



2025

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL LOCAL BIODIVERSITY SITES



TECHNICAL NOTE 4

CONTENTS

	Page
1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	2
2. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PLANNING POLICY	4
3. SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE GUIDANCE	5
4. THE WILDLIFE INFORMATION CENTRE'S LOCAL BIODIVERSITY SITES SYSTEM	7
5. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN CONTEXT	8
6. METHODOLOGY, CRITERIA AND SITE ASSESSMENT	10
7. LOCAL BIODIVERSITY SITES PROPOSED FOR ADOPTION IN LDP	12

APPENDIX 1: METHODOLOGY

APPENDIX 2: LOCAL BIODIVERSITY SITES AND DESCRIPTIONS

APPENDIX 3: LOCAL BIODIVERSITY SITES (SCOTTISH BORDERS CONTEXT)

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 There are a series of Technical Notes which accompany the Scottish Borders Council's Proposed Local Development Plan (LDP). Together, Local Biodiversity Sites (LBS) and Local Geodiversity Sites (LGS) make up the Scottish Borders Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS). This Technical Note specifically outlines the approach the Council has taken in identifying LBS.
- 1.2 Amid the twin biodiversity and climate crises, affording areas of nature conservation value has become increasingly vital. This heightened importance is recognized in National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), and the sites identified through this technical note will contribute to the delivery of its policies. NPF4 highlights 'LDPs will identify and protect locally, regionally, nationally and internationally important natural assets, on land and along coasts.' The level of protection given to local designations is not as high as that given to international or national designations.
- 1.3 Planning authorities are encouraged to limit non-statutory local designations to areas designated for their local landscape or nature conservation value. Local Nature Conservation Sites should seek to accommodate the following factors:
 - Species diversity, species or habitat rarity, naturalness and extent of habitat
 - Contribution to national and local biodiversity objectives
 - Potential contribution to the protection or enhancement of connectivity between habitats or the development of green networks
 - Potential to facilitate enjoyment and understanding of natural heritage
- 1.4 Following the publication of national guidance, Scottish Borders Council, in conjunction with the Scottish Borders Local Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership and local volunteers, introduced a new system of non-statutory Local Biodiversity Sites to replace Scottish Wildlife Trust's existing series of Local Wildlife Sites designated in the 1990s and early 2000s.
- 1.5 As part of the LDP, Policy EP3: Local Biodiversity and Geodiversity identifies 188 Local Biodiversity Sites. One of the purposes of this policy is to safeguard and enhance local biodiversity, including Local Biodiversity Sites. The policy also contributes to the Council's statutory duty to further the conservation of biodiversity in the Scottish Borders, under Part 1 of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004. The approach seeks to encourage developers to consider biodiversity at the outset of a proposal. The methodology and background to the identification of LBS is set out within this Technical Note. Appendix 1 contains the LBS System Methodology, Appendix 2 contains individual maps for all sites, and Appendix 3 contains maps showing the sites within the Scottish Borders context.
- 1.6 The Scottish Borders network of LBS where possible seeks to ensure the conservation, maintenance and enhancement of species and habitats of substantive nature conservation value. The system identifies and selects all areas of biodiversity value, including both the most important and the most distinctive, species and habitats, within a national, regional and local context. LBS sites can also have an important role in contributing to the public enjoyment of nature conservation.

Policy EP3

Development that would have an unacceptable adverse effect on Borders Notable Species and Habitats of Conservation Concern will be refused unless it can be demonstrated that the public benefits of the development clearly outweigh the value of the habitat for biodiversity conservation.

Any development that could impact on local biodiversity through impacts on habitats and species should:

- a) Aim to avoid fragmentation or isolation of habitats; and
- b) Be sited and designed to minimise adverse impacts on the biodiversity of the site, including its environmental quality, ecological status and viability; and
- c) Compensate to ensure no net loss of biodiversity through use of biodiversity offsets and ensure net gain as appropriate; and
- d) Aim to enhance the biodiversity value of the site, through use of an ecosystems approach, with the aim of creation or restoration of habitats and wildlife corridors and provision for their long-term management and maintenance.

2. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PLANNING POLICY

- 2.1 Biodiversity protection is underpinned within national and regional policy. National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) sets out the long-term strategy for Scotland, it contains six spatial principles, and three overarching policy themes. One policy theme is Sustainable places, of which NPF 4 says, 'To respond to the global biodiversity crisis, nature recovery must be at the heart of future places. We will secure positive effects for biodiversity, create and strengthen nature networks and invest in nature-based solutions to benefit natural capital and contribute to net zero.'
- 2.2 Specifically NPF4 requires Local Development Plans to identify locally important assets as part of Policy 4 Natural Assets. Policy 4(d) refers to LNCS and provides planning policy:
- d) Development proposals that affect a site designated as a local nature conservation site or landscape area in the LDP will only be supported where:
- i Development will not have significant adverse effects on the integrity of the area or the qualities for which it has been identified;
- or ii Any significant adverse effects on the integrity of the area are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of at least local importance.

3. NATURESCOT GUIDANCE

3.1 NatureScot, on behalf of the Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) Working Group, published guidance for Local Authorities on LNCS in Scotland, *'Guidance on Establishing and Managing Local Nature Conservation Site Systems in Scotland – 2023 update'*. The NatureScot guidance outlines the background, purpose and selection of Local Nature Conservation Sites.

3.2 The LNCS guidance covered both sites designated for biodiversity interest (Local Biodiversity Sites) and sites designated for local geological interest (Local Geodiversity Sites). The updated guidance:

"Recognises the contribution of LNCS collectively to building a nature-positive future, contributing to a local nature network, maintaining our natural capital, and improving the health and resilience of ecosystems: all of these are ambitions of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to 2025."

3.3 The guidance sets out that Local Biodiversity Sites may also contribute to the quality of the local environment and may provide opportunities for local people to find out about, and take pride in, their local biodiversity.

3.4 NatureScot set out the responsibility for introducing, reviewing and managing Local Biodiversity Sites, which Local Authorities should take into consideration. It notes that the work should be carried out with the help of a partnership of advisors comprising relevant interests and expertise. The involvement of the following groups should be considered:

- Local expert naturalists
- Local representatives of voluntary and statutory nature conservation organisations
- Land owners and managers
- Farmers and crofters
- Forestry managers
- Water resource managers
- Development planners
- Businesses
- Local communities

3.5 It is not intended that LBS are seen as another layer of 'designation', with complex procedural requirements, as they have no legal status and therefore no powers or duties associated with them. The NatureScot guidance states that an LBAP partnership is likely to be well placed to form the panel of advisors to the Local Authority. The Local Authority may choose to delegate to this panel responsibility for introducing or reviewing the LBS system.

3.6 The guidance states that all Local Biodiversity Sites should be assessed according to each of the six factors below. These factors are based on those used to assess sites of national and international importance to nature conservation. Assessments require both good data and the local knowledge and expertise of the panel of advisors, which must include local expert naturalists. Use of a scoring system will help to maintain consistency between sites and ensure that each factor makes a contribution to calculating the overall importance of the site.

- Species diversity
- Species rarity
- Habitat rarity
- Naturalness
- Habitat extent in Local Context
- Connectivity

3.7 For each LBS site, a record of key information should be prepared, to be known as a 'Site Statement'. At the minimum, this should include the following:

- A map of the boundary of the site
- A record of the reasons for selection as a LBS
- A note of outcomes sought for biodiversity and, where relevant, for access, community involvement and environmental education

4. THE WILDLIFE INFORMATION CENTRE'S LOCAL BIODIVERSITY SITES SYSTEM

- 4.1 During 2010-2011, Scottish Borders Council worked with TWIC to set up an LBS System Methodology and LBS steering group for the Scottish Borders Council area. The Wildlife Information Centre (TWIC) is the Local Environmental Records Centre for south-east and part of central Scotland that collects, collates and disseminates information about wildlife in their area. It is the responsibility of the Council to designate LBS and TWIC provide the administrative and technical support. TWIC is a member of the Association of Local Environmental Records Centres (ALERC), the National Biodiversity Network and Scottish Borders Local Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership. TWIC provides support for recorders through workshops, conferences and excursions and promote biological recording by attending events and running wildlife surveys and occasional Bio Blitz events to encourage everyone to get involved in recording.
- 4.2 TWIC is a focal point for biological recording and is working to increase its knowledge of the terrestrial, freshwater and marine wildlife throughout the area. TWIC seeks to hold as comprehensive a record of the wildlife of the area as possible and provides a wide range of services to users. It supplies data to Local Authorities for screening planning applications, to consultants for preparing environmental assessments and to students, recorders and the public to inform casework, recording efforts and general interest.
- 4.3 Following the publication of the 2006 LNCS National Guidance document, TWIC produced a system for identifying, assessing and conserving Local Biodiversity Sites. This system is based on existing data held by TWIC as well as data from additional survey work. The LBS systems in SE and central Scotland are run by the relevant Local Authorities and, in most cases, are coordinated by TWIC, who provide the specialist technical support.
- 4.4 The LBS steering group, set up by the Council, is responsible for managing the LBS system, and oversees the identification of selection criteria, selection of sites, review and monitoring of sites and development of projects to ensure the conservation of sites. The LBS group is composed of representatives of various organisations including the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI), NatureScot, Butterfly Conservation (BC), the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) and Tweed Forum.

5. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN CONTEXT

- 5.1 The Scottish Borders is an attractive place to live and work and this puts a clear responsibility on the Council to maintain the intrinsic qualities of the area whilst seeking a balance between promoting the economic stability and the growth essential to the future viability of the area. It is essential to ensure that the right development occurs in the right place, and equally important, that development does not take place in the wrong place.
- 5.2 The Scottish Borders is rich in landscapes that have long historical and cultural significance as part of a working countryside. From the coast to upland valleys, fertile soils provide rich nutrients for grazing and arable farming. The farmland habitats such as grasslands, woodlands and wetlands can be rich in biodiversity.
- 5.2 The Local Development Plan (LDP) includes a range of policies in respect of environmental promotion and protection. This policy section places an emphasis on placemaking and design in relation to new development. It confirms the various landscape, natural environment and nature conservation designations within the Scottish Borders and lays down a range of criteria tests to be applied to ensure their protection and/or any potential appropriate mitigation measures. This policy section includes the following;
- Policy EP1: International Nature Conservation Sites and Protected Species
 - Policy EP2: National Nature Conservation Sites and Protected Species
 - Policy EP3: Local Biodiversity and Geodiversity
 - Policy EP4: National Scenic Areas
 - Policy EP5: Special Landscape Areas
 - Policy EP6: Countryside Around Towns
- 5.3 **Policy EP1** aims to give designated or proposed European sites, Ramsar sites and sites where there is the likely presence of European Protected Species (EPS) protection from potentially adverse development.
- 5.4 **Policy EP2** aims to protect nationally important nature conservation sites and protected species. Nationally important sites are legally protected by their designations as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for their floral, faunal, geological and geomorphological interest, and as National Nature Reserves (NNR) for the conservation of habitats and species.
- 5.5 **Policy EP3** aims to safeguard and enhance local biodiversity encouraging developers to consider biodiversity at the outset of a proposal. The policy aims to safeguard and protect Local Biodiversity Sites and Local Geodiversity Sites within the Scottish Borders. This Technical Note sits alongside Policy EP3, specifically in relation to Local Biodiversity Sites. The Scottish Borders countryside and some urban areas play an important role in the conservation of widely dispersed species with national protection. However some areas, designated as Local Biodiversity Sites are more critical to the conservation of species and are therefore subject to protection under this policy. The Council has produced Supplementary Planning Guidance for Biodiversity and the Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP), to further aid decision making alongside this policy. The Scottish Borders pilot Regional Land Use Framework provides additional informal guidance.
- 5.6 **Policy EP4** aims to protect and enhance the scenic qualities of the National Scenic Areas (NSA) within the Scottish Borders by influencing the nature of development both within and outwith

the sites where development affects the setting and context of the NSA within the wider landscape.

- 5.7 **Policy EP5** aims to ensure that local areas of identified landscape quality, known as Special Landscape Areas (SLA) are afforded adequate protection against inappropriate development and that potential maintenance and enhancement of the SLA is provided for.
- 5.8 **Policy EP6** aims to ensure that the identified Countryside Around Towns (CAT) area and the high quality living environment it provides is protected and enhanced. The policy aims to prevent piecemeal development that detracts from the area's outstanding biodiversity, landscape, historical and recreational context.

6. METHODOLOGY, CRITERIA AND SITE ASSESSMENT

Methodology

- 6.1 This section sets out the methodology for the identification and selection of the Local Biodiversity Sites (LBS) within the Scottish Borders. The methodology for identifying Local Biodiversity Sites is attached as Appendix 1. Within Appendix 1, Annex 1 outlines the role of the LBS Steering Group, Annex 2 contains definitions of Local Biodiversity Sites, while Annex 3 sets out the site selection criteria. The methodology has been implemented in five other Local Authority areas, applying a consistent approach across SE Scotland and parts of Central Scotland, administered by TWIC.
- 6.2 LBS have a significant role to play in meeting overall national biodiversity targets and will be selected to take account of both national and local priorities, as well as incorporating features of local character and distinctiveness.
- 6.3 The LBS system will select all sites meeting the agreed criteria set out within Appendix 1, rather than a representative suite of sites.

Site Selection Criteria

- 6.3 The site selection criteria are expanded upon in more detail within Appendix 1. The site selection criteria for LBS in the Scottish Borders are grouped into six categories, five relating to the site's biodiversity and an additional category for social factors.
- Species Status
 - Species Diversity
 - Habitat Importance
 - Connectivity to habitat network or corridor
 - Biodiversity Features
 - Social Factors

Within each of the above categories individual criteria have been developed by the LBS Steering Group which results in scores being allocated to a site. The scores for the 5 biodiversity criteria are combined to give an overall biodiversity score for the site.

The social factors score takes into account the sites value for education, community involvement and contribution to landscape quality. The social factors score is only taken into consideration for designating a site as an LBS if a site's biodiversity value/score is considered to be borderline for it qualifying as an LBS. This means a site cannot be designated as an LBS on social criteria scores alone; the site must have sufficient biodiversity merit to meet at least the borderline score level for becoming an LBS.

Identification of Potential Sites

- 6.4 Potential 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 collected at the record centre from a variety of sources
 - A proposal by a member of the Scottish Borders Local Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership or LBS Steering group

No specific site surveys were commissioned. Some sites were subject to a TWIC excursion visit with a number of expert local biological recorders.

- 6.5 A '*site proposal form*' should be completed, which gives basic information about the proposed site, its location and known or potential biodiversity value. The form includes a request that the proposer provides information on any known sources of biological data.

Site Assessment Process

- 6.6 Site assessment reports are generated by TWIC for consideration by the LBS Steering Group. These reports comprise a detailed assessment of the site against each criterion, details of available data used, proposed site boundary map, Phase 1 Habitat map, aerial photograph of the site, habitat connectivity map and any other supporting information.

- 6.7 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
- The boundaries have included all areas of substantive biodiversity value

Once the group is satisfied with the assessment, or have made any necessary adjustments, the site assessment will be approved or modified and the site's status will be recorded. Once 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:

- 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 the Scottish Borders Council Planning Information Officer
- Produce a Site Statement for all approved sites, including a map showing the site boundary and a description of the features that warranted the site meeting LBS status

Site Assessment Reviews

- 6.8 Every LBS within the Scottish Borders 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 for assessment and should aim to develop a programme of survey work to ensure that information on sites is up to date to enable assessments to be current.

LBS Site Statement

- 6.9 Once a site has been assessed as an LBS, a 'Site Statement' will be prepared. This will include:

- Site summary describing the site and its interest
- Site map showing the boundary
- Date of assessment
- Assessment notes (these include decision on boundaries)
- Previous status relating to site
- List of notable biodiversity features (if this includes sensitive species then this will be referred to although details of the species may be omitted, with a recommendation that further details be requested from TWIC)

7. LOCAL BIODIVERSITY SITES FOR ADOPTION

- 7.1 Following assessment, 188 Local Biodiversity Sites are included. These are outlined within Appendix 2, which contains the following for each site; boundary map, site reference, site name, area (ha) and a site description. Appendix 3 contains three maps showing the location of the Local Biodiversity Sites within the Scottish Borders context.
- 7.2 It should be noted that there are a number of proposed/provisional sites which have not yet been subject to a site assessment. These sites need further consideration before they are brought forward for adoption.
- 7.3 The Council has endeavoured to identify as many land owners as possible, however it is acknowledged that not all have been identified. Where landowners were known letters were sent out as part of the Proposed LDP consultation.

LOCAL BIODIVERSITY SITES TECHNICAL NOTE

APPENDIX 1: METHODOLOGY

Local Biodiversity Sites System Methodology

Version 4

Scottish Borders Council

September 2017

Prepared by:

**The Wildlife Information Centre
Caretaker's Cottage
Vogrie House
Vogrie Country Park
Nr Gorebridge
Midlothian
EH23 4NU
info@wildlifeinformation.co.uk**

TWIC is a company registered in Scotland (No SC234339) and a registered Scottish Charity SC034113. TWIC acknowledges financial support from SNH.

Scottish Borders Local Biodiversity Sites System Methodology

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
1. Scottish Borders Local Biodiversity Sites System	2
1.1 Scottish Borders Local Biodiversity Sites	2
1.2 The LBS Steering Group	3
2. The site selection process	3
2.1 Site selection criteria	3
2.2 Identification of potential sites	4
2.3 Site survey and collation of data prior to assessment	4
2.4 Notification of Landowners/ Managers/ Occupiers	5
2.5 Site assessment process	5
2.6 Site assessment reviews	6
3. The LBS register	6
4. Protection	6
Annex 1. LBS Steering Group – Membership and role	7
Annex 2. Definitions of Local Biodiversity Sites	8
Annex 3. Site selection criteria	10

1. Scottish Borders Local Biodiversity Sites System

In line with recent national guidance set out in Establishing and Managing Local Nature Conservation Site Systems in Scotland¹, Scottish Borders Council in conjunction with the Scottish Borders Biodiversity Partnership and local volunteers is introducing a new system of Local Biodiversity Sites (LBS) to replace the existing series of non-statutory wildlife sites. These non-statutory wildlife sites include local wildlife sites and listed wildlife sites, but not Local Nature Reserves.

The Scottish Borders network of LBS' will where possible seek to ensure the conservation, maintenance and enhancement of species and habitats of substantive nature conservation value. The system will identify and select areas of biodiversity value including both the most important, and the most distinctive, species and habitats within a national, regional and local context. LBS sites can also have an important role in contributing to the public enjoyment of nature conservation.

The LBS system in Scottish Borders will aim to follow the national guidance for Local Nature Conservation Sites (including both biodiversity and geological sites)¹ as closely as is reasonable and possible.

The LBS system is a process of surveying, assessing and monitoring individual sites and making this information available where at all possible.

The new LBS system builds on the Scottish Wildlife Trust's (SWT) system of Wildlife Sites. This former system of Wildlife sites was co-ordinated by local SWT volunteers and staff, and undertook significant survey and assessment of sites. The data from these surveys and assessments has, and continues to be, used in the establishment of the LBS sites.

1.1 Scottish Borders Local Biodiversity Sites

LBS have a significant role to play in meeting overall national biodiversity targets and will be selected to take account of both national and local priorities, as well as incorporating features of local character and distinctiveness.

The LBS system will select all sites meeting the agreed criteria set out in this document, rather than a representative suite of sites. In site selection rather than just biodiversity criteria being applied, criteria will be used to evaluate an individual site's ability to contribute to the quality of life and the well-being of the community. These criteria are referred to as "social factors" and will be important where a site is considered to be on the threshold of biodiversity importance. Section 2 and Annex 2 provide further information on this point.

The cut-off point that identifies a site as a LBS is set to ensure that the suite of LBS' in Scottish Borders includes the habitats of all of the species with specialised and restricted/ limited distributions. These sites will include all of the major areas of semi-natural habitat and many of the smaller habitats essential to conserving the area's biodiversity.

Other areas in Scottish Borders not identified as LBS' or proposed LBS' do contain a wide range of common, abundant and widespread species and a limited number of rarer species particularly those that are not normally confined to specific sites and/or dependant on large areas of common habitat.

¹ Guidance on Establishing and Managing Local Nature Conservation Site Systems in Scotland
<http://www.snh.org.uk/publications/on-line/heritagemanagement/LNCS/default.asp>

1.2 The LBS Steering Group

The LBS Steering Group is a sub-group of the Scottish Borders Biodiversity Partnership and has delegated responsibility to manage the LBS system. The Group will oversee the identification of selection criteria, site selection, review and monitoring of sites.

A summary of the group's intended membership and role is given in Annex 1.

2. The site selection process

2.1 Site selection criteria

The site selection criteria for LBS in Scottish Borders are grouped into six categories, five relating to the site's biodiversity and an additional category for social factors.

- **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 Scottish Borders Species of Conservation Concern List² 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 site 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.
- **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.

Within each of the above categories individual criteria have been developed by the LBS Steering Group which results in scores being allocated to a site. Each of the biodiversity criteria are assessed for each of the eight main broad habitat types (woodland, wetland, grassland, heathland, mire, coastland, ruderal and boundary and linear features) on the site. These are then combined to give an overall biodiversity score. The score allocated for the social factors is only taken into consideration for designating a site as a LBS if a site's biodiversity value/score is considered to be borderline for it qualifying as an LBS. This means a site cannot be designated as a LBS on social criteria scores alone, it requires to possess sufficient biodiversity merit to meet at least the borderline score level for becoming an LBS. This is in accordance with the national guidance referred to in section 1.

The details of how the criteria have been developed and how they are applied are given in Annex 2.

² The Scottish Borders Species of Conservation Concern List (BSoCC) 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 Scottish Borders LBAP

2.2 Identification of potential sites

Potential sites can be brought to the attention of the LBS Steering Group for proposal as a 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 at the Centre from a variety of sources; or
- a proposal by a member of the Scottish Borders Biodiversity Partnership.

A site proposal form should be completed (this gives basic information about the proposed site, its location and known or potential biodiversity value). The form includes a request that the proposer provides information on any known sources of biological data. Proposal forms can be obtained from Scottish Borders Council's Biodiversity Project Officer. Site proposals are assessed by the chair of the LBS Steering Group to identify which sites should be progressed further. At this stage the chair 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 a LBS it will be added to the list of Proposed Sites. The proposer of the site will be kept informed of decisions made relating to the site and records will be kept of all sites proposed. Proposers should 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.

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.

For clarification all of the sites listed on the Scottish Wildlife Trust's Wildlife Sites list as either Wildlife Sites or proposed Wildlife Sites have already been considered.

2.3 Site survey and collation of data prior to assessment

Existing data on potential sites will be collated by TWIC and an assessment made, provided that sufficient current data are available to make an assessment. For an assessment to take place there must be a recent plant list for the site (within the last 10 years)³. Additional species records for other groups 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 Scottish Borders.

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. Data from LBS commissioned surveys will be made available to landowners and managers. LBS commissioned survey should follow a methodology agreed by the Scottish Borders LBS Steering Group.

Other local recorders and field visits will be encouraged to record on LBS (or potential LBS) as much as possible.

³ Following assessment, the LBS status stands for up to 10 years before the site is re-assessed. Botanical data up to 15 years old will be used in the original LBS assessment for each site. For subsequent re-assessments of sites, it is intended that data up to 10 years old will be used, depending on availability of resources.

Where there is insufficient data, the site will require survey prior to assessment. These sites will be listed as Proposed Sites, requiring survey. Surveying will be prioritised by the LBS Steering Group according to available resources. Although these sites will have no formal status this list of sites will be available to help direct survey work.

2.4 Notification of Landowners/ Managers/ Occupiers

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.

Prior to surveys of LBS' and potential LBS', landowners/ managers/ occupiers will be informed of the purpose of the survey and sites in their interest, and invited to comment. Where required, this may include providing 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.

Data collated relating to a site will be made available. Landowners/ managers/ occupiers will be notified of the outcome of any assessment of site on their land.

2.5 Site assessment process

Site assessment reports are generated by TWIC for assessment by the LBS Steering Group, according to an agreed assessment schedule. These reports comprise a detailed assessment of the site against each criterion, details of available data used, 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 supporting information.

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.

Once the 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.

An assessment sheet will be attached to the site assessment report signed by the members of the LBS Steering Group present at the assessment.

Details of pLBS which, in the opinion of TWIC, score highly, which have good up to date information on them and which do not have any obviously controversial aspects to the site or its boundaries will be sent to the Group in the usual way but will be regarded as not requiring discussion at the next LBS Group meeting. If any of the Members of the LBS Group feel that the site should be discussed (for example because they challenge some of the data, disagree with the boundary, know of some recent changes to the site etc.) then they will notify TWIC before the next meeting. Such sites that clearly pass and have not been challenged in advance of the Meeting will be approved as passed at that Meeting.

Once 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 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 the Scottish Borders

Council Planning Information Officer; and

- advise relevant parties of the addition to the LBS register through issue of an LBS bulletin.

This process will be completed as quickly as possible after notification by the group and always within 10 working days.

2.6 Site assessment reviews

Every site within the Scottish Borders LBS 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 for assessment should aim to develop a programme of survey work to ensure that information on sites is up to date to enable assessments to be current. Those sites with site surveys older than 10 years will be prioritised for re-survey and a re-assessment carried out as soon as data become available and resources allow.

Where substantial change has occurred at a site then the site may be re-assessed in a shorter time-frame.

3. The LBS register

Once a site has been assessed as a LBS, a site statement will be prepared for each LBS. This will include:

- site summary describing the site and its interest,
- site map showing the boundary,
- date of assessment,
- assessment notes (these include decision on boundaries),
- previous status relating to site, and a
- list of notable biodiversity features (if this includes sensitive species then this will be referred to although details of the species may be omitted, with a recommendation that further details be requested from TWIC).

4. Protection

Local Biodiversity Sites will be protected under existing Structure Plan Policy N1 Local Biodiversity Action Plan, N5 Local Biodiversity Action and Local Plan Policy NE3 Local Biodiversity as set out in the Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance for biodiversity <http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/life/environment/naturalheritage/18498.html> (section 3.5.1 Borders Habitats of Conservation Concern and 6.2 Non-statutory protected habitats), and subsequent policies under the emerging SESplan and Scottish Borders Local Development Plan.

Annex 1. LBS Steering Group – Membership and role

Role

The LBS Steering Group is responsible for the selection and maintenance of the list of Scottish Borders LBS.

The work of the LBS Steering Group will normally include:

- agreeing and reviewing the criteria used for site selection;
- co-coordinating the site selection process including survey and identification of potential sites;
- assessing sites and awarding LBS status as appropriate;
- ensuring the maintenances of a publicly available LBS sites register;
- establishing processes for re-surveying and re-assessing sites regularly;
- promoting the role and importance of LBS at a strategic level (including use in other LBAP projects, integration with the planning system and targeting of agri-environmental schemes).

Membership

The LBS Steering Group will:

- be chaired by the Scottish Borders Biodiversity Coordinator;
- be administered by Scottish Borders Council through its Service Level Agreement with TWIC;
- comprise representatives of Scottish Borders Biodiversity Partnership, Scottish Borders Council, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Wildlife Trust and TWIC. These representatives will be nominated by the relevant organisations and will change as required by those organisations. In addition there will be up to five members of the Group who will be drawn from local naturalists and other members of the LBAP partnership. The objective will be to ensure that individuals nominated bring a range of expertise and represent a broad range of interests. Each member can serve a term of up to three years before being required to have a year's break; unless there are particular reasons why it would be desirable retain particular skills and experience on the Steering Group. Members will be appointed by the existing LBS Steering Group;
- representatives may send substitutes where this is appropriate to the business of the meeting and with the agreement of the chair; and
- the group may invite individuals to attend specific meetings where it is appropriate to the business.

Modus operandi

The LBS Steering Group will:

- determine its own schedule of meetings, according to the current work load, but will normally meet at least twice a year
- be administered by TWIC staff, assistants and Directors

Annex 2. Definitions of Local Biodiversity Sites

Broad definition

In defining Local Biodiversity Sites the following factors will be taken into account:

- The LBS system will select all sites meeting the agreed criteria, rather than a representative suite of sites.
- In site selection additional criteria are used to evaluate individual site's ability to contribute to the quality of life and the well-being of the community. These criteria, which come under the heading of "social factors", can add to the value of a site but can only contribute to the sites qualification as a LBS if the site is of at least borderline biodiversity value (see Annex 3, section 1.2).
- Land ownership is not relevant in assessing whether or not any parcel of land will be identified as, or included in, a LBS.
- Sites already given a national biodiversity designation (SACs, SPAs and SSSIs) will not be assessed as LBS. However, geological SSSIs may be assessed as LBS and areas of land adjacent to SSSIs may be assessed as LBS.

Boundaries of Local Biodiversity Sites will normally only include those areas of land that either meet the criteria for LBS or make a coherent unit with the other habitats. These boundaries will normally be set by defining the unit of semi-natural or natural habitats or, where the semi-natural habitats are more widespread, will include all the habitat that plays an integral part in the ecology of the site. Areas of land not comprising natural or semi-natural habitats will normally be excluded.

When boundaries are set consideration will also be given to features on the ground making it easy to identify where boundaries have been set (e.g. using roads, river, fence line and other permanent features).

Boundaries might be extended to include areas that do not in themselves meet the full criteria for designation as a LBS but:

- are of moderate value to biodiversity but with high social value; or
- are of moderate current value to biodiversity but with high potential.

In setting boundaries the following additional guidelines should be considered:

- LBS may include short breaks or gaps within the site to accommodate roads, buildings and other small features that may need to be excluded from the site.
- Individual LBS cannot include large breaks or gaps between sections. These would constitute separate sites.
- boundaries of separate LBS may abut each other.
- boundaries of individual LBS may not overlap.
- Some LBS may be associated with each other or with other statutorily designated sites, for examples separate sections of rivers, parts of woodlands. These associations should be recorded in the site statements and will be considered in assessments through the connectivity criterion.
- Where very small areas of non-biodiverse habitats (such as amenity grasslands, cultivated land, recently planted woods, conifer plantations) have to be included within a site because they are too small or too integrated into the site to be excluded, a clear rationale for including these areas must be given at the time of assessment.

Consideration to areas outwith Scottish Borders

Ecological units cross local authority boundaries and therefore in assessing sites that about the local authority boundary consideration should be given to the connectivity to the ecological units outwith the local authority area. These areas may be taken into account in the site assessment process, but areas outwith the local authority cannot be designated as LBS by Scottish Borders Council. Where a site is passed as a LBS, and consideration was given to the value of land in a neighbouring area, then the relationship with the neighbouring area should be explained in the site statement and the neighbouring authority informed of the decision of the Scottish Borders LBS Steering Group.

Rivers

Rivers should be integrated with adjacent habitats, frequently forming part of a site with a wider range of habitats. Where a long length of river corridor alone is the core part of a potential LBS the site is divided up into a number of separate LBSs by identifying logical stretches, including the adjacent riverine habitats where appropriate. The boundaries of each stretch should be determined according to the situation but based on natural ecological changes in the river's character or key physical breaks in habitat continuity. However, in principle each stretch should typically be no more than 2 km long.

Annex 3. Site selection criteria

1.	Basis for the site selection criteria and assessment process	11
1.1.	The biodiversity criteria	11
1.2.	Overall assessment of sites	11
	Table 1 Overall score and status for each site	11
	Table 2 LBS biodiversity assessment	11
2.	Species status	12
	Table 3 Value modifiers	12
	Table 4 Species status scores	12
	Table 5 Species rarity values	13
3.	Species diversity	14
	Table 6 Allocation of vascular plants to their broad habitat types (example)	14
	Table 7 Scottish Borders plant species diversity score	14
4.	Habitat importance	15
	Table 8 Scottish Borders habitat rarity scores	15
	Table 9 Intrinsic naturalness scores based on Phase 1 habitat terms	15
	Table 10 Combined rarity/intrinsic naturalness score of Phase 1 habitats	16
	Table 11 Scottish Borders habitat extent scores	18
	Table 12 Habitat importance scores	18
	Table 13 Example of calculating Habitat Importance Score for a site	18
5.	Connectivity to a habitat network or corridor	19
	Table 14 Allocation of Scottish Borders Phase 1 habitat types to broad habitats	19
	Table 15 Scottish Borders broad habitat network areas definitions	20
	Table 16 Scores for contributing new links to habitat network	21
6.	Biodiversity features	22
	Table 17 Biodiversity Feature scores	23
7.	Social factors	25
	Table 18 Social Factors	27
	Table 19 Social Factors Status scores	27

1. Basis for the site selection criteria and assessment process

The site selection criteria developed follow the advice issued in the national guidance (Guidance on Establishing and Managing Local Nature Conservation Site Systems in Scotland, March 2006). The primary component is the biodiversity value of the site. This is then supplemented by criteria considering the social factors (e.g. education value, landscape quality). A site can become an LBS based on its biodiversity alone. A site cannot, however, become an LBS based solely on the value of social factors - it must have at least moderate biodiversity value and meet the borderline assessment score values.

1.1. The biodiversity criteria

The five biodiversity criteria used in this assessment are:

- Species status (including rarity)
- Species diversity
- Habitat importance
- Connectivity to a habitat network
- Biodiversity features

The methodology used assigns a score to each criterion to put the assessments onto a comparable footing. To determine the scores for each criterion, values are assigned which are then totalled for each site. The total score then determines if the site passes, fails or is borderline for its biodiversity criteria.

1.2. Overall assessment of sites

For each site being assessed, the score from the five biodiversity criteria and the social factors criterion are entered into the assessment table (see Table 1 below). The total Biodiversity Score is calculated and the corresponding Biodiversity Status for the site allocated (see Table 2 below). If the Biodiversity Status of the site is "Borderline" and the Social Factors score is 3 the site becomes a Pass. A site that "Fails" on its Biodiversity Score cannot be made a "Pass" on the basis of the Social Factor score.

Table 1 Overall score and status for each site

Criterion
Species status score
Species diversity score
Habitat Importance score
Connectivity score
Biodiversity Feature score
Total Biodiversity Score
Biodiversity Status
Social Factors
Overall Status

Table 2 LBS biodiversity assessment

Total Biodiversity Score	Biodiversity Status
Greater than or equal to 15	Pass
12-14	Borderline
Less than or equal to 11	Fail

2. Species status

The LNCS guidance document specifies that species rarity should be one of the site assessment criteria. The method used here also takes into account the significance of a species at a site by not only considering rarity of the species but, where appropriate, the degree of association of the species with the site.

Each species recorded on site is assigned a rarity value from 0 to 10, depending on its local/national status (includes Red Data lists), statutory protection and presence on UKBAP/LBAP lists etc. The scores allocated are given in Table 5. If a species falls into more than one of these categories then the rarity value assigned to the species is the highest of the values. Only species with a rarity value of 1 or more are shown in the assessment report.

All known species records will be used in the assessment. However, 'historical' records are clearly marked as such and the LBS Steering Group can decide to exclude records from the assessment if they feel it is appropriate.

The next stage is to consider any factors that affect the species association with the site, e.g. a casual rare visitor to a site is less significant than a regular scarce species. For some taxonomic groups, the degree of association is more or less known e.g. plants are intrinsically fully associated with the site. However, plants may be e.g. introduced or planted outside their natural range, in which case a value modified may be used.

The value modifiers in Table 3 should be used as a guide. For categories A and B the species status score is the rarity value of the species plus the value modifier. For category C, the species status score is always 0 irrespective of the rarity values e.g. a one-off sighting of a Kingfisher, with a rarity value of 5 has a species status score of 0.

Table 3 Value modifiers

Value Modifier	Breeding	Presence	Default	Category
0	Confirmed	Regular/ occasional in large numbers	Plants & invertebrates	A
-1	Probable	Regular in small numbers		B
Species status score = 0	Possible	Occasional in small numbers or rare		C

The rationale for applying a value modifier must be given in the comments. In some instances it may be appropriate to record why a modifier has not been applied.

The Site Species Status score is then worked out by looking up the Total Species score for all species on the site in Table 4 below.

The total of the individual species scores is not used for two reasons. First, as the number of rare species on a site increases the total score could increase enormously – clearly with more recording across a wider range of groups this might be the case. Secondly, the score must be comparable to the scores for other criteria.

Table 4 Species status scores

Total species status values	Site Species Status score
Less than or equal to 3	0
4-6	2
7-9	4
10-12	6
13-15	8
Greater than or equal to 16	10

Table 5 Species rarity values

Rarity value	Local/national status		National Threat status	Statutory protection		Biodiversity Plans		
	Local/national rarity	BOCC ⁴		EC Directives	Wildlife & Countryside, Badger Acts	UKBAP	Scottish Biodiversity List	Borders BAP
0	Widespread	Green						
1	Scottish Borders Local species	Amber						Listed as LBAP on BSoCC ⁵
2	Scottish Borders Very Local species							
3		Red			Listed (excluding for sale only)			
4	Nationally Scarce or Notable B		Near-threatened (listed for rarity or decline)	Bird & Habitat ⁶		Priority Species (listed for decline or rarity)	Listed (excluding SO1 species ⁷)	
5								
6	Notable A		Vulnerable (listed for rarity or decline)					
8	Nationally Rare							
9			Endangered (listed for rarity or decline)					
10								

⁴ Birds of Conservation Concern

⁵ Borders Species of Conservation Concern

⁶ Excluding species on Annex 5 of the Habitats Directive: Animal and plant species of community interest whose taking in the wild and exploitation may be subject to management measures.

⁷ SO1 species: non-domestic species identified as important by the Scottish public (social criterion).

3. Species diversity

Species diversity is assessed on the vascular plants recorded on a site within the last 10 years³. Until sufficient data are available for other groups then the species diversity within other groups are defined as Biodiversity Features.

To take into account habitats that are intrinsically species-poor, each of the vascular plant species that occur in the Scottish Borders (species that are native or are well established introduction) is assigned to up to 3 main broad habitat types (see Table 6)⁸.

Table 6 Allocation of vascular plants to their broad habitat types (example)

Scientific name	Broad habitat 1	Broad habitat 2	Broad habitat 3
<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>	Boundary and linear features	Heathland	Coastland
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Woodland	Boundary and linear features	
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Woodland	Boundary and linear features	
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Woodland	Boundary and linear features	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Grassland		
<i>Achillea ptarmica</i>	Wetland		
<i>Aconitum napellus</i>	Woodland	Boundary and linear features	Wetland
<i>Acorus calamus</i>	Wetland		
<i>Actaea spicata</i>	Ruderal		
<i>Adoxa moschatellina</i>	Woodland		

A score of one is available for each vascular plant species present on site, and this score is split between the broad habitats it is found in. If a species is found in one broad habitat type, that habitat would receive a score of 1 for the species. If a species is found in two broad habitats, each habitat receives a score of 0.5 for the species. If a species is present in 3 habitats, each habitat receives a score of 0.33 for the species.

The total score for each broad habitat type is then calculated for the site and a species diversity score allocated for each habitat (see Table 7). The total score for species diversity for the site is calculated by totalling the scores for each broad habitat.

Table 7 Scottish Borders plant species diversity score

Broad habitat	Vascular plant species totals			
Coastland	0.00-4.99	5.00-10.99	11.00-14.99	15.00+
Mire	0.00-9.99	10.00-18.99	19.00-24.99	25.00+
Heathland	0.00-9.99	10.00-18.99	19.00-24.99	25.00+
Wetland	0.00-15.99	16.00-32.99	33.00-44.99	45.00+
Woodland	0.00-13.99	14.00-29.99	30.00-39.99	40.00+
Ruderal	0.00-20.99	21.00-43.99	44.00-59.99	60.00+
Grassland	0.00-13.99	14.00-29.99	30.00-39.99	40.00+
Boundary and linear features	0.00-17.99	18.00-34.99	35.00-49.99	50.00+
Species diversity score	0	1	2	3

Some species may become assigned to a broad habitat that does not occur on the site, but the number will be low and will not affect the overall results.

⁸ Allocation based on broad habitats listed for vascular plant species in "PLANTATT - Attributes of British and Irish Plants: Status, Size, Life History, Geography and Habitats" (CEH, 2008).

4. Habitat importance

The three criteria habitat rarity, naturalness and relative extent are considered together as a single criterion called habitat importance.

Naturalness effectively has two aspects:

- an intrinsic naturalness that is incorporated into the phase 1 category e.g. semi-natural woodland and unimproved grassland are more natural than plantations and semi-improved grasslands
- site specific aspects such as being a known ancient woodland or having been damaged by mismanagement

This second site-specific element of naturalness is not considered under this criterion but can be considered under the Biodiversity Features of the site (see section 6).

Local (Scottish Borders) habitat rarity scores can be assigned to each Phase 1 habitat type by determining the percentage of the total area of the particular Phase 1 habitat compared to the total Scottish Borders area⁹. The values used in this process are given in Table 8.

For hedges (which were not identified in the phase 1 survey) this score is not appropriate. Therefore, because hedges are considered to be a rare habitat within the Scottish Borders context, all hedges score 3 for habitat rarity (the highest score).

It is not possible to add scores for national habitat importance as priority habitats lists for the UK and Scotland rely on data being gathered either using the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) or the UK priority habitats. As these data are not available for all sites in Scottish Borders national habitat rarity can only be included through the use of Biodiversity Features.

Table 8 Scottish Borders habitat rarity scores

% Scottish Borders area	Habitat rarity score
>2.5%	0
>1 – 2.5%	1
0.5 – 1%	2
<0.5%	3

Intrinsic naturalness scores are assigned based on the terms used to define Phase 1 habitats and on knowledge of the intrinsic naturalness of other habitats (e.g. raised bog). The scores used to allocate to each habitat are shown in Table 9.

Table 9 Intrinsic naturalness scores based on Phase 1 habitat terms

Phase 1 term	Intrinsic naturalness score
Improved, modified, plantation	0
Semi-improved	1
Unimproved, semi-natural	2

The actual degree of naturalness at the specific site is only considered in the

⁹ The Borders Phase 1 dataset has been derived from the aerial photograph analysis. Refer to Environment Systems Ltd. (2010). Scottish Borders Council and Tweed Forum Consortium; Tweed Aerial Survey Phase 2; Aerial Photography Interpretation; Land Cover Classification & Habitat Mapping.

Biodiversity features section (see section 6).

Using these principles each habitat can be assigned a combined rarity and intrinsic naturalness score that varies between 0 and 5. These scores are shown in Table 10.

Table 10 Combined rarity/intrinsic naturalness score of Phase 1 habitats

Phase 1 code	Phase 1 habitats	Local rarity score	Intrinsic naturalness score	Total score
A1.1.1	Semi-natural broadleaved woodland	3	2	5
A1.1.2	Broadleaved plantation	3	0	3
A1.2.2	Coniferous plantation	0	0	0
A1.3.2	Mixed plantation	1	0	1
A2.1	Dense/continuous scrub	3	1	4
A2.2	Scattered scrub	3	1	4
A3.1	Broad-leaved parkland	3	0	3
A3.2	Coniferous parkland	3	0	3
A3.3	Mixed parkland	3	0	3
A4	Recently felled woodland	3	0	3
A4.1	Recently felled broadleaved woodland	3	0	3
A4.2	Recently felled coniferous woodland	1	0	1
B1.1	Unimproved acid grassland	0	2	2
B1.2	Semi-improved acid grassland	0	1	1
B2.1	Unimproved neutral grassland	3	2	5
B2.2	Semi-improved neutral grassland	2	1	3
B3.1	Unimproved calcareous grassland ♦	3	2	5
B3.2	Semi-improved calcareous grassland	3	1	4
B4	Improved Grassland		<i>Not scored</i>	
B5	Marsh/marshy grassland	0	1	1
B6	Poor semi-improved grassland	1	1	2
C1.1	Continuous bracken	1	1	2
C1.2	Scattered bracken	3	1	4
C3.1	Tall ruderal	3	0	3
C3.2	Other tall herb and fern – non ruderal	3	1	4
D1.1	Acid dry dwarf shrub heath	0	1	1
D1.2	Basic dry dwarf shrub heath	3	1	4
D2	Wet dwarf shrub heath	2	1	3
D4	Montane heath/dwarf heath	3	1	4
D5	Dry heath/acid grassland mosaic	1	1	2
D6	Wet heath/acid grassland mosaic	2	1	3
E1.6.1	Blanket bog	1	2	3
E1.6.2	Raised bog	3	2	5
E1.7	Wet modified bog	0	1	1
E1.8	Dry modified bog	2	0	2
E2.1	Acid/neutral flush	3	2	5
E2.2	Basic flush	3	2	5
E3.1	Fen: valley mire	2	2	4
E3.2	Fen: basin mire	3	2	5
E3.3	Fen: floodplain mire	3	2	5
F1	Swamp	3	1	4
F2.1	Marginal vegetation	3	1	4
F2.2	Inundation vegetation ♦	3	1	4
G1	Standing water	3	1	4
G2	Running water	3	2	5
H1	Intertidal	3	2	5
H1.1	Intertidal: mud/sand	3	2	5
H1.2	Intertidal: shingles/cobbles	3	2	5
H1.3	Intertidal: boulders/rock	3	2	5
H2.6	Saltmarsh: dense/continuous ♦		2	

♦ No data available for this habitat type. Where relevant, a Local Rarity Score has been provisionally allocated based on local expert opinion.

Scottish Borders Local Biodiversity Sites System

Phase 1 code	Phase 1 habitats	Local rarity score	Intrinsic naturalness score	Total score
H6.4	Sand-dune: dune slack ♦		2	
H6.5	Sand-dune: dune grassland	3	2	5
H6.7	Sand-dune: dune scrub ♦		0	
H8	Maritime cliff and slope	3	2	5
H8.1	Hard cliff	3	2	5
H8.4	Coastal grassland	3	2	5
I1.1.1	Inland cliff: acid/neutral ♦	3	2	5
I1.1.2	Inland cliff: basic ♦	3	2	5
I1.2	Scree	3	2	5
I1.2.1	Natural scree: acid/neutral	3	2	5
I1.2.2	Natural scree: basic ♦		2	
I1.4	Other rock exposure	3	2	5
I1.4.1	Other natural exposure: acid/neutral	3	2	5
I1.4.2	Other natural exposure: basic ♦		2	
I2.1	Artificial rock exposure: quarry	3	0	3
I2.2	Artificial rock exposure: spoil	3	0	3
I2.4	Refuse-tip		<i>Not scored</i>	
J1.1	Arable		<i>Not scored</i>	
J1.2	Amenity grassland		<i>Not scored</i>	
J1.3	Ephemeral/short perennial	3	0	3
J1.4	Introduced shrub	2	0	2
J1.5	Gardens		<i>Not scored</i>	
J2	Boundaries		<i>Not scored</i>	
J2.1	Intact hedge		<i>Not scored¹⁰</i>	
J2.3	Hedge with trees		<i>Not scored⁹</i>	
J2.4	Species-rich hedges ♦			
J3.4	Caravan site		<i>Not scored</i>	
J3.6	Built land		<i>Not scored</i>	
J4	Bare ground		<i>Not scored</i>	
J5	Other habitat		<i>Not scored</i>	
	Hedges	3	0	3

¹⁰ Environment Systems (2010) used a different method to determine the extent of hedgerows. This dataset is available as a separate GIS layer.

Habitat extent scores are based on the percentage of the particular Phase 1 habitat area at the sites compared to the total area of the Phase 1 habitat in the Scottish Borders, or in the case of hedgerows and rivers/streams percentage of the total length of hedgerows or rivers/streams in the Scottish Borders. These scores are shown in Table 11.

Table 11 Scottish Borders habitat extent scores

% total Scottish Borders Phase 1 habitat area or river length	% total hedgerow length	Habitat extent score
0 – 0.009	0 – 0.0019	0
0.01 - 0.09	0.002 – 0.009	1
0.1 – 1	0.01 – 0.02	2
>1	>0.02	4

For each habitat on the site the rarity/intrinsic naturalness score is multiplied by the habitat extent score and then the individual score for all habitats on the site is totalled. This figure is then converted to a Habitat Importance score of 0-15 using defined ranges as shown in Table 12.

Table 12 Habitat importance scores

Rarity/naturalness & extent product	Habitat importance score
0-3	0
4-6	1
7-9	2
10-12	3
13-15	4
16-18	5
19-21	6
22-24	7
25-27	8
28-30	9
31-33	10
34-36	11
37-39	12
40-42	13
43-45	14
>45	15

Table 13 Example of calculating Habitat Importance Score for a site

Phase 1 code	Habitats	Rarity/naturalness score	Extent on site (ha)	% Scottish Borders habitat	Habitat extent score	Rarity/naturalness score x Extent score
A1.1.1	Semi-natural broadleaved woodland	4		0.324	2	8
A1.1.2	Broadleaved plantation	1		0.008	0	0
A2.1	Dense/continuous scrub	3		0.026	1	3
B1.2	Semi-improved acid grassland	2		0.561	2	4
Total						15
Habitat Importance Score for site						4

5. Connectivity to a habitat network or corridor

The connectivity criterion puts the site into the wider landscape context and is measured for each broad habitat occurring on the site using Scottish Borders-wide data. To do this all Phase 1 habitats in the Scottish Borders have been allocated to a Broad habitat type (see Table 14 below).

Table 14 Allocation of Scottish Borders Phase 1 habitat types to broad habitats

Phase 1 code	Phase 1 habitats	Broad habitat
A1.1.1	Semi-natural broadleaved woodland	Woodland
A1.1.2	Broadleaved plantation	Woodland
A1.2.2	Coniferous plantation	Woodland
A1.3.2	Mixed plantation	Woodland
A2.1	Dense/continuous scrub	Woodland
A2.2	Scattered scrub	Woodland
A3.1	Broadleaved parkland/scattered trees	Woodland
A3.2	Coniferous parkland/scattered trees	Woodland
A3.3	Mixed parkland/scattered trees	Woodland
A4	Recently felled woodland	Woodland
A4.1	Recently felled broadleaved woodland	Woodland
A4.2	Recently felled coniferous woodland	Woodland
B1.1	Unimproved acid grassland	Grassland
B1.2	Semi-improved acid grassland	Grassland
B2.1	Unimproved neutral grassland	Grassland
B2.2	Semi-improved neutral grassland	Grassland
B3.2	Semi-improved calcareous grassland	Grassland
B4	Improved grassland	<i>Not allocated</i>
B5	Marsh/marshy grassland	Wetland
B6	Poor semi-improved grassland	Grassland
C1.1	Continuous bracken	Grassland
C1.2	Scattered bracken	Grassland
C3.1	Tall ruderal	Ruderal
C3.2	Other tall herb and fern - non ruderal	Grassland
D1.1	Acid dry dwarf shrub heath	Heathland
D1.2	Basic dry dwarf shrub heath	Heathland
D2	Wet dwarf shrub heath	Heathland
D4	Montane heath/dwarf herb	Heathland
D5	Dry heath/acid grassland	Heathland
D6	Wet heath/acid grassland	Heathland
E1.6.1	Blanket sphagnum bog	Mire
E1.6.2	Raised sphagnum bog	Mire
E1.7	Wet modified bog	Mire
E1.8	Dry modified bog	Mire
E2.1	Acid/neutral flush	Mire
E2.2	Basic flush	Mire
E3.1	Valley mire	Mire
E3.2	Basin mire	Mire
E3.3	Flood plain mire	Mire
F1	Swamp	Wetland
F2.1	Marginal vegetation	Wetland
G1	Standing water	Wetland
G2	Running water	Wetland
H1	Intertidal	Coastland
H1.1	Intertidal - mud/sand	Coastland
H1.2	Intertidal - shingles/cobbles	Coastland
H1.3	Intertidal - boulders/rocks	Coastland
H6.5	Dune grassland	Coastland
H8	Maritime cliff and slope	Coastland
H8.1	Hard cliff	Coastland
H8.4	Coastal grassland	Coastland

Phase 1 code	Phase 1 habitats	Broad habitat
I1.2	Scree	Ruderal
I1.2.1	Acid/neutral scree	Ruderal
I1.4	Other rock exposure	Ruderal
I1.4.1	Other exposure - acid/neutral	Ruderal
I2.1	Quarry	Ruderal
I2.2	Spoil	Ruderal
I2.4	Refuse-tip	<i>Not allocated</i>
J1.1	Arable	<i>Not allocated</i>
J1.2	Amenity grassland	<i>Not allocated</i>
J1.3	Ephemeral/short perennial	Ruderal
J1.4	Introduced shrub	<i>Not allocated</i>
J1.5	Gardens	<i>Not allocated</i>
J2	Boundaries	Boundary and linear features
J2.1	Intact hedge	Boundary and linear features
J2.3	Hedge with trees	Boundary and linear features
J3.4	Caravan site	<i>Not allocated</i>
J3.6	Built land	<i>Not allocated</i>
J4	Bare ground	<i>Not allocated</i>
J5	Other habitat	<i>Not allocated</i>
	Hedges	Boundary and linear features

For each broad habitat type a network of the habitats for the Scottish Borders has been created. This links all areas of the same broad habitat type (including a 25 m buffer). All the separate areas for each broad habitat type collectively form the network for that broad habitat type throughout the Scottish Borders. Each of these areas is categorised as extensive, large, medium or small, based on the total size and then allocated a score (see Table 15 below).

Table 15 Scottish Borders broad habitat network areas definitions

Habitat area (ha)	Habitat polygon size	Habitat network score
0 – 25	Small	0
26 - 100	Medium	1
101-250	Large	2
251+	Extensive	3

The score allocated to each habitat area that connects with the site are totalled to give the total Connectivity score for the site.

Potential to create new links to the network

The Scottish Borders opportunities map¹¹ indicates the most advantageous places to reinstate woodlands, heathland, species-rich grasslands and peat-based wetlands. Using this dataset, it is possible to score a site on the basis of whether it has the potential to contribute new links to the network. For a site to score, the LBS boundary must intersect with 'preferred' areas for new habitat. Scores are then allocated on the basis of area contributed (Table 16).

¹¹ Environment Systems Ltd (2010). Using Aerial Photography and Remote Sensing to Plan Restoration in the Scottish Borders: Development of Network and Opportunities Mapping (draft). Report produced for Scottish Borders Council.

Table 16 Scores for contributing new links to habitat network

Area (ha)	Polygon size	Preferred networks score
0-15	Small	0
16-60	Medium	1
61-150	Large	2
151+	Extensive	3

Each of the four habitat types are scored as in Table 16 and then summed to give an overall score for contributing new links to the network. The total connectivity score plus the total preferred networks score gives an overall habitat networks scores for the site.

6. Biodiversity features

Some special aspects of the biodiversity of a site are not covered by the main assessment categories and sites with these extra 'biodiversity features' deserve additional scores. These features are, by definition, exceptional and a list of the eligible ones has been developed as sites have been looked at in detail. To date these include:

- Key breeding sites for rare species
- Key sites with a nationally rare habitat
- Sites known to have exceptional species diversity of groups other than vascular plants
- Sites with high-quality (natural) habitat

Key breeding sites for rare species: Species which have been recognised as Priority Species in the UK BAP or in the SBL clearly have an importance beyond Scottish Borders as a consequence score more for that status.

Key sites with a nationally rare habitat: Several habitats have been recognised as Priority Habitats in the UK BAP some of which are also of European importance (e.g. raised bogs). Where these occur in the Scottish Borders an extra score is added to recognise this wider status.

Sites known to have exceptional species diversity: Whereas most sites with key breeding populations of birds and mammals or vascular plants are well recorded, non-vascular plant and invertebrate species are very under-recorded in the Scottish Borders. However, some sites which 'happen' to have been surveyed in detail are known to be rich and based on that knowledge they are scored appropriately.

The site with the maximum number of species in any one group is considered as the richest site and that number is considered as 100% in terms of the possible biodiversity for that group. Sites with 87.5-100% of the total number of species in the richest site are regarded as having very high diversity and are given a score of three. For each taxonomic group this category has been checked by a recognised expert with local knowledge of that group.

Sites with 75-85.4% of the species total are recorded as being of high biodiversity and scored as two. Sites with 50% to 74.9% are of medium diversity and score one. Sites with a total number of species lower than 49.9% of that of the maximum site do not score.

Some taxonomic groups have a only a very small number (less than eight) of resident species all of which are regularly recorded in the Scottish Borders and as such these groups are not included in the biodiversity features. Other groups excluded are those which are currently either very under-recorded or there is no local expert to advise on the significance of any records.

Sites with high-quality (natural) habitat: In some cases (e.g. freshwater, ancient woodland) data exists about the relevant quality of the site as a whole which provides background evidence of the likely biodiversity importance of the site. Sites with these features score more because of this status.

The current list of Biodiversity Features is shown in Table 17 below.

Table 17 Biodiversity Feature scores

Feature	Score	Assessment		
Feature type	Score	Assessment		
Key breeding sites for rare species				
Site with a viable great crested newt population	10	Viability based on presence of suitable habitat and records over 3+ years		
Key site for a notable species	10	Only site in Scottish Borders for a species listed on the Scottish Biodiversity List		
Site with a proven breeding population of a notable mammal or bird	2 - 10	Dependant on status of notable mammal or bird and number of species breeding on site.		
Key site with nationally rare habitat				
Site with active Blanket Bog	5 - 10	Dependant on total area of blanket bog on site. All sites with more than 25 hectares blanket bog will qualify for the full score.		
Site with active Raised Peatbog	5-10	Dependant on the proportion of actively growing Sphagnum and the amount of man-made damage to the peat dome.		
Sites known to have exceptional species diversity of groups other than vascular plants				
Site with diverse population of bryophytes (mosses, liverworts and hornworts)	1-3	Bryophyte diversity on site scored based on thresholds agreed with local experts. Medium (60-89 species), high (90-119 species) or very high (≥ 120 species) bryophyte diversity scores 1, 2 or 3 respectively. Low diversity sites (<60 species) score zero.		
Site with a diverse Odonata fauna (Dragonflies and Damselflies)	1-3	Dragonfly diversity on site scored based on thresholds agreed with British Dragonfly Society recorders. Only species resident in the Scottish Borders count towards the score. Medium (4-5 species), high (6-7 species) or very high (≥ 8 species) dragonfly diversity scores 1, 2 or 3 respectively. Low diversity sites (<4 species) score 0.		
Site with diverse population of butterflies				
The number of butterfly species on site is totaled. The dominant broad habitat for the site is then checked and the number of butterflies on site cross-referenced against the relevant entry in the table to determine a score for the site.				
Broad habitat		Total number of butterflies on site		
Coastal/ grassland	≤ 8	9 - 11	12 - 15	16 +
Upland/ moorland	≤ 4	5 - 6	7 - 8	9 +
Woodland/ hedgerows	≤ 5	6 - 8	9 - 12	13 +
Butterfly species diversity score	0	1	2	3
The above thresholds were agreed with Butterfly Conservation recorders.				
Site with diverse population of other invertebrate fauna	1-3	Scored depending on expert opinion (see text)		

Sites with high-quality (natural) habitat		
Freshwater sites with a high water quality	1-3	Water quality assessed based on classifications on Scotland's Environment Web (https://www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/water/scotland-s-freshwater/). Classifications of High, Good and Moderate score 3, 2 and 1 respectively. Poor or Bad classified watercourses score zero.
Ancient Woodland	2 - 5	Dependant on proportion of site covered by Ancient woodland and total area of ancient woodland on site. All sites with more than 25 hectares of ancient or long established woodland qualify for the full score.
Ancient trees	1 - 4	Presence of ancient trees is assessed using the Woodland Trust's © Ancient Tree Inventory for Great Britain and Northern Ireland (See: www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk/ancienttrees/what). Scoring is based on the number of ancient or veteran trees on site as follows: 1 – 5 trees scores 1 point; 6 – 10 trees scores 2 points; 11 – 15 trees scores 3 points; 16+ trees scores 4 points.
Berwickshire sites with good quality habitat, as indicated by 'axiophyte' flowering plants	1-5	Site rating based on Berwickshire BSBI Botanical Site Register (Braithwaite, 2011). Classifications of Outstanding, Excellent, Fine, Good and Moderately good habitat score 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 respectively. Fragmentary or lost habitats score zero.
Species-rich hedgerows	1-3	A 30m section of hedgerow should have at least four native woody species (excluding climbers and bramble) to qualify. Hedgerows that contain fewer woody species but have a rich basal herbaceous flora may also be defined as species-rich. ¹²

An individual site may score under more than one and/or more than once for each Biodiversity Feature Type. For example, there may be two notable species breeding on the site and the water quality of the site may be high. The Biodiversity Feature Score for the site is cumulative, i.e. the score for each feature is added to give a total. This total is the Biodiversity Feature Score for the site. The rationale and evidence base for the score each biodiversity feature receives is recorded, as are any other relevant comments.

¹² DEFRA (2007). Hedgerow Survey Handbook: A standard procedure for local surveys in the UK. 2nd ed. Prepared on behalf of the Steering Group for the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

7. Social factors

The LBS system takes into account the importance of possible social and community factors associated with a site. The LBS Steering Group has identified nine “social factor” criteria against which all proposed LBS sites will be assessed. These criteria, set out below, have been designed to take account of the national guidance Establishing and Managing Local Nature Conservation Site Systems in Scotland referred to in Section 1 of this document. This guidance identifies three key areas for assessing social factors in identifying LBS sites. These are:

- value for enjoyment;
- value for education and community involvement; and
- contribution to landscape quality.

Data are collated from existing sources (i.e. no additional data collection is carried out on social factors for the LBS assessment process). Each of the nine “social factors” criteria is allocated a score and the score for Social Factors for the site is the total of these individual scores. The criteria used, scores allocated and sources used for data collection are given in Table 18.

The total score allocated for the social factors is only taken into consideration in the designation of site as a LBS if a site’s biodiversity value/score is considered to be borderline for it qualifying as a LBS. This means a site cannot be designated as a LBS on social criteria scores alone, it requires to possess sufficient biodiversity merit to meet at least the borderline score level for becoming an LBS. This is in accordance with the national guidance referred to above and in section 1.

The criteria and sources of data for social factors and scoring are as follows-

1. Number of households within 1000m of the site.

Source: Scottish Borders Council. GIS data used to determine number of homes within 1000m of the site as the crow flies.

Scoring –

0-250 households scores 0

250-500 scores 1

500+ scores 2

2. Site within 100m of the Core Path network.

Source: Scottish Borders Council. GIS data used to determine if a core path cuts through or is within 100m of the site.

Scoring –

No core path within 100m scores 0

Core path within 100m buffer scores 1

Core path within site scores 2.

3. Site actively used by schools / educational institution for biodiversity education.

Source: Scottish Borders Council Ranger Service and Outdoor Education.

Scoring –

No education use scores 0

Site is used for educational use scores 2.

4. Educational institution within 1000m of the site.

Source: Scottish Borders Council. GIS data used to determine if an educational institution is within 1000m of the site.

Scoring –
No institution within 1000m scores 0
Institution within 1000m of site scores 2.

5. Actively used by the local community for biodiversity access purposes.

Source: Scottish Borders Council Ranger Service and Scottish Borders Council Biodiversity Projects Officer including information gathered from local community groups.

Scoring –
No active use scores 0
Site is actively used scores 2.

6. Managed, improved or interpreted by community / interest group(s).

Source: Scottish Borders Council Ranger Service and Biodiversity Projects Officer including information gathered from local community groups.

Scoring –
No community involvement scores 0
Site has community involvement scores 2.

7. Regular systematic biodiversity recording at site.

Source: Scottish Borders Council Ranger Service and Biodiversity Projects Officers including information gathered from local groups. Regular systemic biodiversity recording may be carried out by individuals, geographical community groups/voluntary organisations and by local interest groups.

Scoring –
No biological recording scores 0
Site has regular biological recording scores 2.

8. The Site is located within an area designated in the Scottish Borders Council Local Plan (2012) as a Special Landscape Area (SLA).

Source: Scottish Borders Council. GIS data used to determine if site is in or directly abutting a Special Landscape Area.

Scoring –
Not in or adjacent to an SLA scores 0
In or adjacent to SLA scores 1.

9. Within an area designated in the Scottish Borders Local Plan (2008) as a nationally important Historic Garden and Designed Landscape.

Source: GIS data used to determine if site is in or directly abutting area designated as Garden and Designed Landscape.

Scoring –
Not in or adjacent to Garden and Designed Landscape scores 0
In or adjacent to Garden and Designed Landscape scores 1.

10. Within an area designated in the Scottish Borders Local Plan (2008) as a regionally important Designed Landscape.

Source: GIS data used to determine if site is in or directly abutting area designated as Borders Designed Landscape.

Scoring –
Not in or adjacent to the Regional Designed Landscape scores 0
In or adjacent to the Regional Designed Landscape scores 1.

Table 18 Social Factors

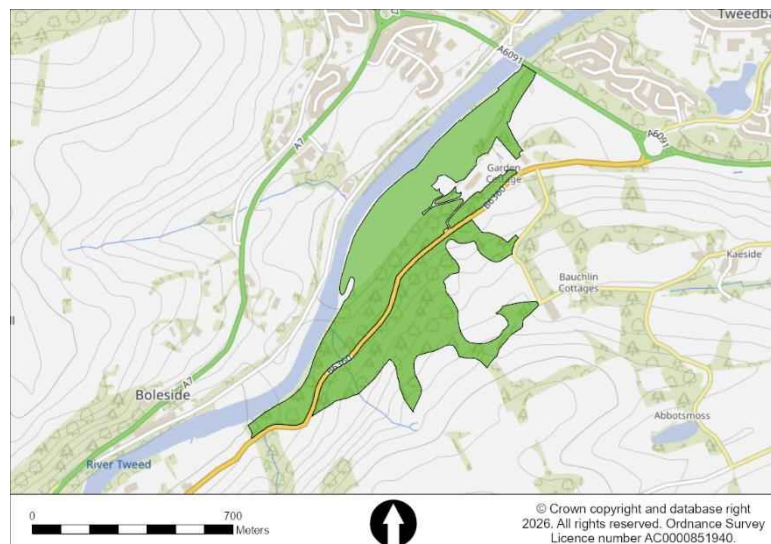
Social Factor		Measure	Score
Value for enjoyment			
1	No. of households within 1000m of the site	250-500 and/or 500+ Households	0 – 2
2	Site within 100m of the Core Path network	No/Buffer/Through	0 – 2
Value for education and community involvement			
3	Site actively used by schools / educational institution for biodiversity education	Yes or No	0 – 2
4	Educational institution within 1000m of the site	Yes or No	0 – 1
5	Actively used by the local community for biodiversity access purposes	Yes or No	0 – 2
6	Managed, improved or interpreted by community / interest group(s)	Yes or No	0 – 2
7	Regular systematic biodiversity recording at site	Yes or No	0 – 2
Contribution to landscape quality			
8	Within SLA	Yes or No	0 – 1
9	Within Garden and Designed Landscape	Yes or No	0 – 1
10	Within Borders Designed Landscape	Yes or No	0 – 1

Table 19 Social Factors Status scores

Social Factors Score	Social Factors Status
0	0
1-3	1
4-6	2
7+	3

LOCAL BIODIVERSITY SITES TECHNICAL NOTE

APPENDIX 2: LOCAL BIODIVERSITY SITES AND DESCRIPTIONS



Site Ref: 1

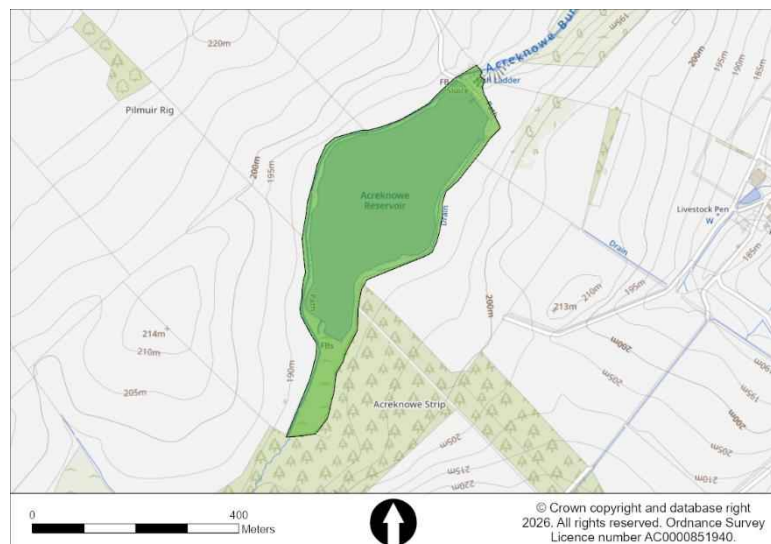
Site Name: Abbotsford

Area (ha): 37.76

Site Description

Plantation woodland, burnsides and unimproved grassland with breeding birds, an important Waxcap grassland assemblage, locally rare plants & invertebrates and protected mammals.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 2

Site Name: Acreknowe Reservoir

Area (ha): 11.26

Site Description

Oligotrophic reservoir with fringing grassland surrounded by agricultural land.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 3

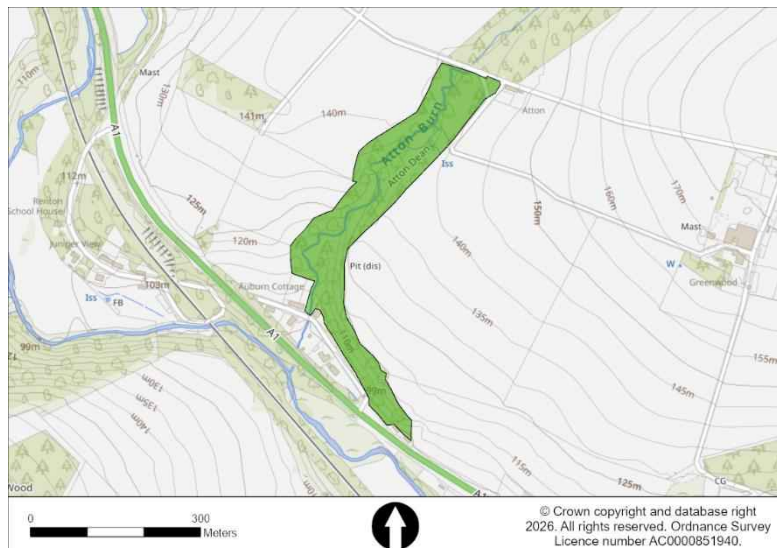
Site Name: Ancrum Mill Wood

Area (ha): 6.42

Site Description

Ancient woodland with breeding birds and protected mammals.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 4

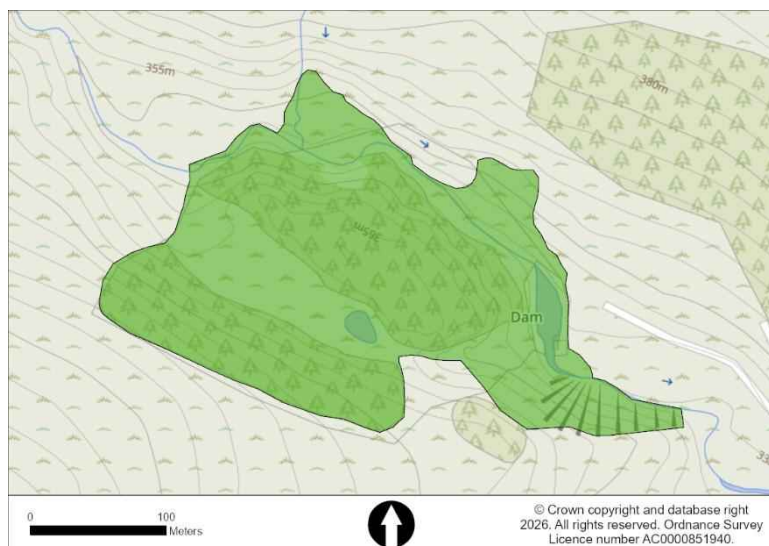
Site Name: Atton Dean

Area (ha): 5.47

Site Description

Dean woodland with a locally notable plant and a protected mammal.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 5

Site Name: Baddingsgill Bog

Area (ha): 5.80

Site Description

Blanket bog, fen and species-rich basic flushes, with diverse plant communities, a nationally scarce plant and a UKBAP Priority butterfly.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 6

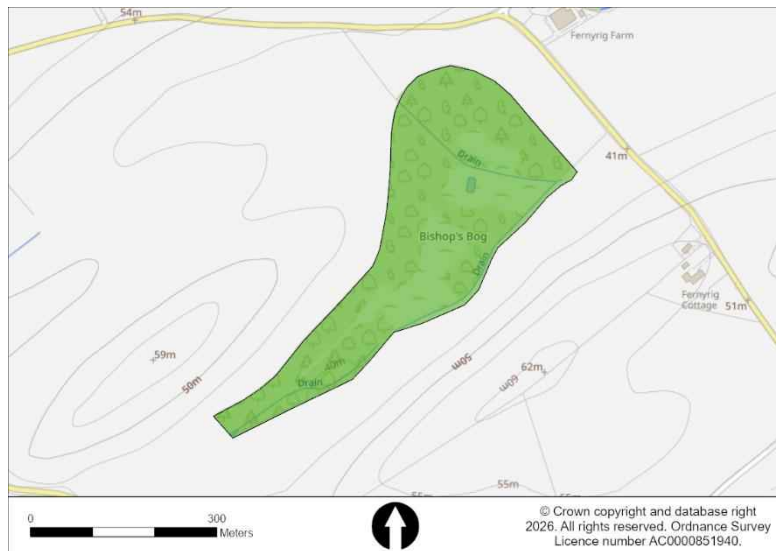
Site Name: Birgham Wood

Area (ha): 29.79

Site Description

Mixed woodland on former sandy moorland with fen area and pond.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 7

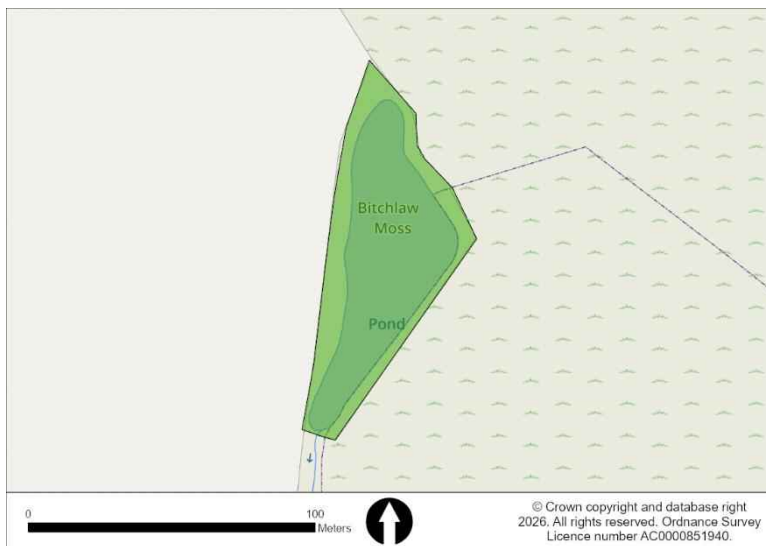
Site Name: Bishops Bog

Area (ha): 10.92

Site Description

Semi-natural broadleaved woodland, species-rich hedgerow, *Phragmites australis* reed swamp and ruderal communities, with a nationally scarce moss and a priority mammal.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 8

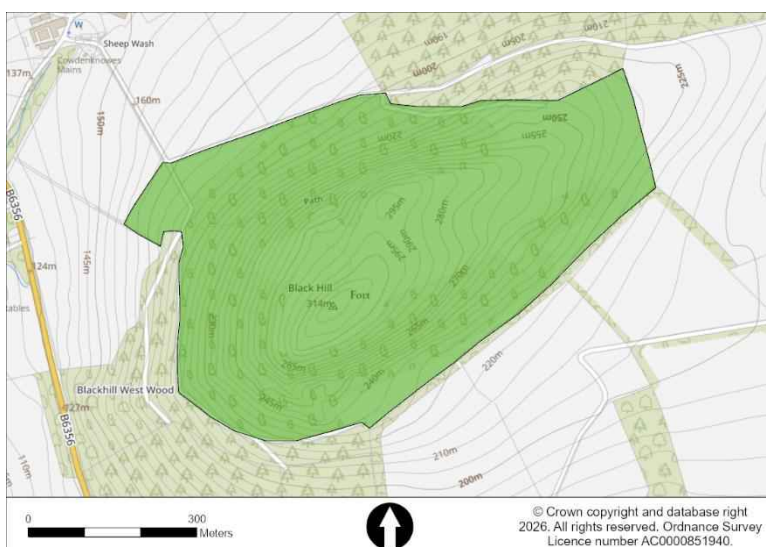
Site Name: Bitchlaw Moss

Area (ha): 0.40

Site Description

Small hill lochan surrounded by acid grassland with a rare plant, Scottish Biodiversity List stonewort and a priority fish species.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 9

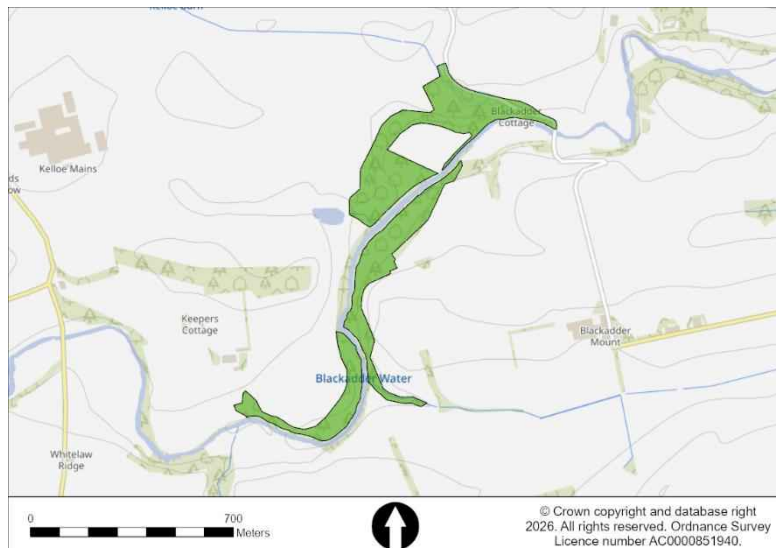
Site Name: Black Hill

Area (ha): 38.35

Site Description

Acid grassland, screes

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 10

Site Name: Blackadder Cottage Wood

Area (ha): 19.30

Site Description

Broadleaved and mixed woodland on the banks of a river, with sizeable ruderal habitat surrounded by agricultural land.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 11

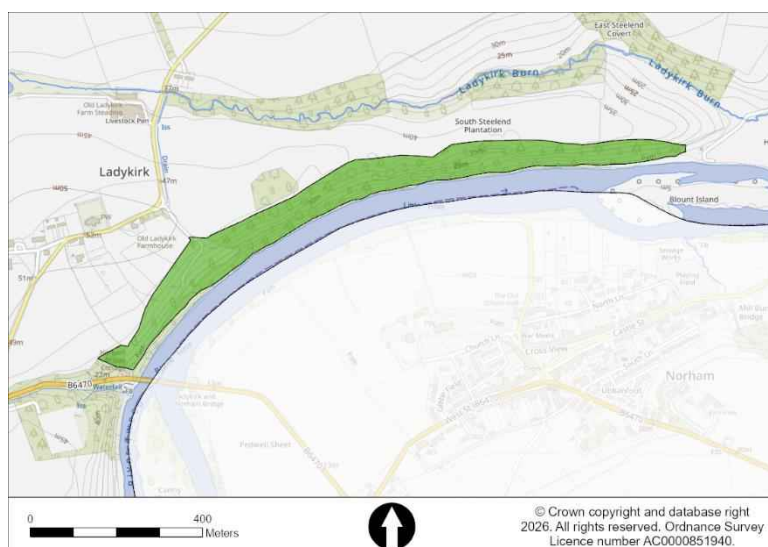
Site Name: Blakelaw Old Racecourse

Area (ha): 6.85

Site Description

Mire and marshy grassland with both acid and basic influences, with locally rare plants.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 12

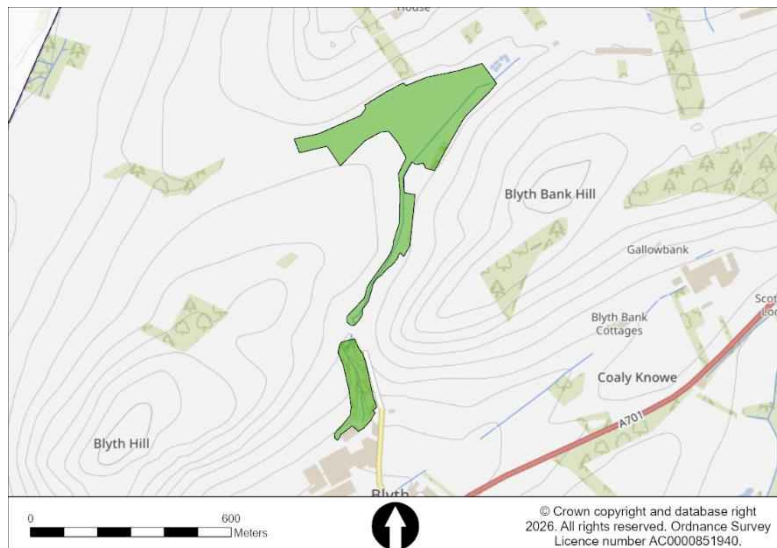
Site Name: Blount Bank

Area (ha): 10.17

Site Description

Riverside, wooded bank and grassland with both locally notable and Scottish priority plants.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 13

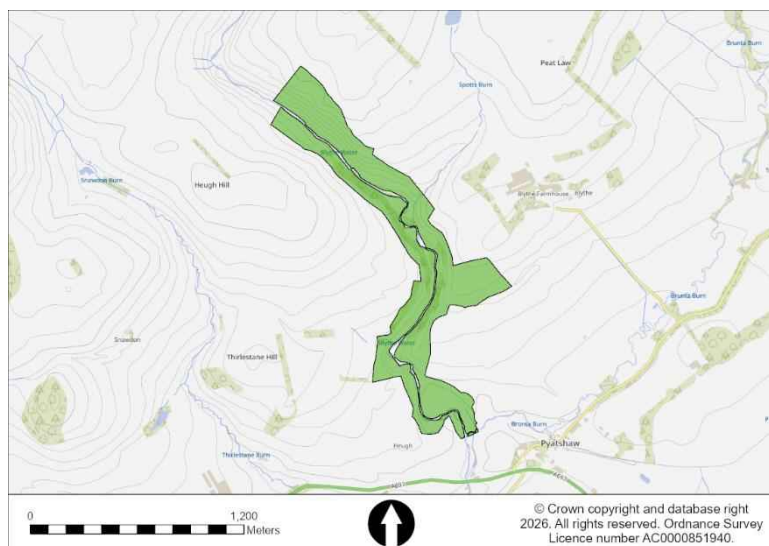
Site Name: Blyth Muir Moss and Blyth Dean

Area (ha): 11.49

Site Description

Wet modified bog, marshy grassland and swamp with a small but species-rich dene woodland to the south. The site hosts some locally rare plants and mosses as well as protected mammals. The area may be significant for wintering wildfowl.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 14

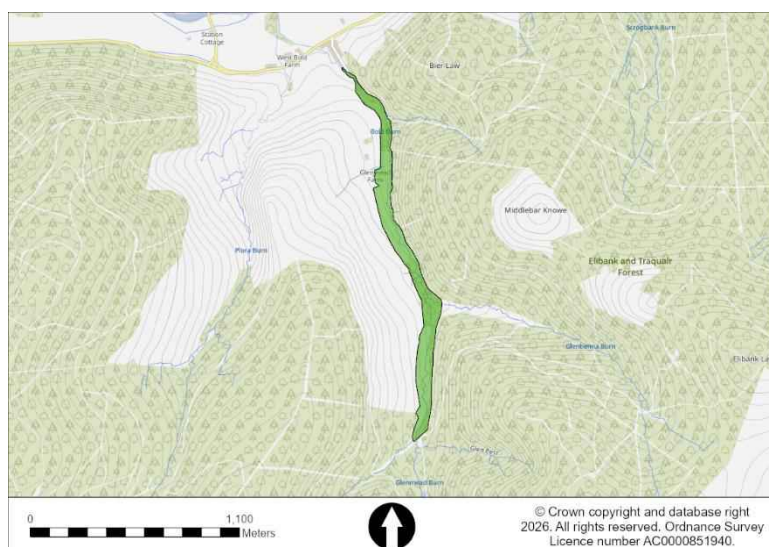
Site Name: Blythe Water

Area (ha): 62.00

Site Description

Juniper scrub, grasslands and bracken with a diverse bryophyte flora and locally rare plants.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 15

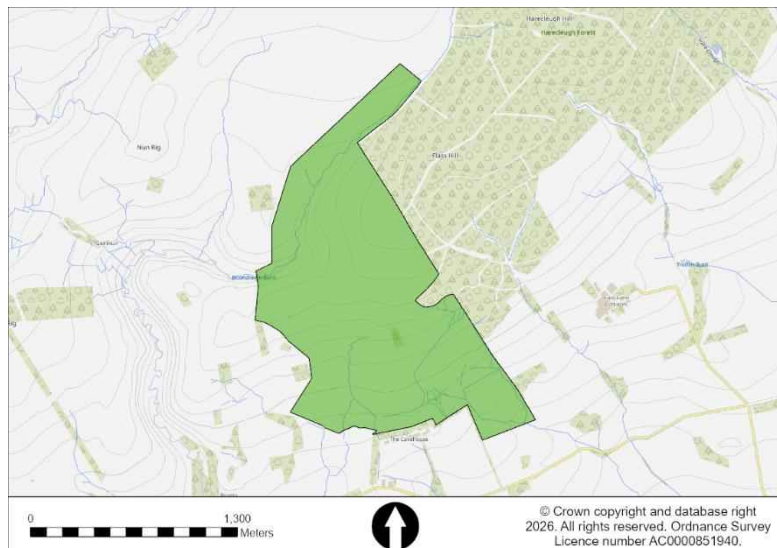
Site Name: Bold Burn / Glenmead Burn

Area (ha): 13.93

Site Description

Burnsides with Juniper scrub

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 16

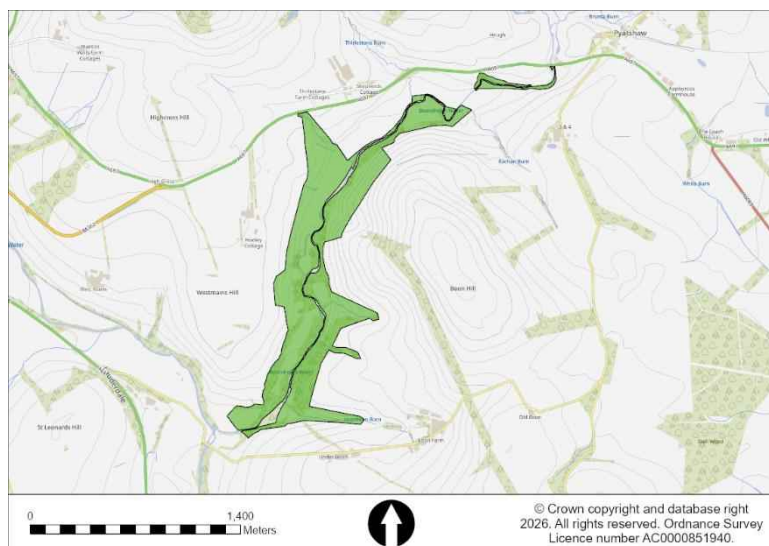
Site Name: Boondreigh Burn and Raecleugh

Area (ha): 193.60

Site Description

Burnside and base-rich flushes with many locally rare plants.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 17

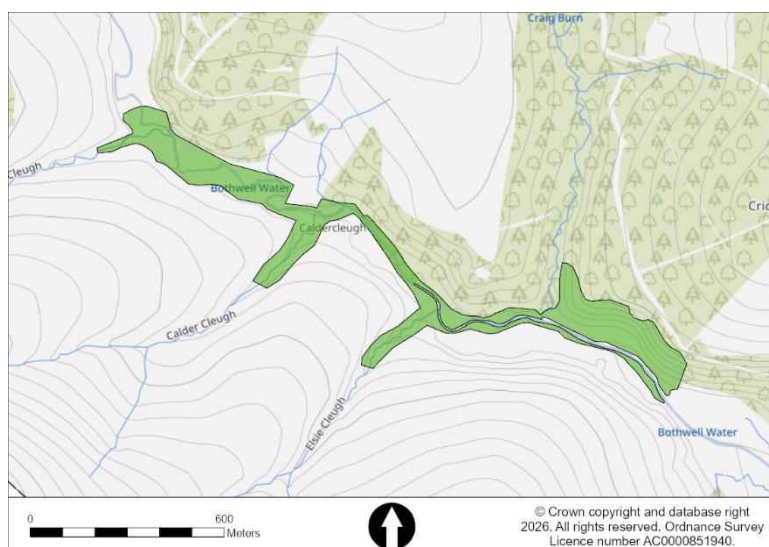
Site Name: Boondreigh Water, Dod Mill

Area (ha): 86.40

Site Description

Burnsides with woodland, wetland and grassland habitats with a high diversity of plants and several locally rare or priority species.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 18

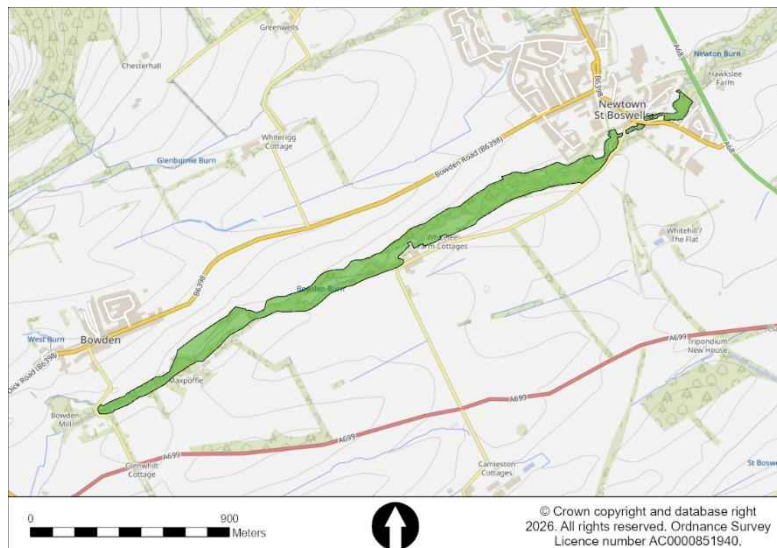
Site Name: Bothwell Water – Caldercleugh

Area (ha): 19.47

Site Description

Upland river valley and adjoining cleughs, with base-rich flushes and scree slopes with a fine stand of native oaks. Site has a high diversity of grassland plants and butterfly species, several local rarities and UK priority reptiles and fishes.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 19

Site Name: Bowden Glen

Area (ha): 22.73

Site Description

Burnsides with mixed woodland and wet and dry grassland

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 20

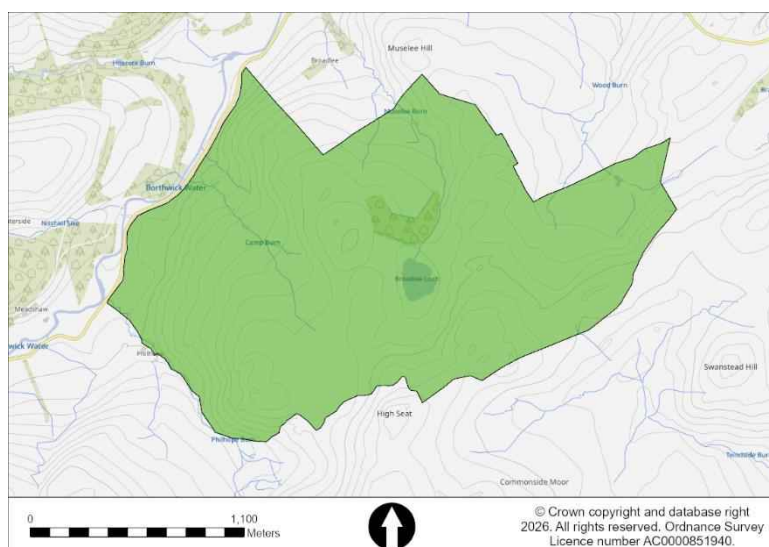
Site Name: Bowshiel Dean & Edmond's Dean

Area (ha): 91.49

Site Description

Cleughs, scrub, conifer plantation, burnsides, pond

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 21

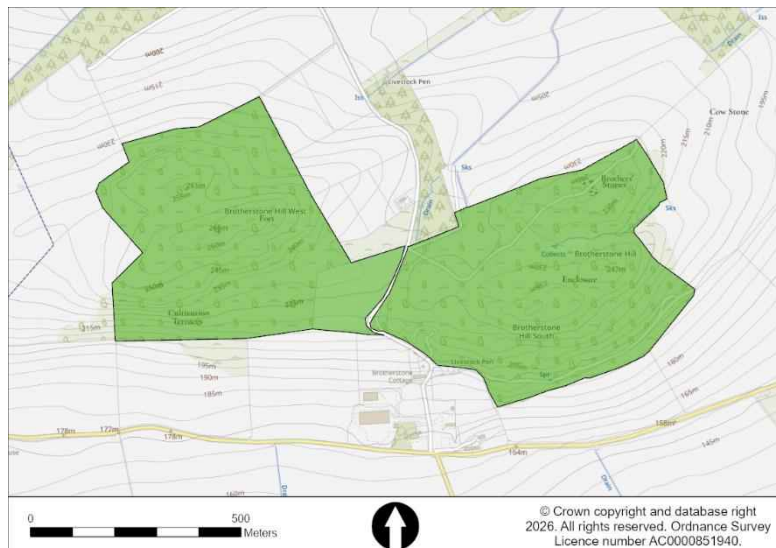
Site Name: Broadlee Moss and Loch

Area (ha): 329.09

Site Description

Heathland, acid mire, raised bog and loch with breeding waterfowl, nationally scarce and locally rare plants and a priority butterfly.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 22

Site Name: Brotherstone Hills

Area (ha): 54.55

Site Description

Grassland on knowes and a small peat bog, with both nationally notable and threatened plants, a UK priority mammal and locally notable plants.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 23

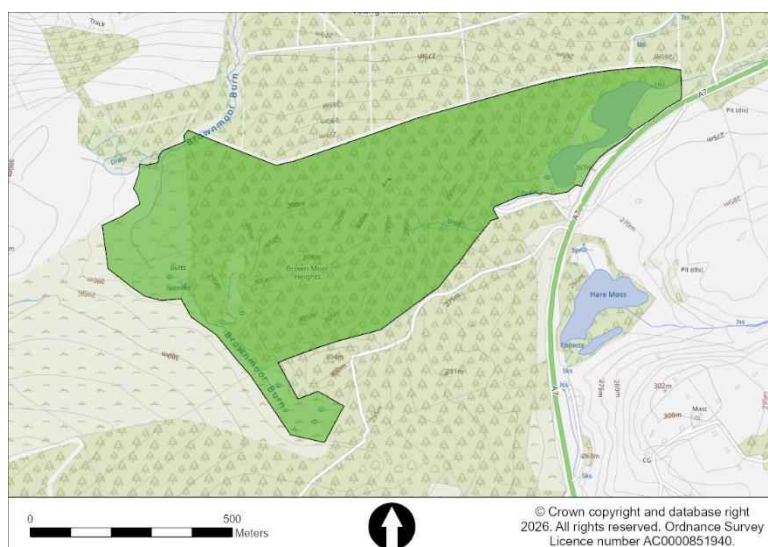
Site Name: Brotherstone Moss

Area (ha): 6.33

Site Description

Small wet woodland with locally notable plants. The nationally scarce, *Corallorhiza trifida*, is also known from the site.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 24

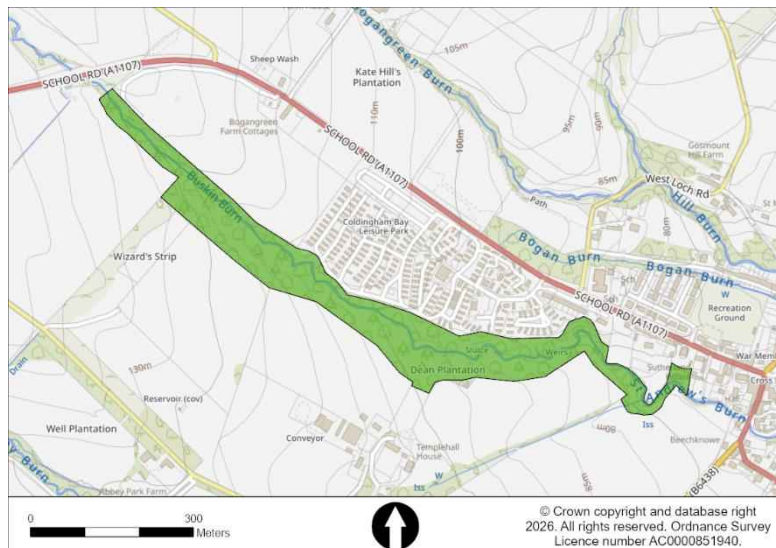
Site Name: Brownmoor Heights

Area (ha): 52.90

Site Description

Mire complex with a diverse plant community, containing many local rarities and several nationally rare or scarce plants, bryophytes and stoneworts. Also, an important site for breeding birds.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 25

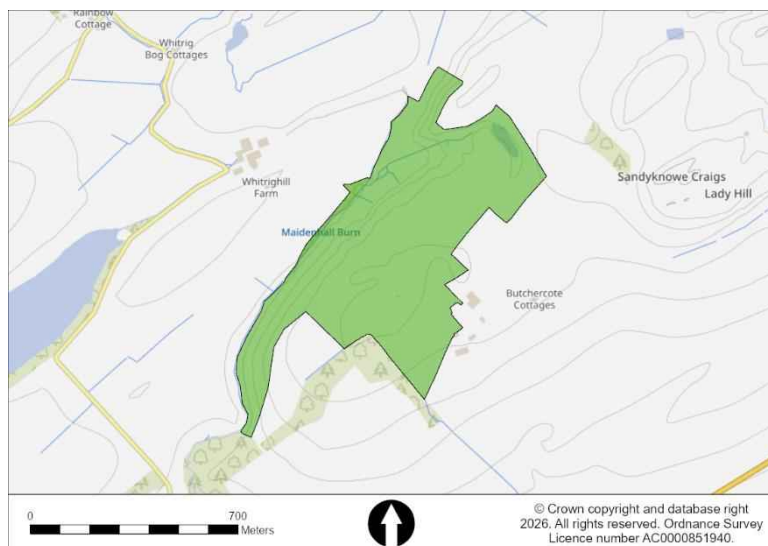
Site Name: Buskin Burn

Area (ha): 8.48

Site Description

Dean plantation and ancient semi-natural broadleaved woodland with a diverse woodland ground flora.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 26

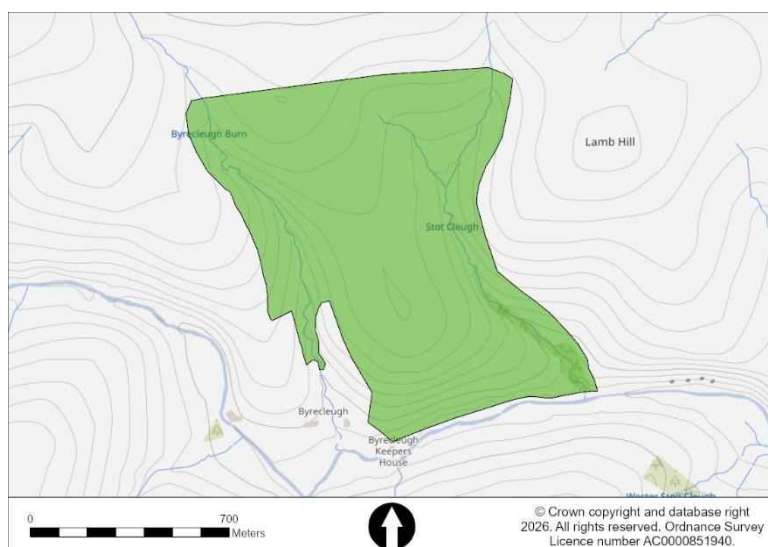
Site Name: Butchercote Craigs

Area (ha): 48.29

Site Description

Grassland on knowes, flushes and wet meadow, with nationally scarce, Scottish priority and locally rare plants.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 27

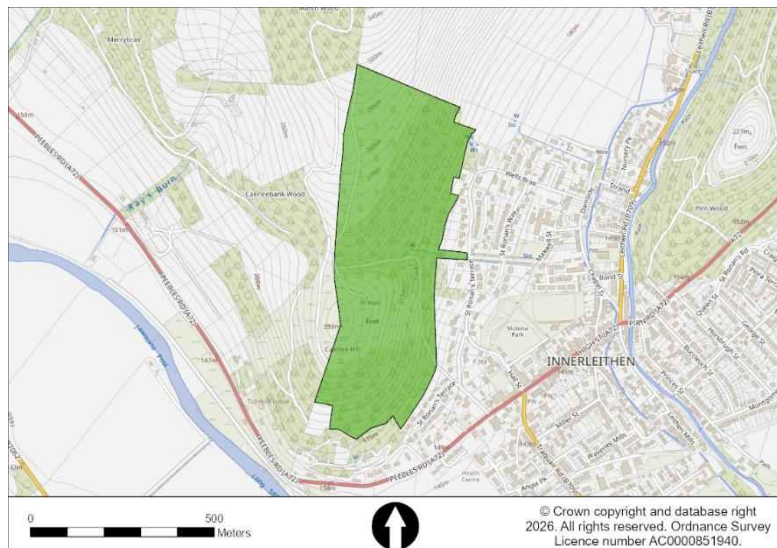
Site Name: Byrecleuch Burn, Stot Cleugh

Area (ha): 107.19

Site Description

Cleughs and burnsidess with nationally scarce plants and locally rare plants and moths.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 28

Site Name: Caerlee Hill

Area (ha): 27.18

Site Description

A moderate sized broadleaved plantation, readily accessible by nearby populations, with a range of woodland birds as well as protected mammals. The small grassland areas support locally rare fungi.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 29

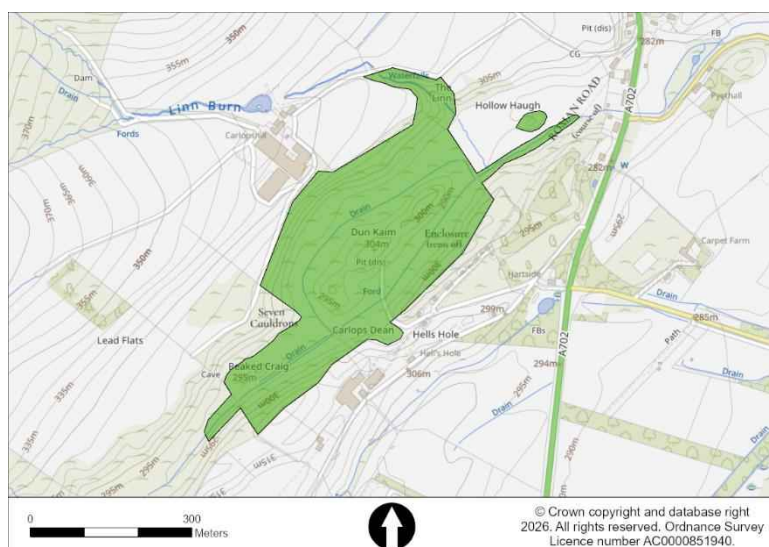
Site Name: Carham Station Limeworks

Area (ha): 2.60

Site Description

Grassland, knowes and old railway embankment adjacent to SSSI.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 30

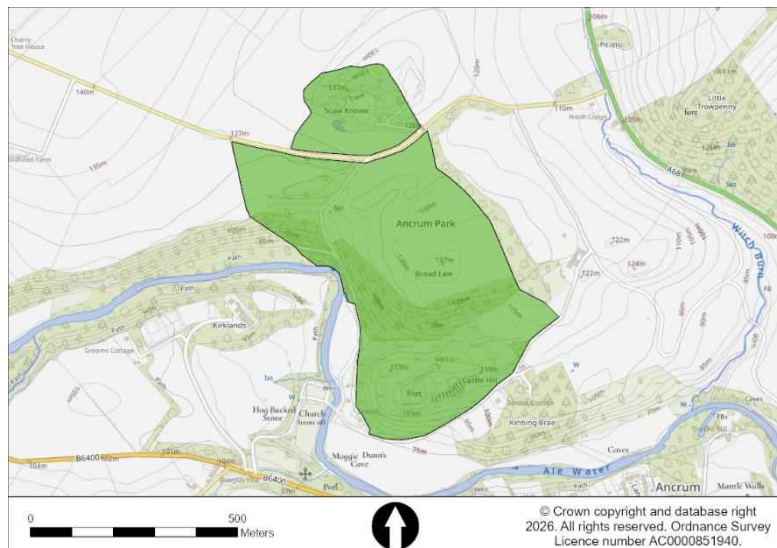
Site Name: Carlops Dean

Area (ha): 14.80

Site Description

Unimproved and semi-improved grassland, calcareous in part, with areas of species-rich marsh and a small area of modified bog. The site hosts locally rare plants and a variety of butterfly species, including the priority species, Northern Brown Argus.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 31

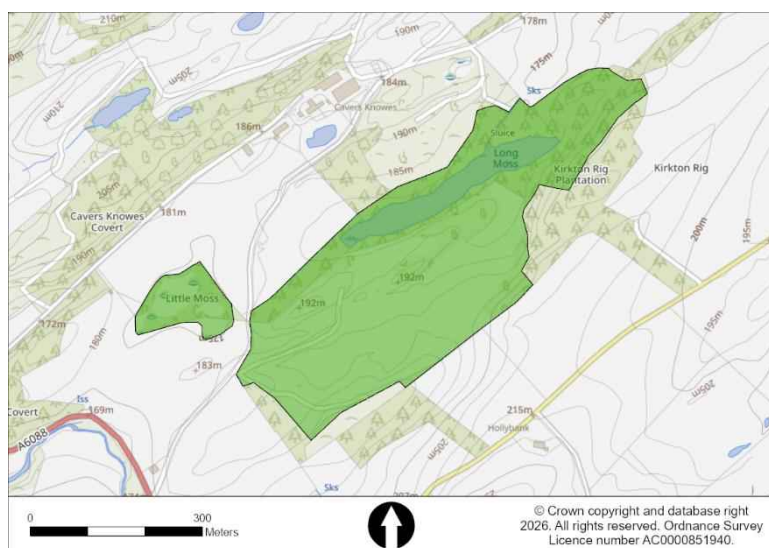
Site Name: Castle Hill, Broad Law and Scaw Knowe

Area (ha): 34.39

Site Description

Rough pasture with basaltic rock outcrops and boulders supporting a high diversity of lichens, including colonies of *Ramalina polymorpha*.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 32

Site Name: Cavers Knowes (Little Moss and Long Moss)

Area (ha): 19.17

Site Description

Moderate sized loch surrounded by plantation woodland, grassland and swamp habitats with a smaller area of reed swamp and semi-natural woodland 30m to the west. The site contains a rare plant as well as protected mammals.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 33

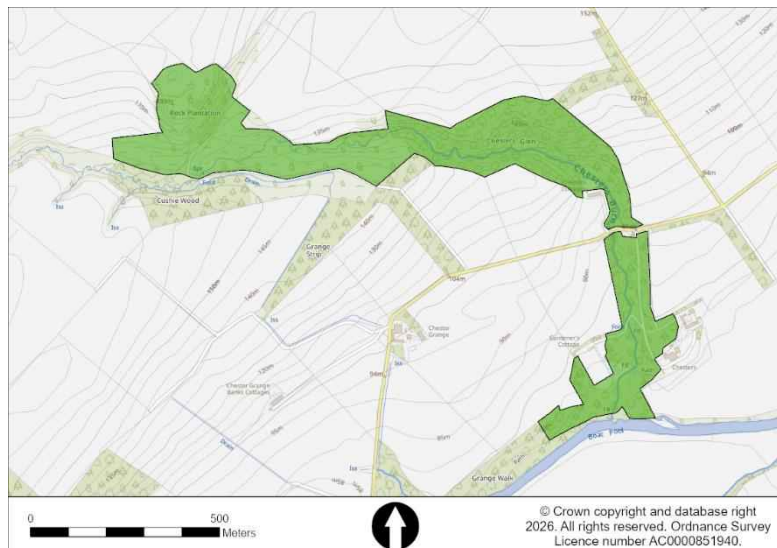
Site Name: Chapelhope Burn

Area (ha): 17.94

Site Description

Upland river valley and cleughs with rare plants.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 34

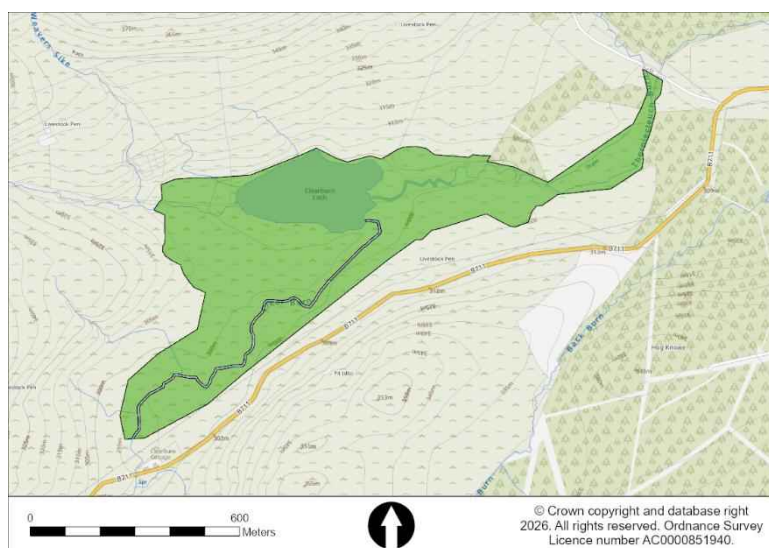
Site Name: Chester's Glen and Ancrum Craig

Area (ha): 28.60

Site Description

Dean woodland, marsh and craigs, with a nationally scarce plant and protected mammals.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 35

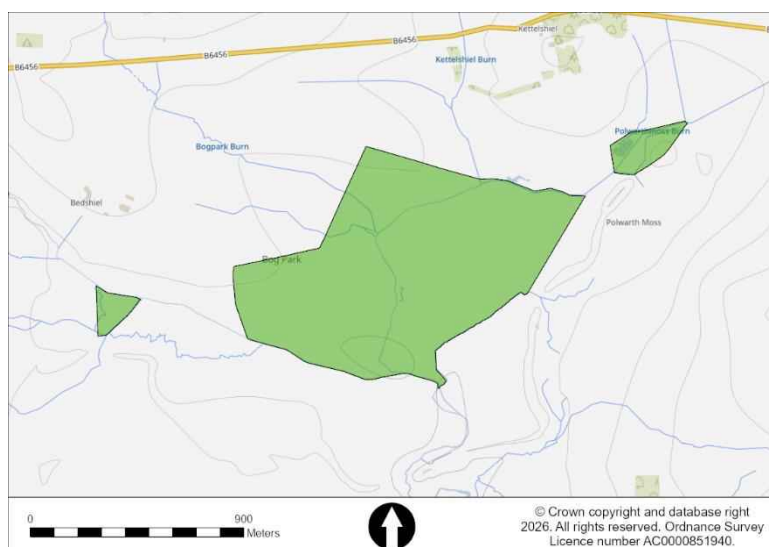
Site Name: Clearburn Loch

Area (ha): 45.59

Site Description

Loch surrounded by marsh, common reed swamp and dry heath habitats, with breeding birds and both nationally scarce and locally rare plants, mosses and stoneworts and a priority butterfly. Hierochloa odorata occurs in the adjacent River Tweed SAC.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 36

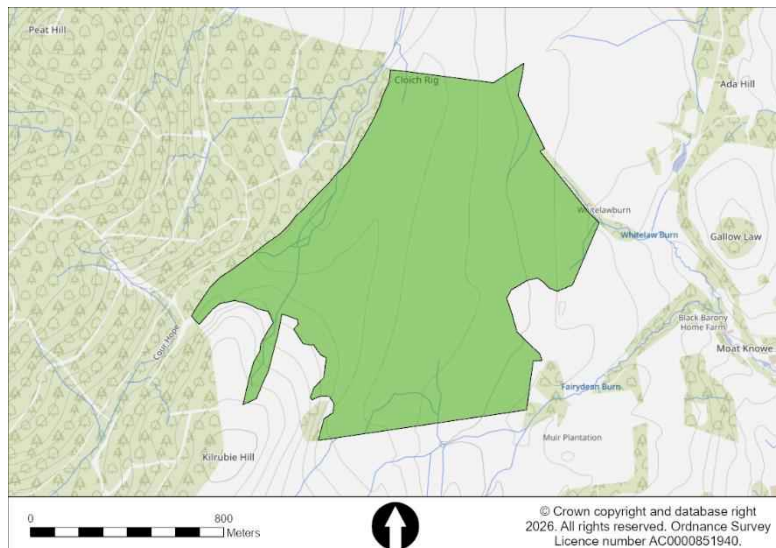
Site Name: Cleckinshaw, Kettelshiel & Bogpark Burns

Area (ha): 90.41

Site Description

Burns, wetland and flushes with breeding waders

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 37

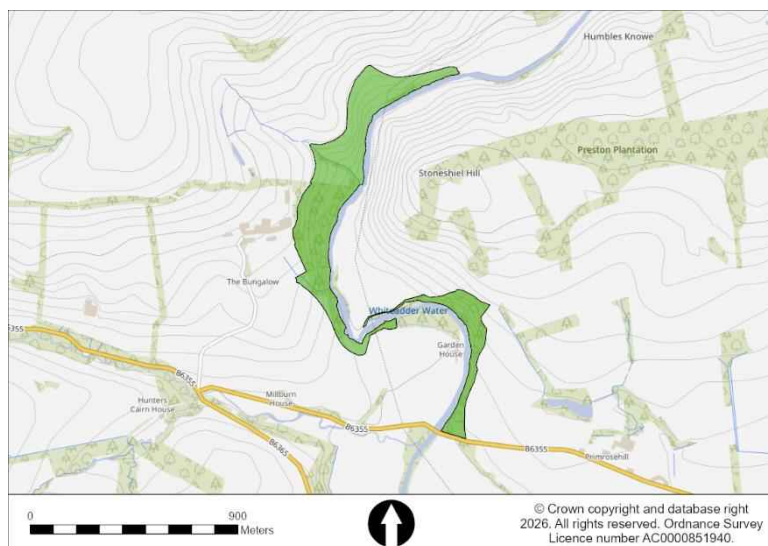
Site Name: Cloich Bog

Area (ha): 142.38

Site Description

Modified bog, burns and marsh

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 38

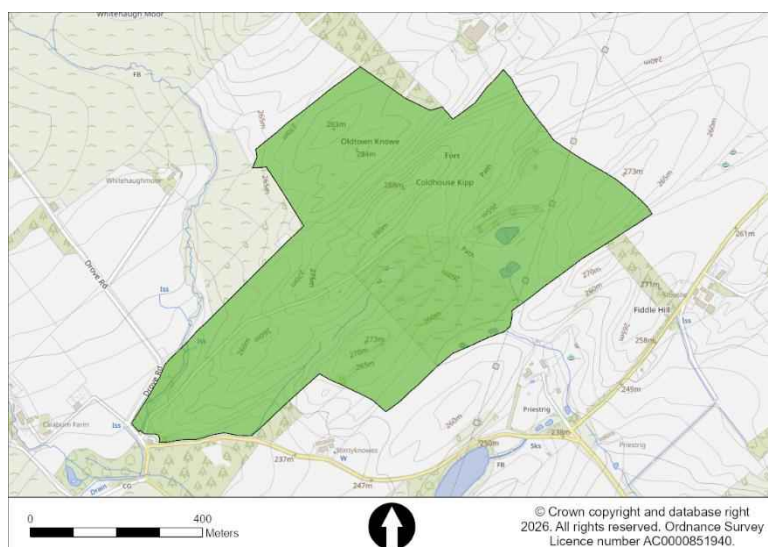
Site Name: Cockburn Mill Woodlands

Area (ha): 24.61

Site Description

Rocky riverside with woodland, wetland and grassy knowes.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 39

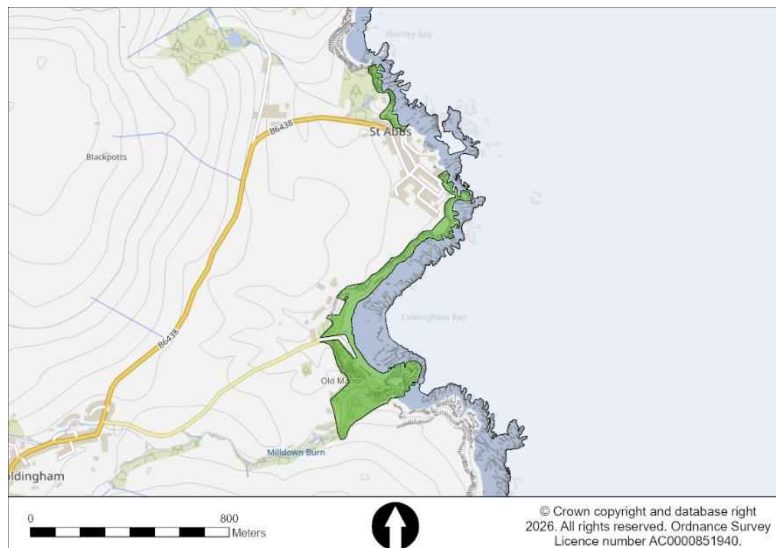
Site Name: Coldhouse Kipp and Oldtown Knowe

Area (ha): 51.64

Site Description

Lowland calcareous grassland on rocky knowes with smaller areas of wetland habitat to the southern limit of the site.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 40

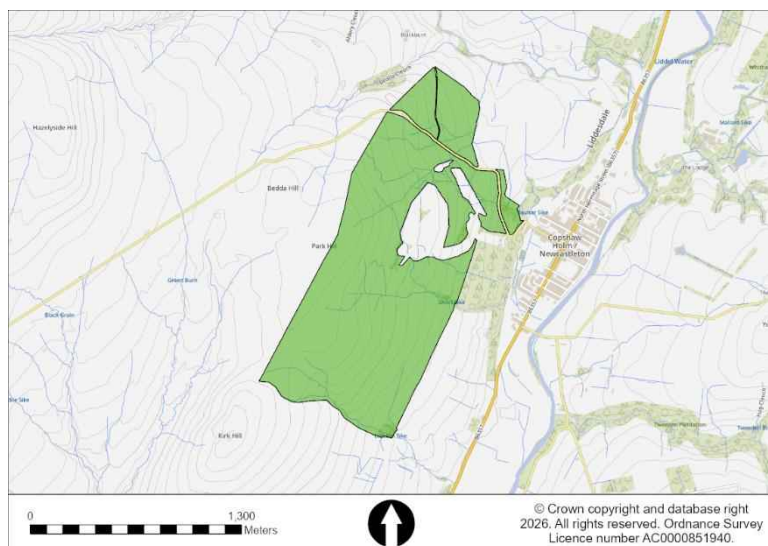
Site Name: Coldingham Bay and St Abbs

Area (ha): 11.99

Site Description

Dunes, cliffs and burnsides with breeding birds, locally rare plants and invertebrates and priority species.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 41

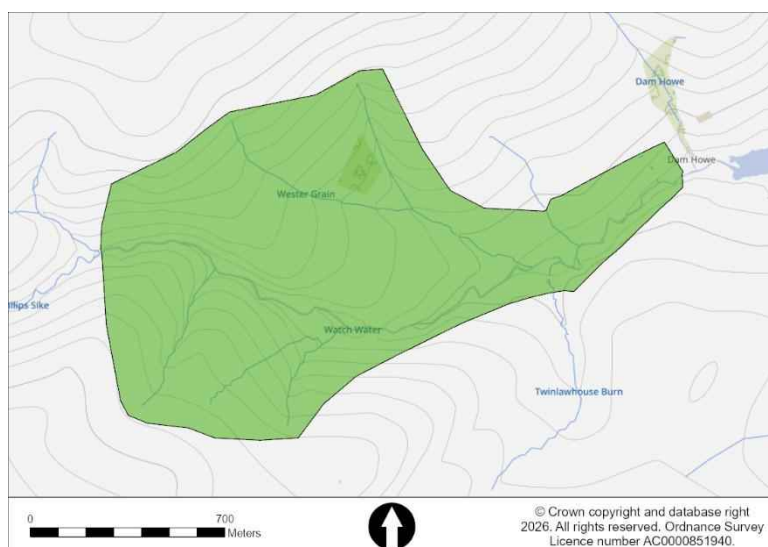
Site Name: Copshaw Holm

Area (ha): 157.63

Site Description

Heathland, grassland, cleughs and mire with small base flushed areas and rare orchids.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 42

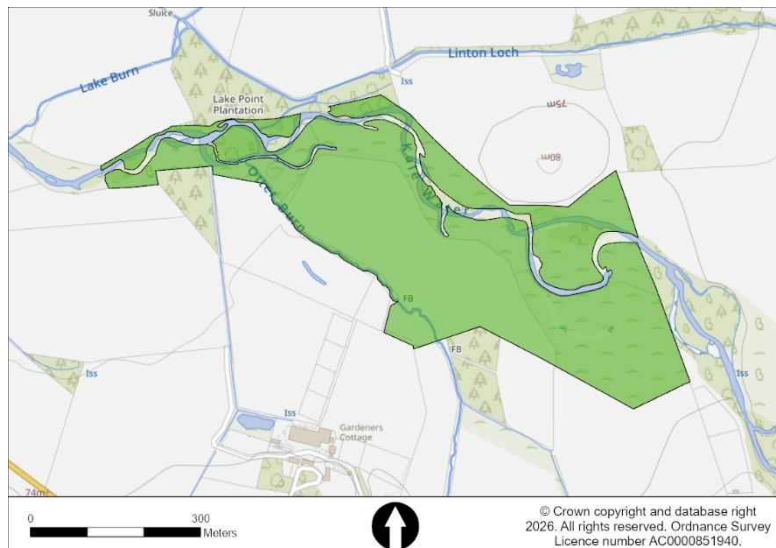
Site Name: Corby Scar & upper Watch Water

Area (ha): 151.95

Site Description

Acid burnsides with a high diversity of grassland plant species, including several local rarities.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 43

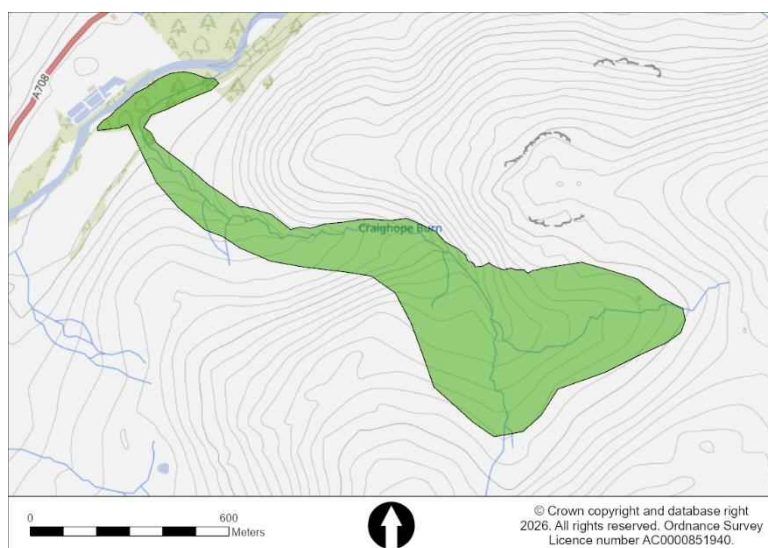
Site Name: Cowbog Haugh

Area (ha): 21.27

Site Description

Unimproved and semi-improved grassland with a mosaic of wetland habitats.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 44

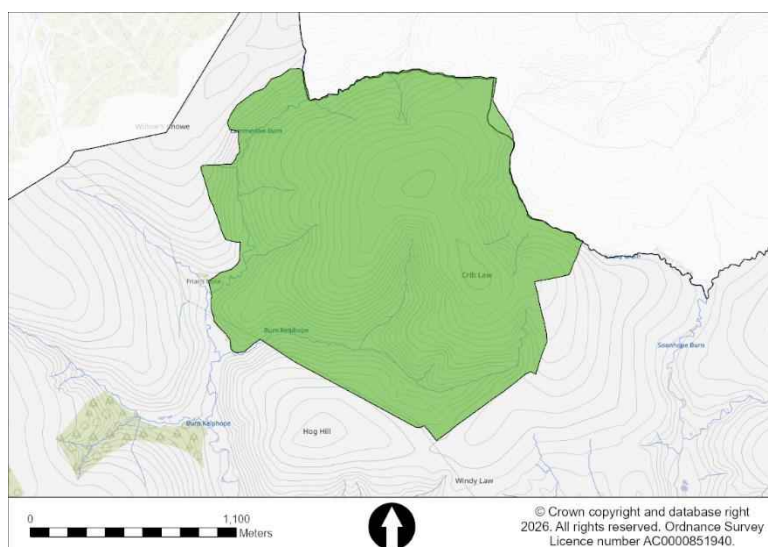
Site Name: Craighope Burn

Area (ha): 45.06

Site Description

Burnsides, moorland and degraded blanket bog with Juniper and a priority butterfly species.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 45

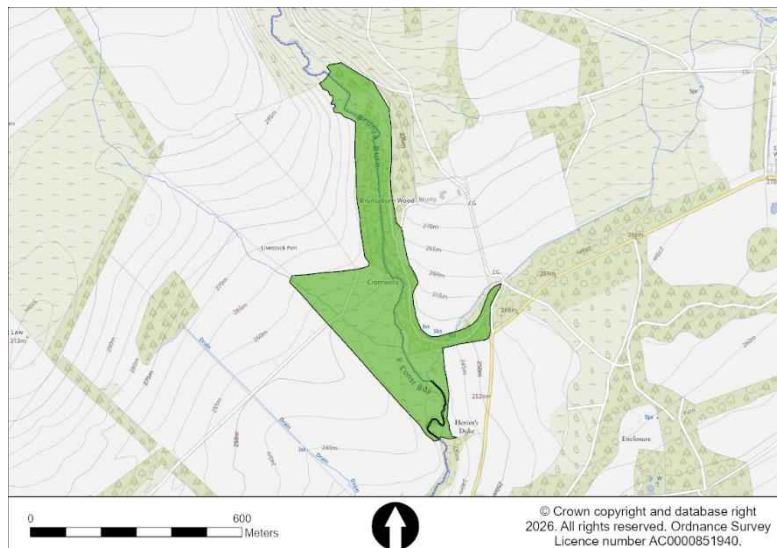
Site Name: Crib Law

Area (ha): 272.18

Site Description

Summit heath, burnsides, flushes, moorland with nationally scarce and locally rare plants and priority fishes.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 46

Site Name: Cromwells & Brunta Burn

Area (ha): 17.94

Site Description

Base-rich knowes and burnside woodland-edge with a notable population of *Crepis mollis*.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 47

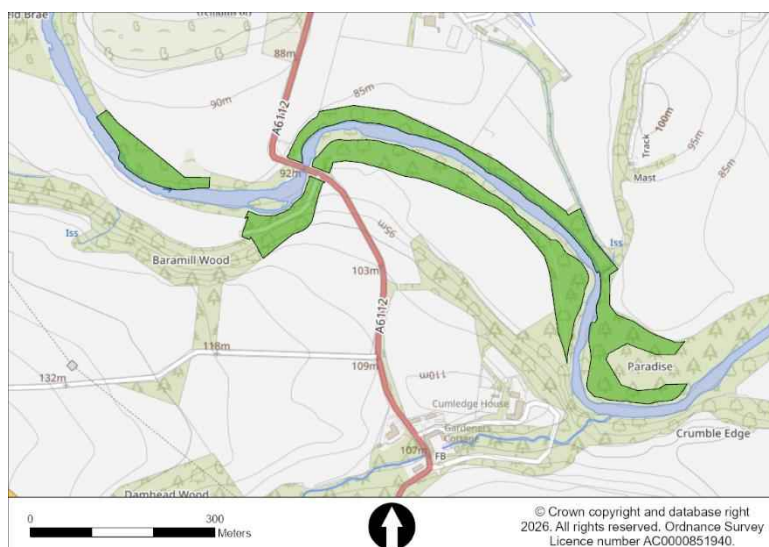
Site Name: Crooked Bank

Area (ha): 14.65

Site Description

Scrub, acid grassland

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 48

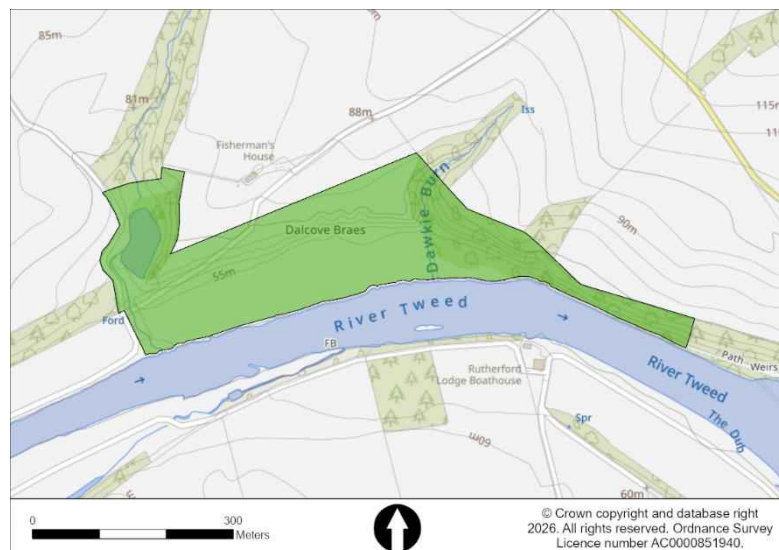
Site Name: Cumledge Wood

Area (ha): 6.05

Site Description

Riverside woodland with locally rare plants and a protected mammal.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 49

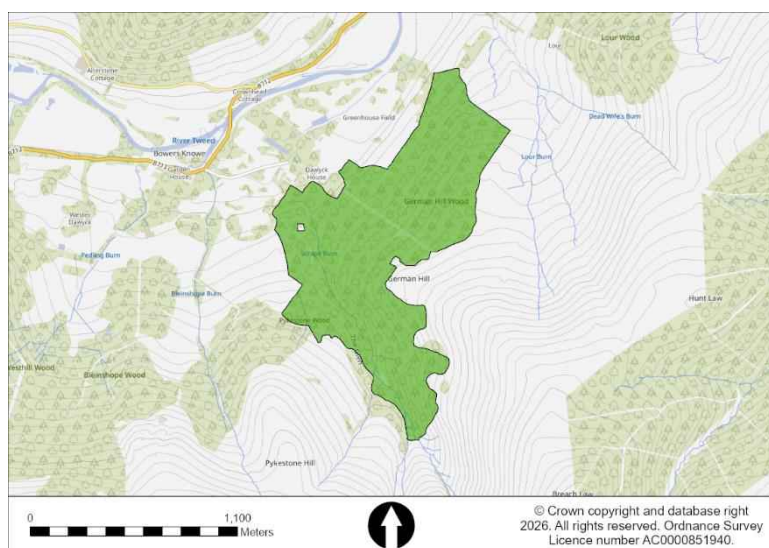
Site Name: Dalcove Braes

Area (ha): 10.99

Site Description

Eroding banks, riverside, wooded banks and calcareous grassland slopes with locally rare plants and mosses and Scottish Priority plants.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 50

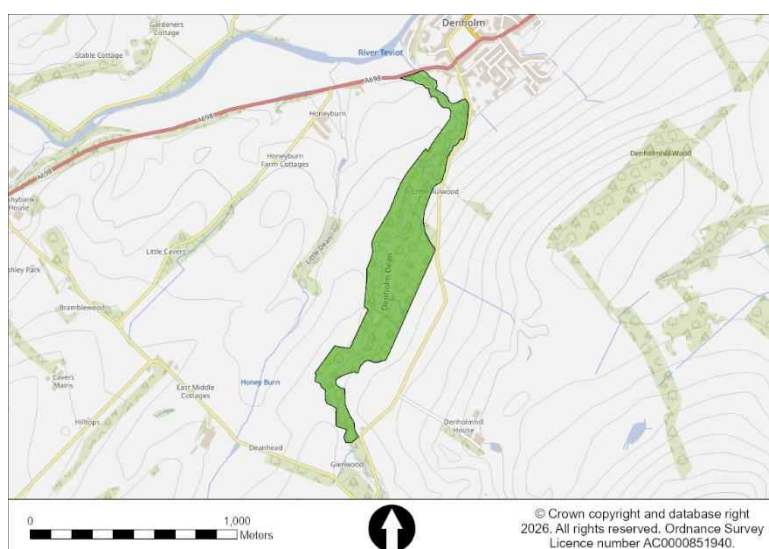
Site Name: Dawyck Policies

Area (ha): 104.02

Site Description

Policy woodlands, stream and ponds with many locally rare plants, lichens and insects, breeding birds and protected mammals.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 51

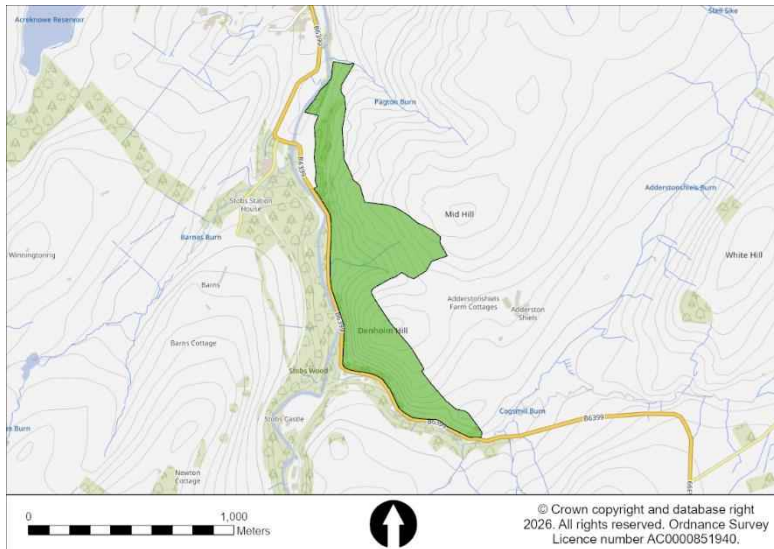
Site Name: Denholm Dean

Area (ha): 30.03

Site Description

Dean woodland on Old Red Sandstone with a diverse flora and a rare mollusc.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 52

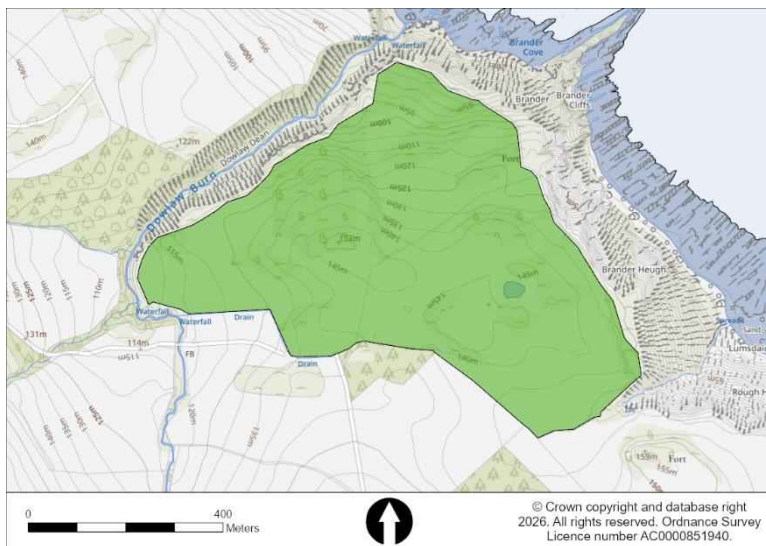
Site Name: Denholm Hill, Stobs

Area (ha): 46.06

Site Description

Grassland and semi-natural woodland on hillsides, with *Lasius flavus* anthills, burns and flushed vegetation. Site for the Northern Brown Argus butterfly.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 53

Site Name: Dowlaw Dean, fields near

Area (ha): 39.82

Site Description

Rocky knowes supporting a rich community of annual plants, including local rarities.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 54

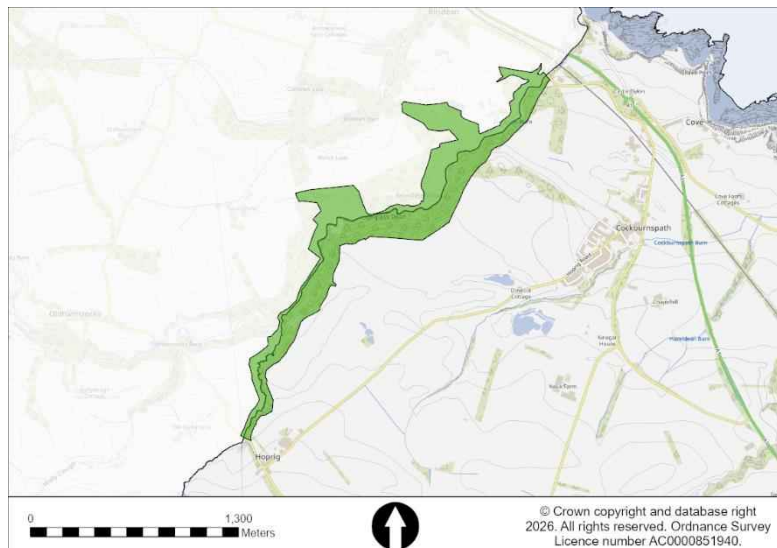
Site Name: Droveroad Plantation

Area (ha): 14.82

Site Description

Naturally regenerating birch woodland with a protected mammal.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 55

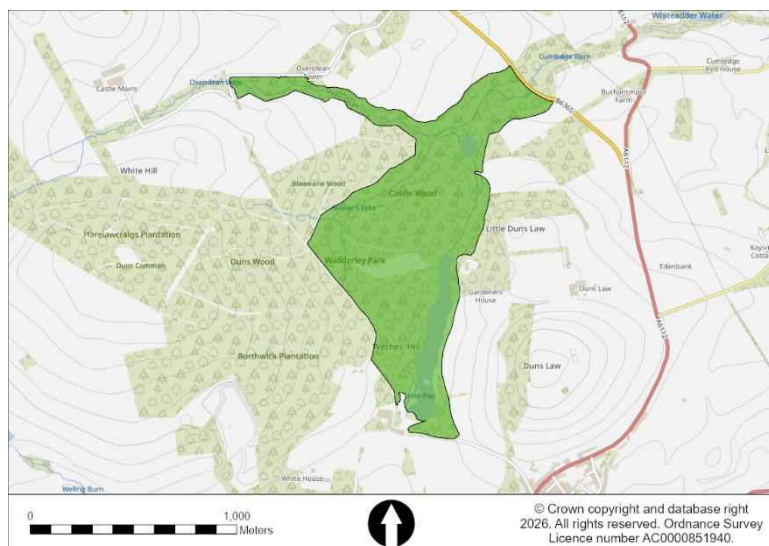
Site Name: Dunglass Dean and Berwick Burn

Area (ha): 63.71

Site Description

Dean woodland including a deep sandstone gorge with a diverse flora, locally rare plants and nationally scarce bryophyte.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 56

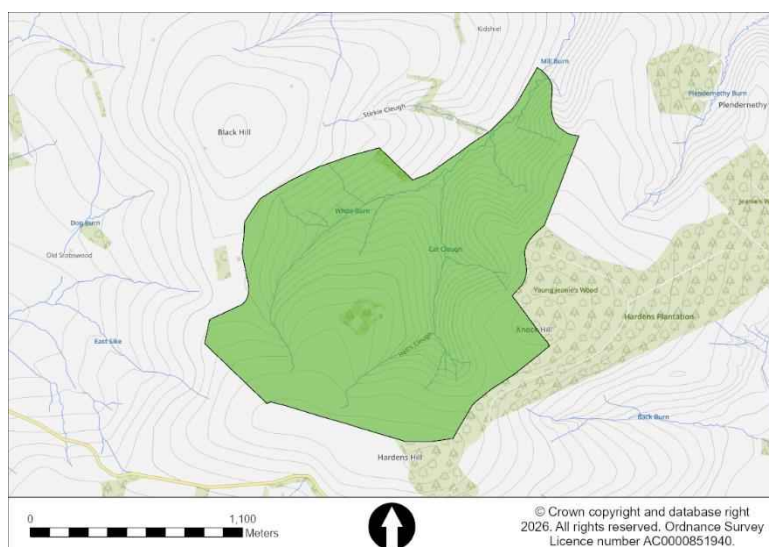
Site Name: Duns Castle

Area (ha): 87.16

Site Description

Policies, including artificial loch, dean woodland, and forestry in small blocks with high tree species diversity.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 57

Site Name: Dunter Lee Cleughs - Hell's Cleugh and White Burn

Area (ha): 212.53

Site Description

Base-rich flushes, cleughs, burnsidess with locally rare plants.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 58

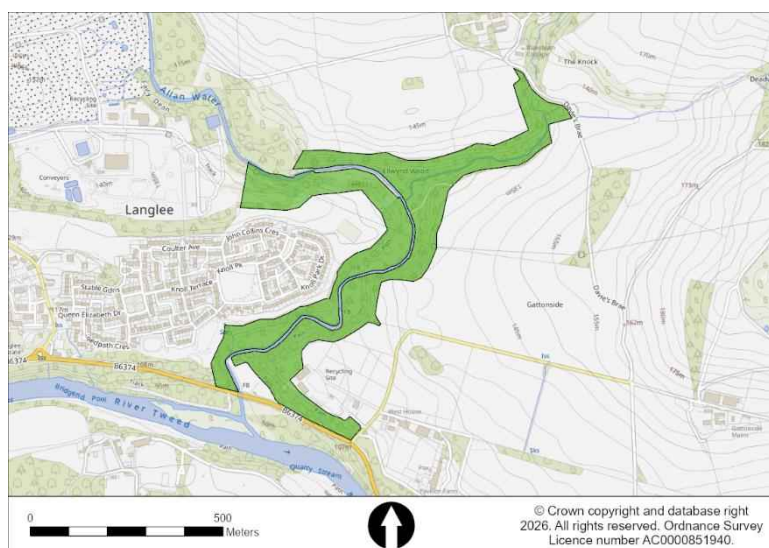
Site Name: Easter Housebyres Moss

Area (ha): 2.45

Site Description

Willow carr and marshy grassland with diverse wetland community and rare sedges

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 59

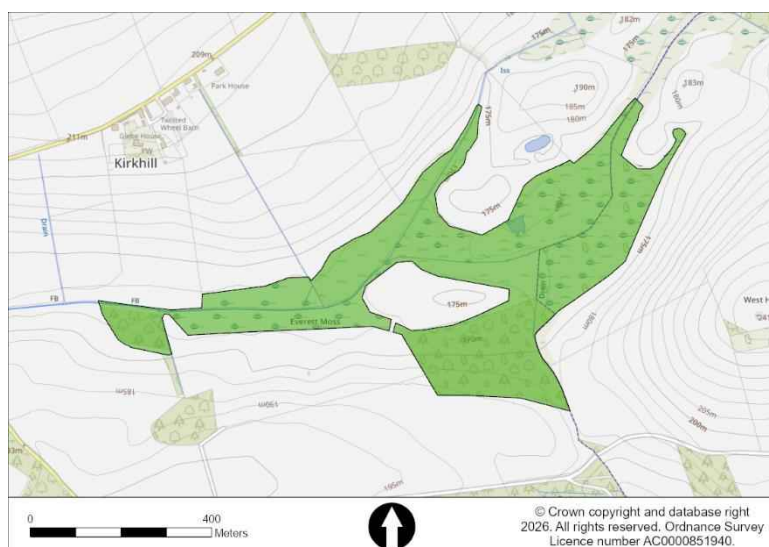
Site Name: Ellwynd Wood and Meadow

Area (ha): 18.20

Site Description

Ancient semi-natural woodland on riverbanks with species-rich mesotrophic grassland

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 60

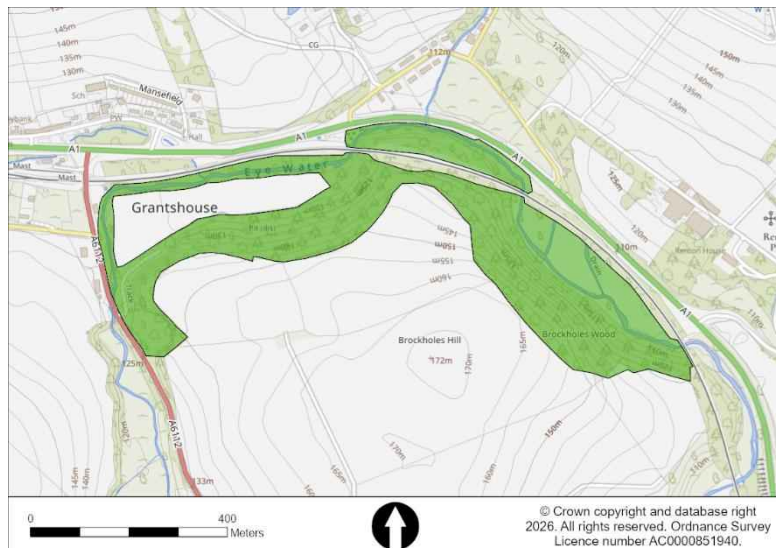
Site Name: Everett Moss

Area (ha): 25.33

Site Description

Large valley mire with habitats that include Betula/Salix carr, Phragmites reed beds, swamp, marsh, and semi-natural broadleaved woodland with areas of plantation woodland. Holds a large population of the nationally scarce species *Cicuta virosa*.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 61

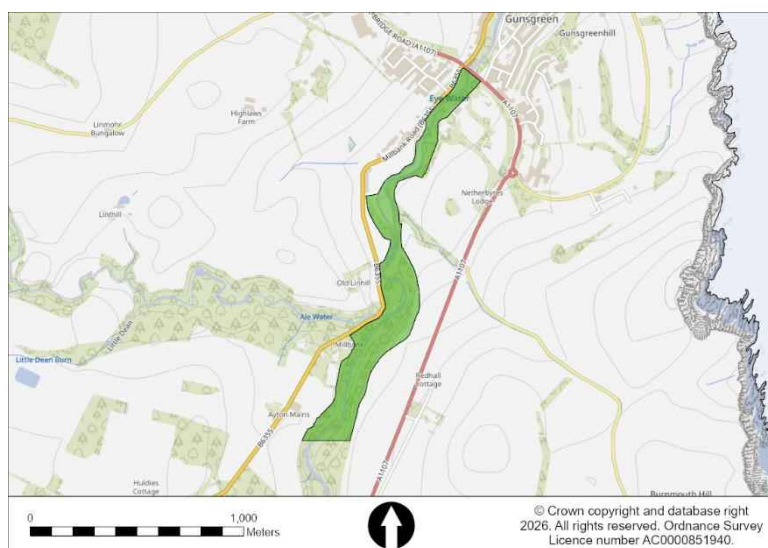
Site Name: Eye Water - Grantshouse to Brockholes Wood

Area (ha): 20.16

Site Description

Former oakwood, old quarry, ruderal

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 62

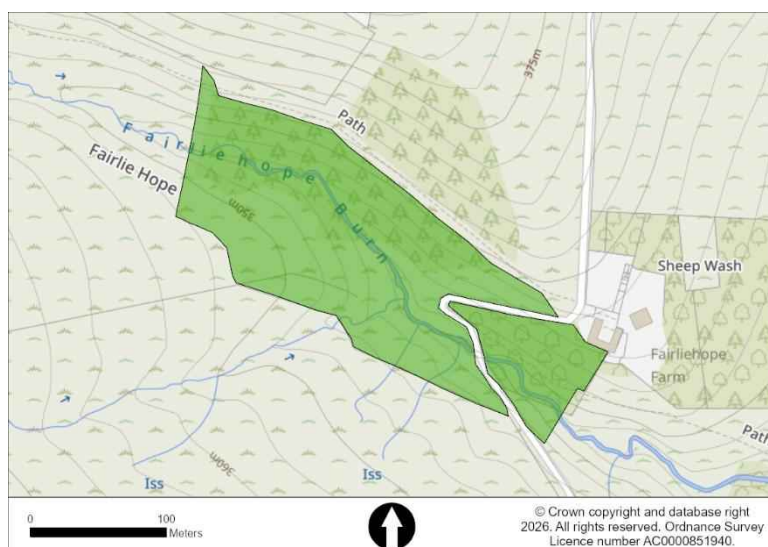
Site Name: Eye Water - Toll Bridge Rd to Ayton Mains

Area (ha): 23.11

Site Description

River, dean woodland, basic rock outcrop with locally rare flowering plants and bryophytes, priority fishes and protected mammals.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 63

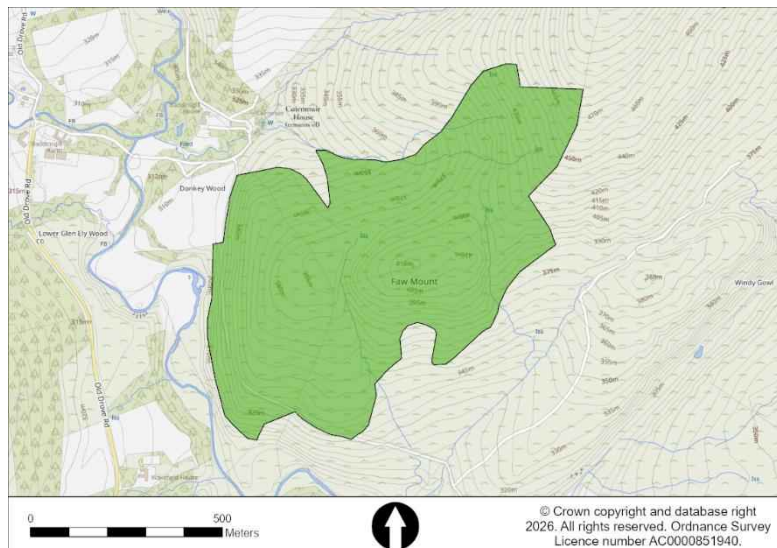
Site Name: Fairliehope Burn

Area (ha): 3.39

Site Description

Burn with mixed plantation woodland, acid grassland, dry dwarf shrub heath and marsh, with breeding birds and a notable butterfly.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 64

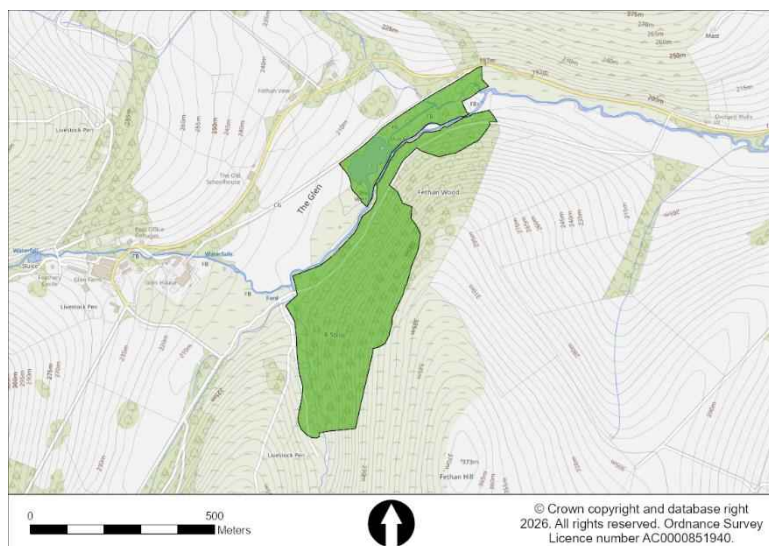
Site Name: Faw Mount

Area (ha): 53.66

Site Description

Dry heath-acid grassland mosaic with calcareous indicators and a diverse wetland community

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 65

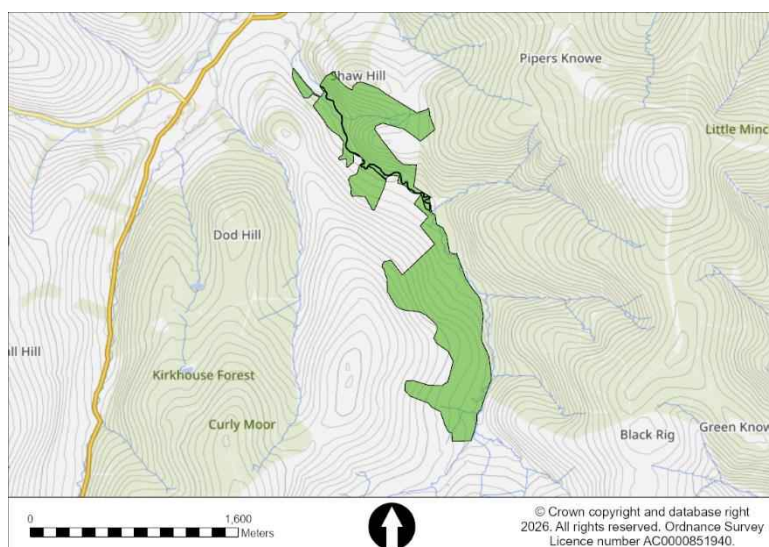
Site Name: Fethan Wood

Area (ha): 18.87

Site Description

Semi-natural broadleaved woodland, long-established plantation and a lake with breeding birds, priority fishes and protected mammals.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 66

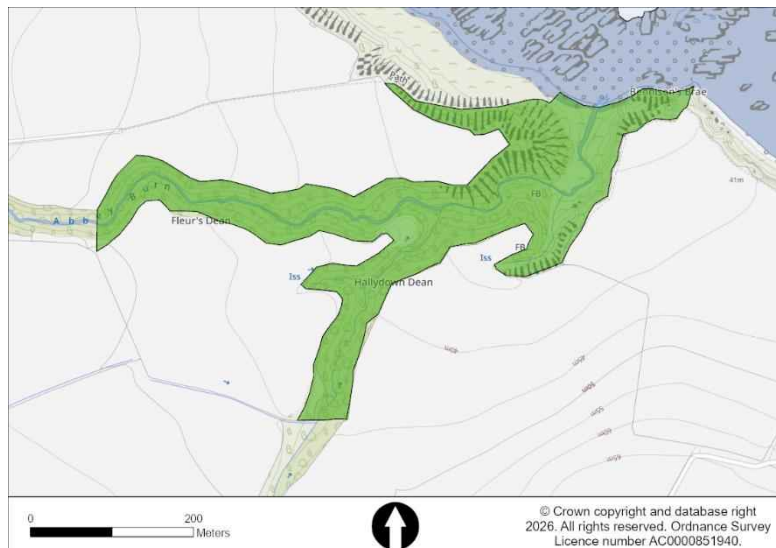
Site Name: Fingland Burn

Area (ha): 110.18

Site Description

Burn and adjacent wetland, grassland and heath habitats with many locally rare bryophytes and plants and UK BAP Priority species. A Black Grouse lekking site.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 67

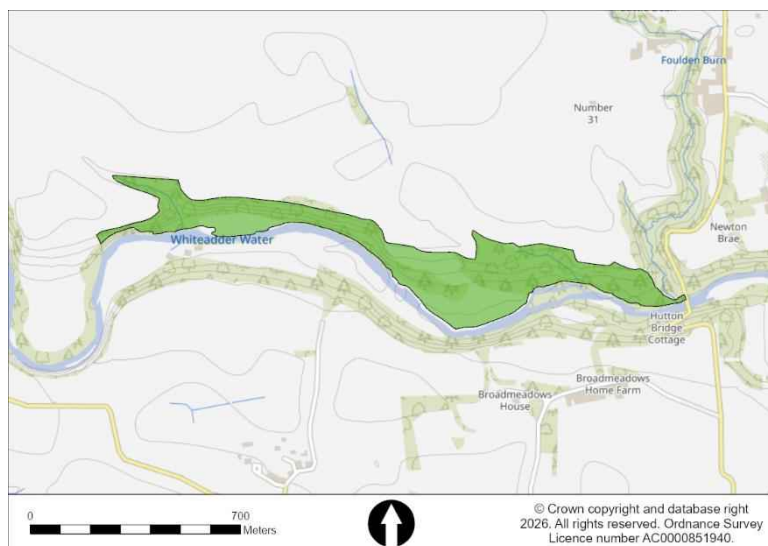
Site Name: Fleurs Dean

Area (ha): 7.58

Site Description

Dean with base-rich grassland and scrub

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 68

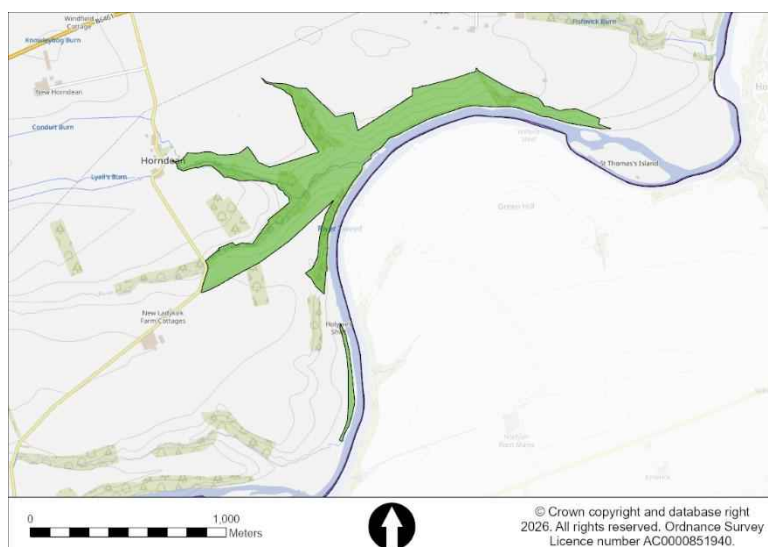
Site Name: Foulden Braes

Area (ha): 23.42

Site Description

Calcareous grassland, woodland, scaurs on the banks of the Whiteadder Water with a fine colony of *Lathyrus sylvestris* and several locally rare plants. A Northern Brown Argus site.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 69

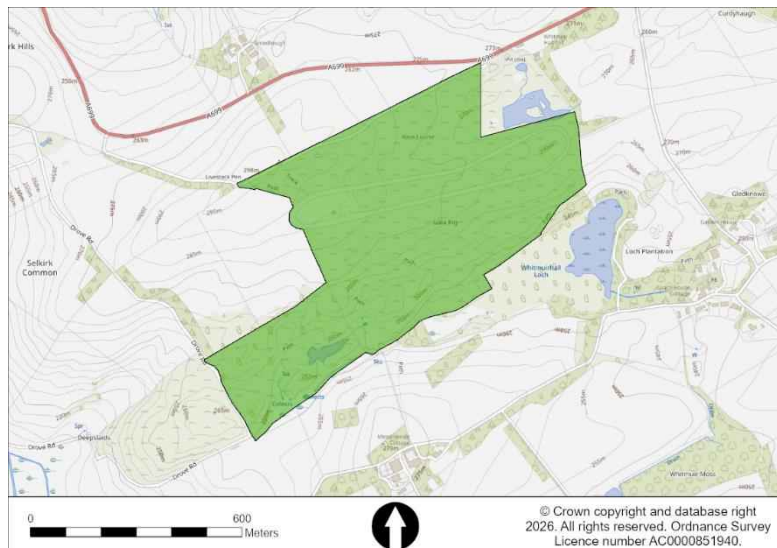
Site Name: Frockham Brae, Horndean & banks of Tweed

Area (ha): 49.76

Site Description

Wooded sandstone banks (including ancient woodland), burnsides, scrub and dry grassland, with locally rare plants and moths.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 70

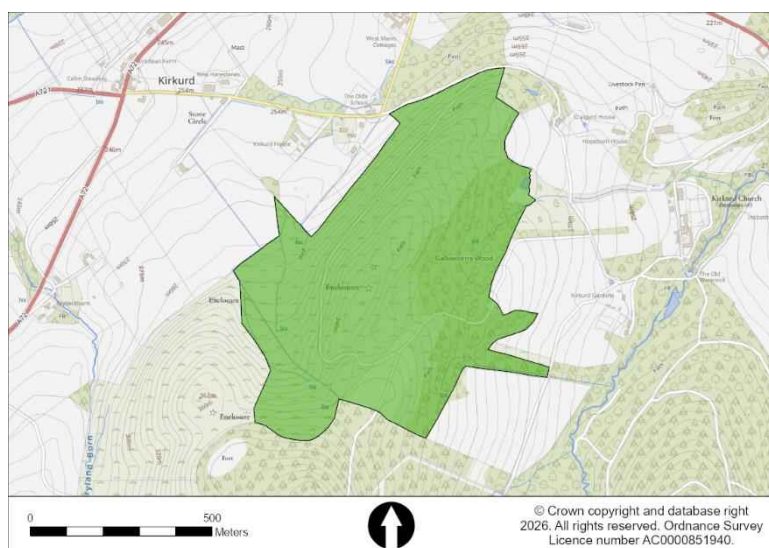
Site Name: Gala Rig

Area (ha): 50.17

Site Description

Species-rich grasslands, mire and heath with many locally rare plants. A Northern Brown Argus site.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 71

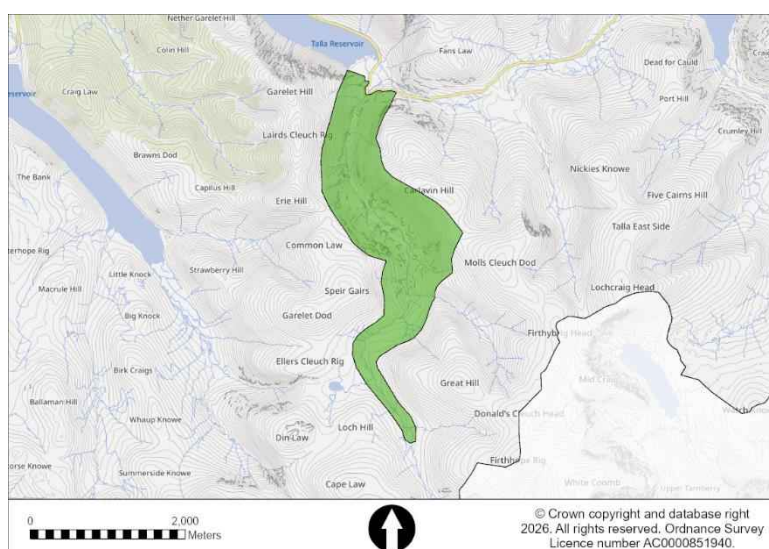
Site Name: Gallowberry Wood

Area (ha): 51.31

Site Description

Hillsides, marsh and woodland with breeding birds, a diverse bryophyte flora, locally rare plants and bryophytes and a protected mammal.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 72

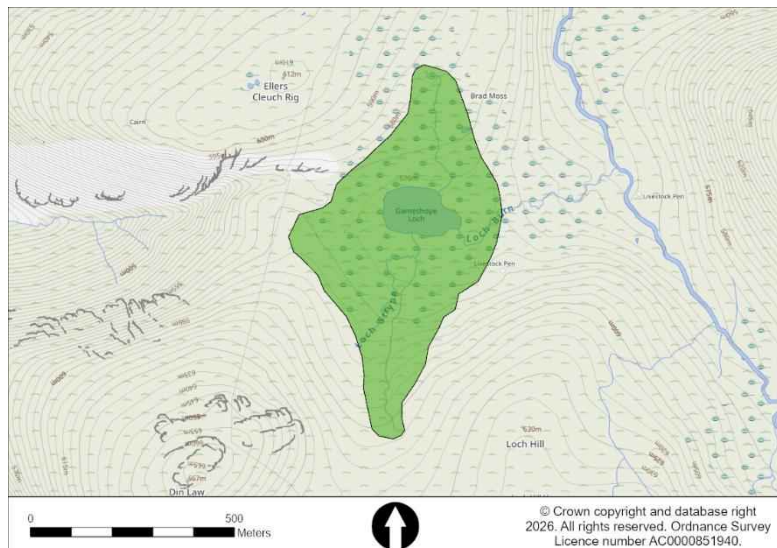
Site Name: Gameshope Burn

Area (ha): 340.35

Site Description

Upland burn and associated wetland and grassland habitats, with base-rich flushes and scree slopes with both locally and nationally notable ferns, flowering plants and bryophytes.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 73

Site Name: Gameshope Loch

Area (ha): 23.44

Site Description

One of a small number of dystrophic lochs in the Borders region, a rare habitat in the regional context.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 74

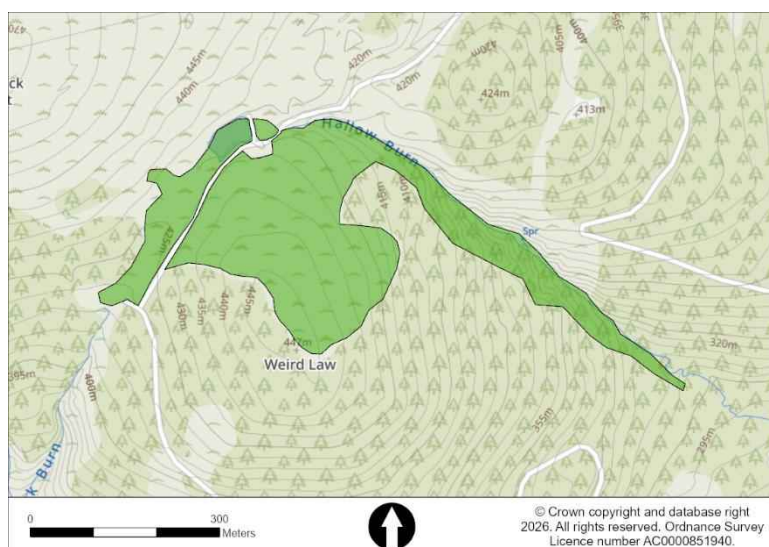
Site Name: Gerrick Meadows

Area (ha): 42.43

Site Description

Grassland on knowes with Dianthus and flushes

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 75

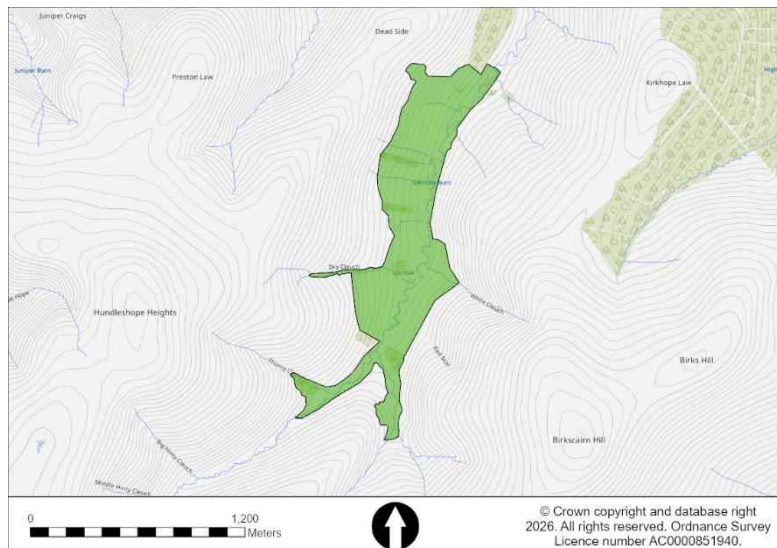
Site Name: Glenmuck Bog

Area (ha): 11.79

Site Description

Unmodified blanket bog, valley mire, flush and species-rich marshy grassland along a small burn.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 76

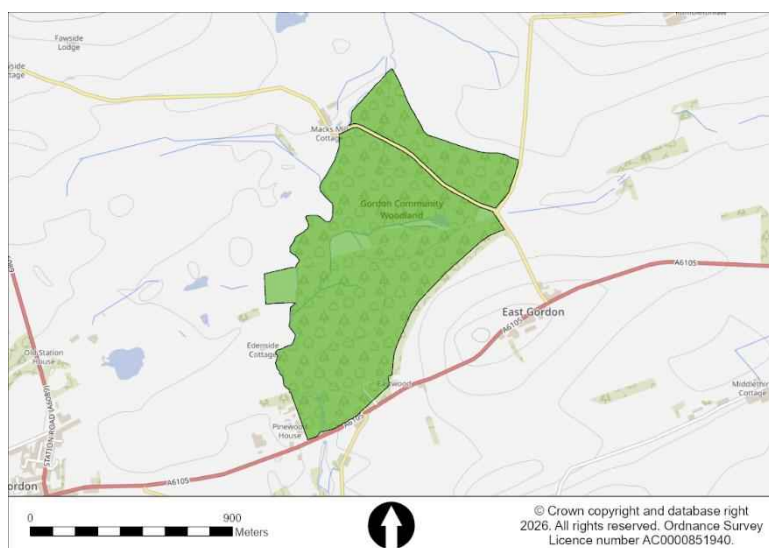
Site Name: Glensax Burn

Area (ha): 67.93

Site Description

Large valley site of predominantly acid grassland with burn-side species-rich marshy grassland and base-enriched flushes with regionally scarce plants.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 77

Site Name: Gordon Community Woodland

Area (ha): 86.51

Site Description

Mixed woodland on site of former lowland heath and burn-sides

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 78

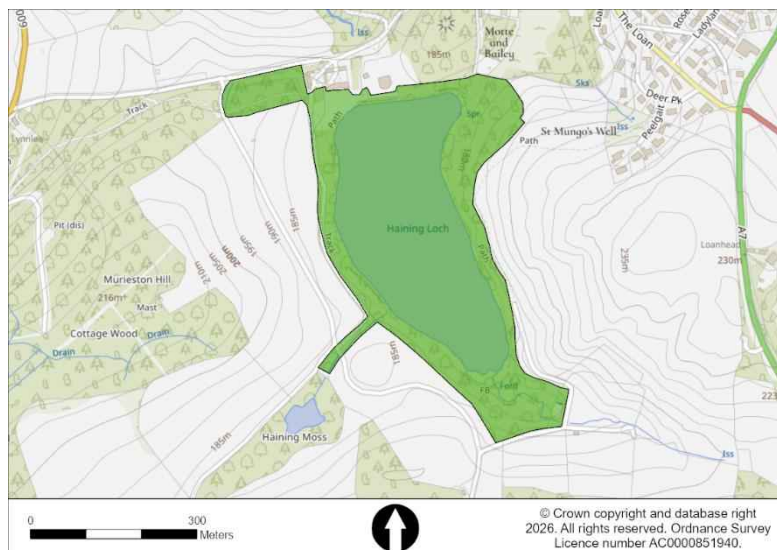
Site Name: Greenlaw Dean

Area (ha): 48.02

Site Description

Haughs, sandstone banks and scaurs by Blackadder Water, with a high diversity of plants, locally rare plants and insects, priority species and protected mammal.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 79

Site Name: Haining Loch

Area (ha): 18.07

Site Description

Loch and associated woodland with breeding waterfowl, locally rare plants and protected mammals.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 80

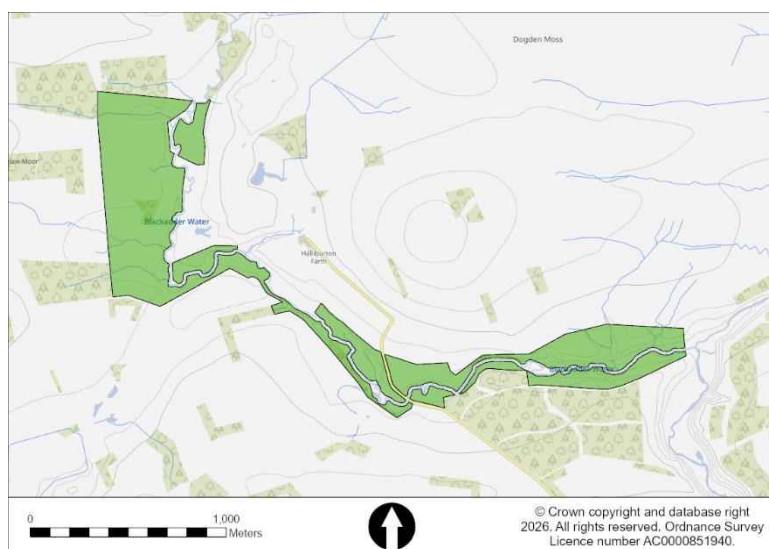
Site Name: Haining Moss

Area (ha): 2.88

Site Description

Alder swamp in low-lying depression with locally rare plants and protected mammals.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 81

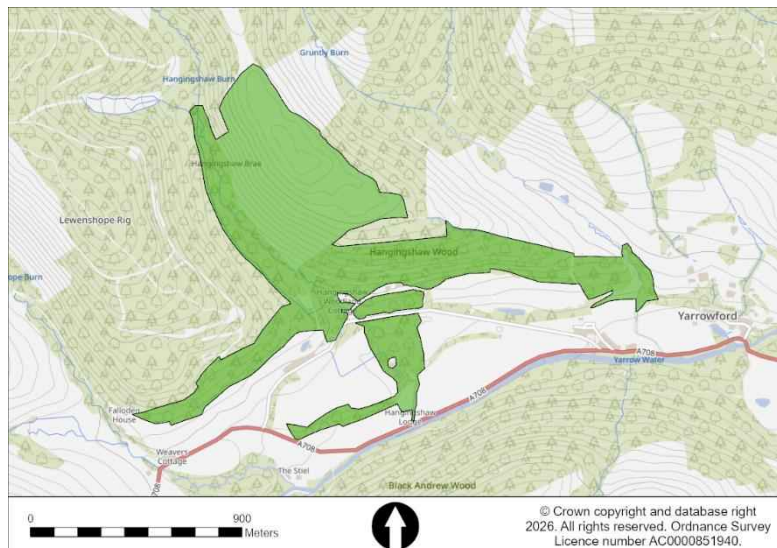
Site Name: Halliburton, Blackadder Water

Area (ha): 81.50

Site Description

Haughs, sandstone banks and scaurs by Blackadder Water with species-rich grasslands and locally rare plants. A Northern Brown Argus site.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 82

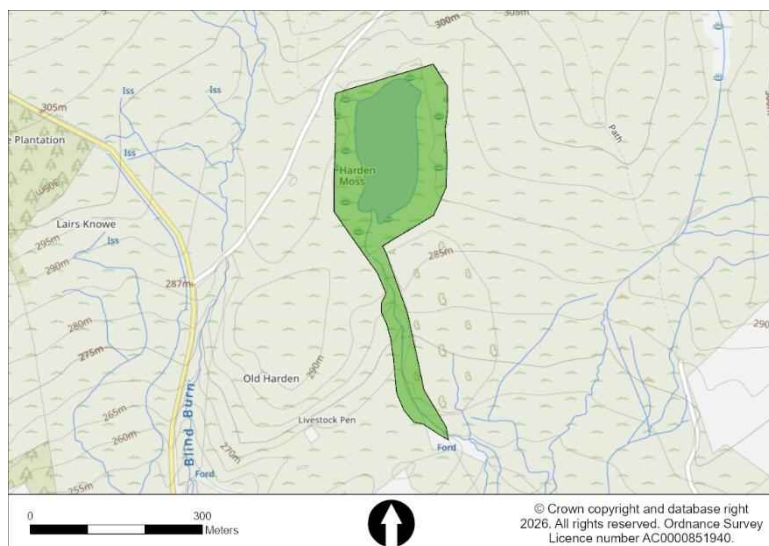
Site Name: Hangingshaw Wood & Rig and Lewenshope Brae

Area (ha): 93.08

Site Description

Plantation woodland, burnside and hill slopes with species-rich grassland. Site includes a Black Grouse lekking site.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 83

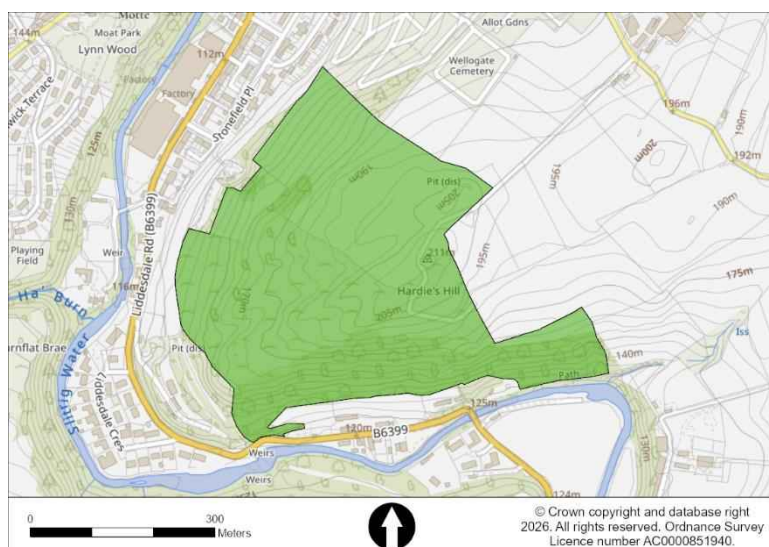
Site Name: Harden Moss

Area (ha): 6.51

Site Description

Infilled lochan with a small area of open water remaining, surrounded by swamp vegetation, including nationally scarce and locally rare plants and beetles.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 84

Site Name: Hardies Hill

Area (ha): 20.98

Site Description

Species-rich grassland with locally rare plants and insects.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 85

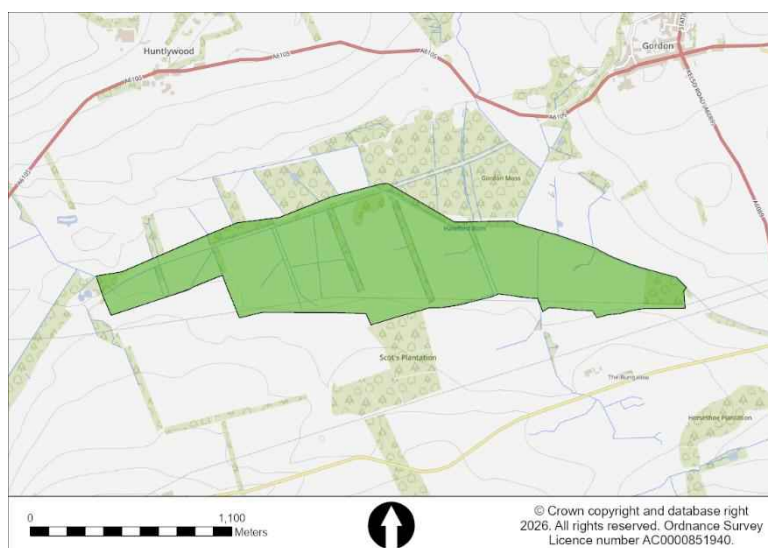
Site Name: Hare Moss

Area (ha): 4.82

Site Description

Lochan, grassland and woodland on former bog site with wintering and breeding wildfowl.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 86

Site Name: Hareford

Area (ha): 132.73

Site Description

Birchwood, wet meadow and canalised burn

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 87

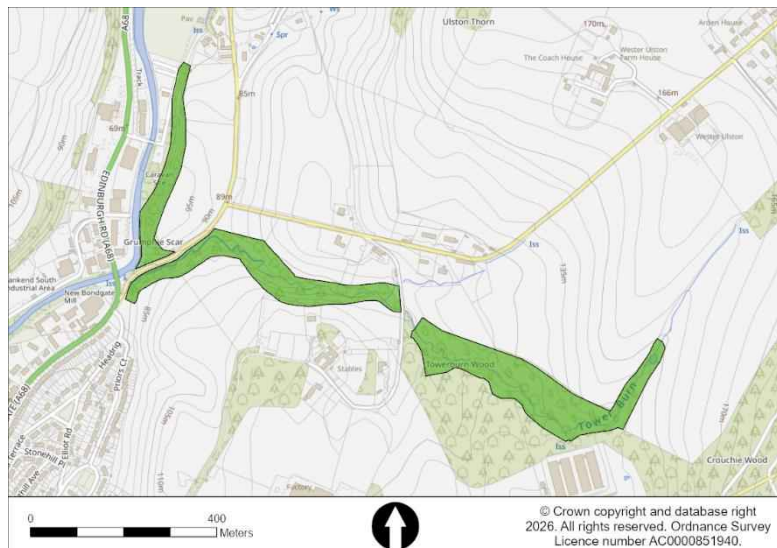
Site Name: Hareheugh Craigs and Sweethope Hill

Area (ha): 32.03

Site Description

Cluster of 3 grassland sites on intrusive rocks; an outcrop of the Kelso traps.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 88

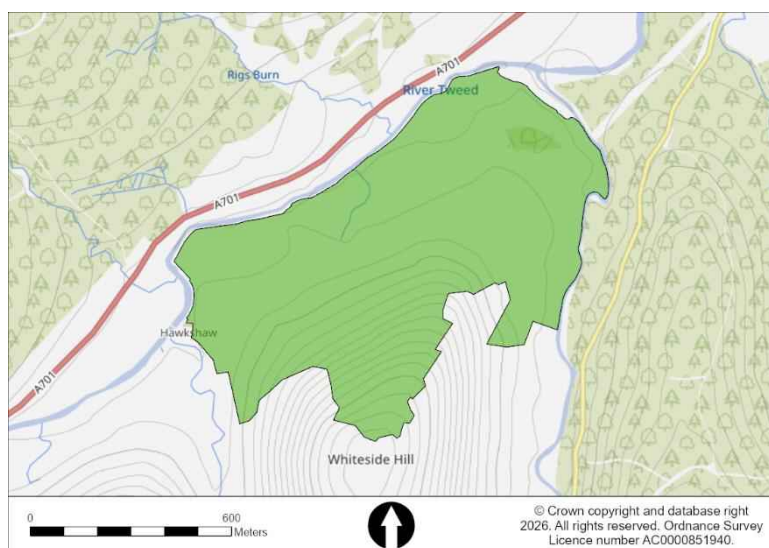
Site Name: Hartrigge and Towerburn Wood

Area (ha): 9.03

Site Description

Broadleaved semi-natural and plantation woodland with a burn running through the centre. The site has a protected mammals present.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 89

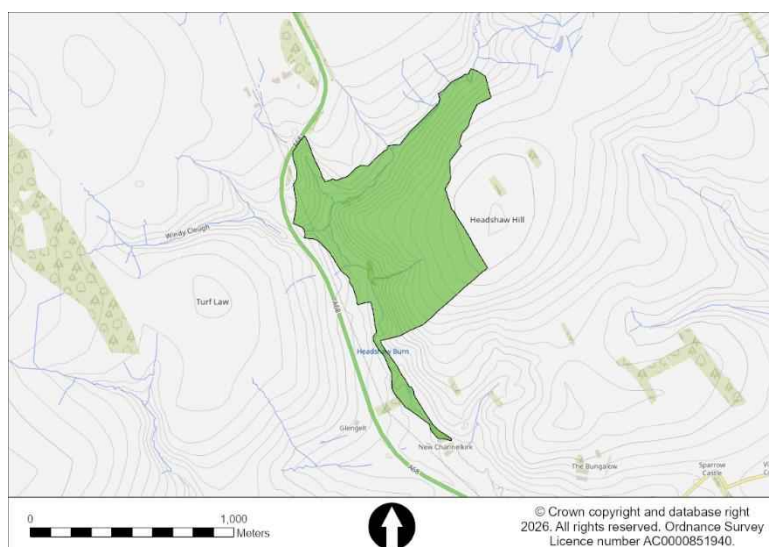
Site Name: Hawkshaw Bog

Area (ha): 76.45

Site Description

Blanket bog on the banks of the River Tweed, with small areas of base-rich flush and marsh with a range of flora and fauna, including amphibians. The riverside vegetation supports regenerating broadleaf trees.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 90

Site Name: Headshaw Haugh

Area (ha): 66.90

Site Description

Juniper scrub, burnsides, moorland

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 91

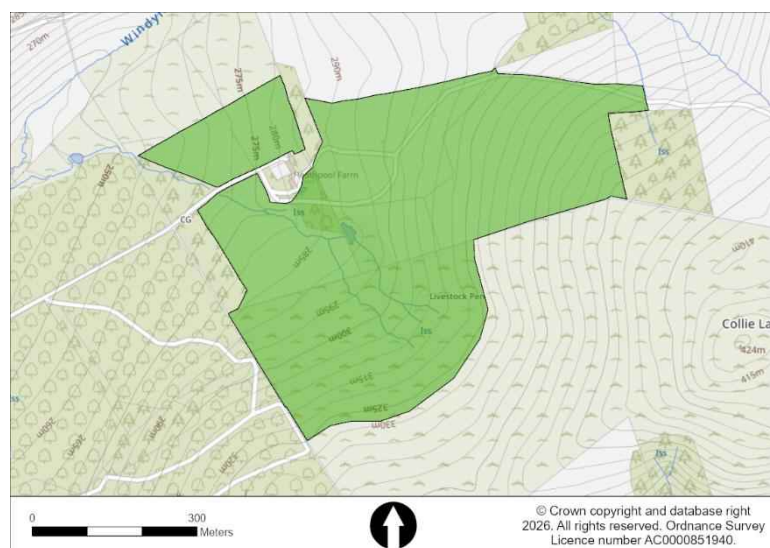
Site Name: Headshaw Loch

Area (ha): 12.55

Site Description

Loch and marginal vegetation surrounded by semi-improved neutral grassland, basic flush and marsh with waterfowl, locally rare plants and priority fishes.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 92

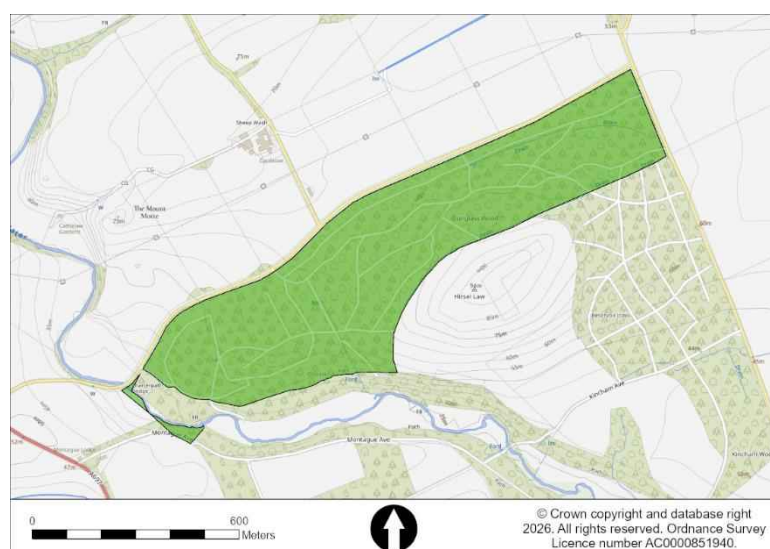
Site Name: Heathpool Common

Area (ha): 32.57

Site Description

The site supports species-rich marshy grassland, semi-improved neutral and acid grassland with locally rare ferns and a red data list moth species.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 93

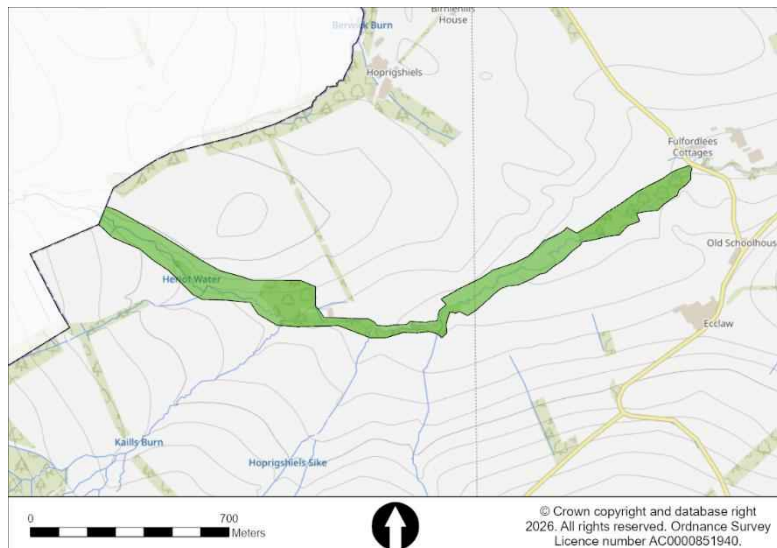
Site Name: Hirsell Woods

Area (ha): 48.08

Site Description

Mixed woodland, woodland rides and small grassland area adjacent to river with locally rare plants and some Scottish priority species.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 94

Site Name: Hoprigshiels Wood and Heriot Water

Area (ha): 18.50

Site Description

Alder wood and burnsidcs

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 95

Site Name: Horseupcleuch

Area (ha): 52.26

Site Description

Burnsidcs and rocky banks with fine populations of Common Rock-rose (*Helianthemum nummularium*) supporting the Northern Brown Argus butterfly. The only surviving Berwickshire site for Wood Bitter-vetch (*Vicia orobus*).

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 96

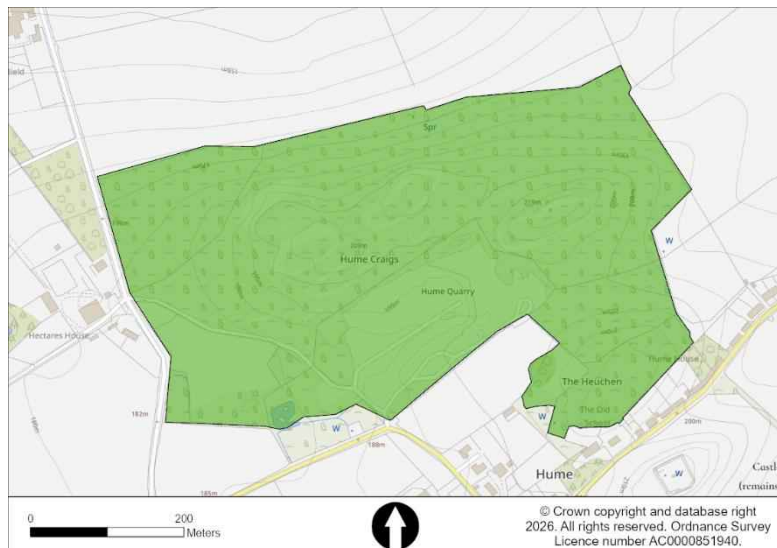
Site Name: Houndslow West Wood

Area (ha): 25.47

Site Description

Birch dominated semi-natural woodland and broadleaved plantation

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 97

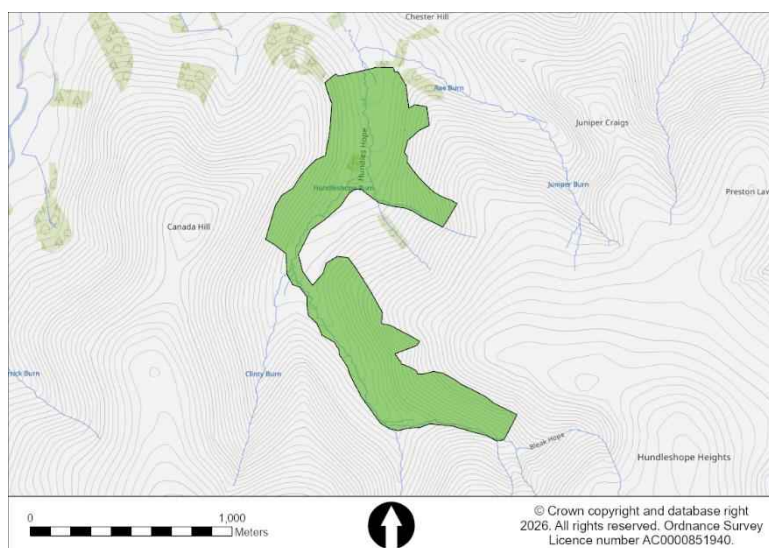
Site Name: Hume Craigs

Area (ha): 25.86

Site Description

Grassland on intrusive rocks

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 98

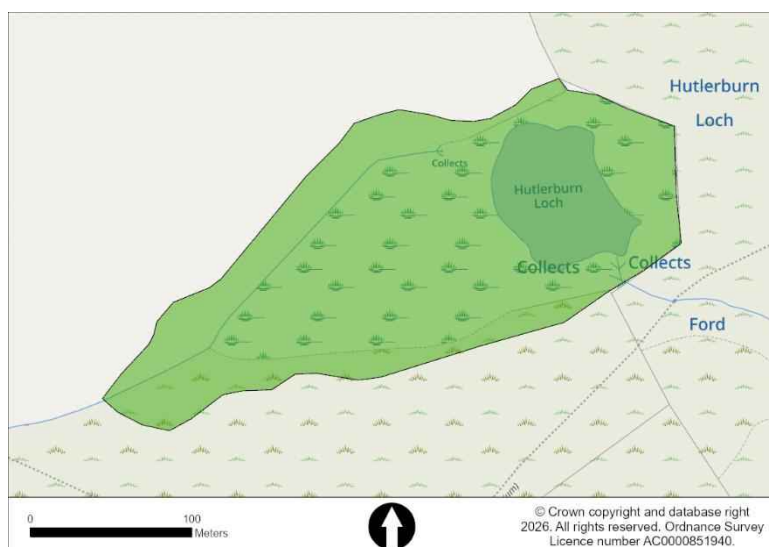
Site Name: Hundles Hope

Area (ha): 74.75

Site Description

Scree slopes and dry dwarf shrub heath with mature Juniper scrub

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 99

Site Name: Hutlerburn Loch

Area (ha): 4.07

Site Description

Small, moderately eutrophic loch surrounded by a variety of base-rich and acidic habitats. The site has a number of locally rare plants and mosses and breeding birds.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 100

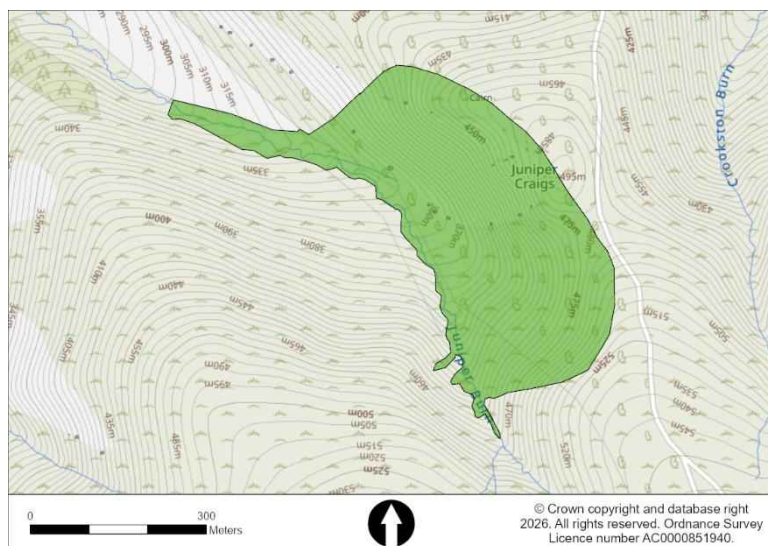
Site Name: Ingraston Moss

Area (ha): 22.86

Site Description

Semi-improved grassland and marsh, with breeding Lapwing and a nationally scarce moss.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 101

Site Name: Juniper Burn and Raeburn (Juniper Craigs)

Area (ha): 17.13

Site Description

Juniper scrub, scree slopes, craigs and burnside with both nationally scarce and locally notable plants and bryophytes.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 102

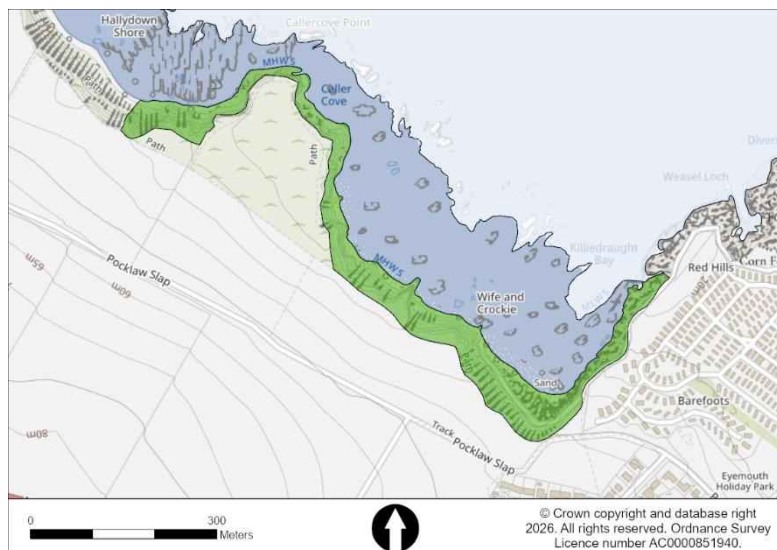
Site Name: Killburn

Area (ha): 7.36

Site Description

Burnside and riparian woodland with a nationally scarce plant, priority reptile and a protected mammal.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 103

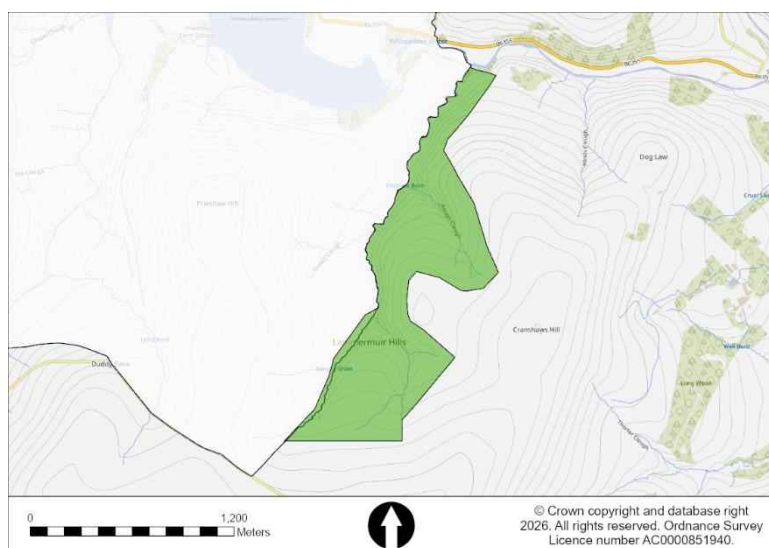
Site Name: Killiedraught Bay

Area (ha): 5.14

Site Description

Sea braes with locally rare plants and moths and a priority butterfly.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 104

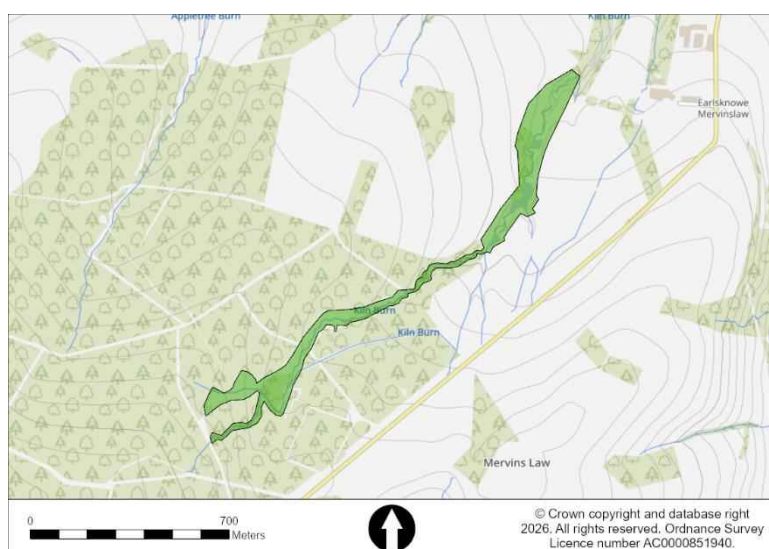
Site Name: Killmade Burn and Rough Cleugh

Area (ha): 94.85

Site Description

Upland burn, associated cleughs, moorland, vestiges of woodland and small base-rich flushes, many locally rare plants and bryophytes and a nationally scarce plant.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 105

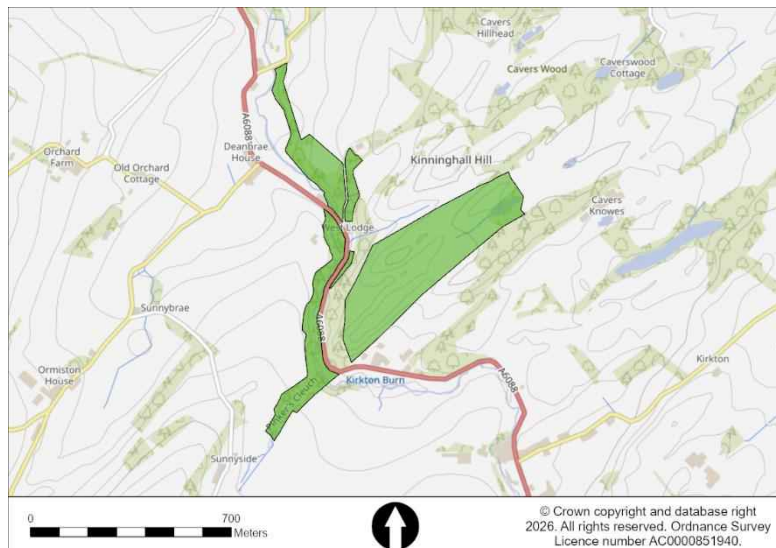
Site Name: Kiln Burn

Area (ha): 12.09

Site Description

Burn and associated bankside vegetation, with three well established artificial ponds. The site supports a healthy population of Juniper as well as protected mammals.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 106

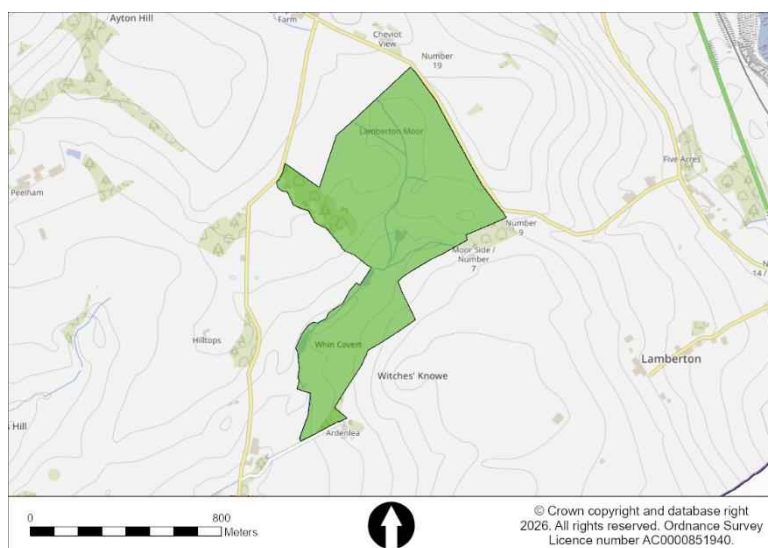
Site Name: Kirkton Hill and Burn

Area (ha): 25.00

Site Description

Riparian and burnside woodland habitats and adjacent knowes with both nationally scarce and locally rare plants and protected mammals.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 107

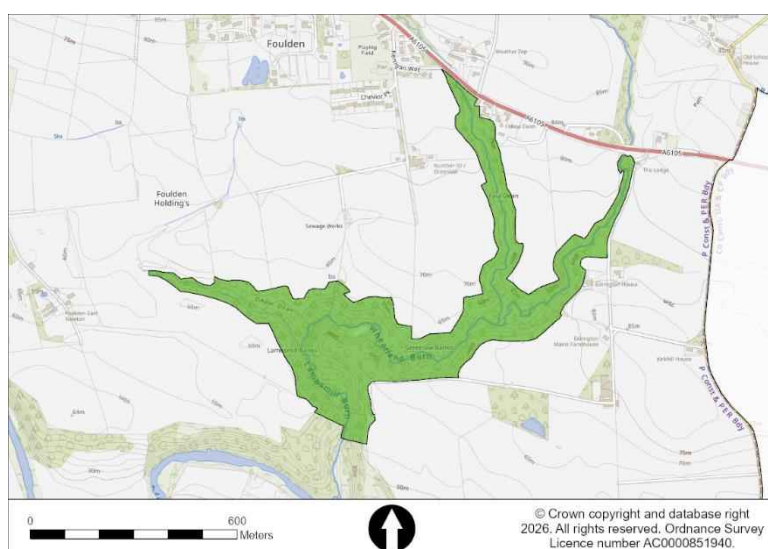
Site Name: Lamberton Moor from Mordington

Area (ha): 58.70

Site Description

Burnsides, flushed grassland, valley mire and small artificial pond with drier grassland and scrub above.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 108

Site Name: Lambsmill Burn and Foul Dean

Area (ha): 27.05

Site Description

Dean woodland with locally rare bryophytes and insects and protected mammals. An ancient woodland site.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 109

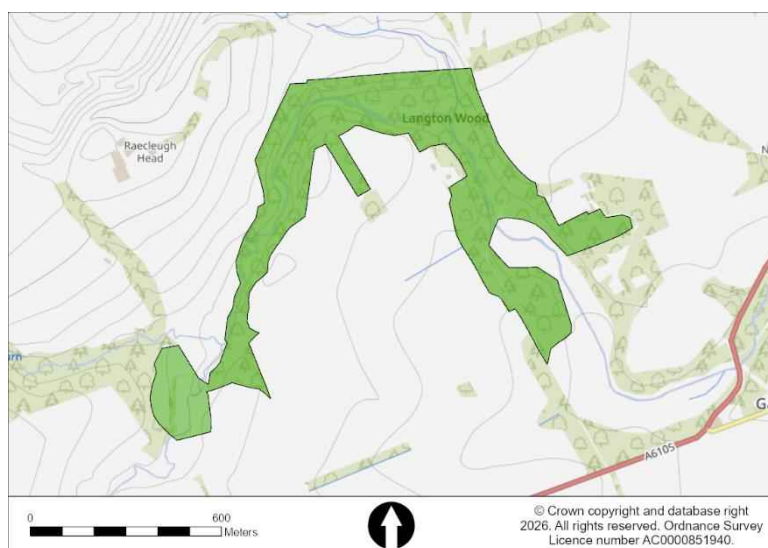
Site Name: Langlaw Hill

Area (ha): 36.46

Site Description

Species-rich acid grassland, marshy grassland and burn with a locally rare fern and a priority mammal and plant.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 110

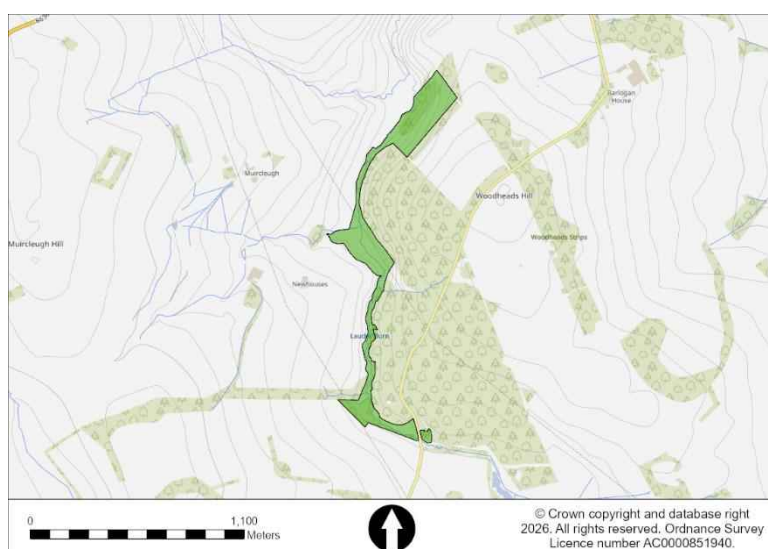
Site Name: Langton Wood

Area (ha): 40.99

Site Description

Dean woodland with locally rare bryophytes. An ancient woodland site.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 111

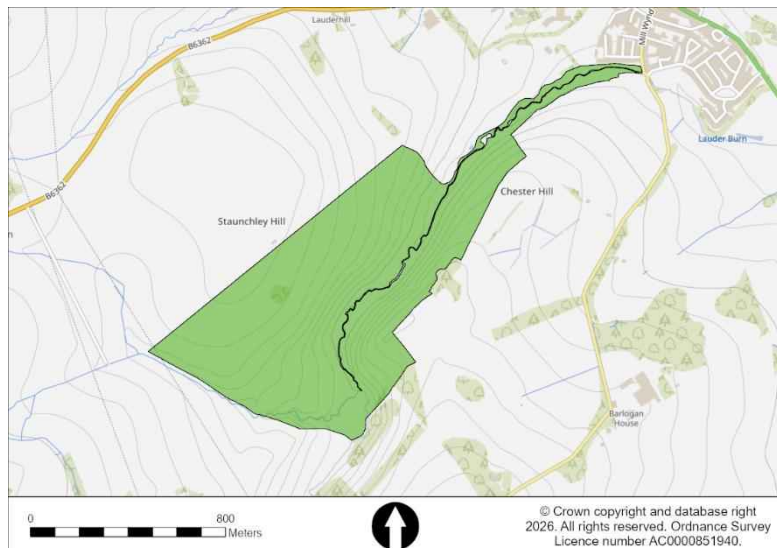
Site Name: Lauder Burn - Herriot Side to Threepwood Bridge

Area (ha): 18.18

Site Description

Burnsides and Juniper, including species-rich grassland and wetland habitats with 14 species of butterfly recorded, including a UK priority species, as well as locally notable plants and bryophytes and protected mammals.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 112

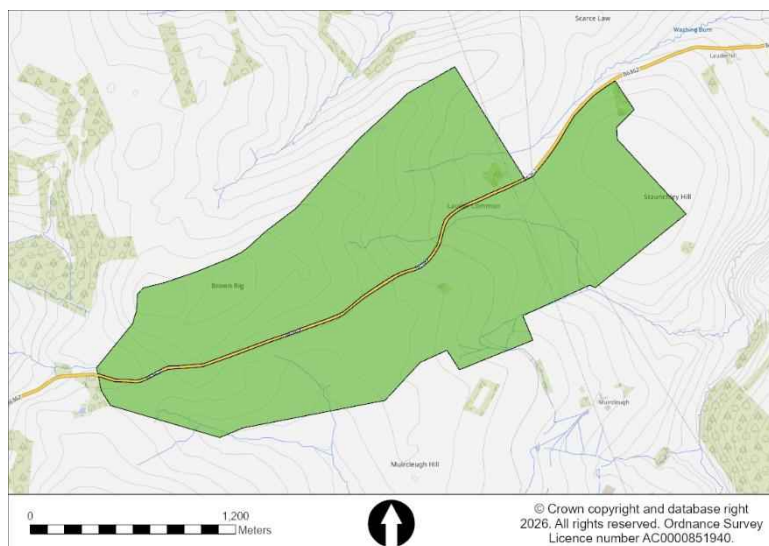
Site Name: Lauder Burn - Lauder to Herriot Side

Area (ha): 88.33

Site Description

Burnsides and screes with a nationally scarce bryophyte and lichen, several UK priority species as well as locally notable plants and fungi.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 113

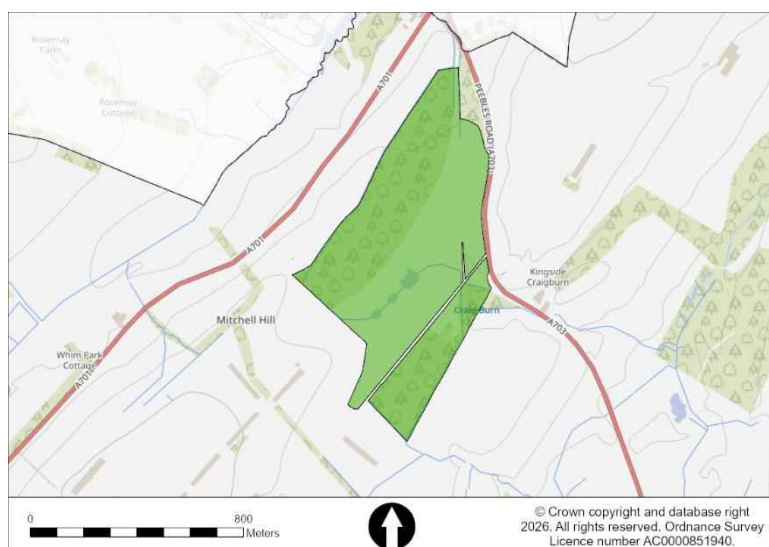
Site Name: Lauder Common

Area (ha): 364.03

Site Description

Moorland and moorland edge.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 114

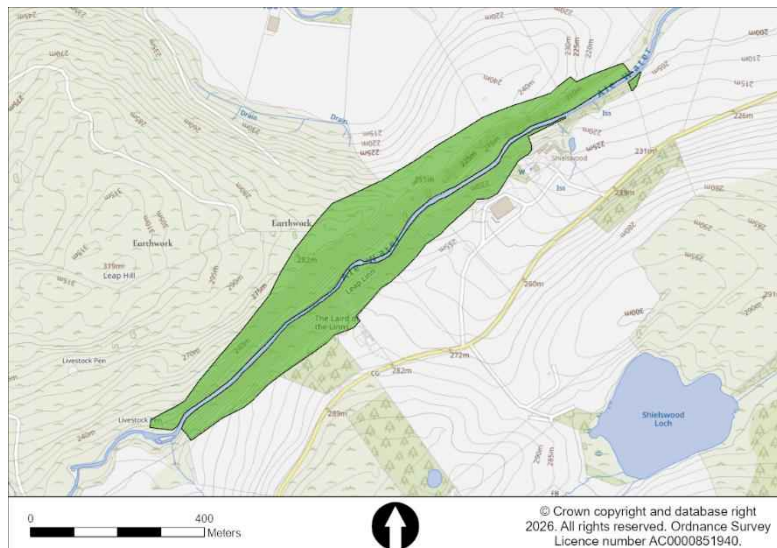
Site Name: Leadburn Community Woodland

Area (ha): 52.82

Site Description

Former moorland and raised bog site, afforested by FC in the 1970s, but later clear-felled and partly planted with broadleaves in the 2000s. The woodland is in the early stages of development. Restoration of raised bog areas and pond creation is ongoing.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 115

Site Name: Leap Linn

Area (ha): 17.65

Site Description

Species-rich grassland, rocky outcrops and scrub woodland on a steep ravine, with a diverse bryophyte flora, locally rare plants and a priority butterfly.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 116

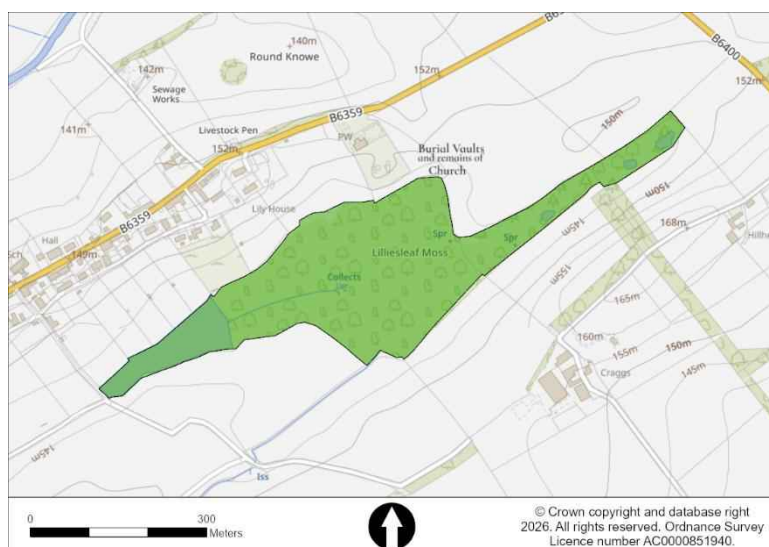
Site Name: Leet Water - Leitholm to Chaterpath

Area (ha): 72.95

Site Description

Haughs with *Carex riparia* swamp

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 117

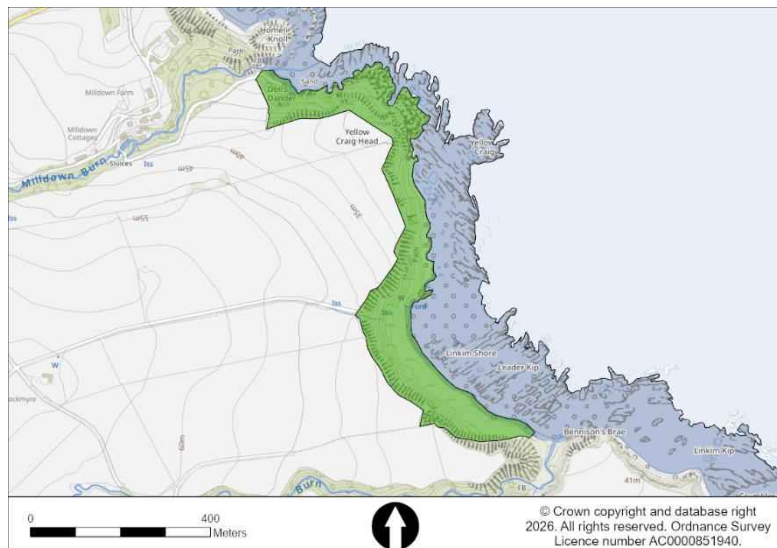
Site Name: Lilliesleaf Moss

Area (ha): 11.66

Site Description

Spring-fed basin mire with willow carr, *Phragmites* reed beds and marshy grassland.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 118

Site Name: Linkim Shore and Yellow Craig Head

Area (ha): 10.22

Site Description

Sandy beach and grassland, base-rich flushes, rocky foreshore with a diverse plant community and notable butterflies.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 119

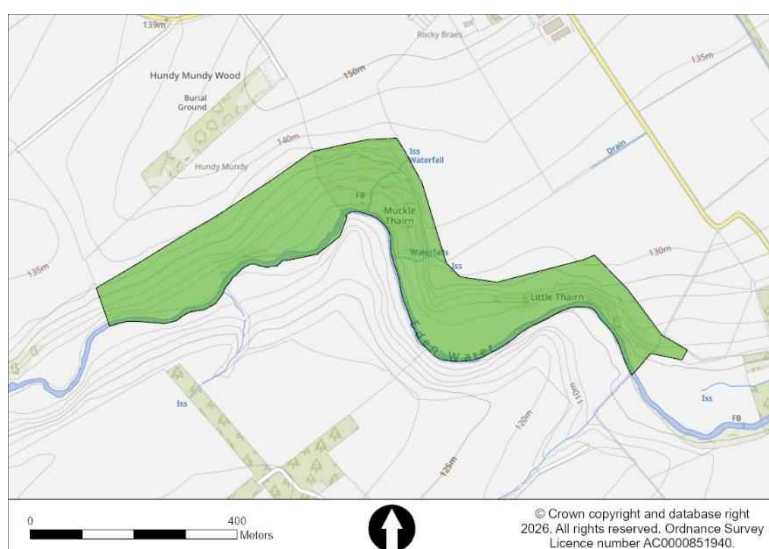
Site Name: Linton Loch

Area (ha): 22.42

Site Description

Fen and lochs bisected by a ditch with nationally scarce plants and a notable beetle.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 120

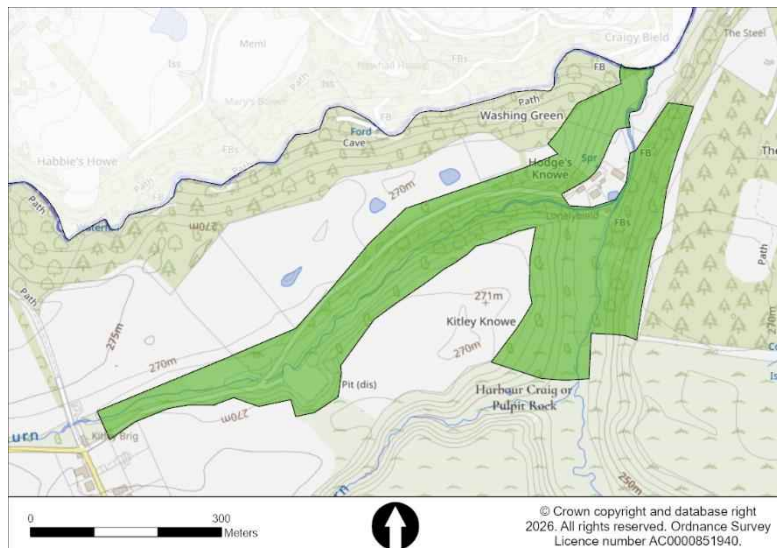
Site Name: Little Thairn and Muckle Thairn

Area (ha): 16.37

Site Description

Grasslands on knowes, burnsides, with both nationally scarce and locally rare plants.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 121

Site Name: Lonely Bield

Area (ha): 14.19

Site Description

Burnsides, acid grassland, flush, woodland and marsh with a nationally scarce and Scottish priority plants and a protected mammal.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 122

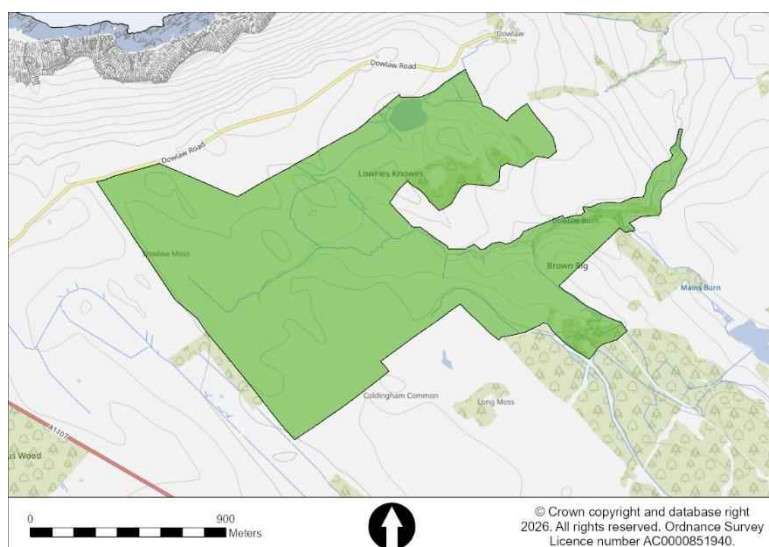
Site Name: Longstruther Burn

Area (ha): 14.80

Site Description

Bursides, including species-rich marshy grassland and base-rich flushes, with locally rare plants and Biodiversity Action Plan Priority fishes.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 123

Site Name: Lumsdaine Dean and Dowlaw Moss

Area (ha): 191.09

Site Description

Mire, flushes, grassland, rock outcrops, burnsides with diverse populations of wetland and grassland plants, bryophytes and butterflies with many locally rare species. Pond with breeding birds and Great Crested Newt. A Northern Brown Argus and Grayling s

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 124

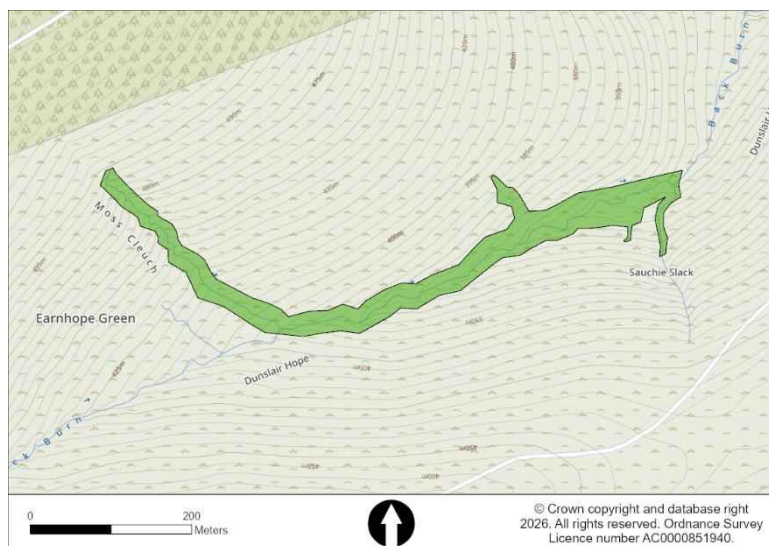
Site Name: Mincie Moss

Area (ha): 24.36

Site Description

Carr woodland and fen

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 125

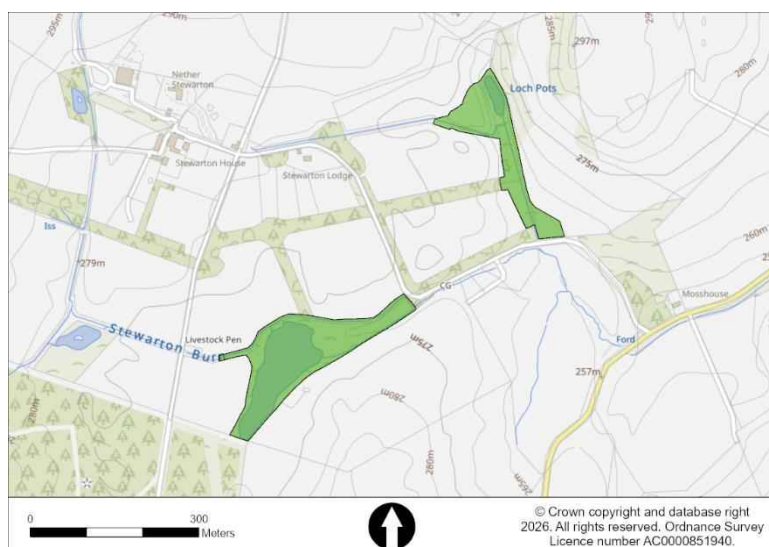
Site Name: Moss Cleuch and Dunslair Hope

Area (ha): 2.79

Site Description

Burn and marginal vegetation, with a mosaic of dry heath/acid grassland on either side. The interest of the site is the basic flushes and rocky outcrops that feed in to the burn and these support a nationally scarce plant and a nationally notable beetle.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 126

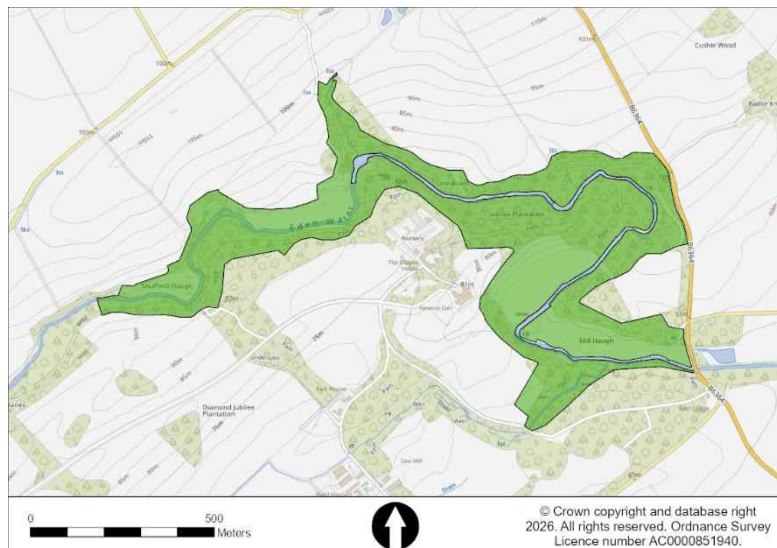
Site Name: Nether Stewarton Pools (Loch Potts)

Area (ha): 4.47

Site Description

Ponds, marsh and swamp with breeding wetland birds

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 127

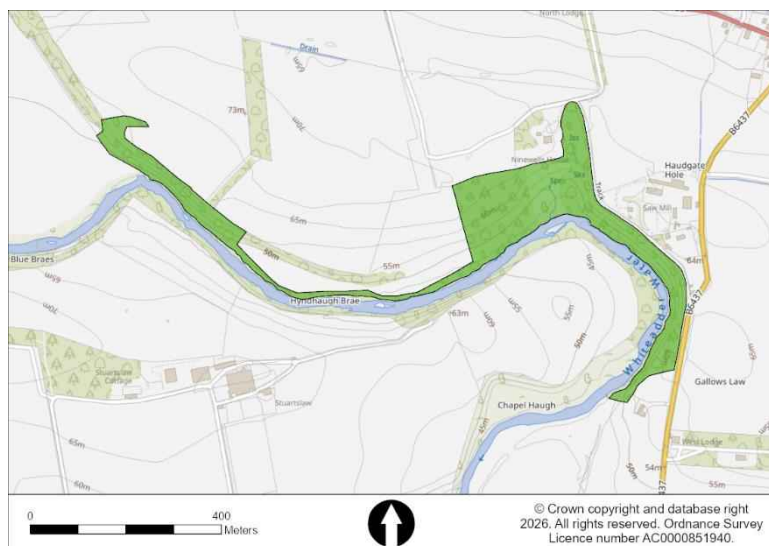
Site Name: Newton Don

Area (ha): 42.12

Site Description

Policies, burnside and grassland with several locally rare ferns, Scottish priority and UK Priority vascular plants and fish and protected mammals.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 128

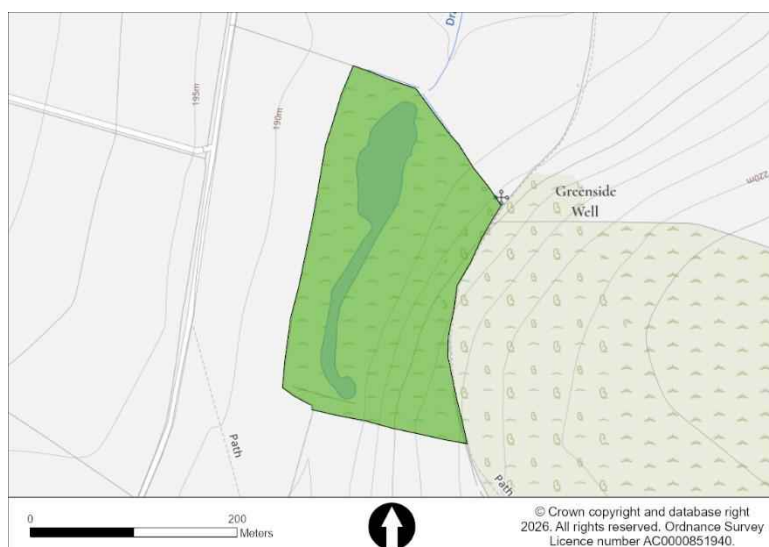
Site Name: Ninewells

Area (ha): 8.98

Site Description

Riparian woodland

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 129

Site Name: Old Townhead Pond

Area (ha): 4.93

Site Description

Pond and wetland

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 130

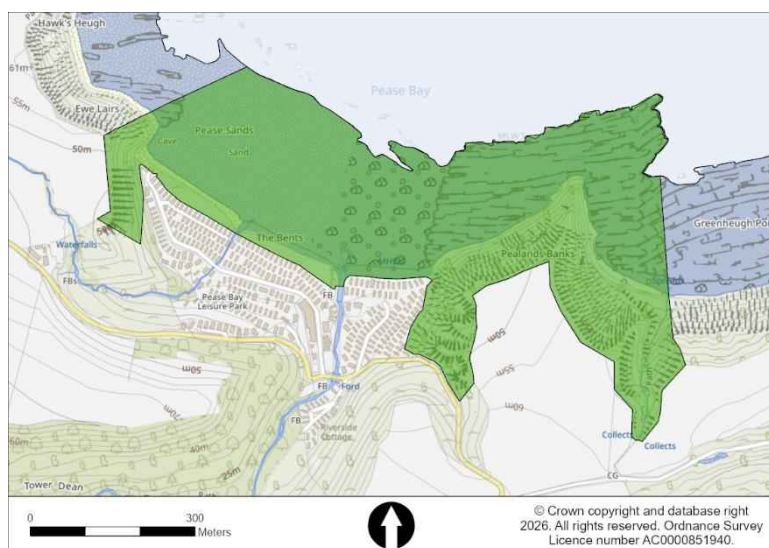
Site Name: Paxton House

Area (ha): 37.47

Site Description

Mixed plantation woodland and burnside with breeding birds, locally rare plants, protected mammals and amphibians.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 131

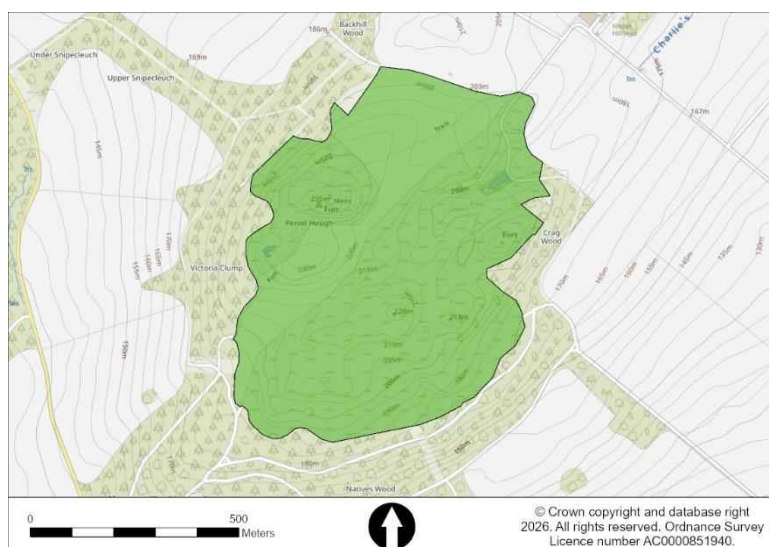
Site Name: Pease Sands and Greenheugh Point

Area (ha): 31.73

Site Description

Sandy beach, sea braes, with roosting birds, locally rare plants, priority butterflies & plants and a protected mammal.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 132

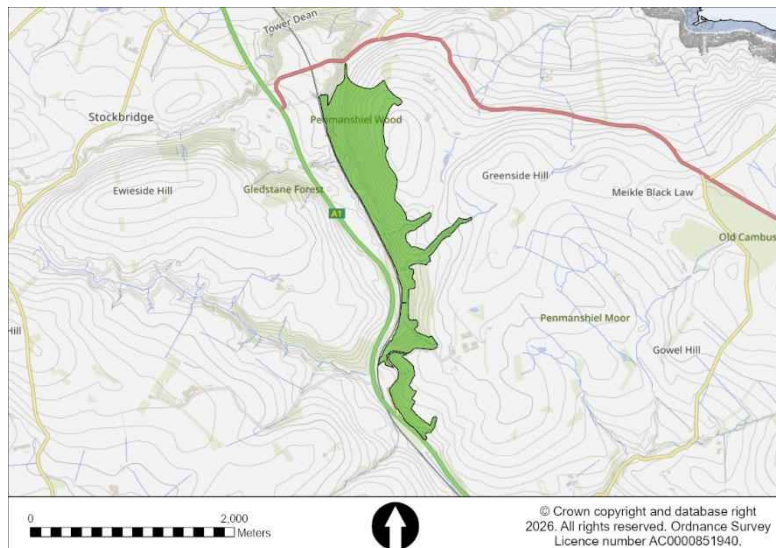
Site Name: Peniel Heugh

Area (ha): 49.67

Site Description

A conical, grassy hill, topped by the Waterloo Monument, amongst lowland farmland and woodland.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 133

Site Name: Penmanshiel Wood

Area (ha): 117.74

Site Description

Conifer plantation, dean woodland, cleughs

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 134

Site Name: Pickie Moss

Area (ha): 11.48

Site Description

Mire and Betula / Salix carr woodland with locally rare flowering plants and bryophytes.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 135

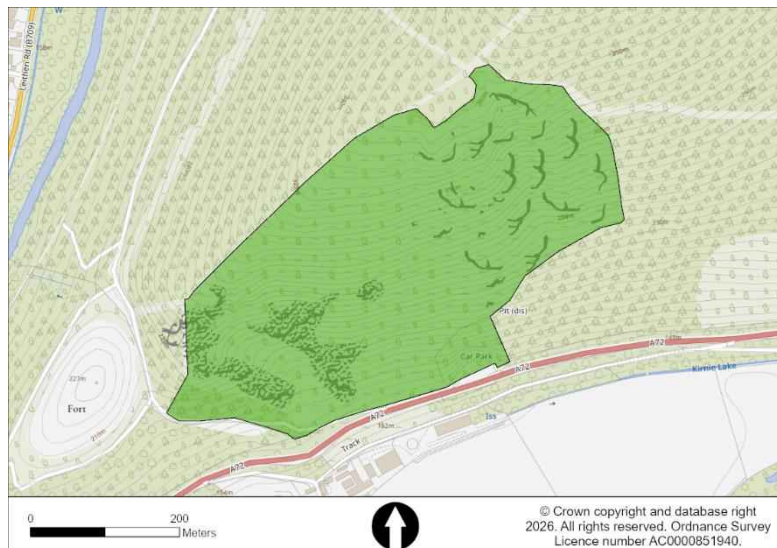
Site Name: Piper's Knowe Quarry

Area (ha): 9.10

Site Description

Pond and associated species-rich grassland with 18 butterflies recorded as well as a locally notable moth and bird species.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 136

Site Name: Pirn Craig

Area (ha): 17.10

Site Description

Heathland / acid grassland mosaic, rocky outcrops and screes, with a priority butterfly.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 137

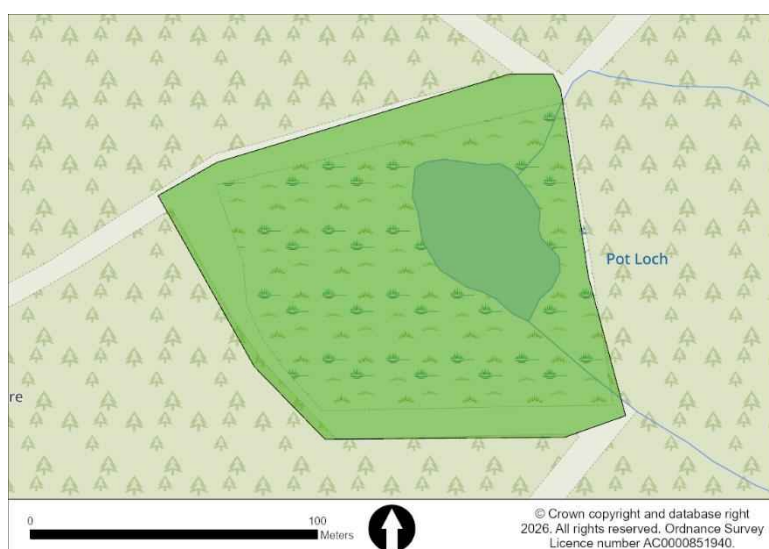
Site Name: Portmore Birchwoods

Area (ha): 29.28

Site Description

Semi-natural, moderately species-rich birch woodland on the banks of Portmore Loch.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 138

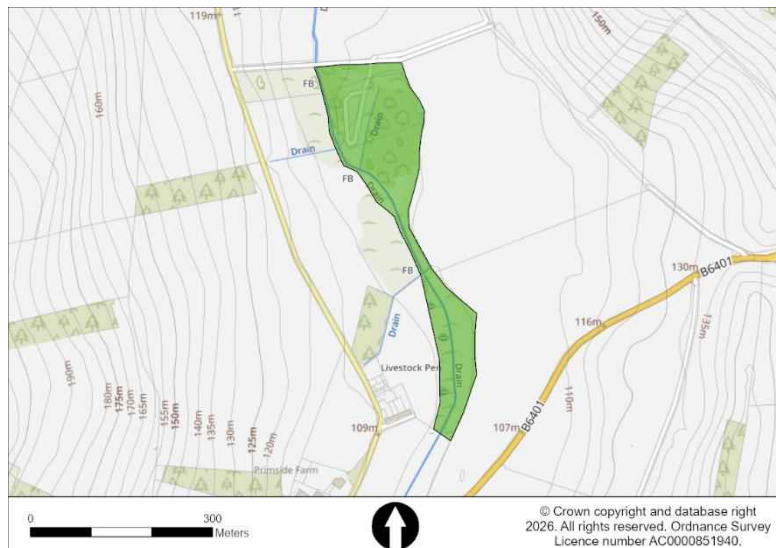
Site Name: Pot Loch

Area (ha): 1.45

Site Description

Small loch and adjoining wetland habitats with the nationally scarce moss *Pseudobryum cinclidioides* as well as locally notable plants.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 139

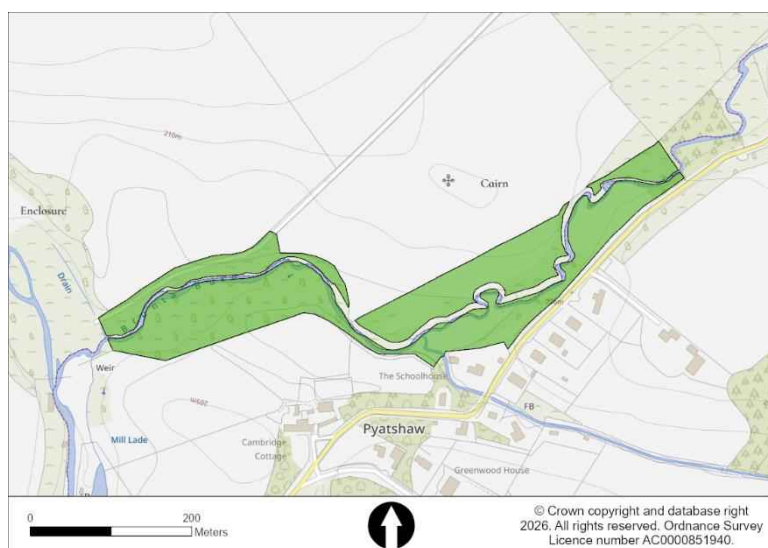
Site Name: Primside Bog

Area (ha): 4.70

Site Description

Remnant mire with many locally rare plants.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 140

Site Name: Pyatshaw Meadow, by Brunta Burn

Area (ha): 5.63

Site Description

Wetland and meadow, parts relatively species rich, with local rarities.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 141

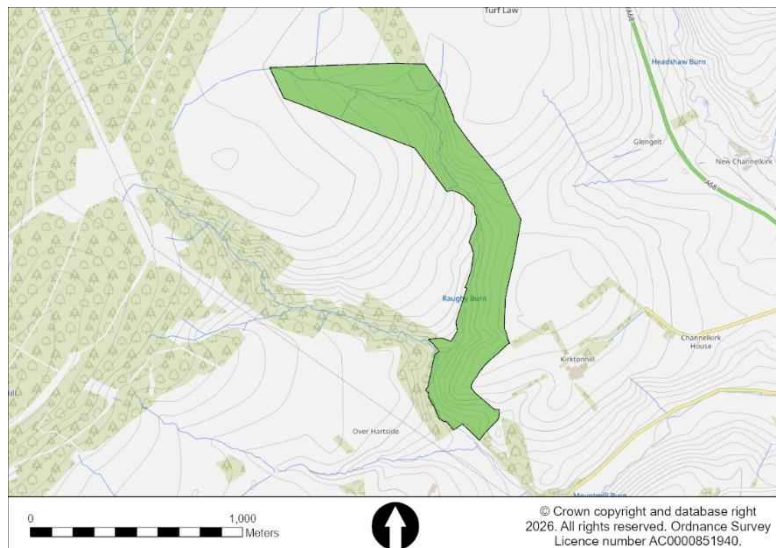
Site Name: Rachan Mill Pond

Area (ha): 1.38

Site Description

Eutrophic pond and surrounding broadleaf plantation woodland

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 142

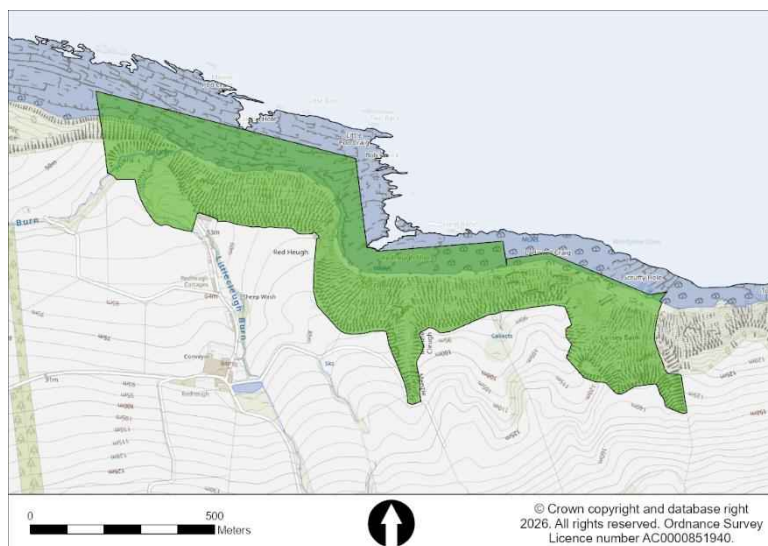
Site Name: Raughy Burn

Area (ha): 55.46

Site Description

Juniper scrub, burnside with protected species.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 143

Site Name: Redheugh and Lansey Bank

Area (ha): 40.45

Site Description

Dean, sea braes and cliffs with UK and Scottish Priority plants, locally rare plants and insects and a protected mammal.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 144

Site Name: Redpath Moss

Area (ha): 8.33

Site Description

Carr woodland and species-rich marshy grassland with locally rare and nationally scarce plants.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 145

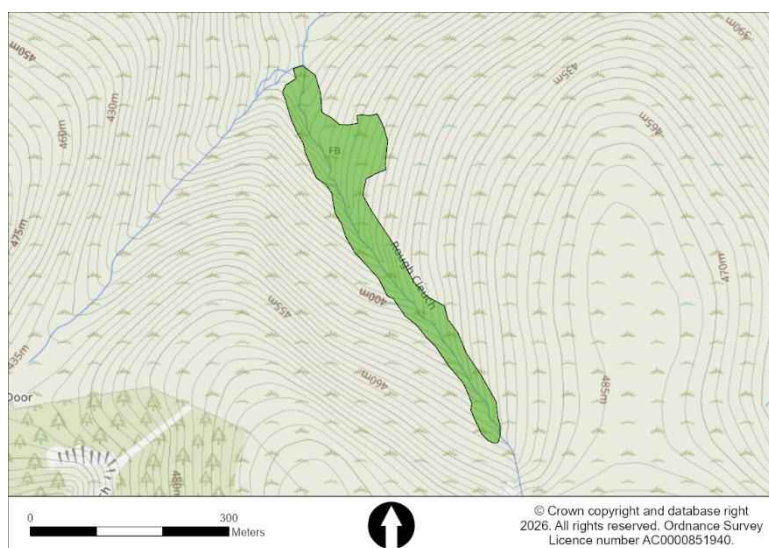
Site Name: Romany Marsh

Area (ha): 3.35

Site Description

Pond and marsh with breeding birds, wintering wildfowl and a nationally scarce plant.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 146

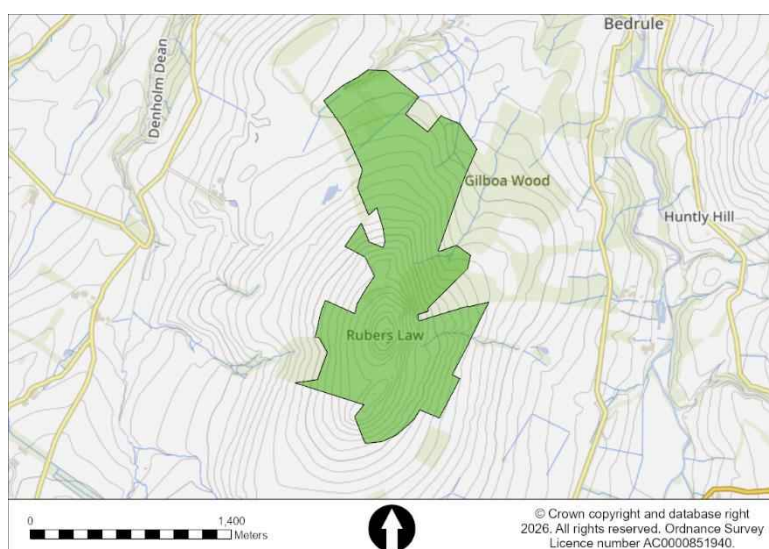
Site Name: Rough Cleuch

Area (ha): 3.42

Site Description

Cleuch, heathland and marshy grassland with upland birds.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 147

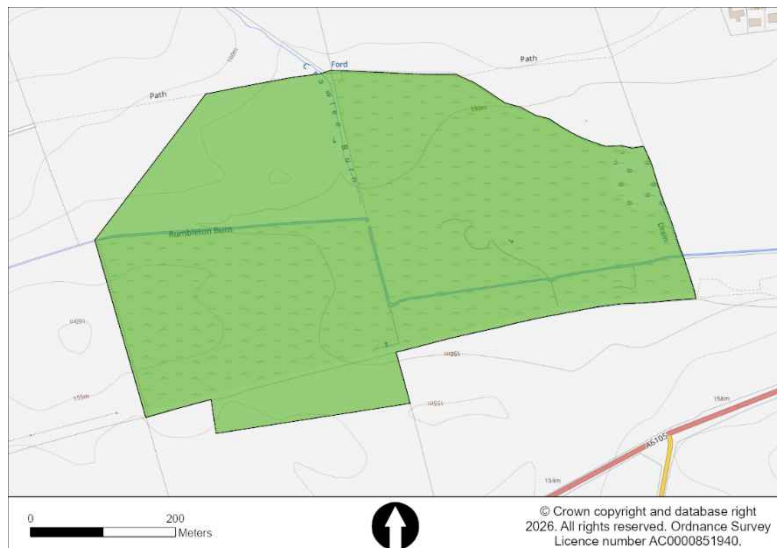
Site Name: Rubers Law

Area (ha): 179.10

Site Description

Heathland, acid grassland and bracken, with rocky outcrops and scree, which contain locally rare ferns and nationally scarce bryophytes.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 148

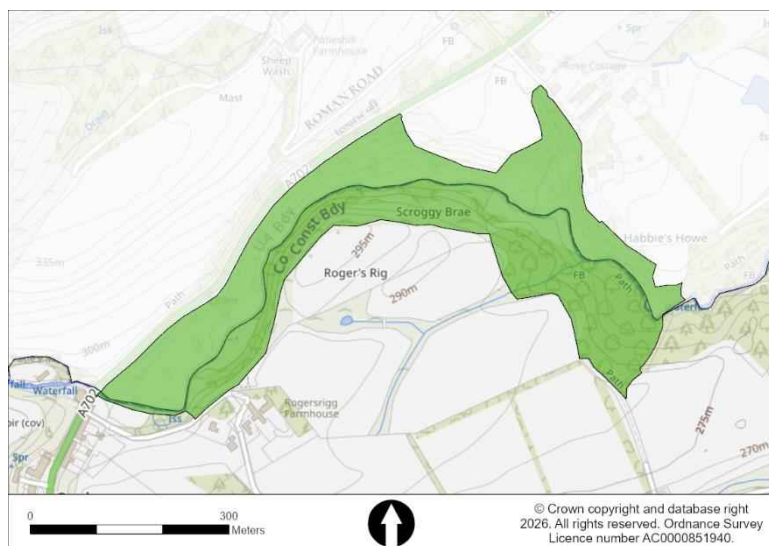
Site Name: Rumbleton Burn

Area (ha): 27.74

Site Description

Burns, wet meadow and heath with base-rich flushes and locally rare plants.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 149

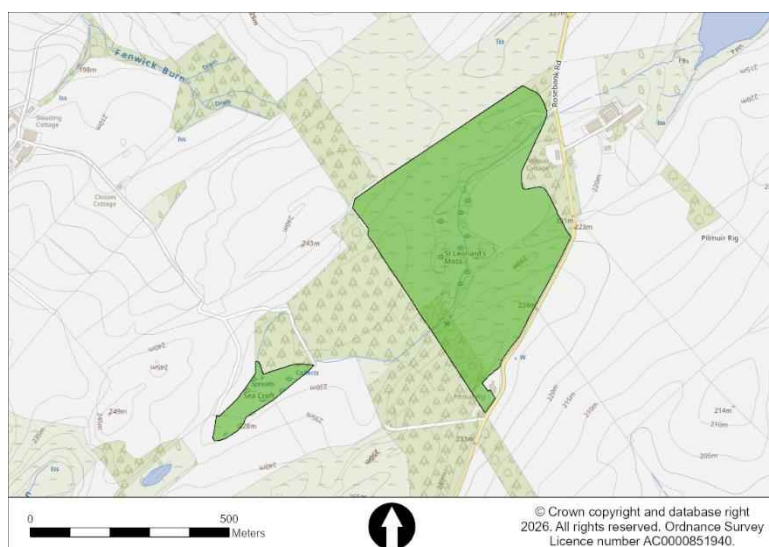
Site Name: Scroggy Brae

Area (ha): 13.35

Site Description

River and associated semi-natural woodland and unimproved grassland habitats, with small areas of marsh and scrub. A protected mammal has been recorded on site.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 150

Site Name: Sea Croft and St Leonards Mosses

Area (ha): 24.24

Site Description

Two species-rich basin mires connected by a wet ditch

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 151

Site Name: Shaws Under Loch

Area (ha): 18.64

Site Description

Large oligotrophic loch surrounded by marsh and swamp at the SW end. The site includes part of Langhope Burn. A key botanical site with both nationally rare and locally rare plants. The site hosts both breeding and wintering birds and priority fishes.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 152

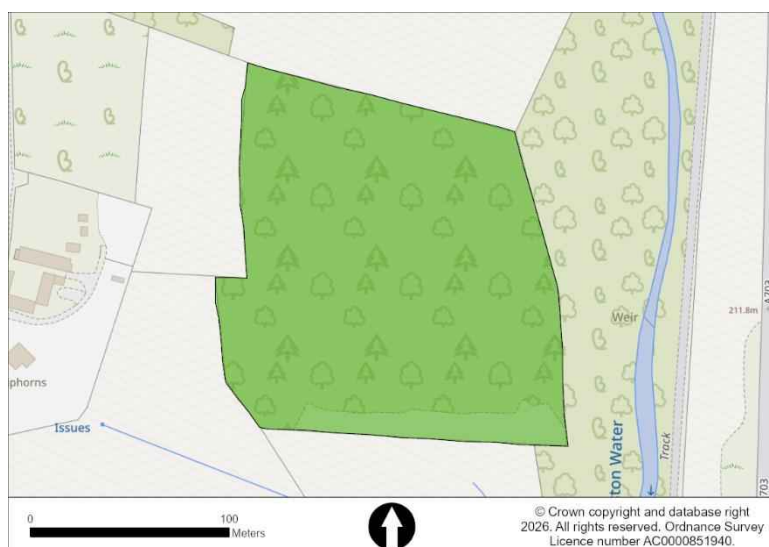
Site Name: Shaws Upper Loch

Area (ha): 6.31

Site Description

Loch surrounded by Common Reed swamp and marsh habitats with two nationally rare grasses, priority fish and amphibians as well as locally rare plants and breeding birds. The site is one of three lochs situated along the 3km stretch of Langhope Burn.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 153

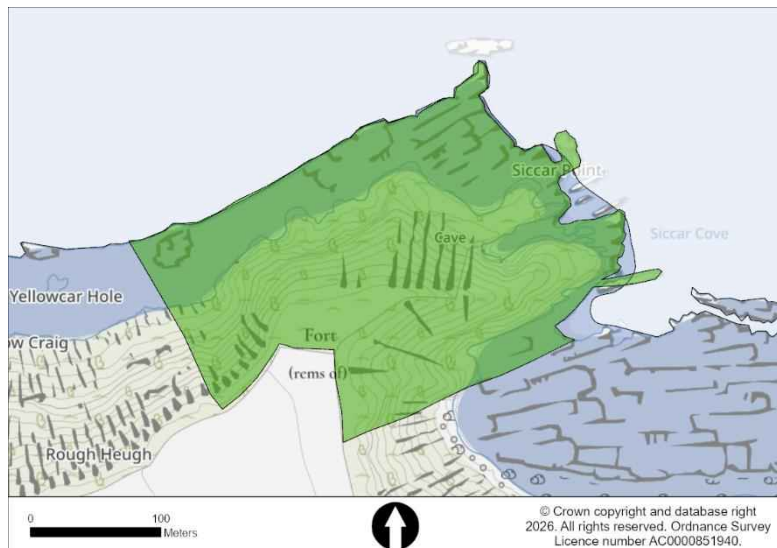
Site Name: Shiphorn Quarry

Area (ha): 2.67

Site Description

Plantation woodland on former quarry pits with breeding birds.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 154

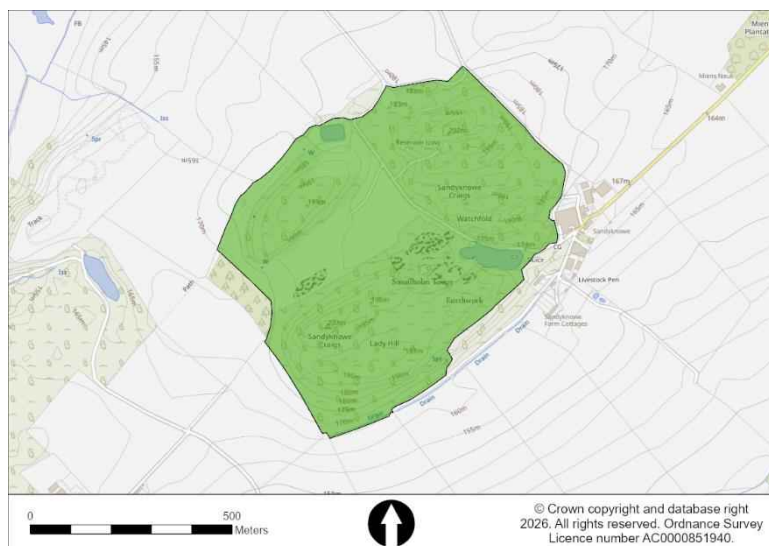
Site Name: Siccar Point

Area (ha): 5.78

Site Description

Sea braes, cliffs with breeding birds and Scottish Priority bryophytes.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 155

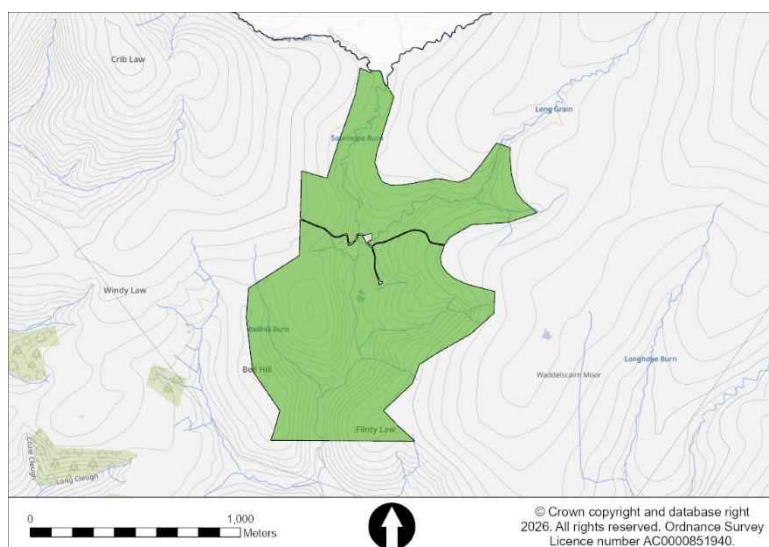
Site Name: Smailholm Crag

Area (ha): 47.20

Site Description

Grassland and rocky outcrops, with an important higher plant, bryophyte and lichen assemblage and a protected mammal.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 156

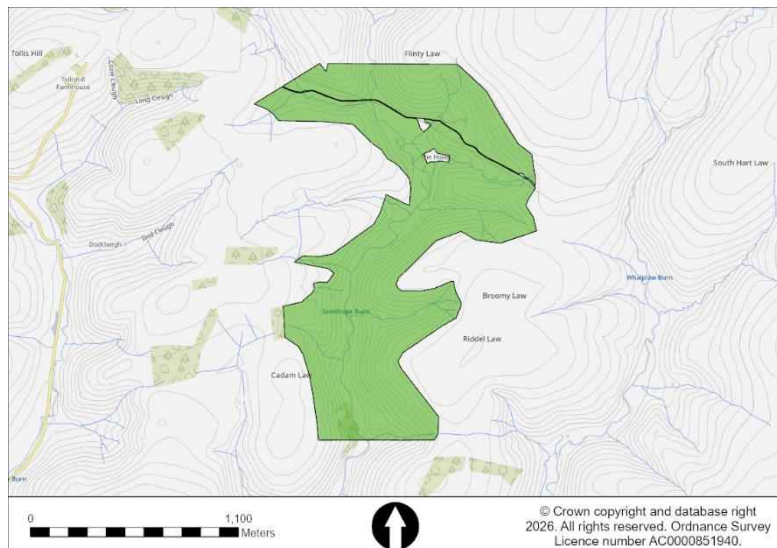
Site Name: Soonhope Burn upper & Longformacus Burn

Area (ha): 118.78

Site Description

Upland burnside, cleughs and flushes with notable plants.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 157

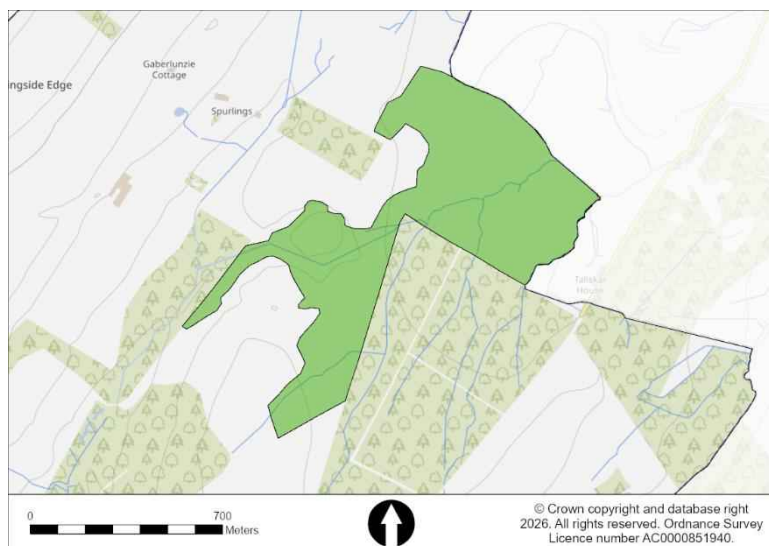
Site Name: Soonhope Burn upper, The Howe

Area (ha): 144.28

Site Description

Upland burnside, cleughs and flushes with both Borders priority and UK priority species.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 158

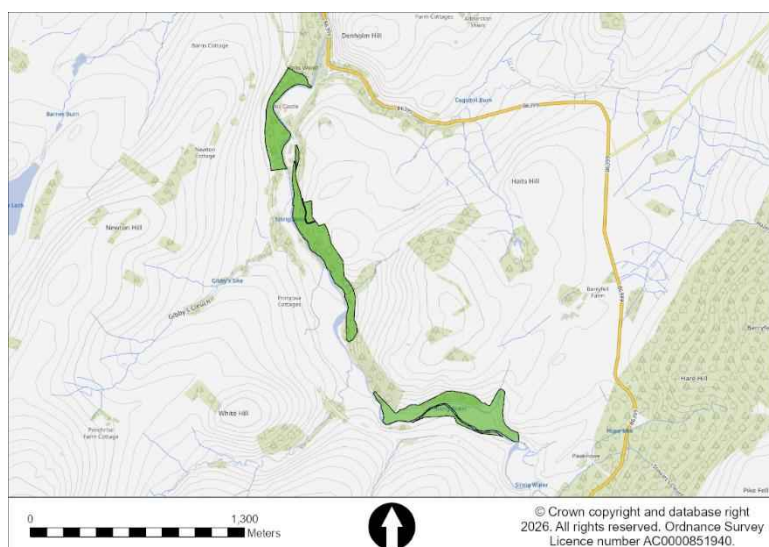
Site Name: Spurlens Rig

Area (ha): 58.65

Site Description

Bog and acid grassland with priority butterflies.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 159

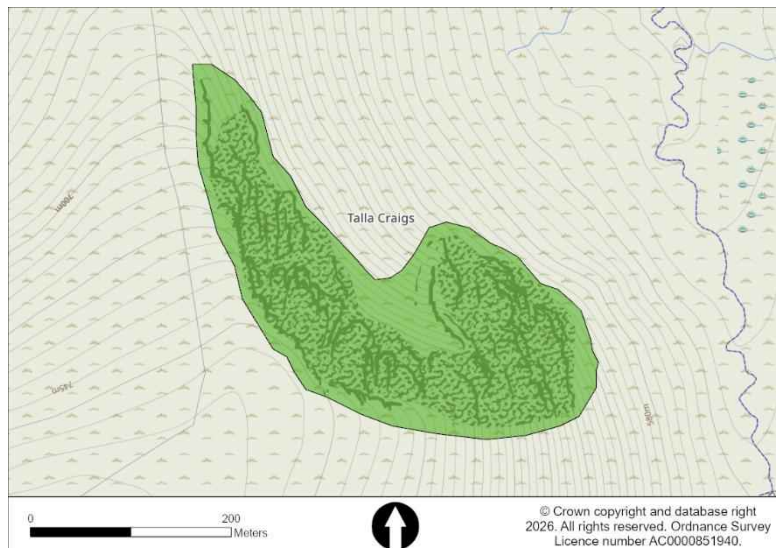
Site Name: Stobs Castle Wood and Meadow

Area (ha): 25.98

Site Description

Riverside woodland, scrub and grassland with protected mammals and a priority butterfly.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 160

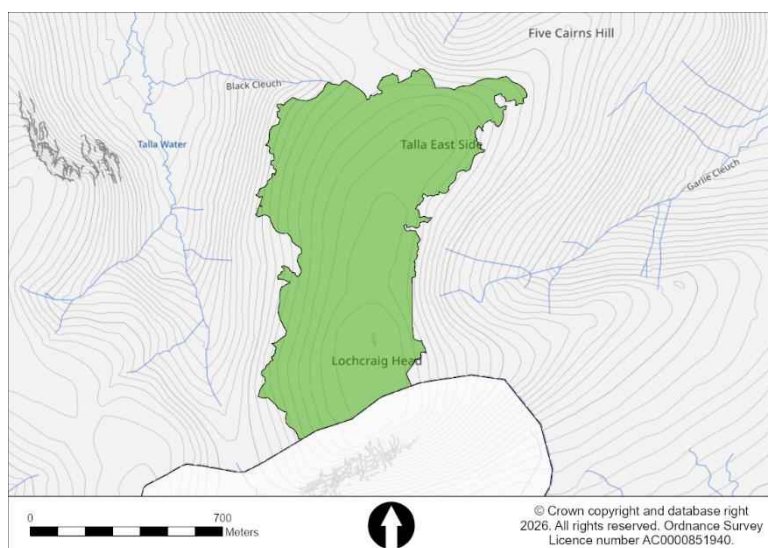
Site Name: Talla Craigs

Area (ha): 6.75

Site Description

Steep rocky outcrops harbouring vegetated ledges surrounded by acid scree slopes. The site hosts an important higher plant and bryophyte assemblage, including both locally rare and nationally notable species.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 161

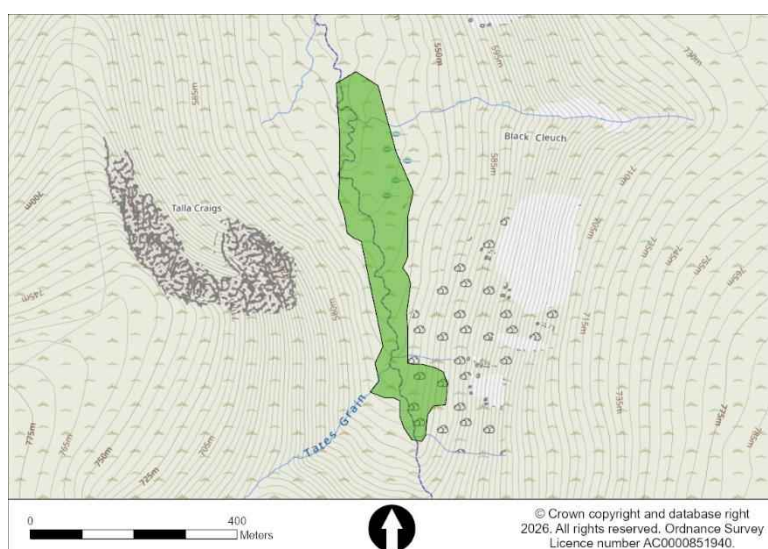
Site Name: Talla East Side

Area (ha): 70.67

Site Description

Extensive *Carex bigelowii*/*Racomitrium lanuginosum* moss-heath with smaller areas of high level blanket bog.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 162

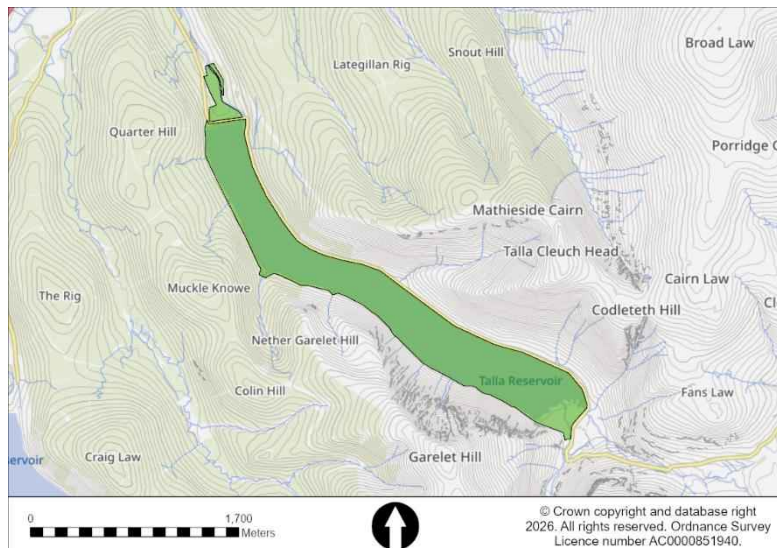
Site Name: Talla Marsh

Area (ha): 6.38

Site Description

Fast-flowing stream surrounded by a mosaic of degraded blanket bog and marsh/fen, with base-rich flushes and nationally scarce or vulnerable plants.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 163

Site Name: Talla Reservoir

Area (ha): 147.57

Site Description

A large, oligotrophic man-made reservoir with a narrow fringe of grassland and conifer plantation; surrounded by upland grassland and conifer plantation.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 164

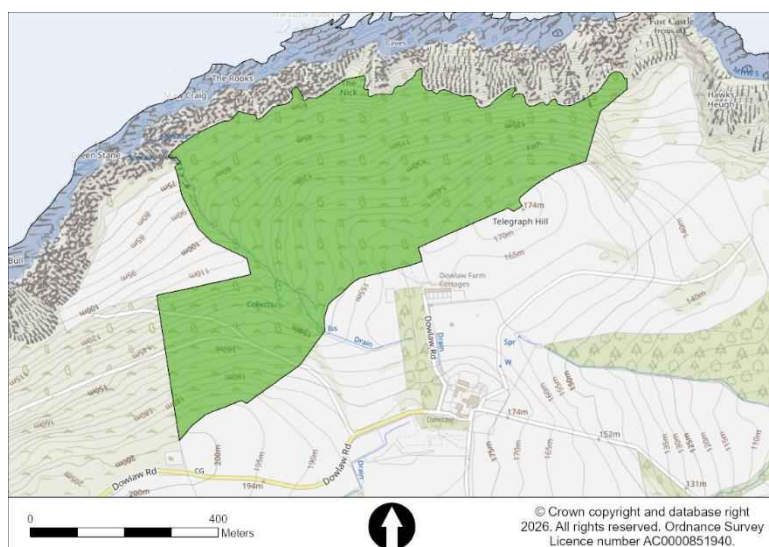
Site Name: Tandlaw Moss

Area (ha): 10.67

Site Description

Moss and pond with breeding amphibians, nationally scarce or priority beetles and locally rare plants.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 165

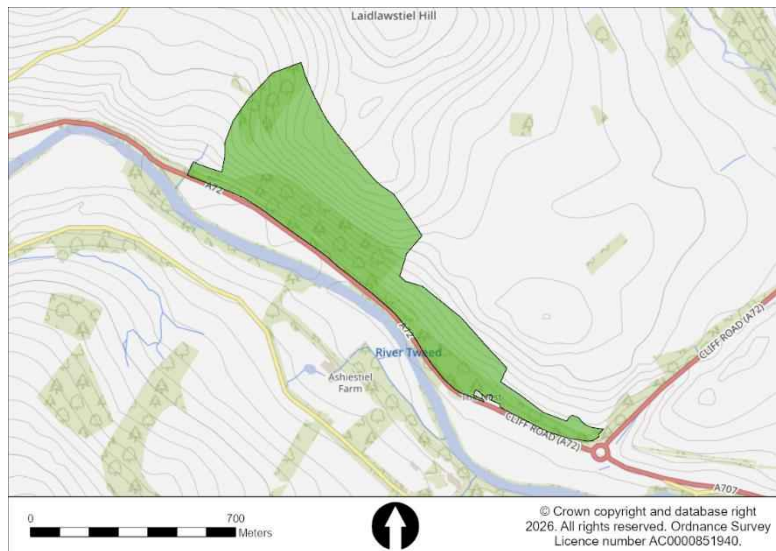
Site Name: Telegraph Hill

Area (ha): 34.63

Site Description

Moorland, acid grassland and rocky knowes, with breeding birds, locally rare moths and a priority plant and reptile.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 166

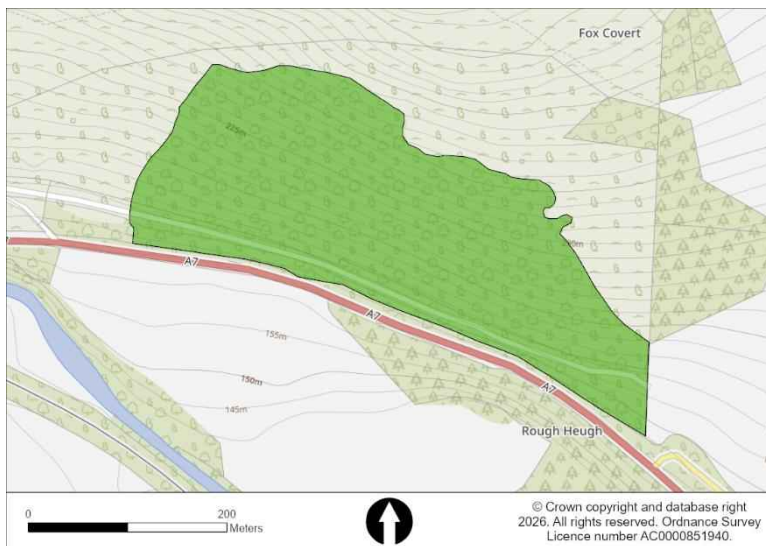
Site Name: The Nest / Laidlawstiel Wood

Area (ha): 36.98

Site Description

Semi-natural broadleaved woodland, acid grassland and small areas of scree, with breeding birds, a priority butterfly species and protected mammals.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 167

Site Name: The Whin

Area (ha): 8.75

Site Description

Small semi-natural broadleaved woodland, surrounded to the north by acid grassland and bracken habitats. The site hosts a number of notable birds as well as a protected reptile and mammals.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 168

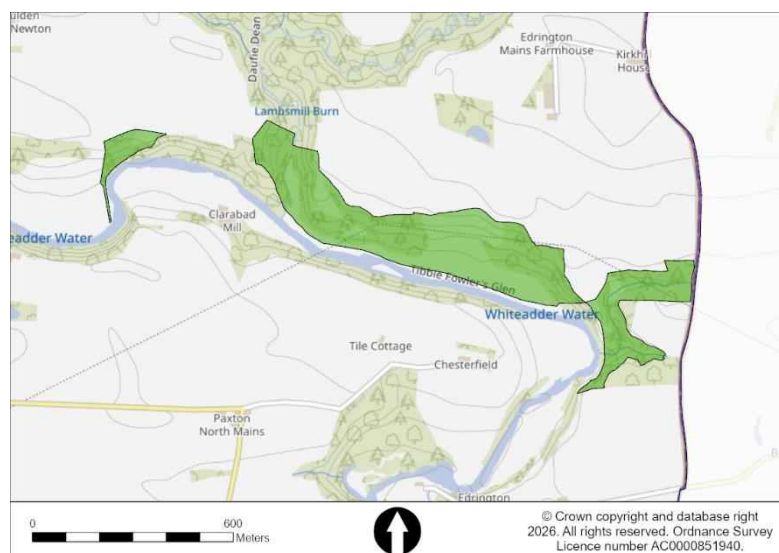
Site Name: Threeburnford Cleugh

Area (ha): 9.78

Site Description

Juniper scrub, burnsidcs and flushes with species-rich grassland and wetland habitats, locally notable plants, a UK priority butterfly and protected mammals.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 169

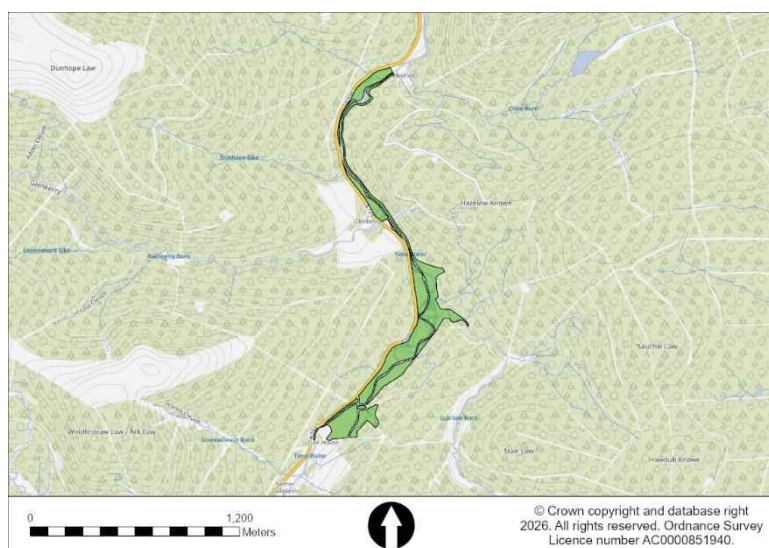
Site Name: Tibbie Fowler's Glen & Witches Cleugh

Area (ha): 23.31

Site Description

Riverside, species-rich grassland, ancient woodland and scaurs with a high diversity of butterflies, many local rarities and a protected mammal.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 170

Site Name: Tima Water - Gair to Meerlees

Area (ha): 18.35

Site Description

River side grasslands, rocks and shingle habitats bounded by conifer plantations, with locally rare plants and Nationally Notable beetles.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 171

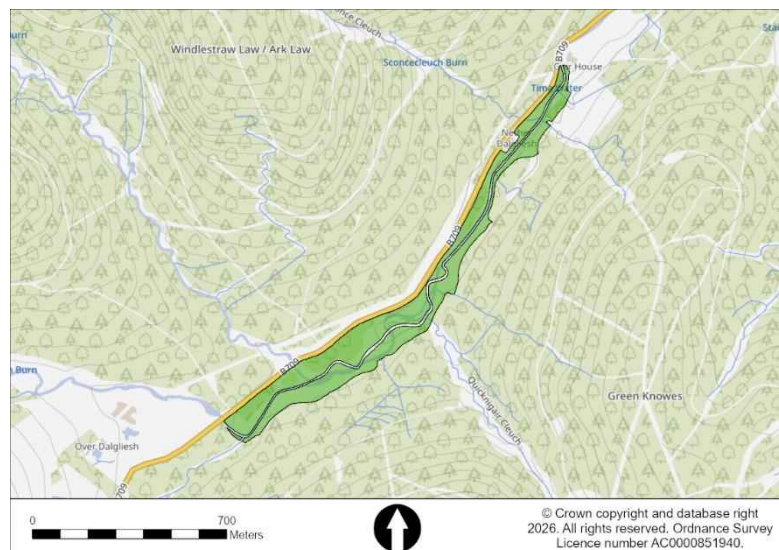
Site Name: Tima Water - Meerlees to White Sike

Area (ha): 8.22

Site Description

River banks, ravine, marshy and damp native woodland with many locally rare plants and bryophytes.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 172

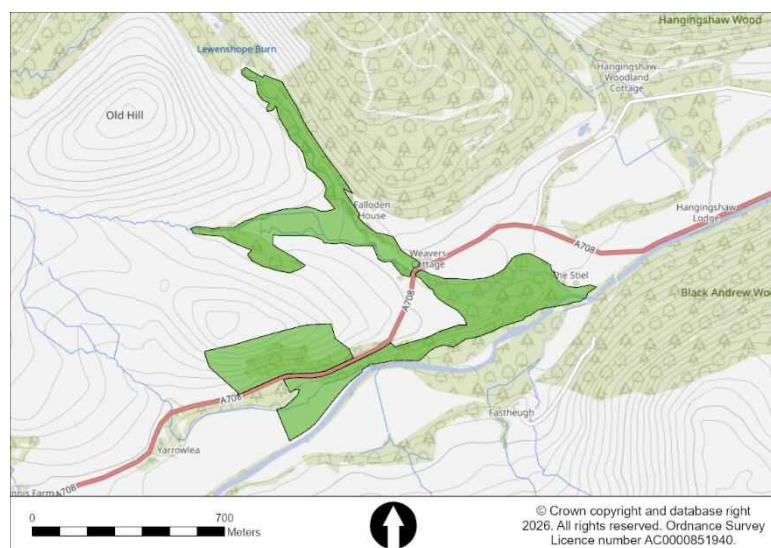
Site Name: Tima Water - Over Dalgliesh to Gair

Area (ha): 16.10

Site Description

Riverside habitats including a small gravel area with both nationally and locally rare plants and UK Priority species.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 173

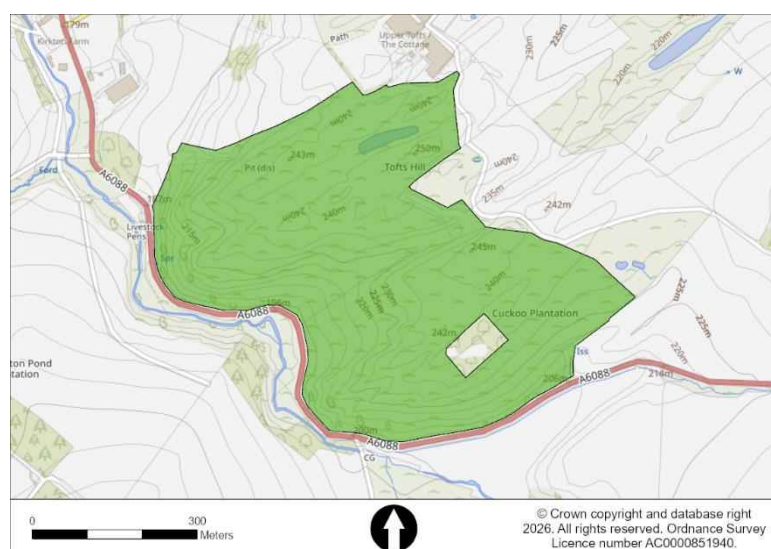
Site Name: Tinnis Stiel Wood & Lewenshope Burn

Area (ha): 35.41

Site Description

Complex site of various woodland types and open ground along the course of a burn.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 174

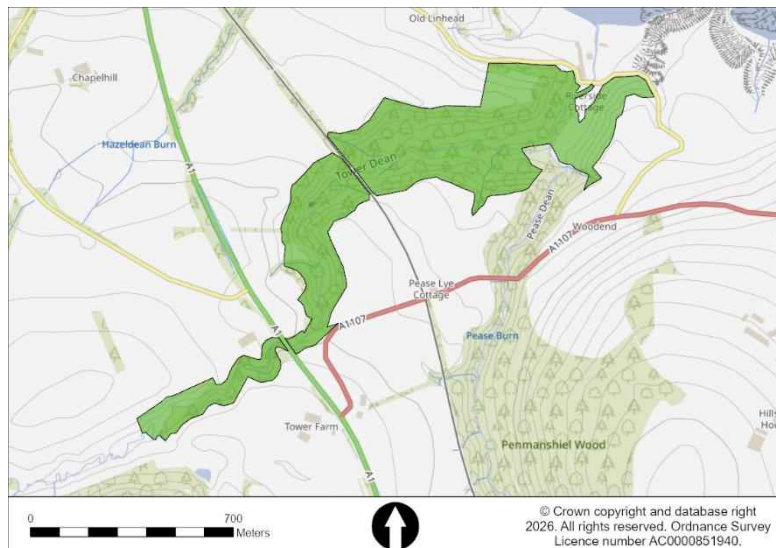
Site Name: Tofts Hill

Area (ha): 32.19

Site Description

Basic hill pasture, *Carex rostrata* swamp and quarries, with a diverse grassland flora including locally rare plants. A Northern Brown Argus breeding site.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 175

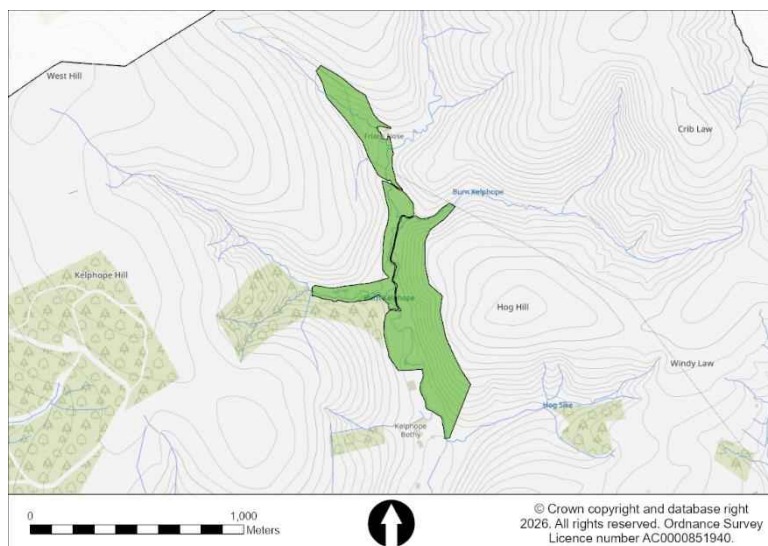
Site Name: Tower Dean and Pease Burn

Area (ha): 44.69

Site Description

Dean woodland with many locally rare plants, bryophytes and insects, breeding birds and protected mammals.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 176

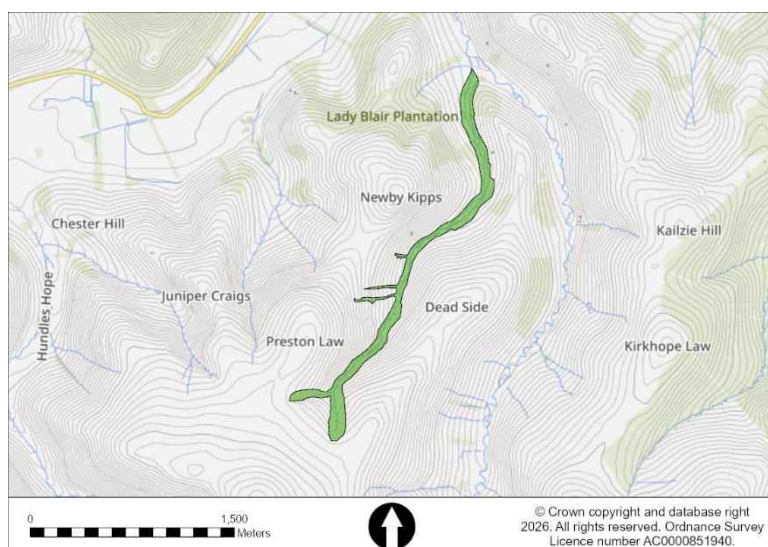
Site Name: Upper Kelphope Burn

Area (ha): 32.84

Site Description

Juniper scrub, acid burnside, flushes

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 177

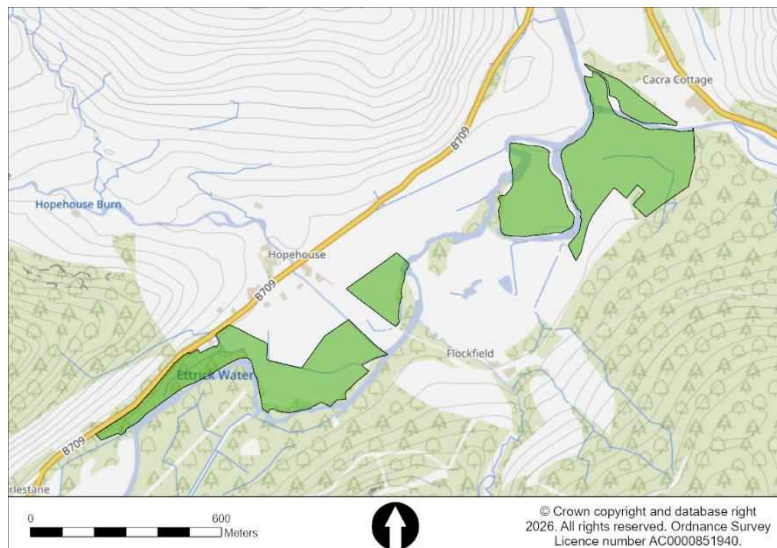
Site Name: Waddenshope Burn

Area (ha): 26.80

Site Description

River and associated marginal vegetation, including frequent species-rich flushes and marshy grassland. The site hosts a variety of birds, a nationally scarce plant, locally rare mosses and a priority mammal and reptile.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 178

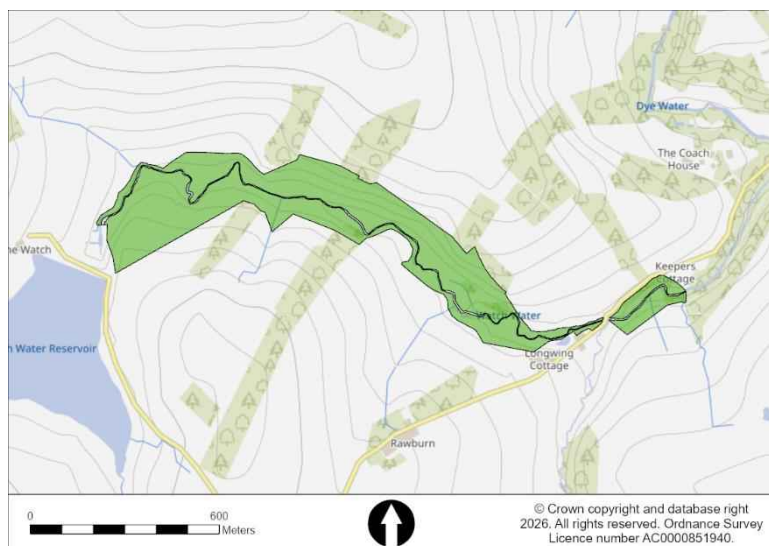
Site Name: Wardlaw Farm Meadows

Area (ha): 29.20

Site Description

Series of meadows beside the Ettrick Water with a nationally scarce plant and several local rarities.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 179

Site Name: Watch Water

Area (ha): 28.82

Site Description

Burnsides, rocky banks - part wooded - with a high diversity of grassland plants, locally rare plants and moths.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 180

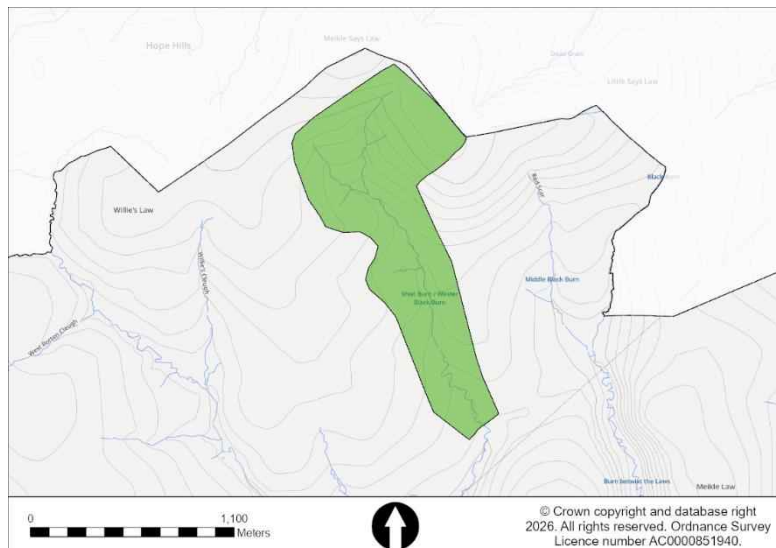
Site Name: Watch Water Reservoir

Area (ha): 39.46

Site Description

Reservoir with flushes and moorland banks with breeding birds and locally rare plants and insects.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 181

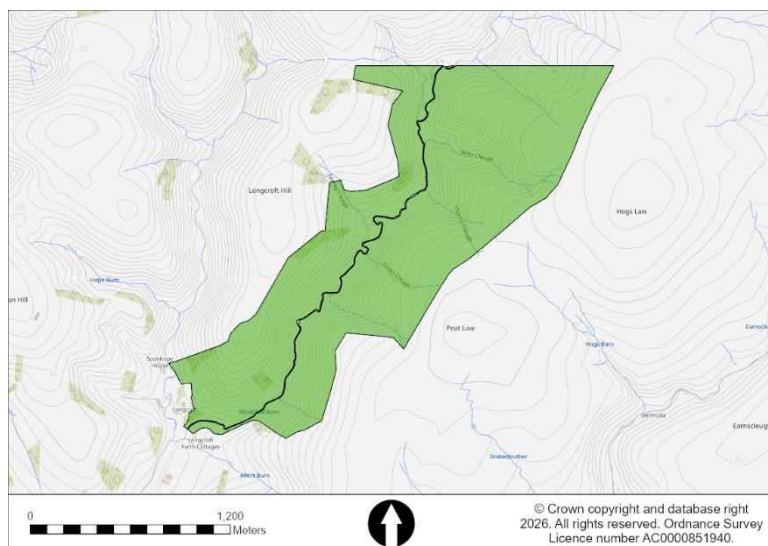
Site Name: Wester Black Burn

Area (ha): 96.30

Site Description

Burnsides and degraded moorland with one fine acid flush.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 182

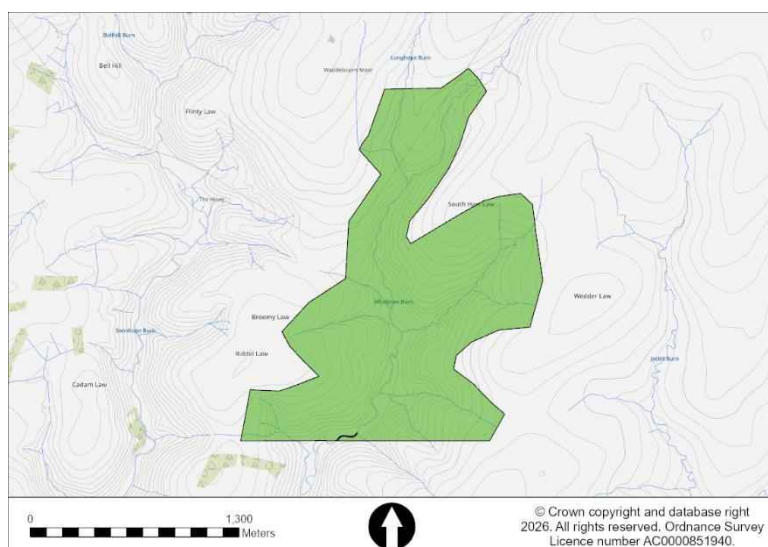
Site Name: Whalplaw Burn (lower)

Area (ha): 229.68

Site Description

Burnsides, cleughs and screes with juniper and fern communities and a priority reptile.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 183

Site Name: Whalplaw Burn (upper)

Area (ha): 223.92

Site Description

Burnsides and flush communities - including fine base-rich flushes and Juniper.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 184

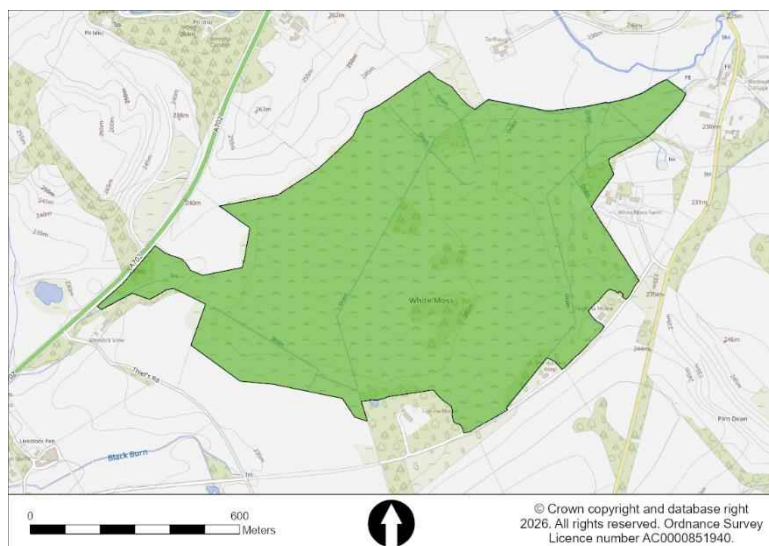
Site Name: Wheel Burn and Blythe Water

Area (ha): 82.52

Site Description

Wheel Burn, base-rich flushes, stony bank with Juniper.

Shown on Map 2



Site Ref: 185

Site Name: White Moss

Area (ha): 88.70

Site Description

Raised sphagnum bog with nationally rare bryophyte and priority butterfly and reptile species.

Shown on Map 1



Site Ref: 186

Site Name: Whitehaugh Moor

Area (ha): 38.83

Site Description

Basin mires, rush-pasture and grasslands with basic influences. A key site for populations of *Tomentypnum nitens* and *Cinclidium stygium*.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 187

Site Name: Whitmuir Moss

Area (ha): 9.62

Site Description

Mature semi-natural woodland on the site of a former raised bog.

Shown on Map 3



Site Ref: 188

Site Name: Woolaw Moss

Area (ha): 4.06

Site Description

A small wet modified bog with a small pond and associated acid grassland.

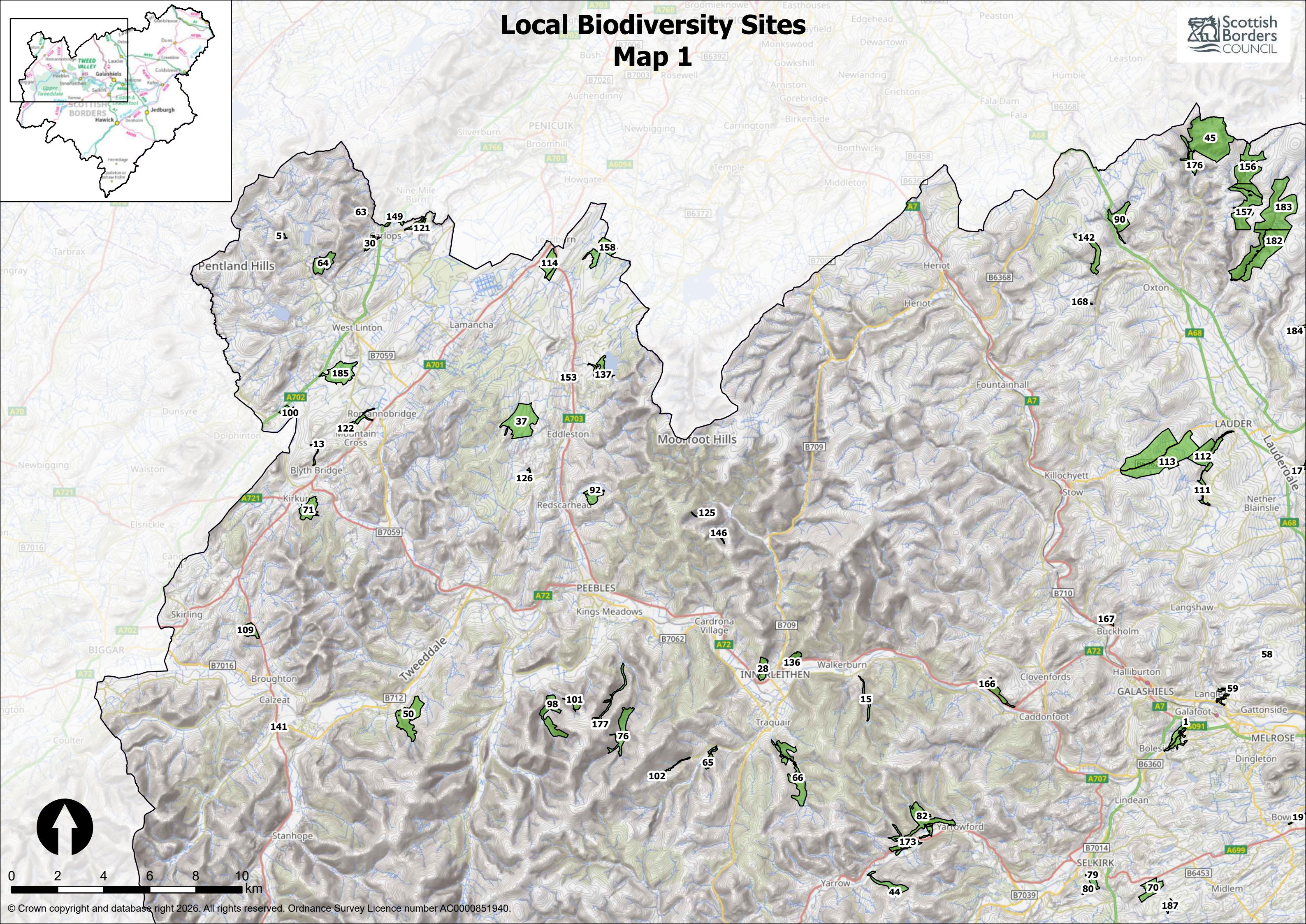
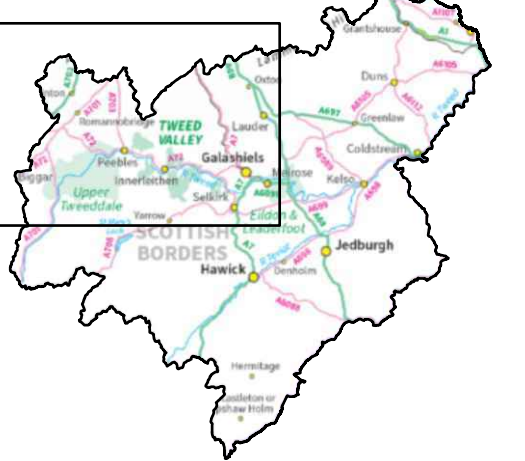
Shown on Map 3

LOCAL BIODIVERSITY SITES TECHNICAL NOTE

APPENDIX 3: LOCAL BIODIVERSITY SITES (SCOTTISH BORDERS CONTEXT)

Local Biodiversity Sites

Map 1



0 2 4 6 8 10 km



The map displays the Scottish Borders region, including towns such as Galashiels, Hawick, Jedburgh, and Kelso. It also shows major roads like the A69, A68, and A67, and geographical features like the Tweed Valley and Upper Tweeddale. An inset map in the top right corner shows the location of the Scottish Borders within the United Kingdom.



