

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**ANGUS COUNCIL – 19 MARCH 2020**

**STATUTORY REVIEW OF POLLING PLACES AND POLLING DISTRICTS**

**REPORT BY MARGO WILLIAMSON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE & RETURNING OFFICER**

**ABSTRACT**

This report seeks the Council's approval for the proposed changes to UK Parliamentary polling places within the Angus local government area following the completion of a statutory review as per Section 18(c) of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

**1. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

It is recommended that the Council:

- (i) Agree to the amendments to current polling arrangements as outlined in Appendix 1;
- (ii) Note that there are no proposed changes to current polling district boundaries;
- (iii) Note that the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) will make any necessary amendments to the Register of Electors.

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN/CORPORATE PLAN**

This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plans:

- We want our communities to be strong, resilient and led by citizens.
- We want to maximise inclusion and reduce inequalities.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 The location of proposed polling districts and polling places is the responsibility of Angus 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 have been undertaken jointly.
- 3.3 The scope of this review does not cover parliamentary or local government boundaries as these are the responsibility of the Boundary Commission and Local Boundary Commission for Scotland respectively.

**4. PROPOSALS**

**4.1 Rationale**

The aim of the review is to ensure all electors in Angus 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 who are disabled have been considered when designating polling places.

**4.2 Public Consultation**

- 4.2.1 The public consultation phase of the review commenced on 28 October 2019 and concluded on 25 November 2019. The consultation document was published on the Angus Council website and paper copies were placed in Angus House, Access Offices and public libraries. Representations were welcomed from all interested parties, including any person or body with expertise in access for persons with any type of disability.
- 4.2.2 In addition, as part of the consultation process the Returning Officer issued the consultation document to a wide range of consultees including Elected Members, MP's, MSP's, Community Councils, Local Area Partnerships and local disability groups. Consultees were asked to comment on the existing polling scheme and on the draft proposals which were detailed in the consultation document.
- 4.2.3 No formal representations were received during the consultation period.

### **4.3 Polling Districts**

- 4.3.1 A polling district is defined as the geographical area created by the sub-division of a constituency or ward into smaller parts. In Scotland, each electoral area must be divided into two or more polling districts unless there are deemed to be special circumstances.
- 4.3.2 There have been no significant changes in polling districts electorates in the years since the last review and none are anticipated in the next five years. Major residential development or the cumulative effect of smaller developments is normally the most significant factor affecting the size of the electorate in a particular area. However, what development there has been in recent years has not significantly affected any polling districts in Angus as yet.
- 4.3.3 It is considered that the current polling districts in Angus are generally reflective of the needs of voters in the Angus local government area and therefore no amendments to the current boundaries are being proposed.

### **4.4 Polling Places**

- 4.4.1 A polling place is defined as the building or area in which polling stations will be designated by the Returning Officer. Polling places should be within the polling district unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area outside the polling district.
- 4.4.2 In conducting the review, members of the Election team visited a number of existing and proposed venues. They completed accessibility checklists which were subsequently submitted to the Returning Officer for consideration when drafting the final proposals contained in this report.
- 4.4.3 The overall suitability of venues have been graded by the Returning Officer for the purposes of this review only as A = Very Good; B = Good and C = Unsatisfactory.

### **4.5 Use of Schools as Polling Places**

- 4.5.1 There are currently 67 polling places in Angus, 14 of which are primary or secondary schools (eight of which were closed to pupils for the European Election on 23 May 2019). It is recognised that the use of schools as polling places, with the consequent loss of a day's education for the children at the affected schools is not ideal, and significant efforts have been made over the past few years to reduce the number of schools in use on polling day.
- 4.5.2 One of the main aims of this review has been to identify alternative venues for polling places which are currently located in schools. As a result of this review, the Returning Officer is proposing a further five alternative venues to schools and these proposals are outlined in [Appendix 1](#) reducing the total number of schools used as polling places in Angus to nine (five of which will require to continue to be closed on polling day due the location of the polling stations within the school).
- 4.5.3 The Returning Officer will continue to keep the use of schools as polling places under review and will make further recommendations as and when alternative venues are identified.

### **4.6 Final Proposals**

- 4.6.1 The Returning Officer's final recommendations for the designation of Polling Districts and Polling Places in Angus are contained in [Appendix 1](#). Due to the snap UK Parliamentary Election on 12 December 2019, four of the proposed venues were successfully used as alternative polling places to avoid closing schools on the day of poll. The remaining proposed venue was not used as the existing school venue did not require to be closed on polling day.
- 4.6.2 The Returning Officer for parliamentary constituencies Dundee East and Dundee West, parts of which fall within the Angus local government area, has been consulted as part of the review process and has indicated that he is happy with the proposals for the area which falls within his remit.
- 4.6.3 The final outcome of this review, along with the original Notice of Review, the consultation documents and all correspondence and representations received will be made available on the Council's website as required by Schedule A1 of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

#### **4.7 Appeals Process**

- 4.7.1 Following the conclusion of this review, certain persons have a right to make representations to the Electoral Commission regarding the designation of polling districts and polling places. The Commission will only consider representations on the following grounds:
- The local authority has failed to meet the reasonable requirements of the electors in the constituency, or a body of them; or
  - The local authority has failed to take sufficient account of accessibility for disabled persons of a polling station within a designated polling place.
- 4.7.2 Representations based on any other premise will not be considered. Full details of the Appeals Process are contained in [Appendix 2](#).

### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There will be a small increase in hire costs for venues resulting from the proposals contained in this report. However, it should be noted that these costs are met by the Scotland Office for all national elections and the Council are only required to meet these costs for local government elections.

### **6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and is appended to this report.

### **7. CONSULTATION**

The Head of Corporate Improvement & Finance, the Head of Legal & Democratic Services and the Electoral Registration Officer for Angus have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

**NOTE:** The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

- Schedule 1 of the Representation of the People Act 1983
- Electoral Commission Guidance – Reviews of polling districts, polling places and polling stations

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List of Appendices:

- [Appendix 1](#) Angus Council Polling Scheme. Returning Officer's comments and proposed amendments
- [Appendix 2](#) Appeals Process

## Ward 1 – Kirriemuir &amp; Dean

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station Location	Total Electorate as at 1/12/18	% Eligible to vote in person	% voting by post 23/5/19	Maximum Number of Polling Stations	Disabled Access	Accessibility Rating	Proposed amendments to polling places
ASA	Glenisla Hall	n/a	150	79%	21%	1	Y	B	None
ASB	Cortachy Primary School	Dining/Games Hall	203	83%	17%	1	Y	B	Cortachy Church
ASC	Kilry Village Hall	n/a	309	77%	23%	1	Y	B	None
ASE	Kingoldrum Village Hall	n/a	144	78%	22%	1	N	C	None
ASF	Airlie Village Hall	n/a	289	82%	18%	1	Y	B	None
ASG	Northmuir Hall	n/a	1244	85%	15%	2	Y	B	None
ASH	Westmuir Hall	n/a	380	85%	15%	1	Y	B	None
ASI	Kirriemuir Town Hall	Main Hall	3962	84%	16%	5	Y	B	None
ASJ	Eassie Community Hall	n/a	246	85%	15%	1	Y	A	None
ASK	Glamis Primary School	Dining/Games Hall	625	81%	19%	1	Y	B	Glamis Heritage Education Centre
ASL	Wharncliffe Hall	n/a	659	86%	14%	1	Y	B	None
ASM	Old School, Oathlaw	n/a	199	84%	16%	1	Y	B	None
ASN	Duncan Hall, Kinnettles	n/a	155	76%	24%	1	Y	B	None
ASO	Inverarity Church Hall	n/a	155	83%	17%	1	Y	B	None

## Notes

1. Cortachy Primary School and Glamis Primary School are currently closed on the day of poll due to the location of the polling stations within the schools.

## Draft Proposals

## Proposal 1 – Polling District ASB

It is proposed that the place for polling district ASB is amended from Cortachy Primary School to Cortachy Church ([Map 1](#) refers).

Cortachy Church is located in the centre of the village, a short distance from the current polling place at Cortachy Primary School. The church has recently had a number of pews removed which has freed up sufficient space for a polling station to be set up to the rear of the church. There are two entrances to the church, one at the front of the building which, with the installation of a temporary ramp could be used as the disabled entrance to the polling place. The second entrance which is to the right hand side of the building would be used as the main entrance to the polling place. There is parking within the grounds for up to four vehicles, an area of which would be designated for disabled parking. There is some on street parking at the entrance to the church and there is car park located next to the school. There is a slight slope

leading up to the entrance but we have been assured that this has not resulted in any access issues for persons with a disability visiting the church. The Returning Officer has allocated a “B” accessibility rating to this venue.

The local bus service which also serves the current polling place runs along the main road of the village is the Kirriemuir/Cortachy circulars (dial a ride) services and as such this represents no change to the current public transport facilities available to electors in this polling district.

The designated area in the church is suitable for the one polling station required. The entrance to the polling place would need to be clearly sign posted for electors who may not have visited the Church before but it is easily recognisable from the main road.

Cortachy Church would be available for use for any unscheduled elections.

The proposal to use Cortachy Church would avoid the closure of Cortachy Primary School on polling day.

### **Proposal 2 – Polling District ASK**

The Returning Officer’s team visited 3 potential locations in Glamis – Glamis Heritage Education Centre, Masonic Hall, Glamis and the boardroom in Milton Studio, Glamis. After reviewing and evaluating the facilities and the potential cost of hiring each of these locations, it is proposed that the polling place for polling district ASK is amended from Glamis Primary School to Glamis Heritage Education Centre ([Map 2](#) refers).

The Glamis Heritage Education Centre is located in the centre of Glamis Village just opposite the Strathmore Arms. The entrance to the centre leads directly into a small open plan hall/room. The main entrance may not be suitable for motorised wheelchairs but a non-motorised wheelchair would be able to enter the polling place. A ramp has been built within the venue to allow access to the disabled toilet at the rear of the venue. There is no dedicated parking space for persons with a disability, however, there is some on-street parking available outside the venue and a free car park is situated approx. 50m away. The Returning Officer has allocated a “B” accessibility rating to this venue.

Glamis Village is serviced by local bus services 20C and 125 both of which stop at the main bus stop opposite Glamis Primary School which is approximately 150m from the Glamis Heritage Education Centre.

The open plan hall/room is suitable for the one polling station required. Whilst Glamis Heritage Education is well known to the villagers of Glamis, a free standing sign would be used to clearly identify the polling place for electors who may not be so familiar with the venue.

The Glamis Heritage Education Centre would be available for use at any unscheduled elections.

The proposal to use the Glamis Heritage Education Centre would avoid the closure of Glamis Primary School on polling day.

### **Returning Officer’s Comments**

The Returning Officer fully supports the proposals to amend the polling places from Cortachy Primary School and Glamis Primary School to Cortachy Church and the Glamis Heritage Education Centre respectively with immediate effect.

## Ward 2 – Brechin & Edzell

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station Location	Total Electorate as at 1/12/18	% Eligible to vote in person	% voting by post 23/5/19	Maximum Number of Polling Stations	Disabled Access	Accessibility Rating	Proposed amendments to polling places
AMA	Stracathro Village Hall	n/a	315	78%	22%	1	Y	B	None
AMB	Aberlemno Village Hall	n/a	268	78%	22%	1	Y	B	None
AMC	Farnell Hall	n/a	243	82%	18%	1	Y	B	None
AMD	The Retreat, Glenesk	Community Wing	60	87%	13%	1	Y	B	None
AME	Lethnot Hall	n/a	62	84%	16%	1	Y	B	None
AMF	Inglis Memorial Hall	Lesser Hall	791	79%	21%	1	Y	B	None
AMG	Memus Hall	n/a	352	77%	23%	1	Y	B	None
AMH	Menmuir Village Hall	n/a	358	78%	22%	1	Y	B	None
AMI	Tannadice Church Extension	n/a	353	81%	19%	1	Y	B	None
AMJ	Brechin Community Campus	The Theatre	2235	83%	17%	5	Y	A	None
AMK	Mechanics Institute, Brechin	Jenner Hall/Lower Hall	1645	86%	14%	5	Y	B	None
AML	Andover Primary School	Dining Hall	2142	89%	11%	3	Y	B	Main Hall, The Crickety, Brechin – See Map

### Notes

N/a

### Draft Proposals

#### Proposal 1 – Polling District AML

It is proposed that the place for polling district AML is amended from Andover Primary School to The Crickety, Brechin ([Map 3](#) refers).

The Crickety, Brechin is located in Caldham Place just off Montrose Street, Brechin, almost directly across from the current polling place at Andover School. The Crickety has recently undergone a major refurbishment to establish a community facility and is fully accessible for persons with any type of disability. There is no allocated disabled parking but there is plenty of on-street parking available on Caldham Place. There is also parking facilities available at the nearby ScotMid Store which could be used by

patrons of the shop who wish to vote at the same time. There is a footpath to the Crickety from Montrose Street, where more on street parking is available. Due to the absence of dedicated disabled parking at the venue, the Returning Officer has allocated a “B” accessibility rating to this venue.

Local bus services 21, 30, 30B, 31, 33, 140 and 141 run along the length of Montrose Street. The nearest bus stop to the proposed polling station is situated a short distance from the entrance to Caldham Place. There is also a lane which runs down the side of the Scotmid Store which leads you to the Crickety via the Scotmid car park.

The main hall in the Crickety is large enough to accommodate up to 3 polling stations and can be accessed easily from the main entrance. The entrance to the polling place would need to be clearly signed posted for electors as there is currently no signage identifying the property – however, it is the Community Group’s intention to have a sign erected at some point in the future.

The Crickety would be available for use for any unscheduled elections.

The proposal to use the Crickety would avoid the closure of Andover School on polling day.

#### **Returning Officer’s Comments**

The Returning Officer fully supports the proposal to amend the polling place from Andover Primary School to The Crickety, Brechin with immediate effect.

**Ward 3 – Forfar and District**

<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling Station Location</b>	<b>Total Electorate as at 1/12/18</b>	<b>% Eligible to vote in person</b>	<b>% voting by post 23/5/19</b>	<b>Maximum Number of Polling Stations</b>	<b>Disabled Access</b>	<b>Accessibility Rating</b>	<b>Proposed amendments to polling places</b>
AMM/AMQ	British Legion, Forfar	Main Hall	1814	86%	14%	2	Y	B	None
AMN	Reid Hall, Forfar	Main Hall	4818	81%	19%	6	Y	B	None
AMO	Lunanhead Village Hall	n/a	448	83%	17%	1	Y	B	None
AMP	West End Social Club, Forfar	Main Hall	2995	83%	17%	4	Y	B	None
AMR	Guide Hall, Forfar	n/a	1762	83%	17%	3	Y	B	None

**Notes**

n/a

**Draft Proposals**

There are no proposed changes to the current polling scheme.

**Returning Officer's Comments**

The Returning Officer agrees that no changes should be made to the current polling scheme at this time.



#### Ward 4 – Monifieth & Sidlaw

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station Location	Total Electorate as at 1/12/18	% Eligible to vote in person	% voting by post 23/5/19	Maximum Number of Polling Stations	Disabled Access	Accessibility Rating	Proposed amendments to polling places
ESA	Tealing Hall	n/a	531	80%	20%	1	Y	B	
ESB	Murroes Hall	n/a	270	84%	16%	1	Y	B	
ESC	Wellbank Hall	Main Hall	1663	79%	21%	2	Y	B	
ESD	Gerard Hall, Monifieth	Main Hall	3520	81%	19%	5	Y	B	
ESE	Grange Primary School, Monifieth	Allocated Classrooms	3272	77%	23%	5	Y	B	
WSA	Muirhead & Birkill Millenium Hall	n/a	1879	80%	20%	3	Y	A	
WSB	Fowlis Easter Hall	n/a	1057	76%	24%	2	Y	B	
WSC	Strathmartine Primary School	Dining/Games Hall	511	80%	20%	1	Y	B	
WSD	Auchterhouse Hall	n/a	595	82%	18%	1	Y	B	

#### Notes

1. Grange Primary School and Strathmartine Primary School are closed on the day of poll due to the location of the polling stations within the schools.
2. The Returning Officer has undertaken a search for suitable alternative venues in polling districts ESE and WSC but no suitable alternatives have been found at this time which meet the requirements set out in Section 3 of this report. The Returning Officer will continue to keep this under review.

#### Draft Proposals

There are no proposed changes to the current polling scheme.

#### Returning Officer's Comments

The Returning Officer agrees that no changes should be made to the current polling scheme at this time.

## Ward 5 – Carnoustie & District

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station Location	Total Electorate as at 1/12/18	% Eligible to vote in person	% voting by post 23/5/19	Maximum Number of Polling Stations	Disabled Access	Accessibility Rating	Proposed amendments to polling places
ESF	Monikie Hall	n/a	995	80%	20%	1	Y	B	
ESG	Phillip Hall	n/a	2313	80%	20%	3	Y	B	
ESH	Burnside Primary School	Community Lounge/ Dining Hall	2948	83%	17%	3	Y	A	
ESI/AST	St Brides Hall	n/a	3052	79%	21%	4	Y	B	
ESK	Comrie Hall	n/a	1562	81%	19%	2	Y	B	

### Notes

1. Burnside School is open to pupils on the day of poll.
2. Consideration was given to merging polling district AST with polling district ESH to form one larger polling district. However, as polling district AST remains part of the Angus UK parliamentary constituency whilst the remainder of Ward 5 is situated in the Dundee East UK parliamentary constituency these must remain separate at this time. This anomaly has been addressed in the final recommendations of the 2018 Westminster Boundary review which are yet to be approved by ministers. Until such time as the recommendations are approved the polling districts must remain separate.

### Draft Proposals

There are no proposed changes to the current polling scheme.

### Returning Officer's Comments

The Returning Officer agrees that no changes should be made to the current polling scheme at this time.

## Ward 6 – Arbroath West, Letham & Friockheim

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station Location	Total Electorate as at 1/12/18	% Eligible to vote in person	% voting by post 23/5/19	Maximum Number of Polling Stations	Disabled Access	Accessibility Rating	Proposed amendments to polling places
ASP	Carmyllie Hall	n/a	514	78%	22%	1	Y	B	
ASQ	Letham Village Hall	n/a	1751	82%	18%	2	Y	B	
ASR	Muirfield Primary School	Games Hall	1569	79%	21%	2	Y	A	
ASS	Arbirlot Church Hall	n/a	271	73%	27%	1	Y	B	
ASU	Arbroath Sports Centre	Games Hall	3191	84%	16%	5	Y	B	
ASV	Inverbrothock Primary School	Further Education Lounge & Classrooms	2375	88%	12%	3	Y	B	
ASW	Russell Square Community Lounge	n/a	1598	86%	14%	2	Y	A	
ASX	Inverarity Church Hall	n/a	169	84%	16%	2	Y	B	
ASY	Colliston Hall	n/a	691	81%	19%	1	Y	A	
ASZ	Friockheim Primary School	Community Lounge	1495	80%	20%	2	Y	B	Main Hall, The Hub, Friockheim

### Notes

1. Inverbrothock Primary School is currently closed to pupils on polling day but Muirfield Primary School and Friockheim Primary School remain open to pupils on polling day.
2. Muirfield Primary School is now in its new location and it is anticipated that the new vehicular entrance to the school will eliminate the access problems which electors faced at the European Election in May this year.
3. The Returning Officer has undertaken a search for an alternatives venue in polling district ASV but no suitable alternative has been found at this time which meet the requirements set out in Section 3 of this report. The Returning Officer will continue to keep this under review.

### Draft Proposals

#### Proposal 1 – Polling District ASZ

It is proposed that the place for polling district ASZ is amended from Friockheim Primary School to The Hub, Friockheim ([Map 4](#) refers).

The Hub at Friockheim is located on the site of the old Eastgate Primary School in the heart of the village just off Gardyne Street. The old school has been transformed into a new community space with excellent facilities including a café, fitness suite, meeting rooms and halls. There is a well designated car park with disabled parking bays to the rear of the property. There are also a number of electric vehicle charging points in the car park. The car park leads you directly to the main entrance with a ramp available for persons with disabilities. The doors to the Hub are automatic and lead directly into the café area. There are two potential entrances to main hall – one to the left as you enter the café and the fire escape door located in the hall itself. Due to the high standard of facilities the Returning Officer has allocated an “A” rating accessibility rating to this venue.

Local bus services 27, 27A, 36, 140 and 141 run from the bus stance in Gardyne Street. These are the same services which serve the existing polling place at Friockheim School and as such represents no change to the electors in the area who are required to use public transport.

The main hall in the Hub is suitable for the polling stations required, however, it could hold another polling station should the need arise.

The Hub would be available for use for any unscheduled elections.

The proposal to use The Hub would avoid the use of Friockheim Primary School on polling day, which although it remains open does cause some element of disruption for the staff and pupils.

#### **Returning Officer's Comments**

The Returning Officer fully supports the proposal to amend the polling place from Friockheim Primary School to The Hub, Friockheim with immediate effect.

## Ward 7 – Arbroath East & Lunan

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station Location	Total Electorate as at 1/12/18	% Eligible to vote in person	% voting by post 23/5/19	Maximum Number of Polling Stations	Disabled Access	Accessibility Rating	Proposed amendments to polling places
ATA	Warddykes Primary School	Assembly Hall	2234	88%	12%	4	Y	B	
ATB	Arbroath Academy	Girls Games Hall	2574	85%	15%	3	Y	B	
ATC	Annie Gilruth Memorial Hall	n/a	260	89%	11%	1	Y	B	
ATD	Inverkeilor Village Hall	n/a	586	79%	21%	1	Y	B	
ATE	Community & Sports Centre	n/a	2522	87%	13%	4	Y	B	Main Hall, West Abbey Church Hall
ATF	Hayshead Primary School	Community Wing	1933	82%	18%	3	Y	B	St Mary's Church Hall

### Notes

1. Arbroath Academy, Warddykes Primary School and Hayshead Primary School all remain open to pupils on polling day.
2. Electors may only access the polling place at Hayshead Primary School via the entrance on Horologe Hill.

### Draft Proposals

#### Proposal 1 – Polling District ATE

It is proposed that the place for polling district ATE is amended from the Arbroath Community & Sports Centre to West Abbey Church Hall ([Map 5](#) refers).

The West Abbey Church Hall is centrally located on West Abbey Street, with the high street just a short walk away. The venue has only recently undergone a major renovation with an upgraded halls, kitchen and meeting space. There is a council car park directly opposite the hall but there is also on street parking available on West Abbey Street and East Abbey Street. There are two potential entrances to the main hall, one via the main entrance to the building and one to the right of the main entrance which leads directly into the main hall. The main entrance to the venue is via a small number of steps, however a ramp is in place for persons with a disability. The Returning Officer has allocated a "B" rating to this venue.

Local bus services 27, 35, 37, 42, 44, 44A and 140 run along West Abbey Street and the nearest to the bus stop to the hall is almost directly opposite the hall on West Abbey Street.

The main hall is suitable for maximum four polling stations required.

The West Abbey Church Hall would be available for use for any unscheduled elections.

### **Proposal 2 - Polling District – ATF**

It is proposed that the place for polling district ATF is amended from Hayshead Primary School to St Mary’s Church Hall ([Map 6](#) refers).

St Mary’s Church Hall is situated on Springfield Terrace, Arbroath just outside the polling district boundary. Whilst the Returning Officer would always seek to ensure that a polling place is within the polling district, one of the main aims of the review was to try to identify alternative polling places to avoid the use of schools, it was felt that this venue, which meets the requirements of the Returning Officer, should be considered.

The hall is located to the left of church and is accessed via set of double doors suitable for wheelchair access with the installation of a temporary ramp. There is a large games hall which would accommodate up to four polling stations. There is space for up to 5 parked cars to the right of the church and there are a small number of spaces for parking a short distance away in Ponderlaw Lane, some on street parking would also be available in the surrounding area. There are no designated disabled car parking spaces at the venue but there is room for one to be created at the entrance to the hall. There is also a designated disabled parking place in the car park located in Ponderlaw Lane. The Returning Officer has allocated a “B” rating to this venue.

Local bus services 27, 35, 37, 42, 44, 44A and 140 run along West Abbey Street and the nearest to the bus stop to the hall is located a short distance away on Ponderlaw Street.

St Mary’s Church Hall would be available for use for any unscheduled elections.

The proposal to use St Mary’s Church Hall would avoid the use of Hayshead Primary School on polling day, which although it remains open does cause some element of disruption for the staff and pupils; and to local residents due to the only access to the polling place being via Horloge Hill, where there is limited parking available.

### **Returning Officer’s Comments**

The Returning Officer fully supports the proposal to amend the polling place from Arbroath Community & Sports Centre and Hayshead Primary School to the West Abbey Church Hall and St Mary’s Church Hall respectively with immediate effect.

## Ward 8 – Montrose and District

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station Location	T Total Electorate as at 1/12/18	% Eligible to vote in person	% voting by post 23/5/19	Maximum Number of Polling Stations	Disabled Access	Accessibility Rating	Proposed amendments to polling places
AMS	Montrose Sports Centre	GP Room/Squash Courts	3869	87%	13%	6	Y	A	
AMT	Ferryden Primary School	FE Lounge/Hall	1425	84%	16%	2	Y	B	
AMU	Lochside Primary School	Allocated Classrooms	3594	84%	16%	5	Y	B	
AMV	Montrose Baptist Church	n/a	1494	89%	11%	2	Y	B	
AMW	Hillside Hall	n/a	1028	85%	15%	2	Y	B	
AMX	Craigo Community Hall	n/a	400	79%	21%	1	Y	B	

### Notes

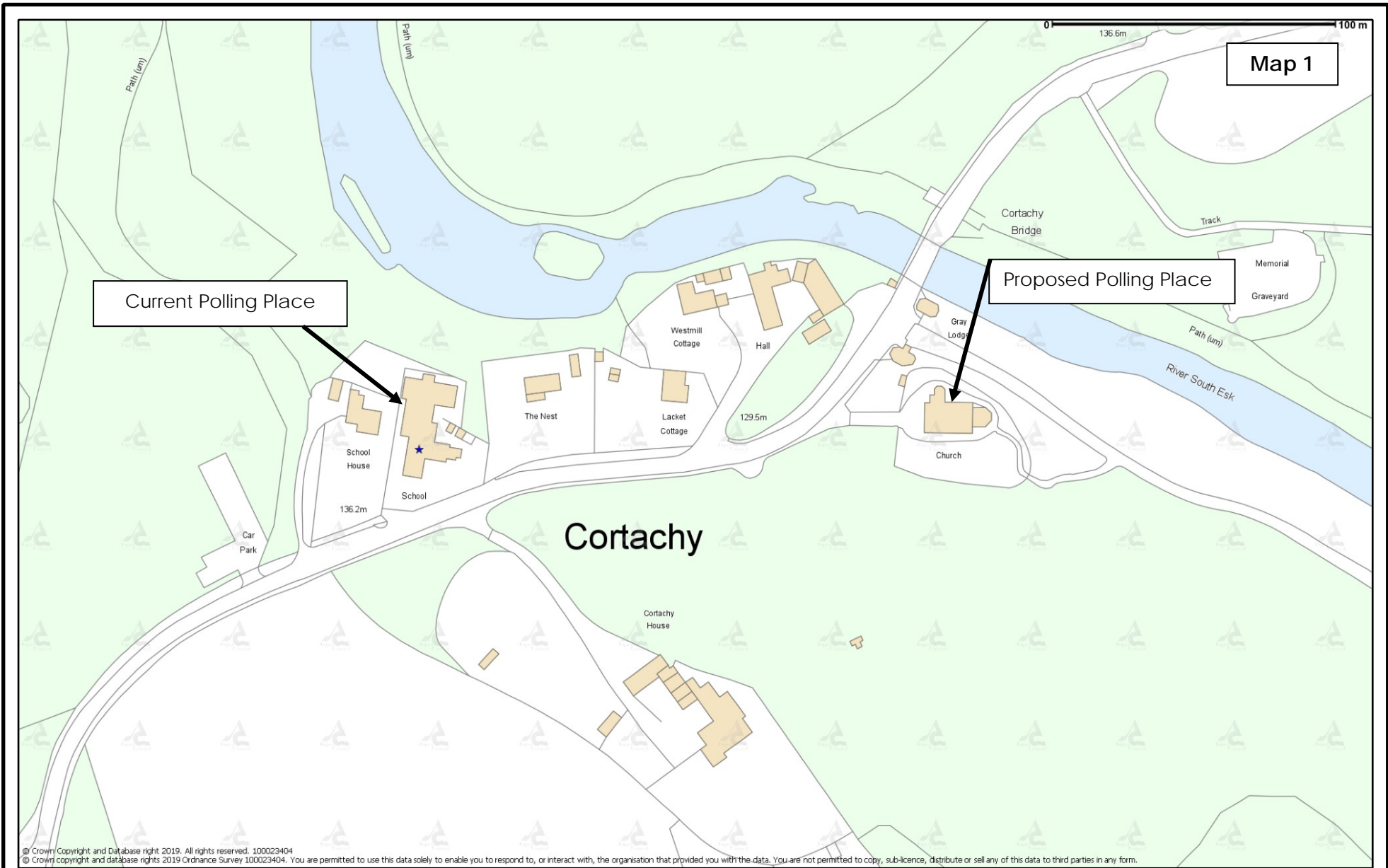
1. Ferryden Primary School and Lochside Primary School are closed to pupils on the day of poll due to the location of the polling stations within the schools.
2. The Returning Officer has undertaken a search for suitable alternative venues in polling districts AMT and AMU but no suitable alternatives have been found at this time which meet the requirements set out in Section 3 of this report. The Returning Officer will continue to keep this under review.

### Draft Proposals

There are no proposed changes to the current polling scheme.

### Returning Officer's Comments

The Returning Officer agrees that no changes should be made to the current polling scheme at this time.



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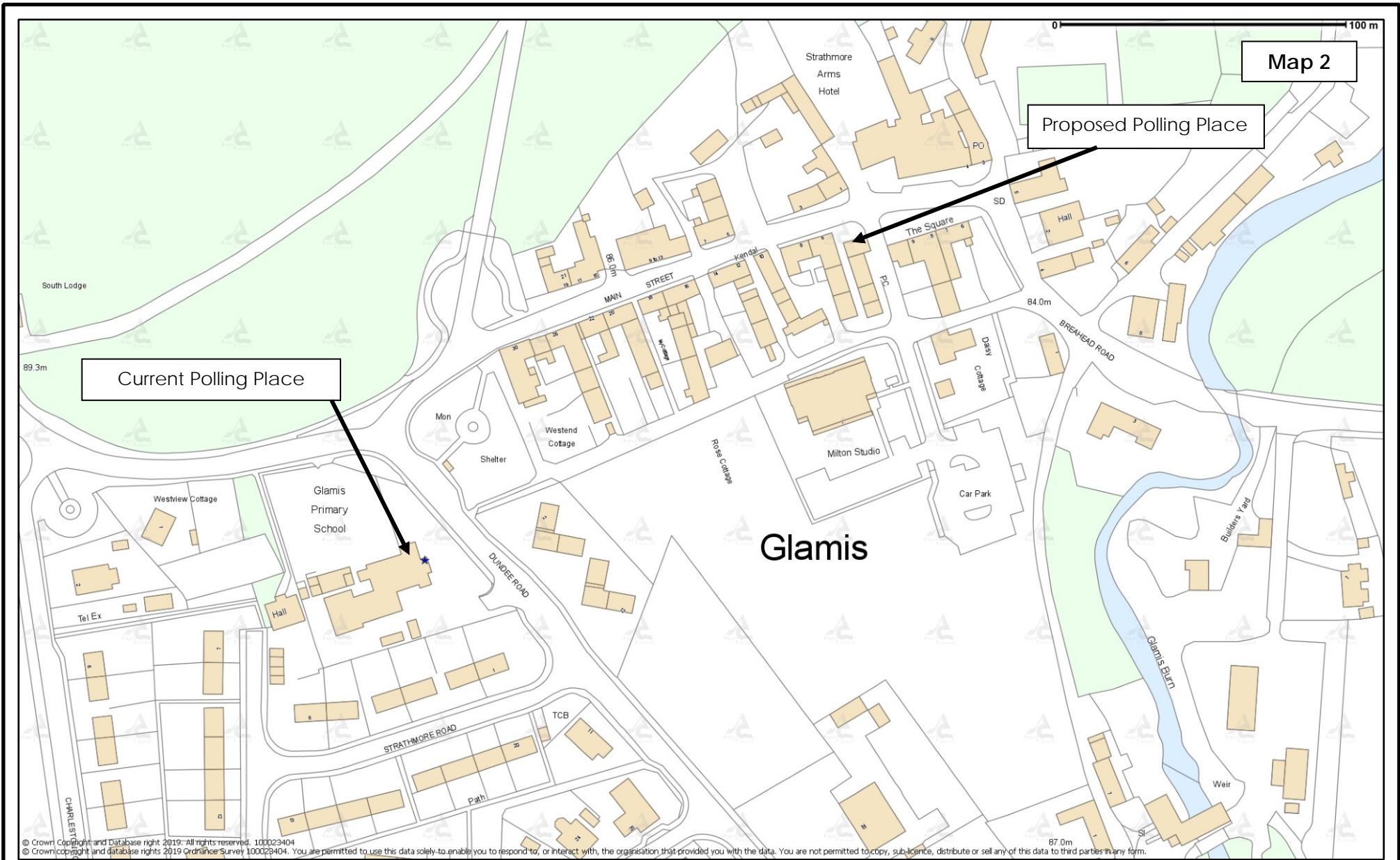
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**Cortachy PS/Cortachy Church**







Map 2

Proposed Polling Place

Current Polling Place

Glamis

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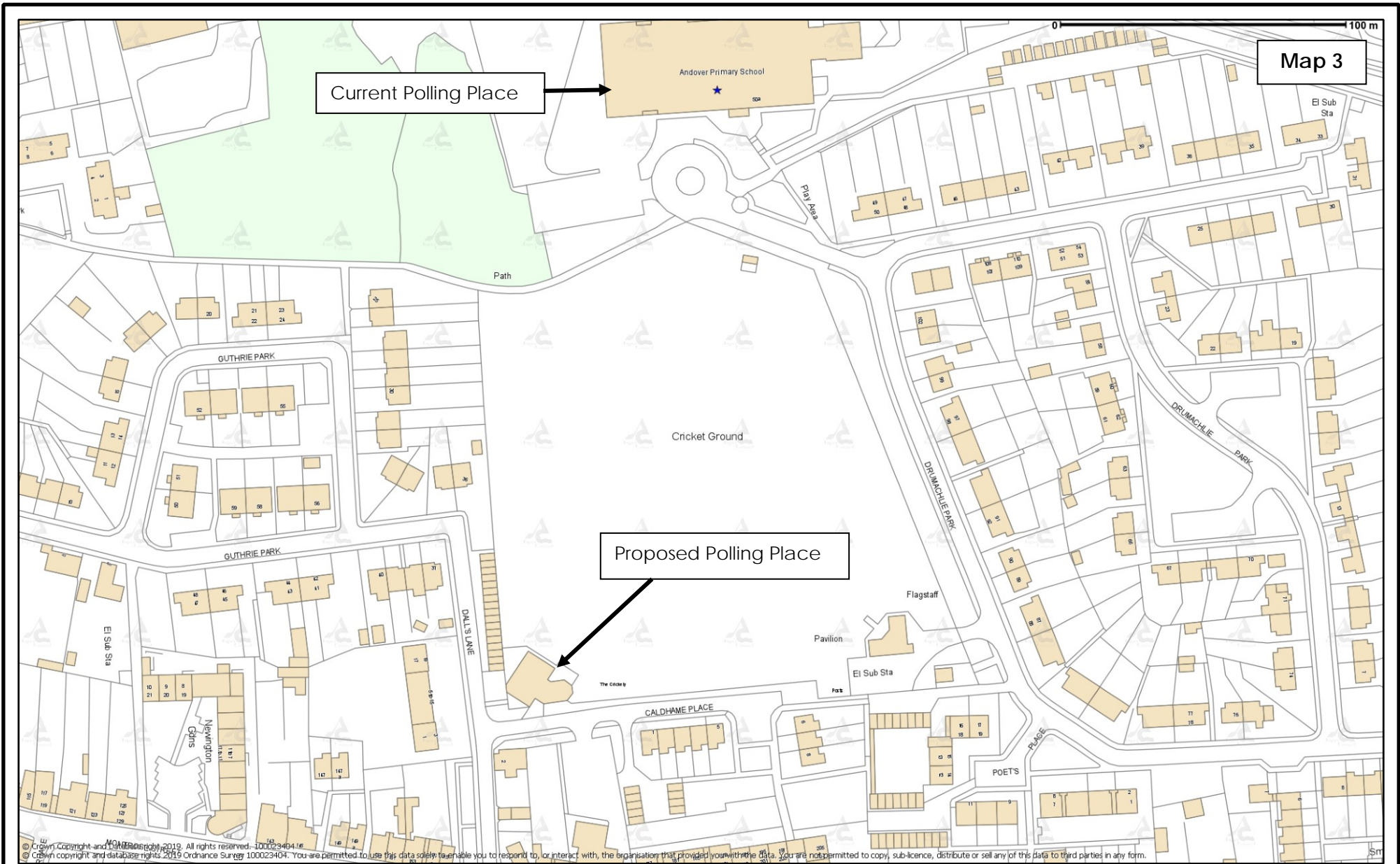
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Glamis PS/Glamis Heritage Education Centre  
 17

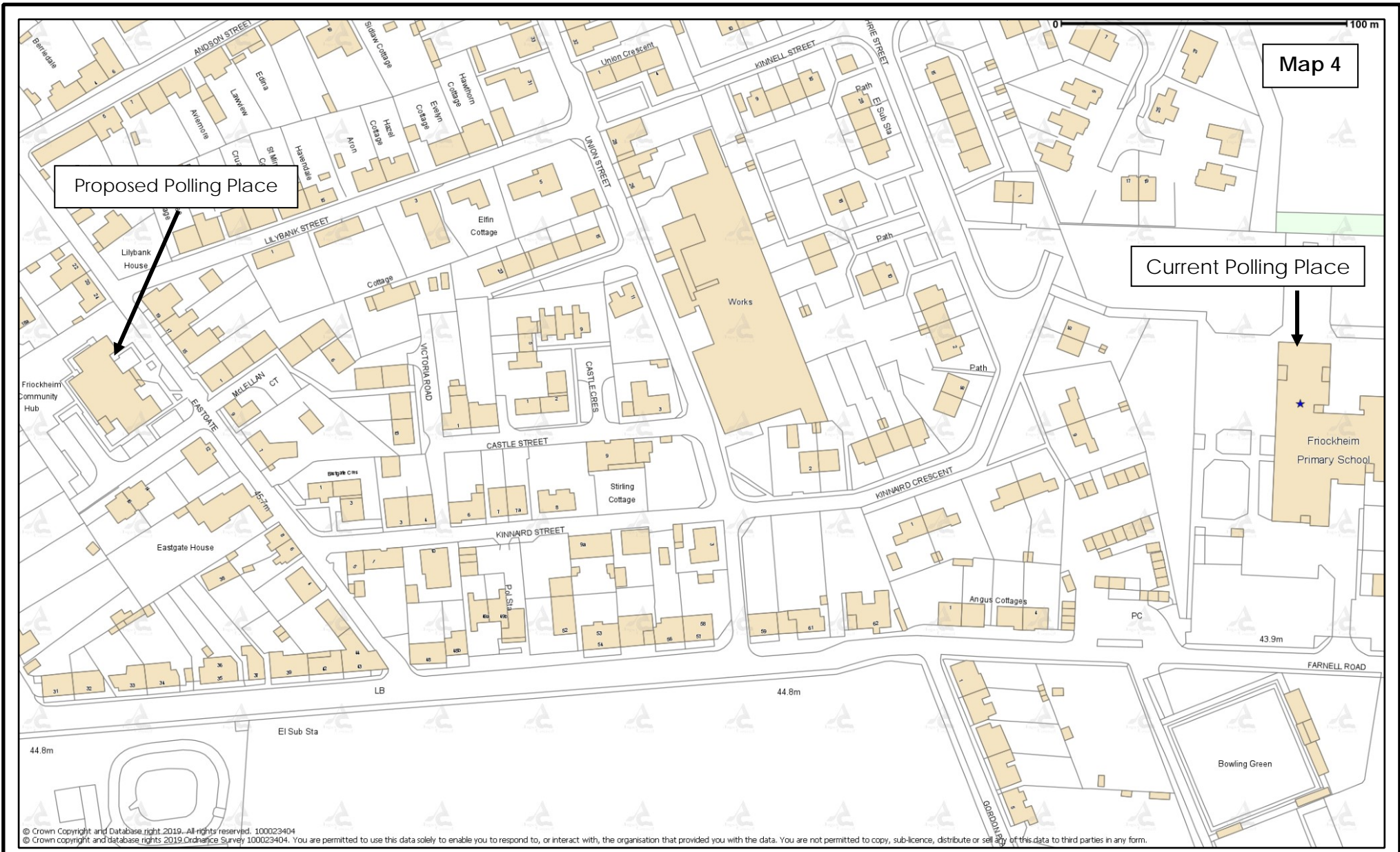




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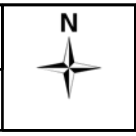
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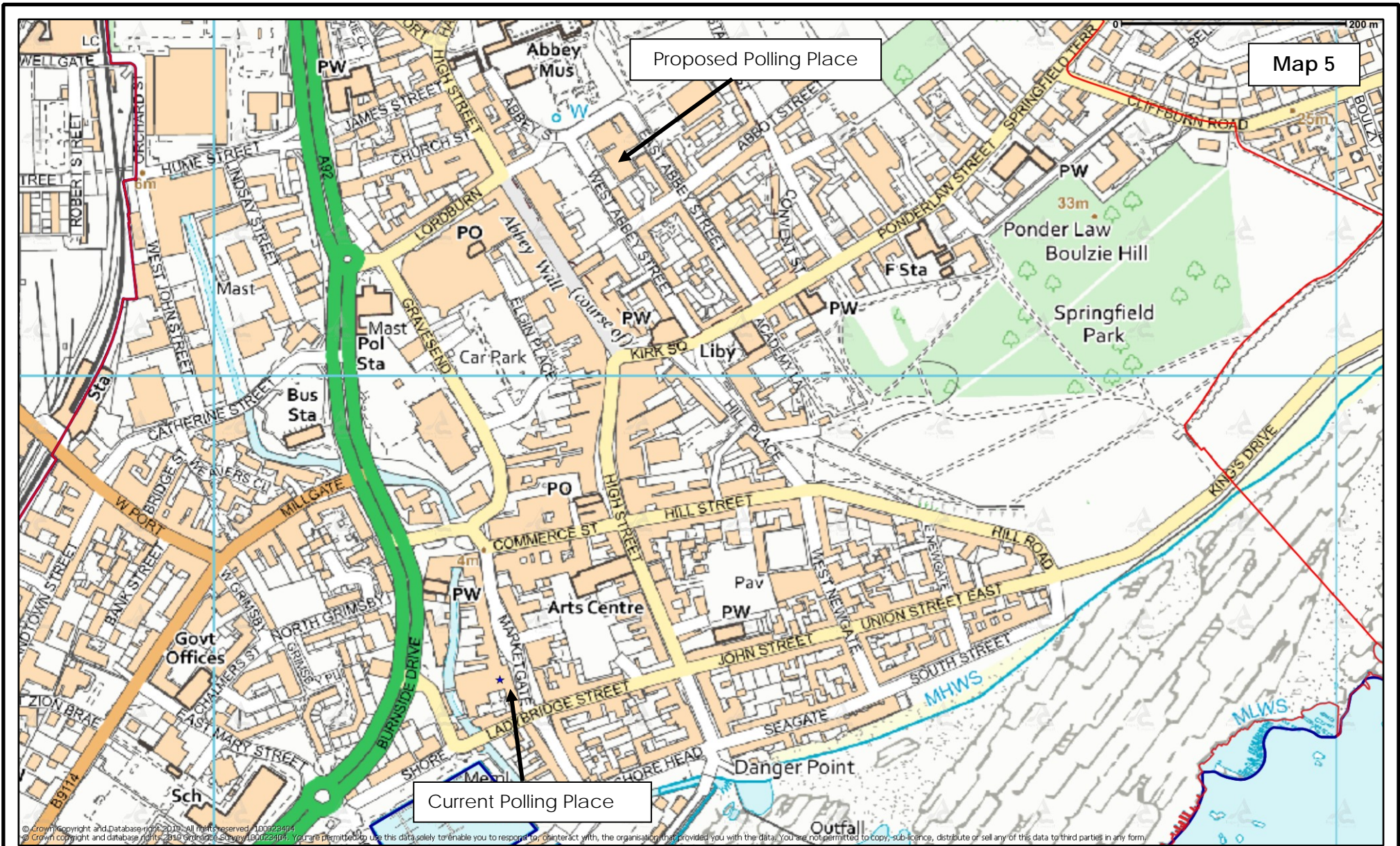
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**Frickheim PS/Frickheim Hub**

19





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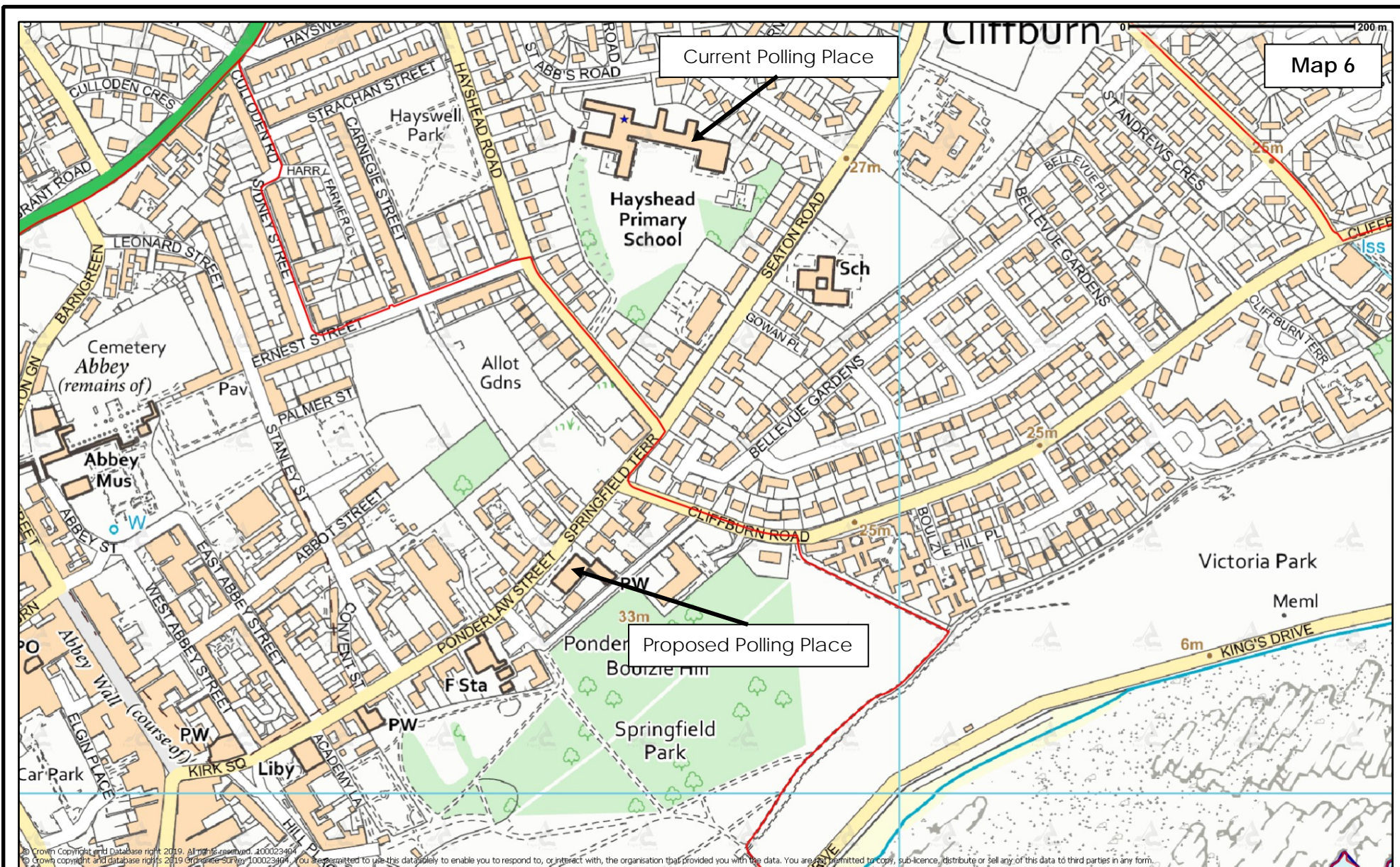


Arbroath CC/ West Abbey Street Hall

20

— Polling District Boundary

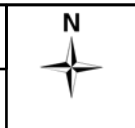




Map 6

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**Hayshead PS/St Marys Church**

21

— Polling District



## Appeals Process

Following the conclusion of the Council's review certain persons have a right to make representations to the Electoral Commission and this section sets out the Appeals Process which requires to be followed.

### Who is entitled to make a representation to the Commission?

- Thirty or more registered electors in each constituency (although electors registered anonymously cannot make a representation);
- A person (except the Returning Officer) who made representations to the local authority when the review was being undertaken;
- Any person who is not an elector in a constituency in the authority's area but who the Commission thinks has sufficient interest in the accessibility of disabled persons to polling places in the area or has particular expertise in relation to the access to premises or facilities of disabled persons.

In addition, the Returning Officer may make observations on any representations made to the Commission.

### Format for all representations:

All representations made to the Commission must be made in writing either by post, e-mail or fax. The representation must be as specific as possible and should clearly state the manner in which it is alleged that the Council has failed to properly conduct the review. There are only two grounds on which a representation may be made. These are:

- (a) The local authority has failed to meet the reasonable requirements of the electors in the constituency
- (b) The local authority has failed to take sufficient account of accessibility to disabled persons of the polling station(s) within a polling place

Representations based on any other premise will not be considered.

The representation should include the location and any other relevant information regarding the polling place at issue, stating specifically why it is inaccessible or does not meet the reasonable requirements of the electors.

A representation may also include for consideration specific proposals for changing the place that has been designated as the polling place.

### Decision making process of the Commission

Upon receipt of a representation, the Commission will request all relevant documentation from the Council and will show the Council the representation.

The Returning Officer is entitled to make observations on the representation submitted to the Commission and should give a report on the probable polling stations which would likely be used should the representation be successful.

The documentation from the Council, the observations of the Returning Officer and any other relevant information will be taken into consideration, in conjunction with the representation.

The Commission may seek advice from persons with expertise on accessibility issues when making its decision.

The Commission will set out in writing its conclusions and reasons for its decision. The Commission's decision will be issued to the person(s) who made the representation, the Council and the Returning Officer. The decision and related documents will also be published on the Commission's website and the [Angus Council website](#).

The Commission may direct the Council to consider any alterations to the polling places that it deems necessary under the review. After two months, if the Council has failed to make the alterations the Commission can itself make the alterations as if the Council had implemented them.

### Please send any representations to:

Legal Counsel  
The Electoral Commission  
3 Bunhill Row  
London

EC1Y 8YZ

Tel: 020 7271 0500

Fax: 020 7271 0505

Email: [appeals@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:appeals@electoralcommission.org.uk)