

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE LOCAL  
DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
MODIFIED PROPOSED PLAN**

**LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER  
ASSESSMENT  
BACKGROUND REPORT**

**NOVEMBER 2018**



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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Landscape designations play an important role in Scottish Planning Policy by protecting and enhancing areas of particular value. Scottish Planning Policy encourages local, non-statutory designations to protect and create an understanding of the role of locally important landscape have on communities.
- 1.2 In 2014, as part of the preparation of the North Lanarkshire Local Development Proposed Plan, a review of local landscape designations was undertaken by URS as part of wider action for landscape protection and management.

## **2. URS Review of North Lanarkshire Local Landscape Character (2015)**

- 2.1 The purpose of the Review was to identify and provide an awareness of the special character and qualities of the designated landscape in North Lanarkshire and to contribute to guiding appropriate future development to the most appropriate locations. The Review has identified a number of Local Landscape Units (LLU) that are of notable quality and value within which future development requires careful consideration to avoid potential significant impact on their landscape character.
- 2.2 There are two exemplar LLUs identified in this study, Kilsyth Hills and Clyde Valley, which are seen as very sensitive to development. Both of these areas warrant specific recognition and protection, as their high landscape quality would be threatened and adversely affected by unsympathetic development within their boundaries. The Report recommends that these two areas are identified as Special Landscape Areas within the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan Modified Proposed Plan and supported by specific policy protection.
- 2.3 North Lanarkshire Council has taken onboard the recommendations from this Report and has incorporated them into the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan Modified Proposed Plan. It is therefore important that this Report and the two Special Landscape Areas below are taken into consideration in relation to any wind turbine proposals.
- 2.4 A copy of the URS Review of North Lanarkshire Local Landscape Character (2015) is available in Appendix 1.

## **3. Kilsyth Hills Special Landscape Area (SLA)**

- 3.1 Following the URS Review of North Lanarkshire Local Landscape Character, two exemplar LLUs identified, of which the Kilsyth Hills LLU was one, and should be designated as a Special Landscape Area (SLA). This SLA's Statement of Importance explains in detail why this proposal should be taken forward.
- 3.2 The value of the Kilsyth Hills LLU is a result of its largely undeveloped nature and importance as a contrasting feature and backdrop to other landscape types. The character of the local landscape is therefore considered to be "highly sensitive to development", as the introduction of artificial structures could adversely affect the key characteristics and value of the landscape.
- 3.3 The designation of the Kilsyth Hills SLA is considered particularly important given the prominent presence and perceived value of the landscape, both locally and in a regional context and the landscape's limited capacity to change without adverse impact. Additionally the landscape is valued both locally and regionally as an important setting for outdoor recreation and low-impact sustainable tourism.
- 3.4 A copy of the Statement of Landscape Importance for the Kilsyth Hills Special Landscape Area Background Report is available on the Council's Website.

## **4. Clyde Valley Special Landscape Area (SLA)**

- 4.1 Following the URS Review of North Lanarkshire Local Landscape Character, two exemplar LLUs identified, of which the Clyde Valley LLU was one, and should be designated as a Special Landscape Area (SLA). This SLA's Statement of Importance explains in detail why this proposal should be taken forward.
- 4.2 The value and the key characteristics of the Clyde Valley LLU relates to the limited settlement and overall impression of a well-cared for agricultural landscape. The north side of the Clyde Valley in North Lanarkshire towards Garrion Bridge is more contained by slopes, with deeply incised valley spurs off the main broad valley, each of which have very limited and contained views into and out of the incisions. The valley provides a contrast to the adjacent large urban areas to the north. The landscape is highly sensitive to development which does not relate to its agricultural character.
- 4.3 The designation of the Clyde Valley SLA is considered particularly important given the relative uniqueness of this type of landscape within North Lanarkshire. It is the prominent presence and perceived value of the

landscape, both locally and in a regional context, with the landscape's limited capacity to change without adverse impact on its character. The valley is an important visitor destination with a series of long-established garden centres as well as outdoor recreation in the form of the long distance Clyde Valley Walkway, a route of regional importance and the various local paths which link to the Walkway through the surrounding woodlands and the countryside.

- 4.4 A copy of the Statement of Landscape Importance for the Clyde Valley Special Landscape Area Background Report is available on the Council's Website.





# Review of North Lanarkshire Local Landscape Character

April 2015

Prepared for:  
North Lanarkshire Council



REVISION SCHEDULE					
Rev	Date	Details	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by
1	November 2014	Draft Report	Mark Elliott Principal Landscape Architect	Zoë McClelland Principal Planner	Nigel Hackett Technical Director
2	February 2015	Revised Draft Report	John Devenny Principal Landscape Architect	Nigel Hackett Technical Director	Nigel Hackett Technical Director
3	April 2015	Revised Draft report, incorporating feedback	John Devenny Principal Landscape Architect	Nigel Hackett Technical Director	Nigel Hackett Technical Director
4	April 2015	Final Report	John Devenny Principal Landscape Architect	Nigel Hackett Technical Director	Nigel Hackett Technical Director

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## GLOSSARY

<b>GDL</b>	<b>Garden and Designed Landscape:</b> sites identified on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes held by Historic Scotland.
<b>GLVIA</b>	<b>Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment:</b> best practice guidance on landscape and visual assessment, produced by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment.
<b>LCT</b>	<b>Landscape Character Type:</b> areas of landscapes which have a unity of character due to particular combinations of landform, land cover and a consistent and distinct pattern of elements.
<b>LLU</b>	<b>Local Landscape Unit:</b> discrete geographical areas of relatively uniform landscape character, identified at the local scale.
<b>SNH</b>	<b>Scottish Natural Heritage</b>
<b>UNESCO</b>	<b>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</b>

## 1 INTRODUCTION

URS were appointed by North Lanarkshire Council to evaluate the local landscape character of the Local Authority area and assess the requirement for landscape protection within the Local Development Plan, currently being prepared by the Council.

This report initially sets out the broad context of landscape character assessment, followed by an overview of the methodology employed, a description of each of the identified Local Landscape Units, and concludes by identifying those areas that would warrant specific landscape protection.

Landscape is defined within the European Landscape Convention as follows: '*Landscape is an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/ or human factors*' (Council of Europe, 2000). This definition has also been adopted by *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment* (GLVIA) produced by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013.

The character of the landscape relates to the natural processes and human activities that have been at work for a long time to shape the land to its present form. Factors contributing to landscape character include topography, vegetation cover, sense of space or enclosure and past and present land use. Landscape character and resources are considered to have an importance in their own right and are valued for their intrinsic qualities.

The aim of this assessment is to identify areas of distinct landscape character at the local level and establish their broad sensitivity to development, leading to the identification of areas where specific policy protection can be recommended.

## **2 METHODOLOGY**

This assessment has been prepared with reference to best practice guidance including: Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland (SNH / The Countryside Agency) and Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA).

The assessment has been undertaken in two main stages, as follows:

- Desktop review and analysis; and
- Site appraisal and assessment.

### **Desktop Review and Analysis**

The landscape character assessment process commenced with a review of previous landscape character studies and assessments covering the area and the existing local planning context and policy. Analysis of Ordnance Survey mapping and aerial photography was undertaken to identify topographical features, vegetation and field patterns and areas of development. The principal sources of information included:

- The adopted North Lanarkshire Local Plan, September 2012;
- The Glasgow and Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan, May 2012;
- Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Landscape Character, Scottish Natural Heritage Review No116, 1999;
- Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Turbine Development in Glasgow and the Clyde Valley, Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Plan Authority, June 2014; and
- Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 Explorer and 1:50,000 Landranger mapping.

### **Site Appraisal and Assessment**

Following the desktop review, comprehensive field assessment of the local landscape character of North Lanarkshire was undertaken. This involved the use of an agreed standard pro-forma, shown in Appendix 1, supported by annotation of Ordnance Survey mapping. The pro-forma facilitated the identification of key features and characteristics, based upon an assessment of the following criteria:

- Topographical characteristics;
- Openness and inter-visibility;
- Settlement and man-made influences;
- Land use;
- Landscape pattern and field boundaries; and
- Landscape quality and condition.

In addition to identifying the key characteristics of each Local Landscape Unit, an important part of the field assessment was to establish the landscape value and sensitivity of each area.

### Landscape Sensitivity

Landscape value is frequently addressed with reference to international, national, regional and local designations. However, the absence of such a designation does not necessarily imply a lack of value. Factors such as accessibility and local scarcity can render areas of nationally unremarkable quality, highly valuable as a local resource. The quality and condition of the landscape is also considered in determining its value.

The evaluation of landscape sensitivity involves consideration of the nature of the landscape and its ability to accommodate change without compromising its key elements or characteristics. Landscape sensitivity is defined through an appraisal of value and landscape susceptibility. Landscape susceptibility relates to the ability of a landscape to accommodate change and considers the nature, scale and complexity of the landscape. Landscape sensitivity is defined with reference to a three point scale, outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Landscape Sensitivity	
Sensitivity	Classification Criteria
High	Landscape of particularly highly valued character and scenic quality, considered susceptible to relatively small changes e.g. within a designated landscape or recognised as an iconic or important feature of the North Lanarkshire landscape
Medium	Landscape of local value, quality or rarity, exhibiting some distinct features, considered tolerant of some degree of change e.g. within a landscape typical of much of North Lanarkshire or with landscape elements of local importance.
Low	Landscape of lower scenic quality, with few distinctive elements or valued characteristics and considered tolerant of a large degree of change e.g. within a degraded or heavily developed landscape.

It should be noted that appraisal of landscape sensitivity has identified an overall rating for each Local Landscape Unit. It is recognised that the sensitivity to development will vary across each landscape unit, with localised areas of higher and lower sensitivity.



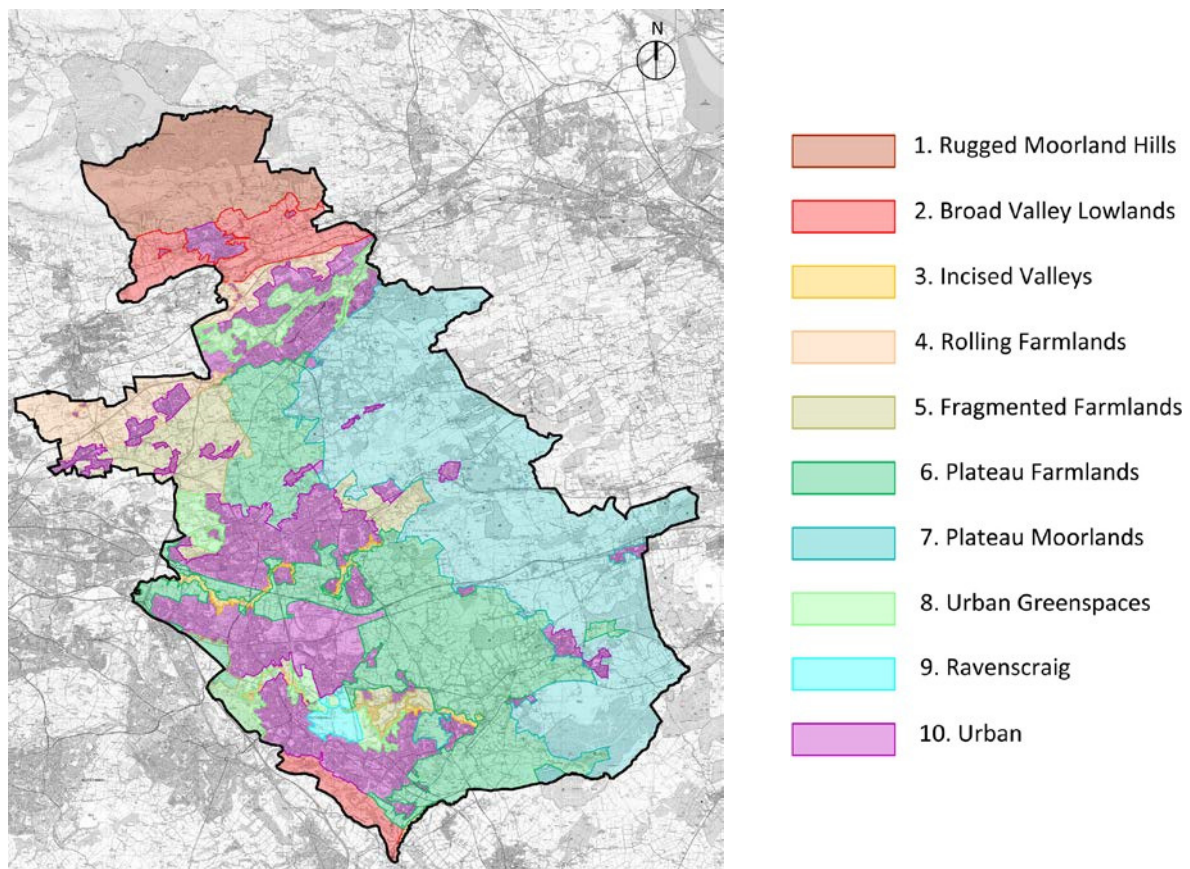
### 3 LOCAL LANDSCAPE UNITS

Landscape character can be described at different levels of detail, from broad national character areas to local level character units. The most recent landscape character assessment of the North Lanarkshire area was undertaken in 2014 by Land Use Consultants (for the Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Authority) as part of the *Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Turbine Development in Glasgow and the Clyde Valley*. The Landscape Capacity Study covers a large area of central Scotland and identifies and provides a description of a series of Landscape Character Types (LCT). Reference is made to the LCTs, and relevant key characteristics, identified within the previous studies (*Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Turbine Development in Glasgow and the Clyde Valley* and *Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Landscape Assessment*).

The purpose of this assessment is to evaluate and identify local landscape character units found within North Lanarkshire. The initial stage of the assessment has involved reviewing the boundaries and extents of the previously identified LCTs at a more local level. This has resulted in some changes to the boundaries and the identification of an additional LCT at Ravenscraig. Figure 1, below, shows the 10 LCTs that have been identified by the study within North Lanarkshire.

The reason for including Ravenscraig (former steelworks) as a new LCT is that although the area is presently a series of open spaces, it will ultimately be developed for a variety of (mainly residential) uses. This is an area in flux and over the next decade is anticipated to completely change from its present character.

**Figure 1: Landscape Character Types**

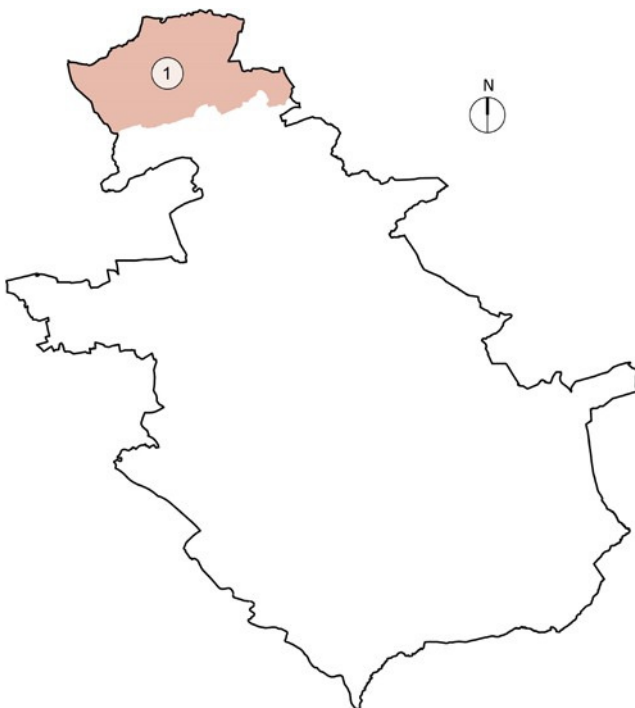


An assessment of each of the LCT has been undertaken and a series of smaller scale Local Landscape Units (LLU) identified, as described in the following text and shown on Figure 2.

## 1. Rugged Moorland Hills

*The previous studies identify the following key characteristics of the Rugged Moorland Hills LCT:*

- Distinctive upland character created by the combination of elevation, exposure, rugged landform, moorland vegetation and the predominant lack of modern development;
- These areas share a sense of apparent naturalness and remoteness which contrasts strongly with the farmed and developed lowland areas; and
- Presence of archaeological sites on hilltops and sides.



Whilst the above key characteristics remain relevant to the wider Rugged Moorland Hills LCT, the following provides a description of the landscape character at a local level. A single Local Landscape Unit has been identified in North Lanarkshire: Kilsyth Hills.

### 1 - Kilsyth Hills

The Kilsyth Hills Local Landscape Unit is found in the extreme north of the area. The hills are part of a larger expanse of basalt geology, overlain by large uplands typified by rough grassland, some peat moorland and summits of approximately 400-600m. This LLU is part of a larger expanse of the Rugged Moorland Hills LCT, which extends westwards into East Dunbartonshire, north towards Stirling and east towards Falkirk.

**Topographical characteristics:** The Kilsyth Hills are a large scale landscape feature that rises steeply to the north from the Kelvin Valley, forming physical and visual enclosure to the northern area of North Lanarkshire. They are predominately rounded hills, with an overlay of moorland soils, which in places have eroded to leave areas of exposed basalt rock.

**Openness and inter-visibility:** This landscape is characterised by a strong sense of openness and exposure, particularly from the upper slopes, with wide panoramic views southwards over much of North

Lanarkshire. This delivers a high degree of inter-visibility, where the hills also feature as a prominent element in the setting of a number of adjacent landscape units and a backdrop to nearby settlements. The Kilsyth Hills are particularly dominant as a feature from within the Kelvin Valley, immediately to the south. The Kilsyth Hills landscape is bisected by a ridge that runs west-east, south of which is open moorland, overlooking much of North Lanarkshire. North of the ridge, extensive forestry plantations result in a locally increased sense of enclosure. The geometric shapes and strong edge of the forestry often appears unrelated to the underlying landform, although current and future woodland management will see a gradual transition to more natural, mixed woodland, particularly along the watercourses.

**Settlement and man-made influences:** Settlement within this area is largely limited to occasional farms, generally found on the lower slopes. There is archaeological evidence of historic settlement on many of the summits along the ridgeline. Modern development within the character area is limited to a minimal road network, being a singletrack road north from Kilsyth ("Tak-Ma-Doon road"), forestry tracks and small buildings and an overhead power line along the lower slopes.

The extensive plantations to the north of the ridgeline extending to Carron Valley Reservoir are an obviously artificial feature. However, excepting a large plantation area north of Banton, these are restricted to the area north of the ridgeline, and the slopes south of the ridgeline are largely untouched and free of obvious human influence. As indicated above, proposed woodland management will see a gradual transition to more natural, mixed woodland.

**Land use:** North of the ridgeline, the land use is a mixture of forestry plantation (coniferous) and open moorland for sheep grazing. South of the ridgeline, the open moorland is again predominately sheep grazing, with some cattle grazing closer to the fringe areas near Kilsyth.

**Landscape pattern and field boundaries:** The moorland areas of the hills are typified by an open character, with post and wire fences used only to contain small areas such as the viewpoint car park on Tak-Ma-Doon road. The open and unrestrained sheep grazing of the moorland areas has resulted in a rough grassland character, with areas of heath and some wet areas. On the lower slopes, along the fringe of this LLU there is a more defined landscape pattern of smaller fields of semi-improved grassland. These fields are generally enclosed by irregular stone walls, remnant fragmented hedgerows and post and wire fences.

**Landscape quality and condition:** The limited development and general sense of naturalness indicates a landscape of high quality. On the lower slopes hedgerows are often fragmented or over mature. However, this does not have a strong influence of the overall impression of the landscape quality or condition.

**Value of the landscape:** The upland, largely undeveloped nature of this landscape provides a contrast to the adjacent more settled and developed landscapes to the south. The hills are a prominent feature in the North Lanarkshire area with open views, vistas and are a part of larger regionally important landscape feature. The undeveloped nature of this landscape unit and its importance as a backdrop to adjacent landscapes and settlements results in a high landscape value.

**Sensitivity to future development:** The value of the Kilsyth Hills landscape character area is a result of its largely undeveloped nature and importance as a contrasting feature. The character of this LLU is therefore considered to be highly sensitive to development as the introduction of artificial structures could adversely affect the key characteristics and value of the landscape.

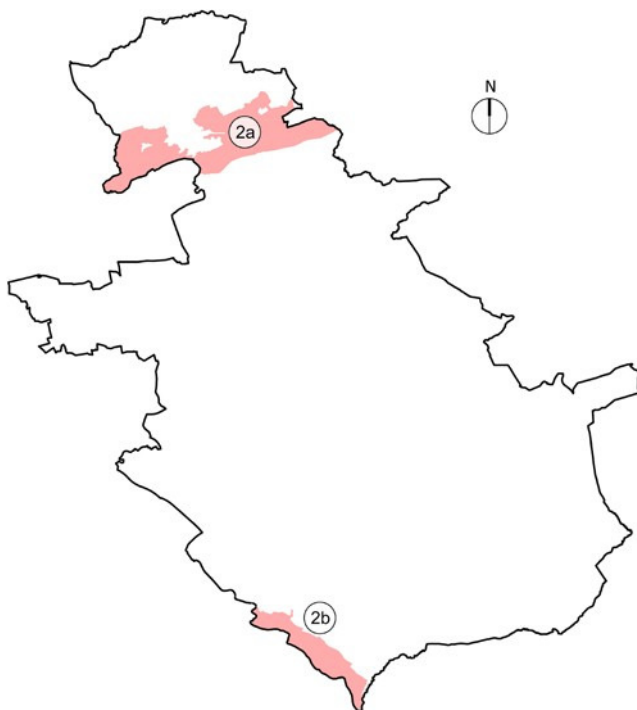
#### Summary

- Large scale, open and exposed landscape which contrasts strongly with the adjacent settled lowland valley and rolling farmland.
- Highly valued as a contrasting backdrop and setting to adjacent landscape units and settlements.
- The strong sense of naturalness and remoteness and the high landscape value indicate a **high sensitivity** to development

## 2. Broad Valley Lowlands

*The previous studies identify the following key characteristics of the Broad Valley Lowlands LCT:*

- Wide flat bottomed valley;
- Presence of water bodies, wetlands and rivers;
- Transport routes and settlements along the valley sides;
- Transition from arable to rough grazing from the valley floor to the high valley sides;
- Historic sites and communication routes along the valley sides; and
- Presence of farm and policy woodland.



Whilst the above key characteristics remain relevant to the wider Broad Valley Lowlands LCT, the following provides a description of the landscape character at a local level. Two Local Landscape Units have been identified within North Lanarkshire: River Kelvin Valley; and Clyde Valley.

### **2a – River Kelvin Valley**

The River Kelvin extends from the base of the Campsie Fells west of North Lanarkshire, along the base of the Kilsyth Hills and eastwards, past Banton towards Denny. The character area is bordered to the north by the Kilsyth Hills and to the south by the Antonine Wall.

The valley is typical of the wider LCT, being broad and open and containing both the River Kelvin and the Forth and Clyde Canal along the flat floor. In addition, it contains extensive communication and transport routes running west-east along the valley floor, including railway, roads and telecommunication and overhead transmission lines.



**Topographical characteristics:** Broad open valley with flat floor and steeply sloping sides, including the steep and occasionally craggy lower slopes of the Kilsyth Hills to the north. The topography is of medium to large scale, with limited views out of the valley, particularly from its base. There are a number of water bodies, ponds and small reservoirs located along the valley floor.

**Openness and inter-visibility:** The valley is relatively open, with linear views along its length. Views out of the valley are more restricted by the rising topography of the side slopes. Views into the valley from both the north (Kilsyth Hills) and the south (along the Antonine Wall) are extensive, with the entire valley visible from some viewpoints in the Kilsyth Hills. There is a strong visual connection and relationship with the adjacent Kilsyth Hills.

**Settlement and man-made influences:** The valley is relatively well settled, with the majority of development focussed around the large town of Kilsyth. Two other small settlements (Queenzieburn and Banton) are also present. Much of the remaining settlement consists of scattered farms and houses. A number of other structures and man-made influences are also present, including a number of active and disused quarries, the Forth and Clyde Canal, railway, transport routes and overhead transmission lines. There are also a number of blocks of plantation forestry which often form strong geometric shapes, unrelated to the underlying landform.

The Antonine Wall that marks the southern extent of the valley is part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site and is an important historic feature. The Antonine Wall and other features highlight the human influence, occupation and management of this landscape over a long period of time.

**Land use:** The land use of this LLU varies and includes; urban, forestry plantation, arable land and pasture. There are heavy influences on the landscape due to transport and communications infrastructure, including the various road and rail corridors, pylon routes, canal (and associated infrastructure) and the presence of Cumbernauld Airport to the south east, but just outwith this LLU. There is also an extensive recreational access network, which includes the canal towpaths, footpaths, cycleways and linked open spaces, improving informal penetration throughout the area.

**Landscape pattern and field boundaries:** The field patterns are well defined, rigid and regular with managed farmlands combining both arable and livestock farming. There are both fence and hedge field boundaries with hedgerow trees, small and medium sized copses and small woodlands. The nature of the field patterns and containment changes from being mostly arable land with hedgerows, to pasture fields defined by fences or stone walls, where the valley floor meets the slopes.

**Landscape quality and condition:** The majority of this LLU, and particularly the valley floor, is actively managed and well cared for. Some areas have been developed to provide increased wildlife habitat opportunities. In some areas hedgerows have become fragmented but other field boundaries are generally well maintained.

**Value of the landscape:** There are a number of important cultural heritage assets and features within this landscape, including the Antonine Wall, the Forth and Clyde Canal. These features and a series of other paths and recreation and leisure assets, such as Colzium Estate and Auchinstarry Basin add to the value of this landscape. Much of this landscape is heavily managed, with clearly defined field boundaries. However, there are also less managed, habitat rich areas along the valley floor which have been developed as part of recent agri-environmental schemes.

**Sensitivity to future development:** The River Kelvin Valley LLU is a distinct landscape within North Lanarkshire, defined by a broad valley with a diverse land use and variable pattern. This is a relatively well settled landscape with development largely focussed around the settlement of Kilsyth. The value as a setting to adjacent settlements, the Forth and Clyde Canal, Antonine Wall and other historic features and the connection with the adjacent rugged moorland hills increases the sensitivity of this landscape. This LLU is considered to be of medium to high sensitivity to development.

There is some potential to accommodate further development within this LLU without adversely affecting its character. However, care is required to ensure this development is of a scale and type appropriate to the landscape character and context. It is suggested that where possible, future development is focused on existing brownfield areas, of which there are many within the existing settlements.

#### Summary

- Medium to large scale, broad, open valley with a flat floor containing the River Kelvin and Forth and Clyde Canal.
- Well settled landscape with extensive communication and transport infrastructure.
- Wealth of cultural heritage assets and valued as a setting to Kilsyth and smaller towns.
- **Medium to high landscape sensitivity**, tolerant of some well-designed, appropriate development. Areas important to the setting of cultural heritage assets have increased sensitivity.

### 2b – Clyde Valley

The Clyde Valley is a large, regionally important area that passes through a number of local authorities. Part of the north side of the Clyde Valley is within North Lanarkshire, the south side being in South Lanarkshire. Within the North Lanarkshire area, the Clyde Valley is a medium to large scale broad lowland valley.

**Topographical characteristics:** The northern valley slopes feature a number of wooded areas and rise up to farmland and urban character types beyond the slope ridge. The valley floor is smooth and flat, obviously fertile and has therefore been extensively farmed. To the south of the valley floor, the slope is less steep and less wooded than to the north. The valley broadens out in the north west of the LLU, with a greater number of open water bodies, some of which are included in the Baron's Haugh Nature Reserve.

**Openness and inter-visibility:** The valley floor is very open in its northern section and there are views along the valley to the north west and the south east. Further towards Garrion Bridge, the valley becomes more contained by slopes. Deeply incised valleys spur off the main broad valley to the north and south, each of which have very limited and contained views into and out of the incisions.

There are views from areas to the north and the south into the broad valley area from adjacent character types, in addition to good views into the Clyde Valley from the extensive road networks that cross the valley.

**Settlement and man-made influences:** Whilst there are no settlements within this character area, there are a number of farmsteads, farm buildings and other related structures within the valley area.

In the south eastern end of the area, there is an extensive network of vehicular access routes servicing the various farms, and are generally in poor condition. North west of the Carbarns wood and orchards, the access network is considerably more developed, including access to the sewage works at Lower Carbarns.

Within Dalzell Park and Baron's Haugh Nature Reserve, the access network is again extensive and recreation oriented. Along the entire length of the River Clyde through this area, the Clyde Walkway forms a comprehensive footpath corridor of regional importance.

**Land use:** The dominant land use in this LLU is farming, both arable and grazing. Baron's Haugh Nature Reserve is located to the north western end of the North Lanarkshire area and includes the extensive valley floor wetlands.

**Landscape pattern and field boundaries:** There are well established field patterns on both north and south valley slopes, separated by hedgerows and areas of woodland. Field patterns are consistent along the entire valley and extend outwith the area to the north and south.

**Landscape quality and condition:** This is a generally well maintained and cared for landscape. Many of the hedgerows have become fragmented or have been lost due to more intensive farming methods. However, these don't have a significant influence on the overall quality or condition of the LLU.

**Value of the landscape:** The limited settlement and farmed nature of the valley contrasts with the adjacent, extensive, urban areas to the north. The nationally important Dalzell Park Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL) and the Baron's Haugh Nature Reserve also increase the value of this landscape.

**Sensitivity to future development:** The value and key characteristics of this LLU relate to the limited settlement and overall impression of a well-cared for agricultural landscape. The valley provides a contrast to the adjacent large urban areas to the north. This landscape is therefore highly sensitive to development which does not relate to its agricultural character.

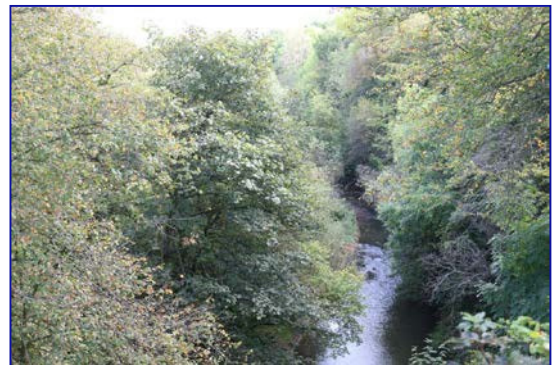
#### **Summary**

- Medium to large scale, agricultural landscape which contrasts with the extensive urban areas to the north.
- Highly valued as a contrast to more developed and settled landscapes to the north and as part of the wider Clyde Valley landscape.
- The largely undeveloped nature and high landscape value indicate a **high sensitivity** to development.

### 3. Incised Valleys

*The previous studies identify the following key characteristics of the Incised Valleys LCT:*

- Narrow, steeply sided valleys, cut deeply into plateau farmlands;
- Rich broadleaf woodlands on steep valley sides;
- Agriculture where valleys are wide enough with a mixture of pastures, arable, market gardens and orchards;
- Series of policy landscapes, castles and other historic sites;
- Linear villages and winding roads;
- Focal role of rivers and tributaries; and
- Rich, sheltered and settled areas, often hidden within the wider landscape.



Whilst the above key characteristics remain relevant to the wider Incised Valleys LCT, the following provides a description of the landscape character at a local level. Three Local Landscape Units have been identified within North Lanarkshire: North Calder Water; South Calder Water; and Garrion Burn.

#### **3a – North Calder Water**

The North Calder Water LLU is separated into two sections; between Broomhouse and Carnbroe, and Calderbank and Moffat Mills. The short section of the watercourse, between Carnbroe and Calderbank is within a flatter, more open valley and as such is not included within the Incised Valley landscape. The North Calder Water valley also incorporates the North Calder Heritage Trail footpath/cycleway.

**Topographical characteristics:** This is a small scale landscape, defined by a narrow incised river valley. The valley sides are steeply sloping and often wooded, and cut through the surrounding landscape. The character of the adjacent LLUs can have an influence on the impression of this landscape, particularly when it passes through or adjacent to urban areas.



**Openness and inter-visibility:** Views into adjacent areas from within this LLU are severely restricted by topography. Views along the valleys are also severely restricted due to the winding nature of the valley and prevalence of woodland. Within the western section of this LLU, to the west of Bankhead Farm, the banks of the valley are less wooded and views into and out are increased as a result. This includes views into the valley from the A752 corridor, as it crosses the valley between Aitkenhead and Woodlands.

Although the adjacent landscape is elevated with respect to the incised valleys, the wooded nature of the valley sides limits and restricts views into this LLU, except where urban development encroaches into the fringes (for example at Carnbroe) and where road bridges cross the valley at elevated levels (e.g. the A73 Monkland Bridge crossing).

**Settlement and man-made influences:** This LLU is relatively free from man-made influences, excepting where the valleys are crossed by elevated road and rail links. There is limited development within the valley floor (restricted to tips, small quarries (disused) and limited residential), and occasionally within the valley sides (mostly small residential, such as west of Monkland Bridge), localised development where the slopes are less steep and easily accessed from the road network.

**Land use:** Some recreational use along footpaths and cycleways such as the North Calder Heritage Trail. Very limited farming, restricted to the broader valley areas west of Bankhead Farm.

**Landscape pattern and field boundaries:** There is no field pattern in the central and eastern sections of the North Calder Water valley, since the valley floor is too narrow and difficult to access. West of the A725, there are limited fields on the valley floor, but these are largely formed by the meandering course of the river, and therefore are of irregular size and shape, becoming more regular as the valley broadens west of the A752 crossing.

**Landscape quality and condition:** The quality and condition of this LLU varies considerably along its length and is strongly influenced by the nature of the adjacent landscape. Where the LLU passes through the Plateau Farmland LCT, the quality and condition is generally high, whereas when it passes through or adjacent to urban areas it can appear unmanaged and poorly cared for.

**Value of the landscape:** This LLU provides a green and generally undeveloped corridor through other landscape types and is a valuable wildlife and recreational resource. Where adjacent to urban areas the LLU is also valued as a setting to the settlements.

**Sensitivity to future development:** The steeply sloping sides and narrow valley floor would limit the potential for development within this LLU. The small scale, enclosed, wooded and largely undeveloped nature of this LLU leads to a medium to high sensitivity to development.

#### Summary

- Small scale, enclosed narrow valley in an incised channel, cut through the surrounding landscape.
- Valued as a contrasting, intimate landscape and as a recreation and wildlife resource.
- The small scale and largely undeveloped nature of this LLU results in a **medium to high sensitivity** to development.

### 3b – South Calder Water

The South Calder Water LLU extends from Strathclyde Country Park in the west to Allanton in the east. This LLU is bisected by the Ravenscraig development area, through which the South Calder Water is culverted from Calder Park to Carfin Bridge. East of the Ravenscraig culvert, the South Calder valley is steeply incised through a narrow wooded valley. West of the Ravenscraig culvert, the valley sides are less comprehensively wooded and more open.

**Topographical characteristics:** Steeply sloped, narrow and heavily incised valley. Slopes are wooded and descend to a narrow valley floor, with little flat floor area other than the river course.

**Openness and inter-visibility:** The landscape character of this valley area is wooded and due to the meandering course of the river, views along, into, and out of the valley are short distance, if present at all. There is little opportunity to view into the valley from the adjacent landscape, due to the steepness and wooded nature of the sides.

Towards the western end of the South Calder Water valley, the slopes are less incised and the landscape is more open as it approaches the Strathclyde Country Park, resulting in increased inter-visibility, particularly where the water course runs near to the southern boundary of the Bellshill Golf Course.

**Settlement and man-made influences:** Much of the South Calder Water valley is enclosed on at least one side by urban development. Within the valley there is only minimal development, limited to some minor field pattern, historic remains (Orbistan and Jerviston Houses) and a water treatment plant. Within some of the less steep sections of valley sides in the western section of the valley, there is public access via a limited footpath network. However, in the central and eastern sections, the valley sides are generally too steep and wooded, resulting in limited or no public access.

**Land use:** East of Ravenscraig, there is generally no active land use within the valleys, the banks being too steep and wooded to enable commercial or recreational access. West of Ravenscraig, there is greater use of the land, particularly the valley floor areas, predominately for recreation and public access along the river to Strathclyde Country Park.

**Landscape pattern and field boundaries:** There is no formal field pattern, the valley area being compartmentalised only by land ownership boundaries and occasionally by the interruption of the valley by transport (road and rail) or pedestrian access pathways.

**Landscape quality and condition:** There is some variation in quality and condition within this landscape, often informed by the nature of the adjacent landscape. Much of this LLU is unmanaged woodland, although sections adjacent to urban areas tend to be managed for recreation.

**Value of the landscape:** This LLU is valued as a recreational resource, particularly when adjacent to urban areas, and provides a link to areas of greenspace, including Strathclyde Country Park.

**Sensitivity to future development:** The steeply sloping sides and narrow valley floor would limit the potential for development. The key characteristics of this LLU relate to its undeveloped, narrow, wooded and enclosed nature. This landscape is therefore of medium to high sensitivity to development which would adversely affect these characteristics. There may be some limited scope for sympathetic recreational development, such as an expansion of the footpath network, in more western areas.

#### Summary

- Small scale, enclosed, wooded valley with limited settlement or development.
- Valued as a recreational resource and link between urban areas and larger areas of greenspace.
- The small scale, enclosed and largely undeveloped nature of this LLU result in a landscape that is of **medium to high sensitivity** to development.

### 3c – Garrion Burn

The Garrion Burn runs north east from the Clyde Valley and forms part of the southernmost boundary of North Lanarkshire. The valley forms a clear incision within the surrounding farmland areas.

**Topographical characteristics:** Very steeply incised valley, with Garrion Burn water course running along the floor. The valley is narrow and forms the Local Authority boundary as it progresses north east from the broader Clyde Valley.

**Openness and inter-visibility:** Very enclosed, steeply incised and generally heavily wooded slopes and narrow floor. From the surrounding farmland areas, the valley is only visible as the canopies of the trees are seen cutting across the plateau farmland.

**Settlement and man-made influences:** There is no settlement within this LLU. However, an adjacent residential cluster at Blairs Orchard, and a smaller group of farm buildings, east of Overtown at the top of the steep banks has a local influence. Part of the valley (accessed from Blairs Orchard) forms the Garrion Gill Nature Reserve.

**Land use:** The inaccessible nature of the valley, combined with its steepness and wooded nature, has prevented active land use of this LLU.

**Landscape pattern and field boundaries:** There is no field pattern within the valley, as there are no fields on the slopes and the floor is too narrow to provide accessible space for fields.

**Landscape quality and condition:** There is very limited active land use or management of this area. However, the undeveloped, heavily wooded and unspoiled nature indicates a high landscape quality.

**Value of the landscape:** This LLU is valued as a recreational resource, with informal footpaths and is also part of the wider Garrion Gill Nature Reserve.

**Sensitivity to future development:** The key characteristics, quality and value of this landscape relate to its undeveloped nature and the general lack of human influence. This landscape is therefore of medium to high sensitivity to development.

#### Summary

- Small scale, undeveloped, enclosed and deeply incised wooded valley.
- Highly valued as a largely unspoiled landscape, recreational resource and nature reserve.
- The undeveloped, enclosed, small scale nature of this landscape results in a **medium to high sensitivity** to development

## 4. Rolling Farmlands

*The previous studies identify the following key characteristics of the Rolling Farmlands LCT:*

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



Whilst the above key characteristics remain relevant to the wider Rolling Farmlands LCT, the following provides a description of the landscape character at a local level. Two Local Landscape Units have been identified within North Lanarkshire: an area south of the Kelvin Valley; and a more expansive area north of the A80 road corridor.

### **4a – Land south of Kelvin Valley**

This LLU is located to the south of the Kelvin Valley, as the landform slopes up from the valley and flattens out into a gently rolling landscape. The settlements of Dullatur and Cumbernauld form the southern edge of this LLU. This character area extends beyond the Local Authority boundary to the west, towards Castle Hill.

**Topographical characteristics:** A fluvio-glacial originated landform of medium scale that varies from rolling to almost flat plateau form, with some areas of steep gradient, including limited exposed rock faces (which have provided opportunities for quarrying) and deposits of sand and aggregate.

**Openness and inter-visibility:** The landform is very open and there is excellent inter-visibility with adjacent landscape character types, particularly those to the north. However, there are a number of woodlands and landform hillocks that locally restrict views within the character area.

The Kilsyth Hills in particular, are visible to some extent from almost all of this LLU. Because of this inter-visibility between character areas, the hills form a particularly prominent and close relationship with this LLU. Although it only forms a small section of this character area's boundary, the Forth and Clyde Canal along with its associated infrastructure and footpath network, is prominent within the landscape, and is a feature in views from more elevated parts of this LLU. There is a relatively small section of pylon supported transmission line within the western section of this LLU, but many of the extensive transmission and transport networks in the adjacent Kelvin Valley are visible features from within the rolling hills area.

**Settlement and man-made influences:** The entire southern boundary of this LLU is urban fringe, and this forms a prominent boundary and enclosure to this landscape. In addition, the settlement of Croy cuts into this landscape increasing the urban influence from adjacent LLUs. Man-made influences are prominent throughout this LLU. In addition to some farmland, most of the landscape is covered by a combination of quarries, golf courses, Cumbernauld Airport and heritage features, including the UNESCO World Heritage Antonine Wall site, roman forts and the course of the Roman military way. Within the western end of this character area there is a network of pylon supported transmission lines. In isolation, this network is significantly smaller and has less impact than those in adjacent character areas, but as it serves as a link between these surrounding networks, it forms a considerably larger network when viewed in association with the other areas.

**Land use:** Land use within this LLU is diverse and varied and includes golf courses, sand, stone and aggregate quarrying, farming and heritage evidence of former Roman land use. Circulation and transport within the character area is dominated by the east-west railway line which bisects the area and also forms the Local Authority boundary west of the B802. The railway is a major feature within the landscape and is prominent in views of the character area from the Kilsyth Hills. The road network is less extensive and has considerably less impact than in adjacent character areas, being restricted to the B802 and minor distributor roads around Croy. Towards the west of the character area, the increasing extent of both arable and pastoral farmland, serves to give the area a more rural character, which is more typical of the wider LCT and is more prevalent in the adjacent Local Authority area and the other rolling farmlands within North Lanarkshire to the south west.

**Landscape pattern and field boundaries:** The field pattern is well defined and often delineated by shelterbelt planting in addition to hedgerows and post and wire fencing. Within non farming areas, most notably the Antonine Wall and the numerous quarries in the character area, the boundaries are mostly hedgerows and shelterbelt tree planting.

**Landscape quality and condition:** The quality and condition of this landscape varies considerably, from the highly managed golf courses and arable land, to the former quarries and unmanaged future development land near Croy. The presence of a Croy Quarry and Cumbernauld Airport reduce the landscape quality.

**Value of the landscape:** This landscape is valued as a recreational resource, with several golf courses and links to the wider footpath network. It also provides a setting to the Antonine Wall UNESCO World Heritage Site and a series of settlements which combine to form its southern boundary.

**Sensitivity to future development:** This landscape is strongly influenced by human intervention and development. However, the importance as a setting to various cultural heritage features and to adjacent settlement leads to a medium sensitivity to development. Care is required to ensure any potential development would not adversely affect the local character or setting of the Antonine Wall.

#### Summary

- Medium to large scale, open landscape with a strong human influence.
- Some value as a recreational resource and setting to adjacent settlements and historic assets.
- Although there is a strong influence from existing development, the importance as a setting to the Antonine Wall and other historic features results in a **medium sensitivity** to development.

#### **4b – Farmland north of A80 Road Corridor**

This Local Landscape Unit is a large area that crosses the western Local Authority border, and extends northwards from the A80 road corridor towards Kirkintilloch.

**Topographical characteristics:** The fluvio-glacial formation has resulted in an even and regular rolling landform, with fertile soils and a structure ideal for agricultural use. The rolling nature is a result of numerous low and rounded hillocks, generally of less than 25m elevation, that cover the otherwise flatter landform. This LLU also includes a medium sized loch (Gadloch) in a glacially formed valley.

**Openness and inter-visibility:** The rolling and open nature of the landscape enables open views across the LLU, and good inter-visibility with the adjacent and surrounding landscape.

**Settlement and man-made influences:** Small settlements are present, such as Auchinloch, smallholdings and isolated farmsteads. The largest man-made influence is the extensive road network that runs throughout the landscape character area, providing good access, but also having a strong influence on the perception of the character of this area.

The regular field pattern and extensive agricultural land use indicates a highly managed landscape, heavily influenced by human intervention.

**Land use:** Agriculture is the predominant land use throughout the LLU, with small isolated urban settlements, some light industrial development such as quarrying, minor plantations and an extensive road network. There are small areas given over to golf course development, which has expanded the openness and managed appearance of the character area.

**Landscape pattern and field boundaries:** There is a regular field pattern with fenced and hedged boundaries, some hedgerow trees and minor copses. Numerous road corridors and minor accesses increase the already rigid field pattern, in addition to some drainage channels within the field pattern, which further compartmentalise the field network.

**Landscape quality and condition:** This is generally a well-managed and cared for landscape. In places, hedgerows have become fragmented but these do not have a strong influence on the overall impression of quality or condition. Noise from the road corridors can have a strong influence on the experience of this landscape.

**Value of the landscape:** This landscape is valued locally as a setting to adjacent urban areas and the M80 motorway. There is also some value as a recreational resource.

**Sensitivity to future development:** The strong influence of the M80 motorway and adjacent urban areas results in a low sensitivity to development. However, care is required to ensure development relates to the scale and nature of the local landscape.

##### **Summary**

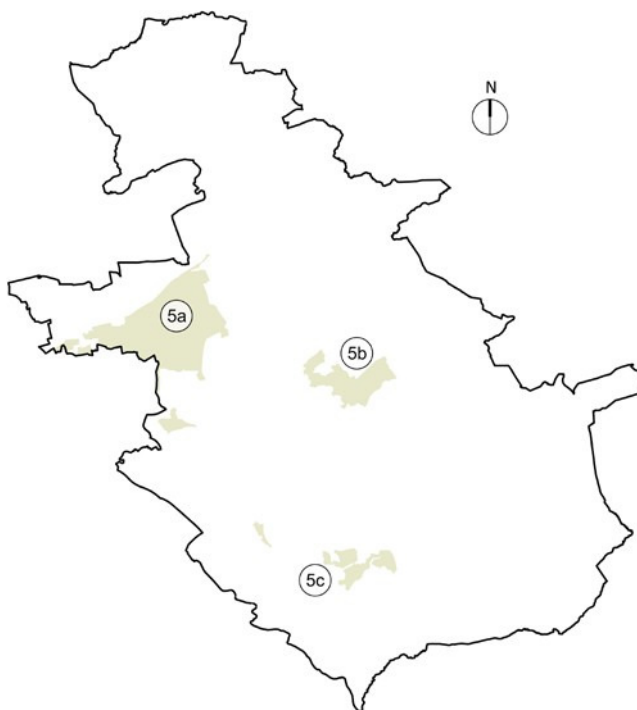
- Medium to large scale, open farmland landscape, influenced by the M80 motorway and associated noise.
- Some value as a setting to adjacent urban areas and the M80 and for recreational use.
- The influence from existing infrastructure development and adjacent urban areas results in a **low sensitivity** to development.



## 5. Fragmented Farmlands

*The previous studies identify the following key characteristics of the Fragmented Farmlands LCT:*

- A landform which ranges from gently undulating topography associates with the plateau farmlands to more hummocky patterns where fluvio-glacial action has created drumlins and eskers;
- Pockets of remnant pastoral farming, in some areas retaining a strong structure of hedges and trees, but in others suffering serious decline;
- Visual influence of the urban edge, of former and current industrial sites and transport infrastructure; and
- Urban fringe issues including blight, management decline and anti-social behaviour such as fly-tipping.



Whilst the above key characteristics remain relevant to the wider Fragmented Farmlands LCT, the following provides a description of the landscape character at a local level. Three Local Landscape Units have been identified within North Lanarkshire: an area on either side of the M73 corridor, south of the A80; an area immediately east of Airdrie; and an area north of the South Calder Water, west of the A73.

### **5a – Area either side of M73 Road Corridor, south of the A80**

This Local Landscape Unit extends across the Local Authority boundary, and covers the area south from the A80, towards the west side of Coatbridge. There are a number of water bodies and man-made features that disrupt the character of the area, deteriorating an already fragmented field pattern and any rhythm within the landscape.

**Topographical characteristics:** Within this LLU, the topography is generally undulating, with hummocky structures in the north, around Gartcosh and Glenboig. There are small valleys, some isolated hillocks, and open flat areas.

**Openness and inter-visibility:** There is a lack of visibility within the character area, excepting from locations atop the numerous small hills and higher undulation ridges. Views are further disrupted by the numerous plantations and road and rail corridors within the LLU.

Views into and out of the LLU are similarly disrupted due to the unevenness of the topography and the presence of visually disruptive features such as settlements and road/rail corridors, which form many of its boundaries.

**Settlement and man-made influences:** A number of settlements border and are wholly within the LLU. There is an extensive road and rail network, including major motorway corridors, which have a strong influence on the character of the area. Road and rail corridors also serve to isolate island areas, and although some of the rail network is now disused, they still have an influence on the landscape structure.

There are a number of overhead transmission lines, whose pylons are prominent within the landscape, in addition to telecommunications masts in the north of the character area. Many of these transmission lines and telecommunication masts are sky-lined and are therefore prominent features in the landscape, the impact of which varies depending upon lighting conditions.

**Land use:** The land use pattern across this character area can be confused and disjointed. There are isolated areas of farmland, plantations, golf courses, urban settlements and industry and also larger areas of more consistent farmland, exhibiting a strong rural character. There are a number of water bodies, some of which have recreational uses, both artificial (disused quarries) and natural in origin.

The many scattered farmsteads vary considerably in size, many of which also incorporate alternative uses in addition to agriculture. There is considerable evidence of former light industry, including stretches of disused railway and redundant quarries.

The LLU contains a complex and unplanned road network, which is a combination of local roads and tracks to large scale motorway corridors, disrupting the land use pattern across the area.

**Landscape pattern and field boundaries:** The fragmented farmlands differ from the plateau farmlands because they lack structure and uniformity. The size and shape and the boundary treatments of fields are irregular. All of this serves to break up cohesion within the landscape and results in a complex and disjointed pattern.

**Landscape quality and condition:** The quality and condition of this LLU varies considerably, from well managed farmland to abandoned and unmanaged former industrial land. The variable nature of this landscape results in areas of both good and poor landscape quality and condition.

**Value of the landscape:** The often fragmented, incoherent pattern of parts of this landscape reduces its value. However, there is some value as a recreational resource and as a setting to and division between the adjacent settlements.

**Sensitivity to future development:** The variable nature of this landscape, with locally strong influence of existing development and infrastructure and areas of more consistent rural character results in a low to medium sensitivity to development. Care should be taken to ensure development is carefully sited and designed to fit with the local character and not result in further fragmentation.

#### Summary

- Varied land use and inconsistent pattern, locally influenced by roads and other infrastructure.
- Some value as a setting to urban areas and routes, with areas of consistent rural character.
- The variable nature of this landscape results in a **low to medium sensitivity** to development.



### 5b – Area east of Airdrie

This is an irregular LLU, heavily disrupted by man-made influences that have resulted in a landscape which consists of elements typical to a number of other Landscape Character Types, but lacking a coherent structure.

**Topographical characteristics:** Rolling landscape, with valleys and small hummocks. The area is mostly formed through glacial action and this has resulted in the smooth landform, with areas of aggregate and soil deposits, through which water action has produced localised valleys and cuttings.

**Openness and inter-visibility:** The adjacent LLUs are mostly elevated and afford views into the fragmented landscape, although these views are often disrupted by plantations and other features. Within the LLU, there are short and medium distance views, although these are also disrupted by plantations and other features.

**Settlement and man-made influences:** There are numerous small developments and farms within this LLU, although they are generally isolated and small scale. There is extensive evidence of former light industry throughout the landscape, which manifests in derelict sites and dismantled infrastructure such as the remains of the rail network. An overhead power line also passes through the west of this area and is locally prominent. The adjacent urban area of Airdrie has a local influence on the impression of this landscape.

**Land use:** The dominant land use is farming, although the field system is very disjointed and inconsistent due to the topographic and human influences such as the various former quarries, railways and other legacy features. There are plantations in the eastern portion of this area and due to rotational felling programmes these are also disjointed and inconsistent.

**Landscape pattern and field boundaries:** The field pattern lacks cohesion and is a mixture of post and timber rail, post and wire fences and hedgerows. Many of the hedgerows have trees, though the lack of consistency is sometimes confusing to the observer.

The many (now disused and dismantled) railway corridors that cross the character area, in addition to the live railway corridor, serve to further compartmentalise the landscape in a pattern unsympathetic with the field system, and also introduce an additional boundary fencing type.

**Landscape quality and condition:** Inconsistency within the landscape and general confusion within the field pattern has resulted in a lack of structure, lacking natural features, and instead showing a dominant character of dereliction and decline. This is particularly noticeable in the disjointed field pattern and the proliferation of disused industrial sites and railways. The area south east of the railway is generally more actively managed and in better condition than the area to the north.

**Value of the landscape:** The fragmented, incoherent pattern of this landscape reduces its value. However, there is some value as a recreational resource and as a setting to the adjacent urban areas of Airdrie and Plains.

**Sensitivity to future development:** The fragmented nature and influence from past and present development, adjacent urban areas and infrastructure elements results in a low sensitivity to change. There may be scope for future development to help improve the structure and quality of the landscape.

#### Summary

- Medium to large scale landscape with a fragmented and disjointed pattern, influenced by development.
- Some value as a setting to adjacent urban areas and locally as a recreational resource.
- The strong influence from existing development and infrastructure and the fragmented, incoherent pattern result in a **low sensitivity** to development

### 5c – Area north of the South Calder Water

This LLU is similar to the larger Plateau Farmland LCT, which borders it to the north and east. However, land use is characterised by being more fragmented and disjointed, with numerous former railway corridors and a greater extent of disruption of the landscape pattern.

**Topographical characteristics:** An undulating small to medium scale landform, including small hummocks and water course valleys. This LLU borders more open farmlands to the north and east, and an incised valley to the south and west. To the north of the fragmented farmlands, the bordering areas are urban and plateau farmlands, both of which are on flatter land, with less rolling landform.

**Openness and inter-visibility:** There is little inter-visibility with the Incised Valley LCT to the south, due to the steep and wooded nature of the valley slopes. The area south of the incised valley is the urban settlement of Coltness, the northern edge and properties of which enjoy occasional limited views of the fragmented farmland over the incised valley.

The northern boundaries of this character area are a combination of urban settlement, from which there is limited inter-visibility, and Plateau Farmlands LCT, where there are medium range views from some of the higher elevations.

**Settlement and man-made influences:** The character of this area is heavily influenced by extensive farming and legacy features such as the disused railway that runs through the LLU. The road network also serves to segregate the area, and as it has developed to take advantage of crossing points in the adjacent incised valley, forms an irregular pattern through the landscape. The considerable woods and plantations serve to further compartmentalise the area, resulting in increased fragmentation and landscape inconsistency.

**Land use:** Within this LLU, the present dominant land use is farming, mostly pastoral due to the quality of the land, with some minor arable areas. Recreation is also prominent to the north west of the character area, including Dalziel Park Golf Course and the playing fields east of the BOC oxygen plant.

**Landscape pattern and field boundaries:** The field pattern is inconsistent through the character area and is mostly dictated by a combination of landform and human influences such as road and rail corridors. Field boundaries are likewise inconsistent, being a mixture of hedges and fences of various types.

**Landscape quality and condition:** With areas of intensive management, such as Dalziel Park Golf Course and areas of no obvious active land use or management, the quality and condition of this landscape varies considerably. Hedgerows are often fragmented or over mature, particularly along the former railway corridor.

**Value of the landscape:** There is some value as a recreational resource, particularly in the north west of the LLU. There is also some value as a setting to and important division between adjacent settlements.

**Sensitivity to future development:** The fragmented and disjointed nature of this landscape and the influence from adjacent urban and industrial development results in a low sensitivity to development. However, care should be taken to ensure that the landscape value as a division between urban areas is not significantly affected by future development.

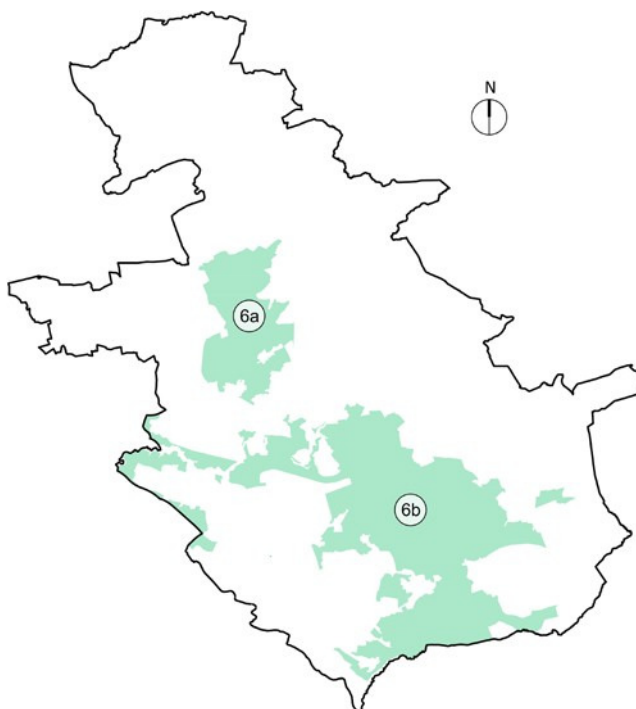
#### Summary

- Medium scale landscape consisting largely of agricultural and recreational land uses within a fragmented and inconsistent pattern.
- Some value for recreation and as a setting to and division between adjacent urban areas.
- **Low sensitivity** to development due to the fragmented nature and influence from adjacent urban and industrial development.

## 6. Plateau Farmlands

*The previous studies identify the following key characteristics of the Plateau Farmlands LCT:*

- Extensive, gently undulating landform;
- Dominance of pastoral farming, but with some mosses surviving;
- Limited and declining tree cover;
- Visually prominent settlements and activities such as mineral working, and
- The rural character of the Plateau Farmland has suffered as tree cover has declined and the visual influence of settlements, transport infrastructure and mineral working has increased.



Whilst the above key characteristics remain relevant to the wider Plateau Farmlands LCT, the following provides a description of the landscape character at a local level. Two Local Landscape Units have been identified within North Lanarkshire: an area north of Coatbridge and Airdrie; and a larger area south from Coatbridge and Airdrie.

### **6a – Northern Plateau Farmland**

The northern Plateau Farmland LLU is a considerable band of farmland north of Coatbridge and Airdrie, and south of Cumbernauld. The plateau farmlands separate the large Plateau Moorland Landscape Character Type to the east, from the Fragmented Farmlands to the west. The area is typified by a mix of arable and pastoral agriculture, set within a fairly rigid and settled field pattern, with frequent plantations and more natural stands of trees.

**Topographical characteristics;** The plateau farmland is located within a flat or gently undulating topography, the frequency of the low hills and shallow valleys varying from gently undulating to almost flat. As the topography becomes flatter, the openness of the landscape generally also increases, resulting in a more open landscape to the east of the LLU. Within the western parts of this area, the undulating nature of the landscape becomes more pronounced and this is reflected in the complexity of the landscape and land use (as illustrated by the increasingly complex field pattern).

**Openness and inter-visibility:** The underlying topography is undulating, which results in open views from elevated areas within the LLU, thereby enabling medium to long distance views both across the LLU and into adjacent character areas. Within the lower elevations and troughs, the views remain open, but of reduced visibility. Many of these troughs and their land-uses are not visible from adjacent LLUs. Generally the road pattern does not follow the contours, and therefore road users experience changing openness and views as they pass through the LLU. In addition, the frequent plantations and groups of trees impact upon inter-visibility by reducing the available views.

**Settlement and man-made influences:** Settlement within this area is largely limited to scattered farms and houses, although there are also a number of small settlements. However, this landscape shows considerable human influence, including extensive field patterns, road network and farmsteads that cover the entire character area. The well-defined field pattern includes a number of plantations and woodlands that serve as boundary features, enhancing the perception of management and human influence.

The road pattern within this LLU is both extensive and complex, linking the various developments, farmsteads and settlements both within this area and to those in adjacent character areas. Field accesses are generally directly onto the roads, resulting in a disjointed and complex road network. The impact of transport networks is increased by the rail track that bisects the northern part of the character area, and a formerly more extensive, but now disused, railway network, the infrastructure for which remains as a feature within the landscape.

The perception of human influence is further increased by the numerous overhead lines and pylons that cross the landscape, in both north-south and east-west alignments. The area also includes evidence of former quarrying, with numerous small to medium sized disused quarries in the northern section of the area, and opencast workings near the A73 at Pinwinnie and Stand.

**Land use:** The dominant land use is farming, both arable and pastoral. There is a nature reserve at Luggiebank Wood, south west of Greenfaulds, and a number of former quarries that have become recreation opportunities for angling. The well-established field pattern also incorporates an extensive footpath network that links the woodlands and follows the numerous water courses within the LLU.

**Landscape pattern and field boundaries:** The field pattern is well established, derived from a combination of topography and the existing road network. The field boundaries are mostly post and wire fencing, with hedgerows and hedgerow trees.

**Landscape quality and condition:** This landscape is generally well managed and cared for with a consistent rural character. There are some former industrial and open cast sites which can locally reduce the quality of the landscape.

**Value of the landscape:** There is some local value for recreation and also as a setting to the adjacent urban areas of Cumbernauld, Coatbridge and Airdrie. This landscape also provides a transition between the Fragmented Farmland and Urban LCTs and the Plateau Moorland LCT.

**Sensitivity to future development:** Human influence and development is found across this landscape and can be locally prominent, with evidence of former large scale industrial and opencast mining. However, the overall rural, agricultural nature of the landscape results in a medium sensitivity.

#### Summary

- Medium to large scale, gently undulating agricultural landscape with some evidence of previous open cast development.
- Some value as a setting to adjacent urban areas, local recreational resource and as a transition to the more upland, plateau moorland landscape.
- The generally rural character and well cared for nature of the landscape, combined with the influence of adjacent urban areas, infrastructure and past development results in a **medium sensitivity**.

## **6b – Southern Plateau Farmland**

As expected when they are effectively a single area bisected by the Coatbridge/Airdrie urban settlement, the southern Plateau Farmland LLU is very similar in character and quality to the northern area.

**Topographical characteristics:** The landform is flat and slightly undulating. The scale of the landscape is large and the shallow valleys are broad. The undulations are minor in height, with shallow valleys and low, rounded ridges.

**Openness and inter-visibility:** Although the landscape is large scale and generally shallow in undulation, the lack of elevation within the area prevents large scale views and vistas. This is also combined with the considerable afforestation, both commercial forestry, and as tree belts along the field pattern boundaries. This is particularly the case in the area between Newmains and Shotts, where there are numerous woods and plantations, including Heatherland Plantation, Mossband Wood, Penty Wood, Muiredge Wood and Newmill Wood.

Inter-visibility with adjacent LLUs is also limited, excepting locations within adjacent LLUs, where hills provide more elevated views across the Plateau Farmlands.

**Settlement and man-made influences:** The Southern Plateau Farmlands LLU covers an extensive area, within which there are a number of small settlements and many farmsteads, light industrial areas, prominent evidence of former heavier industry, numerous bings and open cast workings.

Much of the LLU boundary is urban fringe, where the extent and boundaries of the plateau farmland is defined by adjacent settlement boundaries.

Transport and telecommunications networks are also particularly prominent. The character area includes major east-west transport links, both rail and road, such as the M8 road corridor, A775/B7066 and the A71. This east-west network is complemented by north-south routes such as the A73, A723 and A725.

These major road links are further enhanced by an extensive network of interconnecting access routes resulting in an easily penetrated landscape, though they also enhance the man-made influence upon the landscape. In addition to the rail corridors, there is an extensive network of (now disused) railway linkages, probably as a direct result of the extensive former quarrying, open cast extraction and industrial heritage.

The settled and well defined field pattern within the farming areas, extensive commercial woodlands, settlements, and industrial evidence, combined with the transport and telecommunications/transmission lines, all result in a heavily man influenced landscape character.

**Land use:** The present land use of this area centres upon arable and pastoral farming, depending upon the degree of exposure, landscape condition and quality. There are numerous commercial plantations within the character area and evidence of former industry, although modern day industry has declined to largely isolated minor light industry.

There are a number of associated semi-rural uses, such as the presence of HMP Shotts, reservoirs and golf driving ranges, open cast workings and quarries, some of which are still in operation. This LLU also includes some shallow wooded valleys with public access, and restored open cast workings that have been developed into Community Nature Parks (such as at Greenhead Moss).

**Landscape pattern and field boundaries:** The field pattern is well defined by predominately post and wire fencing. The post and wire fences are often strengthened with hedgerows and in many instances, stretches of shelterbelt tree planting. The use of hedgerows, hedgerow trees and woodland belts improves the quality of the farmland appearance, in contrast to the adjacent Plateau Moorland LCT.

**Landscape quality and condition:** The quality and condition of this landscape varies locally as a result of differing levels of land management. However, the overall impression is of a well-managed and cared for landscape.

**Value of the landscape:** There is some local value for recreation and as a setting to adjacent settlements. In some areas this LLU forms an important division and buffer between adjacent urban areas.

**Sensitivity to future development:** The well-defined landscape pattern and predominantly agricultural land use can be susceptible to development. However, prominent telecommunication and transport infrastructure, existing and previous industrial development and the influence from adjacent urban areas results in a low to medium sensitivity to development. Sensitivity to change is locally increased where the LLU provides a division between different urban settlements.

#### **Summary**

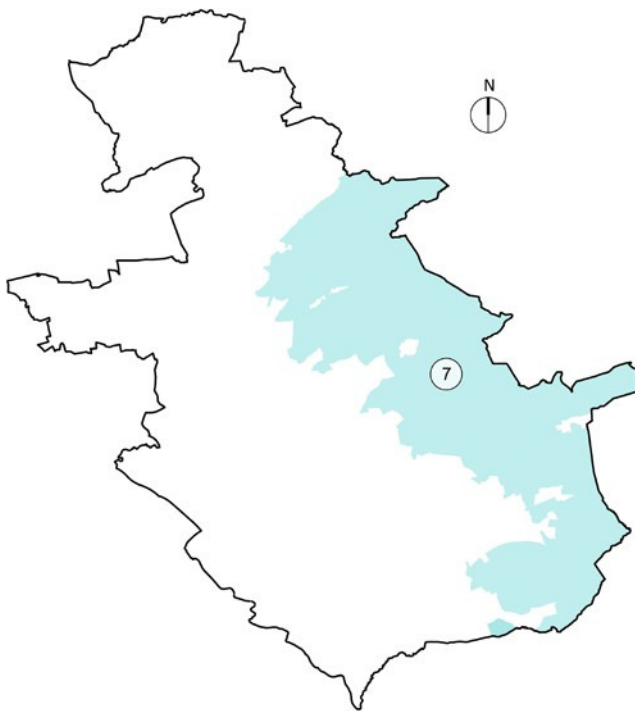
- Large scale, predominantly agricultural landscape, influenced by infrastructure and adjacent urban areas.
- Some value as a setting to and division between adjacent urban areas and as a local recreational resource.
- The prevalence of infrastructure and development within an otherwise agricultural landscape results in a **low to medium sensitivity** to development.



## 7. Plateau Moorlands

*The previous studies identify the following key characteristics of the Plateau Moorlands LCT:*

- Distinctive upland character created by the combination of elevation, exposure, smooth plateau landform, moorland vegetation and the predominant lack of modern development, and
- These areas share a sense of apparent naturalness and remoteness which contrasts with the farmed and settled lowlands.



Whilst the above key characteristics remain relevant to the wider Plateau Moorlands LCT, the following provides a description of the landscape character at a local level. One Local Landscape Unit, covering a large part of the eastern half of North Lanarkshire has been identified.

### **7 – Plateau Moorland**

North Lanarkshire contains a considerable area of Plateau Moorland that extends over much of the eastern part of the Local Authority area. This is a large scale, open upland landscape which contrasts with the more settled lowlands of North Lanarkshire.

**Topographical characteristics:** This LLU is defined by an elevated, large scale flat or gently undulating topography. There is a strong sense of exposure and openness throughout. Soils are variable, from areas of wet peatland to thinner soils with exposed rock outcrops. However, the land cover is relatively simple and uniform.

**Openness and inter-visibility:** Much of the Plateau Moorlands LLU is open and gently rolling or relatively flat. Therefore, there is considerable inter-visibility with adjacent LLUs. The occasional more elevated areas within this landscape enable medium to long distance views over adjacent areas and into neighbouring Local Authority areas.

**Settlement and man-made influences:** There are a number of small to medium sized settlements, in addition to a considerable number of farmsteads and small light-industrial developments within this LLU.

There is considerable evidence of past industrial use with numerous former open cast sites, quarries and the presence of many bings and spoil heaps

There are extensive areas of commercial plantation, which in North Lanarkshire is almost exclusively coniferous. Rotational cropping and replanting of the plantation areas has led to a changing landscape, of varying ages and maturity. These commercial woodlands differ considerably from the mixed and deciduous natural woodlands that occur sparsely within this LLU.

A number of wind farms within this LLU and in adjacent areas have a locally strong influence on this landscape.

**Land use:** This landscape is crossed by major transport links, including the M8 and A71, the corridors of which form a considerable division within the LLU. Rough grassland, mostly sheep grazing with limited and localised cattle grazing is the principal land use. There is also some minor existing light industry, including mineral extraction and quarrying. The LLU includes extensive telecommunications and overhead transmission connections, incorporating National Grid connections for the various small and medium sized wind farms within the character area.

**Landscape pattern and field boundaries:** There is a network of irregular field boundaries, largely post and wire fencing, with occasional lengths of hedgerow, incorporating hedgerow trees. The diversity of field boundaries is reflected in the varied nature of the field pattern, the irregular field size and shape, and the presence of many plantations. The landscape pattern is large scale with large areas of rough grassland and large forestry plantations.

**Landscape quality and condition:** The quality and condition of this landscape varies considerably, from areas of well managed farmland to former abandoned industrial and open cast sites. The predominance of former opencast sites and bings and existing quarries has a strong influence on the landscape quality of this LLU.

**Value of the landscape:** The upland, exposed and generally less settled nature of this landscape provides a contrast to much of the wider North Lanarkshire landscape. There is also some value as a setting to the adjacent urban area to the north.

**Sensitivity to future development:** The large scale nature of this landscape and the prevalence of existing and former industrial development, wind farms and other structures results in a low sensitivity to some types of development (e.g. wind farms and small scale residential). However, not all development will be appropriate and it will be important to ensure that any future development relates well to the upland nature of the landscape.

#### Summary

- Large scale, open and exposed upland landscape which is generally sparsely populated, although with interspersed existing and former industrial development.
- Some value as an upland landscape, contrasting with the more settled lowland landscapes of much of North Lanarkshire.
- The large scale nature of this landscape and the predominance of existing and former industrial development results in a **low sensitivity** to certain development types.



## 8. Urban Greenspace

*The previous studies identify the following key characteristics of the Urban Greenspace LCT:*

- Remnant policy woodlands and landscape creating distinct pockets of open countryside landscape within the urban area;
- Visual influence of surrounding urban areas and activities;
- The decline in landscape management and the increase in development and urban fringe pressures mean these are landscapes under stress.



Whilst the above key characteristics remain relevant to the wider Urban Greenspace LCT, the following provides a description of the landscape character at a local level. Four Local Landscape Units have been identified within North Lanarkshire: M80 Corridor and Cumbernauld Glen; Drumpellier Country Park; Strathclyde Country Park; and an area east of Ravenscraig.

### **8a – M80 Corridor and Cumbernauld Glen**

The M80 runs north east to south west through North Lanarkshire, between the areas of Balloch and Carrickstone to the north and the original new town area of Cumbernauld to the south. Either side of the road corridor is a large area of urban greenspace, comprising a number of recreation areas, woods, nature reserves and other associated open spaces. There is excellent permeability and access via an extensive public footpath network which connects the various greenspace areas with adjacent urban areas.

**Topographical characteristics:** The topography is varied within this LLU, including hills, depressions and generally undulating landform. In the west of this LLU the topography tends to be relatively flat and includes Broadwood Loch. The central and eastern parts of this LLU have a more undulating landform which forms two valleys.

**Openness and inter-visibility:** The elevated nature of much of this landscape provides good inter-visibility into adjacent LLUs. This inter-visibility is particularly evident from the high point at Airdriehead, from which there are excellent views south over Cumbernauld. Elsewhere in the LLU, there is extensive woodland which serves to restrict both views within this area, and inter-visibility with adjacent character areas.

The M80 forms a considerable transport corridor, which is mostly either within cutting, or has shelterbelt planting to the north and south, in order to reduce the visual impact of the road corridor. However, this combination (except at the largely open junction with the A73) serves to form a considerable obstruction to the views into and out of the LLU.

**Settlement and man-made influences:** This LLU is almost entirely surrounded by urban development and includes a number of large man-made features, including stadia, hotel complexes, cemeteries, schools, churches and recreation parks.

The area includes a number of recreational footpath and cycling routes, which are generally in good condition. There is also a major road network linking into the M80 junction and feeding the adjacent urban areas. This road network and the railway divide the greenspace, and can form barriers to the potential use of the area as a whole.

**Land use:** The predominant active land use is recreational, with some limited pastoral farming and commercial woodland. Within the LLU, there are two nature reserves, and the footpath network which extends into adjacent woodlands.

**Landscape pattern and field boundaries:** There is generally no clear landscape pattern within this LLU. Woodland blocks and transport infrastructure are the key elements in defining the landscape structure. Land ownership and land use boundaries are similarly variable, with no clear local pattern.

**Landscape quality and condition:** Much of this area is amenity greenspace and is generally well maintained. In areas formerly influenced by development and with no clear active land use at present, particularly in the west of this LLU, the landscape quality and condition is poor.

**Value of the landscape:** This LLU is valuable as a recreational resource to the adjacent settlements. It also forms a setting to and division between different urban areas and a setting to the M80 road corridor.

**Sensitivity to future development:** There is already extensive, but generally sympathetic, development within the character area. The managed nature of the area would enable some limited future development of a similar character. Care should be taken when considering future development to ensure it does not negatively affect the setting to or division between adjacent urban areas. The character of this landscape is of medium sensitivity to development.

#### Summary

- Small scale, variable landscape consisting largely of amenity greenspace between two urban areas and along the M80 corridor.
- Valued as a recreational resource and setting to the adjacent urban areas.
- The small scale nature, existing developed context, value as a recreational resource and setting to adjacent urban area result in a **medium sensitivity** to development.

### **8b – Drumpellier Country Park**

This LLU forms a significant area of open space on the western edge of Coatbridge, from Woodend in the north, to the A89 in the south.

**Topographical characteristics:** This is a gently rolling landscape with a large scale simple landform. The Monkland Canal and to a greater extent Lochend Loch and Woodend Loch are prominent features within this landscape and are located within the lower lying areas.

**Openness and inter-visibility:** Large areas of woodland and tree planting and smaller shelterbelts reduce views within and out of this LLU. However, there are more open, medium distance views from some areas. Views into the area from the A89, Townend Road and Gartcosh Road look across much of the LLU.

**Settlement and man-made influences:** This LLU is located along the western edge of Coatbridge and the adjacent settlement has a strong influence on the impression of this landscape. There are few buildings within this LLU, mainly comprising public and community facilities linked with Drumpellier Country Park and playing fields.

**Land use:** Recreational and sporting activities are the main active land uses in this area. There is good permeability by formal and informal footpaths and pathways around Drumpellier Country Park and the wider LLU.

**Landscape pattern and field boundaries:** There is no clear landscape pattern in this area, although there is a broad division between the more formal recreation areas in the east and the less formal areas to the west. There are some regular hedgerows which demark former field boundaries. However, much of these features are now woodland and as such the divisions and pattern are less obvious.

**Landscape quality and condition:** The level of management varies considerably, from the intensely managed golf courses and playing fields to the less managed fields and woodlands. The overall impression is of a relatively well cared for landscape.

**Value of the landscape:** This LLU is a valuable recreational resource to the adjacent settlements and wider area and also provides a setting to the adjacent urban areas.

**Sensitivity to future development:** The importance of this landscape as a recreational resource and setting to the adjacent urban areas increases the sensitivity to development. This is further reinforced by the generally limited nature of existing development, resulting in a medium to high sensitivity to development.

#### **Summary**

- Medium to large scale landscape with a strong emphasis on recreational land use.
- Valued as a setting to the adjacent urban areas and as an important recreational resource.
- The importance as an undeveloped area and valued recreational resource results in a **medium to high sensitivity** to development.

### 8c – Strathclyde Country Park

The extent of this LLU is defined to the north and south by the urban settlements of Bellshill and Motherwell respectively. The urban greenspace also surrounds a significant stretch of incised river valley as the South Calder Water passes from Ravenscraig in the east to the Strathclyde Country Park in the west.

**Topographical characteristics:** The topography is rolling and undulating and generally rises to the north east. Strathclyde Loch is a prominent feature, located in the south west of this area. Further north this LLU occupies the upper slopes of the South Calder Water valley. This part of the landscape is divided by the incised valley of the South Calder Water LLU.

**Openness and inter-visibility:** The sense of openness varies considerably from open low level views across Strathclyde Loch to the enclosed, wooded areas at Bothwellhaugh Plantation. Views into and out of this LLU tend to be restricted by woodland and trees, although with occasional views from the adjacent urban areas.

**Settlement and man-made influences:** Development and human influence is varied, with extensive recreation and leisure facilities, associated infrastructure and open spaces. These open spaces include Colville Park, the grounds of Jerviston House, golf courses, school grounds and Strathclyde Country Park. The impression of this LLU is also strongly influenced by adjacent urban areas, the busy M74 corridor to the south west and other road and rail corridors.

**Land use:** The principal active land use is recreation, including sailing and rowing on Strathclyde Loch, two golf courses, playing fields, and a well-developed network of formal and informal footpaths and cycle routes. In addition, there are small areas of agricultural land use on the fringes. These generally consist of small fields used for grazing or arable crops.

**Landscape pattern and field boundaries:** Much of the area is dominated by recreational land uses and woodland, leading to a varied and irregular landscape pattern. Where agricultural fields are present they tend to be defined by hedgerows and post and wire fences. These tend to be small isolated groups of fields and contribute to the overall complexity of the landscape.

**Landscape quality and condition:** The overall impression of this area is one of a well-managed and cared for landscape. The large recreational area of Strathclyde Country Park and the golf courses have a high level of management.

**Value of the landscape:** This LLU is an important recreational resource which also provides a setting to the adjacent urban areas. This landscape is valued as a buffer and dividing feature between urban areas.

**Sensitivity to future development:** This is an important greenspace and recreational resource to adjacent areas and is therefore of medium to high sensitivity to development. Care should be taken when considering future development to ensure it relates to the existing character and recreational use.

#### Summary

- Medium scale landscape with a prevalence of woodland leading to a variable sense of openness and enclosure.
- Highly valued as a recreational resource, and providing a setting to and division between adjacent urban areas.
- The importance as an undeveloped area and valued recreational resource results in a **medium to high sensitivity** to development.

### **8d – Land east of Ravenscraig**

This LLU is located to the north of Wishaw and is bounded by the Urban LCT to the south and east, Ravenscraig to the west, and the incised valley of the South Calder Water LLU to the north.

**Topographical characteristics:** The topography is relatively flat, with gentle undulations, gradually rising to the east. Local artificial landform features are present in some areas, providing evidence of former industrial use, particularly in the west.

**Openness and inter-visibility:** Extensive woodland areas limit internal views. The presence of the adjacent incised valley, railway embankment and urban fringe effectively restrict views into and out of this area.

**Settlement and man-made influences:** Settlement within this landscape is limited to a few scattered houses and farm buildings. The adjacent urban areas of Wishaw and Coltness are relatively prominent from parts of this LLU and can have a strong local influence on the landscape. The golf course and amenity grassland areas have a high level of management, whilst other areas are unmanaged and abandoned.

**Land use:** The main active land use is recreation. This includes a golf course, Belhaven Park and more informal recreation and open space. Other areas appear to be formerly used for agriculture but have no current active land use.

**Landscape pattern and field boundaries:** There is no clear landscape pattern, due largely to the limited space and predominance of woodland. There are some remnant hedgerows and field boundaries in parts of this landscape, although encroaching woodland has reduced their prominence.

**Landscape quality and condition:** The quality and condition of this landscape varies considerably, from the intensively managed golf course, to the unmanaged former farmland and development land to the north.

**Value of the landscape:** There is some local value of this landscape as a recreational resource and as a setting to the adjacent urban areas to the south and east. The value may increase in the future as the adjacent former industrial site of Ravenscraig is transformed by residential development.

**Sensitivity to future development:** The part of this LLU located immediately adjacent to the settlement edge and the golf course are valued for recreation and are therefore of increased sensitivity to development. However, the existing urban setting and the poor quality of other areas reduces the overall sensitivity to development.

#### **Summary**

- Small to medium scale landscape with extensive woodland and evidence of past industrial use.
- Some value as a recreational resource and setting to the adjacent urban areas.
- The influence from adjacent settlement and evidence of past development combined with the importance as a recreational resource results in a **low to medium sensitivity** to development.

## 9. Ravenscraig



### 9 – Ravenscraig

The Ravenscraig Local Landscape Unit comprises the former site of the Ravenscraig steelworks and marshalling areas. Since the closure of the steelworks, a programme of demolition has transformed the former industrial site into a location where considerable development is planned over the next decade.

**Topographical characteristics:** The topography is relatively flat, with local undulations and slopes and is of a large scale. The demolition of the former steelworks and the formation of development areas have resulted in the creation of a series of obviously man-made plateaux, embankments and artificial landform.

**Openness and inter-visibility:** The relatively flat topography and limited built form results in an open landscape with medium to long distance views to adjacent areas. This sense of openness and exposure varies locally where woodland and trees are present. As development of the area progresses the sense of openness will reduce, eventually leading to a largely enclosed character with restricted views.

**Settlement and man-made influences:** The character of this area is defined by previous industrial development. It is currently in a transitional state and is intended to be redeveloped for a variety of uses. There is already residential development to the north east of the area, the new regional Leisure and Sports Centre in the centre, and Motherwell College campus to the south west. In addition, there is a wide distributor road and series of roundabouts which cuts across this area. There is also some influence on the impression of this area from adjacent industrial and residential development.

As development of this area progresses its character is likely to be defined by development, resulting in it becoming part of the urban landscape type currently found in adjacent areas.



**Land use:** Following demolition of the former steelworks this area has been earmarked for development and as such there is no current active land use. In the future, a mix of different development types will occupy much of this area, with recreation being the predominant land use of any remaining open space.

**Landscape pattern and field boundaries:** The area is presently a series of open spaces, within which an extensive structure of distributor roads provides circulation to the future development areas. Extensive structure planting has taken place and this provides the separation of the various development areas, whilst also providing an overall softening of the development zones, and corridors for wildlife. The distributor roads and structure planting help to define a broad pattern to the landscape which will develop and strengthen with time.

**Landscape quality and condition:** This landscape is currently in transition from the former industrial use to future development. There are large areas with no active land use or management and as such the overall impression is of a poor quality landscape.

**Value of the landscape:** This landscape is of limited value in its current form, with large areas set aside for future development.

**Sensitivity to future development:** The former developed nature of this landscape, the anticipated further development and the limited value results in a low sensitivity to development.

#### **Summary**

- Medium to large scale open landscape subject to extensive past and future development.
- Landscape in transition between different development types.
- Limited landscape value in its current form and therefore of **low sensitivity** to development.



## 4 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

URS were appointed by North Lanarkshire Council to evaluate the local landscape character of the Local Authority area and assess the requirement for landscape protection within the Local Development plan, currently being prepared by the Council.

Following a detailed evaluation of previous landscape character assessments and detailed field investigation, a series of nine Landscape Character Types and 19 Local Landscape Units have been identified within North Lanarkshire, as shown on Figure 2. These LLUs and the LCTs within which they are located broadly relate to the LCTs identified in previous regional level studies.

Each LLU demonstrates a different combination and pattern of elements and characteristics and it is recommended that a set of broad policies are defined to ensure future development does not have unacceptable, significant effects on the landscape character of the area as a whole and on those key characteristics which set one landscape apart from another.

The assessment has identified a number of LLUs that are of notable quality and value within which future development requires careful consideration to avoid potential significant impact on their landscape character. These comprise:

- 1. Kilsyth Hills;
- 2a. River Kelvin Valley;
- 2b. Clyde Valley;
- 3a. North Calder Water;
- 3b. South Calder Water;
- 3c. Garrion Burn;
- 8b. Drumpellier Country Park; and
- 8c. Strathclyde Country Park.

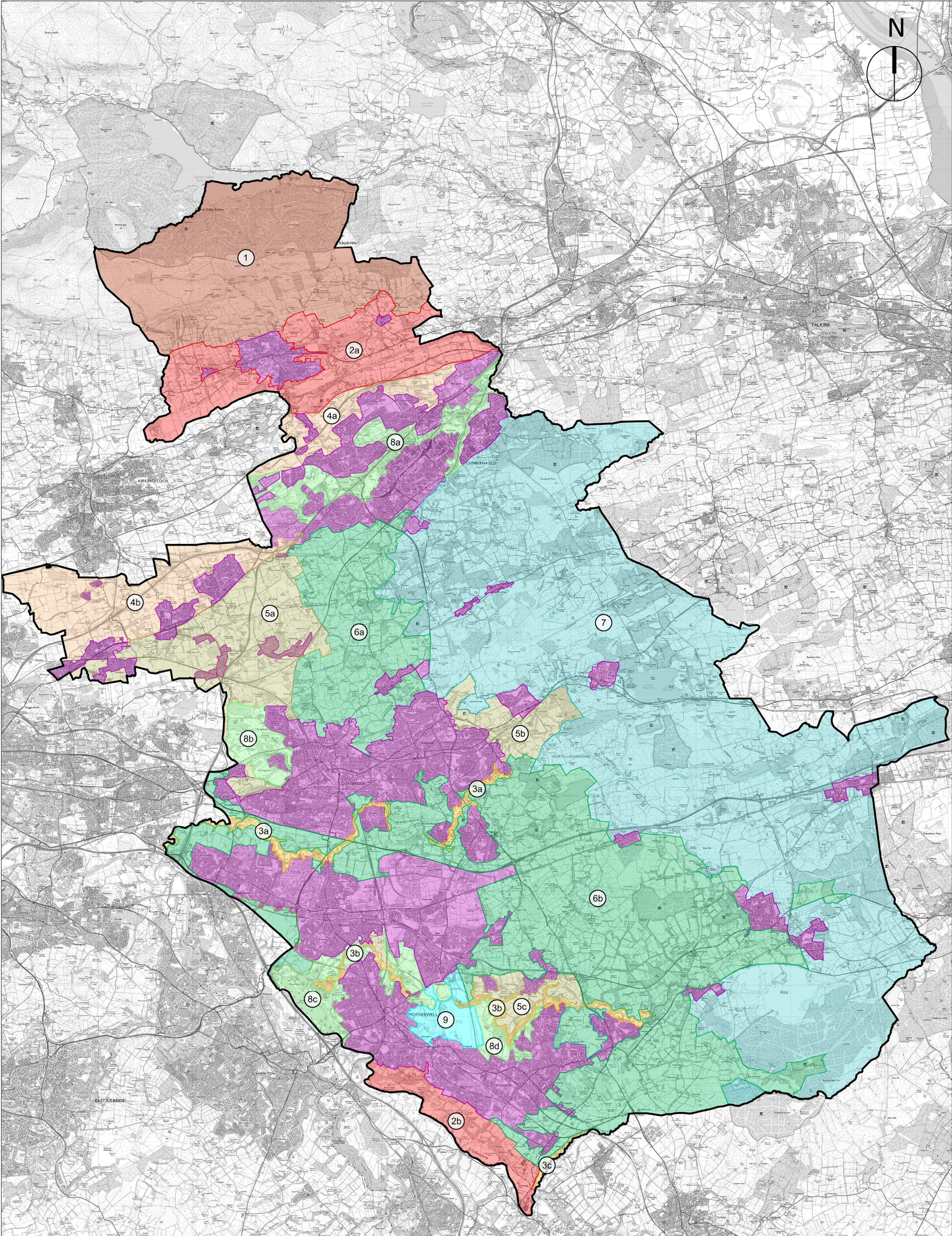
Of these, the two exemplar examples, which are also very sensitive to development, are:

- 1. Kilsyth Hills
- 2b. Clyde Valley

Both of these areas warrant specific recognition and protection, as their high landscape quality would be threatened and adversely affected by unsympathetic development within their boundaries. It is therefore recommended that these two areas are identified as Special Landscape Areas within the Local Development Plan and supported by specific policy protection.

In addition, it is also considered that the Kelvin Valley LLU has a distinct character with a strong connection to the adjacent Kilsyth Hills LLU and therefore warrants a degree of specific policy protection to ensure future development relates well to the character of this area, with a focus on smaller scale and tourist and visitor related facilities. Although this area has not been recommended as a Special Landscape Area in its own right, its importance as a distinct landscape and the strong connection with the adjacent Kilsyth Hills landscape indicate the need for specific policy protection. It is therefore recommended that the Kelvin Valley LLU is identified as a second tier designation, such as a Local Landscape Area.





<div>Review of North Lanarkshire Local Landscape Character</div> <div></div>	<div>Figure 2 Local Landscape Units</div>	<div>Key</div> <div><div>Rugged Moorland Hills LCT 1. Kilsyth Hills LLU</div><div>Broad Valley Low Lands LCT 2a. River Kelvin Valley LLU 2b. Clyde Valley LLU</div><div>Inclosed Valleys LCT 3a. North Calder Water LLU 3b. South Calder Water LLU 3c. Garrison Burn LLU</div><div>Rolling Farmlands LCT 4a. Land south of Kelvin Valley LLU 4b. Farmland north of ABO Road Corridor LLU</div><div>Fragmented Farmlands LCT 5a. Area either side of M73 Corridor LLU 5b. Area east of Airdrie LLU 5c. Area north of South Calder Water LLU</div><div>Plateau Moorlands LCT 6a. Northern Plateau Farm land LLU 6b. Southern Plateau Farm land LLU</div><div>Plateau Moorlands LCT 7. Plateau Moorland LLU</div><div>Urban Greenspace LCT 8a. M80 Corridor and Cumbernauld Glen LLU 8b. Drumpellier Country Park LLU 8c. Strathclyde Country Park LLU 8d. Land east of Ravensraig IIU</div><div>Ravensraig LCT 9. Ravensraig IIU</div><div>Urban</div></div>	<div>URS Infrastructure &amp; Environmental UK Limited 2nd Floor, APEX 2 97 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2 5HD Tel: +44 (0)131 347 1100 Fax: +44 (0)131 347 1101</div> <div></div> <div><div>1km</div><div>2km</div><div>3km</div><div>4km</div></div>
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## APPENDIX 1: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER FIELD SURVEY PRO-FORMA

## Landscape Character Field Survey Pro-forma

Ref. 47069981 - North Lanarkshire Landscape Character Assessment

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Survey Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Landscape Character Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Landscape Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Photograph Location: \_\_\_\_\_



### Dominant Land cover and Landscape Elements

Buildings	Heritage	Farming	Land cover	Woodland/ Trees	Hydrology	Communications
farm buildings	vernacular buildings	walls	designed parkland	deciduous woodland	river	road
masts/poles	country house	fences	scrub	coniferous plantation	burn	track
pylons	field systems	hedges	marsh	mixed woodland	reservoir	footpath
industry	prehistoric	fields	peat bog	shelterbelt	dry valley	lane
settlement	enclosure /fort	arable	moor / heath	hedge trees	loch	railway
urban	ecclesiastic	improved pasture	rough grassland	orchard	pond	military
military	monuments of war	rough grazing	grassland	clumps	drainage ditch	pylons
wind turbines	bings and spoil heaps	orchard	species rich grassland	isolated trees		masts

### Topography

flat	plain	dry valley
undulating	rolling lowland	deep gorge
rolling	plateau	broad valley
steep	hills	narrow valley
vertical	outcrop/ cliffs	incised valley

### Character

<b>Pattern</b>	dominant	strong	broken	weak
<b>Scale</b>	intimate	small	medium	large
<b>Texture</b>	smooth	textured	rough	very rough
<b>Remoteness</b>	wild	remote	vacant	active
<b>Complexity</b>	uniform	simple	diverse	complex

**Brief Description** (including main elements, features, attractions and detractors)

Rarity: \_\_\_\_\_

Condition: \_\_\_\_\_

**Key Characteristics** (distinctive features and why they are important)