



Location and Context

There is one area of *Broad Valley Upland* Landscape Character Type that occurs once within the Glasgow and Clyde Valley area – the Clyde Valley at Douglas-Biggar –Abington in South Lanarkshire. It is located in where the Clyde Valley broadens as it approaches the *Southern Uplands- Glasgow & Clyde Valley* to form a broad triangle of lowland.

The *Broad Valley Upland* type extends beyond the boundary of Glasgow and the Clyde Valley, corresponding to the *Upland Valley with Pastoral Floor* landscape character type in Borders Council area.

Key Characteristics

- Medium to large scale landscape comprising a broad, flat bottomed, basin-like valley enclosed by the rounded hills to the north and the *Southern Uplands - Glasgow & Clyde Valley* to the south.
- Distinctive pattern of tree cover comprising shelterbelts on lower hill slopes and lines of mature trees along field boundaries.
- Medium to large agricultural field in central areas.
- Scattered pattern of rural settlement.
- Important navigation route evidenced by Roman camps and a road, which significant modern transport routes follow.
- Views predominantly focussed along the valley.

Landscape Character Description

Landform

Broad Valley Upland is located where the Clyde Valley, which broadens as it approaches the *Southern Uplands - Glasgow & Clyde Valley* to form a broad triangle of lowland, was originally cut by headwaters of the River Tweed but was subsequently 'captured' by the River Clyde. These two phases of erosion, allied to glacial enlargement, contributed to the open, basin-like character of this part of the valley, creating a wide, u-shaped landform. The

valley is partially enclosed to the west and north by the low hills, and to the south east by the steep wall presented by the *Southern Uplands*.

Landcover

At about 200 metres, the basin is comparatively elevated and exposed. This is reflected in the broadleaved and mixed shelterbelts and small conifer plantations which are very common on the lower valley sides and along the edge of the basin. The central part of the floodplain is more open and woodland is generally confined to bands of riverside trees and occasional outgrown hedges, although these make an important contribution to landscape character. In some areas field boundary trees, avenues and riparian woodland are present which further emphasise the contrast with upland areas. The 18 and early 19th Century estates of Hardington House and Montieth (formerly Carstairs) House have pockets of tree plantation.

Agricultural land use is fundamental to the character of the landscape type. Fields tend to be medium to large in size, enclosed by post and wire fences and gappy hawthorn hedges with some mature trees. Relict farming landscapes occur on the hillslopes of the Douglas Water.

Settlement

There is extensive evidence of continuous human activity from the prehistoric period onwards. Today this is a moderately settled though very rural landscape, with a dense network of roads, farms, hamlets and small villages. There are scattered farmhouses and associated agricultural buildings on hill slopes. Small scale industrial buildings, such as mills are located close to the river and there is evidence of mining/quarrying in the River Clyde adjacent to Langholm House. The area was, and remains today, an important navigation route as evidenced by the Roman temporary camps and forts, as well as a Roman Road (now largely the A720). Larger settlements, such as Thankerton, Symington and the mid-19th Century estate village of Lamington are close to these main transport routes. Lamington itself is on the site of Roman camp. The A73 (formerly the main road link between Glasgow and Carlisle) and the West Coast Mainline pass through the valley in the southern parts of the Landscape Character Type. The A70 also passes through the northern section. These transport corridors create localised areas of noise in a largely rural area. Wind turbine development within the *Broad Valley Upland* is limited to a few single/paired, mainly smaller turbines.

Perception

Views tend to be channelled along the length of the valley, with some broad views across wider parts. The key focus of views tends to be towards lower parts of the Landscape Character Type, and along the rivers and roads which pass through it. The area has an important visual relationship with surrounding high ground, particularly the *Undulating Farmland and Hills* and *Southern Uplands – Glasgow & Clyde Valley*.



This is one of 390 Landscape Character Types identified at a scale of 1:50 000 as part of a national programme of Landscape Character Assessment republished in 2019.

The area covered by this Landscape Character Type was originally included in the Glasgow and Clyde Valley LCA (Land Use Consultants), published 1999.