

**Third Statutory Review of Electoral  
Arrangements**

**Scottish Borders Council Area**

**Report to the Secretary of State for Scotland**

**Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland**

**Report Number E98005  
July 1998**

# **Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland**

## **Third Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements**

### **Scottish Borders Council Area**

#### **Constitution of Commission**

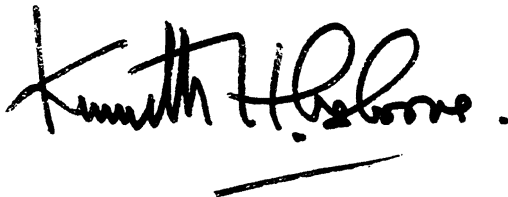
<b>Chairman:</b>	<b>The Honourable Lord Osborne</b>
<b>Deputy Chairman:</b>	<b>Mr K J Clark CBE</b>
<b>Commissioners:</b>	<b>Dr E Graham</b>
	<b>Mr S McDowall CBE</b>
	<b>Mrs G Silver</b>

The Rt. Hon Donald Dewar MP  
Secretary of State for Scotland

We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland, present our proposals for the future electoral arrangements for Scottish Borders Council area resulting from our Third Statutory Review of all Scottish local authorities.

In accordance with the provisions of section 18(3) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, copies of our report, together with illustrative maps, are being sent to Scottish Borders Council with a request that the report and maps should be made available for public inspection at their offices. In addition, copies of our report, without maps, are being sent to those who received a copy of our consultation letter or who have subsequently expressed an interest by making detailed representations in respect of our provisional proposals which were published on 3 July 1997.

Notice is also being given in newspapers circulating in the Council area of the fact that the report has been made so that interested persons may inspect the report and maps at the Council's Offices.



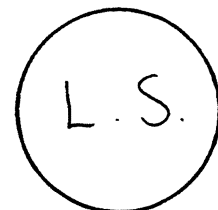
The Honourable Lord Osborne  
Chairman  
for Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland



R Smith  
Secretary

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July 1998



# **Third Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements Scottish Borders Council Area**

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# **Third Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements Scottish Borders Council Area**

## **Introduction**

1. The Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 determined that on and after 1 April 1996, Scotland should be divided into local government areas as named and described in Schedule 1 to the Act and that, for each area, there should be a council consisting of a convener and councillors. It further determined that each council should have all the functions exercised immediately before 1 April in relation to their area by any existing regional, islands or district council.
2. On 1 April 1996 all local government areas existing immediately before that date which were regions and districts and all regional and district councils ceased to exist.
3. Schedule 2 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 also established that every local government area (other than areas of the old islands councils) should be divided into such electoral wards as may be specified in a direction made by the Secretary of State after carrying out such consultations as he considered appropriate. Those wards were to apply for the purpose of any election of councillors held before 'the relevant year of election' (defined as meaning the first year of ordinary election of councillors for the area in question occurring after the making of an order constituting the new electoral wards of that local government area in consequence of the review currently being undertaken by the Commission). In accordance with procedures that applied prior to the reorganisation in 1975, the views of councils were invited. Thereafter, the Secretary of State determined that, for the purpose of any election of councillors before the relevant year of election, 58 electoral wards were appropriate for Scottish Borders local government area. Additionally, the proposed wards should be as described in the reports of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland to the Secretary of State for Scotland on its second statutory review of electoral arrangements for:

Berwickshire District dated 27 September 1993 - (Wards 1 - 10);

Ettrick and Lauderdale District dated 9 August 1993 - (Wards 11 - 28);

Roxburgh District dated 11 November 1993 - (Wards 29 - 46); and

Tweeddale District dated 14 September 1993 - (Wards 47 - 58).

## **Origin and Commencement of the Review**

4. The Commission has a statutory duty under section 14 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to undertake periodic reviews of local authority electoral

arrangements. The Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 amended section 20 and schedule 5 of the 1973 Act, directing that:

as soon as practicable after 1 April 1996, the Boundary Commission shall-

review the electoral arrangements for all local government areas for the purpose of considering the future electoral arrangements for those areas; and

formulate proposals for those arrangements.

5. This, therefore, is one of the statutory reviews required in terms of section 16(2) and Schedule 5 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended.
6. On 22 March 1996, the Scottish Office Development Department gave local authorities advance notice of the intention of the Commission to carry out a third statutory review of electoral arrangements. On 29 March 1996, we wrote to all councils to announce the commencement of the third statutory review of electoral arrangements and to explain the procedures to be followed. We also gave notice of the commencement of the review to all Community Councils, Electoral Registration Officers, Members of Parliament with a constituency interest and the Scottish headquarters of the political parties. In addition, public notice of the commencement of the review, which included an invitation to interested parties to apply to us for a copy of our consultation letter to councils, was given in newspapers.

## **Background**

7. During the passage through Parliament of the 1994 Act, there was cross-Party understanding that we would review the number of councillors and boundaries of electoral wards for each council in time for changes to be implemented for the 1999 local elections. This was seen to be important because at the time of reorganisation, as mentioned above, the Secretary of State defined the electoral wards for the new councils and to a great extent based these on existing district wards. It was, however, recognised that using the existing district wards led to some councils being significantly over-represented in relation to other areas. Further, it also led to councillors within the same local authority areas representing wards with significantly different numbers of electors. Accordingly, our review was seen as important to ensure equity in representation across and within all local authorities. Further, the new authorities were now responsible for the provision of the full range of all services and, accordingly, consideration had to be given to determining an appropriate number of councillors for service provision to be effectively managed.
8. This review is, therefore, the first conducted by us which sets out to determine the appropriate number of councillors required for councils to operate efficiently and

to establish the boundaries of electoral wards. To achieve both objectives our review was conducted in 2 main stages:

identification of a suitable methodology for determining numbers of councillors which, applied across all local authority areas, would be seen to be equitable and consistent; and

the division of each local authority area into the appropriate number of electoral wards in accordance with the statutory rules.

9. A copy of the statutory rules to be employed by us and the Secretary of State in considering proposals for electoral arrangements is provided at Appendix A.

### **Number of Councillors**

10. In formulating proposals for the number of councillors we have been guided by two main principles:

effective management of councils; and

equity amongst electors.

11. We recognised that the number of councillors is crucial because there is, undoubtedly, some number below which it would be impossible for a council to discharge its duty to deliver services to its population and, conversely, there is also some number above which a council becomes unwieldy and cumbersome. We were influenced in this respect by the prior considerations of two other bodies.
12. The Royal Commission on Local Government In Scotland 1966-69, under the Chairmanship of the Rt. Hon. Lord Wheatley, provided a basis by which the number of regional councillors and the size of constituency to be represented might be determined by taking into account the fact that population density varies widely in Scotland as a whole and within regions. The then accepted view was that council size should not generally exceed 75 members. In England and Wales the Redcliffe-Maude Commission, which reported to Parliament in 1969, also drew attention to the management problems of large councils and endorsed the recommendation of The Committee on the Management of Local Government that a maximum number of 75 councillors should be set.
13. After careful consideration we concluded that, in the Scottish context and to provide additional flexibility, an upper limit of 80 councillors should be set. We also concluded that a minimum number of councillors should be set, recognising that even the smallest local government areas are now responsible for a wide range of functions. Accordingly, we decided that the minimum number of councillors should be 18. Further, these limits should apply to all councils.

14. Regarding equity as between voters, we considered that ideally each elector's vote should possess the same weight and significance in local government elections throughout the country; furthermore, ideally, there should be similar mutual accessibility between electors and councillors. However, since Scotland is a country of great diversity, both geographically, and demographically, a fact reflected in the areas for which councils created by the Act of 1994 are responsible, and since we are satisfied that, in the interests of good local government, the number of councillors in any council must fall within certain limits, we concluded that these ideals are unattainable in practice. In this situation, recognising that a fair degree of homogeneity exists within certain groups of councils, which exhibit broadly similar geographic and demographic characteristics, we resolved to strive for equity in the senses mentioned within these groups, so far as that is possible within the constraints of the legislation under which we operate.
15. We, therefore, proposed a methodology which initially categorised council areas by density and distribution of population using data available from the 1991 Census of Population. Having classified council areas according to these criteria and adjusted the ratio of electors to each councillor to take account of similar characteristics, we have been able to achieve a broad equity of electorate across and within all council areas.
16. In our letter of 29 March 1996, all councils were informed of the proposed methodology and future pattern of representation for their council area. Councils were requested to make any representations they wished on numbers of councillors by 29 April 1996 so that a meeting could be arranged with the Deputy Chairman and Secretary to discuss the pattern of representation and any matters regarding our review that the Council wished to raise. Following visits to all councils by the Deputy Chairman and Secretary to discuss the proposed methodology and to consider alternatives which could be applied across Scotland, no alternative methodologies were offered but a number of councils suggested that the underlying classification should be amended to include an additional category.
17. At our meeting of 17 June 1996, we re-examined the criteria to be used to categorise mainland councils with similar characteristics in light of the representations made by a number of councils. We concluded that there should be 6 rather than 5 categories. The final categorisation of similar mainland councils was then agreed as follows:
- Category 1    Large Cities    Glasgow and Edinburgh.
  - Category 2    Cities            Aberdeen and Dundee.
  - Category 3    Authorities with less than 60% of the population living outwith settlements of 10,000 or more persons **AND** an overall population density of one person or more per hectare.

- Category 4 Authorities with **EITHER** 60% or more of the population living outwith settlements of 10,000 or more persons **OR** an overall population density of less than one person per hectare.
- Category 5 Authorities with 60% or more of the population living outwith settlements of 10,000 or more persons **AND** an overall population density of less than one person per hectare.
- Category 6 Authorities with 60% or more of the population living outwith settlements of 10,000 or more persons **AND** an overall population density of less than 0.2 persons per hectare.

18. In addition to the 6 categories we then determined the ratio of councillors to electorate for mainland councils that would allow for efficient management and appropriate representation, as set out in paragraphs 11 - 14 above, and considered that the following would be appropriate:

- |              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| • Category 1 | 1:6,000 |
| • Category 2 | 1:4,000 |
| • Category 3 | 1:3,500 |
| • Category 4 | 1:3,000 |
| • Category 5 | 1:2,500 |
| • Category 6 | 1:2,000 |

19. On 20 June 1996 we wrote to all mainland councils informing them of the revised criteria for determining councillor numbers and inviting them to prepare a draft scheme of electoral arrangements for their Council area. Following upon that, Aberdeen City Council brought a petition for Judicial Review of the decision taken by us at our meeting of 17 June, 1996 in the Court of Session. In it they sought a decree of declarator that that decision in relation to them was unlawful, ultra vires and null and void; they also sought a decree of reduction of the decision in relation to them and certain ancillary remedies. We resisted this petition, which was dismissed by the Court on 20 December 1996 after a hearing.

20. We considered the ratio of councillors to electors for the 3 islands councils at our meeting of 26 August 1996 and concluded that the appropriate ratio would be 1:750. On 28 August 1996 we wrote to these councils informing them of our decision.

21. On 4 July 1996, Scottish Borders Council noted the level of representation for their area and confirmed that they would submit a draft scheme of electoral arrangements for 34 wards by 30 September 1996.

## Scottish Borders Council's Proposals

22. The Council submitted a scheme of electoral arrangements for 34 wards on 10 September 1996. The Council advertised their scheme in local newspapers giving notice of where the proposals could be inspected and inviting interested persons to send their comments directly to the Commission. Community Councils were also informed of the Council's proposals.
23. With regard to the Council's draft scheme, representations were received as set out below.
24. Ancrum Community Council wrote to ask why that area had been included with places with which it has no communication and indicated that it wished to be linked with Jedburgh.
25. Ashkirk Community Council opposed the Council's proposals to include Ashkirk with Stirches and Wilton in Ward 17 and suggested that it would be more appropriately located in either Selkirk East or Selkirk West ward.
26. Cockburnspath Community Council intimated, by means of a copy of a letter to the Convener of Scottish Borders Council, its opposition to the Council's proposals and its support for alternative proposals put forward by Councillor Elliot.
27. Chirnside Community Council considered that the proposals were unfair to the local councillor who would have to pass through Ayton, which was not in his ward, in order to reach Burnmouth, which was in his ward. It was suggested that Duns and Eyemouth should be kept intact as single wards, that it would be more sensible to link Burnmouth to the coastal area and that Community Council boundaries could be used as building blocks for wards.
28. Coldstream Community Council wrote to say that, whilst Coldstream was not especially affected by the Council's draft proposals, the proposal to split the County Town of Duns and link it with Cockburnspath was frankly daft and would make a local councillor's job almost impossible. The Community Council also suggested that community links should have prime consideration and togetherness should be fostered not pulled apart even at the expense of achieving parity of electorate.
29. Cranshaws and Longformacus Community Council objected to the Council's proposals which it believed would cause considerable confusion. It further believed that the proposals were illogical. The principal towns of Duns and Eyemouth should each constitute a single ward and that wards, wherever possible, should be based on existing Community Council boundaries.
30. Duns Community Council wrote to support comments submitted by Foulden, Mordington and Lamberton Community Council. It also expressed a desire to

have a single electoral ward covering at least the Community Council area which would avoid confusion amongst the electorate. Further, it saw no benefit from being served by the same councillor as Cockburnspath.

31. Edrom, Allanton and Whitsome Community Council expressed regret that no consultation took place before the Council's proposals were submitted to the Commission and deplored the lack of time to discuss and debate the content. They concluded that mixed town and rural wards were not a good idea because rural and urban dwellers have different priorities and, because the majority of wards were town based, country electors would not receive adequate representation. The Community Council wished to see towns and rural areas with their own councillors but recognised that this would mean an imbalance in electorate. Attention was drawn to a Parliamentary Boundary Inquiry which recognised that councillors in rural areas do have considerable distances to travel to meet their electors. The Community Council wished the starting point for determining new wards to be one councillor for the towns of Duns, Eyemouth and Coldstream and, thereafter, the remainder of the ward boundaries in Berwickshire to be determined using existing Community Council boundaries as building blocks. This would satisfy a desire for town and rural areas to have their own councillors.
32. Ettrick and Yarrow Community Council proposed that Yarrow, Cappercleugh, Ettrick and Ettrickbridge should be associated with Selkirk West and that some electors in Selkirk West should be transferred to Selkirk East. Further, the shortfall in numbers in the proposed Stirches ward should be partly made up with the addition of Denholm and other unspecified adjustments should be made to the Hawick wards. The Community Council subsequently provided a map outlining revised proposals. A volume of representations, the majority in the form of a standard proforma letter supporting the Community Council's views, were also received.
33. Eyemouth Community Council wrote to say that the towns within Berwickshire should each have a single councillor rather than two councillors who represented town and country interests. Alternative proposals for the Eyemouth area which included a single Eyemouth ward were offered.
34. Foulden, Mordington and Lamberton Community Council noted that, when the proposals were issued by the Council, no details of the rules which should be applied were included. It was, however, thought that, if the rules which applied to Parliamentary Boundaries also applied at local government area level, then departure from the strict application of electoral quota would be acceptable along the lines indicated by the Assistant Commissioner at the Local Enquiry into Parliamentary Boundaries in Borders Region. It was considered that due regard had not been given to Community Council boundaries, as the Assistant Commissioner had suggested should be the case, which resulted in a number of Community Councils being split between electoral wards. It was thought that, to avoid unfairness, it was of paramount importance that Community Council and Unitary Authority Ward boundaries should be coterminous. The Community

Council considered that the problems created by the Council's proposals could be resolved by making unitary ward boundaries coterminous with community council areas. Further, if such an arrangement were to give rise to a large disparity in electoral quota, some flexibility should be allowed in the number of councillors in Scottish Borders Council, for example between 32 and 37, rather than having to work to a fixed number.

35. Gavinton, Fogo and Polwarth Community Council wrote to say that it supported the proposals which were being submitted by Councillor Forrest and 5 other Berwickshire Councillors.
36. Greenlaw and Hume Community Council expressed the view that the proposed boundaries departed from the natural community boundaries and that, as far as possible, community links should be kept.
37. Innerleithen, Traquair and Glen Community Council considered that the strategy of drawing up boundaries to achieve electoral parity had a number of shortcomings which resulted in areas such as Tweeddale being grossly under-represented. Further, no consideration appeared to have been taken of councillor workloads arising from, for example, the number of council owned houses and related enquiries. The Community Council considered that, if Duns, with a 1991 Census population and smaller electorate than Innerleithen, should have two representatives, then Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn should be represented by two councillors. The Community Council later forwarded a map illustrating its preferred boundaries.
38. Jed Valley Community Council considered that it would be best served if it was represented by one councillor, who was likely to take a closer interest in its affairs. The Community Council also proposed alternative boundaries for Jedburgh and District which it considered would provide two better balanced wards.
39. Lanton Community Council requested that the boundary between Wards 10 and 11 be amended to include an area associated with Lanton village.
40. Lauderdale Community Council suggested amendments which would include Jeaniefield, Threepwood, Newhouses and Wooplaw in Ward 18.
41. Newcastleton and District Community Council expressed concern about the Council's proposals for Liddesdale and Slitrig ward. It had considerable doubts that a rural area could effectively be associated with an urban part of Hawick because the majority of issues considered by Scottish Borders Council affect residents of these areas in completely different ways. Alternative proposals for a natural rural ward of approximately 2,200 electors were submitted for consideration.
42. The Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles and District advised that it did not consider the draft proposals to be appropriate because rigid adherence to achieving, as far as practicable, equal numbers of electors in each ward had

resulted in totally unacceptable suggestions for ward boundaries. It was asserted that to dissect the town of Peebles into 3 wards including landward tracts had no credibility and ignored local tradition, historical areas of representation or the differing economic needs between urban and rural populations. The Community Council asked that revised proposals should reflect more appropriately the boundaries of local towns, villages and settlements and that Peebles should have either 2 or 3 councillors with the landward areas having appropriate representation based on their main communities.

43. The Royal Burgh of Selkirk and District Community Council submitted alternative proposals which would allow the Ettrick and Yarrow Valleys area to join with Selkirk East and Selkirk West wards. The Community Council subsequently provided a map outlining its revised proposals.
44. Upper Tweed Community Council stated that it considered the Scottish Borders Council's proposals inappropriate and wished to see them revised to ensure a meaningful ward structure.
45. Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water Community Council wrote to say that it was regrettable that the concept of purely rural wards had been discarded. While the compromise of combining rural and town areas might be necessary, no apparent attempt had been made to create wards where the rural vote is in the majority and the town vote in the minority. It was further thought that Roberton was part of Teviotdale and should be part of Ward 12 rather than Ward 17. The Community Council asked that it be given the opportunity to comment on any changes to the existing proposals before they were finalised. The Community Council wrote suggesting also that there was a rational way of creating a ward to the west and south of Hawick which, it believed, had the merit of geographical and social coherence.
46. Walkerburn Community Council objected to the Council's proposals and suggested that Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn should be represented by 2 councillors.
47. West Linton Community Council asked that the boundary of Ward 34 be altered to include all of the area covered by Lamancha, Newlands and Kirkurd Community Council and considered that the proposal to split the hamlet of Blyth Bridge was unsatisfactory.
48. Berwickshire Community Council Forum considered that the Council's proposals would cause considerable confusion and, in principal, were illogical because the principal towns of Duns and Eyemouth should not each be split into 2 wards; wards should be based on existing Community Council areas and greater emphasis should be placed on the statutory rules in that consideration should be given to any local ties which would be broken by the fixing of any particular boundary, and the primary rule should be departed from in any area where special geographical considerations appeared to make departure desirable.

49. Councillor Home-Robertson considered that the proposed boundaries were seriously flawed and had not been subjected to proper public consultation. The proposals for Berwickshire created arbitrary boundaries in the Burghs of Eyemouth and Duns and elsewhere, and were thought not to be easily identifiable. Further, 4 of the 6 wards were completely artificial and such bizarre wards made it almost impossible for the distinct interests and clear identities of Berwickshire's Burgh and Landward communities to be properly represented on the Council. Alternative proposals for 6 wards in Berwickshire were submitted, four of which were based broadly on existing wards.
50. Councillors Brockie, Campbell, Cox, Gebbie, Hooper, Meikle, Rose, Runciman, Suckling, Watt and Younger made joint representation in respect of the Tweeddale area. Whilst the Commission's concern to achieve electoral parity was understood, the councillors were unanimous in the view that boundaries which are and will remain identifiable and which retain any historical or geographical ties are of paramount importance. They jointly proposed that Peebles should comprise 2 wards to retain the identity of the town. Innerleithen, Walkerburn and Traquair should form a single ward thereby preserving local ties and natural affiliations. Wards for Upper Tweed and Tweeddale North were also proposed. It was asserted that these proposals would result in the identity of the main settlements and rural communities being retained. It was accepted that electoral parity was not achievable in the proposed Upper Tweed ward but that this was justifiable on the grounds of special geographical considerations. Further, it was considered that five councillors for the Tweeddale area would result in inadequate representation, recognising that prior to reorganisation there were four Regional and ten District members. It was thought that six councillors would be more appropriate.
51. Councillor Brown considered that there was a strongly held consensual view that the uniting of rural areas with parts of Hawick to form composite town/country wards would mean rural areas being swamped by 'townish' attitudes with the result that rural concerns would not be given due attention; that the perceptions of Hawick's concerns are unique, as Hawick considers its own traditions and lifestyle to be unlike any other. It was thought that proposals for Denholm and Alewater were generally acceptable but that Liddesdale and Slitrig ward and Stirches and Buccleuch were not popular and should be reconsidered.
52. Councillor Robson submitted alternative proposals for the Liddesdale area.
53. Councillors Elliot, Finlay, Forrest, Forsyth and Garden wrote jointly to say that they supported Councillor Home-Robertson in the view that splitting the towns of Eyemouth and Duns should be avoided, that they had signed the 'Berwickshire Declaration' which stated that, as far as possible, the towns of Coldstream, Duns and Eyemouth should be served by one councillor and similarly rural village Community Council areas should be used as building blocks for electoral wards. They objected to Scottish Borders Council proposals, asked that an Assistant Commissioner be appointed to consult locally and submitted a draft proposal as a basis for discussion with an Assistant Commissioner.

54. Councillor Finlay provided views on possible ward areas and included details of the numbers of electors in each of the areas concerned. Whilst in agreement with the earlier proposals submitted by Councillors Elliot, Forrest, Garden, Forsyth and himself, which were considered best to match local connections, school areas and also areas covered by local organisations such as the SWRI, churches and Community Councils, he recognised the need to move more closely towards a degree of parity and he thought the marginal changes he now proposed could be of some assistance in this respect.
55. Councillor Elliot wrote to say that after the 1999 local elections there would be a Berwickshire Area Committee with delegated powers and it would be unacceptable to have a councillor representing 700 electors in Gordon and Westruther voting on a Berwickshire Area Committee when each of the other councillors represented on average 2,500 electors. Further, the possibility of councillors sitting on 2 different area committees must be avoided and it was suggested that alterations to Ward 4 and the Duns polling district/Community Council boundary could be made in order to reconcile the problem.
56. Sir David Steel considered that the proposed Stirches and Buccleuch Ward was wrongly constructed.
57. A number of representations objecting to the proposals to split the town of Duns were received. No alternatives were offered other than to suggest that Duns (and Eyemouth) should each be represented by a single councillor.
58. A representation was received opposing the Council's proposals as they affected Ashkirk because Ashkirk children are registered in Selkirk and would be barred from office in the annual Hawick festivals. Ashkirk families participate in the Selkirk rides and all the lady riders from Ashkirk would be barred from participating if the Council's proposals were to stand. Further, children attend a playgroup and schools associated with Selkirk, church links are with Selkirk, local newspaper coverage is from Selkirk, the Ashkirk forestry belongs to estates managed from Selkirk and the natural geography separates Ashkirk from Hawick.
59. Bowden Village Committee Trustees of Bowden Common opposed the Council's proposals for Denholm and Alewater because the village has no discernible links with Minto. The school catchment areas are different and, until April 1996, the local authority area was different. It was suggested that the area would be better linked with Newton and Melrose.
60. A single representation was received asking that a property at Horndean be included in Ward 2.
61. The Parishes of Ettrick and Yarrow opposed the Council's proposals.

62. Yarrow Primary School PTA wrote to express concerns over the iniquitous proposal to link the Yarrow and Ettrick valleys to the housing schemes of Stirches and Burnfoot in Hawick.
63. A number of letters were received objecting to the proposed creation of a link between Ashkirk and Stirches and Burnfoot in Hawick because of the historical and current associations of Ashkirk with Selkirk.
64. A letter expressed concern that sufficient regard might not be given to the dire need for adequate rural representation. It pointed out that, in the Second Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements, the Commission acknowledged an objection to the policy of linking rural and urban areas in order to achieve electoral parity and went on to outline alternative arrangements which met the original objections.
65. We considered carefully representations from Community Councils and others which requested that the revision of electoral arrangements should reflect the boundaries of Community Council areas or that electoral wards should be based on aggregations of current Community Council areas. We noted that Community Council areas are not determined for electoral purposes and their constitution is not constrained by the statutory rules regarding the consideration of revised electoral arrangements. It was clear from the available electorate data that it would not be possible to produce, within the statutory rules, acceptable proposals for revised electoral arrangements across the Council area if the boundaries of Community Council areas were to be a constraint on our considerations. Accordingly, we were unable to accept amendments which were based on retaining existing Community Council areas in individual or aggregate form.
66. We considered all of the proposals which requested that some communities such as, for example, Duns, Eyemouth and Peebles, should not be split between two or more wards which incorporated electors residing outwith perceived 'town' boundaries, or that wards in general should not comprise a mixture of 'urban' and 'rural' electorates. Bearing in mind that the primary rule regarding electoral parity should be applied, as far as practicable, equally across the Council area, we examined in detail the implications of making amendments to the Council's draft scheme to accommodate such requests. Despite carefully examining the representations and, where necessary, substantially re-drawing boundaries in an effort to develop alternative proposals which went some way to accommodating these representations, we were unable to produce an alternative scheme across the Council area which compared favourably with the draft proposals submitted by the Council. Indeed, we concluded that the Council had adopted a practical and sensible approach to determining boundaries within the statutory rules and that the alternatives proposed would have a detrimental effect on the degree of parity achieved in the Council's scheme.
67. We had some concerns about the Council's proposals for the Ettrick and Yarrow Valleys and adjoining areas and concluded that geography, topography, communications links, services and community ties made it necessary to consider whether a more flexible approach could be adopted in these areas. Accordingly,

we instructed officers of the Commission to develop alternative proposals for our consideration which would, as far as practicable, meet the concerns of the representations received from these areas and, having considered various options, agreed to revise the Council's draft proposals.

68. Where it was practicable to do so, we accepted a number of representations that suggested minor amendments which had little impact on the boundaries proposed by the Council. We also made changes to the boundaries of a number of wards where it was considered that the changes led to more easily identifiable lines.

### **Publication of Commission's Provisional Proposals**

69. Public notice was given of the publication of our provisional proposals on 3 July 1997. Scottish Borders Council was asked to make available for inspection at its offices copies of the electoral ward boundary descriptions, electoral statistics and illustrative maps. Additionally, copies of our proposals were sent to all who had received our consultation letter or had expressed an interest. We asked that any comments should be made to us by 31 July 1997.

### **Consideration of Representations**

70. Sixty five representations were received:

- **Scottish Borders Council** informed us that it had agreed to note our provisional proposals but recognised the right of members individually or jointly to submit representations in respect of ward names and boundary amendments direct to us. We noted the Council's position.
- **Councillor W D Smith and Melrose and District Community Council** wrote to request that Fisherman's Cottage be included within Melrose and District Ward. We were able to accept these representations.
- **Newcastleton and District Community Council** were pleased to accept our provisional proposals. We noted the view of the Community Council.
- **Gattonside Village Committee** thanked us for accepting its request that the village be located within Melrose and District Ward. We noted the Committee's view.
- A letter was received requesting a minor change to our proposals to include two properties near Abbotsford in Melrose and District Ward. We were able to accommodate this minor change.
- **Bowden Village Committee Trustees of Bowden Common** restated that the village had no links with Ancrum or Minto and should be linked with Melrose.

We reconsidered this representation but were unable to accept the proposal because of the adverse impact on electoral parity.

- **Edrom, Allanton and Whitsome Community Council** wrote to say that the shortage of time in which to give our proposals proper consideration was deplorable and noted that points made in previous submissions on the Council's draft proposals had been completely ignored. It stated that a scheme in which two wards covered the Community Council area was not acceptable and requested that further investigation take place with perhaps, a local meeting where evidence could be presented at first hand. We noted these views which had already been carefully considered when we examined Scottish Borders Council's draft proposals and remained unable to adopt the suggested amendments because of the adverse impact on electoral parity.
- **Innerleithen, Traquair and Glen Community Council** wrote to say that there was a general opinion in the area that there should be at least one more elected member for the area. It considered that Traquair village and the Glen area should remain with Innerleithen in any new electoral area. It noted that our provisional proposals connected Traquair with part of Peebles which was 7 miles distant and that too much emphasis had been placed on electoral parity with no real consideration being given to the workload of councillors. The Community Council further considered that Innerleithen, Walkerburn, Traquair and Glen should be compared with Duns, which, it believed, had a smaller population but a greater number of elected representatives.

With regard to the overall number of councillors, we noted that this had been determined at Council level using the methodology we describe earlier in our report. We also considered that the representations submitted in respect of our provisional proposals had already been carefully considered when we examined the draft scheme submitted by Scottish Borders Council. Electorate data available from the Council indicated that the changes proposed would have a significant adverse impact on electoral parity. We further noted that there were no special geographical reasons in this area which would make departure from the primary rule regarding electoral parity desirable. Therefore, we were unable to adopt the amendments proposed.

- **Councillor Anne Younger** wrote to ask that the name for Ward 33 should include the words 'Upper Tweed' and that the proposed boundary line at Rosetta Road be altered to the centre line of the road. Following consultation with the Council we agreed to change the name of Ward 33 to Peebles and Upper Tweed and realigned the boundary at Rosetta Road in the manner requested.
- **Upper Tweed Community Council** intimated that it did not favour the plan to group Upper Tweed with part of Peebles and would prefer to be linked with other rural parts of Tweeddale but appreciated that this suggestion had already been considered and that it was prepared to accept our proposals. However, it requested that the ward should more properly be named 'Peebles West and

Upper Tweed' or 'Upper Tweed and Peebles West'. Following consultation with the Council, the ward name was changed to Peebles and Upper Tweed.

- **Councillor D Suckling** commented on our proposals for Ward 34, West Linton and District, and considered that, because a number of settlements in the area did not have an affinity with West Linton, the name Tweeddale North would sit better with the communities involved. Following consultation with the Council we agreed that the name West Linton and District should remain.
- **The Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles and District** considered that our proposals were neither appropriate nor workable and that adherence to electoral parity created disparities and inconsistencies. It believed our proposals were inconsistent with local representation as they linked disparate areas. It suggested that Peebles should comprise two wards, with the remaining western side of the county being either one or two wards. Alternatively, Peebles and District, including Eddleston, should form three wards, with the western area covering West Linton etc. forming one ward. It suggested that Rosetta Road should be a firm boundary for its entire length. It noted that the Councillors in Tweeddale had made a constructive suggestion for creating 5 wards in Tweeddale and asked that this be re-examined and urged that we be less rigid in seeking electoral parity and have more regard to natural community areas.

We noted that we had carefully considered the representations made when we examined the draft proposals submitted by Scottish Borders Council for this area and had been unable to accept the proposals regarding the redesign of these wards because of the adverse impact on electoral parity. We, therefore, agreed that our provisional proposals for the area in question should remain unaltered (except that, as mentioned above, we adopted a minor boundary amendment at Rosetta Road, Peebles).

- **Councillors Brockie, Campbell, Cox, Gebbie, Hooper, Meikle, Rose, Runciman, Suckling, Watt and Younger**, who had made joint representation in respect of Scottish Borders Council's proposals for Tweeddale, intimated that they wished to resubmit their earlier proposals for further consideration and requested that a meeting be held to discuss these in more detail.

We noted that we had carefully considered the representations made when we examined the draft proposals submitted by Scottish Borders Council for this area and had been unable to accept the proposals regarding the redesign of these wards because of the adverse impact on electoral parity. We, therefore, agreed that our provisional proposals for the area in question should remain unaltered (except that, as mentioned above, we adopted a minor boundary amendment at Rosetta Road, Peebles). We further considered that there were no grounds to justify the appointment of an Assistant Commissioner to conduct a local meeting to consider revised electoral arrangements in the Tweeddale area.

- **Councillor Karen Campbell** wrote to say that, along with ten fellow councillors, she was confounded by the lack of regard we had taken of their alternative proposals for Tweeddale in that no account had been taken of geography, history or community links and that Peebles had been divided by pinking shears. The Councillor asked that we reconsider the previous submission and meet with local members to discuss a more acceptable solution. We noted the Councillor's representation which we considered along with the amendments resubmitted by Tweeddale Councillors (see above).
- **Councillor A S Watt** wrote to restate his opposition to our proposals and noted that all but one of the Scottish Borders Councillors representing Tweeddale remained opposed to the boundary changes as did Community Councils who were expressing extreme concern. He asked that an Assistant Commissioner be appointed to hold a local meeting to hear representations about our proposals. We noted the Councillor's representation which we considered along with the amendments resubmitted by Tweeddale Councillors (see above).
- **Jed Valley Community Council** wrote to say that our provisional proposals only partly answered its objections in that a substantial minority of the Community Council area remained within the proposed Jedburgh and District East Ward. It suggested that a number of addresses in Polling District 35C, 36A and 36B should be transferred to the proposed Jedburgh District West Ward. We remain of the view that our considerations with regard to electoral arrangements cannot be constrained within Community Council boundaries. We noted that our amendment to the Council's draft proposals went some way to meeting earlier representations by the Community Council but considered that the further changes sought would have an adverse effect on the electoral parity achieved in our provisional proposals.
- **Councillor D Paterson** wrote to protest about our proposals for the Hawick area. He considered that Roberton should be placed within Ward 16 or, alternatively, Ward 17, as the people in Roberton have no affinity with the people in Hawick. He had received many telephone calls from his constituents saying that they were unhappy about our proposals and asking that a petition be organised which, he believed, given more time, the majority of the people in Hawick would have signed. He also forwarded a petition containing 19 signatures, which he believed he could have repeated all over Hawick with thousands of names, pointing out that Slitrig Ward was one of the most historic wards in the Scottish Borders and should not be lumped into a rural ward.
- A letter was received objecting to our proposals in the Slitrig area because they would mean that Slitrig would be represented by a rural councillor and not a councillor who lived in the town. It believed that townspeople had different needs from people in the country. We noted the views expressed but concluded that, on the basis of the arguments presented, there was no merit in pursuing these proposals.

- A letter was received which objected to our proposals in the Slitrig area. It was considered unfair to the people of Roberton to include them in the Slitrig Ward when the area is closer to the proposed Teviot and Central or Stirches Wards. We noted the views expressed but concluded that, on the basis of the argument presented there was no merit in pursuing the proposal.
- A letter was received which asked that Fisher Avenue, Hawick, be retained in the proposed Slitrig Ward. We noted the views expressed but concluded that, on the basis of the argument presented, there was no merit in pursuing the proposal.
- **Hawick Honorary Provost's Council** wrote to say that the Scottish Borders Council's draft proposals had been reluctantly accepted. However, the consequence of our revised proposals for the Ettrick and Yarrow Valleys radically changed all the boundaries of Hawick and, as such, our proposals were unacceptable. We noted the view stated, but considered that our provisional proposals were the direct result of meeting representations made in response to the Council's draft proposals. We noted that a number of solutions were developed by our officers in an effort to satisfy the representations we had received following publication of the Council's draft proposals. Having considered the various alternatives, and in the absence of any additional detailed amendments to our proposals, which were acceptable within the statutory rules, we concluded that our provisional proposals which satisfied the majority of representations received, were the only realistic choice.
- **Coldingham Community Council** suggested revisions to our proposals in the Eyemouth area as it believed that it was not in the best interests of the town to be divided and represented by two separate councillors. We noted the views expressed which we further considered together with other representations regarding Wards 1 - 6 in our provisional proposals. We comment on the outcome below.
- **GrantsHouse Community Council** stated that it would prefer to be part of a rural grouping no matter how dispersed this might be rather than be contained within a ward which would be dominated by a town which has quite different priorities from any rural area. It considered that the great majority of votes would come from towns and that this would mean that the rural vote would never be able to thwart the wishes of the town seats. It further considered that there should perhaps be one rural seat for each District area of the Borders that definitely represented the countryside's interest. We noted the views expressed but, bearing in mind the statutory rules, were unable to accept any structure which sought to impose different electoral criteria on perceived urban and rural wards within the context of Scottish Borders Council area as a whole. However, we did consider in considerable detail alternative proposals submitted by others for Wards 1 - 6 in our provisional proposals and we comment on the outcome below.

- **Cockburnspath Community Council** felt that not enough time had been given to discuss our proposals. However, it felt that the alternatives submitted by Councillors J B Elliot and A Forsyth made more sense than our proposals because, geographically and socially, Cockburnspath had more dealings with Grantshouse, Reston, Ayton, Coldingham and Eyemouth than it had with Duns. It noted that there were educational links with these areas, that many residents of Cockburnspath were registered with the Eyemouth Health Centre and used other healthcare facilities in Coldingham, Reston and Ayton. It further considered that the present councillors representing these areas had built up a long-standing knowledge of the communities, constituents and their problems and, if a councillor from Cockburnspath was elected, he or she would have little in-depth knowledge of Duns. Similarly, a councillor from Duns would have the same problem if representing Cockburnspath. We noted the views expressed which we further considered together with other representations regarding Wards 1 - 6 in our provisional proposals and we comment on the outcome below.
- **Archy Kirkwood MP** wrote to say that the community of Cockburnspath was very concerned with our proposals, added that local opinion wanted a public enquiry to reconsider the position and asked if we would consider the request. We noted the views expressed which we further considered together with other representations regarding Wards 1 - 6 in our provisional proposals and we comment on the outcome below.
- **Duns Community Council** wrote to say that it was strongly of the view that Duns is a single geographical and cultural entity and that it was nonsense to consider splitting the town into two wards. It further believed that in 1991 an Assistant Commissioner was appointed in Roxburgh to consider a similar set of circumstances and it requested that an Assistant Commissioner be appointed to carry out local consultations in Berwickshire. We noted the views expressed which we further considered together with other representations regarding Wards 1 - 6 in our provisional proposals and we comment on the outcome below.
- **Councillor C Home-Robertson** wrote to express a formal objection to our provisional proposals and asked that we reconsider the alternative proposals which she had earlier submitted to us. She further stated her view that maps of our proposals had not really been published and that few people understood the implications. She noted that the local press had neither published maps nor given any prominence to our proposals and had serious doubts about whether people would realise what was happening. The request that we reconsider various proposals submitted earlier was further considered, together with other representations regarding Wards 1 - 6 in our provisional proposals, and we comment on the outcome below. With regard to the publication of our proposals, we noted that maps and descriptions of proposed wards had been made available for inspection at locations agreed with Council officials and that the requisite statutory notices had been published. We noted that local press interest was a matter for individual newspapers.

- **Councillors J Elliot and A Forsyth** strongly objected to the proposal to split Duns and link Cockburnspath with the larger part of Duns on the grounds that our proposals did not take into account natural geographical features and were contrary to existing and traditional community ties. They noted that, as part of the Second Statutory Review, an Assistant Commissioner was appointed to deal with similar circumstances and the outcome was to the satisfaction of the local communities. The Councillors trusted that we would make allowance for the fact that the Council had disbanded Community Councils on 31 March and that the reconstituted Community Councils had not had time to become fully functional. They also asked us to take note that Scottish Borders Council did not endorse our proposals and had decided that individual councillors would comment. The Councillors enclosed draft proposals which they considered required fine tuning and noted that we had accepted proposals at Innerleithen and Walkerburn which were not markedly different from their proposals for the Berwickshire area. They asked that an Assistant Commissioner be appointed to carry out local consultation in Berwickshire.

Councillors Elliot and Forsyth also forwarded at a later date, four items in support of their representation in the form of a map (which they stated was produced for a document used in the lobbying of MPs as part of the Berwickshire Belongs to the Borders campaign), a Scottish Borders travel map and guide, a map of the secondary school catchment areas and an abstract from the Berwickshire Coastal Villages Community Regeneration Process minute. The material was provided to demonstrate perceived communications difficulties, the links between communities on the A1 and the coastal links from Cockburnspath to Burnmouth.

Councillor J Elliot wrote to say that he considered that the timing of the publication of our provisional proposals and the time allowed for consultation did not lead to a fair democratic discussion of the issues. He did not consider that the form of the consultation paper was in keeping with the principles of Local Agenda 21 and that the extensive boundary descriptions would be far better presented on a distinct and clear map of a scale of at least 1:25,000. He stated that, while it may sometimes be reasonable to use roads as boundaries, this was not acceptable in rural areas being contrary to the principles of Local Agenda 21. He contended that ward boundaries used by the Assessor to some extent corresponded with Community Council boundaries and said that we should not make unnecessary changes as we lack the local knowledge available to the Assessor via councillors. He asked why our proposed changes to Ward 5 resulted in an increase in the 1996 electorate, why a ridge top boundary north of Grantshouse had been rejected, why we had ignored obvious coastal community ties and why it was felt necessary to split the town of Duns which had an electorate of 2,103.

Councillor Elliot further wrote to say that the Commission should be aware that the leader's group on Scottish Borders Council had attempted to force through our provisional proposals and had been unwilling to listen to local

views. He restated his request that we ask the Secretary of State to appoint an Assistant Commissioner immediately in order to consult local opinion in Berwickshire and to avoid a long battle. He asserted that, if we did not request the appointment of an Assistant Commissioner, some citizens would begin to doubt if there was local democracy.

We noted the various views expressed in the correspondence received from Councillors Forsyth and Elliot which we further considered together with other representations regarding Wards 1 - 6 in our provisional proposals. We comment on the outcome below.

- **John Home-Robertson MP** wrote to say that the suggestion that the Burghs of Duns and Eyemouth should both be split in two could not be taken seriously and that our proposals, as far as they affected Berwickshire, should not be allowed to stand. He noted that the number of councillors in East Lothian had increased and suggested that there was a case for Scottish Borders Council to have 38 councillors to help take greater account of community identities and interests and to avoid the creation of enormous geographical wards in rural areas. He observed that there had been too many major ward boundary changes in recent years and that public confusion was a factor which was undermining respect for local government. He suggested that we should keep identifiable local boundaries in order to minimise the further erosion of the standing of local government. He urged that we withdraw our proposals and suggested that six wards could be formed in accordance with the statutory rules which he believed would recognise and respect the distinct identities and interests of the burgh and landward areas. We noted the views expressed which we further considered together with other representations regarding Wards 1 - 6 in our provisional proposals and we comment on the outcome below.
- Fourteen letters were received which suggested that the town of Duns should be grouped with an area to the north east i.e. Preston, Abbey St Bathans, Longformacus and Cranshaws, rather than with Cockburnspath. We noted the views expressed which we further considered together with other representations regarding Wards 1 - 6 in our provisional proposals and we comment on the outcome below.
- Two letters were received proposing an alternative arrangement for wards in Berwickshire which sought to ensure two rural-based councillors, one based in the Tweed valley and the other in the hill sector, while retaining the integrity of the old Burgh-based communities of Duns, Eyemouth and Chirnside. We noted the views expressed which we further considered together with other representations regarding Wards 1 - 6 in our provisional proposals and we comment on the outcome below.
- A letter was received which objected to our proposals on the grounds that the boundaries were totally artificial, split historic towns into more than one ward which could not be good for the community which would further distance the

population from essential links with the Council and were utterly illogical in having two councillors representing separate parts of one natural community. The correspondents noted that an alternative scheme, which they endorsed and which they believed complied with the statutory rules, had already been submitted to us and hoped that common sense would prevail. We noted the views expressed which we further considered together with other representations regarding Wards 1 - 6 in our provisional proposals and we comment on the outcome below.

- A letter proposing revised boundaries for the Berwickshire area which retained Duns and Eyemouth as single wards was received. We noted the views expressed which we further considered together with other representations regarding Wards 1 - 6 in our provisional proposals and we comment on the outcome below.
- A letter which considered that our proposals were designed to equalise numbers between wards and balance the interests of country and town was received. It considered that the latter concept would not work in Berwickshire because it would require too much of councillors to carry out this reconciliation. The correspondent also noted and supported alternative proposals which were attributed to Mr and Mrs J Home-Robertson and asked that a public enquiry be held to settle the matter. We noted the views expressed which we further considered together with other representations regarding Wards 1 - 6 in our provisional proposals and we comment on the outcome below.
- A letter was received which considered that our proposals did not take into account traditional and logical groupings. It suggested that splitting the towns of Eyemouth and Duns and connecting them with rural areas is illogical and results in each town having two councillors. We noted the views expressed which we further considered together with other representations regarding Wards 1 - 6 in our provisional proposals and we comment on the outcome below.
- A letter was received stating that it endorsed the alternative proposals submitted by Councillor Home-Robertson. We noted the views expressed which we further considered together with other representations regarding Wards 1 - 6 in our provisional proposals and we comment on the outcome below.
- A letter was received which considered the proposals to link part of Duns with Cockburnspath did not take account of natural geographical features. The correspondent considered that the population of Cockburnspath had close ties with Dunbar in East Lothian and that, because the transport links with Duns were difficult, there is no link at present and none should be enforced. It was suggested that Cockburnspath should be linked with Eyemouth and Coldingham and asked that an Assistant Commissioner be appointed to carry out local consultations to hear the views of people who are content with the

present arrangements. We noted the views expressed which we further considered together with other representations regarding Wards 1 - 6 in our provisional proposals and we comment on the outcome below.

- Three letters were received expressing concerns about our proposals regarding Duns, believing that it was unacceptable that the town should be divided into two sections and joined in with communities with which it had no links. The correspondents observed that in recent years the town had been downgraded from a Burgh and the County Town to being a mere provider of bodies to create satisfactory electoral divisions which had little or no social or geographical significance. They noted that there had been little opportunity for discussing the proposals. They believed that an Assistant Commissioner had been appointed to hold consultations elsewhere and that, if a similar arrangement was made for Berwickshire, a more satisfactory revision might result. We noted the views expressed which we further considered together with other representations regarding Wards 1 - 6 in our provisional proposals and we comment on the outcome below.
- A letter was received objecting to our proposal to divide Duns. It was suggested that the proposals to link part of Duns with Cockburnspath demonstrated a lack of understanding of the community, did not take into account geographical features and were contrary to existing and traditional community ties. The appointment of an Assistant Commissioner to consider alternative proposals for Berwickshire was requested. We noted the views expressed which we further considered together with other representations regarding Wards 1 - 6 in our provisional proposals and we comment on the outcome below.
- **Major General Sir John Swinton KCVO OBE JP** commented that, at a time when an up-hill struggle was ensuing to encourage a sense of civic pride, it seemed perverse and most unhelpful to split Eyemouth and Duns between two wards. He further considered that it was not inconceivable that the two parts of Eyemouth and Duns could be represented by councillors from different political parties with very different views and that such potential for conflict in a small town should be avoided at all costs. He also considered that Burnmouth had a closer affinity with Eyemouth than with Chirnside and should be associated with the former town. Further, he noted that Cockburnspath had a shorter road link to Eyemouth than to Duns and should be placed in Ward 1.
- We noted the views stated with regard to boundaries of wards in Duns and Eyemouth and the impact that this might have on political representation but make it clear that we cannot take account of perceived political outcomes when considering the revision of electoral arrangements. We considered the association of Burnmouth with Eyemouth and the point raised regarding the road link between Cockburnspath and Duns in our overall consideration of representations for the Berwickshire area which we set out below.

- A letter was received which stated that the crass insensitivity to local and social relationships shown by our proposals was appalling. It criticised the timing of our proposals and the manner in which they had been presented which, apparently, coincided with the peak Summer Festival and holiday activity. It wondered whether it was our intention to minimise opposition to extremely unpopular and controversial proposals. It added that several Community Councils had only recently held reformation meetings following restructuring. It considered that seeking to comply with the primary rule concerning electoral parity seemed to be more important than community and social affinity. It further considered that the parity rule was not being applied in other areas such as Selkirk and suggested that the number of councillors was wrong and that the area of the former Berwickshire District Council should be served by six, not five, councillors, thus enabling communities to be formed into socially related groupings which would eliminate the ludicrous attempt at social engineering in the Eyemouth and surrounding areas. It further believed that the use of the old Berwickshire District Council ward boundaries would achieve simple amalgamations which relate to communities and would not link large villages with an equally large sector of a Burgh. It considered that the dictatorial manner in which Scottish Borders Council had pushed through the number of wards and the complete lack of interest and understanding of the issues in the areas outwith the Central Borders suggested that an Assistant Commissioner should be appointed for local consultation. It made a formal request for the appointment of an Assistant Commissioner to conduct a public enquiry because the instructions given by the Council to the electoral registration officer were flawed for the following reasons: the number of councillors was calculated on a mathematical formula; there had been a delay by Scottish Borders Council in informing councillors and Community Councils because of a need for the ruling group to study proposals prior to circulation; the period of consultation for our provisional proposals covered a holiday period; and Scottish Borders Council did not accept the proposals at a full Council meeting on 6 July 1997 despite the dictatorial conduct of the Chair.

With regard to the timing of the publication of our provisional proposals, we reject any suggestion that this had been engineered to reduce public reaction. All representations received by us up to November 1997 had been considered. With regard to the emphasis on electoral parity we note that we are bound to work within the statutory rules. Wards 1 - 6 in our provisional proposals relate to almost the whole of the area formerly covered by Berwickshire District Council. We noted the views expressed which we further considered together with other representations regarding Wards 1 - 6 in our provisional proposals and we comment on the outcome below. We concluded that the other topics relating to Council activity were not for our consideration.

- A letter was received stating that, having seen our proposals for Duns, the writer wondered what the residents of Berwickshire had done to deserve being moved to the Lothians. It considered that Duns was a town, not two half-towns, being a single community with a parish church, a primary and

secondary school and a post office, which needed only one representative at local level. It called for the appointment of an Assistant Commissioner to review the whole matter and hopefully come up with a more logical solution. We noted that there was nothing in our proposals which suggested that the administrative boundary between Scottish Borders Council area and any other council would be altered.

- A letter suggested that our proposals created completely artificial wards and did not reflect the historic nature of the key towns in Berwickshire or the long established rural communities of the Merse and Lammermuirs. It considered that the towns would be split but in such a way that the urban electors would dominate those in rural areas leading to a strong possibility that no councillor would be elected to represent the many rural communities in Berwickshire. It enclosed a map which suggested an alternative solution ensuring the integrity of the old Burgh-based communities, leaving a natural grouping of the larger villages of central Berwickshire. We noted the views expressed which we further considered together with other representations regarding Wards 1 - 6 in our provisional proposals. We comment on the outcome below.
- **The National Farmers Union of Scotland** Borders Area objected to our proposals for the Scottish Borders Council area and considered that wards in Berwickshire were unacceptable because they were artificial, with no community interest or historic identity and they would confuse the public and weaken proper representation of town and country issues. It considered that better alternative proposals had been made for six wards of approximately 2,500 electors based on logical community groups and asked that we explore these alternatives. We noted the views expressed which we further considered together with other representations regarding Wards 1 - 6 in our provisional proposals. We comment on the outcome below.
- **The Chairman of the Berwickshire Civic Society** wrote to say that our proposal to split Eyemouth made no sense at all but offered no alternative proposals for the area.
- A letter was received which stated that the correspondent understood we were looking at proposals to amend Local Government Boundaries and, whilst it had not seen the proposals, it believed that the intention was to split Duns. It believed that the proposal, as structured at the moment, seemed totally mad and asked that an Assistant Commissioner be appointed to carry out local consultations in Berwickshire to find a broadly acceptable solution, the current proposals being not even narrowly acceptable. It further hoped that some attention would be paid to the operation of local social structures and catchment-area facilities such as schools, sports clubs, social clubs, Brownies etc., parish boundaries and other services which influence and form natural boundaries in Berwickshire. We noted the views expressed.

Overall, the number of representations received in response to our provisional proposals for the area covered largely by the former Berwickshire District

Council was small relative to the total electorate and, in the main, was focused on a perceived need to maintain the settlements of Eyemouth and Duns within single wards (which was also viewed by some as a means of recognising a difference in the needs and demands of 'urban' and 'rural' voters). The principal alternatives to our provisional proposals were the two schemes submitted by Councillors in the form of either lists of polling districts and part polling districts which were used as building blocks for revised proposals, or maps showing alternative boundaries and estimates of the numbers of electors in polling districts and part polling districts. We asked the Council to provide us with detailed counts of electors for the areas concerned. Maps at 1:50,000 scale were plotted so that the geography of the areas and communications links etc. could be examined and the alternatives could be compared with the Council's draft proposals and our provisional proposals.

The two alternative schemes could be broadly described as follows:

#### Scheme A

Ward 1 covered all but a small segment of the present contiguous area of Eyemouth. The electorate at 1996 and that forecast at 2001 was 2,499 and 2,585 respectively, producing a divergence from electoral parity of 0% and 1%.

Ward 2 encompassed an area lying to the north, west and southwest of Eyemouth extending as far as Houndwood, Auchencrow and Chirside. The electorate at 1996 and that forecast at 2001 was 2,565 and 2,594 respectively, producing a divergence from electoral parity of 2% at both time points.

Ward 3 extended from the coast south of Coldingham as far west as Willie's Law and included the settlements of Coldingham, St Abbs, Cockburnspath, Preston, Abbey St Bathans, Chirsidebridge and Longformacus. In terms of land area the proposed ward probably encompassed approximately 50% of the former Berwickshire District area. The electorate at 1996 and that forecast at 2001 was 2,333 and 2,342 respectively, producing a divergence from electoral parity of -7% and -8%.

Ward 4 was tightly centred on Duns. The electorate at 1996 and that forecast at 2001 was 2,563 and 2,597 respectively, producing a divergence from electoral parity of 2% at both time points.

Ward 5 stretched along the southwest boundary of the former Berwickshire District area encompassing Greenlaw, Eccles and Coldstream. The electorate at 1996 and that forecast at 2001 was 2,538 and 2,587 respectively, producing a divergence from electoral parity of 1% at both time points.

Ward 6 stretched from Polwarth Moss in the west to the southern boundary of Ward 1 at Eyemouth and encompassed Polwarth, Leitholm, Swinton, Ladykirk, Hutton, Paxton and Foulden and accounted for approximately 25% of the former Berwickshire District area. The electorate at 1996 and that forecast at 2001 was 2,493 and 2,511 respectively, producing a divergence from electoral parity of -1% and -2%.

#### Scheme B

Ward 1 encompassed the southern part of the town of Eyemouth and Burnmouth. The electorate at 1996 and that forecast at 2001 was 2,604 and 2,680 respectively, producing a divergence from electoral parity of 4% and 5%.

Ward 2 included Ayton, Foulden, Chirnside and Preston and extended from the east coast at Lamberton to Ellemford Bridge between Duns and Abbey St Bathans. The electorate at 1996 and that forecast at 2001 was 2,442 and 2,472 respectively, producing a divergence from electoral parity of -3% at both time points.

Ward 3 extended along the southern boundary of the former Berwickshire District Council area and included Coldstream, Swinton, Hutton and Paxton extending as far as Chesterfield in the east. The electorate at 1996 and that forecast at 2001 was 2,554 and 2,608 respectively, producing a divergence from electoral parity of 2% at both time points.

Ward 4 lay largely to the southwest of former Berwickshire District Council area and included Gavinton, Polwarth, Greenlaw, Hume, Birgham, Eccles and Leitholm and extended eastward as far as Allanton and Broomdykes. The electorate at 1996 and that forecast at 2001 was 2,310 and 2,318 respectively, producing a divergence from electoral parity of -8% and -9%.

Ward 5 extended across the northwest of the former Berwickshire District Council area and encompassed Duns, Longformacus, Cranshaws and Abbey St Bathans, extending as far west as Willie's Law. The electorate at 1996 and that forecast at 2001 was 2,650 and 2,683 respectively, producing a divergence from electoral parity of 6% and 5%.

Ward 6 included the northern part of Eyemouth, Coldingham, St Abbs, Reston, Grantshouse and Cockburnspath, extending in the northwest as far as Black Law. The electorate at 1996 and that forecast at 2001 was 2,505 and 2,529 respectively, producing a divergence from electoral parity of 0% and -1%.

In our initial examination of the maps and data, we noted that there were substantial differences between the boundaries of wards in both schemes and it was clear that it would not be possible to reconcile the differences in a way which would achieve a consensus between both sets of alternative proposals. In considering the two schemes offered, we found that the electoral parity at 2001 ranged between -8% and 2% in one and -9% and 5% in the other, compared with -2% and 3% in the Council's draft scheme and -4% and 4% in our provisional proposals.

Both schemes achieved the objective of retaining Duns within a single ward, although the proposed solutions were markedly different. Neither scheme produced a solution which contained all of Eyemouth in a single ward which recognised that, in this area at least, the main settlement had to be divided. The proposals for the Eyemouth and Duns areas did, however, lead to a significant redrawing of boundaries of Wards 1 - 6 and made very substantial changes to wards where little or no public response had been received with regard to our provisional proposals. We noted that the ward sizes in both schemes varied considerably and, in Scheme A, it was noticeable that two of the proposed wards covered approximately 75% of the land area. We noted that, whilst concerns had been expressed about our proposals to divide Duns and Eyemouth, there had also been concerns about communications links and travelling distance between various settlements in the same ward. We observed little that suggested such issues would be resolved by either of the alternative proposals.

We noted also that a number of representations had asked for a public enquiry to be held but we concluded that we had sufficient information to allow us to fully consider the range of representation received and the impact of proposed changes on our provisional proposals. Unable to adopt either of the main alternatives suggested we, therefore, sought to develop a further scheme of electoral arrangements which attempted to address the main concerns, i.e. the retention of Eyemouth and Duns wholly within single wards, the retention of 'rural' wards, the maintenance of 'coastal' and 'landward' associations and the association of certain settlements.

We found it impossible, having regard to the statutory rule regarding electoral parity, to retain the present settlement of Eyemouth within a single ward. We also noted that there were significant housing developments at the fringes of the town which we considered would have a close community association with the existing built up area. To include the expected development created a ward which further exceeded electoral parity. All attempts to design a single ward invariably led to solutions which encompassed most of the contiguous developed area but failed to incorporate new and proposed developments. We considered, overall, that there were no adequate geographical reasons to justify a departure from the primary rule concerning electoral parity. We also considered that the proposed new housing developments should, as far as possible, be associated with the existing built up area. In these circumstances

we concluded that the settlement was best split approximately evenly between 2 wards which also encompassed adjacent settlements.

In examining the potential to maintain coastal links, we found that the distribution of electorate along the coastal strip, with the main concentration being at Eyemouth, made it impossible to achieve a sensible solution which did not have a knock-on effect across the remainder of the area covered by Wards 1 - 6. In undertaking this exercise we were also aware that there had been few representations from the public in the areas in question objecting to our provisional proposals or asking that we reconsider. Indeed, we noted that, in the main, there were few representations asking that we reconsider our provisional proposals from outwith the immediate Duns and Cockburnspath areas.

We closely examined the potential for retaining Duns in a single ward and the effect that this would have on the other wards in the former Berwickshire District. We found that a solution with a strong boundary around Duns and its immediate environs was possible but, like Schemes A and B above, major adjustments were necessary across the remainder of Wards 1 - 6 to accommodate such a proposal.

Overall, therefore, having subjected the various options to considerable scrutiny, we concluded that the draft proposals submitted by Scottish Borders Council, as amended in our provisional proposals, offered the most suitable solution for the Berwickshire area. However, we agreed to make minor adjustments to our provisional proposals where the Assessor had suggested that improvements to the boundary definition, which had no impact on electoral parity, would be appropriate.

- A letter expressed concern that people living outwith the larger settlements no longer had unequivocal representation at local authority level and that this lack is now reflected in the attitude of local authorities towards the provision of resources which are necessary to sustain landward communities. Whilst the correspondent considered that there might well be a strong party political incentive to support our proposals in, for example, the case of Eyemouth, both wards would be dominated by the Eyemouth vote although, for dozens of practical reasons, a single ward for the whole of Eyemouth would make much more sense. It was also considered that the procedures to ensure fair and equitable representation had degenerated into primarily nothing more than a number shuffling exercise and, taken along with the decision to ignore Community Council boundaries which had been established for a quarter of a century, our proposals seemed to owe more to the demands of bureaucracy rather than the needs of democracy. It was further considered that using roads as ward boundaries, whilst unremarkable in conurbations, split tiny isolated communities so that some households would travel five or more miles to a polling station in one direction while near neighbours travel a similar distance in the other. It identified communities which it considered would be affected in this way. It also considered that Scottish Borders Council, which had the

facilities and the opportunity to refine councillors' views, seemed to have abdicated its responsibilities and that the considerations of elected members had not risen above the level of personal, financial and party political ambitions. It concluded that it would make much more sense in rural areas if Community Council boundaries were used as the basic divide between wards.

We noted the views stated but took the view that it was not for us to comment on the merits of rural representation as expressed. With regard to the use of roads as electoral boundaries in rural areas and the convenience of polling stations, we noted that the use of roads as ward boundaries in rural areas is generally accepted throughout Scotland and that polling arrangements are matters for the Council to consider. We were unable to consider the use of Community Council areas as building blocks for revised wards because we found that it was not possible to produce proposals which met with the statutory rules.

- **Sustainability Borders** wrote to say that, whilst it may at times be acceptable to use roads as boundaries, in a rural area it is not acceptable because the practice breaks local ties. It suggested that we use boundaries which seem to be accepted as easily identified, for example, the coast, a watercourse such as the Tweed and watersheds such as the Cheviots, the Pentlands and the Lammermuirs. It believed that, to implement Agenda 21, those in the Borders had to reduce the use of fossil fuel and that using a road as an electoral boundary in a rural area will usually increase car use. We noted the views expressed.
- A letter was received which suggested that Community Council boundaries should be used as the basis for electoral wards and asked that an Assistant Commissioner be appointed. We noted the view expressed.

## **Final Recommendation**

71. Having conducted the third statutory review of electoral arrangements for Scottish Borders Council area in accordance with the procedures described above, we **recommend** that future electoral arrangements for the said Council should provide for a Council of 34 members.
72. The designation of the electoral wards that we recommend for Scottish Borders Council, together with information which we have received from the Council as to the 1996 electorate and forecast 2001 electorate of the proposed wards are set out at Appendix B to this report.
73. The boundaries of the proposed electoral wards are described in Appendix C and the following illustrative maps accompany this report:

<b>Map</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Scale</b>
A - E	Scottish Borders Council area	1:50,000
1	Eyemouth	1:10,000
2	Duns	1:10,000
3	Kelso	1:10,000
4	Jedburgh	1:10,000
5	Galashiels	1:10,000
6	Selkirk	1:10,000
7	Hawick	1:10,000
8	Peebles	1:10,000

**Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973: Schedule 6  
(As amended by the Local Government etc. (Scotland ) Act 1994)  
Rules to be Observed in Considering Electoral Arrangements**

1. (1) This Schedule applies to the consideration by the Secretary of State or the Boundary Commission of the electoral arrangements for election of councillors of local government areas.
  - (2) Having regard to any change in the number or distribution of electors of a local government area likely to take place within the period of five years immediately following the consideration, the number of local government electors shall be, as nearly as may be, the same in every electoral area of that local government area.
  - (3) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) above, in considering the electoral arrangements referred to in sub-paragraph (1) above regard shall be had to-
    - (a) the desirability of fixing boundaries which are and will remain easily identifiable;
    - (b) any local ties which would be broken by the fixing of any particular boundary.
2. The strict application of the rule stated in paragraph 1(2) above may be departed from in any area where special geographical conditions appear to render a departure desirable.

## Scottish Borders Council Area Proposed Electoral Wards

Number	Name	Electorate	
		1996 (Actual)	2001 (Estimated)
a	b	c	d
1	Eyemouth and District South	2,400	2,500
2	Chirnside and District	2,517	2,527
3	Coldstream and District	2,568	2,618
4	Duns and District South	2,471	2,504
5	Duns and District North	2,563	2,578
6	Eyemouth and District North	2,546	2,563
7	Kelso and District North	2,623	2,680
8	Kelso Central	2,551	2,551
9	Kelso and District South	2,617	2,702
10	Jedburgh and District East	2,431	2,441
11	Jedburgh and District West	2,474	2,492
12	Hermitage	2,263	2,305
13	Burnfoot and Mansfield	2,433	2,460
14	Silverbuthall	2,440	2,440
15	Weensland	2,479	2,500
16	Teviot and Central	2,425	2,455
17	Wilton	2,387	2,430
18	Galawater and Lauderdale	2,543	2,630
19	Earlston, Gordon and District	2,559	2,600
20	Melrose and District	2,419	2,552
21	Scott's View	2,432	2,500
22	Alewater and Denholm	2,414	2,455
23	Old Selkirk	2,861	2,888
24	Forest	2,898	2,925
25	Netherdale	2,525	2,602
26	Lower Langlee and Tweedbank	2,450	2,518
27	Upper Langlee and Ladhope	2,588	2,630
28	Kilnknowe and Clovenfords	2,417	2,440
29	Mossilee and Central	2,447	2,500
30	Innerleithen and Walkerburn	2,751	2,800
31	Peebles and District South	2,309	2,450
32	Peebles and District East	2,526	2,557
33	Peebles and Upper Tweed	2,537	2,578
34	West Linton and District	2,417	2,485
<b>Total</b>		<b>85,281</b>	<b>86,856</b>

**Scottish Borders Council Area  
Proposed Electoral Wards  
Descriptions of Boundaries**

**Notes:**

In the following description of boundaries:

- ♦ a reference to a road, footpath, railway line, river, burn or canal shall, where the context so admits, be construed as the centre line of the feature concerned; and
- ♦ the following abbreviations are used:

EW for Electoral Ward

NG Ref for National Grid  
Reference as published on  
Ordnance Survey Maps.

**Ward 1**

**Eyemouth and District South**

Commencing at NG Ref NT 9560 6260 at Fancove Head on the eastern boundary of Scottish Borders Council area; then westward to NG Ref NT 9400 6260 at the Eye Water; then generally southwestward along the said water to NG Ref NT 9336 6124; then southeastward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 9350 6087 on the Edinburgh to London railway line; then northeastward along the said railway line to NG Ref NT 9405 6106 at the unclassified road leading to Flemington Farm; then generally southeastward and southwestward along the said road to NG Ref NT 9390 6000 at its junction with the unclassified road to Ayton; then generally southeastward along the said road to NG Ref NT 9442 5914 at the unclassified road from Lamberton Moor to Bastleridge; then generally eastward along the unnamed road leading to Prendergust to its junction with an unnamed road at NG Ref NT 9322 5899 and southeastward along the said unnamed road leading to Foulden Hill to NG Ref NT 9340 5858; then southwestward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 9170 5820 on the unnamed road leading from Whiterig to Moorpark; then southeastward along the said road to the track leading to Moor Park Farm; then generally northwestward along the said track to NG Ref NT 9057 5797 at the B6355 road; then northeastward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 9076 6024 at the Horn Burn; then generally eastward along the said burn to its confluence with the Eye Water; then generally northwestward along the said water to NG Ref

NT 9000 6204; then northward along an unnamed tributary to where it is crossed by the A1(T) road; then northwestward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 8942 6431 at the Ale Water; then generally southeastward along the said water to NG Ref NT 9154 6344 at the unclassified road south of Alemill; then generally eastward and northeastward along the said road to NG Ref NT 9375 6421 at its junction with the A1107 and B6355 roads and Northburn Road; then northeastward along Northburn Road to NG Ref NT 9432 6445 on the southern curtilage of the property known as No 62 Northburn Road; then northward along the eastern curtilage of the said property continuing northward, eastward and northeastward along the eastern curtilages of the properties in North Street to NG Ref NT 9433 6453 on the eastern boundary of Scottish Borders Council area; then generally southward along the said boundary to the point of commencement.

**Ward 2**

**Chirnside and District**

Commencing at NG Ref NT 9800 5759 south of Megs Dub on the eastern boundary of Scottish Borders Council area; then generally southwestward along the southeastern boundary of Scottish Borders Council area to NG Ref NT 9089 4942 at the River Tweed; then northwestward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 8966 5128 at the unclassified road east of Winfield Farm; then continuing northwestward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 8824 5256 at the B6460 road; then eastward along the said road to NG Ref NT 8912 5282 at the unnamed road leading to Hutton Castle; then generally northwestward along the said road to NG Ref NT 8794 5501 at a ford on the Whiteadder Water; then generally westward along the said water to NG Ref NT 8648 5461 at its confluence with the Blackadder Water; then generally southwestward along the said water to NG Ref NT 8250 5293 at its confluence with the Langton Burn; then generally southwestward along the said burn to NG Ref NT 8061 5210 at the unclassified road between Sinclairs Hill and Cairnhill; then northwestward along the said road to NG Ref NT 7925 5386 at its junction with the A6105 road; then northwestward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 7901 5457 at the A6112 road; then northward along the said road to NG Ref NT 7888 5566 at its junction with the B6365 road; then northeastward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 7975 5720 on the B6355 road; then generally northwestward along the said road to

NG Ref NT 7952 5732 at its junction with the A6112 road; then northward and northeastward along the said road to NG Ref NT 8060 6380 at its junction with the unnamed road leading to the B6438 road; then generally south and southeastward along the said unnamed road to NG Ref NT 8220 6030 at its junction with the B6438 road; then northeastward along the said road to the unnamed road at Auchencrow; then southeastward along the said road to and southeastward along the B6437 road to the unnamed road leading to Reston; then northeastward along the said road to the junction with the unnamed road leading to Ayton; then southeastward along the said road to the line of the Edinburgh to Berwick-upon-Tweed railway line; then southeastward along the said railway line to the western boundary of EW 1; then generally southward, southeastward, northeastward, northward and eastward along the western, southern and eastern boundary of EW 1 to NG Ref NT 9560 6260 at Fancove Head on the eastern boundary of Scottish Borders Council area; then generally southeastward along the said boundary to the point of commencement.

### **Ward 3 Coldstream and District**

Commencing at NG Ref NT 8060 5210 at the unclassified road between Sinclairs Hill and Cairnhill on the southern boundary of EW 2; then generally northeastward and southeastward along the said boundary to NG Ref NT 9089 4942 on the eastern boundary of Scottish Borders Council area; then generally southwestward and westward along the said boundary to NG Ref NT 8108 3901; then northward in a straight line to the A698 road at NG Ref NT 8108 3904; then eastward along the said road to the A697 road; then northwestward along the A697 road to the junction with the unnamed road leading to Dunglass Wood; then northeastward along the said road to the point where it crosses the Leet Water; then northwestward along the said water to the unclassified road leading from the B6460 road to Coldstream; then northwestward along the said road to NG Ref NT 8001 4953 at its junction with the B6460 road; then northeastward along the said road to NG Ref NT 8033 4991 at its junction with the A6112 road; then northwestward along the said road to NG Ref NT 7997 5040 at the Blackadder Water; then generally northeastward along the said water to NG Ref NT 8095 5155 at the unclassified road leading to Cairnhill; then

northwestward along the said road to the point of commencement.

### **Ward 4 Duns and District South**

Commencing at NG Ref NT 7124 5514 where the eastern boundary of Henlaw Woods meets the unnamed road leading from Longformacus to the A6105 road; then southeastward along the said unnamed road to the point where it crosses the Wellrig Burn; then generally southeastward along the said burn to NG Ref NT 7712 5313 at the A6105 road; then northeastward along the said road to NG Ref NT 7789 5356 at the junction of Langtongate and the unnamed path leading to Gruedykes Farm; then generally southeastward along the said path to the unnamed road leading to Gruedykes Farm at NG Ref NT 7820 5299; then northeastward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 7847 5312; then southeastward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 7850 5304 and northeastward along the track leading to the A6112 road; then generally northward along the said road to NG Ref NT 7871 5378 at its junction with the A6105 road; then generally southeastward and northeastward along the said road to NG Ref NT 7925 5386 at its junction with the unclassified road leading to Cairnhill; then generally southward along the western boundary of EW 2; then generally southward along the western boundary of EW 3 to NG Ref NT 8225 3890 at the boundary of Scottish Borders Council area; then generally southwestward along the said boundary to NG Ref NT 7900 3793 on the River Tweed; then generally northwestward and southwestward along the said river to NG Ref NT 7734 3808 on the boundary between the former districts of Berwickshire and Roxburgh; then generally northwestward and westward along the said boundary to NG Ref NT 6617 4003 at Whitehill on the boundary between the former districts of Berwickshire and Ettrick & Lauderdale; then northeastward and northwestward along the said boundary to NG Ref NT 6650 4096 at the confluence of the Eden Water with the unnamed burn; then northeastward along the said unnamed burn to the B6364 road; then northward along the said road to NG Ref NT 7053 4531 at its junction with the A6105 road; then northwestward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 6958 4610 on the A697 road; then generally northeastward along the western curtilage of the Crawlee Plantation to NG Ref NT 6988 4648 at the unclassified road between Halliburton Farm and Greenlaw; then generally northwestward along the said road to NG Ref

NT 6774 4780 at the Blackadder Water; then generally northwestward along the said water to NG Ref NT 6585 5079 at the B6456 road from Westruther to Kettlehiel; then northeastward along the said road to NG Ref NT 6778 5162 on the Millknowe Burn; then generally southeastward along the said burn to NG Ref NT 6854 5073; then northeastward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 7114 5118 at a point on the track on Polwarth Moss; then generally northward along the said track to the point of commencement.

**Ward 5  
Duns and District North**

Commencing at a point in line with the track leading to Redheugh at NG Ref 8223 7078; then generally southeastward along the said track and the continuation thereof to the A1107 road; then southeastward along the said road to the unnamed road leading to Howpark; then southeastward along the said road to the point it crosses the unnamed burn on the western boundary of Old Cambus Wood; then generally southwestward along the said burn to and along the Howpark Burn to a point in line with the northern curtilage of Harelawside; then westward to and along the said curtilage and continuing southwestward to the unnamed road from Grantshouse at NG Ref NT 8106 6586; then southeastward along the said road to the rear curtilages of the properties located on the west side of the road; then westward along the said curtilage to and along the northern curtilage of the school; then southward along the western curtilage of the school to the rear curtilages of the properties located on the northern side of the A1(T) road; then westward along the said curtilages and the continuation thereof to a point in line with the unnamed road leading to Butterdean; then southward to the A1(T) road; then northwestward along the said road to NG Ref 7982 6638; then southwestward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 7972 6631; then southward to the northernmost point on the northern curtilage of Blackburnrig Wood; then generally southwestward along the northern curtilage of the said wood to NG Ref NT 7822 6548 at the northern end of Butterdean Wood; then generally westward and southwestward along the curtilage of the said wood to NG Ref NT 7762 6463 at the Eye Water; then generally southeastward along the said water to NG Ref NT 7988 6375; then generally southeastward along an unnamed track to NG Ref NT 8039 6332 on EW2; then generally southwestward along the western boundary of

EW 2 to NG Ref NT 7925 5386; then generally southwestward, northwestward and southward along the northern boundary of EW 4 to NG Ref NT 7134 5430 at Blacksmill Hill; then southwestward to NG Ref NT 6865 5309 at Darrington Little Law; then generally northwestward to the summits of Eve Law and Sting Law; then westward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 6180 5508 on the boundary between the former districts of Berwickshire and Etrick & Lauderdale; then generally northwestward along the said boundary to NG Ref NT 5638 6057 on the northern boundary of Scottish Borders Council area; then generally northeastward, eastward, northward and northeastward along the said boundary to NG Ref NT 7720 7260 on the eastern boundary of Scottish Borders Council area; then generally southeastward along the said boundary to the point of commencement.

**Ward 6  
Eyemouth and District North**

Commencing at NG Ref NT 9433 6453 on the northeastern boundary of EW 1; then generally southwestward, northwestward, southeastward and westward along the said boundary to NG Ref NT 9074 6006 at the railway line; then generally northwestward along the northern boundary of EW 2 to NG Ref NT 8039 6332 at Fawcett Wood; then generally northwestward and northeastward along the eastern boundary of EW 5 to the northern boundary of Scottish Borders Council; then generally southeastward along the northern and eastern boundaries of Scottish Borders Council area to the point of commencement.

**Ward 7  
Kelso and District North**

Commencing at NG Ref NT 6617 4005 on the boundary between the former districts of Berwickshire and Roxburgh; then generally eastward and southeastward along the said boundary to NG Ref NT 7734 3808 at the River Tweed; then generally southwestward along the said river to NG Ref NT 7380 3448 at Doctor's Well; then northwestward to NG Ref NT 7373 3454 at the road A698; then generally northwestward along the northeastern boundary of the property known as Broomcroft, Shedden Park Road; then southwestward along the northern boundary of the said property and the adjoining property known as Broombank; then generally northward along the eastern curtilage of the property known as 17 Woodside Park; then continuing northward along the eastern

curtilage of the sewage works; then westward along the northern curtilage of the sewage works; then continuing generally northwestward and westward along the northern curtilage of the properties known as 55-62 Broomlea, then westward along the northern curtilage of the properties known as 9-12 and 16 and 17 Broomlea Court; then southward to NG Ref NT 7334 3469 at the footpath at the northern curtilage of the properties on the north side of Eschiehaugh; then westward along the said footpath to NG Ref NT 7324 3469 at its junction with Eschiehaugh; then generally westward along Eschiehaugh to NG Ref NT 7304 3465 at its junction with the B6461 road; then northward along the said road to NG Ref NT 7303 3473 at the footpath leading to the properties in Inchmyre; then southwestward along the said footpath to the northern curtilage of the said properties; then generally westward along the northern curtilage of the properties known as 73-207 Inchmyre; then continuing westward along the northern curtilage of the properties known as 35-65 Inchmead Crescent to NG Ref NT 7264 3471; then generally northwestward along the footpath through West Broomlands Plantation continuing to NG Ref NT 7238 3478 at the southwestern curtilage of the property known as 11 Kings Croft; then generally northwestward along the southwestern curtilage of the properties known as 6-11 Kings Croft to NG Ref NT 7224 3489 at Angraflat Road; then southwestward along the said road to NG Ref NT 7202 3484 at its junction with the A6089 road, Edinburgh Road; then generally southeastward along the said road to NG Ref NT 7225 3448 at its junction with Roxburgh Street; then southwestward along the said street to NG Ref NT 7229 3437 at the footpath leading to the River Tweed; then southwestward along the said footpath to NG Ref NT 7223 3422 at the River Tweed; then generally southeastward along the said river to NG Ref NT 7250 3389 at its confluence with the River Teviot; then generally southwestward, northwestward and southwestward along the said river to NG Ref NT 6976 2885; then southwestward to NG Ref NT 6922 2824 on the unclassified road from Nisbet to Roxburgh; then southwestward along the said road to NG Ref NT 6905 2788 at Duke's Strip; then generally northwestward along the southern boundary of Duke's Strip to NG Ref NT 6655 2935 on the boundary between the former districts of Etrick & Lauderdale and Roxburgh; then generally northeastward, northwestward and northeastward along the said boundary to the point of commencement.

#### **Ward 8 Kelso Central**

Commencing at NG Ref NT 7203 3484; then generally northeastward, eastward and southeastward along the boundary of EW 7 to NG Ref NT 7380 3448 at the River Tweed; then generally southwestward and northwestward along the said river to NG Ref NT 7250 3389; then generally northwestward along the boundary of EW 7 to the point of commencement.

#### **Ward 9 Kelso and District South**

Commencing at NG Ref NT 7734 3808 on the River Tweed; then generally northeastward and southeastward along the said river to NG Ref NT 7900 3793 on the eastern boundary of Scottish Borders Council area; then generally southeastward and southwestward along the said boundary to NG Ref NT 7827 1177; then generally westward along field boundaries to NG Ref NT 7745 1162; then generally northwestward to NG Ref 7727 1198; then generally southwestward to NG Ref 7696 1192 on an unnamed tributary of the Kale Water; then generally westward along the said tributary to NG Ref 7619 1194 at the track between Nether Hindhope Farm and Tow Ford; then generally northward along the said track to NG Ref NT 7615 1324; then generally northwestward along the course of Dere Street to NG Ref NT 7400 1896 to the west of Whitton Edge; then northeastward to the south side of Whitton Loch; then generally northeastward around the southern and western banks of the said loch to and northeastward along the Fawlaws Burn to a point in line with the southern curtilage of the wooded area northwest of Shielstockbrae; then northwestward to and along the said curtilage to the path on the western curtilage of the said wooded area; then northeastward along the said path to and the continuation thereof to the B6401 road; then generally northwestward along the said road to NG Ref NT 7453 2564; then northward to NG Ref NT 7455 2564 at the Kale Water; then generally northwestward along the said water to NG Ref NT 7087 2753 at its confluence with the River Teviot; then generally northeastward along the said river to NG Ref NT 6975 2884; then generally northeastward along the southern boundaries of EW 7, EW8, EW7 and EW14 to NG Ref NT 6648 2934; then generally northeastward along the said boundary to the point of commencement.

**Ward 10  
Jedburgh and District East**

Commencing at NG Ref NT 6655 2935 on the boundary between the former districts of Etrick & Lauderdale and Roxburgh; then generally southeastward and northeastward along the southern boundary of EW 7 to NG Ref NT 6975 2884; then generally southeastward, southwestward, southward and eastward along the western boundary of EW 9 to NG Ref NT 7835 1180 on the southeastern boundary of Scottish Borders Council area; then generally southward, southwestward and northwestward along the said boundary to a point in line with Leap Hill at NG Ref NT 7289 0703; then northward in a straight line to the summit of Philip Law; then northward in a straight line to the point where the unnamed road from Stripend to Riccalton crosses the How Burn; then northwestward in a straight line to the source of the Newbigging Burn; then generally northward along the said burn to NG Ref NT 7065 1500; then generally southwestward to NG Ref NT 6936 1416 at the unclassified Oxnam to Camptown road; then generally westward and southwestward along the said road to NG Ref NT 6794 1353 at its junction with the A68 road; then generally northwestward along the said road to NG Ref NT 6513 1971 at the Howden Burn; then southeastward along the said burn to NG Ref NT 6545 1960; then northward to NG Ref NT 6544 1968 at the south end of Howden Road; then northward along the said road continuing northward along Blair Avenue to NG Ref NT 6542 2052 at its junction with Oxnam Road; then southwestward along the said road to NG Ref NT 6539 2049 at its junction with The Bountrees; then northeastward along The Bountrees to NG Ref NT 6543 2065 at the unnamed track leading to the sports ground; then southwestward to NG Ref NT 6532 2064 at the junction of Waterside, Boundaries and Old Bridgend; then southwestward along Old Bridgend to NG Ref NT 6526 2060 at the Canongate Bridge; then westward across the said bridge to the footpath at the eastern curtilage of the properties known as Duck Row; then southward and westward to NG Ref NT 6521 2053 at the A68 road; then generally northeastward along the A68 road to the junction of Waterside and Forthill Terrace; then northeastward along Forthill Terrace to and along the rear curtilages of the properties on the western side of Headrig; then northwestward along Headrig to the junction with the A68 road; then northward along the said road to its junction with the A698 road at

Bonjedward; then generally northeastward along the said road to NG Ref NT 6746 2450; then northwestward to NG Ref NT 6685 2558 on the B6400 road; then northeastward along the said road to NG Ref NT 6712 2575 to the west of West Nisbet; then northwestward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 6530 2720; then northeastward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 6599 2785; then northwestward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 6556 2836; then northeastward to the point of commencement.

**Ward 11  
Jedburgh and District West**

Commencing at NG Ref NT 5566 1286 where the A6088 road crosses the Dean Burn; then generally northeastward to the Summit of Rubers Law at NG Ref NT 5803 1558; then generally eastward along the southern boundary of Gilboa Wood to NG Ref NT 6002 1574 at the Rule Water; then southward along the said water to NG Ref NT 6005 1505; then eastward along an unnamed tributary to NG Ref NT 6132 1504 at the B6357 road; then northeastward along the said road to NG Ref NT 6160 1562; then generally northward along the western curtilage of woodland to NG Ref NT 6160 1649 at Watch Knowe; then generally northeastward along boundaries to NG Ref NT 6200 1819 at Black Law; then generally northeastward to NG Ref NT 6301 1951 at the B6358 road; then westward along the said road to the point where it crosses Knowesouth Burn west of Ruecastle; then generally northward along the said burn to the A698 road; then northeastward along the said road to NG Ref NT 6404 2357 at its junction with the A68 road; then eastward along the said road to NG Ref NT 6534 2358 at its junction with the A698 road at Bonjedward on the western boundary of EW 10; then generally southward and southeastward along the said boundary to NG Ref NT 7289 0703 on the southern boundary of Scottish Borders Council area; then generally southwestward along the said boundary to NG Ref NT 6404 0110; then generally northwestward to NG Ref NT 6264 0152 at Hartshorn Pike; then generally northwestward to NG Ref NT 5762 0395 at Wigg Knowe; then generally southwestward to NG Ref NT 5544 0158; then generally northwestward and northward to NG Ref NT 5409 0180; then generally northwestward to NG Ref NT 5374 0218 at the B6399 road; then generally northwestward and northward along the said road to NG Ref NT 5264 0703; then generally northeastward to NG Ref NT 5350 0800; then generally northeastward

along the northwestern boundary of Stonedg Hill continuing northeastward to NG Ref NT 5560 1060; then generally northwestward to NG Ref NT 5520 1120; then generally northeastward to the point of commencement.

**Ward 12  
Hermitage**

Commencing at NG Ref NT 2954 0756 on the southern boundary of the Scottish Borders Council area at a point north of Moodlaw Loch; then northeastward to the confluence of the Rankle Burn with the unnamed burn at NG Ref NT 3045 0795; then generally northeastward along the line of the Rankle Burn to the point where it is crossed by the path leading to Ropelawshiel; then generally southeastward along the said path to the path leading to the B711 road; then generally northeastward along the said path to the B711 road; then northeastward in a straight line to the summit of Bleak Law and continuing northeastward in a straight line to the summit of Broadgair Knowe; then southeastward in a straight line to the summit of Alemoor Craig; then southeastward in a straight line to the confluence of Gowdie Sike with the Ale Water; then generally northeastward and southeastward along the line of the Ale Water and an unnamed tributary to the northern curtilage of the property known as Blawearie; then northeastward along the said curtilage to the unnamed road leading to the B711 road; then southeastward along the line of the said unnamed road to the path leading northeastward to the A7(T) road; then northeastward along the said path to NG Ref NT 4545 1762; then southeastward in a straight line to the unnamed burn southeast of Pisgah Hill; then generally southeastward along the said burn to and continuing southeastward along the Wilton Burn to the point where it is crossed by the path leading from Brieryhill to Whitfield; then southeastward along the said path to the junction with the path leading to Highchesters; then southwestward to the summit of Borthaugh Hill and the continuing thereof in a straight line southwestward to the B711 road; then generally eastward along the said road to the River Teviot; then northeastward along the said river to a point in line with the field boundary at NG Ref NT 4820 1335 north of Martinshouse; then southeastward to NG Ref NT 4820 1335 and continuing southeastward along the line of the said field boundary and continuing southeastward in a straight line to the track leading to the unnamed road from Hawick to

Haysike; then northeastward along the said track to the said unnamed road; then southeastward by line of field boundaries to the unnamed road leading from Hawick to St Leonard's Park; then northeastward along the said unnamed road to and northeastward along Haggis Ha Brae and Rosebank Road to the junction with Renwick Terrace; then northeastward along Renwick Terrace to a point in line with the path leading to the Slitrig Water; then southeastward to and northeastward, southeastward and northeastward along the said path to the footbridge over the Slitrig Water; then northeastward along the said river to the point where it is crossed by the B6399 road; then southeastward along the said road to and along Mill Path to the line of the dismantled railway line; then generally southwestward along the said railway line to a point in line with the field boundary running through the cemetery; then southeastward to and along the said field boundary to the track leading to Wellogate Brae located to the east of the properties Nos 1 to 55 Fisher Avenue; then northeastward along the said track to the southern curtilage of No 5 Wester Braid Road; then southeastward and northeastward along the southern and eastern curtilage of the said property to the eastern curtilage of No 4 Wester Braid Road; then continuing northeastward along the eastern curtilages of Nos 4 to 1 Wester Braid Road to the unnamed road leading to Ormiston; then southeastward along the said road to the eastern curtilage of the allotment gardens located on the north side of the unnamed road; then northeastward to and along the said curtilage and the eastern curtilage of St Mary's Manse; then continuing northeastward by line of field boundary to the track leading from the greyhound track to the unnamed road leading to Orchard Farm; then generally northwestward along the said track to and northeastward along the said unnamed road to the southern curtilage of Orchard Farm; then southeastward and northeastward along the southern and eastern curtilages of Orchard Farm to the unnamed road leading to the A6088 road; then northeastward in a straight line along the said road to the western curtilage of the property known as Old Orchard Cottage located on the south side of the said unnamed road; then southeastward and northeastward along the western and southern curtilages of the said property to the A6088 road; then generally southeastward along the A6088 road to the point where it is crossed by The Dean Burn and the western boundary of EW 11; then generally southwestward, southeastward, northeastward

and southeastward along the said boundary to the southern boundary of the Scottish Borders Council area; then generally southwestward and northwestward along the said boundary to the point of commencement.

### Ward 13

#### Burnfoot and Mansfield

Commencing at NG Ref NT 4987 2019 where the track leading from Harelaw meets the A7(T) road; then northeastward in a straight line to the Huntlaw Burn; then northeastward and southeastward along the said burn to the confluence with Dearly Burn; then southeastward to the B6359 road; then generally eastward along the said road to the unnamed road leading from Hassendean to Hawick; then southward along the said road to the junction with the unnamed road leading to Hassendean Bank; then southeastward along the unnamed road to NG Ref NT 5495 1800; then southeastward in a straight line to the A698 road; then southwestward along the said road to the junction with the unnamed road leading to Courthill; then northwestward along the said road to the point where it crosses the River Teviot; then southwestward along the said river to the footbridge leading from Noble Place to Mansfield Road; then northward along the said footbridge to and northeastward along Mansfield Road to the eastern curtilage of Eastfield Mill; then generally northeastward and northwestward along the said curtilage to and continuing northwestward in a straight line to the track following the line of the dismantled railway; then northeastward along the said track to an unnamed path; then generally northward along the said path to the track leading to Wilton Cemetery; then northwestward along the said track to Wilton Cemetery; then northwestward along the track on the western curtilage of Wilton Cemetery to and northwestward in a straight line to the A7(T) road; then generally northwestward along the said road to the point of commencement.

### Ward 14

#### Silverbuthall

Commencing at NG Ref NT 5084 1625 on the western boundary of EW 13 at the junction of Guthrie Drive with the A7(T) road; then generally southward and northeastward along the said EW boundary to the Weir at NG Ref NT 5109 1534; then southward to the rear curtilage of No 31 Oliver Park; then generally southwestward along curtilages of Nos 11 to 31

Orchard Park, 9 Salisbury Avenue and 17 to 35 Weensland Road to Weensland Road; then southwestward along the said road to the junction with Linden Crescent; then southward and northeastward along Linden Crescent to and southward along Linden Terrace and Dalkeith Place to Brougham Place; then northwestward along Brougham Place to the High Street; then southwestward along the said street to the junction with Baker Street; then northwestward along the said Baker Street to and southwestward along Teviot Crescent to the junction with Teviot Road; then southwestward in a straight line to the River Teviot; then southwestward along the said river to Albert Bridge; then northwestward along Albert Road to and northeastward along Wilton Path to the junction with Princes Street; then northeastward along the said street to a point in line with the southern curtilage of No 48 Princes Street; then northward to the path leading to Wilton Crescent; then northward along the said path to and along Wilton Crescent to a point in line with the northern curtilage of Nos 8 to 10 Dickson Street; then northeastward to and along the said curtilage to Dickson Street; then northwestward along the said street to and continuing northwestward along Stirches Road to a point in line with the northern curtilage of Wilton Primary School; then northeastward to and along the said curtilage to the junction of Silverbuthall Road and Branxholme Road; then generally northeastward along Branxholme Road to Churchill Road; then northeastward along Churchill Road to Silverbuthall Road then continuing northeastward along the said road to the junction of Atkinson Road; then along Atkinson Road to the southern curtilage of the play area east of Bowden Road; then southeastward, northeastward along the southern and eastern curtilages of the said play area and continuing northward along the rear curtilages of Nos 9-11 Ancrum Court to Guthrie Drive; then northeastward along Guthrie Drive to the A7(T) road; then generally northeastward along the said road to the point of commencement.

### Ward 15

#### Weensland

Commencing at NG Ref NT 5455 1765 on the eastern boundary of EW 13 at the junction of the A698 road and the unnamed road leading to Whitriggs; then southeastward and southwestward along the said unnamed road to Whitriggs; then generally southeastward to the end of the track running southeastward from Whitriggs; then northeastward in a straight line

to the summit of Rubers Law; then southwestward in a straight line to the point where the A6088 road crosses the Dean Burn and the northern boundary of EW 12; then northwestward, southwestward and northwestward along the said EW boundary to Mill Path; then northeastward along Mill Path to the junction with Backdamgate; then generally northeastward along Backdamgate to its junction with Cross Wynd, Allars Bank and Lothian Street; then generally northeastward along the said street to and along Melgund Place to the southern boundary of EW 14; then generally northeastward along the said EW boundary to the southern boundary of EW 13; then northeastward along the said EW boundary to the point of commencement.

### **Ward 16 Teviot and Central**

Commencing at NG Ref NT 4817 1348 on the northern boundary of EW 12 on the River Teviot; then generally northeastward along the River Teviot to the southern boundary of EW 14 at the Albert Bridge; then generally northeastward along the said boundary to the western boundary of EW 15; then generally southwestward along the said EW boundary to the northern boundary of EW 12; then generally southwestward along the said boundary to the point of commencement.

### **Ward 17 Wilton**

Commencing at NG Ref NT 4545 1761 on the northern boundary of EW 12; then generally northeastward along the track leading to the A7(T) road; then southeastward along the said road to the western boundary of EW 13; then generally southeastward along the said boundary to the northern boundary of EW 14; then generally southwestward along the northern and western boundaries of the said EW to the northern boundary of EW 16; then generally southwestward along the northern and western boundaries of the said EW to the northern boundary of EW 12; then generally northwestward along the said EW boundary to the point of commencement.

### **Ward 18 Galawater and Lauderdale**

Commencing at NG Ref NT 3152 4816 at Blackhope Scar on the western boundary of the Scottish Borders Council area; then generally northeastward along the said boundary to NG

Ref NT 5637 6057 on the boundary between the former districts of Ettrick & Lauderdale and Berwickshire; then generally southeastward, southwestward, southward and southeastward along the said boundary to NG Ref NT 6273 4518 at the Eden Water; then generally southwestward along the said water to its confluence with the Dowiedean Burn; then generally westward along the said burn to NG Ref NT 5906 4446; then southwestward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 5822 4438 at the junction of the roads from Boon and Old Boon to Ledgerwood; then southwestward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 5632 4258 where the road between Birkhill and Galadean is crossed by a line of high tension cables; then generally westward along the line of the said cables to the unnamed road leading to Wooplaw; then generally southwestward along the said road to the junction with the unnamed road leading to Stow; then northwestward along the road leading to Stow to NG Ref NT 4704 4356 at the track leading to Torsonce Mains; then southward to NG Ref NT 4680 4276 at the track leading to Halkburn Farm buildings; then southeastward along the said track to NG Ref NT 4708 4092 on the northern curtilage of the said buildings; then southward and westward along the eastern and southern curtilages of the said buildings and generally southwestward to and along the line of the unclassified road leading to the properties at Whitelee Farm on the east side of the road following the eastern curtilage of the said properties continuing southwestward along the unclassified road to NG Ref NT 4655 3929 at the junction with the A7(T) road; then southward to NG Ref NT 4654 3919 on the Gala Water; then northwestward along the said water to NG Ref NT 4653 4010 at its confluence with Crosslee Burn; then generally southwestward along the said burn to NG Ref NT 4434 3923; then northwestward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 4254 4192 at Ferniehirst Hill; then northwestward to NG Ref NT 4054 4378 at Scroof Hill; then northwestward to NG Ref NT 3890 4454 at Deaf Heights; then southwestward to NG Ref NT 3716 4400 on the boundary between the former districts of Ettrick & Lauderdale and Tweeddale; then generally northwestward along the said boundary to the point of commencement.

### **Ward 19 Earlston, Gordon and District**

Commencing at NG Ref NT 6180 5508 on the boundary of EW 5; then generally eastward along the southern boundary of EW 5; then

generally southward along the western boundary of EW 4; then generally southwestward along the northern boundary of EW 7 to NG Ref NT 6209 3692 on the line of high tension cables; then westward along the line of the said cables to NG Ref NT 6018 3666; then generally southeastward to NG Ref NT 6052 3542 on the unclassified road from Smailholm to Leaderfoot; then southwestward along the said road to NG Ref NT 5780 3472 at the Leader Water; then generally northward along the said water to its confluence with Packmans Burn; then westward along the said burn to NG Ref NT 5516 3622; then generally southwestward to NG Ref NT 5337 3550 at the unclassified road from the B6374 road to Gattonside Mains; then northwestward and southwestward along the said road to its junction with the B6374 road; then northwestward along the said road to NG Ref NT 5236 3548 at the Allan Water; then generally northeastward, northwestward and northward along the said water to NG Ref NT 5194 3918; then southwestward to NG Ref NT 5170 3912 at the unclassified road between Easter Langlee and Langshaw; then southwestward to NG Ref NT 5106 3894; then northwestward along the unclassified road leading to Hawksnest Farm to NG Ref NT 4935 4090 on the southern curtilage of the farm buildings; then westward, northward and eastward on the western curtilage of the said farm buildings to NG Ref NT 4930 4104 at the said unclassified road; then generally northwestward along the said road to NG Ref NT 4881 4187; then generally northeastward, eastward, southeastward and northeastward along the southern boundary of EW 18 to NG Ref NT 6284 4518 on the boundary between the former districts of Ettrick & Lauderdale and Berwickshire; then generally northwestward, northward and northeastward along the said boundary to the point of commencement.

### **Ward 20**

#### **Melrose and District**

Commencing at NG Ref NT 5265 3536 on the B6374 road; then generally northward, eastward and southward along the southern boundary of EW 19 to NG Ref NT 5780 3472 at the Leader Water; then southwestward then northwestward along the said water to NG Ref NT 5778 3455 at the River Tweed; then northwestward along the said river to NG Ref NT 5756 3475 at the A68 road; then generally southward along the said road to NG Ref NT 5780 3393 at the Bogle Burn; then generally southwestward along the said burn to NG Ref NT 5624 3305 at the

source of the said burn; then northwestward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 5514 3326 to the east of Dingleton Mains; then generally southward to NG Ref NT 5515 3228; then westward to NG Ref NT 5370 3238 on the B6359 road; then generally westward to NG Ref NT 5151 3226 on the northeast side of Cauldshiels Loch; then generally along the northeast side of the said loch to NG Ref NT 5092 3246; then northward to NG Ref NT 5093 3289 on an unclassified road; then generally northwestward to NG Ref NT 5002 3346 on the River Tweed; then northeastward along the said river to the bridge crossing on the A6091 road; then generally eastward along the said road to NG Ref NT 5281 3452 at its junction with the B6360 road; then northeastward along the said road to NG Ref NT 5301 3465 at its junction with the B6374 road; then generally northwestward along the said road to the point it crosses the River Tweed; then northwestward along the centre line of the said river to a point in line with the junction of the unnamed road leading from Pavilion Farm and the B6374 road; then northeastward to the said junction and the point of commencement.

### **Ward 21**

#### **Scott's View**

Commencing at NG Ref NT 5780 3472 at the Leader Water; then generally northeastward along the southern boundary of EW 19 to NG Ref NT 6210 3682 on the boundary between the former districts of Ettrick & Lauderdale and Roxburgh; then generally southeastward, southwestward, northwestward and southwestward along the said boundary to NG Ref NT 5685 2761; then northwestward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 5602 2927 on the West Burn; then generally northeastward along the said burn to NG Ref NT 5718 2998 at the unclassified road leading to Camieston Farm; then northwestward along the said road to NG Ref NT 5673 3092 at the Bowden Burn; then northeastward along the said burn to NG Ref NT 5730 3120; then northwestward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 5680 3198 at the Glenburnie Burn; then generally southwestward along the said burn to NG Ref NT 5618 3165; then northwestward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 5515 3228 on the southeastern boundary of EW 20; then generally northward, eastward, northeastward and northwestward along the said boundary to the point of commencement.

### Ward 22

#### Alewater and Denholm

Commencing at NG Ref NT 5092 3248 on the southern boundary of EW 20 at the junction of the unnamed road leading from Cauldshiels Loch with the unnamed road leading to Faldonside; then generally southeastward along the said EW boundary to and along the southern boundary of EW 21 to the western boundary of EW 10; then generally southward along the said boundary to the northern boundary of EW 11; then generally southwestward, southward and northwestward along the said EW boundary to the eastern boundary of EW 15; then generally northwestward along the eastern and northern boundaries of the said EW to the eastern boundary of EW 13; then northwestward and southwestward along the eastern and northern boundaries of the said EW to the northern boundary of EW 17; then generally southwestward along the northern boundary of EW 17 to the Woll Burn; then generally northeastward and northwestward along the Woll Burn to the unnamed road leading from Burnfoot to Shieswood; then northward along the said road to the unnamed road leading from Castleside to Easter Essenside; then northeastward along the said unnamed road to the track leading to Wolbrig; then northwestward along the said track to Wolbrig; then northwestward along the unnamed road leading to Hartwoodmyres to the track leading to Outer Huntly; then northeastward in a straight line to the summit of Brown Moor Heights; then northeastward in a straight line to the junction of the A7(T) road and the track running southward through the Big Wood; then northeastward along the A7(T) road to the junction with the A699 road; then generally northeastward along the said road to the junction with the unnamed road leading to Glenwhilt; then northwestward along the said road to the track leading to Cauldshiels Loch; then generally northeastward along the said track and continuing northeastward along the unnamed road to the unnamed road leading to Faldonside to the point of commencement.

### Ward 23

#### Old Selkirk

Commencing at NG Ref NT 5088 3231 at a point on the western boundary of EW 22; then generally southward and southwestward along the western boundary of EW 22 to the junction of the A699 road and the A7(T) road; then generally northwestward along The Loan, South Port and Kirk Wynd to the junction of the

A707 road and the A7(T) road; then northeastward along the A7(T) road to and along High Street to Chapel Street; then westward along Chapel Street to and northwestward along the southern curtilage of the Health Centre; then northward along the southeastern curtilage of the property known as Sundene; then northwestward along the rear curtilages of the dwellings in Viewfield Park to Ettrick Terrace (A7(T) road); then generally northeastward along the said road to the River Tweed; then northeastward along the said river to a point in line with the junction of the B6360 road and the southern access point to Faldonside House; then southeastward to the said junction; then northeastward along the B6360 road to the junction with the access road leading to Faldonside Farm; then northeastward along the said access road to NG Ref NT 4970 3289; then southeastward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 5056 3223 and a point on the northern boundary of an unnamed wooded area; then generally northeastward along the said boundary to western boundary of EW 22 and the point of commencement.

### Ward 24

#### Forest

Commencing at NG Ref NT 4898 3238 on the western boundary of EW 23 where the A7(T) road crosses the River Tweed; then generally southward along the said EW boundary to and generally southwestward, southeastward and southwestward along the western boundary of EW 22 to the northern boundary of EW 17; then generally southwestward along the said EW boundary to the northern boundary of EW 12; then generally southwestward along the northern boundary of EW 12 to the southern boundary of the Scottish Borders Council area; then generally westward and northeastward along the said council area boundary to NG Ref NT 1671 1750 at Lochcraig Head; then northwestward in a straight line to the summit of Nickies Knowe; then northwestward in a straight line to Megget Stone and the summit of Cairn Law; then northward to the summit of Broad Law; then northeastward in straight lines to the summits of Cramalt Craig, Dun Law and Notman Law; then southeastward in a straight line to the summit of Greenside Law; then northeastward in straight lines to the summits of Redsike Head, Black Law, Blackhouse Heights, White Cleuch and Dun Rig; then southeastward in straight lines to the summits of Whiteknowe Head and Glenludde Hill; then southeastward to the point where the track leading through the wooded area at

Paddock Slack meets the B709 road on the southern boundary of the said wooded area; then northeastward along the B709 road to the point where it crosses the Paddock Burn; then northeastward along the Paddock Burn to the confluence with the Curly Burn; then generally southeastward along the Curly Burn to NG Ref NT 3303 3118; then southeastward to the junction of the tracks west of Glengaber; then northeastward to the summit of Minch Moor; then northeastward along the track leading to the Southern Upland Way; then generally southeastward along the track to the Three Brethren; then generally southeastward and northeastward along the track on the southern boundary of Yair Hill Forest; then continuing northeastward along the said boundary to the A707 road; then northwestward along the said road to the junction with the track leading to Raelees Wood; then northward in a straight line to the River Tweed; then generally eastward along the said river to the point of commencement.

### **Ward 25 Netherdale**

Commencing at NG Ref NT 4939 3615 at the bridge at the north of Market Street where it crosses the Gala Water; then generally southeastward along the said water to its confluence with the River Tweed; then generally southwestward along the said river to NG Ref NT 5002 3346 on the western boundary of EW 20; then generally southeastward along the said boundary to the western boundary of EW 22; then generally southward along the said boundary to the northern boundary of EW 23; then generally northwestward and southwestward along the said boundary to the northern boundary of EW 24; then generally westward along the said boundary to NG Ref NT 4730 3236; then generally northeastward to NG Ref NT 4765 3349 at Mount Skep; then generally northeastward and northwestward to NG Ref NT 4864 3557; then continuing northeastward to NG Ref NT 4864 3513 at Moss Burn; then northwestward and northeastward along the line of field boundaries to and generally northeastward along the northeastern boundary of Gala Academy Playing Fields to NG Ref NT 4886 3572 at Livingstone Place; then northeastward along Livingstone Place to the entrance of Scott Park; then southeastward along the unclassified road through Scott Park to the junction with St John Street and Scott Street; then northeastward along St John Street to its junction with Bank Street; then southeastward round Cornmill

Square to its junction with Market Street; then northeastward along the said street to the point of commencement.

### **Ward 26 Lower Langlee and Tweedbank**

Commencing at NG Ref NT 5006 3587 at the junction of Glenfield Crescent with the B6374 road; then generally eastward along the said road to NG Ref NT 5265 3536 at its junction with the unclassified road leading to Gattonside Mains; then generally southeastward, southwestward and northwestward along the boundary of EW 20 to NG Ref NT 5094 3469 at the bridge crossing the River Tweed; then generally northeastward along the said river to its confluence with the Gala Water; then northeastward along the said water to NG Ref NT 5005 3561 to the south of Glenfield Crescent; then northward along Glenfield Crescent to the point of commencement.

### **Ward 27 Upper Langlee and Ladhope**

Commencing at NG Ref NT 4654 3919 on the Gala Water; then northward and southeastward along the southern boundary of EW 18 to NG Ref NT 4800 4308 at the unclassified Stow to Wooplaw road; then generally southeastward along the western boundary of EW 19 to NG Ref NT 5238 3548 at the B6374 road; then generally northwestward along the northern boundary of EW 26 to NG Ref NT 5005 3590 at the junction of Glenfield Crescent with Melrose Road; then continuing northwestward along the said road to its junction with Station Brae; then westward along Station Brae to the northern curtilage of the properties at Beechbank Place; then generally northeastward along the northern curtilage of Beechbank Place to Currie Road at its junction with Ladhope Vale; then northwestward along Ladhope Vale to NG Ref NT 4902 3650 at the Ladhope Bridge where it crosses the Gala Water; then generally northwestward along the said water to NG Ref NT 4733 3762; then westward to NG Ref NT 4715 3769 at the A72 road; then northwestward and southwestward along the said road to NG Ref NT 4631 3746; then northeastward in a straight line to the point of commencement.

### **Ward 28 Kilnknowe and Clovenfords**

Commencing at NG Ref NT 3716 4400 on the southwestern boundary of EW 18; then

generally northeastward and southeastward along the said boundary to NG Ref NT 4654 3919 on the western boundary of EW 27; then southwestward, northeastward and southeastward along the said boundary to NG Ref NT 4902 3650 at Ladhope Bridge; then southwestward along Bridge Place continuing southwestward along Roxburgh Street to the footpath leading to Roxburgh Place; then southwestward and southeastward along the said footpath to the northeastern end of Roxburgh Place; then southwestward along Roxburgh Place to its junction with Gala Park and Scott Street; then southeastward along Scott Street to its junction with Lintburn Street; then generally westward and northwestward along the said street to its junction with Stanley Street; then southwestward along the said street to its junction with Meigle Street; then westward and northwestward along the said street to its junction with Mossilee Road; then southwestward along the said road to NG Ref NT 4804 3611; then westward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 4670 3608 and a point on the western boundary of the wooded area located to the east of the mast at Meigle Hill; then southwestward, southeastward and northeastward along the western and southern boundaries of the said wooded area to NG Ref NT 4672 3549; then southward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 4652 3519 at Mossilee Hill; then generally southeastward to NG Ref NT 4720 3429 and the point where the path leading from the property known as Missilee meets the line of the Southern Upland Way; then generally southeastward to NG Ref NT 4764 3347 at Mount Skep and the western boundary of EW 25; then southwestward along the said boundary to the northern boundary of EW 24; then generally westward along the said boundary to NG Ref NT 3799 3282 on the boundary between the former districts of Ettrick & Lauderdale and Tweeddale; then generally northward, southeastward and northwestward along the said boundary to the point of commencement.

**Ward 29**

**Mossilee and Central**

Commencing at NG Ref NT 4902 3650 at the northeast end of Ladhope Bridge on the southwestern boundary of EW 27; then generally southeastward along the said boundary to the western boundary of EW 26 at the junction of Glenfield Crescent and Melrose Road; then southward along the said boundary to the northeastern boundary of EW 25 at the Gala Water; then generally northwestward and

southwestward along the northern and northwestern boundaries of EW 25 to the eastern boundary of EW 28 at Mount Skep; then generally northwestward, northward, eastward and northeastward along the said boundary to the point of commencement.

**Ward 30**

**Innerleithen and Walkerburn**

Commencing at NG Ref NT 2812 4802 on the northern boundary of Scottish Borders Council area at the northmost boundary of Glentress Forest; then southeastward and northeastward along the northern boundary of Scottish Borders Council area to NG Ref NT 3151 4818 and the western boundary of EW 18; then generally southeastward along the said boundary to NG Ref NT 3716 4400 and the western boundary of EW 28; then southwestward and northwestward along the said boundary to NG Ref NT 3840 3754 and continuing southwestward and northwestward along the River Tweed to NG Ref NT 3075 3926 at its confluence with Dirlpot Burn; then northeastward along the said burn to NG Ref NT 3118 4000; then northward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 3139 4100 on the boundary of Glentress Forest; then generally northwestward and northeastward along the said boundary to NG Ref NT 2930 4373 where the forest boundary is crossed by a track; then generally northwestward along the said track to NG Ref NT 2775 4588 on the western boundary of Glentress Forest; then generally northward and northeastward along the boundary of the said forest to the point of commencement.

**Ward 31**

**Peebles and District South**

Commencing at NG Ref NT 2504 4029 at the Tweed Bridge; then generally southeastward along the said river to NG Ref NT 3075 3926 and the southern boundary of EW 30; then southeastward and northeastward along the said boundary to the western boundary of EW 28; then southward along the said boundary to the northern boundary of EW 24; then generally westward along the said boundary to NG Ref NT 2536 3158; then northwestward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 2400 3303 at Hundelshope Burn; then generally northwestward along the said burn to NG Ref NT 2300 3636; then northeastward along the southern curtilage and northwestward along the eastern curtilage of Hundelshope to NG Ref NT 2305 3650 at the access road to Hundelshope; then northeastward along the said access road to NG Ref NT 2423 3686 at its junction with an unnamed

road leading to Cademuir; then northeastward along the said road to NG Ref NT 2515 3872; then westward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 2490 3877 on the eastern boundary of Cademuir Plantation; then generally northwestward and southwestward along the boundary of the said plantation to NG Ref NT 2467 3908; then generally westward and northward along the southern and western curtilages of the properties known as Tintah and Loaningdale to NG Ref NT 2466 3935 at Edderston Road; then generally northward along the said road to NG Ref NT 2462 3985 at its junction with a former coach road; then generally northeastward along the line of the said coach road and along the access road to Wester Loaning to NG Ref NT 2486 3994 at its junction with the road known as Frankscroft; then northwestward along the said road to NG Ref NT 2485 4001 at its junction with Chambers Terrace; then northeastward along the said terrace to NG Ref NT 2497 4003; then northwestward and northeastward along the path which lies on the western and northern curtilages of the property known as Craigmor and the northern curtilage of the property known as Sapin Vert to NG Ref NT 2502 4011 at Caledonian Road; then northeastward along the said road to NG Ref NT 2505 4018 at Kingsmeadow Road; then northward along the said road to the point of commencement.

**Ward 32**  
**Peebles and District East**

Commencing at NG Ref NT 2379 4403 at the confluence of Eddleston Water and Windylaws Burn; then generally northeastward along the said burn to NG Ref NT 2512 4500; then northeastward in a straight line to NG Ref NT 2782 4572 at Cardon Law; then northwestward to the western boundary of EW 30; then generally southeastward and southwestward along the said boundary to NG Ref NT 3075 3928 on the northern boundary of EW 31; then generally southwestward and northwestward along the said boundary to NG Ref NT 2504 4029 at the Tweed Bridge; then northward along the B7062 road to its junction with the A72 road; then northwestward and westward along the said road to at its junction with Young Street; then northwestward along the said street to its junction with Rosetta Road; then generally northwestward along the said road to NG Ref NT 2445 4160 where it crosses the Gill Burn; then northeastward along the said burn to at its confluence with the Eddleston Water; then generally northwestward along the said river to the point of commencement.

**Ward 33**  
**Peebles and Upper Tweed**

Commencing at NG Ref NT 1003 4444 where the A721 road meets the western boundary of Scottish Borders Council area; then generally southeastward along the said road and its continuation as the A72 to the point where it crosses the Lyne Water; then generally southeastward along the Lyne Water to its confluence with the River Tweed; then generally northeastward along the said river to a point in line with the track leading to Jedderfield; then northward to and northwestward along the said track to the eastern boundary of Jedderfield Plantation; then northeastward along the said boundary to and along the track leading to the unnamed road leading to Peebles; then southeastward along the said unnamed road to the western boundary of EW 32; then generally southeastward along the said EW boundary to Tweed Bridge on the western boundary of EW 31; then generally southwestward and southeastward along the said boundary to NG Ref NT 2537 3154 at Dun Rig on the western boundary of EW 24; then generally southwestward, northwestward, southwestward and southeastward along the said boundary to NG Ref NT 1672 1750 on the southern boundary of Scottish Borders Council area; then generally southwestward, northwestward, northeastward, northwestward and northeastward along the said boundary to the point of commencement.

**Ward 34**  
**West Linton and District**

Commencing at NG Ref NT 1003 4444 on the western boundary of Scottish Borders Council area; then generally northeastward, southwestward, northwestward, northeastward, eastward, and southeastward along the said boundary to NG Ref NT 2812 4802 on the northern boundary of EW 30; then generally southwestward and southeastward along the said boundary to NG Ref NT 2774 4588 on the northern boundary of EW 32; then generally southwestward and southeastward along the northern and western boundaries of the said EW to the northern boundary of EW 33; then generally westward and northwestward along the said boundary to the point of commencement.