



Local Government  
Boundary Commission for Scotland

Information Paper

Local government area boundaries in Scotland:  
1995 onwards

Boundaries Scotland  
Thistle House  
91 Haymarket Terrace  
Edinburgh  
EH12 5HD

[www.boundaries.scot](http://www.boundaries.scot)

Telephone: 0131 244 2001  
Email: [boundaries.scot@scottishboundaries.gov.uk](mailto:boundaries.scot@scottishboundaries.gov.uk)

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*Local government area boundaries in Scotland: 1995 onwards*

## Local government area boundaries in Scotland: 1995 onwards

Boundaries Scotland, previously named Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland, was established by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, with responsibility for keeping under review local government areas and electoral arrangements in Scotland. Under the terms of the Scotland Act 2016, responsibility for reviews of Scottish Parliament boundaries passed from the Boundary Commission for Scotland to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland with effect from May 2017. Section 28 of the Scottish Elections (Reform) Act 2020 renamed the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland as Boundaries Scotland and came into force on 14 May 2021.

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 2021.

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 <sup>1</sup>	2,202	Angus District; the northern part of Dundee District
Argyll and Bute <sup>2</sup>	7,164	Argyll and Bute District; the western part of Dumbarton District including Garelochhead, Helensburgh and Cardross
Clackmannanshire	164	Clackmannan District
Dumfries and Galloway	6,675	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

<sup>1</sup> Angus includes the offshore rock of Bell Rock (grid reference NO72).

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

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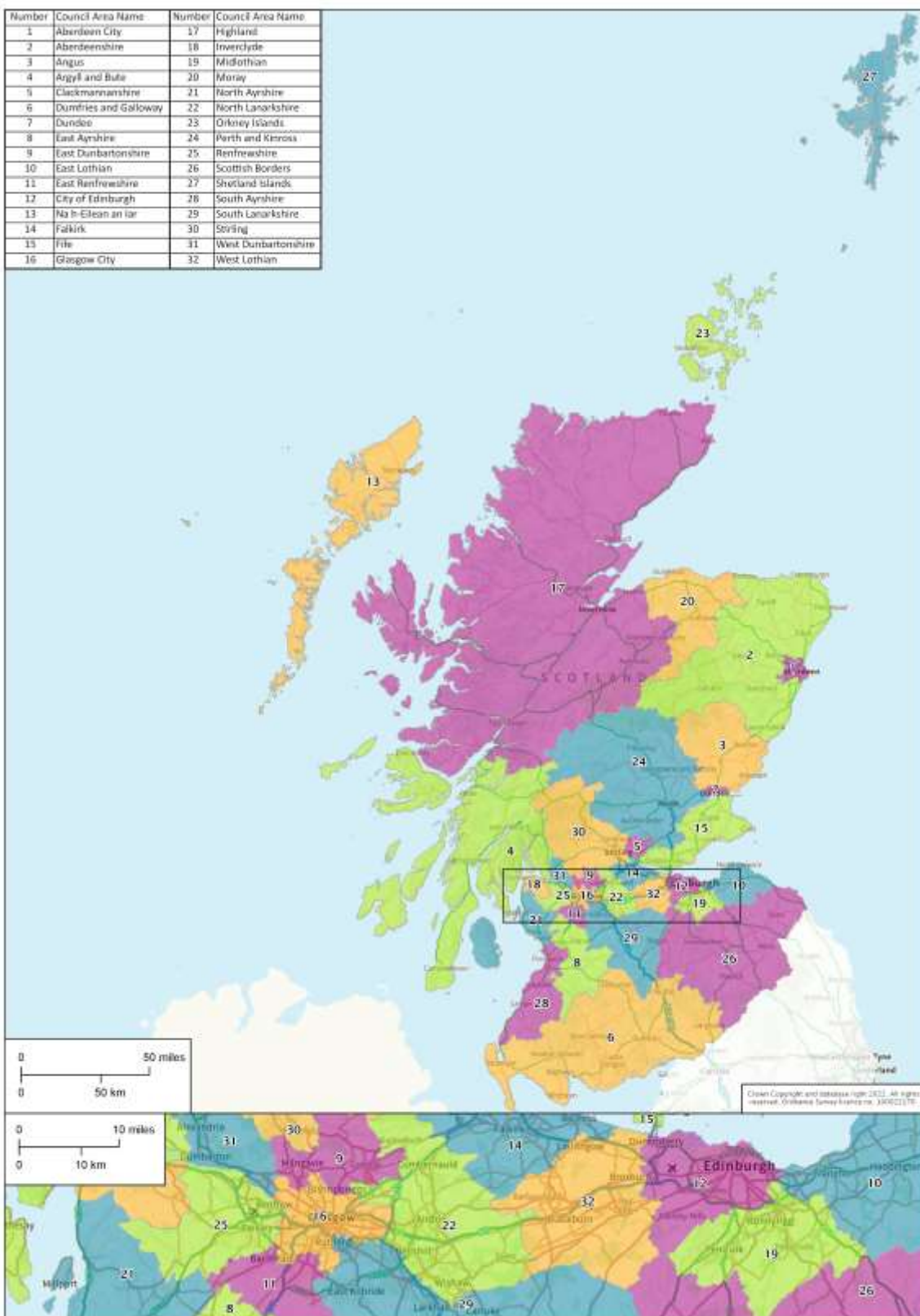
Local government area	Extent (sq km)	Preceding Districts, Regions and Islands Areas
Edinburgh, City of	273	City of Edinburgh District
Eileanan an Iar, Na h- <sup>3</sup>	3,269	Western Isles Islands Area
Falkirk	315	Falkirk District
Fife	1,372	Fife Region
Glasgow City	176	City of Glasgow District except the Rutherglen area
Highland	26,474	Highland Region
Inverclyde	174	Inverclyde District
Midlothian	355	Midlothian District
Moray	2,258	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	5,421	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	1,657	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.

The development and definition of electoral wards for these local government areas are described in more detail in our Information Paper *Local government electoral arrangements in Scotland: 1995 onwards*.

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

Local government area boundaries in Scotland: 1995 onwards



**Local government area boundaries in Scotland: 1995 onwards**

## 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 1993<sup>4</sup> after our 2nd Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements for Tayside Region;
- various Electoral Divisions for Strathclyde Regional Council elections. These were defined in 1993<sup>5</sup> after our 2nd Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements for Strathclyde Region; and
- South Lenzie / Waterside district ward. This was defined in 1983<sup>6</sup> after our Initial Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements for Strathkelvin District.

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

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

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

**Local government area boundaries in Scotland: 1995 onwards**  
**Appendix B – Legislative definition of local government areas**

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"> <li>• first, polling district PDB;</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• 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 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</li> </ul>

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	<p>with Templeton Road at grid reference NO 3577 3455;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> <li>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</li> <li>sixthly, those parts of polling districts EDN, EDQ, PDA, WED, WEE, WEF and WEG lying within its boundary)</li> </ul>
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	Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council and Cumnock and Doon Valley District Council
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



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East Dunbartonshire	Bearsden and Milngavie District Council; Strathclyde electoral divisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 43 (Kirkintilloch),</li> <li>• 44 (Strathkelvin North),</li> <li>• 45 (Bishopbriggs) and</li> <li>• the South Lenzie/Waterside district ward in Strathclyde electoral division 46 (Chryston)</li> </ul>
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"> <li>• 37 (Rutherglen/Fernhill),</li> <li>• 38 (Cambuslang/Halfway) and,</li> <li>• <b>in 35 (King's Park/Toryglen), polling districts RU03, RU04, RU09 and RU18</b></li> </ul>
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"> <li>• 37 (Rutherglen/Fernhill),</li> <li>• 38 (Cambuslang/Halfway) and,</li> <li>• <b>in 35 (King's Park/Toryglen), polling districts RU03, RU04, RU09 and RU18</b></li> </ul>
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 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

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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.

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## 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. The current Direction runs from 1 October 2018 to 30 September 2023, and restricts any such review to 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.

LGBCS 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 Stepps	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, Stepps	2018/308	1 Apr 2019