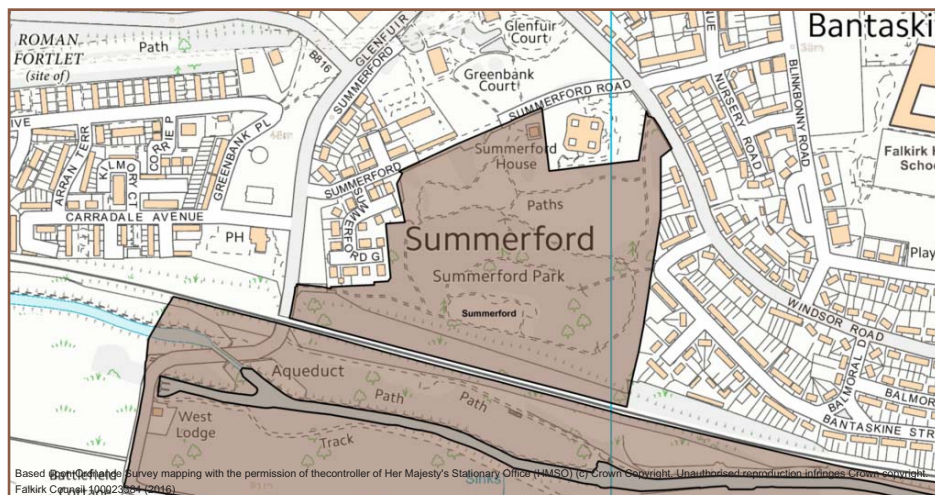


## 7. Appendix 2 Site Statements : Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

### 21. Summerford



Grid Ref. **NS 286888 679579**

Area **8.5 Hectares**

#### Key Features

<b>Habitat (s)</b>	Woodland Scrub Neutral grassland.
<b>Species</b>	Average species diversity.
<b>Connectivity</b>	Part of an extensive habitat network.
<b>Community</b>	Good public access. Well used.

#### Description

This site comprises a large area of secondary grassland and woodland that has developed on an area of reclaimed bing and industrial works. The neutral wildflower grassland areas have developed through seed sowing and natural colonisation following remediation work on the site 10 years ago.

The woodland includes mature broadleaved and mixed woodland, particularly on the fringes of the site, and large areas of mainly birch regeneration or planting (with some willow and scots pine) within the centre of the site.

Summerford is set on the SW urban fringe of Falkirk. It is bounded on three sides by residential development and to the south by the Edinburgh-Glasgow railway and the Union Canal about 200m further south.

The site has a good network of paths and is well used for informal recreation.

#### Nature Conservation Summary

The mosaic of woodland and grassland habitats at this site is of value and the diversity of habitat types and structure may be improving with age and management. Neutral grassland is an LBAP priority habitat and species-rich examples are locally rare. The grassland at this site supports a range of wildflower species but the species-richness is currently unknown.

The site is likely to support an average species diversity, although again this may be improving as the woodland matures and undergoes management. The locally rare common wintergreen has been recorded on site, as has the LBAP priority species field scabious. The site is likely to be of value for breeding birds, bats and invertebrates.

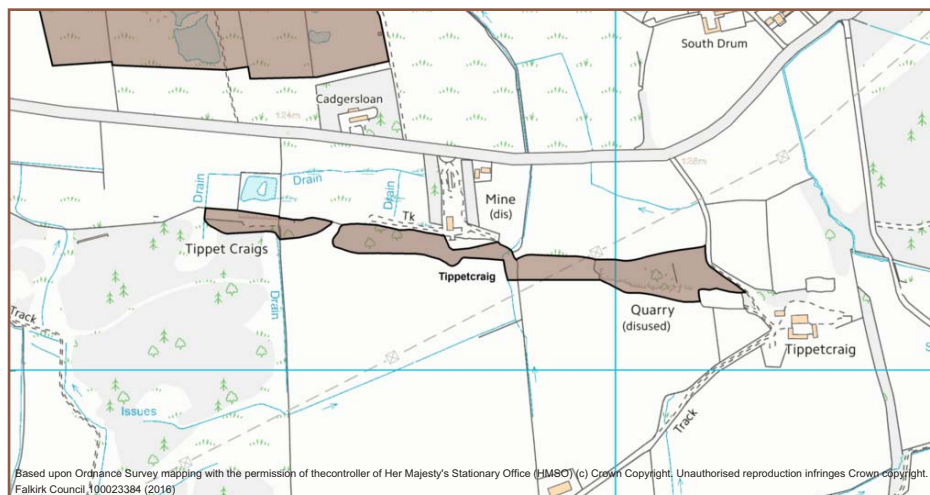
The site links to a number of other valuable sites on the southern fringe of Falkirk, forming an important habitat network. In particular it links to the union canal and Bantaskine Estate SINCs, as well as the railway corridor.

#### Conservation and Enhancement Opportunities

- Continue control of Rhododendron and other invasive species.
- Grass cutting regime to encourage areas of wildflower meadow.
- Woodland management including some thinning.
- Open up paths and path junctions through selective thinning.
- Potential to boost native woodland ground flora by planting/seeding.

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

### 22. Tippetcraig



**Grid Ref.** NS 282512 677203

**Area** 2.5 Hectares

#### Key Features

##### Habitat (s)

Broadleaved semi-natural woodland  
Scrub  
Neutral and acid grassland  
Inland cliff  
Bracken.

##### Species

Diverse bryophyte and fern species.

##### Connectivity

Part of a woodland habitat network.

##### Community

Little or no recreational use.

#### Description

Tippetcraig is a small site comprised of a mix of vegetation associated with a dolerite rock outcrop, surrounded by improved agricultural pasture.

The steep slope and associated scree supports woodland and small examples of other habitats that have escaped agricultural improvement. These include a relic area of unimproved acid grassland and a small open outcrop of heath. To the east of the outcrop there is an old quarry face.

#### Nature Conservation Summary

This site represents a compact area of semi-natural habitats. Although the overall area is small the diversity of habitats is relatively good. Inland cliff/rock outcrops are a locally rare habitat and can support an interesting range of associated species.

Despite the small scale of the site the diversity of species is good (105 species recorded in original surveys).

The area is particularly good for bryophytes and a number of typical broadleaved herbs are also present. A feature of the steep rock face is the large number of ferns. LBAP priority species - badger, bullfinch and song thrush have been recorded from the site.

The site forms part of a woodland habitat network linking blocks of woodland to the west with Drum wood to the east.

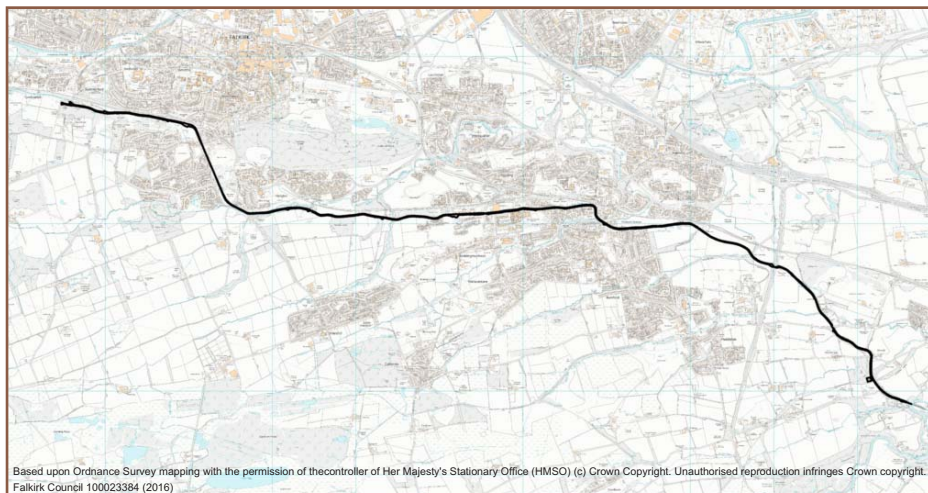
The site is likely to provide an important refuge for wildlife within the wider improved agricultural landscape.

#### Conservation and Enhancement Opportunities

- Look at potential to introduce a beneficial grazing regime in grassland areas.
- Control scrub encroachment within grassland areas.

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

### 23. Union Canal



**Grid Ref.** NS 291944 677911

**Area** 13 Linear km

#### Key Features

<b>Habitat (s)</b>	Canal.
<b>Species</b>	Good marginal species diversity.
<b>Connectivity</b>	A key wildlife corridor.
<b>Community</b>	Accessible and well used.

#### Description

The Union Canal SINC runs from Bantaskine Estate around the south of Falkirk, through Polmont and on to the Avon aqueduct at Muiravonside in the southeast of the area.

The canal is open to boat traffic; however it still supports a range of interesting aquatic and marginal plant species. The habitats along the banks of the canal are varied ranging from woodland to more open areas of grassland and agriculture.

Access to one side of the canal is provided by a well maintained towpath; however this means that in many areas the other side of the canal remains relatively undisturbed by recreational use.

#### Nature Conservation Summary

Canals are an LBAP priority habitat. Despite the fact that the canal is kept clear for boat passage, it still retains an interesting range of marginal habitats and marginal and aquatic plants. Plant species of interest previously recorded within the canal include water mint, loosestrife, gypsywort and yellowflag iris.

The canal is known to be used by otters and may also support water vole. The habitat is also important for bat species as well as a range of breeding birds and amphibians.

The canal forms a lengthy and important wildlife corridor through the area, linking a variety of other openspaces and areas of semi-natural habitat.

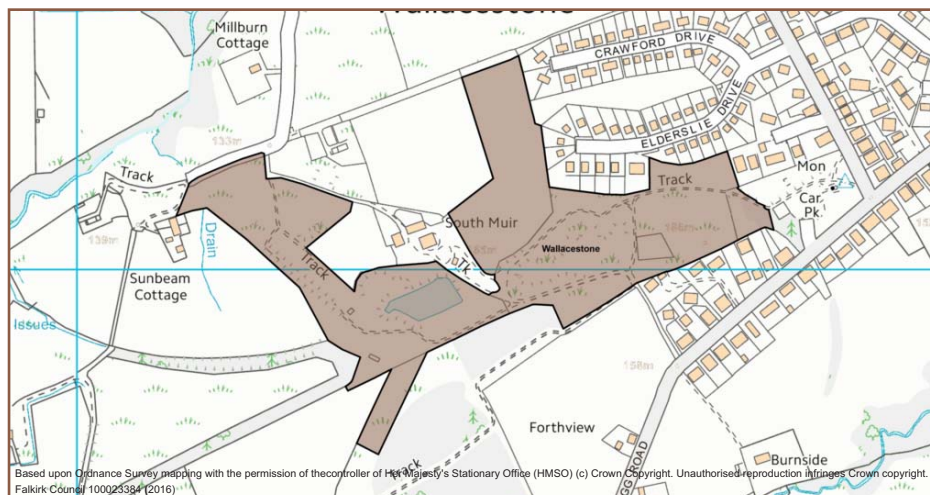
#### Conservation and Enhancement Opportunities

- Ensure canal management minimises disturbance to wildlife as far as possible.
- As a general rule retain one side of the canal as less accessible to limit disturbance and benefit wildlife.
- Control invasive non-native species within and adjacent to the canal, where feasible.



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

### 24. Wallacestone



**Grid Ref.** NS 291472 677030

**Area** 8.6 Hectares

#### Key Features

<b>Habitat (s)</b>	Neutral grassland Scrub Heath Standing water Mire Trees.
<b>Species</b>	High species diversity.
<b>Connectivity</b>	Links wildlife corridors along the Polmont and Gardrum Burns.
<b>Community</b>	Some recreational use.

#### Description

Wallacestone is a complex mosaic of short pasture grassland, coarse grassland, tall herbs, and scrub. The site also supports small areas of heath and a large pond.

Much of the habitat has developed in areas associated with past mining activity.

The site is situated on the western fringe of Wallacestone and is surrounded on three sides by improved agriculture extending east towards California.

#### Nature Conservation Summary

This relatively small site supports a very diverse range of different habitat types. The small area of wet heath and basin mire to the south of the site is of high value. Both heath and basin mire habitats are locally rare.

The large pond is of note and represents an LBAP priority habitat. The combination of the various different habitats is of note as together they present an area of high species diversity. 147 plant species have been recorded from the site including a number of acidic and mire type species. The site is known to be important for badgers and amphibian species.

The pond may also attract otters associated with the Polmont or Gardrum Burns. It is also likely to be of value to bats and breeding birds.

This site represents an important area of habitat helping to link the wildlife corridors of the Polmont and Gardrum Burns. It is within 300m of the Rumford West Wildlife Sites.

#### Conservation and Enhancement Opportunities

- Control the invasive Japanese knotweed.
- Management of heath areas to retain healthy vegetation.
- Grazing management to retain and improve species diversity in key grassland areas.
- Periodic cutting of the bog area to inhibit scrub growth and maintain the habitat mosaic
- Periodic disturbance of the bog surface to promote typical bog vegetation.
- Survey of the pond area to determine the amphibian species present.
- Address encroachment from neighbouring gardens.

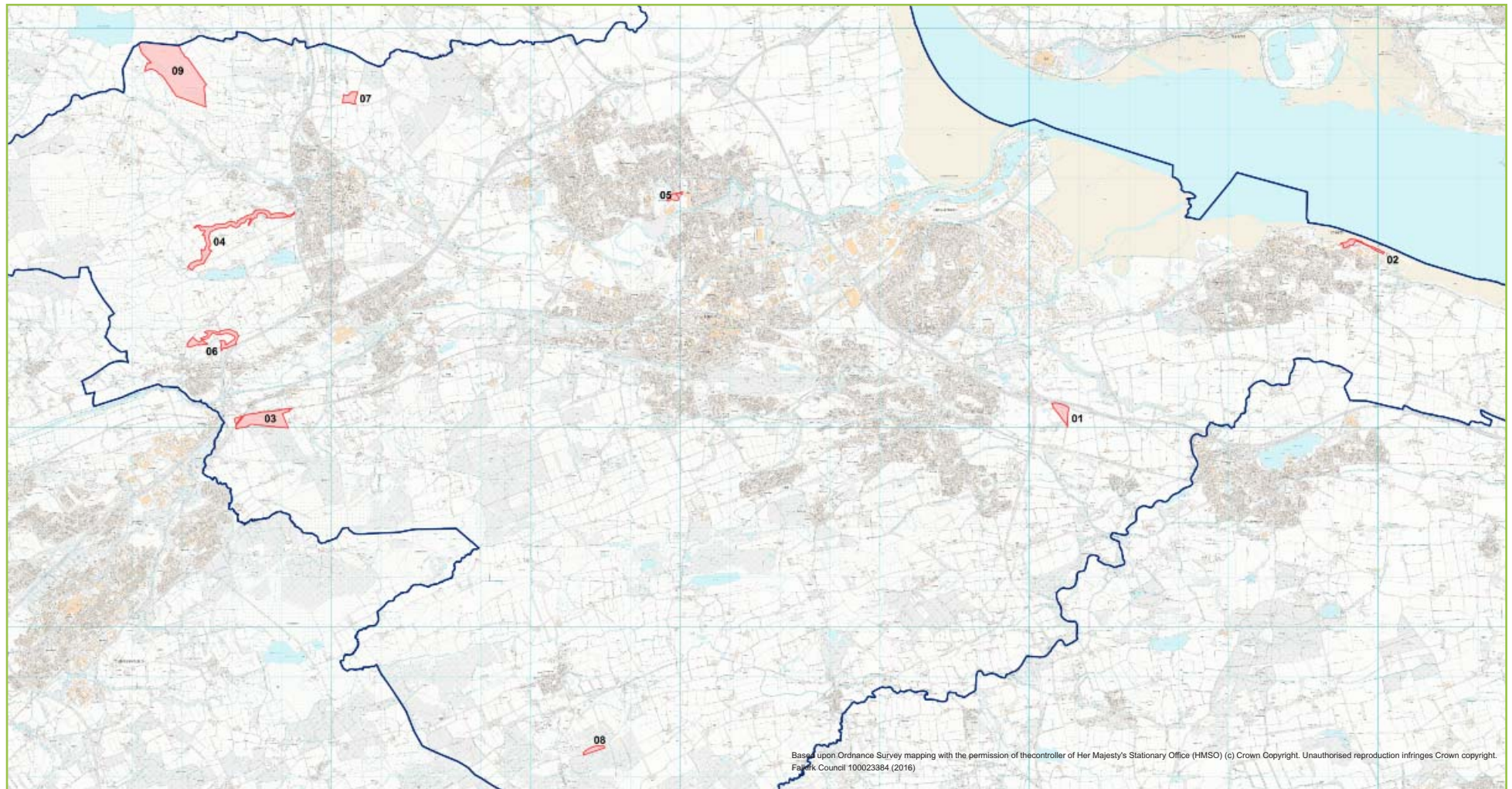
## 7. Appendix 3 Site Statements : Potential Wildlife Sites

### List of Potential Wildlife Sites

Site No.	Site Name	Page No.
01	Avonglen Quarry	03 - 01
02	Bridgeness Shipbreakers	03 - 01
03	Castle Cary Low Wood	03 - 02
04	Castlerankine Burn	03 - 02
05	Forge Dam	03 - 03
06	Haggs Wetland	03 - 03
07	Quarter Bing	03 - 04
08	Salterhill Moss	03 - 04
09	Shippytrouty	03 - 05

## 7. Appendix 3 Site Statements : Potential Wildlife Sites

### Map of All Potential Wildlife Sites

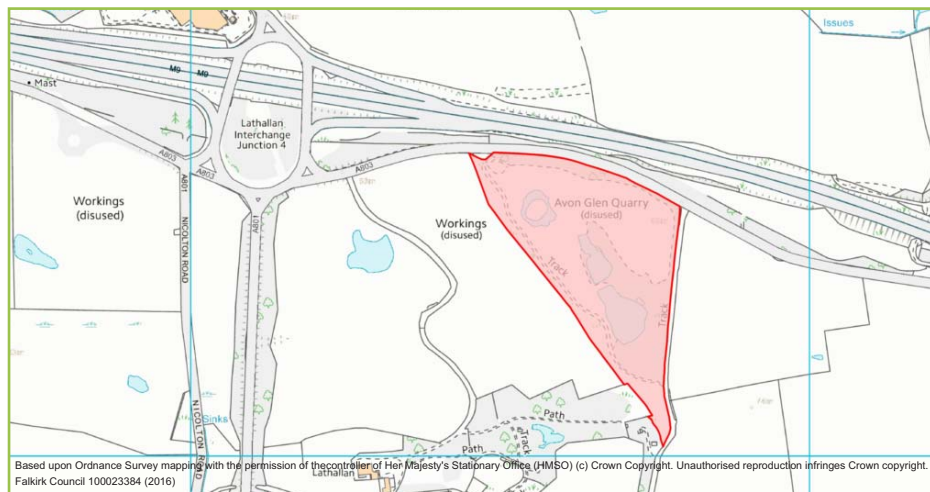




## 7. Appendix 3 Site Statements : Potential Wildlife Sites

### 01. Avonglen Quarry

#### Potential Wildlife Site



**Grid Ref.** NS 295655 678322

**Area** 7.5 Hectares

#### Key Features

<b>Habitat (s)</b>	A regenerating sand and gravel quarry now supporting ponds, bare ground, broadleaved woodland, unimproved grassland, swamp and scrub.
<b>Species</b>	Great crested newts and other amphibians, invertebrates, woodland birds.
<b>Connectivity</b>	Part of a network of important sites for great crested newts. Linked to green corridors along the nearby motorway and railway, and to Haining Wood Wildlife Site and the Union Canal further south.
<b>Community</b>	Accessible with low level recreational use. Several conservation action and survey activities have occurred on site. Supported by a recently formed local management group.

### 02. Bridgeness Shipbreakers

#### Potential Wildlife Site



**Grid Ref.** NT 301587 681661

**Area** 4.4 Hectares

#### Key Features

<b>Habitat (s)</b>	An area of previously industrial land now supporting a mix of bare ground, neutral grassland, scrub, and woodland, bounded to the north by the high tide limit of the Firth of Forth.
<b>Species</b>	Over 80 invertebrates recorded including the Hobo spider. Good diversity of plant species (c. 100).
<b>Connectivity</b>	Important element of a green corridor along the foreshore from Carriden in the east to Kinneil foreshore LNR in the west and beyond. A key site on the John Muir Pollinator Way.
<b>Community</b>	Easily accessible for local residents and staff at the nearby industrial estate. Volunteer conservation work takes place on site. John Muir Way national trail passes through the site.

### 03. Castlecary Low Wood

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**Area** **27.2 Hectares**

<b>Habitat (s)</b>	Broadleaved semi-natural woodland Scrub Ponds and flushes Bog Neutral and marshy grassland Heath.
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<b>Species</b>	Good species diversity. Likely to be liverwort and moss species of interest. Likely to be of value for breeding birds, invertebrates, bats and badgers. Several LBAP species present.
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<b>Connectivity</b>	Part of a much larger network of woodland habitat. Linked to railway corridor.
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<b>Community</b>	Some recreational use of the site.
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**Area** 26.5 Hectares

<b>Habitat (s)</b>	Broadleaved semi-natural woodland (including ancient woodland) Running water Marshy grassland Scrub.
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<b>Species</b>	Over 100 plant species present. Several LBAP priority species known to occur and others likely. Potentially an important sites for bryophytes.
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<b>Connectivity</b>	An important wildlife corridor in its own right. Close to a number of other wildlife sites.
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<b>Community</b>	Limited accessibility.
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## 7. Appendix 3 Site Statements : Potential Wildlife Sites

### 05. Forge Dam

#### Potential Wildlife Site



**Grid Ref.** NS 287874 682619

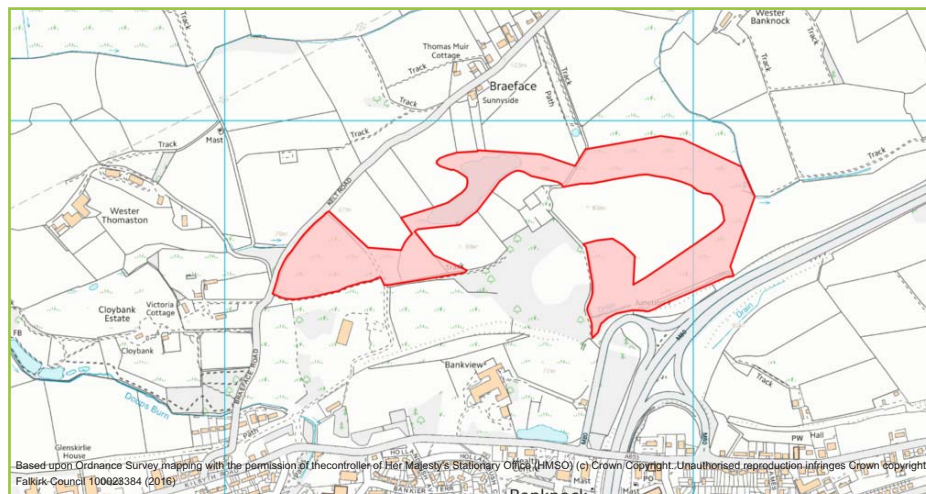
**Area** 2.5 Hectares

#### Key Features

<b>Habitat (s)</b>	Brownfield habitat Grassland/meadow Standing water Swamp Scrub Broadleaved woodland.
<b>Species</b>	157 invertebrate species. Diverse plant species typical of brownfield habitat. Several nationally scarce or Red Data Book invertebrates recorded.
<b>Connectivity</b>	A key part of the Carron Dams Local Nature reserve. Adjacent to the Carron Dams SSSI. Part of a much wider habitat corridor along the River Carron.
<b>Community</b>	Active educational and recreational use of the site. Part of a Local Nature Reserve managed with active input from a local management group.

### 06. Haggs Wetland

#### Potential Wildlife Site



**Grid Ref.** NS 278677 679771

**Area** 12.9 Hectares

#### Key Features

<b>Habitat (s)</b>	Open water Swamp Valley mire Marshy and neutral grassland Broadleaved semi-natural woodland Scrub.
<b>Species</b>	Great crested newt breeding site. Good species diversity. A good number of LBAP species are likely to be present including bird and amphibian species.
<b>Connectivity</b>	Forms an important network of pond and wetland habitat in its own right.
<b>Community</b>	Some recreational activity, with a potential increase in use following nearby residential development.

## 7. Appendix 3 Site Statements : Potential Wildlife Sites

### 07. Quarter Bing

#### Potential Wildlife Site



**Grid Ref. NS 281377 684607**

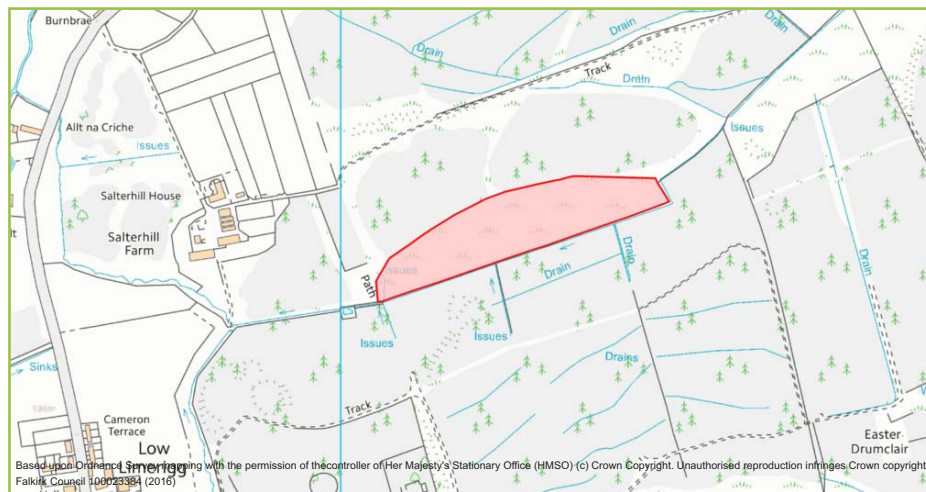
**Area 5.0 Hectares**

#### Key Features

<b>Habitat (s)</b>	Semi-natural broadleaved and mixed woodland Conifer woodland Bing Scrub Grassland.
<b>Species</b>	Good diversity of plant species. Potentially rare Hieracium species. Specialist acid bing plant species of note. Range of LBAP priority species likely.
<b>Connectivity</b>	Functionally linked to a number of other woodland sites nearby, including Dales Wood SINC.
<b>Community</b>	May be informal recreational use.

### 08. Salterhill Moss

#### Potential Wildlife Site



**Grid Ref. NS 286257 671544**

**Area 3.3 Hectares**

#### Key Features

<b>Habitat (s)</b>	Raised bog.
<b>Species</b>	Typical bog species present. LBAP species Round-leaved sundew present.
<b>Connectivity</b>	Relatively isolated but one of a number of raised bogs across the Slamannan Plateau.
<b>Community</b>	Little or no recreational use.

## 7. Appendix 3 Site Statements : Potential Wildlife Sites

### 09. Shippytrouty

#### Potential Wildlife Site



Grid Ref. **NS 277869 685150**

Area **88.6 Hectares**

#### Key Features

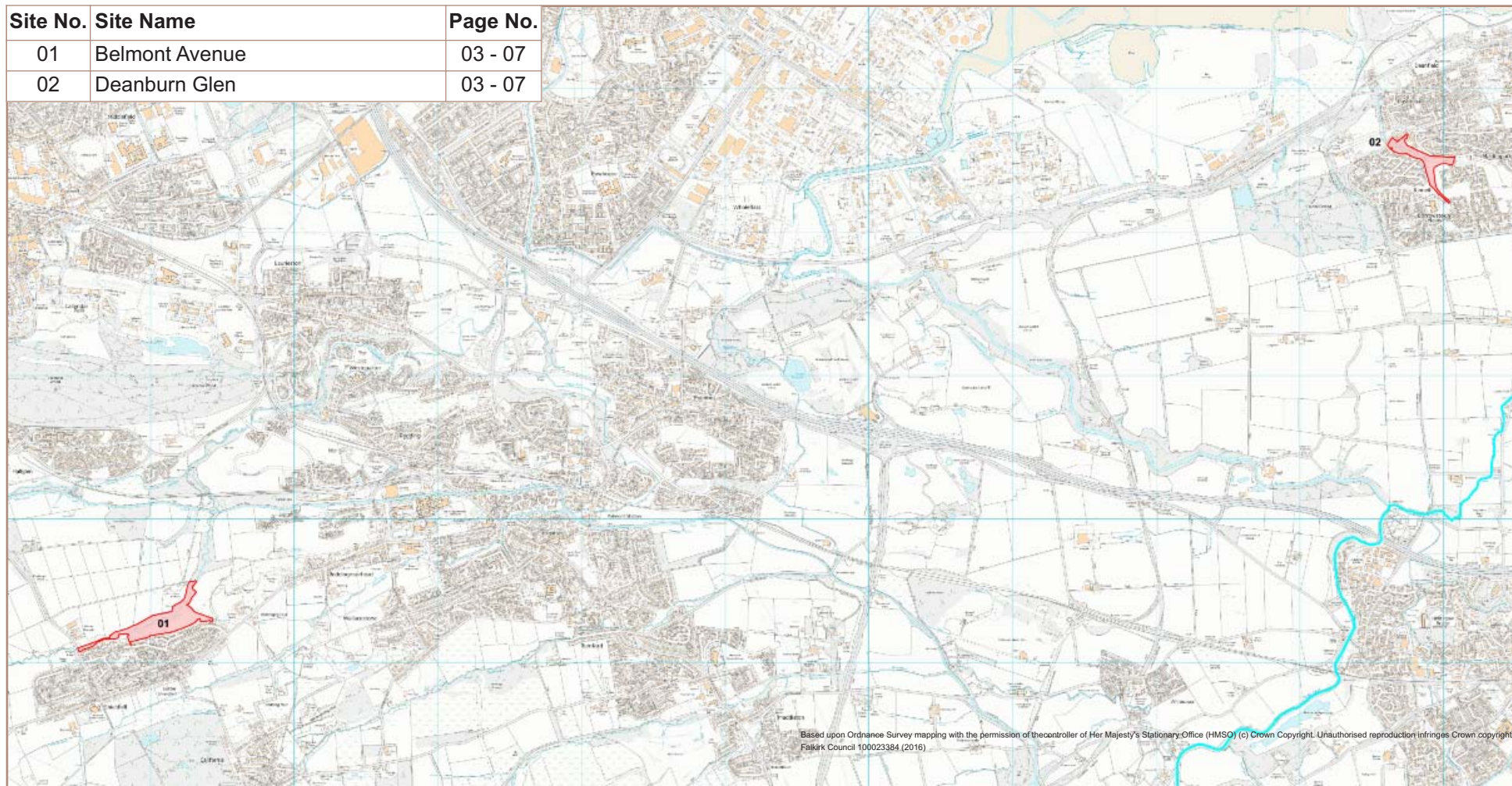
<b>Habitat (s)</b>	Scattered mature trees Scrub Marshy grassland Acid grassland Unimproved neutral grassland Heath Rocky outcrops Peat bog Running water.
<b>Species</b>	Good plant species diversity. High numbers of lichens recorded. LBAP priority plants and birds present. Numerous locally uncommon or rare plant species.
<b>Connectivity</b>	Sits in a wider upland landscape with links along burn corridors to sites to the east and south. Loch Coulter and River Carron corridor nearby.
<b>Community</b>	Some informal use by walkers likely.



## 7. Appendix 3 Site Statements : Potential Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

### List and Map of All Potential Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

Site No.	Site Name	Page No.
01	Belmont Avenue	03 - 07
02	Deanburn Glen	03 - 07

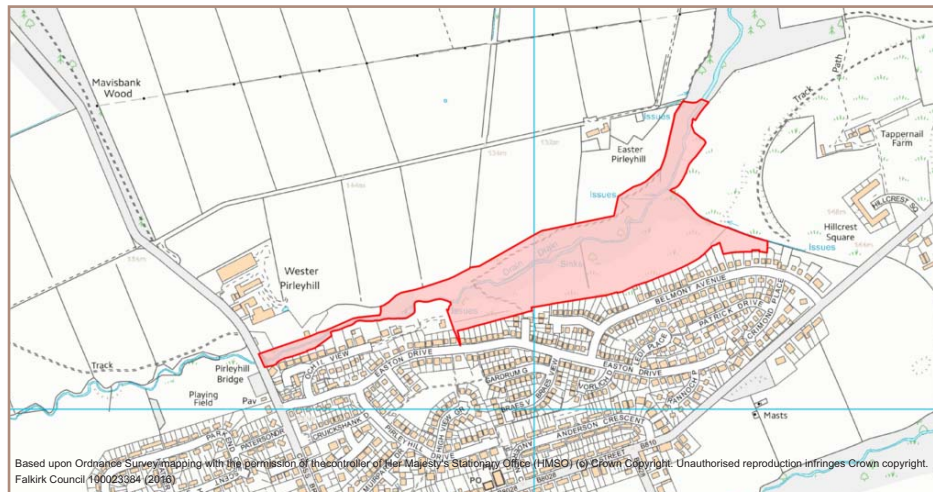




## 7. Appendix 3 Site Statements : Potential Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

### 01. Belmont Avenue

#### Potential Site of Importance for Nature Conservation



Grid Ref. **NS 290080 677287**

Area **8.5 Hectares**

#### Key Features

**Habitat (s)** Broadleaved woodland (some ancient woodland)  
Scrub  
Running Water  
Marshy Grassland  
Herb-rich neutral grassland.

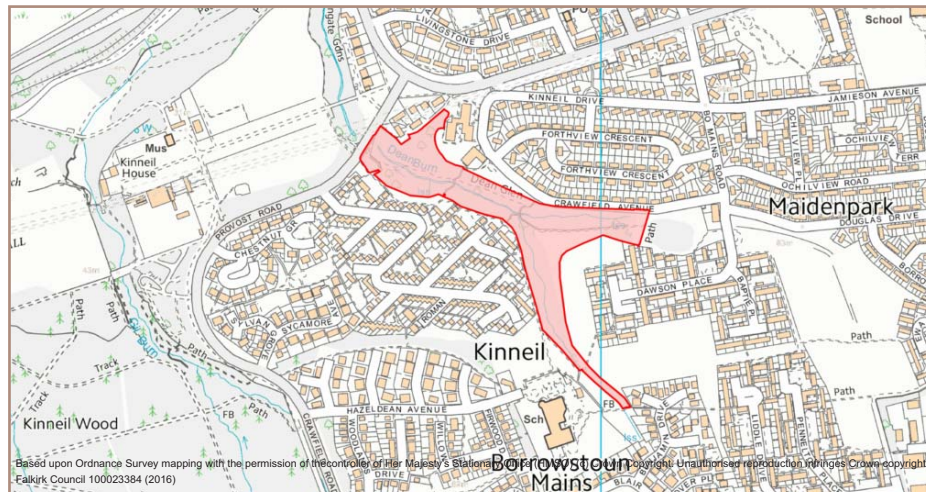
**Species** 99 higher plant species. Several LBAP priority species.  
Badger. Potentially of value for bryophytes.

**Connectivity** Forms a valuable habitat corridor along the westquarter burn. Links to Westquarter Burn wildlife site.

**Community** Well used and valued by the local community. Formal and informal path network.

### 02. Deanburn Glen

#### Potential Site of Importance for Nature Conservation



Grid Ref. **NS 298847 680505**

Area **4.1 Hectares**

#### Key Features

**Habitat (s)** Broadleaved woodland  
Running water  
Amenity grassland.

**Species** Average plant species diversity. Bat species likely.

**Connectivity** Green corridor linking to Kinneil Estate and wider habitat networks to the north.

**Community** A network of paths through the glen is well used for recreation. Some use of the site by local schools.



## 7. Appendix 4 Site Statements : Potential Geodiversity Sites

### List and Map of Potential Geodiversity Sites

Site No.	Site Name	Page No.
01	Bantaskine Quarry	04 - 01
02	Birkhill Clay Mine	04 - 02
03	Union Canal Tunnel	04 - 03

