

From: Wilson J (Jamie) On Behalf Of Dey G (Graeme), MSP
Sent: 06 October 2023 11:04
To: Karen Z Maillie Cc: LEGDEM ; CHIEFEXEC
Subject: RE: 2023 Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

Dear Karen, Thank you for sharing the consultation document. I note the proposed changes where Monifieth is concerned, and I understand entirely the logic of these. However, what I would wish to express is concern around available parking for individuals seeking to attend the church to vote. Whilst there are two car parks immediately opposite the planned polling place, I would observe that these are usually busy with shoppers – meaning limited turnover of parking places. Accordingly, I would be grateful for an understanding of what considerations have been made around ensuring voters who access the polling place by car are able to park nearby. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Regards, Graeme Dey MSP for Angus South Constituency
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(01241 873058 British Sign Language (BSL) users can get in touch using contactSCOTLAND-BSL

Ward 1 – Kirriemuir & Dean

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station Location	Total Electorate as at 01/09/23	% Eligible to vote in person	% voting by post	Maximum Number of Polling Stations	Disabled Access	Accessibility Rating	Proposed amendments to polling places
ASA	Glenisla Hall	n/a	143	73.43%	26.57%	1	Y	B	None
ASB	Cortachy Church	n/a	221	78.73%	21.27%	1	Y	B	Memus Hall
ASC	Kilry Village Hall	n/a	303	65.02%	34.98%	1	Y	B	None
ASE	Kingoldrum Village Hall	n/a	153	77.78%	22.22%	1	N	C	None
ASF	Airlie Village Hall	n/a	311	73.63%	26.37%	1	Y	B	None
ASG	Northmuir Hall	n/a	1,220	73.93%	26.07%	2	Y	B	None
ASH	Westmuir Hall	n/a	352	75.28%	24.72%	1	Y	B	None
ASI	Kirriemuir Town Hall	Main Hall	3,845	74.64%	25.36%	5	Y	B	None
ASJ	Eassie Community Hall	n/a	234	75.21%	24.79%	1	Y	A	None
ASK	Glamis Heritage Education Centre	n/a	623	73.84%	26.16%	1	Y	B	None
ASL	Wharnclyffe Hall	n/a	724	80.39%	19.61%	1	Y	B	None
ASM	Old School, Oathlaw	n/a	199	81.41%	18.59%	1	Y	B	None
ASN	Duncan Hall, Kinnettles	n/a	141	70.92%	29.08%	2	Y	B	Inverarity Church Hall
ASO	Inverarity Church Hall	n/a	157	78.34%	21.66%	2	Y	B	None

Notes

1. Cortachy Church has now closed require an alternative venue- as per below. Duncan Hall deemed unsafe at previous elections, used Inverarity Church Hall at previous elections without any issues.

Draft Proposals

Proposal 1 – Polling District ASB

We have also recently been advised that Cortachy Church (ASB – 221 electors) is no longer available for use as a polling place. Polling was previously undertaken at the primary school, the school required to close for polling to take place. Nearest alternative polling place is currently Memus Hall (352 electors) this is in a different ward however following a review of the hall it is felt this can accommodate two polling stations allowing both to run independently. Memus Hall is 2.2 miles from Cortachy whereas alternative potential venues within the polling district area are more 5 miles or more.

Proposal 2 – Polling District ASN

As Duncan Hall is no longer available as a polling venue and we transferred electors to Inverarity Church Hall at the last election, consideration should be given to formally merging polling district ASN (141 electors) with polling district ASO (157 electors). As the register is published on 1 December, this change would require the register to be republished. As there is no effect on electors, the formal merging could be done prior to the publication of the next register on 1 December 2023. However, they could remain as they are with both polling districts having Inverarity as their designated polling place. Both polling districts are proposed to be contained within the new Angus & Perthshire UK constituency.

Returning Officer's Comments

The Returning Officer fully supports the proposal to amend the polling place from Cortachy Church to Memus Hall and to merging polling district ASN with polling district ASO with immediate effect.



Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station Location	Total Electorate as at 01/09/23	% Eligible to vote in person	% voting by post	Maximum Number of Polling Stations	Disabled Access	Accessibility Rating	Proposed amendments to polling places
AMA	Stracathro Village Hall	n/a	308	74.68%	25.32%	1	Y	B	None
AMB	Aberlemno Village Hall	n/a	270	71.11%	28.89%	1	Y	B	None
AMC	Farnell Hall	n/a	237	73.84%	26.16%	1	Y	B	None
AMD	The Retreat, Glenesk	Community Wing	49	85.71%	14.29%	1	Y	B	None
AME	Lethnot Hall	n/a	60	73.33%	26.67%	1	Y	B	None
AMF	Inglis Memorial Hall	Lesser Hall	781	68.50%	31.50%	1	Y	B	None
AMG	Memus Hall	n/a	352	73.30%	26.70%	1	Y	B	None
AMH	Menmuir Village Hall	n/a	342	71.93%	28.07%	1	Y	B	None
AMI	Tannadice Church Extension	n/a	338	74.85%	25.15%	1	Y	B	None
AMJ	Brechin Community Campus	The Theatre	2,115	68.65%	31.35%	5	Y	A	None
AMK	Mechanics Institute, Brechin	Jenner Hall/Lower Hall	1,641	76.54%	23.46%	5	Y	B	None
AML	The Crickety, Brechin	Main Hall	2,049	77.75%	22.25%	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 3 – Forfar and District

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station Location	Total Electorate as at 01/09/23	% Eligible to vote in person	% voting by post	Maximum Number of Polling Stations	Disabled Access	Accessibility Rating	Proposed amendments to polling places
AMM/AMQ	British Legion, Forfar	Main Hall	1793	74.84%	25.16%	2	Y	B	None
AMN	Reid Hall, Forfar	Main Hall	5,092	70.05%	29.95%	6	Y	B	None
AMO	Lunanhead Village Hall	n/a	463	73.65%	26.35%	1	Y	B	None
AMP	West End Social Club, Forfar	Main Hall	2,846	69.89%	30.11%	4	Y	B	None
AMR	Guide Hall, Forfar	n/a	1,876	74.73%	25.27%	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 01/09/23	% Eligible to vote in person	% voting by post	Maximum Number of Polling Stations	Disabled Access	Accessibility Rating	Proposed amendments to polling places
ESA	Tealing Hall	n/a	549	74.50%	25.50%	1	Y	B	None
ESB	Murroes Hall	n/a	273	77.29%	22.71%	1	Y	B	None
ESC	Wellbank Hall	Main Hall	1,660	71.08%	28.92%	2	Y	B	None
ESD	Gerard Hall	n/a	3,624	68.93%	31.07%	5	Y	B	Monifieth Church
ESE	Grange Primary School	n/a	3,725	66.26%	33.74%	5	Y	B	Gerard Hall
WSA	Muirhead & Birkill Millenium Hall	n/a	1,826	68.57%	31.43%	3	Y	A	None
WSB	Fowlis Easter Hall	n/a	1,048	67.46%	32.54%	2	Y	B	Proposed Boundaries Existing Boundaries
WSC	Strathmartine Primary School	Dining/Games Hall	506	69.96%	30.04%	1	Y	B	
WSD	Auchterhouse Hall	n/a	584	70.38%	29.62%	1	Y	B	None

Notes

1. Strathmartine Primary School is closed on the day of poll due to the location of the polling station within the school.

Draft Proposals

Proposal 1 – Polling District ESD and ESE

There are currently 2 polling districts covering Monifieth, ESD (3,624 electors) and ESE (3,725) electors. As an interim measure at the last election polling was moved from Grange Primary School (ESE) to the Gerard Hall and the polling place at Gerard Hall (ESD) was moved to Monifieth Church. There have been no complaints about the current arrangements and polling has worked well at both stations. This allowed us to stop using Grange Primary School, proposal to make these changes formal. Both polling districts are proposed to be in the new Arbroath & Broughty Ferry UK constituency so changes to these polling districts should have no ongoing effect.

Returning Officer's Comments

The Returning Officer fully supports the proposal to amend the polling place from Grange Primary School (ESE) to the Gerard Hall (ESD) and from Gerard Hall (ESD) to Monifieth Church with immediate effect.

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station Location	Total Electorate as at 01/09/23	% Eligible to vote in person	% voting by post	Maximum Number of Polling Stations	Disabled Access	Accessibility Rating	Proposed amendments to polling places
ESF	Monikie Hall	n/a	988	71.96%	28.04%	1	Y	B	None
ESG	Phillip Hall	n/a	2,263	72.51%	27.49%	3	Y	B	None
ESH	Burnside Primary School	Community Lounge/ Dining Hall	3,024	73.88%	26.12%	3	Y	A	None
ESI/AST	St Brides Hall	n/a	3006	68.30%	31.70%	4	Y	B	None
ESK	Comrie Hall	n/a	1,547	73.04%	26.96%	2	Y	B	None

Notes

1. Burnside School is open to pupils on the day of poll.

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 01/09/23	% Eligible to vote in person	% voting by post	Maximum Number of Polling Stations	Disabled Access	Accessibility Rating	Proposed amendments to polling places
ASP	Carmyllie Hall	n/a	503	70.38%	29.62%	1	Y	B	None
ASQ	Letham Village Hall	n/a	1,686	71.65%	28.35%	2	Y	B	None
ASR	Muirfield Primary School	Games Hall	1,546	67.72%	32.28%	2	Y	A	None
ASS	Arbirlot Church Hall	n/a	259	70.27%	29.73%	1	Y	B	None
ASU	Arbroath Sports Centre	Games Hall	3,395	72.90%	27.10%	5	Y	B	None
ASV	Inverbrothock Primary School	Further Education Lounge & Classrooms	2,313	77.99%	22.01%	3	Y	B	None
ASW	Russell Square Community Lounge	n/a	1,603	79.48%	20.52%	2	Y	A	None
ASX	Inverarity Church Hall	n/a	173	76.30%	23.70%	2	Y	B	None
ASY	Colliston Hall	n/a	703	71.55%	28.45%	1	Y	A	None
ASZ	Friockheim Hub	n/a	1,482	68.96%	31.04%	2	Y	B	None

Notes

1. Inverbrothock Primary School is currently closed to pupils on polling day but Muirfield Primary School remains open to pupils on polling day.

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 7 – Arbroath East & Lunan

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station Location	Total Electorate as at 01/09/23	% Eligible to vote in person	% voting by post	Maximum Number of Polling Stations	Disabled Access	Accessibility Rating	Proposed amendments to polling places
ATA	Warddykes Primary School	Assembly Hall	2,108	79.32%	20.68%	4	Y	B	None
ATB	Arbroath Academy	Girls Games Hall	2,779	78.01%	21.99%	3	Y	B	Meadowbank Inn
ATC	Annie Gilruth Memorial Hall	n/a	249	80.32%	19.68%	1	Y	B	None
ATD	Inverkeilor Village Hall	n/a	611	72.34%	27.66%	1	Y	B	None
ATE	Arbroath Old and Abbey Church Hall	n/a	2,520	80.00%	20.00%	4	Y	B	None
ATF	St Mary's Church Hall	Community Wing	1,858	75.13%	24.87%	3	Y	B	None

Notes

1. Warddykes Primary School remain open to pupils on polling day.

Draft Proposals

Proposal 1 – Polling District ATB

Move voting at Arbroath Academy to Meadowbank Inn, Arbroath. The Meadowbank Inn has much better facilities and suitable car parking. This would reflect a further reduction in the use of schools.

Returning Officer's Comments

The Returning Officer fully supports the proposal to amend the polling place from Arbroath Academy to Meadowbank Inn, Arbroath with immediate effect.

Ward 8 – Montrose and District

Polling District	Polling Place	Polling Station Location	Total Electorate as at 01/09/23	% Eligible to vote in person	% voting by post	Maximum Number of Polling Stations	Disabled Access	Accessibility Rating	Proposed amendments to polling places
AMS	Montrose Sports Centre	Main Hall	3,783	78.40%	21.60%	6	Y	A	None
AMT	Ferryden Primary School	FE Lounge/Hall	1,410	73.83%	26.17%	2	Y	B	None
AMU	Lochside Primary School	Allocated Classrooms	3,541	73.26%	26.74%	5	Y	B	None
AMV	Montrose Baptist Church	n/a	1,414	79.99%	20.01%	2	Y	B	None
AMW	Hillside Hall	n/a	1,065	75.40%	24.60%	2	Y	B	None
AMX	Craigo Community Hall	n/a	403	69.73%	30.27%	1	Y	B	None

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 alternatives 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.

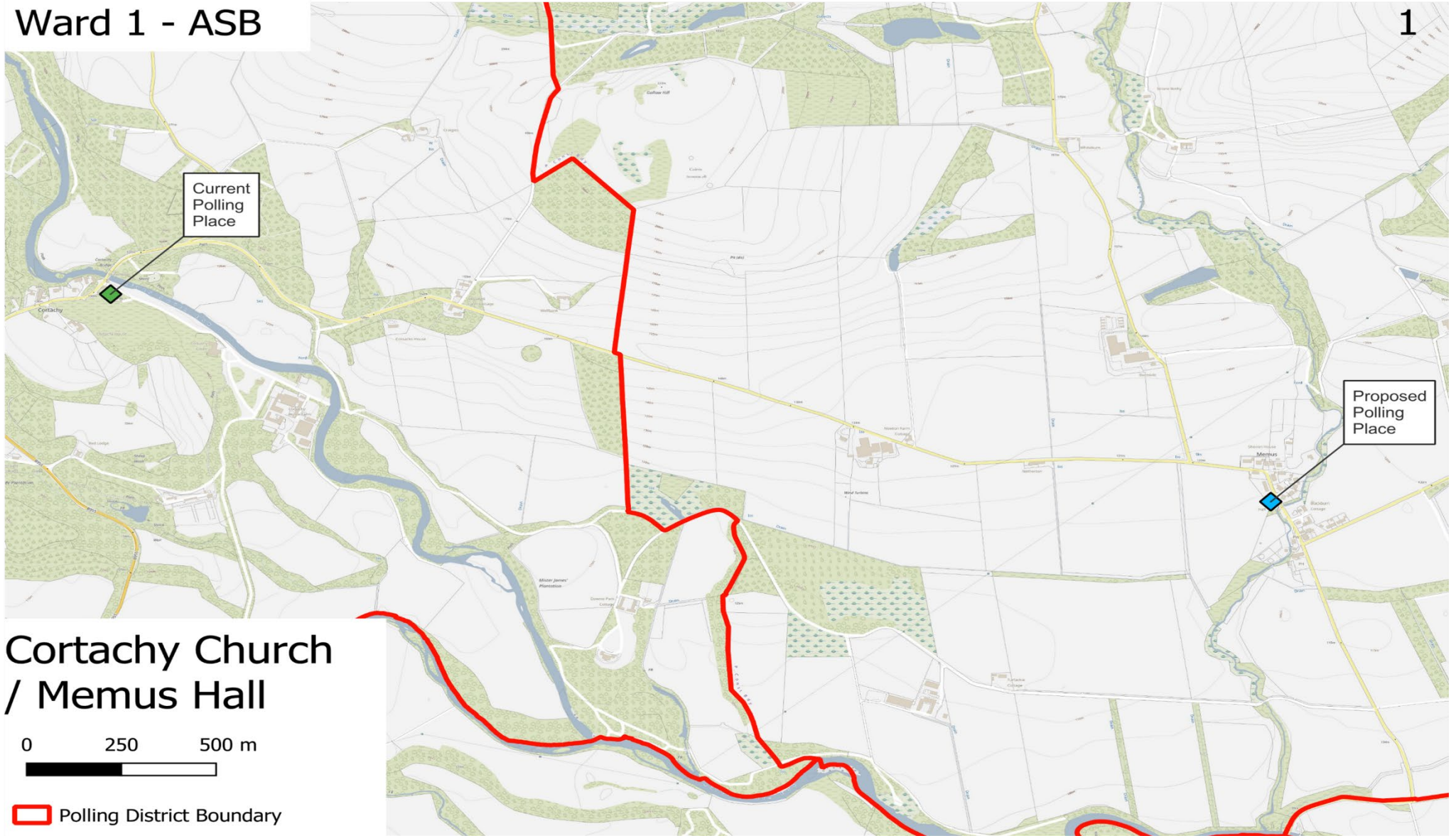
Draft Proposals

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.

Ward 1 - ASB

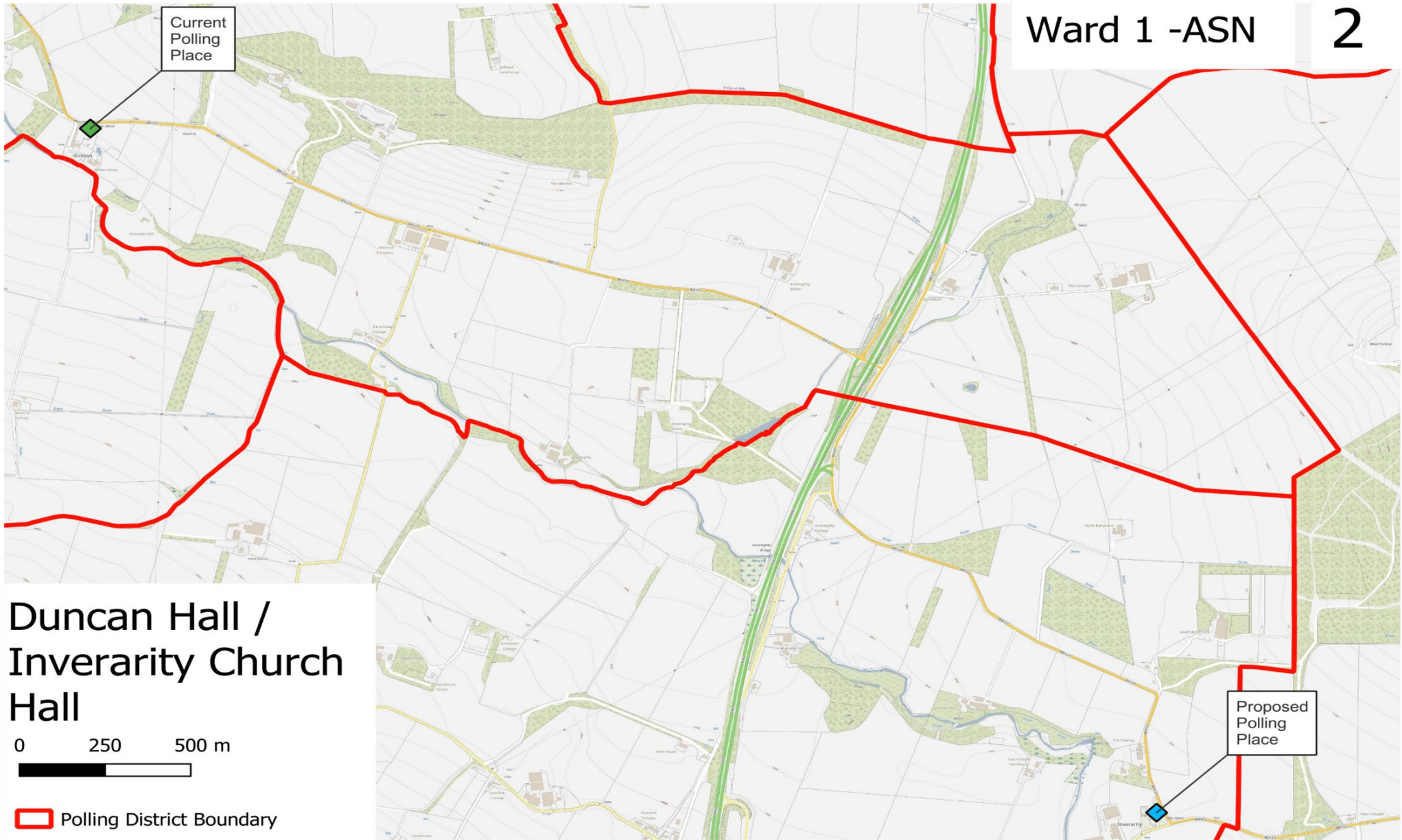


Cortachy Church / Memus Hall

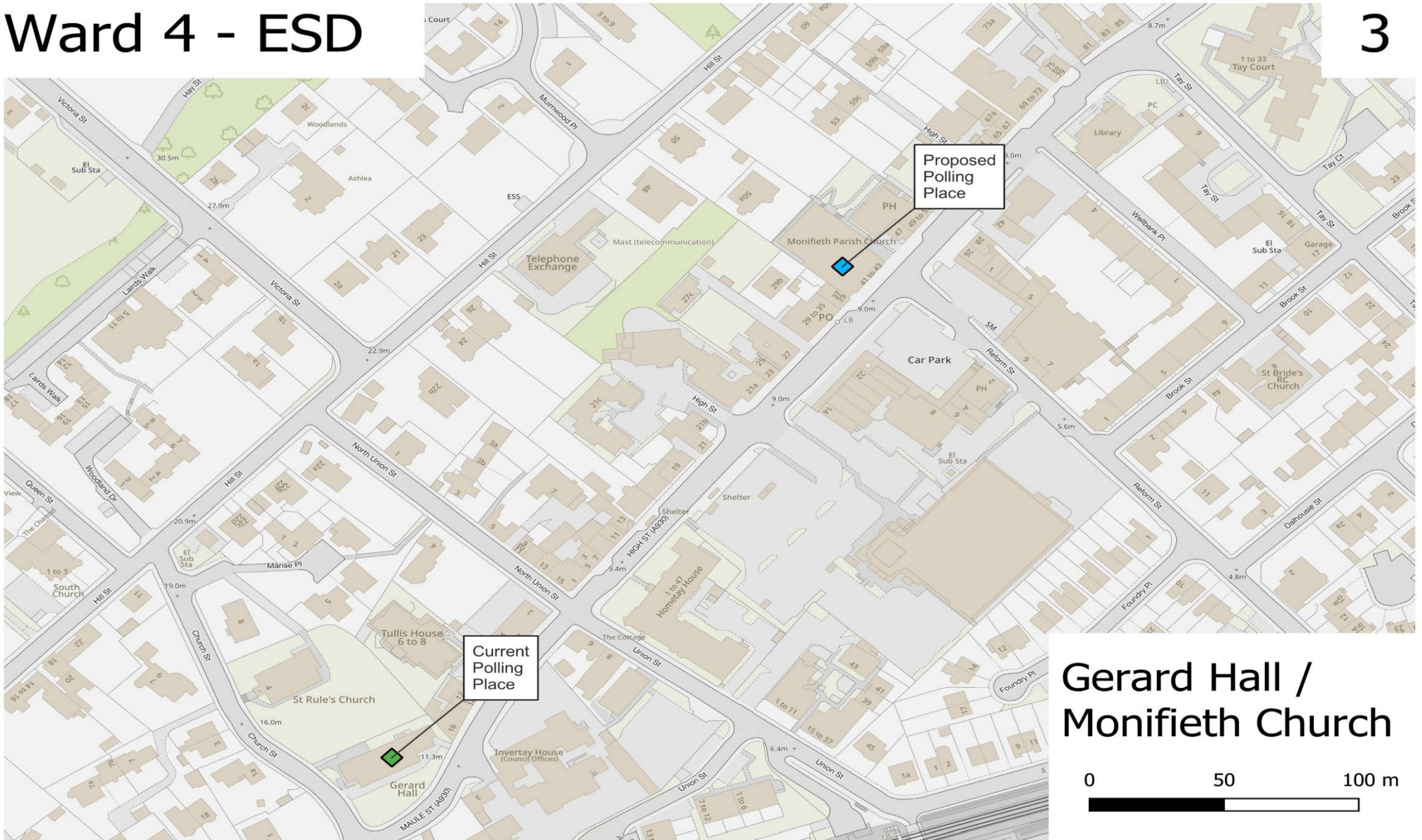
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 Polling District Boundary



Ward 4 - ESD



Current Polling Place

Proposed Polling Place

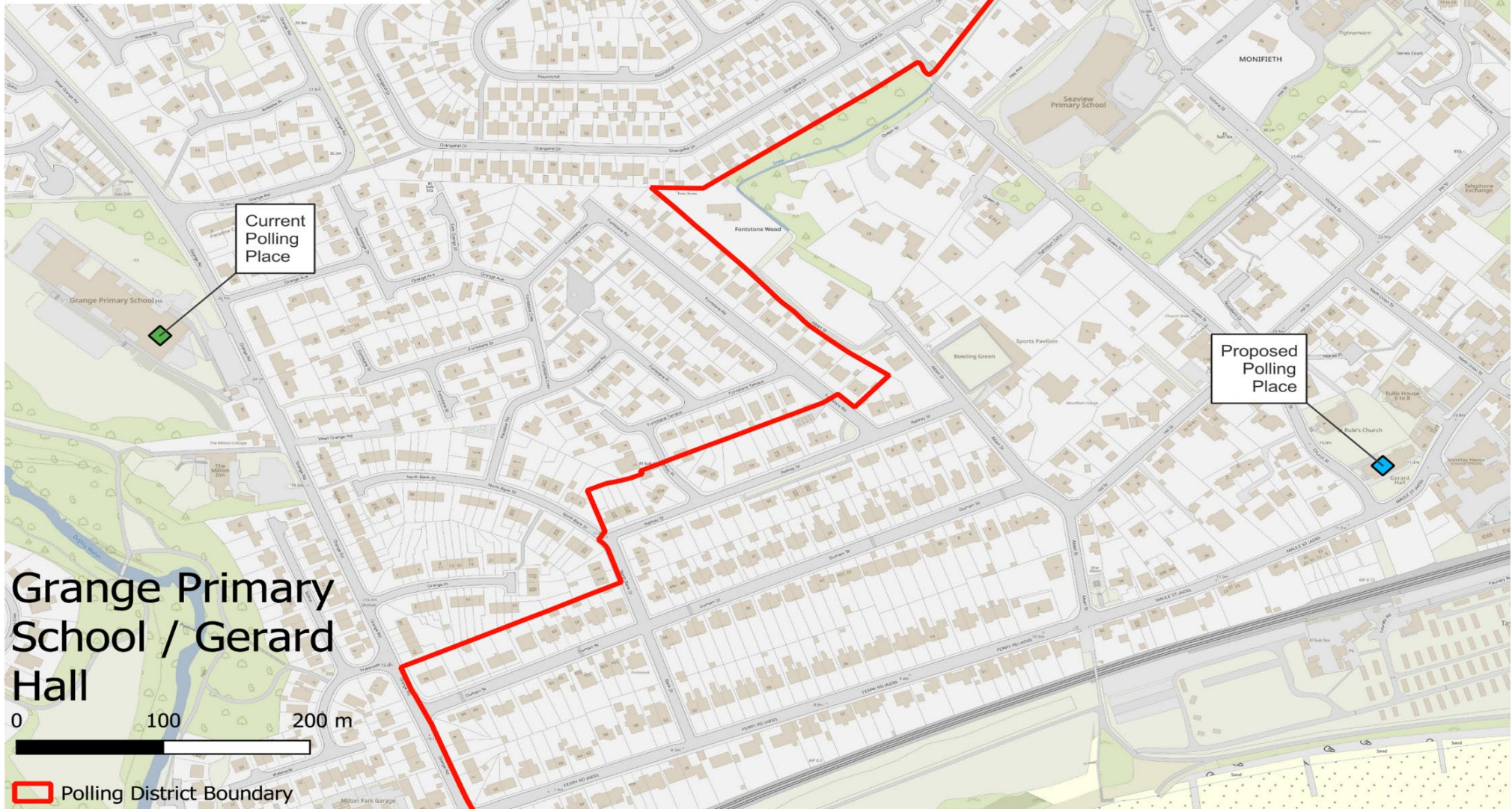
Gerard Hall /
Monifieth Church



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Ward 4 - ESE

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Grange Primary School / Gerard Hall

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□ Polling District Boundary

Ward 7 - ATB

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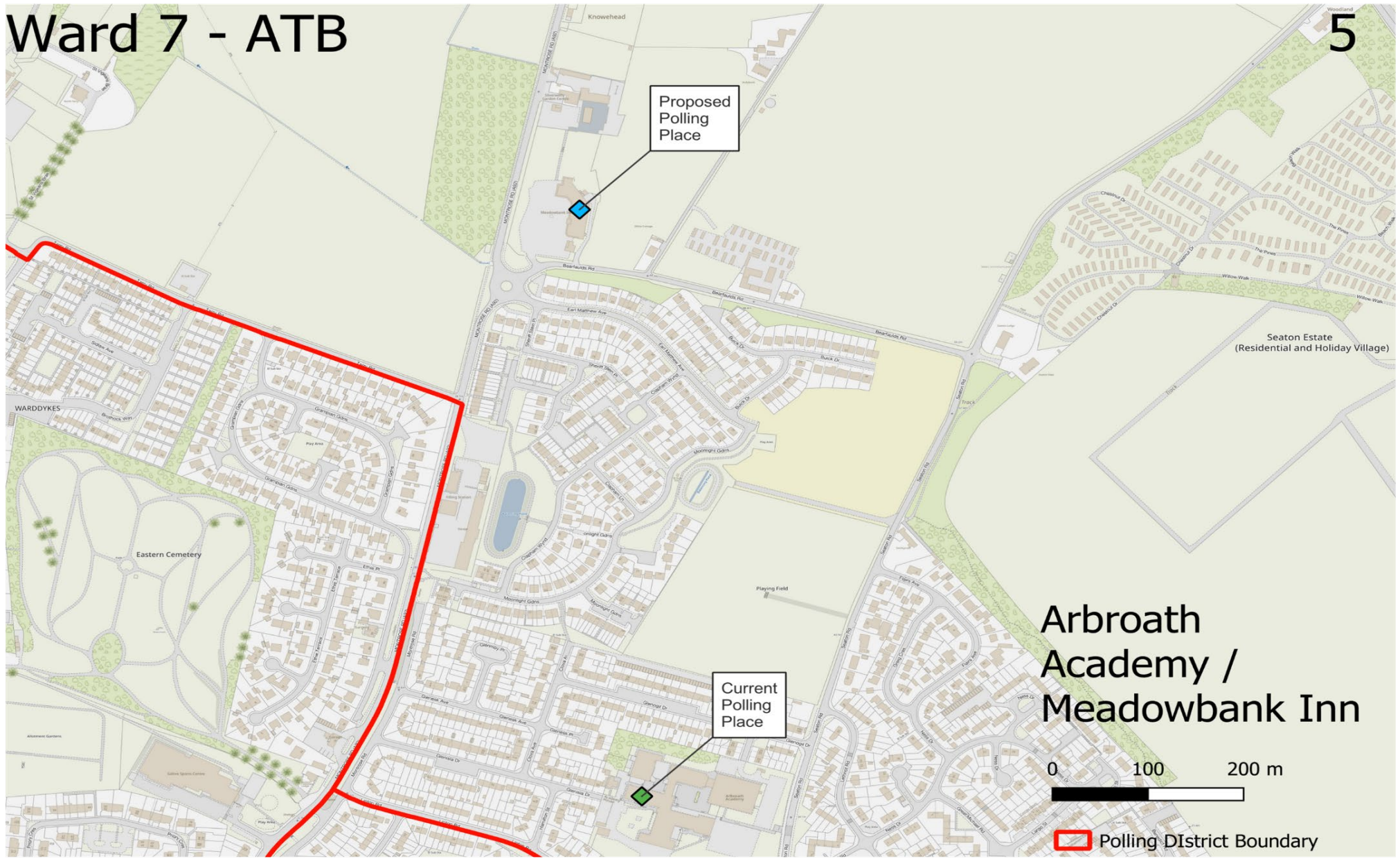
Proposed Polling Place

Current Polling Place

Arbroath Academy / Meadowbank Inn



 Polling District Boundary



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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 or e-mail. 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.

The Commission will base their decision-making process on a number of factors when considering an appeal. The main factors are (a) whether the polling place meets the reasonable requirements of electors and (b) whether accessibility needs and disabled access have been considered.

The Commission may seek advice from persons with expertise on accessibility issues when making its decision and may send a member of its staff to visit the polling district/place to consider the issues raised. The Commission may invite input from relevant stakeholder groups.

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 Team
Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ

Email: appeals@electoralcommission.org.uk

If possible, an appeal should be made in writing. If this presents any difficulties, please call the Commission on 0333 103 1928 to discuss.