

Report To: The Inverclyde Council **Date:** 9 April 2015

Report By: Head of Legal & Property Services **Report No:** LP/061/15

Contact Officer: Gerard Malone **Contact No:** 712710

Subject: Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements: Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's (LGBCS) proposals for wards in Inverclyde Council as part of the Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The LGBCS is an independent body which makes recommendations for local government administrative and electoral boundaries in Scotland. This is the fifth periodic review of local government electoral arrangements in Scotland since LGBCS establishment in 1973.
- 2.2 As part of the ongoing Fifth Review, the Council submitted its representations relative to the intended LGBCS review of Councillor numbers that was commenced in February 2014. The Council's response forms **Appendix 1**.
- 2.3 The LGBCS has considered all representations and has now made proposals for electoral wards in Scotland and is initiating its public consultation processes. The consultation on proposals for wards runs from 19 March 2015 until 19 May 2015: after consideration of responses to this consultation with Councils, the LGBCS will conduct a 12 week public consultation from July to October 2015. It is possible that further developments or consultations may take place depending on the outcome of this exercise.
- 2.4 It is the expectation of the LGBCS to report to Scottish Ministers by May 2016 in time for implementation of the next local government elections in May 2017.
- 2.5 The consultation launched with the Council as at 19 March 2015 proposes that there be one 4-Member Ward and six 3-Member Wards resulting, thus, in a 22-Elected Member Council for Inverclyde.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:-

- 3.1 the Council considers the terms of this report and determines its view in respect of the LGBCS consultation with Councils in the period to 19 May 2015;
- 3.2 it be remitted to the Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee to meet on 14 May 2015 and to finalise the Council's response to take account of any representations received from Elected Members; and
- 3.3 thereafter, it be remitted to the Chief Executive to intimate the Council's formal response to the LGBCS by 19 May with a further report thereon to be submitted to the Council in due course.

Gerard Malone
Head of Legal & Property Services

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The LGBCS is an independent body which makes recommendations for local government administrative and electoral boundaries in Scotland. The present review is the fifth periodic review of local government electoral arrangements in Scotland since LGBCS establishment in 1973.
- 4.2 In February 2014, the LGBCS began the current review with proposals for Councillor numbers in each Council and Inverclyde made its representations as noted in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.3 The LGBCS considered all representations made during that stage of the consultations and has now reached a decision on Councillor numbers and associated ward designs. The current stage of the fifth review now involves LGBCS proposals to Councils for further consultation on wards.
- 4.4 The consultation on wards has commenced as at 19 March 2015 and will run to 19 May 2015. After consideration of any responses to this LGBCS consultation with Councils, it is intended to conduct a 12 week public consultation in the period from July to October 2015.
- 4.5 Depending on the outcome of consultations, there may be further reviews by the LGBCS on proposals later in 2015 but it is expected that a report on LGBCS final recommendations will be given to Scottish Ministers by May 2016 in time for the next local government elections in May 2017.

5.0 PROPOSALS FOR WARDS

- 5.1 In terms of the original consultation on Councillor numbers, this Council considered there was an appropriate level of representation and did not seek any increase in Councillor numbers. The LGBCS has considered the Council's representations but has decided in the interests of parity to proceed with the proposals for increase.
- 5.2 The proposals for wards have been developed using electorate data as obtained from 1 September 2013. The number of electors registered in each Council electoral ward on that date has been used as a basis for the proposals. The LGBCS had had regard to the likely changes in numbers of electors by considering forecast electorate counts up to 2019.
- 5.3 The LGBCS proposals use population size in order to set Councillor numbers. The LGBCS is seeking to create categories of similar Councils in order to set ratios of Councillors to electors. The basis for this is population distribution and, as explained in the report to the Council 10 April 2014, the LGBCS has used population distribution and levels of deprivation from the SIMD data in order to group Councils together. Population size, however, remains the most significant determinant of Councillor numbers and the design of wards.
- 5.4 The LGBCS proposal attempts to set parity for the ratio of electors to Councillors. The LGBCS proposals provide for 1,217 Councillors representing 351 wards in Scotland overall. The objective from LGBCS is to standardise these arrangements with, it is claimed, over 96% of proposed wards being forecast to be within 10% of that level of parity for each Council area.
- 5.5 The LGBCS emphasises that it has sought to construct wards from complete local sub-geographies such as community council areas. The LGBCS has had regard to other locally significant boundaries such as community planning areas, neighbourhoods or natural communities.

6.0 WARDS: INVERCLYDE COUNCIL AREA

6.1 The proposals from the LGBCS are contained within **Appendix 2**.

6.2 The LGBCS presents to the Council an electoral arrangement for 22 Councillors within Inverclyde representing one 4-Member ward and six 3-Member wards thus increasing the number of wards in Inverclyde by one and increasing Councillor numbers by two.

6.3 The LGBCS proposal seeks to:

- improve overall parity amongst wards;
- reduce the number of Councillors by one in ward 1 (Inverclyde East);
- introduce a new ward – ward 3 (Inverclyde Central);
- address forecast disparities in Inverclyde East Central ward;
- make no changes to Inverclyde West and Inverclyde South West wards; and
- amend ward boundaries in Port Glasgow and Greenock.

6.4 Plans illustrating these proposals are attached as **Appendix 3**. This Appendix 3 shows the existing boundaries of wards together with the proposals for the new boundaries.

6.5 Large scale plans are available from the Head of Property and Legal Services in order to assist Elected Members.

6.6 The table below details the electorates and associated variations from parity of the proposed wards

Ward No	Ward Name	Cllrs	Electorate Sept 13	Actual Variation From Parity	Forecast Electorate 2019	Forecast Variation from Parity
1	Inverclyde East	3	8,510	4%	8,255	4%
2	Inverclyde East Central	3	8,088	-1%	7,845	-1%
3	Inverclyde Central	3	8,268	1%	8,020	1%
4	Inverclyde North	4	10,834	0%	10,509	0%
5	Inverclyde West	3	8,672	6%	8,412	6%
6	Inverclyde South West	3	8,717	7%	8,455	7%
7	Inverclyde South	3	8,152	-2%	7,907	-2%
Totals		22	61,241	3%	59,403	3%

6.7 It is envisaged that the Council will, firstly, wish to consider the proposals formally so that an overall direction in the representations may be set. Thereafter, considering the detail involved and the level of specific interest therein on a ward basis, it is suggested that it be remitted to a meeting of the Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee to meet on 14 May 2015 to finalise the Council's response to take account of any representations received from Elected Members. An All Member Briefing was held on 1 April 2015 in order to discuss the proposals received from the LGBCS and to inform Members as early as possible of the implications of this consultation.

6.8 The date for response is 19 May 2015 (but the LGBCS have noted that if the UK General Elections causes any difficulties in response dates then it may be consider late submission, if advised in advance). It is proposed that it be remitted to the Chief Executive to determine the Council's final submissions by 19 May 2015.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial

One off Costs:

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
To be determined					Possible accommodation alterations and infrastructure

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £'000	Virement From (if Applicable)	Other Comments
Members' budget	Members	2017	To be determined		Increase in councillor numbers will impact on Members' responsibility allowances and Members' budget

The proposed increase in Elected Members will result in increased costs for Members' salaries plus travel, etc. It is not clear at this point how much of these costs will be funded by the Government.

Legal

7.2 The Council will require to make formal responses to the LGBCS by 19 May 2015. The proposals are made by the LGBCS in order to have regard to updated electoral arrangements and, thus, are key to the issues of good governance for strategic direction and control and scrutiny of the Council through its constituent Elected Members.

Human Resources

7.3 None.

Equalities

7.4 None.

Repopulation

7.5 The revised ward boundaries and Councillor numbers takes account of proposed forecasts for electorate numbers within Inverclyde and, accordingly, seek to address and sustain local democracy within this area.

8.0 CONSULTATIONS

8.1 This report has been endorsed by the Corporate Management Team.

Our Ref: GM/AJ

Your Ref:

Date: 23 April 2014

Environment, Regeneration & Resources
Acting Corporate Director: Alan Puckrin

Municipal Buildings
Clyde Square
Greenock
PA15 1LY

Tel: 01475 712764

Fax: 01475 712731

alan.puckrin@inverclyde.gov.uk

FIRST CLASS POST

Dr Hugh Buchanan
Secretary
Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
Thistle House
91 Haymarket Terrace
EDINBURGH
EH12 5HD

Also by email to:
LGBCS@scottishboundaries.gov.uk

Dear Dr. Buchanan

**FIFTH ELECTORAL REVIEW
INVERCLYDE COUNCIL**

I thank you for your consultation document on the Fifth Review.

I write to advise you that Inverclyde Council considered the terms of the Fifth Electoral Review at its meeting on 10 April 2014. The Council noted with interest the detailed background to the Fifth Review together with the recommendations for the numbers of Councillors in each Council within Scotland based upon a methodology that, for the first time, takes into account levels of deprivation as well as population distribution.

Following the Council's detailed consideration of the Fifth Review proposals, the Council unanimously decided to recommend to you a continuation of the present, existing number of twenty Elected Members for Inverclyde Council. The Council did not support the draft proposal for an increase in Councillors to twenty two. It is the Council's view is that the workload distribution within its existing multi-member wards is sufficient and adequate at this time and that an increase in Councillors is not justified by the burden of extra expenditure which would arise as a consequence. The Council understands the Commission's objectives for parity, insofar as possible and also appreciates that there will be a detailed review of ward boundaries as the Fifth Review progresses. The issues of parity within the existing multi-member wards can be reviewed in terms of boundary scrutiny at that time without there being a need for an increase in Councillors.

Accordingly, I have been requested to write to you to intimate the Council's views as above. The Council also notes that it will have an opportunity to engage with you in the consultation on the ward boundaries in the future in terms of your review timetable.

Please contact me at any time in order to expand or clarify on any point referred to above. It would be of assistance if you would kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Yours sincerely



Head of Legal & Property Services



Enquiries to Gerard Malone
Tel: 01475 712710
Fax: 01475 712137
E-mail: gerard.malone@inverclyde.gov.uk

er -

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

Fifth Reviews of Electoral Arrangements

Inverclyde Council Area

Proposals for wards



March 2015

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
Thistle House
91 Haymarket Terrace
Edinburgh EH12 5HD

Tel: 0131 538 7510
Email: lgbcs@scottishboundaries.gov.uk
Fax: 0131 538 7511
Web: www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk
Twitter: @lgbcs

Membership of the Commission

Chairman: Mr Ronnie Hinds

Deputy Chairman: Mr William Magee

Commissioners: Mr Roland Bean
Prof. Ailsa Henderson
Dr Susan Walker

Secretary to the Commission: Dr Hugh Buchanan (to October 2014)
Ms Isabel Drummond-Murray (from October 2014)

Contents

Introduction	1
The reviews	1
Our proposals for wards in Scotland	2
Consultation on our proposals for wards.....	2
Proposals for wards in Inverclyde council area.....	4

Introduction

1. The Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland is an independent, non-political body whose purpose is to make recommendations for local government administrative and electoral boundaries in Scotland.
2. We are tasked by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to undertake reviews of local government electoral arrangements in Scotland. These reviews are our fifth periodic reviews of local government electoral arrangements in Scotland since we were first established in 1973. We intend to submit a report containing our recommendations for electoral arrangements for each council area in Scotland to the Scottish Ministers by May 2016, in time for implementation for the next local government elections in May 2017.
3. This booklet contains a summary of our proposals for Scotland as a whole and our proposals for wards in Inverclyde council area, and information on how to participate in our consultation with councils **from 19 March to 19 May 2015**.

The reviews

4. In 2011 we consulted the public on our methodology for determining councillor numbers. The results of that consultation can be found on our website www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk
5. We formally began the current reviews on 21 February 2014. We consulted councils and the public on our proposals for councillor numbers for each council between February 2014 and August 2014. We have now considered all the submissions received during these consultations. We have reached a decision on councillor numbers and the associated ward designs and are now presenting our proposals for wards for further consultation. The meeting papers that informed our deliberations and the minutes of our meetings are referenced on page 4. Details of how to participate in the consultation are given below.
6. For each electoral ward, we make recommendations about its boundary, its name and the number of councillors to represent the ward (legislation restricts this to either 3 or 4 councillors).
7. When reviewing electoral arrangements the legislation requires us to take account of the following factors:
 - the interests of effective and convenient local government;
 - within each council, that each councillor should represent the same number of electors as nearly as may be;
 - local ties which would be broken by making a particular boundary;
 - the desirability of fixing boundaries that are easily identifiable; and
 - special geographical considerations.
8. For further information on the policies and procedures we have adopted to underpin these reviews and the legal requirements for ward design, please refer to our *Guidance Booklet*, which is available on our website http://www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk/reviews/5th_electoral/resources.asp or on request.

Our proposals for wards in Scotland

9. We developed our proposals using electorate data from 1 September 2013. The number of electors registered in each council electoral ward on that date can be found on our website. In developing our proposals for wards, we have had regard to the likely changes in the number of electors by considering forecast electorate counts in 2019. The methodology we have used to forecast electorates can be found on our website. Whilst the dataset does not include 16 and 17 year olds, we have considered the impact their inclusion on the electoral register would have and are content that this would not affect our proposals.
10. Our proposals use population size to set councillor numbers. In keeping with past reviews we have created categories of similar councils to set ratios of councillors to electors. In doing so, we have used population distribution and levels of deprivation to group councils together. Population size, however, remains the biggest determinant of councillor numbers and the design of wards.
11. We consulted on proposals for councillor numbers in 2014. In 5 council areas, we have changed the number of councillors proposed for the area from our original proposals for councillor numbers because it allows us to take better account of the factors in the legislation during ward design. Overall, our proposals provide for 1,217 councillors representing 351 wards in Scotland: a decrease of 6 councillors and 2 wards from existing electoral arrangements.
12. Our proposals for wards include unchanged electoral arrangements in 2 council areas and minor changes in 2 other council areas.
13. Nationally, over 96% of proposed wards are forecast to be within 10% of parity for the council area. At present 17% of existing wards are 10% or more from parity. Only 2 proposed wards are forecast to be more than 15% from parity, compared to 19 existing wards.
14. Our proposals improve parity between councillors in terms of the number of electors they represent (the forecast average variation from a council area's parity per councillor improves from 6.0% for existing wards to 4.6% for proposed wards).
15. In general we have sought to construct wards from complete local sub-geographies such as community council areas. In our proposals for wards almost 80% of community council areas are wholly within wards. In a few council areas, we have adopted ward designs that recognise other locally-significant boundaries such as community planning areas, neighbourhoods or natural communities.

Consultation on our proposals for wards

16. The legislation provides that we must first of all consult on our proposals with councils. This consultation on our proposals for wards runs from 19 March 2015 until 19 May 2015. After consideration of responses to this consultation with councils, we intend to conduct a 12-week public consultation on our proposals for wards between July and October 2015. Depending on the outcome of the consultation, we may further develop and consult on our proposals later in 2015. We expect to submit our reports containing our final recommendations to the Scottish Ministers by May 2016.
17. Further copies of this booklet are available on request.

18. We welcome all comments on our proposals to help inform our deliberations.
Comments can be made in the following ways:

in writing to:	Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland Thistle House 91 Haymarket Terrace Edinburgh EH12 5HD
by email to:	comments@scottishboundaries.gov.uk

19. All comments we receive in response to this consultation will be available to view on our website in due course. For further information, please visit our website.
20. Where comments contain objections to our proposals, it would be helpful if they could be accompanied by alternative proposals that take account of statutory requirements and consider the consequences on the council area as a whole.

Proposals for wards in Inverclyde council area

21. The maps on the following pages illustrate our proposals for wards in Inverclyde council area. We present an electoral arrangement for 22 councillors representing 6 3-member wards and 1 4-member ward, increasing the number of wards in the area by 1 and increasing councillor numbers by 2.

22. Our proposals for the council area:

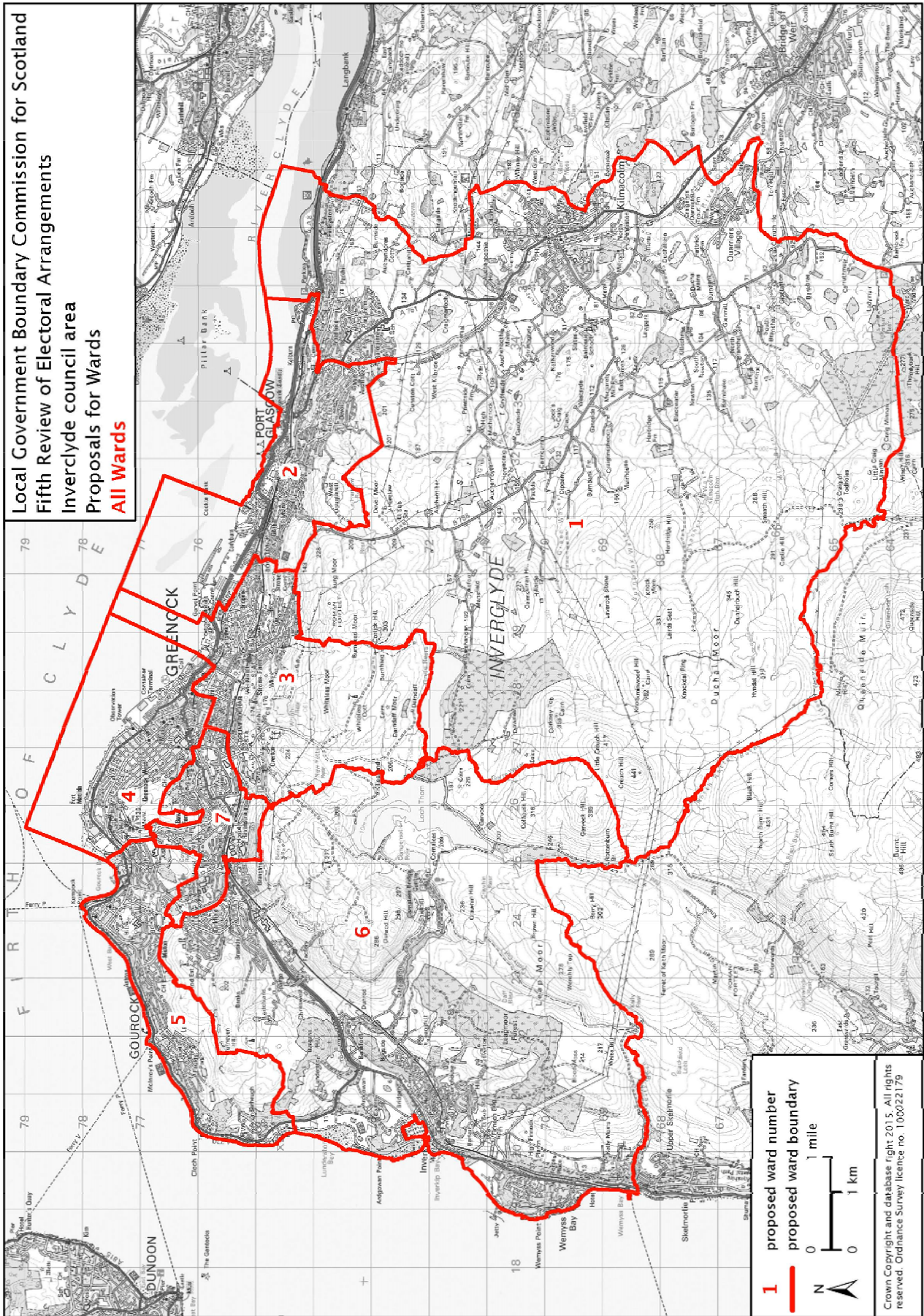
- improve overall forecast parity;
- reduce the number of councillors by 1 in ward 1 (Inverclyde East);
- introduce a new ward: ward 3 (Inverclyde Central);
- address forecast disparities in Inverclyde East Central ward;
- make no changes to Inverclyde West and Inverclyde South West wards; and
- amend ward boundaries in Port Glasgow and Greenock.

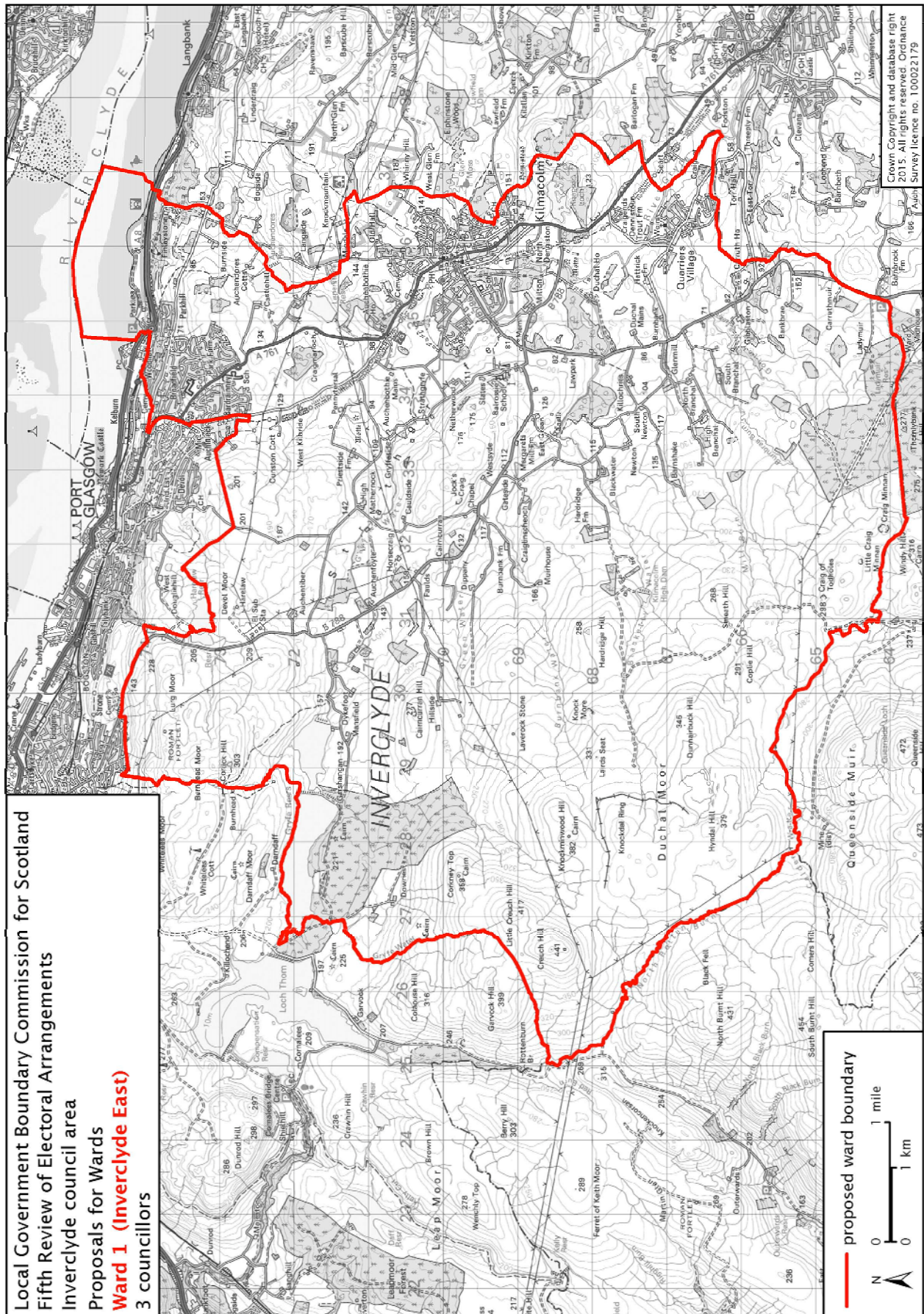
23. We discussed the proposals for Inverclyde council area at our meeting of 23 October 2014 (see LGBCS Paper 2249/14). We decided on our proposals at our meetings of 3 February 2015 and 3 March 2015 (see LGBCS Paper 2276/15).

24. Table 1 below details the electorates and associated variation from parity of the proposed wards:

ward no.	ward name	cllrs	electorate Sept 13	actual variation from parity	forecast electorate 2019	forecast variation from parity
1	Inverclyde East	3	8,510	4%	8,255	4%
2	Inverclyde East Central	3	8,088	-1%	7,845	-1%
3	Inverclyde Central	3	8,268	1%	8,020	1%
4	Inverclyde North	4	10,834	0%	10,509	0%
5	Inverclyde West	3	8,672	6%	8,412	6%
6	Inverclyde South West	3	8,717	7%	8,455	7%
7	Inverclyde South	3	8,152	-2%	7,907	-2%
Totals		22	61,241	3%	59,403	3%

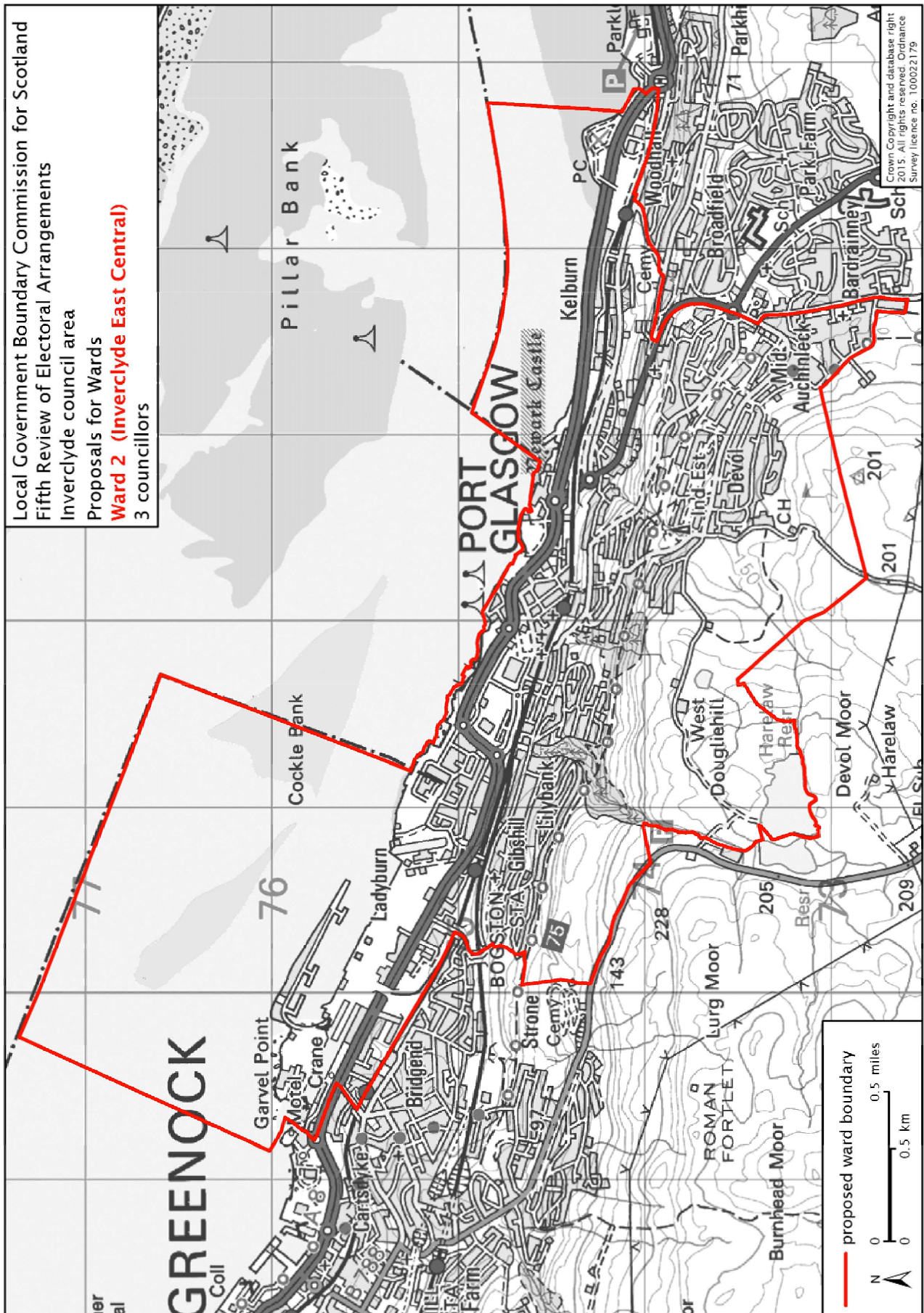
Table 1 – proposed wards’ electorate counts.



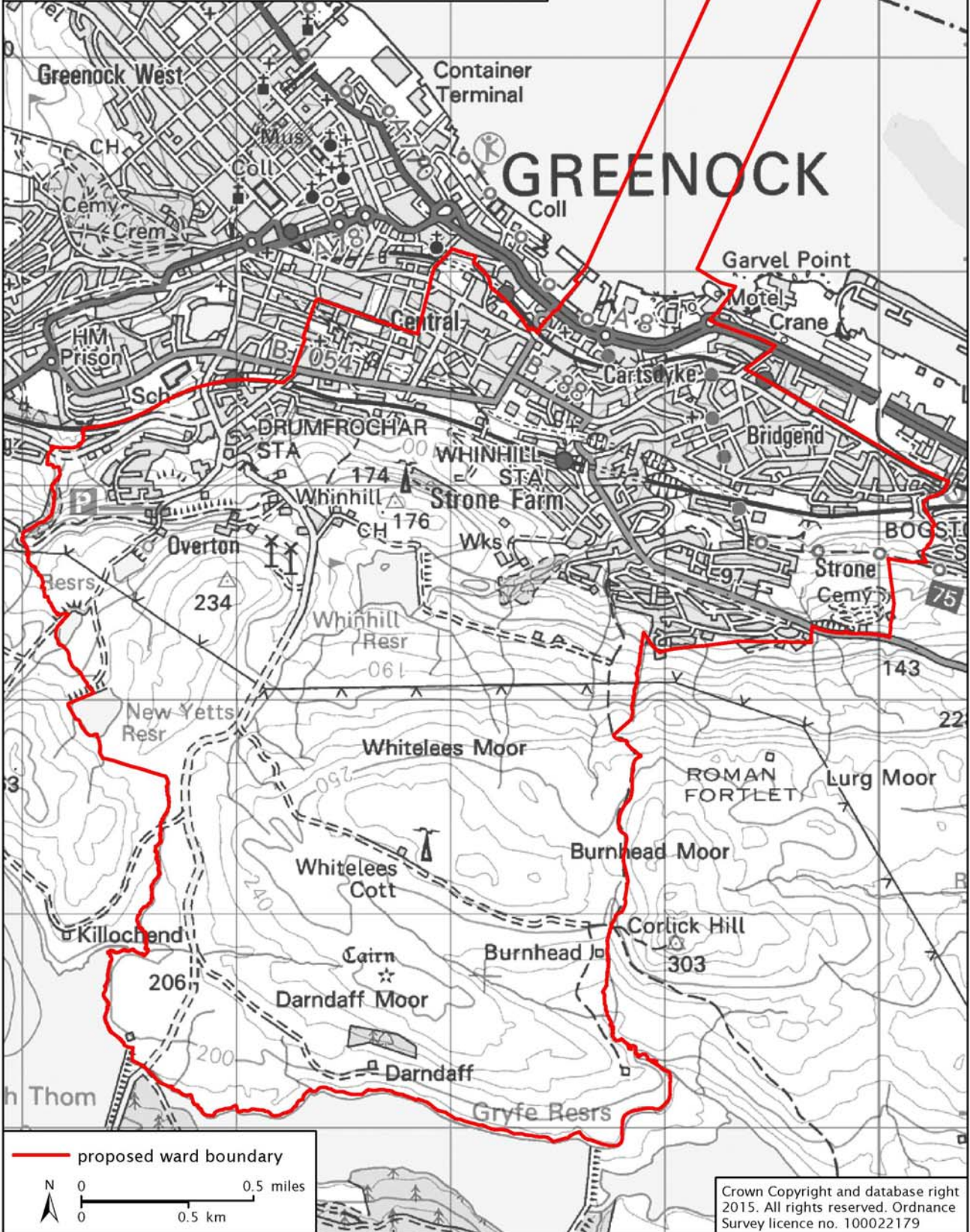


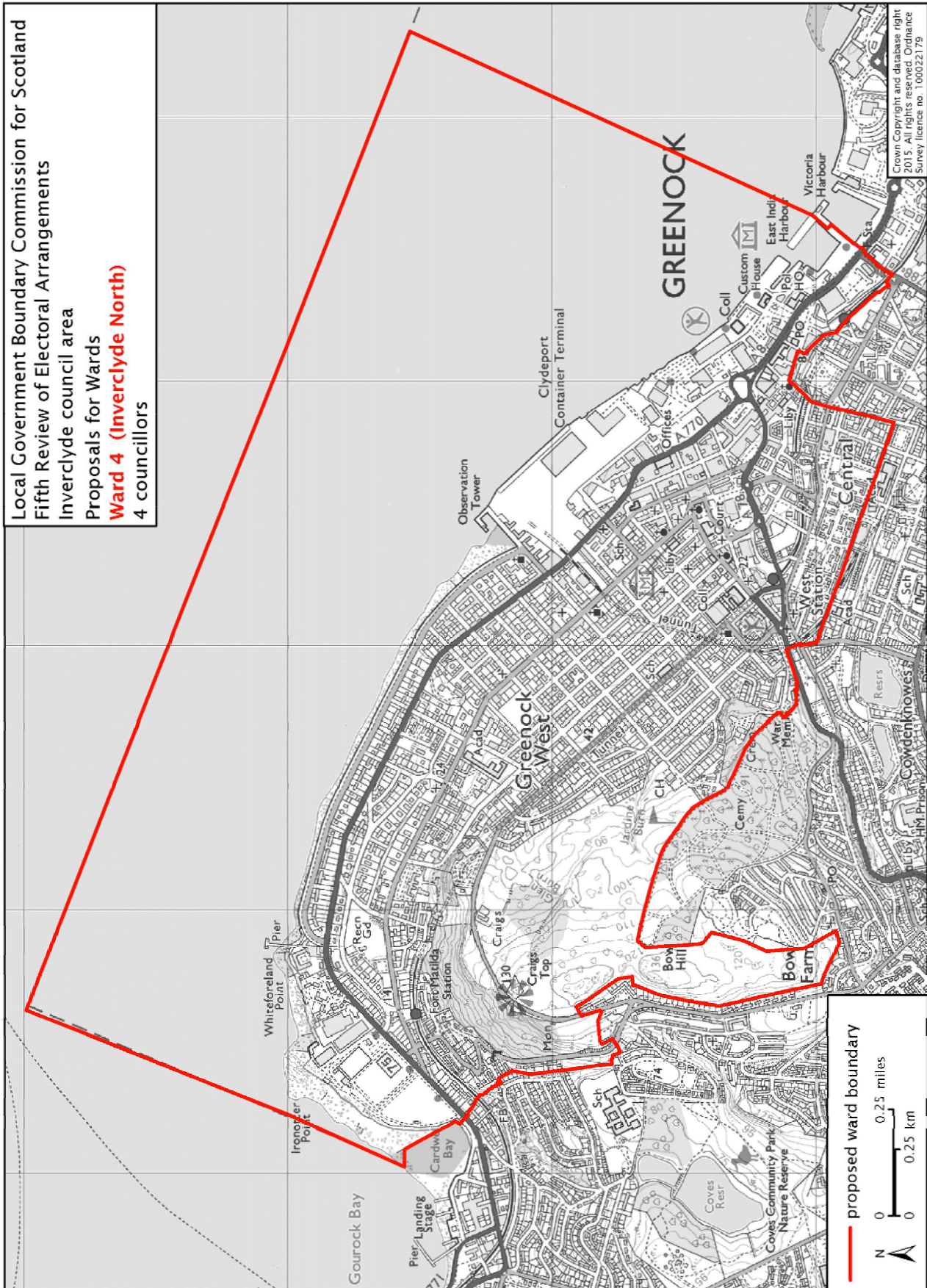
Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
 Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements
 Inverclyde council area
 Proposals for Wards
Ward 1 (Inverclyde East)
 3 councillors

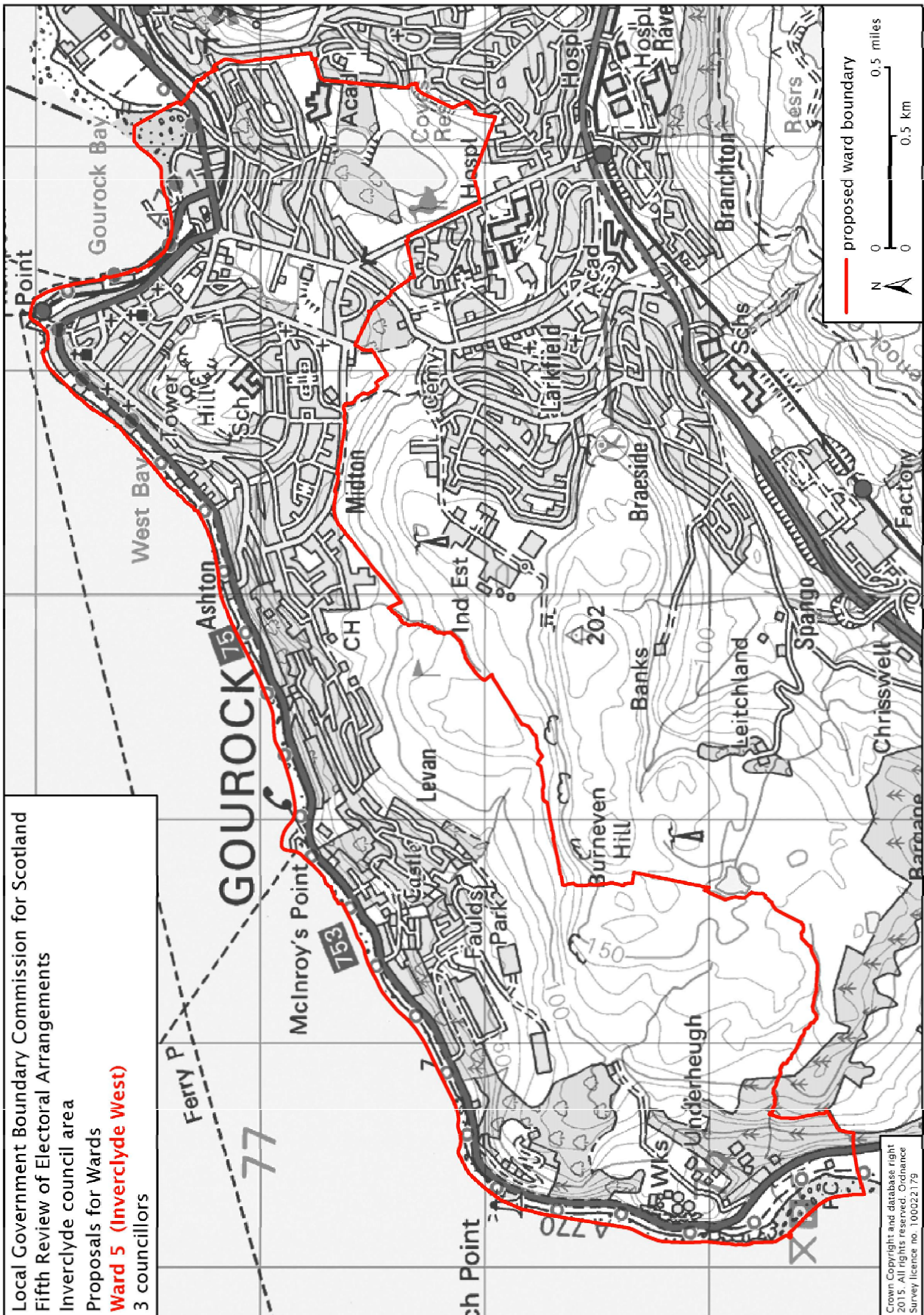
— proposed ward boundary
 N
 0 1 mile
 0 1 km



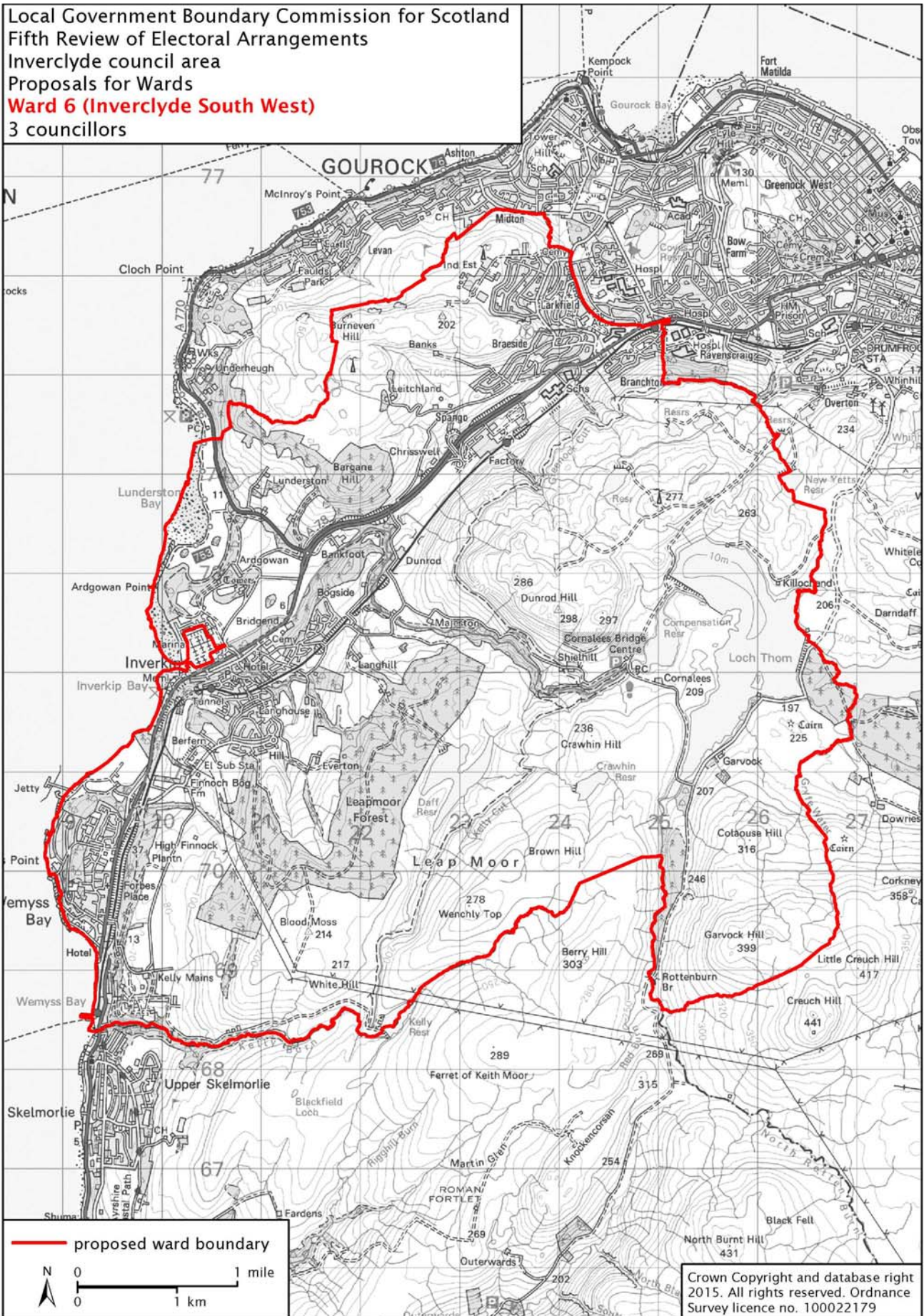
Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements
Inverclyde council area
Proposals for Wards
Ward 3 (Inverclyde Central)
3 councillors

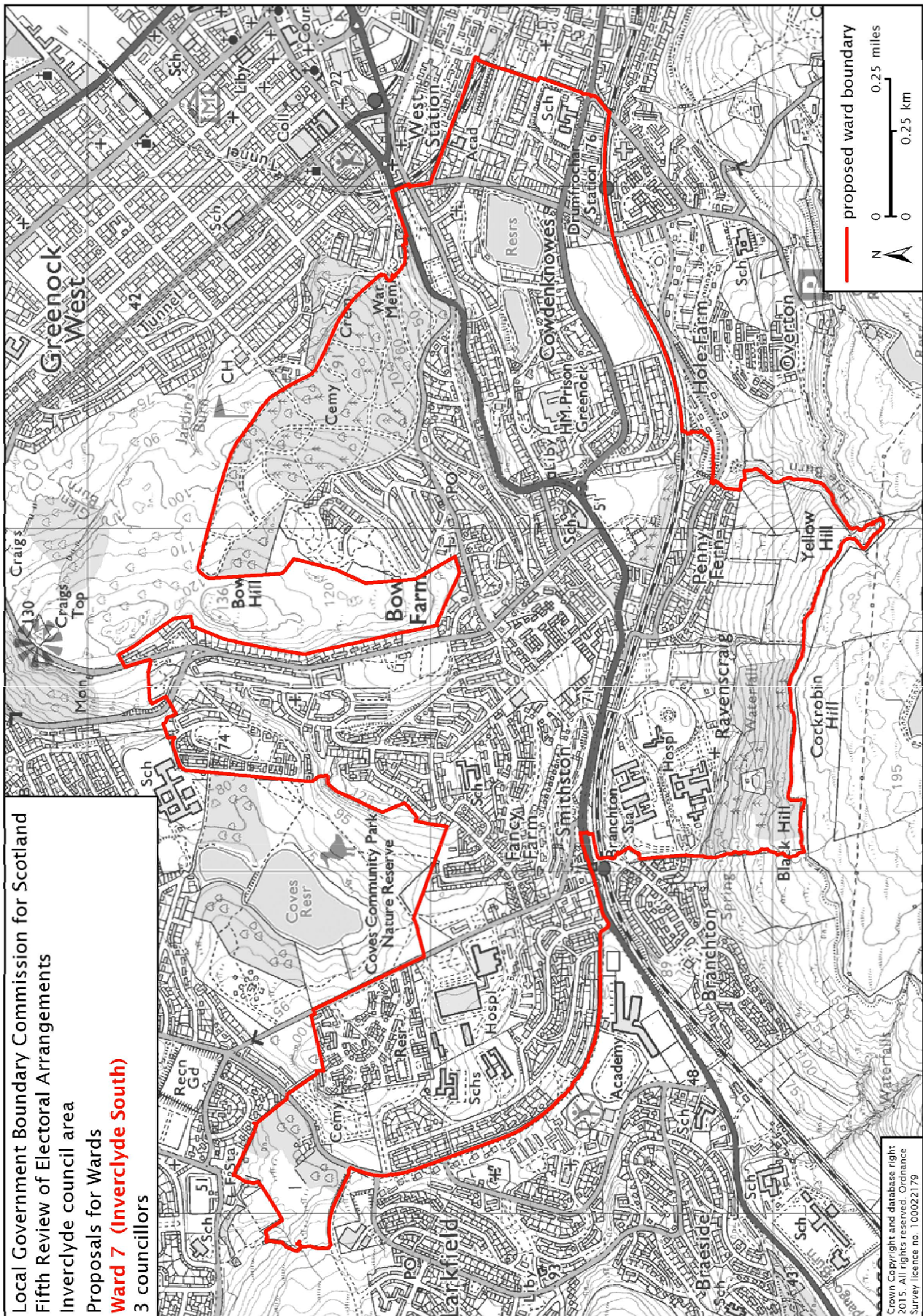




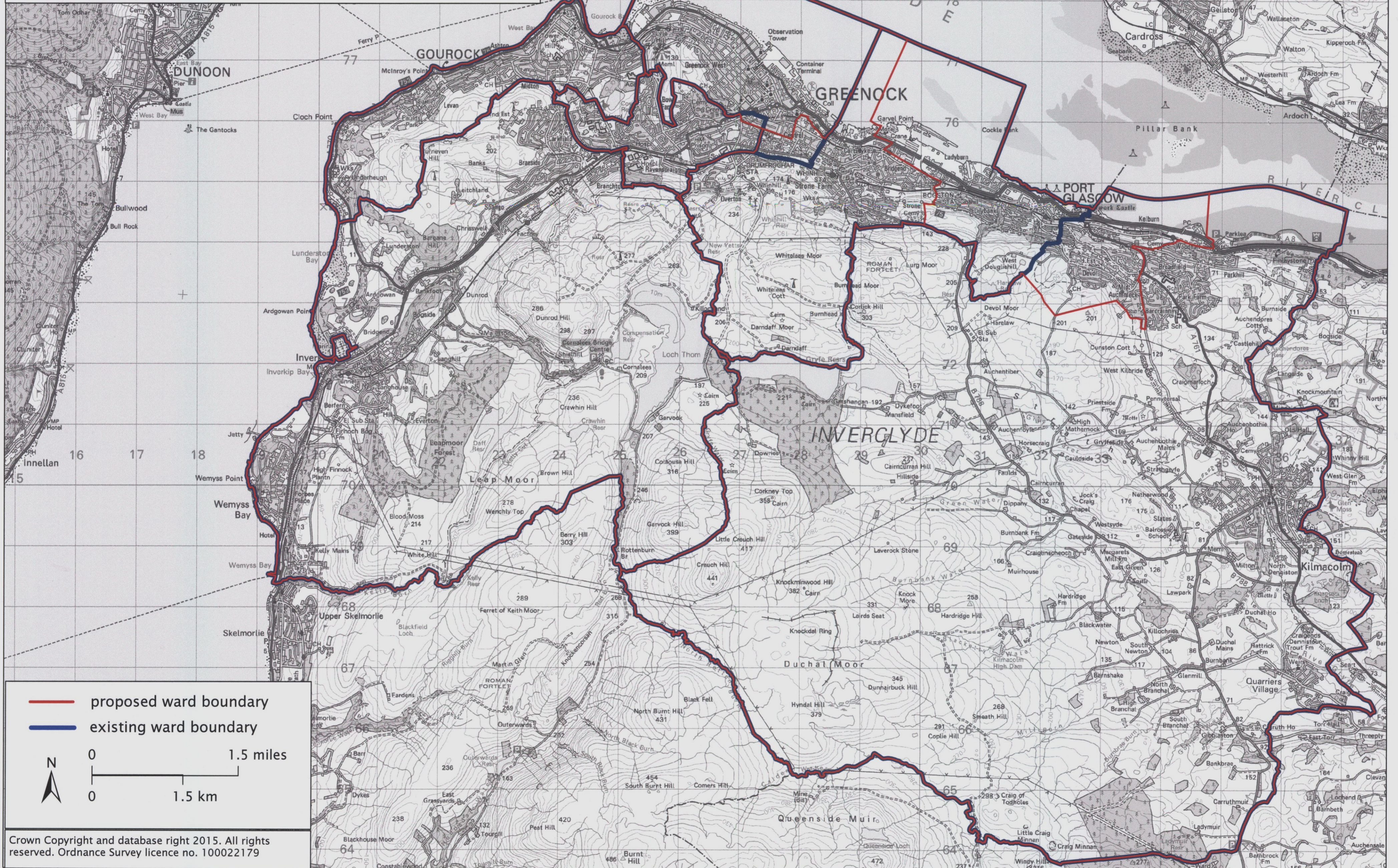


Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements
Inverclyde council area
Proposals for Wards
Ward 6 (Inverclyde South West)
3 councillors

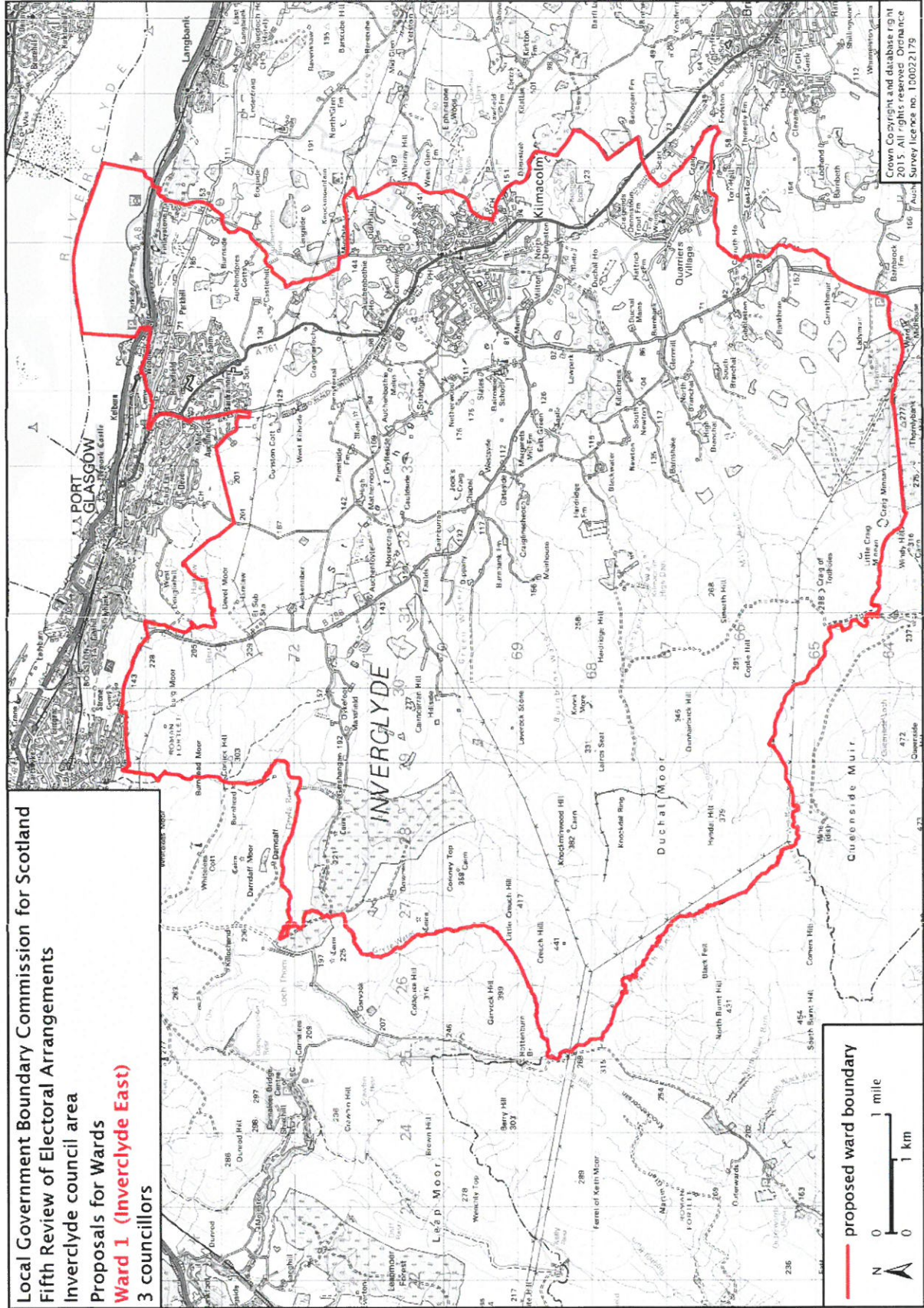




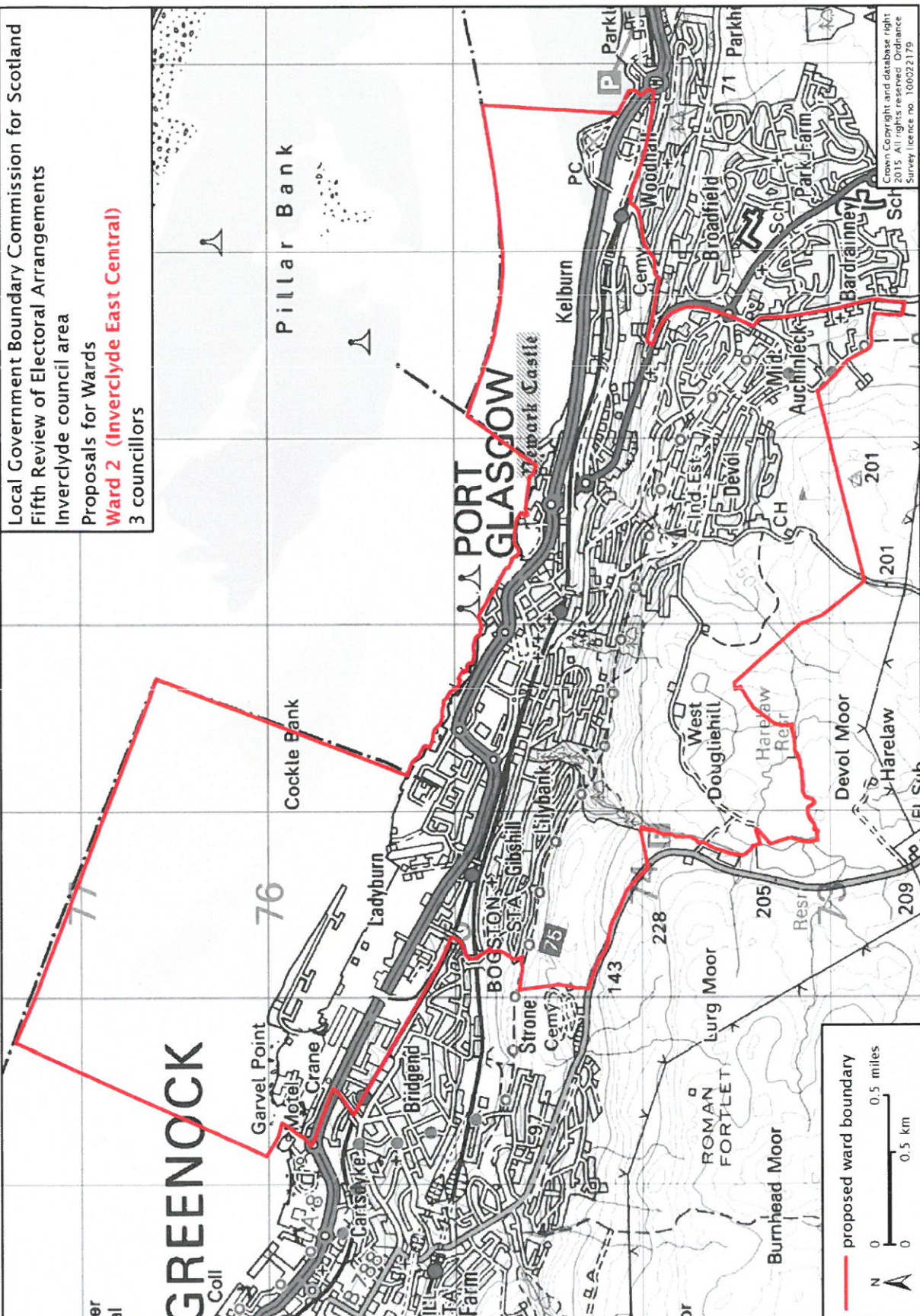
Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements Inverclyde council area **Proposed and Existing Wards**



Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
 Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements
 Inverclyde council area
 Proposals for Wards
Ward 1 (Inverclyde East)
 3 councillors

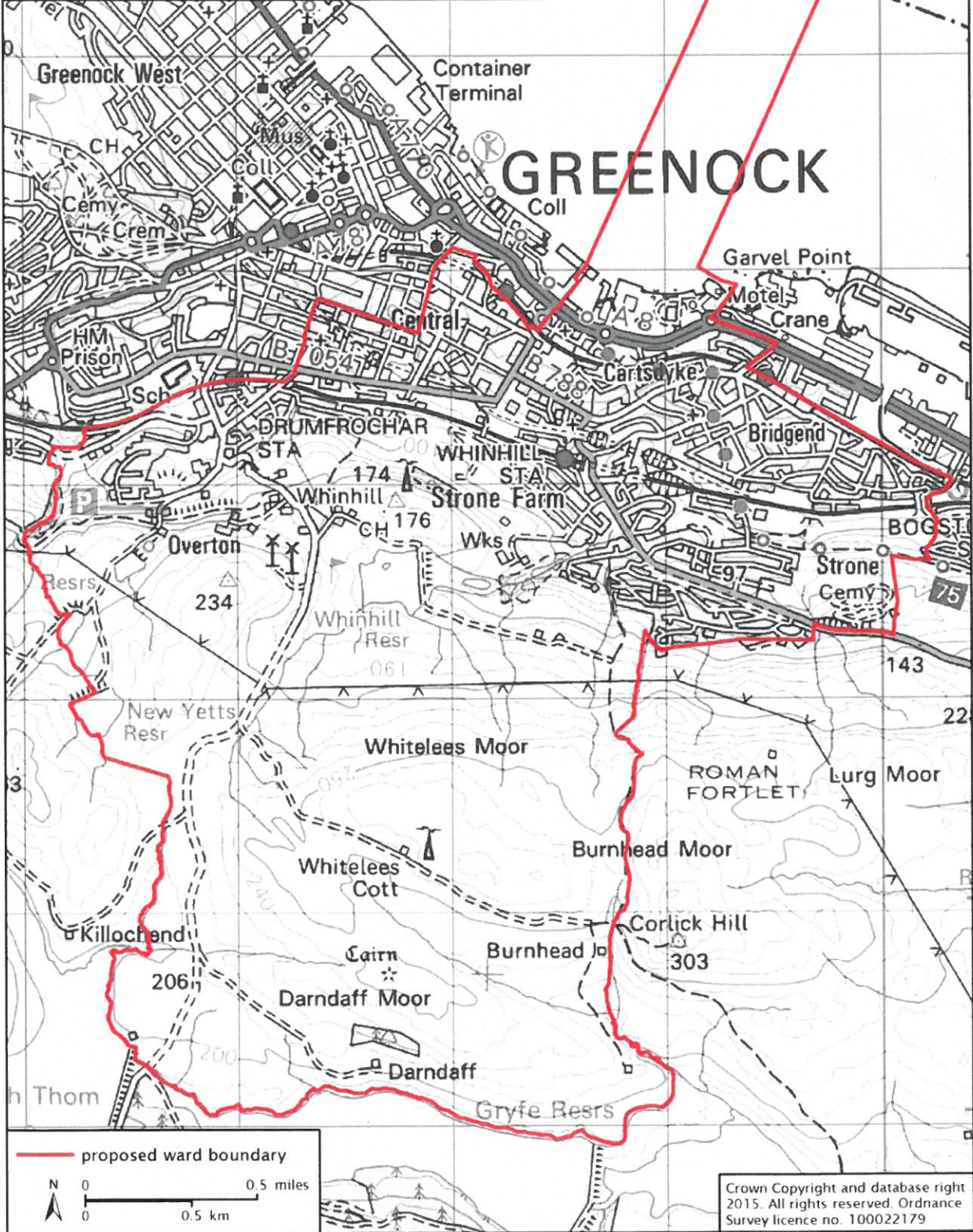


Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
 Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements
 Inverclyde council area
 Proposals for Wards
Ward 2 (Inverclyde East Central)
 3 councillors



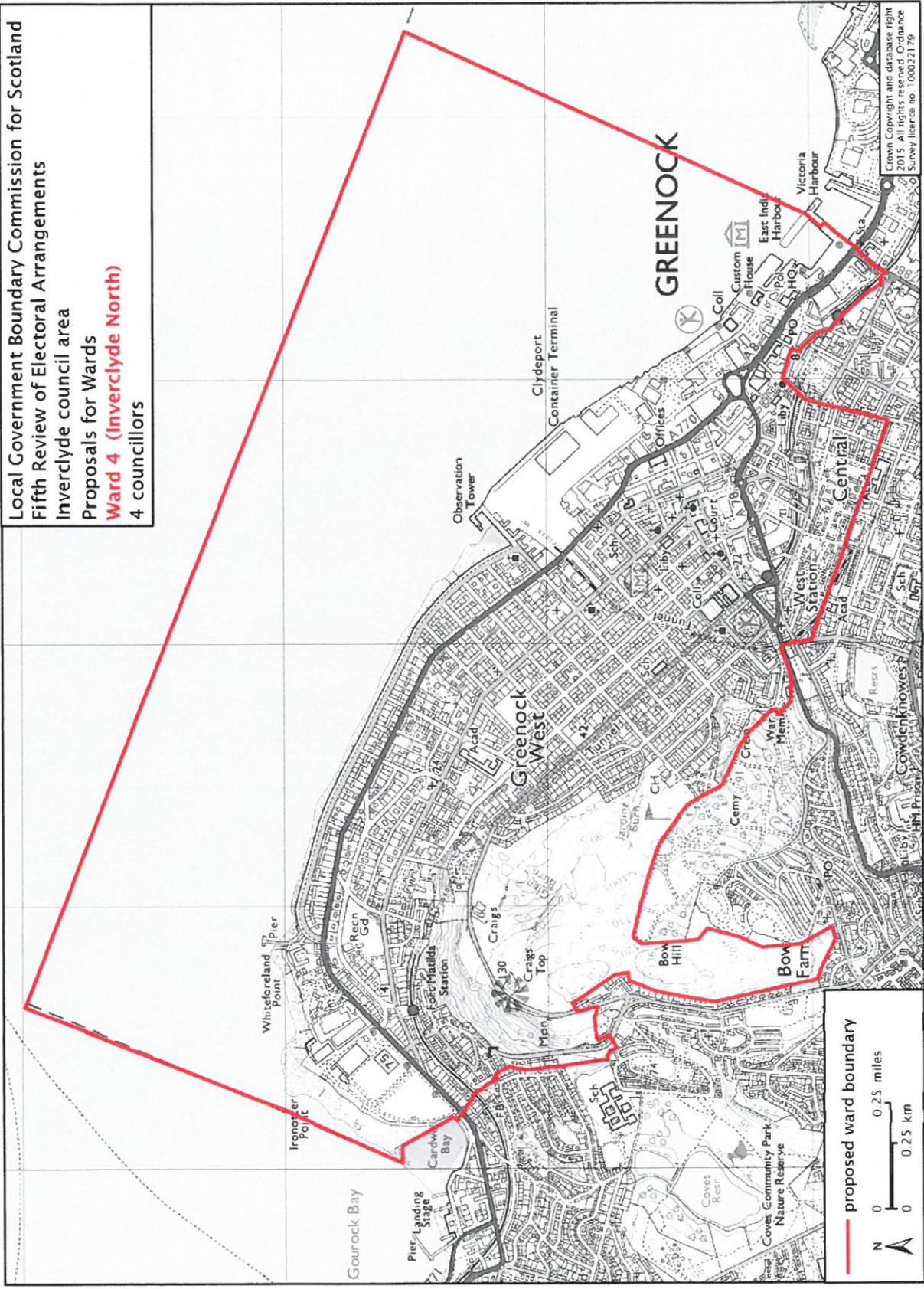
Copyright and database right
 2015 All rights reserved. Ordnance
 Survey licence no. 100022179

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
 Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements
 Inverclyde council area
 Proposals for Wards
Ward 3 (Inverclyde Central)
 3 councillors

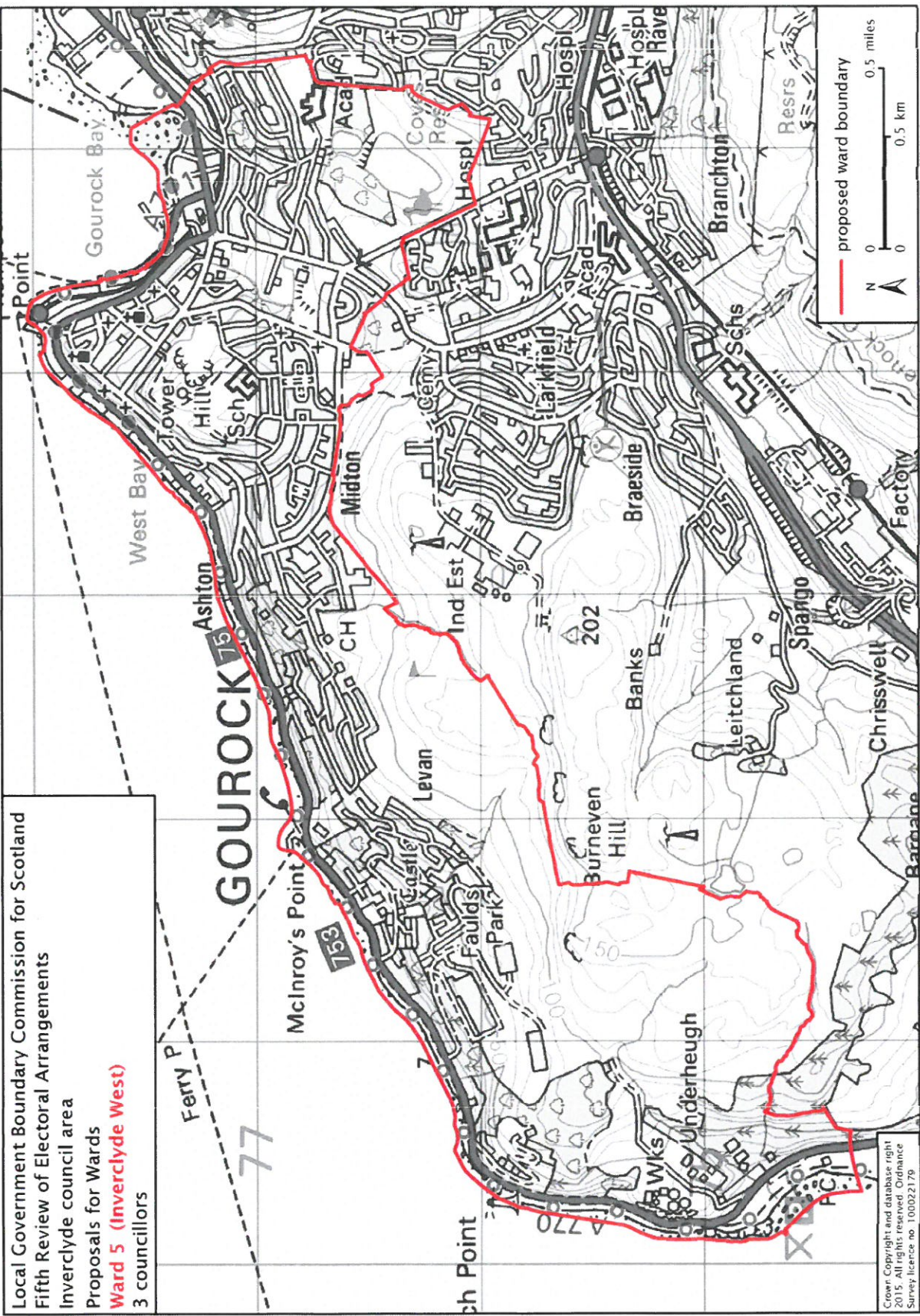


Crown Copyright and database right
 2015. All rights reserved. Ordnance
 Survey licence no. 100022179

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
 Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements
 Inverclyde council area
 Proposals for Wards
Ward 4 (Inverclyde North)
 4 councillors

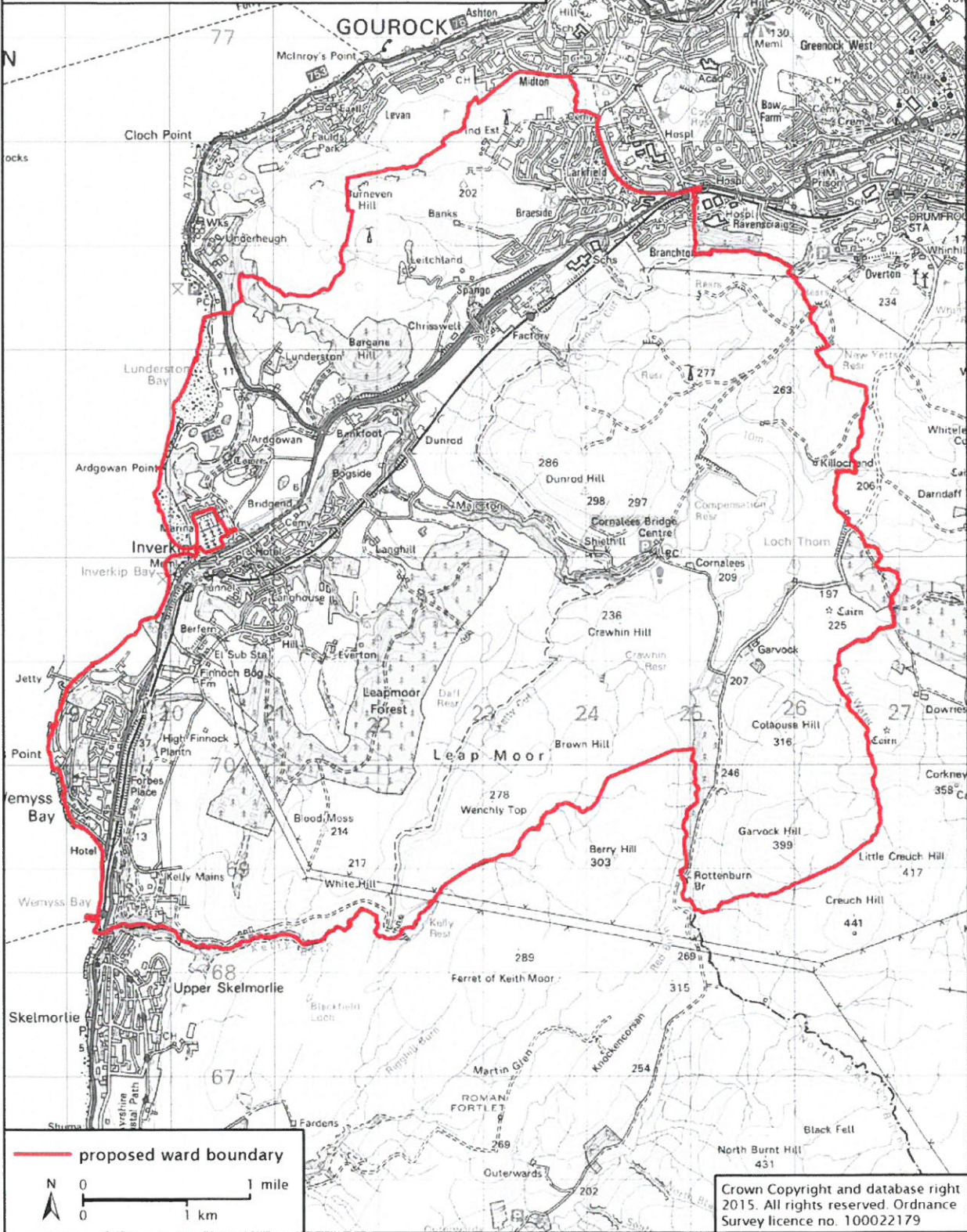


Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
 Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements
 Inverclyde council area
 Proposals for Wards
Ward 5 (Inverclyde West)
 3 councillors



Ordnance Survey
 Crown Copyright and database right
 2015. All rights reserved. Ordnance
 Survey licence no. 100022179

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
 Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements
 Inverclyde council area
 Proposals for Wards
Ward 6 (Inverclyde South West)
 3 councillors



Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements
Inverclyde council area
Proposals for Wards
Ward 7 (Inverclyde South)
3 councillors

