

# Fourth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements

## Scottish Borders Council Area





Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

# Fourth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements

## Scottish Borders Council Area

### Constitution of the Commission

Chairman: Mr John L Marjoribanks

Deputy Chairman: Mr Brian Wilson OBE

Commissioners: Professor Hugh M Begg

Dr A Glen

Mr K McDonald

Mr R Millham

Report Number E06026

July 2006



<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>Part 1 Background</b>	<b>Pages 9 – 14</b>
	<b>Paragraphs</b>
Origin of the Review	1
The Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004	2 – 4
Commencement of the 2004 Act	5
Directions from Scottish Ministers	6 – 9
Announcement of our Review	10 – 16
General Issues	17 – 18
Definition of Electoral Ward Boundaries	19 – 24
Electorate Data used in the Review	25 – 26
<b>Part 2 The Review in Scottish Borders Council Area</b>	<b>Pages 15 – 26</b>
	<b>Paragraphs</b>
Meeting with the Scottish Borders Council	1 – 3
Concluded View of the Council	4 – 7
Aggregation of Existing Wards	8 – 11
Initial Proposals	12 – 19
Informing the Council of our Initial Proposals	20 – 21
The Scottish Borders Council Response	22 – 23
Consideration of the Council Response to the Initial Proposals	24 – 30
Provisional Proposals	31 – 35
Representations	36
Consideration of Representations	37 – 46
<b>Part 3 Final Recommendation</b>	<b>Pages 27 – 28</b>
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>Pages 29 – 50</b>
Appendix A Extract from Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004	30 – 31
Appendix B Directions to the Commission	32 – 34
Appendix C Directions to Councils	35
Appendix D Schedule 6 Rules	36
Appendix E Review Timetable	37 – 38
Appendix F Illustrative Maps	39 – 50



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 Scottish Borders 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 Scottish Borders 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 Scottish Borders 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.



John L Marjoribanks  
Chairman  
for Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland



Bob Smith  
Secretary  
Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland  
3 Drumsheugh Gardens  
Edinburgh  
EH3 7QJ

[secretariat@lgbc-scotland.gov.uk](mailto:secretariat@lgbc-scotland.gov.uk)  
[www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk)

July 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 Scottish Borders Council took place on 30 September 2004 at the Council headquarters in Scottish Borders.  
**Part 2, paragraphs 1 – 3**
- The concluded view of the Council following our first meeting was received by us on 28 October 2004.  
**Part 2, paragraphs 4 – 7**
- We provided the Council with our initial proposals for 11 wards in Scottish Borders Council area on 10 March 2005 and asked that a response be made within 2 months.  
**Part 2, paragraphs 20 – 21**
- The Scottish Borders Council response to our initial proposals was received on 16 May 2005.  
**Part 2, paragraphs 22 – 23**
- We published our provisional proposals for 11 wards electing 34 Councillors on 21 July 2005 and asked that representations be made to us by 13 October 2005.  
**Part 2, paragraphs 32 – 35**
- We received 53 representations during the statutory consultation period of 12 weeks.  
**Part 2, paragraph 36**
- Our consideration of representations.  
**Part 2, paragraphs 37 – 46**
- We recommend 10 x three member wards and 1 x four member wards for Scottish Borders Council area thereby returning a total of 34 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 Scottish Borders 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 Scottish Borders 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 Scottish Borders Council should take place on either 30 September 2004 at 14:00 hrs or 01 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<sup>®</sup> 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<sup>®</sup>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<sup>®</sup>s.

21. All Councils in Scotland now have full access to OS MasterMap<sup>®</sup>, 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<sup>®</sup>, which was supplied to us by OS in July 2004, except where circumstances demand that a line between 2 unconnected TOID<sup>®</sup>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<sup>®</sup> 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 Scottish Borders Council area, of the 84,183 electors on the register at July 2004, 84,172 (99.99 percent) could be identified within the postcode geography held in our GIS. The residual number of 11 electors were contained in 3 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 Scottish Borders Council area could be used as the initial building blocks for reviewing electoral arrangements in that area.



## Part 2 The Review in Scottish Borders Council Area

### Meeting with the Scottish Borders Council

1. Our initial meeting with the Scottish Borders Council took place on 30 September 2004 at 14:00 hrs at the headquarters offices of the Council at Newtown St Boswells, Melrose. We were represented at that meeting by Kenneth McDonald who was accompanied by Andrew Gunn and 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. Scottish Borders Council submitted its concluded view to us on 28 October 2004 in the form of a report approved by Council accompanied by indicative plans, maps and statistics.
5. The Council supported the concept of designing electoral arrangements around the perceived extents of communities. In designing wards Community Council areas should be the basic building blocks and natural geographic features should be observed. Primary and secondary school catchments, Area Committee boundaries and current ward boundaries should be kept in view.
6. Information which would assist in the forecast of electorate at 2009 was provided.
7. The Council considered that a number of principles should be followed: Polling Districts should align to Community Council boundaries. Account should be taken of topography. Ward boundaries should not divide local or perceived communities and where possible boundaries should follow the rear curtilage of properties rather than the middle of streets or roads. To reflect the Council's commitment to greater area management, boundaries should be consistent with allowing members to work together as a team and community focus must take priority over numerical considerations.

## Aggregation of Existing Wards

8. In compliance with the legislation as amended, our Secretariat set out for us options for creating new 3 or 4 member wards by combining existing single member wards.

9. In reviewing the Council area, the existing ward structure around Peebles created difficulties that could only be resolved by creating a 5-member ward, but this was not possible within the terms of the legislation. Further, the consequential effects of creating either 3 or 4 members wards around Peebles greatly affected how revised arrangements might be best achieved for Galashiels and, in turn, Selkirk and Melrose. There were few options available for aggregating existing wards in the area covering Hawick and the extensive rural tracts to the south and south-west of the Council area. Further proposals for that area based on aggregations of existing wards had wider consequences for the area around Jedburgh and as far as Kelso. To the east of the Council area, which included the coastal communities, any aggregation of existing wards had consequences for Duns and all of the neighbouring settlements with access to the A1.

10. After consideration of these and all 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. In particular we concluded that:

- a better design of wards might be achieved by building from the existing structure of Community Council areas;
- it would be possible to contain Galashiels in 2 rather than 3 wards;
- it would be possible to devise a ward geography around both Peebles and Hawick that would better reflect the distribution of electorates; and
- proper account could be taken of changes in the distribution of electorates forecast for 2009 arising from new-build and related factors.

11. 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 all of the observations provided to us in its concluded view.

## Initial Proposals

12. In developing draft proposals for Scottish Borders Council area, our Secretariat identified issues around Peebles, Galashiels, Hawick and Duns.

13. With regard to Peebles, our Secretariat proposed dividing the town along a line formed by the River Tweed. This would allow the northern part to be associated with all of the rural communities to its north and west connected by the local road network to the A72, A701 and A703. The rest of the town could then be associated with the rural area to the south and with the settlements of Innerleithen, Walkerburn and Clovenfords to the east.

14. The geography and transport links suggested that the electorate along the line of the A7 had to be linked to Galashiels. However, bringing these areas together required the creation of 2 wards each containing part of Galashiels. Bearing in mind the settlement pattern and distribution of electorate, it was not possible to include within these wards the area immediately to the east of Galashiels

including Tweedbank and Melrose. Our Secretariat therefore proposed 2 wards which focussed on Galashiels, one of which encompassed the electorates along the A7 and the greater part of the west and south east of the built-up area. Electors to the east of the town at Langlee were associated with those in the rural areas immediately to the north and, through the B6360, to communities including Gattonside which connect to the A68 thus providing a link to Oxton, Lauder and Earliston and their rural neighbours.

15. To the south of Galashiels it was proposed that Selkirk, and the rural electorates served principally by the A708 and B7009, should be associated with Tweedbank, Melrose and Newton St Boswells. Hawick was divided between 2 wards to provide foci for the surrounding rural electorate. The northerly ward extended as far as St Boswells. For the ward containing the southern portion of Hawick, an option which contained a smaller rural electorate was preferred to a more extensive arrangement which included settlements along the B6357 at the most south-westerly extent of the Council area.

16. Jedburgh provided a focus for a large, mainly rural, ward which extended the length of the Council's southern boundary. Kelso sat at the centre of a rural ward drawing on surrounding communities and rural electorate. To its north-east, two wards covered an area roughly coterminous with the former Berwickshire District. In this area all of the coastal communities were associated with settlements connected by the A1 and with rural electorates extending as far west as Chirnside and Preston. The remainder of the area comprised a ward which was centred upon Duns and extended from the Council's border with East Lothian in the north to Coldstream in the south and Greenlaw in the west.

17. The wards proposed by our Secretariat had electorates which were acceptable within the terms of the statutory rules. Across the rural areas ward boundaries followed those of the Community Councils where it was possible and practicable to do so.

18. Having considered the options for revised ward geographies, we concluded that our Secretariat's proposals, subject to minor amendments, 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.

19. Following full discussion it was agreed that our initial proposals for Scottish Borders Council area should comprise 11 electoral wards of which 10 would be 3-member wards and 1 would be a 4-member ward as follows:

Ward Number a	Forecast Electorate b	Number of Elected Members c	Average Electorate per Member d	Divergence from Parity (%) e
1	7,655	3	2,552	0
2	7,650	3	2,550	0
3	8,525	3	2,842	11
4	7,255	3	2,418	-6
5	10,415	4	2,604	2
6	7,820	3	2,607	2
7	7,865	3	2,622	2
8	7,495	3	2,498	-2
9	7,065	3	2,355	-8
10	7,515	3	2,505	-2
11	7,830	3	2,610	2

## Informing the Council of our Initial Proposals

20. We submitted our initial proposals to Scottish Borders Council on 10 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.)

21. 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.

## The Scottish Borders Council Response

22. We received the Scottish Borders Council's written response to our initial proposals on 16 May 2005.

23. The Council formally considered our initial proposals at a meeting and decided to recommend alternatives. Maps and other information for the proposed revision were provided along with alternative names for each ward. The Council's decision was not unanimous, and in order to provide details of the different views expressed during the debate a copy of the Minute of the Council meeting was also included.

## Consideration of the Council Response to the Initial Proposals

24. Around Peebles, the Council's proposed revisions to the boundary between Wards 1 and 2 were not significant and involved no electors. Bearing in mind our objective of linking boundaries to features contained within OS large-scale digital mapping we agreed to adopt our initial proposals for these wards as our provisional proposals.

25. In the central Borders, it was evident to us from an early stage in the review that the concentration of electorate and settlements in this area would make difficult the development of proposals that met the Schedule 6 rules and reflected community considerations. The electorate of Galashiels justified a 5-member ward and we were therefore bound to divide this between two wards. Further, examination of the Council's alternative proposals for this central area indicated that, from a community perspective, it was reasonable for Melrose to be included within a ward that also contained the communities along the A68 including Lauder and Earlston.

26. It was possible to include all of Galashiels, excluding Tweedbank, with the communities located along the A7 in a 4-member ward. This permitted Tweedbank, Dingleton and Melrose to be included with the communities accessed from the A68, including Gattonside, Oxtou, Lauder and Earlston, in a 3-member ward. We concluded that these revised arrangements provided an acceptable solution, bearing in mind the settlement pattern and distribution of the electorate in this area.

27. As a consequence of that decision, it was necessary to incorporate Newton St Boswells into Ward 5 in order to rebalance the electorates. Bearing in mind our initial proposals and the amendments suggested by the Council, we concluded that, on balance, this revision offered a better alternative and agreed to amend our initial proposals.

28. We agreed that the alternative proposed by the Council for Wards 6 and 11 was acceptable and better fitted with our revision of Wards 3, 4 and 5 and improved upon our initial proposals in terms of electoral parity. Accordingly, we agreed to adopt the Council's revision.

29. We considered the Council's alternative proposals for the Cheviot, Hawick and Teviot areas (Wards 7-10) and noted that the main difference from our initial proposals was in the north/south rather than east/west configuration of these wards. We agreed that the north/south configuration more closely reflected the communication links within the area. We, therefore, agreed to adopt the Council's proposals for this area subject to an amendment to the boundary between Wards 7 and 8, which resulted in the communities located along the B6399 being wholly contained within Ward 7.

30. Subject to the amendments outlined above, we concluded that the Council's alternative proposals should be adopted as our provisional proposals and published for public consultation. Further, we accepted the ward names suggested by the Council, altered where necessary to reflect our amendments, and adopted them as the names to accompany our provisional proposals.

## Provisional Proposals

31. Our provisional proposals for revised electoral arrangements in Scottish Borders Council area made provision for a Council of 34 elected members in 10 wards each returning 3-members and 1 ward returning 4 members as follows:

Ward		Forecast Electorate	Number of Elected Members	Average Electorate per Member	Divergence from Parity(%)
Number a	Name b				
1	Tweeddale West	7,650	3	2,550	0
2	Tweeddale East	7,660	3	2,553	0
3	Galashiels and District	10,910	4	2,728	7
4	Selkirkshire	7,580	3	2,527	-1
5	Lauderdale and Melrose	7,870	3	2,623	2
6	Mid Berwickshire	8,120	3	2,707	6
7	East Berwickshire	8,260	3	2,753	8
8	Kelso and District	7,570	3	2,523	-1
9	Jedburgh and District	7,130	3	2,377	-7
10	Hawick and Denholm	7,040	3	2,347	-8
11	Hawick and Hermitage	7,300	3	2,433	-5

32. We published our provisional proposals for revised electoral arrangements in Scottish Borders Council area on 21 July 2005. These differed from our initial proposals in that they reflected revisions to the boundaries between Wards 3-11 and, in addition, contained minor changes necessary to fix the proposed boundaries to the OS MasterMap® TOID®s (see Part 1 paragraphs 19-24).

33. A statutory notice, detailing where our provisional proposals had been deposited for the public consultation and setting out the arrangements we had made for receiving representations, was published in the Berwickshire News, Southern Reporter, Hawick News and Peeblesshire News. Copies of the documents and maps deposited for the public consultation were also placed on our web site. A short news release was issued on 20 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.

34. 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.

35. We asked that representations should be made to us within the 12-week period ending on 13 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 [scottish.borders@lgbc-scotland.gov.uk](mailto:scottish.borders@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

36. Fifty-three representations were received during the statutory public consultation. The main points raised by the various parties are summarised below:

## The Council

**Scottish Borders Council** asked that Nenthorn should be included in the Kelso and District Ward, to reflect its association with Roxburgh, Heiton, Floors, Makerstoun and Kelso, but acknowledged that the proposed transfer would result in a substantial imbalance in electorates. However, it was also considered that the importance and strength of the links between the communities and Kelso were such that electoral parity should not be paramount.

The Council also asked that the boundary between the East and Mid Berwickshire wards should be amended to follow the boundary of Allanton, Edrom and Whitsome Community Council area and the name of the ward including Melrose, Earlston, Lauder, and Oxton should be 'Leaderdale and Melrose'.

## Political Parties

**Scottish National Party Scottish Borders Council Liaison Committee** preferred the boundaries set out in our initial proposals. Aspects of the revised wards were illogical because Clovenfords and Tweedbank belonged with Galashiels, and the proposals for Newcastleton and Jedburgh did not sit easily together. Bearing in mind electoral parity, it was recognised that it might not be possible to address the concerns relating to the latter settlements. More 4-member wards should be created because the provisional proposals were the least democratic that could be achieved.

## Councillors

**Councillor Mitchell** supported the Council's 6/4 Option as his first preference but if this was not acceptable the Commission's initial proposals were preferred. It would be helpful if Tweedbank and Clovenfords could be added to Wards 4 and 3 respectively, although this would require consequential adjustments elsewhere.

**Councillor Nicol** expressed concern with our proposals for Roxburgh and Heiton because they had no social, cultural, historical or economic connection with Jedburgh. Kelso was originally the commercial end of Roxburgh parish and castle. It would be difficult to balance electorates but electors were said to be fundamentally opposed to the proposals.

**Councillor Thomson** had support for an amendment that retained two Community Councils in Ward 8. A survey within the Roxburghe Estates found further opposition to the provisional proposals. In view of the historic cultural, social and commercial links between Floors and Kelso, and the insignificant number of electors in the areas, Makerstoun, Floors, Nenthorn and Smailholm should be included in Ward 8.

**Councillor Wight** provided information regarding the results of Council voting on the 3 options proposed. The Council's proposals had received only about 33 per cent support. Objections from communities should be the major reason for changing the Commission's proposals.

## Community Councils

**Ancrum Community Council** considered that around Kelso the initial proposals were much better. There were anomalies such as, for example, the linking of Newcastleton with Jedburgh. Our initial proposals should be adopted as our final recommendations.

**Clovenfords & District Community Council** objected to our provisional proposals because Clovenfords had a closer affiliation with Galashiels than with Peebles and the community would not receive proper representation.

**Eddleston District Community Council** considered it important that communities were separately represented and not simply subsumed into a wider Tweeddale ward. The present arrangements should not be lost because they took account of, and were sensitive to, the needs of rural areas.

**Edrom, Allanton and Whitsome Community Council** requested that the boundary between Wards 6 and 7 be coterminous with the community council boundary because it was tidier and made more sense. Three rather than 6 councillors would be entitled to attend community council meetings. There were few electors in the area and long established parish boundaries would be retained.

**Floors, Makerstoun, Nenthorn & Smailholm Community Council** referred to a petition with 68 names that objected to our provisional proposals and supported our initial proposals. Floors, Makerstoun, Nenthorn and Smailholm had strong cultural, historical, social and commercial ties with Kelso and not with Jedburgh. Kelso is the market town, forms part of the postal address, is the telephone exchange, accommodates the Health Centre, and is where residents attend schools. The town provided the rugby team which had a traditional adversary in Jedburgh. The River Tweed separated the area from Jedburgh which is 20 miles distant.

Councillors should have a good working relationship with the staff of the local Health Centre, Social Services, and other local service providers which would best be achieved by being Kelso based. Conversely, Jedburgh based councillors could not be expected to have the same contacts and local knowledge because they would be focussed on Jedburgh.

There were 270 electors in the area concerned and the transfer of Morebattle, Cessford, Hownam and Chatto from Ward 8 to Ward 9 would redress any imbalance. A map was provided showing the area and illustrating other minor amendments.

**Heiton and Roxburgh Community Council** had close ties with Kelso but not with Jedburgh. The current boundaries should be maintained.

**Kelso Community Council** felt strongly that Heiton and Roxburgh, together with Floors, Makerstoun and Nenthorn should be included within the Kelso & District ward rather than the Jedburgh & District ward. They focussed on Kelso for services, children attended schools there, and it provided shopping, business, leisure and health services. Residents of Floors, Nenthorn and Makerstoun had to travel through Kelso to get to Jedburgh. There was no logic in including these settlements in the Jedburgh & District ward. To ensure an overall community spirit, the settlements should be transferred to the Kelso & District ward.

## Other Representations

**Roxburghe Estates** stated that the parishes of Makerstoun, Floors, Smailholm and Nenthorn, together with the villages of Roxburgh and Heiton, had long been associated with Kelso District and there was no sound reason to divide them.

**Priorsford School Board** enclosed a copy of a letter sent to Scottish Borders Council seeking termination of the school's use as a polling station.

## Members of the Public

**A letter** supported our initial proposals and opposed the inclusion of Jedburgh, St Boswells and Kelso within the same ward. There was little common ground between these communities - Jedburgh, Chesters, Bonchester Bridge and Newcastleton had many historical connections.

**Five letters** from the Coldstream and Swinton areas supported our initial proposals which properly accounted for the historic connections between Whitsome & Allanton Community Council, and Swinton. Leitholm, Birgham and Eccles were within the Coldstream area and associating them with the Duns area made a lot of sense.

**Twenty-four letters** requested that the Nenthorn, Smailholm, Floors and Makerstoun communities be included in the same ward as Kelso with the River Tweed forming a natural boundary separating them from the area south of the river. Being in a ward with Jedburgh would increase the feeling of remoteness for those living north of the river. The communities focussed on Kelso for many services, including shopping, schooling, banking, local authority contact office, post office, health care, recreational activities, and social events. Jedburgh was at least half an hour away by private transport, had no connection with these communities, and historically the rural communities had a close affinity with Kelso. Residents would prefer to be represented by a councillor who is local and easily accessible.

**A letter** from the Galashiels area considered that our initial proposals were much better than our provisional proposals.

**Two letters** from the Galashiels area variously supported our initial proposals as being the most suitable for that area. There should be more 4-member wards to better reflect democratic views. Clovenfords and Tweedbank should be included in a Galashiels ward.

**Two letters** from the Selkirk area considered that there should be more 4-member wards than proposed; and our initial proposals were sensible and coherent. The provisional proposals produced some odd outcomes; and the Newcastleton/Jedburgh ward could be better split.

**A letter** from the Peebles area supported our initial proposals believing that evenly splitting Peebles, Hawick and Galashiels produced the best arrangements. Clovenfords did not sit well with Tweeddale and should be included in a Galashiels ward with Stow.

**A letter** from the Innerleithen area supported our initial proposals and stated that there should be more 4-member wards. Tweeddale should not include Clovenfords.

## Consideration of Representations

37. We noted the Council's response to our provisional proposals sought only 3 amendments to them. We also noted that 32 of the representations were concerned with an area northwest of Kelso covering Floors, Makerstoun, Nenthorn and Smailholm.

38. Accordingly, we re-examined our provisional proposals bearing in mind that they reflected the Council's alternative proposals for the Kelso area submitted in response to our initial proposals. Further, we examined those representations that requested we revert to our initial proposals. Bearing in mind the statutory rules and the overall Council-wide response to publication of our provisional proposals, we were not persuaded that this could be justified.

39. Amending our provisional proposals to include Roxburgh, Heiton, Floors, Makerstoun, Smailholm and Nenthorn within Ward 8 significantly reduced the electorate of Ward 9. Although we recognised the community related issues, we agreed that the divergence from parity could not be justified within the context of special geographical considerations. When we considered the possibility of making consequential adjustments which transferred electorate from Ward 8 to 9 we found that the revised ward geography did not improve upon our provisional proposals. Accordingly, we were unable to accommodate the revision requested.

40. We had sympathy for the view, expressed by the Floors, Makerstoun, Nenthorn and Smailholm Community Council, that the River Tweed formed a strong natural boundary that separated these communities from others to the south. Bearing in mind the community considerations and transport links, we concluded that within the statutory rules the area could be transferred from Ward 9 to Ward 8. Accordingly we agreed to amend our provisional proposals in this area.

41. We considered the representations which requested an increase in the number of 4-member wards noting that no alternative configurations illustrating how this might be achieved had been placed before us. Throughout the review we had sought to design wards within the terms of the statutory rules, bearing in mind community focus where it was possible and practicable to do so. We noted that we had no preconceived notion as to the number of 3 and 4 member wards that would make up our proposals for the Council area. We were not persuaded that the very considerable revisions that would be required to increase the number of 4-member wards would produce a better, more acceptable solution within the statutory rules.

42. We agreed that the proposed name for Ward 5 should be amended to 'Leaderdale and Melrose'. We noted that the amendment to the boundary between Wards 6 and 7, supported by Edrom, Allanton & Whitsome Community Council, had no impact on electoral parity and agreed to the request subject to our approach to the definition of electoral boundaries outlined in Part 1, paragraphs 19-24 of this report.

43. With regard to Tweedbank, we had some sympathy with the views expressed. However, we noted that the combined electorate of Tweedbank and Galashiels justified 5-members and this could not be accommodated within the terms of the statutory rules. Similarly, it was not possible to simply incorporate Clovenfords in a ward with all of Galashiels. Associating Clovenfords and/or Tweedbank with Galashiels required the latter to be split between 2 wards and further consequential changes to our provisional proposals over an extensive area. Bearing in mind the Council's response to our initial proposals, and the overall response to the public consultation, we were not persuaded that our provisional proposals should be substantially redesigned.

44. We noted the representation concerning the use of Priorsford School as a polling place but concluded that polling arrangements were a matter solely for the Returning Officer.

45. We considered the representation concerning the location of Eddleston in our provisional proposals and the comments on existing electoral arrangements. Given the terms of the legislation and the geography, distribution of electorate and transport links in the area we came to the conclusion that Eddleston had to be included in a ward that contained part of Peebles. Accordingly, we agreed that it was not possible to adjust our proposals in this area.

46. We examined the representations that supported our initial proposals which had been made publicly available by the Council. We recalled that we had given considerable thought to our initial proposals and the Council's alternative proposals prior to determining our provisional proposals for public consultation. Although it was noted that all elected members had not supported the Council's alternative proposals, the arrangements had been passed at the Council meeting held to consider the matter. In the light of the Council's subsequent response to the provisional proposals and all other representations received in response to those proposals, we were not persuaded that reversion to our initial proposals would improve upon our provisional proposals or would make them more generally acceptable. We therefore agreed to adhere to our provisional proposals.





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 – Tweeddale West

Ward 2 – Tweeddale East

Ward 3 – Galashiels and District

Ward 4 – Selkirkshire

Ward 5 – Leaderdale and Melrose

Ward 6 – Mid Berwickshire

Ward 7 – East Berwickshire

Ward 8 – Kelso and District

Ward 9 – Jedburgh and District

Ward 10 – Hawick and Denholm

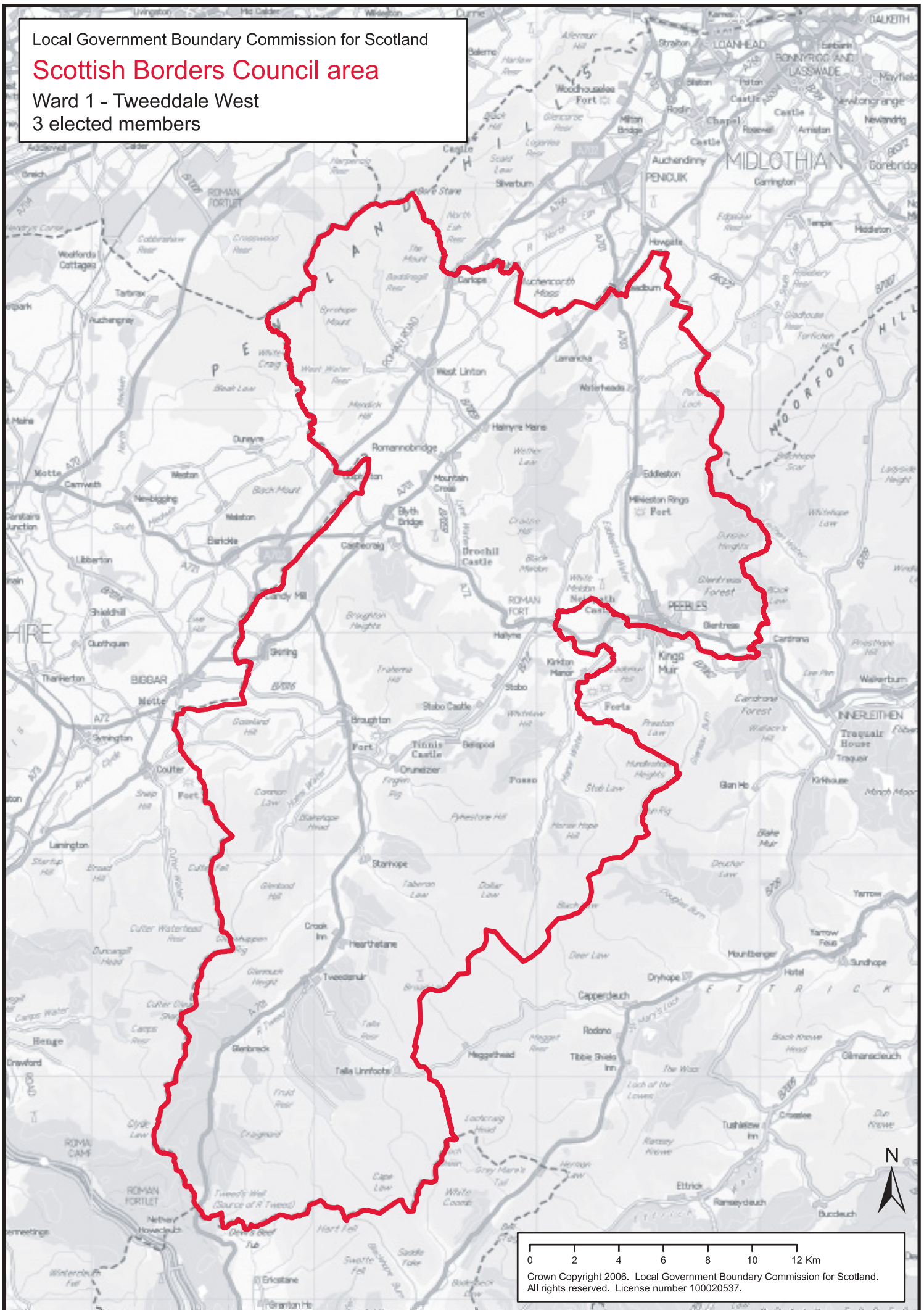
Ward 11 – Hawick and Hermitage

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

## Scottish Borders Council area

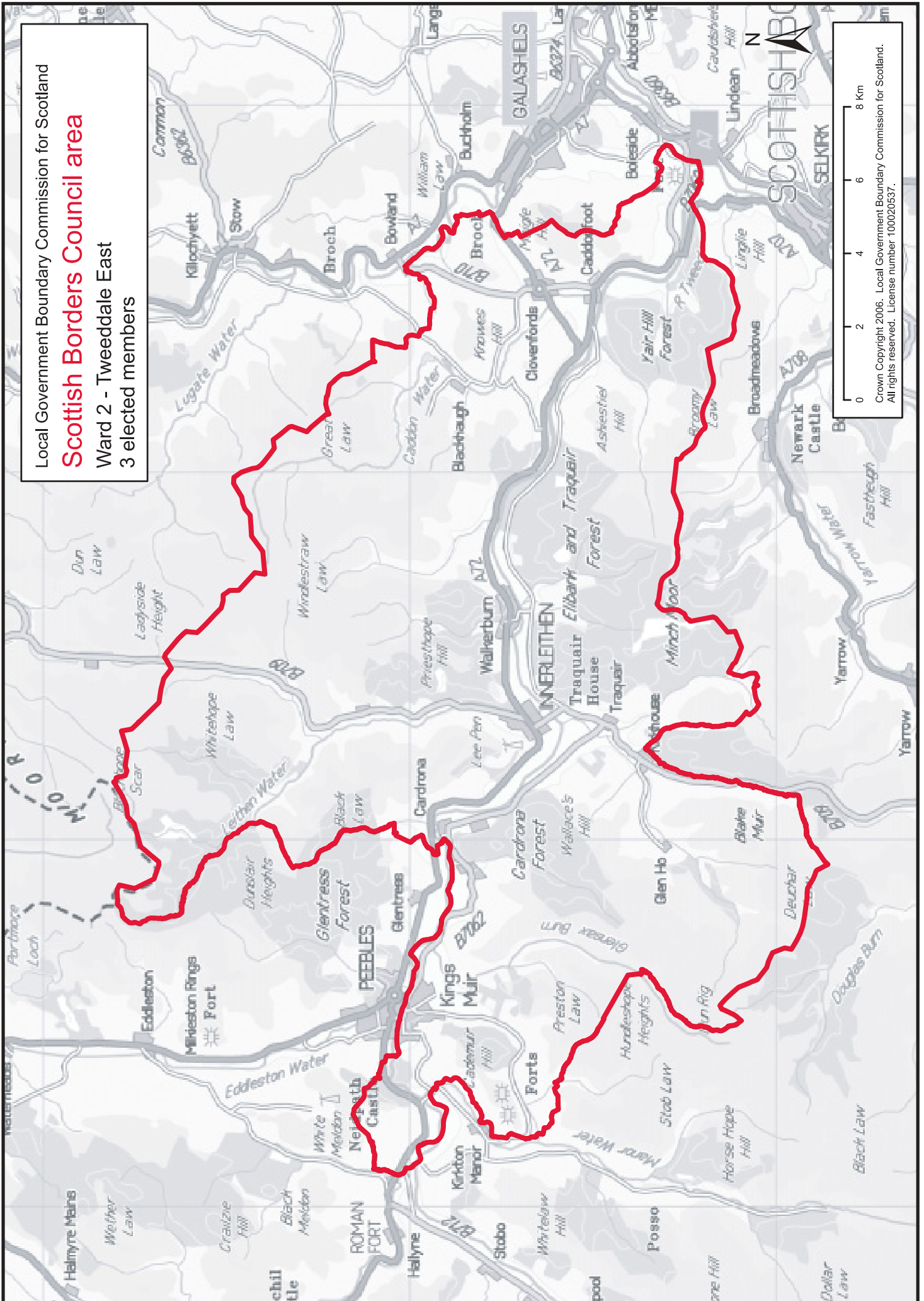
Ward 1 - Tweeddale West

3 elected members



0 2 4 6 8 10 12 Km  
Crown Copyright 2006. Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland.  
All rights reserved. License number 100020537.

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland  
**Scottish Borders Council area**  
 Ward 2 - Tweeddale East  
 3 elected members

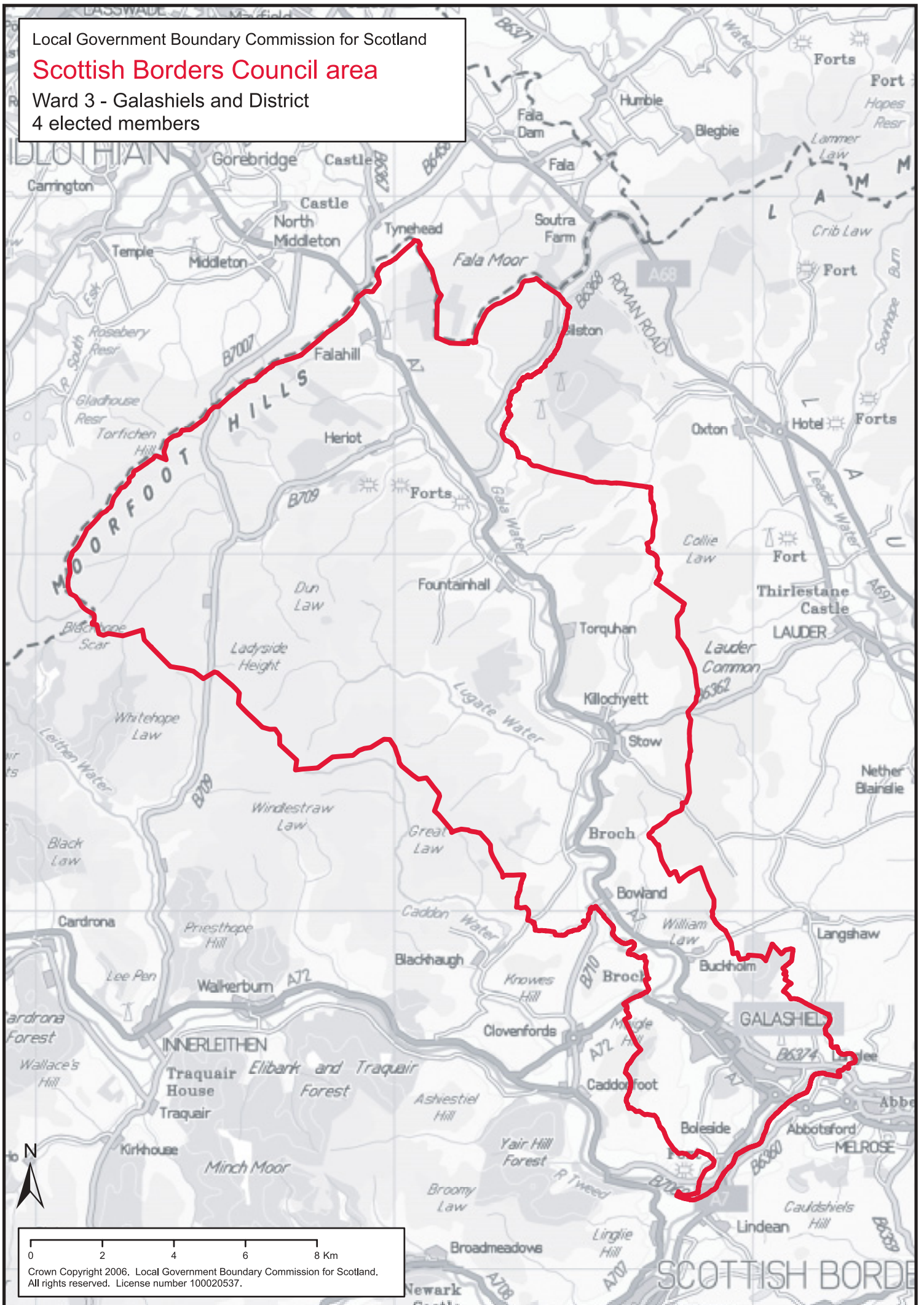


Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

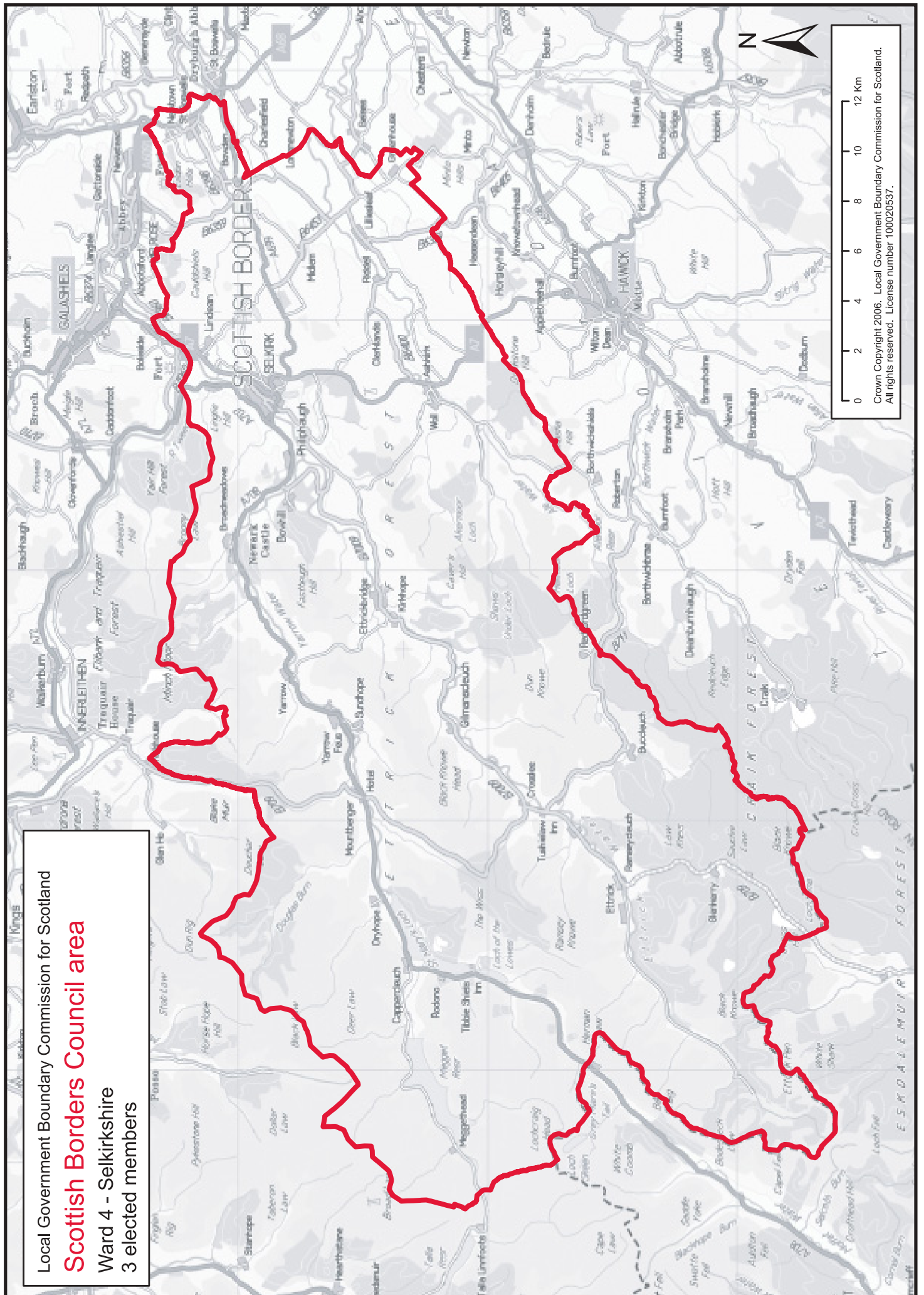
## Scottish Borders Council area

Ward 3 - Galashiels and District

4 elected members



Crown Copyright 2006. Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland. All rights reserved. License number 100020537.



Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland  
**Scottish Borders Council area**  
 Ward 4 - Selkirkshire  
 3 elected members

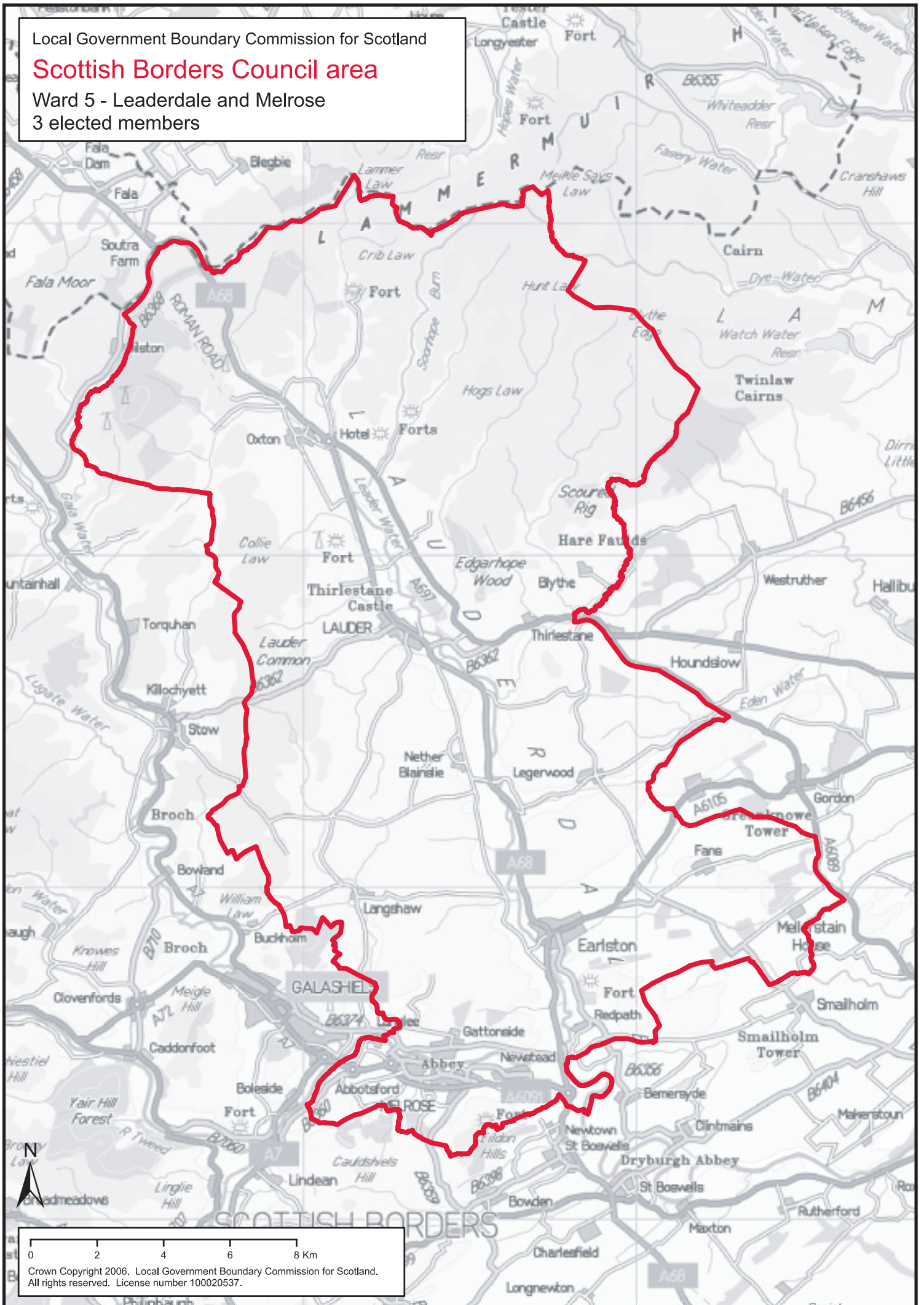
Crown Copyright 2006. Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland.  
 All rights reserved. License number 100020657.

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

## Scottish Borders Council area

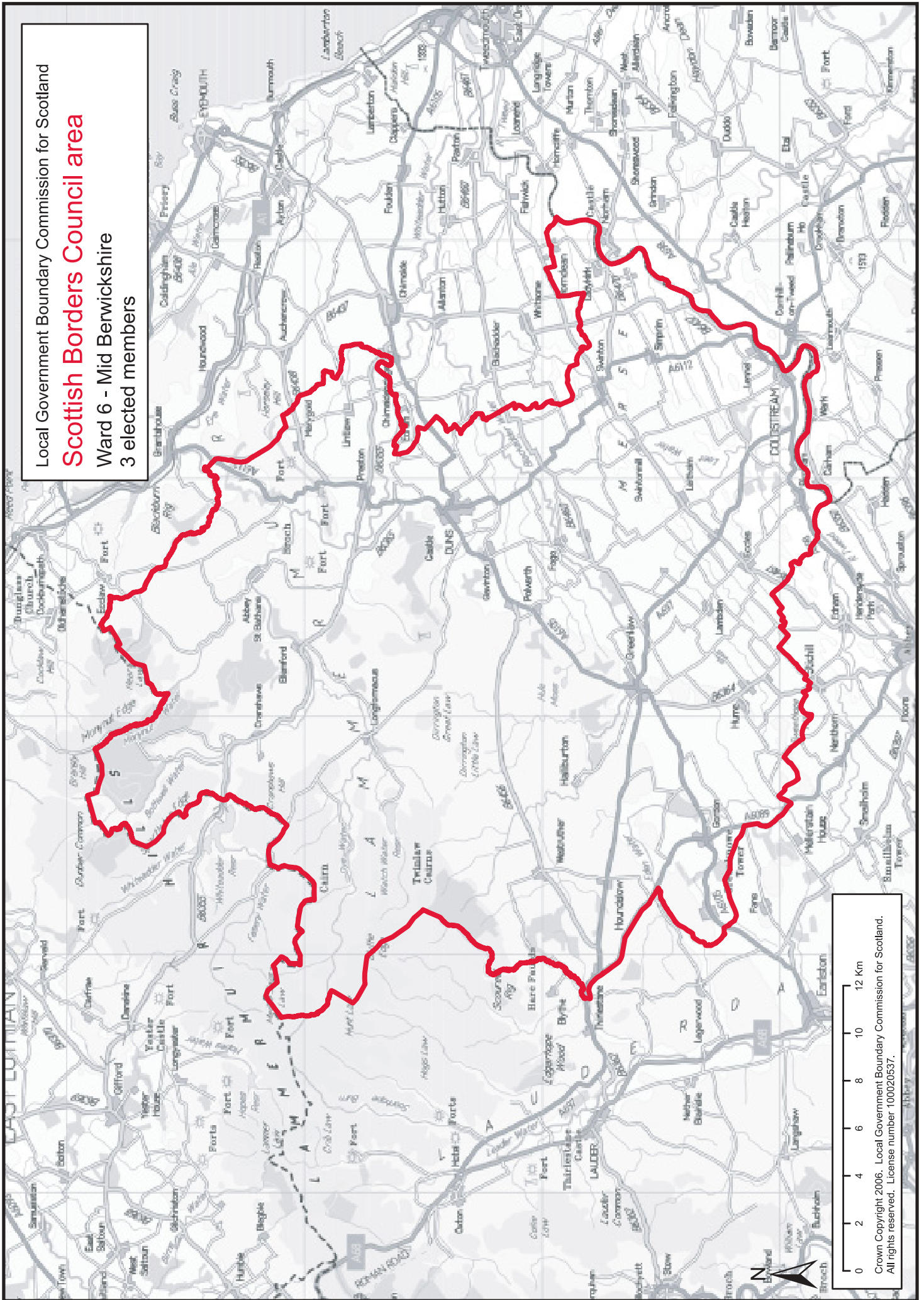
Ward 5 - Leaderdale and Melrose

3 elected members

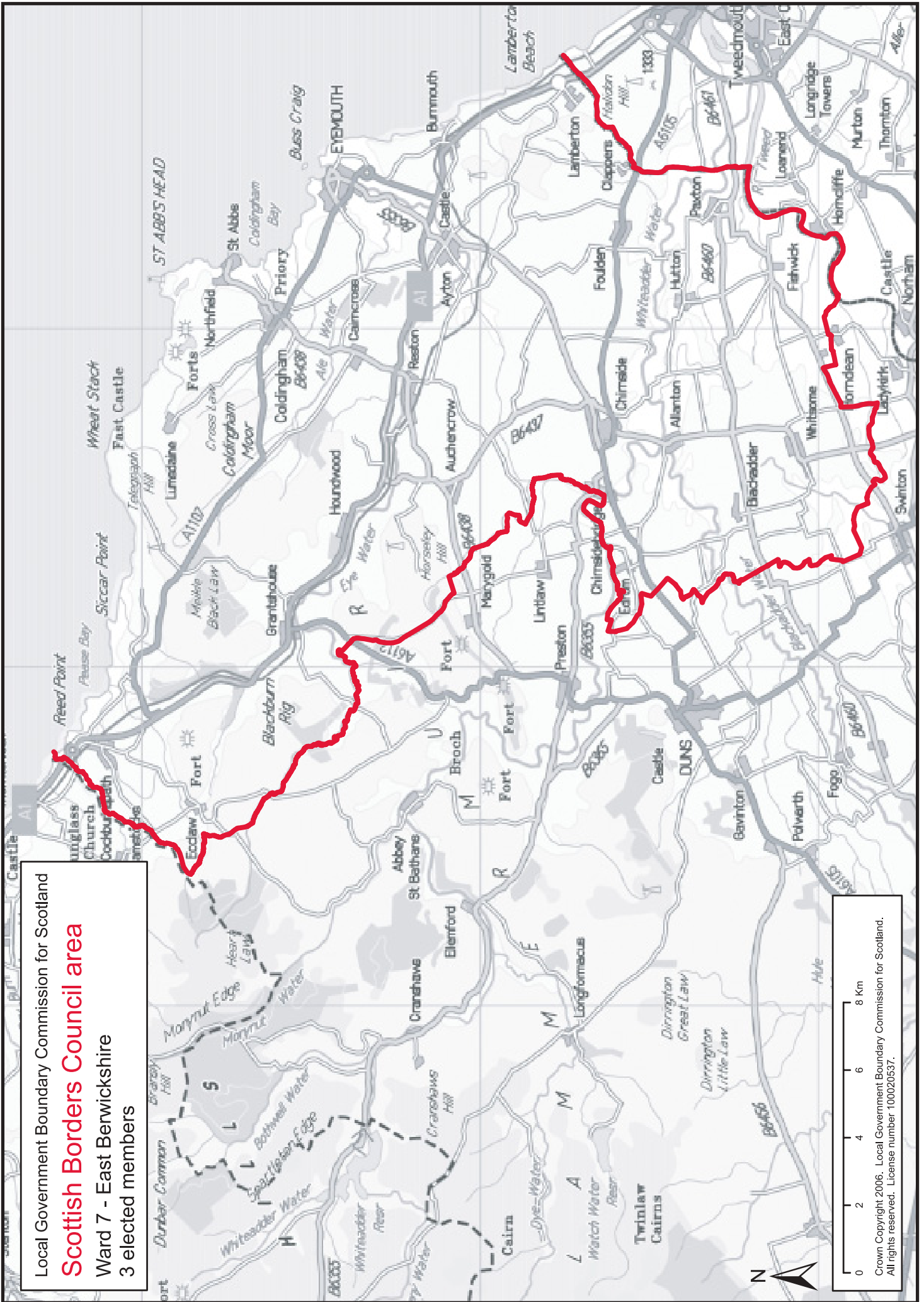


Crown Copyright 2006. Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland. All rights reserved. License number 100020537.

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland  
**Scottish Borders Council area**  
 Ward 6 - Mid Berwickshire  
 3 elected members



Copyright 2006. Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland.  
 All rights reserved. License number 100020537.



Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland  
**Scottish Borders Council area**  
 Ward 7 - East Berwickshire  
 3 elected members

0 2 4 6 8 Km

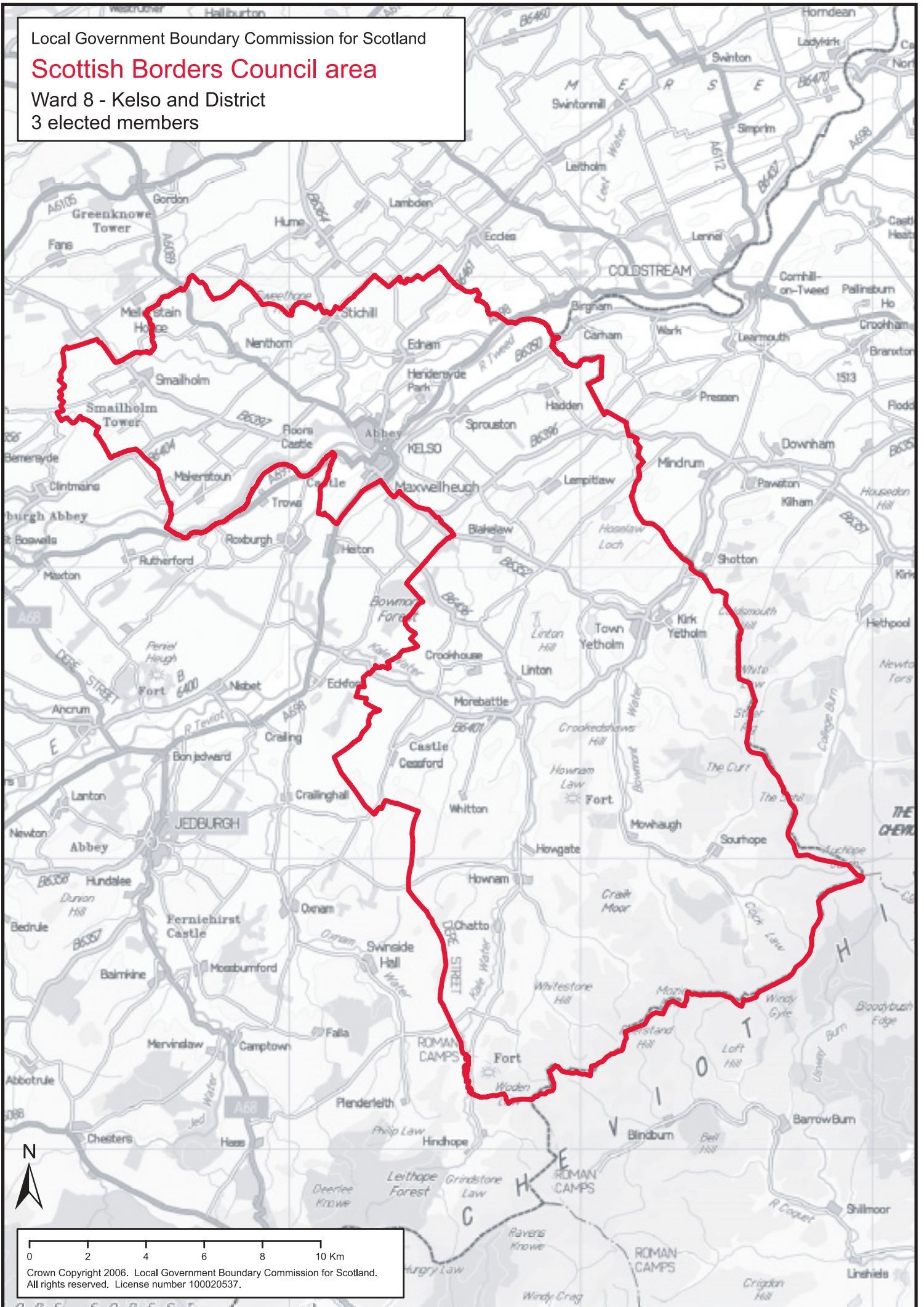
Crown Copyright 2006. Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland. All rights reserved. License number 100020537.

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

## Scottish Borders Council area

Ward 8 - Kelso and District

3 elected members



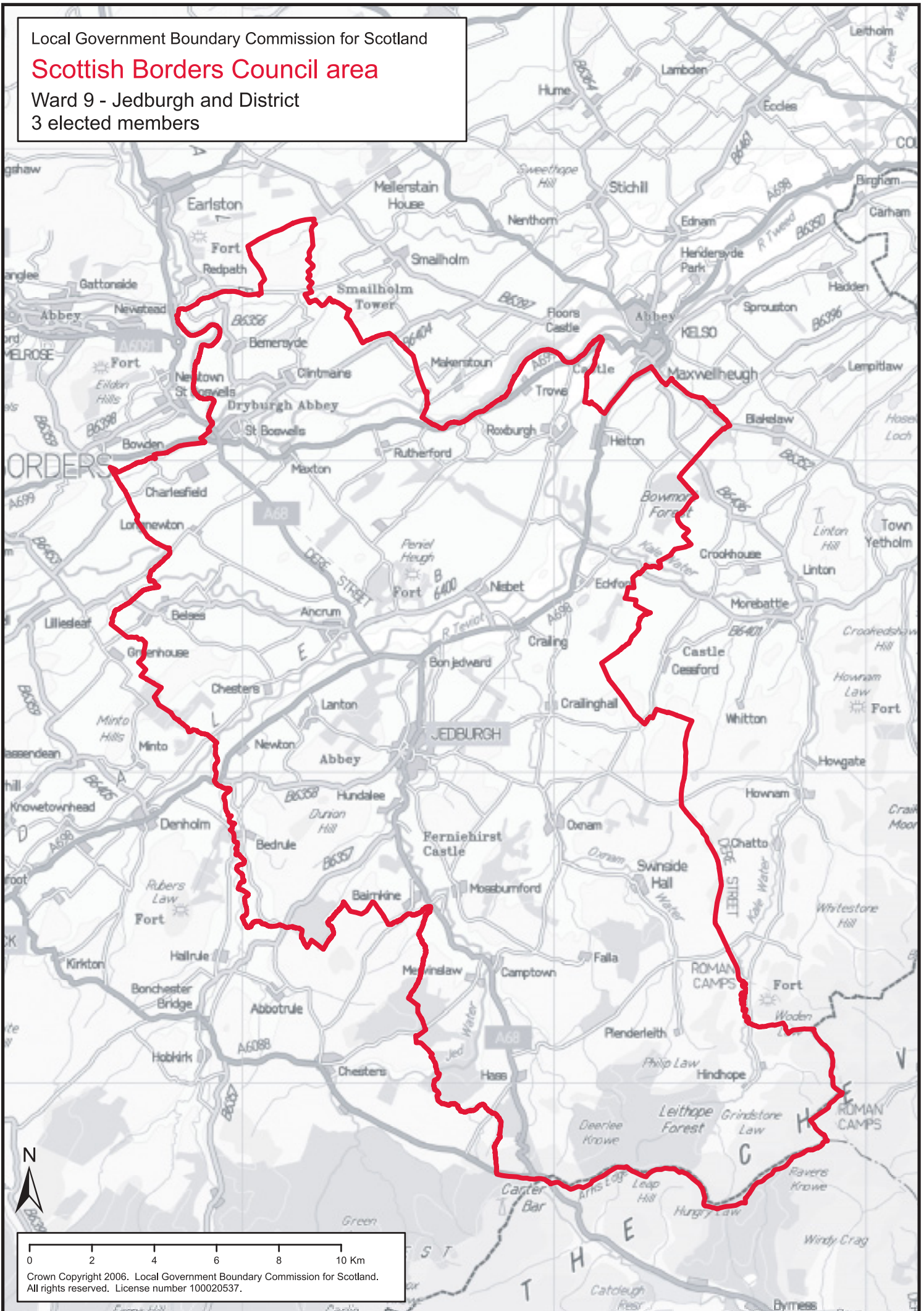
Crown Copyright 2006. Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland. All rights reserved. License number 10020537.

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

## Scottish Borders Council area

Ward 9 - Jedburgh and District

3 elected members



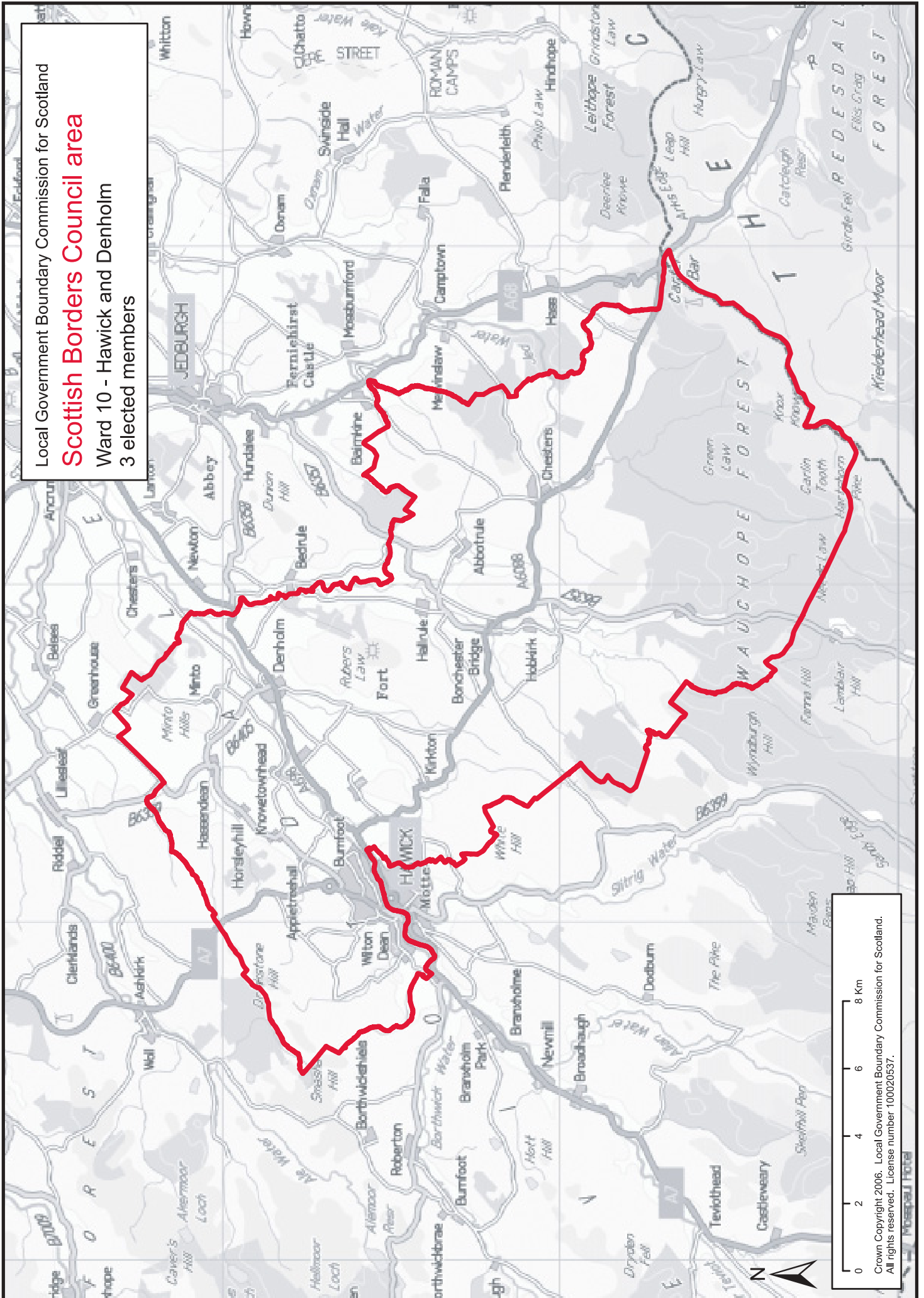
Crown Copyright 2006. Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland. All rights reserved. License number 10020537.

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

# Scottish Borders Council area

Ward 10 - Hawick and Denholm

3 elected members



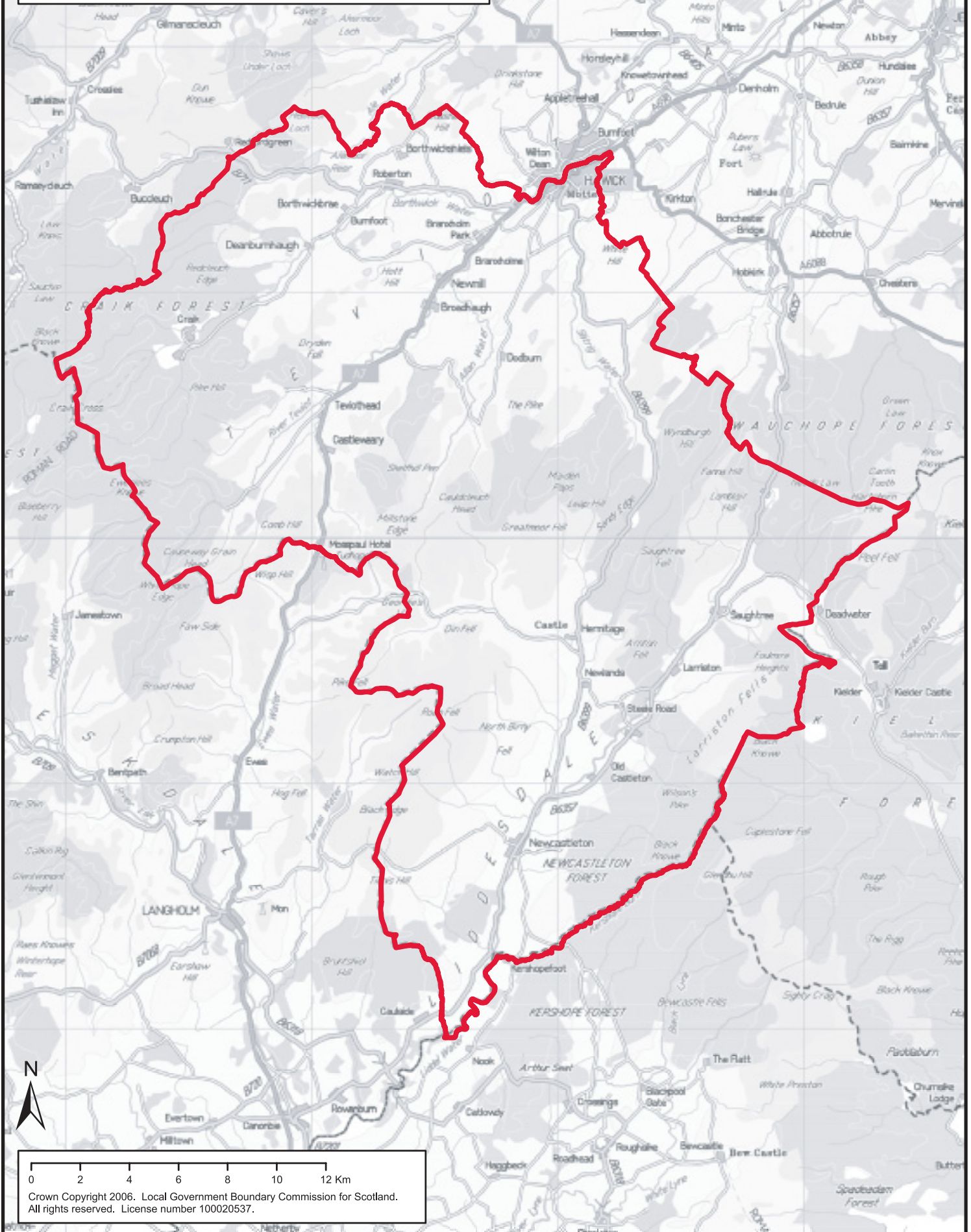
Crown Copyright 2006. Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland.  
All rights reserved. License number 100020537.

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

## Scottish Borders Council area

Ward 11 - Hawick and Hermitage

3 elected members



Crown Copyright 2006. Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland.  
All rights reserved. License number 100020537.







