

Text of the Booklet Entitled *Background, Processes and Procedures* Published at the Start of the Review

Fifth Periodical Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Scotland The Boundary Commission for Scotland

Statutory Requirements

1. The Boundary Commission for Scotland has a statutory obligation under the Parliamentary Constituencies Act (1986) to keep under review the Parliamentary constituencies in Scotland and to conduct a general review between 8 and 12 years from the date of the report on its last general review. Since its last review report was submitted to the Secretary of State for Scotland in 1994, the Commission's next report must be made between December 2002 and December 2006.
2. Changes to the 1986 Act arising from the Scotland Act 1998 require the Commission to apply the electoral quota for England to determine the number of Scottish seats at the Westminster Parliament. On the basis of a quota of around 70,000 electors, the number of Scottish seats at Westminster would fall from the present 72 to around 57. Further, on that basis, the number of seats at the Scottish Parliament would reduce from 129 to around 102.
3. The Scotland Act 1998 also requires that, following a review of parliamentary constituencies in Scotland, the Commission must consider the boundaries of the regions which return additional members to the Scottish Parliament when it makes recommendations that affect constituency boundaries. Further, the Commission must make recommendations regarding the appropriate number of additional members at the Scottish Parliament should it recommend an increase or decrease in the number of Scottish constituencies. The Act requires that the proportion of additional member seats to seats for directly elected members is 56:73. In complying with the Scotland Act 1998, the Commission is required to make any such recommendations in its general report to the Secretary of State for Scotland. Consideration of the Commission's duties in respect of the Scotland Act can take place only after the Commission has completed its statutory obligations under the 1986 Act.

Timing of Reviews

4. The period required for the Commission's review is dictated partly by the size of the task and partly by the statutory procedures. These are intended to allow full expression of opinion about the proposals at various stages. The Commission is required by statute to submit its report in respect of the Fifth Periodical Review of Parliamentary constituencies in Scotland between December 2002 and December 2006. The constituencies, if approved by both Houses of Parliament, come into operation at the general election that next follows the making of the Order in Council providing the new constituencies. In terms of the Scotland Act 1998, an Order in Council may come into force on a different day from the day it comes into force for the purpose of any election for the Westminster Parliament.

5. The coming into force of such an Order in Council, so far as it has the effect of making any alteration to any constituency of the Scottish Parliament or makes an alteration to any of the eight regions or the number of regional members, shall not affect the return of any member of the Scottish Parliament, or its constitution, until that Parliament is dissolved.

Commission Members

6. The ex officio Chairman of the Commission is the Speaker of the House of Commons. However, the Speaker takes no part in the process of reviewing constituency boundaries. The Deputy Chairman, the Honourable Lady Cosgrove, is a judge of the Court of Session, who is appointed under the terms of the 1986 Act by the Lord President of the Court of Session. Two other members are appointed to the Commission by the Secretary of State for Scotland, after consultation with the leaders of the political parties in Scotland represented in Parliament. The present members of the Commission are Professor R G L McCrone and Dr E F Graham. The Commission has two Assessors, the Registrar General for Scotland and the Director General of Ordnance Survey.

Secretariat

7. Support to the Commission in undertaking its statutory functions is provided by a small Secretariat. Correspondence should be addressed to the Boundary Commission for Scotland, 3 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh, EH3 7QJ. Alternatively, the Commission can be contacted by e-mail at secretariat@bcomm-scotland.gov.uk or by fax or telephone at 0131 538 7240 and 0131 538 7200 respectively. The Commission's web site can be found at www.bcomm-scotland.gov.uk.

Rules for the Redistribution of Seats

Introduction

1. Under the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, the Commission is charged with the duty of keeping the representation of Scotland in the House of Commons under review. In discharging its functions, the Commission is required to observe the rules for the redistribution of seats set out at Schedule 2 of the 1986 Act. The rules, as amended by Section 86 of the Scotland Act 1998, are set out in full at Appendix A (Report page 208).

Changes to the Rules

2. Section 86 of the Scotland Act 1998 made a number of changes to the Parliamentary Constituency Act 1986, Schedule 2 rules, the outcome of which was as follows:

- Rule 1(2) was removed: there is now no minimum number of Scottish seats at Westminster.
- Rule 3A was inserted: a constituency which includes the Orkney Islands and/or the Shetland Islands shall not include the whole or part of any other local authority area.
- Rule 5 was altered: for the first review following the Scotland Act 1998, the electoral quota for England must be used to determine the appropriate number of Scottish seats at Westminster.
- Rule 7 was modified: rule 3A, regarding the Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands (see above), cannot be disregarded.

3. Removal of a minimum number of seats for Scotland at the Westminster Parliament, coupled with the requirement that the electoral quota for England must be used to determine the level of Scottish representation, will inevitably result in an overall reduction of the number of Scottish seats. On the basis of the provisional electoral quota for England of around 70,000, Scotland would be entitled to around 57 seats rather than the 72 presently allocated. Whilst the statutory rules do provide the Commission with some scope to modify the level of representation, it is unlikely that any such modification would result in more than a minor adjustment to the overall level of Scotland's representation at Westminster.

Constituency Size

4. Constituencies must comprise as nearly as possible the electoral quota. However, the Commission has discretion to depart from this rule where there are special geographical considerations such as the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency. The Commission also has regard to local ties when formulating proposals for revised constituencies.

5. So far as is practicable, the Commission must have regard also to the boundaries of local government areas. At the time of the last periodical review of constituency boundaries in 1992 - 1994, there were 12 Regional and Islands Areas authorities. The Commission's general policy was to avoid making recommendations for constituencies which would cross the Regional authority boundaries, although the Commission recognised that this might not always be possible. At the time, the Commission also declared an aim to make proposals for constituencies which were wholly within a District Council area or comprised a number of whole District Council areas. However, it was recognised that this might not be achievable because the electorates of many of the District Council areas were not of the right size.

6. At previous reviews, the geography and electorate of the regional authorities was such that there were few instances where, in observing the statutory rules, the Commission had a need to consider proposals which led to a constituency comprising parts of more than one

local authority area. However, following the reorganisation of local government in 1996, a number of constituency boundaries that had come into effect following the Fourth Periodical Review now straddle the new Council boundaries. As a consequence of the change to the structure of local government which was introduced in 1996, there are now 32 Unitary Authorities in Scotland as opposed to the 12 Regions and Islands Areas. It is likely, therefore, that the Commission will feel obliged to make proposals for constituencies which cross Council boundaries, particularly in view of the reduced number of constituencies.

Scotland Act 1998

7. *Following enactment of the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004, the published text of paragraph 7 no longer applies.*

The Commission's Practice

Introduction

1. The Commission concludes that the changes to Schedule 1 of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 clearly signal Parliament's intention that the number of Scottish seats at the House of Commons should be reduced. However, possible consequential changes to the composition of the Scottish Parliament cannot be considered until the Commission has discharged its duties under the 1986 Act and agreed final recommendations for changes to Scottish constituencies. These consequential changes concern the number of additional members to be elected to the Scottish Parliament and possible changes to the boundaries of the eight regions for returning such members.

Initial Proposals

2. In keeping with its practice at previous reviews, the Commission will make proposals for constituencies based upon aggregations of the existing local government electoral wards which were introduced in May 1999 following the Third Statutory Review of Local Government Electoral Arrangements undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland.

3. Because of the fundamental changes to the statutory rules, and to comply as far as is reasonably practicable with the rule regarding the electoral quota, the Commission has decided that it may be necessary to make recommendations for constituencies which cross local authority boundaries. However, the Commission will make every effort to keep to a minimum such proposals.

Naming and Designation

4. Section 3.4 of the 1986 Act requires that the Commission's recommendations for each constituency must include the name by which it should be known and whether it should be classified as a county constituency or a burgh constituency. The designation of a constituency affects the expenses allowable at elections.

5. The 1986 Act does not define the terms ‘burgh’ or ‘county’, which relate to the designation of local authority areas in Scotland prior to 1974. The Commission considers, therefore, that, where constituencies comprise predominantly urban areas, they will normally be designated as burgh constituencies. Where constituencies contain more than a token rural electorate, they will normally be designated as county constituencies.

Other Considerations

6. The 1986 Act makes no provision for the Commission to take account of special considerations that may affect an area which, according to those who make the request, may justify more favourable representation than that of other areas. For example, the Act makes no provision for forecast increases or decreases in the electorate to be taken into account. Nevertheless, when deciding constituencies, the Commission does have regard to perceptible trends in the electorate.

7. With regard to rules 4 and 5, the Commission may depart from the strict application of these rules if special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency, appear to render a departure desirable.

8. The Commission is not bound to give full effect in all circumstances to all of the statutory rules but it must take into account, as far as it reasonably can, the inconveniences attendant on alterations to constituencies, other than alterations arising from the need to have regard to local authority boundaries and/or any local ties which would be broken by such alterations.

Procedure for Review

Provisional Recommendations

1. The Commission first determines its provisional recommendations, usually for a group of constituencies. For its forthcoming review the Commission will follow the established practice of publishing provisional recommendations without prior consultation with local authorities and other interests. The Commission considers that it should take the initiative by preparing provisional recommendations using all information available to it. In this way it is not influenced by any particular viewpoint.

Publication

2. Provisional recommendations are made available for public comment. Statute requires the Commission to publish a notice of its provisional recommendations in at least one newspaper circulating in the constituency. The notice has to specify a place in the constituency where details of the proposals may be inspected. Proposals are always illustrated by maps to help make the public more aware of the effect of the Commission’s proposals. Maps and associated electorate data will also be made available via the Internet at www.bcomm-scotland.gov.uk.

3. The legislation stipulates that representations should be made within a limited period of 1 month from the date of publication of the statutory notice. Representations objecting to or supporting the Commission's provisional recommendations should be directed to the Commission's Secretary by post, fax or e-mail - addresses etc are provided at paragraph 7, page 2 above and further information is contained in each statutory notice.

Local Inquiry

4. The Commission is required to hold a local inquiry if representations objecting to proposed recommendations are received from an interested local authority (that is the Council for the area lying wholly or partly within the affected constituency) or a body of 100 or more parliamentary electors for such a constituency.

5. The inquiry is conducted by an Assistant Commissioner appointed by the Secretary of State for Scotland at the request of the Commission. No statutory procedure is prescribed for the conduct of a local inquiry. The purpose is:

- to get to know local opinions;
- to hear criticisms of or support for the provisional recommendations;
- to receive counter-proposals and enable everyone who wishes to comment on these or on the Commission's proposals to do so.

6. The Commission is not represented at the inquiry, although a member of the Secretariat may be present as an observer. Those who seek to express their views may do so in person, or through a representative, even though they may not have filed written representations.

7. The Assistant Commissioner reports in writing directly to the Commission. Apart from commenting on various objections received, the Assistant Commissioner is fully at liberty to suggest amendments or alterations to the Commission's proposals - or even to substitute completely different proposals if these are acceptable within the rules and appear to command wider support than the original proposals.

Final Recommendations

8. The Commission will consider the Assistant Commissioner's report and the matters discussed at the inquiry, together with any relevant information, when formulating its final recommendations. If the Commission decides to alter the provisional recommendations, the revised proposals are published in at least one local newspaper and made available for public inspection. Details will also be made available on the Commission's web site. If there has been a local inquiry, a copy of the Assistant Commissioner's report is also made available. Those who took part in the inquiry each receive a copy of the report, which will also be made available on the Commission's web site. Representations about these further proposals may then be made to the Commission within a one-month period.

9. The Commission is not required to hold a further inquiry in respect of a constituency, but may do so if it considers it necessary to obtain more information on local opinion or certain matters. If the Commission decides to modify its revised recommendations before finally submitting them to the Secretary of State for Scotland, these fresh proposals will be published and representations again invited. However, no further inquiry will be held.

Representation at the Scottish Parliament - Procedure for Review

10. *Following enactment of the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004, the published text of paragraph 10 no longer applies.*

Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended) Schedule 2

Appendix A

1. (1) The number of constituencies in Great Britain shall not be substantially greater or less than 613.

(2) The number of constituencies in Wales shall not be less than 35.

(3) The number of constituencies in Northern Ireland shall not be greater than 18 or less than 16, and shall be 17 unless it appears to the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland that Northern Ireland should for the time being be divided into 16 or (as the case may be) into 18 constituencies.
2. Every constituency will return a single member.
3. There shall be a constituency which shall include the whole of the City of London and the name of which shall refer to the City of London.

3(a). A constituency which includes the Orkney Islands or the Shetland Islands shall not include the whole or part of a local government area other than the Orkney Islands and the Shetland Islands.
4. (1) So far as is practicable having regard to rules 1 to 3(a)
 - (a) In England and Wales,
 - (i) no county or part of any county shall be included in a constituency which includes the whole or part of any other county or the whole or part of any other London borough,
 - (ii) no London borough or any part of a London borough shall be included in a constituency which includes the whole or part of any other London borough,
 - (b) in Scotland, regard shall be had to the boundaries of local authority areas,

(c) in Northern Ireland, no ward shall be included partly in one constituency and partly in another.

(2) In sub-paragraph (1)(b) above “area” and “local authority” have the same meanings as in the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (as amended by the 1994 Local Government etc. Scotland Act).

5. The electorate of any constituency shall be as near the electoral quota as is practicable having regard to rules 1 to 4; and a Boundary Commission may depart from the strict application of rule 4 if it appears to them that a departure is desirable to avoid an excessive disparity between the electorate of any constituency and the electoral quota, or between the electorate of any constituency and that of neighbouring constituencies in the part of the United Kingdom with which they are concerned. For the purposes of the first report of the Boundary Commission for Scotland to be submitted under section 3(1) of that Act after the commencement of this subsection, “electoral quota” means the number which, on the enumeration date in relation to that report, is the electoral quota for England.

6. A Boundary Commission may depart from the strict application of rules 4 and 5 if special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency, appear to them to render a departure desirable.

General and Supplementary

7. It shall not be the duty of a Boundary Commission to aim at giving full effect in all circumstances to the above rules (except rule 3(A)) but they shall take account as far as they reasonably can

(a) of the inconveniences attendant on alterations of constituencies other than alterations made for the purpose of rule 4, and

(b) any local ties which would be broken by such alterations.

8. In the application of rule 5 to each part of the United Kingdom for which there is a Boundary Commission

(a) the expression “electoral quota” means a number obtained by dividing the electorate of that part of the United Kingdom by the number of constituencies in it existing on the enumeration date.

(b) the expression “electorate” means

(i) in relation to a constituency the number of persons whose names appear on the register of parliamentary electors in force on the enumeration date under the Representation of the People Acts for the constituency,

(ii) in relation to the part of the United Kingdom, the aggregate electorate as defined in sub-paragraph (i) above of all the constituencies in that part.

(c) the expression “enumeration date” means, in relation to any report of a Boundary Commission under this Act, the date on which the notice with respect to that report is published in accordance with section 5(1) of this Act.

9. In this Schedule a reference to a rule followed by a number is a reference to the rule set out in the correspondingly numbered paragraph of this Schedule.

Scotland Act 1998
Schedule 1

Appendix B

Following enactment of the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004, the published text of Appendix B no longer applies.

Text of the Booklet Entitled *Local Inquiry – Processes and Procedures* Published prior to Local Inquiries

Introduction

Purpose of this Booklet

1. This booklet has been prepared by the Boundary Commission for Scotland to explain the opportunities that are available at local inquiries for those members of the public or organisations who may wish to take part in the debate on the Commission's provisional proposals for revised Parliamentary constituency boundaries. The information is restricted to processes and procedures regarding the review of the boundaries of Westminster constituencies and does not deal with the Commission's obligations to review the boundaries of the Regions for returning additional members to the Scottish Parliament in terms of The Scotland Act 1998.

Importance of Public Response

2. The Commission wishes to ensure that members of the public or organisations have a full opportunity to express their views. **The Commission, therefore, recommends any persons or organisations with an interest in this matter to attend, or send a representative to, any local inquiry held in their area to put forward their views on the provisional recommendations.** Attendance at an inquiry will also afford an opportunity to hear and comment on any counter-proposals put to the Assistant Commissioner and thereby assist him/her and the Commission to gauge more accurately the weight of local opinion on the various proposals.

3. It is sometimes difficult for the Commission to obtain a true measure of local opinion if those who support, or at least do not object to, the Commission's provisional recommendations do not make known to the Commission their support or lack of objection. As those people are the category least likely to attend a local inquiry, it is all the more important that they should express their views in writing.

Statutory Rules

4. This booklet is not intended to be a full statement of the law regarding the review and distribution of parliamentary constituencies. For a definitive statement of the law, the reader is referred to the provisions of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, as amended. In framing

its provisional proposals, the Commission is required to observe the rules for the redistribution of seats which form Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act. The rules are reproduced at Appendix A.

Changes to the Rules

5. Section 86 of The Scotland Act 1998 made a number of changes to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, Schedule 2 rules, the outcome of which was as follows:

- Rule 1(2) was removed: there is now no minimum number of Scottish seats at Westminster.
- Rule 3A was inserted: a constituency which includes the Orkney Islands or the Shetland Islands shall not include the whole or part of any other local authority area.
- Rule 5 was altered: for the first review following The Scotland Act 1998, the electoral quota for England must be used to determine the appropriate number of Scottish seats at Westminster.
- Rule 7 was modified: rule 3A, regarding the Orkney Islands and the Shetland Islands (see above), cannot be disregarded.

6. Removal of a minimum number of seats for Scotland at the Westminster Parliament, coupled with the requirement that the electoral quota for England must be used to determine the level of Scottish representation, has inevitably resulted in an overall reduction of the number of Scottish seats. On the basis of the provisional electoral quota for England of around 70,000, Scotland would be entitled to around 57 seats rather than the 72 presently allocated. Taking account of geographical considerations, as it is entitled to do, the Commission has provisionally recommended that there should be 59 Scottish seats at Westminster.

Procedures Leading to a Local Inquiry

General

1. The Boundary Commission for Scotland has a statutory obligation under the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 to keep under review the Parliamentary constituencies in Scotland and to conduct a general review between 8 and 12 years from the date of the report on its last general review. The last periodical review report was submitted to the Secretary of State for Scotland in 1994. The Commission's next report must, therefore, be submitted between December 2002 and December 2006.

Provisional Recommendations

2. At an early stage in its deliberations the Commission established the theoretical entitlement of seats at Westminster both for the whole of Scotland and for each local authority. This analysis made it clear that the Commission would need to consider

combining some adjacent local authority areas so that it could devise constituencies which fell within the terms of the statutory rules.

3. In the first instance the Commission determined that, where the number of parliamentary electors within a local authority is broadly in line with the electoral quota, the boundary of the local authority and parliamentary constituency should be coterminous. The provisional recommendations for Scotland, therefore, include 9 constituencies which each comprise the area of an individual local authority. Included in this group are proposals for Comhairle nan Eilean Siar where the electorate falls substantially short of the electoral quota but, having regard to the detached nature of the Council area and other geographic features, the Commission concluded that it should form a single constituency.

4. In the case of 5 local authority areas, the Commission concluded that the size of the electorate gave a theoretical entitlement to two or more constituencies which vary only marginally from the electoral quota. The Commission, therefore, recommends that for these 5 areas, bearing in mind other aspects of the statutory rules, the constituencies should not breach local authority boundaries.

5. In the case of 18 local authority areas, the Commission noted that the theoretical entitlement to constituencies was such that a satisfactory constituency structure within the terms of the statutory rules was not achievable without breaching local authority boundaries. In these cases, the Commission considered it necessary to combine two or more local authority areas to enable the formulation of provisional recommendations. However, the Commission seeks to minimise the number of occasions where constituencies cross local authority boundaries.

6. After it had completed draft proposals for all local authorities in Scotland, the Commission considered the revised constituency map for Scotland to ensure that it had applied the statutory rules equitably.

7. For this review the Commission has followed the established practice of publishing provisional recommendations without prior consultation with local authorities and other interested parties. The Commission's proposals are independent of any political considerations or consequences.

Publication of Provisional Recommendations

8. Provisional recommendations must be made available for public comment. Statute requires the Commission to publish a notice of its provisional recommendations in at least one newspaper circulating in each of the constituencies which are affected and it is the Commission's practice to consult local authorities about these arrangements. The notice must specify a place in the constituency where details of the proposals may be inspected. Proposals are always illustrated by maps to help make the public more aware of the effect of the Commission's proposals. The statutory notices, maps, associated electorate data, and the Commission's news release are also available on the Commission's web site - www.bcomm-scotland.gov.uk. In addition, councils are offered copies of all the maps and associated documents on CD-ROM for wider distribution within their areas.

9. The legislation stipulates that representations regarding the provisional recommendations should be made to the Commission within a limited period of one calendar month from the date of publication of the statutory notice.

10. The Commission is required to hold a local inquiry if representations objecting to the provisional recommendations are received from an interested local authority (that is the Council for the area lying wholly or partly within the affected constituency) or a body of 100 or more parliamentary electors for such a constituency. In addition, the Commission has the discretion to order a local inquiry even where such objections have not been received.

Local Inquiry

General

1. The inquiry is conducted on behalf of the Commission by an Assistant Commissioner, usually a Sheriff Principal or Sheriff, appointed by the Secretary of State for Scotland at the request of the Commission. The inquiry is conducted at a convenient public place within the area under review, such as the Council Chamber of a local authority. Any interested person or organisation may, if they wish, attend in person - or send a representative to make known their views - whether or not they have previously submitted a written representation to the Commission.

2. The Commission gives advance notice of the local inquiry by publishing in local newspapers a Statutory Notice giving the time, date and venue of the inquiry and the name and address of the Assistant Commissioner. The notice, together with the provisional recommendations and a copy of the representations received, is placed on deposit at locations within the area concerned so that the public may be aware of any counter-proposals or other comments. The Commission informs all individuals and organisations who made written representations in respect of its provisional recommendations of the time, date and venue of the inquiry. The Commission also informs other interested parties such as the relevant local authorities and members of Parliament. A news release regarding the inquiry is issued to the news media. Advance notice is given so that interested parties have time, if they so wish, to make arrangements to be represented at the inquiry.

3. The Commission issues a statement of reasons for its provisional recommendations. The statement is also deposited at the locations mentioned in the published Statutory Notice. This statement is read out on behalf of the Commission by the Assistant Commissioner at the opening of the inquiry.

4. Prior to the inquiry, to help expedite the procedure, the Assistant Commissioner will provisionally determine the order in which representations offering alternative proposals for constituency boundaries, names or designations, received during the consultation period will be considered. Details of the provisional order of business will be made available prior to the start of the inquiry, together with the statutory notice and the summary and copies of the representations received by the Commission. The various documents will be deposited at the same locations at which the Commission's provisional recommendations were made available for inspection.

5. A transcript of the proceedings of the inquiry will be prepared.

The Commission's Role

6. The Commission will not be represented at the inquiry, although a member of the Secretariat may be present as an observer and to assist with the mechanics of the inquiry. The Commission will not seek to defend its proposals at the inquiry because it considers that to do so may give the impression that it is unwilling or reluctant to alter its provisional recommendations.

Procedure

7. No statutory procedure is prescribed for the conduct of a local inquiry; this is left to the discretion of the Assistant Commissioner. Inquiries are informal and statements can be read or oral submissions made without any prior formality such as taking an oath or affirming. The purpose of a local inquiry is:

- a. to get to know local opinion;
- b. to hear criticisms of, or support for, the provisional recommendations;
- c. to receive counter-proposals; and
- d. to enable everyone who wishes to comment on these, or on the Commission's proposals, to do so.

8. At the start of the inquiry the Assistant Commissioner will read out the Commission's statement.

9. The Assistant Commissioner will then ask the organisations or individuals listed in the provisional order of business if they would confirm that they wish to offer oral evidence. Where a sponsor is representing a person or organisation, a note will be made of that person's name. Thereafter, the Assistant Commissioner will ask for and note the name of any individual or organisation represented but not included in the provisional order of business wishing to offer evidence to the inquiry.

10. Assistant Commissioners would find it helpful if organisations or individuals wishing to propose elaborate or substantial counter-proposals would disclose this fact at the beginning of the inquiry when giving their names. Copies of any written submissions, schemes or maps should be provided for the Assistant Commissioner, verbatim reporters and, if possible, others attending the inquiry, to give them an opportunity to study and comment on counter-proposals at the inquiry. The Assistant Commissioner might consider it necessary to adjourn the inquiry for a short period in order to allow time for consideration to be given to complex counter-proposals.

11. Other persons wishing to make written submissions or to read out written submissions are asked to provide, if possible, copies of the submissions or statements for the

convenience of the Assistant Commissioner, verbatim reporters and others attending the inquiry.

12. After the Assistant Commissioner has heard each speaker, he may, at his discretion, invite questions to be asked through him of that speaker and he may have questions of his own.

13. When the inquiry has closed, the Assistant Commissioner will write his report and submit it to the Commission. The Assistant Commissioner is fully entitled to comment on the Commission's proposals and on any representations or submissions. The report may recommend that the Commission's proposals be accepted intact or with alterations or that a counter-proposal be adopted. However, the Assistant Commissioner is also at liberty to offer completely revised proposals within the terms of the statutory rules which, in his opinion, are likely to be acceptable within the area under review.

Procedures Following a Local Inquiry

Revised Recommendations

1. The Commission considers the Assistant Commissioner's Report and the matters discussed at the inquiry, together with any other relevant information. If the Commission decides to alter its provisional recommendations, its revised recommendations are made available for public inspection in the same way as the provisional recommendations. A copy of the Assistant Commissioner's Report is made available with the relevant documents for public inspection. Those who took part in the inquiry each receive a copy of the Assistant Commissioner's Report.

2. Representations about these revised proposals may then be made within a one-month period. The Commission is not obliged to hold a further inquiry in respect of all or part of an area involved, but may do so if it considers that it is necessary to obtain more information or local opinion on certain matters. If the Commission decides to modify its revised recommendations before finally submitting them to the Secretary of State for Scotland, the modified proposals will be published and representations invited again.

3. If the Commission decides not to alter its provisional recommendations, these will be published as the Commission's final recommendations and all those who participated in the local inquiry will be informed of its decision.

Obligations under The Scotland Act 1998

4. *Following enactment of the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004, the published text of paragraph 4 no longer applies.*

Order in Council

5. Once it has decided on its final recommendations for the whole of Scotland in terms of its obligations under the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, as amended, and The Scotland Act 1998, the Commission submits these in its Report to the Secretary of State for Scotland. The Secretary of State is under a statutory duty to lay the Commission's Report before the UK Parliament. If the Report recommends alterations to existing Parliamentary constituency boundaries, the Secretary of State must also lay a draft Order in Council before Parliament at the same time, giving effect to the proposals with or without modifications. If the Secretary of State has decided to modify the Commission's final recommendations, a statement of the reasons for these modifications must also be laid before Parliament. The Order must be approved by both Houses of Parliament and, if approved, takes effect at the next General Election. *(A copy of the Commission's Report will also be laid before the Scottish Parliament. Following enactment of the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004, this no longer applies.)*

Appendix A (see page 208)

Appendix C

Current Constituencies Parliamentary Electorate - Previous and Current Review

Current Constituency	Electoralates			
	Previous Review*		Current Review#	
	Start (1992)	End (1994)	Start (2001)	End (2004)
Aberdeen Central BC	55,882	55,933	50,423	47,903
Aberdeen North BC	53,944	55,008	53,530	52,438
Aberdeen South BC	60,352	61,157	59,495	57,225
Airdrie and Shotts BC	59,264	58,645	58,785	57,380
Angus CC	58,883	60,270	60,506	60,021
Argyll and Bute CC	48,436	49,437	49,457	48,463
Ayr CC	55,307	55,704	56,297	56,063
Banff and Buchan CC	58,015	59,582	57,225	56,245
Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross CC	41,318	41,920	41,181	40,809
Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley CC	67,001	66,870	65,735	66,065
Central Fife	57,702	58,576	59,705	57,628
Clydebank and Milngavie CC	51,276	51,746	52,522	50,653
Clydesdale CC	62,684	63,229	64,936	64,585
Coatbridge and Chryston BC	52,830	52,421	52,240	52,069
Cumbernauld and Kilsyth CC	47,155	47,579	50,042	49,105
Cunninghame North CC	55,490	55,877	55,612	56,405
Cunninghame South CC	49,745	49,736	50,568	50,829
Dumbarton CC	57,894	57,614	56,065	55,054
Dumfries CC	63,268	63,148	63,502	61,634
Dundee East BC	61,286	59,436	57,051	55,300
Dundee West BC	60,352	58,939	54,206	52,196
Dunfermline East CC	50,674	51,150	52,822	51,027
Dunfermline West CC	51,187	52,708	54,185	54,681
East Kilbride CC	63,525	65,368	67,031	66,357
East Lothian CC	56,283	56,507	59,422	58,857
Eastwood CC	65,846	64,814	68,920	66,556
Edinburgh Central BC	60,023	60,650	66,296	55,714
Edinburgh East and Musselburgh BC	59,153	58,670	59,775	55,586
Edinburgh North and Leith BC	60,235	60,227	62,731	57,097
Edinburgh Pentlands BC	59,432	59,329	60,484	56,775
Edinburgh South BC	61,638	62,695	64,437	57,274
Edinburgh West BC	61,995	61,730	62,503	59,045
Falkirk East CC	56,737	56,721	58,095	55,478

Current Constituency	Electoralates			
	Previous Review*		Current Review#	
	Start (1992)	End (1994)	Start (2001)	End (2004)
Falkirk West CC	53,947	53,721	53,888	51,639
Galloway and Upper Nithsdale CC	53,482	53,422	53,189	51,796
Glasgow Anniesland BC	53,667	52,624	53,189	49,861
Glasgow Baillieston BC	52,207	52,225	49,350	45,738
Glasgow Cathcart BC	51,940	50,578	52,055	48,719
Glasgow Govan BC	50,351	50,110	53,832	47,410
Glasgow Kelvin BC	53,680	53,997	60,000	53,671
Glasgow Maryhill BC	52,291	52,584	55,087	47,525
Glasgow Pollok BC	52,678	51,411	49,257	47,428
Glasgow Rutherglen BC	52,265	51,749	52,174	50,046
Glasgow Shettleston BC	49,358	48,792	51,363	45,563
Glasgow Springburn BC	54,822	54,148	55,185	49,177
Gordon CC	56,716	58,548	60,619	62,180
Greenock and Inverclyde CC	51,442	50,456	48,492	45,022
Hamilton North and Bellshill BC	52,793	53,290	54,016	52,807
Hamilton South BC	46,860	47,085	47,054	46,655
Inverness East, Nairn and Lochaber CC	63,321	63,982	66,893	67,820
Kilmarnock and Loudoun CC	62,777	62,547	61,719	62,012
Kirkcaldy CC	50,837	51,183	51,636	49,485
Linlithgow CC	53,066	53,059	55,086	53,549
Livingston CC	58,068	58,412	65,393	64,605
Midlothian CC	47,952	47,632	49,253	47,714
Moray CC	57,743	58,865	57,752	59,109
Motherwell and Wishaw BC	53,282	52,737	52,790	52,713
North East Fife CC	54,196	56,971	61,356	58,891
North Tayside CC	59,626	60,823	62,253	61,031
Ochil CC	55,483	56,577	57,393	54,783
Orkney and Shetland CC	31,837	32,316	32,340	32,486
Paisley North BC	49,702	49,418	47,982	43,590
Paisley South BC	53,800	53,291	53,098	48,248
Perth CC	58,515	59,413	62,069	60,999
Ross, Skye and Inverness West CC	52,810	55,081	56,300	56,568
Roxburgh and Berwickshire CC	47,068	47,344	47,429	46,223
Stirling CC	51,902	51,936	53,340	51,071
Strathkelvin and Bearsden CC	63,483	63,139	63,368	62,106
Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale CC	50,228	50,868	52,396	51,626
West Aberdeenshire & Kincardine CC	55,093	57,210	61,961	63,731
West Renfrewshire	51,833	52,359	52,736	50,573
Western Isles CC	23,015	23,318	21,941	21,310

*As published in the Fourth Periodical Report of the Boundary Commission for Scotland.

#Annual electorate provided by the Registrar General for Scotland. The number of electors for each year taken from the electoral register which came into effect on 1 December in the preceding year.

Appendix D

Council Areas Changes in Parliamentary Electorate 2001 - 2004

Area	Electoralates							
	Number				Annual Change			
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2001/ 2002	2002/ 2003	2003/ 2004	2001/ 2004
Scotland	4,001,018	3,966,801	3,887,059	3,857,997	-34,217	-79,742	-29,062	-143,021
Council area and Constituency coterminous								
Argyll & Bute	69,069	69,110	68,523	67,967	41	-587	-556	-1,102
East Lothian	71,293	71,336	70,767	70,186	43	-569	-581	-1,107
East Renfrewshire	68,920	68,825	67,170	66,556	-95	-1,655	-614	-2,364
Inverclyde	65,695	65,569	62,220	60,924	-126	-3,349	-1,296	-4,771
Midlothian	62,780	62,359	61,595	60,515	-421	-764	-1,080	-2,265
Moray	63,922	65,330	64,637	65,264	1,408	-693	627	1,342
Na h-Eileanan an Iar	21,941	21,691	21,156	21,310	-250	-535	154	-631
Stirling	65,691	65,147	63,501	62,929	-544	-1,646	-572	-2,762
West Dunbartonshire	71,626	72,068	71,625	69,343	442	-443	-2,282	-2,283
Council areas with more than 1 Constituency								
City of Edinburgh	364,355	356,760	341,367	330,162	-7,595	-15,393	-11,205	-34,193
Fife	279,704	278,644	271,193	271,712	-1,060	-7,451	519	-7,992
Glasgow City	487,753	465,629	450,606	442,174	-22,124	-15,023	-8,432	-45,579
Highland	164,374	164,834	162,238	165,197	460	-2,596	2,959	823
Renfrewshire	136,613	135,901	129,503	126,509	-712	-6,398	-2,994	-10,104
Combined Council areas								
Aberdeen City	163,448	164,439	159,598	157,468	991	-4,841	-2,130	-5,980
Aberdeenshire	173,635	174,899	172,977	176,099	1,264	-1,922	3,122	2,464
Total	337,083	339,338	332,575	333,567	2,255	-6,763	992	-3,516
Angus	86,543	85,383	85,163	84,614	-1,160	-220	-549	-1,929
Dundee City	111,736	108,741	109,194	108,270	-2,995	453	-924	-3,466
Total	198,279	194,124	194,357	192,884	-4,155	233	-1,473	-5,395
Clackmannanshire	36,565	35,949	34,468	34,312	-616	-1,481	-156	-2,253
Perth & Kinross	106,283	105,734	106,022	105,276	-549	288	-746	-1,007
Total	142,848	141,683	140,490	139,588	-1,165	-1,193	-902	-3,260

Area	Electoralates							
	Number				Annual Change			
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2001/ 2002	2002/ 2003	2003/ 2004	2001/ 2004
East Dunbartonshire	84,542	83,879	83,319	82,682	-663	-560	-637	-1,860
North Lanarkshire	248,488	247,722	248,172	244,847	-766	450	-3,325	-3,641
Total	333,030	331,601	331,491	327,529	-1,429	-110	-3,962	-5,501
Falkirk	111,983	110,959	107,532	107,117	-1,024	-3,427	-415	-4,866
West Lothian	120,479	121,321	119,583	118,154	842	-1,738	-1,429	-2,325
Total	232,462	232,280	227,115	225,271	-182	-5,165	-1,844	-7,191
Orkney Islands	15,477	15,497	15,593	15,679	20	96	86	202
Shetland Islands	16,863	16,707	16,744	16,807	-156	37	63	-56
Total	32,340	32,204	32,337	32,486	-136	133	149	146
Dumfries & Galloway	116,691	117,062	112,782	113,430	371	-4,280	648	-3,261
Scottish Borders	86,298	86,721	83,889	85,048	423	-2,832	1,159	-1,250
South Lanarkshire	238,320	237,317	237,378	236,072	-1,003	61	-1,306	-2,248
Total	441,309	441,100	434,049	434,550	-209	-7,051	501	-6,759
East Ayrshire	93,292	93,813	92,732	93,482	521	-1,081	750	190
North Ayrshire	106,180	106,787	105,802	107,234	607	-985	1,432	1,054
South Ayrshire	90,459	90,668	90,010	90,658	209	-658	648	199
Total	289,931	291,268	288,544	291,374	1,337	-2,724	2,830	1,443

Annual electorate data provided by the Registrar General for Scotland.

The number of electors for each year taken from the electoral register which came into effect on 1 December in the preceding year.

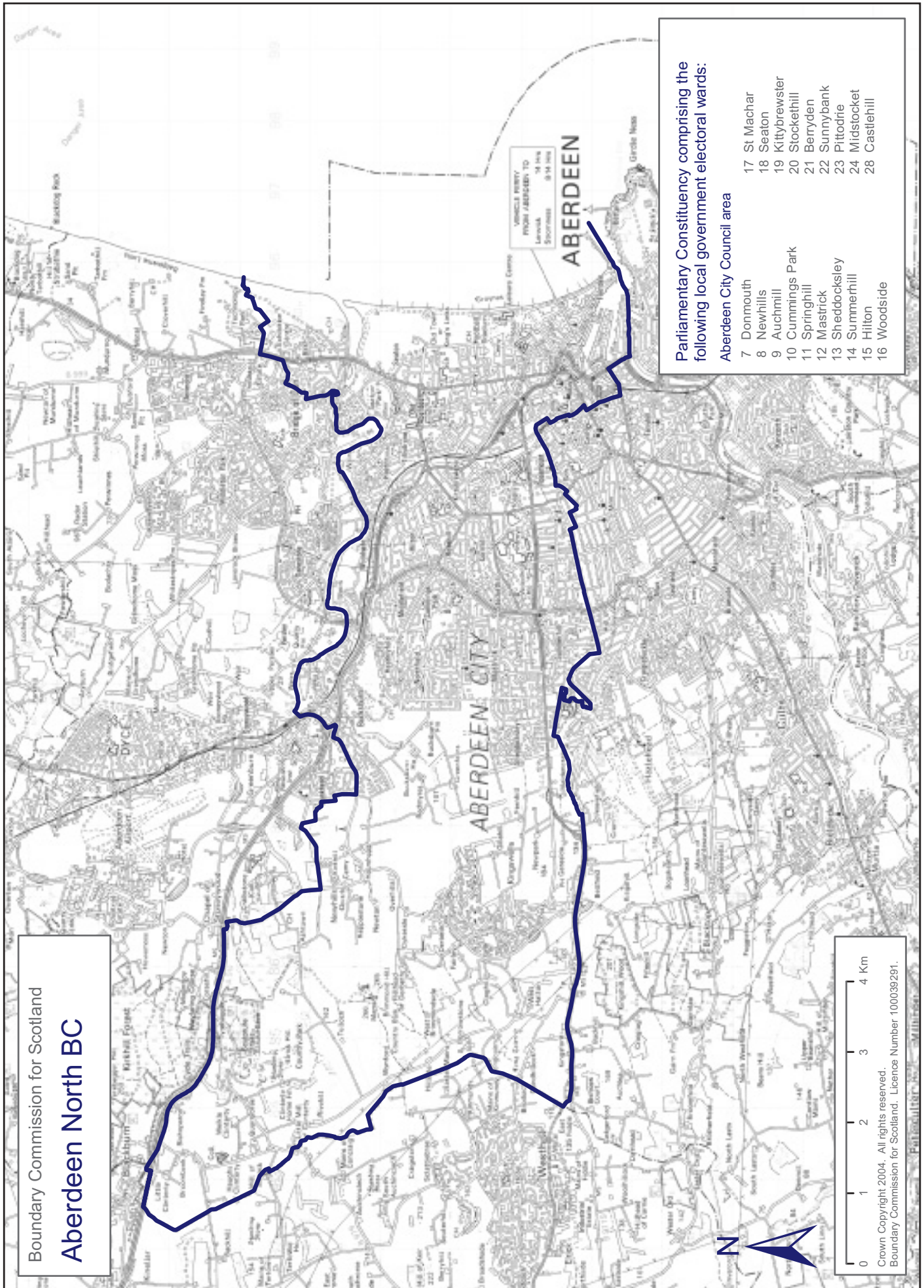
Appendix E

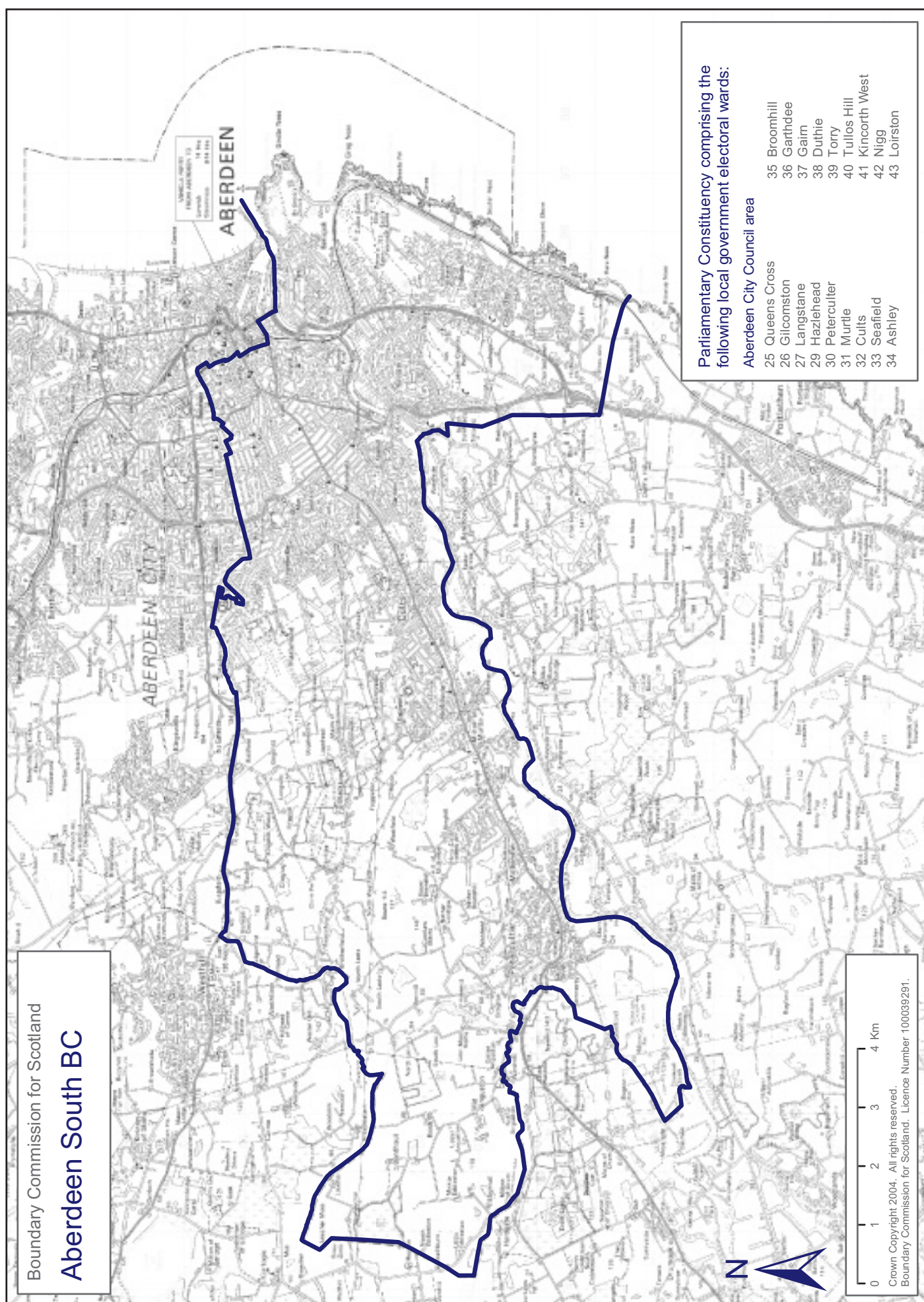
Recommended Constituencies Alphabetical Order and Size of Electorate Order

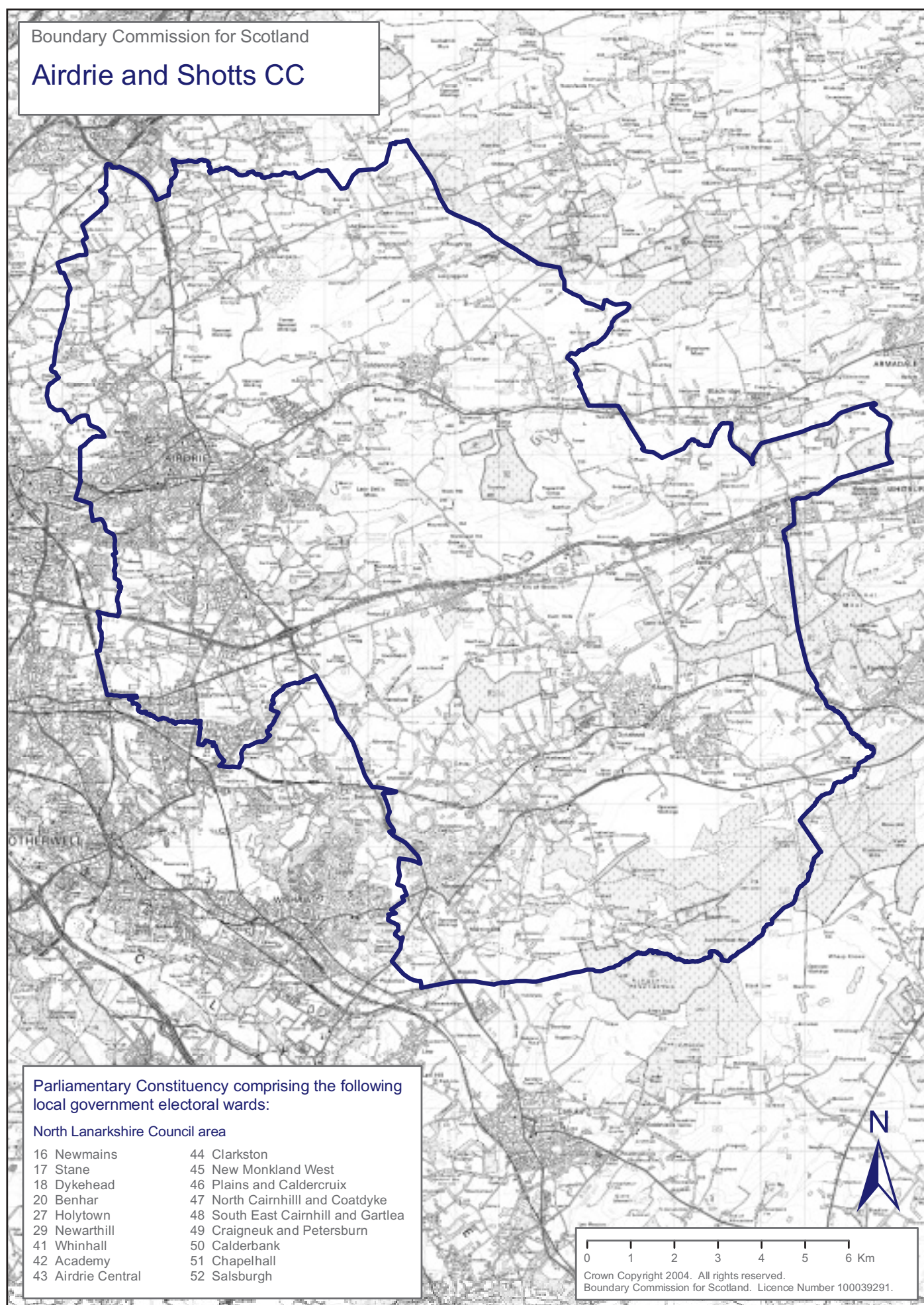
Constituencies - Alphabetical Order	Electorates June 2001	Electorates June 2001	Constituencies - Electorate Order
Aberdeen North BC	69,622	78,675	Linlithgow and East Falkirk CC
Aberdeen South BC	69,332	78,281	Falkirk CC
Airdrie and Shotts CC	63,309	77,257	East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow CC
Angus CC	64,591	76,299	Livingston CC
Argyll and Bute CC	69,571	76,173	Lanark and Hamilton East CC
Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock CC	74,159	75,787	Edinburgh South West BC
Banff and Buchan CC	65,970	75,370	Rutherglen and Hamilton West BC
Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk CC	72,430	75,316	Dumfries and Galloway CC
Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross CC	46,533	74,762	Edinburgh North and Leith BC
Central Ayrshire CC	69,161	74,505	Edinburgh East BC
Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill BC	67,647	74,482	Glasgow South BC
Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East CC	67,802	74,163	Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath CC
Dumfries and Galloway CC	75,316	74,159	Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock CC
Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale CC	65,137	73,182	North Ayrshire and Arran CC
Dundee East BC	65,059	72,922	Kilmarnock and Loudoun CC
Dundee West BC	67,751	72,430	Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk CC
Dunfermline and West Fife CC	70,373	71,738	Ochil and South Perthshire CC
East Dunbartonshire CC	66,724	71,710	West Dunbartonshire CC
East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow CC	77,257	71,288	East Lothian CC
East Lothian CC	71,288	70,899	Glasgow North East BC
East Renfrewshire CC	69,249	70,718	Perth and North Perthshire CC
Edinburgh East BC	74,505	70,603	Edinburgh West BC
Edinburgh North and Leith BC	74,762	70,378	Glasgow Central BC
Edinburgh South BC	68,884	70,373	Dunfermline and West Fife CC
Edinburgh South West BC	75,787	70,167	Glasgow East BC
Edinburgh West BC	70,603	69,631	Gordon CC
Falkirk CC	78,281	69,622	Aberdeen North BC
Glasgow Central BC	70,378	69,571	Argyll and Bute CC
Glasgow East BC	70,167	69,499	Glenrothes CC
Glasgow North BC	63,729	69,332	Aberdeen South BC
Glasgow North East BC	70,899	69,249	East Renfrewshire CC
Glasgow North West BC	67,087	69,161	Central Ayrshire CC
Glasgow South BC	74,482	68,884	Edinburgh South BC
Glasgow South West BC	66,335	68,642	Paisley and Renfrewshire North CC

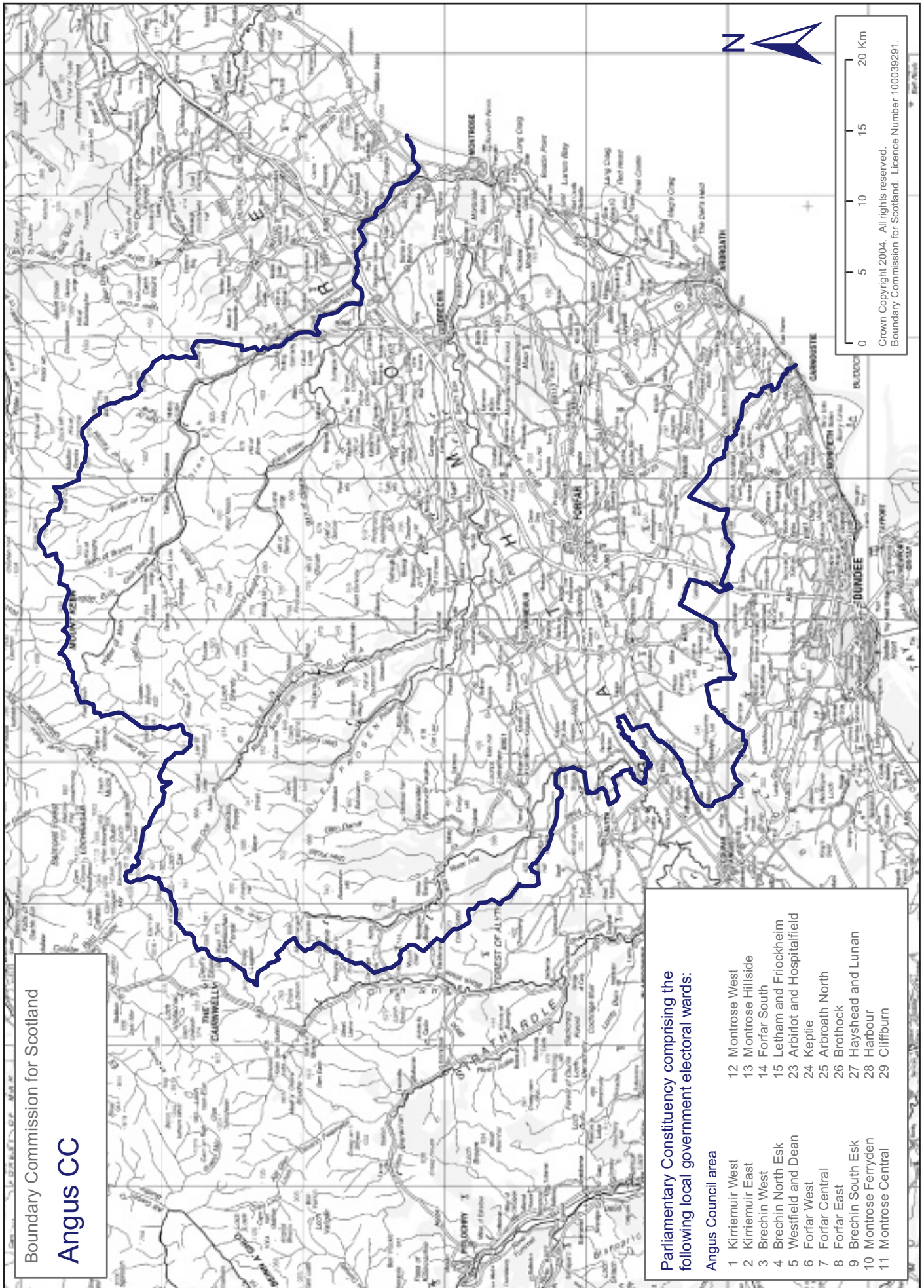
Constituencies - Alphabetical Order	Electorates June 2001	Electorates June 2001	Constituencies - Electorate Order
Glenrothes CC	69,499	68,038	Paisley and Renfrewshire South CC
Gordon CC	69,631	67,802	Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East CC
Inverclyde CC	65,485	67,790	Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey CC
Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey CC	67,790	67,751	Dundee West BC
Kilmarnock and Loudoun CC	72,922	67,647	Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill BC
Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath CC	74,163	67,499	Motherwell and Wishaw BC
Lanark and Hamilton East CC	76,173	67,087	Glasgow North West BC
Linlithgow and East Falkirk CC	78,675	66,724	East Dunbartonshire CC
Livingston CC	76,299	66,393	Stirling CC
Midlothian CC	62,787	66,335	Glasgow South West BC
Moray CC	63,959	65,970	Banff and Buchan CC
Motherwell and Wishaw BC	67,499	65,485	Inverclyde CC
Na h-Eileanan an Iar CC	21,884	65,137	Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale CC
North Ayrshire and Arran CC	73,182	65,059	Dundee East BC
North East Fife CC	64,813	64,813	North East Fife CC
Ochil and South Perthshire CC	71,738	64,591	Angus CC
Orkney and Shetland CC	32,181	63,959	Moray CC
Paisley and Renfrewshire North CC	68,642	63,729	Glasgow North BC
Paisley and Renfrewshire South CC	68,038	63,309	Airdrie and Shotts CC
Perth and North Perthshire CC	70,718	62,787	Midlothian CC
Ross, Skye and Lochaber CC	49,544	62,214	West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine CC
Rutherglen and Hamilton West BC	75,370	49,544	Ross, Skye and Lochaber CC
Stirling CC	66,393	46,533	Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross CC
West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine CC	62,214	32,181	Orkney and Shetland CC
West Dunbartonshire CC	71,710	21,884	Na h-Eileanan an Iar CC

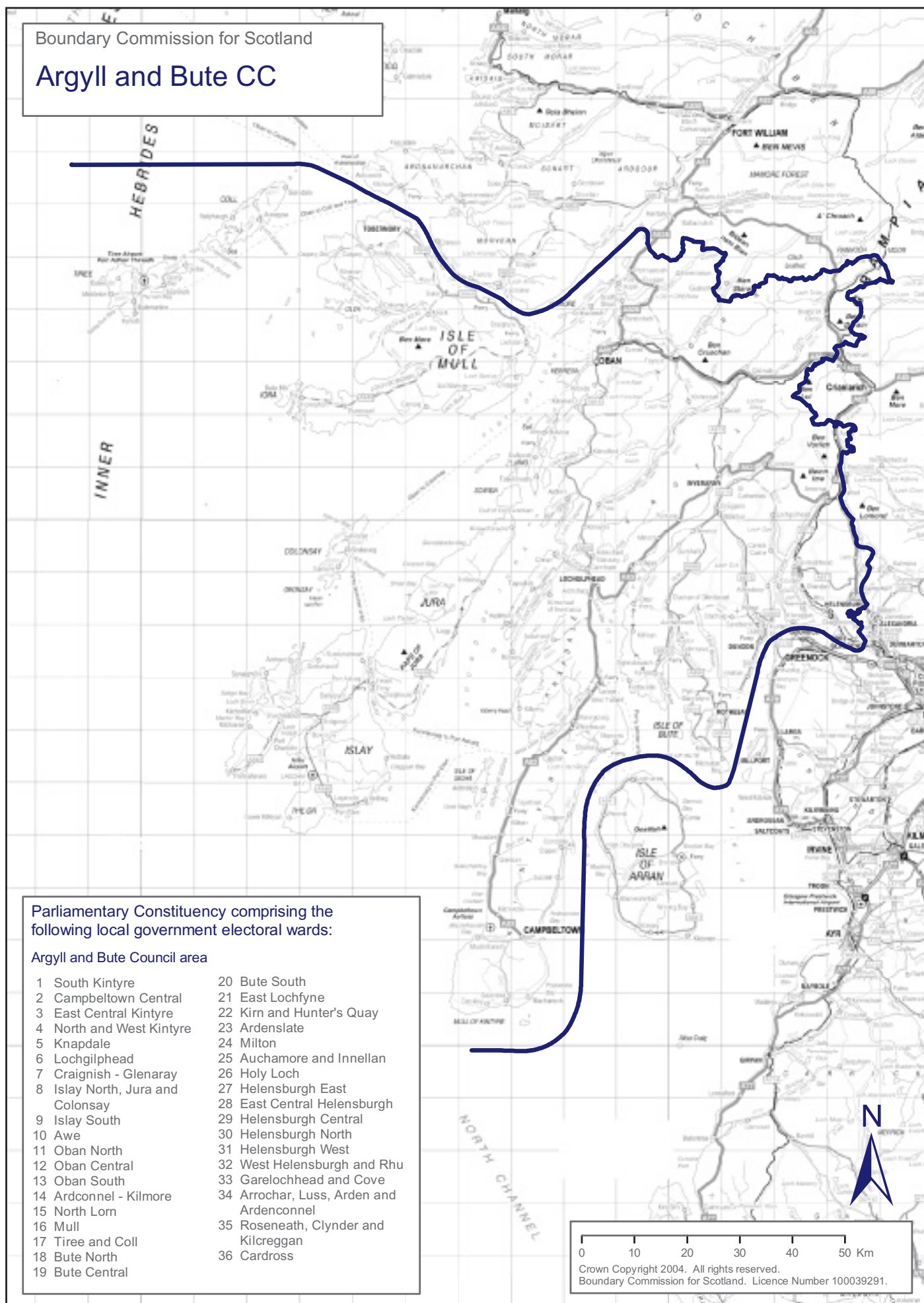
Maps of the Recommended Constituencies

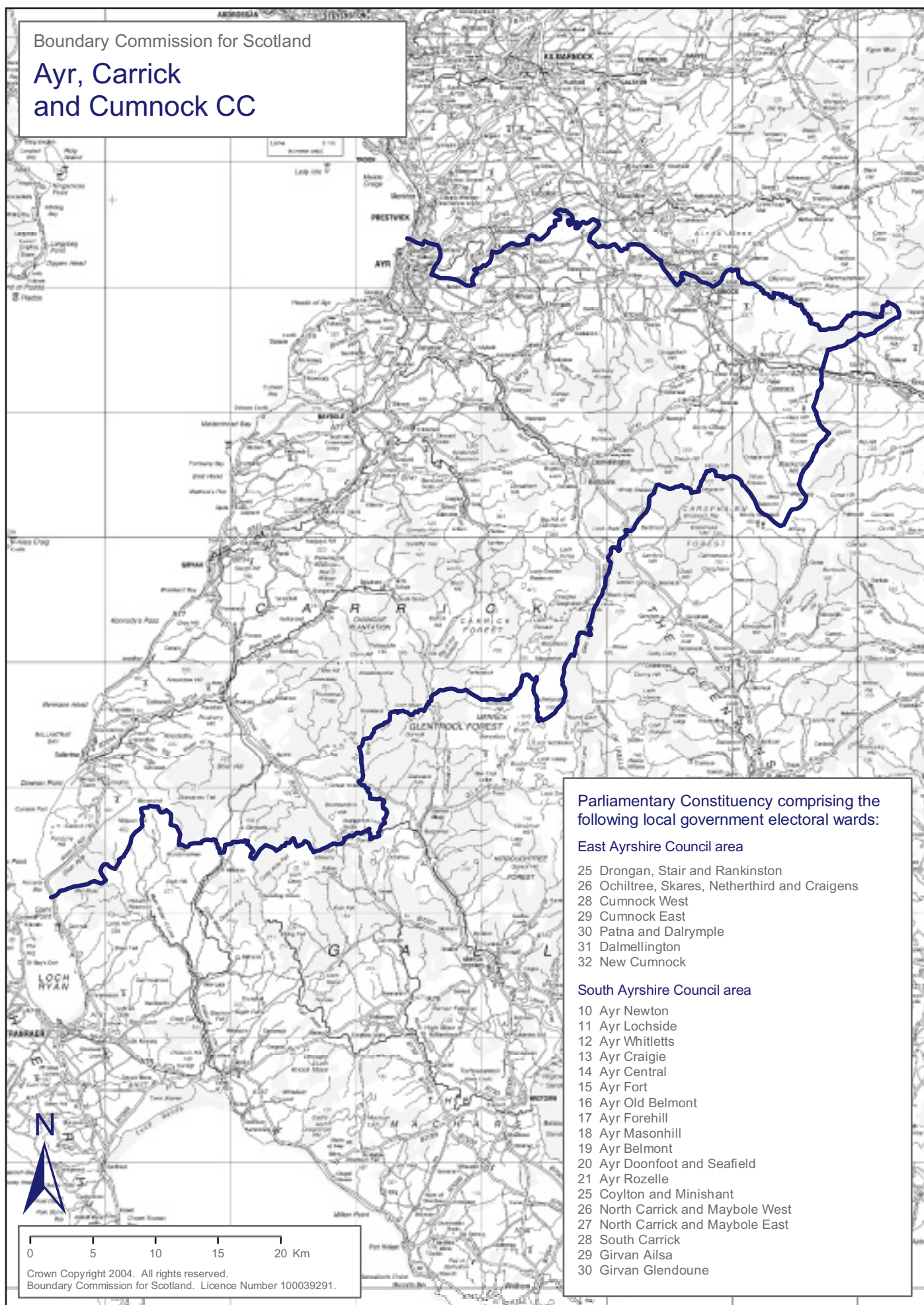


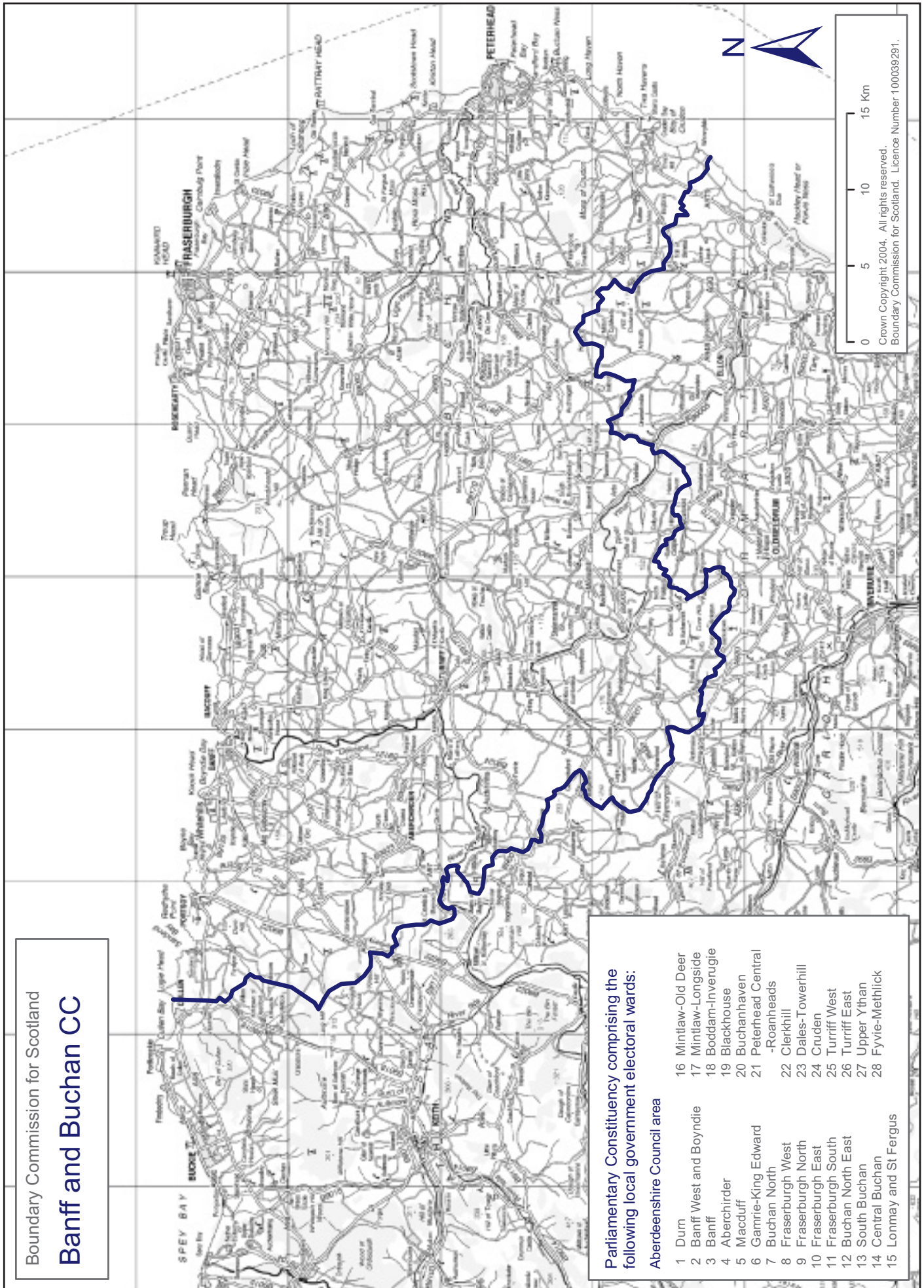


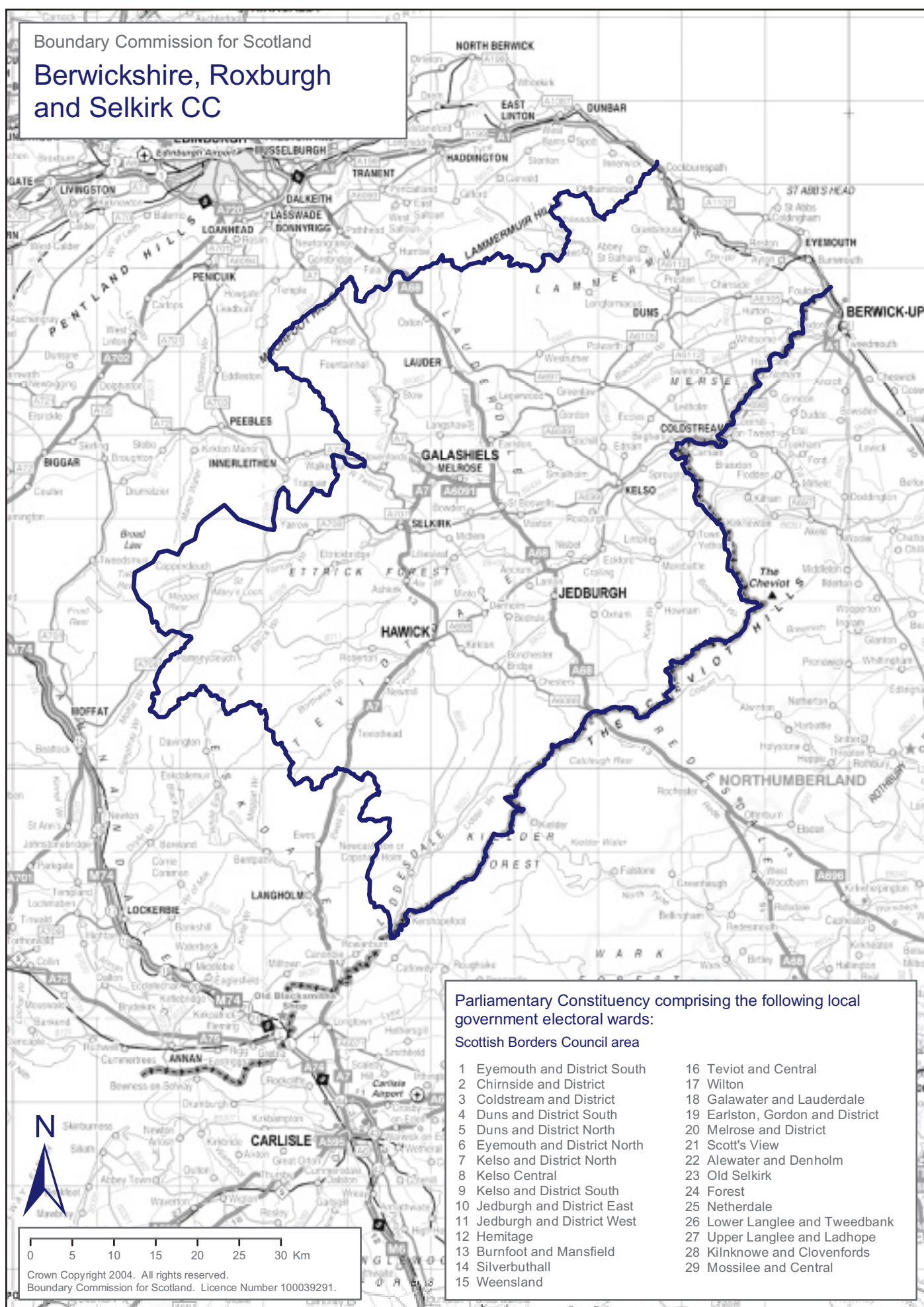


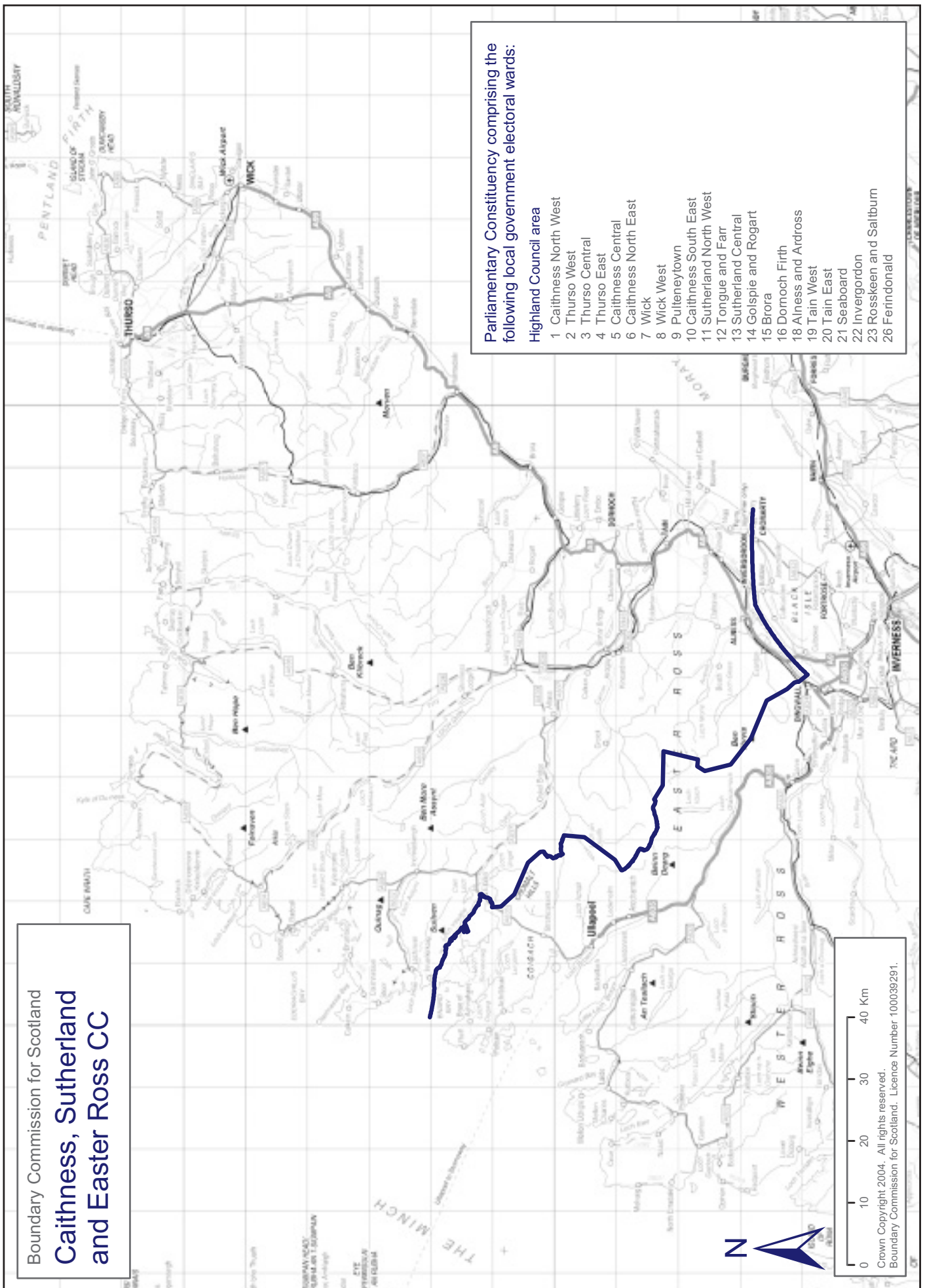


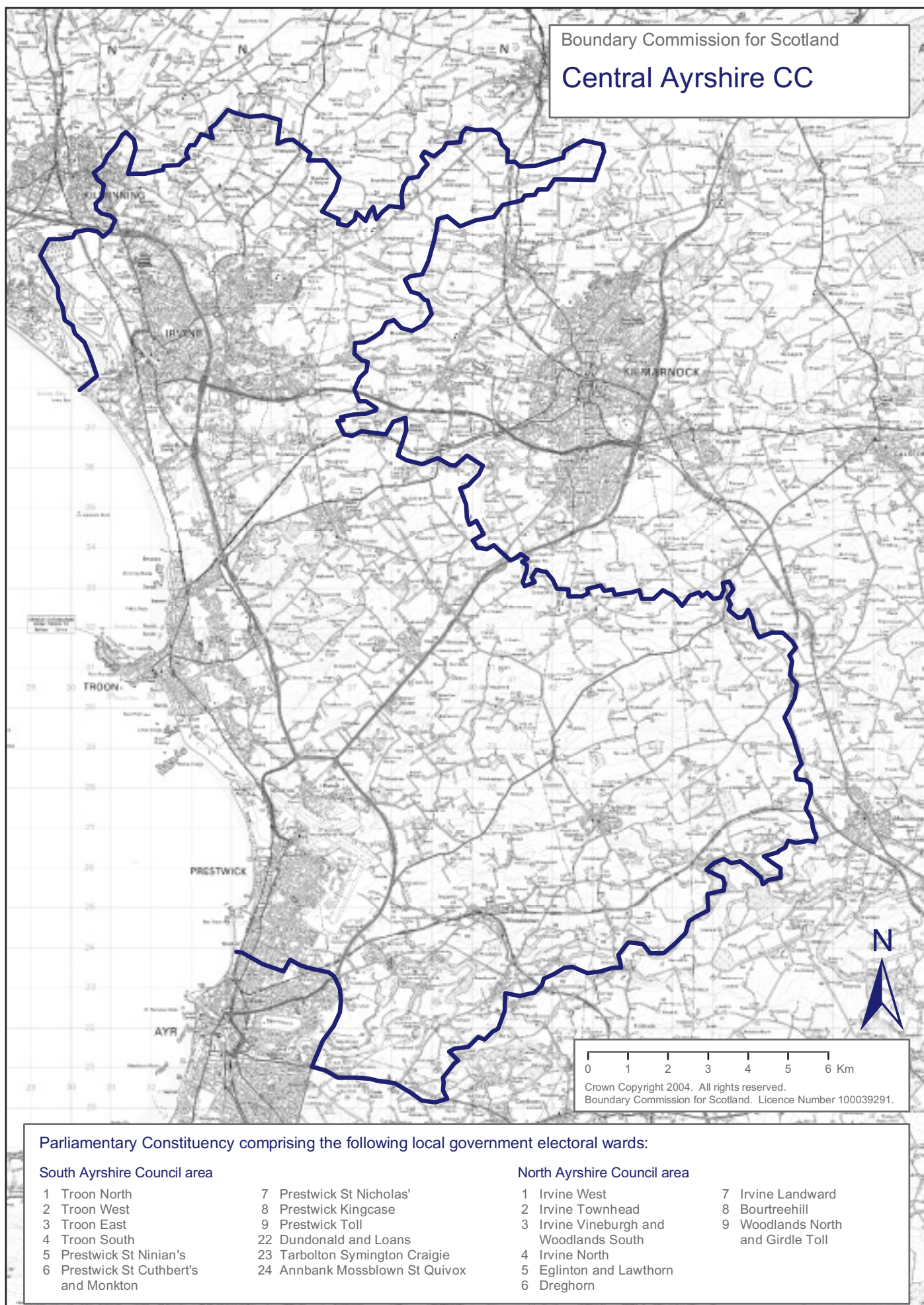


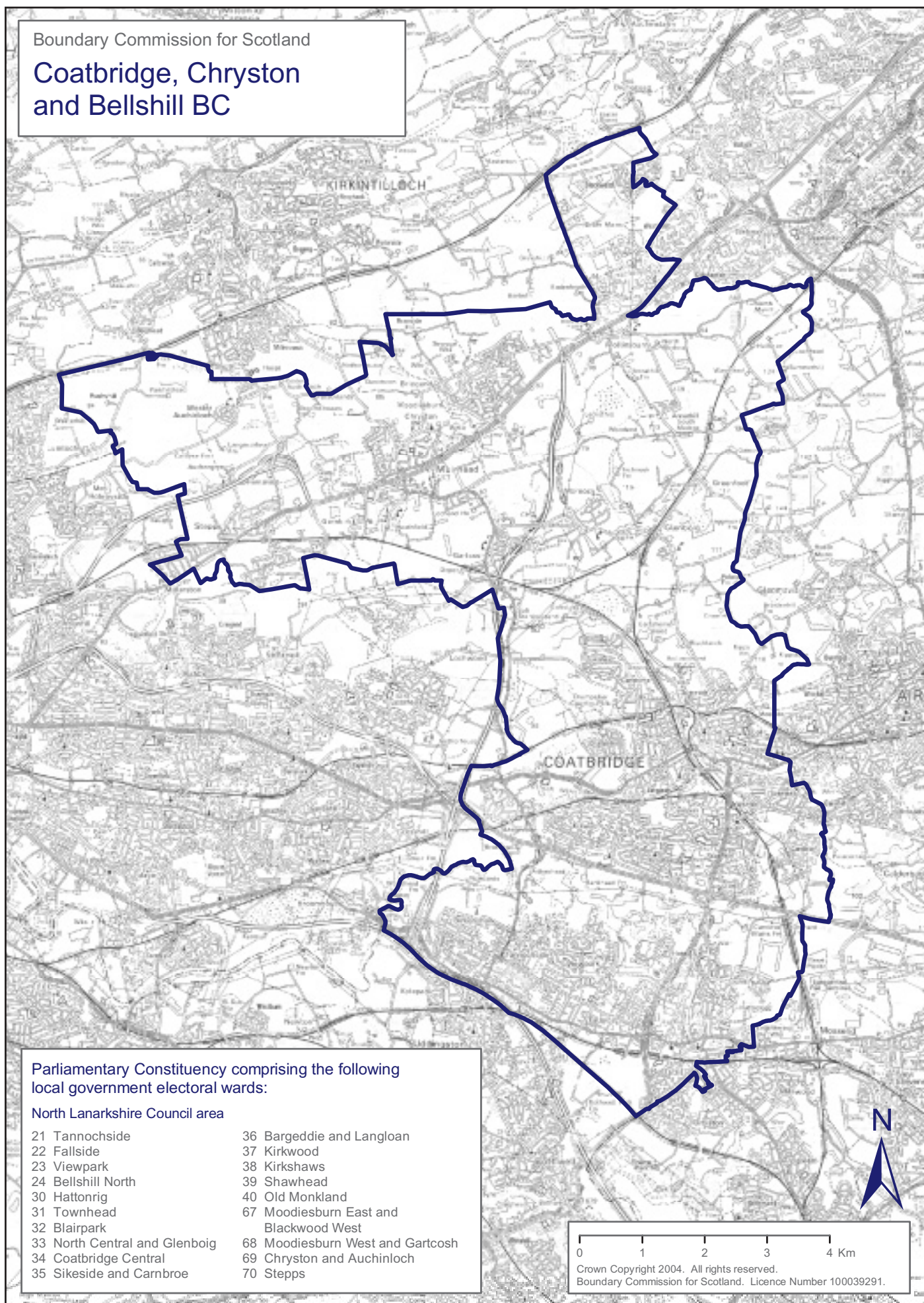


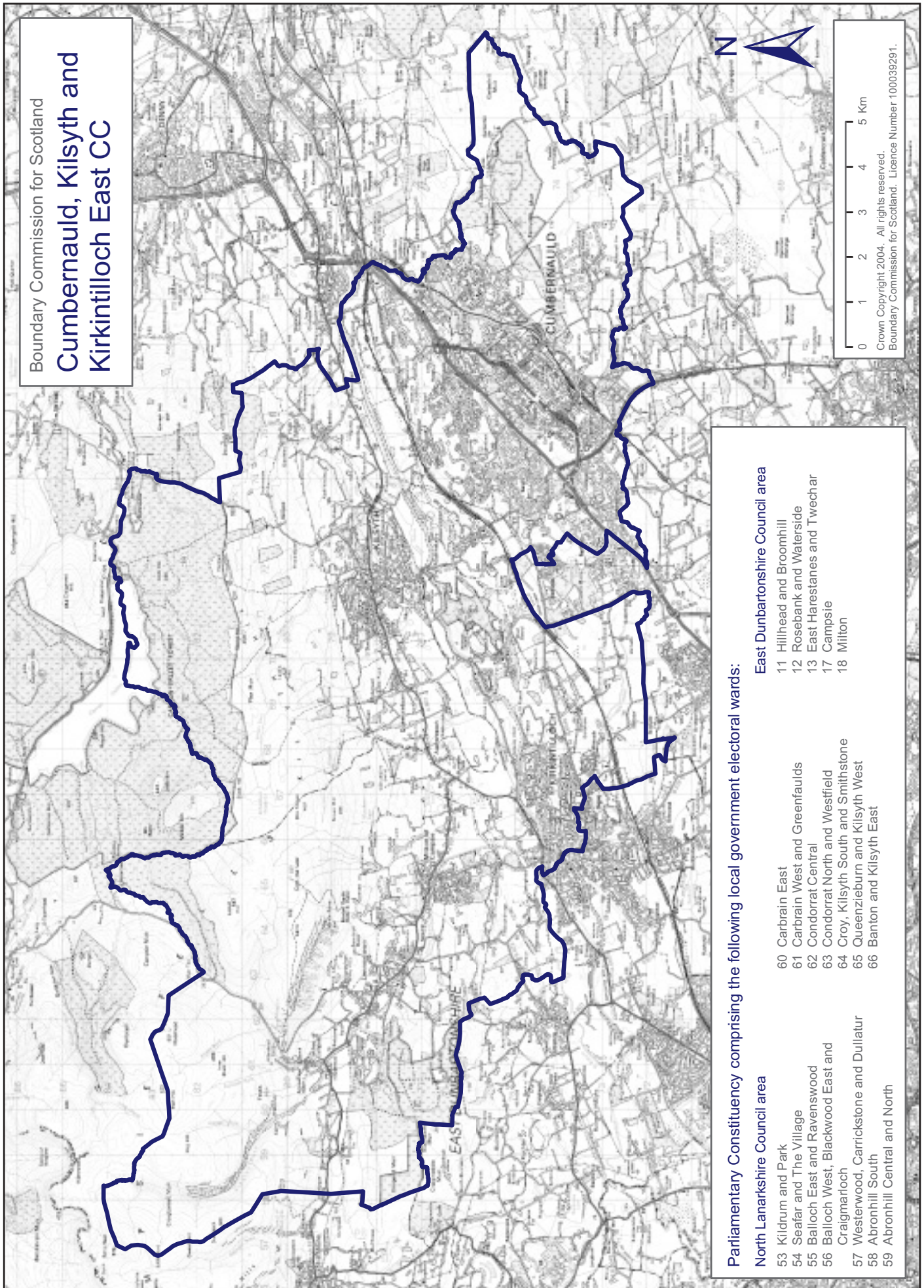


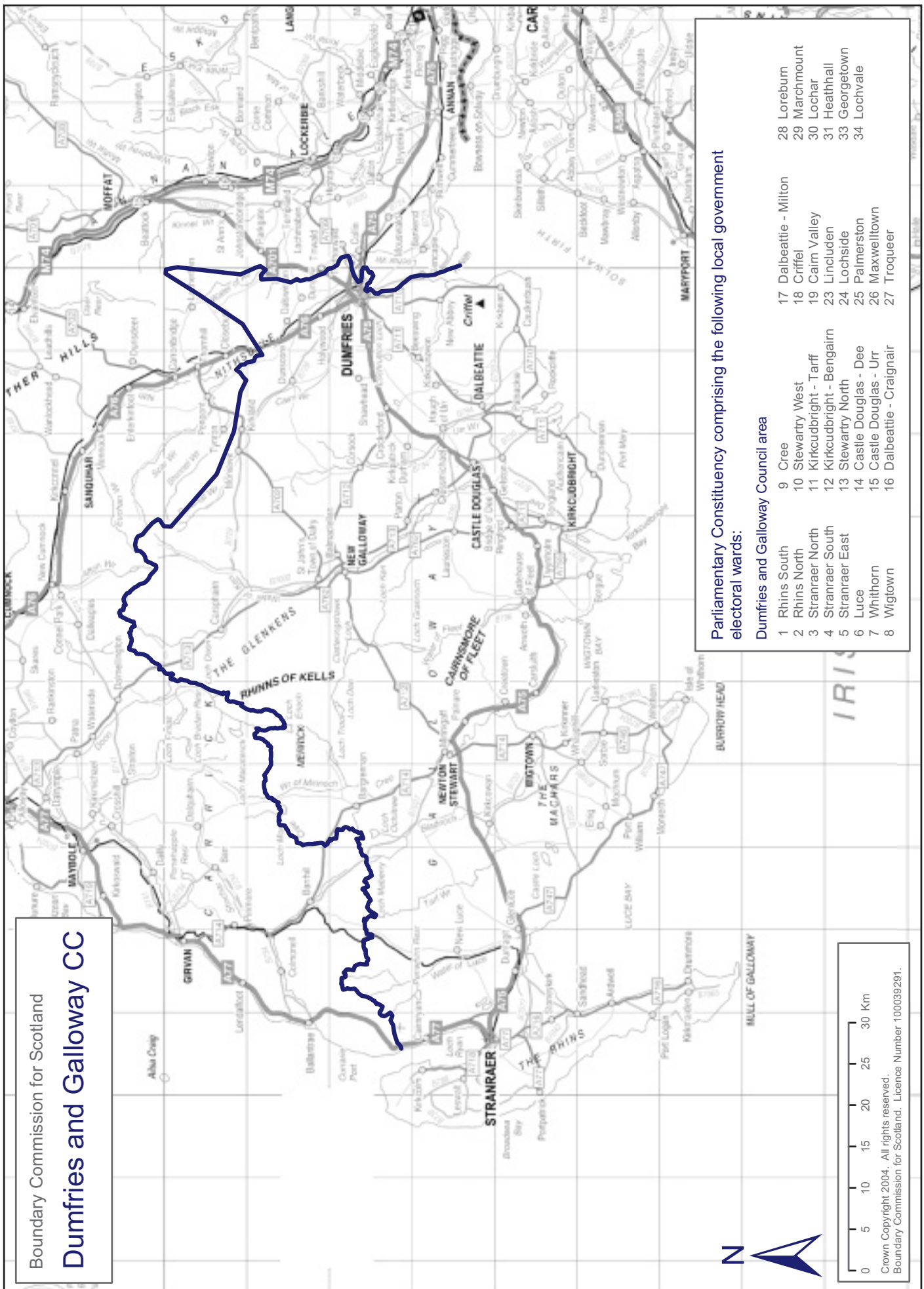


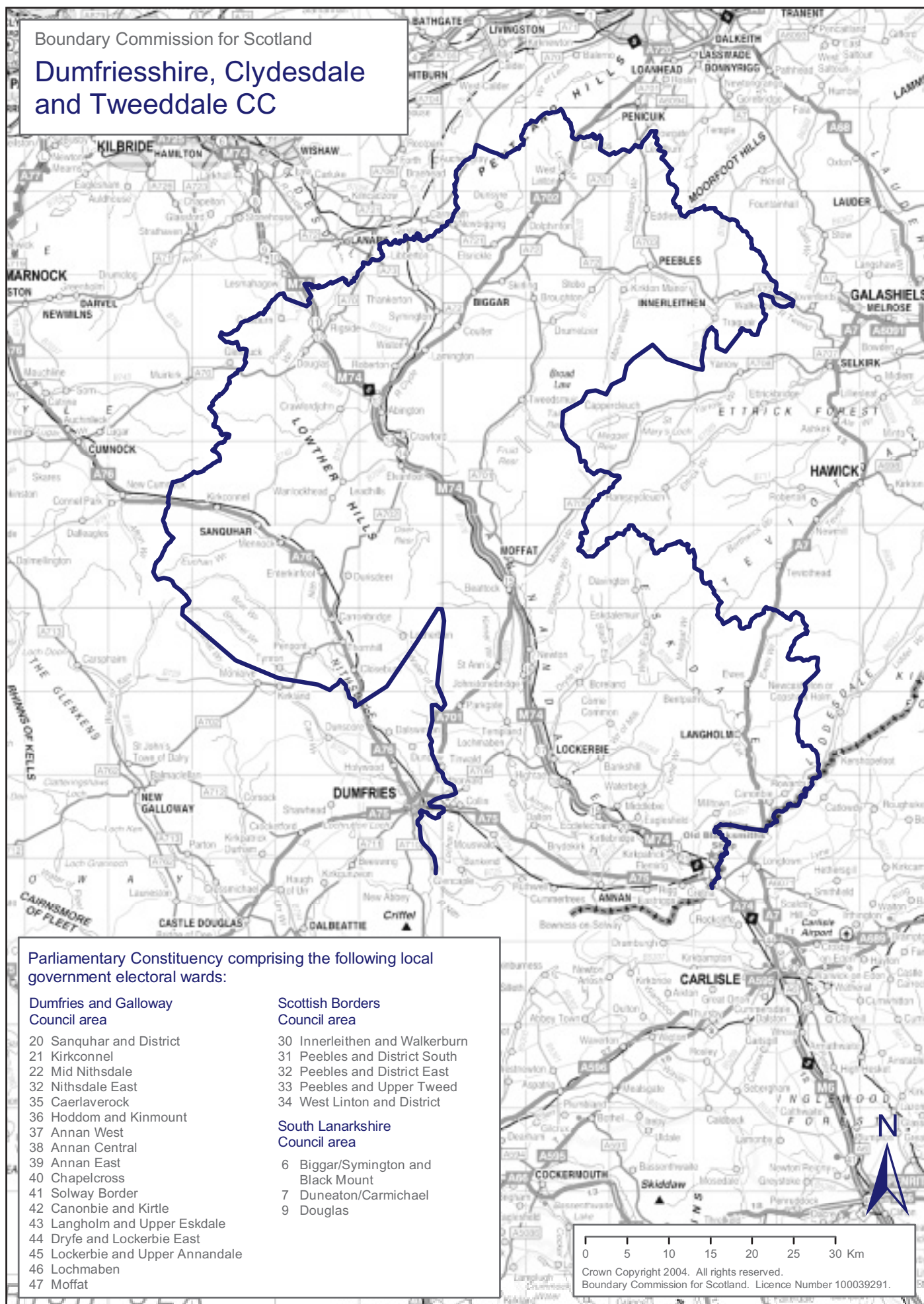


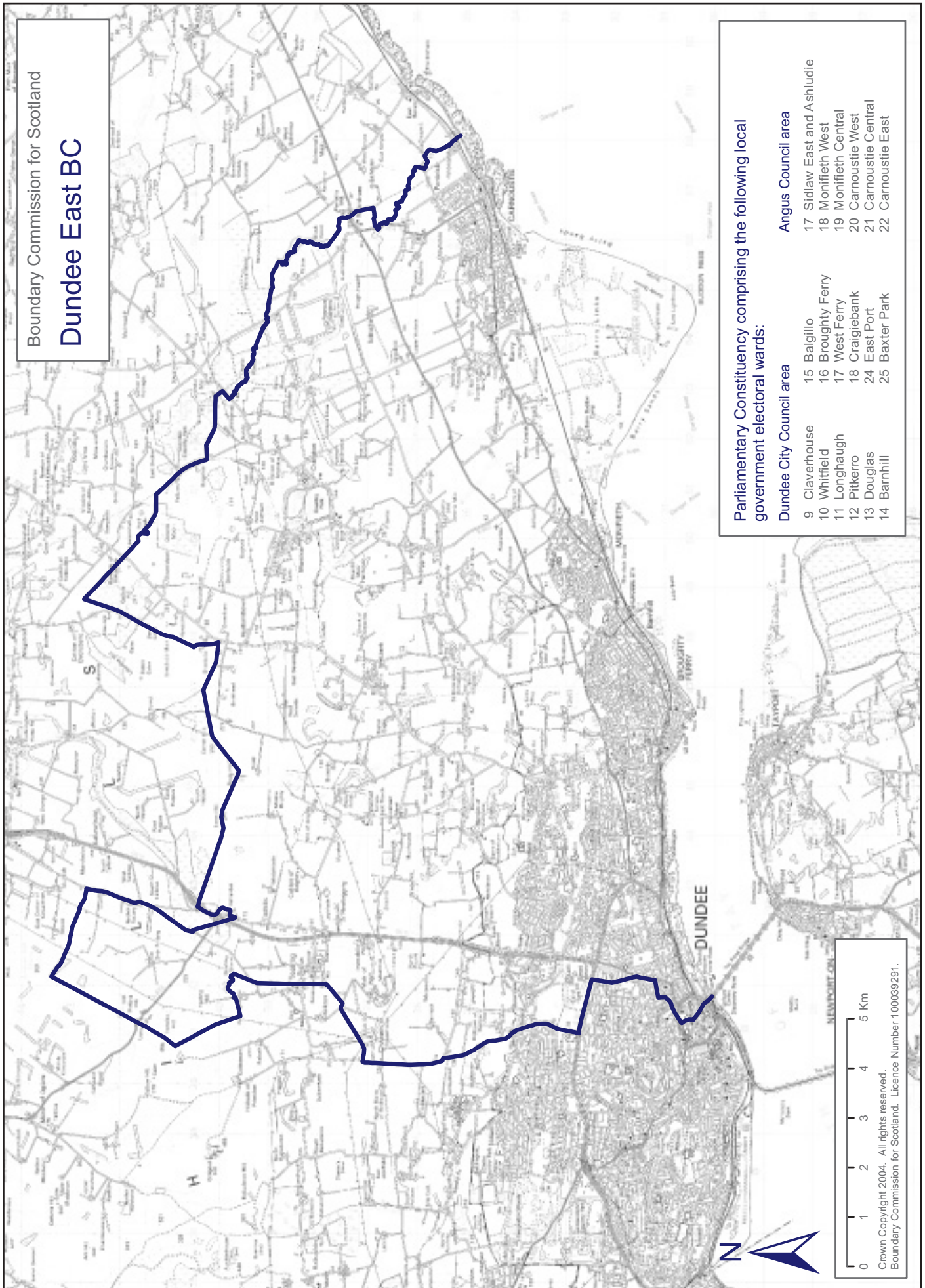


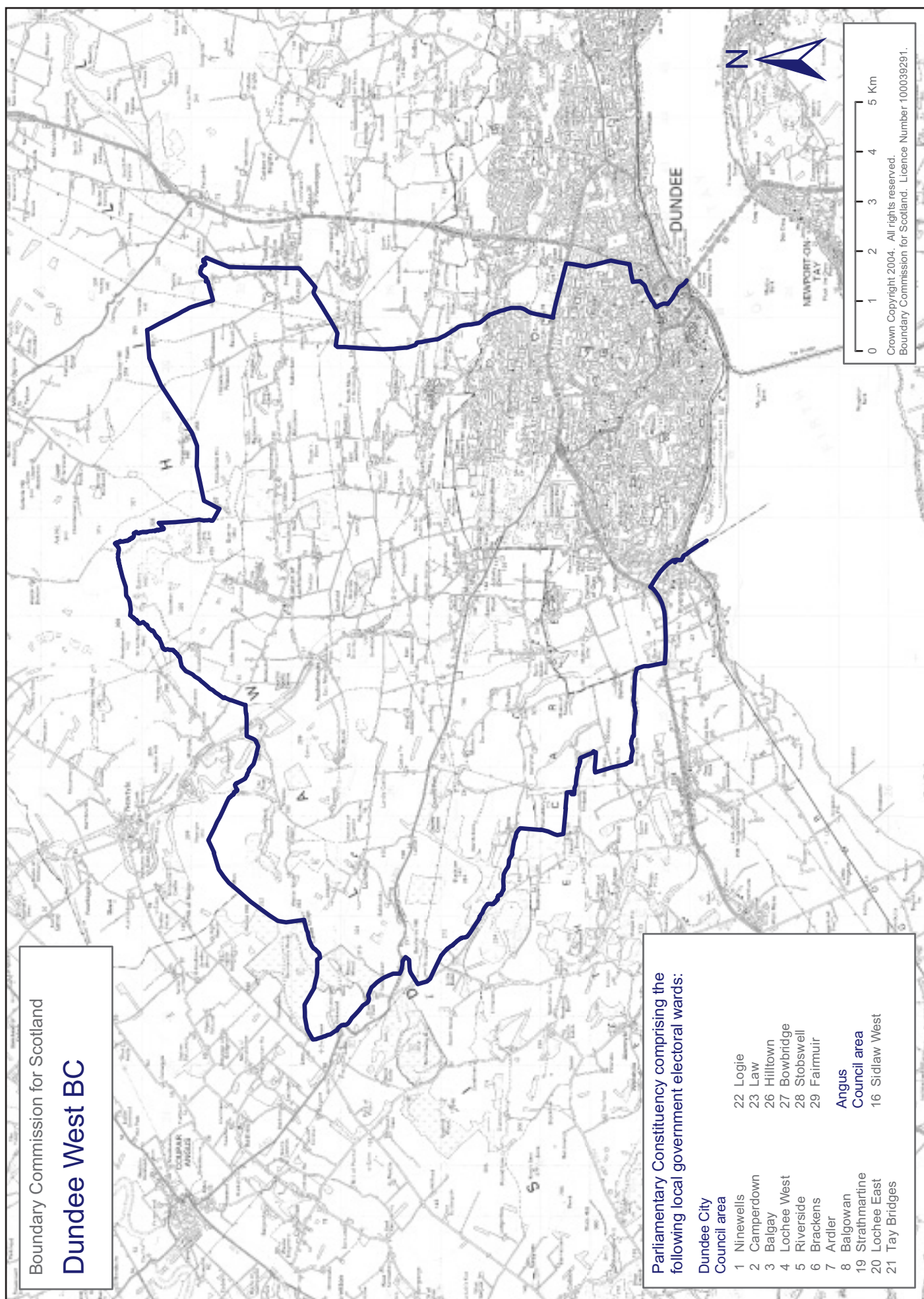


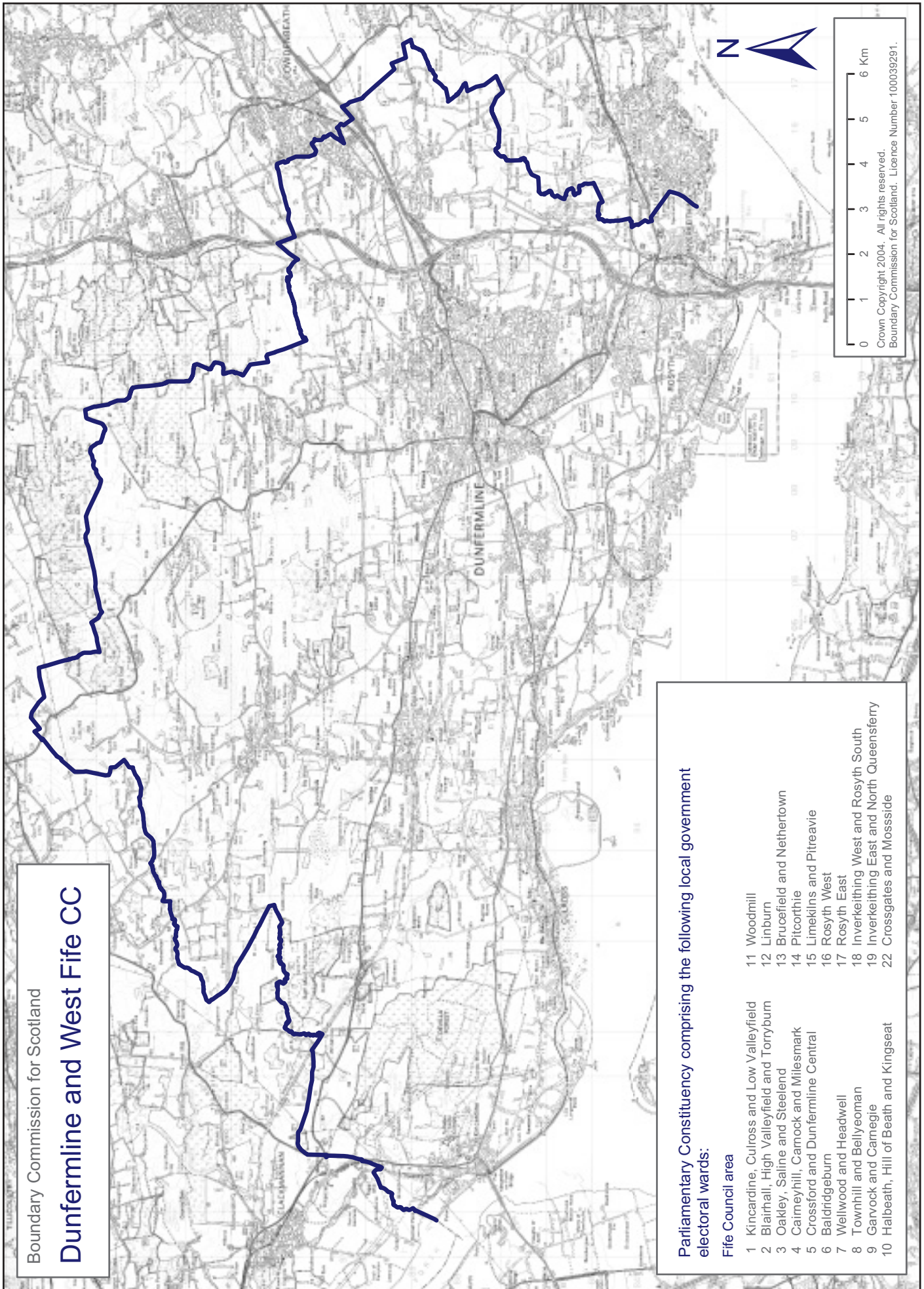


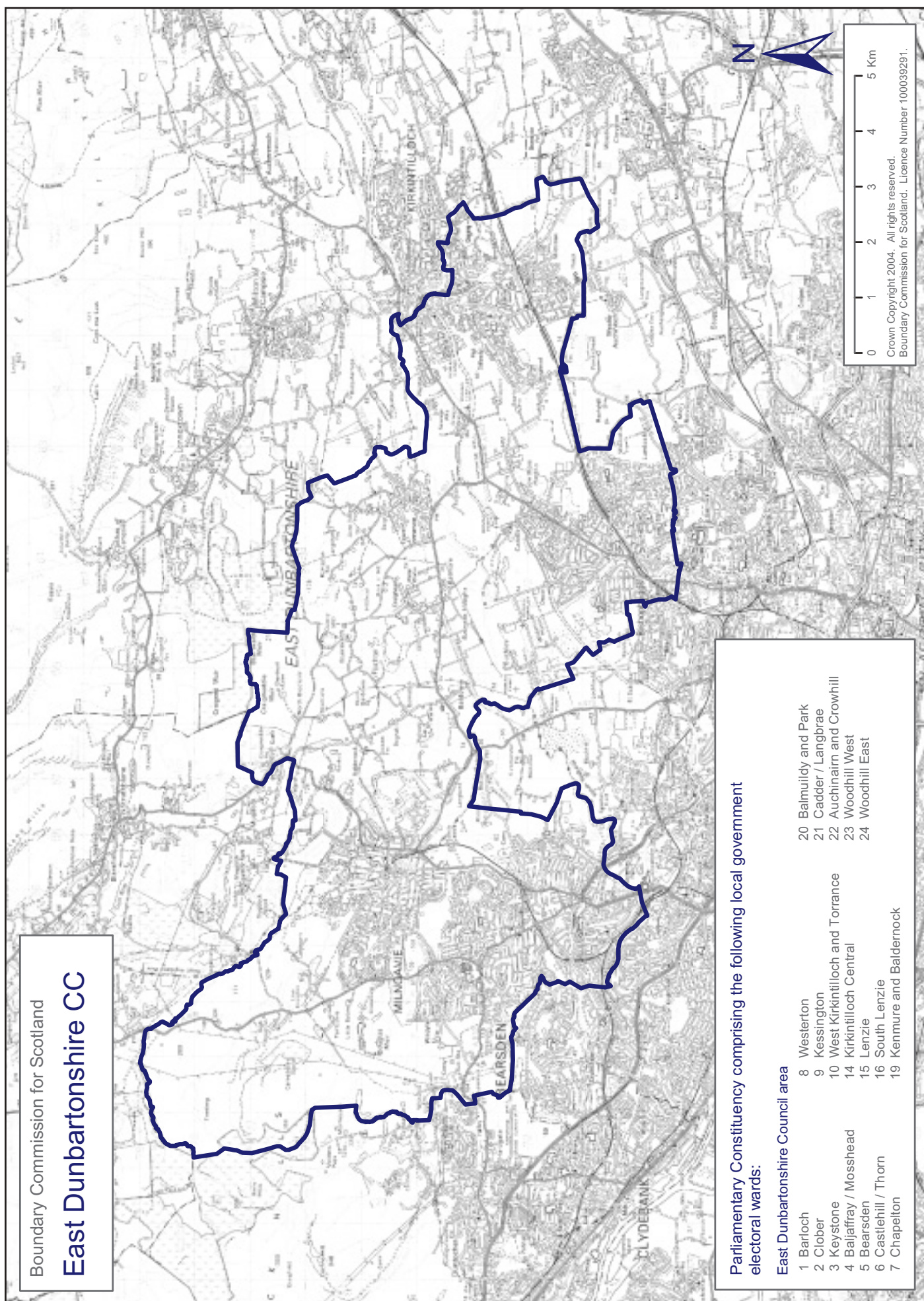


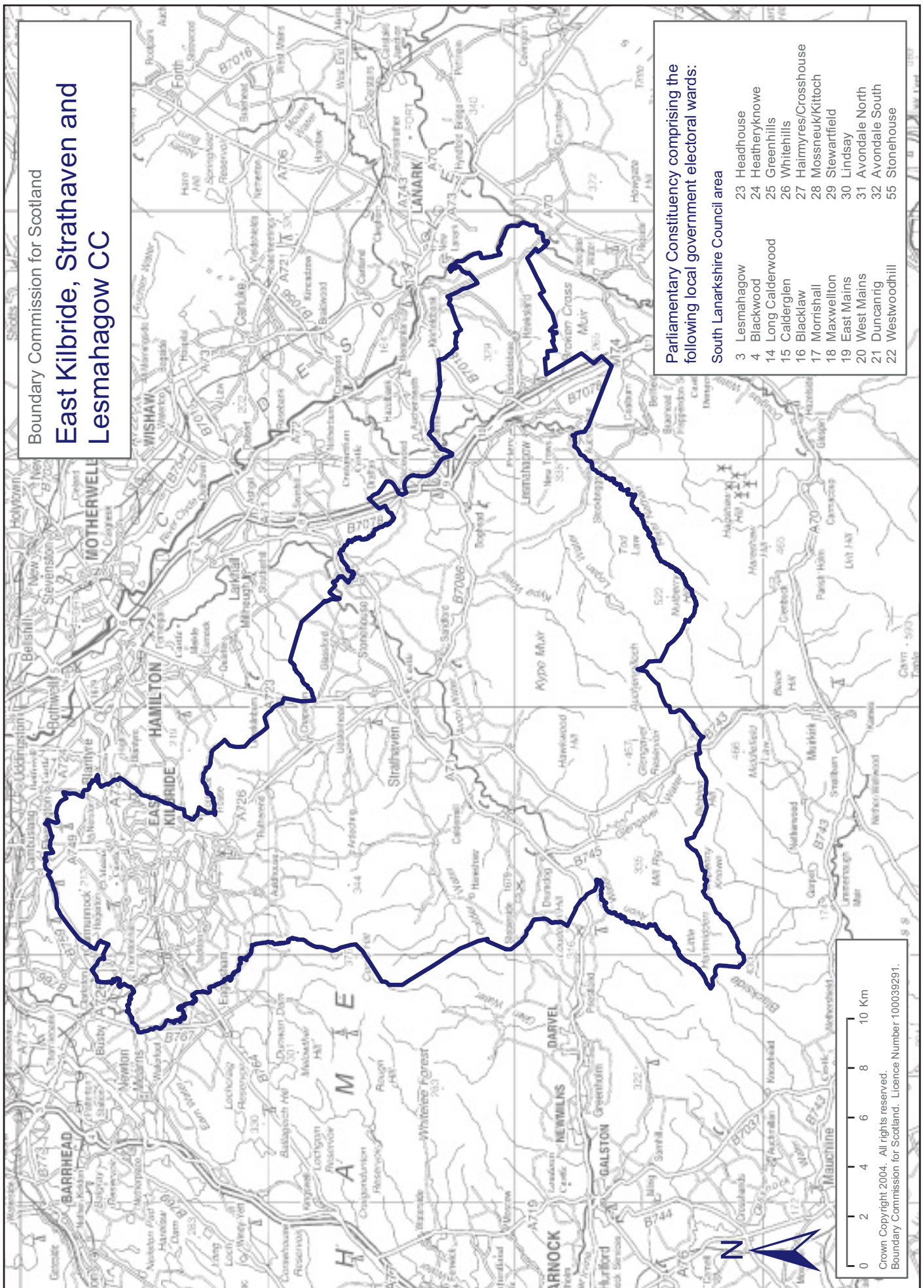


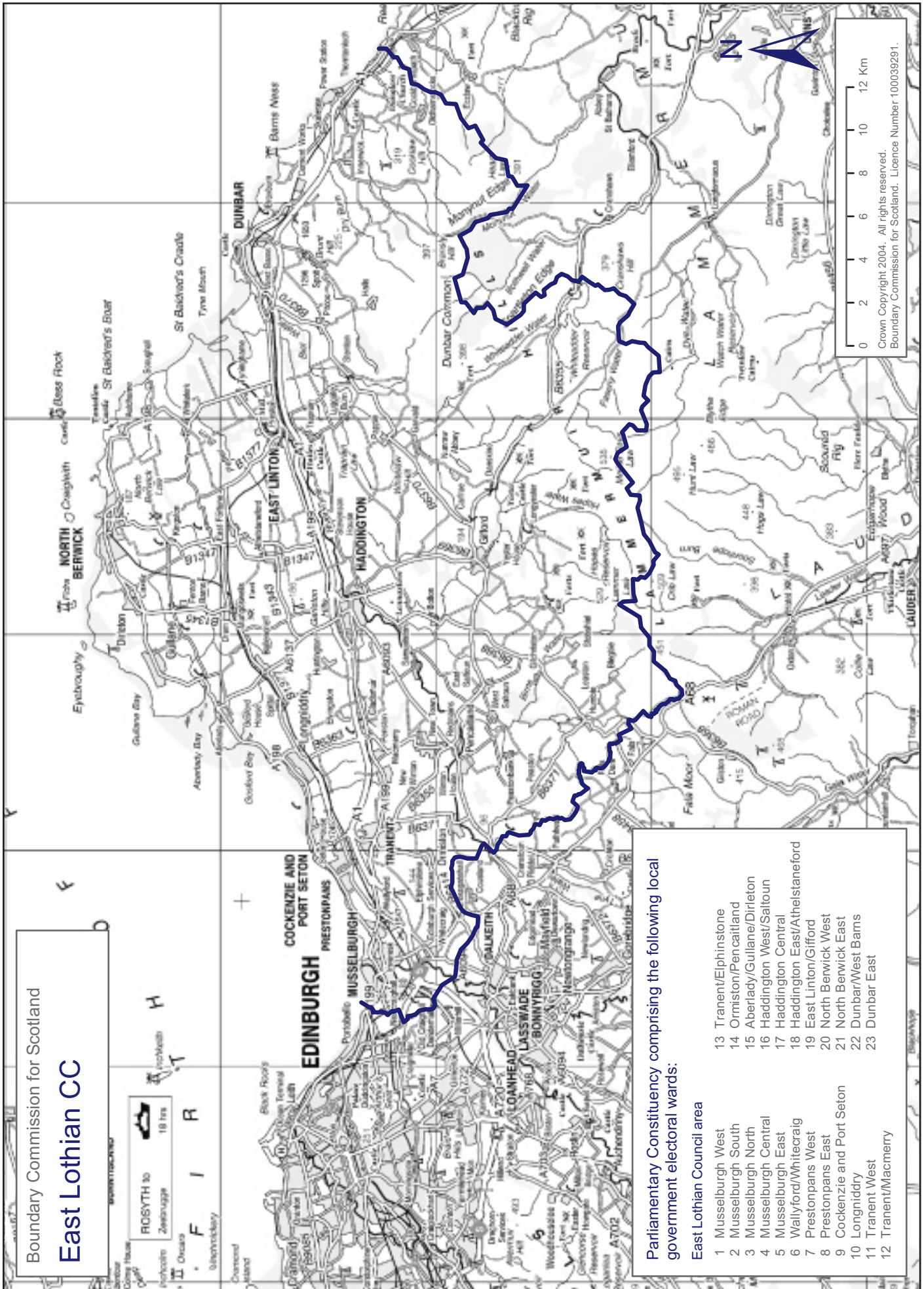


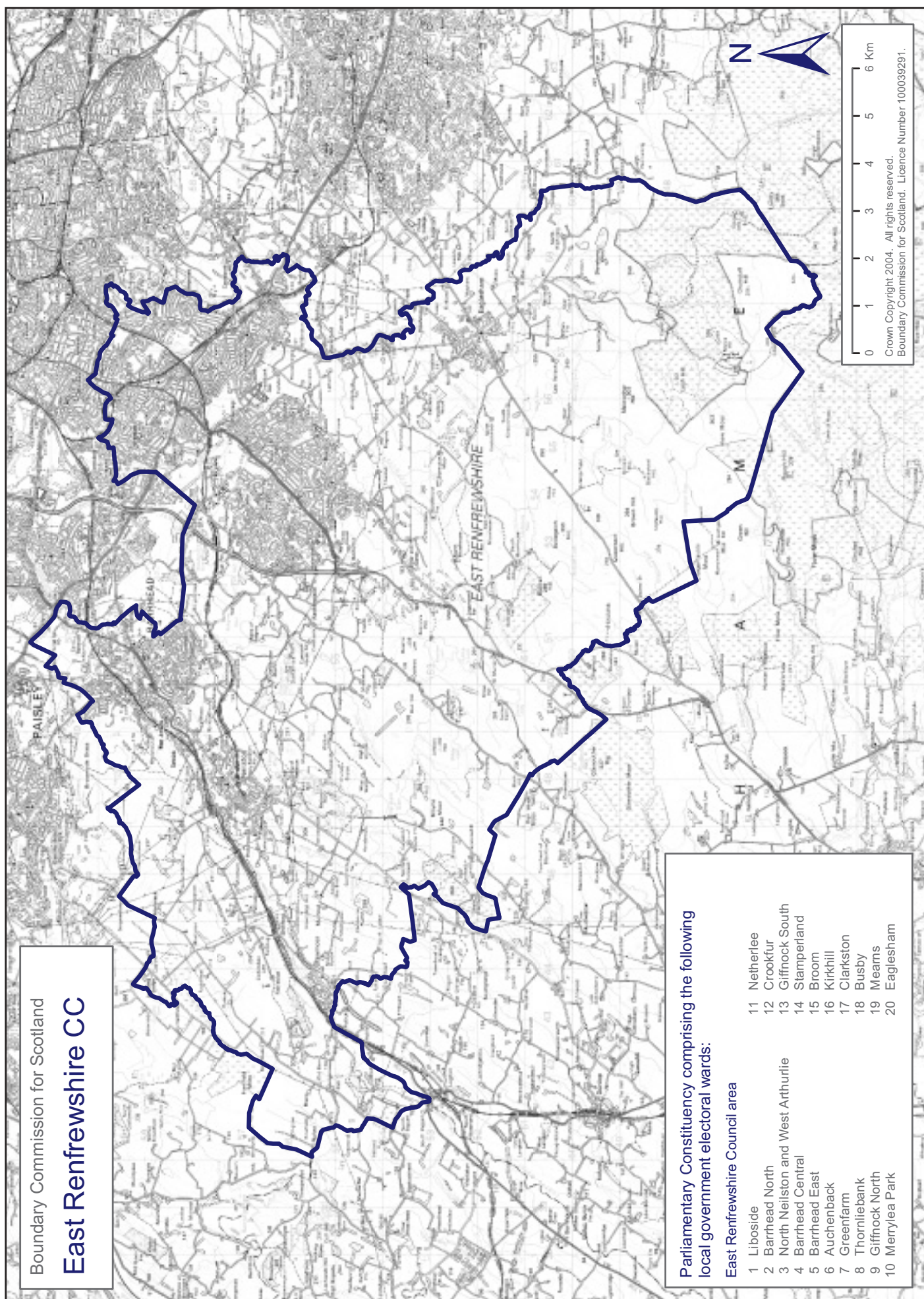


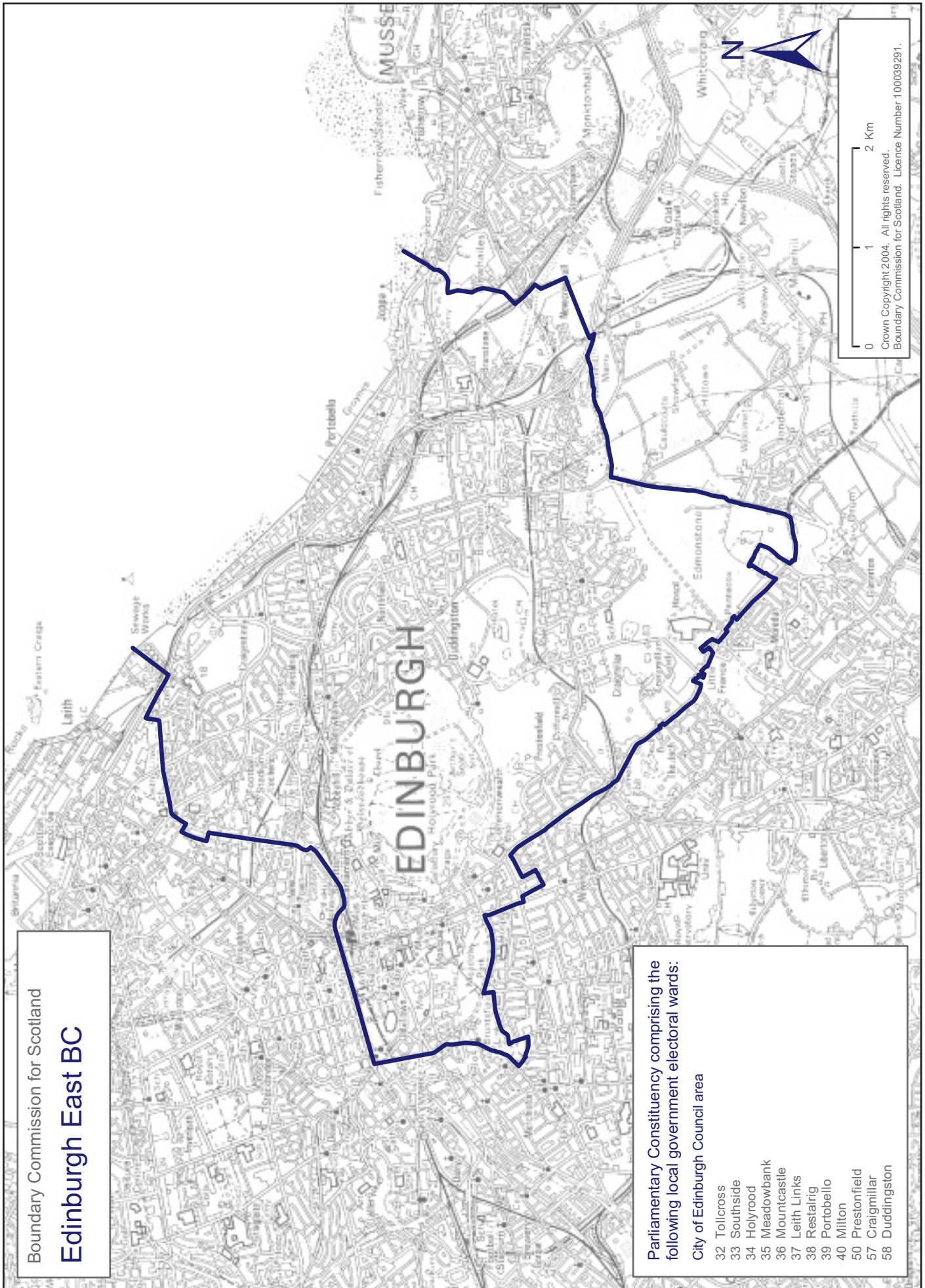


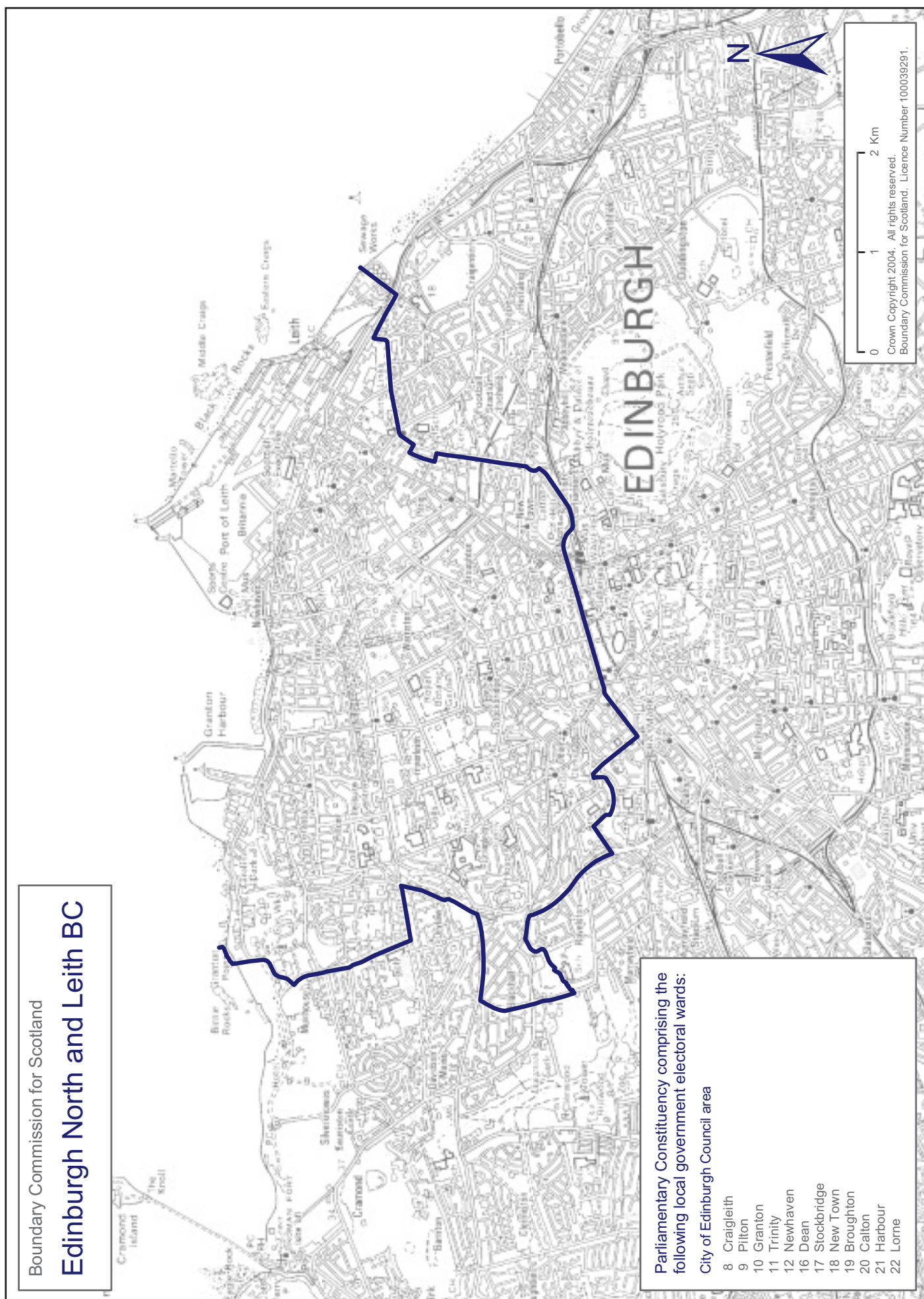


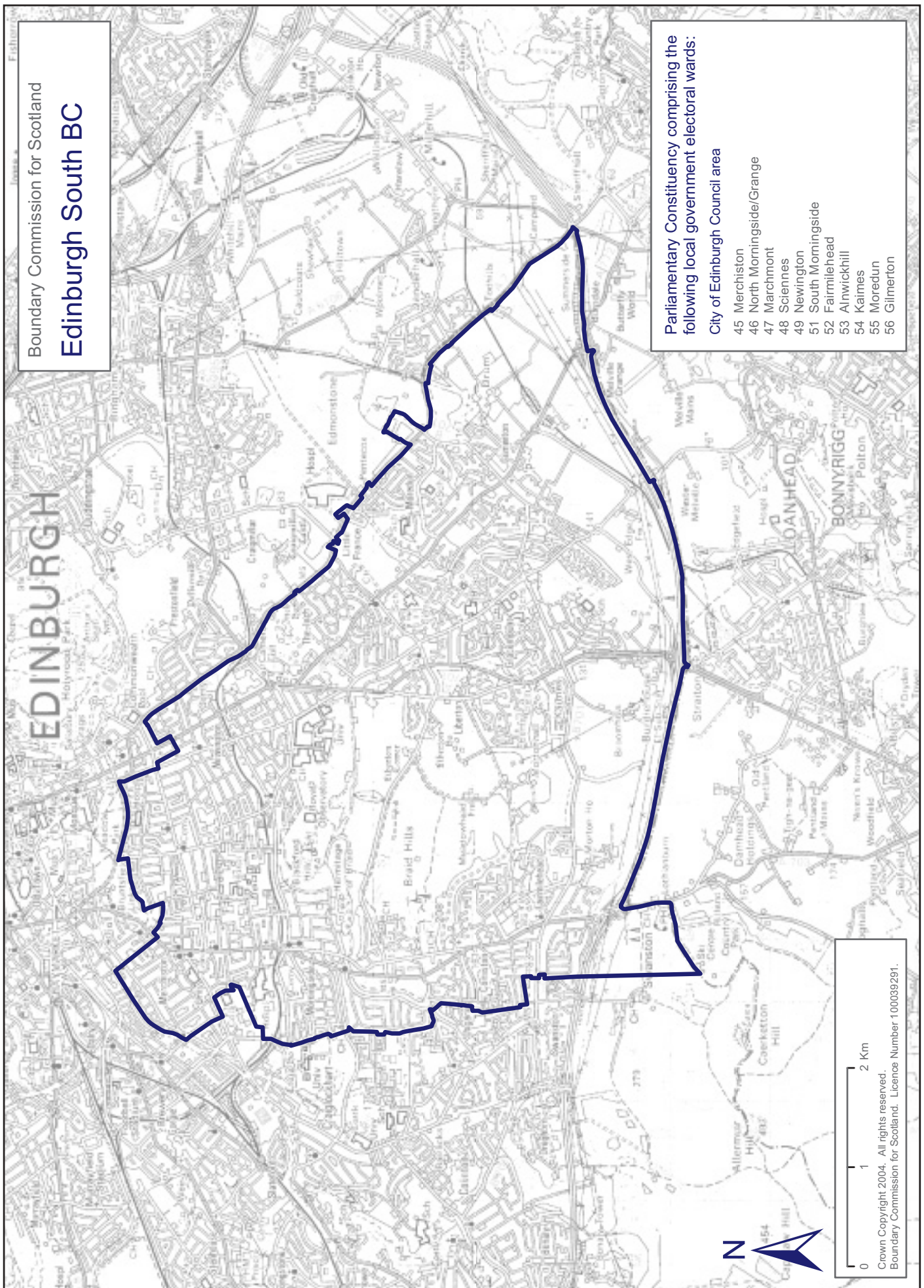


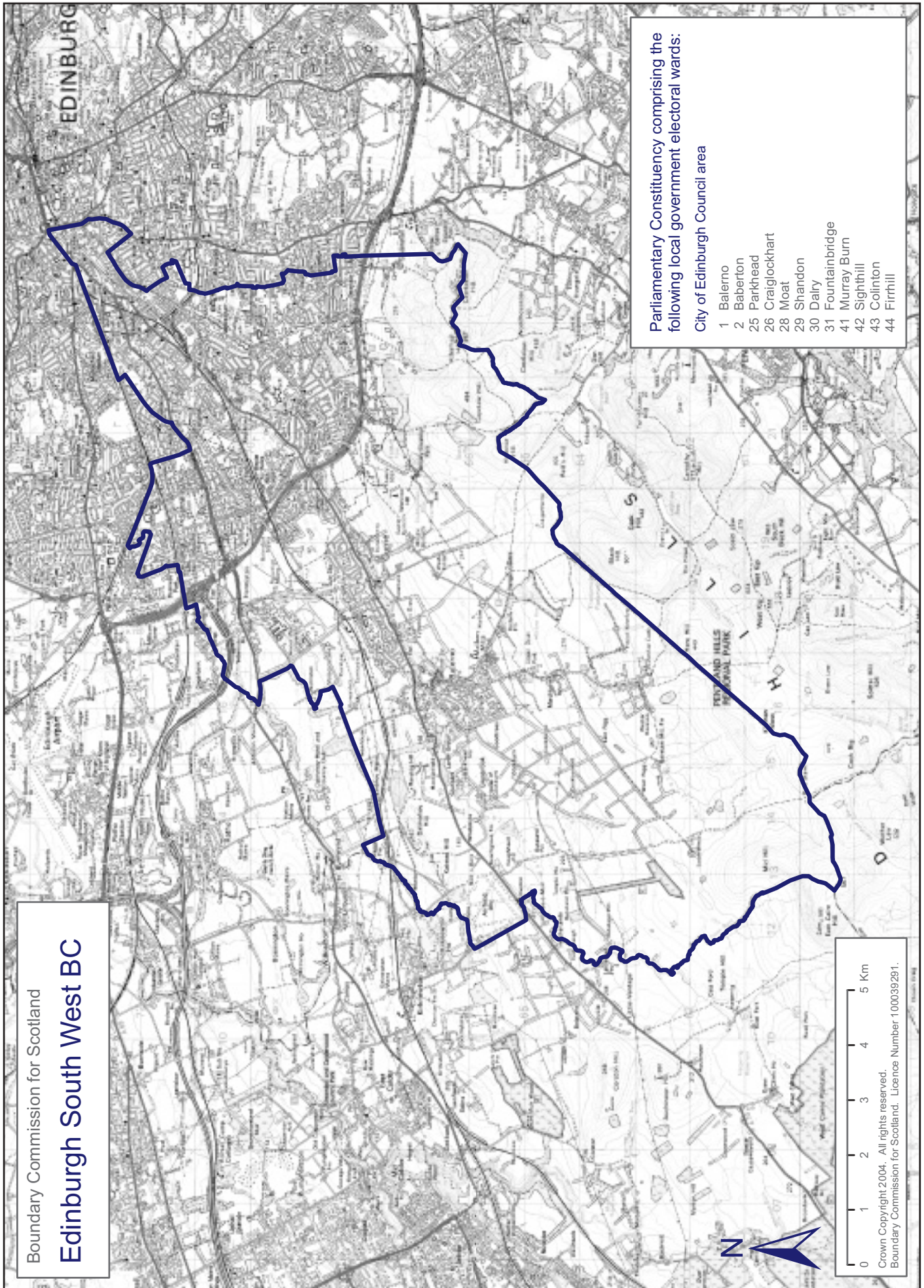


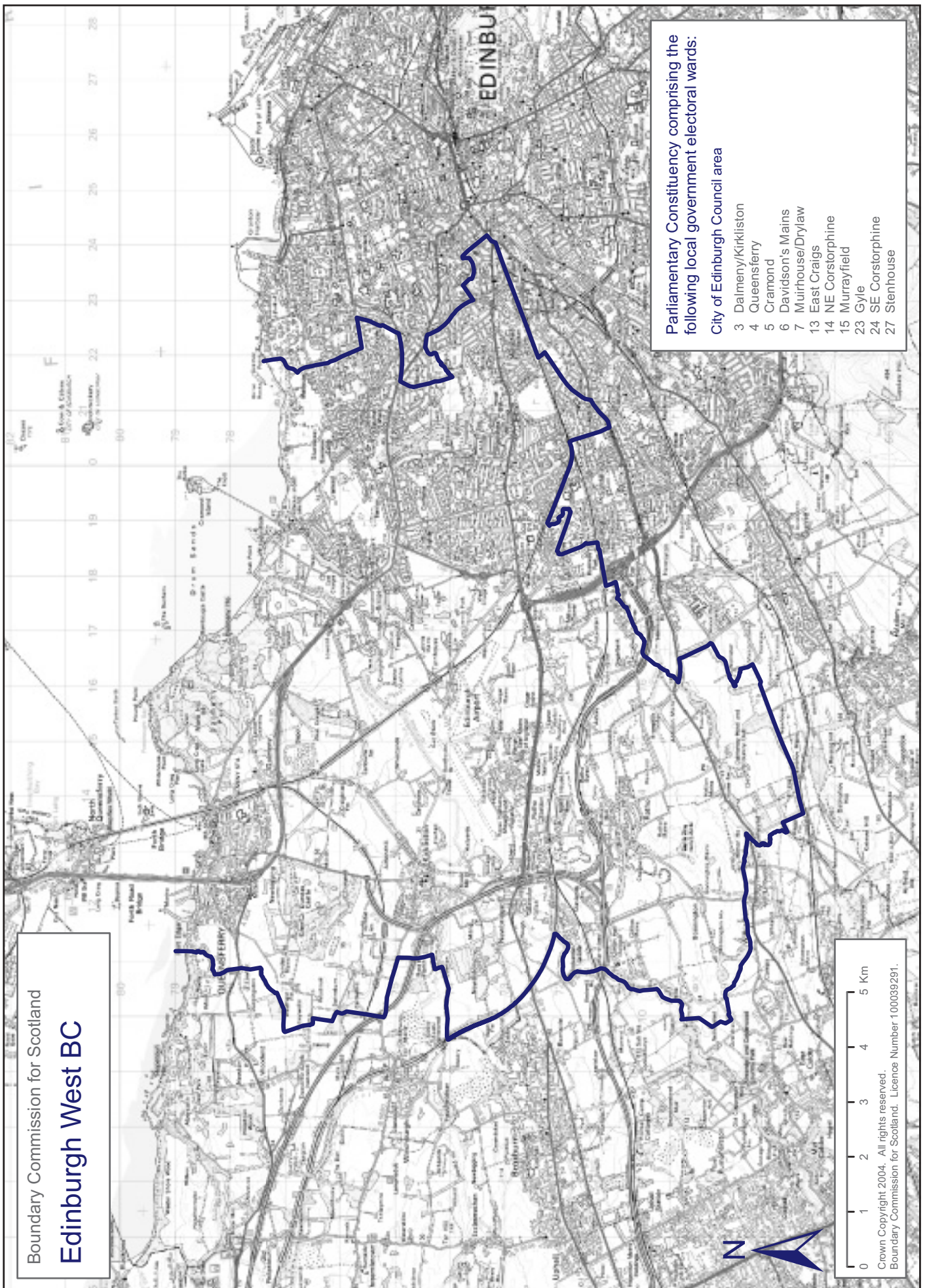


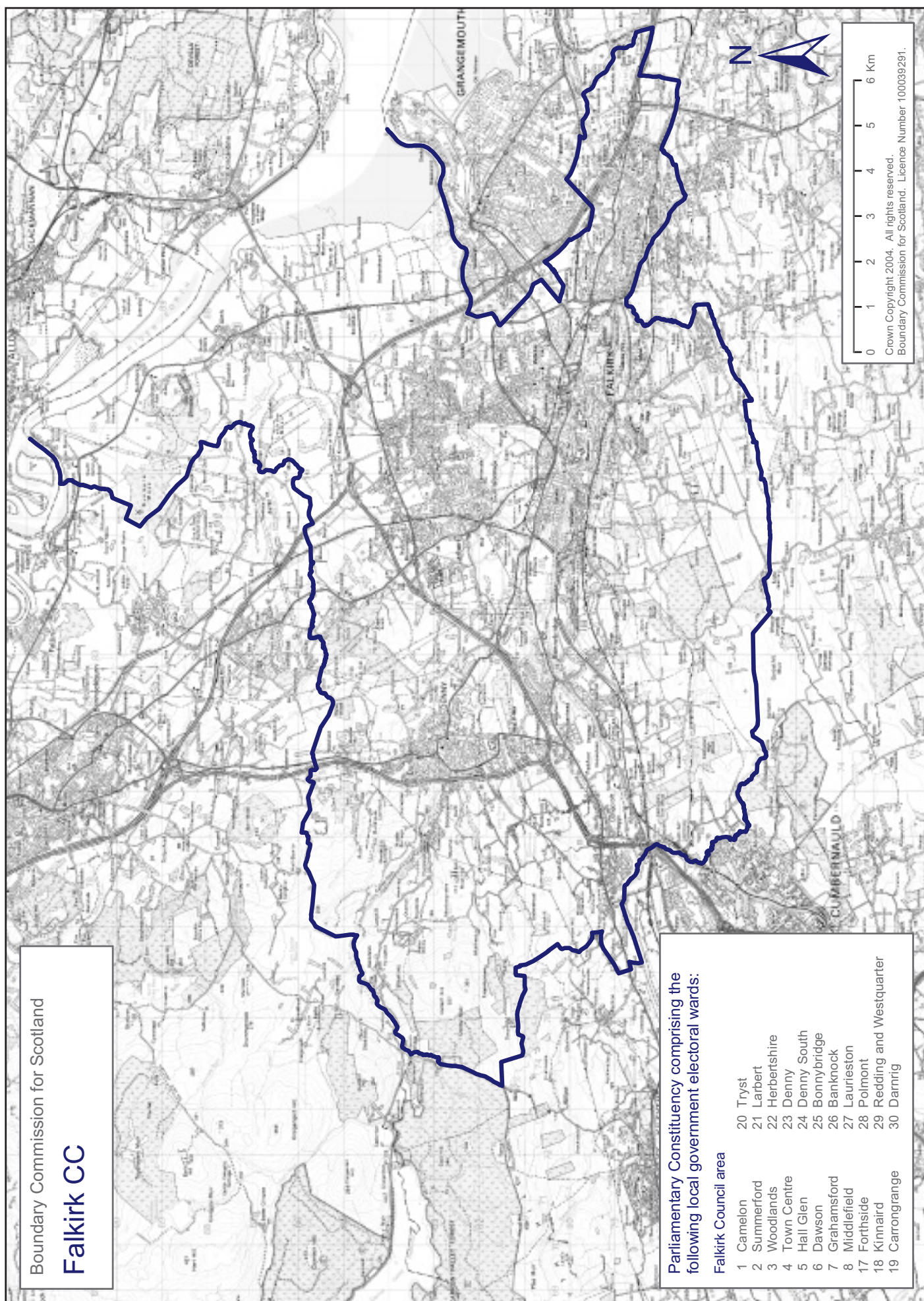


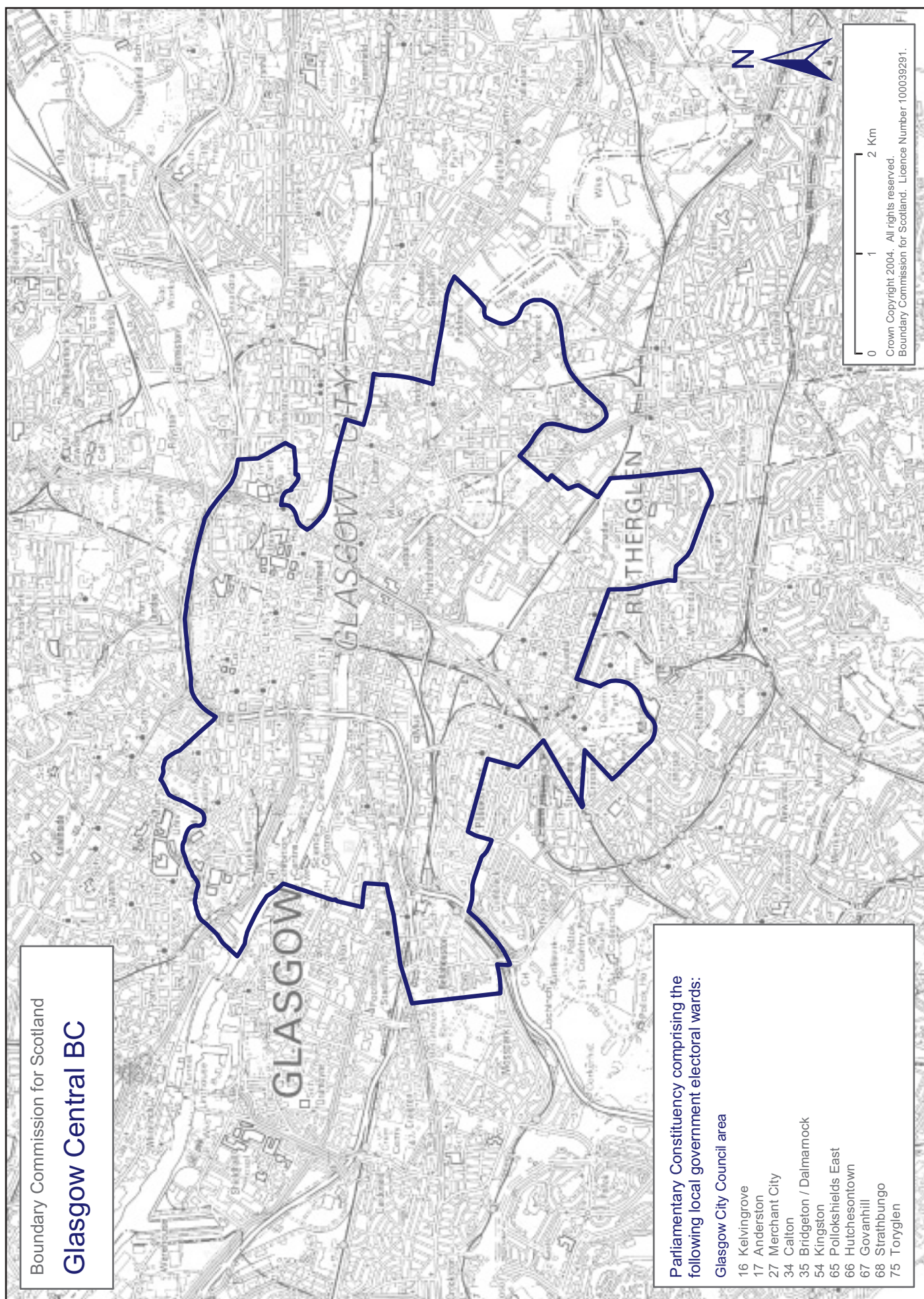


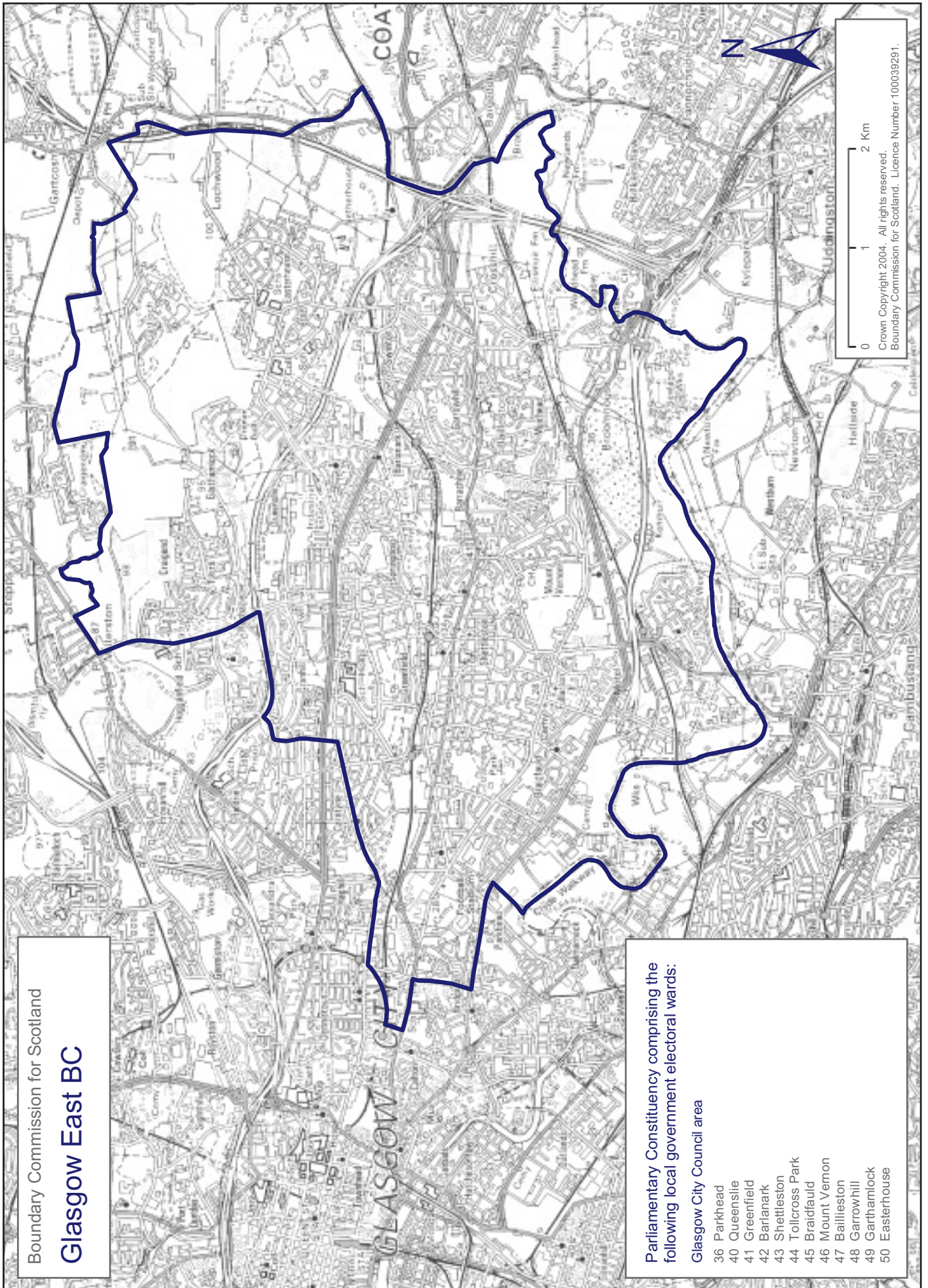


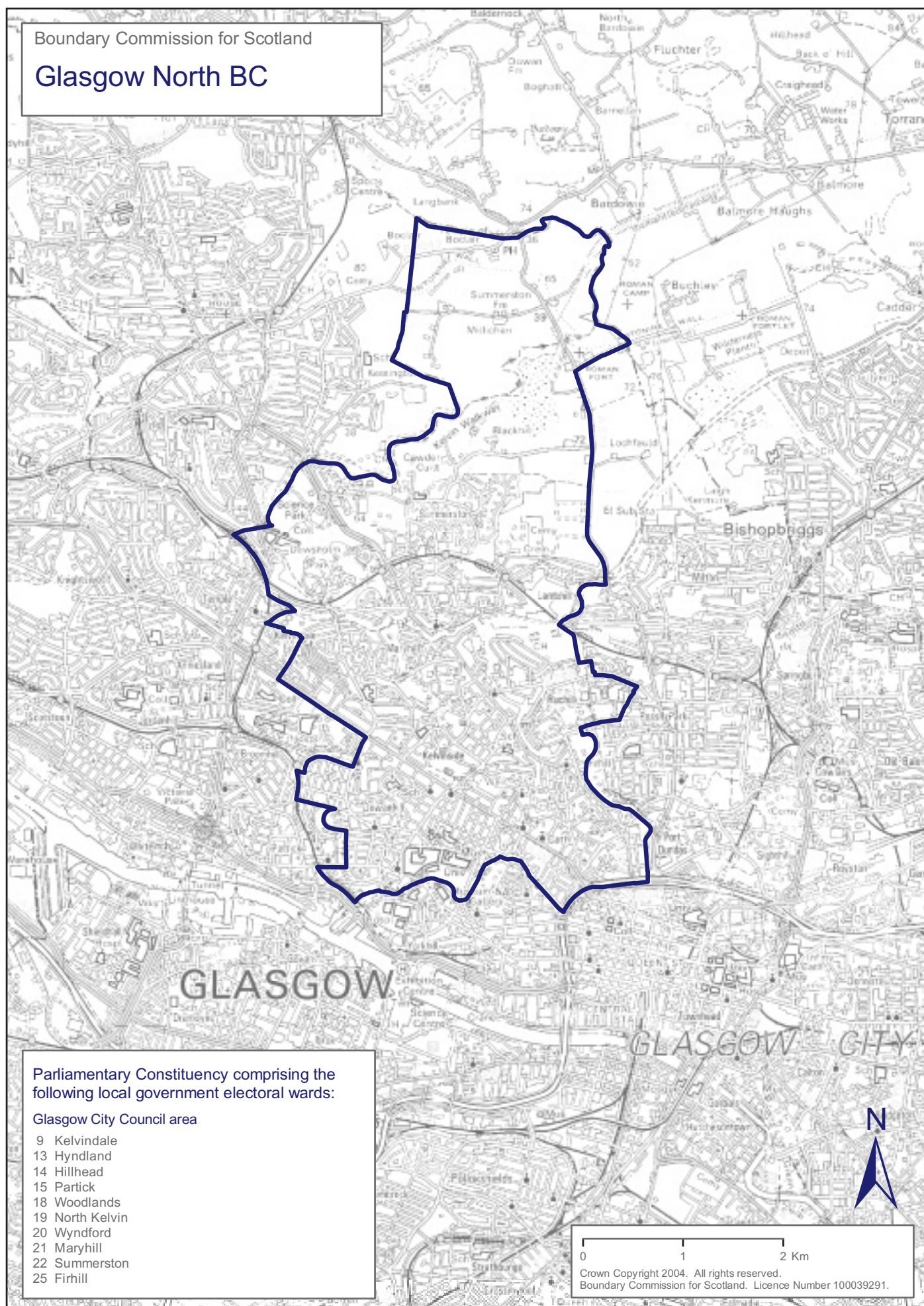


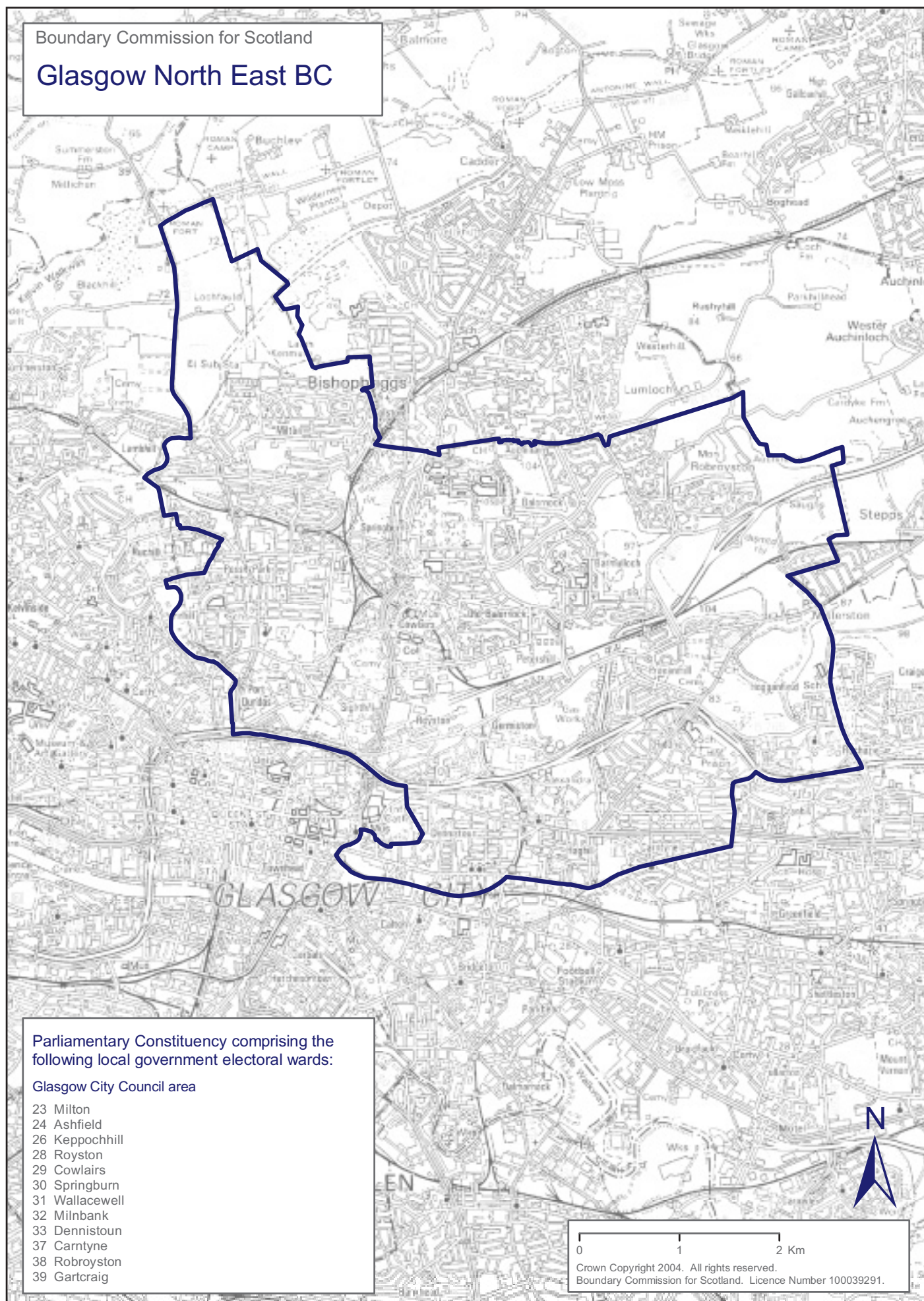










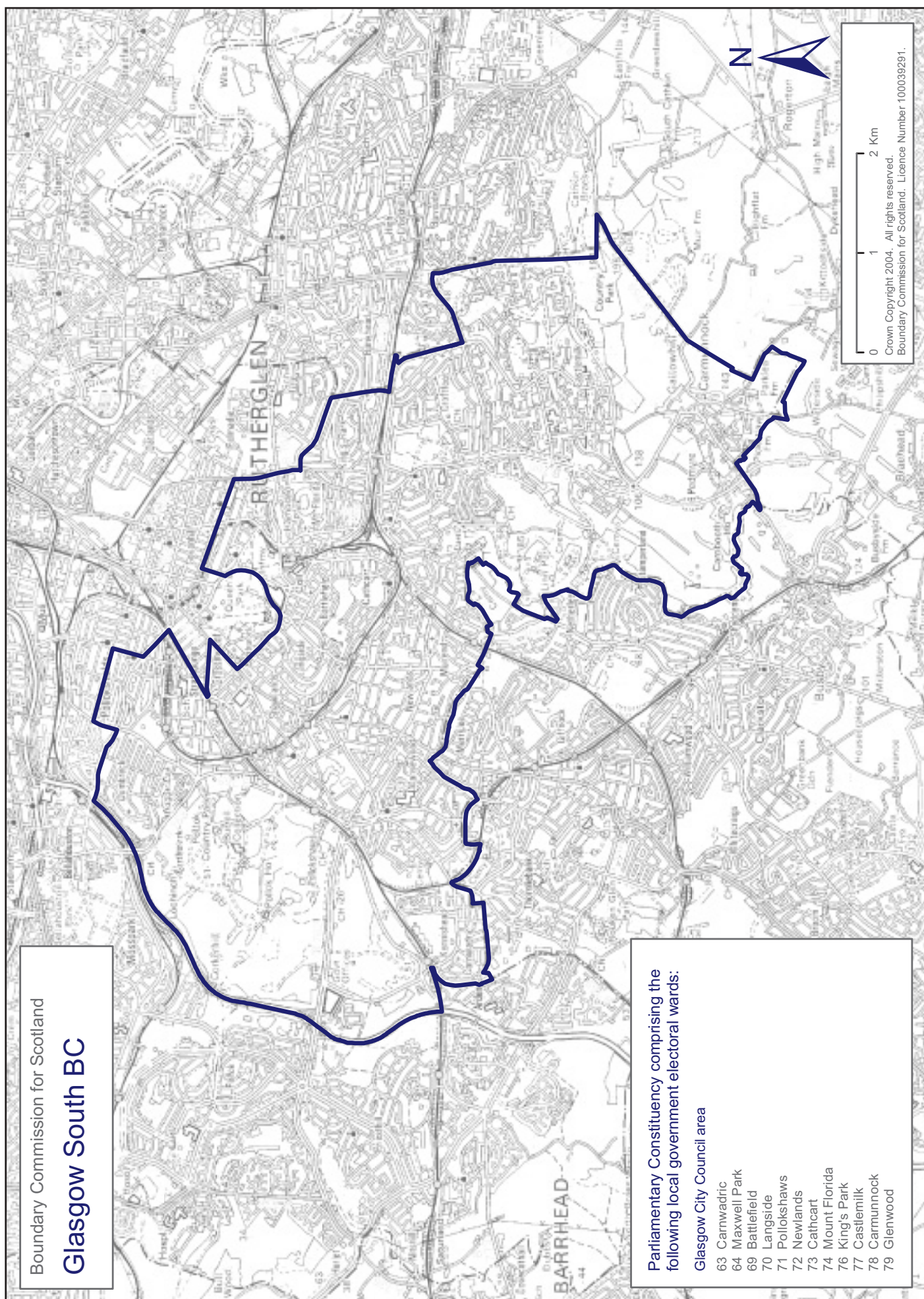


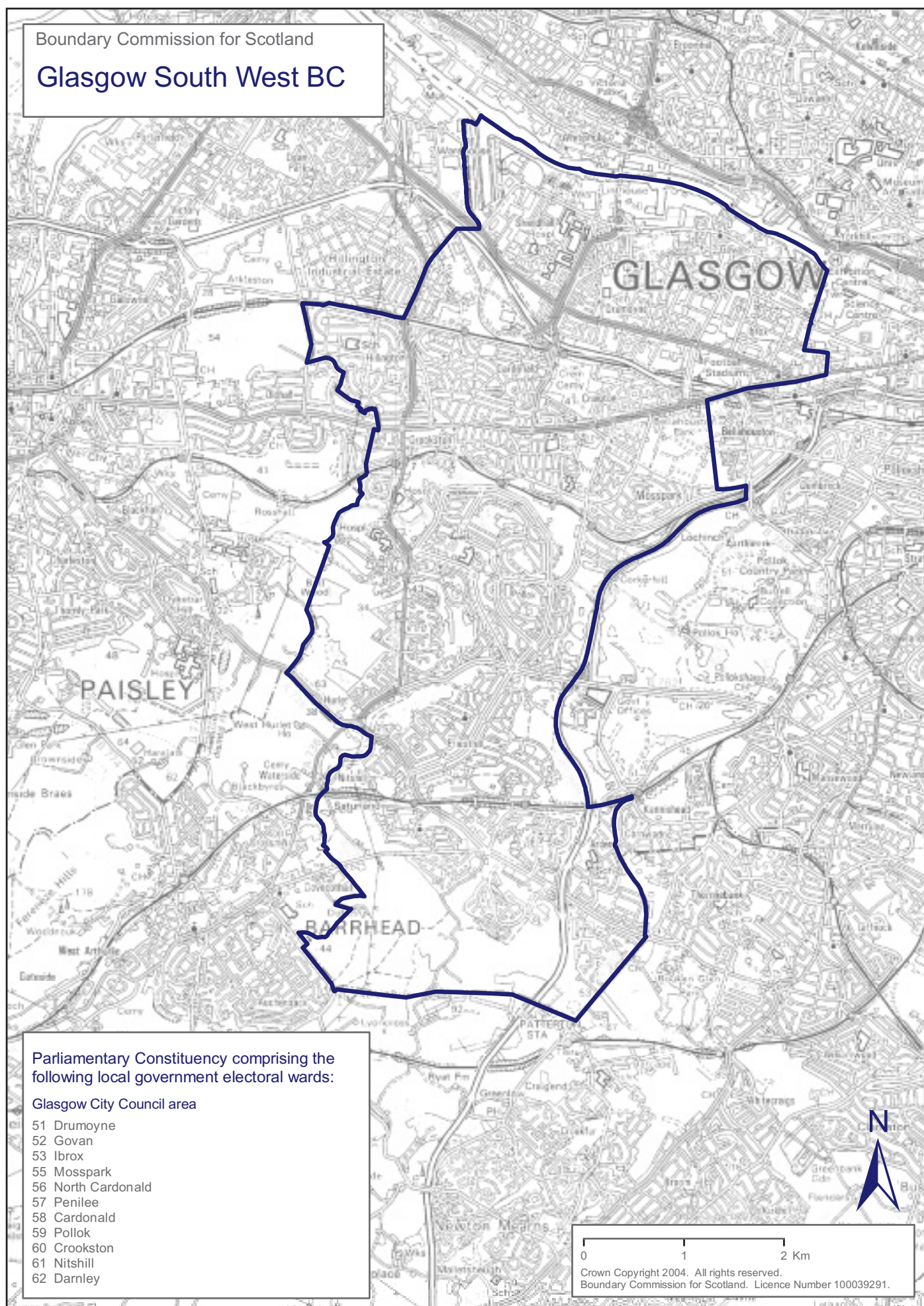


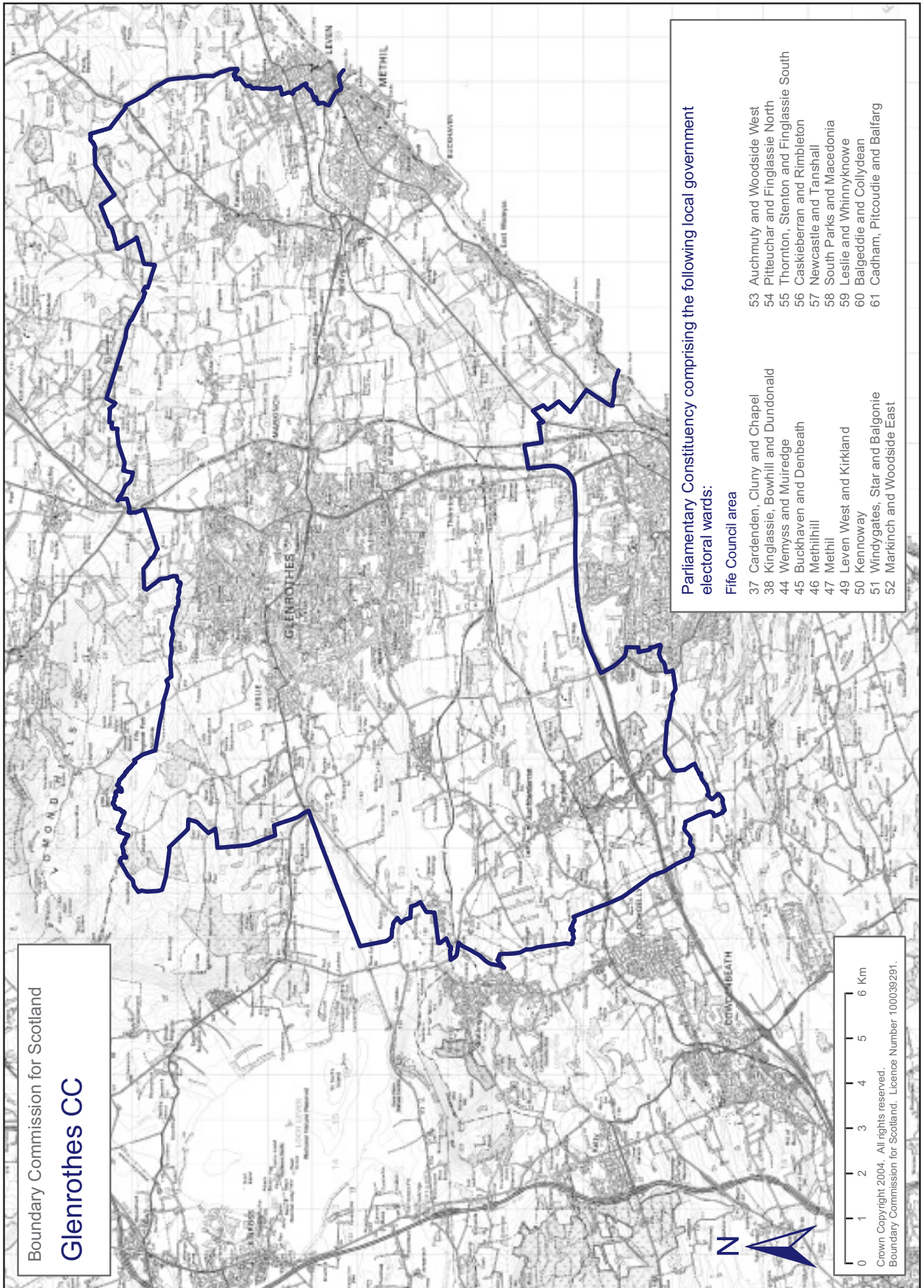
Parliamentary Constituency comprising the following local government electoral wards:

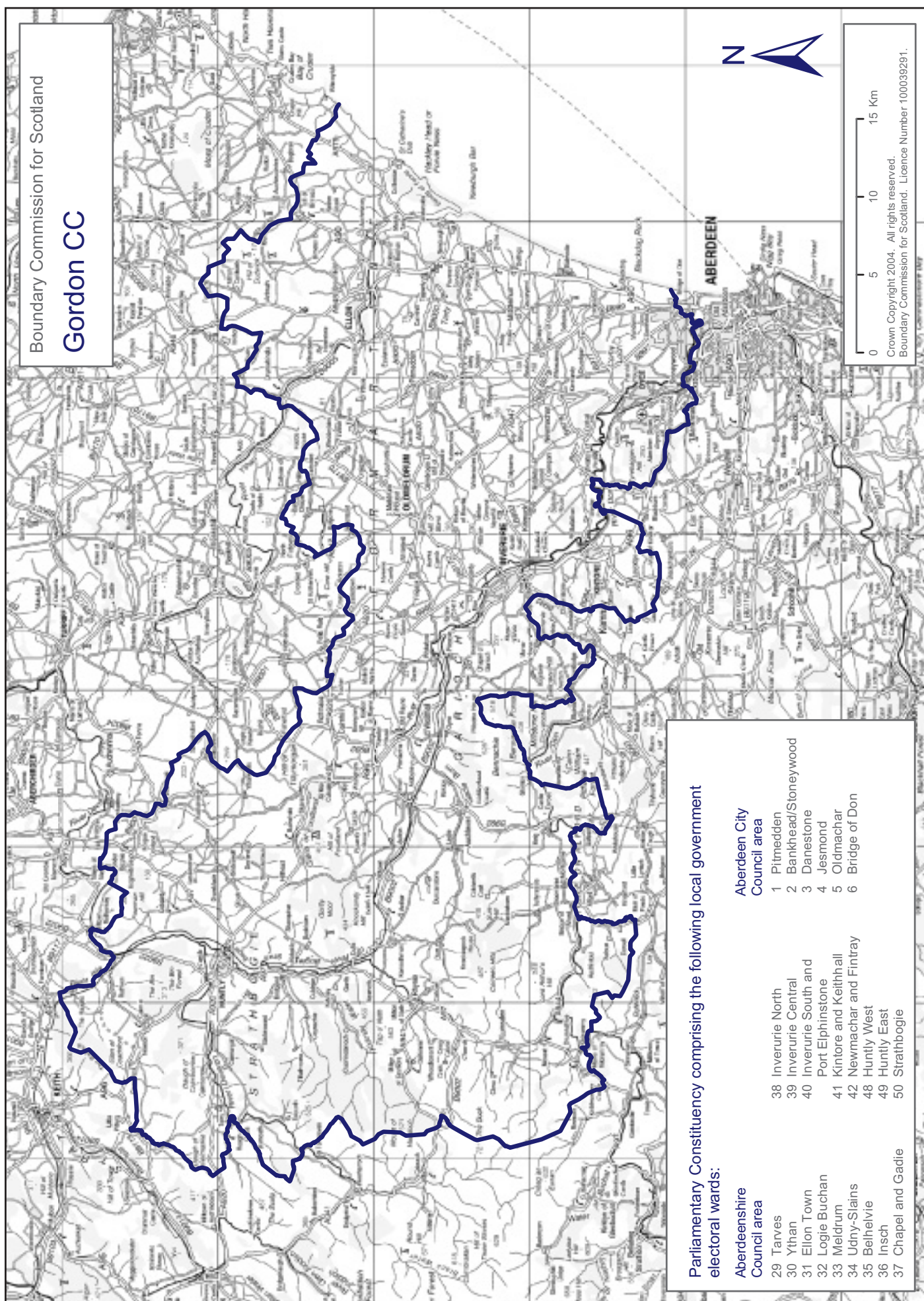
Glasgow City Council area

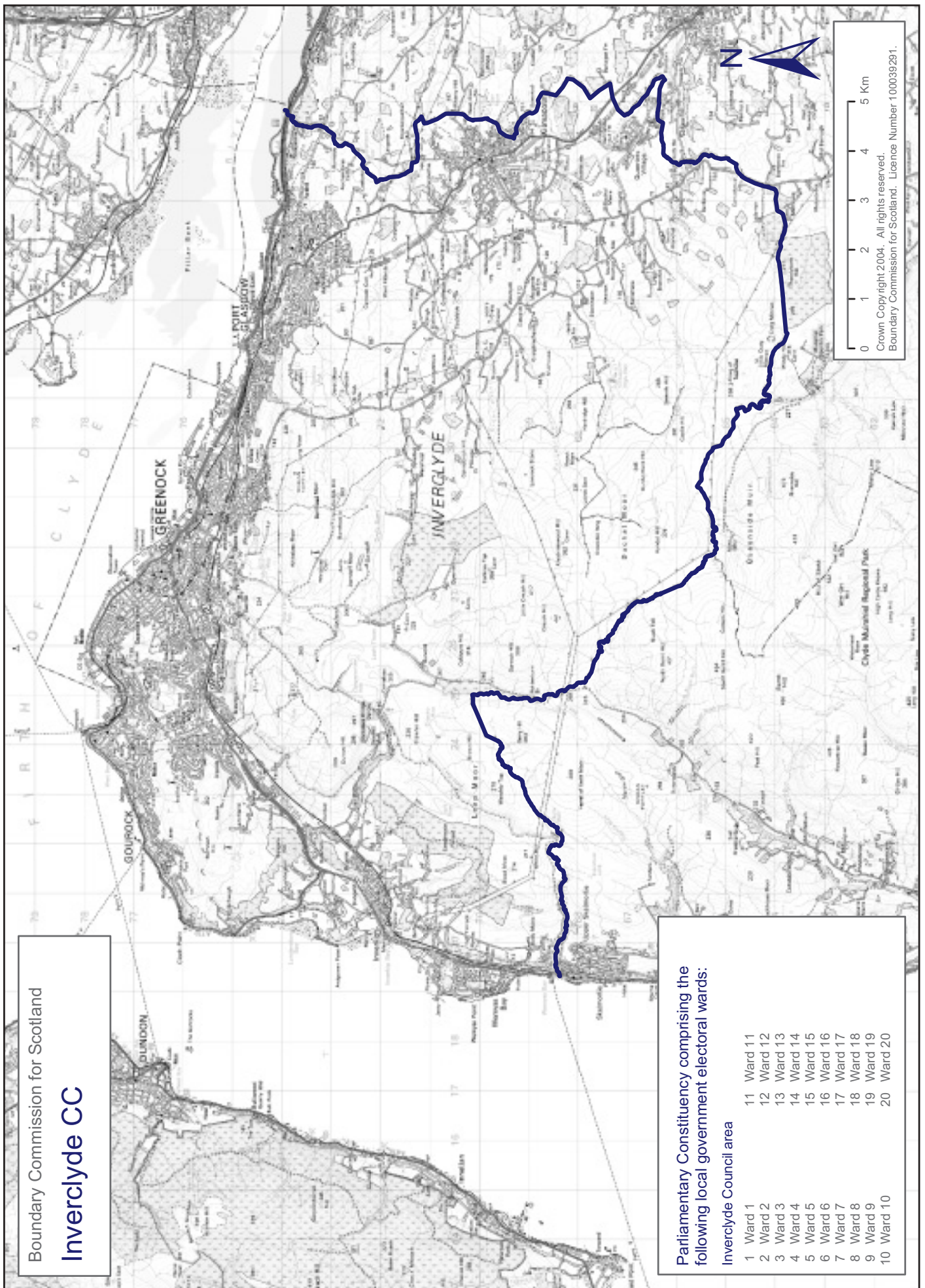
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64 Maxwell Park
69 Battlefield
70 Langside
71 Pollokshaws
72 Newlands
73 Cathcart
74 Mount Florida
76 King's Park
77 Castlemilk
78 Carmunnock
79 Glenwood

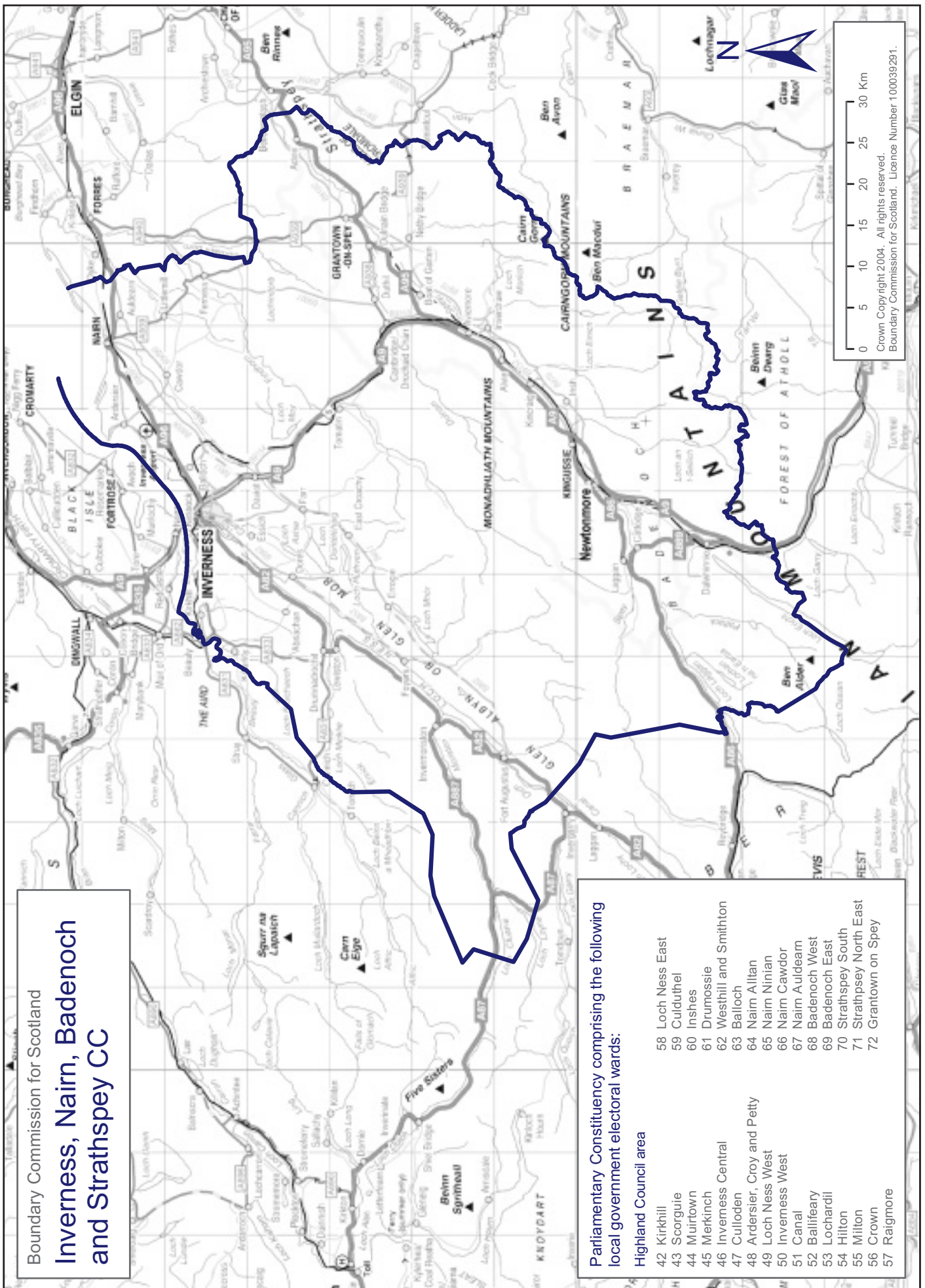






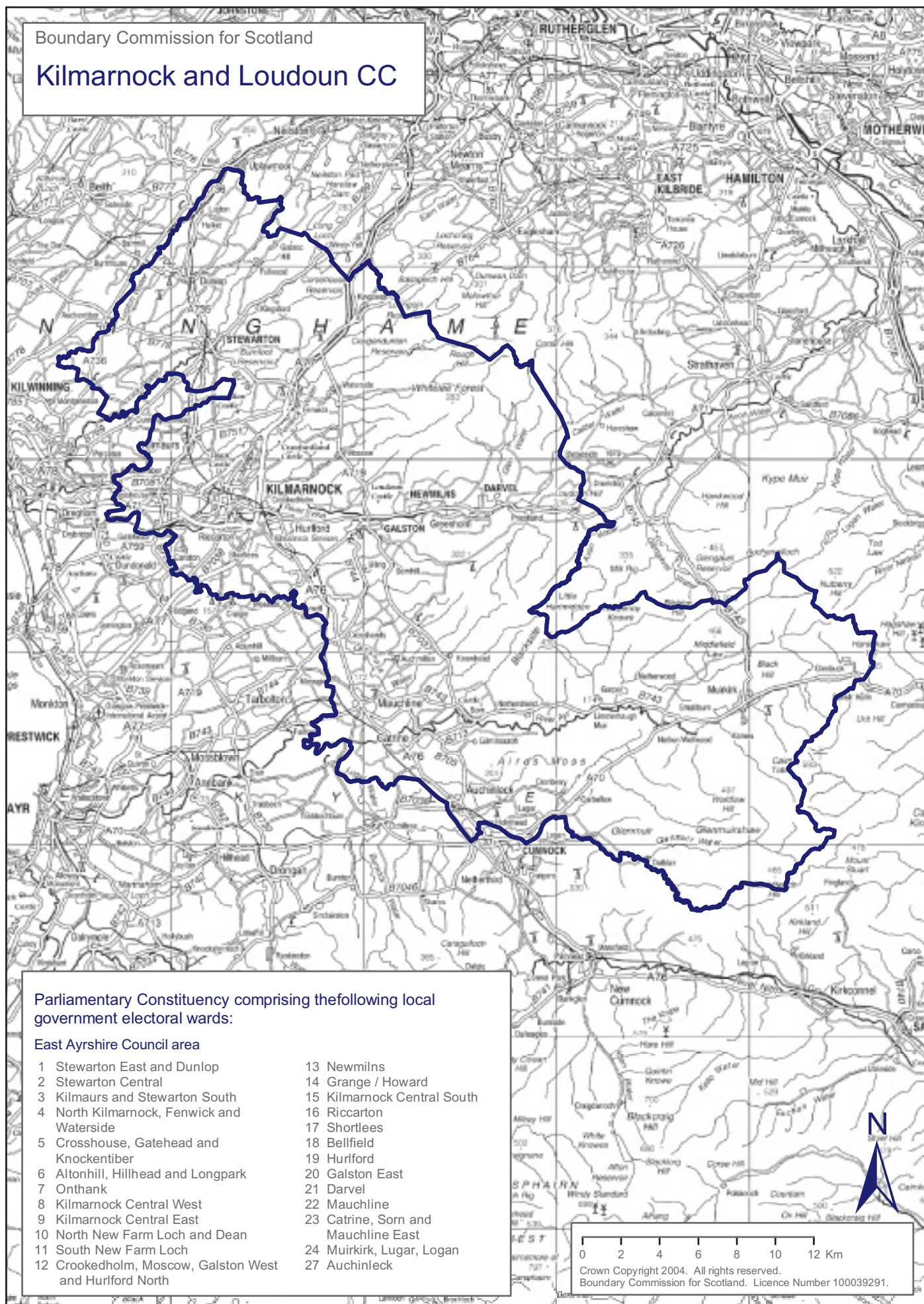


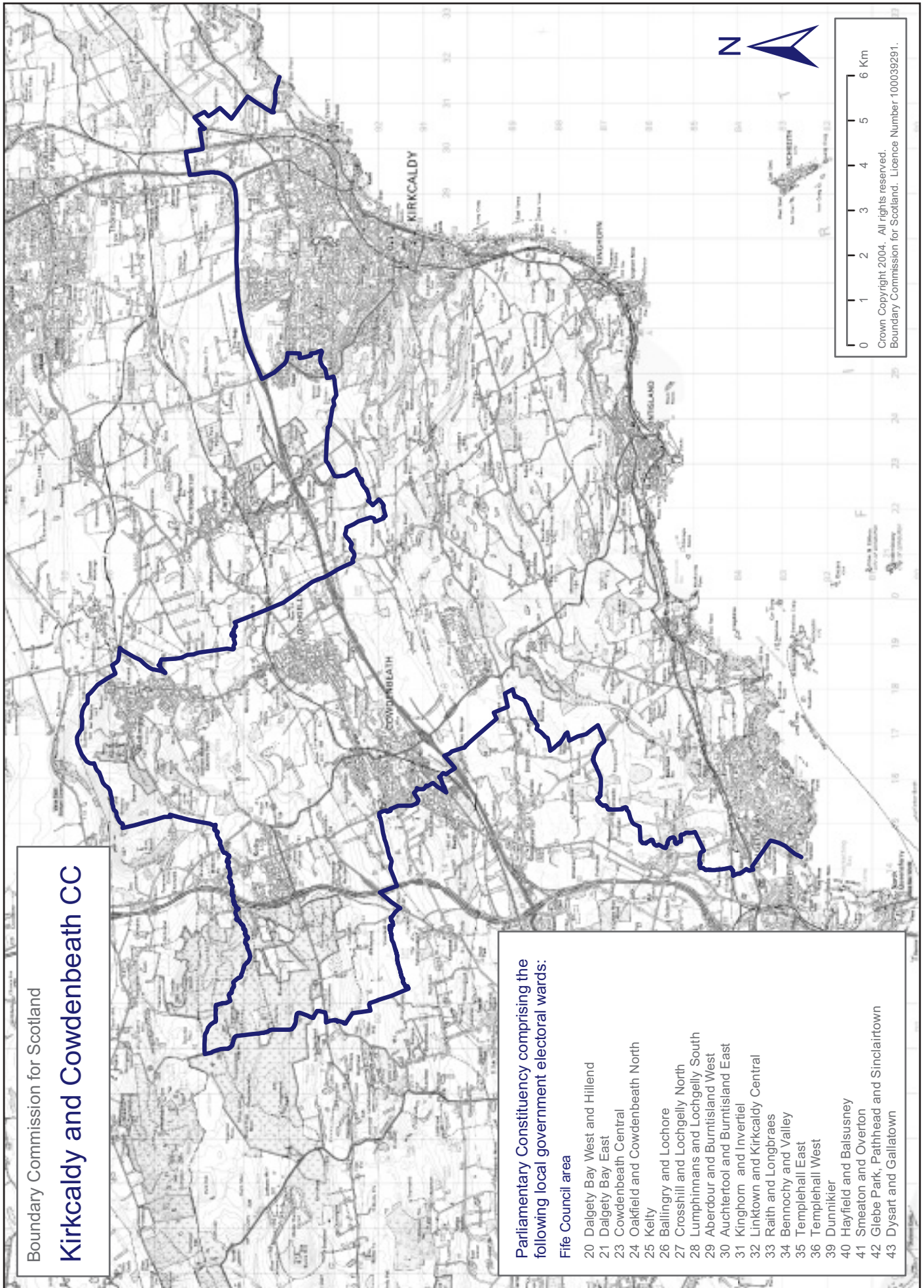


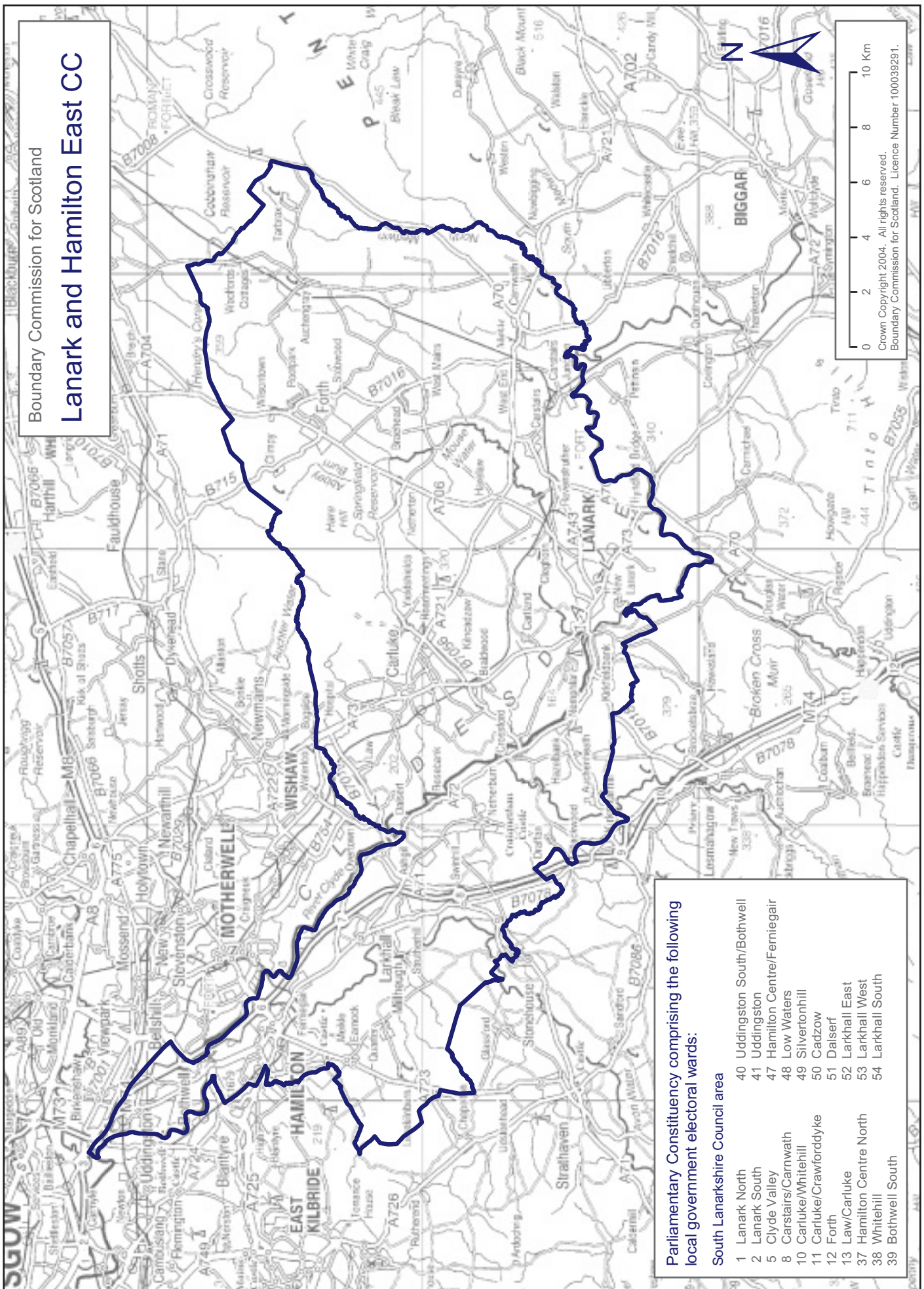


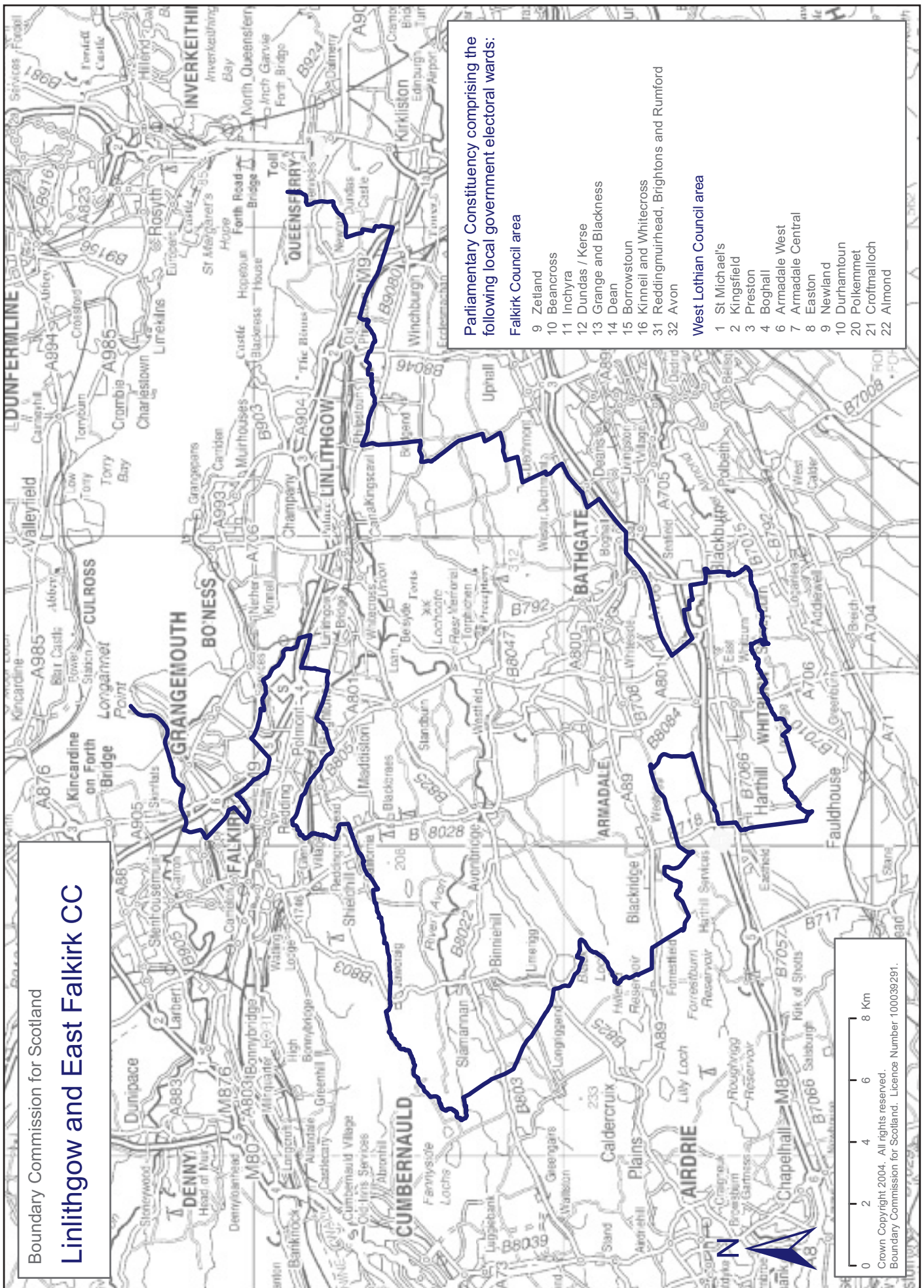
Boundary Commission for Scotland

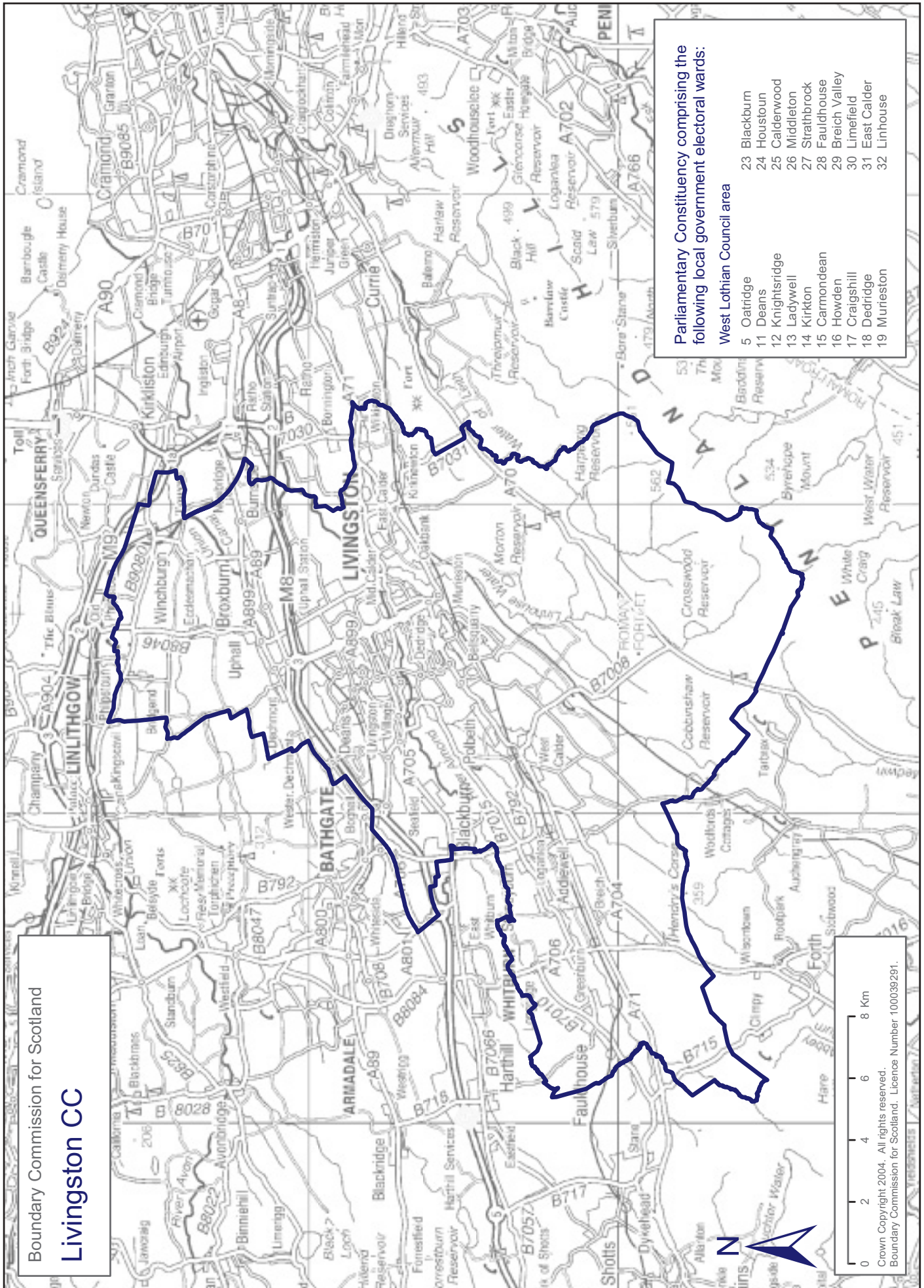
Kilmarnock and Loudoun CC

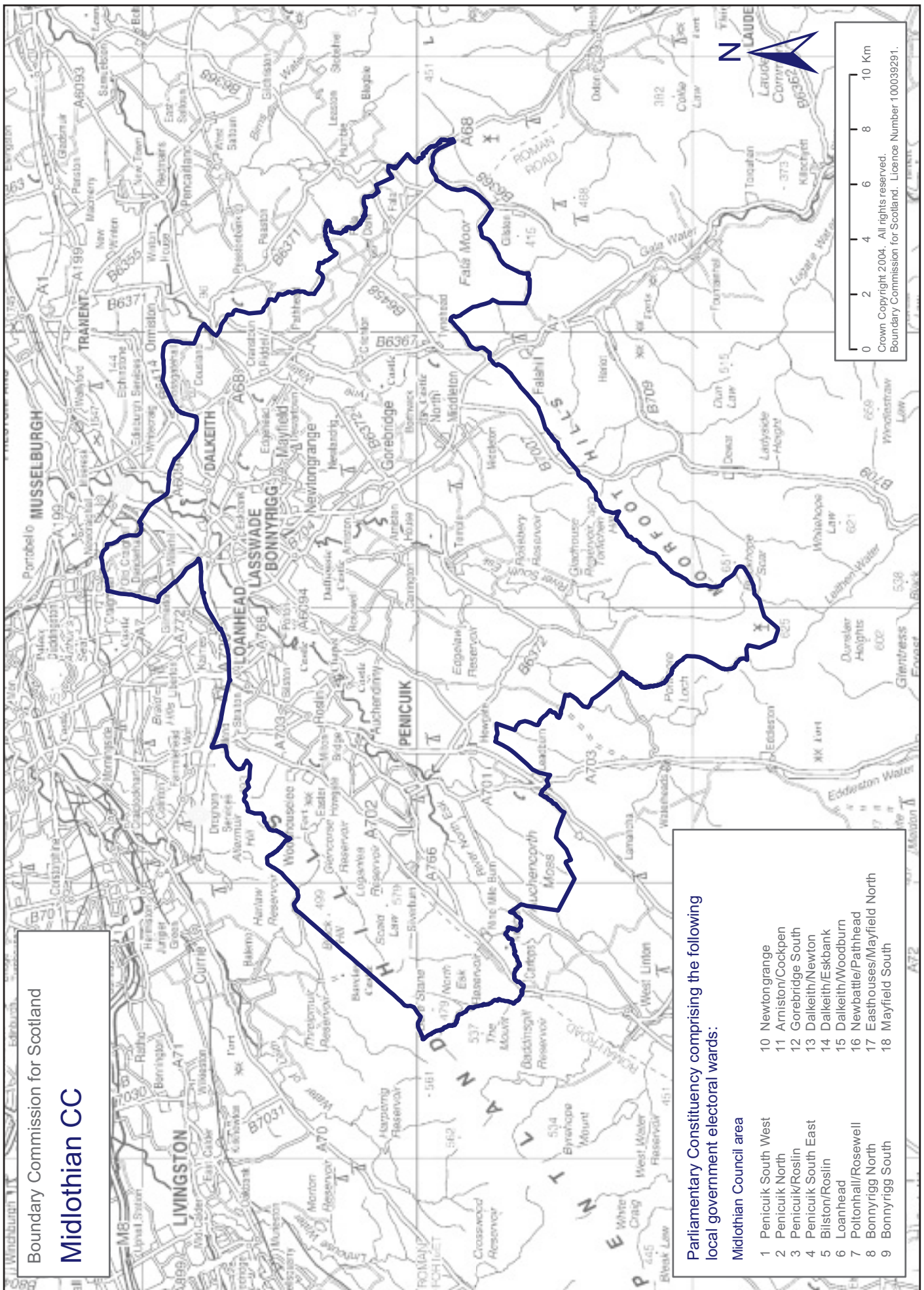


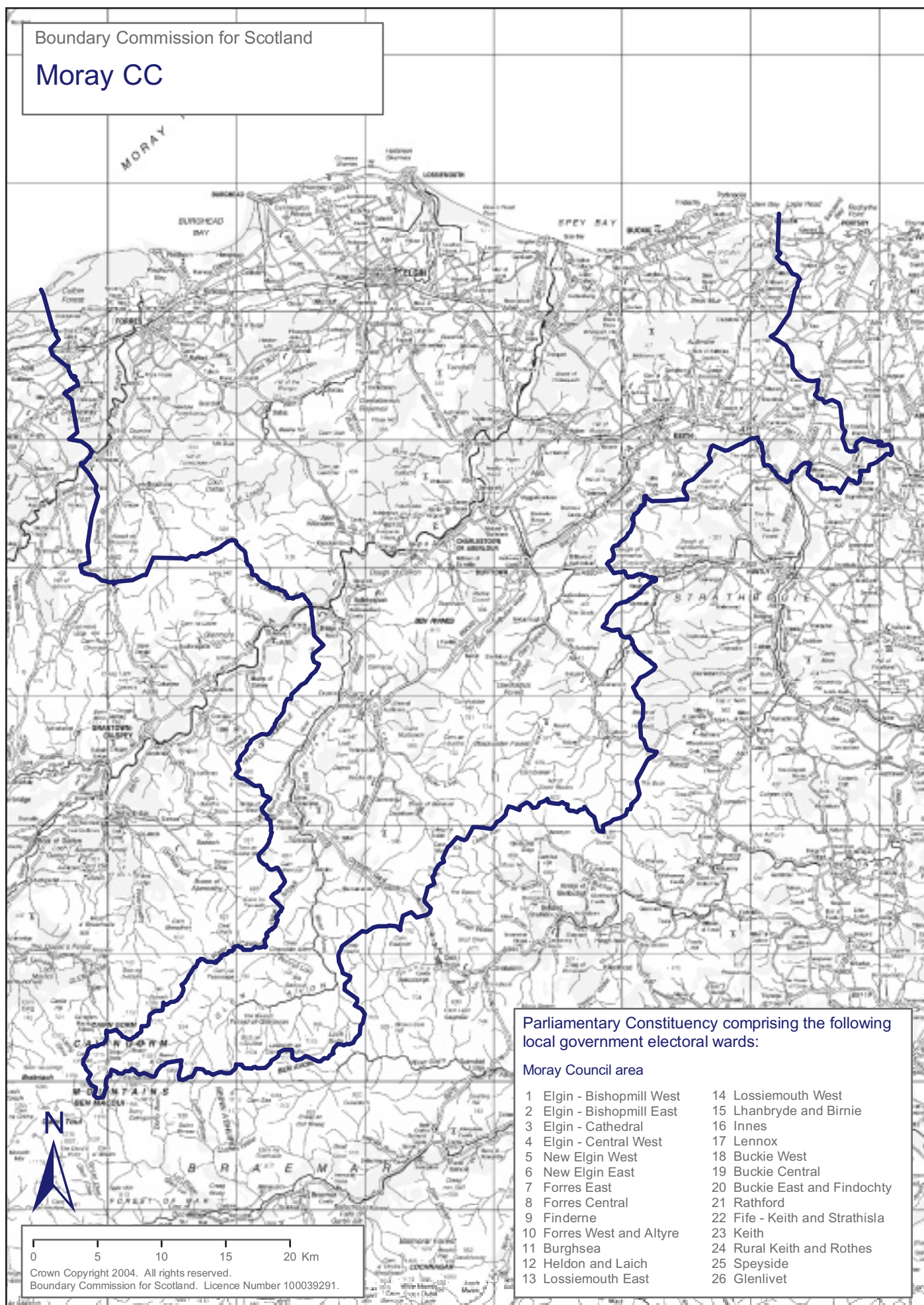


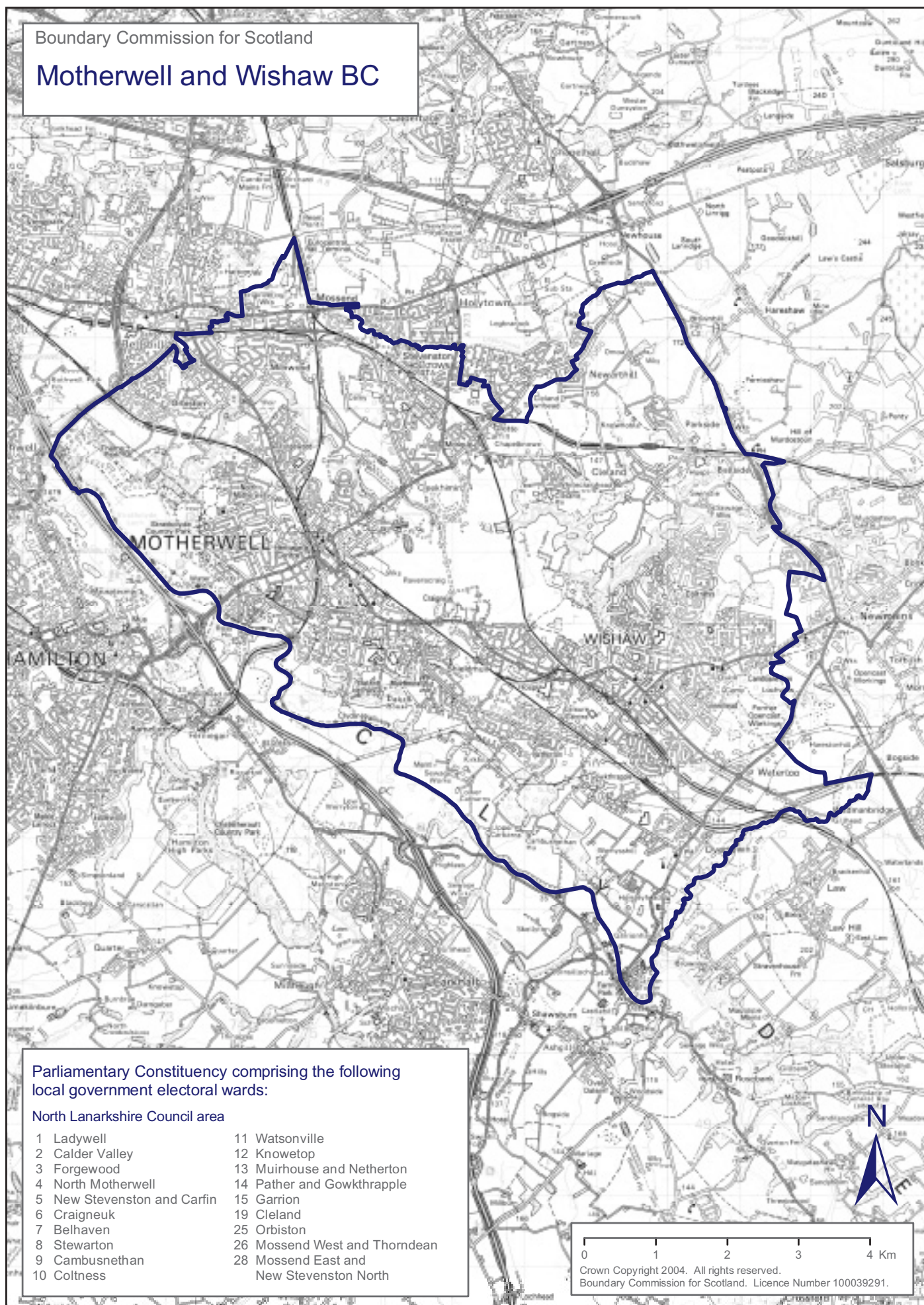






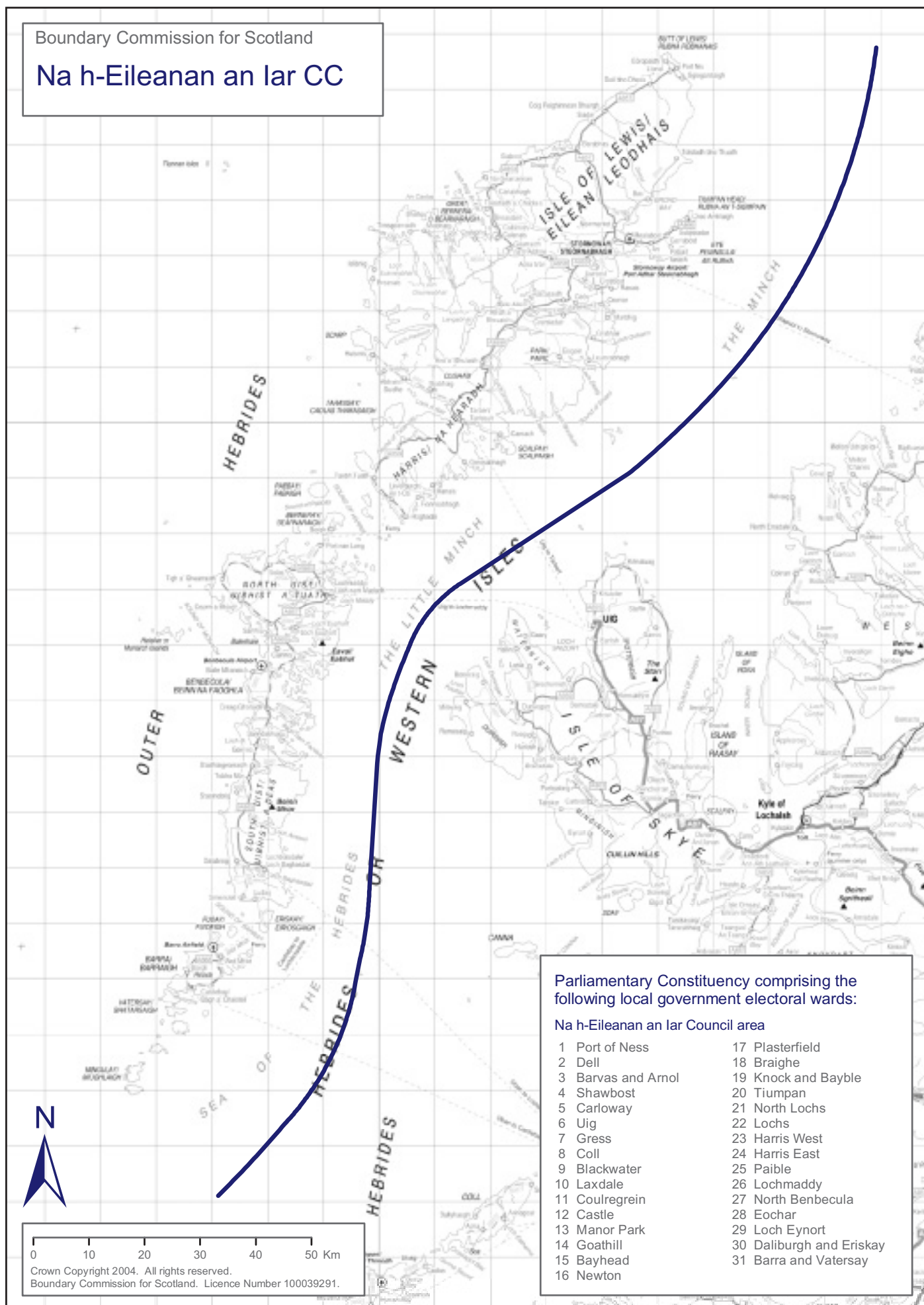


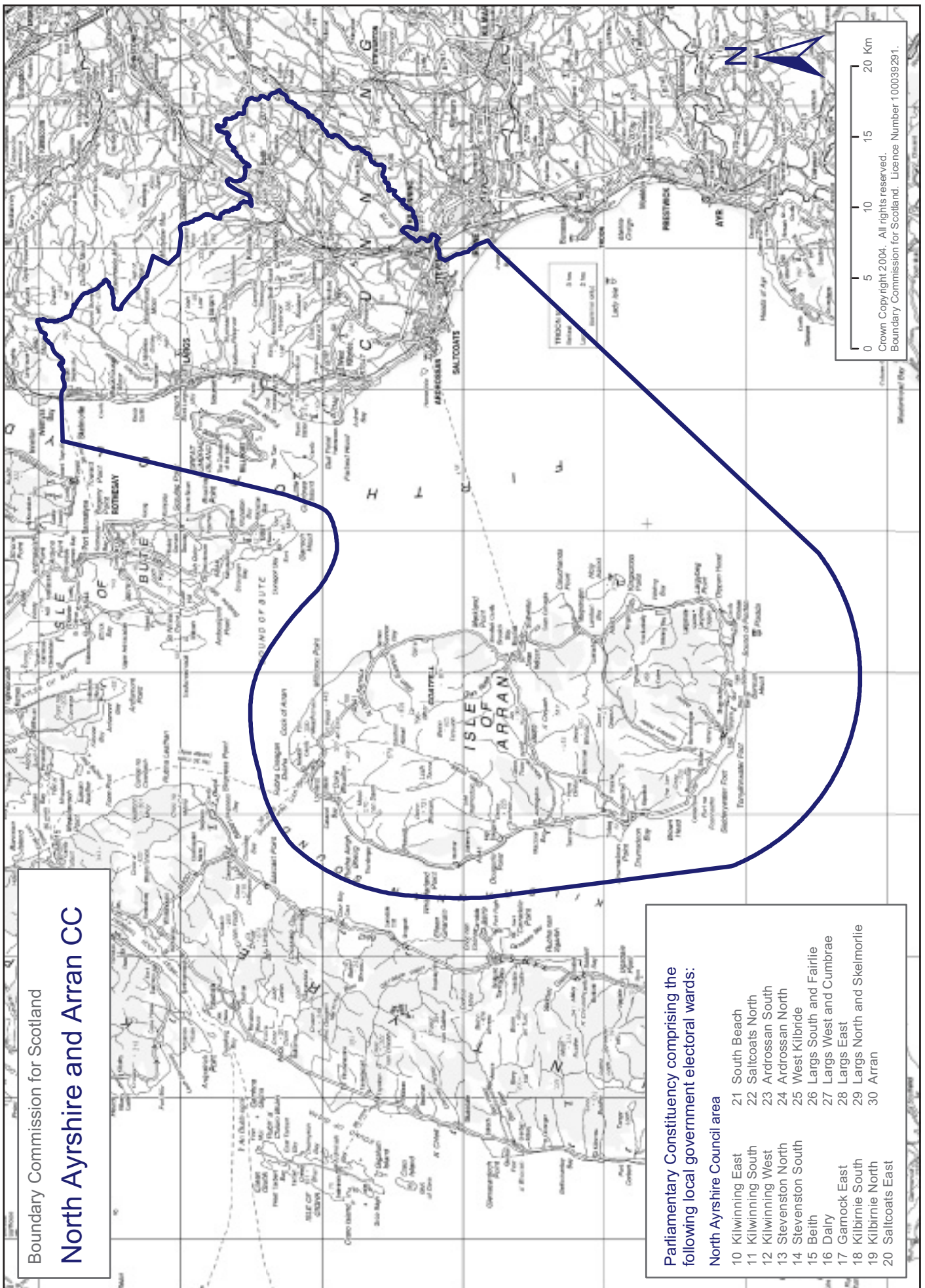


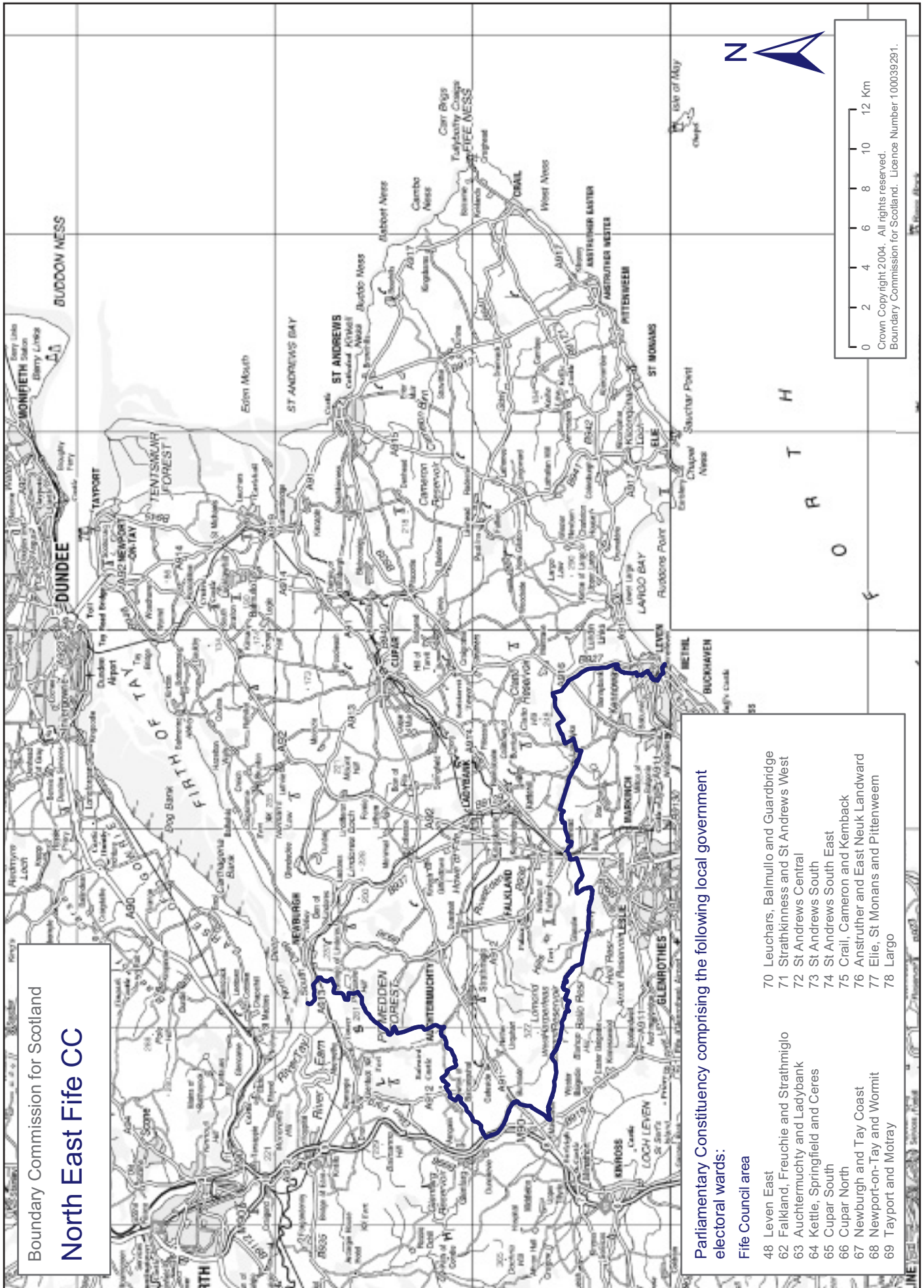


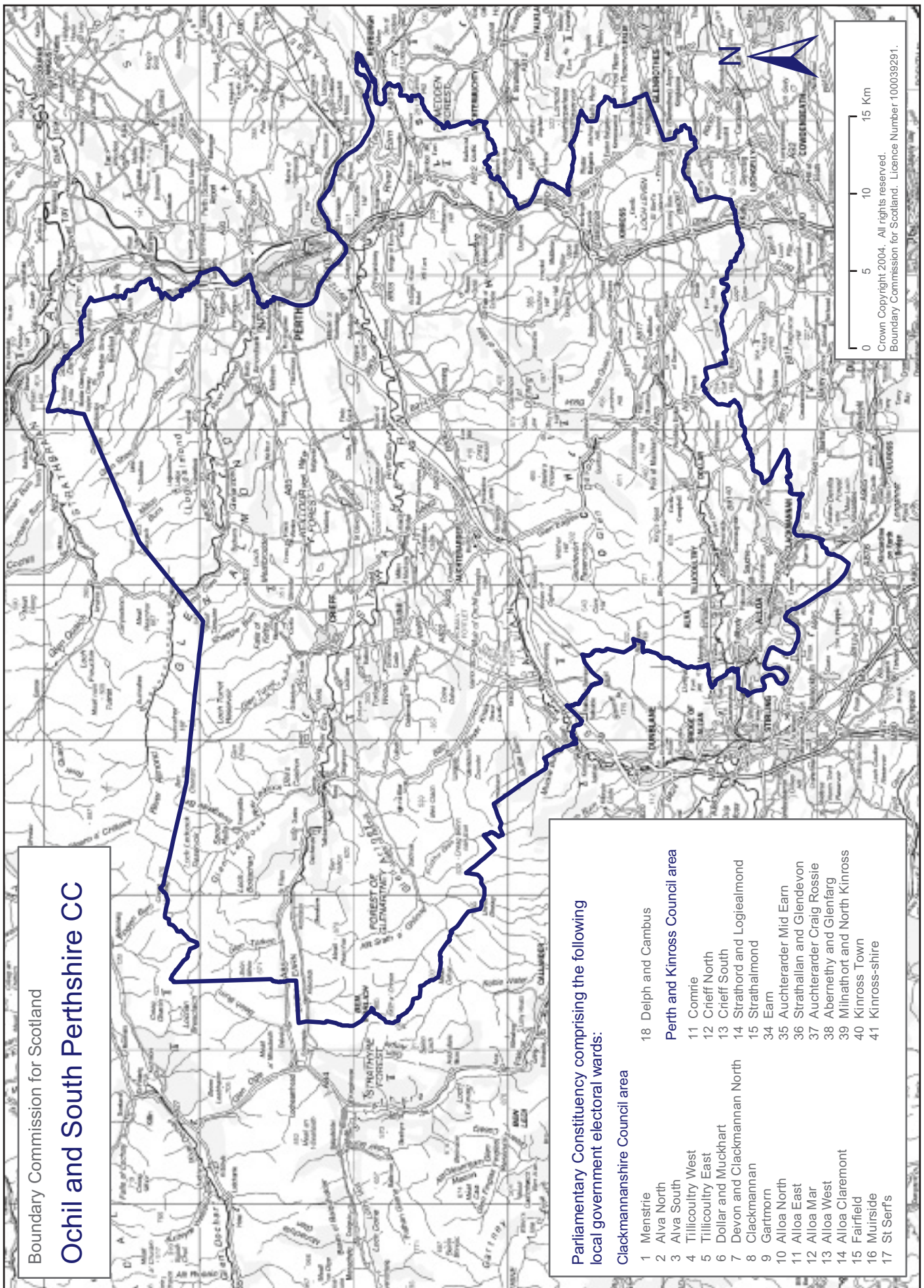
Boundary Commission for Scotland

Na h-Eileanan an Iar CC



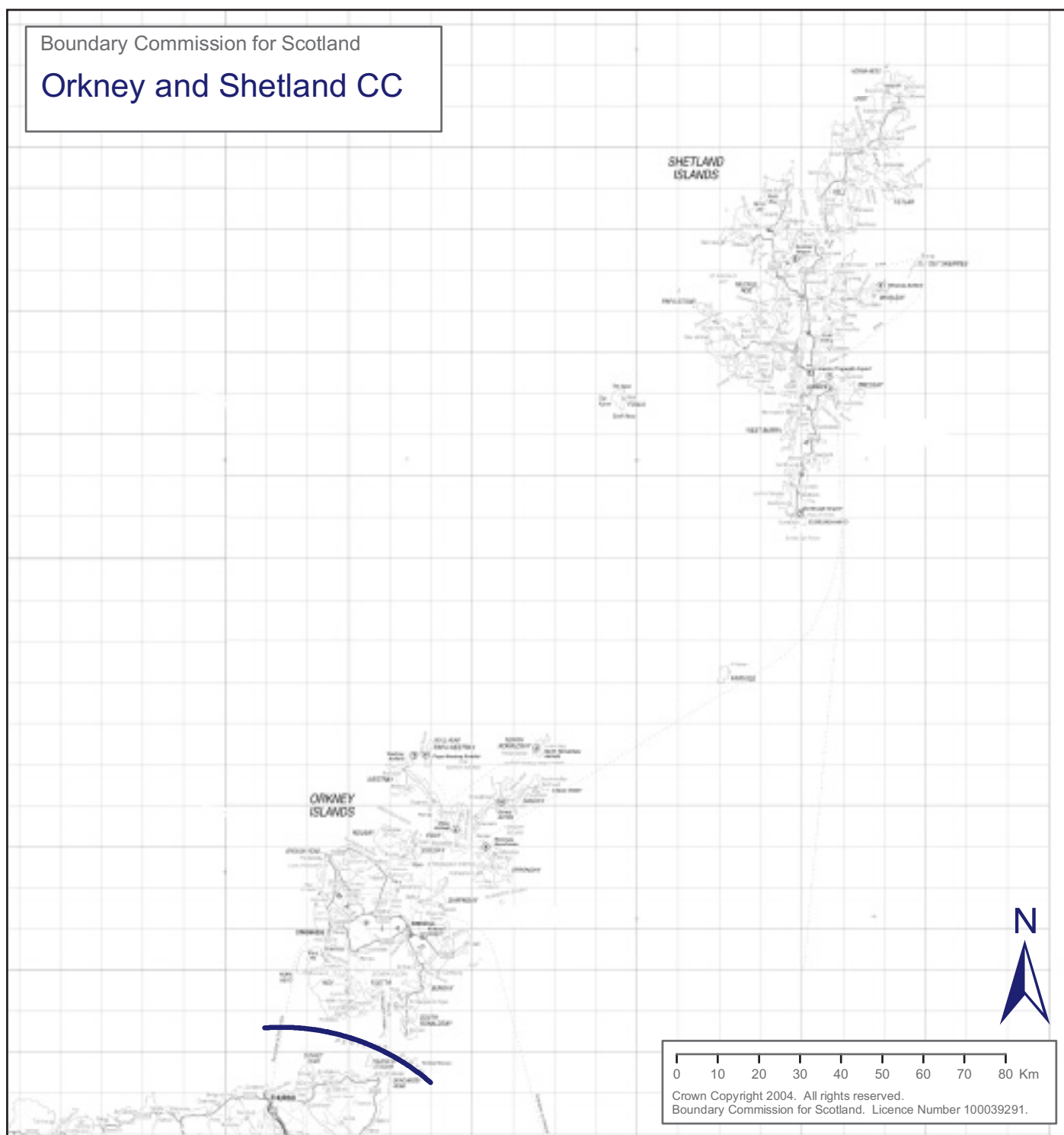






Boundary Commission for Scotland

Orkney and Shetland CC



Parliamentary Constituency comprising the following local government electoral wards:

Orkney Islands Council area

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Pickaquooy | 14 Evie, Rendall, Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre |
| 2 Berstane and Work | 15 Birsay and Dounby |
| 3 Warrenfield | 16 Sandwick and Stromness Landward |
| 4 Lynnfild | 17 St Andrew's Deerness and Wideford |
| 5 Brandyquooy | 18 Holm and Burray |
| 6 Papdale | 19 South Ronaldsay |
| 7 Scapa and Kirkwall South West | 20 Sanday, North Ronaldsay and Stronsay |
| 8 Shapinsay and Kirkwall Harbour | 21 Papa Westray, Westray and Eday |
| 9 Stromness North | |
| 10 Stromness South, Graemsay and North Hoy | |
| 11 Orphir, Walls and Flotta | |
| 12 Firth and Sunnybrae | |
| 13 Harray and Stenness | |

Shetland Islands Council area

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Sound | 13 Delting East and Lunnasting |
| 2 Clickimin | 14 Nesting, Whiteness, Gilsta and Gott |
| 3 North Central | 15 Scalloway |
| 4 Breiwick | 16 Whalsay/Skerries |
| 5 South Central | 17 Sandsting, Aithsting and Weisdale |
| 6 Harbour and Bressay | 18 Walls, Sandness and Clousta |
| 7 North | 19 Burra/Trondra |
| 8 Upper Sound, Gulberwick and Quarff | 20 Cunningsburgh and Sandwick |
| 9 Unst and Island of Fetlar | 21 Sandwick, Levenwick and Bigton |
| 10 Yell | 22 Dunrossness |
| 11 Northmavine, Muckle Roe and Busta | |
| 12 Delting West | |

