

TECHNICAL APPENDIX 4.1: LANDSCAPE PLANNING POLICY AND GUIDANCE

4.1.1 Introduction

4.1.1.1 Key planning and other relevant documents which have guided the landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) include:

- West Lothian Local Development Plan: Intention to Adopt¹; and
- Edinburgh Local Development Plan².

4.1.1.2 These documents are described below.

4.1.2 Local Planning Policy

West Lothian Local Development Plan

4.1.2.1 The West Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP) builds upon the context defined by the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for Edinburgh and South East Scotland³ (SESPlan). Although in the final stages of implementation, it is considered that the West Lothian LDP represents the settled view of the council regarding future development proposals.

4.1.2.2 The LDP outlines West Lothian Council's (WLC) spatial strategy for appropriately sited development throughout the council area over a 10-year period, starting from 2014. This spatial strategy defines the broad policy principles for the implementation of the SDP at a local level.

4.1.2.3 Policies from the West Lothian LDP of relevance to the proposed development are:

- DES1: Design Principles;
- ENV1: Landscape Character and SLAs;
- ENV3: Other Development in the Countryside;
- ENV7: Countryside Belt and Settlement Setting;
- ENV8: Green Network;
- ENV9: Woodland, Forestry, Trees and Hedgerows;
- ENV16: Temporary/ Advance Greening of Development Sites;
- ENV26: Hopetoun House and Abercorn Village; and
- ENV30: Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes.

Supplementary Guidance and Planning Guidance

4.1.2.4 Following full implementation of the West Lothian LDP, WLC propose to introduce statutory Supplementary Guidance (SG) and non-statutory Planning Guidance (PG) in support of the LDP. SG constitutes part of the LDP and expands upon the existing policies and proposals it defines, whilst non-statutory PG provides detail on a range of criteria not addressed by SG.

¹ West Lothian Council, 2018. West Lothian Local Development Plan: Intention to Adopt. March, 2018. West Lothian Council.

² City of Edinburgh Council, 2016. Edinburgh Local Development Plan. November, 2016. City of Edinburgh Council.

³ The Strategic Development Planning Authority for Edinburgh and South East Scotland, 2013. Strategic Development Plan for Edinburgh and South East Scotland (SESPlan). June, 2013. The Strategic Development Planning Authority for Edinburgh and South East Scotland.

4.1.2.5 SG and non-statutory PG documents scheduled to be introduced, following full implementation of the West Lothian LDP, of relevance to the proposed development are:

- Supplementary Guidance: Green Networks;
- Planning Guidance: Landscape Character and Local Landscape Designations; and
- Planning Guidance: Woodland, Trees and Hedgerows – Protection and Promotion of.

West Lothian Landscape Character Classification – West Lothian LDP Background Paper

4.1.2.6 Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) has the responsibility of advising the Scottish Government and local authorities on matters relating to the natural heritage. SNH developed Landscape Character Assessments (LCA) to classify all Scottish landscape during a National Programme in the 1990s. The West Lothian LCA was completed in 1998 as part of the Lothians LCA⁴.

4.1.2.7 During 2011 a landscape capacity study⁵ for wind energy was conducted by David Tyldesley Associates on behalf of WLC. This capacity study incorporated a detailed review and revision of LCAs in the WLC area. An independent study of local landscape designations in West Lothian was then undertaken by LUC during 2013⁶. This study was heavily influenced by the revised LCAs put forward by David Tyldesley Associates in 2011.

4.1.2.8 Consequently, WLC took the decision to publish the revised LCAs under the title West Lothian Landscape Character Classification⁷. This decision was taken in response to an identified need for refinement of the outdated 1998 Lothians LCA for development planning purposes and to inform the Local Development Plan process. As such, this LVIA refers to the West Lothian Landscape Character Classification as the most up to date landscape character resource in the council area.

Edinburgh LDP

4.1.2.9 The Edinburgh LDP⁸, adopted in November 2016, outlines the policies and proposals to inform the development and use of land in the Edinburgh area. The LDP defines the spatial strategy for development within four Strategic Development Areas identified by SESPlan in Edinburgh. It also guides and informs appropriately sited development proposals within other areas of the city and details the LDP's five core aims and anticipated land use changes over a 5 to 10-year period.

4.1.2.10 Policies from the Edinburgh LDP of relevance to the proposed development are:

- DES4: Development Design – Impact on Setting;
- DES8: Public Realm and Landscape Design;
- DES9: Urban Edge Development;
- ENV7: Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes; and
- ENV11: Special Landscape Areas.

⁴ ASH Consulting Group on behalf of SNH, 1998. The Lothians Landscape Character Assessment: SNH Review No. 91. SNH

⁵ David Tyldesley Associates, 2011. Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Energy Development in West Lothian. December, 2011. West Lothian Council.

⁶ LUC, 2013. West Lothian Local Landscape Designation Review. June, 2013. West Lothian Council.

⁷ LUC, 2014. West Lothian Landscape Classification. West Lothian LDP: Background Paper. August, 2014. West Lothian Council.

⁸ City of Edinburgh Council, 2016. Edinburgh Local Development Plan. November, 2016. City of Edinburgh Council.

Planning Guidance

4.1.2.11 The City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) has published several PG documents to protect the landscape resource within the council administrative area as well as guide future development proposals.

4.1.2.12 PG documents of relevance to the proposed development are:

- LUC, 2010, Edinburgh Landscape Character Assessment⁹;
- LUC, 2010, Review of Local Landscape Designations¹⁰; and
- Peter McGowan Associates, 2009, Edinburgh Gardens and Designed Landscape map¹¹.

⁹ LUC in association with Carol Anderson, 2010. Edinburgh Landscape Character Assessment. January, 2010. City of Edinburgh Council.

¹⁰ LUC, 2010. Review of Local Landscape Designations: The City of Edinburgh Council. January, 2010. City of Edinburgh Council.

¹¹ Peter McGowan Associates, 2009. Edinburgh Gardens and Designed Landscapes survey summary and map [online]. Available at: http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/74/edinburgh_gardens_and_designed_landscapes_survey_summary_and_map (Accessed on 31 August 2018).