Park.
Cultural qualities	Very high	Traces of human settlement from prehistoric times to the middle ages result in the best-preserved of the few 'palimpsest' landscapes of the Borders. Numerous scheduled remains, mainly settlements and funerary monuments. Large tracts of relict medieval cultivation remains from the period when this area had a significant population. A number of settlements from all periods and ritual enclosures.
Habitat value	High	Extensive valued upland habitats, mostly grassland with some heath and blanket bog. The Bowmont Water and its tributaries are part of the Tweed SAC.
Settlement setting	Medium	Forms part of setting of Town Yetholm and Kirk Yetholm
Views	Very high	Distant and panoramic views over the adjacent valleys and hills from higher ground, including from Carter Bar. The Cheviots are a widely visible group of hills, though views to the interior are more rare. Occasional views along valleys reveal layers of hills receding into the distance.
Tourist economy	High	Cheviots attract visitors for outdoor recreation, particularly hill walkers.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Harmony of character.
Key Landscape relationships	Relationships	UPI8 Falla Group is a lower-lying continuation of this area to the west. RV62 Bowmont Water, which is a gateway into this landscape.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Falla Group
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UPI8
Landscape Character Type		Cheviot Foothills
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	Medium	This LCU is the only example of its landscape type, although some of its key features are recurrent. The landform of the eastern hills is similar to that of the adjacent Cheviots, while to the west the hills are more typical of the Borders.
Rarity	High	Only example of <i>Cheviot Foothills</i> type, fragmented dome-shaped hills and ridges have some rarity value.
Condition	Medium	Few walls with much wire fencing, circular sheepfolds remain. An empty landscape of rough and semi-improved grazing.
Intactness	Medium	Medium-scale enclosures with evidence of drainage. There are some unsympathetic blocks of coniferous forest. Greater diversity towards the Jed valley, eg Scots pine woodland
Wildness	Medium	Large scale open landscape is tempered by the presence of coniferous forestry, which breaks up the flatter central area. Wildness is more apparent in the eastern areas approaching the Cheviots, but less so around the A68.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	Distinctive hill landforms and open views. The open nature of this landscape gives it a harshness, tempered by greater variety around the upper Jed valley.
Enjoyment	High	Network of PROWs, including Dere Street.
Cultural qualities	Very high	Prehistoric, Roman and medieval SAMs. The course of the Roman Dere Street crosses the landscape, and there are visible remains of a camp at Pennymuir. Extensive areas of well-preserved medieval settlement and cultivation, significantly around Falla and at Jordan Sike. Upper parts of Edgerston SBC designed landscape.
Habitat value	High	Extensive areas of grassland habitat, with large coniferous forest plantations in some areas. Jed water, Oxnam water and Kale water are part of the Tweed SAC.
Settlement setting	Low	There is no substantive settlement
Views	High	Distant views with the Cheviots dominating the skyline to the south and east. The area is visible from the A68, including the important viewpoint at Carter Bar. Views become more limited as the road descends into the Jed valley.
Tourist economy	Medium	Little direct contribution, the key tourist route of the A68 passes through only briefly, but the area is overlooked from Carter Bar and from the Pennine Way.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Simple, open character varies to some degree, with the central part of the LCU being relatively flat, while the western part is more densely forested.
Key Landscape relationships	Relationships	The upland landscape continues to the forested UPI5 Wauchope to the west, and the more open UPI7 Cheviot Uplands to the east. The area forms a brief transition between the high point of Carter Bar and the Jed valley (RV68).

Landscape Character Unit name:		Lempitlaw
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UF19
Landscape Character Type		Rolling Farmland
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	High	Recurring features of patchwork fields and hedgerow enclosures.
Rarity	Low	A number of other areas of <i>Rolling Farmland</i> within the Borders, though this area is more steeply rolling than other areas
Condition	Medium	Condition is locally higher towards Yetholm, where the wooded valleys appear well kept. Elsewhere hedges are often gappy. Stone walls are generally in good condition.
Intactness	Medium	Field amalgamation has taken place. There are small-scale coniferous plantations. Some broadleaf woodland remains, and new planting is evident.
Wildness	Low	A managed agricultural landscape.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	Pleasing combination of landscape features and gently rolling topography. Distinctive hills and lochs. Mixed woodland plantations on hills give visual interest.
Enjoyment	Medium	Some provision of PRoWs connected to Town Yetholm and Kirk Yetholm.
Cultural qualities	Medium	Cherrytrees SBC designed landscape. Isolated listed buildings including Hoselaw Chapel.
Habitat value	Medium	Limited areas of valued habitat. Din Moss and Hoselaw Loch SPA/ Ramsar site, and Yetholm Loch SSSI.
Settlement setting	Medium	Plays a role in the setting of Town Yetholm and Kirk Yetholm, as well as hamlets.
Views	Medium	Intermediate visual horizons formed by rolling topography and field boundary vegetation.
Tourist economy	Low	Little contribution to the tourist economy
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Regular patchwork of agricultural fields, with hedgerow enclosures and scattered woodland blocks.
Key Landscape relationships	Relationships	Shelves down to LO41 Maxwellheugh, and drops more sharply to the south-east, forming the edge of RV62 Bowmont Water

Landscape Character Unit name:		Oxnam
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UF20
Landscape Character Type		Rolling Farmland
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	High	Recurring features of patchwork fields and hedgerow enclosures.
Rarity	Low	A number of other areas of <i>Rolling Farmland</i> within the Borders.
Condition	Medium	Dominated by semi-improved grazing with gorse scrub and large rushy areas. Often an upland-fringe feel with gappy hedges and much wire fencing. Occasional substantial and well-trimmed beech hedges with oak trees.
Intactness	Medium	Coniferous plantation is quite extensive, in medium-sized plantation forests, Scots pine shelterbelts and small blocks. Large fields resulting from amalgamation.
Wildness	Medium	A managed agricultural landscape with areas of designed landscape. Some unenclosed moorland.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	Rolling countryside with a pleasing combination of landscape features. The descent into the Kale Water valley is attractive, with the backdrop of the Cheviot Hills. A more intimate wooded landscape around Oxnam and to the north-west.
Enjoyment	High	St. Cuthbert's Way long-distance route runs through the LCU along with a network of other paths. Lies on the north west edge of the Cheviot Foothills AGLV.
Cultural qualities	Medium	Hunthill, Hartrigge and Crailing SBC designed landscapes. Dere Street Roman road passes through the LCU.
Habitat value	Medium	Limited areas of valued habitat, though some areas of grassland. Oxnam Water is part of the Tweed SAC, and there is a local wildlife site at Richard's Cleuch.
Settlement setting	Medium	The north-west edge forms an important part of the setting to Jedburgh, although this portion of the LCU is somewhat atypical, being characterised by designed landscapes. There is no substantive settlement within this LCU.
Views	Medium	Intermediate visual horizons formed by rolling topography and field boundary vegetation. Visible from the A698 corridor.
Tourist economy	Medium	Little direct contribution, but visible from key routes.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Regular patchwork of agricultural fields, with hedgerow enclosures and scattered woodland blocks, although the area around Oxnam is more diverse. More wooded along the edges of the Jed Water.
Key Landscape relationships	–	Forms the eastern edge of RV68 Jed Water, while shelving more gently into RV74 Lower Teviot and RV75 Lower Kale to the north.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Westruther Platform
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UF21
Landscape Character Type		Rolling Farmland
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	High	Recurring features of a patchwork of large fields and woodland blocks with areas of coniferous woodland.
Rarity	Low	A number of other areas of <i>Rolling Farmland</i> within the Borders.
Condition	High	Stone walls are in good condition and the landscape is well wooded. Some areas are dominated more by improved pasture with post and wire fencing.
Intactness	High	There has been some erosion of field boundaries. Conifer plantations have been introduced but form part of the wooded landscape.
Wildness	Low	A managed agricultural landscape with areas of designed landscape.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Medium	Attractive landscape setting associated with the designed landscapes in the LCU. Some distinctive landforms and contrasts of relief. Wooded character provides visual interest.
Enjoyment	Medium	Well connected network of paths, with good signposting and facilities including picnic sites.
Cultural qualities	High	SBC designed landscapes at Wedderlie, Spittiswood and Bassendean, as well as eastern fringe of Inventory-listed Thirlestane. Scattered SAMs cover enclosures and hill forts. Remains of towers and castles. Historic village at Westruther, and undesigned relict cultivation remains and settlements.
Habitat value	Medium	Limited areas of valued habitat. Blackadder Water and Boondreigh Water and tributaries are part of the Tweed SAC. Several local wildlife sites including Corbie bog and Everett Moss.
Settlement setting	Medium	The LCU lies to the east of Lauder and provides part of the wider setting for the town. Small villages are the only settlement within this LCU.
Views	High	Intermediate visual horizons formed by rolling topography and field boundary vegetation. Visible from the A697 and A6089 which cross the area, and from Lauder and Earlston
Tourist economy	Medium	Little direct contribution, but visible from key routes.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Regular patchwork of agricultural fields, with hedgerow enclosures and scattered woodland blocks.
Key Landscape relationships	Relationships	Shelves up to UP02 Lammermuirs, and also east to UF37 Greenlaw Common. Forms the eastern edge of RV65 Upper Leader.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Minto Hills
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UF22
Landscape Character Type		Rolling Farmland
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	High	Recurring features of a patchwork of large fields and woodland blocks with areas of coniferous woodland. Wooded mixed farmland, with conifers and stone walls, is typical of this part of the Borders.
Rarity	Medium	A number of other areas of <i>Rolling Farmland</i> within the Scottish Borders. The Minto Hills themselves are unusual features within this landscape, although they represent a type of landform which does recur.
Condition	High	Hedges are well maintained. Some small areas of conifer plantations are bounded by stone walls, which are also well kept. Some new woodland planting, and extensive areas of rushy pasture.
Intactness	High	There has been some field amalgamation, and the introduction of occasionally blocky forestry, though other plantations blend in to the wooded character. Field boundary trees remain in several places, giving a well-established feel.
Wildness	Low	A managed agricultural landscape.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	Attractive setting of an undulating agricultural landscape. Contrasts of relief, with distinctive landforms including conical peaks of the Minto Hills.
Enjoyment	Medium	Well connected network of paths.
Cultural qualities	Medium	Minor presence of SAMs. Three SBC designed landscapes overlap with the fringes of this LCU.
Habitat value	Low	Limited areas of some habitat value include basin mire, grassland and native woodland. A single small SSSI at Catshawhill, and a number of local wildlife sites.
Settlement setting	Medium	Provides part of the wider setting to the north of Hawick. The Minto Hills are part of the setting of the village of Denholm by the Teviot.
Views	Medium	Intermediate visual horizons formed by rolling topography and field boundary vegetation, flatter plateau-like areas enable longer views. Distinctive views of conical twin peaks of Minto Hills available from the A698 to the south.
Tourist economy	Medium	Little direct contribution, but visible from key routes.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Regular patchwork of agricultural fields, with hedgerow enclosures and scattered woodland blocks.
Key Landscape relationships	Relationships	The area forms the edges of RV71 Ale Water and RV74 Lower Teviot, though the transition is a gradual one.

Landscape Character Unit name:		West Linton Synclinal Belt
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UF23
Landscape Character Type		Rolling Farmland
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	High	Recurring features of a patchwork of large fields and woodland blocks with areas of coniferous woodland.
Rarity	Medium	A number of other areas of <i>Rolling Farmland</i> within the Scottish Borders, though the nature of this area, fringed by high hills on both sides, is unusual.
Condition	Medium	Rushy pasture and semi-improved grazing is in reasonably good condition, and stone walls are intact. Hedge and tree replanting is ongoing in places, elsewhere mature trees are an important feature.
Intactness	Medium	Large areas of moss have been drained for grazing. Conifer plantations have been introduced, and some are large in scale. The woodland structure is more intact in designed landscapes, particularly evident along the A702.
Wildness	Low	A managed agricultural landscape with presence of major transport routes.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Medium	Setting for the Pentland Hills, and the hills to the south east. Woodlands create scenic diversity along the A702. Appealing agricultural landscape, though the more open central area is of less visual interest, and the presence of transport corridors reduces scenic value.
Enjoyment	High	The north fringe of the LCU is covered by the Midlothian AGLV designation and the Pentland Hills Regional Park. Network of paths connecting West Linton to the Pentland Hills and surrounding countryside. Golf course, horse riding. Accessible area close to Edinburgh.
Cultural qualities	High	The Whim and Newhall Inventory designed landscapes, as well as several SBC designed landscapes are present within the LCU. The few SAMs include former Bents quarry and a section of Roman road.
Habitat value	Medium	Some valued bog and grassland habitats. A number of SSSIs are present within the LCU including Auchencorth Moss and the West Linton Fens. The Lyne Water and tributaries are part of the Tweed SAC.
Settlement setting	Medium	Setting for West Linton although this is a relatively inward-looking settlement, not readily visible in the landscape. Limited substantive settlement elsewhere in this LCU.
Views	High	Important transport corridor and as such is highly visible from the A702 and A701. Views from the Pentlands, and from the hills to the south-east, overlook this area.
Tourist economy	Medium	This landscape is away from the main tourist centres, but provides some attractions in its own right, and is a gateway to the Pentland Hills. It is also very accessible from outside the Borders, particularly from Edinburgh.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Regular patchwork of agricultural fields, and scattered woodland blocks and shelterbelts. Local variety due to estate landscapes.
Key Landscape relationships	–	A key part of the setting of UPI West Pentland Hills, and to a lesser extent UP05 Broughton Heights and UP06 Eddleston/Lyne Interfluve.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Eye Water Platform
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UF24
Landscape Character Type		Platform Farmland
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	Medium	This is the only landscape identified as <i>Platform Farmland</i> within the Scottish Borders LCA, but it does comprise some features, such as undulating hills which recur elsewhere.
Rarity	Medium	This landscape type as a whole is relatively uncommon within the Borders. It has a more open quality but no special rarity value.
Condition	High	A well-kept hill farming landscape. Substantial hedges are trimmed and not gappy, often with a good range of species. Stone walls are also well maintained.
Intactness	High	The field boundary pattern appears largely intact. Coniferous plantations are of a modest scale and are not obtrusive in the landscape.
Wildness	Low	This arable landscape does not have wild land characteristics, although it is on the fringe of the Lammermuirs.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Medium	This landscape has an 'unusual, striking quality', due to its scale and sparse settlement. Coniferous woodlands offer some visual contrast although generally there is little diversity.
Enjoyment	Medium	The Southern Upland Way long-distance route crosses the LCU although there are few other recreational opportunities.
Cultural qualities	Medium	There is an 'important concentration of Iron Age hill forts' forming a chain of SAMs at the southern edge of the area.
Habitat value	Low	Very occasional areas of valued grassland and heathland habitat. The woodland is predominantly coniferous plantation. Part of the Abbey St Bathans Wood SSSI is within the area.
Settlement setting	Low	Settlement in this landscape comprises farmsteads and hamlets.
Views	High	The area is visually exposed, with open, distant views over surrounding upland and lowland landscape types, including views in to the Lammermuirs. It is visible from the Southern Upland Way which passes through, and from the A1 corridor.
Tourist economy	Medium	This landscape has few tourist resources, although it does lie on the Southern Upland Way.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Large-scale simple landscape type with little diversity.
Key Landscape relationships	–	Forms the edge of RV64 Eye Water and RV69 Middle Whiteadder.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Whitehaugh
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UF25
Landscape Character Type		Grassland with rock outcrops
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	Medium	This landscape type, <i>Grassland with Rock Outcrops</i> , is unusually angular and rugged, and is not typical of the wider Borders. Strong local sense of place.
Rarity	Medium	A landscape of 'angular or corrugated' landform, which is limited to the area around Hawick. This area is quite rocky, with clear linear ridges, but lacks distinctive features.
Condition	High	Stone walls are in good condition, though in many places they have been replaced by wire fences. Pasture has areas of gorse scrub. Farm woodlands remain around buildings.
Intactness	Medium	Overhead power lines cross the landscape. Some coniferous plantations, but these reflect the underlying landform. Some large farm buildings.
Wildness	Low	This pastoral landscape does not have wildness characteristics
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Medium	The varied landform makes for visual diversity, although pylons are a detracting feature.
Enjoyment	High	There are a number of Core Paths and PRoWs connected to Hawick, including the Borders Abbey Way long-distance route
Cultural qualities	Medium	There are SBC designed landscapes at Borthwickshields and Harden, and some SAMs. Harden has strong associations with the Border Reivers.
Habitat value	High	Grassland habitats are relatively extensive. Drinkstone Hill SSSI and three local wildlife sites (Tandlaw Moss, Woolaw Moss and Groundstone Moss
Settlement setting	High	This landscape lies to the north-west of Hawick and forms part of the settlement setting.
Views	High	Distant views over Hawick along Teviotdale, and to the Southern Uplands, from the 'iconic view' at Drinkstone Hill. Visible along the A7 and from Hawick.
Tourist economy	Low	This landscape has few tourist resources and makes little direct contribution to the tourist economy.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Although complex, there is little overall variety of character within this LCU.
Key Landscape relationships	–	Key relationships with adjacent valleys: RV61 Upper Teviot and RV63 Borthwick Water

Landscape Character Unit name:		Chisholme
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UF26
Landscape Character Type		Grassland with rock outcrops
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	Medium	This landscape type, <i>Grassland with Rock Outcrops</i> , is unusually angular and rugged, and is not typical of the wider Borders. Strong local sense of place.
Rarity	Medium	A distinctive landscape of 'angular or corrugated' landform, which is limited to the area around Hawick. This example is limited in ruggedness, though the lochans at Branxholme are relatively unusual.
Condition	High	Stone walls are in good condition, though in many places they have been replaced by wire fences. Pasture is rushy with areas of gorse scrub.
Intactness	High	Coniferous shelterbelts have been introduced but generally the open pasture remains.
Wildness	Low	This pastoral landscape does not have wildness characteristics
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	The varied landform makes for some visual diversity. There is a dramatic descent into the Borthwick valley beside Chisholme house.
Enjoyment	Low	There is only one PRoW within this small LCU
Cultural qualities	Medium	The SBC designed landscape at Chisholme and the large SAM at Whitcastle and Todshaw hill forts, though the latter are in poor condition.
Habitat value	High	Grassland habitats are relatively extensive, with some upland habitat types. Whitlaw and Branxholme SAC/SSSI and Branxholme Easter Loch SSSI are protected.
Settlement setting	Low	This LCU does not form the setting of any substantive settlements.
Views	High	Distant and broad views from higher ground to the Southern Uplands. Limited visibility of this area from the A7.
Tourist economy	Low	This landscape has few tourist resources and makes little direct contribution to the tourist economy.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Although complex, there is little overall variety of character within this LCU.
Key Landscape relationships	–	Separates RV61 Upper Teviot from its tributary RV63 Borthwick Water.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Allan Water
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UF27
Landscape Character Type		Grassland with rock outcrops
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	Medium	This landscape type, <i>Grassland with Rock Outcrops</i> , is unusually angular and rugged, and is not typical of the wider Borders, although this LCU has fewer rock outcrops than others of the type. Strong local sense of place.
Rarity	Medium	A distinctive landscape of 'angular or corrugated' landform, which is limited to the area around Hawick. This example is not particularly rugged, forming a plateau above the Teviot valley.
Condition	High	Stone walls criss-cross this area, and are in good condition. The land use is improved pasture with some arable, and there are a few areas of scrub. The horse racing track and associated cabins, signs etc are occasionally less well kept.
Intactness	Medium	There are prominent pine shelterbelts across the existing field pattern. Large-scale recreational land uses have been introduced: the horse racing track and the golf course.
Wildness	Low	This pastoral landscape does not have wildness characteristics
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	The varied landform makes for some visual diversity
Enjoyment	High	There are limited PROWs within this LCU, although it has good links to Hawick, and roadside benches suggest the minor roads are well used by walkers. Golf course and a horse racing track.
Cultural qualities	High	There are a number of SAMs including well-preserved hill forts and cultivation remains. Remains of extensive WWI-era military complex at Stobs which served as a POW camp and training area and was in use until the 1950s.
Habitat value	High	Grassland habitats are relatively extensive. The Allan Water is part of the Tweed SAC, and part of the Allan Water Hillhead SSSI is within this LCU. Local wildlife sites at Seacroft and St Leonard's Moss.
Settlement setting	Medium	This LCU lies to the south of Hawick and forms part of its wider setting, although it is not directly related.
Views	Medium	Some views across Teviotdale towards Hawick, but views are mainly looking across the surrounding moorland hills. Some visibility of this area from the A7.
Tourist economy	Low	This landscape has some attractions, including the race track and golf course, but makes little direct contribution to the Borders tourist economy.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Although complex, there is little overall variety of character within this LCU.
Key Landscape relationships	–	Separates RV61 Upper Teviot from its tributary RV70 Slitrig Water, forming one side of each valley.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Midgard
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UF28
Landscape Character Type		Grassland with rock outcrops
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	Medium	This landscape type, <i>Grassland with Rock Outcrops</i> , is unusually angular and rugged, and is not typical of the wider Borders. This area is particularly rocky, and has a strong local sense of place.
Rarity	High	A distinctive landscape of 'angular or corrugated' landform, which is limited to the area around Hawick. This example is particularly rocky, with distinctive rugged, mounded terrain that is uncommon elsewhere.
Condition	High	This is a well-managed landscape, with well-kept stone walls, and trimmed hedges and mature broadleaf woodland in more sheltered locations. The southern part of the area has a more upland fringe character, with wire fencing.
Intactness	High	A largely intact landscape, with only occasional blocky conifer plantations, and pine shelterbelts. Some area of gorse scrub.
Wildness	Low	This pastoral landscape does not have wildness characteristics
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	The varied landform makes for visual diversity, with further interest added by hamlets and policy woodland, particularly around Cavers, where mature woodland and the rocky terrain combine to form a very attractive series of views.
Enjoyment	Medium	There are a number of Core Paths and PRoWs connected to Hawick, although few other recreational facilities.
Cultural qualities	Medium	There is an SBC designed landscape at Cavers, and three SAM-designated hill forts.
Habitat value	High	Grassland habitats are relatively extensive, with small areas of upland habitat and ancient woodland along the Kirkton Burn. Kirkton Burn Meadow, Hummelknowes Moss, Adderstonlee Moss and Buckstruther Moss SSSIs, and small local wildlife sites.
Settlement setting	High	This landscape lies to the north-west of Hawick and forms part of the settlement setting.
Views	Medium	Views over Hawick and along Teviotdale. Some visibility of this area from the A7 and from Hawick.
Tourist economy	Low	This landscape has few tourist resources and makes little direct contribution to the tourist economy.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Although complex, there is little overall variety of character within this LCU.
Key Landscape relationships	–	The area forms the backdrop to Hawick within RV61 Upper Teviot, and also defines the edge of RV70 Slitrig Water. To the north-east, it merges into RV74 Lower Teviot.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Rubers Law
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UF29
Landscape Character Type		Grassland with hills
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representative-ness	High	This landscape type occurs in a few widely separated locations, and 'typifies the margin of the Tweed lowlands at the heart of the Borders'. It comprises typical features such as rolling pastoral fields with woodland copses, though tree cover is limited.
Rarity	High	This type is considered to be 'more common [in the Borders] than in any other area of Scotland'. The pronounced conical igneous hill of Rubers Law is uncommon and distinctive, and has a recognisably concentric field pattern around it, when seen from some angles. Aside from this peak, the landscape generally lacks rarity value.
Condition	High	An open landscape with little woodland, and scrubby gorse in places. Stone walls are generally in a good state of repair, though there are some post and wire fences. New planting of small broadleaf plantations is ongoing.
Intactness	High	This open landscape is only occasionally interrupted by coniferous plantations, and these are small in scale. Forestry is more obvious on the slopes of Rubers Law, but here follows the concentric pattern.
Wildness	Medium	Heather moorland and little settlement, resulting in an empty, windswept landscape, although enclosed. The summit of Rubers Law has a particular wildness value in its rugged form.
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	Very high	The dominant moorland hill is a dramatic and distinctive landmark. The rocky hill contrasts with surrounding farmland, including scenery which encompasses the 'essence of the Borders heartland'. Further south the landscape begins to lack visual diversity.
Enjoyment	High	Rubers Law is a popular hill walk, though there are few other facilities. Path signs are evident across the area.
Cultural qualities	High	Extensive hill fort SAM on summit of Rubers Law and ruined tower at Spital. Little other cultural heritage is evident in the landscape.
Habitat value	Medium	Some valued moorland habitats, and more extensive areas of grassland. Small area of semi-natural woodland at Hobsburn. Ruberslaw local wildlife site.
Settlement setting	Medium	Rubers Law is an important part of the setting of the villages of Bedrule and Denholm, though there is no settlement within this LCU.
Views	Very high	Rubers Law is prominent in numerous views from much of the Borders, and offers extensive outward views from its summit. The A6086 from Carter bar to Hawick passes through the area, with views over the flatter southern part of the LCU to the high hills. Also particularly visible from the A698 in Teviotdale.
Tourist economy	Medium	A popular location for walkers, and important in views from tourist routes
Landscape consistency	Not consistent	There is a clear distinction between the high hill of Rubers Law, and the farmland on its flanks, and the flatter, open upland fringe area to the south.
Key Landscape relationships	–	Rubers Law has an important relationship with the valleys it stands above, the RV72 Rule Water and RV74 Lower Teviot

Landscape Character Unit name:		Bonchester/Dunion
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UF30
Landscape Character Type		Grassland with hills
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	High	This landscape type occurs in a few widely separated locations, and 'typifies the margin of the Tweed lowlands at the heart of the Borders'. It is typical of the Borders upland fringe, primarily pastoral with some arable, in a rolling landform.
Rarity	Medium	This landscape type is considered to be 'more common [in the Borders] than in any other area of Scotland'. The hills in this LCU are more rounded than the rest of the type, and less rare. There are few distinctive features, though Bonchester Hill is similar in appearance to Rubers Law, but much reduced in scale.
Condition	Medium	Stone walls are in good condition, though some hedges and walls are missing. There are well-trimmed beech hedges, many of which have outgrown to form small tree lines along roadsides, particularly around Chesters.
Intactness	High	There is a scattering of small conifer plantations, as well as the much larger Swinnie Plantation at the centre of the area. Pine shelterbelts are more in keeping with the field pattern. Field drainage is evident in places, for example on the slopes of Bonchester Hill. Masts on Dunion Hill are a prominent human feature.
Wildness	Medium	The enclosed pastoral landscape is carried to the hill summits. The elevated areas do have limited wildness character.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	Some contrasts but smoother than other areas of this type, with limited drama, and little woodland to give visual diversity. Dunion Hill summit compromised by prominent masts.
Enjoyment	High	Good network of Core Paths and PRoWs linking to Jedburgh, giving access to high points, and including the Borders Abbeys Way.
Cultural qualities	High	SBC designed landscapes at Abbotrule and Langlee Park. Extensive SAM at Bonchester Hill and smaller SAMs covering prehistoric settlements. Some undesignated features associated with the fort to the south of Dunion Hill.
Habitat value	Low	Limited valued habitat, comprising mainly grassland, though small areas of ancient woodland (long-established of plantation origin) at Abbotrule and west of Jedburgh. No sites designated for biodiversity value.
Settlement setting	Very high	Dunion Hill is an important backdrop to Jedburgh, and the area also forms part of setting of smaller settlements including Chesters and Bonchester Bridge.
Views	Very high	Dunion Hill is particularly prominent from the A68 around Jedburgh, as well as the A698. The A6086 from Carter bar to Hawick passes briefly through the area. Long distance views available from summits.
Tourist economy	High	An important landscape in views from tourist routes
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Although there is some distinction between the open upland and lower farmland, the differences are not significant.
Key Landscape relationships	–	The hills are important in defining the river valleys to either side: RV68 Jed Water and RV72 Rule Water, as well as RV74 Lower Teviot to the north.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Knock Hill
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UF31
Landscape Character Type		Grassland with hills
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	High	This landscape type occurs in a few widely separated locations, and 'typifies the margin of the Tweed lowlands at the heart of the Borders'. This area of rounded hills with conifer plantations is typical of the Borders upland fringe.
Rarity	Medium	This landscape type is considered to be 'more common [in the Borders] than in any other area of Scotland'. The hills in this LCU are more rounded than the rest of the type, and less rare.
Condition	High	Broadleaf woodland along the B6355 gives the area an established feel, and there are estate landscapes in good condition. Elsewhere, upland fringe elements include wire fencing, though generally the area is well kept.
Intactness	Low	There are extensive plantations of conifers, including large plantations around Duns Wood, Ellemford, and north of Greenlaw. Elsewhere there are numerous small- and medium-scale blocks and shelterbelts which break up the landscape. Black Hill Wind Farm has introduced large-scale human features into the most 'upland' section of the LCU.
Wildness	Medium	Heather moorland and little settlement offer some wildness value, but this is a human-influenced landscape.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	Open, rounded terrain with contrasting hills and valleys. Hill summits compromised by masts and Black Hill Wind Farm. The more secluded valley along the B6355 is relatively scenic though on a more intimate scale.
Enjoyment	Medium	Extensive network of promoted paths linking Duns and other settlements, though few other recreational opportunities.
Cultural qualities	High	Inventory designed landscapes at Whitchester, Duns Castle and Marchmont House. SBC designed landscapes include more extensive areas of each. Numerous hill forts designated as SAMs.
Habitat value	High	Valued habitats include small areas of heath, more extensive grassland, and some plantation woodland at Duns Castle. Fringes of Greenlaw Moor SPA, SSSI and Ramsar site. Oxendean Burn and Langton Lees SSSIs.
Settlement setting	High	The hills north of Duns have some role in the setting of that town, although the principal feature is Duns Law, which lies just outside the LCU. The area also frames the valley setting of Abbey St Bathans, and provides the context for Greenlaw.
Views	High	Extensive views over the Merse to the south. The landscape forms a backdrop to the Tweed lowlands, and Black Hill Wind Farm is a prominent landmark across a wide area. Visible from the A6105.
Tourist economy	Low	This landscape makes little contribution to the tourist economy.
Landscape consistency	Not consistent	Varied landscape of open hills with more enclosed wooded areas around designed landscapes. The unusual shape of the LCU divides it into two, with the southern 'arm' being moorland, at the fringe of Greenlaw Moss, while the main area is more typical of this type.
Key Landscape relationships	–	The northern fringe of this area is related to RV57 and RV69 within the Whiteadder valley. There is a key relationship between the hills above Duns and LO40 Eye Water Lowland.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Skirling
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UF32
Landscape Character Type		Grassland with hills
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	High	This landscape type occurs in a few widely separated locations, and 'typifies the margin of the Tweed lowlands at the heart of the Borders'. Typical smaller-scale Borders hills, with extensive semi-improved pasture rising to the hill summits.
Rarity	Medium	This LCU extends into South Lanarkshire, and shows some features which are more common in that area, such as the hummocky terrain. The hills in this LCU are relatively distinctive, though not with great rarity value.
Condition	High	Generally the landscape is in good condition, with well maintained walls and field boundary trees. Elsewhere the field boundary structure has been eroded, and several areas are enclosed by wire fences. Sparse gappy hedges occur elsewhere, and there is a general lack of tree cover.
Intactness	Medium	Relatively recent housing development at Blyth Bridge. Some conifer plantations, including extensive planting on The Mount and prominent shelterbelts on Blyth Muir.
Wildness	Low	This landscape is settled and forms part of the busy A702 transport corridor, and has no wildness character.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	Prominent hills include The Mount, as well as the steep slopes of Broughton Heights. There are some pleasing features and details, including beech avenues.
Enjoyment	High	Accessible landscape with a good provision of PRoWs linked to settlements.
Cultural qualities	High	SBC designed landscapes at Netherurd, Scotstoun and Castle Craig. A702 follows a Roman road. Several SAMs covering hill top settlements and forts. Extensive area of prehistoric funerary monuments to the east of Skirling.
Habitat value	Medium	Limited valued habitats largely grassland and coniferous forestry. Upper extent of the Tweed SAC along the Tarth Water. Mount Bog SSSI and five local wildlife sites (Blyth Muir Moss & Blyth Dean, Sandyhill Wood, Candyburn, Langlaw Hill and part of Longstruther Burn).
Settlement setting	Medium	Important in the setting of the village of Skirling, as well as some settlements outside the Borders.
Views	High	The Mount is a prominent landmark hill, though mainly due to its blanket forest cover. The area is important in views from the A702, A701 and A72, and there are views south to Culter Fell.
Tourist economy	High	This landscape extends beyond the Borders, and forms an important gateway into the area from the west, via the A701 and A72 corridors.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	A consistent, if locally varied landscape. The southern area feels more connected to Lanarkshire, while the northern part is more typical of a Borders landscape.
Key Landscape relationships	–	Important relationship with the hills of UP05 Broughton Heights, and with RV54 Biggar Water which it sits above.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Eildon Hills
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UF33
Landscape Character Type		Grassland with hills
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	High	This landscape type occurs in a few widely separated locations, and 'typifies the margin of the Tweed lowlands at the heart of the Borders'. It is a typical Borders upland fringe landscape of rolling mixed farmland with broadleaf woodland and conifer plantations.
Rarity	Very High	This landscape type is considered to be 'more common [in the Borders] than in any other area of Scotland'. The Eildon Hills in particular are a uniquely iconic landform. However, the remainder of the LCU has little in the way of rarity value.
Condition	Medium	Hedges in this area are generally gappy, and have been replaced by wire fences in higher areas. Some hedge replanting is being carried out, and stone walls are generally in better condition. Willow scrub occurs in areas.
Intactness	High	There are some blocky conifer plantations, as well as larger plantations at Houdshall. Broadleaf woodlands and shelterbelts are, however, still intact in many places, particularly within estates. Communications masts and an overhead power line have been introduced.
Wildness	Medium	The heather moorland and mosses on the higher areas, particularly the Eildon Hills themselves, have some wildness value, but the area is settled and human-influenced.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Very high	Strong contrasts between the prominent, conical hills and the settled and wooded valley landscape at their base. Numerous features of scenic value, including the diversity arising from rolling terrain. Some areas of uniform farmland are visually less appealing.
Enjoyment	Very high	Popular walking destination, with a good network of Core Paths and PRoWs linked to surrounding settlements, and including St Cuthbert's Way and the Borders Abbeys Way. The Eildon Hills are part of a NSA. The Whitlaw Moss NNR has basic visitor facilities.
Cultural qualities	High	Fringes of Inventory designed landscapes of Abbotsford and The Haining. Several SBC designed landscapes including Kippilaw, Riddell, and more extensive areas of Abbotsford. Extensive SAM atop Eildon Hill North, which is important in its context, which includes the scheduled military road to the west and the Roman fort of Trimontium to the north-east. The Eildon Hills have numerous mythical and literary associations.
Habitat value	Medium	Valued habitats limited to small areas of bog/fen, grassland and coniferous forest, with heath on Eildon Hill. Whitlaw Mosses SAC/NNR/SSSI. SSSIs at Lindean Reservoir, Selkirk racecourse, Whitmuirhall Loch and Clarilaw Grasslands and Whitmuir Hall Moss local wildlife sites.
Settlement setting	Very high	The Eildon Hills themselves are an important part of the setting of Melrose, St Boswells, and Newtown St Boswells, while the LCU is also closely related to Selkirk.
Views	Very high	The Eildon Hills are a major landmark on the important A68 and A6091 routes. The A699 from Selkirk to St Boswells enables several attractive views to the surrounding landscape, including the dramatic descent into Selkirk.
Tourist economy	Very high	This LCU includes features closely associated with the 'image' of the Scottish Borders, particularly the Eildon Hills, and is important to other aspects, such as the Tweed Valley and 'Scott Country'.

Landscape consistency	Not consistent	The Eildon Hills themselves are particularly prominent and distinctive, but they occupy only a very small part of this relatively extensive LCU. The remainder of the LCU is less obviously iconic, though still with some value.
Key Landscape relationships	–	The Eildon Hills have a particularly important relationship with the Tweed Valley (RV67 and RV73). The north and western fringes of the LCU also have a relationship with the Tweed (RV67).

Landscape Character Unit name:		West Gala
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UF34
Landscape Character Type		Undulating Grassland
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	Medium	Although this landscape type is limited to one locality, it contains some features which do recur across upland fringe landscapes, particularly the stone walls enclosing pasture, with rough grazing on higher ground.
Rarity	Medium	This undulating landscape character type occurs only in the area around Galashiels, though it has few features of rarity value.
Condition	High	Landscape elements such as stone walls are in good condition. Planting of new broadleaf woodland has been recently carried out.
Intactness	High	Field patterns are intact. There are small areas of coniferous forest, including a prominent plantation on Meigle Hill. A communications mast is located on this hill.
Wildness	Low	The landscape is pastoral and has a prominent field pattern, and has no wildness character.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	Field boundaries introduce strong pattern in the landscape. Contrast between the open exposed areas and more intimate burn valleys.
Enjoyment	High	Relatively dense path network with close links to Galashiels. Short section of the Southern Upland Way.
Cultural qualities	Medium	The LCU includes the fringes of several SBC designed landscapes which lie in the adjacent valleys. The tower house at Whytbank has been restored and is prominent above Clovenfords.
Habitat value	High	Relatively extensive areas of grassland and woodland habitat, with limited heath. The Caddon Water is part of the Tweed SAC, and the fringes of the Moorfoot Hills SAC/SSSI extend into this LCU.
Settlement setting	High	This landscape plays a role in the setting of Clovenfords, nestled in a low point between the hills, and in the wider setting of Galashiels within the Gala valley.
Views	High	The landscape is visible from populated areas (Galashiels) and is prominent in views from transport corridors, including the A72 which passes through the 'gateway' between Meigle Hill and Mains Hill into the Tweed Valley.
Tourist economy	Medium	This landscape plays little direct role in the tourist economy, but is important in views from transport routes, and from the key centre of Galashiels.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Some variety in setting, with the south-eastern hills close to Galashiels, and the western side facing the Tweed valley.
Key Landscape relationships	–	The fringes of this landscape has important relationships with the surrounding river valleys, RV56 Gala Water, RV59 Middle Tweed and RV67 Tweed/Ettrick/Leader confluence.

Landscape Character Unit name:		East Gala
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UF35
Landscape Character Type		Undulating Grassland
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	Medium	Although this landscape type is limited to one locality, it contains some features which do recur across upland fringe landscapes, such as the large-scale pastoral land use.
Rarity	Medium	This undulating landscape character type occurs only in the area around Galashiels, but has few features of rarity value.
Condition	High	Stone walls are frequently in good condition, though in areas they have been replaced with wire fences.
Intactness	Medium	Large farm buildings have been introduced, though stands of broadleaf woodland remain around some farmsteads. There are overhead power lines, and Longpark wind farm, in the neighbouring LCU, is prominent.
Wildness	Low	The landscape is pastoral and has a prominent field pattern, and has no wildness character.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Medium	Field boundaries introduce strong pattern into some areas of this landscape. Contrast between the open exposed areas and more intimate burn valleys, though in other areas this is an open, almost featureless landscape. Compromised to some extent by overhead power lines and coniferous plantations.
Enjoyment	High	Strong network of Core Paths and PRoWs, linking into settlements. Long section of the Southern Upland Way between Galashiels and Lauder.
Cultural qualities	Low	Wooplaw SBC designed landscape, as well as fringes of others which lie in the Tweed and Leader valleys. Few SAMs.
Habitat value	Medium	Limited valued habitat, mainly grasslands with occasional heath, bog and mixed woodland. Threepwood Moss SAC/SSSI and Allan Water (part of the Tweed SAC). SSSIs at Colmsliehill Junipers, Gattonside Moss and Avenel Hill and Gorge and Easter Housebyres local wildlife site.
Settlement setting	High	The landscape has some role in the settings of Galashiels, Melrose, Earlston and Lauder.
Views	High	The fringes of this landscape are visible from populated areas (Galashiels, Earlston, Lauder) and is prominent in views from transport corridors, including the A72 and A68.
Tourist economy	Medium	This landscape plays little direct role in the tourist economy, but is important in views from transport routes, and from the key centre of Galashiels.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	
Key Landscape relationships	–	The most important relationships are the edges which define the valleys of RV65 Lower Leader and RV67 Tweed/Etrick/Leader confluence.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Leadburn
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UF36
Landscape Character Type		Poor Rough Grassland
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	Low	This landscape type occurs only once, on the fringes of the Borders, and extending into Lothian
Rarity	Medium	As the sole example of this type, the LCU has some rarity value in its mounded topography, although it lacks distinctive features.
Condition	Medium	Some features of this landscape are in reasonable condition, but overall the landscape does not have a well-kept appearance.
Intactness	Low	There are small- to medium-scale blocks of coniferous plantation. Numerous human features include large poultry sheds and overhead power lines. Land drainage is evident.
Wildness	Low	An upland fringe landscape, though with strong influence from the A703, and little wildness character.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Low	'Barren, isolated' area, with geometric forestry plantations. Some small-scale features and limited contrasts, but often a bland landscape of grazed fields and forestry. Longer views out offer some interest but generally lacking scenic quality.
Enjoyment	Medium	There are some PRoWVs, although these do not immediately link to settlements. There are links with Midlothian path networks
Cultural qualities	Low	This landscape contains few cultural heritage features, aside from the northern fringe of the Portmore SBC designed landscape
Habitat value	Medium	Some relatively large areas of valued bog/fen, grassland, and woodland habitat, but no features are protected for biodiversity interest.
Settlement setting	Low	This landscape does not form part of the setting of substantive settlements.
Views	High	There are no landmarks in this area. It overlooks the Pentlands and is visible in views from main roads, including the A701 and A703.
Tourist economy	Low	This landscape does not play a role in the Borders tourist economy.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	
Key Landscape relationships	–	This area is more closely related to landscapes of southern Midlothian than other Borders landscapes. It has some association with RV55 Eddleston Water into which it leads.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Greenlaw Common
Landscape Character Unit reference:		UF37
Landscape Character Type		Moorland
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representative-ness	Medium	This landscape type occurs only once, and is described as 'unusual', although some similarity to the conical hills such as Rubers Law is noted.
Rarity	Very high	As the sole example of this type, the LCU has rarity value. Although some similarity to the conical hills such as Rubers Law is noted the dome-shaped Dirrington Laws in their open moorland setting are a very uncommon hill type.
Condition	High	Tree planting along hedgerows has been undertaken, enhancing the field boundary structure. There are stone walls in good condition.
Intactness	Medium	Land drainage and enclosure is evident in the moorland sections of the LCU.
Wildness	High	The sparsely settled moorland fringe landscape has some wild land character in the Dirrington Laws, and the open Greenlaw Moss, though the central farmed section is enclosed and not wild.
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	High	This LCU has dramatic qualities in the contrast of the distinctive dome-shaped hills with the horizontal moorland. It has a 'well-defined visual identity'.
Enjoyment	Medium	There are some PROWs across the landscape, but few other recreational opportunities.
Cultural qualities	Medium	There are scattered SAM-designated cairns which point to the importance of the landscape in the Bronze Age. Extensive areas of medieval cultivation and several medieval settlements. Heriot's Dyke is a scheduled linear boundary.
Habitat value	Very high	Extensive areas of valued upland habitat, including heath, bog/fen and grasslands. Greenlaw Moor is a SPA and Ramsar site, with Dogden Moss SAC nearby. All these are contained within the very extensive Greenlaw Moor SSSI.
Settlement setting	Medium	The landscape plays a role in the setting of the village of Longformacus to the north, and Greenlaw to the south.
Views	High	Although not widely visible from transport routes or settlements, the Dirrington Laws are key landmarks, and enable broad outward views. Little law is one of the 'iconic viewpoints'.
Tourist economy	Low	This landscape is away from the main tourist centres and promoted walking routes and therefore contributes little to the tourist economy.
Landscape consistency	Not consistent	Strong contrast between the vertical features (Dirringtons, The Kaims), and the horizontal moorland.
Key Landscape relationships	–	This area blends north into UP02 Lammermuir, west into UF21 Westruther Platform and east into UF31 Knock Hill.

Landscape Character Unit name:		North Merse
Landscape Character Unit reference:		LO38
Landscape Character Type		Lowland with Drumlins
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	Low	The Merse is not typical of the wider Borders, being an intensively farmed lowland.
Rarity	Low	The lowland farmland of the Merse is relatively uncommon in the Scottish Borders, though it is not an uncommon landscape type elsewhere.
Condition	High	The landscape is intensively farmed but is generally well managed, with hedges dividing the mixed farmland.
Intactness	Medium	Intensification has led to change in the past, such as loss of hedgerows and field trees, however, the promotion of agri-environment schemes has largely arrested this process, and may lead to improvement. Some very large fields.
Wildness	Low	This settled and intensively farmed landscape does not have wildness characteristics.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Medium	The rolling farmland has some scenic value, with long views, although it lacks contrasting landforms. It is a pleasant farmed landscape, particularly in its more wooded sections.
Enjoyment	Medium	Although relatively tranquil, this area has only local recreational value, with a limited network of PROWs. Country houses are visitor attractions.
Cultural qualities	High	Country houses and designed landscapes are concentrated along the north fringe of the LCU. Three Inventory designed landscapes, and a further 17 SBC designed landscapes. Traditional village cores including two conservation areas at Allanton and Swinton. Concentration of listed buildings, including nine category A listed.
Habitat value	Medium	Valued habitats are very limited, restricted to occasional semi-natural woodland, mixed plantation, and neutral grassland. The Blackadder and Whiteadder are part of the Tweed SAC. There are a few SSSIs (Lintmill Cutting, Foulden Burn) and a local wildlife site, all associated with rivers.
Settlement setting	Medium	There are no substantive settlements within this landscape, although it does play a role in the wider setting of Duns and Chirnside which are located on rising ground to the north
Views	High	There are broad and long views across this lowland landscape, both to and from the surrounding higher ground, although intervisibility with the adjoining lowland and valley landscapes is more limited. Visible from the A697, A6106 and A6112 which cross the area.
Tourist economy	Low	This landscape has little direct contribution to the tourist economy
Landscape consistency	Consistent	The landscape varies little across this LCU
Landscape relationships	–	The landscape has a relationship with UF31 Knock Hill, which is seen as higher land to the north. To the south it blends imperceptibly into LO39 Lower Tweed.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Lower Tweed
Landscape Character Unit reference:		LO39
Landscape Character Type		Lowland with Drumlins
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	Medium	The Merse is not typical of the wider Borders, being an intensively farmed lowland. It does share characteristics with other lowland parts of the Borders, and has a strong sense of place.
Rarity	Medium	The lowland farmland of the Merse is relatively uncommon in the Scottish Borders, though it is not an uncommon landscape type elsewhere. There are no features with great rarity value, although the banks of the River Tweed are notable.
Condition	High	The landscape is intensively farmed but is generally well managed. There are good quality mature hedgerows which are well maintained. Many estate landscapes are noticeably well looked after.
Intactness	Medium	Intensification has led to change in the past, such as loss of hedgerows and field trees, although the landscape structure remains largely intact. The promotion of agri-environment schemes has largely arrested this process, and may lead to improvement.
Wildness	Low	This settled and intensively farmed landscape does not have wildness characteristics
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Very high	The rolling farmland has scenic qualities and long views, with particular interest where the meandering River Tweed is more incised. Visual diversity arises from the rolling drumlin landform. More wooded areas, particularly the designed landscapes such as Floors, tend to be of greater scenic interest. The confluence of the Tweed and Teviot has scenic qualities.
Enjoyment	High	Tranquil area with a good network of PROWs, particularly along the Tweed. National Cycle Route 1 passes through the area. Paxton House, The Hirsell, and Floors Castle are popular attractions. Kelso and Coldstream both have visitor facilities and attractions.
Cultural qualities	High	Country houses and designed landscapes, including nationally designated sites on both sides of the Tweed. Many traditional buildings, and Conservation areas at Kelso, Coldstream and Foulden.
Habitat value	Medium	Valued habitats are very limited, restricted to occasional semi-natural woodland, mixed plantation, and neutral grassland. The Tweed is an SAC. There are a few SSSIs, including relatively large areas at The Hirsell, and a local wildlife site at Bishop's Bog.
Settlement setting	Very high	The Tweed landscape, and the river especially, forms a key part of the attractive settings of Coldstream and Kelso.
Views	High	There are broad and long views across this lowland landscape, both to and from the surrounding higher ground, including south to the Cheviots. Intervisibility with the adjoining lowland and valley landscapes is more limited. The A6089, A696 and A6112 all cross the LCU, though there are few distinctive landmarks.
Tourist economy	High	The towns along the Tweed, and the publically accessible country houses and estates at Floors, The Hirsell and Paxton, are contributors to the tourist economy
Landscape consistency	Consistent	The landscape varies little across this LCU, some local variations in scale.
Landscape relationships	–	The landscape blends almost imperceptibly into LO38 North Merse. Area forms a gateway into the Borders from Northumberland, via Coldstream.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Eye Water Lowland
Landscape Character Unit reference:		LO40
Landscape Character Type		Rolling Lowland Margin
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representative-ness	Medium	This landscape type is confined to the fringes of the Merse. It contains some features which recur across the Borders lowlands, but is less typical of the wider Borders landscape.
Rarity	Medium	Although a somewhat uncommon type, this landscape has few distinct features of rarity value.
Condition	High	This is a well-kept landscape, with a number of hedgerows ranging in quality from substantial to sparse and gappy. Some new field boundary tree planting has been carried out.
Intactness	Medium	There are obvious signs of agricultural intensification, resulting in some very large fields. This erosion of landscape structure is likely to have ceased.
Wildness	Low	This is a settled lowland area with no wildness character.
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	Medium	Low diversity of landform and lack of tree cover; agri-industrial buildings are relatively prominent. Traditional buildings and small villages lend interest, as do some areas of more varied topography.
Enjoyment	High	Good network of Core Paths and PRoWs linking several settlements. National Cycle Route 76 crosses the area.
Cultural qualities	High	Conservation areas at Gavinton and Duns. Inventory designed landscapes at Duns Castle, Manderston and Ayton Castle, and several SBC designed landscapes mostly at the southern and western fringes of the area. SAMs in the area do not contribute to landscape.
Habitat value	Medium	Limited valued habitats, restricted to semi-natural woodland, and some larger areas of plantation woodland, eg at Bunkle Wood (Ancient Woodland Long-established of plantation origin) and Hag Wood. The Whiteadder is part of the Tweed SAC, but away from the river there is local wildlife site (Northwood Moss).
Settlement setting	High	Part of the setting of Duns and Chirnside towns, as well as several villages (Reston, Gavinton, Auchencrow)
Views	High	Visible from the A1 and ECML, important through routes. Also from locally important A6105 and A6112. Frequent distant views available from this landscape across the Merse, and north-west to the Lammermuir Hills.
Tourist economy	Low	This landscape plays little direct role in the tourist economy.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	
Landscape relationships	–	The LCU blends north into UF24 Eye Water Platform and south into LO39 North Merse. To the west the hills above Duns (UF31) have a visual relationship with this landscape.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Maxwellheugh
Landscape Character Unit reference:		LO41
Landscape Character Type		Rolling Lowland Margin
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representative-ness	Medium	This landscape type is confined to the fringes of the Merse. It contains some features which recur across the lowlands of the Borders, but is less typical of the Borders landscape.
Rarity	Low	Although a somewhat uncommon type, this landscape has few distinct features of rarity value.
Condition	Medium	There are occasional woodland belts along roads which are well maintained. Well-kept cottages. More open areas with fewer trees on higher slopes, and more gappy hedgerows.
Intactness	Medium	Intensification has led to field amalgamation, resulting in very large fields, and erosion of field boundary pattern. Urban edge development affects the area immediately south of Kelso.
Wildness	Low	This is a settled lowland area with no wildness character
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	Medium	There is little visual diversity in this open landscape which slopes down to the Tweed.
Enjoyment	Medium	Small number of Core Paths and PRoWs linked to Kelso.
Cultural qualities	Low	The SBC designed landscape at Wooden House is the only cultural heritage feature identified.
Habitat value	Low	Valued habitats limited to small areas of neutral grassland and coniferous forest. A small SSSI at Redden Bank Lime Works.
Settlement setting	High	The slopes form part of the setting of Kelso, and its southern section Maxwellheugh. There is no other substantive settlement within the LCU.
Views	High	The landscape is visible from the A698 and A6089 corridors, and from Kelso. Long outward views across the Merse to the Lammermuirs, and south to the Cheviots.
Tourist economy	Low	This landscape plays little role in the tourist economy
Landscape consistency	Consistent	
Landscape relationships	–	The landscape has a key relationship with LO38 Lower Merse, which it faces across the Tweed. To the south it blends gently into UF19 Lempitlaw.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Gordon Platform
Landscape Character Unit reference:		LO42
Landscape Character Type		Lowland Margin Platform
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representative-ness	Medium	Although this is the only LCU of its landscape type, the characteristic features do recur elsewhere in the lowlands and upland fringe.
Rarity	Medium	This landscape has few distinctive features of rarity value. There is an unusual density of stone walls in a small area to the east of Gordon.
Condition	Medium	This is an open landscape with few trees, though there are some larger woodlands. Gappy hedgerows and occasional large stone walls enclose fields. Gorse scrub is prominent along roads.
Intactness	Medium	Agricultural intensification has eroded the field boundary pattern in this area. Overhead power lines cross the landscape.
Wildness	Low	This is a settled lowland area with little or no wildness character.
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	Medium	The distinctive pattern of stone walls and hummocky landform gives a local distinctiveness around Gordon. More generally, an unremarkable landscape, compromised in some locations by overhead power lines
Enjoyment	Medium	Some Core Paths and PRoWs which link to Gordon, Duns and Earlston
Cultural qualities	Medium	Well-preserved 16 th century Greenknowe Tower is prominent. Other cultural heritage features include extensive cairn field at Macks Mill.
Habitat value	Low	Valued habitats include occasional bog/fen and grasslands. Designated sites limited to a single SSSI at Gordon Moss.
Settlement setting	Medium	Has a role in the setting of the village of Gordon
Views	High	Visible from the locally important A6089 and A6105 routes. Unobstructed views in and out to lowlands and distant uplands. Views to the Eildon Hills.
Tourist economy	Low	This landscape makes little direct contribution to the tourist economy
Landscape consistency	Consistent	
Landscape relationships	–	Merges gently into neighbouring LCUs, no strong relationships.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Black Hill/Hume Craigs
Landscape Character Unit reference:		LO43
Landscape Character Type		Lowland Margin with Hills
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	High	This is the only LCU of this landscape type, although some of its characteristics do recur across the lowland and upland fringe landscapes, and the landscape has a strong Borders 'sense of place'.
Rarity	High	The landscape contains features which do not occur elsewhere, particularly the volcanic crags and outcrops which are unusual in this landscape of rolling farmland.
Condition	Medium	Condition is somewhat variable, with gappy and outgrown hedges in some places, though other hedges are well kept. Shelterbelts appear to be maintained, and estate landscapes are clearly actively managed, eg. beech avenues at Mellerstain.
Intactness	Medium	Intensification has led to large sized fields, and erosion of boundary patterns. Overhead power lines are prominent, and there is a visible quarry. There is a risk to the long-term survival of designed landscape features.
Wildness	Medium	Parts of this landscape have limited wild land character, where rock outcrops break the enclosed farmland, although it is largely settled.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Very high	The landscape has a 'strong landform identity' with diversity of land cover and estate woodland. Some areas are relatively dramatic for a lowland location, with rich colours. Other areas are more modest, although long views enhance visual appeal. Limited visual detractors.
Enjoyment	Very high	The south-west fringe is part of the Eildon and Leaderfoot NSA. There are several popular viewpoints and attractions including Scott's View, Mellerstain and Hume Castle, with some Core Paths and PRoWs.
Cultural qualities	High	The landscape forms the setting for important upstanding remains including Hume Castle, as well as several SAM-designated hill forts. The inventory designed landscape of Mellerstain House covers a large part of the centre of the area, with Stichill SBC designed landscape at the south-east. The western fringe borders the Tweed Valley and includes Scott's View with its historic associations.
Habitat value	Low	Valued habitat limited to occasional bog/fen and plantation woodlands. SSSIs at Bemersyde Moss, Lurgie Loch, Tweeds Wood-Gateheugh, and Hareheugh Craigs, and three local wildlife sites (Hume Craigs, Sweethope Hill and Brotherstone Moss).
Settlement setting	High	Important to the wider setting of Earlston, as the backdrop to Lauderdale. No substantive settlement within the LCU.
Views	Very high	Several landmarks, and the landscape is visible from the A68 and A6091 routes, as well as the locally important A6089 and A6105. Long views to the Cheviots, Southern Uplands and Rubers Law. Volcanic hills are local landmarks. Hume Castle is an 'iconic viewpoint' and a landmark feature.
Tourist economy	High	As the setting for several popular destinations, this landscape makes a contribution to the tourist economy
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Diverse landscape, but with internal consistency. Some variation in condition. The central area is plateau-like and contained, compared to the more open southern area.
Landscape relationships	–	There is a strong relationship at the western edge with RV67 Tweed/Gala/Ettrick confluence and RV65 Lower Leader, and a lesser relationship with RV73 Lower Tweed.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Coldingham
Landscape Character Unit reference:		CO44
Landscape Character Type		Coastal Farmland
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representative-ness	Low	The coast is not typical of the Borders landscape. The large-scale arable farmland inland is more typical of the lowland Borders.
Rarity	High	Coastal landscapes are rare within the Scottish Borders
Condition	Very high	A well maintained, even groomed arable landscape, with hedgerows and hedgerow trees. Smart villages of St Abbs and Coldingham.
Intactness	High	Intensively farmed but largely intact. The approved Coldingham Moor Wind Farm may affect the inland part of this area.
Wildness	Low	This area is settled and has no wild land character
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	Very high	Dramatic views across the rocky coastline, sensory experience (sound, smell) of the dynamic seascape. Coldingham Bay is very attractive, with the arable inland area providing a positive setting to the coast.
Enjoyment	Very high	Good network of coastal paths between St Abbs, Eyemouth and Coldingham, diving and beach at St Abbs are popular. National Cycle Route 76
Cultural qualities	High	Conservation areas at Coldingham and St Abbs, small-scale Inventory designed landscape at Silverwells. Upstanding remains of Coldingham Priory.
Habitat value	Medium	Limited valued habitat, comprising occasional heath, semi-natural woodland, and coastal habitats. Coastal strip is part of the Berwickshire SAC, with SPA and NNR at St Abbs Head, and part of Drone Moss SSSI and Coldingham Loch SSSI. A local wildlife site (Silverwells/Abbeyburn) is inland.
Settlement setting	High	Important to coastal setting of St Abbs and Coldingham, and to Eyemouth which is to the south
Views	Very high	Expansive views along the coast to and from the north and south. St Abb's Head provides a visual focus. Open views are available from the A1107.
Tourist economy	High	Coastal villages are a tourist draw, as is the picturesque coast and marine environment.
Landscape consistency	Not consistent	A distinction can be made between the coastal edge of this area, and the farmland which is less directly related to the coast.
Landscape relationships	–	The key relationships for this landscape are along the coast, to CO47 Coldingham Moor and to a lesser extent RV76 Lower Eye Water.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Cockburnspath
Landscape Character Unit reference:		CO45
Landscape Character Type		Coastal Farmland
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representativeness	Low	The coast is not typical of the Borders landscape, though the rural hinterland is more typical of the Border lowlands.
Rarity	High	Coastal landscapes are rare within the Scottish Borders. Rugged coastal cliffs with sheltered bays.
Condition	High	Well-managed agricultural landscape with strong pattern of hedges. Condition of hedgerow maintenance varies locally.
Intactness	Medium	Limited development of housing in unobtrusive small-scale clusters. Large caravan park at Pease Bay. Eastern coastal area is more intact than the farmland west of Cockburnspath, where some field boundaries have been lost. Sand extraction site near Cockburnspath.
Wildness	Low	This area is settled and has no wild land character, although the coastal edge is wild.
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	High	Dramatic views across the rocky coastline, sensory experience (sound, smell) of the dynamic seascape. Some detractive features including the A1 and quarrying.
Enjoyment	Very high	Cockburnspath is the eastern end of the Southern Upland Way, and there are several other Core Paths and PRoWs. The coast path now links East Lothian and Berwick. Pease Bay is popular with surfers. National Cycle Route 76.
Cultural qualities	Medium	Cockburnspath conservation area, A-listed and scheduled St Helen's Kirk, Inventory designed landscape at Dunglass with associated Chapel (Historic Scotland)
Habitat value	Low	Some coastal habitats and semi-natural woodland on Dunglass estate. SSSIs at Siccar Point, Old Cambus Quarry and Pease Bay.
Settlement setting	High	Forms the setting to Cockburnspath, though no other substantive settlement.
Views	High	Visible from the A1 and ECML through routes, and from the Southern Upland Way. Key views along the coast and out to sea.
Tourist economy	High	As a key point on the Southern Upland Way, and with the coast as an attraction, this landscape contributes to the tourist economy
Landscape consistency	Not consistent	Difference between coastal and hinterland sections of the LCU, with the A1/ECML forming an approximate divide. Slight difference in the character along the coast, with the eastern part being more tranquil.
Landscape relationships	–	Seaward-facing landscape which has little direct relationship with other areas. Has some relationship to the coast to the south (CO47 Coldingham Moor). The hinterland is more transitional, blending into UF24 Eye Water Platform.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Lamberton Moor
Landscape Character Unit reference:		CO46
Landscape Character Type		Coastal Pasture
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	Low	The coast is not typical of the Borders landscape, though the pastoral hinterland is more typical of the Border lowlands.
Rarity	High	Coastal landscapes are rare within the Scottish Borders
Condition	Medium	Wire fences are the dominant field boundary in this pastoral landscape. Lack of tree cover in inland areas.
Intactness	Low	The A1 and ECML fragment this LCU, dividing the coastal edge from the hinterland. There is little natural land cover along the coastal edge, with agriculture carried up to the cliff tops. Small-scale sand and gravel extraction.
Wildness	Medium	This area has some wild land character due to its rugged nature and rough pasture, but is not tranquil due to the major transport routes.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	Dramatic rugged coastline of cliffs, enabling long-distance views, although this area is more contained than other coastal LCUs. Scenic value impacted by the presence of the busy A1.
Enjoyment	High	Network of Core Paths and PRoWs particularly well connected around Eyemouth, used by walkers and horse riders. Coast path from Eyemouth to the Border. National Cycle Route 76.
Cultural qualities	High	SAM-designated hill forts, and a SBC designed landscapes at Mordington and Gunsgreen.
Habitat value	Medium	Habitats largely limited to mixed woodland and grasslands. The coast is within the Berwickshire & North Northumberland Coast SAC and Burnmouth SSSI, but no designated sites inland.
Settlement setting	Medium	The landscape forms the setting of Burnmouth and part of that of Eyemouth
Views	Very high	This landscape is visible from the A1 and ECML at the important 'gateway' from England. Long views out, particularly south along the Northumberland Coast, as well as inland to the Cheviots.
Tourist economy	High	As a gateway to the Borders this landscape contributes to the tourist economy, although there is little to detain tourists for long.
Landscape consistency	Not consistent	Varies from noisy locations by the road, to more secluded quieter locations. Coastal character recedes inland.
Landscape relationships	–	This landscape is visible from the A1 and ECML at the important 'gateway' from England. Long views out, particularly south along the Northumberland Coast, as well as inland to the Cheviots. LO40 Eye Water Lowland; LO39 North Merse; RV76 Lower Eye Water

Landscape Character Unit name:		Coldingham Moor
Landscape Character Unit reference:		CO47
Landscape Character Type		Coastal Moorland
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representativeness	Low	The coast is not typical of the Borders landscape
Rarity	Very High	Coastal landscapes are rare within the Scottish Borders, and the headland of St Abbs is unique along the coast of south-east Scotland and north-east England
Condition	Medium	Little evidence of active management, with extensive gorse scrub amongst rough grazing. Stone walls are in good condition, however.
Intactness	Low	Large areas of coniferous plantation. Communications masts and prominent concrete structures. Field boundaries have been lost and replaced with wire fences. The approved Coldingham Moor wind farm will affect the character of this area.
Wildness	Medium	This area is very sparsely settled and has areas of heather moorland, although human features are always visible.
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	Very high	'Particularly fine' coastal scenery. 'dramatic cliffs of St Abbs Head', sensory experience (sound, smell) of the dynamic seascape. Coastal views as far as Fife.
Enjoyment	Very high	Network of Core Paths and PRoWs including coastal path, National Cycle Route 76. Coastal path links East Lothian and Berwick.
Cultural qualities	Very high	Important concentration of scheduled Iron Age hill forts and settlements. Well-preserved sites include the early medieval monastic site at Kirk Hill, which is associated with St Ebba and St Cuthbert. Large areas of burial cairns to the north and west of Penmanshiel Moor.
Habitat value	High	Relatively extensive areas of habitat value include grasslands, coastal habitats, and heath, with occasional bog/fen. The coast forms part of the Berwickshire & North Northumberland Coast SAC, and the St Abbs to Fast Castle SPA/SAC. St Abbs Head is also a NNR. Inland there are SSSIs at Coldingham Loch, Coldingham Common and Drone Moss.
Settlement setting	Low	The landscape plays no direct role in settlement setting
Views	Very high	This area is visible from the locally important A1107, although the A1/ECML corridor bypasses the LCU. Localised enclosure limits longer-distance views. St Abb's Head is a landmark feature in coastal views, which reach Fife on a clear day.
Tourist economy	High	The coastal landscape is attractive and supports the local tourist economy
Landscape consistency	Consistent	The character of the coastal edge is consistent. Inland, the Coldingham Moor plateau has a slightly different character, particularly where coastal views are more limited.
Landscape relationships	–	Associated with CO44 Coldingham and CO45 Cockburnspath along the coast. Inland there are limited relationships as Coldingham Moor blends into the more sheltered landscapes away from the coast.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Upper Ettrick
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV48
Landscape Character Type		Upland Valley
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representative-ness	High	Several examples of this type occur in the Central and Eastern Southern Uplands, though the narrow valley and river gorge not common to the other river valleys. Typical Borders valley features include pastoral land use with woodland and forest, with strong sense of place. The lower part of the valley has similarities to the Yarrow valley.
Rarity	Medium	The landscape contains some unique features which do not occur elsewhere, including exposed rock strata around Ettrick, Ettrick Marshes, and the sandy cliffs at river bends. The breadth of the shallow gravelly river bed is unusually great.
Condition	Medium	In the west are well-maintained stone walls, neat cottages and hamlets. Similarly, to the east Ettrickbridge is a neat, picturesque village. The central part of the valley is lacking in structure, with mostly wire fences and a few fallen stone walls. There are large farm buildings, occasionally prominently sited on valley sides. Pasture is often rushy with bracken on valley sides.
Intactness	Medium	There are large areas of forest on the south-west flanks of the valleys near Ettrick, and large areas of this are being or have been restructured. There has been a general erosion of landscape structure in the central section of the valley.
Wildness	Medium	This is a settled and cultivated river valley which feels remote. Human influence is less overt in areas such as the Ettrick Marshes.
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	High	The landscape has a 'strong topographic definition and identity'. The western section of the valley has more diversity of land cover, with intimate wooded areas and variety of textures and colours. Other areas have scenic value, such as the policy woodlands around Hyndhope, and the distinctive gorge section at Ettrickbridge. The more eroded parts of the valley lack diversity, although the views to the surrounding hills are appealing.
Enjoyment	High	The Southern Upland Way runs through the western part of the unit, and there is some opportunity for enjoyment along the valley bottom, though there are a limited number of PROWs cross the area. Ettrick Marshes (Borders Forest Trust) has parking and information.
Cultural qualities	High	Tushielaw Tower is a SAM. Cultural associations with James Hogg 'the Ettrick Shepherd', whose birthplace monument is located at Ettrick. Historical associations with Ettrick Forest.
Habitat value	High	Extensive valued habitat, principally grassland and heath, with some areas of semi-natural woodland, particularly in the eastern parts of the area. SSSI at Kirkhope Linns (Ettrickbridge) and the River Tweed SAC/SSSI, which includes the Ettrick Marshes, an area of riparian woodland and wetland unique in the Borders.
Settlement setting	Medium	There is no substantive settlement in this LCU, although there is a close relationship between the topographic pattern and the settlements of Ettrick and Ettrickbridge.
Views	Medium	There is a close visual relationship with the uplands that enclose it, with intermittent long views along the valley, but the views are restricted to local scale. The landscape is visible from the B709 that runs through the valley.
Tourist economy	Medium	There are a number of camping areas within the unit, which makes some contribution to the tourist economy

Landscape consistency	Consistent	Variation in condition between the wooded east and west ends, and the more open central section.
Landscape relationships		The valley is important in defining the hill groups to the north and south (UPI 1 Black Knowe UPI 2 Dun Knowe Group UPI 4 Craik)

Landscape Character Unit name:		Upper Yarrow
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV49
Landscape Character Type		Upland Valley
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representative-ness	High	River valleys are a common feature of the Borders landscape and this example contains many features that recur through other areas of this type, including pastoral land use, woodland, scattered settlement.
Rarity	High	Although a typical landscape type, the valley contains St Mary's Loch, the only large natural loch in the Borders.
Condition	High	The valley appears well tended, with well established woodland and stone walls. The area around St Mary's Loch is well managed, though not always neat. East of the loch there is less management, rough pasture with bracken, fallen stone walls, willow scrub. There is new woodland planting in this area.
Intactness	High	Patterns of stone wall enclosure are intact. There are small-scale conifer plantations, though these generally achieve a good fit with existing woodland patterns. Erosion scars are evident where tracks have been pushed up hillsides.
Wildness	Medium	This sparsely settled valley feels remote, but is a low-intensity cultivated landscape with only limited wild land qualities.
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	High	The pastoral valley has scenic value with a 'strong topographic definition and identity'. There is diversity of land cover, with the wooded valley, gravelly river bed, and rugged slopes to either side making a picturesque scene with a variety of textures and colours. Attractive cottages and hamlets, and few intrusive features. The more open area east of the loch is blander with more limited diversity.
Enjoyment	Very high	There are a limited number of PRoWs through the western part of the valley, though there are a greater number of paths around Yarrow. The Southern Upland Way passes through this area. There is sailing and fishing at St Mary's Loch, which is a popular visitor destination in itself.
Cultural qualities	High	St Mary's Loch is of historic cultural importance. SAM designations including St Mary's Kirkyard and Dryhope Tower. Undesignated standing stones outside Yarrow. Part of the Hangingshaw Inventory designed landscape lies in the area. Literary associations with Walter Scott and James Hogg, whose statue stands near the historic Tibbie Shiels' Inn.
Habitat value	High	Valued habitat includes grassland and occasional heath on valley sides, with small areas of semi-natural woodland around St Mary's Loch and further east. River Tweed SAC/SSSI includes the Yarrow and St Mary's Loch. Henderland Bank and Riskinhope SSSIs
Settlement setting	High	There is a close relationship between the topographic pattern and the settlements of Yarrow and Castleburn, making the landscape an important part of the setting for these key settlements
Views	High	There is a close visual relationship with the uplands that enclose it, with intermittent long views along the valley. Few hills are landmarks apart from Bridge End Hill forming a visual focus above the loch. The landscape is visible from the popular A708 tourist route which runs along the valley corridor. Open views across the water.
Tourist economy	High	As a setting for the popular St Mary's Loch, and sited on the A708, an important tourist route into the Borders from the south-west.

Landscape consistency	Consistent	Generally consistent character, though there is some local variation in condition, with the area between the loch and Mountbenger being more open and eroded in terms of landscape structure. The loch stands apart as a large-scale water body, unusual in the Borders context.
Landscape relationships		The key relationships of this landscape are with the surrounding upland groups, which it defines (UP7 Broadlaw, UP10 Minch Moor, UP11 Black Knowe)

Landscape Character Unit name:		Upper Tweed
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV50
Landscape Character Type		Upland Valley
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	Medium	A number of examples of this type occurs in the Central and Southern Uplands, this area is relatively typical of an upland Borders valley, with stands of pine.
Rarity	Medium	Although a type that reoccurs across the Central Southern Uplands, this landscape has some distinct features, including the very steep valley slopes rising to particularly high hills. There are some prominent landmark hills, eg. Worm Hill, in contrast to the more rounded hills common elsewhere.
Condition	High	Stone walls are in good condition, although there is bracken encroachment. There are occasional neglected farms or cottages, though generally the landscape appears to be a well maintained though marginal area.
Intactness	Medium	Some stone walls have been lost, reducing the clarity of landscape pattern. Conifer plantations, often extensive, and occasionally covering hill summits as at Cockiland Hill. The dismantled railway is prominent in some locations. Erosion scars where tracks have been formed on steep hill slopes.
Wildness	Medium	This is a settled valley floor with coniferous plantations, and a busy main road. Although relatively remote, it has only limited wild landscape character associated with the more open uplands.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	Visual diversity of steep wooded slopes, often strongly enclosed narrow valley floor with pasture fields, and strong topographic pattern. Dramatic contrast between high, steep hills and the valley. In places, the pattern of field boundaries, woodland and shelterbelts form attractive groupings.
Enjoyment	Medium	Northern part lies in the Upper Tweeddale NSA. There are a limited number of PRowWs across the area and enjoyment is also partly restricted in this narrow part of the valley by the A701 that runs through it. Nevertheless it is an important access into the hills.
Cultural qualities	High	Several scheduled hill forts. Extensive prehistoric settlement and funerary evidence running down the length of the valley. There is a ruined peel tower at Wrae.
Habitat value	High	Valued habitat includes heath and grassland on valley sides, and to a lesser extent bracken and forest. Small areas of plantation woodland. The river is part of the Tweed SAC, and the Tweedsmuir SSSI extends into the valley. One local wildlife site (Bird Cherry Wood)
Settlement setting	Low	There is no substantive settlement in this LCU, though the valley is important for the setting of the hamlets of Tweedsmuir and Stanhope.
Views	High	There is a close visual relationship with the uplands that enclose it, including some landmark hills. Occasional long views along the valley. The landscape is visible from the A701, a key transport corridor which runs along the valley.
Tourist economy	Medium	Though the areas lies partly in the Upper Tweeddale NSA, there are few key attractions within the landscape. It is a means of access for visitors coming on to the Borders.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	
Landscape relationships	–	The valley defines the neighbouring groups of hills: UP7 Broadlaw and UP9 Culter Fell

Landscape Character Unit name:		Liddel Water
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV51
Landscape Character Type		Upland Valley
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representativeness	Medium	A number of examples of this type occurs in the Central and Southern Uplands, though some elements within the unit are not common to the river valleys of the Scottish Borders landscape. The Borders 'sense of place' is less distinct in this valley, particularly further south.
Rarity	Medium	Some elements are uncommon within the Scottish Borders. Liddesdale is more remote, though there are no individual features with distinct rarity value.
Condition	High	The valley floor of Liddesdale is semi-improved rushy pasture, with fences of wire and tape, with few hedges. Scrub occurs on the floodplain. There are some neglected farm buildings. Landscape structure is better on the valley slopes, where there are shelterbelts. North of Newcastleton the more intimate sections of the Hermitage Valley are well kept, with stone walls intact.
Intactness	Medium	Conifer plantations have been established on the valley sides. North of Newcastleton more broadleaf woodland remains. Landscape structure has been eroded, particularly south of Newcastleton.
Wildness	Medium	Settled river valley with little wildness character, though remote and potentially bleak. The fringing hills have some wildness character.
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	High	Some visual diversity in intermittent woodlands and open areas. Sense of enclosure increases further north. The Liddel Valley lacks the grand hills on each side which contribute to the scenery of central Borders valleys, though these are present in the more attractive, wooded Hermitage Valley.
Enjoyment	High	The landscape contains many opportunities for enjoying the landscape, including attractions such as the Hermitage Castle and Chapel, and a dense network of PRoWs.
Cultural qualities	Very high	The upstanding Hermitage Castle is the most prominent feature, with historic associations with the Douglas family and Mary Queen of Scots. The castle and chapel, and the remains of Liddel Castle north of Newcastleton are scheduled. There are a number of other cultural heritage features within the landscape. The centre of Newcastleton is a conservation area notable for its origin as a planned village. The area has strong historic associations with the Border Reivers.
Habitat value	Medium	Valued habitat includes some large areas of bog/fen and grassland, with scattered semi-natural woodland. Designated sites limited to a peripheral SSSI at Kershope Bridge, and a local wildlife site at Burnside Moss.
Settlement setting	High	Key to valley setting of Newcastleton
Views	Medium	The valleys are relatively contained, having a close visual relationship with the uplands. There are intermittent views along the valley and into wooded tributary valleys. There are 'iconic views' at Blackburn and Carby Hill. Hermitage Castle is a key landmark.
Tourist economy	High	Newcastleton planned village with its visitor centre is a popular tourist destination. The landscape of the area contributes to the tourist economy as the setting for the popular Hermitage Castle.
Landscape consistency	Not consistent	While the area around Newcastleton and to the south is more open and in more variable condition, the area further north, particularly the Hermitage Valley is much more distinctive, with more woodland and steeper hills.

Landscape relationships		The key relationships of this landscape are with the hills which enclose it: UPI5 Wauchope Forest and UPI6 Larriston Fells.
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Landscape Character Unit name:		Lyne Water
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV52
Landscape Character Type		Upland Valley
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representativeness	Medium	A number of examples of this type occurs in the Central and Southern Uplands. Although classed as an upland valley, it is farmed and shares characteristics with other 'middle' sections of Border valleys.
Rarity	Low	The area has no features of rarity value, although the combination of a farmed valley in an upland setting is uncommon.
Condition	High	Intensively farmed improved pasture, with stone walls, occasionally in poor repair. The river channel is less well maintained, though overall the area is in good condition.
Intactness	Medium	River banks have signs of erosion, woodland has been lost. Some new woodland planting has been carried out.
Wildness	Medium	This sparsely settled valley contains some wild land character related to the upper slopes where there is unimproved grazing and heather moorland.
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	High	Pastoral valley with scenic value, with visual diversity afforded by woodland, pasture fields and the contrasting heather and grass moorland on the upper slopes of the valley.
Enjoyment	Medium	The south eastern part of the area lies in the Upper Tweeddale NSA. There are a very limited number of PRowWs across the area
Cultural qualities	High	Scheduled remains of Drochil Castle. Extensive Roman fort by Five Mile Bridge is one of the best-preserved in southern Scotland. Well-preserved scheduled hill forts. The 17 th -century Lyne Parish Church is category B listed.
Habitat value	Medium	Some valued habitat including grassland, ancient woodland, plantation woodland and limited heath. Lyne Water is part of the Tweed SAC, Haggin Hope Burn, Ladyurd Wood local wildlife site.
Settlement setting	Low	There are no substantial settlements within this LCU.
Views	Medium	There is a close visual relationship with the uplands that enclose it, with intermittent long views along the valley and into tributary gullies and valleys. Generally though, views are restricted to local scale and contained within the valley. Views from the A72, a key route into the Borders from the west.
Tourist economy	Low	There are few attractions here and the landscape makes little direct contribution, although it is located on the A72.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	
Landscape relationships		Key relationships are with the hills which flank this valley: UP5 Broughton Heights and UP6 Eddleston/Lyne Interfluve

Landscape Character Unit name:		Manor Water
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV53
Landscape Character Type		Upland Valley
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representative-ness	Medium	A number of examples of this type occur. It is a typical upland Borders valley flanked by steep rounded hills.
Rarity	Medium	This landscape has some distinct features that are uncommon within the Scottish border, including scree and rocky outcrops, eg. at Langhaugh Hill and on the south flank of Cademuir Hill.
Condition	High	Field boundaries are well maintained. There is mature broadleaf woodland giving a well-established feel.
Intactness	High	Forests on hill slopes do not overly dominate the landscape, restructured planting of forestry has been undertaken. Several large chicken sheds in the upper part of the valley.
Wildness	Medium	This sparsely settled valley contains some wild land character related to the upper slopes, and the valley feels quite remote..
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	High	Pastoral valley with scenic value, with visual diversity afforded by woodland, pasture fields and the contrasting heather and grass moorland on the upper slopes of the valley. The rocky slope of Cademuir Hill contrasts with the pastoral valley floor.
Enjoyment	High	The south eastern part of the area lies in the Upper Tweeddale NSA, though there are a very limited number of PRoW's across the area. Cyclists on minor roads. Access point into high hills, with the John Buchan Way passing through.
Cultural qualities	High	Several well-preserved, scheduled prehistoric and early historic forts including two forts and an unenclosed settlement on Cademuir Hill.
Habitat value	High	Valued habitats largely grasslands with some heath. Manor Water is part of the Tweed SAC and the Tweedsmuir SSSI extends into the upper valley.
Settlement setting	Low	There are no settlements within the area.
Views	Medium	Views are restricted to local scale and contained within the valley and not visible from any major route or settlement. The valley is overlooked from footpaths on the surrounding hills, including the John Buchan Way.
Tourist economy	Medium	The area serves as an access point for outdoor recreation, but makes a limited direct contribution.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	
Landscape relationships		This landscape has a key relationship with the hills of UP7 Broadlaw which surround it.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Biggar Water
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV54
Landscape Character Type		Upland Valley
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representative-ness	High	The valley around Broughton has typical features and a strong Borders 'sense of place', but the area further west does not.
Rarity	Medium	The valley west of Broughton is flatter and more open than typical Borders valleys, and is more typical of the landscape around Biggar in Lanarkshire. The prominent lines of mature trees are an unusual feature.
Condition	High	Generally the landscape is in good condition, although it becomes more open with fewer hedges to the west. The lines of trees give the landscape a well established character.
Intactness	High	The burn which flows into the Biggar Water has been heavily modified, and the surrounding land intensified for improved pasture. Around Broughton the landscape structure is more intact, though the loss of the tree lines, due to old age and non-replacement, would alter the character.
Wildness	Low	A settled and cultivated valley, with very limited wild land character related to the upper slopes where there is unimproved grazing and heather moorland.
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	Very High	Pastoral valley of scenic value with visual diversity afforded by woodland, mature trees, pasture fields and the contrasting heather and grass moorland surrounding the basin-like valley around Broughton. Further west there is less visual diversity, the landscape dominated by extensive pastures.
Enjoyment	High	Part of the area lies within the Upper Tweeddale NSA, and a popular walking area with the John Buchan Way and several PRoWs cross through the area. There is a gallery at Broughton Place.
Cultural qualities	High	SBC designed landscapes of Hartree House, Broughton Place and Rachan and several SAM designations, including the Celtic fort and settlement at Dreva Craig.
Habitat value	Medium	Limited areas of valued habitat, largely unimproved grassland. Biggar Water and the Tweed are part of the Tweed SAC. Small local wildlife sites at Rachan Mill Hall Pond, Rachan Fish Pond, and the dismantled railway at Dreva.
Settlement setting	Medium	Important for valley setting of Broughton.
Views	Medium	Some distant views along the valley to Tinto Hill, though the 'basin' around Broughton is more contained. Visible from stretch of the A701 which runs through Broughton.
Tourist economy	Medium	Mostly contributes via access to outdoor recreation.
Landscape consistency	Not consistent	West of Broughton, this area becomes increasingly open, with lower hills to either side, and more fragmentation of field enclosure.
Landscape relationships		The key relationships are with the uplands which define the valley: UP05 Broughton Heights and UP09 Culter Fell.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Eddleston Water
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV55
Landscape Character Type		Pastoral Upland Valley
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representativeness	Medium	This is a less common type of river valley, though it contains features which recur throughout the river valleys of the Borders, such as pastoral land use and broadleaf woodland.
Rarity	Low	There are few uncommon features in this area
Condition	High	It is a well managed landscape, with mature broadleaf trees, and evidence of recent replanting. There are a few broken stone walls and gappy hedges.
Intactness	High	The disused railway line is prominent. There are few areas of conifer plantation. Estate landscapes appear to be intact, as is the general landscape structure.
Wildness	Low	This sparsely settled valley with improved pasture has few wild landscape characteristics
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	High	The pastoral valley has some scenic value, with a generally open character, and visual diversity arising from the flat bottomed valley and improved pasture contrasting with the heather moorland, grasses and woodland on the valley sides. Estate landscapes have scenic value, around Blackbarony and Cringletie.
Enjoyment	Medium	Good network of PProWs linked crossing through the area linked to the settlements through the valley and to Peebles.
Cultural qualities	High	SBC designed landscapes at Cringletie, Barony Castle, Portmore and a number of listed buildings scattered through the valley but concentrated at Cringletie and Eddleston. Conservation area at Eddleston.
Habitat value	High	A mix of valued habitats, including large areas of grassland, bog/fen and occasional semi-natural woodlands (including ancient woodland, Cemetery wood and Silver dean) , and plantation. The Eddleston Water is part of the Tweed SAC, and there is a small local wildlife site at Harelaws Pond.
Settlement setting	High	Important for the valley setting of Eddleston, and forms part of the wider setting of Peebles as its northern approach.
Views	Medium	The A703 runs through this landscape, an important route into the Borders from the north. Views are generally limited both by the valley topography and by the frequent woodland and trees.
Tourist economy	High	There are several attractions, including the Barony Castle and Cringletie Hotels. Forms part of the connecting route between the centres of Peebles and Penicuik
Landscape consistency	Consistent	
Landscape relationships	–	The valley is defined by the neighbouring uplands, UP03 Moorfoot Plateau and UP06 Eddleston/Lyne Interfluve

Landscape Character Unit name:		Gala Water
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV56
Landscape Character Type		Pastoral Upland Valley
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	High	This is a less common type of river valley, though it contains pasture with woodland and forestry, features which recur throughout the river valleys of the Borders.
Rarity	Low	Some uncommon features, such as the scree slopes, but little rarity value.
Condition	Medium	Rushy improved pasture in the floodplain. Gorse and willow scrub along roads and watercourses, and along the disused railway line.
Intactness	Medium	Forestry is extensive in places and is present on hill tops. Access road to long Park wind farm has left scarring on the hillside above Bowshank. Quarry at Hazelbank. The disused Waverley Line is occasionally prominent, and reopening of the line will increase its presence.
Wildness	Low	This settled cultivated valley has no wild land characteristics.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Medium	The pastoral valley has some scenic value, with a generally open character, and visual diversity arising from the flat bottomed valley and improved pasture contrasting with the heather moorland, occasional rocky outcrops, and woodland on the valley sides. Detractive features include forests and quarry at Hazelbank.
Enjoyment	Medium	Limited number of PRoWs in some parts of the area, though a good network around the northern part, though enjoyment is limited by the traffic running along the major A7 transport corridor.
Cultural qualities	Very high	Several SBC designed landscapes including Torwoodlee, Bowland, Ferniehirst, Torsconce, Muirhouse and Crookstone House. Other features include the scheduled Bow Castle (broch), and the conservation area at Stow, where the scheduled medieval bridge is a prominent feature.
Habitat value	Medium	Mix of valued habitats including grassland, occasional heath and some broadleaf woodland. The Gala Water is part of the Tweed SAC, and there is a Local wildlife site at The Whin and ancient woodland (Rough Heugh).
Settlement setting	Medium	Important for the setting of the village of Stow, though no other substantive settlement.
Views	Medium	Views are restricted to local scale and contained within the valley, though visible along the major A7 corridor.
Tourist economy	High	Several attractions in this landscape and on key route of the A7
Landscape consistency	Consistent	There is some variation in the width of the valley, with variations in the sense of enclosure due to alternating open and enclosed sections, but no significant inconsistency in character.
Landscape relationships		Key relationships with the surrounding uplands, UP3 Moorfoot Plateau and UP4 Lauder Common. Lesser relationship with UF34 West Gala to the south-west.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Upper Whiteadder
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV57
Landscape Character Type		Upland Valley with farmland
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representativeness	High	This is a less common type of river valley, though it contains features which recur throughout the river valleys of the Borders and has a Borders 'sense of place'
Rarity	Medium	Has some distinctive features, such as the red-earth character and exposed cliffs and bluffs around Cranshaws, that are not common to the Borders landscape. The shallow upland landform contrasts with the tighter valleys of the Southern Uplands.
Condition	High	There are few hedges in this landscape, with shelterbelts and tree lines more common, particularly to the west. New woodland planting has been recently carried out.
Intactness	Medium	Coniferous plantation has been introduced in a large number of small- to medium-scale blocks. Crystal Rig wind farm stands at the head of the valley and is a prominent feature. Overgrazing is evident on upper valley slopes, and drainage has been carried out. Some stands of broadleaf woodland remain, including riparian woodland.
Wildness	Medium	A sparsely settled valley, with areas of geometric conifer plantations, it has some limited wildness character
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	Very high	Scenic qualities with visual diversity of scrub and gorse covered river bluffs, and flat valley floor, often strongly enclosed by the steep valley sides that give way to the surrounding upland plateaux. Wooded river channels have scenic value.
Enjoyment	High	A number of PROWs and a small section of the Southern Upland Way passes through the southern extremity of the area
Cultural qualities	Medium	SBC designed landscapes of Longformacus and Rathburne House, and a small part of the Inventory designed landscape of Whitchester lie within the area.
Habitat value	Medium	Areas of upland habitat at the Lammermuir fringe, areas of grassland and mixed woodland elsewhere. SSSI at Crook Burn Dyshaugh, and the Whiteadder Water is part of the Tweed SAC/SSSI.
Settlement setting	Medium	Important setting for the village of Longformacus and hamlet of Cranshaws.
Views	Low	Contained landscape not visible from key routes with the exception of the Southern Upland Way. Broad outward views into Lammermuirs. Crystal Rig wind farm forms the only visual focus on the simple skylines.
Tourist economy	Medium	There are some attractions, with the Southern Upland Way drawing visitors as a long distance walking route and making some contribution
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Some variation, eg. the Dye Water area is more wooded, but underlying character is consistent.
Landscape relationships	–	UP02 Lammermuir Plateaux UF31 Knock Hill UF37 Greenlaw Common

Landscape Character Unit name:		Upper Leader
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV58
Landscape Character Type		Upland Valley with farmland
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	High	This is a less common type of river valley, though it contains features which recur throughout the river valleys of the Borders, including pastoral hills with field boundary trees, and has a Borders 'sense of place'
Rarity	Medium	Has some distinctive features, such as the red-earth character that are not common to the Borders landscape. The broad, shallow form of the valley is uncommon among the Borders upland valleys, as is the extent of arable land in the area.
Condition	Medium	Many gappy sparse hedges, some have been lost and replaced with wire fences. There are lines of mature trees, though little clear evidence of ongoing management or replacement.
Intactness	Medium	There are overhead power lines along the valley, and the Dun Law wind farm is a dominant element on the northern skyline. There are small conifer plantations and field amalgamation has taken place. Development on the south edge of Lauder is visually intrusive.
Wildness	Low	A settled valley with areas of geometric conifer plantations, it has no wildness character
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	Visual diversity of flat valley floor, with a red-earth colour to the cultivated ground, and the several tributary valleys with gorse covered bluffs, though some impact from the Wind Farm at Dun Law. Contrast of higher hills with farmland. Mature trees add visual interest.
Enjoyment	Medium	A very good network of Core Paths and PRoWs, particularly around Lauder, though the A68 interrupts potential enjoyment in some parts of the area being a prominent feature within the valley. The Southern Upland Way passes through Lauder within the area
Cultural qualities	High	Inventory and SBC designed landscape at Thirlestane Castle, which is a prominent landmark in many views. Several scheduled forts line the valley and other SAMs include the Roman Camp and fortlet at Oxton. Conservation area in the centre of Lauder.
Habitat value	Medium	Valued habitats are generally limited to heath and grassland at the fringes of the area and areas of ancient woodland (Onefurrow Brae, Birchwood) Airhouse Wood is a SSSI and the Leader Water and its tributaries are part of the Tweed SAC.
Settlement setting	High	Important valley settling for the key centre of Lauder, the village of Oxton and the other hamlets dispersed along the valley
Views	High	Highly visible from the major transport corridor running through the valley, including the A68 and A697. Key view along the valley from the A68 as it descends from Dun Law. Aside from Thirlestane Castle and Lauder town hall clock tower, there are few landmarks.
Tourist economy	High	The landscape lies on the A68, a key transport corridor, and as the setting for Lauder, it has a role in the tourist economy
Landscape consistency	Consistent	
Landscape relationships	–	The landscape has some relationship with the adjacent uplands (UP2 Lammermuir Plateau and UP4 Lauder Common), though the transition is more gradual. Lauder provides a link between this LCU and RV65 Lower Leader to the south.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Middle Tweed
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV59
Landscape Character Type		Upland Valley with woodland
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	Very high	This large LCU contains many features which recur throughout the river valleys of the Borders. Indeed the Tweed valley could be said to 'set the standard' for the Borders valleys. The LCU contains pasture, woodland and forests, with open hills beyond.
Rarity	Medium	The more settled nature of the landscape, including the valley settlements of Peebles, is an uncommon feature of this valley. There are other less common features, such as the narrow forested section near Thornielee.
Condition	High	The floodplain has, generally, a well maintained aspect. There are stone walls and hedges which are well kept, though in places the condition of these features is poorer. Copses of pine and broadleaf woodland, including riparian woodland.
Intactness	Medium	Extensive plantation forestry on valley sides, often blending well into the landscape. Occasional poor boundaries, though there is much evidence of restructuring, including some visually varied and colourful plantations. The introduction of large scale development at Cardrona, including the village and the hotel, has interrupted the landscape structure, and efforts to create new structure have yet to reach maturity. The Cardrona Hotel is particularly prominent, as is the lighting at the new road junction. Some urban edge development at Peebles has a similar effect. Estate landscapes show more intactness.
Wildness	Low	Settled valley with farmland and forest plantations, with very limited wildness characteristics in small areas such as the wooded gorge at Neidpath.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Very high	Scenic pastoral valley, visual interest from the contrasting woodland, pastures, open hillsides and settlements, and occasional views to the high hills beyond. The valley landscape unfolds as the visitor moves through it, with the constantly changing views, and changes in the scale of the valley, lending scenic quality. Glimpses down to the river from higher locations are particularly picturesque, as in the area around Neidpath.
Enjoyment	Very High	Widespread and dense network of Core Paths and PRoWs including the John Buchan Way. Several important attractions including the Royal Botanical Garden at Dawyck Gardens and the Glentress mountain biking centre. Many signposted visitor facilities and attractions. The area provides access to the hills for outdoor recreation. Part of it lies within the Upper Tweeddale NSA.
Cultural qualities	Very High	Inventory designed landscapes at Stobo Castle and Dawyck. Key monuments include Neidpath Castle, Traquair House, and prominent ruins of Horsburgh Castle. Other SAMs include a Roman camp at Lyne and Tinnis Castle. Substantial conservation areas at the ancient burgh of Peebles and the textile centre of Innerleithen. Extensive historical and cultural associations along the Tweed, for example Water Scott's <i>St Ronan's Well</i> , James Hogg's <i>The Fray of Elibank</i> , or Traquair's 'bear gates' and links with the Jacobite rising.

Habitat value	High	Relatively extensive areas of broadleaf woodland (plantation and semi-natural). Other valued habitats include grasslands on valley slopes, and mixed and coniferous plantations. The River Tweed and its tributaries are part of the Tweed SAC/SSSI. There are several SSSIs (Nut wood, Flora wood, Glenkinnon burn) and a number of local wildlife sites (Thornylee Quarry)
Settlement setting	Very High	Important for the setting of the key settlements of Peebles and Innerleithen, as well as Walkerburn and Cardrona.
Views	Very High	Highly visible from key settlements and transport corridors including the A72. There are a number of signposted viewpoints within the area. Views are channelled by the valley, and vary as the valley varies in size. A number of 'iconic views' overlook the valley.
Tourist economy	High	The landscape lies on the A72, a key transport corridor and there are several key attractions that contribute to the tourist economy
Landscape consistency	Not consistent	Broadly, the valley could be further divided into the narrow, wooded section west of Peebles, the more open section with broad floodplain between Peebles and Walkerburn, and another narrow section with extensive forest around Thornielee. Locally, development affects the landscape character of the valley around the settlements.
Landscape relationships	–	The key relationships of this landscape are with the uplands which frame it, primarily UP03 Moorfoots, UP05 Broughton Heights, UP07 Broadlaw, and UP10 Minch Moor.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Lower Ettrick/Yarrow
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV60
Landscape Character Type		Upland Valley with woodland
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	Medium	This is a less common type of river valley, though it contains many features which recur throughout the river valleys of the Borders, being a broad, wooded pastoral valley.
Rarity	Medium	Contains some uncommon and distinctive features, such as extensive estate parkland with dense woodland, and broad floodplain at the confluence.
Condition	High	A well maintained landscape, with signs of active management of woodlands, presumably as part of the estate management of the Bowhill parks and policies, which dominate this area.
Intactness	High	The area is very well wooded, the majority being associated with policy woodlands of Bowhill and Philiphaugh. Amalgamation has led to large fields on the floodplain, though field boundaries are still intact. Extensive conifer plantations have been introduced on to the upper slopes of Philiphaugh and above Yarrowford. Large chicken sheds in the valley, but not intrusive.
Wildness	Low	Settled valley with limited wildness characteristics
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Very high	Strong relief of the enclosing uplands, with strong undulating profiles together with the woodland structure and complex land cover gives the area highly scenic qualities. An attractive, mature landscape, with picturesque pockets such as the narrow section of the Yarrow valley at Yarrowford.
Enjoyment	High	Several key attractions, including Bowhill House and gardens, Newark Castle, Philiphaugh gardens. A good network of Core Paths and PRowWs, and the Borders Abbeys Way crosses the area in the south.
Cultural qualities	Very High	The SAM designated tower house of Newark Castle is a key monument and other SAMs include Peel Hill Castle and Oakwood Roman Fort. Inventory designed landscapes of The Haining, Hangingshaw, and Bowhill, large SBC designed landscape at Philiphaugh with the smaller designed landscape of Aikwood. Battle of Philiphaugh 1645 associates the area with the civil wars of the 17 th century.
Habitat value	Medium	Several areas of mixed plantation woodland, and occasional semi-natural woodlands. The Ettrick and Yarrow Waters are part of the Tweed SAC/SSSI. No other areas are designated for biodiversity value.
Settlement setting	Very High	Important settling and approach to key settlement of Selkirk
Views	High	Very visible from the key settlement of Selkirk. Some viewpoints within the landscape, and views from the A708. Views from many places are limited by the density of woodland. Landmarks include Bowhill House and spire in Selkirk.
Tourist economy	Very High	The landscape lies on a key transport corridor and there are several attractions that contribute to the tourist economy
Landscape consistency	Consistent	
Landscape relationships	–	Key relationships with surrounding uplands UPI0 Minch Moor, UPI1 Black Knowe and UPI2 Dun Knowe. The landscape provides a link between the Ettrick, Yarrow and Tweed valleys.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Upper Teviot
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV61
Landscape Character Type		Pastoral Upland Fringe Valley
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representativeness	High	River valleys are a common feature, and this is an example of one of the more common types, with a green pastoral character.
Rarity	Low	This landscape does not contain rare features, though its shallow form is less typical.
Condition	High	Mature wooded bluffs give a well established feel. Stone walls are in good condition.
Intactness	High	Small-scale conifer plantations do not dominate the landscape, though they are often located by the roadside which increases their presence. It remains a well wooded landscape for an upland valley, with intermittent tree belts, and woodland around farms.
Wildness	Low	This upland valley has few wild land characteristics, although it feels quite remote
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	Medium	The pastoral valley has some scenic value, with a generally open character, and combinations of woodland, pasture, wooded bluffs, and cottages and hamlets. Compromised by the prominent overhead power line which runs along the valley.
Enjoyment	High	Extensive Core Paths and PRow network around Hawick, though fewer paths to the south-west. There are picnic sites and signposted forest walks. The A7 is signposted as the Borders Tourist Route, and is an important access to the Borders from the south. Hawick is a key visitor attraction with tourist facilities.
Cultural qualities	High	Hawick conservation area, with mill town heritage. SBC designed landscapes at Wilton, Branxholme and Goldielands. There are several tower houses, and the Colterscleuch Monument memorialises the poet Henry Scott Riddell. Numerous hill forts and cairns are protected as SAMs. Historic associations with the Border Reivers, for example the hanging of Johnnie Armstrong at Teviothead.
Habitat value	Medium	Valued habitat limited to grasslands on valley sides, occasional bog/fen, and scattered broadleaf woodland including ancient woodland (Branxholme Glen, Whitchesters Haugh Plantation). The Teviot is part of the Tweed SAC/SSSI, Allan Water Hillhead SSSI.
Settlement setting	High	Important part of the setting of the key settlement of Hawick and other Teviotdale hamlets
Views	High	Important in views from the A7, a gateway into the borders from the south. Views are channelled along the linear valley, and there are few landmarks.
Tourist economy	High	As the setting for Hawick, a key tourist centre, this landscape has a role in the tourist economy
Landscape consistency	Not consistent	The area around Hawick contrasts with the much more remote south-western part of the LCU.
Landscape relationships	–	Principal relationships with the surrounding hills include UPI3 Cauldcleuch Head, UF26 Chisholm and UF27 Allan Water

Landscape Character Unit name:		Bowmont Water
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV62
Landscape Character Type		Pastoral Upland Fringe Valley
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	High	River valleys are a common feature, and this is an example of one of the more common types. There is a mix of arable land and pasture, though the valley is relatively broad.
Rarity	Medium	This landscape does not contain uncommon features, although the adjacent Cheviot Hills are somewhat different in character to the typical Borders hills, being more dissected and often steeper, lending this valley a slightly different character.
Condition	Medium	It is generally a well-maintained landscape, with mature shelterbelts. The flat valley floor has an occasionally unkempt character, with gappy hedgerows, unimproved pasture, and fallen walls in places.
Intactness	Medium	There has clearly been some amalgamation of fields, and consequent loss of field boundaries. The field pattern has therefore been eroded to some extent. Small conifer plantations have been introduced.
Wildness	Low	This upland valley has few wild land characteristics, it is a farmed, enclosed landscape, in contrast to the wilder Cheviot Hills which lie adjacent.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	The pastoral valley has some scenic value, with visual diversity arising from gorse and scrub. There is a dramatic contrast between the steep, angular uplands of the Cheviots, and the arable and pastoral valley. The lack of tree cover allows long views which contribute to the scenic quality of the valley.
Enjoyment	Very high	Kirk Yetholm is important as the end point of the Pennine Way, and is also on the St Cuthbert's Way. Several other PRowWs lead from here into the Northumberland National Park. There is evidence that this landscape is well-used as an access point into the Cheviot Hills, particularly from Yetholm.
Cultural qualities	Medium	Yetholm conservation area with distinctive Northumbrian settlement and building forms, a few prehistoric SAMs. Rig and furrow is prominently visible on lower slopes in some locations.
Habitat value	Medium	Some areas of grassland habitat on valley sides and floor, coniferous plantation and very occasional bog/fen. Bowmont is part of the Tweed SAC/SSSI.
Settlement setting	Medium	Valley setting of Yetholm settlements is important to their character.
Views	Medium	Contained landscape is not visible from key routes with the exception of the Pennine Way. The high hills of the Cheviots are landmark features from the B road which approaches Yetholm from the east. There are long views to these peaks, often from quite a distance, with the overlapping hills and shoulders forming attractive vistas.
Tourist economy	High	As the end of the Pennine Way, Kirk Yetholm attracts visitors from outside the region who are completing this walk.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	The valley becomes narrower, and upland influence becomes stronger, in the southern reaches. Stone walls become more common, and tree cover diminishes even more.
Landscape relationships	–	UPI7 Cheviot uplands. The long views lead the traveller into the valley, and up into the Cheviots, or out into Northumberland. UF19 Lempitlaw

Landscape Character Unit name:		Borthwick Water
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV63
Landscape Character Type		Pastoral Upland Fringe Valley
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representativeness	High	River valleys are a common feature, and this is an example of one of the more common types. A pastoral valley with wooded bluffs and conifer plantations.
Rarity	Low	This landscape does not contain uncommon features
Condition	High	Mature wooded landscape, though the field pattern has been eroded. Lacks riparian woodland, though some woodland replanting has been recently established.
Intactness	High	Woodland structure is intact, though away from estate landscapes the structure is weaker. Conifer forests tend to be small and unobtrusive.
Wildness	Medium	This upland valley has limited wild land characteristics
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	High	The pastoral valley has some scenic value, with visual diversity arising from intermittently enclosed character and scattered trees. Estate landscapes offer picturesque views, and the side valleys are intimate and attractive. A small-scale interesting landscape.
Enjoyment	Medium	Some signposted PRoWs, but few other recreational opportunities
Cultural qualities	High	Features include the 17 th century Harden House, and a 6 th century carved stone at Borthwick Mains. SBC designed landscapes at Harden, Borthwickbrae and Chisholm.
Habitat value	Medium	Limited valued habitat includes grassland, wood pasture and parkland and pockets of broadleaf woodland including ancient woodland (Roberton Cleuch, Harden Glen). Borthwick Water is part of the Tweed SAC.
Settlement setting	Low	Does not form the setting to substantive settlements
Views	Medium	Contained landscape, not visible from key routes or locations. Views from the B711.
Tourist economy	Low	This landscape plays little role in the tourist economy
Landscape consistency	Consistent	
Landscape relationships	–	Key relationships are with the surrounding hills: UPI2 Dun Knowe, UF25 Whitehaugh, and UF26 Chisholme

Landscape Character Unit name:		Eye Water
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV64
Landscape Character Type		Pastoral Upland Fringe Valley
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representative-ness	High	River valleys are a common feature, and this is an example of one of the more common types. Typical features include pastoral landscape with broadleaf and coniferous plantations.
Rarity	Low	This landscape does not contain uncommon features.
Condition	High	Mature broadleaf woodland is in good condition, and the landscape appears generally well managed.
Intactness	Low	Coniferous plantations are relatively extensive. Major transport corridor, with the A1 road having several dual carriageway sections, and the ECML railway. Both have a significant effect on the tranquillity and structure of the landscape.
Wildness	Low	The settled valley has no wild land characteristics, and no tranquillity due to the transport routes.
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	Medium	The pastoral valley has some scenic value, with visual diversity arising from the winding topography, presenting a changing series of views. A mix of open and more intimate spaces.
Enjoyment	Medium	There are a few Core Paths and PRoWs including the Southern Upland Way, but the potential for enjoyment is interrupted by the busy A1 and ECML which are very prominent in the intimate valley. Community woodland at Houndwood of local value.
Cultural qualities	Low	Small inventory designed landscape at Houndwood House, Houndwood Church is relatively prominent.
Habitat value	Low	Habitats largely limited to grassland and coniferous plantation, though broadleaf woodland fringes some streams including ancient woodland. Pease Bridge Glen SSSI is the only designated site. There is a local wildlife site at Brockholes Dean.
Settlement setting	Medium	Setting for Houndwood and Grantshouse villages
Views	High	Important in views from the key through routes, the A1 and ECML, and from the Southern Upland Way, though views are very contained by topography and forestry.
Tourist economy	Low	There are few attractions here and the landscape makes little direct contribution, although it is visible from the key corridor
Landscape consistency	Consistent	
Landscape relationships	–	There are relationships with the higher ground to either side, though there is little intervisibility. There is a more important relationship between this valley and the coast, CO45 Cockburnspath.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Lower Leader
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV65
Landscape Character Type		Pastoral Upland Fringe Valley
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representativeness	High	River valleys are a common feature, and this is an example of one of the more common types. The northern part of the valley is undulating pasture with mature trees, the southern part has strong estate influences; both are fairly typical Border landscapes.
Rarity	Medium	The more intimate scale of the Lower Leader around Earlston is uncommon among landscapes of this type, although it is not particularly extensive.
Condition	High	Many hedges are gappy, and others are missing or replaced with wire fences, but new hedge planting has been carried out recently. There are many field boundary trees, though few replacements are apparent. Generally a well maintained landscape.
Intactness	High	Estate landscapes are intact and well wooded. There are small conifer plantations but these are unobtrusive. An overhead power line crosses the valley, and there is a prominent new school building at Earlston.
Wildness	Low	The settled valley is followed by the A68, there are no wild land characteristics.
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	High	The pastoral valley has some scenic value in the combination of the wooded valley sides, pastoral floor, and distinctive hills. There is more contrast in the south, where estate landscapes combine with the dramatic White Hill and Black Hill. Picturesque elements include the mature woodlands and avenues.
Enjoyment	Medium	There are limited opportunities for enjoyment in this narrow strip of landscape, although there are Core Paths and PRoW's along the valley. The southern part of the LCU is within the Eildon and Leaderfoot NSA.
Cultural qualities	High	Chapel on Leader, Carolside, Cowdenknowes SBC designed landscapes, and fringe of inventory-listed Thirlestane. Built elements of these landscapes, including country houses, are prominent features.
Habitat value	Medium	Valued habitat largely comprises mixed plantation woodland, with occasional broadleaf and areas of ancient woodland (Tower Wood, Kedslie Glen, Redpath Dean). The Leader is part of the Tweed SAC, and there are no other designated sites.
Settlement setting	High	The valley forms the setting to Earlston, and the southern approach to Lauder
Views	High	Views are generally restricted to up/down the valley, and are further obscured by frequent woodland. The landscape is visible from the key A68 corridor. White Hill and Black Hill are local landmarks.
Tourist economy	Medium	The landscape lies on the A68, a key transport corridor, although there are few key attractions within this landscape
Landscape consistency	Consistent	The northern part of the valley is undulating pasture with mature trees, the southern part has strong estate influences
Landscape relationships	–	Principal relationships are with the neighbouring hills: UF21 Westruther Platform, LO43 Black Hill and UF35 East Gala.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Kale Water
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV66
Landscape Character Type		Pastoral Upland Fringe Valley
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	High	River valleys are a common feature, and this is an example of one of the more common types, typically pastoral.
Rarity	Low	This landscape does not contain uncommon features, though the valley contains a very flat floodplain.
Condition	High	Estate influence, including well kept estate buildings, walls and woodlands.
Intactness	High	Few major changes in this landscape. Large farmsteads have been introduced.
Wildness	Low	This upland valley has few wild land characteristics
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	A small valley without being especially intimate. The pastoral valley has some scenic value, with visual diversity arising from estate woodland south of Morebattle. A mature landscape which contrasts with the open hills.
Enjoyment	Medium	This small area has few PRowWs although the St Cuthbert's Way passes through briefly.
Cultural qualities	Medium	Extensive and prominent cultivation terraces at Braemore Knowe, listed buildings including Corbet Tower.
Habitat value	Medium	Valued habitats include one small area of semi-natural woodland, as well as mixed plantation and grassland on upper slopes, and Shore Dean ancient woodland (long-established of plantation origin). The Kale is part of the Tweed SAC.
Settlement setting	Low	Does not form part of settlement setting
Views	Medium	Contained landscape, not visible from key routes or locations. Overlooked from the Cheviots, including the 'iconic view' on Grubbit Law.
Tourist economy	Low	Does not play a direct role in tourist economy
Landscape consistency	Consistent	A consistent upland valley landscape
Landscape relationships	–	Key relationships with the high hills of UPI7 Cheviot Uplands to the east, and the smaller hills of UF20 Oxnam to the west.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Tweed/Gala/Ettrick Confluence
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV67
Landscape Character Type		Upland Fringe Valley with settlements
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	Very high	Contains a number of features which recur in other river valley landscapes of the Borders. As with the Middle Tweed (RV59) it 'sets the standard' for the Borders landscape, and collects a number of typical features in one place, giving a very distinct Borders sense of place.
Rarity	High	As a densely settled landscape, it is unique within the Borders. The dominant feature of the Eildon Hills is also rare in a broad valley landscape.
Condition	High	Field boundaries are well kept, there are some gappy hedges but with numerous hedgerow trees. Landscape structure and field pattern in good, with stone walls taking over from hedges on higher ground. Estate landscapes are well managed
Intactness	Medium	Generally, the scale of built development affects the majority of this area, with large sections being almost wholly developed. Nevertheless, most development sits well within the landscape, and there are limited intrusive elements. Away from settlement, coniferous woodlands have been introduced, but again their influence is relatively limited, and they are restricted to higher ground. Future development will include the extension of Newtown St Boswells, though the effect will depend upon the extent and landscape treatment.
Wildness	Low	A densely settled landscape with no wildness character, although visible elements such as the Eildons do have wildness value.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	Diverse landscape of woodland farmland and settlement, contained in a well defined valley with dramatic Eildon Hills prominent in many views. Mature landscape character generally positive. Detractive nature of a few urban forms, communications masts and busy roads.
Enjoyment	Very high	The landscape contains numerous opportunities for enjoying the landscape, including attractions such as Abbotsford and Melrose Abbey, urban open spaces, and a dense network of Core Paths and PRoWVs. The eastern part of the LCU is part of the Eildon and Leaderfoot NSA. The main settlements are themselves visitor attractions.
Cultural qualities	Very high	Remains of Melrose Abbey and extensive Roman establishment at Newstead. Conservation areas at Melrose, Newstead, Darnick and Redpath. Inventory designed landscapes at Abbotsford and Bemersyde, and several SBC designed landscapes, including Drygrange, Monksford, Chiefswood and Sunderland Hall. Centre of 'Scott Country'. Leaderfoot viaduct is a landmark structure. Selkirk's mills are representative of the town's past.
Habitat value	Medium	A settled area, valued habitats are limited to a network of mixed woodland, with occasional broadleaf, some ancient woodland sites (Lindinny/Raelees Woods, Long Bank, Ellwynd Wood) and grasslands at the fringe of the LCU. Rivers are all part of the Tweed SAC/SSSI, and there are SSSIs associated with the watercourses. A local wildlife site at Ellwynd Wood.
Settlement setting	Very high	Important valley setting of the major settlement hub of the region, including Galashiels, Melrose and Selkirk, with surrounding villages.
Views	Very high	This landscape is highly visible from key centres and from the A7, A707, A6091 and A68 corridors. It is also visible from key viewpoints including Eildon Hill and Scott's View.

Tourist economy	Very high	As the key hub of the Borders, with a concentration of attractions, this landscape is central to the tourist economy
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Some variation particularly in relation to level of settlement, for example the less developed section between Selkirk and Galashiels, with a gentler landform.
Landscape relationships	–	The most significant relationship is with UF33 Eildon Hills, though the other uplands are also important: UF34 West Gala UF35 East Gala and LO43 Black Hill / Hume Crag. The area forms a central 'hub' linking the uplands with the lower Tweed valley, and the northern Borders with the southern areas.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Jed Water
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV68
Landscape Character Type		Wooded Upland Fringe Valley
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representative-ness	High	Some recurring features in this type, which is widespread but small in area, and has a Borders 'sense of place', arising here from the combination of woodland and farmland.
Rarity	Medium	Some uncommon features, including rocky river cliffs along the Jed.
Condition	High	Recent woodland planting is evident, and the mature woodland is well managed. Hedges are mostly intact and substantial. Jedburgh is a neat town, with few detractive built forms.
Intactness	High	Estate landscapes are intact, and the field pattern has not been significantly eroded. Linear tree belts follow the landscape pattern.
Wildness	Low	Settled river valley with no wildness character
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	Very high	Distinctive wooded gorge with visual diversity and contrasts of scale with the dramatic hills above the valley. The green vegetation against the red cliffs is particularly striking. The transition from the open upper valley, into the enclosed, wooded valley, and on into Jedburgh, is an attractive sequence.
Enjoyment	High	Dense network of Core Paths and PRowWs around Jedburgh, including the Borders Abbeys Way. Important attractions include Jedburgh Abbey and Mary Queen of Scots House.
Cultural qualities	Very high	Jedburgh Abbey and historic burgh of Jedburgh, with numerous associations such as Mary Queen of Scots and the Border Reivers. Ferniehirst Castle is a landmark. SBC designed landscapes at Ferniehirst, Langlee, and Edgerston, which have a strong influence on landscape character.
Habitat value	Medium	Relatively extensive semi-natural woodland including ancient woodland, small areas of which are protected as SSSI(Jedwater Woodlands). Jed Water part of the Tweed SAC. Other valued habitats are limited, and include some mixed and coniferous plantation.
Settlement setting	Very high	Key to valley setting of Jedburgh
Views	Very high	Important views from the A68, the main gateway into the Borders from the south, including long views north from the upper valley. Views out are contained by the landform.
Tourist economy	Very high	Jedburgh is a key tourist centre, as the first town on the southern Borders approach from Carter Bar.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Local variation in enclosure
Landscape relationships	–	Key relationships are with the higher ground to east and west (UF20 Oxnam and UF30 Bonchester / Dunion UPI8 Falla Group).

Landscape Character Unit name:		Middle Whiteadder
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV69
Landscape Character Type		Wooded Upland Fringe Valley
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	High	Some recurring features in this type, which is widespread but small in area, and has a Borders 'sense of place', being a wooded valley with strong estate landscape influences.
Rarity	High	Combination of features in this landscape is uncommon elsewhere, particularly the narrow winding nature of the valley.
Condition	Medium	An estate landscape, which is well maintained. There are some gappy hedges, but stone walls are in good condition. Farm buildings occasionally appear neglected.
Intactness	High	Despite some field boundary loss being apparent, the landscape structure is very much intact. Conifer plantations are small in scale. Mature broadleaf woodland gives the landscape a timeless feel. Overhead power lines cross the valley.
Wildness	Low	Settled river valley with no wildness character.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	Visual diversity of steep wooded bluffs, exposed rock, and flat valley floor, often strongly enclosed. Estate features and influences add scenic value and focal points. Mature oak woodland north of Abbey St Bathans is interesting. Overhead power lines are locally detractive.
Enjoyment	High	Popular walking location, Southern upland Way passes through. Signposted attractions include Edin's Hall Broch.
Cultural qualities	Very high	Prehistoric Edin's Hall Broch (Historic Scotland) among other SAMs, also a medieval priory site. Abbey St Bathans and The Retreat SBC designed landscapes, with associated listed buildings.
Habitat value	Medium	Riparian semi-natural woodland including ancient woodland parts of which are protected as SSSI (Abbey St Bathans Woodlands). Other valued habitat comprises mixed woodland, conifers, and grassland on upper slopes. The river is part of the Tweed SAC/SSSI.
Settlement setting	High	The tight wooded valley forms the setting of Abbey St Bathans.
Views	Medium	Contained landscape not visible from transport routes or key locations, with the exception of Edin's Hall. Internal views are very contained by topography, though there are occasional views out to the neighbouring hills.
Tourist economy	Low	Little direct contribution, though an area for outdoor recreation.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	Broadens out somewhat to the south.
Landscape relationships	–	An almost self-contained landscape, though with some relationship to the surrounding higher ground of UF24 Eye Water Platform and UF31 Knock Hill.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Slitrig Water
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV70
Landscape Character Type		Wooded Upland Fringe Valley
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representative-ness	High	Some recurring features in this type, it is a small-scale farmed valley with much woodland.
Rarity	Low	Few uncommon features, though the narrow winding form is relatively unusual.
Condition	Medium	A well wooded mature landscape, though with extensive farm buildings and equipment such as pig shelters introducing visual clutter. The abandoned gatehouse of Stobs Castle suggests a decline in maintenance within this area.
Intactness	Medium	Woodland structure of the landscape is intact, though there appears to be limited ongoing replacement, and erosion of structure is a risk in future. The southern edge of Hawick spreads into this area in an intermittent series of valley-floor developments. The disused Waverley Line is occasionally prominent.
Wildness	Low	Settled river valley with no wildness character
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	Medium	An attractive, diverse landscape, with wooded bluffs and traditional buildings such as an old mill. Intermittent woodlands and open areas. Development at Hawick is locally prominent.
Enjoyment	Medium	Some PRoWVs including the disused railway line
Cultural qualities	High	Prehistoric SAMs, Stobs Castle SBC designed landscape. Disused Waverley Line has some historic associations. Remains of extensive WWI-era military complex at Stobs which served as a POW camp and training area and was in use until the 1950s.
Habitat value	Medium	Valued habitat includes broadleaf woodland associated with estate policies, ancient woodland and grassland on valley slopes. The river is part of the Tweed SAC. The Borders Woods SAC and the Lynwood-Whitlaw Wood SSSI are in the area.
Settlement setting	Low	Not part of settlement setting
Views	Medium	Contained landscape not visible from transport routes or key locations. Limited views from Hawick.
Tourist economy	Low	Little direct contribution to the tourist economy
Landscape consistency	Consistent	
Landscape relationships	–	UF27 Allan Water UF28 Midgard

Landscape Character Unit name:		Ale Water
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV71
Landscape Character Type		Wooded Upland Fringe Valley
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representative-ness	High	Some recurring features of a pastoral wooded valley with hedges, typical of a lowland fringe landscape and with a Borders 'sense of place'
Rarity	Medium	Some uncommon features in the steep wooded bluffs
Condition	High	Well-maintained bushy hedges, with new hedge tree planting in places. A mature wooded landscape. Lilliesleaf is a well maintained traditional linear village.
Intactness	High	The field boundary structure appears largely intact, and is divided by pine shelterbelts which follow the pattern. Some coniferous plantations, but this adds to the wooded character and does not intrude into the landscape.
Wildness	Low	Settled river valley with no wildness character. Limited wildness at the western end where the valley merges with the upland UPI2.
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	High	Visual diversity of steep wooded bluffs, exposed rock, and flat valley floor, often strongly enclosed
Enjoyment	High	Some PROWs, golf course at Woll. Borders Abbeys Way passes through area.
Cultural qualities	High	Cluster of SBC designed landscapes north of Ancrum, and a further four in the upper valley, often extending into upland fringe, as with Ridell and Synton. Medieval archaeology and a number of B-listed buildings.
Habitat value	Medium	Valued habitat includes grassland and a network of mixed plantation woodland, as well as broadleaf woodland north of Ancrum. Protected sites at Clarilaw Grasslands and Longnewton Cutting SSSIs, and the Ale Water (River Tweed SAC).
Settlement setting	Medium	Part of valley setting of small hamlets and villages such as Woll, Ashkirk, Ridell
Views	Medium	Contained landscape with limited views, viewpoints and landmarks. Not visible from transport routes or key locations, with the exception of the A7 which very briefly crosses the top of the valley. B roads run through and across the area.
Tourist economy	Medium	The landscape of this area makes some contribution to the tourist economy of the Borders, as the setting to accommodation and recreation opportunities.
Landscape consistency	Consistent	
Landscape relationships	–	A self-contained landscape, with limited relationships, although to some extent it is defined by UF22 Minto Hills and UF33 Eildon Hills.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Rule Water
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV72
Landscape Character Type		Wooded Upland Fringe Valley
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representativeness	High	A typical wooded Borders valley, small in scale, but very similar in character to eg. the Jed Water.
Rarity	High	Some uncommon features in the steep wooded bluffs, and the smallness of scale. The density of woodland and forest is also uncommon, and the roadside beech trees are distinctive.
Condition	High	Field boundary trees have been recently replanted. There are new areas of woodland as well as coniferous plantation which has been established with broadleaf edging. There are well trimmed hawthorn hedges. The many traditional cottages and estate buildings are well kept.
Intactness	High	Although there is extensive coniferous plantation, it is often mixed, and fits well in to the already heavily wooded landscape. Estates appear to be intact, and the intimate scale of the landscape has been retained. Very few overt built developments within the landscape.
Wildness	Low	Settled river valley with no wildness character
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	High	Visual diversity of steep wooded bluffs and flat valley floor, with dramatic hills (Bonchester, Rubers Law) on skyline. An intimate wooded valley, forming a picturesque setting for traditional buildings and estate features.
Enjoyment	Medium	Some Core Paths and PRoWs around villages, the Borders Abbeys Way passes Bedrule. Minor roads used for outdoor recreation including horse riding.
Cultural qualities	High	Series of SBC designed landscapes from Wauchope in the south to Wells in the north, often almost contiguous. Their character heavily influences this valley, and their presence is clear from built features such as gateways, lodges and bridges.
Habitat value	Medium	Relatively large areas of mixed plantation woodland, and some semi-natural broadleaf, including ancient woodland (Heron Wood, Deadlie/Huntly Deans) particularly further north. The Rule Water is part of River Tweed SAC.
Settlement setting	Medium	The narrow wooded valley forms the setting of Bonchester Bridge, though substantive settlement is limited in this LCU.
Views	Medium	Contained landscape not visible from transport routes with the exception of the A6088 which crosses the valley. The valley is visible from the neighbouring hills of Bonchester and Rubers Law.
Tourist economy	Low	Little direct contribution to the tourist economy
Landscape consistency	Consistent	
Landscape relationships	–	There are key relationships with UF29 Rubers Law and UF30 Bonchester/Dunion, the high points of which are frequently glimpsed from within the valley.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Lower Tweed
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV73
Landscape Character Type		Lowland Valley with farmland
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representativeness	High	This is rolling lowland farmland, typical of the Tweed lowlands, and containing arable farmland and valley features which recur throughout the central Borders.
Rarity	High	Distinctive hills such as the volcanic crag on which Smailholm Castle sits, are uncommon features. The broad meanders of the Tweed are also seldom seen elsewhere.
Condition	High	There are neat hedges and stone walls, and tree belts. In the east, some field boundaries have been lost. Field boundary trees are common, but again there is a decline towards the east.
Intactness	High	In the west, this is a well-wooded landscape, with a field boundary and woodlands structure still largely intact. Further east, intensification of arable farmland has led to field amalgamation, and loss of boundary features. There is limited woodland cover, aside from coniferous shelterbelts. Estate landscapes are more coherent, with extensive policy woodlands visible in the landscape.
Wildness	Low	This is a settled valley and does not have wildness character.
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	Very High	This landscape has scenic value in its combination of strong pattern, distinctive landmark hills, well-kept appearance, and estate parkland and woodlands. To the east visual diversity decreases with tree cover, though Smailholm Tower becomes a landmark feature.
Enjoyment	Very high	Important visitor attractions include Dryburgh Abbey and Smailholm Tower, the Wallace statue near Bemersyde, and others are signposted. Part of the north-west is within the Eildon and Leaderfoot NSA. There are a number of Core Paths and PRoWs including the Borders Abbeys Way and St Cuthbert's Way, as well as National Cycle Route 1.
Cultural qualities	Very high	Remains of Dryburgh Abbey and Smailholm Tower are prominent, both associated with Walter Scott. Mertoun Inventory designed landscape, with fringes of Newton Don, Floors and Mellerstain. Several SBC designed landscapes including Nenthorn, Elliston, Dryburgh and Makerstoun. Conservation areas at St Boswells, Dryburgh, Bowsden. Monument at Lilliardsedge with historic associations as site of the Battle of Ancrum Moor (1545). Line of Roman Dere Street crosses the area.
Habitat value	Medium	Network of mixed plantation woodland is dense in the north-west and along the Tweed, elsewhere woodland is mainly coniferous. Parts of the Tweed and Borders Woods SACs lie within the area. There are a number of small SSSIs associated with the River Tweed. Bowden Glen local wildlife site.
Settlement setting	High	Important Tweed-side setting of St Boswells, and Newtown St Boswells below Eildon Hills, though the majority of the LCU does not have substantive settlements.
Views	Very high	Crossed by A68 and A699 corridors. Important viewpoints with extensive views over the surrounding lowland and upland, including Lilliardsedge and Smailholm, and the landscape is also visible from viewpoints in neighbouring LCUs such as Peniel Heugh and Eildon Hill.
Tourist economy	Very high	Dryburgh is an important attraction, St Boswells a local centre. Links to Kelso and A68 corridor.

Landscape consistency	Not consistent	Becomes more intimate and enclosed, with much more woodland cover and denser settlement, to the north west. To the east the landscape opens out and merges with the more intensive farmland of the Merse.
Landscape relationships	–	This broad landscape is related to neighbouring higher ground at its fringes. To the north-west and west UF33 Eildon Hills, to the north LO43 Black Hill, and south RV74 Lower Teviot.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Lower Teviot
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV74
Landscape Character Type		Lowland Valley with farmland
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representativeness	High	This is a typically wooded farmed lowland valley, with features which recur throughout the Borders
Rarity	High	Minto Craggs are a unique feature within the Borders, other distinctive landforms include Peniel Heugh and the Minto Hills.
Condition	High	The landscape is well wooded with an established quality. Some hedgerows are in decline, and are often gappy by the river. Denholm has a well kept village centre. Some replacement of designed landscape features, such as tree avenues, is evident.
Intactness	High	Woodland structure is very much intact. There has been some intensification and field amalgamation but landscape pattern has been retained. Small fields remain along the floodplain around Denholm, though there are much larger fields further east. Small coniferous plantations are located on the valley sides.
Wildness	Low	This is a settled valley and does not have wildness character
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	Very high	This landscape has scenic value in its combination of strong pattern, meandering river, distinctive landmark hills, well-kept appearance, and estate parkland and woodlands. Minto Craggs are a particularly dramatic feature in an otherwise more gentle landscape. Patchwork of woodland and farmland, including Monteviot and Minto parklands.
Enjoyment	High	Good network of Core Paths and PRoWs linked to settlement, including the Borders Abbeys Way and St Cuthbert's Way. Many signposted features along the A698.
Cultural qualities	Very high	Several SBC designed landscapes including Hassendeanburn, Minto, Chesters and Sunlaws, and the extensive Inventory-listed Monteviot. Prominent Fatlips Castle atop Minto Craggs. Conservation areas at Minto, Denholm and Ancrum. Crossed by Dere Street Roman road. The Waterloo Monument is a reminder of the extent of land ownership in the 19 th century, as well as a symbol of national pride.
Habitat value	Medium	There are relatively extensive mixed plantations, and some broadleaf woodland (plantation and semi-natural). The Teviot is part of the Tweed SAC, there is a SSSI at Minto Craigs, and several local wildlife sites (Denholm Dean, Ancrum Common and Wooden Loch).
Settlement setting	High	Valley setting of Denholm, and the northern approach to Hawick.
Views	High	Visible from a long section of the A698 which runs along it. A68 crosses the valley and has views of the Waterloo Monument. Minto Craggs form a visual 'set piece'. From the south, Peniel Heugh and Waterloo Monument provide a strong visual termination to the valley landscape. Peniel offers longer views to Rubers Law and Eildon Hill.
Tourist economy	High	Landscape forms a link between important centres of Kelso, Jedburgh and Hawick
Landscape consistency	Consistent	
Landscape relationships	–	Relationships with higher ground to north and south, including UF20 Oxnam, UF22 Minto Hills, UF29 Rubers Law and UF30 Bonchester/Dunion.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Lower Kale
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV75
Landscape Character Type		Lowland Valley with farmland
Criteria	Rank	Description
<i>Landscape Character Criteria</i>		
Representative-ness	High	Comprises mixed farmland and other common lowland and valley features which recur throughout the Borders.
Rarity	Medium	There are distinctive fluvioglacial landforms which are relatively uncommon, as is the underlying red sandstone which forms reddish soils. .
Condition	High	Hedges generally are of good quality and well trimmed, though occasionally more gappy. Roadside trees are present, and the landscape is well wooded.
Intactness	Medium	There is a large forest plantation at Bowmont, and a number of smaller plantations. Very large farmsteads have developed. The wooded character of the landscape remains.
Wildness	Low	This is a settled valley and does not have wildness character
<i>Landscape Quality Criteria</i>		
Scenic qualities	High	This landscape has scenic value in its combination of strong pattern, visual identity, well-kept appearance, and estate parkland and woodlands
Enjoyment	Medium	Provision of PRoWs, St Cuthbert's Way
Cultural qualities	High	SBC designed landscapes at Clifton Park and Marlefield. Prominent A listed Cessford Castle tower house, with associations of Border Reiver history. Morebattle conservation area.
Habitat value	Medium	Valued habitats are limited, and comprise mainly coniferous plantation, though with very small areas of broadleaf woodland. The Kale Water is part of the Tweed SAC. No other sites protected for biodiversity.
Settlement setting	Medium	Setting of Morebattle village
Views	Medium	Not highly visible from key routes or locations, some distant views outward to Peniel Heugh and to the Cheviots.
Tourist economy	Medium	Some contribution via long-distance walks
Landscape consistency	Consistent	
Landscape relationships	–	Loose relationships with higher ground to either side (UF19 Lempitlaw and UF20 Oxnam) though a gradual transition.

Landscape Character Unit name:		Lower Eye Water
Landscape Character Unit reference:		RV76
Landscape Character Type		Coastal Valley
Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	Medium	The coast is not typical of the Borders landscape, although this valley landscape does contain some recurring features such as arable farmland and estate woodland. It is similar in character to the <i>Wooded Upland Valley</i> type.
Rarity	High	The coastal valley type is unique in the Borders, though the coastal influence is limited to the lower section
Condition	High	Eyemouth is a well maintained coastal village. Mature woodland and hedgerows give the valley a well kept appearance.
Intactness	Medium	New housing development at Ayton and the new school at Eyemouth extend beyond the traditional edges of these settlements. Potential pressure for further housing may be an issue in this landscape.
Wildness	Low	This is a settled valley and has no wildness character
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	Distinctive landscape of 'diverse, small-scale topography' and intimate form. Locally there are some picturesque areas, though settlement occasionally detracts from the scenic value of the area. The harbour at Eyemouth is attractive.
Enjoyment	High	Eyemouth is a popular destination, Ayton Castle is open to the public. Good network of paths linked to Eyemouth.
Cultural qualities	Very high	Valley is the setting for Ayton Castle and its inventory designed landscape, as well as the more extensive SBC definition of the same. Conservation areas at Ayton and Eyemouth. Important Renaissance-era fort at Eyemouth, and landmark Gunsgreen House .
Habitat value	Medium	Relatively extensive mixed woodland, and some semi-natural woodland including ancient woodland (Alewater Banks, Mill Bank) and areas of coastal grassland. The coast is part of the Berwickshire & North Northumberland Coast SAC and Berwickshire Coast SSSI.
Settlement setting	Very high	Important in the coastal setting of Eyemouth, and of Ayton
Views	Medium	A visually enclosed landscape, though some visibility from the ECML and A1 which briefly cross the valley.
Tourist economy	High	Eyemouth is a local tourist centre
Landscape consistency	Consistent	There are no major variations across this small area, though coastal influence recedes.
Landscape relationships	–	Relatively self contained, but stronger relationship with the coastal LCUs CO44 Coldingham and CO46 Lamberton Moor around Eyemouth.

Appendix 4

Qualitative Analysis

UF33 EILDON HILLS

Total score: 67

Overall rank: I

Part 1: Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	High	The whole area scores highly as a typical Borders landscape
Rarity	Very High	The Eildon Hills are a uniquely iconic landform, scoring very highly. However, the remainder of the LCU has little in the way of rarity value, and scores lower.
Condition	Medium	The whole area scores equally on this criterion.
Intactness	High	Intactness is considered to be higher in estate landscapes which occupy the northern and western fringes of this area, and medium in farmed areas. The overhead power line affects intactness through the centre of the site.
Wildness	Medium	The Eildon Hills have high wildness value, but the rest of the area is human-influenced and scores low against this criterion.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Very high	The Eildon Hills score very highly against this criterion, arising from the strong contrasts. The western edge as it descends into the Ettrick valley above Selkirk also scores very highly. Other higher-scoring areas include the northern fringes with their estate landscapes. Some parts of the farmed central area have visual diversity but generally this farmland scores medium against this criterion.
Enjoyment	Very high	St Cuthbert's Way crosses the Eildon Hills, and the Borders Abbeys Way crosses the western edge of the area. These features score very highly. The Eildon Hills are very popular and also score very highly. The Whitlaw Moss NNR has basic visitor facilities and scores high, the farmed areas have reduced access and score medium or high.
Cultural qualities	High	Parts of the area score very highly, including Eildon Hill with its important hill fort and Roman road, as well as literary associations. Designed landscapes occur around the fringes of the area. The central and southern parts have more limited interest and score medium or low.
Habitat value	Medium	Heath on Eildon Hill is the largest are of valued habitat. Designated national and local sites are scattered across the area, and the whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Settlement setting	Very high	The Eildon Hills themselves are an important part of the setting of Melrose, St Boswells, and Newtown St Boswells, and are ranked very high. The western fringe of the LCU is closely related to Selkirk and scores high. The central and southern parts are not closely related to substantive settlements, and score lower.
Views	Very high	The Eildon Hills are a major landmark on the important A68 and A6091 routes, and are significant in many other views, scoring very high. The A699 from Selkirk to St Boswells enables several attractive views to the central part of this LCU, including the dramatic descent into Selkirk, and this area scores high to very high.
Tourist economy	Very high	The Eildon Hills score very high, as they are closely associated with the 'image' of the Scottish Borders. The areas fringing the Tweed and Ettrick valleys are part of 'Scott Country', a key element in the Borders tourist industry. Other areas contribute less directly and are ranked lower.

Part 2: Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

Consistency
Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?
<i>The Eildon Hills themselves are particularly prominent and distinctive, but they occupy only a very small part of this relatively extensive LCU. The remainder of the LCU is less obviously iconic, though still with some value.</i>

The Eildon Hills are a prominent and distinctive landform, but they occupy only a small part of this relatively extensive LCU. There is a variety in landform and landcover, between the heather moorland of the higher areas and the more settled farmland and wooded valleys. Beyond the Eildon Hills themselves the remainder of the LCU has some value but is less obviously iconic.
Landscape relationships
Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?
<i>The Eildon Hills have a particularly important relationship with the Tweed Valley (RV67 and RV73). The north and western fringes of the LCU also have a relationship with the Tweed (RV67).</i>
The river valleys of the River Tweed largely surround the LCU and the hills of the LUC form a backdrop to the settled and wooded valleys. The Eildon Hills have a particularly important relationship with the Tweed Valley RV67 and RV73 forming an iconic to these areas. The hills on the north and western fringes of the LCU also have a relationship with the Tweed (RV67).
Analysis
Can this LCU be divided into natural sub-character areas? Do parts of this area have stronger relationships with neighbouring areas?
The iconic Eildon Hills and the unique qualities associated with them set this area of the LCU apart from the wider unit. The hills lie at the north-eastern edge of the unit, flanked to the south and east by RV73, and have a visual significance which extends well beyond the LCU. The incursion of the river valley separates the Eildon Hills from the central area of the UF33 around Kiplaw. This suggests the Eildon Hills and the area flanking them to the west could be separated to create a natural sub-unit. The wider part of the LCU has some scenic quality and habitat value, and forms part of the setting for the Eildon Hills, but does not represent an iconic landscape.

RV59 MIDDLE TWEED

Total score: 64

Overall rank: 2

Part 1: Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	Very high	The whole of this LCU is considered to score very high as a typical Borders valley
Rarity	Medium	The larger valley settlements such as Peebles score more highly, as do the narrower sections such as at Neidpath and Thornelee. The majority of the valley does not score highly for rarity.
Condition	High	Generally condition is consistent across the LCU and there are no significant variations.
Intactness	Medium	The area around Cardrona, where development has interrupted the landscape structure, is considered to score low against this criterion, as are areas at the fringes of Peebles. Estate landscapes are more intact, and the more isolated upper valley scores high for intactness. Where commercial forestry has been introduced on a large scale, as in the area east of Walkerburn, intactness is considered medium.
Wildness	Low	The valley as a whole scores low, with the exception of higher scoring areas with limited wildness, for example the wooded gorge at Neidpath.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Very high	The whole valley is considered to score very highly, arising from the constantly changing views. More developed areas score less highly, while particularly high scoring pockets include the picturesque gorge at Neidpath.
Enjoyment	Very High	Opportunities for enjoyment of the landscape are widespread throughout the valley, and the whole LCU is considered to score very highly.
Cultural qualities	Very High	Culturally and historically important features are widespread throughout the LCU, and the whole LCU is considered to score very highly.
Habitat value	High	Features of habitat value are relatively widespread, with valued habitats more extensive in the more remote upper valley to the west, and the eastern valley dominated by coniferous forestry.

Settlement setting	Very High	The central part of the valley, between Peebles and Walkerburn, is the more important section for this criterion, with more limited settlement to the east and west.
Views	Very High	The A72 follows the valley from Lyne to its eastern end, and views along the valley are important to the whole LCU.
Tourist economy	High	Key tourist attractions are distributed widely across the whole valley, which is considered to score equally against this criterion.

Part 2: Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

Consistency
Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?
<i>Broadly, the valley could be further divided into the narrow, wooded section west of Peebles, the more open section with broad floodplain between Peebles and Walkerburn, and another narrow section with extensive forest around Thornielee. Locally, development affects the landscape character of the valley around the settlements.</i>
There are changes in the scale and land use of the valley, resulting in contrasting narrow forested sections and more open, developed areas. The character of the valley changes at several points, from the upland feel of the area around Stobo, to the narrow gorge at Neidpath, and then the settled section around Peebles, including development on the broad valley floor around Cardrona. The settled character continues through Innerleithen and Walkerburn, changing again to the east where the valley narrows and is densely forested.
Landscape relationships
Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?
<i>The key relationships of this landscape are with the uplands which frame it, primarily UP03 Moorfoots, UP05 Broughton Heights, UP07 Broadlaw, and UP10 Minch Moor.</i>
The key relationships of this landscape are with the uplands which frame it, with some of the scenic qualities of the area derived from the changing and glimpsed views of the higher upland hills beyond the valley. The lower section forms a gateway between the Tweed and Ettrick valleys, while the Neidpath gorge serves as a gateway between the middle valley and the upper valley around Stobo.
Analysis
Can this LCU be divided into natural sub-character areas? Do parts of this area have stronger relationships with neighbouring areas?
The upland, less developed sections of the valley west of Peebles, and the narrow section with extensive forest around Thornielee can be differentiated from the more open developed areas with broad floodplain between Peebles and Walkerburn. The valley could therefore be naturally sub-divided into these three areas.

RV67 TWEED/GALA/ETTRICK CONFLUENCE

Total score: 63
Overall rank: =3

Part 1: Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	Very high	The whole LCU is considered to score equally highly, as it has a very distinct Borders sense of place.
Rarity	High	The settled nature of the valley is unusual, as is the prominent relationship between the eastern valley and the Eildon Hills to the south
Condition	High	The LCU scores equally against this criterion, although local variations include estate landscapes which generally score very highly, and some settlement fringes which score medium.
Intactness	Medium	Built development affects most of this area, although intrusive development is limited. Intactness is generally lowest at settlement fringes where newer development has yet to be absorbed. Coniferous plantation affects other areas.
Wildness	Low	This LCU is all affected by settlement and scores equally low for wildness.

Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	Much of this landscape scores highly, particularly where it relates well to adjacent uplands. There is much visual diversity, with the only areas of more limited quality occurring where urban forms, masts and busy roads impinge upon the scene.
Enjoyment	Very high	Opportunities for enjoyment of the landscape are widespread, though they are more limited within the main settlements.
Cultural qualities	Very high	Cultural and historic features are widespread, but are particularly concentrated around Melrose and Newstead in the east. Abbotsford represents the heart of 'Scott Country'.
Habitat value	Medium	Settled areas have more limited habitat value. Areas at the fringe of the LCU score highest.
Settlement setting	Very high	The whole area scores very highly as the setting for key Borders settlements.
Views	Very high	This whole LCU is highly visible from key corridors and viewpoints including Eildon Hill and Scott's View.
Tourist economy	Very high	The whole area scores equally highly as the key tourist hub in the Borders.

Part 2: Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

Consistency	
Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?	
<i>Some variation particularly in relation to level of settlement, for example the less developed section between Selkirk and Galashiels, with a gentler landform.</i>	
A diverse landscape of woodland farmland and settlement, but these features occur across the area. There is some variation in relation to level of settlement. This is concentrated at Galashiels, Tweedbank and Melrose, with less developed areas to the south, between Selkirk and Galashiels, and east of Melrose. The southern area also has a gentler landform.	
Landscape relationships	
Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?	
<i>The most significant relationship is with UF33 Eildon Hills, though the other uplands are also important: UF34 West Gala UF35 East Gala and LO43 Black Hill / Hume Crag. The area forms a central 'hub' linking the uplands with the lower Tweed valley, and the northern Borders with the southern areas.</i>	
The Eildon Hills are an iconic and prominent feature in views from the eastern part of the valley, around Melrose. Other uplands are also important: UF34 West Gala UF35 East Gala and LO43 Black Hill / Hume Crag. The LCU lies on an important node linking east/west and north/south transport routes. It forms a link between the upland and the lowland landscapes of the Borders.	
Analysis	
Can this LCU be divided into natural sub-character areas?	
Do parts of this area have stronger relationships with neighbouring areas?	
The less densely settled area around Selkirk to the south of Galashiels can be differentiated from the northern and western areas between Galashiels and Melrose, where settlement is the key characteristic. This southern area relates to the upper valleys of Tweed and Ettrick, and forms a gateway into the uplands. The eastern section is also less developed, and has a stronger relationship with the iconic Eildon Hills, as well as the valley slopes to the east, from where Scott's View overlooks the area. It lies on the important A68 corridor and also acts as a gateway into the Merse.	

RV68 JED WATER

Total score: 63
Overall rank: =3

Part 1: Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

Criteria	Rank	Description
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Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	High	This area scores equally on this criterion, as it has a Borders 'sense of place' arising from the combination of woodland and farmland.
Rarity	Medium	Rarity is locally higher where the uncommon features such as rocky bluffs occur.
Condition	High	Condition is consistent across the LCU.
Intactness	High	All parts of the LCU are considered to be similarly intact
Wildness	Low	The whole LCU scores equally low as a settled landscape
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Very high	The distinctive wooded gorge scores very highly, due to its visual diversity and contrasts of scale. The farmed areas score less highly.
Enjoyment	High	There are widespread opportunities for enjoyment of this landscape, particularly around Jedburgh.
Cultural qualities	Very high	Designed landscapes are frequent, with cultural and historic features concentrated in and around Jedburgh.
Habitat value	Medium	Semi-natural woodlands are distributed evenly, located mainly along the river, where the few designations are also located. Jedburgh is of lower habitat value.
Settlement setting	Very high	The area around Jedburgh scores very high, though the upper parts of the valley contribute less to settlement setting
Views	Very high	All parts of the valley score very highly as it forms the corridor of the A68, the main gateway into the Borders from the south.
Tourist economy	Very high	Jedburgh is a key tourist centre, while the rest of the valley also contributes as the setting of a key route.

Part 2: Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

Consistency
Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?
<i>Local variation in enclosure</i>
The small and well defined river valley is generally consistent in terms of the pattern of woodland and farmland. There is however a gradual transition in scale and enclosure from the more open upper valley to the enclosed and narrow wooded valley towards Jedburgh. Locally some uncommon features such as the rocky river cliffs along the Jed give rise variations in character. The settlement of Jedburgh is locally significant, but is contained by wooded slopes.
Landscape relationships
Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?
<i>Key relationships are with the higher ground to east and west, UF20 Oxnam and UF30 Bonchester / Dunion. UPI8 Falla Group.</i>
The LCU is enclosed by the surrounding upland areas and the which are important to the contrasting scales and visual diversity within the LCU. It forms a major gateway into the Borders from the south, via the A68, and leads into the Border lowlands via the Teviot valley
Analysis
Can this LCU be divided into natural sub-character areas? Do parts of this area have stronger relationships with neighbouring areas?
This is a small and relatively continuous unit that does not naturally sub-divide, although there is local variation.

RV73 LOWER TWEED

Total score: 63
Overall rank: =3

Part 1: Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	High	The rolling wooded lowland is relatively consistent, and the whole LCU is considered to score equally.
Rarity	High	Rarity value is restricted to the volcanic crag on which Smailholm Castle sits, and the broad meanders of the Tweed. The farmland does not score highly on rarity.
Condition	High	Condition is better in the western part of this LCU, where hedges and woodlands are better maintained.
Intactness	High	This LCU is more intact in the western areas, where field boundaries and woodland provide structure. The eastern areas score lower where intensification has led to the loss of boundaries and woodlands.
Wildness	Low	This settled landscape scores equally low against this criterion.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Very High	The western part of this landscape has scenic value in its combination of strong pattern, distinctive landmark hills, well-kept appearance, and estate parkland and woodlands. The eastern part has less visual diversity and scores lower.
Enjoyment	Very high	Opportunities for enjoyment of this landscape are widespread but are particularly concentrated in the western part of the LCU, where attractions include Dryburgh Abbey and Smailholm Tower.
Cultural qualities	Very high	Cultural and historic features, particularly designed landscapes are concentrated along the Tweed. The Roman Dere Street and the Ancrum Moor battlefield are located in the east of the area, with Smailholm Tower to the north. These areas score very highly, while the farmed areas score lower.
Habitat value	Medium	Mixed plantation woodland in the north-west and along the Tweed represents the most valued habitat. The Tweed is also the focus of the designated areas in the LCU.
Settlement setting	High	Areas scoring highly on settlement setting are those around St Boswells and Newtown St Boswells. The majority of the LCU scores lower.
Views	Very high	The A68 and A699 corridors cross this LCU, and important viewpoints including Lilliardsedge and Smailholm, Peniel Heugh and Eildon Hill. All parts of this LCU score very highly against this criterion.
Tourist economy	Very high	Important tourist centres include Kelso and the area around St Boswells, with transport links between. The whole area scores equally for this criterion.

Part 2: Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

Consistency
Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?
<i>Becomes more intimate and enclosed, with much more woodland cover and denser settlement, to the north west. To the east the landscape opens out and merges with the more intensive farmland of the Merse.</i>
Further east, intensification of arable farmland has led to field amalgamation, and loss of boundary features resulting in a decline in intactness and erosion of scenic character. There is also generally a reduction in visual diversity to the east with less tree cover. There are some local differences associated with distinctive landmarks.
Landscape relationships
Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?
<i>This broad landscape is related to neighbouring higher ground at its fringes. To the north-west and west UF33 Eildon Hills, to the north LO43 Black Hill, and south RV74 Lower Teviot.</i>

The A68 and A699 that run through the LCU form important corridors into the centre of the Borders, and the LCU forms a gateway to the smaller adjacent river valleys of the Tweed/Gala/Etrick Confluence and the Ale Water to the west.

Analysis

Can this LCU be divided into natural sub-character areas?
Do parts of this area have stronger relationships with neighbouring areas?

The north west of the unit is more intimate and enclosed, with much more woodland cover and denser settlement. A division could be made between the more open and more intensively farmed area to the east and the area to the west. The western fringes have a stronger relationship with the Eildon Hills and with the River Tweed itself.

UP07 BROADLAW

Total score: 62

Overall rank: 6

Part 1: Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	High	The whole LCU scores equally highly.
Rarity	High	The whole LCU scores equally highly.
Condition	Medium	The whole LCU scores equally highly.
Intactness	High	Afforested areas score lower against this criterion, but generally intactness is consistent.
Wildness	Very high	The whole LCU scores very highly, particularly the more rugged hills.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	Scenic qualities are evenly distributed across the landscape.
Enjoyment	Very high	Opportunities for enjoyment of this landscape are widespread, although the Southern Upland Way is considered to score particularly highly
Cultural qualities	High	The highest scoring areas are at the edges of the LCU, where designed landscapes contribute to the landscape. Prehistoric monuments contribute less directly in the central areas, which score lower.
Habitat value	Very high	Valued upland habitats are widespread, although the extensive Tweedsmuir Hills SSSI is in the western half of the area.
Settlement setting	High	Provides part of the wider setting for Innerleithen and Peebles in the Tweed valley. There are no substantive settlements in this LCU.
Views	Very high	Landmark hills and hill fringes are most visible and score highest.
Tourist economy	High	Areas close to the key tourist centres along the Tweed Valley, and the southern upland way, score highest, with more remote sections scoring lower.

Part 2: Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

Consistency

Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?

Continuous upland landscape over a large area.

This is a relatively homogenous area, with limited variation in landform or landcover. There are forested pockets, but these are not large enough to alter landscape character except on a local scale. Other local influences include designed landscapes, particularly at Glen House.

Landscape relationships
Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?
<i>RV53 Manor Water, RV59 Middle Tweed. Steep valley sides at margins with valleys, also extends across to other upland groups.</i>
Broadlaw is part of the Southern Upland group, extending south, where the boundary with UP08 is formed by the Talla and Megget Reservoirs, and west into the more forested Minch Moor (UPI0). The Broadlaw group forms the backdrop to much of the Tweed valley, which wraps around its northern and western sides, but there is no clear physical distinction except in the more upland section south of Kingledores. The Manor Water valley is almost entirely surrounded by this area, and its upper reaches share characteristics with other valleys within the upland, such as at Glen House.
Analysis
Can this LCU be divided into natural sub-character areas? Do parts of this area have stronger relationships with neighbouring areas?
There is no clear rationale for subdividing this area. It is relatively distinct from the surrounding areas, but retains an internal consistency of character. The fringes of the area contribute to the character of the neighbouring valley landscapes.

UP17 COCKLAW GROUP

Total score: 61

Overall rank: 7

Part 1: Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	Low	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Rarity	Very high	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Condition	Medium	Condition is considered to be better in the more open uplands, and poorer in some valley landscapes
Intactness	High	Again, the open uplands are considered to be more intact than the more disturbed farmed valleys.
Wildness	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Very high	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Enjoyment	Very high	Widespread opportunities for enjoyment of this landscape, particularly around Kirk Yetholm.
Cultural qualities	Very high	Historic sites are distributed widely across this landscape
Habitat value	High	Habitat value is distributed evenly across the LCU
Settlement setting	Medium	Northern areas form part of setting of Town Yetholm and Kirk Yetholm, most areas score low.
Views	Very high	Highest scoring areas are the landmark hills and more visible hill fringes. Parts of the interior are less visible
Tourist economy	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.

Part 2: Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

Consistency
Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?

<i>Harmony of character.</i>
This landscape varies little in terms of its landform and landcover. It presents a consistent block of upland, which is somewhat different in character to the Southern Uplands.
Landscape relationships
Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?
<i>UPI8 Falla Group is a lower-lying continuation of this area to the west and RV62 Bowmont Water is a gateway into this landscape.</i>
The hills form the backdrop to the Kale and Bowmont valleys. The relationship with the Bowmont valley is particularly important, since it provides the gateway into the hills. Further west the hills step down through UPI8, the eastern part of which shares characteristics with UPI7. East and south, the Cheviot hills continue almost seamlessly.
Analysis
Can this LCU be divided into natural sub-character areas? Do parts of this area have stronger relationships with neighbouring areas?
There are no clear lines along which to subdivide this landscape. It has an internal consistency of character. The northern fringes of the valley contribute to the character of the upland valleys.

CO44 COLDINGHAM

Total score: 60
Overall rank: 8

Part 1: Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	Low	The coast is untypical, though the arable areas inland are more typical.
Rarity	High	The coastal strip scores highly against this criterion, the inland farmed areas less so.
Condition	Very high	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Intactness	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Wildness	Low	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Very high	Scenic quality is concentrated along the dramatic coast and the picturesque village of Coldingham. Inland areas have some scenic value
Enjoyment	Very high	Opportunities for enjoyment of this landscape are focused on the coastal strip.
Cultural qualities	High	Cultural and historic features are concentrated towards the coast, around Coldingham and St Abbs.
Habitat value	Medium	The protected marine and coastal areas score highest, with some habitat value inland.
Settlement setting	High	The areas which provide the coastal settings of St Abbs Coldingham and Eyemouth score highest
Views	Very high	St Abb's Head scores very high, along with much of the coastal strip. Areas visible from the A1107 also score high.
Tourist economy	High	Tourist attractions are focused on the coast.

Part 2: Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

Consistency

Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?
<i>A distinction can be made between the coastal edge of this area, and the farmland which is less directly related to the coast.</i>
This is a varied and contrasting landscape ranging with the arable farmland hinterland area providing a setting to the coast. The dynamism and drama of the seascape is more readily experienced along the rocky coastline. The recreational resources are generally concentrated along the coastline, between the settlements of St Abbs, Eyemouth and Coldingham.
Landscape relationships
Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?
<i>The key relationships for this landscape are along the coast, to CO47 Coldingham Moor and to a lesser extent RV76 Lower Eye Water.</i>
The LCU is associated with the adjacent CO47, particularly around St Abbs Head. Inland relationships are less significant. The LCU forms part of the sequence of coastal landscapes linking Northumberland and Lothian.
Analysis
Can this LCU be divided into natural sub-character areas? Do parts of this area have stronger relationships with neighbouring areas?
The thin coastal edge and the arable farmland of the hinterland are contrasting subdivisions within this LCU. There are fewer recreational opportunities available in the areas away from the coastal edge, and many of the most important scenic qualities relate to the views along the rocky coastline that are not related to the farmland further inland.

LO43 BLACK HILL / HUME CRAGS

Total score: 59

Overall rank: =9

Part 1: Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion as a typical Borders landscape.
Rarity	High	The volcanic crags and outcrops which are unusual in this landscape of rolling farmland, and score highly.
Condition	Medium	Local variations in condition but generally the whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Intactness	Medium	Again there are local variations, with Mellerstain considered to score higher, but generally the LCU is consistent.
Wildness	Medium	Rock outcrops and hills score slightly higher than the farmed landscape.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Very high	Scenic qualities are concentrated around the more dramatic landmark hills.
Enjoyment	Very high	Opportunities for enjoyment of this landscape are distributed through the LCU
Cultural qualities	High	Cultural and historic features are distributed through the LCU
Habitat value	Low	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Settlement setting	High	The western fringe scores highly as the setting of Earlston and to an extent Melrose. Other areas score lower
Views	Very high	The volcanic landmark hills (Black Hill) above the A68 score highest, with other high-scoring areas along main roads.
Tourist economy	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion

Part 2: Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

Consistency
Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?
<i>Diverse landscape, but with internal consistency. The central area is plateau-like and contained, compared to the more open southern area.</i>
A diverse landscape with a number of distinctive features and variety of landcover and landform. There are locally important features such as the rock outcrops of Hume Crags and Black Hill, and the Scott's View lookout, but these occur across the LCU. There is some variation across the area in terms of condition and quality, though this is not associated with specific areas.
Landscape relationships
Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?
<i>There is a strong relationship at the western edge with RV67 Tweed/Gala/Ettrick confluence and RV65 Lower Leader, and a lesser relationship with RV73 Lower Tweed.</i>
The hills at the western fringe of the area contribute to the character and scenic qualities of the adjacent river valleys. Scott's View is an important viewpoint across the Tweed Valley to Eildon Hill. Black Hill is particularly important as a landmark hill seen from Lauderdale. Brotherstone Hill has a relationship with the volcanic crags of Smailholm to the south. The central and western areas are more contained.
Analysis
Can this LCU be divided into natural sub-character areas? Do parts of this area have stronger relationships with neighbouring areas?
Though there is some variation in landform and cover, with areas in the centre more contained particularly around the designed landscape at Mellerstain, features such as the outcrops and landmarks occur across the LCU. There are no obvious natural sub-divisions although there is variation in the nature of relationships with neighbouring landscapes. At the western edge there is greater intervisibility with RV67 Tweed/Gala/Ettrick confluence, RV65 Lower Leader and RV73 Lower Tweed.

RV60 LOWER ETTRICK/YARROW

Total score: 59
Overall rank: =9

Part 1: Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	Medium	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Rarity	Medium	Rarity value is concentrated in the dense estate woodland, and particularly the broad floodplain at the river confluence
Condition	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Intactness	High	The estate woodlands score highest for intactness. Afforested areas on higher slopes score lower.
Wildness	Low	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Very high	The whole LCU scores equally highly against this criterion.
Enjoyment	High	Opportunities for enjoyment of this landscape are widespread.
Cultural qualities	Very High	Cultural and historic features, particularly designed landscapes, are dispersed across this LCU
Habitat value	Medium	The highest scoring areas are along the rivers, where semi-natural woodlands are concentrated.

Settlement setting	Very High	Area approaching Selkirk scores very highly, other areas contribute less directly to settlement setting.
Views	High	The whole LCU scores equally highly against this criterion.
Tourist economy	Very High	The whole LCU scores equally highly against this criterion.

Part 2: Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

Consistency	
Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?	
<i>Consistent</i>	
This is a valley with a complex pattern of land cover but with consistency of character across the LCU. The valley has a mature character throughout and is well wooded, with only local variation in character provided by the broad floodplain at the confluence. The condition of the landscape is consistently good, whilst the numerous opportunities for recreation, the parklands and designed landscapes are spread relatively evenly through the unit and not concentrated in a particular area.	
Landscape relationships	
Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?	
<i>Key relationships with surrounding uplands UPI0 Minch Moor, UPI1 Black Knowe and UPI2 Dun Knowe. The landscape provides a link between the Ettrick, Yarrow and Tweed valleys.</i>	
The strong relief and undulating profiles of the uplands of Minch Moor, Black Knowe and Dun Knowe contribute to the scenic qualities of the valley.	
Analysis	
Can this LCU be divided into natural sub-character areas? Do parts of this area have stronger relationships with neighbouring areas?	
The area is broadly consistent with the cultural, recreational and habitat value of the area spread evenly through the LCU. There is a small area that is comparatively more open around the confluence at the centre, though the size of the area and location means it does not form a natural sub-division. Topographically, the valley is broader at the confluence than in the incoming Yarrow and Ettrick valleys.	

UP 08 HART FELL

Total score: 58
Overall rank: =11

Part 1: Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Rarity	High	Reservoirs are the features of this LCU
Condition	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Intactness	High	Much of the LCU scores highly, though reservoirs and afforested areas are considered less intact.
Wildness	Very high	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion, with the exception of dams and major roads
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Very high	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Enjoyment	Very high	Opportunities for enjoyment are widespread in this area

Cultural qualities	Medium	Cultural and historic features are focused on the Tweed and other valleys,
Habitat value	Very high	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Settlement setting	Medium	Only the southern area towards Moffat plays a role in settlement setting
Views	High	Areas along the A708 and A701 are most visible, and the fringing hills therefore score highest. Central areas are less visible though they contain landmark hills.
Tourist economy	Medium	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion

Part 2: Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

Consistency
Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?
<i>Consistent upland landscape of high summits.</i>
Generally, this area is consistent in its landscape character. The three large reservoirs locally give rise to a very different character, since large water bodies are unusual in the Borders uplands. There are substantial coniferous plantations in the west, but these are not large enough to alter landscape character except on a local scale.
Landscape relationships
Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?
<i>Continues into upland areas of UP7 Broadlaw and UP9 Culter Fell. Transition of steep valley sides to the Moffat Water valley. North-eastern hills are important features when viewed from Yarrow valley and St Mary's Loch.</i>
To the north, the landscape of the Southern Uplands extends into UP6 Broad Law, and to the south into Dumfries and Galloway. To the south-west the uplands are cut by Moffat Dale and the upper Yarrow valley, with increasingly forested upland continuing across the valley.
Analysis
Can this LCU be divided into natural sub-character areas? Do parts of this area have stronger relationships with neighbouring areas?
There is no clear rationale for subdividing this LCU. It forms a logical and consistent block of open upland. The eastern fringes of the area contribute to the character of the Yarrow valley landscape.

RV74 LOWER TEVIOT

Total score: 58
Overall rank: = 11

Part 1: Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Rarity	High	Landmark features which score highly include Minto Crags Peniel Heugh and the Minto Hills. Other parts are less rare.
Condition	High	Local variation, but overall the whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Intactness	High	Local variation, but overall the whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Wildness	Low	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Very high	The whole LCU scores highly against this criterion, with the dramatic landmark features of Minto Crags and Monteviot/Peniel Heugh scoring very highly.

Enjoyment	High	Opportunities for enjoyment of this landscape are widespread.
Cultural qualities	Very high	Cultural and historic features are prominently placed throughout this landscape
Habitat value	Medium	Features of habitat value are distributed through the LCU
Settlement setting	High	Areas around Denholm and Hawick score highly
Views	High	Numerous landmark features which score very highly, overall the landscape scores highly as it is visible along key routes.
Tourist economy	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion

Part 2: Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

Consistency
Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?
<i>Consistent</i>
This landscape has a strong pattern, but with variety in the meandering river, distinctive landmark hills and estate parkland and woodlands it contains. There is a patchwork of woodland and farmland, including Monteviot and Minto parklands. Minto Crags are a particularly dramatic and unique feature in an otherwise more gentle landscape which comprises typically wooded farmed lowland valley.
Landscape relationships
Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?
<i>Relationships with higher ground to north and south, including UF20 Oxnam, UF22 Minto Hills, UF29 Rubers Law and UF30 Bonchester/Dunion. Landscape forms a link between important centres of Kelso, Jedburgh and Hawick.</i>
Rubers Law to the south and the Minto Hills to the north enclose the valley in the southwest, whilst in the northwest the valley lies alongside the adjacent river valley of the Lower Tweed. The A68 corridor passes through this landscape, from the Jed Valley north into the Lower Tweed.
Analysis
Can this LCU be divided into natural sub-character areas? Do parts of this area have stronger relationships with neighbouring areas?
Though the unit contains a number of individual distinctive features and landmark hills, it is relatively distinct from the surrounding areas, and has an internal consistency of character. There is limited rationale for sub-dividing the unit, although the area north-east of Monteviot is slightly broader and more open. Scenic qualities are most clearly concentrated in smaller pockets around Minto Crags and Monteviot/Peniell Heugh.

UF29 RUBERS LAW

Total score: 57
Overall rank: =13

Part 1: Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Rarity	High	The distinctive peak of Rubers law scores highly for rarity, but generally the area has little rarity value
Condition	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Intactness	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion

Wildness	Medium	The summit of Rubers Law has a particular wildness value in its rugged form, wildness is reduced in the lower lying areas.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Very high	The dramatic rocky hill contrasts with surrounding farmland, and scores very highly. Further south the landscape begins to lack visual diversity and scores lower.
Enjoyment	High	Opportunities for enjoying this landscape are focused on Rubers Law
Cultural qualities	High	Extensive hill fort SAM on summit of Rubers Law scores highly, some historic features in the rest of the area.
Habitat value	Medium	High-scoring areas are located on the hill slopes and at Hobsburn woodlands
Settlement setting	Medium	Rubers Law scores highly as part of the wider setting of several villages, but the majority of the area scores lower.
Views	Very high	Rubers Law scores very highly against this criterion. The areas visible from the A6086 and A698 also score highly.
Tourist economy	Medium	Rubers Law is important as an iconic hill and hill walking location

Part 2: Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

Consistency
Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?
<i>There is a clear distinction between the high hill of Rubers Law, and the farmland on its flanks, and the flatter, open upland fringe area to the south.</i>
The pronounced conical igneous hill of Rubers Law is an uncommon and distinctive feature of the LCU, and has wildness qualities that do not occur in the lower flanks of farmland. The flanks comprises more typical features of rolling pastoral fields with woodland copses and lack the rarity value of the peak and value in terms of recreation, being a popular hill walk.
Landscape relationships
Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?
<i>Rubers Law has an important relationship with the valleys it stands above, the RV72 Rule Water and RV74 Lower Teviot</i>
The dominant moorland hill is a dramatic and distinctive landmark in views from the surrounding river valleys as well as a feature across wider areas of the Borders.
Analysis
Can this LCU be divided into natural sub-character areas? Do parts of this area have stronger relationships with neighbouring areas?
The qualities and distinctive features of Rubers Law set it apart from the flanking farmland to the south, which suggests it could be separated from this lower and less visible area.

UF30 BONCHESTER / DUNION

Total score: 57
Overall rank: =13

Part 1: Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representative-ness	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Rarity	Medium	Bonchester Hill has some rarity value but other areas do not score highly

Condition	Medium	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Intactness	High	There is local variation but generally the whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Wildness	Medium	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Enjoyment	High	Opportunities for enjoying this landscape are distributed across the LCU
Cultural qualities	High	Cultural value focused on Bonchester Hill and designed landscapes which are associated with adjacent valleys,
Habitat value	Low	Small areas of ancient woodland score highly but generally few high-scoring features
Settlement setting	Very high	Dunion Hill scores very highly as backdrop to Jedburgh. Areas associated with valleys score high as setting of Chesters and Bonchester Bridge.
Views	Very high	Dunion Hill scores particularly high as a prominent feature visible from the A68 and A698. Bonchester Hill also visible from the A6086.
Tourist economy	High	Dunion Hill is again particularly significant

Part 2: Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

Consistency
Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?
<i>Although there is some distinction between the open upland and lower farmland, the differences are not significant.</i>
This is a predominantly pastoral landscape with a rolling landform, typical of the Borders upland fringe, that extends north from the upland areas of the Cheviot Hills and foothills of UP18. It contains few distinctive features, aside from the main hills of Bonchester and Dunion.
Landscape relationships
Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?
<i>The hills are important in defining the river valleys to either side: RV68 Jed Water and RV72 Rule Water, as well as RV74 Lower Teviot to the north.</i>
The hills within the unit form backdrops to the adjacent river valleys to the north, east and west. Dunion Hill is particularly prominent from the A68 and contributes to the setting of Jedburgh. Long distance views over the surrounding landscape areas are available from the summits of the hills.
Analysis
Can this LCU be divided into natural sub-character areas? Do parts of this area have stronger relationships with neighbouring areas?
This is a consistent unit which forms a backdrop to the river valleys that wrap around the area on several sides. The central and southern sections are more self-contained. There is no strong rationale for subdividing this area on other grounds.

RV49 UPPER YARROW

Total score: 57
Overall rank: =13

Part 1: Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		

Representative-ness	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Rarity	High	St Mary's Loch scores very highly as the only large loch in the Borders, other areas do not score highly
Condition	High	The area around St Mary's Loch is well managed and scores highly. East of the loch there is less management, and this area scores lower.
Intactness	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Wildness	Medium	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	The loch is considered to have high scenic qualities, while the area to the east scores less highly. Further east again the diversity of the landscape is of scenic quality
Enjoyment	Very high	Opportunities for enjoyment of this landscape are focused on St Mary's Loch, which is a popular site for walking boating and fishing
Cultural qualities	High	Historic and cultural associations are concentrated around St Mary's Loch and Tibbie Shiels' Inn. These areas score very highly, though other parts score lower.
Habitat value	High	Woodlands around St Mary's Loch are the highest-scoring features, with heath on valley sides also scoring highly
Settlement setting	High	Area around Yarrow and Castleburn scores highly against this criterion
Views	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Tourist economy	High	St Mary's Loch scores highest as a tourist attraction

Part 2: Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

Consistency
Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?
<i>Generally consistent character, though there is some local variation in condition, with the area between the loch and Mountbenger being more open and eroded in terms of landscape structure. The loch stands apart as a large-scale water body, unusual in the Borders context.</i>
This is a well-defined pastoral valley enclosed on all sides by upland slopes. There is diversity of land cover, with a distinctive structure of wooded valley, gravelly river bed, and rugged slopes rising up from valley floor that together contribute to picturesque qualities and strong topographic identity'. In the west of the valley St Mary's Loch provides a distinctive feature as the only large natural loch in the Borders. The central area is of a more open character and blander. Scenic quality increases as the valley narrows to the east.
Landscape relationships
Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?
<i>The key relationships of this landscape are with the surrounding upland groups, which it defines (UP7 Broadlaw, UP10 Minch Moor, UP11 Black Knowe)</i>
There is a close visual relationship with the uplands that enclose it, though few hills are landmarks apart from Bridge End Hill which forms a visual focus above the loch. There is a close relationship between the topographic pattern and the setting of the settlements of Yarrow and Castleburn.
Analysis
Can this LCU be divided into natural sub-character areas? Do parts of this area have stronger relationships with neighbouring areas?
The western area around St Mary's Loch could form a sub-type within this unit, with a greater draw as a recreational resource and higher scenic value.

UP02 LAMMERMUIR PLATEAU

Total score: 56
Overall rank: =16

Part 1: Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Rarity	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Condition	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Intactness	Medium	Intactness is lower to the east where wind turbines and forestry have affected character. The main plateau west of the Whiteadder is more intact, though this may be reduced by the consented Fallago Rig wind farm.
Wildness	High	The main plateau west of the Whiteadder scores higher against this criterion, though more overtly man-modified areas score lower.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Enjoyment	High	Opportunities for enjoyment of this landscape are widespread, although access to some areas is restricted.
Cultural qualities	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Habitat Value	Very high	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Settlement setting	High	The northern edge of this LCU scores highly, as does the area above Lauder, although the central and eastern areas score lower.
Views	High	The fringes of this landscape score highly, though the interior areas are hidden from view and score lower
Tourist economy	Medium	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.

Part 2: Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

Consistency
Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?
<i>This is a consistent upland landscape, however presence of coniferous forest in the east fringes creates a localised variation in character.</i>
This is a large, consistent area of upland, with little variety of landcover across the very wide plateau. There are local variations associated with river valleys, for example the Dye Water valley, and the upper parts of the Whiteadder, where the B6355 passes Whiteadder Reservoir. In the north-west of the LCU, character is locally affected by the wind farm cluster of Crystal Rig and Aikengall, and by afforestation.
Landscape relationships
Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?
<i>RV57 Upper Whiteadder and RV58 Upper Leader</i> <i>The moorland blends gently into the neighbouring river valleys without strong physical relationships between the two. Important cross-boundary relationships, where the landscape continues into East Lothian.</i>
The most significant relationship of this landscape is with the upper Whiteadder, which the moorland wraps around in the east. The transition from open moorland to pastoral valley is relatively gradual, and can be observed from nearby viewpoints. There is clearly a relationship between the more open upland valley around Cranshaws, and the smaller but similar upland valleys within UP02, such as the Dye Water. To the south the hills merge gradually with upland farmland, and south-east to the Derrington Laws which are visually related to the plateau. To the west, the plateau forms a backdrop to upper Lauderdale. To the north, the plateau extends seamlessly into East Lothian.
Analysis
Can this LCU be divided into natural sub-character areas? Do parts of this area have stronger relationships with neighbouring areas?
There is some rationale for detaching the portion of the LCU which lies north-east of the Whiteadder, which is influenced by wind farm development and afforestation. However, the importance of this area to the Whiteadder valley and the wider Lammermuir Hills to north and east has been recognised. The influence of wind farms and forestry may be relatively temporary in the longer-term. The remaining part of the plateau is consistent, and there are no obvious subdivisions.

UP10 MINCH MOOR

Total score: 56
Overall rank: =16

Part 1: Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Rarity	Low	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Condition	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Intactness	Medium	Afforested areas are considered less intact generally, with intact heather moorland scoring higher.
Wildness	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	Open areas score higher, where the topography of dome shaped summits is visually appealing. The more secluded glens also score highly, though the forested areas are judged to score less.
Enjoyment	Very high	Opportunities for enjoyment are widely distributed through this LCU
Cultural qualities	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Habitat value	High	Habitat value is highest in open heathland and SSSI burn woodlands
Settlement setting	High	Areas relating to Innerleithen, Walkerburn and Selkirk score highest.
Views	Very high	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Tourist economy	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion

Part 2: Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

Consistency
Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?
<i>Distinct division between the open upland areas and forested upland areas.</i>
Landscape character varies across this area with landcover. The LCU presents a mosaic of forested and unforested areas, with the open areas generally being of greater value, particularly in scenic terms. Generally, forested areas are more concentrated in the west. The whole landscape is of recreational value, particularly as the Southern Upland Way runs along its length.
Landscape relationships
Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?
<i>Key relationships with RV49 Upper Yarrow and RV60 to the south and RV59 Middle Tweed to the north, and westward to the main body of the uplands (UP07).</i>
This is a relatively narrow ridge of upland, forming a spine between the Tweed to the north, and the Yarrow to the south. The more forested northern slopes therefore form a backdrop to the Tweed valley, and the more open southern slopes have a relationship with the Yarrow. At the eastern end, Linglie Hill is an important feature above the Tweed-Ettrick confluence.
Analysis
Can this LCU be divided into natural sub-character areas? Do parts of this area have stronger relationships with neighbouring areas?

Although there is variation, it occurs across the LCU. Subdivision on the basis of landcover would result in a number of small areas, although natural breaks are evident to a degree. The flanks of the ridge, particularly at the eastern end of the area, contribute strongly to the character of the neighbouring valley landscapes.

LO39 LOWER TWEED VALLEY

Total score: 56
Overall rank: =16

Part 1: Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	Medium	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Rarity	Medium	The banks of the River Tweed are the only feature with some rarity value.
Condition	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Intactness	Medium	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Wildness	Low	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Very high	Scenic quality is most loosely associated with the river, including the confluence of Tweed and Teviot. Wooded areas and designed landscapes also score highly, though areas of intensive farmland score lower.
Enjoyment	High	Opportunities for enjoyment of this landscape occur most frequently along the Tweed and around Kelso
Cultural qualities	High	Designed estate landscapes are the most visible cultural features, largely located by the river.
Habitat value	Medium	The Tweed SAC is the most significant habitat feature
Settlement setting	Very high	Areas around Kelso and Coldstream score highest against this criterion
Views	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Tourist economy	High	Towns and tourist attractions such as Floors score highest against this criterion

Part 2: Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

Consistency
Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?
<i>The landscape varies little across this LCU, some local variations in scale.</i>
The unit is generally consistent in character as an area of intensively farmed lowland, with visual diversity arising from the rolling drumlin landform and wooded areas associated with the numerous estates spread throughout the area. Occasional incised river banks provide local visual interest. Scenic qualities are concentrated around wooded designed landscapes, and around the Tweed/Teviot confluence.
Landscape relationships
Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?
<i>The landscape blends almost imperceptibly into LO38 North Merse. Area forms a gateway into the Borders from Northumberland, via Coldstream.</i>

There are long views across the lowland landscape, both to and from the surrounding higher ground, including south to the Cheviots. Intervisibility with the adjoining lowland and valley landscapes is more limited. Strong relationships are limited, with the exception of the south bank of the river in Northumberland. Kelso forms an important node linking the Merse with the Tweed and Teviot valleys. Key routes tend to cross the LCU rather than follow its length, though the Kelso to Coldstream road (A698) is important.

Analysis

Can this LCU be divided into natural sub-character areas?
Do parts of this area have stronger relationships with neighbouring areas?

This is a large area stretching from Foulden inland to Kelso along the southern border with Northumberland. It does have internal consistency in character with high cultural and recreational qualities throughout, with the even distribution of country houses and designed landscapes in addition to the nationally designated Tweed that runs right through the area from the coast to Kelso. There is limited rationale for sub-dividing the area.

UP01 WESTERN PENTLANDS

Total score: 55
Overall rank: =19

Part 1: Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Rarity	Medium	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Condition	Medium	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Intactness	High	Localised variations associated with small-scale afforestation
Wildness	High	Much greater levels of wildness on summits and in upland glens, reduced closer to the A702
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Enjoyment	Very high	The whole LCU scores well, particularly the more accessible areas
Cultural qualities	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Habitat value	Very high	The upland areas score better against this criterion
Settlement setting	Medium	The area around West Linton scores most highly
Views	Very high	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion
Tourist economy	Medium	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion

Part 2: Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

Consistency
Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?
<i>Consistent upland landscape with limited significant variation in landcover or character.</i>
There are no significant variations in character or quality across this LCU. Minor local variations do exist but otherwise this landscape is consistent.
Landscape relationships
Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?

<i>UF23 West Linton Synclinal belt – long boundary with visual links. The hills provide a backdrop to the Rolling Farmland. Strong relationships with other parts of the Pentland Hills outside the Borders.</i>
The upland landscape extends unbroken along the Pentland ridge, from Edinburgh through the Borders and West Lothian into South Lanarkshire. From the A702 and other locations to the south-east, the Pentlands form a distinctive backdrop to the farmland around West Linton.
Analysis
Can this LCU be divided into natural sub-character areas? Do parts of this area have stronger relationships with neighbouring areas?
There are no natural divisions within this upland area, which has strong relationship with the edges of neighbouring UF23 along the A702.

CO47 COLDINGHAM MOOR

Total score: 55
Overall rank: =19

Part 1: Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	Low	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Rarity	Very High	The coastal edge scores very high against this criterion, though inland areas score lower
Condition	Medium	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Intactness	Low	Intactness is lower on the open moors which have been affected by conifers and masts
Wildness	Medium	The coastal edge scores higher against this criterion than the inland areas
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	Very high	The coastal strip scores most highly against this criteria, particularly the elevated areas. Inland away from the cliffs scenic quality is lower.
Enjoyment	Very high	Enjoyment of this landscape is focused along the coast.
Cultural qualities	Very high	Cultural and historic value is concentrated along the coast and on the moors above the cliffs, with inland areas scoring less.
Habitat value	High	The protected coastal strip scores highest, although there are also high-scoring SSSIs inland
Settlement setting	Low	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Views	Very high	Views are most open and important towards the coast and along the A1107. St Abb's Head and Coldingham Moor are landmark features along the coast
Tourist economy	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.

Part 2: Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

Consistency
Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?
<i>The character of the coastal edge is consistent. Inland, the Coldingham Moor plateau has a slightly different character, particularly where coastal views are more limited.</i>
This landscape comprises a coastal edge and open moorland. The dramatic cliffs at the headland of St Abbs Head is unique along the stretch of coastline and the views from the coastal edge are integral to the scenic qualities of the seascape. Further inland there are large blocks of commercial forest and less exposed areas of moorland and pasture.
Landscape relationships
Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?

Associated with CO44 Coldingham and CO45 Cockburnspath along the coast. Inland there are limited relationships as Coldingham Moor blends into the more sheltered landscapes away from the coast.
The key relationships are along the coast, and the LCU forms part of the coastal landscape sequence from Northumberland to Lothian.
Analysis
Can this LCU be divided into natural sub-character areas? Do parts of this area have stronger relationships with neighbouring areas?
The coastal landscape offers a different experience from the hinterland. Scenic quality and other values are concentrated along the cliff edge, while the A1107 corridor is less strongly associated with the coast. The moorland area often has a strong coastal character, due to exposure and coastal views, though interrupted by forestry.

RV76 LOWER EYE WATER

Total score: 53
Overall rank: =21

Part 1: Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	Medium	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Rarity	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Condition	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Intactness	Medium	Intactness is lower in areas around settlements
Wildness	Low	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Enjoyment	High	Opportunities for enjoyment of this landscape are mainly focused around Eyemouth
Cultural qualities	Very high	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Habitat value	Medium	The protected coast scores highly, as do the ancient woodlands along the Eye Water.
Settlement setting	Very high	Areas around Eyemouth, and Ayton score most highly
Views	Medium	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Tourist economy	High	Tourist activity is focused on Eyemouth

Part 2: Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

Consistency
Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?
<i>There are no major variations across this small area, though coastal influence recedes.</i>
Overt coastal influence is limited to the lower section of the valley, where the harbour at Eyemouth forms an attractive feature. Inland this LCU has a wooded valley character.
Landscape relationships
Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?

Relatively self contained, but stronger relationship with the coastal LCUs CO44 Coldingham and CO46 Lamberton Moor around Eyemouth.
At the coastal edge, there is a strong relationship with adjacent coastal LCUs, particularly to the north. Away from the coast, the LCU leads inland. Eyemouth is a gateway to the Borders coast.
Analysis
Can this LCU be divided into natural sub-character areas? Do parts of this area have stronger relationships with neighbouring areas?
There is some rationale for separating the coastal edge around Eyemouth from the wooded valley inland.

UP05 BROUGHTON HEIGHTS

Total score: 52

Overall rank: 22

Part 1: Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Rarity	Medium	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Condition	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Intactness	Medium	Afforestation affects some areas locally
Wildness	High	Highest levels of wildness in the more isolated central areas, more reduced at the fringes.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Enjoyment	Medium	Higher to the south where associated with the Tweed valley
Cultural qualities	High	Hill forts and other features across the area, designed landscape influences at the fringes of the LCU
Habitat value	High	Habitat value concentrated in the open upland habitats
Settlement setting	Medium	The fringes of this area play some role in settlement setting, the central areas are more isolated
Views	Very high	The area is prominent in views from main roads to north, east, south and west.
Tourist economy	Medium	Higher to the south where associated with the Tweed valley

Part 2: Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

Consistency
Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU? <i>Smooth ridges and dome shaped hills, with no significant variation.</i>
There are no significant variations in character or quality across this area. There are some localised variations, particularly where afforestation has taken place. The steep northern and western slopes of the area contrast with the shallower transition to the Tweed valley.
Landscape relationships
Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?

UF32, RV52, RV53, RV59: Steep interface of valleys sides to the Lyne Water and the River Tweed, and to the upland fringe to the west.
There are strong relationships between this area and the valleys which surround and define it. These are particularly strong to the south where the transition to the Tweed is more gradual. Elsewhere the relationship is more visual. There is a key relationship with the village of Broughton and the uplands to the south and south-west of the Tweed and Biggar Water.
Analysis
Can this LCU be divided into natural sub-character areas? Do parts of this area have stronger relationships with neighbouring areas?
There are no obvious subdivisions to this landscape, which is closely related to valleys to the south

UF37 GREENLAW COMMON

Total score: 51
Overall rank: 23

Part 1: Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	Medium	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Rarity	Very high	The Durrington laws in particular are very uncommon
Condition	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Intactness	Medium	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Wildness	High	The open moorland is wilder than the small farmed areas
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	The Durrington Laws offer greater scenic qualities and a distinctive visual character
Enjoyment	Medium	The Durrington Laws are popular walking ascents
Cultural qualities	Medium	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Habitat value	Very high	The southern area, comprising Greenlaw Moor SSSI, scores more highly in this criterion
Settlement setting	Medium	The area around Greenlaw plays some role in settlement setting
Views	High	The 'iconic view' at Durrington Little Law, and the key landmark features of the two hills
Tourist economy	Low	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.

Part 2: Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

Consistency
Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?
<i>Strong contrast between the vertical features (Durringtons, The Kaims), and the horizontal moorland.</i>
The southern area is flat, open moorland, broken by the low Kaims. To the north of the B6456 the land rises to the Durrington Laws. Character therefore varies between the flat southern area and the hills to the north.
Landscape relationships
Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?

<i>This area blends north into UP02 Lammermuir, west into UF21 Westruther Platform and east into UF31 Knock Hill.</i>
The Durrington laws are closely associated with the Lammermuir Plateau upland to the north, and the Great Law is visually linked to the Watch Water valley. The Greenlaw Moor is more associated with the upland fringe to the east and west.
Analysis
Can this LCU be divided into natural sub-character areas? Do parts of this area have stronger relationships with neighbouring areas?
The division of this LCU into the more dramatic, upland hills north of the B6456, and the flat plateau to the south, The northern part offers greater scenic diversity and more opportunities for enjoying views of the landscape, and is more closely related to the high-scoring Lammermuir landscapes. The southern area is more important for biodiversity and geodiversity, though these are protected by a range of designations.

UP09 CULTER FELL

Total score: 50
Overall rank: =24

Part 1: Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Rarity	Low	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Condition	Medium	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Intactness	High	Locally affected by development including tracks and wind farms, the area south of Tweedsmuir is affected by large-scale afforestation.
Wildness	Very high	Highest levels of wildness in upland valleys and away from roads or development
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	Though there are local variations in the form of the hills, the whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Enjoyment	Very high	Popular hill-walking area with access from the A701. The NSA area scores particularly highly
Cultural qualities	Medium	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Habitat value	Very high	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Settlement setting	Medium	Mainly the northern parts of the area play a role in settlement setting
Views	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Tourist economy	Medium	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.

Part 2: Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

Consistency
Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?
<i>Consistent upland landscape with high hills and tracts of coniferous forest.</i>
There are no significant variations in character or quality across this LCU. The southern sector is more forested.
Landscape relationships
Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?
<i>UP8 Hart Fell, and other uplands which form part of the wider group of hills. Extends westwards into South Lanarkshire forming a hill group dividing the Tweed and Clyde. RV50 Upper Tweed, RV54 Biggar Water; these valleys define this sub-group of hills.</i>

This landscape is continuous across the Council boundary, and also extends eastwards across the Tweed valley, into the Hart Fell and Broadlaw hill groups. To the north, the relationships are between the valleys and the hills which frame them
Analysis
Can this LCU be divided into natural sub-character areas? Do parts of this area have stronger relationships with neighbouring areas?
The forested southern part of the area could represent a separate character area, though the extent or type of forest could change in future. Overall, the LCU has a relatively consistent character, with relationships to areas to east and west.

UF34 WEST GALA

Total score: 50
Overall rank: =24

Part 1: Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	Medium	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Rarity	Medium	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Condition	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Intactness	High	Intactness is locally reduced by plantations and mast on Meigle Hill, otherwise a consistent level of intactness
Wildness	Low	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Enjoyment	High	Opportunities for enjoyment are focused on paths, including the Southern Upland Way, which link Galashiels with the Tweed valley
Cultural qualities	Medium	Designed landscapes influence the LCU at its fringes, central areas score generally lower
Habitat value	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Settlement setting	High	The north-east edge of the LCU scores highest, as the setting for Galashiels.
Views	High	The most visible areas are those along the A72 which passes through the 'gateway' from Galashiels to the Tweed Valley.
Tourist economy	Medium	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.

Part 2: Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

Consistency
Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?
<i>Some variety in setting, with the south-eastern hills close to Galashiels, and the western side facing the Tweed valley.</i>
This small area of hills has no distinct large-scale variation in character or quality. Locally, scenic value arises most significantly from its relationship with the valleys. Internally there are blander pockets, and the area is divided by the busy A72 passing Clovenfords.
Landscape relationships
Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?
<i>The fringes of this landscape has important relationships with the surrounding river valleys, RV56 Gala Water, RV59 Middle Tweed and RV67 Tweed/Ettrick/Leader confluence.</i>

The unit contributes to the wider setting of Galashiels within the Gala valley. Meikle Hill and Mains Hill form a gateway into the Tweed Valley through which the A72 passes.

Analysis

Can this LCU be divided into natural sub-character areas?
Do parts of this area have stronger relationships with neighbouring areas?

This is a well defined unit with internal consistency where there are no obvious natural sub-divisions.

CO45 COCKBURNSPATH

Total score: 50
Overall rank: =24

Part 1: Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	Low	The inland areas are more typical, though the coast is not.
Rarity	High	The coastal strip scores highly against this criterion
Condition	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Intactness	Medium	Eastern coastal area is more intact than the farmland west of Cockburnspath, which scores lower.
Wildness	Low	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	The coastal strip scores highly against this criteria, though the AI is a detractive feature
Enjoyment	Very high	Opportunities for enjoying this landscape are concentrated along the coastal strip and the Southern Upland Way.
Cultural qualities	Medium	Cockburnspath and Dunglass score higher, most other areas score lower
Habitat value	Low	Habitat value is concentrated along the protected coastline
Settlement setting	High	The area around Cockburnspath scores highest, other areas do not form settlement setting
Views	High	The most visible areas are along the AI and ECML, looking along the coast.
Tourist economy	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.

Part 2: Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

Consistency
Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?
<i>Difference between coastal and hinterland sections of the LCU, with the AI/ECML forming an approximate divide. Slight difference in the character along the coast, with the eastern part being more tranquil.</i>
As with other coastal areas, scenic quality and other key values are concentrated along the coast, while the hinterland is of a less dramatic rural character.
Landscape relationships
Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?

<p><i>Seaward-facing landscape which has little direct relationship with other areas. Has some relationship to the coast to the south (CO47 Coldingham Moor). The hinterland is more transitional, blending into UF24 Eye Water Platform.</i></p>
<p>As with other coastal landscapes, the key relationships are along the coastal edge, with CO47 to the south, and continuing into the East Lothian coast to the north. Cockburnspath is a gateway to the coastal edge, and is also the end of the Southern Upland Way.</p>
<p>Analysis</p>
<p>Can this LCU be divided into natural sub-character areas? Do parts of this area have stronger relationships with neighbouring areas?</p>
<p>The LCU can be naturally divided between the dramatic coastal strip and the more tranquil hinterland, with the A1 and ECML transport corridor as a division line.</p>

CO46 LAMBERTON MOOR

Total score: 50
Overall rank: =24

Part 1: Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	Low	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Rarity	High	The coastal edge scores higher against this criterion, while the inland farmland scores less high.
Condition	Medium	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Intactness	Low	The area affected by the A1 and ECML scores low against this criterion, though some parts of the farmland are locally more intact
Wildness	Medium	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	Scenic quality is highest along the rugged coastline, and lower inland, although it is affected by the transport corridors.
Enjoyment	High	Opportunities for enjoyment of this landscape are focused on the coastal strip
Cultural qualities	High	The area around Eyemouth is considered to score more highly against this criteria.
Habitat value	Medium	Habitat value is greatest along the protected coastline
Settlement setting	Medium	Local areas around Burnmouth and Eyemouth score highest
Views	Very high	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Tourist economy	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.

Part 2: Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

<p>Consistency</p>
<p>Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?</p>
<p><i>Varies from noisy locations by the road, to more secluded quieter locations. Coastal character recedes inland.</i></p>
<p>As with other coastal areas, scenic value is greater along the coastal strip, although in this LCU this is tempered by the presence of the A1 adjacent to the cliffs. Further inland the hinterland is more tranquil but less dramatic</p>
<p>Landscape relationships</p>
<p>Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?</p>

<i>This landscape is visible from the A1 and ECML at the important 'gateway' from England. Long views out, particularly south along the Northumberland Coast, as well as inland to the Cheviots. LO40 Eye Water Lowland;LO39 North Merse; RV76 Lower Eye Water</i>
The key relationships of this landscape are with the coast, both north to St Abbs Head and south to the lower-lying coast beyond Berwick
Analysis
Can this LCU be divided into natural sub-character areas? Do parts of this area have stronger relationships with neighbouring areas?
The A1 again presents a potential boundary between the overtly coastal cliff edges, and the quieter but less dramatic hinterland

RV65 LOWER LEADER

Total score: 50
Overall rank: =24

Part 1: Which parts of the cSLA Areas of Search perform best against each criterion?

Criteria	Rank	Description
Landscape Character Criteria		
Representativeness	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Rarity	Medium	The small-scale lower section of the valley around Earlston scores more highly than the more open areas to the north.
Condition	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Intactness	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Wildness	Low	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Landscape Quality Criteria		
Scenic qualities	High	The southern part of the valley scores higher, due to the picturesque designed landscape elements and greater contrast with landmark hills.
Enjoyment	Medium	The southern part of the valley scores slightly higher, with a denser network of paths.
Cultural qualities	High	Designed landscapes are clustered in the southern half of the LCU, where their influence is a key characteristic of the landscape.
Habitat value	Medium	Habitat value largely resides in ancient woodlands which are concentrated in the south.
Settlement setting	High	Areas close to Earlston and Lauder score highly, other areas do not form settlement settings.
Views	High	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.
Tourist economy	Medium	The whole LCU scores equally against this criterion.

Part 2: Are there parts of the cSLA Areas of Search that contribute to important composite landscapes?

Consistency
Does the character or quality vary significantly across the LCU?
<i>Consistent – The northern part of the valley is undulating pasture with mature trees, the southern part has strong estate influences</i>
This is a pastoral valley which derives scenic value from the combination of the wooded valley sides, pastoral floor, and the surrounding hills of the upland fringes that enclose it. There is more diversity and visual contrast in the south of the LCU, where estate landscapes combine with the distinctive White Hill and Black Hill to the east. Historical character is apparent in this lower section.

Landscape relationships

Is the LCU closely associated with surrounding LCUs? Does it form a 'gateway' into another area?

Principal relationships are with the neighbouring hills: UF21 Westruther Platform, LO43 Black Hill and UF35 East Gala.

The A68 that runs through the unit is a key transport corridor connecting Lothian and the northern Borders with the Tweed valley and the south. There is a strong relationship between the lower section of the LCU and the fringes of LO43 Black Hill, and also at Leaderfoot with the Tweed valley (RV67).

Analysis

Can this LCU be divided into natural sub-character areas?

Do parts of this area have stronger relationships with neighbouring areas?

This LCU could potentially be divided between the more open pastoral north, and the wooded and more scenic south, although there is no clear dividing line.

Appendix 5

Consultation Summary

