

# Fourth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements

## North Lanarkshire Council Area





Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

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## North Lanarkshire Council Area

### Constitution of the Commission

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Deputy Chairman: Mr Brian Wilson OBE

Commissioners: Professor Hugh M Begg  
Dr A Glen  
Mr K McDonald  
Mr R Millham

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August 2006



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Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

Mr Tom McCabe MSP  
Minister for Finance and Public Service Reform

We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland, present our proposals for future electoral arrangements for North Lanarkshire Council area resulting from our review of local government electoral arrangements as required by section 4 (1) of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004.

In accordance with the provisions of section 18(3) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, copies of our report, together with illustrative maps, are being sent to North Lanarkshire Council with a request that the report and maps are made available for public inspection at their offices. In addition copies of our report and maps in the form of PDF images on CDROM are being sent to those who received a copy of our consultation letter. Further, those who made representations during the 12-week public consultation exercise have been informed that the report has been published.

Notice is being given in newspapers circulating in the North Lanarkshire Council area that the report has been made and that interested parties may inspect the report and maps at offices designated by the Council throughout its area or by accessing these documents on our web site.



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August 2006





## Summary

- The review was called for by section 4 of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004.  
**Part 1, paragraph 1**
- The first Commencement Order, which signalled the start of the review process, was dated 20 August 2004.  
**Part 1, paragraph 5**
- Directions from the Scottish Ministers were issued to the Commission on 30 August 2004.  
**Part 1, paragraph 6**
- Our review of electoral arrangements was announced in a letter dated 6 September 2004 sent to each Chief Executive of the 32 Councils.  
**Part 1, paragraphs 10 – 16**
- The ward boundaries proposed by our review are based on topographical identifiers contained in the Ordnance Survey MasterMap large-scale digital plans.  
**Part 1, paragraphs 19 – 24**
- The July 2004 electoral register provided the base electorate for the review.  
**Part 1, paragraphs 25 – 26**
- Our first meeting with North Lanarkshire Council took place on 24 November 2004 at the Council headquarters in Motherwell.  
**Part 2, paragraphs 1 – 3**
- The concluded view of the Council following our first meeting was received by us on 17 December 2004.  
**Part 2, paragraphs 4 – 5**
- We provided the Council with our initial proposals for 20 wards in North Lanarkshire Council area on 15 March 2005 and asked that a response be made within 2 months.  
**Part 2, paragraphs 27 – 28**
- The North Lanarkshire Council response to our initial proposals was received on 13 May 2005.  
**Part 2, paragraphs 29 – 36**
- We published our provisional proposals for 20 wards electing 70 Councillors on 28 July 2005 and asked that representations be made to us by 20 October 2005.  
**Part 2, paragraphs 50 – 54**
- We received 10 representations during the statutory consultation period of 12 weeks.  
**Part 2, paragraph 55**
- Our consideration of representations.  
**Part 2, paragraphs 56 – 84**
- We recommend 10 x three member wards and 10 x four member wards for North Lanarkshire Council area thereby returning a total of 70 elected members.  
**Part 3, paragraph 1**



## Part 1 Background

### Origin of the Review

1. The Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 introduced proportional representation for local authority elections. As a consequence, we were required to review electoral arrangements for all local authorities in Scotland for the elections due to take place in May 2007. This Report presents our findings and recommendations resulting from the review of North Lanarkshire Council area called for by section 4(1) of the 2004 Act.

### The Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004

2. The 2004 Act made a number of changes to the existing legislation, the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended. These changes are set out at Appendix A. However, some of the changes have a particular impact on the review process and it is perhaps worth noting the following provisions:

- at least 2 months before taking any steps to inform other persons of our draft proposals, or any interim decision not to make proposals, we should inform the Council of our proposals (or any decision not to make proposals); and
- before informing any other person of our initial draft proposals, we should take into consideration any representation made by the Council during the period of 2 months beginning on the day on which the Council was informed of our initial draft proposal.

3. Schedule 6 to the 1973 Act, as amended, was further amended by the 2004 Act so that:

- at 1(2), the number calculated by dividing the number of local government electors in each electoral ward of a local government area by the number of councillors to be returned in that ward shall be, as nearly as may be, the same; and
- at 1(3)(b), any local ties which would be broken by the fixing of any particular boundary but if, in any case, there is a conflict between those criteria, greater weight shall be given to the latter.

4. The full text of the Schedule 6 rules as amended is set out at Appendix D.

### Commencement of the 2004 Act

5. The Minister for Finance and Public Services signed the first Commencement Order in relation to the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 on 19 August 2004. As a consequence, Sections 4(1) to (4), 5(a) to (c) and (f) (Reviews of electoral arrangements) and Section 6 (Interpretation of Part 1) of the 2004 Act came into force on 20 August 2004. The Commencement Order also stated that, in exercising the functions conferred under the provisions referred to above, Scottish Ministers and the Commission should act on the assumption that the provisions of Part 1 of the 2004 Act are in force for all purposes.

## Directions from Scottish Ministers

6. On 30 August 2004, Scottish Ministers issued Directions to us in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 18(2A) and 18(2B) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended. The Directions apply during the current review to any consultation conducted by us in accordance with Section 18(2)(a) of the 1973 Act, with the Council of any local government area affected by a review under Part II of that Act. A copy of these Directions is at Appendix B.

7. Amongst other things, the Directions required us to inform each Council, within 14 days of the date of the Directions, in writing, in a letter sent by recorded delivery addressed to the Chief Executive, of the:

- timetable we proposed for the consultation;
- timetable we proposed for the review;
- general approach we proposed to adopt in formulating proposals for ward boundaries;
- information we would like to have available to use in formulating our proposals;
- assistance which each Council would be asked to render to us in the process of review; and
- such other matters we felt appropriate.

8. On 30 August 2004, Scottish Ministers similarly issued Directions to Councils that they should cooperate with us in the conduct of our review and, in particular, that they should:

- establish and maintain an ongoing dialogue which, where appropriate, may include meetings with us;
- take all reasonable steps to ensure that any views expressed, or purporting to be expressed, by or on behalf of the Council to us are accurate;
- provide us with all such information as we may reasonably request; and
- provide us with all such information that the Council considered relevant, including any proposals or ideas a Council may have in relation to new ward boundaries, or otherwise in relation to the formulation of our proposals.

9. A copy of the Directions to Councils is set out at Appendix C.

## Announcement of our Review

10. We announced the start of our review of electoral arrangements in a letter to the Chief Executive of North Lanarkshire Council dated 6 September 2004. With regard to our initial consultation, we informed the Chief Executive that paragraph 7 (subject to paragraph 9) of the Ministerial Directions to us mentioned above stipulated that we should meet with the Council no later than 12 weeks from the date of our letter. We were required to offer each Council two dates for such a meeting and that such a meeting should take place during the Council's ordinary working hours.

11. We proposed that our meeting with North Lanarkshire Council should take place on either 28 September 2004 at 14:00 hrs or 05 October 2004 at 14:00 hrs. We asked the Council to inform us of any other dates within the 12-week period determined by the Directions which should be avoided in the event of our initial dates being unsuitable. We noted that we expected that meetings would be held at the Council's offices but offered, if necessary, to accommodate a meeting at our offices in Edinburgh.

12. With regard to the proposed meeting, we informed the Chief Executive that we would be represented by a Commissioner accompanied by a member or members of our Secretariat. We asked for facilities to be made available which would allow us to make a short presentation to provide background information and to illustrate how we proposed to undertake the review.

13. With our letter we enclosed an outline timetable (Appendix E) which set out the main stages for our review. We also set out details of the general approach which we intended to adopt in considering how revised electoral wards suitable for returning 3 or 4 elected members might be constructed within the terms of the statutory rules, whilst seeking better to reflect local perceptions of natural communities where possible and practicable to do so. We set out our proposal to use information from the July 2004 electoral register as the base electorate for our review and our intention to make available to the Council geographic information systems (GIS) data files containing counts of electors for each postcode within the Council area which would facilitate spatial analysis of these data.

14. Bearing in mind the importance we attached to perceptions of community focus and our concept of the contribution that this focus might make to the delineation of more stable boundaries in the longer term, we asked the Council to identify and map what it considered to be the boundaries between communities within its area. We made it clear that we were particularly interested in such boundaries being identified within contiguous built-up areas, such settlements, or groups of settlements, being likely to merit more than one multi-member ward. We also asked for information which would allow us to make a forecast of the electorate within the Council area at 2009, as required by the legislation.

15. We asked the Council to nominate an official as the recognised point of contact so that the close working relationship necessary to conduct a successful review could be established. We asked if the Council would confirm whether the locations used at the last review in 1996/1998 to deposit material for public consultation remained appropriate and if they would provide details of alternatives where necessary. We also asked for a list of the newspapers circulating within the Council area normally used for the publication of Statutory Notices.

16. We asked the Chief Executive if, prior to our proposed meeting, we could be informed of any particular issues that the Council might wish to discuss with us.

## General Issues

17. Three developments have made it possible for us to reconsider the process and practices of reviewing local government electoral arrangements and of accurately defining the boundaries of proposed wards. Firstly, the availability of computer-based geographic information systems (GIS) provides us with the ability to analyse a variety of localised data and then to develop and explore options for revised electoral ward geography. Secondly, the GIS technology, used in conjunction with Ordnance Survey (OS) large-scale digital data also allows for the boundaries of wards to be more precisely defined than has hitherto been possible – thus obviating the need for written boundary descriptions. Thirdly, the Representation of the People (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 provide us, for the first time, with formal access to information contained in electoral registers and,

importantly, allow us to obtain that information in an electronic format which can be managed and spatially examined by means of our GIS facilities.

18. Use of the GIS technology, large-scale digital mapping and electoral register data in examining, reviewing and defining ward boundaries is outlined below.

## Definition of Electoral Ward Boundaries

19. Defining ward boundaries can raise particular difficulties in areas where changes to the built geography are not reflected on available paper maps. In many parts of Scotland such changes are now occurring more rapidly than in the past, with considerable consequences for our boundary review work.

20. The introduction of OS MasterMap® large-scale digital mapping affords the opportunity for the first time for electoral ward boundaries to be defined by means of unique topographical identifiers (TOID®s) which accurately identify the position of the natural and built features depicted by the large-scale digital data. Accordingly, it is possible to identify the boundaries of electoral wards electronically by directly linking the line of any boundary to, for the most part, the OS TOID®s.

21. All Councils in Scotland now have full access to OS MasterMap®, as do all central government bodies, agencies and government-sponsored organisations with GIS facilities. Generally, all such bodies using large-scale digital mapping have a preference for boundary information to be defined against that background.

22. As a consequence:

- all of the proposed ward boundaries we recommend are directly related to digital information contained in the Topography layer of OS MasterMap®, which was supplied to us by OS in July 2004, except where circumstances demand that a line between 2 unconnected TOID®s is necessary, for example, in crossing a road or river;
- where part of a ward boundary and the boundary of the Council area are coterminous, that part of the ward boundary is the boundary of the Council area as depicted in the Administrative Boundaries theme of the Topography Layer of OS MasterMap® as supplied to us by OS in July 2004; and
- where applicable, the coastal boundary of a ward is defined by means of the low water mark springs as depicted in a large-scale digital data set (prepared on our behalf by OS from its large-scale digital information) except in areas where, historically, all or part of the Council's seaward boundary presently has a recognised off-shore definition.

23. We are aware that, at the time of this review, OS is undertaking a Positional Accuracy Improvement initiative (PAI) and that it does not expect to complete this work in Scotland until March 2006. Further, the results of the PAI will not be fully incorporated into the OS large-scale digital maps until later in that year. Even after this detailed work by OS, the position of residential property existing at the time of our review will remain within the ward as defined by our review. This provides better long-term accuracy than would be provided by written boundary descriptions.

24. Drawing these matters together, we have worked on the reasonable assumption that the boundaries of wards will be more accurately defined than has been possible at previous reviews

and that any future dispute over the line of a particular boundary will be capable of resolution by reference to deposited copies of the ward boundaries in digital form in conjunction with deposited copies of the OS MasterMap® data (Topography layer and Administrative Boundaries theme of the Topography layer and coastline data) mentioned at paragraph 22 above.

## Electorate Data used in the Review

25. As mentioned at paragraph 17 above, in preparation for this review, we investigated and tested the potential offered by GIS technology in the preparation of proposals for revised electoral arrangements. To make fullest use of GIS systems in our review activities it is necessary to have the basic numerical data, for the most part electorate information, in a format which allows them to be directly associated with digital mapping showing the underlying geography to which it relates. Ideally, our preference would have been to link addresses in the electoral register directly to the background geography by means of a geo-referenced address database. However, in the absence of a definitive national address database, and being aware of the shortcomings of available address-based GIS databases, we researched the potential for making use of postcode geography maintained by the General Register Office for Scotland (GRO(S)) as a means of identifying the number of electors on the electoral register at a level of resolution low enough for us to develop and consider proposals for the boundaries of revised electoral wards. Initial tests, involving matching the postcodes for addresses on the electoral register with the GRO(S) postcode geography files, indicated that we could successfully identify electors on the electoral register at the small-user postcode which contained their address and, as a consequence, establish accurate counts of electorate for these postcodes.

26. The availability of up-dated electoral register information on a monthly basis allowed us to associate information on the electoral register at July 2004 with the most up-to-date postcode geography available from GRO(S) (August 2004) thus minimising the potential for mismatches between the two data sets. As a consequence, at the start of our review in North Lanarkshire Council area, of the 242,379 electors on the register at July 2004, 242,330 (99.98 percent) could be identified within the postcode geography held in our GIS. The residual number of 49 electors were contained in 20 postcodes which, as far as we could ascertain, were newly allocated by the Post Office and, as such, had not yet appeared in the latest Post Office Address Files which GRO(S) uses to update and maintain its postcode geography system. We were, therefore, confident that postcoded electorate data for North Lanarkshire Council area could be used as the initial building blocks for reviewing electoral arrangements in that area.



## Part 2 The Review in North Lanarkshire Council Area

### Meeting with North Lanarkshire Council

1. Our initial meeting with North Lanarkshire Council took place on 24 November 2004 at the headquarters offices of the Council at Motherwell. We were represented at that meeting by John Marjoribanks who was accompanied by Bob Smith from our Secretariat.
2. We made a short illustrated presentation which set out the background to the review and the nature of our GIS systems, which provided us with the facility quickly and accurately to prepare proposals and examine alternatives. We demonstrated that the GIS allowed us to look closely at relevant matters such as the geography and topography, settlement patterns and communication links within Council areas. We explained that, as required by the Schedule 6 Rules, we needed information from the Council on house building, demolitions and known institutional development for the 5-year period to 2009 in order to form a view on the number of electors in the Council area at that time. We also invited Councils to provide information which would help us define areas recognised locally as communities. We set out our proposed timetable for the review, which envisaged 7 stages with completion by August 2006. A copy of the outline timetable is set out at Appendix E.
3. Following our presentation, we answered some general questions on matters relating to the review process. We also invited, and took careful note of, various views expressed in relation to the review in the Council area.

### Concluded View of the Council

4. The Ministerial Directions (Appendix B) issued on 30 August 2004 stated that each Council should, if it so desired, submit its concluded views on review matters to the Commission within one month of the date of our initial meeting. On 17 December 2004 North Lanarkshire Council provided us with a report which was to be considered by a special meeting of the Council's Policy and Resources Group, a map showing the pattern of communities throughout North Lanarkshire, and a map showing the boundaries of proposed wards recommended by the Member/Officer Working Group on Local Governance. On 21 December 2004, the Council confirmed that the recommendations of the Member/Officer Working Group with regard to the pattern of communities and proposed and new ward boundaries which were approved as the Council's concluded view.
5. The Council also provided information regarding the forecast distribution of new housing developments in the period to 2009.

### Aggregation of Existing Wards

6. As required by the amendment to legislation, our Secretariat set out for us options for creating new 3 or 4 member wards by combining existing single member wards.
7. To the North of the Council area, it was possible to contain Kilsyth and Croy within a 3-member ward. However, aggregations of existing wards within Cumbernauld presented considerable difficulties. In addition, part of the Blackwood area was associated with Mollinsburn and with part of

Moodiesburn. In the north-west, aggregating 3 wards brought together Stepps, Wester Auchinloch, Muirhead, Mount Ellen, Gartcosh and another part of Moodiesburn. That resulted in part of the last being associated with Cumbernauld in another ward.

8. In the Coatbridge and Airdrie area we saw that aggregations of existing wards blurred the interface between Coatbridge and Airdrie and divided many of the communities identified by the Council. Further, it was clear that the electorates of the newly created wards would not meet with the rules regarding parity when the forecast new housing developments provided by the Council were taken into account.

9. At the west of the Council area, south of the M8, aggregations of existing wards at Viewpark, Bellshill, and New Stevenston ignored the particularly strong defined boundaries offered by the road and rail network in these areas. To the east, aggregations of existing wards linked Chapelhall and parts of Airdrie with Holytown, Salsburgh and rural electorate adjacent to the A89 in the vicinity of Caldercruix and Plains extending to the Council's eastern boundary.

10. In the south-east of the Council area, bearing in mind the information provided for us by the Council, we noted that a ward which contained Harthill and Shotts and only part of Newmains was not acceptable in community terms. The ward geography which emerged from aggregations of existing wards was particularly unsatisfactory around Motherwell and Wishaw. Thus, for instance, one such configuration included Clydesdale, Carfin, Newarthill, Dalziel Park, Parkside, Cleland, Bellside and part of Newmains. Much of Wishaw was associated with Cleekhimin and parts of Motherwell adjacent to the western edge of the Ravenscraig development.

11. After consideration of these and all the other relevant matters, we were not persuaded that our initial proposals should be based on a configuration dictated by a simple aggregation of existing wards. We therefore decided not to continue with that approach because, if we adopted a more flexible approach:

- Cumbernauld could be contained within 3 wards rather than split among 5 wards;
- Kilsyth and Croy could be contained in a ward which did not include any part of the built-up area of Cumbernauld;
- Muirhead, Moodiesburn and Chryston could be contained in a ward separate from any part of Cumbernauld;
- the wards to the south of Coatbridge and Airdrie could be bounded by the A8 and M8;
- the settlements east of Airdrie, linked by the A89, could be contained in a single ward rather than split between 2 wards;
- the majority of rural settlements to the south-east of the Council could be contained within a single ward;
- the wards in the densely populated south and south west of the Council area could have strong, well defined boundaries;
- contiguous communities in the south and south west of the Council area, which would have been divided if existing wards were aggregated, could be retained; and

- adequate account could be taken of the information provided by the Council on forecast new housing development.

12. As a consequence of our decision, our Secretariat then prepared alternative designs for revised wards using the methodology made known to the Council and bearing in mind the information on perceived natural communities and new developments provided to us by the Council.

## Initial Proposals

13. We reviewed our Secretariat's proposals together with the details of the wards provided by the Council.

14. At Kilsyth and Croy, our Secretariat proposed a ward whose southern boundary was the Falkirk/Croy/Lenzie railway line. In Cumbernauld, 3 wards were proposed. Two of these were wholly urban, and the third associated part of the town with rural electorate to the east and south-east. To the north-west of the Council area, Stepps, Chryston, Moodiesburn, Muirhead, Mount Ellen, Gartcosh and Mollinsburn were brought together. In all of these areas we noted that the wards proposed by our Secretariat were generally aligned with the Council's proposals. Accordingly, we were content to adopt our Secretariat's proposals for these areas.

15. For the Coatbridge area, our Secretariat proposed 3 wards bounded on their south by the A8. Except for the relatively small areas at High Palacecraig and Sikeside/Cairnhill, our Secretariat's proposals matched those of the Council and, on balance, we were content that they reflected the community focus in that area.

16. Our Secretariat designed three wards to cover Airdrie, Calderbank and Chapelhall to the south and Plains, Caldercruix, Wattson, Glenmavis, Greengairs and the rural electorates to their north and north-east. A ward lying to the north of the railway line between Drumgelloch and Coatdyke brought the northern half of Airdrie together with Glenmavis, Wattson, Greengairs and the rural electorates linked by the A73, B802 and B803 roads. To the east of the town, the built-up area was combined with Plains and Caldercruix and the rural electorates served by the A89 to form a 3-member ward. The southern portion of Airdrie was linked with Calderbank and Chapelhall in a 4-member ward.

17. To the south-east of the Council area, our Secretariat proposed a ward which incorporated Harthill, Eastfield, Shotts, Calderhead, Stane, Hartwood, Allanton, Bonkle, Salsburgh and adjoining rural electorates. We noted that this encompassed all of the ward proposed by the Council save for a small area at North Auchinlea Quarry.

18. We recognised that the Council had proposed a 4\*3-member configuration of wards which incorporated all of the area covered by our Secretariat's proposals for Airdrie as well as an area including Salsburgh to the east and south-east. However, we preferred our Secretariat's proposals for Airdrie, which took the smaller settlements to its north and north-east and their adjoining rural communities located along the main roads thus bringing these rural and urban areas together. We considered also that our Secretariat's proposals for Salsburgh were more appropriate because they linked that built-up area with nearby smaller settlements and rural electorates. The alternative was to associate Salsburgh with mainly urban electorates some distance to the west with which it had no readily recognisable community ties. With all this in mind, we agreed to adopt our Secretariat's proposals for the Airdrie and Shotts/Salsburgh areas.

19. At the west of the Council area, immediately south of the A8, our Secretariat proposed 2 wards covering the Birkenshaw, Calderbraes, Viewpark, Fallside, Orbiston and Hattonrigg areas. We noted

that, in the main, these reflected the Council's proposals. Bearing in mind the strong division made necessary by the line of the A725, we found that these 2 wards were acceptable.

20. To the east, the Mossend/Thorndean area was brought together with part of the existing Mossend East and New Stevenston Ward and all of the existing Holytown Ward. We noted that these areas were served by the A775, which extended through the ward thereby providing an east/west link.

21. Moving to the south, our Secretariat proposed a ward bounded on the west and south-west by the railway line between Motherwell and Whifflet stations. The northern boundary was provided by the railway line between Holytown and Bellshill stations, the boundary of the existing Newarthill Ward and the boundary of the existing Cleland Ward, which also provided the eastern boundary. For the most part, the ward's southern boundary was provided by the western extent of the Ravenscraig site and a line north of Dalziel Park. The ward brought together all of Newarthill, Carfin, Cleekhimin, Clydesdale and part of Motherwell. Only one community, as identified by the Council, was divided by the proposed boundary, a small pocket of housing lying to the west of the A723 at Atlin Drive, Klondike Court and Berge Gardens. We noted that the ward proposed by the Council formed the core of the ward suggested by our Secretariat. We noted that the boundaries in our Secretariat's proposals were well defined and we considered that the ward geography reflected the structure of communities in this area.

22. To the immediate west, our Secretariat proposed a ward which brought together the existing Ladywell and North Motherwell wards with those parts of Forgewood Ward and Watsonville Ward lying to the west of the railway line between Whifflet, Motherwell and Hamilton stations. We noted that this was in line with the Council's proposal, except for housing in the existing Forgewood Ward in the vicinity of Parkneuk Street. We considered that the railway line and the Braidhurst Industrial Estate offered a very strongly defined boundary and concluded that our Secretariat's proposals for this area properly reflected its geography and community structure.

23. For the remainder of the Council's southern area, our Secretariat proposed 3\*4 member wards. Except for a small area at Pollock Street/Merry Street in Motherwell and a similarly small area at Overtown, the electorate in the area lying east of the railway between the stations at Motherwell and Hamilton and west of the railway between Motherwell and Carluke stations formed a single ward with strong, well defined boundaries. A second ward brought together Dalziel Park, Parkside, Cleland and Bellside with Coltness and areas of central Wishaw and included all of the Ravenscraig site. The area defined by our Secretariat divided only one of the communities identified to us by the Council. However, we considered that the boundary at Mossbank Road and Mossland Drive was well defined by open space at Mossneuk and by Coltness Road. Our Secretariat's third ward brought together Crindledyke, Newmains, Cambusnethan, Greenhead, Pather, Waterloo and the south-eastern part of urban Wishaw.

24. In comparing our Secretariat's 3-ward proposal for this area with the 4 wards proposed by the Council, we noted that all of the electorate to the east of Coltness and to the north-east of Wishaw town centre was linked via the A722, Cambusnethan Street and Kirk Road, into central Wishaw. The ward boundary continued along the B7032 to its junction with the railway at Caledonian Road thereby offering a strong, clearly defined division of the urban area. We noted also that the Coltness area is more closely and directly linked to Dalziel Park, Parkside and Bellside through Cleland and the configuration proposed by our Secretariat focussed all of these settlements towards Wishaw town centre. The ward proposed by the Council which included the Ravenscraig development, is wholly contained within the ward proposed by our Secretariat. In our view, our Secretariat's proposals offered a better focus of communities to the east and north of Wishaw town centre. We were content

that the divergences from parity displayed by our Secretariat's proposals were acceptable within the terms of the statutory rules and agreed that the proposed ward boundaries followed strong and easily identifiable features.

25. Having considered the revised ward geographies, we concluded that, subject to minor amendments, our Secretariat's proposals should be adopted as our initial proposals. In the course of our deliberations we took fully into account the Schedule 6 rules, and the requirement placed upon us that we make recommendations which, in our view, are in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

26. Following full discussion it was agreed that our initial proposals for North Lanarkshire Council area should comprise 20 electoral wards of which 10 would be 3-member wards and 10 would be 4-member wards as follows:

Ward Number a	Forecast Electorate b	Number of Elected Members c	Average Electorate per Member d	Divergence from Parity (%) e
1	9,780	3	3,260	-9
2	13,440	4	3,360	-7
3	15,285	4	3,821	6
4	11,695	3	3,898	8
5	15,075	4	3,769	5
6	14,345	4	3,586	0
7	14,550	4	3,638	1
8	11,400	3	3,800	5
9	11,085	3	3,695	3
10	11,030	3	3,677	2
11	15,150	4	3,788	5
12	11,475	3	3,825	6
13	11,825	3	3,942	9
14	10,840	3	3,613	0
15	10,095	3	3,365	-7
16	10,400	3	3,467	-4
17	13,450	4	3,363	-7
18	13,960	4	3,490	-3
19	13,640	4	3,410	-5
20	13,620	4	3,405	-5

## Informing the Council of our Initial Proposals

27. We submitted our initial proposals to North Lanarkshire Council on 15 March 2005 illustrated by maps showing the boundaries of the proposed wards. We also provided details of the forecast of electorate for each ward at 2009, a GIS file containing the boundaries of each ward and a CDROM containing maps of the proposed ward boundaries in PDF image format. (A GIS file containing the GRO(S) postcode geography showing the 2004 electorate together with the expected new build/demolition etc data and the electorate for each postcode at 2009 arising from these components of change was also available to the Council to assist with the review process.)

28. We asked the Council to provide its views on our initial proposals within two months as specified in the legislation. Contact was maintained with the Council at officer level throughout this initial consultation period.

## North Lanarkshire Council Response

29. We received North Lanarkshire Council's written response to our initial proposals on 13 May 2005.

30. The Council indicated that, in the main, it welcomed the proposals. However, it drew attention to a number of perceived difficulties:

- to the north-west of the A723, to the east of Muir Street and north-west of Milton Street had no natural affinity with Ward 17 and had strong historical and geographical links with Ward 16;
- the area west of the B799 had natural links and affinity with adjoining areas in Ward 15; and
- the area in Ward 17 to the west of the A723 was isolated from the remainder of the ward and had natural links to the residential development to the north of Quarry Street which was part of Ward 15.

31. The Council considered that Wards 15, 16 and 17, at -7%, -4% and -7% respectively, were significantly below parity but concluded that the difficulties could be addressed by including Muir Street in Ward 16.

32. The Council was concerned by the inclusion of Salsburgh in Ward 12 because it had strong historical and community links with the group of settlements collectively known as the 'Airdrie Villages'. From local government reorganisation in 1974 it had been part of Monklands District and its links were almost exclusively east/west. Salsburgh would lose its identity by being swamped by the much larger southern conurbations.

33. Restoring Salsburgh's northern and western linkages would require a reconsideration of the initial proposals for Airdrie. The following observations were offered:

- Longriggend was in Ward 8 together with Caldercruix and Plains although its natural links were with Greengairs;
- within Airdrie the areas of Mull and Iona should be included with the adjoining areas of Islay and Petersburn, thereby reflecting the road pattern in the area;
- the inclusion of Palacecraigs with Calderbank in Ward 11 was welcomed but the boundary of that ward should remain that of Sikeside and St Stephen's schools;
- there was a need to enclose all of the former Boots site within one ward because the whole of the site will be the subject of a comprehensive, integrated development.

34. To address the above concerns with Airdrie and Salsburgh, the Council proposed a configuration of 4\*3 member wards.

35. The Commission's proposals for Ward 18 involved artificially linking separate and dissimilar areas. It was important that the village of Overtown and areas to the south should retain links with Wishaw town centre as well as with the predominantly rural areas to the north. Conversely, areas from Netherton north and westwards looked towards Motherwell and its town centre. It would be unreasonable to expect elected members to represent such disparate and often competing interests.

36. Newmains, Bellside and Cleland were linked by the A73 and there was an affinity between these settlements.

## Consideration of the Council Response to the Initial Proposals

37. In considering the Council's response to our initial proposals we found it necessary to undertake a comprehensive review of the Council area because of the potential knock-on effects which any single amendment might involve.

38. In reviewing Ward 17, we noted that the Council's proposed revision would remove a substantial number of electors and would have reduced the level of representation for that area from 4 to 3 members which could only be achieved by making consequential changes to other surrounding wards.

39. In the area of Ward 17 identified by the Council east of Muir Street and north-west of Milton Street, we had proposed a strong, well-defined boundary which extended along the railway line between Motherwell and Whifflet stations and we noted that the area immediately to the west of the railway line comprised workshops and an industrial estate. All of the properties lying to the east of the railway line were contiguous with one another and not separated by open space or any man-made barrier. Further, we observed that the boundary proposed by the Council resulted in properties in Milton Street being divided between Wards 16 and 17.

40. Save for a small portion of ground lying north of the B7029 at Hazelgrove, the area of Ward 17 identified by the Council west of the B799 and extending as far as the railway line at Millwood Junction was, in our proposals, the same as the existing New Stevenston and Carfin Ward. We noted that the boundary we proposed followed the strong and easily identifiable physical barrier of the railway lines between Holytown and Bellshill stations and between Motherwell and Whifflet stations. We also noted that adopting the line proposed by the Council would divide electorate with existing community ties.

41. The Council had also highlighted a small group of residential properties at the edge of Ward 17 bounded to the east by the A723 embankment and to the west and north-west by open ground. We noted that the properties at Berge Gardens, Atlin Drive and Klondike Court had direct access via Loanhead Drive to the A723 and the body of Ward 17; and we noted also that the Council had indicated that the A723 would be widened to facilitate the Ravenscraig development.

42. Bearing in mind the above, we observed that Ward 17 brought together communities identified to us by the Council. Apart from the area of ground at Hazelgrove and the small number of properties in the vicinity of Berge Gardens, our proposals did not divide any communities. The ward boundaries followed strongly defined features, and many were the same as existing ward boundaries. There were good transport links across and within the ward. Overall, the arguments presented by the Council did not persuade us that our initial proposals for Ward 17 should be amended. We further noted that adopting the revisions proposed by the Council would require substantial changes throughout Wards 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 which we found could not be justified by the evidence before us.

43. We noted that the Council proposed that Salsburgh should be placed with the other 'Airdrie Villages' and part of Airdrie. In reviewing our design for Ward 12 we observed that Shotts was undoubtedly the largest of the settlements within that area and that others had electorates broadly comparable with that of Salsburgh. Although the name of the existing ward was 'Salsburgh', we noted that the majority of electors were resident within Airdrie and in a small area at the southern extent of Chapelhall.

44. We recalled that in developing our proposals for the small/medium sized towns and largely rural area to the north and north-east of Airdrie we had examined the possibility of creating a ward which contained no urban electorate from within Airdrie. However, we had concluded that there was insufficient electorate in the immediately accessible rural areas to achieve this. Looking to the south of Plains and Caldercruix in order to gain sufficient electorate would have necessitated breaching the strong, readily recognisable barrier of the M8 and, in our view, the north/south communications links did not provide adequate support for this step. On the other hand, to the south-east of Airdrie there was potential to create a ward which accommodated the medium-sized and smaller settlements and their associated rural electorate.

45. In considering the Council's proposals for a wider revision within Airdrie, we found that the distribution of electorate within the town and its hinterland made it difficult to achieve a satisfactory solution. The Council had raised issues with regard to a number of areas and it was clear that, in order to resolve these, it would be necessary to associate electorate outwith the built-up area of the town with the urban core. We were not convinced by the evidence presented that it was either necessary or desirable to include Salsburgh in a ward that predominantly comprised urban areas closely associated with Airdrie.

46. Using our GIS to examine the scope for alternative solutions to address the issues raised by the Council, the possibility of a 4-member ward which encompassed all of the smaller towns to the north and north-east of Airdrie was revealed. This arrangement allowed rural electorate, which looked towards the A89 and extended eastwards towards the Council boundary, to be closely associated with nearby Plains and Caldercruix, thus providing a balance of urban and rural electors. The revised structure also allowed us to continue to associate electorate north of the M8 in an area south of a line extending from the southern side of Roughrigg Reservoir via Blackhill and Papperthill Crags to the Council boundary east of Baads. The proposed reconfiguration of the area to the north, north-east and east of Airdrie allowed the remainder of the town to be contained within 2 rather than 3 wards: the first comprising the central area of the town; and the second containing Cairnhill, Craigneuk, Petersburn, Mull and Islay, Dunrobin, Moffat Mills, Gartness, Brownsburn, Calderbank and Chapelhall to the east and south.

47. Although this configuration did not include Salsburgh within the Airdrie wards, we were satisfied that it addressed adequately most of the issues raised by the Council. Few of the communities identified by the Council were divided. We also recognised that there was scope for some minor adjustments should the need for these arise from the public consultation.

48. Drawing the above together, we agreed that our initial proposals for Airdrie should be revised as outlined above and that our proposals for Ward 12 should stand.

49. In reviewing Wards 18, 19, and 20, we recognised the difficulties in this area, particularly with regard to the potential extensive redevelopment at Ravenscraig. While bearing in mind our previous views when we first examined both the Council's and our Secretariat's proposals for the Motherwell/Wishaw area, we considered and accepted an alternative which took particular account of the strong links between Newmains, Bellside and Cambusnethan and the Council's view which associated areas

at Overtown, Waterloo and Gowkthrapple with Wishaw town centre. Our proposed revision retained the link between the Ravenscraig development and Wishaw and established a connection between Ravenscraig and Motherwell rather than placing all of the site in a ward which focussed entirely on Wishaw, as the Council had proposed.

## Provisional Proposals

50. Our provisional proposals for revised electoral arrangements in North Lanarkshire Council area made provision for a Council of 70 elected members in 10 wards each returning 3 members and 10 wards each returning 4 members as follows:

Ward		Forecast Electorate	Number of Elected Members	Average Electorate per Member	Divergence from Parity(%)
Number a	Name b				
1	Kilsyth	9,780	3	3,260	-9
2	Cumbernauld North	13,440	4	3,360	-7
3	Cumbernauld South West	15,285	4	3,821	6
4	Cumbernauld South East	11,695	3	3,898	8
5	Strathkelvin	15,070	4	3,768	5
6	Coatbridge North and Glenboig	14,345	4	3,586	0
7	Airdrie North, Plains and Caldercruix	14,540	4	3,635	1
8	Airdrie Central	11,355	3	3,785	5
9	Coatbridge West and Bargeddie	11,085	3	3,695	3
10	Coatbridge South	11,030	3	3,677	2
11	Airdrie East, Calderbank and Chapelhall	15,115	4	3,779	5
12	Shotts, Harthill and Salsburgh	11,475	3	3,825	6
13	Tannochside and Viewpark	11,825	3	3,942	9
14	Bellshill	10,840	3	3,613	0
15	Mossend and Holytown	10,095	3	3,365	-7
16	Motherwell North West	10,400	3	3,467	-4
17	Motherwell North	13,455	4	3,364	-7
18	Motherwell South, Ravenscraig and Wishaw West	14,040	4	3,510	-3
19	Wishaw North, Newmains and Cleland	13,655	4	3,414	-5
20	Wishaw South, Overtown and Waterloo	13,615	4	3,404	-6

51. We published our provisional proposals for revised electoral arrangements in North Lanarkshire Council area on 28 July 2005. These differed from our initial proposals in that they reflected the revision of the boundaries in the areas of Airdrie, Motherwell and Wishaw. In addition the proposals contained minor changes necessary to fix the proposed boundaries to the OS MasterMap® TOID®s (see Part 1 paragraphs 19-24).

52. A statutory notice, detailing where our provisional proposals had been deposited for public consultation and setting out the arrangements we had made for receiving representations, was published in the Airdrie and Coatbridge Advertiser, the Bellshill Speaker, the Cumbernauld News, the Hamilton Advertiser, the Kirkintilloch Herald, the Motherwell Times, the West Lothian Courier and the Wishaw Press. Copies of the documents and maps deposited for public consultation were also placed on our web site. A short news release was issued on 27 July 2005. The Council was also provided with copies of the documentation and maps on CDROM, which it was free to distribute on a wider basis. Further, we provided the Council with GIS files containing the proposed ward boundary details.

53. All MPs and MSPs with a constituency interest were provided with copies of our provisional proposals on CDROM as were the headquarters organisations of the political parties represented at the Scottish Parliament. We also informed the Scottish Parliament Information Centre, Community Councils, Electoral Registration Officers and the Electoral Commission of our provisional proposals.

54. We asked that representations should be made to us within the 12-week period ending on 20 October 2005. We informed all concerned that representations could be made by writing to our Secretary at 3 Drumsheugh Gardens Edinburgh, EH3 7QJ, by email at [north.lanarkshire@lgbc-scotland.gov.uk](mailto:north.lanarkshire@lgbc-scotland.gov.uk), by fax at 0131 538 7511, or by using the representations pro forma accessible on our web site at [www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk). Those making representations were asked to provide their full postal address including postcode.

## Representations

55. Ten representations were received during the statutory public consultation. The main points raised by the parties are summarised below:

### Council

**North Lanarkshire Council** advocated 18\*3-member wards and 4\*4-member wards in line with its initial response.

In Ward 7 the Commission had failed to reflect the significance of the A73 as a natural boundary in the northern part of Airdrie. Rochsoles and Thrashbush were split from the adjoining built-up area and artificially linked with areas to the east. Greengairs and Longriggend should not be linked with communities in the A89 corridor. They linked with the A73 corridor and, through the same, into the town of Airdrie.

The proposed northern boundary of Ward 8 was entirely artificial and separated part of the built-up area from the remainder of the town. In addition to some smaller scale developments, planning applications had been submitted for two very significant sites, and the additions concomitant on these had not been included in the estimate of the electorate.

The proposals for Ward 11 failed to recognise the east-west linkages in this area. Shotts linked naturally with the areas to the south and west, principally Wishaw. Salsburgh had no links with Wishaw but had both traditional and transport links with the remainder of the former Monklands District. The south-eastern boundary of the ward was entirely inappropriate. The boundary in this area should be redrawn to link Salsburgh with the communities in the west, particularly the Chapelhall area.

A full review should be undertaken with the purpose of reaching an accurate projection of the electorate in 2009. The requirement to include Salsburgh with Airdrie should be recognised and if this was done then it would be clear that this area could not be adequately served by a configuration of wards returning only 11 members. The ward boundaries should be based on these previously submitted by the Council on the 17 December 2004.

Although the design of Ward 18 around the Ravenscraig development might well be appropriate at some time after 2009, it was not so at the present because of the timescale for the new development. Linking Craigneuk and part of the central area of Wishaw within a ward that included facilities and areas which were traditionally viewed as part of Motherwell was entirely inappropriate. Motherwell and Wishaw were large and distinct settlements with identities which are clearly recognised by their residents.

In Ward 19 there was no justification for splitting of the Coltness area from the remainder of the central area of Wishaw.

Ward 20 included communities that had a natural affinity with Motherwell but were included within a predominantly southern Wishaw ward. It was perverse to include the Wishaw Leisure Centre in a predominantly Motherwell ward. The justification for the inclusion of the Harestonehill and Bogside areas in this ward was not clear.

The Council disagreed with our forecast estimate of electorates for 2009 for two of these three wards. Ward boundaries in this area should be based on those previously submitted by the Council on 17 December 2004.

To recognise the links between the community of Salsburgh and those to the west, the northern boundary of Ward 12 should run south of Law's Castle, Roughdyke and Easter Fortissat.

Three areas had been inappropriately placed in Ward 17. One to the west of the B799 and another to the west of the A723 and north of Quarry Street did not have natural links with Ward 15 to the north. The third area - east of Muir Street and north west of Milton Street - linked with areas to the north and west and should be included in Ward 16. Excluding these areas from Ward 17 would reduce the representation to 3 members.

The Council provided a list of names for the wards in our provisional proposals.

## MPs, MSPs and Councillors

**Rt Hon Dr John Reid MP** stated that a major criterion laid down in our terms of reference was that community connections and interests should over-ride all other issues. However, within the proposals, the urban ward of Cairnhill had been divided into three parts, two of which had stayed in a new urban ward with the third being included in a ward comprising mainly Calderbank and Chapelhall villages, with which there were almost no community or family connections. The current position recognised the strong school, church and family links as well as the shared sense of community. This would be completely broken if the Commission's proposals went ahead.

**Councillor McKendrick** strongly objected to the proposed boundary for Ward 19 and proposed that the name for Ward 19 should be changed to Newmains.

## Community Councils

**Chryston Community Council** wrote concerning the inclusion of Mollinsburn in Ward 6. It quoted Schedule 6 Rule 1 (3) (b) regarding local ties and considered that, after its long association with the neighbouring villages along the A80, these would be broken by placing the village in Ward 6.

**Gartcosh Community Council** had serious concern that the eastern boundary (the M73) of Ward 5 would split the village and part would be included in Ward 6. It was accepted that using the M73 as a boundary was logical but a boundary deviation from the M73 had been proposed in order to include the village of Mollinsburn in one ward. A similar boundary amendment should be made to include the whole of the village of Gartcosh in Ward 5.

## Other organisations

**Newmains Action Group, Newmains Hammers Travel Group, Newmains & District Old Age Pensioners Association, Saint Brigid's Presbytery and West Crindledyke Advisory Services** objected to the proposed boundary for Ward 19 to the south of Newmains and suggested that an area should be transferred from Ward 20 to Ward 19. The ward name should be "Newmains".

## Consideration of Representations

56. We noted that the Council had provided alternative figures for 6 wards where they disagreed with our forecast electorate. We noted that in none of the 6 cases did these figures make any significant difference to electoral parity. Consequently, we agreed that there was no need for our proposals in these areas to be adjusted in the light of the Council's calculations.

57. We gave full consideration to the Council's request for a full review of the electorate forecast for its area and noted the comments which implied that the data underlying the forecasts were invalid because of changing circumstances.

58. As we are required to do by the Schedule 6 rules, at the outset of our review we had sought to establish for each local authority area a best estimate of the likely change in the number and distribution of electorate that would occur during the period 2004 – 2009. The change in the distribution of the electorate in each Council area included forecasts of local development provided by the Council. In the case of North Lanarkshire, the Council provided the information in the form of data files which were incorporated into our geographic information systems. We were bound to conclude that these data represented the Council's best estimate of development at the outset of our review. We also noted that the overall forecast of electorate for the Council area at 2009 compared favourably with the official projections of 18+ population provided by the General Register Office for Scotland.

59. There was no realistic alternative but to accept the data provided by the Council at the outset of the review as their best available estimate to be used for the life of our review. We noted in passing that at the last review of local government electoral arrangements (1996/98) the forecasts of electorate based on information provided by each Council at the outset of the review had led to a design of electoral wards that closely reflected the electorate out-turn at 2001.

60. Bearing in mind all of the above, we were not persuaded that we should revise the underlying forecasts of electorate which, as we mention above, were based on development information provided by the Council.

61. Prior to our examination of representations, site visits were arranged to ensure that the mapping available to us properly reflected the geography and topography of the areas concerned.

62. In the area of Ward 17 identified by the Council east of Muir Street and north-west of Milton Street, we re-examined the boundary we proposed and agreed that it was clearly defined by strong physical barriers comprising railways lines, roads and industrial units. We again noted that the boundary proposed by the Council clearly divided dwellings in Milton Street between 2 wards and we were not persuaded by the evidence offered to us that there was a clear link between electorate in the area concerned and the areas to the north and west.

63. With regard to the area of Ward 17 identified by the Council west of the B799 that extends to the railway line at Millwood Junction, we confirmed that the western and northern boundaries that we proposed were clearly defined and sustainable. Further, there was a substantial area between the western extent of the housing in the vicinity of Queens Crescent, Kings Drive and the railway line, the latter being our proposed boundary. There were clear communication links between the properties in this area and the remainder of the ward which we proposed. We were not persuaded that this area would be more appropriately situated in Ward 15.

64. At Berge Gardens, Atlin Drive and Klondike Court in Ward 17, we observed that this compact residential area might almost be considered a small, stand-alone community and, whilst the A723 acted as a barrier on the east, the estate was clearly detached from housing to the west and could not be considered to be incontrovertibly linked to Ward 15.

65. We noted that no other representations concerning the 3 areas had been received from any other organisation or from any interested party. Having reassessed the position, we were not persuaded by the evidence offered to us that there were any compelling reasons which would support removing any of the areas concerned from Ward 17 and relocating them within adjoining wards. Accordingly we agreed that our proposals for Ward 17 should not be amended.

66. Although the Council had offered us no new substantive evidence, we agreed to reassess, with the help of our GIS, the contention that Salsburgh should be associated with the 'Airdrie Villages' and, in particular, with the Chapelhall area. We observed that, under the existing structure of wards, Salsburgh, together with rural electorates to its south and north, was included with parts of Airdrie and 2 small separate areas at the southern extent of Chapelhall. The Council's proposals required that the settlement be subsumed into a ward containing Chapelhall, Calderbank and Cairnhill, but there was no evidence that the majority of the areas had strong existing ties with Salsburgh.

67. Overall, we concluded that the east-west linkages were not as strong as the Council suggested and that there was no compelling evidence of any close links between Salsburgh and Chapelhall and the other communities within the ward as proposed by the Council. Chapelhall and Salsburgh were distinct community council areas, the latter being essentially rural in nature and extending south to the outskirts of Shotts. We noted that no other organisation had made representations opposing our proposals for Salsburgh. Further, no residents of Salsburgh or any individual within the area concerned had raised an issue in relation to our proposals. In these circumstances we were not persuaded that our provisional proposals with regard to Salsburgh should be amended.

68. When we considered the Council's concerns and criticisms with the wards we proposed for Airdrie and the area to its north and north-east, we were content that Ward 8, covering the centre of Airdrie,

was well defined and that, save for a very small area at Coatdyke and an area at Wheatholm Park, the resulting boundary with Ward 7 and other adjoining wards did not divide any of the communities identified to us by the Council at the outset of the review. We could not accept that Rochsoles and Thrashbush were artificially linked with communities to the east, observing in passing that the Council's proposals linked the centre of Airdrie, Thrashbush and Drumgelloch with communities to the north-east including Greengairs and Longriggend.

69. In examining the Council's contention that Ward 7 inappropriately linked the communities of Greengairs and Longriggend with the communities along the A89 corridor, we confirmed that it was necessary to associate Airdrie with smaller communities and rural electorate to the north and north-east. In our proposals all of these areas were contained within a single ward, thus consolidating the electorates which had immediate and obvious connections. In considering the Council's alternatives, we noted that the boundary to the south of Caldercruix and to the north of the A89 served to isolate electors from the smaller settlements rather than recognise the community focus provided by Caldercruix and Plains. We were in no doubt that the boundary we proposed between Ward 7 and Ward 12 was preferable. We also noted that Longriggend was under 2 miles by road from Caldercruix and that this route provided a useful communication link between the smaller rural communities at the eastern extent of Ward 7.

70. In relation to Ward 8, we reviewed the data on developments expected to be completed by 2009 which had been provided by the Council at the outset of the review and were content that the information was included appropriately in the forecast of electorate at 2009. We were agreed that we should not now consider new planning applications which, by their speculative nature, might or might not be realised. Our decision was entirely consistent with our policy applied across Scotland and the legislative requirement to the projected position 5 years ahead.

71. We noted in passing that no organisations or electors resident in Wards 7, 8 or 12 had made representation opposing our provisional proposals for these areas.

72. We considered the representation objecting to the division of the Cairnhill area in Airdrie. With regard the view expressed that community connections and interests should override all other issues, we noted that Scottish Ministers had stated that we were obliged to work within the terms of the statutory rules and must consider these criteria only, namely: parity (except where special geographical considerations apply); any local ties that would be broken; and the desirability of fixing easily identifiable boundaries.

73. Retaining all of Cairnhill in Ward 8 resulted in a significant divergence from parity which was unacceptable within the terms of the statutory rules. Similarly, rebalancing the number of elected members in Wards 8 and 11 had a significant adverse effect on parity in the latter ward. We concluded that, in order to accommodate Cairnhill in one ward, a substantial reworking of ward boundaries across a wider area would be required to rebalance electorates appropriately. There was no evidence of any support for this course of action.

74. We observed that a part of Cairnhill which was associated with Calderbank and Chapelhall in our proposals was currently contained within a single-member ward which included Calderbank. Alternative proposals for this area submitted by the Council also associated a part of Cairnhill with Calderbank and Chapelhall. However, no community group, other organisation or elector from Cairnhill, Calderbank or Chapelhall had objected to the ward we proposed.

75. Bringing the above together, after considering the representations with regard to the Airdrie area and Salsburgh, we were not persuaded by the evidence offered to amend our proposals in relation to Wards 7, 8, 11 and 12.

76. We re-examined the southern Motherwell/Wishaw area where the Council wished to replace our proposals for 3\*4-member wards with 4\*3-member wards. With regard to the Ravenscraig area, we were content that we had properly employed the new-build data provided by the Council at the outset of the review. Notwithstanding the possibility that the development of Ravenscraig might be somewhat slower than initially expected, we were correct to proceed with our review on the basis of the best estimate of development provided by the Council at the outset of the review. Further, if the forecast fell short of what was initially expected, the impact on electoral parity in a 4-member ward would be less than that in a ward returning 3 members.

77. With regard to the proposed Ward 18 we agreed that it was generally accepted that the former Ravenscraig steel works was closely linked to Motherwell. However, bearing in mind the newly adjusted road network, the new developments would undoubtedly look towards both Motherwell and Wishaw. Although bearing in mind that the Council's proposals brought together Coltness, central Wishaw, Craigneuk and Ravenscraig within one ward, we found no substantive evidence to support the Council's objection to the linking of parts of Motherwell and Wishaw in Ward 18.

78. We considered the Council's objection to the area around the Wishaw Leisure Centre being in Ward 18 and agreed without difficulty that it should be transferred to Ward 20.

79. We examined the Council's view that our proposed Ward 19 produced an unwarranted split of Wishaw with no justification for splitting Coltness from the central area. However, we found that Wishaw had to be divided in order to comply with the statutory requirements, and we were content that the boundary of Ward 19, to the south of Coltness, was acceptable in terms of its position and strength of definition. On the other hand, whilst the Council's configuration of wards in this area had a clear and well-defined northern boundary, there was no evidence of a clear community of association between Dalziel Park, Parkside, Cleland and Bellside with the area to the south, most particularly around Cambusnethan. There were distinct transport links between the northern communities and Coltness that extended south into central Wishaw and that area provided a focus for all of these communities.

80. We looked at Ward 20 in the light of the Council's concern that the position of its western boundary on the B754 meant that areas which had an affinity with Motherwell were in a predominantly southern Wishaw ward. We confirmed that the southern section of our proposed Ward 18/Ward 20 boundary, was delineated by a line from the railway at Shieldmuir Junction southward across open ground to an established footpath between two distinct areas of housing which continued generally southwards to open ground then to a point on the Council boundary west of Lower Carbarns. In determining that boundary we had established that it could be readily identified by ground features. We established that all of the properties immediately to the west of the boundary within Ward 18 had postal addresses within Motherwell, and that all of those lying immediately to the east of the boundary within Ward 20 had postal addresses within Wishaw. On the other hand, the boundary proposed by the Council divided the built up area at Netherton where a substantial number of addresses lying to the west of the boundary had postal addresses within Wishaw. Drawing these matters together, we were content that the boundary we had established was appropriate.

81. The Council had queried the inclusion of the Harestonehill and Bogside areas in Ward 20 and others had requested that an area to the south of Newmains should be transferred from Ward 20 to Ward 19. We accepted that these proposals would bring the Ward 19/20 boundary into line with the Newmains Community Council boundary and noted that the change involved the transfer of only a small number of electors.

82. Reconsidering the configuration of wards we proposed for the Motherwell/Wishaw area we noted that, save for the area to the south of Newmains referred to above, no organisations, local

community groups, other interested parties or electors had opposed our proposals. Bearing that in mind, and lacking any substantive new evidence submitted to us by the Council, we were not persuaded to amend our proposals substantially in this area. However, we agreed to adopt the amendment which incorporated Harestonehill and Bogside in Ward 19.

83. We noted the representation concerning the village of Mollinsburn in relation to Ward 5 and noted that our proposals already placed Mollinsburn in that ward. We agreed to make a minor amendment to the proposed boundary between Wards 2 and 5 to the north of Mollinsburn which aligned the boundary with that of the Community Council.

84. We considered the representation concerning the eastern boundary of Ward 5 and observed that it placed part of Gartcosh in Ward 6. Few electors were involved in the area and, accordingly, we agreed to amend our proposals to meet the concerns expressed.

## Part 3 Final Recommendation

1. Having conducted the fourth statutory review of electoral arrangements for North Lanarkshire Council area in accordance with the procedures described in Parts 1 and 2 above, we recommend that future electoral arrangements for the said Council area should provide for a Council of 70 elected members in 10 wards each returning 3 members and in 10 wards each returning 4 members as follows:

Ward		Forecast Electorate	Number of Elected Members	Average Electorate per Member	Divergence from Parity(%)
Number a	Name b				
1	Kilsyth	9,780	3	3,260	-9
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3	Cumbernauld South	15,285	4	3,821	6
4	Abronhill, Kildrum and the Village	11,695	3	3,898	8
5	Strathkelvin	15,090	4	3,773	5
6	Coatbridge North and Glenboig	14,325	4	3,581	-1
7	Airdrie North	14,540	4	3,635	1
8	Airdrie Central	11,355	3	3,785	5
9	Coatbridge West	11,085	3	3,695	3
10	Coatbridge South	11,030	3	3,677	2
11	Airdrie South	15,115	4	3,779	5
12	Fortissat	11,475	3	3,825	6
13	Thorniewood	11,825	3	3,942	9
14	Bellshill	10,840	3	3,613	0
15	Mossend and Holytown	10,095	3	3,365	-7
16	Motherwell West	10,400	3	3,467	-4
17	Motherwell North	13,455	4	3,364	-7
18	Motherwell South East and Ravenscraig	13,435	4	3,359	-7
19	Murdostoun	13,735	4	3,434	-5
20	Wishaw	14,140	4	3,535	-2

2. The boundaries of the proposed electoral wards are described in the form of digital data as set out at Part 1 paragraph 22 of our report. These data files, which have been securely stored on magnetic media at the date of publication of our report, comprise GIS files in shapefile format containing the features copied from the OS MasterMap<sup>®</sup>, large-scale digital data as supplied to us at July 2004. A full copy of the OS MasterMap<sup>®</sup>, Topography Layer and the North Lanarkshire Council area boundary depicted in the Administrative Boundaries theme has similarly been secured on magnetic media. These secured data files ensure that the proposed ward boundary polyline shapefiles data can be verified against the July 2004 version of the large-scale base mapping from which the proposed ward boundaries are derived.

3. A statutory notice, detailing where our report has been deposited for inspection was published in the Airdrie and Coatbridge Advertiser, the Bellshill Speaker, the Cumbernauld News, the Hamilton

Advertiser, the Kirkintilloch Herald, the Motherwell Times, the West Lothian Courier and the Wishaw Press. A news release announcing the publication of our report was also issued.

4. Maps at the print size and scale set out below have also been deposited for public inspection at the locations set out in the statutory notice:

- North Lanarkshire Council area                      A0            scale 1:40,000
- North Lanarkshire Council area (north)            A0            scale 1:25,000
- North Lanarkshire Council area (south)            A0            scale 1:25,000

5. Our report and the maps detailing the recommended ward boundaries, together with individual maps of each of the recommended wards, are available on our web site at [www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk) and can be viewed or downloaded free of charge within the constraints imposed by Crown copyright.

## Appendices

- Appendix A Extract from Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004
- Appendix B Direction Under Section 18(2A) of The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973
- Appendix C Direction Under Section 18(2A) of The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973
- Appendix D Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended  
Schedule 6 – Rules to be observed in considering electoral arrangements
- Appendix E Review Timetable
- Appendix F Illustrative Maps

## Appendix A

### Extract from Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004

#### 4 Reviews of electoral arrangements

- (1) As soon as practicable after the commencement of this section the Boundary Commission shall-
  - (a) review the electoral arrangements for all local government areas for the purpose of considering future electoral arrangements for those areas, and
  - (b) formulate proposals for those arrangements.
- (2) Part II of the 1973 Act applies to a review under subsection (1) as it applies to a review under section 16 of that Act except that section 17 of that Act has effect as if it required-
  - (a) the Boundary Commission to submit a report on any review before such date as the Scottish Ministers may direct, and
  - (b) the Scottish Ministers to make an order under section 17 giving effect to the proposals of the Commission under subsection (1) (whether as submitted to them or with modifications).
- (3) The Boundary Commission shall, when complying with section 18(2)(aa) of the 1973 Act on a review under subsection (1), also inform the council of the reasons for any differences between-
  - (a) their draft proposals, and
  - (b) the draft proposals which would have been made had they been formulated on the basis that each electoral ward of a local government area is to consist of a combination of existing electoral wards (the rules set out in Schedule 6 to that Act having been disregarded in so far as those rules conflicted with that basis).
- (4) The Boundary Commission shall disregard subsection (3) when formulating proposals for future electoral arrangements under subsection (1).
- (5) The 1973 Act is amended as follows-
  - (a) in section 16(2) (duty of Boundary Commission to carry out periodic reviews of electoral arrangements), for “Schedule 5 to this Act” substitute “section 4(1) of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (asp 9)”,
  - (b) in section 18 (procedure for reviews)-
    - (i) in subsection (2), after paragraph (a) insert-

- “(aa) at least two months before taking any steps under paragraph (b) below to inform other persons of any draft proposals or any interim decision not to make proposals, inform the council of any local government area affected by the review of those proposals or that decision;
- (ab) before taking any such steps, take into consideration any representation made to them by such a council during the period of two months beginning on the day on which the council is informed under paragraph (aa);”,
- (ii) after subsection (2) insert-
  - “(2A) The Scottish Ministers may give directions to-
    - (a) the Boundary Commission,
    - (b) the council of any local government area affected by a review, in relation to consultation under subsection (2)(a) above.
  - (2B) Such directions may be given generally or in relation to particular reviews or particular aspects of reviews.”,
- (c) section 20 is repealed,
- (d) in subsection (1) (interpretation) of section 28, in the definition of “electoral arrangements”, after “councillors”, where second occurring, insert “, the number of councillors for each electoral ward”,
- (e) in subsection (2) (review of electoral arrangements to be carried out in compliance with certain enactments) of that section-
  - (i) after “Act”, where first occurring, insert “or section 4(1) of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (asp 9)”, and
  - (ii) for “section 5 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994” substitute “section 1 of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (asp 9)”,
- (f) Schedule 5 is repealed,
- (g) in sub-paragraph (2) of paragraph 1 of Schedule 6, for the words from “of”, where fourth occurring, to the end of that sub-paragraph substitute “calculated by dividing the number of local government electors in each electoral ward of that local government area by the number of councillors to be returned in that ward shall be, as nearly as may be, the same.”, and
- (h) at the end of sub-paragraph (3) of that paragraph insert-
 

“but if, in any case, there is a conflict between those criteria, greater weight shall be given to the latter.”

## Appendix B

### **DIRECTION UNDER SECTION 18(2A) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1973**

1. The Scottish Ministers, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 18(2A) and (2B) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (“the Act”), and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, hereby give the following directions to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland (“the Commission”).
2. These directions apply in relation to any consultation carried out by the Commission, in accordance with section 18(2)(a) of the Act, with the council of any local government area affected by a review under Part II of the Act (“the council”).
3. In carrying out any such consultation, the Commission shall comply with the requirements set out in paragraphs 4 to 12 below.

#### **Information to be provided by the Commission**

4. The Commission shall, within 14 days of the date of this Direction, inform the council in writing, by letter, by recorded delivery, addressed to the Chief Executive of that council of the following–
  - (a) the timetable proposed by the Commission for that consultation;
  - (b) the timetable proposed by the Commission for the review to be conducted by the Commission under section 4(1) of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004;
  - (c) the general approach the Commission proposes to adopt in formulating its proposals for ward boundaries;
  - (d) the information the Commission would like to have available to use in formulating those proposals;
  - (e) the assistance which that council would be asked to render to the Commission in the process of the review; and
  - (f) such other matters as the Commission considers appropriate.

#### **Process of consultation with the council**

##### **General**

5. The Commission shall take all reasonable steps to establish and maintain an ongoing dialogue with the council for the purposes of the review. That dialogue may be conducted in person, orally, in writing or otherwise.

6. In the course of the consultation, the Commission shall encourage the council-
  - (a) to establish, and communicate to the Commission, any proposals or ideas that the council may have in relation to new ward boundaries, or otherwise in relation to the formulation of the Commission's proposals; and
  - (b) to provide such factual information held by the council as the Commission or the council think relevant in relation to the formulation of the Commission's proposals.

### Meeting with the council

7. Subject to paragraph 9, the Commission shall meet with the council no later than twelve weeks after the date of the letter sent in terms of paragraph 4.
8.
  - (1) The Commission shall propose to the council 2 dates, and the times on those dates, on which that meeting might take place.
  - (2) Where the council indicates that those proposals are unsuitable then the Commission shall offer 2 further dates, and the times on these dates, on which the meeting might take place.
  - (3) All of the dates and times proposed by the Commission under this paragraph shall be within the ordinary working hours of the council.
  - (4) Nothing in this paragraph shall prevent the Commission and the council meeting at any time which is not within the ordinary working hours of the council where the Commission and the council so agree.
9. The Commission is not required to meet with the council where-
  - (a) the council indicates that it does not wish to meet the Commission; or
  - (b) the council fails to respond to any proposal made under
    - (i) paragraph 8(1), during the period of 14 calendar days beginning with the day on which the council received that proposal; or
    - (ii) paragraph 8(2), during the period of 7 calendar days beginning with the day on which the council received that proposal.

### Formal written views of the council

10.
  - (1) The Commission shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that they have received the concluded view of the council in writing on the matters raised in the consultation by no later than-
    - (a) the end of the period of four weeks beginning with the date of any meeting held in accordance with paragraph 7; or

- (b) in the event that, in terms of paragraph 9, no meeting took place between the Commission and the council, the end of the period of four weeks beginning with -
  - (i) the date on which the council indicated that it did not wish to meet the Commission; or
  - (ii) the date on which the period referred to in paragraph 9(b)(i), or if applicable, 9(b)(ii) ends,whichever may apply.

- (2) Where the Commission have not received the concluded view referred to in sub-paragraph (1), within the timescale provided for in that sub-paragraph, the Commission may disregard any conflict in the views that have been expressed by, or purportedly by, the council where, in the opinion of the Commission, those views conflict.

11. Where the Commission is of the opinion that it has not received the concluded view of the council it shall notify the council of that fact no fewer than 7 calendar days before the end of the consultation.

12. For the purposes of these directions, the Commission shall assume that a view expressed as being the concluded view of the council is the concluded view of the council if that view is expressed in a letter from the Chief Executive of the council to the Commission.

Andrew P Kerr

A member of the Scottish Executive

Edinburgh  
30th August 2004

## Appendix C

### **DIRECTION UNDER SECTION 18(2A) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1973**

1. The Scottish Ministers, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 18(2A) and (2B) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (“the Act”), and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, hereby give the following directions.
2. These directions apply in relation to any consultation carried out by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland (“the Commission”), in accordance with section 18(2)(a) of the Act, with the council of any local government area affected by a review under Part II of the Act (“the council”).
3. In taking part in such a consultation, the council shall comply with the requirements set out in paragraph 4 below.
4. For the purposes of enabling the Commission to exercise the functions conferred upon them by virtue of section 18(2)(a) of the Act, as read with the Scottish Ministers’ direction to the Commission dated 30<sup>th</sup> August 2004, the Council shall co-operate with the Commission and shall in particular:-
  - (a) establish and maintain an ongoing dialogue which, where appropriate, may include meeting with the Commission;
  - (b) take all reasonable steps to ensure that any views expressed, or purporting to be expressed, by it or on its behalf to the Commission are accurate;
  - (c) provide the Commission with all such information as the Commission may reasonably request; and
  - (d) provide the Commission with all such information as the Council considers relevant, including any proposals or ideas the Council may have, in relation to new ward boundaries, or otherwise in relation to the formulation of the Commission’s proposals.

Andrew P Kerr

A member of the Scottish Executive

Edinburgh  
30 August 2004

## Appendix D

### Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended Schedule 6 – Rules to be observed in considering electoral arrangements

1. (1) This schedule applies to the consideration by Scottish Ministers or the Boundary Commission of 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 calculated by dividing the number of local government electors in each electoral ward of that local government area by the number of councillors to be returned in that ward shall be, as nearly as may be, the same.
  - (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 but if, in any case, there is a conflict between those criteria, greater weight shall be given to the latter.
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.

## Appendix E

### Review Timetable

**Stage 1:** Initial consultation with Councils and the early establishment of an ongoing dialogue between the Commission and Councils for the purpose of the Review.

Councils are given full opportunity to communicate to the Commission any proposals or ideas that they may have in relation to the design of new wards. The Commission outlines the methodology underlying its intended approach to the Review.

Clarification of general review issues, both technical and administrative. Exchange of factual information between the Commission and Councils relevant to the design of proposed wards.

Discussion/exchange of information for any areas of concern.

**12 weeks**

**Stage 2:** Development of initial proposals by the Commission for each Council area with ongoing consultation between the Commission and Councils as necessary on emerging issues.

Preparation of maps, supporting documentation and GIS files of proposed ward boundaries for Councils once the Commission has completed drafting its initial ward schemes.

**10 weeks**

**Stage 3:** Initial proposals released to Councils. Two months allowed for the Council to comment on proposals, offer amendments and or alternatives. Further discussions with Council as required throughout this stage to clarify emerging issues relating to the initial proposals.

**9 weeks (2 months)**

**Stage 4:** Full consideration by the Commission of issues arising through stage 3 which might lead to revision/adjustment of initial proposals. Further liaison with Councils taken forward on a needs basis

**8 weeks**

**Stage 5:** Publication of the Commission's provisional proposals as part of the statutory public consultation process. Analysis of representations received. Seek Council views on aspects of representations and the impact they have on the provisional proposals as required.

**12 weeks**

**Stage 6:** Full analysis of representations received by the Commission.

Commission determines where a need has arisen for local inquiries, organises and conducts inquiries and reviews its provisional recommendations in light of inquiry reports.

Publication of revised recommendations where the Commission makes significant changes to its provisional proposals.

Consider representations received within 1 month.

Move to final recommendations where possible.

**20 weeks**

**Stage 7:** Complete final recommendations for all Council areas.

Complete review process, write and submit reports.

## Appendix F

### Illustrative Maps

Ward 1 – Kilsyth

Ward 2 – Cumbernauld North

Ward 3 – Cumbernauld South

Ward 4 – Abronhill, Kildrum and the Village

Ward 5 – Strathkelvin

Ward 6 – Coatbridge North and Glenboig

Ward 7 – Airdrie North

Ward 8 – Airdrie Central

Ward 9 – Coatbridge West

Ward 10 – Coatbridge South

Ward 11 – Airdrie South

Ward 12 – Fortissat

Ward 13 – Thorniewood

Ward 14 – Bellshill

Ward 15 – Mossend and Holytown

Ward 16 – Motherwell West

Ward 17 – Motherwell North

Ward 18 – Motherwell South East and Ravenscraig

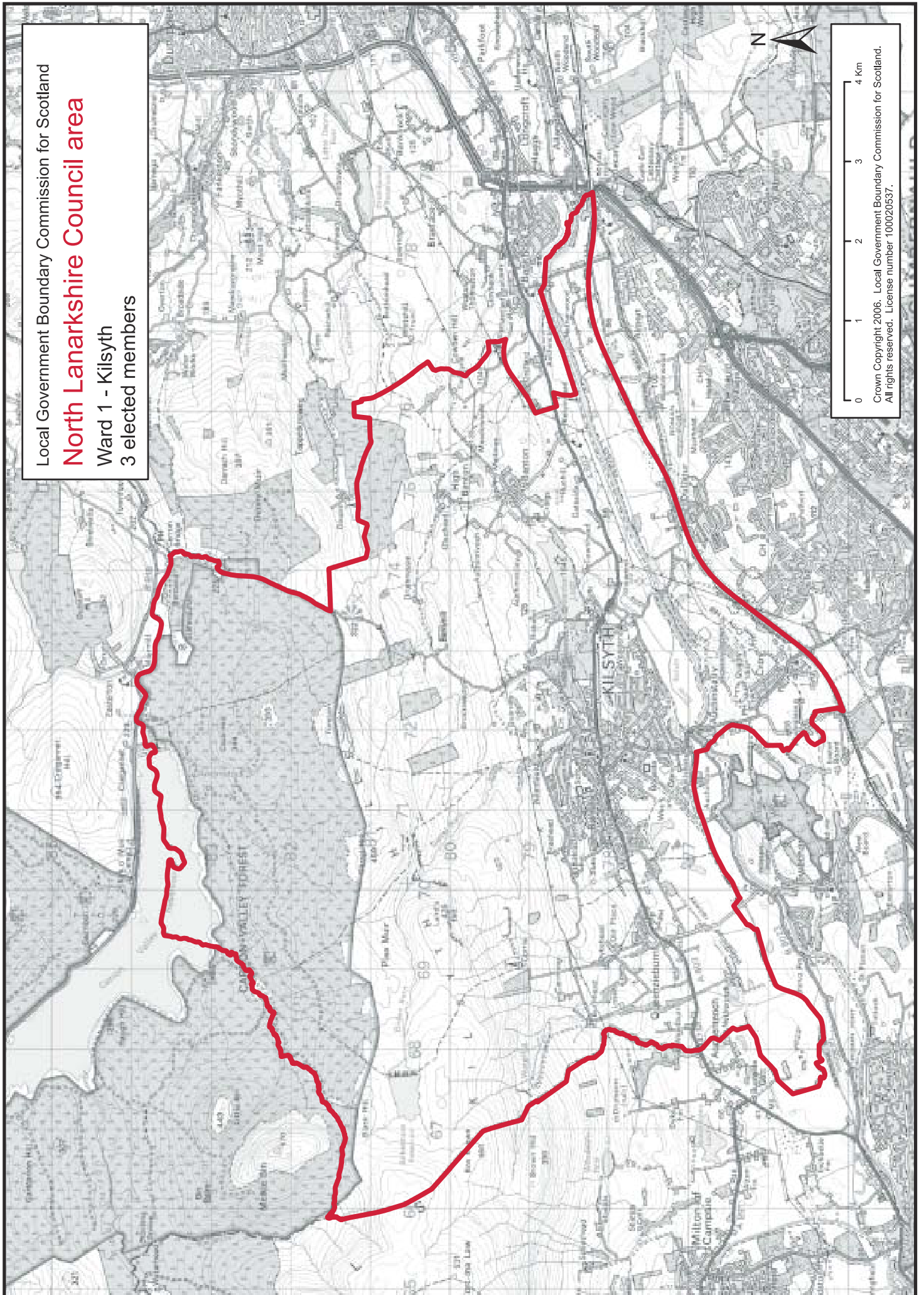
Ward 19 – Murdostoun

Ward 20 – Wishaw

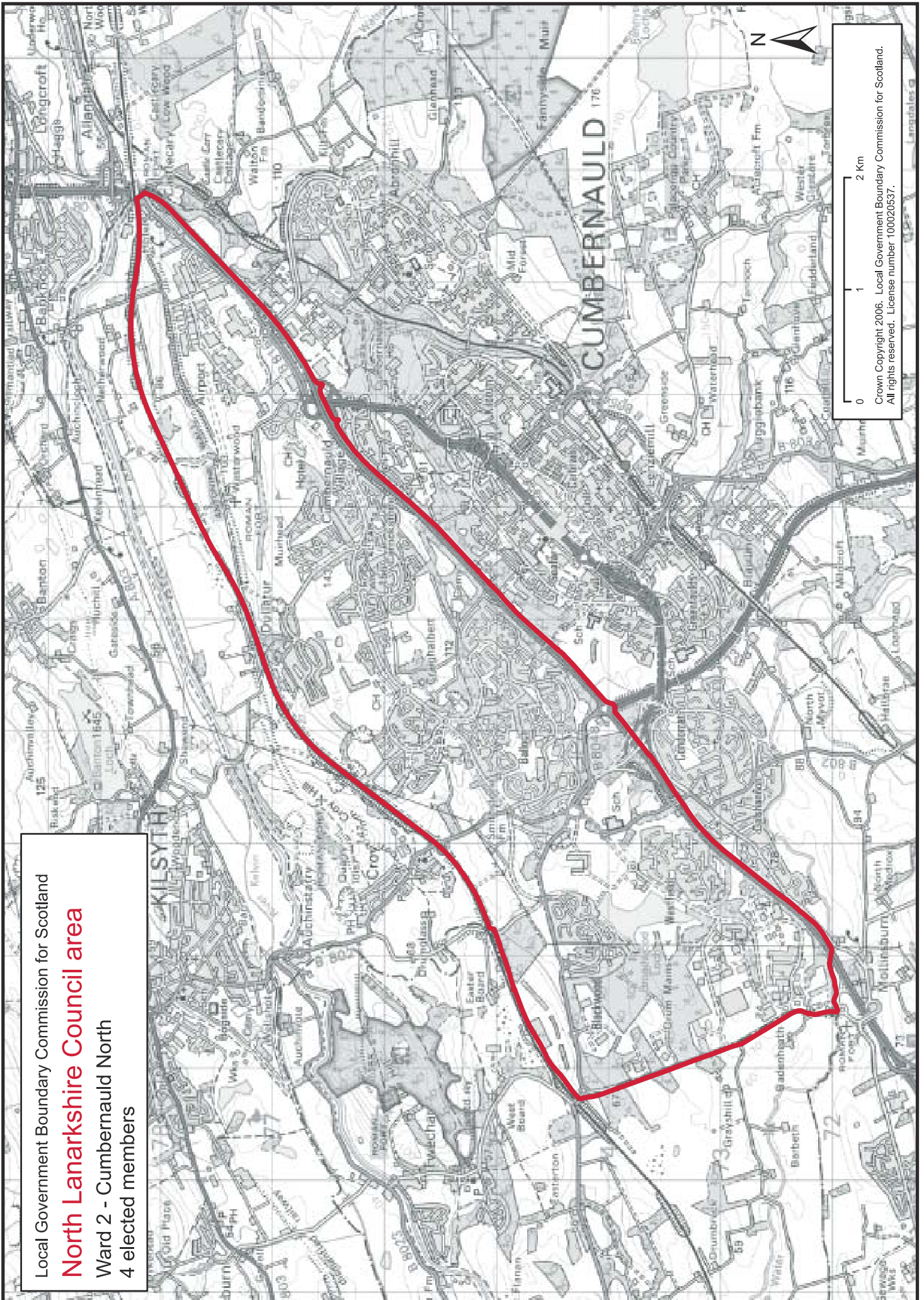
Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

# North Lanarkshire Council area

Ward 1 - Kilsyth  
3 elected members

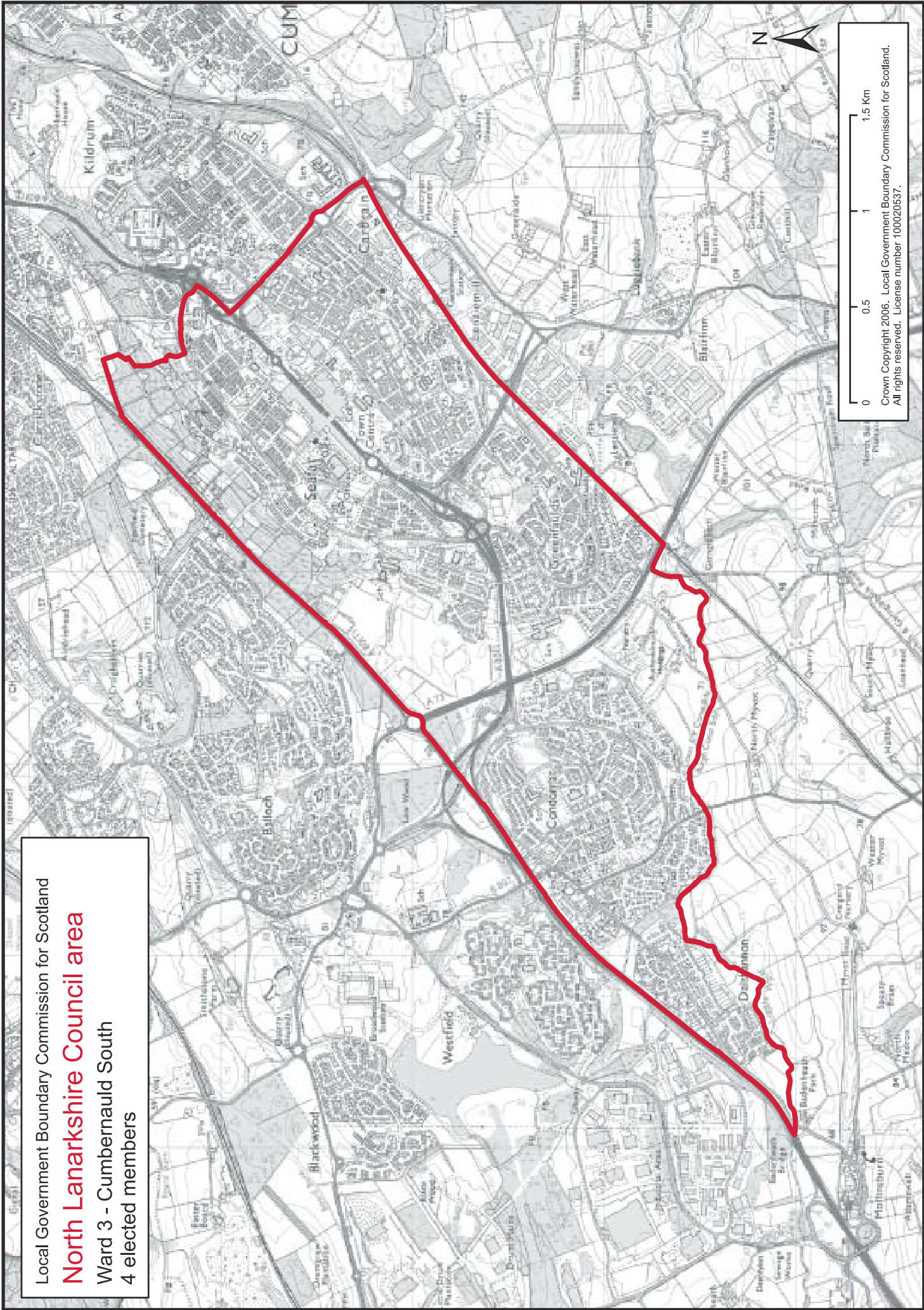


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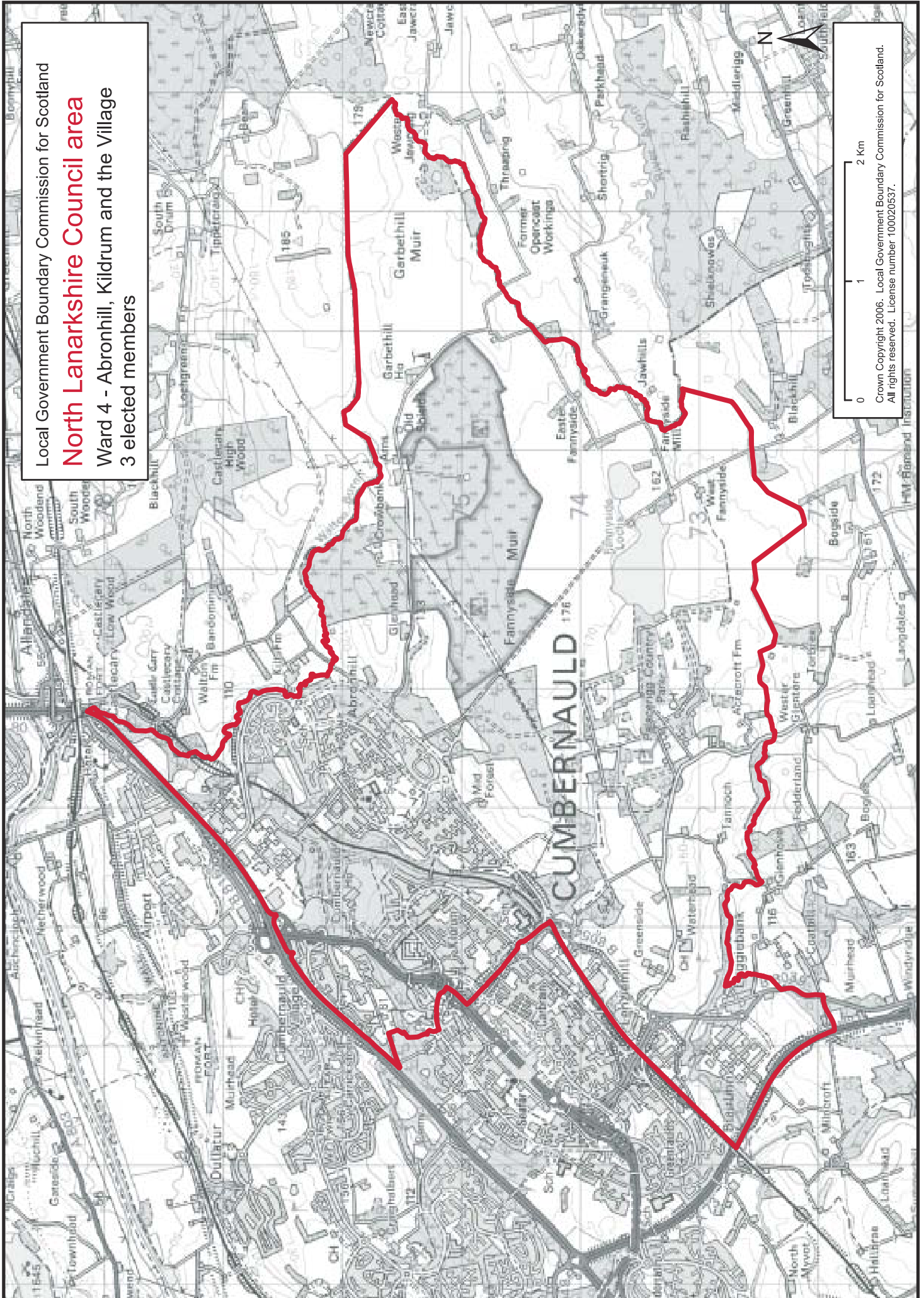


Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland  
**North Lanarkshire Council area**  
 Ward 2 - Cumbernauld North  
 4 elected members

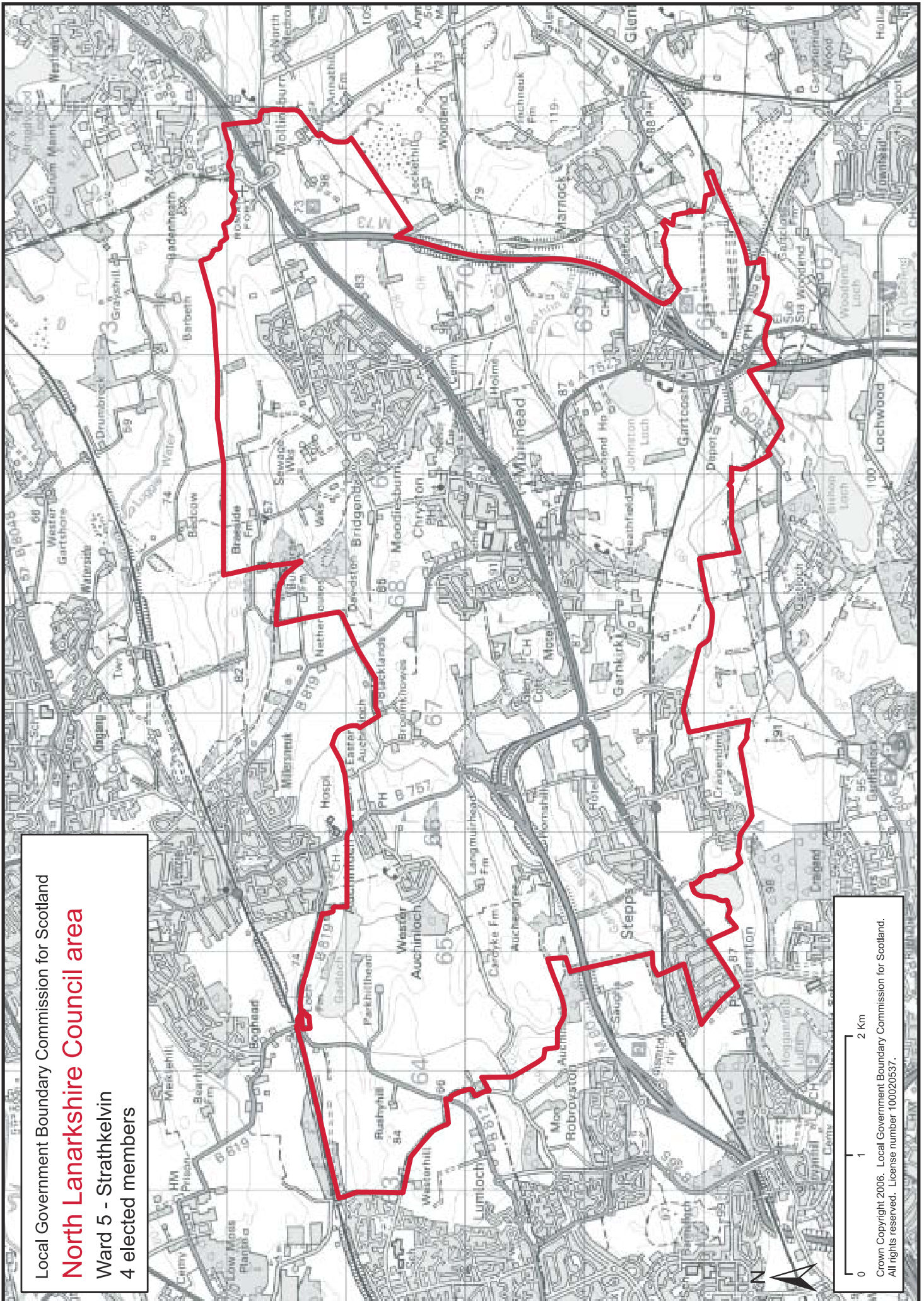
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**North Lanarkshire Council area**  
Ward 4 - Abronhill, Kildrum and the Village  
3 elected members



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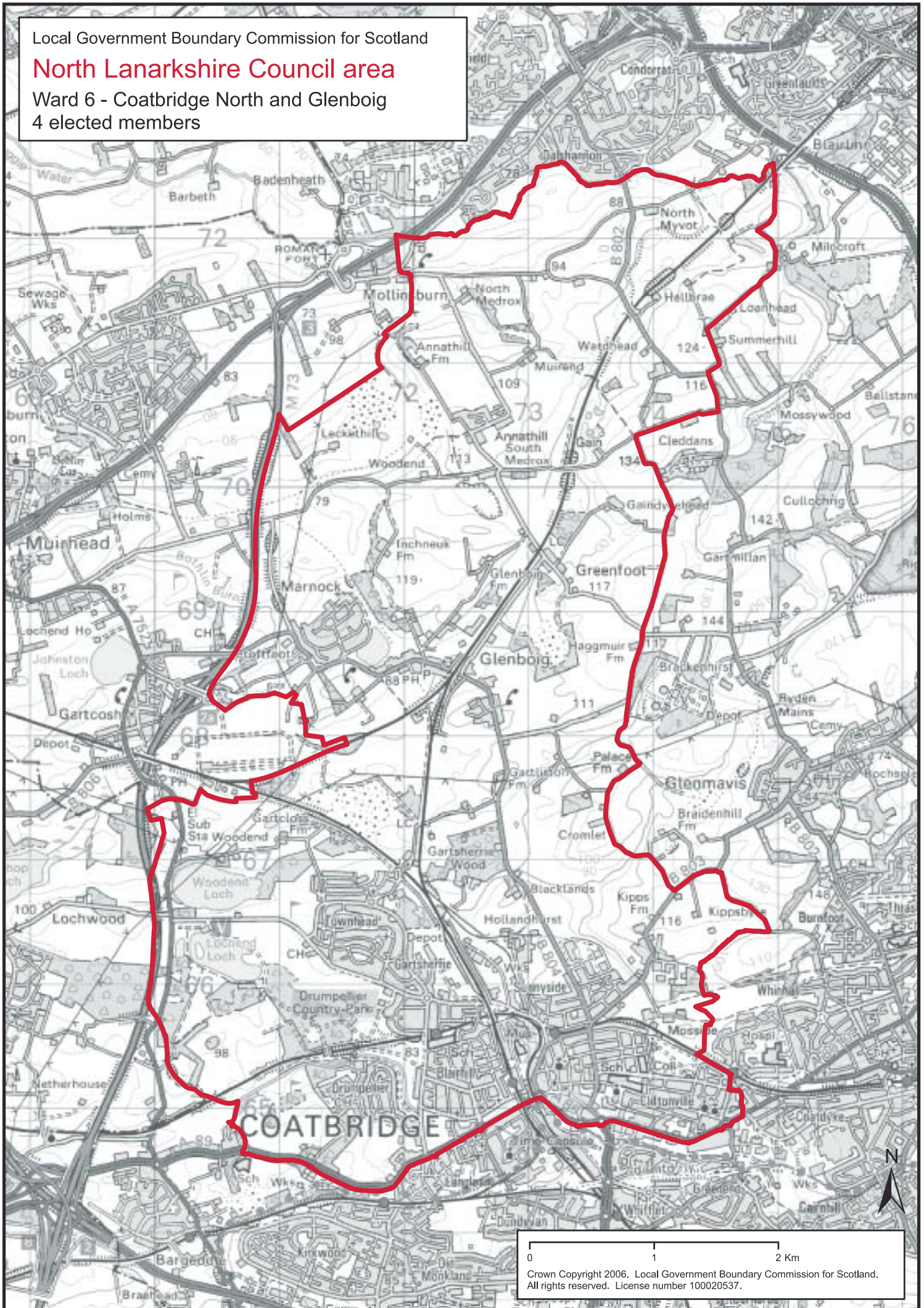


Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

## North Lanarkshire Council area

Ward 6 - Coatbridge North and Glenboig

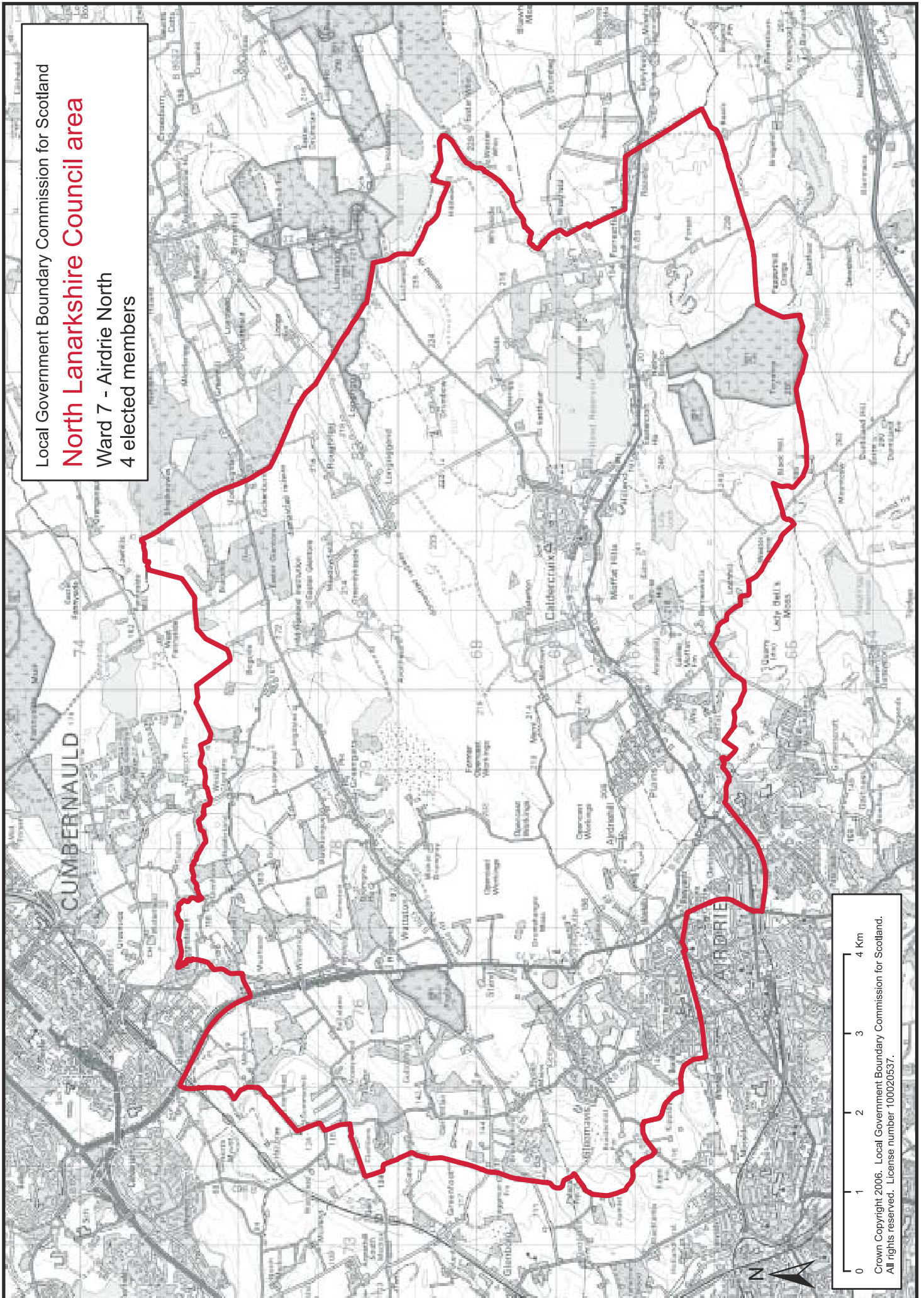
4 elected members

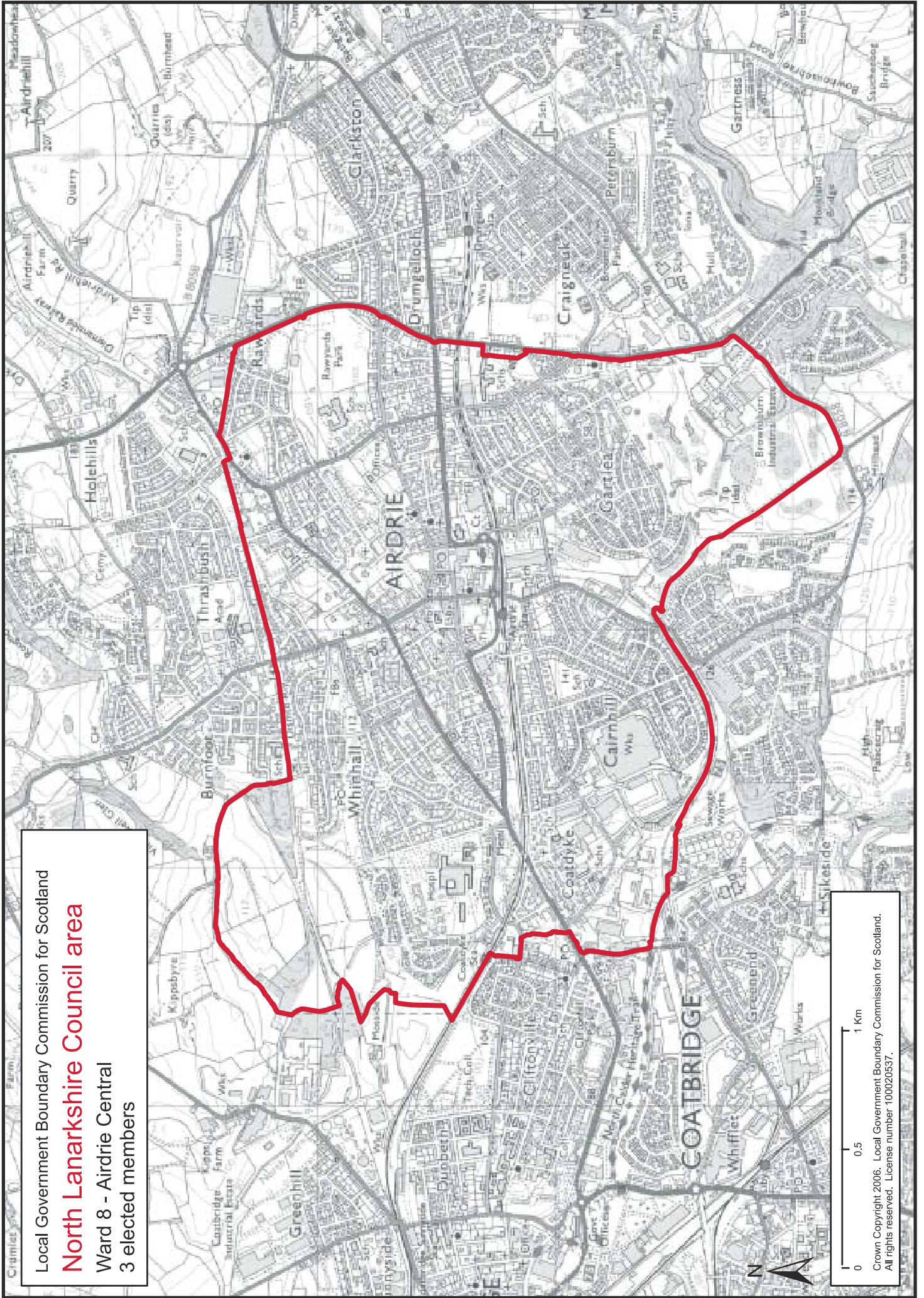


Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

# North Lanarkshire Council area

Ward 7 - Airdrie North  
4 elected members

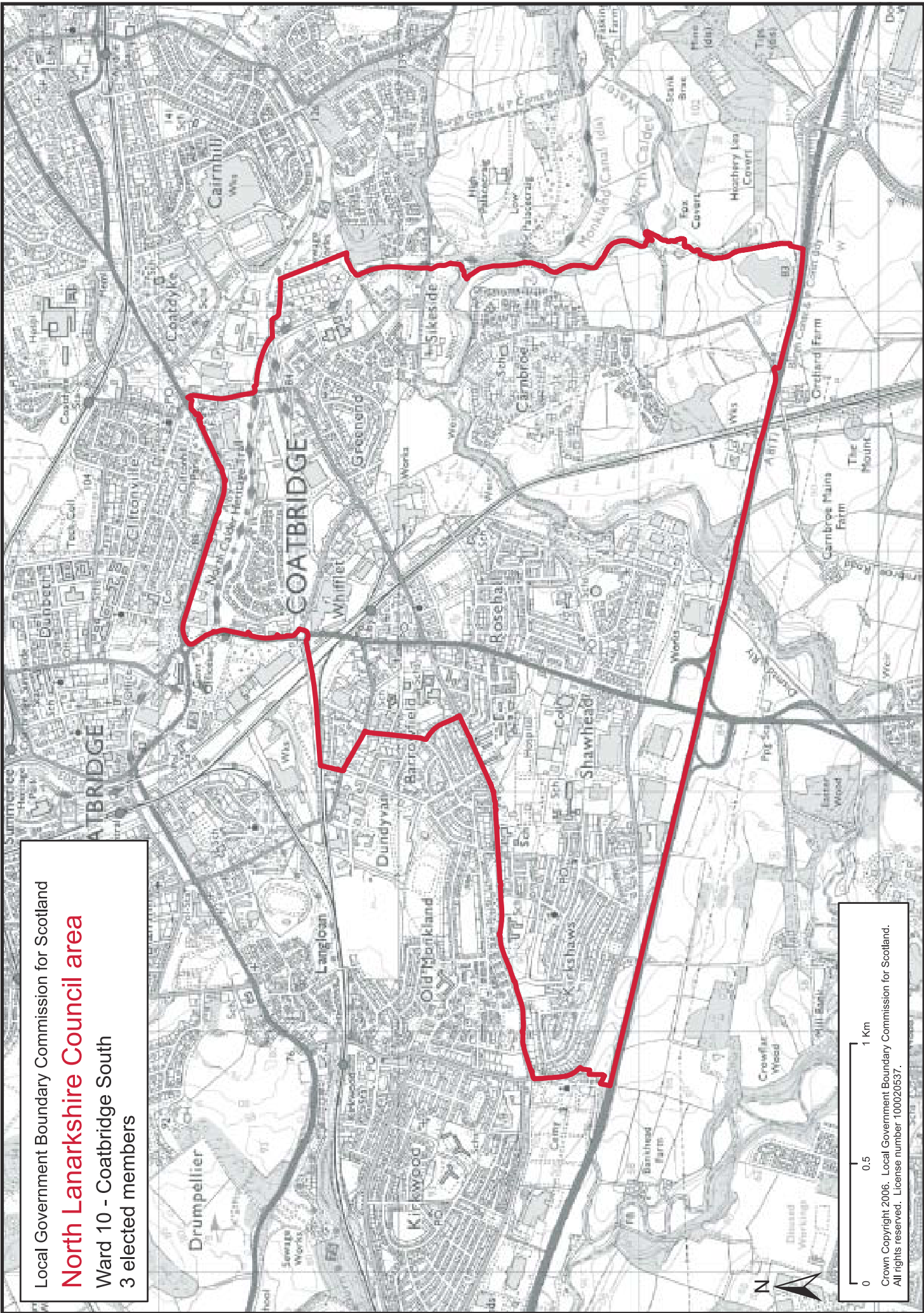




Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland  
**North Lanarkshire Council area**  
Ward 8 - Airdrie Central  
3 elected members

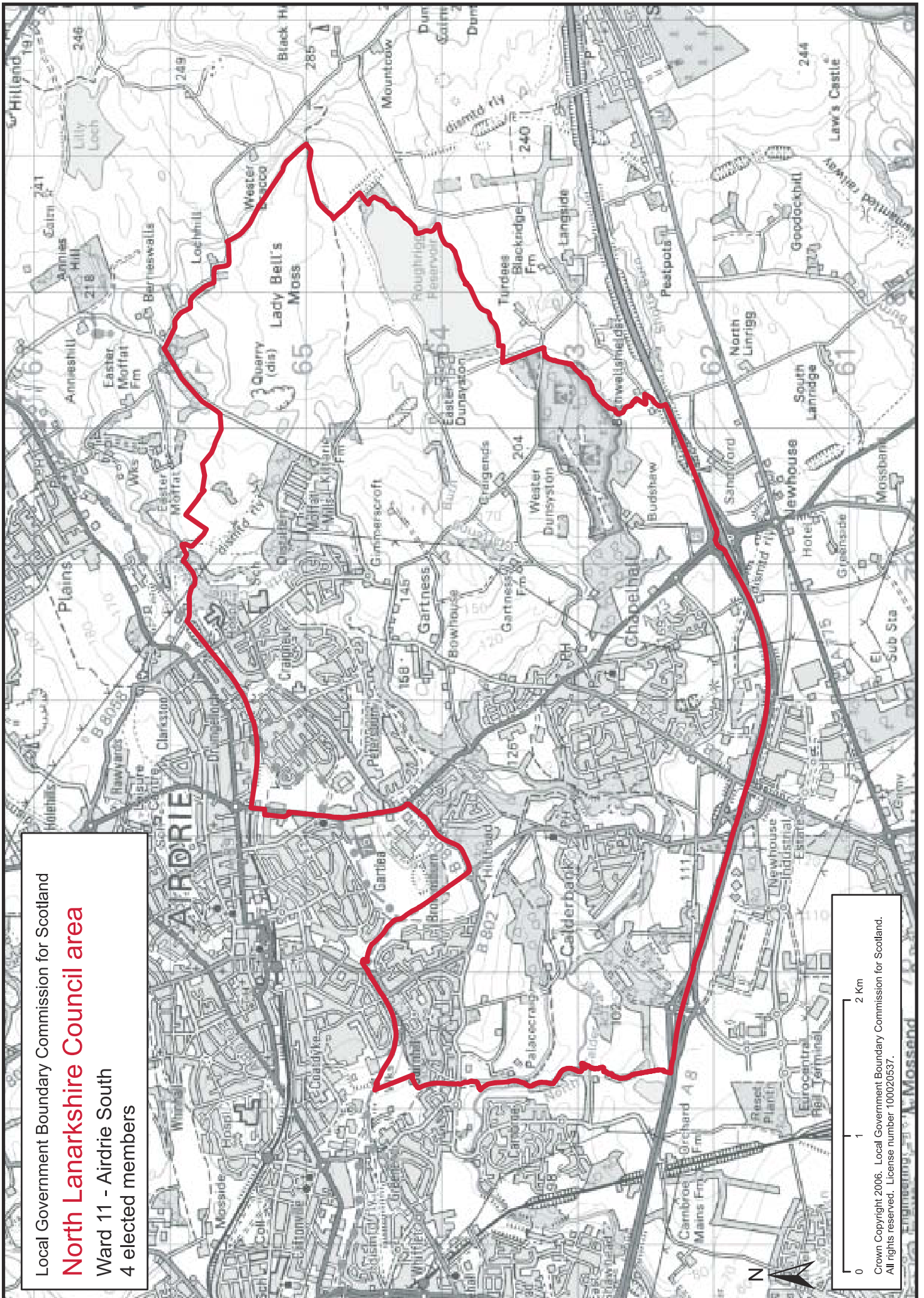
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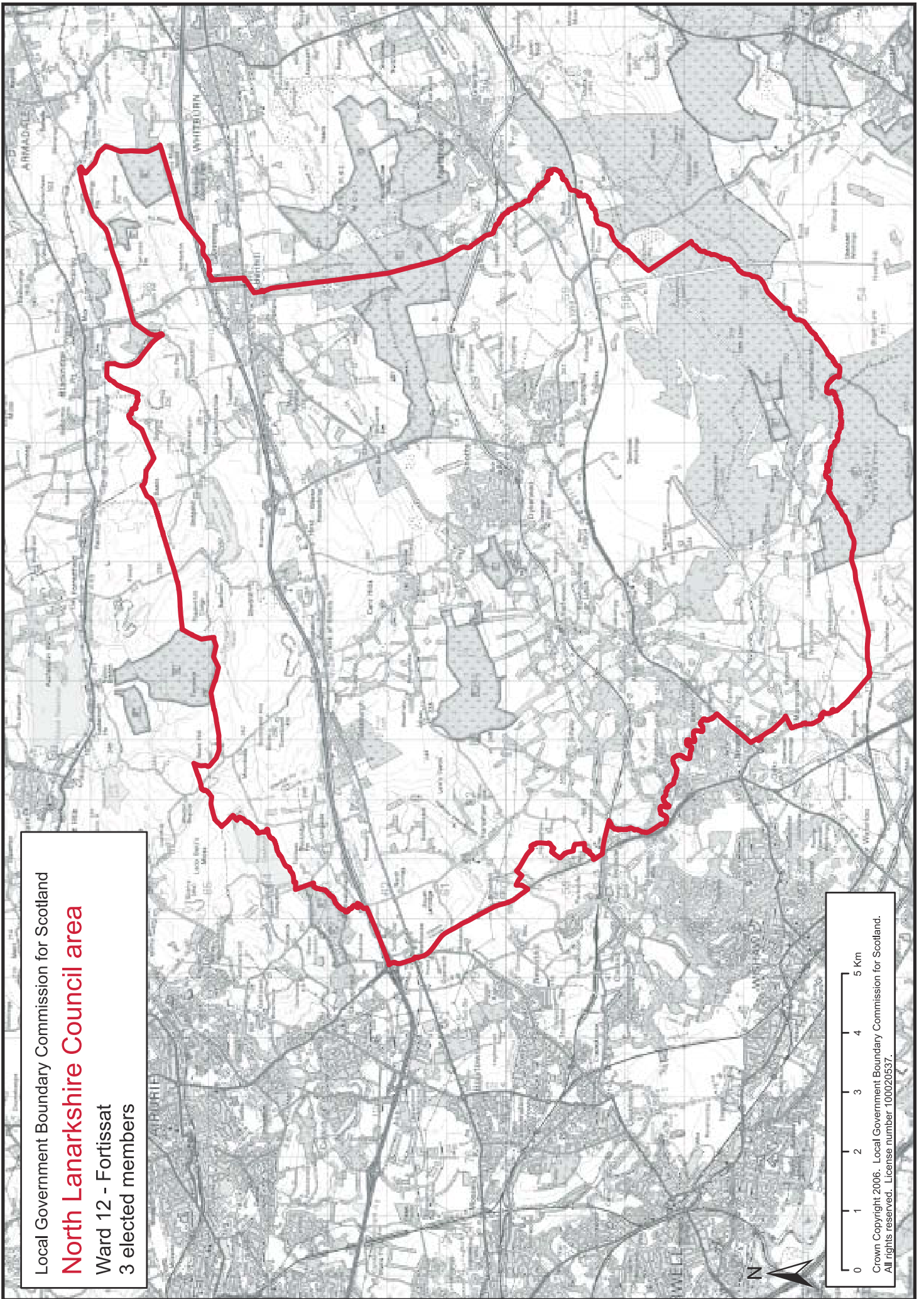
Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland  
**North Lanarkshire Council area**  
 Ward 10 - Coatbridge South  
 3 elected members

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Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland  
**North Lanarkshire Council area**  
 Ward 11 - Airdrie South  
 4 elected members

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Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland  
**North Lanarkshire Council area**  
Ward 12 - Fortissat  
3 elected members

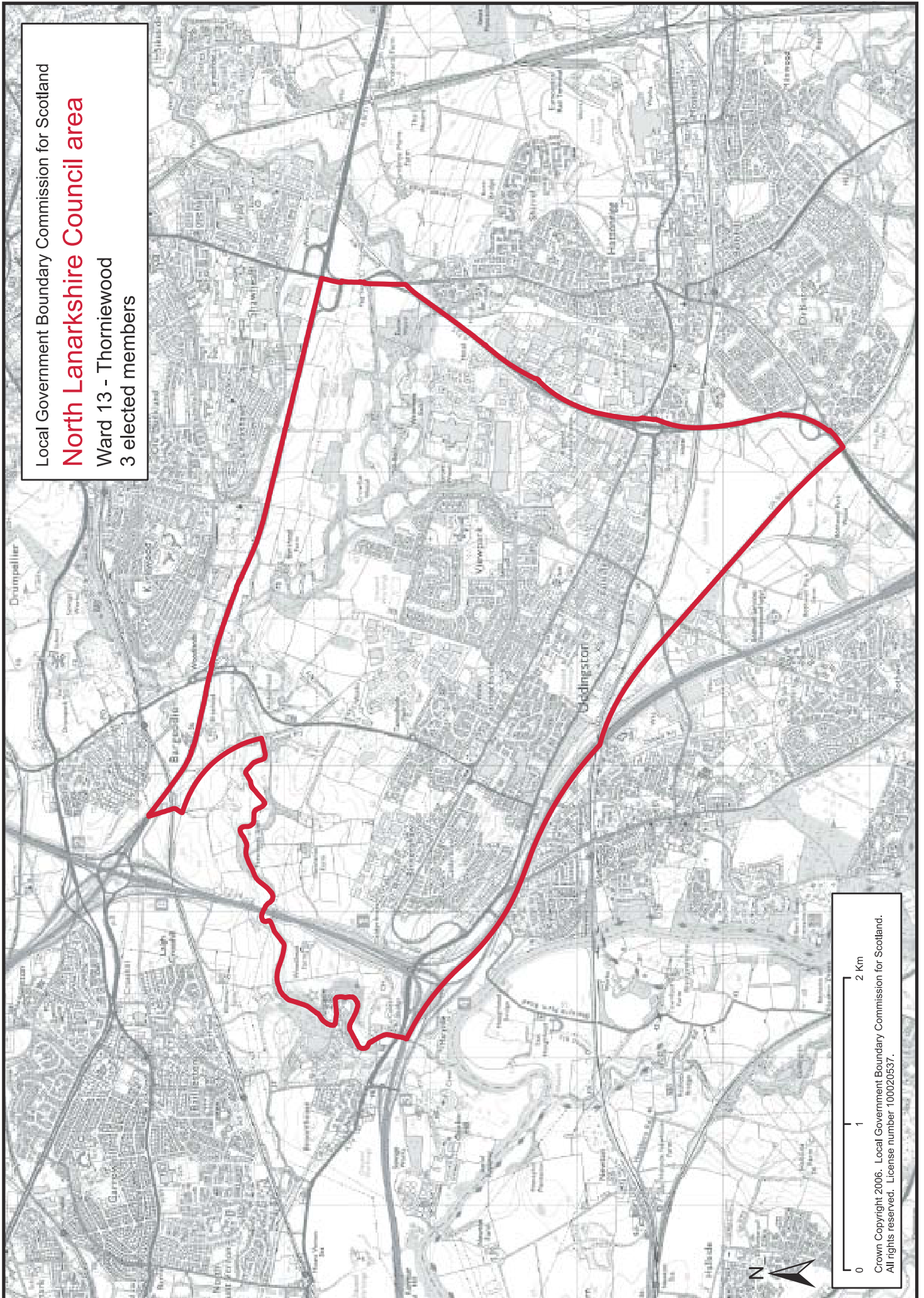
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Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

**North Lanarkshire Council area**

Ward 13 - Thorniewood

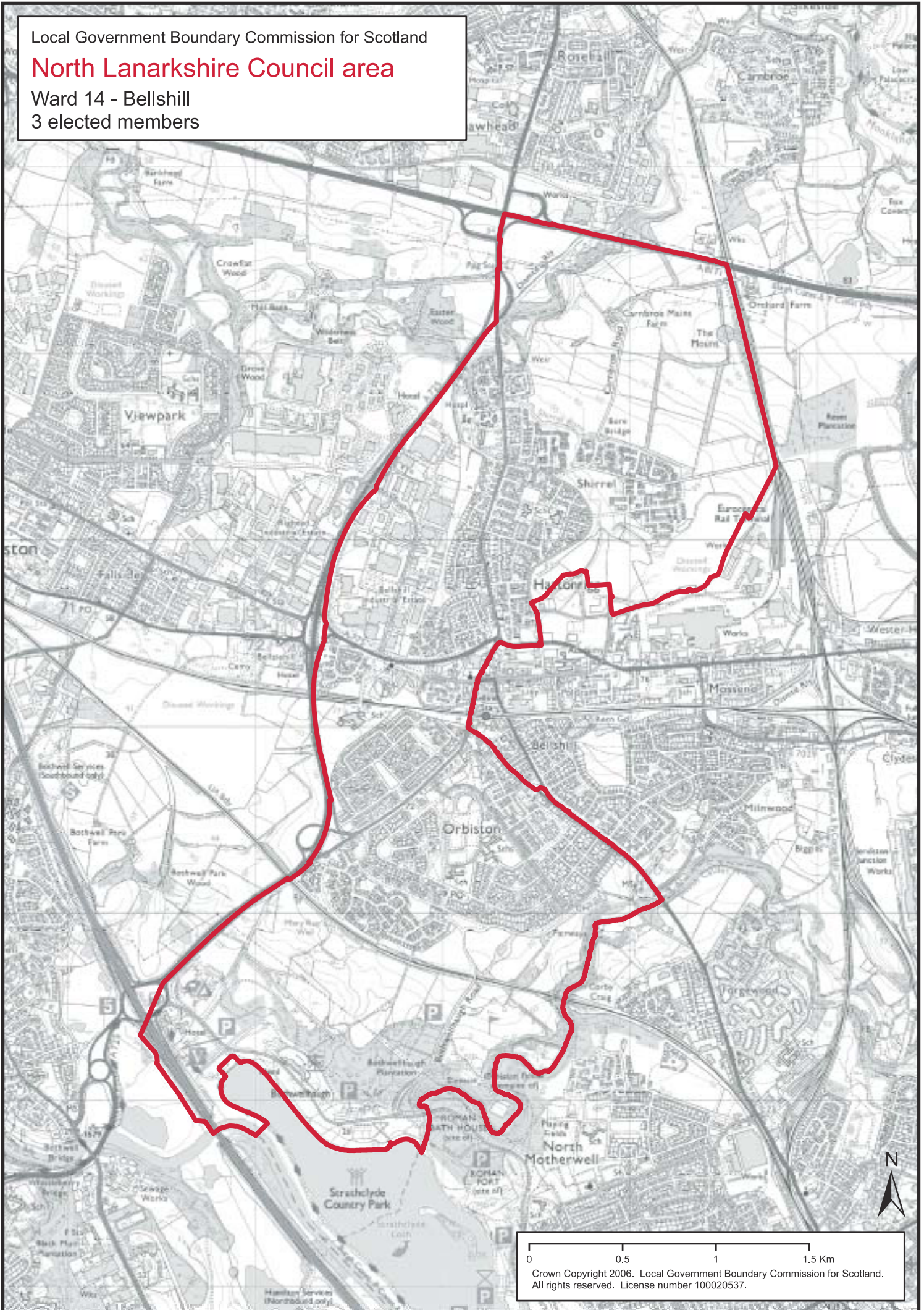
3 elected members



Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

## North Lanarkshire Council area

Ward 14 - Bellshill  
3 elected members

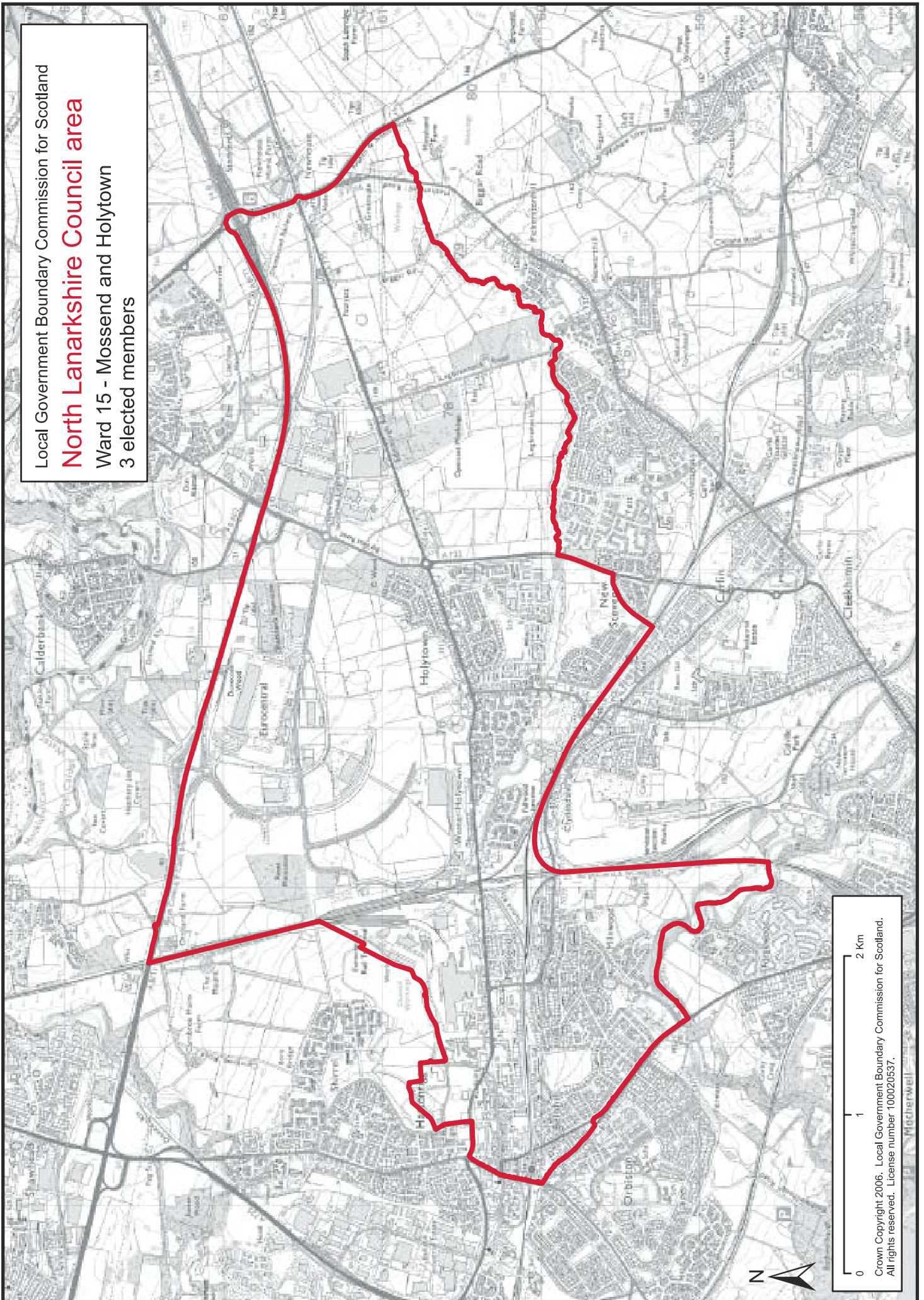


Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

**North Lanarkshire Council area**

Ward 15 - Mossend and Holytown

3 elected members



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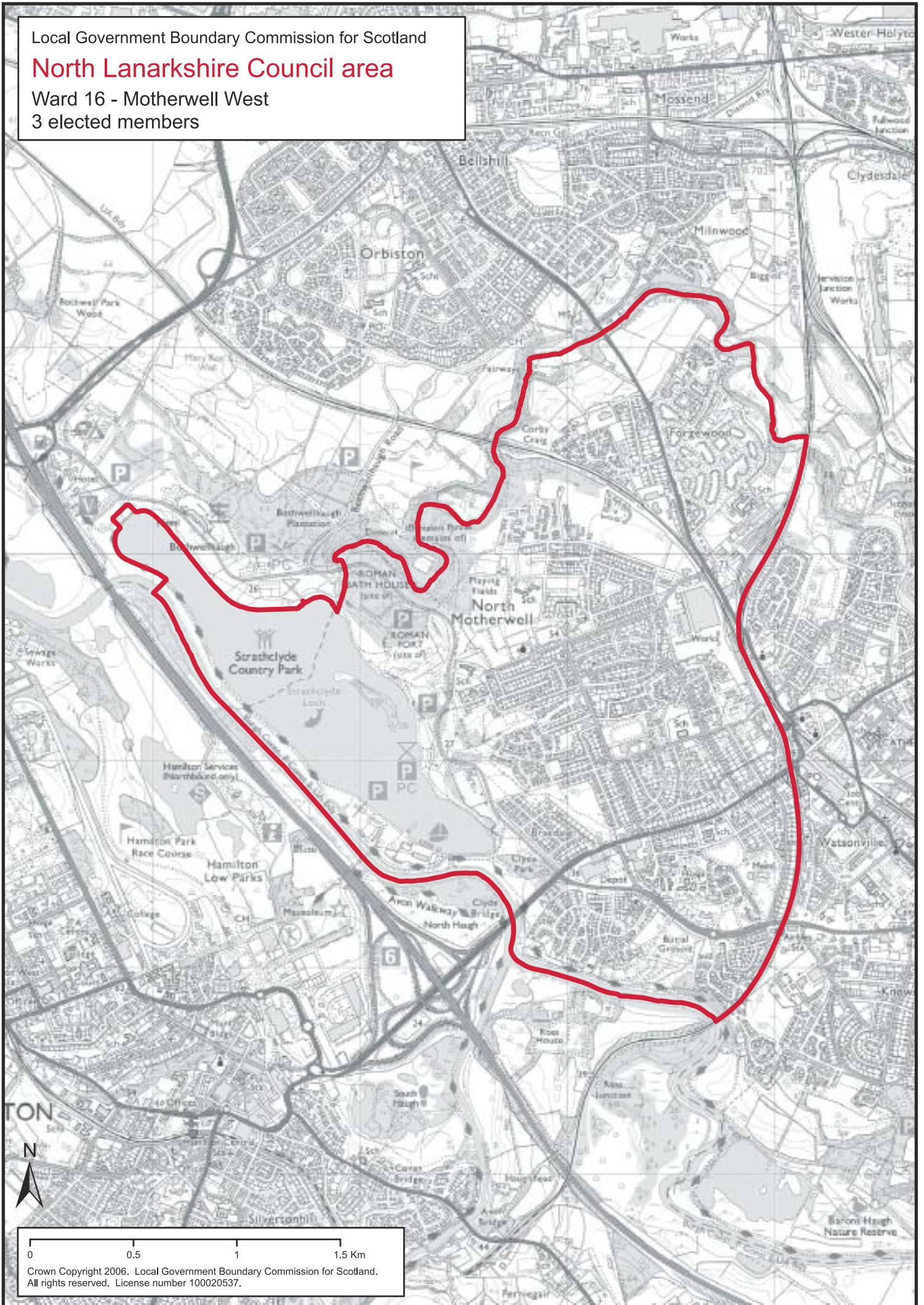
Matherwell

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

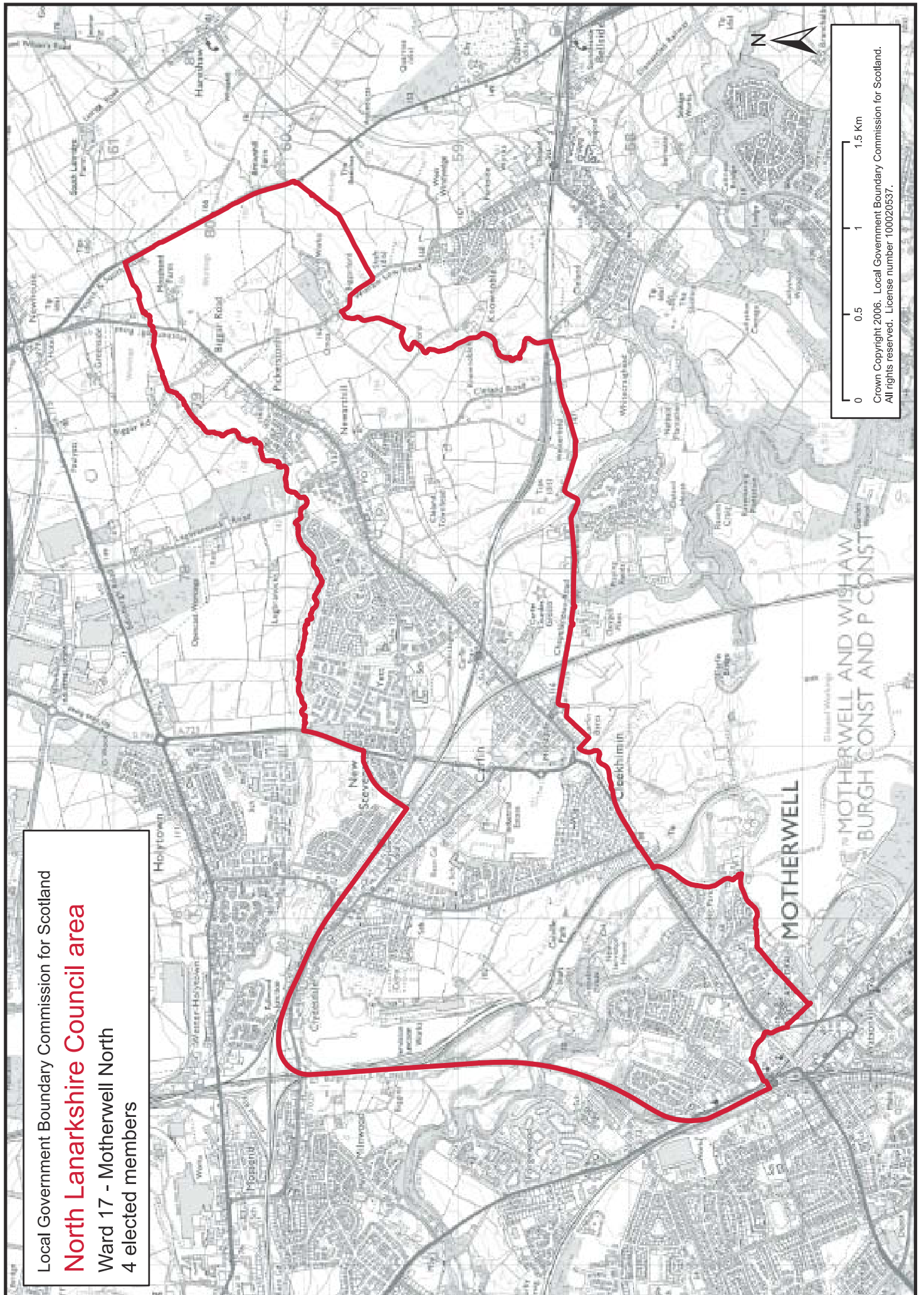
## North Lanarkshire Council area

Ward 16 - Motherwell West

3 elected members

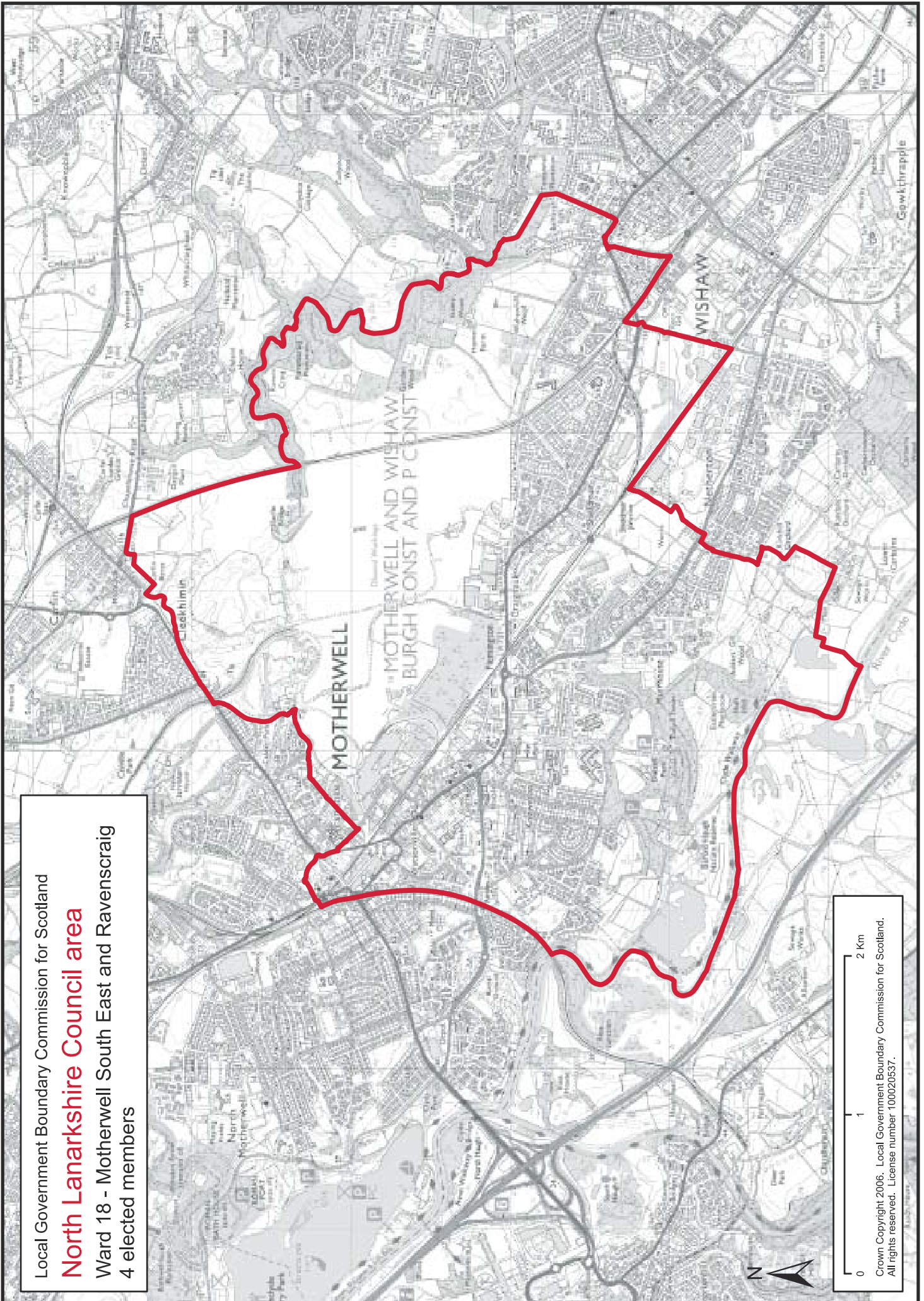


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Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland  
**North Lanarkshire Council area**  
 Ward 17 - Motherwell North  
 4 elected members

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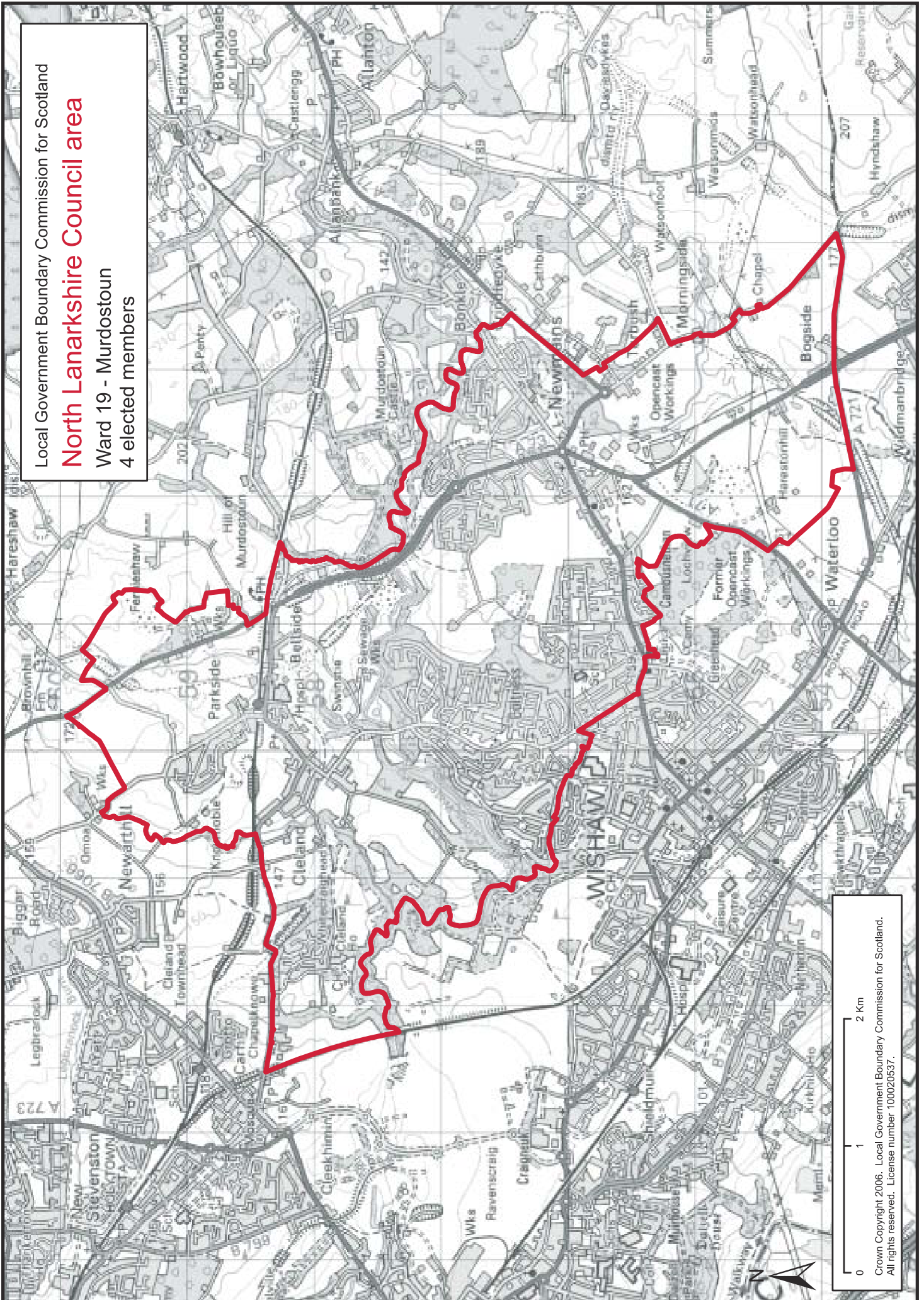
Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland  
**North Lanarkshire Council area**  
 Ward 18 - Motherwell South East and Ravenscraig  
 4 elected members

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Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

# North Lanarkshire Council area

Ward 19 - Murdostoun  
4 elected members



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