

CITATION**LINHOUSE VALLEY
SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST****West Lothian**

Site code: 937

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NT 072643

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger Series 65
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer sheet 349

AREA: 35.52 ha.

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

BIOLOGICAL:	Lowland grassland:	Acid grassland:	Lowland acid grassland
		Neutral grassland:	Lowland neutral grassland
	Wetlands:	Fen, marsh and swamp:	Valley fen
	Woodland:	Broadleaved mixed and yew woodland:	Wet woodland

DESCRIPTION:

Linhouse Valley, lying 2km south east of Livingston, contains a patchwork of unimproved, rich and diverse lowland river habitats created by the formation of river meanders and a gradual alteration in the water level of the Linhouse Water. The range of habitats includes lowland acid and neutral grasslands, species rich valley fen and wet woodland.

The lowland neutral grassland is dominated by creeping bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, red fescue *Festuca rubra* and sweet vernal grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and is widespread on the valley floor. Acidic grassland is found mainly along the valley slopes. Extensive rich valley fen communities have developed where drainage is impeded and these include bottle sedge *Carex rostrata*, common sedge *Carex nigra*, lesser pond-sedge *Carex acutiformis* and meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*. Alder dominates the wet woodland along the riverside but it also includes ash, elm, rowan and willow on the slopes. The vegetation on the woodland floor is also well developed and diverse.

Unimproved acid and neutral grasslands and wet woodland are scarce and declining habitats in West Lothian. This site represents a large example of a complex and diverse mosaic of these habitats, all rich in species and unmodified by disturbance. Other locally important habitats within the site, which are not notified, include dry heath, scrub and broadleaved woodland. A total of 220 plant species have been recorded, including some uncommon within the Lothians, such as bladder sedge *Carex vesicaria*, water sedge *Carex aquatilis*, melancholy thistle *Cirsium helenioides*, great butterfly orchid *Plantanthera chlorantha* and spear mint *Metha spicata*.

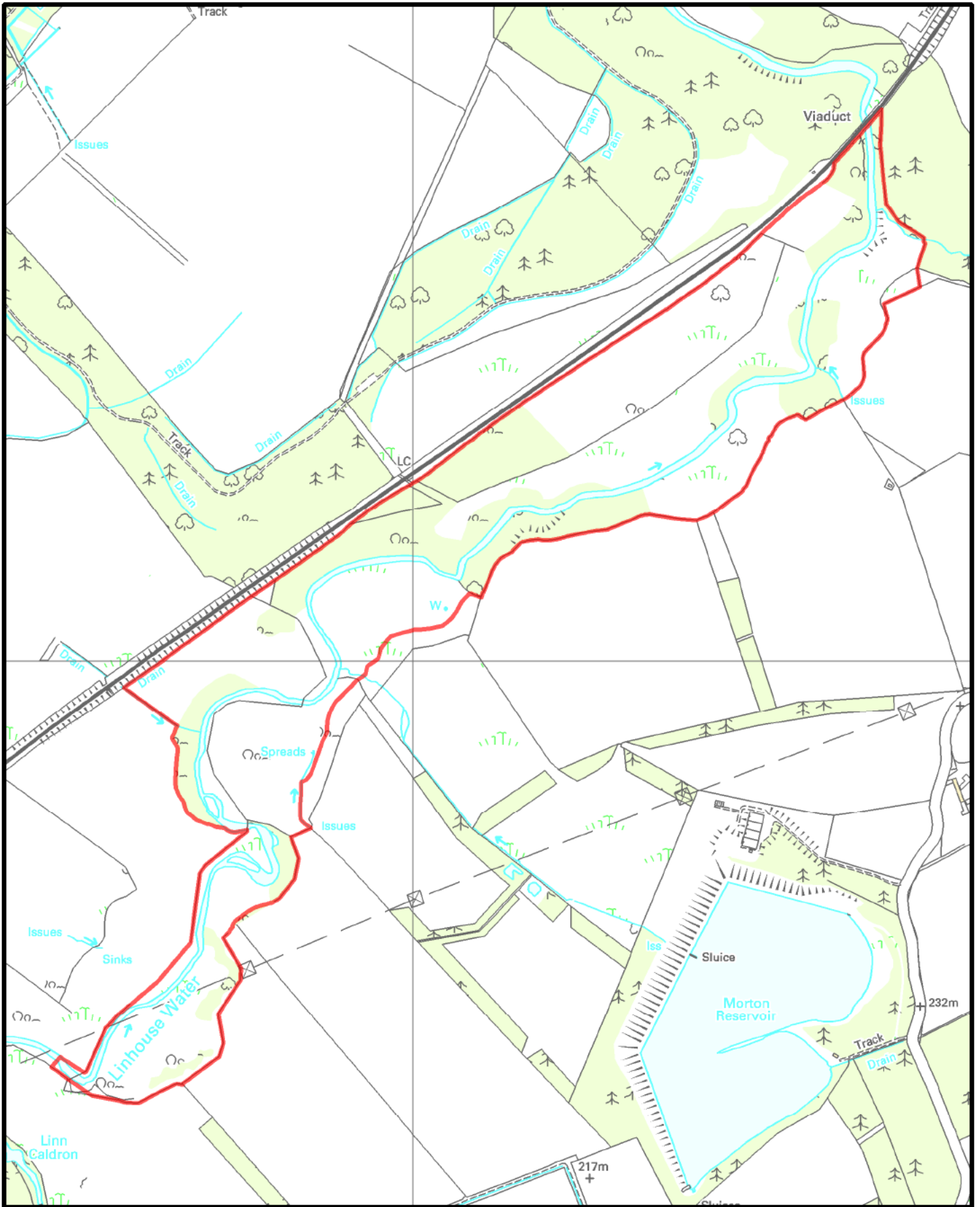
REMARKS

Measured area of site corrected (from 39.75 ha).

NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1981 Act: 11 June 1987


Notification reviewed under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004: 28 March 2008



Linhouse Valley

Site of Special Scientific Interest

Site Code: 937

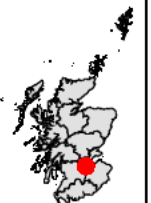
 Site boundary

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This is an updated representation of the notified site boundary. Any apparent small differences are due to changes to the OS backdrop.



Scale 1:7,500



CITATION

HERMAND BIRCHWOOD SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

West Lothian

Site code: 774

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: NT 031618

OS 1:50,000 SHEET NO: Landranger series 65
1:25,000 SHEET NO: Explorer series 344

AREA: 11.59 hectares

NOTIFIED NATURAL FEATURES

Biological: Woodlands: Upland birch woodland

DESCRIPTION:

Hermard Birchwood, situated 1km south east of West Calder, has developed from natural regeneration following wartime felling and also colonisation of a relict raised bog. The tree canopy is largely comprised of a diverse age structure of birch, including some neglected coppice and recent regeneration. There are also stands of mature beech and Scots pine with some rowan, oak and hornbeam. Birch woodlands of such diversity are uncommon in West Lothian. This is an excellent example and is particularly important because it has been relatively undisturbed in recent times.

An area of acid and neutral grassland to the north of the woodland contains some locally rare plant species. A small march with some standing water adjoins this and includes areas of actively growing bog mosses including *Sphagnum* sp. Within the wood, the ground flora retains features from the raised bog and is dominated by heather *Calluna vulgaris*, blaeberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* and, in places, by broad buckler fern *Dryopteris dilatata*. Birch regeneration is progressing on remaining open areas of the raised bog.

The diverse nature of this site and relative lack of disturbance has resulted in a rich ground flora which includes several plant species uncommon in the Lothian area such as white sedge *Carex curta*, narrow buckler fern *Dryopteris carthusiana*, adder's tongue *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, greater butterfly orchid *Platanthera chlorantha*, bay willow *Salix pentandra*. There are also interesting bryophytes and lichens and the rich growth of *Sphagnum* is a particularly notable feature.

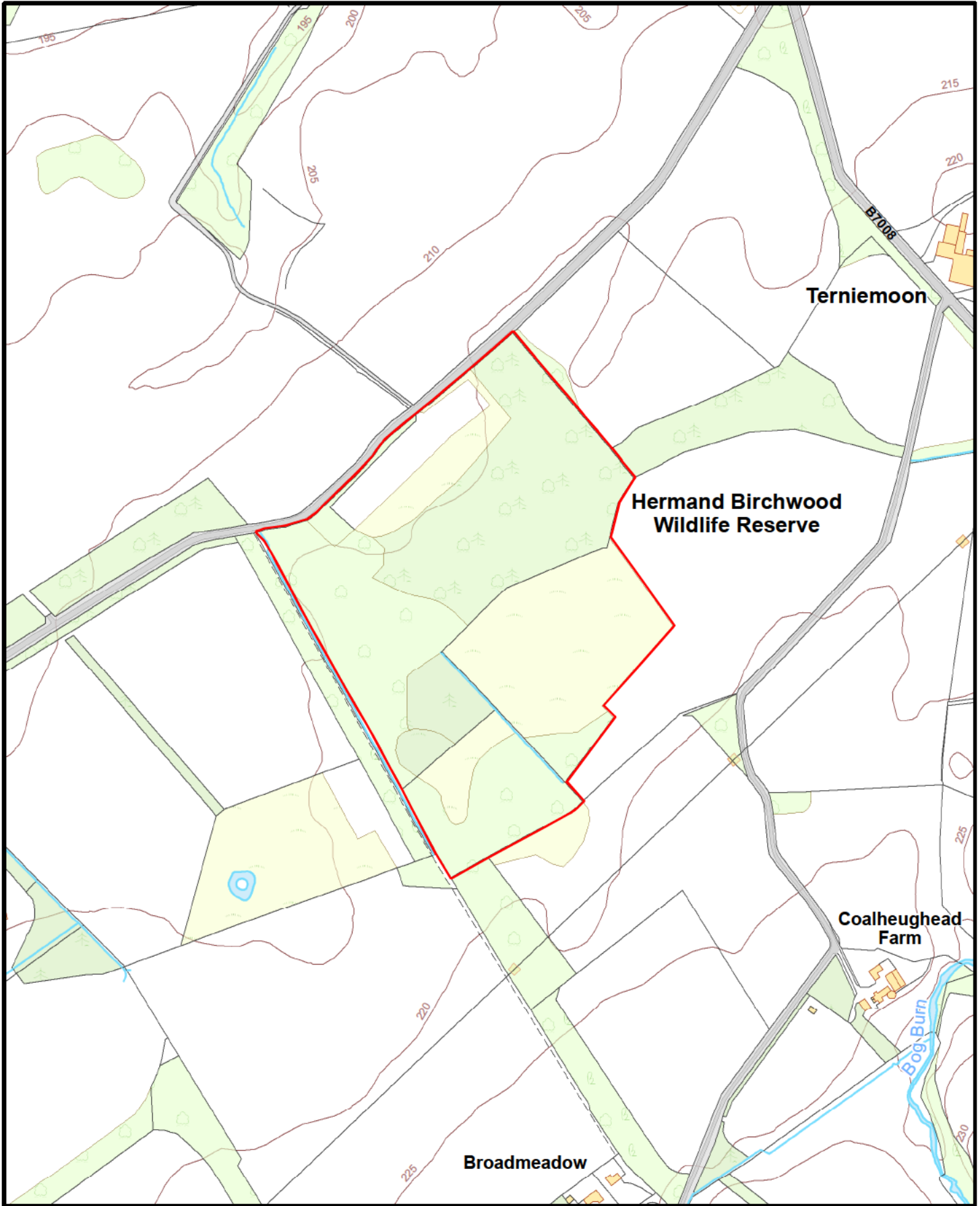
NOTIFICATION HISTORY

First notified under the 1981 Act: 12 March 1987

Notification reviewed under the 2004 Act: 03 March 2010

REMARKS


Measured area of site corrected (from 11.8 ha).



Hermand Birchwood

Site of Special Scientific Interest

Site Code: 774

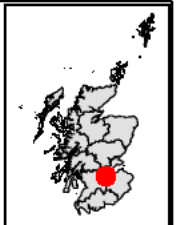
 Site boundary follows the inside edge of the boundary line shown

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Scale 1:5,000



Skivo Quarry Local Biodiversity Site

Grid reference NT051640

Total area (ha) 3

Associated sites

SITE DESCRIPTION

Summary Woodland surrounding old quarry with rare flora

Physical description

Main habitats Broadleaved plantation, Standing water

Notable habitats Unimproved neutral grassland, Standing water

Notable species Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*), Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*), Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*), Common Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*), Common Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*), Pendulous Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Broad-leaved Helleborine (*Epipactis helleborine*), Mare's tail (*Hippuris vulgaris*), Common Wintergreen (*Pyrola minor*), Pond Water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus peltatus*), Corn Spurrey (*Spergula arvensis*), *Polydesmus denticulatus*

Access and Use

ASSESSMENT AND STATUS

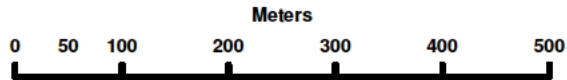
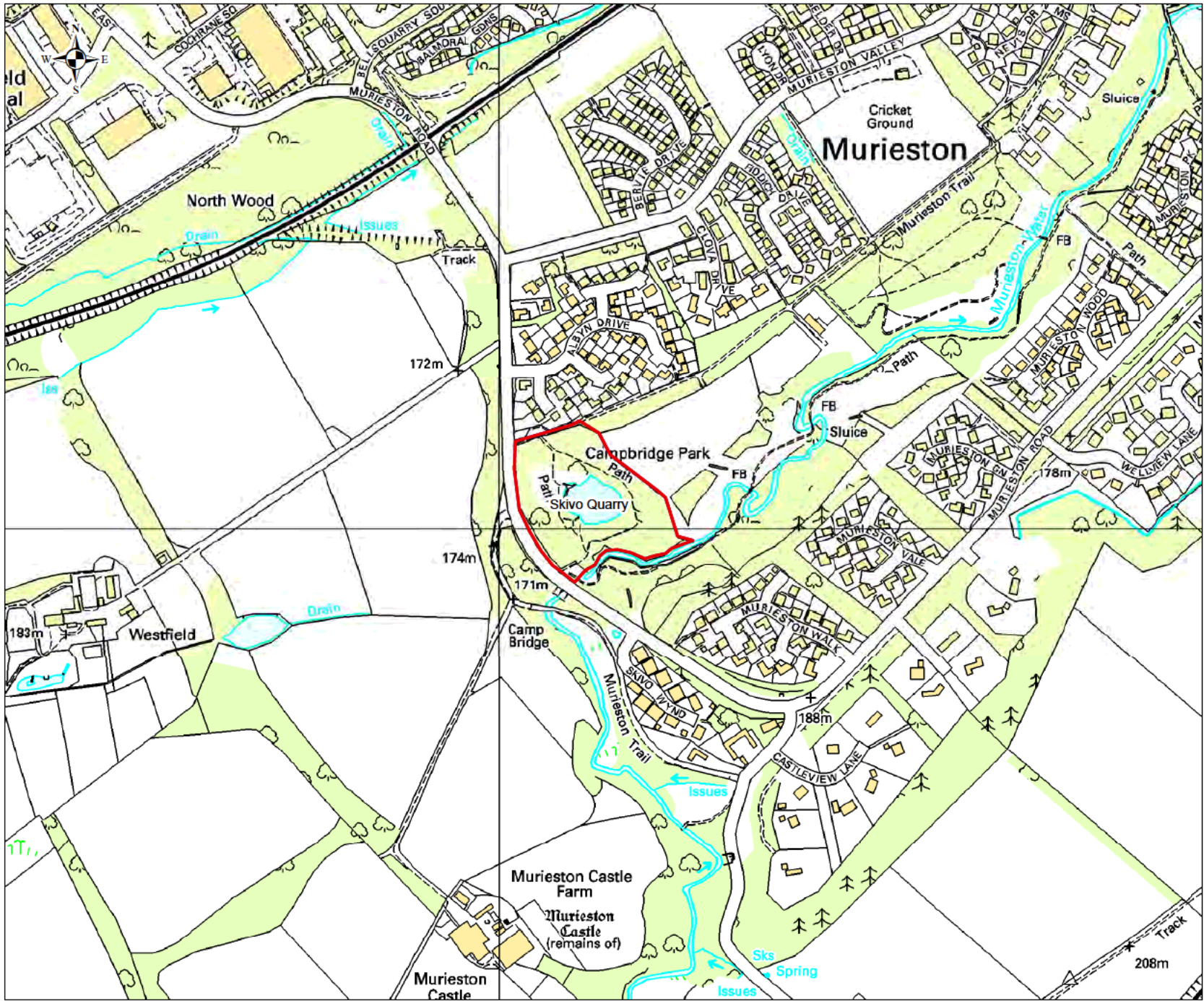
Assessment date 28/09/2010

Current status LBS

Previous status SWT Wildlife Site, WLC LWS

Other status

Date: 06/09/2012



Map:
LBS Map

Local Authority:
West Lothian

Site:
Skivo Quarry

Grid Reference:
NT051640

Legend

- Selected LBS
- LBS

The Wildlife Information Centre

Scale 1:5,000 Date: 6 September 2012

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Bellsquarry Wood Local Biodiversity Site

Grid reference	NT050652
Total area (ha)	12
Associated sites	None

SITE DESCRIPTION

Summary Birchwood with regenerating oak & varied flora

Physical description

Main habitats Semi-natural broadleaved woodland, Semi-improved neutral grassland, Mixed plantation, Broadleaved plantation

Notable habitats Semi-natural broadleaved woodland

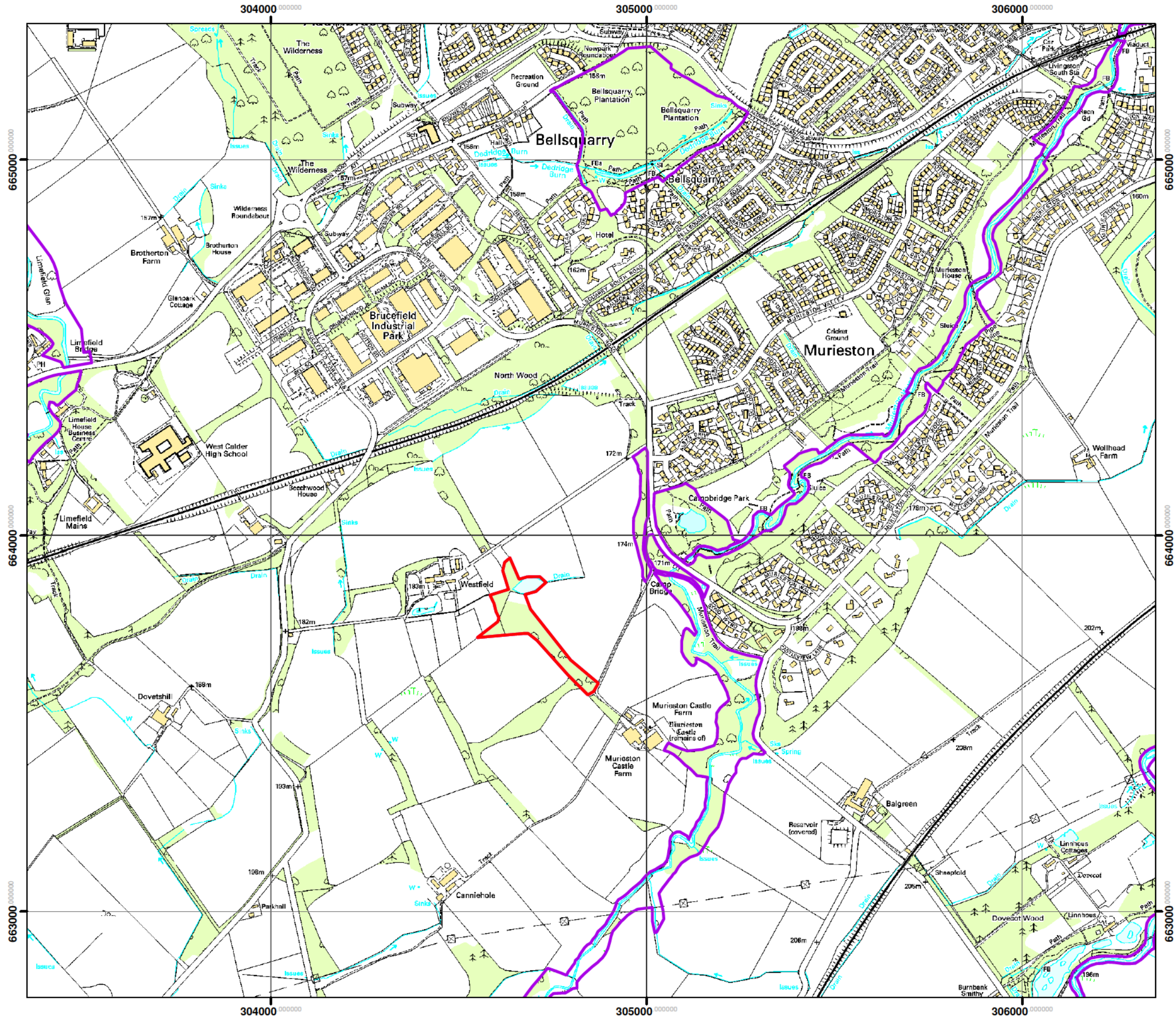
Notable species Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*), Hedge Accentor (*Prunella modularis*), Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), Bristle Club-rush (*Isolepis setacea*), Spiked Water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), Burnet Rose (*Rosa spinosissima*), Corn Spurrey (*Spergula arvensis*), Hybrid Woundwort (*Stachys sylvatica* x *palustris* = *S. x ambigua*), millipede (*Polydesmus denticulatus*), Woodsy Silk-moss (*Plagiothecium nemorale*), Fine Bog-moss (*Sphagnum angustifolium*), spider (*Micrargus apertus*), spider (*Thyreosthenius parasiticus*), Brown Hare (*Lepus europeus*)

Access and Use

ASSESSMENT AND STATUS

Assessment date	17/01/2011
Current status	LBS
Previous status	SWT Wildlife Site, WLC LWS
Other status	SWT reserve

Date: 06/09/2012



The Wildlife Information Centre

Twic Excursions 2012
Site Location

Site:
Westfield Pond

Grid Reference:
NT047638

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Other LBS

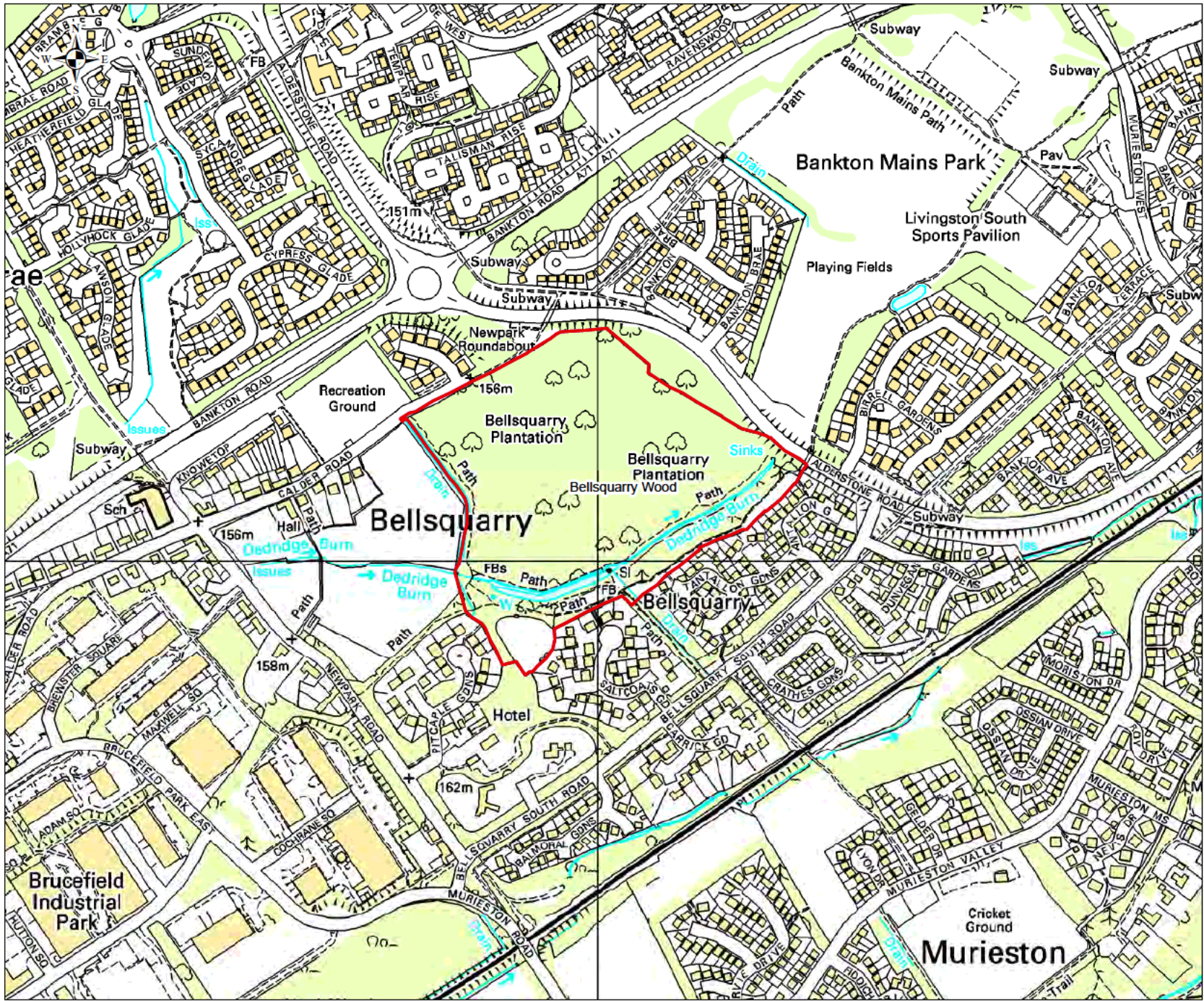


Scale: 1:10,000

Date: 3rd February 2012



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Map:
LBS Map

Local Authority:
West Lothian

Site:
Bellsquarry Wood

Grid Reference:
NT050652

Legend

Selected LBS

LBS

The Wildlife Information Centre

Scale 1:5,000 **Date:** 6 September 2012

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