

City of Edinburgh Council

10.00, Thursday, 2 November 2023

Revision of Polling Districts due to creation of new UK Parliament Constituencies

Executive/routine
Wards

Routine
All

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To note that The Boundary Commission for Scotland have proposed new UK Parliament constituencies for the constituencies which lie within the City of Edinburgh Council area.
- 1.2 To note that these new boundaries require minor revisions to the current polling districts across the City of Edinburgh Council area.
- 1.3 To approve the revised Polling Districts for the City of Edinburgh as detailed in Appendix 1 of this report.
- 1.4 To note that a full review of polling arrangements with public consultation, as required on a five year cycle by statute, is planned for early 2024 which will include a review of polling stations.

Dr Deborah Smart

Executive Director of Corporate Services

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Revision of Polling Districts due to creation of new UK Parliament Constituencies

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Boundary Commission for Scotland's 2023 Review of UK Parliament constituencies has made several revisions to the boundaries of the five UK constituencies that cover the City of Edinburgh Council area. These new boundaries cut across existing polling districts. This report proposes minor revisions to polling districts across the city to reflect these new boundaries. This will allow the Electoral Registration Officer to publish the electoral register based on the new constituencies on 1 December 2023, in preparation for the next UK Parliamentary General Election.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Boundary Commission for Scotland began its 2023 Review of UK Parliament constituencies in Scotland in January 2021. Scotland has been allocated 57 constituencies for the 2023 Review, two less than at present. Each constituency must contain no less than 69,724 Parliamentary electors, and no more than 77,062 (except for the two 'protected' island constituencies. Following extensive public consultation, final recommendations were laid before Parliament on 28 June 2023. The UK Government will submit to the Privy Council an Order that is expected to give effect to the recommendations by the end of November 2023. These will then be the constituencies that will be used for the next UK Parliamentary General Election which must take place no later than 28 January 2025.
- 3.2 The Representation of the People Act 1983 places a duty on the Local Authority to divide the local authority area into polling districts based on ward boundaries, and to designate a polling place for each polling district. Local Authorities also have a duty to keep these polling arrangements under review. The new constituency boundaries for Edinburgh bisect existing polling districts. As such they could not be used to create registers for a UK Parliamentary General Election on the new constituencies.

4. Main report

- 4.1 A UK Government draft Order containing the recommendations of all four Parliamentary Boundary Commissions is expected to be approved by Privy Council in November 2023 coming into force shortly after. The new constituencies will be used for the next UK Parliamentary General Election following that date. For any by-election or recall petition that may take place beforehand, existing constituencies are used.
- 4.2 The final recommendations of the Boundary Commission for Scotland have five UK Parliament constituencies within the area covered by the City of Edinburgh Council. These are:

| Constituency Name | Electorate (at 2 March 2020) | Area (sq. km) | Designation |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Edinburgh East and Musselburgh | 75,705 | 34 | Burgh |
| Edinburgh North and Leith | 76,770 | 20 | Burgh |
| Edinburgh South | 70,980 | 31 | Burgh |
| Edinburgh South West | 73,315 | 90 | Burgh |
| Edinburgh West | 76,723 | 107 | Burgh |

- 4.3 At the start of this review, City of Edinburgh had five constituencies wholly within its council area. The new constituencies involve a number of changes. There are minor changes to the boundary between the Edinburgh West and Edinburgh North and Leith constituencies at Craighleith and the Dean Village. The boundary between the Edinburgh East and Edinburgh South constituencies was amended at Prestonfield. The Edinburgh East constituency now includes the western half of Musselburgh with the name changed following consultation to Edinburgh East and Musselburgh. There are no changes to the Edinburgh South West constituency. Maps showing the new constituencies are available from the Boundary Commission for Scotland website.
- 4.4 The Council has split its 17 wards into polling districts as required by the Representation of the People Act 1983, with a polling place designated for each of the polling districts. The boundaries of these new constituencies cut through existing polling districts in several places which means that the current polling districts could not be used to compile the registers to allow the Returning Officer to deliver the next UK Parliamentary General Election.

- 4.5 The Elections Team has worked closely with the Electoral Registration Officer to identify the minor changes to current polling districts that need to be made to accommodate the new UK Parliament constituencies within the Council's polling scheme. These changes involve either whole polling districts transferring from one constituency to another or polling districts being split with part moving to the new constituency. The required changes are shown in the table in Appendix 1, with maps to illustrate the changes.
- 4.6 Should a UK Parliamentary by-election be needed or should a recall petition be required within one of the current UK constituencies within Edinburgh, this approach of moving whole polling districts or splitting existing ones would allow electoral registers for the current constituencies to be easily compiled, while providing for the new registers, as a result of the recent annual canvas, to be published on 1 December on the basis of the new UK constituencies.
- 4.7 The recommended changes flowing from this report make no changes to the existing scheme of polling places. The polling places would initially remain those used at the City of Edinburgh Council Elections in May 2022.
- 4.8 However, Section 18(c) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, as amended, places a duty on local authorities to review the UK Parliamentary polling districts, polling places and polling stations in their area on a regular basis with an initial review to be carried out between 1 October 2013 and 31 January 2015 and subsequent reviews to be undertaken within a period of 16 months commencing on 1 October every fifth year thereafter. The next compulsory review period is the 16 months between 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2025.
- 4.9 The Election Team is planning to undertake this formal review early in 2024. That review process involves a review of current facilities, potential changes to the availability of venues and public consultation. The aim of the review is to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable and to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable the accessibility needs of electors have been considered when designating polling places. It is and will continue to be the practice within this Council to avoid the use of schools as polling places to minimise the disruption to education.
- 4.10 The location of proposed polling districts and polling places is the responsibility of the City of Edinburgh Council and the location of polling stations is the responsibility of the Returning Officer. However, for the purposes of this review, all aspects of the process will be undertaken jointly.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Once the minor modifications to polling districts recommended in this report are agreed by Council they will be used to allow the Electoral Registration Officer to publish the Electoral Registers for the five UK constituencies within the City of Edinburgh Council area on 1 December 2023. These will be the registers used for

any General Election held following the approval of the new constituencies by Privy Council.

- 5.2 There is no scheduled date for the next UK Parliamentary General Election. The 2019 Parliament must be dissolved, at the latest, by 17 December 2024, and the next general election must take place no later than 28 January 2025. The Dissolution and Calling of Parliament Act 2022 allows the prime minister to request the monarch to dissolve Parliament and call an early election with 25 working days' notice.
- 5.3 The City of Edinburgh Election Team will initiate the formal statutory review of polling places and polling districts in January 2024.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 There are no financial implications following from the recommendations in this report. The recommendations are for minor administrative changes to the scheme of polling districts.
- 6.2 There may be changes to the hire costs for venues resulting from the review of polling places and polling districts planned for January 2024. However, it should be noted that these costs are met by the UK or Scottish Governments for all UK or Scottish Parliament elections and the Council are only required to meet these costs for local government elections.

7. Equality and Poverty Impact

- 7.1 The reason for this report is to request the Council approve minor modifications to the scheme of polling districts within the city because of the new UK Parliament constituencies. There are no direct equality or poverty impacts.

8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct climate and nature emergency implications because of this report. The reason for this report is to request the Council approve minor modifications to the scheme of polling districts within the city because of the new UK Parliament constituencies.

9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact

- 9.1 The delivery of elections is a major corporate project for the Council and remains on the Corporate Risk Register. The Electoral Commission has noted in their September report that significant changes to the process of voting added a new layer of complexity and risk to an already stretched process and that the capacity and resilience of election teams across the UK remain a significant concern.

- 9.2 A documented project management approach is applied to each election with a tailored project plan, regular highlight reports, a risk register and contingency planning.
- 9.3 The Electoral Commission provide Performance Standards for Returning Officers which are outcome focussed and assist in the planning of each election.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 [Boundary Commission for Scotland – 2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies – main site](#)
- 10.2 [Final Recommendations – 2023 Review Final Report](#)
- 10.3 [Final Recommendations – Constituency Electorate by Ward](#)
- 10.4 Map - [Edinburgh East and Musselburgh](#)
- 10.5 Map - [Edinburgh North and Leith](#)
- 10.6 Map - [Edinburgh South](#)
- 10.7 Map - [Edinburgh South West](#)
- 10.8 Map - [Edinburgh West](#)
- 10.9 House of Commons Library - [interactive map showing how each constituency in the UK will change](#) with old and new boundaries
- 10.10 [Representation of the People Act 1983 section 18](#) as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (c. 22)

11. Appendices

- 11.1 **Appendix 1** - Proposed changes to the current polling districts within the City of Edinburgh Council area

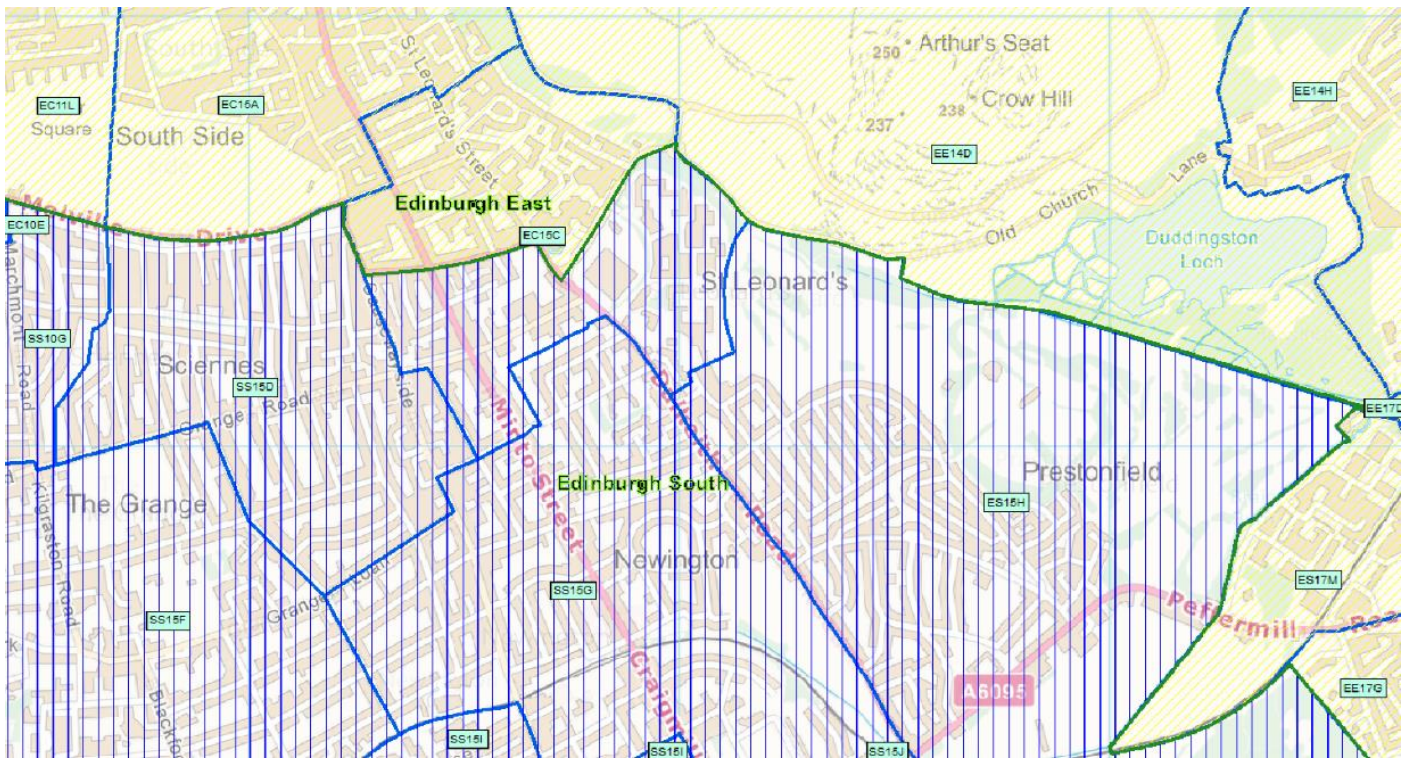
Appendix 1 – Proposed changes to the current polling districts within the City of Edinburgh Council area

Edinburgh East Burgh Constituency / Edinburgh East and Musselburgh

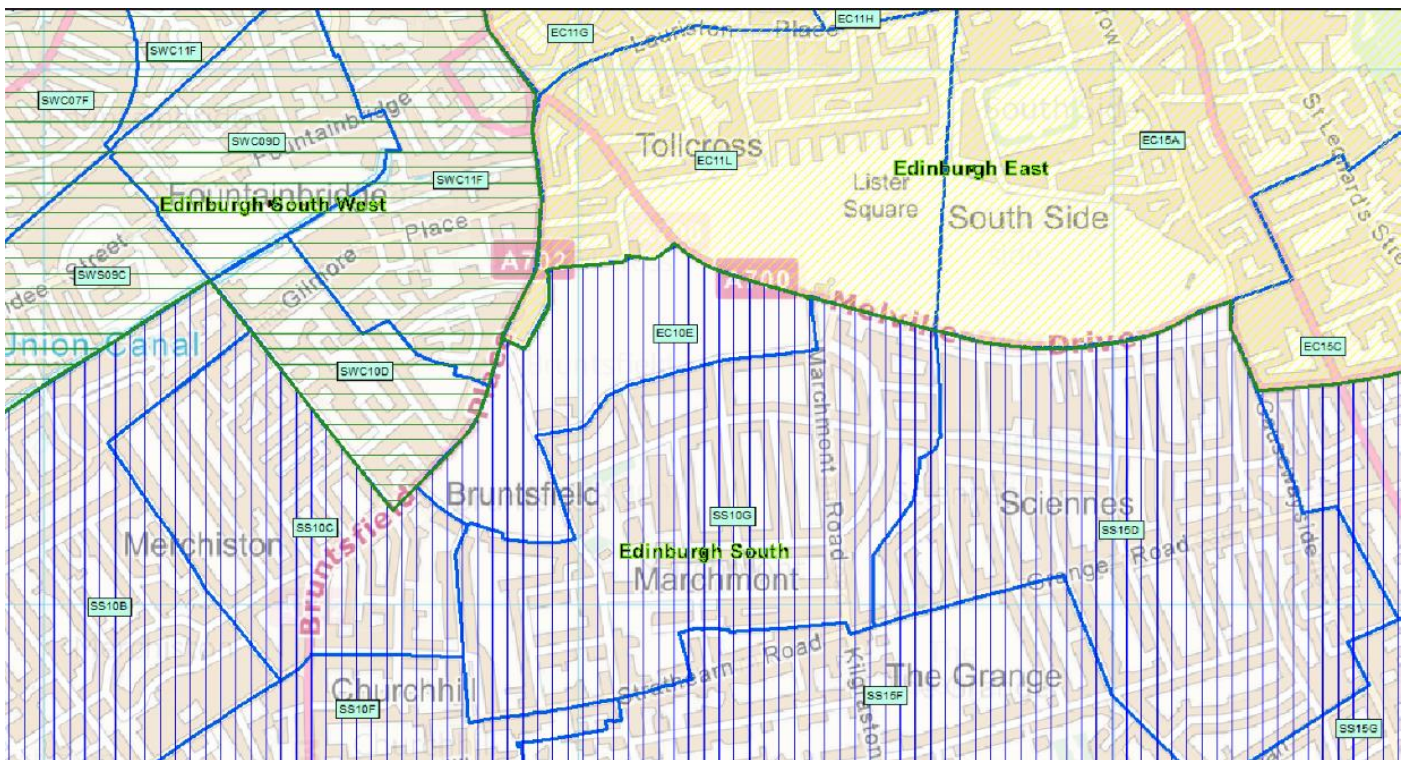
- EC15C – part remains in the new Edinburgh East and Musselburgh constituency, part moves to Edinburgh South to become SC15C

The part of EC15C moving into the Edinburgh South constituency as SC15C will be the following.

- Baird House, 18 Holyrood Park Road (Pollock Halls of Residence)
- Chancellors Court, 18 Holyrood Park Road (Pollock Halls of Residence)
- Ewing House, 18 Holyrood Park Road (Pollock Halls of Residence)
- Grant House, 18 Holyrood Park Road (Pollock Halls of Residence)
- Holland House, 18 Holyrood Park Road (Pollock Halls of Residence)
- John Burnett House, 18 Holyrood Park Road (Pollock Halls of Residence)
- Lee House, 18 Holyrood Park Road (Pollock Halls of Residence)
- Masson House, 18 Holyrood Park Road (Pollock Halls of Residence)
- Turner House, 18 Holyrood Park Road (Pollock Halls of Residence)
- Blackwood Crescent
- Causewayside
- Dalkeith Road - 71 to 77 odd numbers, 18A to 58A even numbers
- Duncan Street
- East Preston Street - 3A to 29 odd numbers
- East Preston Street Lane
- Salisbury Green Lodge, Holyrood Park Road
- John Burnett House
- Minto Street
- Newington Place East
- Newington Place West
- Newington Road
- Romero Place
- Salisbury Mews
- Salisbury Place
- Salisbury Road
- South Oxford Street
- Upper Gray Street
- West Preston Street - 22 to 45

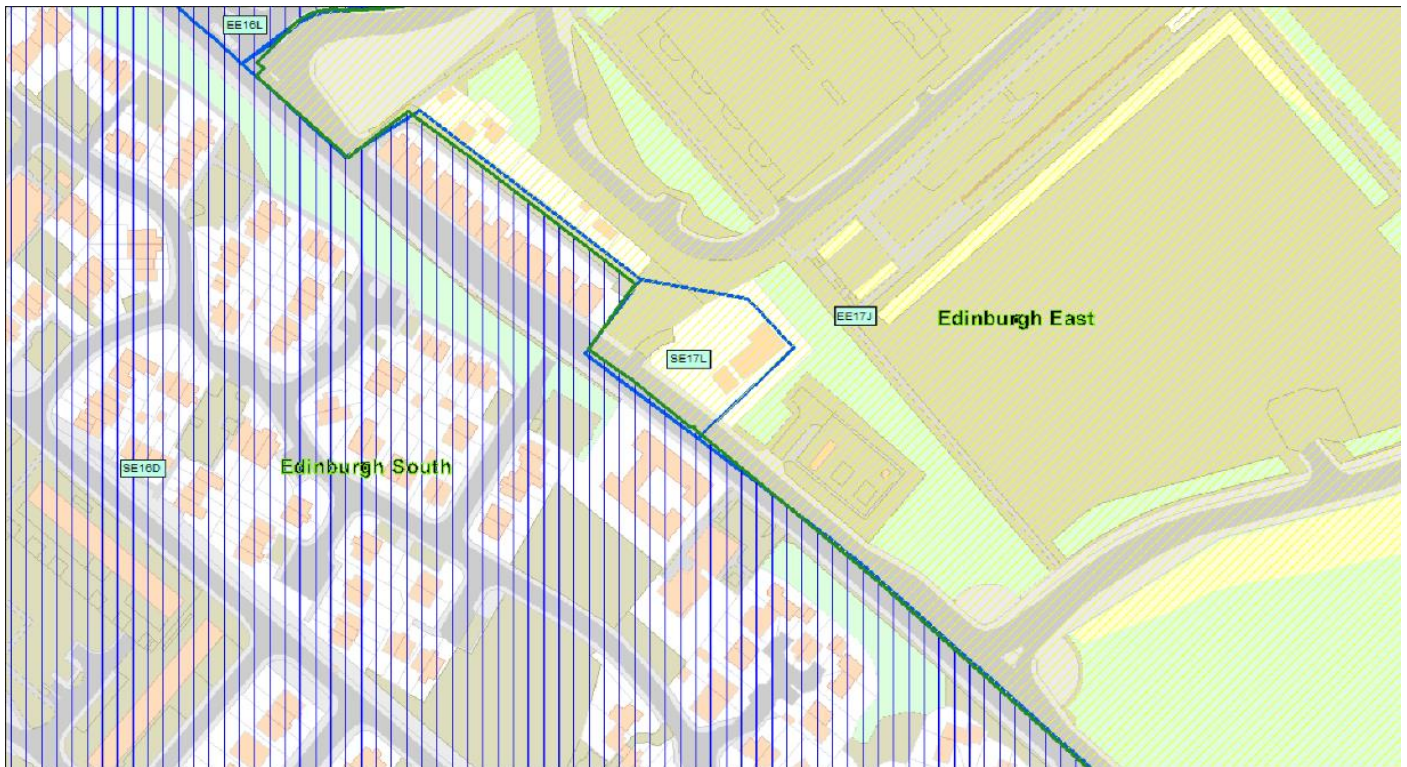


- ES15H- the whole polling district moves to Edinburgh South to become SS15H
- EC10E - the whole polling district moves to Edinburgh South to become SC10E



- EE16L - the whole polling district moves to Edinburgh South to become SE16L

SE17L currently contains only one property. It will be combined with the adjacent polling district, EE17L.



While not part of the City of Edinburgh Council area and therefore not within the remit of this Council, the constituency also gains three polling districts from what is currently the East Lothian constituency:

- ELMN1A which will become EMN1A
- ELMN1B which will become EMN1B
- ELMN1C which will become EMN1C

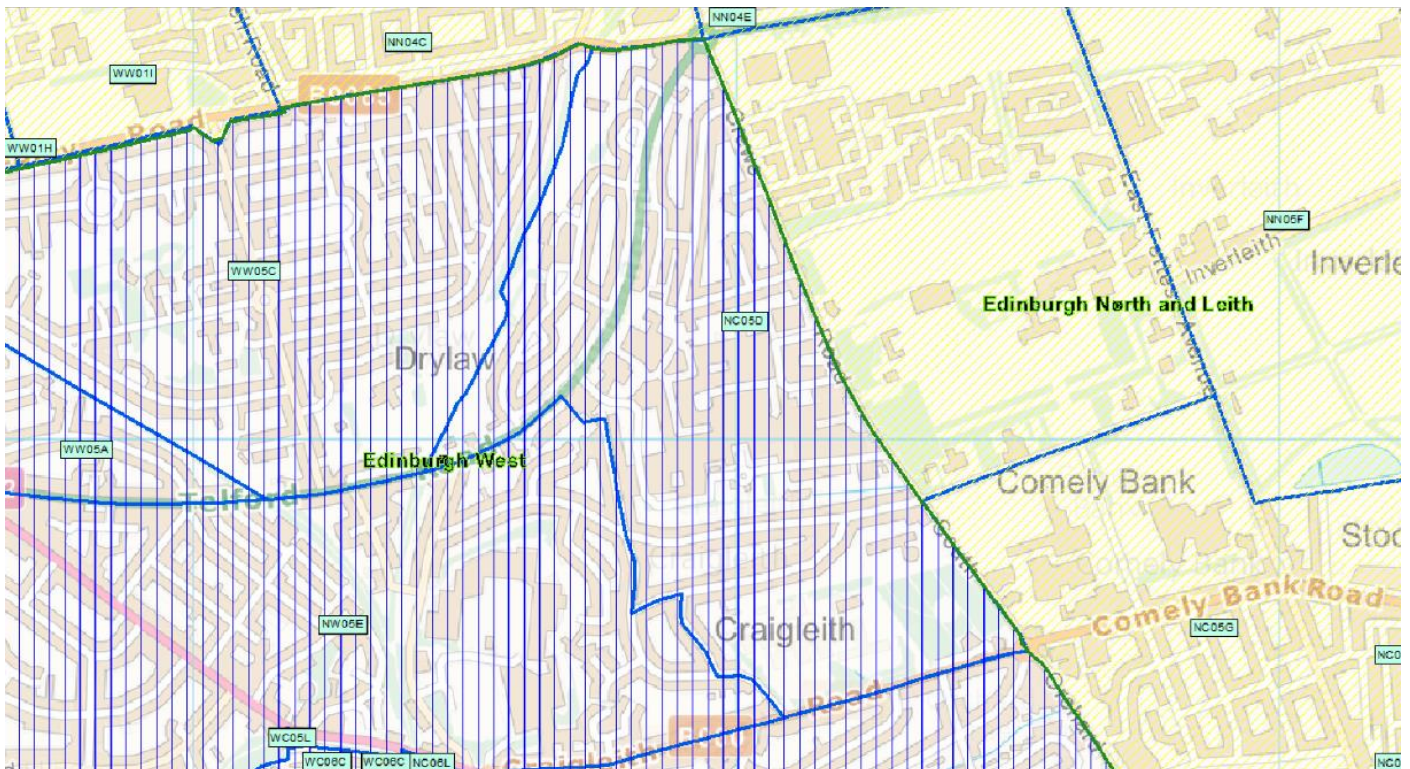


Edinburgh North and Leith Burgh Constituency

- NC05J – the whole polling district moves to Edinburgh West to become WC05J
- NC06L - the whole polling district moves to Edinburgh West to become WC05J
- NC05D - part remains in North and Leith but part moves to Edinburgh West to become WC05D

The part moving into the Edinburgh West constituency to become WC05D will cover the following streets:

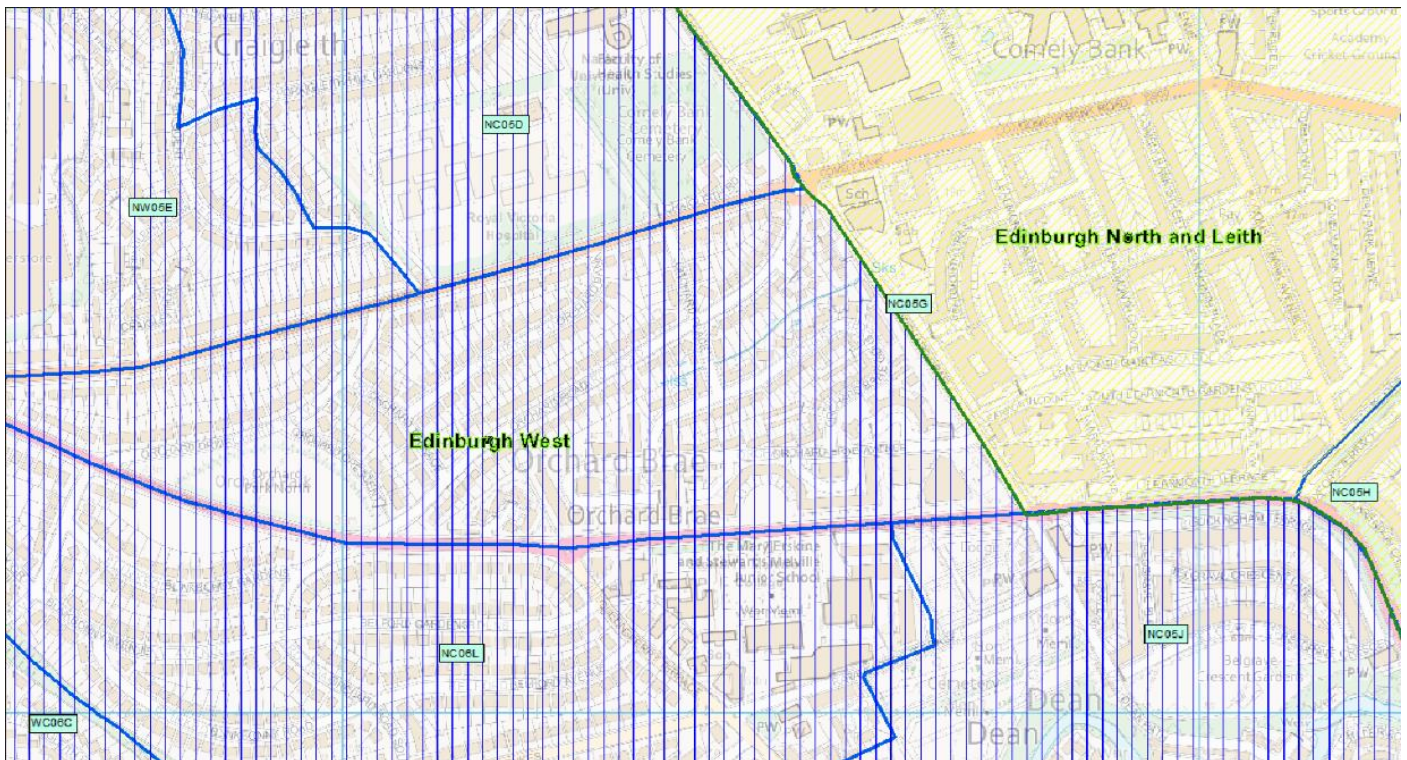
- Craigleith Hill Avenue
- Craigleith Hill Crescent
- Craigleith Hill Gardens
- Craigleith Hill Loan
- Craigleith Road
- Crewe Road South
- Davidson Park
- Davidson Road
- Grigor Avenue
- Grigor Drive
- Grigor Gardens
- Grigor Terrace
- Telford Drive
- Telford Gardens
- Telford Grove
- Telford March
- Telford Place
- Telford Road



- NC05G – part remains in North and Leith but part moves to Edinburgh West to become WC05G

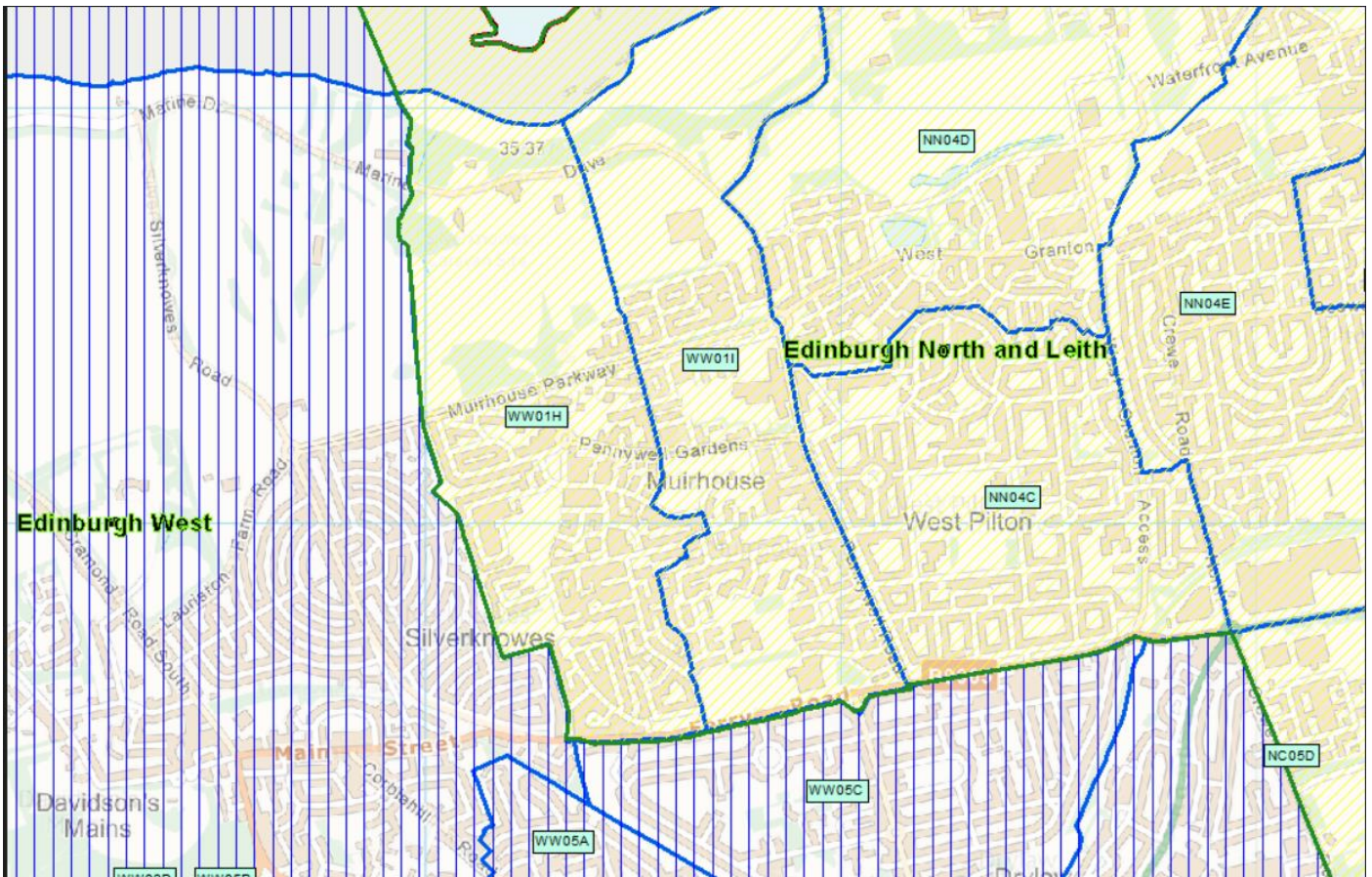
The part moving into the Edinburgh West constituency to become WC05G will cover the following streets:

- Craigleith Road – evens 8 - 198
- Orchard Bank
- Orchard Brae - numbers 89, 91 and 93
- Orchard Brae Avenue
- Orchard Brae Gardens
- Orchard Brae Gardens West
- Orchard Brae West
- Orchard Crescent
- Orchard Drive
- Orchard Grove
- Orchard Place
- Orchard Road
- Orchard Terrace
- Orchard Toll
- Queensferry Road - even numbers, 86-100 inclusive



Edinburgh West Burgh Constituency

- WW01H – the whole polling district moves to Edinburgh North and Leith to become NW01H
- WW01I - the whole polling district moves to Edinburgh North and Leith to become NW01I



Edinburgh South West Burgh constituency

There are no changes to Edinburgh South West Burgh constituency.