

New County Divisions for Oxford: JD's final version: explanation.

Out of interest as a politically active Oxford resident, I have prepared a scheme which appears to meet the objectives of the reorganisation (equalised sizes, contiguity, maintaining community ties, retaining parish council boundaries) more closely than other schemes submitted to date. It is not on Excel but is summarised on a landscape-format sheet and further explained here.



North and West Oxford

These 8 city wards are separated from the rest of the city by the Cherwell and Thames. The five wards currently part of Oxford West and Abingdon constituency form three County divisions which represent neatly the different residential characters and community ties found in this segment of the city. *Wolvercote and Cutteslowe* includes the outer city areas, whilst *North Oxford* runs from the local centre of Summertown southwards to the most exclusive areas of North Oxford (Park Town etc). The denser area in city North ward to the west of and including Woodstock Road, known as Walton Manor, shares many characteristics of the Jericho area so is placed with Jericho and Osney city ward to form *West Oxford* division.

The remaining three city wards west of the rivers require about 2000 extra voters to create two divisions. Rather than having a division cross Donnington bridge, where there is a long break in the urban fabric, this scheme crosses Magdalen bridge where the divide is barely noticeable. One division, *South Oxford*, takes the inner suburbs off the Abingdon Road and adds the more residential part of the city centre (west of St Giles and Cornmarket); the other, *Centre/Plain* includes the majority of the colleges including some east of Magdalen bridge, plus nearby small streets. (East of the bridge, this division would include the streets north of St Clement's St running towards the Cherwell, plus streets west of and including Rectory Road and Stockmore street.)

East and Northeast Oxford

The majority of St Clements and St Mary's are not included in Centre/Plain, and together form *East Oxford* division with the addition of an adjacent street (Bartlemas Close and Southfield Park) which has more affinity with this area than Cowley Marsh. There is strong common identity between these two city wards either side of the Cowley Road.

Turning to northeast Oxford, there is a parish council which includes parts of city Churchill ward, Quarry and Risinghurst and Barton wards. Thus a division must span the A40 to include them. A division of the right size can be created by adding the non-parished part of Quarry and Risinghurst city ward, and the rest of the area known as Wood Farm, along with the Sandhills polling district of Barton ward, to form *Quarry, Risinghurst and Sandhills*. Once this polling district is subtracted, the remainder of the area bounded by London Road, the Cherwell and the city boundary forms neatly into two divisions, one encompassing all the areas which identify as *Marston*, and the other joining the non-parished part of Barton (including a substantial future development) with the Northway estate (a bus link is planned)

via Old Headington and other parts of Headington north of London road which link the areas at present. This could be called *Barton, Old Headington and Northway*.

The remainder of the Northeast area of the city consists of the remainder of Churchill ward and the part of Headington south of London Road. These all identify as 'Headington' as does the northern part of Lye Valley city ward. About two-thirds of this ward is enough to make a division of the right size, ('*Headington South and Lye Valley*') omitting the part of Lye Valley that identifies with Cowley (see below).

Southeast Oxford

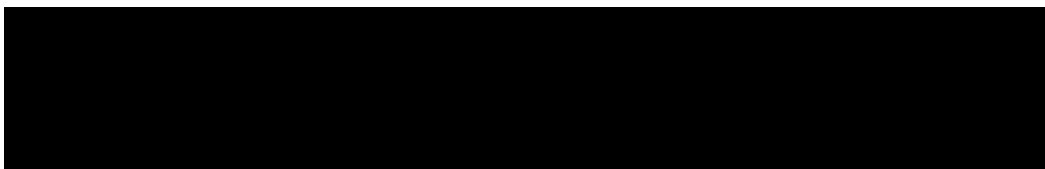
Two parts of this area have a strong local identity: Blackbird Leys/Greater Leys, and Cowley. The former consists of two city wards which together are only 2% over target size in 2016 predictions. This makes it unnecessary to adjust for the temporary oversizing of *Leys* division. The area identified locally as Cowley is larger than Cowley city ward and indeed the Florence Park area is seen as distinct from the Cowley ward of which it forms a part. The *Cowley* division accordingly takes in most of Cowley city ward, the Temple Cowley polling district of Cowley Marsh, the part of Lye Valley ward which identifies with Cowley (streets south of Horspath Rd) and small parts of Littlemore (NC polling district) and Rose Hill & Iffley (Church Hill Rd, Westbury Cres and Wykeham Cres) city wards where the same applies.

The remainder of Littlemore and Rose Hill & Iffley city wards (including all of Littlemore Parish Council) comprise one new division, *Rose Hill and Littlemore*. The final division to be described is *Boundary Brook*, comprising the whole of Iffley Fields city ward together with the adjacent part of Cowley Marsh ward and the Florence Park area of Cowley city ward (In detail, QA polling district less Church Cowley Rd, Cleveland Drive, Gerard Place and St Omer Rd which remain with Cowley division). The *Boundary Brook* is the identifying factor in this area between East Oxford, Cowley and the Thames.

Achievement of Objectives

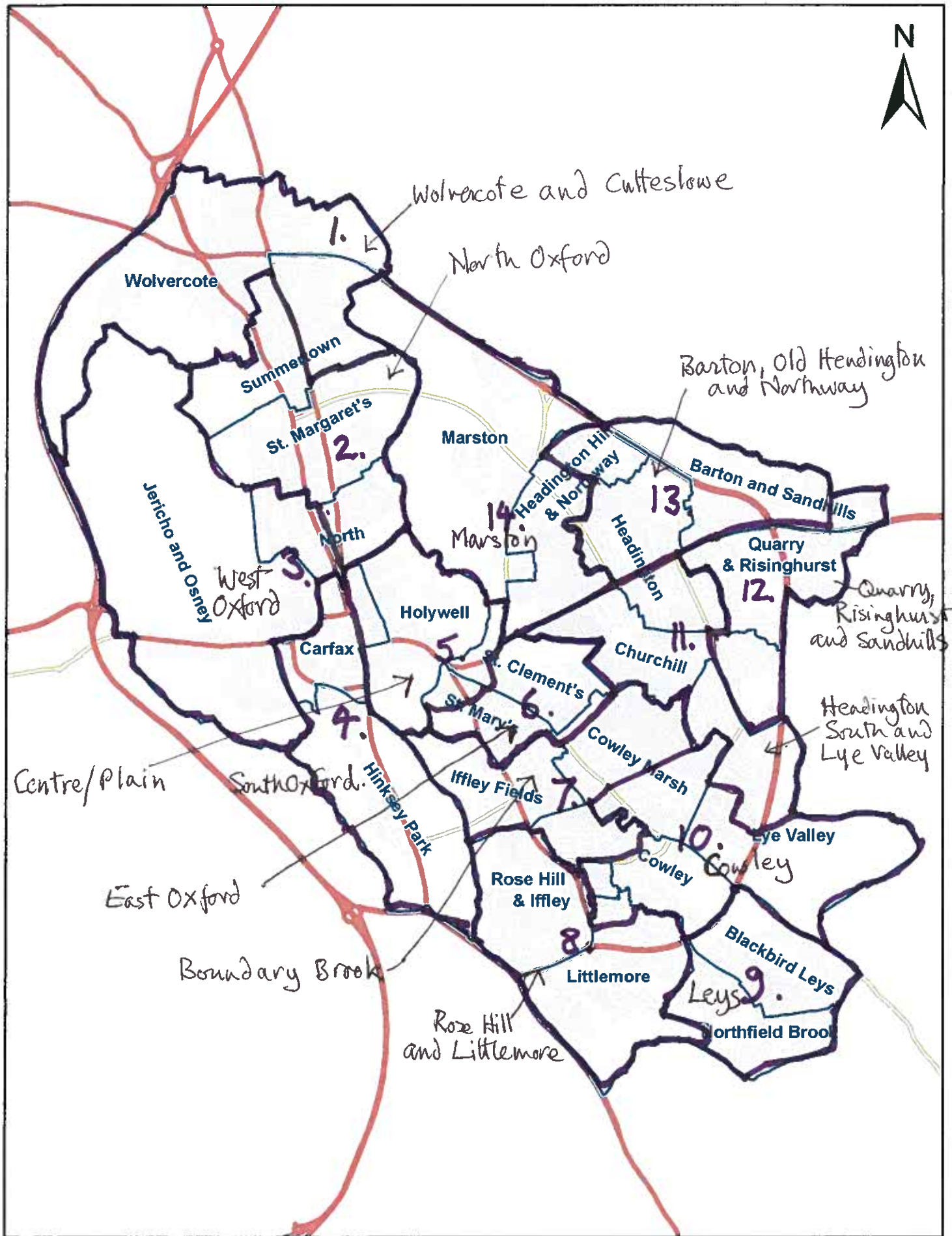
The sizes given in the summary sheet are approximate, as calculations at finer than polling district scale were made from street data from the Jan 2011 electoral register – but there is in any case an element of error due to non-registration, uncertainty on the location and timing of housebuilding, house moves and demographic change. On projected 2016 figures, the variation ranges from – 3.5% to + 5.4 %, a very narrow range. The divisions where major growth is expected are below target in 2010 and slightly above target by 2016.

Parish council boundaries have been maintained, all divisions have contiguity and are generally compact in shape. Above all, most communities of interest have been kept together: classic North Oxford, Walton Manor with Jericho and Osney, East Oxford, Marston, Cowley, The Leys. We commend this scheme to the Commission.



New County divisions in Oxford: JD's proposals (final version): summary.

No	suggested name	city wards	polling districts	size 2010	variation	size 2016	variation
1.	Wolvercote and Cutteslowe	Wolvercote (all) Summertown (part) Summertown (part), St Margaret's, North (part)	AA AB AC AD BB BC BA CA CB DA (pt) DB (pt) St Margaret's, North (part)	7642	- 4.1%	8398	+ 0.9%
2.	North Oxford	North Oxford	EA EB EC DA (pt) DB (pt) North (part)	8082	+ 1.4%	8335	on target
3.	West Oxford	West Oxford	EA EB EC DA (pt) DB (pt) North (part)	8255	+ 3.6%	8521	+ 2.4%
4.	South Oxford	South Oxford	Hinksey Park, Carfax (part)	7606	- 4.6%	8768	+ 5.4%
5.	Centre/Plain	Centre/Plain	HA HB HC FA FB (pt) Carfax (part)	7860	- 1.4%	8220	- 1.2%
6.	East Oxford	East Oxford	Holywell, Carfax (pt), St Mary's (part)	7895	on target	8180	- 1.7%
7.	Boundary Brook	Boundary Brook	JA (pt) KA (pt) KC St Clement's (pt), St Mary's (pt) Cowley Marsh (fragment) + RA (fragment)	8282	+ 3.9 %	8206	- 1.4%
8.	Rose Hill and Littlemore	Rose Hill and Littlemore	LA LB LC RA (most) Marsh (part) Cowley (part) + QA (part) Rose Hill and Iffley MA MB (most) MC MD ME + NA NB ND	7961	on target	8494	+ 2.1%
9.	Leyes	Leyes	OA OB PA PB Blackbird Leyes, Northfield Brook	8524	+ 7%	8493	+ 2.0
10.	Cowley	Cowley	QA (part) QB RB NC Cowley Marsh (part), Cowley (most), small parts of Rose + MB (fragment), SA (part)	7756	- 2.7%	8106	- 2.7%
11.	Headington South and Lye Valley	Headington South and Lye Valley	SA (part) SB TB TC WA Headington (part), Lye Valley (part), Churchill (part)	8290	+ 4%	8078	- 2.9%
12.	Quarry, Risinghurst and Sandhills	Quarry, Risinghurst and Sandhills	UA UB UC UD UE TA TD VE Quarry & Risinghurst, Churchill (part), Barton (fragment)	7634	- 4.2%	8032	- 3.5%
13.	Barton, Old Headington and Northway	Barton, Old Headington and Northway	VA VB VC VD WB WC XA Barton (most), Headington Hill & Northway (part), Headington Hill & Northway (part),	7622	- 4.4%	8639	+ 3.8%
14.	Marston	Marston	YA YB YC XB XC Marston, Headington Hill & Northway (part)	8169	+ 2.5%	8047	- 3.3%



Oxford City Wards and Proposed
New County Divisions
JD Scheme.

Scale: 1:50,000

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