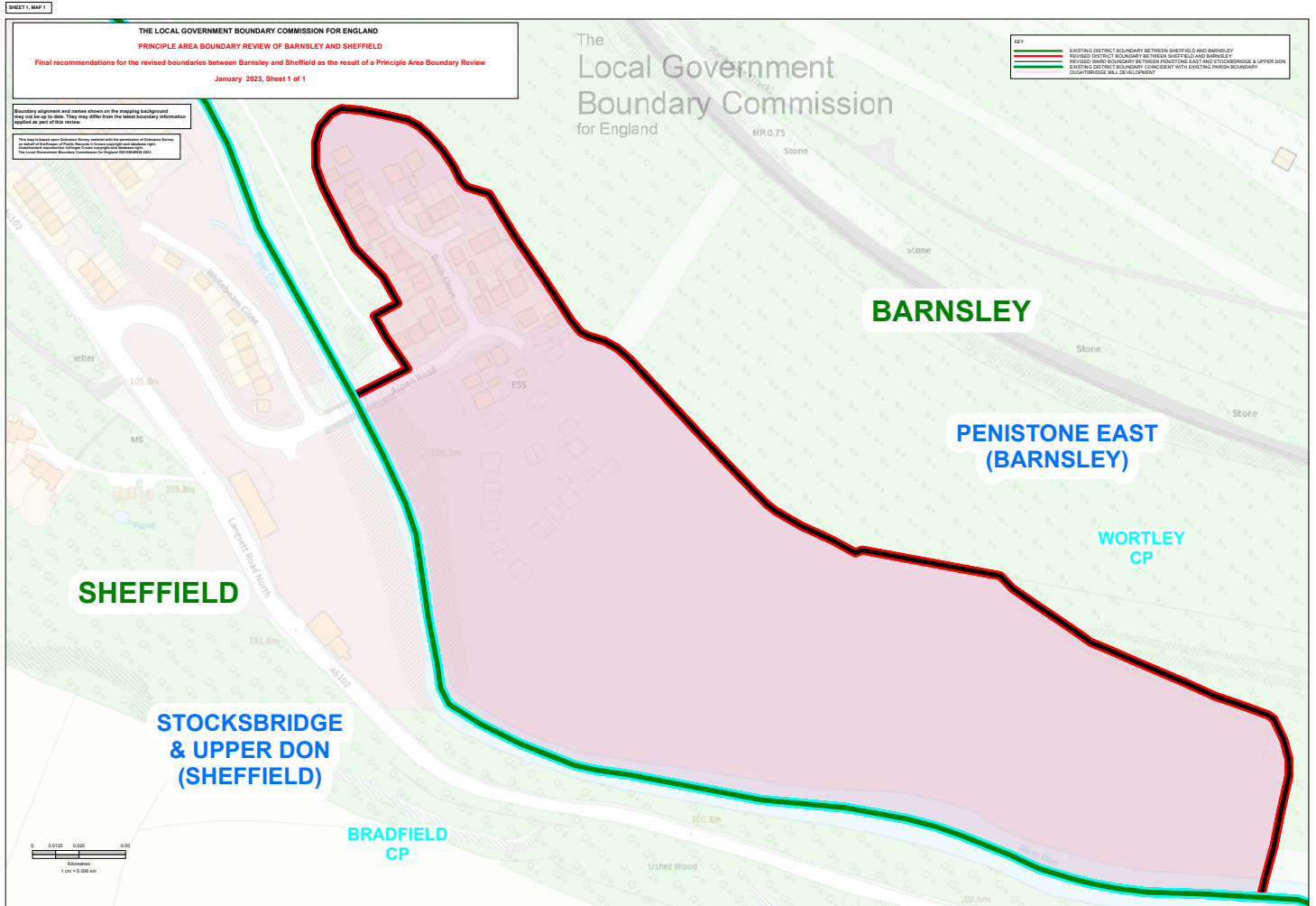


The Local Government Boundary Commission for England



Oughtibridge Mill - Principal Area Boundary Review

Final Recommendations

January 2023

Translations and other formats:

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A note on our mapping:

The maps shown in this report are for illustrative purposes only. Whilst best efforts have been made by our staff to ensure that the maps included in this report are representative of the boundaries described by the text, there may be slight variations between these maps and the large PDF map that accompanies this report, or the digital mapping supplied on our consultation portal. This is due to the way in which the final mapped products are produced. The reader should therefore refer to either the large PDF supplied with this report or the digital mapping for the true likeness of the boundaries intended. The boundaries as shown on either the large PDF map or the digital mapping should always appear identical.

Introduction

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body which conducts Principal Area Boundary Reviews (PABRs). These are reviews which consider the boundaries between principal authority areas.

2 The LGBCE conducted a PABR following a formal request for a review of the boundary in this area made jointly by Barnsley Council and Sheffield City Council, received on 14 April 2022. The review considered where the boundary between Barnsley Council and Sheffield City Council should be in the area around the Oughtibridge Mill development. Now we have completed our review, we have sent our final recommendations to the Secretary of State who will decide whether or not to implement them.

3 The existing district boundary runs along the River Don. A large part of the Oughtibridge Mill development is on the Barnsley Council side of the River Don boundary, with the remainder on the Sheffield City Council side of the river. Both local authorities have stated that, due to the geography of the local communities, and the existing road network, the impact of service demand from the new housing is likely to be felt in Sheffield, and that effective delivery of public services and other local government functions would be best delivered by Sheffield City Council.

4 In addition, the sole road access for the part of the Oughtibridge Mill development in Barnsley is across the River Don by means of a road bridge. As a result of the current boundary position, the existing and future electors in this part of the development would have no road access to the rest of the Barnsley Council area. According to information provided to us by both authorities, 12 properties within this development are currently occupied with a total of 284 dwellings and approximately 500 electors expected to occupy the site. However, the existing boundary means that the access for all the Barnsley residents in the affected properties is via Sheffield. A list of all properties currently affected and estimated future properties is provided in Appendix A.

5 We are confirming our draft recommendations as final and are proposing to the Secretary of State that the whole of the Oughtibridge Mill development be located in the Sheffield City Council area.

6 We conducted the review according to the timetable set out below:

Table 1: Timeframe for the PABR of Barnsley Council and Sheffield City Council

Key dates	Description
12 September 2022	LGBCE Board meeting to agree draft recommendations
27 September–7 November 2022	Consultation on draft recommendations
13 December 2022	LGBCE Board meeting to agree final recommendations
10 January 2023	Final recommendations sent to Secretary of State
10 January–7 February 2023	Four-week period of consultation (where submissions can be sent direct to Secretary of State)

Background and legislation

7 The aim of a PABR is to consider the existing boundaries in a particular local authority area and to make recommendations to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities to change (or in some cases, make recommendations *not* to change) the external boundaries between two or more principal authorities.

8 In considering whether (and, if so, what) boundary change is desirable, the legislation states that we must have regard to:

- the need to secure effective and convenient local government;
- the need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities.

The boundaries we recommend should also be identifiable, clear and long-lasting.

Electoral arrangements

9 If we recommend any boundary change, we must also recommend to the Secretary of State whether, as a consequence, a change should be made to:

- the electoral arrangements of the area of a local authority; and
- the electoral arrangements of the area of a parish council.

10 Electoral arrangements means:

- the total number of members to be elected to the council;
- the number and boundaries of electoral areas (wards or divisions) for the purposes of the election of councillors;
- the number of councillors for any electoral area of a local authority; and
- the name of any electoral area.

11 Our final recommendations for electoral arrangements are found in Table 2 on page 3 of this report.

The Secretary of State

- 12 Following receipt of our recommendations for a change to the boundary between the authorities, the Secretary of State may:
- accept and implement the change we recommend;
 - modify our recommendations and make an order to implement those modified changes;
 - take no action; or
 - request us to carry out another review.

Parish boundaries

13 We cannot make recommendations to the Secretary of State about whether or not to change a parish boundary. However, when we make our recommendations about the principal authority boundary (in this case, the district boundary), we may comment on and make suggestions to the Secretary of State on any consequential parish boundary changes they might wish to consider in implementing our recommendations. Our consideration of Wortley and Bradfield parishes is set out in paragraph 21.

Draft recommendations

14 On 27 September 2022 we published our draft recommendations for proposed changes to the boundary between Barnsley Council and Sheffield City Council in the area around the Oughtibridge Mill development. Our draft recommendations are outlined in Table 2 below.

Table 2

Draft recommendations (confirmed as final)

To realign the district boundary between Barnsley Council and Sheffield City Council, as outlined in Table 2 below and on the map in Appendix B of this report. Our draft recommendation is for the area in the shaded part of the map (Area A) to be transferred to Sheffield City Council.

We are also recommending that the ward boundaries are realigned so that they are coterminous with the revised district boundary and intend to comment to the Secretary of State that, in our view, the parish boundaries should also be coterminous with the revised district boundaries.

This will have the effect, if implemented, of transferring the entirety of all properties listed in Appendix A into Sheffield City Council and Stocksbridge & Upper Don ward.

Area	District from which omitted	Ward from which omitted	District to which added	Ward to which added
A	Barnsley	Penistone East	Sheffield	Stocksbridge & Upper Don

Final recommendations

Draft recommendations consultation

15 We received 19 responses to our draft recommendation consultation. Six of these submissions were from residents who identified themselves as living within the affected area. Five of these residents supported the transfer of the area from Barnsley to Sheffield. One resident was opposed.

16 In addition to these submissions, we also received responses from Bradfield Parish Council and Stocksbridge Town Council, Bradfield Parish Council is directly affected by the change whilst Stocksbridge parish is within the Stocksbridge & Upper Don ward whose boundary will be amended. Both councils supported the proposal.

17 Of the remaining 11 submissions, six were in favour of the proposed change and five were opposed. Those opposed stated opposition to what they considered would be the financial cost of the move based on land values and the services to be provided. Some objected to the name of the development, and one thought a larger area should be transferred.

District Council boundary

18 We have read the submissions and consider that the existing boundary between Barnsley Council and Sheffield City Council in the area around the Oughtibridge Mill development should be amended. We remain of the view that uniting all affected residential properties in the Oughtibridge Mill development, as detailed in Appendix A, into a single district, and ensuring that access to all affected properties is through the same council area, will provide for a better reflection of community identity and for more effective and convenient local government.

19 We noted the objections that were made but consider that all of these submissions related to issues around the development itself and outside the scope of this PABR.

Ward boundaries

20 Our final recommendation to change the district boundary in this area currently affects 12 households rising to 284 households by the end of the development build, as detailed in Appendix A. We consider that the transfer of electors between districts does not require any substantial change to the electoral arrangements in the area. We are therefore recommending only directly consequential electoral arrangements to ensure that the district ward boundaries in the area are coterminous with the new district boundary.

Parish boundaries

21 We recognise that the existing district boundary is also a parish boundary between Wortley parish in Barnsley and Bradfield parish in Sheffield. While we

cannot make direct recommendations relating to the parish boundary, we consider that changing the boundaries of Wortley and Bradfield parishes so that they are coterminous with the revised district boundary would provide for effective and convenient local government. We noted the support from both parish councils for this change.

22 We are highlighting this to the Secretary of State, who has the power to change the parish boundary at the same time as they make any changes to the district boundary.

Equalities

23 The Commission has looked at how it carries out reviews under the guidelines set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It has made best endeavours to ensure that people with protected characteristics can participate in the review process and is sufficiently satisfied that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.

What happens next?

24 We have now completed our review. It is now up to the Secretary of State to take a decision on whether to:

- accept and implement the change we recommend;
- modify our recommendations and make an order to implement those modified changes;
- take no action; or
- request us to carry out another review.

25 Before taking their decision there will be a four-week period for representations to be made to the Secretary of State about the proposed boundary change. This period will run from 10 January 2023 to **7 February 2023**. These can be sent to the Secretary of State at the following address:

Barnsley Sheffield Boundary Consultation
c/o GRAD
2nd Floor NE Corner Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
Email: BarnsleySheffieldBoundary@levellingup.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix A

List of properties on the Oughtibridge Mill development affected by the Barnsley and Sheffield PABR.

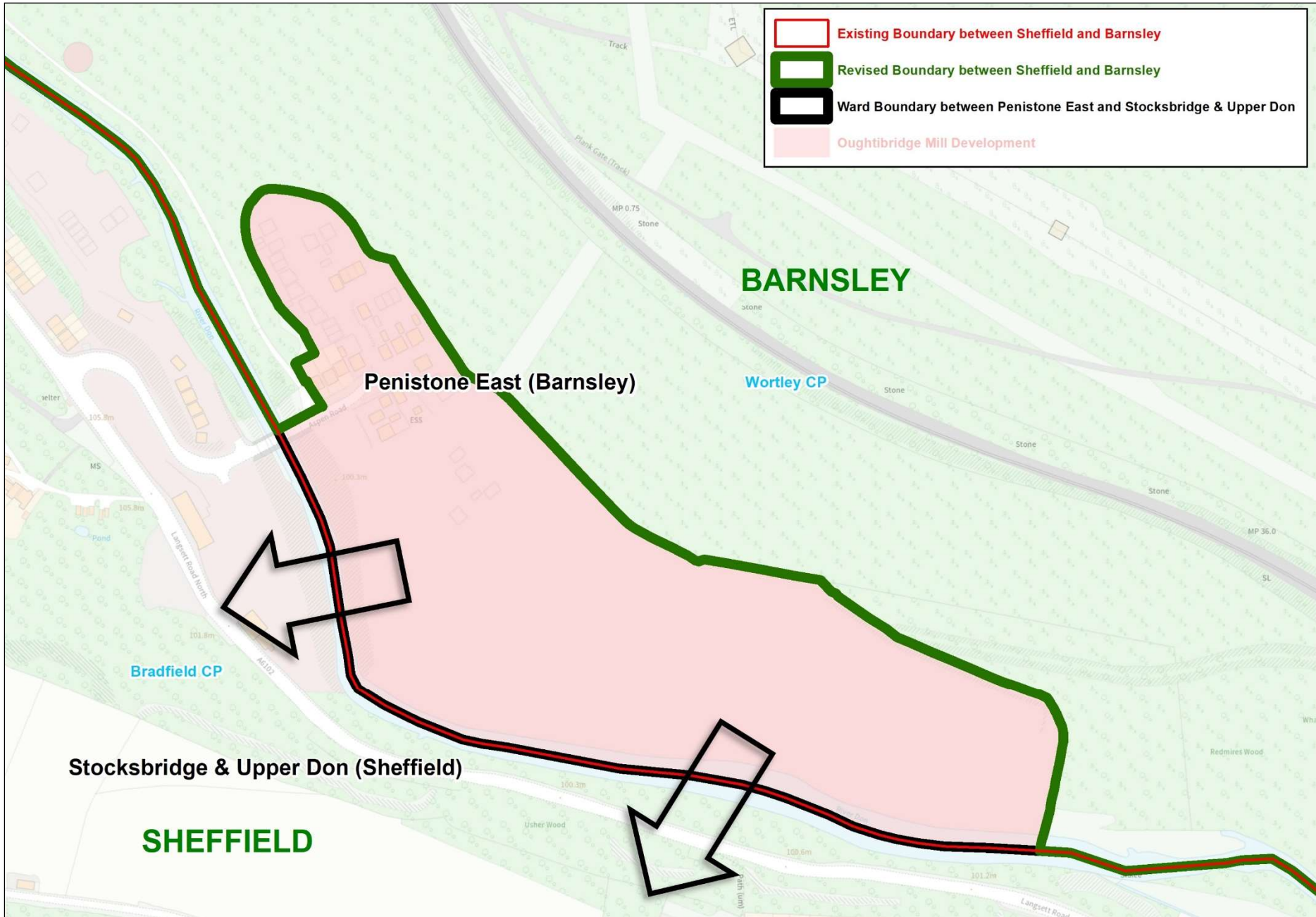
Properties currently in Barnsley that would be moved to Sheffield:

3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 15 Aspen Road S35 0BS

2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 18 Birch Close S35 0FG

284 future dwellings

Appendix B – Map of the affected area



The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) was set up by Parliament, independent of Government and political parties. It is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is responsible for conducting boundary, electoral and structural reviews of local government.

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