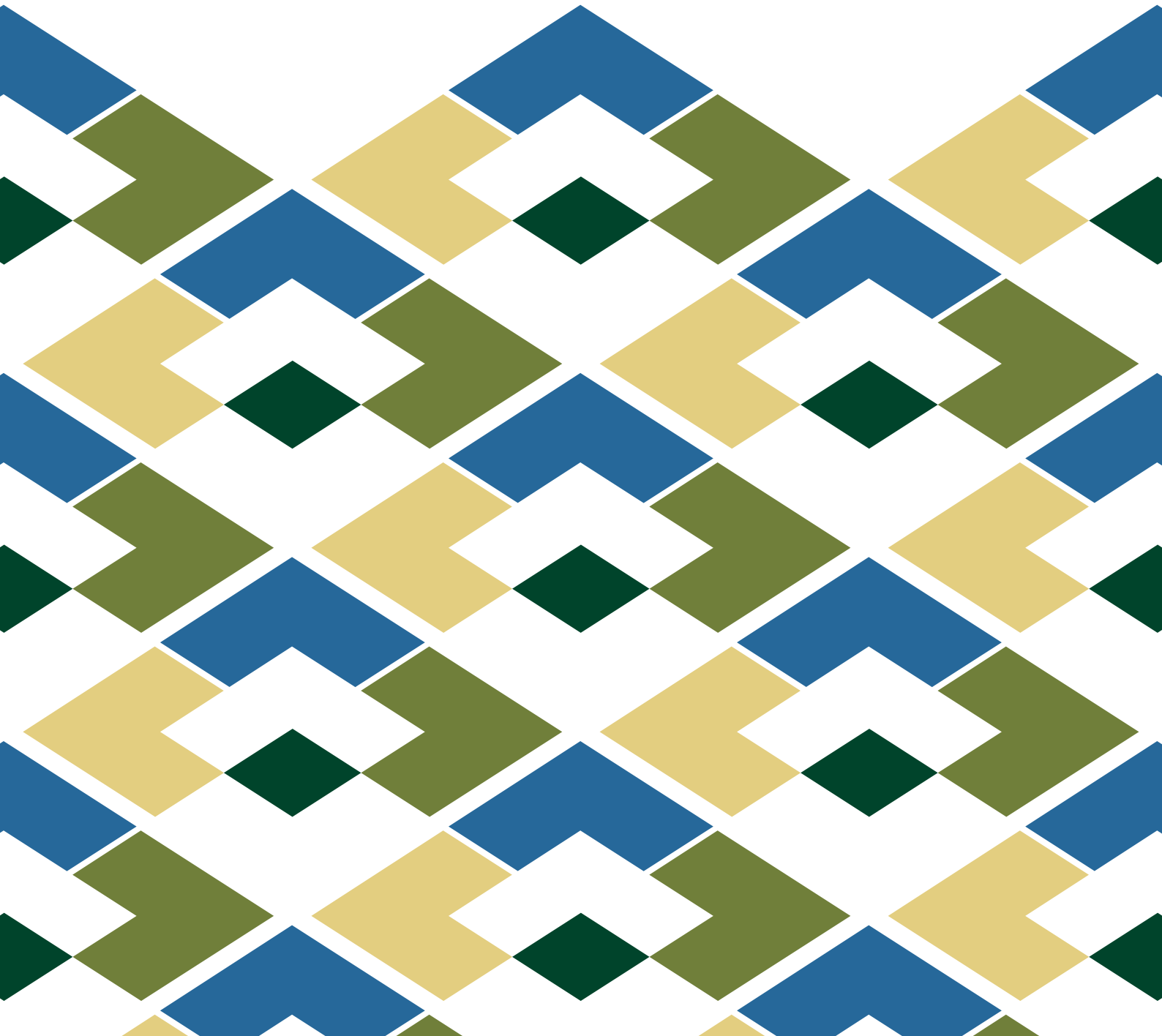


Midlothian Local Development Plan
Main Issues Report 2013:
Technical Note



Midlothian

Green Networks



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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Technical Note

The purpose of this Green Network Technical Note is to provide information on:

- What is a Green Network;
- Where does the requirement for Green Networks come from;
- What appearance and form would a Green Network take in Midlothian;
- What are the implications for new development in Midlothian from a Green Network; and
- What work has been undertaken and is required to deliver Green Networks in Midlothian.

1.2 Summary and Core Principles of Green Networks

The Scottish Government's National Planning Framework No. 2 (2009) (NPF2) identified the Central Scotland Green Network as one of 14 national developments which Scottish Ministers consider to be essential to the delivery of the spatial strategy of NPF2. Midlothian is one of the 18 local authorities covered by the Central Scotland Green Network area.

All 14 national developments are aimed at making a significant contribution to Scotland's sustainable economic development. In that context NPF2 considers that a better environment in Central Scotland will help ensure Scotland can compete economically at a European and global scale.

The Green Network is described in NPF2 as a strategic network of woodland and other habitats, active travel routes, greenspace links, watercourses and waterways, providing an enhanced setting for development and other land uses and improved opportunities for outdoor recreation and cultural activity.

The core principles of green networks, set out in the National Planning Framework No. 2 and Scottish Planning Policy (2010), are:

Connectivity: linking between people with places, and providing wildlife habitat and corridors for species movement; and

Multi-functionality: allowing for flexible and multiple use of land/ routes to maximise the efficient use of land.

Essentially the Green Network should provide an opportunity to improve both wildlife habitat and paths to the outdoors connecting people with local and further afield destinations. It also offers potential to use the same area of land for a wide number of uses. This may include, for example, using the Green Network to provide travel and recreational routes that can help meet the Scottish Government's sustainable travel and healthy living agendas; provide land for open space and sustainable urban

drainage system (SUDS) requirements for new developments; help enhance and/ or maintain the appearance and attractiveness of an area; where appropriate help alleviate flood risk issues. NPF2 sets out that, when combined, these factors offer potential to assist with an area adapting to the impact of climate change.

2 National and Regional Planning Policy Context

2.1 National Planning Framework No. 2 (2009)

NPF2 identifies 14 national developments which are considered to be essential to the delivery of the NPF2's spatial development strategy.

The Central Scotland Green Network is one of the 14 developments, reflecting the high status and importance that the Scottish Government places on its delivery. The Central Scotland Green Network will cover a 10,000 km² area of central Scotland from coast to coast that has a population of approximately 3.6 million residents. It incorporates 19 Scottish local authorities, including all of Midlothian.

NPF2 at page 126 describes the Central Scotland Green Network development as:

“A strategic network of woodland and other habitats, active travel routes, greenspace links, watercourses and waterways, providing an enhanced setting for development and other land uses and improved opportunities for outdoor recreation and cultural activity.”

This description provides a sound working definition of what represents a green network.

NPF2 sets out the need and benefits of a Central Scotland Green Network:

- Delivering a better environment in Central Scotland will help to ensure that it can compete economically at a European and global scale.
- The creation of a Central Scotland Green Network will complement improvements in rail, road and communications infrastructure, making Central Scotland a more attractive place to live in, do business and visit.
- Improving the health and resilience of the natural environment will help it to adapt to climate change.
- A well-planned increase in woodland cover can substantially improve the landscape settings of our towns and cities, bring vacant and derelict land into beneficial use, improve biodiversity and amenity, and help to absorb CO². Improvements can also be made to networks of other habitats, including wetlands, to counter fragmentation and assist species migration.
- The development of footpath and cycleway networks and other facilities and attractions will contribute to a more sustainable transport network and expand the range of recreational opportunities close to major centres of population, helping to encourage active travel and healthier lifestyles.

2.2 Scottish Planning Policy (2010)

Scottish Planning Policy (2010) (SPP) sets out the requirements and planning policy considerations that the Scottish Government expects from planning authorities in implementing green networks.

SPP (paragraph 130) states linking green spaces in and around settlements through green networks can deliver benefits for people and nature. It also states green networks can improve the health and viability of species which can in turn support adaptation to climate change.

SPP (paragraph 130) requires development plans to identify and promote green networks where this will add value to the provision, protection, enhancement and connectivity of open space and habitats in city regions. Paragraph 130 refers to lochs, ponds, watercourses and wetlands providing valuable landscape features and that they should be protected and enhanced as part of both developments and green networks.

The SPP (paragraph 155) encourages authorities to improve access to existing areas of open space via green networks and paths. It states at paragraph 150 that new development should incorporate new and enhanced access opportunities, linked to wider access networks. The paragraph goes on to state that green networks which provide opportunities for physical activity and access to the outdoors, and increase accessibility within settlements and to the surrounding countryside, should be promoted and safeguarded through the development plan. The SPP requires (paragraph 164) green networks within settlements to extend into the green belt.

2.3 Strategic Development Plan for Edinburgh and South East Scotland (SESplan), Proposed Plan (November 2011, as submitted to Scottish Ministers in August 2012)

The SESplan Proposed Plan supports the Central Scotland Green Network as identified in NPF2. The Proposed Plan through Policy 11 requires Local Development Plans to identify opportunities to contribute to the development and extension of the Green Network, and mechanisms through which they can be delivered. It therefore requires Local Development Plans to identify measures that will help deliver the Green Network, and prioritise certain areas.

2.3.1 South East Scotland Strategic Development Plan, Proposed Plan Green Network Technical Note (November 2011)

The SESplan Technical Note's vision for the Green Network is:

“The Green Network will be recognised, conserved and enhanced as a crucial component of the region's distinctive sense of place and quality of life. Its contribution to a range of economic, social and environmental objectives will be optimised and opportunities to create new elements and to improve connectivity, accessibility and quality of the Green Network through the delivery of suitably located and designed development will be harnessed.”

It identifies at paragraph 2.3 that Local Development Plans must take account of the national requirement for Green Networks and integrate the concept into the spatial strategy of the document.

Paragraph 2.4 of the SESplan Technical Note identifies the measures that will contribute to the development of the Green Network in south east Scotland, including Midlothian. The measures listed are:

- a significant increase in woodland expansion to further "green up" the area, boost recreation opportunities and contribute to climate change reduction;
- improved networks for cycling and walking, encouraging more "active travel" to work and school which will also reduce carbon footprints;
- building a strategic network of priority habitats which will improve biodiversity and protect many species; and
- restoring vacant and derelict land with the aim of regenerating and restoring it to attractive landscapes for a range of uses, including new business.

The document sets out the long term nature of the Green Network project, and identifies strategic opportunities which can help deliver the Green Network over a 20 year period. Paragraph 3.2 of the Technical Note states local authorities will need to include these opportunities in Local Development Plans, master plans and development briefs, but that these strategic opportunities will require to be augmented with more detail and other local opportunities at the Local Development Plan stage.

Identifying Strategic Opportunities

The SESplan Technical Note states (page 7, paragraph 5.2) that through discussion SESplan Member Authorities and Key Agencies identified 12 "spatial themes...which together can provide the core of the Strategic Green Network". The SESplan Technical Note lists the following "spatial opportunities, under each of the SDP (Strategic Development Plan) challenges":

Key Strategic Development Plan Challenge – Sustainable Economic Growth

- Greening action in main urban areas
- Strategic development areas
- Vacant and Derelict Land
- Strategic employment sites

Key Strategic Development Plan Challenge – Demographic Change

- Key strategic recreational routes
- Communities without access to greenspace
- Areas of multiple deprivation

Key Strategic Development Plan Challenge - Climate Change

- Key strategic designated sites
- National Scenic Areas and Regional Parks
- Priority woodland expansion areas
- Enhancement of riparian routes (spaces between rivers and land, e.g. river banks)
- Integrated habitat networks

2.3.2 Key Opportunities Identified In Midlothian

The SESplan Technical Note identifies the following green network opportunities in Midlothian:

- Shawfair/ South East Edinburgh;
- the Esk Valleys (including woodland habitat projects);
- the route of the Borders Railway; and
- National Cycle Network Route 1.

2.3.3 Benefit of and Opportunities for Green Networks in Midlothian

The SESplan Technical Note outlines that the Green Network offers potential for:

- providing deprived communities with better access to green space, improved physical environment, and access to low cost travel routes;
- further work on woodland strategies for the Pentland Hills and Esk Valleys;
- connecting, conserving and enhancing the quality of locally designated landscapes - reference is made to health benefits from landscapes that are perceived as natural/ remote and/ or tranquil;
- restoring and managing designated wildlife sites;
- influencing land management grants and new development to develop the green network; and
- helping to reduce flood risk through planting on banks, planting in flood risk areas and recreating wetlands to reduce and delay water discharge.

3 Green Networks in Midlothian

3.1 Current Green Networks in Midlothian

Midlothian Council considers there is already a large existing high quality green network in Midlothian. It is currently not referred to as a “green network”. The existing network is formed from the existing large number of foot and cycle paths, bridleways, rivers, reservoirs, woodland, open space and public parks across Midlothian accessible to residents and visitors.

3.2 Vision for Green Networks in Midlothian

The expectation from NPF2 and SPP is that planning authorities will identify a green network in their jurisdiction of control that meets the Green Network objectives of the Scottish Government identified in these documents.

The Midlothian Local Development Plan will therefore need to identify a Midlothian Green Network and provide a policy framework that protects and helps enable the development of this network. This will include identification of a series of paths and connections across Midlothian. This will give an opportunity to establish a network that further connects and enhances settlements, wildlife habitat (including woodland), designated conservation sites and local landscapes.

This Council’s vision for the Midlothian Green Network and the role of the Local Development Plan in its delivery is:

The Local Development Plan will help deliver a Green Network that increases the attractiveness of Midlothian as a place to live, work, invest and visit through an improved strategic network of woodland, wildlife habitats, greenspace links and watercourses that provide an enhanced setting for development, excellent opportunities for active travel and outdoor recreation and increased connectivity for Midlothian communities.

3.3 Key Themes and Functions of the Midlothian Green Network

The Green Network can potentially have a wide variety of roles. These include:

- providing access to recreation (e.g. open space and path networks) and active travel routes* for communities (*generally travel by walking or cycling);
- improve the environment and attractiveness of areas;
- maintain and enhance woodland cover, wildlife habitat, and designated nature conservation sites;
- provide access to countryside areas; and
- help reduce flood risk – this may be achievable through influencing the location of development and SUDS; increased tree/ vegetation planting on river banks; tree/ vegetation planting in flood risk areas; recreating wetlands to reduce and delay water discharge.

The Council met with Scottish Natural Heritage, the Forestry Commission (Scotland) and the Lothians and Fife Green Network Partnership to help establish key themes and possible locations for Green Networks in Midlothian. Internal discussions between different parts of the Council were also held to draw from the Council's experience in open space strategies, footpath creation and management, cycle route development, landscape enhancement, biodiversity protection and enhancement, and development planning to help identify a Midlothian Green Network.

The following key themes were identified for the Midlothian Green Network:

- Climate Change;
- Active Travel;
- Biodiversity; and
- Place-making.

The table below provides summary details of the function of these Green Network themes. The themes have been separated into four categories to help explain more clearly their function. However, in reality all of the themes and functions are linked to a greater or lesser degree.

Green Network Themes	Functions of the Midlothian Green Network
<i>Climate Change</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for increasing absorption of carbon dioxide and carbon storage • Contribute toward alleviating drainage and flooding problems
<i>Active Travel</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting people with destinations for work and leisure – both within and outside settlements • Provide and promote opportunities for outdoor recreation and active travel, in line with the Scottish Government's health agenda
<i>Biodiversity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help secure and increase wildlife habitats and wildlife corridors • Enhance connectivity between wildlife habitat
<i>Place-making</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the attractiveness and quality of places within which to live and visit • Promote landscape character and quality • Provide landscape setting for development and help it integrate with the local and wider environment • Provide connectivity between places • Provide potential to help maintain individual community identity

3.4 Identifying the Midlothian Green Network

3.4.1 Information Used to Identify the Strategic and Local Green Networks

The following pieces of information, together with suggestions and experience of the external bodies referred to in section 3.3 and internal* relevant sections of the Council, were used to help identify possible green network opportunities in Midlothian:

- international and national environmental designations;
- core paths and other path networks;
- committed development allocations identified in the Midlothian Local Plan (2008) and route of the Borders Railway;
- habitat types of the Integrated Habitat Network and Local Biodiversity Sites and proposed Local Biodiversity Sites;
- the Midlothian Areas of Great Landscape Value;
- Green Belt land in Midlothian;
- Regional and Country Parks in Midlothian, protected river valleys and Nationally Important Gardens and Designed Landscapes identified in the Midlothian Local Plan (2008);
- semi natural ancient woodland, ancient woodland, and existing and preferred areas of woodland as identified in the Edinburgh and Lothians Forestry and Woodland Strategy;
- sites identified in the Midlothian Open Space Audit;
- identified vacant and derelict land in Midlothian; and
- proposed preferred and reasonable alternative development sites (housing and economic) in the Midlothian Local Development Plan Main Issues Report.

The information is shown on a series of 21 plans contained in Appendix 1 of this Technical Note.

*The internal Council officers included those with responsibility for transport, cycling, footpaths and open space, environmental projects and planning.

The Council sought to use the above data sources and information to identify initial green network opportunities that it considered would fulfil the themes and functions of the Midlothian Green Network identified in section 3.3 of this of Technical Note.

Connectivity and multi-functionality were the key considerations. It was considered that connecting settlements with other destinations and being able to provide enhanced travel corridors for people and wildlife habitats/ corridors through safeguarding and, where necessary, planting would be the best method of meeting these two requirements.

3.4.2 Strategic and Local Green Networks

The Council has identified in the Main Issues Report (MIR) for the Midlothian Local Development Plan (MLDP) indicative strategic and local green network opportunities in Midlothian. The indicative strategic opportunities are identified in Figure 1 of this Technical Note, and the indicative examples of local opportunities are identified on Figures 2 and 3 of this Technical Note (larger versions provided in Appendix 2 (Figure 1) and Appendix 3 (Figures 2 and 3)).

The extent and scope of the green networks identified in the MIR and this Technical Note are intended to prompt discussion. They are not final options for taking forward. The Council is keen to get views on whether the opportunities should connect different areas together and/ or have a different purpose or be different in nature, e.g. more woodland planting. The extent and/ or the function of the green network can be altered in future revisions of the MLDP. For example other areas could become part of the green network.

The strategic green network opportunities generally connect Midlothian settlements with other Midlothian settlements and destinations in Midlothian and with other destinations/ locations outside of Midlothian.

The local green network opportunities relate more to connecting communities or areas within a town to other parts of the same town, e.g. to open space or commercial/ community/ cultural facilities, or to a close-by neighbouring community and town.

The strategic and local opportunities will be identified in the MLDP and in any subsequent development briefs required by the MLDP.

Appendix 4 identifies a series of individual projects that can assist in delivering the strategic and local green networks and issues relating to their delivery. The Council would welcome input on these suggestions and other suggestions to help deliver green networks in Midlothian.

3.4.3 Location of the Strategic and Local Green Networks

Strategic Green Networks

A series of indicative strategic green network opportunities are identified for consultation purposes in both the MIR, and in Figure 1 of this Technical Note. Below is a schedule of the destinations that may be reached through these possible green network opportunities.

Possible strategic green network opportunities – identified on Figure 1:

- Dalkeith Country Park to Danderhall and the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary
- Cousland route to link up with path in East Lothian
- Dalkeith Campus school buildings to Whitecraig
- Dalkeith Country Park to Millbank House/ Gorebridge along the River South Esk
- Dalkeith Country Park to Whitehill/ Rosewell along the River South Esk and Dalhousie Burn
- Preston Hall/ Oxenfoord Castle to Gorebridge via Borthwick Castle along the Tyne and Gore Waters
- Millbank House/ Gorebridge to the Moorfoot Hills via Rosebery and Gladhouse reservoirs along the River South Esk
- Newtongrange to Kippielaw/ Dalkeith, via Easthouses
- Rosewell to Leadburn along the former disused railway
- Dalkeith Country Park to Penicuik, via Roswell (and onward to Carlops) along the disused railways, including the stretches of path that will need to be re-routed because of the implementation of the Borders Railway.
- Dalkeith Country Park to Carlops via Roslin and Penicuik along the River North Esk
- A701 Gowkley Moss to the north east of Roslin
- Loanhead to Penicuik (and onward to Carlops) via Roslin along the Loanhead to Danderhall disused railway line, Bilston Glen viaduct and the River North Esk
- A702 to West Lothian through the Pentland Hills

As stated these identified strategic green network opportunities are indicative and are included in the MIR to prompt discussion and consultation on the document.

The Council considers that these strategic opportunities offer potential to connect communities with open space, woodland, parks, country parks, open countryside river valleys, accessible parts of country estates and designed gardens and landscapes and important buildings. They also provide an opportunity to safeguard and enhance wildlife habitats and corridors.

In developing and implementing these opportunities planting regimes and management will be important to make the green network both attractive and practical to use and to provide wildlife habitats and corridors.

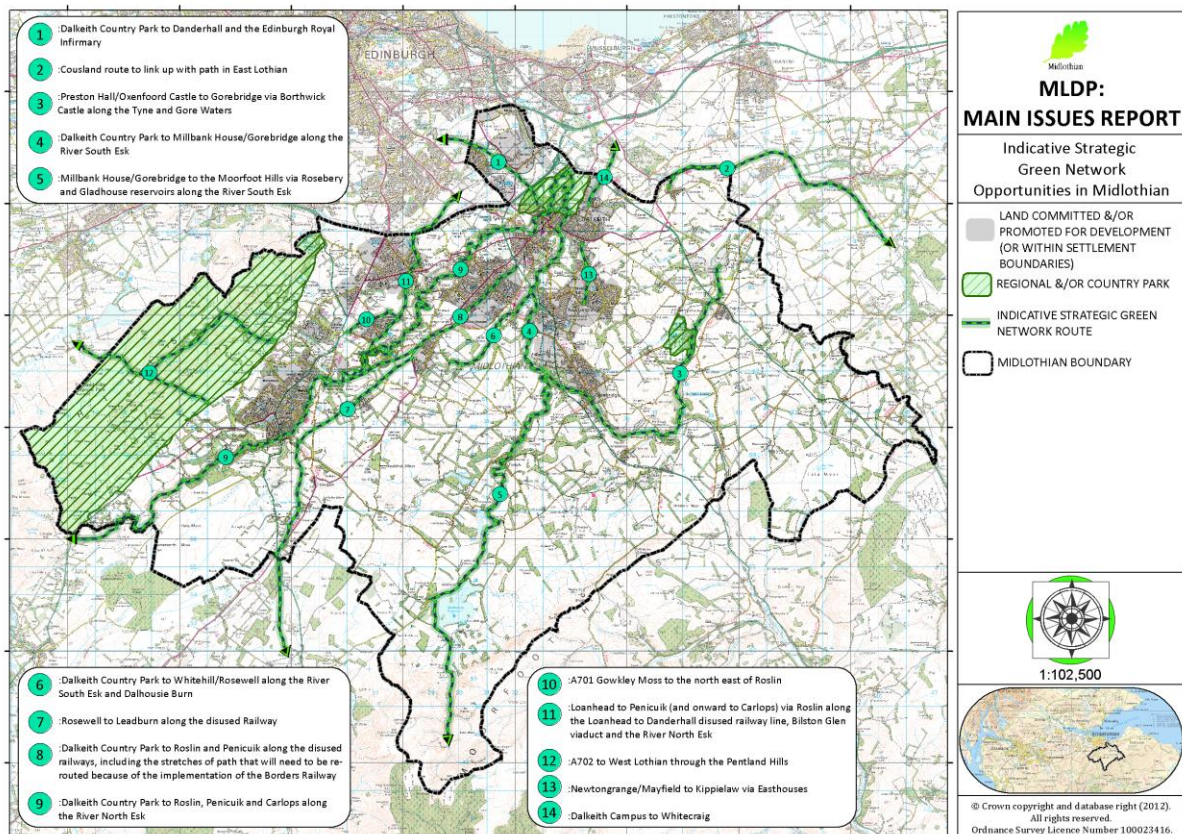
In addition to the opportunities identified on Figure 1 the green network should have potential to further help deliver the areas of preferred woodland identified in the 2012 Edinburgh and Lothians Forest and Woodlands Strategy – shown on plan 16 of

Appendix 1 of this Technical Note. This is an option that can be considered further for the MLDP's Proposed Plan.

The Proposed Plan of the MLDP, and/ or documents such site planning briefs and Supplementary Guidance provide an opportunity to set out further details of the Midlothian Green Network including: routes, its function, how it would be delivered and the form it would take.

Figure 1: Indicative Strategic Green Network Opportunities

(also provided in Appendix 2 at a larger scale for ease of reading)



Local Green Networks

As with the strategic routes, many of the local green network opportunities will already exist. Appendix 4 of this Technical Note provides details of possible projects to help deliver local green networks. The role of the MLDP will include helping to:

- help increase the attractiveness of a location to live, work, visit and invest in;
- retain existing path routes and path connections;
- facilitate connections between development sites identified in the MLDP, new or and existing areas of open space and paths, and key destinations;
- provide a framework where relevant for the identification and delivery of new open space, planting regimes and SUDS; and

- retain and enhance habitat and biodiversity where appropriate.

Below are two examples of how green networks might be identified in the MLDP for Midlothian communities. Shawfair and Loanhead have been used as examples.

Similar to the strategic opportunities, local green network opportunities offer potential to connect communities with nearby open space, woodland, parks, country parks, open countryside, river valleys, accessible parts of country estates and designed gardens and landscapes, and important buildings. They also provide an opportunity to safeguard and enhance wildlife habitats and corridors.

The development of local green networks would generally be expected to involve the protection of existing wildlife habitats, and the development of further habitat through increased planting.

Figures 1 and 2 are intended to provide examples of possible connections; they are not intended to provide full details of the locations and/ or facilities in these two specific locations that might be connected by green networks. Further details can be provided at the MLDP Proposed Plan stage and/ or at the detailed planning stage, e.g. perhaps through development briefs or Supplementary Guidance for the MLDP.

Shawfair – Indicative Local Green Network Opportunities

The Council has already undertaken extensive work on landscape frameworks for the new Shawfair community. For the Shawfair development, working with partners, the Council has sought to integrate existing woodlands, new woodlands, formal (playing fields) and informal open spaces, SUDS features, and existing and new footpaths and cycleways to form multi-functional green networks within the new community. The Council sees this as a good example of good practice for the development of green networks.

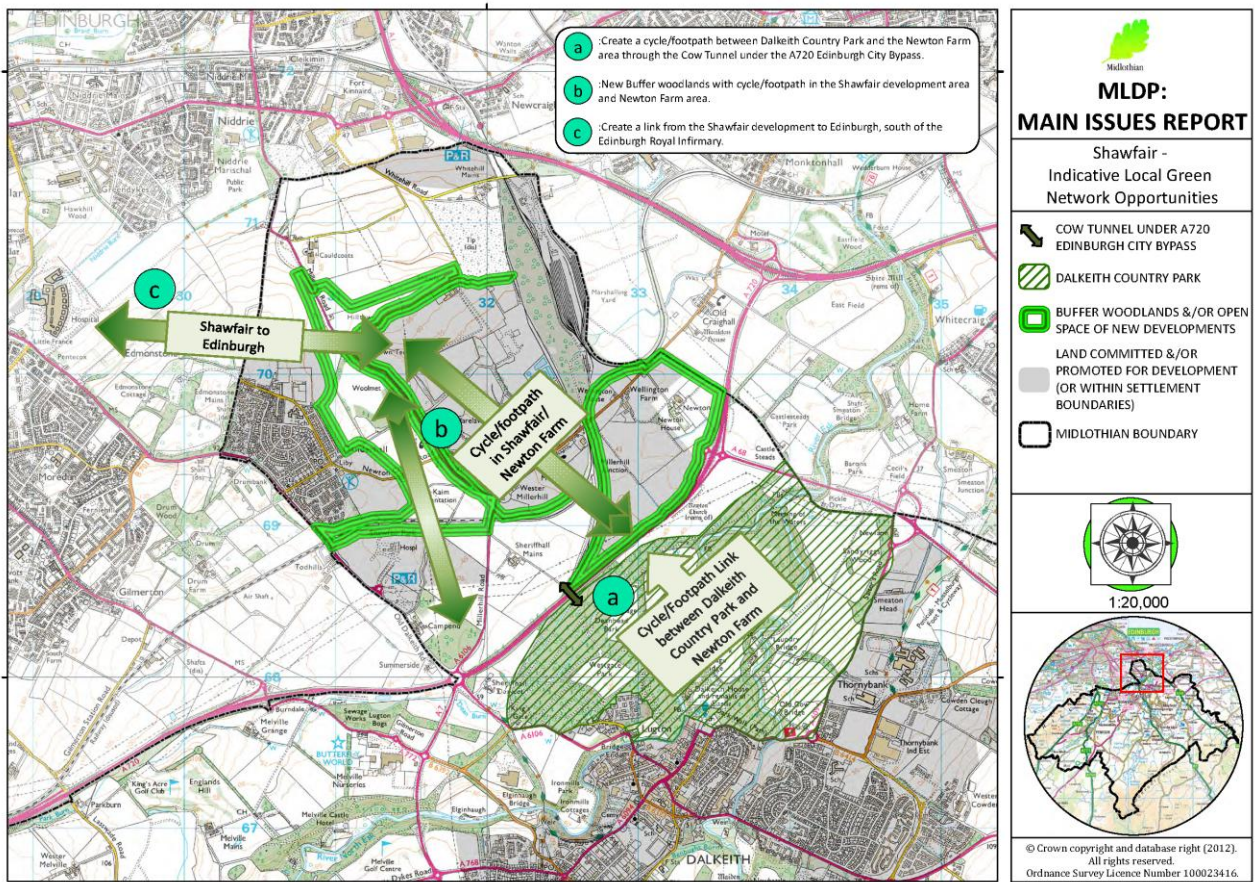
Green network development for the committed Shawfair development is further advanced than in other areas, but Figure 2 indicatively identifies example local green networks in the Shawfair area. The approach identified in Figure 2 could equally be applicable to other parts of Midlothian. The opportunities identify potential connections from the Shawfair area to other parts of Midlothian and also to Edinburgh. They also provide potential to act as routes from parts of Midlothian south of the A720 City Bypass into Edinburgh through:

- a cycle/ footpath link between Dalkeith Country Park and the Newton Farm area through the Cow Tunnel under the A720 City Bypass;
- new buffer woodlands with cycle/ footpath in the Shawfair new community area and Newton Farm area; and
- a link from the Shawfair development to Edinburgh, south of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

This is not an exclusive list, just possible opportunities, and other suggestions to the Council are welcome through the MIR process.

Figure 2: Shawfair – Example Indicative Local Green Network Opportunities

(also provided in Appendix 3 at a larger scale for ease of reading)



Loanhead – Indicative Local Green Network Opportunities

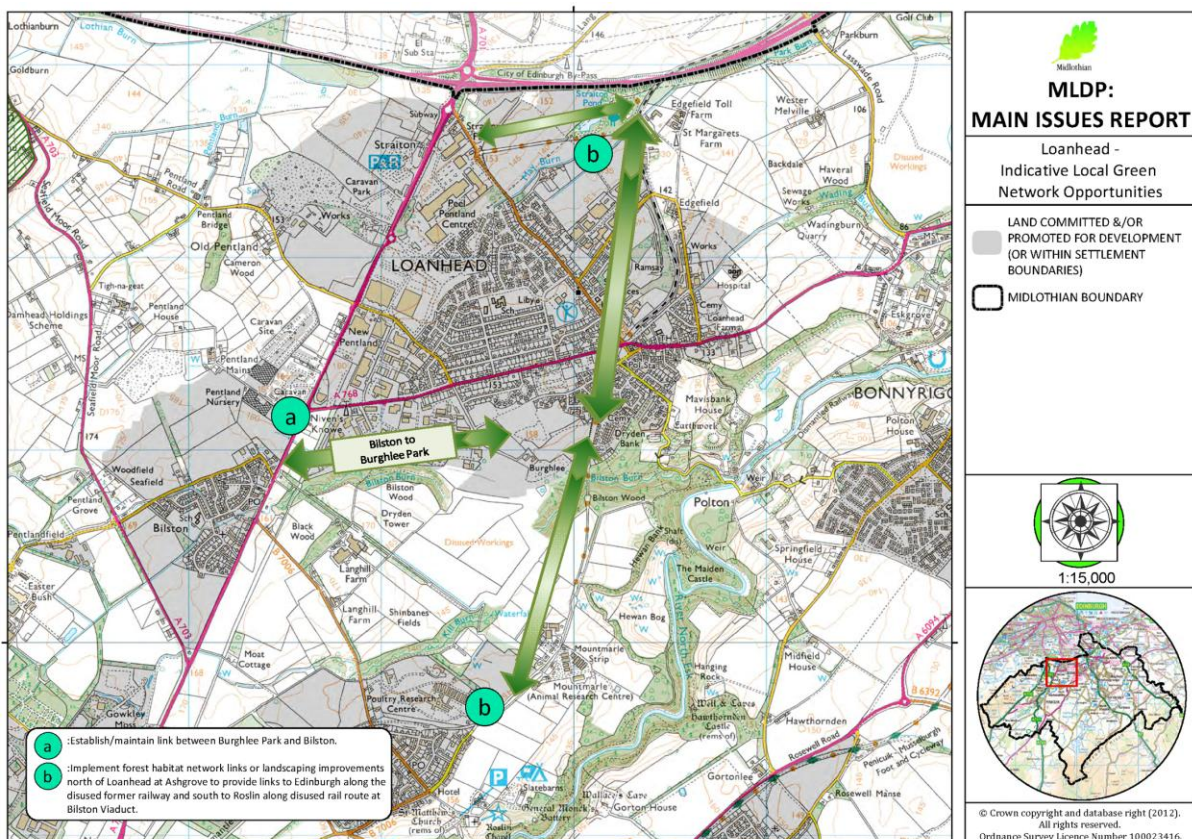
Figure 3 indicatively identifies possible local green networks linking Loanhead with surrounding parts of Midlothian and beyond through

- establishing / maintaining link(s) between Burghlee Park and Bilston;
- implementing forest habitat network links or landscape improvements north of Loanhead at Ashgrove to provide links to Edinburgh along the disused former railway; and
- provide connections south of Loanhead toward Roslin, using disused railway line and Bilston Viaduct.

This is not an exclusive list, just possible opportunities, and other suggestions to the Council are welcome through the MIR process.

Figure 3: Loanhead – Example Indicative Local Green Network Opportunities

(also provided in Appendix 3 at a larger scale for ease of reading)



3.5 Delivering the Midlothian Green Network and Implications for New Development

The delivery of the Midlothian Green Network will be a long-term project unlikely to be delivered in full during the life time of the first MLDP. It is more likely to be delivered over a 20 year period, further evolving and expanding in that time.

As already stated indicative green networks for the MIR for the MLDP are identified in this Technical Note.

3.5.1 Means of Delivery

Maintenance of Existing Uses

Parts of the Midlothian Green Network identified in this Technical Note are already in use as footpaths maintained by the Council or other bodies, including private land owners. For the proposed Green Network to be effective, the parts that already exist and are formally maintained for public access need to be maintained for access.

Identified Projects

The Council has identified a series of individual developments, or interventions, which it considers can help deliver an enhanced Green Network across Midlothian. These projects are identified in Appendix 2. There is currently no fixed timetable or secured funding for the delivery of all of these projects. The definition of a Midlothian Green Network, and an identified number of projects which can help enhance the network, can assist in securing funding from public or private sources should opportunities to do so become available. These are projects that can be put forward in funding bids that set out the need for the projects and the benefit that they have the potential to deliver.

New Development

Realising green network opportunities should not necessarily increase costs for new developments. Green networks focus on path networks and wildlife habitat enhancement and creation. New development provides the potential to create links that feed into the Midlothian Green Network and/ or better connect development with nearby communities and facilities. The green network can be used to:

- help make developments more attractive and desirable places to live and visit, both in terms of attractiveness and their fit in their surroundings;
- encourage economic development and inward investment through helping to create and sustain an attractive environment within which to live, work and visit;
- accommodate open space requirements from a development;
- incorporate path networks to connect the development with open space and other components of the green network, both in the local and wider area;

- increase the ease of access to open space and path networks and help promote active recreation and active travel with the aim of increasing health benefits from this use of the green network;
- accommodate drainage systems, such as Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS), for a development;
- accommodate areas such as Scheduled Ancient Monuments and designated wildlife sites that are to be safeguarded from development;
- help reduce flood risk through: accommodating areas prone to flood risk within the Green Network, use of SUDS, planting on river banks, planting in flood risk areas, re-creating wetlands to reduce and delay water discharge.

This is not an exclusive list but it does reflect the opportunity that the Green Network presents to use land efficiently and use it for a wide range of uses.

It would not be normally expected that a development would contribute to the development of the Midlothian Green Network beyond the area immediately affected by the development.

4 The Green Network Supporting Midlothian Local Development Plan and Council Aims and Objectives

The Vision for the MLDP set out in the MIR is as follows:

The South East of Scotland is an area of economic and population growth.

Midlothian will play its part in the growth of the region. It will be a place attractive to new residents and one where existing communities will benefit from new jobs and facilities. It will continue to have a close relationship with the capital city for employment and services, supported by continued improvements to transport provision.

Midlothian will be a place of vibrant self-contained communities. Midlothian's natural and built environment will provide inspiration to its communities and visitors alike. Midlothian's communities will retain their sense of place. New development will be of high quality urban design which recognises the importance of Midlothian's heritage, but does not preclude innovation in the right place.

The challenges faced in delivering the scale of growth required in Midlothian are acknowledged. Wherever possible, locations for new housing will be close to good community facilities, shops and employment opportunities, with efficient and high quality public transport connections. If facilities and transport are limited, these will need to be addressed. People already living or working here will benefit as much as possible from this growth, through new affordable homes, enhanced job prospects, improved facilities and the development of green networks with opportunities for leisure and recreation.

The Midlothian Green Network is specifically referred to in the vision for the MLDP. This Technical Note considers that the delivery of the Green Network concept can help deliver this vision. The potential roles of the Green Network have already been outlined in section 3.3 of this Technical Note as:

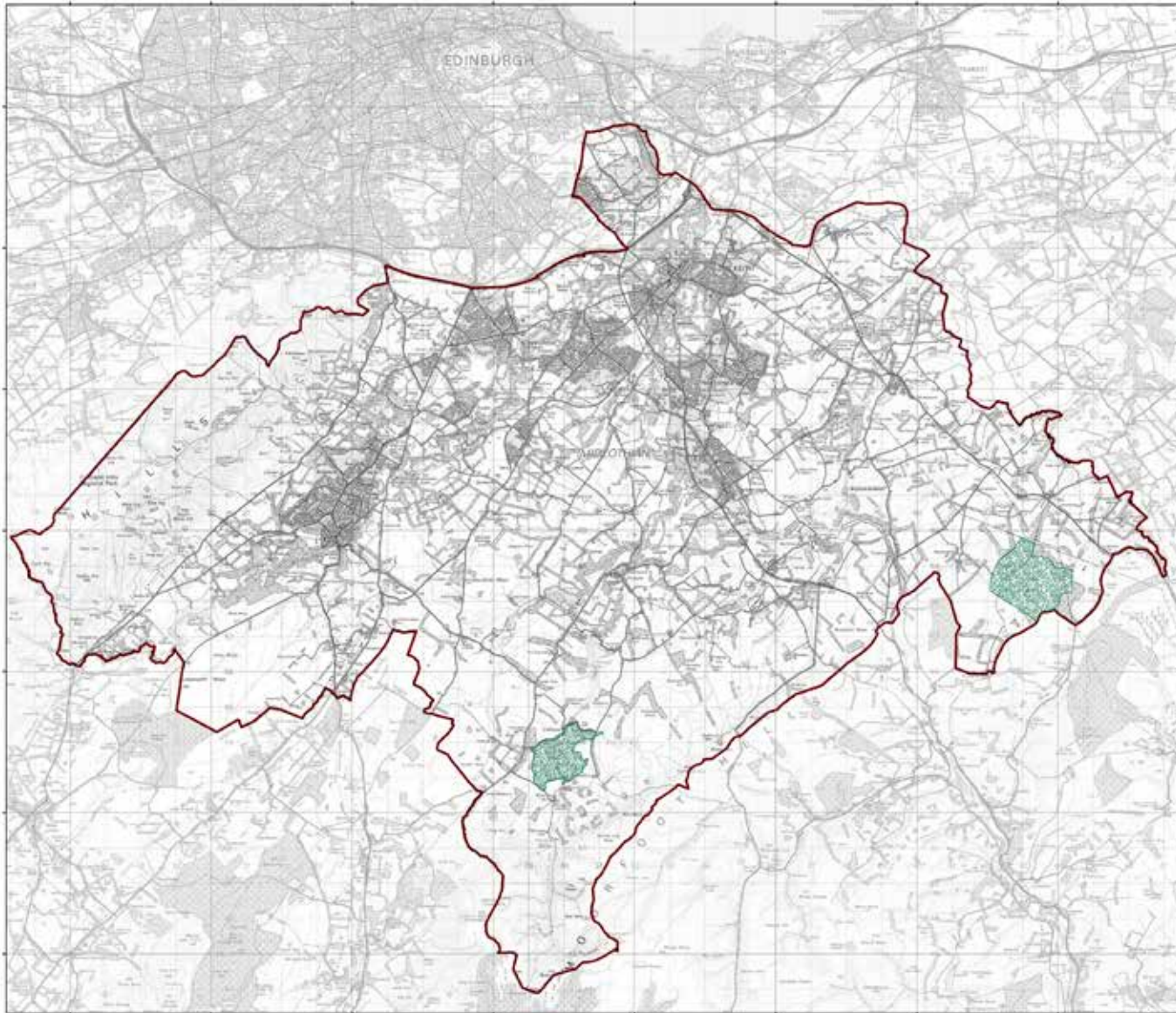
- providing access to recreation (e.g. open space and path networks) and active travel routes* for communities (*generally travel by walking or cycling);
- improve the environment and attractiveness of areas;
- maintain and enhance woodland cover, wildlife habitat, and designated nature conservation sites;
- provide access to countryside areas; and
- help reduce flood risk – this may be achievable through influencing the location of development and SUDS; increased tree/ vegetation planting on river banks; tree/ vegetation planting in flood risk areas; recreating wetlands to reduce and delay water discharge.

It is considered that the principles that underpin green networks, when implemented, fully support the breadth of the Council's current Corporate Priorities, and also the emerging Single Midlothian Plan.

Appendix 1:

Information sources used to help identify Green Network Opportunities in Midlothian

This Appendix contains a series of 21 plans showing the extent and location of different policy designations (e.g. landscape, nature conservation, cultural heritage, committed development, cycle routes, core paths etc.) which helped identify Green Network opportunities in Midlothian. There are two plans (20 and 21) at the end of this Appendix which show all of these plans combined.



MIDLOTHIAN GREEN NETWORK COMPONENTS

Environmental Designations

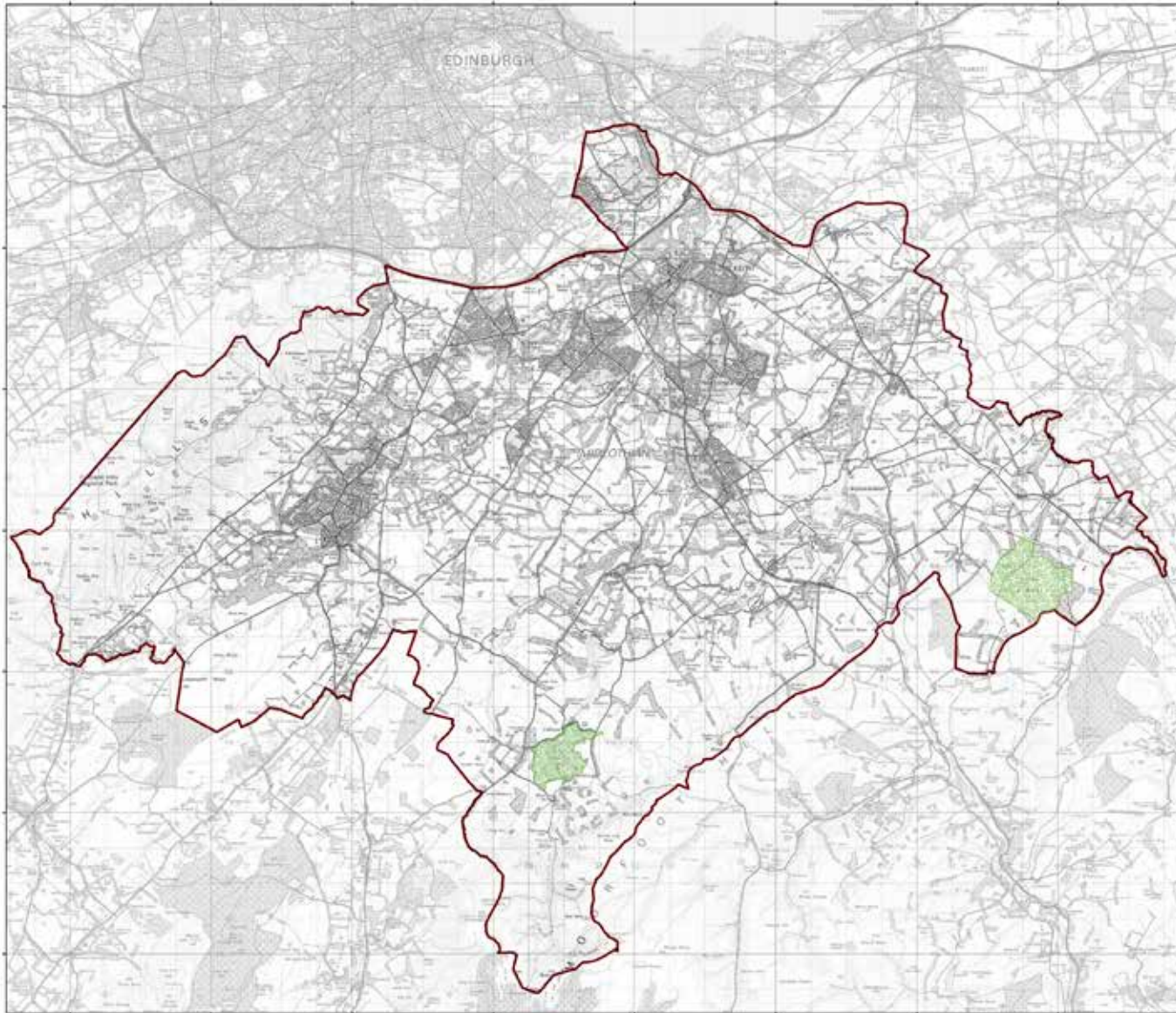
-  Ramsar Site
-  Midlothian



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MIDLOTHIAN GREEN NETWORK COMPONENTS

Environmental Designations

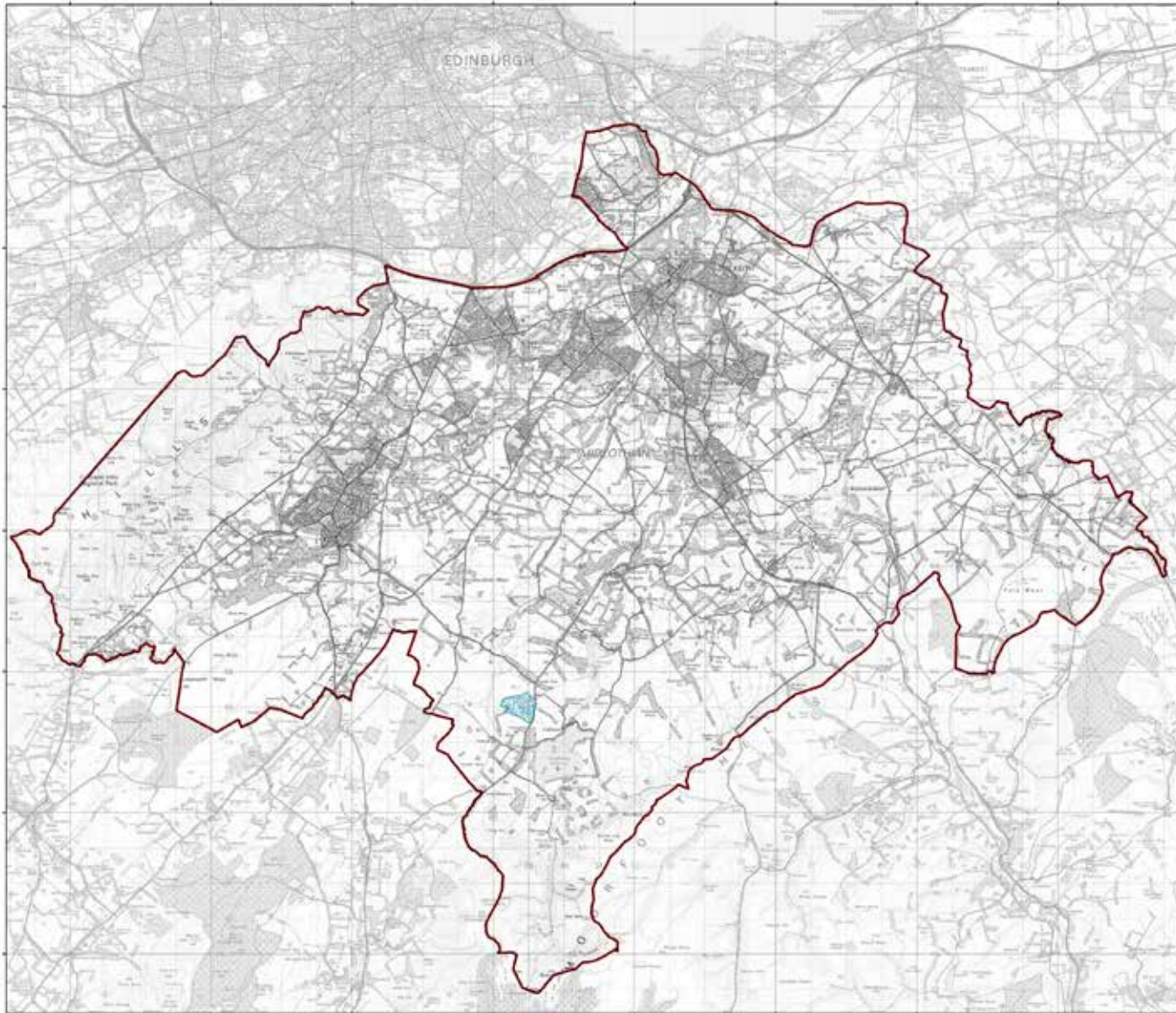
-  Special Protection Area
-  Midlothian



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MIDLOTHIAN GREEN NETWORK COMPONENTS

Environmental Designations

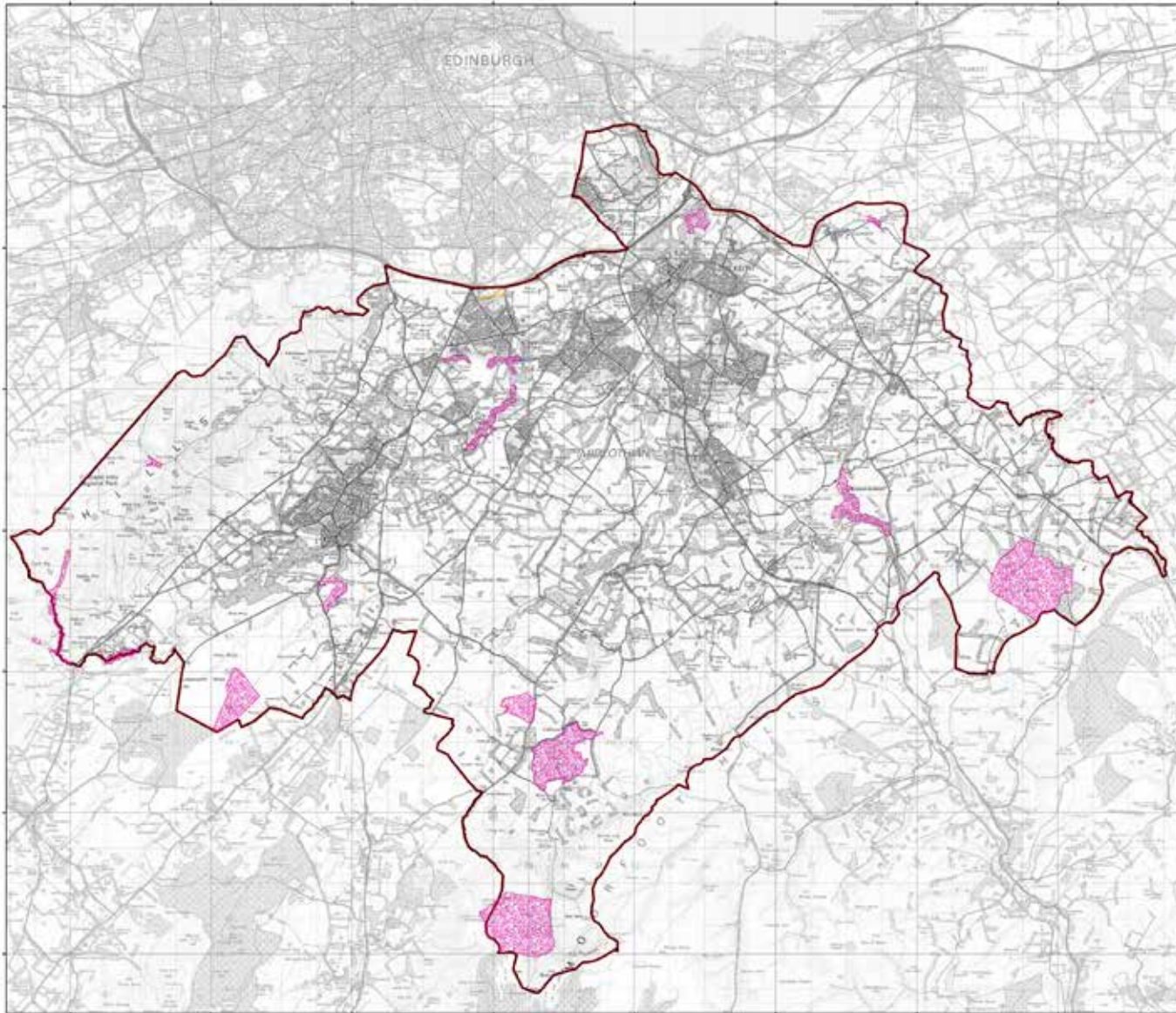
-  Special Area of Conservation
-  Midlothian



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Midlothian

MIDLOTHIAN GREEN NETWORK COMPONENTS

Environmental Designations

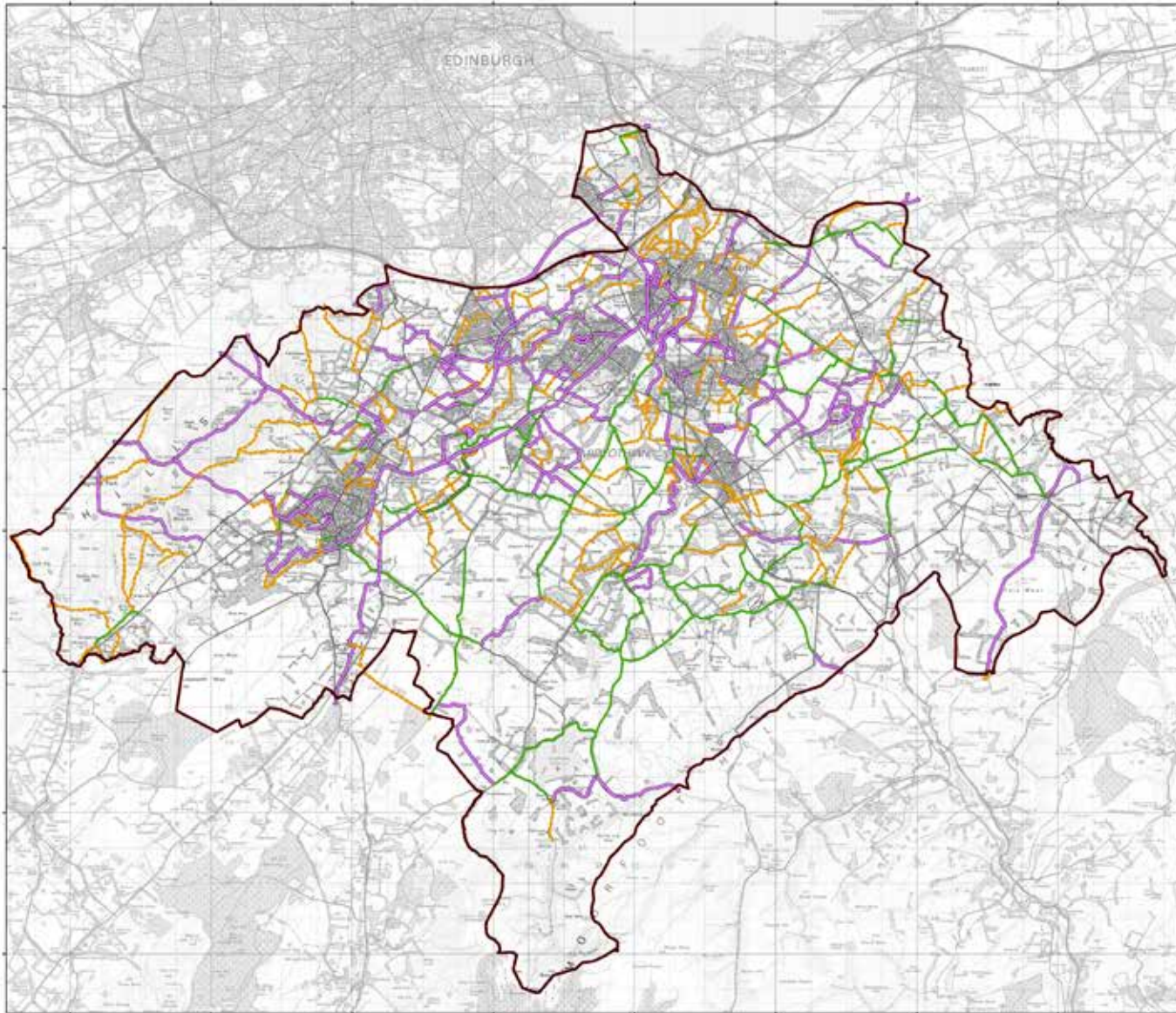
-  Site of Special Scientific Importance
-  Local Nature Reserve
-  Midlothian



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MIDLOTHIAN GREEN NETWORK COMPONENTS

Core Paths

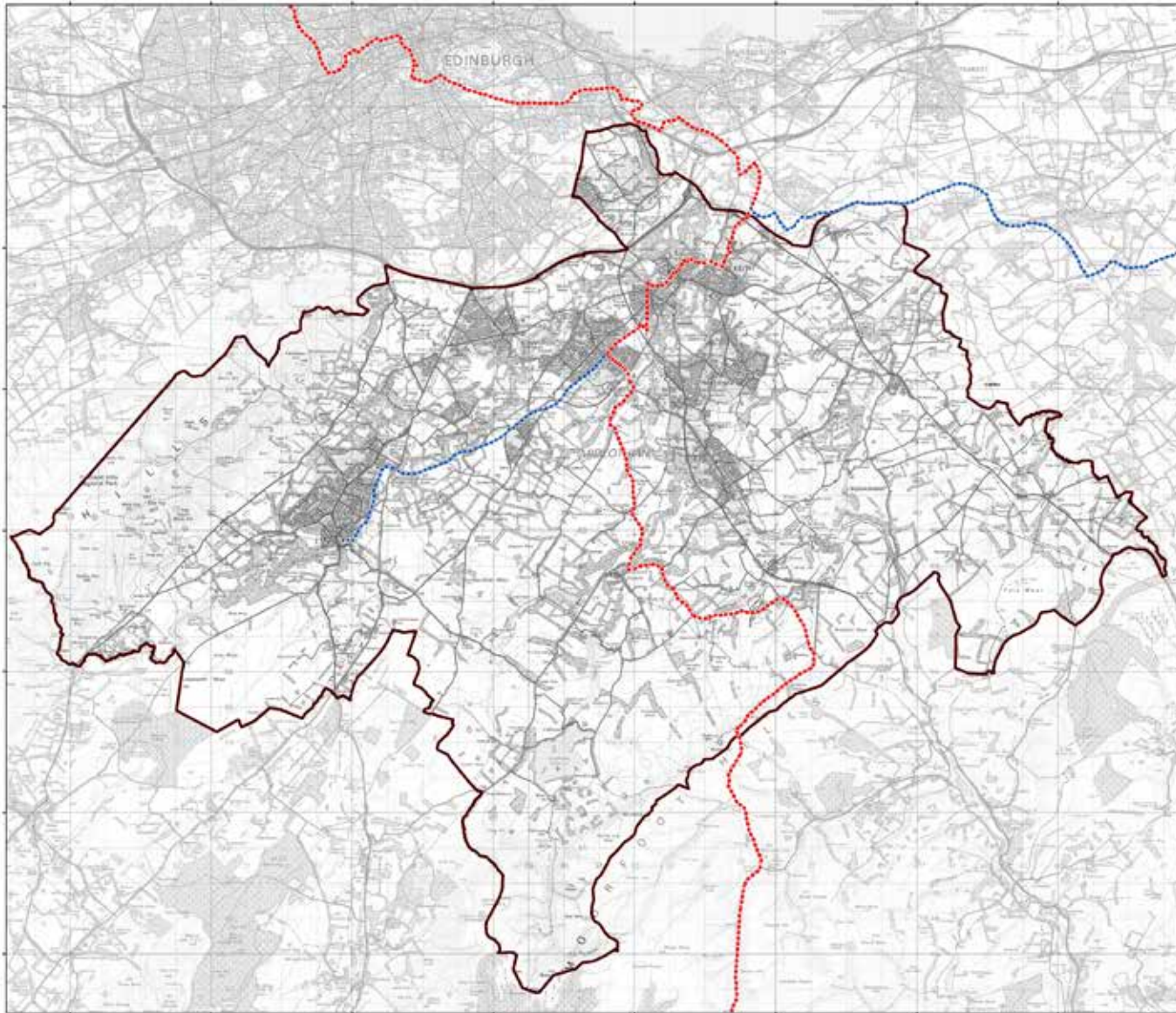
-  Core Path
-  Other Path
-  Road Link
-  Midlothian



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MIDLOTHIAN GREEN NETWORK COMPONENTS

National Cycle Routes

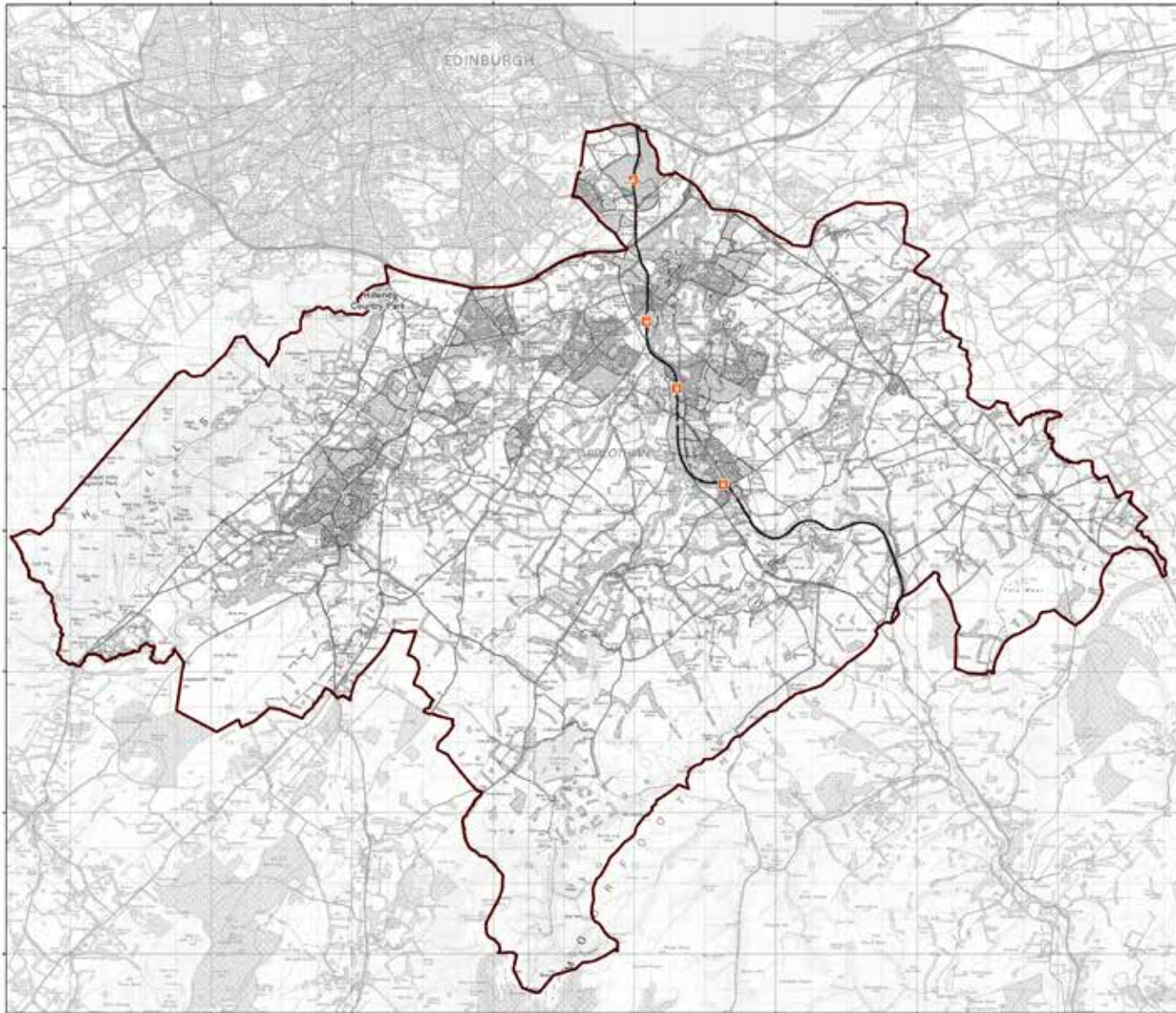
- National Cycle Network Route No.1
- National Cycle Network Route No.196
- Midlothian



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MIDLOTHIAN GREEN NETWORK COMPONENTS

Committed Development

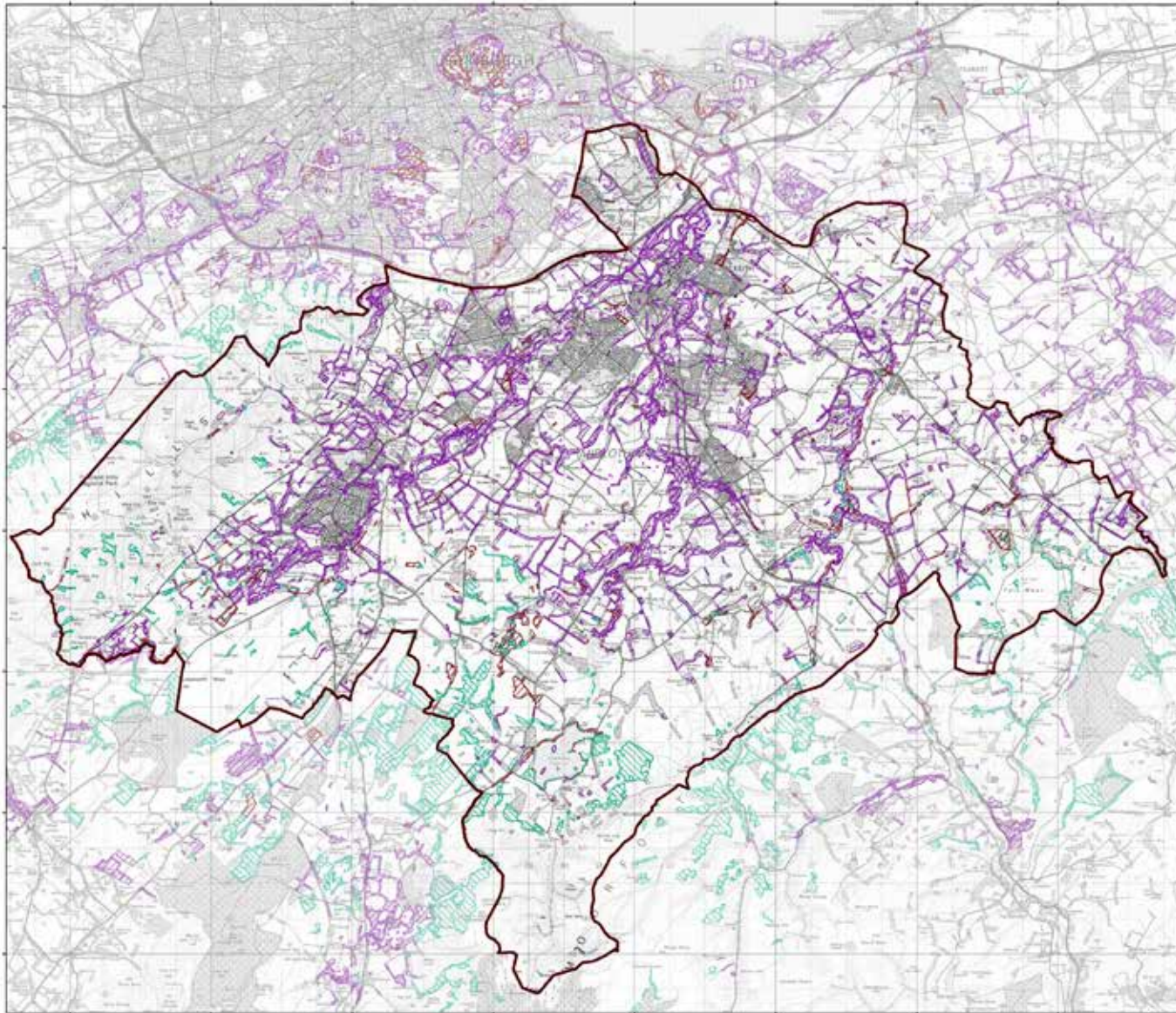
-  Borders Rail Stations
-  Route of Borders Rail Line
-  Committed Development Site
-  Midlothian



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Midlothian

MIDLOTHIAN GREEN NETWORK COMPONENTS

Integrated Habitat Network

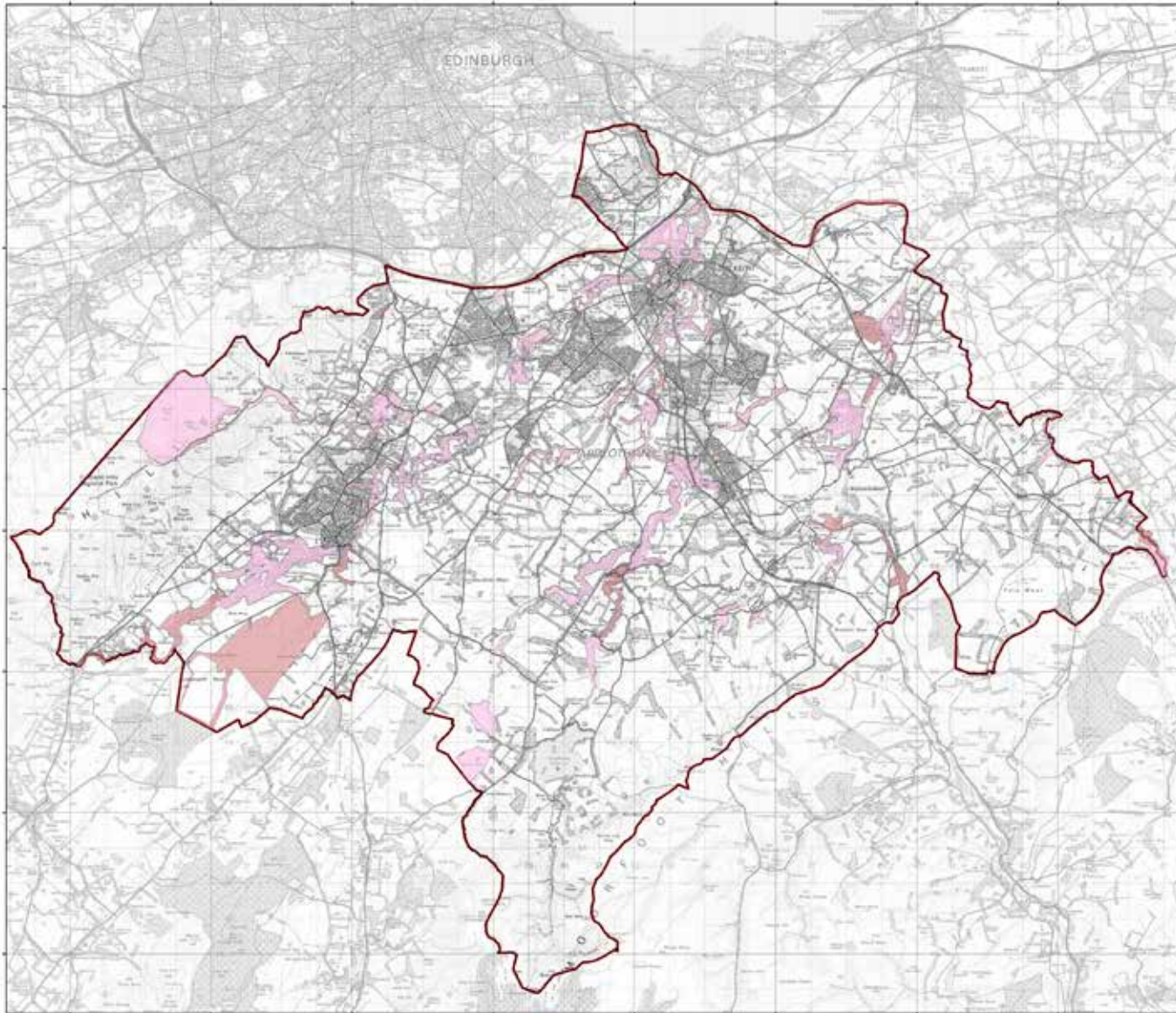
-  Fen-Marsh-Swamp
 -  Neutral Grassland
 -  Broadleaved & Yew
 -  Midlothian
- } Habitat Type



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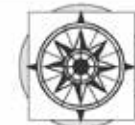


Midlothian

MIDLOTHIAN GREEN NETWORK COMPONENTS

Environmental Designations

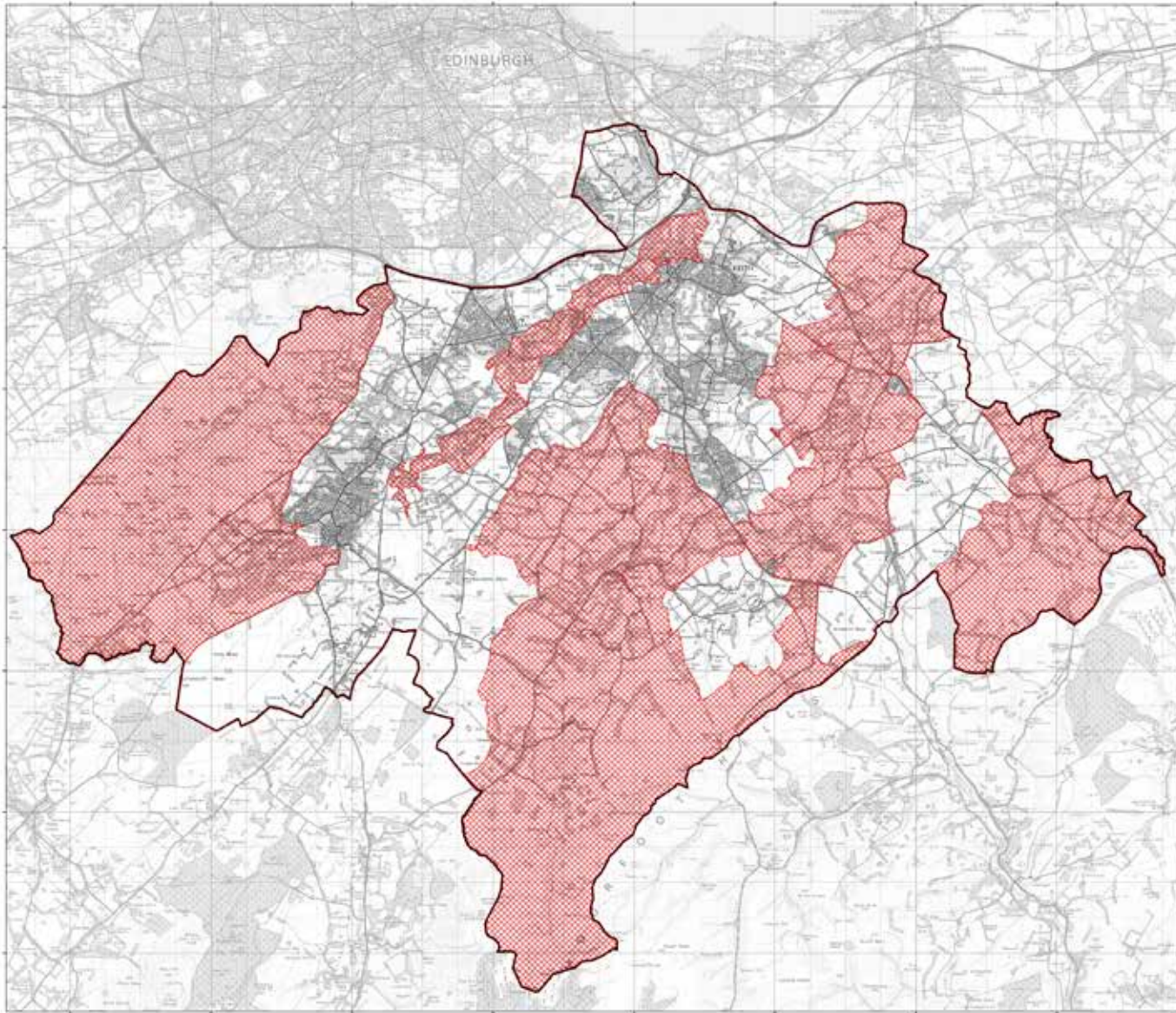
-  Local Biodiversity Site
-  Proposed Local Biodiversity Site
-  Midlothian



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MIDLOTHIAN GREEN NETWORK COMPONENTS

Areas of Great
Landscape Value

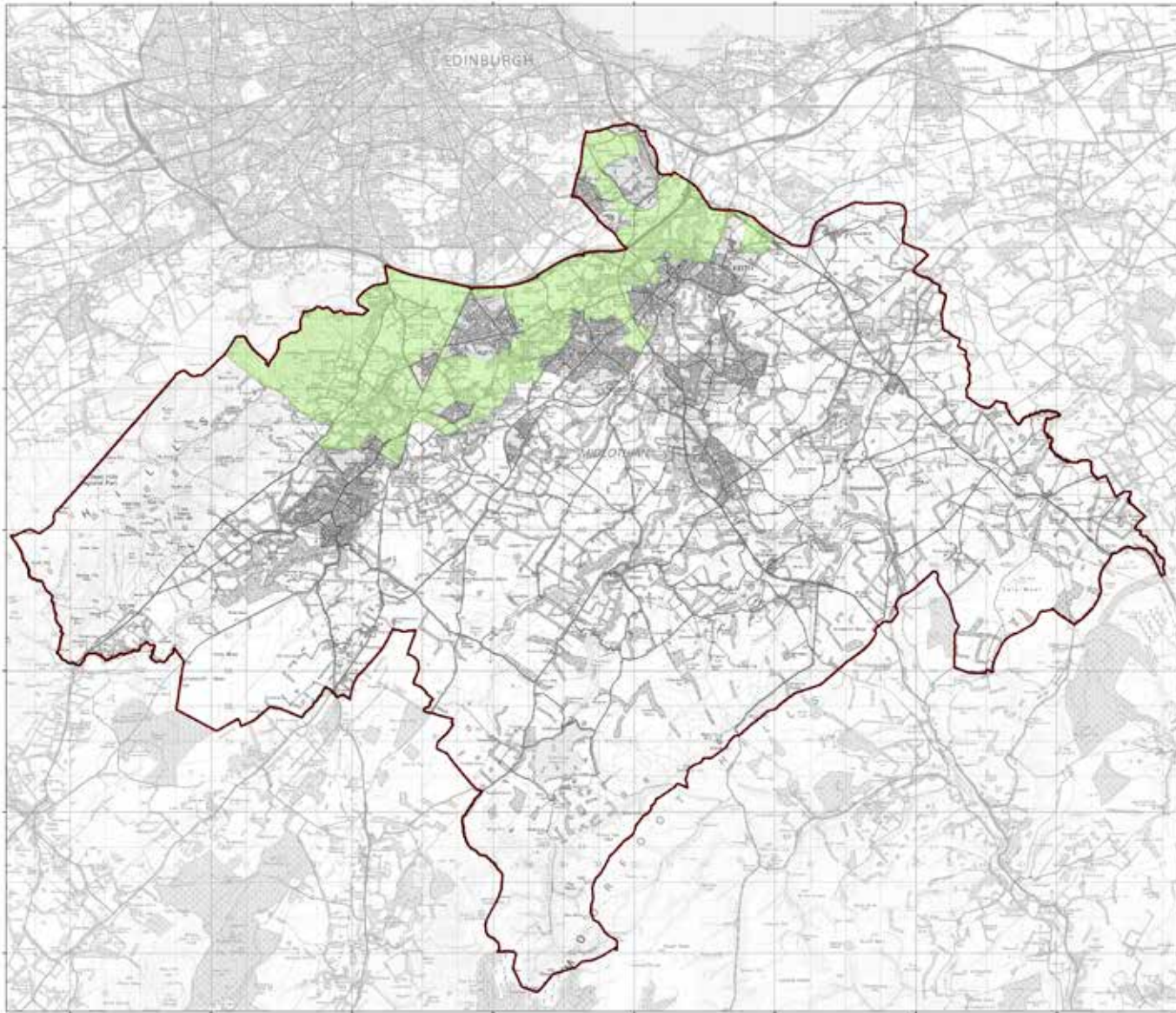
-  AGLVs
-  Midlothian



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MIDLOTHIAN GREEN NETWORK COMPONENTS

Green Belt

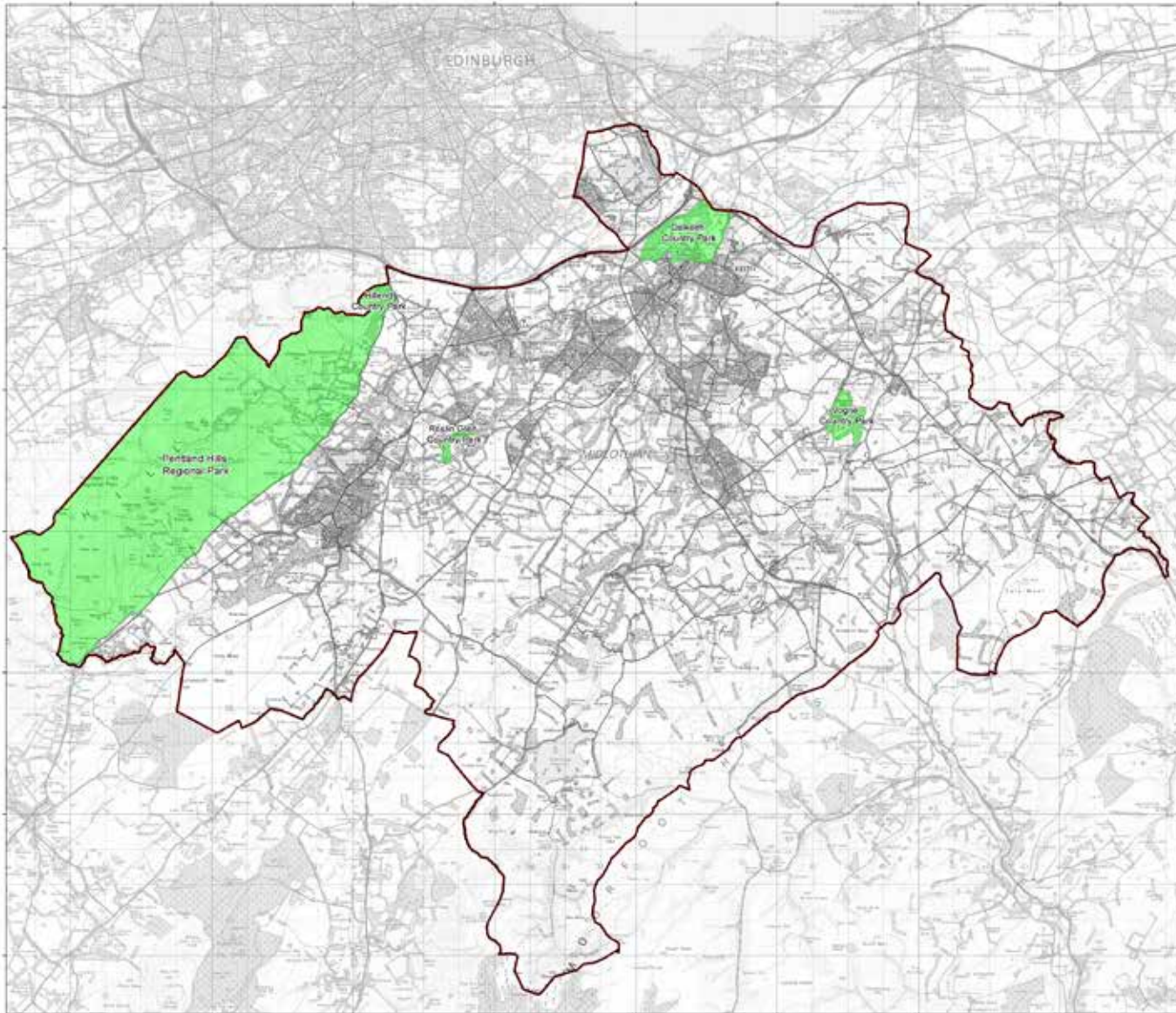
-  Green Belt (as designated in Midlothian Local Plan 2008)
-  Midlothian



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**MIDLOTHIAN
GREEN NETWORK
COMPONENTS**

Regional & Country Parks

- Regional and Country Parks
- Midlothian

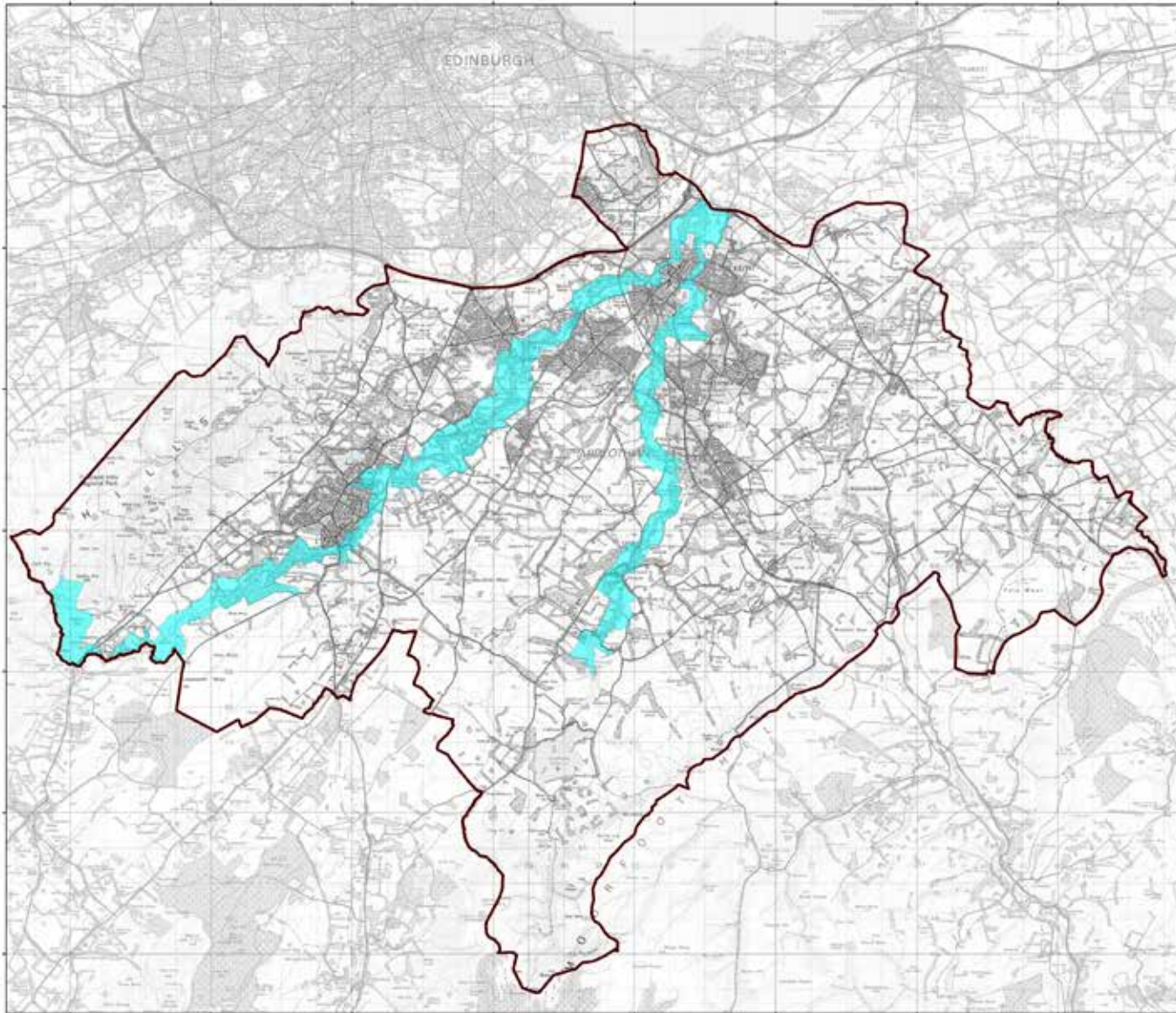
Note: Dalkeith & Roslin Glen are not recognised as official Country Parks. Dalkeith Country Park is in private ownership.



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Midlothian

MIDLOTHIAN GREEN NETWORK COMPONENTS

Protection of River Valleys

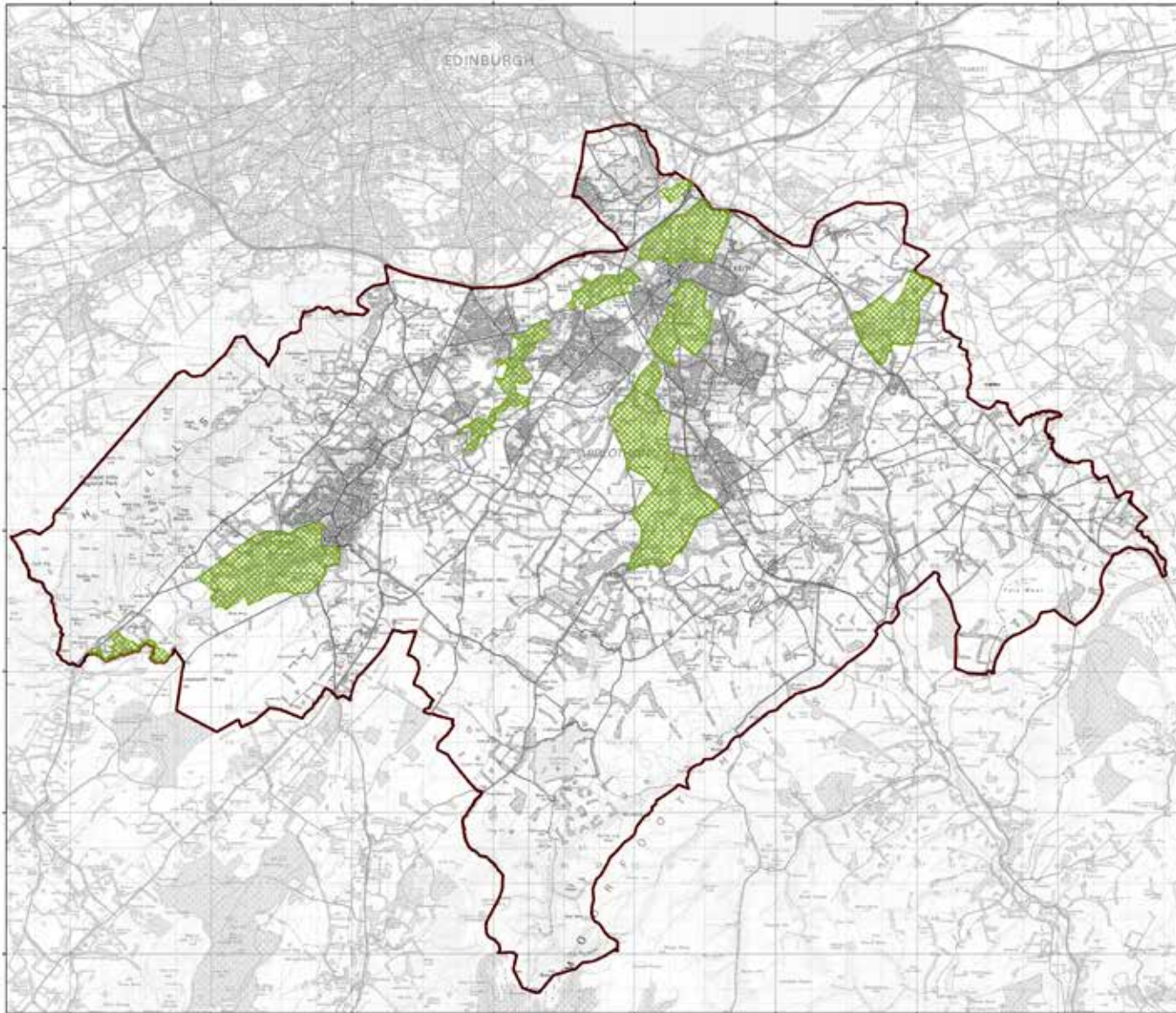
-  Protection of River Valleys
-  Midlothian



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MIDLOTHIAN GREEN NETWORK COMPONENTS

Nationally Important Gardens
and Designed Landscapes

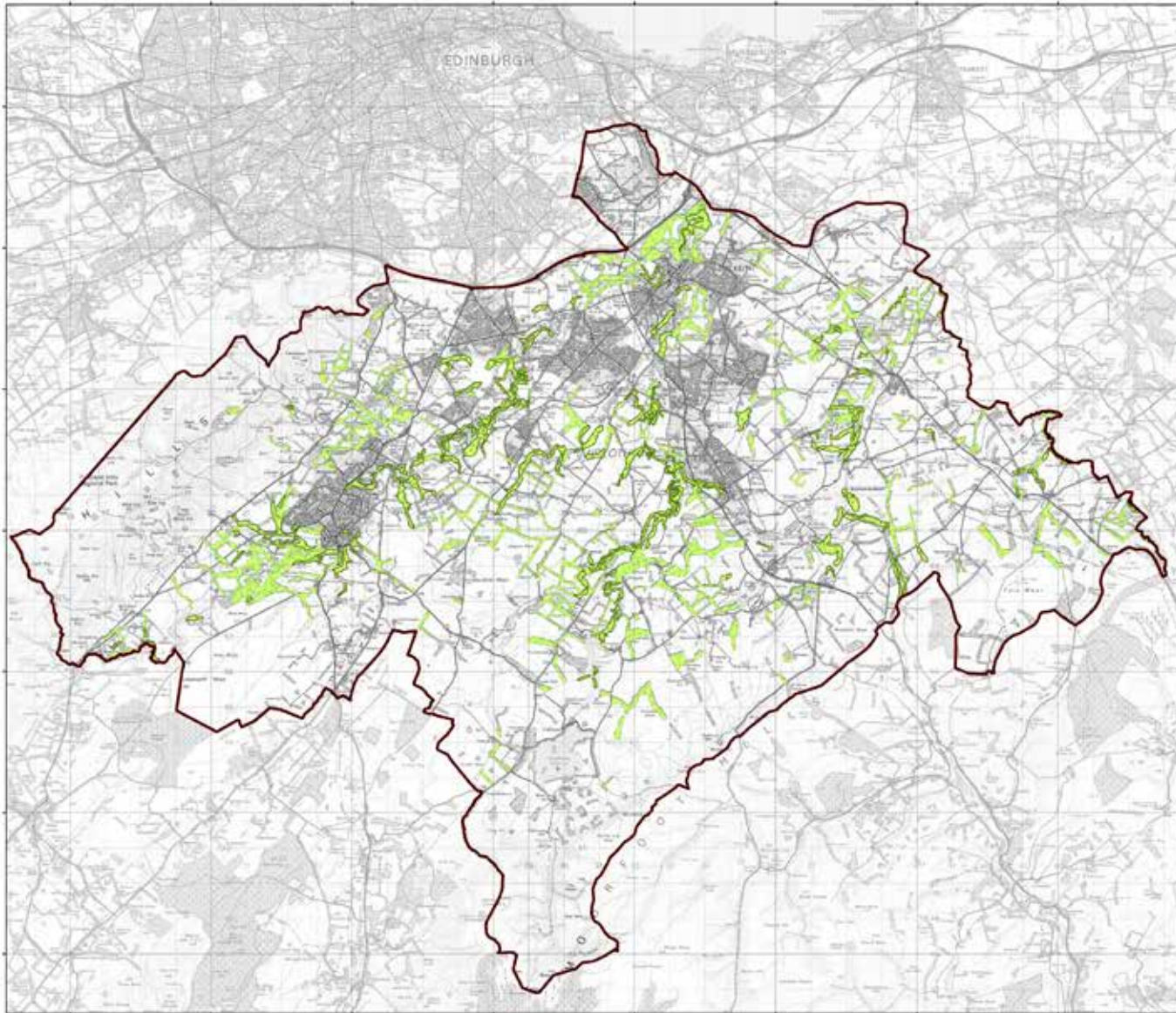
-  Nationally Important Gardens & Designed Landscapes
-  Midlothian



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MIDLOTHIAN GREEN NETWORK COMPONENTS

Ancient Woodland Inventory

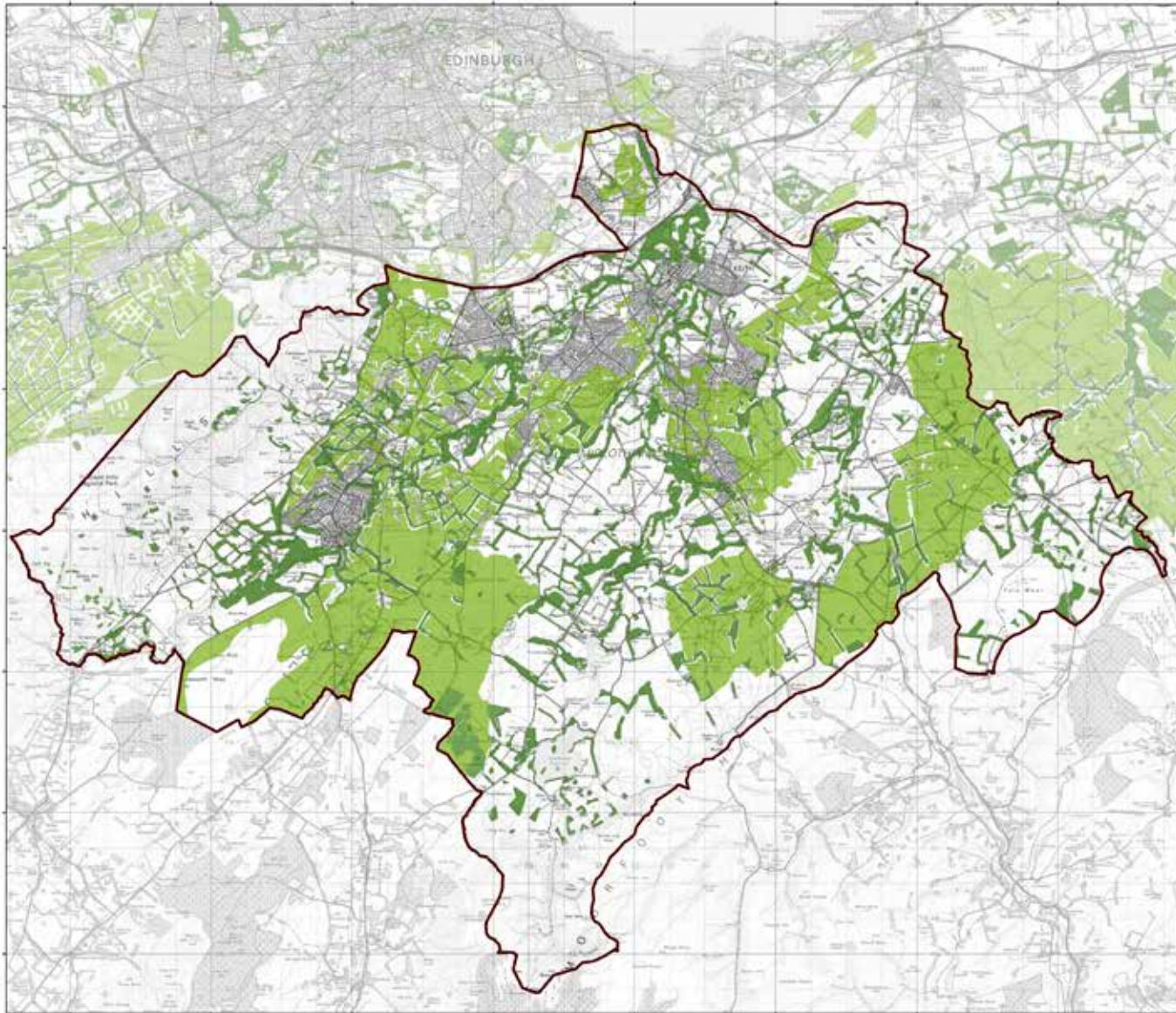
-  Semi Natural Ancient Woodland Inventory
-  Ancient Woodland Inventory
-  Midlothian



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MIDLOTHIAN GREEN NETWORK COMPONENTS

Edinburgh & Lothians
Forest & Woodlands Strategy

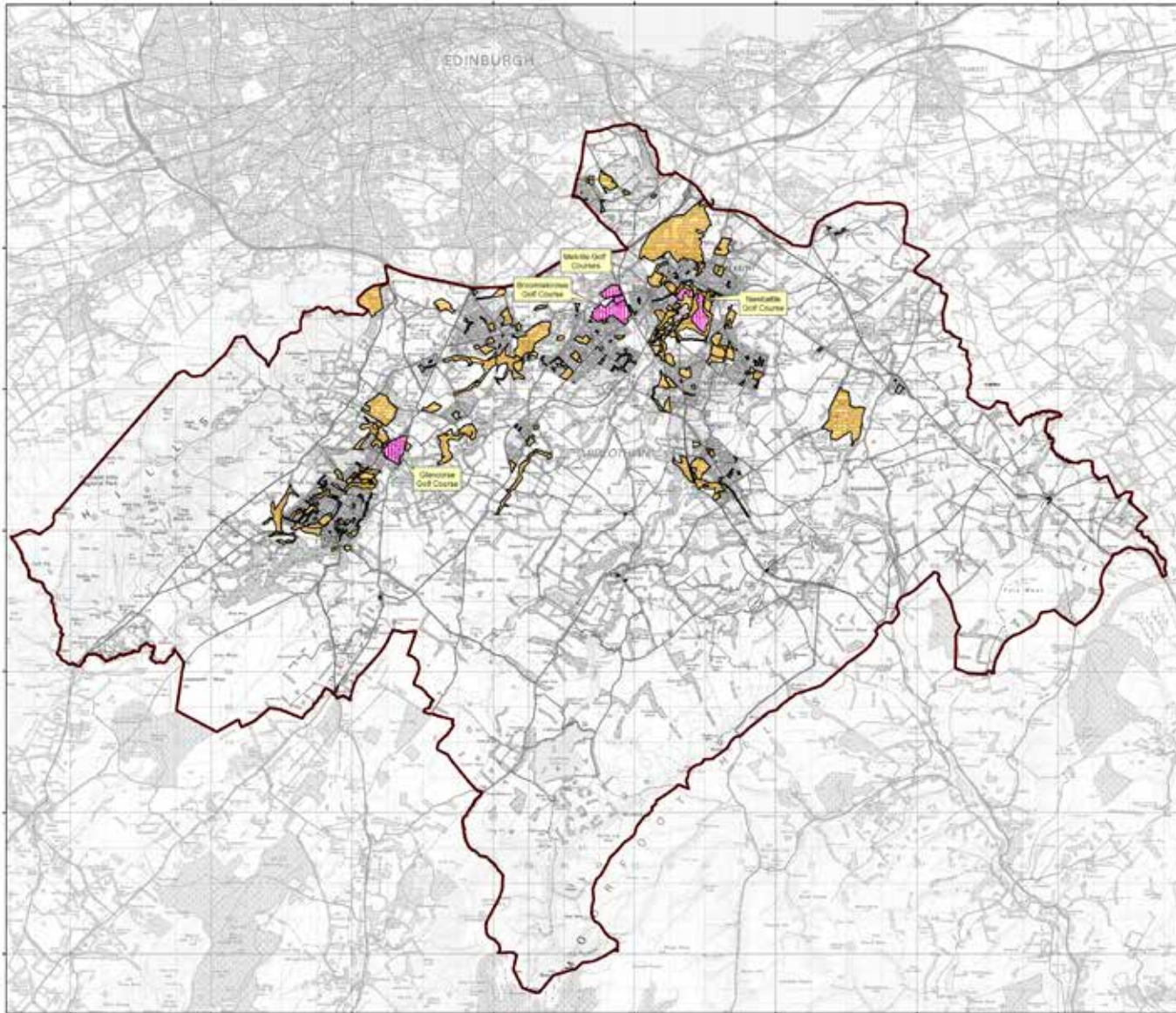
-  Existing Woodlands
 -  Preferred Woodlands
 -  Midlothian
- } as identified in the strategy



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MIDLOTHIAN GREEN NETWORK COMPONENTS

Sites Assessed in
Open Space Audit

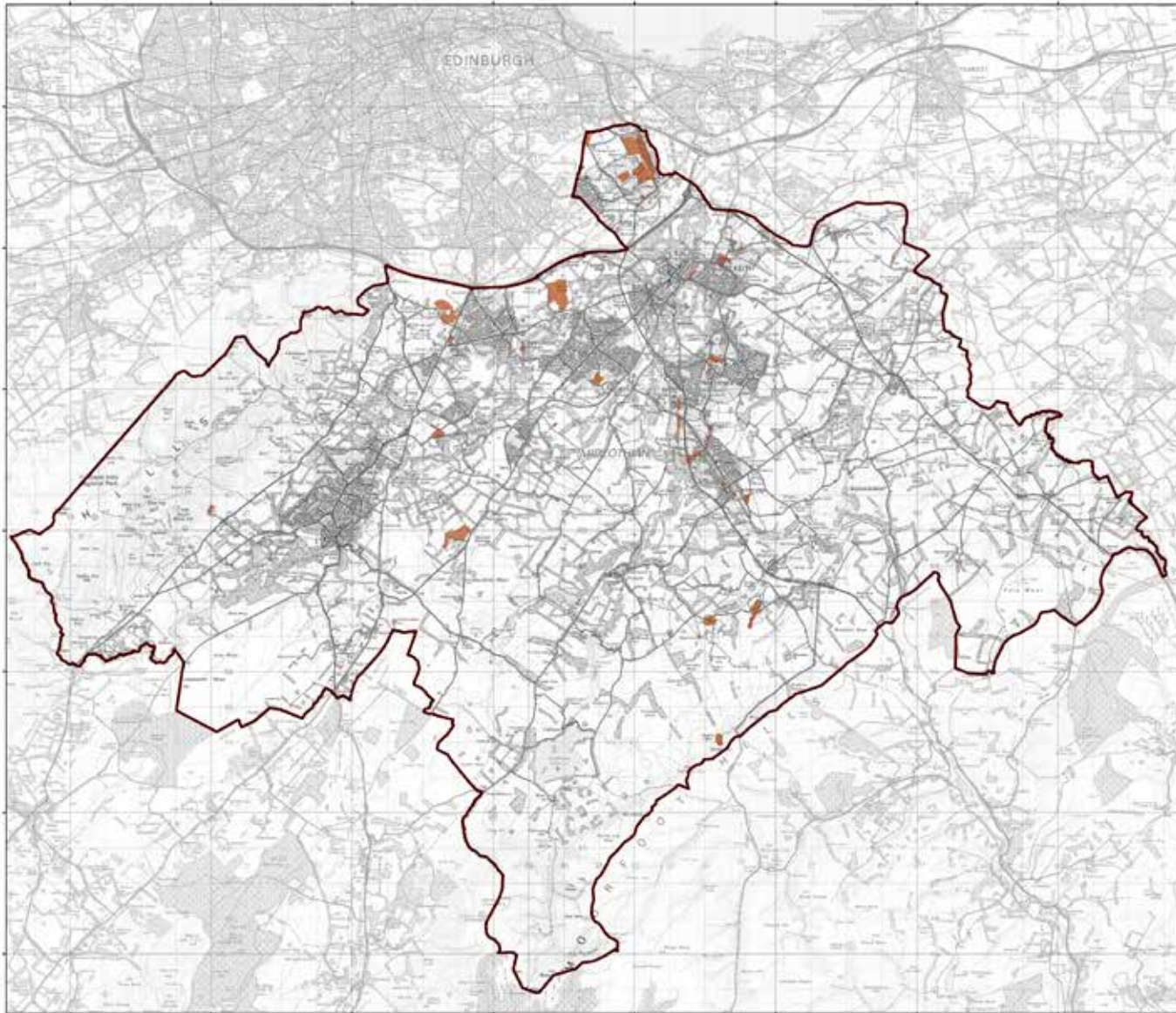
-  Site Assessed in Open Space Audit
-  Golf Course in Open Space Audit
-  Midlothian



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MIDLOTHIAN GREEN NETWORK COMPONENTS

Vacant & Derelict Land

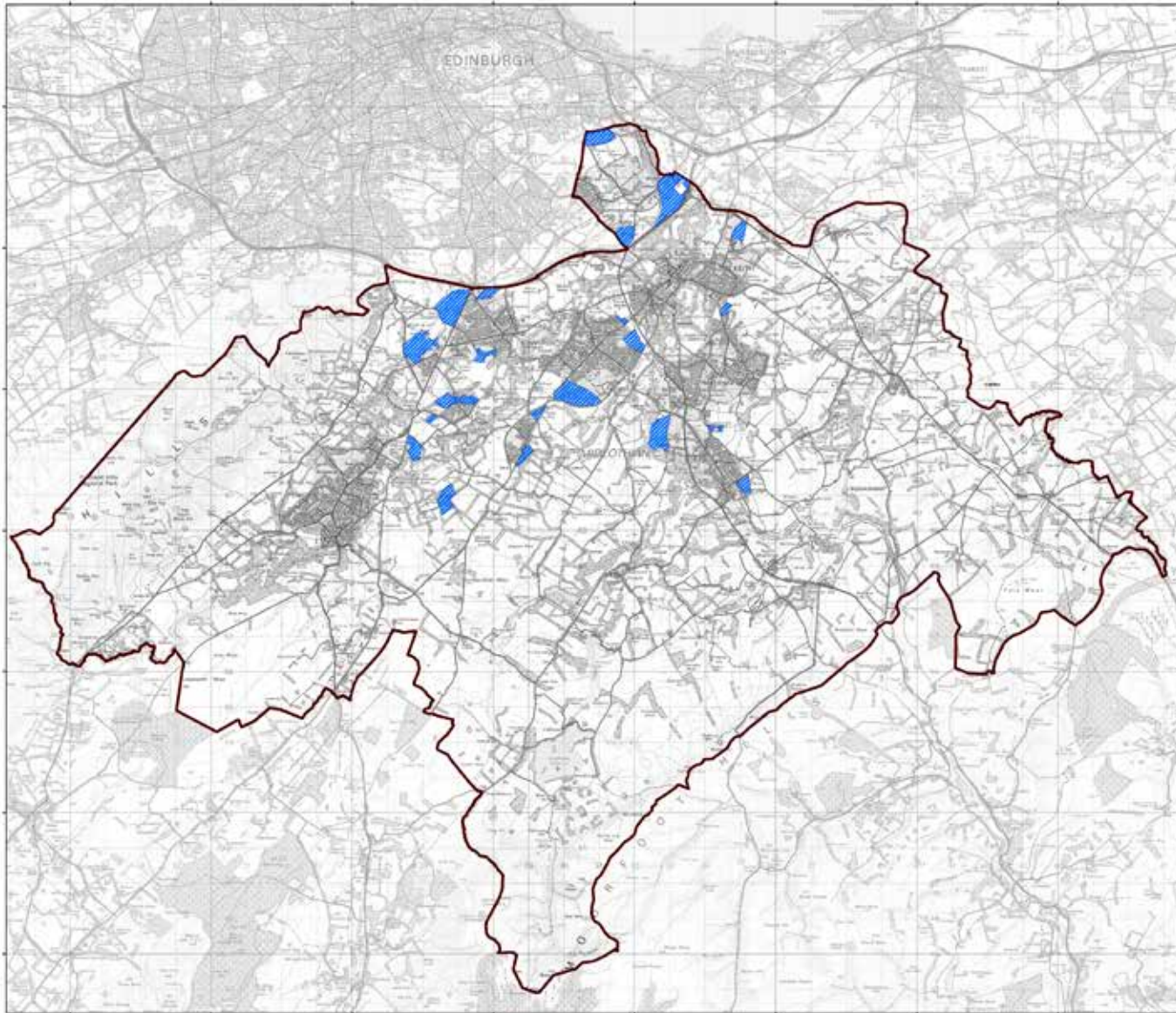
-  Vacant & Derelict Land
-  Midlothian



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MIDLOTHIAN GREEN NETWORK COMPONENTS

MLDP:
Proposed Development Sites

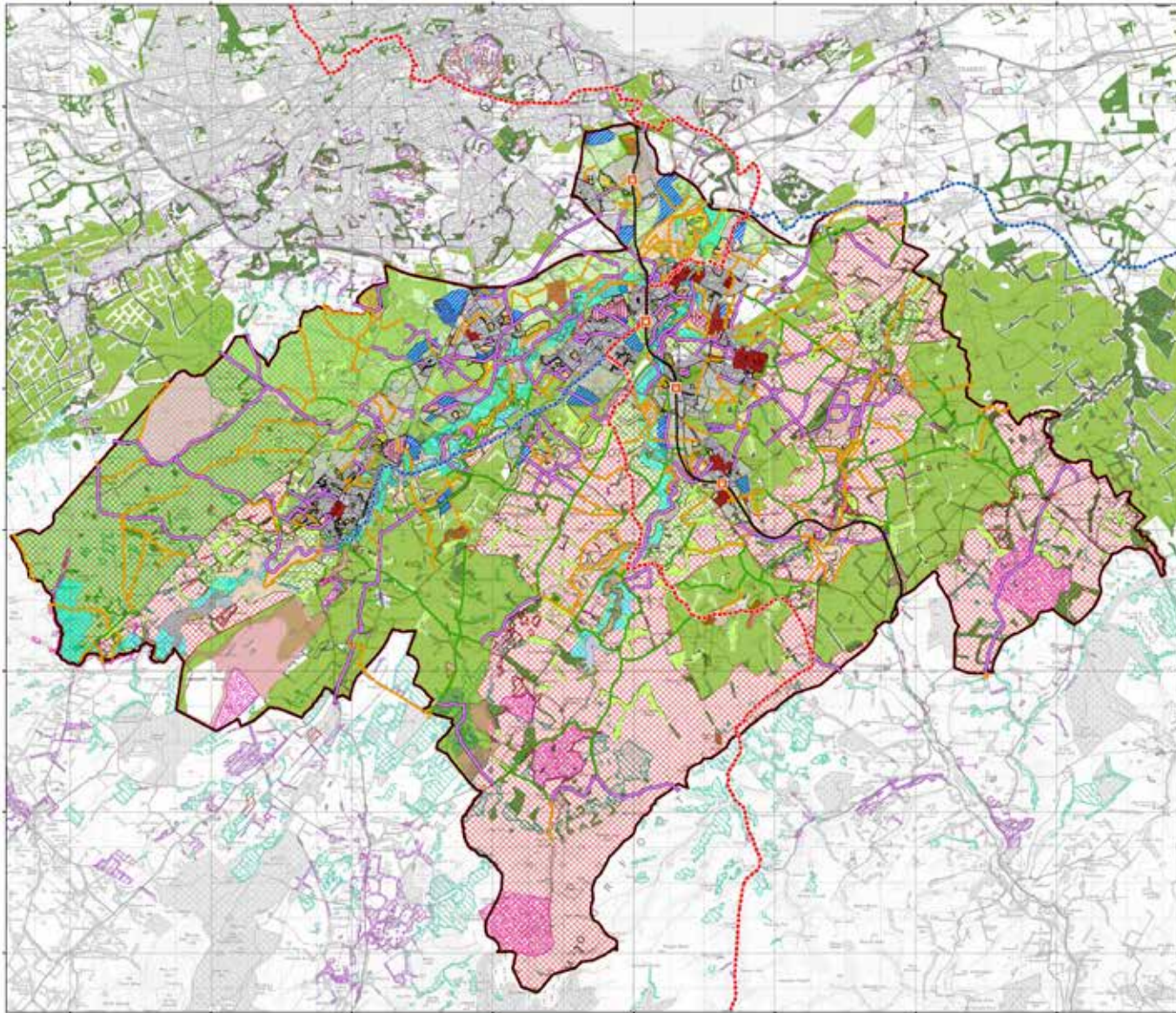
-  MLDP: Preferred & Reasonable Alternative Sites
-  Midlothian



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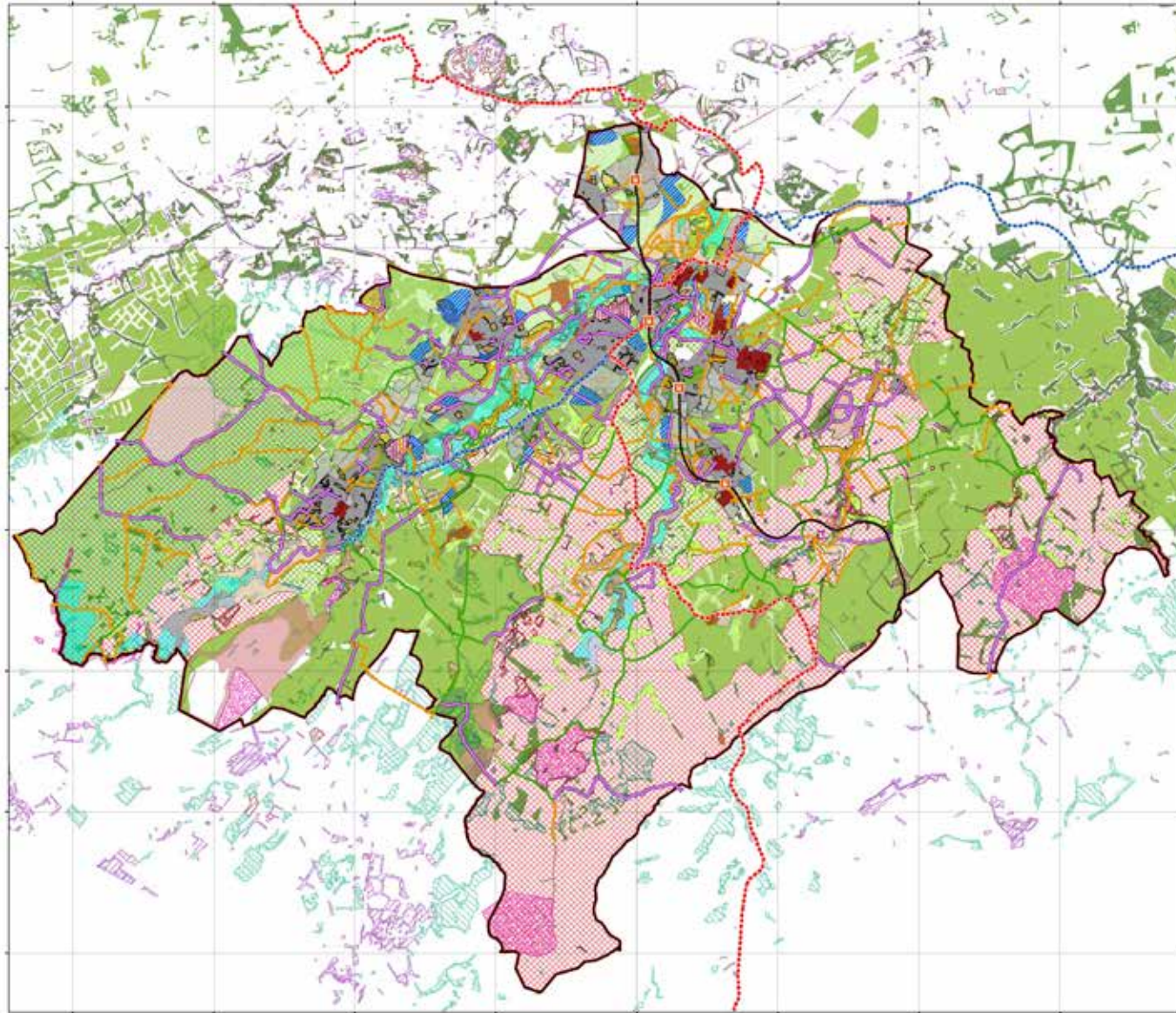
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**MIDLOTHIAN
GREEN NETWORK
COMPONENTS**

- Borders Rail Stations
- Route of Borders Rail Line
- Core Path
- Other Path
- Road Link
- National Cycle Network Route No.1
- National Cycle Network Route No.196
- Most Deprived Data Zones
- MILD: Preferred & Reasonable Alternative Sites
- Protection of River Valleys
- Nationally Important Gardens & Designed Landscapes
- Green Belt
- Existing Woodlands
- Preferred Woodlands
- Fen-Marsh-Swamp
- Neutral Grassland
- Broadleaved & New
- Semi Natural Ancient Woodland Inventory
- Ancient Woodland Inventory
- AGLV
- Regional & Country Parks
- Vacant & Derelict Land
- Site Assessed in Open Space Audit
- Golf Course in Open Space Audit
- Committed Development Site
- Special Protection Area
- Special Area of Conservation
- Site of Special Scientific Importance
- Ramar Site
- Local Nature Reserve
- Local Biodiversity Site
- Proposed Local Biodiversity Site
- Midlothian

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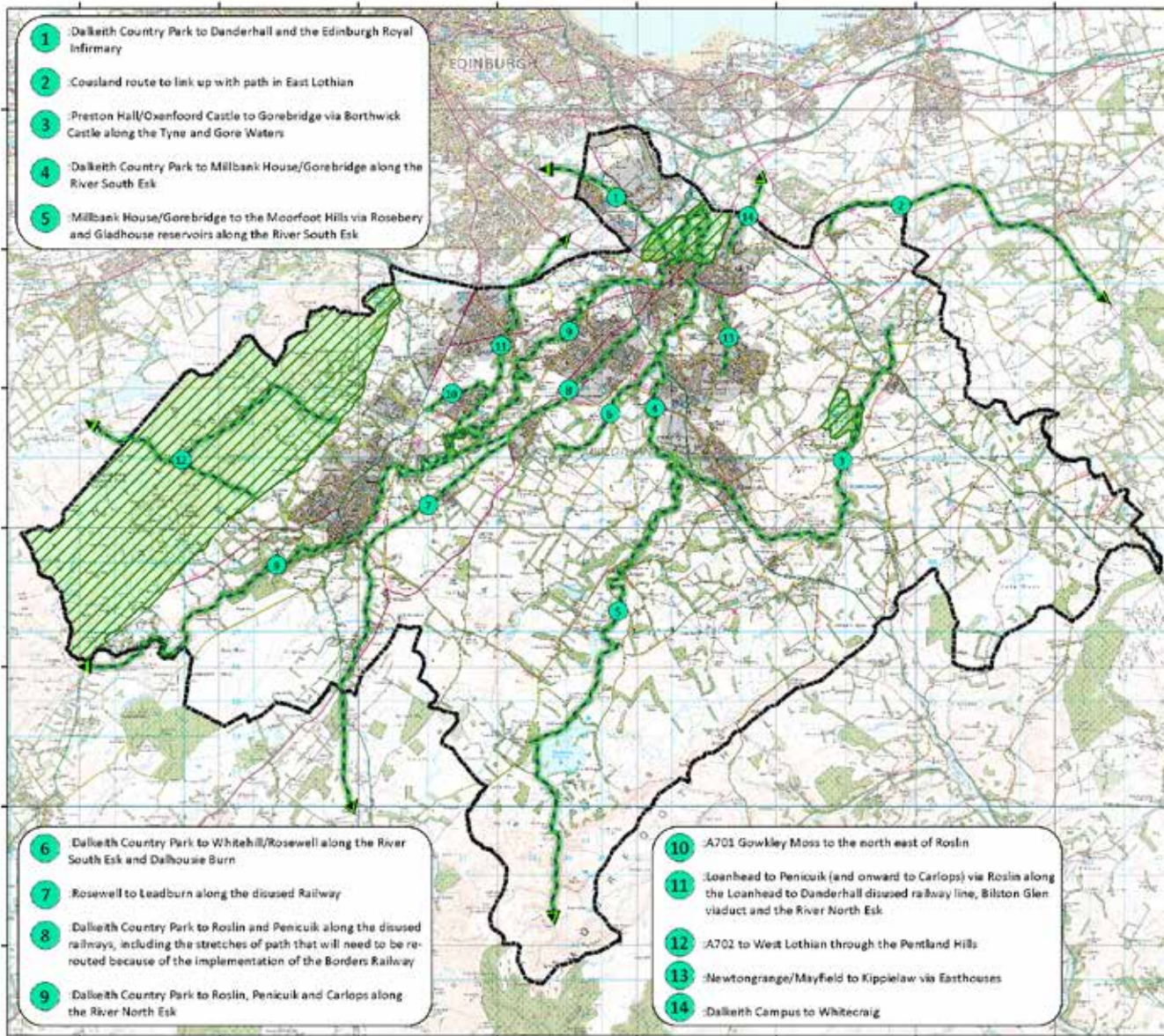

MIDLOTHIAN
GREEN NETWORK
COMPONENTS

- Borders Rail Stations
- Route of Borders Rail Line
- Core Path
- Other Path
- Road Link
- - - - National Cycle Network Route No.1
- - - - National Cycle Network Route No.196
- Most Deprived Data Zones
- MLDP: Preferred & Reasonable Alternative Sites
- Protection of River Valleys
- Nationally Important Gardens & Designed Landscapes
- Green Belt
- Existing Woodlands } as identified in the E2 & Lothians F&W strategy
- Preferred Woodlands }
- Fen-Marsh-Swamp } Habitat Type
- Neutral Grassland }
- Broadleaved & New }
- Semi Natural Ancient Woodland Inventory
- Ancient Woodland Inventory
- AGLV
- Regional & Country Parks
- Vacant & Derelict Land
- Site Assessed in Open Space Audit
- Golf Course in Open Space Audit
- Committed Development Site
- Special Protection Area
- Special Area of Conservation
- Site of Special Scientific Importance
- Ramsar Site
- Local Nature Reserve
- Local Biodiversity Site
- Proposed Local Biodiversity Site
- Midlothian

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Appendix 2:

Indicative Strategic Green Network Opportunities in Midlothian



- 1 :Dalkeith Country Park to Danderhall and the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary
- 2 :Cowsland route to link up with path in East Lothian
- 3 :Preston Hall/Oxenfoord Castle to Gorebridge via Borthwick Castle along the Tyne and Gore Waters
- 4 :Dalkeith Country Park to Millbank House/Gorebridge along the River South Esk
- 5 :Millbank House/Gorebridge to the Moorfoot Hills via Rosebery and Gladhouse reservoirs along the River South Esk

- 6 :Dalkeith Country Park to Whitehill/Rosewell along the River South Esk and Dalhousie Burn
- 7 :Rosewell to Leadburn along the disused Railway
- 8 :Dalkeith Country Park to Roslin and Penicuik along the disused railways, including the stretches of path that will need to be re-routed because of the implementation of the Borders Railway
- 9 :Dalkeith Country Park to Roslin, Penicuik and Carlops along the River North Esk

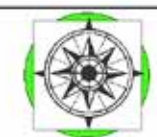
- 10 :A701 Gowkley Moss to the north east of Roslin
- 11 :Loanhead to Penicuik (and onward to Carlops) via Roslin along the Loanhead to Danderhall disused railway line, Bilston Glen viaduct and the River North Esk
- 12 :A702 to West Lothian through the Pentland Hills
- 13 :Newtongrange/Mayfield to Kippelaw via Easthouses
- 14 :Dalkeith Campus to Whitecraig



**MLDP:
MAIN ISSUES REPORT**

**Indicative Strategic
Green Network
Opportunities in Midlothian**

- LAND COMMITTED &/OR PROMOTED FOR DEVELOPMENT (OR WITHIN SETTLEMENT BOUNDARIES)
- REGIONAL &/OR COUNTRY PARK
- INDICATIVE STRATEGIC GREEN NETWORK ROUTE
- MIDLOTHIAN BOUNDARY



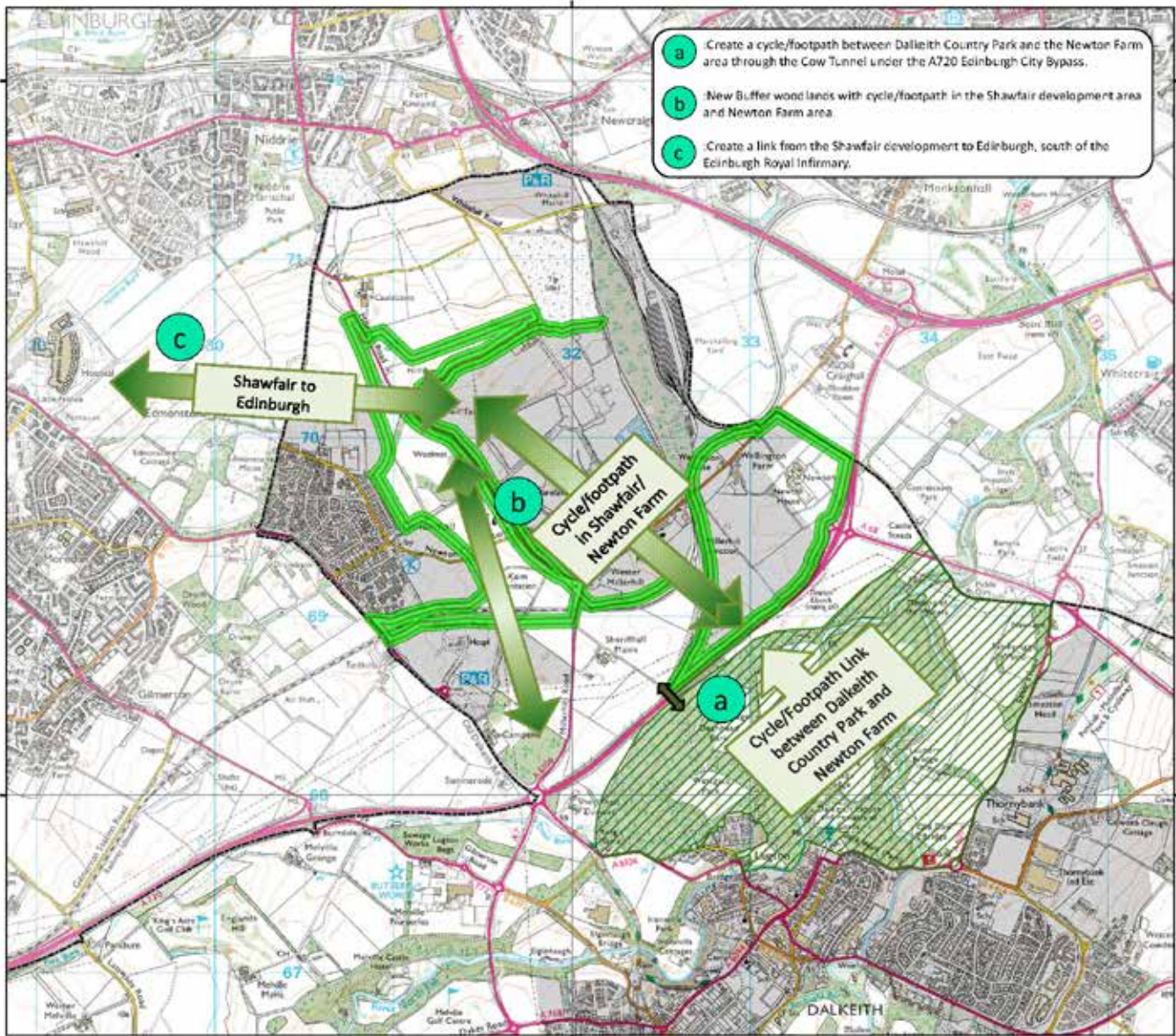
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Appendix 3:

**Shawfair – Example Indicative Local Green Network Opportunities and Loanhead –
Example Indicative Local Green Network Opportunities**



- a** Create a cycle/footpath between Dalkeith Country Park and the Newton Farm area through the Cow Tunnel Under the A720 Edinburgh City Bypass.
- b** New Buffer wood lands with cycle/footpath in the Shawfair development area and Newton Farm area.
- c** Create a link from the Shawfair development to Edinburgh, south of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

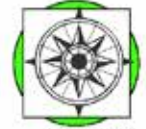


MLDP:

MAIN ISSUES REPORT

Shawfair -
Indicative Local Green
Network Opportunities

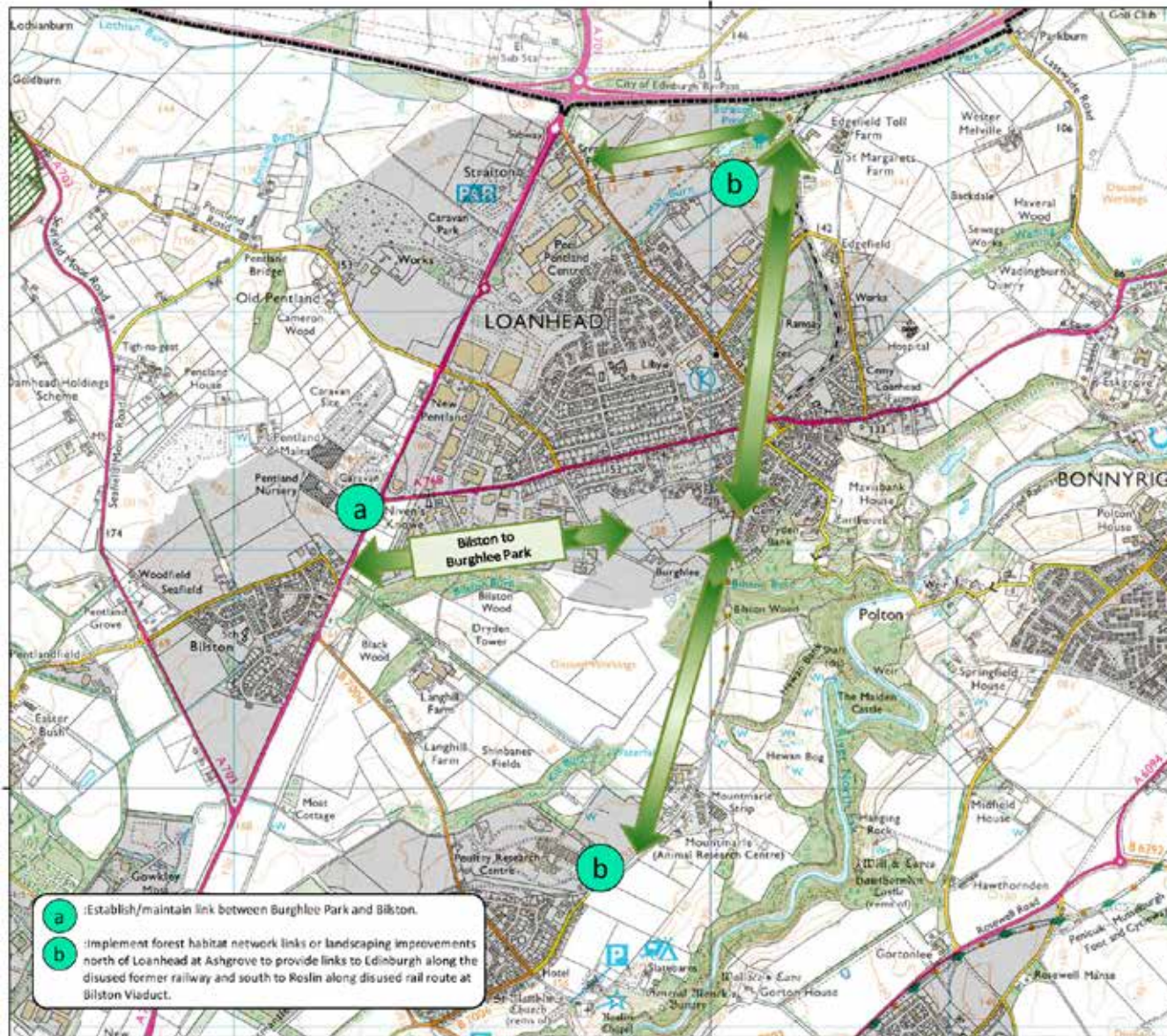
- COW TUNNEL UNDER A720 EDINBURGH CITY BYPASS
- DALKEITH COUNTRY PARK
- BUFFER WOODLANDS &/OR OPEN SPACE OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS
- LAND COMMITTED &/OR PROMOTED FOR DEVELOPMENT (OR WITHIN SETTLEMENT BOUNDARIES)
- MIDLOTHIAN BOUNDARY



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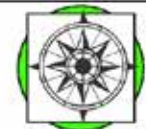
- a** Establish/maintain link between Burghlee Park and Bilston.
- b** Implement forest habitat network links or landscaping improvements north of Loanhead at Ashgrove to provide links to Edinburgh along the disused former railway and south to Roslin along disused rail route at Bilston Viaduct.



**MLDP:
MAIN ISSUES REPORT**

Loanhead -
Indicative Local Green
Network Opportunities

- LAND COMMITTED &/OR PROMOTED FOR DEVELOPMENT (OR WITHIN SETTLEMENT BOUNDARIES)
- MIDLOTHIAN BOUNDARY



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Appendix 4: Green Network Developments – Potential Strategic and Local Level Opportunities

Proposal* ¹	Link to Midlothian Green Network Themes* ²
Shawfair: implement forest habitat network links or landscaping improvements in various locations across the Shawfair area; implement cycle and walkway links between Shawfair and Edmonstone with City of Edinburgh Council.	AT; B; PM
Esk River Valleys: complete path/ cycle routes, eg Mavisbank policies; expand woodland/ introduce new woodland buffers to reinforce designed landscapes, e.g. north of Lasswade; improve woodland habitat; implement forest habitat network links or landscaping improvements west of Melville Castle .	AT; B
Pentland Hills: develop a woodland strategy, which could include limited woodland planting on lower slopes; improve connections to Pentland Hills Regional Park, e.g. from Penicuik in vicinity of Coates Farm	CC; AT; B
River Tyne Valley: expand woodland planting/ introduce new woodland buffers to reinforce designed landscapes, e.g. south east of Mayfield	B
Rivers Tyne and Esk cross-county Links: new farm and native woodlands on the ridge between the river valleys;	AT
Edinburgh – Penicuik Cycle Path	AT
No 1 & 196 National Cycle Network Routes	AT
Strategic Designated Nature Conservation Sites: seek appropriate improvement of the following sites categorised by SNH as in 'unfavourable' condition – Bilston Burn SSSI; Crichton Glen SSSI & Roslin Glen SSSI	B

Midlothian Green Network – Local Opportunities

Proposal* ¹	Link to Midlothian Green Network Themes* ²
<p>Shawfair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - create cycle/ path link to Dalkeith Park at Cow Tunnel/potential link to Newton Farm 'preferred' development site - new buffer woodlands 	AT; B
<p>Dalkeith:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -develop links to Dalkeith Country Park; -improve connections between and to parks within town; -improve biodiversity of Riverside and Cowden Parks; -improve town centre civic spaces 	AT; B; PM
<p>Mayfield/ Easthouses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -complete missing link of Mayfield – Wester Cowden cycle route/ linked to Kippielaw MIR 'preferred' development site -strengthen green network links around Easthouses Park and Newbattle High School playing fields -improve biodiversity value of Bog Wood -improve connections around open space at Oak Place and at Easthouses Industrial Estate 	AT; B
<p>Newtongrange:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -improve connections around Newtongrange Star stadium; through Butlerfield; 	AT
<p>Gorebridge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -improve connections between Gore Glen north to Redheugh, west to Robert Adam Wood; between Hunterfield Park and Main Street; Birkenside Recreation Ground and Gore Water; Arniston Public Park and Allocated Housing Site S (allocated in the Midlothian Local Plan (2003) and referred to in Appendix 1A.2 of the Midlothian Local Plan 2008 as site h36); -strengthen green network connections between Main Street and Stobhill primary school; -Improve biodiversity value of Gore Public Park 	AT; B;
<p>Bonnyrigg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -safeguard cycle/ walkway routes through current Hopefield housing site, and Hopefield MIR 'reasonable alternative' development site, including section of Penicuik – Dalkeith cyclepath; also link to Carrington Road; - establish woodland/ implement forest habitat network links or landscaping improvements adjacent to west side of A7 with footpath/ cycleway through, associated with Dalhousie Mains 'preferred' development site; -improve connections to Middlemills Recreation Ground; -improve biodiversity value of Lasswade Park; 	AT; B; CC

-explore opportunities to plant urban fringe woodlands; - implement forest habitat network links or landscaping improvements along east side of Melville landfill site, and between Edgefield Farm and Wadingburn; west edge of Eskbank.	
Rosewell - maintain routes through Whitehill House	AT
Loanhead: - establish / maintain link between Burghlee Park and Bilston - implement forest habitat network links or landscaping improvements north of Ashgrove North 'preferred' economic development site (LD4); east of Edgefield Toll Farm.	AT
Roslin -Links to Gowkley Moss and Loanhead on former railway lines/ paths.	AT

Notes

*1 The opportunities listed above are not exclusive, but rather an indicative start. Further comment is sought from consultees on other possible green network opportunities.

*2 Refer to section 3.3 of the Midlothian Green Network Technical Note for further information on the themes of the Midlothian Green Network . The themes of the Midlothian Green network are:

- Climate Change (CC);
- Active Travel (AT);
- Biodiversity (B); and
- Place-making (PM).

It is likely that all four themes may apply in a number of the above opportunities.

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Contact 0131 270 7500 or email: enquiries@midlothian.gov.uk