

2018 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies

Constituency considerations for Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling council areas

Action required

1. The Commission is invited to consider alternative designs of constituencies for Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling council areas in furtherance of its 2018 Review of UK Parliament constituencies.

Background

2. On 24 February 2016, the Commission began its 2018 Review of UK Parliament constituencies with a view to making its recommendations by October 2018 in tandem with the other UK parliamentary boundary commissions.
3. The review is being undertaken in compliance with the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, as amended. The Act stipulates a UK electoral quota of 74,769.2 electors and use of the parliamentary electorate figures from the December 2015 Electoral Register. The 5% electorate limits in the Act correspond to an electorate of no less than 71,031 and no more than 78,507.
4. The Act requires the Commission to recommend the name, extent and designation of constituencies in Scotland, of which there are to be 53 in total. 2 Scottish constituencies are prescribed in the Act: Orkney and Shetland Islands constituency and Western isles constituency.
5. The Act provides some discretion in the extent of the Commission's regard to the size, shape and accessibility of constituencies, existing constituencies and the breaking of local ties. As this review is considered to be the first following enactment of the legislation (the 6th Review was ended before completion in 2013 following enactment of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013) the Commission need not have regard to the inconveniences attendant on changes to constituencies.
6. At its meeting of 16 May 2016, the Commission adopted groupings of council areas as part of its approach to constituency design for the 2018 Review, which included a group comprising Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling council areas. This paper offers some options for constituencies within that group.
7. The 2015 parliamentary electorates of the council areas in this group are as shown in Table 1 below:

Council area	Parliamentary electorate	Constituency entitlement	Area / km ²
Clackmannanshire	37,165	0.497	163.92
Falkirk	115,242	1.541	314.93
Stirling	63,704	0.852	2,254.81
total	216,111	2.89	2,733.66

Table 1: 2015 parliamentary electorates of council areas in the group.

8. The existing constituencies in the group and their 2015 parliamentary electorates are as shown in Table 2 below:

constituency	Electorate
Falkirk	80,755
Linlithgow and East Falkirk	83,593
Ochil and South Perthshire	74,680
Stirling	63,704

Table 2: 2015 parliamentary electorates of existing constituencies in the group.

9. A map of existing constituencies and council areas in the group can be found at Appendix A.
10. The constituency names in this paper are provisional. The Commission will have the opportunity to review all constituency names and designations prior to the publication of its Initial Proposals.

Options

11. All constituencies in the following options have electorates that lie within 5% of the electoral quota and have areas of less than 13,000 km².
12. There is no land boundary between Falkirk and Clackmannanshire council areas, so the city of Stirling must be divided between constituencies in this group.
13. The number of electors in the group is such that a whole-ward solution for Falkirk South constituency does not leave enough electors to provide 2 constituencies based in Stirling that would meet the statutory rules. Therefore, the village of Skinflats along with wards 3, 4 and 5 have been placed in a Stirling-based constituency in both options.

Option 1

14. Option 1 provides for 3 constituencies exactly covering the combined extents of Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling council areas. A map of option 1 constituencies is at Appendix B1.
15. Falkirk South constituency comprises Falkirk wards 1 (Bo'ness and Blackness), 6 (Falkirk North), 7 (Falkirk South) 8 (Lower Braes), 9 (Upper Braes) and part of ward 2 (Grangemouth), with the division within ward 2 following the route of the Carron River south of Skinflats.
16. Stirling South and Falkirk North constituency comprises Falkirk wards 3 (Denny and Banknock), 4 (Carse, Kinnaid and Tryst) and 5 (Bonnybridge and Larbert) and that part of ward 2 (Grangemouth) north of the River Carron, along with Stirling wards 2 (Forth and Endrick), 5 (Stirling West) and that part of ward 6 (Stirling East) that overlies Hillpark and Milton community council area.
17. Clackmannanshire and Stirling North constituency comprises Clackmannanshire Council area in its entirety along with wards 1 (Trossachs and Teith), 3 (Dunblane and Bridge of Allan), 4 (Castle) and part of ward 6 (Stirling West) that excludes Hillpark and Milton community council area.

18. The electorate, area, ward composition, designation and suggested name of each constituency in option 1 is shown in Table 3 below:

Constituency name	electorate	wards
Falkirk South CC	73,839	Falkirk – 1, 2(pt), 6, 7, 8, 9
Stirling North and Clackmannanshire CC	71,118	Clackmannanshire – all Stirling – 1, 3, 4, 6(pt)
Stirling South and Falkirk North CC	71,154	Falkirk – 2(pt), 3, 4, 5 Stirling – 2, 5, 6(pt), 7

Table 3: 2015 parliamentary electorates of option 1 constituencies.

19. In option 1, 2 wards are divided between constituencies: they are Falkirk ward 2 (Grangemouth) and Stirling ward 6 (Stirling East). Detailed maps of the boundary in these wards are at Appendices B2 and B3.

20. The advantages of option 1 are:

- The constituency electorates are slightly closer to the UK average electorate than in option 2; and
- The River Forth is used as a bounding feature north of Stirling ward 7.

21. The disadvantage of option 1 is:

- The boundary through the city of Stirling is not obvious.

Option 2

22. Option 2 also provides for 3 constituencies within 5% of the electoral quota and below 13,000 km².

23. Option 2 offers an alternative boundary between Stirling South and Falkirk North constituency and Clackmannanshire and Stirling North constituency in the city of Stirling, dividing Stirling ward 7 (Bannockburn) between constituencies instead of ward 6, which is located in its entirety in Stirling South and Falkirk North constituency. The boundary in ward 7 follows the northern boundary of Plean community council area.

24. The electorate, area, ward composition, designation and suggested name of each constituency is shown in Table 4 below:

Constituency name	electorate	wards
Falkirk South CC	73,839	Falkirk – 1, 2(pt), 6, 7, 8, 9
Stirling North and Clackmannanshire CC	71,174	Clackmannanshire – all Stirling – 1, 3, 4, 7(pt)
Stirling South and Falkirk North CC	71,098	Falkirk – 2(pt), 3, 4, 5 Stirling – 2, 5, 6, 7(pt)

Table 4: 2015 parliamentary electorates of option 2 constituencies.

25. In option 2, 2 wards are divided between constituencies: they are Falkirk ward 2 (Grangemouth) and Stirling ward 7 (Bannockburn). A detailed map of the boundary in ward 7 is at Appendix C2.

26. The advantage of option 2 is:

- The boundary dividing ward 7 avoids built-up areas whereas the boundary dividing ward 6 traverses a residential area of the city.

27. The disadvantage of option 2 is:

- The boundary near Plean is not obvious.

Discussion

28. The number and distribution of electors in the area, combined with the choice of council areas makes the division of the city of Stirling inevitable.

29. In both options, a Stirling ward is divided between constituencies along a community council area boundary.

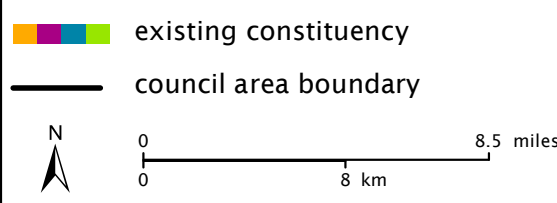
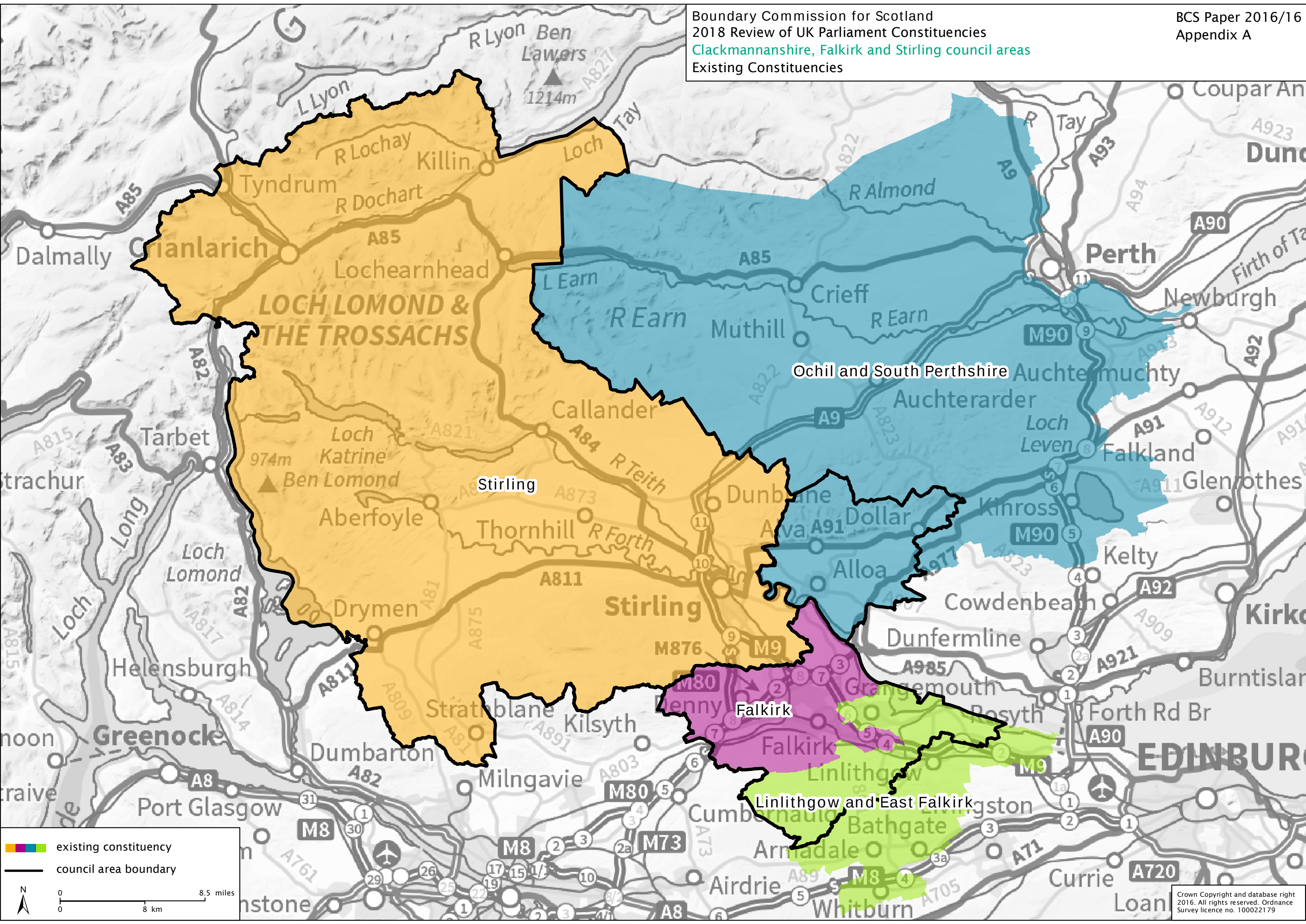
30. Both options contain constituencies that are close to the acceptable electoral limits and so must be confirmed by manual electorate counts. Should that process reveal any issues with the proposed constituencies, the Secretariat will revert to the Commission.

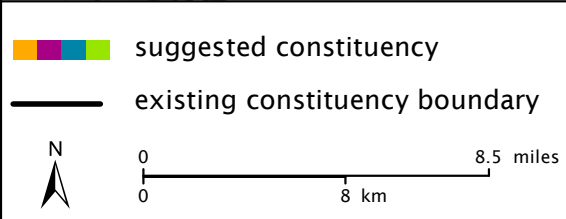
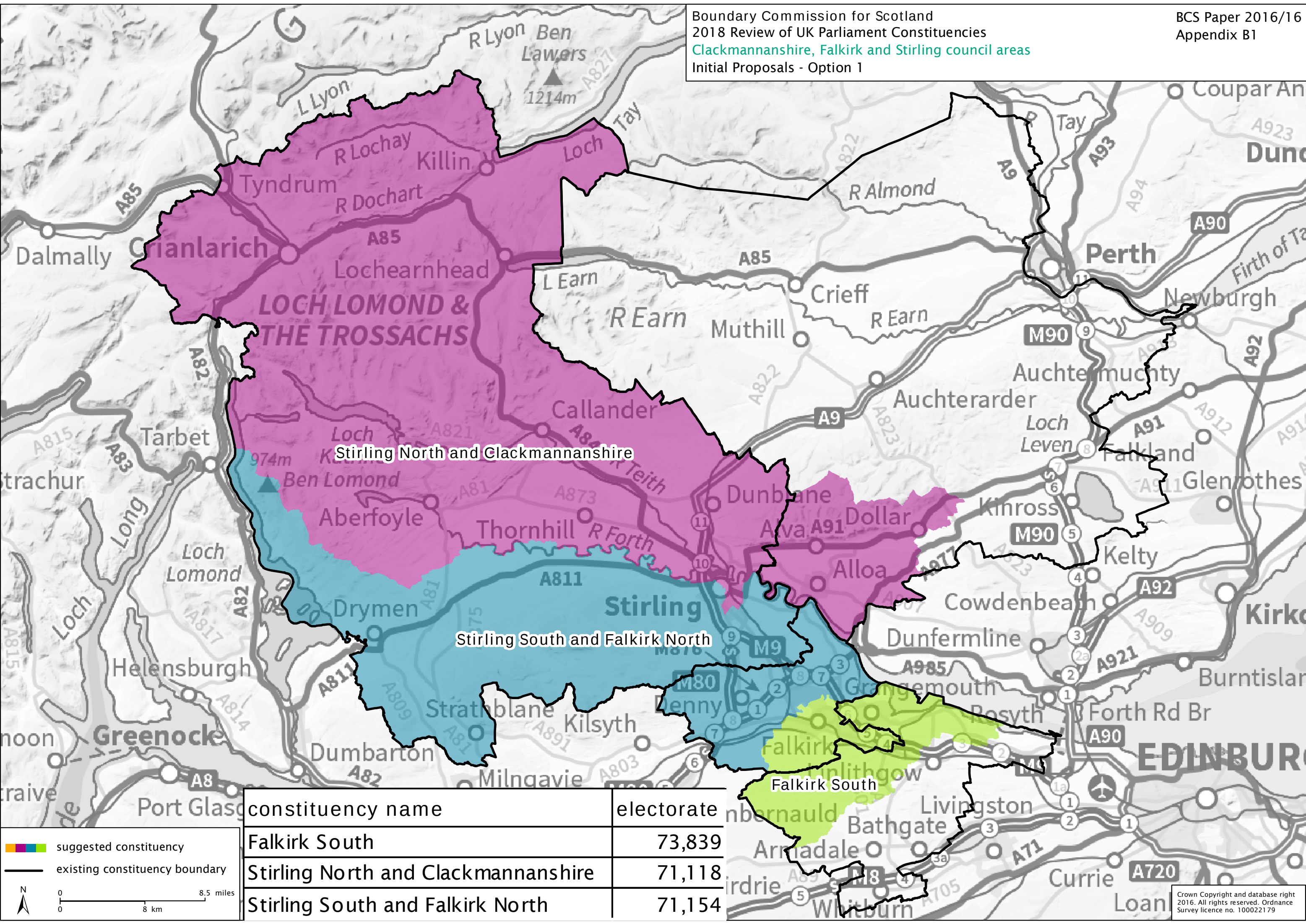
31. One of the existing constituencies in the area is within 5% of the electoral quota, but includes a council area outwith the proposed group and so has not been proposed as a candidate constituency in this paper.

Conclusion

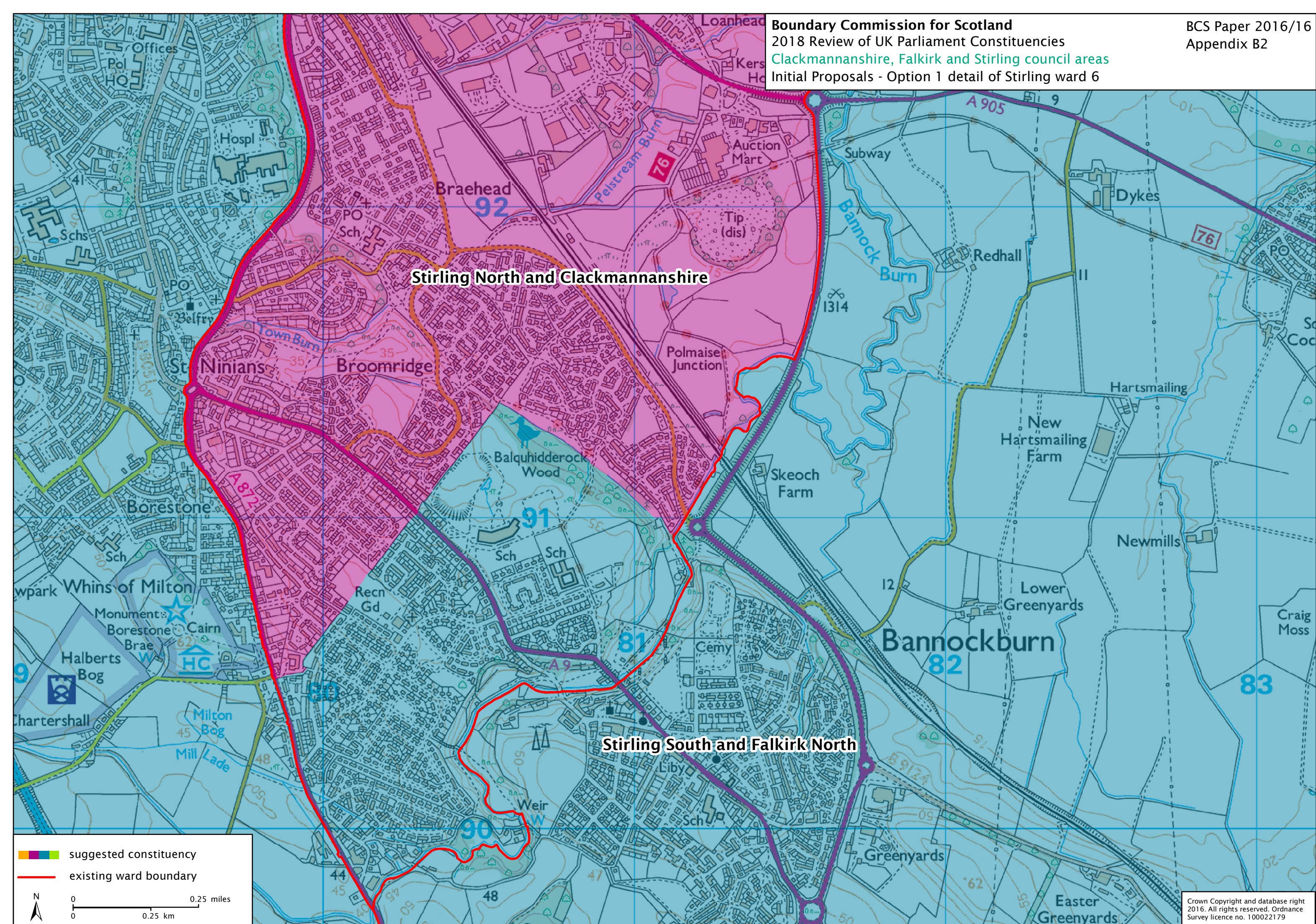
32. The Commission is invited to agree its initial proposals for public consultation, subject to satisfactory constituencies elsewhere in Scotland.

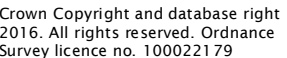
Secretariat
June 2016





constituency name	electorate
Falkirk South	73,839
Stirling North and Clackmannanshire	71,118
Stirling South and Falkirk North	71,154

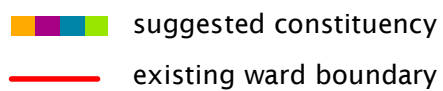




Stirling North and Clackmannanshire

Stirling South and Falkirk North

Falkirk South

 suggested constituency
existing ward boundary



0 1 miles
0 1 km