

Draft Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Guidance Consultation April-June 2018: Summary of Consultation Responses

Consultee	Summary of Consultation Response	Requested Change	Proposed Midlothian Council Response
<p>Moorfoot Community Council</p>	<p>Gladhouse Reservoir and Moorfoot Scarp Special Landscape Area Statement of Importance</p> <p>The document is not clear on who is expected to carry out the changes suggested in the 'Opportunities for Change' section. Thus while it may be desirable from a visual impact/landscape character point of view to remove the "intrusive coniferous plantations on the scarp of the Moorfoot Hills" there is no mechanism in the planning system to achieve that end. This also applies to improving neglected moorland. This problem is further illustrated by the proposal for a large forestry plantation on the scarp slopes south of Gladhouse Reservoir which would have a major detrimental effect on the landscape character of this area, as described for the SLA. But since the forestry proposal will not be the subject of a planning application, the area's designation as an SLA is powerless to prevent or mitigate it.</p> <p>Supports the proposal for the establishment of a viewpoint on the B7007 at Wull Muir.</p> <p>The proposal for increased car parking opportunities for walkers and visitors to Gladhouse reservoir however there is significant opposition from the local farming community due to concerns about dogs and fire risk.</p>	<p>Reference should be made in the Statements of Importance to the importance of maintaining traditional stone walls as a key part of the rural character of Midlothian.</p> <p>Supports the promotion of partnership working to help address issues raised in the consultation response.</p>	<p>Change: No Change</p> <p>Reason: The comments on who is expected to, or responsible carrying out the changes or improvements referred to in the document are noted. One of key purposes and roles of the document is to help inform the planning authority's response to development proposals, including those that don't require planning permission, such as forestry proposals.</p> <p>The document is also intended to highlight improvements and changes that could be made should suitable opportunities arise to make them. It intentionally does not state who is responsible for making the changes due, as stated, because the Council may not have the authority to force parties to make the changes. The suggestion of a partnership approach is noted and a matter that can be considered further.</p>

	<p>South Esk Valley and Carrington Farmland Special Landscape Area</p> <p>Agrees that the character of this area relies heavily on the rich pattern of mature broadleaved trees and support efforts to protect trees bordering fields and roads and replace them where required. In addition we would like to see reference made to the importance of maintaining traditional stone walls as a key part of the character of this and other rural parts of Midlothian.</p> <p>Supports improvements to recreational access routes between Borthwick and Crichton Castle as identified in the Opportunities for Change section of the Statement of Importance for the South Esk Valley and Carrington Tyne Valley Special Landscape Area.</p> <p>The planning system's lack of agency or authority in relation to landscape matters makes many of the suggested measures set out in the draft guidance on SLAs ineffectual. MCC advocates a partnership approach to these issues, drawing in all interested parties.</p>		<p>The Supplementary Guidance's reference to an enhanced view point at the B7007 and exploration of additional car parking at Gladhouse Reservoir are not commitments. If any decision were taken to take either suggestion forward, then full exploration and assessment of these proposals and possible likely impacts would occur to help determine if they were practicable and appropriate.</p> <p>The Statements of Importance make a number of references to the presence and role of traditional stone walls. The consultation response raises and refers to the issues for local authorities in the maintenance of such stone walls. The Council's position is that owners are responsible for the maintenance of such features. While being supportive of owners maintaining such walls, the Council's powers are limited in requiring maintenance to be undertaken. Therefore it is not considered appropriate to include a statement on wall maintenance as requested.</p>
--	---	--	--

<p>Roslin and Bilston Community Council</p>	<p>North Esk Valley Special Landscape Area</p> <p>The Supplementary Guidance is thoughtful and the underlying principles are hard to challenge. Would like to see more emphasis given to the fact that these areas have been chosen for their seclusion and naturalness, and this must be preserved at all costs.</p> <p>States the following points should be emphasised:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attention must be given to preserving historic settlements and buildings and there should be absolutely no question of any new building inside these areas or placed where it may affect the sightlines either from inside these areas or into them from the surrounding areas. 2. There should be a clear requirement to preserve and enhance sightlines and skylines. 3. Many of the areas are forested and need a level of tactful but realistic management which hasn't been provided up to now. Would like to see a clearcut, phased plan of how this is to be achieved. 4. Areas such as the Pentland Hills or Dalkeith Country Park are under increased pressure from people walking their dogs. Even where the dog is held on a lead, the impact on resident wildlife can be considerable. Experienced walkers have noticed a perceptible fall in wildlife over the last few decades. We would like to see this fully discussed and a strategy put forward. <p>Any new development in Roslin Glen is likely to have a damaging effect on the qualities of the area as described in the supplementary guidance. Agree that</p>	<p>Requests the following changes be made to the :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There should be no new building in SLAs or where it may affect the sightlines into or inside the SLAs. - Preserve and enhance sightlines and skylines 	<p>Change: No Change</p> <p>Reason: The Council considers that no change is required to Supplementary Guidance in relation to the points raised.</p> <p>Any new development proposals that come forward would be assessed against the requirements of the Midlothian Local Development Plan (2017). The Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Guidance would be used to inform the application of the Local Development Plan policy framework. Issues relating to views into or inside a Special Landscape Area, or skylining matters, would be part of the assessment of a planning application.</p> <p>The other points raised are noted. The Council considers many of the points raised would be taken into account in the assessment of planning applications, for which, this document will be used to inform the planning assessment.</p> <p>The consultation response raises other points that, while relevant, are outwith the direct role of this</p>
---	---	---	---

	<p>built development in the valley should be strongly discouraged.</p> <p>While supporting the establishment of new recreational routes, the priority must also be given to maintenance of existing routes.</p> <p>The section of valley between Roslin and Polton in particular has unique and very fragile geology and must be preserved at all costs, both for this and for its historic and botanical interest. The stretch from Roslin to Auchendinny also rates high for historic interest because of earlier industrial sites.</p>		<p>supplementary guidance. They could perhaps be picked up in partnership working with the Council, e.g. through the Community Planning process.</p>
Esk Valley Trust	<p>Supportive of the focus and tone of the document.</p> <p>A major goal for the Esk Valley Trust is to establish a continuous pathway ('The North Esk Way), as close to the North Esk river as is practicable from the rivers source in the Pentland Hills to its entry into the Firth Of Forth at Musselburgh. Esk Valley Trust would like to see some reference to this in the document.</p> <p>Considers opportunities for habitat restoration, especially native trees, and reduction of grazing in the Pentland Hills Special Landscape Area to benefit landscape quality, and to reduce the rate of water run-off into the river, would be relevant additions to the Guidance.</p> <p>There should be greater emphasis on native tree planting and a reference added to drain blocking in the Gladhouse Reservoir and Moorfoots Scarp Special</p>	<p>Refer to aspiration to create a North Esk Way.</p> <p>Refer to opportunities for habitat restoration and reduction of grazing in the Pentland Hills SLA.</p> <p>There should be an emphasis on native tree planting and reference to drain blocking on the Gladhouse Reservoir and Moorfoots Scarp SLA.</p>	<p>Change: No Change</p> <p>Reason: The council considers long distance footpaths are best addressed through the work involved with implementing a Midlothian Green Network. The Midlothian Green Network Supplementary Guidance provides support for long distance footpaths.</p> <p>The Council does not consider the Statements of Importance the correct document for promoting areas for habitat improvement and reduction in grazing. The Council considers the Statements of Importance do promote native woodland planting. Similarly, the</p>

	Landscape Area to improve landscape quality to and reduce speed of run off into the river.		Council does not consider the Statements of Importance the correct document for raising matters relating to blocked drains at Gladhouse Reservoir.
Penicuik Environment Protection Association	Would like to thank the people responsible for this thorough assessment of this beautiful county. The conclusions of Scottish Natural Heritage vindicate Midlothian Council's opposition to wind energy proposals at Auchencorth Moss, Mount Lothian and Spurlens Rig.	None	Change: No Change Reason: N/A
Eileen Miller	<p>North Esk Valley Special Landscape Area</p> <p>Considers the North Esk Valley special landscape area is of high scenic, cultural, ecological and recreational interest. It should be continued to be protected and its boundaries should not be breached. Considers the skyline and the area within the SLA should be protected, and that existing walls and woodland particularly around the Polton area already do this well. States there should be no further development should be supported in the area. The field adjacent to the industrial estate should still be protected. Considers the exiting wall provides a firm boundary and the mature trees screen the houses.</p> <p>Refers to previous development proposals near Polton Industrial Estate being refused due to impact on skyline.</p> <p>Supports the wording in the North Esk Valley Statement of Importance that further built</p>	North Esk Valley SLA - the wording should also be extended to suggest that no further building around the edge of the valley or expansion of Polton Industrial Estate should be allowed to protect the skyline and boundary of the special landscape area.	<p>Change: No Change.</p> <p>Reason: The Council considers that no change is required and that the Statement of Importance for the North Esk Valley Special Landscape Area sufficiently addresses the points raised.</p> <p>Any new development proposals that come forward would be assessed against the requirements of the Midlothian Local Development Plan (2017). The Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Guidance would be used to inform the application of the Local Development Plan policy framework.</p>

	<p>development within this valley should be discouraged to conserve the sense of seclusion and naturalness. The wording should also be extended to suggest that no further building around the edge of the valley or expansion of Polton Industrial Estate should be allowed either to protect the skyline and boundary of the special landscape area.</p>		<p>No new development allocations are made in the immediate vicinity of the Polton Industrial Estate in the Midlothian Local Development Plan (2017).</p>
Helen O'Brien	<p>North Esk Valley Special Landscape Area</p> <p>Outlines reasons why no further development should occur at the Lasswade/Polton Road, including traffic road safety, environmental impact, lack of schooling health facilities, lack of local shops and reduction in quality of life.</p>	None	<p>Change: No Change</p> <p>Reason: The Council considers that no change is required and that the Statement of Importance for the North Esk Valley Special Landscape Area sufficiently addresses the points raised.</p> <p>Any new development proposals that come forward would be assessed against the requirements of the Midlothian Local Development Plan (2017). The Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Guidance would be used to inform the application of the Local Development Plan policy framework.</p> <p>No new development allocations are made in the immediate vicinity of the Polton Industrial Estate in the Midlothian Local Development Plan (2017).</p>

Karen Marron	<p>North Esk Valley Special Landscape Area</p> <p>Expresses concern about potential new development in the Polton Road area.</p>	None	<p>Change: No Change</p> <p>Reason: The Council considers that no change is required and that the Statement of Importance for the North Esk Valley Special Landscape Area sufficiently addresses the points raised.</p> <p>Any new development proposals that come forward would be assessed against the requirements of the Midlothian Local Development Plan (2017). The Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Guidance would be used to inform the application of the Local Development Plan policy framework.</p> <p>No new development allocations are made in the immediate vicinity of the Polton Industrial Estate in the Midlothian Local Development Plan (2017).</p>
Paul Whyte	<p>North Esk Valley Special Landscape Area</p> <p>States the North Esk Valley special landscape area is of high scenic, cultural, ecological and recreational interest. It should be continued to be protected and</p>	North Esk Valley SLA - the wording should also be extended to suggest that no further building around the edge of the valley or expansion of Polton Industrial Estate should be	<p>Change: No Change</p> <p>Reason: The Council considers that no change is required and that the Statement of Importance for the</p>

	<p>its boundaries should not be breached. Considers the skyline and the area within the SLA should be protected and existing walls and woodland particularly around the Polton area already do this well. There should be no further development within or near the edges of the boundary to protect the area from being narrowed further. The field adjacent to the industrial estate should still be protected because the firm boundary walls and mature trees and woodland habitat area. The boundary walls along Polton already provide a very firm boundary and along with the woodland mature oak trees already there provide good screening from the housing behind. Previous development applications for housing near the Polton Industrial Estate in front of the boundary wall were refused on the basis that it would impact on the skyline and it breaches the Special Landscape areas and the firm boundary wall with protected mature trees. States any further applications for development should also be refused within this area as the same reasons should apply.</p> <p>Supports the wording in the consultation document that further built development within this valley should be discouraged to conserve the sense of seclusion and naturalness. States the wording should also be extended to suggest that no further building around the edge of the valley or expansion of Polton Industrial Estate should be allowed either to protect the skyline and boundary of the special landscape area.</p>	<p>allowed either to protect the skyline and boundary of the special landscape area.</p>	<p>North Esk Valley Special Landscape Area sufficiently addresses the points raised.</p> <p>Any new development proposals that come forward would be assessed against the requirements of the Midlothian Local Development Plan (2017). The Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Guidance would be used to inform the application of the Local Development Plan policy framework.</p> <p>No new development allocations are made in the immediate vicinity of the Polton Industrial Estate in the Midlothian Local Development Plan (2017). The boundaries of the special landscape area were fixed in the adoption of the Midlothian Local Development Plan (2017).</p>
Terence O'Brien	North Esk Valley Special Landscape Area	None	Change: No Change

	<p>Comments relate to the boundary change for the North Esk SLA at Polton House.</p> <p>Opposes new housing or industrial development at the location of the proposed boundary change of the local landscape designation at Polton. An area of previously Area of Great Landscape Value is not proposed for designation as a Special Landscape Area.</p>		<p>Reason: The Council considers that no change is required and that the Statement of Importance for the North Esk Valley Special Landscape Area sufficiently addresses the points raised.</p> <p>Any new development proposals that come forward would be assessed against the requirements of the Midlothian Local Development Plan (2017). The Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Guidance would be used to inform the application of the Local Development Plan policy framework.</p> <p>No new development allocations are made in the immediate vicinity of the Polton Industrial Estate in the Midlothian Local Development Plan (2017). The boundaries of the special landscape area were fixed in the adoption of the Midlothian Local Development Plan (2017).</p>
Graham Keith	<p>North Esk Valley Special Landscape Area</p> <p>Comments relate to the boundary changes for the North Esk Special Landscape Area at Polton House.</p>	None	<p>Change: No Change</p> <p>Reason: The Council considers that no change is required and that the Statement of Importance for the</p>

	<p>Considers not having the area at Polton subject to a local landscape designation would lead to further development and degradation of the area for the residents.</p> <p>Opposes new housing or industrial development at the location of the proposed boundary change of the local landscape designation at Polton. An area of previously Area of Great Landscape Value is not proposed for designation as a Special Landscape Area.</p>		<p>North Esk Valley Special Landscape Area sufficiently addresses the points raised.</p> <p>Any new development proposals that come forward would be assessed against the requirements of the Midlothian Local Development Plan (2017). The Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Guidance would be used to inform the application of the Local Development Plan policy framework.</p> <p>No new development allocations are made in the immediate vicinity of the Polton Industrial Estate in the Midlothian Local Development Plan (2017). The boundaries of the special landscape area were fixed in the adoption of the Midlothian Local Development Plan (2017).</p>
Hazel Brown	<p>Gladhouse Reservoir and Moorfoot Scarp Statement of Importance.</p> <p>States the open views and open moorland contained within the Moorfoot Scarp and around Gladhouse Reservoir should be protected to preserve the magnificent views from all around Midlothian. Also states the environment (open moorland) should be improved for ground nesting birds, waders, barn owls</p>	Remove reference to additional car parking at Gladhouse Reservoir.	<p>Change: No Change</p> <p>Reason: The 2006 Scottish Natural Heritage and the former Historic Scotland Guidance on Local Landscape Designations sets out that local landscape designation, of which special landscape areas are such a designation, have a variety of</p>

	<p>etc. Considers the area is under threat from another large afforestation proposal at Cotley Hill. Considers the forestry proposal is in direct conflict with the Statement of Importance and states field boundaries including dykes will be lost to the forestry.</p> <p>States cumulative impact of the proposed forestry and existing forestry (Toxside, Leithenwater Forest and Moorfoot) and currently being planted forestry (Westloch Farm) should be considered.</p> <p>States more tree planting will adversely affect biodiversity covering huge areas of open moorland with trees removing feeding and breeding grounds for ground nesting birds and the existing thriving population of barn owls will be badly affected.</p> <p>Refers to the draft Supplementary Guidance stating <i>“Increased car parking opportunities for walkers and visitors to Gladhouse Reservoir should be explored”</i>. I do not think any more visitors should be actively sought for this area. Gladhouse Reservoir is an SSSI and home to a nesting pair/family of Osprey and many other rare species – hen harrier, peregrine, barn owl etc.</p> <p>Supports the draft guidance’s in preserving the open moorland in the area but not enlarging the existing car parks at Moorfoot or elsewhere around the reservoir. As does not believe the area is appropriate for large numbers of walkers, cyclists and other visitors.</p>		<p>purposes which include landscape, cultural heritage and recreational matters.</p> <p>The draft guidance in this respect is following the guidance in recognising that the Gladhouse area is popular for recreation. The draft guidance does not give a commitment to extending car parking provision. The draft guidance provides a recommendation that increased car parking opportunities are explored. If such an exploration took place, then the suitability and practicality of increasing car parking provision in this location would be fully assessed and considered before going forward. That assessment would include impact on the location, the natural heritage designations and other relevant matters.</p> <p>The concerns raised about forestry planation proposals on the Moorfoot Hills are noted. As indicated in the consultation response, this consultation on the Midlothian Special Landscape Areas Supplementary Guidance is not the</p>
--	--	--	---

			vehicle for opposing the forestry proposals in the Moorfoot Hills.
Peter de Vink	<p>Gladhouse Reservoir and Moorfoot Scarp Special Landscape Area Statement of Importance</p> <p>Parking at Gladhouse Reservoir should not be extended because it is an SSSI and is actively farmed. The landscape of Midlothian is open moorland and should not be spoiled by coniferous trees.</p>	Remove reference to additional car parking at Gladhouse Reservoir.	<p>Change: No Change</p> <p>Reason: The 2006 Scottish Natural Heritage and the former Historic Scotland Guidance on Local Landscape Designations sets out that local landscape designation, of which special landscape areas are such a designation, have a variety of purposes which include landscape, cultural heritage and recreational matters.</p> <p>The draft guidance in this respect is following the guidance in recognising that the Gladhouse area is popular for recreation. The draft guidance does not give a commitment to extending car parking provision. The draft guidance provides a recommendation that increased car parking opportunities are explored. If such an exploration took place, then the suitability and practicality of increasing car parking provision in this location would be fully assessed and considered before going forward. That assessment would include impact on the</p>

			<p>location, the natural heritage designations and other relevant matters.</p> <p>The Council considers the Supplementary Guidance provides the information required to assist with the consideration of forestry proposals.</p>
Jon Grounsell	<p>The Statements of Importance fail to address the issue of townscape as landscape and the contribution of buildings in the countryside, which was a key development of the SNH and HS guidance in 2006. Previously, AGLVs had only been about rural landscape. The boundaries of the SLAs are confused on this topic. For example, Lasswade town centre and Polton are part of one SLA whereas boundaries have been drawn around and excluding many other villages such as Pathhead, Silverburn and Temple. In most cases these settlements make a positive contribution to landscape and it seems counter-productive and unwise that they are excluded, particularly when one of the remits of the guidance is to help inform development proposals. By placing these pockets of land outwith the SLA it seems that one of the purposes of the SLA and the Guidance is destined to fail from the start.</p> <p>There is no graphical explanation or assessment of views and vistas other than vague words accompanying photographs in the Statements of</p>	<p>Statements of Importance should contain graphical explanation or assessment of views and vistas.</p> <p>There should be an explanation of how the landscape character in each SLA relates to the adjacent non-designated landscape to highlight what makes it special.</p>	<p>Change: No Change</p> <p>Reason: The Council considers that the 2006 Scottish Natural Heritage and the former Historic Scotland Guidance on Local Landscape Designations, and national planning policy, has correctly been applied to Midlothian.</p> <p>The Council has chosen to exclude settlements from Special Landscape Areas. The Council considers there is a strong logic for including Lasswade as it is part of the North Esk river valley, which is a Special Landscape Area.</p> <p>The Council considers the Supplementary Guidance provides sufficient information and principles to be used in exercising professional judgement for the development and</p>

	<p>Importance. Views and vistas are the key way that humans experience and understand landscape value. At present the guidance is too map based and does not address views into and out of SLAs. It therefore cannot meaningfully inform development proposals that will impact on an SLA. The most important viewpoints in all SLAs are the main transport routes as these are how the vast majority of people interact with landscape on a daily basis.</p> <p>Whilst landscape character is described for each SLA there is no explanation of how this relates to non-designated landscape adjacent – in other words what makes it special.</p>		<p>assessment of proposals. The Council further considers sufficient information is provided on views relating to Special Landscape Areas. The Council does not consider it practicable to provide further lists of key views for all special landscape areas.</p>
Pat Frankland	<p>Welcomes Midlothian Council recognising the importance of the green spaces which are vital for wildlife and are also, in most cases, significant historically.</p> <p>Queries how the guidance will be communicated, monitored and enforced. Would prefer stronger term than guidance.</p> <p>Proposes a cross departmental green policy within the council to coordinate activities relating to green spaces.</p> <p>Council should communicate more with residents about what part they can play in conserving green spaces.</p>	None	<p>Change: No Change</p> <p>Reason: Comments are noted but are not considered to justify a change to the document.</p> <p>The word “guidance” comes from Planning legislation and is the term that should be used for the document. The Midlothian Local Development Plan (2017) is the primary policy framework against which proposals should be assessed. The Supplementary Guidance is part of the statutory development plan for Midlothian and provides further information to assist with the application of the Local</p>

			Development Plan's policy framework. The word "guidance" in supplementary guidance should not be read in terms of it not being important, or having reduced status.
Forestry Commission Scotland	<p>Gladhouse Reservoir and Moorfoots Scarp Special Landscape Area</p> <p>Statement of Importance for Gladhouse Reservoir and Moorfoots Scarp Special Landscape Area - Opportunities for change - <i>Management</i>:</p> <p>Appreciates the existing woodlands on the Moorfoots Scarp do not reflect best practice as described in the UK Forestry Standard (2017), but does not agree with the statement in this section that only 'native woodland' would be appropriate.</p>	In the Statement of Importance for Gladhouse Reservoir and Moorfoots Scarp Special Landscape Area - Opportunities for change – <i>Management</i> , replace the first sentence of the second paragraph that starts "The focus for" with: "The visual quality of this landscape could be enhanced by restructuring the existing woodlands and new woodland creation that contributed a woodland framework of appropriate shape, relative scale and visual diversity."	<p>Change: Yes. Gladhouse Reservoir and Moorfoots Scarp Special Landscape Area - Opportunities for change – <i>Management</i>: After the first sentence of the second paragraph beginning "The focus for" insert "Any new woodland creation will reflect the sensitive nature of the location and respect the open character".</p> <p>Reason: The existing text does not prohibit coniferous planting, but emphasises what should be the priority. The new text proposed seeks to highlight the sensitive nature of this location and the role that design and structure must have in new planting proposals.</p>
SNH	Impressed by the structure of the statements and the general clarity of the supporting text. States the Supplementary Guidance helps communicate the reasons for designation and will provide a useful reference for guiding management or change. State given the importance of the statements in guiding change through the planning system, some wording	<p><i>Fala Moor SLA</i></p> <p>Change wording in first paragraph under Opportunities for Change by replacing "The high nature conservation value of Fala Moor is recognised by a number of important designations. The</p>	<p>Change: Support the changes suggested.</p> <p>Reason: To take into account the views of the national agency.</p>

	<p>changes are suggested to text in relation to the following Statements of Importance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fala Moor</i> Suggests changes to more accurately reflect SNH’s role in designated nature conservation sites. • <i>Fala Rolling Farmland and Policies</i> Query whether the last sentence of the Overview section accurately describes this SLA, particularly with regards the strength of containment and intimacy. There are areas that exhibit these qualities but also many areas where a sense of openness is experienced, including areas around settlements where the ready and prominent background of the nearby hills is experienced. These issues are shown by the photograph supporting the statement and highlighted in the landscape description which could serve to act as something of a contradiction. • <i>Gladhouse Reservoir and Moorfoots Scarp SLA</i> Makes reference to the contribution of trees and woodland relation to Gladhouse Reservoir. Suggest adding “and the Forth Valley” in the referring to views across the B7007. • <i>North Esk Valley SLA</i> Asks if there would be merit in more strongly articulating the spatial and natural qualities experienced in this SLA. There is an important and strong sense of enclosure and naturalness experienced within this SLA and for views towards the SLA. The juxtaposition of this naturalness and enclosure, often 	<p>management and maintenance of the moorland ecology and habitat is dictated by guidance from Scottish Natural Heritage and this should be observed at all times. Good management of the existing tree plantations and woodlands is important to the value and appearance of this landscape" with “The high nature conservation value of Fala Moor is recognised by its designation as an SSSI and a Natura site. This status, particularly the internationally important Natura designation, aims to protect the natural heritage value of the site through appropriate site management. Good management of the existing tree plantations and woodlands is important to the value and appearance of this landscape.”</p> <p><i>Fala Rolling Farmland and Policies SLA</i> The character should be described as settled rather than well settled. The last sentence of overview should be amended to refer to the sense of openness in many parts of this area.</p> <p><i>Gladhouse Reservoir and Moorfoots Scarp SLA</i></p>	
--	--	--	--

	<p>in fairly close proximity to areas of settlement or transport corridor, is an important but somewhat fragile quality that should be more clearly expressed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p><i>Pentland Hills SLA</i> Considers more focus on the special assemblage of the hills, the hill fringes and Auchencorth Moss and the scenic diversity that results would be beneficial. Also the simplicity of Auchencorth Moss should be referenced in the Overview.</p> <p><i>South Esk Valley and Carrington Farmland SLA</i> Queries if perhaps there is, in overall terms, too much focus on the contribution of the River South Esk Valley. Asks if this could have a knock on effect on the focus of decision making in this SLA. Considers a slight rebalance of the message is needed to provide further emphasis on the important contribution (in a Midlothian context) made by the largely open, gently rolling, sparsely settles and strongly rural character of the associated farmlands located elsewhere in the SLA.</p> 	<p>In the Overview the contribution of trees and woodland in relation to Gladhouse Reservoir should be highlighted along with the description of ‘the mix of well managed farmland, moss and moorland surrounding Gladhouse Reservoir’. Should add ‘and the Forth Valley’ to “Important panoramic views from the B7007 across Midlothian.”</p> <p><i>North Esk Valley SLA</i> The spatial and natural qualities experienced in this SLA need to be more strongly articulated. Suggests the second bullet of the key components of the landscape could read “The strong sense of naturalness and seclusion that can readily be experienced in the valley, including in areas relatively close to transport corridors and settlements which lie on the valley fringes.”</p> <p><i>Pentland Hills SLA</i> In the Overview add “The simple, open and expansive low-lying Auchencorth Moss which strongly contrasts with the hills and their fringes, contributing significantly to the overall scenic diversity of this SLA.”</p>	
--	---	---	--

		<p><i>South Esk Valley and Carrington Farmland SLA</i> – Provide rebalance to the important contribution (in a Midlothian context) made by the largely open, gently rolling, sparsely settled and strongly rural character of the associated farmlands located elsewhere in the SLA, rather than focusing so much on the contribution of the River South Esk Valley.</p>	
Historic Environment Scotland	<p>Welcome that cultural heritage factors have been taken into consideration in the Statements of Importance, particularly where relevant designations have also been identified. States the Council may wish to consider including inventory battlefields as a factor in any future review of these designations. This would specifically be relevant for the North Esk Valley SLA which lies partially within Roslin Battlefield.</p>	<p>Refer to Roslin Battlefield and inventory status in the Statement of Importance for the North Esk Valley Special Landscape Area.</p>	<p>Change: Make reference respectively in the Pentland Hills and North Esk Valley Special Landscape Areas Statements of Importance to the Inventory of Historic Battlefields sites at Rullion Green and Roslin.</p> <p>Reason: To further reflect in the Statements of Importance the cultural heritage significance of the 1666 Battle of Rullion Green and the 1303 Battle of Roslin.</p>
West Lothian Council	<p>Stated they had no comment to make.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Change: None</p> <p>Reason: No comments were submitted.</p>