

Mr Neil Hastie
Selkirk Common Good
Council Headquarters
Scottish Borders Council
Newtown St Boswells
TD6 0SA

29/10/2020

Dear Mr Hastie,

Local Biodiversity Sites in Scottish Borders (proposed for adoption)

Please take this letter as notification that the site, known as **Gala Rig**, shown on the attached site statement, is a Local Biodiversity Site proposed for adoption as part of the Scottish Borders Council's Proposed Local Development Plan (LDP). The site statement provides a site location plan and details of the features present on the site that have merited it becoming proposed as a Local Biodiversity Site. If none of this site is within your ownership, I would be grateful if you could please notify me of this and please accept my apologies for contacting you. Furthermore, if you are able to forward the name of who you understand to be the owner that would be much appreciated.

The Scottish Wildlife Trust previously co-ordinated a Scottish Borders Wildlife Sites System that assessed and approved Wildlife Sites. This has now been replaced by the Local Biodiversity Sites system following the publication in 2006 of Scottish Natural Heritage's 'Guidance on Establishing and Managing Local Nature Conservation Site Systems in Scotland'. This guidance provided a framework for assessing local sites of biodiversity value to determine if they merited the new designation of Local Biodiversity Site. One aim of the guidance was to reduce the number of different local designations and simply have one designation for local sites possessing biodiversity value throughout Scotland.

Status as a Local Biodiversity Site does not confer any access rights or alter existing access rights across land, and neither does it affect the requirements for management of land. It reflects the biodiversity value present within the identified site. Presence of Local Biodiversity Sites may be advantageous and of assistance in accessing some grant funding programmes.

While Local Biodiversity Sites are non-statutory local designations, their role and significance should not be devalued or ignored. The Proposed LDP affords protection to Local Biodiversity Sites for new development proposals requesting a planning consent.

The Proposed LDP is currently subject to consultation and can be viewed online at www.scotborders.gov.uk/ldp2. As part of this consultation, details of the Local Biodiversity Sites (to be adopted) and their selection is provided in a Technical Note, which can be viewed at the above link.

The consultation period for the document is from **2 November 2020** until **25 January 2021**. We would encourage you to make a representation online, however, comments on the Proposed LDP can also be made:

- by email to: localplan@scotborders.gov.uk
- by writing to: **The Forward Planning Team, Corporate Improvement and Economy, Scottish Borders Council, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA**

If you require any further information please contact the Forward Planning Team on 01835 825010.

Yours sincerely,
Natalie Harmsworth

Acting Centre Manager

Gala Rig Local Biodiversity Site

Grid reference	NT496274
Total area (ha)	50.17
Associated sites	Whitmuirhall Loch bSSSI, Selkirk Racecourse Moss bSSSI and Whitmuir Moss LBS to be adopted.

SITE DESCRIPTION

Summary	Species-rich grasslands, mire and heath with many locally rare plants. A Northern Brown Argus site.
Physical description	
Management Summary	Bracken control needed.
Main habitats	Poor semi-improved grassland and improved grassland.
Notable habitats	Semi-natural broadleaved woodland and standing water.
Notable species	Meadow Pipit (<i>Anthus pratensis</i>), Reed Bunting (<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>), Moonwort (<i>Botrychium lunaria</i>), Lesser Marshwort (<i>Apium inundatum</i>), Lesser Tussock-sedge (<i>Carex diandra</i>), Dioecious Sedge (<i>Carex dioica</i>), Greater Tussock-sedge (<i>Carex paniculata</i>), Floating Club-rush (<i>Eleogiton fluitans</i>), Autumn Gentian (<i>Gentianella amarella</i>), Field Gentian (<i>Gentianella campestris</i>), Common Twayblade (<i>Neottia ovata</i>), Knotted Pearlwort (<i>Sagina nodosa</i>), Bulrush (<i>Typha latifolia</i>), Marsh Valerian (<i>Valeriana dioica</i>), Crimson Waxcap (<i>Hygrocybe punicea</i>), Northern Brown Argus (<i>Aricia artaxerxes</i>), Small Heath (<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>), Lempke's Gold Spot (<i>Plusia putnami</i>), July Belle (<i>Scotopteryx luridata</i>), Pale Eggar (<i>Trichiura crataegi</i>), Varnished Hook-moss (<i>Hamatocaulis vernicosus</i>), Hooked Scorpion-moss (<i>Scorpidium scorpioides</i>), Red Bog-moss (<i>Sphagnum capillifolium</i>), Compact Bog-moss (<i>Sphagnum compactum</i>), Blunt-leaved Bog-moss (<i>Sphagnum palustre</i>), Brown Hare (<i>Lepus europaeus</i>), Eurasian Badger (<i>Meles meles</i>), Brown Long-eared Bat (<i>Plecotus auritus</i>)
Access and Use	Core path through site. Regular systematic biodiversity recording at site
Biodiversity Features	1) Water Quality: Howden Burn/Hartwood Burn has good water quality according to SEPA data (2014). 2) Notable birds: Reed Bunting breeding on site – a UK BAP Priority Species and Scottish Biodiversity List species.

BOUNDARY STATEMENT

Summary

ASSESSMENT AND STATUS

Assessment date	16/09/2016
Current status	LBS to be adopted
Previous status	None
Other status	
Date:	06/01/2020








Map:
Local Biodiversity Site Map

Local Authority:
Scottish Borders

Site
Gala Rig

Grid Reference
NT496274

Legend

-  Site Boundary
-  SSSI
-  BIOLOGICAL
-  GEOLOGICAL
-  MIXED
-  LBS to be adopted
-  pLBS

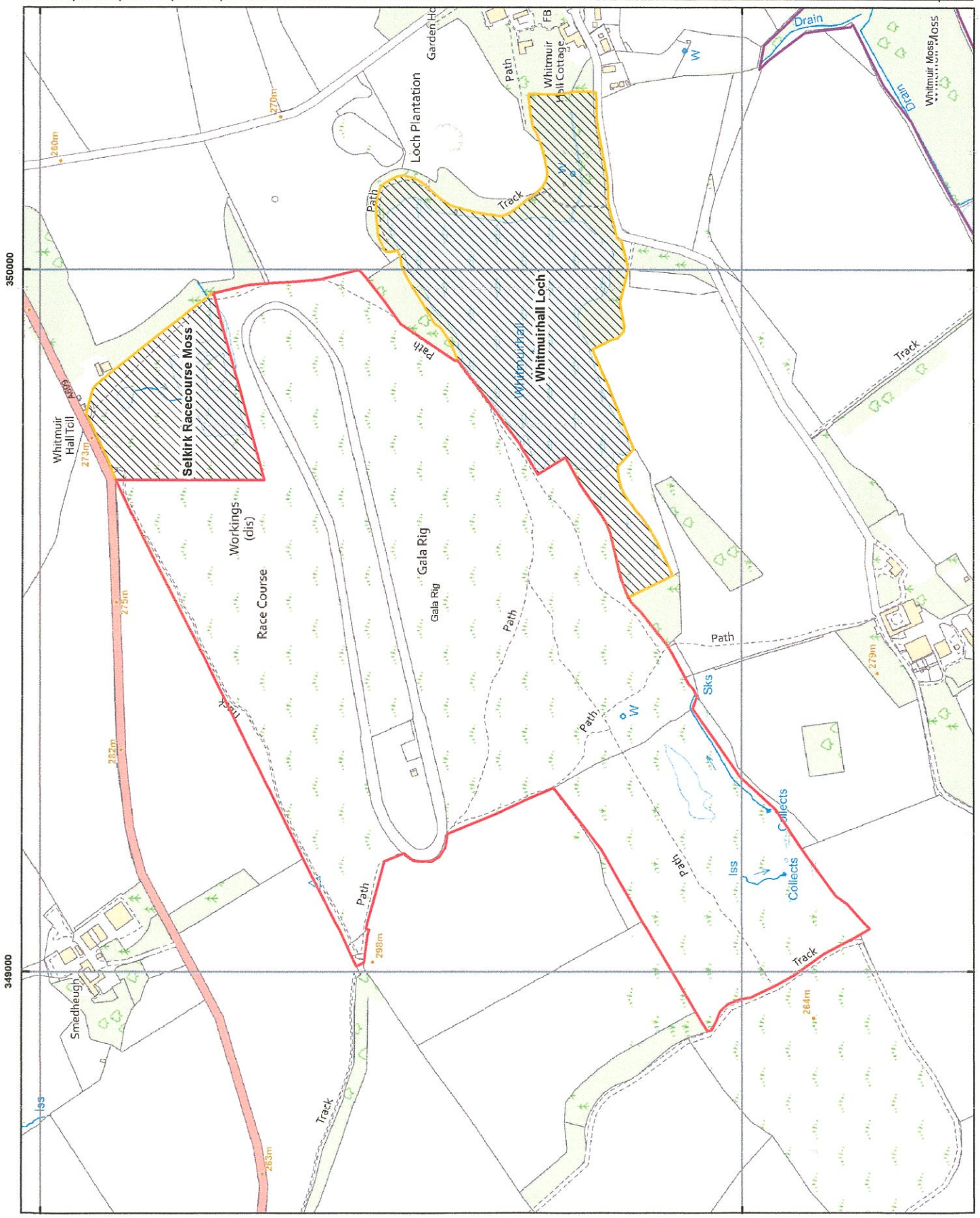
This plan does not confer
landownership or access rights.
It is for identification of
Local Biodiversity Site
Purposes only.

Map prepared by The
Wildlife Information Centre
on behalf of
Scottish Borders Council.



Date: 06 January 2020

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