

- made no changes to ward names; and
- adopted the Forth and Clyde Canal, the River Carron and a railway line as easily-identifiable boundaries.

Consultation with Falkirk Council

74. We consulted Falkirk Council on our ward proposals between 19 March and 19 May 2015.

75. The council responded to the consultation on 29 May 2015 setting out its continued opposition to the proposed decrease in councillor numbers for the area. The council highlighted an anomaly in the boundary between proposed ward 4 (Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst) and ward 5 (Bonnybridge and Larbert). It expressed concern about the timing of the consultation given that councillors were engaged with pre-election activities and because of the increase in electorate in the run-up to the Scottish Independence Referendum and suggested that existing arrangements are to be preferred.

76. We reviewed our ward proposals for Falkirk Council area at our meeting of 7 July 2015 (see LGBCS Paper 2324/15 and minute of meeting M368). We noted Falkirk Council's opposition to our proposed wards and that the council had not suggested a substantial alternative set of electoral arrangements. We considered the small change in Larbert suggested by the council, and agreed that adopting this change to our proposals would provide a more easily identifiable boundary in the area while having a minimal effect upon electoral parity.

Consultation with the public

77. We wrote to Falkirk Council to inform it that the consultation with the public on proposals for wards would begin on 30 July and run until 22 October 2015. The council was invited to submit a further response during the public consultation.

78. On 30 July 2015 we announced a 12-week period of consultation with the public on our ward proposals for Falkirk Council area; these remained the same as those we had consulted the council on, other than the adoption of the council's suggested small change at Larbert.

79. On 22 October 2015 the consultation period with the public ended. Seven responses relating to Falkirk Council area were received during the public consultation, which can be found on our website. The main themes to emerge were:

- ward 6 and ward 7 should both be 4-member wards because of the deprivation contained within them;
- local ties between Camelon and Bantaskine and Tamfourhill may be broken;
- the petro-chemical industry in Grangemouth increased workloads for councillors in ward 2; and
- there was a mixed response to the reduction in councillor numbers in the area.

80. During the public consultation, the council did not make any further comments on the proposals.

81. We received 3 responses for all council areas in Scotland and these are available on our website.

Development of our final recommendations

82. On 12 January 2016 (see LGBCS Paper 2364/16 and minute of meeting M373) we considered all responses received during the consultations.

83. We discussed further options for Falkirk Council area and considered 3 alternative suggestions for ward boundaries in the council area.

84. Suggestion 1 retained the existing electoral arrangements and we agreed that although it avoided disruption to existing arrangements it would result in ward 2 (Grangemouth) having a forecast variation from electoral parity figure of 15% and the number of councillors would differ from that proposed by the Commission's methodology.

85. Suggestion 2 was Option B1 from LGBCS Paper 2241/14. This suggestion was discussed by the Commission but it was agreed that whilst it maintained local ties by Camelon, it resulted in the under-representation of deprived populations in wards 2, 6 and 7.

86. Suggestion 3 was Option C from LGBCS Paper 2241/14. The Commission noted that whilst variation from electoral parity in this suggestion was within 10% for all wards, the overall number of councillors differed from that proposed by the Commission's methodology for determining councillor numbers.

87. We therefore decided that our ward proposals for public consultation should be retained unaltered as our recommendations for Falkirk Council area.

88. We considered that the information we had available was sufficient to reach a decision for Falkirk Council area that would provide for effective and convenient local government and that there was not a need for further consultation or a local inquiry.

89. On 19 April 2016 (see LGBCS Paper 2395/16 and minute of meeting M377) we confirmed our Final Recommendations for Falkirk Council area as set out in Part 3.

90. All papers and minutes of meetings relating to our consideration of Falkirk Council area are available on our website: <http://www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk>.

91. The timetable for the Fifth Reviews of electoral arrangements is set out at Appendix E. An index of our meetings, papers and minutes concerning Falkirk Council area is at Appendix F.

Part 3 Final Recommendation for Falkirk Council area

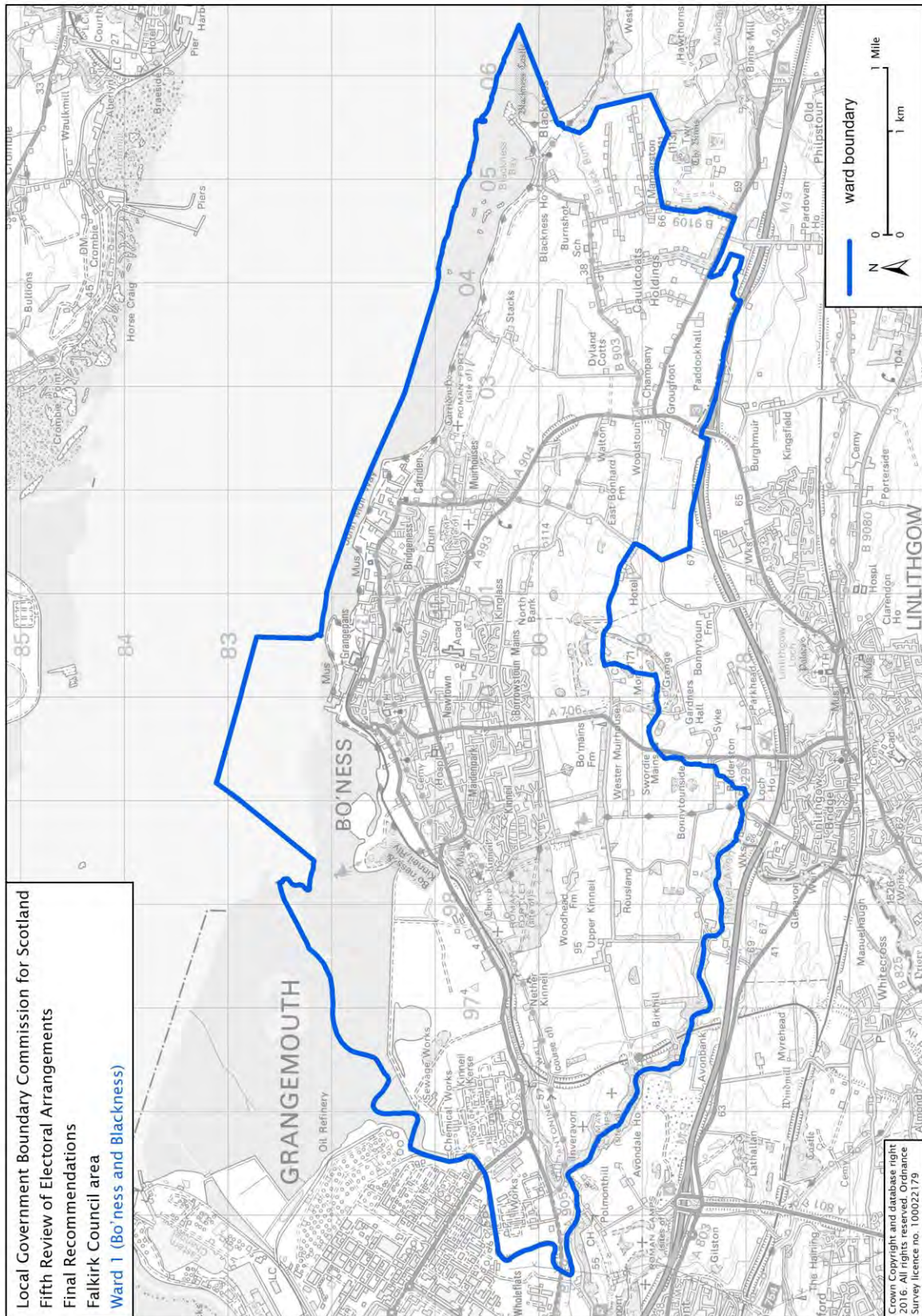
92. We recommend that in the interests of effective and convenient local government the future electoral arrangements for Falkirk Council area should provide for a council of 30 councillors in 9 wards, comprising 3 wards each returning 4 members and 6 wards each returning 3 members as follows:

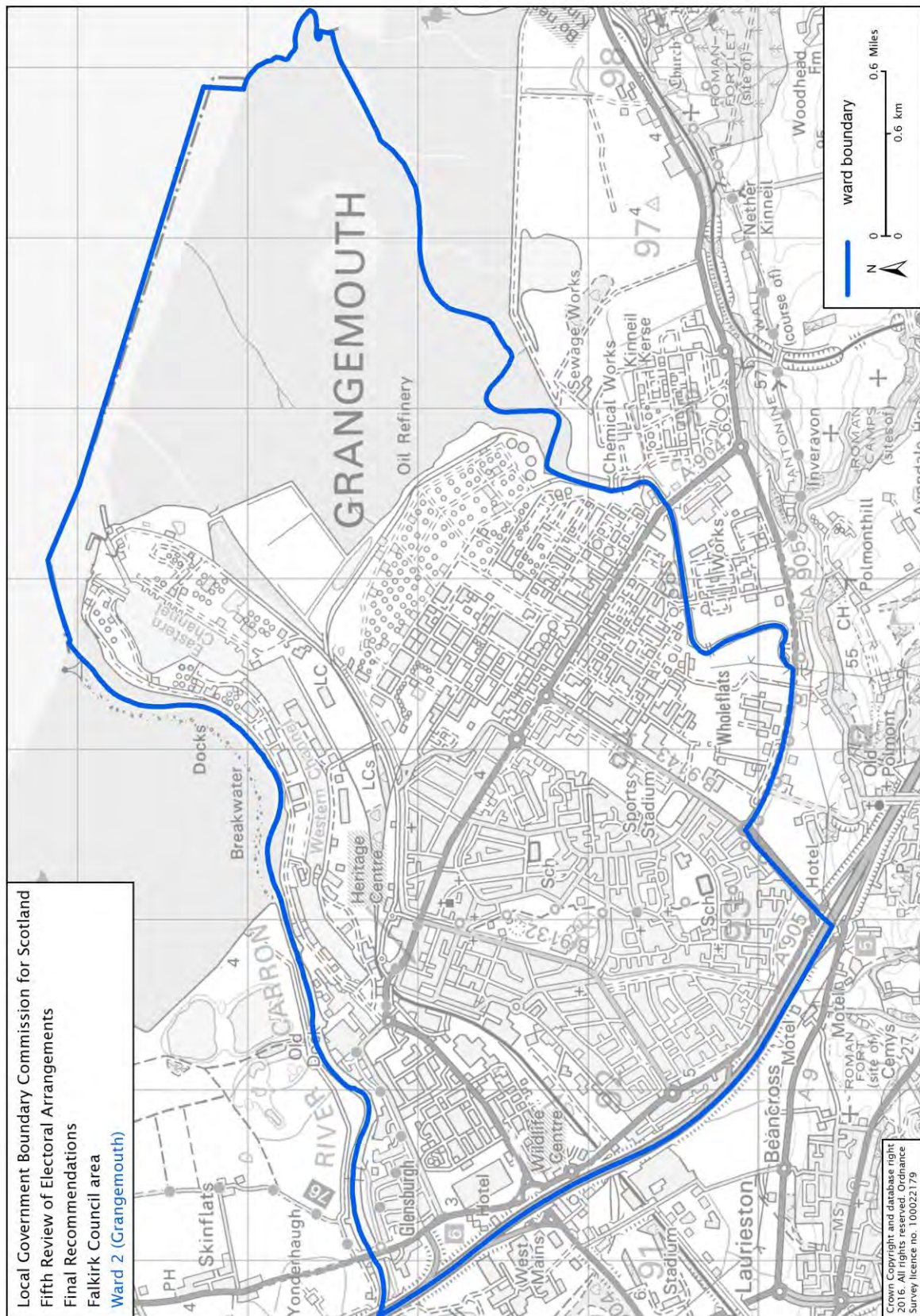
Ward no.	Ward name	Councillors	Electorate Sept 13	Actual variation from parity	Forecast electorate	Forecast variation from parity
1	Bo'ness and Blackness	3	11,476	1%	11,526	-1%
2	Grangemouth	3	12,298	8%	12,101	4%
3	Denny and Banknock	4	13,797	-9%	14,694	-5%
4	Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst	4	14,920	-2%	15,596	0%
5	Bonnybridge and Larbert	3	11,943	5%	11,980	3%
6	Falkirk North	4	14,964	-2%	15,195	-2%
7	Falkirk South	3	12,455	9%	12,432	7%
8	Lower Braes	3	10,696	-6%	11,117	-5%
9	Upper Braes	3	11,482	1%	11,975	3%
	Totals	30	114,031	5%	116,616	3%

93. A digitised description of the ward boundaries in the form of GIS shapefiles has been securely stored on magnetic media at the date of publication of our report.

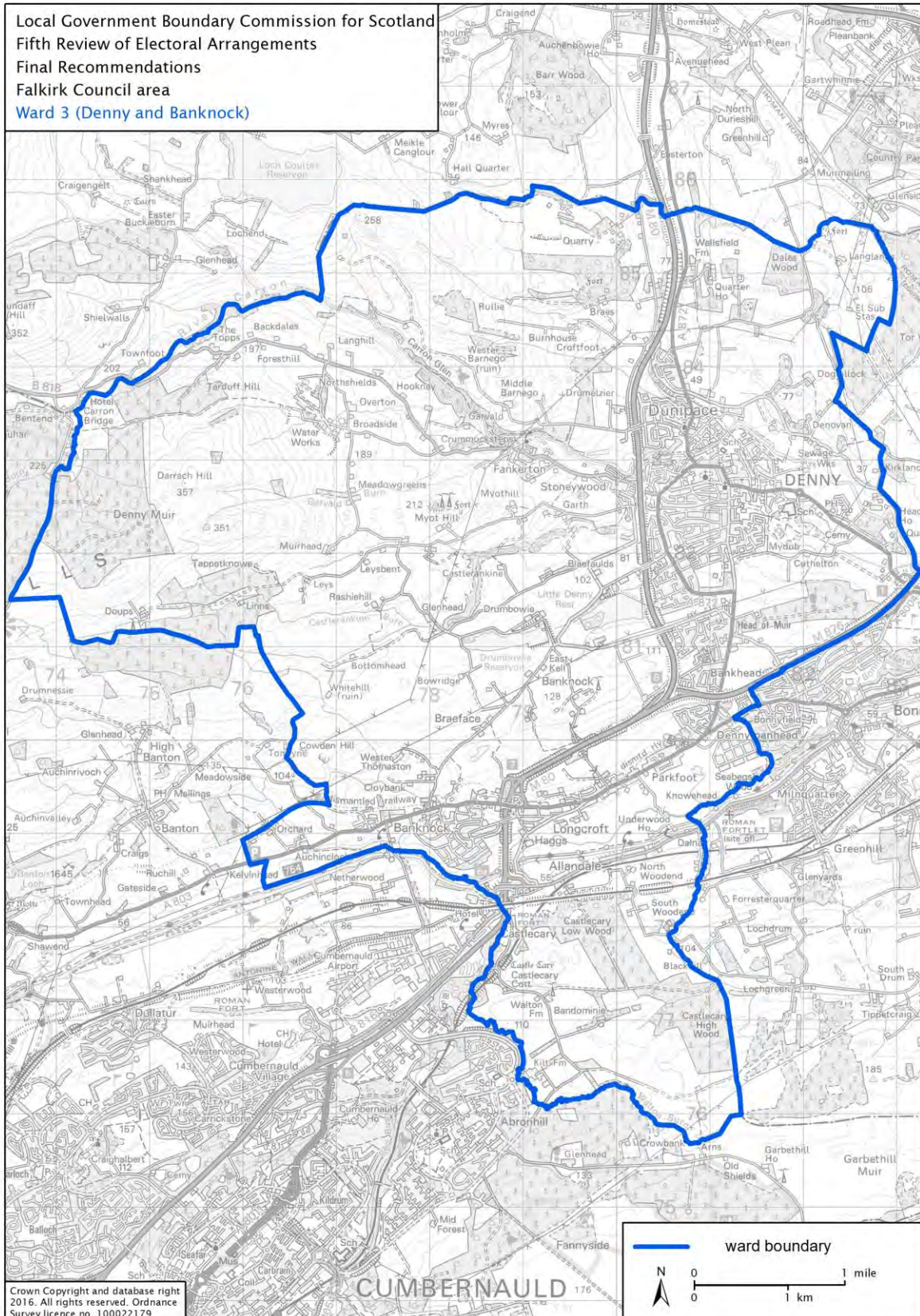
94. Our report has also been deposited for public inspection at offices designated by the council and a news release announcing the publication of our report has also been issued.

95. Our report is available on our website at www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk.

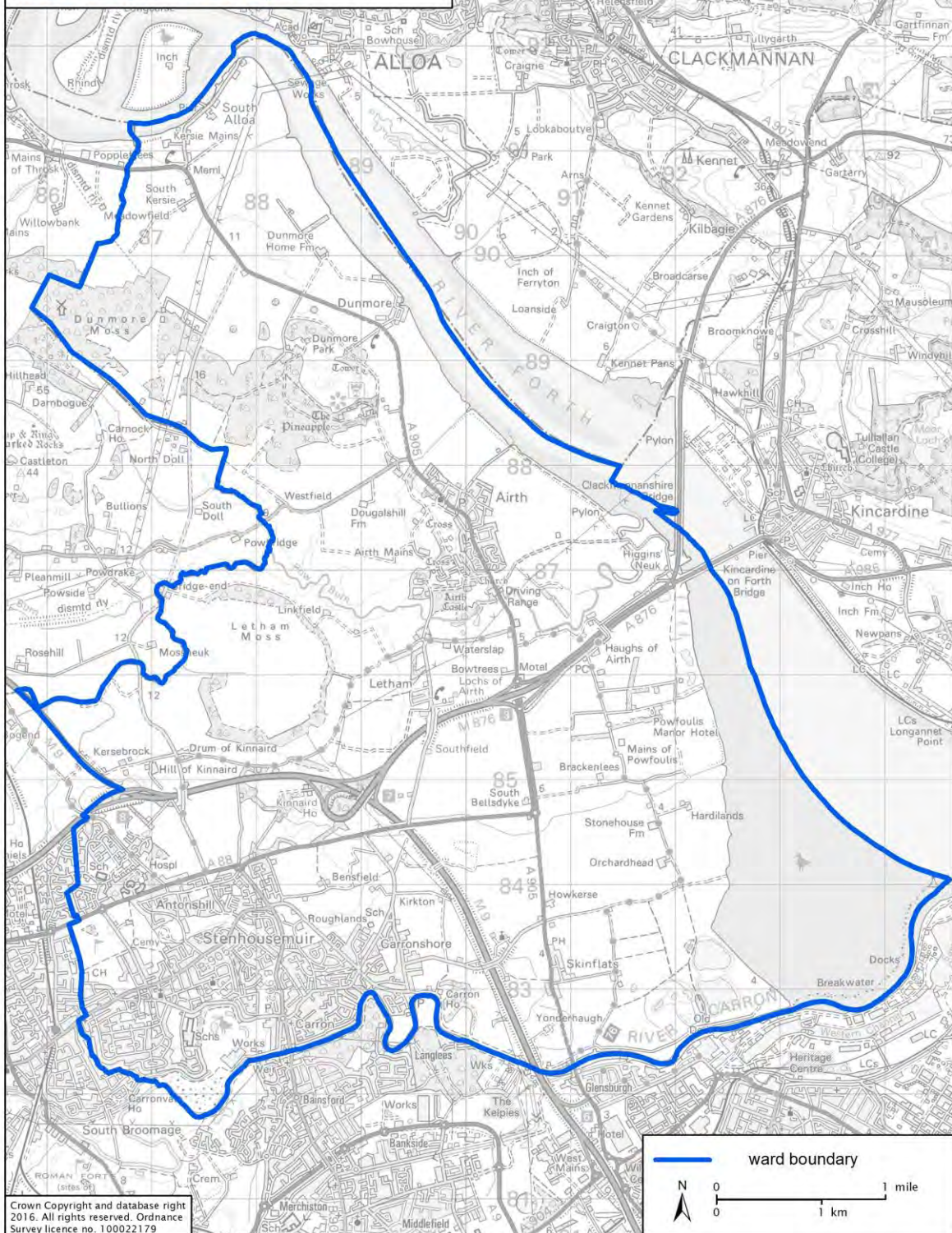




Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements
Final Recommendations
Falkirk Council area
Ward 3 (Denny and Banknock)



Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements
Final Recommendations
Falkirk Council area
Ward 4 (Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst)



Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements
Final Recommendations
Falkirk Council area
Ward 5 (Bonnybridge and Larbert)

