

Review Officer (Buckinghamshire)
Local Govt Boundary Commission
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
LONDON
EC1M 5LG

29 March 2011



Dear Sirs

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

I am responding on behalf of the Parish Council to your consultation letter of 11 January 2011. This submission is based upon the following.

1. Map of the present parish wards in South Bucks (enclosed - Map 1).
2. An A3 size table showing the electoral situation in South Bucks using the 2017 projected figures on your website (enclosed).
3. The existing (2010) county average electorate per councillor ratio is 6,694 (for 57 members).
4. The projected (2017) county average electorate per councillor ratio is 8,113 (for 49 members).
5. The projected number of electors in South Bucks in 2017 is 53,901.
6. Eight divisions in South Bucks in 2017 will produce a new average ratio of 6,738.
7. Seven divisions in South Bucks in 2017 will produce a new average ratio of 7,700.
8. Six divisions in South Bucks in 2017 will produce a new average ratio of 8,983.

8,113 is significantly closer to 7,700 than either of the other two figures, so we would argue strongly for 7 divisions in South Bucks, a reduction of one from the current 8 divisions.

PREFERRED OPTION 1

The Boundary Commission rules include making all divisions as close in electorate size to each other as possible, typically with a maximum 10% variance. You will recall that in order to satisfy this requirement, during recent District and County Reviews, new and rather odd parish wards were created (Denham SW, Gerrards Cross East, Iver West, Farnham Royal Village) as well as splitting parishes between county divisions in unfortunate ways. There is even an anomaly of a tiny part of Fulmer parish with 21 electors being part of Iver county division rather than Bulstrode county division. This has been caused by District/Parish Reviews not altering County divisions and by County Reviews not altering District/Parish wards.

The Parish Council would therefore urge the Boundary Commission to start afresh when conducting the current review, and to form new parish and district wards based on the real natural communities rather than rather artificial ones, and then building county divisions based on these. According to the Commission's Technical Guidance (para 5.21) on Community Identity this can be done if the purpose is to assist the county review process.

It would be wrong of this Parish Council to make detailed suggestions about the other 11 parishes in South Bucks, but we would urge you to consider the following.

1. Combining the artificial Denham SW ward with Denham South as was the situation until comparatively recently.
2. Subject to the views of the parish councils concerned, consider the status of the Gerrards Cross East, Iver West and Farnham Royal Village wards, as well as the tiny part of Fulmer parish in Iver county division.
3. There are also four anomalies which were created accidentally as a result of the 2002 District Review and which should be corrected now. These are minor ward boundary changes, internal to Denham parish, relating to Misbourne Meadows, Red Hill, three houses in Tilehouse Lane and Station Cottages. They were also flagged up as part of the 2005 County Review process but the Boundary Committee chose not to deal with them at that time.

3A. Misbourne Meadows

The five houses in Misbourne Meadows are presently in Denham South whilst the rest of Broken Gate Lane is in Denham SW. **In the event that Denham SW Ward is retained**, then all five properties should be in Denham SW. They all have vehicle access only via Broken Gate Lane to the A40 Oxford Road and have no links with Higher Denham.

3B. Red Hill

The eight properties in Red Hill from Moorvale Cottage to Westhall Cottage naturally form part of the community to the west centred on Bakers Wood. At present these eight properties are in Denham South ward. **In the event that Denham SW Ward is retained**, they should be transferred to Denham SW ward to join the rest of Red Hill and all of Bakers Wood.

3C. Tilehouse Lane

Three properties (Windrush, Glebe Cottage, Oak Lodge) on the west side of Tilehouse Lane naturally form part of the community of Denham Green as do their neighbours opposite but are presently in Denham South ward. The rest of Tilehouse Lane is already in North ward. The three properties listed should be transferred to Denham North ward.

3D. 1-6 Station Cottages and Station House

Station Cottages and House, North Orbital Road (immediately south of the railway) are presently in Denham South ward, although they should geographically be considered to form part of Denham North ward. These seven properties naturally form part of the community of Denham Green and should be transferred to Denham North ward along with the rest of North Orbital Road.

If the Parish Council can assist the Boundary Commission in determining natural community areas and boundaries for those areas, it would be delighted to be approached at an early stage in the current review process.

We believe that a better solution can be achieved via Option 1 than any solution which retains the existing parish/district ward boundaries.

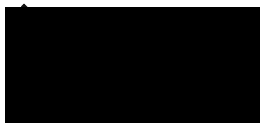
ALTERNATIVE OPTION 2

If however the existing parish wards are used as building blocks for the seven new county divisions, then the Parish Council would argue for the arrangement shown on the enclosed Map 2. The maximum variance is 9.4%.

ALTERNATIVE OPTION 3

In the unlikely event that the Boundary Commission chooses to have six county divisions in South Bucks, the arrangement shown on the enclosed Map 3 is suggested. The maximum variance is 9.1%.

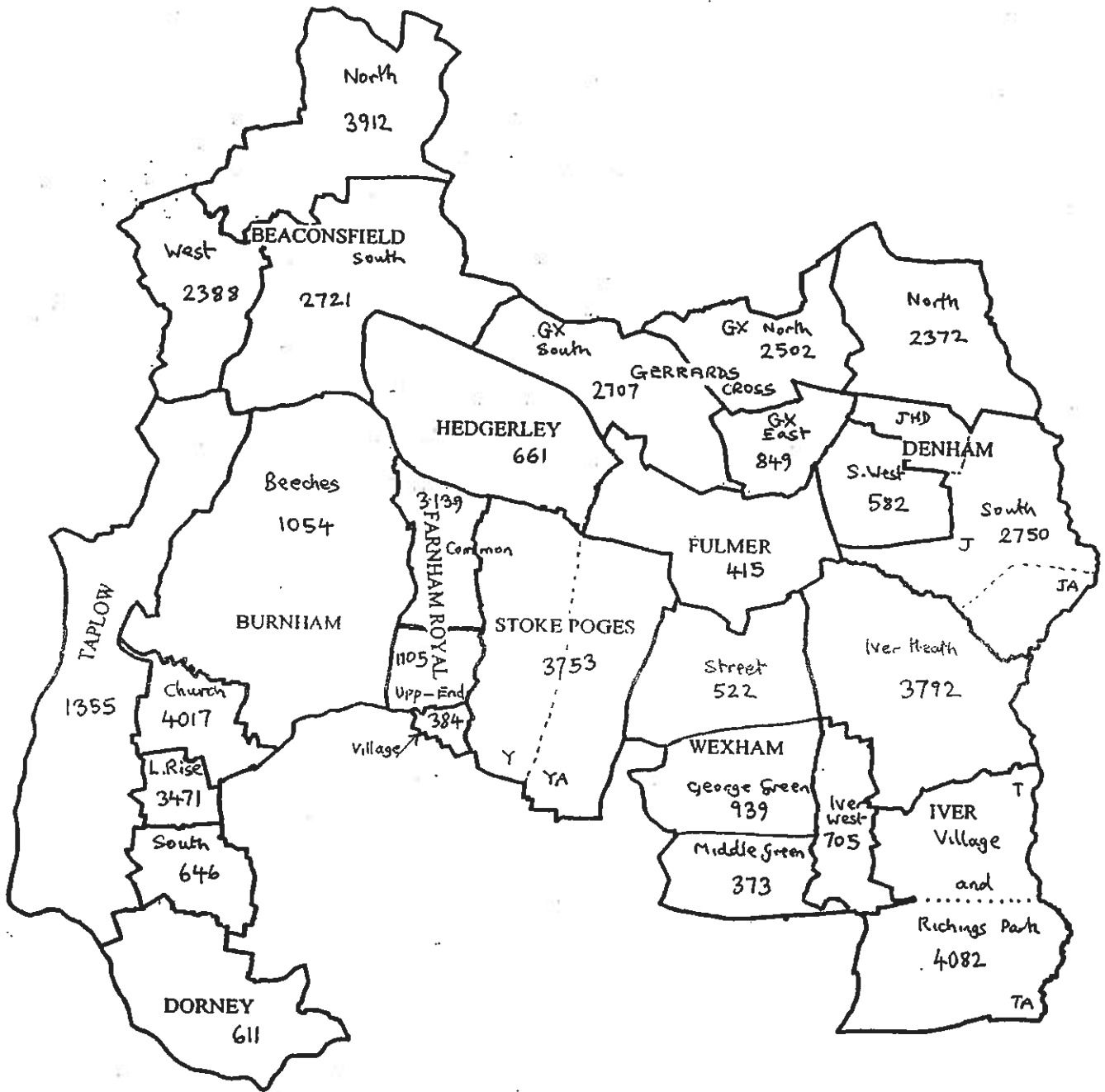
Yours faithfully

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Paul Graham.

Paul Graham
Clerk

MAP 1

SOUTH BUCKS : PARISH WARDS (EXISTING)

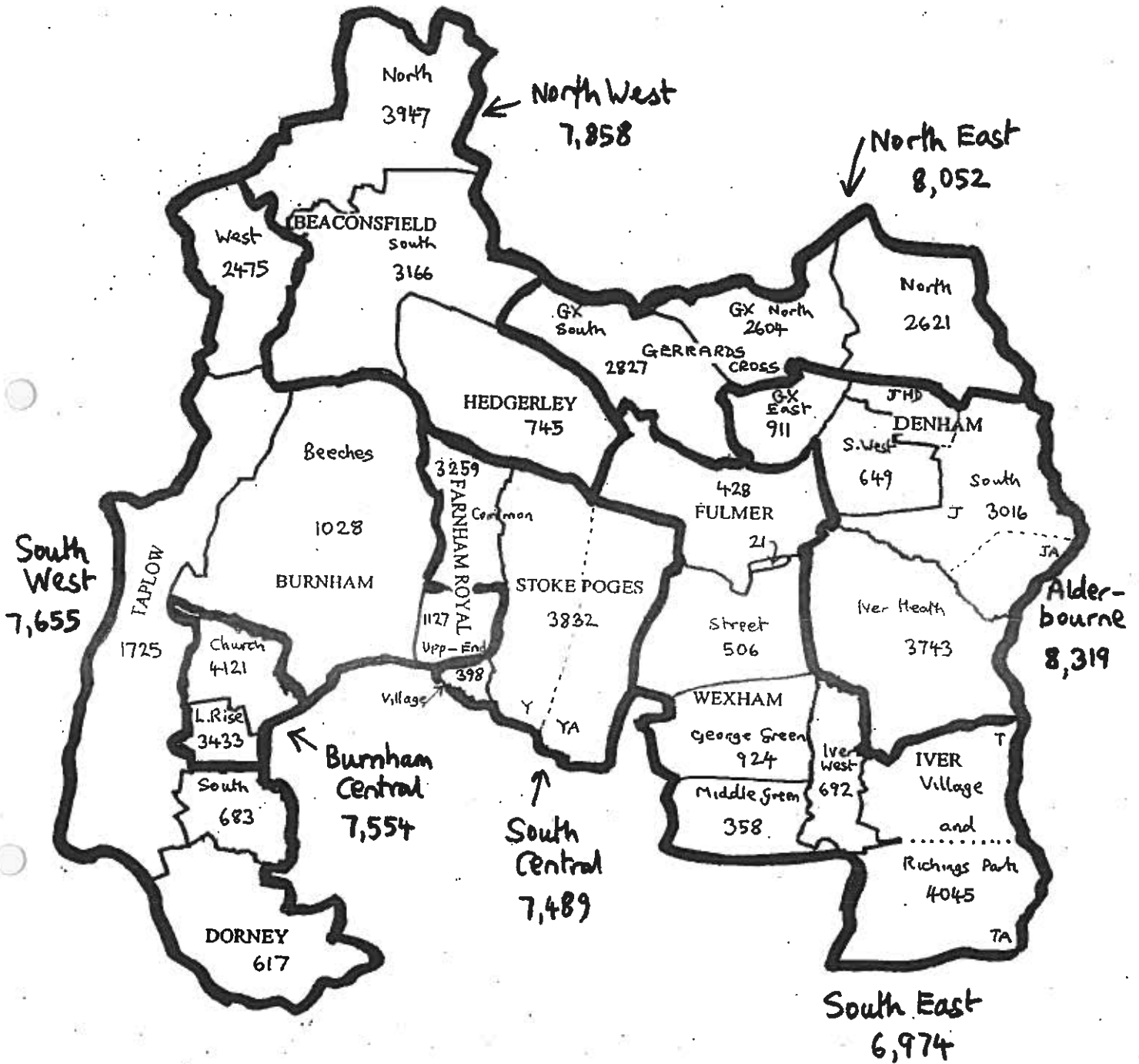


Electorate figures are as at January 2011.

The dashed boundaries indicate polling districts within wards.

SOUTH BUCKS : PARISH WARDS

NEW COUNTY DIVISIONS - OPTION 2 - 7 DIVISIONS



Total Electorate 53,901 (2017)

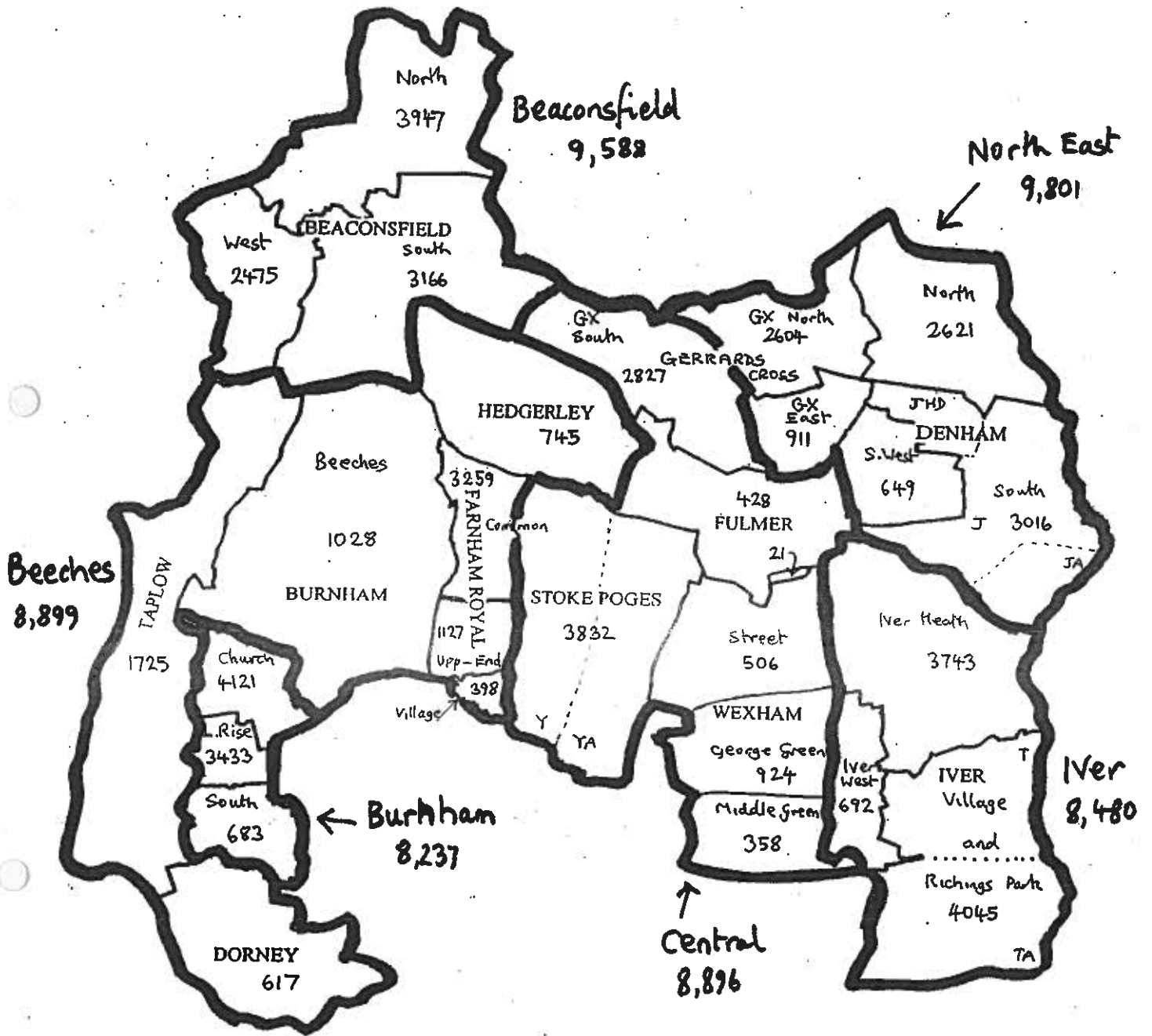
Average per cllr. 7,700

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SOUTH BUCKS : PARISH WARDS

NEW COUNTY DIVISIONS - OPTION 3 - 6 DIVISIONS



Total Electorate 53,901 (2017)
 Average per cllr 8,983

DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

SOUTH BUCKS DISTRICT : PROJECTED ELECTORATE FIGURES FOR 2017

Parish	Parish Ward	Poli Dist.	Parish Cllrs Total	Electorate Total	District Ward	D Cllrs Electorate	County Division	C Cllrs Electorate
Wexham	Wexham Street	WW	3	506	Wexham & Iver West	2	Iver	1
Wexham	Wexham George Green	WG	4	924				6546
Wexham	Wexham Middle Green	WM	2	358				
Iver	Iver West	WI	1	692				
Iver	Iver Village & Richings Park	T+TA	7	4045	Iver Village & Richings Park	3		
Iver	Iver Heath	V	6	3743	Iver Heath	3	Alderbourne	1
Denham	Denham South	J+JA+JHD	7	3016	Denham South	2		6759
Denham	Denham North	K	7	2621	Denham North	2	Gerrards Cross & Denham North	1
Denham	Denham South West	S	1	649	GX East & Denham SW	1		6785
Gerrards Cross	Gerrards Cross East	SA	2	911				
Gerrards Cross	Gerrards Cross North	Q	5	2604	Gerrards Cross North	2		
Gerrards Cross	Gerrards Cross South	R	5	2827	Gerrards Cross South	2	Bulstrode	1
Fulmer	Fulmer (part in Iver County Div)	P	7	21	Hedgerley & Fulmer	1	Iver	1
Fulmer	Fulmer	P	7	428			Bulstrode	1
Hedgerley	Hedgerley	PA	7	745				
Beaconsfield	Beaconsfield South	B	5	3166	Beaconsfield South	2		
Beaconsfield	Beaconsfield North	A	6	3947	Beaconsfield North	3	Beaconsfield	1
Beaconsfield	Beaconsfield West	C	5	2475	Beaconsfield West	2		6422
Taplow	Taplow	Z	11	1725	Taplow	1	Taplow, Dorney & Lent Rise	1
Dorney	Dorney	M	7	617	Dorney & Burnham South	1		6468
Burnham	Burnham South	MA	1	683				
Burnham	Burnham Lent Rise	G	8	3433	Burnham Lent Rise	3		
Burnham	Burnham Church	H	7	4121	Burnham Church	3	Burnham Beeches	1
Burnham	Burnham Beeches	D	3	1028	Burnham Beeches	1	Burnham Beeches	
Farnham Royal	Farnham Royal Upp-End	NA	3	1127	Farnham Royal	3	Burnham Beeches	
Farnham Royal	Farnham Royal Common	N	7	3259			Stoke Poges & Farnham Common	1
Farnham Royal	Farnham Royal Village	YB	1	398			Burnham Beeches	1
Stoke Poges	Stoke Poges	Y+YA	13	3832	Stoke Poges	3	Stoke Poges & Farnham Common	
TOTAL			141	53901		40		8
								53901

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29-3-11