



The Boundary Commission for Scotland

Fifth Periodical Report of the Boundary Commission for Scotland

Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Scotland
By Command of Her Majesty

December 2004

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— Constitution of the Commission —

In accordance with paragraphs 1-5 of Schedule 1 of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, the Commission was constituted as follows:

Ex-Officio Member

The Speaker of the House of Commons, Chairman

And 3 other members

The Right Honourable Lady Cosgrove CBE, Deputy Chairman – appointed by the Lord President of the Court of Session

Professor R G L McCrone CB – appointed by the Secretary of State for Scotland

Dr E F Graham – appointed by the Secretary of State for Scotland

Assessors

The Registrar General for Scotland

The Director General of Ordnance Survey

Secretariat

Mr R Smith, appointed by the Secretary of State for Scotland, served as Secretary to the Commission throughout the period of the review.

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– Boundary Commission for Scotland Report –

on the Fifth Periodical Review of Parliamentary Constituencies to the Rt Hon Alistair Darling MP, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Scotland

We, the Boundary Commission for Scotland, constituted in accordance with the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, as amended by the Boundary Commissions Act 1992, have the honour to submit in terms of Section 3(1) of the 1986 Act our fifth periodical report on parliamentary constituency boundaries in Scotland.

Introduction

1. Under the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 we are charged with the duty of keeping the representation of Scotland in the House of Commons under review. We are required under Section 3(1) to submit a report to you with respect to the whole of Scotland showing the constituencies into which we recommend that Scotland should be divided. In addition, under Section 3(3) we may submit recommendations regarding the boundaries of any particular Scottish constituency from time to time between general reviews. In forming recommendations for alterations to or maintenance of existing constituency boundaries, we are required to give effect to the rules in the second schedule to the 1986 Act, as amended. In particular, the Scotland Act 1998 amended the 1986 Act so that we were required to apply the electoral quota for England to Scotland for this review. As a result, this is a more far reaching review than its predecessors and involves a substantial reduction in the number of Scottish constituencies. The rules are reproduced at Appendix A and are referred to as “the Rules” throughout this report.

2. The present arrangements for determining constituency boundaries in Scotland were set out in the Representation of the People Act 1948. Alterations to the boundaries determined at that time were made following reports by the Commission under Section 2(3) of the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949 (Cmnds 8151, 8164 and 8703). Further alterations were made following the Commission’s periodical reports in 1954, 1969, 1983 and 1994 (Cmd 9312, Cmnd 4085, Cmnd 8794 and Cm 2726). Since the Order in Council relating to the 1994 Report was made (SI 1995 No 1037(S.90)), the Commission has not submitted any further reports concerning Westminster parliamentary constituencies.

3. A booklet entitled *Background, Processes and Procedures*, which provided information regarding the review and the processes and procedures to be adopted, was issued at the start of the review and forms Appendix A. Appendix B comprises a second booklet entitled *Local Inquiry – Processes and Procedures*, which provided information regarding local inquiries and was issued prior to the start of the local inquiry process. Appendix C sets out the number of parliamentary electors in the existing constituencies at the start and end of the previous and current reviews. Appendix D shows the change in the parliamentary electorate in each Council area between 2001 and 2004. Appendix E lists the constituencies we recommend as a result of our current review. Maps showing both the existing parliamentary constituency boundaries in each Council area in Scotland and our final recommendations for these areas are contained at the beginning and end respectively of the relevant sections of Chapter 3. Appendix F contains maps showing the boundaries of each of our recommended new constituencies.

Timing of the General Review

4. The Commission's last report, the Fourth Periodical Report, was submitted in 1994 to the Secretary of State under Section 3(1) of the 1986 Act. Under Section 3(2) of the 1986 Act as amended, the Commission is required to submit its fifth report not less than 8 or more than 12 years from the date of submission of the fourth report, i.e. between December 2002 and December 2006.

Procedure

5. In compliance with the Rule which requires that regard shall be had to the boundaries of local authority areas, and for practical reasons concerned with the administration of elections and the local organisation of political parties, we prepared proposals on the basis of the 32 Council areas which were introduced by the Local Government etc (Scotland) Act 1994. As a consequence of the change to the number and structure of local authorities and the increase in the electoral quota, it was likely we would require to make proposals for constituencies that crossed Council boundaries.

6. We announced at the outset of the review that we intended to use existing local government electoral wards as the basic building blocks for the construction of constituencies. Although the legislation does not require us to do so, we believed that it would not be appropriate to ignore the structure of these electoral arrangements when reviewing parliamentary constituency boundaries. We agreed that the effective administration of parliamentary elections (both for the local authorities which are charged with this duty, and the political parties which have to organise themselves for the elections) would best be served if parliamentary constituency boundaries were based on territorial areas which fitted in with existing local structures.

7. Formal notice of the Commission's decision to start the general review of parliamentary constituencies was given on 29 June 2001 and a notice of the Commission's intention was published in the Edinburgh Gazette on that date.

8. The Rules require us to conduct our general review on the basis of the parliamentary electorates existing when we announce our intention to carry out the review (the enumeration date). Electoral Registration Officers supplied us with particulars of the electorates in each local government electoral ward in Scotland from the electoral registers at June 2001. These data were added to our geographic information systems so that options for revised constituencies could be developed and examined against the background of existing constituency boundaries, settlement geography, topography, communication links and other relevant information.

9. We are not required to enter into consultations with political parties, local authorities or any other bodies before forming our provisional proposals. Like our predecessors we considered that provisional proposals are best arrived at independently without regard to conflicting suggestions. In our view the statutory consultation process, together with the local inquiry procedures, provided ample opportunity for the consideration of counter-proposals.

10. As required by Section 5(2) of the 1986 Act, we published our provisional proposals in newspapers circulating in the areas affected, inviting any persons who wished to do so to make representation to us about our proposals. The statutory notices were supplemented by a news release. Copies of our proposals, illustrative maps and the explanatory booklet on the conduct of the review (see Appendix A) were made available for inspection by the public at local authority offices, public libraries and other suitable places within each constituency affected. The addresses of the premises where the documents could be inspected were included in the statutory notices. We are grateful to the local authorities and their officers for their cooperation in these arrangements.

11. All the documentation and maps were made available on our web site. Local authorities were also provided with all documentation and maps on CD ROM which they were free to disseminate to the public. Similarly, local authorities that expressed an interest were provided with computer data files containing the local government electoral ward boundaries, together with electorate data, boundaries of existing constituencies and boundaries of the proposed constituencies. These data could be utilised by computer-based geographic information systems thus allowing Councils to examine the information in detail and, where they thought necessary, to develop counter-proposals.

12. Our proposals for all 32 Council areas were published on 7 February 2002. Because of the radical nature of the review, we considered that it would be beneficial if the extent of the changes to constituency geography arising from the significant reduction in the number of constituencies was made known simultaneously on a Scotland-wide basis.

13. The political parties in Scotland represented at both the Westminster and Scottish Parliaments were kept fully informed of our proposals, and copies of all notices and other documents were sent to them immediately in advance of issue. Additionally, Members of Parliament were informed in advance of the provisional recommendations affecting their particular constituencies, and copies of notices and maps were deposited in the Parliamentary libraries for inspection. Members of the Scottish Parliament were similarly informed and copies of the notices and maps were sent to the Scottish Parliament Information Centre.

14. We recognised that the statutory consultation period of one month might sometimes allow too little time for detailed consideration to be given to our provisional proposals. We therefore took account of all the representations received in respect of our provisional proposals, including those received after the statutory period but prior to our meeting of 22 March 2002. All representations received after that date about areas where local inquiries were to be held were made available to the Assistant Commissioners.

15. We have held 23 meetings since the notice to commence our review was published. These were all held under the chairmanship of our Deputy Chairman but we kept our ex-officio Chairman, Mr Speaker, informed of the course of our deliberations.

Local Inquiries

16. Under Section 6 of the 1986 Act, we are obliged to arrange for a local inquiry to be held where objections to our provisional proposals are received from an interested local authority

or from a body of electors numbering 100 or more. We are not obliged, however, to hold a local inquiry in respect of objections to revised or modified recommendations, but we may do so if we consider it necessary to obtain more information or to ascertain local opinion on certain matters.

17. As a result of such objections, local inquiries involving 20 Council areas were held into our provisional proposals, but no further local inquiries took place into our revised recommendations. At our request, you agreed to appoint a Sheriff Principal to act as Assistant Commissioner for each of the local inquiries. Under these arrangements the Sheriff Principal for South Strathclyde and Dumfries and Galloway conducted the inquiry for the combined Council areas of East Dunbartonshire and North Lanarkshire. The Sheriff Principal for Grampian, Highlands and Islands conducted the inquiry for the combined Council areas of Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. The Sheriff Principal for Tayside, Central and Fife conducted the inquiries for the combined Council areas of Perth and Kinross and Clackmannanshire, the combined Council areas of Angus and Dundee City and the combined Council areas of Falkirk and West Lothian. The Sheriff Principal of North Strathclyde conducted the inquiries for the combined Council areas of East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire and for Renfrewshire Council area. The Sheriff Principal for Glasgow and Strathkelvin conducted the inquiries for the combined Council areas of Dumfries and Galloway, Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire. Since counter-proposals received for this area involved Midlothian Council area, we also included our proposals for that Council area within the scope of this inquiry. The then Sheriff Principal for Lothians and Borders conducted the local inquiry into our proposals for the City of Edinburgh. Because the existing configuration of constituencies covering the City of Edinburgh Council area included part of East Lothian Council area, we included that Council area within the scope of this inquiry.

18. The Assistant Commissioners were entirely independent of the Commission and took no part in preparing our provisional proposals. We refer later to the reports of the Assistant Commissioners but we should like to record here our thanks to them for the careful and constructive way in which they conducted the inquiries, and for the full and informative reports which they made to us. We found their reports of great assistance in reaching our final recommendations.

19. Notices advertising the holding of local inquiries were published in newspapers in the same way as notices advertising our provisional proposals. Copies of representations addressed to the Commission were sent to the political parties and to the relevant local authorities for public inspection. In addition, summaries of the representations were sent to local authorities for public inspection at local authority offices and public libraries, together with a statement explaining our provisional proposals. These statements were read out by the Assistant Commissioner at the start of each inquiry. Each Assistant Commissioner also received a full set of documents for his inquiry, including all representations received after our meeting of 22 March 2002. Additionally, where detailed counter-proposals had been notified to us prior to an inquiry, they were mapped and displayed at the relevant inquiry venue.

20. All of the documents, with the exception of copies of the representations, were made available on our web site. Members of Parliament and Members of the Scottish Parliament were informed of the holding of local inquiries affecting their particular constituencies and

summaries of the relevant representations were sent to them. All persons who made representations were informed of the date and time of local inquiries, the address of the premises where the inquiries were to be held and the locations at which the relevant documentation could be inspected.

21. Where we decided, after considering the report of a local inquiry, to revise our proposals, these were published in exactly the same way as the provisional proposals in accordance with the 1986 Act. Copies of the Assistant Commissioner's reports were deposited for local inspection, along with our revised recommendations and maps (where appropriate). Where we decided to adhere to our provisional proposals after holding a local inquiry, we followed a similar pattern of publication of the Assistant Commissioner's report when we announced our decision. All relevant information was made available on our web site.

Discussions with Political Parties

22. We decided to follow the practice of our predecessors during the fourth periodical review and arrange a meeting with representatives nominated by the political parties in Scotland that had Members of Parliament in the House of Commons or in the Scottish Parliament. We held the meeting in June 2000.

Re-appraisal of Recommendations

23. Towards the end of the review we re-appraised our recommendations for the whole of Scotland to ensure fair and consistent treatment of different areas. In doing so we noted the 2004 electorate figures and any further representations we had received following intimation of our final recommendations. We are satisfied that our review is fair and consistent across Scotland.

The Rules and General Principles of the Review

Changes to the Rules

1. Section 86 of the Scotland Act 1998 made a number of changes to the Rules, the effect of which is as follows:

1.1 Rule 1(2) was removed: there is now no guaranteed minimum number of Scottish seats at Westminster.

1.2 Rule 3A was inserted: “A constituency which includes the Orkney Islands or the Shetland Islands shall not include the whole or any part of a local government area other than the Orkney Islands or the Shetland Islands”.

1.3 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.

1.4 Rule 7 was modified: rule 3A, regarding the Orkney Islands and the Shetland Islands, cannot be disregarded.

The Electoral Quota and the Number of Constituencies

2. As amended, Rule 1 no longer provides for a minimum of 71 Scottish seats at Westminster. Further, under Rule 5, as amended, Rule 8 (which sets out how the electoral quota should be derived) does not apply in Scotland for this review. Rule 5 states that, for the first report of the Commission submitted under section 3(1) of the 1986 Act, ‘electoral quota’ means the number which, on the enumeration date in relation to that report, is the electoral quota for England (69,934 at June 2001, the enumeration date for our review).

3. The electorate in Scotland at the enumeration date for our review was 3,995,489. A strict division of the electorate by the electoral quota for England would provide for 57 constituencies, rather than the 72 which are presently allocated. At the start of our review, the average number of electors in existing Scottish constituencies was 55,454. On average, therefore, the electorate of constituencies in Scotland would need to increase by approximately 26 per cent to meet the requirement of using the electoral quota for England to determine the number and distribution of Scottish seats.

Local Authority Boundaries and Size of Electorate

4. In its application to Scotland, Rule 4 provides that, so far as is reasonably practicable having regard to the foregoing Rules (which also require every constituency to return a single member), regard shall be had to the boundaries of local authority areas, i.e. the boundaries of the 32 unitary authorities established by the Local Government etc (Scotland) Act 1994.

5. Rule 4(1)(b) provides that “in Scotland regard shall be had to the boundaries of local authority areas”. In Scotland, however, it is recognised in law that “having regard to” means “having in view”. Therefore, while Rule 4(1)(b) imposes a positive requirement on the Commission to keep in view Council boundaries, it does not prohibit us from crossing the boundary of a local authority area. The Commission has a discretion either to take, or to refrain from taking, that course.

6. We recognised early in the review that, because of the application of the increased electoral quota and the increase in the number of local authorities in Scotland to 32 unitary Councils, it would be necessary to recommend constituencies which crossed local authority boundaries in order to ensure reasonable compliance with the requirements of Rule 5 that “the electorate of any constituency shall be as near the electoral quota as is practicable having regard to rules 1 to 4”. Rule 5 also states that “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”.

7. We therefore decided to combine some Council areas so that we could design constituencies which, as far as possible, complied with Rule 5, whilst minimising the number of Council boundaries crossed. We noted, however, the introduction of Rule 3A, which states that “A constituency which includes the Orkney Islands or the Shetland Islands shall not include the whole or any part of a local government area other than the Orkney Islands or the Shetland Islands” and the modification to Rule 7 which provides that Rule 3A cannot be disregarded.

8. We also decided to limit the number of Council areas that we combined to 2, unless it was impracticable to do so.

Geographical Considerations

9. Rule 6 provides that the Commission may depart from strict application of rules 4 and 5 if special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency, appear to the Commission to render departure desirable. We considered that Rule 6 has a special relevance in Scotland. Inevitably, the exercise of this discretion resulted in some constituencies having electorates significantly smaller than the average.

General and Supplementary

10. Paragraph 7 of Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act relieves the Commission of the obligation to give full effect in all circumstances to the Rules but provides that the Commission shall

take account, so far as they reasonably can, of the inconveniences attendant on alteration of constituencies, other than alterations made for the purpose of Rule 4 (which requires regard to be had to the boundaries of local authority areas), and of any local ties which would be broken by such alterations.

Implications of the Scotland Act 1998 and Local Government etc (Scotland) Act 1994

11. This review of constituencies has been conducted following changes to the 1986 Act Rules arising from the terms of the Scotland Act 1998 and the reorganisation of the structure of local authorities in Scotland which came into effect in 1996. Consequently it was apparent early in the review that the constituency map of Scotland would change significantly. At the end of the last review, only 3 constituencies straddled a boundary between Region or Islands Areas. However, the increase in the number of local authorities from 12 to 32 resulted in the number of boundaries shared by local authorities increasing from 18 to 68. Further, excluding the islands authorities, the electorates of local authorities at the time of the last review ranged between approximately 83,900 and 1,745,850, whilst electorates for the existing local authority structure range between approximately 36,600 and 483,100. By applying the electoral quota for England to determine the number of constituencies appropriate for each Council area, consequential changes to constituency design have resulted in only one of the existing Scottish mainland constituencies remaining unaltered.

Population and Electorate Changes

12. The Rules require the use of the electorate on the enumeration date for the review, i.e. June 2001, and do not provide for forecast changes in the electorate to be taken into account when determining the number of constituencies.

13. Changes in the number of electors on the electoral register that occurred during the course of our review caused a number of organisations and individuals some concerns. However, the Rules require that we use the electorate on the enumeration date for the review and, therefore, we could not take into consideration changes in the electorate that occurred during the course of the review. The changes in the number of parliamentary electors in each Council area between 2001 and 2004 is detailed at Appendix D.

Theoretical Entitlement and Allocation of Seats

14. At an early stage in our deliberations we calculated the theoretical entitlement of Scottish seats at Westminster. We next established the theoretical entitlement of seats for each local authority by dividing the number of electors in each Council area by the electoral quota. The results of these calculations are shown in Table A below, which also shows the average deviation from the electoral quota if constituencies were to be bounded by the Council area. These results have no status in law, but they serve to illustrate the very significant deviations from the electoral quota that would occur in any constituency designs that did not combine some local authority areas. In our view such large deviations from the electoral quota were not generally acceptable.

Table A

Council Area	Electorate (June 2001)	Theoretical Entitlement		Percentage Deviation from Electoral Quota
		Calculated	Rounded	
Aberdeen City	163,156	2.33	2	15.0
Aberdeenshire	173,613	2.48	2	24.0
Angus	85,805	1.23	1	23.0
Argyll and Bute	69,587	1.00	1	48.0
City of Edinburgh	364,542	5.21	5	16.5
Clackmannanshire	36,595	0.52	1	20.0
Dumfries and Galloway	116,652	1.67	2	16.5
Dundee City	111,596	1.60	2	20.0
East Ayrshire	93,201	1.33	1	33.0
East Dunbartonshire	84,624	1.21	1	21.0
East Lothian	71,288	1.02	1	0.0
East Renfrewshire	69,249	0.99	1	0.0
Falkirk	112,763	1.61	2	19.5
Fife	278,848	3.99	4	0.0
Glasgow City	483,077	6.91	7	1.2
Highland	163,867	2.34	2	17.0
Inverclyde	65,485	0.94	1	6.0
Midlothian	62,787	0.90	1	10.0
Moray	63,959	0.91	1	9.0
Na h-Eileanan an Iar	21,884	0.31	(1)	69.0
North Ayrshire	105,942	1.51	2	24.5
North Lanarkshire	248,357	3.55	4	11.3
Orkney Islands	15,394	0.22	(1)	78.0
Perth and Kinross	105,861	1.51	2	24.5
Renfrewshire	136,680	1.95	2	2.5
Scottish Borders	86,164	1.23	1	23.0
Shetland Islands	16,787	0.24	(1)	76.0
South Ayrshire	90,281	1.29	1	29.0
South Lanarkshire	238,867	3.42	3	14.0
Stirling	66,393	0.95	1	5.0
West Dunbartonshire	71,694	1.03	1	0.0
West Lothian	120,491	1.72	2	14.0

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CORRECTION

Please note the following correction to Page 9 Table A:

The Percentage Deviation from Electoral Quota for the following Council Areas should be:

Aberdeen City	16.5
Argyll and Bute	0.0
City of Edinburgh	4.2
Clackmannanshire	48.0
Glasgow City	1.3

December 2004

EDINBURGH: The Stationery Office

15. The initial analysis suggested that, where the number of electors within a local authority was broadly in line with the electoral quota, the boundary of the local authority and parliamentary constituency should, wherever practicable, be coterminous. These local authority areas were Argyll and Bute, East Lothian, East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Midlothian, Moray, Stirling and West Dunbartonshire.

16. In the case of 4 local authority areas, the City of Edinburgh, Fife, Glasgow City and Renfrewshire, we concluded that the size of the electorate provided for a theoretical entitlement of 2 or more constituencies that varied only marginally from the electoral quota. We concluded that, for these areas, proposed constituencies should not breach the local authority boundaries.

17. In the case of Highland Council area, the electorate suggested a theoretical entitlement of 2 seats. However, we decided that, because of the exceptional geography of the local authority area, the status quo, whereby 3 seats were allocated to the Council area, should be maintained. We also felt it was necessary to examine the possibility of combining the Council area with Na h-Eileanan an Iar Council area in order to design constituencies which conformed more closely with Rule 5. In the event, as explained in Chapter 3, we decided that there were strong reasons for rejecting this combination of Council areas.

18. For 16 local authority areas, Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen City, Angus, Clackmannanshire, Dumfries and Galloway, Dundee City, East Ayrshire, East Dunbartonshire, Falkirk, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, Perth and Kinross, Scottish Borders, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire and West Lothian, the theoretical entitlement to constituencies is such that a satisfactory constituency structure within the terms of the Rules is not achievable without breaching local authority boundaries. In these cases we decided that it would be necessary to combine 2 or more local authorities to enable the formulation of acceptable provisional proposals.

19. In the remaining 3 local authorities, Na h-Eileanan an Iar, Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands, the electorates of each area fell substantially short of the electoral quota. In the case of Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands, changes to the Rules prevent us from combining these areas with any other local authority for the purpose of representation at Westminster. However, the Rules do not preclude us from either combining both local authorities to form a single constituency or from recommending 2 constituencies. For Na h-Eileanan an Iar, after careful consideration of possible combinations with Highland Council area, we decided that the local authority area should form a single constituency.

20. The implication of the treatment of Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands, of Na h-Eileanan an Iar and of Highland Council areas set out in paragraphs 17 and 19 above has led us to the designation of 59 constituencies instead of the 57 arrived at by strict application of the electoral quota.

21. We noted that, in designing options for revised constituencies across Scotland, it might be necessary in some instances to review this position in the light of circumstances arising in adjoining local authority areas.

Naming and Designation of Constituencies

22. Under section 3(4) of the 1986 Act, the Commission's recommendations for each constituency must include the name by which it should be known and whether it should be a county constituency or a burgh constituency. At this review, the very significant changes to constituency geography suggested that in many instances the existing names and designations would no longer be appropriate. We therefore considered each proposed constituency name in the light of the revised constituency geography.

23. With the exception of constituencies contained wholly within city authorities, all but a very few of the recommended constituencies had a significant non-urban electorate so we decided that 41 of the 59 constituencies proposed should be designated county constituencies.

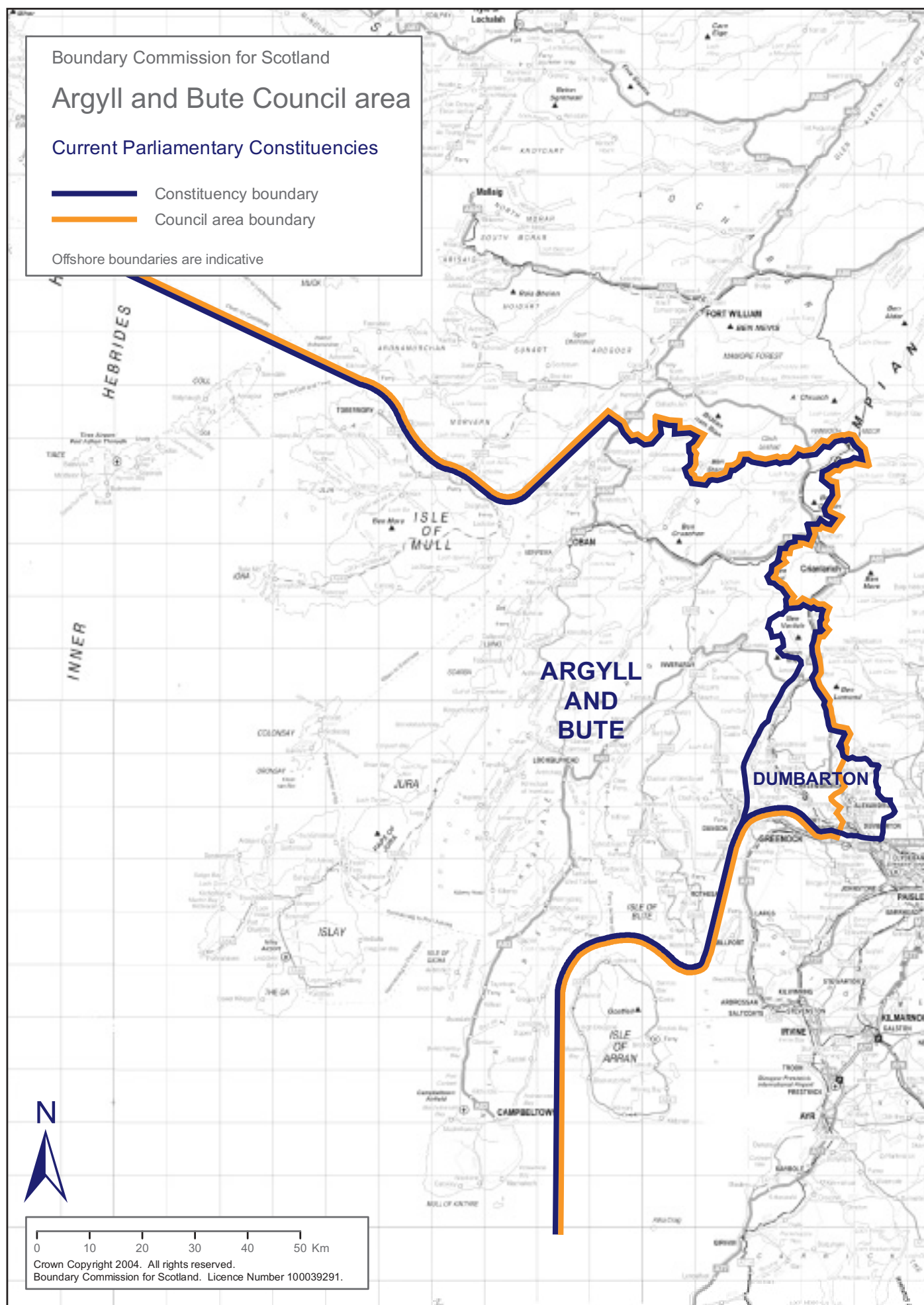
Final Recommendations

24. Following the local inquiries which were held into our provisional proposals, we carefully considered the reports of the Assistant Commissioners. We accepted all but 2 of the firm recommendations arising from the local inquiries which encompassed 20 local authority areas. As a result of our consideration of the Inquiry Reports, we published revised recommendations for all of the inquiry areas. In a number of areas where inquiries were held, when we published revised recommendations for some constituencies, we did not confirm our provisional proposals for adjoining constituencies. This allowed us to avoid unnecessarily restricting the options available to us should there have been a need to further revise recommendations. Where it was clear that no further consequential changes to our proposals were necessary, we announced our final recommendations for these areas. On 11 December 2003 we completed the announcement of our recommendations for all constituencies. We were satisfied that, having regard to the significant changes to constituency geography as a consequence of the reduction in the number of constituencies from 72 to 59, our conclusions were fair and consistent.

The Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004

25. Once we had determined our final recommendations for Westminster constituencies we turned our attention to the regional boundaries required for elections to the Scottish Parliament. We considered options for 8 restructured regions and agreed draft proposals which appeared to us to offer suitable groupings of the revised constituencies within the terms of the Rules. We were aware, however, that the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Bill, which, if enacted, would break the link between the Westminster constituencies and constituencies at the Scottish Parliament, was introduced to the House of Commons on 27 November 2003. After it was clear from the second reading of the Bill on 9 February 2004 that it was Parliament's intention to proceed with the amending legislation, we decided that we would withhold publication of our provisional recommendations. Mindful of the possibility that the Bill might not progress to enactment, we had arrangements in place to proceed with the publication of proposals for revised regions had this proved necessary.

26. On 30 July 2004, we were informed by officials of the Scotland Office that the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004 had received Royal Assent on 22 July 2004. The Act removed our duty to revise the regional boundaries for the Scottish Parliament.



Argyll and Bute Council Area

Introduction

1. Argyll and Bute Council area is currently covered by 2 county constituencies. Argyll and Bute county constituency is contained wholly within the Council area. The remainder of the Council area is combined with part of West Dunbartonshire Council area to form Dumbarton county constituency and accounts for approximately 35 per cent of the total electors within that constituency. The electorates of both existing constituencies at the start and finish of the previous and current reviews are shown at Appendix C.

Initial Considerations

2. In forming our provisional proposals for Argyll and Bute Council area we had in mind the following considerations:

2.1 At the enumeration date of June 2001, Argyll and Bute Council area contained 69,587 parliamentary electors, giving the Council area a theoretical entitlement of 0.99 seats.

2.2 At the enumeration date of June 2001, West Dunbartonshire Council area contained 71,694 parliamentary electors, giving the Council area a theoretical entitlement of 1.03 seats.

3. Bearing in mind the theoretical entitlement to seats in these Council areas and the requirement that we should have regard to Council boundaries, we acknowledged that the electorate of Argyll and Bute Council area was sufficient to justify a single seat. We equally acknowledged that, potentially, there were difficulties which might arise from the particular geography and topography of the Council area. Accordingly, we considered whether or not it would be possible and practicable to maintain a link with West Dunbartonshire Council area by creating a revised constituency based on the existing Dumbarton constituency. However, we recognised that this would undoubtedly have consequences for the design of constituencies to the east of this area and an examination of alternative options highlighted difficulties which could not be resolved to our satisfaction.

4. We considered whether it would be advantageous to combine any part of Argyll and Bute Council area with part of either Highland Council area or Stirling Council area but concluded that the geography of the various boundaries, the scarcity of electors and the rural nature of the adjoining areas made this impracticable. We also considered combining the Island of Bute with North Ayrshire Council area, thereby re-establishing a link which

had existed prior to the Third Periodical Review. However, our examination of potential constituency designs for the combined Ayrshire Council areas led us to conclude that a satisfactory outcome was not possible.

5. Accordingly, we agreed that Argyll and Bute Council area should comprise a single Argyll and Bute constituency.

Provisional Proposals

6. On 7 February 2002 we published our provisional proposals for one county constituency in Argyll and Bute Council area as follows:

Constituency	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Argyll and Bute CC	All electoral wards in Argyll and Bute Council area	69,587

Representations on Provisional Proposals

7. During the statutory consultation period, we received 20 representations regarding our provisional proposals for Argyll and Bute Council area. Argyll and Bute Council welcomed our recommendation, and both the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party and the Scottish Liberal Democrats supported our proposals. The Scottish National Party's Argyll and Bute Constituency Association and the Scottish National Party's Argyll and Bute Council Liaison Group both objected to our proposals on the grounds of the size of the constituency, the increase in electorate and the change in the balance of the constituency. Alex Reid MP supported our proposals and John McFall MP was satisfied with the proposed changes that affected the Dumbarton constituency. Oban Community Council objected on the grounds that Helensburgh has no links with the rest of Argyll and Bute Council area, and Helensburgh and Lomond Community Forum objected as it considered the proposed changes would be detrimental to the local area.

8. We received 6 representations from residents in the existing Argyll and Bute constituency. Of these, 3 supported our proposals and 2 objected to the inclusion of Helensburgh in the proposed Argyll and Bute constituency, as they felt it would alter the balance of the area. One representation requested that the constituency name "Argyll and Bute" be changed to its Gaelic form.

9. We received 5 representations from residents in the existing Dumbarton constituency. Of these, one supported our proposals and 4 objected, mainly on the grounds that Helensburgh has more links with Dumbarton and Glasgow rather than with the more rural areas of Argyll and Bute.

10. Following the end of the statutory consultation period, we received a further representation which supported our proposals.

Consideration of Representations on Provisional Proposals

11. We noted that Argyll and Bute Council welcomed our provisional proposals. We agreed that the number and nature of the representations did not justify a local inquiry.

12. We recognised the extensive area covered by the constituency. During our initial deliberations we had considered options for combining parts of Argyll and Bute Council area with adjoining Council areas but had not been able to identify any solution which produced a satisfactory outcome.

13. We examined the representations objecting to the inclusion of Helensburgh and its surrounding area in the proposed Argyll and Bute constituency, which, it was suggested, would affect the balance of the constituency. Similarly, we noted concerns regarding the increase in the electorate of the enlarged constituency. However, since Helensburgh is an integral part of Argyll and Bute Council area, it must be considered as such within the terms of the Rules. Further, it was not, in our view, possible to maintain the existing link between Helensburgh and West Dunbartonshire Council area, because of the consequential adverse impact on constituencies across a wider area. Accordingly, we were not persuaded to amend our provisional proposals.

14. We considered, but rejected, on grounds of insufficient support, the proposal that the constituency name should be changed to its Gaelic form.

Revised Recommendations

15. Following the publication of our provisional proposals, the boundary between Argyll and Bute Council area ward 36 (Cardross) and West Dunbartonshire Council area ward 16 (Dumbarton West) was amended by The Argyll and Bute Council and West Dunbartonshire Council Boundaries (Ardoch Sewage Works) Amendment Order 2002. This administrative change transferred a small area, containing 16 electors, from Argyll and Bute Council area to West Dunbartonshire Council area. This boundary change affected our provisional proposals for a constituency with boundaries coterminous with those of the local authority.

16. We agreed to publish modified proposals to incorporate the boundary change and to re-establish the link between the constituency and the Council area. Accordingly, on 23 October 2003, we published revised recommendations to reflect the realignment of the boundary which affected Argyll and Bute Council area ward 36 as follows:

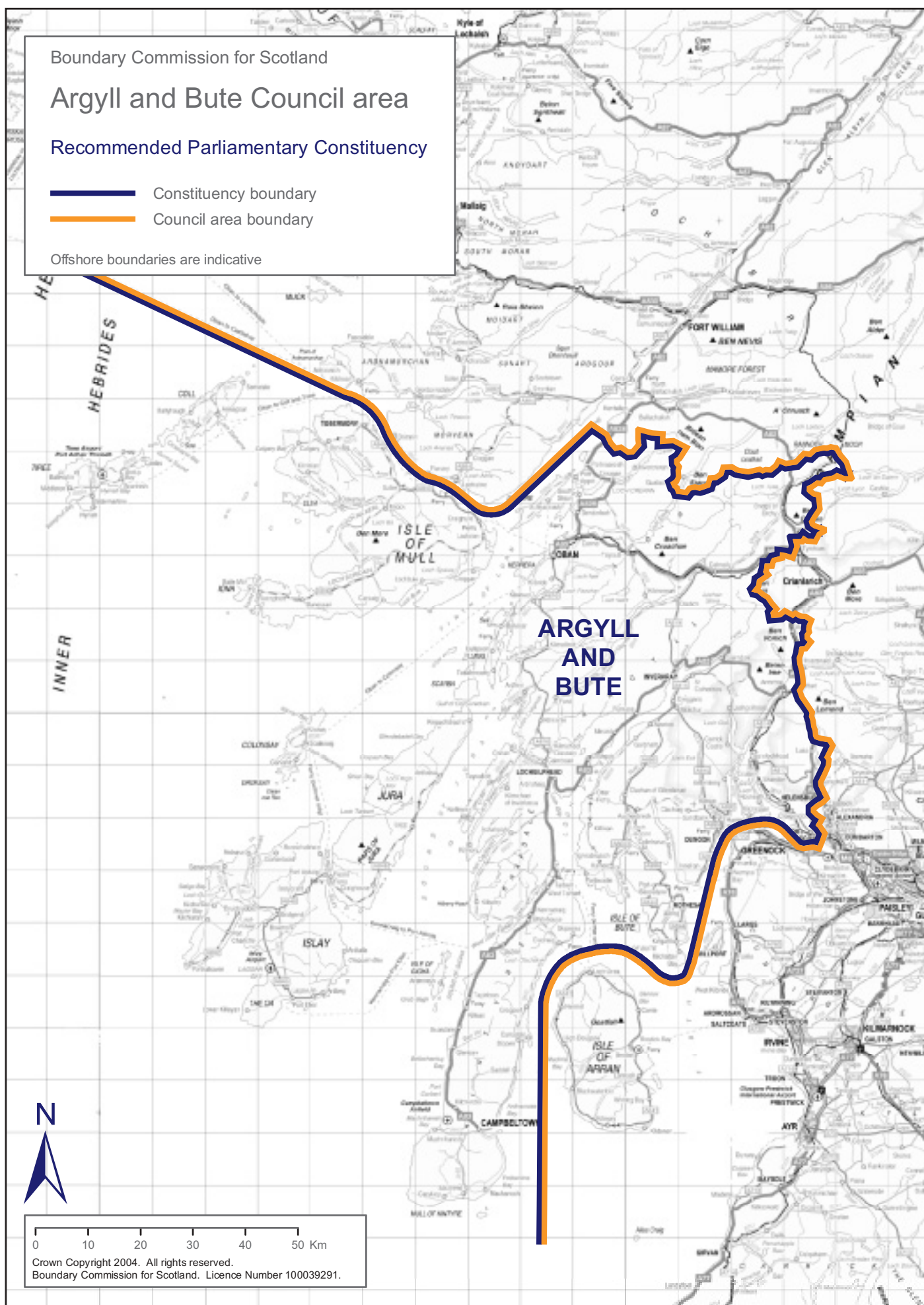
Constituency	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Argyll and Bute CC	All electoral wards in Argyll and Bute Council area	69,571

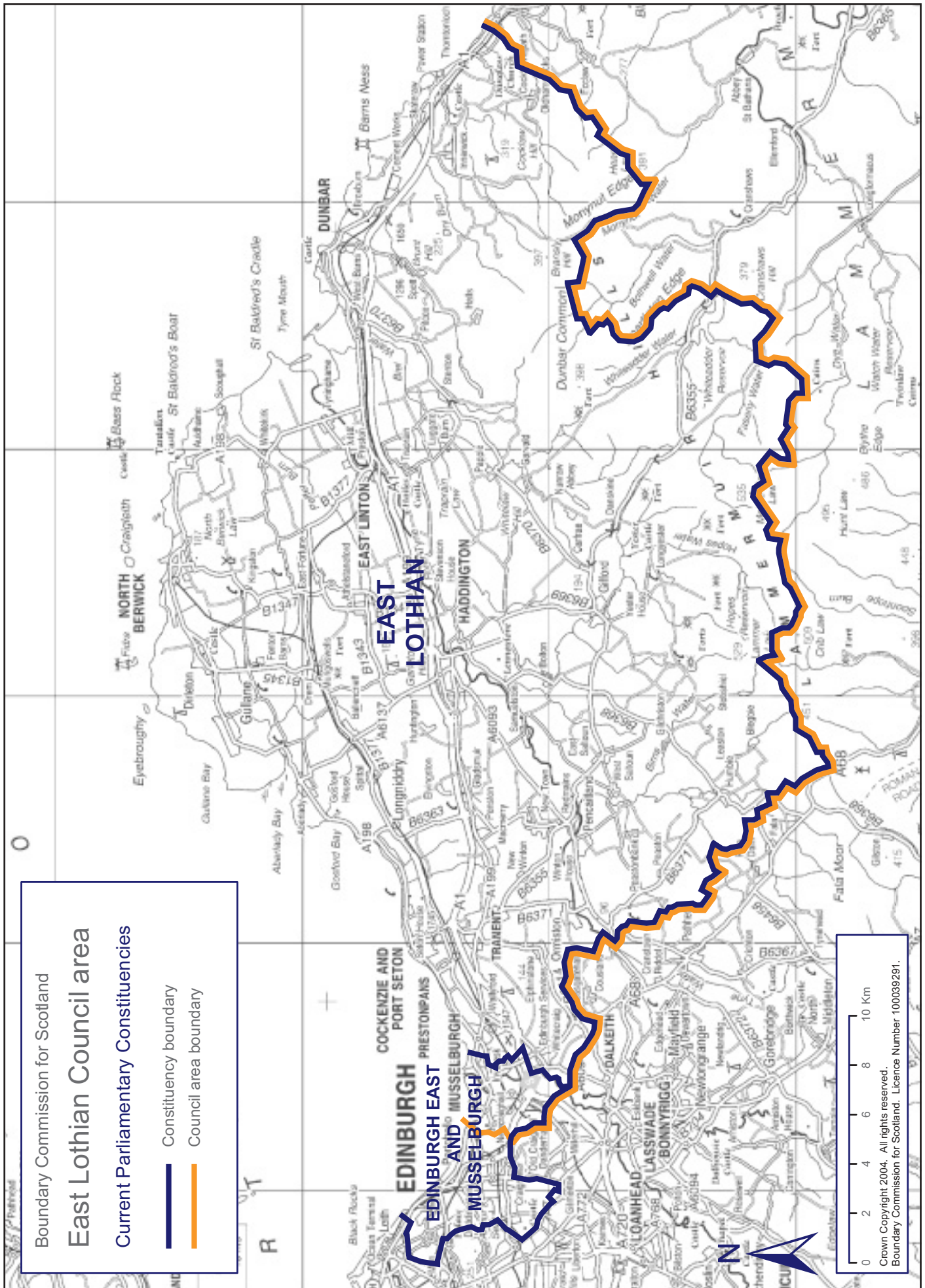
17. No representations were received in respect of our revised recommendations.

Final Recommendations

18. On 11 December 2003 we announced that we were making no further changes to our proposals for one county constituency and that these were our final recommendations.

19. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our proposals for one county constituency comprising the whole of Argyll and Bute Council area, as set out in paragraph 16 above.





East Lothian Council Area

Introduction

1. East Lothian Council area is currently covered by 2 constituencies. East Lothian county constituency lies wholly within the Council area and comprises the majority of the Council area, except for the town of Musselburgh which forms part of the existing Edinburgh East and Musselburgh burgh constituency and accounts for approximately 20 per cent of the electorate of that constituency. The electorates of the 2 constituencies at the start and finish of the previous and current reviews are provided at Appendix C.

Initial Considerations

2. In forming our provisional proposals for East Lothian Council area, we had in mind the following considerations:

2.1 At the enumeration date of June 2001, East Lothian Council area contained 71,288 parliamentary electors, giving the Council area a theoretical entitlement of 1.02 seats.

2.2 The City of Edinburgh Council area contained 364,542 parliamentary electors, giving the Council area a theoretical entitlement of 5.2 seats.

3. Bearing in mind the theoretical entitlements of seats and the requirement that we should have regard to Council boundaries, we considered that there was no good reason why part of East Lothian Council area should continue to be combined with part of the City of Edinburgh Council area for the purposes of representation at Westminster.

Provisional Proposals

4. On 7 February 2002 we published our provisional proposals for one county constituency comprising the whole of East Lothian Council area as follows:

Constituency	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
East Lothian CC	All electoral wards in East Lothian Council area	71,288

Representations on Provisional Proposals

5. During the statutory consultation period, we received 7 representations regarding our provisional proposals for East Lothian Council area. Those objecting to our proposals considered that the East Lothian Council area wards which include the town of Musselburgh should continue to be included in an Edinburgh East and Musselburgh constituency.

Local Inquiry

6. As a consequence of the objection to our proposals from the City of Edinburgh Council as well as the number of electors objecting to aspects of our provisional proposals for constituencies within the City of Edinburgh Council area, we recognised that we had a statutory duty to hold a local inquiry which would involve constituencies in both Council areas. At our request, you agreed to appoint the then Sheriff Principal C G B Nicholson QC, Sheriff Principal of Lothian and Borders, as Assistant Commissioner at the inquiry. The inquiry was held in the City Chambers, Edinburgh on 18, 19 and 20 November 2002. We deal in this Section of our Report with issues raised at the inquiry only in so far as they concern our proposals for East Lothian Council area.

7. In the period up to the start of the local inquiry, 3 further representations concerning our proposals for East Lothian Council were received. All of the representations were seen by the Assistant Commissioner and copies were made available at the inquiry.

8. Following the inquiry, a verbatim transcript of the proceedings and the Assistant Commissioner's Report were made available on our web site.

Assistant Commissioner's Report and Recommendations

9. In his Report to us, the Assistant Commissioner was not persuaded by the arguments for including Musselburgh in a constituency that embraced part of the City of Edinburgh Council area. He considered that the proponents of an Edinburgh East and Musselburgh constituency had not fully addressed the consequences of reducing the electorate of the proposed East Lothian constituency by 15,594. He noted that the Rt Hon Gavin Strang MP had recognised the issue but had not developed alternative proposals in any detail. The Assistant Commissioner stated that our provisional proposals produced an electorate well within acceptable limits of the electoral quota, respected council boundaries and had gained almost complete support. The Assistant Commissioner was in no doubt that our proposals for an East Lothian constituency, which would comprise the whole of the Council area, should be confirmed and he so recommended.

Consideration of the Assistant Commissioner's Report and Recommendations

10. We noted the Assistant Commissioner's recommendation that we should confirm our provisional proposals for East Lothian constituency. Accordingly, we decided not to amend our proposals in respect of East Lothian Council area.

Confirmation of Provisional Proposals

11. On 27 February 2003 we published a notice stating that, having considered the Assistant Commissioner's Report, we had accepted his recommendation to confirm our provisional proposals for an East Lothian constituency comprising the whole of East Lothian Council area.

Further Representations

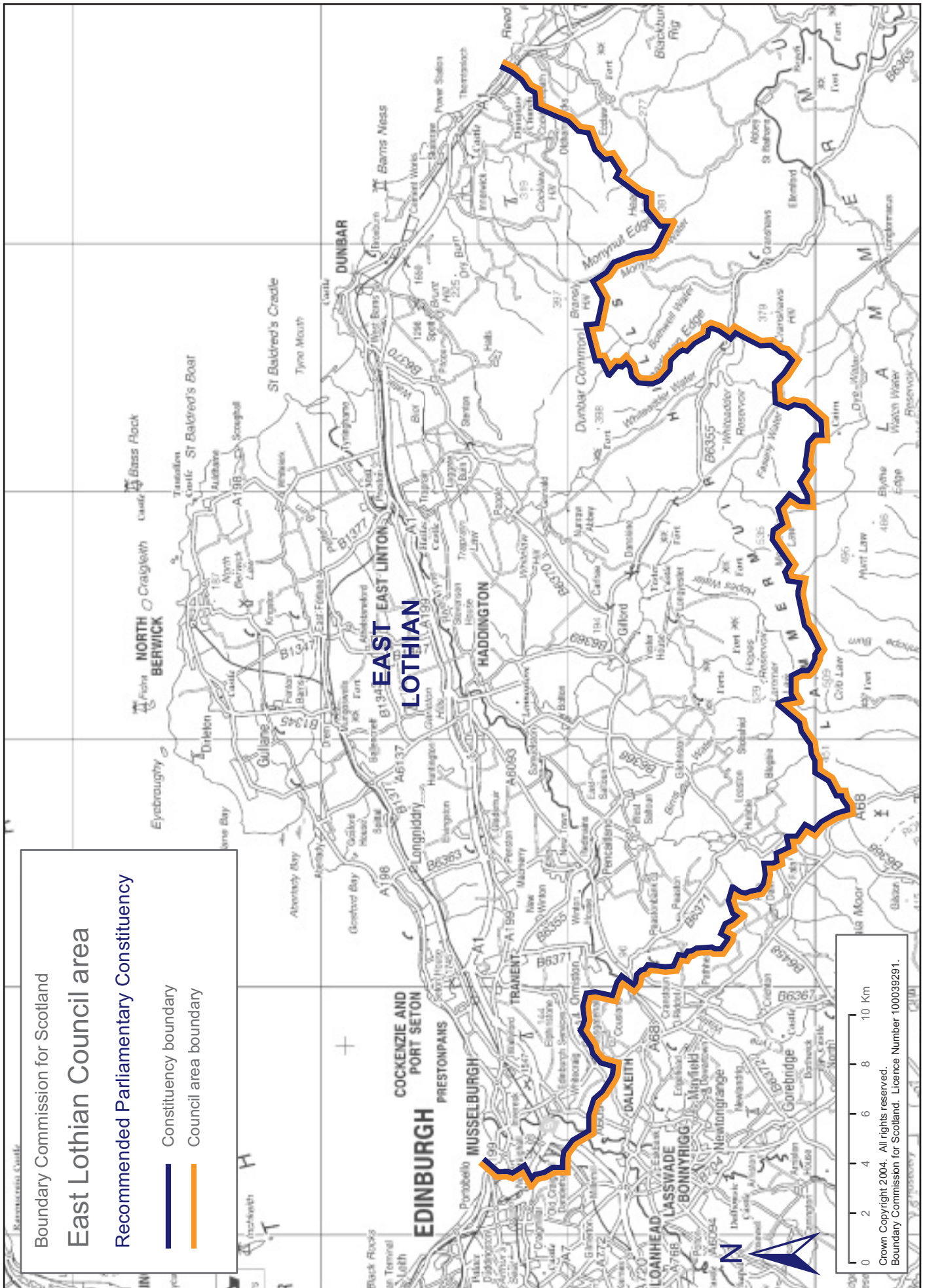
12. In the month following the publication of our notice, we received 4 representations which expressed general disappointment that we had decided to confirm our provisional proposals but did not raise any further substantial issues.

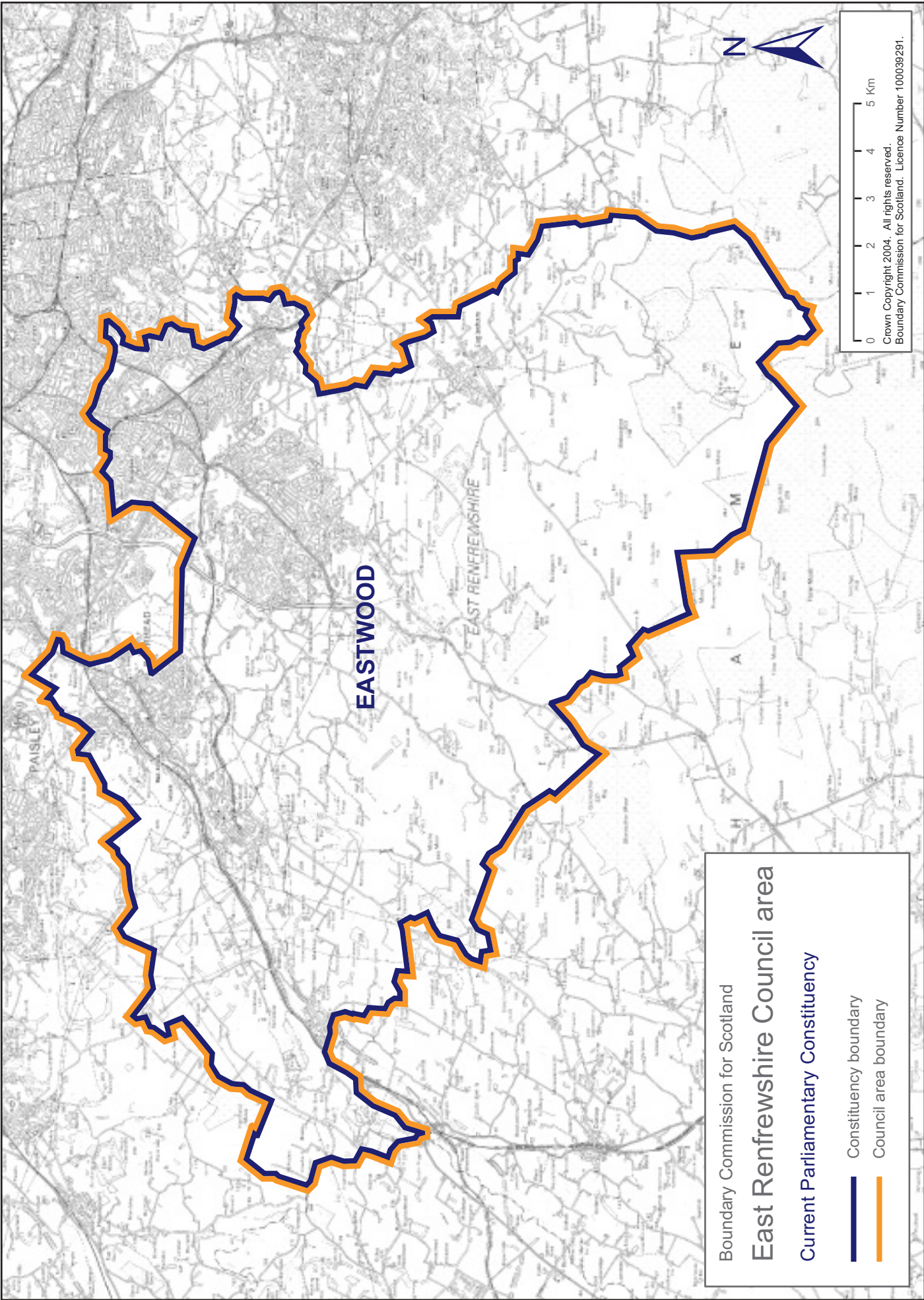
Final Recommendations

13. On 31 July 2003 we announced that we were making no further changes to our proposals for one county constituency and that these were our final recommendations.

14. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our proposals for one county constituency comprising the whole of East Lothian Council area, as set out in paragraph 4 above.

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East Renfrewshire Council Area

Introduction

1. East Renfrewshire Council area comprises one county constituency. The electorates of the constituency at the start and finish of the previous and current reviews are provided at Appendix C.

Initial Considerations

2. In forming our provisional proposals for East Renfrewshire Council area, we noted that, at the enumeration date of June 2001, the parliamentary electorate of the Council area was 69,249, giving the area a theoretical entitlement of 0.99 seats. We agreed, therefore, that there should be no change to the existing constituency arrangements and that the Council area should continue to comprise one seat.

Provisional Proposals

3. On 7 February 2002 we published our provisional proposals for one county constituency for East Renfrewshire Council area as follows:

Constituency	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Eastwood CC	All electoral wards in East Renfrewshire Council area	69,249

Representations on Provisional Proposals

4. During the statutory consultation period, we received 5 representations regarding our provisional proposals for East Renfrewshire Council area, all of which supported our proposal for a single constituency covering the whole of the Council area. Three of the representations, including that from East Renfrewshire Council, requested that we change the name of the proposed constituency to “East Renfrewshire”.

5. Following the end of the statutory consultation period, we received a further representation supporting our proposals for East Renfrewshire Council area.

Consideration of Representations on Provisional Proposals

6. We agreed that the name of the proposed constituency should be changed to “East Renfrewshire”.

Publication of Revised Recommendations

7. On 6 March 2003 we published our revised recommendations adopting the name “East Renfrewshire” in place of “Eastwood”.

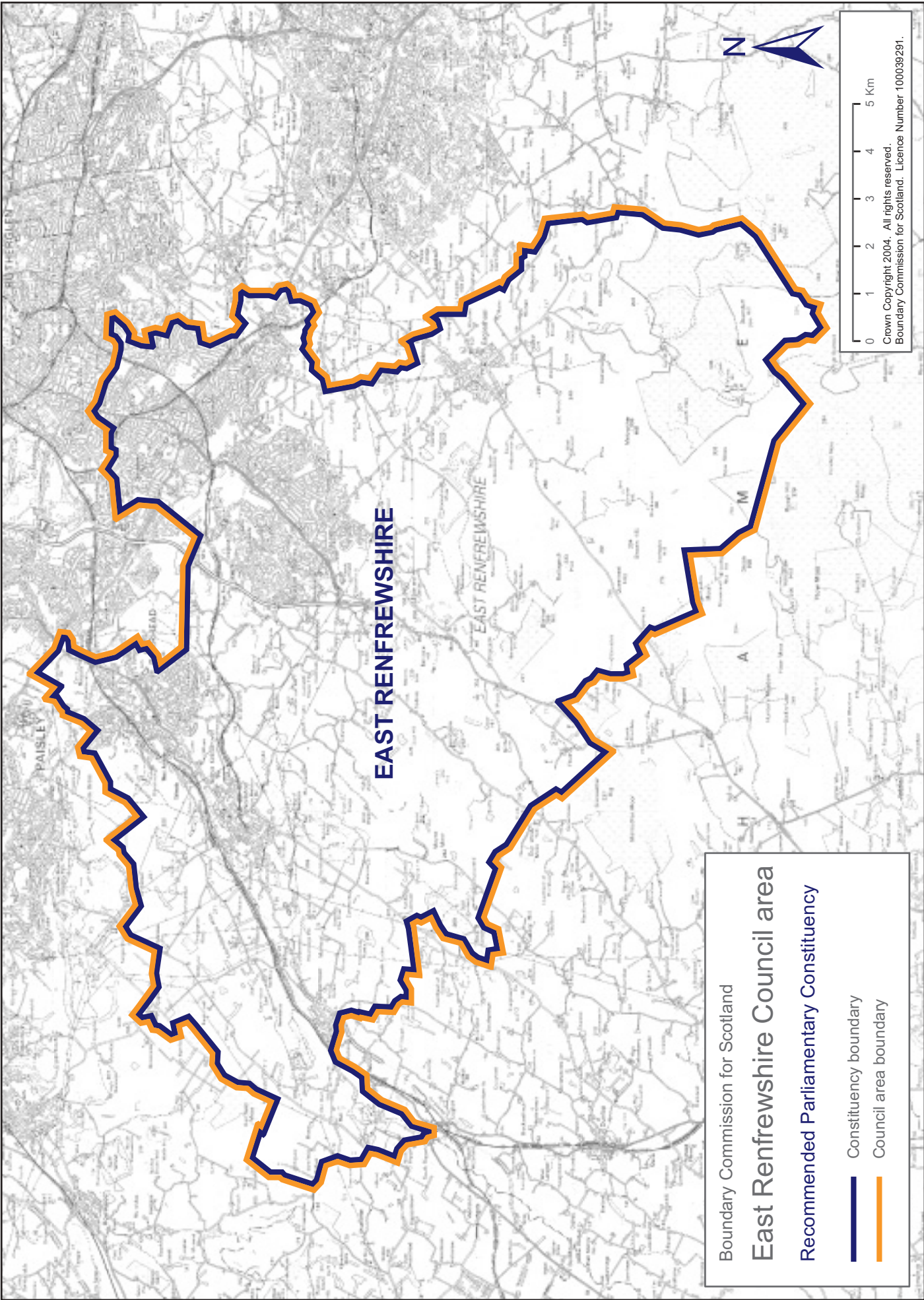
Representations on Revised Recommendations

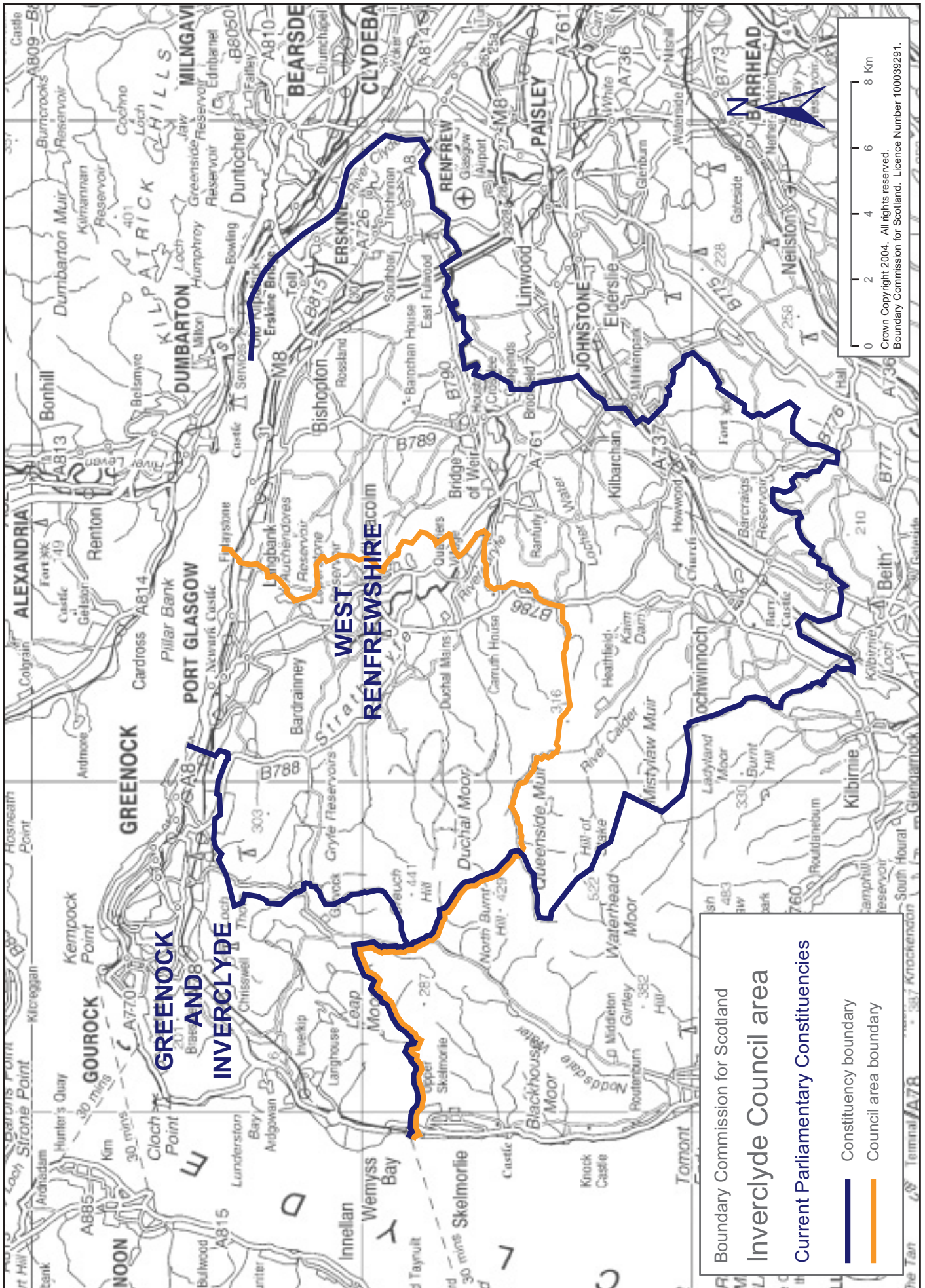
8. On publication of the revised recommendations, 3 representations were received within the statutory consultation period. All of the representations supported our revised recommendations.

Final Recommendations

9. On 21 August 2003 we announced that we were making no further changes to our proposals.

10. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our proposals for one county constituency comprising the whole of East Renfrewshire Council area, as set out in paragraph 3 above, subject only to changing the name of Eastwood county constituency to East Renfrewshire county constituency.





Inverclyde Council Area

Introduction

1. Inverclyde Council area is currently covered by 2 county constituencies. Greenock and Inverclyde constituency lies wholly within the Council area. The remainder of the Council area is contained within West Renfrewshire county constituency and accounts for approximately 33 per cent of the electorate of that constituency. The electorates of the 2 constituencies at the start and finish of the previous and current reviews are provided at Appendix C.

Initial Considerations

2. In forming our initial proposals for Inverclyde Council area we had in mind the following considerations:

2.1 At the enumeration date of June 2001, Inverclyde Council area contained 65,485 parliamentary electors, giving a theoretical entitlement of 0.9 seats.

2.2 Renfrewshire Council area contained 136,680 parliamentary electors, giving a theoretical entitlement of 1.95 seats.

3. Bearing in mind the theoretical entitlement to seats in both Council areas and the requirement that we should have regard to Council boundaries, we considered that it would be possible to create a single Inverclyde constituency which comprised the whole of Inverclyde Council area.

Provisional Proposals

4. On 7 February 2002 we published our provisional proposals for one county constituency comprising the whole of Inverclyde Council area as follows:

Constituency	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Inverclyde CC	All electoral wards in Inverclyde Council area	65,485

Representations on Provisional Proposals

5. During the statutory consultation period we received 6 representations regarding our provisional proposals for Inverclyde Council area. Inverclyde Council, the Scottish

Conservative and Unionist Party and the Scottish Liberal Democrats supported our provisional proposals. Only one representation objected to our provisional proposals, requesting that Kilmacolm, which lies within Inverclyde Council area, be included in a Renfrewshire constituency.

6. Following the end of the statutory consultation period, we received a further representation supporting our proposals for Inverclyde Council area.

Consideration of Representations on Provisional Proposals

7. We noted the support for our provisional proposals and that only one objection had been received. We did, however, defer making a decision with regard to our provisional proposals until local inquiries concerning adjacent Council areas (Renfrewshire and the combined Council areas of East, North and South Ayrshire) had been completed and the views of the Assistant Commissioner conducting these inquiries were known. We concluded that, by adopting this course of action, should recommendations for changes to our provisional proposals emerge from either or both inquiries, options for the redesign of constituencies would not be constrained.

8. Following completion of both inquiries, we noted that the objection regarding the location of Kilmacolm within a proposed Inverclyde constituency was raised at the local inquiry held in Renfrewshire. At that inquiry the Assistant Commissioner commented that:

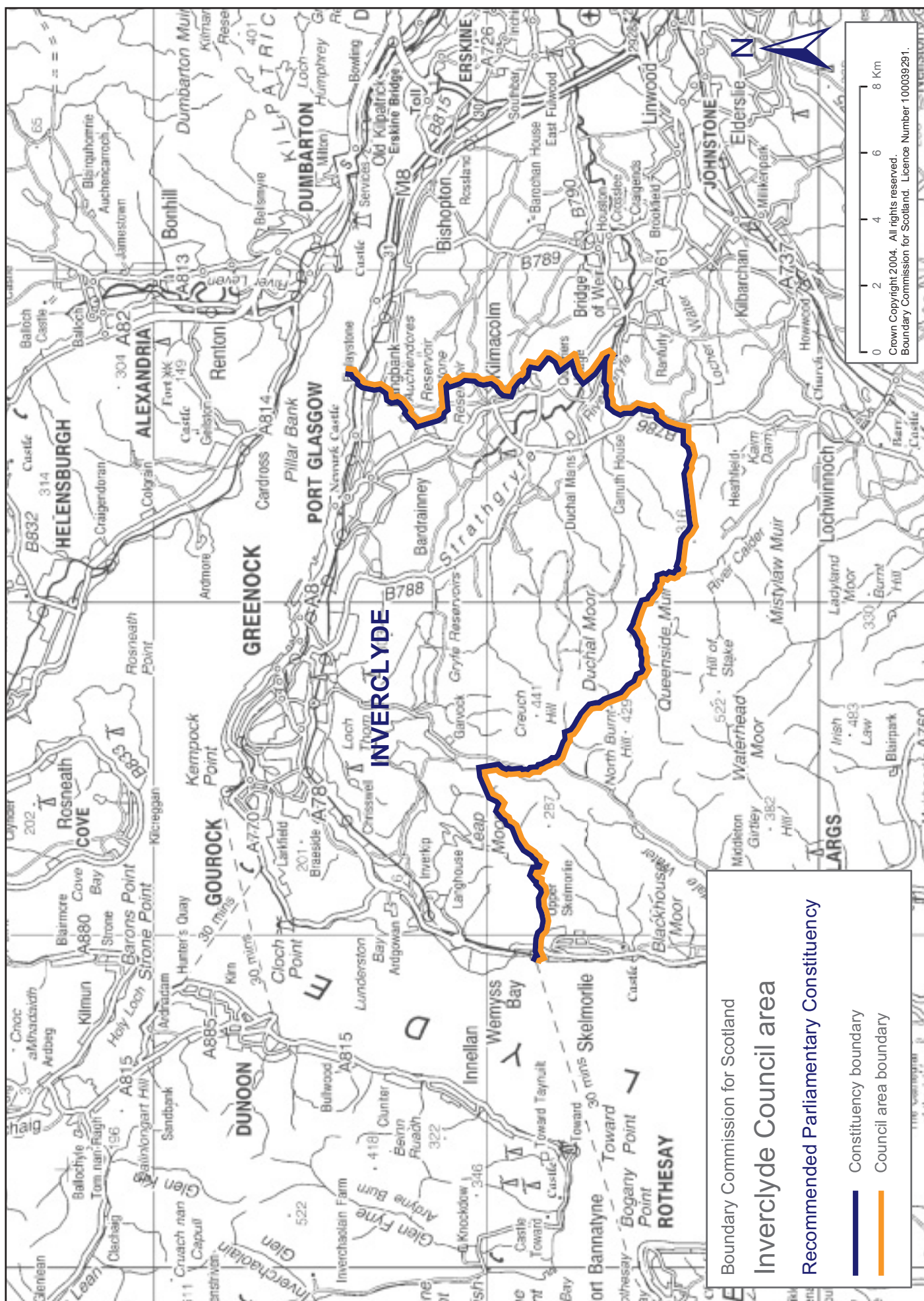
8.1 “At least one written representation was received from a Kilmacolm address lamenting the enforced connection with Port Glasgow but this was on a ground connected with local authority housing tenants and so irrelevant in my view for present purposes. Otherwise I have not been made aware of any opposition to the Boundary Commission’s intention to proceed with a recommendation that any new constituencies in Renfrewshire be confined to the Renfrewshire Council area and it appears to me logical to have an Inverclyde constituency and two Renfrewshire constituencies all of approximately the same size in numerical terms, that being a size which approximates reasonably closely to the electoral quota required for this exercise to be employed”.

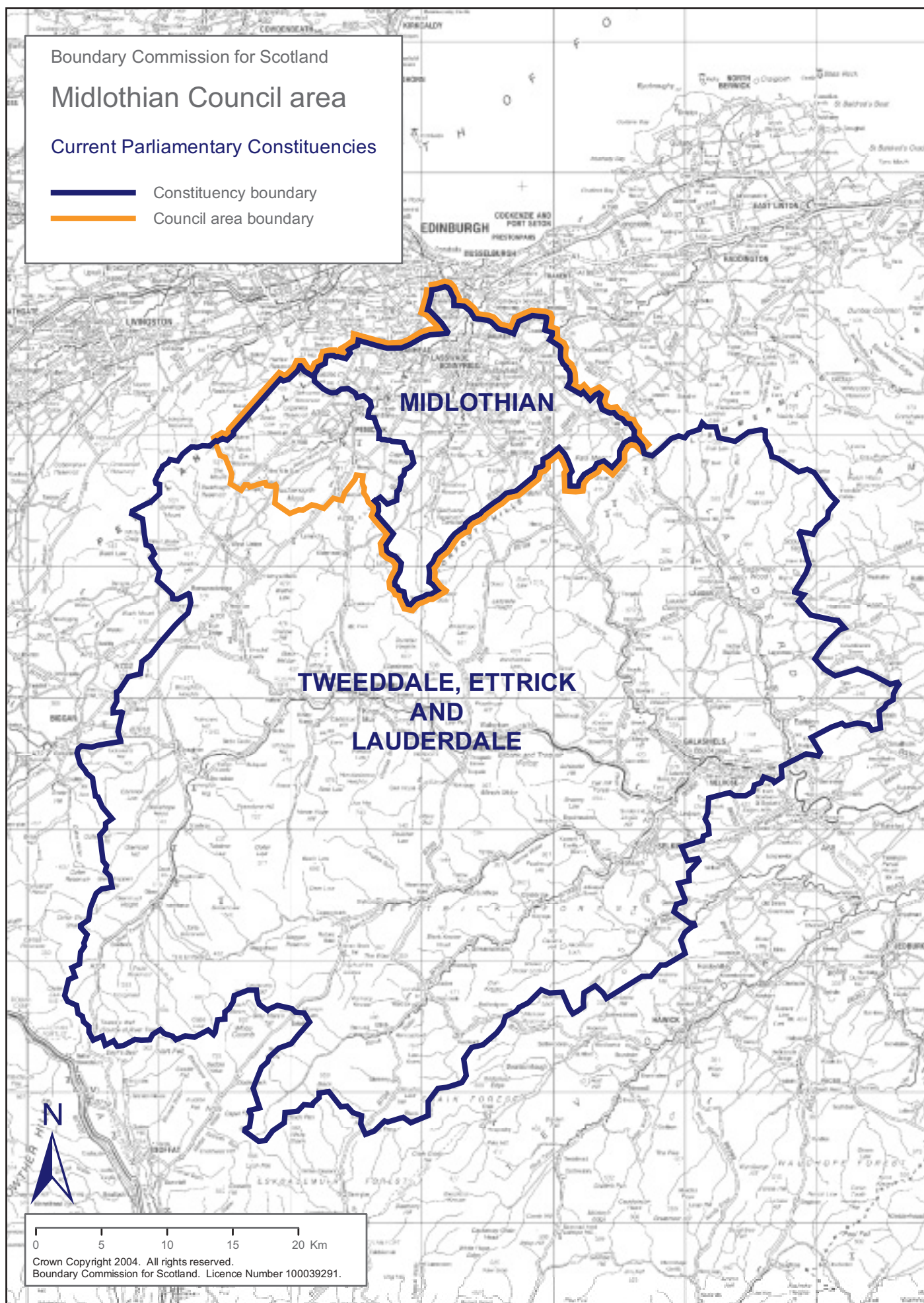
9. We concurred with the view expressed by the Assistant Commissioner and agreed that our provisional proposals should not be amended.

Final Recommendations

10. On 23 October 2003 we announced that we were making no further changes to our proposals for one county constituency and that these were our final recommendations.

11. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our proposals for one county constituency comprising the whole of Inverclyde Council area, as set out in paragraph 4 above.





Midlothian Council Area

Introduction

1. Midlothian Council area is currently covered by 2 county constituencies. Midlothian county constituency lies wholly within Midlothian Council area. Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale county constituency straddles the boundary with Scottish Borders Council area and approximately 26 per cent of its electorate is in the Midlothian Council area. The electorates of the 2 constituencies at the start and finish of the previous and current reviews are provided at Appendix C.

Initial Considerations

2. In forming our initial proposals for Midlothian Council area we had in mind the following considerations:

2.1 At the enumeration date of June 2001, Midlothian Council area contained 62,787 parliamentary electors, giving a theoretical entitlement of 0.9 seats.

2.2 Scottish Borders Council area contained 86,164 parliamentary electors, giving a theoretical entitlement of 1.2 seats.

3. We considered whether Midlothian Council area should be combined with Scottish Borders Council area to form 2 constituencies - a proposed Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk constituency lying wholly within Scottish Borders Council area with an electorate of 72,430 and a Midlothian and Peebles constituency which comprised the whole of Midlothian Council area plus 5 wards in Scottish Borders Council area covering Peebles, West Linton and Innerleithen with approximately 72,500 electors. However, we concluded that combining part of Scottish Borders Council area with part of South Lanarkshire Council area and part of Dumfries and Galloway Council area produced, overall, a more appropriate constituency, which maintained the rural characteristics of the central borders area.

4. Bearing in mind the theoretical entitlement to approximately one seat in the Midlothian Council area and the requirement that we should have regard to Council boundaries, we decided to create a single Midlothian constituency comprising the whole of Midlothian Council area.

Provisional Proposals

5. On 7 February 2002 we published our provisional proposals for one county constituency comprising the whole of Midlothian Council area as follows:

Constituency	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Midlothian CC	All electoral wards in Midlothian Council area	62,787

Representations on Provisional Proposals

6. During the statutory consultation period, we received 11 representations regarding our provisional proposals for Midlothian Council area. Objections to our proposals were concerned that part of Scottish Borders Council area should be included in a “Midlothian and Peebles” constituency, rather than in our proposed Peebles, Clydesdale and Annandale constituency.

Local Inquiry

7. In view of the representations which proposed that Midlothian Council area should be combined with Scottish Borders Council area, we agreed that our proposals for Midlothian Council area should be included in the deliberations of a local inquiry established to consider representations on our provisional proposals for the combined Council areas of Dumfries and Galloway, Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire. At our request, you agreed to appoint Sheriff Principal E F Bowen QC, Sheriff Principal of Glasgow and Strathkelvin as Assistant Commissioner at the inquiry into our provisional proposals. The inquiry was held in three locations: The Council Chambers, Hamilton, on 4 and 5 November 2002; The Burgh Hall, Peebles, on 6 and 7 November 2002; and The Council Chambers, Dumfries, on 14 and 15 November 2002. We deal in this Section of our Report with issues raised at the inquiry only in so far as they concern our proposals for Midlothian Council area.

8. In the period up to the start of the local inquiry, one further representation concerning our proposals for Midlothian Council area was received. All the representations were seen by the Assistant Commissioner and copies were made available at the inquiry.

9. Following the inquiry, a verbatim transcript of the proceedings and the Assistant Commissioner’s Report were made available on our web site.

Assistant Commissioner’s Report and Recommendations

10. In his Report to us, the Assistant Commissioner concluded that our provisional proposals for a single constituency based on Midlothian Council area ought to be adopted.

At the same time, in the wider context of the local inquiry area, he also concluded that there was a need to divide the adjoining Scottish Borders Council area, because its electorate was too large to comprise one constituency. He noted that one of the proposals which sought to achieve this division combined the whole of Midlothian Council area with wards 30–34 from Scottish Borders Council area. However, such a constituency would be above the electoral quota and he considered that the evidence in favour of a constituency comprising the whole of Midlothian Council area was formidable, as it met all the relevant criteria. Consequently, he was not persuaded by the arguments to amend our provisional proposals.

Consideration of the Assistant Commissioner's Report and Recommendations

11. We noted the Assistant Commissioner's deliberations regarding our provisional proposals for a Midlothian constituency, together with his wider assessment of our proposals for constituencies in Dumfries and Galloway, Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire Council areas. We agreed with the Assistant Commissioner's conclusions and strong recommendation regarding Midlothian Council area and, accordingly, we concluded that our provisional proposals for Midlothian Council area should be confirmed.

Confirmation of Provisional Proposals

12. On 26 June 2003 we published a notice regarding constituencies in the Dumfries and Galloway Council area, Midlothian Council area, Scottish Borders Council area and South Lanarkshire Council area, indicating that we had reviewed our provisional proposals and confirmed our proposal for a Midlothian county constituency comprising the whole of Midlothian Council area.

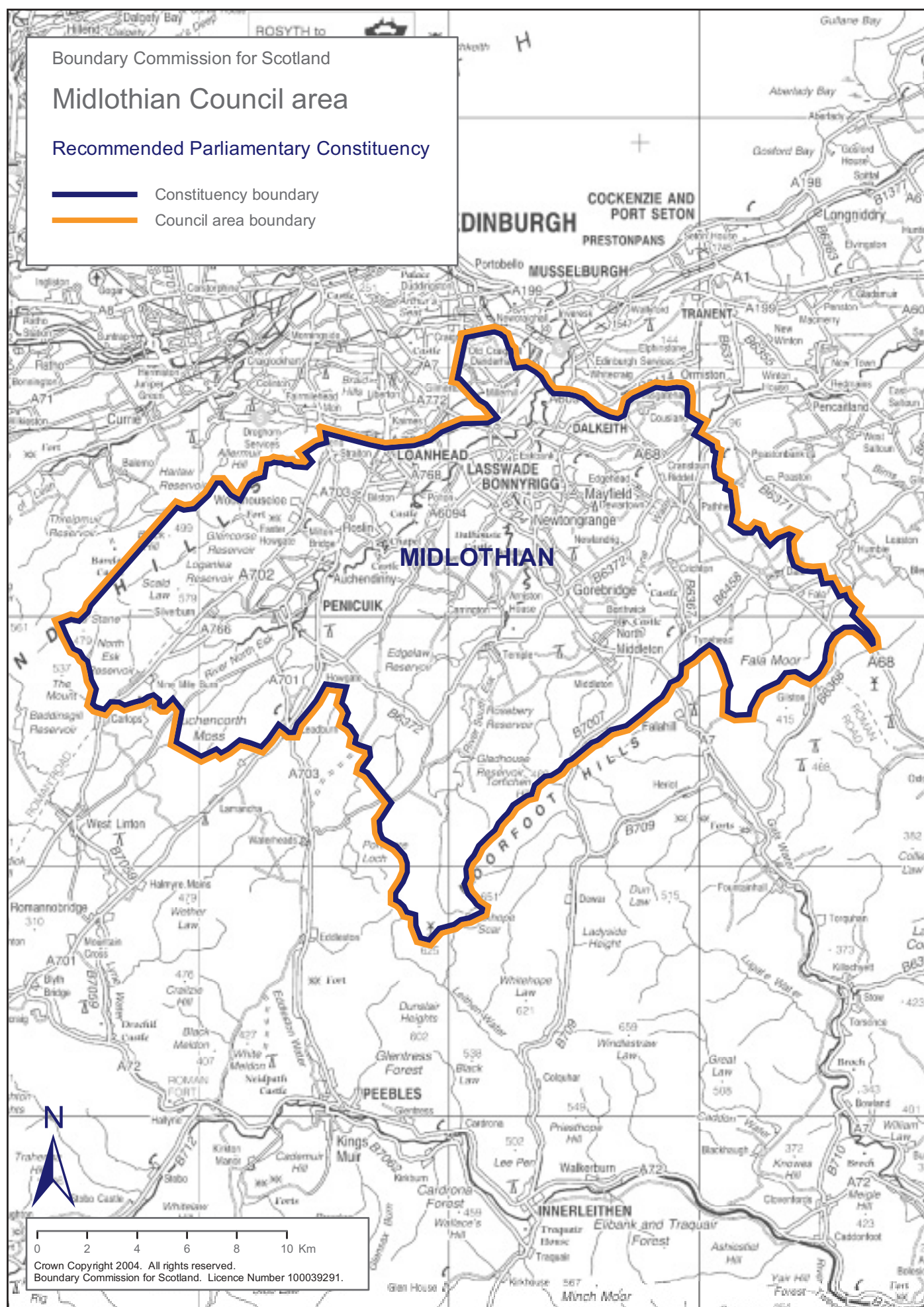
Further Representations

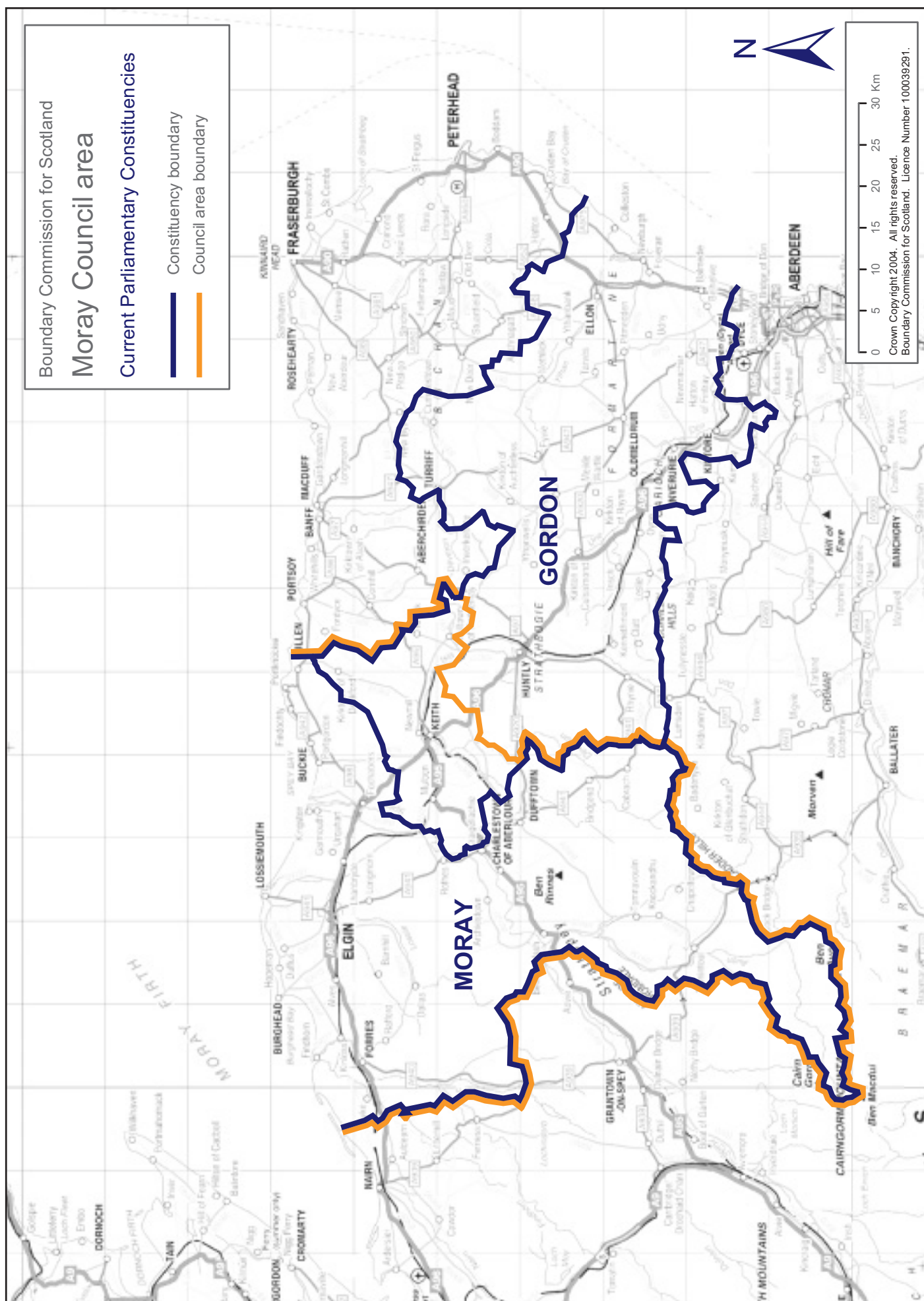
13. We received 3 representations regarding the confirmation of our proposals for Midlothian Council area. Two representations contended that there was evidence that a Midlothian and Peebles constituency would be the second preference for some of the electorate in the Peebles area if their first preference for an "all-Scottish Borders Council area" constituency was not acceptable to the Commission. One representation noted that the addition of Scottish Borders Council area wards 30-34 to Midlothian Council area would raise the electorate to a level similar to the other proposed Lothian constituencies.

14. We considered these further representations but were content that the issues raised had been fully discussed at the inquiry and, accordingly, we were not persuaded to amend our recommendations for a Midlothian constituency comprising the whole of Midlothian Council area.

Final recommendations

15. On 11 December 2003 we announced that we were making no further changes to our proposals for one county constituency and that these were our final recommendations.
16. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our proposals for one county constituency for Midlothian Council area, as set out in paragraph 5 above.





Moray Council Area

Introduction

1. Moray Council area is currently covered by 2 county constituencies. Moray county constituency lies wholly within the Council area. Approximately 10 per cent of the Gordon county constituency also lies in the Moray Council area, the remainder lying within Aberdeenshire Council area. The electorates of the 2 constituencies at the start and finish of the previous and current reviews are provided at Appendix C.

Initial Considerations

2. In forming our provisional proposals for Moray Council area we had in mind that at the enumeration date of June 2001, the Council area contained 63,959 parliamentary electors, giving a theoretical entitlement of 0.9 seats.

3. The number of electors contained in the Council area had declined since 1999 and we considered whether it should be combined with either part of Highland Council area or part of Aberdeenshire Council area to form a constituency which better reflected the increased electoral quota. However, after carefully examining the possibilities, we decided that no satisfactory constituency solution involving the incorporation of electorate from the adjacent Council areas could be developed. We therefore concluded that, although the electorate of Moray Council area was below the electoral quota, it should form a single constituency.

Provisional Proposals

4. On 7 February 2002 we published our provisional proposals for one county constituency comprising the whole of Moray Council area as follows:

Constituency	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Moray CC	All electoral wards in Moray Council area	63,959

Representations on Provisional Proposals

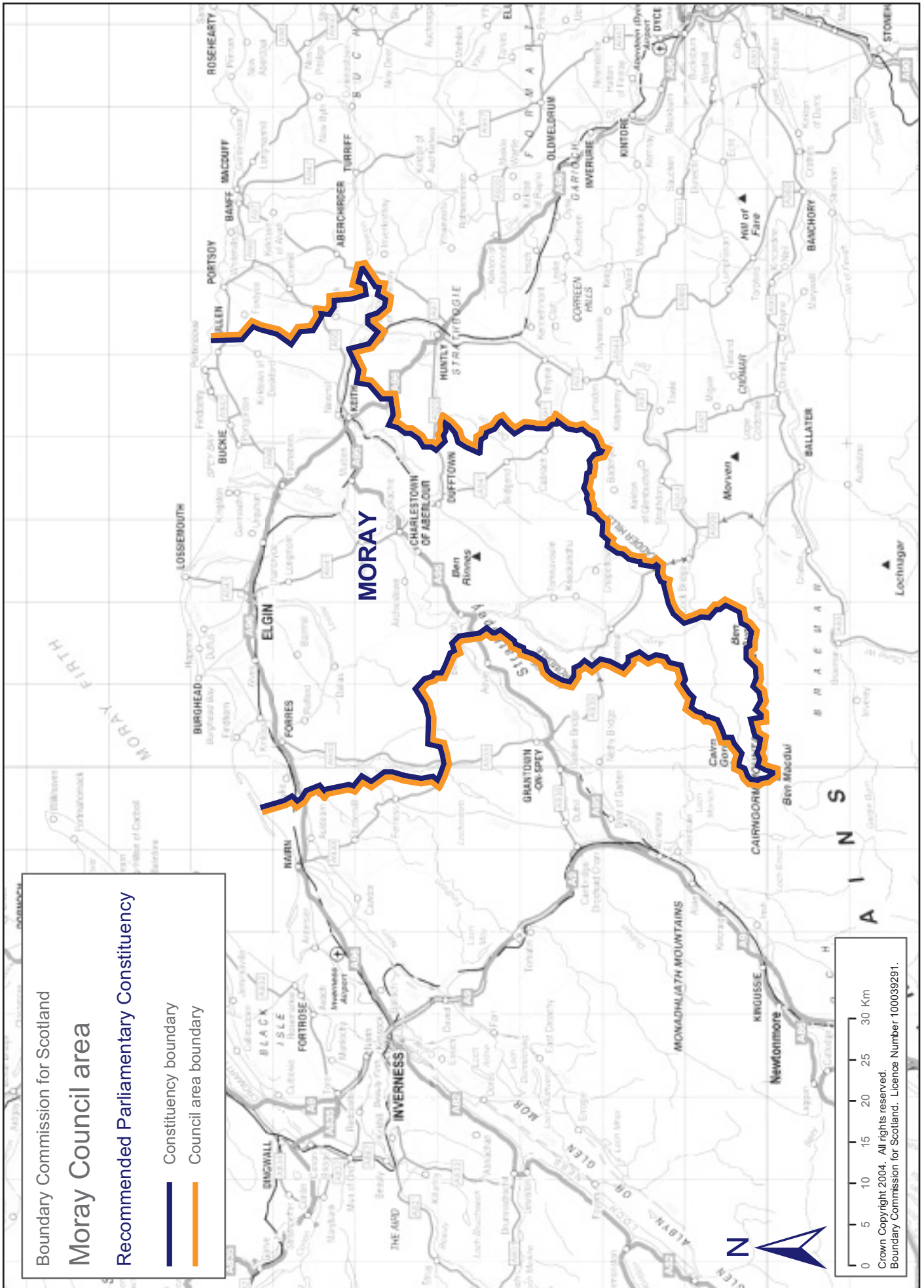
5. During the statutory consultation period, we received 2 representations regarding our provisional proposals for Moray Council area. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party and the Scottish Liberal Democrats both supported our recommendations. Following the

end of the statutory consultation period, we received a further representation which also supported our proposals.

Final Recommendations

6. On 31 July 2003 we announced that we were making no further changes to our proposals for one county constituency and that these were our final recommendations.

7. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our proposals for one county constituency for Moray Council area as set out in paragraph 4 above.





Na h-Eileanan an Iar Council Area

Introduction

1. Na h-Eileanan an Iar Council area currently comprises Western Isles county constituency. The electorates of the constituency at the start and finish of the previous and current reviews are provided at Appendix C.

Initial Considerations

2. In forming our provisional proposals for Na h-Eileanan an Iar Council area we had in mind the following considerations:

2.1 At the enumeration date of June 2001, Na h-Eileanan an Iar Council area contained 21,884 parliamentary electors.

2.2 A significant increase in the electoral quota for this review was brought about by the terms of amendments to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 following the introduction of the Scotland Act 1998. We therefore considered whether it might be possible to combine Na h-Eileanan an Iar with an area or areas within Highland Council area to form a revised, enlarged constituency.

3. We examined in particular whether it might be possible to link Na h-Eileanan an Iar Council area with Highland Council area wards 35-39 (largely the Isle of Skye but including a small part of the mainland around Kyle of Lochalsh). We noted that a similar proposal was pursued at the time of the Third Periodical Review but that it was rejected following a local inquiry. In examining this issue in detail, we concluded that the arguments against combining these areas into a single constituency presented at the 1981 local inquiry remained as strong now as they were then. Accordingly, we agreed that the area of the existing Western Isles county constituency should remain unchanged.

4. In considering the names and designations of constituencies, we concluded that the name of Western Isles constituency should be amended to “Na h-Eileanan An Iar”.

Provisional Proposals

5. On 7 February 2002 we published our provisional proposals for one county constituency for Na h-Eileanan an Iar Council area as follows:

Constituency	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Na h-Eileanan An Iar CC	All electoral wards in Na h-Eileanan an Iar Council area	21,884

Representations on Provisional Proposals

6. During the statutory consultation period, we received 3 representations regarding our provisional proposals for Na h-Eileanan an Iar Council area. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party and the Scottish Liberal Democrats supported our provisional proposals for Na h-Eileanan an Iar Council area. Calum MacDonald MP also supported our proposals but suggested an alternative name, “Nan Eilean Siar” (as in Sgìre nan Eilean Siar or Western Isles Constituency), which he stated would be in line with the name of the local authority. Alternatively, he proposed that, if the name given in our provisional recommendations was to be retained, then “An” should not be capitalized.

7. Following the end of the statutory consultation period, we received a further representation supporting our proposals.

Consideration of Representations on Provisional Proposals

8. In view of the representation received from Calum MacDonald MP, we sought further advice regarding the suitability of the name we proposed for the constituency. We consulted a number of authorities and, although opinions varied, there was a general consensus that the name “Na h-Eileanan an Iar” was the most appropriate Gaelic form. Accordingly, we agreed to revise the constituency name.

Publication of Revised Recommendations

9. On 6 March 2003 we published our revised recommendations adopting the name Na h-Eileanan an Iar for the constituency.

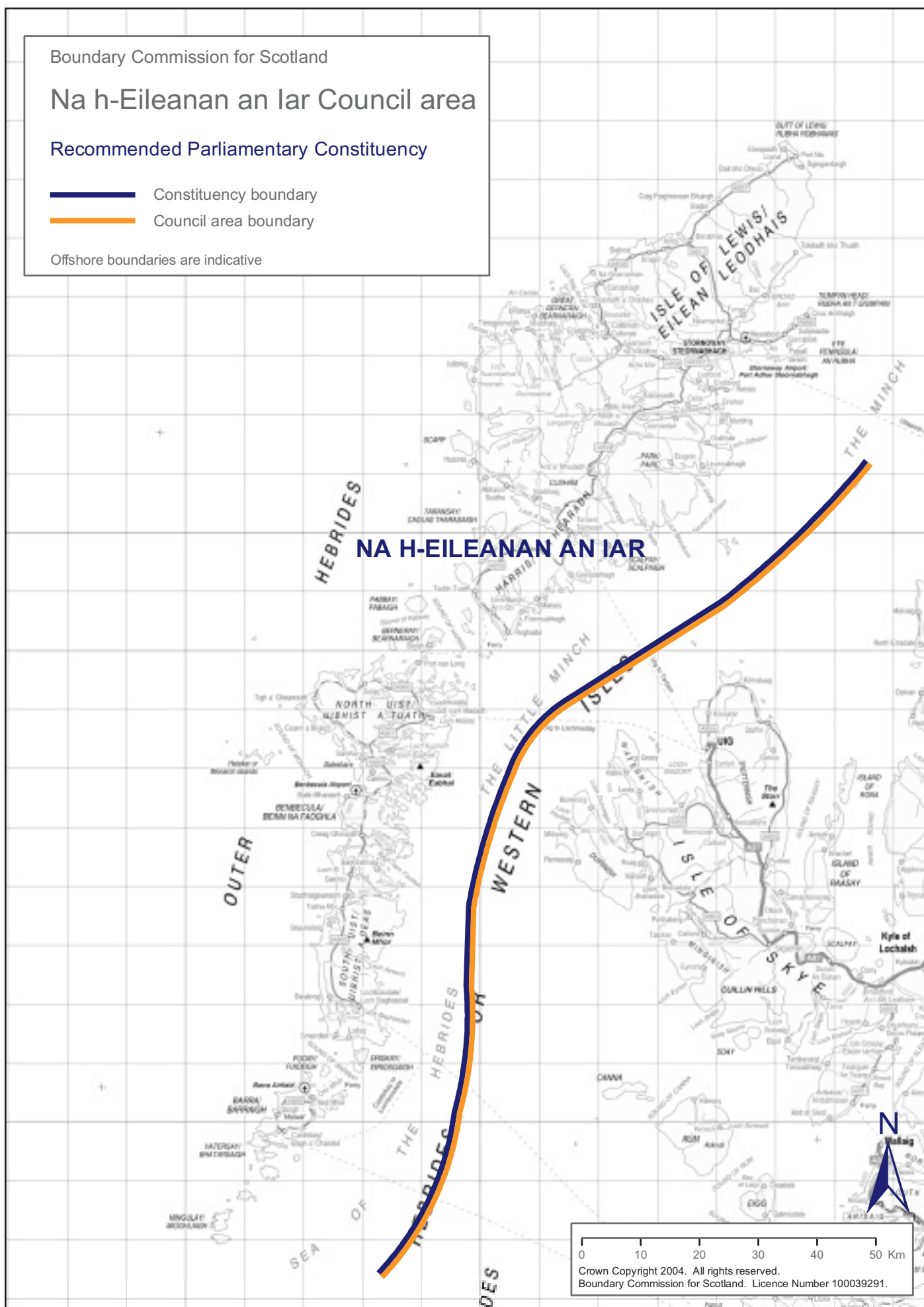
Representations on Revised Recommendations

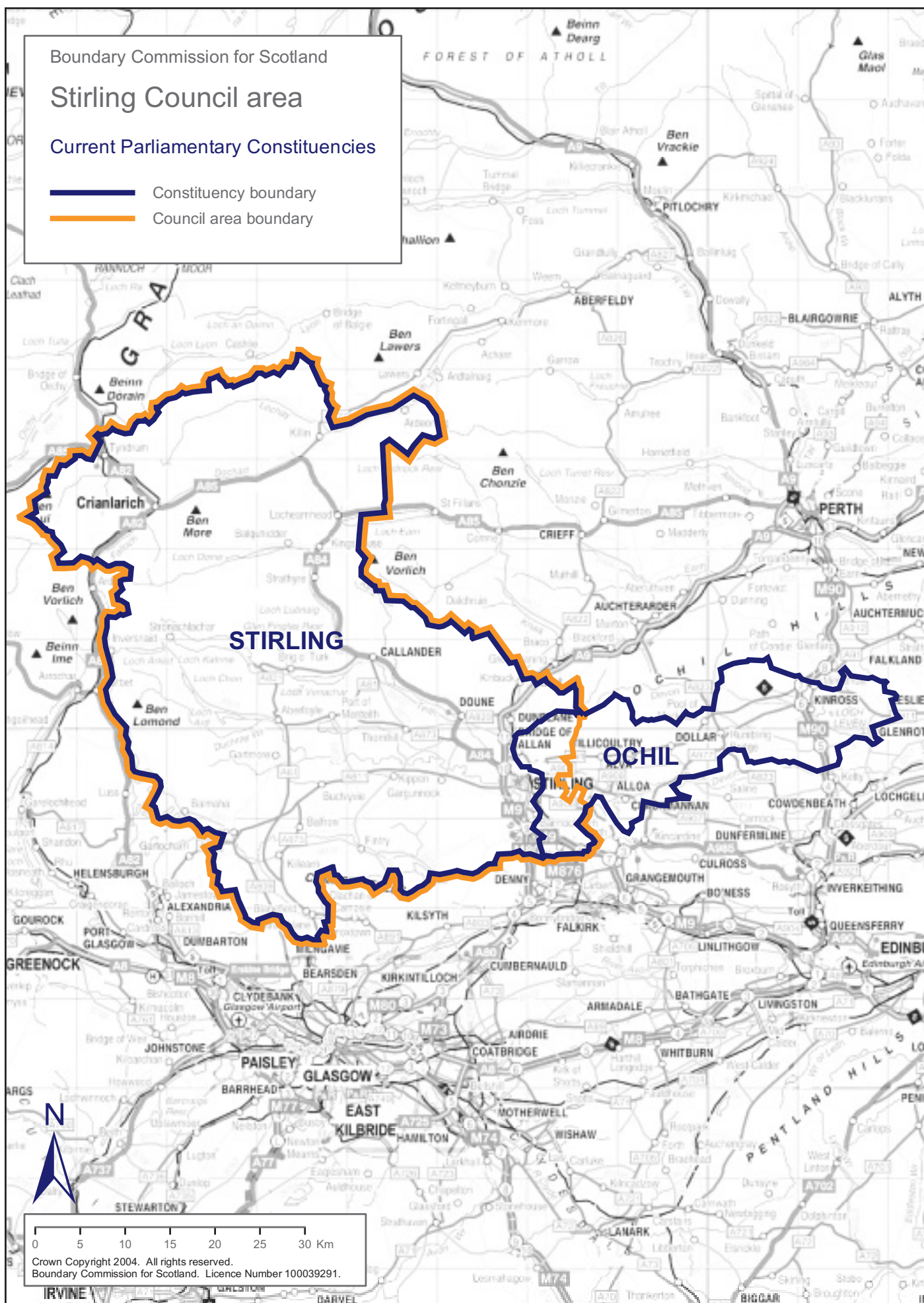
10. The Scottish Labour Party wrote in support of our revised proposal. There were no other representations.

Final Recommendations

11. On 21 August 2003 we announced that we were making no further changes to our proposals for one county constituency and that these were our final recommendations.

12. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our proposals for one county constituency for Na h-Eileanan an Iar Council area, as set out in paragraph 5 above, subject only to the minor change in the name of the constituency from Na h-Eileanan An Iar to Na h-Eileanan an Iar.





Stirling Council Area

Introduction

1. Stirling Council area is currently covered by 2 county constituencies. Stirling county constituency lies wholly within the Council area. The remainder of Stirling Council area, approximately 19 per cent of the electorate, is contained within the existing Ochil county constituency which includes Clackmannanshire Council area and part of Perth and Kinross Council area. The electorates of the 2 constituencies at the start and finish of the previous and current reviews are provided at Appendix C.

Initial Considerations

2. In forming our initial proposals for Stirling Council area we had in mind the following considerations:

2.1 At the enumeration date of June 2001, Stirling Council area contained 66,393 parliamentary electors, giving a theoretical entitlement of 0.9 seats.

2.2 Clackmannanshire Council area contained 36,595 parliamentary electors, giving a theoretical entitlement of 0.5 of a seat, and Perth and Kinross Council area contained 105,861 parliamentary electors, giving a theoretical entitlement of 1.5 seats. Clackmannanshire Council area and part of Perth and Kinross Council area were already combined to form the largest part of the existing Ochil constituency. Further, combining these two Council areas offered the opportunity to create 2 seats, which maintained existing ties between the Council areas and closely met the requirements of the electoral quota.

3. Bearing in mind the theoretical entitlement of seats in these Council areas and the requirement that we should have regard to Council boundaries, we considered that there was no good reason why part of Stirling Council area should continue to be combined with Clackmannanshire Council area and part of Perth and Kinross Council area. Further, we noted that, if we were to increase the electorate within our proposed Stirling constituency to maintain a link between Stirling and Clackmannanshire Council areas, it would be necessary to split communities lying to the west of Clackmannanshire Council area. We concluded, therefore, that Stirling Council area should comprise a single Stirling constituency.

Provisional Proposals

4. On 7 February 2002 we published our provisional proposals for one county constituency comprising the whole of Stirling Council area as follows:

Constituency	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Stirling CC	All electoral wards in Stirling Council area	66,393

Representations on Provisional Proposals

5. During the statutory consultation period, we received 3 representations regarding our provisional proposals for Stirling Council area. Stirling Council, the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party and the Scottish Liberal Democrats made representations accepting the provisional proposals for Stirling Council area.

6. Following the end of the statutory consultation period, we received a representation from the Scottish Labour Party which objected to our proposals for Stirling Council area. A counter-proposal was submitted suggesting the inclusion of Stirling Council area wards 13 (Polmaise) and 14 (Sauchenford) in our proposed Strathearn and Ochil constituency.

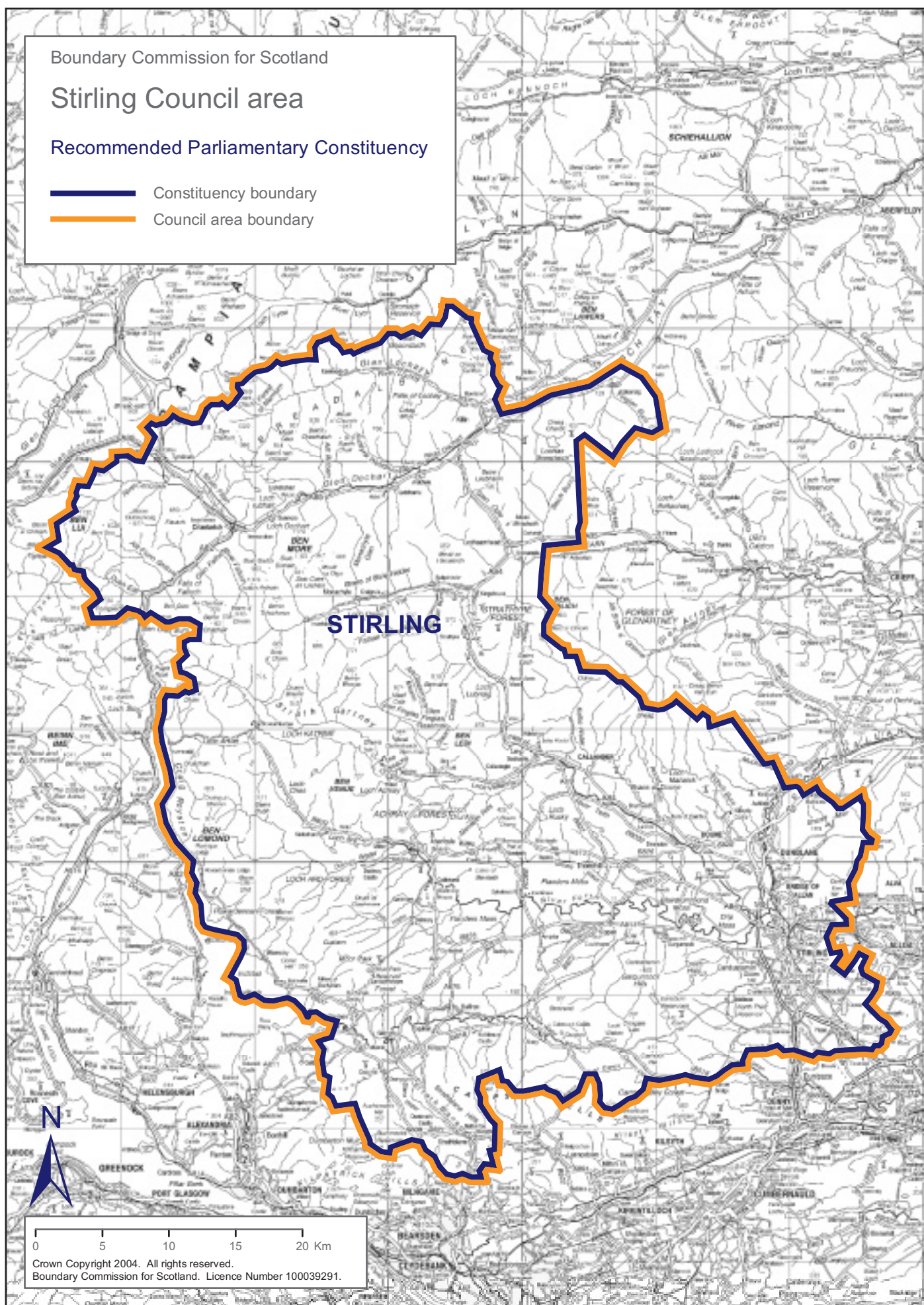
Consideration of Representations on Provisional Proposals

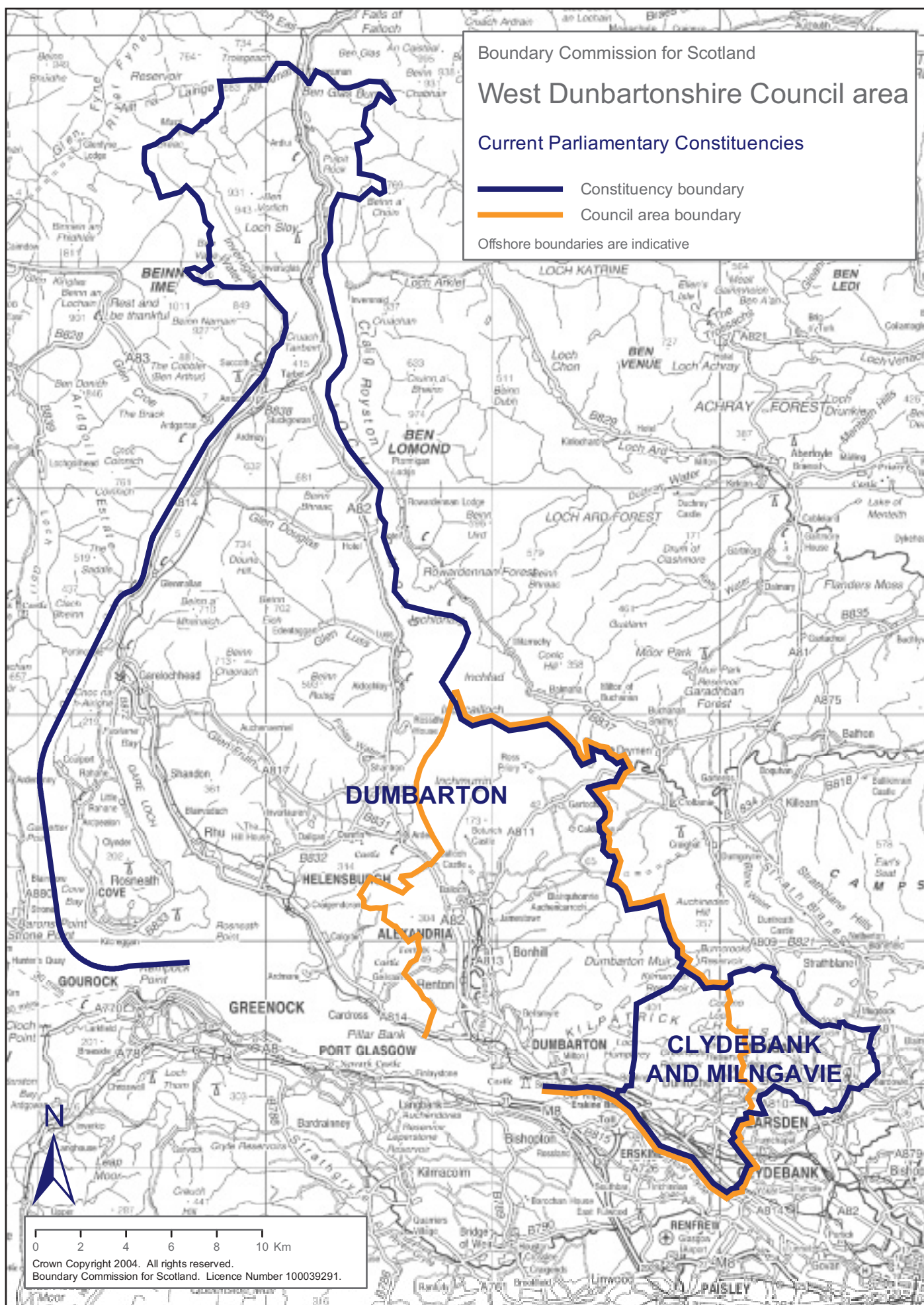
7. We noted that Stirling Council did not object to our provisional proposals. We deferred making final recommendations for Stirling Council area because the counter-proposal also affected our provisional proposals for constituencies in Clackmannanshire Council area and Perth and Kinross Council area which were the subject of a local inquiry. On receipt of the inquiry report we noted that the counter-proposal had been withdrawn. We agreed, therefore, that our provisional proposals for Stirling Council area should not be amended.

Final Recommendations

8. On 23 October 2003 we announced that we were making no further changes to our proposals for one county constituency and that these were our final recommendations.

9. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our proposals for one county constituency comprising the whole of Stirling Council area, as set out in paragraph 4 above.





West Dunbartonshire Council Area

Introduction

1. West Dunbartonshire Council area is currently covered by 2 county constituencies. Clydebank and Milngavie county constituency comprises part of West Dunbartonshire Council area and part of East Dunbartonshire Council area, with approximately 67 per cent of the electorate within West Dunbartonshire Council area. The remainder of the Council area is combined with part of Argyll and Bute Council area to form Dumbarton county constituency. The electorates of both existing constituencies at the start and finish of the previous and current review are shown at Appendix C.

Initial Considerations

2. In forming our initial proposals for West Dunbartonshire Council area we had in mind the following considerations:

2.1 At the enumeration date of June 2001, West Dunbartonshire Council area contained 71,694 parliamentary electors, giving the Council area a theoretical entitlement of 1.03 seats.

2.2 At the enumeration date of June 2001, Argyll and Bute Council area contained 69,587 parliamentary electors, giving the Council area a theoretical entitlement of 0.99 seats; and East Dunbartonshire Council area contained 84,624 parliamentary electors, giving the Council area a theoretical entitlement of 1.2 seats.

3. Although West Dunbartonshire Council area contained sufficient electorate to justify a single seat, in view of the existing links with Argyll and Bute Council area and East Dunbartonshire Council area, we examined the possibility of retaining these relationships. We noted, however, that the current Dumbarton county constituency was around 20 per cent below the electoral quota and that there were no special geographical reasons to justify maintaining this position. Further, to meet the requirements of the electoral quota, it would be necessary to extend the constituency eastward so that it included additional electorate from within West Dunbartonshire Council area presently contained in Clydebank and Milngavie county constituency. Pursuing this option created particular difficulties with the design of constituencies around Clydebank and Bearsden and also adversely affected the development of proposals for constituencies extending through East Dunbartonshire and North Lanarkshire.

4. We concluded that it would not be reasonable in these circumstances to split West Dunbartonshire Council area, which had sufficient electorate to form a single constituency.

Accordingly, we agreed that West Dunbartonshire Council area should form a single constituency.

Provisional Proposals

5. On 7 February 2002 we published our provisional proposals for one county constituency for West Dunbartonshire Council area as follows:

Constituency	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
West Dunbartonshire CC	All electoral wards in West Dunbartonshire Council area	71,694

Representations on Provisional Proposals

6. During the statutory consultation period, we received 4 representations regarding our provisional proposals for West Dunbartonshire Council area. West Dunbartonshire Council, John McFall MP, the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party and the Scottish Liberal Democrats supported our proposals.

7. We received 5 representations from residents in the existing Dumbarton constituency regarding the proposed Argyll and Bute constituency, which had an impact on our considerations regarding West Dunbartonshire Council area. Of these representations, one supported our proposals and 4 objected, mainly on the grounds that Helensburgh had more links with Dumbarton and Glasgow than with the more rural areas of Argyll and Bute.

8. Following the end of the statutory consultation period, we received a further representation which supported our proposals.

Consideration of Representations on Provisional Proposals

9. We noted that West Dunbartonshire Council supported our provisional proposals. We also agreed that the number and nature of the representations did not justify a local inquiry.

10. We noted the objections concerning the inclusion of Helensburgh and its surrounding area in the proposed Argyll and Bute constituency. However, we were clear that Helensburgh is an integral part of Argyll and Bute Council area and must be considered as such within the terms of the Rules. Further, West Dunbartonshire Council area had sufficient electorate to warrant a single constituency. We also noted that, if the existing link between Helensburgh and West Dunbartonshire Council was to be maintained, the existing Dumbarton constituency would have to be extended eastwards to gain sufficient electorate to meet the requirements of the electoral quota. We concluded that extending the constituency eastwards was not practicable because of the consequential impact on constituencies across a wider area. Accordingly, we were not persuaded to amend our provisional proposals.

Revised Recommendations

11. Following the publication of our provisional proposals, the administrative boundary between Argyll and Bute Council area ward 36 (Cardross) and West Dunbartonshire Council area ward 16 (Dumbarton West) was amended by The Argyll and Bute Council and West Dunbartonshire Council Boundaries (Ardoch Sewage Works) Amendment Order 2002. This administrative change transferred a small area containing 16 electors from Argyll and Bute Council area to West Dunbartonshire Council area. This boundary change affected our provisional proposals for a constituency with boundaries coterminous with those of the local authority.

12. We, therefore, agreed to publish modified proposals that incorporated the boundary change and re-established the coterminous link between the constituency and the Council area. Accordingly, on 23 October 2003, we published revised recommendations to reflect the realignment of the boundary which affected West Dunbartonshire Council area ward 16 as follows:

Constituency	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
West Dunbartonshire CC	All electoral wards in West Dunbartonshire Council area	71,710

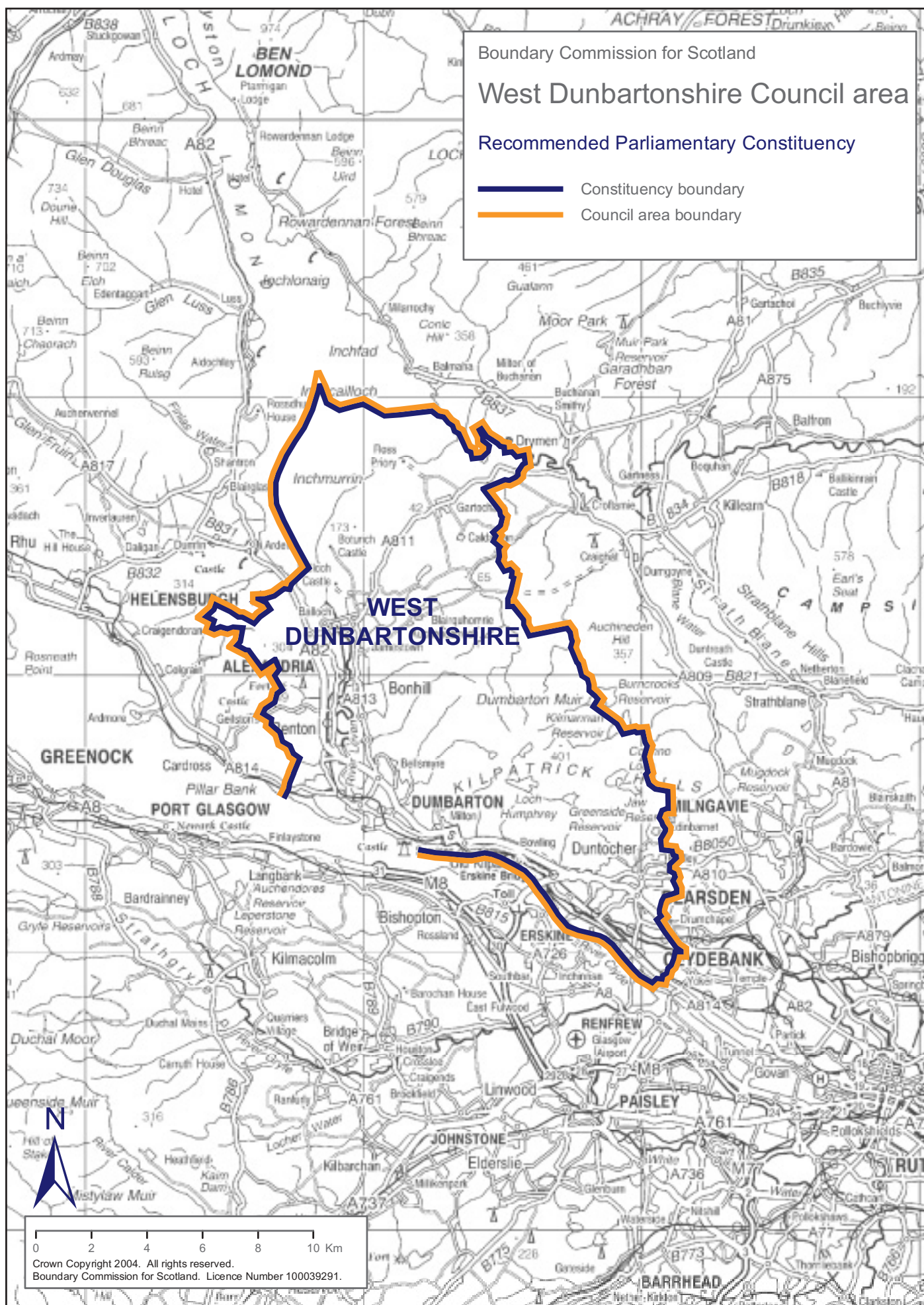
13. No representations were received in respect of our revised recommendations.

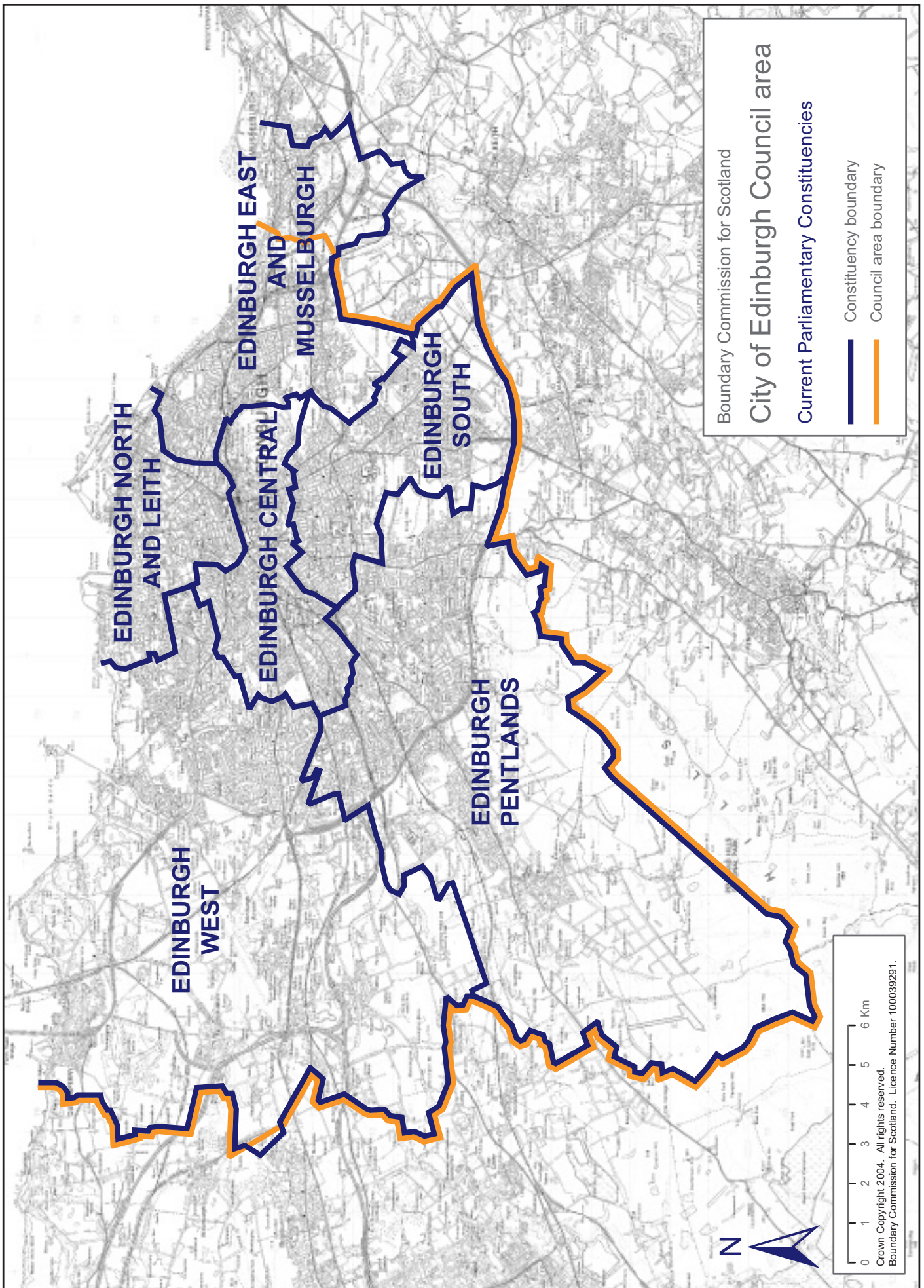
Final Recommendations

14. On 11 December 2003 we announced that we were making no further changes to our proposals for one county constituency and that these were our final recommendations.

15. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our proposals for one county constituency for West Dunbartonshire Council area, as set out in paragraph 12 above.

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City of Edinburgh Council Area

Introduction

1. The City of Edinburgh Council area is currently covered by 6 burgh constituencies. Four of these constituencies are contained wholly within the Council area. Edinburgh East and Musselburgh constituency, also comprises part of East Lothian Council area. During the course of the Review there was an amendment to the boundary between the City of Edinburgh Council area and West Lothian Council area and consequently the current Edinburgh West burgh constituency also comprises a very small part of West Lothian Council area (see paragraph 32). The electorates of the 6 constituencies at the start and finish of the previous and current reviews are provided at Appendix C.

Initial Considerations

2. In forming our provisional proposals for the City of Edinburgh Council area we had in mind the following considerations:

2.1 At the enumeration date of June 2001, the City of Edinburgh Council area contained 364,542 parliamentary electors, giving the City of Edinburgh Council area a theoretical entitlement of 5.2 seats.

2.2 At the enumeration date of June 2001, East Lothian Council area contained 71,288 parliamentary electors, giving the Council area a theoretical entitlement of 1.02 seats.

3. Bearing in mind the theoretical entitlement to seats in these Council areas and the requirement that we should have regard to Council boundaries, we considered that there was no good reason for part of the City of Edinburgh Council area to continue to be combined with part of East Lothian Council area. We agreed, therefore, that the City of Edinburgh Council area should comprise 5 constituencies. In doing so, we recognised that the need to reduce the number of constituencies from 6 to 5 meant that considerable changes to existing boundaries were necessary.

4. We examined a series of options for the revision of existing constituencies, including the potential for an enlarged Edinburgh Central constituency, but concluded that none of these options would produce satisfactory constituencies across the wider Council area. Our approach was, therefore, to consider proposals for new constituencies which took account, as far as practical, of existing community ties.

5. In formulating proposals for a revised Edinburgh South East constituency, we noted that combining wards 36, 39, 40, 48-50 and 53-58 produced an area which closely approximates to the area covered by the combined Edinburgh East and Edinburgh South constituencies prior to the changes resulting from the Fourth Periodical Review in 1992-94.

6. For a proposed Edinburgh West constituency, we noted that the area contained a substantial part of the City's green belt, encompassing Currie, Balerno, Newbridge, Ratho, Gogar, Queensferry, Dalmeny and Kirkliston. We considered that all of these areas were well connected to the contiguous built-up area lying to the west of the City centre. We proposed, therefore, that wards 1-4, 23-25, 27, 28, 41 and 42 should be combined to form an Edinburgh West constituency.

7. For our proposed Edinburgh North West constituency, it was evident from our examination of boundaries at earlier reviews that the boundaries between constituencies lying to the north of the City had fluctuated at successive reviews. We further noted that an area covered by 7 of the current wards (5-9, 13 and 14) comprised approximately two thirds of the Edinburgh West constituency as constituted at the time of the Third Periodical Review. The constituency we provisionally proposed was completed by the addition of 2 wards (15 and 16) which are currently within Edinburgh Central constituency, and 3 wards (10, 17 and 18) which are within the existing Edinburgh North and Leith constituency.

8. Our proposal for an Edinburgh North East constituency focused along the River Forth on the area between Newhaven and Seafield. The proposed constituency extended eastwards from Seafield to incorporate Lochend and Restalrig and towards the City centre to incorporate Holyrood Park and St Leonard's, currently within the existing Edinburgh Central constituency. Our proposals for an Edinburgh North East constituency therefore brought together wards 11, 12, 19-22, 33-35, 37 and 38.

9. We further proposed an Edinburgh South constituency, which encompassed much of the Edinburgh Pentlands constituency as it existed at the time of the Third Periodical Review, by combining wards 26, 29-32, 43-47, 51 and 52.

Provisional Proposals

10. On 7 February 2002 we published our provisional proposals for 5 burgh constituencies in the City of Edinburgh Council area as follows:

Constituencies	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Edinburgh North East BC	Electoral wards in the City of Edinburgh Council area	
	11 Trinity	6,171
	12 Newhaven	6,167
	19 Broughton	6,737
	20 Calton	6,308

21	Harbour	6,262
22	Lorne	6,225
33	Southside	6,671
34	Holyrood	6,178
35	Meadowbank	6,338
37	Leith Links	6,069
38	Restalrig	6,826

Total	69,952
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Edinburgh North West BC

Electoral wards in the City of
Edinburgh Council area

5	Cramond	6,210
6	Davidson's Mains	6,132
7	Muirhouse/Drylaw	6,437
8	Craigleith	5,702
9	Pilton	6,042
10	Granton	5,917
13	East Craigs	6,366
14	N.E. Corstorphine	6,451
15	Murrayfield	6,599
16	Dean	6,261
17	Stockbridge	6,573
18	New Town	6,397

Total	75,087
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Edinburgh South BC

Electoral wards in the City of
Edinburgh Council area

26	Craiglockhart	5,896
29	Shandon	6,929
30	Dalry	6,811
31	Fountainbridge	6,058
32	Tollcross	6,124
43	Colinton	6,664
44	Firrhill	6,185
45	Merchiston	6,313
46	North Morningside/Grange	5,931
47	Marchmont	6,173
51	South Morningside	6,495
52	Fairmilehead	6,511

Total	76,090
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Edinburgh South East BC	Electoral wards in the City of Edinburgh Council area	
	36 Mountcastle	6,296
	39 Portobello	6,047
	40 Milton	6,172
	48 Sciennes	6,190
	49 Newington	6,097
	50 Prestonfield	6,311
	53 Alnwickhill	6,190
	54 Kaimes	6,090
	55 Moredun	6,187
	56 Gilmerton	6,707
	57 Craigmillar	5,121
	58 Duddingston	6,352
	Total	73,760
Edinburgh West BC	Electoral wards in the City of Edinburgh Council area	
	1 Balerno	6,320
	2 Baberton	6,079
	3 Dalmeny/Kirkliston	5,960
	4 Queensferry	6,867
	23 Gyle	6,866
	24 S.E. Corstorphine	6,319
	25 Parkhead	6,019
	27 Stenhouse	6,397
	28 Moat	6,173
	41 Murray Burn	6,294
	42 Sighthill	6,359
	Total	69,653

Representations on Provisional Proposals

11. During the statutory consultation period, we received 609 representations, including 4 petitions with a total of approximately 1,170 names, regarding our provisional proposals for the City of Edinburgh Council area. We also received 3,050 newspaper “coupons” concerning the name of the proposed Edinburgh North East constituency. Most representations focused on the following main issues:

11.1 Wards in East Lothian Council area at Musselburgh should be included in an Edinburgh East and Musselburgh constituency, as at present.

11.2 Craiglockhart, Colinton, and Firrhill wards should be included in a revised Edinburgh Pentlands constituency, with consequential changes to the other 4 constituencies in Edinburgh.

11.3 The proposed Edinburgh North East constituency should be renamed to include a reference to “Leith”.

11.4 Trinity ward should be transferred from Edinburgh North East constituency to Edinburgh North West constituency.

Local Inquiry

12. As a consequence of the objection to our proposals from the City of Edinburgh Council, as well as the number of electors objecting, we recognised that we had a statutory duty to hold a local inquiry. At our request, you agreed to appoint the then Sheriff Principal C G B Nicholson QC, Sheriff Principal of Lothian and Borders, as Assistant Commissioner at the inquiry into our provisional proposals. The inquiry was held in the City Chambers, Edinburgh, on 18, 19 and 20 November 2002.

13. In the period up to the start of the local inquiry, the number of representations received increased to 688. All the representations were seen by the Assistant Commissioner and copies were made available at the inquiry.

14. Following the inquiry, a verbatim transcript of the proceedings and the Assistant Commissioner’s Report were made available on our web site.

Assistant Commissioner’s Report and Recommendations

15. In his Report to us, the Assistant Commissioner noted that no dispute on legal questions, such as the priority to be given to the various considerations in the Rules, had been raised. He went on to say that, for the most part, any proposed alterations to our provisional proposals for constituency boundaries in Edinburgh were advanced by reference to “local ties” as in Rule 7(b), and to a lesser extent by reference to the matters of “geographical considerations” and “inconveniences” as set out in Rules 6 and 7(a) respectively. He further commented that there was almost general agreement that the number of constituencies in the City of Edinburgh Council area should be 5.

16. The Assistant Commissioner also made a general observation regarding the arguments put forward for linking a particular ward or wards with others. He noted that many links between wards and constituencies were advanced by reference to considerations such as the availability of local shopping facilities, school catchments and the use made of community centres, amongst others. He pointed out, however, that the placement of parliamentary boundaries was not going to alter shopping patterns or have any effect on where children went to school. He indicated that he was more persuaded by links or ties based on the existence of shared community activities and interests and felt that some weight should be given to practical disadvantages which will arise if, in the future, a particular community is to be shared between 2 different MPs, for example if a Community Council was to be split.

17. The Assistant Commissioner was not persuaded by the arguments for including Musselburgh in a constituency that embraced part of east Edinburgh. He felt that proponents of an Edinburgh East and Musselburgh constituency had not addressed the consequences of reducing our proposed East Lothian constituency electorate by 15,594 (see Section 2, East Lothian Council area).

18. With regard to the City of Edinburgh Council area ward 1 (Balerno) and ward 2 (Baberton), the Assistant Commissioner was persuaded that these 2 wards, both historically and at the present time, have much in common with ward 26 (Craiglockhart) and ward 43 (Colinton). He concluded that consideration should be given to placing ward 1 and ward 2 in the same constituency as ward 26, ward 43 and adjoining areas.

19. The Assistant Commissioner noted that there was very little support for our provisional proposals which placed the City of Edinburgh Council area ward 23 (Gyle) and ward 24 (South East Corstorphine) in the Edinburgh West constituency and placed ward 13 (East Craigs) and ward 14 (North East Corstorphine) in the Edinburgh North West constituency. He considered that a case had been made which demonstrated that the community of Corstorphine embraced these 4 wards, and he concluded that consideration should be given to placing the 4 wards in the same constituency.

20. With regard to the City of Edinburgh Council area ward 11 (Trinity), the Assistant Commissioner was not persuaded that it should be linked with ward 10 (Granton) and ward 17 (Stockbridge).

21. Under our provisional proposals, the City of Edinburgh Council area ward 47 (Marchmont) was located in the Edinburgh South constituency and ward 48 (Sciennes) was included within the Edinburgh South East constituency. The Assistant Commissioner noted that under these proposals the Marchmont and Sciennes Community Council would be split between 2 constituencies. He also noted that 3 of the 4 sets of counter-proposals submitted to the inquiry placed these 2 wards together in the one constituency. He therefore concluded that consideration should be given to placing ward 47 and ward 48 in the same constituency.

22. At the inquiry, witnesses argued for and against the proposal that the City of Edinburgh Council area ward 19 (Broughton) should be linked with ward 17 (Stockbridge) and ward 18 (New Town), and that the 3 wards should be situated in the same constituency. The Assistant Commissioner was not persuaded that there was a strong enough link between these 3 wards to justify such a proposal.

23. The City of Edinburgh Council area ward 35 (Meadowbank) and ward 36 (Mountcastle) would be split between 2 constituencies under our provisional proposals. The Assistant Commissioner was mindful that 3 of the 4 sets of counter-proposals placed these 2 wards together in one constituency. He also noted that the Northfield Willowbrae Community Council represented these 2 wards. He felt there was a strong case for linking the two wards and consequently concluded that consideration should be given to accommodating them in the same constituency.

24. With regard to the position of the City of Edinburgh Council area ward 33 (Southside) and ward 34 (Holyrood), the Assistant Commissioner reported that there was a body of

support for keeping both wards together with the rest of, or at least most of, the Old Town. He noted that this was supported by 3 of the counter-proposals, and consequently he expressed the view that consideration should be given to placing these 2 wards in the same constituency as other parts of the Old Town.

25. The Assistant Commissioner noted that there was compelling support for maintaining a link between ward 52 (Fairmilehead) and both ward 43 (Colinton) and ward 44 (Firrhill). Consequently, he expressed the view that these 2 wards should be retained in the same constituency as Fairmilehead and Craiglockhart (ward 26).

26. The Assistant Commissioner noted that he had conducted a similar inquiry 10 years previously, and the issue of the inclusion of the name “Leith” had also arisen then. He was persuaded now as he had been at the time of the previous inquiry, that “Leith” should be incorporated in the appropriate constituency name.

Consideration of the Assistant Commissioner’s Report and Recommendations

27. We noted that the Assistant Commissioner was not able to commend unequivocally any of the 4 comprehensive counter-proposals provided by the Scottish Labour Party, the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, Donald Gorrie MSP (together with the Scottish Liberal Democrats) and Northfield Willowbrae Community Council. We also noted his express view that it would not be appropriate for him to attempt to create a scheme of revised recommendations to accommodate his views as set out in paragraphs 15-26 above. The Assistant Commissioner concluded that, in the particular circumstances, the only proper course open to him was to set out the changes to the Commission’s proposals which appeared to be justified and desirable and to describe how such changes might be achieved by reference to proposals advanced at the inquiry, leaving it to us to consider how his proposed changes might be incorporated in a revised scheme.

28. We carefully examined the proposals submitted by the 4 main participants at the inquiry and agreed that the proposals submitted by the Scottish Labour Party and Northfield Willowbrae Community Council did not generally maintain the community relationships that the Assistant Commissioner considered justified and desirable. Similarly, we concurred with the view of the Assistant Commissioner that neither of the schemes submitted by the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party and Scottish Liberal Democrats could unreservedly be adopted as our revised recommendations.

29. We considered several Edinburgh-wide constituency designs which incorporated all of the Assistant Commissioner’s recommendations. In doing so, we were conscious that alternative constituency designs might break local ties that had been preserved in our initial provisional proposals. We noted that his suggested groupings of wards had the consequence of bringing together 6 wards in the same constituency (ward 1 (Balerno), ward 2 (Baberton), ward 26 (Craiglockhart), ward 43 (Colinton), ward 44 (Firrhill) and ward 52 (Fairmilehead)). In considering how this contiguous group of wards might be contained within a single constituency, we were aware that it was difficult to design constituencies across the remainder of the City of Edinburgh Council area which, in our opinion, provided a satisfactory overall solution. Consequently, our revised proposals

take account of all of the Assistant Commissioner's recommendations regarding community ties save those concerning ward 52 (Fairmilehead). We considered that, if ward 52 was included in the Edinburgh South West constituency, the eastern boundary of the constituency would cut across the main communication and other links between ward 52 and both ward 51 (South Morningside) and ward 46 (North Morningside/Grange) to the north. We therefore concluded that ward 52 would be better placed in an Edinburgh South constituency.

30. We accepted the Assistant Commissioner's recommendation that "Leith" should be incorporated in the name of the relevant constituency in our revised recommendations.

Revised Recommendations

31. On 27 February 2003 we published a notice stating that, having considered the Assistant Commissioner's Report, we had decided to revise all of our proposals for parliamentary constituencies in the City of Edinburgh Council area.

32. The notice also stated that the boundary between the City of Edinburgh Council area ward 3 (Dalmeny/Kirkliston) and West Lothian Council area ward 27 (Strathbrock) had been amended by the City of Edinburgh Council and West Lothian Council Boundaries (West Farm, Broxburn) Amendment Order 2002. This administrative change transferred one elector from the City of Edinburgh Council area to West Lothian Council area. This reduced the electorate of the City of Edinburgh ward 3 (Dalmeny/Kirkliston) from 5,960, when the provisional proposals were published on 7 February 2002, to an electorate of 5,959 on publication of our revised recommendations. This small boundary change in the Broxburn area was incorporated into our revised recommendations.

33. In addition, the notice stated that we had accepted the Assistant Commissioner's recommendation to confirm our provisional proposals for an East Lothian constituency comprising the whole of East Lothian Council area. The revised recommendations for the City of Edinburgh Council area were:

Constituencies	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Edinburgh East BC	Electoral wards in the City of Edinburgh Council area	
	32 Tollcross	6,124
	33 Southside	6,671
	34 Holyrood	6,178
	35 Meadowbank	6,338
	36 Mountcastle	6,296
	37 Leith Links	6,069
	38 Restalrig	6,826
	39 Portobello	6,047
	40 Milton	6,172

	50	Prestonfield	6,311
	57	Craigmillar	5,121
	58	Duddingston	6,352
		Total	74,505
Edinburgh North and Leith BC		Electoral wards in the City of Edinburgh Council area	
	8	Craigleith	5,702
	9	Pilton	6,042
	10	Granton	5,917
	11	Trinity	6,171
	12	Newhaven	6,167
	16	Dean	6,261
	17	Stockbridge	6,573
	18	New Town	6,397
	19	Broughton	6,737
	20	Calton	6,308
	21	Harbour	6,262
	22	Lorne	6,225
		Total	74,762
Edinburgh South BC		Electoral wards in the City of Edinburgh Council area	
	45	Merchiston	6,313
	46	North Morningside/Grange	5,931
	47	Marchmont	6,173
	48	Sciennes	6,190
	49	Newington	6,097
	51	South Morningside	6,495
	52	Fairmilehead	6,511
	53	Alnwickhill	6,190
	54	Kaimes	6,090
	55	Moredun	6,187
	56	Gilmerton	6,707
		Total	68,884
Edinburgh South West BC		Electoral wards in the City of Edinburgh Council area	
	1	Balerno	6,320

2	Baberton	6,079
25	Parkhead	6,019
26	Craiglockhart	5,896
28	Moat	6,173
29	Shandon	6,929
30	Dalry	6,811
31	Fountainbridge	6,058
41	Murray Burn	6,294
42	Sighthill	6,359
43	Colinton	6,664
44	Firrhill	6,185
Total		75,787

Edinburgh West BC

Electoral wards in the City of
Edinburgh Council area

3	Dalmeny/Kirkliston	5,959
4	Queensferry	6,867
5	Cramond	6,210
6	Davidson's Mains	6,132
7	Muirhouse/Drylaw	6,437
13	East Craigs	6,366
14	N.E. Corstorphine	6,451
15	Murrayfield	6,599
23	Gyle	6,866
24	S.E. Corstorphine	6,319
27	Stenhouse	6,397
Total		70,603

Representations on Revised Recommendations

34. Following publication of our revised recommendations, we received 228 representations. Some representations remarked on more than one aspect of our revised recommendations. The representations fell broadly into the following categories:

34.1 Twenty-six representations supported the Edinburgh North and Leith constituency.

34.2 Eight representations indicated overall support for our revised recommendations.

34.3 Two representations supported the Edinburgh South and South West constituencies.

34.4 One representation supported the location of Corstorphine in a single constituency.

34.5 Three representations objected to our overall revised recommendations because of differences from our provisional proposals.

34.6 One hundred and sixty-seven representations objected to ward 52 (Fairmilehead) being located in the Edinburgh South constituency.

34.7 Nineteen representations objected to ward 50 (Prestonfield) being included in the Edinburgh East constituency.

34.8 One representation objected to ward 8 (Craigleith) being in a different constituency from ward 6 (Davidson's Mains).

34.9 Two representations expressed disappointment that Musselburgh was not included within the Edinburgh East constituency.

34.10 One representation considered that the Edinburgh South West constituency should be renamed "Edinburgh Pentlands".

Consideration of Representations on Revised Recommendations

35. In relation to the City of Edinburgh Council area ward 50 (Prestonfield), we noted that it would have been possible to include this ward in the Edinburgh South constituency without having to make any compensatory ward changes elsewhere. However, we decided that ward 50 should be included within the Edinburgh East constituency because this provided a clearly identifiable western boundary and also maintained a link between ward 57 (Craigmillar), lying to its south and east, and the wards in the north and northwest of the constituency.

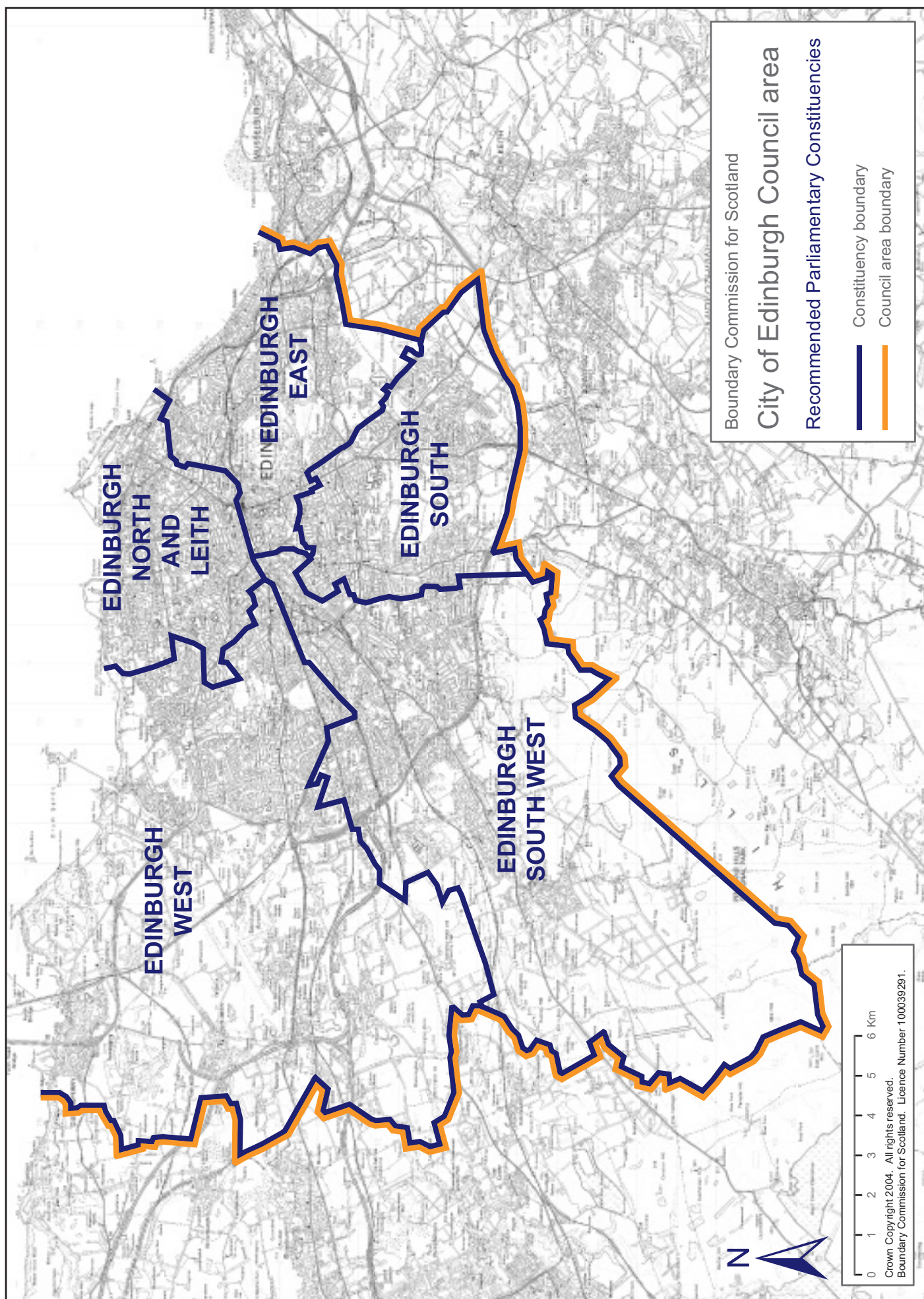
36. We were not persuaded to revise our decision with regard to ward 8 (Craigleith) and ward 6 (Davidson's Mains). Neither were we persuaded that the proposed Edinburgh South West constituency should be renamed "Edinburgh Pentlands".

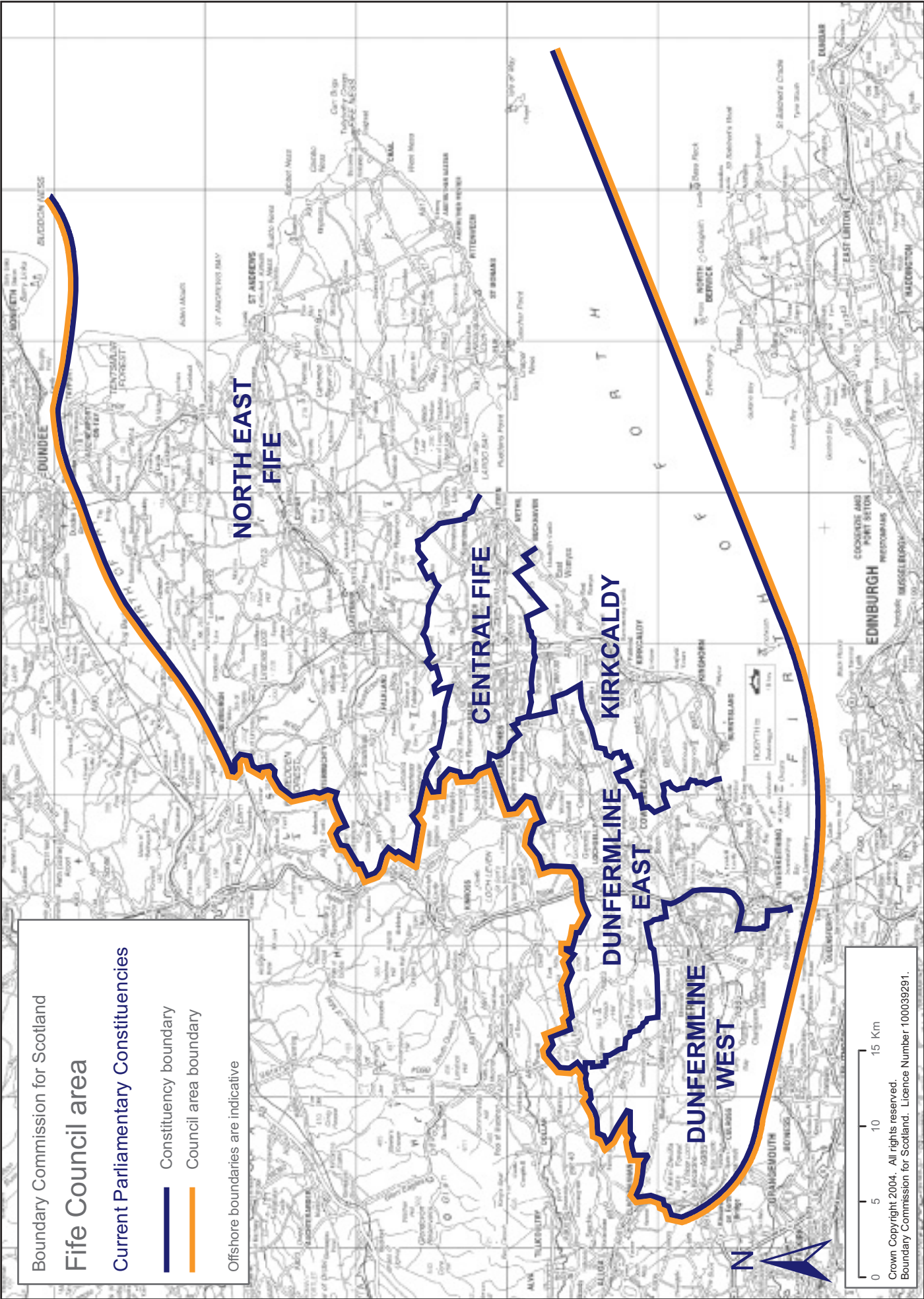
37. Given the number of representations regarding the issue, we re-examined the consequences of placing the City of Edinburgh Council area ward 52 (Fairmilehead) within a revised Edinburgh South West constituency. We concluded that this would require consequential changes to adjacent constituencies in order to achieve a suitably balanced electorate. After considering the various options in relation to the electoral quota and community ties, we were satisfied that ward 52 (Fairmilehead), ward 51 (South Morningside), ward 46 (North Morningside/Grange) and ward 45 (Merchiston) were appropriately included within the recommended Edinburgh South constituency. We concluded that, although we had not been able to satisfy the Assistant Commissioner's recommendation regarding ward 52, we had designed constituencies that achieved a balanced solution across the whole of the City of Edinburgh Council area and, therefore, decided against any further alteration to our revised recommendations.

Final Recommendations

38. On 11 December 2003 we announced that we were making no further changes to our revised recommendations for 5 burgh constituencies and that these were to be our final recommendations.

39. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our proposals for 5 burgh constituencies for the City of Edinburgh Council area, as set out in paragraph 33 above.





Fife Council Area

Introduction

1. Fife Council area currently comprises 5 county constituencies, all of which are wholly within the Council area. The electorates of the 5 constituencies at the start and finish of the previous and current reviews are provided at Appendix C.

Initial Considerations

2. In forming our provisional proposals for Fife Council area we had in mind the following considerations:

2.1 At the enumeration date of June 2001, Fife Council area contained 278,848 parliamentary electors, giving the area a theoretical entitlement of 3.99 seats.

2.2 Of the 5 existing constituencies, the electorate in 3 was more than 25 per cent below the electoral quota and the remaining 2 constituencies were approximately 11 and 12 per cent below the electoral quota.

2.3 The reduction in the number of constituencies in Fife Council area, coupled with the geography of the area, would result in significant boundary changes which might cause some controversy.

3. We agreed that Fife Council area should comprise 4 constituencies.

4. In considering the Council area, we concluded that we should extend the area of the existing North East Fife constituency, geographically the largest within Fife Council area, thereby increasing the electorate to 64,813, which is approximately 7 per cent below the electoral quota. To achieve this we transferred ward 48 (Leven East) from the existing Central Fife constituency.

5. Thereafter, we decided to divide the remainder of Fife Council area into 3 constituencies which would, by and large, wholly encompass existing core communities. To the west of the Council area, we extended the existing Dunfermline West constituency eastwards to wholly encompass the built-up area of Dunfermline, giving a new constituency of Dunfermline and West Fife with an electorate of 70,373. We created a new constituency,

Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath, which encompasses, amongst other small towns and settlements, Kirkcaldy, Dalgety Bay and Cowdenbeath, to provide a constituency with 74,163 electors. The existing Central Fife constituency, minus the area transferred to the revised North East Fife constituency, was combined with areas from the existing Dunfermline West and Kirkcaldy constituencies to constitute a new constituency of Glenrothes, with an electorate of 69,499, that encompasses, amongst other towns and settlements, Glenrothes, Buckhaven, Methil, Leslie and Markinch.

6. We considered that, overall, our proposals for revised constituencies met the requirements of the electoral quota while maintaining, as far as possible, community ties. We noted that, in a number of instances, small pockets of electorate were detached from a main community. However, all of the alternative options we examined created similar problems elsewhere.

Provisional Proposals

7. On 7 February 2002 we published our provisional proposals for 4 county constituencies in Fife Council area as follows:

Constituencies	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Dunfermline and West Fife CC	Electoral wards in Fife Council area	
	1 Kincardine, Culross and Low Valleyfield	3,231
	2 Blairhall, High Valleyfield and Torryburn	3,497
	3 Oakley, Saline and Steelend	3,462
	4 Cairneyhill, Carnock and Milesmark	3,690
	5 Crossford and Dunfermline Central	3,590
	6 Baldridgeburn	3,668
	7 Wellwood and Headwell	3,605
	8 Townhill and Bellyeoman	3,473
	9 Garvock and Carnegie	3,661
	10 Halbeath, Hill of Beath and Kingseat	3,340
	11 Woodmill	3,232
	12 Linburn	3,349
	13 Brucefield and Nethertown	3,669
	14 Pitcorthie	3,419
	15 Limekilns and Pitreavie	3,914
	16 Rosyth West	3,422
	17 Rosyth East	3,566
	18 Inverkeithing West and Rosyth South	3,744

19	Inverkeithing East and North Queensferry	3,251
22	Crossgates and Mosside	3,590
	Total	70,373

Glenrothes CC

Electoral wards in Fife Council area

37	Cardenden, Cluny and Chapel	3,678
38	Kinglassie, Bowhill and Dundonald	3,880
44	Wemyss and Muiredge	3,812
45	Buckhaven and Denbeath	3,664
46	Methilhill	3,578
47	Methil	3,699
49	Leven West and Kirkland	3,621
50	Kennoway	3,279
51	Windygates, Star and Balgonie	3,532
52	Markinch and Woodside East	3,757
53	Auchmuty and Woodside West	3,598
54	Pitteuchar and Finglassie North	3,657
55	Thornton, Stenton and Finglassie South	3,750
56	Caskieberran and Rimbleton	3,578
57	Newcastle and Tanshall	3,490
58	South Parks and Macedonia	3,666
59	Leslie and Whinnyknowe	3,496
60	Balgeddie and Collydean	4,122
61	Cadham, Pitcoudie and Balfarg	3,642
	Total	69,499

Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath CC

Electoral wards in Fife Council area

20	Dalgety Bay West and Hillend	4,360
21	Dalgety Bay East	3,544
23	Cowdenbeath Central	3,623
24	Oakfield and Cowdenbeath North	3,541
25	Kelty	3,619
26	Ballingry and Lochore	3,732
27	Crosshill and Lochgelly North	3,635

28	Lumphinnans and Lochgelly South	3,322
29	Aberdour and Burntisland West	3,430
30	Auchtertool and Burntisland East	3,209
31	Kinghorn and Inveriel	3,485
32	Linktown and Kirkcaldy Central	3,500
33	Raith and Longbraes	3,541
34	Bennochty and Valley	3,566
35	Templehall East	3,451
36	Templehall West	3,374
39	Dunnikier	3,316
40	Hayfield and Balsusney	3,325
41	Smeaton and Overton	3,443
42	Glebe Park, Pathhead and Sinclairtown	3,376
43	Dysart and Gallatown	3,771
	Total	74,163

North East Fife CC

Electoral wards in Fife Council area

48	Leven East	3,557
62	Falkland, Freuchie and Strathmiglo	3,655
63	Auchtermuchty and Ladybank	3,675
64	Kettle, Springfield and Ceres	3,449
65	Cupar South	3,914
66	Cupar North	3,487
67	Newburgh and Tay Coast	3,563
68	Newport-on-Tay and Wormit	3,530
69	Tayport and Motray	3,718
70	Leuchars, Balmullo and Guardbridge	3,473
71	Strathkinness and St Andrews West	3,515
72	St Andrews Central	3,816
73	St Andrews South	3,460
74	St Andrews South East	3,556
75	Crail, Cameron and Kemback	3,927
76	Anstruther and East Neuk Landward	3,612
77	Elie, St Monans and Pittenweem	3,556
78	Largo	3,350
	Total	64,813

Representations on Provisional Proposals

8. During the statutory consultation period, we received 7 representations regarding our provisional proposals for Fife Council area. Fife Council notified us that it would not be making any representations concerning our proposals. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party and the Scottish Liberal Democrats supported our proposals, although the latter suggested splitting ward 49 (Leven West and Kirkland) so that the whole of Leven could be situated in the proposed North East Fife constituency. The Kirkcaldy Area Branch of the Scottish National Party expressed concern over the geography of the proposed constituencies. We received 2 representations specifically concerning the Leven area. One supported our proposal to include ward 48 (Leven East) in the proposed North East Fife constituency, and the other objected to the whole of Leven not being included in that same constituency. Dalgety Bay and Hillend Community Council suggested that the proposed Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath constituency should be renamed “Kirkcaldy, Dalgety Bay and Cowdenbeath”. One representation proposed that the recommended Dunfermline and West Fife constituency should be renamed “Dunfermline” or “City of Dunfermline”.

9. Following the end of the statutory consultation period, we received a further representation. Although that representation concluded that there were significant difficulties with our proposed constituency boundaries, no alternative proposals were offered for consideration.

Consideration of Representations on Provisional Proposals

10. We noted that Fife Council did not object to our provisional proposals. We also agreed that the number and nature of the representations did not justify a local inquiry.

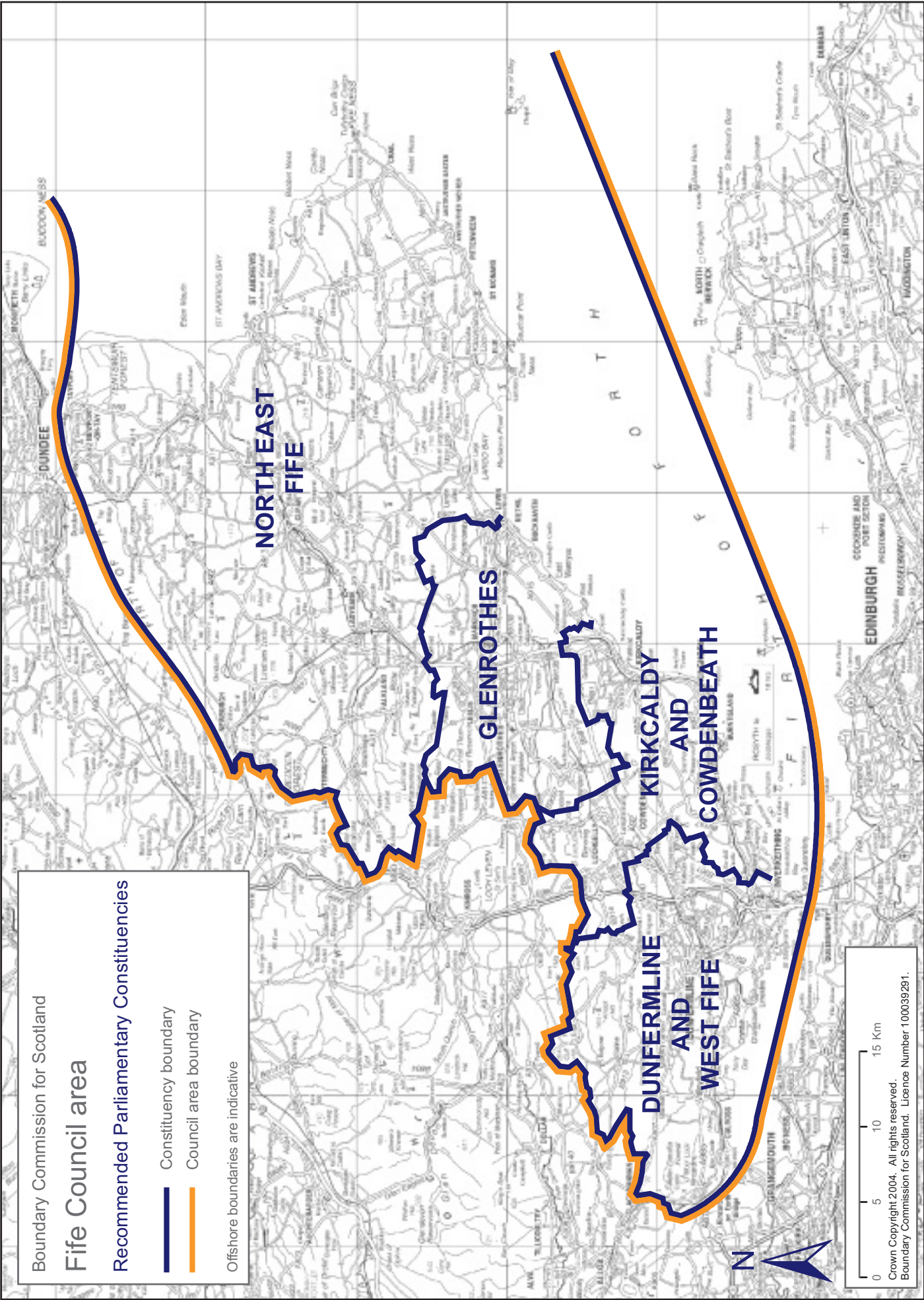
11. We considered the Scottish Liberal Democrats’ amendment which proposed splitting ward 49 but concluded that, in line with our general policy that complete wards should be the building blocks for constituencies, our provisional proposals for North East Fife and Glenrothes constituencies should not be revised.

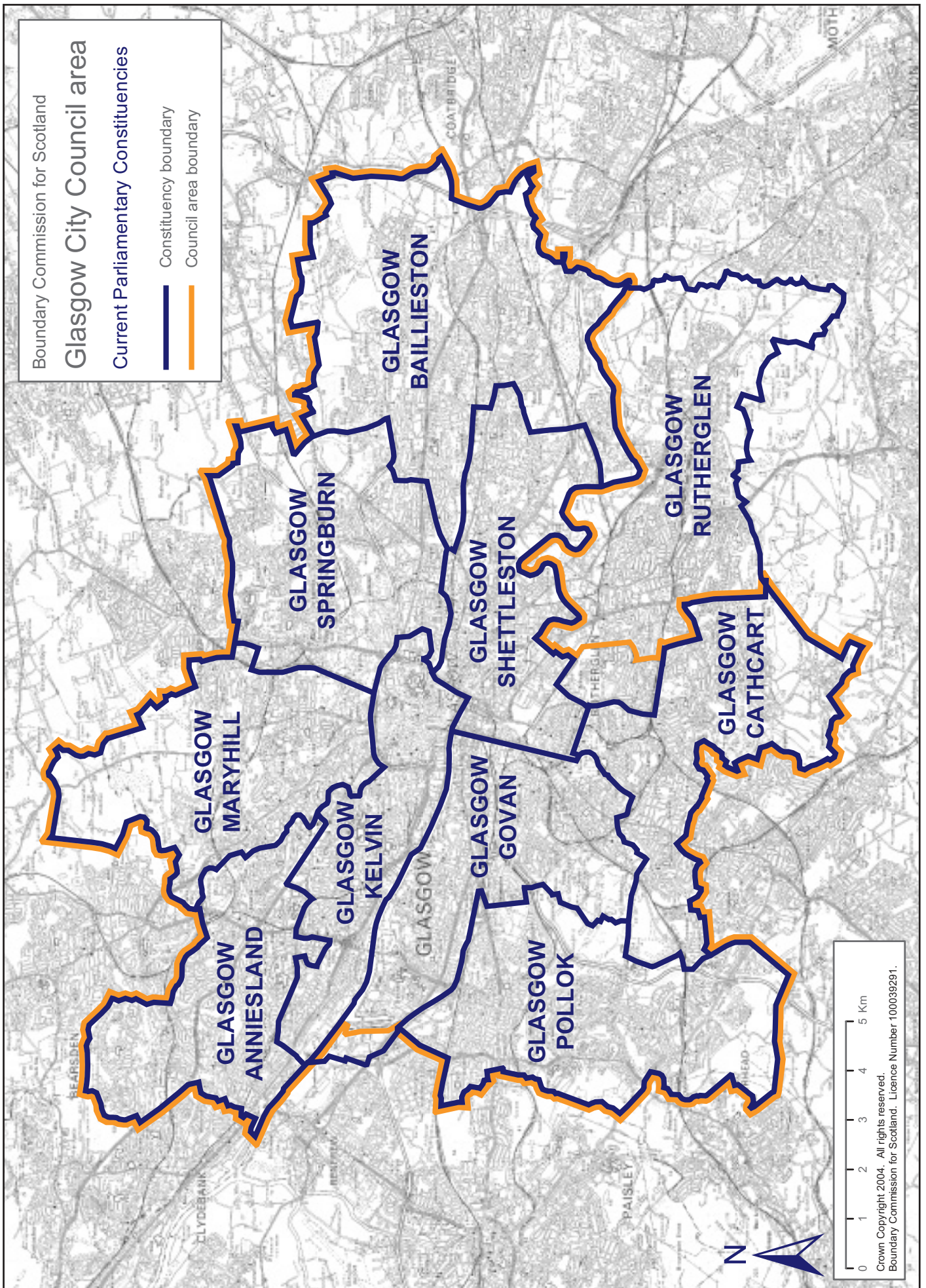
12. We noted the concerns with the geography of our proposed constituencies. We decided, however, that the requirement to reduce the number of constituencies within Fife Council area resulted in a need for very significant change to existing boundaries and that the alternatives we examined prior to publication of our provisional proposals produced, in our view, less favourable outcomes. We agreed, therefore, not to amend the boundaries of constituencies as set out in our provisional proposals.

13. We considered the 2 representations regarding changes to proposed constituency names but were not persuaded to amend our provisional proposals.

Final Recommendations

14. On 31 July 2003 we announced that we were making no changes to our provisional proposals for 4 county constituencies and that these were our final recommendations.
15. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our proposals for 4 county constituencies for Fife Council area, as set out in paragraph 7 above.





Glasgow City Council Area

Introduction

1. Glasgow City Council area is currently covered by 10 burgh constituencies. Eight of these constituencies are contained wholly within the Council area. The constituency of Glasgow Rutherglen also comprises part of South Lanarkshire Council area with approximately 84 per cent of its electorate within that Council area. During the course of the Review, there was an amendment to the boundary between Glasgow City Council area and Renfrewshire Council area and consequently the current Glasgow Govan constituency also comprises a small part of Renfrewshire Council area containing no electors (see paragraph 16). The electorates of the 10 constituencies at the start and finish of the previous and current reviews are provided at Appendix C.

Initial Considerations

2. In forming our provisional proposals for Glasgow Council area we had in mind that at the enumeration date of June 2001, the Council area contained 483,077 parliamentary electors, giving a theoretical entitlement of 6.9 seats.

3. We therefore agreed that the Glasgow City Council area should comprise 7 constituencies which were wholly contained within the local authority boundary. In doing so, we recognised that the need to reduce the number of constituencies meant that considerable changes to existing boundaries were necessary, the electorate in the majority of the existing constituencies being between 20 per cent and 30 per cent below the electoral quota.

4. Our examination of the Council area suggested that it would be possible to create a central constituency, which comprised much of the area of the Glasgow Central constituency that existed prior to the Fourth Periodical Review, and 6 peripheral constituencies.

5. Accordingly, all of the existing Glasgow Baillieston constituency was combined with wards 36, 43, 44 (part) and 45 lying within the existing Glasgow Shettleston constituency to form the proposed Glasgow East constituency. Similarly, all of the existing Glasgow Springburn constituency was combined with wards 23, 24 and 26 lying within the existing Glasgow Maryhill constituency to form the proposed Glasgow North East constituency.

6. The remainder of Glasgow Maryhill constituency (wards 18-20, 21 (part), 22 and 25) was combined with wards 9 and 21 (part) lying within the existing Glasgow Anniesland constituency

and wards 13-15 lying within the existing Glasgow Kelvin constituency to form the proposed Glasgow North constituency. The remainder of Glasgow Anniesland constituency, wards 1-7 and 8 (part), was combined with wards 8 (part), 10-12 lying within the existing Glasgow Kelvin constituency to form the proposed Glasgow North West constituency.

7. All of the existing Glasgow Pollok constituency, except wards 63 (part) and 64 (part), was combined with wards 51, 52 (part) and 53 lying within the existing Glasgow Govan constituency and ward 62 (part) lying within the existing Glasgow Cathcart constituency to form the proposed Glasgow South West constituency.

8. All of the existing Glasgow Cathcart constituency, except ward 62 (part), was combined with wards 63 (part) and 64 (part) lying within the existing Glasgow Pollok constituency, wards 64 (part), 70 (part) and 71 (part) lying within the existing Glasgow Govan constituency, ward 69 (part) lying within the existing Glasgow Shettleston constituency and ward 76 (part) lying within the existing Glasgow Rutherglen constituency to form the proposed Glasgow South constituency.

9. Wards 16, 17, 27, 34, 35, 54, 65-68 and 75 lying variously within the existing Glasgow Govan, Glasgow Kelvin, Glasgow Shettleston and Glasgow Rutherglen constituencies, were combined to form the proposed Glasgow Central constituency.

10. In naming our proposed constituencies, we concluded that, because of the substantial changes to constituency geography resulting from our proposals, it would be difficult to formulate names based on localities which properly reflected the revised areas. We agreed, therefore, that the names of the 6 constituencies surrounding the proposed Glasgow Central constituency should simply reflect compass points.

Provisional Proposals

11. On 7 February 2002 we published our provisional proposals for 7 burgh constituencies in Glasgow City Council area as follows:

Constituencies	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Glasgow Central BC	Electoral wards in Glasgow City Council area	
	16 Kelvingrove	7,263
	17 Anderston	5,788
	27 Merchant City	5,681
	34 Calton	6,020
	35 Bridgeton/Dalmarnock	5,574
	54 Kingston	7,137
	65 Pollokshields East	6,747
	66 Hutchesontown	6,475

67	Govanhill	6,828
68	Strathbungo	6,990
75	Toryglen	5,875
	Total	70,378

Glasgow East BC

Electoral wards in Glasgow City Council area

36	Parkhead	5,839
40	Queenslie	4,798
41	Greenfield	6,083
42	Barlanark	5,132
43	Shettleston	6,369
44	Tollcross Park	5,970
45	Braidfauld	5,682
46	Mount Vernon	6,464
47	Baillieston	6,182
48	Garrowhill	6,735
49	Garthamlock	5,504
50	Easterhouse	5,409
	Total	70,167

Glasgow North BC

Electoral wards in Glasgow City Council area

9	Kelvindale	5,611
13	Hyndland	6,303
14	Hillhead	6,777
15	Partick	6,740
18	Woodlands	7,266
19	North Kelvin	6,294
20	Wyndford	6,446
21	Maryhill	6,082
22	Summerston	5,901
25	Firhill	6,309
	Total	63,729

Glasgow North East BC

Electoral wards in Glasgow City Council area

23	Milton	5,696
24	Ashfield	5,868
26	Keppochhill	5,280
28	Royston	6,287

29	Cowlairs	5,823
30	Springburn	5,872
31	Wallacewell	5,942
32	Milnbank	6,300
33	Dennistoun	6,065
37	Carntyne	6,042
38	Robroyston	6,350
39	Gartcraig	5,374
	Total	70,899

Glasgow North West BC

Electoral wards in Glasgow City Council area

1	Drumry	5,181
2	Summerhill	5,277
3	Blairdardie	6,165
4	Knightswood Park	6,333
5	Knightswood South	6,053
6	Yoker	6,277
7	Anniesland	6,382
8	Jordanhill	6,251
10	Scotstoun	6,429
11	Victoria Park	6,324
12	Hayburn	6,415
	Total	67,087

Glasgow South BC

Electoral wards in Glasgow City Council area

63	Carnwadric	6,358
64	Maxwell Park	6,205
69	Battlefield	6,293
70	Langside	6,363
71	Pollokshaws	6,806
72	Newlands	6,311
73	Cathcart	6,380
74	Mount Florida	6,082
76	King's Park	6,047
77	Castlemilk	5,726
78	Carmunnock	5,936
79	Glenwood	5,975
	Total	74,482

Glasgow South West BC

Electoral wards in Glasgow City Council area

51	Drumoyne	5,752
52	Govan	6,786
53	Ibrox	6,561
55	Mosspark	5,673
56	North Cardonald	5,684
57	Penilee	5,799
58	Cardonald	5,740
59	Pollok	6,064
60	Crookston	6,275
61	Nitshill	5,673
62	Darnley	6,328
Total		66,335

Representations on Provisional Proposals

12. During the statutory consultation period, we received 46 representations, of which 44 supported our proposals. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, the Scottish Liberal Democrats and David Marshall MP were amongst those who submitted representations supporting the boundaries of the revised constituencies.

13. The Scottish Liberal Democrats considered that we should consult local groups with regard to retaining historical names. We had 2 representations specifically objecting to the proposed constituency names. Glasgow Pollok Constituency Labour Party suggested that the Glasgow South West constituency should be named Glasgow Craigton, and Govan Community Council suggested that the Glasgow South West constituency should be named Glasgow Govan.

14. Following the end of the statutory consultation period, we received a further representation supporting our proposals for Glasgow City Council area.

Consideration of Representations on Provisional Proposals

15. We noted that Glasgow City Council did not make any representation in respect of our provisional proposals and that there was no demand for the constituency boundaries set out in our proposals to be amended. We also noted the representations regarding constituency names. However, we remained of the opinion that names reflecting compass points, rather than historical localities, were appropriate because the significant changes to existing constituency boundaries made it unlikely that suitable, concise names could be determined and agreed. We agreed that, in view of the small number of representations received, our proposed constituency names should not be amended.

Revised Recommendations

16. Following publication of our provisional proposals, the boundary between Glasgow City Council area and Renfrewshire Council area was amended by The Glasgow City and Renfrewshire Council Boundaries (Braehead) Amendment Order 2002. Accordingly, on 23 October 2003, we published revised recommendations to reflect the realignment of the boundary between Glasgow City Council area ward 51 (Drumoyne) and Renfrewshire Council area ward 27 (Deanside). Whilst an area of land was transferred between the Council areas, no electors were affected by this boundary change.

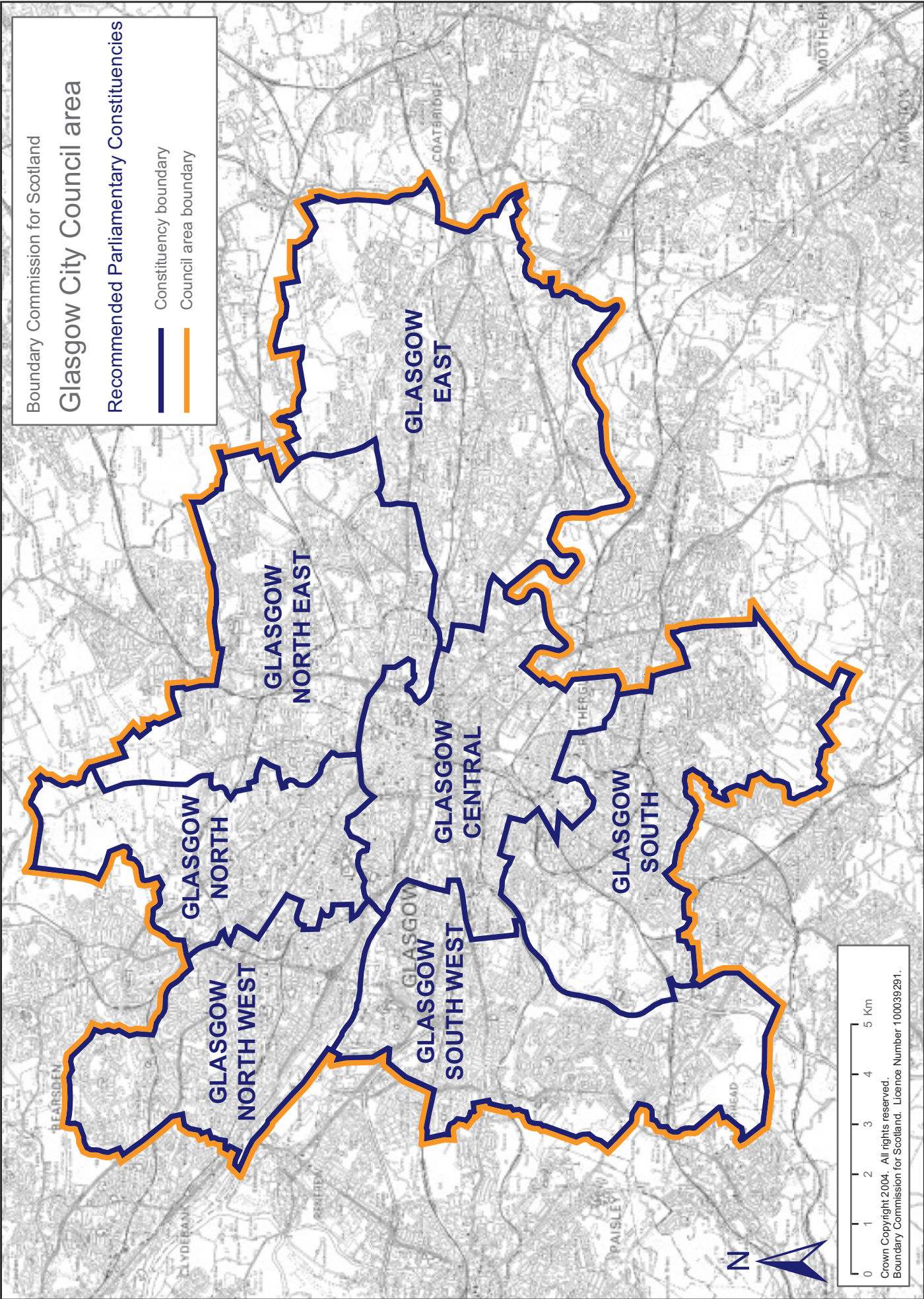
Representations on Revised Recommendations

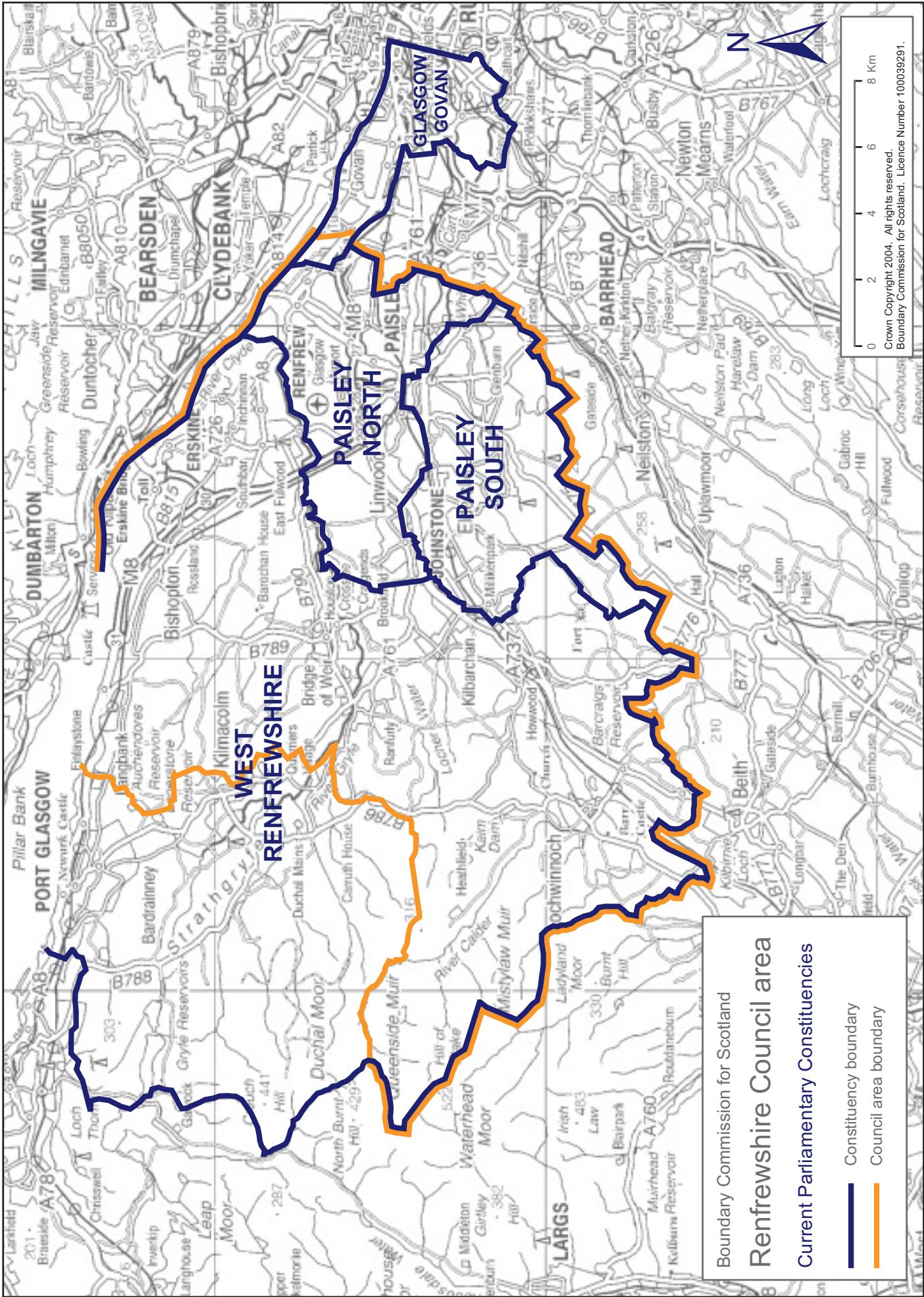
17. We received no representations in respect of our revised recommendations.

Final Recommendations

18. On 11 December 2003 we announced that we were making no changes to our revised recommendations for 7 burgh constituencies and that these were our final recommendations.

19. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our proposals for 7 burgh constituencies for Glasgow City Council area, as set out in paragraph 11 above, and incorporating the boundary realignment noted in paragraph 16.





Renfrewshire Council Area

Introduction

1. Renfrewshire Council area is currently covered by 3 burgh constituencies and 1 county constituency. Paisley North burgh constituency and Paisley South burgh constituency are contained wholly within the Council area. West Renfrewshire county constituency also comprises part of Inverclyde Council area. Approximately 67 per cent of the electorate of West Renfrewshire county constituency is contained within Renfrewshire Council area. During the course of the Review, there was an amendment to the boundary between Renfrewshire Council area and Glasgow City Council area and consequently the current Glasgow Govan constituency also comprises a small part of Renfrewshire Council area (see paragraph 21). The electorates of the 4 constituencies at the start and finish of the previous and current reviews are provided at Appendix C.

Initial Considerations

2. In forming our initial proposals for Renfrewshire Council area we had in mind that, at the enumeration date of June 2001, the Council area contained 136,680 parliamentary electors, giving a theoretical entitlement of 1.95 seats. We therefore concluded that the Council area should be allocated 2 constituencies.

3. We noted that the existing Paisley North and Paisley South constituencies had remained largely unchanged from the time of the Third Periodical Review and that the whole community of Renfrew had been within Paisley North constituency since that time. We also noted that the existing West Renfrewshire constituency contained a mixture of urban and rural wards.

4. We examined whether it was possible to include, in a single constituency, the built-up areas of the existing Paisley North and Paisley South constituencies. However, such a constituency would greatly exceed the electoral quota. We therefore decided to consider proposals which would meet the electoral quota and, as far as practicable, maintain existing community relationships.

5. We concluded that combining wards 32-40 (9 of the 10 wards within Renfrewshire which form a substantial element of the existing West Renfrewshire constituency) with wards 1, 4, 5, 18-20 and 26-30 (11 of the 15 wards from the existing Paisley North constituency), to form a new North Renfrewshire and Paisley North constituency, would

produce a constituency with an appropriate number of electors which effectively retained the existing links between the majority of wards and communities. The 4 wards, which under our proposals would be transferred from the existing Paisley North constituency, are geographically small and are situated at the centre of the contiguous built-up area. We noted that this proposed constituency has strong communication links between communities such as Renfrew, Erskine, Bishopton and Langbank which stretch along the constituency's northern boundary at the River Clyde. Similarly, there are strong links between Bridge of Weir, Crosslee, Houston, Craigends, Brookfield and Linwood. Further, there are good communication links between all of the major settlements within the proposed constituency.

6. In our proposed South Renfrewshire and Paisley South constituency, Paisley and Johnstone form, by and large, a contiguous built-up area with correspondingly good communication links. To the southwest of the proposed constituency, the two large settlements, Howwood and Lochwinnoch, both have direct communication links with the constituency's built-up area.

Provisional Proposals

7. On 7 February 2002 we published our provisional proposals for 2 county constituencies for Renfrewshire Council area as follows:

Constituencies	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
North Renfrewshire and Paisley North CC	Electoral wards in Renfrewshire Council area	
	1 Shortroods	3,026
	4 Linwood East	3,597
	5 Linwood West	3,594
	18 Gallowhill and Whitehaugh	3,804
	19 Sandyford	3,216
	20 Ralston	3,736
	26 Blythswood	3,164
	27 Deanside	3,454
	28 Townhead	3,256
	29 Arkleston and Newmains	3,387
	30 Moorpark	2,902
	32 Bridge of Weir South and Brookfield	3,442
	33 Kilbarchan	3,222
	34 Bridge of Weir North and Craigends	3,999
	35 Houston and Langbank	3,096
	36 Erskine S.E. and Inchinnan	3,804
	37 Parkmains	3,562

	38	Erskine Central	3,516
	39	Erskine West	3,543
	40	Bishopton	3,535
		Total	68,855
South Renfrewshire and Paisley South CC		Electoral wards in Renfrewshire Council area	
	2	St. James	2,848
	3	Ferguslie	3,009
	6	Brediland	3,085
	7	Foxbar	3,520
	8	Stanely	3,722
	9	Glenburn South	3,666
	10	Glenburn North	3,431
	11	Paisley Central	3,076
	12	Lounsdale and Millarston	3,413
	13	Castlehead	3,648
	14	Saucel and Hunterhill	3,385
	15	Lochfield	3,558
	16	Seedhill	3,102
	17	Blackhall and Hawkhead	3,300
	21	Johnstone Central	3,343
	22	Johnstone Cochranemill	3,575
	23	Johnstone Castle	3,322
	24	Johnstone West	3,235
	25	Elderslie	3,623
	31	Lochwinnoch and Howwood	3,964
		Total	67,825

Representations on Provisional Proposals

8. During the statutory consultation period, we received 46 representations, including one from Renfrewshire Council, and 2 petitions with a total of approximately 450 names regarding our provisional proposals. Most objections focused on the following main issues:

8.1 The creation of 2 alternative constituencies comprising wards 1-20 and 21-40 respectively.

8.2 The creation of 2 alternative constituencies, one comprising wards 6-20 and 27-30 and the other comprising wards 1-5, 21-26 and 31-40.

8.3 A minor amendment involving the transfer of 2 wards (ward 3 and ward 33) between the proposed constituencies, the net effect of which would be to alter the geography of the constituencies whilst maintaining the balance of the electorate.

Local Inquiry

9. As a consequence of the objection to our proposals from Renfrewshire Council, as well as the number of electors objecting, we recognised that we had a statutory duty to hold a local inquiry. At our request you agreed to appoint Sheriff Principal B A Kerr QC, Sheriff Principal of North Strathclyde, as Assistant Commissioner at the inquiry into our provisional proposals. The inquiry was held in Paisley Town Hall, Abbey Close, Paisley, on 19 September 2002.

10. In the period up to the start of the local inquiry the number of representations received increased to 47. All the representations were seen by the Assistant Commissioner and copies were made available at the inquiry.

11. Following the inquiry, a verbatim transcript of the proceedings and the Assistant Commissioner's Report were made available on our web site.

Assistant Commissioner's Report and Recommendations

12. In his Report to us, the Assistant Commissioner agreed that Renfrewshire Council area should comprise 2 constituencies wholly contained within the Council area.

13. In considering whether it is necessary or desirable to re-unite Paisley in a single constituency, the Assistant Commissioner was not persuaded by the evidence heard at the inquiry or by the other representations received. It was not clear to him that there would be much to be gained by re-unification, or much to be lost by the continuation of the present division of Paisley between two constituencies. In the Assistant Commissioner's view, there was no clear need for all the villages of Renfrewshire to be retained together in a single constituency, nor was there any compelling reason for thinking it especially desirable. He considered that what the villages of Renfrewshire seemed chiefly to have in common was not so much ties with each other as a relationship to the large urban area, including Paisley, to the east. In considering whether it was desirable to have a truly rural constituency of villages, he expressed the view that a large degree of artificiality in the counter-proposals became apparent in that wards 21-40 included 10 urban wards covering Renfrew and Johnstone together with Elderslie.

14. In considering the alternative proposal by the Scottish National Party, the Assistant Commissioner noted that this was based upon a concept of joining Paisley with Renfrew and using the White Cart Water as a boundary between the urban and the supposedly rural constituency. He concluded that this approach was even more unsatisfactory, since it located 3 wards of Paisley's urban area in the rural constituency. He considered the proposal by Councillor Bruce McFee and others, who did not offer evidence at the inquiry, as being no more satisfactory, because it placed the whole of Renfrew, and 3 wards from the built-up

area of Paisley, within the rural constituency. The Assistant Commissioner considered the petition received from the villages of Lochwinnoch and Howwood requesting that they should be associated in a constituency with other Renfrewshire villages. He noted that they would be disappointed with his decision but he was not persuaded that there truly existed a sufficient connection between all of the villages to justify their inclusion within a single constituency, even if there was a satisfactory method of doing so.

15. Having come to the view that our general approach involving two constituencies with a mixed urban/rural composition was correct, the Assistant Commissioner considered that our proposal to include ward 3 (Ferguslie) in the proposed South Renfrewshire and Paisley South constituency would be an unnecessary breaking of significant local ties which currently exist between Ferguslie and Shortroods. He therefore recommended that ward 3 should be transferred to the proposed North Renfrewshire and Paisley North constituency. Similarly, the Assistant Commissioner concluded that Kilbarchan has strong local ties with Johnstone and, as a consequence, recommended that ward 33 (Kilbarchan) should be transferred to the proposed South Renfrewshire and Paisley South constituency. He noted also that the transfer of these 2 wards brought the electoral numbers of the 2 proposed constituencies closer together.

16. The Assistant Commissioner commented that no one at the inquiry had made any suggestions regarding the names of the proposed constituencies. However, he considered the proposed names to be somewhat long and unwieldy by virtue of the inclusion in each of the word “North” or “South” not once but twice. The Assistant Commissioner, therefore, recommended that the constituencies should bear the names “Paisley and Renfrewshire North” and “Paisley and Renfrewshire South”.

Consideration of the Assistant Commissioner’s Report and Recommendations

17. We carefully considered the Assistant Commissioner’s Report detailing the case made at the inquiry for creating a single constituency containing all of the contiguous built-up area of Paisley and what was perceived as a rural constituency comprising the remainder of the Council area. We noted his strongly expressed view that there was no compelling case for attempting to achieve a reunification of the former Burgh of Paisley in a single constituency or for including all or most of the villages of Renfrewshire together in a single rural constituency. We agreed with his views that, whilst it would be possible to achieve the reunification of Paisley in a single constituency, 10 of the wards covering the remainder of the Council area were by nature urban and, therefore, contrary to what those who had opposed our provisional proposals had argued, there was no satisfactory method available of creating a wholly rural constituency.

18. We therefore agreed with the Assistant Commissioner’s principal recommendation that we should proceed with our provisional proposals subject only to 3 modifications.

19. We accepted the Assistant Commissioner’s recommendations that ward 3 (Ferguslie) should be contained within the northern constituency and ward 33 (Kilbarchan) should be contained within the proposed southern constituency.

20. We accepted the Assistant Commissioner's recommended amendments to the constituency names and agreed that the names should be "Paisley and Renfrewshire North" and "Paisley and Renfrewshire South".

Publication of Revised Recommendations

21. On 17 July 2003, we published a notice announcing that, having considered the Assistant Commissioner's Report, we had decided to revise our provisional recommendations for parliamentary constituencies in Renfrewshire Council area. The notice also stated that the boundary between Renfrewshire Council area ward 27 (Deanside) and Glasgow City Council area ward 51 (Drumoyne) had been amended by The Glasgow City Council and Renfrewshire Council Boundaries (Braehead) Amendment Order 2002. No electors were affected by this administrative boundary change. This small boundary change in the Braehead area was incorporated into our revised recommendations which were:

Constituencies	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Paisley and Renfrewshire North CC	Electoral wards in Renfrewshire Council area	
	1 Shortroods	3,026
	3 Ferguslie	3,009
	4 Linwood East	3,597
	5 Linwood West	3,594
	18 Gallowhill and Whitehaugh	3,804
	19 Sandyford	3,216
	20 Ralston	3,736
	26 Blythswood	3,164
	27 Deanside	3,454
	28 Townhead	3,256
	29 Arkleston and Newmains	3,387
	30 Moorpark	2,902
	32 Bridge of Weir South and Brookfield	3,442
	34 Bridge of Weir North and Craigends	3,999
	35 Houston and Langbank	3,096
	36 Erskine S.E. and Inchinnan	3,804
	37 Parkmains	3,562
	38 Erskine Central	3,516
	39 Erskine West	3,543
	40 Bishopton	3,535
	Total	68,642

Paisley and Renfrewshire South CC	Electoral wards in Renfrewshire Council area		
	2	St. James	2,848
	6	Brediland	3,085
	7	Foxbar	3,520
	8	Stanely	3,722
	9	Glenburn South	3,666
	10	Glenburn North	3,431
	11	Paisley Central	3,076
	12	Lounsdale and Millarston	3,413
	13	Castlehead	3,648
	14	Saucel and Hunterhill	3,385
	15	Lochfield	3,558
	16	Seedhill	3,102
	17	Blackhall and Hawkhead	3,300
	21	Johnstone Central	3,343
	22	Johnstone Cochranemill	3,575
	23	Johnstone Castle	3,322
	24	Johnstone West	3,235
	25	Elderslie	3,623
	31	Lochwinnoch and Howwood	3,964
	33	Kilbarchan	3,222
	Total		68,038

Representations on Revised Recommendations

22. Following publication of our revised recommendations, we received 9 representations. The representations fell broadly into the following categories:

22.1 Seven representations supported our revised recommendations.

22.2 One representation indicated disappointment that our proposals resulted in large rural areas being swamped by urban Paisley.

22.3 One representation objected to the constituency names.

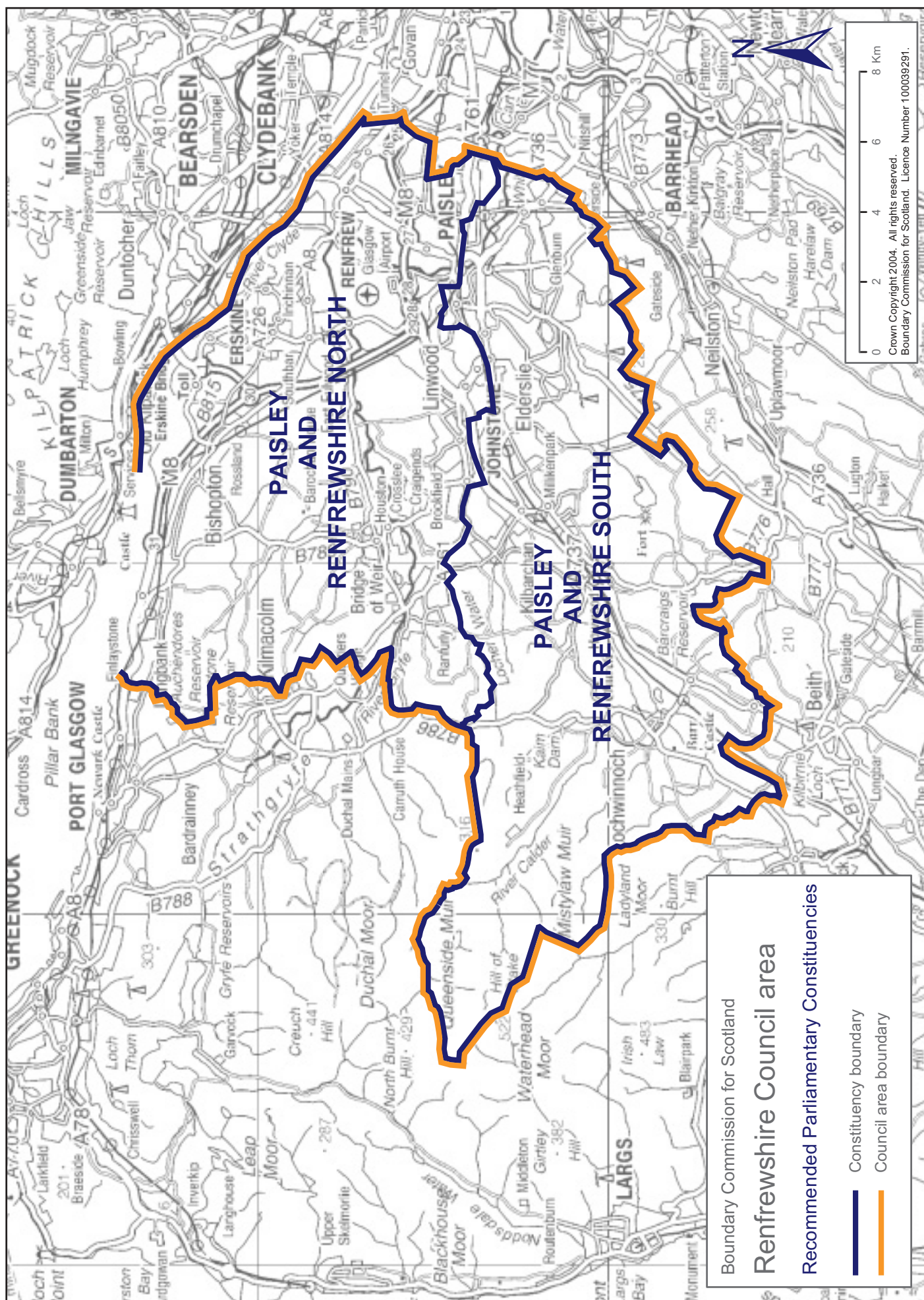
Consideration of Representations on Revised Recommendations

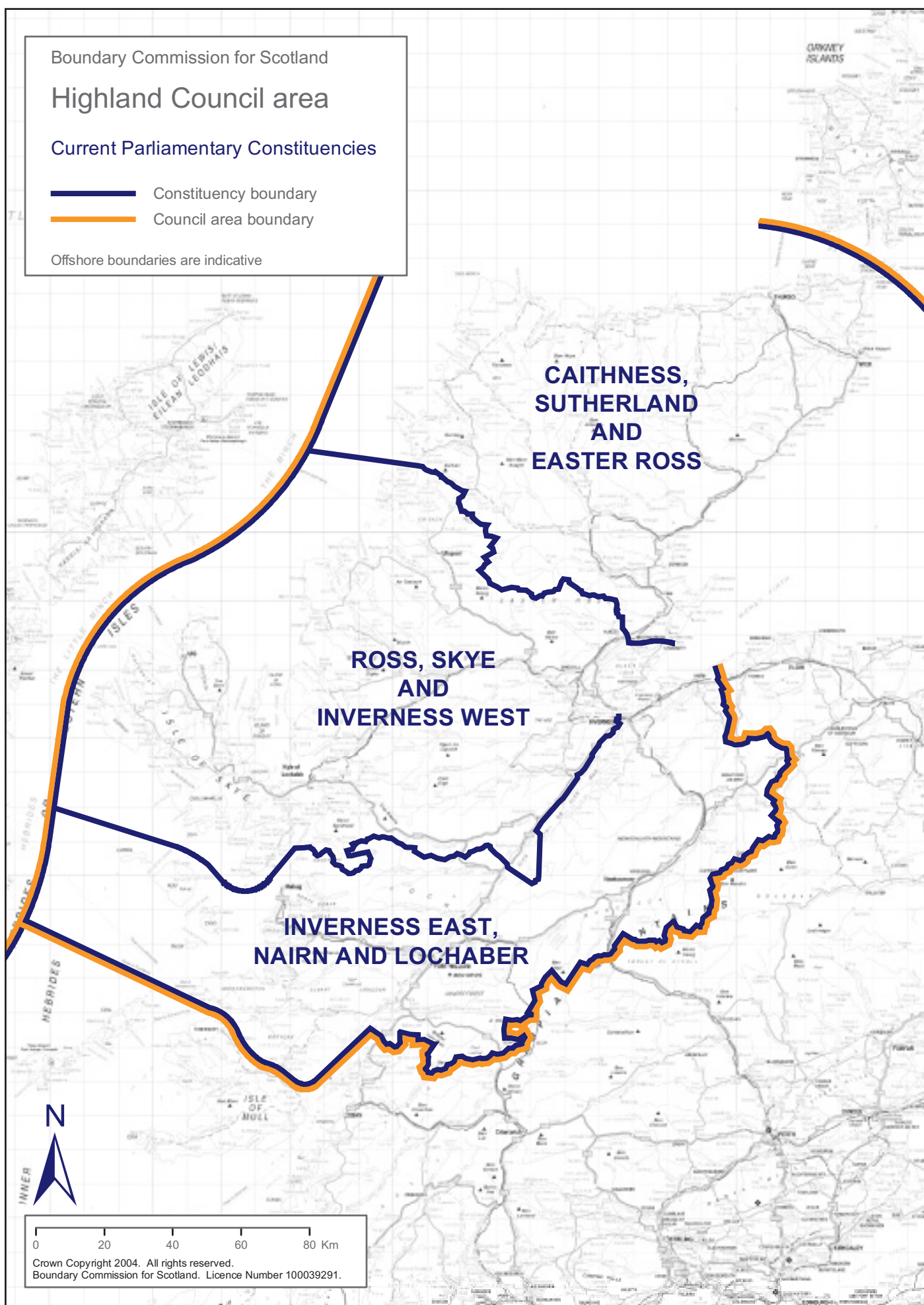
23. We noted the single expression of disappointment with our revised recommendations and the objection to the constituency names. However, our revised recommendations incorporated all the changes arising from the Assistant Commissioner's Report of the local inquiry and we agreed that the number and nature of the representations received did not require us to make any further amendments to our proposals.

Final Recommendations

24. On 11 December 2003 we announced that we were making no further changes to our proposals for 2 county constituencies in Renfrewshire Council area and that these were our final recommendations.

25. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our proposals for 2 county constituencies for the Council area of Renfrewshire, as set out in paragraph 21 above.





Highland Council Area

Introduction

1. Highland Council area currently comprises 3 county constituencies. The electorates of the 3 constituencies at the start and finish of the previous and current reviews are provided at Appendix C.

Initial Considerations

2. In forming our initial proposals for Highland Council area, we had in mind the following considerations:

2.1 At the enumeration date of June 2001, Highland Council area contained 163,867 parliamentary electors, giving the Council area a theoretical entitlement of 2.3 seats.

2.2 In terms of geographical size, Highland Council area has the 3 largest constituencies in Scotland.

2.3 In considering our wider review of constituencies in Scotland, we had earlier examined the possibility of combining Highland Council area wards 35-39 (largely the Isle of Skye but including a small part of the mainland around Kyle of Lochalsh) with Na h-Eileanan an Iar Council area to form an enlarged Western Isles constituency. However, a similar proposal made at the time of the Third Periodical Review was rejected following a local inquiry. We concluded that arguments against the proposal which were made at the local inquiry in 1981 remained as strong now as they were at that time. Accordingly, we did not further pursue this possibility.

3. We recognised that it would not be practicable, for geographical reasons, to design 2 constituencies within Highland Council area. We resolved, therefore, that Highland Council area should continue to comprise 3 constituencies.

4. We noted that, whilst there were considerable disparities between the electorates of the existing constituencies, the land areas were broadly comparable, ranging between 32 per cent and 35 per cent of the total area. We also noted that the town of Inverness was currently split between 2 constituencies and that the existing Inverness East, Nairn and Lochaber constituency covered 33 per cent of the Council area with approximately 66,900 electors, compared with 41,200 and 56,300 electors in the existing Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, and Ross, Skye and Lochaber constituencies respectively.

5. We concluded, therefore, that we should consider the possibility of creating a constituency that contained all the contiguous built-up area of Inverness and closely approximated the electoral quota. In view of the substantial increase in the electoral quota, we believed that such a constituency might not be dissimilar in terms of geographical size from constituencies comprising an urban/rural mix of electorate in other parts of Scotland. Further, we considered that, although the geographical size of the remaining 2 constituencies in Highland Council area would remain substantially larger than other mainland constituencies, the revised electorates would be significantly below the electoral quota and that a better balance between the electorates might be achieved.

6. We considered a number of options, but concluded that the wards in the existing Ross, Skye and Inverness West constituency, which either converged on or were contained within the town of Inverness, together with the wards lying immediately to the east and south of Inverness, offered the best solution in terms of both electorate and geography for a constituency which incorporated all of the contiguous built-up area of Inverness. To restore a balance between the electorate in the remainder of the Council area, we transferred an area around Evanton and Alness from the existing Ross, Skye and Inverness West constituency to the existing Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross constituency to form a new Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross constituency. To form the proposed Ross, Skye and Lochaber constituency, the remainder of the existing Ross, Skye and Inverness West constituency was complemented by the addition of wards 73-80 which formed the southernmost extremity of the existing Inverness East, Nairn and Lochaber constituency in the area of Fort William, Glencoe, Moidart, Morvern and Ardnamurchan.

Provisional Proposals

7. On 7 February 2002 we published our provisional proposals for 3 county constituencies for Highland Council area as follows:

Constituencies	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross CC	Electoral wards in Highland Council area	
	1 Caithness North West	1,870
	2 Thurso West	2,033
	3 Thurso Central	2,064
	4 Thurso East	2,024
	5 Caithness Central	2,118
	6 Caithness North East	1,983
	7 Wick	2,049
	8 Wick West	2,049
	9 Pulteneytown	1,935
	10 Caithness South East	1,932
	11 Sutherland North West	1,628
	12 Tongue and Farr	1,245
	13 Sutherland Central	1,941

14	Golspie and Rogart	1,685
15	Brora	2,124
16	Dornoch Firth	2,194
18	Alness and Ardross	2,279
19	Tain West	2,177
20	Tain East	2,019
21	Seaboard	2,042
22	Invergordon	2,176
23	Rosskeen and Saltburn	2,489
26	Ferindonald	2,477
	Total	46,533

Inverness and Badenoch CC Electoral wards in Highland Council area

42	Kirkhill	2,464
43	Scorguie	2,313
44	Muirtown	2,167
45	Merkinch	2,095
46	Inverness Central	2,238
47	Culloden	2,336
48	Ardersier, Croy and Petty	2,231
49	Loch Ness West	2,128
50	Inverness West	2,079
51	Canal	2,178
52	Ballifeary	2,225
53	Lochardil	2,251
54	Hilton	2,115
55	Milton	2,249
56	Crown	2,388
57	Raigmore	1,909
58	Loch Ness East	2,087
59	Culduthel	2,585
60	Inshes	2,150
61	Drumossie	2,498
62	Westhill and Smithton	2,319
63	Balloch	2,415
64	Nairn Alltan	2,199
65	Nairn Ninian	2,291
66	Nairn Cawdor	2,138
67	Nairn Auldearn	2,210
68	Badenoch West	1,685
69	Badenoch East	1,825
70	Strathspey South	2,040
71	Strathspey North East	2,084
72	Grantown on Spey	1,898
	Total	67,790

Ross, Skye and Lochaber CC	Electoral wards in Highland Council area	
	17 Lochbroom	1,712
	24 Gairloch	1,747
	25 Lochcarron	1,502
	27 Strathpeffer and Strathconon	1,972
	28 Dingwall South	1,848
	29 Dingwall North	2,382
	30 Muir of Ord	2,319
	31 Conon and Maryburgh	2,326
	32 Knockbain and Killearnan	2,168
	33 Black Isle North	2,241
	34 Avoch Fortrose	2,722
	35 Snizort and Trotternish	1,751
	36 Skye West	1,547
	37 Portree	1,753
	38 Skye Central	1,509
	39 Kyle and Sleat	1,661
	40 Kinlochshiel	1,440
	41 Beaully and Strathglass	1,967
	73 Mallaig and Small Isles	1,479
	74 Kilmallie and Invergarry	1,755
	75 Claggan and Glen Spean	1,625
	76 Ardnamurchan and Morvern	1,607
	77 Caol	2,383
	78 Fort William North	2,028
	79 Fort William South	1,821
	80 Glencoe	2,279
	Total	49,544

Representations on Provisional Proposals

8. During the statutory consultation period, we received 79 representations regarding our provisional proposals for Highland Council area.

9. Our proposals were supported by 57 representations, although the majority, including Highland Council, David Stewart MP, the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, the Scottish Liberal Democrats, and Inverness East and Nairn Liberal Democrats, requested that “Nairn” should form part of the proposed Inverness and Badenoch constituency name.

10. Inverness West Scottish National Party contended that our proposals could not be justified. Alternatively, it proposed that Lochaber remain in the current constituency of Inverness East, Nairn and Lochaber and that the urban area of Inverness remain split, moving wards north and west of the River Ness into the present Ross, Skye and Inverness West

constituency. A further 11 representations supported this alternative. Lochbroom and Coigach Branch Scottish National Party considered that our proposals for Highland Council area were unnecessary and 3 representations considered that there was no justification for increasing the size of Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross constituency.

11. Four representations objected to the proposed Ross, Skye and Lochaber constituency on the grounds that it was geographically too large. Additionally, the Rt Hon Charles Kennedy MP commented that, although he did not oppose our proposals, he considered that the sheer size of the constituency would create unique challenges for whoever represented it.

12. Kiltarlity Community Council submitted a representation expressing concern that, under our proposals, Kiltarlity Community Council area was divided between the proposed Ross, Skye and Lochaber constituency and Inverness and Badenoch constituency.

13. Following the end of the statutory consultation period, we received 2 further representations. The Scottish Labour Party supported our proposals for constituency boundaries in Highland Council area but requested that “Nairn” be included in the name of the proposed Inverness and Badenoch constituency. The second representation objected to our proposals.

Consideration of Representations on Provisional Proposals

14. We noted that Highland Council did not object to the boundaries set out in our provisional proposals, although it indicated that the proposed Inverness East and Lochaber constituency should be renamed “Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey”. We noted also that the majority of representations supported our proposals but asked that “Nairn” be included in the name of the proposed Inverness and Badenoch constituency. We agreed that the number and nature of the representations objecting to our proposals did not justify a local inquiry.

15. We considered the counter-proposals submitted by Inverness West Scottish National Party. We were, however, mindful that the majority of representations, including that from Highland Council, supported the boundaries set out in our provisional proposals. We concluded that, if we were to adopt the counter-proposal, it would be necessary to split ward 46 (Inverness Central) or allocate this town centre ward to either a revised Inverness West or Inverness East constituency. Our general policy is that whole wards should form the building blocks for revised constituencies. We agreed, therefore, that ward 46 should not be split between 2 constituencies. Recognising the general support for the boundaries we proposed, we also agreed that we should not revise our provisional proposals in line with the counter-proposals offered by Inverness West Scottish National Party.

16. With regard to the 3 representations specifically concerning Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross constituency, we noted there had been no significant demand to maintain the existing constituency boundaries. Further, in light of our proposals for a constituency which contained all of the town of Inverness, we took the view that our provisional proposals for the remainder of Highland Council area offered a better balance of electorate between the two rural constituencies.

17. In considering the representation from Kiltarlity Community Council, we noted that the boundaries for Community Council areas are determined by Councils in consultation with local communities and, as such, are subject to change from time-to-time. In addition, to incorporate all of Kiltarlity Community Council area within a single constituency would require splitting a ward between 2 constituencies. In view of our general policy regarding the use of whole wards as building blocks for constituencies, we decided that we should not adjust our provisional proposals.

18. We therefore decided that the boundaries for the constituencies set out in our provisional proposals for Highland Council area should not be amended. However, in light of the representations received regarding the omission of “Nairn” from the proposed Inverness and Badenoch constituency name, we agreed to amend the name of that constituency to “Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey”, as proposed by Highland Council.

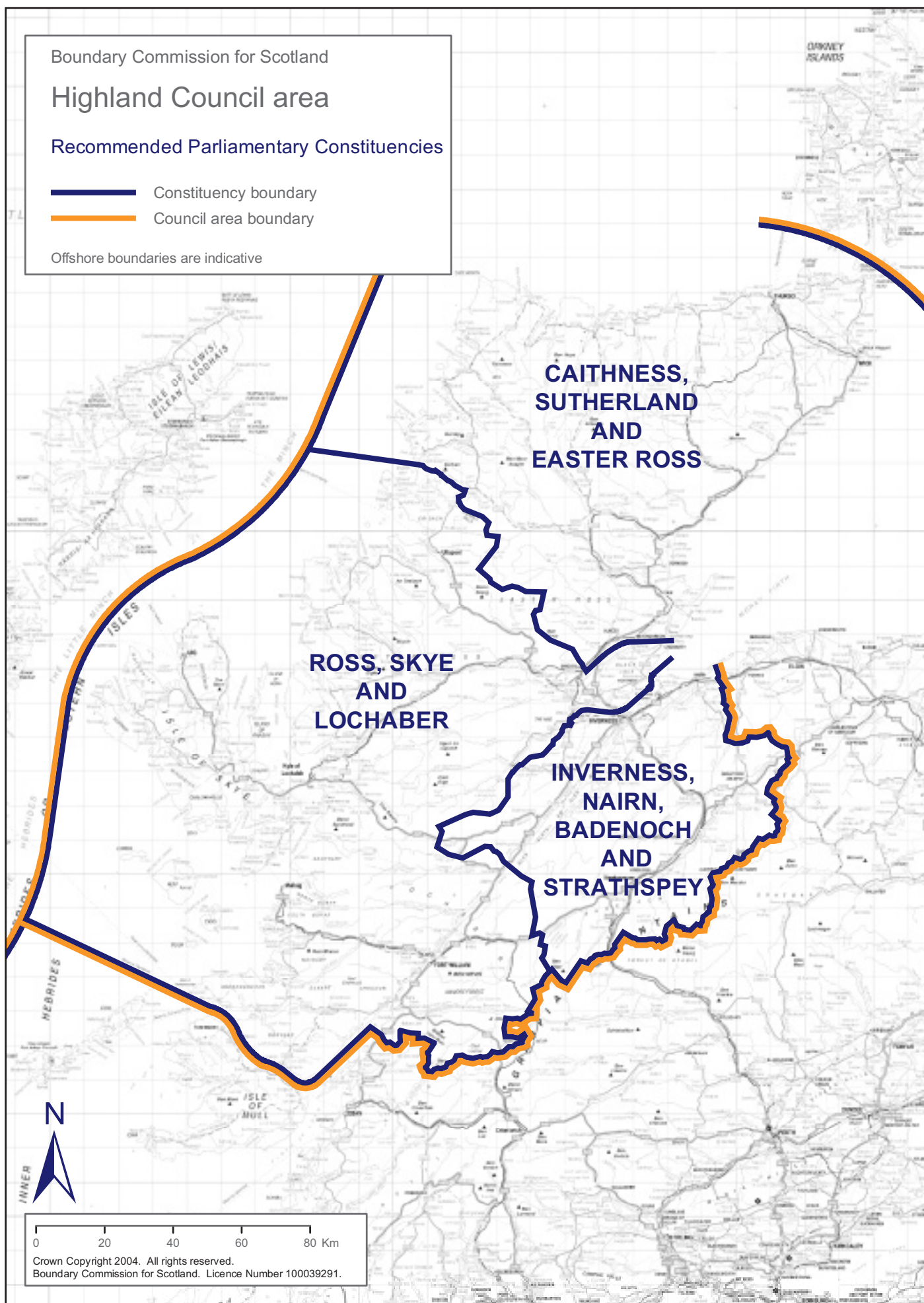
Publication of Revised Recommendations

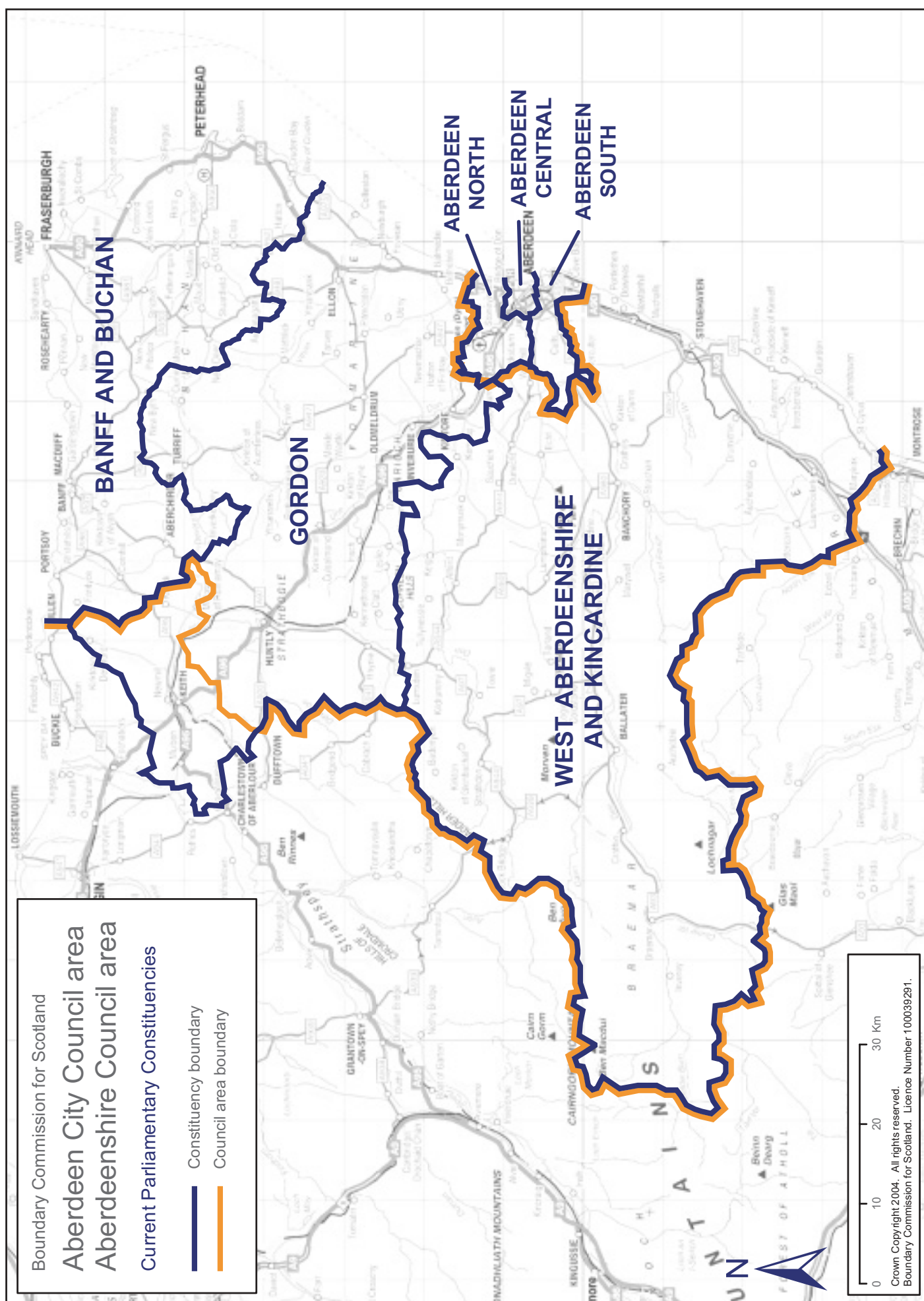
19. On 23 October 2003 we published our revised recommendations adopting the name “Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey”. Following publication of our revised recommendations, no representations were received.

Final Recommendations

20. On 11 December 2003 we announced that we were making no changes to our revised recommendations for 3 county constituencies covering Highland Council area and that these were our final recommendations.

21. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our proposals for 3 county constituencies for Highland Council area, as set out in paragraph 7 above, subject only to changing the name of Inverness and Badenoch county constituency to Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey county constituency.





Aberdeen City Council Area and Aberdeenshire Council Area

Introduction

1. Aberdeen City Council area is currently covered by 3 burgh constituencies, 2 of which are contained wholly within the Council area. A very small part of the third, Aberdeen North, lies in Aberdeenshire Council area. Aberdeenshire Council area is currently covered by 4 constituencies. Banff and Buchan county constituency and West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine county constituency are wholly contained within Aberdeenshire Council area. Gordon county constituency also comprises part of Moray Council area, although approximately 90 per cent of the electorate of the constituency is within Aberdeenshire Council area. During the course of the Review there was an amendment to the boundary between Aberdeen City Council area and Aberdeenshire Council area and consequently the current Aberdeen North burgh constituency also comprises a very small part of Aberdeenshire Council area containing 47 electors (see paragraph 23). The electorates of the 6 constituencies at the start and finish of the previous and current reviews are provided at Appendix C.

Initial Considerations

2. In forming our provisional proposals for Aberdeen City Council area and Aberdeenshire Council area we had in mind the following considerations:

2.1 At the enumeration date of June 2001, Aberdeen City Council area contained 163,156 parliamentary electors, giving the Council area a theoretical entitlement of 2.3 seats.

2.2 At the enumeration date of June 2001, Aberdeenshire Council area contained 173,613 parliamentary electors, giving the Council area a theoretical entitlement of 2.5 seats.

2.3 The combined electorate for Aberdeen City Council area and Aberdeenshire Council area was 336,769, giving a theoretical entitlement of 4.8 seats.

3. We noted that, if within each Council area the theoretical number of seats was rounded up or down, this would result in revised constituencies which would, on average, deviate from the electoral quota by more than 15 per cent, which we considered unacceptable.

However, providing 5 constituencies for the combined Council areas allowed the formulation of provisional recommendations for revised constituencies which, on average, would be around 4 per cent below the electoral quota. Accordingly, we decided that the combined Council areas should be allocated 5 constituencies.

4. At the time of the Third Periodical Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Scotland, parts of the area now covered by Aberdeen City Council had been included in both the Gordon constituency and the Kincardine and Deeside constituency. The remainder of the City was divided into two constituencies on a north/south basis. It seemed, therefore, that although a number of options for designing revised constituencies were possible, there was potential to re-unite part of Aberdeen City Council area with the existing Gordon constituency and divide the remainder of the urban area on a north/south basis to form two burgh constituencies. We considered that adopting this approach would provide scope for constituencies which closely approximated to the electoral quota and reduced the need for more than one constituency to straddle the boundary between Aberdeen City Council area and Aberdeenshire Council area. Accordingly, we proposed that Aberdeen City Council area wards 1-7 should be transferred to form part of a revised Gordon constituency; that Aberdeen City Council area wards 8-24 and 28 should form a constituency to be named Aberdeen North with 66,642 electors; and that the remaining Aberdeen City Council area wards 25-27 and 29-43 should be combined to form a revised Aberdeen South constituency with 69,332 electors.

5. At the start of our review, the existing Banff and Buchan constituency comprised wards 1-24 within Aberdeenshire Council area with around 58,000 electors. We concluded that Aberdeenshire Council area wards 25-28 should be added to the existing Banff and Buchan constituency, effectively returning to it an area comprising Turriff, Upper Ythan and Fyvie/Methlick, which had largely been incorporated within that constituency prior to the Fourth Periodical Review. This raised the electorate of the proposed constituency to around 66,000. However, we noted a continuing downward trend in the electorate in the existing Banff and Buchan constituency which contrasted with recent trends elsewhere in the combined Council areas. Bearing in mind the geography, topography, settlement patterns and communication links within and across the combined Council areas, we agreed that the revised Banff and Buchan constituency could be further increased in size. We examined a number of options and concluded that an area comprising Aberdeenshire Council area wards 48 (Huntly West) and 49 (Huntly East) lying to the south and west of wards 25-28 offered the best solution. Accordingly, we agreed that these 2 wards should be included in the revised Banff and Buchan constituency. Including these 2 wards in the revised constituency increased the electorate to 71,275. We also agreed that the constituency name should be revised to "Banff, Buchan and Huntly", which better reflected the geography of the area.

6. In considering options for constituencies in the remainder of Aberdeenshire Council area, we noted that ward 45 (Kinellar and Westhill North) and ward 50 (Strathbogie) lay partly within both the existing Gordon constituency and the existing West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine constituency. Our general policy is that wards should be wholly contained within a single constituency. Therefore, we decided that ward 50, together with Aberdeenshire

Council area wards 29-42 and Aberdeen City Council area wards 1-7, should form a revised Gordon county constituency with an electorate of 67,353. We concluded also that ward 45 should be contained wholly within a revised West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine constituency together with Aberdeenshire Council area wards 43, 44, 46, 47 and 51-68. We noted that, although the electorate of the revised West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine constituency is 62,167, recent trends indicated that continued growth could be expected.

Provisional Proposals

7. On 7 February 2002 we published our provisional proposals for 2 burgh constituencies and 3 county constituencies in the combined Council areas of Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire as follows:

Constituencies	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Aberdeen North BC	Electoral wards in Aberdeen City Council area	
	8 Newhills	4,231
	9 Auchmill	3,781
	10 Cummings Park	3,915
	11 Springhill	3,608
	12 Mastrick	3,902
	13 Sheddocksley	3,920
	14 Summerhill	3,646
	15 Hilton	3,653
	16 Woodside	3,431
	17 St. Machar	3,335
	18 Seaton	3,409
	19 Kittybrewster	4,050
	20 Stockethill	3,645
	21 Berryden	3,476
	22 Sunnybank	3,701
	23 Pittodrie	3,231
	24 Midstocket	4,097
	28 Castlehill	3,611
	Total	66,642
Aberdeen South BC	Electoral wards in Aberdeen City Council area	
	25 Queens Cross	3,527
	26 Gilcomston	3,293

27	Langstane	3,950
29	Hazlehead	3,700
30	Peterculter	3,897
31	Murtle	3,920
32	Cults	3,817
33	Seafield	4,112
34	Ashley	3,812
35	Broomhill	3,978
36	Garthdee	3,851
37	Gairn	3,963
38	Duthie	3,812
39	Torry	3,770
40	Tullos Hill	3,859
41	Kincorth West	3,951
42	Nigg	3,778
43	Loirston	4,342
Total		69,332

Banff, Buchan and Huntly CC

Electoral wards in Aberdeenshire
Council area

1	Durn	2,315
2	Banff West and Boyndie	2,244
3	Banff	2,331
4	Aberchirder	2,265
5	Macduff	2,185
6	Gamrie-King Edward	2,409
7	Buchan North	2,286
8	Fraserburgh West	2,284
9	Fraserburgh North	2,286
10	Fraserburgh East	2,306
11	Fraserburgh South	2,511
12	Buchan North East	2,164
13	South Buchan	2,453
14	Central Buchan	2,614
15	Lonmay and St Fergus	2,378
16	Mintlaw-Old Deer	2,300
17	Mintlaw-Longside	2,353
18	Boddam-Inverugie	2,717
19	Blackhouse	2,661
20	Buchanhaven	2,388
21	Peterhead Central-Roanheads	2,172
22	Clerkhill	2,537

23	Dales-Towerhill	2,373
24	Cruden	2,342
25	Turriff West	2,508
26	Turriff East	2,048
27	Upper Ythan	2,219
28	Fyvie-Methlick	2,321
48	Huntly West	2,416
49	Huntly East	2,889

Total	71,275
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Gordon CC

Electoral wards in Aberdeen City
Council area

1	Pitmedden	3,950
2	Bankhead/Stoneywood	3,959
3	Danestone	4,075
4	Jesmond	4,198
5	Oldmachar	4,016
6	Bridge of Don	3,957
7	Donmouth	3,027

Electoral wards in Aberdeenshire
Council area

29	Tarves	2,920
30	Ythan	2,868
31	Ellon Town	2,463
32	Logie Buchan	2,802
33	Meldrum	2,622
34	Udny-Slains	2,779
35	Belhelvie	2,676
36	Insch	2,745
37	Chapel and Gadie	2,536
38	Inverurie North	2,374
39	Inverurie Central	2,533
40	Inverurie South and Port Elphinstone	2,691
41	Kintore and Keithhall	2,680
42	Newmachar and Fintray	2,998
50	Strathbogie	2,484

Total	67,353
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West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine CC	Electoral wards in Aberdeenshire Council area	
	43	Kemnay 2,778
	44	Echt 2,712
	45	Kinellar and Westhill North 2,801
	46	Westhill Central 3,303
	47	Elrick 2,486
	51	Donside and Cromar 2,660
	52	Alford 2,719
	53	Upper Deeside 2,582
	54	Aboyne 2,646
	55	Mid Deeside 3,069
	56	Banchory West 2,695
	57	Banchory East and Crathes 2,508
	58	Lower Deeside 2,709
	59	Portlethen North 2,784
	60	Portlethen South 2,595
	61	Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore 2,579
	62	Stonehaven North and Fetteresso 2,528
	63	Stonehaven Central 2,723
	64	Stonehaven South 2,649
	65	Mearns North 2,645
	66	Mearns Central 2,461
	67	Inverbervie, Gourdon and Johnshaven 2,746
	68	Mearns South 2,789
	Total 62,167	

Representations on Provisional Proposals

8. During the statutory consultation period, we received 54 representations, including 3 petitions with a total of approximately 630 names, regarding our provisional proposals. Most objections focused on the following main issues:

8.1 Whether to include Aberdeenshire Council area ward 48 (Huntly West) and ward 49 (Huntly East) in the Banff, Buchan and Huntly constituency.

8.2 Whether to include Aberdeen City Council area wards 1-7 in the Gordon constituency.

8.3 The proposed boundaries of the constituencies within the Aberdeen City Council area.

Local Inquiry

9. As a consequence of the objections to our proposals from the local authorities, as well as the number of electors objecting, we recognised that we had a statutory duty to hold a local inquiry. At our request, you agreed to appoint Sheriff Principal Sir Stephen S T Young, Bt QC, Sheriff Principal for Grampian, Highland and Islands, as Assistant Commissioner at the inquiry into our provisional proposals. The inquiry was held in Aberdeen Council Chambers, on 10 and 11 September 2002.

10. In the period up to the start of the local inquiry, the number of representations received increased to 60. All the representations were seen by the Assistant Commissioner and copies were made available at the inquiry.

11. Following the inquiry, a verbatim transcript of the proceedings and the Assistant Commissioner's Report were made available on our web site.

Assistant Commissioner's Report and Recommendations

12. In his Report to us, the Assistant Commissioner noted that our decision to allocate 5 constituencies to the combined council areas of Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire was accepted by all parties. It was also acknowledged that within Aberdeen City Council area there would be 2 complete constituencies and at least one other constituency comprising part of Aberdeen City Council area and part of Aberdeenshire Council area. He commented that a major point of contention at the inquiry was whether there should be one or 2 constituencies which crossed the council boundary.

13. The Assistant Commissioner concluded that, in delimiting the area of a constituency, the Rules required that we should take care to avoid crossing the boundary of a local authority area in the absence of a substantial reason for doing so. He noted that, if we did not have to take care to this extent, it was difficult to see why we should be required to have regard to boundaries of council areas in the first place. He recognised that we had stated earlier in the review that we would make every effort to keep to a minimum recommendations for constituencies which crossed local authority boundaries. He considered that, given the terms of Rule 4(1)(b) and its position in the hierarchy of rules, it could scarcely be maintained that we were not entitled to pursue this policy, provided that we took account of Rules 5, 6 and 7.

14. The Assistant Commissioner accepted that the evidence offered at the inquiry demonstrated that there were strong links between the Bridge of Don and the remainder of Aberdeen City, and that without reference to the Rules a powerful case could be made for incorporating the Bridge of Don wards in an Aberdeen City constituency. However, he believed that the argument that the 3 Deeside wards (Aberdeen City Council area ward 30 (Peterculter), ward 31 (Murtle) and ward 32 (Cults)) should similarly form part of an Aberdeen City constituency was no less strong. The Assistant Commissioner was not persuaded that any consideration with regard to Rules 6 or 7 would support a departure from the broad

proposition that, in the light of Rules 4 and 5 and the stated policy of the Commission, there should be only one constituency crossing the council boundary between Aberdeen City Council area and Aberdeenshire Council area. He stated that, in principle, it would seem appropriate that our provisional recommendation to incorporate Aberdeen City Council area wards 1-7 into the Gordon constituency should be adopted.

15. With regard to the boundary between our proposed Aberdeen North and Aberdeen South constituencies in Aberdeen City centre, the Assistant Commissioner was content with our provisional proposals. He commented that, in order for us to comply with Rule 5, we had to take a robust view of the issues. He noted that boundaries had to be drawn somewhere and in the middle of the city it is more or less inevitable that these may appear somewhat arbitrary.

16. In relation to Aberdeenshire Council area ward 48 (Huntly West) and ward 49 (Huntly East), the Assistant Commissioner concluded that these wards should be transferred from our proposed Banff, Buchan and Huntly constituency to our proposed Gordon constituency. He noted that, if the amendment was adopted without any further adjustments, there would be an excessive imbalance in the electorates between the Banff and Buchan constituency and the Gordon constituency, and also between the Gordon constituency and the West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine constituency. To correct this, he recommended that Aberdeen City Council area ward 7 (Donmouth) should be transferred from our proposed Gordon constituency to our proposed Aberdeen North constituency.

17. The Assistant Commissioner considered that the proposals of the Scottish Labour Party did not always sit easily with the Rules to which we were bound to give effect.

Consideration of the Assistant Commissioner's Report and Recommendations

18. We noted that the Assistant Commissioner concurred with our decision to design 2 constituencies contained wholly within Aberdeen City Council area, 2 constituencies contained wholly within Aberdeenshire Council area and one parliamentary constituency which crossed the boundary between the 2 council areas.

19. We noted that there was almost complete unanimity in support of the view that Aberdeenshire Council area ward 48 (Huntly West) and ward 49 (Huntly East) should be transferred from our proposed Banff, Buchan and Huntly constituency to our proposed Gordon constituency. Accordingly we agreed to amend our provisional proposals in line with the Assistant Commissioner's recommendation.

20. We also agreed with the Assistant Commissioner that there would be an imbalance of electorates if there was no compensatory transfer of wards from the enlarged constituency. The Assistant Commissioner had recommended that Aberdeen City Council area ward 7 (Donmouth) be transferred from the proposed Gordon constituency to the proposed Aberdeen North constituency in order to achieve the required balance of electorates. We

considered this recommendation carefully, being aware that ward 7 is divided by the River Don. We noted that the Assistant Commissioner's recommendation would mean that a very small part of the proposed Aberdeen North constituency would lie north of the River Don and that local ties between ward 7 and the rest of the Bridge of Don wards would be broken. We examined other options that might resolve the disparity between electorates but were not persuaded by their merits. We therefore accepted the Assistant Commissioner's recommendation with regard to ward 7 (Donmouth).

21. We noted the Assistant Commissioner's suggestion that, given a significant proportion of the electorate of the proposed Gordon constituency would be resident in the Bridge of Don area, there might be a case for renaming the constituency "Gordon and the Bridge of Don". We considered this suggestion but agreed with the Assistant Commissioner's comment that whilst the name might give explicit recognition to the Bridge of Don area, people might think it odd that the Bridge of Don itself is situated in ward 7 (Donmouth), outside the constituency. Therefore, we decided not to rename the proposed Gordon constituency.

Publication of Revised Recommendations

22. On 16 January 2003 we published a notice stating that, having considered the Assistant Commissioner's Report, we had decided to revise 3 of our proposals for parliamentary constituencies in the combined Council areas of Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire.

23. The notice also stated that the boundary between Aberdeen City Council area ward 8 (Newhills) and Aberdeenshire Council area ward 45 (Kinellar and Westhill North) had been amended by The Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council Boundaries (Blackburn) Amendment Order 2002. This administrative change transferred 47 electors from Aberdeen City Council area to Aberdeenshire Council area. This reduced the electorate of Aberdeen City Council area ward 8 (Newhills) from 4,231, when the provisional proposals were published on 7 February 2002, to an electorate of 4,184 on publication of the revised recommendations. It also increased the electorate of Aberdeenshire Council area ward 45 (Kinellar and Westhill North) from 2,801 to an electorate of 2,848. This small boundary change in the Blackburn area was incorporated into our revised recommendations which were:

Constituencies	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Aberdeen North BC	Electoral wards in Aberdeen City Council area	
	7 Donmouth	3,027
	8 Newhills	4,184
	9 Auchmill	3,781

10	Cummings Park	3,915
11	Springhill	3,608
12	Mastrick	3,902
13	Sheddocksley	3,920
14	Summerhill	3,646
15	Hilton	3,653
16	Woodside	3,431
17	St. Machar	3,335
18	Seaton	3,409
19	Kittybrewster	4,050
20	Stockethill	3,645
21	Berryden	3,476
22	Sunnybank	3,701
23	Pittodrie	3,231
24	Midstocket	4,097
28	Castlehill	3,611

Total	69,622
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Aberdeen South BC	Unaltered from provisional proposals	69,332
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Banff and Buchan CC	Electoral wards in Aberdeenshire Council area
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1	Durn	2,315
2	Banff West and Boyndie	2,244
3	Banff	2,331
4	Aberchirder	2,265
5	Macduff	2,185
6	Gamrie-King Edward	2,409
7	Buchan North	2,286
8	Fraserburgh West	2,284
9	Fraserburgh North	2,286
10	Fraserburgh East	2,306
11	Fraserburgh South	2,511
12	Buchan North East	2,164
13	South Buchan	2,453
14	Central Buchan	2,614
15	Lonmay and St Fergus	2,378
16	Mintlaw-Old Deer	2,300
17	Mintlaw-Longside	2,353
18	Boddam-Inverugie	2,717
19	Blackhouse	2,661
20	Buchanhaven	2,388

21	Peterhead Central-Roanheads	2,172
22	Clerkhill	2,537
23	Dales-Towerhill	2,373
24	Cruden	2,342
25	Turriff West	2,508
26	Turriff East	2,048
27	Upper Ythan	2,219
28	Fyvie-Methlick	2,321
	Total	65,970

Gordon CC

Electoral wards in Aberdeen City
Council area

1	Pitmedden	3,950
2	Bankhead/Stoneywood	3,959
3	Danestone	4,075
4	Jesmond	4,198
5	Oldmachar	4,016
6	Bridge of Don	3,957

Electoral wards in Aberdeenshire
Council area

29	Tarves	2,920
30	Ythan	2,868
31	Ellon Town	2,463
32	Logie Buchan	2,802
33	Meldrum	2,622
34	Udny-Slains	2,779
35	Belhelvie	2,676
36	Insch	2,745
37	Chapel and Gadie	2,536
38	Inverurie North	2,374
39	Inverurie Central	2,533
40	Inverurie South and Port Elphinstone	2,691
41	Kintore and Keithhall	2,680
42	Newmachar and Fintray	2,998
48	Huntly West	2,416
49	Huntly East	2,889
50	Strathbogie	2,484

Total	69,631
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West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine CC	Electoral wards in Aberdeenshire Council area	
	43	Kemnay 2,778
	44	Echt 2,712
	45	Kinellar and Westhill North 2,848
	46	Westhill Central 3,303
	47	Elrick 2,486
	51	Donside and Cromar 2,660
	52	Alford 2,719
	53	Upper Deeside 2,582
	54	Aboyne 2,646
	55	Mid Deeside 3,069
	56	Banchory West 2,695
	57	Banchory East and Crathes 2,508
	58	Lower Deeside 2,709
	59	Portlethen North 2,784
	60	Portlethen South 2,595
	61	Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore 2,579
	62	Stonehaven North and Fetteresso 2,528
	63	Stonehaven Central 2,723
	64	Stonehaven South 2,649
	65	Mearns North 2,645
	66	Mearns Central 2,461
	67	Inverbervie, Gourdon and Johnshaven 2,746
	68	Mearns South 2,789
	Total 62,214	

Representations on Revised Recommendations

24. Following publication of the revised recommendations, we received 31 representations, including 2 petitions containing approximately 1,110 names. Some representations remarked on more than one aspect of our revised recommendations. The representations fell broadly into the following categories:

24.1 Two representations supported our revised proposals.

24.2 Two representations supported the inclusion of Aberdeenshire Council areas wards 48 (Huntly West) and ward 49 (Huntly East) in our revised Gordon constituency.

24.3 One representation supported our revised proposal to include Aberdeen City Council area ward 7 (Donmouth) in the Aberdeen North constituency.

24.4 Two representations supported our revised proposals which included the Bridge of Don area within the revised Gordon constituency.

24.5 Two representations considered that the Assistant Commissioner had wrongly interpreted Rule 4(1)b.

24.6 One representation contended that Aberdeenshire Council area ward 50 (Strathbogie) should be included in the West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine constituency.

24.7 Twenty-two representations, including petitions containing approximately 1,110 names, objected to Aberdeen City Council area wards 3-6 (Bridge of Don area) being included in the Gordon constituency.

24.8 Seven representations objected to Aberdeen City Council area ward 7 (Donmouth) being detached from the rest of the Bridge of Don area.

24.9 Two representations objected to Aberdeen City Council area ward 24 (Midstocket) being located in a different constituency from ward 25 (Queens Cross) and ward 26 (Gilcomston).

24.10 Three representations considered that there were alternative proposals that better satisfied the statutory requirements.

24.11 Four representations contended that Aberdeen City Council area ward 30 (Peterculter), ward 31 (Murtle) and ward 32 (Cults) should be included in the West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine constituency.

Consideration of Representations on Revised Recommendations

25. With regard to Rule 4(1)(b), we were satisfied that the Assistant Commissioner had not erred in his interpretation. At the beginning of the review we stated that, because of the fundamental changes to the Rules and to comply as far as is reasonably practicable with the Rule regarding the electoral quota, we had decided that it might be necessary to make recommendations for constituencies that crossed local authority boundaries. We also stated that we would make every effort to keep such proposals to a minimum. We are content that an overall balanced constituency design has been created within the terms of the Rules by having only one constituency (Gordon) crossing the council boundary.

26. In relation to the representations regarding the inclusion of the 4 Bridge of Don wards (Aberdeen City Council area wards 3-6) in the Gordon constituency, and the inclusion of Aberdeen City Council area wards 30-32 in the Aberdeen South constituency, we considered that the issues had been fully discussed at the local inquiry and that the further representations did not advance any new arguments. We were satisfied that, in order to

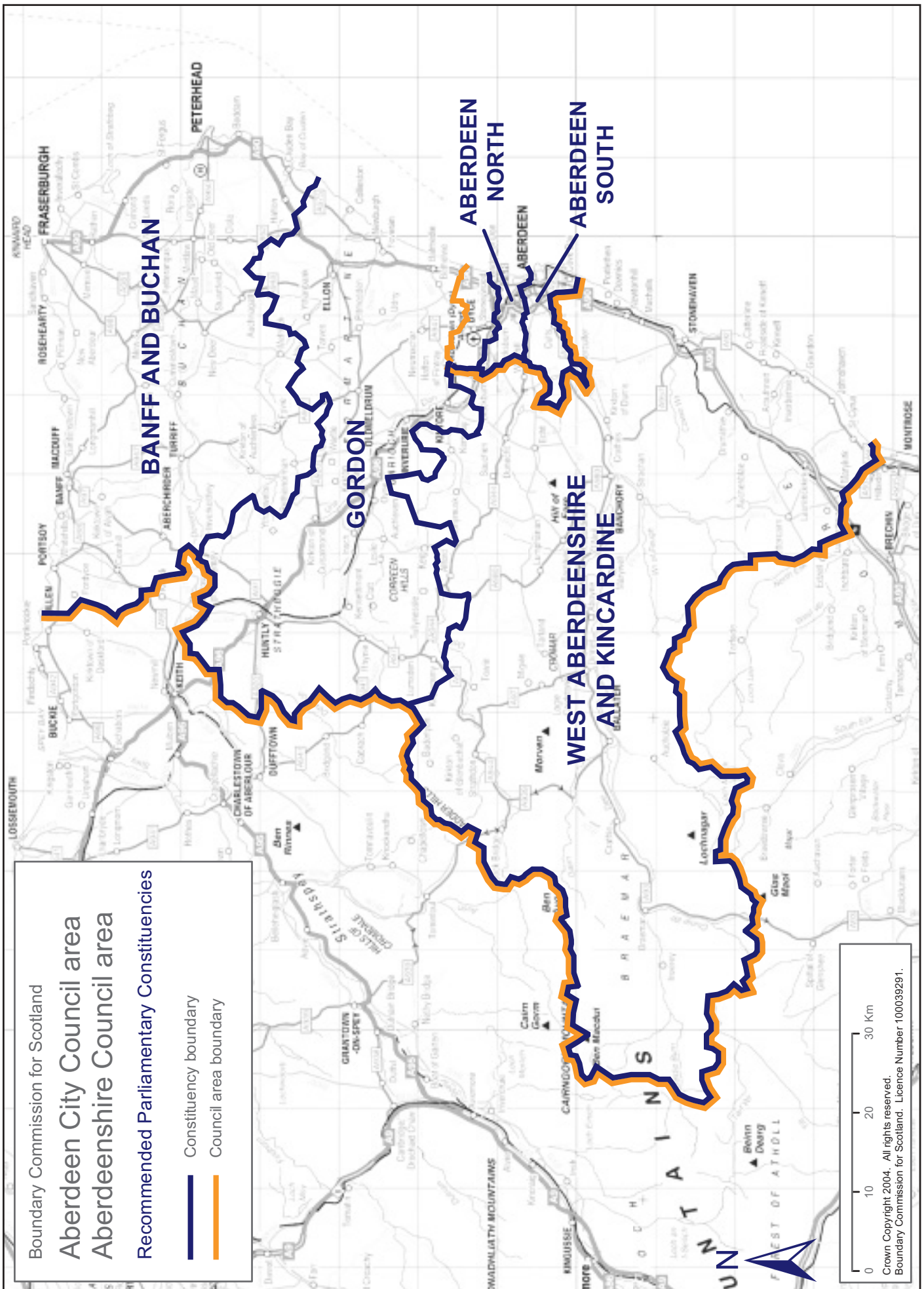
achieve a balanced solution across the combined council areas within the terms of the Rules, it was necessary to include parts of the Bridge of Don area within the Gordon constituency. We noted the strength of local feeling in the Bridge of Don area regarding our revised recommendations but we were not persuaded to amend them.

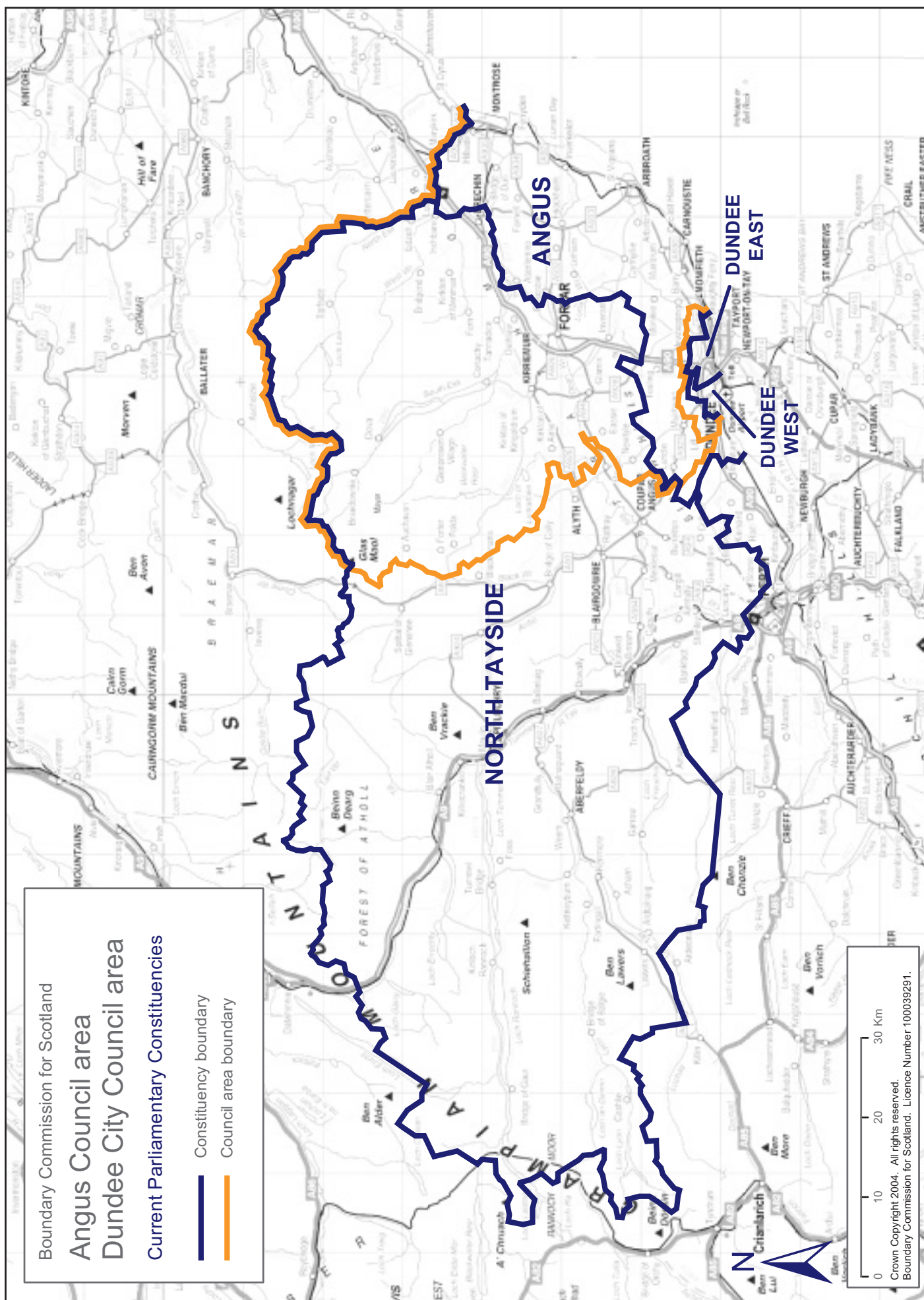
27. We considered the representations concerning the breaking of local ties between Aberdeen City Council area ward 7 (Donmouth) and the rest of the Bridge of Don area. We acknowledged that breaking these local ties was less than satisfactory but we were aware that, in order to design constituencies over a larger geographical area and to satisfy the terms of the statutory requirements, it was sometimes necessary to break ties between wards in some areas. We therefore concluded that the inclusion of ward 7 in the recommended Aberdeen North constituency was a necessary part of the constituency design in the combined council areas. Similarly, we decided against making any amendments to our recommendations for Aberdeen City Council area ward 24 (Midstocket) in relation to ward 25 (Queens Cross) and ward 26 (Gilcomston).

Final recommendations

28. On 11 December 2003 we announced that we were making no further changes to our proposals for 2 burgh constituencies and 3 county constituencies covering Aberdeen City Council area and Aberdeenshire Council area and that these were to be our final recommendations.

29. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our proposals for 2 burgh and 3 county constituencies for Aberdeen City Council area and Aberdeenshire Council area, as set out in paragraph 23 above.





Angus Council Area and Dundee City Council Area

Introduction

1. Angus Council area is currently covered by 2 county constituencies, part of Angus county constituency, which covers approximately 67 per cent of the electorate, and part of North Tayside county constituency, which covers the remaining 33 per cent. Dundee City Council area is currently covered by 2 burgh constituencies, which are wholly contained within the Council area, and also by part of Angus county constituency, but only some 0.4 per cent of the total electorate of Dundee Council area is in this constituency. The electorates of these constituencies at the start and end of the previous and current reviews are shown at Appendix C.

Initial Considerations

2. In forming our initial proposals for Angus Council area and Dundee City Council area we had in mind the following considerations:

2.1 At the enumeration date of June 2001, Angus Council area contained 85,805 parliamentary electors, giving the Council area a theoretical entitlement of 1.2 seats.

2.2 At the enumeration date of June 2001, Dundee City Council area contained 111,596 parliamentary electors, giving the Council area a theoretical entitlement of 1.6 seats.

2.3 The combined parliamentary electorate of Angus Council area and Dundee City Council area was 197,401, giving a theoretical entitlement of 2.8 seats.

3. We noted that, if the theoretical number of seats was rounded down, this would result in a single constituency in Angus Council area which would deviate by +23 per cent and, if rounded up to 2, the deviation would be -39 per cent. Similarly, in Dundee City Council area the deviation from the electoral quota would be +60 per cent and -20 per cent respectively. We concluded that such significant deviations from the electoral quota were unacceptable. We also concluded that providing 3 constituencies for the combined Council areas would allow for the formulation of provisional proposals for revised constituencies which, on average, would be around 6 per cent below the electoral quota. Accordingly, we decided that the combined Council areas should be allocated 3 constituencies.

4. We examined the possibility of creating a single burgh constituency contained wholly within Dundee City Council area, comprising electoral wards which focused on the River Tay, and two county constituencies which associated parts of the remainder of Dundee Council area with adjoining parts of Angus Council area. However, after detailed consideration, we concluded that it would be more appropriate to create two burgh constituencies each of which would contain electoral wards located in Dundee City Council area and Angus Council area and a single, larger county constituency covering the remainder of Angus Council area.

5. In formulating our provisional proposals, we decided that Angus Council area ward 16, where the main communication links focus towards Dundee city, could reasonably be combined with Dundee City Council area wards 1-8, 19-23 and 26-29 to form a Dundee West burgh constituency with 67,751 electors. We decided also that the remainder of Dundee City Council area, comprising wards 9-18, 24 and 25, could be combined with Angus Council area wards 17-22 to form a new Dundee East burgh constituency with 65,059 electors.

6. We further concluded that Angus Council area wards 1-15 and 23-29 should form an amended Angus county constituency with 64,591 electors.

Provisional Proposals

7. On 7 February 2002 we published our provisional proposals for 2 burgh constituencies and one county constituency in the combined council areas of Angus and Dundee City as follows:

Constituencies	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Angus CC	Electoral wards in Angus Council area	
	1 Kirriemuir West	3,294
	2 Kirriemuir East	3,064
	3 Brechin West	3,218
	4 Brechin North Esk	3,121
	5 Westfield and Dean	3,141
	6 Forfar West	2,895
	7 Forfar Central	2,962
	8 Forfar East	2,766
	9 Brechin South Esk	2,589
	10 Montrose Ferryden	2,959
	11 Montrose Central	2,817
	12 Montrose West	3,089
	13 Montrose Hillside	2,996
	14 Forfar South	2,466
	15 Letham and Friockheim	3,093
	23 Arbirlot and Hospitalfield	2,903
	24 Keptie	2,875
	25 Arbroath North	2,960

26	Brothock	2,815
27	Hayshead and Lunan	2,871
28	Harbour	2,924
29	Cliffburn	2,773
	Total	64,591

Dundee East BC

Electoral wards in Dundee City Council area

9	Claverhouse	3,612
10	Whitfield	2,796
11	Longhaugh	4,007
12	Pitkerro	3,931
13	Douglas	4,198
14	Barnhill	4,194
15	Balgillo	4,447
16	Broughty Ferry	4,308
17	West Ferry	4,009
18	Craigiebank	3,750
24	East Port	3,968
25	Baxter Park	3,804

Electoral wards in Angus Council area

17	Sidlaw East and Ashludie	3,162
18	Monifieth West	3,080
19	Monifieth Central	2,952
20	Carnoustie West	3,013
21	Carnoustie Central	2,881
22	Carnoustie East	2,947

Total	65,059
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Dundee West BC

Electoral wards in Dundee City Council area

1	Ninewells	3,792
2	Camperdown	3,871
3	Balgay	3,976
4	Lochee West	3,536
5	Riverside	4,103
6	Brackens	4,030
7	Ardler	3,003
8	Balgowan	3,852
19	Strathmartine	3,774
20	Lochee East	3,822
21	Tay Bridges	4,373
22	Logie	3,445

23	Law	3,811
26	Hilltown	4,054
27	Bowbridge	3,597
28	Stobswell	3,776
29	Fairmuir	3,757

Electoral wards in Angus Council area

16	Sidlaw West	3,179
Total		67,751

Representations on Provisional Proposals

8. During the statutory consultation period, we received 383 representations, including 16 petitions with a total of approximately 6,210 names, regarding our provisional proposals. Most objections focused on the following main issues:

8.1 That the whole of Angus Council area should be represented by a single constituency.

8.2 That Perth and Kinross Council area ward 18 (East Carse) should be included in the proposed Dundee West constituency.

8.3 That Dundee City Council area ward 28 (Stobswell) and ward 29 (Fairmuir) should be moved from the proposed Dundee West constituency to the proposed Dundee East constituency.

8.4 That Angus Council area ward 20 (Carnoustie West), ward 21 (Carnoustie Central) and ward 22 (Carnoustie East) should be moved from the proposed Dundee East constituency to the proposed Angus constituency.

Local Inquiry

9. As a consequence of the objection to our proposals from the local authorities, as well as the number of electors objecting, we recognised that we had a statutory duty to hold a local inquiry. As a result of the alternative proposals received from Dundee City Council which involved the transfer of Perth and Kinross Council area ward 18 (East Carse) into a constituency largely comprising part of Dundee City, we decided to hold an inquiry which covered the 4 Council areas of Angus, Dundee City, Clackmannanshire and Perth & Kinross. At our request you agreed to appoint Sheriff Principal R A Dunlop QC, Sheriff Principal for Tayside, Central and Fife, as Assistant Commissioner at the inquiry into our provisional proposals. The inquiry was held in Perth City Hall on 29 and 30 October 2002, and in the City Chambers, Dundee, on 31 October and 1 November 2002.

10. In the period up to the start of the local inquiry, the number of representations increased to 599. All the representations were seen by the Assistant Commissioner and copies were made available at the inquiry.

11. Following the inquiry, a verbatim transcript of the proceedings and the Assistant Commissioner's Report were made available on our web site.

Assistant Commissioner's Report and Recommendations

12. In his Report to us, the Assistant Commissioner noted that, at the inquiry, the matters of contention were of 2 sorts. Firstly, there were arguments against our starting point in combining Angus Council area and Dundee City Council area. Secondly, there were arguments that broadly accepted the need to cross council area boundaries but proposed amendments to our provisional proposals.

13. The Assistant Commissioner first considered the statutory framework within which the Boundary Commission is required to operate. He noted that, with the application of the electoral quota for England, the constituency landscape would change dramatically. He considered that Rules 4 and 5 should be read together and that the general thrust of the Rules was to encourage the Commission to limit the extent to which the boundaries between Council areas were crossed.

14. The Assistant Commissioner considered that the proposal for Angus Council area to comprise a single constituency was seriously flawed. He noted that, whilst it had the merit of having regard to the boundaries of the Council area, it paid little if any regard to Rule 5 and failed to address the consequences for the design of constituencies in adjoining areas. The Assistant Commissioner acknowledged that there was a strong body of opinion from the Angus wards that to be included in the proposed Dundee constituencies would break strong ties with the rest of Angus Council area. However, he noted that the reasons relied upon in support of the objections related largely to the provision of local authority services and suggested that this did not raise any issue relevant to the design of parliamentary constituencies. The Assistant Commissioner concluded that there were other schemes, including our own, which produced a greater degree of compliance with the Rules and, in particular, achieved a much closer approximation to the electoral quota.

15. The Assistant Commissioner was satisfied that our approach in crossing the Council boundary between Angus and Dundee City was sound. He then considered the merit of crossing more than one boundary in order to accommodate the proposal that Perth and Kinross Council area ward 18 (East Carse) should be included in the Dundee West constituency. This overall scheme for Dundee City and adjoining areas also included a proposal that Angus Council area ward 20 (Carnoustie West), ward 21 (Carnoustie Central) and ward 22 (Carnoustie East) should be included in a revised Angus constituency. The Assistant Commissioner highlighted the need to balance a number of factors when deciding which wards should be associated within a Dundee constituency and considered that a balance needed to be struck between the Rules. He noted that ward 18 (East Carse) was in Perth and Kinross Council area and that the exclusion of the 3 Carnoustie wards (although partly compensated for by the inclusion of ward 18) would produce a result which did not give proper weight to the requirements of Rule 5. The Assistant Commissioner concluded that we had correctly identified the 7 Angus Council area wards that were most appropriately associated with Dundee City Council area in order to design 3 constituencies.

16. In considering which wards were to be included in the Dundee East constituency and in the Dundee West constituency, the Assistant Commissioner noted that the combined electorate of all the Dundee City Council area wards plus the Angus Council area wards 16–22 was 132,810, and that one could therefore look to design two constituencies of approximately 66,405 electors. The Assistant Commissioner acknowledged that keeping the 7 Angus Council area wards together in one constituency would reflect the current association of wards within Angus county constituency. He also considered that this would have the advantage of not splitting the village of Tealing between two constituencies.

17. In relation to the suggested amendments to our proposals within the Dundee City Council area, the Assistant Commissioner felt that there was no compelling reason why Dundee City Council area ward 28 (Stobswell) and ward 29 (Fairmuir) should be in one constituency rather than the other. He suggested that their placement should be determined by compliance with the electoral quota and considered that our provisional proposal for these wards should be confirmed. With regard to Dundee City council area ward 9 (Claverhouse), there had been a proposal that it should be transferred from our proposed Dundee East to our proposed Dundee West constituency. The Assistant Commissioner noted that the area of Fintry comprises parts of ward 9 and ward 11 (Longhaugh) and felt there was a strong case for retaining these 2 wards in the same constituency.

18. Having weighed the various arguments presented at the inquiry, the Assistant Commissioner recommended that our provisional proposals should be amended to accommodate the transfer of Angus Council area ward 16 (Sidlaw West) from Dundee West constituency to Dundee East constituency. He noted that the proposed Dundee East constituency contained a significant number of Angus Council area electors and felt that it would be appropriate for it to be named “Dundee East and Angus South” or “Dundee East and South Angus”.

Consideration of the Assistant Commissioner’s Report and Recommendations

19. On considering the Assistant Commissioner’s Report, we noted that he agreed with our decision to combine Angus Council area with Dundee City Council area to allow the design of 3 constituencies and that it was not necessary to include any other council area in order to design parliamentary constituencies which complied with the requirements of the Rules. We also noted that he concurred with our decision regarding the wards within Angus Council area that should be included with Dundee City Council area wards in order to create 2 parliamentary constituencies.

20. We particularly noted that the Assistant Commissioner had commented on how finely balanced the arguments were in relation to his recommendation that our provisional proposals be amended by transferring Angus Council area ward 16 (Sidlaw West) from the proposed Dundee West constituency to the proposed Dundee East constituency. We also noted his acknowledgement that his recommendation to include all 7 Angus Council area wards within a Dundee East constituency would produce an enlarged Dundee East constituency and a smaller Dundee West constituency that were marginally less consistent with Rule 5 than our own proposals.

21. We carefully considered all the arguments and evidence but concluded that the geography of Angus Council area ward 16 and the communication links between that area and the west of Dundee City supported our original view that it would be more appropriate to retain ward 16 within the proposed Dundee West constituency. We, therefore, decided not to amend our provisional proposals with regard to ward 16.

22. In view of our decision not to amend our provisional proposals for Dundee West constituency and Dundee East constituency, we were not persuaded to change the proposed constituency name of “Dundee East” to “Dundee East and South Angus”.

Confirmation of our Provisional Proposals

23. On 26 June 2003 we published a notice stating that, having considered the Assistant Commissioner’s Report, we had decided not to revise our provisional proposals for parliamentary constituencies in Angus Council area and Dundee City Council area. However, because the local inquiry had covered the combined areas of Angus Council, Clackmannanshire Council, Dundee City Council and Perth and Kinross Council and because we had amended our provisional proposals in respect of two constituencies in Clackmannanshire Council and Perth and Kinross Council areas, we invited representation on all of our proposals for the 4 Council areas.

Further Representations following Confirmation of our Provisional Proposals

24. Following the publication of our intention not to revise our provisional proposals for Angus Council area and Dundee City Council area, we received 91 representations (including a petition of 3,318 names). Some representations remarked on more than one aspect of our revised recommendations. The representations fell broadly into the following categories:

24.1 One representation supported our proposals.

24.2 One representation supported the inclusion of Perth and Kinross Council area ward 18 (East Carse) in the Perth and North Perthshire constituency

24.3 Two representations objected to our decision not to implement the Assistant Commissioner’s recommendations with regard to Angus Council area ward 16 (Sidlaw West).

24.4 Three representations objected to the decision not to combine Angus Council area, Dundee City Council area, Clackmannanshire Council area and Perth and Kinross Council area in order to create constituencies.

24.5 Eighty-five representations objected to the three Angus Council area wards covering Carnoustie being placed in the Dundee East constituency.

24.6 Two representations objected to the Angus Council area wards 16 (Sidlaw West) and ward 17 (Sidlaw East and Ashludie) being placed in Dundee constituencies.

24.7 Five representations proposed that Dundee East constituency should be renamed to include a reference to “Angus South”.

Consideration of Further Representations

25. With regard to the combining of Council areas, we received one representation that was of the view that the Assistant Commissioner had incorrectly interpreted Rule 4(1)b. It noted that he had accorded a particular significance to local authority boundaries, whereas in Scotland ‘having regard to’ merely means ‘having in view’.

26. The representation contended that the Assistant Commissioner, having incorrectly interpreted the Rules, then used his misinterpretation as the basis for rejecting the alternative proposals which placed Perth and Kinross Council area ward 18 (East Carse) in the Dundee West constituency. We reviewed the interpretation of the words ‘having regard to’ but concluded that the Assistant Commissioner was correct in his view that Rules 4 and 5 should be read together and that the general thrust of these rules was to encourage us to limit the extent to which the boundaries of Council areas are crossed. Further, we had made it known early in the review process that we would combine Council areas only where it was necessary to do so and that we would seek to minimise the number of Council boundaries that were crossed. In our view, constituencies could be designed within the terms of the Rules by pairing Angus Council area with Dundee City Council area and there was thus no need to cross another boundary into Perth and Kinross Council area.

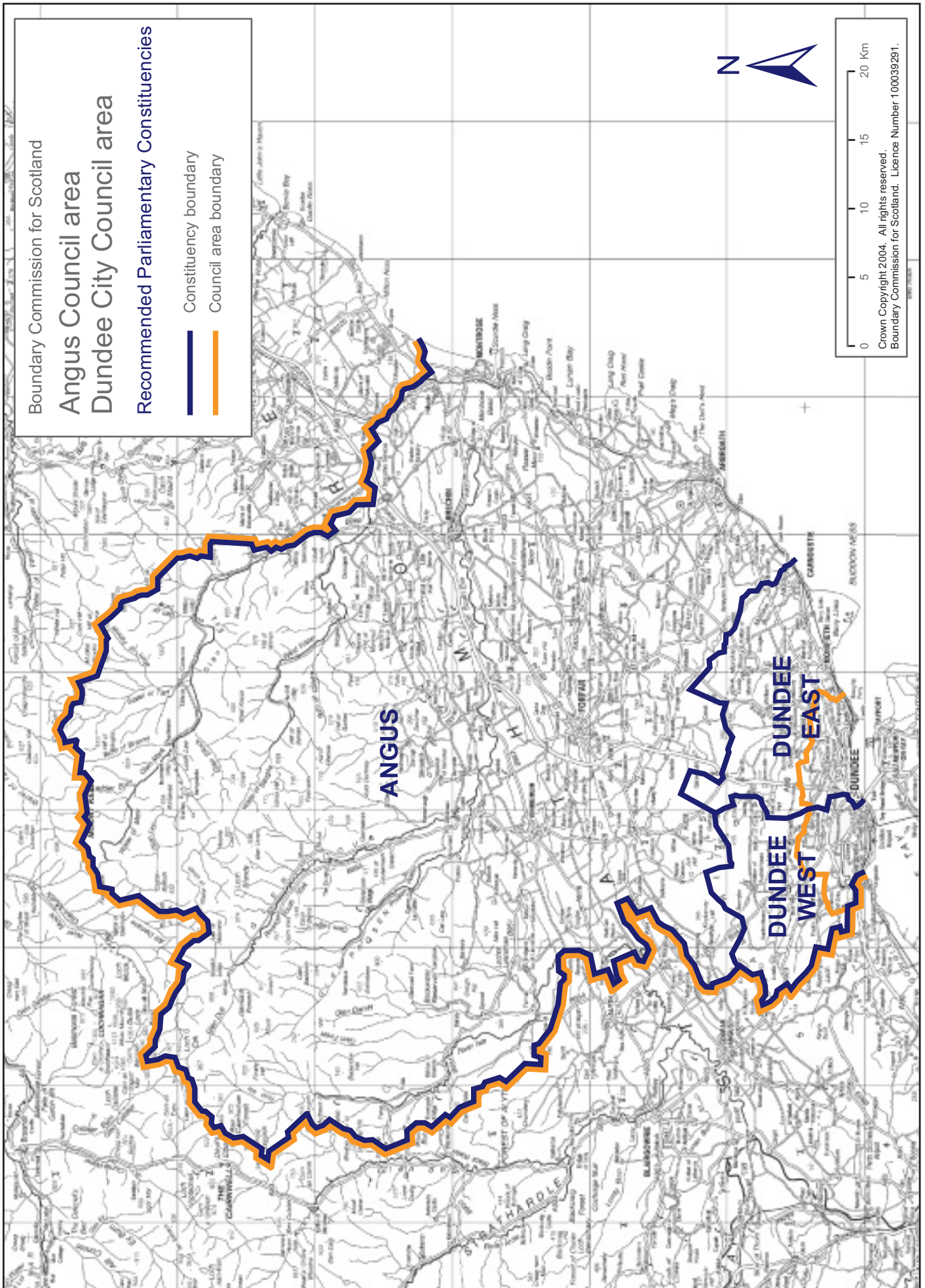
27. In relation to the decision to include the three Carnoustie wards in the proposed Dundee East constituency, we acknowledged that there remained a significant number of electors who objected to this proposal. However, the representations did not add to the arguments that had been presented to the Assistant Commissioner at the local inquiry and, therefore, we were not persuaded to amend our proposals in respect of these wards.

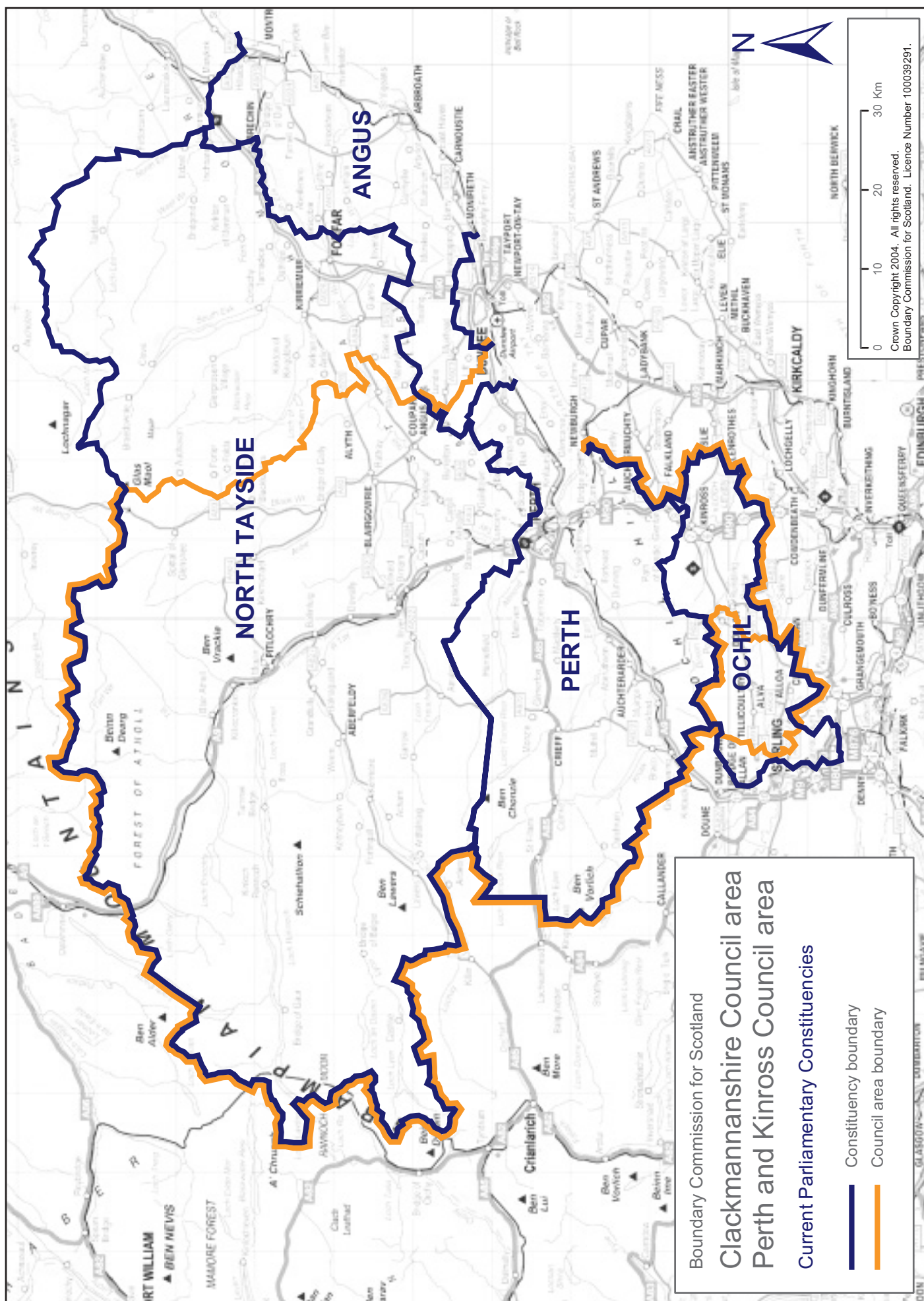
28. Several representations objected that we had not implemented the Assistant Commissioner’s recommendation to amend our provisional proposals by transferring Angus Council area ward 16 (Sidlaw West) from the proposed Dundee West constituency to the proposed Dundee East constituency. However, the representations offered no additional evidence in support of change. Further, given the small number of representations concerning the name of the constituency, we were not persuaded to change the name.

Final Recommendations

29. On 11 December 2003 we announced that we were making no further changes to our proposals for 2 burgh constituencies and one county constituency covering Dundee City Council area and Angus Council area and that these were to be our final recommendations.

30. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our proposals for one county and 2 burgh constituencies for the combined areas of Angus Council and Dundee City Council, as set out in paragraph 7 above.





Clackmannanshire Council Area and Perth and Kinross Council Area

Introduction

1. Clackmannanshire Council area is currently contained wholly within Ochil county constituency and its electorate constitutes approximately 64 per cent of the electorate in that constituency. The remainder of Ochil constituency comprises parts of Perth and Kinross and Stirling Council areas. Perth and Kinross Council area is currently contained in 3 county constituencies. Perth constituency lies wholly within Perth and Kinross Council area and contains approximately 58 per cent of that Council's electorate. North Tayside constituency comprises part of Perth and Kinross Council area and part of Angus Council area, the electorate of the former constituting approximately 54 per cent of the total in that constituency. Angus county constituency also includes part of Perth and Kinross Council area, the electorate of the latter accounting for approximately 4 per cent of the total for the constituency. The electorates of these constituencies at the start and finish of the previous and current reviews are provided at Appendix C.

Initial Considerations

2. In forming our initial proposals for Clackmannanshire Council area and Perth and Kinross Council area we had in mind the following considerations:

2.1 At the enumeration date of June 2001, Clackmannanshire Council area contained 36,595 parliamentary electors, giving the Council area a theoretical entitlement of 0.5 seats.

2.2 At the enumeration date of June 2001, Perth and Kinross Council area contained 105,861 parliamentary electors, giving the Council area a theoretical entitlement of 1.5 seats.

2.3 The combined parliamentary electorate for the Clackmannanshire Council area and Perth and Kinross Council area was 142,456, giving a theoretical entitlement of 2.04 seats.

3. We examined the present arrangements whereby all of Clackmannanshire Council area and part of Perth and Kinross Council area are associated with the adjoining Council areas of Angus, Dundee City and Stirling for the purposes of parliamentary representation. This situation resulted in a small group of constituencies straddling the boundaries of 5 Council areas, and had arisen as a result of the restructuring of local authorities in 1996. Given the

increase in the electoral quota and the requirement to take council boundaries into consideration, we concluded that it would not be possible or desirable to maintain these existing constituency arrangements. However, we noted that the combined electorates of Clackmannanshire Council area and Perth and Kinross Council area now allowed the formulation of provisional recommendations for 2 revised county constituencies that would very closely approximate to the electoral quota. Accordingly, we decided that the combined area should be allocated 2 constituencies.

4. We noted that part of Perth and Kinross Council area, which largely comprises Kinross, was already associated with part of Clackmannanshire Council area in the existing Ochil constituency. We further noted that, prior to the Fourth Periodical Review, Kinross had been associated with an area lying to the west and north of Perth stretching as far as Loch Earn in the west and Logiealmond in the north.

5. In formulating our provisional proposals, we decided that combining Perth and Kinross Council area wards 11-13, 15 and 34-41 with all of the wards within Clackmannanshire Council area would form a suitable constituency of approximately 68,933 electors. We also decided that the remainder of Perth and Kinross Council area, comprising wards 1-10, 14 and 16-33, should form a single constituency of 73,523 electors.

Provisional Proposals

6. On 7 February 2002 we published our provisional proposals for 2 county constituencies for the combined Council areas of Clackmannanshire and Perth and Kinross as follows:

Constituencies	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Strathearn and Ochil CC	Electoral wards in Clackmannanshire Council area	
	1 Menstrie	1,713
	2 Alva North	2,106
	3 Alva South	1,985
	4 Tillicoultry West	2,046
	5 Tillicoultry East	2,054
	6 Dollar and Muckhart	2,080
	7 Devon and Clackmannan North	2,404
	8 Clackmannan	2,186
	9 Gartmorn	2,314
	10 Alloa North	2,199
	11 Alloa East	1,830
	12 Alloa Mar	1,661
	13 Alloa West	1,801
	14 Alloa Claremont	1,901
	15 Fairfield	1,995
	16 Muirside	2,370
	17 St Serf's	1,948
	18 Delph and Cambus	2,002

Electoral wards in Perth and Kinross Council area

11	Comrie	2,342
12	Crieff North	2,801
13	Crieff South	2,611
15	Strathalmond	2,593
34	Earn	2,625
35	Auchterarder Mid Earn	2,668
36	Strathallan and Glendevon	2,942
37	Auchterarder Craig Rossie	2,712
38	Abernethy and Glenfarg	2,336
39	Milnathort and North Kinross	2,946
40	Kinross Town	2,783
41	Kinross-shire	2,979
Total		68,933

Perth and Atholl CC

Electoral wards in Perth and Kinross Council area

1	Rannoch and Atholl	1,458
2	Pitlochry	2,503
3	Rattray and Glenshee	2,633
4	Alyth and Old Rattray	2,742
5	Coupar Angus and Meigle	2,702
6	Rosemount	2,483
7	Blairgowrie	2,368
8	Kinclaven and Clunie	2,549
9	Strathtay and Dunkeld	2,490
10	Breadalbane	2,487
14	Strathord and Logiealmond	2,805
16	Scone	2,685
17	Dunsinnan	2,522
18	East Carse	2,665
19	Central Carse	2,477
20	Barnhill and West Carse	2,560
21	Pictstonhill	2,493
22	North Inch	2,277
23	Muirton	2,197
24	North Muirton	2,685
25	Hillyland	2,638
26	Ruthven Park	2,571
27	North Letham	2,512
28	South Letham	2,792
29	Wellshill	2,546
30	Oakbank	2,542
31	Craigie	2,815
32	South Inch	2,689
33	Moncreiffe and Friarton	2,637
Total		73,523

Representations on Provisional Proposals

7. During the statutory consultation period, we received 10 representations, including 2 petitions with a total of approximately 260 names, regarding our provisional proposals. Most objections focused on the following issues:

7.1 Whether Clackmannanshire Council area should be paired with Perth and Kinross Council area.

7.2 Whether Perth and Kinross Council area ward 14 (Strathord and Logiealmond) should be transferred to the proposed Strathearn and Ochil constituency.

Local Inquiry

8. As a consequence of the objection to our proposals from Perth and Kinross Council, as well as the number of electors objecting, we recognised that we had a statutory duty to hold a local inquiry. Some representations made in respect of our provisional proposals for Dundee City Council area suggested the transfer of Perth and Kinross Council area ward 18 (East Carse) into a constituency largely comprising part of Dundee City Council area. We therefore decided to hold an inquiry which covered the 4 Council areas of Angus, Dundee City, Clackmannanshire and Perth and Kinross. At our request you agreed to appoint Sheriff Principal R A Dunlop QC, Sheriff Principal of Tayside, Central and Fife, as Assistant Commissioner at the inquiry into our provisional proposals. The inquiry was held in Perth City Hall on 29 and 30 October 2002, and in the City Chambers, Dundee on 31 October and 1 November 2002.

9. In the period up to the start of the local inquiry, the number of representations received increased to 12. All the representations were seen by the Assistant Commissioner and copies were made available at the inquiry.

10. Following the inquiry, a verbatim transcript of the proceedings and the Assistant Commissioner's Report were made available on our web site.

Assistant Commissioner's Report and Recommendations

11. The Assistant Commissioner first considered the statutory framework within which the Boundary Commission is required to operate. He noted that, with the application of the electoral quota for England, the constituency landscape would change dramatically. He considered that Rules 4 and 5 should be read together. Thus, one may take a single local authority as a starting point but if there is an excessive disparity between the electorate of any constituency and the electoral quota, it may be necessary to combine local authority areas so as to avoid that disparity. The Assistant Commissioner also expressed the view that the general thrust of the Rules was to encourage the Commission to limit the extent to which the boundaries between council areas are crossed. He noted that this approach seemed to accord with our statement that we would make every effort to keep to a minimum proposals for constituencies that cross local authority boundaries.

12. The Assistant Commissioner was not persuaded by proposals advanced at the inquiry by Dundee City Council, the Scottish Labour Party and others regarding Perth and Kinross ward 18 (East Carse) which would, if accepted, have placed that ward in the Dundee West constituency. In considering the evidence offered by Perth and Kinross Council, he reached the view that the acceptance of these proposals would have adverse consequences for constituency design in Perth and Kinross Council area. He also expressed the view that, although there was a barrier created by the Ochil Hills, it was not an absolute one. Since Clackmannanshire and Kinross were already linked in the Ochil constituency and Kinross was part of Perth and Kinross Council area, he concluded that our proposal to combine these local authorities provided the best fit in terms of compliance with the Rules.

13. The Assistant Commissioner considered the evidence regarding ward 14 (Strathord and Logiealmond) and concluded that there was a compelling case that this ward would be better associated with ward 13 (Crieff South), ward 15 (Strathalmond) and ward 35 (Auchterarder Mid Earn) in the proposed Strathearn and Ochil constituency. He noted that, at the inquiry, there was no objection to the proposed transfer. He further noted that a significant number of written representations from local people in these wards supported the proposed transfer and that the support did not discriminate between different parts of ward 14. His opinion was reinforced by the view of the Perth and Kinross Council representative that the proposed change would not be of particular concern to the Council.

14. The Assistant Commissioner noted there was general agreement that “Strathearn” was not a good description of the Perth and Kinross Council area wards in the proposed Strathearn and Ochil constituency; electors in Clackmannanshire would not have a good appreciation of which areas fell within that description, whereas they did have a good understanding of “Perthshire”. He also noted that Kinross and Clackmannanshire are both represented in the name of the existing Ochil constituency and that there was no evidence from these areas to suggest dissatisfaction with that name. Consequently, he recommended that the name “Ochil and South Perthshire” be adopted in place of “Strathearn and Ochil”. Similarly, the Assistant Commissioner noted that “Atholl” was not an accurate description of the geographical area of the proposed Perth and Atholl constituency outwith the town of Perth. Perth and Kinross Council suggested “Perth and North Perthshire”, which could properly be applied to describe the area. Accordingly, the Assistant Commissioner recommended that this name be adopted.

Consideration of the Assistant Commissioner’s Report and Recommendations

15. We noted that the Assistant Commissioner agreed with our decision to combine Clackmannanshire Council area with Perth and Kinross Council area to allow the design of 2 constituencies.

16. We also accepted the Assistant Commissioner’s view that a strong case had been made for including ward 14 (Strathord and Logiealmond) in our proposed Strathearn and Ochil constituency and we agreed to amend our provisional proposals accordingly.

17. We considered that the Assistant Commissioner’s recommendations regarding the names of proposed constituencies more accurately reflected the geography of the areas

concerned. Accordingly, we agreed that the revised Strathearn and Ochil constituency should be renamed “Ochil and South Perthshire” and that the revised Perth and Atholl constituency should be renamed “Perth and North Perthshire”.

Publication of Revised Recommendations

18. On 26 June 2003 we published a notice stating that, having considered the Assistant Commissioner’s Report, we had decided to revise our proposals for parliamentary constituencies in Clackmannanshire Council area and Perth and Kinross Council area by incorporating all of the recommendations made by the Assistant Commissioner in respect of these areas. The revised recommendations for Clackmannanshire Council area and Perth and Kinross Council area were:

Constituencies	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Ochil and South Perthshire CC	Electoral wards in Clackmannanshire Council area	
	1 Menstrie	1,713
	2 Alva North	2,106
	3 Alva South	1,985
	4 Tillicoultry West	2,046
	5 Tillicoultry East	2,054
	6 Dollar and Muckhart	2,080
	7 Devon and Clackmannan North	2,404
	8 Clackmannan	2,186
	9 Gartmorn	2,314
	10 Alloa North	2,199
	11 Alloa East	1,830
	12 Alloa Mar	1,661
	13 Alloa West	1,801
	14 Alloa Claremont	1,901
	15 Fairfield	1,995
	16 Muirside	2,370
	17 St Serf’s	1,948
	18 Delph and Cambus	2,002
	Electoral wards in Perth and Kinross Council area	
	11 Comrie	2,342
	12 Crieff North	2,801
	13 Crieff South	2,611
	14 Strathord and Logiealmond	2,805
	15 Strathalmond	2,593
	34 Earn	2,625
	35 Auchterarder Mid Earn	2,668
	36 Strathallan and Glendevon	2,942

37	Auchterarder Craig Rossie	2,712
38	Abernethy and Glenfarg	2,336
39	Milnathort and North Kinross	2,946
40	Kinross Town	2,783
41	Kinross-shire	2,979
Total		71,738

Perth and North
Perthshire CC

Electoral wards in Perth and Kinross
Council area

1	Rannoch and Atholl	1,458
2	Pitlochry	2,503
3	Rattray and Glenshee	2,633
4	Alyth and Old Rattray	2,742
5	Coupar Angus and Meigle	2,702
6	Rosemount	2,483
7	Blairgowrie	2,368
8	Kinclaven and Clunie	2,549
9	Strathtay and Dunkeld	2,490
10	Breadalbane	2,487
16	Scone	2,685
17	Dunsinnan	2,522
18	East Carse	2,665
19	Central Carse	2,477
20	Barnhill and West Carse	2,560
21	Pictstonhill	2,493
22	North Inch	2,277
23	Muirton	2,197
24	North Muirton	2,685
25	Hillyland	2,638
26	Ruthven Park	2,571
27	North Letham	2,512
28	South Letham	2,792
29	Wellshill	2,546
30	Oakbank	2,542
31	Craigie	2,815
32	South Inch	2,689
33	Moncreiffe and Friarton	2,637
Total		70,718

Representations on Revised Recommendations

19. Following the publication of our revised recommendations, we received 18 representations. Some representations remarked on more than one aspect of our revised recommendations. The representations fell broadly into the following categories:

19.1 Nine representations supported the transfer of Perth and Kinross Council area ward 14 (Strathord and Logiealmond) from Perth and North Perthshire to Ochil and South Perthshire.

19.2 Eight representations objected to the transfer of Perth and Kinross Council area ward 14 (Strathord and Logiealmond) from Perth and North Perthshire to Ochil and South Perthshire.

19.3 Seven representations related to the revised constituency names.

20. The representations which objected to the location of Perth and Kinross Council area ward 14 (Strathord and Logiealmond) in Ochil and South Perthshire were principally concerned that the villages located in the east of the ward had closer ties to east Perthshire and the town of Perth. Perth and Kinross Council proposed that ward 14 should be divided between the 2 proposed constituencies.

21. We considered the proposal for the division of ward 14 but our policy, which is widely accepted, is that whole wards should form the building blocks for revised constituencies. We were, therefore, not persuaded to divide ward 14 between the proposed constituencies.

22. We noted that, in his Inquiry Report, the Assistant Commissioner mentioned that the villages located in the east of ward 14 might not have close ties with wards 13 and 35 but that no representations were received from these settlements. We further noted that the representative from Perth and Kinross Council expressed the view at the inquiry that the Council would not be particularly concerned if ward 14 was placed in Ochil and South Perthshire constituency.

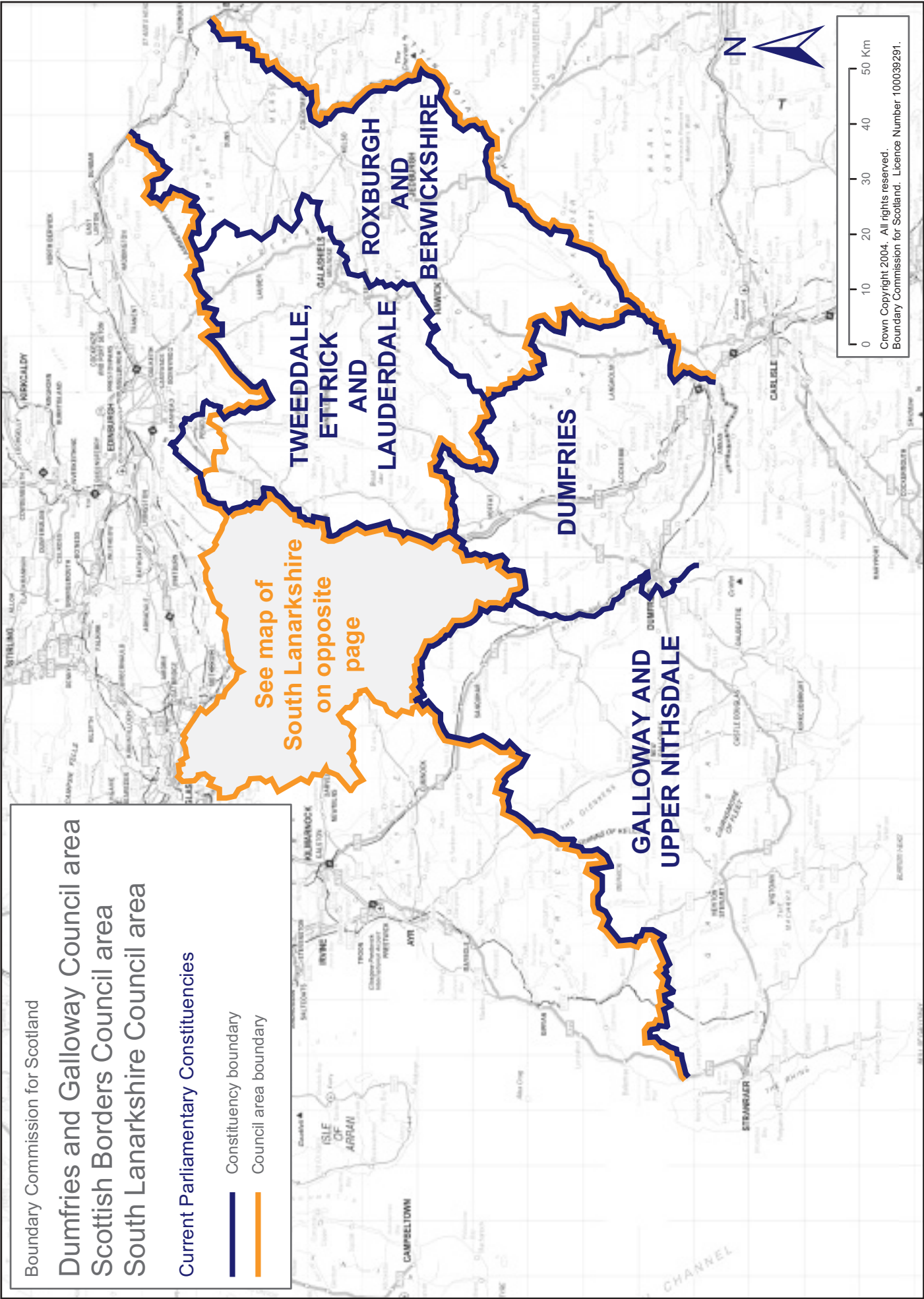
23. Nevertheless, in light of the representations received about our revised recommendations for ward 14, we reviewed all of the representations and reconsidered the Inquiry Report recommendation, but we were not persuaded to amend our revised recommendations.

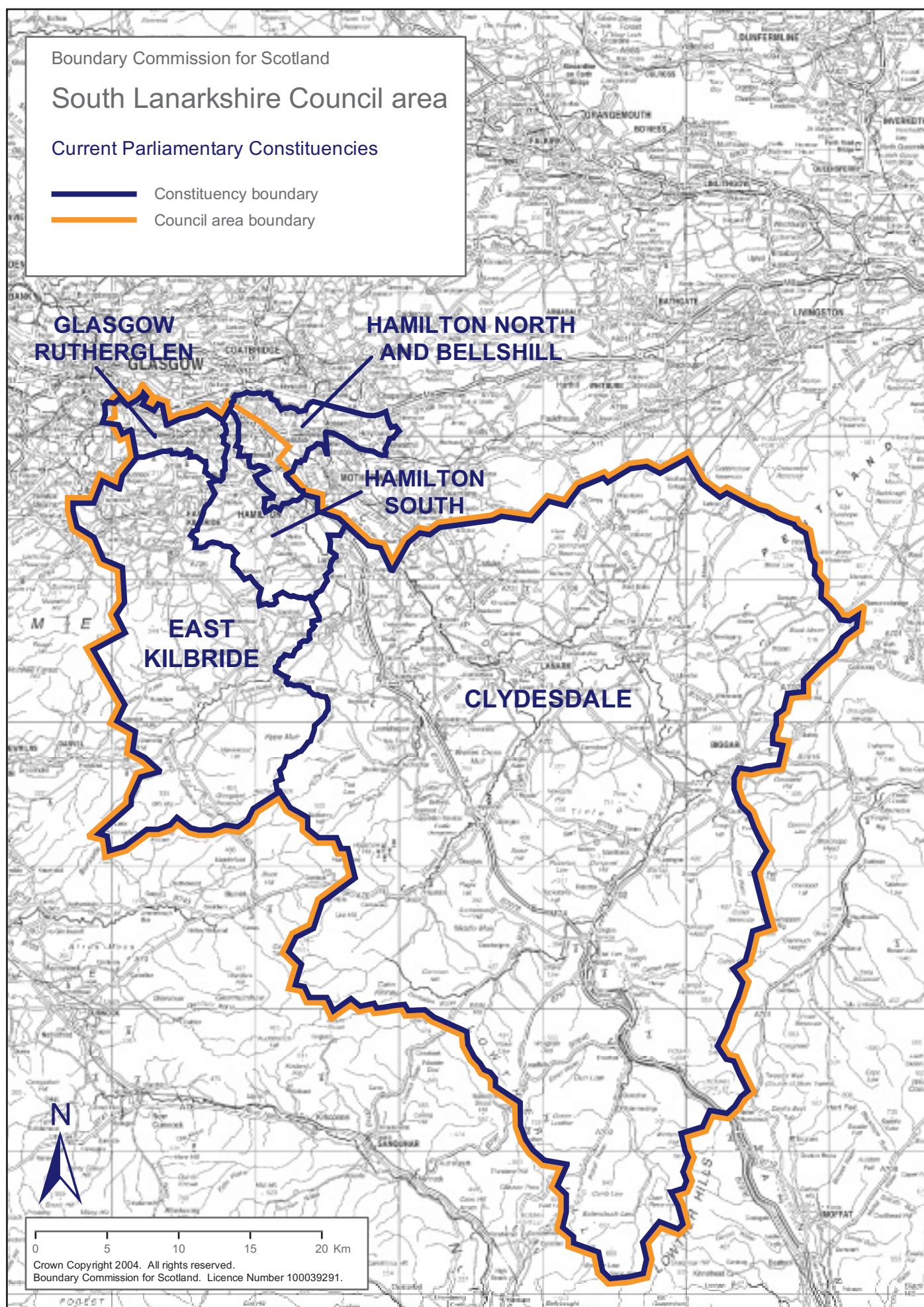
24. Of the 7 representations relating to revised constituency names, 5 offered support for the changes and two suggested an alternative to "Ochil". We were not persuaded to amend the revised constituency names.

Final Recommendations

25. On 11 December 2003 we announced that we were making no further changes to our proposals for 2 county constituencies covering Clackmannanshire Council area and Perth and Kinross Council area and that these were to be our final recommendations.

26. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our proposals for 2 county constituencies covering Clackmannanshire Council area and Perth and Kinross Council area, as set out in paragraph 18 above.





Dumfries and Galloway Council Area, Scottish Borders Council Area and South Lanarkshire Council Area

Introduction

1. Dumfries and Galloway Council area is currently covered by 2 county constituencies, both of which are wholly contained within the Council area. Scottish Borders Council area is currently covered by 2 county constituencies, but while Roxburgh and Berwickshire county constituency is contained wholly within the Council area, Ettrick, Lauderdale and Tweeddale county constituency is also partly within Midlothian Council area. Approximately 74 per cent of that constituency's electorate is within Scottish Borders Council area. South Lanarkshire Council area is currently covered by 3 burgh constituencies and 2 county constituencies. Hamilton South burgh constituency, Clydesdale county constituency and East Kilbride county constituency are contained wholly within the Council area, but Hamilton North and Bellshill burgh constituency is partly within North Lanarkshire Council area. Approximately 29 per cent of that constituency's electorate is contained within South Lanarkshire Council area. Similarly, Glasgow Rutherglen burgh constituency is partly within Glasgow City Council area. Approximately 84 per cent of that constituency's electorate is contained within South Lanarkshire Council area. The electorates of these 9 constituencies at the start and finish of the previous and current reviews are provided at Appendix C.

Initial Considerations

2. In forming our provisional proposals for the Dumfries and Galloway Council area, Scottish Borders Council area and South Lanarkshire Council area, we had in mind the following considerations:

2.1 At the enumeration date of June 2001, Dumfries and Galloway Council area contained 116,652 parliamentary electors, giving the area a theoretical entitlement of 1.7 seats.

2.2 At the enumeration date of June 2001, Scottish Borders Council area contained 86,164 parliamentary electors, giving the area a theoretical entitlement of 1.2 seats.

2.3 At the enumeration date of June 2001, South Lanarkshire Council area contained 238,867 parliamentary electors, giving the area a theoretical entitlement of 3.4 seats.

2.4 The combined electorate for the 3 Council areas was 441,683, giving the area a theoretical entitlement of 6.3 seats.

3. We noted that, on the basis of the electoral quota, rounding down the theoretical number of seats for each Council area provided constituencies which had electorates that exceeded the electoral quota by between 14 per cent and 67 per cent. Similarly, rounding up the theoretical number of seats for each Council area provided constituencies which were below the electoral quota by between 15 per cent and 49 per cent.

4. We concluded that it would be possible to combine the three Council areas to provide 6 constituencies, one of which would be a mainly rural constituency combining parts of the 3 Council areas which are linked by the A7 and A74(M). An examination of the area to be covered by such a constituency suggested that it would be large, although not unusual by comparison with constituencies we proposed for other parts of Scotland. Further, we considered that the communication links across the area were significantly better than those found in other similarly sized constituencies elsewhere. Providing 6 constituencies for the combined Council areas also allowed the formulation of provisional proposals which, on average, would give constituencies around 5 per cent above the electoral quota. Accordingly, we decided that these 3 Council areas should be allocated 6 constituencies.

5. We considered that Scottish Borders Council area was too large to form a single constituency and that there were no special geographical considerations which would justify the formation of 2 constituencies substantially below the electoral quota and wholly contained within the Council area. We concluded, therefore, that Scottish Borders Council area wards 1-29 (the former counties of Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk) should be combined to form a constituency of that name and that wards 30-34 should be combined with parts of South Lanarkshire Council area and Dumfries and Galloway Council area to form a new rural constituency.

6. We carefully considered whether Midlothian Council area could reasonably be combined with part of Scottish Borders Council area to form 2 constituencies - a proposed Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk constituency lying wholly within Scottish Borders Council area with an electorate of 72,430, and a constituency which comprised the whole of Midlothian Council area plus 5 wards in Scottish Borders Council area (covering Peebles, West Linton and Innerleithen) with approximately 76,500 electors. However, we concluded that combining parts of Scottish Borders Council area with parts of both South Lanarkshire Council area and Dumfries and Galloway Council area produced a more appropriate constituency which reflected the rural characteristics of the area.

7. In considering the existing constituencies in South Lanarkshire Council area, we noted that the existing Rutherglen constituency and Hamilton North and Bellshill constituency straddled the Council's boundaries with Glasgow City and North Lanarkshire Council areas respectively. However, as part of our examination of the possible distribution of seats across Scotland, we had decided that Glasgow City Council area should comprise 7 constituencies which were wholly contained within the Council area. Similarly, we concluded that North Lanarkshire Council area could be combined with East Dunbartonshire Council area to provide 5 constituencies, thus re-establishing the link between the Cumbernauld and Kilsyth areas which had existed prior to local government reorganisation in 1973.

8. We noted that approximately 43,700 electors of the existing Glasgow Rutherglen constituency were within South Lanarkshire Council area. In seeking to increase the electorate to meet the requirements of the revised electoral quota for a new constituency, we concluded that our options were constrained by the structure of wards lying to the south of Rutherglen where the electorate was clearly focused on East Kilbride. We saw no realistic opportunity for extending the existing Rutherglen constituency other than by incorporating wards which at present are contained within the existing Hamilton South constituency. We therefore decided that the addition of South Lanarkshire Council area wards 33-36 and 42-46 to the existing Rutherglen constituency, to form a new Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency, offered the best solution.

9. With regard to the remainder of South Lanarkshire Council area, we decided that extending the rural southern part of the existing East Kilbride constituency to incorporate wards 3 and 4 would provide a suitable constituency. We also decided that wards 1, 2, 5, 8, 10-13, 37-41 and 47-54 could be combined to form a new Lanark and Hamilton East constituency and that the mainly rural southern part of South Lanarkshire Council area comprising wards 6, 7 and 9 could be combined with parts of Scottish Borders Council area and Dumfries and Galloway Council area to form a new Peebles, Clydesdale and Annandale constituency.

10. In Dumfries and Galloway Council area, we noted that the Dumfries constituency currently comprised approximately 63,500 electors and that the Galloway and Upper Nithsdale constituency comprised approximately 53,000 electors. We closely examined the possibility of combining Dumfries and Galloway Council area with all or part of South Ayrshire Council area but concluded that the best solution was to combine the 3 Ayrshire Councils in 4 constituencies.

11. Our examination of the existing Dumfries constituency indicated that the mainly rural part of the existing constituency could be combined with the southern part of the existing Clydesdale constituency and that part of the existing Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale constituency which focuses on the area around Peebles. We were, however, aware that the group of wards which encompassed the town of Dumfries contained, in some cases, parts of the contiguous built-up area as well as adjoining rural communities. This made it particularly difficult to formulate proposals that contained all of the town of Dumfries in one constituency. We considered a number of options in an attempt to avoid splitting Dumfries between constituencies. None of these was perfect, but we decided on a constituency made up of Dumfries and Galloway council area wards 1-19, 23-29 and 32-35 to form a new Dumfries and Galloway constituency which would contain the greater part of the built-up area of Dumfries. A second constituency, which would be predominantly rural, would then comprise the remainder of the Dumfries and Galloway Council area and link it with wards 6, 7 and 9 from South Lanarkshire Council area and wards 30-34 from Scottish Borders Council area. This would form the Peebles, Clydesdale and Annandale county constituency referred to in paragraph 9 above.

12. We also noted that, although the proposed 3 constituencies covering the south of Scotland were geographically large, they compared favourably with proposed constituencies elsewhere in mid and north-east Scotland in both electorate and geographical extent and that the distance by road between the limits of each constituency was broadly comparable.

13. On 7 February 2002 we published our provisional proposals for one burgh constituency and 5 county constituencies in Dumfries and Galloway Council area, Scottish Borders Council area and South Lanarkshire Council area as follows:

Constituencies	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk CC	Electoral wards in Scottish Borders Council area	
	1 Eyemouth and District	2,398
	2 Chirnside and District	2,528
	3 Coldstream and District	2,595
	4 Duns and District South	2,557
	5 Duns and District North	2,533
	6 Eyemouth and District North	2,505
	7 Kelso and District North	2,868
	8 Kelso Central	2,486
	9 Kelso and District South	2,662
	10 Jedburgh and District East	2,263
	11 Jedburgh and District West	2,491
	12 Hermitage	2,175
	13 Burnfoot and Mansfield	2,301
	14 Silverbuthall	2,290
	15 Weensland	2,485
	16 Teviot Central	2,341
	17 Wilton	2,330
	18 Galawater and Lauderdale	2,665
	19 Earlston, Gordon and District	2,581
	20 Melrose and District	2,484
	21 Scott's View	2,480
	22 Alewater and Denholm	2,441
	23 Old Selkirk	2,789
	24 Forest	2,862
	25 Netherdale	2,549
	26 Lower Langlee and Tweedbank	2,461
	27 Upper Langlee and Ladhope	2,366
	28 Kilneknowe and Clovenfords	2,461
	29 Mossilee and Central	2,383
	Total	72,430
Dumfries and Galloway CC	Electoral wards in Dumfries and Galloway Council area	
	1 Rhins South	2,525
	2 Rhins North	2,567
	3 Stranraer North	2,595

4	Stranraer South	2,188
5	Stranraer East	2,416
6	Luce	2,593
7	Whithorn	2,467
8	Wigtown	2,409
9	Cree	2,656
10	Stewartry West	2,355
11	Kirkcudbright – Tarff	2,394
12	Kirkcudbright – Bengairn	2,527
13	Stewartry North	2,535
14	Castle Douglas – Dee	2,477
15	Castle Douglas – Urr	2,501
16	Dalbeattie – Craignair	2,477
17	Dalbeattie – Milton	2,705
18	Criffel	2,633
19	Cairn Valley	2,507
23	Lincluden	2,420
24	Lochside	2,383
25	Palmerston	2,428
26	Maxwelltown	2,552
27	Troqueer	2,438
28	Loreburn	2,373
29	Marchmount	2,794
32	Nithsdale East	2,326
33	Georgetown	2,448
34	Lochvale	2,648
35	Caerlaverock	2,500
Total		74,837

East Kilbride, Strathaven and
Lesmahagow CC

Electoral wards in South Lanarkshire
Council area

3	Lesmahagow	3,481
4	Blackwood	3,185
14	Long Calderwood	3,539
15	Calderglen	3,497
16	Blacklaw	3,524
17	Morrishall	3,408
18	Maxwellton	3,440
19	East Mains	3,550
20	West Mains	3,592
21	Duncanrig	3,441
22	Westwoodhill	3,324
23	Headhouse	3,347
24	Heatheryknowe	3,267
25	Greenhills	3,363

26	Whitehills	3,600
27	Hairmyres/Crosshouse	3,512
28	Mossneuk/Kittoch	3,586
29	Stewartfield	3,529
30	Lindsay	3,746
31	Avondale North	4,033
32	Avondale South	3,931
55	Stonehouse	3,362

Total	77,257
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Lanark and Hamilton East CC Electoral wards in South Lanarkshire Council area

1	Lanark North	3,658
2	Lanark South	3,611
5	Clyde Valley	3,362
8	Carstairs/Carnwath	3,339
10	Carluke/Whitehill	4,080
11	Carluke/Crawforddyke	3,803
12	Forth	4,005
13	Law/Carluke	4,020
37	Hamilton Centre North	3,492
38	Whitehill	3,439
39	Bothwell South	3,141
40	Uddingston South/Bothwell	3,096
41	Uddingston	3,220
47	Hamilton Centre/Ferniegair	3,460
48	Low Waters	3,660
49	Silvertonhill	3,559
50	Cadzow	4,138
51	Dalserf	4,008
52	Larkhall East	3,842
53	Larkhall West	3,826
54	Larkhall South	3,414

Total	76,173
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Peebles, Clydesdale and Annandale CC Electoral wards in Dumfries and Galloway Council area

20	Sanquhar and District	2,336
21	Kirkconnel	1,823
22	Mid Nithsdale	2,669
30	Lochar	2,562
31	Heathhall	2,743
36	Hoddum and Kinmount	2,288

37	Annan West	2,700
38	Annan Central	2,259
39	Annan East	2,271
40	Chapelcross	2,643
41	Solway Border	2,534
42	Canonbie and Kirtle	2,587
43	Langholm and Upper Eskdale	2,549
44	Dryfe and Lockerbie East	2,509
45	Lockerbie and Upper Annandale	2,327
46	Lochmaben	2,416
47	Moffat	2,599

Electoral wards in Scottish Borders Council area

30	Innerleithen and Walkerburn	2,742
31	Peebles and District South	2,716
32	Peebles and District East	2,752
33	Peebles and Upper Tweed	2,792
34	West Linton and District	2,732

Electoral wards in South Lanarkshire Council area

6	Biggar/Symington and Black Mount	3,419
7	Duneaton/Carmichael	2,907
9	Douglas	3,741

Total	65,616
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Rutherglen and Hamilton
West BCElectoral wards in South Lanarkshire
Council area

33	Blantyre West	3,811
34	Coatshill/Low Blantyre	3,448
35	Burnbank/Blantyre	4,272
36	High Blantyre	3,547
42	Hillhouse	3,086
43	Udston	2,605
44	Wellhall/Earnock	3,538
45	Earnock	3,685
46	Woodhead/Meikle Earnock	3,480
56	Rutherglen West	3,608
57	Stonelaw	3,631
58	Bankhead	3,555
59	Spittal/Blairbeth	3,471
60	Burgh	3,902
61	Cairns	3,587
62	Hallside	4,567

63	Cambuslang Central	3,527
64	Cathkin/Springhall	3,575
65	Fernhill	3,205
66	Kirkhill/Whitlawburn	3,769
67	Eastfield	3,501
Total		75,370

Representations on Provisional Proposals

14. During the statutory consultation period, we received 1,837 representations, including 7 petitions with a total of approximately 1,236 names, regarding our provisional proposals. We also received 764 “coupons” objecting to our proposals. Most objections focused on the following main issues:

14.1 The design of the proposed constituencies in Dumfries and Galloway and, in particular, the inclusion of Dumfries and Galloway Council area ward 30 (Lochar) and ward 31 (Heathhall) in the proposed Peebles, Clydesdale and Annandale constituency.

14.2 Whether to combine Scottish Borders Council area ward 30 (Innerleithen and Walkerburn), ward 31 (Peebles and District South), ward 32 (Peebles and District East), ward 33 (Peebles and Upper Tweed) and ward 34 (West Linton and District) with Midlothian Council area rather than with parts of Dumfries and Galloway Council area and South Lanarkshire Council area.

14.3 Whether to include South Lanarkshire Council area ward 3 (Lesmahagow) and ward 4 (Blackwood) within the revised East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow constituency.

Local Inquiry

15. As a consequence of the objections to our proposals from local authorities in the area, as well as the number of electors objecting, we recognised that we had a statutory duty to hold a local inquiry. Because several representations had included Midlothian Council area in their alternative proposals for the south of Scotland, we decided to include Midlothian Council area within the scope of the local inquiry. At our request you agreed to appoint Sheriff Principal E F Bowen QC, Sheriff Principal of Glasgow and Strathkelvin as Assistant Commissioner at the inquiry into our provisional proposals. The inquiry was held in three locations: The Council Chambers, Hamilton on 4 and 5 November 2002; The Burgh Hall, Peebles on 6 and 7 November 2002; and The Council Chambers, Dumfries on 14 and 15 November 2002.

16. In the period up to the start of the local inquiry, the number of representations received increased to 1,871. All the representations were seen by the Assistant Commissioner and copies were made available at the inquiry.

17. Following the inquiry, a verbatim transcript of the proceedings and the Assistant Commissioner’s Report were made available on our web site.

Assistant Commissioner's Report and Recommendations

18. In his Report to us, the Assistant Commissioner considered whether each of the proposals offered at the inquiry was consistent with the legislative framework. He particularly commented on the argument put forward at Peebles that Rule 7 has primacy. The Assistant Commissioner concluded that statutory Rules 1 to 6 follow a logical pattern, and he could not regard Rule 7 as amounting to anything more than a general relaxation of the duty to give effect to the preceding Rules. He considered that this interpretation not only accords with the statutory scheme but also with the fundamental constitutional principle of equality of representation. He expressed the view that it could not be seriously suggested that the Commission should have inconveniences and the breaking of local ties at the forefront of its considerations, with the size of electorates as a subordinate consideration.

19. In relation to the proposition that all of the Scottish Borders Council area should comprise one constituency, the Assistant Commissioner considered that the creation of a constituency with an electorate of 86,000 would be a significant departure from the Rules and concluded there was a need to divide the council area. He noted that one of the schemes discussed sought to attach Scottish Borders Council area wards 30-34 (Peebles area) to Midlothian Council area. However, the Assistant Commissioner concluded that the evidence in favour of our provisional proposal for a single constituency that comprised the whole of Midlothian Council area was formidable; it met all the relevant criteria and should be adopted. He was, therefore, not persuaded by the arguments presented at the inquiry seeking to link part of Scottish Borders Council area with Midlothian Council area to create a revised constituency.

20. With regard to the alternative proposal that Dumfries and Galloway Council area should retain 2 constituencies, the Assistant Commissioner noted that this would provide for electorates of 54,355 and 62,297. He concluded that the evidence at the inquiry did not persuade him that there were special reasons to accept proposals whereby both constituencies would be significantly below the electoral quota. He expressed the view that it was for us to determine what constituted special geographical considerations.

21. The Assistant Commissioner considered the proposals linking 3 wards from South Ayrshire Council area with part of Dumfries and Galloway Council area to create a "South Carrick, Galloway and Upper Nithsdale" constituency with 63,263 electors. However, he was unable to endorse the proposal on the basis of the evidence offered to him.

22. The Assistant Commissioner concluded that his decision to endorse our proposal for a Midlothian county constituency which comprised the whole of Midlothian Council area, coupled with his rejection of proposals that the two existing constituencies in Dumfries and Galloway Council area should remain unchanged and his inability to endorse the proposals for a South Carrick, Galloway and Upper Nithsdale constituency, pointed to the need to accept our proposed Peebles, Clydesdale and Annandale constituency. He noted, however, that the proposed constituency embraced parts of 3 Council areas and that there was some evidence that local ties would be broken. He felt that the only possible alternative in this area which should be given serious consideration was the proposal for 2 constituencies running

roughly on an east-west axis which both straddled the boundary between 2 Council areas. He concluded that this solution offered close compliance with the electoral quota and meant that the number of Council boundaries crossed would be reduced.

23. The Assistant Commissioner noted the number of objections relating to the inclusion of Dumfries and Galloway Council area ward 30 (Lochar) and ward 31 (Heathhall) in the proposed Peebles, Clydesdale and Annandale constituency. He was persuaded that our proposals would have the effect of breaking local ties with Dumfries and, consequently, he recommended that ward 30 and ward 31 should be transferred to the proposed Dumfries and Galloway constituency and that in their stead wards 32 (Nithsdale East) and ward 35 (Caerlaverock) be placed in the proposed Peebles, Clydesdale and Annandale constituency.

24. In relation to the constituency design in South Lanarkshire Council area, the Assistant Commissioner was not persuaded by the arguments for combining the Council areas of East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire as a basis for 8 parliamentary constituencies. Similarly, he was not swayed by the arguments for retaining the current Clydesdale constituency with its present boundaries.

25. With regard to alternative proposals from Mr Bill Tynan MP, the Assistant Commissioner stated that it was unfortunate that the full proposals had not been received within the statutory period for submitting representations to us, or at least in advance of the inquiry. He noted that, whilst the proposals met the objections advanced at the inquiry in respect of the town of Hamilton being split between 2 constituencies, it was difficult to gauge the extent to which they had public support from the adjoining areas affected by them. The Assistant Commissioner recommended that we should look closely at Mr Tynan's proposals and, if minded to implement them, seek further public representations.

26. The Assistant Commissioner noted the suggestion to amend the name of the proposed Peebles, Clydesdale and Annandale constituency to "Dumfriesshire, Biggar and Tweeddale" but he passed no judgement upon it.

Consideration of the Assistant Commissioner's Report and Recommendations

27. We noted that the Assistant Commissioner strongly agreed with our provisional proposal that the whole of Midlothian Council area should consist of one constituency. We agreed with that view and therefore decided that our proposals for a Midlothian county constituency should not be amended. We also noted that the Assistant Commissioner agreed with our view that the Scottish Borders Council area was too large to form a single constituency.

28. We noted the Assistant Commissioner's comments regarding the proposition that Dumfries and Galloway Council area should be subject to special geographical considerations. Prior to the publication of our provisional proposals, we had examined the Dumfries and Galloway Council area in relation to its population density and geographical extent. We had compared it with constituencies in Highland Council area where we decided that special geographical considerations did apply and concluded that no comparable case

could be made. We noted that the Assistant Commissioner was of the view that it was a matter for us to determine whether an area merited any special treatment with regard to Rule 6. We concluded that there was nothing in the Assistant Commissioner's Report that should cause us to change our view.

29. With regard to the alternative proposal submitted by the Tweeddale Branch of the Scottish National Party, we noted the view of the Assistant Commissioner that serious consideration should be given to the proposal for 2 constituencies running roughly on an east-west axis which both straddled the boundary between 2 Council areas. However, because of the poor east-west communication links across both constituencies, we were not persuaded to adopt this proposal.

30. After careful consideration of the various options in the area of Dumfries town, we accepted the Assistant Commissioner's recommendation to transfer Dumfries and Galloway Council area ward 30 (Lochar) and ward 31 (Heathhall) from the proposed Peebles, Clydesdale and Annandale constituency to the proposed Dumfries and Galloway constituency and to transfer Dumfries and Galloway Council area ward 32 (Nithsdale East) and ward 35 (Caerlaverock) from the proposed Dumfries and Galloway constituency to the proposed Peebles, Clydesdale and Annandale constituency. We noted the reference to the name of the proposed Peebles, Clydesdale and Annandale constituency and decided that "Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale" would be more appropriate.

31. We carefully considered Mr Tynan's alternative proposals which had been submitted during the course of the inquiry. However, we were not persuaded to adopt the reconfigured constituencies because they would have a substantial adverse impact on our provisional proposals for the adjoining areas in Rutherglen and East Kilbride.

32. Having duly considered the proposals for constituency design across Dumfries and Galloway Council area, Scottish Borders Council area and South Lanarkshire Council area, we accepted the Assistant Commissioner's recommendation that we should adhere to our provisional proposals for Rutherglen and Hamilton West constituency, Lanark and Hamilton East constituency, East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow constituency and Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk constituency.

Revised Recommendations

33. On 26 June 2003 we published a notice stating that, having considered the Assistant Commissioner's Report, we had decided to revise 2 of our proposals for parliamentary constituencies in the Council areas of Dumfries and Galloway, Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire as follows:

Constituencies	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk CC	Unaltered from provisional proposals	72,430

Dumfries and Galloway CC	Electoral wards in Dumfries and Galloway Council area	
	1 Rhins South	2,525
	2 Rhins North	2,567
	3 Stranraer North	2,595
	4 Stranraer South	2,188
	5 Stranraer East	2,416
	6 Luce	2,593
	7 Whithorn	2,467
	8 Wigtown	2,409
	9 Cree	2,656
	10 Stewartry West	2,355
	11 Kirkcudbright – Tarff	2,394
	12 Kirkcudbright – Bengairn	2,527
	13 Stewartry North	2,535
	14 Castle Douglas – Dee	2,477
	15 Castle Douglas – Urr	2,501
	16 Dalbeattie – Craignair	2,477
	17 Dalbeattie – Milton	2,705
	18 Criffel	2,633
	19 Cairn Valley	2,507
	23 Lincluden	2,420
	24 Lochside	2,383
	25 Palmerston	2,428
	26 Maxwelltown	2,552
	27 Troqueer	2,438
	28 Loreburn	2,373
	29 Marchmount	2,794
	30 Lochar	2,562
	31 Heathhall	2,743
	33 Georgetown	2,448
	34 Lochvale	2,648
	Total	75,316
Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale CC	Electoral wards in Dumfries and Galloway Council area	
	20 Sanquhar and District	2,336
	21 Kirkconnel	1,823
	22 Mid Nithsdale	2,669
	32 Nithsdale East	2,326
	35 Caerlaverock	2,500
	36 Hoddum and Kinmount	2,288
	37 Annan West	2,700
	38 Annan Central	2,259

39	Annan East	2,271
40	Chapelcross	2,643
41	Solway Border	2,534
42	Canonbie and Kirtle	2,587
43	Langholm and Upper Eskdale	2,549
44	Dryfe and Lockerbie East	2,509
45	Lockerbie and Upper Annandale	2,327
46	Lochmaben	2,416
47	Moffat	2,599

Electoral wards in Scottish Borders Council area

30	Innerleithen and Walkerburn	2,742
31	Peebles and District South	2,716
32	Peebles and District East	2,752
33	Peebles and Upper Tweed	2,792
34	West Linton and District	2,732

Electoral wards in South Lanarkshire Council area

6	Biggar/Symington and Black Mount	3,419
7	Duneaton/Carmichael	2,907
9	Douglas	3,741

Total	65,137
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East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow CC	Unaltered from provisional proposals	77,257
Lanark and Hamilton East CC	Unaltered from provisional proposals	76,173
Rutherglen and Hamilton West BC	Unaltered from provisional proposals	75,370

Representations on Revised Recommendations

34. Following publication of our revised recommendations for the combined Council areas of Dumfries and Galloway, Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire, we received 814 representations, including 2 petitions with approximately 520 names. Some representations remarked on more than one aspect of our revised recommendations. The representations fell broadly into the following categories:

34.1 Seventy-four representations supported our revised recommendations.

34.2 Seven objected to the decision to combine the council areas of Dumfries and Galloway, Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire in order to create parliamentary constituencies.

34.3 Twelve objected to the inclusion of Scottish Borders Council area wards 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34 in the Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale constituency.

34.4 Six hundred and ninety one objected to the inclusion of Dumfries and Galloway Council area wards 32 and 35 in the Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale constituency.

34.5 Ten objected to our proposed Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale constituency.

34.6 Eighteen representations concerned our proposals for the town of Hamilton.

34.7 Twenty-six concerned our proposals for the current Clydesdale constituency.

34.8 Four representations concerned constituency names.

Consideration of Representations on Revised Recommendations

35. With regard to the combining of Council areas to create parliamentary constituencies, we were content that the alternatives had been fully considered at the local inquiry for Dumfries and Galloway, Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire Council areas. Further, local inquiries in adjoining areas (East, North and South Ayrshire, and East Dunbartonshire and North Lanarkshire) had similarly considered and rejected alternative configurations of Council areas which had a potential impact on the design of constituencies in these areas. The representations received in respect of our revised recommendations did not provide any new arguments and we were satisfied that our decision to combine the Council areas of Dumfries and Galloway, Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire was correct.

36. With regard to the recommendation to place 5 Scottish Borders Council area wards in the Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale constituency, we were content that this had been fully discussed at the local inquiry and that these representations did not advance any new arguments. As a consequence, we were not persuaded to modify our recommendations for the constituencies covering Scottish Borders Council area.

37. With regard to the recommended Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale constituency, we carefully considered the representations and the alternative schemes submitted. We noted that 2 of the schemes advocated splitting wards in order to keep Dumfries town within one constituency. Whilst these schemes sought to alleviate the difficulties of constituency design around Dumfries, we were not minded to change our generally accepted policy of constructing constituencies from whole wards and, therefore, decided that our revised recommendations should not be amended.

38. In relation to the town of Hamilton, we carefully re-examined the proposals which, if adopted, would have re-united the town in a single constituency. We concluded that all of these proposals would undoubtedly involve breaking existing community ties within a number of adjoining proposed constituencies. We noted that we had not received representations objecting to our proposals for these areas during the initial period of public

consultation or in respect of our revised recommendations. We further noted that only two of the representations received in respect of our revised recommendations supported the proposals which would re-unite the town of Hamilton in a single constituency. Conversely, the balance of representations very strongly opposed these proposals. We were, therefore, not persuaded to amend our recommendations in respect of the town of Hamilton.

39. We considered the representations that related to our proposals affecting the current Clydesdale constituency. From the outset of our review we were aware that the changes to the Rules would result in significant changes to the existing pattern of constituencies in many areas. Given Clydesdale's geographical position, we recognised that any constituency design that retained the current constituency would have unacceptable implications for the 3 Council areas. Consequently, we were not persuaded that the current constituency of Clydesdale could be retained.

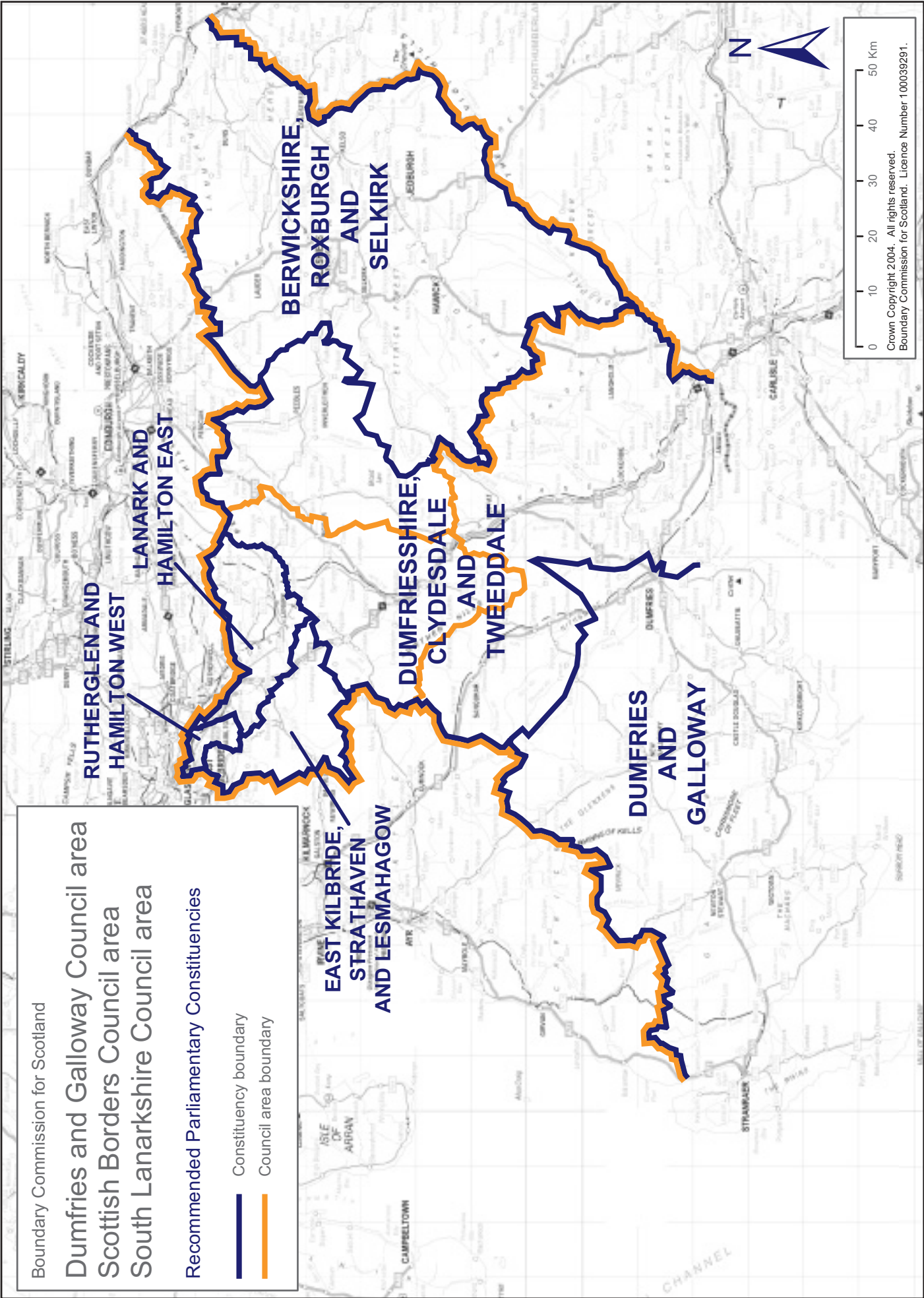
40. We considered the possibility of re-locating South Lanarkshire Council area ward 9 (Douglas) to the proposed East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow constituency but concluded that the deviation from the electoral quota in resulting electorates would be unacceptable. We also reviewed the possibility of maintaining the unity of the village of Stonehouse by locating South Lanarkshire Council area ward 54 (Larkhall South) and ward 55 (Stonehouse) in the same constituency. This would result in a deviation from the electoral quota in excess of 13 per cent. We therefore decided not to amend our recommendations in relation to Stonehouse.

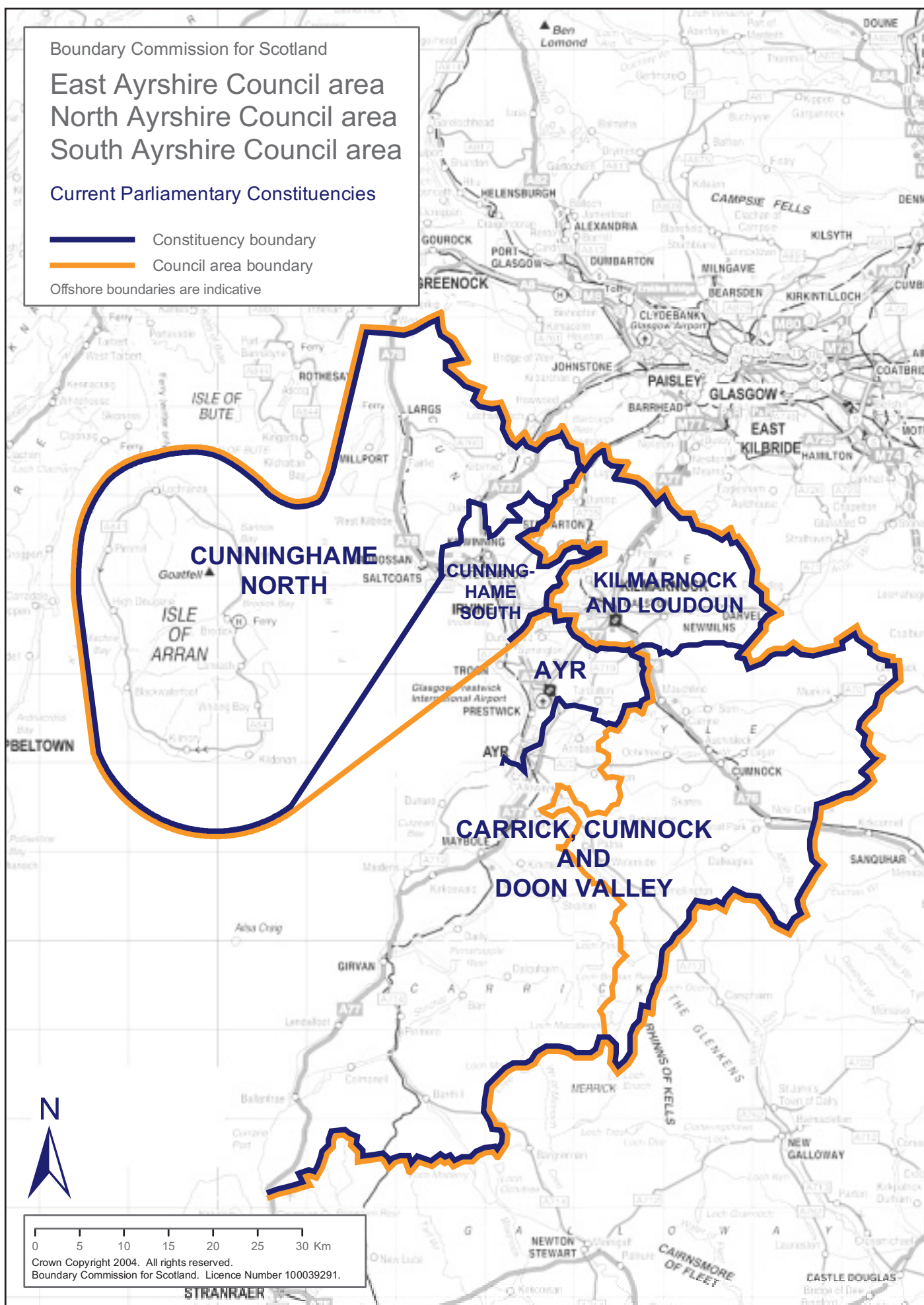
41. In view of the very small number of representations regarding constituency names, we were not persuaded to further amend our revised recommendations.

Final Recommendations

42. On 11 December 2003 we announced that we were making no further changes to our proposals for one burgh constituency and 5 county constituencies in Dumfries and Galloway, Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire Council areas and that these were our final recommendations.

43. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our proposals for one burgh and 5 county constituencies for the combined council areas of Dumfries and Galloway, Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire, as set out in paragraph 33 above.





East Ayrshire Council Area, North Ayrshire Council Area and South Ayrshire Council Area

Introduction

1. East Ayrshire Council area is currently covered by 2 county constituencies: Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency, which is wholly within the Council area, and Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley constituency, where approximately 48 per cent of the electorate is contained within East Ayrshire Council area and the remainder in South Ayrshire Council area. North Ayrshire Council area is currently covered by 2 county constituencies, Cunninghame North and Cunninghame South, both of which are wholly within the Council area. South Ayrshire Council area is currently covered by 2 county constituencies: Ayr constituency, which is wholly within the Council area, and Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley constituency where approximately 52 per cent of the electorate is within South Ayrshire Council area and the remainder is in East Ayrshire Council area. The electorates of the 5 constituencies at the start and finish of the previous and current reviews are shown at Appendix C.

Initial Considerations

2. In forming our provisional proposals for East Ayrshire Council area, North Ayrshire Council area and South Ayrshire Council area we had in mind the following considerations:

2.1 At the enumeration date of June 2001, East Ayrshire Council area contained 93,201 parliamentary electors, giving the Council area a theoretical entitlement of 1.3 seats.

2.2 At the enumeration date of June 2001, North Ayrshire Council area contained 105,942 parliamentary electors, giving the Council area a theoretical entitlement of 1.5 seats.

2.3 At the enumeration date of June 2001, South Ayrshire Council area contained 90,281 parliamentary electors, giving the Council area a theoretical entitlement of 1.3 seats.

2.4 The combined electorate for East Ayrshire Council area, North Ayrshire Council area and South Ayrshire Council area was 289,424, giving the area a theoretical entitlement of 4.1 seats.

3. We noted that, rounding the theoretical number of seats down within each Council area would provide constituencies which had electorates exceeding the electoral quota by

between 29 per cent and 52 per cent and rounding up the theoretical number of seats would provide constituencies which were below the electoral quota by between 24 per cent and 35 per cent. We concluded that such divergences from the electoral quota were not acceptable. However, providing 4 constituencies for the combined Council areas allowed the formulation of provisional proposals for constituencies which, on average, would be around 3 per cent above the electoral quota. Accordingly, we decided that the combined Council areas should be allocated 4 constituencies.

4. We proposed bringing together North Ayrshire Council area wards 10-30 thus extending the existing Cunninghame North constituency southwards within the Council area to incorporate part of the existing Cunninghame South constituency. This provided a constituency of North Ayrshire and Isle of Arran with 73,182 electors.

5. Prior to the Fourth Periodical Review, Irvine, Troon and the adjacent landward area lying towards the boundary of East Ayrshire Council area were contained within the then Central Ayrshire constituency. Much of that area, which more recently was within the Cunninghame North and Cunninghame South constituencies, is, under our provisional proposals, now contained within the North Ayrshire and Isle of Arran constituency. We considered extending the remainder of the existing Cunninghame South constituency eastwards but noted that such a proposal would most likely require splitting the contiguous built-up area of Kilmarnock and concluded, therefore, that the area should be extended southwards along the coast to incorporate Troon and Prestwick. This solution ensured that, whilst some community ties would be broken, no major settlement would be divided between constituencies. Accordingly, we proposed that North Ayrshire Council area wards 1-9 should be combined with South Ayrshire Council area wards 1-9, 22 and 23 and East Ayrshire Council area ward 5 to form an Irvine, Troon and Prestwick constituency with 68,703 electors.

6. Our proposals for an enlarged Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency extended the area of the existing constituency southwards within East Ayrshire Council area to incorporate wards 22-24 and 28 which focus on the Catrine, Auchinleck and Cumnock areas to form a new Kilmarnock, Stewarton and Cumnock constituency. We noted that such proposals incorporated a substantial tract of East Ayrshire Council area which is presently within the geographically extensive Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley constituency.

7. We noted that the main communication links in South Ayrshire Council area and much of that part of East Ayrshire Council area included in the existing Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley constituency converged on the town of Ayr. Further, it was clear that, although the towns of Ayr and Prestwick formed a contiguous built-up area, there was a distinction between the two communities which was reflected in the ward names.

8. We concluded, therefore, that East Ayrshire Council area wards 25, 26 and 30-32 and South Ayrshire Council area wards 10-21 and 24-30 should be combined to form an Ayr, New Cumnock and Carrick constituency with approximately 71,500 electors. We further concluded that the proposed constituency was geographically more appropriate than the most likely alternative which would stretch from Ballantrae in the south to beyond Newmilns and Darvel in the North and, because of the structure of the wards, would incorporate a substantial part of the built-up area of Kilmarnock.

Provisional Proposals

9. On 7 February 2002 we published our provisional proposals for 4 county constituencies for East Ayrshire Council area, North Ayrshire Council area and South Ayrshire Council area as follows:

Constituencies	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Ayr, New Cumnock and Carrick CC	Electoral wards in East Ayrshire Council area	
	25 Drongan, Stair and Rankinston	3,092
	26 Ochiltree, Skares, Netherthird and Craigens	2,760
	30 Patna and Dalrymple	3,051
	31 Dalmellington	2,636
	32 New Cumnock	2,977
	Electoral wards in South Ayrshire Council area	
	10 Ayr Newton	3,116
	11 Ayr Lochside	2,853
	12 Ayr Whitletts	2,785
	13 Ayr Craigie	2,856
	14 Ayr Central	3,004
	15 Ayr Fort	2,794
	16 Ayr Old Belmont	2,891
	17 Ayr Forehill	2,835
	18 Ayr Masonhill	3,286
	19 Ayr Belmont	3,181
	20 Ayr Doonfoot and Seafield	3,091
	21 Ayr Rozelle	3,080
	24 Annbank Mossblown St Quivox	3,102
	25 Coylton and Minishant	3,025
	26 North Carrick and Maybole West	3,174
	27 North Carrick and Maybole East	3,001
	28 South Carrick	3,196
	29 Girvan Ailsa	2,951
	30 Girvan Glendoune	2,761
	Total	71,498
Irvine, Troon and Prestwick CC	Electoral wards in East Ayrshire Council area	
	5 Crosshouse, Gatehead and Knockentiber	2,644
	Electoral wards in North Ayrshire Council area	
	1 Irvine West	3,916
	2 Irvine Townhead	3,820

3	Irvine Vineburgh and Woodlands South	2,686
4	Irvine North	3,465
5	Eglinton and Lawthorn	3,720
6	Dreghorn	3,571
7	Irvine Landward	3,930
8	Bourtreehill	3,746
9	Woodlands North and Girdle Toll	3,906

Electoral wards in South Ayrshire Council area

1	Troon North	3,036
2	Troon West	3,134
3	Troon East	3,002
4	Troon South	3,040
5	Prestwick St Ninian's	2,837
6	Prestwick St Cuthbert's and Monkton	3,088
7	Prestwick St Nicholas'	3,131
8	Prestwick Kingcase	2,963
9	Prestwick Toll	3,036
22	Dundonald and Loans	2,980
23	Tarbolton Symington Craigie	3,052

Total	68,703
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Kilmarnock, Stewarton
and Cumnock CC

Electoral wards in East Ayrshire Council area

1	Stewarton East and Dunlop	2,955
2	Stewarton Central	3,124
3	Kilmaurs and Stewarton South	2,983
4	North Kilmarnock, Fenwick and Waterside	3,577
6	Altonhill, Hillhead and Longpark	3,017
7	Onthank	2,608
8	Kilmarnock Central West	2,847
9	Kilmarnock Central East	2,854
10	North New Farm Loch and Dean	2,932
11	South New Farm Loch	2,743
12	Crookedholm, Moscow, Galston West and Hurlford North	2,868
13	Newmilns	2,665
14	Grange/Howard	3,005
15	Kilmarnock Central South	3,122
16	Riccarton	2,980
17	Shortlees	3,042
18	Bellfield	2,861
19	Hurlford	3,083
20	Galston East	2,771
21	Darvel	3,018
22	Mauchline	2,916

23	Catrine, Sorn and Mauchline East	2,868
24	Muirkirk, Lugar, Logan	2,623
27	Auchinleck	2,816
28	Cumnock West	2,957
29	Cumnock East	2,806
	Total	76,041

North Ayrshire and Isle of Arran CC

Electoral wards in North Ayrshire Council area

10	Kilwinning East	3,085
11	Kilwinning South	3,639
12	Kilwinning West	3,614
13	Stevenston North	3,442
14	Stevenston South	3,638
15	Beith	3,543
16	Dalry	3,343
17	Garnock East	3,646
18	Kilbirnie South	2,927
19	Kilbirnie North	3,338
20	Saltcoats East	3,448
21	South Beach	3,654
22	Saltcoats North	3,314
23	Ardrossan South	3,647
24	Ardrossan North	3,452
25	West Kilbride	3,807
26	Largs South and Fairlie	3,532
27	Largs West and Cumbrae	3,745
28	Largs East	3,540
29	Largs North and Skelmorlie	3,029
30	Arran	3,799
	Total	73,182

Representations on Provisional Proposals

10. During the statutory consultation period, we received 253 representations, including 3 petitions with a total of approximately 420 names and one letter which enclosed 193 signed proformas regarding our provisional proposals. Most objections focused on the following main issues:

10.1 The proposed constituency geography failed to take into account the association of like communities, splitting Ayr from Prestwick and Troon from the North Kyle villages.

10.2 East Ayrshire Council area ward 5 (Crosshouse, Gatehead and Knockentiber) had no geographical affinity with the areas in the proposed Irvine, Troon and Prestwick constituency and should be located in the proposed Kilmarnock, Stewarton and Cumnock constituency.

10.3 Cumnock should not be placed in a constituency separate from Netherthird, New Cumnock and Ayr.

Local Inquiry

11. As a consequence of the objections to our proposals from local authorities in the area, as well as the number of electors objecting, we recognised that we had a statutory duty to hold a local inquiry. At our request you agreed to appoint Sheriff Principal B A Kerr QC, Sheriff Principal of North Strathclyde, as Assistant Commissioner at the inquiry into our provisional proposals. The inquiry was held in County Hall, County Buildings, Ayr on 11, 12 and 13 September 2002.

12. In the period up to the start of the local inquiry, the number of representations received increased to 276. All the representations were seen by the Assistant Commissioner and copies were made available at the inquiry.

13. Following the inquiry, a verbatim transcript of the proceedings and the Assistant Commissioner's Report were made available on our web site.

Assistant Commissioner's Report and Recommendations

14. In his Report to us, the Assistant Commissioner considered whether the combination of Council areas and the number of constituencies we proposed were appropriate. He noted that all of those who appeared at the inquiry and addressed the subject were unanimously of the view that East Ayrshire Council area, North Ayrshire Council area and South Ayrshire Council area should be combined and, further, that all proposals considered at the inquiry proceeded on the basis of 4 constituencies as ours had done. In considering the proposal submitted by Russell Brown MP, which combined Dumfries and Galloway Council area with the 3 Ayrshire Councils, the Assistant Commissioner noted that neither Mr Brown nor anyone else appeared at the inquiry to speak to or support his proposal and, accordingly, he recommended that we should not give it further consideration.

15. The Assistant Commissioner noted that our proposed North Ayrshire and Isle of Arran constituency generated no controversy and agreed that it was satisfactory and appropriate.

16. The Assistant Commissioner was not persuaded by the arguments and submissions advanced at the inquiry by the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party. He expressed some difficulty in accepting that there is really much communication or linkage between groups of communities in different districts of the area covered by their suggested Carrick, Cumnock and Loudoun constituency. Further, having considered the arguments in great detail, he concluded that the inclusion of the Riccarton, Shortlees and Bellfield wards of Kilmarnock in their proposed new constituency constituted a fatal flaw to their acceptability. The Assistant Commissioner was of the view that these 3 Kilmarnock wards were only included in their proposed Carrick, Cumnock and Loudoun constituency to satisfy the requirements of the electoral quota. He considered whether an acceptable scheme might be achieved by retaining them within the proposed new constituency of Kilmarnock and Irvine, but noted that such a proposition would produce an excessive disparity between the electorates of the resulting constituencies. Overall, the Assistant Commissioner concluded

that the counter-proposals submitted by the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party conformed less well with the Rules. Accordingly, he concluded that our provisional proposals were to be preferred.

17. However, the Assistant Commissioner rejected our proposal to include East Ayrshire Council area ward 5 (Crosshouse, Gatehead and Knockentiber) in the proposed Irvine, Troon and Prestwick constituency. He recommended that ward 5 should be part of the eastern constituency which contains Kilmarnock. He had no strong reason for thinking that South Ayrshire Council area ward 24 (Annbank Mossblown St Quivox) had to be attached either to Ayr or to Irvine. The transfer of this ward to our proposed Irvine, Troon and Prestwick constituency would reduce the imbalance in the electorate which resulted from the transfer of ward 5, and he so recommended.

18. The Assistant Commissioner rejected our proposal to include East Ayrshire Council area wards 28 and 29 (Cumnock West and Cumnock East respectively) in the proposed Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency. He recommended that wards 28 and 29 should, with Netherthird, form part of the new southern constituency which included Ayr and New Cumnock.

19. The Assistant Commissioner agreed with the views expressed at the inquiry that the name of North Ayrshire and Isle of Arran constituency was unnecessarily unwieldy, as it included the words "Isle of" when all knew that Arran is an island. He therefore recommended that the constituency should bear the name "North Ayrshire and Arran". He recommended that our proposed Irvine, Troon and Prestwick constituency should be renamed "Central Ayrshire". Because of his recommended changes to our provisional proposals for Kilmarnock, Stewarton and Cumnock constituency, he also recommended that it should be renamed "Kilmarnock and Loudoun". Similarly, he also recommended that the Ayr, New Cumnock and Carrick constituency should be renamed "Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock".

Consideration of the Assistant Commissioner's Report and Recommendations

20. We noted that there was a general consensus that the 3 Ayrshire Council areas should be combined to provide 4 parliamentary constituencies.

21. We accepted the Assistant Commissioner's analysis of the arguments made for and against the counter-proposals submitted by the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party. We noted that he was not averse to the concept of an Irvine/Kilmarnock constituency but he considered that the proposal for a large rural constituency, including parts of Kilmarnock, was fatally flawed. We agreed with his assessment that it was not practicable, within the terms of the statutory Rules, to design a constituency containing the whole of Kilmarnock and Irvine without creating significant divergences from the electoral quota. Accordingly, we accepted his recommendation that our proposals, subject to minor amendments, should be adopted.

22. We accepted his recommendations that East Ayrshire Council area ward 5 (Crosshouse, Gatehead and Knockentiber) should be included in a constituency with

Kilmarnock; that East Ayrshire Council area wards 28 (Cumnock West) and 29 (Cumnock East) should form part of the constituency which includes Ayr and the New Cumnock wards; and that South Ayrshire Council area ward 24 (Annbank Mossblown St Quivox) should be in the constituency that includes Prestwick, Irvine and Troon.

Publication of Revised Recommendations

23. On 17 July 2003 we published a notice stating that, having considered the Assistant Commissioner's Report, we had decided to revise 3 of our proposals for parliamentary constituencies in East Ayrshire Council area, North Ayrshire Council area and South Ayrshire Council area, incorporating all of the recommendations proposed by the Assistant Commissioner. The recommendations for the 4 constituencies were as follows:

Constituencies	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock CC	Electoral wards in East Ayrshire Council area	
	25 Drongan, Stair and Rankinston	3,092
	26 Ochiltree, Skares, Netherthird and Craigens	2,760
	28 Cumnock West	2,957
	29 Cumnock East	2,806
	30 Patna and Dalrymple	3,051
	31 Dalmellington	2,636
	32 New Cumnock	2,977
	Electoral wards in South Ayrshire Council area	
	10 Ayr Newton	3,116
	11 Ayr Lochside	2,853
	12 Ayr Whitletts	2,785
	13 Ayr Craigie	2,856
	14 Ayr Central	3,004
	15 Ayr Fort	2,794
	16 Ayr Old Belmont	2,891
	17 Ayr Forehill	2,835
	18 Ayr Masonhill	3,286
	19 Ayr Belmont	3,181
	20 Ayr Doonfoot and Seafield	3,091
	21 Ayr Rozelle	3,080
	25 Coylton and Minishant	3,025
	26 North Carrick and Maybole West	3,174
	27 North Carrick and Maybole East	3,001
	28 South Carrick	3,196
	29 Girvan Ailsa	2,951
	30 Girvan Glendoune	2,761
	Total	74,159

Central Ayrshire CC

Electoral wards in North Ayrshire Council area

1	Irvine West	3,916
2	Irvine Townhead	3,820
3	Irvine Vineburgh and Woodlands South	2,686
4	Irvine North	3,465
5	Eglinton and Lawthorn	3,720
6	Dreghorn	3,571
7	Irvine Landward	3,930
8	Bourtreehill	3,746
9	Woodlands North and Girdle Toll	3,906

Electoral wards in South Ayrshire Council area

1	Troon North	3,036
2	Troon West	3,134
3	Troon East	3,002
4	Troon South	3,040
5	Prestwick St Ninian's	2,837
6	Prestwick St Cuthbert's and Monkton	3,088
7	Prestwick St Nicholas'	3,131
8	Prestwick Kingcase	2,963
9	Prestwick Toll	3,036
22	Dundonald and Loans	2,980
23	Tarbolton Symington Craigie	3,052
24	Annbank Mossblown St Quivox	3,102

Total	69,161
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Kilmarnock and Loudoun CC

Electoral wards in East Ayrshire Council area

1	Stewarton East and Dunlop	2,955
2	Stewarton Central	3,124
3	Kilmaurs and Stewarton South	2,983
4	North Kilmarnock, Fenwick and Waterside	3,577
5	Crosshouse, Gatehead and Knockentiber	2,644
6	Altonhill, Hillhead and Longpark	3,017
7	Onthank	2,608
8	Kilmarnock Central West	2,847
9	Kilmarnock Central East	2,854
10	North New Farm Loch and Dean	2,932
11	South New Farm Loch	2,743
12	Crookedholm, Moscow, Galston West and Hurlford North	2,868
13	Newmilns	2,665
14	Grange/Howard	3,005
15	Kilmarnock Central South	3,122

16	Riccarton	2,980
17	Shortlees	3,042
18	Bellfield	2,861
19	Hurlford	3,083
20	Galston East	2,771
21	Darvel	3,018
22	Mauchline	2,916
23	Catrine, Sorn and Mauchline East	2,868
24	Muirkirk, Lugar, Logan	2,623
27	Auchinleck	2,816
	Total	72,922

North Ayrshire and Arran CC	Unaltered from provisional proposals (previously named North Ayrshire and Isle of Arran CC)	73,182
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Representations on Revised Recommendations

24. Following publication of the revised recommendations, we received 33 representations. The representations fell broadly into the following categories:

24.1 Twenty-nine representations supported the revised recommendations.

24.2 Three representations expressed disappointment at the outcome of the local inquiry.

24.3 Three representations requested that Auchinleck be included in the proposed Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency.

24.4 Four representations were received concerning the constituency names.

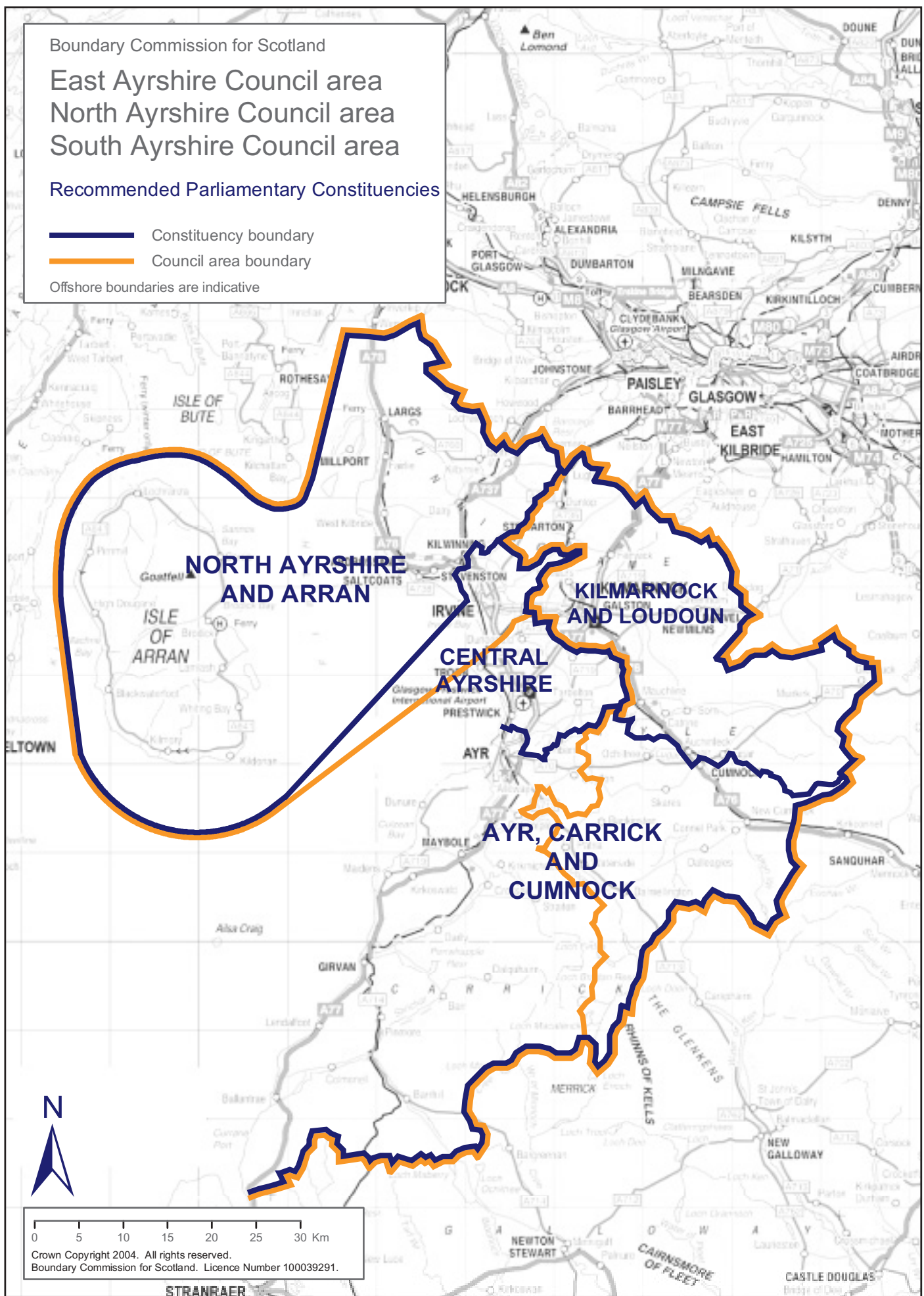
Consideration of Representations on Revised Recommendations

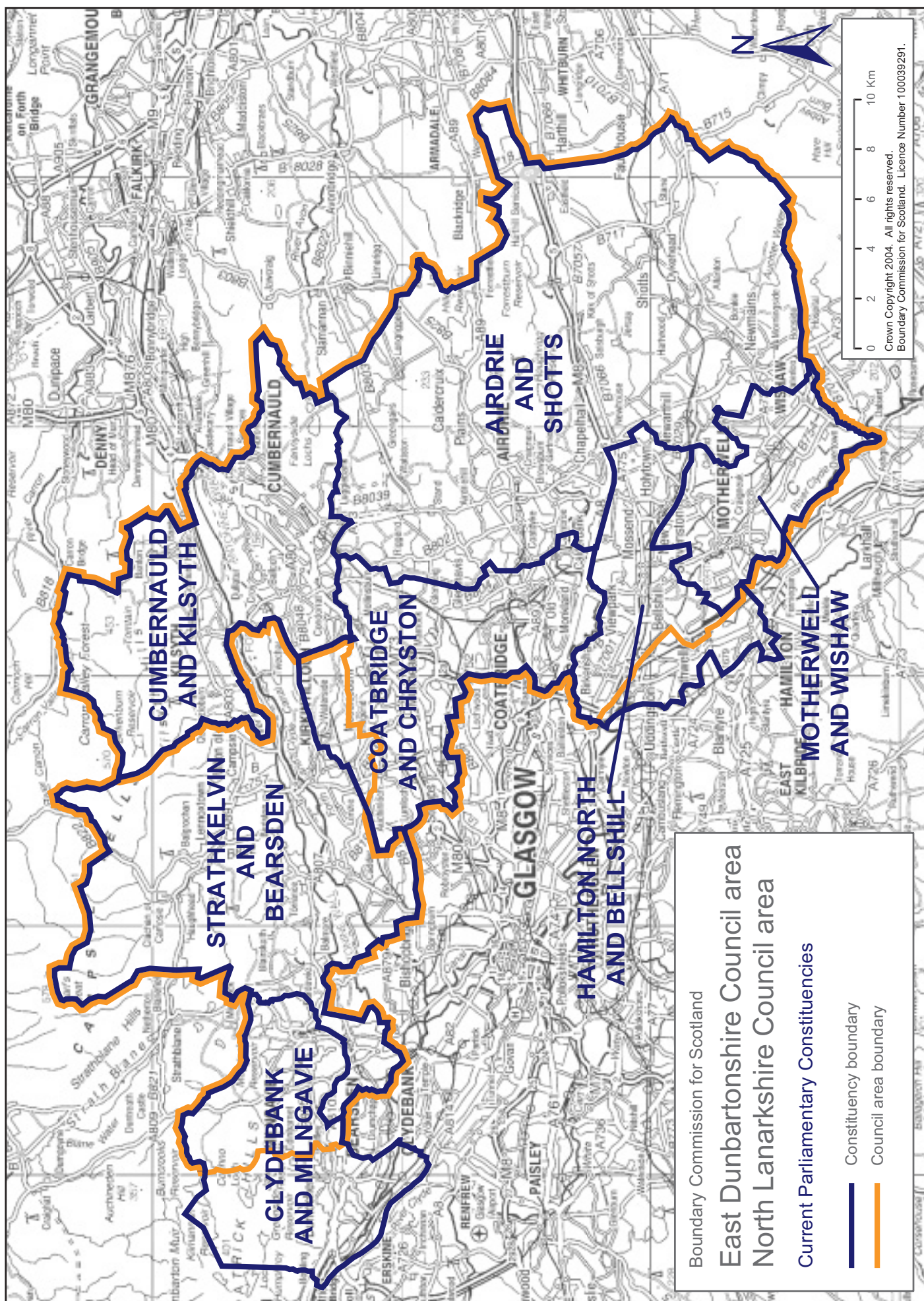
25. We considered the representations received in respect of our revised recommendations. In view of the number and nature of the representations, we were not persuaded to amend our revised recommendations.

Final Recommendations

26. On 23 October 2003 we announced that we were making no further changes to our proposals for 4 county constituencies for East Ayrshire Council area, North Ayrshire Council area and South Ayrshire Council area.

27. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our proposals for 4 county constituencies for East Ayrshire Council area, North Ayrshire Council area and South Ayrshire Council area, as set out in paragraph 23 above.





East Dunbartonshire Council Area and North Lanarkshire Council Area

Introduction

1. East Dunbartonshire Council area is currently covered by one burgh constituency and 2 county constituencies. Strathkelvin and Bearsden county constituency is contained wholly within East Dunbartonshire Council area. Clydebank and Milngavie county constituency comprises part of East Dunbartonshire Council area and part of West Dunbartonshire Council area. Approximately 33 per cent of the electorate of that constituency is contained within East Dunbartonshire Council area. North Lanarkshire Council area is currently covered by 4 burgh constituencies and one county constituency. Airdrie and Shotts burgh constituency, Cumbernauld and Kilsyth county constituency and Motherwell and Wishaw burgh constituency are wholly contained within North Lanarkshire Council area. Coatbridge and Chryston burgh constituency comprises part of North Lanarkshire Council area and part of East Dunbartonshire Council area, the latter accounting for 7 per cent of the electorate. Hamilton and Bellshill burgh constituency comprises part of North Lanarkshire Council area and part of South Lanarkshire Council area, approximately 29 per cent of the electorate being in the latter. The electorates of the 7 constituencies at the start and the finish of the previous and current reviews are provided at Appendix C.

Initial Considerations

2. In forming our provisional proposals for East Dunbartonshire Council area and North Lanarkshire Council area, we had in mind the following considerations:

2.1 At the enumeration date of June 2001, East Dunbartonshire Council area contained 84,624 parliamentary electors, giving the Council area a theoretical entitlement of 1.2 seats.

2.2 At the enumeration date of June 2001, North Lanarkshire Council area contained 248,357 parliamentary electors, giving the Council area a theoretical entitlement of 3.6 seats.

2.3 The combined electorate for East Dunbartonshire Council area and North Lanarkshire Council area was 332,981, giving the area a theoretical entitlement of 4.8 seats.

3. Within each Council area, rounding the theoretical number of seats down would provide constituencies which had electorates exceeding the electoral quota by between 18 per cent and 21 per cent. Similarly, rounding up the theoretical number of seats for each

Council area would provide constituencies which were below the electoral quota by between 11 per cent and 39 per cent. We concluded that such divergences from the electoral quota were not acceptable. However, providing 5 constituencies for the combined Council areas allowed the formulation of provisional proposals for revised constituencies which, on average, would be around 5 per cent below the electoral quota. Accordingly, we decided that the combined Council areas should be allocated 5 constituencies.

4. We noted that, prior to local government reorganisation in 1973, a large part of East Dunbartonshire and North Lanarkshire Council areas was contained within a detached part of the then county of Dunbarton. We examined the wards in East Dunbartonshire Council area and wards 53-66 in North Lanarkshire Council area and concluded that there was sufficient electorate in the combined areas to form 2 constituencies. We considered that all but a very small part of the existing Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency could be extended westwards to include East Dunbartonshire Council area wards 11-13, 17 and 18 to form a revised Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East constituency with 67,802 electors. East Dunbartonshire Council area wards 1-10, 14-16 and 19-24 could then be grouped to form a Bearsden, Bishopbriggs and Kirkintilloch West constituency with 66,724 electors. We considered carefully whether constituencies could be redesigned to avoid splitting the town of Kirkintilloch between 2 constituencies but concluded that the geography, settlement pattern and structure of wards did not make it possible to contain Kirkintilloch wholly within one constituency.

5. In the Coatbridge area, we concluded that it would not be possible to extend the remainder of the Coatbridge and Chryston constituency eastwards and decided that North Lanarkshire Council area wards 21-24 and 30 could reasonably be added to the existing constituency. We concluded also that the small segment of North Lanarkshire Council area ward 50 which lies within the Coatbridge and Chryston constituency would be best located with the remainder of that ward in a constituency which focused on Airdrie. The proposed Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill constituency would contain 67,647 electors.

6. We then sought to create two constituencies from the remaining wards in North Lanarkshire Council area. We concluded that North Lanarkshire Council area wards 18-20, 27-29 and 41-52 could form a new Airdrie and Shotts constituency with 63,321 electors and that North Lanarkshire Council area wards 1-17, 25 and 26 could form a new Motherwell and Wishaw constituency with 67,487 electors.

Provisional Proposals

7. On 7 February 2002 we published our provisional proposals for one burgh constituency and 4 county constituencies for East Dunbartonshire Council area and North Lanarkshire Council area as follows:

Constituencies	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Airdrie and Shotts CC	Electoral wards in North Lanarkshire Council area	
	18 Dykehead	3,411
	19 Cleland	3,544

20	Benhar	3,516
27	Holytown	3,702
28	Mossend East and New Stevenston North	3,696
29	Newarthill	3,667
41	Whinhall	3,641
42	Academy	3,480
43	Airdrie Central	3,455
44	Clarkston	3,558
45	New Monkland West	3,805
46	Plains and Caldercruix	3,466
47	North Cairnhill and Coatdyke	2,948
48	South East Cairnhill and Gartlea	3,542
49	Craigneuk and Petersburn	3,504
50	Calderbank	3,373
51	Chapelhall	3,376
52	Salsburgh	3,637
Total		63,321

Bearsden, Bishopbriggs and
Kirkintilloch West CC

Electoral wards in East Dunbartonshire
Council area

1	Barloch	3,508
2	Clober	3,717
3	Keystone	3,442
4	Baljaffray/Mosshead	3,816
5	Bearsden	3,665
6	Castlehill/Thorn	3,617
7	Chapelton	3,716
8	Westerton	3,635
9	Kessington	3,694
10	West Kirkintilloch and Torrance	3,574
14	Kirkintilloch Central	4,104
15	Lenzie	3,450
16	South Lenzie	2,983
19	Kenmure and Baldernock	3,527
20	Balmuildy and Park	3,087
21	Cadder/Langbrae	3,334
22	Auchinairn and Crowhill	3,677
23	Woodhill West	3,049
24	Woodhill East	3,129
Total		66,724

Coatbridge, Chryston
and Bellshill BC

Electoral wards in North Lanarkshire
Council area

21	Tannochside	3,960
22	Fallside	3,875

23	Viewpark	3,798
24	Bellshill North	3,733
30	Hattonrig	3,758
31	Townhead	3,220
32	Blairpark	3,586
33	North Central and Glenboig	3,877
34	Coatbridge Central	3,782
35	Sikeside and Carnbroe	3,282
36	Bargeddie and Langloan	3,400
37	Kirkwood	3,522
38	Kirkshaws	3,595
39	Shawhead	3,420
40	Old Monkland	3,247
67	Moodiesburn East and Blackwood West	3,379
68	Moodiesburn West and Gartcosh	3,358
69	Chryston and Auchinloch	3,434
70	Stepps	3,421
Total		67,647

Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and
Kirkintilloch East CC

Electoral wards in East Dunbartonshire
Council area

11	Hillhead and Broomhill	3,962
12	Rosebank and Waterside	3,598
13	East Harestanes and Twechar	3,845
17	Campsie	3,117
18	Milton	3,378

Electoral wards in North Lanarkshire Council area

53	Kildrum and Park	3,495
54	Seafar and The Village	3,604
55	Balloch East and Ravenswood	3,747
56	Balloch West, Blackwood East and Craigmarloch	4,080
57	Westerwood, Carrickstone and Dullatur	3,701
58	Abronhill South	3,504
59	Abronhill Central and North	3,774
60	Carbrain East	3,471
61	Carbrain West and Greenfaulds	3,490
62	Condorrat Central	3,711
63	Condorrat North and Westfield	3,755
64	Croy, Kilsyth South and Smithstone	2,823
65	Queenzieburn and Kilsyth West	3,415
66	Banton and Kilsyth East	3,332
Total		67,802

Motherwell and Wishaw CC	Electoral wards in North Lanarkshire Council area	
	1 Ladywell	3,903
	2 Calder Valley	3,464
	3 Forgewood	3,338
	4 North Motherwell	3,676
	5 New Stevenston and Carfin	3,549
	6 Cragneuk	3,002
	7 Belhaven	3,548
	8 Stewarton	3,798
	9 Cambusnethan	3,515
	10 Coltness	3,423
	11 Watsonville	3,609
	12 Knowetop	3,557
	13 Muirhouse and Netherton	3,522
	14 Pather and Gowkthrapple	3,387
	15 Garrion	3,538
	16 Newmains	3,485
	17 Stane	3,743
	25 Orbiston	3,673
	26 Mossend West and Thorndean	3,757
	Total	67,487

Representations on Provisional Proposals

8. During the statutory consultation period, we received 363 representations, including one petition with a total of approximately 110 names and 2 letters enclosing a total of 208 proformas, regarding our provisional proposals. Most objections focused on the following issues:

8.1 The configuration of the proposed Bearsden, Bishopbriggs and Kirkintilloch West constituency and the proposed Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East constituency.

8.2 Whether North Lanarkshire Council area ward 17 should be included in the proposed Airdrie and Shotts constituency.

8.3 Whether North Lanarkshire Council area ward 19 should be included in the proposed Motherwell and Wishaw constituency.

Local Inquiry

9. As a consequence of the objection to our proposals from North Lanarkshire Council as well as the number of electors objecting, we recognised that we had a statutory duty to hold a local inquiry. At our request you agreed to appoint Sheriff Principal J C McInnes QC, Sheriff Principal of South Strathclyde and Dumfries and Galloway, as Assistant Commissioner at the

inquiry into our provisional proposals. The inquiry was held in Lenzie Hall, 61 Kirkintilloch Road, Lenzie on 2 and 3 September 2002.

10. In the period up to the start of the local inquiry, the number of representations received increased to 395. All the representations were seen by the Assistant Commissioner and copies were made available at the inquiry.

11. Following the inquiry, a verbatim transcript of the proceedings and the Assistant Commissioner's Report were made available on our web site.

Assistant Commissioner's Report and Recommendations

12. In his Report to us, the Assistant Commissioner considered whether East Dunbartonshire Council area and North Lanarkshire Council area should be combined for the purpose of determining the number of constituencies and the constituency boundaries within the area, and whether South Lanarkshire should also be included. He concluded that our proposals appeared to achieve results which complied with the statutory requirements. He noted that the counter-proposals by the Scottish Labour Party and North Lanarkshire Council also appeared to work reasonably well for the most part within the area covered by the inquiry, although they were less satisfactory in terms of constituency size. He also noted that these counter-proposals did not appear to be supported by South Lanarkshire Council. He concluded that, on the basis of the information before the inquiry, we were correct to combine East Dunbartonshire Council area and North Lanarkshire Council area for the purpose of determining the number of constituencies and their boundaries.

13. With regard to our proposed Bearsden, Bishopbriggs and Kirkintilloch West constituency, the Assistant Commissioner said that, if it had been possible to recommend a satisfactory solution which did not involve splitting Kirkintilloch, he would have done so. However, after careful consideration, he recommended that the boundaries proposed in our provisional proposals for Bearsden, Bishopbriggs and Kirkintilloch West should be adopted, thus accepting that Kirkintilloch would be split between 2 constituencies. There was also general agreement at the beginning of the inquiry that East Dunbartonshire wards 17 and 18 (Campsie and Milton respectively) should be linked with Cumbernauld in the proposed Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East constituency. He concluded that the Bearsden, Bishopbriggs and Kirkintilloch West constituency should be re-named "East Dunbartonshire".

14. In considering the representations made in respect of the Shotts area, the Assistant Commissioner noted that North Lanarkshire Council area wards 16-18 and 20 were closely connected and should therefore, if possible, be in the Motherwell and Wishaw constituency. However, he acknowledged that the desirability of achieving this was outweighed by the difficulties which it would cause by reducing the electorate of the proposed Airdrie and Shotts constituency to 56,394, which was not acceptable. Bearing in mind that the ideal could not be achieved, he recommended that ward 16 (Newmains) and ward 17 (Stane) should be transferred from the proposed Motherwell and Wishaw constituency to the proposed Airdrie and Shotts constituency but that there would need to be a compensating transfer of one ward. The Assistant Commissioner accepted evidence that North

Lanarkshire Council area ward 19 (Cleland), which under our proposals was within the Airdrie and Shotts constituency, had stronger ties with Wishaw and should accordingly be transferred to the proposed Motherwell and Wishaw constituency.

15. The Assistant Commissioner accepted evidence given at the inquiry that a strong case had been made for transferring both North Lanarkshire Council area ward 28 (Mossend East and New Stevenston North) and ward 29 (Newarthill) from the proposed Airdrie and Shotts constituency to the proposed Motherwell and Wishaw constituency, but concluded that this was not possible because of the net effect on the electorates in these constituencies. However, he concluded that transferring ward 28 resulted in the Bellshill area being divided between 2 rather than 3 constituencies and, accordingly, he recommended that it should be within the proposed Motherwell and Wishaw constituency.

16. The Assistant Commissioner made no recommendations in respect of our proposed Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill constituency or our proposed Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East constituency.

Consideration of the Assistant Commissioner's Recommendations

17. We considered the Assistant Commissioner's Report in conjunction with the Report in respect of the Council areas of Dumfries and Galloway, Midlothian, Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire.

18. We noted the Assistant Commissioner's view that we had been correct in combining East Dunbartonshire Council area and North Lanarkshire Council area to provide for 5 constituencies. We noted also that the Inquiry Report which dealt with South Lanarkshire Council area clearly rejected proposals for a constituency which straddled the boundary between North Lanarkshire Council area and South Lanarkshire Council area.

19. We noted that the Assistant Commissioner had carefully examined boundaries in the Kirkintilloch area and concluded that our provisional proposals should remain unaltered. We accepted the recommendation that the proposed Bearsden, Bishopbriggs and Kirkintilloch West constituency be renamed "East Dunbartonshire".

20. We carefully examined the changes proposed in the Inquiry Report which involved transferring North Lanarkshire Council area wards 16 (Newmains) and 17 (Stane) from the Motherwell and Wishaw constituency to the Airdrie and Shotts constituency and transferring wards 19 (Cleland) and ward 28 (Mossend and New Stevenston North) from the Airdrie and Shotts constituency to the Motherwell and Wishaw constituency. We agreed that these recommended changes should be adopted. Additionally, we noted that the proposed changes to the Motherwell and Wishaw constituency indicated that it would be appropriate to amend the designation from "county" to "burgh" constituency.

Publication of Revised Recommendations

21. On 26 June 2003 we published a notice stating that, having considered the Assistant Commissioner's Report, we had decided to revise 3 of our proposals for parliamentary

constituencies in the combined Council areas of East Dunbartonshire and North Lanarkshire as follows:

Constituencies	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Airdrie and Shotts CC	Electoral wards in North Lanarkshire Council area	
	16 Newmains	3,485
	17 Stane	3,743
	18 Dykehead	3,411
	20 Benhar	3,516
	27 Holytown	3,702
	29 Newarthill	3,667
	41 Whinhall	3,641
	42 Academy	3,480
	43 Airdrie Central	3,455
	44 Clarkston	3,558
	45 New Monkland West	3,805
	46 Plains and Caldercruix	3,466
	47 North Cairnhill and Coatdyke	2,948
	48 South East Cairnhill and Gartlea	3,542
	49 Craigneuk and Petersburn	3,504
	50 Calderbank	3,373
	51 Chapelhall	3,376
	52 Salsburgh	3,637
	Total	63,309
East Dunbartonshire CC	Unaltered from provisional proposals (previously named Bearsden, Bishopbriggs and Kirkintilloch West)	66,724
Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill BC	Unaltered from provisional proposals	67,647
Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East CC	Unaltered from provisional proposals	67,802
Motherwell and Wishaw BC	Electoral wards in North Lanarkshire Council area	
	1 Ladywell	3,903
	2 Calder Valley	3,464
	3 Forgewood	3,338
	4 North Motherwell	3,676
	5 New Stevenston and Carfin	3,549
	6 Craigneuk	3,002

7	Belhaven	3,548
8	Stewarton	3,798
9	Cambusnethan	3,515
10	Coltness	3,423
11	Watsonville	3,609
12	Knowetop	3,557
13	Muirhouse and Netherton	3,522
14	Pather and Gowkthrapple	3,387
15	Garrion	3,538
19	Cleland	3,544
25	Orbiston	3,673
26	Mossend West and Thorndean	3,757
28	Mossend East and New Stevenston North	3,696
Total		67,499

Representations on Revised Recommendations

22. Following publication of the revised recommendations, we received 12 representations. The representations fell broadly into the following categories:

22.1 Four representations supported the revised recommendations for East Dunbartonshire Council area.

22.2 Six representations objected to the recommendations regarding Kirkintilloch.

22.3 One representation requested that counter-proposals submitted by the Scottish Labour Party be reconsidered.

22.4 North Lanarkshire Council did not object to the revised recommendations for East Dunbartonshire Council area but requested a second local inquiry.

Consideration of Representations on Revised Recommendations

23. We considered the representations relating to East Dunbartonshire Council area which objected to our recommendations for Kirkintilloch and provided alternative proposals that aimed, principally, to retain the major part of Kirkintilloch in the proposed East Dunbartonshire constituency. We noted that this objective would be achieved by splitting wards between 2 constituencies, or by transferring ward 16 (South Lenzie) to the proposed Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill constituency. However, we decided that there were insufficient grounds to depart from our policy that whole wards should form the building blocks for revised constituencies. We noted that the proposed transfer of ward 16 was discussed at length during the inquiry and no new evidence had been offered. We agreed, therefore, not to amend our proposals in respect of Kirkintilloch.

24. The Scottish Labour Party requested that their counter-proposals should be reconsidered. North Lanarkshire Council requested that their proposals, submitted in September 2002,

be reconsidered at a second local inquiry. North Lanarkshire Council also requested the transfer of ward 27 (Holytown) from the proposed Airdrie and Shotts constituency to the proposed Motherwell and Wishaw constituency, as its closest links and connections were with wards 26 and 28. Similarly, they requested the transfer of ward 19 (Cleland) from the proposed Motherwell and Wishaw constituency to the proposed Airdrie and Shotts constituency, arguing that it had very close links with wards 16 and 29.

25. North Lanarkshire Council and others objected to the proposal for ward 67 (Moodiesburn East and Blackwood West). This ward currently straddles 2 constituencies: Coatbridge and Chryston and Cumbernauld and Kilsyth. Objectors proposed that ward 67 should continue to straddle 2 constituencies because part of this ward included a significant area within the town of Cumbernauld.

26. We were not persuaded by North Lanarkshire Council's proposals for the transfer of ward 19 (Cleland) and ward 27 (Holytown), bearing in mind the absence of any other representations specifically concerning these areas and the detailed examination of the issues at the local inquiry. We considered the representations proposing that ward 67 should be split between 2 constituencies. However, we concluded that our policy that wards should not be split was correct and that a departure from this policy could not be justified.

27. We carefully considered the request for a second local inquiry. We concluded that all of the issues regarding East Dunbartonshire Council area, North Lanarkshire Council area, as well as those relating to South Lanarkshire Council area, had been fully explored at the inquiries already held and that the recommendations arising from these inquiries were fully supported by the Reports submitted to us. We were not persuaded that there was any good reason for holding a further inquiry and agreed that the revised recommendations for East Dunbartonshire Council area and North Lanarkshire Council area should be adopted as our final recommendations.

Final Recommendations

28. On 11 December 2003 we announced that we were making no further changes to our revised recommendations for 2 burgh constituencies and 3 county constituencies in East Dunbartonshire and North Lanarkshire Council areas and that these were to be our final recommendations.

29. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our proposals for 2 burgh constituencies and 3 county constituencies for the Council areas of East Dunbartonshire and North Lanarkshire, as set out in paragraph 21 above.

Falkirk Council Area and West Lothian Council Area

Introduction

1. Falkirk Council area is currently covered by 2 county constituencies. Falkirk East and Falkirk West constituencies are contained wholly within the Council area. West Lothian Council area was also covered by 2 county constituencies, Linlithgow constituency and Livingston constituency, wholly contained within the Council area. During the course of the review there was an amendment to the boundary between the City of Edinburgh Council area and West Lothian Council area and consequently a small part of Edinburgh West burgh constituency, containing one elector, now lies within West Lothian Council (see paragraph 29). The electorates of the 5 constituencies at the start and finish of the previous and current review are shown at Appendix C.

Initial Considerations

2. In forming our provisional proposals for Falkirk Council area and West Lothian Council area we had in mind the following considerations:

2.1 At the enumeration date of June 2001, Falkirk Council area contained 112,763 parliamentary electors, giving the Council area a theoretical entitlement of 1.6 seats.

2.2 At the enumeration date of June 2001, West Lothian Council area contained 120,491 parliamentary electors, giving the Council area a theoretical entitlement of 1.7 seats.

2.3 The combined electorate for Falkirk Council area and West Lothian Council area was 233,254, giving the area a theoretical entitlement of 3.3 seats.

3. We noted that, if within each Council area the theoretical number of seats was rounded up or down, this would result in revised constituencies which had electorates that were below the electoral quota by between 14 per cent and 19 per cent or exceeded the electoral quota by between 61 per cent and 72 per cent. However, providing 3 constituencies for the combined Council areas allowed the formulation of provisional proposals for revised constituencies which, on average, would be around 11 per cent above the electoral quota.

4. Although combining both Council areas reduces the deviation from the electoral quota, it was apparent that the electorates of each revised constituency would exceed the electoral

quota and we therefore examined the possibility of linking either or both Council areas with adjacent Councils. However, we noted that, to the east of the Council areas, the City of Edinburgh Council area had sufficient electorate to justify exactly 5 constituencies. We considered the practicality of linking the combined Council areas with Scottish Borders Council area and South Lanarkshire Council area but concluded that the geography and ward structure of these Council areas did not offer any satisfactory solution. Similarly, we noted that the potential to link either or both Council areas with North Lanarkshire, Stirling or Clackmannanshire Council areas was limited because of the structure of wards and settlement patterns in these adjoining areas.

5. We also considered provisional population projection data for the 2 Council areas. We noted that, by the time of the next statutory review of constituencies, the data suggested that the population aged 18 years and over, particularly within West Lothian Council area, would increase. We concluded that, should the electorate rise to the extent suggested by the population projections, a further review of constituencies in this area could be undertaken before the next statutory review. We, therefore, concluded that the combined Council areas should be allocated 3 constituencies.

6. Our provisional proposals for the Falkirk constituency incorporated all of the existing Falkirk West constituency and Falkirk Council area wards 17, 18 and 29-31, which are to the northwest and southeast of the existing constituency and are presently wholly within the existing Falkirk East constituency. The proposed constituency had 78,176 electors. The proposals maintained, as far as is practicable, the majority of the contiguous built-up area of Falkirk within one constituency.

7. With regard to our proposed Livingston constituency, we noted that a number of wards straddled the existing constituency boundary. Our provisional proposals retained all of the wards which lay either wholly or partly within the existing constituency, with the exception of West Lothian Council area ward 3 (Preston). Our provisional proposals also included in the revised Livingston constituency West Lothian Council area wards 23 and 29 (Blackburn and Breich Valley respectively) and all of ward 28 (Fauldhouse), part of which is presently within the existing Linlithgow constituency. The proposed constituency had 76,298 electors.

8. Our provisional proposals for the revised Linlithgow constituency transferred a small number of West Lothian Council area wards which lie within the existing Linlithgow constituency to the revised Livingston constituency. However, West Lothian Council area ward 3 (Preston), which is presently within the existing Livingston constituency, was incorporated in the revised Linlithgow constituency. Our provisional proposals also included Falkirk Council area wards 9-16, 28 and 32 in the revised and enlarged Linlithgow constituency. The proposed constituency had 78,780 electors and was, therefore, the largest of the 3 constituencies within the combined Council areas.

Provisional Proposals

9. On 7 February 2002 we published our provisional proposals for 3 county constituencies for the combined Council areas of Falkirk and West Lothian as follows:

Constituencies	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Falkirk CC	Electoral wards in Falkirk Council area	
	1 Camelon	3,425
	2 Summerford	3,459
	3 Woodlands	3,770
	4 Town Centre	3,631
	5 Hall Glen	3,623
	6 Dawson	3,450
	7 Grahamsford	3,527
	8 Middlefield	3,647
	17 Forthside	3,715
	18 Kinnaird	3,811
	19 Carrongrange	3,565
	20 Tryst	4,073
	21 Larbert	3,647
	22 Herbertshire	3,560
	23 Denny	3,208
	24 Denny South	3,386
	25 Bonnybridge	3,456
	26 Banknock	3,205
	27 Laurieston	3,412
	29 Redding and Westquarter	3,501
	30 Darnrig	3,621
	31 Reddingmuirhead, Brightons and Rumford	3,484
	Total	78,176
Linlithgow CC	Electoral wards in Falkirk Council area	
	9 Zetland	3,698
	10 Beancross	3,518
	11 Inchyra	3,524
	12 Dundas/Kerse	3,566
	13 Grange and Blackness	3,282
	14 Dean	3,201
	15 Borrowstoun	3,490
	16 Kinneil and Whitecross	3,301
	28 Polmont	3,589
	32 Avon	3,418
	Electoral wards in West Lothian Council area	
	1 St Michael's	3,836
	2 Kingsfield	4,230
	3 Preston	4,386

4	Boghall	3,367
6	Armada West	3,864
7	Armada Central	3,592
8	Easton	3,733
9	Newland	3,307
10	Durhamtoun	2,942
20	Polkemmet	3,558
21	Croftmalloch	3,605
22	Almond	3,773
Total		78,780

Livingston CC

Electoral wards in West Lothian Council area

5	Oatridge	3,971
11	Deans	4,008
12	Knightsbridge	4,175
13	Ladywell	3,392
14	Kirkton	3,618
15	Carmondean	4,033
16	Howden	4,125
17	Craigshill	3,507
18	Dedridge	4,032
19	Murieston	3,669
23	Blackburn	3,870
24	Houstoun	3,862
25	Calderwood	3,761
26	Middleton	3,530
27	Strathbrock	3,697
28	Fauldhouse	3,928
29	Breich Valley	4,004
30	Limefield	3,789
31	East Calder	3,910
32	Linhouse	3,417
Total		76,298

Representations on Provisional Proposals

10. During the statutory consultation period, we received 167 representations, including one petition with a total of approximately 27 names, regarding our provisional proposals. Most objections focused on the following main issues:

10.1 The configuration and content of the proposed Linlithgow constituency.

10.2 The inclusion of Falkirk Council area ward 28 (Polmont) in the proposed Linlithgow constituency, and Falkirk Council area ward 31 (Reddingmuirhead, Brightons and Rumford) in the proposed Falkirk constituency.

10.3 The projected increase in the population aged 18 years and over in West Lothian Council area.

Local Inquiry

11. As a consequence of the objections to our proposals from the local authorities, as well as the number of electors objecting, we recognised that we had a statutory duty to hold a local inquiry. At our request, you agreed to appoint Sheriff Principal R A Dunlop QC, Sheriff Principal of Tayside, Central and Fife, as Assistant Commissioner for the inquiry. The inquiry was held in Howden Park Centre, Livingston on 14 and 15 October 2002.

12. In the period up to the start of the local inquiry, the number of representations increased to 171. All of the representations were seen by the Assistant Commissioner and copies were made available at the inquiry.

13. Following the inquiry, a verbatim transcript of the proceedings and the Assistant Commissioner's Report were made available on our web site.

Assistant Commissioner's Report and Recommendations

14. In his Report to us, the Assistant Commissioner noted that our proposals to combine the Falkirk Council area and West Lothian Council area to provide 3 constituencies was, with the exception of Linlithgow Constituency Labour Party and West Lothian Council Labour Group, widely accepted as the only reasonable and practicable solution to a difficult problem.

15. The Assistant Commissioner was not persuaded by the arguments and submissions advanced at the inquiry by the Linlithgow Constituency Labour Party for the 3 options it proposed.

16. In considering the counter-proposals, the Assistant Commissioner was satisfied that none of them would command wider support than our original proposals. He commented that 2 of the options (Option 1 and 1a) submitted by Linlithgow Constituency Labour Party attracted significant criticism largely on the grounds that the proposals did not consider what would happen to the Falkirk Council area if 2 wards from the City of Edinburgh Council area were used to supplement the electorate in West Lothian. He also noted that no consideration had been given to the effect the proposals would have on the constituency design in the City of Edinburgh Council area.

17. The Assistant Commissioner considered that the third option (Option 2) failed to address the knock-on effect of removing Clackmannanshire from its grouping with Perth and Kinross Council area. He noted that the Scottish Labour Party and the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party had taken an interest in our recommendations across Scotland and consequently considered that their evidence on this matter was entitled to receive greater weight than that of Linlithgow Constituency Labour Party. Furthermore, he considered it unfair to attach weight to a proposal that was made so late in the day that the Council most affected by it had no opportunity to consider it and offer comment on it.

18. The Assistant Commissioner considered the objection that our proposals had not taken account of the projected increase in the population aged 18 years and over in West Lothian Council area. He concluded that predictions of future change are the product of assumptions that may or may not materialise, that these assumptions change from time to time and are, accordingly, a shaky foundation for the accurate prediction of population growth and, more particularly, of the precise location of such growth. The Assistant Commissioner further concluded that, when determining the appropriate number of constituencies for an area, there is no scope within the Rules for a departure from the electorate at the enumeration date.

19. With regard to the village of Blackburn, which was split in our provisional proposals, the Assistant Commissioner expressed sympathy for the residents but found that any proposals that would keep Blackburn together within the same constituency would have radical knock-on effects.

20. With regard to the concerns about Winchburgh and Bridgend, the Assistant Commissioner concluded that, as neither settlement would itself be divided and there were no compelling reasons to think that the interests of Winchburgh and Bridgend would be better served by being in Linlithgow constituency rather than the Livingston constituency, our provisional proposals should not be revised.

21. The Assistant Commissioner noted the overwhelming support for the transfer of Falkirk Council area ward 28 (Polmont) to the proposed Falkirk constituency and the transfer of Falkirk Council area ward 31 (Reddingmuirhead, Brightons and Rumford) to the proposed Linlithgow constituency and accordingly recommended that our provisional proposals be altered to accommodate this transfer.

22. The Assistant Commissioner noted that there was general dissatisfaction with the name of the Linlithgow constituency but that no clear consensus regarding the name emerged during the inquiry. In recognition of a body of opinion, the Assistant Commissioner suggested that the constituency be renamed to reflect the communities in Falkirk Council area and also that it should continue to include the name “Linlithgow”.

Consideration of the Assistant Commissioner’s Report and Recommendations

23. We noted the Assistant Commissioner’s conclusion that we were correct to allocate 3 constituencies to the combined Falkirk and West Lothian Council areas.

24. We further noted that he rejected representations that sought to combine all or parts of either Clackmannanshire Council area or the City of Edinburgh Council area with Falkirk Council area and West Lothian Council area to produce an alternative configuration of constituencies for these combined areas because no account had been taken of the wider impact on our proposals for the City of Edinburgh, Perth and Kinross, Clackmannanshire, Dundee City and Angus Council areas.

25. We agreed that, whilst it was possible to consider recent trends in the electorate when determining constituency boundaries, it was not appropriate to determine the entitlement of

constituencies for the combined Council areas on the basis of projections of population or electorate rather than the electorate at the enumeration date.

26. We accepted the Assistant Commissioner's recommendation that Falkirk Council area ward 28 should be transferred to the proposed Falkirk constituency and that, to rebalance the electorates, Falkirk Council area ward 31 should be transferred to the proposed Linlithgow constituency.

27. We considered the recommendation that the name of the proposed Linlithgow constituency should be amended to adequately reflect the inclusion of a significant number of electors within Falkirk Council area in the revised constituency and concluded that the name "Linlithgow and East Falkirk" most accurately described the composition of the constituency.

Publication of Revised Recommendations

28. On 26 June 2003 we published a notice stating that, having considered the Assistant Commissioner's Report, we had decided to revise 2 of our proposals for parliamentary constituencies in the combined Council areas of Falkirk and West Lothian, incorporating all of the recommendations proposed by the Assistant Commissioner.

29. The notice also stated that the boundary between West Lothian Council area ward 27 (Strathbrock) and the City of Edinburgh Council area ward 3 (Dalmeny/Kirkliston) had been amended by the City of Edinburgh Council and West Lothian Council Boundaries (West Farm, Broxburn) Amendment Order 2002. This boundary change transferred one elector from the City of Edinburgh Council area to West Lothian Council area. This increased the electorate of West Lothian Council area ward 27 (Strathbrock) from 3,697, when the provisional proposals were published on 7 February 2002, to 3,698 on publication of our revised recommendations. This small boundary change in the Broxburn area was incorporated into our revised recommendations which were:

Constituencies	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Falkirk CC	Electoral wards in Falkirk Council area	
	1 Camelon	3,425
	2 Summerford	3,459
	3 Woodlands	3,770
	4 Town Centre	3,631
	5 Hall Glen	3,623
	6 Dawson	3,450
	7 Grahamsford	3,527
	8 Middlefield	3,647
	17 Forthside	3,715
	18 Kinnaird	3,811
	19 Carrongrange	3,565
	20 Tryst	4,073

21	Larbert	3,647
22	Herbertshire	3,560
23	Denny	3,208
24	Denny South	3,386
25	Bonnybridge	3,456
26	Banknock	3,205
27	Laurieston	3,412
28	Polmont	3,589
29	Redding and Westquarter	3,501
30	Darnrig	3,621
	Total	78,281

Linlithgow and East Falkirk CC Electoral wards in Falkirk Council area

9	Zetland	3,698
10	Beancross	3,518
11	Inchyra	3,524
12	Dundas/Kerse	3,566
13	Grange and Blackness	3,282
14	Dean	3,201
15	Borrowstoun	3,490
16	Kinneil and Whitecross	3,301
31	Reddingmuirhead, Brightons and Rumford	
32	Avon	3,418

Electoral wards in West Lothian Council area

1	St Michael's	3,836
2	Kingsfield	4,230
3	Preston	4,386
4	Boghall	3,367
6	Armadale West	3,864
7	Armadale Central	3,592
8	Easton	3,733
9	Newland	3,307
10	Durhamtoun	2,942
20	Polkemmet	3,558
21	Croftmalloch	3,605
22	Almond	3,773
	Total	78,675

Livingston CC	Unaltered from provisional proposals (except for increase of one elector due to boundary changes mentioned above.)	76,299
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Representations on Revised Recommendations

30. Following publication of the revised recommendations, we received 46 representations. Some representations remarked on more than one aspect of our revised recommendations. The representations fell into the following categories:

30.1 Three representations supported our revised proposals.

30.2 Forty-three representations objected to our revised recommendations.

Consideration of Representations on Revised Recommendations

31 The main objections to our revised recommendations expressed concern regarding the population growth in West Lothian and the lack of regard for local ties and historical associations. We considered these representations and agreed that there was no provision for taking into consideration forecast increases or decreases in the electorate when determining the number of constituencies. This point was debated at length during the inquiry and we agreed with the Assistant Commissioner's conclusion that the proposed constituency structure should not be amended.

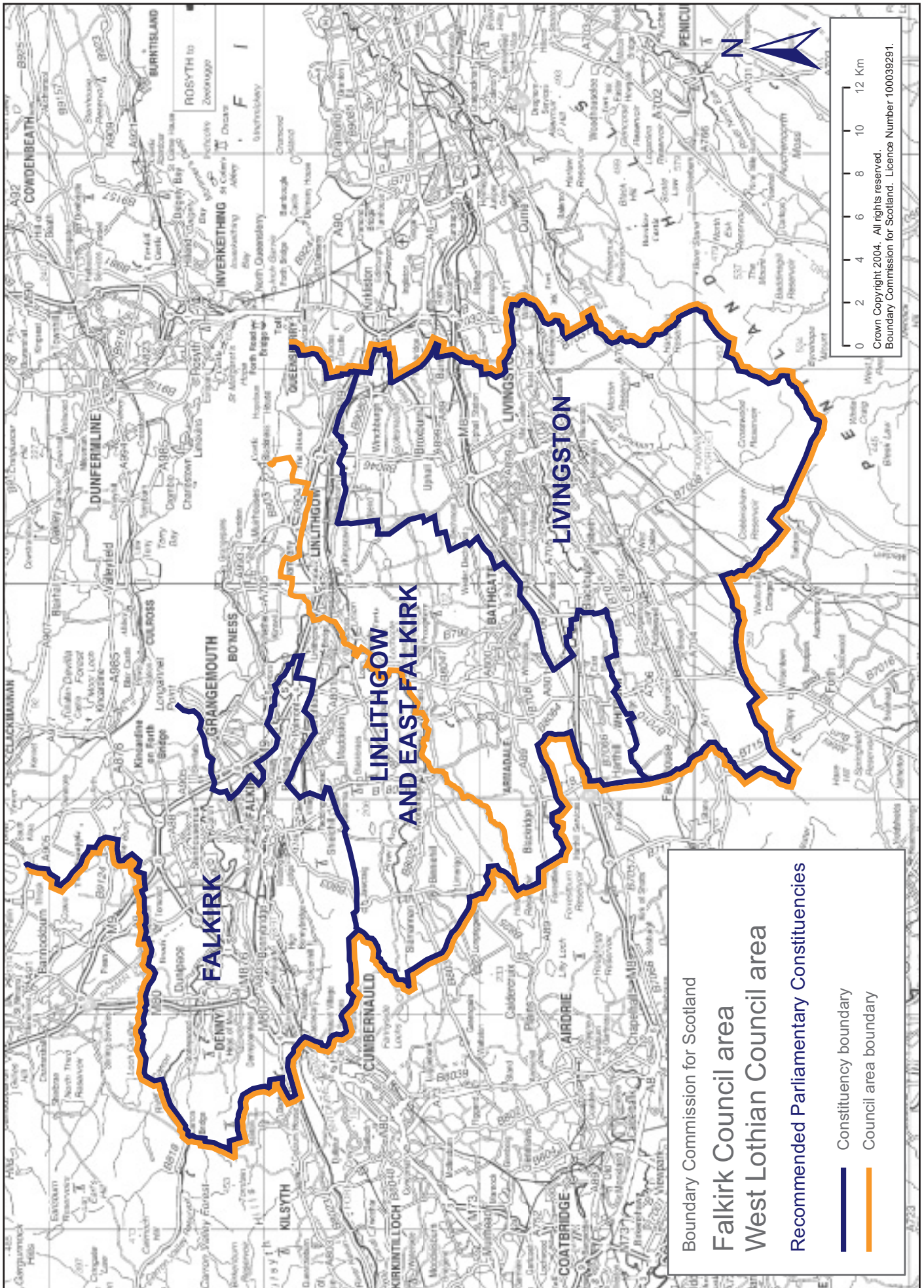
32. At their request, we reconsidered the alternative proposals previously submitted by the Linlithgow Constituency Labour Party. However, it was clear that these alternative proposals were strongly opposed at the local inquiry. It was also clear that these proposals had wider implications for the design of constituencies in adjoining Council areas and, as argued at the local inquiry, across a wider area. In his Inquiry Report the Assistant Commissioner indicated that there was widespread support for our provisional proposals for Falkirk Council area and West Lothian Council area, apart from a minor amendment involving 2 wards. We concluded, therefore, that there was no good reason for us to amend our earlier decision.

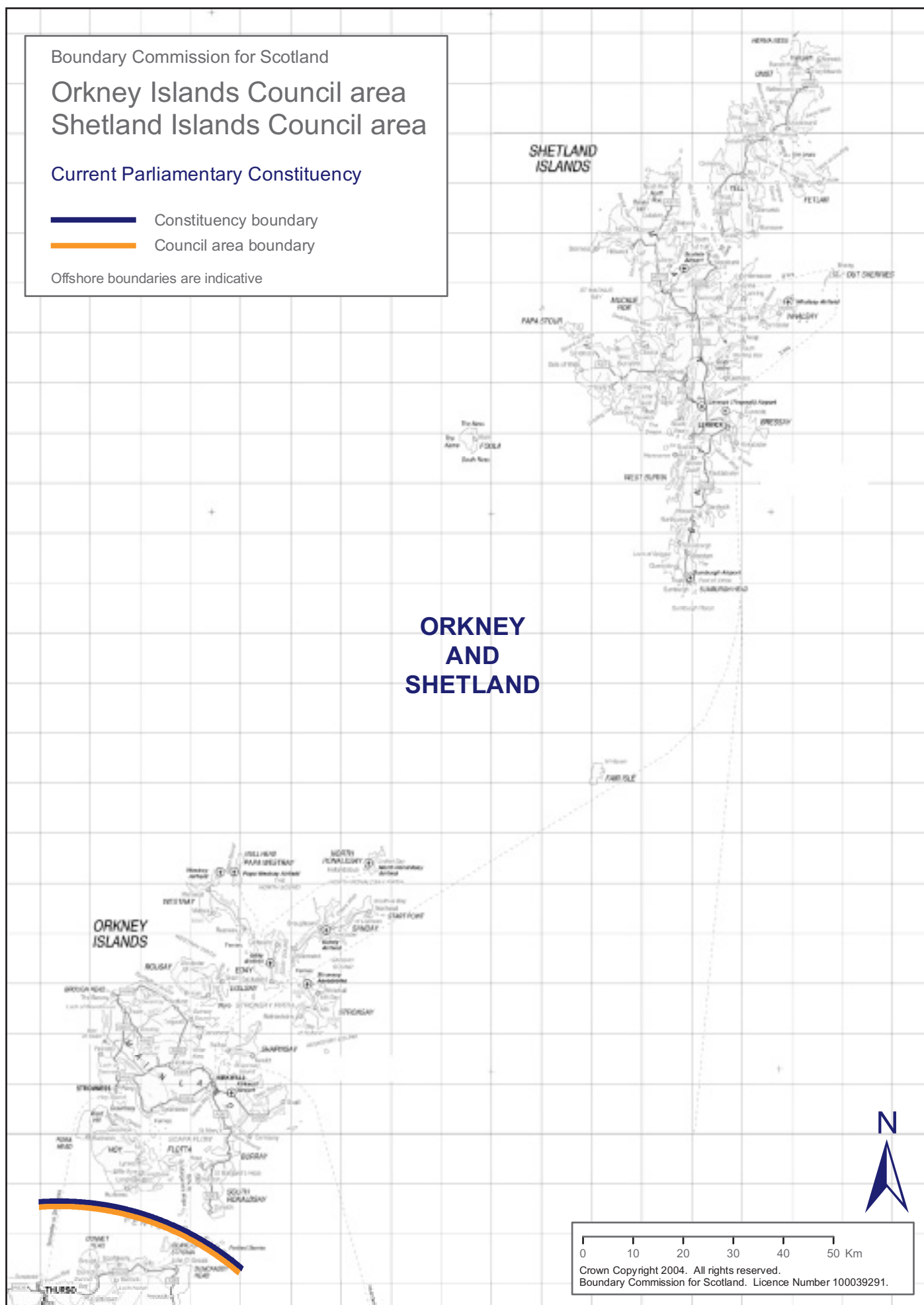
33. We then carefully considered an additional proposal submitted by Linlithgow Constituency Labour Party. We noted that their proposed design of constituencies covered Falkirk Council area, West Lothian Council area, North Lanarkshire Council area and Stirling Council area. Further, a number of the newly proposed constituencies straddled the boundaries of these Council areas and in our view did so in a manner which ignored existing local ties within these adjoining areas. We concluded that acceptance of these proposals would have an adverse impact on our proposals for constituencies in North Lanarkshire Council area and Stirling Council area. Bearing in mind the statutory requirement that we should have regard to Council boundaries and our clear statement at the outset of the review that we would seek to minimise the number of constituencies which crossed Council boundaries, we were not persuaded that our recommendations for Falkirk Council area, West Lothian Council area, North Lanarkshire Council area and Stirling Council area should be further amended.

Final Recommendations

34. On 23 October 2003 we announced that we were making no further changes to our proposals for 3 county constituencies for Falkirk Council area and West Lothian Council area and that these would be our final recommendations.

35. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our proposals for 3 county constituencies for the Falkirk Council area and West Lothian Council area, as set out in paragraph 29 above.





Orkney Islands Council Area and Shetland Islands Council Area

Introduction

1. The whole of the combined council areas of Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands is currently covered by a single constituency. The electorates of the constituency at the start and finish of the previous and current reviews are provided at Appendix C.

Initial Considerations

2. In forming our provisional proposals for Orkney Islands Council area and Shetland Islands Council area we had in mind the following considerations:

2.1 At the enumeration date of June 2001, Orkney Islands Council area contained 15,394 parliamentary electors.

2.2 At the enumeration date of June 2001, Shetland Islands Council area contained 16,787 parliamentary electors.

2.3 The combined parliamentary electorate of Orkney Islands Council area and Shetland Islands Council area was 32,181, giving a theoretical entitlement of 0.5 seats.

2.4 Changes to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, arising from the terms of the Scotland Act 1998, require that 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.

3. The legislation does not preclude the possibility of Orkney Islands Council area and Shetland Islands Council area each comprising one seat. We agreed, however, that there was no good reason why the present arrangements for representation at Westminster should be altered.

Provisional Proposals

4. On 7 February 2002 we published our provisional proposals, stating that no alteration was to be made to the boundaries of the existing Orkney and Shetland constituency. Our proposals for a county constituency covering Orkney Islands Council area and Shetland Islands Council area were as follows:

Constituency	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Orkney and Shetland CC	All electoral wards in Orkney Islands Council area	15,394
	All electoral wards in Shetland Islands Council area	16,787
	Total	32,181

Representations on Provisional Proposals

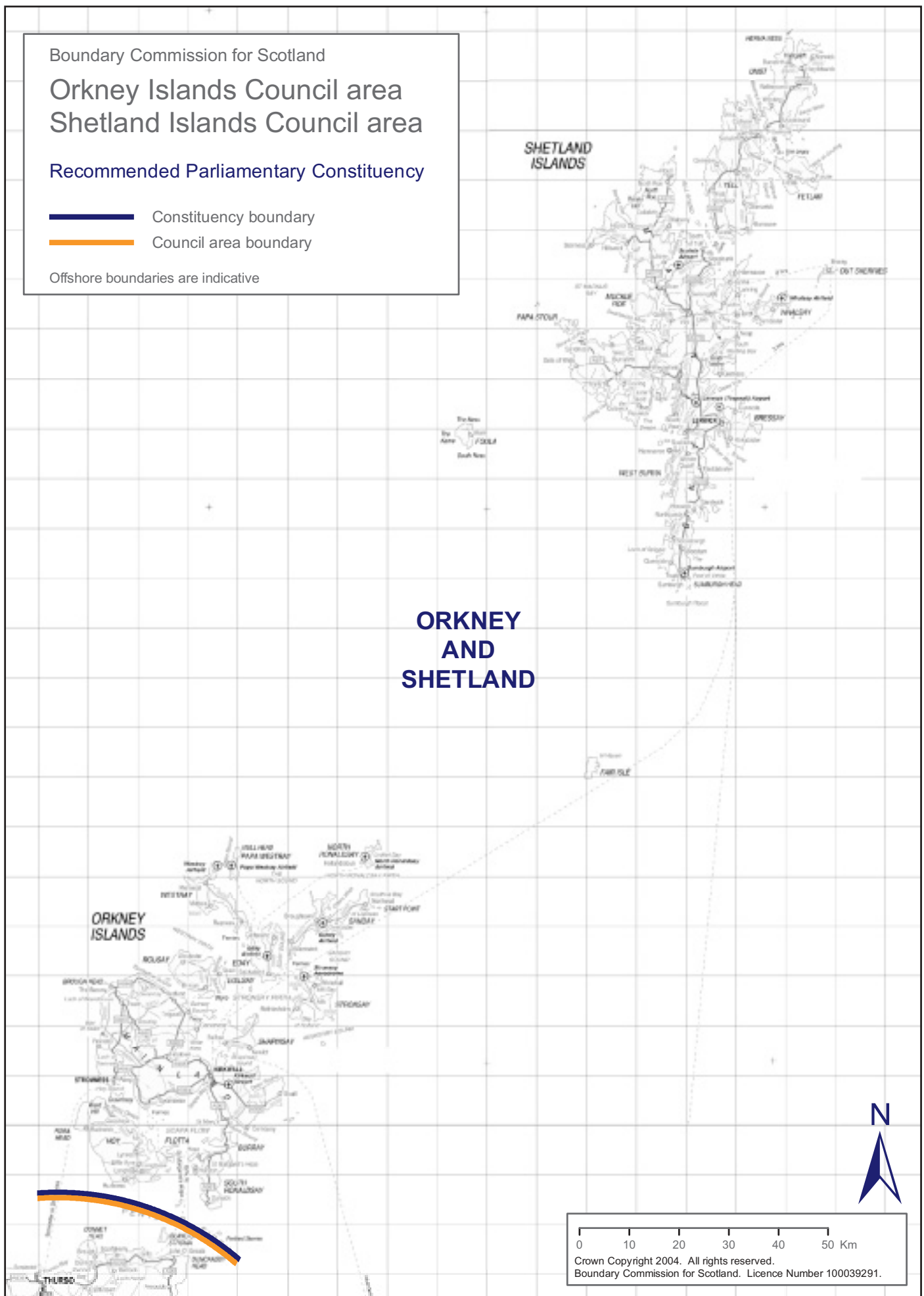
5. During the statutory consultation period, we received 2 representations regarding our provisional proposals for Orkney Islands Council area and Shetland Islands Council area from the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party and the Scottish Liberal Democrats who supported the continuing provision for one constituency comprising the Orkney Islands Council area and the Shetland Islands Council area.

6. Following the end of the statutory consultation period, we received a further representation, which also supported our proposals.

Final Recommendations

7. On 31 July 2003 we announced that we were making no further changes to our proposals for one county constituency and that these were our final recommendations.

8. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our proposals for one county constituency for the combined Council areas of Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands, as set out in paragraph 4 above.



The Effects of the Recommendations

The Total Number of Constituencies

1. Between 1918 and the implementation by Parliament of the recommendations in the Commission's Third Periodical Report in 1983, Scotland was represented in Parliament by 71 MPs. The Third General Review recommended an increase of one to 72. We explained in Chapter 2 that, at the start of this review, it was clear to us that the number of constituencies in Scotland would be reduced from 72 to 57 if the electoral quota for England was strictly applied to Scotland. However, we also explained that our detailed analysis of options for revised constituencies resulted in an increase in that number to 59.

The Recommended Constituencies

2. The 59 recommended constituencies are set out in the various sections of Chapter 3. Maps of each constituency, in alphabetical order are contained at Appendix F.

3. Of the 59 constituencies recommended, 29 (49 per cent) are within 5 per cent of the electoral quota compared with 26 (36 per cent) at the completion of the fourth periodical review. Fifty constituencies (85 per cent) are within 10 per cent of the electoral quota compared with 50 (69 per cent) at the last review.

4. The electorates of the constituencies recommended range between 21,884 (67 per cent below the electoral quota) and 78,675 (12 per cent above the electoral quota). However, only 4 constituencies - Na h-Eileanan an Iar, Orkney and Shetland, Caithness Sutherland and Easter Ross, and Ross, Skye and Lochaber - diverge from the electoral quota by more than 12 per cent. At the fourth periodical review, excluding the Western Isles county constituency and Orkney and Shetland county constituency, 19 recommended constituencies were more than 12 per cent from the electoral quota.

5. Our proposals, if accepted, reduce the level of representation for Scotland at the Westminster Parliament as was intended by the amendments to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 made by Section 86 of The Scotland Act 1998. Further, they have the effect of bringing the majority of constituency electorates nearer to the electoral quota than was possible at the fourth periodical review.

Conclusion

6. This concludes the report of our Fifth Periodical Review of parliamentary constituency boundaries in Scotland. In terms of the 1986 Act, as amended, the next periodical report must be submitted not less than 8 years or more than 12 years from the date of submission of this report.

7. We would like to record our gratitude to Mr John Randall who provided advice and assistance as our Assessor in his capacity as Registrar General for Scotland until he retired and to Mr Duncan Macniven who succeeded him. We would like also to record our gratitude to the Assessors who represented the Director General of Ordnance Survey, namely Mr Graham Little, Region Manager Scotland, followed by Dr Hugh Buchanan, External Relations Manager. Mr Robert Smith acted as our Secretary during the period of the review and we would like to record our appreciation for his diligence and enthusiasm in discharging his duties. We would also like to thank the staff of our Secretariat, Mr Blair White, Ms Gillian McCallum, Mrs Nicola Radley, Mr John Browne and Ms Debbie Harris for their hard work and the support they provided during the conduct of our review.

Hazel J Cosgrove
(Deputy Chairman)

E F Graham
R G L McCrone

R Smith
Secretary

30 November 2004