

**PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL****13 May 2015****Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland – Fifth Statutory Review of Local Government Electoral Arrangements in Scotland – Consultation on Proposals for Wards In Perth and Kinross Council Area****Report by Head of Democratic Services****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report advises on the consultation by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland on its proposals for wards in the Perth and Kinross Council area in relation to the Fifth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements by the Commission, and seeks the Council's views on the proposals.

**1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES**

- 1.1 The Council's current electoral arrangements with 41 members in 12 multi-member wards are set out in The Perth and Kinross (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2006. The Order came into force on 14 July 2006 following the Fourth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland ('the Commission'). The Review had been undertaken as required by the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 which introduced multi-member wards, and the final recommendations of the Review were reported to the Council on 29 March 2006 (Article 226 and Report 06/217 refer).
- 1.2 In a letter dated 6 June 2013, the then Chair of the Commission, Peter Mackay, provided the Chief Executive with an update on the planning for the Fifth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements. This letter was circulated to group leaders and was reported for information to the Modernising Governance Member / Officer Group on 17 July 2013.
- 1.3 The Group asked that the Head of Democratic Services seek clarification from the Commission on the calculation used to determine councillor numbers and also the potential effect on that calculation of Perth having been awarded city status. The Council determined the boundary for the bid for city status on 11 February 2011 (Article 111 and Report 11/73 refer). The Head of Democratic Services spoke with the then Secretary to the Commission, Hugh Buchanan, on 26 July 2013 who advised that the Commission would look at the electorate numbers for the designated Perth City area in the context of the electorate numbers for the rest of the Perth and Kinross Council area. The Commission were supplied with a copy of Report 11/73.

- 1.4 A further update on the planning for the Review was provided in a letter dated 6 February 2014 from the new Chair of the Commission, Ronnie Hinds. The letter explained that the Review would be conducted in two phases –
- Firstly, the Commission will consult and decide on councillor numbers for each council;
  - Secondly, the Commission will consult and decide on ward boundaries.
- 1.5 The Commission require to submit a final report to Scottish Ministers in May 2016, with a view to revised boundaries being in place for the scheduled Local Government Elections in May 2017.
- 1.6 On 21 February 2014, the Commission wrote with their proposals on councillor numbers – a copy of the letter is attached at **Appendix 1** to this report. The Guidance Booklet and other information concerning the Review can be found on the Commission’s website at [www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk)
- 1.7 The Commission arranged a meeting with the Council and this was held on 27 February 2014, attended by Professor Ailsa Henderson, Commissioner and Colin Wilson, Casework Manager, Councillors Miller, Roberts, MacLellan and Cuthbert, the Chief Executive, the Head of Democratic Services and Brenda Murray, Local Development Plans Team Leader. The Commission representatives outlined the background and context for the review and provided opportunity for dialogue and clarification.
- 1.8 In particular, it was emphasised that in determining councillor numbers, the Commission had to have regard to –
- Minimum 18, maximum 85 councillors
  - 10% limit on change in councillor numbers in a council area
  - Categorisation of councils –
    - population distribution – settlements of 3000 or more
    - deprivation – Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation data
- 1.9 In addition, Scottish Ministers had indicated to the Commission that they would find it hard to justify an increase in the overall number of councillors in Scotland.
- 1.10 The Commission’s methodology is based on categorising each local authority in Scotland and applying the same formula to all local authorities in each category.
- 1.11 In a letter dated 21 February 2014, the Commission proposed that the councillor numbers for Perth and Kinross Council be reduced from 41 to 40. In terms of the timetable for the first stage of the Review, the Council required to respond to the Commission on the proposed councillor numbers no later than 23 April 2014.

- 1.12 On 23 April 2014 (Article 251 refers), the Council agreed –
- (i) Given the GROS projected population increase for Perth and Kinross over the coming years, the Council feels that there is insufficient basis for a reduction in councillor numbers in Perth and Kinross.
  - (ii) The Head of Democratic Services respond to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland confirming the Council’s view that the “status quo” of 41 elected members should be retained for Perth and Kinross Council.
- 1.13 The Commission undertook a subsequent period of public consultation ending in August 2014.
- 1.14 The Council suggested minor changes to the ward boundaries at Aberfeldy, Bamff and Logierait as set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

## **2. PROPOSALS**

- 2.1 On 19 March 2015, the Commission published its proposals for wards in the Perth and Kinross Council area. These proposals are for consultation with Councils from 19 March 2015 until 19 May 2015. There will be a 12 week public consultation between July and October 2015.
- 2.2 The Commission’s proposals are for 40 councillors representing 8 3-member wards and 4 4-member wards, reducing councillor numbers in the area by 1.
- 2.3 The Commission’s proposals, intended to improve overall forecast parity and address forecast disparities in Ward 5 (Strathtay), are to -
- make no changes to Ward 1 (Carse of Gowrie), Ward 6 (Strathearn), Ward 7(Strathallan) and Ward 10 (Perth City South);
  - reduce the number of councillors in Ward 8 (Kinross-shire) by 1;
  - make changes to ward boundaries by Aberfeldy, Almondbank, Bamff, Logierait, Perth and north of Kinross. These changes incorporate the suggestions from the Council; and
  - make no proposed changes to ward names.
- 2.4 The Commission discussed the proposals for the Perth and Kinross Council area at its meetings of 25 November 2014 (See LGBCS Paper 2259/14); and decided on its proposals at its meetings of 3 February 2015 and 3 March 2015 (See LGBCS Paper 2276/15) – [www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk)
- 2.5 The Commission’s proposals were circulated to group leaders on 19 March 2015 and were discussed at a special meeting of the Modernising Governance Member Officer Group on 22 April 2015. A copy of the proposals booklet has been placed in the Councillors Lounge.

### 3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Fifth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland commenced in February 2014.
- 3.2 As part of the current phase of the Review, the Commission is consulting with the Council on its proposals for wards in the Perth and Kinross Council area as set out at Paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3 above.
- 3.3 It is recommended that the Council –
- i) Notes the proposals by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland for wards for the Perth and Kinross Council area.
  - ii) Notes that there are no proposed changes to Ward 1 (Carse of Gowrie), Ward 6 (Strathearn), Ward 7(Strathallan) and Ward 10 (Perth City South).
  - iii) Notes that there are no proposed changes to ward names.
  - iv) Agrees to accept the proposed changes to ward boundaries by Aberfeldy, Bamff and Logierait as suggested by the Council.
  - v) Gives further consideration to the proposals to reduce the number of councillors in Ward 8 (Kinross-shire) by 1 and to make changes to ward boundaries by Almondbank, Perth and north of Kinross.
  - vi) Instructs the Head of Democratic Services to respond to the Commission by 19 May 2015.

#### Author

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#### Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Bernadette Malone	Chief Executive	6 May 2015

If you or someone you know would like a copy of this document in another language or format, (on occasion only, a summary of the document will be provided in translation), this can be arranged by contacting Gillian Taylor



Council Text Phone Number 01738 442573

## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

<b>Strategic Implications</b>	<b>Yes / None</b>
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	N/A
Corporate Plan	N/A
<b>Resource Implications</b>	
Financial	N/A
Workforce	N/A
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	N/A
<b>Assessments</b>	
Equality Impact Assessment	N/A
Strategic Environmental Assessment	N/A
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	N/A
Legal and Governance	N/A
Risk	N/A
<b>Consultation</b>	
Internal	N/A
External	N/A
<b>Communication</b>	
Communications Plan	N/A

### 1. Strategic Implications

#### Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 The proposals set out in this report do not relate directly to the achievement of priorities in the Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement.

#### Corporate Plan

- 1.2 The proposals set out in this report do not relate directly to the achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities.

### 2. Resource Implications

#### Financial

- 2.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from the proposals set out in this report.

#### Workforce

- 2.2 There are no workforce implications arising directly from the proposals set out in this report.

### Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 There are no asset management implications arising directly from the proposals set out in this report.

### **3. Assessments**

- 3.1 No assessments have been undertaken in relation to the proposals set out in this report.

### Legal and Governance

- 3.2 There are no legal and governance implications arising directly from the proposals set out in this report.

### Risk

- 3.3 No key risks have been identified in relation to the proposals set out in this report.

### **4. Consultation**

#### Internal

- 4.1 The proposals by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland were considered by the Modernising Governance Member Officer Group on 22 April 2015.

#### External

- 4.2 There has been no external consultation in relation to the proposals set out in this report.

### **5. Communication**

- 5.1 There is no requirement for the Council to undertake communications activity in relation to the proposals set out in this report.

## **2. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No background papers other than those referred to in this report were relied on in preparing the report.

## **3. APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1** – Letter from Local Boundary Commission for Scotland dated 21 February 2014.

**Appendix 2** – Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements – Ward Boundaries – Proposals for Consideration



# Local Government Boundary

## Commission for Scotland

Thistle House, 91 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5HD

Chair: Ronnie Hinds CPFA

Secretary: Dr Hugh Buchanan MRICS

Gillian Taylor  
Head of Democratic Services  
Perth and Kinross Council  
Council Offices  
2 High Street  
Perth  
PH1 5PH

21 February 2014

Dear Gillian,

### Fifth Reviews of Local Government Electoral Arrangements

#### Publication of Proposals for Councillor Numbers

I am writing further to the letter from the Chair of the Commission on 6 February 2014 to inform you of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's proposals for councillor numbers. These proposals are the first stage of the Commission's Fifth Reviews of Local Government Electoral Arrangements for each of Scotland's 32 councils.

The Commission is consulting with councils on these proposals for a period of 2 months which starts on 21 February 2014, and ends on Wednesday 23 April 2014. Section 18 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 requires the Commission to consult with councils on its proposals for a period of 2 months before informing others of the proposals.

This letter has a set of enclosures:

- List of proposed councillor numbers for each of Scotland's 32 councils;
- News Release which we will issue to the media on Monday 24 February; and
- Guidance Booklet concerning the review.

The Commission has arranged a meeting with each council to discuss these proposals and the review. My colleagues look forward to that opportunity to explain the proposals in more detail.

Comments on the Proposals can be made in writing to the Commission by email to [lgbc@scottishboundaries.gov.uk](mailto:lgbc@scottishboundaries.gov.uk), or by letter to the address on this letter. All comments should be submitted as soon as possible, and not later than 23 April 2014 which is the end of the consultation period.

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established by Parliament to advise Ministers on local government boundaries

phone: 0131 538 7510

email: [lgbc@scottishboundaries.gov.uk](mailto:lgbc@scottishboundaries.gov.uk)

fax: 0131 538 7511

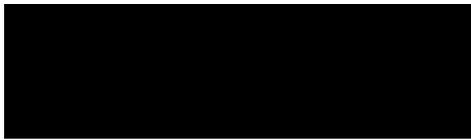
web: [www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk)

Please note that the News Release will be issued to the media on Monday 24 February, and is embargoed until 0001 hours on Tuesday 25 February. Thank you for your assistance in ensuring that the embargo is observed.

I am also writing to others with an interest in the review to inform them that we are starting our consultation with councils on our proposals for councillor numbers. These include MSPs, political parties, electoral registration officers and community councils. As I have noted above, the legislation prevents the Commission from informing others of the content of the proposals until we have consulted with councils for a period of 2 months.

On behalf of the Commission, thank you for your assistance in the conduct of the Reviews.

Yours sincerely



Hugh Buchanan  
Secretary

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

Fifth Reviews of Electoral Arrangements

Proposed councillor numbers

council area	existing councillor numbers	proposed councillor numbers	change
Aberdeen City	43	45	2
Aberdeenshire	68	70	2
Angus	29	27	-2
Argyll & Bute	36	33	-3
Clackmannanshire	18	18	0
Dumfries & Galloway	47	43	-4
Dundee City	29	31	2
East Ayrshire	32	32	0
East Dunbartonshire	24	22	-2
East Lothian	23	21	-2
East Renfrewshire	20	18	-2
Edinburgh, City of	58	63	5
Eileanan an Iar, Na h-	31	28	-3
Falkirk	32	30	-2
Fife	78	75	-3
Glasgow City	79	85	6
Highland	80	72	-8
Inverclyde	20	22	2
Midlothian	18	18	0
Moray	26	25	-1
North Ayrshire	30	33	3
North Lanarkshire	70	77	7
Orkney Islands	21	21	0
Perth & Kinross	41	40	-1
Renfrewshire	40	43	3
Scottish Borders	34	32	-2
Shetland Islands	22	22	0
South Ayrshire	30	27	-3
South Lanarkshire	67	64	-3
Stirling	22	23	1
West Dunbartonshire	22	22	0
West Lothian	33	34	1
	1,223	1,216	-7

February 2014



**PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**

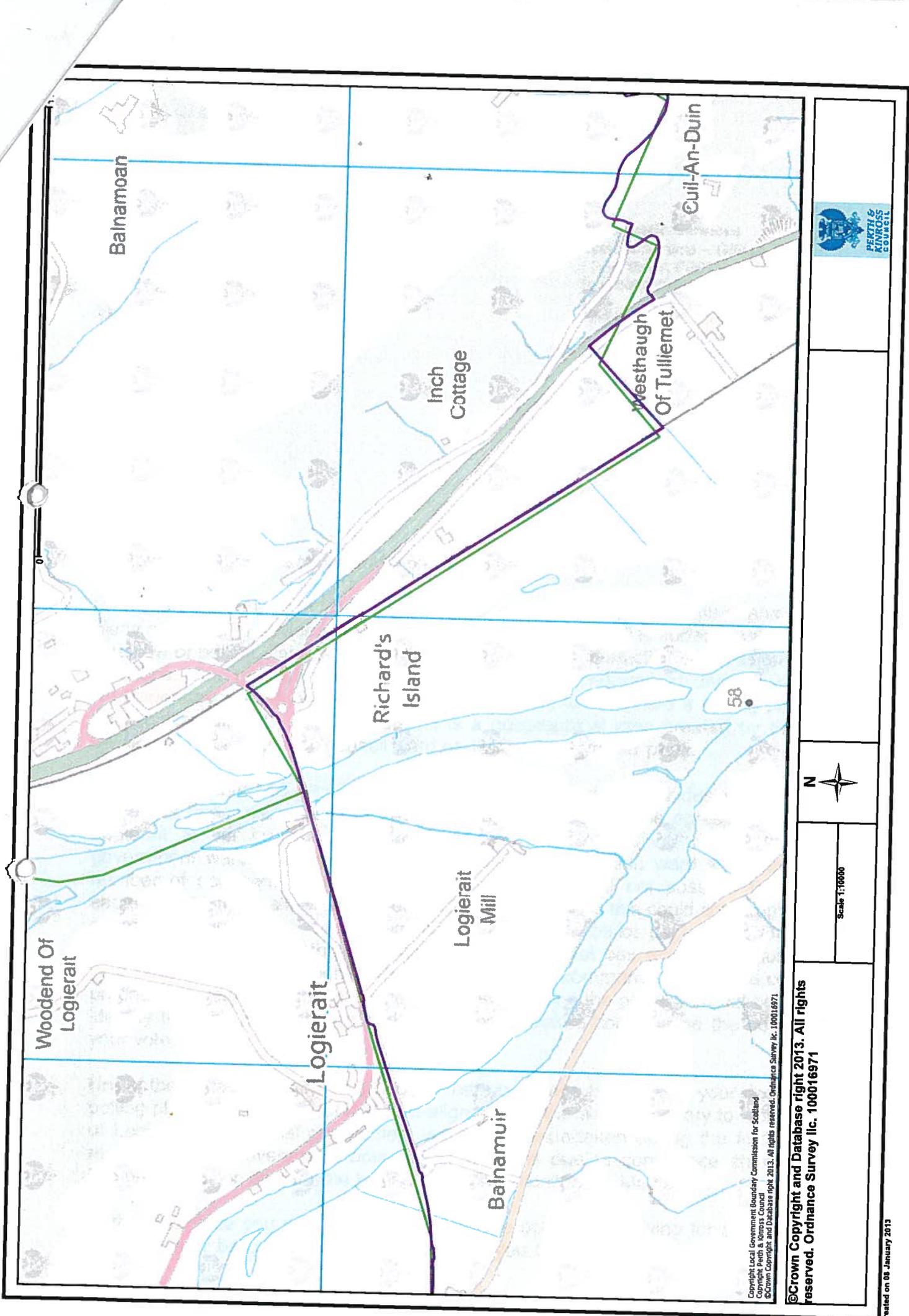
**FIFTH REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS – WARD BOUNDARIES**

**PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION**

<b>(1) Parliamentary Constituency &amp; Current Ward</b>	<b>(2) Parliamentary Polling District (PPD)</b>	<b>(4) Current Polling Place</b>	<b>(6) Proposals</b>
PERTH & NORTH PERTHSHIRE			
WARD 3	PBV (previously PEY)	Rattray Primary School Community Facility	The area around Bamff (as shown on the attached map) is currently located within Ward 3. It is requested that the ward boundary be amended to include the area of Bamff within Ward 2 as the area and properties therein are more akin to Alyth than Blairgowrie.
WARD 5	PCQ (previously PFY)	Royal School of Dunkeld	The properties at Mill of Logierait, Pitlochry are currently within Ward 5 (as shown on the attached map) but egress from the properties is via Logierait. It is requested that the ward boundary be amended to include Mill of Logierait properties within Ward 4.
	PCT (previously PGB)	Amulree	A similar situation arises with Margmore, Croftness Farm, Aberfeldy which currently lies within Ward 5 (as shown on the attached map) but egress from the property is via Aberfeldy. It is requested that the ward boundary be amended to include the area of Margmore within Ward 4.





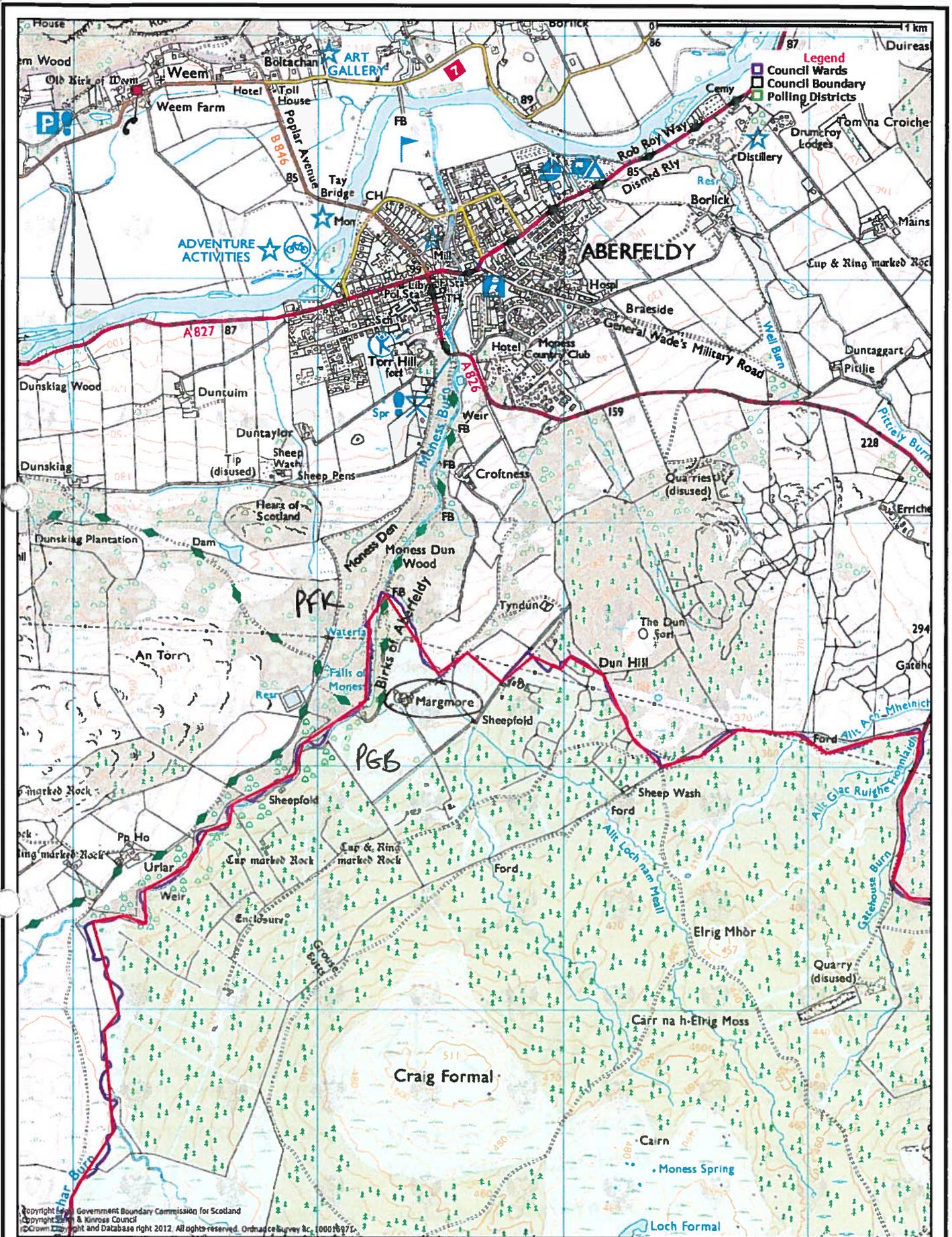


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Margmore

