

Consideration of forthcoming Islands Review

Background Information

1. At its meeting on 14 March the Commission had an initial discussion about the forthcoming islands legislation (LGBCS Paper 2408 refers) which is expected to give the Commission the power to create one or two member wards where those wards consist wholly or mainly of inhabited islands.

Discussion

2. The Bill has not yet been introduced and an oral update on discussions with Scottish Government officials will be given at the meeting.
3. Following introduction the Commission will wish to consider the issues raised by the legislation. It is likely that the Commission will be invited to give evidence in writing and orally over the summer. The Secretariat has begun some initial analysis and Appendix A and associated maps at Appendix B provide information on the approximate electorate of inhabited islands, showing electors and total electorate per ward and council area.

Timing

4. While the legislation is expected to require the review to “start as soon as practicable”, it is not expected that anything other than an overall timetable to complete by May 2021 will be set in legislation. Parliamentary consideration of the Bill may result in more specific timetables being set.
5. The timetable of the 2018 Westminster Review being conducted by the Boundary Commission for Scotland and any decision about the next review of Scottish Parliament boundaries may affect the timing of the Islands Review.

Review Process

6. In terms of review process, the Commission may wish to consider undertaking the review of all 6 council areas simultaneously or phasing the work. One option would be to consider first the 4 council areas where Commission recommendations were not adopted by Scottish Ministers following submission of the 5th Reviews reports; and second, the 2 council areas which were amended as a result of the 5th Reviews: Highland and North Ayrshire.
7. An alternative approach would be to consider the three island councils (Orkney, Shetland and Na h-Eileanan an Iar) as a grouping and the three mainland councils that contain inhabited islands (North Ayrshire, Highland and Argyll and Bute) as a grouping as there may be common considerations within each.
8. Neither approach would require a formal separation into two reviews, rather a review structure that allows separate consideration of the issues affecting each group of authorities. However, given the scale of the review – 6 authorities in total – it may be preferable simply to consider all simultaneously to determine a consistent approach to use of the additional powers introduced by the legislation.

Consultation

9. Consultation with the 6 councils is likely to be particularly important and thought should be given to pre-Review engagement including meeting each council. Engagement with island communities too is likely to be valuable.
10. Decisions around engagement and consultation will have an impact on resource requirement; initial resource estimates were set out in the Commission's contribution to the Bill's Financial Memorandum.

Conclusion

11. Once the legislation is introduced the Commission will wish to consider further how it intends to approach the review timetable and scheduling.
12. The Commission is invited to consider the information set out in this paper and what further work it would like the Secretariat to undertake in preparation for the Islands Review.

Secretariat
May 2017

Electorate of Inhabited Islands by Council Area

North Ayrshire Council Area

North Ayrshire Council contains two inhabited islands: Arran and the Isle of Cumbrae. Both islands are situated within mainland/ island wards.

North Ayrshire					
Inhabited islands	Island electorate (March 2017)	Ward number and name	Councillors	Total ward electorate	% ward electorate living on island
Arran	3,848	5 Ardrossan and Arran	3	9,359	41.12
Isle of Cumbrae	1,107	8 North Coast and Cumbraes	4	13,195	8.39

- 106,480 total electorate of North Ayrshire.
- 101,525 electors situated on the mainland.
- 4,955 electors (4.6 % electorate) situated on islands.
- North Ayrshire council area contains 10 wards.
- Ratio of councillors to electors used during 5th Reviews 1:3,000.

Highland Council Area

Highland Council contains eight inhabited islands; four within the island ward of Eilean a Cheo (Skye) and four within the mainland/ island ward of Caol and Mallaig.

Highland					
Inhabited islands	Island electorate (March 2017)	Ward number and name	Councillors	Total ward electorate	% ward electorate living on island
Isle of Raasay	156	10 Eilean a Cheo	4	8,462	1.84
Isle of Rona	2	10 Eilean a Cheo	4	8,462	0.02
Isle of Rkye	8,300	10 Eilean a Cheo	4	8,462	98.09
Soay	4	10 Eilean a Cheo	4	8,462	0.05
Isle of Canna	20	11 Caol and Mallaig	3	7,001	0.29
Isle of Eigg	77	11 Caol and Mallaig	3	7,001	1.10
Isle of Muck	25	11 Caol and Mallaig	3	7,001	0.36
Isle of Rum	21	11 Caol and Mallaig	3	7,001	0.30

- 181,754 total electorate of Highland.
- 173,149 electors situated on the mainland.
- 8,605 electors (4.7 % electorate) situated on islands.
- Highland council area contains 21 wards.
- Ratio of councillors to electors used during 5th Reviews 1:2,800.

Argyll and Bute Council Area

Argyll and Bute Council contains 13 inhabited islands. All of the inhabited islands are situated within mainland/ island wards, with the exception of Bute, which is the only island ward.

Argyll and Bute					
Inhabited islands	Island electorate (March 2017)	Ward number and name	Councillors	Total ward electorate	% ward electorate living on island
Isle of Colonsay	122	2 Kintyre and the Isles	3	5,199	2.35
Isle of Gigha	128	2 Kintyre and the Isles	3	5,199	2.46
Isle of Islay	2,581	2 Kintyre and the Isles	3	5,199	49.64
Isle of Jura	164	2 Kintyre and the Isles	3	5,199	3.15
Isle of Coll	162	4 Oban South and the Isles	4	8,112	2.00
Isle of Iona	121	4 Oban South and the Isles	4	8,112	1.49
Isle of Mull	2,421	4 Oban South and the Isles	4	8,112	29.84
Isle of Tiree	526	4 Oban South and the Isles	4	8,112	6.48
Isle of Eriska	4	5 Oban North and Lorn	4	7,990	0.05
Isle of Lismore	152	5 Oban North and Lorn	4	7,990	1.90
Isle of Luing	156	5 Oban North and Lorn	4	7,990	1.95
Isle of Seil	549	5 Oban North and Lorn	4	7,990	6.87
Isle of Bute	4,832	8 Isle of Bute	3	4,832	100.00

- 67,994 total electorate of Argyll and Bute.
- 56,076 electors situated on the mainland.
- 11,918 electors (17.5 % electorate) situated on islands.
- Argyll and Bute council area contains 11 wards.
- Ratio of councillors to electors used during 5th Reviews 1:2,800.

Orkney Islands Council Area

The mainland is the largest island on Orkney; there are a further 15 inhabited islands.

Orkney Islands					
Inhabited islands	Island electorate (March 2017)	Ward number and name	Councillors	Total ward electorate	% ward electorate living on island
Flotta	56	3 Stromness and South Isles	3	2,148	2.61
Graemsay	17	3 Stromness and South Isles	3	2,148	0.79
Hoy	333	3 Stromness and South Isles	3	2,148	15.5
South Ronaldsay	1121	5 East Mainland, South Ronaldsay and Burray	3	2,705	41.44
Eday	120	6 North Isles	3	1,812	6.62
Egilsay	18	6 North Isles	3	1,812	0.99
Gairsay	3	6 North Isles	3	1,812	0.17
North Ronaldsay	54	6 North Isles	3	1,812	2.98
Papa Westray	72	6 North Isles	3	1,812	3.97
Rousay	182	6 North Isles	3	1,812	10.04
Sanday	396	6 North Isles	3	1,812	21.85
Shapinsay	236	6 North Isles	3	1,812	13.02
Stronsay	267	6 North Isles	3	1,812	14.74
Westray	454	6 North Isles	3	1,812	25.06
Wyre	10	6 North Isles	3	1,812	0.55
MAINLAND	13,664				

- 17,003 total electorate of Orkney Islands.
- Orkney Islands council area contains 6 wards.
- Ratio of councillors to electors used during 5th Reviews 1:800.

Shetland Islands Council Area

The mainland is the largest island on Shetland; there are a further 12 inhabited islands.

Shetland Islands					
Inhabited islands	Island electorate (March 2017)	Ward number and name	Councillors	Total ward electorate	% ward electorate living on island
Fetlar	57	1 North Isles	3	2,228	2.56
Out Skerries	2	1 North Isles	3	2,228	0.09
Skerries	45	1 North Isles	3	2,228	2.02
Unst	497	1 North Isles	3	2,228	22.31
Whalsay	822	1 North Isles	3	2,228	36.89
Yell	805	1 North Isles	3	2,228	36.13
Foula	18	3 Shetland West	3	2,023	0.89
Papa Stour	10	3 Shetland West	3	2,023	0.49
Burra	675	4 Shetland Central	3	2,392	28.22
Trondra	118	4 Shetland Central	3	2,392	4.93
Fair Isle	44	5 Shetland South	3	2,858	1.54
Bressay	291	6 Lerwick North	3	2,320	12.54
Mainland	14,335				

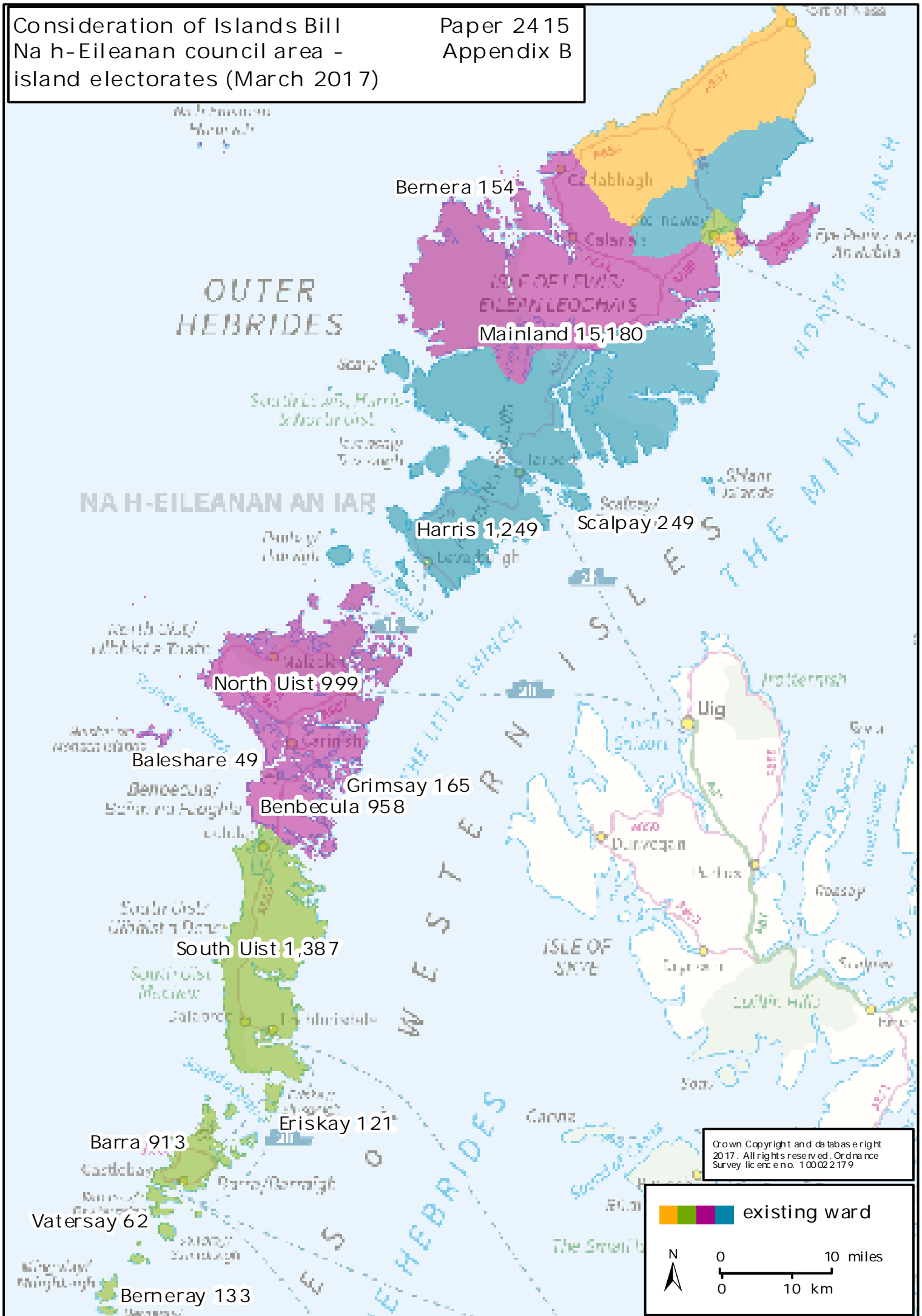
- 17,719 total electorate of Shetland Islands.
- Shetland Islands council area contains 6 wards.
- Ratio of councillors to electors used during 5th Reviews 1:800.

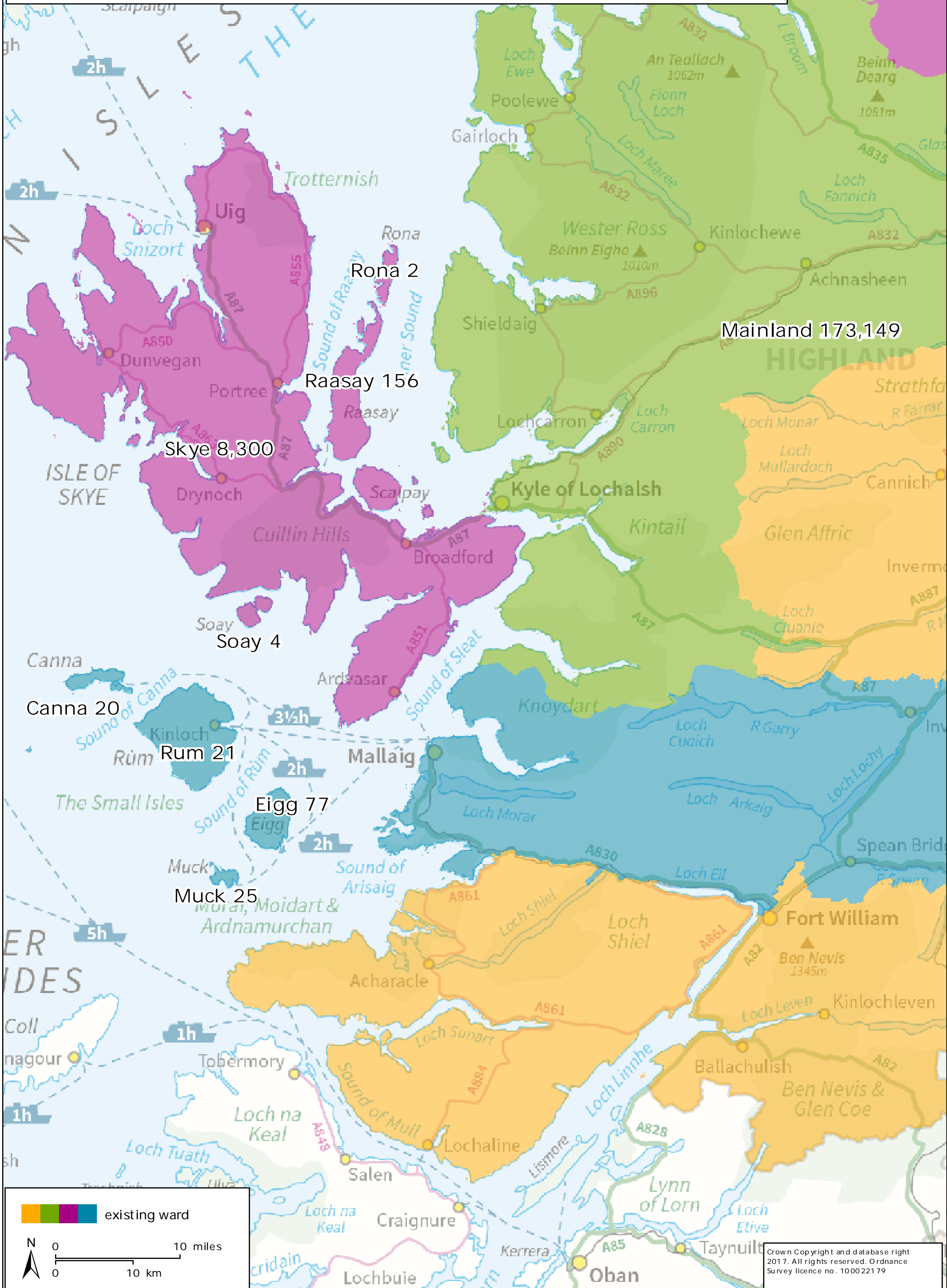
Na h-Eileanan an Iar Council Area

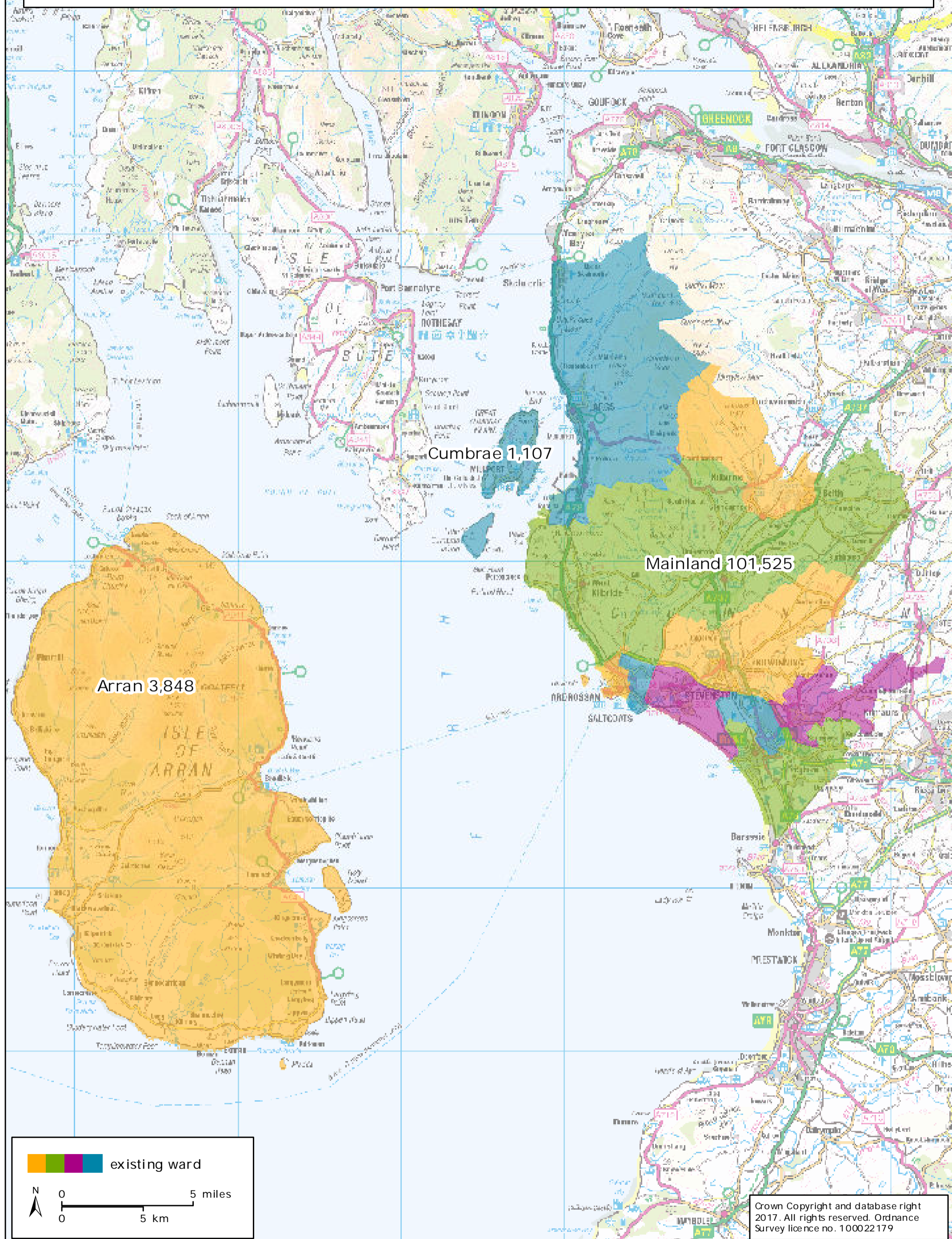
Lewis is the main island on Na h-Eileanan an Iar; there are a further 12 inhabited islands.

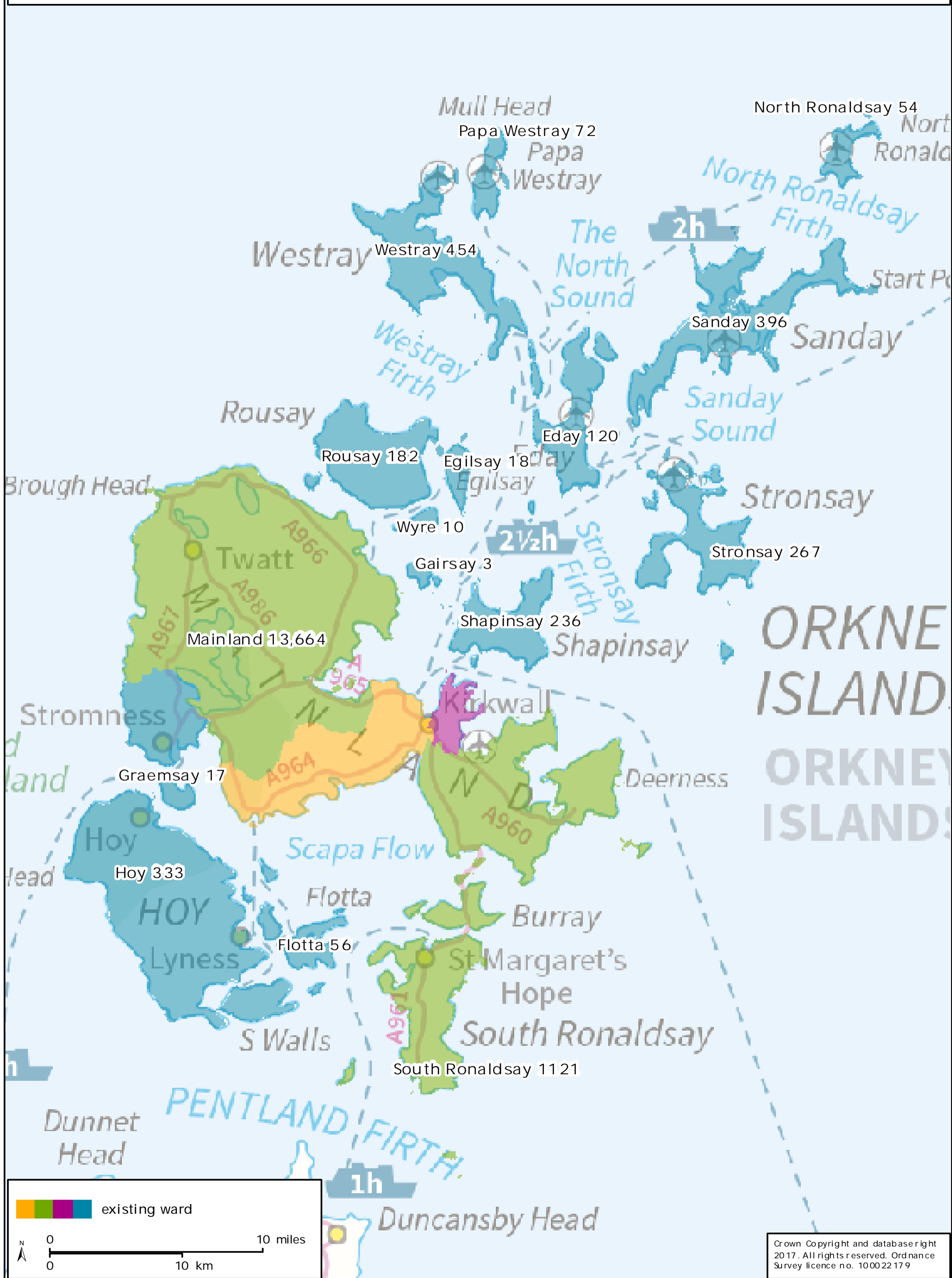
Na h-Eileanan an Iar					
Inhabited islands	Island electorate (March 2017)	Ward number and name	Councillors	Total ward electorate	% ward electorate living on island
Barra	913	1 Barraigh, Bhatarsaigh, Eirisgeigh agus Uibhist a Deas	4	2,483	36.77
Berneray	133	1 Barraigh, Bhatarsaigh, Eirisgeigh agus Uibhist a Deas	4	2,483	5.36
Eriskay	121	1 Barraigh, Bhatarsaigh, Eirisgeigh agus Uibhist a Deas	4	2,483	4.87
South Uist	1387	1 Barraigh, Bhatarsaigh, Eirisgeigh agus Uibhist a Deas	4	2,483	55.86
Vatersay	62	1 Barraigh, Bhatarsaigh, Eirisgeigh agus Uibhist a Deas	4	2,483	2.5
Baleshare	49	2 Beinn na Foghla agus Uibhist a Tuath	3	2,304	2.13
Benbecula	958	2 Beinn na Foghla agus Uibhist a Tuath	3	2,304	41.58
Grimsay	165	2 Beinn na Foghla agus Uibhist a Tuath	3	2,304	7.16
North Uist	999	2 Beinn na Foghla agus Uibhist a Tuath	3	2,304	43.36
Harris	1249	3 Na Hearadh agus Ceann a Deas nan Loch	3	1,842	67.81
Scalpay	249	3 Na Hearadh agus Ceann a Deas nan Loch	3	1,842	13.52
Bernerera	154	4 Sgir'Uige agus Ceann a Tuath nan Loch	3	2,403	6.41
Lewis	15,140				

- 21,579 total electorate of Na h-Eileanan an Iar.
- Na h-Eileanan an Iar council area contains 9 wards.
- Ratio of councillors to electors used during 5th Reviews 1:800.









Legend for existing ward colors: existing ward

Scale: 0 to 10 miles / 0 to 10 km

