

INTRODUCTION

A little outside Pencaitland, in an idyllic dip among the gently rolling farmland of East Lothian, stands one of the two working distilleries in lowland Scotland, Glenkinchie. A wellpreserved example of red brick Victoriana, it supervises a pristine bowling green and pavilion, and two rows of terraced cottages. The hollow in which these lie is green and leafy, the Kinchie burn running through on its way to the Tyne. It is almost always still and peaceful, despite the presence of industry and the to and fro of curious visitors. That it should be here at all, when all but one of its various lowland competitors has fallen by the wayside (at one point there were one hundred and fifteen legally registered lowland distillers), is cause for curiosity. It has been a rough old ride for distilleries, this past couple of hundred years. Success stories are thin on the ground. But someone around here has been doing something right. Glenkinchie's is a story of adaptability, foresight and good fortune, from its stuttering beginnings through idealistic industrial progression to its solid and pragmatic present. It is a story of progress and compromise - one whose beginnings are cloudy but whose emergent threads speak of the economic patterns of past and present times and anticipate many contemporary questions and issues. We will look at the corporate, environmental, socio-economic and legal sides of

