

2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies Map styles for meeting papers

Background

1. At its meeting of 5 October 2020 the Commission considered Paper 2020/10 '2023 Review – Map styles for meeting papers.' The Commission had also earlier considered Paper 2020/07, 'Map styles for meeting papers', at its meeting of 15 July 2020.
2. Paper 2020/10 compared the style of maps used by the Commission during the 2018 Review and sought feedback on the amount and style of information presented within those maps. It also presented a constituency with different map scales to highlight the amount of information contained in each map.
3. The Commission made a number of comments and suggestions relating to the content of those maps.
4. The Commission also discussed the basemaps and noted that some provide too much detail.
5. Mr Cuthbert offered the advice from Ordnance Survey (OS) cartographic colleagues in an effort to optimise the presentation style of the Commission's maps. OS have since supplied a number of maps prepared on behalf of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) and they are considered later in this paper.

Action required

6. The Commission is invited to comment on further map styles, specifically different basemaps, and the examples provided by OS, as it prepares for the 2023 Review of UK Parliament constituencies.

Basemap Options

7. OS have supplied a number of maps that they have prepared on behalf of the LGBCE. These maps, which can be found in Appendix A, B and C respectively, show the final recommendation for wards in Reading, Richmond Upon Thames and Wiltshire. Whilst they show wards and church parishes along with council boundary data rather than parliamentary constituencies the Commission may wish to consider their style. There is a focus on the area being presented with all other areas "whited out". The basemap gives sufficient detail to see neighbourhoods, settlements and roadways without bombarding the user with unnecessary information. The boundary data is clearly labelled. The Commission adopted a similar style of map when it produced its 2018 Review final report, see Appendix D. The Commission may wish to consider asking the Secretariat to work closely with OS in adopting these principles in future map styles.
8. The Secretariat present a number of options for basemaps and how they can offer varying levels of detail. These maps also draw inspiration from the OS supplied style regarding overall presentation.
9. Appendix E map adopts the background maps used by the Secretariat during the 2018 Reviews and delivered via the OS Public Sector Geospatial Agreement. The style will be familiar to the Commission however comments from the Commission

regarding previous mapping papers have suggested this map style can be cluttered with too much extraneous detail.

10. Appendix F shows the GB Background basemap. This style provides a moderately detailed basemap using Open Data featuring a neutral background style for use primarily as a background map to provide context to other data. This has limited detail and may be unsuitable for those wishing to identify particular streets or other defining features.
11. Appendix G shows the Ordnance Survey Open Carto, an OS OpenData base map providing a consistent symbology from national scale to street level. This provides details of built up areas such as streets and areas of dense housing. When zoomed in it provides further labelling of streets although this is not extensive. This is very similar in design to the basemap used by OS when creating maps for LGBC as seen in Appendices A, B and C.
12. Appendix H shows Open Street Map, an open source map service that provides detailed mapping with a simple style. At smaller scales it perhaps provides too much detail with the height of hills and quarry names etc.
13. As previously discussed there are many variables in the creation of maps such as geographical size of the area displayed and whether the constituency or grouping under consideration is in a urban or rural context. Insets can be used to focus on a specific area and provide more detail as seen in all the maps provided.

Conclusion

14. The Commission is invited to comment on the different map styles and consider if it has a preference for its meeting papers for the 2023 Review.

Secretariat
November 2020

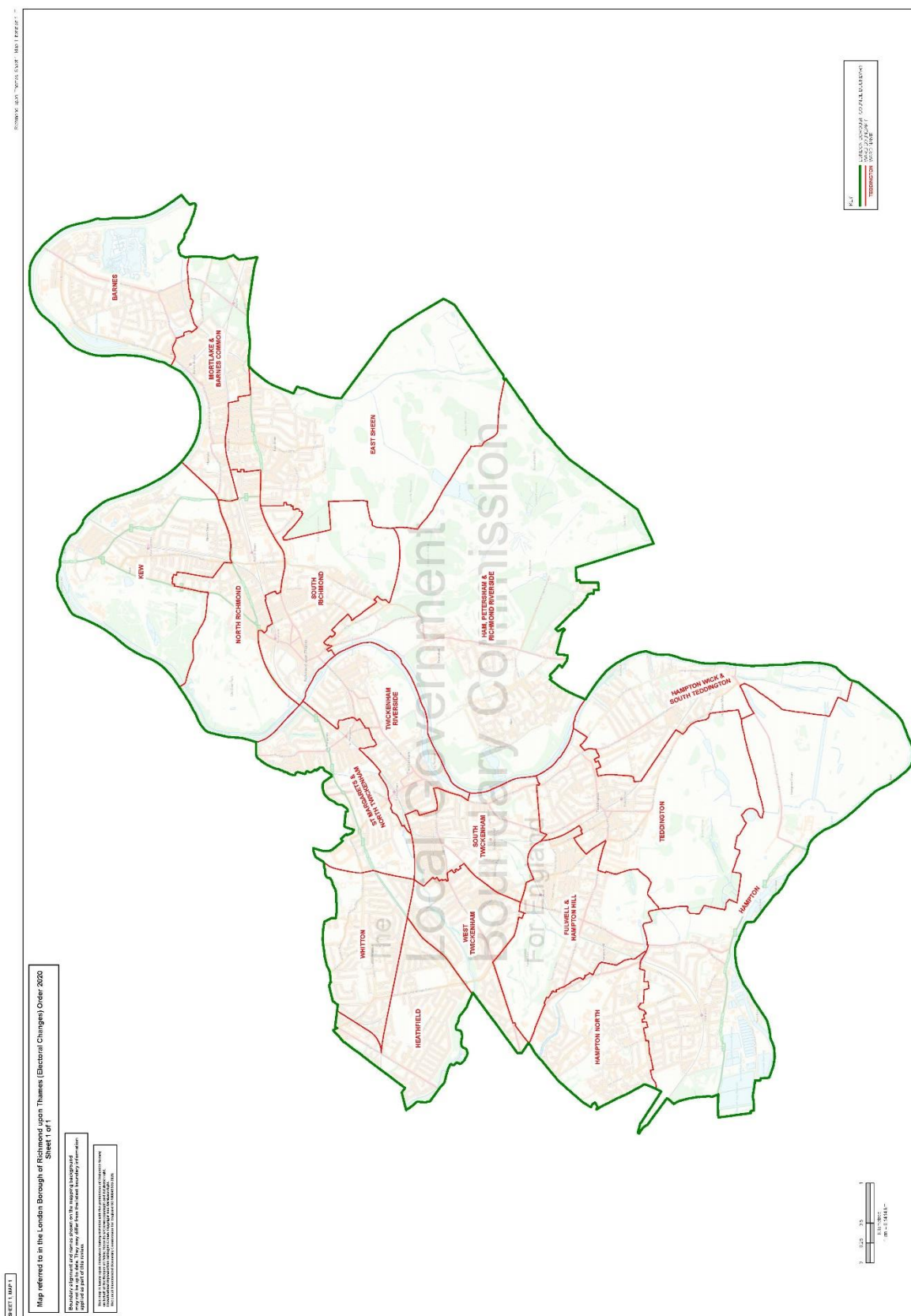
Appendix A

OS Supplied map for Reading



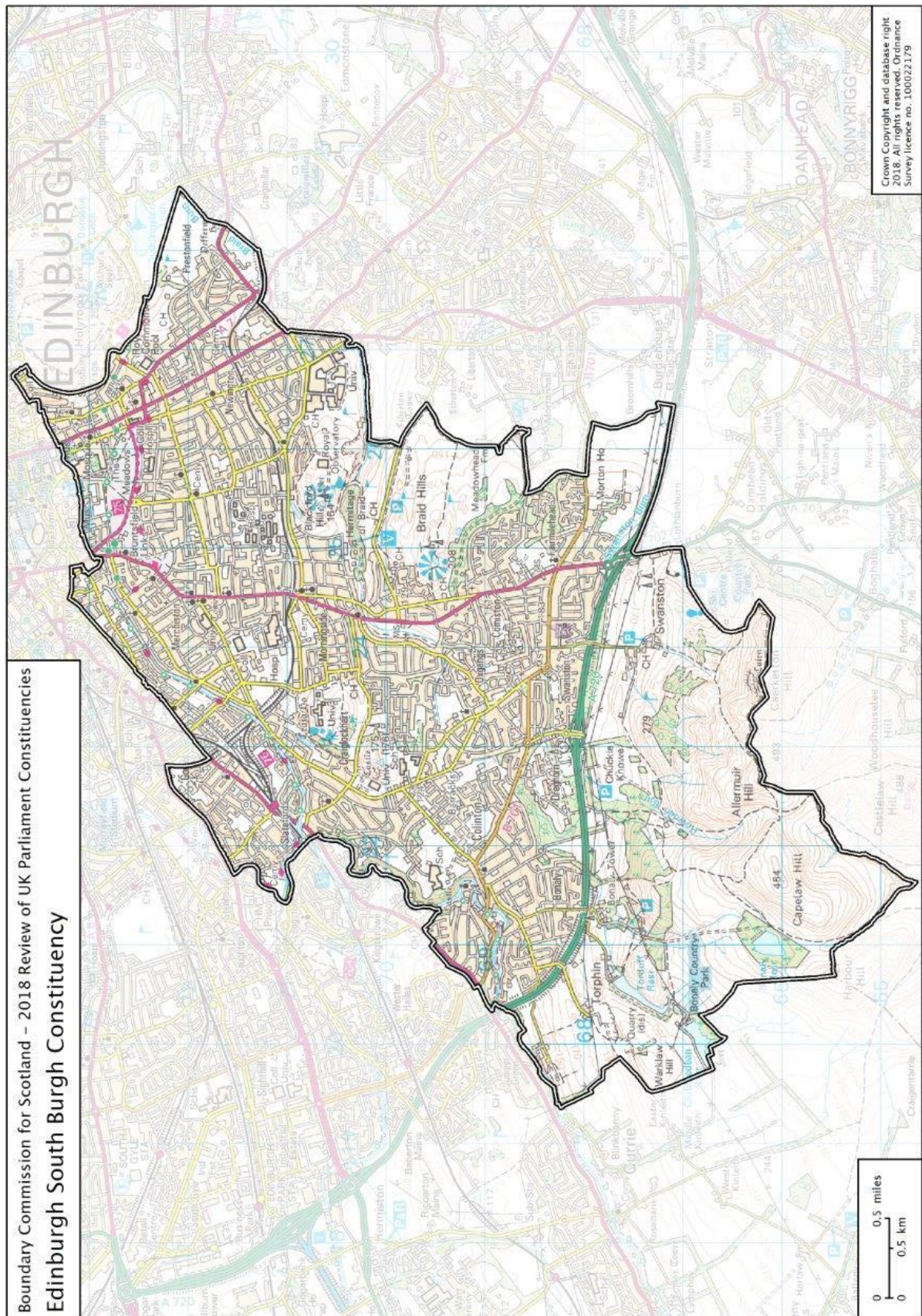
Appendix B

OS Supplied map for Richmond Upon Thames

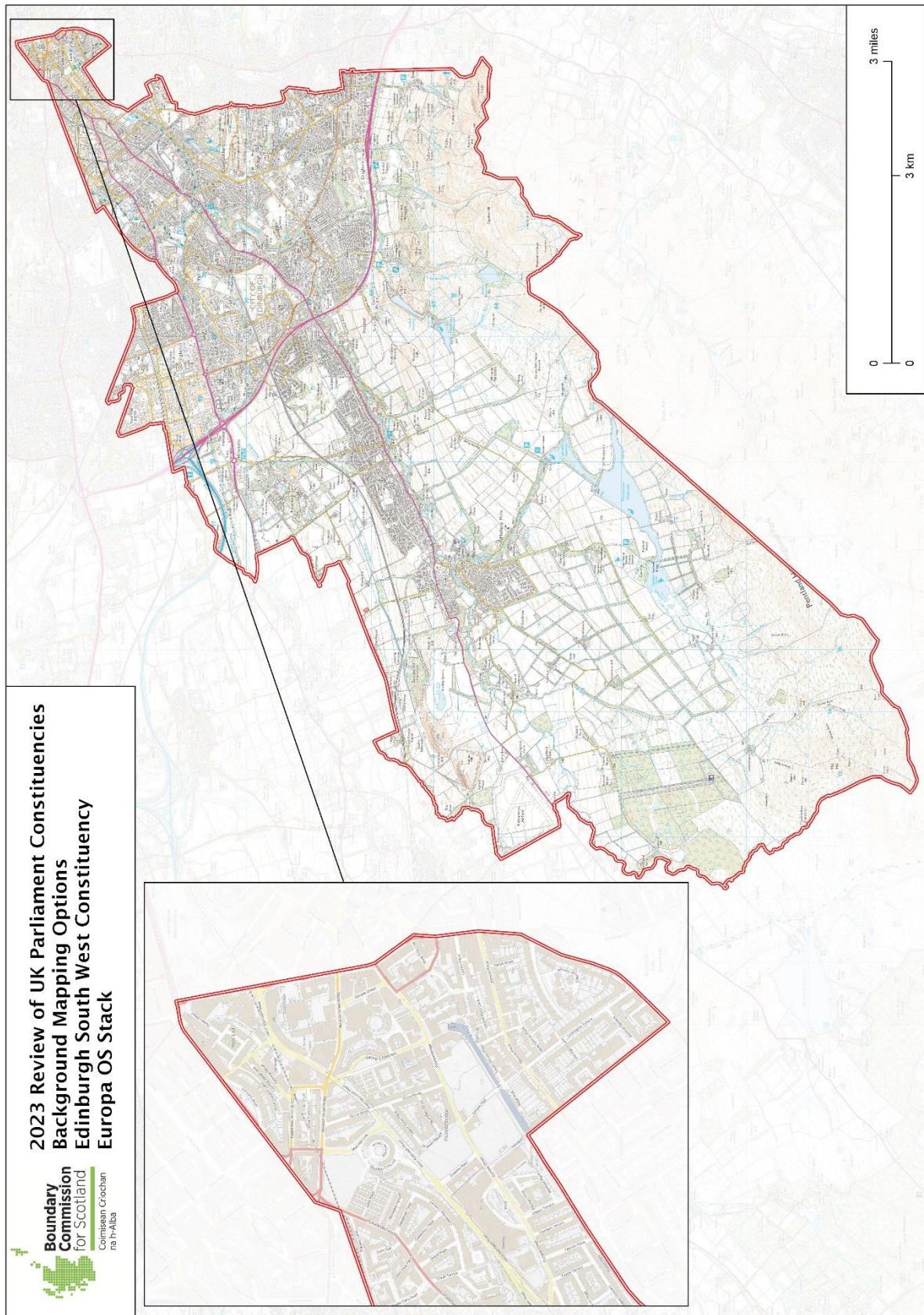


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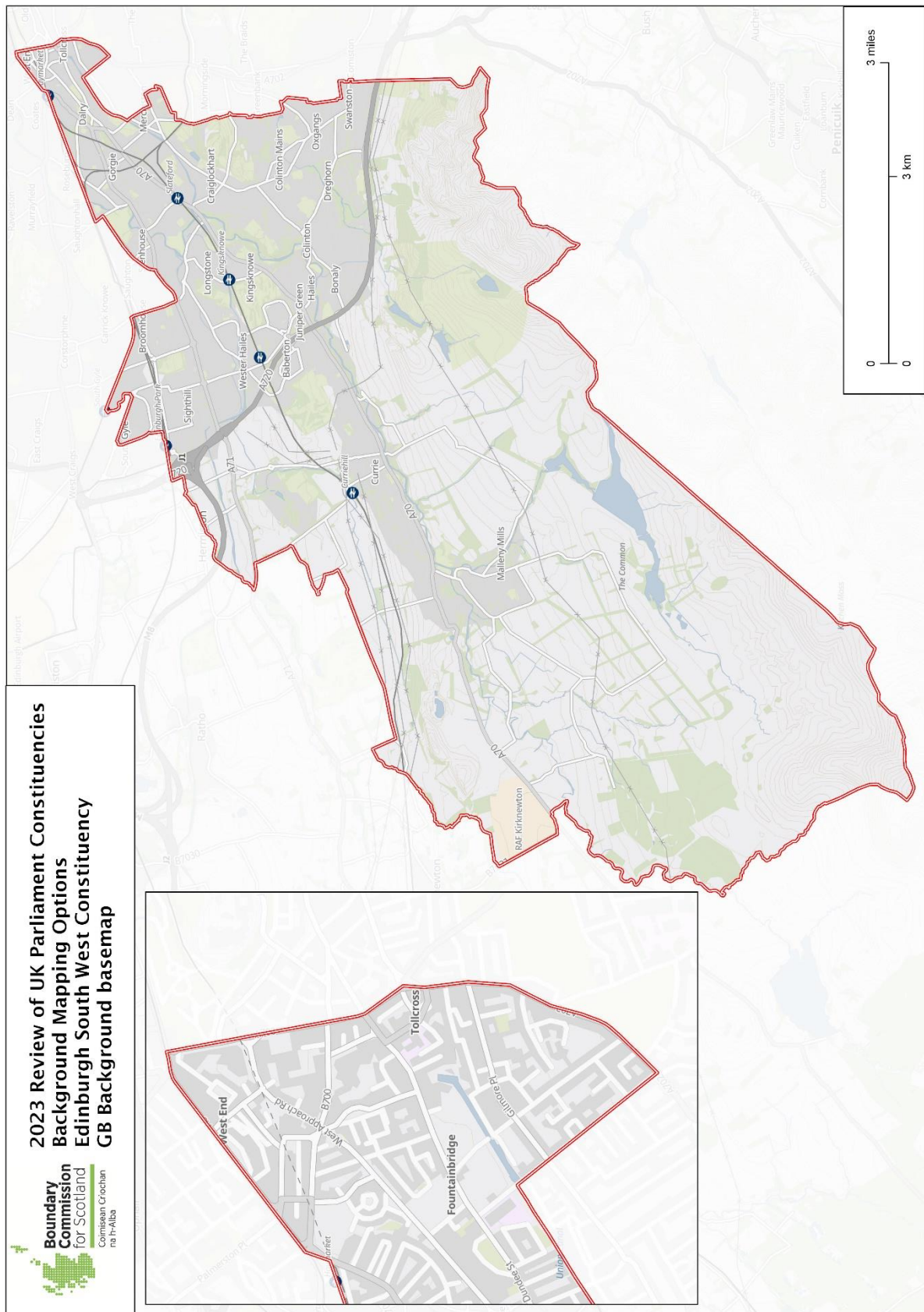
Appendix D



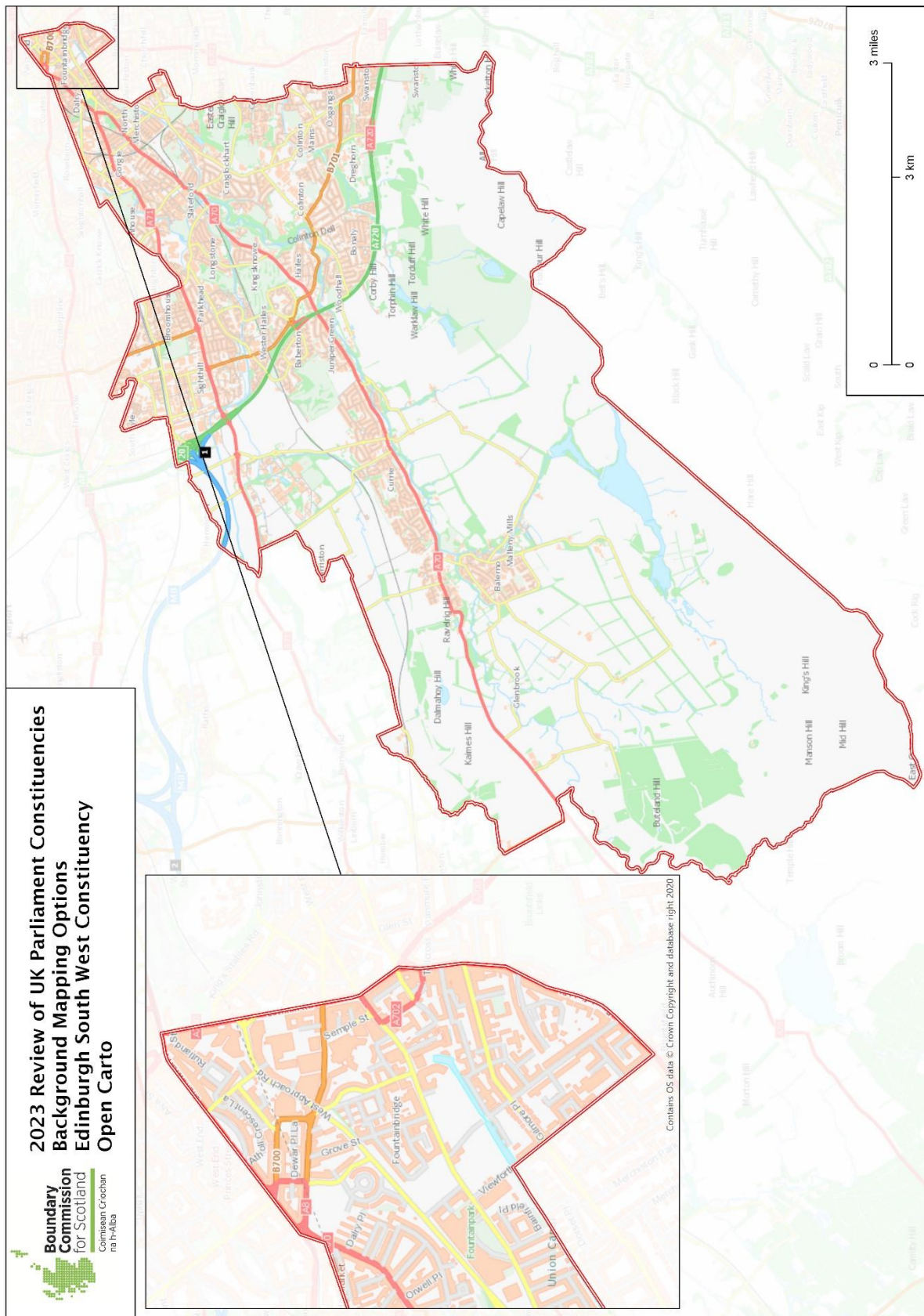
Appendix E



Appendix F



Appendix G



Appendix H

