

Bradford

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Comment text:

Dear Sir/Madam

Please find attached the BMDC Labour Group's submission to your consultation into a new pattern of wards for the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council area. I'll be very grateful if you can confirm receipt.

Very best wishes
Simon

Simon O'Hare

Attached Documents:

- Boundary Commission submission Labour Group FINAL.pdf

Bradford District Labour Group

**Submission to the Local Government Boundary
Commission for England (LGBCE) consultation on
proposed future warding arrangements for
Bradford Metropolitan District Council**

September 2023

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Introduction and background to this submission

This submission is made by the Bradford District Labour Group to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) Electoral Review of the ward boundaries within the Bradford District.

The LGBCE has identified the need to carry out a review of Bradford under its published criteria. As part of this process the LGBCE concluded in June 2023 that 90 councillors across 30 wards continues to be the appropriate number for the Bradford District. Following that decision, this submission is concerned with the layout and size of the 30 wards.

This submission is made in response to the LGBCE's 10-week consultation running until 4 September 2023. The LGBCE is running this consultation to consider local views to help it draw up proposals for a new pattern of ward boundaries.

It is important to note that the LGBCE has said this consultation is solely concerned with reviewing the *internal ward boundaries* within the established Bradford Metropolitan District Council area. The LGBCE stated: "The Local Government Boundary Commission is not looking at the external boundaries of Bradford."

The LGBCE will run a further round of consultation once the commission has drawn up new proposed ward boundaries.

In summary the LGBCE process is as follows:

- 1) Preliminary stage
- 2) Councillor numbers ('council size') stage
- 3) Warding arrangements stage (the current stage)
- 4) Draft recommendations, followed by consultation
- 5) Final recommendations

Bradford Council wards were last reviewed in 2004 when the number of councillors was retained and changes were made to ward boundaries to better serve changing populations.

Since that 2004 review the demographics and local population numbers have naturally continued to shift and the district's population has increased. This is therefore a welcome opportunity to review ward boundaries to ensure all citizens are served as equitably as possible now and in the future.

About the Bradford District

90 councillors of Bradford serve this diverse district comprising of the city, the towns of Keighley, Bingley, Ilkley and Shipley, and many villages. In total this amounts to some 547,000 people, more than 16,000 businesses and around 5,000 voluntary and community sector organisations. Bradford is the UK's youngest city and one of the most diverse, currently undergoing a period of major regeneration and renewal as the district heads towards an exciting year as UK City of Culture 2025. The council together with its partners is investing in the city and in the district's towns, which each have their own proud heritage and identity. A vision to establish a long-lasting legacy of culture-led growth and investment across the district has underpinned Bradford's success in being awarded the UK City of Culture title.

Looking at today compared to the time of the 2004 boundary review, the same number of 90 councillors serves a population around 17% larger, having seen growth of 79,000 residents between the 2001 and 2021 censuses. Forecasts suggest the Bradford District population will continue to grow reaching 551,000 by 2029.

The volume and complexity of challenges faced by many residents in their daily lives has also increased since the last review, which in turn is reflected in the levels of help and support they require from their local councillors. The extended period of national austerity measures, constraints on living standards and the impact of national and global factors, particularly the Covid-19 pandemic, have compounded existing inequalities. The council published a refreshed Equalities Plan in November 2022 recognising the disproportionate impact of Covid and the cost of living crisis on the district as a whole, as well as on specific groups such as our Black and Asian communities, children and young people, migrant communities, people with disabilities, those on the lowest incomes and residents experiencing multiple impacts.

Equalities is central to our decision making, with the work of councillors as important as ever in supporting their diverse local communities and driving forward the Labour-led council's vision for a fairer and more prosperous district. Elected members have detailed knowledge and cultural understanding of their local communities and any changes to wards therefore need to be proposed with care in order to maintain or enhance the cohesion of our communities and the council wards they identify with. This submission has been done diligently with the needs of all residents across the district at the forefront of our consideration and with the central aim of achieving electoral equality for all, as far as it is possible, while maintaining or enhancing established community links.

Our approach to the submission – how we applied the criteria

In approaching this review we carried out an assessment of the populations of all current wards, consulted with ward members and spoke with residents of those wards about their views and experiences of the current ward boundaries in the Bradford District. We set up a working group with ward councillors and longstanding Labour party members who have detailed knowledge and experience of previous ward boundary reviews and our diverse neighbourhoods to ensure we heard voices from all constituent parts of the district in drawing up our proposals.

In the spirit of open and transparent consideration and to canvas a broad spectrum of views, we also reached out to the opposition Conservative Group on the council in considering all options for the new warding arrangements. We are pleased to have arrived at a consensus view with them across a significant area of the district. The council's Conservative Group agreed with our proposals for all of the wards in the Bradford East and Bradford West constituencies.

Our own group's discussions and analysis of the wards has led us to the view that the commission did a good job with its changes to ward boundaries in its 2004 review. At that time there were major imbalances across ward populations that emerged in previous years, which meant significant changes to large parts of the internal ward boundaries within the district were required. We consider that this need was addressed effectively in the 2004 review by restoring much-needed equality to what had become a relatively mismatched pattern of wards in some areas, but importantly community links and identities were also largely supported. We arrived at the view that if we are able to meet the current boundary electoral requirements this time around without causing wholesale disruption to what has been a largely successful warding pattern, we should seek to do so.

With that in mind, we applied the LGBCE's three main criteria to our consideration of wards in the Bradford District in the following way:

1) Delivering electoral equality for local electors

This is our paramount consideration. New challenges have emerged due to growing and shifting populations since the 2004 review, which we must now address. The LGBCE has established that we should aim for 13,125 electors per ward under the new arrangements based on the district's projected population of 562,675 in 2028. We appreciate that being able to achieve this exact number in every single ward is unlikely to be practicable, however we set out with the aim of achieving equality as far as possible and in particular addressing the main outliers. Where the number of electors in a ward does vary from the target figure, we have sought to stay within 10% of that average to bring much improved equality compared to the current layout. Examples of current wards where the electors total exceeds the optimal number include Bingley where it is exceeded by approximately 20%, similarly Bingley Rural is 18% above and Craven 15% above; conversely Wharfedale is 14% below and

Worth Valley 13% below that 13,125 average. The need to rebalance ward populations where necessary to ensure equality for residents has driven our work.

2) Interests and identities of local communities

The need to achieve electoral equality is paramount, however we have recognised that the credibility of any change would be seriously undermined if it failed to support the cohesion and interests of communities and local identities. Human connections and boundaries in local identity as well as physical must be respected wherever possible as we amend wards to equalise the number of electors. In short, respecting the interests and cohesion of local communities is fundamental to ensuring that we do not undermine any attempts to purely equalise the numbers. As noted previously, a particular feature of Bradford as a large and varied district is its human and geographic diversity across a range of urban and rural areas, with local communities sharing strong and distinct pride in their place on a local level. Ward councillors alongside community groups and residents have worked long and hard to build cohesion and respect within and between local communities and to celebrate our diversity. Wherever possible the ward boundaries should be coterminous with these shared local identities and interests in order to promote that pride of place on a ward level.

3) Effective and convenient local government

In recent years Bradford Council has invested in a locality model to ensure residents have easier access to the help and support they need, with council staff based within defined local areas focusing on prevention and early help activities. Around 50 officers per constituency work ward by ward alongside other agencies across neighbourhoods, youth, warden and health services. The role of councillors in helping to develop locality plans and share local intelligence will be integral to its success as the approach continues to embed. Any proposed ward changes must seek to avoid wholesale and unnecessary disruption to this model.

The Council operates with Executive decision-making arrangements with not insignificant delegation of Executive powers to Area Committees. The council has a devolved model of service delivery through its five area committees. These area committees each comprise six council wards that are coterminous with the current parliamentary constituency boundaries: Bradford East, Bradford South, Bradford West, Keighley, Shipley. Our proposal seeks as far as possible to maintain this structure with minimal adjustment so we avoid significant disruption to the devolved administration of the council while achieving our key aims.

Our proposed new warding arrangements

Existing ward	Existing ward projected electorate in 2029	Existing ward variance in 2029	Proposed ward	Proposed ward projected electorate in 2029	Proposed ward variance in 2029
Baildon	12,875	-2%	Baildon & Eldwick	14,334	+9%
Bingley	15,721	+20%	Bingley	14,357	+9%
Bingley Rural	15,549	+18%	Bingley Rural	12,607	-4%
Bolton & Undercliffe	12,489	-5%	Bolton & Undercliffe	12,489	-5%
Bowling & Barkerend	14,423	+10%	Bowling & Barkerend	13,644	+4%
Bradford Moor	13,418	+2%	Bradford Moor	13,418	+2%
City	15,009	+14%	City	13,577	+3%
Clayton & Fairweather Green	12,557	-4%	Clayton & Fairweather Green	12,557	-4%
Craven	15,087	+15%	Craven	11,805	-10%
Eccleshill	14,009	+7%	Eccleshill	14,009	+7%
Great Horton	12,114	-8%	Great Horton	12,394	-6%
Heaton	13,607	+4%	Heaton & Frizinghall	13,607	+4%
Idle & Thackley	14,151	+8%	Idle & Thackley	14,151	+8%
Ilkley	12,576	-4%	Ilkley	13,794	+5%
Keighley Central	12,822	-2%	Keighley Central	12,822	-2%
Keighley East	12,933	-1%	Keighley East	12,933	-1%
Keighley West	12,469	-5%	Keighley West	12,408	-5%
Little Horton	12,691	-3%	Little Horton	12,691	-3%
Manningham	12,698	-3%	Manningham	14,130	+8%
Queensbury	12,982	-1%	Queensbury	12,982	-1%
Royds	12,804	-2%	Royds	12,509	-5%
Shipley	12,793	-3%	Shipley	12,698	-3%
Thornton & Allerton	13,619	+4%	Thornton & Allerton	13,619	+4%
Toller	13,517	+3%	Toller	13,517	+3%
Tong	13,509	+3%	Tong	13,395	+2%
Wharfedale	11,320	-14%	Wharfedale	13,384	+2%
Wibsey	11,135	-15%	Wibsey & Odsal	12,316	-6%
Windhill & Wrose	11,990	-9%	Windhill & Wrose	11,990	-9%
Worth Valley	11,425	-13%	Worth Valley	14,428	+10%
Wyke	11,463	-13%	Wyke & Bierley Woods	12,194	-7%

The rationale for our proposed wards

Craven, Ilkley, Wharfedale

The current Craven ward is projected to be 15% above the target electorate of 13,125 by 2029. Given our primary aim is to restore electoral equality across wards, we need to address this. We have sought to do so without causing disruption to the neighbouring Keighley wards which already have optimal electorate figures and highly defined community links, which we discuss in the Keighley section below.

Craven is also bordered by Ilkley, which is projected to be 4% below the target figure and which in turn is bordered by Wharfedale which is projected to be well below the minimum electorate of 11,813. This provides an opportunity to rebalance Craven, Ilkley and Wharfedale, subject ideally to the other criteria of community links and efficient local government also being met.

Our proposal is firstly to transfer Addingham (polling district 9A) from Craven into Ilkley. There are close ties between Addingham and Ilkley, which are linked directly by the A65 trunk road. The change makes sense from a local community perspective. It also makes sense when considered in the round with our proposed change to Ilkley's other border on its eastern side, with Wharfedale. Here we propose to address the problem of Wharfedale's shortfall by transferring in Ben Rhydding (polling district 14C) from Ilkley, which will increase the size of Wharfedale close to the target figure, at 13,384, and brings Ilkley's revised electorate to 13,794. We acknowledge that transferring Ben Rhydding involves crossing the parliamentary constituency boundary, however there is a direct link by the main A65 road for travel by car or the X84 bus and by rail along the valley floor between Burley in Wharfedale and the lower part of Ben Rhydding with close ties between these communities. It makes even more sense given that there is new proposed housing north of the railway line in Ben Rhydding which won't have established historical links to Ilkley. We also know that some Ilkley residents' children are educated in the primary schools in Wharfedale ward, so there are already community links between the two areas. Also, many local children in the Wharfedale ward attend Ilkley Grammar School for their secondary education. Adoption of Ben Rhydding plus organic growth along the A65 corridor makes considerable sense and builds upon the existing local affinity between Wharfedale and Ilkley.

We considered the only possible alternative which would be to transfer Eldwick (polling district 2C) from Bingley into Wharfedale. However, this would partly recreate the flawed former Rombalds ward which was appropriately changed in 2004 as it had unsuccessfully sought to link areas across Rombalds Moor that were clearly quite separate communities. It was corrected for good reason. The road across the moor from Menston to Eldwick is five miles and involves going through part of Leeds. There are no links between the current Wharfedale ward and Eldwick. There are no bus links, no rail links and no social links, such as schools, that we are aware of. The lack of transport links therefore would disadvantage those without private transport from taking part in democracy. Currently around 12% of households in Wharfedale have no car or van (source ONS) so rely on public transport.

Residents of Eldwick would not feel part of the community that already exists along the Wharfe valley. Eldwick is actually part of the Aire Valley corridor along with Bingley, Shipley and Baildon. The geographic distance and lack of transport links means it would also be difficult for a councillor to represent the two areas, particularly in winter months, which contradicts the whole purpose of the process to improve democratic equality.

Consequently, we rejected this alternative in favour of the above proposal to transfer Ben Rhydding from Ilkley into Wharfedale and transfer Addingham (9A) into Ilkley due to the vastly superior geographic and community links.

This leaves Craven, Ilkley and Wharfedale with electorates within the desired range, with the exception of Craven's 11,805 being just eight electors short of the minimum 11,813. However, if this is not acceptable the additional solution would be to draw the boundary between Craven and Ilkley wards at the A65 near the junction with the A6034 to leave properties on Crossbank Road and Turner Lane within Craven.

Baildon, Bingley

Bingley is forecast to be the largest ward in the district by 2029 with 15,721 electors, 20% above the target figure, so it would make sense that any change would reduce rather than increase its electorate. As mentioned above, we considered transferring Eldwick (2C) to Wharfedale ward, but we rejected this as it would have recreated, in part, the former unpopular Rombalds ward. There is no compelling case to transfer Eldwick to Wharfedale. There are no clear transport links between the communities, residents in Eldwick have no connection to Wharfedale and geographically the main residential areas of the communities are separated by several miles across moorland. We then considered transferring Eldwick to Baildon ward, but this would have increased the size of Baildon to 15,432. That is why we settled on our proposal to retain as much of Eldwick (around half, i.e. 1,193 electors) within the community to which it is integrally linked, Bingley, and to move the other half into Baildon, which is geographically closer and better linked to the section of Eldwick that our proposal outlines.

Consequently, we propose that polling district 2C in Bingley should be divided between Bingley and Baildon wards. Around 44% of the electors in 2C live in a geographically compact area adjacent to polling district 2H (Gilstead). There are close community links between the west side of Eldwick and Gilstead – Eldwick Primary School is in fact in polling district 2H. The east side of 2C will transfer to Baildon ward which we propose should be renamed Baildon & Eldwick. A list of the streets that would transfer to the new Baildon & Eldwick ward is attached (Appendix 1). This transfer would reduce the size of Bingley ward to 14,357, which means it should be below the maximum of the range by 2029.

When discussing this proposal with Baildon town councillors, they also raised the anomaly of the ward boundary between Baildon and Shipley on Green Lane where polling district 22A borders 1F. We propose that this can be rectified by instead continuing the boundary along the length of Green Lane which would on the current register transfer 95 electors on Milner Road and Green Lane from 22A to 1F. These changes would increase the size of

Baildon & Eldwick ward to 14,334 which again allows some scope for further growth by 2029. Shipley ward would have 12,698 electors which means it remains within the range.

Shipley

As discussed above, we are proposing a small change to Baildon's boundary with Shipley which will result in the transfer of 95 electors on Milner Road and Green Lane from Shipley to the new Baildon & Eldwick ward. This is to correct the anomaly of the existing ward boundary not following the clear road boundary.

Windhill & Wrose

The Windhill & Wrose ward is projected to be within the required range of electors. We believe the changes made in the 2004 review proved effective and viable as the ward in its current form continues to meet the LGBCE's key criteria. It has a clear boundary with Shipley ward formed by the railway line. Shipley rail station is at the other side of that boundary in Shipley ward. Therefore we have avoided proposing any changes to Windhill & Wrose.

Bingley Rural, Worth Valley

Turning to Worth Valley ward which is projected to be 388 electors below the minimum ward size in 2029. The options for resolving this are constrained by the geography of the ward, which is on the edge of the Pennines bordered by North Yorkshire, Lancashire and Calderdale. One option would be to transfer a larger part of Keighley West ward, however we believe that the ward boundaries of the three Keighley town wards should remain mainly unchanged from those settled in the 2004 review. In addition, Worth Valley is a predominantly rural ward whilst Keighley West is primarily urban. We do believe however that Goose Eye which forms a natural community should be brought within one ward, so the small part currently in Keighley West should be moved within Worth Valley.

We also propose the more substantial transfer of the two Denholme polling districts 3G and 3H from Bingley Rural ward to Worth Valley. Although this involves crossing a parliamentary constituency boundary, Denholme has a similar semi-rural nature to the towns in Worth Valley with good road links to Cross Roads, Haworth and Oxenhope.

These changes would increase the size of the Worth Valley electorate to 14,428 by 2029.

This also addresses the issue that the current Bingley Rural ward is projected to be 1,111 above the maximum ward size by 2029.

Keighley West, Keighley East, Keighley Central

As stated above, the existing Keighley West, Keighley East and Keighley Central wards are all forecast to be close to the ward average of electors. Our consideration of these wards has

concluded that they strongly fit the LGBCE criteria for electoral equality, interests and identities of local communities, and effective and convenient local government. We are not therefore recommending any major change to the warding arrangements of these three Keighley wards. We provide further detailed reasons for this conclusion below.

However the only minor change we recommend is that described in the Worth Valley section above to ensure that the whole of Goose Eye is brought together into one ward. Under the existing ward arrangements, Goose Eye is already partly in 29G, so it makes sense to have the whole of Goose Eye in Worth Valley given that Goose Eye forms a natural community and it makes sense for its ward identity to be undivided by bringing the small number of these electors from Keighley West into Worth Valley.

Below we set out our further reasoning as to why we decided against more disruptive changes to the Keighley town wards, having carefully considered all alternatives. These reasons are in addition to the fact that Keighley East, West and Central in their current form already have the required number of electors.

Keighley East: The river and rail line are natural boundaries in the lower half of the ward, and this is understood by and easily explained to residents. Furthermore cutting in half an established community such as Upper Riddlesden (16A), for example, would not be welcomed by residents of the village, who are actively knitted to Riddlesden – there is an Anglican church, events hall, Methodist church and pub that see their identity as Riddlesden. The way the churches are set up in their hierarchy very much consider themselves as Riddlesden. The current boundary of Silsden Road for this electoral box is a boundary that makes sense – housing in Riddlesden finishes there and the rural road from there then turns into Craven.

Similarly looking at Stockbridge (16E), many residents there are highly politically aware and are happy to be in Keighley East. They are proud of this and active in their relationship with the council. There are also good community cohesion and diversity grounds to retain Stockbridge in Keighley East – 16E is ethnically rich and diverse with white British residents and a good number British Asian residents. This is the only electoral box within the ward that has a significant Asian community, and moving it would mean Keighley East would become much less diverse, so less reflective of the wider town. Ward councillors and residents are proud of the diverse community in Keighley East and work hard on community cohesion and integration. Any changes to Keighley East would be detrimental to the lifeblood of the ward and would dramatically change its make-up.

Keighley Central: we again feel that wholesale changes would have a detrimental impact on the diversity and community cohesion that has been diligently fostered in the ward over a number of years. The interests and identities of local communities therefore add considerable weight in this instance to retaining the ward in its current form. When we have looked at potential changes, we have seen that they would diminish the diversity of the ward. Keighley Central in its current form has made commendable progress in integrating different communities, promoting cultural exchange and building strong links among residents. It comprises of a rich mix. On the one hand there are large detached properties housing residents with higher than average income levels; social housing estates; and small

private terrace houses in the town centre, exactly what a diverse cohesive place should include. The deliberate efforts to enhance community integration and promote diversity whilst sharing a ward-based profile would be compromised by alternative changes. Community links and the balanced diversity of the ward play a crucial role in maintaining harmony and fostering understanding among residents. Any drastic changes to the ward boundaries would need to take into account the impact on these links and the potential for disruption, hence our strong preference for maintaining the current boundaries.

In addition, the residents of 15H for example within Keighley Central have strong geographical links to the local secondary schools that lie within the Central ward, to the parks in the area and also to the proximity to the town centre they share with the rest of the ward. Conversely, residents next door in 16E in Keighley East, have a large proportion of young residents who depend on secondary schools to the East side and beyond.

Keighley West: In the previous sections we set out our rationale for rebalancing the electorates of Craven, Ilkley and Wharfedale in the optimum way to retain or enhance natural community links. This means that there is no need to make artificial incisions to the communities of Keighley West and Craven to destabilise these two communities. Each of these has its own distinct community. It would not make sense for the natural village of Steeton, for instance, to become part of Keighley. On the other side Laycock and Braithwaite in Keighley West form a natural group. Residents in 17H largely link in with Laycock for example in terms of schooling. 17H includes Braithwaite village, a natural extension of Laycock (17J). The other part of 17H is essentially part of the Braithwaite estate. Half of the Barratt's estate is currently 17G, the top part is 17H on the boundary with the neighbouring ward of Worth Valley. There might be a temptation to move 17H to Worth Valley but then that would not make sense as it would be to split a natural community, only just built. Again it would be unjustified to disrupt the interests and identities of local communities when there is no need to do so. Moving 17A and 17B to the neighbouring ward of Keighley East would break up the community of that area, remove the last Anglican church and the only community resources in Keighley West – the Sue Belcher Centre and St Michael's. Halifax Road and the River Worth form the ward boundaries. Losing 17A and 17B to Keighley East would cross that boundary. The other boundary of West Lane is also a very real one. To make changes across these boundaries would therefore greatly diminish the sense of community of the Keighley East ward. Having weighed the alternatives, we believe it is not justified or necessary to do so. We therefore propose only the minor revision to Keighley West described above, to bring the whole of Goose Eye together into one ward, Worth Valley.

Great Horton

Ward BS01 comprising current polling districts 11A through 11G and part of current polling district 27A. Our proposed Great Horton ward is essentially the current Great Horton ward (Ward 11) with minor changes. The South East boundary is redrawn taking in part of the current polling district 27A from the current Wibsey ward (Ward 27). Streets moving into the new ward from the current Wibsey ward (27) are shown in the following table:

STREET	FROM	ELECTORS
ENFIELD DRIVE	27A (Wibsey)	26
ENFIELD PARADE		75
ENFIELD WALK		61
KENLEY AVENUE		30
KENLEY MOUNT		60
MOORE AVENUE (Odd nos. 105 to 137 inc.)		28
TOTAL		280

The proposed changes ensure the community connections and identity of the established Great Horton ward (Ward 11) are maintained with a minimum of change. It also brings Great Horton closer to the target figure of electors.

Queensbury

Ward BS02 comprising current polling districts 20A through 20J. Queensbury ward is the current Queensbury ward (Ward 20) with no changes. This maintains the recognised identity of Queensbury village and ensures the community connections remain. Queensbury in its current form is also within 1% of the optimal number of electors meaning there is no need for change.

Royds

Ward comprising current polling districts 21A, 21 B, 21C, 21D (part) 21E (part), 21F, 21G, 21H. Royds ward (BS03) is essentially the current Royds ward (Ward 21) with minor changes. These changes redraw the boundary with current Wibsey ward (Ward 27) around Wibsey Park down the centre of Reevy Avenue and along the centre of Reevy Road. Part of current polling district 21D and 21E move to the new BS05 – Wibsey & Odsal ward. This maintains the recognised identity of the communities of Buttershaw, Horton Bank Top, Woodside and Low Moor.

Tong

Ward BS04 comprising current polling districts: 5F, 25B (part), 25C, 25D, 25E, 25F, 25G. Tong retains the whole of Holme Wood, the largest recognised community, of the current Tong ward (Ward 25) and incorporates the whole of current polling district 5F from the current Bowling & Barkerend ward (ward 5). It establishes a western boundary south of Rooley Lane, down the centre of Bierley Lane and Shetcliffe Lane. These minor changes bring the number of electors closer to the target figure.

Wibsey & Odsal (formerly Wibsey)

Ward BS05 comprising current polling districts: 21D (part), 21E (part), 27A (part), 27B, 27C, 27D, 27E, 27F, 27G, 27H, 27J, 30A, 30B (part). The new Wibsey & Odsal ward retains the main settlement and community of Wibsey from the current Wibsey ward (Ward 27). At the western boundary it incorporates parts of current polling districts 21D and 21E from the current Royds Ward (Ward 21) around Wibsey Park. At the eastern boundary the new ward incorporates the whole of current polling district 30A and parts of current polling district 30B from the current Wyke ward (Ward 30), around Odsal Top and Odsal stadium. At the western boundary it incorporate parts of current polling districts 21D and 21E from the current Royds Ward (Ward 21) around Wibsey Park. Streets moving into the new BS05 Wibsey and Odsal Ward from the current Royds ward (21) and the current Wyke ward (Ward 30) are shown in the following table:

STREET	FROM	ELECTORS
PARK SQUARE	21D (Royds)	29
REEVY ROAD (Even nos 130 to 156 inc.)		27
WIBSEY PARK AVENUE (Even nos. 62 to 68 inc.)		6
ASH CROFT	21E (Royds)	34
COVER DRIVE		48
REEVY ROAD (Even nos 56 to 128 inc.)		41
TENNYSON ROAD		13
VICTORIA ROAD		36
WIBSEY PARK AVENUE (Odd nos. 89 to 161 inc.)		65
CLECKHEATON ROAD (Even nos. 2 to 100 inc.)		30B (Wyke)
GLENROYD AVENUE	82	
HUDDERSFIELD ROAD (Nos. 9, 11, and Capa Terr.)	16	
MCMILLAN GARDENS	40	
PEARSON ROAD	28	
TAYLOR ROAD	27	
WOODHOUSE TERRACE	5	
TOTAL		555

This maintains the recognised identity of the communities in Wibsey and brings the community around Odsal while also going some significant way to equalising electorate numbers in this part of the district with Wibsey's total electorate no longer an outlier.

Wyke & Bierley Woods (formerly Wyke)

Ward BS06 comprising current polling districts: 25A, 25B (part), 30B (part), 30C, 30D, 30E, 30F, 30G, 30H. The new Wyke and Bierley Woods ward retains the main settlement and community of Wyke from the current Wyke ward (Ward 30). It encompasses the community of Woodlands, which sits close to Oakenshaw, through the incorporation of the whole of current polling district 25A from the current Tong ward (Ward 25). It also incorporates part

of the current polling district 25B from the current Tong Ward (25), including the communities to the north west of Bierley accessed from Rooley Lane. These changes address the problem of the existing Wyke ward's relative low number of electors.

We gave serious consideration to this ward because it was a challenge to equalise electorate numbers in this part of the district while ensuring we met the other criteria, given the route of the M606 represents a challenge to any solution. On balance we settled on this proposal having noted that Woodlands and Oakenshaw are part of the same wider community, the bottom part of Wyke ward in Oakenshaw connecting along the waterways with Toad Holes Beck, naturally linking the green spaces to Woodlands along a green corridor that links those communities and into Bierley Woods. Our proposal also corrects the anomaly of the Euroway Industrial Estate straddling both Tong and Wyke, ensuring a cohesive economic area is brought into a single ward. Our pragmatic solution seeks to balance the need of equalising the electorate while supporting the community links of Woodlands and Oakenshaw villages connected along the green corridor.

Streets moving into the new Wyke and Bierley Woods ward from the current Tong Ward (25) are as follows:

STREET	FROM	ELECTORS
ALRED COURT	25 B (Tong)	54
ASHMORE GARDENS		23
BANNOCKBURN COURT		54
BELL HOUSE CRESCENT		27
BIERLEY HALL GROVE		41
BIERLEY LANE (Odd nos. 1 to 229, even nos. 24 – 154)		128
BOY LANE		20
BROUGHTON AVENUE		54
CRESTWOOD CLOSE		75
DELAWARE COURT		19
FIELDHURST COURT		67
GLENEAGLES CLOSE		43
GREENFIELD LANE		2
HOPEFIELD WAY		173
KNIGHTSBRIDGE WALK		107
LEXINGTON CLOSE		31
MEADOWCROFT RISE		64
MILL HOUSE RISE		26
NEWHALL GARDENS		46
NEWHALL PARK DRIVE		104
NEWHALL ROAD		4
PARKMERE CLOSE		31
RIDINGS CROFT		29
ROCKHILL LANE		36
ROOLEY LANE (Even Nos. 270 to 402 inc.)		37

SHELDON RIDGE		26
SHETCLIFFE LANE (Odd nos. 431 to 443 inc.)		7
SPEN CLOSE		6
SPEN VIEW LANE		40
THE FAIRWAY		30
TOTAL		1404

Bolton & Undercliffe, Bowling & Barkerend, Bradford Moor, Eccleshill, Idle & Thackley, Little Horton

These six wards in the Bradford East constituency are settled and make sense to residents as they are based on community neighbourhoods already defined and recognised. There is no need to cause unnecessary disruption to strong established communities if we can avoid doing so. As noted above, when we consulted with the opposition Conservative Group they agreed with all of our proposals in wards across the Bradford East and Bradford West constituencies.

The only proposed change is the removal of 5F from Bowling & Barkerend to Tong (in the Bradford South constituency). This neatly balances the number of electors in both wards, addressing the excess number in Bowling & Barkerend while maintaining a good figure for Tong whose numbers would otherwise reduce as 1,404 electors transfer from Tong to Wyke & Bierley Woods. This transfer of 5F from Bowling & Barkerend to Tong also brings the ward boundary into line with the new parliamentary boundary between Bradford East and South.

City, Clayton & Fairweather Green, Heaton & Frizinghall (formerly Heaton), Manningham, Thornton & Allerton, Toller

These six wards in the Bradford West constituency are based on recognised and established neighbourhoods. With the exception of City ward they are also all within 3-4% of the ideal electorate, meaning there is no need to disrupt established communities and the efficient operation of local government if we can avoid doing so. The only proposed changes therefore are the transfer of 7B from City to Manningham, which addresses the significant excess number in City very effectively while keeping Manningham's number within the required range at under 10% above. This has the benefit of restoring a part of the Manningham community back to Manningham ward from City ward. Most residents who live near Infirmary Fields, for example on Peel Square or Hallfield Road would consider themselves Manningham residents and are often surprised to be told they are part of City ward.

We are also suggesting a name change in Heaton ward to reflect the community in Frizinghall. This new name would be "Heaton and Frizinghall" – a naming that the ward councillors already use informally in their correspondence to reflect the community's wishes.

Concluding remarks

We have considered the need for electoral equality as the key driver behind our proposals and we have tried to apply the LGBCE criteria logically and fairly throughout. We believe our proposals successfully level out the numbers of electors per ward, and in particular rebalance the main outlying figures, while protecting community links and avoiding unnecessary wider disruption to successful and effective ward patterns. In instances where there has been a weighing up of competing requirements such as electoral equality, the interests of local communities and the need for effective local government, we have done so conscientiously and pragmatically. We submit this proposal as the most effective warding arrangement to best meet the needs of Bradford District residents into the future.

Appendix A

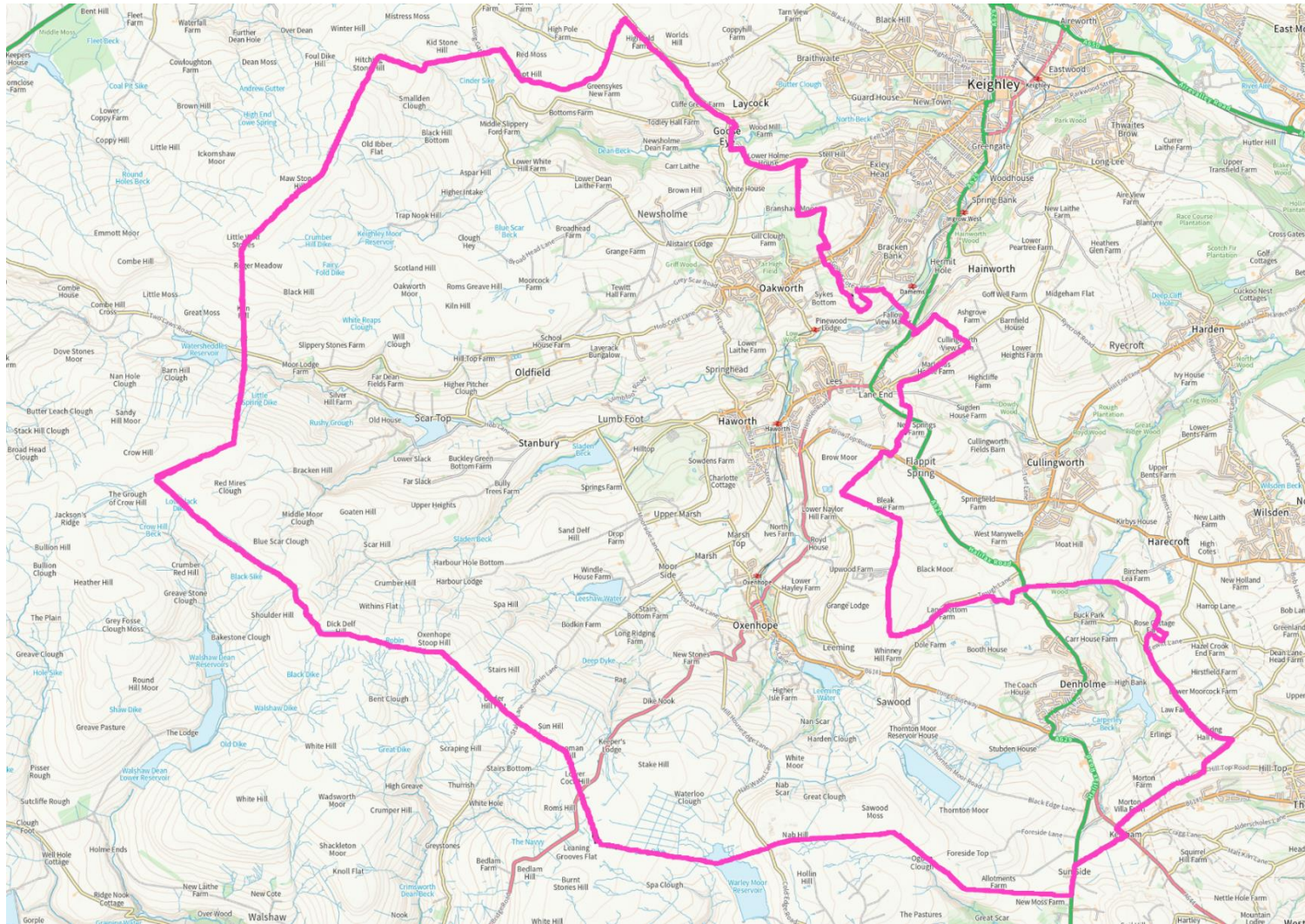
Streets in 2C (Eldwick) to transfer to Baildon & Eldwick ward

	Elector Count
Appleton Close	22
Beech Grove	19
Birch Close Lane	12
Bircham Close	13
Cropper Fold	8
Dalesway	60
Eldwick Beck	3
Eldwick Croft	7
Glen Road	94
Glen View Road	48
Glen Way	7
Heather View	9
Heatherville Close	12
Heights Lane	6
High Eldwick	43
Hunterscombe Court	9
Huntsmans Close	11
Landsmoor Grove	27
Lode Pit Lane	14
Low Springs	38
Lyndale Road	56
Mansfield Avenue	49
Moorland Avenue	38
Old Wood Lane	9
Otley Road	289

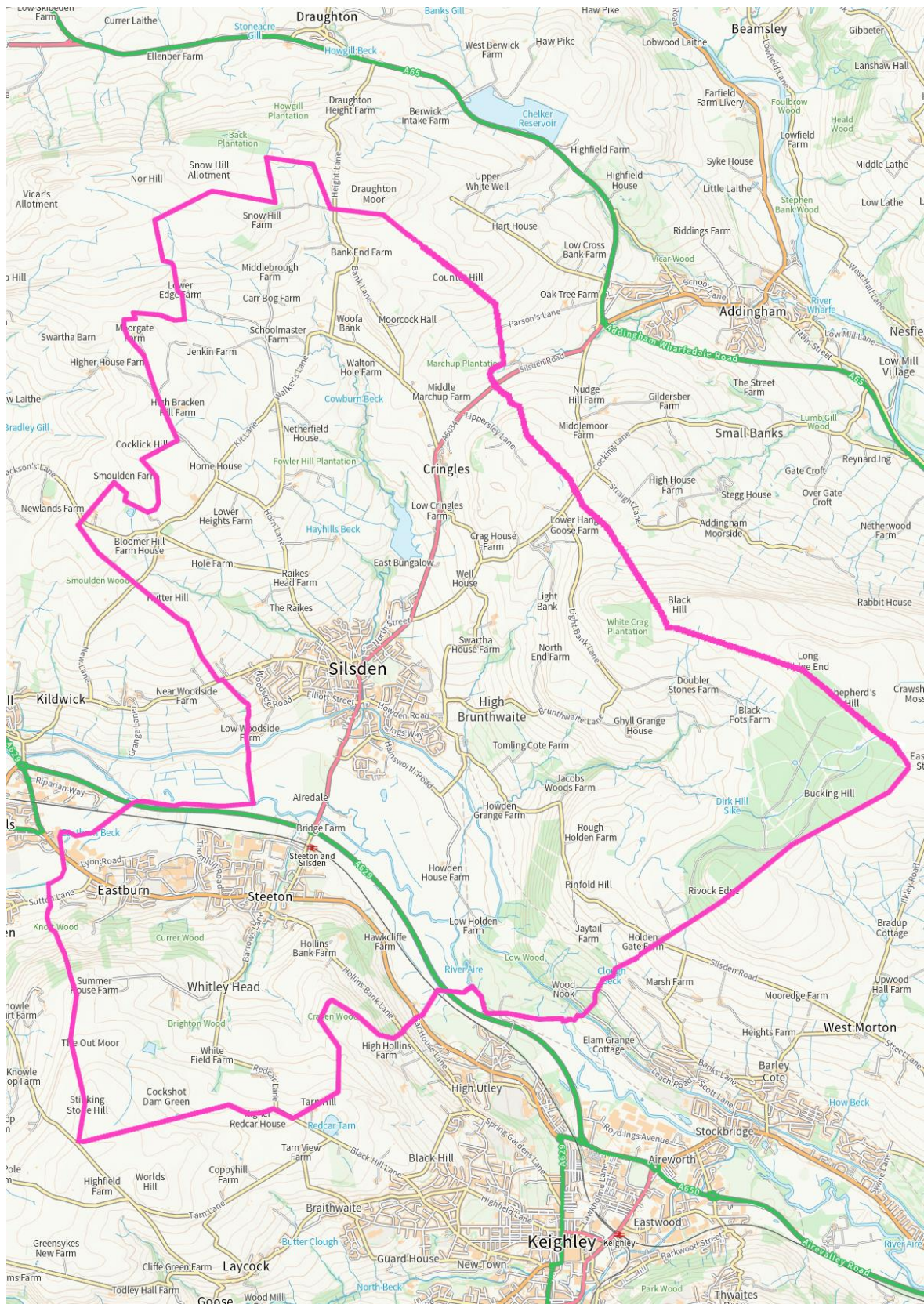
Paddock Lane	3
Pengarth	41
Pennygate	12
Prospect Road	21
Saltaire Road	36
Sheriff Court	19
Sheriff Lane	90
Sherwood Close	34
Southway - east of Mansfield Avenue	84
Spring Lane	31
Story Stones	14
The Green	20
West View	10
Westway	25
Willowtree Gardens	10
Woodlands Road	11
Total	1,364

Appendix B: maps of new ward boundaries

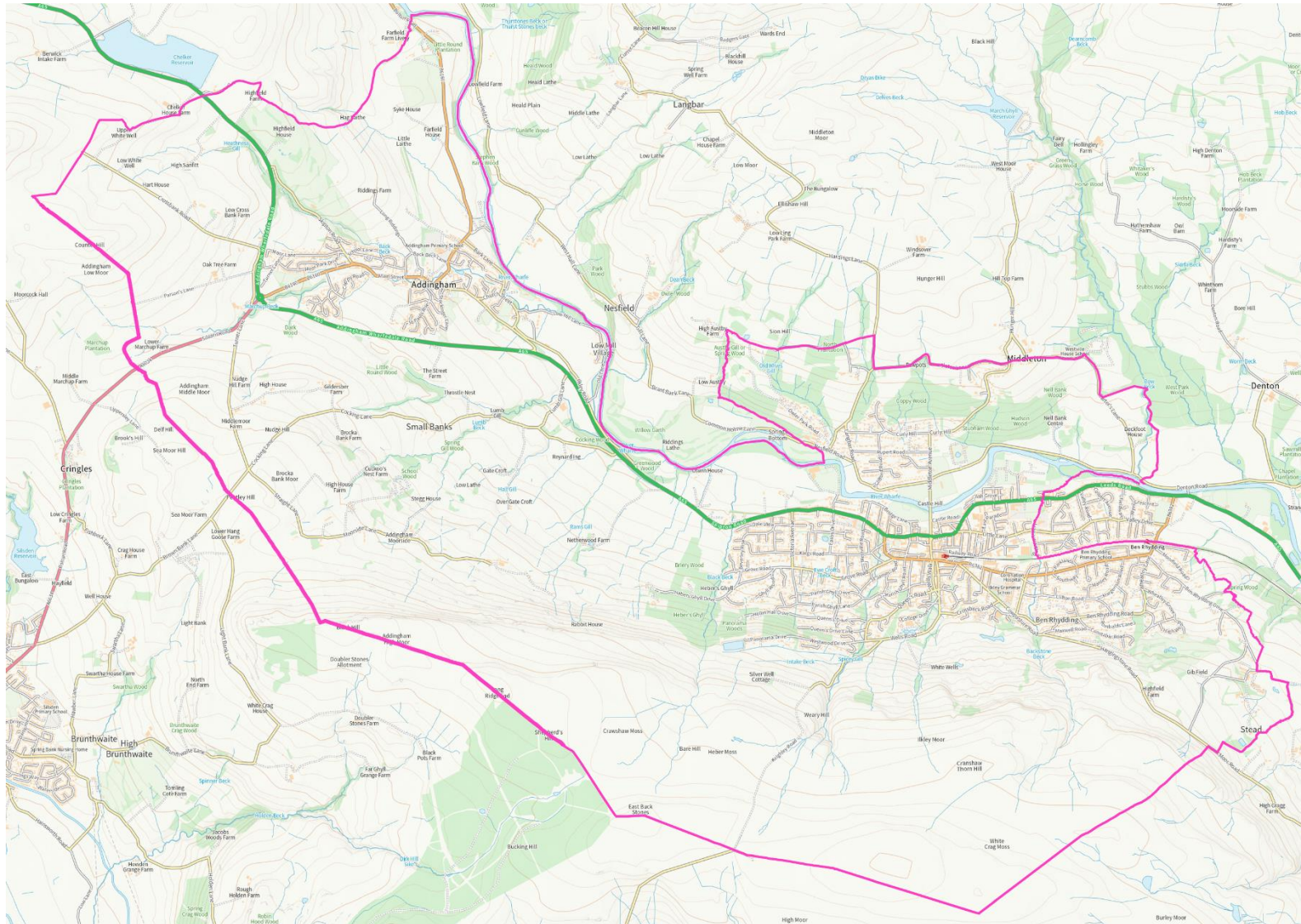
Worth Valley



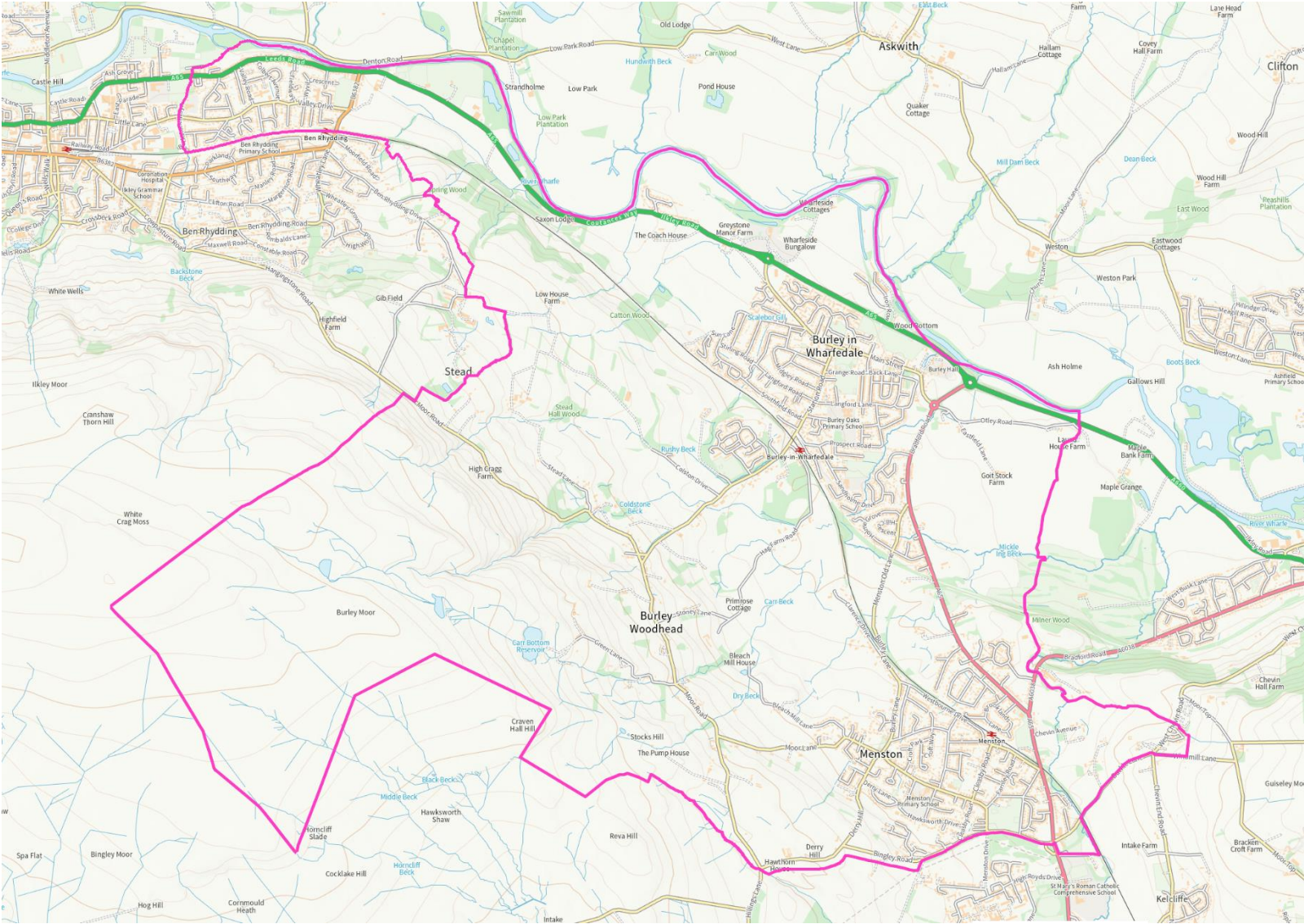
Craven



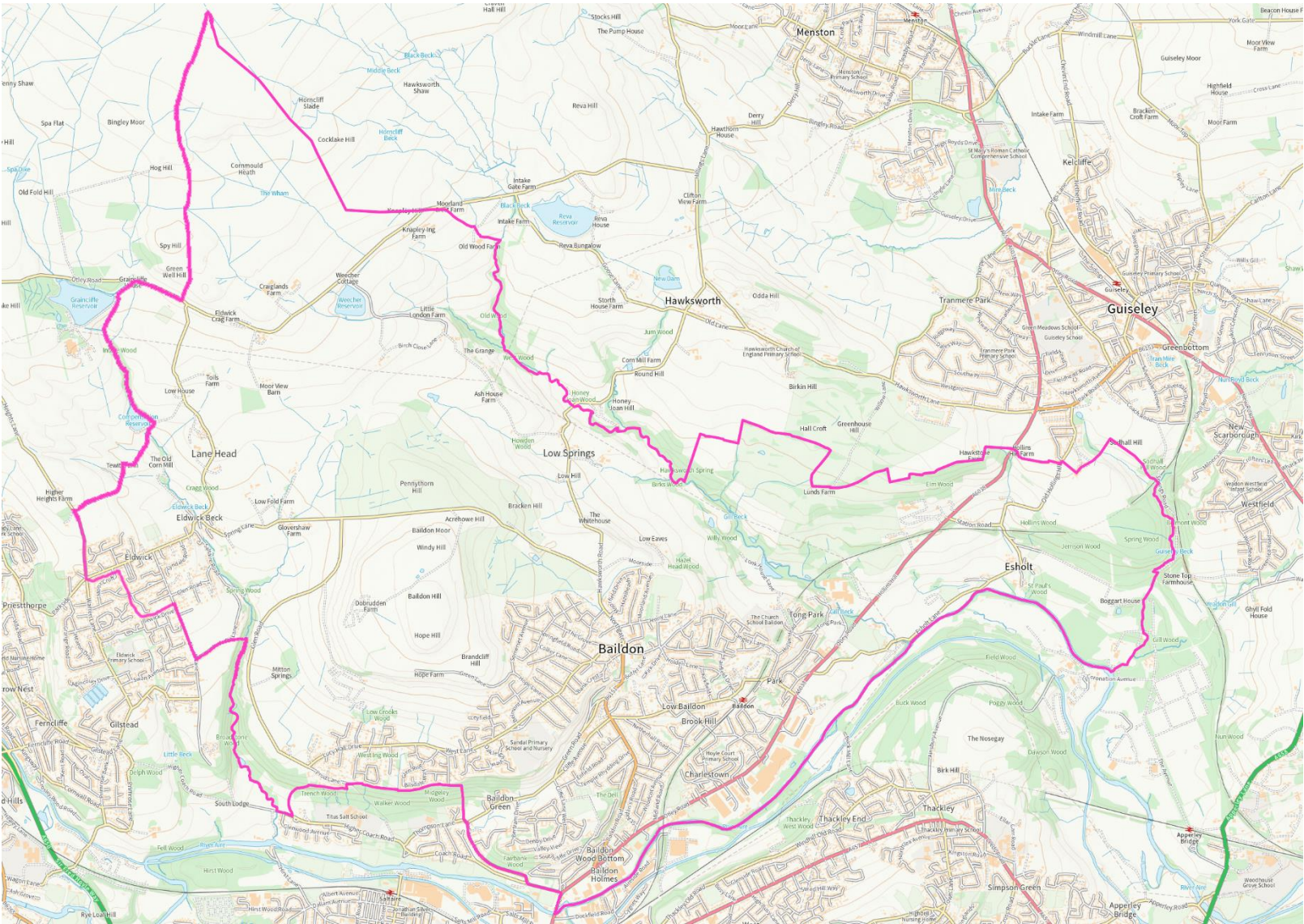
Ilkley



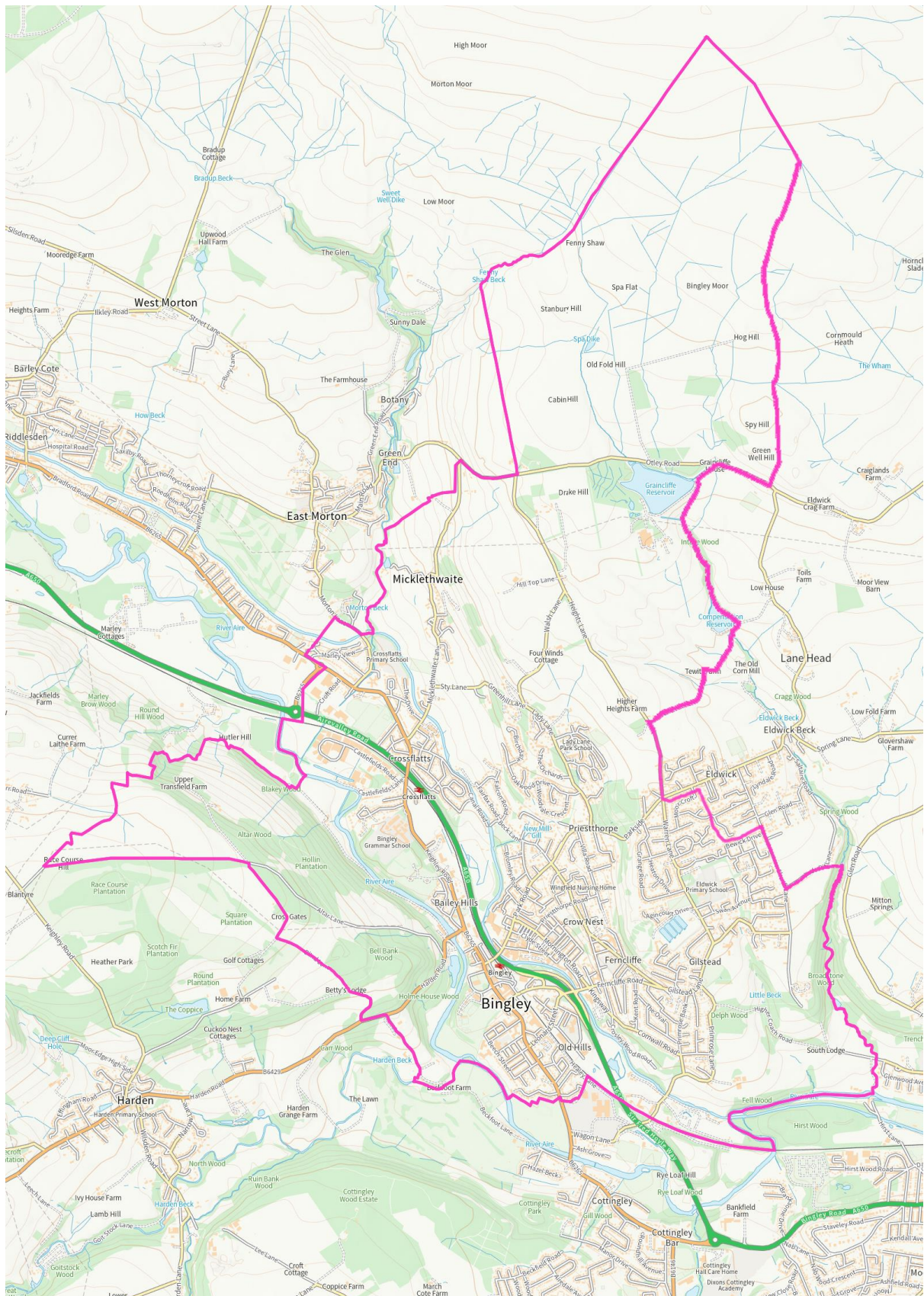
Wharfedale



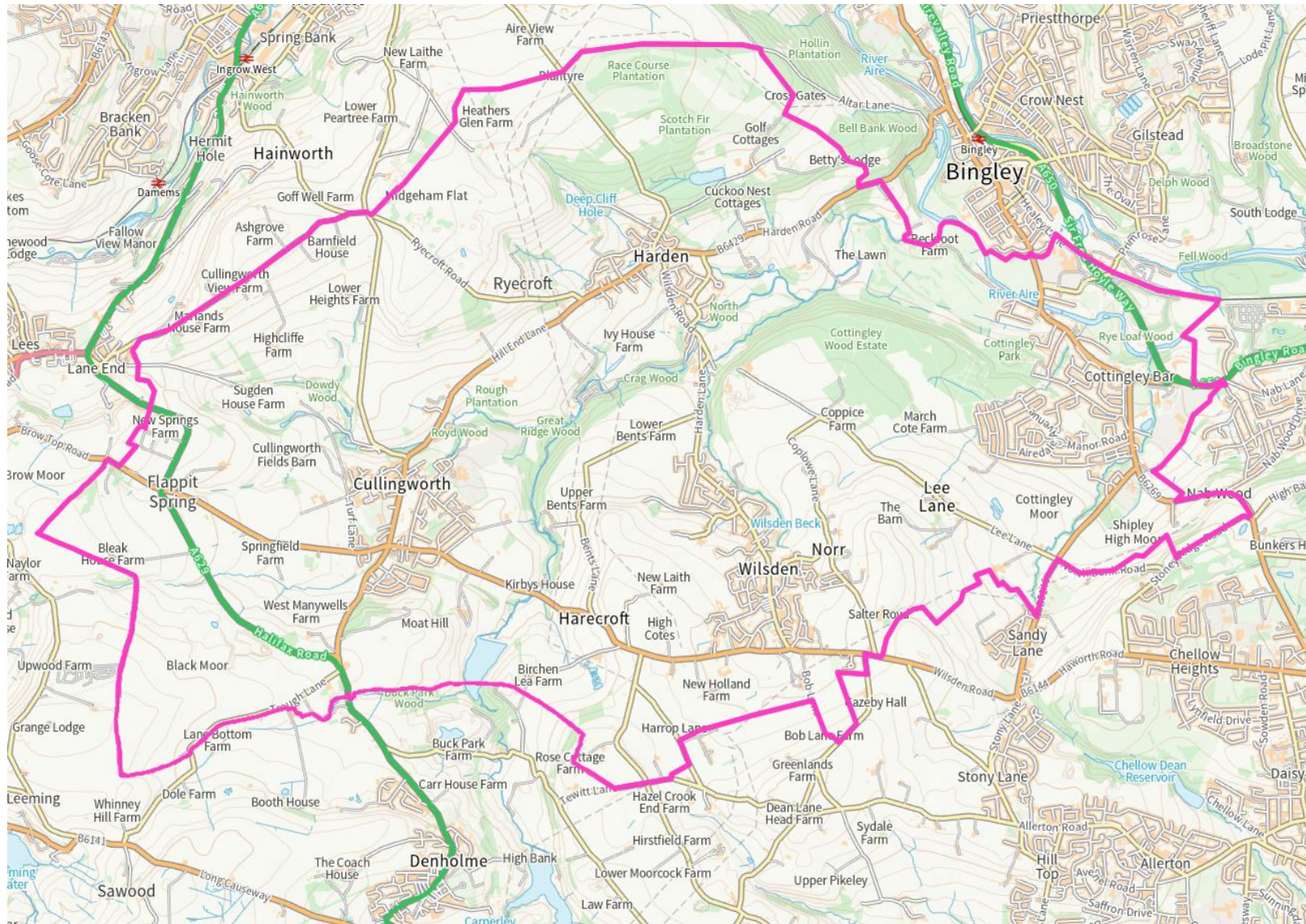
Baildon & Eldwick



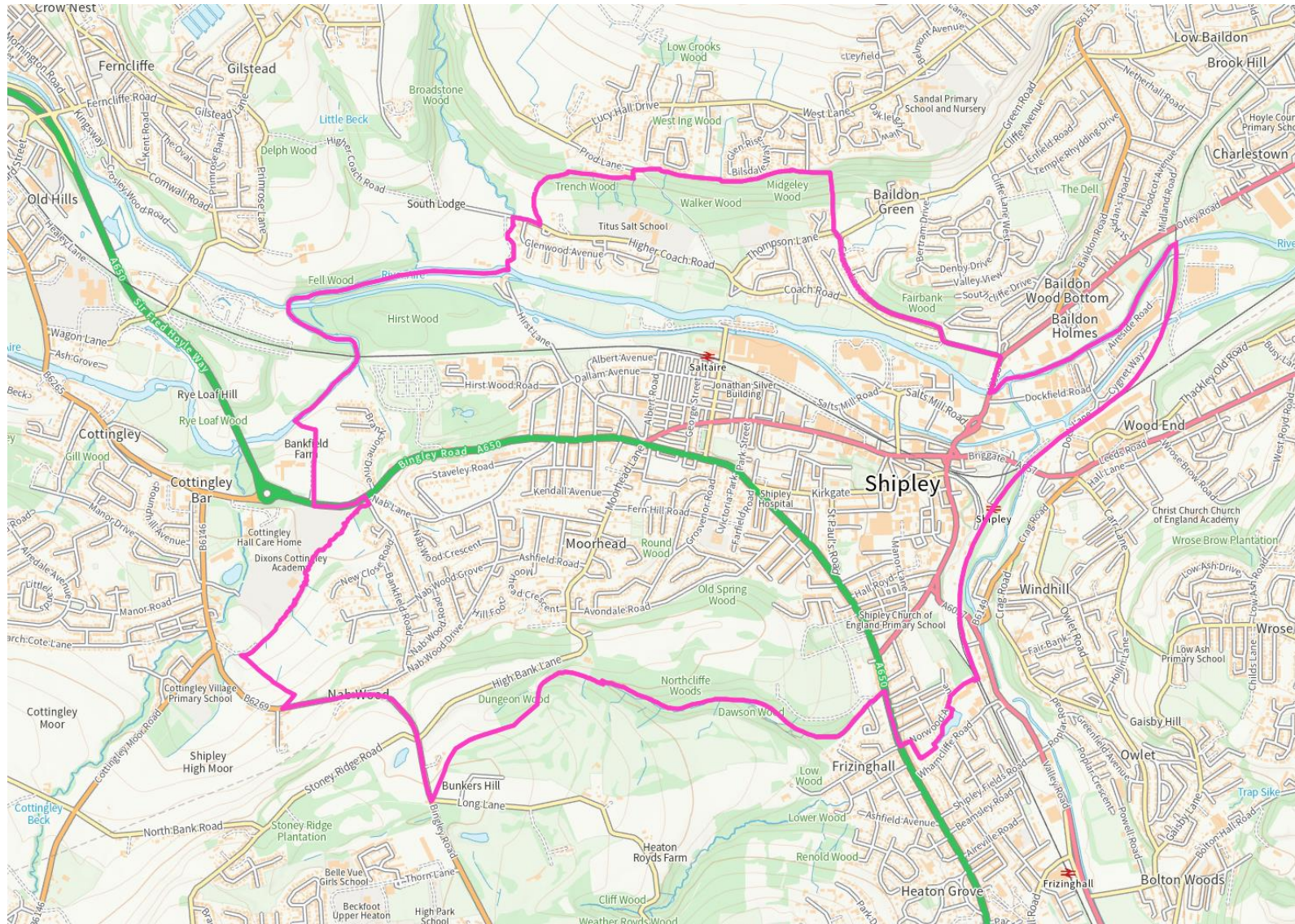
Bingley



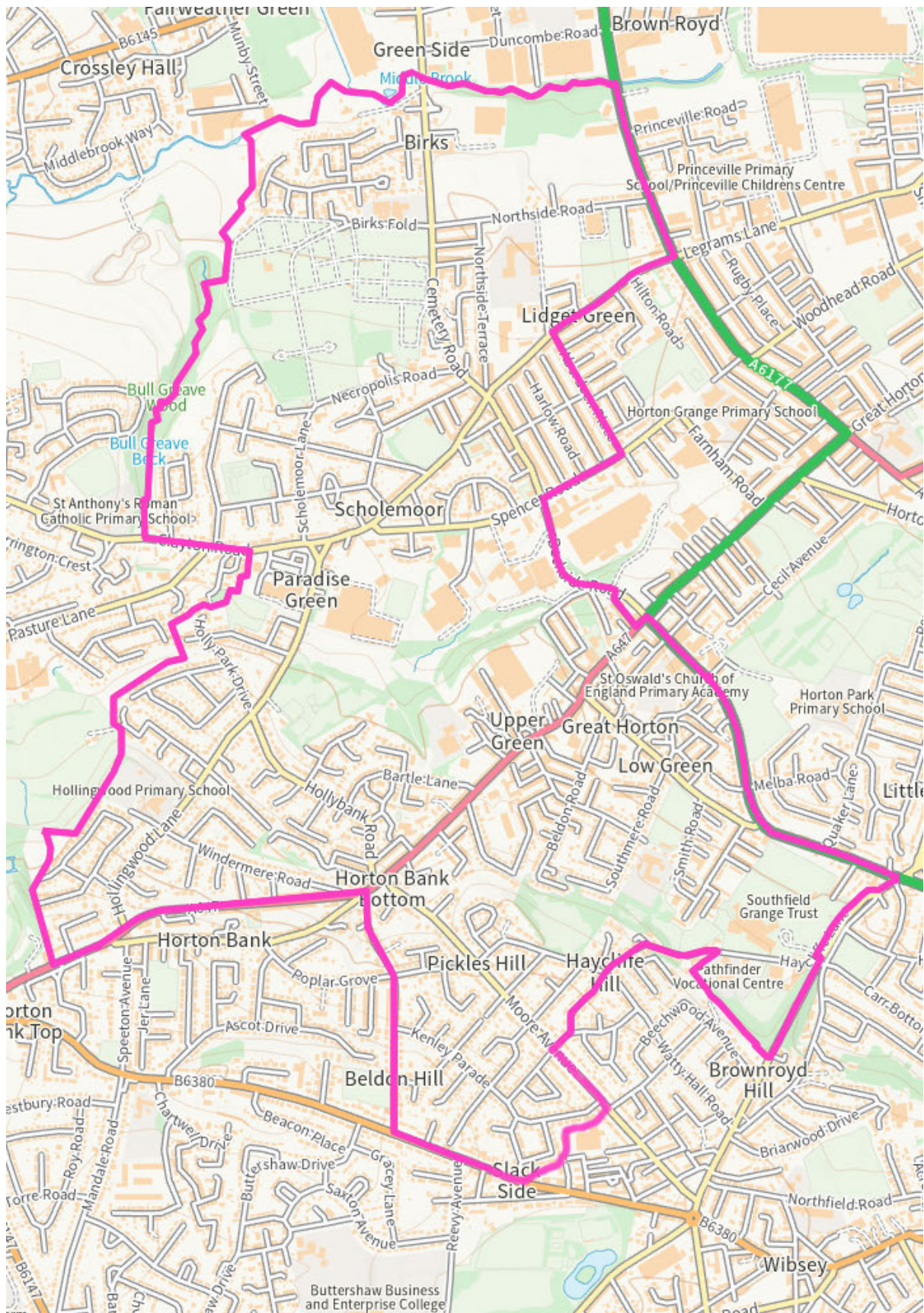
Bingley Rural



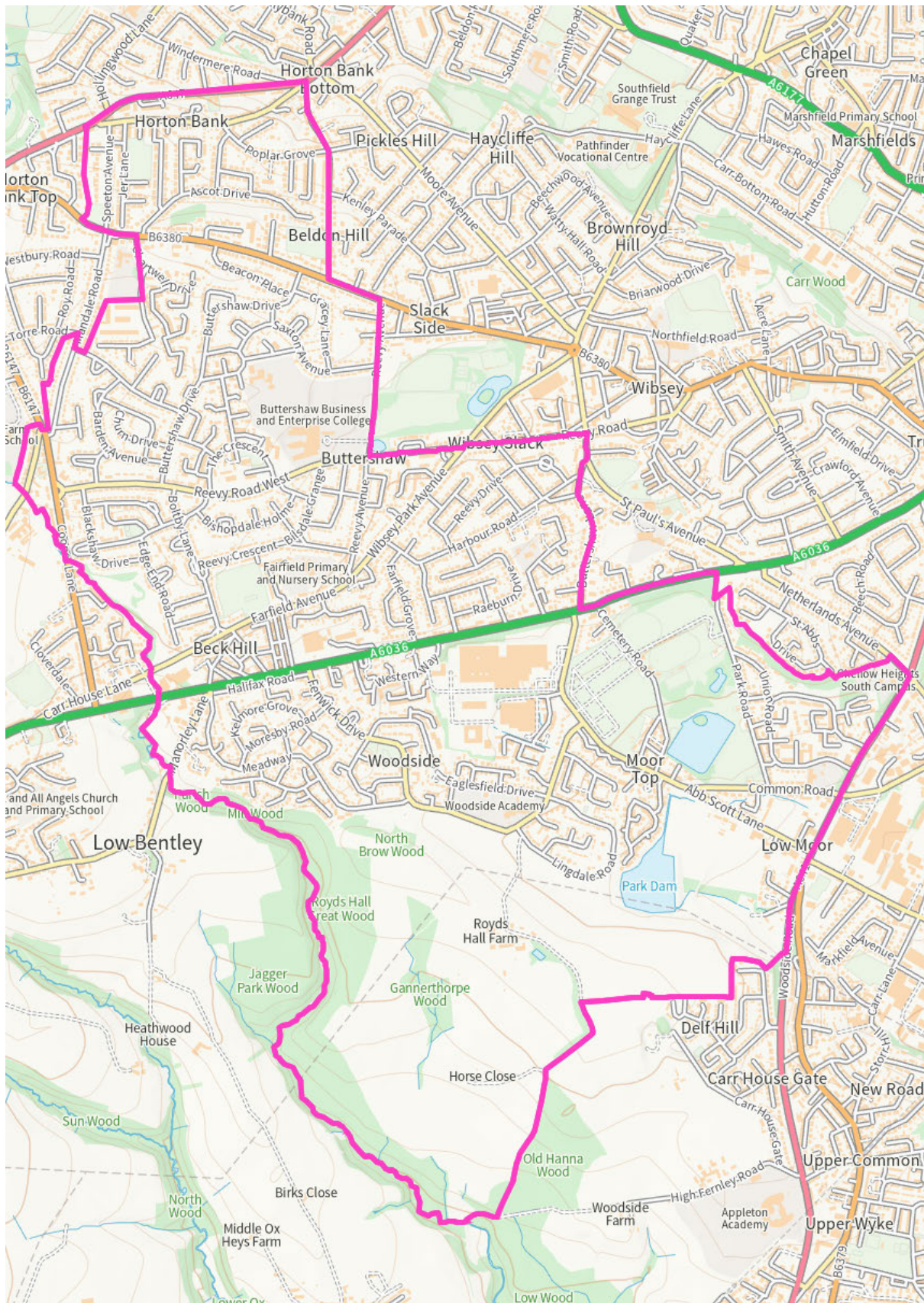
Shipley



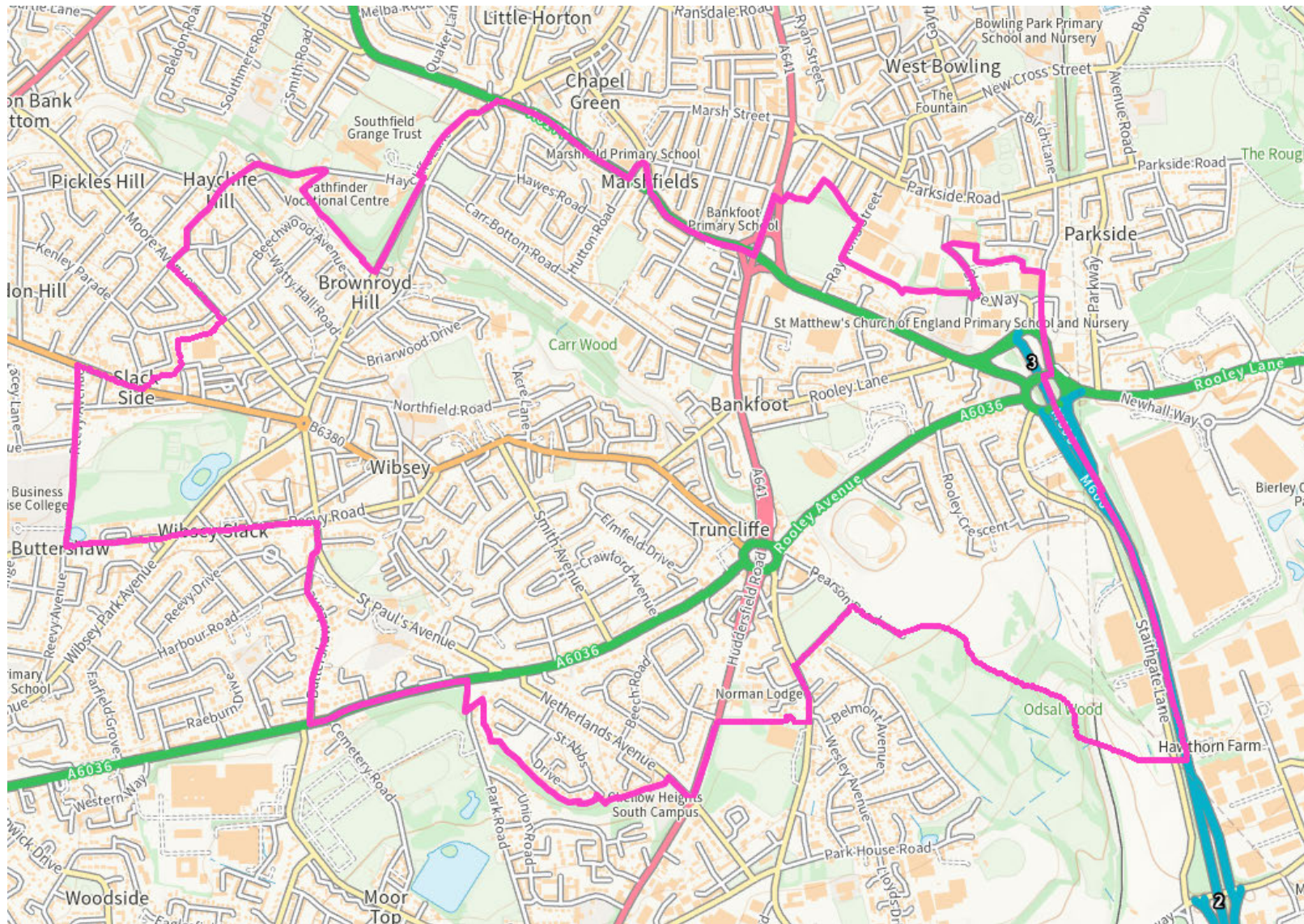
Great Horton



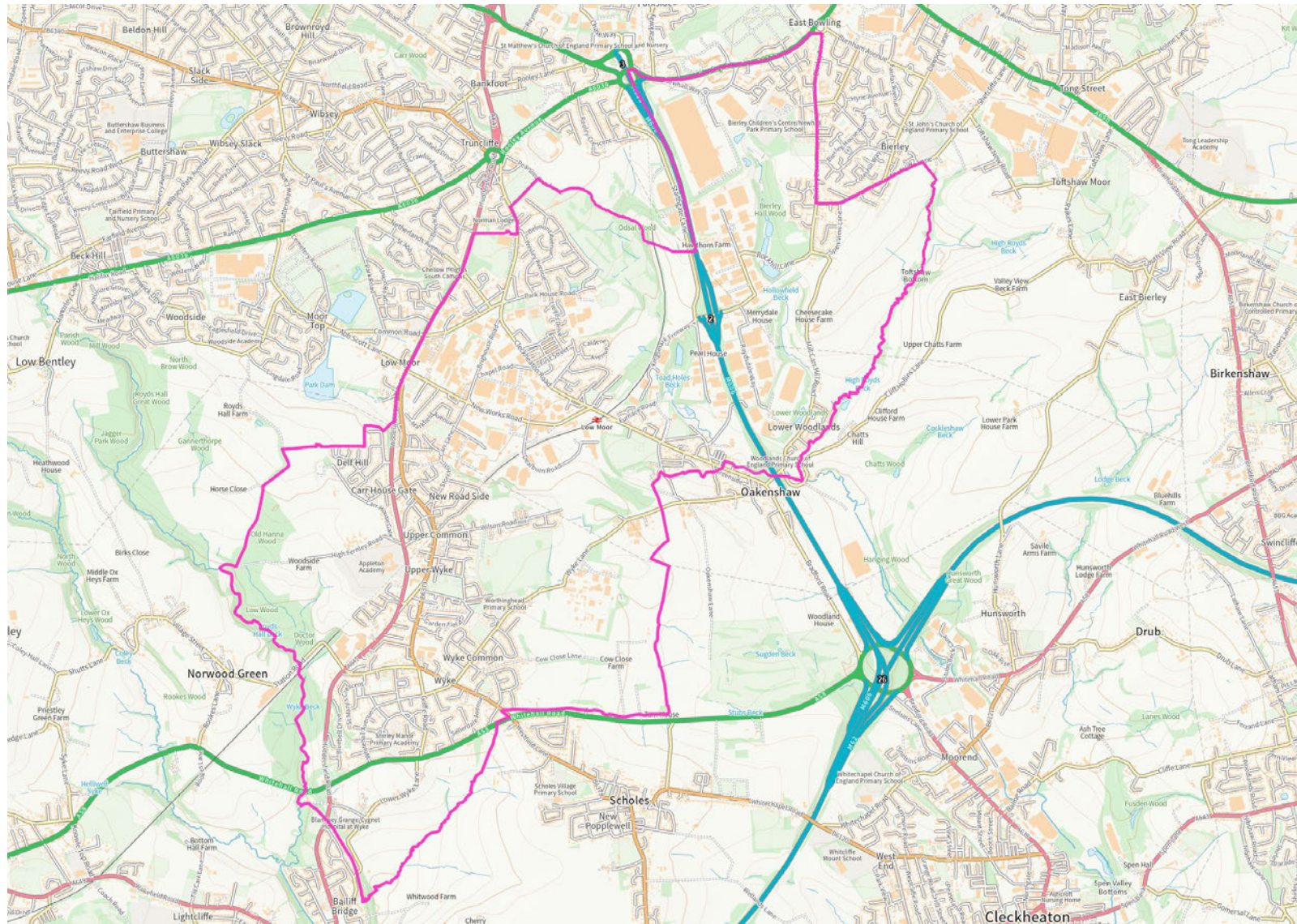
Royds



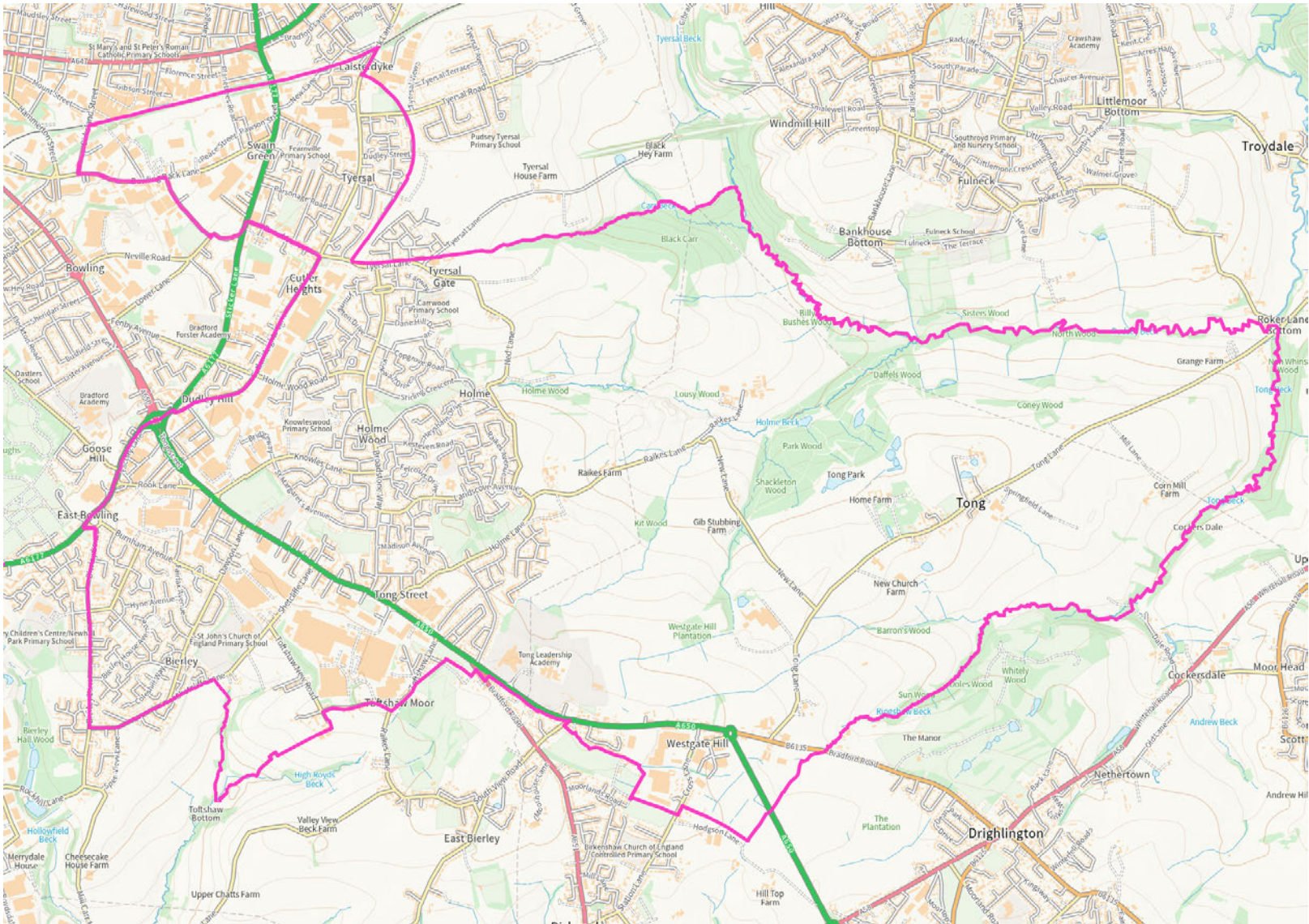
Wibsey & Odsal



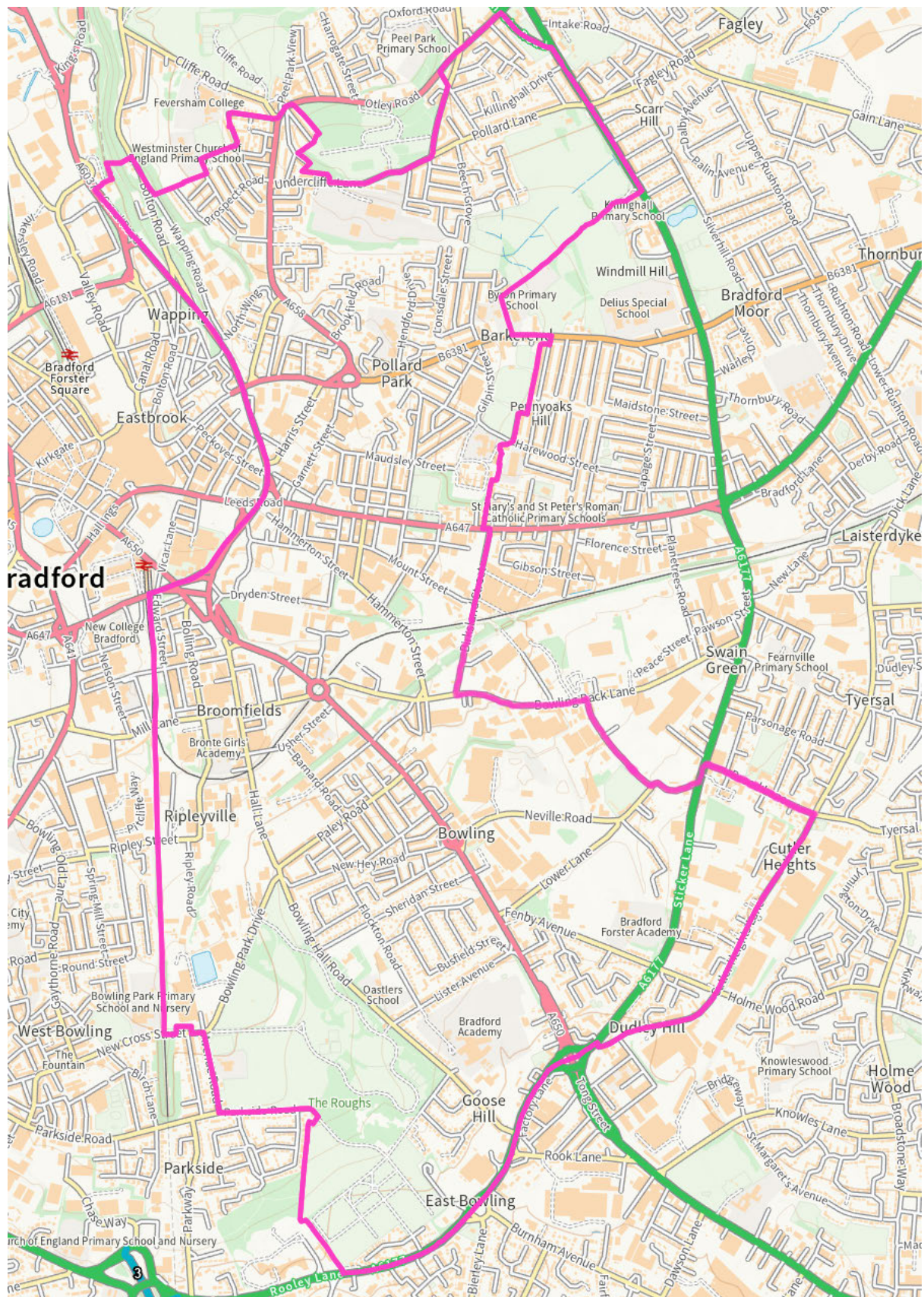
Wyke & Bierley Woods



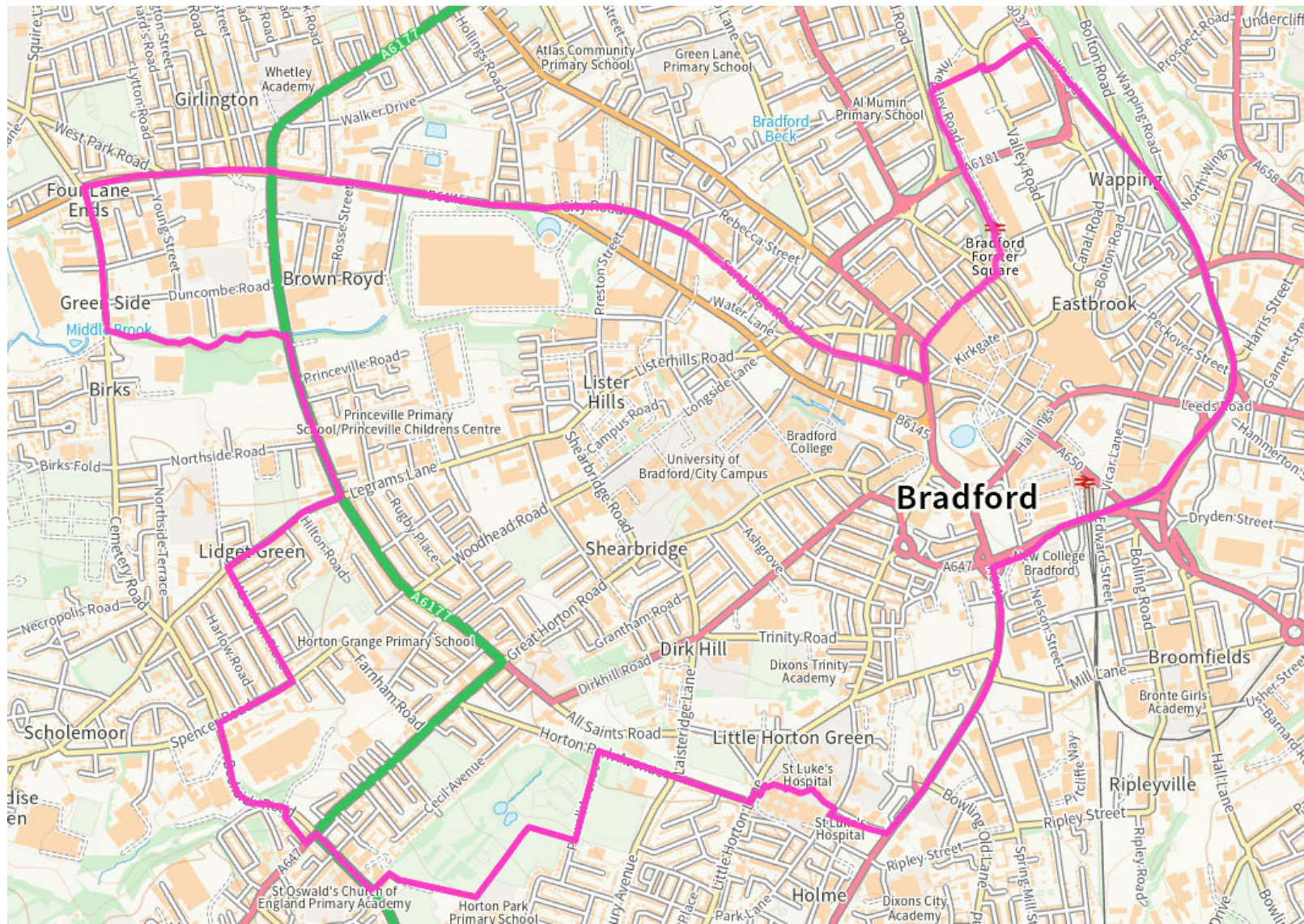
Tong



Bowling & Barkerend



City



Manningham

