

## Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries City of Edinburgh and East Lothian Council Areas

### Action required

1. The Commission is invited to: -
  - Consider the consultation responses for City of Edinburgh and East Lothian Council areas and decide whether to hold a local inquiry.
  - Consider whether it wishes to
    - a) adopt the published Further Proposals and names/designations as Final Recommendations subject to satisfactory design in other groupings being agreed OR
    - b) amend its proposals for constituency boundaries or names and consult upon them again.

### Background

2. At its meetings of 19 June 2024 and 23 July 2024 the Commission considered Papers BS101 and BS115  
[https://boundaries.scot/sites/default/files/BS\\_101\\_Edinburgh\\_East\\_Lothian.pdf](https://boundaries.scot/sites/default/files/BS_101_Edinburgh_East_Lothian.pdf),  
[https://boundaries.scot/sites/default/files/BS\\_115\\_Edinburgh\\_East\\_Lothian.pdf](https://boundaries.scot/sites/default/files/BS_115_Edinburgh_East_Lothian.pdf).  
and agreed to consult on Further Proposals which:
  - amended the boundary between the proposed Edinburgh North Western and Edinburgh Northern constituencies by Davidson's Mains as suggested during the consultation. This change avoids splitting the Davidson's Mains area between two constituencies and better reflects local ties.
  - Amended the boundary between the proposed Edinburgh Central and Edinburgh Southern constituencies by Morningside. Consultation responses suggested this improvement to better reflect local ties and to ensure the community of Morningside is not split between two constituencies.
  - Amended the boundary between the proposed Edinburgh Southern and Edinburgh South Western constituencies by Oxgangs/ Colinton Mains. This offers a more recognisable boundary, improves the electoral quota and reflects local ties in this area.
  - Amended the boundary between the proposed Edinburgh Central and Edinburgh South Western constituencies by Dalry/ Gorgie as suggested during the consultation. This improves the variation from the electoral quota, better reflects local ties between Dalry and Gorgie and reflects the existing constituency boundaries by Gorgie and Dalry.
  - Renamed The proposed Edinburgh North Eastern constituency Edinburgh North Eastern and Leith. This change was made in response to the large number of responses asking for the reinstatement of Leith based on historical naming and the strong sense of local identity. The proposed boundary is unchanged from the Revised Proposals.
  - Renamed the proposed Lothian Eastern constituency is renamed East Lothian Coast and Lammermuirs. This name was suggested as an alternative during the consultation and adopted as it helps maintain East Lothian in the title. The proposed boundary is unchanged from the Revised Proposals.
3. The Further Proposals are shown in the table below. Map at Appendix A.

Constituency	Council Area	Designation	Electors	Variation from Electoral Quota
East Lothian Coast and Lammermuirs	East Lothian	County	57,511	4.0%
Edinburgh Central	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	64,114	7.0%
Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent	City of Edinburgh East Lothian	Burgh	57,320	-4.3%
Edinburgh North Eastern and Leith	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	64,322	7.4%
Edinburgh North Western	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	60,313	0.7%
Edinburgh Northern	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	63,281	5.6%
Edinburgh South Western	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	59,967	0.1%
Edinburgh Southern	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	62,177	3.8%

- On 26 September 2024 the Further Proposals were published for the specified consultation period of one month.

### Responses to Further Proposals Consultation

- Some representations contained suggestions that did not comply with the statutory rules governing this review. We did not consider those suggestions further.

### Local Inquiry

- Neither East Lothian Council or City of Edinburgh Council objected to the Further Proposals nor did a body of 100 electors.

### General Comments - City of Edinburgh Council area

- City of Edinburgh Council Elections Team submitted a number of alternative suggestions to align the proposed constituency boundaries with their polling district boundaries. Their suggestions are attached as Appendix B. The suggestion for the northern boundary of polling district WW01F affects no electors but all of the other suggestions would transfer electors between constituencies. One of the alternative suggestions discussed later is similar to one of the polling district suggestions.

### East Lothian Coast and Lammermuirs

- A member of the public suggested the proposed constituency name is too long and the constituency should be named East Lothian instead.
- Two members of the public suggested East Lothian Coast as an alternative constituency name.
- A member of the public stated the proposed name was too long and suggested reference be made to the historical Haddingtonshire name.
- A member of the public supported the proposed East Lothian Coast and Lammermuirs constituency name.

12. A member of the public stated the Lammermuirs cover a small area of the constituency compared to the main East Lothian towns. They suggested replicating the name of the UK Parliament constituency “Lothian East”. They also preferred the boundaries proposed during the Provisional Proposals which placed Prestonpans in a Midlothian North and Musselburgh constituency.
13. A member of the public opposed a constituency combining parts of East Lothian and Edinburgh.
14. A member of the public suggested an East Lothian constituency which follows the council area boundary.
15. An East Lothian constituency would have 88,539 electors and have variation from the electorate quota of 48%.
16. East Lothian Constituency Labour Party restated their opposition to splitting Tranent and Elphinstone between constituencies. They accepted that the proposed constituency name was an improvement on previously proposed names but would prefer “East Lothian” because the constituency contains most of East Lothian Council area.
17. The Commission is guided by the Boundary Commission for Scotland’s naming policy which avoids proposing a constituency that no longer follows an existing council area and is sufficiently different from the existing constituency. The 2023 Review of UK Parliament constituencies review has recommended a “Lothian East” constituency, hence the proposed Lothian Eastern name.

### **Edinburgh North Eastern and Leith**

18. The further proposals retained the constituency boundary from the revised proposals but renamed it Edinburgh North Eastern and Leith to address concerns that “Leith” did not feature in the constituency name.
19. A member of the public supported the proposed constituency name but also suggested that the constituency should have been more Leith focussed in terms of its geography. The respondent did not give any details as to how this would be achieved.
20. A member of the public agreed with the proposed constituency name.
21. Ben McPherson MSP for Edinburgh Northern and Leith supported the proposed constituency name.

### **Edinburgh Northern**

22. A member of the public supported the proposed boundary by Davidson’s Mains.
23. Ben McPherson MSP for Edinburgh Northern and Leith reiterated his suggestion from the earlier consultation on Revised Proposals that the areas of Bellevue/Broughton should be in an Edinburgh Northern or Edinburgh Central constituency.
24. When considering this suggestion (Paper BS 101) at its June 2024 meeting, ([https://boundaries.scot/sites/default/files/BS\\_101\\_Edinburgh\\_East\\_Lothian.pdf](https://boundaries.scot/sites/default/files/BS_101_Edinburgh_East_Lothian.pdf))

the Commission agreed that this change would push variation from the electoral quota over 10% in either the suggested Edinburgh Central or Edinburgh Northern constituencies and therefore did not include the suggestion in its Further Proposals.

25. Mr McPherson also suggested that as there is significant projected housing likely to be built in the north of the city - for example in Granton - it would make sense for Blackhall to be placed in another constituency with neighbouring areas such as Ravelston rather than in the Edinburgh Northern constituency.
26. The Commission does not consider future house building when considering and developing its recommendations. Also, the suggested changes would have considerable knock-on effects on other constituencies that have received very few comments.

### **Edinburgh North Western**

27. A member of the public supported the proposed boundary.

### **Edinburgh South Western**

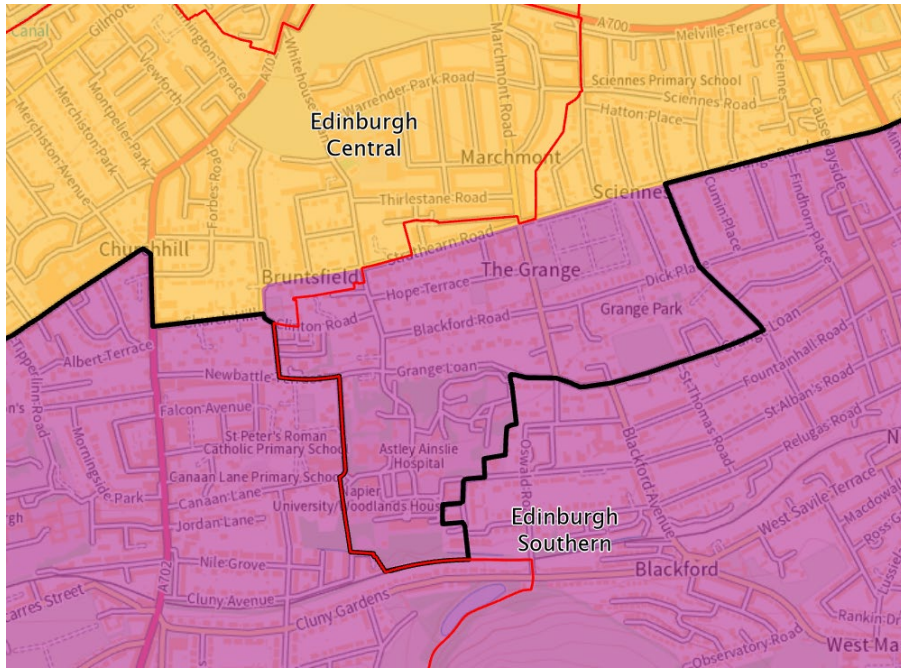
28. A member of the public suggested that as the constituency boundary differs from the UK constituency but the name remains almost identical (Edinburgh South West) that this may be confusing for the electorate.
29. There has been a UK Parliament constituency named Edinburgh South West since 2005.

### **Edinburgh Southern**

30. A member of the public supported the proposed boundary at Oxgangs and Gorgie/Dalry because it equalises the voting impact/weight of individual constituencies.

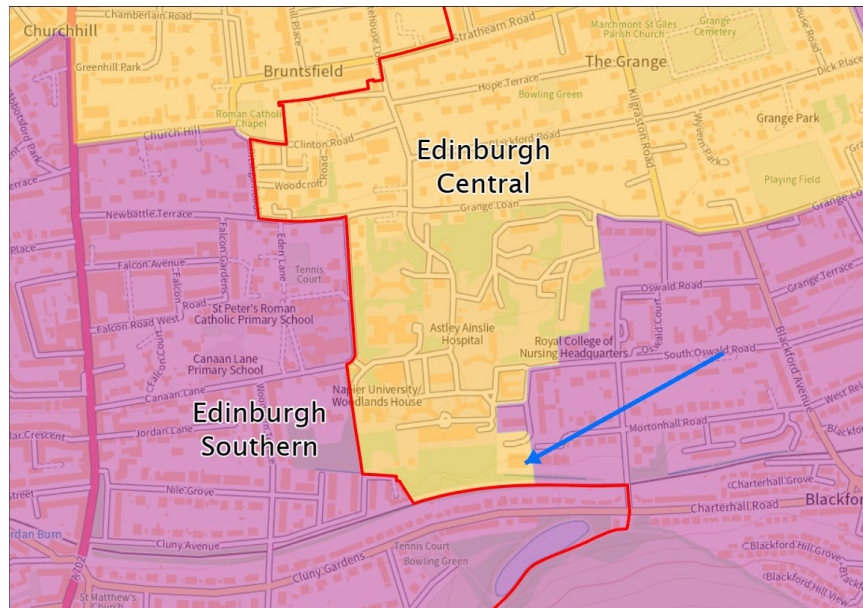
### **Edinburgh Central**

31. A member of the public suggested that the streets below Strathearn Road and Beaufort Road including Hope Terrace, and Dick Place should be in an Edinburgh Southern constituency rather than Edinburgh Central. They stated these streets culturally identify as part of South Edinburgh, use schools and shops in that constituency. They went on to suggest that Strathearn Road is a more natural boundary as it marks the edge of Marchmont and the beginning of the Grange, and a move from tenements to family houses. It would also stop the odd situation where Astley Ainsley is "central" but Abbotsford Park is "southern".
32. This suggestion is shown in the map and table below. Block colours show the alternative suggestion, red lines are wards and black line the further proposals.



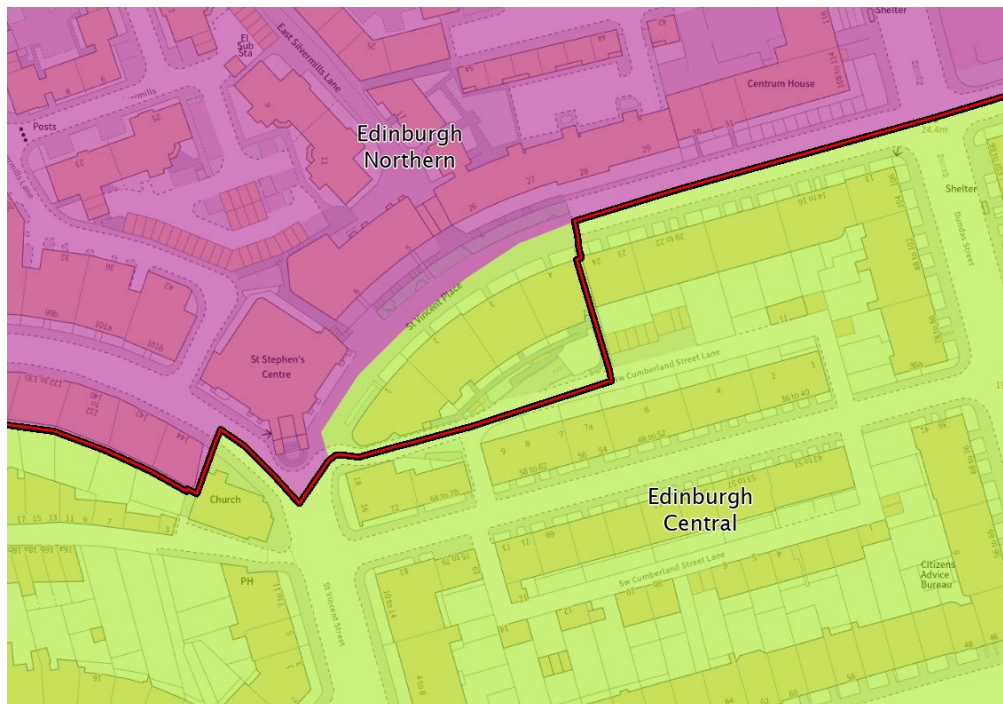
Constituency Name	Electorate	Variation from electorate quota
Edinburgh Central	62,866	4.9%
Edinburgh Southern	63,425	5.9%

33. This suggestion would transfer 1,248 electors from the proposed Edinburgh Central constituency to the Edinburgh Southern constituency, improving Edinburgh Central’s variation from the electoral quota but worsening Edinburgh Southern’s.
34. The further proposals followed ward boundaries to the west of the Astley Ainslie Hospital, ward and community council boundaries to the east of the hospital. Strathearn Road is currently part of a ward boundary and could be considered to be the boundary between the traditional tenements of Marchmont and the larger single dwelling properties of the Grange and Blackford areas of Edinburgh. Previously it has formed part of a ward boundary and the entire length of Strathearn Road was a ward boundary between 1999 and 2017.
35. City of Edinburgh Council Elections Team submitted a suggestion which also impacts on the boundaries in this area. They made a suggestion to avoid three dwellings becoming isolated from their neighbours if the further proposals were not amended. This issue is shown in the map below. The affected properties are shown by a blue arrow. The red lines indicate ward boundaries and the block colours are proposed constituencies.



36. A member of the public suggested that the boundary between the Edinburgh Central and Edinburgh Northern constituencies at St Vincent Lane – Fettes Row proposes an odd boundary. They commented that the boundary splits six apartments creating an unclear boundary dividing electors on the same road. They believe Fettes Row is part of Edinburgh city-centre rather than Inverleith or Stockbridge.

37. This suggestion is illustrated in the map below where the alternative suggestion is shown by block colours. The further proposals are a black line and existing wards are shown by a red line. It would transfer approximately 50 electors between constituencies.



38. This ward boundary has been in place since 2007. The development of numbers 1 to 4 Fettes Row has taken place since then but was completed prior to the 5th

Review of Electoral Arrangements. This boundary has been used throughout the 2nd Review and has not previously been commented on.

39. A member of the public supported the proposed Edinburgh Central constituency's southern boundary.

### **Summary**

40. The Further Proposals adopted suggestions made during the consultation on the Revised Proposals and made changes to all constituencies in this grouping with the exception of the Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent constituency.

41. No Council objected to the Further Proposals nor did a body of 100 electors.

42. Few comments were submitted during the further consultation.

43. In East Lothian there was mainly opposition to the proposed East Lothian and Lammermuirs constituency name with some alternative names suggested.

44. In Edinburgh, there was general support for the Further Proposals with a few minor alternative suggestions.

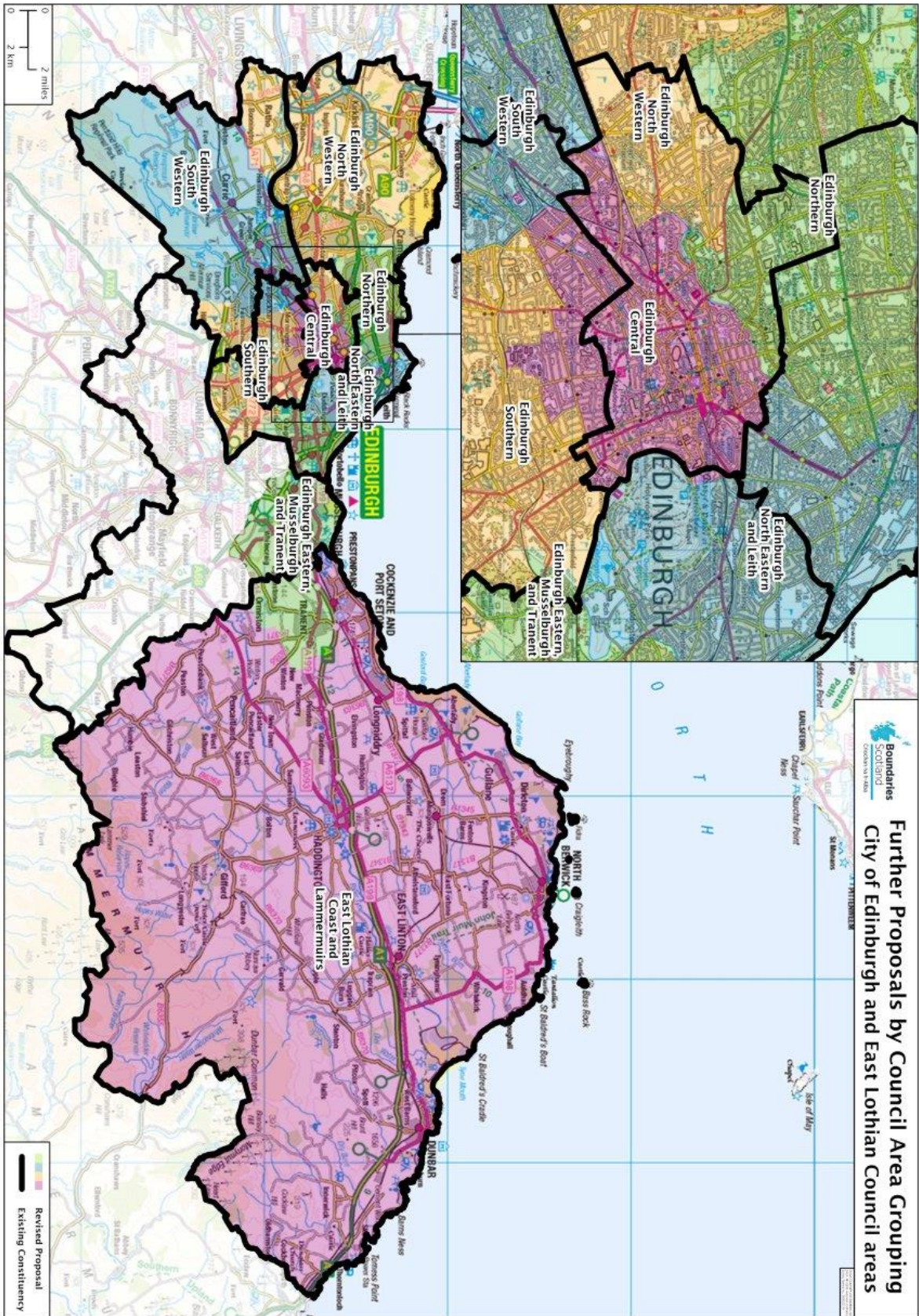
### **Conclusion**

45. After considering the consultation responses the Commission is asked to confirm whether: -

- a local inquiry should be held in this grouping.
- it wishes to adopt the Further Proposals as its Final Recommendations for each constituency in this grouping.
- If any changes should be made to any of the constituency boundaries and consulted on further.
- Confirm its earlier decision on names and designations as its Final Recommendations.

**Secretariat**  
**November 2024**

### Further Proposals - City of Edinburgh and East Lothian Council Areas Appendix A



**BOUNDARIES SCOTLAND'S CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR NEW SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT CONSTITUENCY AND REGION BOUNDARIES – COMMENTS FROM THE CITY OF EDINBURGH ELECTION TEAM**

**WW01F**

The Edinburgh North Western to Edinburgh Northern boundary line follows the existing boundary between polling districts WW01E and WW01F with two exceptions.

Undeveloped land between the Brighthouse development and Marine Drive is segregated from WW01F in a deviation from the existing boundary. There seems little justification for this change. This would require redrawn districts to incorporate this space with WW01E.

The eastern end of the Barnton Park area is removed from WW01F. It is intended to mirror this adjustment as part of the current polling review to facilitate voting at City Gates Church for all residents of the Barnton Park area.



## SWP02B

Edinburgh North Western to Edinburgh South Western boundary proposal sees undeveloped land between the Gogar Burn and M8 motorway segregated from SWP02B. This presents a deviation from the existing boundary between two local authority wards and UK Parliamentary districts. This would require the creation of an additional polling district with no residents, as the space cannot be absorbed into the current WW01G. Again there seems little point in this change.



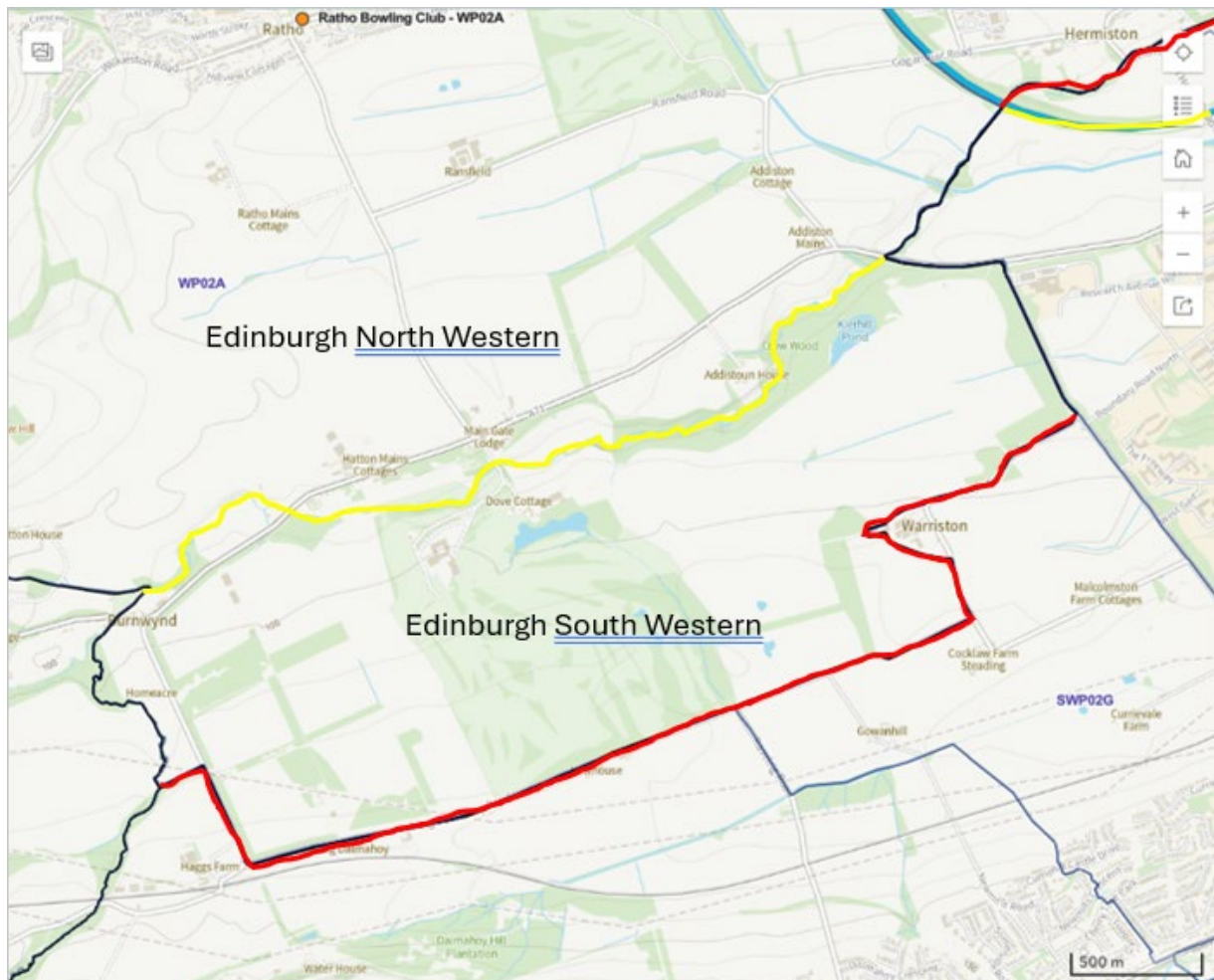
## WP02A

Edinburgh North Western to Edinburgh South Western boundary proposal see a sparsely populated rural space removed from WP02A.

The proposed boundary follows the Gogar Burn rather than the current polling district boundary along Long Dalmahoy Road.

While these districts are entirely in Ward 2, the current Long Dalmahoy Road boundary is a UK Parliamentary boundary.

Electorate number changes in this area are negligible however this deviation would require the creation of a new polling district. Again we would see little point in this change.



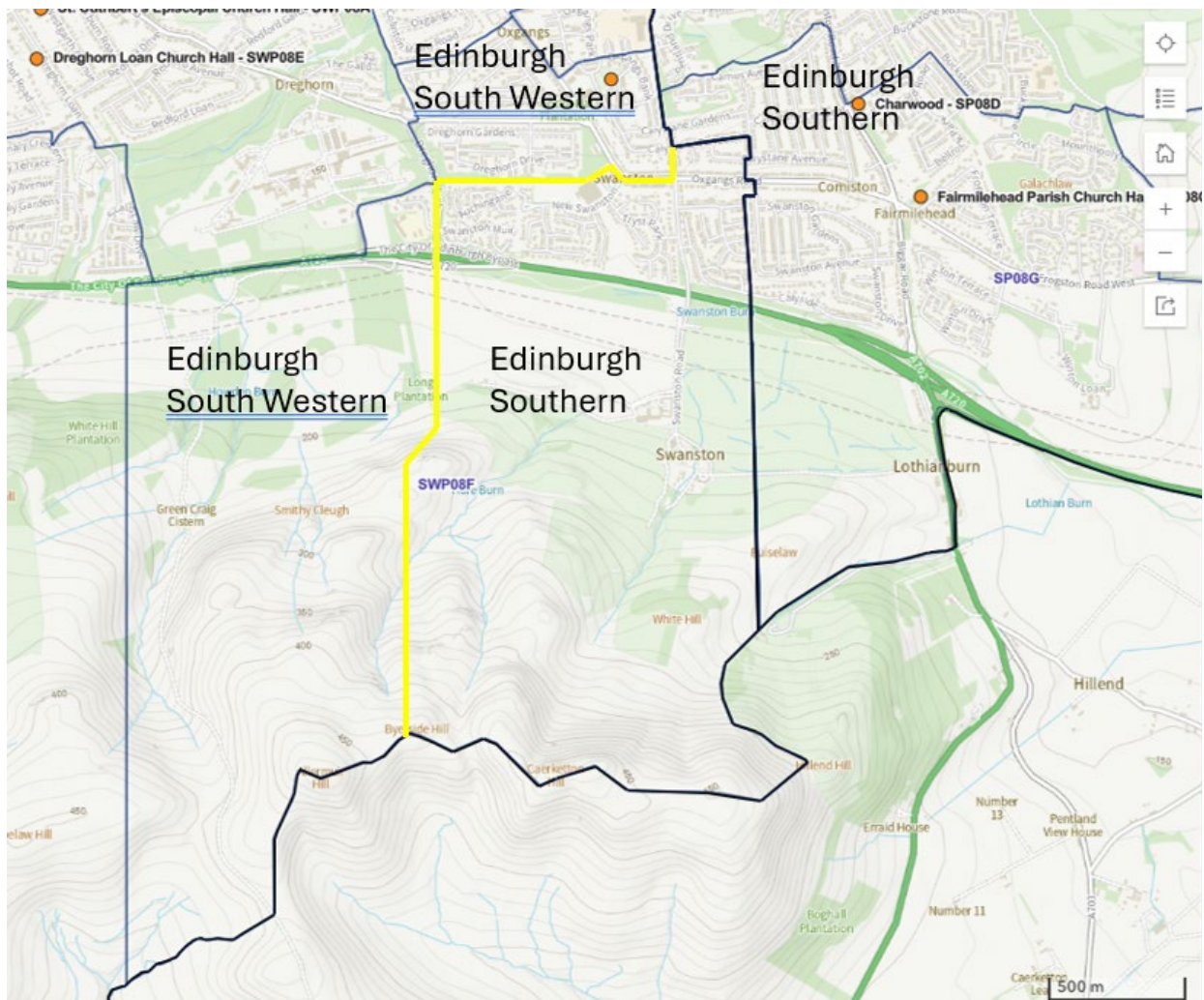
## SWP08F

Edinburgh South Western to Edinburgh Southern boundary proposal cuts through the middle of SWP08F.

A new polling district would be required which holds residents of the Tryst Park, New Swanston and Auchingane areas. These residents would vote in local council and UK elections at Pentland Community Centre but attend Fairmilehead Parish Church for Scottish Parliamentary elections.

Edinburgh Southern is currently above the target electorate for the constituency by 3.8%, while the Edinburgh South Western is lower, at 0.1%.

By mirroring the current polling district and UK parliamentary constituency boundary between SWP08F and SP08G, residents of the areas detailed above do not need to attend differing sites, while those residents can swing the electorate figures to reduce the 3.8% over target current in Edinburgh Southern and increase the 0.1% over figure of Edinburgh South Western.



## SWS09B

Edinburgh Central to Edinburgh South Western boundary proposal segregates the western corner of SWS09B.

A new polling district would be required, with residents of Hermand Crescent, Street and Terrace seeing their polling place change for Scottish Parliamentary elections only.

As proposed, these three streets currently add electors to Edinburgh South Western, 0.1% over target electorate, while removing them from Edinburgh Central which, at 7% over target, has the capacity to accommodate a further 3% of the target electorate, or circa 180 voters.

There are opportunities in the ward 10 area detailed below to reduce electorate in the Edinburgh Central area, while also retaining existing polling district boundaries – Polwarth Terrace and Grays Loan area joining Edinburgh Southern may provide the electorate offset required to leave the Hermand area within the current SWS09B district. Again we think the status quo should be maintained.



## SWS10A

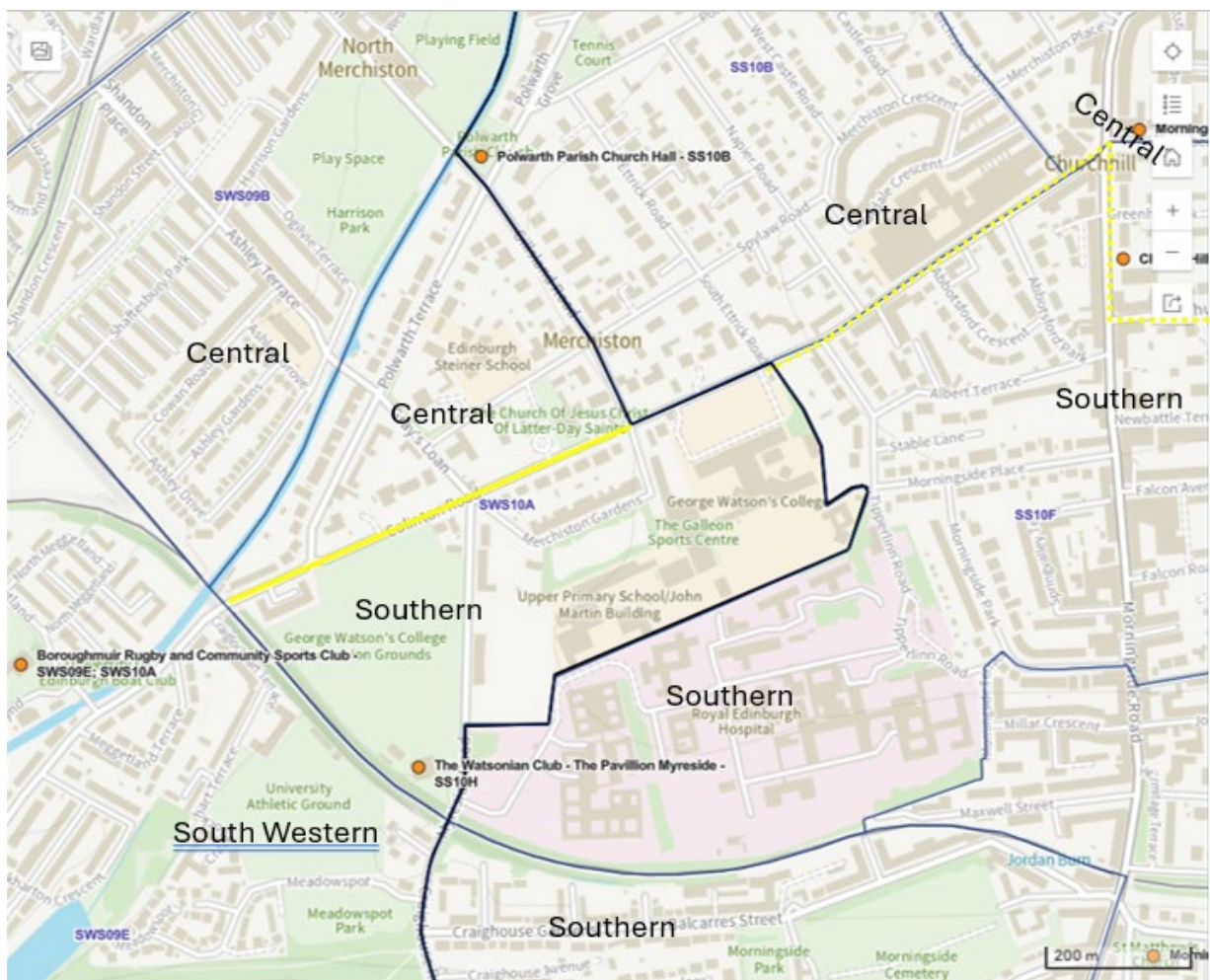
Edinburgh Central to Edinburgh Southern boundary proposals slices SWS10A in half.

The bulk of residential properties in this district are to join the Central constituency while Merchiston Gardens and George Watson's College join Southern.

Edinburgh Southern is only 3.8% over target electorate and dropping further with suggestions above (SWP08F), where Central 7% is over target.

Retaining SWS10A in its current form within Edinburgh Southern contributes to a balancing of electorate between these constituencies.

Doing so would split the western side of Polwarth away from Edinburgh Central. However this split already exists - The UK parliamentary boundary follows the eastern edge of SWS10A, including the entirety of Gillsland Road. Again we do not see the change as justified.



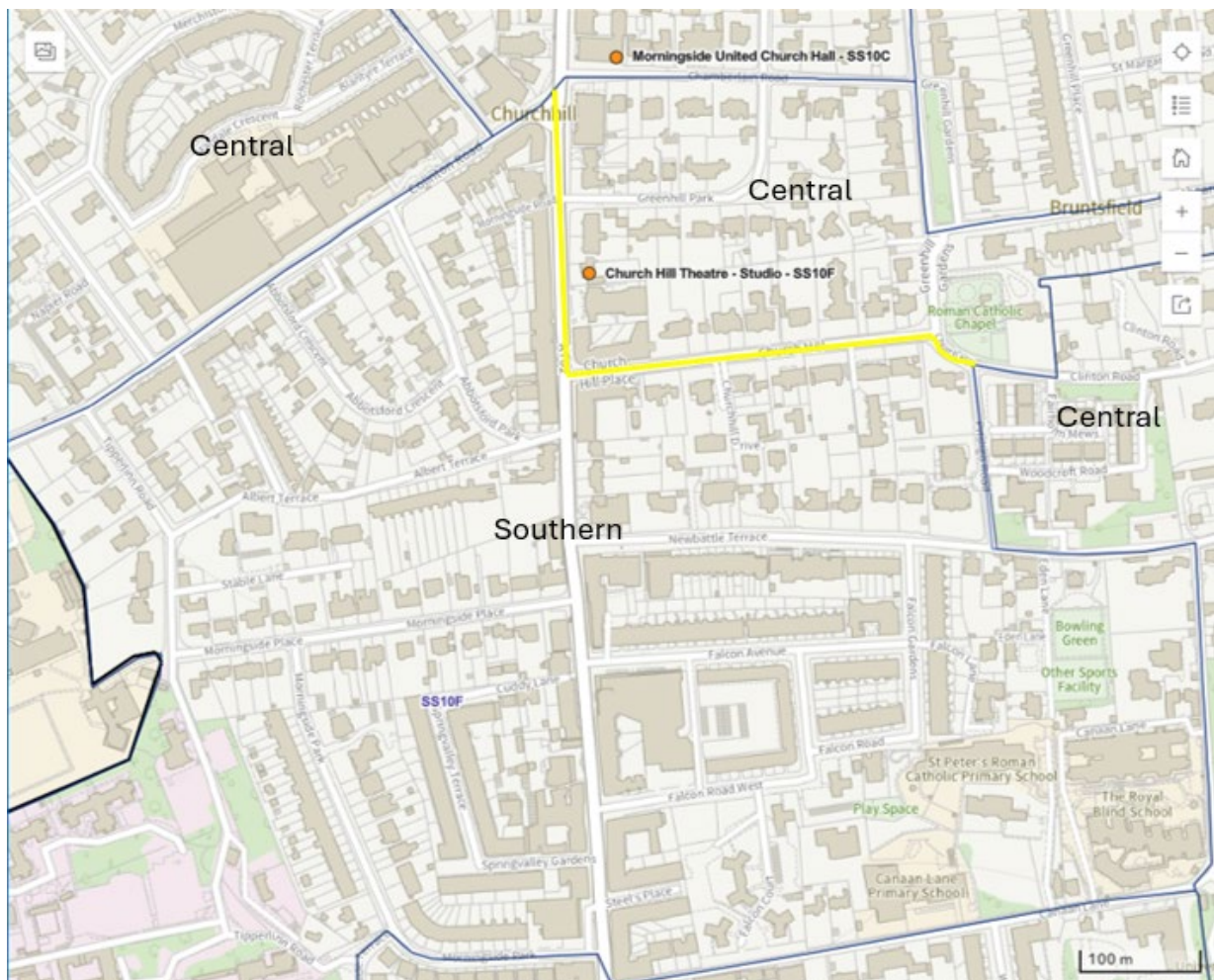
## SWS10F

Edinburgh Central to Edinburgh Southern boundary proposals segregate Greenhill Park, part of Church Hill and part Strathearn Place from SWS10F.

These streets and the site of the SWS10F Polling Place are incorporated into Edinburgh Central with the remainder of the district allocated to Edinburgh Southern.

As with SWS10A above, following the existing polling district boundary line to incorporate SWS10F entirely in Edinburgh South will contribute to a balancing of electorate figures.

In this instance the polling place serving much of the residential areas either side of the Morningside Road corridor would also be retained within the polling district it currently serves.



## NN12B

Edinburgh Northern to Edinburgh North Eastern & Leith boundary proposals cut notably through the current polling district of NN12B and similarly through neighbouring districts NN12D and NN12C as below. Both these constituencies are above target electorate numbers at 5.6% and 7.4% respectively.

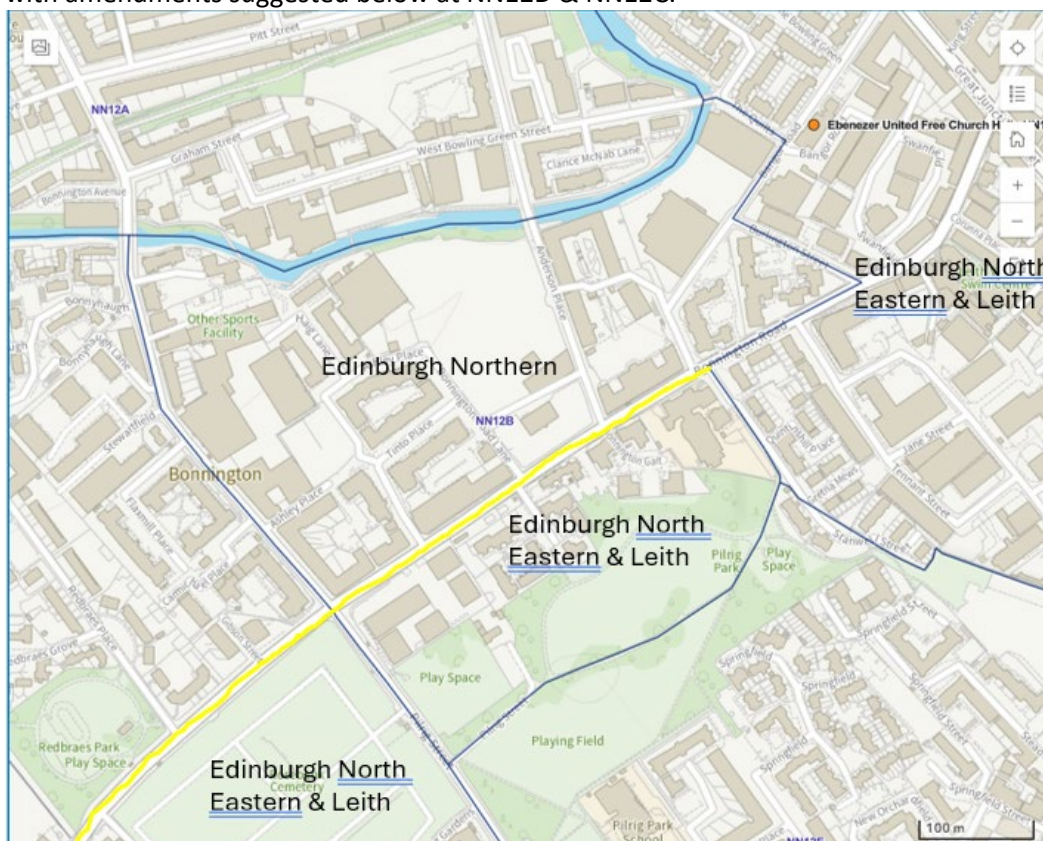
The proposed dissection to NN12B would require a new polling district to be created encapsulating Bonnington Gait, Pilrig House Close and Pilrig industrial estate. The remainder of NN12B would be served by the existing polling place whilst the residents of the new district would travel to South Leith Parish Church a 1.6km round trip away.

Despite the vote to amalgamate the towns of Leith and Edinburgh having taken place over a century ago, the unpopularity of the merger with around 93% of Leithers against, remains a lasting legacy in the area which retains a strong sense of identity.

The current boundary proposal places a number of Leith sites in the Edinburgh Northern Constituency including the current Leith Mills site on Bangor Road and residences on the former Leith Distillery and Vulcan Foundry sites at Anderson place.

The boundary between Leith and Edinburgh at the time of amalgamation followed the current boundary between NN12B and NN12D, along Newhaven Road and Pilrig Street.

The inclusion of NN12B in its entirety into Edinburgh North Eastern & Leith would reflect the old boundaries, have a minimal impact on the 7.4% over target electorate, all while maintaining historical ties to the Leith name for residents of this district. This additional electorate can be offset with amendments suggested below at NN12D & NN12C.

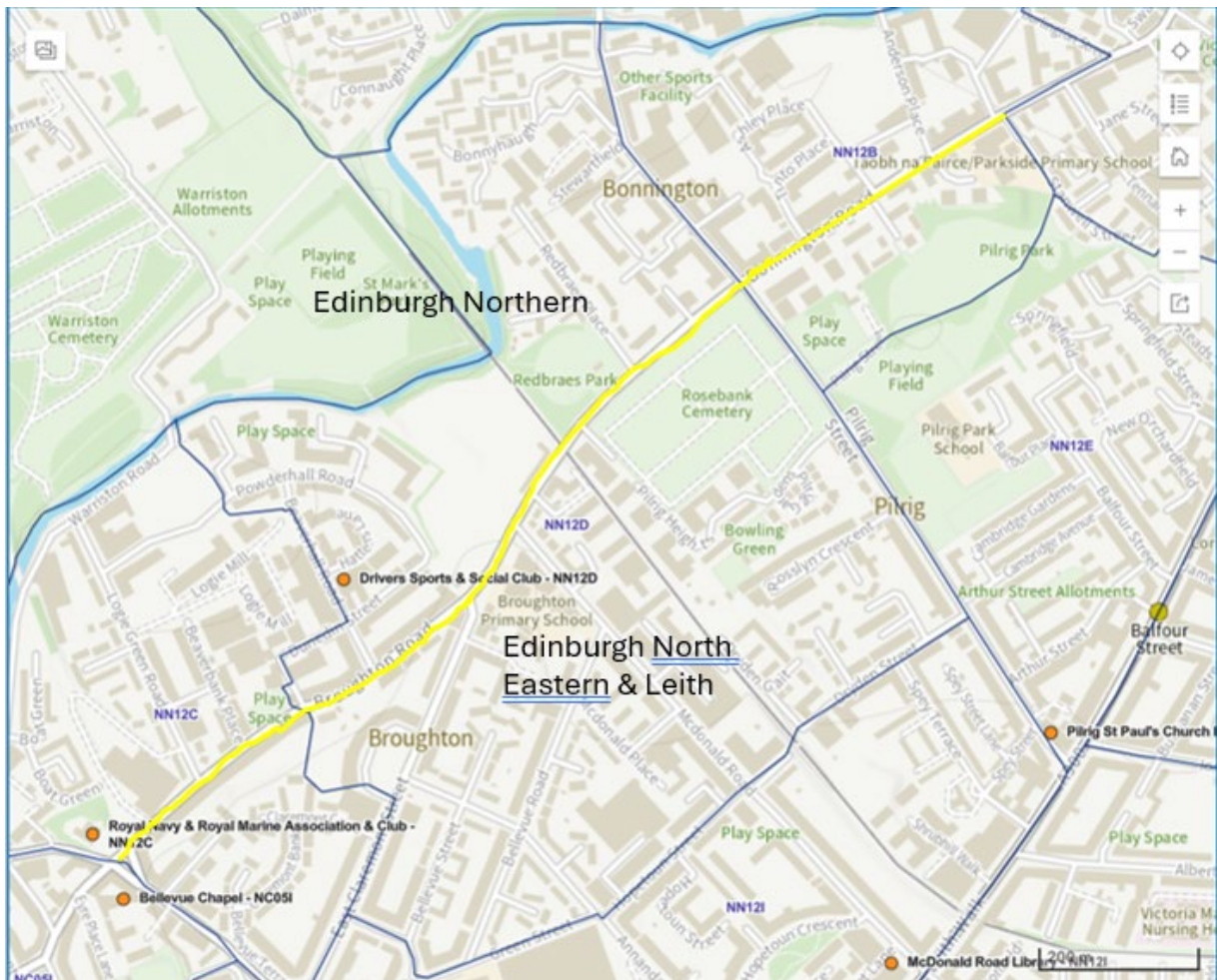


## NN12D

Edinburgh Northern to Edinburgh North Eastern & Leith boundary proposals notably cut through the current polling district of NN12D.

As noted at NN12B above, the area southwest of Pilrig Street has no historical affiliation with the Leith area.

Also as noted above, the inclusion of NN12B to North Eastern & Leith would add to that electorate, where the inclusion of NN12D in its entirety to Edinburgh Northern would provide a positive counter balance of electorate swing. This without disruption to an electorate now familiar with casting their vote at one of four polling stations located in the Drivers Sports and Social Club on Beaverhall Road, nor with the creation of further polling districts.

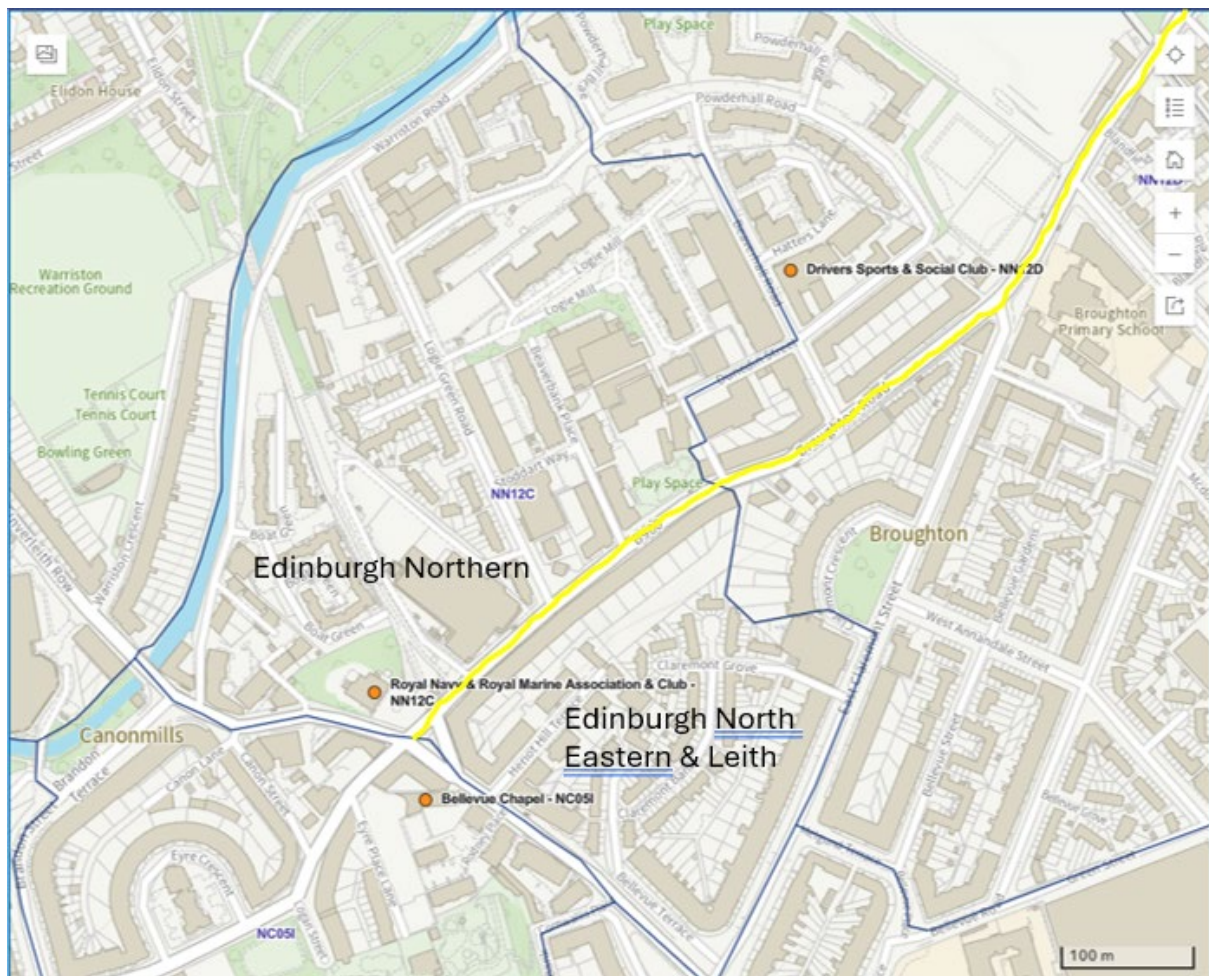


## NN12C

Edinburgh Northern to Edinburgh North Eastern & Leith boundary proposals cut notably through the current polling district of NN12C.

The inclusion of NN12C in its entirety to Edinburgh Northern would simplify polling provision for the residents of Claremont Grove/Bank, Heriot Hill Terrace and Bellevue Terrace who will otherwise be in a new polling district with variances of polling place sites, depending on the election being held.

It is hoped the inclusion of NN12B to Edinburgh North Eastern and Leith, with the inclusion of NN12D and NN12C in to Edinburgh Northern is feasible within the electorate targets.

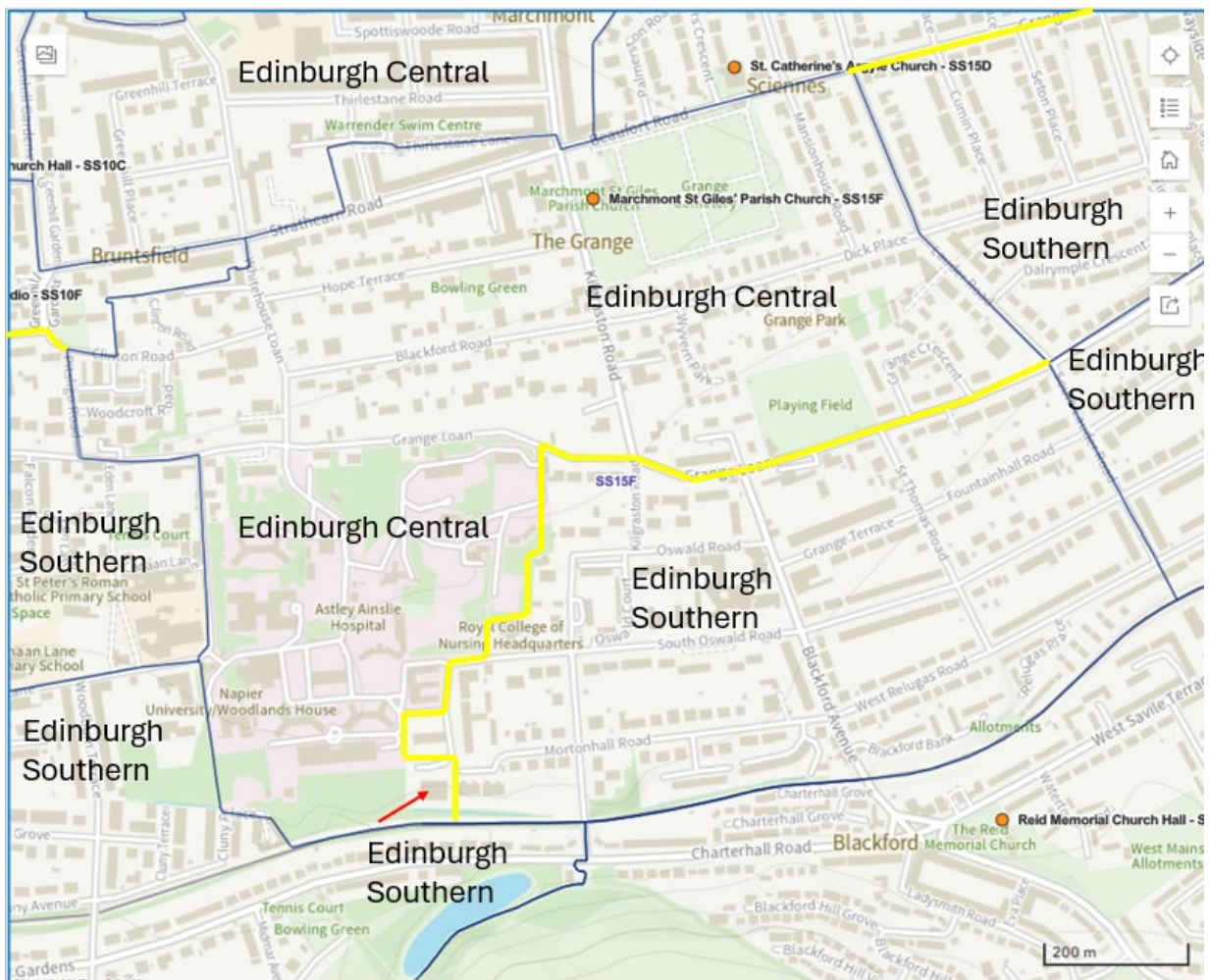


## SS15F

Edinburgh Central to Edinburgh Southern boundary proposals see the Central constituency stretch to the shadow of Blackford Hill, splitting SS15F in half.

The properties of 85, 87 and 89 South Oswald Road are effectively isolated within Edinburgh Central by their inclusion with the non-residential area of the Astley Ainslie Hospital site. Marked by the red arrow below.

Residents of the areas west and east of Blackford Avenue will require a new polling district and polling place variations as proposals stand, where the inclusion of SS15F in full to Edinburgh Southern (3.8% above target) rather than donating a substantial segment to Edinburgh Central (7% above target) would simplify polling provision in this area.



## SS15D

Edinburgh Central to Edinburgh Southern boundary proposals cut through SS15D. Consistent polling provision would be simplified, in a similar vein to SS15F above, with the inclusion of the current SS15D in its entirety to a constituency. Given electorate targets and the geographical spread of the district, Edinburgh Central would be the appropriate constituency.



## SC15C

Edinburgh Central to Edinburgh Southern boundary proposals cut through SC15C twice.

Romero Place and Abden House south of the Pollock Halls complex are segregated from the remainder of the polling district. Marked by the red arrow below.

A new polling district would be required, hosting a minimal number of electors who would see variations on where they are invited to vote, nature of an election dependent.

The greater split would see voters south of Salisbury Road/Place segregated in a similar fashion, with the same polling district and variances in polling place consequence.

As with SS15F and SS15D above, consistent and simplified polling provision would be facilitated by the incorporation of SC15C in its entirety to a constituency. In the interest target electorate balance, 3.8% vs 7% above target, Edinburgh Southern would be preferred.

