

# **North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2**

## **Survey Paper - Evidence Report**

### **Green belts**

We are currently identifying and assessing the evidence available for each policy topic area identified in NPF4 and the Scottish Government's local development planning guidance.

We will issue online surveys for each topic, or group of topics, outlining:

- the relevant information and datasets we have identified so far;
- our assessment of the evidence gathered, based on the identified information and datasets;
- any potential connections to other topic areas;
- potential implications for site selection at the Proposed Plan stage; and
- potential implications for the Local Development Plan.

This will be an early opportunity for you to confirm if we have identified the appropriate evidence, provide any other evidence you have or would like us to consider, and offer your views on our initial considerations of the use and implications of the available evidence.

We will then consider the responses to the surveys and what they mean for our evidence base. This will help inform the preparation of our Evidence Report later this year.

Some of the information gathered are particularly technical on a specific topic, and may not be relevant to everyone. We welcome comments on all or some of the information published. There will be more opportunities to comment as we progress through the LDP preparation process.

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 requires planning authorities to prepare an Evidence Report that contains sufficient information to enable the authority to prepare a Local Development Plan.
- 1.2 The Evidence Report has two main functions. The first is that it should set out the evidence that will be used to inform and prepare a new Local Development Plan. The second is for local authorities to identify the issues they think based on the evidence presented that need to be addressed by the new Local Development Plan, and for other interested parties and stakeholders to express what they think are the issues.
- 1.3 There are specific matters that the Evidence Report must cover; these are set out in the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019:
  - *the principal physical, cultural, economic, social, built heritage and environmental characteristics of the district;*
  - *the principal purposes for which the land is used;*

- *the size, composition, health, and distribution of the population of the district;*
- *the housing needs of the population of the area, including, in particular, the needs of persons undertaking further and higher education, older people and disabled people;*
- *the availability of land in the district for housing, including for older people and disabled people;*
- *the desirability of allocating land for the purposes of resettlement;*
- *the health needs of the population of the district and the likely effects of development and use of land on those health needs;*
- *the education needs of the population of the district and the likely effects of development and use of land on those education needs;*
- *the extent to which there are rural areas within the district in relation to which there has been a substantial decline in population;*
- *the capacity of education services in the district;*
- *the desirability of maintaining an appropriate number and range of cultural venues and facilities (including in particular, but not limited to, live music venues) in the district;*
- *the infrastructure of the district (including communications, transport and drainage systems, systems for the supply of water and energy, and health care and education facilities);*
- *how that infrastructure is used; and*
- *any change which the planning authority thinks may occur in relation to any of the matters mentioned above.*

1.4 This survey paper examines the *Green belt* evidence surrounding the *Green belt* topic for the forthcoming North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2 (NLLDP2). The paper identifies what evidence and information has been sourced and subjected to an initial assessment as to the relevance of that evidence and information to NLLDP2.

1.5 Key points from the evidence and information on this topic are highlighted and potential future relevance is discussed with a view to this informing the approach in progressing the Evidence Report and NLLDP2 more generally.

1.6 The final Evidence Report will detail the stakeholder engagement and public survey that has taken place in developing its conclusions and will highlight the agreements and disputes that have arisen through this process.

## **2. Identification of Relevant Evidence**

2.1 The relevant evidence has been identified through an evaluation of the Green belts topic and assessment of available information linked to the topic. Where available, evidence shared by external stakeholders has been included. Should additional evidence become available, we will consider its implications for the Evidence Report.

### 3. Consideration of Relevant Evidence

- 3.1 The following is an explanation of evidence sources which have been used in this Survey Paper and are considered potentially relevant for NLLDP2.

#### Main Datasets considered:

<p><b>Source:</b> The Plan for North Lanarkshire (2019)</p> <p><b>Reason using the Evidence:</b> The plan sets out the vision for North Lanarkshire to be a place to Live, Learn, Work, Invest and Visit. NLLDP2 will be a tool to assist in the realisation of this vision. The vision consists of five priorities that are comprised of 25 high level Ambition Statements. These statements amongst other issues cover, maximising the use of marketable land, and maintaining a clean, safe and attractive environment and specific to this topic look to ensure the highest standards of public protection.</p> <p><b>Links to Evidence:</b> <a href="#">The Plan for North Lanarkshire</a></p>
<p><b>Source:</b> National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)</p> <p><b>Reason for using the Evidence:</b> Sets out national policy on Green belts.</p> <p><b>Links to Evidence:</b> <a href="#">NPF4</a></p>
<p><b>Source:</b> North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2022 (NLLDP)</p> <p><b>Reason for using the Evidence:</b> Provides details on the current policy status of North Lanarkshire Green belts</p> <p><b>Links Evidence:</b> <a href="#">NLLDP</a></p>
<p><b>Source:</b> NatureScot National Landscape Character Assessment</p> <p><b>Reason for using the Evidence:</b> Provides an up-to-date review of landscape character which helps define the established Green belt areas of North Lanarkshire.</p> <p><b>Links Evidence:</b> <a href="#">NatureScot National Landscape Character Assessment</a></p>
<p><b>Source:</b> NLLDP Modified Proposed Plan – Local Landscape Character Assessment Background Report (November 2018)</p> <p><b>Reason for using the Evidence:</b> This report initially sets out the broad context of landscape character assessment, followed by an overview of the methodology employed, a description of each of the identified Local Landscape Units, and concludes by identifying those areas that would warrant specific landscape protection.</p> <p><b>Links to Evidence:</b> <a href="#">NLLDP Local Landscape Character Assessment - Background Report 2018</a></p>

**Source:** NLLDP Modified Proposed Plan – Statement of Landscape Importance for the Kilsyth Hills Special Landscape Area Background Report (November 2018)

**Reason for using the Evidence:** This Statement of Importance explains why the Kilsyth Hills have been proposed for designation as a Special Landscape Area (SLA). The Statement provides a framework linked to policies in the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan Modified Proposed Plan Policy Document for protecting and enhancing the distinctive landscape character qualities and for managing change by development within proposed SLA designated areas.

**Links to Evidence:** [NLLDP Statement of Landscape Importance for the Kilsyth Hills Special Landscape Area Background Report 2018](#)

## 4. Assessment of Evidence

### National Context

- 4.1 National policy for green belts is set out in National Planning Framework 4, with policy 8 being relevant. The policy intent is to encourage, promote and facilitate compact urban growth and use the land around our towns and cities sustainably.
- 4.2 The policy outcomes are that development is directed to the right locations, urban density is increased, and unsustainable growth is prevented; that the character, landscape, natural setting and identity of settlements is protected and enhanced; and, that nature networks are supported and land is managed to help climate change.
- 4.3 In respect to Local Development Plans, these should consider using green belts, to support spatial strategies as a settlement management tool to restrict development around towns and cities.
- 4.4 It is highlighted that green belts will not be necessary for most settlements but may be zoned around settlements where there is significant danger of unsustainable growth in car-based commuting or suburbanisation of the countryside. This is particularly relevant to parts of North Lanarkshire with the size of settlements and its position within the Greater Glasgow conurbation and associated transport networks.
- 4.5 The National Planning Framework highlights that green belts should be identified or reviewed as part of the preparation of Local Development Plans. Boundary changes can be made where to accommodate planned growth, or to extend, or alter the area covered as green belt. Detailed green belt boundaries should be based on evidence and should be clearly identified in plans.
- 4.6 Turning to management of development, policy 8 of NPF4 provides detailed policy. In respect to the planning system in Scotland, this is the most recent green belt policy and forms one part of the development plan, the other being the current North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan. Policy 8 is as follows:

*a) Development proposals within a green belt designated within the LDP will only supported if:*

*i) they are for:*

*development associated with agriculture, woodland creation, forestry and existing woodland (including community woodlands);*

*residential accommodation required and designed for a key worker in a primary industry within the immediate vicinity of their place of employment where the presence of a worker is essential to the operation of the enterprise, or retired workers where there is no suitable alternative accommodation available;*

*horticulture, including market gardening and directly connected retailing, as well as community growing;*

*outdoor recreation, play and sport or leisure and tourism uses; and developments that provide opportunities for access to the open countryside (including routes for active travel and core paths);*

*flood risk management (such as development of blue and green infrastructure within a “drainage catchment” to manage/mitigate flood risk and/or drainage issues);*

*essential infrastructure or new cemetery provision;*

*minerals operations and renewable energy developments;*

*intensification of established uses, including extensions to an existing building where that is ancillary to the main use;*

*the reuse, rehabilitation and conversion of historic environment assets; or*

*one-for-one replacements of existing permanent homes.*

*And*

*ii) the following requirements are met:*

*reasons are provided as to why a green belt location is essential and why it cannot be located on an alternative site outwith the green belt;*

*the purpose of the green belt at that location is not undermined;*

*the proposal is compatible with the surrounding established countryside and landscape character;*

*the proposal has been designed to ensure it is of an appropriate scale, massing and external appearance, and uses materials that minimise visual impact on the green belt as far as possible; and*

*there will be no significant long-term impacts on the environmental quality of the green belt.*

- 4.7 Policy 8 is largely restrictive, unless under certain circumstances where development is compatible with the purpose of the green belt, or for a defined exceptional use. This largely reflects policies PP4 and AD4 of the North Lanarkshire Local Development, which itself is also a very recent policy statement by the Council, finalised, examined by Scottish Ministers and adopted within the last 2 years. Going forward, for the purposes of managing development and the assessment of applications, it is considered that the provisions of NPF4 through policy 8 are robust.

#### North Lanarkshire Context

- 4.8 Since Local Government reorganisation in 1996, North Lanarkshire has had four local plans and one local development plan, setting out detailed green belt boundaries. The Kilsyth Local Plan 1999, Northern Corridor Local Plan 2005, Southern Area Local Plan 2008, North Lanarkshire Local Plan 2012, and North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2022 (NLLDP). The most recent of these, the Council wide North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2022 is a very recently approved expression of Council planning policy, and along NPF4 is the development plan for the area.

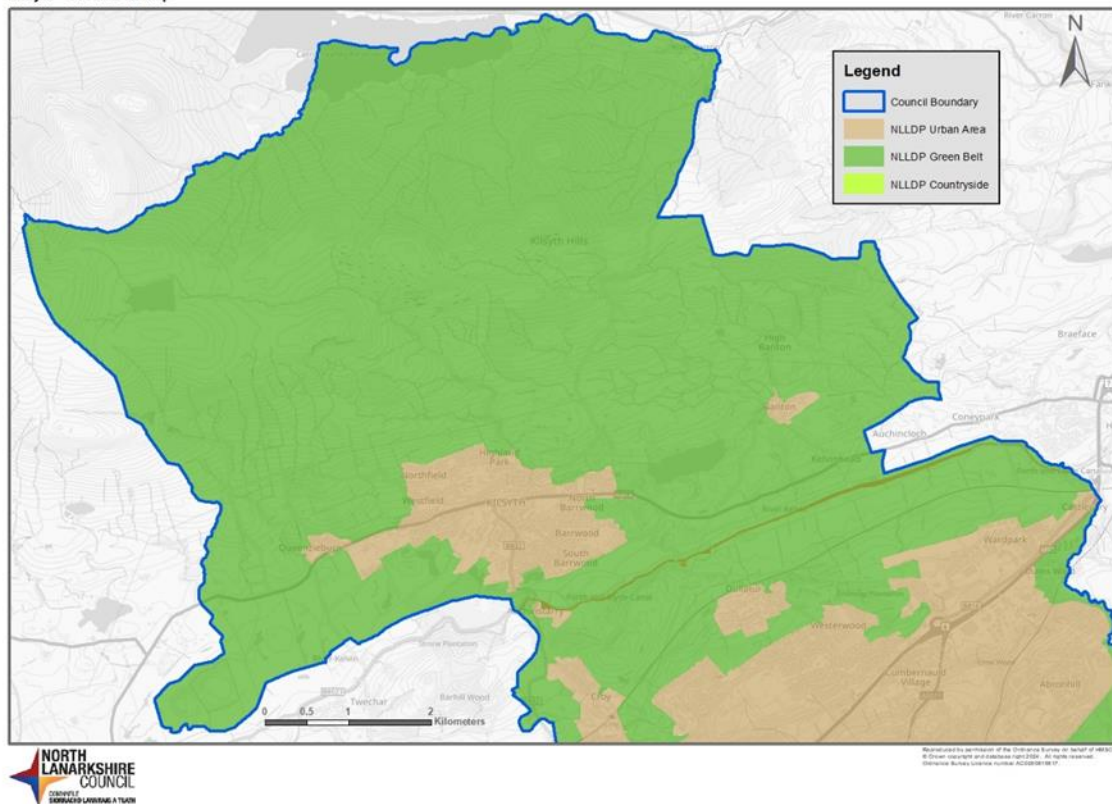
- 4.9 NLLDP sets out that outwith the General Urban Areas in North Lanarkshire are Green Belt and Countryside. The relevant policy is policy is PP4 Purpose of Place and AD4 Amount of Development 4 (Green belt). The Green belt protects the setting of communities, supports regeneration by directing growth to urban areas, protects natural assets and provides a high-quality environment. North Lanarkshire's Green belt extends down its western side, joining with those in other council areas around Glasgow.
- 4.10 More generally, it is acknowledged that detailed boundaries of the Green Belt are not fixed but can be subject to legitimate change over time and this is reflected in different changes to Green belt boundaries since 1996, including some significant releases to provide for housing, as well as other incremental applications for development. The best way to maintain Green belt is to ensure that policies are in place to protect it from inappropriate development and allow it to fulfil its defined purpose.

#### **Maps of NLC Green belts**

- 4.11 To help look more closely at the different Green belt areas, it is useful to refer to the NatureScot National Landscape Character Assessment.
- 4.12 Between 1994 and 1999, NatureScot commissioned a series of 30 regional local character area studies. Together, these identified, mapped and described the landscape character of all of Scotland. Each study typically covered a local authority area and provided the landscape foundation for natural heritage and planning policymaking and the studies have been used widely in the development planning system.
- 4.13 Since the studies were produced there have been:
- significant advances in digital technology
  - additional complementary datasets produced e.g. Historic Land use Assessment
  - changes in development patterns and pressures.
- 4.14 In response to those changes NatureScot have reviewed Scotland's 1990s LCAs at the level of Landscape Character Type (LCT) – i.e. an area of consistent and recognisable landscape character. The 2019 Landscape Character Type map and associated Landscape Character Type Descriptions now supersede the earlier 1990's landscape character descriptions and mapping and identify 390 landscape character types. Outwith urban areas, the North Lanarkshire Green belt is characterised as follows:

## Kilsyth Green Belt

Kilsyth - Green Belt Map



### Rugged moorland hills

- Large-scale simple landscape.
- Distinctive upland character created by the combination of elevation, exposure, rugged landform, including a fault line and cliffs, moorland vegetation and the predominant lack of modern development, emphasised by the proximity to low-lying valleys.
- Undeveloped skylines and striking views to the Glasgow conurbation.
- Extensive man-made reservoirs and smaller natural lochs.
- Important backdrop to neighbouring settled landscapes, creating a unique sense of place.
- Sparse settlement and predominant lack of modern development.
- Presence of archaeological sites on hilltops and sides, and on lower ground.
- Sense of apparent naturalness, wild character and remoteness which contrasts strongly with the farmed and developed lowland areas.
- Diversity of landscape experience.

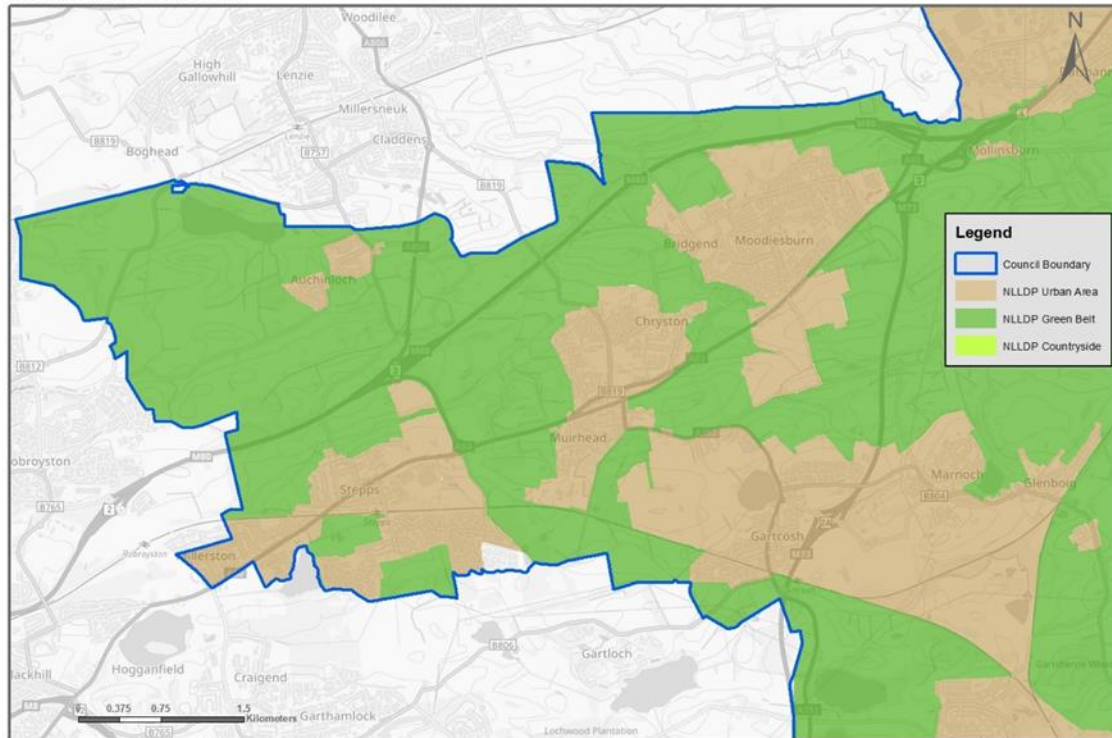


### Broad Valley lowland

- Wide flat bottomed valley.
- Medium scale diverse landscape.
- Craggy or distinctive rounded hills form localised features.
- Presence of waterbodies, wetlands and rivers.
- Transport routes and settlements along the valley sides.
- Transition from arable to rough grazing from the valley floor to the high valley sides.
- Historic sites and communication routes along the valley sides.
- Small areas of policy woodland farm and narrow broadleaf woodlands along steep burns draining into the valley.
- Well-settled, with towns and villages on the valley floor or valley edges, although expansion limited by valley sides and low lying wet areas.
- Contrasting views in relation to elevation.

## Northern Corridor Green Belt

Northern Corridor - Green Belt Map



### Rolling farmland

- Distinctive undulating landform of elongated hillocks, mounds and ridges created by fluvio-glacial action.
- Dominance of pastoral farming, varying in productivity according to elevation and exposure.
- Importance of woodland in structuring the landscape and providing shelter for agriculture and rural settlement.
- Settlement confined to scattered small farms and hamlets, with several small towns.
- Motorways and main roads in northern areas.
- Sand and gravel quarries.
- Medium to small scale landscape. Largely rural character.

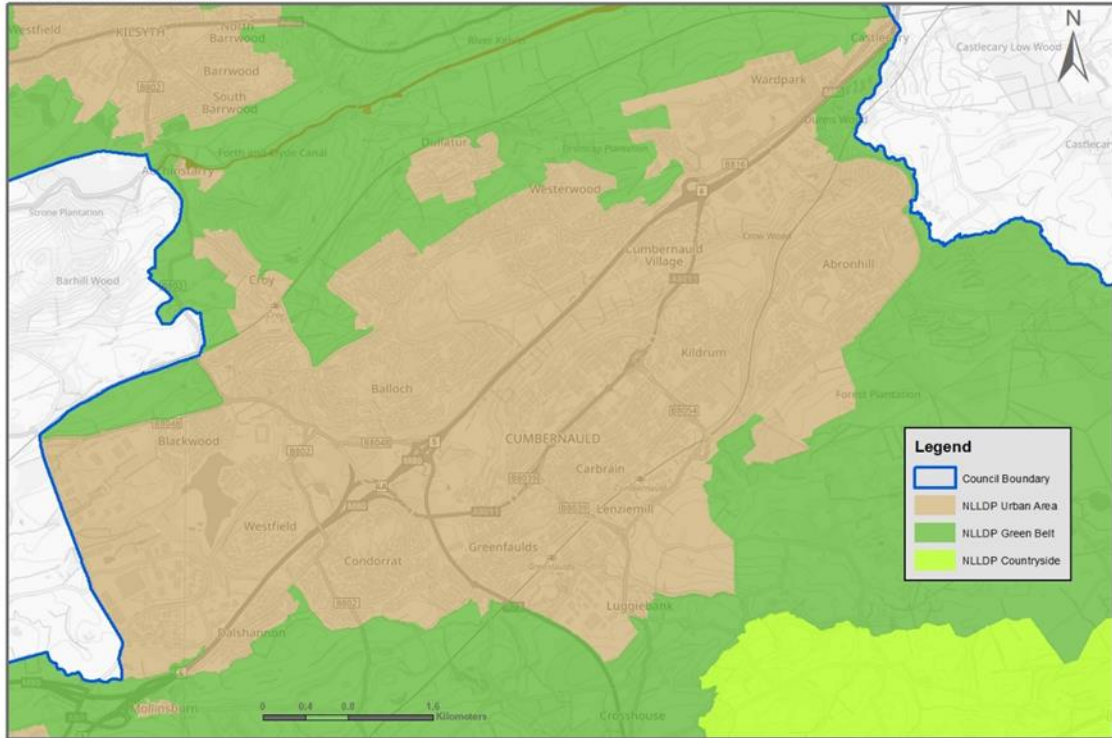
### Urban fringe farmland

- Landform ranges from gently undulating topography associated with the plateau farmlands to more hummocky patterns where fluvio-glacial action has created drumlins and eskers.
- Primarily located along major transport routes on urban fringes.
- Pockets of remnant pastoral farming, in some areas retaining a strong structure of hedges and trees, but in others suffering serious decline.
- Visual influence of the urban edge, former and current industrial sites, and transport infrastructure.

- Urban fringe issues including blight, management decline and anti-social behaviour such as fly-tipping.

## Cumbernauld Green Belt

Cumbernauld - Green Belt Map



### Rolling farmland

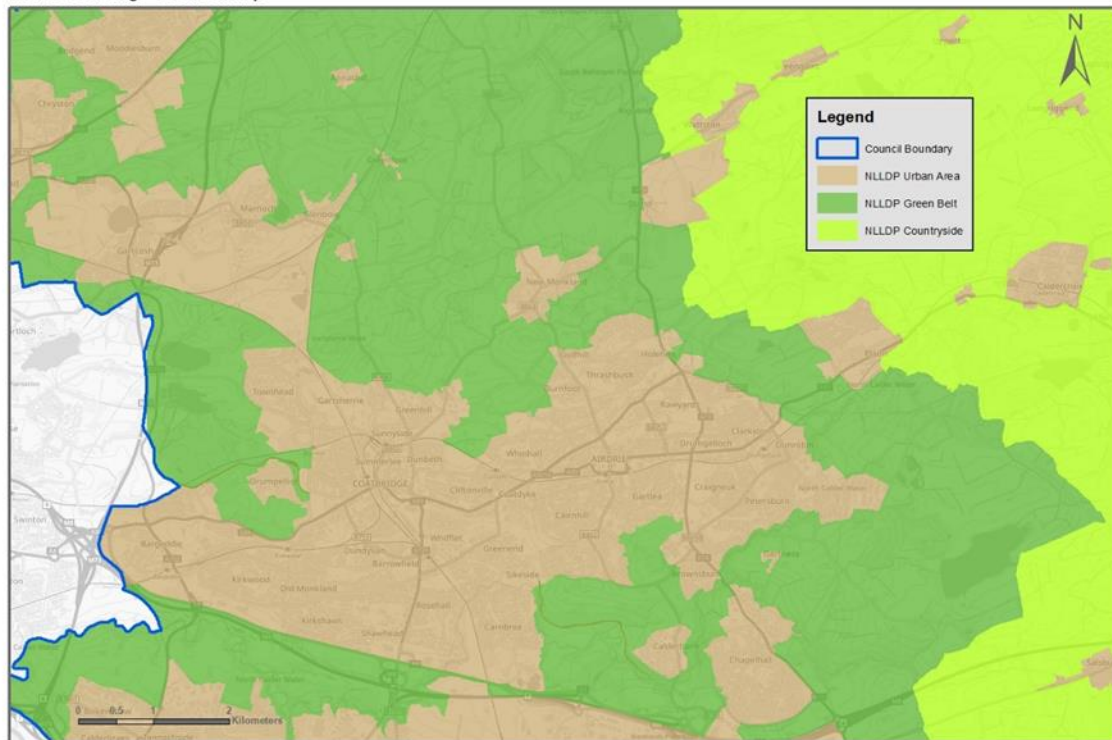
- Distinctive undulating landform of elongated hillocks, mounds and ridges created by fluvio-glacial action.
- Dominance of pastoral farming, varying in productivity according to elevation and exposure.
- Importance of woodland in structuring the landscape and providing shelter for agriculture and rural settlement.
- Settlement confined to scattered small farms and hamlets, with several small towns.
- Motorways and main roads in northern areas.
- Sand and gravel quarries.
- Medium to small scale landscape.
- Largely rural character.

### Plateau Farmland

- Extensive, open, flat or gently undulating landform.
- Dominance of pastoral farming, but with some mosses surviving.
- Limited and declining tree cover.
- Visually prominent settlements and activities such as mineral working.
- Rural character of the Plateau Farmland has reduced as tree cover has declined and the visual influence of settlements, transport infrastructure and mineral working has increased.

## Coatbridge and Airdrie Greenbelt

Airdrie & Coatbridge - Green Belt Map



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### Urban Fringe Farmland

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### Plateau Farmland

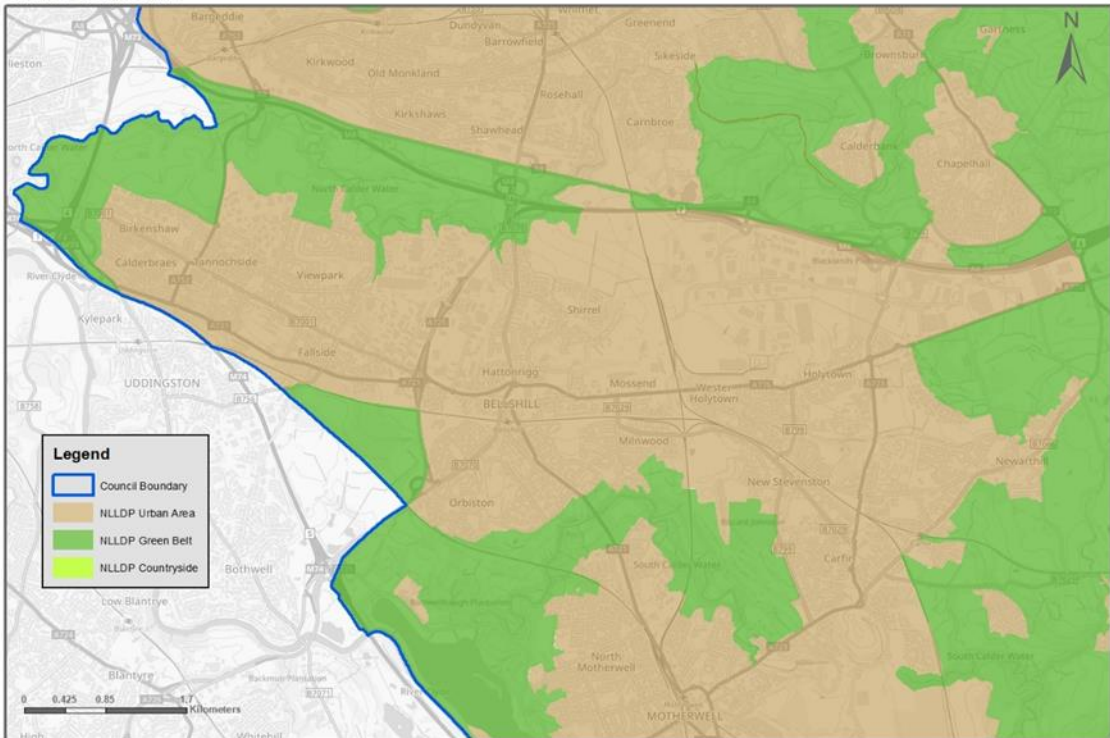
- Extensive, open, flat or gently undulating landform.
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- Limited and declining tree cover.
- Visually prominent settlements and activities such as mineral working.
- Rural character of the Plateau Farmland has reduced as tree cover has declined and the visual influence of settlements, transport infrastructure and mineral working has increased.

### Plateau Moorland

- Large scale landform
- Undulating hills and sloping ridges in the western areas; a more even plateau landform in the east.
- Distinctive upland character created by the combination of elevation, exposure, smooth plateau landform, moorland vegetation.
- Predominant lack of modern development.
- Extensive wind turbine development, including one of the largest wind farms in Scotland, Black Law.
- Sense of apparent naturalness and remoteness which contrasts with the farmed and settled lowlands, although this has been reduced in places by wind energy development.

## Bellshill Green Belt

Bellshill - Green Belt Map



### Broad urban valley

- Broad sections of main river valley with well-defined floodplain.
- Past developments have resulted in significant modifications to landscape character and loss of
- landscape features.
- Dereliction, contamination and fragmentation of land.
- Large areas influenced by industrial, mineral and waste activities.
- Visual, aural and severance effects of major transport corridors, including the M74 which is a significant feature.
- Large part of the valley occupied by Strathclyde Country Park, comprising a large waterbody,
- woodland, grassland and a limited amount of recreation-related development.
- High visual influence of neighbouring urban areas.

### Incised river valley

- Narrow, steep sided valleys cut deeply into the plateau farmlands.
- Rich broadleaf woodlands on steep valley sides.
- Agriculture where valleys are wide enough with a mixture of pastures, arable, market gardens and orchards.
- Series of policy landscapes, castles and other historic sites.
- Linear villages and winding roads.
- Focal role of rivers and tributaries.
- Rich, sheltered and settled areas, often hidden within the wider landscape.
- Views along and across the valleys.

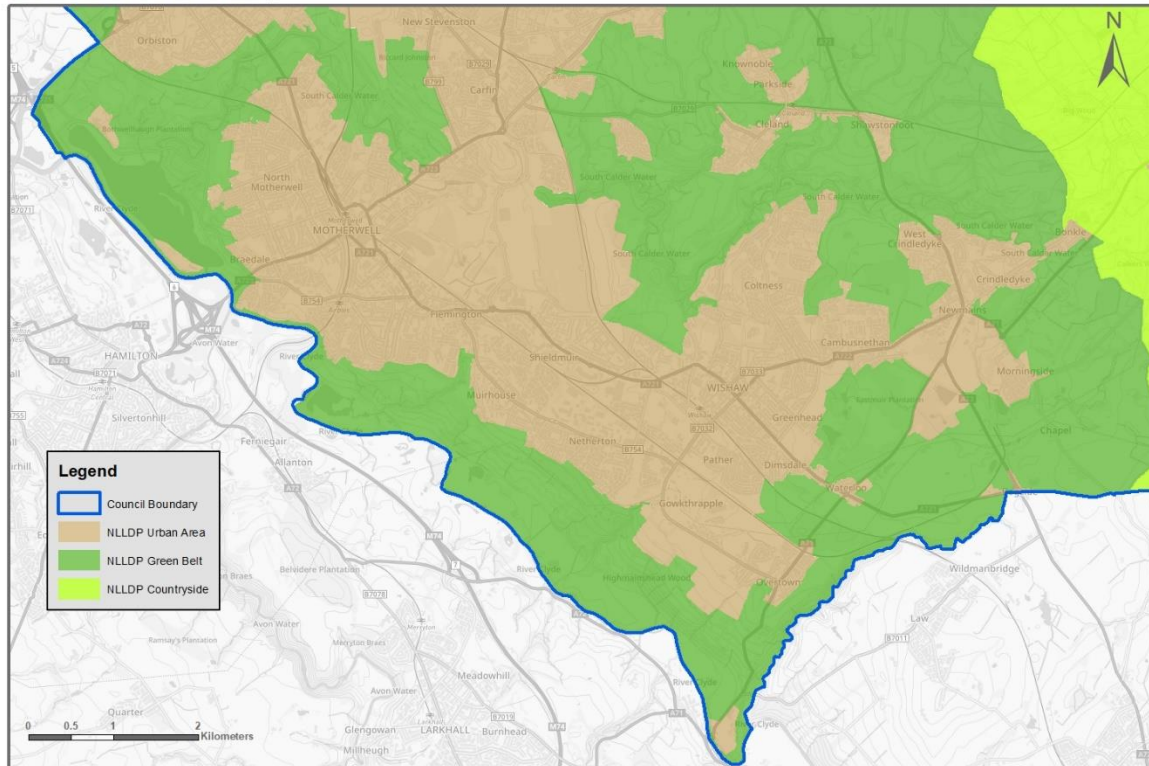
### Urban Fringe Farmland

- Landform ranges from gently undulating topography associated with the plateau farmlands to more hummocky patterns where fluvio-glacial action has created drumlins and eskers.
- Primarily located along major transport routes on urban fringes.
- Pockets of remnant pastoral farming, in some areas retaining a strong structure of hedges and trees, but in others suffering serious decline.
- Visual influence of the urban edge, former and current industrial sites, and transport infrastructure.
- Urban fringe issues including blight, management decline and anti-social behaviour such as fly-tipping.



## Motherwell and Wishaw Green Belt

Motherwell & Wishaw - Green Belt Map



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## Broad River Valley

- Broad section of river valley with well-defined floodplain
- River Clyde and associated water bodies form prominent features on the flat valley floor
- Woodland and tree cover, occurring in areas of scrub or remnant policy woodland, following small tributary burns and, occasionally, as old orchards.
- Farmland, mostly pastoral, on valley floor and sides
- Settlement is relatively sparse, particularly compared to adjacent large urban areas, consisting of farmsteads and occasional groups of cottages
- Major transport routes follow the valley side or cross at bridging points. The Clyde Walkway follows the northern bank of the river.
- Traffic noise permeates much of this area, but it retains a sense of detachment and relatively rural character.

### Plateau Farmland

- Extensive, open, flat or gently undulating landform.
- Dominance of pastoral farming, but with some mosses surviving.
- Limited and declining tree cover.
- Visually prominent settlements and activities such as mineral working.
- Rural character of the Plateau Farmland has reduced as tree cover has declined and the visual influence of settlements, transport infrastructure and mineral working has increased.

### Urban fringe farmland

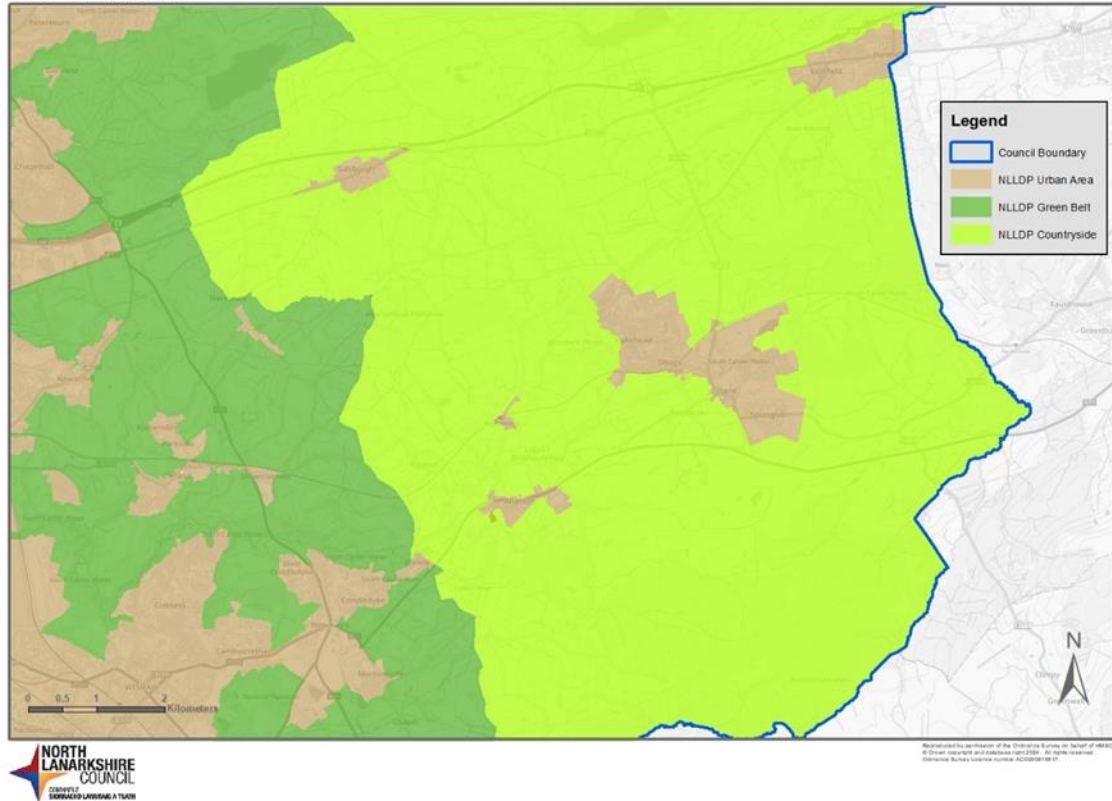
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### Incised river valley

- Narrow, steep sided valleys cut deeply into the plateau farmlands.
- Rich broadleaf woodlands on steep valley sides.
- Agriculture where valleys are wide enough with a mixture of pastures, arable, market gardens and orchards.
- Series of policy landscapes, castles and other historic sites.
- Linear villages and winding roads.
- Focal role of rivers and tributaries.
- Rich, sheltered and settled areas, often hidden within the wider landscape.
- Views along and across the valleys.

## Shotts Green Belt (to west of Shotts)

Shotts - Countryside Map



### Plateau Farmland

- Extensive, open, flat or gently undulating landform. Dominance of pastoral farming, but with some mosses surviving.
- Limited and declining tree cover.
- Visually prominent settlements and activities such as mineral working.
- Rural character of the Plateau Farmland has reduced as tree cover has declined and the visual influence of settlements, transport infrastructure and mineral working has increased.

### Landscape Designations – North Lanarkshire Wide

- 4.15 There are no national landscape designations. However, there are two local landscape designations, identified as Special Landscape Areas (SLA):
- Kilsyth Hills SLA
  - Clyde Valley SLA
- 4.16 These areas are designated in the NLLDP 2022, having previously been classified as a Regional Scenic Area and Area of Great Landscape Value, respectively. Boundaries are

slightly amended from those previous designations. Both highlight further protection afforded to the highest levels of landscape quality, aside from the setting of Green belt status.

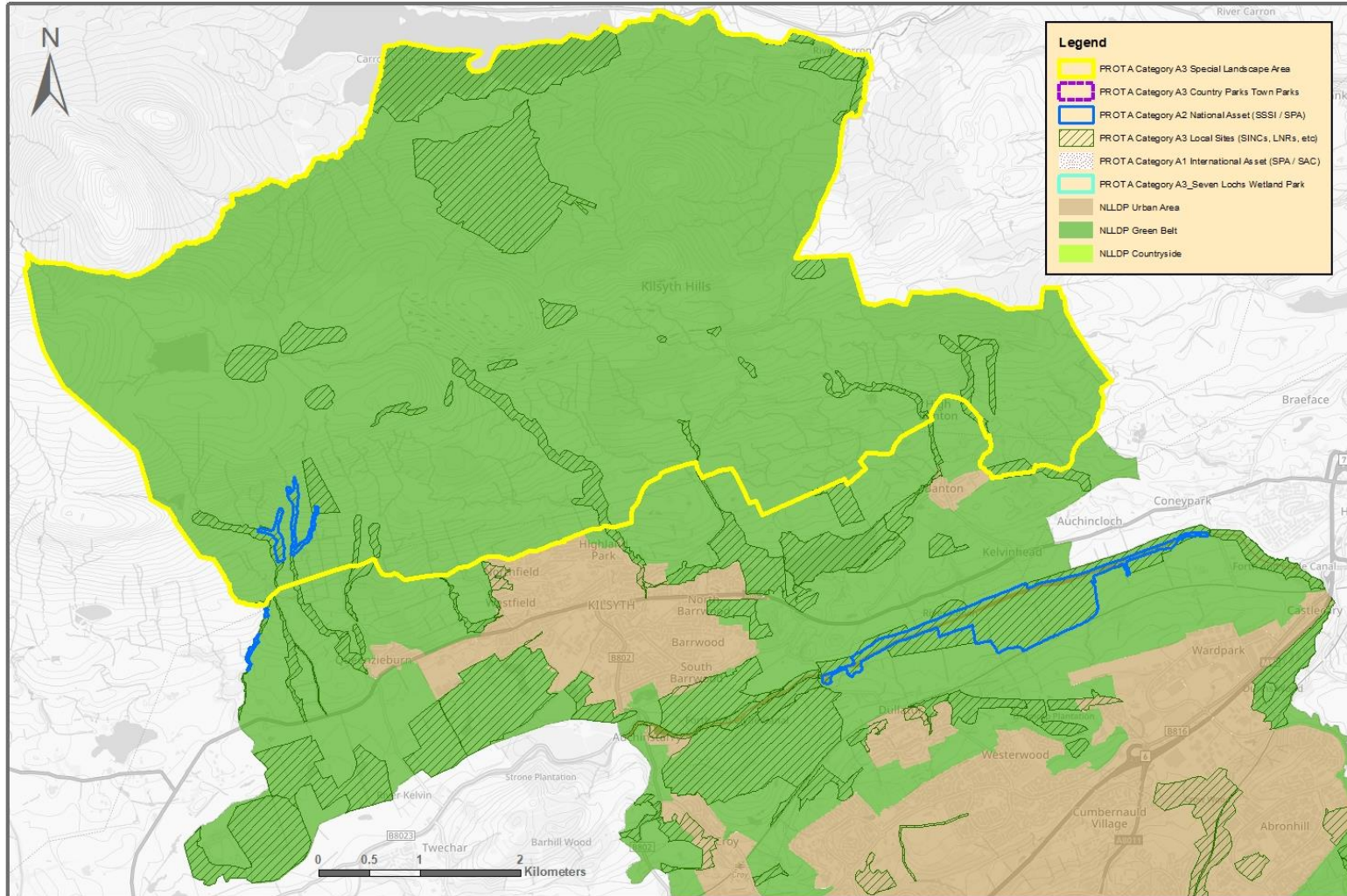
#### Landscape Character and Nature Conservation – North Lanarkshire Wide

- 4.17 Having regard to the above and the content of combined topic paper '3,4 & 20', North Lanarkshire has a diverse landscape ranging from scenic hills, through farmland and river valleys to an extensive area of urban development. This is reflected in the NatureScot landscape character assessment 2019 and by landscape designations in two areas of highest scenic quality. Landscape and visual amenity is enhanced by other related designations including cultural and natural heritage sites of which there are many. Indeed, the Green belt contains a network of natural characteristics and resources, which is another protective purpose of its designation. Recent developments in renewables, urban expansion and mineral extraction have influenced landscape character and visual amenity. However, current LDP policies seek to protect the key areas of highest landscape and visual amenity including the Kilsyth Hills, Clyde valley and Forth & Clyde Canal. The plans on the following pages update the Green belt areas with designated nature conservation sites. These clearly illustrate the role that the North Lanarkshire Green belts contribute towards the issue of nature conservation as well as local setting, with many designated sites located around the periphery of urban areas.
- 4.18 On review of the plans, it can be seen how the current location and boundaries of the green belt contribute to increasing urban density, to preventing unsustainable growth, protecting the character, landscape and natural setting and identity of settlements as well as supporting nature networks. By virtue of the nature of the policy, this also has a positive impact upon climate change.

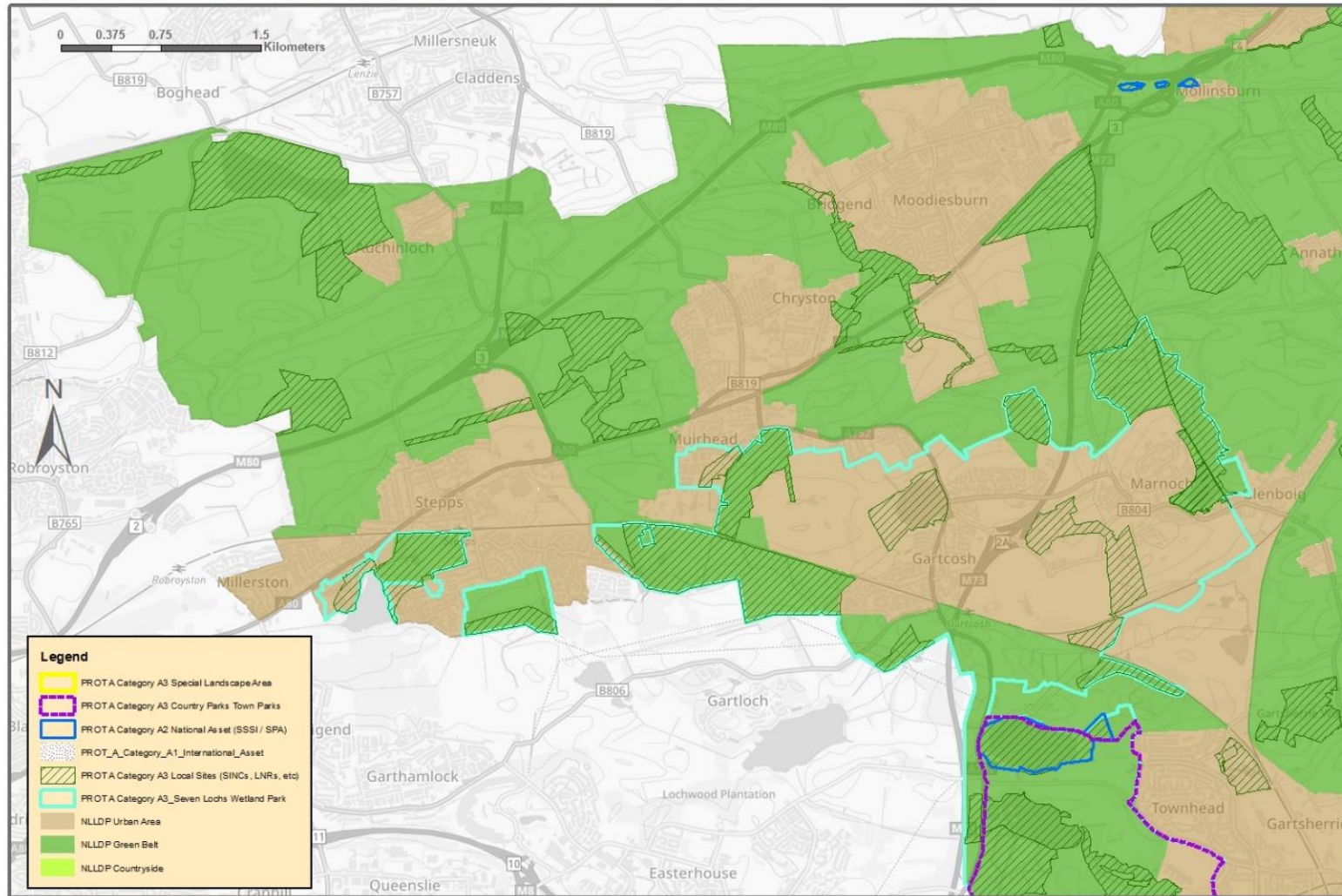
#### Green belt review

- 4.19 It is anticipated that a Green belt review will be carried out, albeit this has not commenced at this time. There are a number of other studies being carried by the Council as part of the current evidence report process. These all have potential implications for a Green belt review and that should take place on their completion, once conclusions are available. The review would also account for planning permissions granted since the current Local Development Plan was adoption. The other studies include a draft Open Space Strategy, LHRL, Business and Industry Land Study and Vacant and Derelict Land Study. For the latter four of these, there are separate survey papers being prepared and these should be available in due course.

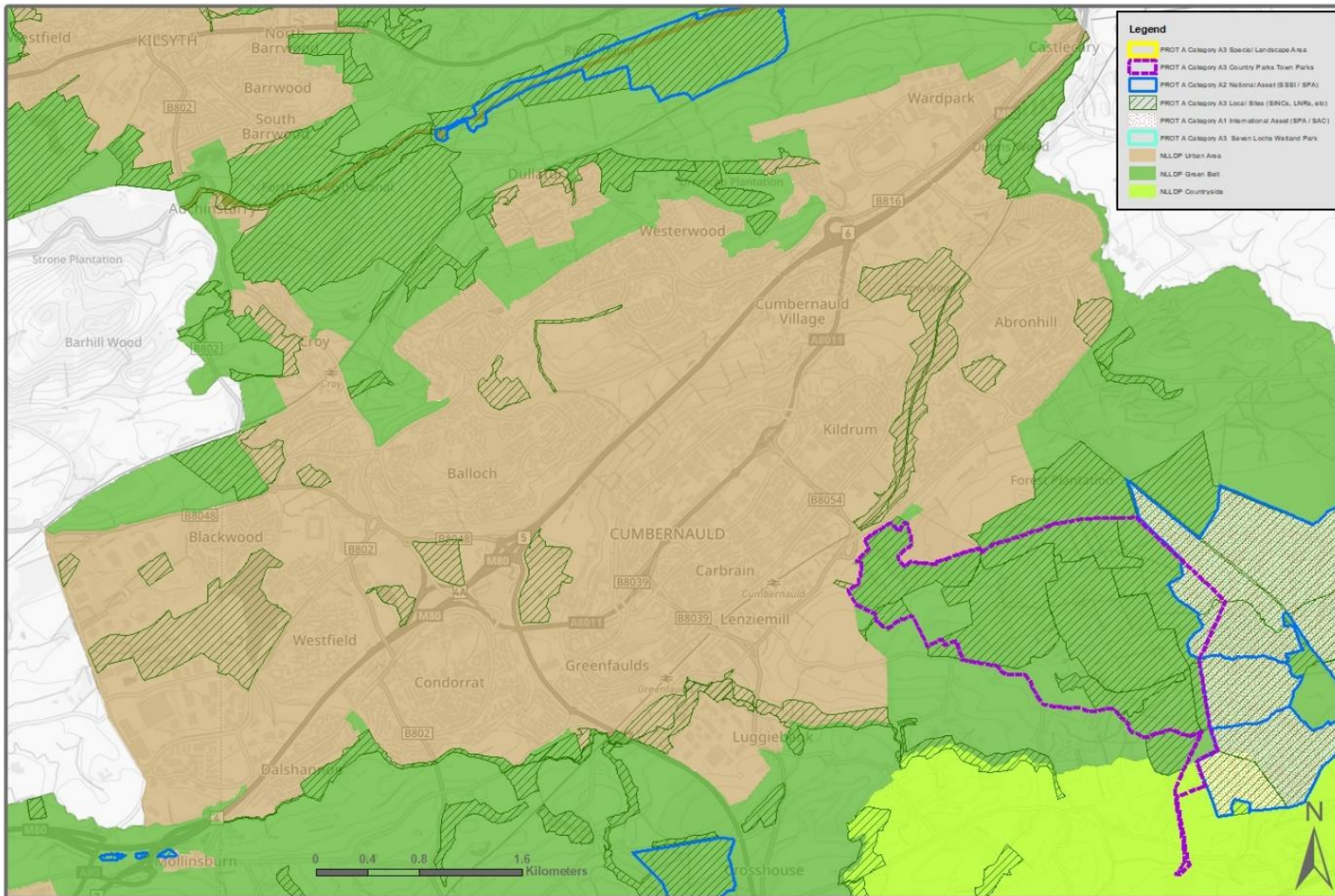
**Kilsyth - Green Belt Map Showing Natural Environment Assets**



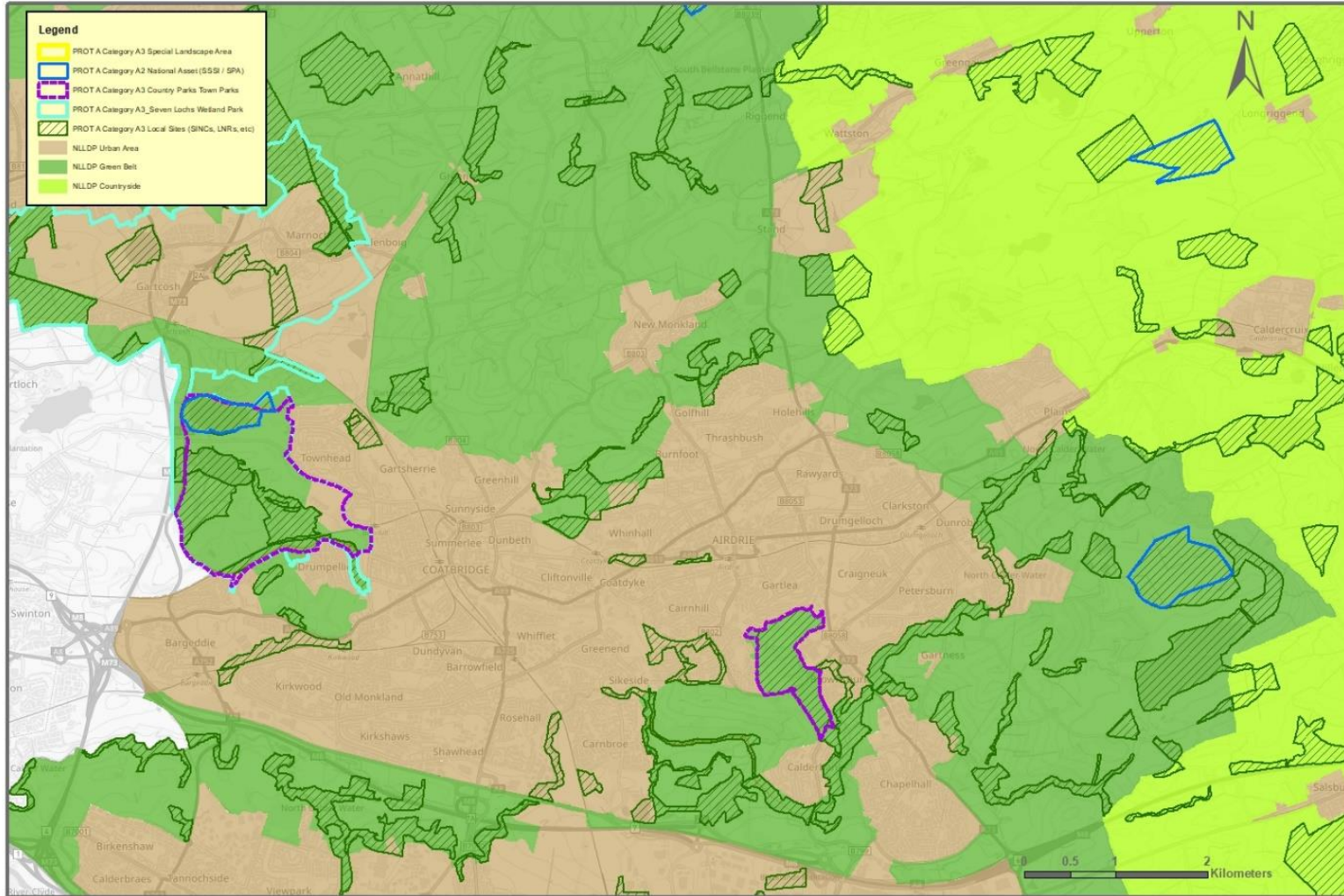
### Northern Corridor - Green Belt Map Showing Natural Environment Assets



**Cumbernauld - Green Belt Map showing Natural Environmental Assets**

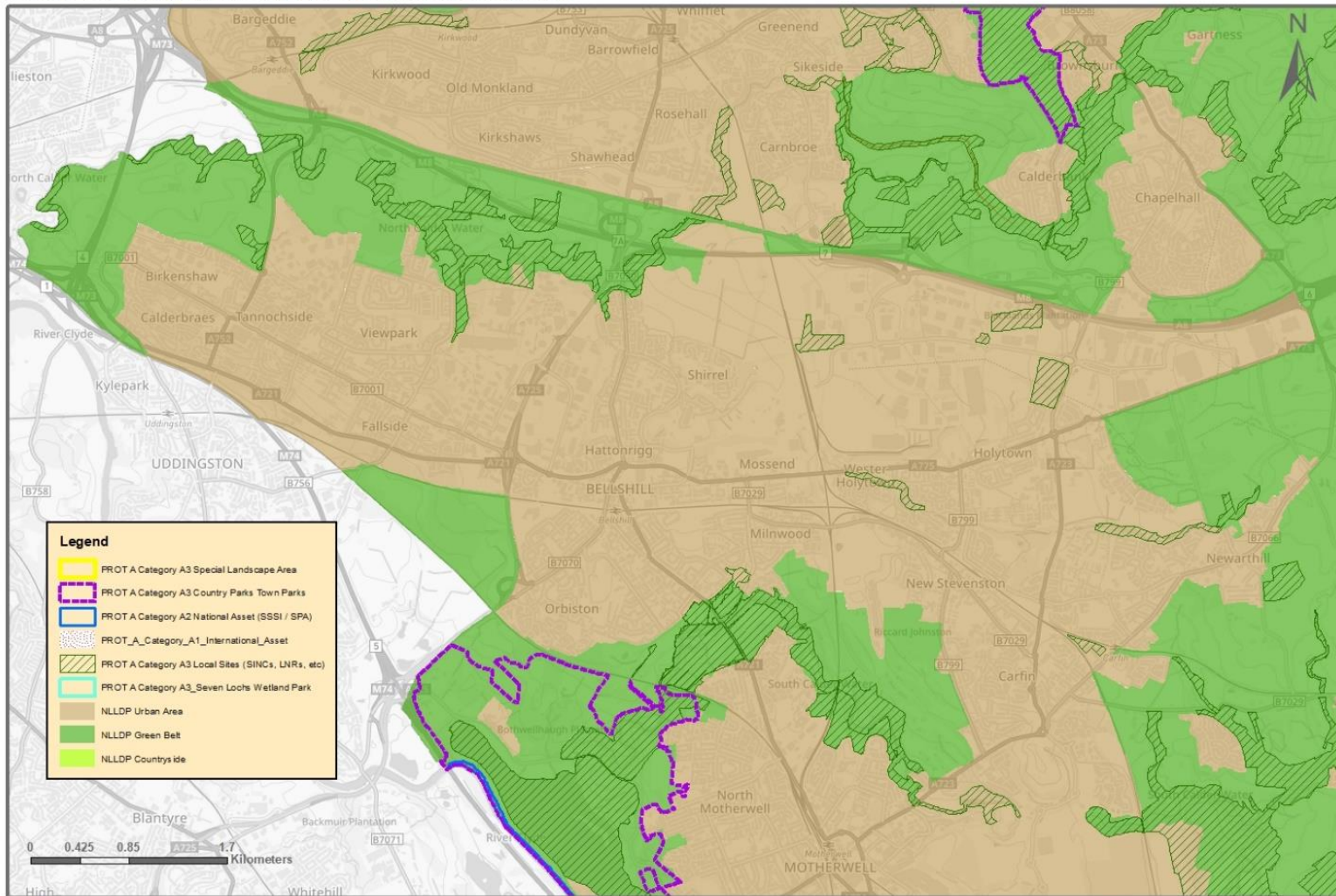


**Airdrie & Coatbridge - Green Belt Map Showing Natural Environment Assets**

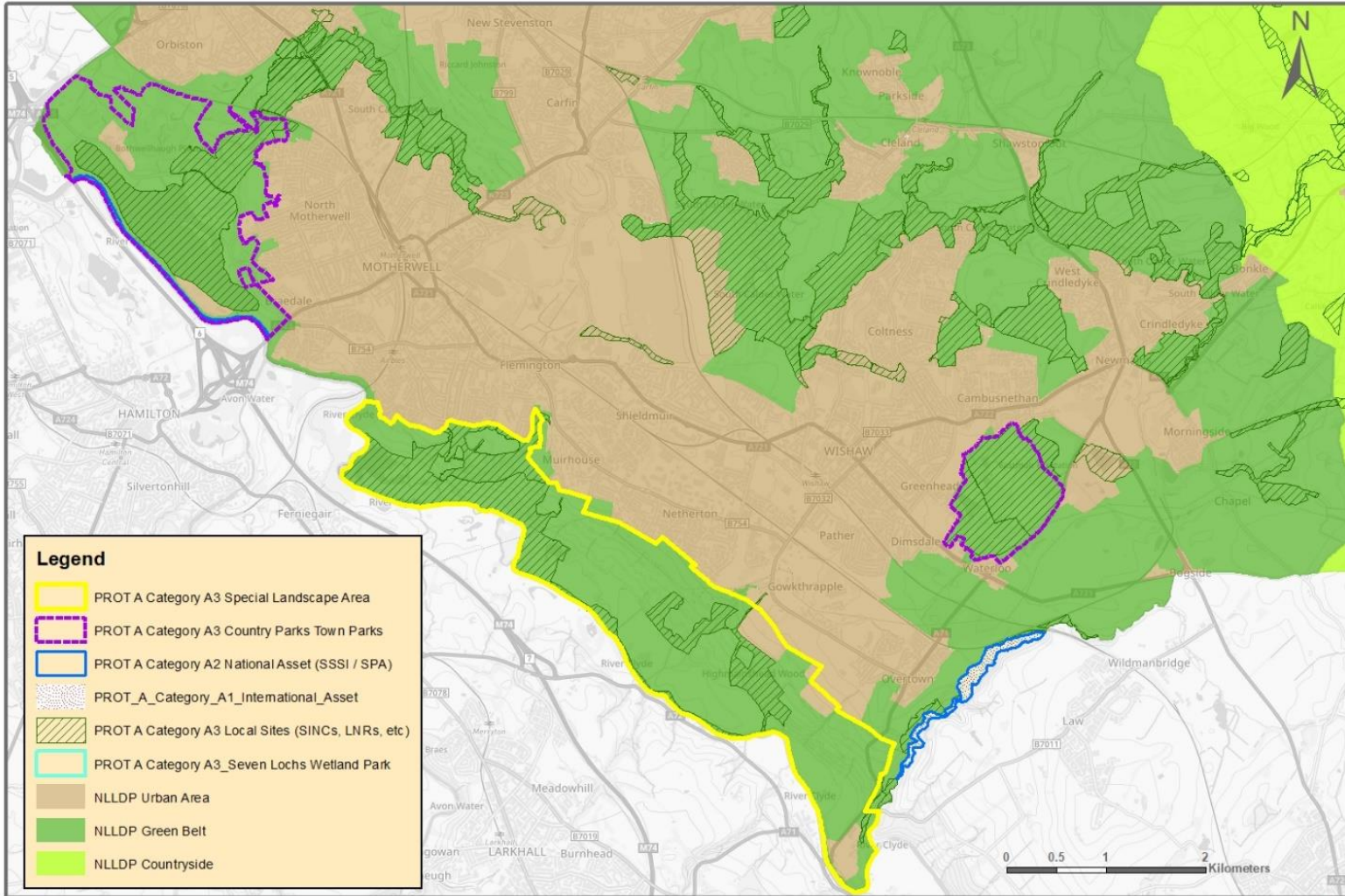




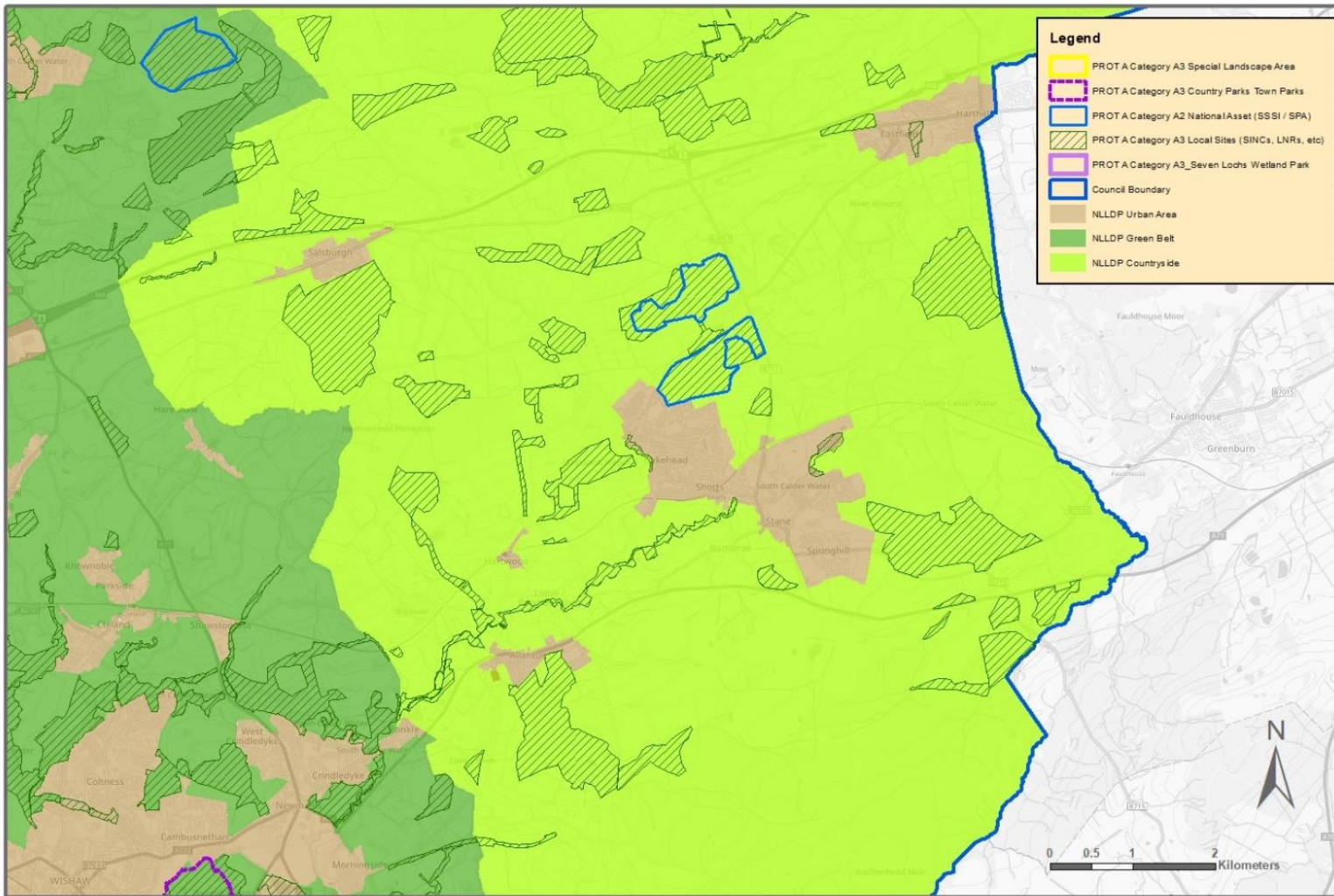
### Bellshill - Green Belt Map Showing Natural Environment Designations



**Motherwell & Wishaw - Green Belt Map Showing Natural Environment Assets**



**Shotts - Countryside Map Showing Natural Environment Assets**



## 5. Potential Connections in Evidence

- 5.1 The Plan for North Lanarkshire is the council's main strategy for the area to improve services and outcomes for the communities who live here. It provides a shared ambition for inclusive growth and prosperity for all. It sets a path for the council and partners to follow. The Plan covers a wide range of activities that can impact on carbon emissions and help to make North Lanarkshire a more sustainable place to 'live-learn-work-invest-visit'.
- 5.2 In the UK the past four decades have been warmer than the one before. In North Lanarkshire it is expected that the average summer temperatures will increase, and the number of rainy days will reduce. The volume of rain on summer's wettest day will increase. Our winters are expected to be milder. Whilst the impact of climate change may seem to be less severe locally, in recent years we have seen an increase in severe weather events. These can affect us through:
- *Travel Disruption*
  - *Emergency Response Situations*
  - *Loss of power supply*
  - *Landslides*
  - *Flooding*
  - *Disruption to service Delivery*

### Green belts - implications for topic 1 tackling the climate and nature crises

- 5.3 NPF4 Policy 1 seeks to ensure that any development proposal brought forward will require to give significant weight to the global climate and nature crises in its consideration. The spatial strategy should reduce emissions and adapt to current and future risks of climate change through supporting only appropriate development, geographically and in character.
- 5.4 Green belt policy has a direct link to nature in rural areas as policy seeks to safeguard and enhance the character of such areas including environmental assets, thereby providing a positive impact on nature. Any development proposals will also be given consideration in terms of suitable location, scale and design and transport requirements.

### Green belts – implications for topic 2 climate mitigation and adaptation

- 5.5 NPF4 Policy 2 seeks to ensure that emissions from development are minimised, and places are more resilient to climate change impacts.
- 5.6 People living in the Green belt are more likely to depend on car usage for transport however new development is heavily restricted and proposals, whether through Development Management or the Local Development Plan process will require to give consideration to the transport needs and appropriateness of the location in comparison to others. The restrictive elements of the policy relate directly to sustainable development which has major advantages for climate change.

### Conclusion in terms of implications for topic 1 and 2

- 5.7 It is considered that the principles instilled in Green belt policy will benefit those in policies 1 and 2 by assisting the climate and nature crises and tackling climate mitigation and adaptation where they seek to ensure that there will not be any negative impacts. The

policy by its very nature is protective and guides development to brownfield land where possible.

#### Other policy overlaps

5.8 It is possible that connections may exist with the following topics and in the following ways.

5.9 There is potential for some positive effects for the following topic areas:

Policy 1 Tackling the climate and nature crises  
Policy 2 Climate mitigation and adaption  
Policy 3 Biodiversity  
Policy 4 Natural places  
Policy 6 Forestry, woodland and trees  
Policy 7 Historic assets and places  
Policy 11 Energy  
Policy 14 Design, quality and place  
Policy 18 Rural homes  
Policy 20 Blue and green infrastructure  
Policy 21 Play, recreation and sport  
Policy 22 Flood risk and water management  
Policy 28 Rural development  
Policy 30 Tourism

5.10 There is potential for some limiting effects for the following topic areas:

Policy 9 Brownfield, vacant and derelict land empty buildings  
Policy 13 Sustainable transport  
Policy 15 Local Living and 20 minute neighbourhoods  
Policy 16 Infrastructure first  
Policy 17 Quality homes  
Policy 24 Digital infrastructure  
Policy 26 Business and industry  
Policy 29 Retail  
Policy 33 Minerals

## **6. Site Selection Implications**

6.1 The key implication for the Proposed Plan is that the spatial strategy will need to consider whether there is need to release from the green belt any large-scale areas of land for planned growth. This will be informed by the finalised Local Housing Land Requirement and Employment Land Strategy for the Proposed Plan which will in turn be informed by the NPF4 spatial principles. There are separate topic papers on these matters which will ultimately determine whether there is a requirement for a release of Green belt land. This would also require to be informed by a Green belt review if deemed necessary. Thereafter, there would be various issues to be considered, relating to site selection criteria. These may include (amongst others):

- Function of land
- Landscape and visual impact
- Availability of infrastructure

- 20 minute neighbourhood principles
- Transportation connections (including public transport)
- Biodiversity (including designations)
- Community facilities (such as Schools)
- Soils
- Flooding and drainage
- Forestry, woodland and trees

## **7. Implications for North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2**

- 7.1 Based on the evidence, analysis and views presented in this survey paper, North Lanarkshire Council currently considers that the topic policy in NPF8 Green belts should be applied as per NPF4 in North Lanarkshire. Depending on the outcome of demand assessments for other land uses, there may require to be a local review of Green belt boundaries, but the Council is well placed to do this.