

[REDACTED]

From: Nigel Rock <Nigel.Rock@stratford-dc.gov.uk>
Sent: 29 November 2021 11:44
To: reviews
Cc: Graham Rospin; Chris Kettle
Subject: RE: Boundary Changes for Stratford District - Erratum

Categories: [REDACTED]

I have noticed a minor error in my comments relating to planning workload: - ie (*current council year to date.) Should read (*current council period May 19 to date.)

In making this correction, I observe that the two Southam wards (that cover Southam town at present) have had 176 applications, but the combination of the present Bishops Itchington and Napton and Fenny Compton wards (which contributes to the ward as proposed by the Commission in para 115) have had a total of 507 applications (actually more, if the parts of Red Horse ward's 461 are included). This suggests that the town area can tolerate larger electorate numbers than average yet still receive full, if not better, support from councillors. Further, that the proposed large ward in the east of the district is practically unworkable.

Regards

Nigel Rock
Councillor for Napton & Fenny Compton Ward
Deputy Leader Liberal Democrat Group
[REDACTED]

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From: Nigel Rock
Sent: 25 November 2021 13:08
To: 'reviews@lgbce.org.uk' <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>
Cc: Graham Rospin <Graham.Rospin@stratford-dc.gov.uk>
Subject: Boundary Changes for Stratford District

I wish to comment on the Boundary Commission's proposal for Stratford District and the Council's response suggesting revision to those ward boundaries. I take the Commission's proposal of August 2021 as the starting point. My particular interest is the area around Southam, as this affects my ward ('Napton & Fenny Compton') and

the areas I formerly represented ('Stockton & Napton'). I disagree with the Commission's proposals, most especially the very large combined ward in the east of the District. That Commission proposal (para 115) for a ward stretching from almost the M40 in the west including Bishops Itchington to Shuckburgh in the east, and from Shotteswell in the south to Napton in the North, represents an entirely unworkable area, even if a two member ward. The artificial incorporation of Stockton into Southam in a subordinate relationship is also quite unsatisfactory, as I pointed out in a earlier submission.

I realise that the proposals have been driven by the need for a consistent number of electors, circa 2800 per councillor, across wards. I also realise this is a challenge around Southam because of the projected expansion of dwelling numbers. I believe the District Council's suggestions for single member wards in response to the Commission's proposal are reasonable, workable and address my concerns of community connection and democratic accountability. I understand the Council's amendments to be as follows and as shown on the attached maps:

A single member ward comprising Stockton, Napton-on-the-Hill, Upper & Lower Shuckburgh, Priors Marston, and Priors Hardwick.

A single member ward comprising Fenny Compton, Shotteswell, Farnborough, Avon Dassett, Burton Dassett, Warmington, Watergall, Hodnell & Wills Pastures.

Additional comment:

- Stoneton (comprising only 6 electors), being close to Priors Hardwick would better included with Stockton and Napton. Whilst Wormleighton would be better in community terms with Stockton and Napton, I accept that numerically it may have to be in the Fenny Compton/Dassett Ward.
- Radbourne could sit with either Bishop Itchington or Stockton and Napton.
- A significant content of ward workload is planning applications. Napton and Fenny Compton has had 364* planning applications compared to the average 221 making it the 5th highest in the District. (By contrast, I note that 15 Wards had less than 150 cases.) Wards with large number of planning cases are also those with large areas and with many villages making democratic management even more challenging. The proposal to virtually double the size of what is already the largest ward in the District will make it impossible to service the planning work load, or to have any reasonable connection with communities. (*current council year to date.)

In Southam there would be two Single member wards – West/Central and South East which would be approximately 3000 electors each. Wards to the north and south respectively would take new build housing into those adjacent wards:

A Single member ward comprising Long Itchington and parts of Southam parish of newer estates to the north of the town (approximately 3000 electors).

A Single member ward comprising Bishops Itchington, Ladbroke, Chapel Ascote and parts of Southam parish of newer estates to the south of the A425 bypass (approximately 3075 electors).

Additional comment:

- The projected electorate number voters for 2027 are dependent on the construction of new estates and occupancy of dwellings. In the period 2023 -27 numbers will be less than the maxima, noting that in recent cases it has taken 5 years from outline permission to 60% of occupancy.
- Although it is unfortunate to split off the newer development of Southam to the north and south, these estates are generally not traditional, long established communities. Historical parish boundaries now have reduced geographical meaning.
- I further note that that Commission carried out a desktop study. I would recommend a site visit to compare the character of the road connections between Southam estates to the north and south with the featureless A426 road which is allocated for quarrying on both sides between Stockton and Southam. The original proposal for linking Stockton with Southam would create an unbalanced relationship between parish and town councils and their communities. All of these points would lead to poor democratic accountability and loss of connection between the Stockton and Southam communities and their elected representatives. I believe a reassessment would demonstrate that the Council's latest response is much less undesirable in community terms.

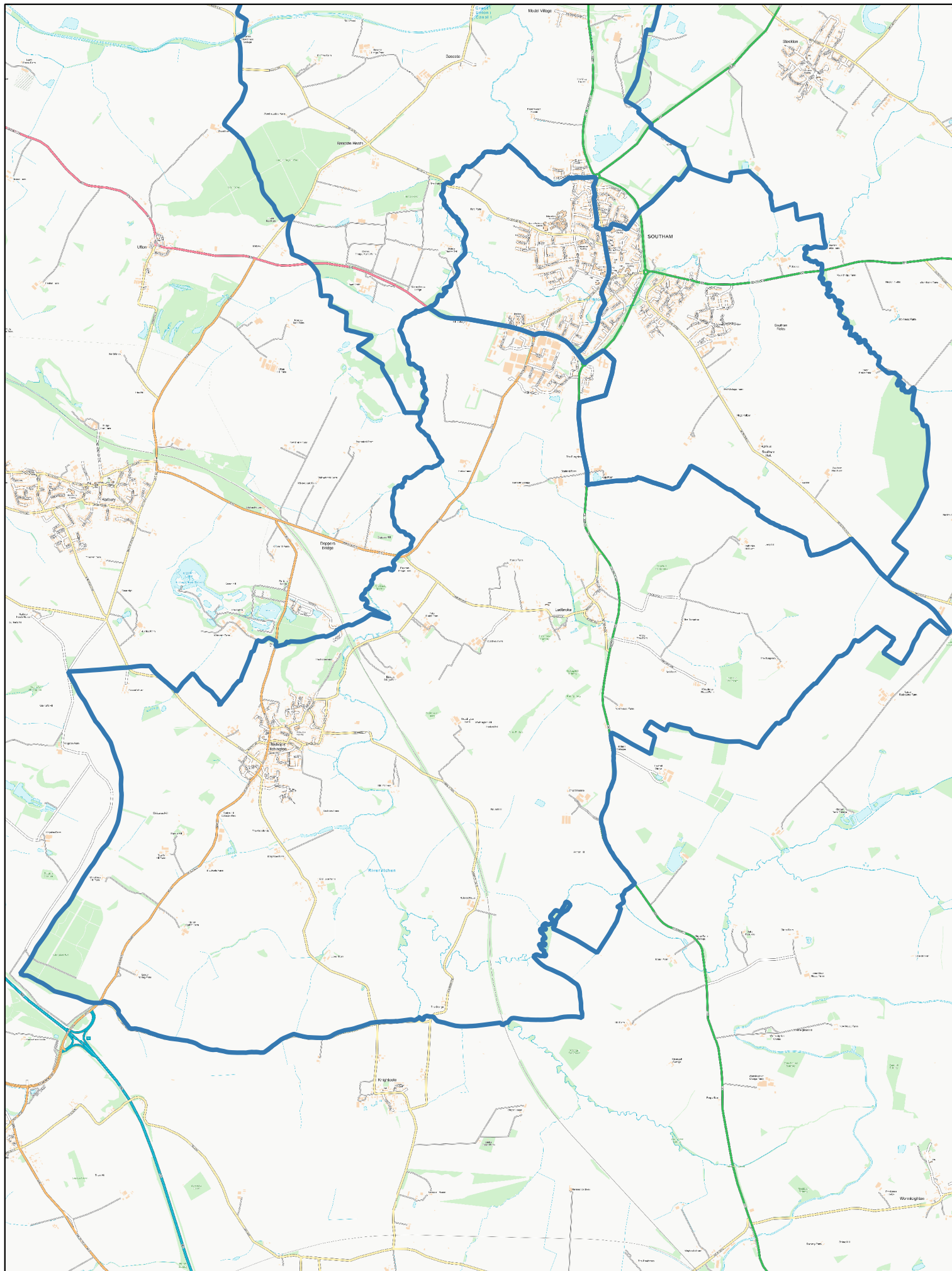
I therefore support the Council's response, in respect of single member wards and arrangements in the east of the District, whilst noting the comments above.

I would appreciate an acknowledgement of this email, please.

Regards

Nigel Rock
Councillor for Napton & Fenny Compton Ward
Deputy Leader Liberal Democrat Group


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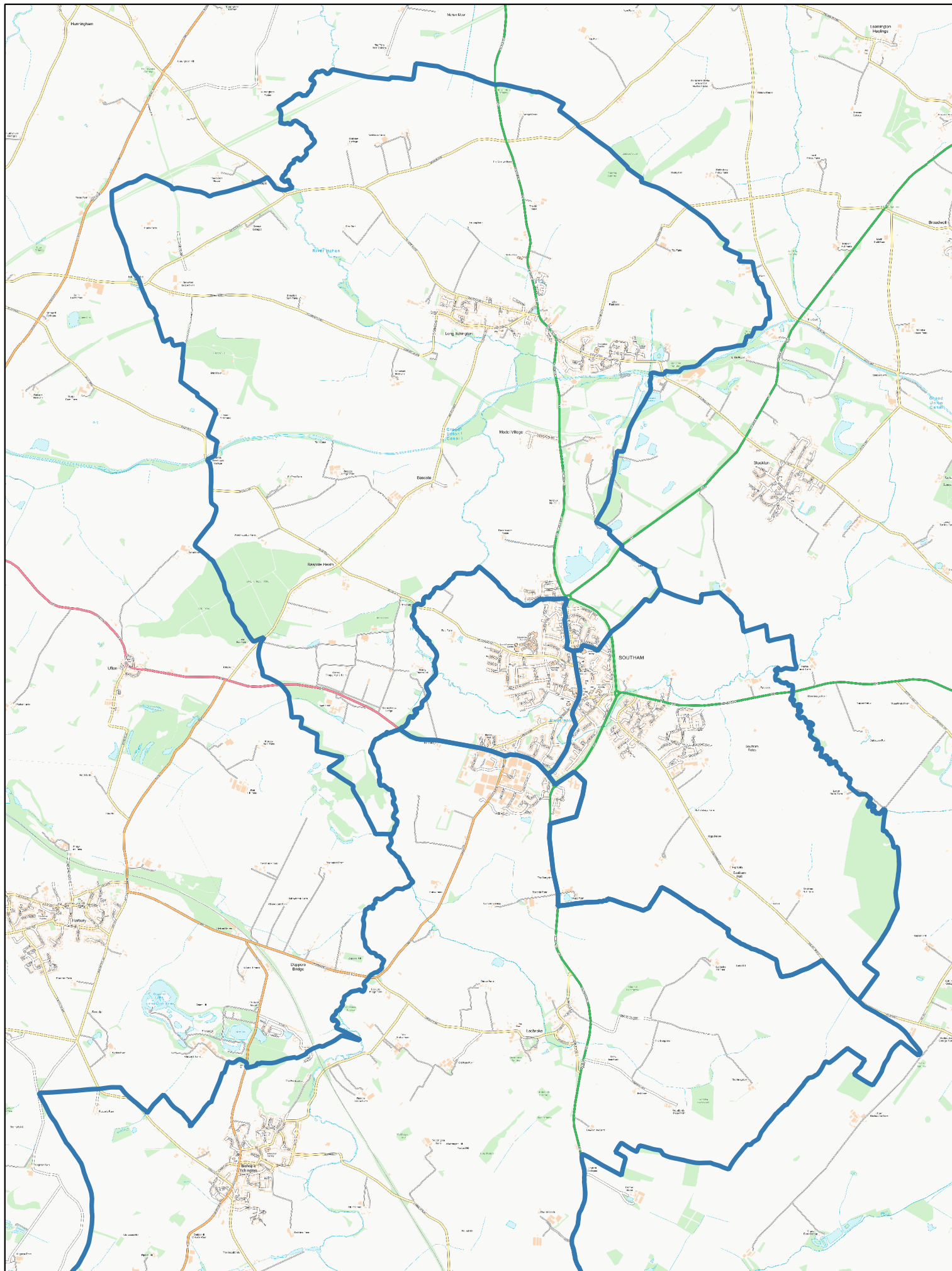


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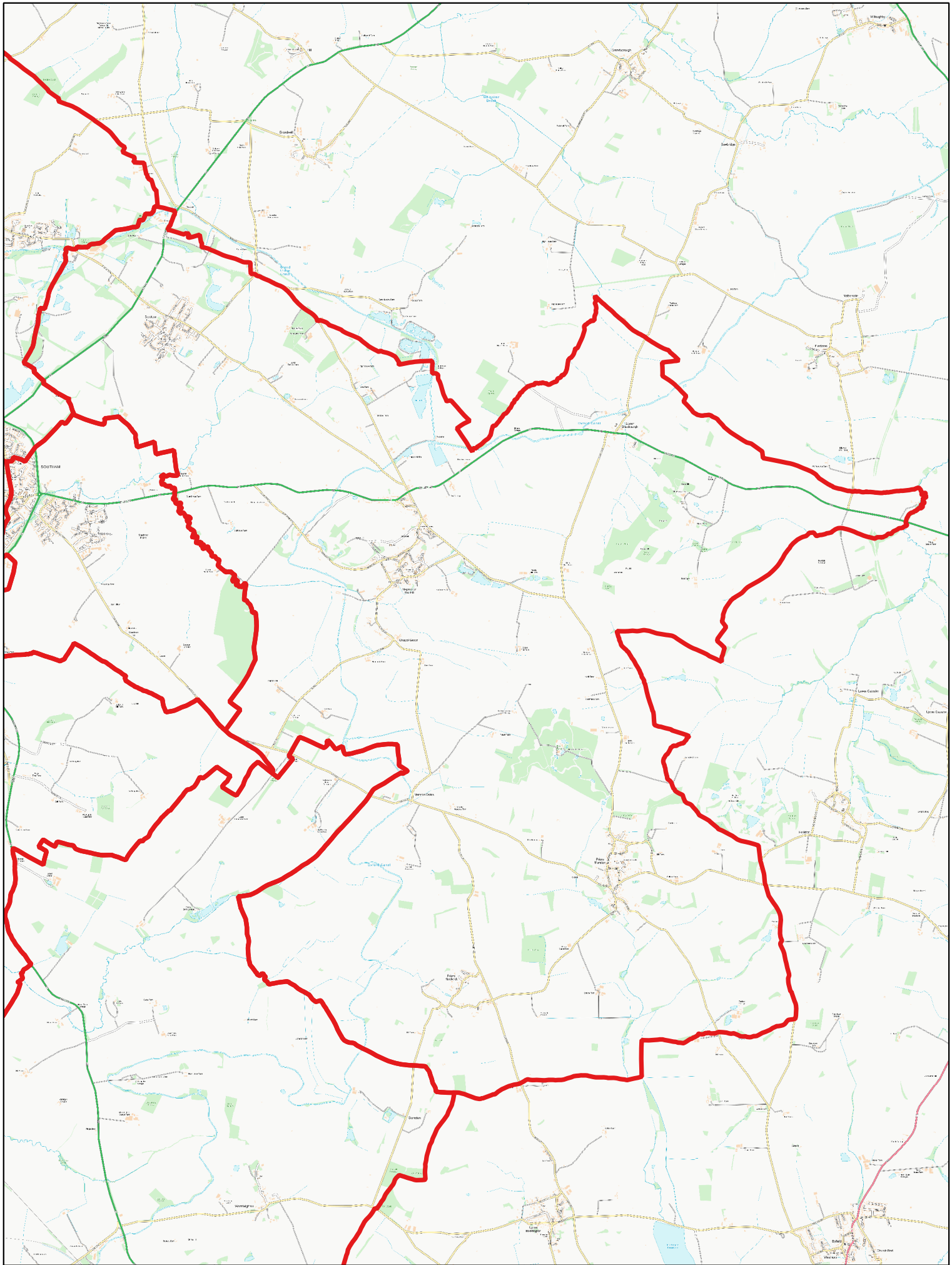


Southam North

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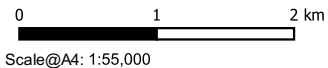
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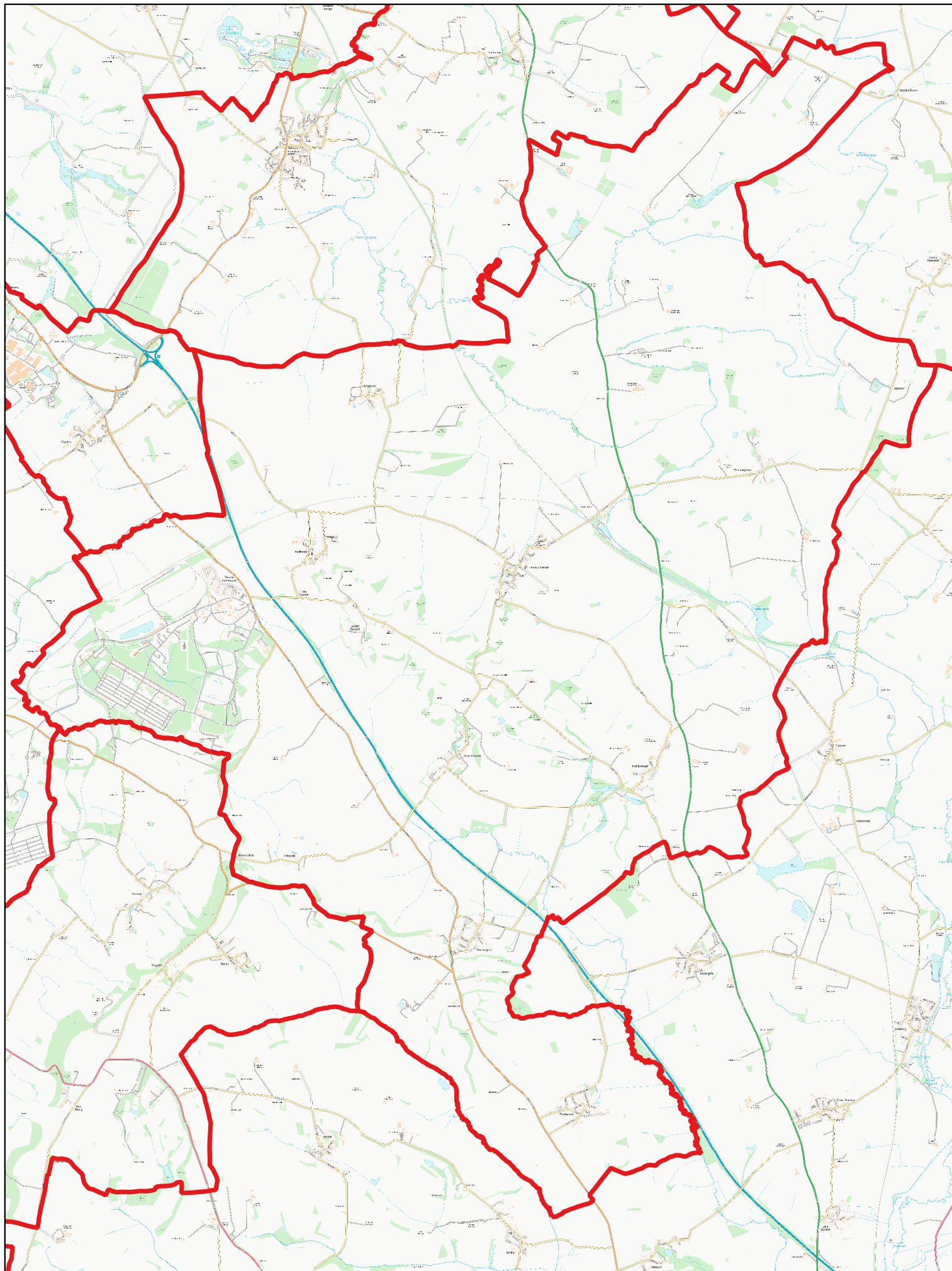
Stockton and Napton

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