

## **2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies Final Recommendations – Boundary Alignment**

### **Action required**

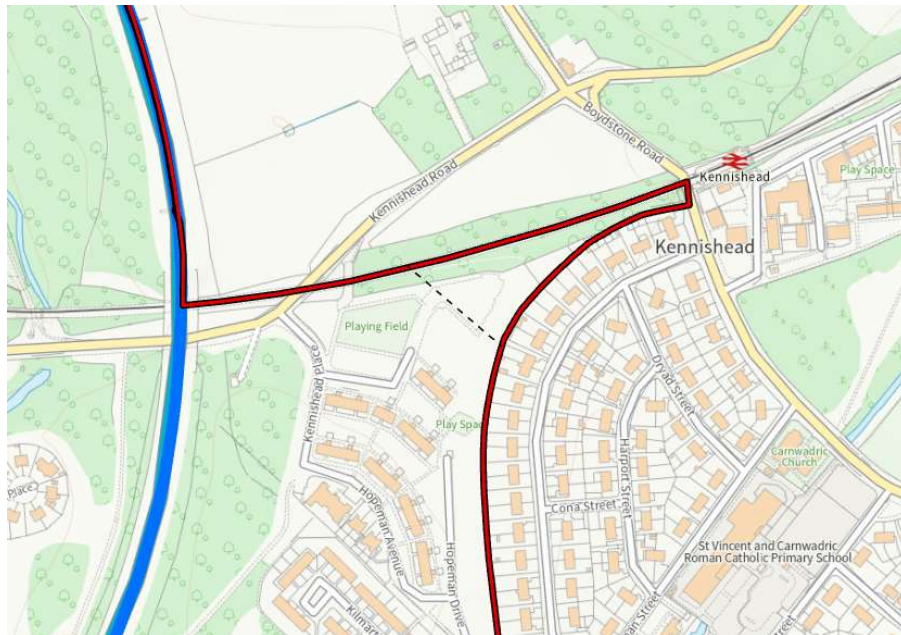
1. The Commission is invited to note some anomalies between the boundaries of its proposals and either ward boundaries or natural features and consider if it wishes to correct these when it submits its Final Recommendations.

### **Background**

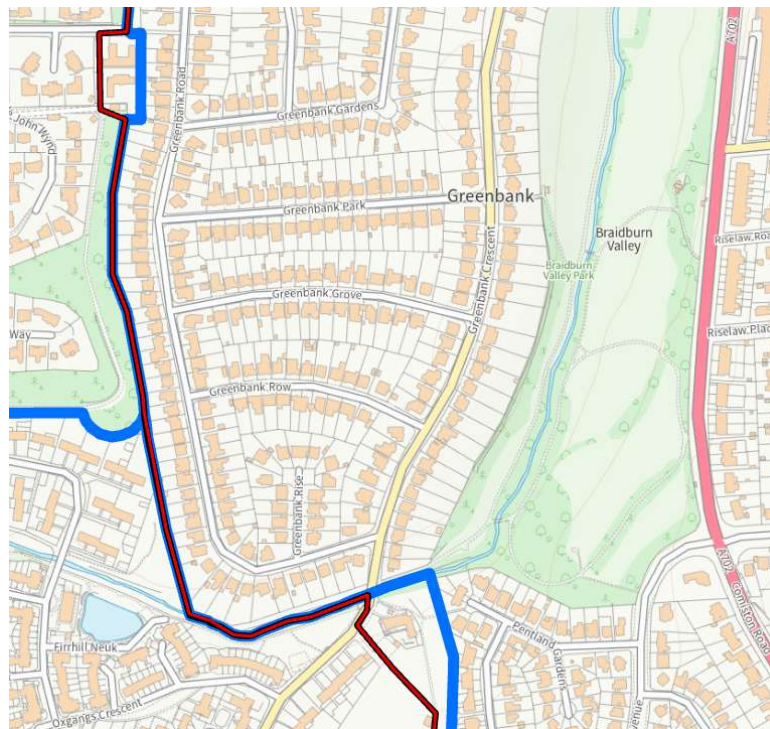
2. The existing constituency boundaries have been in place since 2005.
3. The Commission's Fifth Review of UK Parliament Constituency boundaries designed constituencies by combining local government electoral wards. At that time single-member wards were in use and covered a smaller area than the multi-member wards which came into force in 2007.
4. Since 2005, there have been a Scotland-wide review of electoral arrangements in 2007 and in 2017 and reviews of 6 councils in 2022.
5. In 2017 and 2022 Boundaries Scotland aimed to simplify some of its ward boundaries, for example where the boundaries had followed riverbanks or pavements at the side of a road, but these were amended to follow the centre of roads and rivers.
6. The discrepancies are small and unlikely to affect the electorate of any recommended constituencies but may allow stakeholders to more easily identify their electoral boundaries.
7. In each map the existing council ward boundaries are blue, proposed 2023 Review boundaries are black and existing UK parliament boundaries are red. Alternative boundaries that do not follow any of the aforementioned lines in the maps are represented by a hashed line.

### **Example 1 – Glasgow**

8. In the south of Glasgow, the revised proposals followed the existing constituency boundary. The existing constituency boundary followed the smaller single-member wards in place at that time, which appear to have followed two railway lines to create a pointed shape. One of the railway lines is no longer in use.
9. The Commission could agree to amend the boundary to follow a straight line between the railway line and the rear fence of properties as it does now. This would avoid the curious pointed shape.

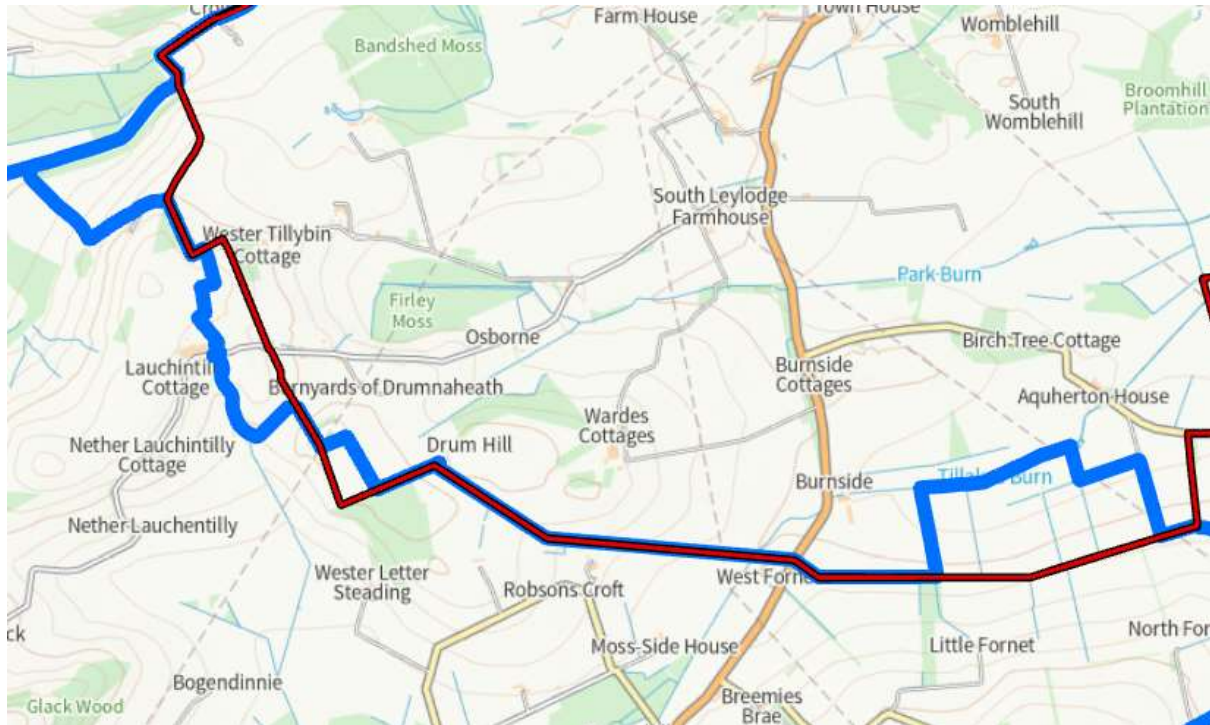
**Example 2 – Edinburgh**

10. In the south of Edinburgh, the revised proposals follow existing ward and constituency boundaries however these diverge as they meet a medical centre and a Young Person's Centre.
11. It is suggested these anomalies could be remedied by aligning the constituency boundary with the ward boundary. These examples would make changes to the proposed Edinburgh South West constituency, which follows the existing constituency boundary although no electors would be affected.



**Example 3 – Rural areas**

12. This map shows an area to the west of Blackburn in Aberdeenshire. The blue ward boundaries date from the 4<sup>th</sup> Reviews of electoral arrangements and were retained by the 5<sup>th</sup> Reviews.
13. The constituency boundaries in the area date from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reviews of Electoral Arrangements. It would be possible to align the constituency boundaries with ward boundaries in this area without affecting any electors.

**Recommendation**

14. The Commission is invited to advise if it wishes to better align a number of constituency boundaries to ward boundaries or physical features and specifically if wishes the Secretariat to highlight them for discussion or simply incorporate them into the final recommendations papers.

Secretariat  
December 2022