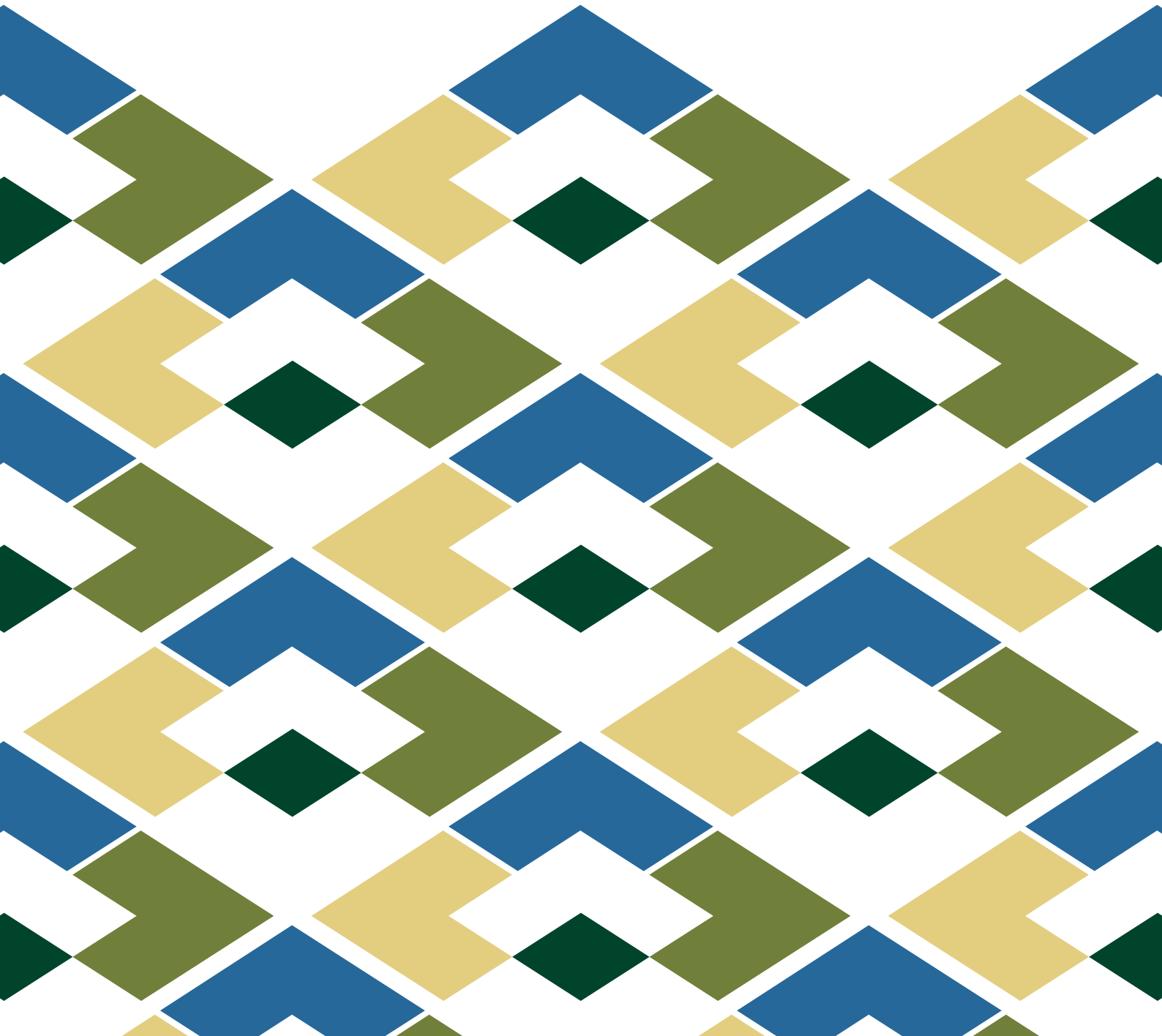


Midlothian Local Development Plan
Main Issues Report 2013:
Technical Note



Midlothian

Nature Conservation



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Appendices

Appendix 1: Nature Conservation Sites in Midlothian

Appendix 2: Location of Nature Conservation/ Biodiversity Sites in Midlothian

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Technical Note has been prepared to provide information on designated nature conservation sites in Midlothian as an update on the information contained within the Midlothian Local Plan (2008). It has also been prepared to provide information on the Local Biodiversity Sites system now operating in Midlothian which replaced the former Local Wildlife Sites system and will form the basis of the updated nature conservation policies in the Midlothian Local Development Plan (to reflect the new Local Biodiversity Sites system).

2 Background

- 2.1 Midlothian possesses an important and varied natural environment. The number of sites that are designated in Midlothian for their natural heritage and biodiversity qualities reflect this importance. These designations include sites which recognise Midlothian's biodiversity at an international, national and local level.
- 2.2 Statutory designations in Midlothian include: at the international level, Ramsar, Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation; at the national level, Sites of Special Scientific Interest; and at the local level, Local Nature Reserve.
- 2.3 The biodiversity value in Midlothian is also recognised at the local level in a large number of non-statutory Local Biodiversity Sites, known as LBS. These sites have a significant role to play in meeting overall national biodiversity targets and have been identified to support both national and local priorities, and also support features of local character and distinctiveness.
- 2.4 Appendix 1 of this Technical Note provides a schedule of all of the nature conservation/ biodiversity sites in Midlothian. Appendix 2 identifies the location of different categories of nature conservation/ biodiversity sites in Midlothian:
- Figure 1: Ramsar Sites
 - Figure 2: Special Protection Areas
 - Figure 3: Special Areas of Conservation
 - Figure 4: Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Local Nature Reserves
 - Figure 5: Local Biodiversity Sites and Proposed Local Biodiversity Sites

3 Local Biodiversity Sites

- 3.1 LBS sites began to be introduced into Midlothian from 2009 to replace the previous system of non-statutory Local Wildlife Sites. This process of change was referred to in the Midlothian Local Plan (2008), and the selection and identification of LBS remains on-going.
- 3.2 The Council established the LBS system to implement a framework for reviewing existing Local Wildlife Sites and identifying new ones in line with the 2006 national guidance *Establishing and Managing Local Nature Conservation Sites*. This guidance sought the replacement of the former system of Local Wildlife Sites with a more

standardised system of selecting sites and reviewing existing sites. It was intended to help reduce the number of titles given to sites of local interest, and address the diversity of purpose and function of local nature conservation sites.

- 3.3 All of the sites listed on the Scottish Wildlife Trust's Wildlife Sites list as either Wildlife Sites or proposed Wildlife Sites were considered in setting up the LBS system.
- 3.4 The Council's LBS system contains criteria for assessing the biodiversity value of sites on whether they merit status as a LBS. In line with the 2006 guidance the system allows for social factors, such as the use of a site by the public, to influence a site assessment on whether it merits LBS status where its biodiversity value is borderline between achieving LBS status and failing to meet LBS status.

4 Local Biodiversity Sites Steering Group

- 4.1 With the assistance of The Wildlife Information Centre (TWIC) based at Vogrie Country Park the Council established an LBS Steering Group to oversee the identification of site selection criteria, site selection, and review and monitoring of sites designated as LBS.
- 4.2 The Steering Group is chaired by an employee of Midlothian Council, generally from the Planning Policy and Environment Section, and its other members are representatives of TWIC and recognised experts in different aspects of biodiversity in Midlothian and the Lothians.

5 Site identification for Local Biodiversity Sites

- 5.1 Potential LBS sites can be brought to the attention of the LBS Steering Group for proposal as an LBS by any one of the following means:
 - identification as part of review and assessment of available data or survey work;
 - identification of potential sites by TWIC as a result of data collated by them; or
 - a proposal by a member of the Midlothian Biodiversity Partnership.
- 5.2 All Midlothian Community Councils are represented on the Midlothian Biodiversity Partnership via the Federation of Midlothian Community Councils which is a member of the Partnership. Therefore all Midlothian Community Councils can nominate sites via the Federation of Community Councils.
- 5.3 A site proposal form should be completed (this gives basic information about the proposed site, its location and known or potential biodiversity value) and submitted to either the Council and/ or TWIC. The form includes a request that the proposer provides information on any known sources of biological data. Proposal forms can be obtained from Midlothian Council. Site proposals are assessed by the chair of the LBS Steering Group to identify which sites should be progressed further.
- 5.4 At this stage the chair of the Steering Group will consult with other members of the group as appropriate and a decision will be made on what, if any, additional information, e.g. survey work, is required for an assessment to be undertaken. If there is potential for the site to become an LBS it will be added to the list of Proposed Sites and be known as a pLBS – Proposed LBS. The chair decides what sites are

taken forward as pLBS and which will not. Where sites are not taken forward the chair will explain the reasons for this to the proposer.

- 5.5 The proposer of the site is kept informed of decisions made relating to the site and records are kept of all sites proposed. Proposers need to be aware that it is unlikely that the Steering Group and Biodiversity Partnership will have money available to fund any surveys necessary for a proper assessment of the site to occur.
- 5.6 Where a site is proposed that has already been assessed (and failed) in the previous two years, the site will not be reviewed unless the LBS Steering Group considers that substantial new information is available.

6 Site survey and collation of data prior to assessment

- 6.1 Existing data on potential sites will be collated by TWIC and an assessment made by them, provided that sufficient current data are available to make an assessment.
- 6.2 For an assessment to take place there must be a recent plant list for the site (created within the last 5 years). Additional species records are also valuable. Additional habitat data, where available either from LBS survey, NVC (National Vegetation Classification) survey or other sources, will be used to complement the Phase 1 Habitat Data for Midlothian.
- 6.3 Where LBS surveys are commissioned these should include checking existing Phase 1 habitat data to identify changes and make mapping amendments as appropriate; NVC samples in each broad habitat area; and collation of target notes on key features, including the presence of protected species. Data from LBS commissioned surveys will be made available to landowners and managers. Site surveys commissioned for LBS sites should follow a methodology agreed by the Midlothian LBS Steering Group.
- 6.4 Other local recorders and field visits will be encouraged to record on LBS (or pLBS) sites as much as possible. To assist with recording, a list of recommended survey times for different broad habitat types in Midlothian have been produced and can be obtained upon request to TWIC and/ or Midlothian Council.
- 6.5 Where there are insufficient data, the site will require survey prior to assessment. These sites will be listed as pLBS requiring survey. Surveying will be prioritised by the LBS Steering Group according to available resources. The list of pLBS will help direct and prioritise survey work.

7 Notification of site landowners/ managers/ occupiers

- 7.1 Although some potential LBS will be owned and/ or managed by public bodies, many will be in the ownership of private individuals or companies. It is important that these people are kept informed about the LBS process.
- 7.2 Prior to surveys of LBS' and potential LBS', landowners/ managers/ occupiers will be informed of the purpose of the survey and of sites in their ownership/ interest, and be invited to comment. Where required, this may include providing owners with information on the LBS assessment process, a proposed site boundary map

(showing the full area under consideration) and a note on the biodiversity features of importance.

- 7.3 Where appropriate data collated relating to a site will be made available. Landowners/ managers/ occupiers will be notified of the outcome of any assessment of a site on their land.

8 Site assessment criteria

- 8.1 The site assessment criteria for LBS sites are:

- **Species status:** This is an assessment of the combination of the rarity of a species and its association with the site. Species listed on the Lothian Species of Conservation Concern List¹ are considered alongside their status on the site (e.g. are they resident, are there significant populations etc);
- **Species diversity:** This refers to the number of different species found on a site. In most instances this will be based on the vascular plant list for the site and compared against an expected value for each broad habitat type;
- **Habitat importance:** This considers habitat rarity, naturalness and extent as a single criterion;
- **Connectivity to habitat network or corridor:** This takes into account the wide landscape context of the site, in the context of relevant habitats;
- **Biodiversity features:** This allows for extra weighting to be given to sites that have species biodiversity features not fully taken into account in the other criterion such as the present of great crested newt populations, bat roosts etc.; and
- **Social factors:** In this section an assessment is made of the site's value for enjoyment, value for education and community involvement and its contribution to landscape quality.

¹ The Lothian Species of Conservation Concern List is managed by TWIC and includes all European and UK protected species, species included in IUCN and pre-IUCN British Red List categories, species listed as Nationally Notable, Nationally Rare or Nationally Scarce, species classified as Priority Species in the revised UKBAP List, species that are included on the Scottish Biodiversity List and species listed on Lothian LBAPs that are known to occur in the Lothians.

9 Site assessment and Identification of a site as a Local Biodiversity Site

- 9.1 Site assessment reports are generated by TWIC for assessment by the LBS Steering Group. These reports comprise: a detailed assessment of the site against each of the 6 criterion listed in the previous section of this Technical Note; details of available data used; a proposed site boundary map; Phase 1 habitat maps of the site (including an area at least 50m outwith the proposed boundary); habitat connectivity map; and any other relevant supporting information.

- 9.2 The LBS Steering Group will determine if:

- adequate data are available for the assessment to be valid;
 - the criteria have been applied consistently;
 - there are any anomalies or outstanding matters; and
 - the boundaries have included all areas of substantive biodiversity value.
- 9.3 Once the LBS Steering Group is satisfied with the assessment, or made any necessary adjustments, the site assessment will be approved or modified and the site's status will be recorded.
- 9.4 Once the Steering Group identifies a site as an LBS, the site becomes a LBS and is recognised by Midlothian Council as such.
- 9.5 After a site has been assessed by the LBS Steering Group as being of LBS quality, TWIC will on behalf of the Group, take the following action;
- advise the landowner/ manager/ occupier of the Steering Group's decision;
 - add the full details of the site to the LBS register and digital layer of LBS boundaries;
 - copy the updated LBS register and digital boundaries to Midlothian Council; and
 - advise relevant parties of the addition to the LBS register through issue of an LBS bulletin.

10 Site assessment reviews

- 10.1 Every Midlothian LBS site will be re-assessed at least every 10 years, or as close to this target as resources allow. The LBS Steering Group will therefore have a continuous cycle of sites requiring assessment. This will assist the development of a programme of survey work to try and help ensure that information on sites is up to date to enable assessments to be current. Those sites with site surveys older than 5 years will be prioritised for re-survey and a re-assessment carried out as soon as data become available and resources permit.
- 10.2 Where substantial change has occurred at a site then the site may be re-assessed in a shorter time-frame.

11 Status of Local Biodiversity Sites

- 11.1 As already stated once the LBS Steering Group identifies a site as an LBS the site becomes an LBS and is recognised by Midlothian Council as such.
- 11.2 LBS sites and pLBS sites are protected through the planning policy framework of the Midlothian Local Plan (2008). The Main Issues Report for the Midlothian Local Development Plan proposes no significant change of approach from the current Midlothian Local Plan (2008) with regard to nature conservation protection policies except to make the transition from the Listed Wildlife Sites system to the LBS

system, and no change to the status of protection afforded to pLBS by the current Local Plan.

Appendix 1: Nature Conservation Sites in Midlothian

Location/ Site	Grid Ref.	Status
Aikendean Glen	NT322622	LBS
Arniston Estate Woodlands and River South Esk	NT327603	LBS
Auchencorth Moss	NT208552, NT207553	SSSI, SRBI
Auchendinny Ponds and Glencorse Burn Wood	NT254617	LBS
Auchendinny Wood	NT255613	LBS
Beeslack Wood	NT245614	WTW
Beeslack Wood and Haughhead	NT245613	LBS
Bellyford Burn West	NT376689	pLBS
Bilston Burn (Glen)	NT270649 and NT282648/ NT265647	SSSI, RIGS
Birky Side	NT375602	pLBS
Black Burn	NT235583	SSSI
Black Burn North	NT236589	pLBS
Black Hill	NT190630	LBS
Black Springs	NT190664	LBS
Bonnyrigg to Rosewell Disused Railway	NT299663	LBS
Borthwick Glen	NT375595	LBS
Bush Estate and Glencorse Burn	NT247636	LBS
Camp Hill	NT356637	LBS
Carrington Mill Wood	NT310590	LBS
Catcune Road Verges	NT3560	pLBS
Catholes Wood	NT327641	pLBS
Cockmuir Marsh	NT263552	LBS
Costerton and Fala Woods West	NT438625	LBS
Crichton Glen	NT382606	SSSI
Currie Wood	NT374593	WTW
Dalhousie Burn	NT317634	LBS
Dalhousie Castle Estate	NT310590	LBS
Dalkeith Estate	NT336685	LBS
Dalkeith Oakwood	NT337688	SSSI
Disused Railway – Eskbank	NT327665	pLBS
Dundreich Plateau	NT285489	SSSI
Edgelaw Reservoir	NT300582	LBS
Erraid Wood	NT247661, NT248662	pLBS, SWT
Fala Flow	NT432586	RAM, SPA, SSSI
Ford Glen and Marsh	NT387643	pLBS
Fullarton Water	NT284572	LBS
Gladhouse Reservoir	NT299535	RAM, SPA, SSSI

Location/ Site	Grid Ref.	Status
Glencorse Reservoir and Glen	NT222634	LBS
Gore Glen	NT335616	LBS
Habbie's Howe - Logan Burn	NT184618	SSSI
Hadfast Valley	NT388688	SSSI, SWT
Hare Moss and Auchencorth Moss	NT212566	pLBS
Hewan Bank	NT285646	SSSI, RIGS
Hope Quarry	NT404628	pLBS
Kates Cauldron	NT464597	pLBS
Keith Water	NT439620/ NT438623	SSSI
Linn Dean	NT468591, NT468594	LBS, SWT
Loganlee Reservoir	NT196625	pLBS
Logan Burn	NT174612	pLBS
Mavisbank	NT291653	LBS
Melville Castle	NT312669	LBS
Middleton House Pond	NT369582	pLBS
Middleton Lime Quarries (East)	NT354574	LBS
Middleton Lime Quarries (West)	NT342574	LBS
Milkhall Pond	NT242573	LBS, SWT
Mount Lothian Quarry Ponds	NT268561	LBS
Newbattle Woods	NT334659	LBS
Newhall Glen	NT175564	SSSI
North Esk Valley	NT154582	SSSI
Oxenfoord Estate	NT385655	pLBS
Peeswit Moss/ Side Moss	NT288550	SAC, SSSI, SRBI
Penicuik House Estate	NT219588	LBS
Penicuik Mill Lade and River Esk to Esk Bridge	NT242601	LBS
River North Esk - Drambuie to Brunston Castle	NT191575	pLBS
River North Esk – Eskbank	NT325673	pLBS
River North Esk – Lasswade	NT300658	pLBS
River South Esk - Dundreich Plateau to Little Gladhouse	NT296504	pLBS
River South Esk - Little Gladhouse to Moorfoot	NT298520	pLBS
Rosebery Reservoir	NT308557	LBS
Rosewell to Auchendinny Disused Railway	NT271623	LBS
Roslin Glen Country Park	NT266624	LBS
Roslin Glen	NT275625	SWT
Roslin Glen	NT280633	SSSI
Roslin-Moat and Curling Pond	NT260634	LBS
Scroggy Brae	NT165564	pLBS
Shiel Burn Wood	NT295622	LBS

Location/ Site	Grid Ref.	Status
Springfield Mill and the Maiden Castle	NT287644	LBS
Springfield Moss	NT228567	SRBI
Straiton Pond	NT282667	LNR, LBS
Stretchendean Wood	NT377620	LBS
Temple Wood	NT315579	pLBS
The Howe (Pinnacle)	NT187619	RIGS
Toxside Moss (North)	NT276546, NT275548	LBS, SRBI
Toxside Moss (South)	NT274534, NT266528	LBS, SRBI
Tyne Water and Preston Hall Estate Woodlands	NT396661	LBS
Tyne Water & Waverley Railway at Tynehead	NT393590	pLBS
Vogrie Country Park	NT384633	LBS
Waverley Railway - Gorebridge to Tynehead	NT344613 - NT390599	pLBS
Waverley Railway - Newbattle to Gorebridge	NT328647 - NT332621	pLBS

Key

Statutory designations

International

RAM Ramsar sites are designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance

International/ Natura Sites

SPA Special Protection Area under Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (European) on the conservation of wild birds, commonly known as the Birds Directive

SAC Special Area of Conservation under Council (European) Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

National

SSSI Site of Special Scientific Interest

Local

LNR Local Nature Reserve

Non-statutory designations

LBS Local Biodiversity Site

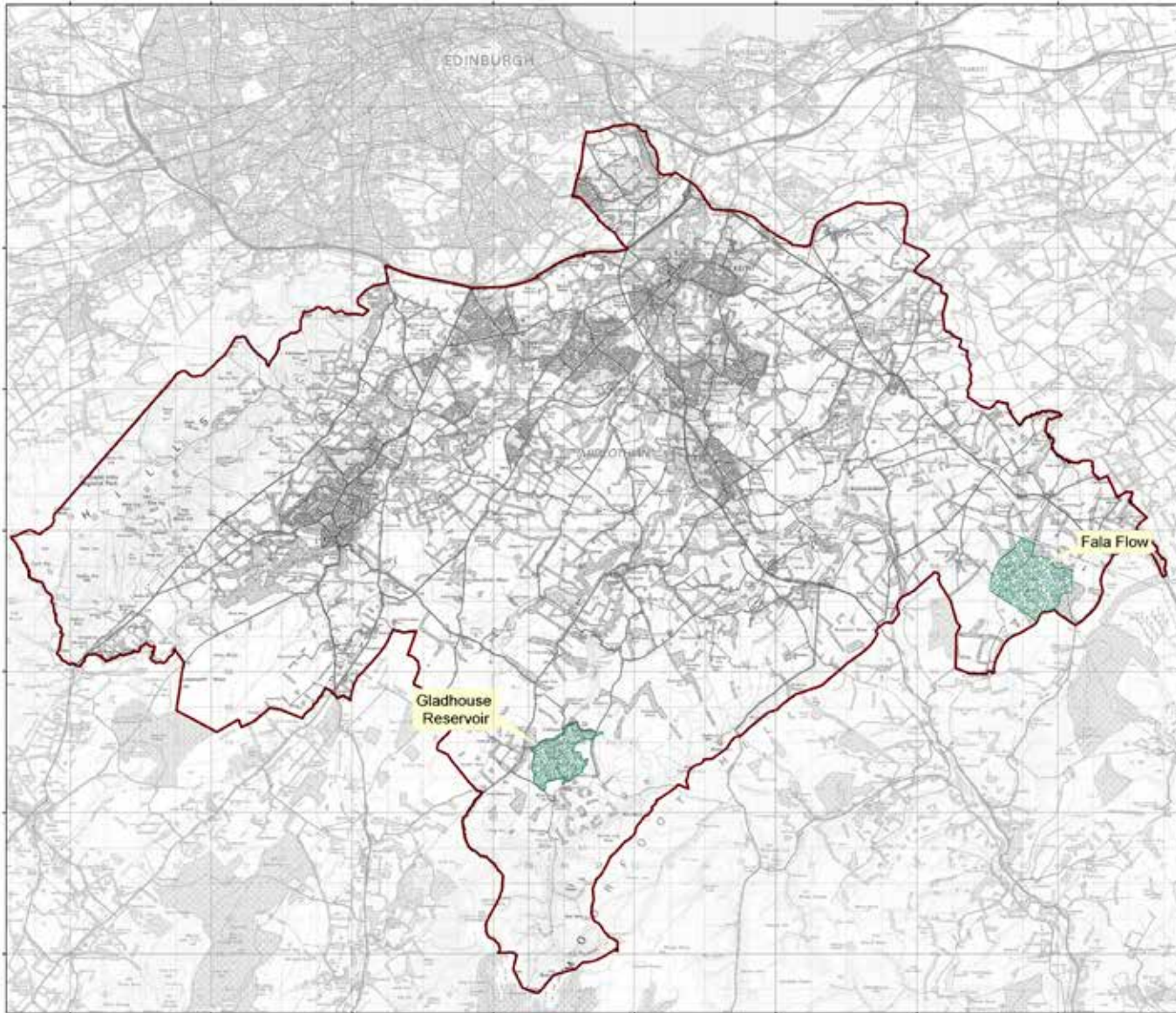
pLBS	Proposed Local Biodiversity Site (not designated)
RIGS	Regionally Important Geological Sites
SWT	Scottish Wildlife Trust Reserves
SRBI	Scottish Raised Bog Inventory
WTW	Woodland Trust Wood

Number of Nature Conservation/ Biodiversity Site Designations in Midlothian (as at 22 January 2012)

Designation	No. in Midlothian
RAM	2
SPA	2
SAC	1
SSSI	16
LNR	1
LBS	43
pLBS	25
RIGS	3
SWT	5
SRBI	5
WTW	2

Appendix 2: Location of Nature Conservation/ Biodiversity Sites in Midlothian

Plan 1 of 5



BIODIVERSITY IN MIDLOTHIAN

Statutory Designations:
Figure 1

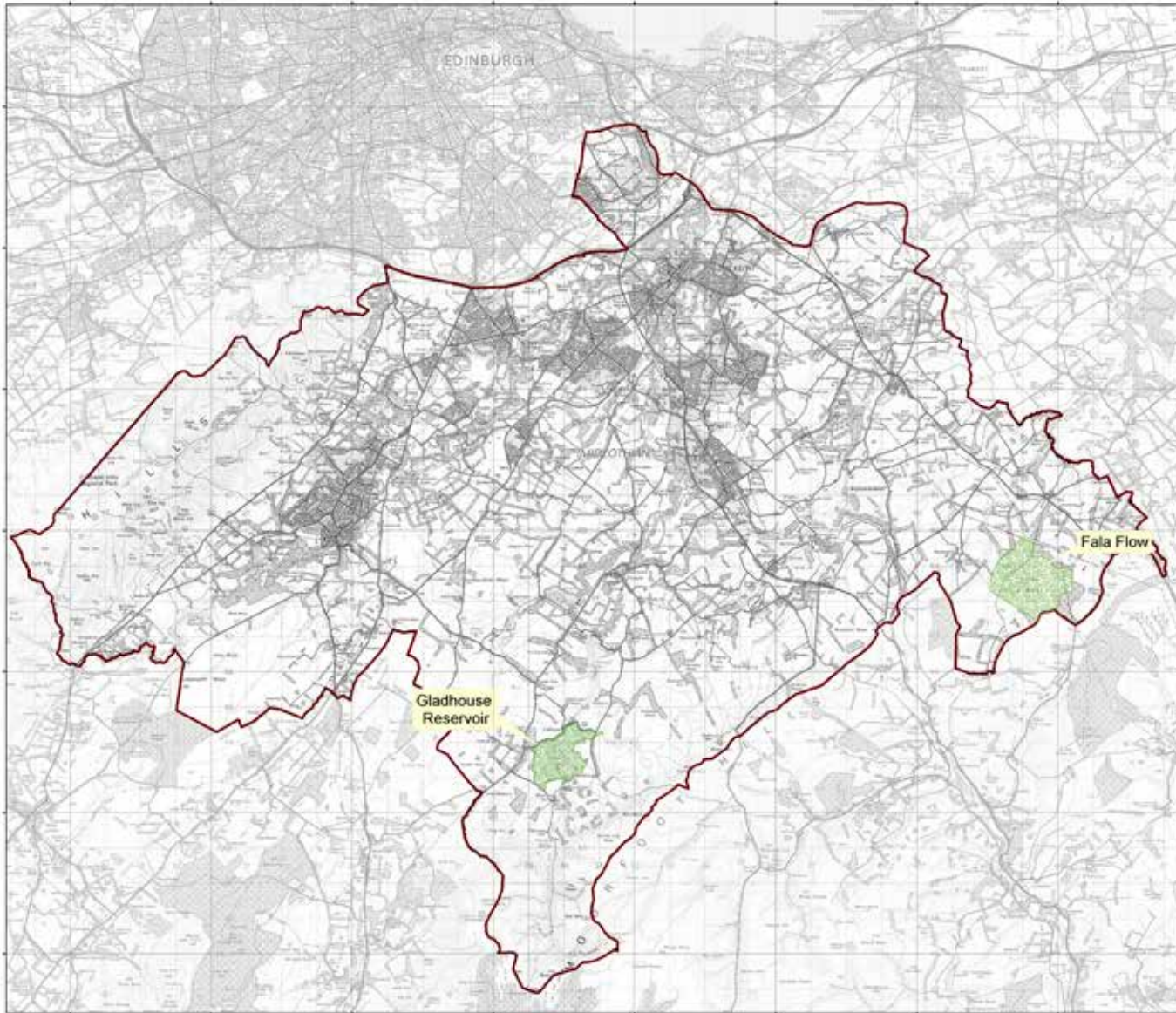
-  Ramsar Site
-  Midlothian



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BIODIVERSITY IN MIDLOTHIAN

Statutory Designations:
Figure 2

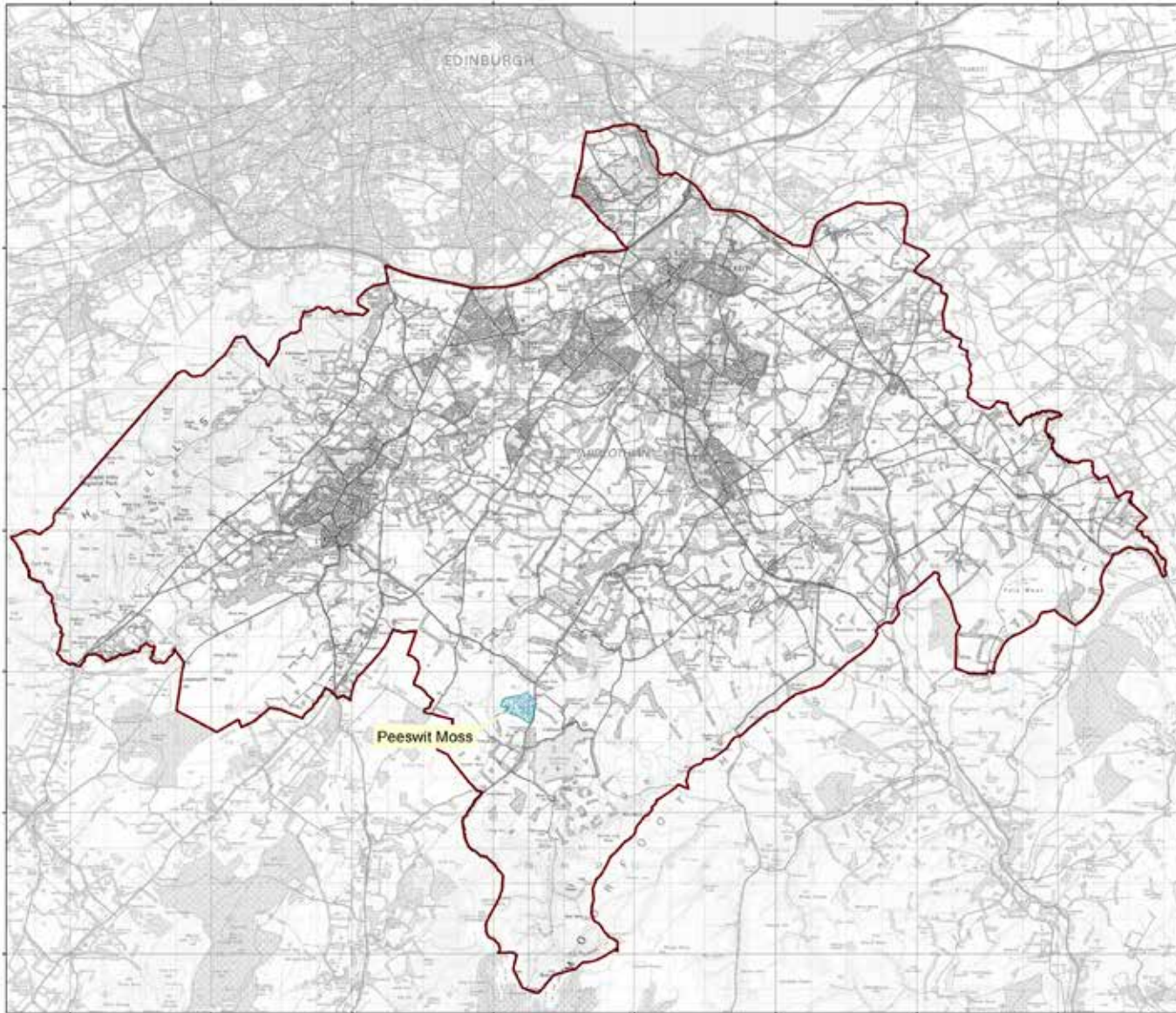
-  Special Protection Area
-  Midlothian



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BIODIVERSITY IN MIDLOTHIAN

Statutory Designations:
Figure 3

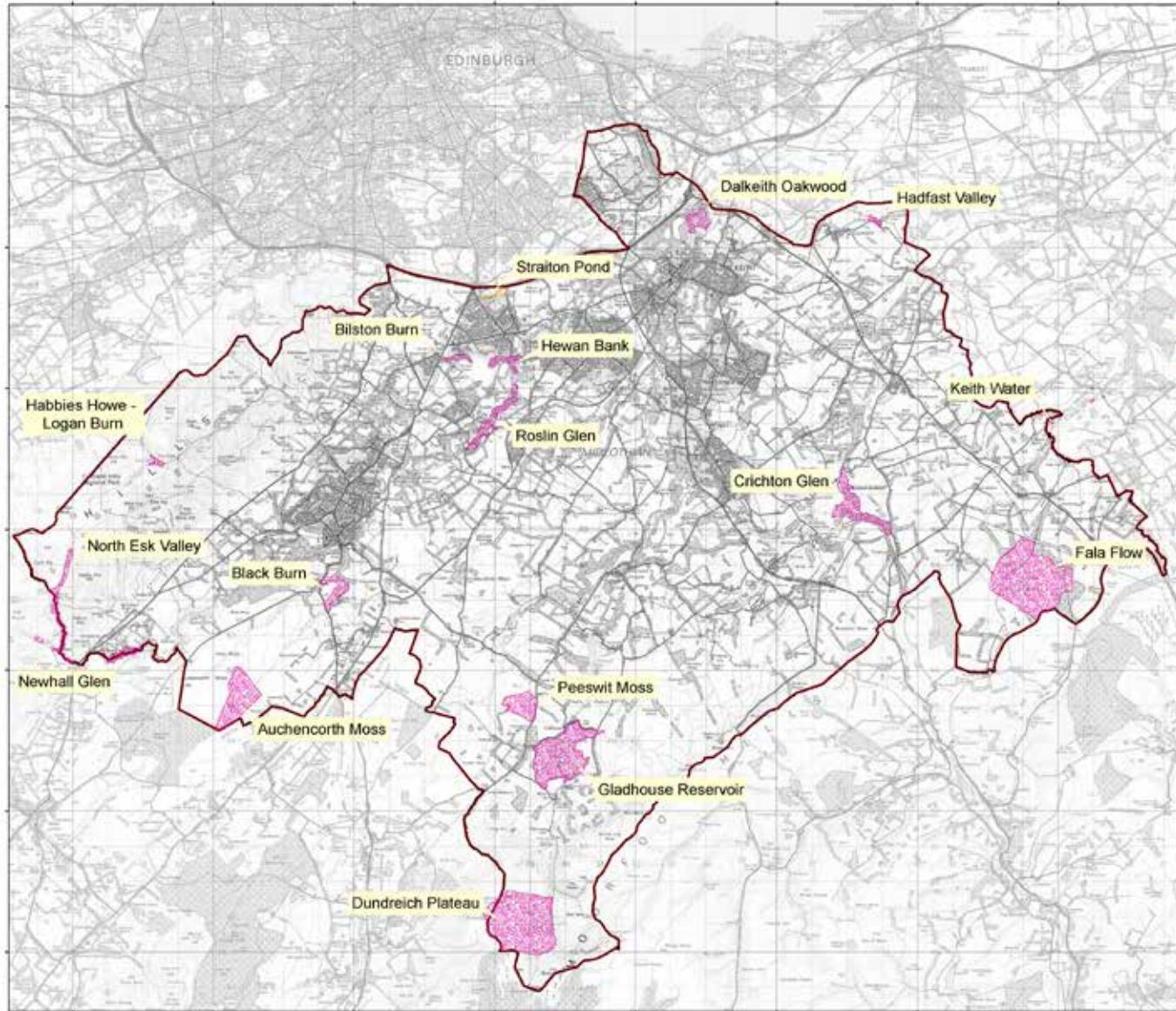
-  Special Area of Conservation
-  Midlothian



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BIODIVERSITY IN MIDLOTHIAN

Statutory Designations:
Figure 4

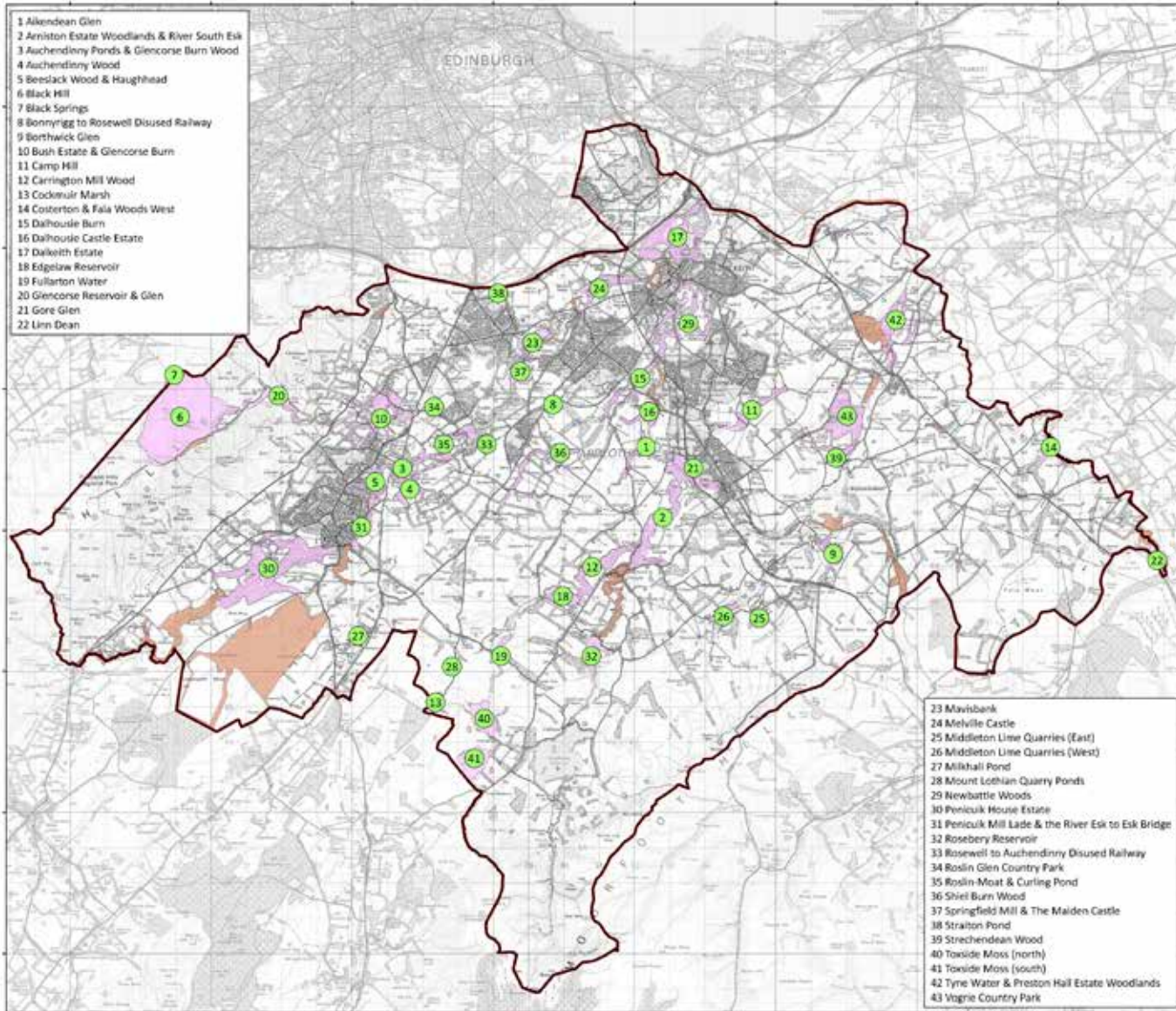
-  Site of Special Scientific Importance
-  Local Nature Reserve
-  Midlothian



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BIODIVERSITY IN MIDLOTHIAN

Non-Statutory Designations:
Figure 5

- Local Biodiversity Site
- Proposed Local Biodiversity Site*
- Midlothian

*Sites have not been assessed to determine if they merit Local Biodiversity Site status. Site names and boundaries have not been fixed.



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