

2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies Map styles for meeting papers and final report

Action required

1. At its meeting of 17 February 2020, the Commission asked the Secretariat to consider the style of maps for its meeting papers and final recommendations, for use during the 2023 Review of UK Parliament constituencies.

Background – 2018 Review

2. When developing its proposals for the 2018 Review of UK Parliament constituencies, the Commission adopted a style of maps for meeting paper appendices that included:
 - an overview map of the proposed constituencies in block colour with the existing constituencies identified by a thick black line. A faded colour background map identified the area (see appendix A1);
 - in cities or towns a more detailed map was presented. It adopted the same style mentioned above but added ward boundaries and ward numbers, coloured red (see appendix A2); and
 - a boundary comparison map displayed the proposals in the same block colours with other recognised boundaries such as: council areas; wards; existing UK Parliament constituencies; community council areas; and Scottish Parliament constituencies. No background maps were added (see appendix A3).
3. For the Commission's 2018 Review – Final Recommendations Report, the Commission liaised with Ordnance Survey to develop a clear style of map for each recommended constituency. A black and white double effect line outlined the recommended constituency boundary (see appendix B).

Comparisons with other Commissions – 2018 Review Final Reports

4. The Commission will wish to consider different map styles adopted by the other UK Boundary Commissions from their 2018 Review Reports and consider whether to implement any of their design features.
5. The Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland BCNI (Appendix C) presented three boundaries on their maps: recommended constituency boundaries; existing constituency boundaries; and ward boundaries. However, the dark blue line identifying the existing constituency boundary could be seen as similar to the paler blue lines signifying water features. The ward names and electorates were included to provide further information.
6. The Boundary Commission for Wales BCW (Appendix D) constituency maps were similar to BCNI. They presented four different boundaries but it is not immediately clear what the black, green, red or yellow lines signify because there is no legend included on the map itself although a boundary description is included in the report text. They also included individual ward names and ward electorates. A black and white background map was used. A map inset was included to focus on a specific built-up area.
7. The Boundary Commission for England BCE (Appendix E) presented three boundaries in their constituency maps. The constituency boundary was clearly defined by a thick green line but the grey and black colours used for the ward

and local authority boundaries are a similar colour. Ward names were included but not the ward electorates. A black and white background map was used.

User-research

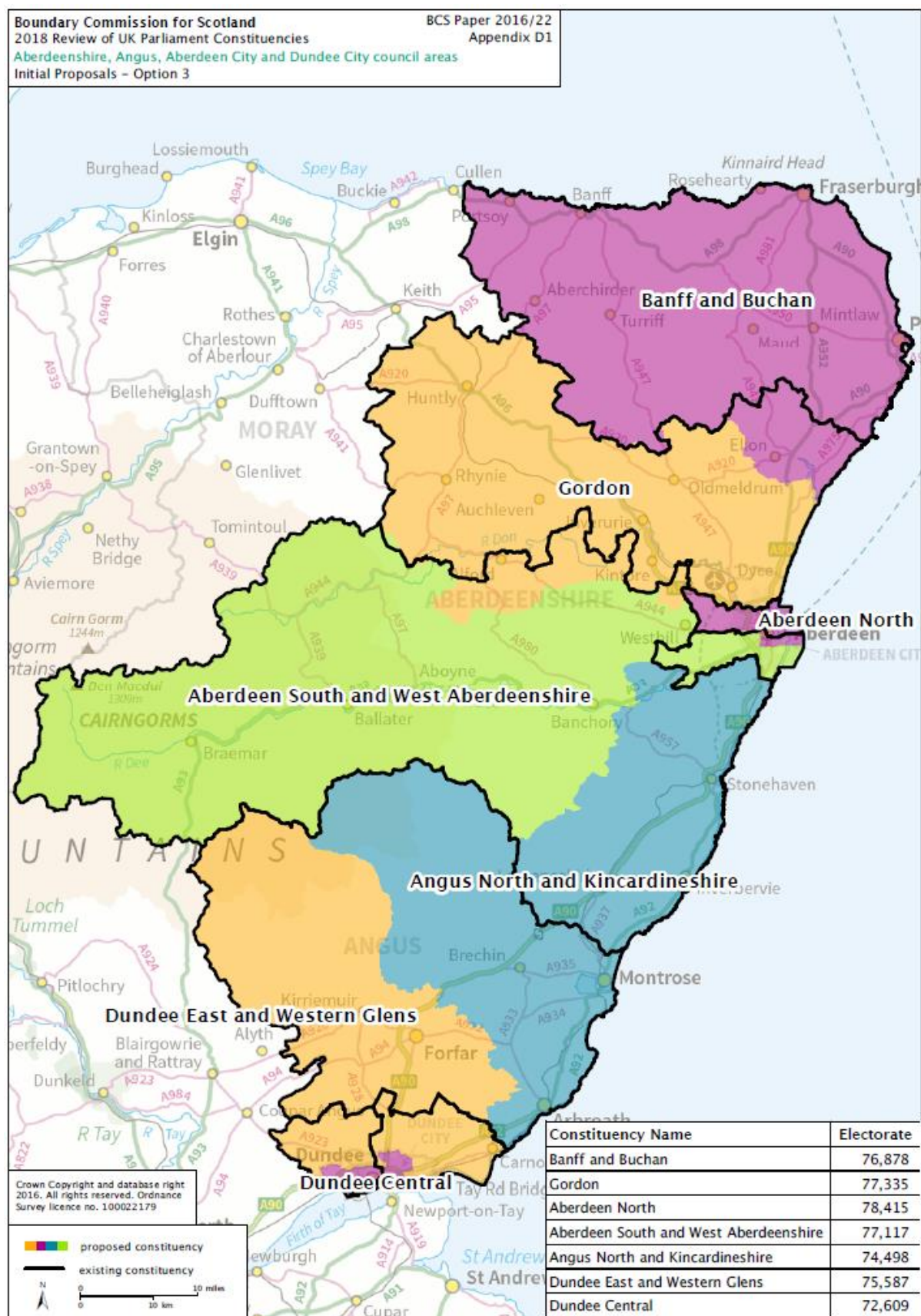
8. The Secretariat recently undertook user-research on the LGBCS consultation tool. Users were asked to comment on a number of factors with the aim of making improvements. The feedback and suggestions regarding the maps included:
- using different colours for each ward (or constituency) instead of using the same four colours;
 - simple, well annotated, before and after map images clearly showing where changes are being made; and
 - simpler for users to understand what the different boundary line colours mean.

Conclusion

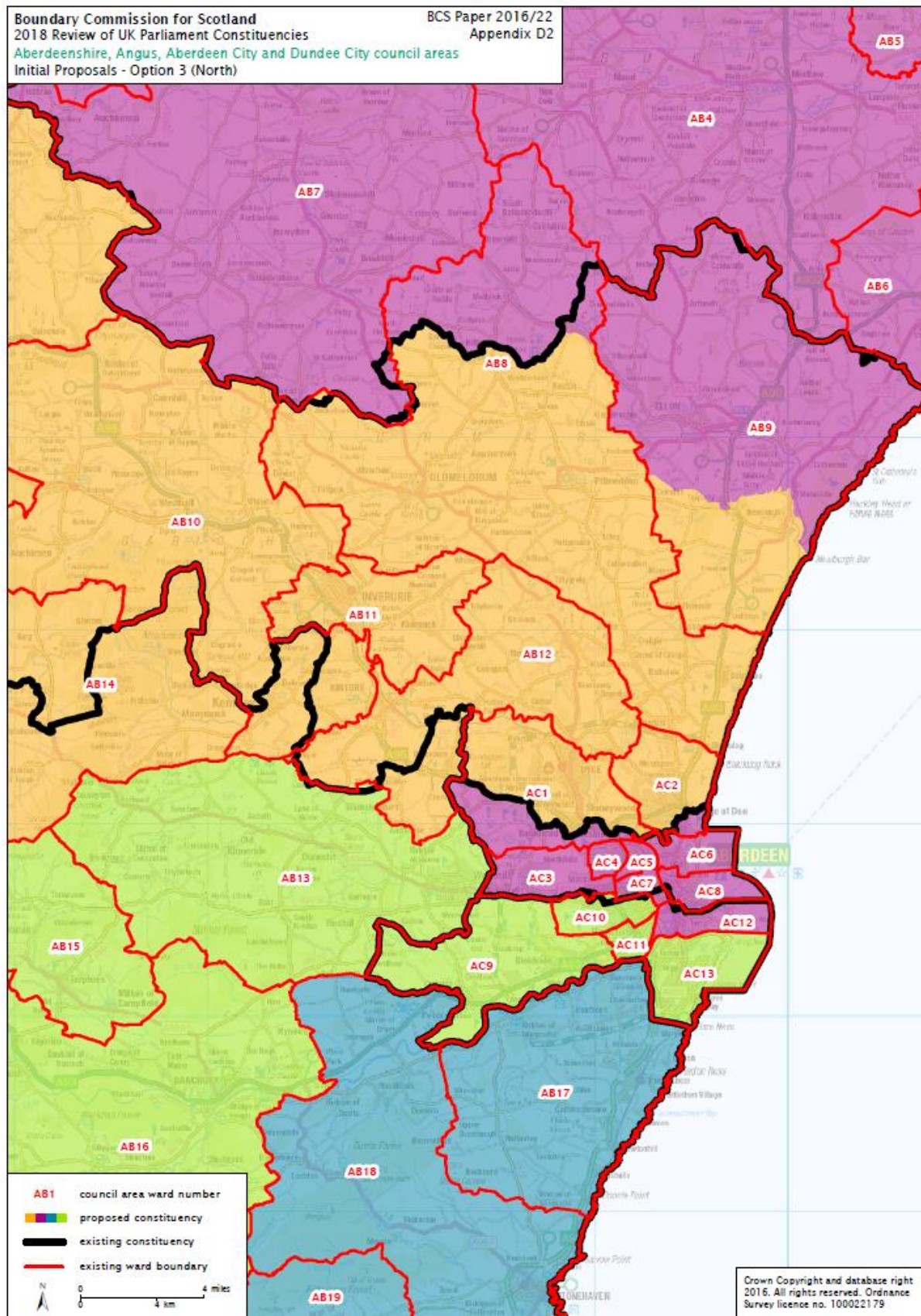
9. The Commission is invited to comment on the different map styles and consider if it has a preference for its meeting papers and final report for the 2023 Review.
10. Specifically the Commission may wish to note and consider the use of:
- black and white or colour Ordnance Survey background maps;
 - faded background Ordnance Survey maps;
 - inclusion of ward boundaries and or ward electorates on the map with the awareness that new ward boundaries may be introduced during the Review for Argyll & Bute, Highland and North Ayrshire Councils in May 2022;
 - use of block colour to highlight proposed constituencies. The Secretariat generally use a purple, blue, orange/yellow and green colours;
 - adopt any features or styles from the other Commissions maps, (see appendices C, D and E); and
 - seeking further advice on map design from Ordnance Survey.

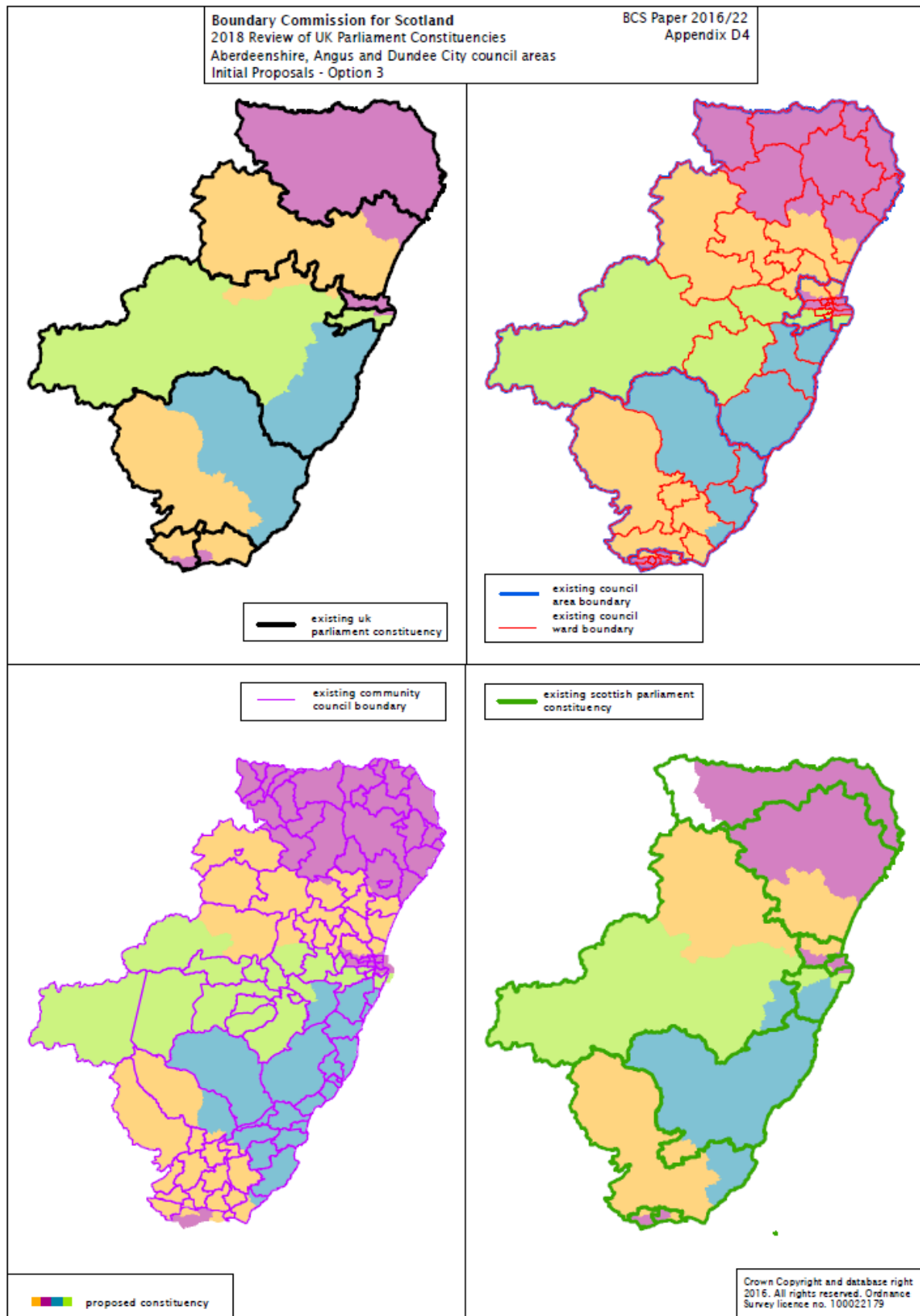
Secretariat
July 2020

Appendix A1 – BCS 2018 Review Proposals Map – Overview Map



Appendix A2 – BCS 2018 Review Proposals Map – Detailed Map



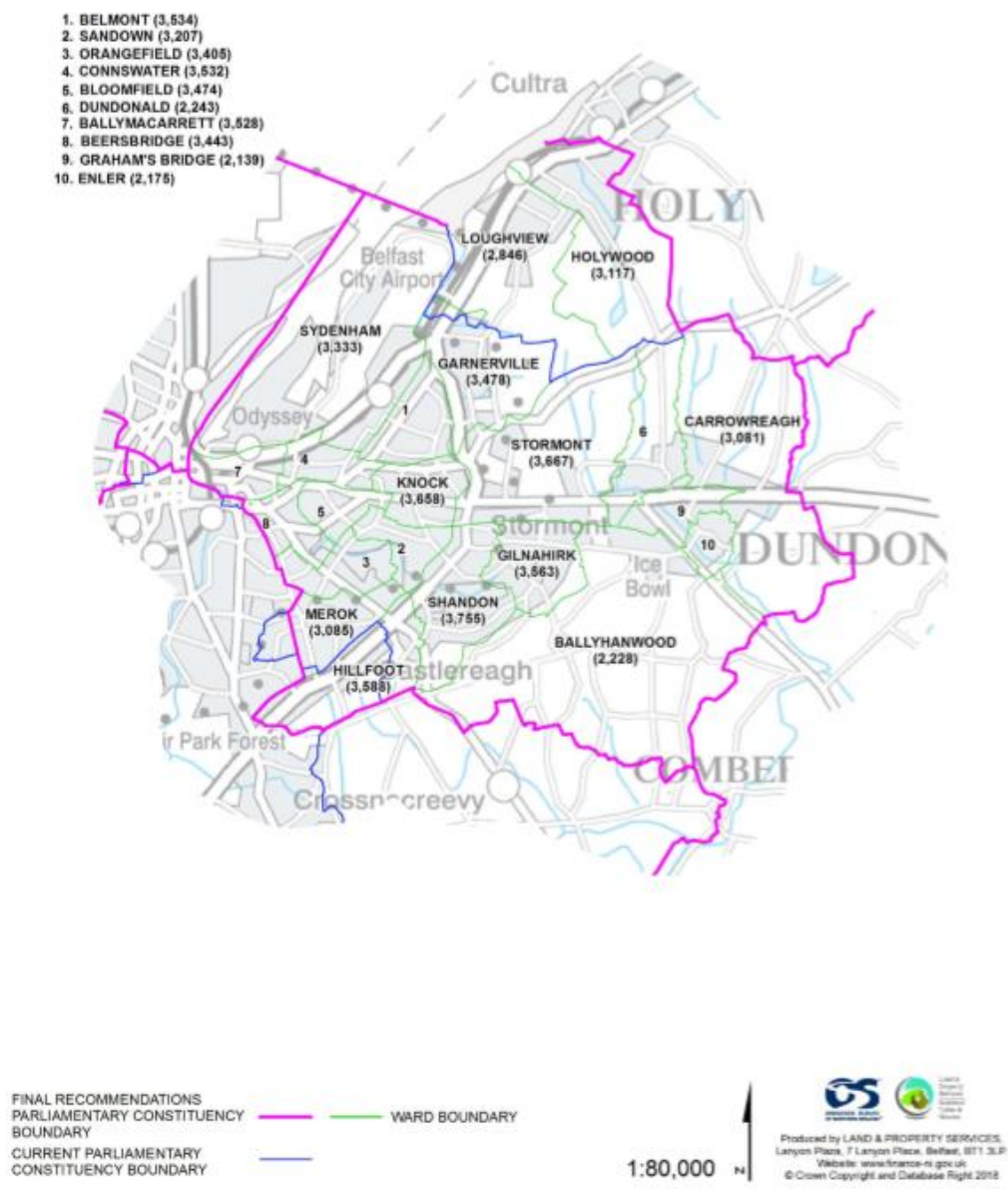
Appendix A3 – BCS 2018 Review Proposals Map – Comparison with other boundaries

Appendix B – BCS 2018 Review Final Report Map

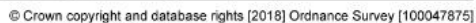


Appendix C – Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland 2018 Review Final Report Map

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS: BELFAST EAST



De Clwyd a Gogledd Maldwyn (South Clwyd and North Montgomeryshire)



Appendix E – Boundary Commission for England 2018 Review Final Report Map

