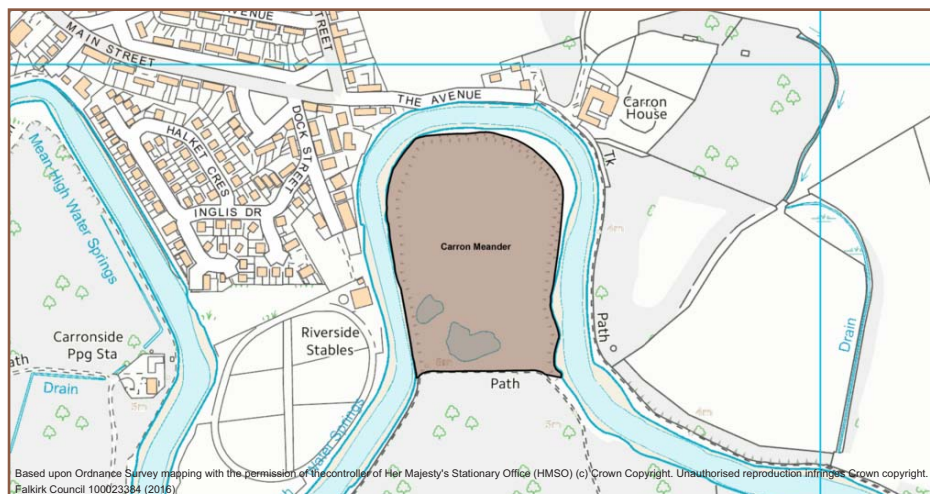


7. Appendix 2 Site Statements : Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

03. Carron Meander



Grid Ref. NS 289602 682783

Area 4.9 Hectares

Key Features

Habitat (s)	Reedbed Standing water.
Species	Reedbed/wetland birds.
Connectivity	Part of an extensive habitat network and part of the River Carron Corridor.
Community	Path next to site well used.

Description

Carron Meander is now an extensive area of reedbed with some standing water and grassland on the drier embankments and path edges. It sits within a meander of the River Carron and is bounded to the south by a footpath and developing woodland.

The site was previously described as supporting saltmarsh and brackish water communities; however alterations to the drainage/management appear to have stopped inundations from the tidal River Carron. This has resulted in the replacement of saltmarsh type habitats with reedbed.

Carron Meander sits within the wider Helix site and, while immediately adjacent to the river and woodland plantation, is close to the residential areas of Carronshore and Langlees.

Nature Conservation Summary

Reedbed is now the dominant habitat of this site. It is a UKBAP and LBAP priority habitat and reedbeds of this size are locally rare.

The habitat diversity is augmented by areas of openwater, grassland and potentially swamp. Although plant species diversity is low, with common reed and canary reed grass dominating, the site is likely to be of importance for bird and amphibian species.

The site's value to birds and other fauna is likely to be increased with the development of adjacent woodland providing a larger habitat network and creating some shelter from disturbance.

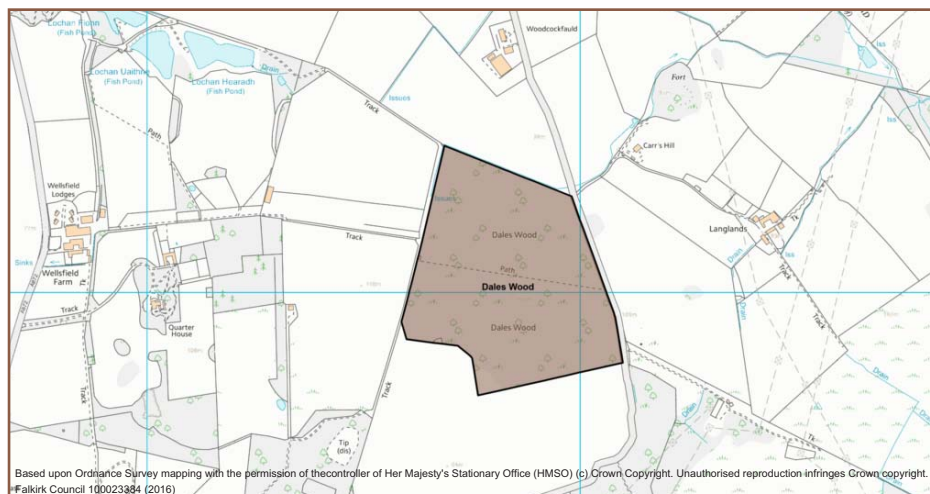
The location of the site on the River Carron and adjacent to establishing woodland puts it at the heart of an extensive habitat network.

Conservation and Enhancement Opportunities

- Redefine the SINCC boundary to reflect the spread of the reedbed habitat.
- Ensure drainage does not reduce the wetness of the site.
- Control invasive non-native plants adjacent to the site.

7. Appendix 2 Site Statements : Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

04. Dales Wood



Grid Ref. NS 281836 685032

Area 19 Hectares

Key Features

Habitat (s)	Broadleaved woodland Scrub.
Species	Climbing Corydalis.
Connectivity	Part of a large woodland habitat network.
Community	Some recreational use.

Description

Dales wood is a large area of semi-natural broadleaved woodland situated on the low hills north of Denny. Semi-natural broadleaved woodland covers almost all of the site, however there are also small areas of wet mire woodland, open grassy glades and heath, particularly along a ride beneath power lines.

The surrounding land slopes away in most directions and supports well improved agricultural land. There are a few woodland blocks nearby at Quarter House and Torwood.

Nature Conservation Summary

Dales wood is an extensive area of relatively undisturbed oak-birch woodland, a locally rare woodland type. The woodland is listed as long-established plantation woodland.

The small areas of mire and relic heath, plus grassy woodland rides and margins provide additional habitat diversity.

The drystone walls around the wood also provide a good habitat for lichens and mosses and a variety of animals.

The recorded species diversity of the site is low (98 plant species), with broad-buckler fern dominating the ground flora; however more typical woodland species may become established over time. The locally rare climbing corydalis does occur amongst the bracken.

The site is likely to be important for breeding birds, badger and other woodland mammals.

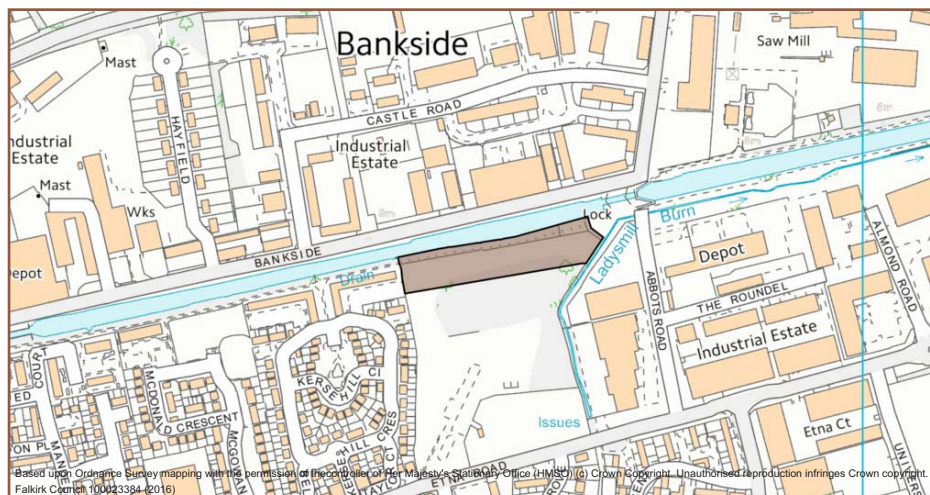
Although isolated within agricultural land the site is extensive and forms an important element in the woodland habitat network linking Torwood in the east to woodland around Quarter House and Braes Wood further west.

Conservation and Enhancement Opportunities

- Ensure rhododendron and sycamore do not dominate the woodland.
- Ideally, remove rhododendron
- Thin the heath and mire areas to maintain an open canopy.
- Secure the mire water table by locally preventing drainage.
- Maintain glades along the southern ride and more open woodland margins.

7. Appendix 2 Site Statements : Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

05. Falkirk Gasworks



Grid Ref. NS 289582 681342

Area 1 Hectares

Key Features

Habitat (s)	Unimproved neutral grassland Woodland.
Species	Several LBAP priority species.
Connectivity	An important site on the Forth and Clyde canal corridor.
Community	Currently no access.

Description

This site is within the site of the former Falkirk Gasworks and is immediately adjacent to the Forth and Clyde canal.

The centre of the site supports unimproved neutral grassland with similar but noticeably wetter grassland to the west of the site. The east of the site is dominated by regenerating birch and willow woodland and scrub.

Nature Conservation Summary

Given its small size the site has average habitat diversity, helped by different types of grassland vegetation present as a result of varied drainage across the site.

Species diversity is not particularly high (around 50 plant species recorded) but may improve as habitats develop following relatively recent disturbance and regeneration.

LBAP priorities recorded from the site include smooth newt, ox-eye daisy, wych elm and bullfinch. The site is likely to be important for breeding birds and may also be an important resting or foraging area for species travelling along the canal corridor (e.g. otter, amphibians, bats).

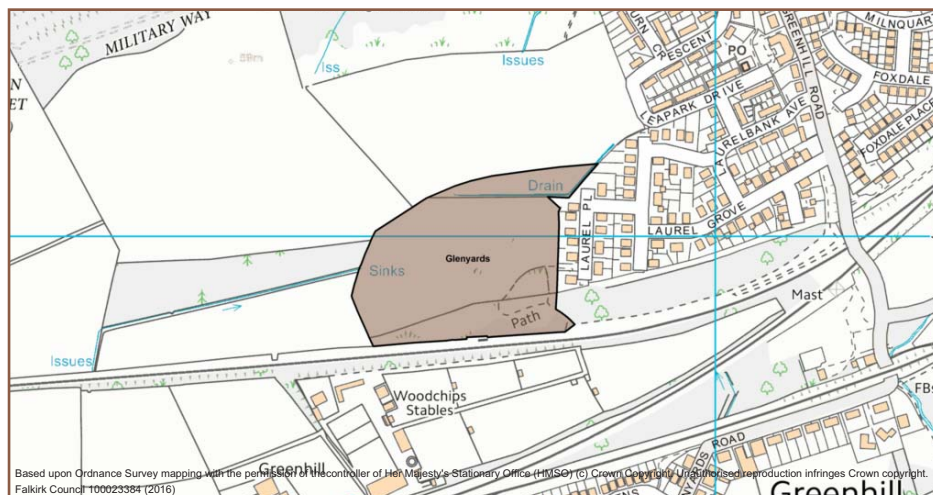
The site is particularly valuable because of the role it plays providing an important area of habitat on the canal corridor within an otherwise built-up area.

Conservation and Enhancement Opportunities

- Ensure the SINC is safeguarded if the remainder of the site is developed.
- Control scrub to avoid encroachment into key grassland areas.
- Manage woodland as it develops to increase floristic and age diversity.
- Provide recreational access to the area.
- Control invasive non-native species such as Himalayan balsam.

7. Appendix 2 Site Statements : Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

06. Glenyards



Grid Ref. **NS 281715 678971**

Area **4 Hectares**

Key Features

Habitat (s)	Neutral grassland Scrub Marshy grassland.
Species	Average species diversity.
Connectivity	Linked to the railway wildlife corridor.
Community	Some recreational use.

Description

This site is a small area of neglected tall grassland in a low-lying field to the south of Seabegs Wood. It supports a range of neutral and wet grassland areas, as well as scrub woodland and scattered trees.

It is bounded in the south by the railway line and to the east by housing.

Agricultural fields lie to the north and west.

Nature Conservation Summary

Habitat diversity is average with grassland, scrub and scattered trees present. However the grassland interest is increased by the presence of wetter areas around drains to the north.

The species diversity (53 higher plants) is average. The mosaic of rough grassland and scrub is likely to be of value to breeding birds.

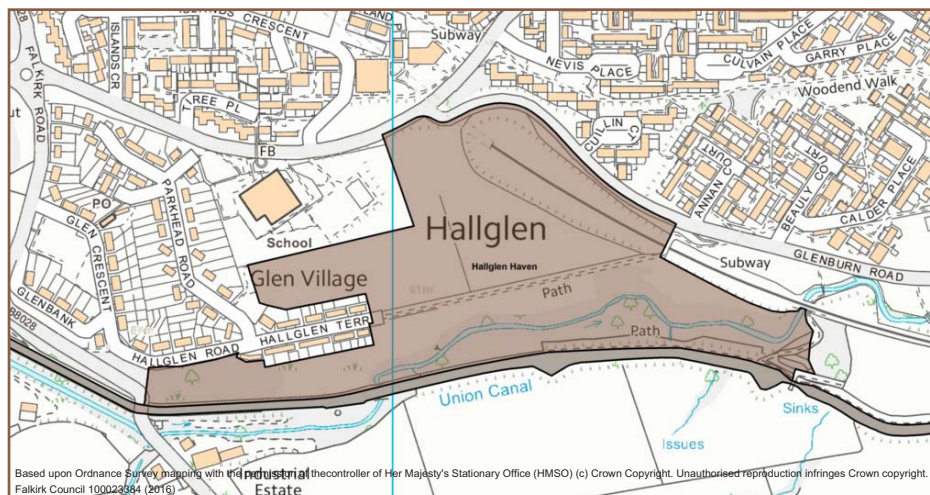
The site forms a valuable area of habitat on the wildlife corridor of the railway line. It is also close to Seabegs Wood and the Forth and Clyde canal to the north.

Conservation and Enhancement Opportunities

- Introduce a grazing or cutting regime to improve the grassland species diversity.
- There is potential to improve the site through habitat creation/enhancement.

7. Appendix 2 Site Statements : Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

07. Hallglen Haven



Grid Ref. **NS 289116 678280**

Area **11.6 Hectares**

Key Features

Habitat (s)	Species-rich Neutral Grassland Broadleaved woodland Scrub Parkland Bracken.
Species	High plant species diversity.
Connectivity	Part of the wildlife corridors of the Union Canal and Glen Burn.
Community	Recreational use.

Description

This site supports a mixture of grasslands, scrub and woodland.

The southern part represents a burn corridor (along the Glen Burn) in which, as well as the mosaic of grassland, woodland and scrub, there are areas of marshier herbs and grasses. The northern part supports most of the grassland habitats in a scrub-grassland mosaic.

This urban fringe site is bounded to the south by the Union Canal, to the east by the railway line and to the north and west by housing.

The steep-banked woodland is planted and experiences disturbance but still shows some natural elements.

The grassland is neutral in character and exhibits good species-diversity in places.

Nature Conservation Summary

This is a large area of mixed habitat and the variety of the habitat mosaic contributes to the sites value.

Species-rich neutral grassland is a locally rare habitat. The site is very species-rich, with 176 plant species recorded. Although no local rarities have been recorded to date, several LBAP priority plant species occur at the site.

The site is likely to be important for breeding birds, invertebrates, bats and otter (along the canal and burn).

The site is a key part of the wildlife corridors of the Glen Burn and Union Canal and is also close to the Cleuch and Westquarter Burn Wildlife Sites.

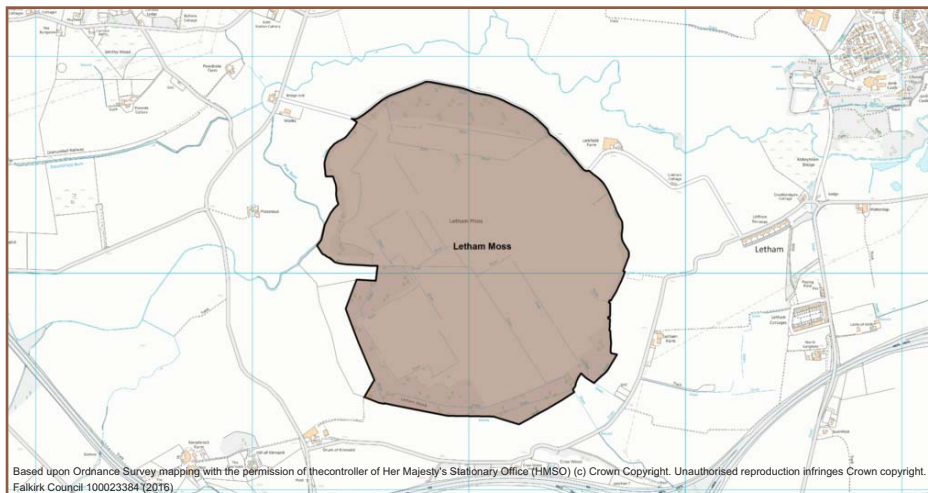
It is well used by the local community and immediately adjacent to the local primary school.

Conservation and Enhancement Opportunities

- Encourage woodland on burn-side embankments.
- Retain areas of grassland within the habitat mosaic through grass cutting and scrub control.
- Control invasive non-native species (Himalayan balsam & Japanese knotweed).
- Provide a mix of sward heights through varied grass cutting.
- Clearance of rubbish.

7. Appendix 2 Site Statements : Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

08. Letham Moss



Grid Ref. NS 288019 686084

Area 167 Hectares

Key Features

Habitat (s)	Broadleaved woodland Conifer woodland Scrub Bare peat Modified bog.
Species	Several LBAP priority species.
Connectivity	Close to the Pow Burn.
Community	Little or no recreational use.

Description

Once a significant area of raised bog, this site has been heavily exploited for peat extraction and now the vast majority of it consists of bare or very heavily modified peat.

The remaining habitats of interest lie in the outer fringe of the site. In these marginal areas there is still some relic bog vegetation along with birch scrub and woodland.

The site is surrounded by improved agriculture.

The Pow Burn passes close to the western edge of the site.

Nature Conservation Summary

The margins of this extensive site support a variety of habitat types including acidic birch woodland, birch scrub and small areas of relic peat. While raised bog is nationally rare, the remnants of peat in this case are unlikely to be of national importance but remain of local value.

Habitat diversity may be increased by the presence of pools within the worked peat, however at present these are unlikely to be developing more vegetation or support much fauna. Species diversity within the woodland/scrub is average (94 plant species, including 30 mosses and lichens). Plant species of local note include climbing corydalis.

The site has previously been noted as supporting the LBAP priority species Large Heath butterfly, but current presence is unconfirmed. Kestrel has also been noted from the site. The margin of this site lies close to the Pow Burn (to the west) linking it to a wider habitat network and reducing the isolation of this site.

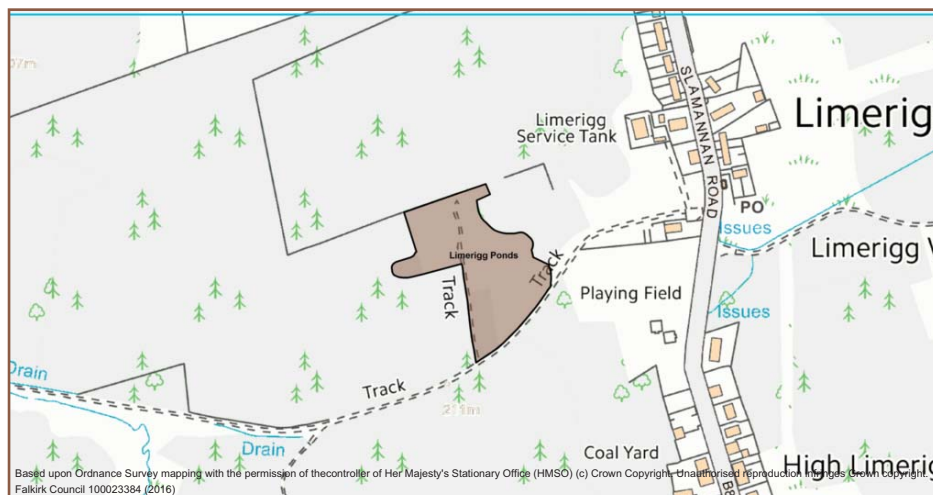
Restoration of the site following completion of peat extraction offers opportunities for enhancing the area for wildlife. Restoration to peat bog is likely to be difficult and costly but restoration to a variety of other wetland habitats may be possible.

Conservation and Enhancement Opportunities

- Safeguard remaining marginal habitat from peat extraction activities if possible.
- Following completion of extraction restore the centre of the site to a range of natural habitats to benefit wildlife.

7. Appendix 2 Site Statements : Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

09. Limerigg Ponds



Grid Ref. NS 285467 670770

Area 1.1 Hectares

Key Features

Habitat (s)	Marshy grassland Basin mire Swamp Heath Acid grassland Conifer plantation Open water.
Species	Good plant diversity including local rarities.
Connectivity	An isolated site.
Community	Limited recreational use.

Description

This compact site is centred round four ponds (presumably associated with past mining activity). It is hidden away within an extensive area of conifer plantation. As well as the ponds themselves the site supports a complex mosaic of habitats including swamp, mire, marshy grassland, heath, conifer woodland and bareground/old bing material.

There is relatively little open water at the site, with 3 of the 4 ponds now heavily vegetated and the central pond with only a small area of open water visible.

The site is close to Limerigg and can be accessed by walkers although it appears to be little used.

Nature Conservation Summary

Given its limited size this site supports a high diversity of habitats, although the quality of those habitats appears to have suffered from an absence of management.

The complex mosaic of wetland habitat is of particular interest and basin mire, swamp and heath are all locally rare habitats.

Species diversity is quite high for such a small site (89 plant species). A number of locally rare or notable plants occur including marsh speedwell, narrow buckler-fern, least bur-reed, common mare's tail, marsh arrowgrass and Clubmoss.

The site is known to support newts and is likely to be important for a range of amphibians and invertebrates.

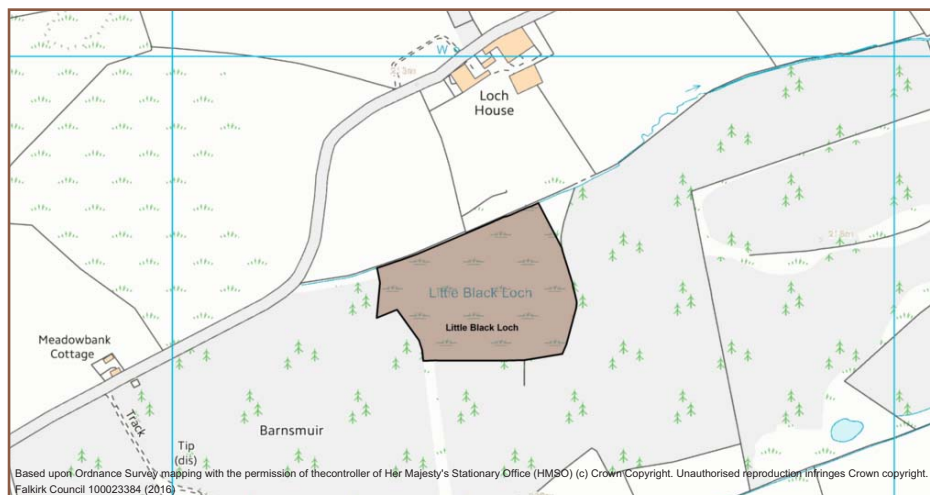
The site is rather isolated within the commercial forestry however this location means that it does provide an important haven of semi-natural habitat.

Conservation and Enhancement Opportunities

- Create open water areas and scrapes within the pond network.
- Retain areas of heath and grassland, possibly via scrub management.
- Ensure drainage does not lead to drying of the site.
- Prevent damage from forestry operations associated with neighbouring woodland.
- Consider increasing the recreational/educational value of the site for local people.

7. Appendix 2 Site Statements : Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

10. Little Black Loch



Grid Ref. NS 287433 670673

Area 4.2 Hectares

Key Features

Habitat (s)	Basin mire Marsh Modified bog Swamp Grassland.
Species	Typical basin mire species abundant.
Connectivity	Locally isolated but part of a series of mire sites on the Slamannan Plateau.
Community	Little or no access.

Description

This small wetland site is located in a shallow basin in the landscape. It is dominated by a floating mat of mire vegetation, representing a relic semi-natural site amid improved agriculture and commercial forestry.

The site is on deep peat and the quaking nature of the vegetation (and site name) suggests it may have once been open water which has been gradually encroached by vegetation.

The site is separated from agricultural land to the north by a deep ditch. Elsewhere the surrounding land is conifer plantation.

Nature Conservation Summary

The habitat diversity at this site is relatively low; however there are localised variations in the mire vegetation present, presumably reflecting varying water depths and seepage zones.

The surrounding pockets of marsh, modified bog and grassland add to the habitat diversity, as does the central area of swamp vegetation. Basin mire and swamp are locally rare and LBAP priority habitats.

The species diversity is fairly low, reflecting the relatively low habitat diversity, however the site supports good examples of sedge and sphagnum dominated fen vegetation. The main species interest is in the abundance of the typical mire species that are present.

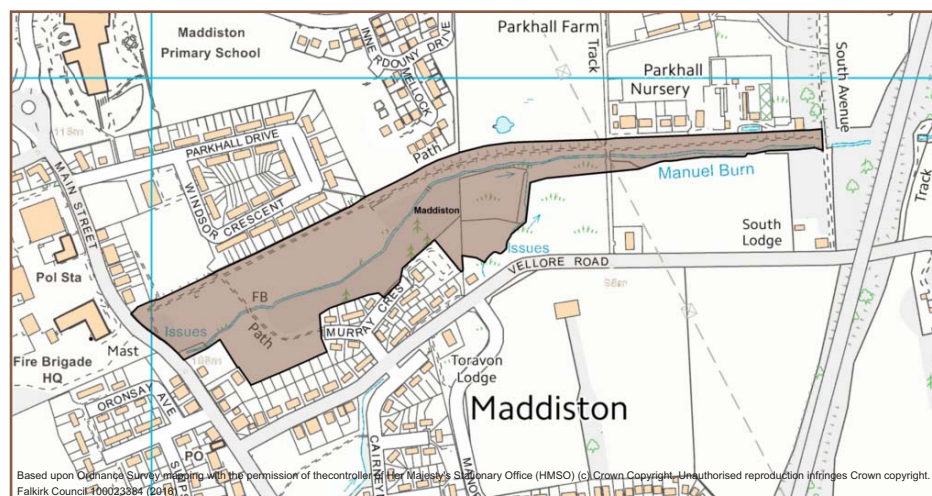
While locally isolated, the site is part of a network of mire sites on the Slamannan Plateau and close to Easter Drumclair and Black Loch wildlife sites and Stoneridge SINC.

Conservation and Enhancement Opportunities

- Ensure forestry operations do not encroach onto the site.
- Dam drainage ditches to prevent drying of the site and inhibit scrub encroachment.

7. Appendix 2 Site Statements : Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

11. Maddiston



Grid Ref. NS 294286 676808

Area 6 Hectares

Key Features

Habitat (s)	Neutral grassland Scrub Broadleaved and conifer woodland Running water Marsh Amenity grassland.
Species	Good species diversity.
Connectivity	An important wildlife corridor.
Community	Very well used for recreation.

Description

This urban fringe site follows the valley of the Manuel Burn on the east side of Maddiston. The site comprises a relatively narrow band of semi-natural habitats associated with the Manuel Burn, including grasslands, marsh/ inundation, tall herbs, scrub and mature woodland.

A large part of the west of the site is managed as a park. Recent active community involvement has seen meadow creation and tree planting in this area. To the east of the site woodland and scrub occurs on the steep banks either side of the burn.

Much of the site is now surrounded by housing with just the eastern part of the site fringed by agricultural land.

Nature Conservation Summary

While the total area of semi-natural habitats at the site is relatively small, there is a fairly wide range of habitat types including secondary grassland, marshy or inundated areas, scrub and mature woodland.

Recent meadow creation and tree planting has further increased the range and quality of habitats present.

Plant species diversity is fairly high (104 higher plants) for such a small site, primarily due to the range of different habitats present. Of these Marsh Arrowgrass is of local note. The site is likely to be of value to bats and woodland birds.

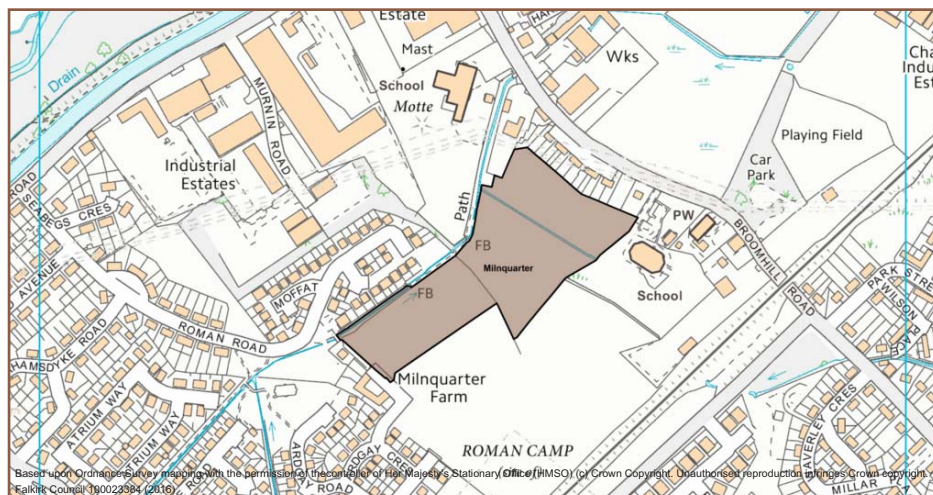
This site, which follows the Manuel Burn corridor, is one of a series of site in the Polmont, Maddiston and Rumford area which form valuable green corridors. This is a particularly important habitat corridor which links to Maddiston West Wildlife site in the west and along the Manuel Burn to the Union Canal SINC in the east.

Conservation and Enhancement Opportunities

- Scrub and tree planting alongside the burn to reinforce the wildlife corridor.
- Potential to create additional burn-side habitat with scrapes, stepped banks etc.
- A varied grass cutting regime to provide areas of wildflower meadow and longer grass areas as well as the amenity grassland
- Management within the mature woodland including selective thinning.

7. Appendix 2 Site Statements : Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

12. Milnquarter



Grid Ref. **NS 282526 679652**

Area **3.4 Hectares**

Key Features

Habitat (s) Neutral and marshy grassland
Scrub.

Species Locally rare sedges.

Connectivity Some links to other areas of habitat.

Community Recreational use.

Description

Milnquarter comprises a relatively small area of neutral grassland, much of it poorly draining, situated on the southern edge of Bonnybridge.

Several small burns/ditches run through the site and these are often associated with areas of marshy grassland and scrub. A burn runs along the northern edge of the site.

The site is surrounded by pasture to the southeast and housing on the remaining sides. The site has some links to other areas of habitat via wildlife corridors along the northern burn and by the railway line to the south.

Nature Conservation Summary

Milnquarter is primarily neutral grassland; however the habitat diversity is increased by the presence of wetter areas, burns/ditches and patches of scrub. Good sized areas of species-rich neutral grassland (an LBAP priority habitat) are relatively rare locally.

The grassland has high species-richness in places, particularly in the central part of the site where marshy grassland appears to have extended. This is a species-rich site with over 100 plant species recorded. A number of locally rare species occur including hairy sedge and brown sedge. The site is likely to be of value to breeding birds and invertebrates.

Although surrounded on three sides by housing, the site is not entirely isolated, linked to other areas of open habitat by burns/ditches and by the nearby railway corridor.

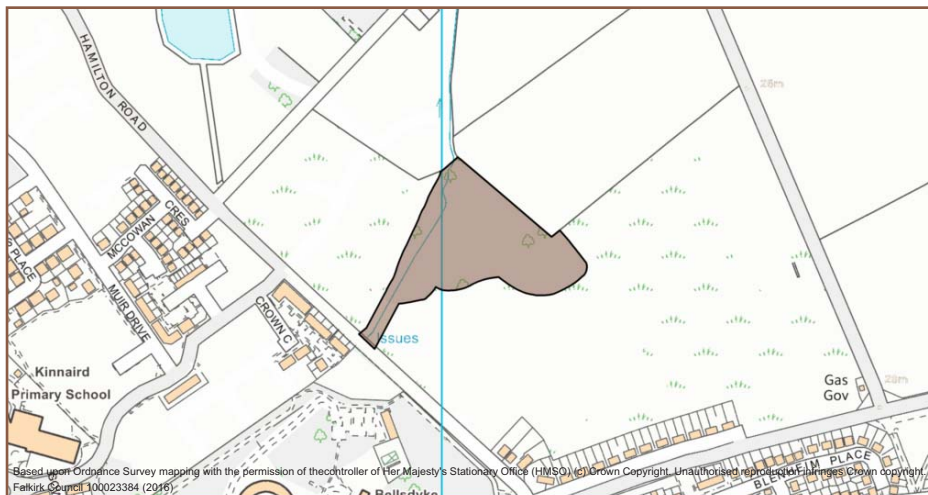
The site is well used, with clear desire lines crossing it. It is also close to a number of schools offering opportunities for educational use.

Conservation and Enhancement Opportunities

- Control Himalayan balsam, rhododendron and other invasive species.
- Manage grassland with annual cut and lift of arisings.
- Improve paths where they cross wetter areas.
- Potential to create scrapes or pools within wetter areas.
- Localised tree and shrub planting to provide shelter and define boundaries.

7. Appendix 2 Site Statements : Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

13. North Stenhousemuir



Grid Ref. **NS 287039 684291**

Area **2.2 Hectares**

Key Features

Habitat (s)	Broadleaved woodland Scrub Neutral grassland Marsh.
Species	Good species diversity.
Connectivity	Largely isolated but with links to local trees and open space.
Community	Limited recreational use.

Description

This site comprises a small area of birch woodland and associated scrub within a poorly drained depression. A drain in the north of the site supports marsh vegetation and there are small glades of rush-pasture in the south.

The site has recently built housing to the north. The farmland on the remaining boundaries will be developed over the next year or two after which the site will be surrounded by housing. It does however link to some areas of openspace/landscaping associated with Bellsdyke hospital.

Nature Conservation Summary

The most interesting habitat feature within this site is the area of wet, bog woodland; wet woodland being an LBAP priority habitat and locally quite rare.

Habitat diversity is limited but some additional interest is afforded by the marsh vegetation and areas of grassland. Species diversity is good (100 plant species) for the scale of the site and species interest is increased by a range of marsh/bog species including sphagnum mosses. In addition 17 species of fungi have been recorded.

The site is likely to be of some value for breeding birds and bats.

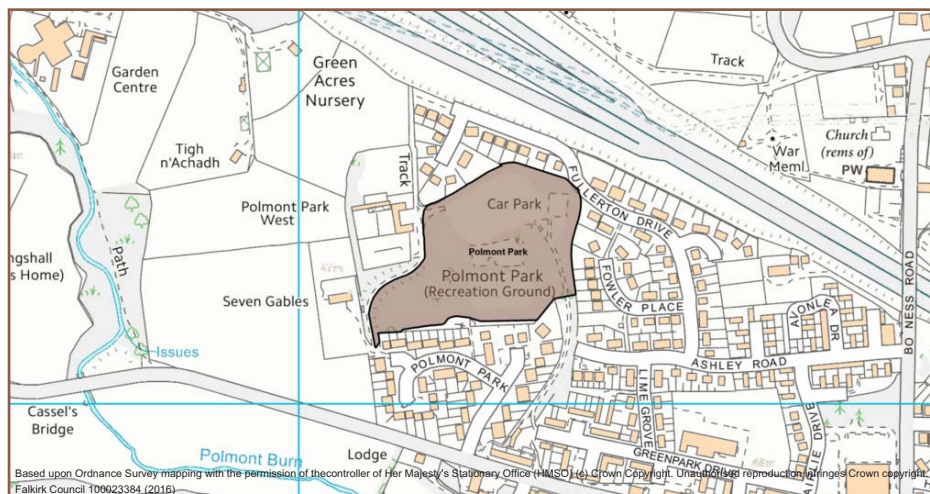
The site is now relatively isolated with narrow corridors linking it to nearby open space and street trees. However, its urban fringe location makes the site itself all the more important as a haven for wildlife in an otherwise built-up area.

Conservation and Enhancement Opportunities

- Retain/reinstate open glades by scrub removal.
- Retain northern marshy drain by scrub control.
- Ensure surrounding development does not cause drainage of the site.
- Monitor woodland regeneration and development to determine whether management is required.
- Promote careful use and stewardship of the site by the local community.
- Maintain the scrubby drainage ditch corridor which links the site to the trees along Hamilton Rd and openspace at Bellsdyke Hospital.

7. Appendix 2 Site Statements : Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

14. Polmont Park



Grid Ref. NS 293219 679174

Area 3.1 Hectares

Key Features

Habitat (s)	Broadleaved semi-natural woodland Mixed plantation woodland Amenity grassland Scrub Parkland.
Species	A number of plant species of note.
Connectivity	Part of extensive habitat networks to the north and east of Polmont.
Community	Public park - well used for recreation.

Description

This site, situated in the northern fringe of Polmont, is a small area of parkland with old plantation woodland. The woodland has a secondary growth of scrubby woodland species, and areas of amenity grassland. The woodland includes a tree-lined avenue with ornamental varieties.

The site has housing to three sides and open-space to the west.

Nature Conservation Summary

The habitat diversity of this site is relatively limited. Although the woodland is old and some secondary growth of scrubby species has occurred more recently, there are just a few areas that exhibit semi-natural woodland characteristics. That said, the woodland structure is excellent due to the many mature trees.

The species diversity is not particularly high (93 plant species), however species of interest from the site include Bowles's golden grass, wood bluegrass, wood sanicle and sweet woodruff.

The site is likely to be of significant value for bats and breeding birds.

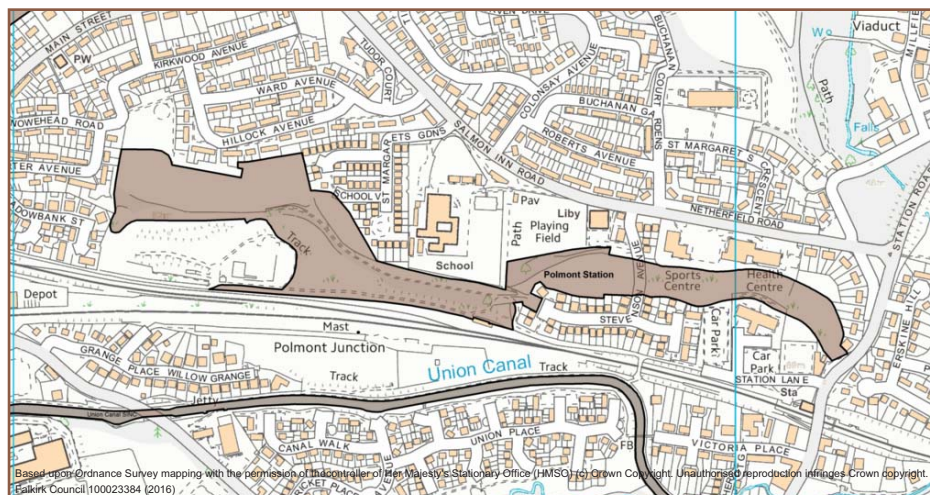
The site is an important element of the greenspace to the northwest of Polmont. It is also a key site in the woodland habitat network around the north and east of Polmont and linking to the Polmont Burn Wildlife corridor.

Conservation and Enhancement Opportunities

- Control invasive shrubs such as Rhododendron and Laurel to encourage a more natural ground-flora to develop.
- Control the invasive non-native Himalayan balsam.
- Woodland management, such as thinning, to create a diverse and more open woodland structure.
- Potential to involve the local community in future management of this site.
- Investigate potential for additional habitat enhancement/creation within current areas of amenity grassland.

7. Appendix 2 Site Statements : Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

15. Polmont Station



Grid Ref. **NS 292575 678398**

Area **7.2 Hectares**

Key Features

Habitat (s)	Scrub Neutral grassland Woodland.
Species	High species diversity.
Connectivity	An important habitat corridor.
Community	Well used for recreation.

Description

This site is a narrow strip of neutral grassland with extensive areas of often mature scrub, situated on a high ridge in the centre of Polmont. There are a few areas of tall herbs and developing scrub and the east of the site supports areas of relic policy woodland.

The site is immediately adjacent to the Glasgow-Edinburgh railway line to the south and surrounded by housing on the remaining sides.

Nature Conservation Summary

Little of the habitat on this site is semi-natural; however there is an interesting mosaic of secondary habitat types including varied neutral grasslands, extensive mature and developing scrub and woodland. Good sized areas of relatively unimproved neutral grasslands are locally rare, particularly in an urban fringe setting like this site.

The species diversity for the site (131 plant species) is high. Species of interest include red sand spurrey and bladder campion. The mosaic of scrub and grassland is likely to be of importance for breeding birds, bats and badgers.

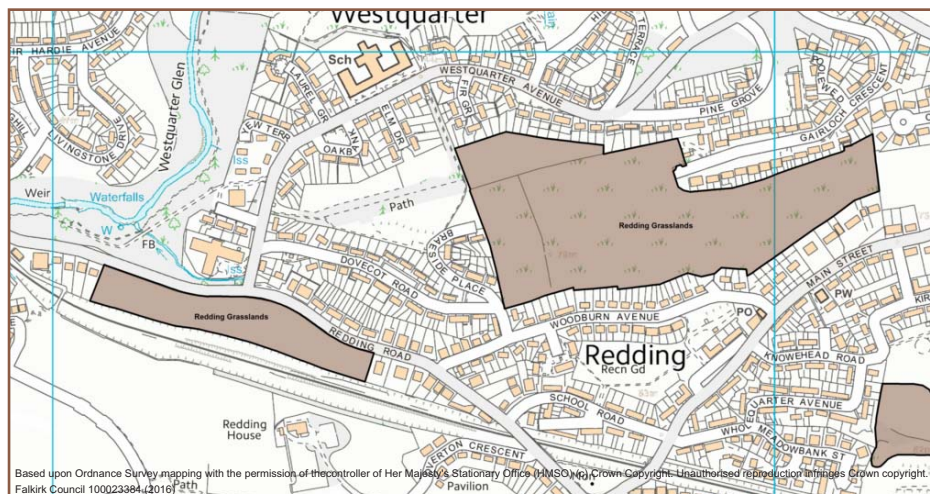
This site has a particularly important role as a wildlife corridor linking directly to the railway corridor and beyond that to the Union Canal SINC.

Conservation and Enhancement Opportunities

- Introduce a beneficial grass cutting (or grazing) regime in key grassland zones.
- Clear scrub encroachment from remaining key grassland areas.
- Clear scrub to create glades and clearer path-side areas.
- Prevent further encroachment from neighbouring development.
- Control invasive non-native species such as Japanese knotweed.

7. Appendix 2 Site Statements : Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

16. Redding Grasslands



Grid Ref. NS 291250 678628

Area 10.6 Hectares

Key Features

Habitat (s)	Neutral and acidic grassland Woodland Scrub Heath-grassland mosaic.
Species	Good species diversity.
Connectivity	Part of an extensive habitat network through Redding and Polmont
Community	Some recreational use (eastern site).

Description

This site comprises two separate areas of abandoned pasture grassland; a larger eastern area (also known as the High Hill) and a western area. The eastern site supports large areas of mainly neutral abandoned pasture, an area of acidic grassland on the northwestern fringe and an area of acidic grass and heath vegetation.

Scrub and trees are scattered throughout the northern half of the site, some of which have been planted and now form dense immature wooded areas. The western site comprises a more uniform area of short pasture. The eastern site is surrounded by housing and the western site sits above Redding Road, sandwiched between the road and the railway line.

Nature Conservation Summary

This is a relatively small but diverse site, with a good range of different habitat types. The eastern site in particular supports a range of interesting habitats including heath-grassland mosaic, and the LBAP priority habitats broadleaved woodland and neutral grassland. The scrub habitat is also of value, particularly occurring in mosaic with various grassland habitats. The relic pasture within the western site is of higher quality and exhibits quite a diverse range of species.

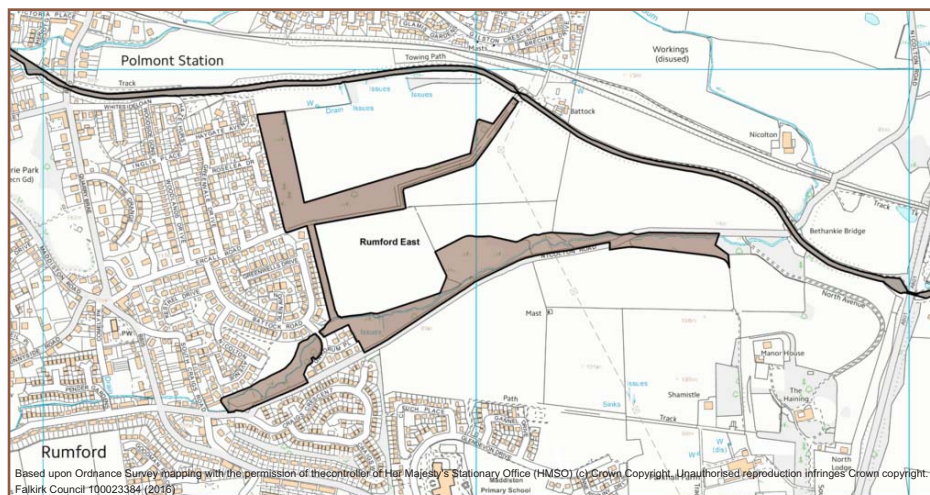
Overall the species diversity is good (87 plants recorded in the eastern site and 45 in the western site). Locally rare Common Wintergreen has been recorded within the northeast scrub woodland. The site is likely to be important for breeding birds and bats, and the LBAP priority species song thrush has also been recorded. The eastern site plays an important role in the green corridor linking the Westquarter burn to the west with greenspace around Polmont and further east. The western site links to the wildlife corridors formed by the adjacent railway line and Westquarter Burn wildlife site.

Conservation and Enhancement Opportunities

- Introduce beneficial grassland management/cutting in key locations.
- Manage grazing pressure/times within the western site to encourage species diversity.
- Consider potential for further tree planting in specific areas.
- Clear vegetation from path edges to provide a welcoming feel.
- Potential to develop a path network through the site.
- Enhance areas currently dominated by willowherb/thistle, possibly with some tree planting and/or grassland management.

7. Appendix 2 Site Statements : Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

17. Rumford East



Grid Ref. NS 293710 677733

Area 10.8 Hectares

Key Features

Habitat (s)

Woodland
Scrub
Neutral grassland
Burn.

Species

High species diversity.

Connectivity

Important habitat network.

Community

Informal recreational use.

Description

This site consists of habitat along about 1km of the Gardrum Burn valley and an L-shaped block of mature woodland to the north, both connected by a strip of woodland running along the eastern edge of Rumford.

Habitats present include a large area of mixed deciduous woodland to the north, the Gardrum burn, dense scrub, rough grassland, developing scrub, areas of tall herbs and pockets of mature trees or riparian woodland.

Nature Conservation Summary

This site represents an area of mixed habitats forming a habitat corridor along the Gardrum Burn plus a large area of broadleaved woodland of long-established plantation origin to the north.

Habitat diversity is reasonably high and the long-established broadleaved woodland is of local significance. Species diversity for the site is high. Even without surveying within the northern woodland, 128 plant species have been recorded.

The site is likely to be of importance for breeding birds, badger and bats.

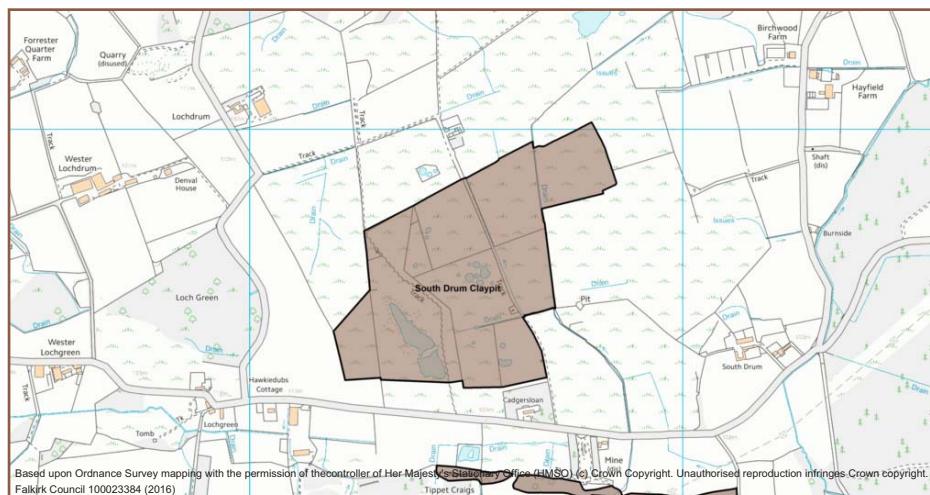
The wildlife corridor role of the site is particularly important. It forms an important habitat network in its own right and links to a wider network of habitat including the Forth and Clyde Canal, woodland around the Haining, and habitat up and down the Gardrum Burn.

Conservation and Enhancement Opportunities

- Japanese knotweed control.
- Management of key grassland areas to retain species diversity.
- Fence narrow woodland strip east of Rumford to exclude grazing.
- Avoid negative impacts from further adjacent development.
- Opportunities to expand woodland strips with additional adjacent tree planting.

7. Appendix 2 Site Statements : Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

18. South Drum Claypit



Grid Ref. NS 282509 677672

Area 22.2 Hectares

Key Features

Habitat (s) Marsh and marshy grassland
Basin mire
Mesotrophic standing water
Scrub
Unimproved acid grassland.

Species Likely to be good species diversity.

Connectivity One of a number of similar sites nearby.

Community Little or no recreational use.

Description

This old clay extraction works now supports a complex of habitats including ponds, marshy grassland, marsh and basin mire, and unimproved acid grassland.

The site is surrounded by agricultural land, mainly rough grazing. It is part of an extensive area of similar habitats which includes South Drum Moss Wester Drum and Lochgreen Moss Wildlife Sites.

Nature Conservation Summary

While the past disturbance of this site means little semi-natural habitat is present, it does support a varied mosaic of different habitat types. The marsh and basin mire are locally rare and LBAP priority habitats.

The eastern area of unimproved acid grassland pasture is also of local interest although it is unclear how species-rich this habitat is. The complex of ponds is also of note - and of UK importance if they are mesotrophic, as suggested in a survey of 1994.

The species diversity is likely to be fairly high. The site is expected to be of value for breeding birds, invertebrates and amphibians.

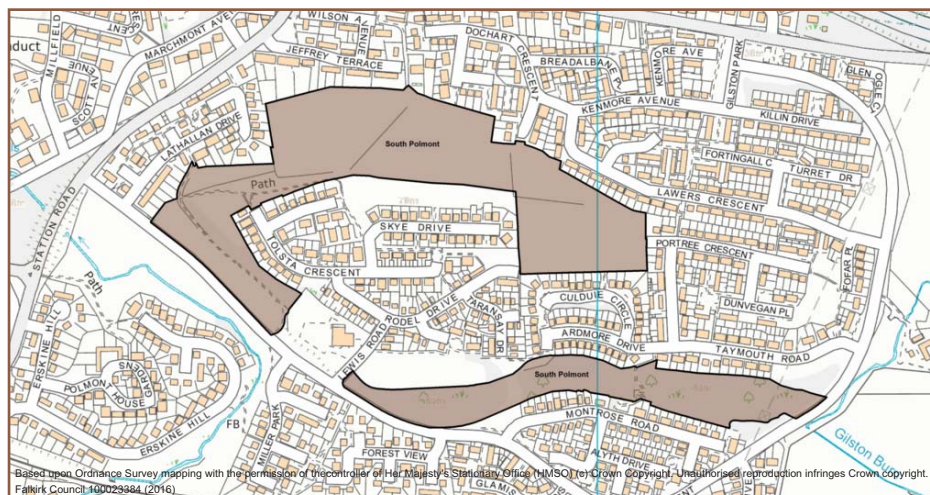
The site is one of a number of similar sites nearby and helps to form a wider network of wetland and grassland habitats across the area.

Conservation and Enhancement Opportunities

- Survey and check the status of the water bodies on the site.
- Introduce a grazing regime on the grassland to promote species diversity.
- Control scrub in areas of marsh, mire and grassland.

7. Appendix 2 Site Statements : Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

19. South Polmont



Grid Ref. NS 293721 678515

Area 11.6 Hectares

Key Features

Habitat (s)	Broadleaved woodland Scrub Unimproved neutral grassland.
Species	Several locally rare species.
Connectivity	Part of a green network to the south of Polmont.
Community	Informal recreational use.

Description

This site consists of an undeveloped ridge (esker) supporting a mix of neglected grassland with developing scrub and some long established woodland. In addition the site includes the north facing slope beyond Skye Drive which supports a mosaic of grassland, tall herbs, scrub and established woodland.

The site is split into two distinct areas; the southern ridge sandwiched between housing and the north and western slopes surrounded by housing on three sides and open to Gilston Crescent to the south with amenity grassland beyond.

Nature Conservation Summary

The site has a diverse and complex mosaic of grassland, scrub and woodland habitat, including some areas of mature broadleaved woodland (an LBAP priority habitat). The areas of grassland, while not particularly species-rich, are of interest and quite variable in character.

Generally the species-diversity of the site is average (94 plant species recorded on site). A number of locally rare plant species occur including field scabious and common restharrow.

The site is structurally diverse and likely to be of value for both bats and breeding birds.

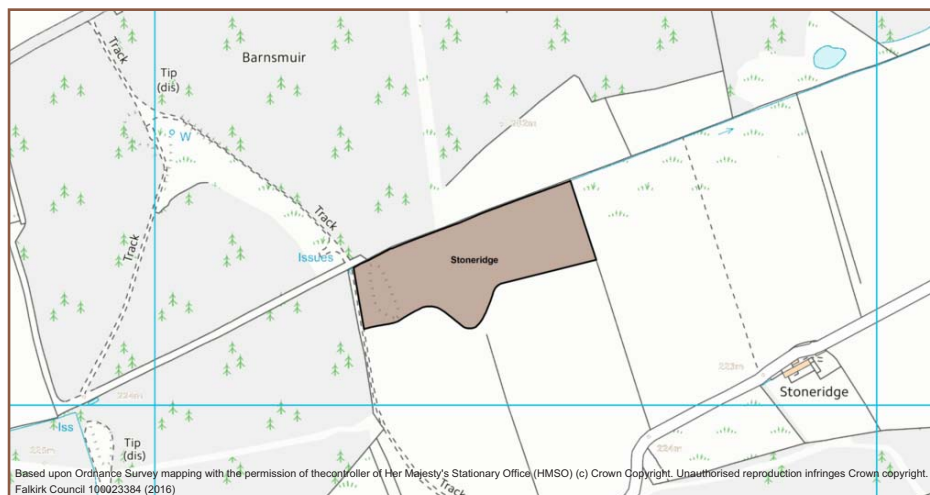
The site forms part of an extensive green corridor around the south of Polmont linking openspace to the west at Gray Buchanan park and along the Polmont Burn to openspace and the Gilston Burn to the east. Whilst elements of the site itself are now rather isolated, as a whole it performs an important role in the wider habitat network.

Conservation and Enhancement Opportunities

- Introduce a beneficial grassland management regime.
- Control scrub where it threatens key grassland areas.
- Investigate opportunities for woodland management.

7. Appendix 2 Site Statements : Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

20. Stoneridge



Grid Ref. NS 287443 670202

Area 3.5 Hectares

Key Features

Habitat (s)	Unimproved acid grassland Marsh and marshy grassland Basin mire.
Species	Good species diversity.
Connectivity	Isolated site.
Community	Little or no recreational use.

Description

This site is a small area of mixed habitats that have developed around an area of low-lying deep peat disturbed in the past by mining and agricultural activities.

The core site supports three main areas; a grassy bing to the west, slightly raised relic peat to the east, and a depressed area of complex, wetter mire in the middle.

The land to the north and west supports intensive forestry (or recently felled forestry). To the south the sloping ground supports semi-improved, poorly drained pasture and to the east is improved agriculture.

Nature Conservation Summary

This small site supports a reasonably good range of acidic grassland and mire species associated with a relic area of deep peat. Basin mire and marsh habitats are locally rare and LBAP priority habitats.

The diverse mosaic of habitats supports good species diversity (100 plant species recorded). Plant species include the LBAP priority Ragged Robin.

The isolated nature of this site within a relatively intensively managed landscape means this remnant of more semi-natural habitat is likely to be of particular importance within the immediate vicinity.

Conservation and Enhancement Opportunities

- Ensure alterations to drainage do not cause drying of the site.
- Prevent scrub encroachment of the grassland area on the bing.
- Use grazing or scarification to retain short grasses, bryophytes and lichens on the bing.