
NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

8 December 2021

North Ayrshire Council

Title:	Boundaries Scotland: 2019 Review of Electoral Arrangements for the North Ayrshire Council Area
Purpose:	To advise Council of the new Electoral Arrangements for the North Ayrshire Council area following a Review by Boundaries Scotland.
Recommendation:	That Council notes the new Electoral Arrangements for the North Ayrshire Council area which come into force on Thursday 5 May 2022.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Boundaries Scotland commenced its 2019 Review of Electoral Arrangements for the North Ayrshire Council area in January 2019. They consulted with the Council on Councillor Numbers, Number of Electoral Wards and Ward Boundaries during July – September 2020. Following a minor amendment suggested by Council, there was an extensive public consultation exercise during November 2020 and January 2021.
- 1.2 The Scottish Government agreed Boundaries Scotland's proposed Electoral Arrangements for the North Ayrshire Council Area in October 2022.
- 1.3 The new Electoral Arrangements for the North Ayrshire Council are set out in this report and will come into force on Thursday 5 May 2022.

2. Background

- 2.1 Boundaries Scotland (formerly known as the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland) is an independent, non-political statutory body responsible for carrying out review of Councillor numbers and electoral wards for Council areas. Boundaries Scotland is also responsible for carrying out reviews of Council area boundaries and of constituencies and regions for the Scottish Parliament.
- 2.2. In terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (as Amended), Boundaries Scotland is required to conduct Electoral Reviews of each Council area every 15 years. The reason for this is that population and therefore electorate figures in all local authority areas is constantly changing. As a result of population changes, some Councillors may represent considerably more or fewer electors than other Councillors in the same Council area.

- 2.3 When reviewing Electoral Arrangements, Boundaries Scotland is required to take account of several factors: -
- The interests of effective and convenient local government.
 - Within each Council, each Councillor should represent as closely as possible the same number of electors.
 - Local ties which would be broken by making a particular boundary.
 - The desirability of fixing boundaries that are easily identifiable.
 - Special geographical consideration.
- 2.4 The current Electoral Arrangements for the North Ayrshire Council area (i.e., 10 Wards and 33 Elected Members) were formed in 2017 and used for the Local Government Elections that year.
- 2.5 The Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 required Boundaries Scotland to review the Electoral Arrangements for the six Councils containing inhabited islands (Argyll and Bute, Highland, North Ayrshire, Orkney, Shetland, and Na h-Eileannan an Iar) as soon as practicable. The Act also allows for the creation of wards that elect one or two councillors in wards which contain inhabited islands as well as the two, three, four or five councillor wards permitted elsewhere in Scotland as a result of the Scottish Elections (Reform) Act 2020.
- 2.6 Boundaries Scotland commenced its 2019 Review of Electoral Arrangements in North Ayrshire in January 2019. They consulted with the Council on their initial proposals for a 2-month period from 16 July to 30 September 2020.
- 2.7 The Council at its meeting on 23 September 2020 agreed a response supporting Boundaries Scotland's proposed Electoral Arrangements for the North Ayrshire Council area and suggested a minor amendment to the proposed ward boundary in the hills between Fairlie and Kilbirnie so that it matched the Council's Locality boundary.
- 2.8 This suggested amendment was adopted by Boundaries Scotland in October 2020 as the change in boundary better reflects local ties.
- 2.9 A 12-week public consultation then ran from 4 November 2020 to 26 January 2021. During this time Boundaries Scotland issued news releases to the Arran Banner, Irvine Times, Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald and Largs & Millport Weekly News. They also wrote to Community Councils and sent posters and further information regarding the Review to 40 display points (such as community halls and leisure centres) across North Ayrshire and paid for social media advertising on Facebook and Twitter.
- 2.10 There were 72 responses to the public consultation. Overall, most responses supported the proposed Ward boundaries and retaining the existing number of Councillors. Arran was the most commented on area with support for Arran and Ardrossan being placed in separate wards.
- 2.11 Boundaries Scotland considered all comments submitted by the public and presented their finalised proposals for the North Ayrshire Council area to Scottish Ministers in June 2021. These finalised proposals were approved by Ministers on 27 October 2021.

- 2.12 On 11 November 2021, the Chief Executive, in his capacity as Returning Officer, and the Electoral Registration Officer for Ayrshire received formal notification from the Scottish Government that the new Electoral Arrangements for the North Ayrshire Council areas would come into force for the purposes of an Election for which the date of Poll is on or after 5 May 2022.
- 2.13 The new Electoral Arrangements for the North Ayrshire Council area are summarised in Table 1 below. The table details Ward No., Ward Name, No. of Councillors to be Elected and a description of the Ward. Ward Boundary maps are also attached at Appendices 1a to 1j.

TABLE 1: North Ayrshire Council Electoral Arrangements from 5 May 2022 (9 Wards & 33 Councillors – see Appendix 1a)		
Ward No. & Name	No. of Cllrs to be Elected	Ward Description
Ward 1: North Coast	5	This Ward covers the same area as the Council's North Coast Locality. It contains all of the existing North Coast and Cumbraes Ward and a part of the existing Dalry and West Kilbride Ward. (Boundary Map at Appendix 1b)
Ward 2: Garnock Valley	5	This Ward covers the same area as the Council's Garnock Valley Locality. It contains all of the existing Kilbirnie and Beith Ward and a part of the existing Dalry and West Kilbride ward. (Boundary Map at Appendix 1c).
Ward 3: Ardrossan	3	This Ward follows the burgh boundary between Ardrossan and Saltcoats. This Ward and Ward 4 (Arran) replace the existing Island-Mainland Ardrossan and Arran Ward. The new Wards sits with the Saltcoats and Stevenston Ward within the Council's Three Towns Locality. (Boundary Map at Appendix 1d).
Ward 4: Arran	1	This Ward covers the same area as the Council's Arran Locality. It contains the inhabited islands of Arran and Holy Island. This Ward and Ward 3 (Ardrossan) replace the existing Island-Mainland Ardrossan and Arran Ward. (Boundary Map at Appendix 1e).

Ward No. & Name	No. of Cllrs to be Elected	Ward Description
Ward 5: Saltcoats and Stevenston	5	This Ward merges most of the existing Saltcoats Ward and Stevenston Ward to create a Saltcoats and Stevenston Ward. The Ward boundary follows the burgh boundary between Ardrossan and Saltcoats. The Ward sits with the Ardrossan Ward within the Council's Three Towns Locality. (Boundary Map at Appendix 1f).
Ward 6: Kilwinning	4	This Ward retains the existing Kilwinning Ward, with the name, boundary, and number of Councillors unchanged. The Ward covers the same area as the Council's Kilwinning Locality. (Boundary Map at Appendix 1g).
Ward 7: Irvine West	4	This Ward retains the existing Irvine West Ward, with the name, boundary, and number of Councillors unchanged. The Ward sits within the Council's Irvine Locality with the other two Irvine Wards (Irvine East and Irvine South). (Boundary Map at Appendix 1h).
Ward 8: Irvine East	3	This Ward retains the existing Irvine East Ward, with the name, boundary, and number of Councillors unchanged. The Ward sits within the Council's Irvine Locality with the other two Irvine Wards (Irvine West and Irvine South). (Boundary Map at Appendix 1i).
Ward 9: Irvine South	3	This Ward retains the existing Irvine South Ward, with the name, boundary, and number of Councillors unchanged. The Ward sits within the Council's Irvine Locality with the other two Irvine Wards (Irvine East and Irvine West). (Boundary Map at Appendix 1j).

2.14 These new Electoral Arrangements for the North Ayrshire Council area:

- Retain the same number of Councillors as existing arrangements i.e., 33.
- Reduce the number of Electoral Wards from ten to nine.
- Retain four existing wards unchanged (Kilwinning, Irvine East, Irvine South, Irvine West).
- Consider North Ayrshire Council's six Localities and local ties and communities that they represent.
- Provide for a one-member Arran ward reflecting its island status.

- Take account of the Scottish Elections (Reform) Act 2020 that allows the use of 2-member and 5-member wards to design wards that better reflect local ties in the Garnock Valley, North Coast and Three Towns (Ardrossan, Saltcoats and Stevenston).
- Present a ward boundary between Ardrossan and Saltcoats and Stevenston that follows local community council areas and historical burgh boundaries.

2.15 All Electors who are affected by the Ward Boundary changes will receive written notification from the Chief Executive (in his capacity as Returning Officer) in early 2022. This will confirm their new Electoral Ward and any change of Polling Place. Poll cards for the Local Government Elections scheduled for 5 May 2022 which are due to be issued between Tuesday 15 / Wednesday 16 March 2022 will also reflect the new Wards/Polling Places.

3. Proposals

3.1 That Council notes the new Electoral Arrangements for the North Ayrshire Council area which come into force on Thursday 5 May 2022.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report as the number of Councillors will remain at 33 and will therefore not involve payment of any additional salary or expenses.

Human Resources

4.2 There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

Legal

4.3 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

Equality/Socio-economic

4.4 There are no equality/socio-economic implications arising directly from this report.

Environmental and Sustainability

4.5 There are no environmental/sustainability implications arising directly from this report.

Key Priorities

4.6 There are no implications for key priorities arising directly from this report.

Community Wealth Building

4.7 There are no community wealth building implications arising directly from this report.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Consultation has taken place with the Electoral Registration Officer for Ayrshire on the production of this report.

Aileen Craig
Head of Service (Democratic)

For further information please contact **Barry Tudhope, Senior Manager (Corporate Policy, Performance & Elections)**, on **(01294) 324113**.

Background Papers

23 September 2020 – [Report to Council](#): Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland – Consultation on Review of North Ayrshire Ward Boundaries

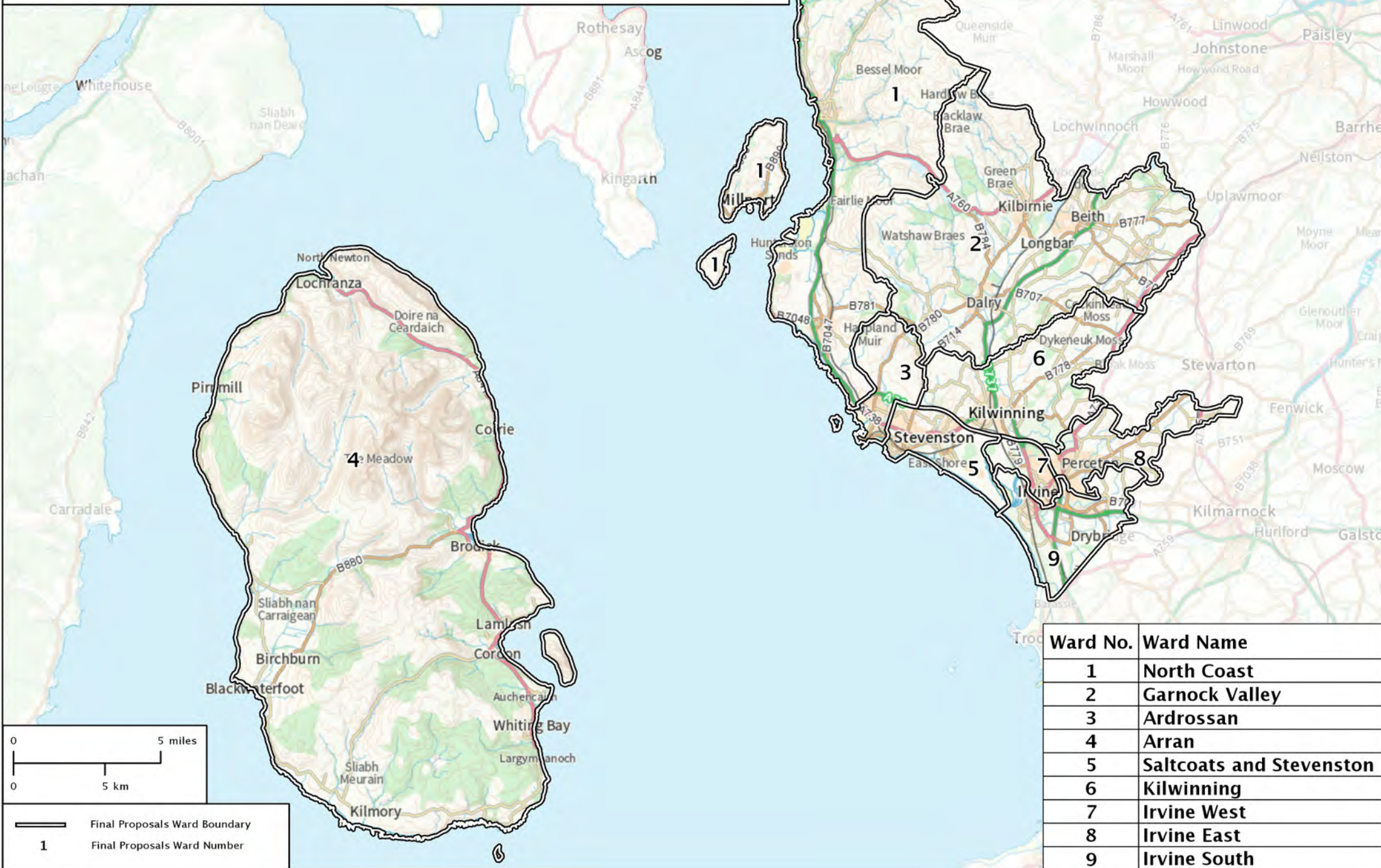
23 September 2020 – [Minute of Council Meeting](#)

Boundaries Scotland Report to Scottish Ministers is available at <https://boundaries.scot/>

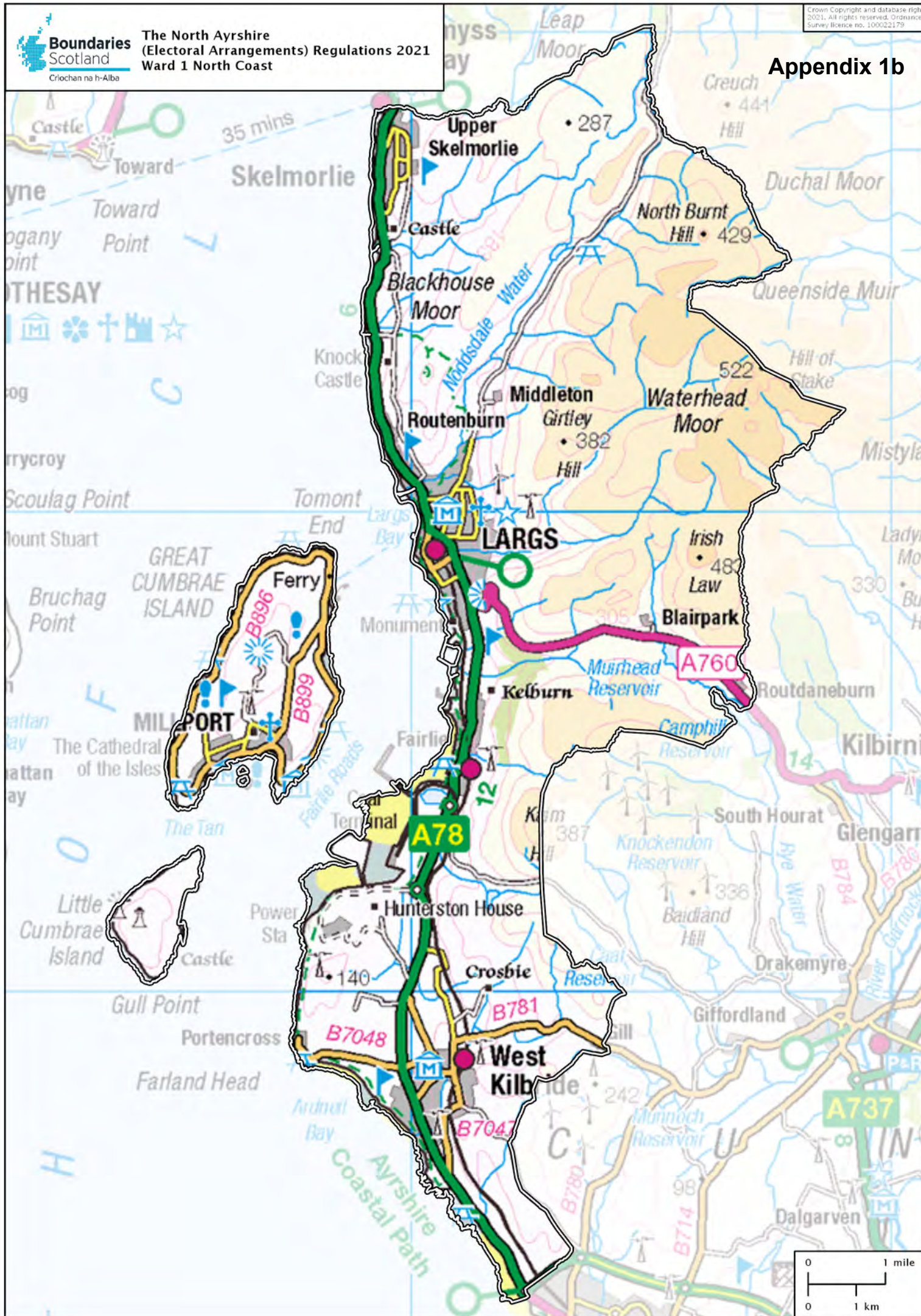
The North Ayrshire (Electoral Arrangements) Regulations 2021

Map of all electoral wards in North Ayrshire

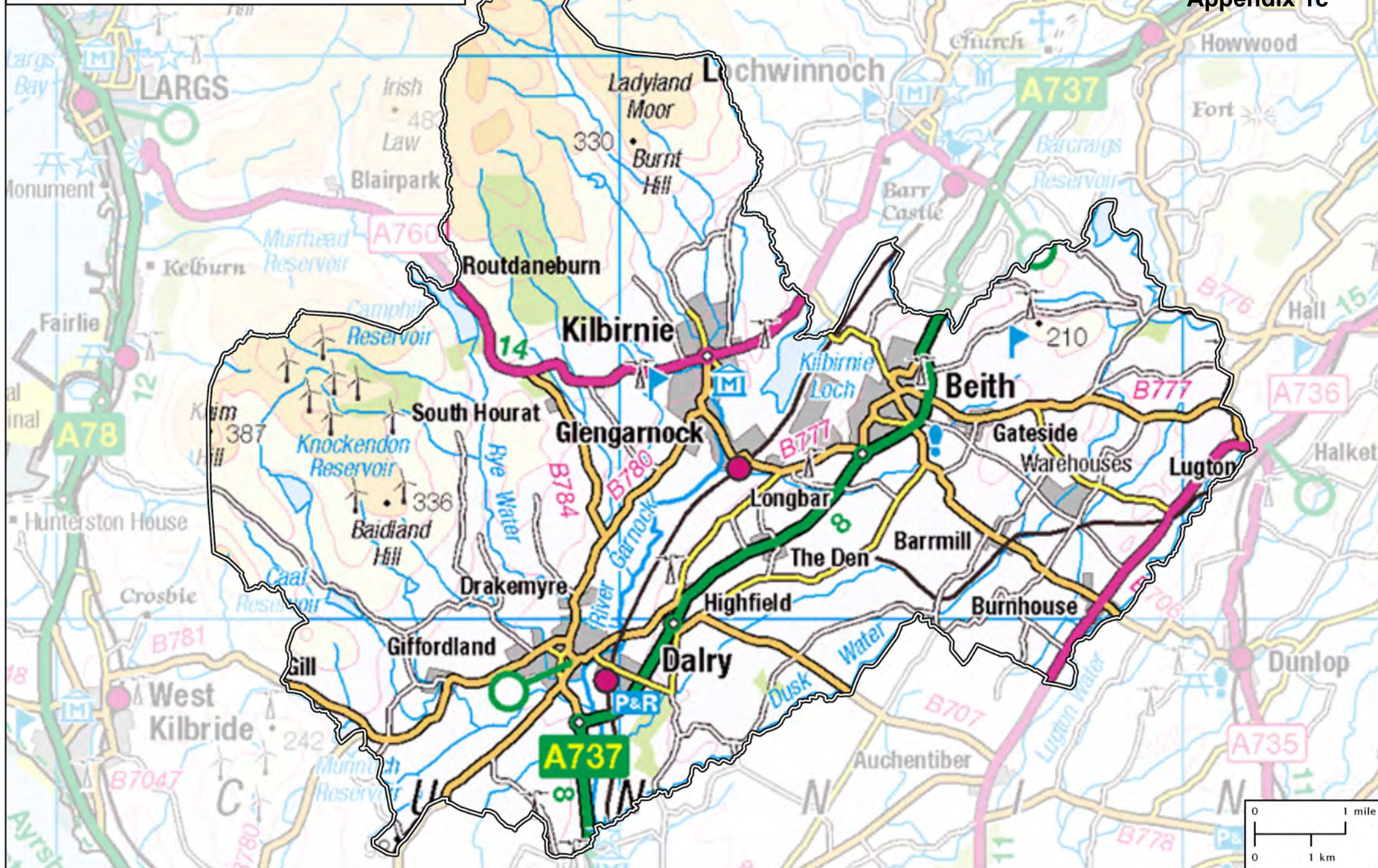
Appendix 1a



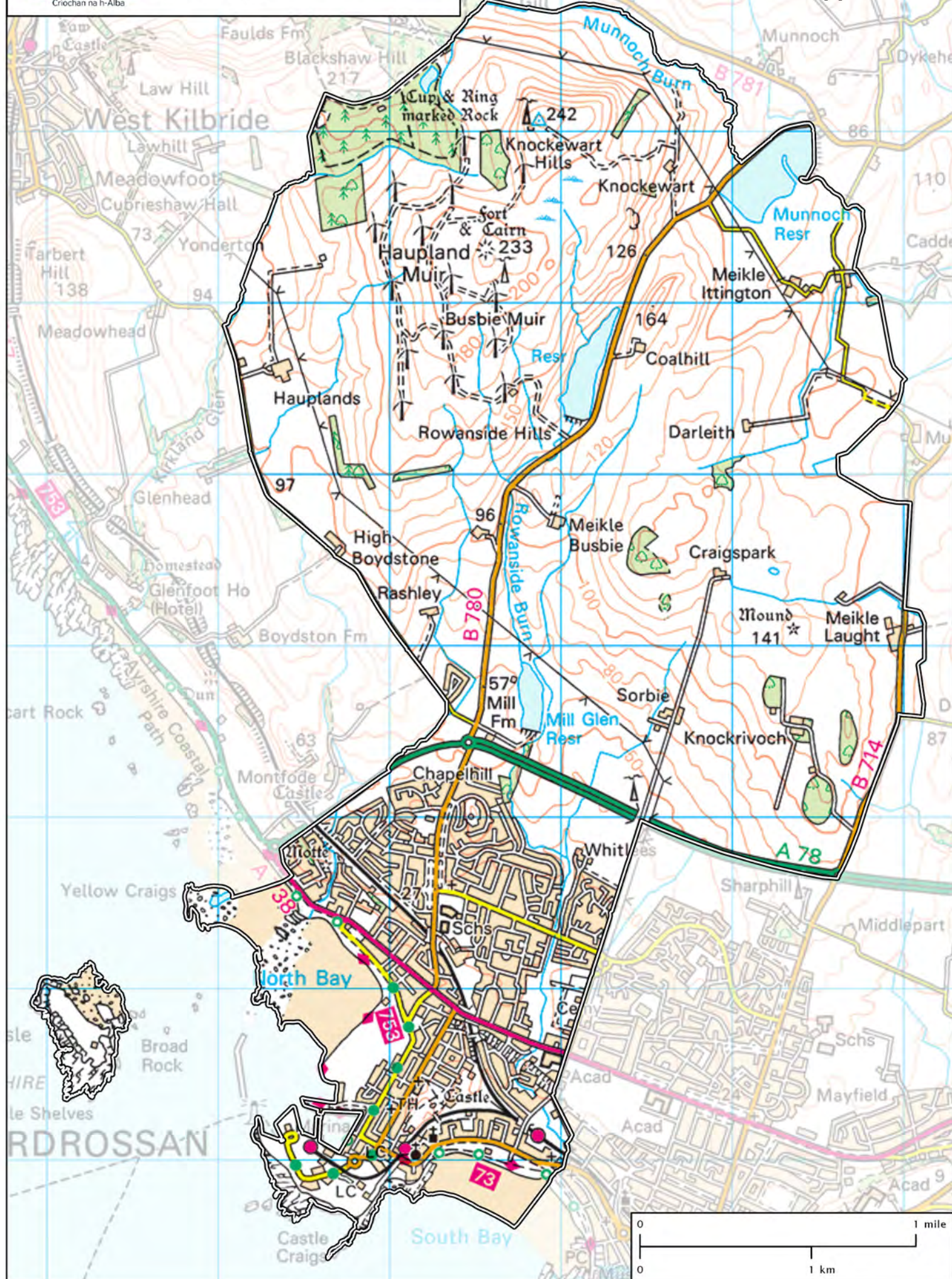
Appendix 1b



Appendix 1c



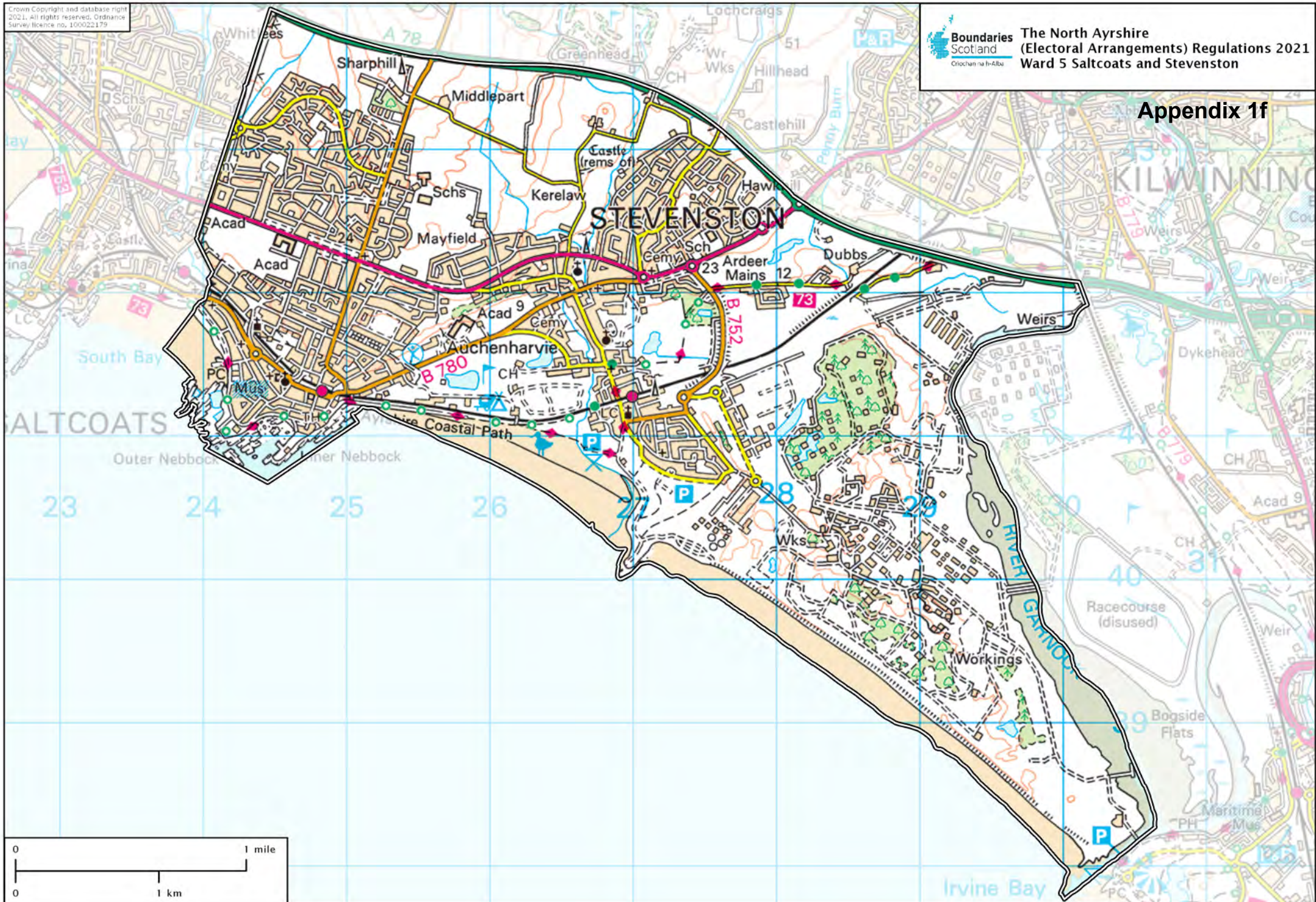
Appendix 1d

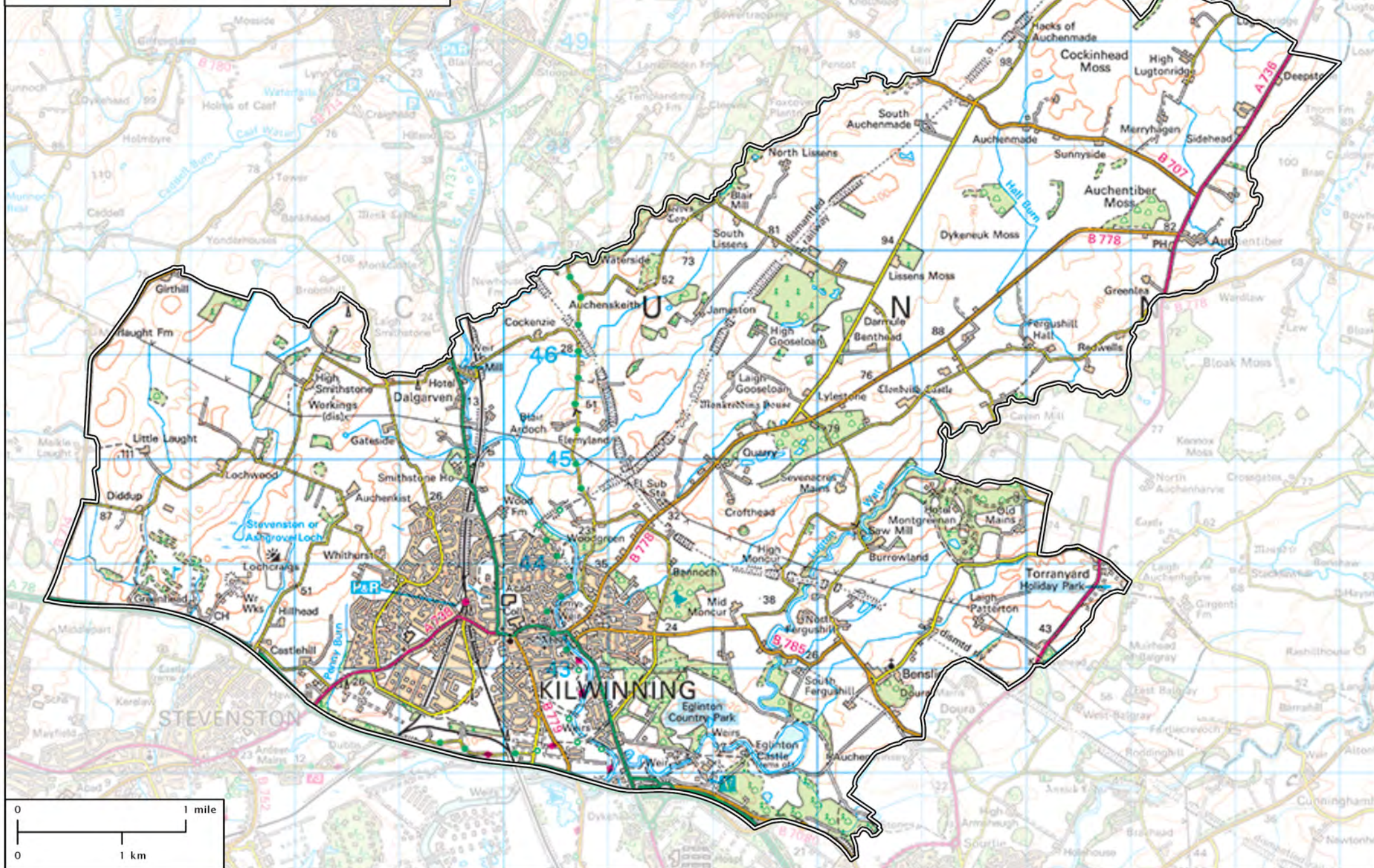


Appendix 1e

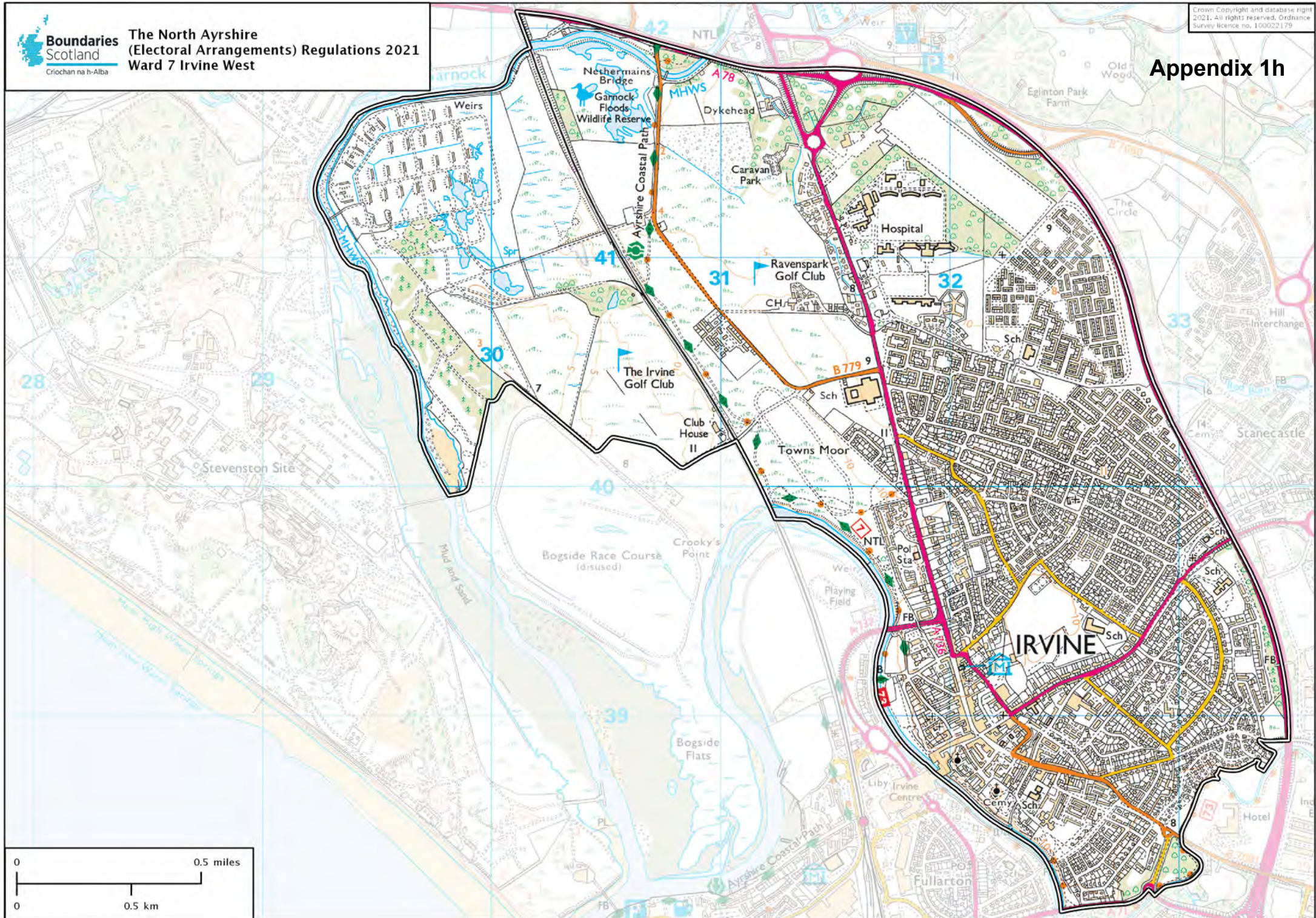


Appendix 1f





Appendix 1h



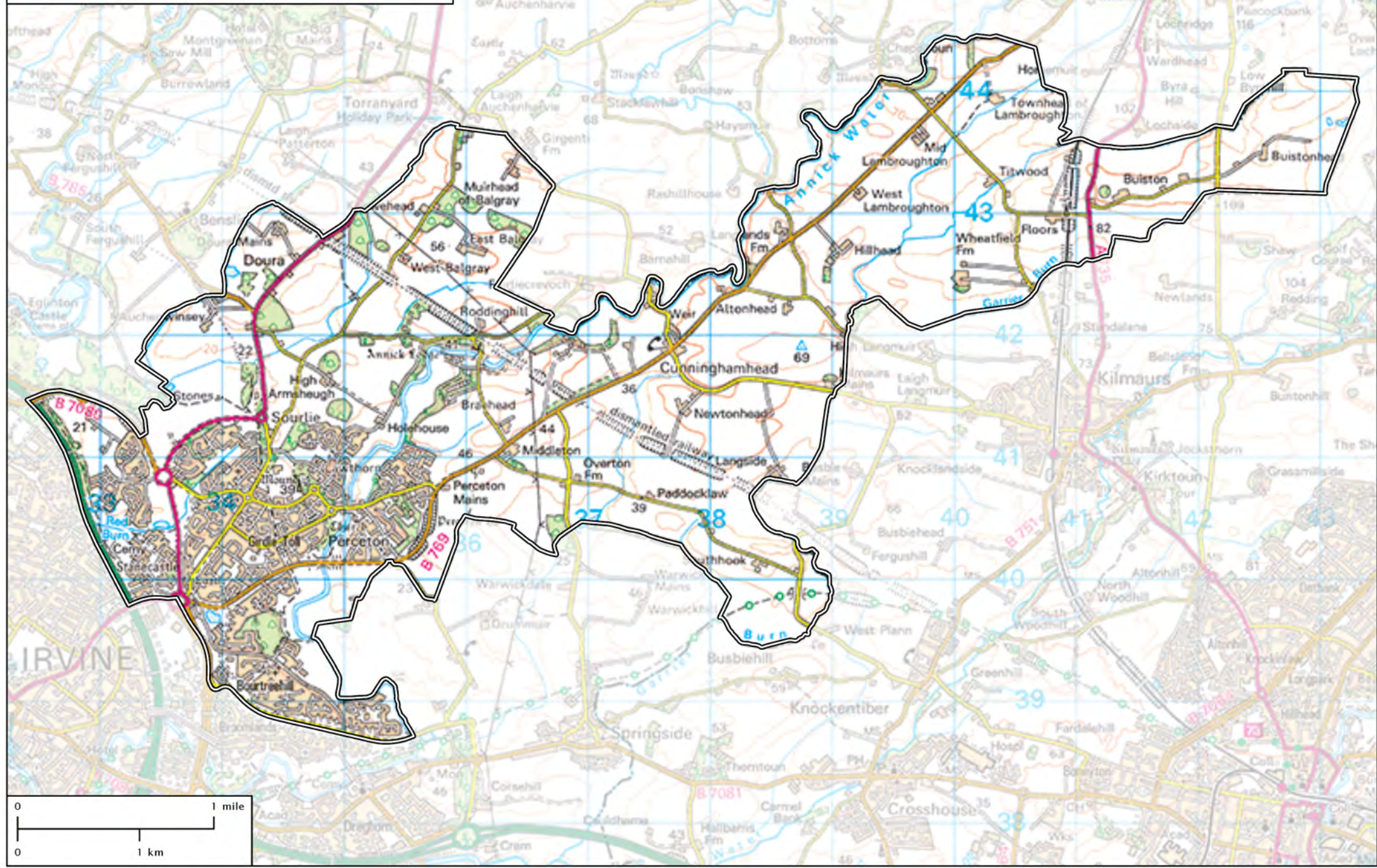


Boundaries Scotland
Crianan na h-Alba

**The North Ayrshire
(Electoral Arrangements) Regulations 2021
Ward 8 Irvine East**

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Appendix 1i



Appendix 1j

