

APPENDIX 3



West Lothian Council Local Development Plan (LDP) – *Proposed Plan*

Position Statement: **COUNTRYSIDE BELTS**

JUNE 2016

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Non-technical summary

This statement sets out the council's position in support of its approach to Countryside Belts, including policy and designations, as outlined in the West Lothian Local Development Plan – *Proposed Plan* (pp. 42, 44 and Maps 1 - 5).

Background evidence, process of review and main arguments for the designation of Countryside Belts as set out in the Proposed LDP are explained.

Compliance of the spatial designation and policy with regional and national planning is demonstrated in Section 2.0.

The key points regarding Countryside Belts for West Lothian in the Proposed LDP are:

- three existing Countryside Belts have been brought forward from the adopted (2009) local plan;
- two new Countryside Belts (East Calder / Kirknewton; Linlithgow / Philpstoun & Bridgend) have been designated in response to the LDP spatial strategy, change in other spatial designations, development pressures and to reflect a recent appeal outcome;
- minor additions and deletions to the existing Countryside Belts have been itemised, justified and recorded; and
- policy has been revised to comply with the current national and regional guidance as well as best practice.

Issues within representations to the LDP public consultation were raised regarding three Countryside Belts – Livingston, Winchburgh / Broxburn and Linlithgow / Philpstoun & Bridgend – with no representation received for those at Bathgate / Whitburn and East Calder / Kirknewton. There are no outstanding issues from the completed LDP Schedules 4s and thus no modifications are required with regard to policy and designations for Countryside Belts in the LDP.

Issues raised are also addressed indirectly through the points of principle in this position statement with detailed responses to specific respondents to the Proposed LDP consultation process addressed through specific Schedule 4s as summarised in Section 5.0.

A systematic approach to the review and compliance with national and regional policy on green belts and similar countryside designations has been completed to bring forward robust and purposeful Countryside Belts with supporting policy for the proposed plan: Policy ENV 7 *Countryside Belts and settlement setting*.

The council believes that its position on Countryside Belts for the LDP is sound and justified.

1.0 West Lothian Local Development Plan context

1.1.0 Countryside Belts and the Local Development Plan

1.1.1 This position statement sets out the context for Countryside Belts as outlined in the West Lothian Local Development Plan – *Proposed Plan* (, LDP, pages 42, 44 and Maps 1 - 5) in support of Examination by The Scottish Government's Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals (DPEA). In addition, Position Statement: *Countryside Belts* sets out the review process for Countryside Belts and identifies relevant issues raised by representations to the public consultation process for the Proposed LDP.

1.1.2 The basis for the promotion of Countryside Belts for West Lothian as shown in the LDP follows national and regional policy guidance which requires their 'review and justification of additions and deletions (CD114, SDP2013, p. 54). The method to achieve this was through an 'in-house review' undertaken to update and align Countryside Belts with the spatial strategy for the LDP, other spatial countryside designations and changes in patterns of and pressures from development.

1.1.3 Countryside Belts in West Lothian and similar planning policy tools elsewhere are related to more statutory green belts. Green belt policy is one of the most well-known and respected concepts in post-war planning in the United Kingdom. Green belts are a spatial policy and tool used to contain urban sprawl as well as to provide access to the countryside. There is often confusion between the *modus operandi* of landscape designations and Countryside Belts: they are different designations serving different purposes. In short, green belts, that are the equivalent of Countryside Belts in West Lothian, have a planning purpose which may include countryside in need of improvement, even derelict land, whereas local landscape designations protect special landscapes which are identified as of high quality and worthy of conservation for the future. The related Position Statement: *Local Landscape Designation* (CDxxx) provides the context and case for West Lothian local landscape designations in the LDP.

1.1.4 Thus the key policy in the LDP framework is Policy ENV 7: *Countryside Belts and settlement setting* which announces the overarching approach to this spatial designation linked with urban edges and urban containment.

1.2.0 Background to adopted Countryside Belts in West Lothian

1.2.1 There are no formal, statutory green belts in West Lothian and the council is not involved in the multi-authority green belt for Edinburgh. Instead, West Lothian has promoted Countryside Belts (CBs) in relation to preventing coalescence of its smaller communities and larger towns and their corresponding settlement settings.

1.2.2 The *West Lothian Local Plan* (WLLP, 2009) (CD107) consolidated a set of five area based local plans, dating from *Broxburn Area Local Plan* (adopted 1991) to the *Bathgate Area Local Plan* (1998), which show earlier versions of Countryside Belts with supporting policies. Livingston Countryside Belt, deriving from the Livingston Local Plan in 1996, has almost twenty years standing.

1.2.3 The *West Lothian Local Plan* designates three Countryside Belts with reasons given in the local plan text (WLLP, 2009) (CD107, paras. 3.64 – 3.66). The three adopted Countryside Belts for the local plan are:

- Livingston,
- Bathgate / Whitburn, and
- Winchburgh / Broxburn.

1.2.4 The policy basis of the identified Countryside Belts is given in policies ENV 22 – 23 of the West Lothian Local Plan reflecting the reasons for their designation:

Policy ENV 22 Countryside Belts: designation and enhancement

Countryside Belts are designated at Livingston, Bathgate/Whitburn and Winchburgh/Broxburn as shown on the proposals maps.

Opportunities to protect and enhance the landscape of these countryside belts will be sought and encouraged as part of the Central Scotland Forest initiative through woodland planting and managed access.

Policy ENV 23 Countryside Belts: coalescence resistance

Within the Countryside Belts, development that will lead to coalescence between settlements and for which there is no

specific locational need will be resisted. Proposals that would result in sporadic development, or the expansion of existing clusters of houses and for which there is no specific locational need, will be similarly resisted.

1.2.5 Since the local plan was adopted in 2009, The Central Scotland Forest, referred to in the policy above and its enabling organisation, have been superseded by the Central Scotland Green Network, which is identified as a national development priority in National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3, 2014) (CDX).

Figure 1 – Map of Countryside Belts in the West Lothian Local Plan 2009 (See maps at end of document)

1.3.0 Revised Countryside Belts for the LDP

1.3.1 West Lothian Council is required by national and regional policy to review, justify and give purposes for green belts, or similar countryside protection mechanisms. The council took a view that as part of the approach to rationalise the consolidated West Lothian Local Plan that the existing Countryside Belts would be rolled forward, amended and updated to support the LDP's spatial strategy and allocation requirements projected over the plan period up to 2024 and beyond.

1.3.2 The current purposes of the adopted Countryside Belts are taken forward from the adopted local plan into the Proposed LDP with minor revisions as given in the table below.

Figure 2 – Purpose of designation for adopted Countryside Belts

Adopted Countryside Belt	Purpose of designation
Livingston	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To prevent coalescence with other smaller surrounding settlements; ▪ To manage development and protect agricultural land, forestry and land of natural heritage value; ▪ To include substantial areas within public ownership at Easter Inch Moss, Cousland Wood and Seafeld Law and intended to promote public access in these areas with a focus on the Edinburgh to Glasgow National Cycle Route 75; and ▪ To enhance landscape and wildlife habitat.
Bathgate / Whitburn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To protect the potentially vulnerable and predominantly rural area between the four central West Lothian main towns grouping of Bathgate / Whitburn / Armadale / Blackburn from urban sprawl and inappropriate urban development; and ▪ To protect the individual character of each community by avoiding physical coalescence and enhancing their countryside settings.
Winchburgh / Broxburn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To prevent coalescence of the settlements of Winchburgh and Broxburn particularly as they experience significant expansion as a CDA; ▪ To protect landscape integrity of the area; ▪ To address environmental management objectives , including landscape integrity, provision of community woodlands, recreational access linked to the setting, Scheduled monument and amenity value of Greendykes Bing; and ▪ To aspire to a proposed Heritage Park based on local industrial heritage and attractive countryside to counter balance adjacent Core Development Areas (see para. 7.80 in CDA section of WLLP).

1.3.3 Following on from the review of Countryside Belts and the formation of the spatial strategy for the LDP, two additional designations were required as set out below (- LDP, p. 44). See Section 3.0 and 4.0 for background to their designation though much of the rationale is self-evident from their purposes.

Figure 3 – Purpose of designation for new Countryside Belts

Countryside Belt	Purpose of designation
East Calder / Kirknewton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To maintain separate urban identities and visual separation i.e. between Kirknewton and East Calder due to the CDA expansion of the latter and intensification of rail station usage at the former; ▪ To protect the landscape setting of these settlements i.e. when viewed from the A71, Shotts rail-line, National Cycle Route 75, nearby parkland and visitor attractions; ▪ To promote public access to green space for informal recreation i.e. National Cycle Route 75; ▪ To enhance landscape and wildlife habitat [i.e. as part of the Central Scotland Green Network; and ▪ To protect traditional farmland areas with some of the best soils in West Lothian.
Linlithgow / Philpstoun & Bridgend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To maintain separate urban identities and visual separation i.e. between Linlithgow and settlements of Philpstoun and Bridgend lying to the east to protect this area of potentially vulnerable and attractive farmland; ▪ To protect the landscape setting of these settlements, in particular the eastern approaches to the historic burgh of Linlithgow via the M9, A803, Edinburgh-Glasgow rail-line, Union Canal towpath and the B9080; ▪ To promote public access to green space for informal recreation i.e. Union Canal towpath; ▪ To support enhancement of landscape and wildlife habitat i.e. as part of the Central Scotland Green Network; and ▪ To protect traditional farmland areas with some of the best soils in West Lothian.

1.3.4 With respect to Countryside Belt policy, major aims of the policy review of the adopted local plan for the LDP were:

- the reduction in numbers and the combination of policies for similar topics;
- compliance with current national and regional policy guidance; and
- clarity through identifying the purpose or direction of a policy, any specific exceptions to it and the criteria for assessment as applicable.

1.3.5 Policy ENV7 of the LDP proposed plan meets these aims through combining policies, complying with guidance, and clarifying strategic purposes and criteria for exceptions. Thus, Countryside Belt designations are underpinned by a robust policy in the LDP Proposed Plan which has three elements – declaration of designations, strategic purposes and exceptions criteria – as reproduced below.

POLICY ENV 7 Countryside Belts and settlement setting

The following areas, as indicated generally on the Proposals Map are designated as Countryside Belt:

- Livingston;
- Bathgate / Whitburn;

- Winchburgh / Broxburn;
- East Calder / Kirknewton; and
- Linlithgow / Philipstoun & Bridgend

The strategic purposes of Countryside Belts are to:

- maintain the separate identity and visual separation of settlements; protect the landscape setting of settlements;
- promote public access to green space for informal recreation; and enhance landscape and wildlife habitat; and
- protection and enhancement of the landscape of these Countryside Belts will be sought and encouraged as part of the Central Scotland Green Network and other opportunities, through woodland planting and managed access.

Within designated Countryside Belts, development will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that the proposal satisfies the following criteria:

- a proposal is environmentally acceptable and the criteria set out in the policies ENV 1–ENV 6 of the LDP can be met;
- the proposal will not undermine any of the strategic purposes as set out above;
- the proposal will not give rise to visual or physical coalescence between settlements, sporadic development, or the expansion of existing clusters of houses (existing groups of houses in the countryside but not within a town or a village) by more than 20% of the number of houses within that group; and
- there is a specific locational need which cannot be met elsewhere and need for incursion into Countryside Belt can be demonstrated.

1.3.6 A reduction in the total number of planning policies changes the approach to policy usage from very specific policies to fewer but more general policies which can be used for many purposes and in combination. Thus, Policy ENV 7 references the following six additional policies in the last paragraph above. The LDP policies cited in the exceptions criteria to Policy ENV 7 *Countryside Belt and settlement setting* are:

POLICY ENV 1: Landscape character and special landscape areas
 POLICY ENV 2: Housing development in the countryside
 POLICY ENV 3: Other development in the countryside
 POLICY ENV 4: Loss of prime agricultural land
 POLICY ENV 5: Soil Sustainability Plans
 POLICY ENV 6: Peatlands and carbon rich soils

Figure 4 – Map of Countryside Belts in the LDP (See maps at end of document)

1.3.6 These five Countryside Belts are referenced in Policy ENV 7 and mapped on the LDP Proposals Maps. The council believes that these are the appropriate Countryside Belts for West Lothian underpinned by robust policy to support the spatial strategy, wider spatial and policy framework of the proposed plan.

1.37 Appendix Five of the Proposed LDP does not table any further supplementary or planning guidance for Countryside Belts.

2.0 Regional & national context

2.1.0 Regional context

2.1.1 The Strategic Development Planning Authority for Edinburgh and South East Scotland (SESplan) adopted its first Strategic Development Plan in 2013 (SDP1) (CD114). The SDP states in paragraph 132 that ‘There are a range of countryside designations within the SESplan area including.....Countryside Belts in West Lothian’ which ‘provide

a similar function to Green Belts.’ In accordance with SDP Policy 13: *Other Countryside Designations* (CDX, p. 54), the council has undertaken a review of Countryside Belts compliant with the SDP’s approach which is set out in sections 3.0 and 4.0 below.

2.1.2 In addition, SDP Policy 13 requests that ‘Opportunities for contributing to the Green Network proposals should also be identified in these areas.’ The Proposed LDP offers support for contributions to the Green Network through Policy ENV 7: *Countryside Belts and settlement setting*, and more directly through Policy ENV 8: *Green Network* which is further detailed in Supplementary Guidance *Green Network* (September 2015).

2.1.3 The LDP spatial strategy also reflects the preferred strategy set out in the Main Issues Report for SDP2 (CD115). This is important because the council’s spatial strategy for development is an important influence on the shape of Countryside Belts in the Local Development Plan.

2.1.4 SESplan: Greenbelt Technical Note (2011) (CDX) was prepared in support of the first adopted Strategic Development Plan 2013 (CD114) and is based on the first, comprehensive Scottish Planning Policy produced in 2010. It does have some specific relevance to the review of Countryside Belts in West Lothian in that it recognises that Countryside Belts....

- ‘generally meet the specification for Green Belts as set out in the SPP [2010], in that they have been established as part of the long-term settlement strategy for West Lothian’ (CDX, para. 5.1), and that;
- ‘the relevance of the countryside belts will become increasingly important within the SDP strategy, given the requirement for further growth within the SDP West Lothian strategic development area’ (CDX, para. 5.2), and that;
- ‘the SPP requires SDPs to justify Green Belts. There is no requirement to do so for Countryside Belts. However, given the similar role of the West Lothian Countryside Belts to Green Belt, the SDP has acknowledged their important function, and placed a requirement on the LDP to review and justify additions or deletions to Countryside Belts as appropriate’ (CDX, para. 5.4), and further;
- the Technical Note places a similar requirement on the Countryside Around Towns (CAT) designation for Scottish Borders Council.

2.1.5 Countryside Belts as designated in the Proposed LDP are compliant with the terms of approved SDP Policy 13 and the Greenbelt Technical Note.

2.2.0 National context

2.2.1 Green Belts come under the ‘Placemaking’ section of Scottish Planning Policy 2014 (CD078, paras. 49 - 52). As has been established above, the principles of the development planning approach to green belts applies to Countryside Belts in West Lothian.

2.2.2 Paragraph 49 of SPP 2014 (CD078) gives authority for councils to designate ‘green belts’ around a city or town to support the spatial strategy for the LDP. There are three reasons given for making designations as quoted below and the follow through for these is evidenced in Section 3.0 *Reasons for the review of Countryside Belts for the LDP* of this position statement.

- *directing development to the most appropriate locations and supporting regeneration;*
- *protecting and enhancing the character, landscape setting and identity of the settlement; and*
- *protecting and providing access to open space.* (CD078, para. 49)

2.2.3 SPP 2014 also provides for the review of boundaries for Countryside Belts and that detailed boundaries should be shown on the LDP Proposals map. Establishment of *'clearly identifiable visual boundary markers based on landscape features'* has been achieved as shown on the LDP Maps 1 - 5. (CD078, SPP2014, paras. 50 and 51)

2.2.4 Paragraph 52 of SPP 2014 (CD078) states that the *'spatial form of the green belt should be appropriate to the location'* and *'it may encircle a settlement or take the shape of a buffer, corridor, strip or wedge.'* Countryside Belts designated in the Proposed LDP have a wide range of spatial forms including encircling some settlements as shown below on the table in *Figure 9 – Table of spatial protection of encircled settlements in the LDP* (CD078, para. 51)

2.2.5 Paragraph 52 of SPP 2014 (CD078) also requires that *'Local development plans should describe the types and scales of development which would be appropriate within a green belt.'* A list of seven development types and uses follows which is covered in LDP Policies ENV 1 – 6 (as listed in paragraph 1.3.6 above) and through combination with other policies in the wider plan.

3.0 Reasons for the review of Countryside Belts for the LDP

3.1.0 Compliance with national and regional policy

3.1.1 For spatial strategies to deliver development for the LDP, paragraphs 48 – 52 of Scottish Planning Policy 2014 offer support that the function, spatial form, and the scale of any permissible development such as essential infrastructure, horticulture, agriculture, forestry and recreational uses within designation of Countryside Belt protection. The spatial strategy of the LDP works in tandem with the five designated Countryside Belts as well as other spatial designations to control and contain the spread of development, thereby supporting higher densities of development and ensuring that countryside is not used profligately as urban sprawl (CD078, paras. 48 - 52).

3.1.2 The Strategic Development Plan of 2013 also requires the review of spatial designations related to green belts and the justification of any additions or deletions. (CD114, Policy 13)

3.1.3 The five Countryside Belts as set out in the proposed plan meet national and regional policy requirements.

3.2.0 LDP Spatial Strategy

3.2.1 The spatial strategy for Proposed LDP and the countryside belt for protection of land beyond settlement boundaries are both interlinked to strategic planning for the longer-term. Large allocations of housing and employment land require to be fitted into the land in and around settlements based on a range of assessment criteria such as education capacity, transport, access, landscape, site requirements etc. are the forces "pushing outwards". Spatial containment of urban development and sustainability are the forces "pulling inwards" on the spread of development is primarily achieved through Countryside Belts and a number of other spatial policies including candidate Special Landscape Areas, and occasionally by designations such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest and historic Designed Gardens and Landscapes.

3.2.2 'Sustainability factors' are cited in the Proposed LDP as integral to determining the spatial strategy as well as site by-site decisions which have been assessed against the overarching aims to:

- *promote development in the most sustainable locations where its impact can be minimised;*
- *reduce the need to travel;*

- prioritise sustainable transport modes;
- maximise the use of brownfield land; and
- conserve and enhance environmental resources. (CD093, pp. 10-11, para. 5.2)

The emphasis on sustainability in the overall approach to selection of sites for development also acts as a brake on urban sprawl.

3.2.3 Large allocations have been brought forward from the adopted West Lothian Local Plan as in the quote from the spatial strategy below and many of these are contained by the three adopted Countryside Belts but additional targets to deliver development requirements has meant that some alterations were required to these to accommodate new sites.

“The LDP spatial strategy seeks to deliver sustainable development by continuing to support the established CDA allocations at Armadale, East Broxburn / Winchburgh and Livingston and the Almond Valley (i.e. Calderwood, East Calder and Gavieside, West Livingston) together with the strategic allocation at Heartlands, Whitburn. Further land allocations for development are required in order to meet SESplan requirements in full”. (CD093, PLDP, pp. 10-11, para. 5.4)

3.2.4 A particular case has been Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge, where a general ‘area of restraint’ policy on residential development has been in operation for over a decade due primarily to pressures on education capacity from previous large residential developments in the 1980s and early 90s. This ‘area of restraint’ is now lifted through the Proposed LDP (pp. 26-27) responding to and giving rise to increased pressures for development. Given that Linlithgow is heavily constrained by landscape designations, the application of a Countryside Belt to the east was considered and agreed.

3.3.0 Revision of Areas of Special Agricultural Importance (ASAI)

3.3.1 The West Lothian Local Plan (CD107, p. 20) designates the best farmland in West Lothian as “Areas of Special Agricultural Importance”(ASAI) Three ASAI's were designated in the east of the council area along the boundary with Edinburgh as listed and shown on plan below:

- around Duntarvie and Woodend by the M9 north of Winchburgh;
- around Powflats and Muirend by the M8 south of Broxburn; and
- around Humbie and Whitehill by the A71 north of Kirknewton.

Figure 5 – Map of Areas of Special Agricultural Importance from West Lothian Local Plan 2009 (See maps at end of document)

3.3.2 After consideration, it was decided that these designations were better suited to a role as Countryside Belt with the policy framework being a better vehicle for the protection of agricultural land. This decision was based on a number of reasons:

- SPP increased soils protection emphasis giving a stronger policy basis;
- ASAI's were not fully consistent with highest classes of soils(1,2 and 3.1) in the Macaulay Soil Maps but recognised best areas of traditional farmland in West Lothian;
- ASAI's act as development constraints on at least one side where abutting settlement envelopes;
- ASAI's are adjacent to east West Lothian settlements & in close proximity to mutual boundary and Edinburgh Green Belt; and
- They are located within commuter distance to Edinburgh where considerable development pressures exist to “jump” the Edinburgh green belt.

3.3.3 Changing the ASAI's to Countryside Belt has the positive implication for the LDP spatial strategy in that there is better clarity over the underlying role of the ASAI spatial designation as protection from and constraints to development. The re-purposing of the ASAI's as Countryside Belt was ultimately preferable to their removal at such potentially sensitive locations.

3.4.0 Local Landscape Designation Review integration with Countryside Belts

3.4.1 Changes in local landscape designation boundaries and coverage arising from the Local Landscape Designation Review (CD103) and its integration with the LDP proposed plan have required decisions to be taken particularly for areas where countryside protection is diminished or lost. Some of these areas have been incorporated into Countryside Belts. A prime example is the area to the north of Livingston which included Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) within the settlement boundary at Dechmont Law and to the north along the M8 as an unwieldy appendage to the Bathgate Hills and Avon Valley AGLV was removed from the new Special Landscape Area and thus the section along the M8 became Countryside Belt to ensure that the settlements of Dechmont and Livingston retained their identities and did not coalesce.

3.4.2 Mapping of the LDP proposed plan is being done on Geographical Information Systems for the first time thus it has enabled analysis through the application of the new layer for proposed Special Landscape Areas to show where gaps and anomalies appear as minor errors. This is in part due to the use of a landscape character assessment with a blank slate approach to the creation from afresh of local landscape designations. Hence, Countryside Belts which were spatially designed to mesh with the adopted local landscape designations of the current local plan do not match the new Special Landscape Areas. This has resulted in the need for a series of minor technical changes through alterations to the Countryside Belt boundaries.

3.5.0 Development pressure along the eastern boundary

3.5.1 While the Edinburgh green belt does not extend into the West Lothian administrative area, there are nevertheless considerable development pressures arising from the vibrant and dynamic capital city of Edinburgh which influence development in West Lothian:

- proximity and growth pressures along and near the mutual boundary;
- transport hubs at Forth Road Bridge, M8 / M9 / Edinburgh Bypass, completion of tram line to Airport and pending completion of the Queensferry Crossing;
- intensification of development through the West Edinburgh Framework at Gogar, the airport, Edinburgh Park and general vicinity;
- growth and economic buoyancy of the important financial sector much of it based on the western fringe of Edinburgh; and
- constraints of the Edinburgh green belt itself resulting in development leapfrogging into the West Lothian area.

3.5.2 Concerns for West Lothian include ongoing expansion by the West Edinburgh Strategic Development Area into the Edinburgh greenbelt bringing it closer to Livingston; general issues regarding quality of the environment, landscape and biodiversity; and potential encroachment onto quality agricultural land. As a buoyant capital city, Edinburgh continues to expand and it is inevitable that it will press closer to communities nearby in West Lothian.

3.5.3 Where settlements in the east of the council area are under pressure, the council is cognisant of the need to avoid settlement coalescence and support the identity of local settlements. The designation and

reinforcement of Countryside Belt designations gives further protection to settlements in West Lothian beyond the Edinburgh green belt.

3.5.4 West Lothian Council is a consultee for development plans both from the adjacent City of Edinburgh Council and SESplan as the Strategic Development Plan Authority. The council also makes comment in relation to matters affecting Edinburgh Airport.

3.6.0 Settlement Settings – pressure and protection

3.6.1 Analysis of the relative distances and countryside between settlements under pressure from the risk of settlement coalescence has been identified in *Figure 6 – Settlement settings: pressure and protection*. In general, smaller distances between settlements reduce visual separation. Woodland and strong topographical features like sylvan river corridors and hillside backdrops tends to improve settlement setting, while derelict and uncared for land often detracts from the setting of settlements. Enhancement of the countryside and improved access are aims of Policy ENV 7.

3.6.2 In addition to countryside belts, there is a range of spatial designation which – where present – reinforce the same planning purposes as countryside belts in West Lothian. The Position Statement: Local Landscape Designations (CDX, p. x) includes a short discussion on the validation of settlement settings given by landscape character analysis work.

3.6.3 Areas of concern are identified below with measurements taken from closest points of Settlement Belts on adopted plan Proposals Maps (CD107, WLLP, Maps 1-5):

Figure 6 – Settlement settings: pressure and protection

(Distances of 500 metres or less between settlements highlighted in amber)

Land between settlements under pressure	Settlement setting (nearest distance between settlement boundaries in WLLP)	Spatial & other protection in WLLP (unprotected land)
Linlithgow / villages east of Linlithgow	Attractive traditional farmland, rural roads, Union Canal, rail-line, Pardovan Holdings, Champfleurie estate, groupings of cottages, woodlands (2.2 kilometres)	Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) to southwest, Scheduled Monument (Union Canal), Conservation Area
Winchburgh / Broxburn & Uphall	Faucheldean and Niddry Bings, mixed countryside and hamlets, golf course, Union Canal (.5 - 1.5kilometres)	Countryside Belt, Scheduled Monuments (canal & bings)
Broxburn & Uphall / Livingston & Uphall Station	Houstoun Mains Holdings, country hotel, golf course, A89, M8, rail-line, industrial areas, Beugh Burn (750 metres)	Countryside Belt
Dechmont / Livingston	North Woods, forest, M8 cutting, J3 – M8 (250 metres)	Area of Great Landscape Value, Countryside Belt
Dechmont / Uphall	Houstoun Mains Holdings, A899 / A89, Dechmont Roundabout, farmland, The Brox Burn, woodland (1.15 kilometres)	Countryside Belt, Conservation Area, Tree preservation Orders (2)
Mid Calder / East Calder	Mid Calder Bridge, Linhouse Water, Calderwood Country Park; woodland (less than 500 metres)	Area of Great Landscape Value, Countryside Belt, Conservation Area, Site of Special Scientific Interest
East Calder	A71, Shotts rail-line, traditional agricultural land	Countryside Belt, Area of Special

/ Kirknewton	(less than 750 metres)	Agricultural Interest
Livingston & Uphall Station / Pumpherston	Bounded to west by Houstoun Industrial Estate; mapped boundary (0.0 metres)	Within Settlement Boundary for Livingston, separated by industrial estate boundary
Livingston / Polbeth	Traditional farmland shelterbelt between housing site HLv136 and Brucefield Industrial Estate to east; to north is West Calder Burn and Harwood Water, traditional farmland, Limefield Glen, Brierstonhill Moss, Five Sisters Zoo, Polbeth Bing, established woodland (40 - 400 metres)	Countryside Belt
Polbeth / West Calder	West Calder Burn, farm land, park land, A71, rail-line (220 metres)	Countryside Belt, open space safeguard (white land)
Seafield / to west / to north / to east	A705, A779, rail-line, Easter Inch Moss, National Cycle Route 75, Seafield Law, Tailend Moss, established and afforested woodland, traditional farmland, cottages (800 metres / 820 metres / 600 metres) [River Almond to south and south-east is a robust edge]	Countryside Belts, Area of Special Landscape Control, Local Nature Reserves (2)
Blackburn / Bathgate (See also Seafield)	M8 corridor, Easter Inch Moss, pasture, woodland (30 metres)	Countryside Belts, Area of Special Landscape Control, Local Nature Reserve
West Calder / to west / to north (See Polbeth / West Calder above)	West Calder Burn, River Almond, local roads, rail-line, Five Sisters and Addiewell Bings, woodland shelter belts, established woodland, traditional farmland (500 metres / 800 metres)	Countryside Belts, Area of Special Landscape Control, Safeguarded Open Space, Scheduled Monument (Five Sisters Bing) (white land)
East Whitburn / to west / to north / to east	Traditional farmland, M8, A801, A705, River Almond, local roads, Overhead power lines & pylons, woodland and afforestation (190 metres / 370 metres / 760metres)	Countryside Belts, Area of Special Landscape Control
Whitburn / Armadale	M8, A706, rail-line, local roads, River Almond, Boghead Burn, traditional farmland, rural steadings / villas /hotel, disused workings, sewage works, policy woods, shelter belts, new woodland (1.2 kilometres)	Countryside Belts, Area of Special Landscape Control
Armadale / Bathgate	A801, A89, local roads, rail-line, policy and newer woodlands, lines of overhead wires and pylons, traditional farmland, cottages and steadings, travelling people's site (now demolished) (620 metres)	Countryside Belts, Area of Special Landscape Control
Bathgate / Livingston	M8 gyratory road system and roundabouts, rail-line, Caputhall Woodland, country hotel / villas / cottages, woodland, Tailend Moss (220 metres)	Countryside Belt, Site of Special Scientific Interest, Nature Reserve

3.6.4 Figure 6 – *Settlement settings: pressure and protection* shows that ten settlement settings highlighted in amber are limited to 500 metres or less between settlements. Many of these gaps between settlements are not only narrow but under pressure as suggested by the text.

3.6.5 Consequently, the council believes the LDP Proposed Plan is justified in extending, reinforcing and designating new Countryside Belts. It is recognised that there is an argument that communities in some instances should be amalgamated into larger settlements but due to the long history of former mining communities, the social identities of West Lothian towns are strong as represented by widespread tradition of annual Gala days and marching bands even in small communities – these are all strong indicators of settlement identity (See next section).

3.6.6 The historic physical separation of communities and decades of investment in urban, countryside and woodland regeneration continues with support through the proposed plan policy framework and the Central Scotland Green Network.

3.6.0 Settlement Identity – physical and cultural evidence

3.6.1 While there are traditional market towns across West Lothian, many settlements have their origins or basis for expansion in the shale and coal mining and other industries of the Victorian, Edwardian or more recent eras. Post-industrial public improvement schemes have done much to improve the quality of towns across West Lothian. For many former mining towns and other settlements across West Lothian settlement identity and character has a strong basis in cultural and civic traditions such as Gala Days, marching bands and the annual round of local activities which make these events happen. Physical evidence of settlement identity can be found in war memorials, community woodlands and parks.

3.6.2 Community woodlands and parks are a recent expression of community involvement and many in West Lothian reflect partnership with and dedication of the Central Scotland Forest Initiative, now re-invigorated as the Central Scotland Green Network. There is also much recent interest in allotments and community growing projects.

3.6.3 With respect to war memorials, from University of Edinburgh, Scotland's War, West Lothian's War, web-page (CDX):

The war memorials most commonly seen are the crosses and obelisks at prominent locations on a town's main street. These are typical of the way many communities chose to commemorate their dead. These memorials were chosen and paid for by locals. There was no government or council funding so there is a huge variation in the styles of memorial and the way the names are listed.

3.6.4 West Lothian Council has taken a key role in a programme of activities to commemorate the centenary of the Great War. As part of this programme the council approved the creation of a £50,000 War Memorial Support Grant Scheme. (2014) War memorials are managed by the council.

3.6.5 Marching bands for community events have a long established tradition for communities in West Lothian many originating from former pits, mines and industrial works. There is a broad range of bands supporting community events across the area including marching bands; brass, pipe and reed bands, school, town and military bands.

3.6.6 With respect to marching bands in West Lothian, here is confirmation of their local importance in an extract from *Scottish Government: Review of Marches and Parades in Scotland, 2005* (CDX, 4.46, 4.47) from the 'Traditions of processions in Scotland' section:

Many towns and villages across Scotland have annual gala days, bringing these areas together in a celebration of history and culture as well as community life. These events are often organised by voluntary committees. Historically, galas days took place in mining communities and there were often two gala days, one in May to celebrate the miners' one-day holiday and the other in June. Gala days were a chance to dress up. Bands turned out to play music for a procession of children, which ended in a park where the rest of the day's events took place.....There are over 30 gala days in West Lothian including galas in Bathgate, Armadale and the Deans Gala in Livingston. Many gala days remain aimed at children such as the children's gala in Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge.

3.6.7 Set out below is fairly comprehensive but not exhaustive list to demonstrate the significance of community identity in West Lothian. It is noted that some of these settlements listed do not suffer from development pressure or coalescence with neighbouring settlements and thus do not require the protection of countryside belts but were recorded to demonstrate the strength of local communities which has lost in many more urban areas in Scotland.

3.6.8 All these communities have their own Settlement Boundary with the exception of Uphall and Broxburn which are included within one boundary. However, as with communities listed below they have their own distinct characters. The persistence of communities within Livingston new town & along its boundaries is also evidenced.

3.6.9 The purpose of Figure 7 – *Settlement identity: physical and cultural evidence* is to challenge negative expectations and prejudices about the former mining towns and small communities of West Lothian. Further it demonstrates that strong and vital communities are often more in evidence through the voluntary sector than the physical attributes of towns and villages. Unfortunately, much of this information is only available through local knowledge therefore there are gaps in the table where information could not be found given time constraints and in some parts only indicative information was obtained.

Figure 7 – Settlement identity: physical and cultural evidence

(Settlements highlighted in pale green are named in policy or about Countryside Belts in the LDP Proposals Maps 1-5, CD107)

Settlement	Community woodland / park	War Memorial	Marching / Brass Band	Gala Day
Addiewell	North Addiewell Bing Community Woodland Addiewell Community Woodland (by station)	Loganlea green	Not known	Loganlea & district Gala - June
Armadale	Hardhill Millenium Woodland	South Street	Armadale Flute Band	June gala
Bathgate	Little Boghead Nature Reserve	War Memorial – Mid Street	Bathgate Brass Band Boghall and Bathgate Caledonia Pipe Band Regal Wind Band	June – Newland's Day
Blackburn	-	Yes – East Main Street	Not known	Blackburn Gala - June
Blackridge	Blackridge Community Woodland (by Bedlormie Drive)	Honour rolls on stained glass windows, Blackridge Parish Church	Blackridge Thistle Band	Yes – last Sunday in June
Breich	Community woodland (north of A71)	-	-	-
Bridgend	-	Not known	-	Yes - summer

Broxburn	Broxburn woodland Community	Recently erected sculpture on plinth at Strathbrock Partnership Centre	Broxburn and Livingston Band	Broxburn Gala Day - August
Dechmont	-	Dechmont Memorial Hall; War Memorial Chapel, Bangour Village Hospital	-	-
East Calder	Calderwood Country Park			East Calder & Wilkieston - June
East Whitburn	Whitrigg woodland community	Yes – Almond Square		
Ecclesmachan		Ecclesmachan Cemetery – 27 WW1 war graves		Ecclesmachan & Threemiletown Gala - June
Fauldhouse	Knowes Woodland	Bridge Street	Fauldhouse Heatherbell Flute Band	Fauldhouse chilrens' Gala - June
Kirknewton	Community woodland (by White Moss Rd).	Main Street		Yes - summer
Linlithgow	No community woodland; Linlithgow and District Allotment Society	Wooden memorial with honour roll, St Michael's Church; Yes - High Street, Westport	Linlithgow Reed Band	Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Children's Gala - June
Livingston	Dedridge Ecology Project / (Dedridge Ponds) Bellsquarry Community Woodland (Bellsquarry Woodland Group) Murieston Trail & Campbridge Pond (Murieston Environment Group) Also Craigshill Greenspace group	West Lothian Civic Centre Livingston Village churchyard	Livingston Pipe Band	Deans Gala Day – June Livingston Village – June Pumpherstons Gala - May
Longridge	Easter Longridge Wood	Corner of Fauldhouse Road & Main Street (was on external wall of kirk & moved when sold)	-	Not known
Mid Calder	Sommers Park Walled Garden Calderwood Country Park	Mid Calder War Memorial, Cemetery Gates, Main Street	-	Mid Calder Gala - June
Philpstoun		Not known	-	Historically, had a gala
Polbeth	Polbeth Community Woodland / Community Garden. PWCCG group lease old market garden and some woodland from WLC to provide outdoor leisure opportunities, including growing	-	-	Polbeth Gala - June
Pumphers-ton	-	Previously stone tablet / Roll of Honour was in recently demolished school; with project group to be re-sited in due	-	-

		course		
Seafield	-	Seafield Oil Works war Memorial	-	Seafield & District Children's Gala - July
Stoneyburn / Bents	-Loganlea Bing woodland Stoneheap woodland	Yes – Main Street	Stoneyburn Flute Band	Not known – but believed gala with band
Torphichen	-	Tablet memorials erected at Parish Kirk & United Free Church; Scottish Korean War Memorial (2km NE)	Torphichen and Bathgate Pipe Band	Torphichen Children's Gala - June
Uphall	Uphall Community Woodland (north of Thomson Court)	St Nicholas Church – Roll of Honour	-	Uphall Children's Gala - June
Uphall Station	-	Not known	Uphall Station Pipe Band	Uphall Station Gala - June
West Calder	Allotment; woodland at Hermand Park	Yes – by library	West Calder Brass Band	Parkhead Children's Gala - June
Whitburn	East Mains Community Woodland Hunter Grove Parkland	Yes – Manse Road	Whitburn Brass Band Whitburn Flute Band	Whitburn Gal Week - June
Wilkieston	-	War Blinded Hospital	-	With Kirknewton
Winchburgh	-	Main Street & Niddry Rd – grant given recently for commemorative bench	-	Winchburgh & district Children's Gala

Sources: *West Lothian Council Services; West Lothian Street Atlas, West Lothian Local Plan – Proposals Maps, West Lothian Local History Librarian; CSGN & Woodland Trust web-sites; The Scottish War Graves Project; Commonwealth War Graves Commission.*

Figure 9 – Photos supporting table of settlement identity



Community woodland/ park - Damsel Fly, Dedridge Grassroots Project, Dedridge Pond Park, Livingston



War Memorial - Mid Calder War Memorial, Cemetery Gates, Main Street



Marching / Brass Band - Whitburn Brass Band



Gala Day – Blackburn, 1913

3.6.10 The table and photographs above demonstrate the strong identity and vitality of settlements across West Lothian. Civic pride and activity continues to flourish in the settlements of West Lothian be it as occasional community events, seasonal town decoration, long term interventions such as war memorials, old and new gathering places, woodlands & path networks, community gardens and allotments. Consequently, it is important to protect these individual settlements, define their boundaries and resist their coalescence with the introduction of countryside belts.

4.0 Countryside Belt review and main outcomes

4.1.0 Approach to review

4.1.1 The existing settlement pattern in West Lothian has many sources. The origins of many settlements as stopping of points on routes between the cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, Stirling and the north can be seen in the predominance of 'Main Streets' and linear settlement pattern. The east-west routes across West Lothian also explain the extent of settlement across the council area. The major exception is of course Livingston New Town overlaid on the fabric of rural and industrial hamlets in the Almond Valley from the 1960s onward.

4.1.2 The review of Countryside Belts for the Local Development Plan has proceeded in a methodical way based on examination of the WLLP Proposals Maps. Issues have been identified and justifications for additions and deletions set out. It has essentially been a two-step process and has been recorded in the two appendices at the end of this position statement.

Step 1 – Appendix 2: Review of adopted Countryside Belts in WLLP for the West Lothian LDP (pp. 27 – 33)

- identifies issues by location related to Countryside Belts in the adopted local plan;
- shows additions and deletions to Countryside Belts;
- integration with candidate Special Landscape Areas and where Areas of Special Landscape Control de-designated and re-designated as Countryside Belt;
- gives justifications for actions taken; and
- additional general comments, mapping issues, and improvements.

Step 2 – Appendix 1: Summary of integration of Countryside Belts with proposed spatial designations for the proposed plan (pp. 25 – 27)

- amendments given by location; and
- illustrates changes between adopted plan (WLLP) and LDP proposed plan.

4.2.0 Main outcomes of the review

4.2.1 The details of the amendments to Countryside Belts are given in the tables in Appendices 1 & 2 and underpin the main revisions to the adopted designations which have taken place. The primary changes for Countryside Belts in the proposed plan are:

- Areas of Special Agricultural Importance (ASAs) have been re-designated as Countryside Belt to protect established farmland adjacent the City of Edinburgh boundary which are vulnerable to encroachment from development pressure from westward expansion into the settings and countryside areas near smaller settlement in east West Lothian;
- three existing Countryside Belts have been brought forward from the adopted West Lothian Local Plan;
- two new Countryside Belts have been designated in response to the spatial strategy, changes in other countryside designations, development pressures;
- new Countryside Belt between East Calder / Kirknewton arises from the re-designations of ASAs;
- proposed Countryside Belt to the east of Linlithgow to protect the eastern approaches to the historic townscape, its landscape setting and established agricultural areas and, to reflect a recent planning appeal outcome at Burghmuir (see paras. 4.2.2 – 4 below);
- changes arising from the review of local landscape designation and integration with Special Landscape Areas;
- changes and reinforcements of Countryside Belts in response to the spatial strategy of the LDP including revisions of settlement boundaries;
- minor additions and deletions to Countryside Belts to support settlement settings and identity; and
- minor additions and deletions to Countryside Belts in response to development pressure along the council's eastern administrative boundary.

4.2.2 The Countryside Belt to the east of Linlithgow arose from a number of factors: lifting of the area of restraint policy; high scores for landscape quality through the Local Landscape Designation Review (CD103) and intimation through a planning appeal in the vicinity of Burghmuir, Blackness Road, at the eastern edge of Linlithgow. The decision notice for case appeal PPA-400-2045 'Land at Burghmuir A, East of Springfield, Linlithgow' (CDX, pp. 32 – 35, July 2015) includes a Section: *The character and setting of Linlithgow*. The Reporter makes a case for the

importance of protecting this area of Linlithgow from the development based on the appeal information and gives the following points for the retention of the land to protect the character and setting of Linlithgow:

“The historic town of Linlithgow sits down in the landscape and its character is dominated by the Loch, with the Palace and Kirk sitting above it. These lie just to the north of the historic High Street, on an old route between Edinburgh and places to the west and north. The town’s setting is the rolling hills and woodland of the mostly agricultural Linlithgow / Queensferry Farmland landscape character area. (para. 4.13)

In my assessment, Springfield is the most outlying residential area at Linlithgow. At present, the approach to the town on this side is across a ridge of open countryside, then downhill past Springfield and other suburbs into the centre of Linlithgow. With the proposed housing, the town would extend up onto the ridge, rising some 2 to 4 metres above Springfield on this side. This would make it apparent from considerably further afield and extend the built area of the town disproportionately along the major eastern route to the motorway. That would bring the built development perceptibly close to the motorway junction. Whilst currently the town is only seen in glimpses through the trees, it would become more prominent to those approaching the town from the motorway junction. Thus the new housing would significantly lengthen the suburban route into the town. It would also encroach onto that route, in contrast to the existing development at Springfield and the office building to the north of Blackness Road, which are mostly set back from the road edge, lower down and concealed in part by tree cover. (4.15)

The landscape to the south of Blackness Road generally falls away to a shallow valley, through which run Edinburgh Road, the railway to Edinburgh and the Union Canal. The railway line at this point is at a similar level to the appeal site, which appears as a nearby ridge across open fields as the views open out from a low cutting. The Union Canal (a Core Path) is a few metres higher than the railway and affords clearer views of the appeal site. Edinburgh Road is further up the southern slope of the shallow valley opposite the appeal site. For a substantial stretch it provides clear views across to the site. All of these views are from the rural area on approach to the town. In these views, the existing development at Springfield is clearly seen, albeit set down and surrounded by trees. (4.16)

The prominence of the site on a ridge, taken with its apparent linear extension along the road and its block projection into the countryside with little respect for topography would be unsympathetic to the character of the town and would erode its setting”. (4.18)

4.2.3 While the decision letter pertains to a particular proposal, the inferences regarding the countryside to the east of Linlithgow (located south of Junction 3 at the M9 and south to the Union Canal corridor), the Reporter concludes that development in this area ‘would significantly harm the character and the setting of Linlithgow’ (4.23) due to:

- the town’s setting is the rolling hills and woodland of the mostly agricultural Linlithgow / Queensferry Farmland landscape character area where it lies low down and largely unobtrusive within existing trees and shelter belts;
- extension of development up onto the low ridge and higher ground near Junction 3 of the M9 i.e. topography;
- lengthening of the suburban route into the town and would also encroach onto that route; and
- potential impacts on views from the rural area approach to the town from the Union Canal and the railway line.

4.2.4 Based on the above recent appeal decision, the council has designated a Countryside Belt to the east of Linlithgow at proposed plan stage.

4.3.0 Spatial protection of West Lothian towns and villages in the LDP

4.3.1 The settings and identities of West Lothian towns and villages which are enclosed and protected by Countryside Belts and or other spatial designations as shown in the LDP proposed plan Maps 1-5 are as set out in the table below. The measure is taken at the landward edge of settlement boundaries. The aim of spatial

designations around towns and villages varies but, regardless if it is Countryside Belt or not, designations immediately adjacent to settlement boundaries will have the added benefit of protecting the landscape setting of towns and villages.

4.3.2 SPP2014 (CD078, p. 15) in paragraph 51 of the Development Planning guidance to local authorities on green belts recognises that their spatial form may take a variety of forms including 'encircling' a settlement. In combination with other spatial designations and boundaries it is the case that settlement settings of many towns in West Lothian are indeed heavily protected as can be seen in Figure 9 below. Where settlement boundaries have been expanded there is a corresponding deletion in the adjacent Countryside Belt as detailed under 'Additional Information' column.

Figure 9 – Spatial protection of encircled settlements in the LDP

(Information based on West Lothian LDP Proposed Plan: Maps 1-5)

Settlement	Spatial protection in LDP	Additional information (including settlement boundary changes)
Bathgate	Countryside Belt, Special Landscape Area, Local Biodiversity Site, Open Space Safeguard	-
Blackburn	Countryside Belt, Local Nature Reserve, Local Biodiversity Site, Open Space Safeguard	-
Broxburn / Uphall	Countryside Belt, Local Nature Reserve, Local Biodiversity Site, Open Space Safeguard, Scheduled Monument, Conservation Area	Have been physically joined towns for nearly a century and thus within one settlement boundary; abut City of Edinburgh Council administrative boundary.
Dechmont & Bangour addition	Countryside Belt, Special Landscape Area, Conservation Area	Dechmont settlement boundary extended around Bangour addition.
East Calder	Countryside Belt, Special Landscape Area, Local Biodiversity Site, Open Space Safeguard	Abuts City of Edinburgh Council administrative boundary; small areas of white land across A71 at Langton Park and by Camps Viaduct not designated
East Whitburn	Countryside Belt, Local Biodiversity Site, Open Space Safeguard	-
Ecclesmachan	Countryside Belt, Special Landscape Area	-
Linlithgow	Special Landscape Area, Countryside Belt, Local Biodiversity Site, Conservation Area, Historic Battlefield, Open Space Safeguard, Union Canal Scheduled Monument	Western boundary with Falkirk Council area along River Avon.
Livingston	Countryside Belt, Special Landscape Area, Conservation Area, Local Biodiversity Site, Open Space Safeguard, Local Nature Reserve	Livingston settlement boundary has been altered from WLLP: shifted to west at Polbeth to reflect school re-development; Mid Calder, Uphall Station and Pumpherston given own settlement boundaries outwith Livingston; Dechmont Law AGLV area becomes Countryside Belt outwith settlement boundary; former AGLV area within boundary at Dechmont Law re-designated as open space.
Mid Calder	Special Landscape Area, Local Biodiversity Site, Open Space Safeguard, Countryside Belt, Conservation Area, Site of Scientific Special Interest	The LDP provides Mid Calder with its own settlement boundary as in the adopted local plan it is within the Livingston settlement envelope.
Polbeth	Countryside Belt, Local Biodiversity Site, Open Space	Eastern settlement boundary with Livingston shifted closer to Polbeth to reflect the

		affiliations of the adjacent housing sites.
Seafield	Countryside Belt, Local Nature Reserve, Local Biodiversity Site	-
Torphichen	Special Landscape Area, Conservation Area, Open Space	Small area of white land remains to south-west of Torphichen not designated
Uphall Station and Pumpherston	Countryside Belt, Local Biodiversity Site, Local Nature Reserve, Industrial Estate / Livingston Settlement Boundary	The LDP provides Uphall Station and Pumpherston with their own joint settlement boundaries as in the adopted local plan they were within the Livingston settlement boundary.
Wilkieston	Countryside Belt, Tree Preservation Order (TPO): Wilkieston (Linburn Hospital Area)	Settlement boundary shifted west to reflect underlying TPO.
Winchburgh	Countryside Belt, Local Biodiversity Site	Abuts City of Edinburgh Council administrative boundary; small area of white land to north-west not designated
Woodend & Newton	Countryside Belt, Special Landscape Area, Designed Garden and Landscape	-

4.3.2 The numbers of settlement encircled or nearly encircled by Countryside Belts and other spatial designations in Figure 9 above is balanced by an equivalent list of settlements in West Lothian which are not encircled by Countryside Belts and other designations. The communities listed below are not encircled by countryside belt designations but are surrounded mostly by 'white land' with spatial designations listed where they occur.

- Addiewell – Countryside Belt to north-west, Open Space Safeguard
- Armadale – Countryside Belt to east and south, Local Biodiversity Sites (2) to west
- Bridgend – unconstrained; relaxation of local landscape designation to south
- Blackridge – AGLV constraint retained to north as Special Landscape Area with extension of SLA to east along A89 to Barbauchlaw Burn
- Briech - Open Space Safeguard to north
- Fauldhouse – Local Biodiversity Site to south
- Greenrigg – abuts North Lanarkshire Council administrative boundary
- Kirknewton – Countryside Belt, to north; Local Biodiversity Site to south
- Longridge – Open Space Safeguards to south and south-west
- Philpstoun - Local Biodiversity Site to south; Open Space Safeguard to south-west
- Stoneyburn / Bents – Local Biodiversity Site to north-east; Open Space Safeguards
- West Calder – Countryside Belt protection to north extended to west; open space to east now outwith settlement boundaries; white land to south
- Westfield – SLA constraint to north retained; removal of AGLV constraint to south and south-west

- Whitburn – Countryside Belt to north-west, north and east, Local Biodiversity Sites to north and north-west (overlapping)

4.3.3 Protection from Countryside Belts, local landscape designations and to a minor extent designed landscapes, historic gardens and battlefields is offered to settlements in the east and north-east of West Lothian. These communities are closest to Edinburgh and many neighbour Livingston. Consequently, communities in the south and south-west of the council area are the least constrained though they are offered protection of their setting and identity through designation of Settlement Boundaries, spatial designations and accompanying planning policy.

4.3.4 Where ‘white land’ that is not identified through planning is outwith settlement boundaries, the policy framework of the LDP will apply including:

Policy ENV 2: *Housing development in the countryside*; and

Policy ENV 3: *Other development in the countryside*.

4.4.0 Evidence of settlements enclosed by spatial protection in other LDPs

4.4.1 While settlements encircled by Countryside Belts and other spatial designations is permissible through paragraph 51 of SPP2014 (CD078), the council is aware that there are challenges to settlement boundaries and Countryside Belts which have arisen through the MIR stage and the consultation on the LDP proposed plan – see section 5.0 below. West Lothian is not alone in being a planning authority with considerable numbers of settlements protected by designations and constrained from development.

4.4.2 The *Stirling Local Development Plan* (adopted 2014) and its proposals maps (CDxxx) show a number of smaller and larger settlements, akin to those of West Lothian, completely enclosed by Green Belt and / or Local Landscape Area. ‘Local Landscape Area’ is, like ‘Special Landscape Area’, another name for a local landscape designation. There are more than half a dozen settlements enclosed by spatial designations in the Stirling local authority area including:

- Ardeonaig (p. 108) enclosed and covered by Local Landscape Area
- Bridge of Allan (p. 120) enclosed by Green Belt and Local Landscape Area
- Dunblane (p. 148) enclosed by Green Belt
- Fintry (p. 166) enclosed by Local Landscape Area
- Gargunnoch (p. 170) enclosed by Local Landscape Area
- Strathblane and Blanefield (p. 226) enclosed by Green Belt and Local Landscape Area

4.4.3 The South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan (June 2015) (CDxxx) on its north and south strategy plans indicates more than a dozen settlements which here too are enclosed by spatial designations including:

- Biggar (Adopted Strategy North – adopted map) Green Belt, Special Landscape Area
- Carluke (Adopted Strategy North – adopted map) Green Belt, Special Landscape Area
- Coulter (Adopted Strategy North – adopted map) Green Belt, Special Landscape Area
- Douglas (Adopted Strategy North – adopted map) Special Landscape Area, Long Established and Other Woodland
- Dunsyre (Adopted Strategy North – adopted map) Special Landscape Area
- East Kilbride (Adopted Strategy North – adopted map) Green Belt, Special Landscape Area, Prime Agricultural Land, Conservation Area

- Glassford (Adopted Strategy North – adopted map) Green Belt, Special Landscape Area
- Larkhall (Adopted Strategy North – adopted map) Green Belt, Special Landscape Area, Prime Agricultural Land, Ancient and Semi-natural Woodland; Long Established and Other Woodland
- Lamington (Adopted Strategy North – adopted map) Green Belt, Special Landscape Area, Long Established and Other Woodland
- Leadhills (Adopted Strategy South – adopted map) Special Landscape Area, Prime Agricultural Land
- Stonehouse (Adopted Strategy North – adopted map) Green Belt, Special Landscape Area
- Strathaven (Adopted Strategy North – adopted map) Green Belt
- Symington (Adopted Strategy North – adopted map) Green Belt, Special Landscape Area

5.0 Key issues arising from representations to the LDP

5.1.0 Schedule 4: 26L - Policy ENV 7 Countryside Belts and settlement setting

5.1.1 Issues raised in this Schedule 4 regarding the policy component of Countryside Belts in Policy ENV 7 include:

- Policy wording – additional justification for designations and provision of supplementary guidance;
- Policy wording – additional wording for exceptions criteria to facilitate greenfield residential development;
- Livingston Countryside Belt at Murieston – is not consistent with ‘green belt’ criteria for SESplan Policy 7: *Maintaining a Five Year Housing Supply*; and
- Policy ENV 7 is not robust due to inclusion of key infrastructure sites within designated area - Linlithgow / Philpstoun & Bridgend Countryside Belt.

5.1.2 The Schedule 4 states in summary that the council does not agree to any modifications of Policy ENV 7 in response to the above representations. Unfortunately, it is not possible to summarise the varied reasons here why these representations were not agreed to therefore readers are referred for further details to Schedule 4 – 26L Policy ENV 7 *Countryside Belts and settlement setting*.

5.2.0 Schedule 4: 1B - Spatial designations for local landscape protection and Countryside Belts

5.2.1 Issues raised in this Schedule 4 concerning designation of Countryside Belts for the proposed plan are summarised below into headlines and include:

Livingston Countryside Belt – issues

- Livingston Countryside Belt to south-east of Blackburn – does not support development of site EOI - 0136 Seaford Road;
- Livingston Countryside Belt at Uphall Station – land not consistent with strategic purposes of policy ENV 7;

Winchburgh / Broxburn Countryside Belt – issues

- Winchburgh / Broxburn Countryside Belt boundary – objections regarding area to north of Broxburn and south of Niddry Bing, Winchburgh;

Linlithgow / Philpstoun & Bridgend Countryside Belt – issues

- Linlithgow / Philpstoun & Bridgend Countryside Belt - location of key infrastructure sites within Countryside Belt designated area;

Linlithgow / Philpstoun & Bridgend Countryside Belt – support

- Linlithgow/ Philpstoun & Bridgend Countryside Belt – caveated support for designation;

Countryside Belts set out in the Proposed LDP where no issues / challenges received:

- Bathgate / Whitburn Countryside Belt;
- East Calder / Kirknewton Countryside Belt.

5.2.2 The Schedule 4 states in summary that the council does not agree to any modifications in respect of any of the issues raised in the representations regarding Countryside Belts. Unfortunately, it is not possible to summarise the varied reasons here why these representations were not agreed to therefore readers are referred for full information to Schedule 4: 1B - *Spatial designations for local landscape protection and Countryside Belts*.

6.0 Conclusion

6.1.0 Conclusions

6.1.1 To re-state from the introduction, the five Countryside Belts shown in the LDP Proposals Maps and the policy criteria set out in Policy ENV 7: *Countryside Belts and settlement settings* are upheld in this position statement. The council believes that these are the correct Countryside Belts and associated planning policy to support the wider spatial and policy framework of the LDP.

6.1.2 The council has offered a range of strong reasons why a review of Countryside Belts for the proposed plan was required:

- compliance with regional and national policy;
- needs of the LDP spatial strategy;
- revision and re-designation of Areas of Special Agricultural Importance;
- integration and mapping requirements associated with new single-tier of local landscape designations;
- development pressures along eastern boundary;
- settlement settings – pressure on and protection of; and
- settlement identity – physical and cultural evidence in support of strong local communities.

6.1.3 The results of the review of Countryside Belt designations have required additions and deletions which have been justified through the itemised and detailed tables in Appendices 1 and 2 as well as explanatory sections within this position statement.

6.1.4 The strength of the reasons for the review of Countryside Belt designations ultimately resulted in reinforcement of Countryside Belts in the face of heightening development pressures. The process and main outcomes of the review for the Proposed LDP are set out in Section 4.0 with the main changes being Areas of Special Agricultural Importance being re-designated as Countryside Belt; the three adopted Countryside Belts being rolled forward and two new Countryside Belts being designated.

6.1.5 Section 5.0 summarised the issues raised in Schedule 4s regarding Countryside Belt designations and policy. It was concluded that no modifications to the Countryside Belts in the proposed plan are accepted through the council's detailed responses within Schedule 4: 1B. Nor are plan changes proposed to Policy ENV 7 *Countryside Belts and settlement setting*.

References

CD107 – *West Lothian Local Plan* (West Lothian Council, 2009)

CD214 - Greenbelt Technical Note (SESplan, 2011)

CD103 - *West Lothian Local Landscape Designation Review* (Land Use Consultants, 2013)

CD114 – *Edinburgh and South East Scotland Strategic Development Plan* (SESplan, 2013)

CD094 – *Main Issues Report: West Lothian Local Development Plan* (West Lothian Council, 2014)

CD078 – Scottish Planning Policy (Scottish Government, 2014)

CD093 – *West Lothian Local Development Plan* (Proposed Plan) (and supporting documents including SEA) (West Lothian Council, 2015)

APPENDIX 1: Summary of integration of Countryside Belt designations with proposed plan

N.B. Refer to Position Statement: Local Landscape Designation (CDxxx) or West Lothian Landscape Designation Review (CD103) as relevant.

Location of change in area of Countryside Belt	WLLP status (2009)	Proposed LDP status (2015)
Livingston Countryside Belt		
Land north of Uphall Station alongside M8	White land	New area of Countryside Belt – due to close proximity of settlements in area
Area of AGLV south of Pumpherston Farm at River Almond	AGLV	New area of Countryside Belt - not brought forward as SLA because did

		not fit with incised river landscape character type; CB designated south and north of River Almond to protect settlement settings
AGLV south-west of Mid Calder / Livingston	AGLV / Countryside Belt	Almond and Linhouse Valleys SLA extended with areas of Countryside Belt re-designated as landscape protection
Breich Valley ASLC	ASLC / Countryside Belt / white land	New area of Countryside Belt west to B792 (Blackburn – West Calder road) – ASLC removed as overlapping and not meriting landscape designation
Land of A89, Dean Industrial Estate	Countryside Belt	Bathgate Hills SLA extended to A89; Countryside Belt de-designated
Land south of Dechmont at M8 by Deans and Knightsridge, Livingston	AGLV	New area of Countryside Belt – settlement boundary re-drawn to reflect more appropriate form of protection; AGLV area was detached from main designation
Bathgate / Whitburn Countryside Belt		
Boghall Policies ASLC	ASLC & Countryside Belt	ASLC de-designated as overlapping and not meriting landscape designation
Land north of Easton Road around Netherwood	White land	New area of Countryside Belt tied in and in support of extension to Bathgate Hills landscape protection to the east; also local development pressures
Almond Valley ASLC	Countryside Belt, ASLC & white land	ASLC de-designated as overlapping and did not merit landscape protection due to results of Local Landscape Designation Review; New area of Countryside Belt designated to retain protection of Polkemmet Country Park; New area of Countryside Belt designated south of Blackburn to retain protection extending east towards Seafield
Winchburgh / Broxburn Countryside Belt		
Re-designated ASAI as CB: to north of Winchburgh in vicinity of Old Philpstoun – Duntarvie - Newton	ASAI	New area of Countryside Belt
New LDP allocation H-WB 17 I/a Niddry Golf Course	Countryside Belt	Allocated housing site
Open Space safeguard north of Broxburn	Countryside Belt	Countryside Belt retained: GIS mapping issue does not show the CB designation below; to be resolved for adopted LDP with improved mapping and graphics
North of Dechmont / Uphall	AGLV & CB	SLA & CB: some of CB area taken

		forward as SLA; integration of CB extents to meet SLA
ASAI land south of Broxburn at Powflats & Kilpunt	ASAI	Re-designated as Countryside Belt
East Calder / Kirknewton Countryside Belt		
Re-designated ASAI as CB: Humble and Milrig area	ASAI	New Countryside Belt
Existing CB south-west of East Calder / CDA	Existing CB	Joined to ASAI re-designation
Linlithgow / Philpstoun & Bridgend Countryside Belt		
East of Linlithgow	Not designated in WLLP	New Countryside Belt
Landscape designation south-east of Linlithgow	Not designated in WLLP	Special Landscape Area extends Bathgate Hills AGLV north to town boundary at Edinburgh Road to south of new CB

APPENDIX 2: Review of adopted Countryside Belts in WLLP for LDP

WLLP = West Lothian Local Plan, adopted 2009; LLDR = Local Landscape Designation Review 2014; LDP = West Lothian Local Development Plan – *Proposed Plan*, October 2015

N.B. – the maps referred to are those in the adopted local plan dating from 2009 and not the proposals maps for the LDP which were not extant when this stage of the review was undertaken.

Location (clock-wise)	Issue	Addition/deletion/other	Justification	Comment/Mapping changes (hi-lighted) / Improvements
WLLP MAP 1: WEST LOTHIAN (1:100,000)				
Mapping	Difficult to read boundaries of CBs	MAPPING	Legibility, assessment and enforcement of designation	Legible map of all designated Countryside Belts needed showing boundaries
All West Lothian Countryside Belts	Difficult & impractical to map as separate CBs	MAPPING	Clarity and continuity	Needs an A1 map/GIS layer
Land North of Birdsmill House, between rail-line and River Almond	AGLV not taken forward as SLA in this area	ADDITION	Former AGLV north of M8 needs to be taken forward as CB; landscape protection	Noted in LLDR report and on Candidate SLA mapping. Amend map/ GIS
New LDP allocations & changes which impact on existing	As allocations to be taken forward from MIR to proposed plan stage	DELETIONS	Confirmed at Proposed LDP stage	Based on LDP committee submission, LDP consultation & DPEA Examination of LDP; Amend map/ GIS – minor changes

and proposed CBs				
Boundaries of all Countryside Belts	Avoidance of gaps between CBs and other mapped designations, allocations and settlement boundaries	MAPPING	To ensure clarity of land use allocation and countryside belt designation	Amend map/ GIS – minor changes
WLLP MAP 2: LINLITHGOW, BROXBURN & UPHALL (1:2500)				
East of Linlithgow (M9 Junction 3 south to Union Canal area)	DPEA decision (PPA-400-2045, July 2015) identified the importance of protecting the character and setting of the eastern approach to the historic burgh of Linlithgow	ADDITION	Protection of amenity of eastern approach and landscape setting To avoid suburbanisation of countryside east of Kingscavil Cemetery, Park Farm Prime agricultural land (Class 2) and traditional farm area	To road edge east of Burghmuir and Kingsfield, to M9 and north of A803 Amend map/ GIS – new CB
Re-designated ASAI as CBs: Old Philpstoun - Duntarvie	Loss of ASAI protection; best farmland; development pressures	ADDITION	Protection of best farmland and soils; avoidance of suburbanisation of countryside; additional pressure from new Forth Road Bridge crossing	Adjacent CEC boundary so supplement Edinburgh Green Belt; traditional farmland area so fits approach; add to existing Winchburgh / Broxburn CB Amend map/ GIS
Re-designated ASAI as CB: Powflats - Kilpunt - Muirend	Loss of ASAI protection; best farmland; development pressures	ADDITION	As above and promotes the amenity of Union Canal corridor which traverses area Also, Brox Burn between Kilpunt and Burnside indicated on WLLP as prone to flooding thus strong presumption against development	As above River Almond, rail-lines & M8/M9 corridor holding back Newbridge Amend map/ GIS
North of Illieston	Small SLA extension into ASAI	Amendment to ASAI area	Area currently in ASAI to be adopted as small extension to SLA and not taken forward as CB	Amend map/ GIS
SW of Uphall: area of ELv64 & EUB14	Creeping fragmentation of CB - South of A89	NO CHANGE – PROTECT THROUGH POLICY	N/a	North of A89 Uphall Golf Course and Houstoun House estate are critical areas to avoiding coalescence
North of Uphall	SLA extends AGLV to Binny Burn	DELETE/ RATIONALISE	CB area taken forward as SLA; CB extends to meet SLA	Amend map/ GIS
Square of land south of Binny Burn	Area of AGLV not in cSLA	ADD as CB	To avoid discontinuity of unattached section of	Amend map/ GIS

			white land between SLA and CB, take forward as CB for consistency	
North of Broxburn	Potential core SLA area analysed in LLDR	LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENT Issue for CSGN & SG Industrial Heritage	N/a	Area scored just below cut-off for SLAs; justification for promotion as informal countryside recreation area
WLLP MAP 3: LIVINGSTON AREA (1:2500)				
Dechmont Law	Detached area of AGLV not taken forward as SLA; bisected by settlement boundary	PART – ADDITION: Area north of town boundary & M8 corridor to be added as Countryside Belt joined into CHANGE TO SETTLEMENT BOUNDARY	Maintains Countryside Belt at this point as continuous countryside protection designations Extend Countryside Belt to include south side of M8 along Woodland Park, main track, north edge of golf course to reflect CB designation of M8 corridor west & east Dechmont Law & conifer forests important for landscape setting of north Livingston and for the M8	Open Space not appropriate so close to the M8; though CB does have access component AGLV area south of Woodland Park, main track and golf course to be designated Open Space up to re-drawn Settlement Boundary – SLA Amend map/ GIS
Uphall/Dechmont/ North Livingston at M8-J3	Mostly motorway junction and employment site albeit Dobbies now built	NO CHANGE – PROTECT THROUGH POLICY M8 ARTWK – LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENT	Potential for further M8 public art work in NW of cloverleaf junction – consider a landscape integrated work as more trees desirable to mitigate coalescence and to support this thin area of CB but well landscaped at present	M8 corridor & M8-J3 critical to stopping Livingston spreading north into adjacent communities Consider adding to brief for Public Art proposed at M8-J3
M8 corridor north of Uphall Station to Roman Camp	Obvious omission; M8 included in CBs all other points where by M8	ADDITION	Continuity of protection of M8 corridor & CB	Reason why this section of M8 not included in CB – possibly a WLLP drafting error. Amend map/ GIS
Whiteland at Drumshoreland Muir	Gap in Livingston CB by Pumpherston; Re-designation of ASAI at Powflats - Kilpunt - Muirend as CB to east; highlights area of white land	REVIEW	Improves continuity of CB at Pumpherston and with ASAI to east Avoidance of coalescence especially for settlement setting and identity with town edges nearby in WLC and CEC areas	Pressure from Edinburgh expansion westward & WLC not in Greenbelt so WLC settlements vulnerable to development pressure along eastern flank

			CDA to south of Almondell Country Park suggests need to reduce urban pressures on park and area east of Livingston	
South of Pumpherston Farm	Area of AGLV from to Camps Viaduct reduced in SLA	ADDITION	Extend CB for landscape protection of River Almond Valley and to maintain settlement boundary at Pumpherston Road / B8046; consistency with AGLV	Amend map/ GIS – as AGLV boundary
Polbeth - area by site HLv136	Settlement identity issues due to encroaching development to east, north and west	DELETION/ NO CHANGE LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENT	DPEA decision on WLLP inquiry to approve HLv136; creates visual join with Livingston; however narrow tree belts either side of site reinforced by pipeline corridor and Limefield Glen to west still give some degree of visual separation for Polbeth along the A71 and Shotts rail-line	Settlement Boundary for LDP drawn to include HLv136 housing sites into Livingston adjacent Brucefield Industrial Park; and pulling back Settlement Boundary for Polbeth to West Calder HS Some limited opportunities for landscape improvements along sterilised pipeline corridor to reinforce shelterbelt at this point and Countryside Belt
Re-designation of ASLC at Breich Water as CB	Undesirable over development of countryside at Freeport Village; 5 Sisters Zoo and Gavieside nearby; Park Homes development at SE corner of B792 / B7015	ADDITION	Re-designate ASLC as Countryside Belt as far as B792 north of Addiewell; further west less development pressure and steeper sides of Breich Valley Covers loss of protection from ASLC designation and simplify countryside protection Existing boundary along roads, Five Sisters etc. is defensible	Within existing Countryside Belt by West Livingston CDA; much overlapping and overly complicated countryside designations ENV policy added to LDP to protect riparian areas / banks upstream & no defensible boundary west of B792 until A706 Amend map/ GIS – Livingston CB
Re-designation of ASLC at River Almond near Blackburn	Pressure for expansion South of River Almond at Blackburn due to proximity of town cross / Main Street	ADDITION	Re-designate ASLC south of Blackburn and Seafield as CB; move west section boundary south to Blackburnhall Rd to give defensible boundary Protect landscape setting of Blackburn, Seafield, River Almond, Blackburn House	Again overlapping designations and appears overly complicated on WLLP proposals map Amend map/ GIS

Deans Industrial Estate, Livingston & Boghall, Bathgate	Less than a field apart with different uses & countryside broken up by road uses: 3 roundabouts, road and rail embankments	NO CHANGE TO CB LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENT	Proximity of Deans Industrial Estate to Bathgate / Boghall compounded by transport corridors & motorway junction Caputhall Woodland, Tailend Moss and wetland areas have high biodiversity value but isolated by M8 Desirable to extend CB east into Deans IE through 'greening'	Some benefit from Bathgate Hills SLA extending down to A8 north of Deans IE CSGN project proposal to consider in area to improve tree cover though sight line limits from transport needs Deans IE and road system consider as feasible: Landscape improvements to be considered / landscape artwork to reinforce Countryside Belt
CB to north of A89 and Deans Industrial Estate	LLDR extends AGLV as SLA to A89 from Boghall to Bangour	DELETION	CB upgraded to SLA status through LLDR due to needs of integrity, defensible boundary and high score of Bathgate Hills SLA	Amend map/ GIS
ASLC within Livingston Settlement Boundary	Recorded as part of LLDR sign-off/ committee report/ SLA documentation	NO CHANGE -MAINTAIN PROTECTION THROUGH COM2 safeguarding	Protection of riparian/ habitat/ recreational corridors as well as large areas of open space & landscape framework 3 small sections outwith Settlement Boundary but covered by existing CB: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Williamston Bridge – Manse Covert, Bankton Campbridge Park – Murieston Trail Northwood, Brucefield 	Overlapping designations very clear on WLLP Map 3
WLLP MAP 4: BATHGATE AREA (1:2500)				
Extension of AGLV as SLA north of Belvedere, Hilderston Farm & adjacent white land north of Easton Road	Gap between new CSLA at Belvedere and CB south of Easton Road where undesirable for urban expansion	Extension of CB north along A800 to East-West C-road at South Coustoun	Protection of landscape setting of town and A801 Avoidance of urban sprawl	Amend map/ GIS
Re-designation of CB as SLA, east of Boghall near Deans Industrial Estate	See under Livingston	-	-	-
Re-designation of Almond Valley ASLC, south of	De-designation of ASLC	NO CHANGE TO CB	Overlaps existing CB designation to south of Bathgate	-

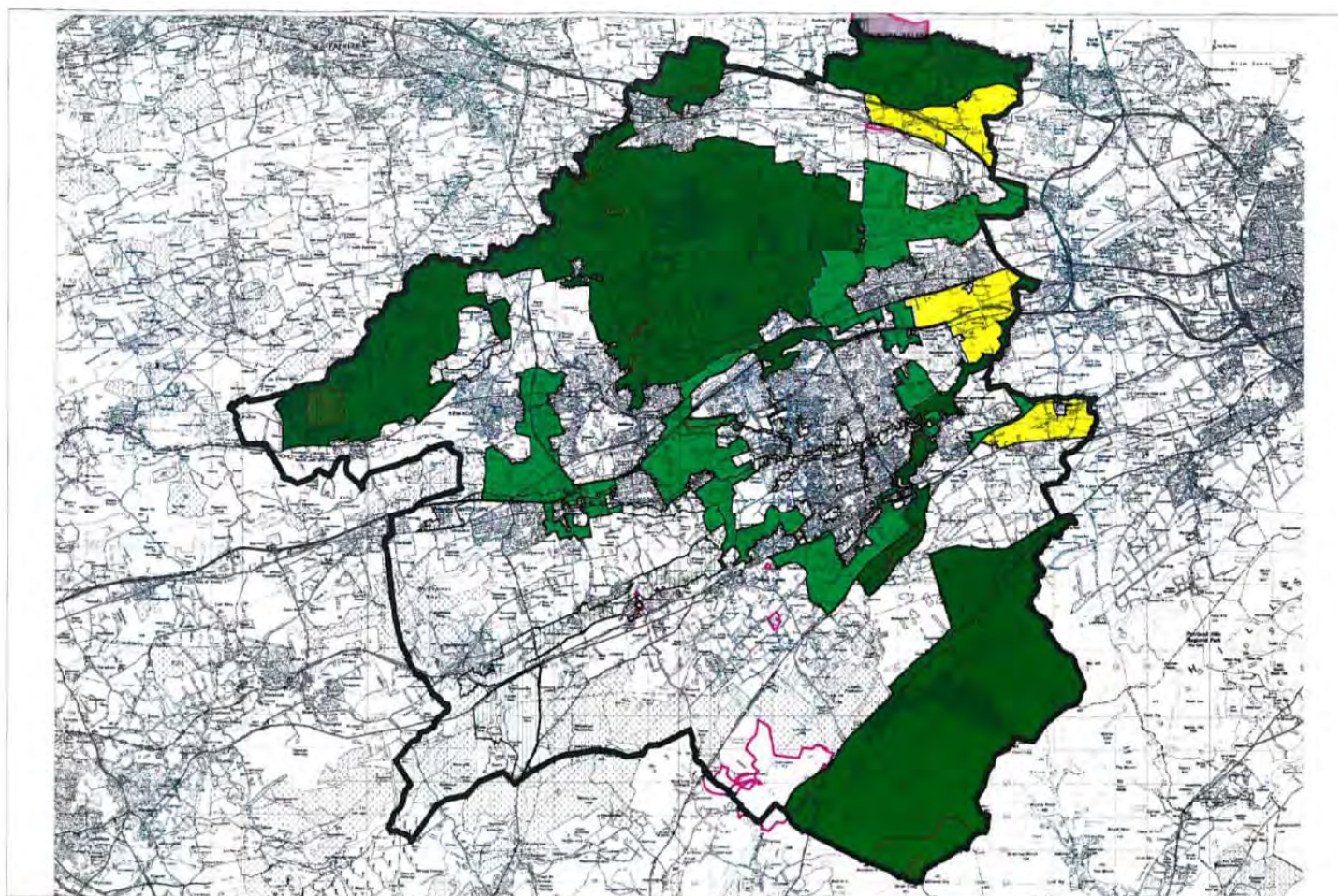
Pottishaw/ Inchcross				
De-designation of Boghead House Policies ASLC, Falside and Whiteside	De-designation of ASLC	NO CHANGE TO CB	Overlaps existing CB designation west of Falside/ Whiteside/ Birniehill	-
East Whitburn	Fully constrained by existing CB	NO CHANGE TO CB	-	-
De-designation of River Almond ASLC, Whitburn NW town boundary (Polkemmet Country Park)	Potential impacts of removal particularly for park	ADD TO CB	Unlike Beecraigs and Almondell Country Parks, Polkemmet CP has no other protection except through public ownership Given proximity of Cowhill employment site & M8, Polkemmet CP could benefit from CB protection including a buffer zone	Amend map/ GIS
Re-designation of Barbauchlaw Glen ASLC & reduction of Blackridge Heights AGLV Armadale	Loss of countryside protection	NO CHANGE TO CB	Lower scoring area in LLDR for landscape quality; steep burnside in parts Coalescence not an issues	Rely on LDP policy & SGs re landscape character, development in the countryside & protection of riparian areas
WLLP MAP 5: VILLAGES (1:2500)				
Land east of B792, Cuthill Bridge, Stoneyburn	See Livingston above – Breich Water ASLC	-	-	-
Re-designation of ASLC at Breich Valley	Loss of the ASLC removes a constraint to expansion and coalescence	ADDITION / POLICY REVIEW	ASLC performs a similar task to CBs in restricting / controlling urban expansion? Policy protection for riparian corridors and development in the countryside to be reviewed / considered	Rely on LDP policy & SGs re landscape character, development in the countryside & add policy protection of riparian areas
Land north and south of West Calder	Limited CB & constraints; Lowland crofting policy boundary line co-terminus with West & South town boundary	ADDITION & REVIEW	Re-designation of Breich Valley ASLC as CB as Livingston above; consider extension in Tenant's March / Cleuch Brae area	-
East Calder town boundary	Completely constrained except at Langton area;	REVIEW & ADDITION	CDA land supply; long-term, post-CDA approach given	Amend map/ GIS

	ASAI re-designation as below		proximity to Edinburgh and desirability of area	
Re-designated ASAI as CB: Milrig – Humbie – Linburn, north of Kirknewton	Loss of ASAI protection; best farmland; development pressures Wilkieston entirely constrained by ASAI/ new CB	ADDITION	Adjacent CEC boundary so supplements Edinburgh Green Belt; traditional farmland area so fits approach Add ASAI to existing CB south of East Calder & extend west to Langton Park track	Rely on LDP policy & SGs re landscape character and development in the countryside
Location (clock-wise)	Issue	Addition/deletion/other	Justification	Comment/ Mapping changes (hi-lighted) / Improvements

FIGURES / MAPS

Figure 1 – Map of Countryside Belts in the West Lothian Local Plan 2009

(P. 4 - text reference; CD107 mapping; not to scale)

**MAP KEY**

Bright Green = Countryside Belts

Dark Green = Areas of Great Landscape Value

Bright Yellow = Areas of Special Agricultural Importance

Dark Pink = bio-diversity designations

Figure 4 – Map of Countryside Belts in the LDP

(P. 6 - text reference; not to scale)

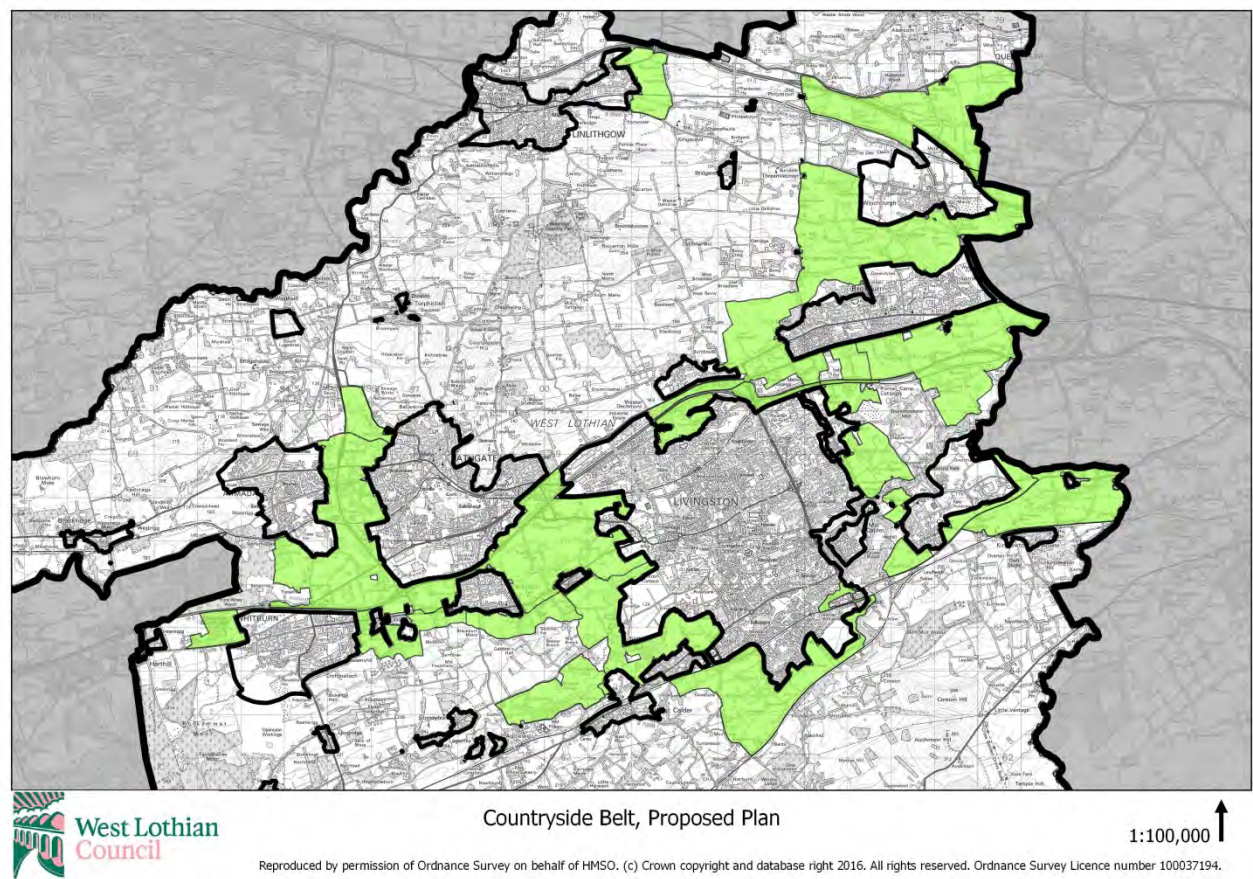
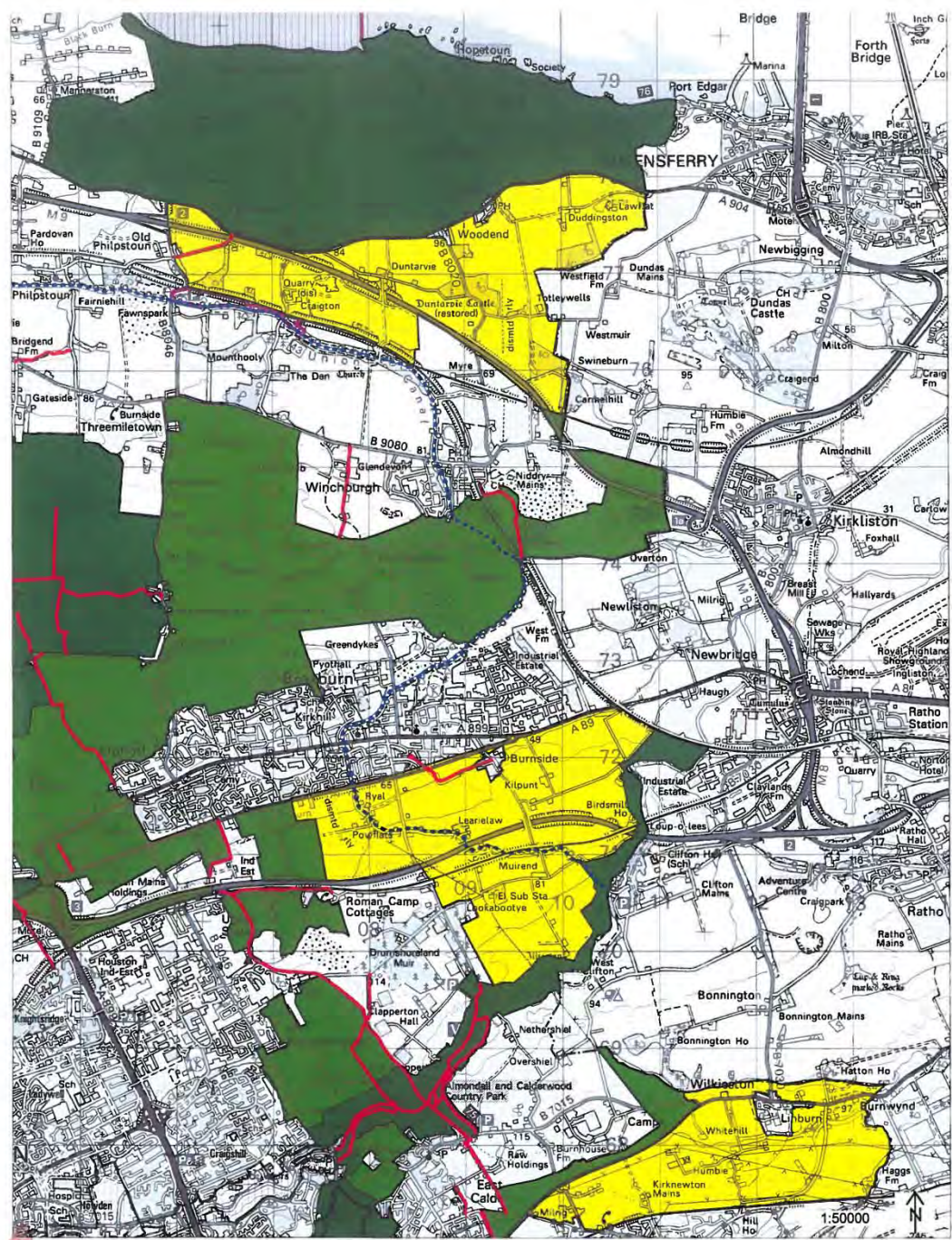


Figure 5 – Map of Areas of Special Agricultural Importance (ASAI) from West Lothian Local Plan 2009

(P. 9 - text reference; CD093, WLLP mapping: areas in ‘yellow’ are the three ASAs; not to scale)



Extract from WLLP Countryside Overlay



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