



Information Paper

Local government area boundaries in Scotland: 1995 onwards

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Scotland is divided into 32 single-tier local government areas, which were introduced by the Local Government etc (Scotland) Act 1994. The first elections to the councils of the new local government areas took place on 6 April 1995, with the new councils taking up their responsibilities on 1 April 1996.

The table below lists the local government areas, and their current extent in square kilometres. The area has been calculated from Ordnance Survey Boundary-Line, version May 2025, which follows the Mean Low Water Springs boundary and is subject to natural and gradual change over time.

The table also summarises the relationships of the local government areas to the preceding Districts, Regions and Islands Areas. The full definition of the local government areas, their names and relationships to preceding areas are explained in Appendix A. Further details of the preceding areas appear in our Information Paper *Local government area boundaries in Scotland: 1974 to 1996*.

| Local government area | Extent (sq km) | Preceding Districts, Regions and Islands Areas |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Aberdeen City | 206 | City of Aberdeen District |
| Aberdeenshire | 6,339 | Banff and Buchan District; Gordon District; Kincardine and Deeside District |
| Angus ¹ | 2,202 | Angus District; the northern part of Dundee District |
| Argyll and Bute ² | 7,166 | Argyll and Bute District; the western part of Dumbarton District including Garelochhead, Helensburgh and Cardross |
| Clackmannanshire | 164 | Clackmannan District |
| Dumfries and Galloway | 6,673 | Dumfries and Galloway Region |
| Dundee City | 62 | The central part of City of Dundee District |
| East Ayrshire | 1,270 | Cumnock and Doon Valley District; Kilmarnock and Loudoun District |
| East Dunbartonshire | 174 | Bearsden and Milngavie District; Strathkelvin District except the south-eastern part around Stepps, Chryston and Gartcosh |
| East Lothian | 699 | East Lothian District |
| East Renfrewshire | 174 | Eastwood District; part of Renfrew District around Barrhead and Neilston |
| Edinburgh, City of | 273 | City of Edinburgh District |
| Eileanan an Iar, Na h- ³ | 3,272 | Western Isles Islands Area |
| Falkirk | 315 | Falkirk District |
| Fife | 1,373 | Fife Region |

¹ Angus includes the offshore rock of Bell Rock (grid reference NO72).

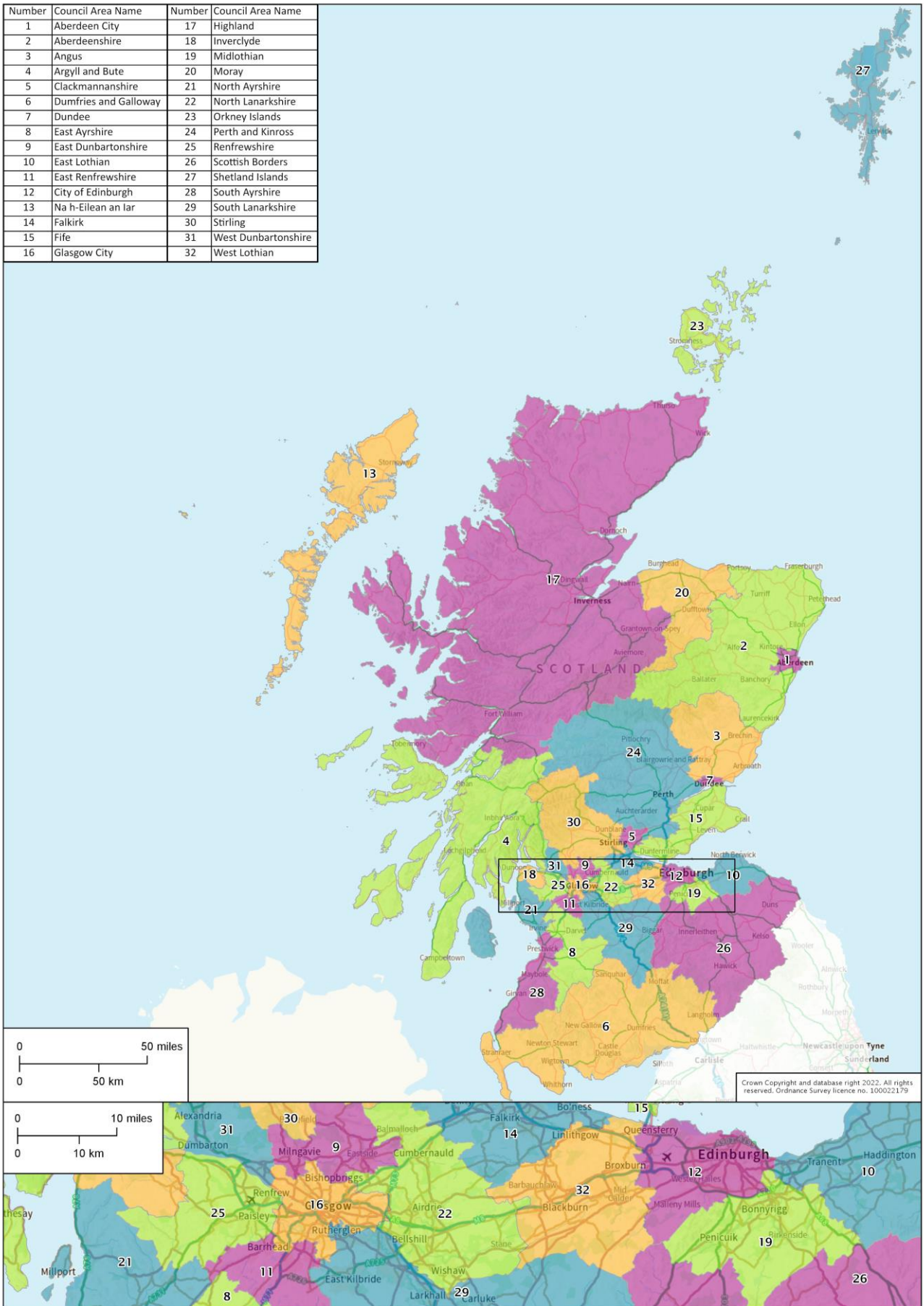
² Argyll and Bute includes the offshore rocks of Dubh Artach (grid reference NM10) and Skerryvore (grid reference NL82).

³ Na h-Eileanan an Iar includes Rockall, as a consequence of the Island of Rockall Act 1972.

| Local government area | Extent (sq km) | Preceding Districts, Regions and Islands Areas |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Glasgow City | 176 | City of Glasgow District except the Rutherglen area |
| Highland | 26,474 | Highland Region |
| Inverclyde | 174 | Inverclyde District |
| Midlothian | 355 | Midlothian District |
| Moray | 2,257 | Moray District |
| North Ayrshire | 904 | Cunninghame District |
| North Lanarkshire | 472 | Cumbernauld and Kilsyth District; Monklands District; Motherwell District; the south-eastern part of Strathkelvin District around Stepps, Chryston and Gartcosh |
| Orkney Islands | 1,087 | Orkney Islands Area |
| Perth and Kinross | 5,419 | The western part of Dundee District; Perth and Kinross District |
| Renfrewshire | 269 | Renfrew District except Barrhead and Neilston |
| Scottish Borders | 4,743 | Borders Region |
| Shetland Islands | 1,658 | Shetland Islands Area |
| South Ayrshire | 1,235 | Kyle and Carrick District |
| South Lanarkshire | 1,774 | Clydesdale District; East Kilbride District; the Rutherglen area of Glasgow District; Hamilton District |
| Stirling | 2,255 | Stirling District |
| West Dunbartonshire | 183 | Clydebank District; the eastern part of Dumbarton District including Dumbarton and the Vale of Leven |
| West Lothian | 432 | West Lothian District |
| Total area | 80,227 | |

Since being defined, a small number of minor amendments to the local government areas have taken place as a result of our reviews. These are listed at Appendix B.

| Number | Council Area Name | Number | Council Area Name |
|--------|-----------------------|--------|---------------------|
| 1 | Aberdeen City | 17 | Highland |
| 2 | Aberdeenshire | 18 | Inverclyde |
| 3 | Angus | 19 | Midlothian |
| 4 | Argyll and Bute | 20 | Moray |
| 5 | Clackmannanshire | 21 | North Ayrshire |
| 6 | Dumfries and Galloway | 22 | North Lanarkshire |
| 7 | Dundee | 23 | Orkney Islands |
| 8 | East Ayrshire | 24 | Perth and Kinross |
| 9 | East Dunbartonshire | 25 | Renfrewshire |
| 10 | East Lothian | 26 | Scottish Borders |
| 11 | East Renfrewshire | 27 | Shetland Islands |
| 12 | City of Edinburgh | 28 | South Ayrshire |
| 13 | Na h-Eilean an Iar | 29 | South Lanarkshire |
| 14 | Falkirk | 30 | Stirling |
| 15 | Fife | 31 | West Dunbartonshire |
| 16 | Glasgow City | 32 | West Lothian |



Appendix A – Legislative definition of local government areas

The full definition of the boundaries of the local government areas was set out in Schedule 1 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 which is reproduced below.

The names of some of the local government areas have been changed since the passage of the 1994 Act: these changes are listed in the table below. Such name changes take place in accordance with section 23 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended by the 1994 Act, by resolution of the council of the local government area.

| Local government area name in 1994 Act | Revised local government area name | Date of change |
|--|---|----------------|
| City of Aberdeen | Aberdeen City | 9.5.1995 |
| City of Dundee | Dundee City | 29.6.1995 |
| City of Glasgow | Glasgow City | 4.4.1996 |
| Clackmannan | Clackmannanshire | 1.4.1996 |
| Dumbarton and Clydebank | West Dunbartonshire | 29.11.1995 |
| Perthshire and Kinross | Perth and Kinross | 1.12.1995 |
| The Borders | Scottish Borders | 1.4.1996 |
| Western Isles Western Isles Council | Na h-Eileanan an Iar Comhairle nan Eilean Siar | 1.1.1998 |

Na h-Eileanan an Iar council area is sometimes referred to as 'Eilean Siar' which is an abbreviation of the council's name in Gaelic.

Most of the definitions in the 1994 Act are in terms of Region, Islands Area and District boundaries as they existed at the time of the passage of the 1994 Act. These were originally defined in Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. Since being defined in the 1973 Act, some of the boundaries were amended as a result of our reviews. Details of those boundaries and amendments are available in our Information Paper *Local government area boundaries in Scotland: 1974 to 1996*.

The other units used in the 1994 Act for local government area definitions are:

- polling districts for regional council elections;
- Electoral Divisions 30 and 31 for Tayside Regional Council elections. These were defined in 1993⁴ after our 2nd Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements for Tayside Region;
- various Electoral Divisions for Strathclyde Regional Council elections. These were defined in 1993⁵ after our 2nd Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements for Strathclyde Region; and
- South Lenzie / Waterside district ward. This was defined in 1983⁶ after our Initial Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements for Strathkelvin District.

⁴ The Tayside Region (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1993 (SI 1993/991)

⁵ The Strathclyde Region (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1993 (SI 1993/2439)

⁶ The Strathkelvin District (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1983 (SI 1983/1489)

Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994

SCHEDULE 1
NEW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS
PART I
New areas

| New local government areas | Comprising area of |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| City of Aberdeen | Aberdeen District Council |
| Aberdeenshire | Banff and Buchan District Council; Gordon District Council; Kincardine and Deeside District Council |
| Angus | <p>Angus District Council;</p> <p>Tayside electoral divisions 30 (Monifieth) and 31 (Sidlaw) (except</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • first, polling district PDB; • secondly, that part of polling district PDC lying to the east and south of a line commencing at the junction of unnamed roads at grid reference NO 3297 3106 then running northwest to the crossroads at Mains of Fowlis at grid reference NO 3247 3239; then running northeastward along the unnamed road between Mains of Fowlis and Liff to the western curtilage of the property known as Cater-Milly at grid reference NO 3300 3276; then running southward and eastward along the western and southern curtilages of the said property to the field boundary at grid reference NO 3308 3259; then continuing southeastward along the said field boundary and across the Liff Burn to the eastern perimeter of the woodland known as Gray Den at grid reference NO 3332 3239; then running north and east along the path running along the said eastern perimeter of Gray Den to its junction with the unnamed track between Liff and Mains of Gray at grid reference NO 3336 3273; then running north to the junction of the said track and the southern curtilage of the property known as Gray Cottage; then running northeastward along the southern curtilages of Gray Cottage, Learsmonth House, Woodend Cottages and No. 31 Church Road to the southern edge of Church Road where it runs between Liff and the Royal Dundee Liff Hospital then running eastward along the continuation of the said road past the northern perimeter of the said Hospital to the road junction at grid reference NO 3537 3276; • thirdly, that part of polling district ADA lying to the east and south of a line commencing at a point on the A923 road at grid reference NO 3560 3378 then running north along the eastern curtilage of No 100 Coupar Angus Road and northwestwards along the northern |

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| | <p>curtilages of Nos 100 to 122 Coupar Angus Road to the eastern perimeter of Blairfield Road; then northwards along the said eastern perimeter to the field boundary at grid reference NO 3533 3436; then northeastwards along the said field boundary to its junction with Templeton Road at grid reference NO 3577 3455;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fourthly, that part of polling district ADC lying to the east and south of a line commencing at grid reference NO 3660 3474 then running northward to the northwest corner of Baldragon Wood at grid reference NO 3658 3496; then running eastward along the northern perimeter of the said wood and continuing along the field boundary to grid reference NO 3725 3491; • fifthly, those parts of polling districts ADE and ADF lying to the east and south of a line commencing on the southern boundary of polling district ADE on the A90 road at grid reference NO 4166 3458; then running northwards along the said A90 road to its intersection with Emmock Road at grid reference NO 4180 3508 then running southeastwards along the said Emmock Road to its junction with the unnamed road leading to South Powrie and Barns of Wedderburn then eastwards along the said unnamed road as far as the northwestern curtilage of Barns of Wedderburn at grid reference NO 4347 3469; then running southwestwards and southeastwards along the northwestern and southwestern perimeter of the said property to the point where it meets the unnamed road leading to Fintry at grid reference NO 4347 3458; then running southwestwards along the said unnamed road to the road junction at grid reference NO 4345 3452; and • sixthly, those parts of polling districts EDN, EDQ, PDA, WED, WEE, WEF and WEG lying within its boundary) |
| Argyll and Bute | <p>Argyll and Bute District Council; Strathclyde electoral division 7 (Helensburgh) and, in Strathclyde electoral division 8 (Vale of Leven), polling district DB77 and that part of polling district DB78 lying north of a line commencing at grid reference NS 3464 8256; then running northeastwards to the field corner at grid reference NS 3469 8264; then southeastwards to the field junction at grid reference NS 3608 8198; then northeastwards to the field junction at grid reference NS 3658 8242; then northwestwards to the junction of the field boundary and an unnamed burn at grid reference NS 3613 8269; then generally northeastwards along the course of the said burn to where it meets Loch Lomond at grid reference NS 3743 8336; then due northeastwards from that point to the eastern boundary of the said polling district in Loch Lomond</p> |
| East Ayrshire | <p>Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council and Cumnock and Doon Valley District Council</p> |

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|-------------------------|--|
| North Ayrshire | Cunninghame District Council |
| South Ayrshire | Kyle and Carrick District Council |
| The Borders | Borders Regional Council |
| Clackmannan | Clackmannan District Council |
| Dumbarton and Clydebank | Clydebank District Council; Strathclyde electoral divisions 6 (Dumbarton) and 8 (Vale of Leven) (except the areas of the said electoral division 8 included in Argyll and Bute) |
| Dumfries and Galloway | Dumfries and Galloway Regional Council |
| East Dunbartonshire | Bearsden and Milngavie District Council; Strathclyde electoral divisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 43 (Kirkintilloch), • 44 (Strathkelvin North), • 45 (Bishopbriggs) and • the South Lenzie/Waterside district ward in Strathclyde electoral division 46 (Chryston) |
| City of Dundee | City of Dundee District Council (except Tayside electoral division 30 (Monifieth) and those parts of 31 (Sidlaw) which are in Angus or Perthshire and Kinross) |
| City of Edinburgh | City of Edinburgh District Council |
| Falkirk | Falkirk District Council |
| Fife | Fife Regional Council |
| City of Glasgow | City of Glasgow District Council except Strathclyde electoral divisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 37 (Rutherglen/Fernhill), • 38 (Cambuslang/Halfway) and, • in 35 (King's Park/Toryglen), polling districts RU03, RU04, RU09 and RU18 |
| Highland | Highland Regional Council |
| Inverclyde | Inverclyde District Council |
| North Lanarkshire | Cumbernauld and Kilsyth, Motherwell and Monklands District Councils; Strathclyde electoral division 46 (Chryston) (except South Lenzie/Waterside district ward) |
| South Lanarkshire | Clydesdale, Hamilton and East Kilbride District Councils; Strathclyde electoral divisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 37 (Rutherglen/Fernhill), • 38 (Cambuslang/Halfway) and, • in 35 (King's Park/Toryglen), polling districts RU03, RU04, RU09 and RU18 |
| East Lothian | East Lothian District Council |
| Midlothian | Midlothian District Council |
| West Lothian | West Lothian District Council |
| Moray | Moray District Council |
| Orkney Islands | Orkney Islands Council |
| Perthshire and Kinross | Perth and Kinross District Council and, in Tayside electoral division 31 (Sidlaw), polling district PDB and that part of polling district PDA lying to the south of a line commencing at a point adjacent to Starr Inn Farm at grid |

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| | reference NO 3309 3051 on the A90 road; then running eastward along the said road to the junction at grid reference NO 3462 3079. |
| East Renfrewshire | Eastwood District Council; Strathclyde electoral division 79 (Barrhead) |
| Renfrewshire | Renfrew District Council (except Strathclyde electoral division 79 (Barrhead)) |
| Shetland Islands | Shetland Islands Council |
| Stirling | Stirling District Council |
| Western Isles | Western Isles Islands Council |

PART II

Provisions as to boundaries

1 The boundaries of the new local government areas shall be mered by Ordnance Survey.

2 In this Schedule —

“electoral division” means an electoral division for regional council elections as at 5th May 1994;

“polling district” means a polling district for regional council elections as at 1st December 1993; and

“ward” means a ward for district council elections as at 7th May 1992.

Appendix B – Amendments to local government area boundaries since 1995

Section 14(1) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, required us to carry out reviews of all local government areas between 8 and 12 years after 1 April 1996 (i.e. April 2004 - March 2008), and every 8 to 12 years thereafter. The Scottish Elections (Reform) Act 2020 extended this to intervals of not more than 15 years. Under section 14(2) of the 1973 Act, we have the power to review any part of any local government area at our discretion. Under section 15, Ministers have the power to direct us whether or not to carry out reviews of any local government area.

Ministers have limited our scope to carry out such reviews under section 14(2) by a series of Ministerial Directions. The Directions, since 1999, have restricted any such review to one which potentially directly affected no more than 500 electors.

Subsequent Directions covering the period from 1 April 2011 have instructed us not to undertake any reviews under section 14(1).

Within this framework, some amendments to the boundaries of local government areas defined in the 1994 Act have been made as a result of our reviews.

Scottish Ministers implement the recommendations from our reports by Scottish Statutory Instruments. These Statutory Instruments do not amend Schedule 1 of the 1994 Act, but instead define a new boundary in the area affected under powers in the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

All of the reports from these Reviews are available from our website.

| Report | Report date | Boundary altered | Location | Scottish Statutory Instrument | Date in force |
|--------|-------------|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---------------|
| A00001 | Nov 2000 | Argyll and Bute / West Dunbartonshire | Ardoch Sewage Works | 2002/155 | 1 Jun 2002 |
| A00002 | Nov 2000 | Aberdeen City / Aberdeenshire | Blackburn | 2002/154 | 1 Jun 2002 |
| A00003 | Nov 2000 | Glasgow City / Renfrewshire | Braehead | 2002/156 | 1 Jun 2002 |
| A00004 | Nov 2000 | City of Edinburgh / West Lothian | West Farm, Broxburn | 2002/157 | 1 Jun 2002 |
| A09001 | Mar 2009 | Glasgow City / North Lanarkshire | Cardowan, by Steps | 2009/368 | 1 Apr 2010 |
| A09002 | Oct 2009 | Angus / Dundee City | Fithiebank | 2009/442 | 1 Apr 2010 |
| A10001 | Mar 2010 | East Dunbartonshire/ Glasgow City | Princes Gate and Greenacres by Robroyston | 2010/353 | 1 Apr 2011 |
| A15001 | Oct 2015 | Fife / Perth & Kinross | Keltybridge and Fife Environmental Energy Park at Westfield | 2017/430 | 2 Feb 2018 |
| A18001 | Apr 2018 | Glasgow City / North Lanarkshire | Cardowan, Steps | 2018/308 | 1 Apr 2019 |