

2018 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies

Constituency considerations for Fife and Perth and Kinross council areas

Action required

1. The Commission is invited to consider alternative designs of constituencies for Fife and Perth and Kinross 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 Fife and Perth and Kinross 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
Fife	267,963	3.58
Perth and Kinross	107,479	1.44
total	375,442	5.02

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
Dunfermline and West Fife	73,965
Glenrothes	65,584
Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath	71,698
North East Fife	56,716
Ochil and South Perthshire	74,680
Perth and North Perthshire	69,964

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. Half of the existing constituencies in the group have electorates within acceptable limits, but one constituency includes part of Clackmannanshire council area which is in another group for the purposes of constituency design.
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.

Option 1

12. Option 1 provides for 3 constituencies wholly within Fife council area, 1 constituency wholly within Perth and Kinross council area and 1 constituency combining parts of both council areas. A map of option 1 constituencies is at Appendix B1. An overview of option 1 constituencies relative to other electoral boundaries is at Appendix B2.
13. Dunfermline constituency comprises Fife wards 1 to 6, including the city of Dunfermline, the coastal villages in west Fife, Rosyth and Inverkeithing.
14. Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy constituency comprises Fife wards 11 to 16, including the towns of Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes, Thornton, and part of Fife ward 17 (Howe of Fife and Tay Coast), which is divided along community council boundaries and places Ladybank and Auchtermuchty in the Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy constituency and Newburgh in the Cupar and St Andrews constituency. A map of the boundary in Fife ward 17 can be found at Appendix B3.
15. Cupar and St Andrews constituency comprises Fife wards 18 to 23 and part of Fife ward 17 (Howe of Fife and Tay Coast), including the city of St Andrews, Cupar, Newburgh and Buckhaven.
16. Kinross-shire and Cowdenbeath constituency comprises Perth and Kinross wards 6 to 9 and Fife wards 7 to 10, including Crieff, Auchterarder, Kinross, Kelty, Cowdenbeath and Burntisland.
17. Perthshire constituency comprises Perth and Kinross wards 1 to 5 and wards 10 to 12, including the city of Perth, Pitlochry and Invergowrie.

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

Constituency name	electorate	wards
Cupar and St Andrews CC	71,418	Fife – 17(pt), 18 to 23
Dunfermline CC	78,254	Fife – 1 to 6
Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy CC	77,159	Fife – 11 to 16, 17(pt)
Kinross-shire and Cowdenbeath CC	75,780	Fife – 7 to 10 Perth and Kinross – 6 to 9
Perthshire CC	72,831	Perth and Kinross – 1 to 5, 10 to 12

Table 3: 2015 parliamentary electorates of option 1 constituencies.

19. The advantages of option 1 are:

- The option requires the division of only 1 ward between constituencies;
- The suggested Perthshire constituency resembles the existing UK Parliament constituency of Perth and North Perthshire, expanded to contain all of Perth and Kinross ward 5 (Strathtay) and aligned to the northern boundary of Perth and Kinross ward 6 (Strathearn); and
- The proportion of electors from each council area in Kinross-shire and Cowdenbeath constituency is well-matched: 46% of electors are in Perth and Kinross council area and 54% in Fife council area.

20. The disadvantage of option 1 is:

- The constituencies in option 1 have the greatest range of electorates of the options in this paper.

Option 2

21. Option 2 also provides for 3 constituencies wholly within Fife council area, 1 constituency wholly within Perth and Kinross council area and 1 constituency combining parts of both council areas. A map of option 2 constituencies is at Appendix C1. An overview of option 2 constituencies relative to other electoral boundaries is at Appendix C2.

22. Dunfermline constituency comprises Fife wards 2 to 6 and ward 10 in their entirety as well as part of ward 8 (Cowdenbeath) to the south of the A92 near Cowdenbeath. The constituency includes the city of Dunfermline, Crossgates, Rosyth, Burntisland and Kinghorn. A map of the boundary in Fife ward 8 can be found at Appendix C3.

23. Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy constituency comprises Fife wards 11 to 16, including the towns of Kirkcaldy, Glenrothes, Thornton and East Wemyss, and part of Fife ward 23 (Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages), which is divided along community council boundaries between Buckhaven and East Wemyss. A map of the boundary in Fife ward 23 can be found at Appendix C4.

24. Cupar and St Andrews constituency comprises Fife wards 17 to 22 and part of Fife ward 23 (Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages), and includes the city of St Andrews, Cupar, Newburgh, Auchtermuchty and Buckhaven.

25. Kinross-shire and Cowdenbeath constituency comprises Perth and Kinross wards 1, 7, 8 and part of ward 9 (Almond and Earn) and Fife wards 1, 7, 9 and part of ward 8 (Cowdenbeath), including Invergowrie, Muthill, Auchterarder, Kinross, Kelty, Cowdenbeath and Culross. A map of the boundary in Perth and Kinross ward 9 can be found at Appendix C5. The boundary follows a community council boundary along the A9 road to the outskirts of Perth.
26. Perthshire constituency comprises Perth and Kinross wards 2 to 6, wards 10 to 12 and part ward 9 (Almond and Earn), and includes the city of Perth, Crieff, Pitlochry and Coupar Angus.
27. The electorate, ward composition, designation and suggested name of each constituency is shown in Table 4 below:

Constituency name	electorate	wards
Cupar and St Andrews CC	76,900	Fife – 17 to 22, 23(pt)
Dunfermline CC	77,363	Fife – 2 to 6, 8(pt) and 10
Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy CC	71,677	Fife – 11 to 16, 23(pt)
Kinross-shire and Cowdenbeath CC	72,141	Fife – 1, 7, 8(pt), 9 Perth and Kinross – 1, 7, 8, 9(pt)
Perthshire CC	77,361	Perth and Kinross – 2 to 6, 9(pt), 10 to 12

Table 4: 2015 parliamentary electorates of option 2 constituencies.

28. The advantage of option 2 is:
- The Cupar and St Andrews constituency is similar to the existing UK Parliament constituency in the area.
29. The disadvantages of option 2 are:
- 3 wards are divided between constituencies;
 - No constituencies are comprised solely of whole wards; and
 - The ratio of electors in each council area in Kinross-shire and Cowdenbeath constituency is not so well-balanced as in options 1 and 3, being 42% in Perth and Kinross and 58% in Fife.

Option 3

30. Option 3 also provides for 3 constituencies wholly within Fife council area, 1 constituency wholly within Perth and Kinross council area and 1 constituency combining parts of both council areas. A map of option 3 constituencies is at Appendix D1. An overview of option 3 constituencies relative to other electoral boundaries is at Appendix D2.
31. Dunfermline constituency is the same as in option 1.
32. Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy constituency comprises Fife wards 7 to 13, including the towns of Kirkcaldy, Cowdenbeath, and Kelty, and part of Fife ward 23 (Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages), which is divided along community council boundaries between Buckhaven and East Wemyss, as in option 2.
33. Cupar and St Andrews constituency is the same as in option 2.

34. Glenrothes and Kinross-shire constituency comprises Perth and Kinross wards 7, 8, 10 and part of ward 9 (Almond and Earn) and Fife wards 1, 7, 9 and part of ward 8 (Cowdenbeath), including Invergowrie, Muthill, Auchterarder, Kinross, Kelty, Cowdenbeath and Culross. A map of the boundary in Fife ward 8 can be found at Appendix C3. The boundary partly follows a community council boundary along the A92 road south of Cowdenbeath. A map of the boundary in Perth and Kinross ward 9 can be found at Appendix D3. The boundary follows the M90 motorway between Perth and Dron.
35. Perthshire constituency comprises Perth and Kinross wards 1 to 6, 11 and 12, and part ward 9 (Almond and Earn) that lies to the east of the M90 motorway.
36. The electorate, ward composition, designation and suggested name of each constituency is shown in Table 5 below:

Constituency name	electorate	wards
Cupar and St Andrews CC	76,900	Fife – 17 to 22, 23(pt)
Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy CC	75,607	Fife – 7 to 13, 23(pt)
Dunfermline CC	78,254	Fife – 1 to 6
Glenrothes and Kinross-shire CC	72,508	Fife – 14 to 16 Perth and Kinross – 7, 8, 9(pt), 10
Perthshire CC	72,173	Perth and Kinross – 1 to 6, 9(pt), 11, 12

Table 5: 2015 parliamentary electorates of option 3 constituencies.

37. The advantages of option 3 are:
- The proportion of electors in each council area in Glenrothes and Kinross-shire constituency is the most equitable in option 3 at 49% in Perth and Kinross and 51% in Fife; and
 - The Cupar and St Andrews constituency is similar to the existing UK Parliament constituency in the area.
38. The disadvantages of option 3 are:
- 2 wards are divided between constituencies; and
 - The city of Perth is divided between constituencies.

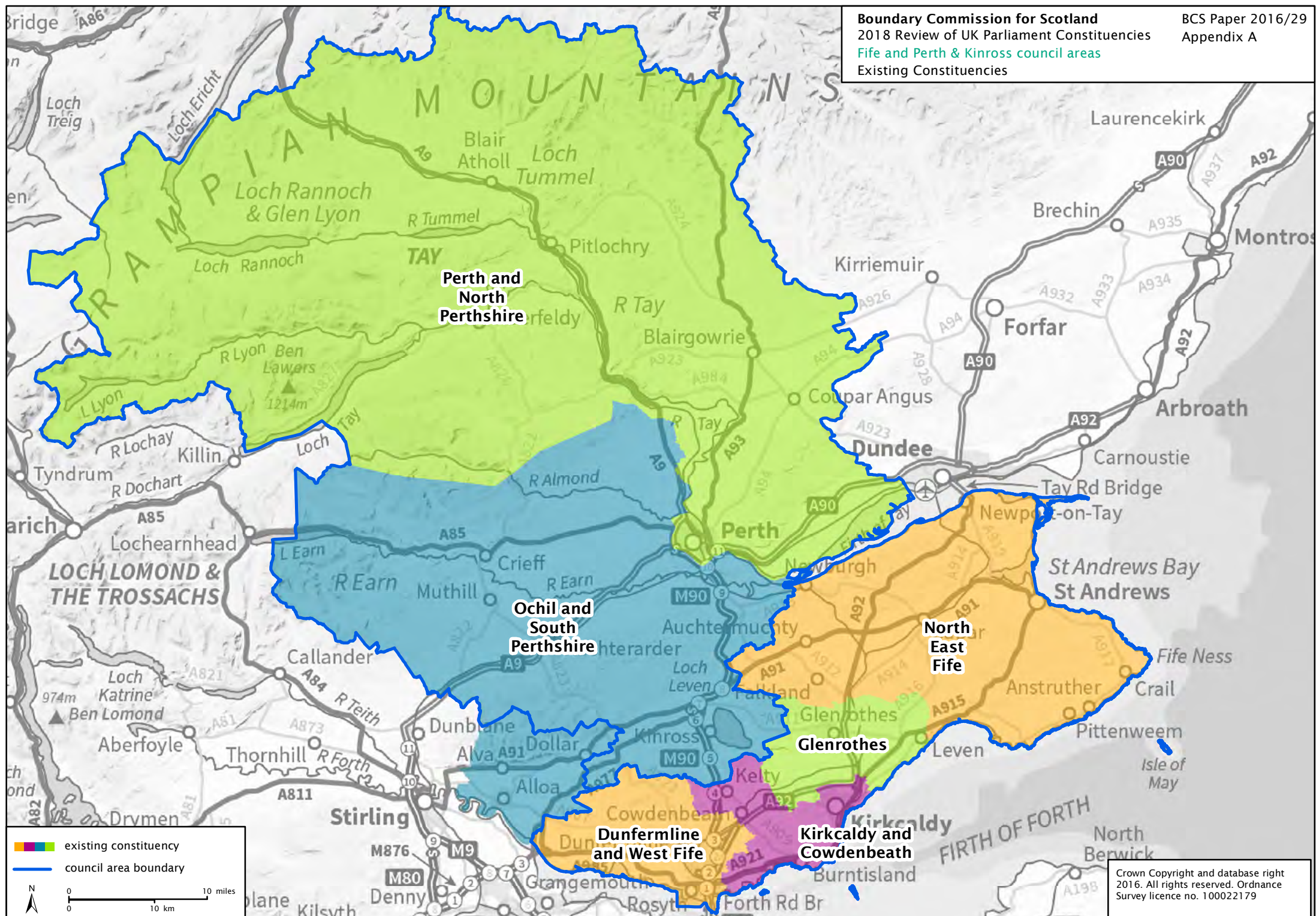
Discussion

39. Options 1 and 3 are more reminiscent of existing UK and Scottish Parliament constituencies than option 2 is.
40. The M90 in option 3 provides an easily-identifiable boundary but divides Earn community council area.

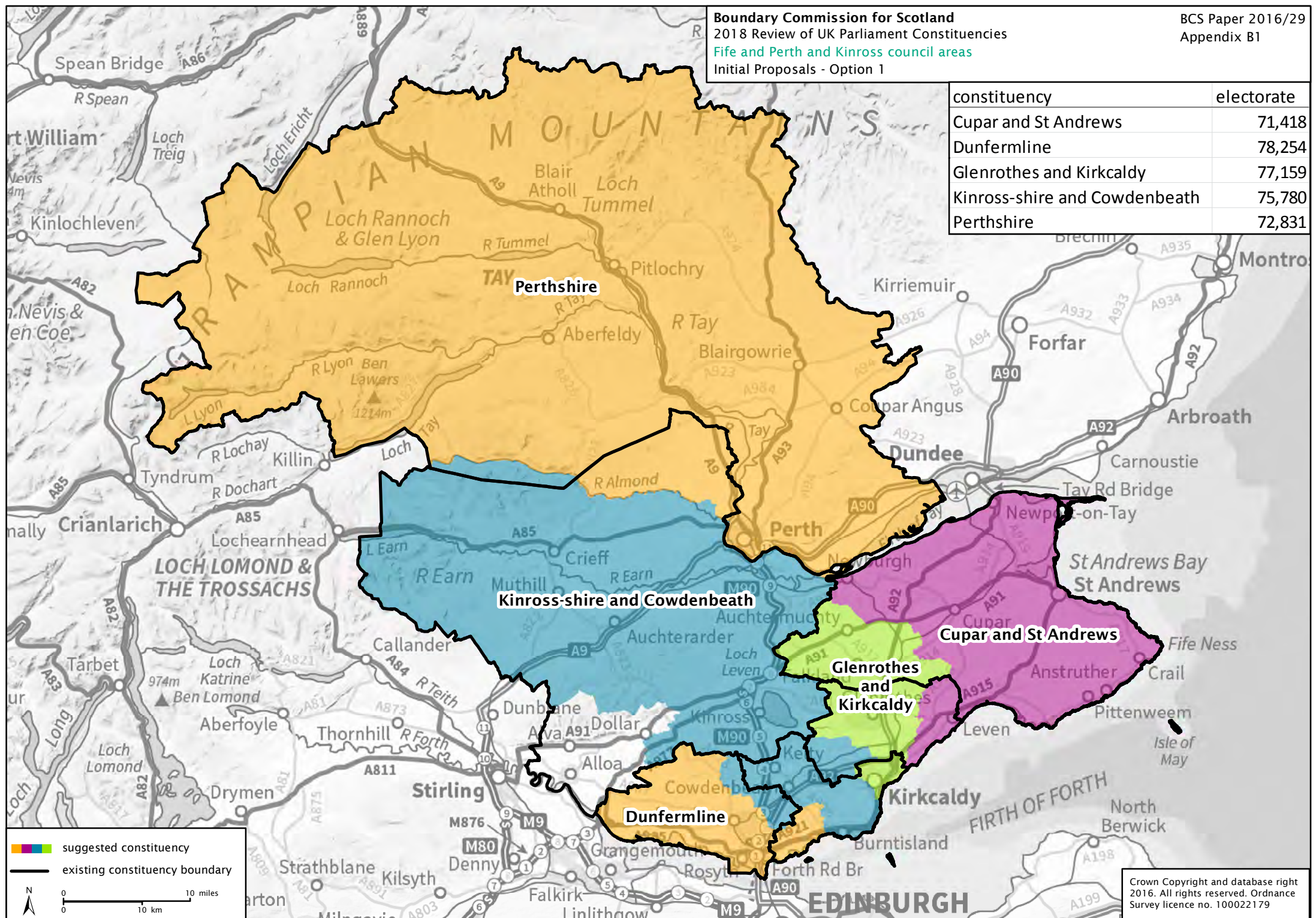
Conclusion

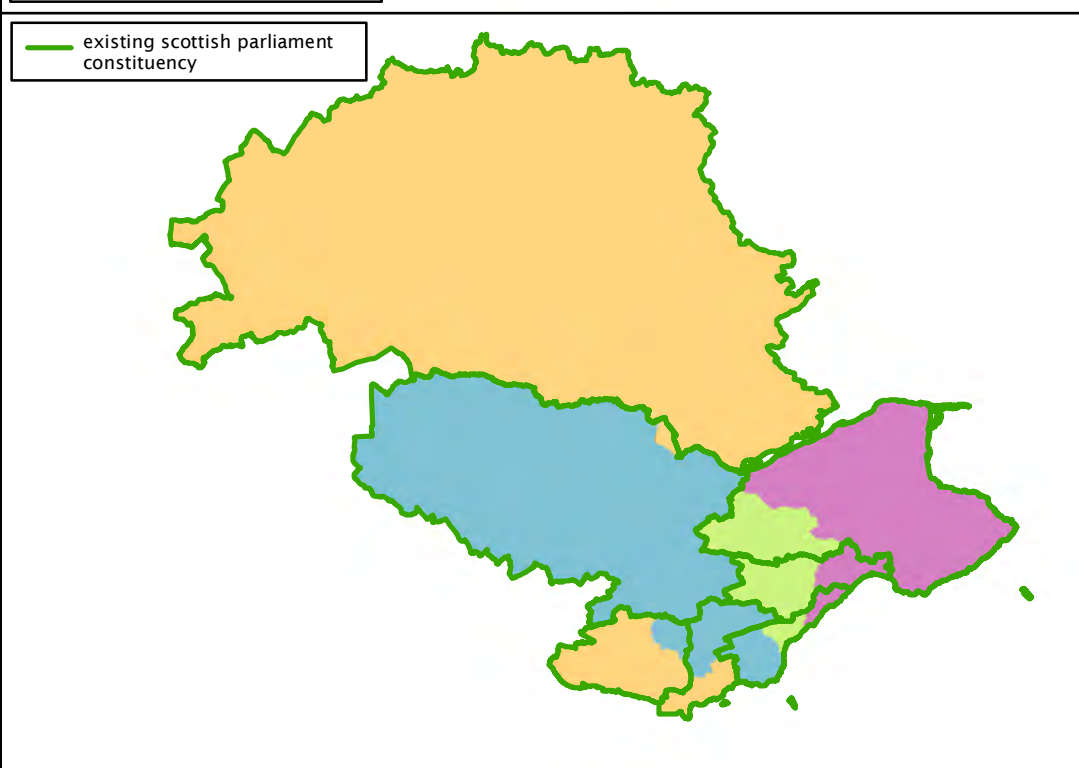
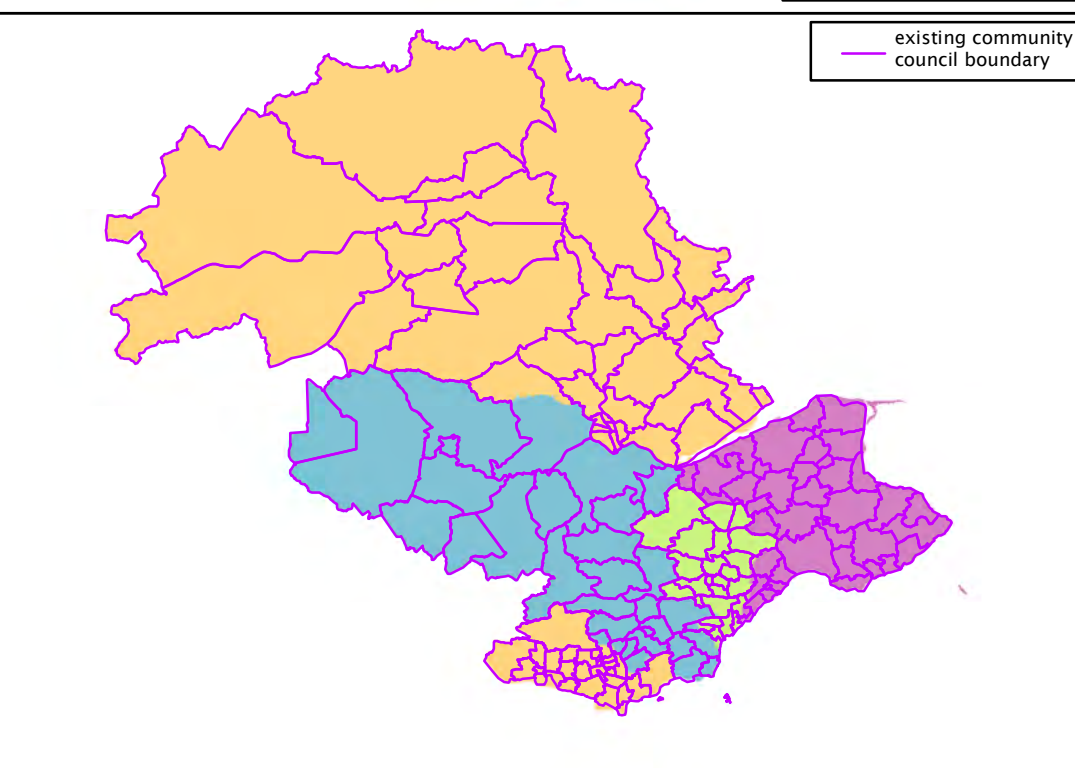
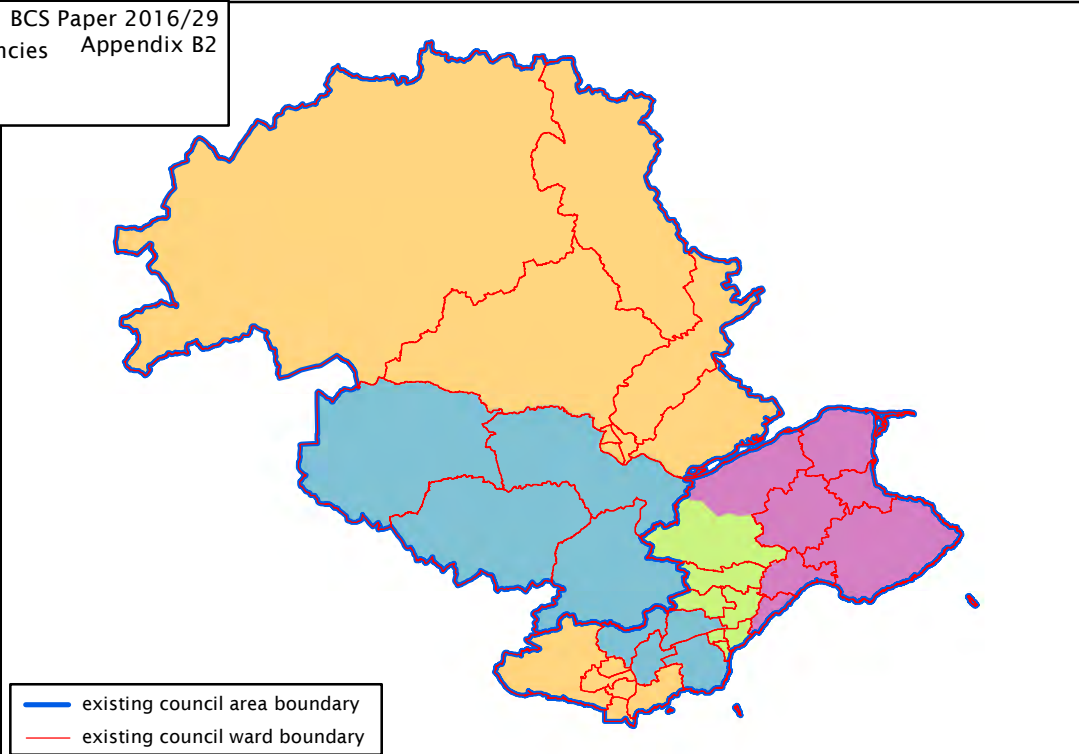
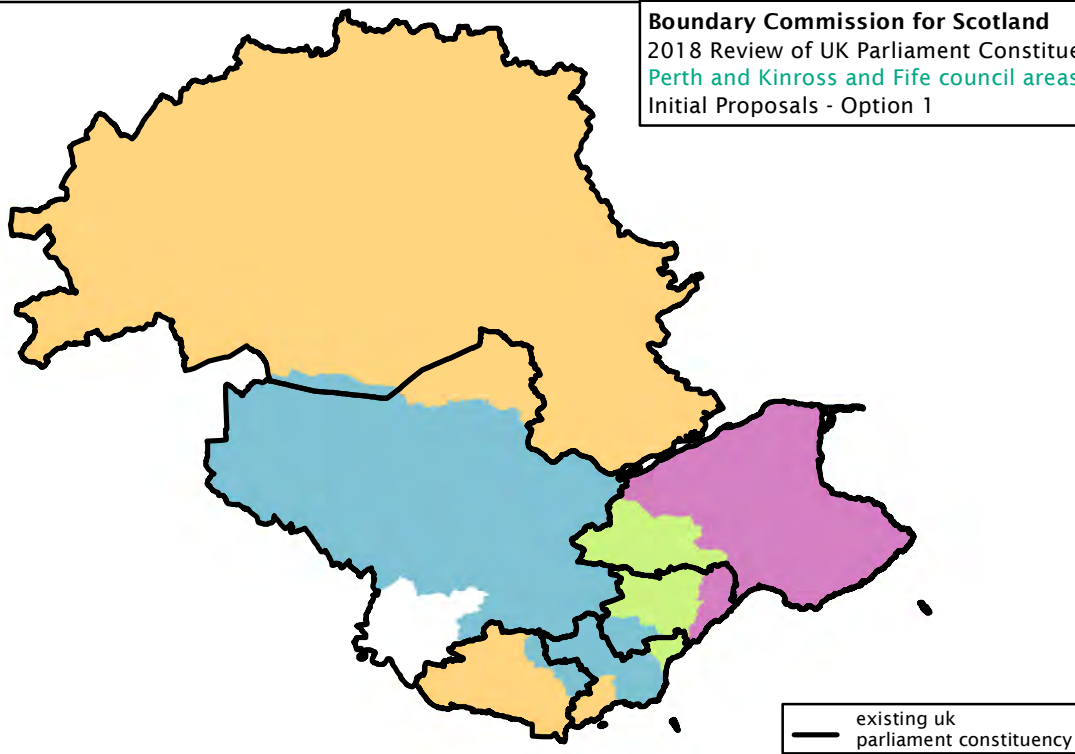
41. The Commission is invited to agree its initial proposals for public consultation, subject to satisfactory constituencies elsewhere in Scotland.

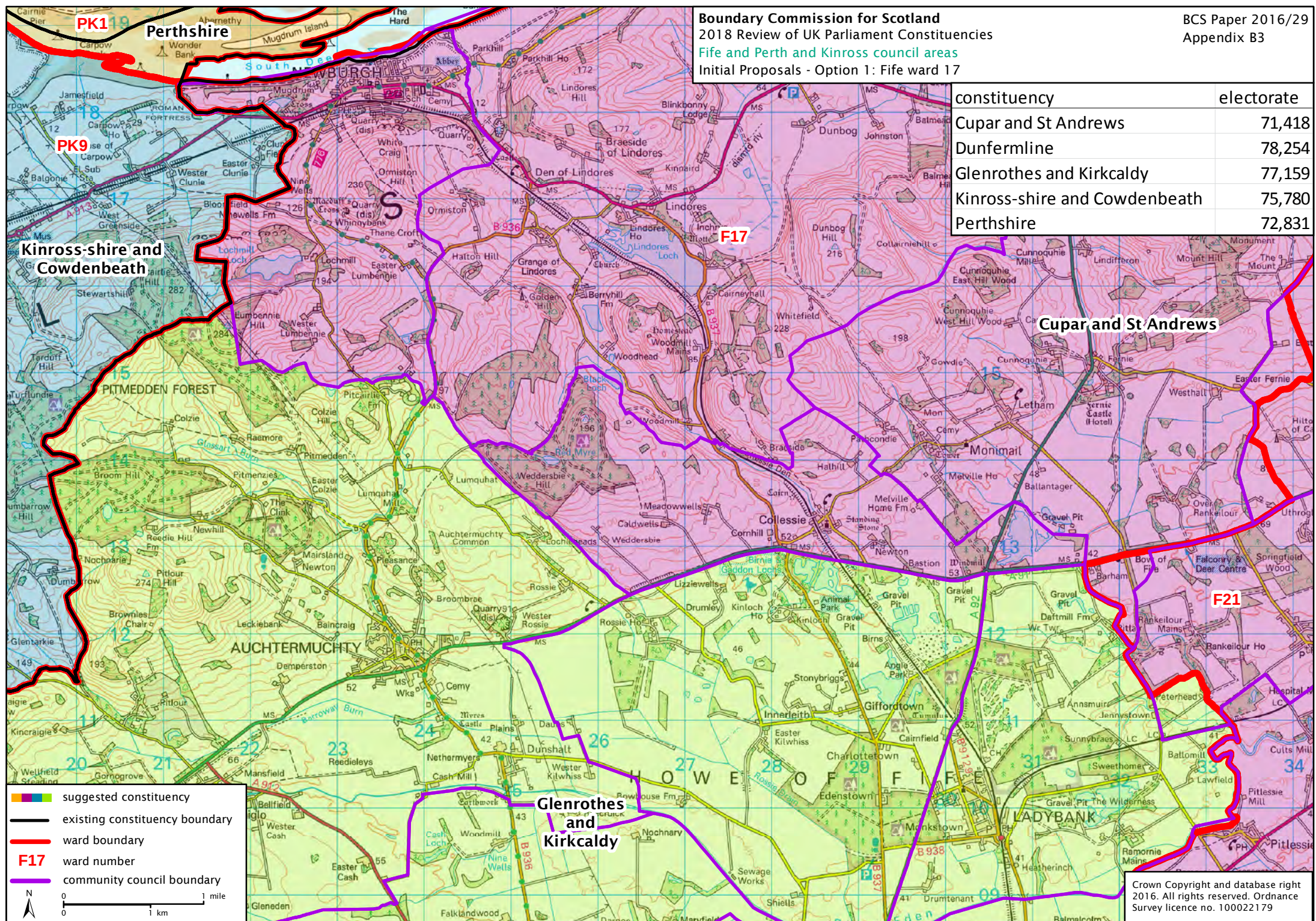
Secretariat
July 2016



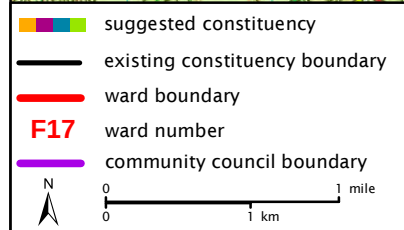
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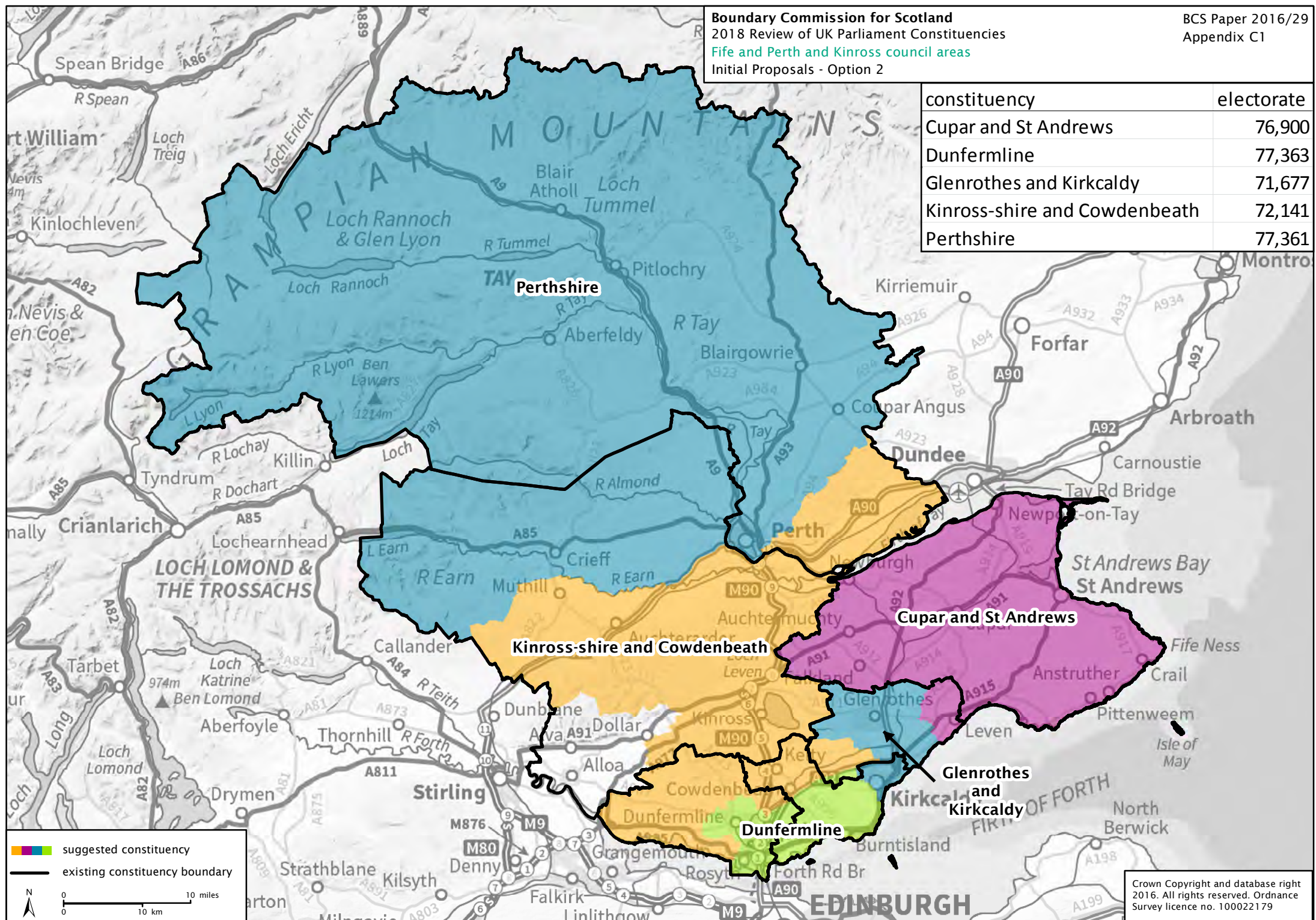


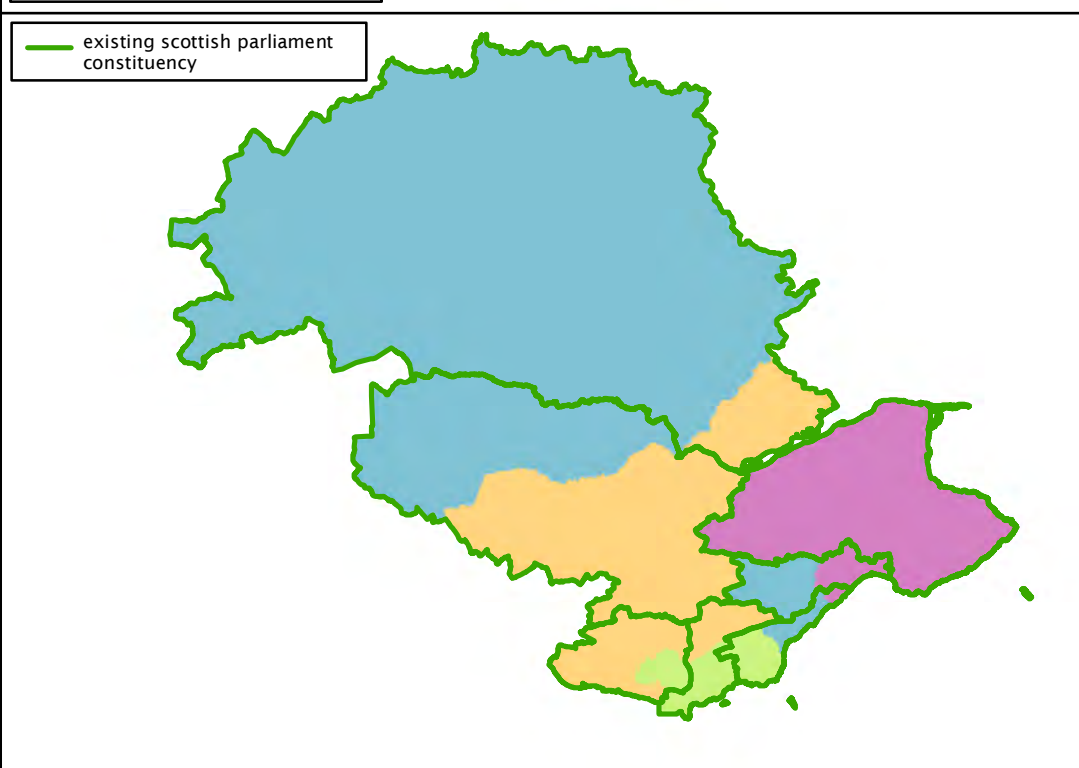
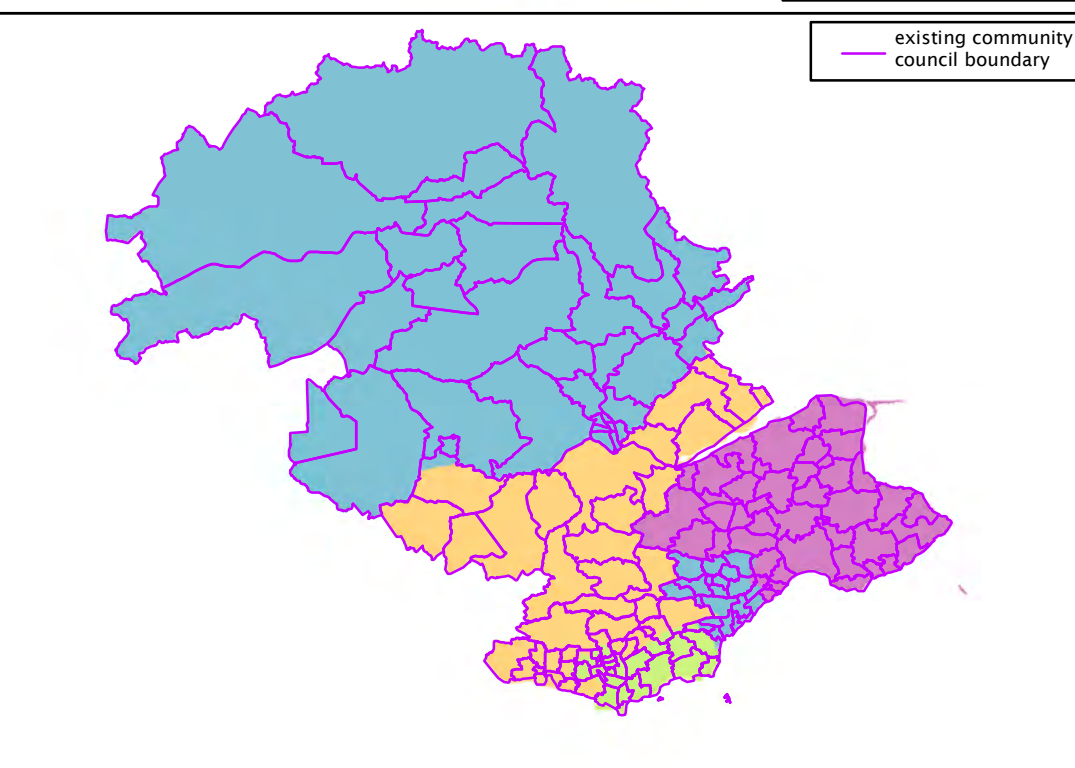
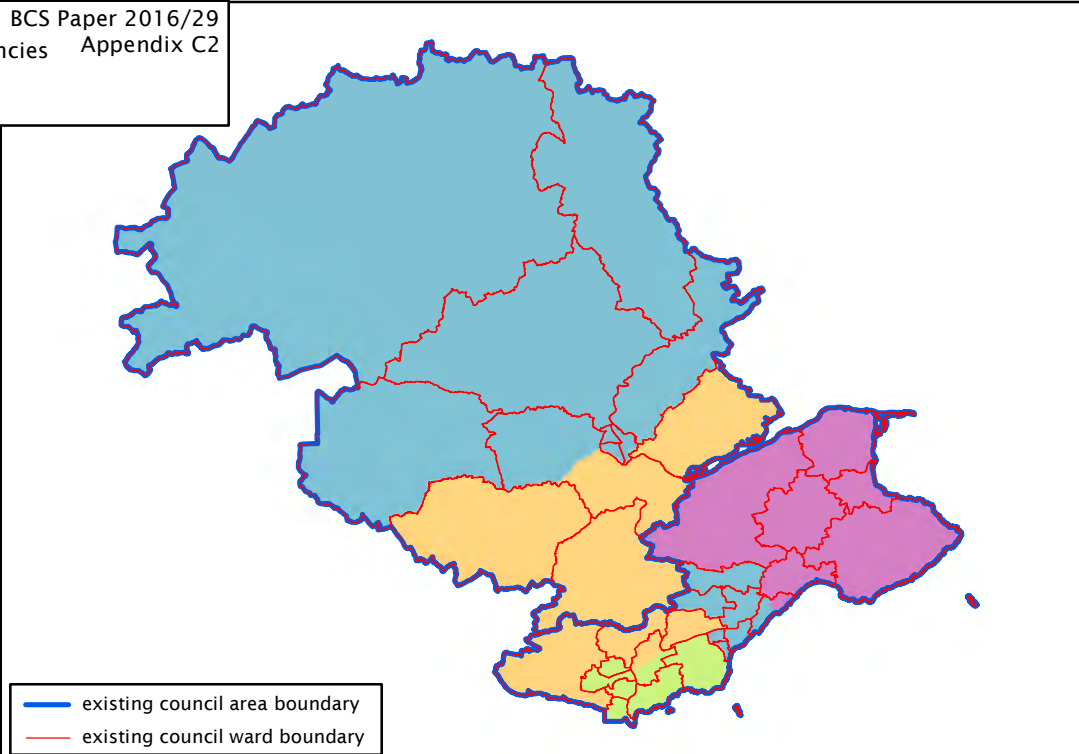
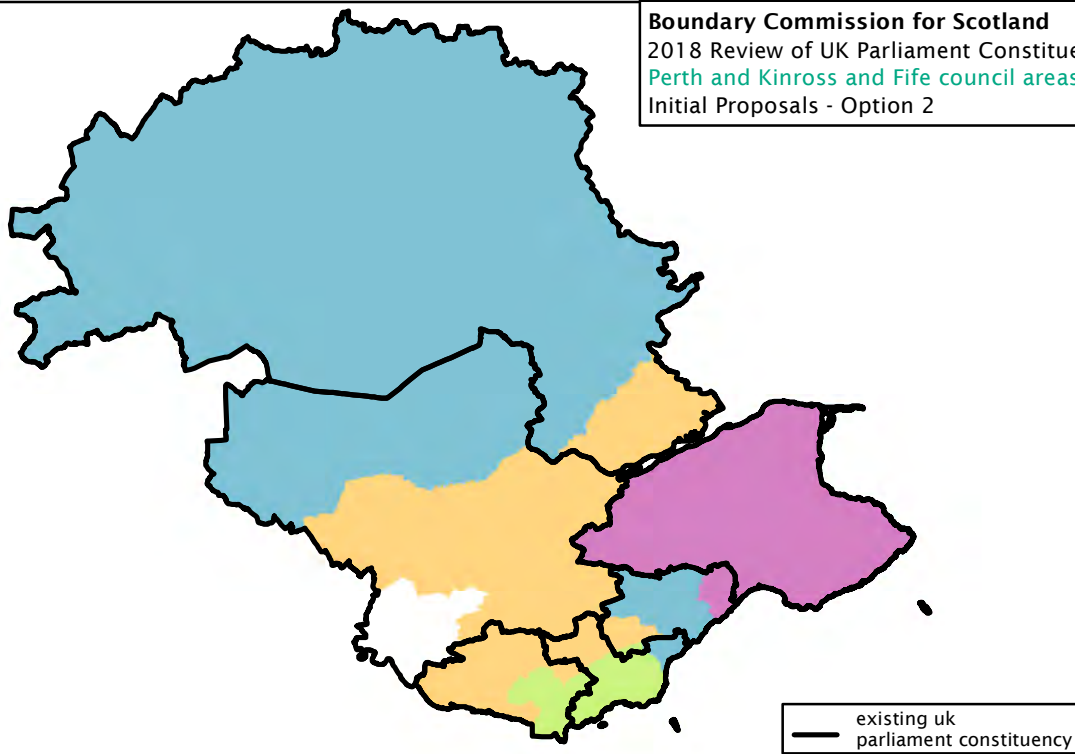


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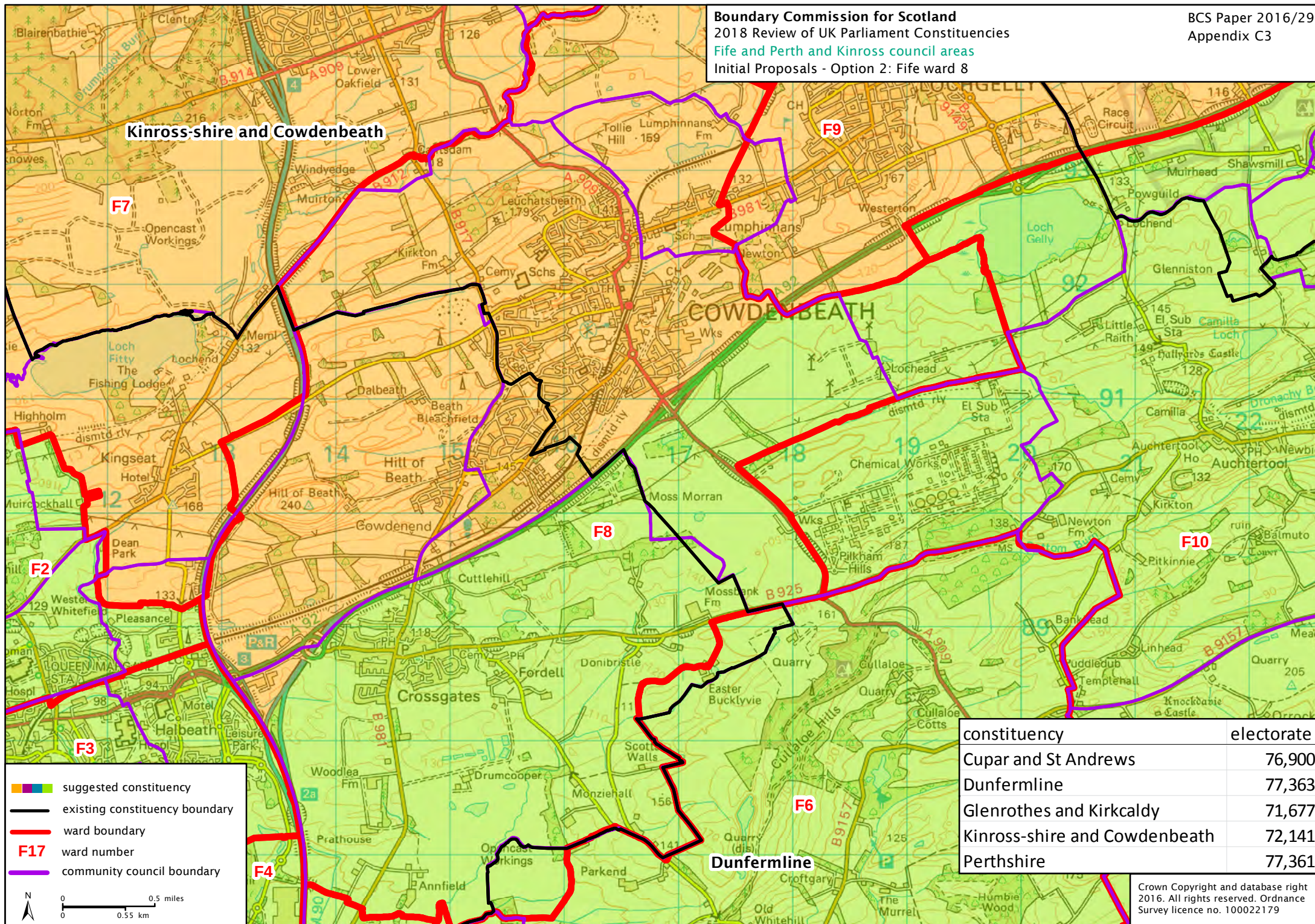


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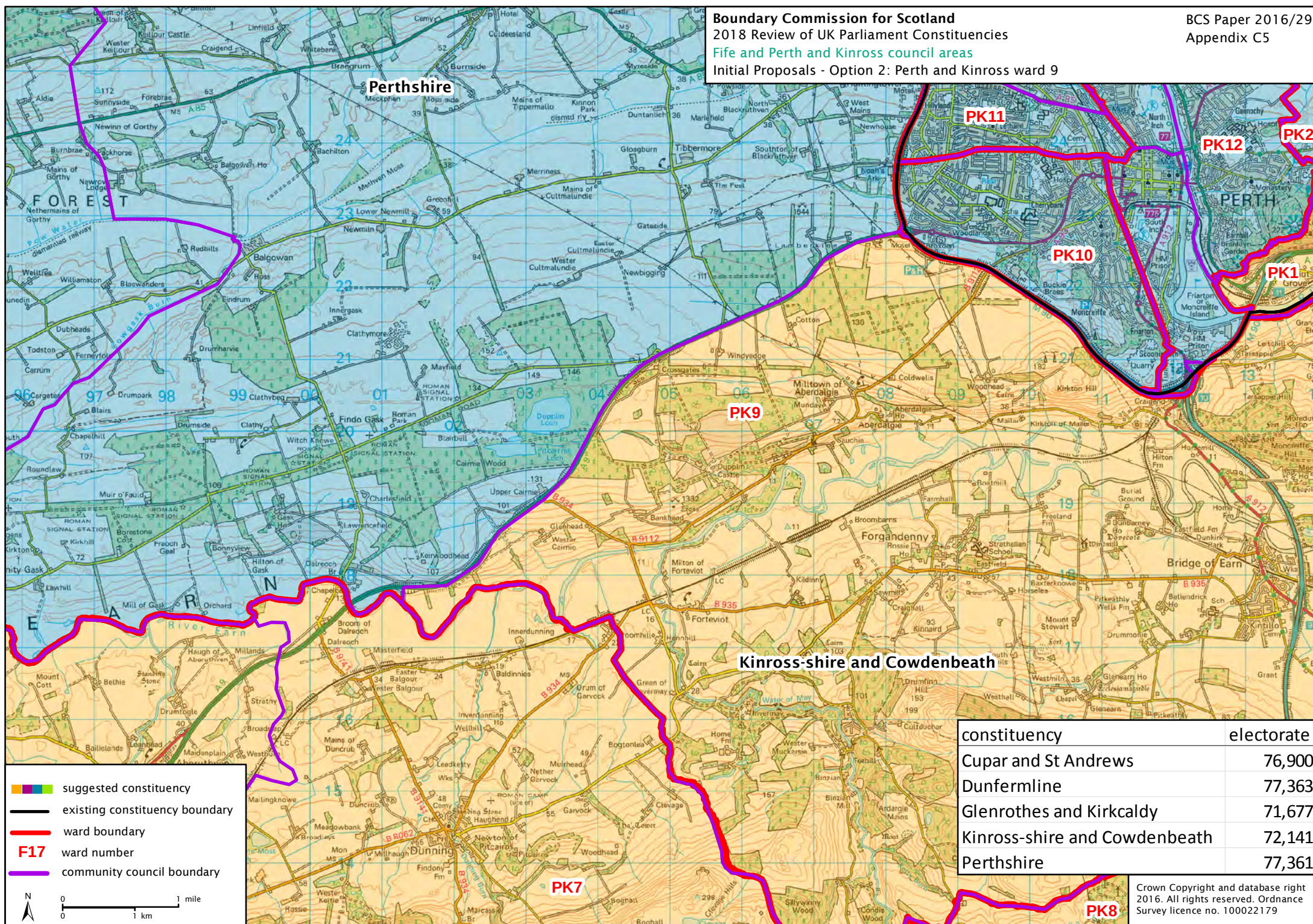


Kinross-shire and Cowdenbeath



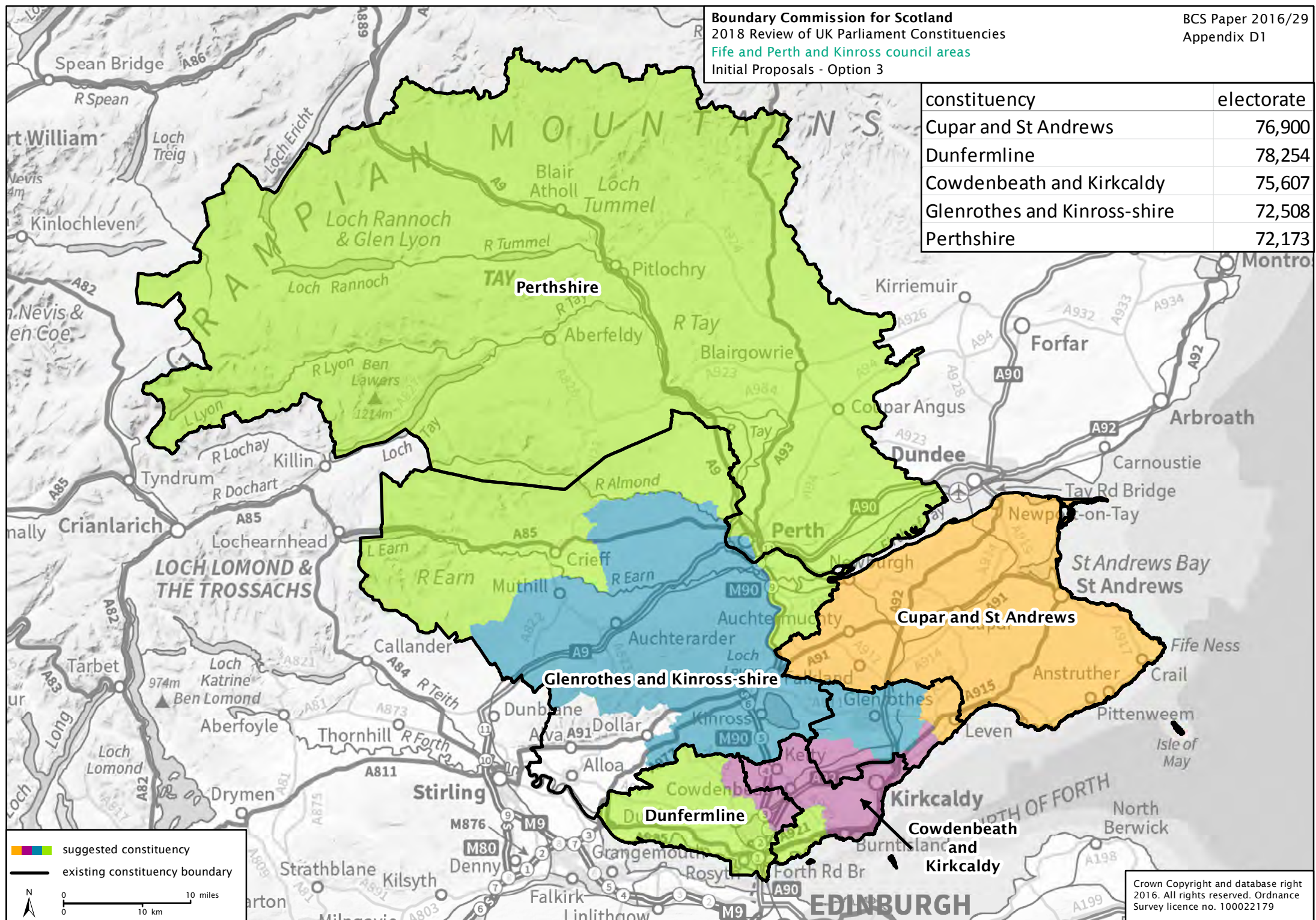
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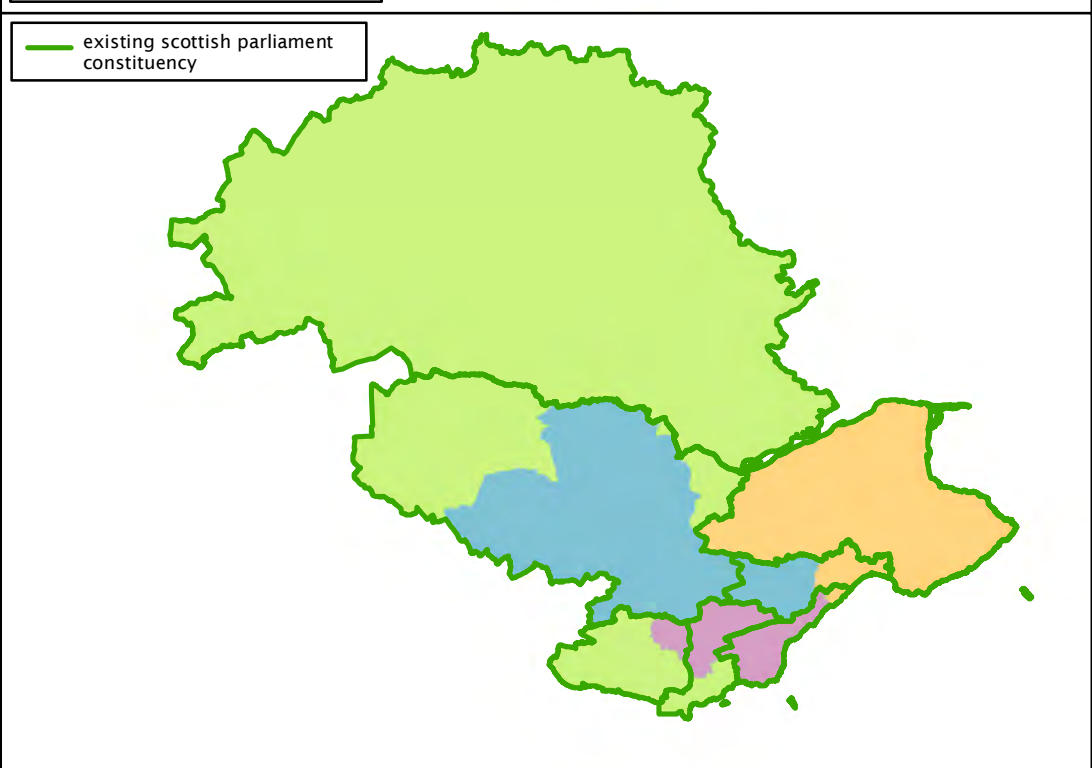
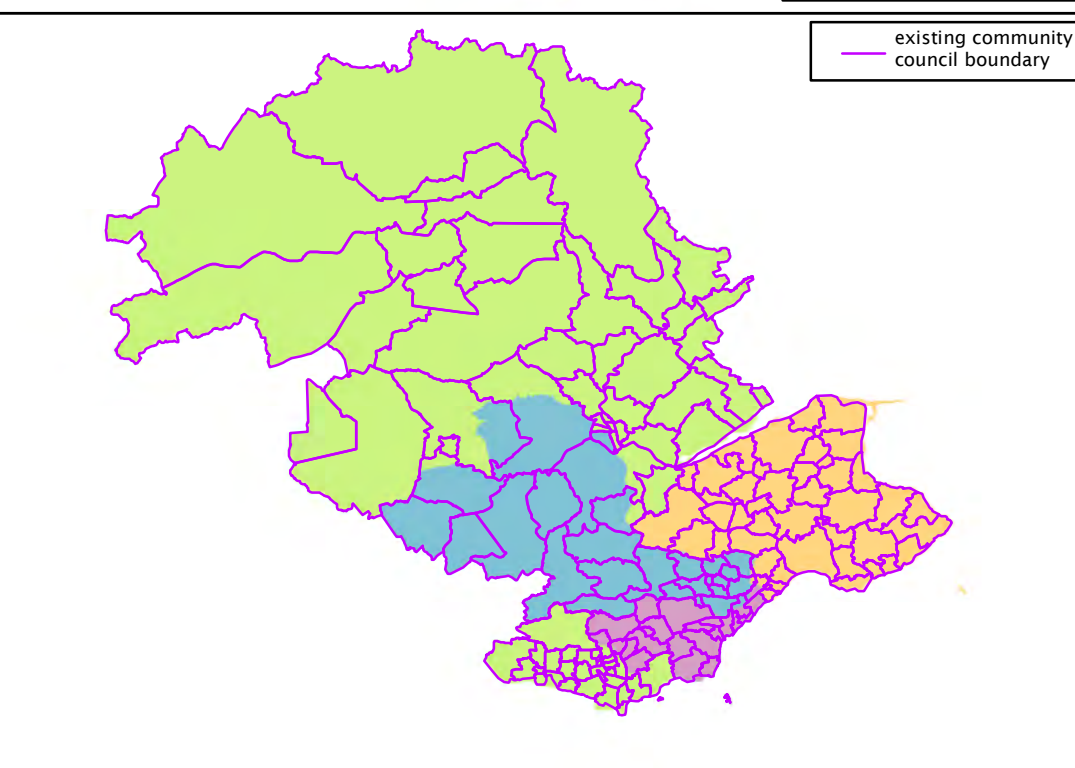
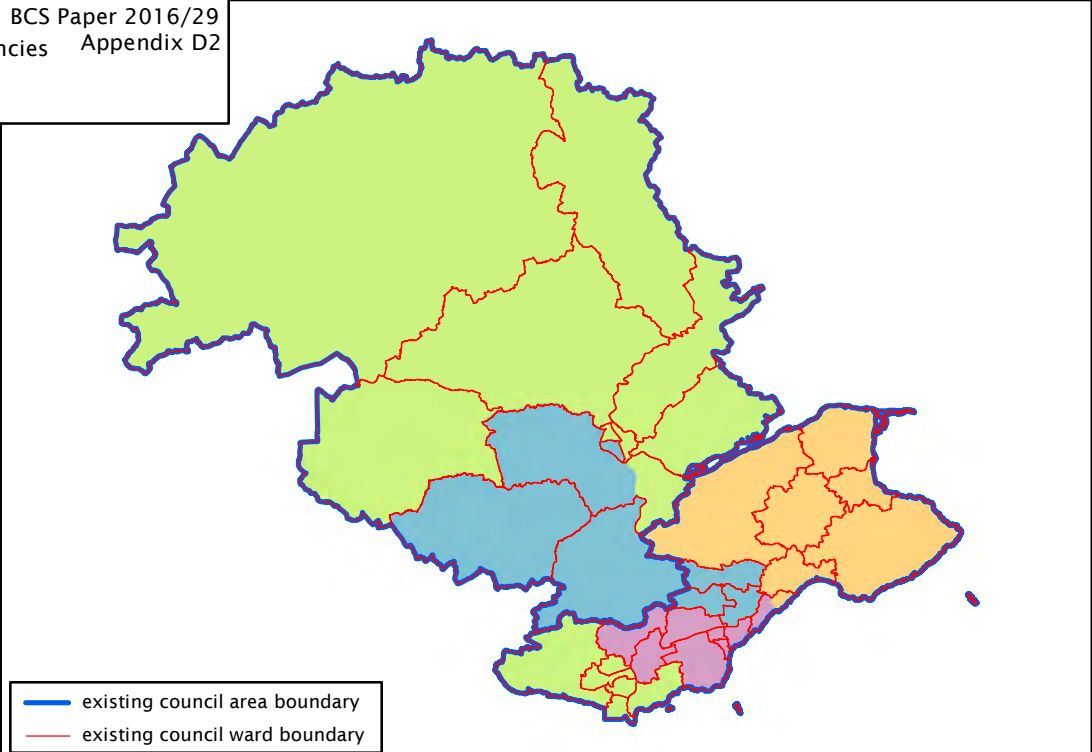
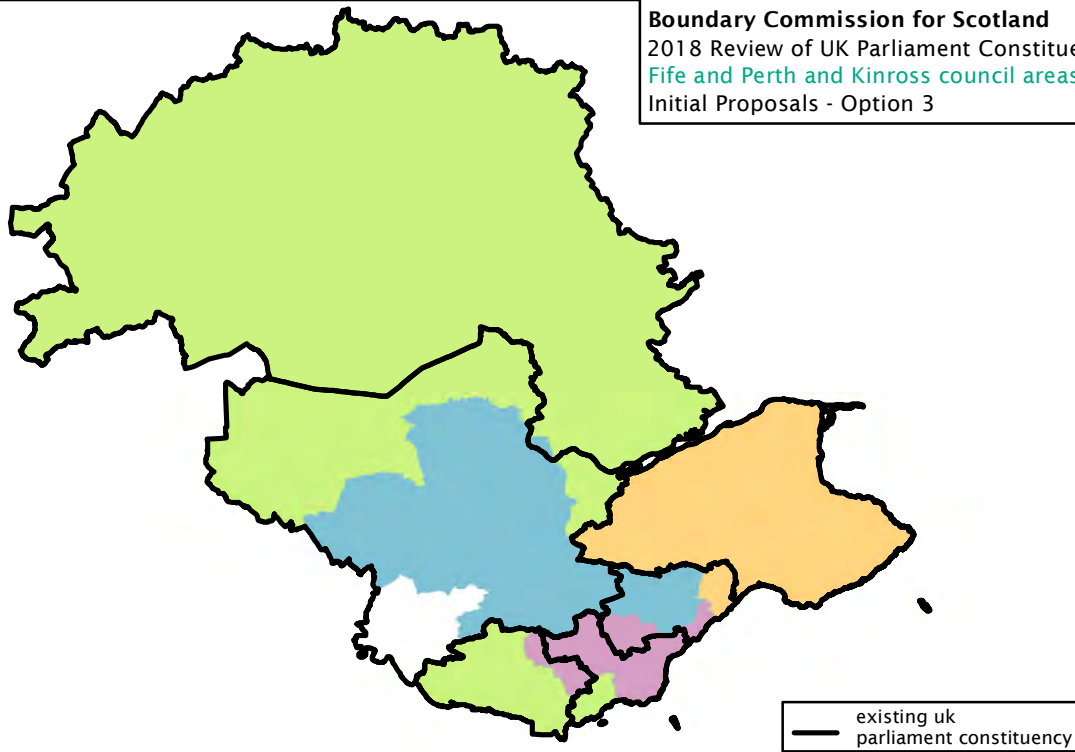




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