

**North Northamptonshire Council**

Corby Cube

Corby

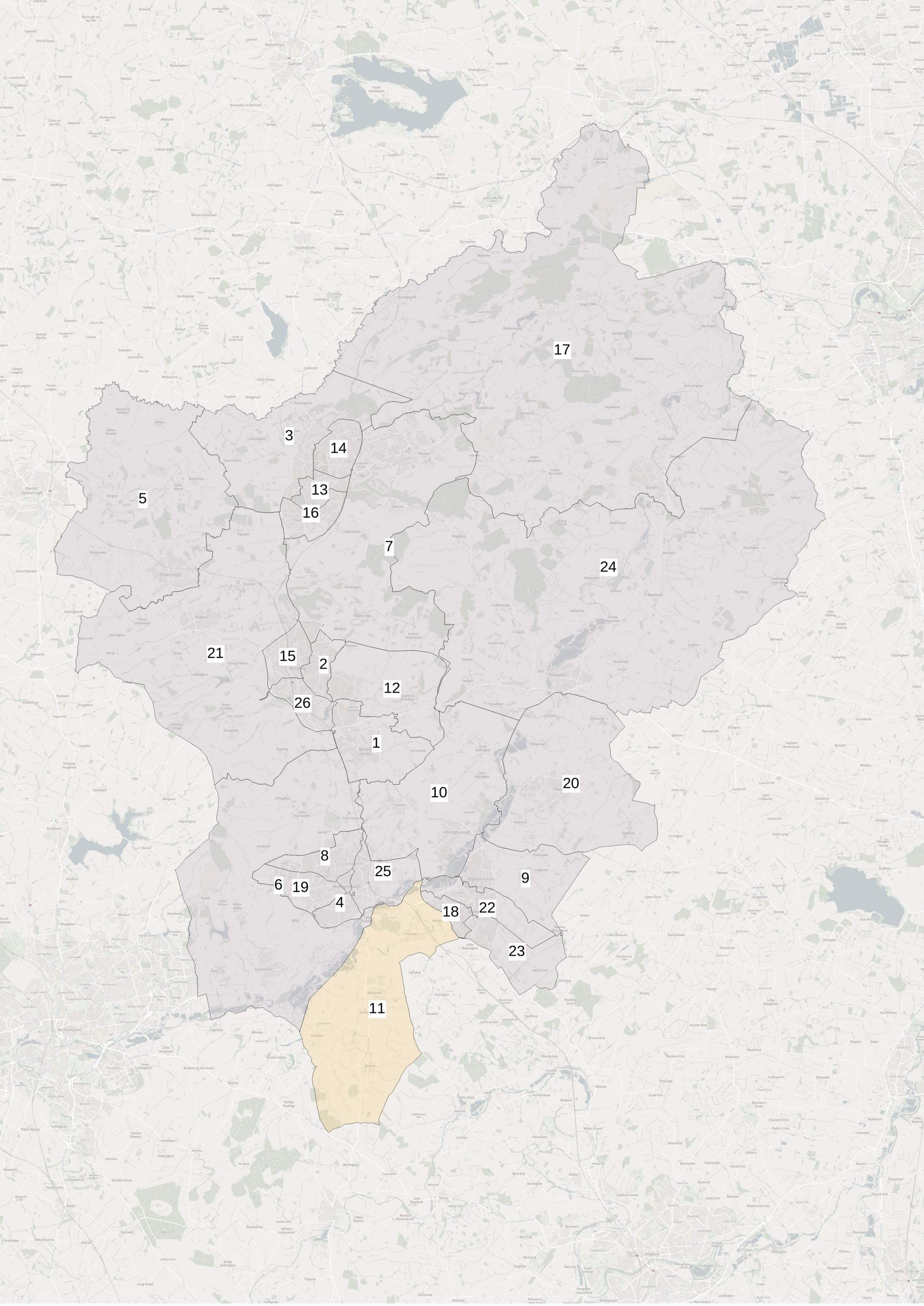
NN17 1QG

Overview report for scenario submitted by  
**Conservative Group**

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Date/Time submitted:	<b>03/03/2023 12:27</b>
Ward boundary count:	<b>26</b>
Ward boundaries within tolerance:	<b>25</b>
Ward boundaries <b>not</b> within tolerance:	<b>1</b>
Target range for ward boundaries:	<b>3634 - 4442</b>

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# Barton Seagrave & Burton Latimer

**Councillors: 3**  
**Property count: 6964**  
**Total Electorate: 12789**  
**Cllr electorate: 4263**  
**Electorate Status: Balanced**  
**Electorate Target:**  
**Date/Time 3634 - 4442**  
**Submitted: 02/03/2023 12:30**

## Burton Latimer Barton Seagrave

Burton has a sense of belonging with a strong community spirit evident during the height of Covid when many went out to help neighbours and clean streets. There are strong church communities for all denominations that attract both Burton Latimer and Barton Seagrave residents.

Annual remembrance is shared by Burton and Barton even though both villages organise individual remembrance services supported by all the churches and the Royal British Legion.

We organise a duck race in the pocket park and have a community light switch on at which the local school children perform for both primary and secondary school students from St Marys Meadoqside and Latimer Community Arts College. We organise a duck race in the pocket park and have a community light switch on at which the local school children perform for both primary and secondary school students from St Marys Meadoqside and Latimer Community Arts College. Various sports clubs operate in Burton including football tennis table tennis, book clubs and many organisations run activities in the community library, community centre and the churches within the town.

We have groups set up to cater for older members of the community and with the recession we have set up a warm hub at the Burton Community library together with the Churches offering support and friendship for all.

The local NSPCC in Burton organises an annual luncheon and does a jumble sale once a year to raise funds to help those children in need eloquently supported by the community.

We have groups set up to cater for older members of the community and with the recession we have set up a warm hub at the Burton Community library together with the Churches offering support and friendship for all.

We have sports facilities for football and cricket and do foreign exchanges for cricket each Summer.

Many events are organised by voluntary groups. Burton has a number of shops including Sainsburys a one stop and integral Post Office as well as two fish/chip shops three Indian restaurants and two Chinese take aways, together with two Italian restaurants. We also have a number of car dealerships.

We are graced with a very good doctors surgery which has a chemist adjacent situated out on Higham Road thus for some less able it is imperative to have a reliable bus service.

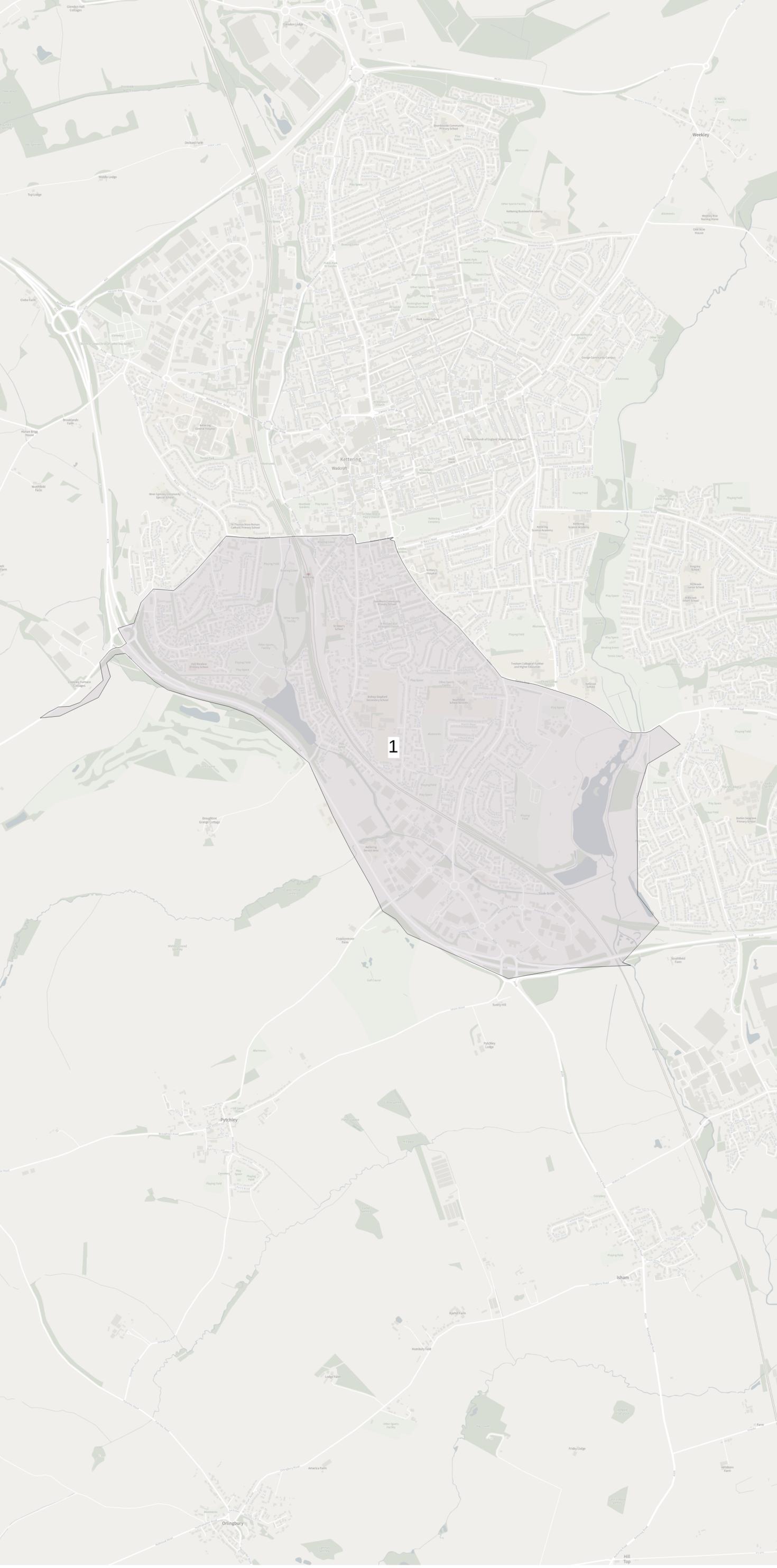
Additionally we have three nurseries and are blessed with a number of pre school and toddler groups run by our churches.

Many Burton Latimer children choose to attend the local feeder secondary school at Latimer Arts College built in Barton Seagrave for the benefit of both villages. Burton benefits from a number of international brands having factories in the area including Weetabix, Alumas, Versalift, Alpro and has just had the recent building of a distribution hub for John Lewis/Boots etc together with a canning factory for Coca Cola etc. We have two garden centres one of which has branched out at Ecton and benefit from a number of lighter industrial units together with a number of farms supply wheat and rape seed and a chicken farm at each end of the town.

Barton Seagrave The village hall has a plethora of groups attending to provide a whole range of activities including indoor bowls, netball, yoga, badminton, Barton Ladies Club, craft fairs, baby groups, Zumba, model car racing, ballet, ballroom dancing, line dancing, karate, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, WI, book club, bereavement support and counselling group and holds special events including baby showers, birthday parties and wedding receptions.

The hall also has a community café with licensed bar and is used as a warm hub. Barton has a purpose built nursery adjacent to the village hall which also has a very active after school club providing much needed care for working parents in the current difficult financial crisis.

All the above is shared by both Burton and Barton residents most especially the secondary school at Latimer Arts College and benefits from Barton Primary school which has added another stream to take on more children as both towns have grown.



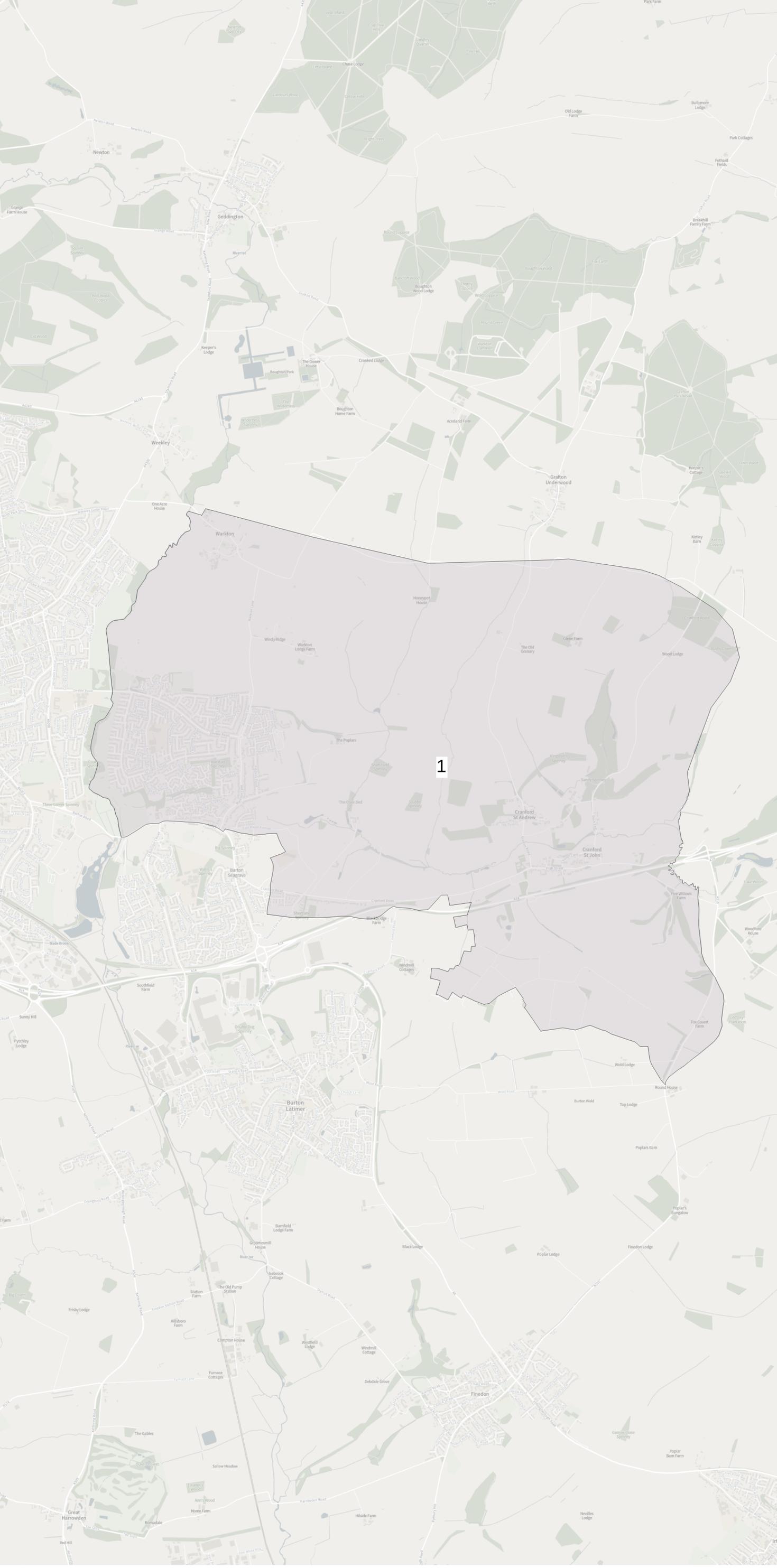
# Wicksteed

Councillors: **2**  
Property count: **4882**  
Total Electorate: **8494**  
Cllr electorate: **4247**  
Electorate Status: **Balanced**  
Electorate Target:  
Date/Time **3634 - 4442**  
Submitted: **02/03/2023 12:30**

All in all it has been a useful exercise. In essence this is a complex issue that provides an opportunity to bring our communities closer together in a worthwhile way.

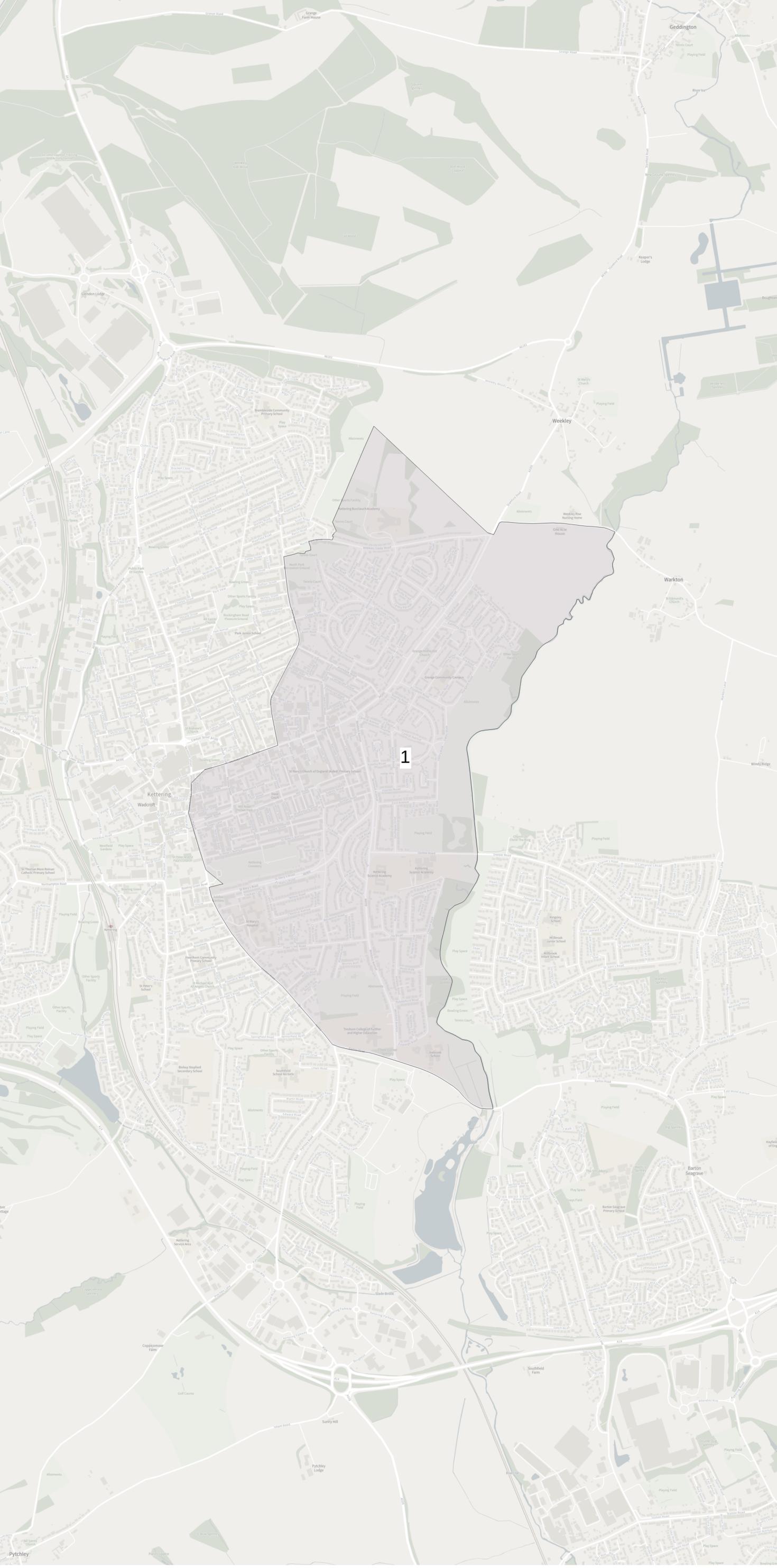
The projection to 2028 leaves the existing ward falling short by about ten percent. I believe this is not too much of a problem and one we should be able to resolve. I will set out ideas to eradicate the issue before I suggest some more radical solutions.

I would extend to the Barton Seagrave PC boundary taking in housing to the east of Barton Road. In addition I would include housing to the south of Cranford Road on the new Hanwood Park Development Following the very interesting meeting the other night this would constitute a Ward move rather than a parish change which would work.



# Ise

Councillors: **2**  
Property count: **4325**  
Total Electorate: **7600**  
Cllr electorate: **3800**  
Electorate Status: **Balanced**  
Electorate Target:  
Date/Time **3634 - 4442**  
Submitted: **02/03/2023 12:30**



# Brambleside

Councillors: **3**

Property count: **7782**

Total Electorate: **12786**

Cllr electorate: **4262**

Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

Date/Time **3634 - 4442**

Submitted: **02/03/2023 12:30**

North Park Drive To be grouped with Windmill Ward (currently Brambleside) Close links with Kettering Buccleuch Academy (Windmill Ward). Sports playing field. Community hall. Byron Road As above As above Scott Road As above As above Gavin Close As above As above

The whole of Windmill Avenue Avenue should be included in one Ward (Windmill Ward)

Warkton Village To be grouped with Windmill Ward (Currently Ise Ward- which is currently extending due to new builds) Close links with community and St Edmunds Church. Links to windmill wards shops, schools and sports facilities.

Weekley As above Geographically close community, close to the previously called Windmill Wards' facilities.



# Raunds

Councillors: **3**

Property count: **6378**

Total Electorate: **11532**

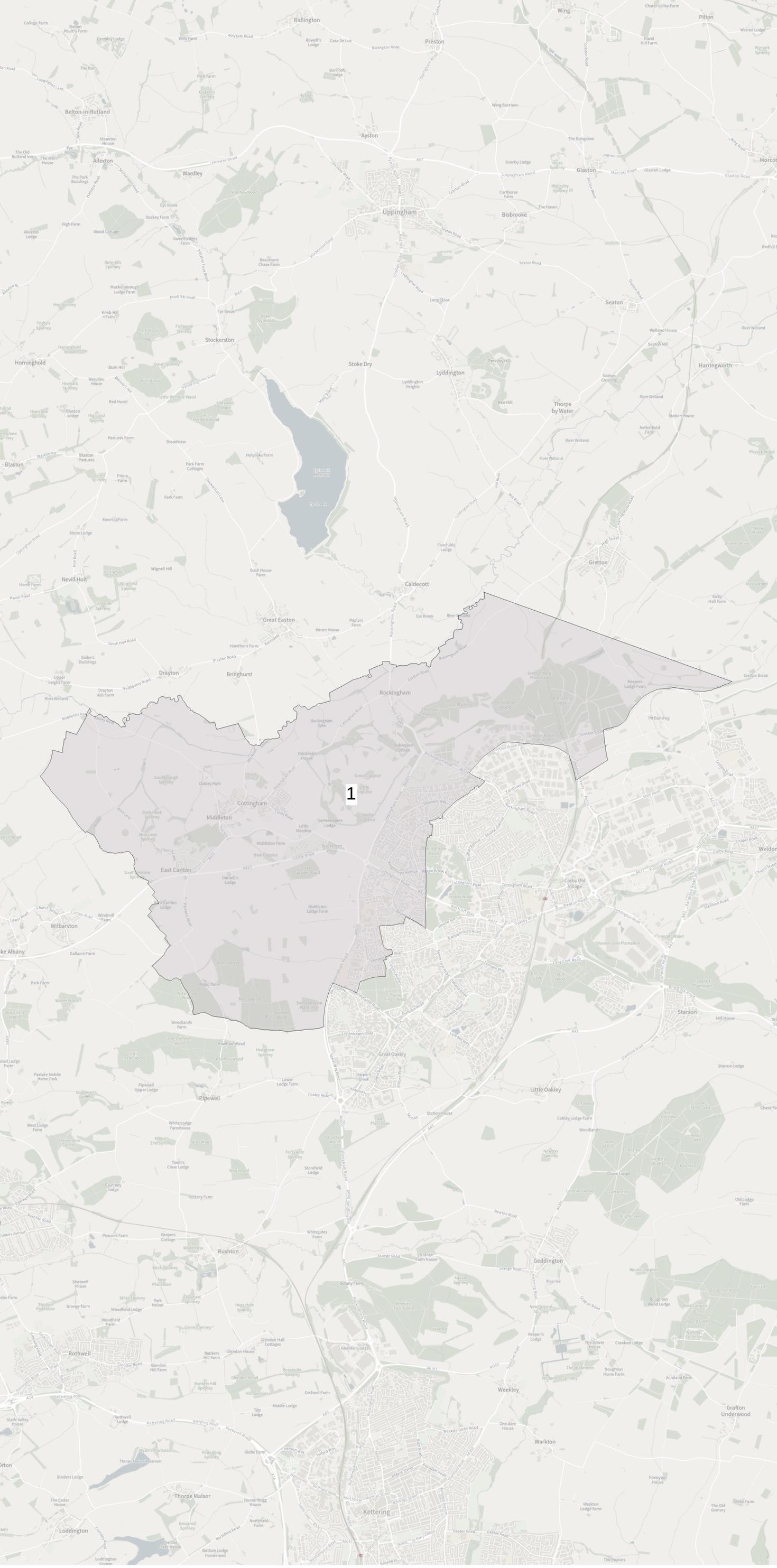
CIlr electorate: **3844**

Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

Date/Time **3634 - 4442**

Submitted: **02/03/2023 12:30**



# Corby Rural

**Councillors: 3**  
**Property count: 6809**  
**Total Electorate: 12333**  
**CLr electorate: 4111**  
**Electorate Status: Balanced**  
**Electorate Target:**  
**Date/Time 3634 - 4442**  
**Submitted: 02/03/2023 12:30**

[We question the predicted growth for Corby Rural](#)

On the spreadsheet (LGBCE final forecast) we are going from a 2021 figure of 10,402 to a 2027 figure of 10,838 a change of 432. +4%  
Corby Rural through Priors Hall and Weldon Park has the largest number of homes being built in Corby.

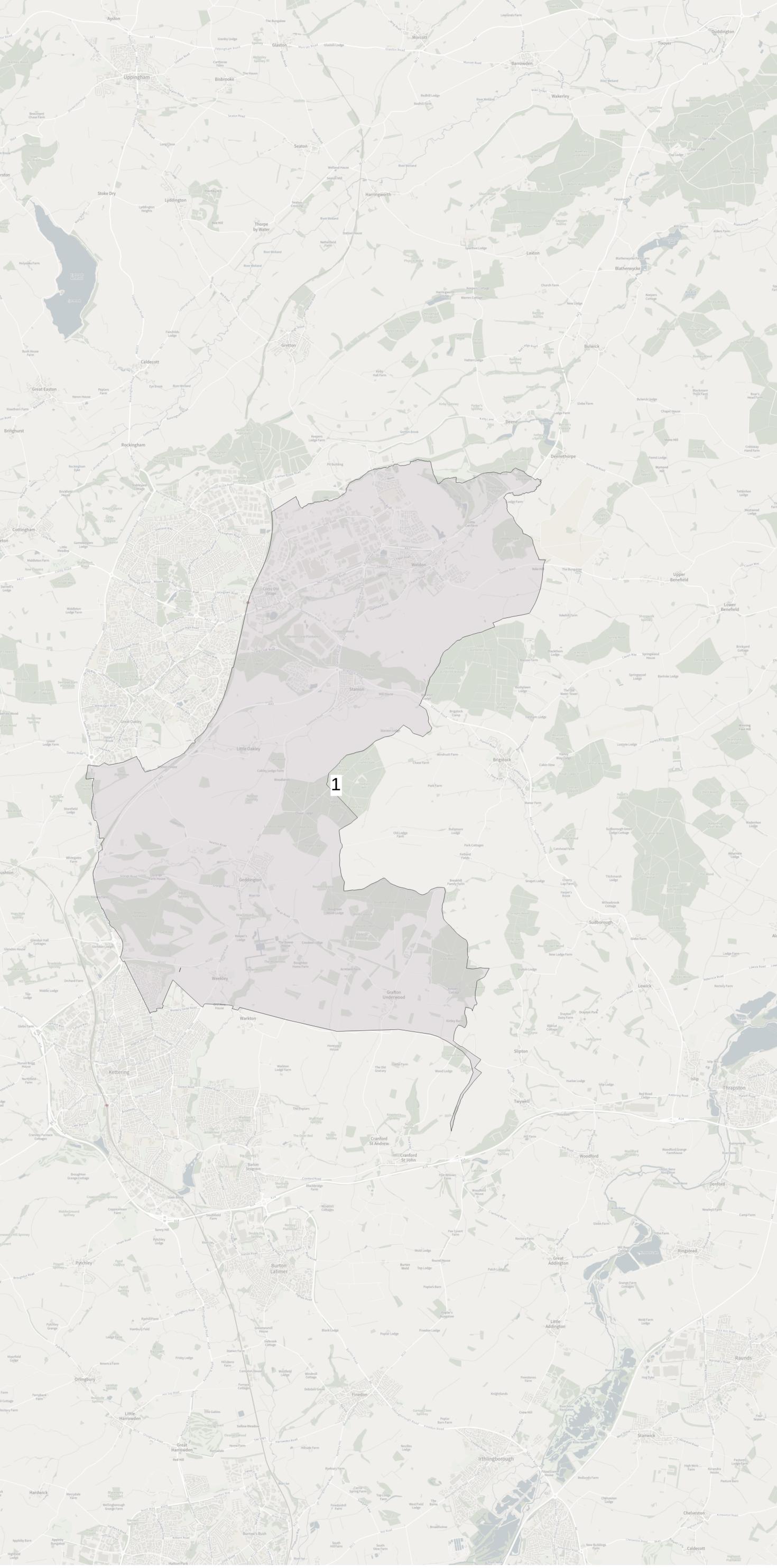
Yet

Corby West goes from 9,979 to 10,864 an increase of 885 +9%, this area has seen very little house building in that period.  
Kingswood 10,229 to 11,316 up by 1087 +10% this is also an established area with very little increase in housing.  
Lloyds increases by 9% as well  
Oakley the only other location of reasonable house building only goes up by 7%

These figures are very questionable , despite having major house building we have the lowest predicted growth in North Northants.

We suspect Corby Rural through Priors Hall and Weldon Park will organically grow to it's 4000 per councillor by 2029 the next election period.

Have you any comments on how these population figures were calculated?



# Eleanor

Councillors: **3**

Property count: **7140**

Total Electorate: **12228**

CLLr electorate: **4076**

Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

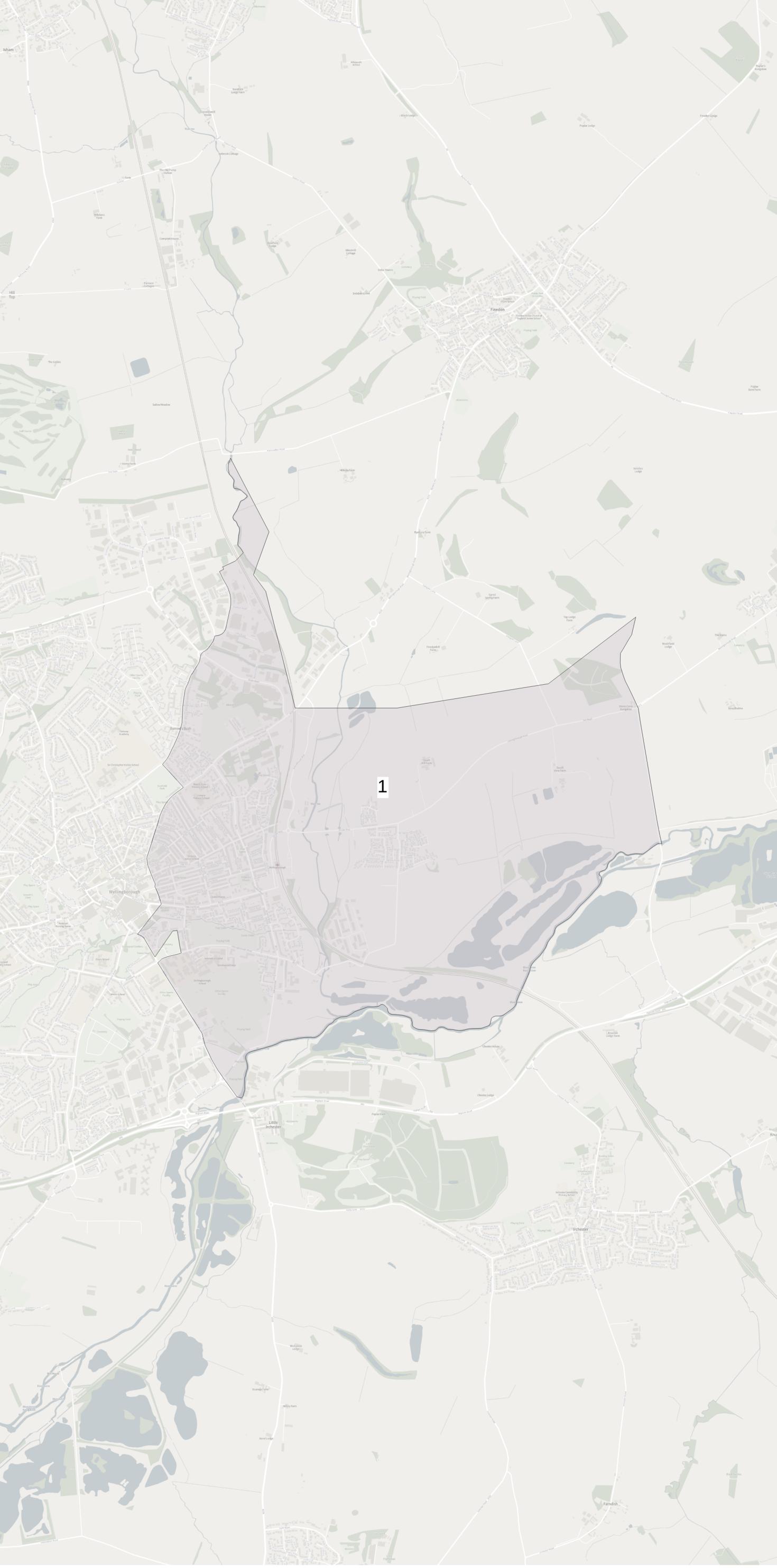
Date/Time **3634 - 4442**

Submitted: **02/03/2023 12:30**

North Park Drive To be grouped with Windmill Ward (currently Brambleside) Close links with Kettering Buccleuch Academy (Windmill Ward), Sports playing field, Community hall.  
Byron Road As above As above  
Scott Road As above As above  
Gavin Close As above As above

The whole of Windmill Avenue Avenue should be included in one Ward (Windmill Ward)

Warkton Village To be grouped with Windmill Ward (Currently Ise Ward- which is currently extending due to new builds) Close links with community and St Edmunds Church. Links to windmill wards shops, schools and sports facilities.  
Weekley As above Geographically close community, close to Windmill Wards' facilities.



# Victoria

Councillors: **2**

Property count: **5124**

Total Electorate: **8230**

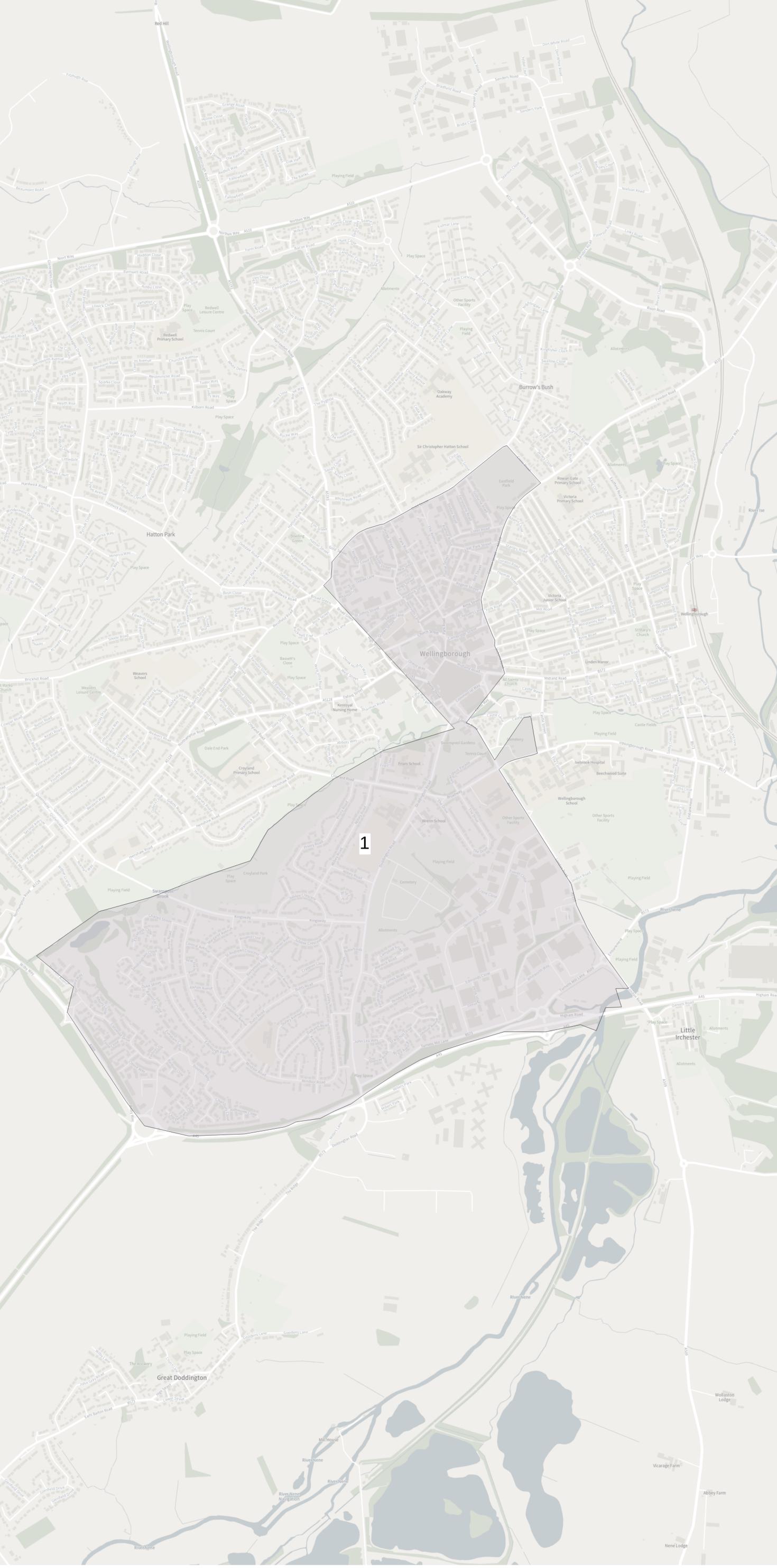
Cllr electorate: **4115**

Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

Date/Time **3634 - 4442**

Submitted: **02/03/2023 12:30**



# Croyland & Swanspool

Councillors: **2**  
Property count: **5145**  
Total Electorate: **8870**  
Cllr electorate: **4435**  
Electorate Status: **Balanced**  
Electorate Target:  
Date/Time **3634 - 4442**  
Submitted: **02/03/2023 12:30**

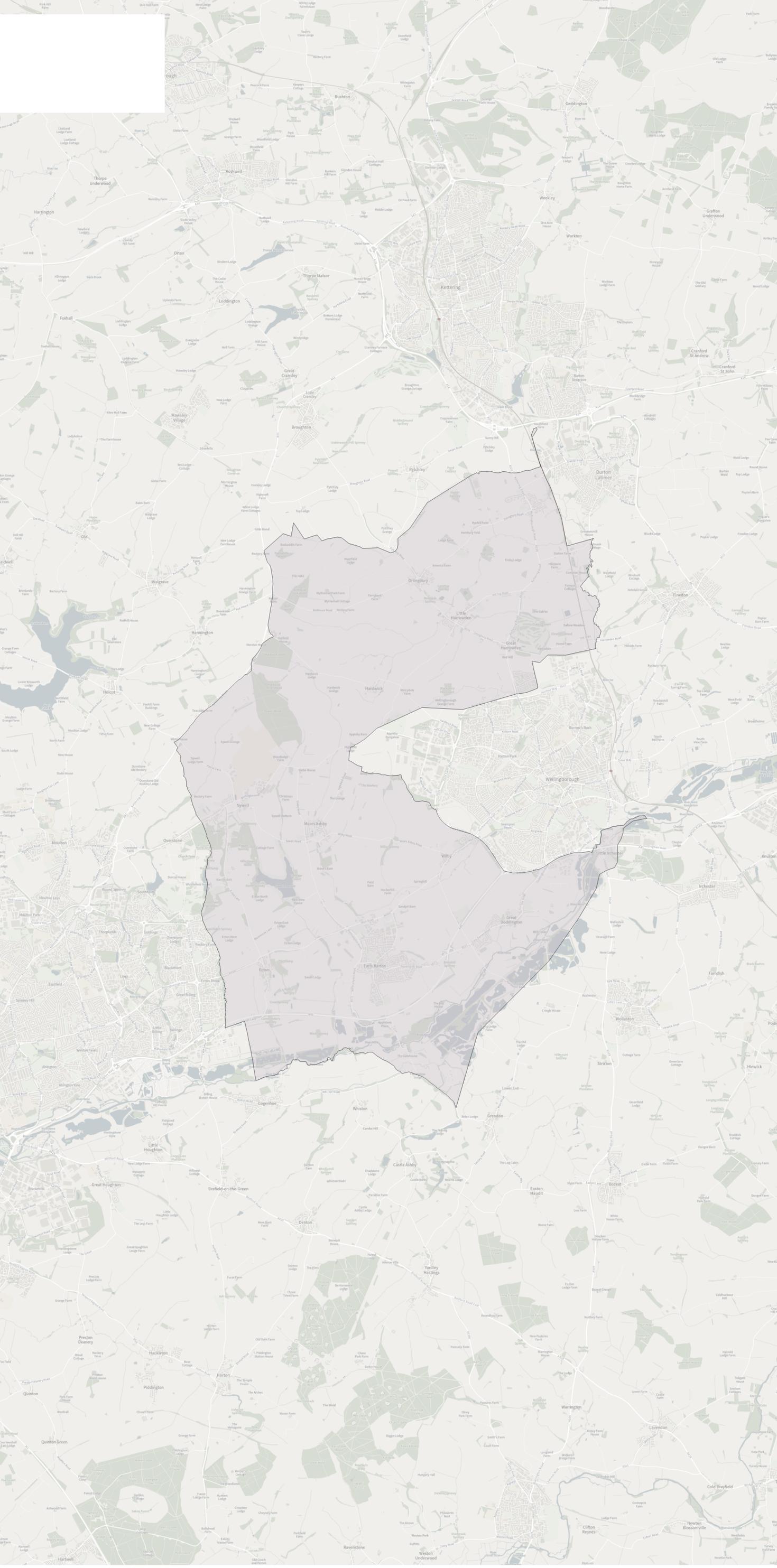
Our ward is wholly urban. Most key points in the town centre relate to the whole town as opposed to the ward. An exception in Swanspool is the roads around St Barnabas Church, that have a sense of identity but I am not aware of a residents' group. These are the roads that go between Westfield Road and Northampton Road.

There are three zones in the Croyland part of the ward that have a distinct identity.

Kingsway, a large estate on and around the road of that name. Has a physical base at Kingsway Centre.

John Lea, an estate off Doddington Road. Has an active Facebook group.

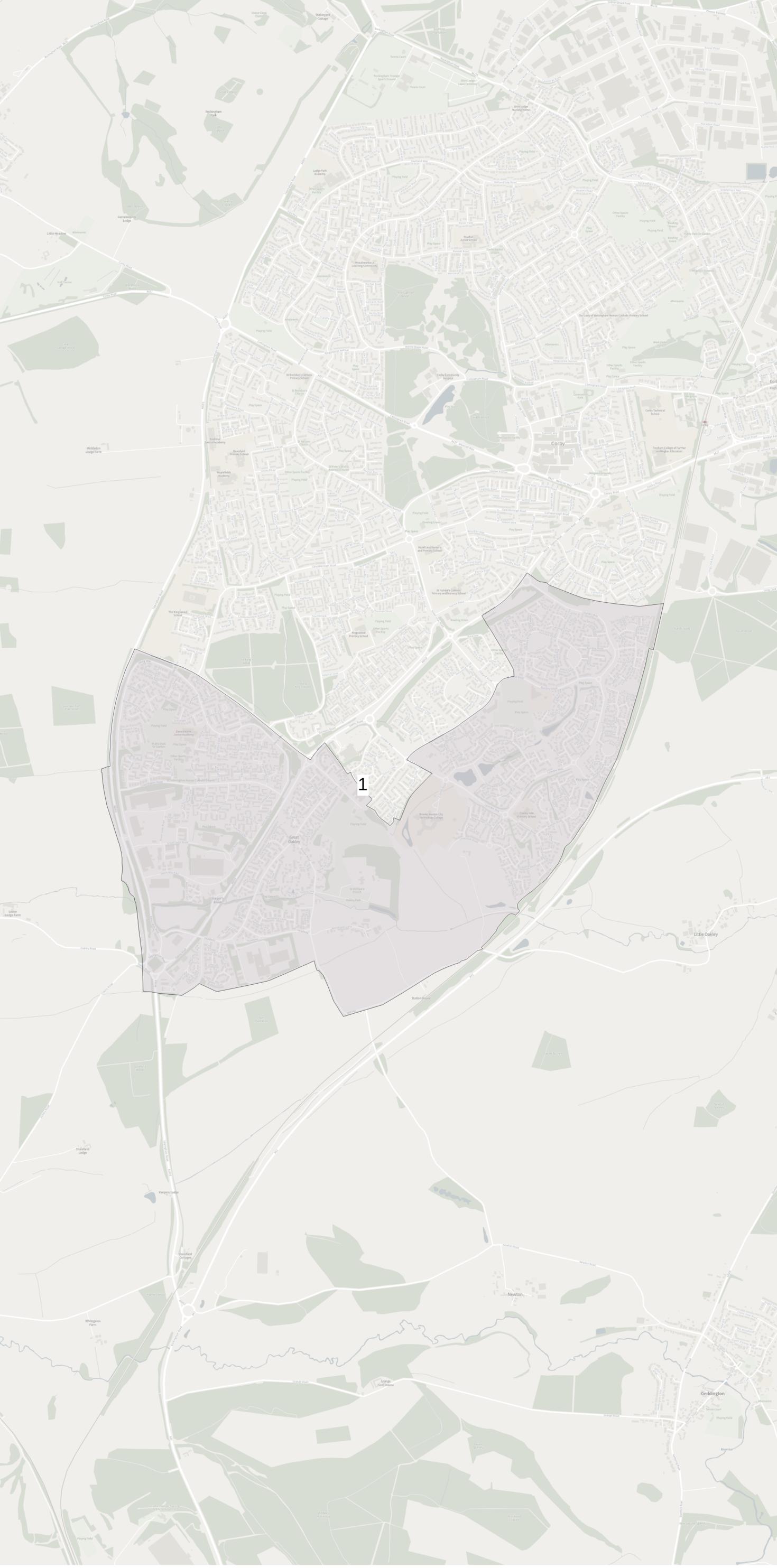
Wilby Way, an estate to the north of the road of that name has a residents' association and an active Facebook group.



# Earls Barton & Rural

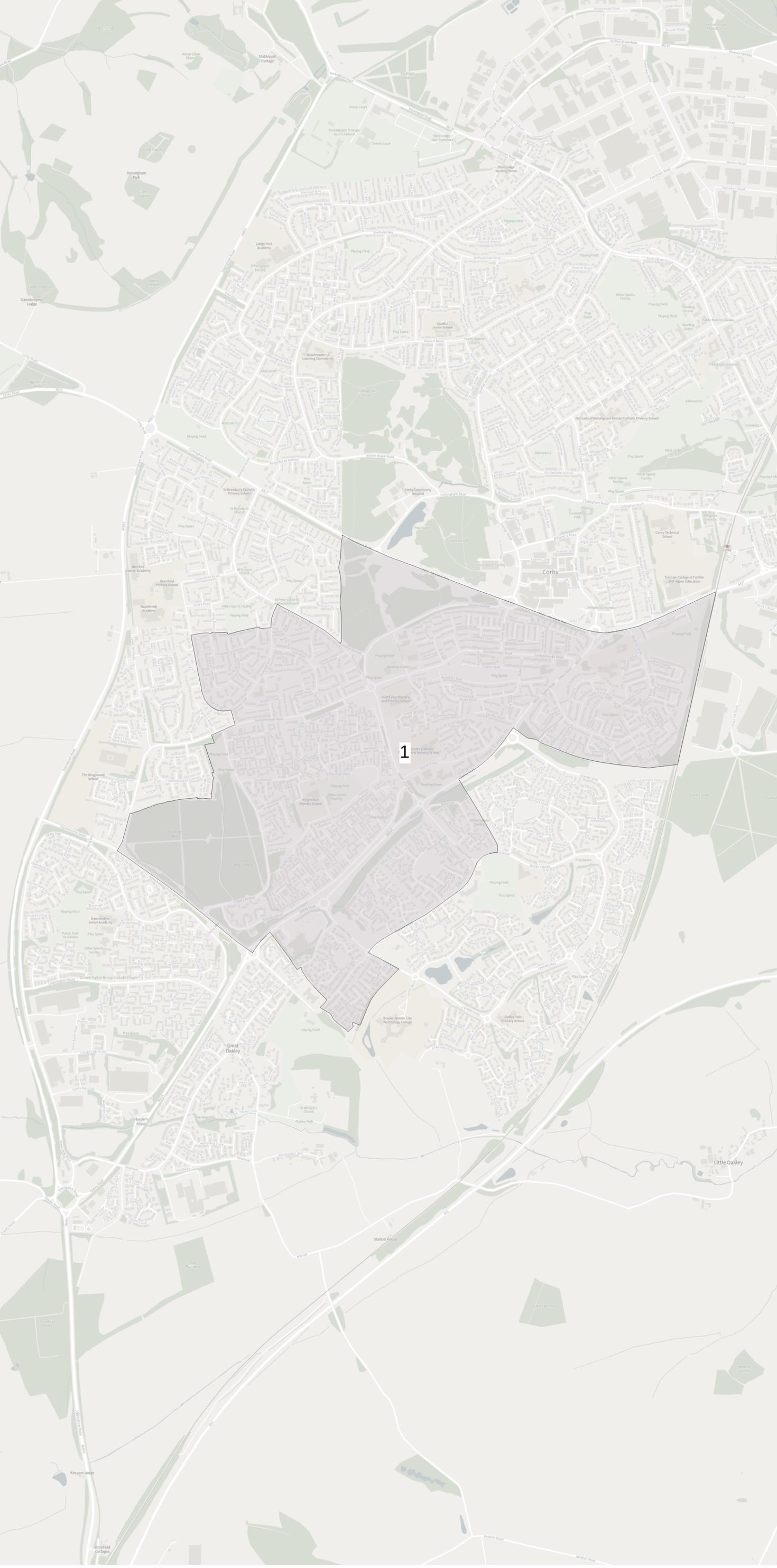
**Councillors:** 3  
**Property count:** 6694  
**Total Electorate:** 12075  
**Cllr electorate:** 4025  
**Electorate Status:** **Balanced**  
**Electorate Target:**  
**Date/Time** 3634 - 4442  
**Submitted:** 03/03/2023 12:27

**EVIDENCE – Earls Barton**  
Contact in case of queries: Cllr Lora Lawman  
Earls Barton is a large village, too large for 1 councillor and interdepends on the surrounding village. The Parish Council has raised concern that given past history of 1 councillor only representing the ward up to the 2021 elections, that they wish to remain with at least 2 councillors, to allow for expected or unexpected absence and to continue to serve the residents.  
Earls has a strong community who comprise of Church Communities, Annual Remembrance Service, Spring, Summer, Autumn and Christmas Fetes/Fairs are organised by various sports clubs, volunteer groups, who are instrumental for instance to provide safe places, winter warmers, older persons activities, church groups offering their amenities for the community use. I.e. The Method Church hires out to table tennis etc. A superb local library run efficiently and also let for community use. A Village hall committee to support local groups large or small, a club organising community functions throughout the year. Extensive and excellent sporting facilities ie. football pitch, cricket pitch with an improved pavilion being built by the parish council. Nestling between the A45 and the A4500 and is surrounded by its sister villages, who very much depend economically on Earls Barton for work or shopping, as well as Earls Barton interdepending on all the villages in the complete ward to support each other. There is a strong variety of employment, the Barker Shoe Factory and the family owned Jeyes Chemist, being some of them. Many shops ranging from butchers to a Coop, a large variety of food establishments, hospitality industry from Cafés to wine bar are all present in the village centre.  
The main 2 Pubs form a meeting hub for residents and regular entertainment is held for the benefit of the residents. There is a Housing Residents Association that actively supports the tenants of the HA.  
**Eton**  
Has a strong village community, Church Communities, Annual Remembrance Service organised by the local RBL, many fairs and fetes are being organised by the village hall committee, church and Eton golden egg club. Sports clubs, volunteer organisations, the Eton Witches – a group for women to have occasional get together, parish council, mums & tots group, sporting facilities, winter warmers. EGO's Club for elderly community with trips and functions, all supporting and nurturing the village community to be healthy and active.  
**Glenvale Park North**  
This is new development that is being built around its own community hub, church activities, a primary school, nursery school and various smaller shops are planned, a Coop and Fish & Chip shop plus other hospitality outlets are encouraging a village feel. A residents association is currently being formed to cover the March 20223 already 400 occupied houses. The developers are anticipating around 1,250 will be built by 2028. Glenvale Park Residents have a superb relationship with the private Glenvale Park Care Home. The area, although still under construction, has a large village feel and the lovely totally mixed community very much reflects that. Glenvale Park is nestling between Niot Ward and the A509. Shopping etc will be provided currently in Wellingborough, Earls Barton or Kettering, but once the Coop supermarket is completed, it will be a small village shopping facility in its own right.  
**Great Doddington**  
Strong community, Shopping facilities – has some shops to support the village. Shopping is largely in Earls Barton or Wellingborough. There are Church Communities, Annual Remembrance Service, various annual fairs and fetes organised by clubs, church group, mums & tots group, events organised by the parish council and the many invaluable volunteers.  
**Great Harrowden**  
Can be grouped with Little Harrowden as the parish is divided with the A509 crossing the parish. It has an independent residents group, parish meetings takes place in the local Wellingborough Golf Club, a very old listed private Golf Club with extensive grounds part of the parish. Great Harrowden is a very proud community with farm land surrounding it on the Golf Club side and the village feel and on the other side of the A509 the remaining properties that are too far to be joined to Little Harrowden, for instance. Great Harrowden is asking that their own identity is being protected.  
**Hardwick**  
Can be together with Little Harrowden. Very small but protect their own community and identity as a hamlet. Church amenity, village hall and parish meeting to have their voice heard.  
**Isham**  
Strong community, Church Community, Annual Remembrance Service, Summer Fetes organised by sports clubs, various volunteer groups, church groups, village hall committee for hire and winter warmers. Organised community functions, sporting facilities, events organised by voluntary groups. Will be affected by the Isham Bypass, that will return less traffic through the village, when approved.  
**Little Harrowden**  
Strong independent community. Church Community, Annual Remembrance Service, Summer Fetes organised by sports clubs, various volunteer groups, church groups, village hall committee for hire and winter warmers. Organised community functions, sporting facilities, events organised by voluntary groups. Will be affected by the Isham Bypass, that will return less traffic through the village, when approved.  
**Mears Ashby**  
Strong independent community. Church Community, Annual Remembrance Service, Summer Fetes organised by sports clubs, various volunteer groups, church groups, village hall committee for hire and winter warmers. Organised community functions, sporting facilities, events organised by voluntary groups. Close to the expanding Sywell Aerodrome and its businesses, that serve a lot of employment to the local areas.  
**Orlbury**  
Strong community, Church Community, Annual Remembrance Service, Summer Fetes organised by sports clubs, various volunteer groups, church groups, village hall committee for hire and winter an organising community functions, sporting facilities, events organised by voluntary groups.  
**Redhill Grange**  
Strong Community but claiming towards Wellingborough for services. No own facilities but at Farm Road with a Coop and starship supplies available, residence association. Will be part of the Daventry Parliamentary Constituency, hence should remain with the Earls Barton Ward.  
**Wilby**  
Strong independent community, Church Community, Annual Remembrance Service, Summer Fetes organised by sports clubs, various volunteer groups and many other groups, organising community functions, sporting facilities football pitch on village grounds, events organised by voluntary groups. Two pubs being the community hubs to the residents. Have a Park Home Residential Park with approximately 90 static homes and more mature residents, who have lived there for 20 plus years. Wilby is a distinct independent village that must not be joined with Wellingborough, as it would lose its identity. A residents association is currently being set up.  
**Sywell**  
Strong, thriving and very independent community. Church and School Community and Organisations, Annual Remembrance Service, Summer Fetes organised by sports clubs, various volunteer groups, church groups and other groups organising community functions, sporting facilities football pitch on village grounds. Home to the expanding Sywell Aerodrome and the surrounding business, that serve a lot of employment to the local areas.



# Oakley

Councillors: **3**  
Property count: **5930**  
Total Electorate: **11454**  
Cllr electorate: **3818**  
Electorate Status: **Balanced**  
Electorate Target:  
Date/Time **3634 - 4442**  
Submitted: **02/03/2023 12:30**



# Kingswood

Councillors: **3**

Property count: **6351**

Total Electorate: **11316**

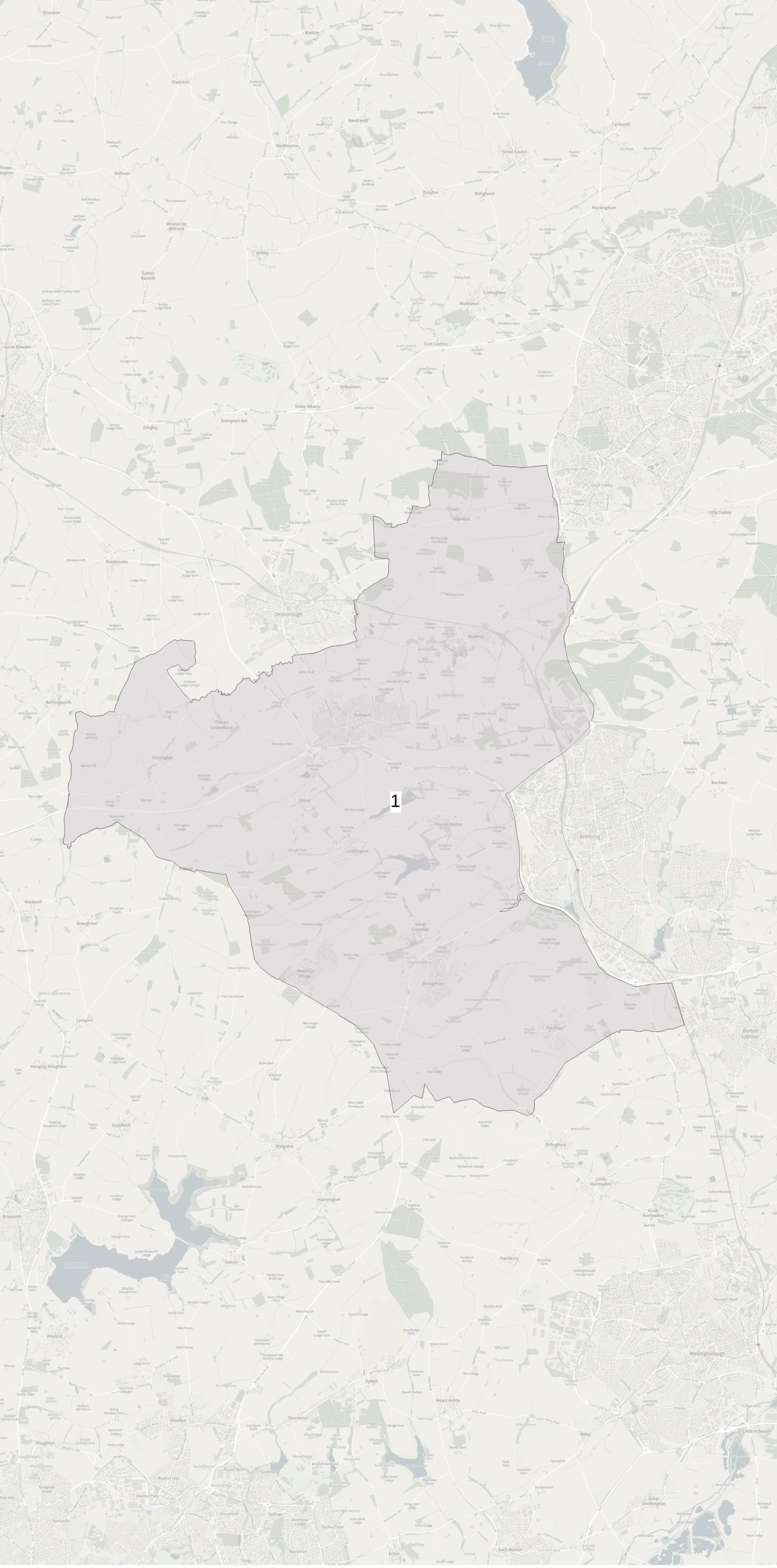
CLLr electorate: **3772**

Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

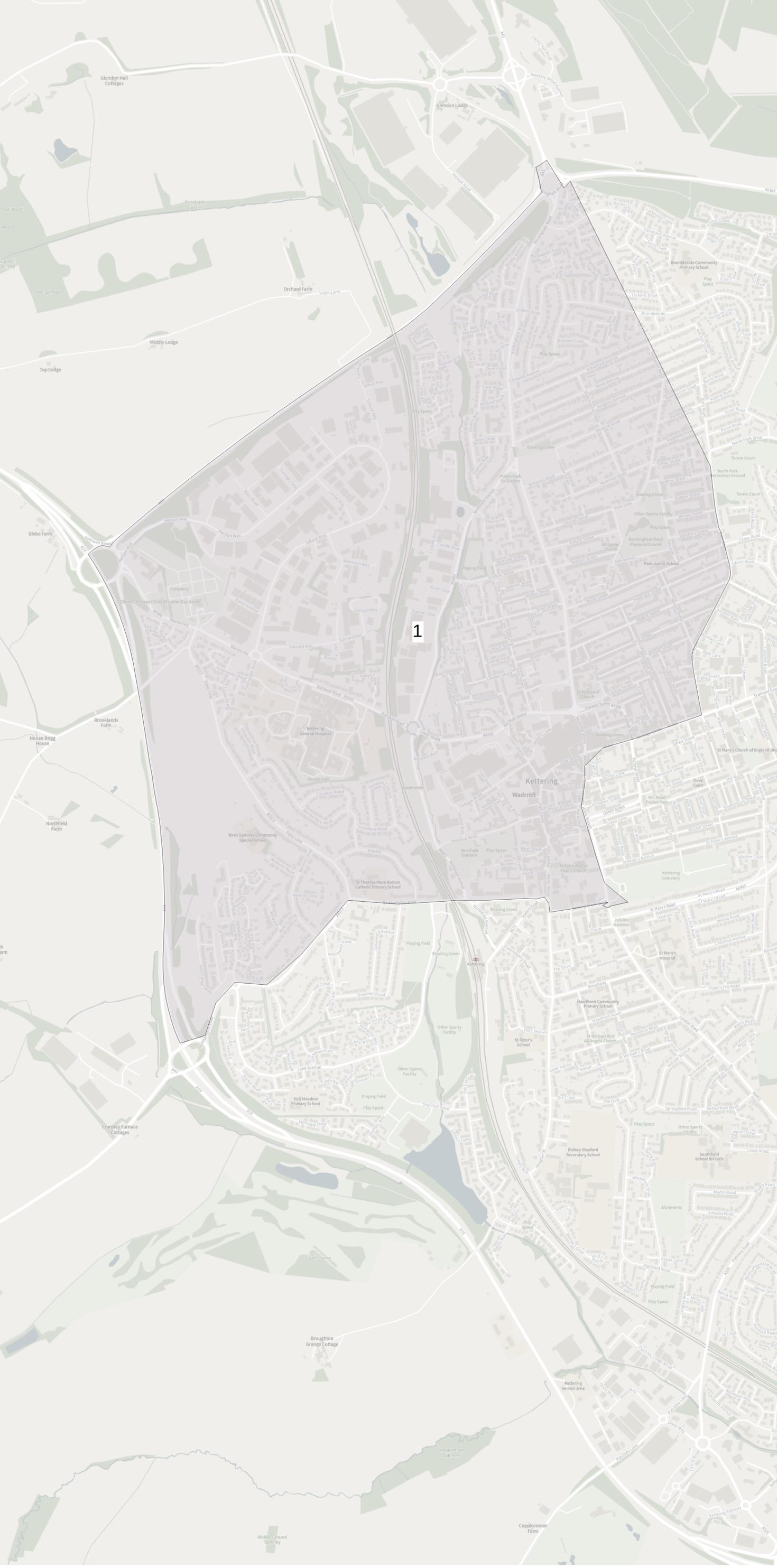
Date/Time **3634 - 4442**

Submitted: **02/03/2023 12:30**



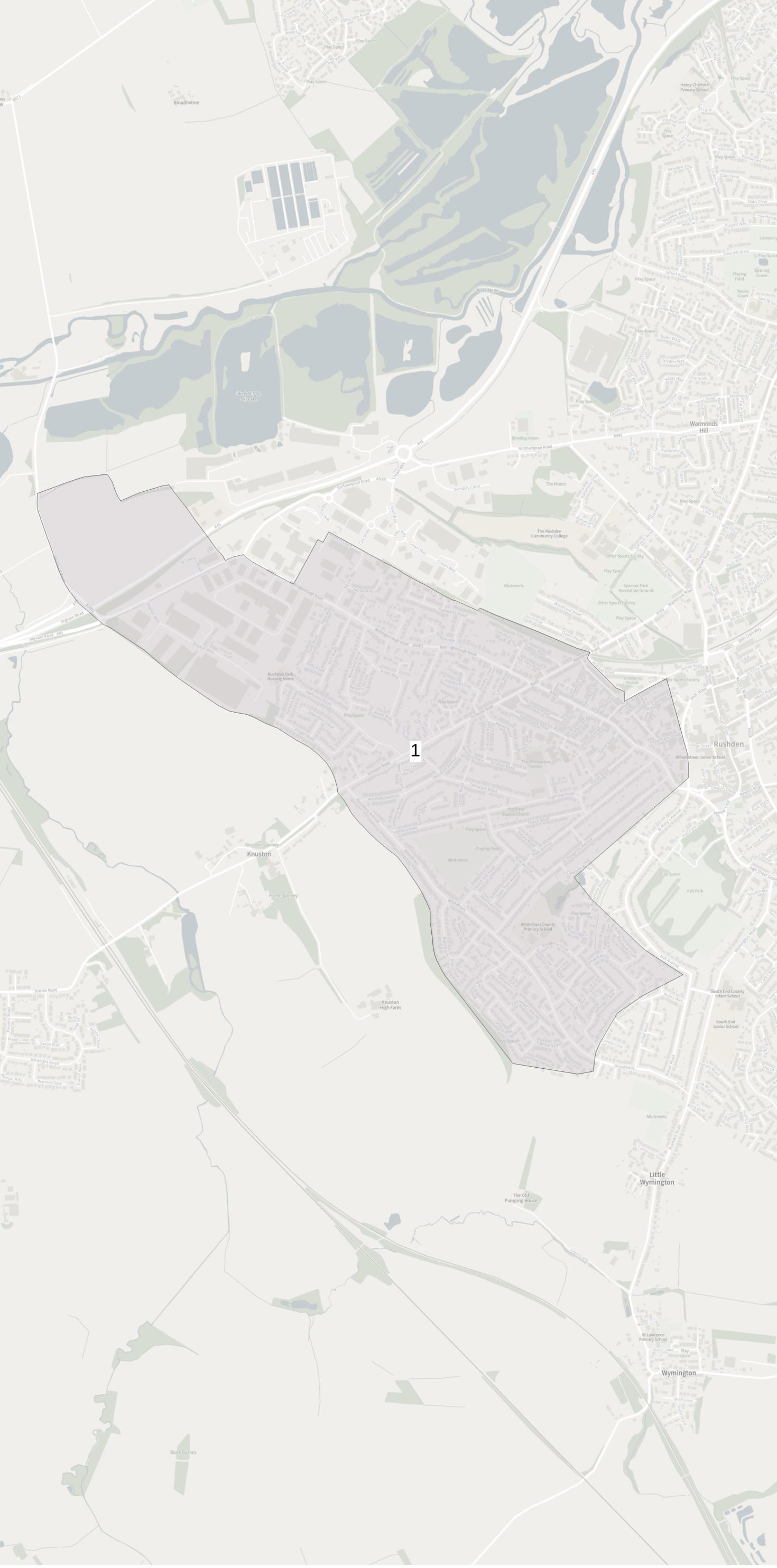
# Rothwell and Mawsley

Councillors: **3**  
Property count: **6958**  
Total Electorate: **12717**  
Cllr electorate: **4239**  
Electorate Status: **Balanced**  
Electorate Target:  
Date/Time **3634 - 4442**  
Submitted: **02/03/2023 12:30**



# Northall

Councillors: **3**  
Property count: **8003**  
Total Electorate: **12753**  
Cllr electorate: **4251**  
Electorate Status: **Balanced**  
Electorate Target:  
Date/Time **3634 - 4442**  
Submitted: **02/03/2023 12:30**



# Pemberton

Councillors:	<b>2</b>
Property count:	<b>4629</b>
Total Electorate:	<b>8656</b>
CLLr electorate:	<b>4328</b>
Electorate Status:	<b>Balanced</b>
Electorate Target:	
Date/Time	<b>3634 - 4442</b>
Submitted:	<b>02/03/2023 12:30</b>

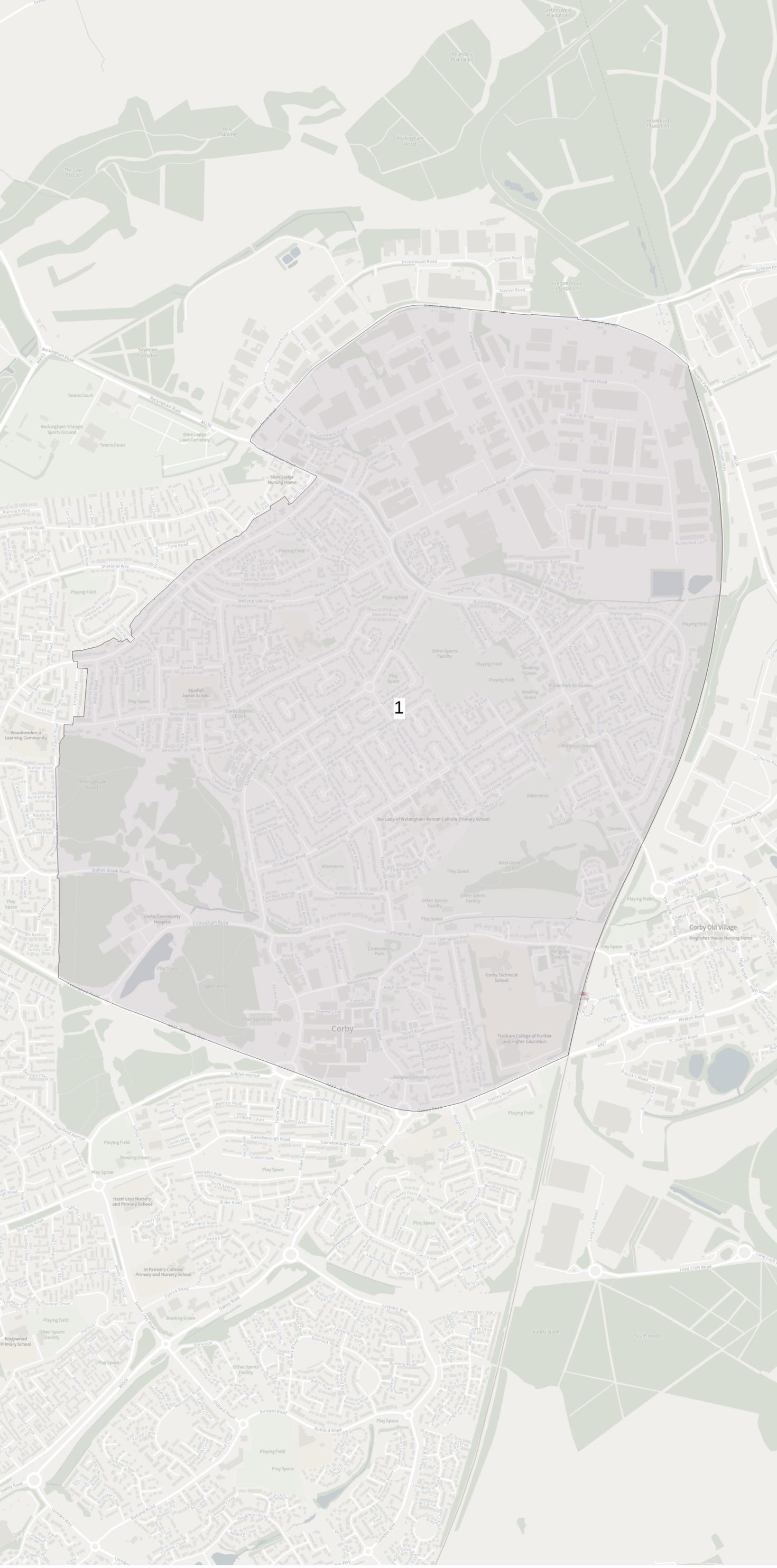
## Pemberton Ward

The Pemberton Family had a long history in Rushden, and have given their name to several local features, plus the current NNC ward. We propose that the second Rushden ward be called Pemberton Ward, and be centred on the part of the Town that is most linked to the Pemberton heritage.

Pemberton Ward will incorporate the Town Council's Pemberton and Spencer South Wards. On their own, they'll be too small for a NNC 2-councillor ward.

We therefore propose that Pemberton Ward should also include the Town Council's Hayden Central Ward, less the roads donated to Rushden Lakes Ward. (I.e. Pemberton Ward will include Hayden Central, but minus Duck Street, Midland Road and Station Road).

This brings Pemberton Ward to a total of approximately 8606 voters. The community hubs in Pemberton Ward will be Highfield Road Church and St Peters Church.



# Lloyds

Councillors: **3**

Property count: **6491**

Total Electorate: **11844**

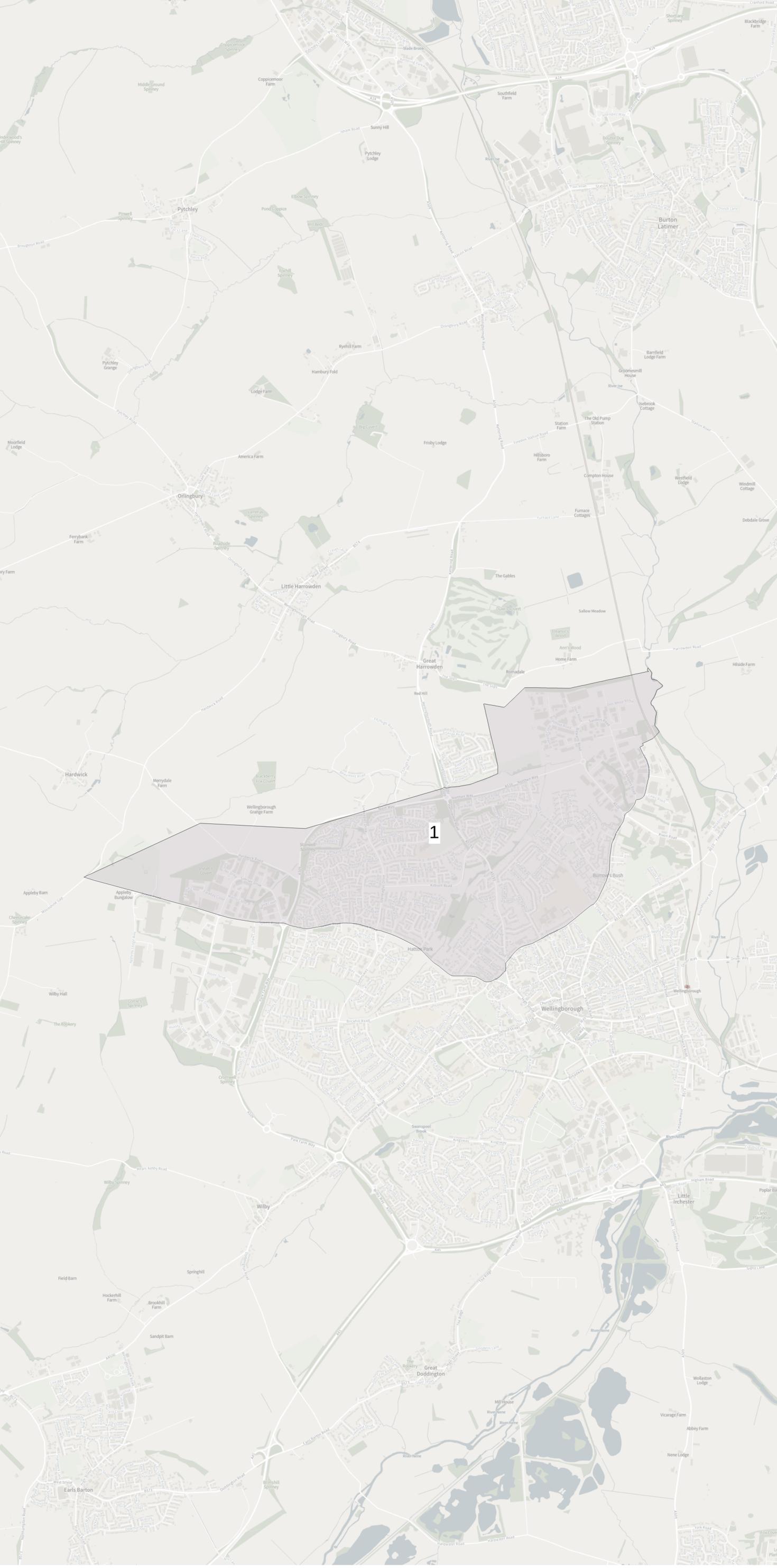
CLLr electorate: **3948**

Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

Date/Time **3634 - 4442**

Submitted: **02/03/2023 12:30**



# Hatton

**Councillors:** 3  
**Property count:** 5787  
**Total Electorate:** 11583  
**Clr electorate:** 3861  
**Electorate Status:** **Balanced**  
**Electorate Target:**  
**Date/Time** 3634 - 4442  
**Submitted: 02/03/2023 12:30**

## Proposed Gleneagles Division

The proposed Gleneagles Division would consist of a mature, established co-ordinated and cohesive community with great commonality. Most was built in the early 1990s, much of it on a dislodged golf course - the club survives at Great Harrowden - giving a common history.

There are two main local centres that the residents look to; Bushfield Centre in Grafton Close and the Farm Road Centre that contains the only public house in the ward and is thus a centre for local leisure. Both local centres are well used and draw from and serve the ward. The former is also next to the Vicarage Farm Club, named after one of the early developments in the ward and providing community facilities for members, including a hall for hire, meeting room and bar.

Built earlier than the rest, in the sixties as London Overspill, is a distinct area, the Hemmingwell Estate, characterised by more social and former social housing, but, with its own Community & Skills Centre at its heart, with the only church building in the ward nearby and a two unit centre. This is an area of social deprivation, but, sits beside the other constituent parts.

One of the most established and sought after parts of the town is Hatton Park, which has hitherto been an area where development has been protected to preserve the special atmosphere and environment of the town. This area has a special street scene and forms a good joint between the town centre and the suburban areas that form the rest of Hatton Park.

There is a section of post war housing in the area known as The Pyghtle. This, along with the Hemmingwell which it borders, was built upon an orchard and still features many apple trees and an amenity area still called the Orchard. Two schools listed below sit at the edge of this area, but, there are no services, the only units being given over to a hairdresser and a nursery. It features many bungalows.

There is one Secondary School, Sir Christopher Hatton, named after a Lord Chancellor to Queen Elizabeth I, which is very oversubscribed due to its success in education. There are two Primary Schools, Oakway in the Hatton MAT and Redwell, another over-subscribed school.

There is one Leisure Centre, Redwell, run by a contractor on behalf of the Council. This is thus a centre of health and well being for the ward. Further sporting facilities are at Wellingborough Town Cricket Club and Wellingborough Bowls Club (indoor and Outdoor). Both are private clubs with large participation and, in the case of the cricket club, several youth teams. There are some private gyms in the industrial estate.

There is one GP Surgery, Redwell Medical, at Turner Road and this services the entire ward and is heavily subscribed.

A either extremity on the East-West axis are significant employment sites in Park Farm North and Finendon Road Industrial Estate, providing local accessible employment for residents.

Recently, the parishing in the town has been amended and now there is a Gleneagles Parish and church, which is currently meeting in Redwell School. The parish boundary aligns in great deal to the proposed ward, including Redhill Grange and Glendale Park giving greater impetus to the rationale for the ward proposal.

The ward is defined and bounded by some arterial roads, Hardwick Road, Harrowden Road, Nest Lane and Gold Street, all ancient thoroughfares into town as well as the later Niot Way and Northen Way, which form the previous edges of the town and the ring road, prior to the establishment of Redhill Grange and Glendale Park.

One important feature of the ward is the presence of wonderful, varied, green lungs, some alongside the two brooks that run through it, including at one point, drawing activity from Hatton Park, Vicarage Farm and Westminster Road areas, the only Wild Meadow in the Town, Glamis Meadow and Wood and the original Red Well spring and extending past Harrowden Road to the industrial estate and on to the River Ise. These amenity areas are well used by residents, for informal sport, dog walking, etc. and have play equipment in places. Whilst they may run between areas, they make a common purpose for those living either side and nearby and not a division. In a similar vein is the long established Waterworks Lane that survives as a footpath through the estate from Hardwick Road to Harrowden Road and was an important access in the past and now is a prominent walking route.

The town has been enlarged in the past by the addition of the Redhill Grange area and this has traditionally been included in the old Borough Wards, indeed it is in the Rixon Town Council ward. The development is separated from the town by Northen Way, but, is close to and accesses the Farm Road Centre, having a dedicated underpass. There are no services or facilities on Redhill Grange, so it relies on and engages with the Town.

Additionally, a Sustainable Urban Development is being built at Glendale Park, alongside Niot Way. This will be, over time, some 3,500 new dwellings with a local centre, sports field, primary school and care home (already open). About 400 houses are already occupied and the build out is 250 per year. This is clearly an extension to the town and is part of the Town Council Redwell Ward, so should be considered as part of the town and not isolated. Currently, the NNC ward boundary splits it in two at the brook that runs through it, but, this is illogical to divide what is intended to be an integrated community in two. It will confuse residents and complicate service arrangements.

I would propose Gleneagles as the new ward as the dominant part of the area with a common focus and environment that works as a cohesive unit.

# Higham Ferrers

Councillors: **2**

Property count: **4232**

Total Electorate: **8172**

CLLr electorate: **4086**

Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

Date/Time **3634 - 4442**

Submitted: **02/03/2023 12:30**

## Higham Ferrers Ward

As long-standing residents of Higham Ferrers and the nearby villages, which presently constitute the Higham Ferrers ward, we have reviewed the consultation guidance and believe that this proposal to follow is the most logical configuration for a ward moving forward.

The proposal that will be made strongly reflect the "interests and identities of local communities" and delivers on the desire that "each councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others"; principles sought after by the Local Government Boundary Commission.

The proposal we wish to make would see a Higham Ferrers ward consisting of:  
- Higham Ferrers (Electorate: 3587)  
- Rushden Spencer ward (Electorate: 2901)  
- Chelveston, Caldecott & Chelston Rise (Electorate: 2110)  
- Newton Bromswold (Electorate: approx. 150)

Presenting a combined electorate of 8748 and to be represented by 3 councillors; a figure influenced by the high projected growth of Higham Ferrers and the Rushden Sustainable Urban Extension.

In summary, this proposal would keep the existing ward due to the strong community ties, which will be expanded upon below. It sees the addition of Newton Bromswold; a small rural village. This is again based on local ties and identities.

## Detailed Proposal:

The aforementioned proposal would see the villages of Chelveston, Caldecott, Chelston Rise and Newton Bromswold in a ward with Higham Ferrers. This reflects the strong ties between these villages and the town, evidenced below:

Chelveston, Caldecott and Chelston Rise form the parish of 'Chelveston-cum-Caldecott', with the three villages separated by just ½ a mile at the most. Caldecott is 2 miles from Higham Ferrers, whereas the next nearest towns of Raunds and Rushden are 2.7 miles and 3 miles respectively. As a consequence, these three villages have a strong connection with Higham Ferrers, explicitly highlighted in Chelveston-cum-Caldecott Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), which was "made" with the support of 88% of the community in 2017. The NDP states that "from a civic perspective [the parish] has always had a closer association with Higham Ferrers" than the nearby town of Raunds.

Young people from the villages come under the catchment of, and attend, the primary and secondary schools in Higham Ferrers, for example Henry Chichele Primary School.

In respect of local amenities, the geographical location of the villages sees local people using the doctors, dentists, shops, mechanics etc. of Higham Ferrers. The range of services on offer in the town is of particular importance given the "limited amenities" [Chelveston-cum-Caldecott Neighbourhood Development Plan, 2017] in the villages. Access to these amenities in Higham Ferrers is supported by the highways network and well-used footpaths running between the villages (Screenshot below). For example, Higham Ferrers GP Surgery is just 2.6 miles from Chelveston.

Chelveston-cum-Caldecott NDP highlights that "The Parish shares its priest with the Parish of St Mary the Virgin in Higham Ferrers, further underpinning the civic links with the nearby town.", with joint services and events regularly taking place in St John's Church, Caldecott.

Chelveston is home to a thriving village hall, which services events every day of the week. The NDP again reflects the ties with Higham Ferrers and Rushden, stating: "the Hall is a very popular children's party venue for families from... Higham Ferrers and Rushden."

With regard to local businesses, the villages are home to notable organisations, such as JST Forklifts and Carr Brothers Haulage which have ties to Higham Ferrers. The NDP states in relation to JST Forklifts that "The owners of the site have expressed a wish to move from this location to a more suitable site at the junction of the B645 and A6 in Higham Ferrers." Moreover, Carr Brothers Haulage have a base in the village of Caldecott but "the majority of the haulage operation has now moved to the site on Upper Higham Lane.", nearer to the town.

Abutting the boundary of Chelston Rise is the large industrial development of Chelveston Renewable Energy Park (CREP). In 2021, planning application: 19/01781/FUL (Hybrid application comprising: Site 1. Federal Estates land off Newton Road, Higham Ferrers: demolition of industrial buildings and redevelopment to create 120 dwellings with highway works, battery storage area, landscaping, acoustic fencing and bunding. (Full planning permission). Site 2. Phased development of land at the Chelveston Renewable Energy Park) was granted permission.

A fundamental aspect of the 120 dwellings will be the use of renewable energy generated at the CREP site. Moreover, the application reflected the desire for a local workforce for the industrial developments on the CREP, furthering the connection with Higham Ferrers.

Turning to the village of Newton Bromswold, we believe that this sits well within a Higham Ferrers ward for the following reasons:

Until 2021, Newton Bromswold formed part of the Higham Ferrers Lancaster ward on East Northamptonshire Council. At present it sits within the Rushden South ward; an urban ward in which it is the only village, separated by some distance from the town of Rushden. As part of a Higham Ferrers ward, it would be connected with the four other villages, which due to their rural nature, have very similar characteristics and sit just 1.4 miles from one another. One such characteristic is a close connectivity with the county of Bedfordshire, which abuts Chelston Rise and Newton Bromswold. Historically, Newton Bromswold was closely associated with the Chelveston-cum-Caldecott Parish due to RAF Chelveston which sat between the villages. Geographically, the civic centre of Higham Ferrers is 3.7 miles from Newton Bromswold, whereas the civic centre of Rushden is 4.5 miles.

Moving to the Rushden Spencer ward, which forms part of Rushden Town Council, it is believed that this aligns closely with Higham Ferrers for the following reasons:

The closes of Donne Close, Owen Way, Larkin Gardens, Swallow Drive and Ravensbank sit within the urban envelope of Higham Ferrers, as highlighted below, but technically form part of Rushden. As a consequence of their geographical location, residents of these roads view themselves as residents of Higham Ferrers, using the amenities of the town, such as local schools and shops.

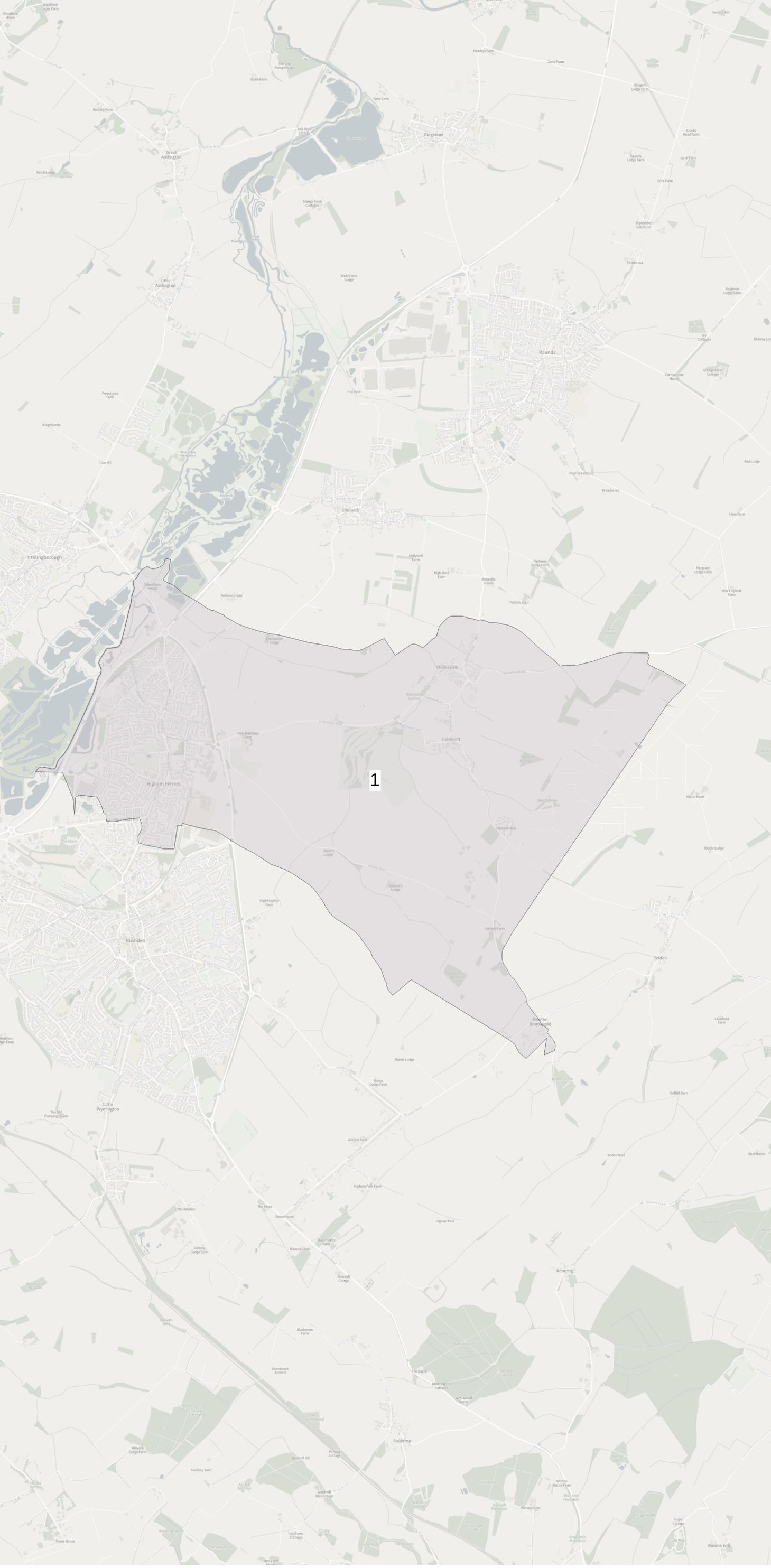
[Donne Close, Rushden, highlighted by the red pin, in relation to Higham Ferrers]

## SEPARATE PAGE UPLOADED

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More broadly, the Rushden Spencer area is closely connected with Higham Ferrers due to the Greenway, an important public footpath which connects the settlements intrinsically. Residents of Higham Ferrers regularly use the Asda superstore located off the Washbrook Road (Rushden Spencer). Higham Ferrers and Rushden are intrinsically linked, with both boundaries weaving into one another. As a consequence, decisions, such as planning applications, that affect one town affect the other and there is a close relationship between town councils. The connection of Rushden Spencer with Higham Ferrers cements this relationship, which is a necessity for both settlements. As such, by putting this area of Rushden in a ward with Higham Ferrers, the close working relationship of the towns is facilitated, providing a voice for an in many senses 'technical' area of Rushden in the area it is geographically and communally tied with.

In conclusion, we believe that this proposal in its entirety reflects a logical drawing of a ward, reflecting the identities and connectivity of the settlements highlighted. The proposed developments within the boundary of such a ward would necessitate three councillors to adequately represent the interests of local residents as expansion takes place.



## Higham Ferrers Ward

As long-standing residents of Higham Ferrers and the nearby villages, which presently constitute the Higham Ferrers ward, we have reviewed the consultation guidance and believe that this proposal to follow is the most logical configuration for a ward moving forward.

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Presenting a combined electorate of 8748 and to be represented by 3 councillors; a figure influenced by the high projected growth of Higham Ferrers and the Rushden Sustainable Urban Extension.

In summary, this proposal would keep the existing ward due to the strong community ties, which will be expanded upon below. It sees the addition of Newton Bromswold; a small rural village. This is again based on local ties and identities.

### **Detailed Proposal:**

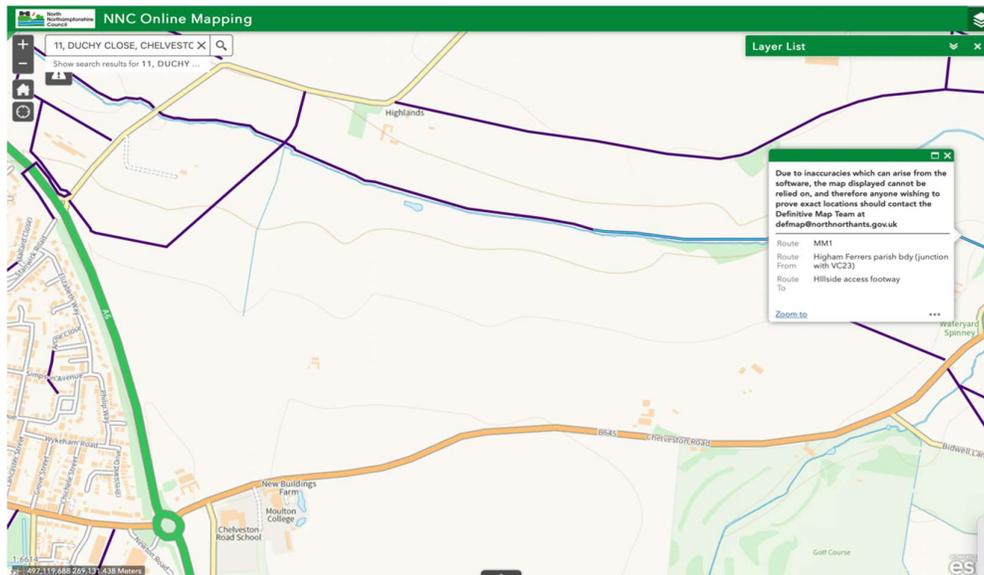
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Young people from the villages come under the catchment of, and attend, the primary and secondary schools in Higham Ferrers, for example Henry Chichele Primary School.

In respect of local amenities, the geographical location of the villages sees local people using the doctors, dentists, shops, mechanics etc. of Higham Ferrers. The range of services on offer in the town is of particular importance given the *“limited amenities”* [Chelveston-cum-Caldecott Neighbourhood Development Plan, 2017] in the villages. Access to these amenities

in Higham Ferrers is supported by the highways network and well-used footpaths running between the villages (Screenshot below). For example, Higham Ferrers GP Surgery is just 2.6 miles from Chelveston.



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**THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

United Benefice of St. Mary and St. John

**Our policies**

- [Data Privacy Notice](#)
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The Diocese of Peterborough

St. Mary the Virgin Church  
Church Walk  
Higham Ferrers  
Northants  
NN10 8DL

St. John the Baptist Church  
Caldecott Road  
Chelveston cum Caldecott  
Northants  
NN9 6AT

Chelveston is home to a thriving village hall, which services events every day of the week. The NDP again reflects the ties with Higham Ferrers and Rushden, stating: *“the Hall is a very popular children’s party venue for families from...Higham Ferrers and Rushden.”*

With regard to local businesses, the villages are home to notable organisations, such as JST Forklifts and Carr Brothers Haulage which have ties to Higham Ferrers. The NDP states in relation to JST Forklifts that *“The owners of the site have expressed a wish to move from this location to a more suitable site at the junction of the B645 and A6 in Higham Ferrers.”* Moreover, Carr Brothers Haulage have a base in the village of Caldecott but *“the majority of the haulage operation has now moved to the site on Upper Higham Lane.”*, nearer to the town.

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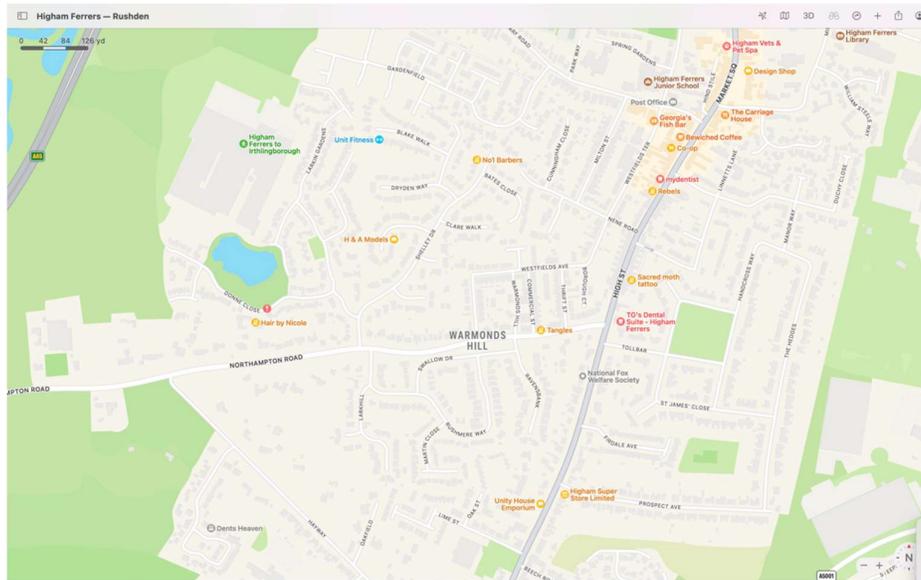
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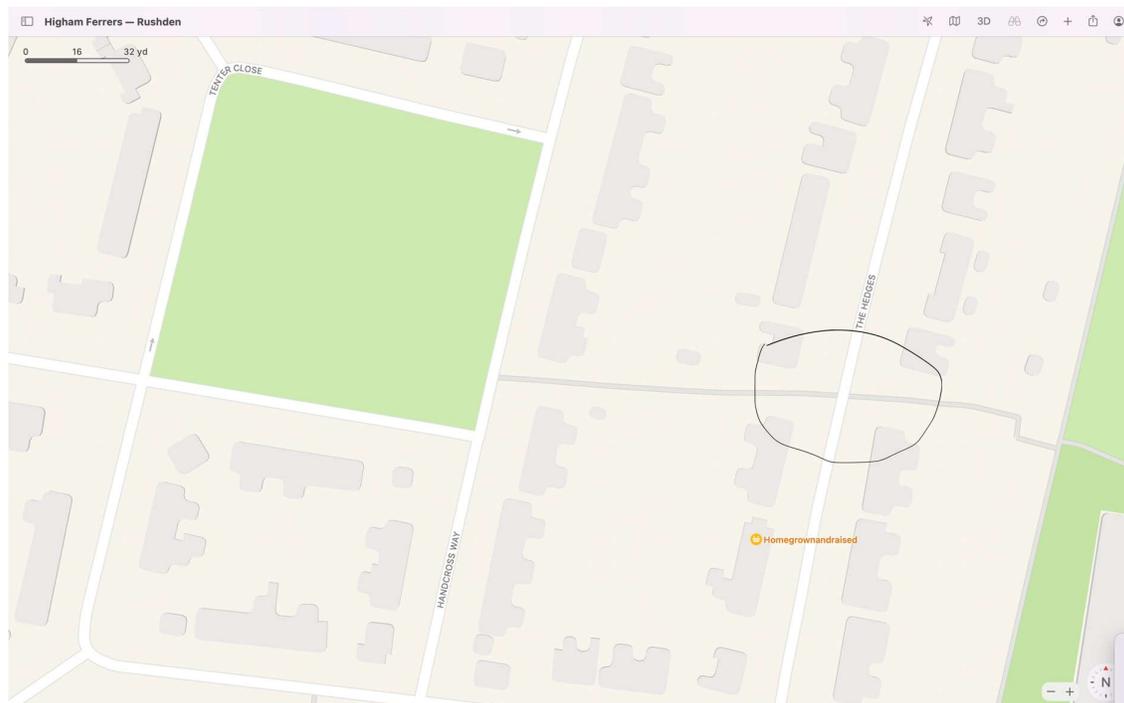
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[Donne Close, Rushden, highlighted by the red pin, in relation to Higham Ferrers]

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In conclusion, we believe that this proposal in its entirety reflects a logical drawing of a ward, reflecting the identities and connectivity of the settlements highlighted. The proposed developments within the boundary of such a ward would necessitate three councillors to adequately represent the interests of local residents as expansion takes place.

# Huxlow Ward (Finedon and Irthlingborough)

Councillors: **3**

Property count: **6685**

Total Electorate: **11898**

Cllr electorate: **3966**

Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

Date/Time **3634 - 4442**

Submitted: **02/03/2023 12:30**

I would support Finedon and Irthlingborough (including the Addingtons) being joined as there are many linkages between these constituent parts and combined they would be about the right population for a 3 member ward.

The main reasons for this fall into the following categories:

**Educational**

**Infant & Junior Schools**

Finedon Infants, Finedon Junior, Irthlingborough Infants and Irthlingborough Juniors are all closely linked and are the 4 schools in the Learning for Life Education Trust. They share finances, staff and overarching governance.

Most pupils from Finedon and Irthlingborough go to the Learning for Life Education Trust schools.

Great Addington School has pupils from Little and Great Addington and has for many years also had pupils from both Finedon and Irthlingborough. This school is part of the Peterborough Diocese Educational Trust and has a strong Christian ethos.

**Secondary School and Sixth Form**

Huxlow Academy is located in Irthlingborough and its stated feeder schools are reported on Wikipedia as follows:

- The school gains its Year 7 students from primary schools in Irthlingborough, Finedon, Little Addington, Great Addington and Woodford as well as numerous schools in surrounding villages.

Huxlow School was founded in 1962 and was originally known as Finedon and Irthlingborough Secondary Modern School.

**Ecclesiastically**

Finedon, Irthlingborough and the Addingtons are all in the Archdeaconry of Oakham.

Finedon, Irthlingborough and the Addingtons are all in the Rural Deanery of Higham.

The non Finedon town parts of the current Finedon Ward are in Wellingborough, which is in the other Archdeaconry of the Diocese, the Archdeaconry of Northampton.

**Geographically**

Finedon and Irthlingborough are A6 towns adjacent to one another and at their nearest point are only ~ 1 mile apart.

**Industrial Heritage**

Finedon and Irthlingborough are both Boot and Shoe Towns with a shared industrial heritage with many residents working in factories in either town.

Both Finedon and Irthlingborough have an iron ore mining and quarrying history and were part of the same complex and to this day are physically connected underground via retired mine workings. Miners came predominantly from both towns.

I trust that this is of assistance, any queries let me know.

**Military**

The Royal British Legion branch is Finedon, Irthlingborough and District Branch

Cllr Andrew Weatherill

# Irchester & Rural

Councillors: **3**

Property count: **4847**

Total Electorate: **9324**

CLLr electorate: **3108**

Electorate Status:  
**Unbalanced (3082)**

Electorate Target:

Date/Time **3634 - 4442**

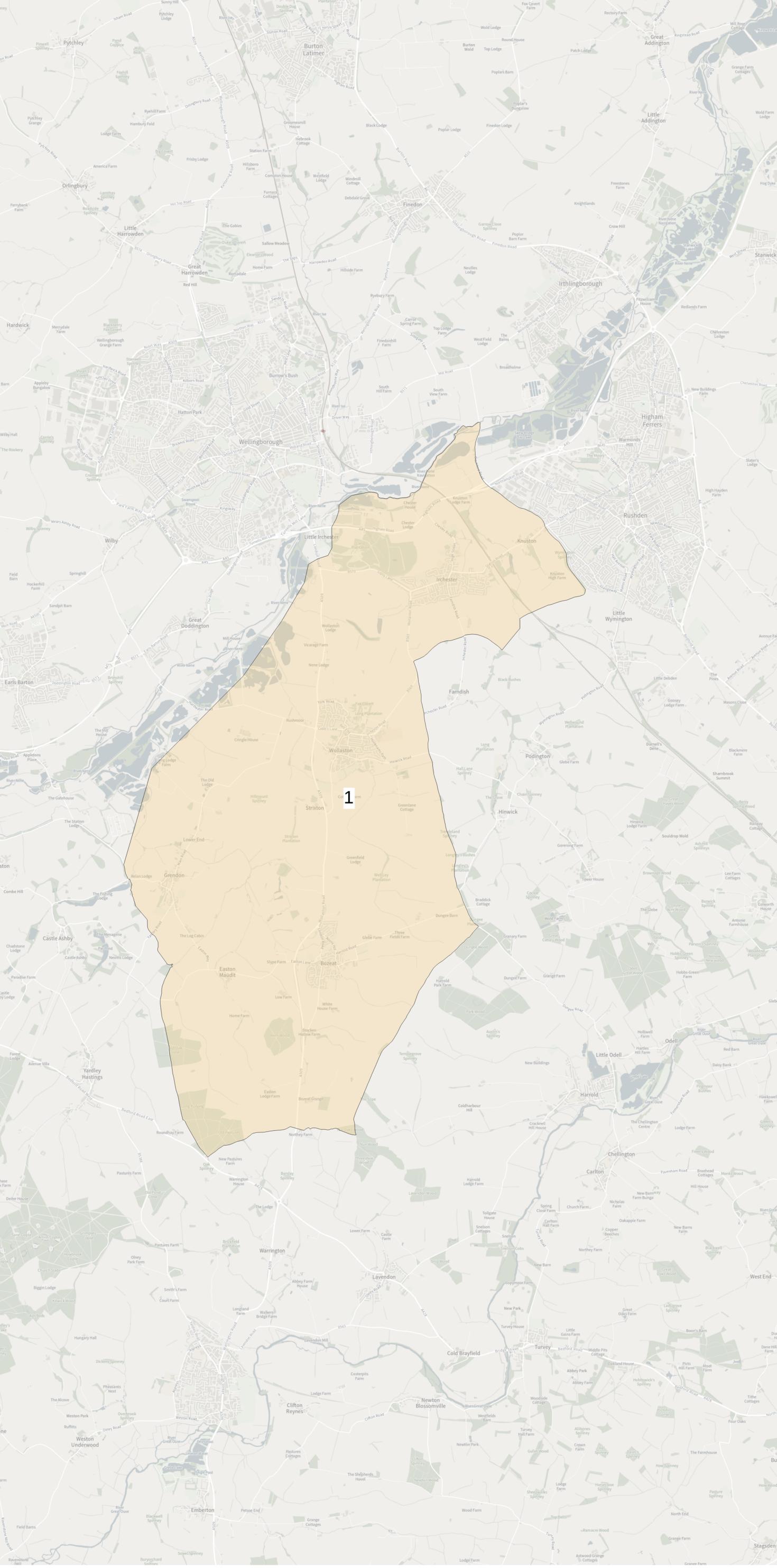
Submitted: **03/03/2023 12:27**

Irchester with Little Irchester (Part of Parish)  
Contact for queries: Cllrs J-P Carr or T Partridge-Underwood  
Very strong community facilities with many public halls (Village Hall, Parsons Hall, Methodist Hall, Bowls Club Hall, Working Men's Club Hall) where community events take place e.g. W.I., Youth Groups, Older Persons Groups. Sporting Ground and Clubhouse (Cricket and Football) and also a strong Bowling Club that serves the wider Rural communities of neighbouring rural Parishes. There is also a very strong drama group in the village which provides opportunities for younger people from across the wider rural area. The village has a community volunteer run library which balances its opening times with that of the adjoining one in Wollaston that together serves all the adjoining parishes. A well established large Primary School that feeds the adjoining Secondary School at Wollaston where a School bus service operates to take pupils from Irchester The village Primary and Wollaston Secondary School along with Bozeat Primary School are part of the Nene Valley Academy Trust. The village also has a pre-school which again serves the wider rural community beyond Irchester with attendees. There are many community events including the annual village gala, remembrance day service and litter picking groups. The village contains a array of retail establishments including the Co-op, chemists, hair salons and takeaways (which all serve the adjoining parishes as well). The nearby Post Office in Wollaston serves Irchester as it no longer has a post office. The village also contains a few care homes for older persons and adults with additional needs. These homes provide long term care not just for village resident but for many from the adjoining rural parishes. Irchester sits within the landscape bounded on one side by two urban towns of Rushden and Wellingborough. It has a natural Boundary on one side of the River Nene separating it from the Urban sprawl of Wellingborough. The parish has two main roads that pass through almost at its edge, these being the A45 and the A509 which act as link roads to the surrounding area particularly to the parishes in the south of the area. The London to Leicester Railway line passes through part of the parish known as Knuston (a hamlet within the Parish) and forms a man made boundary. There is also an ancient bridleway that splits Knuston from the town of Rushden which was formally the main A6 until the enclosure act of the 1700s. All these physical boundaries also therefore forms a strong boundary with the adjoining urban towns of Rushden and Wellingborough creating a urban to rural feel. Also contained within the Parish of Irchester is the unique ancient scheduled monument of Chester House with its large Roman Town, Listed Farmhouse and Farm buildings, Archaeological Store and associated buildings which now forms The Chester House Estate a main visitor attraction in the area. This site is historically linked to the main village of Irchester. Adjoining the Chester House Estate site is Claudius Way which contains Warehousing which provides many jobs locally. Irchester Country Park (a former Quarry) also stands between the main village of Irchester and the hamlet of Little Irchester. The Country Park contains the Irchester Narrow Gauge Railway Museum which explains the history of Ironstone Quarry in the area. The historic Grade 1 listed Church of St Katharines forms a key part of the village community as does the local Methodist Church which falls within the circuit with Wollaston Methodist Church. The Reachout Community Church also serves a wider rural congregation. The village surgery has a strong rural focus with many of its users from Irchester and the surrounding rural parishes. The Parish of Irchester (which contains Irchester, Knuston and Little Irchester) has also undertaken a Neighbourhood plan which is a policy in place until 2031 and is in the process of seeing new residential houses being constructed as part of this plan. Strixton (with Wollaston)

A very small rural agricultural village with just a historic Parish Church providing a community focal point with a Conservation Village. The village does have a strong sense of being an independent community The village does have a rural industrial estate using former Agricultural barns. Historically the settlement has been linked to Wollaston with children attending the local school and villagers using Wollaston shops and amenities. In particular the playing field at Wollaston actually lies within the Parish of Strixton and therefore serves both communities.

Easton Maudit (Linked to Grendon, Bozeat and Wollaston/Strixton)

Easton Maudit is a unique Conservation Village with a Grade I listed church. Almost all of its original stone cottages have survived and the village does not even have street lights. The church is linked to Bozeat, Wollaston and Strixton. There is a bell ringing group linked to Bozeat Church. The village has a Church Hall used by the local community for village events and get togethers from Murder Mysteries to watching national events on the big screen. The village is rural in layout and is bordered by Buckinghamshire on one side. To access Easton Maudit from the A509 you have to come through Bozeat. The nearby village of Bozeat, Grendon and Wollaston/Strixton provide other community cohesion and facilities that the residents of the village use from shops, schools and doctors surgeries.



# Irchester & Rural

Councillors: **3**

Property count: **4847**

Total Electorate: **9324**

CLLr electorate: **3108**

Electorate Status:  
**Unbalanced (3082)**

Electorate Target:

Date/Time **3634 - 4442**

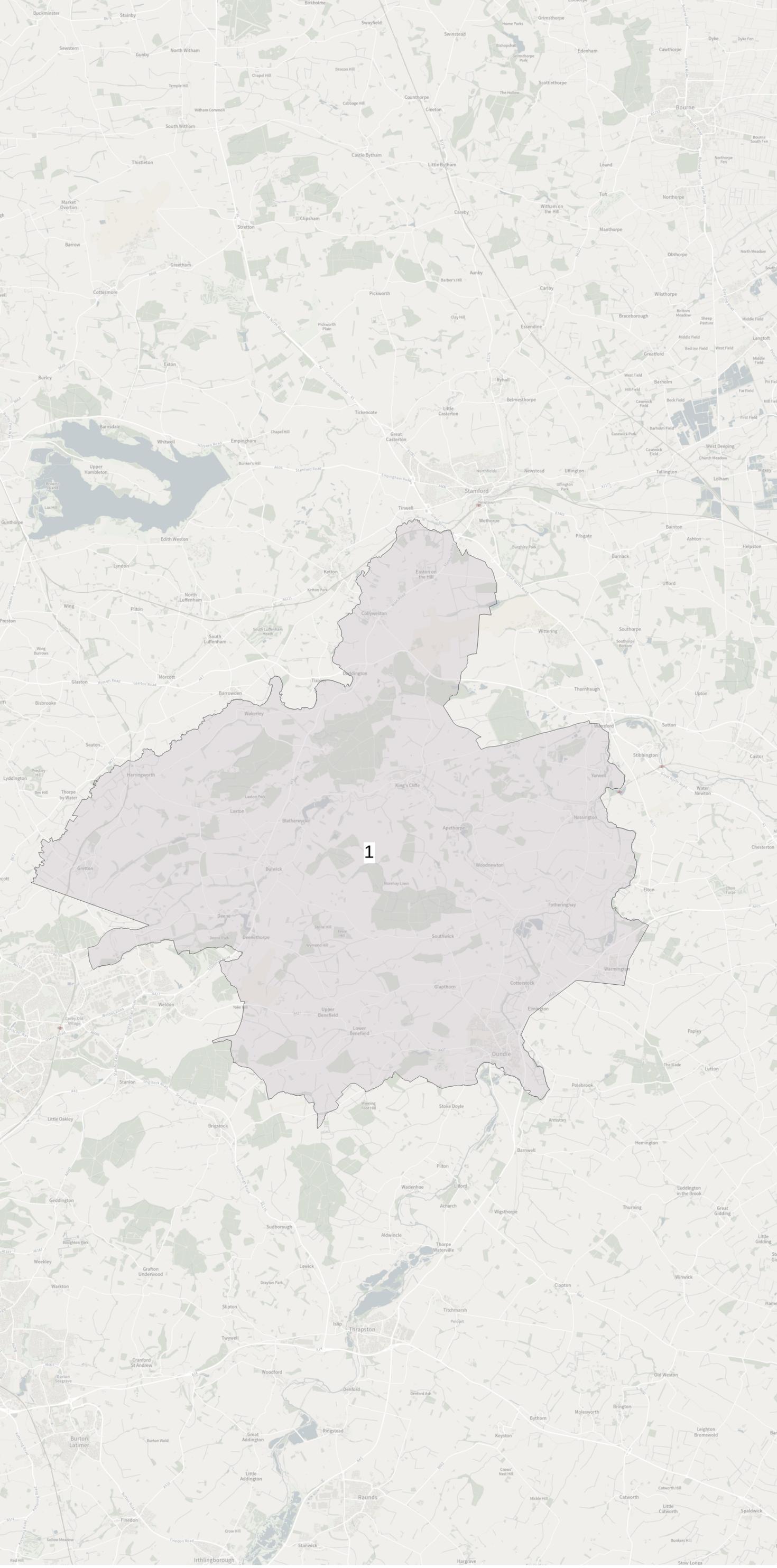
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Irchester with Little Irchester (Part of Parish)  
Contact for queries: Cllrs J-P Carr or T Partridge-Underwood  
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# Oundle

Councillors: **3**

Property count: **7258**

Total Electorate: **13275**

CLLr electorate: **4425**

Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

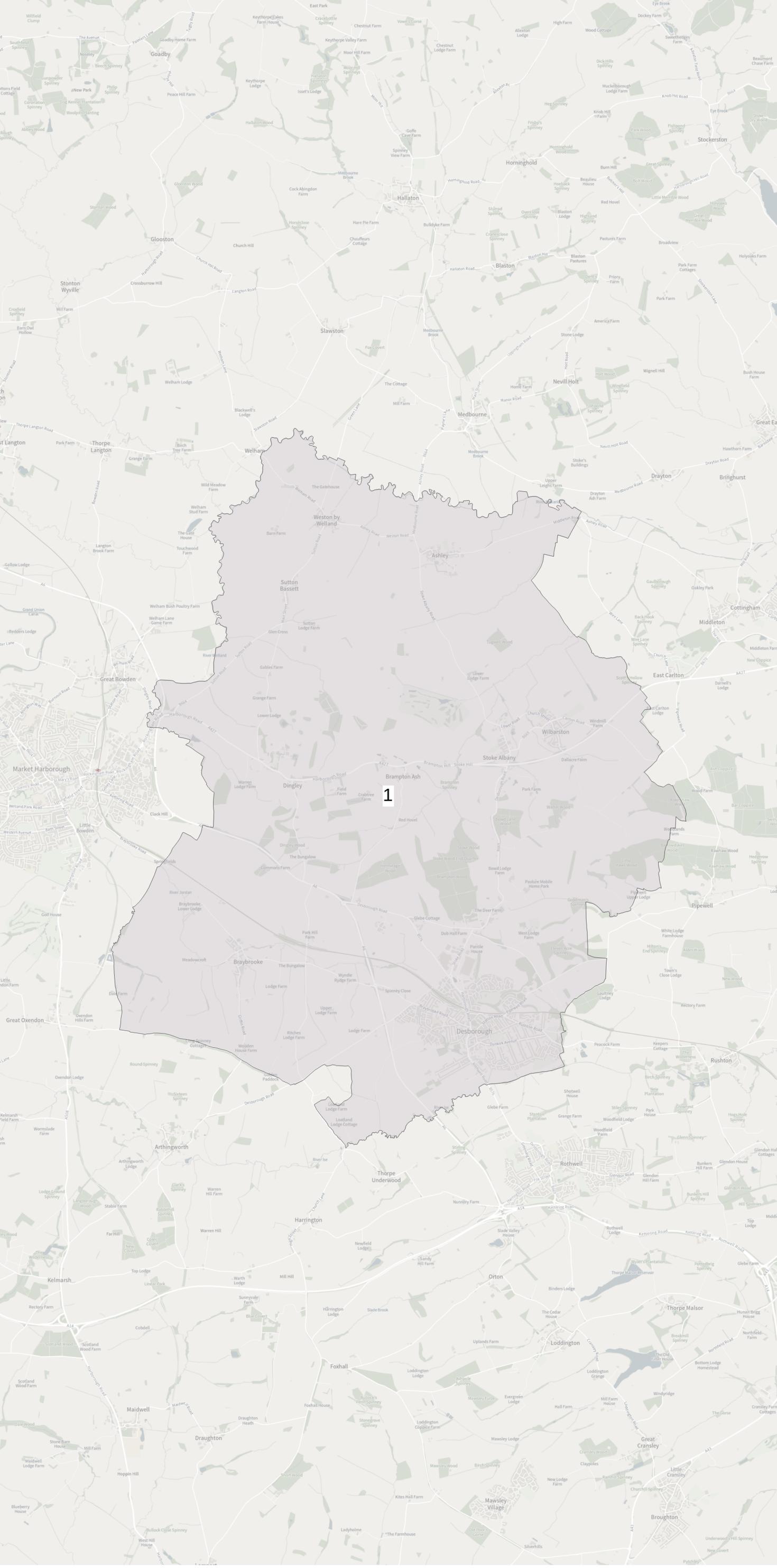
Date/Time **3634 - 4442**

Submitted: **02/03/2023 12:30**

One of the largest rural wards in North Northants and many very independent and strong communities. Every one has a strong community sense and although depending on Oundle for shopping and many other facilities and services, the local community requires a voice to be heard.

Church groups, WI, many other community groups, schools etc, and the private school sports group in Oundle, support the community with functions, sport activities and serve individually as vital community hubs in very rural areas.

The many pub in the area have often extremely important functions for the residents, whether as a mums & tots group to choirs or winter warmers to assist our diverse population.



# Desborough

Councillors: **3**

Property count: **6111**

Total Electorate: **11517**

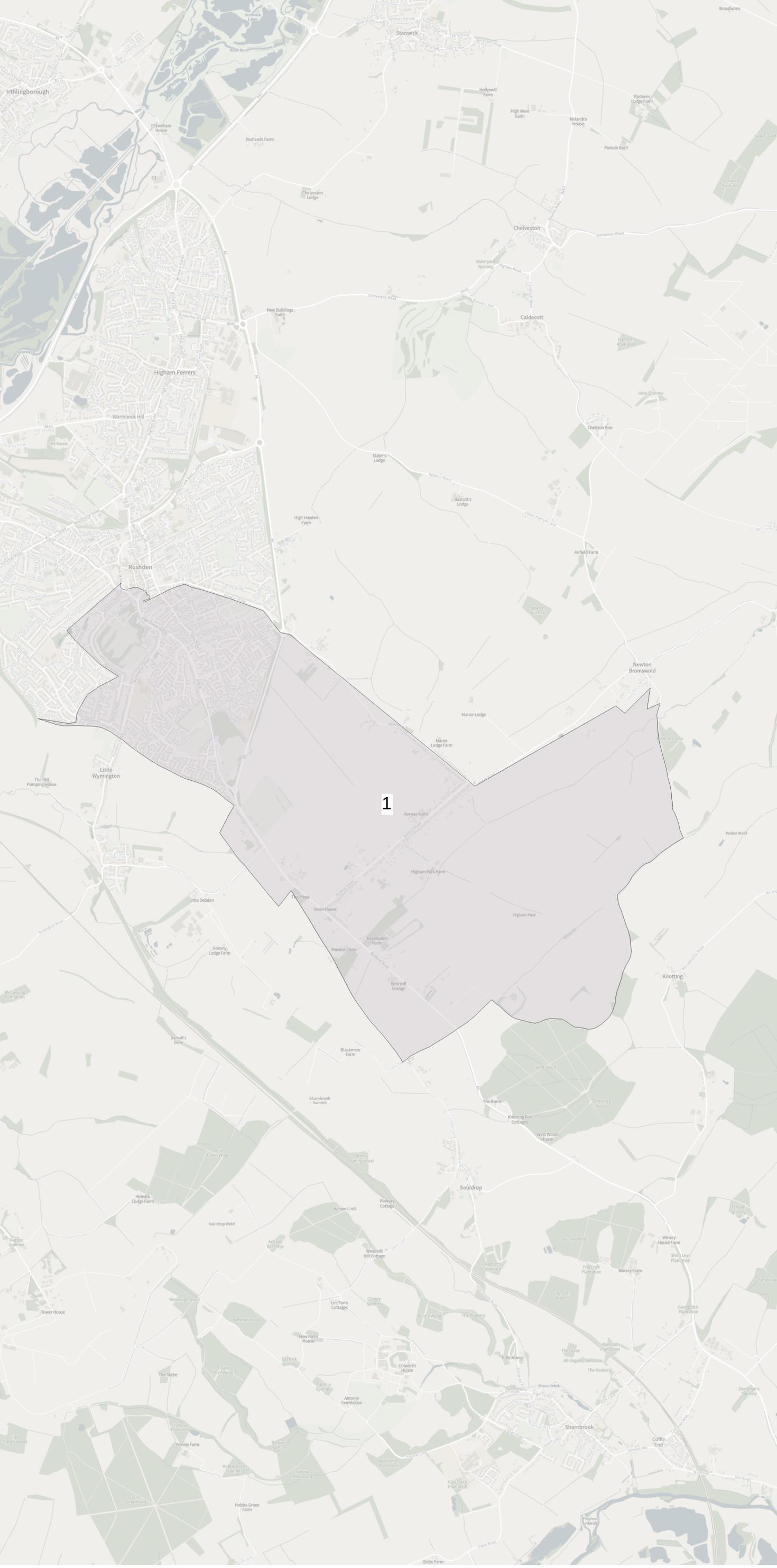
CLLr electorate: **3839**

Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

Date/Time **3634 - 4442**

Submitted: **02/03/2023 12:30**



# Sartoris

Councillors: **2**

Property count: **4396**

Total Electorate: **8358**

Clr electorate: **4179**

Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

Date/Time **3634 - 4442**

Submitted: **02/03/2023 12:30**

## Sartoris Ward

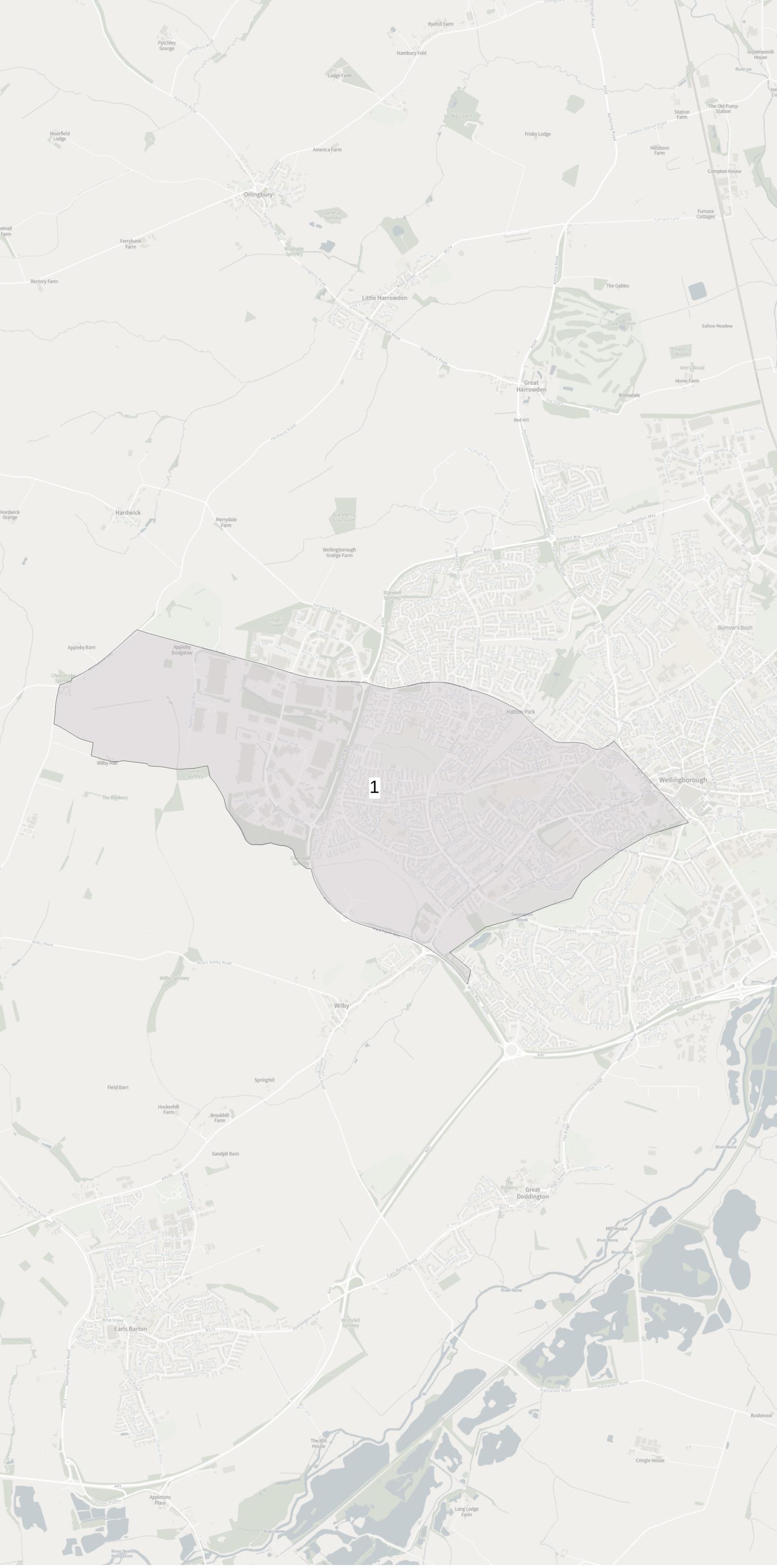
The Sartoris family lived for many years at Rushden Hall, which is in this third ward. We suggest therefore that this ward be called Sartoris Ward.

Rushden Hall is where the Town Council is based and a lot of community activities take place there. The adjoining Hall Park is where Rushden's Party in the Park is held each year, with thousands of attendees.

NNC's Sartoris Ward will consist of the Town Council's Sartoris West Ward, RTC's Sartoris East Ward and RTC's Bates Ward. However, this will not be big enough for a 2-councillor NNC ward.

We therefore propose including Newton Road, Dell Place, Russell Court and the Alwick estate. This comes to approximately 8739 voters

The Sartoris hubs are the Heritage Church (in Park Road), Rushden Hall and the Rushden and Higham Rugby club, in Manor Park.



# Queensway & Brickhill

**Councillors: 3**  
**Property count: 7016**  
**Total Electorate: 12321**  
**Cllr electorate: 4107**  
**Electorate Status: **Balanced****  
**Electorate Target:**  
**Date/Time 3634 - 4442**  
**Submitted: 02/03/2023 12:30**

## Brickhill & Queensway Ward

Queensway is an estate on the Western edge of Wellingborough, with a projected 5,751 voters. This is too many for a single-councillor ward on North Northamptonshire Council (NNC).

There is no obvious part of Queensway that could reasonably be transferred from it to another ward. We therefore suggest that Queensway be linked with a neighbouring area to form a NNC 2-councillor ward.

Brickhill is the obvious area to link with Queensway. There are strong community links between the two areas. This was shown by the recent parades against knife-crime that marched through the proposed NNC Ward. They were organised by local residents concerned about the level of knife-crime in the area.

There are two obvious community hubs in the proposed ward: Glamis Hall and St. Mark's Church.

Glamis Hall is a community centre in Queensway, but just a short distance from Brickhill Road. It serves both Queensway and Brickhill. It provides a Day Centre, a football club, a badminton club, a community theatre, a bingo club, various dance classes, a youth theatre etc.

St. Mark's Church is at the junction of Brickhill Road and Queensway. It hosts the Happy Dayz Nursery, Alcoholics Anonymous, a Young People's Music Club, Bingo sessions, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, a youth club, a Keep Fit Group and a Well-Being Coffee Shop, where councillors and a nurse give support.

A single secondary school (Weaver's Academy in Brickhill Road) serves the two areas.

The proposed ward is mainly bounded by Sywell Road/Hardwick Road to the North, Park Farm Road to the West, Northampton Road and Westfield Road to the South and East.

The projected number of voters for the proposed NNC ward is 10,630. This is too many for a NNC 2-councillor ward, but insufficient for a 3-councillor ward. Either some additional voters must be added (to bring it up to 3 councillors), or some removed (to reduce the ward down to 2 councillors).

We see no obvious way to reduce the proposed ward enough for 2-councillors without cutting up a community. We therefore propose adding to it, to bring it up to 3 councillors.

There are several ways to achieve this, but we suggest including a corner of the old Croylard/Swanspool ward. It is the mini-estate bounded by the triangle of roads near St Barnabas Church, plus an estate opposite it, across the Northampton Road.

This "triangle" has its own identity and comprises of Saint Barnabas Street, College Street, Grove Street, Arthur Street, lodged between Westfield and Northampton Roads.

The estate on the other side of Northampton Road (the Abbots Way Estate) is a community of its own with Abbots Way, Friars Close, Monks Way, Pilgrim Way, Pippin Close and Spring Gardens.

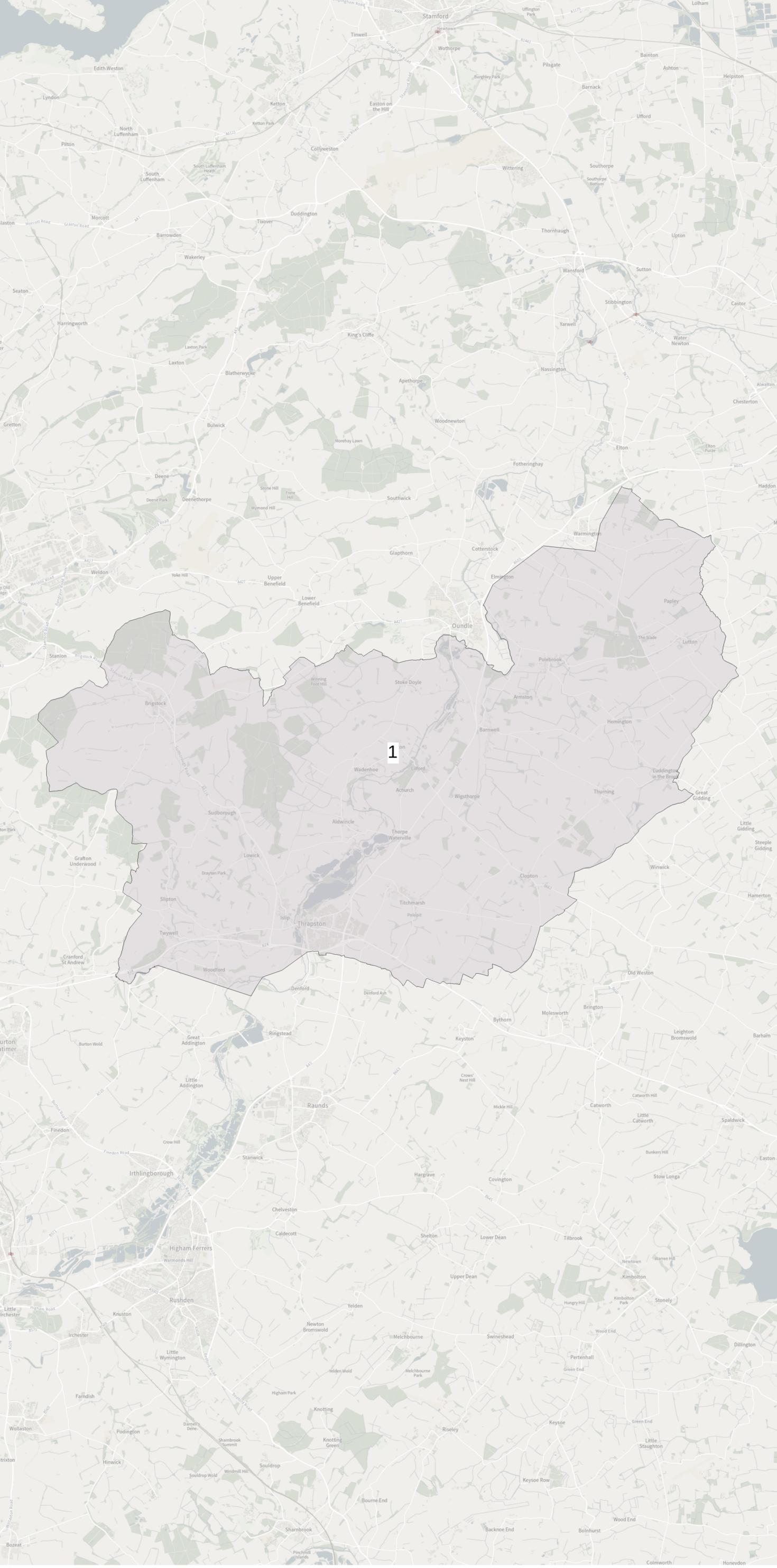
The other part of that area nestled between Northampton Road and Croylard Road consists of Brook Street West, Dale Street, Wood Street, Hill Street and Townsend Close. Croylard Road up to the brook could also be added in as it is the boundary of these roads with the next door Croylard area.

The triangle and the Abbots Way Estate are both communities with no clear connection to any of the surrounding areas. They can therefore be included in the Brickhill/Queensway NNC ward, without disrupting any communities.

We further suggest that Northampton Road from Oxford Street to the junction with Westfield Road be included in the Brickhill/Queensway ward.

We also suggest that the whole of Westfield Road be included in the Brickhill/Queensway ward. Part of Westfield Road is already included, as it is in the Brickhill zone. Including the entire road in a single NNC ward makes sense.

The proposed Brickhill & Queensway will then have 11,604 voters, which is 4.2% short of the nominal size for a 3-councillor NNC ward.



# Thrapston

**Councillors:** **3**  
**Property count:** **6604**  
**Total Electorate:** **12051**  
**Clr electorate:** **4017**  
**Electorate Status:** **Balanced**  
**Electorate Target:**  
**Date/Time** **3634 - 4442**  
**Submitted:** **02/03/2023 12:30**

The Thrapston Ward of North Northamptonshire Council is a large, predominantly rural ward situated in the north-east part of the Council's area. The ward comprises the Market town of Thrapston, together more than 20 villages throughout the area. Principal villages include Brigstock, Islip, Titchmarsh, Barnwell, Warmington, Aldwincle and Polebrook. There are also many smaller villages and hamlets, together with a considerable number of farms and isolated houses.

The current Electorate in the Ward is 11,268 and the forecast electorate is 12,013, as per LGBCE final forecast documentation dated 29th November 2022.

The boundaries of the Ward are largely delineated by the A14 trunk road to the South of the ward and by the Huntingdonshire/Cambridgeshire border, which runs up the Eastern side of the Ward. To the North West, the Ward adjoins the Oundle Ward, with the River Nene forming a natural border for part of the way and further West, the Ward adjoins the Corby Rural Ward and the Ise Ward. South of the A14 the Ward adjoins the Irthlingborough Ward.

The Communities in the Ward tend to be independent, self-reliant communities, which look to the towns of Thrapston and Oundle for most of their local requirements. There would seem to be no geographical or community-based reason to change the current Ward Boundaries, which have served this part of North Northamptonshire very well for many years.

The LGBCE in their presentation on 28th November 2022, suggested that an optimum Councillor to Elector ratio should be 4,038 and suggest that a three person Ward should be 12,114 Electors.

With the forecast Electorate being 12,013, we would like to suggest that this is very close to the Optimum as suggested by the LGBCE, which reinforces our view that the current Ward is correctly formulated.

Therefore, we respectfully propose that the current Warding arrangements and Boundaries for the Thrapston Ward remain unchanged for this Review.

Clr. David Brackenbury  
Clr. Wendy Brackenbury  
Clr. Geoff Shacklock



# Rushden Lakes

**Councillors: 2**  
**Property count: 5011**  
**Total Electorate: 8490**  
**CLLr electorate: 4245**  
**Electorate Status: **Balanced****  
**Electorate Target:**  
**Date/Time 3634 - 4442**  
**Submitted: 02/03/2023 12:30**

## Rushden's Wards

Rushden is too big to be a single NNC ward. The projected voting population is 25,889. On the criterion laid down of 4,038 voters per councillor, this equates to 6.41 councillors. This rounds down to 6 councillors. With a maximum of 3 councillors per NNC ward, this would equate to a minimum of 2 wards within Rushden.

There is no strong reason to split Rushden into specific wards, as it is a single community.

We propose that Rushden should be split into 3 wards, as set out below. Each ward would elect two councillors to North Northamptonshire Council (NNC). Each ward is slightly over size, but within the 10% limit.

**Rushden Lakes Ward**  
On the northern edge of Rushden is an iconic development called Rushden Lakes (RL). It is amongst the best retail developments in Europe (and probably in the world).

Despite Covid restrictions, in the five years since it opened, Rushden Lakes has had over 26 million visitors. For a retail centre with no large population centres close by, this is a huge number.

Rushden Lakes has changed how retail centres are envisaged. It combines retail, leisure and wildlife protection. It has a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) embedded within it, as an integral part of the business model. It was the subject of an hour-long BBC documentary.

We propose a ward that includes RL. It will include Rushden Town Council's (RTC's) existing Hayden and Spencer North Wards. It will exclude Newton Road, Dell Place, Russell Court and the Alnwick estate (the one behind the Harborough Fields surgery).

It will also include Duck Street, Midland Road and Station Road from the Town Council's Hayden Central Ward. That comes to approximately 8610 voters.

Until recent decades, Rushden was a single industry town (like the Yorkshire mining towns). In Rushden's case, the industry was shoe-making. At one point, there were around 120 factories in the Town dedicated to making boots and shoes. Some of those factory buildings still exist, albeit mostly converted into blocks of flats.

This area of Rushden was the centre of shoe making and the terraced houses and interlinked streets are the basis of the old town. There is a strong community spirit there and so not surprising there are several Resident's Associations in this tight knit community. One is the Hayden Flag Community Association and the other Rushden East Community Association.

The community hubs in RL Ward will be RL itself, Rushden Football Club ground and the Town's Catholic Church.

## Pemberton Ward

The Pemberton Family had a long history in Rushden, and have given their name to several local features, plus the current NNC ward. We propose that the second Rushden ward be called Pemberton Ward, and be centred on the part of the Town that is most linked to the Pemberton heritage.

Pemberton Ward will incorporate the Town Council's Pemberton and Spencer South Wards. On their own, they'll be too small for a NNC 2-councillor ward.

We therefore propose that Pemberton Ward should also include the Town Council's Hayden Central Ward, less the roads donated to Rushden Lakes Ward, (i.e. Pemberton Ward will include Hayden Central, but minus Duck Street, Midland Road and Station Road).

This brings Pemberton Ward to a total of approximately 8606 voters. The community hubs in Pemberton Ward will be Highfield Road Church and St Peters Church.

## Sartoris Ward

The Sartoris family lived for many years at Rushden Hall, which is in this third ward. We suggest therefore that this ward be called Sartoris Ward.

Rushden Hall is where the Town Council is based and a lot of community activities take place there. The adjoining Hall Park is where Rushden's Party in the Park is held each year, with thousands of attendees.

NNC's Sartoris Ward will consist of the Town Council's Sartoris West Ward, RTC's Sartoris East Ward and RTC's Bates Ward. However, this will not be big enough for a 2-councillor NNC ward.

We therefore propose including Newton Road, Dell Place, Russell Court and the Alnwick estate. This comes to approximately 8739 voters

The Sartoris hubs are the Heritage Church (in Park Road), Rushden Hall and the Rushden and Higham Rugby club, in Manor Park.

## Newton Bromswold

The new 3 Rushden wards cover the entirety of the parish of Rushden. Up until now NNC's Rushden South ward has also included the village of Newton Bromswold, which is in its own parish.

We do not see any justification for keeping Newton Bromswold within the Rushden wards. This does not make sense, either due to the numbers or due to any community links.

Newton Bromswold does not come under Rushden Town Council and has its own Parish Meeting.

On the other hand, Newton Bromswold was previously included within the Higham Ferrers Lancaster ward of East Northamptonshire Council. It would be a better fit from a community point of view for Newton Bromswold to be linked to Higham Ferrers.

The links between Higham Ferrers and Newton Bromswold are attested by the fact that Newton Bromswold is covered by the Higham Ferrers Neighbourhood Plan.

## **Rushden's Identity**

For the last nine years, a part of Rushden (the Spencer North Ward) has been included in the NCC (and now NNC) ward for the neighbouring town of Higham Ferrers, (the ward is called the Higham ward).

As we understand it, Spencer North ward was included in the Higham ward in 2013, in order to justify Higham having its own NCC councillor. It made little sense in 2013, and continues to be an enigma.

A pure Higham ward for NNC would have 7,784 electors. (Higham has 7,218 electors, Chelveston has 500 electors and Newton Bromswold has 66 electors.) This is enough for 1.93 councillors, which rounds up to 2 councillors.

Adding Rushden Spencer North, only lifts Higham to 10,685 electors (7,784 from Higham/Chelveston/Newton-Bromswold and 2,901 from Rushden Spencer North.)

With 4,038 electors per councillor, an ideal three-councillor ward should have 12,114 electors. At 10,685, Higham with Rushden-Spencer-North, has only 88% of the total of electors needed for a 3-councillor ward. This is not within the 10% margin.

Thus, with or without Rushden Spencer North, Higham cannot have three councillors. We therefore propose that Higham should have two councillors, and that Rushden Spencer North should return to Rushden. This will give Rushden a projected 25,889 electors.

With a target of 4,038 electors per councillor, this indicates that Rushden (including Spencer North) is within 7% of the ideal figure for 6 councillors (viz. 24,228).

There was no community link binding Spencer North to Higham ward when it was created in 2013 and there is none today. In fact, we have had complaints from residents of Spencer North about being included in Higham.

We therefore propose that Rushden should retain Spencer North ward, and should have 6 councillors.

However, it is not just the numbers of electors that force us to return Rushden Spencer North ward to Rushden.

Rushden has a strong community identity, quite distinct from other towns in the area. (e.g. in an area where most immigration is from South Asia or Eastern Europe, the biggest minority in Rushden is the Italian community, a member of whom was recently the Town Mayor.)

Rushden has a lot of similarities to the Yorkshire mining towns. E.g.

- A single industry for much of its recent history (Shoe-making in Rushden's case).
- A tradition of brass bands (with Rushden Town Band competing in the First Section at National Championship level)
- A recognisable local accent/dialect (distinct from towns just a few miles away)
- Self-sufficiency. (Rushden's people clubbed together to buy their own clinic.)
- Post-industrial decay when the local industry faded away.
- Strong local traditions (e.g. the Rushden Feast, which goes back over 100 years.)

Rushden has continued to expand despite losing its key industry. During this growth, Rushden has retained its unique and strong community identity and should be kept as integral as possible. There are, therefore, compelling reasons for returning to Rushden that part of the Town that is currently included in the Higham Ward.

- Rushden's most famous landmark is the world-leading retail, leisure and wildlife centre called "Rushden Lakes". People come from all over the Midlands to visit it. Currently Rushden Lakes is in the NNC's Higham ward. It seems bizarre that Rushden Lakes is in an NNC ward for a different town. Restoring Rushden Spencer North to a Rushden NNC ward will correct this anomaly.
- Rushden's only secondary school (the Rushden Community College) is in Spencer North Ward (which is in Higham Ward at NNC). Residents of Rushden with concerns about secondary education are therefore forced to contact councillors from a nearby Town, instead of their own Town. (N.B. Higham already has its own secondary school, the Ferrers School.)
- Rushden's most popular outdoor sports area (Spencer Park) has tennis courts, football pitches, BMX track, as well as open space and play areas. It is owned and maintained by Rushden Town Council, but not represented by a Rushden NNC councillor.
- Spencer Park is also the location for the annual Rushden Feast and for the circus when it visits Rushden. Rushden Town Council has an arrangement with the fairground traveller community, but if a planning or licensing matter arises over the fairs or circuses, it must be referred to the NNC councillors of a neighbouring Town.
- Some years ago, Rushden Town Council closed its bowling green, as it was uneconomic to run. Instead, they referred the users to the Rushden Town Bowling Club. This club is in Rushden Spencer North Ward.
- The site of Rushden Memorial Clinic, a historic Rushden landmark, is within Spencer North Ward. The Clinic was bought through public subscription by the people of Rushden and is therefore of great historic importance to Rushden.
- Another significant landmark is the Toll Bar, which historically marks the boundary between Rushden and Higham Ferrers. This boundary is currently inside the Higham Ward, instead of marking the boundary of the Ward. It should be restored and not located within the Higham Ferrers Ward.
- When a council proposes to make changes that will affect residents, it is best practice to consult the ward members. Many of Rushden's assets and much of its infrastructure is in Spencer North Ward. Thus, for many changes to Rushden, consultations by NNC will be with Higham councillors, and not Rushden ones. E.g. there are regular complaints about Rushden's Household Waste Recycling Centre. This is in Spencer North, and Rushden residents with issues must therefore contact the councillors for Higham Ferrers, a neighbouring town.
- Rushden's police station and fire station are in Spencer North, which is in the NNC ward for Higham. This does not encourage co-operation between the fire service and the police on one side, and Rushden Town Council on the other.
- An iconic building in the centre of Rushden is the subject of an ongoing dispute about its future use. The building once housed Birches Buses, a Rushden-based company that ran services to-and-from central London. The building is in Spencer North ward. Consultations about this critical development should be with Rushden councillors, rather than Higham ones.
- Rushden has five supermarkets. Four of them (Home Bargains, Waitrose, ASDA and LIDL) are in Spencer North ward. Rushden residents therefore find

themselves shopping in a ward outside their Town. Also, planning matters for these major landmarks are referred to councillors from the Higham Ferrers ward.

- Across the A45 roundabout from Rushden Lakes, is the “Rushden Gateway” site. Yet again, this site is in Rushden Spencer North ward. Planning applications envisage a supermarket, care home and other new community assets on the site. It is important for the residents of Rushden that Rushden-based councillors should be consulted on this scheme.
- Rushden Catholic Church, St. Peters, is in Spencer North ward. The opening line of the History page of their website reads **“Rushden Heritage has captured the history of St Peter Apostle. It is well worth reading and begins from 1868 together with a few photos, a log book from 1982 – 1991, a parishioners memories of St Peters as well as news and notes.”** Despite having distinctive Rushden roots, this parish church is currently in the NNC Higham ward.
- Rushden has a Greenway that mostly follows the track-bed of the old Rushden-Wellingborough railway. This delightful feature of Rushden was campaigned for, over many years, by Rushden Councillors (led by the recently deceased Cllr. Sarah Peacock). Much of the Greenway is in Spencer North ward.
- During World War 2, Rushden was bombed by the Luftwaffe. A stick of bombs ran down the Town from north to south. One bomb hit Alfred Street School, killing several children. Another hit Shirley Road, which is in Spencer North ward. Yet another hit the Victoria Hotel, again in Spencer North ward. To this day, the bombing stirs strong memories, and helps bind the people of Rushden together as a community.

No man may serve two masters. Having part of Rushden in the Higham ward means that the councillors elected to that NNC ward are forced to do exactly that.

It is especially challenging for councillors to represent the interests of Higham and Rushden when they differ.

E.g. there is a new development called “Rushden East SUE”. It includes housing and employment areas.

- The Rushden East SUE is deeply unpopular in Higham because a large warehouse is planned to be built overlooking Higham.
- By contrast, this development is popular in Rushden, because it will bring an extra 2700 houses, whose residents will shop locally and boost Rushden’s retail trade.

Unitary councillors who represent both areas are facing an impossible conflict. It is simply not possible to campaign both **for** the Rushden East SUE and **against** it.

Further, a bypass to the west of Rushden is on the horizon.

- It will be popular in Rushden, because it will reduce the traffic on Wellingborough Road, passing through Rushden,
- By contrast, it will reduce passing trade for Higham’s High Street. It will therefore get, at best, grudging support in Higham Ferrers.

Once again, NNC councillors trying to represent both Towns will be in an impossible position. Do they support making Rushden’s streets safer, or protecting Higham’s retail trade?

There needs to be a clean and clear separation of the two Towns at Unitary Council

level.

It is therefore essential that the new NNC Ward boundaries will restore the northern part of Rushden to a ward that solely represents Rushden.

Rushden Spencer North ward must be re-incorporated into a purely Rushden-based NNC ward.