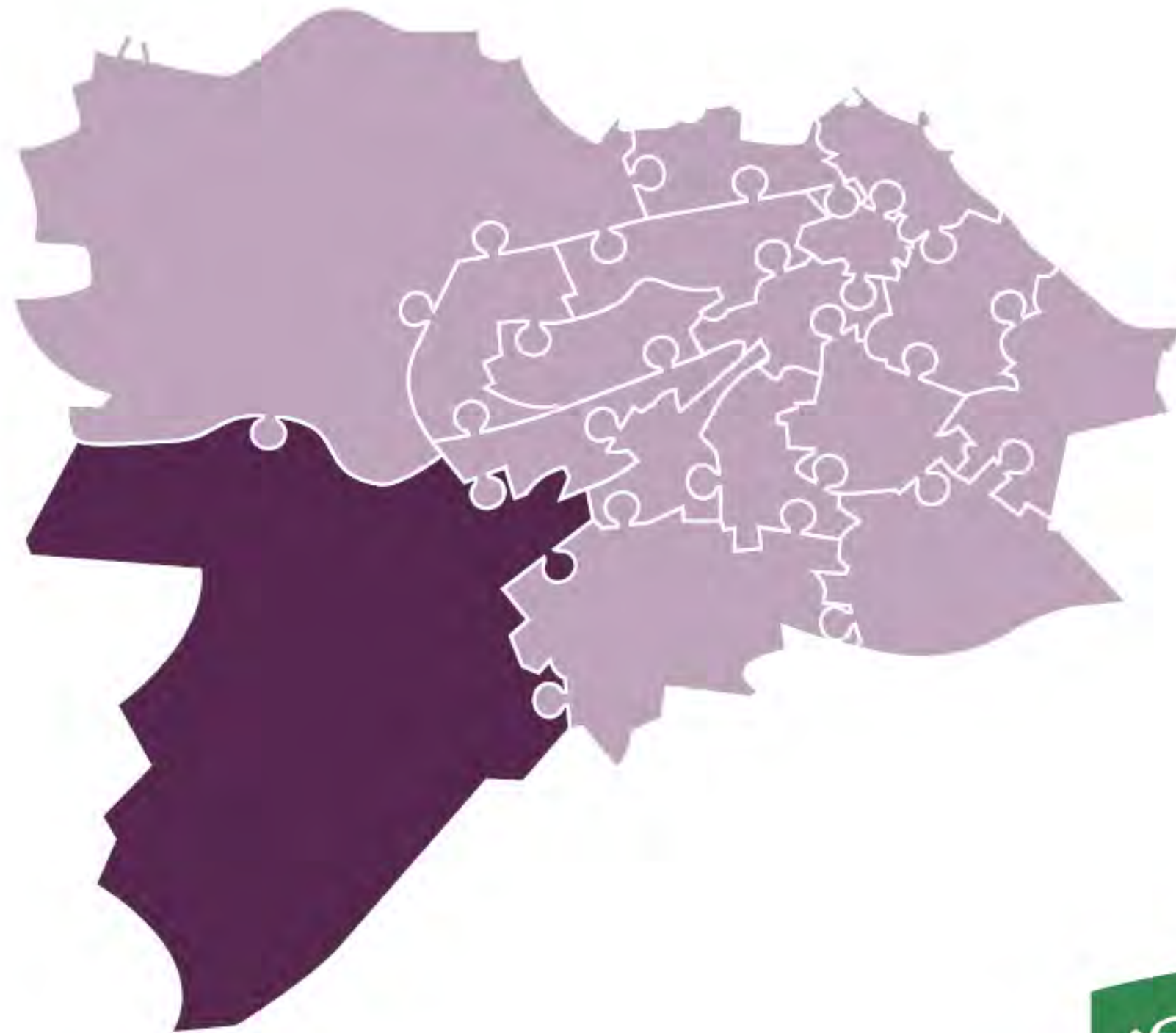


Evidence Report Place Profile

Ward 2 Pentland Hills



Introduction

Place Profiles have been created for each of the 17 Electoral Wards within the City of Edinburgh Council area.

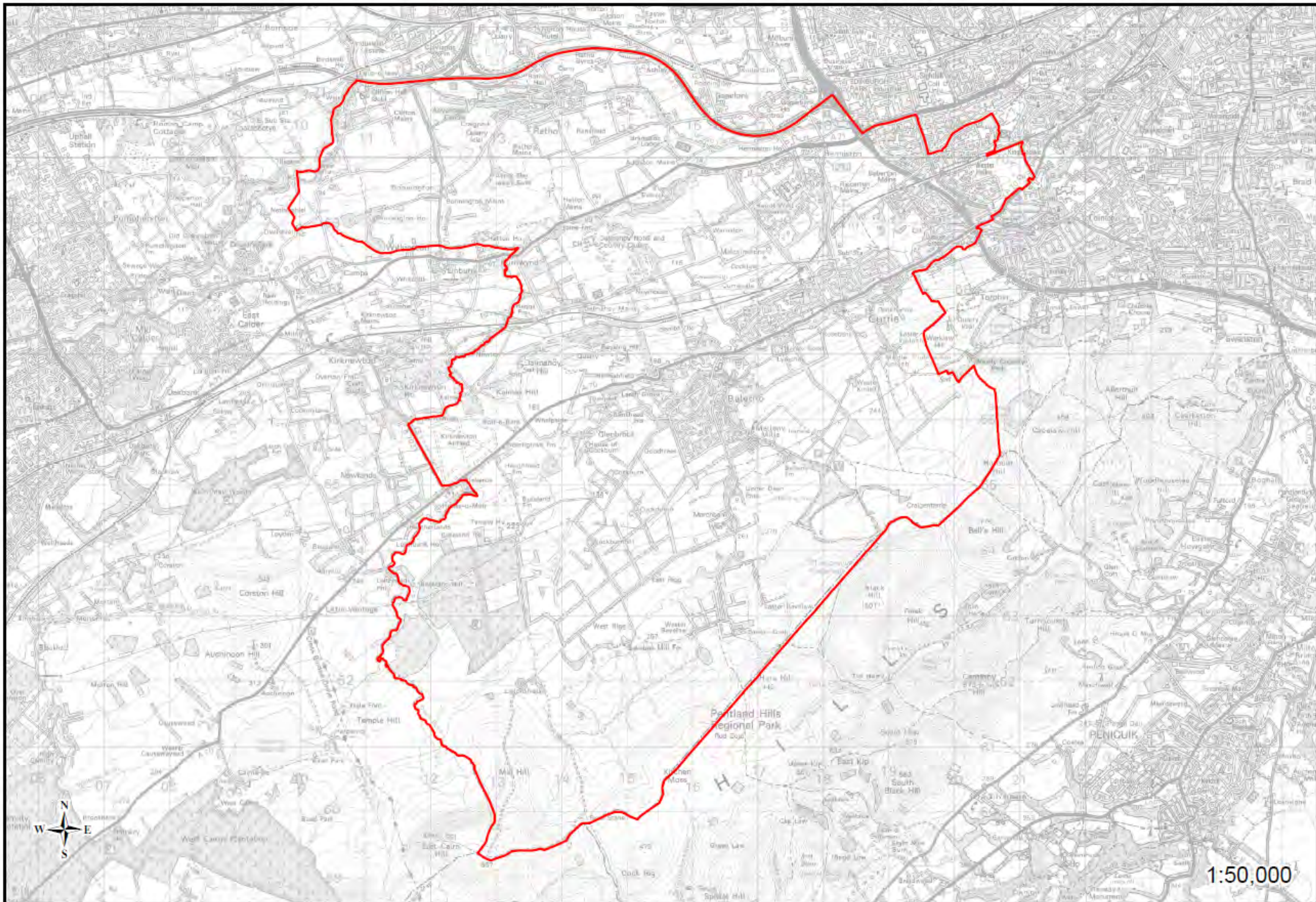
In line with NPF4 and related guidance, new Local Development Plans in Scotland need to be place-based, people-centred and delivery-focussed.

These Place Profiles display information on the people, infrastructure and key features of each ward and identify areas of focus for the Proposed Plan.

They provide spatial focus for the Evidence Report where they require a place-based analysis.

They are a tool for engagement, pulling together our spatial and statistical understanding into one place for quick access. This will assist communities looking to prepare Local Place Plans, and in turn the Place Profiles can be updated to include relevant work from Local Place Plans.

Demographic information is from the 2022 Census of Scotland and the Public Health Scotland Public Health Observatory (ScotPHO) Profiles.



Place

Headlines

This is a summary of key issues raised through analysis and engagement in this ward. Full details are shown in the appendix.

Strengths	Challenges
- The location of health facilities largely follows existing population, with generally positive feedback reported for GP practices and pharmacies - Transport access patterns largely service the existing population, supporting connectivity across key settlements - Good access to green and blue infrastructure, including the Water of Leith, Pentland Hills and surrounding countryside, which are accessible to the majority of settlements - The Union Canal is a key blue-green corridor through the ward including Wester Hailes. - Engagement feedback indicates that community spaces and opportunities are generally valued, although this varies on location - Most children and young reported that there is generally an adequate provision of shops and services	- There are gaps in transport access in parts of the ward, particularly in areas such as Balerno and Ratho, where connectivity is more limited - Feedback indicates gaps in access to other services such as NHS dentists and other health related provision - Social housing is concentrated in Wester Hailes (planned as a post-war public housing development) and is more likely to raise issues in overcrowding - The ward does not contain a defined town centre. Local centres are generally arranged linearly, reflecting settlement patterns from Wester Hailes to Balerno, with identified gaps in provision in areas such as Ratho - Opportunities for work, volunteering or training in the areas highlighted as limited and generally requires reliance on private car use. A need for better public transport connections - The general public was not positive about the public transport – some areas were well served but some areas do not have a bus or a bus with direct access to the city centre. Public transport was a key thing to change - Engagement feedback highlights concern regarding traffic, parking pressures, rat running and long-term airport parking in some areas. - A perceived lack of local shops and services highlighted in some parts of the ward, alongside a need for improved public transport links to access a wider range of services
Implications	
- The spatial pattern of development, with flatted housing concentrated in the denser areas like Wester Hailes, and lower density housing in more rural settlements reflects the different levels of access to services and public transport. This suggests a need to consider how housing mix relates to accessibility and local infrastructure - A higher percentage of people in the ward drive to work compared to the Edinburgh average whilst public transport use is broadly similar and the percentage of people walking and cycling is lower. This indicates an opportunity to improve sustainable and active travel connections across the ward - Engagement feedback highlights a want for larger homes, private outdoor space and a greater range of affordable and accessible housing options. This suggests pressures relating to housing type and choice - There is an opportunity to support local economic activity by retaining and creating space for businesses to support local jobs and services including small business units and community enterprise, to enhance access to local jobs and services - Importance of improving active travel routes to access other open space within the wider area - Engagement highlights demand for additional recreational activities, such as more sports facilities such as a skatepark and would like more opportunities to do more creative activities - need more facilities and identified a better football pitch in Ratho and tennis court in Juniper Green. - Currie was identified as lacking a community hub where more activities like classes can happen	

Background

Pentland Hills ward covers a large area of rural west Edinburgh and is a mixture of countryside, farmland, historic villages and the edge of the city's urban communities.

There are a series of small historic settlements, designated as conservation areas in recognition of their historic character.

Hermiston is based around Hermiston House and Farm and is a series of vernacular cottages. Riccarton House is now gone but its landscaped parkland was gifted to Heriot Watt University. **Riccarton** is now Heriot Watt's University campus and is a series of academic buildings, student residences and the Oriam (Scotland's Sports Performance Centre).

Ratho was largely an agricultural settlement until the arrival of the Union Canal by 1822. It was used to transport passengers and heavy goods between Edinburgh and Glasgow and opened up mining and quarrying in the area. Ratho retains its distinct village character with the canal being a central feature. Ratho has experienced recent growth with new housing development.

Juniper Green, Currie and **Balerno** were originally agricultural/ estate villages, but their history is tied to the demand for paper in the 18th century due to growing literacy and the rise of newspapers and publishing. The Water of Leith provided the power and the colossal amounts of water needed for the paper making process. A significant number of mills and industries developed along the Water of Leith which fuelled the growth of these settlements. With the arrival of the railways in the late 19th century, they transformed into residential suburbs and have continued to grow with public and private housing development until the present day.

They are served by local shopping centres at Juniper Green, Corslet Place, Bryce Road, Pentland View (Currie), Main Street (Balerno). These settlements are connected to Edinburgh with public transport.

The ward also takes in some neighbourhoods on the edge of the Edinburgh urban area.

The Baberton House estate is now known as **Baberton Mains** – a private residential area of Edinburgh built in the 1970s.

Wester Hailes is a large post-war public housing estate built primarily in the late 1960s to mid-1970s. Regeneration in the 1990s onwards saw the demolition of some of the high-rise blocks and new low-rise housing development. Wester Hailes is made up of different areas including **Clovenstone** and **The Calders**. These are council housing schemes built in the 1960s-70s and are a mixture of multi-storey blocks and low-rise residential blocks.

The Wester Hailes Centre is a designated local centre and acts as a shopping and community hub for the area.

There is a significant road network running through the ward including the City Bypass, M8, A70 (Lanark Road/ Lanark Road West) A71 (Calder Road) and the Wester Hailes Road.

There are train stations at Wester Hailes and Curriehill linking these areas to Edinburgh and Glasgow Central.

A large section of the Pentland Hills Regional Park sits within the ward. The Park is a mixture of publicly-owned land and privately-owned land used for farming. Threipmuir and Harlaw Reservoirs are within the ward boundary.

Within the ward, economic activity is partly focussed on agriculture, quarrying and the Heriot Watt Business Research Park. However, there is also a collection of leisure, sport and cultural activities, notably:

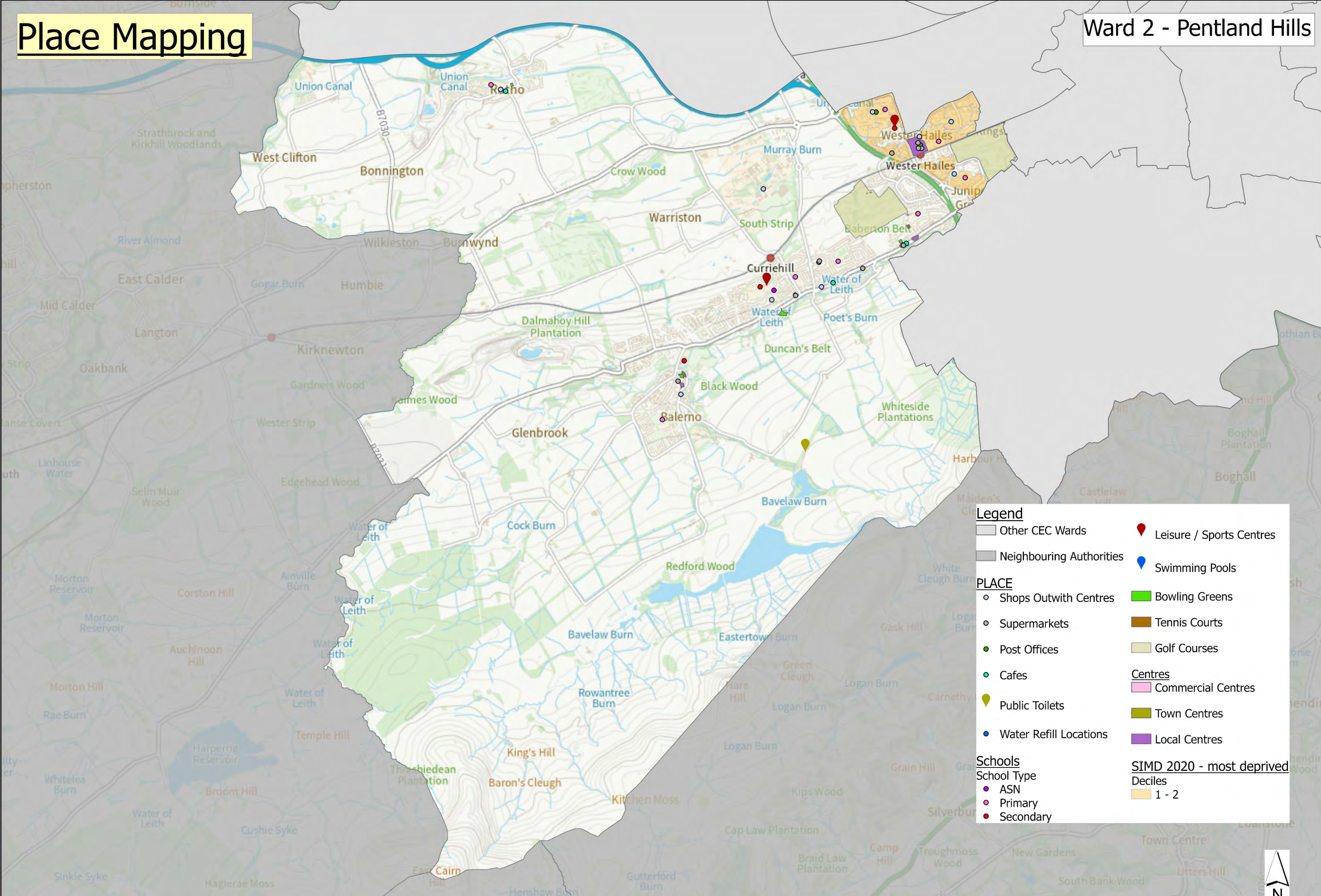
- Pentland Hills
- Union Canal and Water of Leith
- Edinburgh International Climbing Centre
- Lost Shore Surf Resort
- Golf Courses including Dalmahoy, Ratho Park and Baberton
- Oriam
- Malleny Garden
- Jupiter Artland
- WHALE Arts

Place Mapping

- Mapping of key amenities are shown below, which are linked to amenities detailed in the **Local Living topic paper** which can contribute to Living Well Locally.
- Distribution of cultural facilities and community-run spaces is also shown. This is based upon available information at the time of mapping and may not include all existing spaces, but is used to show an overall pattern of distribution.

Place Mapping

Ward 2 - Pentland Hills



Legend

Other CEC Wards

Neighbouring Authorities

Leisure / Sports Centres

Swimming Pools

PLACE

Shops Outwith Centres

Supermarkets

Post Offices

Cafes

Public Toilets

Water Refill Locations

Bowling Greens

Tennis Courts

Golf Courses

Centres

Commercial Centres

Town Centres

Local Centres

Schools

School Type

ASN

Primary

Secondary

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

Deciles

1 - 2

Culture and Community Infrastructure

Ward 2 - Pentland Hills

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Neighbouring Authorities

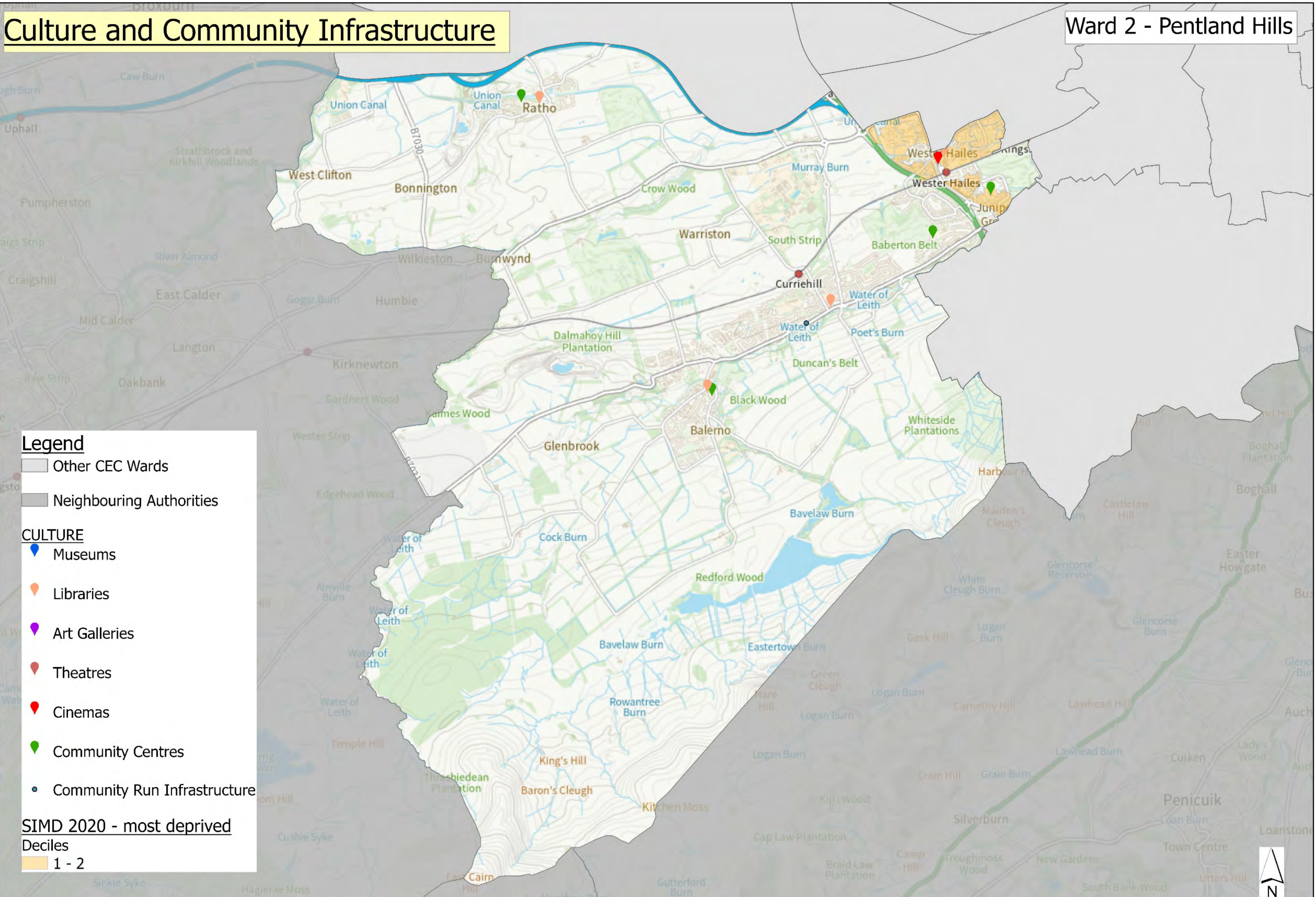
CULTURE

- Museums
- Libraries
- Art Galleries
- Theatres
- Cinemas
- Community Centres
- Community Run Infrastructure

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

Deciles

1 - 2



Considerations

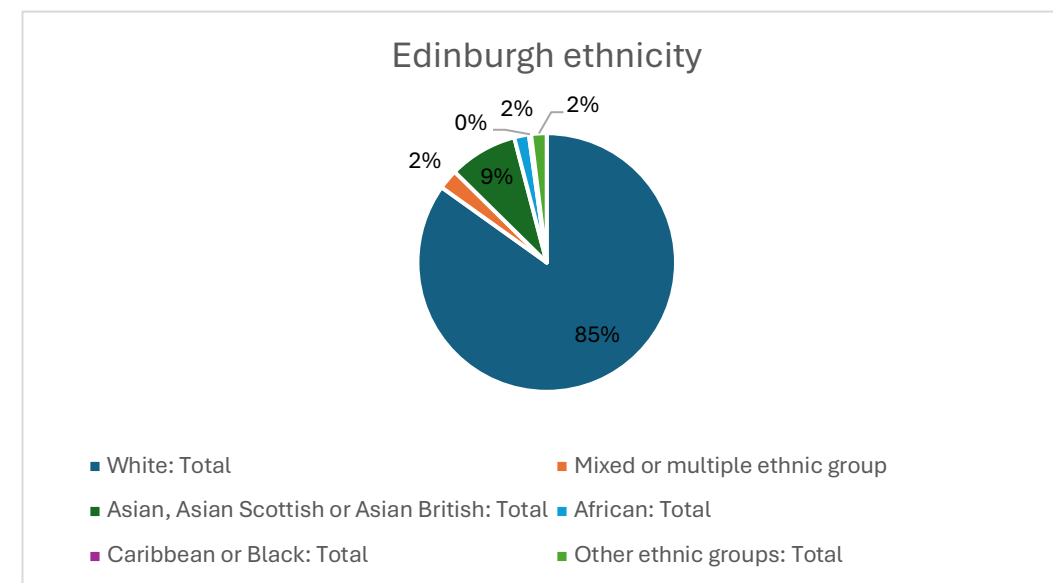
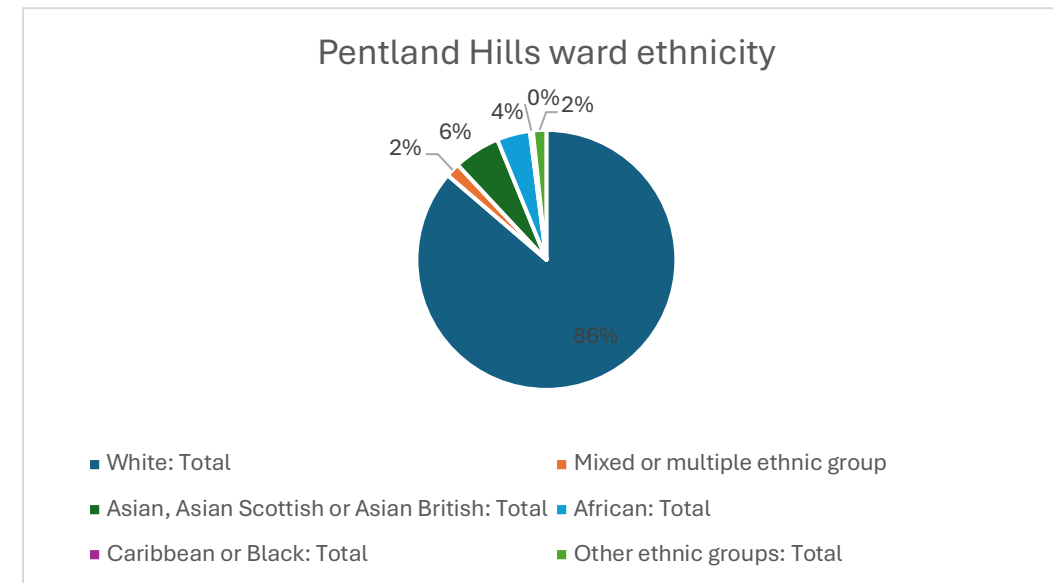
- Place mapping shows that amenities located close to the local centres of Wester Hailes, Currie and Balerno tend to align with transport access. This provides a focus for local amenities and public transport access for the surrounding residential areas and aligns with higher population density within the Edinburgh Bypass closer to the centre of Edinburgh. This largely rural ward concentrates amenities and population in certain village areas with gaps in between.
- Overall, cultural spaces are concentrated in Wester Hailes, Ratho, Currie and Balerno with some gaps in provision in outlying areas.
- Children and young people are generally getting outside to play and hang out but better facilities like toilets and a cafe would help.
- They felt there was enough to do but would like more sports facilities such as a skatepark; and would like more opportunities to do more creative activities.
- The general public had concerns about the places to play ball games and the need for more facilities, in particular a better football pitch in Ratho and tennis Court in Juniper Green.
- The general public was generally positive about the spaces and opportunities to meet up but this is very dependent on the location. Currie was identified as lacking a community space where more activities like classes can happen.
- Most children and young thought there was the right number of shops and services, but the general public did not think there was enough shops and services. There was also the need for more and better public transport links to other shops.

People

Demographics

- The population of Pentland Hills is 32,336 which is **6.3%** of the Edinburgh total of 514,543.
- This population is housed in 13,579 households, which is **5.7%** of the Edinburgh total of 238,944 households.
- The following sites located within the ward boundary are allocated within the adopted City Plan 2030.
 - OPP81 Dumbryden Drive – 124 homes.
 - H82 Murrayburn Gate – 135 homes.
 - H83 Clovenstone House – 97 homes.
 - H84 Calder Estate – 28 homes.
 - HSG31 Curriemuirend – 188 homes.
 - City Plan 2030 allocates a total 572 which would be a **4.2%** increase in households, compared to a projected 40,288 or **16.9%** increase for Edinburgh as a whole as set out in City Plan 2030.
 - The expected rate of growth in this ward is lower than that of Edinburgh as a whole.
- The age breakdown of the ward is listed below.
 - The population aged 0-15 is 6,254 which is **19.3%** of the ward population compared to **14.58%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - The population aged 16-64 is 20,277 which is **62.7%** of the ward population compared to **69.5%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - The population aged 65+ is 5,809 which is **18%** of the ward population compared to **15.93%** for the Edinburgh total.

- The ethnicity breakdown of the ward is listed below:
 - The percentage of the population recorded as white is **86%** compared to **85%** for Edinburgh as a whole.
 - For the population recorded as not white, the largest groups represented are;
 - Other African (1,210)
 - Indian, Indian Scottish or Indian British (603)
 - Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Group (558)

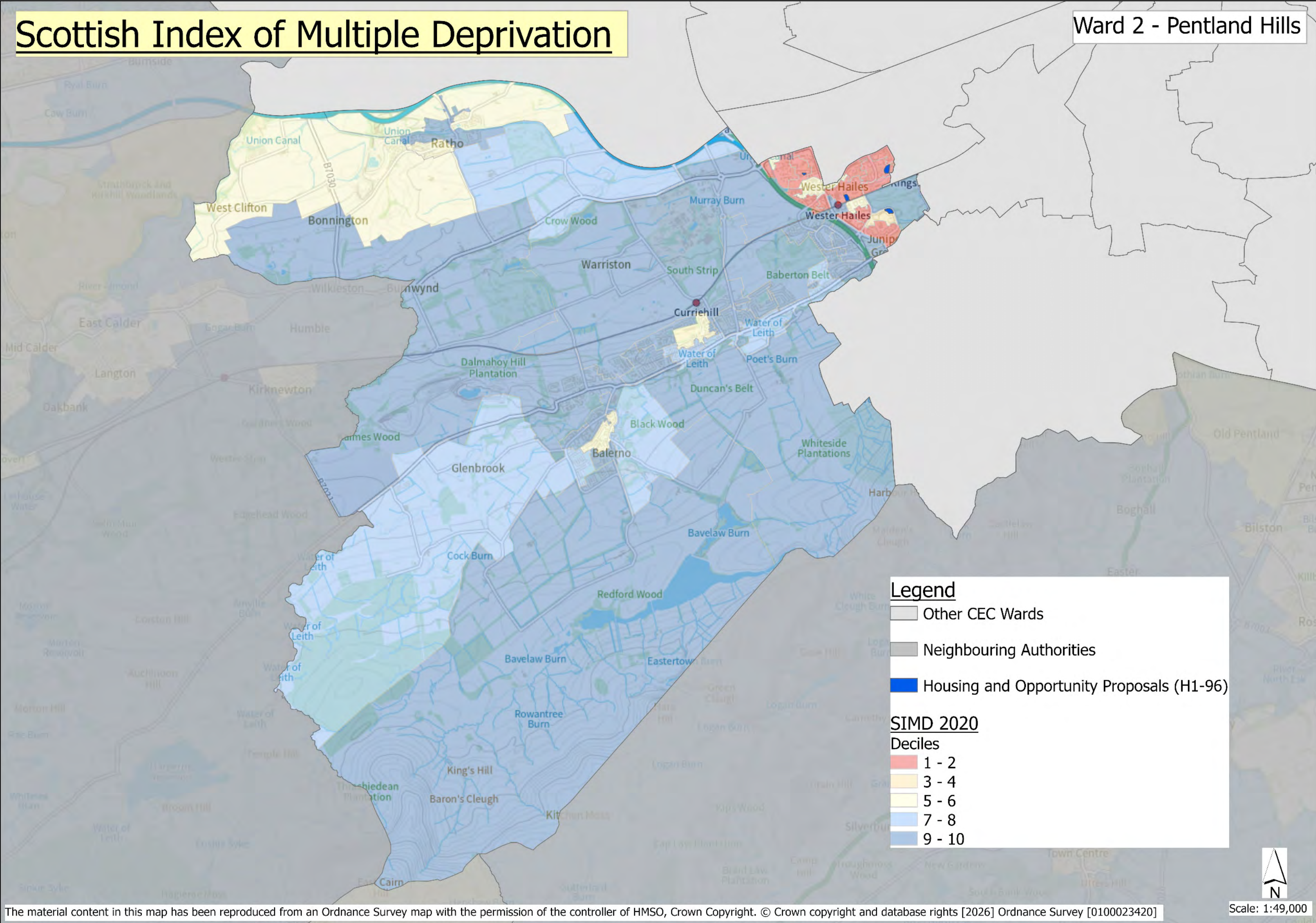


Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

- SIMD mapping is shown below and shows this as a ward with very little deprivation and many parts of the ward fall within the 20% least deprived in Scotland. However, there is a contrast with Wester Hailes which has areas within the 20% most deprived in Scotland.

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

Ward 2 - Pentland Hills



Considerations

- The population is expected to grow slower than the Edinburgh average, with growth concentrated in Wester Hailes.
- The working age population percentage is lower than the Edinburgh average, but the child age and older population percentages are higher than the Edinburgh average.
- The population is approximately as diverse as Edinburgh as a whole based on the population groups present.
- Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation mapping shows that there is very little deprivation in the ward as a whole with many parts of the ward fall within the 20% least deprived in Scotland. However, Wester Hailes has areas within the 20% most deprived in Scotland indicating a stark contrast for those areas developed as post-war public housing.

Health

Demographics

- **18.9%** of the ward population reported having a long-term illness or disease, compared to **18.1%** of the Edinburgh total.
- **10.6%** of the ward population reported having a long-term mental health condition, compared to **11.9%** of the Edinburgh total.
- **82.4%** of the ward population considered themselves to be in good or very good health, compared to **83.7%** of the Edinburgh population.
- The total number of dental registrations in this ward is **39,668**, greater than the ward population of **32,336**. Dental practices do not have fixed boundaries, indicating that people may travel to this ward for dental care.
- This ward has a ratio of **1 pharmacy per 4527.3 people** based on mid-2024 estimates compared to **1 pharmacy per 5,006.4 people** for Edinburgh as a whole.
- It is estimated based on A&E attendances that **19.92%** of the ward have accessed A&E services in 2025, compared to **17.59%** for Edinburgh as a whole.
- For pregnant people in this ward who had a BMI reading taken between 2020 and 2025, **29.42%** were overweight and **22.52%** were obese. For Edinburgh as a whole, **29.1%** were overweight and **18.76%** were obese.
- For all people who had a BMI reading taken in 2025, **32.52%** were overweight and **33.4%** were obese. For Edinburgh as a whole, **32.56%** were overweight and **30.12%** were obese.
- As these BMI statistics are biased towards either all pregnant people or people who are more likely to have a BMI taken for medical reasons they should be viewed for comparison only, not as an accurate reading of population health statistics.
- Life expectancy data is based upon intermediate zones, which do not match with ward boundaries. For Edinburgh as a whole, between 2022 and 2024 male life expectancy was **78.3 years** and female life expectancy was **82.2 years**. The life expectancy measured from 2019 to 2023 of the intermediate zones wholly or partially within this ward are as follows:
 - In Baberton & Juniper Green – Male life expectancy was **82.9 years** and female life expectancy was **85.5 years**.
 - Balerno & Bonnington Village – Male life expectancy was **82.9 years** and female life expectancy was **90.9 years**.
 - Bonaly & The Pentlands – Male life expectancy was **89.2 years** and female life expectancy was **90.4 years**.
 - Clovenstone & Wester Hailes – Male life expectancy was **70 years** and female life expectancy was **76.9 years**.
 - Colinton & Kingsknowe – Male life expectancy was **80.9 years** and female life expectancy was **83 years**.
 - Currie East – Male life expectancy was **83 years** and female life expectancy was **88.6 years**.

- Currie West – Male life expectancy was **82.1 years** and female life expectancy was **84.8 years**.
- Dalmeny, Kirkliston & Newbridge – Male life expectancy was **79.8 years** and female life expectancy was **83.9 years**.
- Murrayburn & Wester Hailes North – Male life expectancy was **71.1 years** and female life expectancy was **78.9 years**.
- Ratho, Ingliston & Gogar – Male life expectancy was **80.6 years** and female life expectancy was **84.1 years**.
- South Gyle – Male life expectancy was **83.9 years** and female life expectancy was **86.9 years**.
- The Calders – Male life expectancy was **70.3 years** and female life expectancy was **77.8 years**.

Uses likely to affect health and wellbeing and food access

- Town and local centres with identified clusters of unhealthy uses are set out in the **Health and Wellbeing topic paper** and **City, Town, Local and Commercial Centres topic paper**.
- Pentland View Court has four takeaways, this represents 44% of all units. The centre is very small and therefore clustering is more obvious despite the percentage.
- The Priority Places for Food Index identifies neighbourhoods that are most vulnerable to increases in the cost of living and which have a lack of accessibility to cheap, healthy, and sustainable sources of food making them a Priority Place for Food as set out in the **Health and Wellbeing topic paper**.
- According to this index, part of Wester Hailes falls within the top 20% priority areas lacking access, affecting the communities close to it which have higher levels of deprivation.
- Hot food takeaway uses can be found mainly in Currie and Wester Hailes where they are close to areas of higher deprivation.

Hot Food Takeaways

Ward 2 - Pentland Hills

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Neighbouring Authorities

HEALTH

Hot Food Takeaways

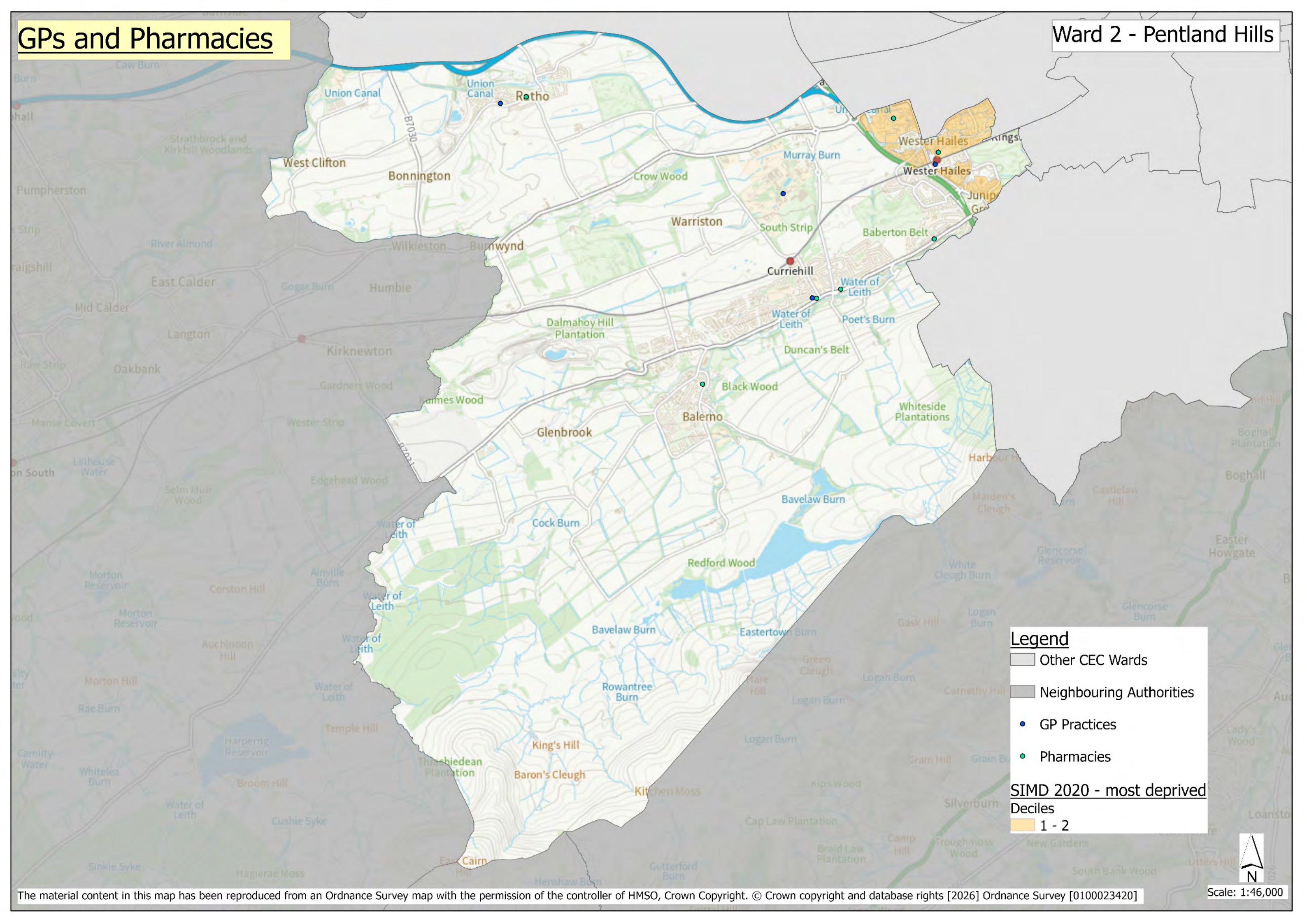
SIMD 2020 - most deprived

Deciles

1 - 2

GPs and Pharmacies

Ward 2 - Pentland Hills



Considerations

- The percentage of people who report being in good or very good health is in line with the Edinburgh average, with a similar percentage of people having a long- term illness/disease as the Edinburgh average.
- The percentage of people who report having a long- term mental health condition is lower than the Edinburgh average.
- The location of health facilities largely follows existing population and transport access patterns, with gaps in the Balerno area.
- The engagement was generally positive about access to GPs and pharmacies, but this was not across the entire ward. Some people felt there are gaps in dental care or other health related services.

Housing

Housing type and density

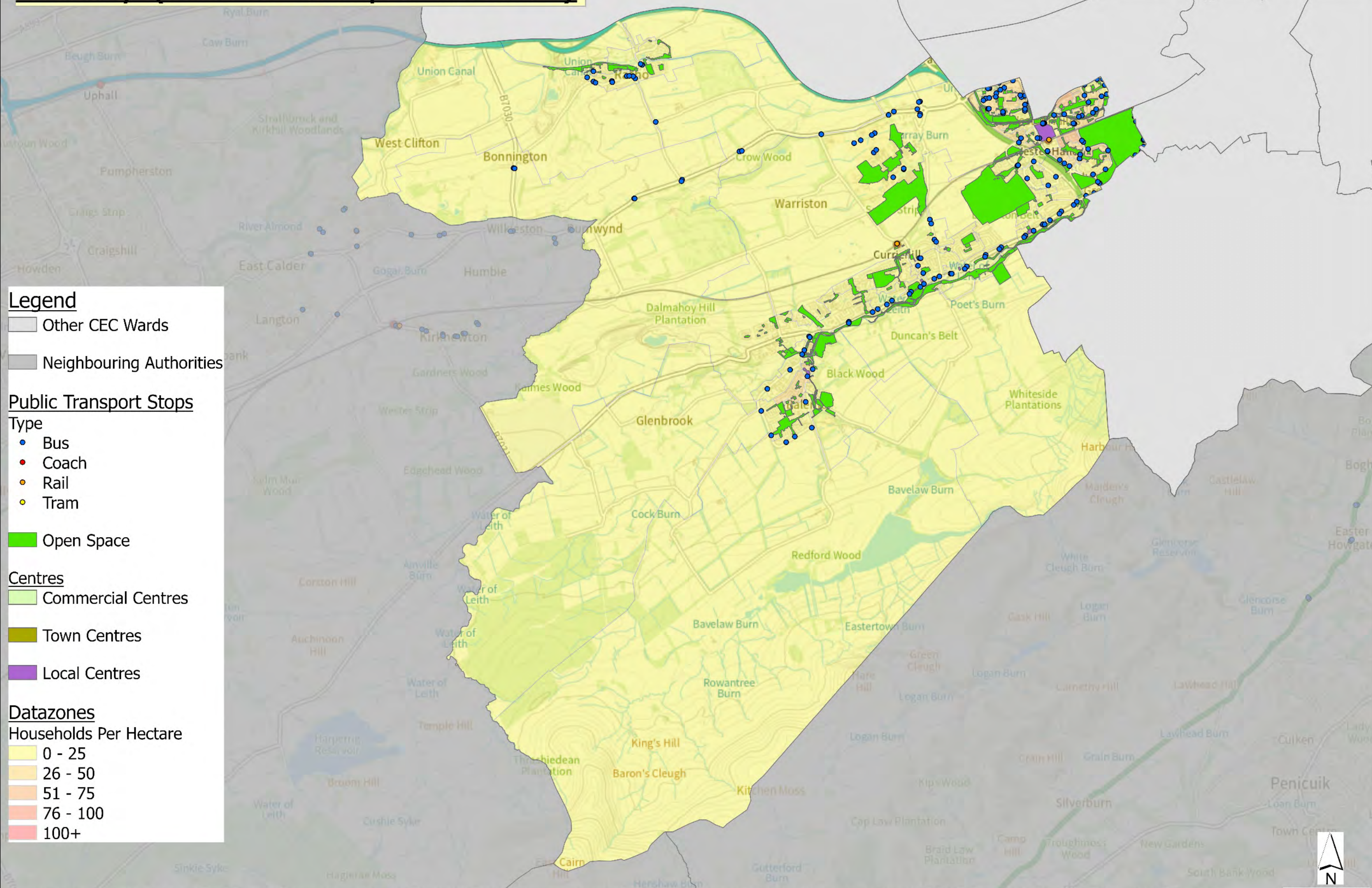
- 7,899 households live in houses, which is **58.2%** compared with **36.8%** of the Edinburgh total, while 5,673, which is **41.8%**, live in flats compared with **63.2%** of the Edinburgh total. 7 live in a caravan or another mobile/temporary structure.
- Although the level of flatted accommodation is higher on average than the Edinburgh total, mapping shows this to be concentrated in Wester Hailes, an area built as post-war public housing.
- Population density is also concentrated in Wester Hailes, with the rest of the ward recording lower density reflecting its pattern of smaller settlements in a rural area.

Housing tenure and overcrowding

- The housing tenure breakdown of the ward is listed below.
 - **61.9%** households in the ward report their housing tenure as owned, compared to **60.1%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **28.2%** households in the ward report their housing tenure as Social Rented, compared to **15.7%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **8.7%** households in the ward report their housing tenure as private rented, compared to **23.1%** for the Edinburgh total.
- The level of owner occupation matches the Edinburgh average, but more households live in socially rented accommodation than the Edinburgh average and mapping shows this to be concentrated in Wester Hailes.
- The level of overcrowding as measured by Census reporting of number of people within occupiable rooms per household is higher in Wester Hailes.

Density (Households per Hectare)

Ward 2 - Pentland Hills



Flats, Apartments and Maisonettes Percentage

Ward 2 - Pentland Hills

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Neighbouring Authorities

Public Transport Stops

Type

- Bus
- Coach
- Rail
- Tram

Open Space

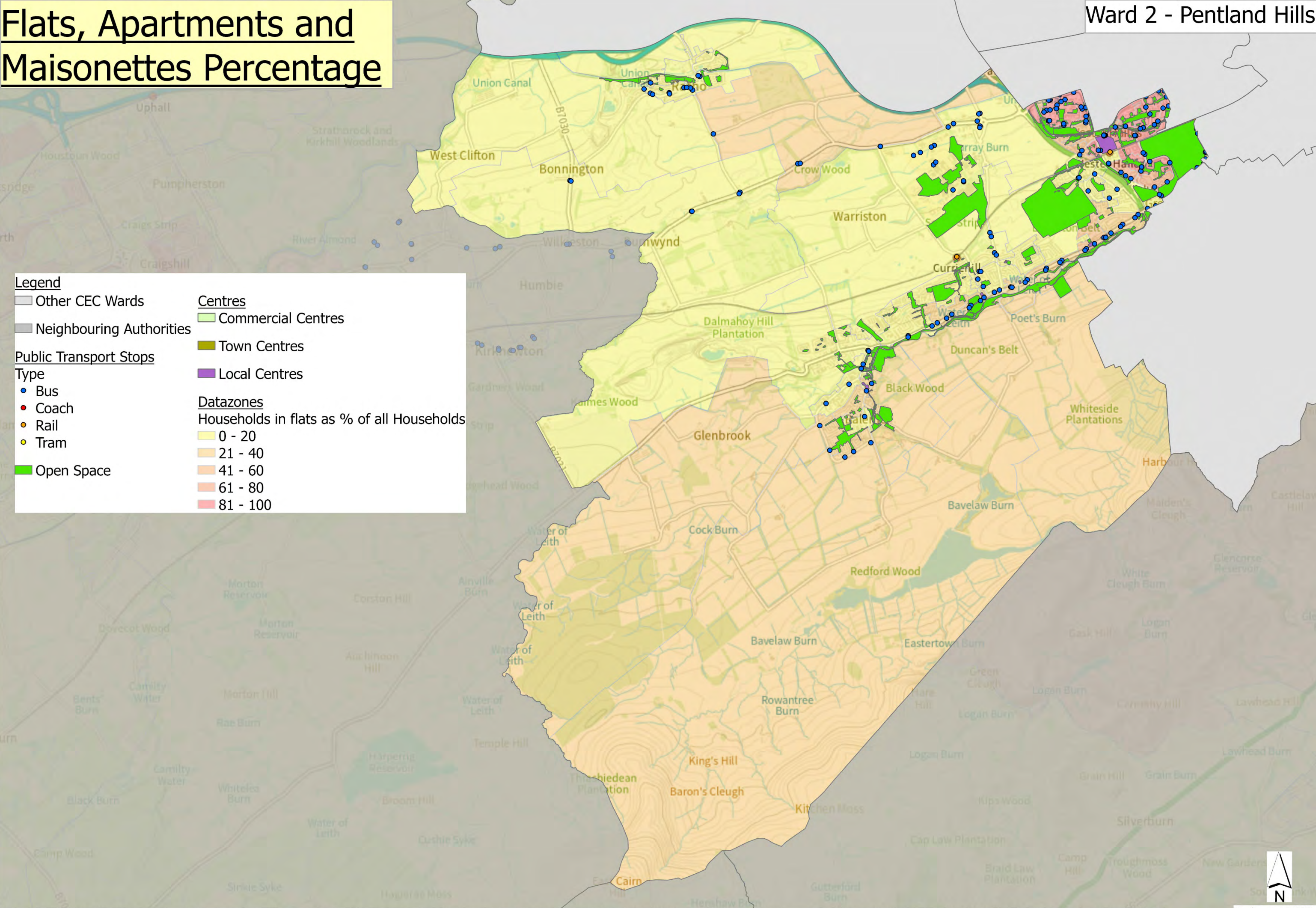
Centres

- Commercial Centres
- Town Centres
- Local Centres

Datzones

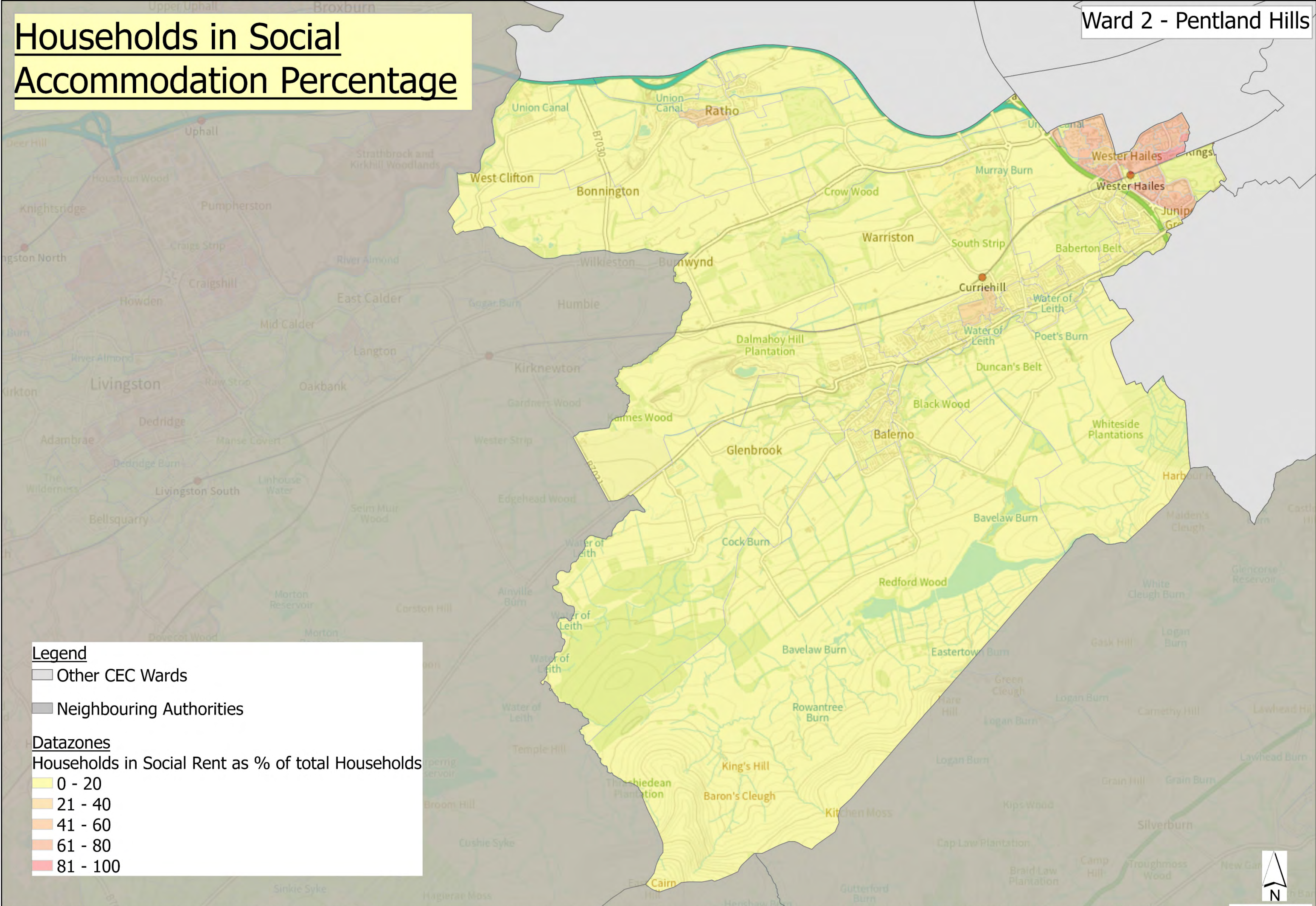
Households in flats as % of all Households

- 0 - 20
- 21 - 40
- 41 - 60
- 61 - 80
- 81 - 100



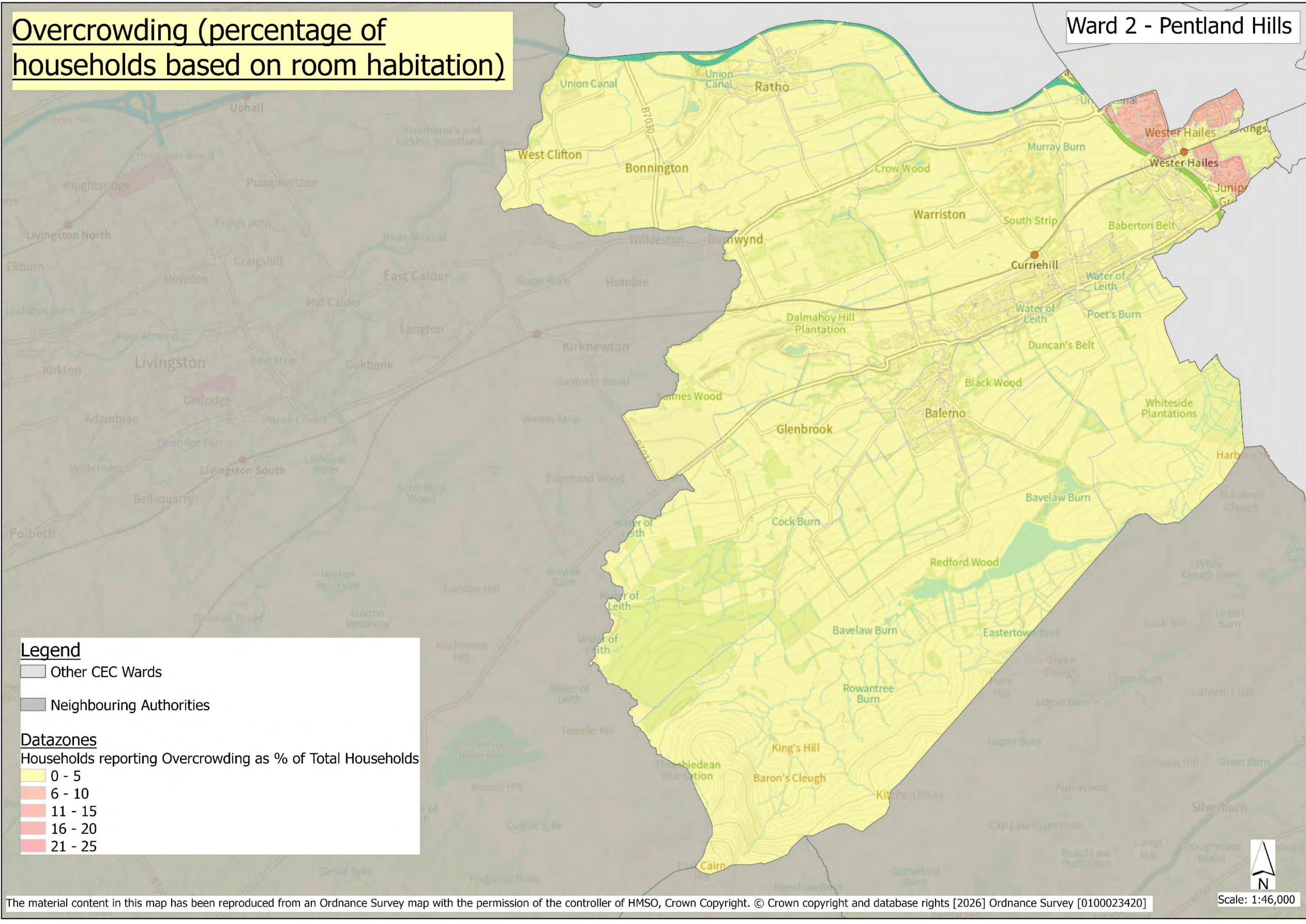
Households in Social Accommodation Percentage

Ward 2 - Pentland Hills



Overcrowding (percentage of households based on room habitation)

Ward 2 - Pentland Hills



Considerations

- Flatted accommodation is concentrated in the denser area of Wester Hailes which is closer to public transport and local centres. Houses are more likely to be found outwith these areas, reflecting a development pattern of small settlements in a rural area.
- Social housing is concentrated in Wester Hailes, which was planned as a post-war public housing development, and this is also more likely to be overcrowded.
- Parts of this ward are noted for having a high number of student accommodation bedspaces, as set out in the **Student Accommodation topic paper**.
- Through the engagement, the general public and children and young people were generally happy with their home. Children and young people commented that they would like a bigger place or their own bedroom whilst the general public wanted a bigger garden.
- The engagement considered that homes to meet the needs of other people were well met but there was a need for more affordable and accessible homes.

Economy

Demographics

- The occupation breakdown of the ward is listed below:
 - **8.1%** of people aged 16 or over in employment in the ward report their occupation as Managers, Directors and Senior Officials, compared to **8.7%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **24.7%** of people aged 16 or over in employment in the ward report their occupation as Professional Occupations, compared to **29.9%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **13.6%** of people aged 16 or over in employment in the ward report their occupation as Associate Professional and Technical Occupations, compared to **15.7%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **9.4%** of people aged 16 or over in employment in the ward report their occupation as Administrative and Secretarial Occupations, compared to **8.9%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **8.3%** of people aged 16 or over in employment in the ward report their occupation as Skilled Trade Occupations, compared to **7.2%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **8.7%** of people aged 16 or over in employment in the ward report their occupation as Caring, Leisure and Other Service Occupations, compared to **7.5%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **8.5%** of people aged 16 or over in employment in the ward report their occupation as Sales and Customer Service Occupations, compared to **7.2%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **5.6%** of people aged 16 or over in employment in the ward report their occupation as Process, Plant and Machine Operatives, compared to **4.3%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **13.1%** of people aged 16 or over in employment in the ward report their occupation as Elementary Occupations, compared to **10.6%** for the Edinburgh total.
- The qualification breakdown of the ward is listed below.
 - **12.8%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as No qualifications, compared to **9.7%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **18.6%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as Lower school qualifications, compared to **14.3%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **12.4%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as Upper school qualifications, compared to **4.4%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **5.9%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as Apprenticeship qualifications, compared to **4.4%** for the Edinburgh total.

- **10.5%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as Further Education and sub-degree Higher Education qualifications incl. HNC/HNDs, compared to **9.3%** for the Edinburgh total.
- **40%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as Degree level qualifications or above, compared to **50%** for the Edinburgh total.

Employment designations and centres

- The mapping below shows areas designated for Strategic Business Centres, Business and Industry and Economic Importance, alongside the network of local, town, commercial and city centres and some known large employers mapped previously.

Employment and Economic Designations

Ward 2 - Pentland Hills

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Neighbouring Authorities

Public Transport Stops

Type

- Bus
- Coach
- Rail
- Tram

Economy

- Largest Businesses - By parking space total

Strategic Business Centres

Business and Industry Areas

Areas of Economic Importance

Commercial Centres

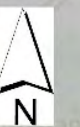
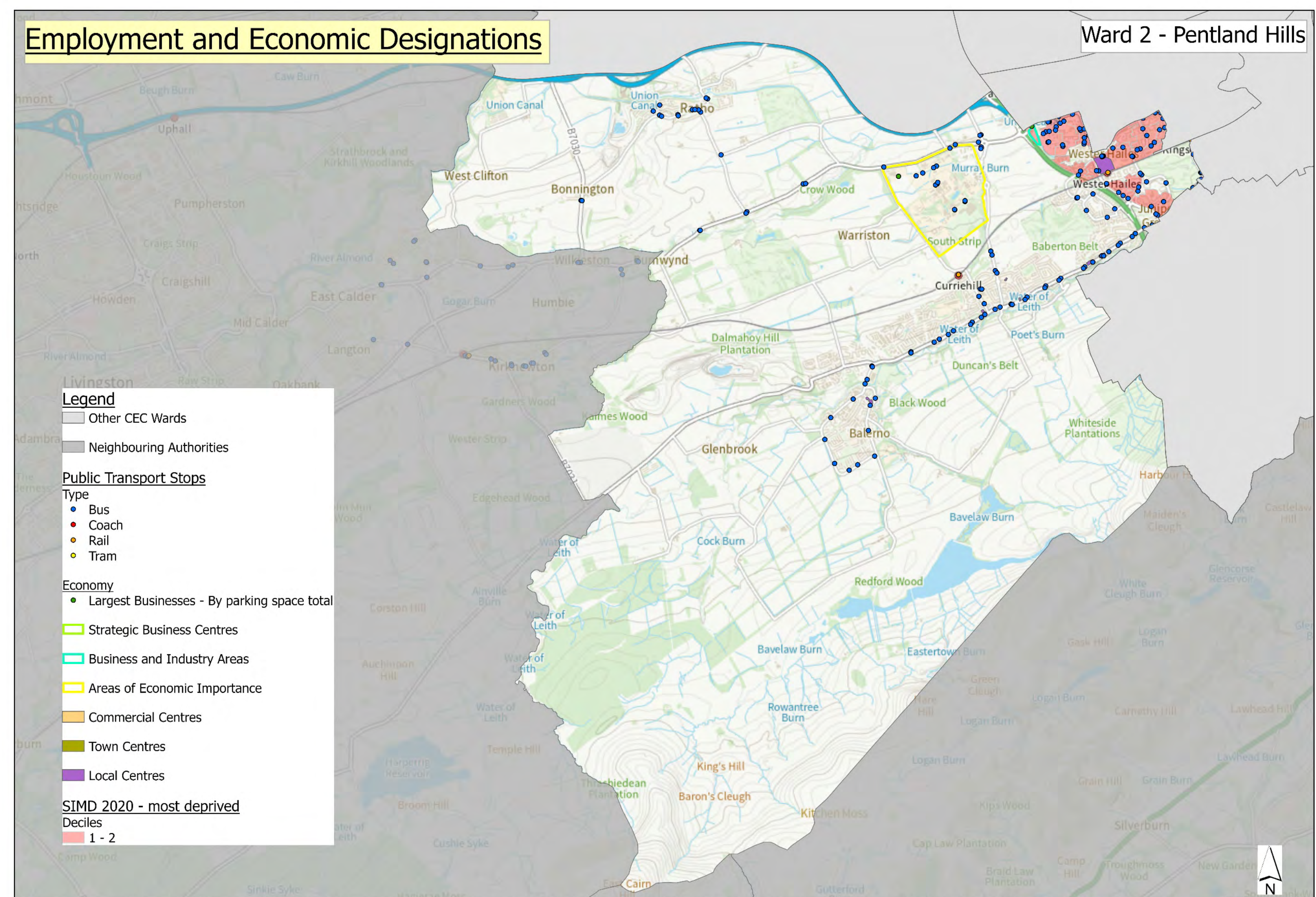
Town Centres

Local Centres

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

Deciles

1 - 2



Scale: 1:46,000

Considerations

- A designated Area of Economic Importance can be found at Riccarton based around Heriot Watt University and its associated Research Park. There are also designated Business and Industry Areas adjacent to the ward at Sighthill in the north-east and Newbridge in the north-west.
- Key employers and anchor institutions are based at Heriot Watt University and its associated Research Park, although large groups of employers can also be found in the Business and Industry Areas adjacent to the ward.
- Farms and rural based businesses are located in the green belt and countryside areas.
- There are no town centres in the ward, local centres are mainly arranged linearly according to settlement patterns from Wester Hailes to Balerno. There is a gap in provision in Ratho.
- Retaining and creating space for businesses to support local jobs and services including small business space and community enterprise is felt to be important.
- Need to consider the needs of farmers and landowners and how their businesses can be supported.
- The general public is not positive about accessing opportunities for work, volunteering or training in this area due to the need for a car to access opportunities without better public transport.

Transport

Demographics

- The breakdown of the primary method of travel to work is listed below:
 - **37.7%** of the working population report mainly working from or at home, compared to **39%** of the Edinburgh total.
 - **35%** of the working population report driving a car or van, compared to **25.1%** of the Edinburgh total.
 - **16.2%** of the working population report travelling by public transport (bus, minibus, coach, train, underground, subway or tram), compared to **16.7%** of the Edinburgh total.
 - **2.5%** of the working population report travelling by bike, compared to **3.8%** of the Edinburgh total.
 - **4.9%** of the working population report travelling on foot, compared to **12%** of the Edinburgh total.
- **69.7%** of households in the ward have access to a car or van, compared to **62.3%** of the Edinburgh total.

Car and van access and driving to work

- The areas where households have lower access to cars or vans are concentrated in Wester Hailes, aligning with population density, public transport access and areas of higher deprivation.
- Use of cars for driving to work is broadly higher in the west of the ward which is further from the city centre and lower in population density and public transport access.

Public Transport

- Public Transport Accessibility Levels (PTAL) are calculated by the Council based on service patterns and stops and is mapped below from 1 (lowest level of accessibility) to 6 (the highest level). A rating of 3 or higher is considered to have a good level of access.
- Good access is concentrated in Wester Hailes and Hermiston Park and Ride, adjacent to Heriot Watt University.
- Bus routes run along the A70 corridor serving Juniper Green, Currie and Balerno.
- There is limited public transport serving Ratho.
- Proposed orbital bus routes and improved connections will enhance connections and general access around Wester Hailes, Riccarton and Currie.

Active travel

- Key active travel paths are the shared-use Water of Leith walkway leading from the urban area of Edinburgh through the ward and to West Lothian via a quiet road section of the National Cycle Network, and the shared-use Union Canal towpath leading from the urban area to West Lothian via Wester Hailes and Ratho.
- The City Mobility Plan has identified projects in Currie and Balerno which will reduce vehicle dominance, increase space for active travel and improve pedestrian access and sense of place in these areas as well as providing a new route segregated from traffic connecting Balerno to West Lothian.
- New active travel links are proposed from Curriehill train station to Heriot Watt University, Heriot Watt University to Sighthill, Ratho to Dalmeny via Newbridge, and Colinton to South Gyle via Wester Hailes. These proposals will increase the safe active travel network connections within the ward and to adjacent areas.

Households with no car or van access percentage

Ward 2 - Pentland Hills

Legend

Other CEC Wards

Neighbouring Authorities

Datazones

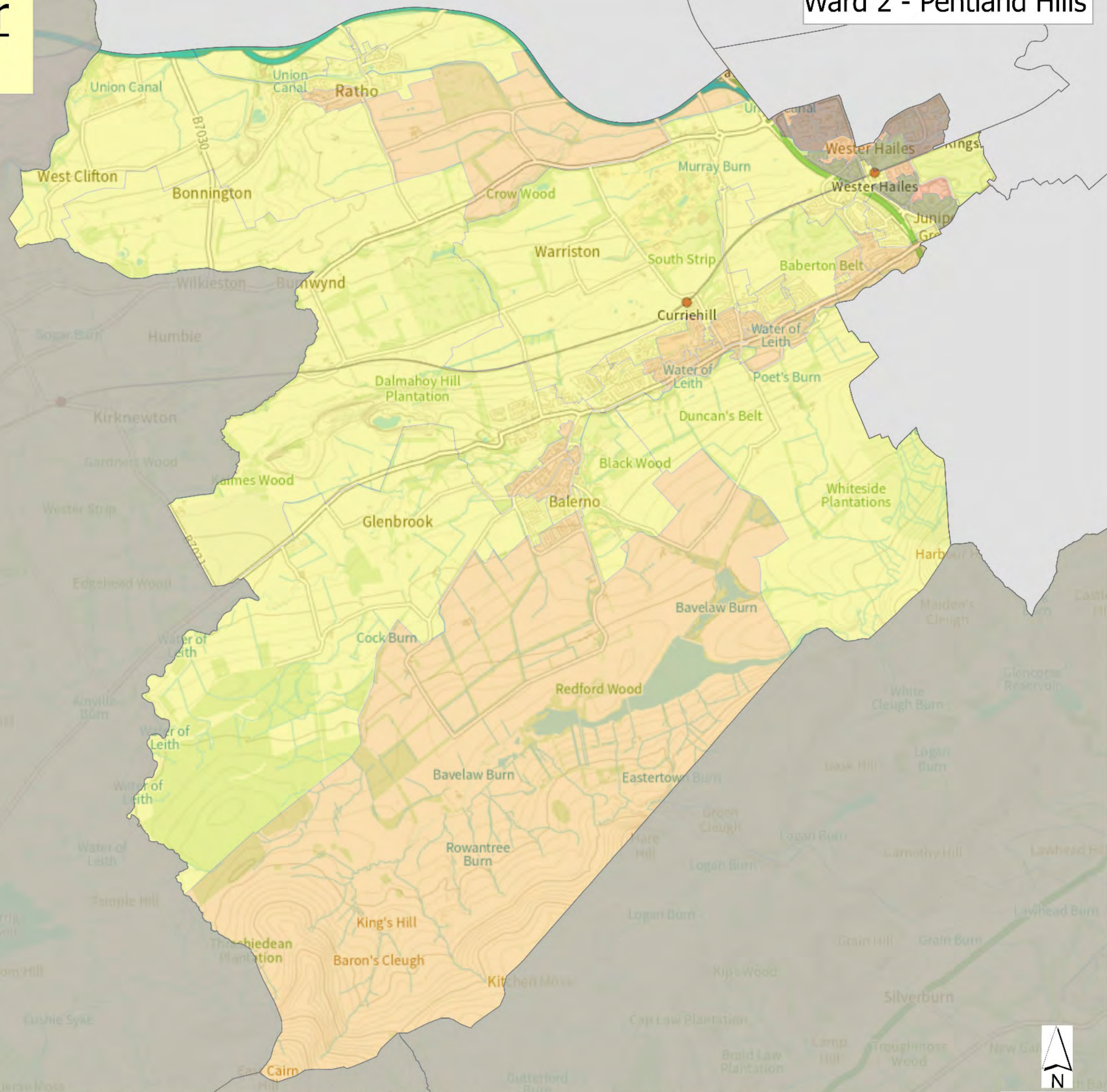
% Households with no Car or Van Access

- 0 - 15
- 16 - 30
- 31 - 45
- 46 - 60
- 60+

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

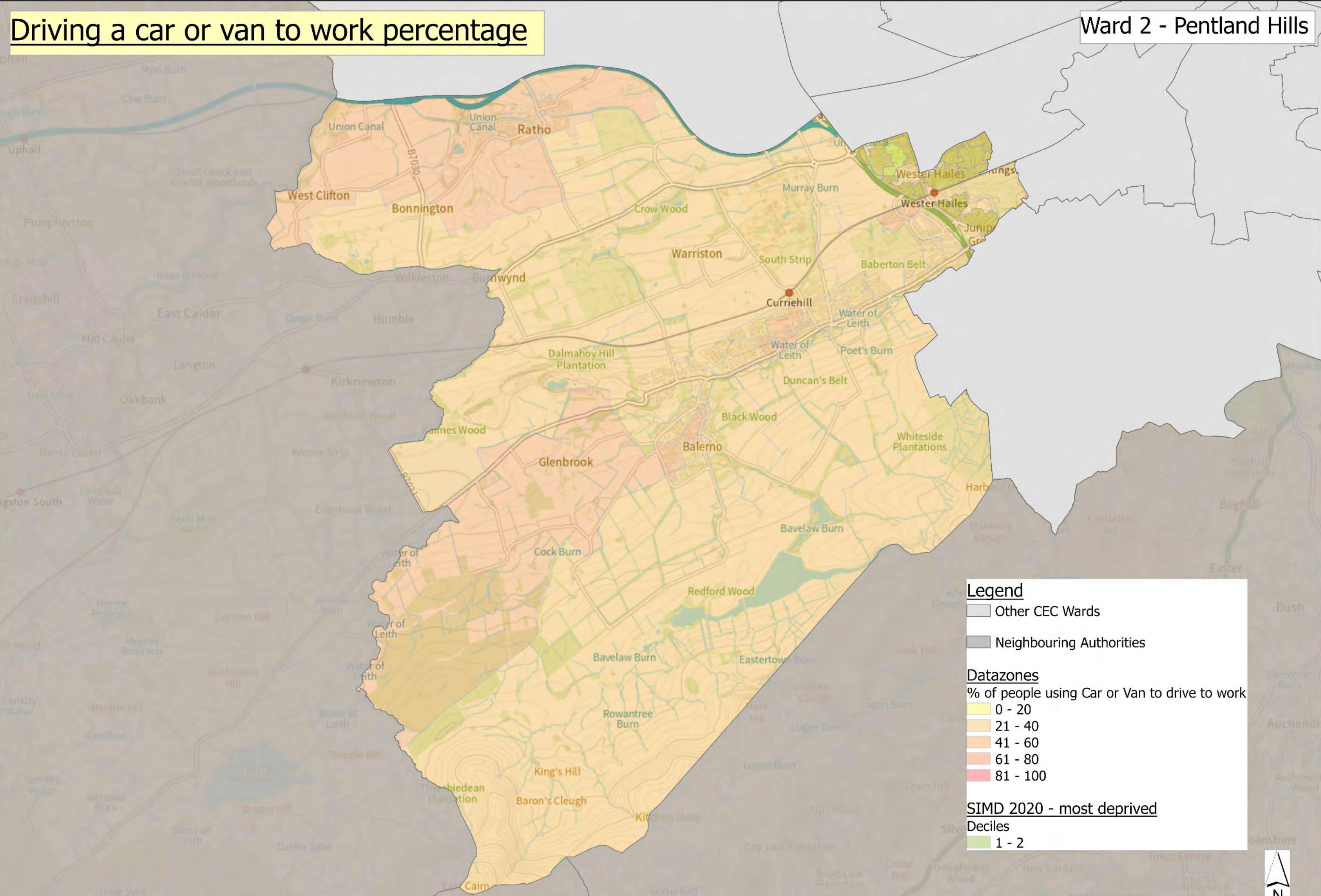
Deciles

- 1 - 2



Driving a car or van to work percentage

Ward 2 - Pentland Hills



Legend

- Other CEC Wards
- Neighbouring Authorities

Datazones

% of people using Car or Van to drive to work

- 0 - 20
- 21 - 40
- 41 - 60
- 61 - 80
- 81 - 100

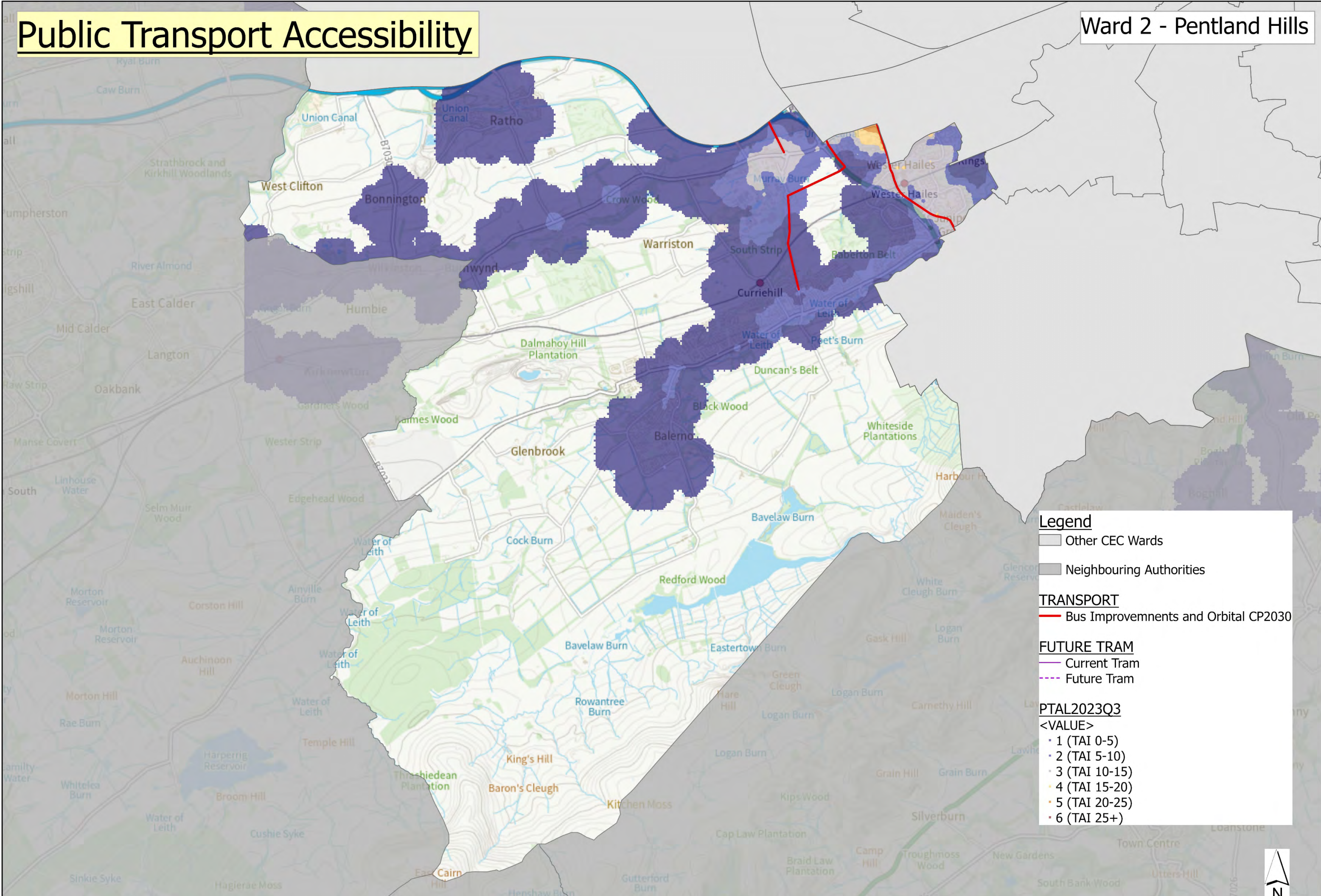
SIMD 2020 - most deprived

Deciles

- 1 - 2

Public Transport Accessibility

Ward 2 - Pentland Hills



Legend

- Other CEC Wards
- Neighbouring Authorities

TRANSPORT

- Bus Improvemnts and Orbital CP2030

FUTURE TRAM

- Current Tram
- Future Tram

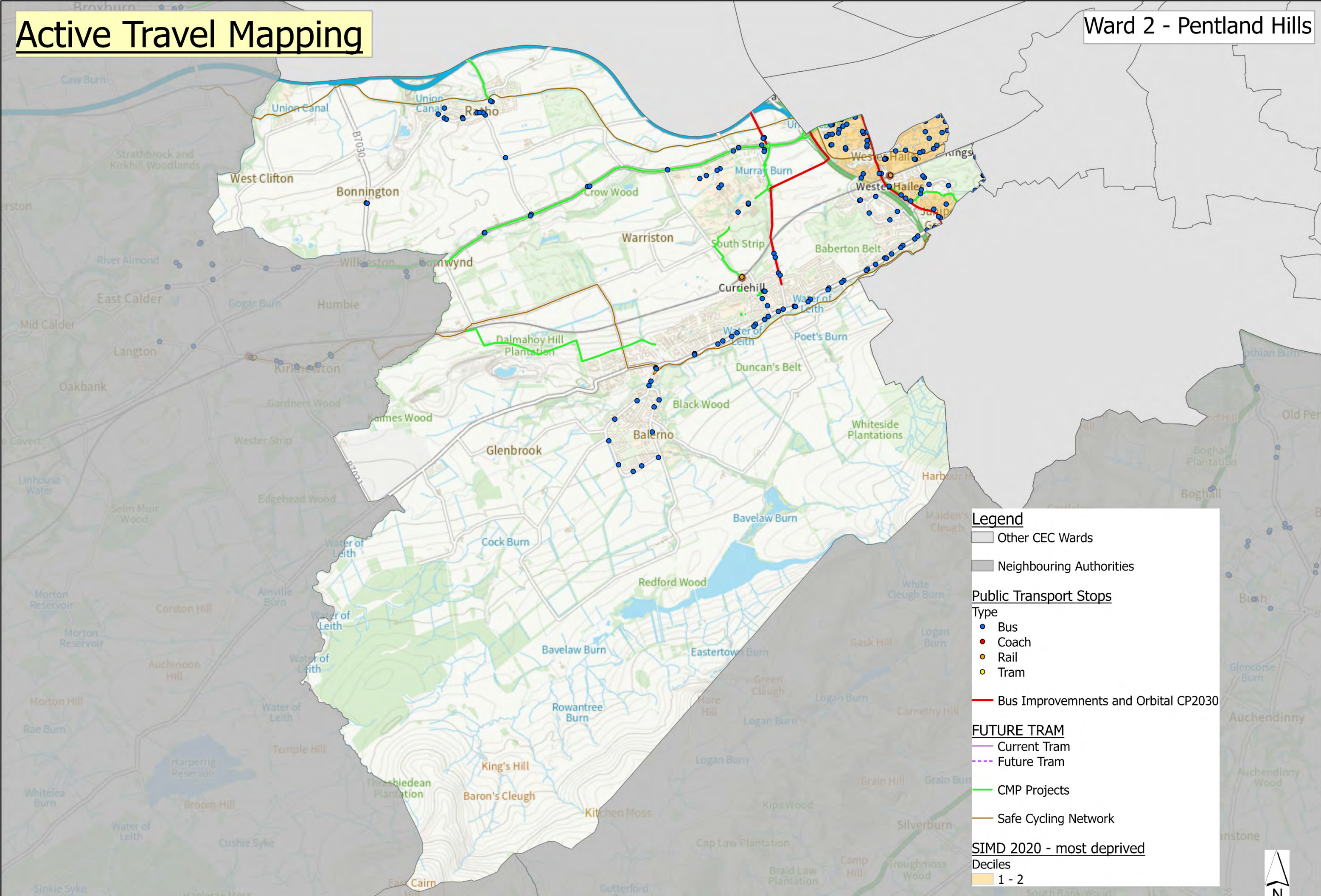
PTAL2023Q3

<VALUE>

- 1 (TAI 0-5)
- 2 (TAI 5-10)
- 3 (TAI 10-15)
- 4 (TAI 15-20)
- 5 (TAI 20-25)
- 6 (TAI 25+)

Active Travel Mapping

Ward 2 - Pentland Hills



Legend

Other CEC Wards

Neighbouring Authorities

Public Transport Stops

Type

- Bus
- Coach
- Rail
- Tram

Bus Improvemments and Orbital CP2030

FUTURE TRAM

- Current Tram
- Future Tram

CMP Projects

Safe Cycling Network

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

Deciles

- 1 - 2

Considerations

- A higher percentage of people in the ward drive to work compared to the Edinburgh average whilst public transport use is broadly similar and the percentage of people walking and cycling is lower.
- Percentage of households with car and van access is higher than the Edinburgh average.
- Areas of lower of access to a car or van broadly line up with areas of higher deprivation and public transport access within the urban area at Wester Hailes.
- Public transport accessibility is concentrated in Wester Hailes, Hermiston Park and Ride adjacent to Heriot Watt University and along the A70 corridor. Ratho has some service, but levels of accessibility are generally poor.
- City Mobility Plan improvements include new active travel links Curriehill train station to Heriot Watt University, Heriot Watt University to Sighthill, Ratho to Dalmeny via Newbridge, Colinton to South Gyle via Wester Hailes and Balerno to West Lothian and the National Cycle Network. Improvements are also proposed within the Currie and Balerno settlement area.
- Public transport access and future City Mobility Plan improvements are concentrated on proposed orbital bus routes and connections which will improve general access in this ward and provide connections to other parts of the city.
- The general public engagement was not positive about being able to get around by active travel. There was identified need for more dedicated walking/cycling paths and better lighting along the Canal/ Water of Leith.
- Children and young people support active travel but commented that there needed to be more safe paths for cycling/scooting. They generally felt safe moving around but less so in the dark.
- The general public was not positive about the public transport – some areas were well served but some areas do not have a bus or a bus with direct access to the city centre. Public transport was a key thing to change.
- Children and young people were using public transport and supported additional tram lines.
- The general public were concerned about the traffic and parking and particularly highlighted rat-running and long-term airport parking.

Environment

Green blue network and biodiversity

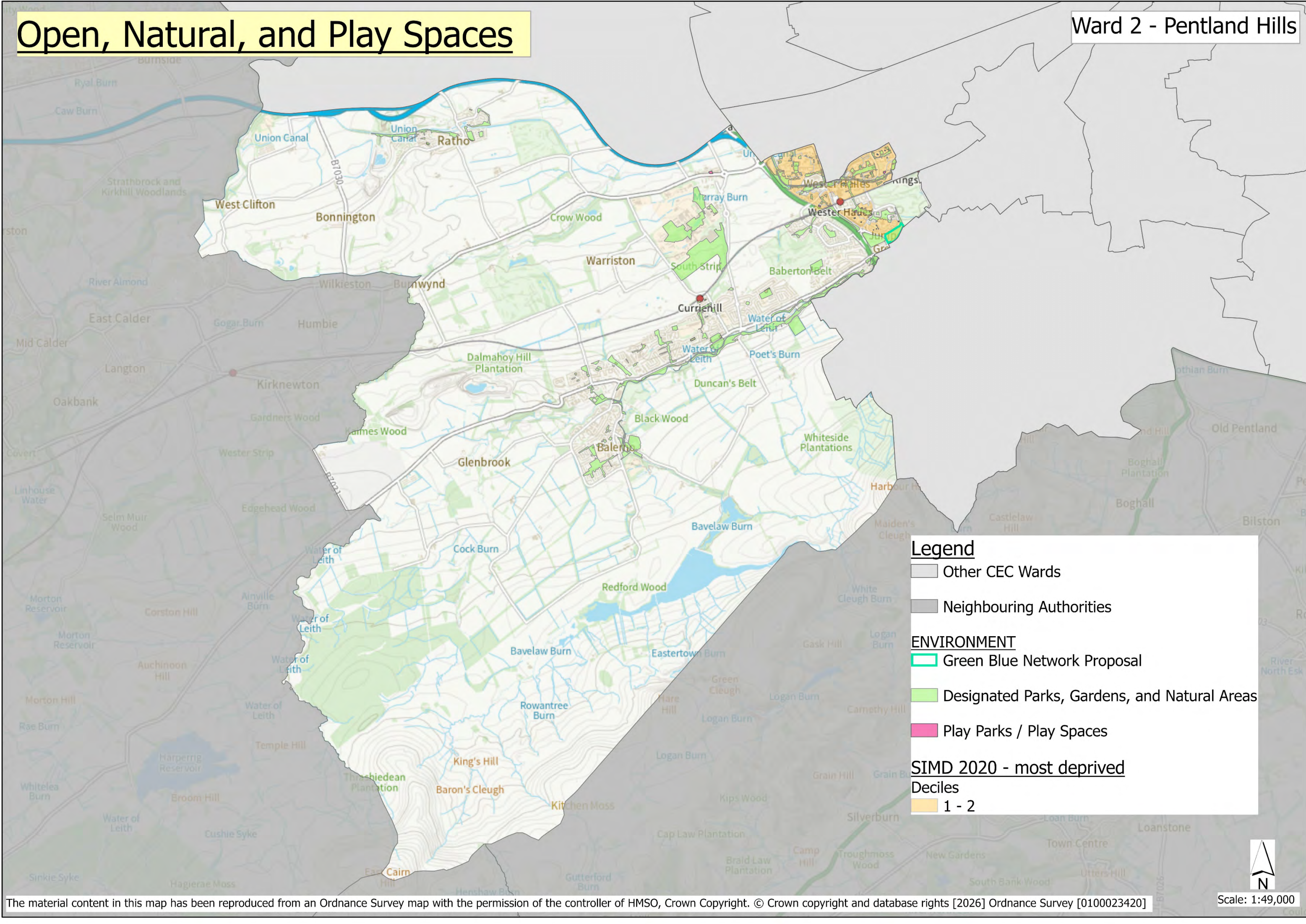
- Open spaces are well dispersed throughout the ward.
- Mapping has been produced showing Edinburgh's Green Blue Network at the strategic, city-wide scale. It shows infrastructure important for water management, biodiversity and recreation. It includes both local and national designations to show how they are interconnected.
- Due to this ward's location mainly outside the Edinburgh urban area, a number of green blue corridors pass through the ward and connect strategically from rural to urban. These include the Water of Leith which passes through the city and joins with the Pentlands Hill Regional Park in this ward, and the Union Canal and Gogar Burn corridors which cross through the ward and are of importance for landscape, recreation and habitats in this area. Those corridors also connect with larger landscape areas such as Riccarton and Dalmahoy.
- Green blue network improvements are proposed in Wester Hailes at Clovenstone Drive/Curriemuirend including a new 4ha greenspace to be developed at Clovenstone Drive including a playspace and a football pitch. The greenspace will replace some of the open space at Curriemuirend associated with housing development.

Growing Spaces

- Growing spaces mapped include Council-run allotments and community-run growing spaces, which are displayed together to show opportunities for food and other growing in the ward.
- Council allotments are only found in Wester Hailes. Community growing spaces are also found around Wester Hailes and Balerno providing opportunities for growing, particularly concentrated in Wester Hailes where there is higher reported deprivation.
- There is a lack of growing spaces of any kind in Juniper Green, Currie and Ratho.

Open, Natural, and Play Spaces

Ward 2 - Pentland Hills



Legend

Other CEC Wards

Neighbouring Authorities

ENVIRONMENT

Green Blue Network Proposal

Designated Parks, Gardens, and Natural Areas

Play Parks / Play Spaces

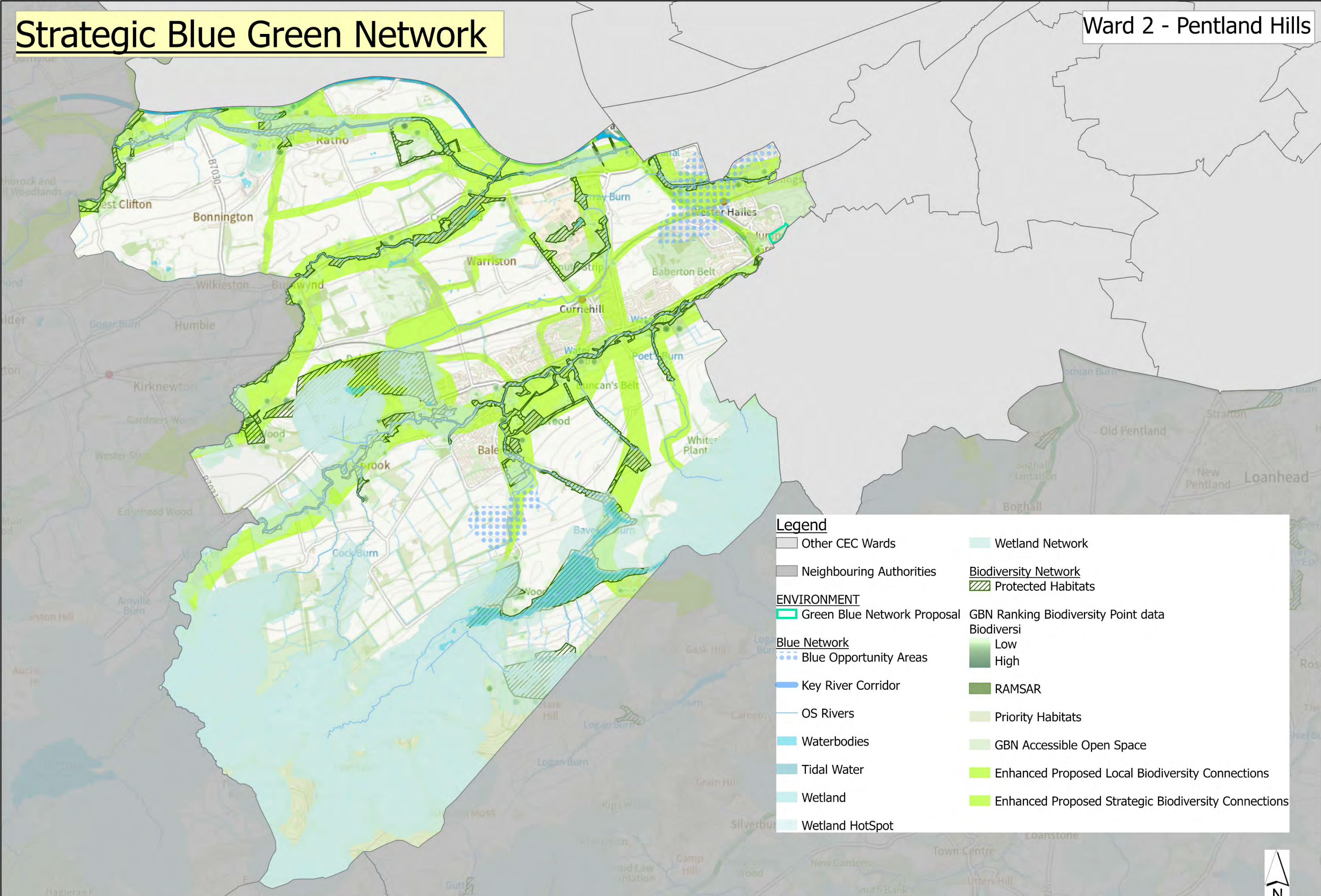
SIMD 2020 - most deprived

Deciles

1 - 2

Strategic Blue Green Network

Ward 2 - Pentland Hills



Legend

Other CEC Wards

Neighbouring Authorities

ENVIRONMENT

Green Blue Network Proposal

Blue Network

Blue Opportunity Areas

Key River Corridor

OS Rivers

Waterbodies

Tidal Water

Wetland

Wetland HotSpot

Wetland Network

Biodiversity Network

Protected Habitats

GBN Ranking Biodiversity Point data

Biodiversi

Low

High

RAMSAR

Priority Habitats

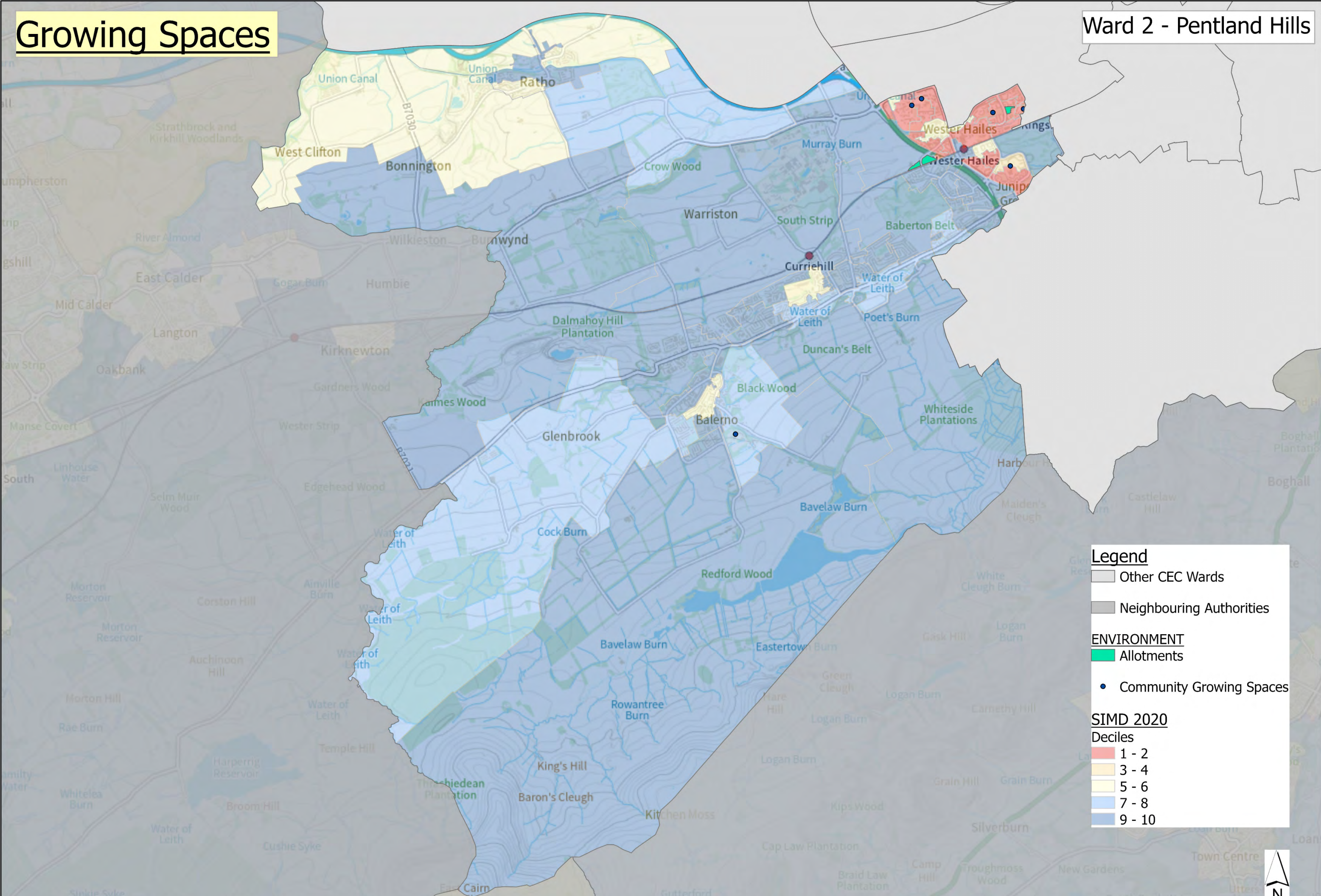
GBN Accessible Open Space

Enhanced Proposed Local Biodiversity Connections

Enhanced Proposed Strategic Biodiversity Connections

Growing Spaces

Ward 2 - Pentland Hills



Legend

- Other CEC Wards
- Neighbouring Authorities

ENVIRONMENT

- Allotments

Community Growing Spaces

- Community Growing Spaces

SIMD 2020 Deciles

- 1 - 2
- 3 - 4
- 5 - 6
- 7 - 8
- 9 - 10

Considerations

- Good access to green space and green blue network for the majority of the settlements within the ward with the surrounding countryside, Water of Leith and the Pentland Hills. This is reflected in engagement where good access to countryside is recognised from certain areas.
- The Union Canal is a key green blue corridor through the ward including Wester Hailes.
- Opportunities to improve green infrastructure in Wester Hailes needs to be explored,
- Lower levels of tree canopy cover in parts of Currie and particularly Wester Hailes and there is scope to improve this.
- Opportunities for food growing are concentrated in Wester Hailes with a smaller amount in Balerno. There are gaps in Juniper Green, Currie and Ratho. Engagement reflected that there were no allotments and people would welcome more growing spaces whilst recognising that a higher number of households have private garden space.
- Importance of improving active travel routes to access other open space within the wider area.

Appendix

This report details the consultation and engagement information utilised when creating the Pentland Hills Place Profile.

The document includes the area-specific results from two “what makes a good place?” questionnaires: one for public at large and another for children and young people. In addition, the report outlines the results received from previous engagements undertaken by the Council services and other stakeholders in the ward.

A total of 2649 responses to “What makes a good place?” questionnaires were received. Out of these, 799 were from public at large and 1850 were from children and young people. These were then divided and matched with one of the 17 Wards.

A total of 93 responses were received for the Pentland Hills Ward. Out of these, 46 were from public at large and 47 were from children and young people studying at the local schools.

In addition, a Local Place Plan for Wester Hailes has been submitted. The Local Place Plan encompasses denser urban areas in the east of the ward, namely: the Calders, Westburn, the local centre around West Side Plaza, Hailesland, Murrayburn, Dumbryden, Harvester and Clovenstone. The views submitted as Local Place Plan were added to each category under the separate heading.

Results

In this chapter, the results for the ward are further divided into seven categories – Housing, Health, Transport, Economy, Culture, Environment and Place. These categories correspond with the Place Profile structure. Each category presents the results from the public at large then the children and young people where similar questions were asked.

Housing

Public at large

How happy are you with your home?

- 5 Very happy
- 13 Happy
- 0 Neutral
- 0 Unhappy
- 0 Very unhappy

If you could change one thing, comments

- Change nothing/bigger garden.
- Being in a different location.

How well do the homes in your area meet the needs of people living there?

- 4 Very good
- 5 Good
- 9 Neutral
- 0 Bad
- 0 Terrible

Homes in the area, comments

- **Good:** Good modern housing with gardens and nice walks around.
- **Bad/change:** More affordable homes. More accessible homes.

What is your area like for the shops and services you need?

- 0 Very good
- 3 Good
- 5 Neutral
- 7 Bad
- 3 Terrible

Shops and services, comments

- **Good:** Some although not a lot – pub, chemist, grocery store, new library.
- **Bad/change:** More, esp. post office. Public transport links to other shops.

Thinking of your local shops and services, do you think there is too much of anything?

- 2 Yes
- 14 No
- 1 Don't know

What there is too much of, comments

- N/A.

Children and Young People

Are you happy with your home (the building)?

- 37 Yes
- 9 It's OK
- 1 It's not good

If you could change one thing, comments

- Change nothing.
- Bigger place/own bedroom.

Do you have all the shops and things you need near your home?

- 1 Too many
- 33 Right amount
- 12 Not enough
- 1 None

Shops and things, comments

- Adding skatepark.
- Nothing too much.

Wester Hailes Local Place Plan (2023)

- Concerns regarding new development encroaching on greenspaces and putting too much pressure on existing amenities, facilities and public services - new housing should incorporate some form of additional community, health, civic, or social amenity.
- Concerns that if new housing to replace existing business sites, the local jobs would be lost and distances to these increased, worsening access
- Safe and covered cycle storage is needed
- Residents suggesting the following type of housing are currently in shortage: Ageing in place; Accessible housing; Mixed tenures; 2/3 & 3/4 bedrooms; Small compact accessible 1 bedroom places (to free up larger housing which is currently occupied by single person); Over 6 bedrooms; Co-operative housing; Co-housing to reduce isolation; Units on canal for living.
- Housing needs to be affordable (family members not able to move to area as too expensive).
- Clovenstone Care Home: research and engagement with care providers should be undertaken before replacing with housing. A local care home would allow residents to stay within their local community.

Health

Public at large

What is your area like for the healthcare facilities you need?

- 8 Very good
- 7 Good
- 0 Neutral
- 1 Bad
- 2 Terrible

Healthcare facilities, comments

- **Good:** Close by GP and chemist. Easy to get appointments, great service.
- **Bad/change:** More services, esp. In underserved areas. Dentist and specialists in the area.

Reimagining Murrayburn, Hailesland & Dumbryden (2022)

- Promotes walkable, healthier neighbourhoods.
- Improves parks, play areas, and active travel routes.

Wester Hailes Local Place Plan (2023)

- Wish to create a wellbeing hub (such as the current Community Wellbeing Collective, Edinburgh Arts Festival) and more facilities that provide healthy food/ products
- Increase spaces, facilities and services that bring people together
- Public access and improvements to open spaces, as well as spaces to grow herbs/ medicinal plants

Transport

Public at large

How easy is it to walk, cycle or wheel to places you need and want to go to?

- 3 Very easy
- 5 Easy
- 4 Neutral
- 4 Difficult
- 2 Very difficult

Walk, wheeling, cycling, comments

- **Good:** Canal path provide access to the city.
- **Bad/change:** Dedicated walking/cycling paths. Poor lighting along the Canal and Water of Leith otherwise not accessible as a route at night. Pavements are in a bad state or not there.

How easy is it to get to where you need or want to go by public transport?

- 1 Very easy
- 2 Easy
- 6 Neutral
- 3 Difficult
- 6 Very difficult

Public transport, comments

- **Good:** Some areas have a bus to Edinburgh. Others don't have a bus.
- **Bad/change:** Direct bus into the city.

How do you feel about the traffic and parking in your area?

- 1 Very happy
- 2 Happy
- 5 Neutral
- 8 Unhappy
- 2 Very unhappy

Traffic and parking comments

- **Good:** Houses have private driveways. Okay but main roads are rat runs.
- **Bad/change:** More traffic calming/restrictions to prevent cut through traffic and people leaving their car while going away from the airport. Parking in Main Street in Ratho is making driving through difficult – double yellow line/restrictions should be added.

Reimagining Murrayburn, Hailesland & Dumbryden – Design Proposals (2022)

- Improves walking and cycling routes across estates.
- Safer crossings, traffic calming, and pedestrian-priority streets.
- Better access to bus stops and movement corridors.

Children and Young People

We know that walking, cycling, wheeling are great ways of getting around – it's good for you and good for the environment. Is there anything that stops you from getting around this way?

- No, nothing
- Not enough safe paths for cycling/scooting
- Don't feel safe in dark.

Public transport (buses, trams and trains) is great as it can reduce the number of cars on the road. What do you think about public transport in your area?

- It's great - I use it a lot
- Not always on time
- Takes too long

There is a tram that goes from the Airport to Newhaven. Do you think a tram line from Granton to the Sick Kids Hospital, going through the city centre, is a good idea?

- 27 Yes
- 1 No
- 9 Don't know
- 8 Don't care

Wester Hailes Local Place Plan (2023)

- Link to wider education settings & maximise existing links to Edinburgh Napier University, Edinburgh College and Heriot-Watt University.
- Establish a mobility hub at the local centre that provides a range of sustainable travel choices (public transport, shared mobility, cycle parking, hire & maintenance, click and collect and electric vehicle charging); obvious link to train station.
- Improve road/ bus area: pedestrianise road/ front of canal site to local centre/ shopping centre, allowing access for buses.
- Limit the level of parking in new developments and include requirements for electric vehicle charging, disabled persons parking places, car club and bike hire space, secure cycle parking (standard & non-standard bikes).

Economy

Public at large

How are the opportunities for work, volunteering and training in your area?

- 0 Very good
- 5 Good
- 9 Neutral
- 3 Bad
- 1 Terrible

Work, volunteering and training, comments

- **Good:** Some opportunities although car is needed access them.
- **Bad/change:** Better public transport.

Reimagining Murrayburn, Hailesland & Dumbryden – Design Proposals (2022)

- Plans for small business space, pop-up retail and community enterprise.
- Focus on skills and training linked to regeneration projects.
- Creates active ground-floor uses and hubs to support local jobs and services.

Wester Hailes Local Place Plan (2023)

- Proposed new canal footbridge as key element of local economy infrastructure (e.g. enticing walkers & cyclists directly over from the northern towpath across to the new canal-side hub and relevant Westside Plaza amenities generally)
- Provide spaces with affordable desk space hire and studio/ small business spaces for hire in local centre/ throughout Wester Hailes
- Support local businesses with central markets/ community shop
- Small housing units on canal. Church/ local organisations could have these to rent out (visitors, residencies, etc.) for additional income
- Strengthen active travel links to employment/ economy zones, and especially with wider West Edinburgh

Culture

Public at large

How good are the spaces and opportunities where you can meet up with friends and other people?

- 0 Very good
- 9 Good
- 6 Neutral
- 2 Bad
- 1 Terrible

Spaces to meet people, comments

- **Good:** Library, cafe, pub, community centre – depending on the specific part of the ward.
- **Bad/change:** Community hubs where lacking (e.g. Currie), using schools out of hours for community purposes. Better maintenance of play and green spaces.

How is the community space in your area?

- 1 Very good
- 5 Good
- 7 Neutral
- 2 Bad
- 2 Terrible

Community spaces, comments

- **Good:** Library, church halls, community centre – depending on the specific part of the ward.
- **Bad/change:** No classes in these spaces.

Reimagining Murrayburn, Hailesland & Dumbryden (2022)

- Community priorities: safer spaces, youth provision, and shared outdoor areas.
- Focus on local identity and neighbourhood hubs.

Children and Young People

If you go out to play, socialise, or hang out, where would you go?

- Friend's house
- Shopping centre
- Playgrounds

Are there enough activities, community clubs, and groups for young people to do within your local area?

- 16 There are plenty
- 23 There are a few
- 6 There are some, but I do not like them
- 0 Yes, but they cost too much
- 0 None that I know about

What clubs are missing / would you like to see in your area?

- Sports – basketball, baseball, hockey.
- Art, cooking, fashion design.

Are there enough things for you to do on your weekends and holidays?

- 23 Yes
- 20 Sometimes
- 2 No
- 1 Don't know

There are many free art galleries and museums in Edinburgh. Do you go to any of them?

- 7 Often
- 19 Sometimes
- 14 Very rarely
- 6 Never

If you selected 'Never' or 'Very Rarely', tell us why

- Boring.
- No one takes me.

Wester Hailes Local Place Plan (2023)

- Engagement showed support for new central community hub on canal site. There is also support for venues to host larger arts or culture activities.

Environment

Public at large

How happy are you with the number of green and natural spaces in your place?

- 8 Very happy
- 7 Happy
- 2 Neutral
- 1 Unhappy
- 0 Very unhappy

Open and natural spaces, comments

- **Good:** Plenty of countryside around.
- **Bad/change:** No building. Better maintenance – more light, cleaner, more play spaces.

What is the access to growing spaces like now?

- 2 Very happy
- 5 Happy
- 5 Neutral
- 5 Unhappy
- 0 Very unhappy

Growing spaces, comments

- **Good:** No allotments but a lot of houses have gardens.
- **Bad/change:** To have some.

Climate change, comments

- Surface flooding. Better insulation.

How would you rate the number green and open spaces in your local area to play ball games such as football, cricket, rugby, golf, basketball, tennis, bowls etc.?

- 2 Very happy
- 7 Happy
- 4 Neutral
- 4 Unhappy
- 1 Very unhappy

Ball game spaces, comments

- **Good:** Football pitch in Ratho. Tennis court in Juniper Green.
- **Bad/change:** None, more needed. Ratho football pitch is flooded/boggy.

How happy are you with the number of green and open spaces for children and young people to play and hang-out around in your area?

- 1 Very happy
- 4 Happy
- 5 Neutral
- 5 Unhappy
- 2 Very unhappy

Outdoor play spaces, comments

- **Good:** There are some in some parts and no in other.
- **Bad/change:** Creating them, esp. for older kids. Better maintenance and more investment.

Pentland Hills Regional Park Strategic Plan (2019–2028)

- Community feedback valued volunteering, Ranger service, and outdoor education.
- Supports school and community use of the hills for learning and wellbeing.
- Protects landscapes, habitats, and water environment.
- Addresses erosion, path maintenance, grazing, invasive species, and biodiversity.
- Supports peatland care, woodland planting, and climate adaptation.

Reimagining Murrayburn, Hailesland & Dumbryden (2022)

- Adds green infrastructure, pocket parks, rain gardens, and planting.
- Increases tree cover and biodiversity in neighbourhood spaces.
- Promotes climate-resilient landscapes and improved local greenspaces

Children and Young People

How often do you go outside to play or hang out in your local area (not counting school times)?

- 19 Almost every day
- 21 A few days a week
- 2 Once a week
- 3 Rarely
- 1 I don't go outdoors to play or hang out

Are there enough good parks or greenspaces near you to play/hang out?

- 20 Yes, there are lots
- 21 There are a few
- 6 No, there aren't enough
- 0 No, there aren't any

What is your favourite park or greenspace in Edinburgh?

- Muir wood Park
- Juniper Green

Think about your favourite places for you to hang out/play. What do you like about it?

- It's fun
- It's close to home
- Can play football and ball games

What stops you from using the outdoors/parks more often?

- Bad weather/too dark in winter
- No toilets, no cafes
- Hard to organise meeting up with friends

How could the places where you hang out be better?

- Cleaner
- Need glow up – more equipment, more things to do, toilets

Are the outdoor spaces you go to clean?

- 2 Very clean
- 5 Clean
- 31 OK
- 6 Dirty
- 2 Very Dirty

Outdoor play equipment

- 19 In good condition
- 9 Needs fixing
- 10 Needs cleaned/painted
- 3 Needs replacing
- 5 There is not enough or any play equipment

How safe do you feel when hanging out or moving around in your local area?

- 28 I always feel safe
- 16 I sometimes feel safe
- 2 I never feel safe

How safe do you feel when hanging out or moving around in your local area?

- Young boys acting up
- Old man chasing and screaming

How close are you with nature?

- 8 7 (closest to nature)
- 17 6
- 16 5
- 4 4
- 1 3
- 0 2
- 0 1 (furthest away from nature)

What could be done to help nature in your local area?

- Less litter
- More trees and wildlife

Are you worried about the impact of climate change in your area? Do you want to tell us more?

- N/a, no.
- Loss of woodlands

Wester Hailes Local Place Plan (2023)

- Curriemuirend: retain existing woodland and greenspace site for community use - not to be developed for housing.
- Provide public toilets throughout Wester Hailes (incl. adult changing and hoists).
- Regular seating (with back and arm rests) along main routes to key facilities and amenities to offer resting opportunities along the way.
- Parks/ greenspaces with specific spaces and activities for older people.
- Food growing in public spaces/ in front of homes (no fenced in areas).
- Increase biodiversity, connectivity and cleanliness of the greenspaces.
- Provision for inclusive play and recreation.

Place

Public at large

How happy are you with your area?

- 2 Very happy
- 10 Happy
- 6 Neutral
- 0 Unhappy
- 0 Very unhappy

What would you change, comments

- Better transport links, improvements to paths and roads.

Any other comments

- More facilities. Weeding.

Reimagining Murrayburn, Hailesland & Dumbryden (2022)

- Engagement with residents, families, young people, and community groups.
- Priorities: safety, social spaces, play, youth facilities, and belonging.

Pentland Hills Regional Park Strategic Plan (2019–2028)

- Uses by wide range of people: residents, walkers, dog-walkers, cyclists, runners, schools.
- Balances public access with visitor-pressure management.

Children and Young People

Is there anything else you want to tell us that we haven't asked you about?

- Don't build houses on green areas

Data Sources

- Council Mapping, City of Edinburgh Council, April 2026
- [Scotland's Census 2022, National Records of Scotland accessed April 2025](#)
- [What makes a good place?, City of Edinburgh Council February 2026](#)
- Edinburgh Ward analysis of ScotPHO Profiles, Public Health Scotland, accessed April 2026
- [The Wester Hailes Local Place Plan, Wester Hailes Community Trust, May 2023](#)
- [Reimagining Murrayburn, Hailesland & Dumbryden, The City of Edinburgh Council, April 2022](#)
- [Pentland Hills Regional Park Strategic Plan 2019-2028, Pentland Hills Regional Park September 2019](#)