

Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries Draft Provisional Proposals for Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire Council areas

Action required

1. The Commission is invited to consider its Provisional Proposals for South Lanarkshire and Scottish Borders Council areas for its Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries.

Background

2. The Commission considered provisional groupings of council areas as part of its approach to constituency design for the Second Review, which included a group of six constituencies contained wholly within South Lanarkshire and Scottish Borders Council areas (see Paper BS 24). This paper offers three options for constituencies within this grouping.
3. The electorate quota for the Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries is 59,902 electors per constituency.
4. The rules for reviewing Scottish Parliament constituencies state:
 - **Rule 1**
 - So far as is practicable, regard must be had to the boundaries of the local government areas having effect from time to time under section 1 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994.
 - **Rule 2**
 - The electorate of a constituency must be as near the electoral quota as is practicable, having regard to Rule 1.
 - Boundaries Scotland may depart from the strict application of Rule 1 if it thinks that it is desirable to do so to avoid an excessive disparity between the electorate of a constituency and the electoral quota or between the electorate of a constituency and that of neighbouring constituencies.
 - **Rule 3**
 - Boundaries Scotland may depart from the strict application of Rules 1 and 2 if it thinks that special geographical considerations (including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency) render it desirable to do so.
 - **Rule 4**
 - Boundaries Scotland need not aim at giving full effect in all circumstances to Rules 1 to 3 but it must take account (so far as it reasonably can)—
 - (a) of the inconveniences attendant on alterations of constituencies other than alterations made for the purposes of Rule 1, and
 - (b) of any local ties which would be broken by such alterations.
5. The constituency entitlement for South Lanarkshire and Scottish Borders areas is as shown in the table below:

Council area	Electorate (1 Sept 22)	Constituency entitlement
South Lanarkshire	258,377	4.3
Scottish Borders	93,179	1.6
Total	351,556	5.9

6. The electorates of the seven existing Scottish Parliament constituencies within South Lanarkshire and Scottish Borders Council are shown in the table below. The Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale constituency includes electors from Midlothian Council area and Uddingston and Bellshill constituency includes electors from North Lanarkshire Council area.

Existing constituency	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota
Clydesdale	61,011	1.9%
East Kilbride	60,763	1.4%
Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire	55,131	-8.0%
Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse	59,596	-0.5%
Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale	64,697	8.0%
Rutherglen	62,885	5.0%
Uddingston and Bellshill	58,842	-1.8%

7. The existing Scottish Parliament boundaries have been in use since 2011.
8. All of the existing constituencies are within 10% of the electoral quota.
9. The constituency names in this paper are provisional. The Commission will have the opportunity to review all constituency names and designations prior to the publication of its Provisional Proposals.
10. Maps of the existing constituencies in this grouping can be found at Appendix A.

Options

11. Three options are presented for consideration.

Option 1

12. Option 1 retains the seven existing constituencies containing parts of South Lanarkshire and Scottish Borders Council areas.
13. The Commission agreed six constituencies for this grouping of council areas and this option would require the Commission to revise its constituency design approach. The existing Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale constituency includes Gorebridge and Penicuik from Midlothian Council area and the existing Uddingston and Bellshill constituency includes Bellshill from North Lanarkshire Council area.

Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Clydesdale	61,011	1.9%	South Lanarkshire 1-4, 5(part), 6(part)
East Kilbride	60,763	1.4%	South Lanarkshire 6(part), 7-10
Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire	55,131	-8.0%	Scottish Borders 4,6-11
Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse	59,596	-0.5%	South Lanarkshire 5(part),17(part), 18-20
Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale	64,697	8.0%	Midlothian 1,4(part),6 Scottish Borders 1-3, 5
Rutherglen	62,885	5.0%	South Lanarkshire 11-14, 15(part), 17(part)
Uddingston and Bellshill	58,842	-1.8%	North Lanarkshire 14-16, 18(part) South Lanarkshire 15 (part), 16, 17(part)

14. A map of Option 1 can be found at Appendix A.

15. The advantage of Option 1 are:

- it retains the existing constituencies, which have been in place since 2011 and may avoid confusion for the local electorate; and
- all constituencies have a variation from electoral quota within 10%.

16. The disadvantage of Option 1 are it does not consider local authority boundaries and the Commission would need to revise its council area groupings for the remainder of Scotland in order to retain the existing arrangements in this grouping due to the inclusion of parts of North Lanarkshire and Midlothian Council areas and retaining seven rather than proposing six constituencies.

Option 1A

17. Option 1A is broadly similar to the existing constituency boundaries.

18. Option 1A aims to minimise change and retains three of the existing constituency boundaries, they are: East Kilbride; Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire; and Rutherglen. The proposed Lanark and Tweeddale constituency is the only constituency that crosses council area boundaries.

19. Maps of Option 1A can be found at Appendix B.

Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
East Kilbride	60,763	1.4%	South Lanarkshire 6(part), 7-10
Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire	55,131	-8.0%	Scottish Borders 4,6-11
Rutherglen	62,885	5.0%	South Lanarkshire 11-14, 15(part), 17(part)

Clydesdale	58,323	-2.6%	South Lanarkshire 1, 4, 5, 6(part), 20
Hamilton	54,011	-9.8%	South Lanarkshire 15(part), 16, 17(part), 18-19
Lanark and Tweeddale	60,443	0.9%	Scottish Borders 1-3,5 South Lanarkshire 2,3

20. The advantages of Option 1A are it:

- proposes six constituencies with a variation from electoral quota within 10%; and
- retains three of the existing constituencies, minimising change to constituencies that have been in place since 2011 and may avoid confusion for the local electorate.

21. The disadvantage of Option 1A are it splits three wards between constituencies and may break local ties by Blantyre and East Kilbride.

Option 2

22. Option 2 proposes a constituency design based on ward boundaries.

23. Option 2 retains the existing Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire constituency boundary. Option 2 proposes an East Kilbride constituency and a Rutherglen constituency similar to the existing constituency boundaries.

24. The proposed Lanark and Tweeddale constituency is the only constituency that crosses council area boundaries.

25. Maps of Option 2 can be found at Appendix C.

Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Clydesdale	57,386	-4.2%	South Lanarkshire 1, 4, 5, 20
East Kilbride	61,700	3.0%	South Lanarkshire 6-10
Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire	55,131	-8.0%	Scottish Borders 4,6-11
Hamilton	54,493	-9.0%	South Lanarkshire 16-19
Lanark and Tweeddale	60,443	0.9%	Scottish Borders 1-3,5 South Lanarkshire 2,3
Rutherglen	62,403	4.2%	South Lanarkshire 11-15

26. The advantages of Option 2 are it:

- proposes six constituencies with a variation from electoral quota within 10%;
- retains one of the existing constituencies - Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire and minimises change to two other existing constituencies; and
- avoids splitting any wards.

27. The disadvantages of Option 2 are it creates a bottle neck shaped Hamilton constituency, near Blantyre.

Summary

28. Option 1 retains seven of the existing constituencies, offering continuity with the existing boundaries. However if the Commission retained the existing constituencies it would need to revise its council area groupings for the remainder of Scotland as two of the existing constituencies include parts of Midlothian and North Lanarkshire Council areas. Option 1A retains three of the existing constituencies. Option 2 retains one existing constituency.
29. All three options retain the existing Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire constituency. Option 2 proposes two constituencies that are very similar to the existing constituency boundaries. The proposed East Kilbride constituency from option 2 follows ward boundaries and there is a difference of approx. 1,000 electors between the existing and proposed constituencies. The proposed Rutherglen constituency from option 2 also follows ward boundaries and there is a difference of approx. 400 electors between the existing and proposed constituencies, although the existing Rutherglen constituency may have a better shaped boundary by Blantyre.
30. Option 1 proposes two constituencies which cross a council area boundary. Option 1A and Option 2 propose a single constituency which crosses a council area boundary.
31. All three options propose constituencies within 10% variation from the electoral quota.
32. Option 1 splits six wards between constituencies. Option 1A splits three wards between constituencies. Option 2 avoids splitting any wards.
33. Options 1 and 1A may break local ties to the west of East Kilbride as the existing constituency boundary followed ward boundaries in place at that time. Option 2 follows the new ward boundaries, introduced in 2017, which consider new housing development by East Kilbride.
34. Option 1 partly splits Hamilton between constituencies. Option 1A and Option 2 both aim to place within a single constituency.
35. All three options propose a broadly similar Rutherglen constituency maintain local ties by Rutherglen, Cambuslang and Blantyre. Options 1 and 1A may offer an better shaped constituency by Blantyre.
36. All three options aim to maintain local ties by Lanark. The villages by Carstairs and Forth are placed in a constituency with Lanark.
37. Options 1A and 2 propose the same Lanark and Tweeddale constituency boundary.
38. Option 1 links Tweeddale with Midlothian. Option 1A and Option 2 link Tweeddale with Clydesdale. The existing UK Parliament constituency Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale includes Tweeddale with Clydesdale.

Conclusion

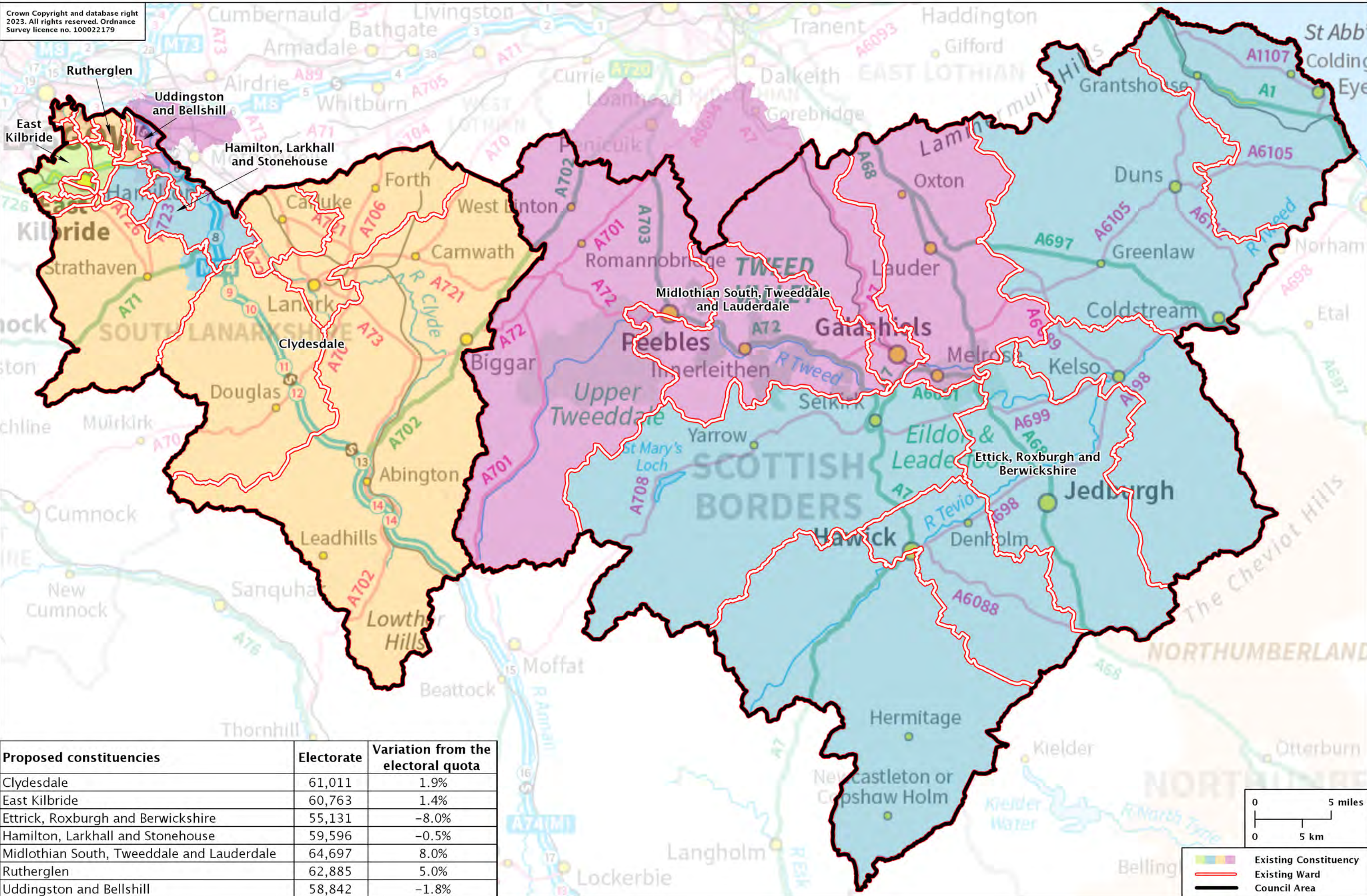
39. The Commission is invited to agree its Provisional Proposals for public consultation, subject to satisfactory constituencies being designed in other groupings.

**Secretariat
March 2023**

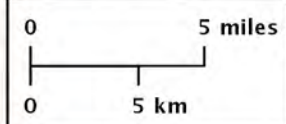
Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries

Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire Council Areas: Option 1 - Existing Constituency Boundaries

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Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from the electoral quota
Clydesdale	61,011	1.9%
East Kilbride	60,763	1.4%
Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire	55,131	-8.0%
Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse	59,596	-0.5%
Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale	64,697	8.0%
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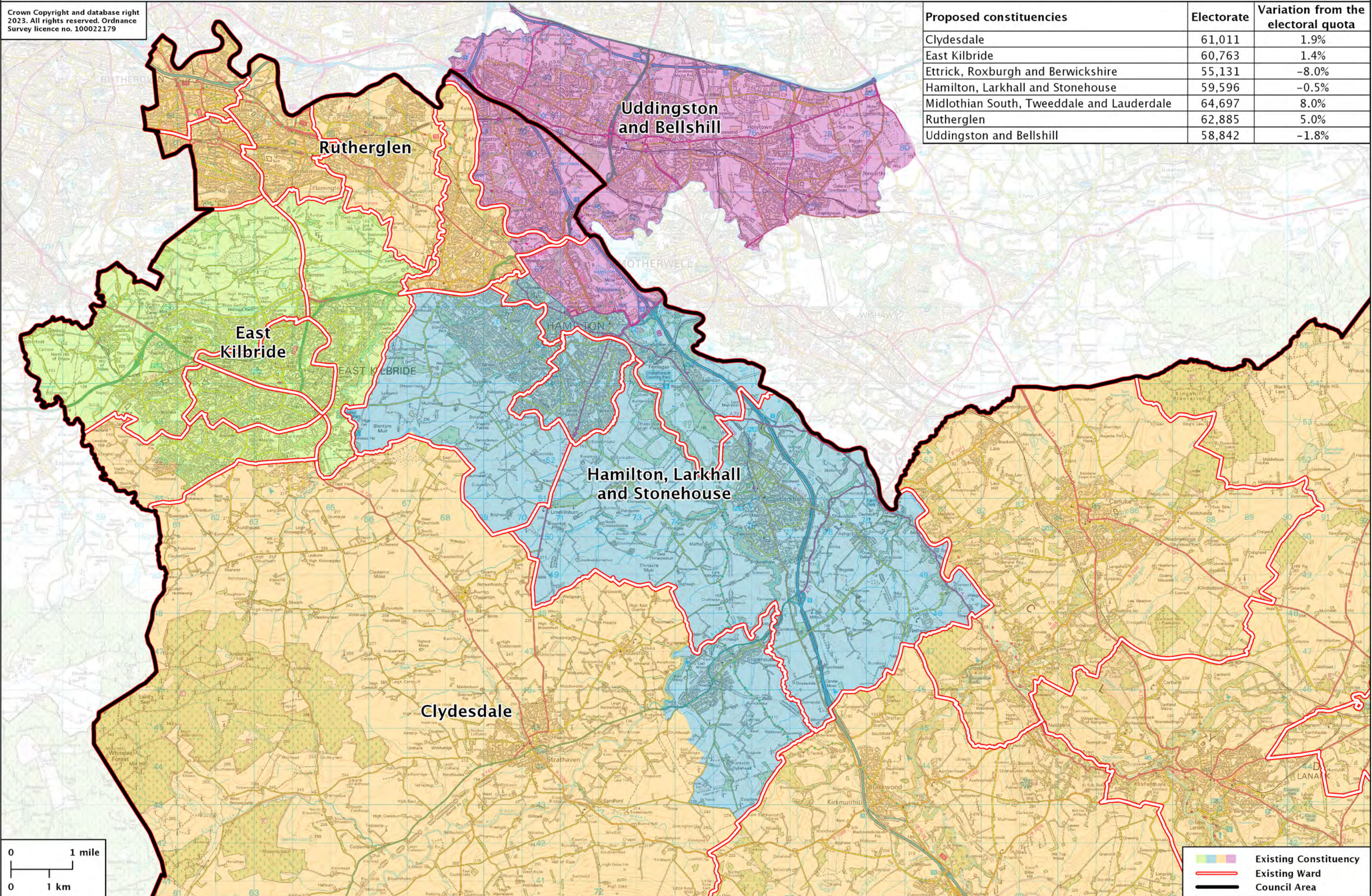
█ Existing Constituency
█ Existing Ward
 Council Area

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Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire Council Areas: Option 1 - Existing Constituency Boundaries

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Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from the electoral quota
Clydesdale	61,011	1.9%
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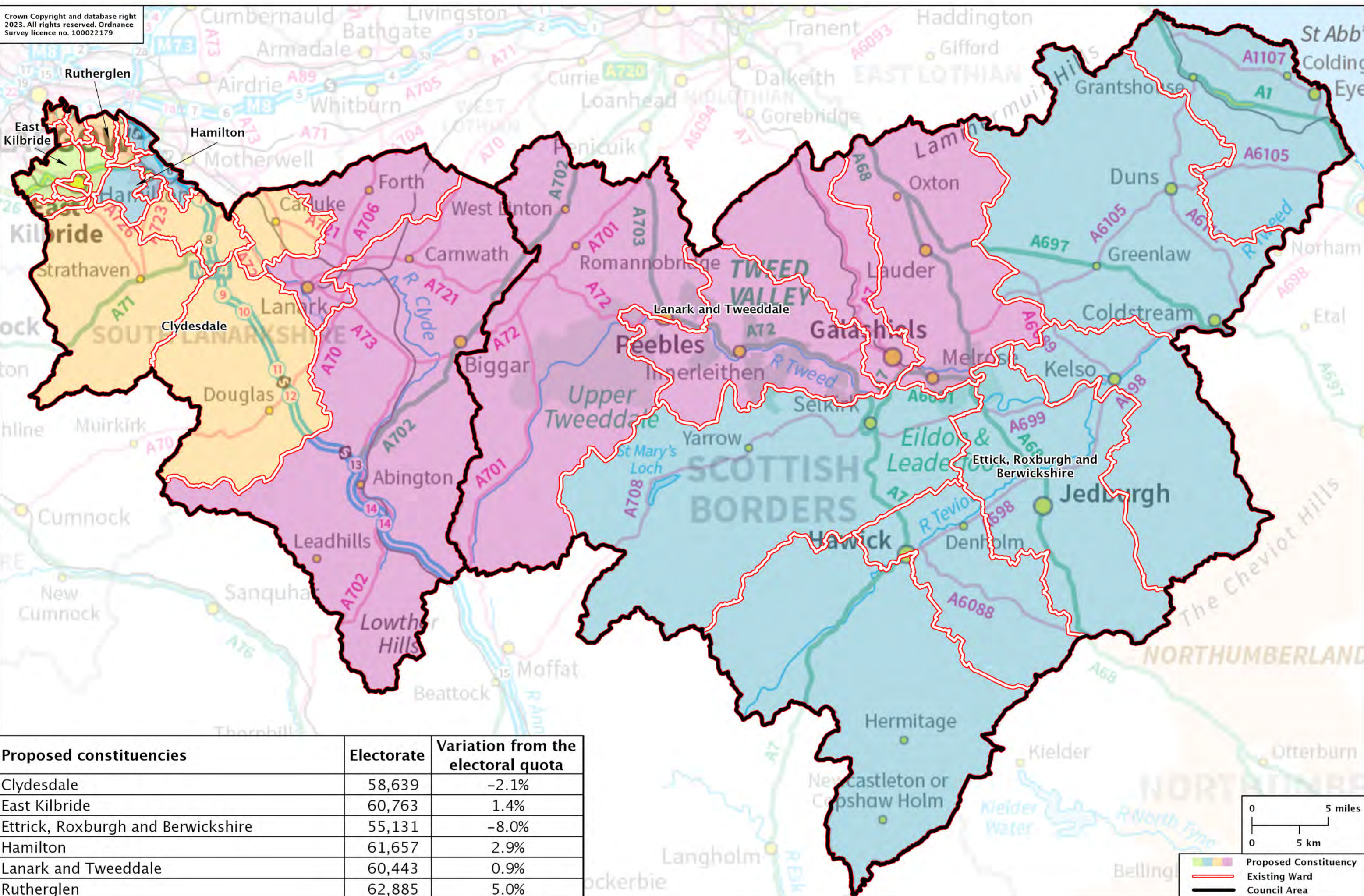
0 1 mile
0 1 km

Existing Constituency
Existing Ward
Council Area

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Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire Council Areas: Option 1A - Proposed Constituency Boundaries

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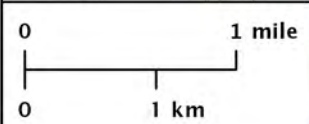
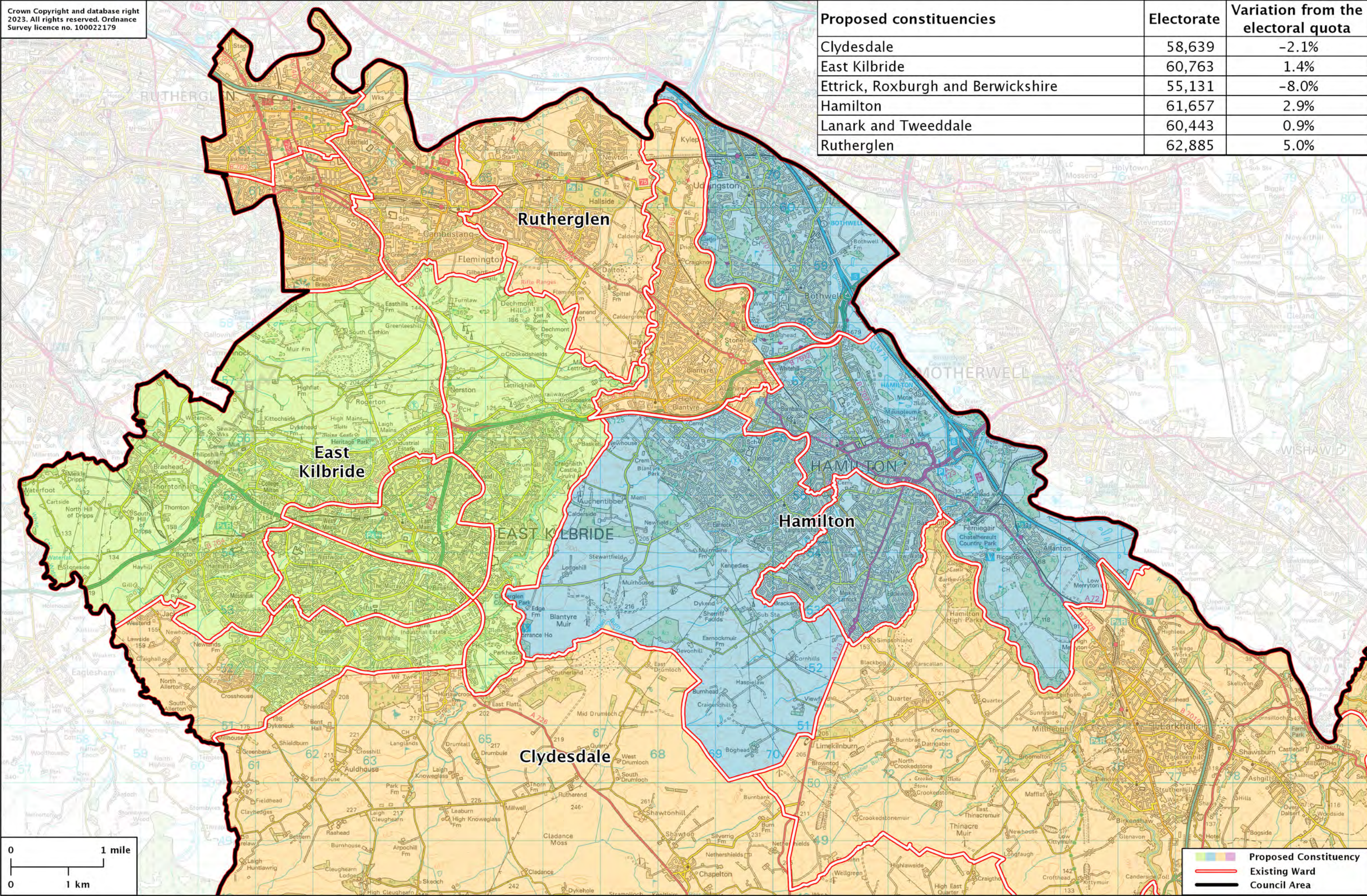


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Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire Council Areas: Option 1A - Proposed Constituency Boundaries

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Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from the electoral quota
Clydesdale	58,639	-2.1%
East Kilbride	60,763	1.4%
Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire	55,131	-8.0%
Hamilton	61,657	2.9%
Lanark and Tweeddale	60,443	0.9%
Rutherglen	62,885	5.0%



Proposed Constituency
█ Clydesdale
█ East Kilbride
█ Hamilton
█ Rutherglen

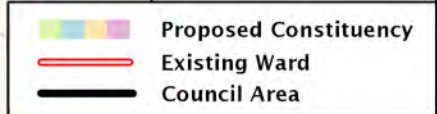
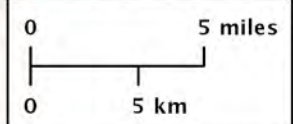
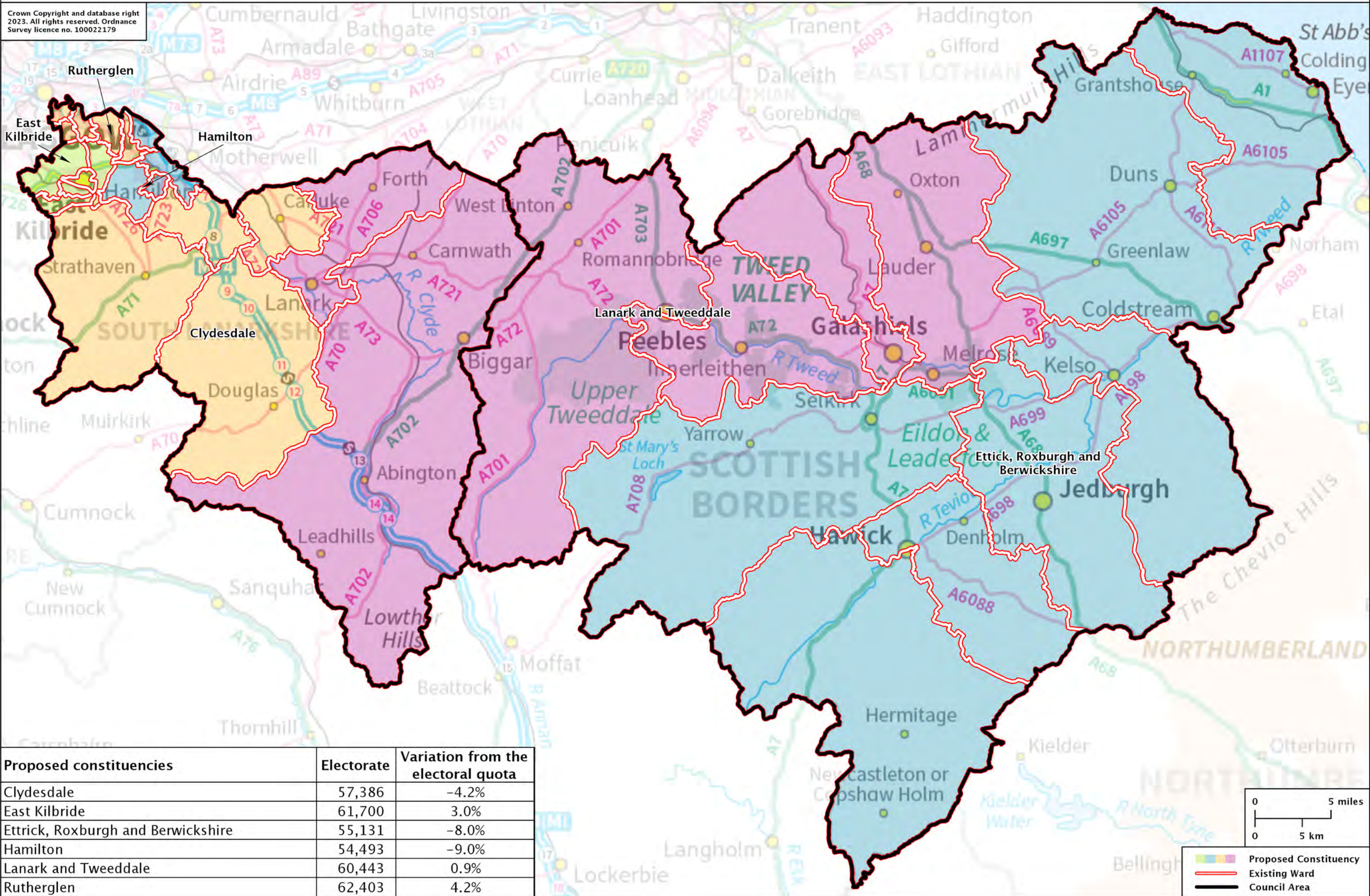
Existing Ward
— Existing Ward

Council Area
 Council Area

Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries

Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire Council Areas: Option 2 - Proposed Constituency Boundaries

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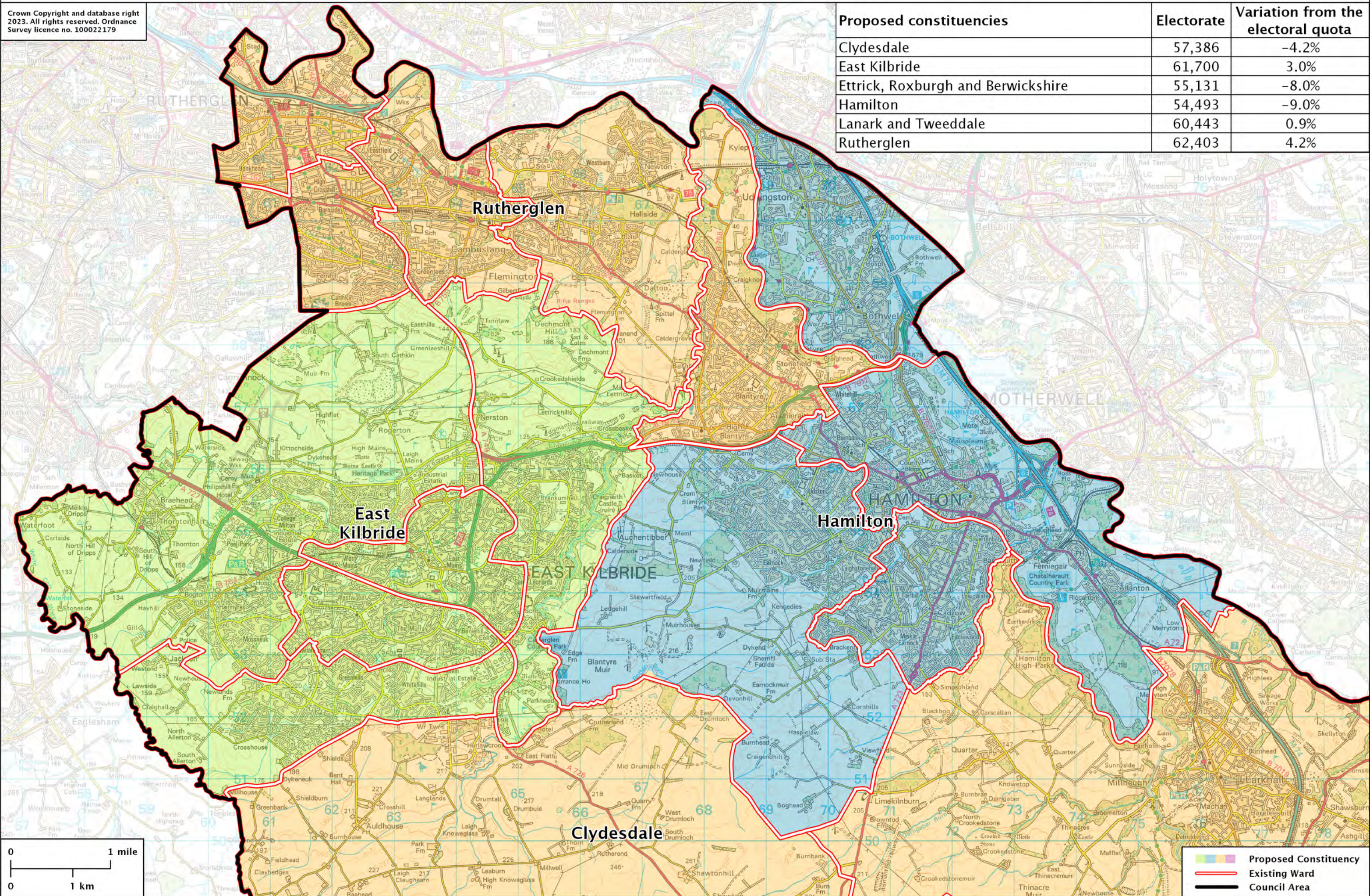


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Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire Council Areas: Option 2 - Proposed Constituency Boundaries

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Hamilton	54,493	-9.0%
Lanark and Tweeddale	60,443	0.9%
Rutherglen	62,403	4.2%



0 1 mile
0 1 km

Proposed Constituency
Existing Ward
Council Area