

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: CURRENT POLICY AND GUIDANCE FOR ONSHORE WIND ENERGY

1.1 National Policy and Guidance

National policy in relation to renewable energy development is expressed in SPP 2014 and NPF3, with related web-based guidance. This reflects the Scottish Government's commitment to greatly increasing the amount of energy produced by renewable sources. Inevitably it focuses on wind power as, at least in the short term, the most available resource suitable for expansion.

SPP 2014 is thus very positively disposed to renewable energy production and directs all councils to create development plan policies that encourage renewable energy generation capacity, including onshore wind power.

SPP 2014 recognises that wind energy developments are likely to have significant impacts on the environment, including the landscape. It therefore underlines the need to ensure that developments have due regard for environmental, community and cumulative impact considerations. In this respect Government describes the need for development plans to set out a Spatial Framework for windfarms, which identifies areas where windfarms will not be acceptable (National Parks and National Scenic Areas) and areas of significant protection (areas defined by a number of national designations such as SPAs, SSSIs or Wild Land Areas). All other areas are likely to have capacity for windfarm development, subject to detailed consideration against specific policy criteria, including matters relating to landscape and visual impacts and cumulative effects. Scottish Government web based guidance also lists the criteria that should be considered in the location of windfarms.

Scottish Natural Heritage provides comprehensive guidance on most aspects of onshore wind energy development and the landscape:

- Assessment of landscape and visual impacts and visual representation of wind turbines;
- Siting and design guidance;
- Assessment of cumulative impacts.

The extensive range of guidance is available on SNH's website:

<http://www.snh.gov.uk/planning-and-development/renewable-energy/onshore-wind/>

1.2 Development Plan Policies

Strategic Development Plan (SDP)

Scottish Borders SDP is covered by the plan for south east Scotland, produced by SESplan. The current plan was approved in June 2013 and covers the period to 2032. The consultation for SDP2 Main Issues Report was completed in 2015.

Policy 10 reflects SPP 2014 commitment to renewable energy targets.

POLICY 10 SUSTAINABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

The Strategic Development Plan seeks to promote sustainable energy sources. Local Development Plans will:

- Support the future development and associated infrastructure requirements of Longannet and Cockenzie power stations in relation to their role as non-nuclear baseload capacity generators and the reuse of waste heat from these developments. Support Energy Park Fife at Methil and developments connected with offshore renewable energy at Leith and Rosyth; and
- Set a framework for the encouragement of renewable energy proposals that aims to contribute towards achieving national targets for electricity and heat, taking into account relevant economic, social, environmental and transport considerations, to facilitate more decentralised patterns of energy generation and supply and to take account of the potential for developing heat networks.

Scottish Borders adopted Local Development Plan 2016

Renewable energy is a wide ranging subject and many LDP policies need to be considered during the application processing period. However, the most relevant is policy ED9 – Renewable Energy Developments.

Policy ED9 in essence is supportive of a wide range of renewable energy types provided that there are no unacceptable significant adverse impacts which cannot be mitigated. If there are, then development will only be approved if the Council is satisfied that the wider economic, environmental and other benefits of the proposal outweigh the potential damage arising from it. The adopted LDP can be viewed on the following link:

https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20051/plans_and_guidance/121/local_development_plan

Policy ED9 can viewed on pages 55 - 59 within Volume 1- Policies. "

Scottish Borders SPG

Scottish Borders Council produced Supplementary Planning Guidance Wind Energy (SPG) in 2011.

The SPG clarifies the spatial framework, identifies broad areas of search, identifies criteria for areas of significant constraint and also provides guidance for on-shore wind development. The May 2016 Adopted Local Plan commits to updating this to reflect SPP 2014, within one year of its adoption.

https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/directory_record/7454/wind_energy/category/28/approved_planning_guidance

Guidance for Wind Energy in Berwickshire

Scottish Borders Council provides guidance for small groups of turbines (single, 2 or 3) within Berwickshire, which was updated in January 2015. Guidance for LCAs within this part of Scottish Borders has been taken into account in the current study:

https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/directory_record/29067/landscape_and_visual_guidance_for_single_and_groups_of_2_or_3_wind_turbines_in_berwickshire/category/28/approved_planning_guidance

APPENDIX 2: CUMULATIVE IMPACT AND LANDSCAPE CAPACITY ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGIES

1.0 Background

Cumulative environmental impact is the impact that results from incremental changes caused by past, present or reasonably foreseeable actions. Scottish Government Guidance on wind energy states:

'Assessing the cumulative impact of a number of wind turbines or a number of wind farms involves considering the combined effects of siting proposals in proximity to each other'.

Cumulative impact is a critical consideration in the case of landscape and visual impacts of onshore wind turbines and windfarms in Scotland due to the current number of existing and consented developments in the landscape, proposed developments in the planning system and the long term implications of national policy that encourages the development of onshore wind energy generation.

The characteristics of wind turbines that lead to cumulative impacts include:

- The large scale and striking visual appearance of wind turbines and windfarms in most landscapes;
- The great extent of their visibility and the potential for intervisibility between wind turbine developments and as seen by receptors;

The larger modern turbines are prominent, large scale, man-made features and there are few other precedents in terms of scale, height and appearance in most landscapes. Topography aside, they are much taller than any natural features such as trees or most buildings and other structures. Of similar built structures in rural landscapes, electricity pylons are significantly smaller than the largest turbines and although broadcasting masts are often taller they are usually singular and infrequent, whereas wind turbines are built in multiples, often in great numbers. Furthermore, most landscape features are static whereas wind turbines rotate. Smaller turbines may also present issues of scale and appearance in more localised contexts, as well as visual confusion when seen together with larger turbines.

This study on behalf of Scottish Borders Council requires the assessment of cumulative development and landscape capacity. However it is recognised in guidance that the determination of landscape capacity and cumulative impacts is not a straightforward exercise. The background and considerations involved in this process are detailed in this Appendix.

Definitions of the term 'capacity' applied to landscape generally refer to the ability to accept a development without a 'significant' or 'unacceptable' level of change to a landscape. This implies that criteria must be identified and thresholds must be determined to give meaning to the words 'significant' and 'unacceptable'.

Guidance on the assessment of cumulative impacts and landscape capacity is available from a number of sources, most particularly Scottish Natural Heritage *Assessing the cumulative impact of onshore wind energy developments (March 2012)* but also in UK guidance (eg. *Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland Topic paper 6: Techniques and Criteria for Judging Capacity and Sensitivity. SNH and The Countryside Agency, 2002*) and will be referred to in the following sections.

The determination of 'cumulative impacts' and 'capacity' is subject to debate. No clear guidance is given in the published information beyond the need for the individual impact assessor or Development Plans to determine what the assessment criteria and significance thresholds are. Reasoned argument applicable to the specific circumstances applies, rather than the establishment of an absolute or universal definition. Inevitably this approach is subject to differences of opinion, with thresholds of significance and views on acceptability often differing depending on the background or vested interests of those involved in the debate.

In the absence of any clearly stated or agreed criteria or thresholds and to progress this study some form of threshold or thresholds need to be defined. In order to do this a number of terms and concepts need to be clarified, defining exactly what is being assessed and how. The purpose of the following section is to focus the subsequent assessment and to provide guidance and a basis for decisions to be made by the appropriate authorities.

2.0 Defining Terms: Sensitivity, Significance, Capacity and Acceptability of Change

Topic Paper 6 of Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland (2002) refers to the fact that the terms 'sensitivity' and 'capacity' have often been used in an interchangeable manner in landscape character assessment, essentially referring to the ability of a landscape to absorb change without a significant effect on its character. A landscape of high sensitivity is often considered to have a low capacity for change, and vice-versa. Furthermore sensitivity is used as a key criterion in determining both significance of impact and landscape capacity. In fact there are subtle but important differences between sensitivity and capacity. This section discusses the differences and interrelationships between sensitivity, capacity and significance in landscape character assessment and how the acceptability of change may be determined.

2.1 Landscape Sensitivity

The sensitivity of a landscape is a measure of its inherent vulnerability to potential changes and their effects on fabric and character. Vulnerability to change can be considered in two ways:

- 1) As an inherent part of the landscape's characteristics, regardless of possible types or scales of change that may occur; or
- 2) In relation to a specific proposed type and scale of change.

In the former case the assessment of sensitivity would be applied in landscape character assessment where no particular change is being contemplated or assessed, and the landscape is being considered in a resource planning context. In the latter case the assessment of sensitivity would typically be applied in an environmental impact assessment where specific changes are envisaged. In the EIA case the sensitivity of the receiving landscape would be assessed against the magnitude of change in order to determine impact significance.

2.2 Landscape Capacity

Landscape capacity is variously described as the ability of a landscape to accommodate (or absorb) change without a significant (or unacceptable) change in fabric or character. This is usually taken to mean whether or not one or more of the key defining characteristics of the landscape is changed such that the overall fabric or character of the landscape is changed, ie. a 'capacity threshold' is crossed. In the case of windfarms it is primarily landscape character that is being considered, particularly in cumulative assessments.

The determination of landscape capacity is closely related to landscape sensitivity and the determination of significance of impact. However assessment of capacity is a not necessarily based around the assessment of known development proposals, but rather the hypothetical ability to accommodate particular types of development, such as windfarms before a threshold or series of increasing thresholds are crossed.

According to *Topic Paper 6*, in determining capacity not only the sensitivity of the landscape to the particular type of development is considered but also the *landscape value* of the area concerned. Value may be determined in a number of ways, including by landscape designations (national, regional or local); cultural and historic associations and in terms of how it is valued by those who live in it or use it in some way.

The determination of capacity is primarily a planning tool rather than a reactive or assessment tool. Nevertheless the determination of capacity thresholds can also be used to assess existing levels of development or potential development scenarios such as is the case with windfarm developments in Scottish Borders.

2.3 Determination of Impact Significance

The principles involved in determining impact significance are the same whether a single or multiple developments are being considered. This involves assessing:

- 1) The sensitivity of the receptor to the type of change proposed; and
- 2) The magnitude of change that would result from the proposals.

Sensitivity and magnitude are considered in combination, leading to an overall assessment of impact. This informs a determination of whether the impact is significant in terms of the EIA regulations. In doing this the considerations about what exactly is being assessed should be taken into account and clearly delineated including baseline, types of impacts and specific developments.

The threshold at which significance is determined in relation to the EIA regulations should also be defined prior to assessment. However, this threshold is particularly open to debate and often subject to the perceptions of different groups of stakeholders.

2.4 The Nature of Impacts

The issue of whether impacts are positive, beneficial or neutral is also an important consideration when making decisions on the acceptability of impacts, regardless of their significance. If an impact were considered positive or neutral in nature it is likely that its level of significance would be considered less critical than were it considered negative. Most windfarm developers equivocate this issue by reference to public opinion polls indicating support for renewable energy and the division of public opinion that is apparent over most windfarm developments. This masks the underlying landscape issue that should be considered independently of a windfarm's primary function or other effects.

The purpose of a windfarm is to provide renewable energy involving low levels atmospheric carbon pollution. This accords with current policy and is considered positive and beneficial. Conversely, wind turbines are objects that are unprecedented in scale and appearance in most landscapes, especially the rural areas in which they are mainly located. Many published landscape character assessments of rural areas do not specifically mention wind turbines and windfarms, although increasingly there are guidelines relating to placing them within particular character types. Furthermore, whilst government policy and advice (eg. SPP, web based guidance, SNH guidance) and local authority policy (Development Plans) support their development, it is always with a precautionary note relating to balancing benefits and impacts.

The tone of most guidance is that of achieving a balance of impacts against the positive returns of renewable energy. For example SPP states in paragraph 187:

'Planning authorities should support the development of wind farms in locations where the technology can operate efficiently and environmental and cumulative impacts can be satisfactorily addressed.'

and;

'The design and location of any wind farm development should reflect the scale and character of the landscape. The location of turbines should be considered carefully to ensure that the landscape and visual impact is minimised.'

Web based guidance for onshore wind states:

'Wind turbines can impact upon the landscape by virtue of their number, size or layout, how they impact on the skyline, their design and colour, any land form change, access tracks and ancillary components anemometers, substations and power lines. The ability of the landscape to absorb development often depends largely on features of landscape character such as landform, ridges, hills, valleys, and vegetation.'

and:

'As more areas of search are taken up and as more sites are proposed within or near sensitive landscapes, landscape protection and designing appropriate mitigation through conditions and/or legal agreements, will become a more routine consideration alongside maximising the potential of wind energy. In relation to landscape impact, a cautious approach is necessary in relation to particular landscapes which are rare or valued, such as National Scenic Areas and National Parks'.

Wind turbines are placed in the landscape for a specific purpose other than landscape change. Given this fact and the nature of Government advice, a precautionary approach should be taken in the assessment of impacts by concluding that in most cases the impacts are to some degree negative. The degree of negative impact and level of significance will of course depend on the characteristics of the landscape in which the windfarm is located. It is conceivable that in some degraded or industrial landscapes the construction of a windfarm could be considered a neutral or positive change.

In terms of visual impacts the issue of public opinion is more relevant, but a precautionary note applies in this case as well. Particularly the issue of positive responses to the provision of clean energy needs to be separated from the consideration of visual impact of turbines in the landscape.

2.5 Acceptability of Change

As discussed above there is published guidance on methods of assessment of cumulative landscape and visual impacts of windfarms (eg. SNH, 2012) and separate guidance on the factors that determine impact significance (eg. LI & IEMA, 2002). However, there is currently no generic guidance that defines how to determine the *acceptability* of impacts. Indeed, generic guidance on acceptability may be inappropriate as any judgement on this is contextual and often a case of weighing perceived impacts against perceived benefits. The impacts and benefits will often be different in type and the balance of judgement is to an extent subjective. The acceptability of change in any particular landscape will depend on the nature of the landscape, the significance of the impacts and the purpose of the change. The final judgement is often informed by and weighed against specific development plan policies and material considerations.

The determination of significant change should theoretically be a clearly defined stage in this process, similar to an impact assessment. Nevertheless, as previously discussed, significance in landscape and visual impact assessment is not universally defined and is open to debate. If the significance of change is open to interpretation, then 'acceptability' of change is a still less definable term that is often based on opinion and is open to debate.

What is acceptable to one individual or organisation may not be acceptable to another. What may be seen as unacceptable change in a narrow context (eg. landscape and visual impacts) may be seen as acceptable when considering the overall balance of positive and negative impacts (eg. provision of carbon-neutral energy). In a study of windfarms in the Western Isles (SNH, 2004) the idea of a predetermined 'carrying capacity' is questioned and the concept of *Limits of Acceptable Change* (LAC) is discussed:

'LAC is first and foremost a process through which decisions are made on the conditions which are acceptable and then prescriptions are made for the actions needed to protect or achieve those conditions. So the objective of the LAC process is not to prevent change but rather to control it and to decide on the actions required to maintain or achieve the desired conditions. Other key features of LAC are the use of indicators and a monitoring programme. As a process, LAC is always participatory and multi-disciplinary, and may or may not involve a wide range of stakeholders. Whilst the term capacity may still be used in LAC, (recreational) carrying capacity is not a simple, single, absolute value. It is the amount, kind and distribution of use that can occur without causing unacceptable impacts on either natural resources or the perceptions and experiences of the users'.

This concept requires qualitative judgements about what is important in a landscape or to people using that landscape and what level of change is acceptable (ie. what types and levels of change can take place before the landscape is considered to be critically or significantly changed). In the context of this study, acceptability of change will be related to cumulative landscape and visual impacts judged against landscape capacity as determined by structured a process of judgement; the provisions of criteria-based landscape policies; other material considerations and the wider Scottish picture of windfarm development. No account will be taken of the other potential impacts or benefits of windfarms. The resulting judgements of this study will need to be balanced against the other benefits or disadvantages of the proposals.

2.6 National and Local Policy

The acceptability of proposed windfarms and cumulative landscape and visual impacts of multiple windfarm development has to be considered in the light of national and development plan policy. National policies and Scottish Borders structure and local plan policies are described in Appendix 1 above.

2.7 Developing a Cumulative Impact Assessment Methodology

2.7.1 Cumulative Impacts

For the purposes of this study, cumulative impacts are taken to be those arising from more than one development of the same type, rather than the accumulation of changes making up one development. In the case of windfarms, cumulative studies concentrate on other windfarms. In practice, other features in the landscape or views (eg. communications masts or electricity pylons) should also be taken into account. Nevertheless, given the singular appearance of windfarms and their generally isolated rural locations, the potential for overlap of cumulative impacts with other developments is more limited.

2.7.2 Baseline

The baseline for a cumulative, or indeed any, assessment is usually taken to include the existing landscape and visual receptors in the study area at the time of assessment. The baseline should include all operating windfarms and, arguably, all consented windfarms as this is effectively the 'permitted landscape'. The assessment of change and significance of

impact should be carried out relative to this baseline whether carrying out a standard or cumulative assessment.

Nevertheless, a landscape capacity study leading to the determination of an 'acceptable' level of windfarm development requires consideration of a full picture of all the windfarms in the landscape: operating, consented and proposed, in order to determine the extent and acceptability of change. The fact that there are operating or consented windfarms in an area is not necessarily an indication that the landscape is less sensitive to further development and that capacity is available. Indeed, depending on the landscape type, degree of development and objectives of policy in relation to landscape character, it may mean that most or all of the capacity is already occupied. Therefore, despite the existing baseline, the development must also in effect be considered relative to the underlying landscape.

2.7.3 Types of Cumulative Impact

Landscape

The assessment of cumulative landscape impacts involves an assessment of change in the fabric and character of the landscape as a result of the combined changes of more than one development. The changes are assessed in relation to defined areas of landscape such as a project study area, landscape character area or designated landscape. As previously discussed, it is effects on landscape character that are the primary focus in relation to windfarms from which all other assessments are derived.

Visual

The assessment of cumulative visual impacts involves an assessment of the change in views and visual amenity as a result of combined changes of more than one development, as experienced by people at their homes and during recreation, travel or work. There are three types of cumulative impact in relation to visual receptors:

- 1) Combined: more than one development is seen from a single static viewpoint in one arc of view (ie. within the span of one view, without the receptor turning around). This would include particular directional viewpoints or the view from the principal aspect of a residential property.
- 2) Successive: more than one development is seen from a single static viewpoint by a receptor turning around to encompass more than one arc of view, up to 360°. This includes high and open viewpoints, or views from all aspects of a residential property.
- 3) Sequential: more than one development is seen by a receptor visiting a series of viewpoints. This may involve travelling along a linear route or through an area in which views of the developments may be continuous or intermittent and different developments may be seen at different locations. This includes roads, railways, paths and other defined routes or could involve an area such as a designated landscape.

In practice most assessment will include all of these types of impact in order to gain a full picture of how cumulative impacts will be experienced by receptors.

2.7.4 Effect of Pattern of Development on Perception of Impact

Cumulative studies tend to focus on the number of windfarms, turbines or output capacities within a particular area as an indication of level of cumulative impact. Nevertheless, there is not necessarily a simple relationship between numbers, areas and cumulative impact. The pattern of windfarm and wind turbine development, in terms of size, layout and proximity may also affect the perception of cumulative impacts.

The effect of proximity of different windfarms and turbines to one another has a bearing on impacts. Whilst close proximity of two or more windfarms may reduce the total area visually affected, the level of perceived cumulative impact may be increased by juxtaposition of windfarms or turbines of significantly different appearance (due for example to differing turbine sizes or site layouts) leading to a jarring visual clash or an untidy, disorganised appearance.

Furthermore, studies and planning decisions have indicated that there is less resistance to expansion of existing windfarms than to creation of separate new windfarms. In particular, respondents to a survey on impacts of windfarms on tourism in Scotland (Glasgow Caledonian University and others, March 2008) showed little concern about views being affected by one windfarm compared with more than one windfarm being visible in the same view.

"A significant proportion of respondents (44%) agreed that they don't like to see several Wind farms in the same view. These results suggest that those respondents who have indicated having a neutral or even positive perspective on individual wind farm sites are less likely to have a similar opinion on a landscape that has several developments in view.

This clear result compares with analysis in the previous section where there was a small increase in the negative response as the visual impact increased for an individual wind farm development. This suggests that people see one large scale development in an area as preferable to several smaller scale developments dotted on the landscape.

On the other hand, both sets of results also confirm that a definite tipping point exists where wind farm development becomes untenable for a significant number of visitors".

Current guidance and recent planning decisions are tending towards the concept of concentration of wind turbines into large clusters in certain areas. This is on the basis that this reduces the potential for a widespread dispersal of effects over a larger area and allows areas more sensitive to windfarm development to remain free of windfarm development. SNH guidance now highlights this issue and supports this type of approach where appropriate (SNH, 2009).

The policy may also offer advantages in terms of economies of scale for site servicing and electricity transmission. The disadvantages are likely to be that areas chosen for concentration of the turbines are likely to be significantly and adversely affected by development – this being effectively a 'sacrificial' landscape policy. Furthermore, this concept does not necessarily sit well with recent encouragement for smaller scale wind

energy development promoted by the Feed in Tariff where turbines are likely to relate to individual properties scattered across the landscape.

2.7.5 Setting Assessment Objectives

What exactly is being assessed depends on the purpose of the cumulative assessment. In the case of an EIA for a single development it is primarily the impacts of the proposal and its contribution to cumulative impacts that is being assessed. Such a study would therefore typically concentrate on areas in which the impact of the windfarm under consideration is significant and give only slight consideration to areas in which it is not, even if there were significant cumulative impacts from other windfarms.

In the case of a more broad-based cumulative study such as this, it is the overall impact of windfarm developments on a defined study area that is being assessed. Nevertheless this study requires a consideration of the both the full cumulative impact *and* the contribution that specific developments (proposed or operating) make to that impact, in order to inform decisions.

2.7.6 Defining Thresholds of Cumulative Development

The discussion above has defined the terminology and our approach to cumulative assessment. It has isolated the central issues that inform the assessment of acceptability of levels of change. The key requirement is to develop a methodology for defining thresholds of significance and acceptability that are clear and robust enough to be accepted by all sides of the debate. This study as a stage in the debate about acceptable levels of change in the landscape of Scottish Borders. Whilst we can describe and define what those levels of change might be it is difficult to enforce a universal view as to what levels of change are significant or acceptable.

Scottish Government Guidance underlines the landscape and visual issues associated with increasing levels of cumulative wind turbine development:

‘In areas approaching their carrying capacity the assessment of cumulative effects is likely to become more pertinent in considering new wind turbines, either as stand alone groups or extensions to existing wind farms. In other cases, where proposals are being considered in more remote places, the thresholds of cumulative impact are likely to be lower, although there may be other planning considerations.’

‘In assessing cumulative landscape and visual impacts, the scale and pattern of the turbines plus the tracks, power lines and ancillary development will be relevant considerations. It will also be necessary to consider the significance of the landscape and the views, proximity and inter-visibility and the sensitivity of visual receptors.’

SNH guidance Siting and Designing Windfarms in the Landscape (SNH, Dec 2009) lists the factors that affect the perception of cumulative impact of windfarm development:

‘The cumulative impact of windfarm development on landscape and visual amenity is a product of:

- *the distance between individual windfarms (or turbines),*
- *the distance over which they are visible,*
- *the overall character of the landscape and its sensitivity to windfarms,*

- *the siting and design of the windfarms themselves, and*
- *the way in which the landscape is experienced.*

‘The combination of single turbines and small clusters of turbines can raise the same issues’.

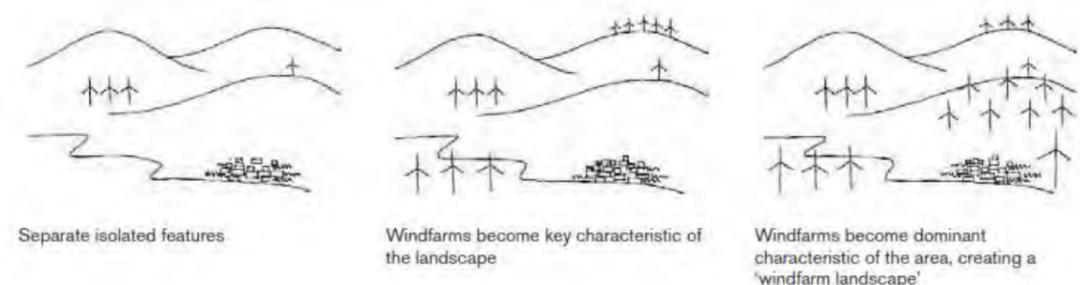
To this list might be added turbine height and windfarm size. In determining an acceptable level of development, it is necessary to clearly define what differing levels of development actually entail.

The SNH guidance identifies three broad levels of cumulative change in the landscape that may be set by local authorities depending on landscape sensitivity and value and local policy objectives:

- **Landscape Protection:** Maintain existing landscape character.
- **Landscape Accommodation:** Accept a degree of change providing this is not detrimental to key landscape characteristics and key visual resources.
- **Landscape Change:** Accept large amounts of change that may have detrimental effects on key landscape characteristics and visual resources.

In determining an acceptable level of development, it is necessary to clearly define what differing levels of development actually entail. The methodology therefore sets out defined levels of change to the landscape and visual environment that might occur or be experienced depending on the size, number and location of turbines to be built within an area.

The descriptions in Table 2.1 below set out a graduated landscape typology that defines the terms of reference for increasing levels of cumulative landscape and visual impact of turbines. It does this by describing their effect on landscape character and the experience of those living in or travelling through the landscape. Further generic illustration of this concept is provided in Part 1 section 5 of the SNH guidance:



The purpose of this approach is to address the gap between results of cumulative impact assessment and judgements on acceptability of change. It does not set thresholds of significance or acceptability but it does present a framework that describes levels of change in landscape character and the experience of visual receptors in the landscape. This can then be used to inform and shape the debate concerning the degree of change in a landscape and the acceptability of cumulative impacts and the *Limits of Acceptable Change*.

Table 1: Description of Levels of Cumulative Wind Turbine Development

Landscape Type	Landscape Character	Visual Experience
Landscape with no Wind Turbines	A landscape type or area in which no or very few wind turbines are present, and none are clearly visible from neighbouring areas.	There would be no discernible effects on visual receptors.
Landscape with Occasional Wind Turbines	A landscape type or area in which windfarms or wind turbines are located and/or are close to and visible. However they are not of such a size, number, extent or contrast in character that they become one of the defining characteristics of the landscape's character.	Visual receptors would experience occasional close-quarters views of a windfarm or turbine and more frequent background views of windfarms or turbines. Some of the turbines would not be perceived as being located in the landscape character type or area. No overall perception of wind turbines being a defining feature of the landscape.
Landscape with Wind Turbines	A landscape type or area in which a windfarm, windfarms or wind turbines are located and/or visible to such an extent that they become <i>one</i> of the defining characteristics of the landscape character. However, they are clearly separated and not the single most dominant characteristic of the landscape.	Visual receptors would experience frequent views of windfarms or wind turbines as foreground, mid-ground or background features, affecting their perception of the landscape character. However there would be sufficient separation between windfarms and turbines and sufficient areas from which wind turbines are not visible such that they would not be seen as dominating the landscape over all other landscape features.
Wind Turbine Landscape	A landscape type or area in which windfarms or wind turbines are extensive, frequent and nearly always visible. They become the dominant, defining characteristic of the landscape. Nevertheless there is a clearly defined separation between developed areas.	Visual receptors would experience views of windfarms as foreground, mid-ground and background features, to the extent that they are seen to dominate landscape character. Few areas would be free of views of wind turbines.
Windfarm	Landscape fully developed as a windfarm with no clear separation between groups of turbines. Few if any areas where turbines not visible.	Visual receptors would always be close to and nearly always in full view of wind turbines.

The above descriptions of levels of turbine development within a landscape are necessarily simple, factual and generic. They can be applied to any chosen scale of study area, from a region to a landscape type or a single landscape character area. They do not apply to any specific baseline landscape type or types: indeed the character of the landscape is likely to affect judgements on the assignment to a particular level of development. For instance, a large scale landscape may be less dominated and affected than a smaller scale landscape; or a more complex topography, or a densely wooded landscape may reduce the visibility of wind turbines within an area and hence affect the perception by visual receptors. A large landscape character area will require a greater extent and frequency of development than a smaller area to become affected by wind turbines. Furthermore, as

discussed in Chapter 5 of this report, there are a number of design and siting factors that affect the perception of cumulative impacts. This includes not only size and number of turbines and windfarms in an area but also the juxtaposition of different layouts including turbine size, positioning and distribution.

The descriptions assume conditions of good visibility covering the 30-35km range that visibility studies and visual impact assessments of larger windfarms adopt as best practice. Clearly this exceeds the requirements for assessments of smaller turbines.

The descriptions are intended to be neutral in that they are purely descriptions of levels of development and the frequency or proximity at which wind turbines and windfarms may be seen. They do not attempt to define the levels of development as being good, bad, acceptable or unacceptable. This is a judgement that would be made when considering specific cases against the landscape type, its capacity for windfarm development, the development policy framework and other material considerations. In this case it is the determination of areas in which cumulative impact has reached the capacity of the landscape.

2.8 Capacity Assessment Method

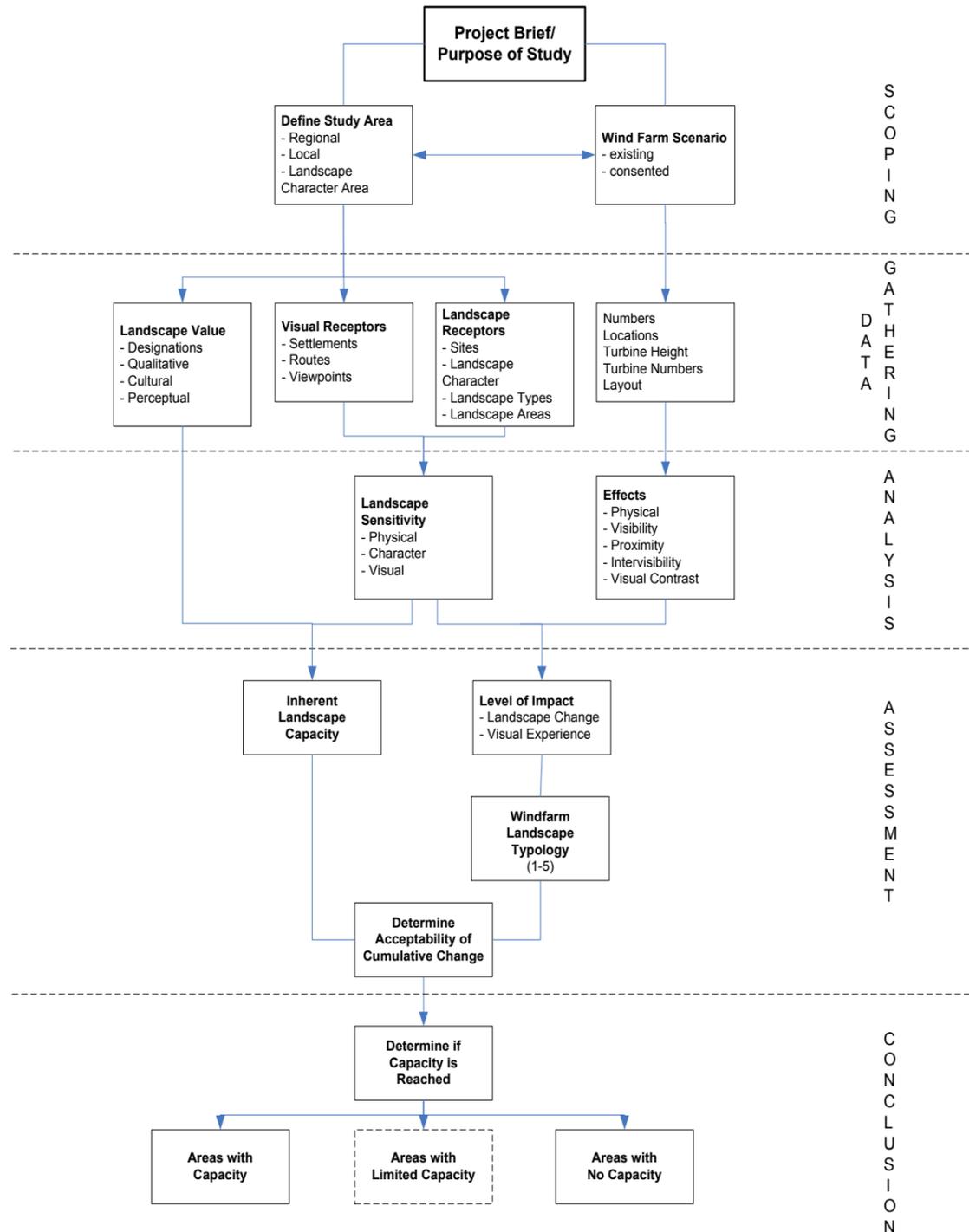
2.8.1 Assessment Process

The considerations discussed above have been taken into account in the staged methodology. This is illustrated by the flow diagram in Figure 1 overleaf. There are 5 stages in the process as shown in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Stages in Landscape Capacity Assessment

Scoping:	Define the purpose of the study, the study area and the wind energy development scenario that is to be assessed.
Data Gathering:	Gather information on receptors (visual and/or landscape); landscape designations and potential constraints; windfarms/ turbines (existing, proposed etc).
Analysis:	Determine landscape character sensitivity, visual sensitivity and landscape value. Determine visibility, direct and indirect landscape effects of the consented windfarms and turbines.
Assessment:	Determine landscape capacity from landscape sensitivity and value. Determine level of cumulative change caused by consented wind turbines, leading to a wind turbine landscape/ visual typology.
Conclusions:	Determine significance and/ or acceptability of existing and future potential cumulative change to the landscape and visual environment.

Figure 1: Cumulative Impact and Landscape Capacity Methodology Flowchart



This is a flexible framework which can be adapted to include the whole study area or focus on subdivisions of landscape, windfarm groupings or development scenarios as required. In this case local landscape character types have been considered, then building up to a picture of the whole of Scottish Borders.

The assessment for Scottish Borders includes:

- 1) Assessment of landscape capacity, cumulative change and acceptable limits of cumulative development in:
 - landscape character types and areas in Scottish Borders;
 - broad regional landscape character areas of Scottish Borders;
 - Scottish Borders as a whole.

The cumulative development in each case is expressed via the wind turbine landscape/visual typologies described in Table 2.1.

The cumulative and capacity assessment for onshore wind energy in Scottish Borders considers:

- 1) Current wind turbine landscape typology resulting from operating and consented wind turbines, where there is a high degree of certainty in the cumulative assessment scenario.
- 2) The limits of acceptable cumulative change expressed in terms of the wind turbine landscape typologies (eg. acceptable level of development in an area might be judged as no more than a *Landscape with Occasional Windfarms*). This is based on a judgement considering landscape capacity but also including policy considerations, emerging guidance on wind turbine development and strategic landscape considerations in Scottish Borders.
- 3) The effects of consented wind turbines together with wind turbines currently under planning application – where there is a level of uncertainty regarding the potential cumulative scenario.

Further comment is made on the extent to which the current and proposed type and pattern of development (eg. turbine size, windfarm size and separation between developments) affects the cumulative impacts and, if appropriate, how the area should be developed in order to keep within an acceptable cumulative change.

This information is used to determine where existing development has reached or come close to reaching landscape capacity and further development should be limited. On a more strategic level it identifies areas where development should be limited to provide separation between concentrations of wind turbine development. It also allows the identification of areas where further development may be possible and, in these cases, what level of development would be acceptable.

The assessment is carried out on the basis of the structured methodology in line with SPP and Scottish Government web based guidance in combination with professional judgement, on the basis of a desk analysis of available information on the landscape, on wind turbine developments and through site visits.

The following sections detail the stages in determining landscape capacity.

2.8.2 Determining Landscape Character Sensitivity

The determination of landscape character sensitivity for a landscape character type involves a breakdown of the physical and perceptual characteristics that contribute to landscape character. Each criterion described below is evaluated in terms of **high**, **medium** or **low** for sensitivity to wind energy development. An overall assessment is derived from a composite of all the criteria. Whilst scale is often important, there is no consistent relative weighting for each criterion, as in each landscape type different criteria may be critical to the ability to accommodate wind energy development.

Table 3. Determination of Landscape Character Sensitivity

Landscape Character Criteria	Factors affecting level of sensitivity
Scale (primarily in character but also in geographical size of area)	Consideration of horizontal and vertical scale. Larger scale landscapes are generally considered more able to accommodate commercial wind turbines, although a smaller size of turbine may reduce impacts. A larger physical area would be able to accommodate more development depending on other aspects determining capacity.
Landform	The relationship between wind turbines and landform is complex and also dependent on scale. Generally simple landforms: flat, undulating or gently rolling, are considered less sensitive and complex landforms more sensitive, especially if smaller scale. Landforms of sufficient scale may provide opportunities for screening or backgrounding turbines, reducing their visual sensitivity.
Pattern	The pattern of landcover (woodland, field boundaries, crops, roads, settlements etc). Degree of strength, regularity, fragmentation. Minimal or simple landscape patterns are considered less sensitive to wind turbine development. Again the relationship to scale is important.
Development	The degree of built or infrastructure development will affect suitability. In general a greater level of development is more suitable, particularly large scale industrial and extractive industries, or potentially large scale agriculture. Areas with small scale residential development would potentially be more sensitive. Undeveloped areas with remote or wilderness characteristics would also be more sensitive.
Quality	This is a measure of the condition and integrity of the landscape fabric and character. A landscape in good condition with a high degree of integrity is more likely to be sensitive to development. A landscape of poor quality may represent an opportunity to compensate for impacts.
Elements and Features	The elements that make up a landscape, such as woodlands, fields, hedges, buildings and landforms create its pattern but add to its distinctive composition and character. Prominent or distinctive focal features such as steep hills, towers, lochs add further distinctiveness. The relationship of wind turbines to these affects overall sensitivity.
Context	The characteristics of surrounding landscape areas provide a context that affects perception of a landscape and may affect how wind turbine developments are perceived. Landscapes acting as a backdrop or foreground to other areas are particularly sensitive.
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium/ Low

The following definitions apply to the thresholds of low, medium and high landscape character sensitivity:

Low Sensitivity: A landscape type or area with key characteristics that would be capable of successfully accommodating or co-existing with wind energy development of all or most scales.

Medium Sensitivity: A landscape type or area with some key characteristics that would be capable of successfully accommodating or co-existing with wind energy development but also some characteristics that would be adversely affected and where scale of development may be a limiting factor.

High Sensitivity: A landscape type or area in which most or all key characteristics would be adversely affected by wind energy development and is not capable of successfully accommodating this type of change.

2.8.3 Determining Visual Sensitivity

The visual sensitivity of a landscape area is determined by who is likely to see it, (types and numbers of receptors) and how visible in general the area is. The assessment is made in relation to the visibility of tall structures.

2.8.4 Visibility Analysis

A systematic analysis of the relative visibility of areas of Scottish Borders has been undertaken. Three sets of visual receptors were determined as follows, and these are identified in Section 4:

- Settlements;
- Routes;
- Viewpoints

Each of the receptor types and locations is representative of locations frequented by people in Scottish Borders. The visibility analysis included each set of receptors, and generated visibility diagrams of different scenarios for different heights of objects in the landscape.

The analysis was carried out using a computer based technique in which the intervisibility between receptors and landforms, or objects of specific heights on the landforms, is determined. The more intervisibility, the greater the visual sensitivity is likely to be. In the case of area receptors (settlements) or linear receptors (routes) these are broken up into units of the same area or length such that this represents different population sizes or length exposed to view. No value judgement has been made as to relative sensitivity of receptors.

The extent of the visibility assessment was limited to a 15km radius from the receptors. In our experience, this is the distance within which the great majority of significant impacts from wind farms are likely to occur. Whilst it is recognised that impacts occur beyond this distance, up to 35km and beyond, as recognised by EIA best practice, this is not an EIA assessment and the results are considered to adequately distinguish between locations of potentially greater or lesser sensitivity.

Each receptor type was assessed at six different heights above ground level in order to distinguish between the potential visibility of windfarm infrastructure and turbines of differing height:

A receptor height of 2m was assumed.

- 0m representing objects at or near existing ground levels such as tracks and small buildings;
- 25m representing maximum height of small domestic and farm scale turbines;
- 50m representing blade tip height of typical farm scale turbines;
- 100m representing blade tip height of many commercial windfarm turbines and some single Feed in Tariff turbines.
- 150m representing blade tip height of the tallest commercial turbines currently in use

A receptor height of 2m was assumed.

Results of the visibility analysis are illustrated in Figures 4.2a-e to 4.4a-e. The colours show the differences in visual sensitivity across Scottish Borders. Red colours indicate areas that are most visible from the greatest numbers of receptors, grading through orange, yellow and green to blue areas that are seen by fewest receptors and uncoloured areas where objects of that height would not be seen at all from receptors.

The three key criteria which determine visual sensitivity are listed in Table 4 below. Each is rated in terms of high, medium or low and a composite rating derived based on professional judgement. The following definitions apply to the thresholds of low, medium and high visual sensitivity:

Low Visual Sensitivity: A landscape type or area which due to its location and characteristics has limited internal and/or external visibility and where wind energy developments would not be visible to many sensitive receptors.

Medium Visual Sensitivity: A landscape type or area which due to its location and characteristics has a moderate degree of internal and/or external visibility and where wind energy developments would be potentially visible to a wide range of receptors, some of which are sensitive.

High Visual Sensitivity: A landscape type or area which due to its location and characteristics has extensive internal and external visibility and where wind energy developments would be potentially visible to a wide range and number of sensitive receptors.

Table 4. Determination of Visual Sensitivity

Visual Sensitivity Criteria	Factors affecting level of sensitivity
Receptors	A greater number of potential receptors including higher population densities, visitor attractions or the presence of busy transport routes will lead to a higher visual sensitivity. The sensitivity and expectations of the receptors is also a contributory factor.
Internal Visibility	Views within a landscape area may be open or restricted by landform, vegetation or buildings. The greater the degree of openness and intervisibility the greater the sensitivity.
External Visibility	A landscape area that is visible from surrounding areas by virtue of its prominence or being overlooked is more visually sensitive than an area that is seldom seen.
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium/ Low

The combination of landscape character and visual sensitivities leads to an overall assessment of landscape sensitivity for an area. Whilst landscape character is likely carry more weight in determining sensitivity, no consistent weighting is given to either factor as it is likely that different landscapes will express them to varying extents depending on their unique characteristics. Professional judgement is used in the case of each landscape type.

2.8.5 Determining Landscape Value

Landscape value reflects the value that society and individuals put on a landscape. This can be officially recognised by some form of local or national designation, or simply by its value to a ‘community of interest’ (this could be for example a local population, recreational users or conservation interest).

Other characteristics affecting value of a landscape include its historic and cultural associations, particularly if expressed by surviving features and patterns in the landscape. Finally there are more intangible characteristics generally valued by society, such as tranquillity remoteness and wilderness.

The key criteria which determine value are listed in Table 5 below. Each is rated in terms of high, medium or low and a composite rating derived based on professional judgement. The following definitions apply to the thresholds of low, medium and high landscape value:

Low Landscape Value: A landscape type or area which has no landscape designation; little apparent value to communities; no or few

cultural heritage designations or associations and has no distinctive or unusual perceptual values.

Medium Landscape Value: A landscape type or area which has at least in part local landscape or landscape related designations; value to local communities; some cultural heritage designations or associations and has some distinctive perceptual values.

High Landscape Value: A landscape type or area, all or much of which is covered by national landscape or landscape related designations; has value to local and wider communities; widely recognised cultural heritage designations or associations and has clearly distinctive and/or unusual perceptual values.

Table 5. Determination of Landscape Value

Landscape Value Criteria	Factors contributing to value
Designations	International, national, regional or local designations relating to landscape in particular, although ecological designations also contribute to the landscape value of an area.
Community value	An undesignated area may be particularly valued by a community of interest: local, or activity-based.
Cultural value	Valued landscapes will have historic associations, be rich in historic features and buildings and/or have literary or artistic associations.
Perceptual	Tranquillity, remoteness or wilderness are valued characteristics, whereas landscapes that are highly modified, developed and populated would have low value in this respect. Landscapes regarded as particularly scenic would also be more sensitive.
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium/ Low

2.8.6 Determining Landscape Capacity

The final assessment of capacity combines sensitivity and value. The following definitions broadly define the relationship between landscape sensitivity/ value and capacity, as the main thresholds on a continuum between no capacity and high capacity:

Low Capacity: A landscape that is both sensitive to wind turbine development and has a high value, and where only a slight level of change can be accommodated without significantly affecting any of the key defining criteria.

Medium Capacity: A landscape that has some sensitivity to wind turbine development and has some aspects of value, and where a moderate level of change can be accommodated which may significantly affect some of the defining criteria

High Capacity: A landscape that has low sensitivity to wind turbine development and has low value, and can accommodate substantial change that significantly affects many of the key defining criteria

Broadly speaking there is an inverse relationship between capacity and landscape sensitivity and value. Nevertheless it is not a simple relationship and we have not employed the use of a matrix in this study: a balance of judgement is made in each case as landscape value may be a more important factor than sensitivity in some cases; and vice versa in others.

It should be noted that in landscapes where there is existing wind turbine development the capacity for turbines may be reduced. This is because the landscape would be approaching the maximum level of change that it can acceptably accommodate.

2.9 Determining Acceptability of Change

The final stage involves bringing together the cumulative impact assessment and the landscape capacity assessment in a reasoned judgement of the effects of windfarm development on the Scottish Borders landscape. As explained above, the likely acceptability of a proposed level of development may be determined by considering against the inherent capacity of the landscape. This should also be considered against policy criteria and objectives.

2.10 Scope of Assessment

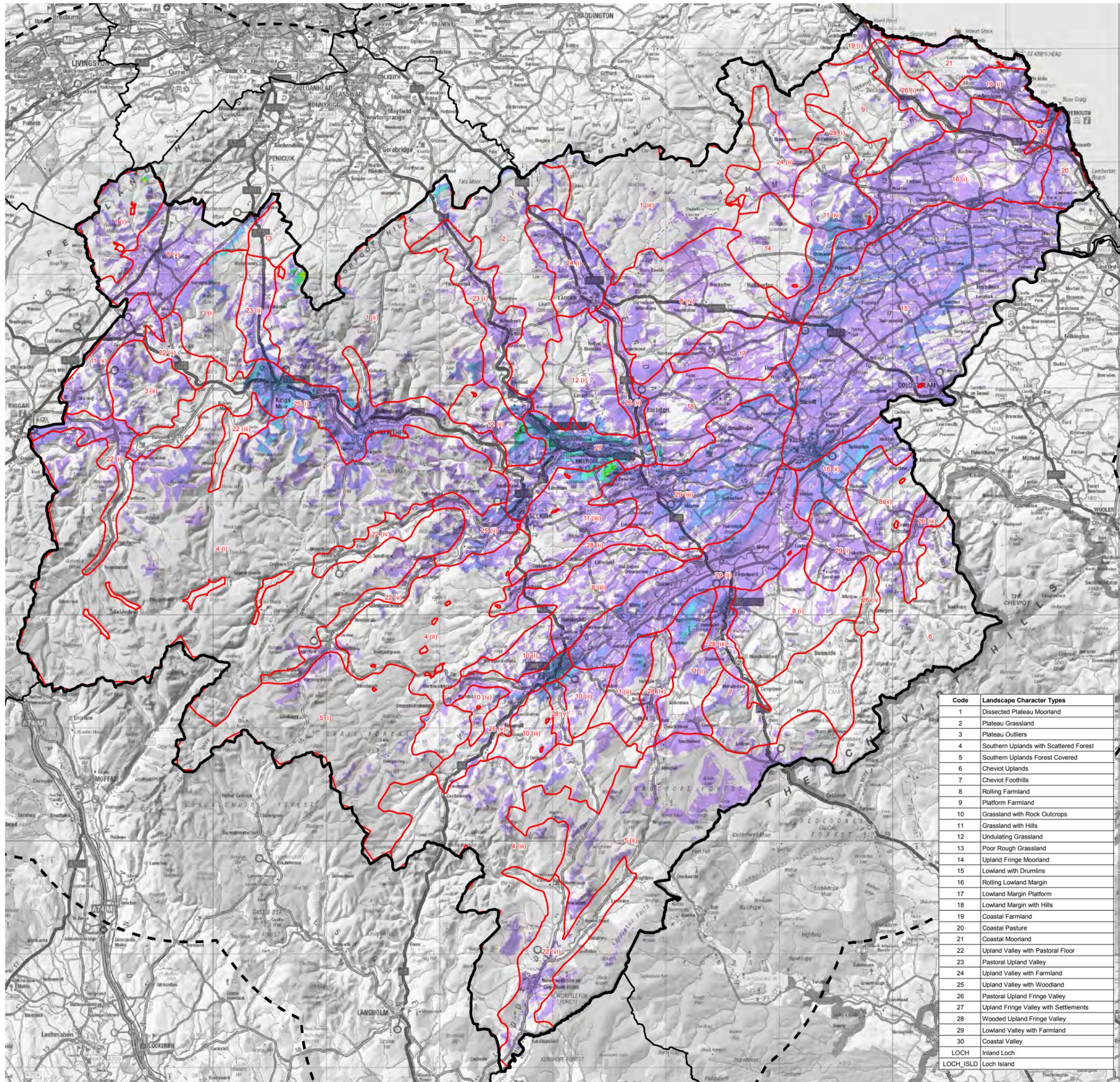
The scope of the assessment can be varied according to the extent of the study area and the purpose of the study. It can also vary according to the depth and detail required to assess impacts within the defined study area. In the case of a detailed study the method should build up to the wider study area from smaller units.

The current study focuses primarily on the local authority area of Scottish Borders, although areas beyond the boundary are being considered in terms of the visual influence of nearby windfarms and neighbouring contiguous landscape types. Nevertheless the results of the study will be discussed in terms of Scottish Borders and its landscapes.

Wind Energy Development Types

The study considers all sizes of turbines and developments operating, consented or proposed, as well as potential future scenarios where appropriate. However the capacity assessment and guidance for smaller turbines (under 15m to blade tip) is limited to localised generic siting and design considerations. The smallest turbines are not considered to have the same qualities of scale, prominence and widespread visibility that lead to the wider cumulative impacts that characterise larger turbines.

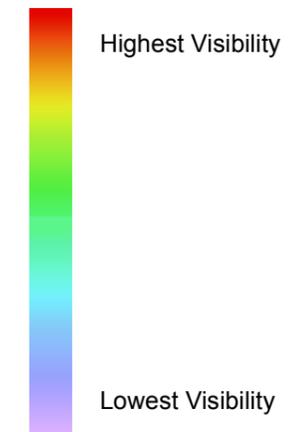
APPENDIX 3: VISIBILITY ANALYSIS



Legend

- SBC Local Authority Boundary
- Local Authority Boundary 15km Buffer
- Other Local Authority Boundaries
- Landscape Character Areas

ZTV:



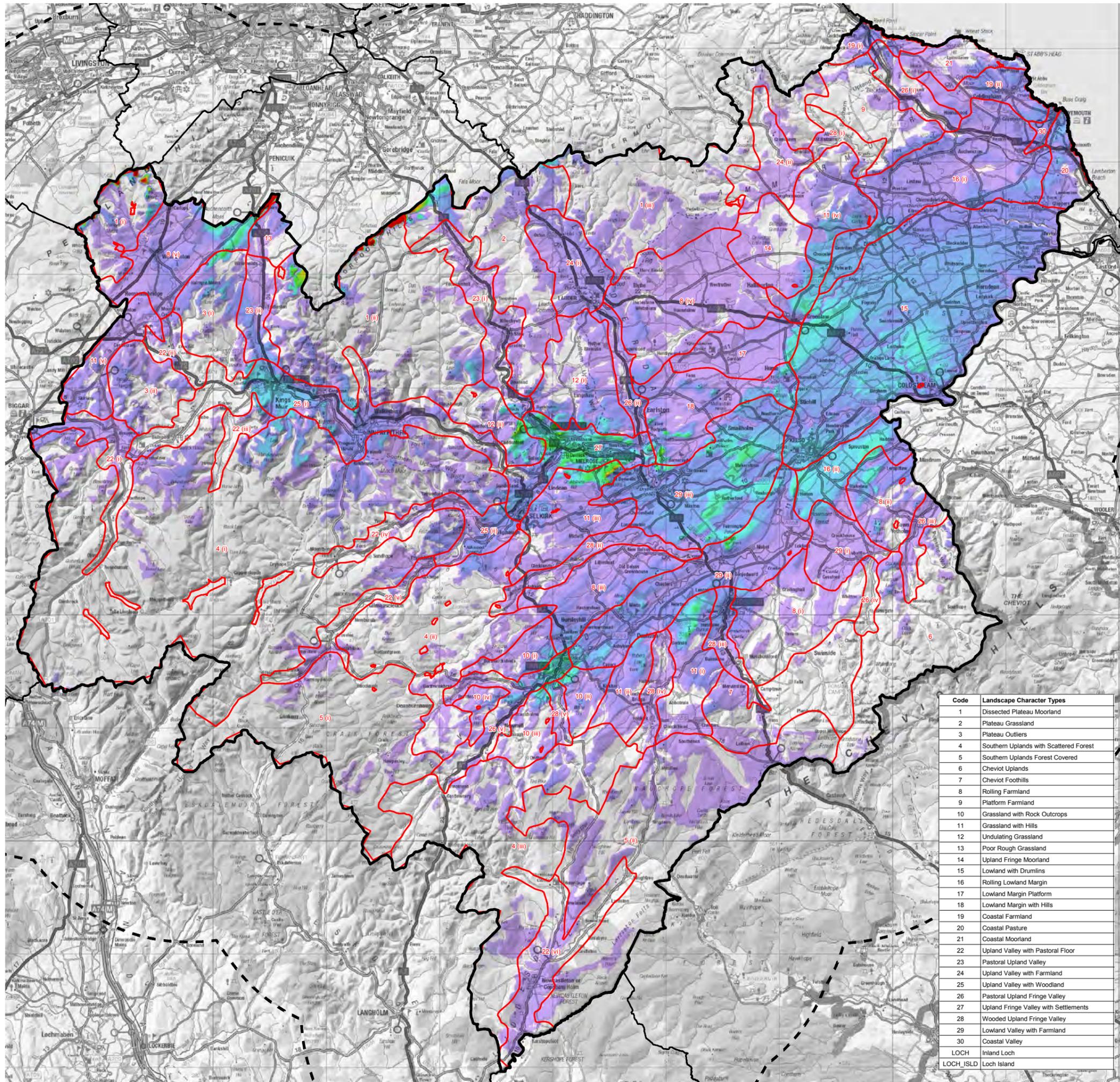
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2	Plateau Grassland
3	Plateau Outliers
4	Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest
5	Southern Uplands Forest Covered
6	Cheviot Uplands
7	Cheviot Foothills
8	Rolling Farmland
9	Platform Farmland
10	Grassland with Rock Outcrops
11	Grassland with Hills
12	Undulating Grassland
13	Poor Rough Grassland
14	Upland Fringe Moorland
15	Lowland with Drumlins
16	Rolling Lowland Margin
17	Lowland Margin Platform
18	Lowland Margin with Hills
19	Coastal Farmland
20	Coastal Pasture
21	Coastal Moorland
22	Upland Valley with Pastoral Floor
23	Pastoral Upland Valley
24	Upland Valley with Farmland
25	Upland Valley with Woodland
26	Pastoral Upland Fringe Valley
27	Upland Fringe Valley with Settlements
28	Wooded Upland Fringe Valley
29	Lowland Valley with Farmland
30	Coastal Valley
LOCH	Inland Loch
LOCH_ISLD	Loch Island

Figure 4.3a

Visibility from Settlements (0m high object)



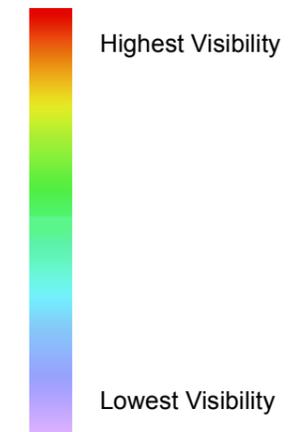
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Legend

- SBC Local Authority Boundary
- Local Authority Boundary 15km Buffer
- Other Local Authority Boundaries
- Landscape Character Areas

ZTV:



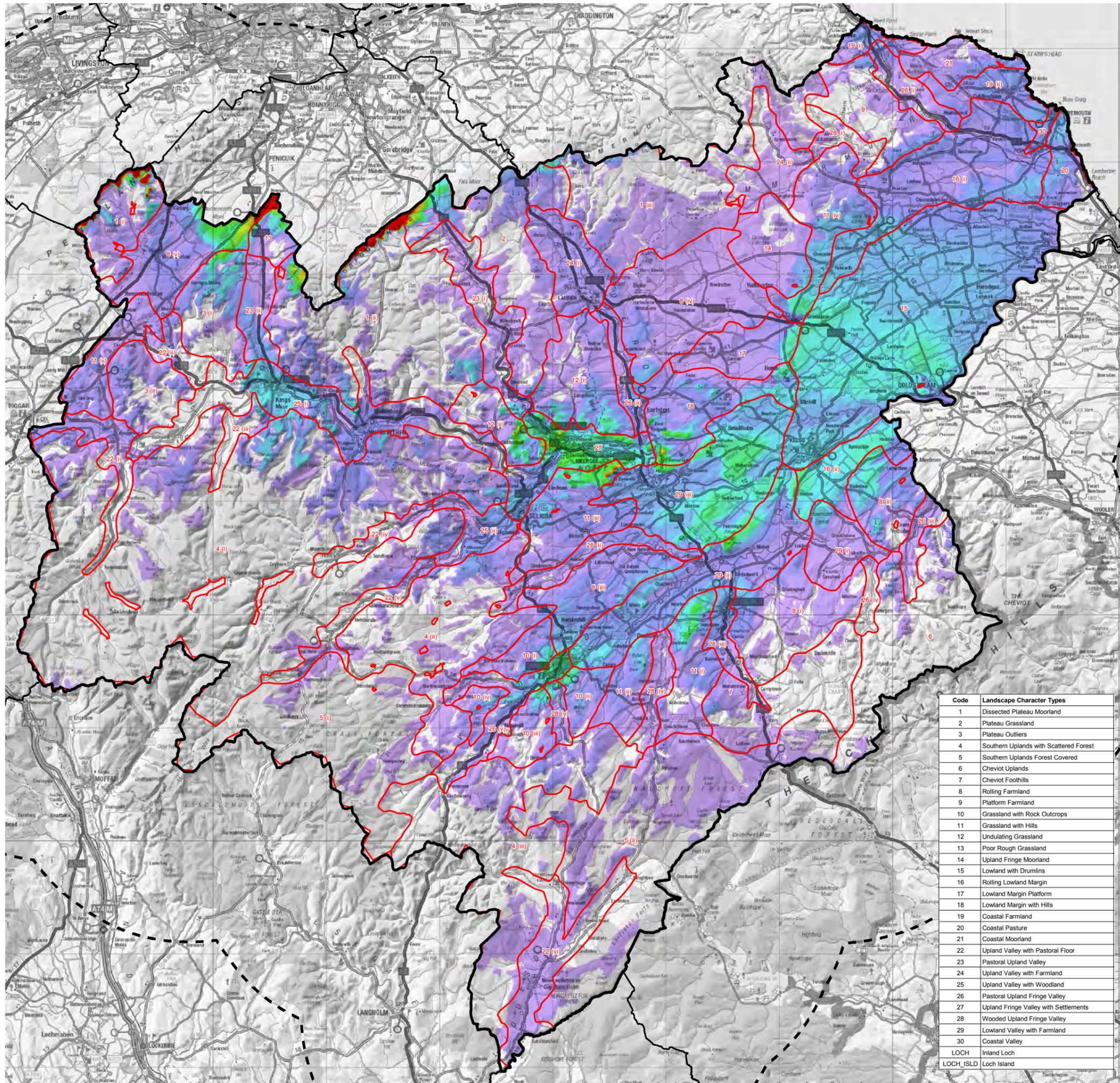
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25	Upland Valley with Woodland
26	Pastoral Upland Fringe Valley
27	Upland Fringe Valley with Settlements
28	Wooded Upland Fringe Valley
29	Lowland Valley with Farmland
30	Coastal Valley
LOCH	Inland Loch
LOCH_ISLD	Loch Island

Figure 4.3b

Visibility from Settlements (25m high object)



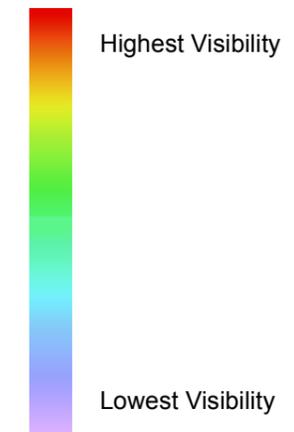
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Legend

- SBC Local Authority Boundary
- Local Authority Boundary 15km Buffer
- Other Local Authority Boundaries
- Landscape Character Areas

ZTV:



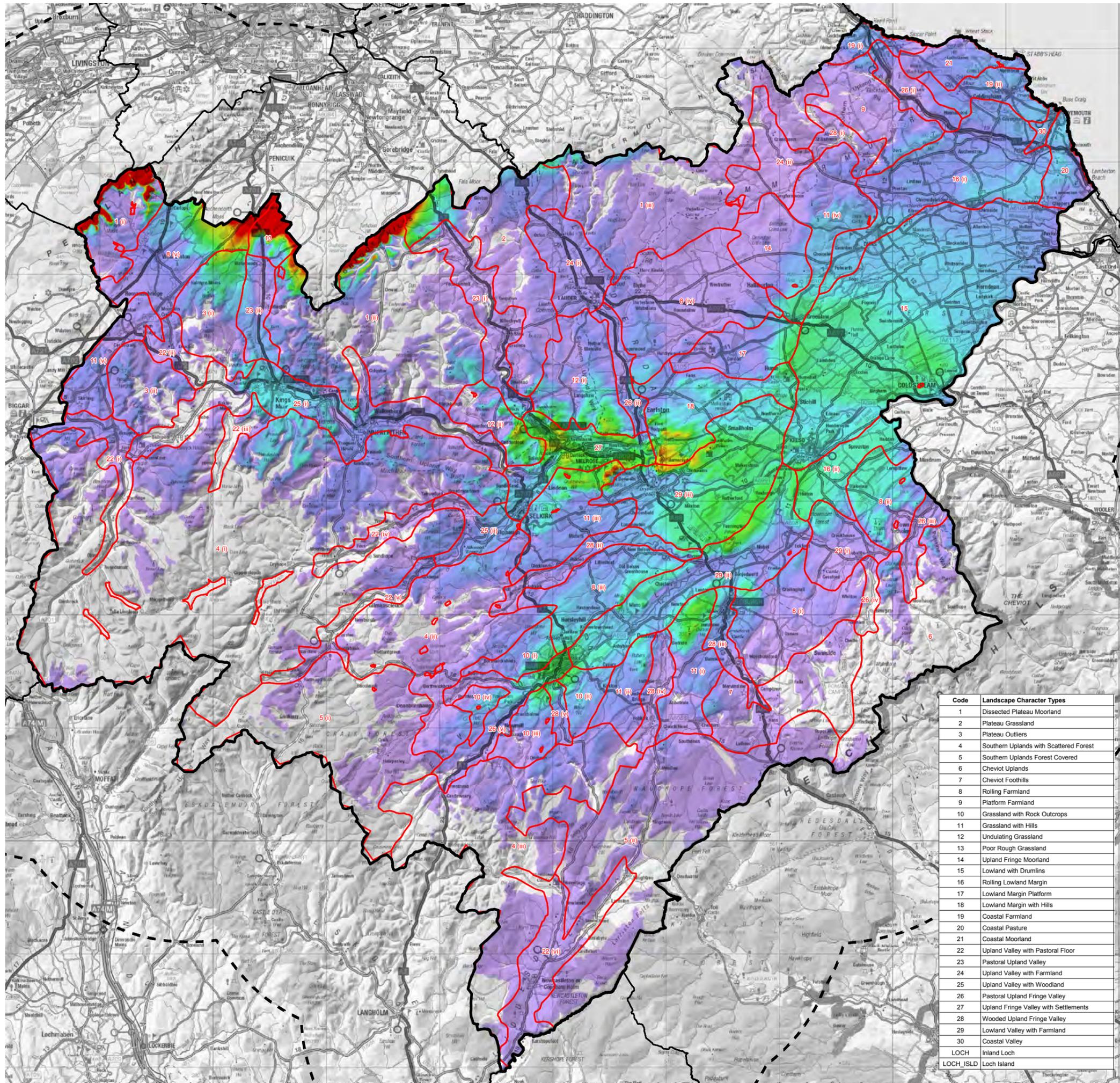
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24	Upland Valley with Farmland
25	Upland Valley with Woodland
26	Pastoral Upland Fringe Valley
27	Upland Fringe Valley with Settlements
28	Wooded Upland Fringe Valley
29	Lowland Valley with Farmland
30	Coastal Valley
LOCH	Inland Loch
LOCH_ISLD	Loch Island

Figure 4.3c

Visibility from Settlements (50m high object)



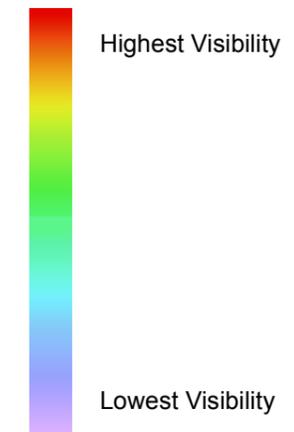
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Legend

- SBC Local Authority Boundary
- Local Authority Boundary 15km Buffer
- Other Local Authority Boundaries
- Landscape Character Areas

ZTV:



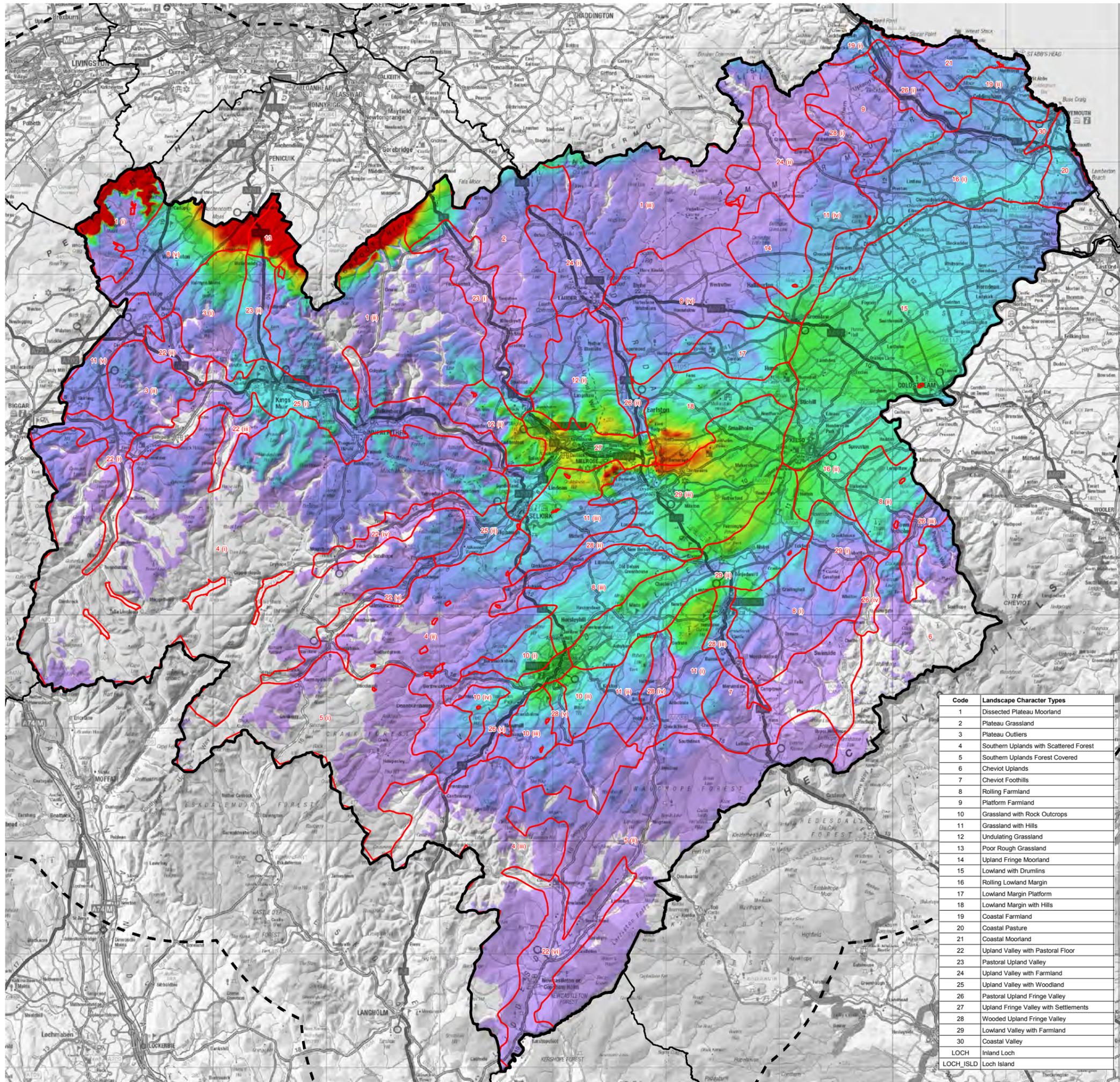
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27	Upland Fringe Valley with Settlements
28	Wooded Upland Fringe Valley
29	Lowland Valley with Farmland
30	Coastal Valley
LOCH	Inland Loch
LOCH_ISLD	Loch Island

Figure 4.3d

Visibility from Settlements (100m high object)



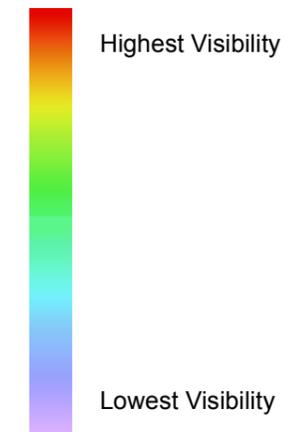
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Legend

- SBC Local Authority Boundary
- Local Authority Boundary 15km Buffer
- Other Local Authority Boundaries
- Landscape Character Areas

ZTV:



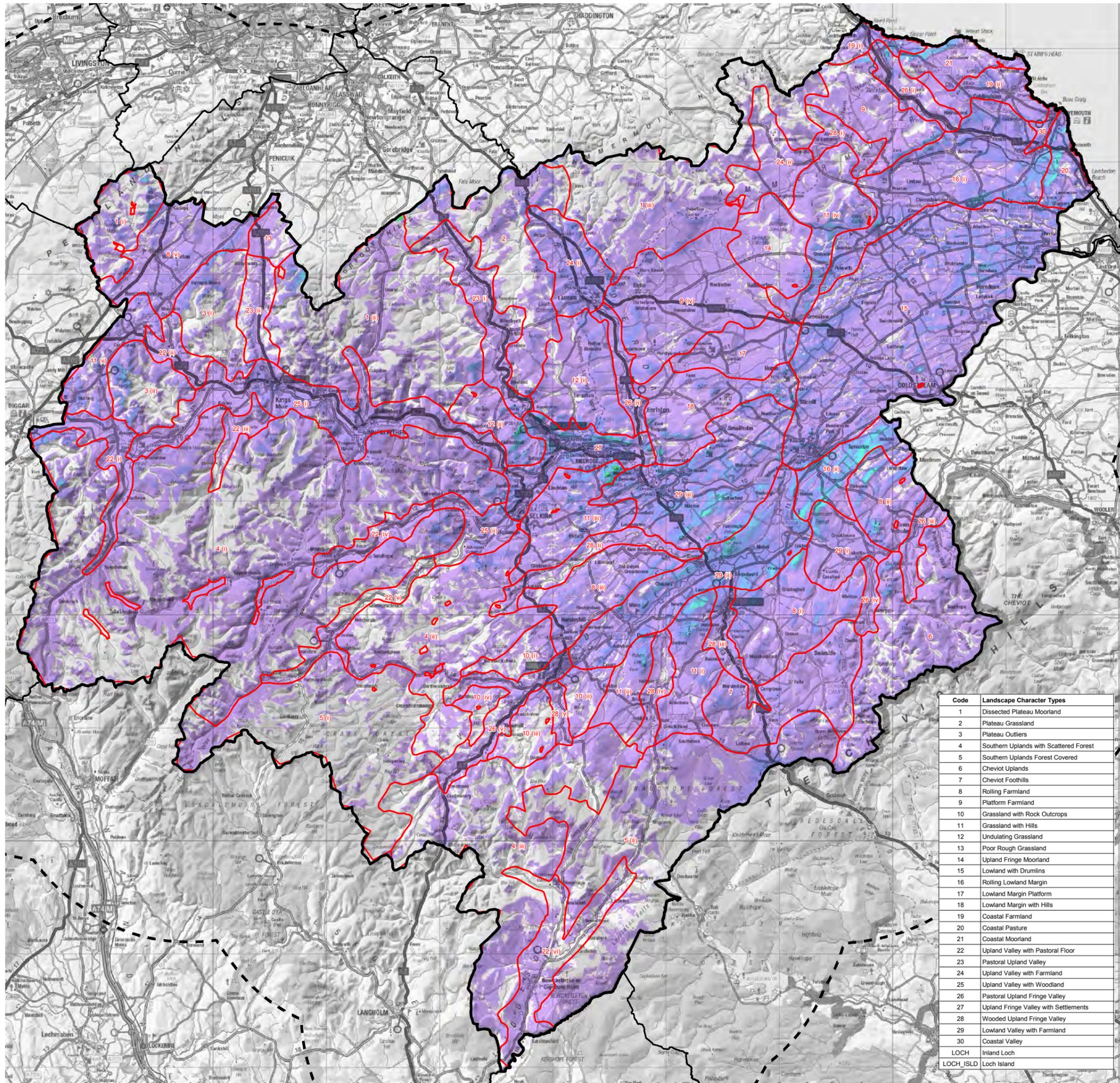
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25	Upland Valley with Woodland
26	Pastoral Upland Fringe Valley
27	Upland Fringe Valley with Settlements
28	Wooded Upland Fringe Valley
29	Lowland Valley with Farmland
30	Coastal Valley
LOCH	Inland Loch
LOCH_ISLD	Loch Island

Figure 4.3e

Visibility from Settlements (150m high object)



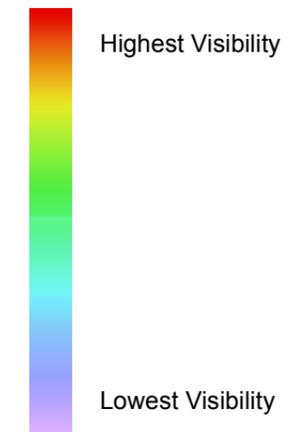
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Legend

- SBC Local Authority Boundary
- Local Authority Boundary 15km Buffer
- Other Local Authority Boundaries
- Landscape Character Areas

ZTV:



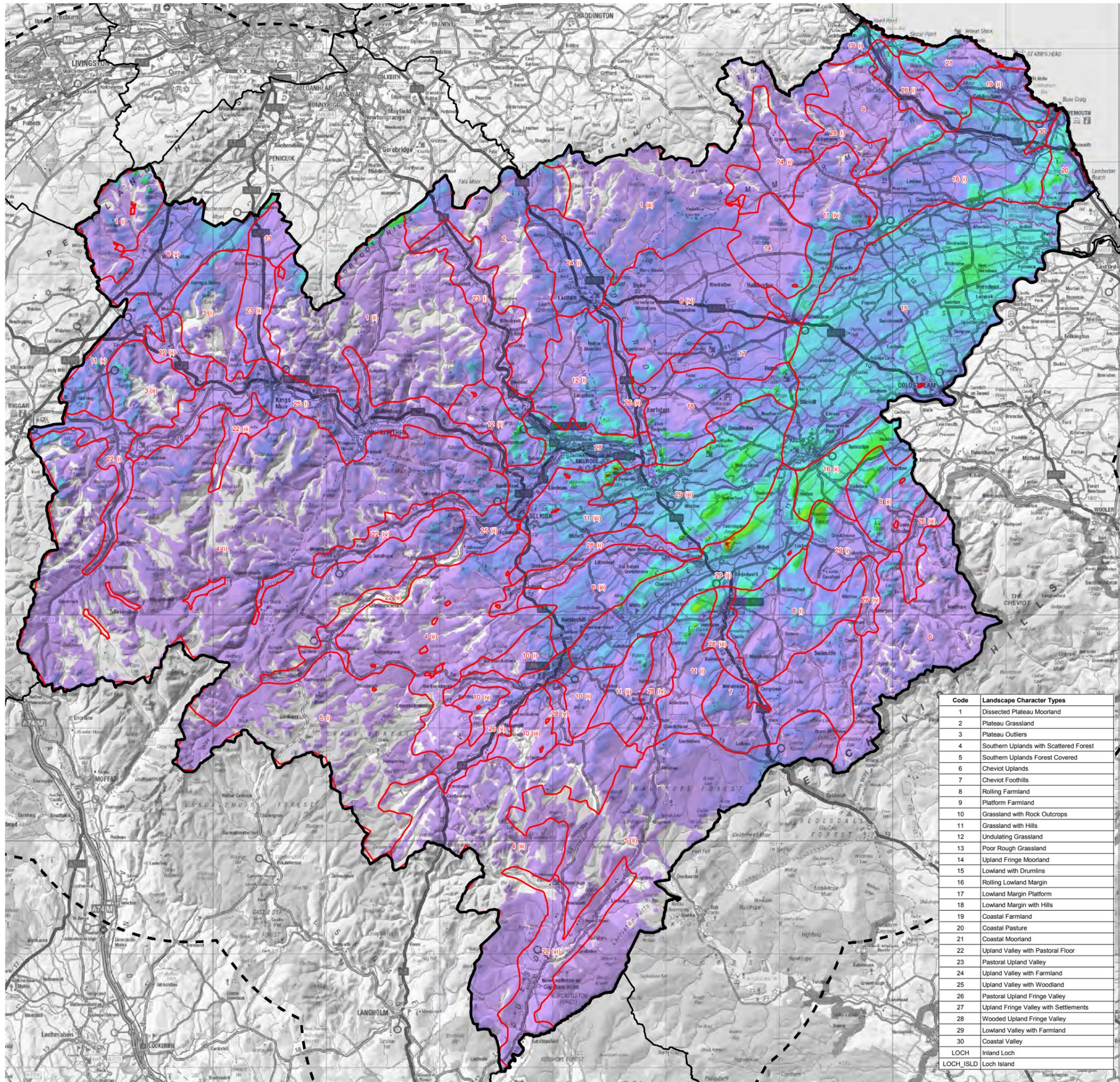
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29	Lowland Valley with Farmland
30	Coastal Valley
LOCH	Inland Loch
LOCH_ISLD	Loch Island

Figure 4.4a

Visibility from Transport Routes (0m high object)



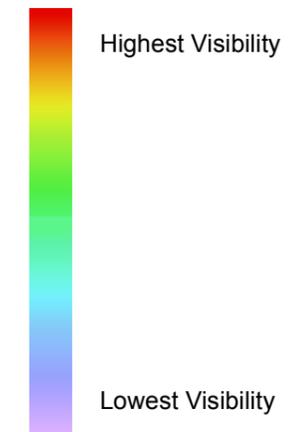
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Legend

- SBC Local Authority Boundary
- Local Authority Boundary 15km Buffer
- Other Local Authority Boundaries
- Landscape Character Areas

ZTV:



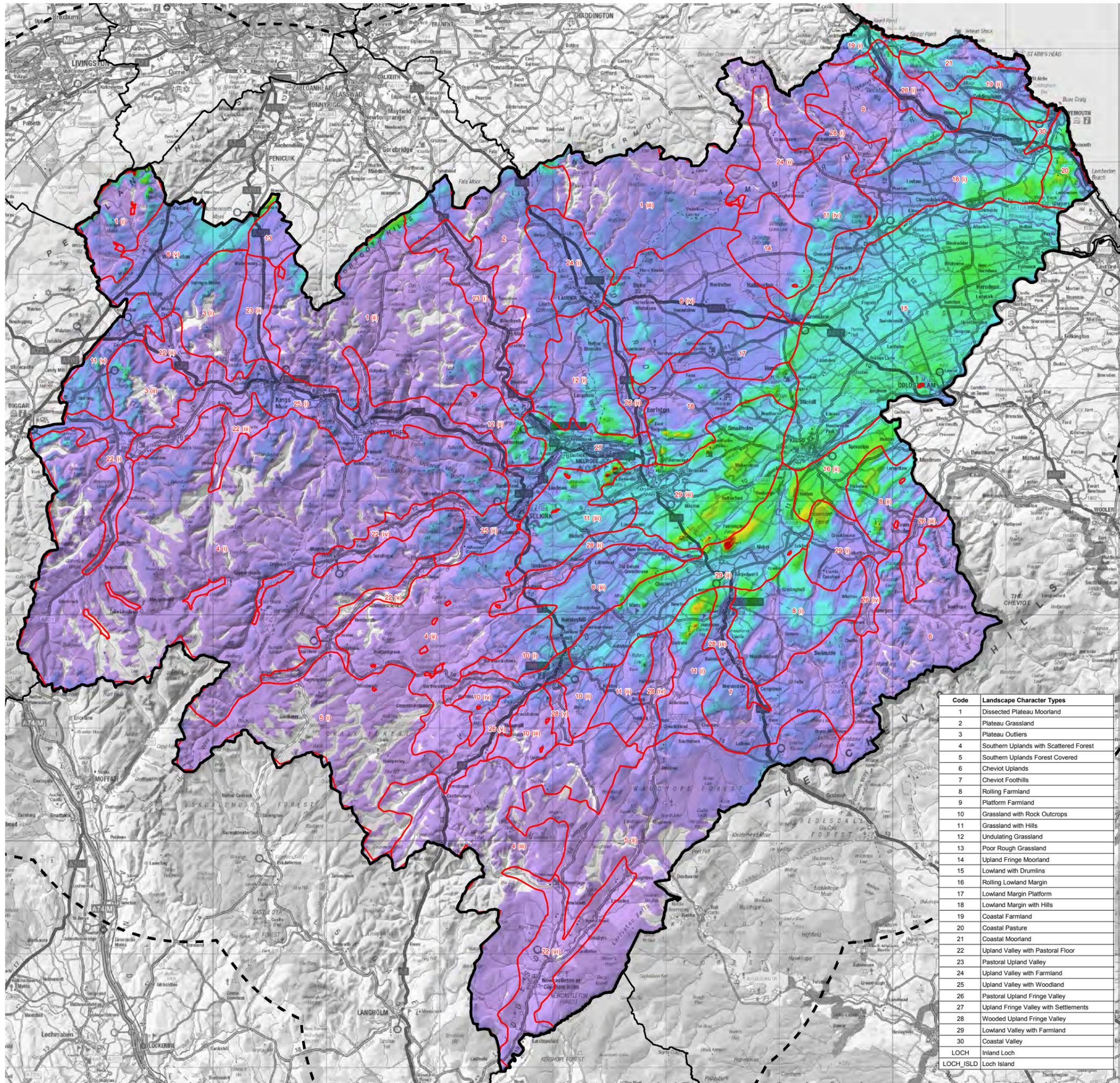
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29	Lowland Valley with Farmland
30	Coastal Valley
LOCH	Inland Loch
LOCH_ISLD	Loch Island

Figure 4.4b

Visibility from Transport Routes (25m high object)



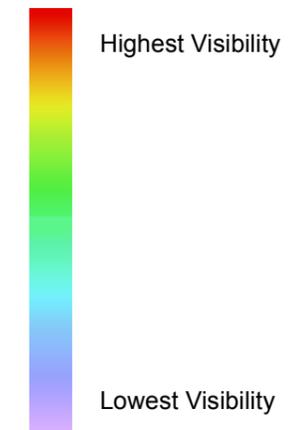
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Legend

- SBC Local Authority Boundary
- Local Authority Boundary 15km Buffer
- Other Local Authority Boundaries
- Landscape Character Areas

ZTV:



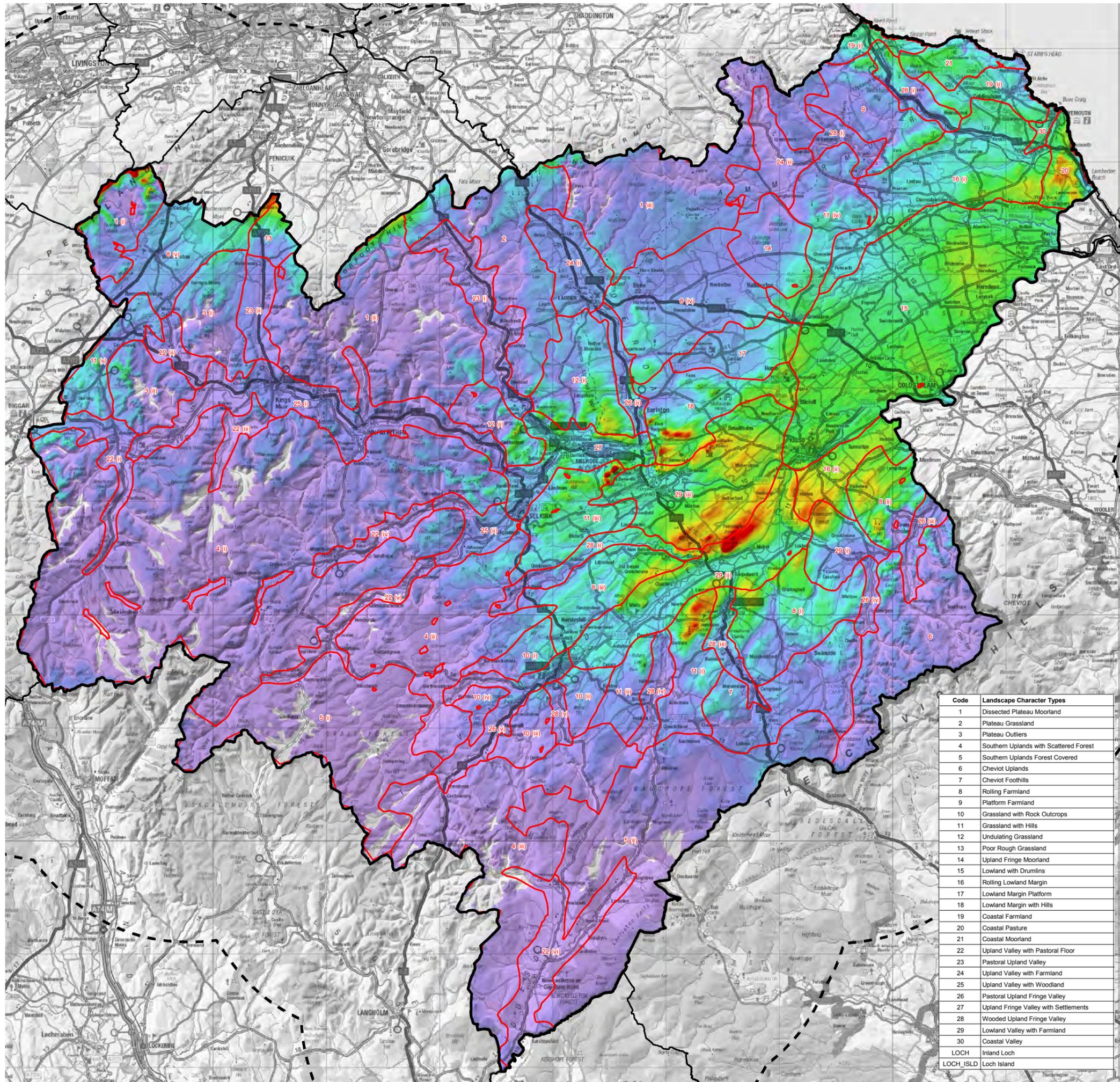
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27	Upland Fringe Valley with Settlements
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29	Lowland Valley with Farmland
30	Coastal Valley
LOCH	Inland Loch
LOCH_ISLD	Loch Island

Figure 4.4c

Visibility from Transport Routes (50m high object)



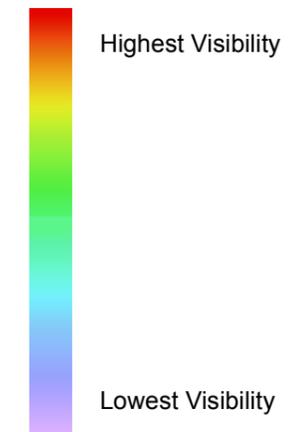
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Legend

- SBC Local Authority Boundary
- Local Authority Boundary 15km Buffer
- Other Local Authority Boundaries
- Landscape Character Areas

ZTV:



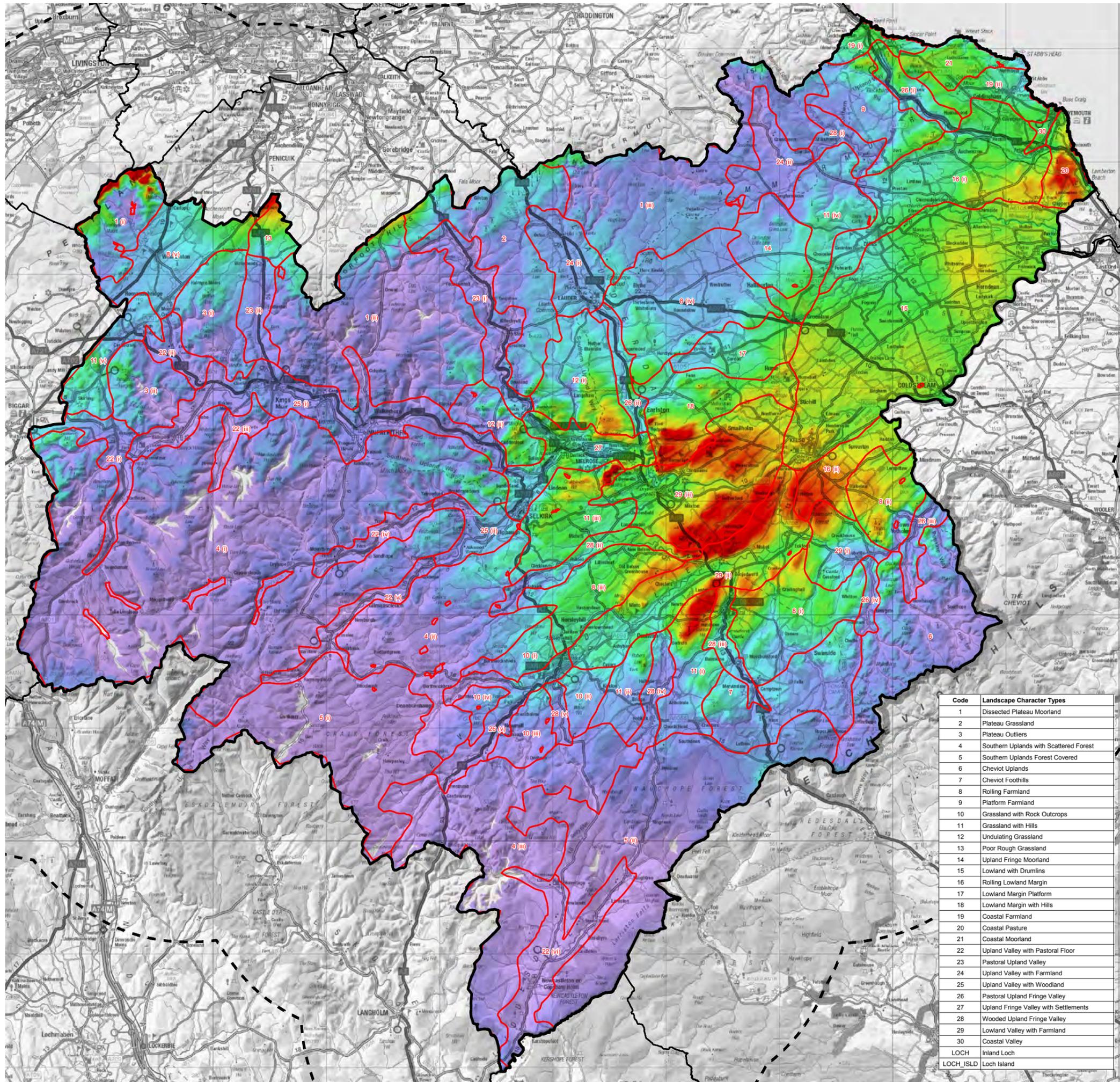
Code	Landscape Character Types
1	Dissected Plateau Moorland
2	Plateau Grassland
3	Plateau Outliers
4	Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest
5	Southern Uplands Forest Covered
6	Cheviot Uplands
7	Cheviot Foothills
8	Rolling Farmland
9	Platform Farmland
10	Grassland with Rock Outcrops
11	Grassland with Hills
12	Undulating Grassland
13	Poor Rough Grassland
14	Upland Fringe Moorland
15	Lowland with Drumlins
16	Rolling Lowland Margin
17	Lowland Margin Platform
18	Lowland Margin with Hills
19	Coastal Farmland
20	Coastal Pasture
21	Coastal Moorland
22	Upland Valley with Pastoral Floor
23	Pastoral Upland Valley
24	Upland Valley with Farmland
25	Upland Valley with Woodland
26	Pastoral Upland Fringe Valley
27	Upland Fringe Valley with Settlements
28	Wooded Upland Fringe Valley
29	Lowland Valley with Farmland
30	Coastal Valley
LOCH	Inland Loch
LOCH_ISLD	Loch Island

Figure 4.4d

Visibility from Transport Routes (100m high object)



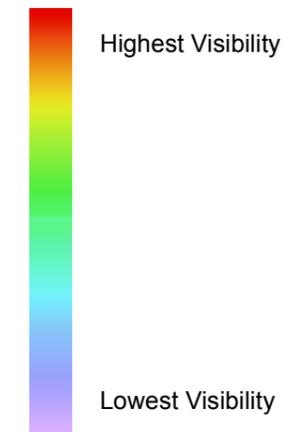
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Legend

- SBC Local Authority Boundary
- Local Authority Boundary 15km Buffer
- Other Local Authority Boundaries
- Landscape Character Areas

ZTV:



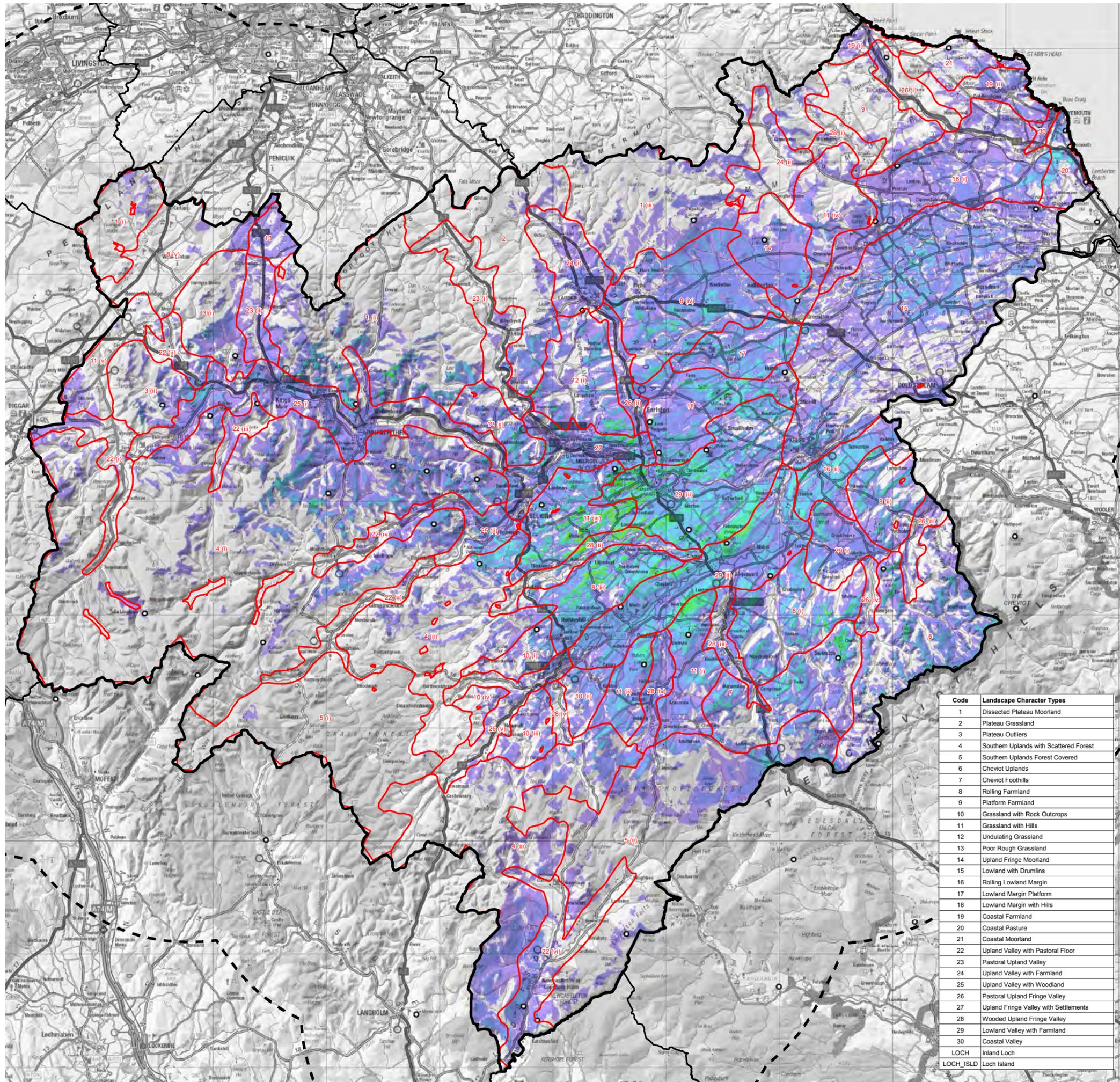
Code	Landscape Character Types
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3	Plateau Outliers
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5	Southern Uplands Forest Covered
6	Cheviot Uplands
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15	Lowland with Drumlins
16	Rolling Lowland Margin
17	Lowland Margin Platform
18	Lowland Margin with Hills
19	Coastal Farmland
20	Coastal Pasture
21	Coastal Moorland
22	Upland Valley with Pastoral Floor
23	Pastoral Upland Valley
24	Upland Valley with Farmland
25	Upland Valley with Woodland
26	Pastoral Upland Fringe Valley
27	Upland Fringe Valley with Settlements
28	Wooded Upland Fringe Valley
29	Lowland Valley with Farmland
30	Coastal Valley
LOCH	Inland Loch
LOCH_ISLD	Loch Island

Figure 4.4e

Visibility from Transport Routes (150m high object)



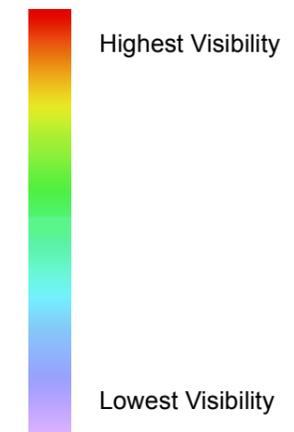
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Legend

- SBC Local Authority Boundary
- Local Authority Boundary 15km Buffer
- Other Local Authority Boundaries
- Landscape Character Areas

ZTV:



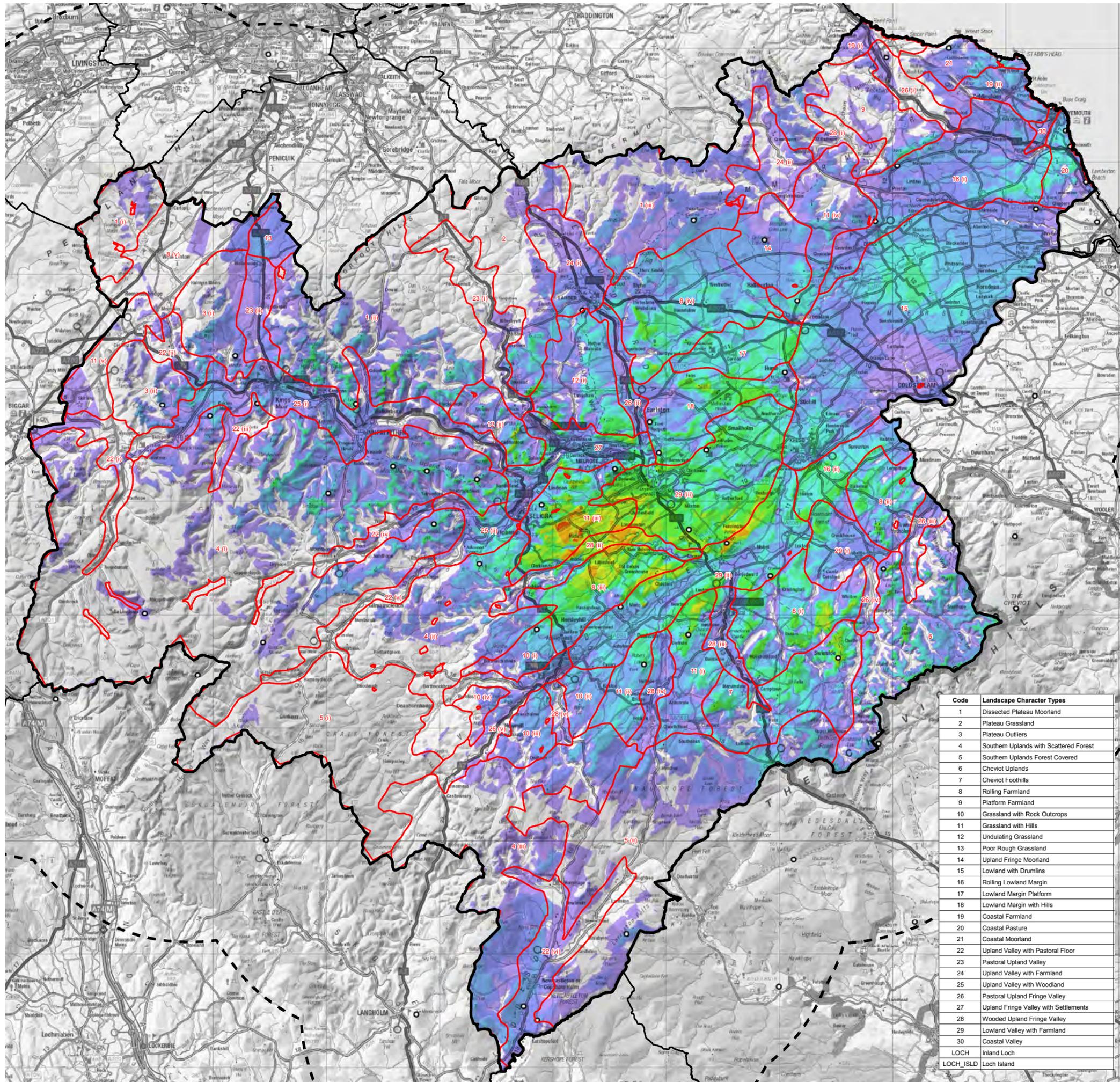
Code	Landscape Character Types
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3	Plateau Outliers
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5	Southern Uplands Forest Covered
6	Cheviot Uplands
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21	Coastal Moorland
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23	Pastoral Upland Valley
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25	Upland Valley with Woodland
26	Pastoral Upland Fringe Valley
27	Upland Fringe Valley with Settlements
28	Wooded Upland Fringe Valley
29	Lowland Valley with Farmland
30	Coastal Valley
LOCH	Inland Loch
LOCH_ISLD	Loch Island

Figure 4.5a

Visibility from Viewpoints (0m high object)



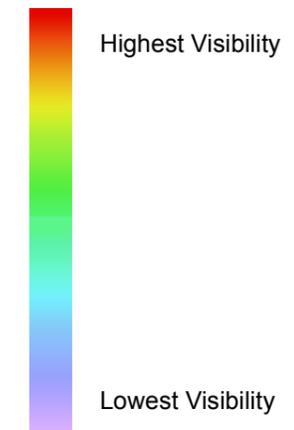
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Legend

- SBC Local Authority Boundary
- Local Authority Boundary 15km Buffer
- Other Local Authority Boundaries
- Landscape Character Areas

ZTV:



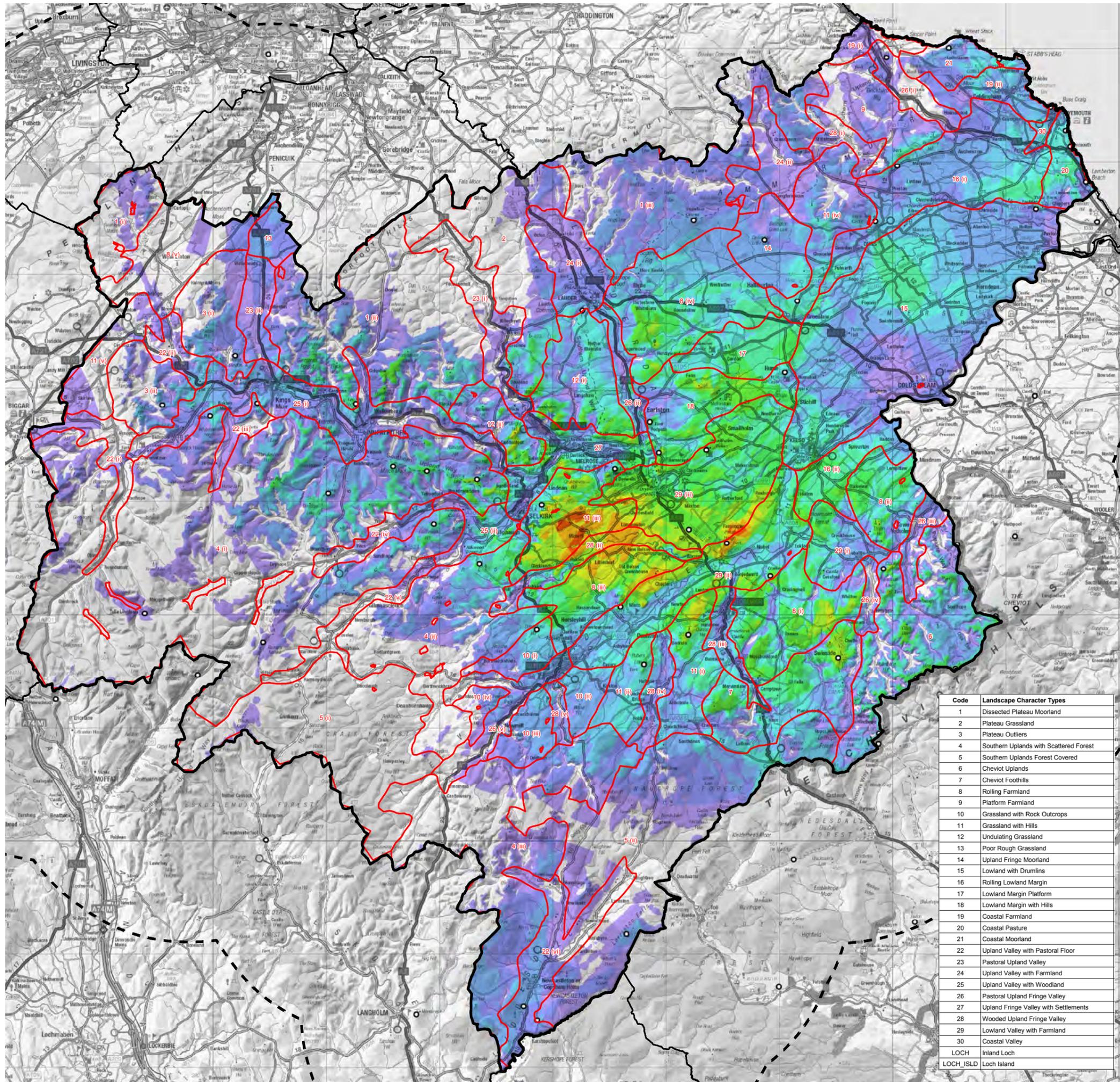
Code	Landscape Character Types
1	Dissected Plateau Moorland
2	Plateau Grassland
3	Plateau Outliers
4	Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest
5	Southern Uplands Forest Covered
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23	Pastoral Upland Valley
24	Upland Valley with Farmland
25	Upland Valley with Woodland
26	Pastoral Upland Fringe Valley
27	Upland Fringe Valley with Settlements
28	Wooded Upland Fringe Valley
29	Lowland Valley with Farmland
30	Coastal Valley
LOCH	Inland Loch
LOCH_ISLD	Loch Island

Figure 4.5b

Visibility from Viewpoints (25m high object)



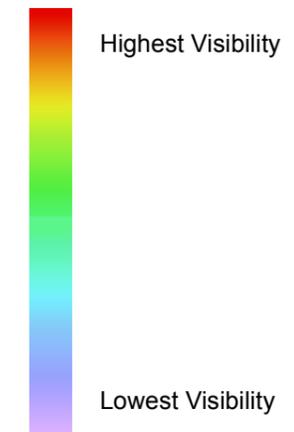
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Legend

- SBC Local Authority Boundary
- Local Authority Boundary 15km Buffer
- Other Local Authority Boundaries
- Landscape Character Areas

ZTV:

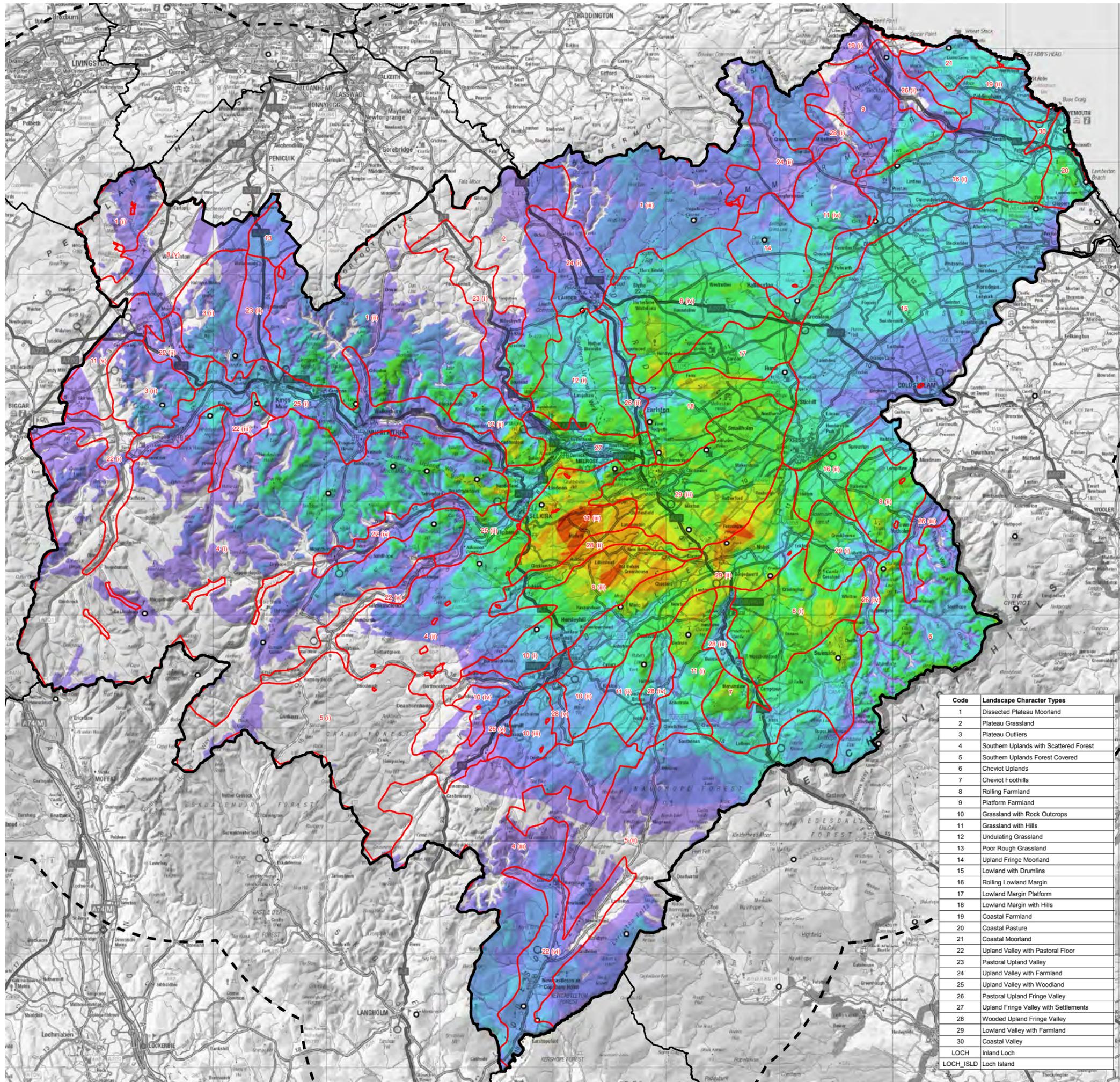


Code	Landscape Character Types
1	Dissected Plateau Moorland
2	Plateau Grassland
3	Plateau Outliers
4	Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest
5	Southern Uplands Forest Covered
6	Cheviot Uplands
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11	Grassland with Hills
12	Undulating Grassland
13	Poor Rough Grassland
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15	Lowland with Drumlins
16	Rolling Lowland Margin
17	Lowland Margin Platform
18	Lowland Margin with Hills
19	Coastal Farmland
20	Coastal Pasture
21	Coastal Moorland
22	Upland Valley with Pastoral Floor
23	Pastoral Upland Valley
24	Upland Valley with Farmland
25	Upland Valley with Woodland
26	Pastoral Upland Fringe Valley
27	Upland Fringe Valley with Settlements
28	Wooded Upland Fringe Valley
29	Lowland Valley with Farmland
30	Coastal Valley
LOCH	Inland Loch
LOCH_ISLD	Loch Island

Figure 4.5c
 Visibility from Viewpoints
 (50m high object)



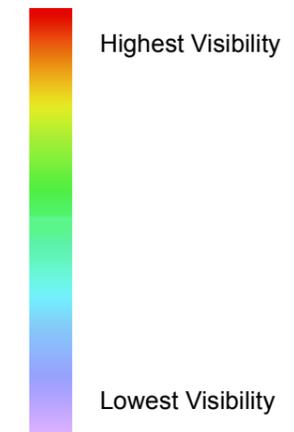
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Legend

- SBC Local Authority Boundary
- Local Authority Boundary 15km Buffer
- Other Local Authority Boundaries
- Landscape Character Areas

ZTV:



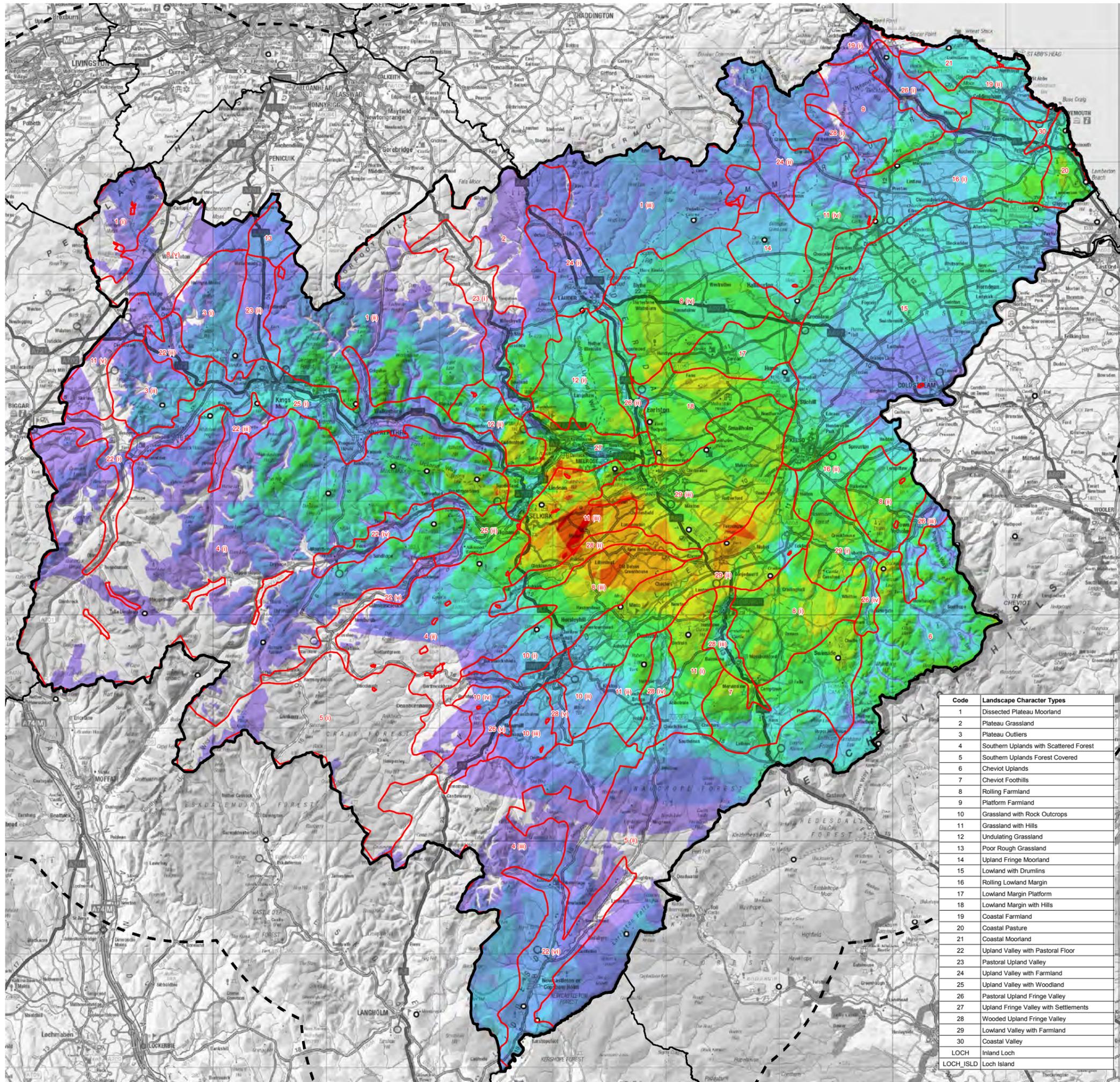
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28	Wooded Upland Fringe Valley
29	Lowland Valley with Farmland
30	Coastal Valley
LOCH	Inland Loch
LOCH_ISLD	Loch Island

Figure 4.5d

Visibility from Viewpoints (100m high object)



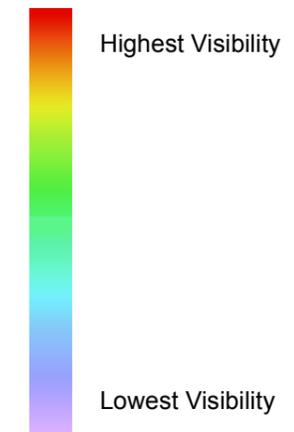
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Legend

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ZTV:



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28	Wooded Upland Fringe Valley
29	Lowland Valley with Farmland
30	Coastal Valley
LOCH	Inland Loch
LOCH_ISLD	Loch Island

Figure 4.5e
 Visibility from Viewpoints
 (150m high object)



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APPENDIX 4: FACTORS AFFECTING LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL EFFECTS OF WIND TURBINES

4.1 Introduction

There are a number of overlapping and interacting factors which affect the potential landscape and visual effects of wind turbines. The three main turbine factors are:

- Size of turbine (also type/ design/ colour)
- Numbers of turbines (within groups and/ or single turbines spread across an area)
- Distribution of turbine groupings (spacing between groups and/or single turbines)

The effects of these factors will in turn differ depending on the character of the landscape in which the turbines are located.

4.2 Turbine Size

Turbine size is the first factor to consider in assessing the impacts of wind turbines. In particular, smaller turbines are considered to be more appropriate in lowland landscapes, which are usually smaller scale, more complex and varied than uplands, and where there are generally smaller scale features such as trees and buildings that provide a 'scale reference' against a turbine. Conversely, upland landscapes are generally simpler in character, larger in scale and there are fewer human scale reference features, meaning that larger turbines are more easily accommodated (refer to SNH guidance, *Siting and Designing Windfarms in the Landscape*, 2014).

Turbine size for installed or consented commercial onshore windfarms in Scotland varies from ca. 55m to blade tip at the original Hagshaw Hill to a current maximum of 147m at Calder Water (both in South Lanarkshire). Considerably smaller turbines are commonly installed for the non-commercial scale proposals typical of recent FiT schemes. In this study we have mapped five size categories which would have differing relationships with the scale and character of the landscape and with one another. These are listed in Table 5.2 below.

There is a significant range of available commercial turbines sizes. However even the smaller commercial turbines are very much larger than any other common vertical object in the landscape, such as a house or trees, with only electricity pylons (typically 25-50m tall) coming close in size. Even the mid size of turbine falls within this height bracket and is therefore much larger than most trees and buildings. Furthermore, by being kinetic structures, the visual prominence of turbines is increased relative to existing static features

The small domestic scale turbines (<15m) are however closer to the heights of common visual references such as houses and trees and their landscape and visual impacts tend to be much more localised due to localised screening and backclothing by landforms and trees.

Table 4.1. Turbine Size Categories

Blade Tip Height	Typical Use
15m to <30m	Typically used for domestic and farm FiT schemes
30m to <50m	Typically used for farm and industrial FiT schemes
50m to <80m	Single turbine FiT schemes and smaller turbines used in commercial schemes
80m to <120m	Most commercial windfarms and some single turbines
120m and greater	Current commercial windfarms

SNH considers that smaller turbines can be used to mitigate landscape impacts in a lowland situation with a smaller scale landscape pattern and scale indicators. As it has to be balanced against losses in output, size reduction should be used in specific cases where a clearly identified benefit can be achieved. The following are criteria by which this may be judged:

- mitigating significant landscape or visual impacts on a valued or sensitive receptor;
- avoiding an adverse scale relationship with a landform or other key landscape element or feature;
- allowing an intervening landform and/or forest to screen views of turbines from certain receptors; or
- achieving a significant reduction in overall visibility by virtue of relationship to surrounding landform and trees.

Where reduction in impact would be a matter of degree rather than a clear quantitative change the benefits are less clear cut.

SNH guidance (*Siting and Designing windfarms in the Landscape*, 2014) also recommends that where two or more developments are in close proximity to one another, turbines of a similar size and type should be used. The use of significantly different turbine sizes within a single windfarm or between two windfarms in close proximity can otherwise lead to adverse visual and scale effects which increase the appearance of clutter, or create odd perspectives when seen from certain viewpoints.

4.3 Turbine Design

Variations in size aside, the design of wind turbines can vary considerably. This is particularly the case with smaller turbines under ca. 50m in height. The main variations affecting appearance of wind turbines are:

- two or three bladed
- solid or lattice tower
- shape/ size of nacelle
- proportion of blade length to tower height
- hub faces into or away from the wind direction
- colour

Other factors such as tower and blade shape tend to be more subtle but in combination can lead to a significant difference in appearance, as the difference between the two turbines below demonstrates:



Enercon and Siemens turbines have different nacelles, blades and towers leading to significant differences in appearance

Colour is an issue that is a more important variable in smaller turbines. Colour choice for larger commercial turbines has settled on a neutral light grey with slight variations in lighter or darker shade between developments. It is generally agreed that this colour range is most likely to reduce the prominence of turbines when seen under the most prevalent atmospheric conditions.

In the case of smaller turbines there is more variation in colour and more likelihood of being seen against land rather than sky. In particular many small turbines are white, which increases their prominence when seen from a distance, particularly seen against land.

Choices of turbine design, including colour, are of potential significance when considering the effects of individual turbines or wider cumulative effects on the landscape.



A 47m high turbine seen from several kilometres distance reflects the evening light, contrasting with the dark backdrop of trees and grassland

4.4 Windfarm Size

There is no current ‘accepted’ classification of commercial windfarm sizes in Scotland. Existing and proposed onshore wind energy developments vary in turbine numbers and turbine sizes; from single small turbines to over 200 large turbines. Individual turbines vary in size from below 15m to more than 150m, with maximum outputs from a few kW to greater than 3MW.

Wind energy development in Scottish Borders covers the whole range of turbine sizes and development size range. The largest operational windfarm within the study area is Clyde Windfarm within South Lanarkshire with 152no. x 125m high turbines at 350MW installed capacity. This windfarm is within South Lanarkshire, however the visual impacts of this windfarm extend far into Scottish Borders. This very large windfarm has consent for an extension of 57no. x 142m high turbines, 7no. of which will be within or on the border with Scottish Borders. There are also some developments with only one or two turbines with height to blade tip ranging from 15m to over 100m.

4.5 Turbine Numbers and Landscape Impacts

Wind turbines considered out of their landscape context are usually simple, aerodynamic and functional structures that many consider to have a clear aesthetic of ‘form following function’ in their design. Landscape and visual impact issues relate primarily to their scale and potential incongruity in a landscape rather than to the aesthetics of the turbine design. In this case, the number of turbines in a wind energy development has a bearing on the

visual image of the development that extends well beyond the proportion of a landscape area that is covered:

- Small clusters of turbines still express the aesthetics of the individual turbines and the blade movement of each turbine is discernible. The cluster is seen as a discrete item within a landscape, becoming a significant feature but generally not dominating or changing the character of a large area.
- In large groupings of turbines there is area coverage of the landscape, rather than a discrete grouping. The individual turbines usually become lost in a mass, blade movements are perceived across the whole area and there is a more 'cluttered' appearance.
- As turbine numbers increase it is increasingly difficult to design a wind energy development such that overlap and clustered alignments are avoided when seen from surrounding viewpoints. Design mitigation can become a matter of avoiding excessive clutter, skylining and proximity to sensitive receptors rather than creating aesthetically balanced groupings of individual turbines. However the windfarm can be broken up into groups, each relating to their surroundings and appearing overall as more than one windfarm, as is the case with Clyde windfarm.

It is recognised that these qualities grade into one another depending on the exact size of development (eg. 3, 6, 12, 20, 50, 100+ turbines) and on how the turbines are grouped (eg. in mass groupings or in lines along ridges). Nevertheless, to the extent that they are more easily contained and definable, smaller windfarms would have a disproportionately lesser influence on the landscape than large windfarms and are less likely to dominate areas and blur boundaries between landscape types.

In small groupings, odd numbers of turbines (ie 1, 3 or 5) usually present a more balanced composition than even numbers, unless there is a strong regular pattern or line in the landscape to which the turbines can be related.

The study area of the Scottish Borders can be described as a central lowlands and major valleys surrounded by Uplands. There are Upland, Upland Fringe, River Valley, Lowland and Coastal landscape types, medium to large scale developments of larger turbines has to date been restricted to the Upland Landscapes, however planning applications containing larger turbines are increasingly being submitted for Upland Fringe areas, especially within the eastern area of Scottish Borders near the North Sea Coast.

4.6 Turbine Layout

Another factor to be considered is the layout of turbines within a windfarm. Whilst the optimum layout, including turbine separation distances and position in relation to the prevailing wind will relate to maximising output, there will be other practicalities. Thus turbine layout may vary according to turbine numbers, the availability of land, topography, access and numerous environmental constraints. Once these factors have been taken into consideration the overall aesthetic of the windfarm can be considered.

Layouts will relate to landforms and patterns in the landscape as well as the need to present a coherent image from the surrounding viewpoints. Thus in lowland landscapes with a strong geometric pattern the turbines may be organised in lines of a grid, whereas in the case of a distinct landform such as a ridge or coastline they may be arranged in a curved line following the landform. In upland landscapes turbines may be arranged in a more organic pattern, following ridgelines or clustered around rounded hilltops. Attention should be paid to the relationship of outer turbines in large groups ensuring that there are no 'outliers' creating an untidy or disorganised appearance.

When two or more developments are in close proximity or a windfarm is being expanded there can be cumulative issues relating to site layout if these are clearly contrasting (eg. a geometric layout adjacent to an organic layout). Such developments should be designed to achieve a harmonious layout and relationship.

4.7 Windfarm and Turbine Distribution

4.7.1 Pattern of Development

When considering cumulative impacts of turbines and windfarms it is not just the number of turbines in the landscape that affects impacts but also the pattern of development. This has an effect on the ability of the landscape to absorb change and on visual receptors. The dispersal of the turbines in small groups or defined areas has some advantages in that each grouping is less dominant within the landscape and presents a less cluttered visual image. There is also less likelihood of 'swamping' landscapes and blurring the boundaries between different landscape types and features if there are distinct gaps between clusters of wind turbines. However, the increased number of windfarms or turbine clusters also means that there is an increased likelihood of seeing a windfarm or turbine, and at closer proximity than if the turbines were concentrated into fewer locations.

The trend in Scotland has been for the concentration of wind turbines into fewer, larger, windfarms. This arises initially via large windfarm proposals and then through the later extension of many existing windfarms or new proposals following precedent. The pattern may also play out on a wider regional scale or 'clusters and spaces' where groups of windfarms lie within large areas separated by significant areas without turbines.

However, the cluster and space pattern described above has become diluted by the recent proliferation of smaller FiT schemes including single turbines which relate more to the location of small scale consumers than to regional landscape patterns.

The predominant pattern of existing and proposed development in Scottish Borders reflects the trend for larger windfarms and clusters with large areas free of turbines or windfarms. This is illustrated within Scottish Borders by the cluster of developments in the Upland areas of the Lammermuir and Moorfoot Hills and Lauder Common in contrast with the relatively undeveloped Southern Uplands. However, the pattern in some parts now reflects both trends: larger windfarms and clusters located in upland areas and scattered small groups or single turbines in upland fringe/ lowland areas. Particularly the Coastal area and some of the river valleys.

4.7.2 Separation Distances between Turbines and Windfarms

Separation distance between turbines and windfarms has a bearing on how they are perceived together and within the landscape, particularly in relation to defining the limits of cumulative development. Whilst a clear visual separation between two or more windfarms may be achieved by a certain physical distance, this distance would depend on the size and number of the turbines or windfarms, the type of landscape(s) in which they are located and the degree to which they affect the character of the landscape.

Considering this in simple terms, turbines have both a direct effect on the landscape in which they lie and an indirect effect on the surrounding area. Therefore, although two turbines or windfarms may be separated by some distance and seen as clearly separate, the landscape in which they lie may be considered to be characterised by turbines. Only when separated beyond a certain distance would the intervening landscape be considered to retain its original character, separating the two landscapes areas affected by turbines.

Table 2.1 in Chapter 2 of this report develops this concept further by considering the effects of multiple wind energy developments and describes cumulative development thresholds. Further to a capacity assessment, an acceptable level of development within a landscape area may be agreed (eg. *Landscape with Occasional Wind Turbines* or *Wind Turbine Landscape*). The capacity for development would then be utilised by a developing the accepted landscape type through a combination of turbine sizes, windfarm sizes and separation distances between groupings, relating to the scale and character of the landscape and of course the physical area which it occupies. As examples:

- A large scale upland plateau landscape accommodating a number of windfarms would be considered a *Wind Turbine Landscape* if the windfarms are large, the topography is subordinate in scale to the turbines and the windfarms are separated by distances less than their typical extents.
- If the topography has a relief that is clearly greater than the turbine heights, and/or the windfarms are smaller and the separation between the windfarms is clearly greater than their extents, the landscape may be considered a *Landscape with Wind Turbines*.
- A lowland landscape, smaller in scale with many small scale reference features, may easily be dominated by wind turbines. In this case the objective may be to limit development to a *Landscape with Occasional Wind Turbines* by allowing only small clusters of smaller turbines separated by substantial distances and with cumulative visibility reduced by localised tree or landform screening.

In each case different scales and patterns of landscape and development would require different turbine sizes, groupings and separation distances to lead to a particular windfarm landscape type. Such an approach has been adopted in this study and sizes and separation distances are recommended and explained in chapter 6.

4.7.3 Distribution in Relation to Landscape Type

As discussed above, some landscape types have less capacity for wind energy development than others. In this case it would be appropriate to consider the relative merits of guiding development to the areas most capable of accommodating development,

or to directing different types and scales of development to the areas most suited to each. Subject to the specific impacts of any particular proposal, this would reduce the potential for the most significant and adverse landscape impacts. It would also restrict the wind turbine landscape typologies to a more narrowly defined range of landscapes, thereby reducing the perception of unplanned proliferation of wind farms throughout a local authority area.

In Scottish Borders operational and consented developments consisting of large and very large turbines have largely been located in Plateau Moorland areas and are mainly of a large to medium scale. Whilst large areas are free from turbine or windfarm development, there are significant proposals located within the Plateau Moorland areas. These proposed developments are encroaching into the Southern Uplands and Cheviot Hills within the southern, eastern and western areas of the Scottish Borders and proliferating within the north eastern area of the Scottish Borders near the coastal landscape character area.

The central lowland area to the east of Galashiels and Melrose also has a number of existing individual turbine/ small windfarm developments, however these are predominantly small or medium sized turbines in groups not exceeding 3no. turbines. This development pattern is continued within the turbine proposals currently at planning application stage.

The Coastal area has seen extensive development, with two closely spaced windfarms and other smaller developments with larger turbines in relatively close proximity to windfarms in Upland and Upland Fringe landscapes.

A large area of the Southern Uplands and Cheviot Hills to the south of the River Tweed, west of Galashiels and Kelso is free from or has very limited turbine or windfarm development. Currently this is in part due to the Eskdalemuir seismological array exclusion zone, not a landscape designation but impacting on turbine development and distribution within this area of the Southern uplands. The Northumberland National Park in northern England has also restricted the turbine and windfarm development within the Cheviot Foothills area of the Scottish Borders.

The landscape effects of the consented wind turbine developments in the Scottish Borders are further detailed in chapter 6 of this report. The distribution of windfarm landscape typologies (as described in Table 2.1) is shown in Figure 6.2.

In strategic terms the established and evolving pattern of development should be taken into consideration as it reflects a clear rationale driven partly by landscape, visual and amenity issues (sensitive or valuable landscapes, proximity to settlements and recreational areas) and partly by technical issues (available land, available grid capacity, wind speed and seismology array). The number, size and distribution of further development should be considered very carefully in order to maintain differences in character between the uplands, upland fringe, the river valleys, the lowlands and the coastal zone.

Also, in accordance with SNH guidance *Spatial Planning for Wind Turbines – Natural Heritage Considerations* (SNH, 2016), consideration should be given to identifying areas between development clusters in which no development is yet located or consented.

These can provide significant gaps between clusters of wind turbines in which their visual influence is minimal. This again will reinforce distinctiveness between landscapes.

APPENDIX 5: WIND TURBINES IN SCOTTISH BORDERS

Wind Turbine Database for turbines of 50m and taller at July 2016 showing turbine height bands (purple=>120m; red=80-<120m; orange=50-<80m) and host landscape character types (see Figs. 5.1 and 5.2 for locations)

Consented and Operational Turbine Developments in the Scottish Borders

Turbine Name	Number of Turbines	Tip Height	Landscape Character Type
Bassendeanhill Farm	1	67.00	Rolling Farmland
Black Hill	22	78.00	Grassland with Hills
Blackhouse Farm	1	74.00	Rolling Lowland Margin
Brockholes	3	79.00	Platform Farmland
Coldingham Moor (Drone Hill)	4	76.00	Coastal Farmland
Coldingham Moor (Drone Hill)	18	76.00	Coastal Moorland
Dun Law Phase 1	26	67.50	Plateau Grassland
Dun Law Phase 2	35	75.00	Plateau Grassland
Greenburn Farm	1	54.00	Rolling Lowland Margin
Huntershall	1	75.00	Plateau Grassland
Pinnaclehill Industrial Estate	1	70.00	Rolling Lowland Margin
Pressmains Farm	1	60.98	Rolling Lowland Margin
Shepherd's House	2	77.90	Coastal Moorland
Weirburn House	4	54.00	Wooded Upland Fringe Valley
Bowbeat	24	80.00	Dissected Plateau Moorland
Carcant	3	107.00	Dissected Plateau Moorland
Cloch Forest	18	115.00	Plateau Outliers
Crystal Rig 1&1A	25	100.00	Dissected Plateau Moorland
Crystal Rig 2&2A	8	110.00	Dissected Plateau Moorland
Fallago Rig Mark II	7	110.00	Dissected Plateau Moorland
Glenkerie	6	105.00	Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest
Glenkerie Extension	6	100.00	Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest
Hoprigshiels	1	115.00	Coastal Farmland
Hoprigshiels	2	115.00	Platform Farmland
Longpark	19	100.00	Plateau Grassland
Neuk	2	110.00	Coastal Farmland
Penmanshiel	11	100.00	Coastal Moorland
Penmanshiel	3	100.00	Pastoral Upland Fringe Valley
Quixwood Farm	3	100.00	Platform Farmland
Quixwood Farm	10	115.00	Platform Farmland
Clyde Extension (Addendum)	1	142.00	Southern Uplands
Clyde Extension (Addendum)	2	125.00	Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest
Crystal Rig 2&2A	13	125.00	Dissected Plateau Moorland
Fallago Rig Mark II	38	125.00	Dissected Plateau Moorland

Fallago Rig Mark II	1	125.00	Uplands
Glenkerie	5	120.00	Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest
Langhope Rig	10	121.20	Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest
Toddleburn	12	125.00	Plateau Grassland

Proposed Turbine Developments in the Scottish Borders

Turbine Name	Number of Turbines	Tip Height	Landscape Character Type
Kilrubie	7	115.00	Plateau Outliers
Longpark Extension	10	100.00	Plateau Grassland
Muircleugh	6	110.00	Plateau Grassland
Muircleugh	1	110.00	Undulating Grassland
Whitelaw Brae	14	113.50	Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest
Aikengall 2A	14	145.00	Dissected Plateau Moorland
Birneyknowe	12	132.00	Grassland with Hills
Birneyknowe	2	132.00	Grassland with Rock Outcrops
Birneyknowe	1	132.00	Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest
Cummings Hill	7	126.50	Cheviot Foothills
Earlshaugh	22	125.00	Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest
Fallago Rig Extension	12	126.40	Dissected Plateau Moorland
Highlee Hill	13	176.00	Southern Uplands Forest Covered
Inch Moor	16	126.50	Upland Fringe Moorland

APPENDIX 6: ASSESSMENT OF LANDSCAPE CAPACITY FOR LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPES

1. Dissected Plateau Moorlands

Landscape Character	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Large scale plateau like landscape with some more defined hills in the Western Pentlands area. Low
Landform	Gently undulating plateau landscape formed by the summits of level topped ridges and hills separated by steep sided valleys creating topographical containment within the central areas. Hills and steep valleys are more prominent in the West Pentlands area. Low (West Pentlands area. Medium)
Pattern	Simple landscape pattern with matrix of heather moorland and acid grassland with blanket bog on some higher elevations. Pockets of substantial woodland planting can also be found within this landscape character area creating woodland blocks within the landscape. Low/ Medium West Pentlands contains a number of farmsteads, reservoirs and agricultural farmlands. Medium
Development	Current settlement pattern is predominantly sparsely settled with individual farmsteads and dwellings. Low . West Pentlands area has slightly more development within it. Medium
Quality	Many areas are unaffected by development creating a wilderness exposed quality. High
Elements and Features	Distinctive and prominent rounded hills, the edges of which create a distinctive skyline within the vicinity when viewed from lower elevations. The Western Pentlands area also contains 2no. reservoirs. Medium/ High
Context	Surrounding landscapes are lowland agricultural valley landscapes with greater human habitation the outer slopes of these areas will be more visible than the interior. Medium
OVERALL RATING	Low/ Medium West Pentlands area Medium

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	Low number residential receptors within the Moorfoot Hills LCA, some minor roads cross this area. Low/ Medium The Southern Upland Way passes through the southern area of the Lammermuir LCA. The West Pentlands LCA is more accessible as a wilderness landscape to a larger number of receptors with local walking routes found within this LCA. High/ Medium .
Internal Visibility	Open unobstructed internal visibility from the high points of the plateau, internal visibility will decrease within valleys cutting into the plateau, outer slopes will have views looking down into the valleys. Medium
External Visibility	Peripheries will be widely visible from surroundings and potentially from a distance, internal areas will be less visible or not visible when viewed from outwith the LCA due to topographical containment created by the upland plateau landscape. Medium (West Pentlands area has a much greater external visibility due to it's proximity to Edinburgh and settlements within Midlothian and East Lothian. High)
OVERALL RATING	Medium Western Pentlands and Lammermuir Hills LCA has a Medium/ High rating

Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	The Western Pentlands Character area is influenced by the Pentlands Regional Park, which is located to the north and north west of the LCA. The Lammermuir and Moorfoot Hills contain Scheduled Ancient Monuments, SLA and the non-landscape designation of a SSSI. High
Community value	Areas within the Lammermuir Hills, Midland Valley and Moorfoot Hills will all be used by the local population and by visitors as a recreational area. The Lammermuir Hills area includes the Southern Upland Way, the Moorfoot Hills area includes the NCN Route 1 and to the north east and north west lie's the Western Pentlands LCA lies the Pentlands Regional Park. Western Pentlands and Lammermuir Hills LCAs Medium/ High Moorfoot Hills LCA Medium
Cultural value	No designated viewpoints but views will be afforded from informal paths and the Southern Upland Way (Lammermuir Hills LCA), some locations of interest, Hillforts and Cairns. Medium Lammermuir Hills LCA will be Medium/ High due to the Southern Upland Way
Perceptual	Tranquil, windswept with a wilderness character. High
OVERALL RATING	Moorfoot Hills LCA Medium/ High Western Pentlands LCA has a High Rating due to the greater prominence and recreational value. The Lammermuir Hills LCA will also have a High rating in the southern area influenced by the Southern Upland Way.

2. Plateau Grassland

Landscape Character	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Large scale landscape with areas of farmland grasslands reminiscent of platform farmlands. Low/ Medium
Landform	Gently undulating/ rolling large relatively low dome shaped hills. Low/ Medium
Pattern	Simple land pattern with areas of heather moorlands on more elevated locations and blocks of conifer plantation woodlands. Outer less elevated slopes have rough pasture fields enclosed by simple dry stane walls. Low/ Medium
Development	Sparsely developed with individual farmsteads and dwellings located on outer slopes. Low/ Medium
Quality	Open agricultural areas on outer slopes and open heather moorlands creating a strong rural character. High
Elements and Features	Landscape has convex outer slopes that contrast with the gentler undulating land around this character type. Pylons, forestry, minor roads and access tracks, A roads, historic cairns and cultivation terraces and more recent windfarm development are all present within this landscape. Medium
Context	Either side of this character area are busy A roads and small to medium sized settlements that will have a view onto the outer slopes and high points of this character area, views into the character area will be limited to the outer slopes from the settlements and busy roads. Medium/ Low
OVERALL RATING	Medium

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	Within the site there are a low number of potential receptors with individual farmsteads and dwellings present. The busy A roads and settlements outwith the site will potentially have a limited view of any development within the character area. The northern slopes have a view over Edinburgh, Lothians, East Lothian and Fife (distant and only on a clear day). Low/ Medium
Internal Visibility	The gently rolling/ undulating broad hill landscape frames views across wide valleys as well as screening views from lower elevations looking into the LCA. Medium
External Visibility	There will be clear views looking from the lower valleys to the east and west of turbine development on the edges of this character area and partial views of turbine development within the central areas of this LCA from the settled valleys either side of this upland spur. There are wide panoramic views over Edinburgh (and on a clear day Fife) as well as the Lothians from the northern slopes of this LCA. The Southern Upland Way is located to the south east of this LCA, developments in the southern section of this LCA will be visible from this long distance path. There is currently a number of windfarm developments within this LCA resulting in cumulative impacts associated with multiple developments. Medium/ High
OVERALL RATING	Medium

Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	There are no national or local landscape designations within this character area, there are however a few scheduled ancient monuments and on the outer slopes SBC designated Landscapes. Low/ Medium
Community value	There may be informal paths used by local residents within this area, there are no long distance paths or national cycle routes. Low
Cultural value	There are a few SAM's present in this area: Cairns, Hill forts and historic cultivation terraces present. Low/ Medium
Perceptual	This landscape has an open rural agricultural undulating character with areas that have more of a wilderness character. Medium/ High
OVERALL RATING	Low

3. Plateau Outliers

Landscape Character Sensitivity	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Large scale with more intimate localised areas within incised river valleys. Low/ Medium
Landform	Large undulating hills forming high ridgelines divided by deep valleys and glens. Medium
Pattern	Simple, field enclosures on lower slopes and rough grassland grazing on higher slopes with heather moorland. There are two large plantation woodlands within the character areas creating dense conifer plantation blocks. Low/ Medium
Development	There is little development within the character areas, a few individual farmsteads and dwellings are present on the lower sheltered slopes. Low
Quality	The area has a rural, undeveloped, exposed quality. High
Elements and Features	There are walking routes within this LCA, some lead to viewpoints, there are deep incised valleys and glens with small to medium sized burns, historical forts, settlements and cairns are present. High
Context	There are busy A and B roads around these character areas with small settlements and an increase in farmsteads within the more sheltered valleys around the character areas that will have a view of the outer slopes only. Medium
OVERALL RATING	Medium

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	The recreational walkers will have views of the interior of this character area. Owners of the sparsely distributed farmsteads and dwellings around the character areas along with road users will have views to the peripheral slopes of these character areas. Medium/ High
Internal Visibility	There are open long distance views from the hill tops and enclosed views within the valleys, both will be over undeveloped rural grazing and moorland with a wilderness character. Medium
External Visibility	There will be views to and from the high points onto the surrounding glens and valleys as well as views from the surrounding roads and small settlements onto the prominent peripheral slopes forming a skyline feature. Medium/ High
OVERALL RATING	Medium/ High

Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	This Broughton Heights LCA is predominantly covered by a SLA with the southern area designated as part of a larger NSA, the south eastern tip of the Eddleston/ Lyne Interfluvial LCA is part of a SLA and NSA. Both areas contain SAMs and Listed Buildings. High
Community value	There are a number of footpaths within the character area and high viewpoints over the surrounding countryside. High
Cultural value	The character area contains a number of historic settlements, forts and cairn sites. Medium
Perceptual	The character area has no roads within it and only the occasional farmstead or dwelling on the lower more sheltered slopes of the hills, the open undulating hills and glens create a wilderness quality. High
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium Broughton Heights LCA will have a High rating due to the NSA and SLA designation

4. Southern Uplands with Scattered Forest

Landscape Character Sensitivity	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Large scale upland character. Undulating plateau creates enclosure in broad valleys that contrast with the more elevated undeveloped remote hill tops, elevated areas and ridgelines within this LCA. Medium/ Low
Landform	Large plateau like landscape of upland undulating dome shaped hills separated by incised river valleys. Relatively simple landform with rough grasslands, moorlands and conifer plantation woodlands. Medium/ Low
Pattern	Simple landscape pattern of open rough grazing, open heather moorland with conifer plantation woodlands with reservoirs. More sheltered valley areas creating strong blocks of dense conifer woodland and provide communication routes through the Plateau. Medium
Development	Sparsely populated with the occasional farmstead in lower sheltered areas, valleys contain some important 'A' road connections to neighbouring Dumfries and Galloway and England. Low/ Medium
Quality	Open, rural, exposed windswept area with a wilderness character. High
Elements and Features	Few features, the occasional road with an upland character or reservoir/ Loch are present. The plateau landscape is drained by numerous small burns that feed into larger burns and rivers (River Tweed and its tributaries). Medium
Context	There are no settlements and the occasional farmstead/ dwelling that may have a view into the character area, the high points of the plateau are sometimes prominent from the valleys and flatter areas below. Low/ Medium
OVERALL RATING	Medium

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria/ Thresholds
Receptors	There are very few individual farmsteads or dwellings, the occasional road within the character areas will increase receptors locally as will local footpaths. Low Broadlaw Group LCA contains the Southern Upland Way. High/ Medium
Internal Visibility	Long distance open views from the high points. Within the LCA views will generally be limited by the interlocking spurs of the plateau. Medium The Southern Upland Way within the Broadlaw Group will extend visibility within the upland areas. High/ Medium
External Visibility	There may be limited views from the nearest settlements and roads within the valleys and lower elevations. Due to the topographical containment created by these broad areas of plateau. Low/ Medium The eastern area of the Broadlaw Group LCA will have increased external visibility as settled valleys cut into this LCA. Medium
OVERALL RATING	Medium/ Low Broadlaw Group has a High/ Medium overall rating due to the Southern Upland Way and the settled valleys cutting into this LCA that increase receptors, recreational use and internal/ external visibility.

Landscape Value	Criteria/ Thresholds
Designations	The whole of the Broadlaw Group LCA is fully within an SLA and the northern part is part of a larger NSA, it also contains a large SSSI. Although not a landscape designation, the southern tip of Broadlaw Group area is within the Eskdalemuir seismological Array exclusion zone. The Dun Knowe Group and the Cauldcleuch Head group are not part of a SLA or NSA. Low Broadlaw Group has a High rating due to the SLA and NSA designation.
Community value	The Southern Upland Way is within the Broadlaw Group LCA. Local footpaths, fishing Lochs, picnic areas and car parking areas facilitating community use are within all of the LCA. High/ Medium Broadlaw Group has a High rating due to the Southern Upland Way.
Cultural value	There are historic settlement and fort sites on the lower slopes of the plateau, the open exposed rural character will be a highly valued quality by the local and regional population and a draw for tourists. The Broadlaw Group LCA contains the Southern Upland Way increasing its cultural value. High
Perceptual	This is an upland landscape with a matrix of woodland and moorland creating a wilderness character that will be highly valued by the local population and visitors to the Scottish Borders who will potentially use this area recreationally. High
OVERALL RATING	High

5. Southern Uplands Forest Covered

Landscape Character Sensitivity	Criteria /Threshold
Scale	Large simple Upland Character interrupted by isolated peaks above the large and open areas of moorland/ forestry. Low/ Medium
Landform	Simple landform of gently undulating rounded hills with enclosed valleys between high points. Medium/ Low The Wauchope/ Newcastleton area has a more open simple landform. Low
Pattern	Large commercial forestry plantations cover much of this character area, This can be divided into separate forestry areas; some felled, some mature and areas of younger trees all of which create strong localised boundaries within this LCA where edges are viewed. Areas of open moorland and rough grazing are found in this character area. Medium
Development	There is sparse development in this character area with few farmsteads and the occasional upland rural road passing through this landscape. Low
Quality	This landscape has a rural upland character, the plantation woodlands add to this quality, however recently felled areas of forestry could locally lower this quality. Medium/ High
Elements and Features	There are a few viewpoints along the upland rural roads that cross the character areas. A few cycle routes pass through this area and there are a few core paths as well as cultural heritage sites, cairn's stone circles and sites of settlements can all be found. Medium sized rivers flow within gently undulating valleys which generally contain the road network. Medium
Context	Strong edges and boundaries to intact areas of woodland create a backdrop when seen from surrounding character areas as well as from roads within the site. Medium
OVERALL RATING	Medium

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	Few residential dwellings within this character area, there are occasional roads within the character areas where views will be afforded over valleys to wooded hills and there are a few footpaths within the area. Low Receptors increase significantly around the Carter Bar A68 viewpoint area of the Wauchope/ Newcastleton LCA. Medium/ High
Internal Visibility	Hills and woodland within the area limits internal visibility. Within the Craik LCA there is a picnic area and tourist facilities. Low/ Medium
External Visibility	There are rural roads that will provide a degree of external visibility, however the wooded character and gently undulating hilly context will limit this. The Upland landscape and topography creates containment and there is lower intervisibility from settlements, transport routes and viewpoints. Low At the Carter Bar area on the A68/ border viewpoint with England there is a panoramic sensitive viewpoint over the borders region creating localised High sensitivity.
OVERALL RATING	Low Localised area with a High rating at the Carter Bar A68 border viewpoint with the Wauchope/ Newcastleton LCA .

Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	Within the Wauchope Forest area there is a SSSI located in a small area in the north east and a few listed buildings, both areas have a number of SAMs. The southern and western areas of the Craik area is within the Eskdalemuir Seismological array 10km exclusion area. Medium/ High Wauchope/ Newcastleton area Medium .
Community value	Limited recreational value, few core paths, Southern Upland Way enters a small area in the western section of the Craik Forest area. Low/ localised pockets within each area of Medium
Cultural value	Forested upland areas could be perceived as having a modern cultural value as a 'wilderness', however to the trained eye this is planned development. There are a few historical cairns, settlements and stone circles present. Medium The Carter Bar A68 viewpoint/ England Border has a High cultural value.
Perceptual	The forested nature of this landscape could be perceived as wild, despite its planned nature. Medium/ High
OVERALL RATING	Medium/ High Wauchope/ Newcastleton area has an overall rating of Medium , however the Carter Bar viewpoint/ A68 England Border area has a High rating.

6. Cheviot Uplands

Landscape Character Sensitivity	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Relatively simple upland undulating landscape of steeply sided hills with incised river valleys. Low/ Medium
Landform	Undulating upland landscape with steeply sided valleys, hills create ridgelines and spurs. Medium
Pattern	Predominantly rough grassland with some areas of heather moorland, the lower elevations within the sheltered valleys contain simple enclosed grazing fields with the occasional shelterbelt of mature deciduous tree planting. Medium
Development	There is the occasional farmstead located within the sheltered valleys along minor single track roads. The Pennine Way enters this LCA. Medium/ Low
Quality	This is an undulating valley and hill landscape, sparsely populated, higher ground has a rural open exposed semi wild character. Medium
Elements and Features	The interlocking hills create strong ridge lines and spurs between which are strong valley landscapes with burns and small rivers. High
Context	The high points within this landscape will be more visible from the surrounding context, which is a National Park to the south and east, the Pennine Way enters the LCA and loosely follows the English Border with Scottish Borders Council. However, this LCA is a sparsely inhabited landscape and contains a few minor rural roads. Medium/ High
OVERALL RATING	Medium/ High

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	There are few farmsteads and dwellings, the Pennine Way loosely follows the English Border and enters the site and the Northumberland National Park is located immediately to the east and south of this LCA. Medium/ High
Internal Visibility	Interlocking hills creating spurs and ridgelines will reduce internal views, the presence of the Pennine Way will increase receptors and allows for views over this landscape. Medium
External Visibility	There will be views from the minor roads around this character area and the Pennine Way that follows the English Boundary as well as from promoted regional viewpoints in the Northumberland National Park (Cheviot Hill). This LCA generally has a lower intervisibility created by topographical containment. Medium/ High
OVERALL RATING	Medium/ High

Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	The whole of the character area is part of a SLA that adjoins and is continuous with the Northumberland National Park in England, relatively high concentration of SAMs. High
Community value	There are a number of local footpaths along ridgelines, the Pennine Way loosely follows the English Border and enters the character area. High
Cultural value	There is a high concentration of historic fort, settlement and cairn sites within the character area, the Pennine Way follows the border with England and the Northumberland National Park in England borders this LCA. High
Perceptual	This character area has a strong upland rural character with a strong landform character of ridges and valleys with views from promoted regional viewpoints in Northumberland National Park and the Pennine Way follows the Border with England. High
OVERALL RATING	High

7. Cheviot Foothills

Landscape Character Sensitivity	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Medium/Large scale landscape. Medium/Low
Landform	Undulating upland landform with broad sloping areas and broad flat platform areas enclosed by hills and plateau edges. High/ Medium
Pattern	Simple enclosed grazing fields with more open rough grassland areas there are areas of commercial plantation forestry creating blocks of dense woodland. Medium
Development	There are a greater number of individual farmsteads and small settlements/ groups of individual dwellings and a greater number of minor roads. However this is still a relatively sparsely populated landscape. Medium
Quality	This landscape has an open rural upland character and is broadly enclosed by the higher hills of character areas to the south and east. This forms the middle distance view from Carter Bar/ A68 English Border viewpoint forming a high quality view and first impressions of Scottish Borders. Medium/ High.
Elements and Features	There are simple enclosed grazing fields, some with shelterbelts and larger areas of commercial conifer plantations. There are a number of medium sized hills drained by burns and small rivers. There is also a larger number of historic sites with forts, settlements, Cairns and roman camp sites within the character area. Dere Street was a roman road, today this is a long distance footpath. High
Context	There is locally large sized settlement to the north west (Jedburgh) that may have a view of the high points within the character area. High points to the east and south will look over this landscape. The majority of this area is sparsely populated. There will be views from the popular Carter Bar/ A68 English Border viewpoint over this landscape. High
OVERALL RATING	Medium/ High

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	There are sparsely distributed individual farmsteads and dwellings with the occasional larger grouping of dwellings and a number of minor and more important A roads that will be receptors within this landscape. There is the Dere Street historical route, now a footpath, within this LCA and the popular Carter Bar/ A68 English Border viewpoint overlooking this landscape. This provides an important first impression of the Scottish Borders and Scotland from England. Medium/High
Internal Visibility	There are medium distance views within this landscape across the broadly sloping areas framed by the more rolling or gently undulating areas. The broad undulating landscape creates pockets of containment. Medium/ High
External Visibility	There will be views to and from the high points to the east and south that will overlook the character area, the town of Jedburgh to the north west may have limited views of the high points within the character area. There will be views over this landscape from the Carter Bar/ A68 England/ Scotland viewpoint. High

OVERALL RATING	Medium/High
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Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	The eastern area of the character area is within a larger SLA, the character area contains a number of SAMs and listed buildings. Medium/ High
Community value	The character area contains a number of cycle routes and core paths, this includes the Dere Street historical route. Medium
Cultural value	There are a number of historic sites, including a roman fort and sites of historic settlements, forts and cairns. The Carter Bar viewpoint on the England/ Scotland Border will provide views over this landscape and provide a first impression of Scotland to visitors. High
Perceptual	The landscape has an upland farmland character, perceived as rural and is part of the first impression of Scotland to visitors from the Carter Bar viewpoint on the English Border. Medium/High
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium

8. Rolling Farmland

Landscape Character Sensitivity	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Gently rolling medium scale transitional mid lowland/ upland landscapes. Medium
Landform	Gently rolling, undulating and enclosed at locations forming low gently sloping hills and isolated almost incised valleys. Occasionally more prominent and distinctive landforms such as the Minto Hills area and Lempitlaw around Kirk Yetholm. Medium
Pattern	There is a strong rural farmland pattern of enclosed arable and grazing fields with established hedgerows shelterbelts and small areas of broadleaved woodland. Upland more elevated areas have rough exposed grazing grassland with small areas of conifer plantation woodland. Medium/ High
Development	There is a greater concentration of farmsteads, individual dwellings and small settlements within this character area than higher more exposed areas. A number of busy A roads pass through these areas. Medium/ High
Quality	The landscape is intact as an agricultural landscape with a strong sense of field enclosure. Medium/ High
Elements and Features	There are numerous established hedges and established broadleaved shelterbelts as well as some commercial plantation woodlands, locally prominent high points and gentle valleys containing small burns and rivers. The Westruther Platform contains the Southern Upland Way in the north western area of the LCA. Medium/ High
Context	These character areas are generally located under areas of higher ground and will be fairly prominent from these higher locations. The Oxnam area contains the eastern area of Jedburgh and therefore the localised area to the east of this settlement will be more visible from this medium sized settlement, outside this area the sensitivity will be medium. Medium
OVERALL RATING	Medium/ High

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	There are a number of individual farmsteads and dwellings present in these character areas, larger settlements are found within the lower elevations of the main river valleys. There are a number of busy roads and minor roads within these character areas as well as local and core footpaths and cycleways. Medium/ High The Westruther Platform LCA contains the Southern Upland Way which will slightly increase sensitivity. The Oxnam area has fewer receptors, sparsely distributed farmsteads and dwellings east of Jedburgh. The majority of this area will have a Medium sensitivity with a small area of High sensitivity in the immediate vicinity of Jedburgh and the A68. Lempitlaw also has fewer potential receptors
Internal Visibility	The gently rolling and broad gentle sloping landform will provide mid to long range views across the landscape, in places these are restricted by established shelterbelts and woodlands as well as intervening high points of local prominence, from which long distance views are afforded.. Medium/ High
External Visibility	Each individual area within this character area has an adjoining character area of higher ground from which there will be views into the character area. The flatter broadly sloping areas will also be more visible. Medium/ High
OVERALL RATING	Medium/ High Lempitlaw and Oxnam. Medium

Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	The West Linton Synclinal Belt (Midland Valley) section is partly within a SLA, this area also contains a SSSI and ancient woodland as well as listed buildings. The Lempitlaw area contains Listed Buildings, the Oxnam area contains listed buildings and a small area of a larger SLA and the Minto Hills area contains a small section of a larger SLA and listed buildings. The Westruther Platform LCA contains a number of SBC designated landscapes (however not on the inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes do provide an indication of landscape quality). High/ Medium
Community value	All areas contain local path networks and cycle routes. The Westruther Platform contains the Southern Upland Way in the western area of the LCA. Medium/ High
Cultural value	There are ancient woodlands present as well as sites of historic forts, settlements and Cairns. Medium/ High
Perceptual	Perceived rural farmland character that is relatively accessible to a large number of people who live or travel through these character areas. Medium/ High
OVERALL RATING	Medium/ High

9. Platform Farmland

Landscape Character	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Medium to large scale, broad gently rolling landscape. Medium
Landform	Broad, gently undulating with fairly small variations in height, small incised river valleys. Medium
Pattern	A relatively simple pattern of open grazing and arable fields with simple field boundaries of post and wire fences and some hedgerows. There are a few areas of established woodland. Medium
Development	There is little development within the character area with distributed farmsteads and individual dwellings. There are other developments including overhead pylon development. Medium
Quality	The integrity of this landscape is fairly intact as a unit of elevated agricultural farmland. Medium/ High
Elements and Features	There are fairly simple features within this landscape of open agricultural fields, simple field boundaries and established shelterbelts and one line of overhead electricity pylons in the north western section of this area. The Southern Upland Way long distance path passes through this LCA. Medium/ High
Context	The north eastern outer slopes of the character area will be highly visible from the busy A1 and east coast main line along the coast. Internally within the character area visibility will reduce. The Southern Upland Way passes through this LCA. Medium/ High
OVERALL RATING	Medium

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	There are individual farmsteads and dwellings within this character area and nationally important infrastructure routes just outside the area along the north eastern boundary. The Southern Upland Way passes through this area. High/ Medium
Internal Visibility	There are medium length views within this character area across the broad gently undulating landform, intervening established woodlands and shelterbelts partially screen some views, large areas of the LCA will be visible from the Southern Upland Way and outer eastern slopes visible from coastal and lowland areas. High/Medium
External Visibility	The north eastern slopes and high points will be visible from the coastal infrastructure routes and the area is visible from nearby surrounding high ground. High/Medium
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium

Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	The eastern area of this LCA contains a small area of a SLA. There are two listed buildings and the Southern Upland Way passes through this area. Medium/ Low
Community value	The Southern Upland Way cuts across this character area and there are a number of local core and informal paths as well as cycle routes. Medium/ High
Cultural value	There are a few cultural or historical sites within this character area as well as the Southern Upland Way. Medium/ High
Perceptual	Gently rolling broad landscape with views to and from the coast from the John Muir Way and busy east coast mainline (railway) and A1 links to England. There will be views to and from the LCA, including from the Southern Upland Way. Medium
OVERALL RATING	Medium

10. Grassland with Rock Outcrops

Landscape Character	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Rolling or undulating landscapes, medium in scale. Medium
Landform	Undulating landform with low to medium height differences creating some broad plateau bowl-like landscapes, rural semi upland character above a large regional settlement (Hawick). Some areas with distinctive ridges, knolls and outcrops. Medium
Pattern	Simple Landscape pattern of large open undulating grazing fields enclosed by post and wire fences, there are a few established commercial forested areas and shelterbelts. Medium
Development	Sparsely developed with the occasional farmstead and dwelling present there are a few minor single track roads present. Medium
Quality	Intact comprehensive landscape reading as a semi upland farming landscapes elevated above Hawick. Medium
Elements and Features	The most prominent feature of this landscape is the landform itself, the undulations create locally distinctive ridgelines elongated hill tops towards the peripheries in a north east to south west direction. Internally the landform creates upland plateau like landscape with broad enclosed areas. Medium/ Low
Context	The outer slopes facing Hawick are prominent features visible and provide a rural setting to the settlement. High Internal areas are less visible from lower elevations or settlements. Low
OVERALL RATING	Medium Outer slopes facing Hawick have a High/ Medium sensitivity.

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	Farmsteads and minor roads are within the character areas, outer slopes are fully visible from Hawick and the receptors within the valleys dividing up this group of LCA. Medium
Internal Visibility	Mid range views, partially obscured by undulating topography. Medium/ Low
External Visibility	Views afforded to and from Hawick from the outer slopes, Whitehaugh, Midgard and Chisholme are more visible from Hawick and valleys that divide this group of LCAs. High The larger internal area within the Allan Water is less visible from Hawick. Medium/Low
OVERALL RATING	Medium Allan Water (iii) has a Medium/ Low sensitivity due to the large internal areas being less visible Chisholme is smaller with slopes above 2 settled valleys and the A7. Medium/High

Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	The Midgard LCA contains a small area of a SLA. The Midguard, Whitehaugh and Chisholme LCA contain SSSI's and within the southernmost Allan Water LCA there are a number of SAMs. Medium/ Low
Community value	A fairly high number of local core path walks originate from Hawick as well as the long distance Borders Abbeys Way passes through Whitehaugh LCA. High/ Medium
Cultural value	A number of heritage sites near by including historic forts, settlements, Cairns and enclosures. Medium
Perceptual	Outer slopes provide a setting to Hawick, internal areas could be perceived as semi upland farmland areas. Medium
OVERALL RATING	Medium

11. Grassland with Hills

Landscape Character	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Varied, large to medium scale landscape. Medium/ Low
Landform	Fairly broad gently sloping areas of grassland with locally prominent hills, accentuated by the steeper slopes. Landscape has an open character. Medium Rubers Law area feels like a large spur jutting into the lowlands areas. High sensitivity Eildon Hills LCA has three conical regionally dominant landmark hills. High
Pattern	Simple landscape pattern of open agricultural grazing fields with post and wire fences, some with sections of broken hedgerows. There are shelterbelts within this character area that create a strong but simple visual pattern. Medium Rubers Law and Eildon Hills have a High sensitivity due to the large regionally dominant landmark hills.
Development	There are individual farmstead developments and the occasional collection of individual dwellings within this character area. Medium/ High Eildon Hills and Skirling LCA have more development internally or alongside and thus have a higher sensitivity. High
Quality	Open, rural landscape with regional landmark conical hills in the Eildon and Rubers Law LCA. Medium/ High Other LCAs contain less prominent hills that are not regional landmarks. Medium
Elements and Features	There are prominent high points and elongated ridges, on the lower slopes of the hills there are shelterbelts and established mixed woodlands. Small Burns and Rivers are present and an overhead electricity line with pylons. Medium Ruber's law and Eildon Hills LCA have a High sensitivity as the conical hills are regionally recognisable landmarks.
Context	Each area has elevated sections that are more prominent than the flatter areas affording long distance views to and from these high points within each area. High points outwith the character areas overlook some of the space. Eildon Hills and Rubers Law LCAs are locally and regionally prominent landmarks. The Settlements of Galashiels and Melrose are visible to and from the Eildon hills LCA. Tinto Hill and Broughton Heights are visible and prominent skyline features from the Skirling LCA. High/ Medium
OVERALL RATING	Medium/ High Rubers Law and Eildon Hills LCAs have a High sensitivity

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	Knock Hill LCA has a section of the Southern Upland Way within it increasing the number of receptors in this LCA. All LCAs have Individual farmsteads and groupings of individual dwellings and small settlements within them. The Eildon Hills LCA and Rubers Law contain popular viewpoints and walks that will look over these LCA and the flatter lowlands. The Bonchester Dunion LCA will be visible from Jedburgh and the smaller settlements around this LCA as well as important transport routes. High
Internal Visibility	There are occasional long distance views from areas within the character areas, these are mainly towards high points within or just outwith the areas. Within the majority of areas views are contained by undulating landform. Longer distance views will be afforded over the LCAs and wider agricultural lowland landscapes with larger settlements from the Eildon Hills and Rubers Law LCAs. High
External Visibility	The higher areas will have greater prominence and visibility in this landscape. The Skirling LCA area is visible from the Tinto Hill regionally prominent viewpoint in South Lanarkshire. High
OVERALL RATING	High

Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	All LCAs contain Listed Buildings, Eildon Hills, Knock Hill and Skirling LCA's contain SSSI's, and SAMs. The Eildon Hills area is part of a larger NSA. All LCAs have small or large areas that are part of larger SLAs. Medium/ High Eildon Hills has a higher sensitivity due to the NSA. High
Community value	Knock Hill contains a section of the Southern Upland Way as well as cycle routes and local footpaths, the Eildons and Rubers Law contain local walks and viewpoints, cycle paths can be found in Rubers Law and Bonchester/ Dunion LCAs. Medium/ High
Cultural value	Historic settlement, cairns, fort sites. Medium
Perceptual	This landscape is more accessible to a local population with locally and regionally prominent hills accessible, visually and physically. From within the character area there are views to and from high points. Medium. Rubers Law and the Eildon Hills have a High sensitivity
OVERALL RATING	Knock Hill, Skirling and Bonchester/ Dunion LCAs have a Medium/ High value. Eildon Hills and Rubers Law have a High value

12. Undulating Grassland

Landscape Character	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Large to medium scale landscape. Medium
Landform	Undulating hills with steeply sided valleys. Medium
Pattern	Consistent landscape pattern of open rolling grazing fields divided by simple dry stane dykes, rougher grasslands are found on more exposed hill tops. Mixed woodland is associated with river valleys, field boundaries with some larger conifer forestry areas. Medium
Development	There are small settlements, individual farmsteads and a few roads that cross the character areas. Medium/ High
Quality	The landscape has an undulating semi upland rural character, high quality. High/ Medium
Elements and Features	There are local high points of the undulating hills divided into simple fairly regularly shaped fields by dry stane dykes. There are a few larger rivers with established mature trees. Overhead electricity lines and pylons are located within East Gala, to the north of Galashiels. Medium
Context	These areas are above the regionally important and sizable settlement of Galashiels, the outer more prominent slopes of these LCA's will be visible from this settlement will be visible. There are a few small settlements within the character areas. Medium
OVERALL RATING	Medium

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	There are a number of individual farmsteads and dwellings as well as smaller settlements within the character area and a number of roads that will have receptors. The Southern Upland Way passes through this LCA, increasing the number of sensitive receptors. High/ Medium
Internal Visibility	The rolling landscape will reduce internal visibility, reducing views to short/ mid range, there will be views onto this landscape from the Southern Upland Way. High
External Visibility	Views of the outer more prominent slopes from Galashiels and routes along the River Tweed, the internal areas will be less visible from external areas. There will be views onto this LCA from the higher ground to the north, east and west. High
OVERALL RATING	High

Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	SSSI's, SAMs, the West Gala area contains part of a larger SLA to the south western area. The East Gala LCA contains a small part of the NSA in the south east of the LCA. The prominent outer slopes facing Galashiels are designated as 'Countryside around Towns' to preserve the character and setting of the settlements within the Valley. Medium/ High
Community value	There are a number of local and core paths as well as the Southern Upland Way. Medium/ High
Cultural value	Currently this is an intact area of open grazing farmland with little or no development creating fragmentation or an interruption to the landscape. There are historic fort, settlement and cairn sites within the character areas. High/ Medium
Perceptual	These area could be perceived as a rural semi upland intact farmland landscape with little fragmentation or landuse. High/ Medium
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium

13. Poor Rough Grassland

Landscape Character	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Medium to large scale but limited in area. Medium
Landform	Gently undulating and gently sloping landform with areas that are more enclosed and intimate in character. Medium
Pattern	Simple landscape of rough grassland and conifer plantation woodland. Low/ Medium
Development	There are a few individual farmstead developments in the western and southern areas. The busy A703 passes through this area. Medium
Quality	Intact area of open rough grassland with conifer plantation areas. Low/Medium
Elements and Features	There are small burns draining the area, these are within gently sloping valleys that are not prominent elements in the landscape. Regular blocks of conifer plantation. Occasional farms and small roads. Large Millennium Farm shed complex west of A703 in the west of area. Medium
Context	The busy A703 passes through this area, individual farmsteads and the Moorfoot Hills are visible to the southeast. Medium
OVERALL RATING	Medium

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	There are individual farmsteads within the area and a busy A road as well as minor rural roads and tracks within this relatively small area. Medium/ High
Internal Visibility	There are some longer distance internal open views afforded from some more elevated areas of the LCA. Northern area is highly visible to and from Edinburgh and Mid Lothian. High
External Visibility	Long distance views will be afforded from the Moorfoot Hills to the south and east, the Pentlands to the north west and south west and the Southern Uplands to the south. Medium/ High
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium

Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	A small southern most area is part of a Scottish Borders Council designated Landscape (not inventory Garden and Designed Landscape). Low
Community value	No footpaths, no immediate public access provisions. Low
Cultural value	No historical sites of cultural interest. Low
Perceptual	The majority of receptors will be drivers of vehicles passing through this open, exposed environment. Medium
OVERALL RATING	Low/ Medium

14. Upland Fringe Moorland

Landscape Character	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Isolated relatively small area with a large scale character. Medium
Landform	Upland gently undulating with two locally prominent and distinctive hills. Medium
Pattern	Simple landscape pattern of rough grassland and Heather moorland, especially around the Darrington Hills, there are a few established mixed specie shelter belts. Medium
Development	There is little development, just a few individual farmsteads. Low
Quality	Barren, exposed, remote upland character with little existing development, landscape intact with few features. Medium/ High
Elements and Features	Contrast of rough grazing land and heather moorland divided by a dry stane wall. Two locally prominent hills overlook this space and a number of small burns drain the area in a radial fashion. One road passes through the space. Local Kaims features, possible glacial in origin. Medium
Context	The Lammermuir Hills are located to the north and north west, from which the LCA may be visible. The minor rural road to the north east of the area may allow views of the site. Low
OVERALL RATING	Low/ Medium

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	There are few farmstead developments in the character area and one rural upland road that passes over the character area. The Southern Upland Way passes close to North and western areas of LCA. Medium
Internal Visibility	There will be long distance views from the high point of the two Darrington Hills and medium distance views. Internally over the simple rough grassland/ Heather. Medium/ High
External Visibility	Views from rural road to the north eastern boundary, views maybe afforded from the Lammermuir Hills to the north and north west. there will be views from the Southern Upland Way to the LCA. Medium
OVERALL RATING	Medium/ High

Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	The southern area of this LCA contains a SSSI, a RAMSAR Site, a SPA and SACs and the northern area of this LCA is part of a larger SLA. The area also contains a number of SAMs. High
Community value	There are no core paths or local paths present, a cycle route skirts the north eastern boundary. Low
Cultural value	Character Area contains The Kaims (possible glacial in origin) and Heriot's Dyke as well as a number of Cairns and standing stones. Medium/ High
Perceptual	This area could be perceived as a barren and upland wilderness. Medium/ High
OVERALL RATING	Medium/ High

15. Lowland with Drumlins

Landscape Character	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Large scale landscape. Low/ Medium
Landform	Generally flat to gently sloping with drumlins identified as low elongated hills, generally aligned north east to south west. Medium
Pattern	There is a relatively simple landscape pattern of large arable and some grazing fields divided by hedgerows, some with trees, there are a few shelterbelts also dividing fields. The field pattern is broken by the occasional designed landscape/ policy landscape and small mixed woodland group. Medium
Development	There are numerous individual farmstead developments and small settlements within this character area. There is greater human influence and development within this area. Medium/ High
Quality	This landscape is intact with little fragmentation as an intensive farming landscape. Medium/ High
Elements and Features	There are regular shaped fields with established hedgerows, some with trees and shelterbelts. The drumlins create localised features. Medium/ High
Context	The Character area is overlooked by the Lammermuir Hills to the north and the Southern Uplands or Cheviot Hills to the south and west. There are numerous small and medium sized towns within this landscape that will have localised views within this relatively flat landscape. High/ Medium
OVERALL RATING	Medium/ High

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	There are numerous individual farmstead developments dotted throughout this landscape as well as small and medium sized settlements within and outwith the character area that will be receptors. There are also a number of busy A roads connecting Scotland to England and numerous single track minor roads. High
Internal Visibility	There are long to medium range views within this relatively flat landscape, views are shortened by undulating Drumlins and shelterbelts or established woodland. Medium/ High
External Visibility	There are views from more elevated areas within the Lammermuir Hills and the Southern Uplands/ Cheviot Hills as well as more local views from busy A roads and quieter rural roads The southern areas (north east of Kelso) have a higher intervisibility. Medium/ High
OVERALL RATING	Medium/ High

Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	The whole area is within prime agricultural land, there are numerous listed buildings spread throughout this area and a Historic Garden and Designed landscape. Medium/ High
Community value	Hirsel country park, picnic areas, core paths, cycle routes and a viewpoint. This area is accessible to a large number of people who live within the area or nearby. High
Cultural value	There are a number of historic sites within this area, including defensive sites. The farmland landscape also has a cultural value itself. Medium
Perceptual	This landscape is accessible to a larger population who live within it, it contains one of the main east coast routes between Scotland and England. The farming landscape can be perceived as an intact whole with a high quality. High/ Medium
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium

16. Rolling Lowland Margins

Landscape Character	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Medium scale landscape with some more intimate areas. Medium/Low
Landform	Gently undulating with flat areas. Medium
Pattern	Large scale arable fields divided by hedgerows, some shelterbelts divide the area further. Landscape is intact as an agricultural landscape. Medium
Development	There are small to medium scale settlements and numerous individual farmsteads or dwellings dotted throughout the landscape. High/ Medium
Quality	The landscape has a managed character associated with intensive arable land uses. Medium/ High
Elements and Features	There are a few medium sized rivers that drain the higher ground of the Scottish Borders. Other elements include hedgerows, large regular shaped fields, shelterbelts and the occasional area of mixed woodland. Medium/ High
Context	The busy A1 and east coast mainline railway passes through the Eye Water Lowland LCA, this is an important connection between England and Scotland and provides a first impression of Scotland to people visiting from England. There will be long distance views from the higher areas within the Lammermuir Hills. Medium/ High
OVERALL RATING	Medium/ High

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	There are numerous individual dwellings and farmsteads throughout the area, busy roads connecting England and Scotland and more regional and local roads. High/ Medium
Internal Visibility	There are long distance views afforded by the gently undulating landscape. High/ Medium
External Visibility	There are views from character areas to the north over the Lowland with Drumlins landscape and longer distance views from the Lammermuir Hills. The Maxwellheugh area has a higher intervisibility. High/ Medium
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium

Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	Listed buildings and SAMs can be found within both LCAs. The Maxwellheugh LCA contains a small SSSI. Medium
Community value	Numerous core paths from small or medium sized settlements, core paths. Maxwellheugh LCA provides a setting to Kelso. Medium/ High
Cultural value	Historic fort sites, Culturally this landscape is associated with the more fertile landscapes of the east coast and Borders area. Medium
Perceptual	This landscape is also more accessible to people who live in the towns and other developments within it, the A1 and east coast main line (railway) pass through this area and it can be perceived as an intact unit of agricultural land. Medium
OVERALL RATING	Medium

17. Lowland Margin Platform

Landscape Character	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Large scale open agricultural landscape. Medium/ High
Landform	Very gently rolling landscape. High/ Medium
Pattern	An open landscape of large arable and grazing fields divided by dry stane dykes and hedges, some trees and shelterbelts are present as well as larger areas of woodland. Medium/ High
Development	There are individual farmsteads within this landscape and a few smaller settlements, there are two lines of overhead electricity pylons passing through this area. High/ Medium
Quality	This landscape has an intact semi lowland strongly rural and exposed agricultural character. High/ Medium
Elements and Features	There is the occasional medium sized river and burn present. The grid of dry stane dykes is a strong element of this landscape which is strengthened by the linear roads, these strong linear elements are occasionally broken by areas of woodland. Medium/ High
Context	This semi lowland landscape has views over the lowlands to the east. Medium/ High
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	There are a number of individual farmsteads and medium sized settlements within the character area as well as the receptors that will travel along the rural A roads that pass over the area. High/ Medium
Internal Visibility	There are medium to long distance views afforded by the gently rolling landscape. At places these are partially screened by vegetation. High/ Medium
External Visibility	There are a few small hills that will overlook this area from the north, east, south and west. Medium/ High
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium

Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	This area contains prime agricultural land, a SSSI and a few listed buildings. Medium
Community value	Short distance core paths are found around the two largest settlements. There is a sizable community living within this landscape who could view this landscape as an open relatively undeveloped rural agricultural landscape. Medium/ High
Cultural value	The remains of the Greenknowe Tower to the west of Gordon. Low
Perceptual	This open exposed semi upland landscape could be seen as having low recreational value but a higher visual scenic value as you travel through the rural agricultural landscape. Medium
OVERALL RATING	Medium

18. Lowland Margins with Hills

Landscape Character	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Medium scale landscape with undulating, sometimes steeply sided and locally prominent hills. Medium/ High
Landform	Open rolling rural agricultural landscape with some more intimate feeling areas resulting from landform. Medium/ High
Pattern	There is a pattern of open rolling farmland divided into fields by hedgerows and the occasional dry stane dyke, the occasional shelterbelt woodland and the occasional larger woodland area. There are a number of policy landscapes with a greater coverage of woodland. Medium/ High
Development	There is sparse development in this area with the occasional farmstead and dwelling as well as a few small settlements. Medium/ High.
Quality	The landscape can be read as an intact managed landscape of agricultural use with policy landscapes. The high regionally prominent peak of Black Hill increases this quality locally. Medium/ High
Elements and Features	The predominant element of this landscape is one of larger fields divided by established hedgerows and dry stane dykes with the occasional shelterbelt woodland and policy landscape. The numerous prominent rounded hills within this landscape dominate the character. Medium/ High
Context	There are views from this character area onto the lowlands to the east and the high points within the Eildon Hills are visible from most areas within this area. High/ Medium
OVERALL RATING	Medium/ High

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	There are farmsteads scattered throughout this landscape and a few small to medium sized settlements within the landscape, there are two policy landscapes within the area and a few medium sized settlements located just outside the character area. The high prominent regional hills of Black Hill and the nearby Eildon Hills will have a view over this landscape. High
Internal Visibility	Internal visibility is reduced by the undulating landscape and hills. There will be a panoramic views over this landscape from Black Hill, a regionally prominent hill and popular walking route. High
External Visibility	There will be views to and from the agricultural lowlands to the east and to and from the Eildon Hills to the west, there will be views of the western areas from the busy transport routes and settlements such as Earlston. High
OVERALL RATING	High

Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	The area contains a Historic Garden and Designed Landscape, SSSI's, SAM's, Conservation Area, Listed Buildings and a small area of Ancient Woodland. The south and south western area is also part of a larger NSA & SLA. High/ Medium.
Community value	The area contains core paths, cycle routes and a viewpoint, Black Hill is a popular walk. Medium
Cultural value	There is a viewpoint overlooking the River Tweed that has associations to Sir Walter Scott, the area also contains a few historic hill forts and policy landscapes. Medium/ High
Perceptual	This area could be perceived as a semi upland environment with a rural agricultural character. Medium/ High
OVERALL RATING	Medium/ High

19. Coastal Farmland

Landscape Character	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Medium to large scale landscape. Medium/ Low
Landform	The landform is undulating with steeply incised valleys with woodland. Medium
Pattern	Large arable fields divided by hedgerows, there is the occasional hedgerow tree, the occasional woodland and forested area. Transport infrastructure tends to generally follow the coast within these LCA. Medium
Development	There are a few medium sized settlements as well as individual farmsteads, dwellings and tourism infrastructure developments such as the caravan park at Pease Bay. High/ Medium
Quality	Generally intact farmland landscape with some minor detractors such as quarries, transport routes and holiday parks. The coastline has a rugged windswept character; in places a relatively wild landscape, a character reflected by the tourism infrastructure along the coast. Cockburnspath. High/ Medium Coldingham. High
Elements and Features	The rolling agricultural landscape is interrupted by deeply incised river valleys that create strong landscape elements within this landscape. The coastal area is distinctive. High/ Medium
Context	This coastal area is prominent from the sea and is visible from the higher ground to the south west. High/ Medium
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	There are isolated farmsteads and dwellings as well as medium sized settlements, the main east coast railway line travels through the area as does the busy A1, both providing important connections to England. High/ Medium
Internal Visibility	Internal visibility is reduced locally by the undulating and deeply incised river valleys and inland by shelterbelts. Medium
External Visibility	The area will be visible from the sea, and the coastal area is highly prominent. Internal areas of this designation are less prominent but will be visible from higher elevations to the south west including the Southern Upland Way. High/ Medium
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium

Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	The coastal area is part of a larger SLA and the two areas contain listed buildings. High/ Medium
Community value	The Southern Upland Way begins/ ends within the Cockburnspath LCA and joins onto the Berwickshire Coastal Path, both areas contain core paths and cycle routes. Holiday parks in both areas. High
Cultural value	The coastal landscape is valued culturally and is visually prominent. High
Perceptual	This coastal landscape and settlements can be perceived as a valued landscape for residents and tourists. High/ Medium
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium

20. Coastal Pasture

Landscape Character	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Medium/ large scale landscape with enclosed intimate valleys. Medium/ High
Landform	Gently undulating landscape with steeply incised valleys leading to the North Sea. Medium/ High
Pattern	Large arable and grazing fields divided by dry stane dykes, incised river valleys contain mixed woodland. There are planted shelterbelts within this landscape that with the hedgerows provide structure to the landscape. Medium/ High
Development	There are a few coastal harbour towns and smaller settlements inland as well as farmsteads. High/ Medium
Quality	The coastal landscape is highly regarded for its scenic qualities, reflected in the amount of tourism infrastructure located along the coast and designation as a SLA. High/ Medium
Elements and Features	The dry stane dykes and incised river valleys are prominent features of this landscape. The established shelterbelts and hedgerows provide structure and are the dominant features of the landscape. High/ Medium
Context	The undulating landscape will inhibit most long distance views, however there will be views over the lowlands with Drumlins from the southern part of the area. Medium/ High
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	There are coastal towns and individual farmsteads and small groupings of dwellings further inland. There is also the busy A1 and east coast mainline that are important connections between England and Scotland. There is a high degree of intervisibility from Transport routes and viewpoints. High
Internal Visibility	The undulating landscape reduces views across the landscape. Medium/ High
External Visibility	There are some long distance views to and from the Lowlands to the south west. There will also be long distance and dramatic views along the coast. There will be views from the A1 transport route when approaching from England to the south and when passing through this landscape. High/ Medium
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium

Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	The coastline is part of a SLA. Although not a landscape designation just off the coast is a SAC. The area also contains listed buildings and a number of SAMs (sites of historic hill forts). High/ Medium
Community value	Several settlements within or nearby. There are numerous core paths that connect within the Berwickshire Coastal Path and cycle routes. High
Cultural value	There are a few historic fort sites. The coastal landscape could have a high cultural value to the community. Medium/ High
Perceptual	The coastline has an open exposed rural character, the coastal landscapes have more of a wild character. Medium/ High
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium

21. Coastal Moorland

Landscape Character	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Open large scale landscape with areas of smaller scale reference features. Medium/ Low
Landform	Broadly undulating plateau like landscape. Low/ Medium
Pattern	Large, open grazing fields divided by dry stane dykes. There are areas of open moorland and scrubby vegetation, dominated by gorse and areas of woodland planting. Medium
Development	There are individual farmstead developments and individual dwellings present within this area. The central area of this LCA is dominated visually by the Drone Hill windfarm. Medium
Quality	The landscape has an intact agricultural grazing quality with a windswept rugged and often dramatic coastal zone of relatively wild character. Medium (High along the coastal zone)
Elements and Features	A key element and feature of this character area is the dramatic coastal area. The Drone Hill windfarm dominates the central area of this LCA, the windfarm follows the strong linear agricultural features of the local landscape. Medium/ High
Context	The coastline is largely hidden, but slopes to the north west and east will be prominent when viewed from adjoining areas. The western edge escarpment will be visible from the busy A1 road and from LCAs to the south and west of this LCA. Medium/ High
OVERALL RATING	Medium/ High High along the coast.

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	There are individual farmsteads and dwellings within this area. Receptors will increase along the coast due to the presence of the Berwickshire Coastal Path and St Abbs Headland destination and viewpoint allowing views up and down the coastal zone. Medium/ High
Internal Visibility	Views are reduced by Topography, however along the coastal zone these views become much more open and extensive. Medium/ High High along the coastal zone
External Visibility	There are long distance views to and from this area along the coastal zone and from the outer slopes to the north west. Medium
OVERALL RATING	Medium/ High

Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	Most of this LCA is part of a larger SLA. Although not a landscape designation a SPA and SAC are located along the coastline. Medium/ High
Community value	The Berwickshire coastal path is located along the coast as is a promoted viewpoint at St Abbs Head promoting a view along this dramatic coastline. There is a cycle route along the A1107. Medium/ High
Cultural value	The coastal area has a greater concentration of cultural heritage features with historic hill forts and settlements along the coastal zone. Fast Castle and St Abb's Head lighthouse Medium/ High
Perceptual	This landscape has an open windswept rugged character, especially along the coastal zone. This character is semi wilderness on the plateau area and increases in wildness along the coastal zone. Medium/ High
OVERALL RATING	Medium / High High along the coastal zone

22. Upland Valley with Pastoral Floor

Landscape Character	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Narrow to broad valleys with more intimate areas at the narrower areas of the valleys, enclosed by hills of higher elevations before entering more lowland broad valley types. High
Landform	Small to Medium scales, narrow to broad valleys with enclosed intimate sections at higher elevations. High
Pattern	Open undulating grazing fields with the occasional arable field enclosed by dry stane walls with sections of woodlands and trees along the river course. Hedgerows are predominantly alongside roads that can be found within the valleys. High
Development	There are individual dwellings and medium sized settlements within the more sheltered valley settings, roads are located at a slight elevation just above the flat floodplains to reduce the occurrence of flooding. Medium/High
Quality	The landscape on the valley floor affords scenic vistas up and down the valleys and to the hills that enclose the landscape. The landscape can be read as an attractive intact rural farmland landscape with little to no industrialisation framed by the steep slopes of large Hills. High
Elements and Features	There are more areas of broadleaf woodlands and established broadleaf trees along river courses, roads and field boundaries, the dry stane dykes are a feature of this landscape. High/ Medium
Context	The lower elevations within the valley floor are overlooked by the higher elevations, hills and ridges that enclose the valleys. High/ Medium
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	There are residential dwellings and farmsteads within the valleys, there are a number of scenic drives and tourist routes along these roads. High
Internal Visibility	There are views up and down the valleys and to the hills and higher elevations that create containment for the valleys. Medium
External Visibility	There will be views from walks and viewpoints in the higher elevations that will look down onto these valleys. Medium
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium

Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	Lyne Water – Partly in NSA and SLA. Hillforts Liddel Water - Listed Buildings, Conservation Village, Ancient Woodlands. Upper Ettrick - Listed Buildings, SAMs, Historic gardens and Designed landscape, Historic Battlefields, Ancient Woodland. Upper Yarrow – north western area part of a SLA, Listed Buildings, eastern areas have Ancient Woodland. Manor Water – within a NSA, SLA, contains listed buildings. Upper Tweed / Biggar Water – within SLA, central area contains part of the NSA. Overall: Medium/High but Upper Tweed/Biggar and Manor Water High
Community value	Most of these valleys contain important infrastructure routes through the Borders region, as well as cycle routes, long distance footpaths and core paths. Medium/High Tweed/Biggar, Lyne and Yarrow with A roads High .
Cultural value	These valleys include a number of historic hill fort sites and settlements. Liddel Water hosts Hermitage Castle and Newcastleton. The valleys through the upland elevated hills will be valued by the local community as well as tourists and visitors. High
Perceptual	The valleys will be perceived as part of the more rural hilly/ mountainous areas of the Borders and represent a transitional landscape from the more elevated uplands to the broad settled middle and lower valleys. Medium/High
OVERALL RATING	Upper Tweed/Biggar and Manor Water. High Yarrow, Ettrick, Lyne and Liddel. Medium/ High

23. Pastoral Upland Valley

Landscape Character	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Medium to smaller intimate scale, gently sloping valley topography with steeper more elevated side slopes up to the Moorfoot Plateau and Lauder Common. Medium/ High
Landform	Valley landscapes with gently sloping sides, increasing in gradient as the slope reaches the base of the Moorfoot Plateau landscape. High/ Medium
Pattern	A strong pattern of grazing pasture on the flat valley floors with rough grazing on valley slopes and woodland plantation breaking up the valley embankments. High/ Medium
Development	The valley floors form important infrastructure routes into the Borders area, along these routes there are small settlements and individual farmsteads. High/ Medium
Quality	The landscape can be read as an intact river valley unit connecting the uplands with the lowlands. The valleys are a visually attractive rural landscape quality with broadleaved and conifer woodlands and shelterbelts and grazing farmland. High/ Medium
Elements and Features	The gently sloping valley sides contrasting with the flat bottomed valley is a strong element of this landscape. High/ Medium
Context	These landscapes provide important infrastructure routes through more upland environments. Vehicle and pedestrian routes from higher elevations will provide views down onto the valley floor. Medium/ High
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	There are numerous individual dwellings dotted along the busy road routes and a few small settlements. High/ Medium
Internal Visibility	There are long distance views afforded along sections of the valley. Medium/ High
External Visibility	External visibility is limited by the upland slopes of the Moorfoot Plateau. However there will be views up and down the valley. Medium
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium

Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	Listed buildings can be found in both areas. The southern area of the Gala Water LCA contains a small area of countryside around towns, protecting the northern area and setting of Galashiels. The southern tip of Eddleston Water LCA contains a SLA designation, historic garden and Designed Landscape. Medium/ High
Community value	There are cycle routes within the areas, the local communities will value the landscapes' visual qualities. Medium
Cultural value	Historic sites of Forts and Settlements can be found within these areas. The Valley landscapes cutting through the more rugged upland characters will be valued by the local community. High/ Medium
Perceptual	The broad valley landscapes could be perceived as part of the uplands environment, dominated by the high points of the overlooking hills. High
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium

24. Upland Valley with Farmland

Landscape Character	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Broad gently sloping valley, medium large landscape. High/ Medium
Landform	Gently sloping broad valley landscape, Upper Whiteadder is more enclosed with incised burn valleys and enclosed intimate areas that contrast with the broad open valley landscape of Upper Leader. High Medium
Pattern	There is a strong agricultural pattern of enclosed grazing and arable fields with post and wire fences, hedgerows and a high number of wooded shelterbelt boundaries that create a strong pattern on the valley floor. High/ Medium
Development	There are individual farmsteads and small to medium sized settlements within the area, a number of busy A roads pass through this area. High/ Medium
Quality	The areas have an intact rural agricultural landscape quality within an attractive broad valley landscape with incised burns on valley sides overlooked by Heather moorland and coarse grassland. Medium/ High
Elements and Features	The large fields are divided by post and wire fences, hedgerows and woodland shelterbelts, the shelterbelts create a strong visual element to this landscape. The main features also include rivers, burns, roads, tracks and residential developments. High/ Medium
Context	These valleys are visible from the surrounding high ground that will overlook them. Medium
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	Receptors will include hill walkers as well as residents who live in the settlements and individual dwellings/ farmsteads and people travelling through this landscape in vehicles, the A697 is an important connection between England and Scotland. High/ Medium
Internal Visibility	There are long distance views from elevated areas within the character areas whilst the smaller incised valleys of the burns that feed into the main rivers are of a smaller scale and enclosed. High/ Medium
External Visibility	There will be views from high points from the areas around these Character areas. Medium/ High
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium

Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	The Upper Whiteadder character area is part of a larger SLA, the Upper Leader is partly within a SLA along its north eastern boundary. Both areas contain listed buildings and the Upper Leader area also contains a Historic garden and Designed Landscape area. High/ Medium
Community value	Core Paths and sections of long distance paths and cycle routes can be found in these areas. Medium/ High
Cultural value	Historic hill forts and settlement sites can be found in these character areas. Medium.
Perceptual	This area can be perceived as a strongly rural landscape that is visually and physically accessible to the local population as well as a large volume of people travelling through these areas. High/ Medium
OVERALL RATING	Medium/ High

25. Upland Valley with Woodland

Landscape Character	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Small to medium sized valley enclosed by outer slopes, broad in places, intimate in others. High/ Medium
Landform	Valley framed by high hills, valley floor broad in places, some areas have steep slopes and spurs punctuating the valley. High/ Medium
Pattern	More complex patterns in the landscape with hedgerows and stone walls enclosing grazing fields with broadleaved shelter belts and broadleaved woodland areas and more complex policy landscapes. Plantation conifer woodlands are also located within this character area. Major A and B roads are located within the valley bottom. High
Development	Roads tend to follow the flatter lands of the valley but above the floodplain, there are numerous individual farmsteads and dwellings as well as small to medium sized settlements and the larger settlement of Peebles located within the more sheltered valleys. High
Quality	This character area has a rural settled upland valley character. High
Elements and Features	This character area contains numerous tourism facilities and attractions including a Botanical Garden (Dawyck) as well as important roads, settlements and rivers with small burns and rivers feeding into them. The Southern Upland Way also follows the glen with numerous viewpoints along its route, the glen is also a starting point for more local footpaths and recreational routes and the entrance into Glentress mountain biking area and Go-ape. The River Tweed forms an important and strong natural element of this landscape with an international reputation for Salmon fishing. High
Context	Settlements, roads and infrastructure are generally located in the more sheltered location of the glen. The glen will be visible from higher elevations looking down onto this landscape. High
OVERALL RATING	High

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	There are settlements and numerous individual farmsteads and dwellings as well as important roads, Long and short distance footpaths and transport infrastructure. High
Internal Visibility	There are long distance views up and down the valleys and from the high points of the hills and mountains that frame the valleys. Medium/High
External Visibility	There will be views from the High points of the hills and mountains that frame the valleys. Medium/ High
OVERALL RATING	High

Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	There is a high concentration of listed buildings within the valleys, the Middle Tweed and Lower Ettrick/ Yarrow LCAs are part of a larger SLA. The western section of the Middle Tweed LCA is also within a NSA. Throughout the character area there are areas of ancient woodland, Historic gardens and Designed Landscapes and Historic battlefields. High Ettrick and Yarrow Medium/ High
Community value	There are lots of local as well as a long distance footpath within the valleys and up to the hills and mountains. The river Tweed is an internationally renowned Salmon fishing river and recreational scenic location for the community and tourists. High
Cultural value	There are numerous historic forts, standing stones and settlement sites as well as more recent interventions such as viewpoints, Glentress mountain biking area and Botanical Gardens in Tweed. High Ettrick and Yarrow Medium/High
Perceptual	The valleys have an important regional role. Historically it is an important infrastructure route within the region reflected in the busy roads and larger settlements found here today. The valleys are also important for tourism as routes and destinations with open views onto upland hills and mountains. High
OVERALL RATING	High (Tweed) Medium/ High (Ettrick/Yarrow)

26. Pastoral Upland Fringe Valley

Landscape Character	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Medium scale landscape with more enclosed small scale areas. Medium/ High
Landform	Broad to more enclosed valley landscapes enclosed by gently rounded hills. Medium/ High Bowmont Water LCA enclosed by steeper hills. High
Pattern	Large arable and grazing fields are located within the valley floors defined by post and wire fences and mixed shelterbelts. There are areas of broadleaved woodland present within these areas providing a strong contrast to the slopes of the surrounding hills enclosing the valleys. High
Development	There are individual farmsteads and small settlements within the valleys. Medium to larger settlements (Hawick) can be found within the broader areas of the valleys. The River Teviot flows through the Upper Teviot area, busy and minor roads are located within the valleys. High/ Medium
Quality	These landscapes have an intact settled rural agricultural landscape quality with sections of mixed woodland that contrasts with the more upland character of the hills that enclose the valleys. High/ Medium
Elements and Features	There are established hedgerows, woodlands and agricultural fields within this character area. Roads, settlements and rivers also provide strong elements and features of this landscape. High
Context	These valleys contain busy as well as rural single lane roads and tracks, as the valleys enter wider broader areas there is the occasional medium sized settlement. Some valleys are major communication routes. Medium/ High
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	Within the valleys there are individual farmsteads and dwellings, busy roads and minor rural roads. Medium sized settlements are located at the transitional areas where these character areas join larger broader character areas. The Eye Water LCA contains the busy A1 and East Coast Mainline railway providing key transportation routes between England and Scotland. High Kale Water has low population and is a dead end road. Medium
Internal Visibility	There are views up and down the valleys, these are obscured in places by vegetation. High/ Medium
External Visibility	There will be views from the high points on the hills that overlook these character areas. Medium
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium Kale Water has a Medium visual sensitivity.

Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	Upper Teviot and Borthwick Water, Listed buildings and designated designed landscapes in the north east area of the LCA. Kale Water and Bowmont Water contain SSSI's and are part of a large SLA. Lower Leader contains a number of SBC designated designed landscapes, listed buildings and the southern tip is part of a NSA. Eye Water, contains listed buildings, prime agricultural land and ancient woodland, the northern tip is part of a larger SLA. Medium/ High
Community value	Core paths and Cycle ways, the Eye Water area contains the start/ end of the Southern Upland Way. Pennine Way ends in Bowmont water valley. Medium/ High
Cultural value	There is varied cultural heritage interest. Most contain settlements.. The River Tweed is an important internationally renowned Salmon fishing river. Medium Several Designed Landscapes in the Leader. High/ Medium
Perceptual	These areas could be perceived as scenic, intact rural areas with that currently provide access into upland plateau/ hill landscapes. Medium/ High
OVERALL RATING	Medium/ High

27. Upland Fringe Valley with Settlements

Landscape Character	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Small/ Medium scale due to development and valley landscape creating small intimate areas. Outwith the more developed areas the scale of the landscape becomes larger (Medium/ Large scale) and more open. High/ Medium
Landform	Broad valley with gently sloping to steeper sides enclosing this landscape. The valley bottom is broad and wide with very gentle undulations at slightly higher elevations. High
Pattern	There is a regionally large and visually continuous settlement development along the valley floor and main A road corridor (Galashiels – Melrose). Arable and grazing fields occupy undeveloped land within the flat valley floor, the busy roads outwith the larger settlements are enclosed by dense woodland planting strips. Within the more sheltered valley bottoms the fields are divided by established hedgerows and shelterbelts, the steeper elevations are characterised by post and wire fences and the occasional shelterbelt or areas of woodland. High
Development	This is a highly developed landscape with a number of large regional settlements along the valley floor following the busy A road corridors, settlements have visual and, in places physical coalescence. Outside the main settlement development there are individual farmstead developments. High
Quality	This landscape has more of a developed character with extensive residential developments, busy A roads, retail areas with industrial and business estates. Outwith the settlements the quality of this landscape is higher and more rural in character with single track roads, hedges, woodlands and individual farmsteads. High/ Medium
Elements and Features	This is one of the more busy character areas with larger settlements with perceived coalescence along the busy A road corridors within the valley floors, arable and grazing fields are located on undeveloped valley floors and higher elevations around settlements, there is the occasional farmstead and smaller settlements. The River Tweed is a dominating feature of this landscape and the disused borders railway has a significant presence that will increase as this line is reopened. This area also contains larger and more established woodland areas. High
Context	Development on the valley slopes have views down into the valley, intervisibility is high through the valley where development allows views. The area is overlooked by the Eildon Hills. High
OVERALL RATING	High

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	There is a high concentration of residential receptors, receptors travelling through this landscape on the busy A roads, receptors working in these settlements and recreational receptors who will be using the long distance footpaths (Southern Upland Way) and the shorter distance core paths and cycle routes within this landscape. High
Internal Visibility	There are long range internal views along the valley where development and vegetation allows. Medium/ High
External Visibility	There are long range views to and from the Eildon Hills above this character area. There are popular walking routes and viewpoints. Medium/ High
OVERALL RATING	Medium/ High

Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	NSA, SLA as well as listed buildings and Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes can all be found in this character area. High
Community value	There are a number of long distance and short distance footpaths, core paths, cycle routes, viewpoints and picnic areas within this character area. High/ Medium
Cultural value	This character area contains sites of historic Cairns and Forts and the remains of Melrose Abbey. The River Tweed is an important fishing river of regional and national importance. High
Perceptual	This character area can be perceived as containing gateway settlements into upland areas of the Borders area at the transitional area between upland and lowland areas. High
OVERALL RATING	High

28. Woodland Upland Fringe Valley

Landscape Character	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Semi broad valley landscapes enclosed by steeper slopes. Generally small scale landscape with more intimate areas. Medium/ High
Landform	Relatively flat to gently sloping/ undulating valley bottoms with slightly steeper sides rising to steeper more elevated slopes. Medium/ High
Pattern	A diverse, visually complex matrix of pasture and arable fields with established hedgerows, shelterbelts and mixed or broadleaved woodlands. High/ Medium
Development	There are a number of large to medium sized settlements as well as individual farmstead developments, busy A roads and minor single track roads. Medium/ High
Quality	Rural attractive valley landscapes with intact areas of woodland. These areas would be valued for their enclosed quality. High
Elements and Features	The landscapes have an undulating or gently sloping character to the central rivers within each area. Large open fields have established hedgerows, mixed and broadleaved shelterbelts and areas of broadleaved or mixed woodlands. The valley landscapes create natural routes for roads and communication routes through the landscape. There are areas of mixed woodland however these areas are dominated by large arable and grazing fields divided by hedgerows with mature trees. High/ Medium
Context	The topography of the valley landscapes affords medium distance views along the river corridors, in places these are screened by woodlands, shelterbelts and hedgerows. The higher hills surrounding each valley will have views looking down into them. Medium/ High
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	There are medium to small settlements within each character area and road corridors that range from busy A roads leading to England to minor single track rural roads and tracks. Medium/ High Jed Water with A68 and Jedburgh. High
Internal Visibility	Views are afforded up and down valley landscapes, these are reduced by trees, hedgerows and woodlands within the valleys. At places landform will further reduce views. Medium
External Visibility	The higher land around each valley will have views down onto the valley floor. Medium
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium Jed Water. High

Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	Rule Water and Jed Water character areas are part of a larger SLA, the Middle Whiteadder near the North Sea Coast is also part of a larger SLA. Each area contains listed buildings and SBC designated landscapes. High/ Medium
Community value	Cycle routes, long distance paths and core paths are all located within these areas. Medium/ High
Cultural value	Sites of historic forts and settlements and remains of historic towers. Designed landscapes of local importance. High/ Medium Jed Water. The historic town of Jedburgh contains important historic sites and many listed buildings. High
Perceptual	These areas provide a visually rich linear landscape, intact as rural and agricultural with woodlands and meandering rivers with an upland character. Medium/ High
OVERALL RATING	High/ Medium Jed Water. High

29. Lowland Valley with Farmland

Landscape Character	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Medium to large scale undulating lowland landscapes. Medium
Landform	Gently undulating and rolling open agricultural fields enclosed and defined by hedgerows, shelterbelts and medium sized areas of woodland. The Rivers Teviot and Tweed create an overall gentle valley landscape. Occasional more prominent landforms. High
Pattern	A diverse landscape. The dominant pattern in the landscape is one of large arable and grazing fields enclosed by established hedgerows and shelterbelts. There are areas of established woodlands and policy landscapes. High
Development	There are medium to small sized settlements within these adjoining character areas as well as individual farmsteads and policy landscapes with large country homes. Other developments in this landscape include busy A roads connecting the main larger settlements outwith this character area to small minor single track roads. High/ Medium
Quality	This landscape has an intact extensively rural agricultural landscape quality. High
Elements and Features	The large agricultural field systems with established hedgerows, shelterbelts, small woodlands and rivers form the main elements within this landscape. Settlements and large country houses, castles and monuments. High
Context	These lowland landscapes are overlooked by a number of locally and regionally prominent hills, Rubers Law, the Minto Hills and the Eildon Hills will all overlook this landscape type. The settlements of Hawick, Kelso and Jedburgh are just outside the character areas and will be affected by development within these areas. High
OVERALL RATING	High

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	These adjoining areas contain long distance footpaths (Dere Street), core paths and cycleways, small to medium sized settlements as well as roads that range from busy A roads connecting key larger settlements to single track rural roads and tracks. High Kale has fewer settlements and minor roads. Medium/High
Internal Visibility	The undulating landscape provides short to medium range views at points across valley landscapes and lower areas of undulations. Linear vistas are created along the flatter areas of the river valleys with an attractive scenic quality. High
External Visibility	The higher ground that surrounds the area will have a overview of this landscape type. These include Rubers Law, Minto Hills and The Eildon Hills. The larger settlements of Hawick, Jedburgh and Kelso will have localised views onto these areas. High Lower Kale generally less visible from key surrounding receptors. Medium
OVERALL RATING	High Lower Kale Medium/ High

Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	The combined areas include Listed buildings, SLAs, Historic battlefields, NSA, Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes the river Tweed including tributaries are SSSIs and SAC sites. The area around Melrose/ Newton St Boswell is designated as Countryside Around Towns to protect the rural character of these settlements and prevent coalescence. High Kale has no landscape designations. Medium
Community value	This landscape is accessible to a larger local population who live nearby and within it, the rivers are important fishing areas of national/ international recognition. High
Cultural value	There are policy landscapes within this character area, sites of historic forts, settlements, standing stones and historic Dryburgh Abbey. High
Perceptual	The landscape can be perceived as an open undulating or rolling agricultural landscape that separates more sizable settlements. High/ Medium
OVERALL RATING	High Lower Kale. Medium/ High

30. Coastal Valley

Landscape Character	Criteria /Thresholds
Scale	Small scale intimate areas enclosed by steep sided incised wooded valleys, upper slopes are gently sloping and more open in character High
Landform	Incised wooded valleys with gently sloping upper slopes. High
Pattern	The valleys are dominated by broadleaved woodland, the upper slopes are large arable/ grazing fields. High
Development	There are individual farmsteads and dwellings along the upper slopes of the valleys, as the Eye Water enters the North Sea there is the larger settlement of Eyewater. High
Quality	This area has a high quality condensed character and acts as a transitional area between the agricultural Lowlands to the west and the North Sea to the east. High
Elements and Features	The wooded valleys form a dominant element of this landscape, these are in contrast to the open agricultural fields. High
Context	The settlement of Eyemouth and the smaller settlements within the character area will have a view of development within the character area. High
OVERALL RATING	High

Visual Sensitivity	Criteria
Receptors	The main receptors will be within the settlements of Eyemouth and the smaller groupings of dwellings as well as the individual farmsteads and dwellings throughout the character area. The character areas also includes a number of busy A roads and minor roads. High
Internal Visibility	Generally enclosed. There will be views from Eyemouth into the LCA. Medium/ Low
External Visibility	This enclosed valley is fairly self contained but opens as the valley joins the coastal zone with a greater degree of intervisibility and views along the dramatic coast. Medium
OVERALL RATING	Medium

Landscape Value	Criteria
Designations	The area contains a number of listed buildings, the coastal area is part of a larger SLA. Ayton Castle designed landscape. High
Community value	Two settlements including Eyemouth. There are a number of cycle routes and core paths within the character area, the long distance Berwickshire Coastal Path is along the coast. High
Cultural value	Ayton Castle and the port of Eyemouth are within this LCA. High
Perceptual	This character area could be perceived as an attractive transitional landscape between the coastal zone and more inland areas with extensive woodland cover within the valley. High
OVERALL RATING	High