

Topic summary : Students : numbers, distribution and implications

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*This report is based on 2011 Census data published by National Records of Scotland
(formerly General Register Office Scotland)*

*Whilst reasonable care has been taken in the analysis and presentation of this data, the
report is offered for general guidance only and users should undertake their own verification
if used for business critical purposes.*

*Detailed Census results together with further information on definitions, methodologies etc.
are available from the 'Scotland's Census 2011' web site :*

<http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/en/>

2011 Census :
Topic Summary : Students

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Introduction

1. Full-time students comprise over 12% of the population of Edinburgh, influencing many aspects of the city. They are a significant economic force, shaping retail and leisure spending and locations. They also influence the provision and location of services such as healthcare, public transport and public safety.
2. The most visible impact of students in Edinburgh is in the accommodation sector. This comes in a number of forms such as university-provided halls of residence, private, purpose-built student accommodation or shared properties in the private sector, often in the form of houses in multiple occupation (HMOs).
3. All these accommodation types influence the character and make-up of the neighbourhoods where they are located. This can sometimes be a cause of local concern. The Council has recognised this in their planning guidance for student housing, which states that applications for student housing should be in areas with good access to university facilities and not result in a student population of 30% or more in the locality. For this guidance to be effective, it requires accurate data on student numbers and locations.

The Census and students

4. The Census is the primary source of data on student numbers and location at a local level. It records data on full time students at their term time address. There is a minor element of double counting where students are also recorded at their parental home. Overwhelmingly though, students recorded as resident in a particular area will study in that area. The Census figures are therefore a reliable source of information on students studying in Edinburgh and their residential locations.
5. The Census only records full time students. It is recognised there are significant numbers of part time students; however, by their nature they generally do not require term time accommodation, or have a discrete impact on the area in which they live.
6. The Census data on full time students are available for 16 year olds, 17 year olds and 18 years and older. The 16 and 17 years figures generally refer to students in further education. The 18 years and older figures will include some students in further education, but the majority will be students in higher education.

National trends in student numbers

7. Due to differences in how Census results were produced in 2001 and 2011, the only age group in common for students is that aged 16 to 74. This includes students in both further and higher education. Table 1 below shows changes in the number of students by local authority between 2001 and 2011.

Table 1: Full time students aged 16 to 74 by local authority

Local authority	Census 2001	Census 2011	% change
Aberdeen City	18,663	26,012	39.4
Aberdeenshire	8,829	10,993	24.5
Angus	4,586	5,473	19.3
Argyll & Bute	2,747	3,380	23.0
Clackmannanshire	1,783	2,388	33.9
Dumfries & Galloway	4,361	5,624	29.0
Dundee City	13,694	18,397	34.3
East Ayrshire	4,749	6,230	31.2
East Dunbartonshire	6,289	6,829	8.6
East Lothian	2,651	5,177	95.3
East Renfrewshire	5,159	6,236	20.9
Edinburgh, City of	41,249	57,495	39.4
Eilean Siar	911	1,008	10.6
Falkirk	5,046	6,693	32.6
Fife	17,600	24,197	37.5
Glasgow City	40,702	62,871	54.5
Highland	6,245	8,378	34.2
Inverclyde	3,870	4,822	24.6
Midlothian	2,697	3,671	36.1
Moray	2,985	3,670	22.9
North Ayrshire	6,011	7,315	21.7
North Lanarkshire	13,601	17,009	25.1
Orkney Islands	571	684	19.8
Perth & Kinross	5,241	6,532	24.6
Renfrewshire	8,070	10,617	31.6
Scottish Borders	3,582	4,629	29.2
Shetland Islands	633	741	17.1
South Ayrshire	4,943	5,672	14.7
South Lanarkshire	13,376	15,737	17.7
Stirling	6,469	8,780	35.7
West Dunbartonshire	4,074	4,801	17.8
West Lothian	5,096	8,048	57.9
SCOTLAND	266,483	360,109	35.1

8. The figures show significant increases in the number of full time students. However, this needs to be considered within the context of wider demographic and societal change, where a number of factors are at play.
- The number of school pupils in years S5 and S6 in Scotland (i.e. aged 16 to 18) increased by 10% between 2001 and 2011, whilst the 16 to 18 age group as a whole increased by only 3.6%. This reflects the increasing number of young people staying on in education after 16.
 - The number of 16 to 24 year olds in Edinburgh increased by 11.5% between 2001 and 2011, compared to a 6.2% increase in the population as a whole.
 - The abolition of university tuition fees in Scotland for Scottish and non-UK European Union (EU) students has led to a notable increase in EU students attending Scottish institutions from 12,575 in 2006/2007 to 17,475 in 2011/2012, a 39% increase.

- Scottish Government policy from 2008/2009 has been to reduce the number of courses not leading to qualifications or of a duration of less than ten hours. As a result, the number of part time students has decreased by 40%, whilst the number of full time has increased by 15%.
9. The above factors have undoubtedly played some part in the increased number of full time students. However, it is doubtful that they account for all of it. Further examination would be needed to pinpoint all the contributing factors.

Student numbers in Edinburgh

10. The 2011 Census allows analysis of student age ranges starting at 18, which is more relevant when considering the impact of students on accommodation and services. It does mean that a comparison with the 2001 Census is not possible for this age range. However, it is clear from the 16 to 74 age range data above that there has been a significant increase in student numbers. Data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) supports this, showing an increase in the number of full time students at higher education institutions in Edinburgh from 34,615 in 2001 to 43,815 in 2011.
11. The 2011 Census records that there were 49,935 resident full time students aged 18 or over in Edinburgh. This is higher than the figure recorded by HESA as it includes 18 year olds in further education, either in schools or at colleges.

Current student accommodation in Edinburgh

12. Student accommodation in Edinburgh, as in other university cities, exists in a variety of formats and providers. These include university-provided halls of residence; private, purpose-built student accommodation; or shared properties in the private sector, often in the form of houses in multiple occupation (HMOs).
13. The Council has been actively monitoring and recording purpose-built accommodation in the city since 2010, with records going back to 2002, through providers' websites, planning applications, consents and site visits. Other types of privately rented student accommodation is difficult to track as it often has no involvement with the planning system, or a requirement to declare it is student accommodation.
14. **Map 1** below shows the location of purpose-built student accommodation by size in the city. The map highlights the substantial amount of University of Edinburgh-provided accommodation, reflecting its position as an established university that guarantees accommodation for all first year students. It also shows how commercially provided student accommodation has tended to locate outside the city centre core. This reflects the greater number of development opportunities in areas such as Fountainbridge.

Distribution of full time students in Edinburgh

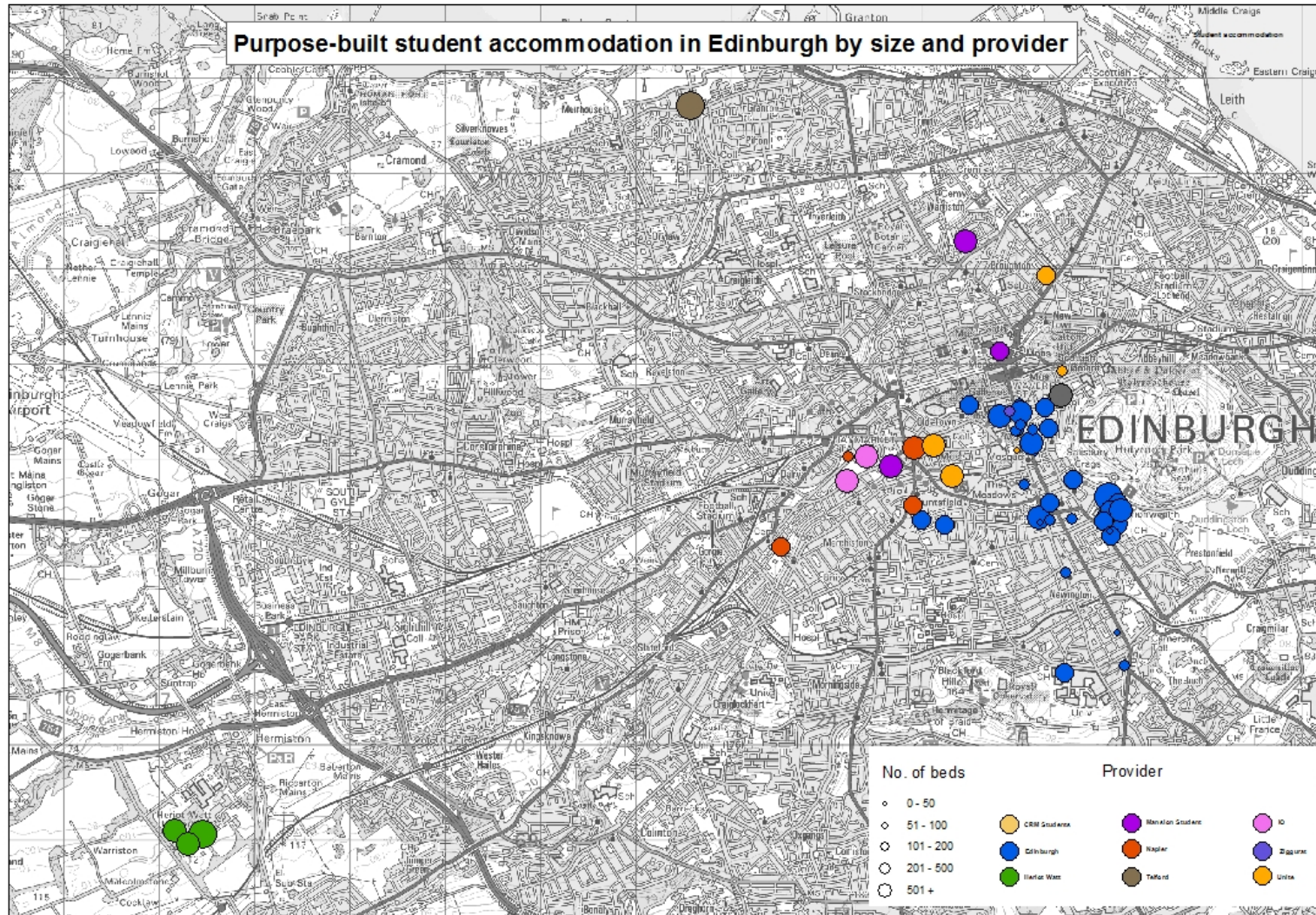
15. **Maps 2 and 3** show the distribution of full-time students aged 16+ in 2001 and 2011. There has been a noticeable increase in concentration in and around the city centre, and expansion into Leith and along arterial routes in the west of the city. These changes reflect the increased number of students, the opening of Edinburgh Napier University's Sighthill campus, and the development of new commercial, purpose-built student accommodation in Fountainbridge and Leith.

16. **Map 4** shows the same information for students aged 18 and over. This has the effect of removing those in 6th forms and further education colleges. It does, however, also exclude first year university students under the age of 18. This group comprised 10.7%, or 1,150, of the new intake for all Edinburgh universities in 2012. The map shows that student distribution is slightly less extensive than for 16+ students but concentration in and around the city centre is unchanged.
17. **Map 5** shows the most densely concentrated student areas. Unsurprisingly, they are located within easy walking distance of the University of Edinburgh's main campus at George Square. These high density areas mostly include purpose-built student accommodation within their boundaries. The data zone including Pollock Halls, the University of Edinburgh's main halls of residence, has a student concentration of 83%.

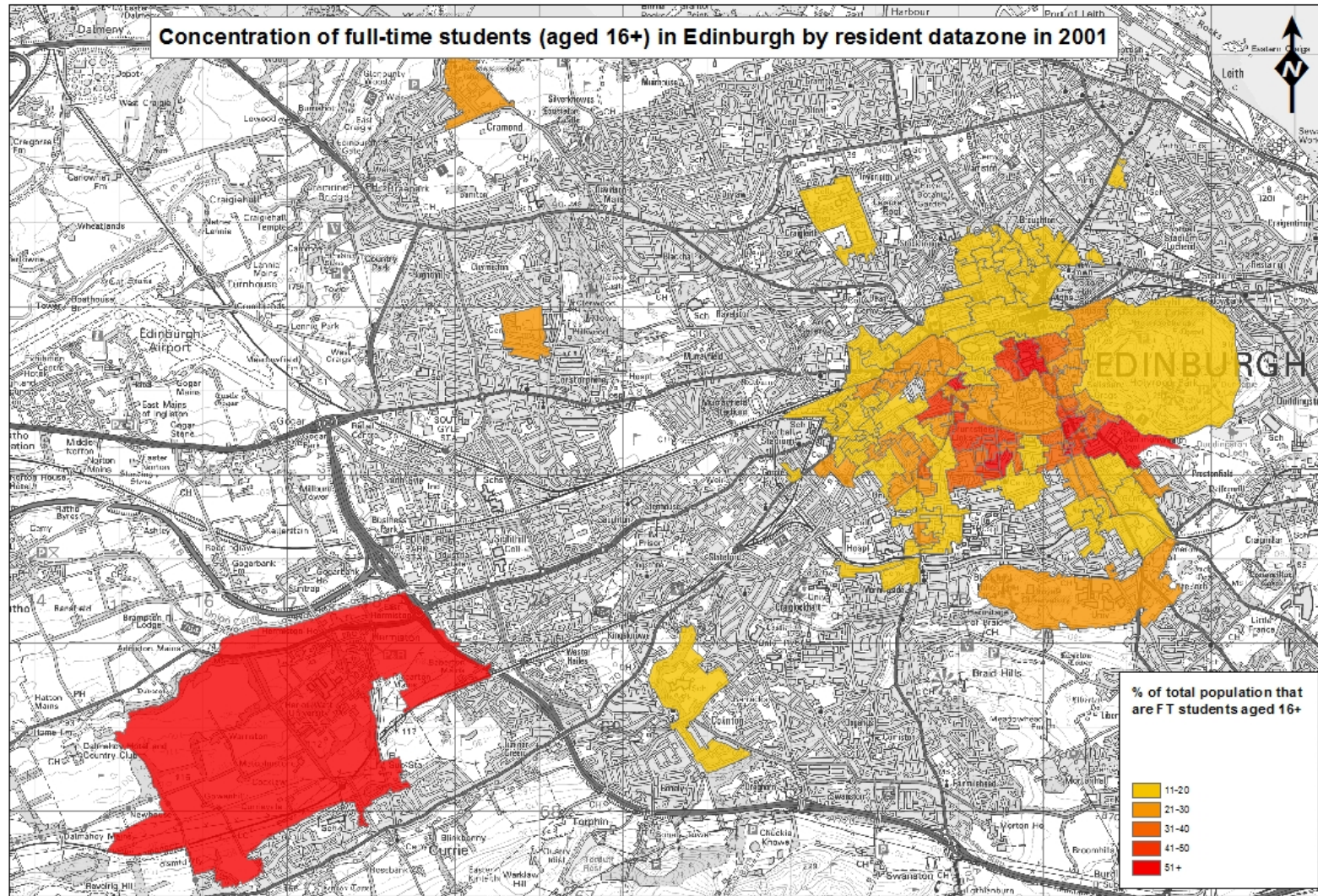
Implications of changes in student distribution

18. The higher city centre concentrations and wider distribution of students seen in the changes from 2001 to 2011 has a number of implications.
- Purpose-built student accommodation has a limited direct effect on the housing profile of an area. However, it can contribute towards 'studentification', which may mean a growth in HMOs.
 - Students are an economic force with significant spending power, which can shape sectors such as housing, leisure and retail. This can take a positive form, supporting and keeping viable local businesses or negatively, encouraging businesses with some detrimental characteristics such as public houses and takeaways.
 - A similar situation applies to services such as health care, transport and public safety, where student usage can influence their provision. This can take the form of extra police patrols in areas where students may be vulnerable or bus services between university campuses.
 - Students are, by their nature, a transient sector of the population. This inevitably has an effect on community cohesion. The generally low level of interaction with the existing population can sometimes be a cause of friction.

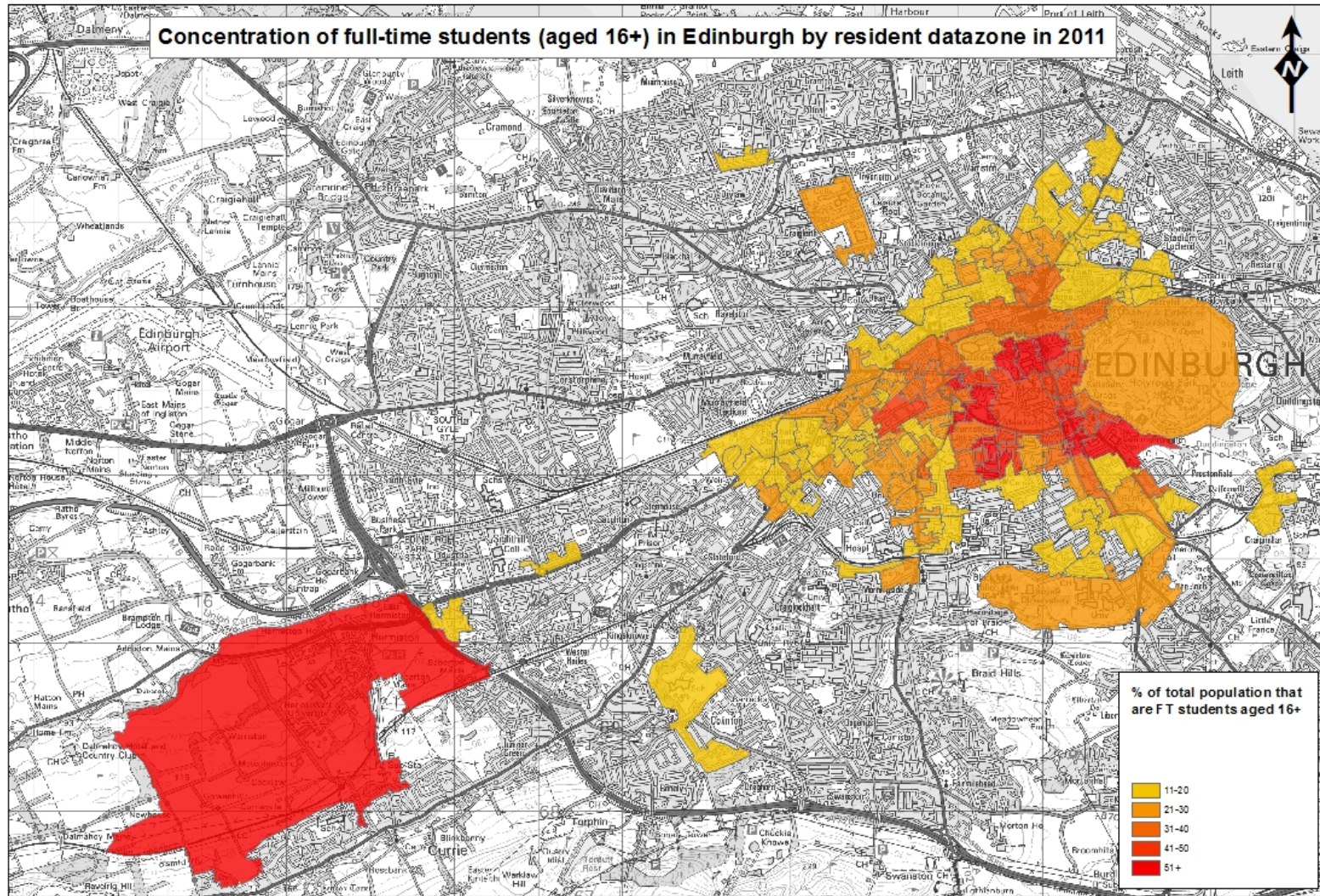
Map 1



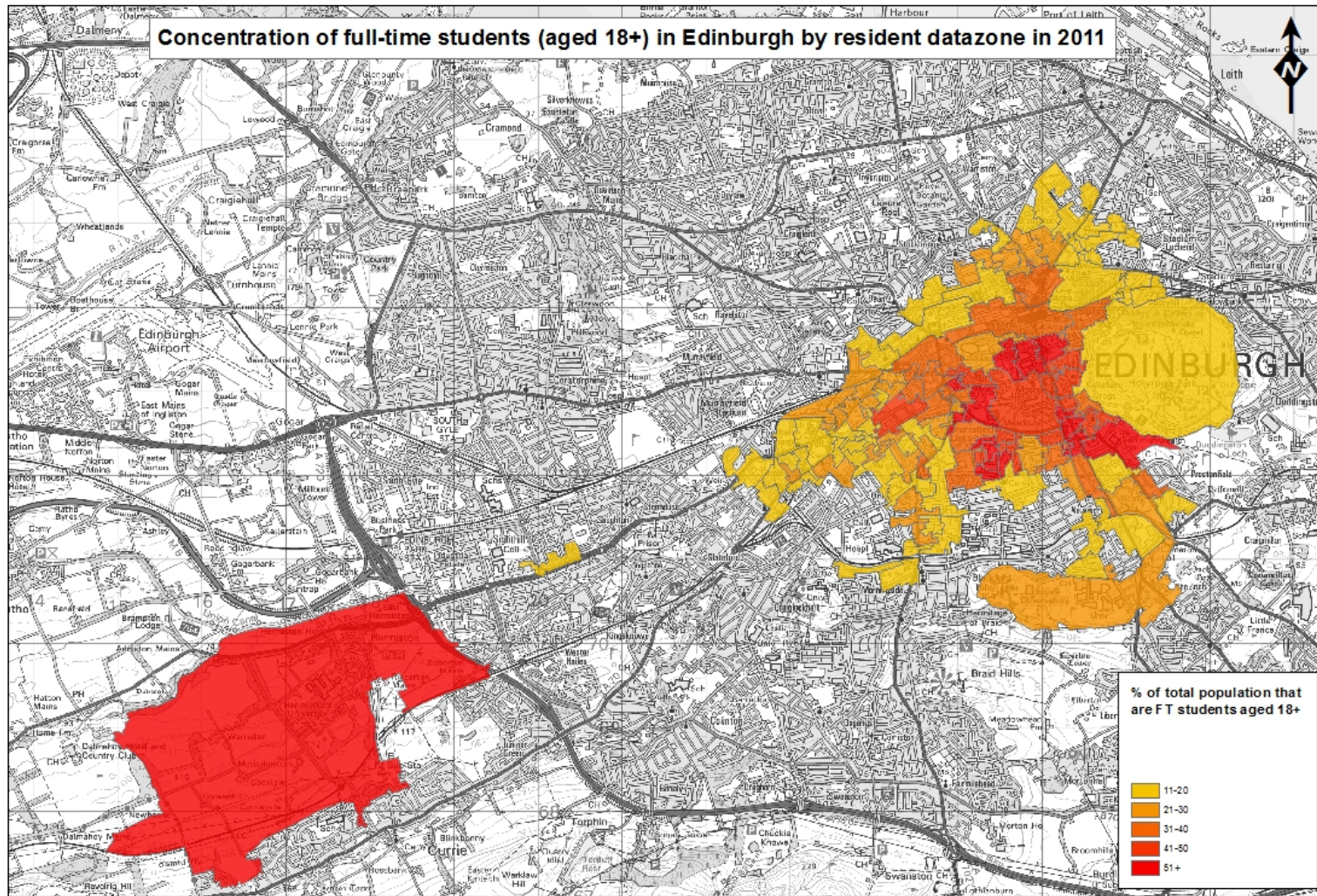
Map 2



Map 3



Map 4



Map 5

