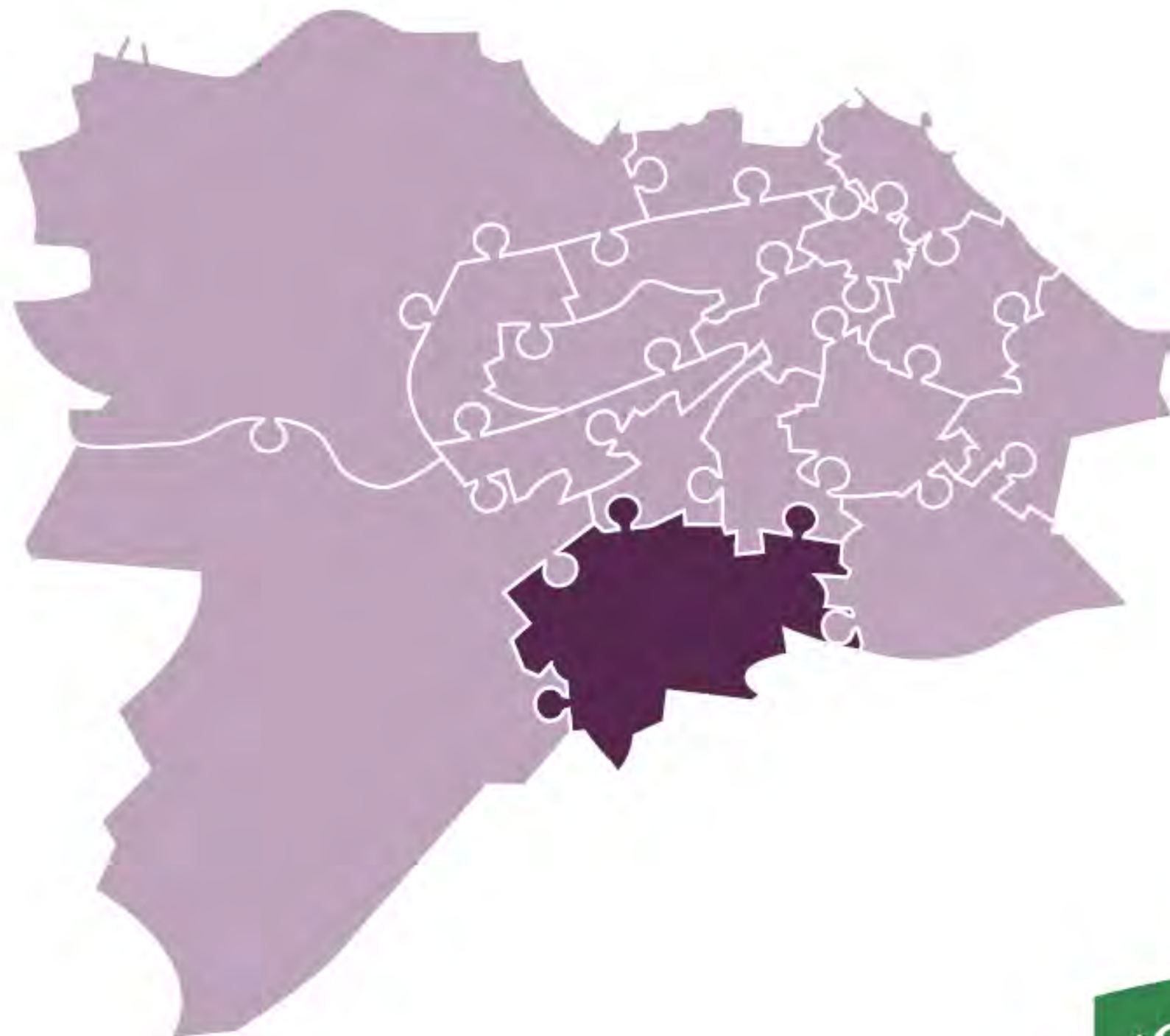


Evidence Report Place Profile

Ward 8 Colinton / Fairmilehead



Introduction

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

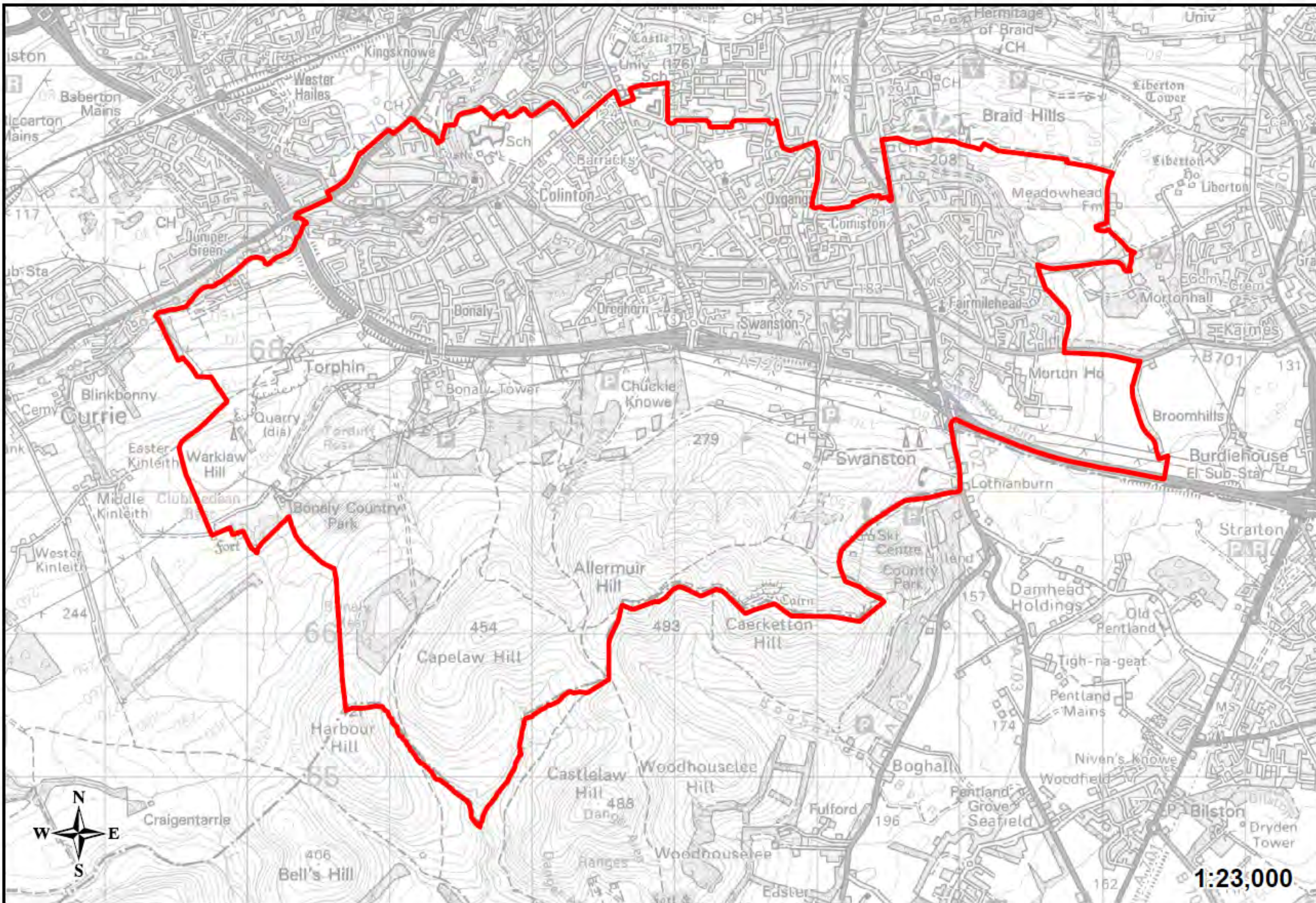
In line with NPF4 and related guidance, new Local Development Plans in Scotland need to be place-based, people-centred and delivery-focussed.

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
- There are health facilities accessible throughout ward - Housing stock level and variety adequate - Colinton and Oxgangs are local centres and there are a good range of shops - Scottish Water and Ministry of Defence are major employers in the ward - Good opportunities for work and volunteering - The accessibility and frequency of public transport in Oxgangs and Colinton is good - Access to green spaces and natural spaces e.g. Pentland Hills, Bonaly/Braid Burn and Water of Leith is well distributed throughout the ward - Good outdoor play equipment provision - There are opportunities for youth socialising and community activities - The Water of Leith Walkway is an active travel route within the ward - Fairmilehead-Morningside is a major active travel route	- Overcrowding of housing in areas - There is a lack in the variety of housing tenure types - There is suggested to be an overprovision of certain shop uses in the area (vape and tattoo parlours) - Physical exercise venues are lacking in the ward - There is poor public transport access towards southern areas of the ward, particularly near the City Bypass - The Fairmilehead-Morningside active travel route not fully segregated - Public transport is considered unreliable and journey times long - Active travel options are not generally wheelchair/wheeling friendly - Traffic congestion is high - There is a flooding risk around the Water of Leith - The condition of outdoor facilities is poor in places - There are no allotments and is a lack of community growing spaces in the ward
Implications	
- The implication for housing is that there is a desire for Increased provision of a variety of property sizes with greenspace - Improvements to public transport to improve connectivity between the ward and neighbouring areas - Opportunities to increase the numbers of quality active travel routes for walkers, wheelers and cyclists, including pedestrian crossing improvements along Braid Road and Comiston Road - Opportunities to establish local growing spaces and urban growing projects - Explore options to control traffic and parking at Pentland Hills - Increase provision of community outdoor spaces with specific uses – ball games, dog exercise - Improve the quality of outdoor facilities e.g. toilets, play equipment for all ages and overall layout to encourage community contact and socialising - Improvements in tree canopy cover, pollinator zones and rain gardens to increase and safeguard biodiversity, including exploring opportunities for planting and greening along Comiston Road and Braid Road - Increase in activities held at community centres	

Background

Colinton/Fairmilehead ward contains the historic village of Colinton which was a focus for early industry with several mills operating along the Water of Leith. The arrival of the railway later in the 19th century altered the character of Colinton and it turned into a leafy commuter area for Edinburgh with large villas.

There has been continued residential development around **Colinton** in the 20th century with, for example, the **Bonaly** and **Redford** areas.

Post 2nd World War, there was large-scale Council housing development in **Oxgangs**, **Colinton Mains** and **Firhill** which at the time were in a rural location.

There are also later areas of private housing notably:

- **Swanston**
- **Fairmilehead**
- **Buckstone**
- **Braids**

There are local shopping centres at Buckstone Terrace, Oxgangs Broadway and Colinton.

Comiston Road/Biggar Road is a key route through the ward.

The City of Edinburgh Bypass runs to the south separating the urban boundary of Edinburgh with the Pentland Hills beyond.

A section of the Pentland Hills Regional Park, including reservoirs and the historic Swanston village, sits within the ward. The Park is a mixture of publicly and privately-owned land used for farming and supports informal recreational use.

Other open space includes Colinton Dell, the Water of Leith, Colinton Mains Park and Fairmilehead Public Park. Part of the Braid Hills, primarily Mortonhall Golf Course, is in the ward along with the green belt around the historic Morton House/ Morton Mains. The Braid Burn runs through the ward.

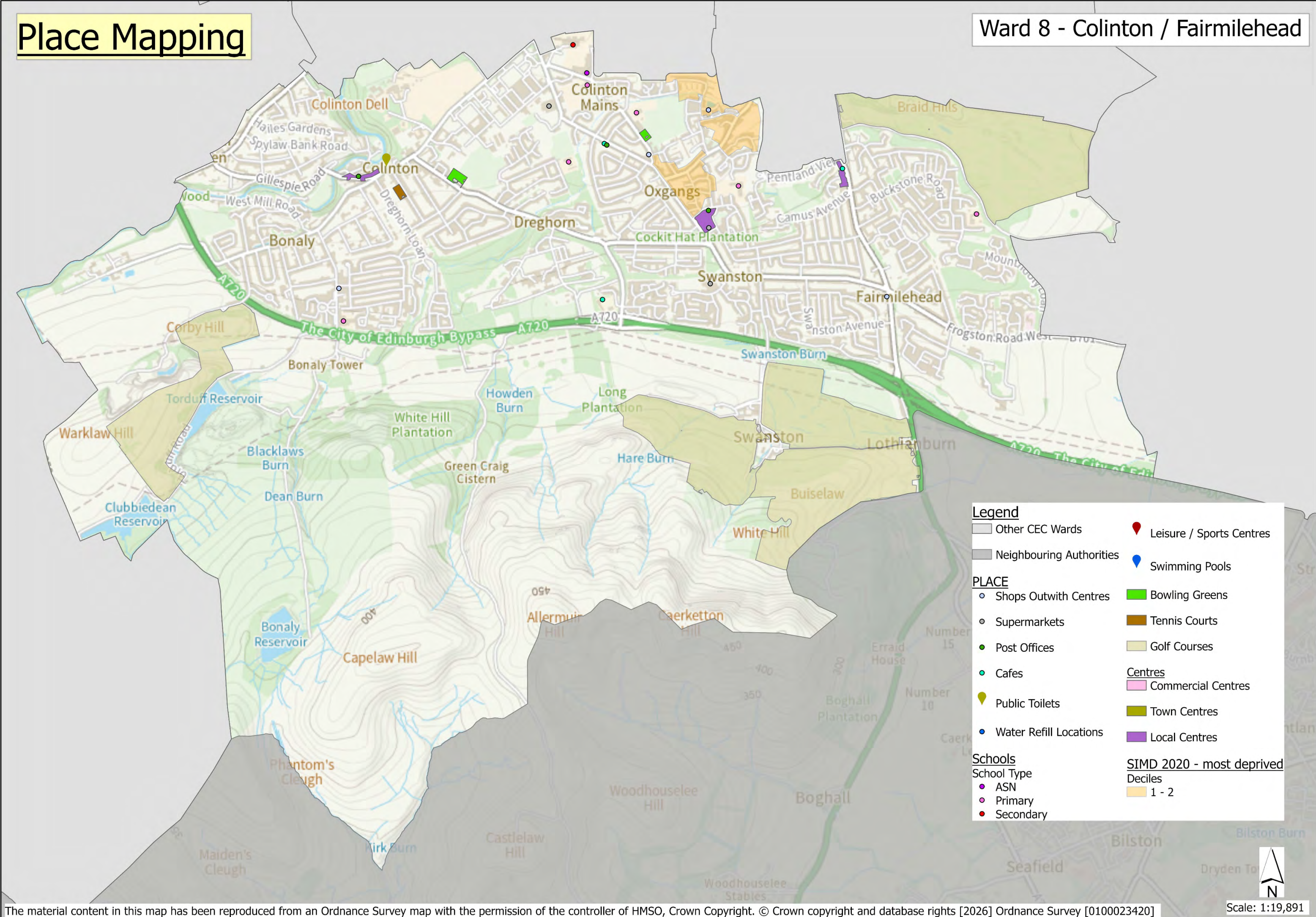
In addition, Merchiston Castle School, Redford Barracks and Dreghorn Barracks, are in the area.

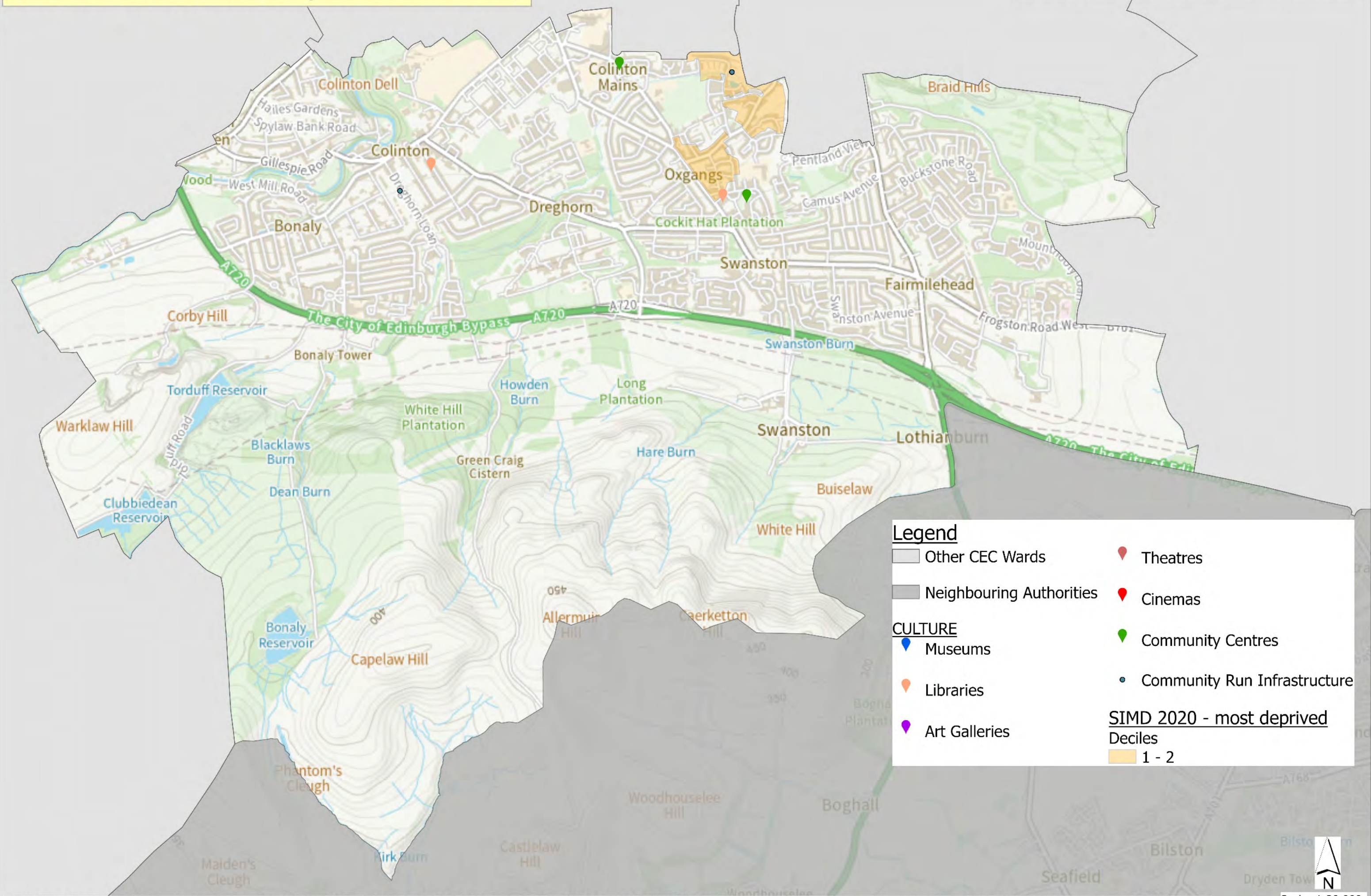
Place Mapping

- 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.

Place Mapping

Ward 8 - Colinton / Fairmilehead





Considerations

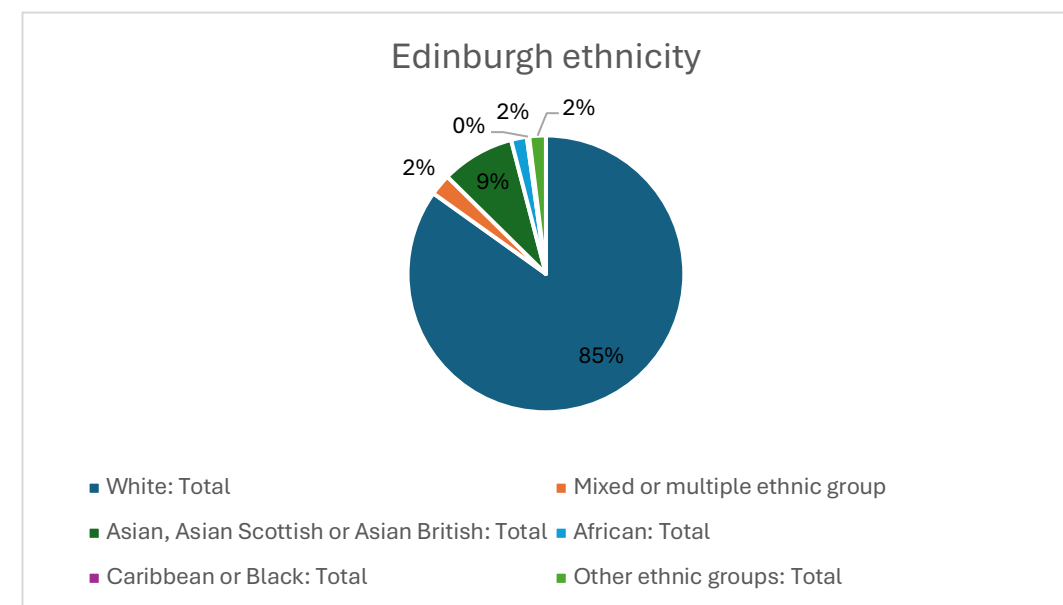
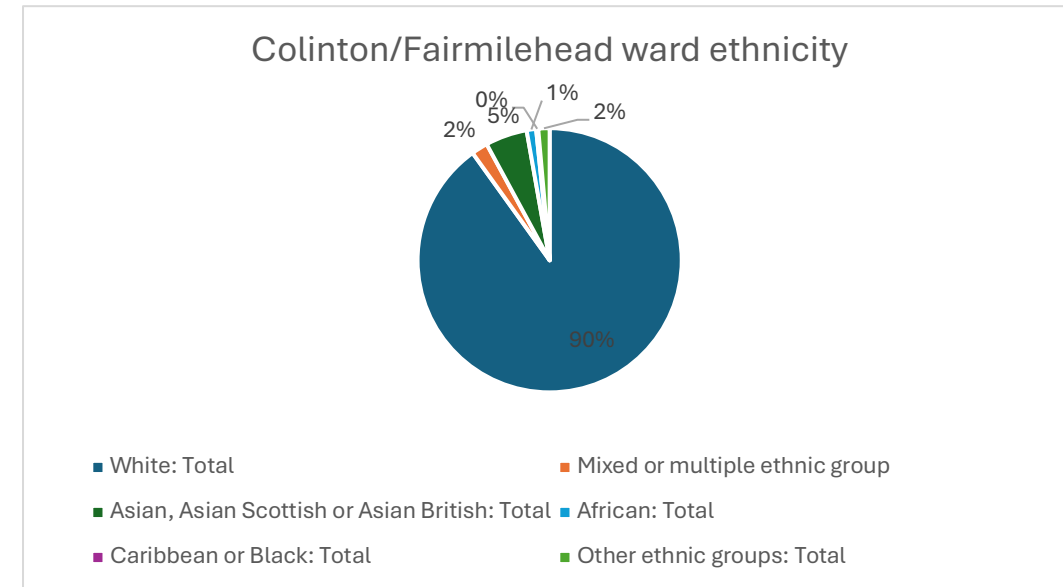
- Place mapping shows that amenities located close to local centres tend to align with the population density of Oxgangs or the historic centre of Colinton. These areas provide a focus for local amenities and public transport access for the surrounding residential areas.
- Overall, cultural spaces and community-run spaces are concentrated around Colinton and Oxgangs with lower provision at Fairmilehead and Bonaly.
- The main locations of play, socialise or hang-out are friend's house, shopping centres of food and drinks places.
- Children and young people think there are enough activities, community clubs and groups within the area including on a weekend and during the holidays. Things they wanted to see included more sports facilities (basketball, golf, tennis and swimming) and art classes.
- The general public found that there were good opportunities to meet up with friends and other people though there was a cost issue with using cafes, bars and restaurants in the area.
- In terms of community spaces, activities going on but community centre could offer more.
- Importance of housing layout and more benches in the parks to improve contact.

People

Demographics

- The population of Colinton/Fairmilehead is 24,468, which is **4.8%** of the Edinburgh total of 514,543.
- This population is housed in 10,253 households, which is **4.3%** of the Edinburgh total of 238,944 households.
- The following sites located within the ward boundary are allocated within the adopted City Plan 2030.
 - H85 Redford Barracks – 800 homes.
 - City Plan 2030 allocates a total 800 which would be a **7.8%** 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 and concentrated on Redford Barracks.
- The age breakdown of the ward is listed below:
 - The population aged 0-15 is 4,728 which is **19.3%** of the ward population compared to **14.58%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - The population aged 16-64 is 14,473 which is **59.2%** of the ward population compared to **69.5%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - The population aged 65+ is 5,291 which is **21.6%** 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 **90%** compared to **85%** for Edinburgh as a whole.
 - For the population recorded as not white, the largest groups represented are:
 - Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Group (477)
 - Chinese, Chinese Scottish or Chinese British (361)
 - Pakistani, Pakistani Scottish or Pakistani British (316)

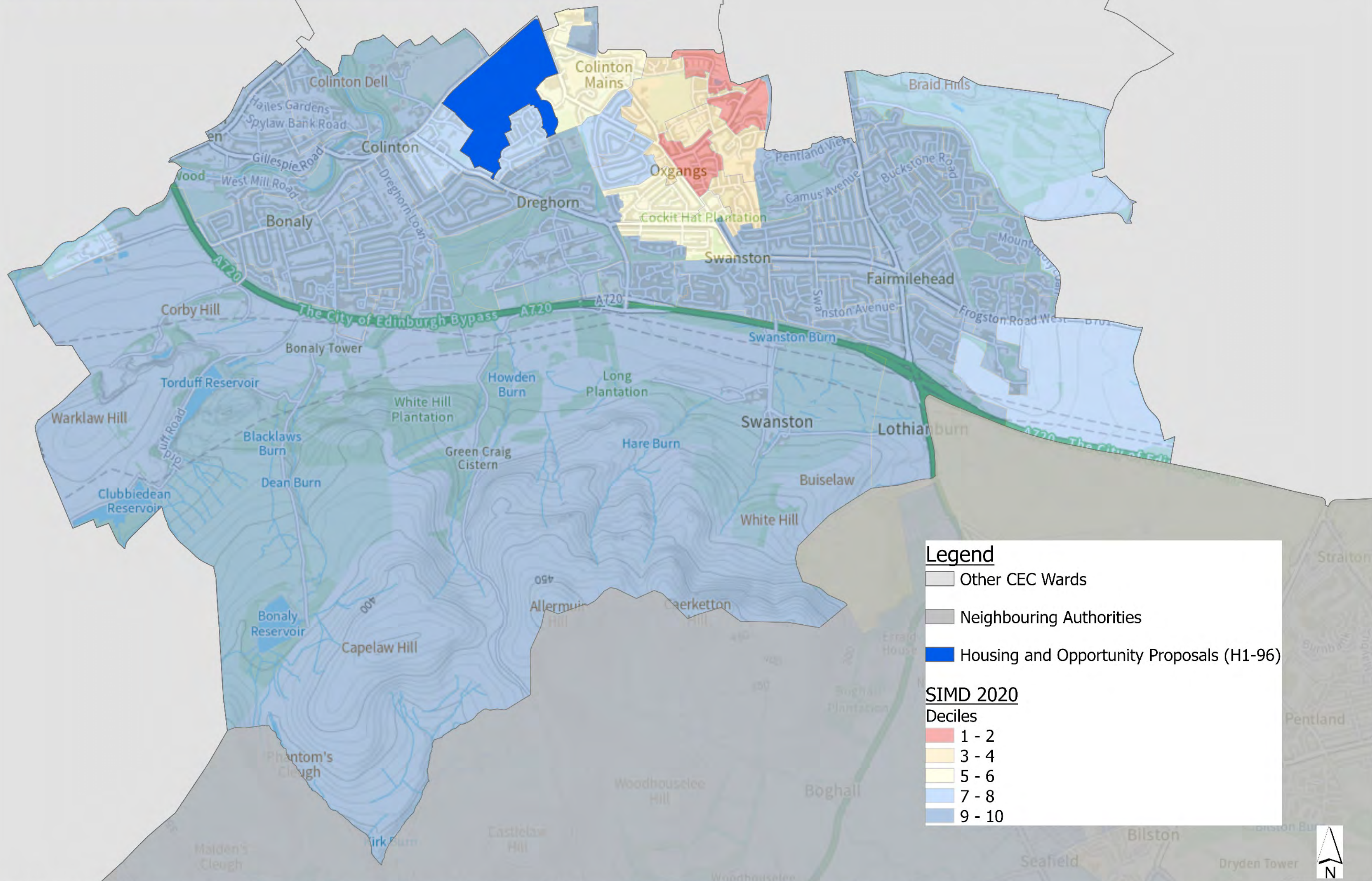


Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

- SIMD mapping is shown below and shows this as a ward with mainly low levels of deprivation; however, this contrasts with a neighbourhood which includes areas within the 20% most deprived in Scotland centred on Oxfangs.

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

Ward 8 - Colinton / Fairmilehead



Considerations

- The population is expected to grow slower than the Edinburgh average, with future growth concentrated on the potential redevelopment of Redford Barracks.
- The working age population is lower than the Edinburgh average, but the child-age and older populations are higher than the Edinburgh average.
- This ward is somewhat less diverse than Edinburgh as a whole.
- Some areas of the ward are identified as being within the most 20% deprived in Scotland, concentrated in Oxfords. This contrasts with large areas of the ward which sit within the 20% least deprived in Scotland, indicating a contrast with locations built as post war public housing developments.

Health

Demographics

- **18.8%** of the ward population reported having a long-term illness or disease, compared to **18.1%** of the Edinburgh total.
- **8.3%** of the ward population reported having a long-term mental health condition, compared to **11.9%** of the Edinburgh total.
- **85.6%** 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 **10,550**, greater than the ward population of **24,468**. 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 6221.8 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 **18.06%** 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, **28.8%** were overweight and **18.3%** 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, **34.75%** were overweight and **28.73%** 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**.
 - Bonaly & The Pentlands – Male life expectancy was **89.2 years** and female life expectancy was **90.4 years**.
 - Colinton & Kingsknowe – Male life expectancy was **80.9 years** and female life expectancy was **83 years**.
 - Colinton Mains & Firrhill – Male life expectancy was **77.8 years** and female life expectancy was **80.8 years**.
 - Comiston & Swanston – Male life expectancy was **86.2 years** and female life expectancy was **87.9 years**.
 - Craiglockhart – Male life expectancy was **81.3 years** and female life expectancy was **84.5 years**.

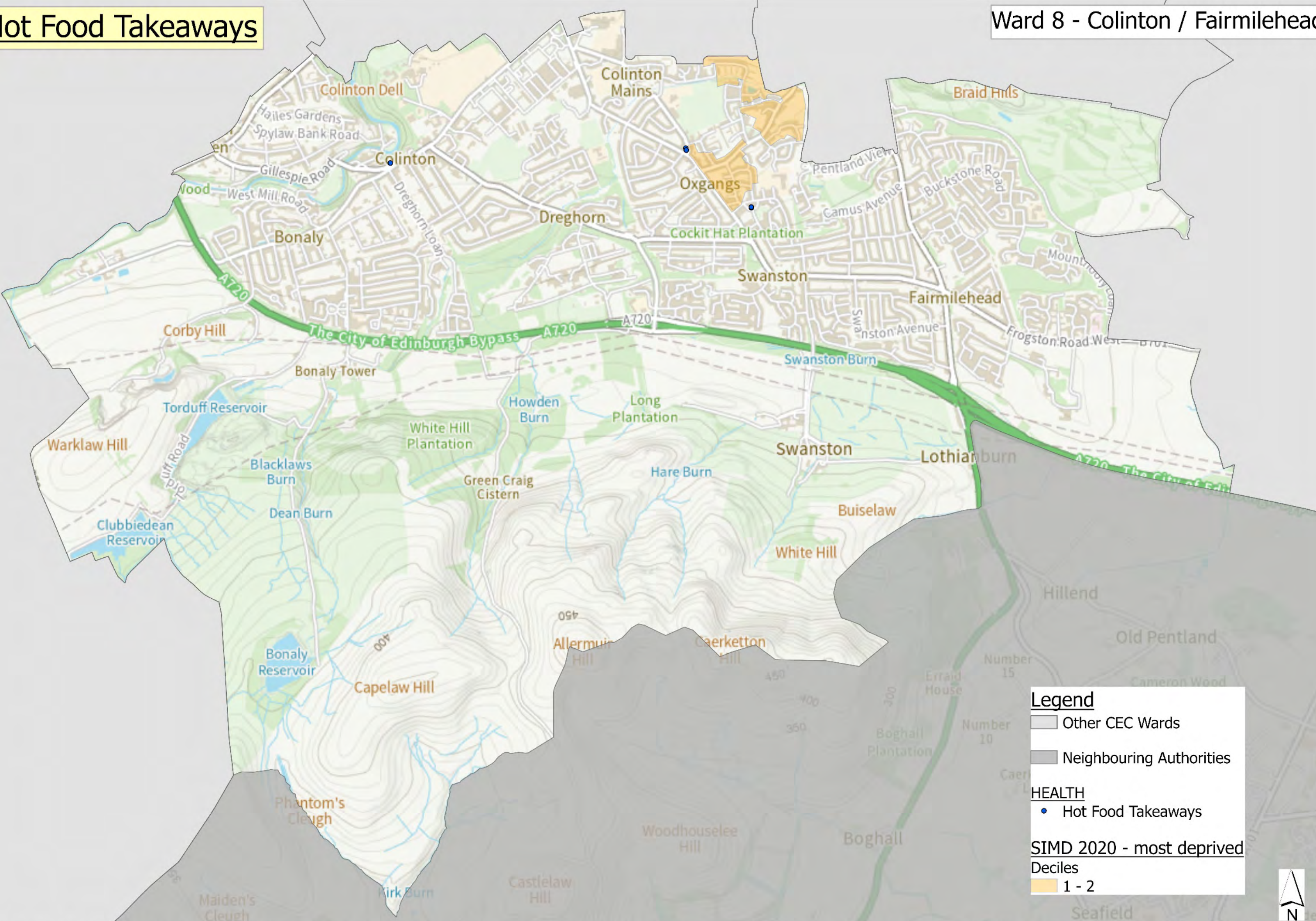
- Fairmilehead – Male life expectancy was **90.4 years** and female life expectancy was **89.7 years**.
- Oxfords – Male life expectancy was **76.1 years** and female life expectancy was **81.2 years**.

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**.
- There are no town and local centres with identified clusters of unhealthy uses within this ward.
- 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, there are no data zones within this ward falling within the top 20% priority areas lacking access.
- Few hot food takeaways can be found in this ward, although a couple are present in Oxfords which is also an area reporting higher deprivation.

Hot Food Takeaways

Ward 8 - Colinton / Fairmilehead



Legend

- Other CEC Wards
- Neighbouring Authorities

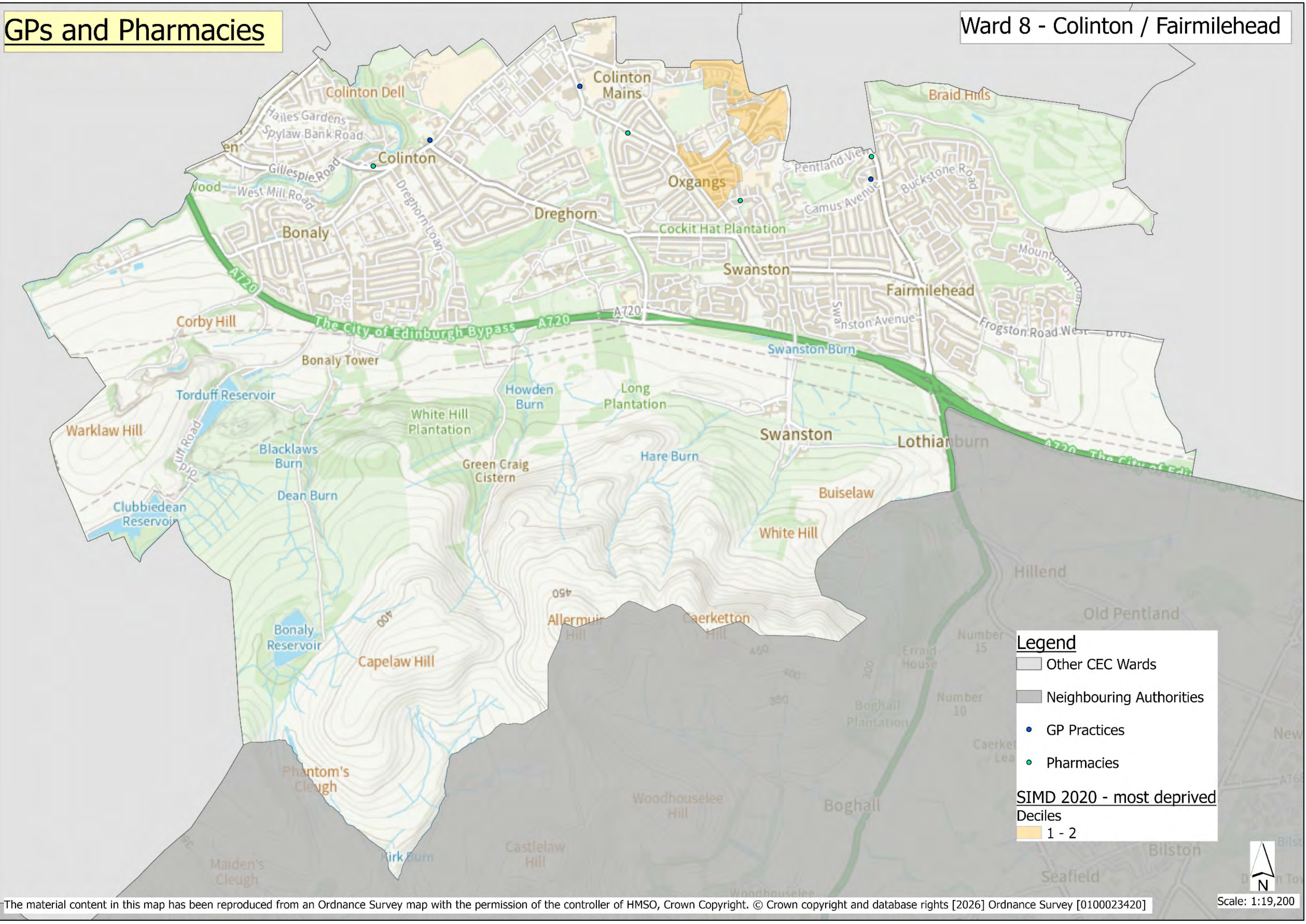
HEALTH

- Hot Food Takeaways

SIMD 2020 - most deprived

Deciles

- 1 - 2



Considerations

- The percentage of people who report being in good or very good health is above the Council 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 areas of higher population density and transport access around Colinton, Oxgangs and Fairmilehead.
- People feel positive about the healthcare facilities in the area and that there is a good range of closely located facilities.

Housing

Housing type and density

- 6,922 households live in houses, which is **67.5%** compared with **36.8%** of the Edinburgh total, while 3,328, which is **32.5%**, live in flats compared with **63.2%** of the Edinburgh total. One lives in a caravan or another mobile/temporary structure.
- Although the level of flatted accommodation is lower on average than the Edinburgh total, mapping shows this to be concentrated in Oxgangs.
- Population density as measured by households per hectare is higher in Oxgangs than the rest of the ward.

Housing tenure and overcrowding

- The housing tenure breakdown of the ward is listed below:
 - **76%** households in the ward report their housing tenure as Owned, compared to **60.1%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **11.5%** households in the ward report their housing tenure as Social Rented, compared to **15.7%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **11.5%** households in the ward report their housing tenure as Private Rented, compared to **23.1%** for the Edinburgh total.
- The level of owner occupation is greater than the Edinburgh average, but fewer households live in socially rented accommodation than the Edinburgh average. Mapping shows households in socially rented accommodation to be concentrated in Oxgangs.
- The level of overcrowding as measured by Census reporting of number of people within occupiable rooms per household is higher in Oxgangs.

Density (Households per Hectare)

Ward 8 - Colinton / Fairmilehead

Legend

- Other CEC Wards
- Neighbouring Authorities

Public Transport Stops

Type

- Bus
- Coach
- Rail
- Tram

Open Space

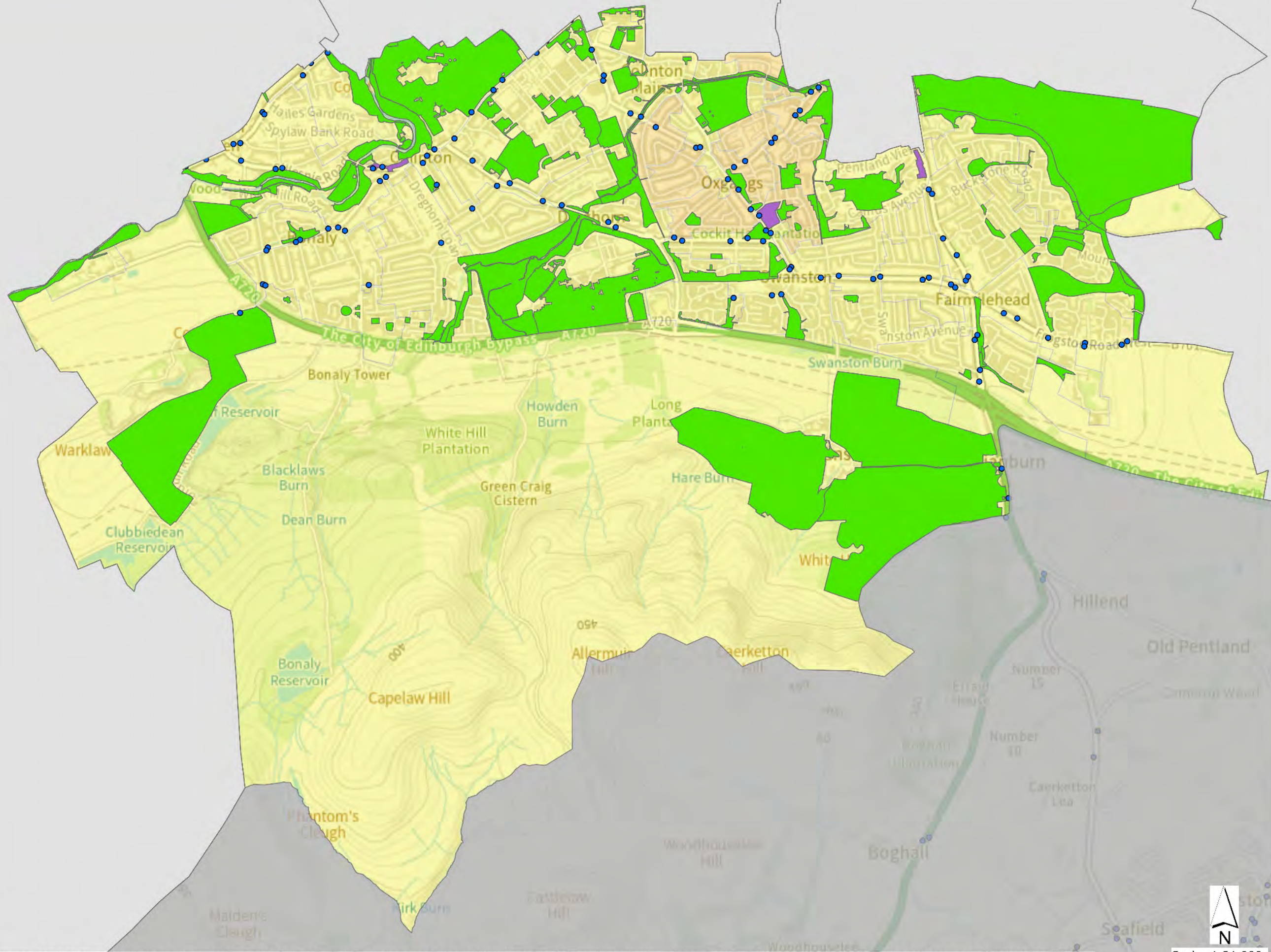
Centres

- Commercial Centres
- Town Centres
- Local Centres

Datazones

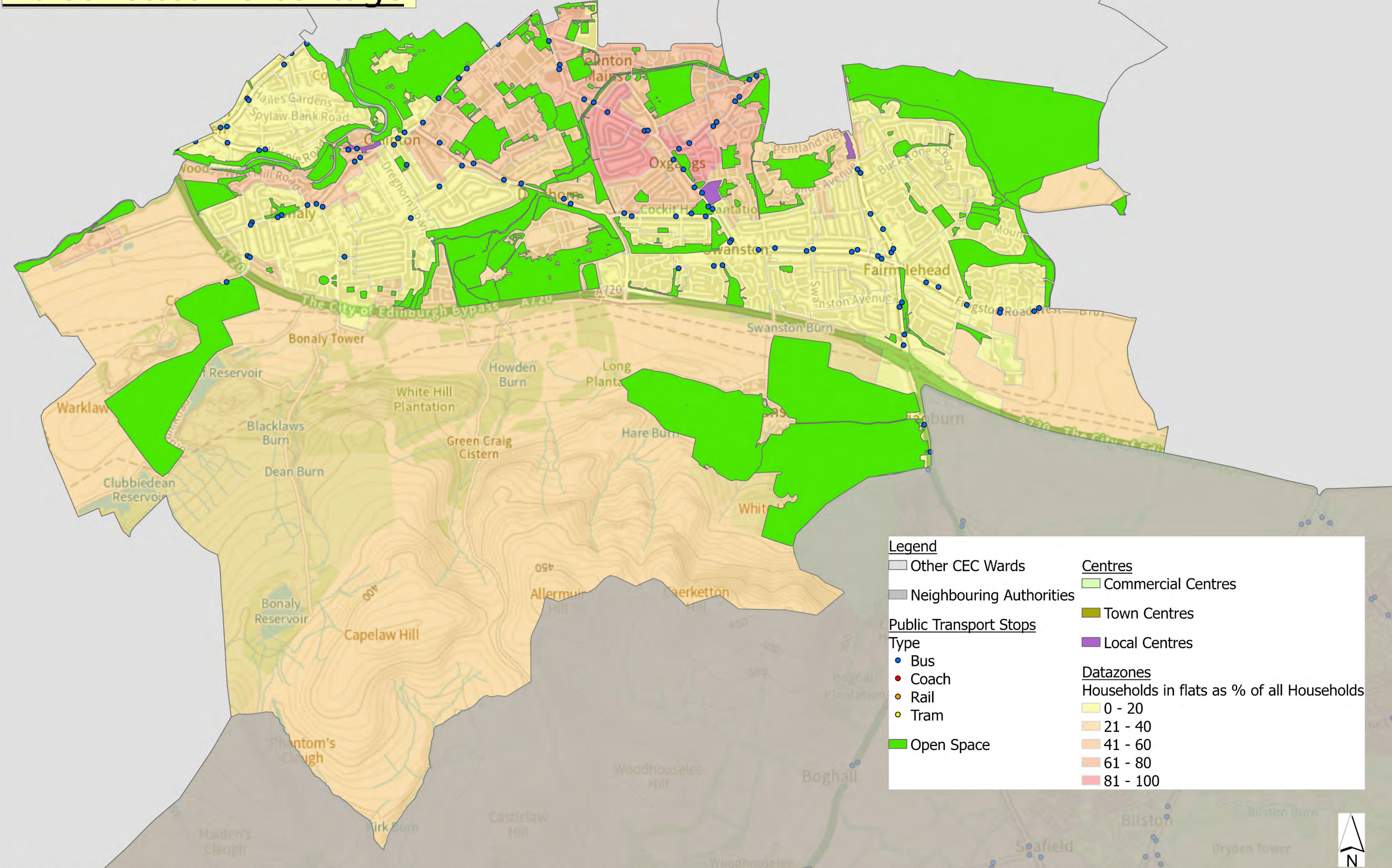
Households Per Hectare

- 0 - 25
- 26 - 50
- 51 - 75
- 76 - 100
- 100+



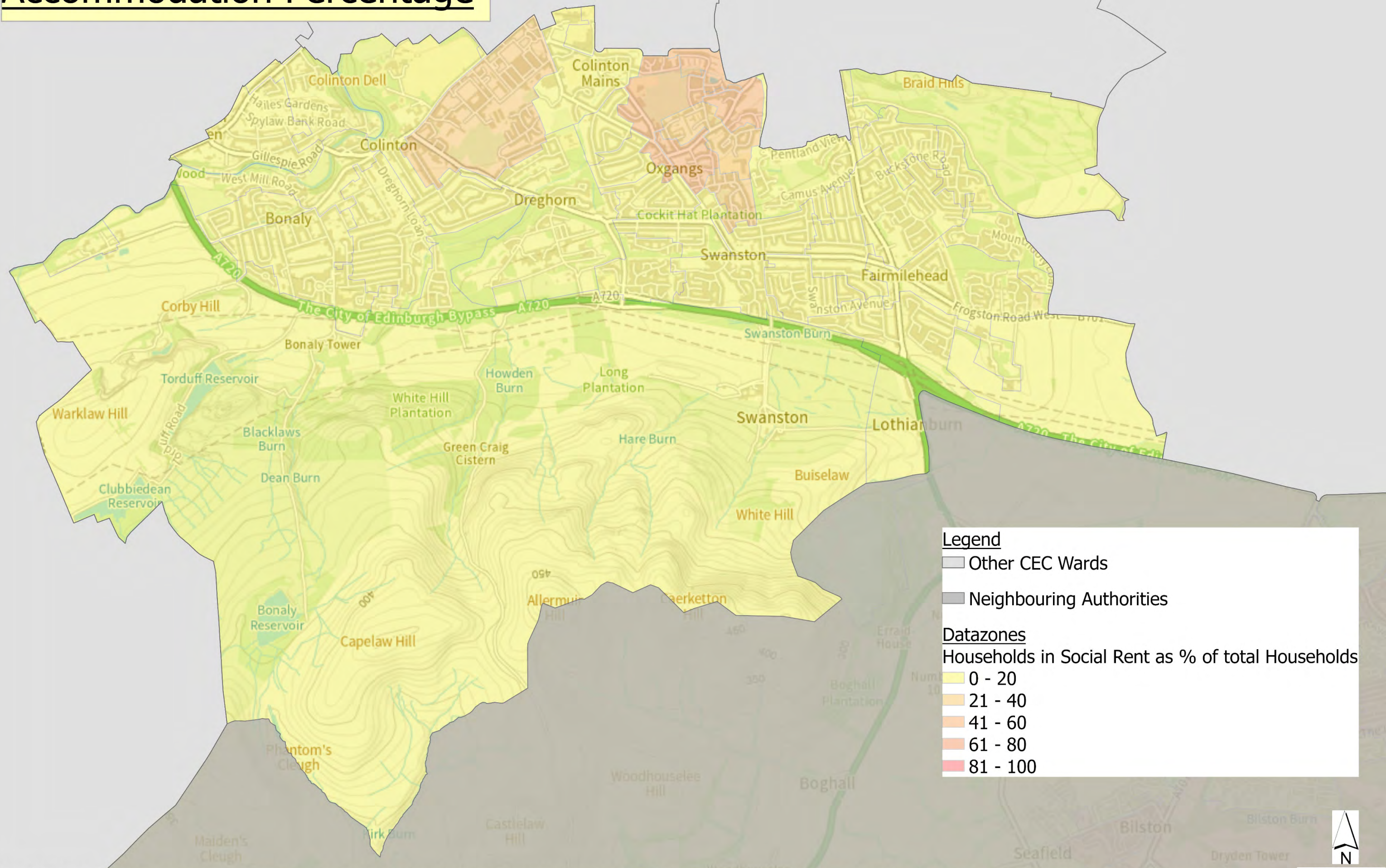
Flats, Apartments and Maisonettes Percentage

Ward 8 - Colinton / Fairmilehead



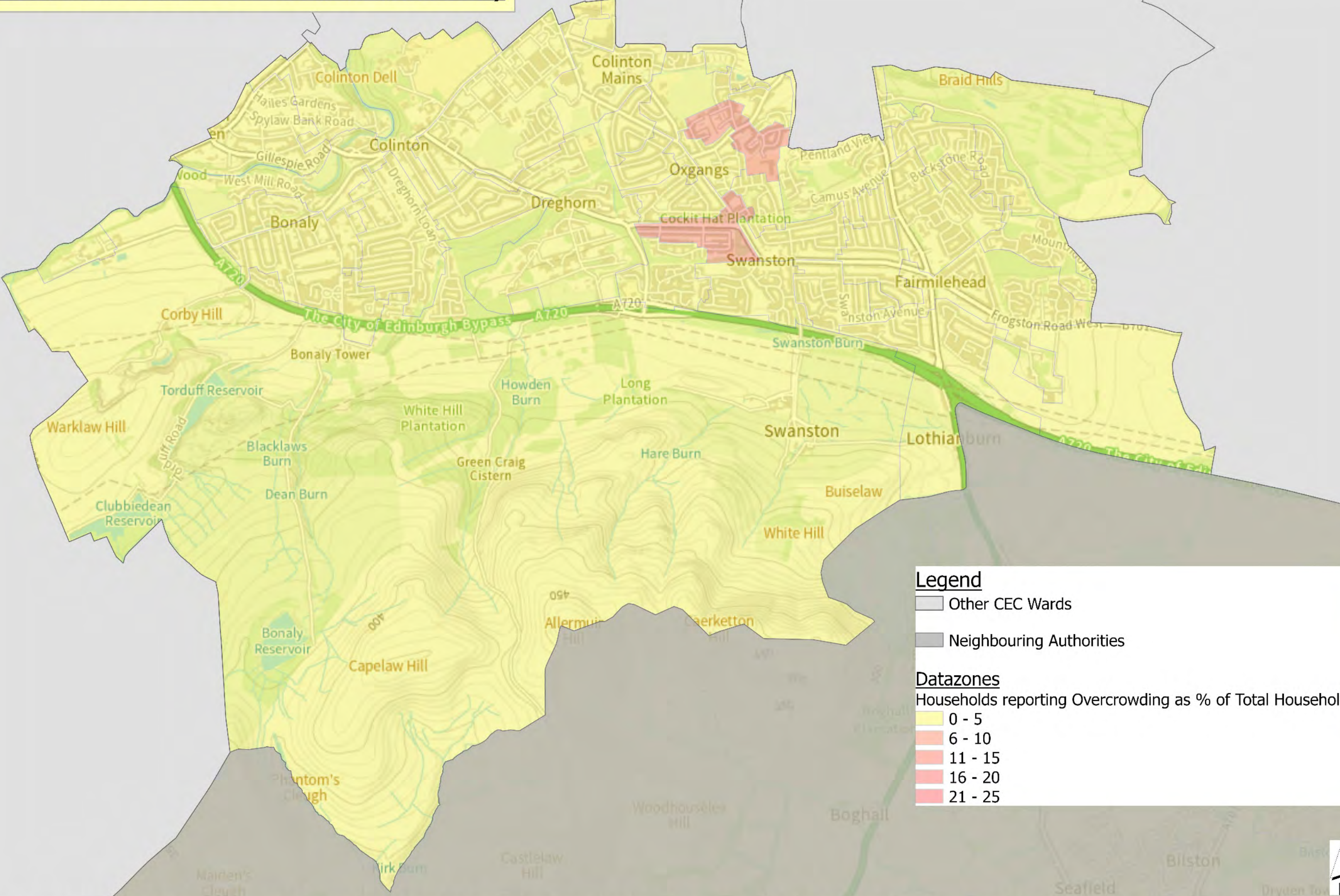
Households in Social Accommodation Percentage

Ward 8 - Colinton / Fairmilehead



Overcrowding (percentage of households based on room habitation)

Ward 8 - Colinton / Fairmilehead



Legend

- Other CEC Wards
- Neighbouring Authorities

Datazones
Households reporting Overcrowding as % of Total Households

- 0 - 5
- 6 - 10
- 11 - 15
- 16 - 20
- 21 - 25

Considerations

- Flatted accommodation is concentrated in Oxfords which was built as a post war public housing development, with a higher concentration of houses outwith these areas.
- Social housing is concentrated in Oxfords and households in this area are more likely to be overcrowded.
- The general public is generally happy with their home but having their own home, a private garden or a bigger place would be the main changes. This is reflected by the children and young people who were also happy with their home but if they could change anything it would be having a bigger place or their own bedroom, a house rather than a flat or having their own garden.
- It was felt there were enough homes to meet the needs of the people living there with a good variety of housing in the area for single households and families and a mix of tenure. However, there could be more affordable housing and more garden space and a feeling that people are too packed in.

Economy

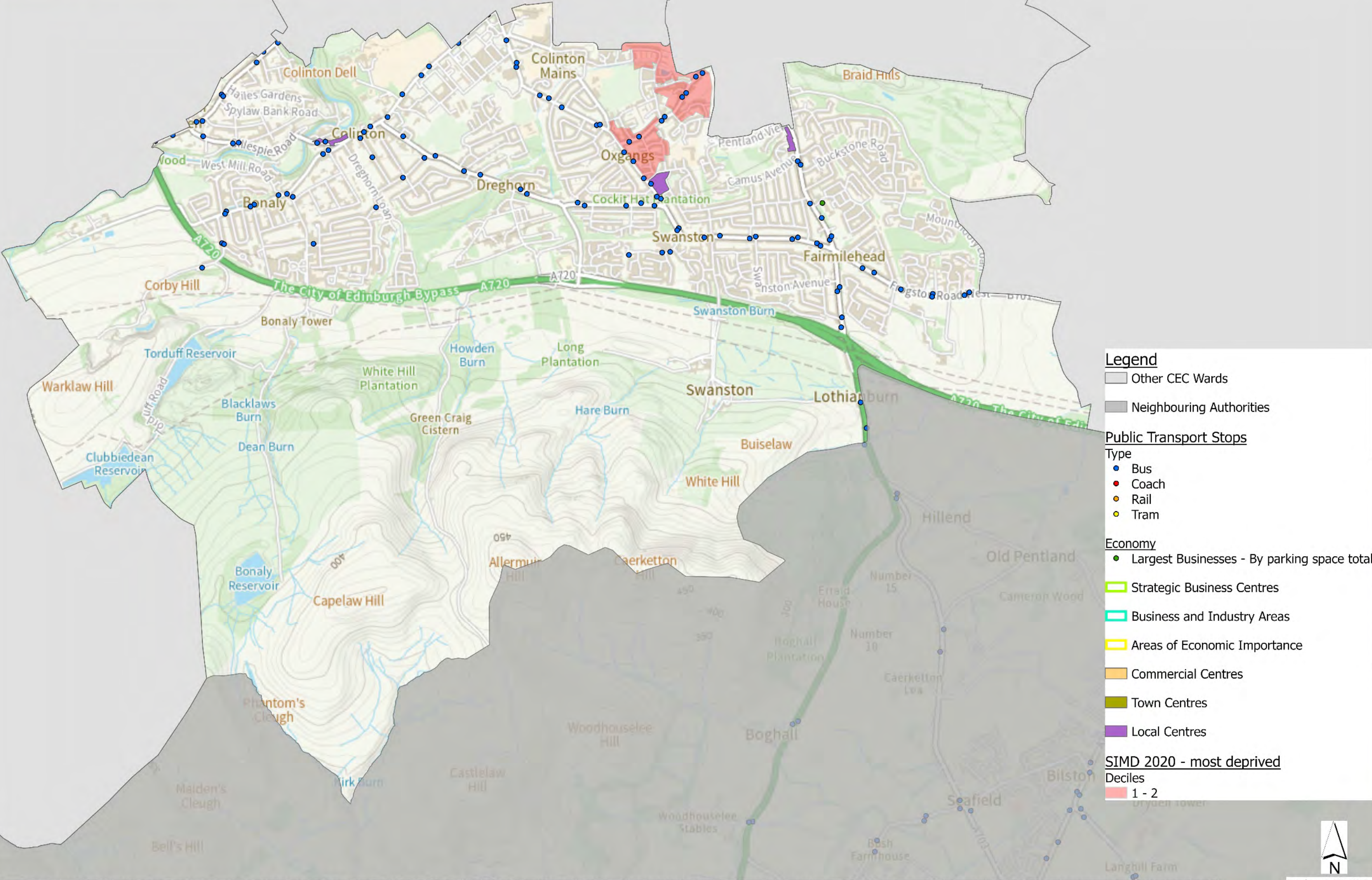
Demographics

- The occupation breakdown of the ward is listed below:
 - **9.9%** 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.
 - **30.8%** 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.
 - **18.5%** 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%** 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.
 - **6.7%** 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.
 - **7.4%** 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.
 - **6.1%** 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.
 - **3.8%** 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.
 - **7.7%** 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:
 - **8.9%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as No qualifications, compared to **9.7%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **15.4%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as Lower school qualifications, compared to **14.3%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **10.3%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as Upper school qualifications, compared to **4.4%** for the Edinburgh total.
 - **4.9%** of residents in the ward report their highest qualification level as Apprenticeship qualifications, compared to **4.4%** for the Edinburgh total.

- **9.4%** 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.
- **51.1%** 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.



Considerations

- There are no designations for business, economy or industry in this ward. Local centres can be found in Colinton and Oxgangs but there is a lack of town and commercial centres in or adjacent to this ward.
- Key anchor employers and institutions in this area include the Ministry of Defence Redford and Dreghorn Barracks and currently Scottish Water in Fairmilehead although future redevelopment will affect these sites.
- However, there was no negative response to the opportunities for work, volunteering or training within the area; with a feeling that there were good opportunities.
- In terms of local shops and services, the general public considered that the range of shops and services were good and there was a good selection of local and independent shops in easy reach that varied in price. It was highlighted that there were too many offices, vape shops and tattoo parlours.
- Children and young people also considered they had all the shops and services they needed. Of the things that were missing, shops, gym and café were mentioned.

Transport

Demographics

- The breakdown of the primary method of travel to work is listed below:
 - **40.3%** of the working population report mainly working from or at home, compared to **39%** of the Edinburgh total.
 - **33.9%** of the working population report driving a car or van, compared to **25.1%** of the Edinburgh total.
 - **14.4%** 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.
 - **3.6%** of the working population report travelling by bike, compared to **3.8%** of the Edinburgh total.
 - **4.5%** of the working population report travelling on foot, compared to **12%** of the Edinburgh total.
- **79%** 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 around Oxfangs, aligning with population density, public transport access and areas of higher deprivation.
- Use of cars for driving to work is broadly higher in the south of the ward which is further from the city centre and lower in population density and public transport access.

Public Transport

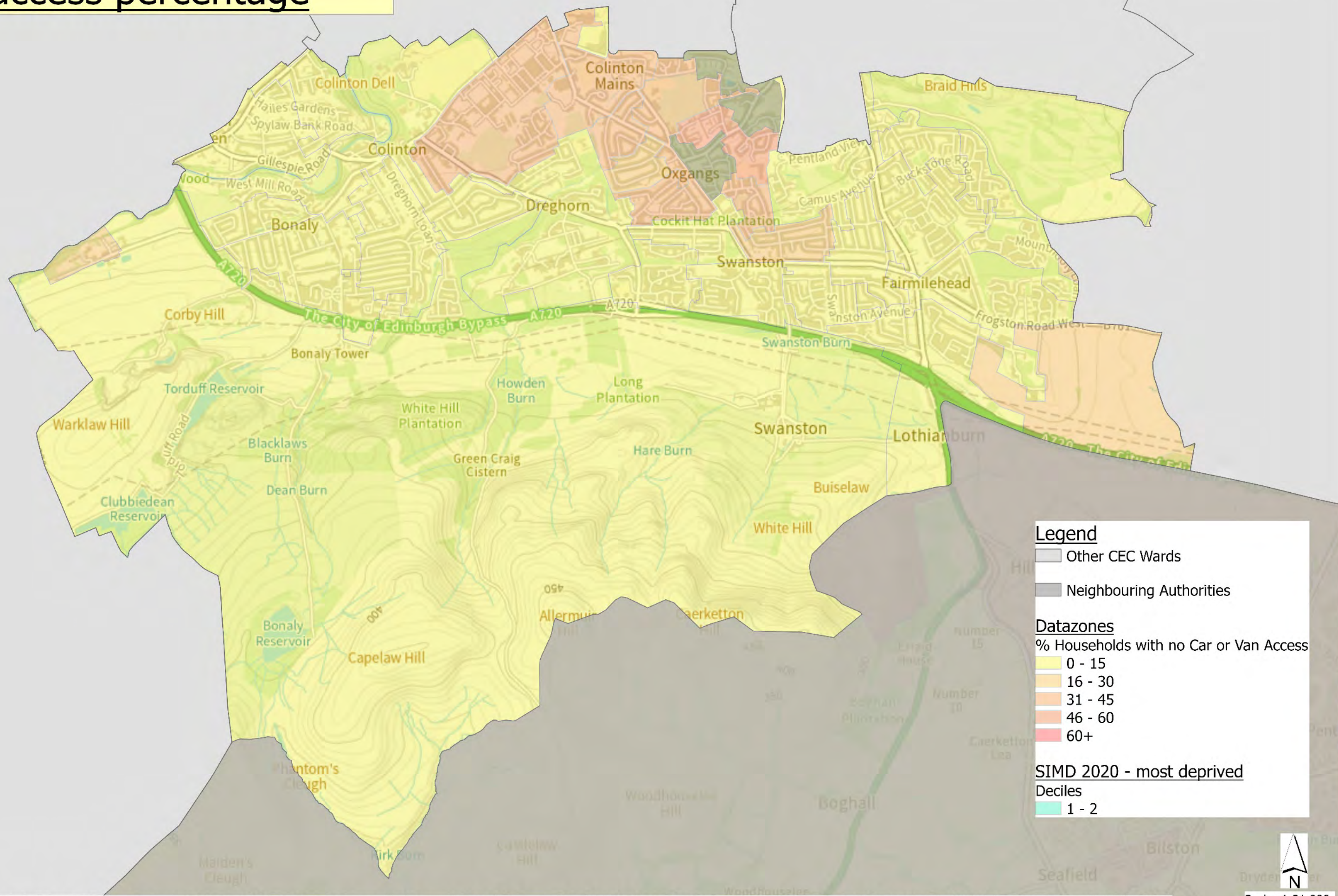
- Public Transport Accessibility Levels (PTAL) are calculated by the Council based on service patterns and stops and are mapped below from 1 (lowest level of accessibility) to 6 (the highest level). A rating of 3 or higher is considered to have a good level of access.
- Good access is concentrated in Oxfangs and the historic centre of Colinton.
- Poor access is concentrated in the south of the ward close to the City of Edinburgh Bypass. Improved orbital bus routes and connections are proposed to pass east-west through this ward to improve overall access and connections across the city.

Active travel

- A key active travel path is the shared use Water of Leith Walkway. A major partially segregated route passes north-south between Fairmilehead and Morningside, although this is not a fully protected or traffic-calmed route.
- The City Mobility Plan has identified the West Edinburgh Link project to be developed which will reduce vehicle dominance, increase space for active travel and improve pedestrian and cycle access between Colinton and other parts of western Edinburgh and employment and transport opportunities.

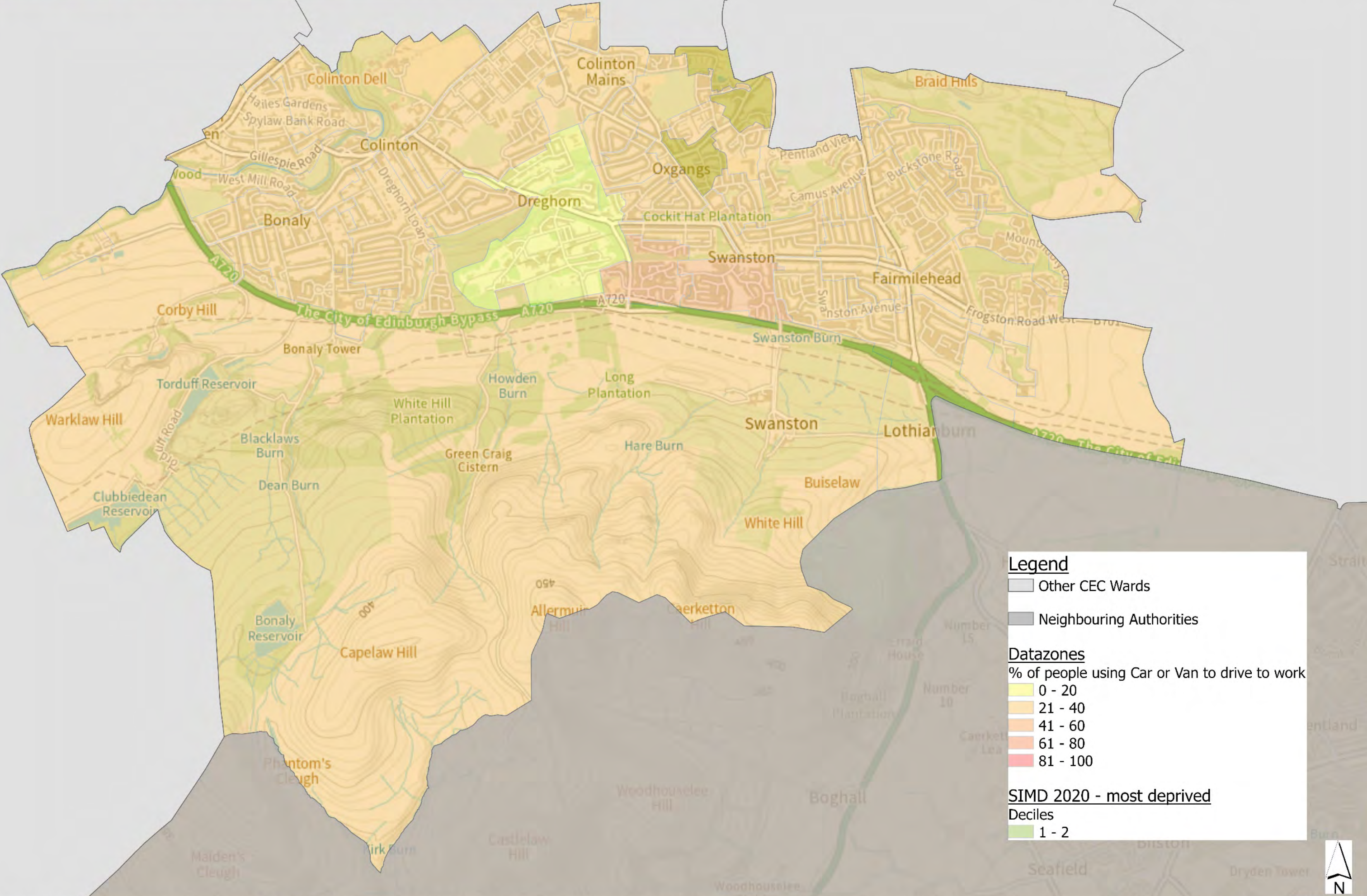
Households with no car or van access percentage

Ward 8 - Colinton / Fairmilehead

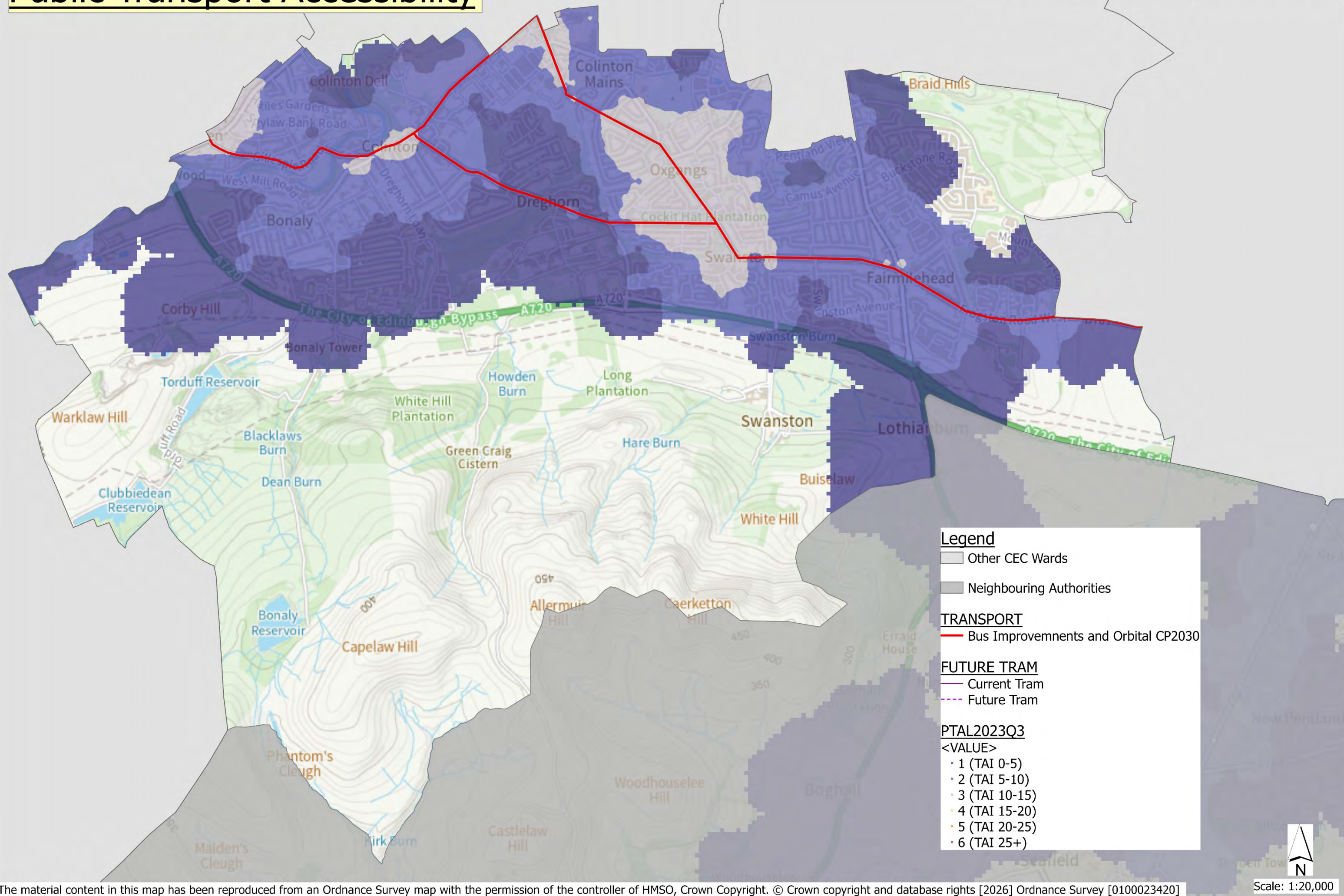


Driving a car or van to work percentage

Ward 8 - Colinton / Fairmilehead

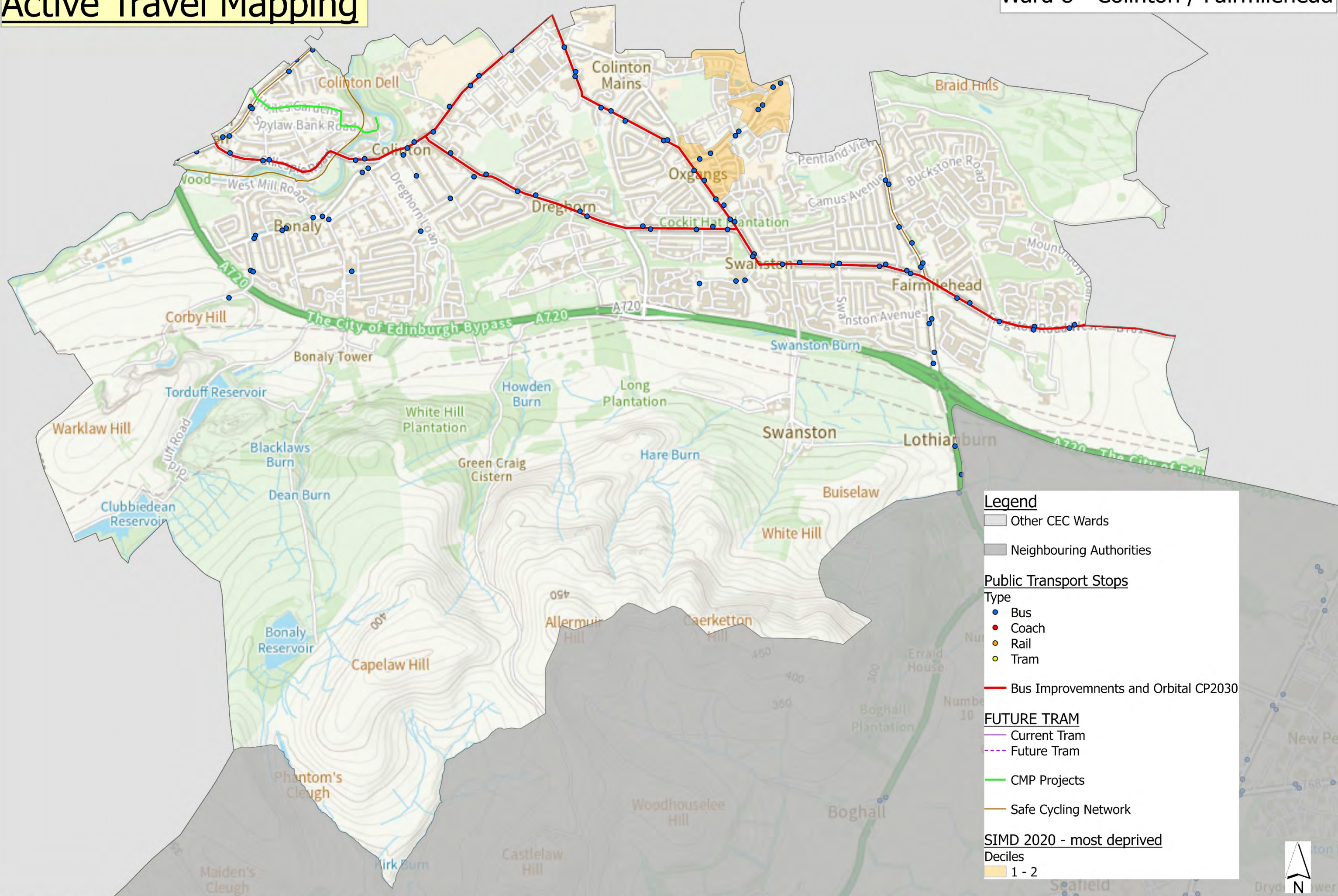


Ward 8 - Colinton / Fairmilehead



Active Travel Mapping

Ward 8 - Colinton / Fairmilehead



Considerations

- A higher percentage of people in the ward drive to work compared to the Edinburgh average whilst walking, cycling and public transport use remain lower. The level of car ownership 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.
- Public transport accessibility is concentrated in Oxfgangs and the historic Colinton. Access is lower in the south of the ward and this is where car use tends to be higher.
- City Mobility Plan improvements are proposed to be brought forward primarily connecting Colinton with the rest of western Edinburgh.
- Public transport access and future City Mobility Plan improvements are concentrated on improved orbital bus routes and connections between this ward and other parts of the city.
- Getting around by active travel was considered easy but not very wheelchair friendly. The children and young people were happy to move around by active travel but some preferred to go by public transport or car. They generally felt safe or sometimes safe moving around.
- There was positivity about public transport with good frequency and connectivity although the children and young people thought it took too long or was not on time.
- There was less positivity about traffic and parking. Colinton was an area of concern in terms of level of traffic and parking and the need for public parking spaces was highlighted. This may be influenced by the proximity of the City of Edinburgh Bypass and the level of traffic passing from there into the urban area.
- The need for better pedestrian crossings and greenery along Braid Road and Comiston Road has been raised.

Environment

Green blue network and biodiversity

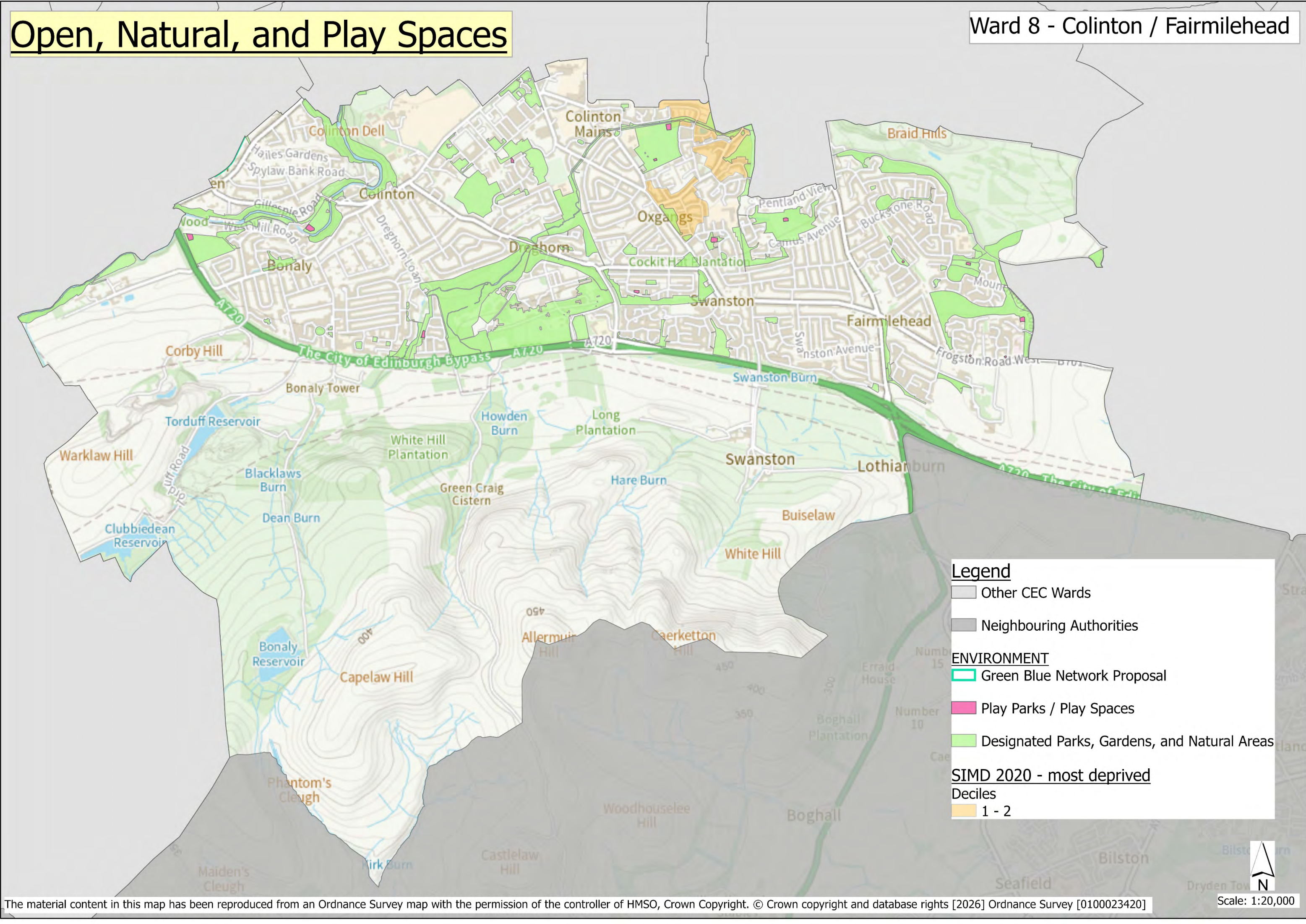
- Open spaces are well dispersed throughout the ward.
- Mapping has been produced showing Edinburgh's Green Blue Network at the strategic, city-wide scale. It shows infrastructure important for water management, biodiversity and recreation. It includes both local and national designations to show how they are interconnected.
- Pentland Hills Regional Park forms the largest part of the green blue network here and is of primary importance for recreation, nature and the character of Edinburgh. The Water of Leith and Bonaly/Braid Burn corridors provide landscape, habitat and recreation connectivity across the ward and link with the Pentland Hills and beyond to Midlothian.

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.
- There are no council allotments in this ward. Community growing spaces are only found in Oxfords and Bonaly with few opportunities across the majority of the ward.

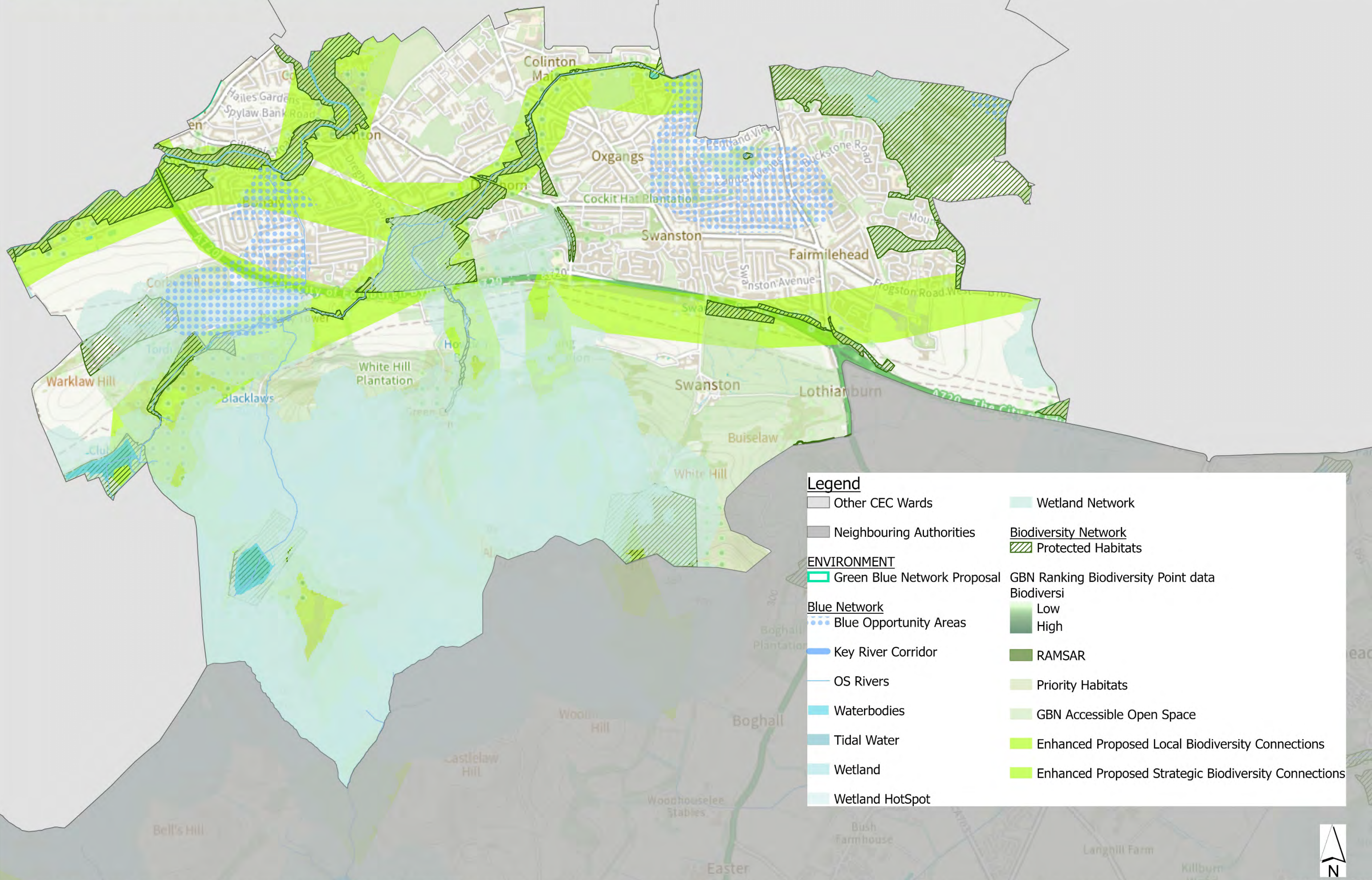
Open, Natural, and Play Spaces

Ward 8 - Colinton / Fairmilehead



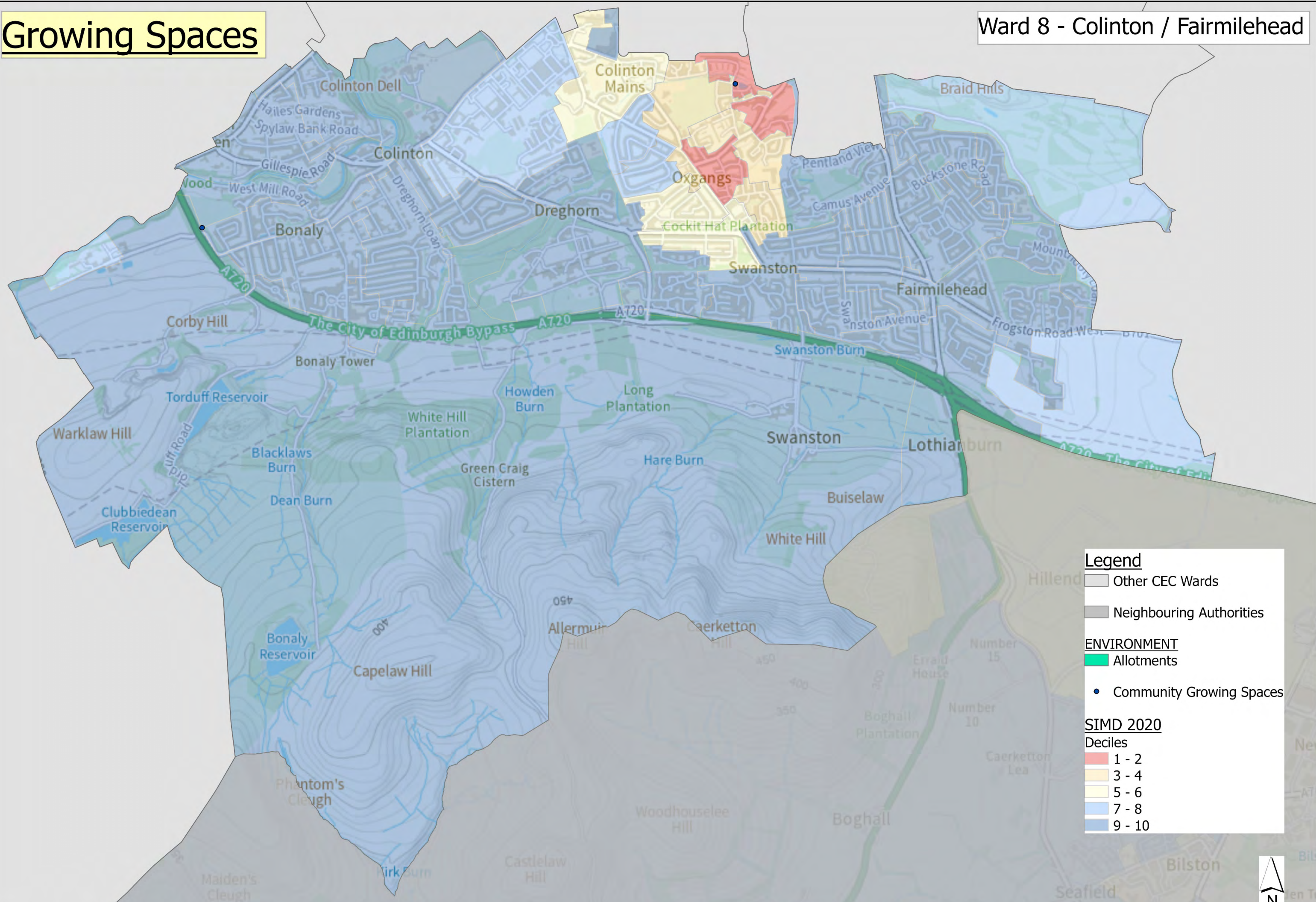
Strategic Blue Green Network

Ward 8 - Colinton / Fairmilehead



Growing Spaces

Ward 8 - Colinton / Fairmilehead



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

- The Pentland Hills Regional Park provides good access to open space, water and biodiversity. Connections to this can be found via the Water of Leith corridor and the Bonaly/Braid Burn.
- The general public are happy with the number of green and natural spaces which includes the Pentland Hills, Braid Hills and the local woods and parks.
- Better public transport to the natural spaces was highlighted along with need to charge for parking near the Pentland Hills which reflects the number of people travelling to the area. The need for a secure dog park was mentioned.
- The majority of children and young people are going outside regularly to play or hang out; and the majority think there are enough good parks or green spaces nearby. The Meadows and Pentland Hills were their favourite spaces as they were fun, easy to get to or close to home.
- Children and young people felt close to nature but felt there could be more trees and flowers. Climate change was not a concern in the area – just on a bigger scale.
- Lower levels of tree canopy cover are to be concentrated in Oxfords and parts of Fairmilehead.
- Flooding identified as a concern in the ward.
- In Oxfords, climate change measures such as tree planting, pollinator zones and rain garden features have been identified. Providing greenery along Comiston Road and Braid Road also featured.
- Opportunities for food growing are relatively few but concentrated on Oxfords and Bonaly. More local growing spaces would be welcome.
- There is support within Oxfords for more small-scale urban growing projects and allotments.
- Both the general public and children and young people were generally happy with outdoor play equipment but highlighted that that the play equipment is only for little children and the spaces could be better and more equipment for a range of ages including teenagers, be cleaner and have toilets.
- There were not spaces to accommodate ball games – reflecting the more natural spaces within the area- and having basketball courts was particularly mentioned.

Appendix

This report details the consultation and engagement information utilised when creating the Colinton/Fairmilehead 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 510 responses were received for the Colinton/Fairmilehead Ward. Out of these, 22 were from public at large and 488 were from children and young people studying at the local schools.

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 the children and young people where similar questions were asked.

Housing

Public at large

How happy are you with your home?

- 14 Very happy
- 4 Happy
- 4 Neutral
- 0 Unhappy
- 0 Very unhappy

If you could change one thing, comments

- Change nothing
- A home to call my own
- Private garden
- A bigger place

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

- 10 Very good
- 8 Good
- 3 Neutral
- 1 Bad
- 0 Terrible

Homes in the area, comments

- Good variety of housing in the area, from singles to families oriented. Council and private owned.
- More affordable housing. More garden space, too many people packed together at the moment.

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

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

Shops and services, comments

- Selection and independence
- Good selection of shops and services that vary in price
- Good local shops in the area
- Short drive to local shops and services

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

- 4 Yes
- 17 No
- 0 Don't know

What there is too much of, comments

- Offices
- Vape shops

Children and Young People

Are you happy with your home (the building)?

- 386 Yes
- 96 It's OK
- 13 It's not good
- 3 It's bad

If you could change one thing, comments

- Bigger place/own bedroom
- Being in a house, not a flat/have own garden

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

- 4 Too many
- 397 Right amount
- 89 Not enough
- 7 None

Shops and things, comments

- Missing shops, gym, cafes

Health

Public at large

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

- 7 Very good
- 10 Good
- 3 Neutral
- 2 Bad
- 0 Terrible

Healthcare facilities, comments

- Good range of closely located healthcare facilities in close proximity.
- Hard to get appointment. More GPs and dentists.

Edible Estates: Climate Adaptation Planning – Oxgangs (2025)

- Connects access to green space and food growing with mental and physical wellbeing.
- Promotes outdoor activity, social contact, and inclusion as core health benefits.

Transport

Public at large

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

- 2 Very easy
- 12 Easy
- 3 Neutral
- 4 Difficult
- 1 Very difficult

Walk, wheeling, cycling, comments

- Good, but not very wheelchair accessible/friendly with uneven ground
- Pavements and walking/cycling areas could have more attention.

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

- 6 Very easy
- 9 Easy
- 5 Neutral
- 2 Difficult
- 0 Very difficult

Public transport, comments

- Bus frequency is good
- Buses are modern and comfortable
- Good connectivity to train services
- Happy with free bus travel

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

- 3 Very happy
- 6 Happy
- 8 Neutral
- 3 Unhappy
- 1 Very unhappy

Traffic and parking comments

- Private parking in the area is fine
- Insufficient public parking spaces
- More park and ride
- Happy with free public parking, preserve this
- Many complaints made to Councillors about parking in Mounthooly Loan
- Speed limits should be observed for safety and security
- Enforce 20 MPH.
- Add car parking charging to Colinton Village to reduce traffic.
- Expand the LEZ to Colinton.
- Bike lanes have not taken regard of blue badge holders
- More road space, less bike lanes

Braid Road and Comiston Road – Local Resident Engagement (2021)

- Consultation on layout options for this key north–south transport corridor.
- Four options tested: Option 4 most supported, Option 2 implemented (southbound only with modal filter).
- Residents raised concerns about bus lanes, parking, and cycle safety; design balanced access and active-travel needs.
- Final layout informed by feedback to support local deliveries and safer movement.

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
- Prefer to travel by public transport/ car
- Bad weather stops me

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?

- 197 Yes
- 29 No
- 203 Don't know
- 65 Don't care

Economy

Public at large

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

- 4 Very good
- 1 Good
- 17 Neutral
- 0 Bad
- 0 Terrible

Work, volunteering and training, comments

- Good work opportunities, wide range of sectors and charity or volunteering opportunities
- Very happy with hybrid working opportunities, good opportunities to work from home and go into the office

Edible Estates: Climate Adaptation Planning – Oxgangs (2025)

- Explores how food growing, climate action, and local enterprise can strengthen Oxgangs' economy.
- Encourages small-scale urban growing projects such as school gardens and shared allotments.
- Promotes community-led food production and reuse initiatives linking climate goals with local livelihoods.

Culture

Public at large

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

- 1 Very good
- 10 Good
- 8 Neutral
- 2 Bad
- 1 Terrible

Spaces to meet people, comments

- Lots of cafes/bars/restaurants, if you have the financial resources
- More places for a community and support the current community groups.

How is the community space in your area?

- 2 Very good
- 8 Good
- 11 Neutral
- 0 Bad
- 0 Terrible

Community spaces, comments

- Green spaces with benches are good.
- Houses in cul de sacs allow for regular contact with neighbours.
- Good engagement from Residents' Association, particularly taking an interest in looking after the environment.
- Local churches and other organisations organise activities.
- Lots of baby classes and engagement activities
- Parks and coffee shops available
- Could provide more park seating
- Provide more opportunities in Community Centres

Braid Road and Comiston Road – Local Resident Engagement (2021)

- Involved residents, schools, and businesses in shaping street layout.
- Sought balance between transport efficiency and neighbourhood liveability.
- Community priorities included safe crossings, greenery, and slower traffic near schools.

Edible Estates: Climate Adaptation Planning – Oxfangs (2025)

- Co-designed through workshops and online mapping with residents and youth groups.
- Focus on local climate adaptation, gardening, and outdoor community spaces.
- Emphasises resident-led change and community cohesion through shared action.

Children and Young People

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

- Friend's house
- Shopping centres
- Food & drink places

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

- 186 There are plenty
- 155 There are a few
- 82 There are some, but I do not like them
- 11 Yes, but they cost too much
- 59 None that I know about

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

- Basketball, golf, tennis, swimming
- Art club

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

- 286 Yes
- 152 Sometimes
- 42 No
- 16 Don't know

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

- 29 Often
- 163 Sometimes
- 209 Very rarely
- 95 Never

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

- Boring/not interested
- No one to go with
- Not my culture

Environment

Public at large

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

- 12 Very happy
- 9 Happy
- 1 Neutral
- 0 Unhappy
- 0 Very unhappy

Open and natural spaces, comments

- Pentlands and Water of Leith
- Hermitage Woods
- Redford Woods
- Buckstone
- Braid Hills
- Spylaw Park and Bloomiehall Park, good but update playpark area for children
- Have more punches and noise mitigation tactics
- Charge for parking near Pentlands
- More public transport routes to wild areas
- Better accessibility
- Secure dog park to be included

What is the access to growing spaces like now?

- 1 Very happy
- 4 Happy
- 11 Neutral
- 3 Unhappy
- 1 Very unhappy

Growing spaces, comments

- Not aware of any growing spaces in the vicinity
- Growing spaces would be welcomed
- No growing spaces that are local
- Shorter waiting list for allotments

Climate change, comments

- Flooding is a concern. Public transport should be supported.

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.?

- 1 Very happy
- 13 Happy
- 3 Neutral
- 3 Unhappy
- 0 Very unhappy

Ball game spaces, comments

- Not many places to accommodate ball games
- Should have more
- Should have spaces that cater to a variety of ages, not enough for little children
- Basketball Court would be welcomed

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
- 7 Happy
- 6 Neutral
- 6 Unhappy
- 1 Very unhappy

Outdoor play spaces, comments

- Too many children's parks, too much noise and litter
- Good opportunities for children, not enough outdoor spaces for teenagers or even adults

Edible Estates: Climate Adaptation Planning – Oxgangs (2025)

- Uses community mapping to identify planting, food-growing, and cooling locations.
- Promotes tree planting, pollinator zones, and rain-garden features for climate resilience.
- Links environmental improvement with education and local pride.

Children and Young People

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

- 114 Almost every day
- 200 A few days a week
- 60 Once a week
- 102 Rarely
- 18 I don't go outdoors to play or hang out

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

- 224 Yes, there are lots
- 217 There are a few
- 48 No, there aren't enough
- 5 No, there aren't any

What is your favourite park or greenspace in Edinburgh?

- Meadows
- Pentland Hills

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

- It is fun
- It is easy to get to
- It is close to home

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

- Bad weather/too dark in winter
- Equipment is only for little kids
- Hard to organise meeting up with friends

How could the places where you hang out be better?

- Better and more equipment
- Cleaner and with toilets

Are the outdoor spaces you go to clean?

- 32 Very clean
- 145 Clean
- 261 OK
- 41 Dirty
- 7 Very Dirty

Outdoor play equipment

- 200 In good condition
- 55 Needs fixing
- 104 Needs cleaned/painted
- 53 Needs replacing
- 54 There is not enough or any play equipment

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

- 249 I always feel safe
- 222 I sometimes feel safe
- 13 I never feel safe

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

- Sketchy people/roadmen/gangs
- After dark

How close are you with nature?

- 63 7 (closest to nature)
- 104 6
- 136 5
- 123 4
- 35 3
- 22 2
- 7 1 (furthest away from nature)

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

- More trees and flowers
- Less litter

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

- Too much litter
- Yes but not in my area/bigger scale

Place

Public at large

How happy are you with your area?

- 6 Very happy
- 13 Happy
- 3 Neutral
- 0 Unhappy
- 0 Very unhappy

What would you change, comments

- More spaces for a wide range of ages, not just for children
- Maintain high quality spaces like Saughton Park (upgrade parks to be more like this)
- Create secure areas just for dogs

Any other comments

- Library and post office in the area are great.
- Better maintenance and cleaner environment would be good.

Children and Young People

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

- Too many roadworks and roads in the area create noise
- Make environment nicer and cleaner

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
- [Climate Adaptation Planning – Oxfords \(2025\), Edible Estates, July 2025](#)
- [Braid Road and Comiston Road – local resident engagement, The City of Edinburgh Council, June 2023](#)