

Coventry

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Related subject: All.

Please see report attached.

Attached Documents:

- Proposed Individual Wards.pdf
- Citywide Proposal Map.pdf
- Boundary Commission Justification.docx

2024 Coventry Electoral Review



Joint Submission of the
Coventry Conservatives Federation
and Coventry Conservative Party Group

Summary

In October 2022 the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (hereafter referred to as 'the Boundary Commission') commenced an electoral review of Coventry City Council, the first since 2003. It is tasked with drawing new ward boundaries which satisfy its statutory criteria based on population projections for the city in 2029.

The Boundary Commission's statutory criteria are:

1. Delivering electoral equality between local electors.
2. Respecting the interests and identities of local communities.
3. Effective and convenient local government.

Following an initial stage of work, the Boundary Commission is recommending that Coventry City Council retain 18 wards, each electing three members. This has set the average number of electors in each ward in 2029 at 13,848. To achieve electoral equality, all 18 wards must sit within a +/-10% variance of this average.

As part of the first round of public consultation the Boundary Commission are seeking the views of the people and groups of Coventry as to what should or should not be considered for the new boundaries and names for the city's 18 wards.

The proposals set out in the following report outlines the approach proposed and approved by the Coventry Conservatives Federation, which is the body composed of local Conservative and Unionist Party members in Coventry, and the Coventry Conservative Group, which is composed of elected members at Coventry City Council affiliated with the Conservative and Unionist Party.

We believe that our proposals improve upon the existing warding patterns in Coventry and offer an optimal satisfaction of all three of the Boundary Commission's criteria. This report considers each existing ward in turn and what should or should not change in each case, and should be read alongside the individual ward maps submitted as part of this proposal.

Holbrook ward

The current Holbrook ward is projected to contain 14,656 registered electors in 2029, which is 6% above the Boundary Commission's 13,848 target.

Although the current boundaries provide a result which is consistent with the Boundary Commission's +/-10% variance, we are proposing alterations to meet the wider criteria as part of the review.

Firstly, we support renaming the ward from Holbrook to Holbrooks to reflect local identity and meet the Boundary Commission's statutory criteria to respect community identities and interests. While the area is named after the body of water which runs through its centre, named Hall Brook, there is more affinity with the plural, which is attributed to the other brooks that cross the area, which are presently culverted. The community's core assets, such as Holbrooks Park, Holbrooks Medical Team and Holbrooks Pharmacy, all utilise the name Holbrooks to reflect this.

We acknowledge Holbrook ward's northern boundary is set by the external boundary of the city and its eastern boundary is defined by the A444 and the Coventry-Nuneaton railway line up to its crossing with Lockhurst Lane and Holbrook Lane. This is an efficient boundary which clearly separates the community in Holbrook from those in Longford and Foleshill, and should be retained.

However, the southern boundary's current route along Yelverton Road and Rollason Road does not provide a clear boundary and creates confusion among the electorate, with many residents on these two roads believing they are in Radford ward. We propose moving the southern boundary to Burnaby Road, which is an important east-west arterial road which better demarcates the difference between Holbrooks and Radford. This will provide a clearer and better recognised border for people living nearby. Further justification for this shift is detailed in our proposals for Radford ward.

Further confusion is visible on the western boundary with Bablake ward. We propose the retention of the Keresley Parish Council boundary to match the ward boundary until Penny Park Lane. However, polling district Gi's inclusion in Holbrook has created a peninsula which juts into Bablake ward. This divides the Keresley Heath & Whitmore Park community, which is defined as the urban fringe between Holbrooks and the rural Keresley community. Therefore, we propose transferring polling district Gi to Bablake ward and retaining the existing boundary along Beake Avenue until it meets Burnaby Road.

The Holbrook Lane/Wheelwright Lane corridor serves as the spine of the Holbrooks community and hosts the aforementioned local services and retail uses, such as the Morrisons supermarket, which is the main retailer for people living in Holbrooks. However, in Keresley Heath & Whitmore Park, the core services are found on Bennetts Road South, including the Keresley Green Medical Centre and local convenience stores. Moreover, the provision of primary schools demonstrates the distinction between Holbrooks and Keresley Heath & Whitmore Park. In polling district Gi families fall within the catchment area for Keresley Grange Primary School and Whitmore Park Primary School. However, those families east of Beake Avenue and north of Penny Park Lane fall within the Park Gate Primary School catchment area.

In summary, by adjusting the southern boundary and moving Keresley Green & Whitmore Park into Bablake ward, our proposed newly-named Holbrooks ward will create a clearly bounded and efficient ward for elected members to represent.

Bablake ward

The current Bablake ward is projected to contain *18,130* registered electors in 2029, which is 31% above the Boundary Commission's *13,848* target.

This projection puts Bablake as the largest ward for registered electors by 2029, which is largely driven by significant urban sprawl in the form of the Eastern Green SUE and Keresley SUE.

Bablake ward is in a unique position also for its geography. With an urban fringe, the separation between rural and urban is matched by the city's external boundary. However, in the case of Bablake, the city's external boundary stretches as far northwest as Corley and includes the parishes of Allesley and Keresley.

On its western boundary, we propose that Bablake retain the entirety of Allesley Parish Council, including the Eastern Green SUE. As laid out in the Eastern Green SUE Masterplan, the SUE will be self-contained, except for two junctions with Pickford Green Lane on its western edge and two junctions with the A45. This means that the existing communities in Eastern Green and Park Hill will be shut off from the new development. Furthermore, the inclusion of new local services, such as playing fields, schools and healthcare facilities, as well as a new local centre to serve as its focal point, means that residents of the SUE will not share services with existing communities. However, it is more likely that existing communities in Bablake ward, such as Pickford, Pickford Green and Harvest Hill, will share these new SUE services. This will create a north- and west-facing neighbourhood which will use the A45 as its spine road.

Using the A45 as a new boundary between Bablake and Woodlands ward would go against the Boundary Commission's guidance to respect community identities and interests by splitting existing communities north of the A45 from their new future services, and putting the SUE into a ward which is has no porous links to the existing Eastern Green community.

Given their links to neighbouring rural communities we support Bablake ward retaining Allesley Village, Browns Lane and Brownhill Green, which are covered by polling districts Ab, Aj and Aa respectively. The A45 serves as a clear and efficient southern boundary, separating the distinct Allesley Village from the Allesley Park community to the south. Coundon Wedge, which is the green space bisected by Coundon Wedge Drive, provides a green buffer between Browns Lane and Coundon to its east. Currently, the boundary between Bablake ward and present Sherbourne ward places the entirety of Coundon Wedge within Bablake ward. However, this produces an unclear border which relies on hedgerows, streams and land ownership on Coundon Wedge. In order to better satisfy the Boundary Commission's statutory criteria for clear and efficient boundaries, we propose using Coundon Wedge Drive as the boundary.

In addition to using Coundon Wedge Drive as the new boundary to ensure a clear and efficient boundary, it helps meet the Boundary Commission's statutory criteria for electoral equality and respecting community identities and interests. Currently, Bablake ward contains the northern section of the Coundon community, covered by polling districts Ad, Ae and southern and western portions of Ac. We are proposing that Coundon become its own ward, placing the boundary with Bablake to run along Long Lane and southeast via Tamworth Road, allowing Coundon Hall Park (a Coundon community asset) to sit within the new Coundon ward. The proposal for a new Coundon ward and how it meets the Boundary Commission's criteria is elaborated on later in this report.

The new eastern boundary with newly-named Holbrooks ward is discussed earlier in this report; proposing that Keresley Heath & Whitmore Park be united and placed inside Bablake ward. This

supports the Boundary Commission's statutory criteria to respect community identities and interests by respecting the work of Keresley Parish Council to integrate the new residents of the Keresley SUE into existing community links, such as their neighbours in Keresley village and Keresley Heath & Whitmore Park. Unlike with the Eastern Green SUE, the Keresley SUE will be served by Tamworth Road and Bennetts Road South, which lead directly into existing residential areas and will utilise services, such as the catchment for Cardinal Newman School.

In summary, by analysing the masterplans of the future SUEs, it is expected that both will have a closer and more open relationship with existing communities (Pickford and Keresley Heath & Whitmore Park respectively) within Bablake ward and should be retained. Additionally, the boundary between Allesley village, Browns Lane and Brownhill Green with Coventry's suburban communities is clearly defined by the A45 and Coundon Wedge. In the case of the latter, Coundon Wedge Drive should serve as a western boundary for a newly-formed Coundon ward, which brings together a community which is split across two wards.

Sherbourne ward

The current Sherbourne ward is projected to contain 12,531 registered electors in 2029, which is 10% below the Boundary Commission's 13,848 target.

Sherbourne ward is named after the River Sherbourne which runs between the three distinct communities contained within it. This includes Spon End (east of the Coventry-Nuneaton railway line), Chapelfields (south of Holyhead Road) and Coundon (north of Holyhead Road). We propose splitting these three communities from each other and satisfying all three of the Boundary Commission's statutory criteria.

Firstly, the community of Coundon is currently arbitrarily split between Bablake and Sherbourne wards, despite the overlap of the community's core educational facilities at Coundon Court School, Hollyfast Primary School and Christ The King Catholic School. Coundon's distinct identity is framed by its local nickname 'County Coundon', due to waves of post-war immigration from Ireland that saw many Irish families move into the area. This is still evident with the presence of Christ The King Parish Centre and Christ The King Catholic Church at the heart of Coundon on Westhill Road.

However, despite its distinct nature, Coundon is bisected along the Barker Butts Lane corridor. This creates confusion for residents who regularly contact the wrong elected members, as it is not clear where Coundon could be split. Therefore we propose a new ward which utilises arterial roads to clearly and efficiently bound the Coundon community into its own ward.

The area of Sherbourne south of Holyhead Road is considered locally as Chapelfields and not a part of Coundon. Chapelfields is framed around Lake View Park as the core community asset. Therefore, we propose moving these residents into Whoberley ward. In 'The Triangle', which is the local name for polling district Mb, residents consider themselves distinct from Coundon by the barrier presented by the arterial Holyhead Road, the same CV5 postcode as the rest of Chapelfields and their use of Lake View Park and Allesley Park instead of Coundon Wedge, which is more frequently used by people in Coundon. The Triangle is also distinct in terms of schools, with families sending their children to St Christopher Primary School on Allesley Old Road.

Residents on Lake View Road, Malvern Road, Stepping Stones Road and Sussex Road use Lake View Park as their core community asset and have more in common with their neighbours on the other side of the River Sherbourne on Prince of Wales Road. Lake View Park and the River Sherbourne has

acted a uniting feature, as the roads mentioned above have felt disconnected from Coundon on the other side of the Holyhead Road. This is best demonstrated by the local authority-supported 'Friends of Lake View Park', the group of residents who look after the park, draws members from both sides of the river. Indeed, these roads have bound together and treat themselves as a Lake View community, with their own Facebook residents' group.

Lastly, Spon End is the most distinct from the wider current Sherbourne ward, mainly because it is east of the Coventry-Nuneaton Railway Line with only two crossing points to the rest of Sherbourne ward: Holyhead Road and Barker Butts Lane. Spon End is bounded by the aforementioned railway line to its west, the Radford Road to its north, the Ring Road to its east and The Butts to its south. The area has a large transient community and has a more religiously and ethnically diverse population than the rest of Sherbourne. Its local retail centre is focused on Upper Spon Street and it has its own schools (Spon Gate Primary School and St Osburg's Catholic Primary School). Due to its denser housing, most residents do not own cars and walk or use public transport to access local services. This produces a more porous link with the city centre, which is connected to Spon End in spite of the Ring Road by foot at six separate locations.

That's why we propose the eastern and central-facing community in Spon End be moved into St Michael's ward, where it will join similar city centre-orientated communities, such as Hillfields and Gosford Green. Moreover, this will reflect the old Godiva ward which preceded St Michael's as uniting the city centre's common satellite communities.

In summary, our proposals separate the three distinct communities in Sherbourne ward, Spon End, Chapelfields and Coundon, with the latter forming its own distinct ward. This will produce more efficient representation for residents with similar community interests, respect local community identity and provide clear boundaries to a ward which creates confusion for its residents.

Radford ward

The current Radford ward is projected to contain 13,595 registered electors in 2029, which is 2% below the Boundary Commission's 13,848 target.

Radford ward is framed around two local centres, which we propose to retain. The first in its north is Jubilee Crescent, which contains the local library (Jubilee Crescent Library), community centre (Jubilee Crescent Community Centre), GP surgery and shops (ASDA and Tesco). As outlined in our section about Holbrooks ward, we propose that the new northern boundary lie along Burnaby Road, moving residents on Rollason Road and Yelverton Road to move into Radford ward, as they use the local services at Jubilee Crescent, rather than the Holbrook Lane/Wheelwright Lane corridor.

The second local centre is concentrated around the Canal Basin, which is the communities sandwiched between Radford Road and Foleshill Road, and connected together by the Coventry Canal as its central community asset. This community has three crossing points into wider Radford ward (Radford Road, Sandy Lane and Daimler Road) but only has one direct pedestrian link with the city centre via a bridge over the Ring Road. This makes the Canal Basin distinct from Spon End, which has a more porous relationship with the city centre.

In the south of Radford ward the residential streets between Three Spires Avenue and Engleton Road/Moseley Avenue have more affinity with the newly-formed Coundon ward than Radford ward. This is best demonstrated by their use of Christ The King community facilities outlined earlier, but also how Engleton Road and Moseley Avenue served as the boundary for the catchment area

between Radford Primary School and Moseley Primary School, following inside of Radford ward and newly-formed Coundon ward respectively. Additionally, this arterial route will provide a clearer boundary between Coundon and Radford communities, which currently runs down the middle of Three Spires Avenue, a homogenous suburban residential street.

In summary, by adjusting Radford ward's northern and southern boundaries to reflect community identities and interests with local services, and with clearer boundaries in the process, our proposals satisfy the Boundary Commission's statutory criteria.

Whoberley ward

The current Whoberley ward is projected to contain 11,767 registered electors in 2029, which is 15% below the Boundary Commission's 13,848 target.

The presently formed Whoberley ward contains four neighbourhoods. They are Allesley Park (lying north of The Brookstray), Whoberley (south of the Brookstray and west of Glendower Avenue), Chapelfields (east of Glendower Avenue and west of Hearsall Lane) and a portion of Earlsdon (south of Hearsall Lane and the Coventry-Nuneaton Railway Line). These neighbourhoods, while distinct, have a porous relationship between each other and are mainly connected via Allesley Old Road.

As laid out previously, Allesley Old Road will continue to unite these communities with our proposed uniting of Chapelfields surround Lake View Park in Whoberley ward. Moreover, this will reflect the use of community assets, such as Allesley Park which is used by people living in The Triangle, currently in Sherbourne ward.

We are also proposing to meet all three of the Boundary Commission's statutory criteria with the inclusion of polling district Dh from Earlsdon ward into Whoberley ward. This will provide a clearer boundary than that which currently ducks and dives around houses on Broad Lane. This will also bring the boundary between Whoberley and Earlsdon wards along the West Coast Mainline until it is crossed by Beechwood Avenue. This polling district has no overlapping services with the rest of Earlsdon ward and does not provide for effective representation or efficient governance. We recognise that the A45 provides a clear and effective eastern boundary for Whoberley, which borders it from communities in Westwood and Woodlands wards.

However, we are proposing that the area south of Hearsall Lane be moved into Earlsdon ward, due to local opinion which recognises this neighbourhood as part of Earlsdon. This will satisfy the Boundary Commission's criteria that respects community identity and interests. People in this area regard their local centre as the Earlsdon High Street/Albany Road corridor, which is connected via the north-south arterial route that runs through Earlsdon; Earlsdon Avenue. While on a map it may look as though the railway presents an obvious boundary, it does not work as a barrier to the community on the ground.

Our proposed boundary between Whoberley and Earlsdon would run along Hearsall Lane, which is a clear and continuous boundary. This will keep the northside of Hearsall Lane within their associated Chapelfields community, but reunite those on the southside with Earlsdon. Moreover, the northside of Hearsall Lane has few frontages and will minimise splitting residents who live on the same road.

In summary, we are proposing that clearer boundaries be drawn in Whoberley to unite the Chapelfields and Whoberley communities, by incorporating Lake View Park and by adding polling district Dh respectively, but also reuniting Earlsdon by removing polling district Ra, south of Hearsall Lane.

Earlsdon ward

The current Earlsdon ward is projected to contain *12,748* registered electors in 2029, which is 8% below the Boundary Commission's *13,848* target.

As has been discussed earlier in this report, we are proposing to unite polling district Ra with Earlsdon ward, due to its local connotations and strong links to Earlsdon High Street/Albany Road as its local centre. We are also proposing that south of The Butts in polling district Me and south of the Ring Road in polling district Li should be transferred to Earlsdon ward.

For the former, the largest residential concentration is in Earlsdon Park Retirement Village, which as the name suggests, has a strong connection with Earlsdon. Due to the impervious pedestrian links of The Butts and Ring Road from this location, residents use Albany Road as a direct connection to Earlsdon High Street for services, particularly the pharmacy, post office and shopping. For the latter, the lack of crossings into the city centre and the easy access across the railway at Albany Road, Warwick Row and Central Six cycle bridge, makes Earlsdon High Street a nearby local centre for services, like residents at Earlsdon Park Retirement Village. Additionally, Spencer Park is the local green space for residents in polling district Li, which is also heavily used by people living south of the railway in current Earlsdon ward.

The A45 provides a clear southern boundary for Earlsdon ward, which satisfies the Boundary Commission's statutory criteria and should be retained. The streets in Beechwood Gardens fall inside the Earlsdon Primary School catchment area, use Earlsdon High Street as their local centre and utilise Hearsall Common and War Memorial Park as local recreation spaces, shared with those in other parts of Earlsdon. The residents on Sir Henry Parkes Road and Canley Road have strong links with Earlsdon and, although they have no vehicle links due to the traffic control reasons, there are strong pedestrian links, and should be treated as one contiguous community.

As well as Earlsdon Avenue connecting Earlsdon's residential side streets with the local centre, it also connects residents with War Memorial Park, which serves as a focal point for local community activity. We believe that War Memorial Park should be retained within Earlsdon ward to satisfy the Boundary Commission's statutory criteria to respect community identity. Furthermore, owing to the focal nature of War Memorial Park and the impervious behaviour of the A45, polling district Dg should be retained within Earlsdon ward, as their primary community amenity remains War Memorial Park.

We are proposing that the Coventry-Leamington Spa Railway Line should serve as the eastern boundary for Earlsdon ward. We believe this satisfies all three of the Boundary Commission's statutory criteria. Firstly, our proposal provides electoral equality in Earlsdon ward. Secondly, it provides a clear and efficient boundary which recognisably demarcates the beginning and end of the Earlsdon and Stivichall communities. Thirdly, it respects communities' interests and identities by allowing Stivichall to be united within one ward, rather than split across three wards. The community links associated with Stivichall and their comparative strength with Cheylesmore over Earlsdon is considered later in this report.

Woodlands ward

The current Woodlands ward is projected to contain 13,915 registered electors in 2029, which has no deviation from the Boundary Commission's 13,848 target within two decimal places.

It is locally established that the Eastern Green community is situated north of Broad Lane and to the west of the A45. It contains a similar housing stock across the area, is bisected by the Brookstray and connected by the arterial Upper/Lower Eastern Green Lane and Alderminster Road corridor. The community is also focused around three local centres, at Sutton Avenue, Sutherland Avenue and Alderminster Road. We echo local opinion that Eastern Green is a contiguous community and should not be split apart.

However, Eastern Green (as defined above) does not meet the Boundary Commission's statutory criteria for electoral equality and, with its western boundary the external city limit, it must add areas to either its east, north or south. Firstly, its eastern border is the A45 which provides a clear boundary between communities in Allesley Park and Eastern Green, with few crossings. We do not believe crossing the A45 at this instance would satisfy the other two statutory criteria, as this would divide the Allesley Park community and not produce a clear boundary. Second is the option to add the area to the north. However, as discussed relating to Bablake ward, the Eastern Green SUE will be a contained, northwest facing estate with only one link via Pickford Green lane to the extremity of the existing Eastern Green community. We do not believe that the addition of the SUE would provide efficient representation and that it would divide the SUE from its new community with Pickford and focus on the A45 as its main arterial road. Moreover, the addition of the SUE alone to Eastern Green would not meet the Boundary Commission's criteria for electoral equality, as it does not fall within the +/-10% variance. It would require additional communities to be broken apart from other wards and exacerbate our concerns that such a ward would be inefficient.

Finally, we propose that Woodlands ward include the northern section of Tile Hill. This will meet all three of the Boundary Commission's statutory criteria in the following ways. First is that Tile Hill is composed of distinct neighbourhoods within it, including: 'The Trees' (polling district Qd), Jardine Crescent (polling districts Sb and Sc), 'The Cotes' (polling district Qb), Gravel Hill (polling district Qa), Bannerbrook Park (polling district Sa), and Tile Hill village centred around Tile Hill Railway Station (polling district Qc). We propose including polling districts Sa (plus the Wickman's Drive estate due to its similar build time and shared use of Bannerbrook's local centre), Sb and Sc in Woodlands ward. This satisfies the Boundary Commission's criteria for clear boundaries by utilising Broad Lane, Jobs Lane, Tile Hill Lane and Banner Lane, which are all main arterial roads in the community and understood as boundaries already. Additionally, these proposals will keep the Jardine Crescent community united, as they have their own local centre, including church, library, GP surgery and shopping parade.

In summary, we propose that Eastern Green be kept together but that the optimal means of meeting the Boundary Commission's three statutory criteria is to add two of Tile Hill's distinct neighbourhoods.

Westwood ward

The current Westwood ward is projected to contain 15,818 registered electors in 2029, which is 14% above the Boundary Commission's 13,848 target.

As discussed previously in relation to Woodlands ward, Tile Hill area is made up of several distinct neighbourhoods, including: 'The Trees' (polling district Qd), Jardine Crescent (polling districts Sb and Sc), 'The Cotes' (polling district Qb), Gravel Hill (polling district Qa), Bannerbrook Park (polling district Sa), and Tile Hill village centred around Tile Hill Railway Station (polling district Qc). Due to Woodlands southwards expansion to optimally satisfy the Boundary Commission's statutory criteria, we are proposing that the remainder of Tile Hill's communities form Westwood ward, joining with Canley and Westwood Heath.

We do not believe that the West Coast Mainline should become a new boundary because it will separate the Tile Hill village community, which stretches from Tile Hill Lane down to the city's external limit on Cromwell Lane. Those south of the railway along Cromwell Lane (and the new housing estate to be built to its west) will use Station Avenue as its local centre. Moreover, residents in Westwood Heath and along Charter Avenue also use Station Avenue as their local centre, because Cannon Park is too far away on the other side of the University of Warwick campus. Tile Hill Railway Station is also a vital service used by those in Westwood Heath and Charter Avenue, whereas those in Cannon Park and the University of Warwick campus use Canley Railway Station.

Canley is also proposed to be included in Westwood ward because of its links along the continuous Charter Avenue arterial road. To draw a boundary which splits Charter Avenue would not foster a clear border or efficient representation south of the railway line.

Wainbody ward

The current Wainbody ward is projected to contain 11,030 registered electors in 2029, which is 20% below the Boundary Commission's 13,848 target.

Wainbody ward is constrained by its southern boundary, which serves as the city's external limit, and the narrow urban ribbon south of the A45, which is covered by Finham Parish Council. The existing Wainbody ward also covers Styvechale Grange (covered by polling district Pa), which is separated from the wider Stivichall community split with current Earlsdon ward.

Firstly, we propose that the entire University of Warwick campus be included within Wainbody ward. This is a contiguous area which includes a uniform demographic. By not split the campus, Wainbody ward fulfils the Boundary Commission's statutory criteria for respecting community interests and identities, but also efficiently represents student interests at Coventry City Council. Moreover, the need for clear boundaries in the Boundary Commission's statutory criteria, it follows that the Cannon Park and Gibbet Hill areas (polling districts Pd, Pe and Pf) should be included in Wainbody ward.

However, due to the narrow distance between the city's external limit and the A45 (Finham), the community are forced to look north over the A45 for services. Therefore, we propose that Styvechale Grange remain within Wainbody ward. Furthermore, we propose that the new boundary between Wainbody ward and Cheylesmore ward lie along Knoll Drive, so that all of the community in Stivichall can be united within Wainbody ward. The local centre for Stivichall, and that shared by people in Finham, is located on Baginton Road, alongside local churches, such as St Thomas More Catholic Church which draws parishioners from Finham. Additionally, Grange Farm School's catchment area covers both sides of the Leamington Road, as it recognises both sides as Stivichall.

Cheylesmore ward

The current Cheylesmore ward is projected to contain 12,122 registered electors in 2029, which is 12% below the Boundary Commission's 13,848 target.

Further to the above discourse on Wainbody ward, to respect community identities and interests we are proposing a new boundary between Cheylesmore and Wainbody ward to fall on Knoll Drive, uniting Stivichall within Wainbody ward and all Cheylesmore in the ward of the same name. This will provide a clear boundary and will allow those streets north of Knoll Drive (currently in Earlsdon ward) to be represented by elected members covering their recognised neighbourhood, who's local centre is focused at the Daventry Road shops and Quinton Pool Park.

However, the Cheylesmore community alone does not satisfy the Boundary Commission's statutory criteria for electoral equality. We propose that the current inclusion of Whitley (polling district Ca) and Stonehouse Estate (polling district Cc) remain in Cheylesmore ward. The Whitley community is focused on the ASDA supermarket on London Road. However, this does not provide a wide range of services. Instead, residents from Whitley will also commonly use the Daventry Road shops in Cheylesmore.

We are also proposing that the residents south of the A45, who are currently split between Cheylesmore and Binley and Willenhall, should all be placed into Cheylesmore ward to make for efficient representation and a clear boundary.

Binley and Willenhall ward

The current Binley and Willenhall ward is projected to contain 13,709 registered electors in 2029, which is 1% below the Boundary Commission's 13,848 target.

The Willenhall community lies south of the West Coast Mainline and north of London Road. Its local centre is concentrated around the Hagard Community Centre, Willenhall Library, Willenhall Primary Care Centre and local shops on Remembrance Road. We do not believe that the Willenhall community should be broken up, in keeping with the Boundary Commission's statutory criteria for respecting community identities and interests.

We explored the option of including Willenhall in a ward with Whitley. However, this failed to satisfy the Boundary Commission's criteria for electoral equality and did not respect the community links that Willenhall has with Binley due to its proximity and porous crossings over the West Coast Mainline.

The Binley community lies north of the West Coast Mainline, with its local shopping centre and schools (Ernesford Grange Community Academy, Ernesford Grange Primary School and St Bartholomew's Church of England School) situated around Princethrope Way and Quorn Way. The Binley Road and Brandon Road currently serves as the northern electoral boundary for Binley and Willenhall ward, despite the Skipworth Road estate and Binley Business Park considering themselves as a part of Binley and formerly being apart of Binley and Willenhall ward. While adding this estate to Binley and Willenhall ward would meet the Boundary Commission's statutory criteria for respecting community identities and interests, it would not satisfy the electoral equality criteria and not prove viable.

Wyken ward

The current Wyken ward is projected to contain 12,682 registered electors in 2029, which is 8% below the Boundary Commission's 13,848 target.

Wyken ward is centred around the River Sowe and includes several neighbourhoods, including: Skipworth Estate (polling district Ta), Clifford Bridge Road corridor (polling districts Td and Te) and Wyken.

We are proposing to retain the existing southern and western boundaries of the ward using Binley Road/Brandon Road and Hipswell Highway/Sewall Highway respectively. However, we recognise the current northwestern boundary moves to the south of the Derbyshire Way estate, which was built after the previous boundary review. Therefore, we are proposing that Blackberry Lane become the new boundary between Upper Stoke and Wyken, which meets the Boundary Commission's statutory criteria as clear boundary.

Additionally, we are proposing that polling district Ha be transferred to Wyken ward from Henley ward, to provide for electoral equality in the latter. Moreover, the Walsgrave community north of University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW) is separated from the Woodway Lane area of Walsgrave by the Hinckley Road, which provides a clear boundary. The separation is best seen with Walsgrave Primary School, whose catchment area is limited only to the residential streets east of Hinckley Road. This move would also unite the Walsgrave communities with the Ansty Road and the Dorchester Way estate, which is connected to Walsgrave via the River Sowe.

We are also proposing that Wyken ward be renamed Sowe ward, which is better reflective of the distinct communities contained within the ward boundaries and the significance the River Sowe plays in uniting them.

Henley ward

The current Longford ward is projected to contain 15,446 registered electors in 2029, which is 12% above the Boundary Commission's 13,848 target.

The only change we are proposing to Henley ward is transferring polling district Ha to the newly-named Sowe ward, the justification for which has been laid out above. We believe Henley ward successfully utilises the River Sowe, Hinckley Road and M6 as its boundaries and already contains the Potters Green, Woodway Lane and Wood End communities. We do not recommend splitting up these communities which are already efficiently represented under clear boundaries.

Lower Stoke and Upper Stoke wards

We have considered Lower Stoke and Upper Stoke wards together due to their common community and shared boundaries.

The current Lower Stoke ward is projected to contain 15,810 registered electors in 2029, which is 14% above the Boundary Commission's 13,848 target. The current Upper Stoke ward is projected to contain 13,558 registered electors in 2029, which is 2% below the Boundary Commission's 13,848 target.

The external boundaries for both wards are clear boundaries which define the Stoke communities. The A444 and former railway corridor it utilises, the West Coast Mainline and the Allard Way/Hipswell Highway/Sewall Highway corridor provide significant separation between Stoke and communities on the other side. We do not propose ward boundary cross these impenetrable boundaries, which do not reflect shared community services or interests. However, to provide a clear boundary, the entire western side of Hipswell Highway should be moved into Upper Stoke ward from newly-named Sowe ward. We believe Upper Stoke ward's northern boundary reflects the community identities of Stoke Heath in the south and Bell Green to its north and do not recommend a change (with the exception of the alteration to Blackberry Lane to demarcate the boundary with newly-named Sowe ward, which has been discussed above).

In order to provide electoral equality between these two wards, we propose transferring polling district Jh north of Longfellow Road to Upper Stoke ward and polling district Na to Lower Stoke ward. This will provide a contiguous and clear boundary between Lower Stoke and Upper Stoke along Walsgrave Road and Longfellow Road.

Longford ward

The current Longford ward is projected to contain 14,631 registered electors in 2029, which is 6% above the Boundary Commission's 13,848 target.

We are proposing no changes to the current Longford ward as we believe it satisfies the three statutory criteria set out by the Boundary Commission. Firstly, it meets the criteria for electoral equality. Secondly, it respects community identities and interests by including communities in Longford, Aldermans Green and Bell Green. Thirdly, the existing ward utilises clear boundaries along Coventry Canal, the A444, the River Sowe and the M6.

Foleshill ward

The current Foleshill ward is projected to contain 14,077 registered electors in 2029, which is 2% above the Boundary Commission's 13,848 target.

As in Longford, we are proposing no changes to the current Foleshill ward as we believe it satisfies the three statutory criteria set out by the Boundary Commission. Firstly, it meets the criteria for electoral equality. Secondly, it respects community identities and interests by including Foleshill community, which represents a plethora of faith groups, whose places of worships are also located within the ward. Thirdly, the existing ward utilises clear boundaries along Coventry Canal, the A444 and the Coventry-Nuneaton Railway Line, with Foleshill Road serving as the main arterial road bisecting the ward north to south.

St Michaels ward

The current St Michaels ward is projected to contain 13,023 registered electors in 2029, which is 6% below the Boundary Commission's 13,848 target.

We recognise the Coventry Canal, A444/former railway corridor and West Coast Mainline all provide clear northern, eastern and southern boundaries respectively. Additionally, the Hillfields and Gosford Green communities that lie between these borders and the Coventry Ring Road are heavily isolated

from other communities in comparison to their porous crossings under the Ring Road with the city centre. As has been elaborated earlier in this report, this is similar to the Spon End community, which is strongly separated from Coundon to its west, but is served by a penetrable stretch of the Ring Road for ease of commute into the city centre.

That's why we are proposing that Spon End be transferred into St Michael's ward, as it was in previous iterations of Coventry warding patterns, due to its strong commonality with inner-city communities, which share services within the city centre, especially compared to those communities from which the Coventry Canal, A444 and railways separate.

Bablake

Councillors: **3**

Property count: **4964**

Total Electorate: **13491**

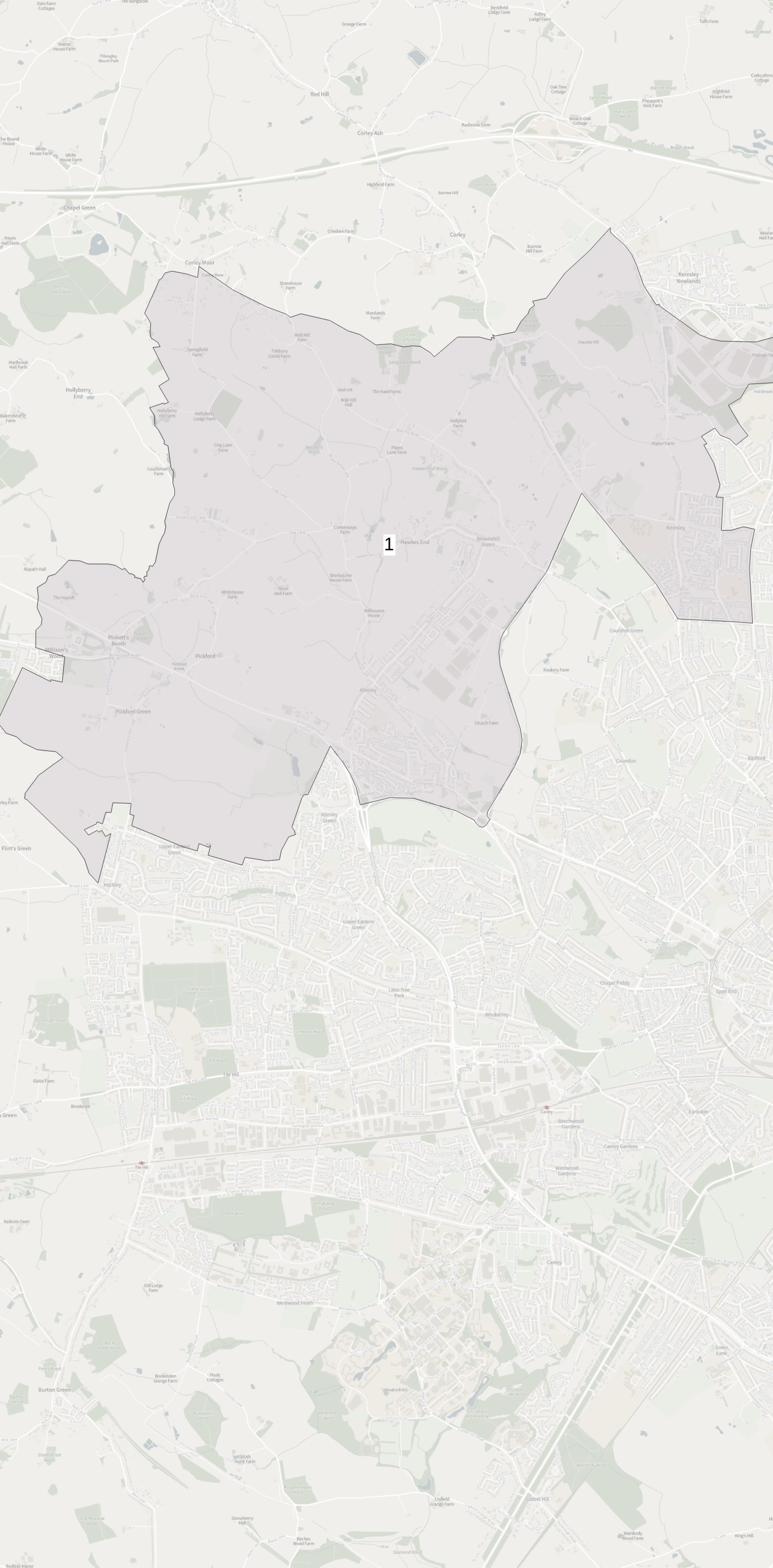
CLlr electorate: **4497**

Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

Date/Time **4154 - 5078**

Submitted: **28/07/2023 12:08**



Binley and Willenhall

Councillors: **3**

Property count: **8217**

Total Electorate: **13680**

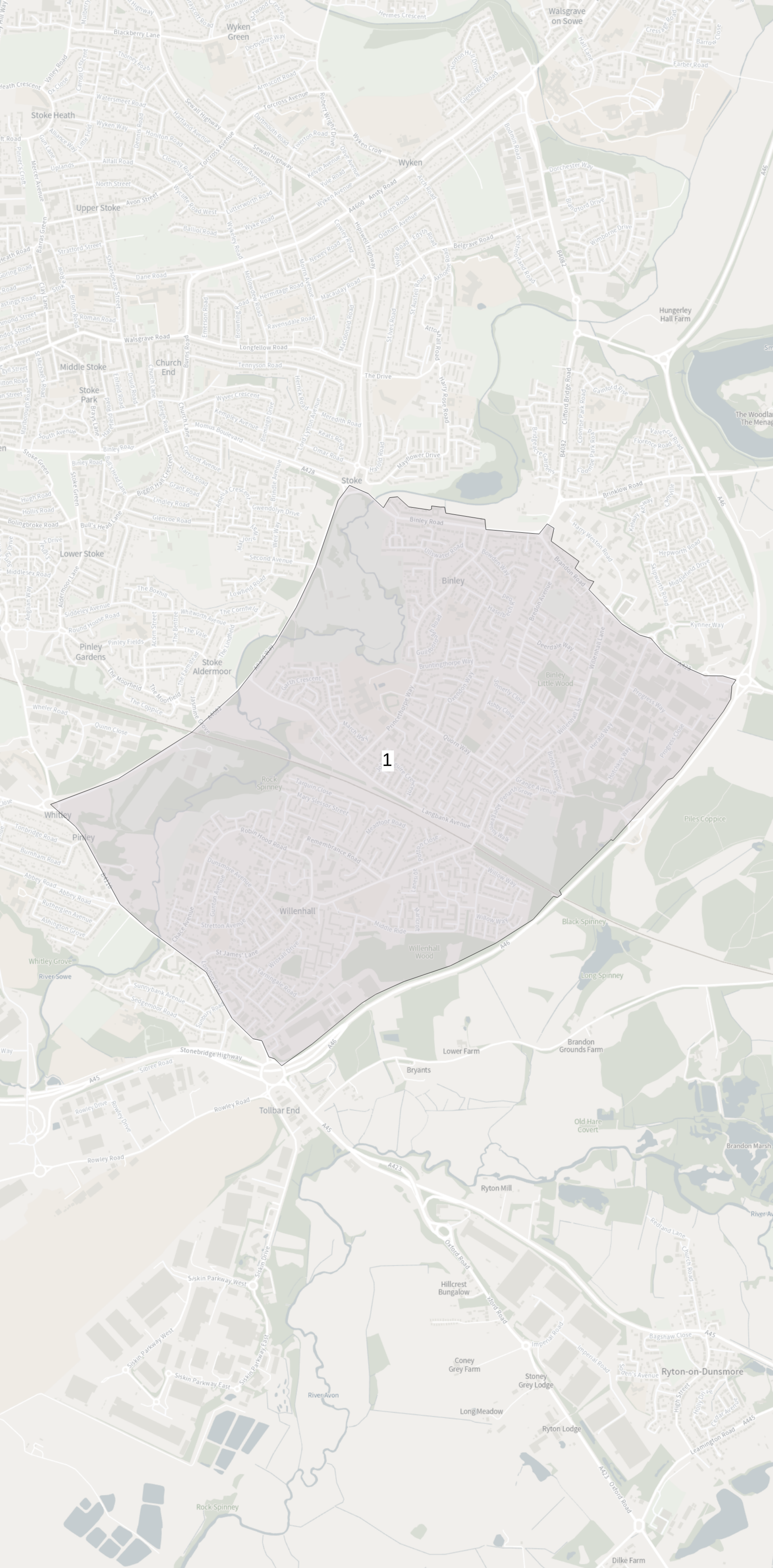
Cllr electorate: **4560**

Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

Date/Time **4154 - 5078**

Submitted: **28/07/2023 12:08**





Cheylesmore

Councillors: 3

Property count: 7544

Total Electorate: 12531

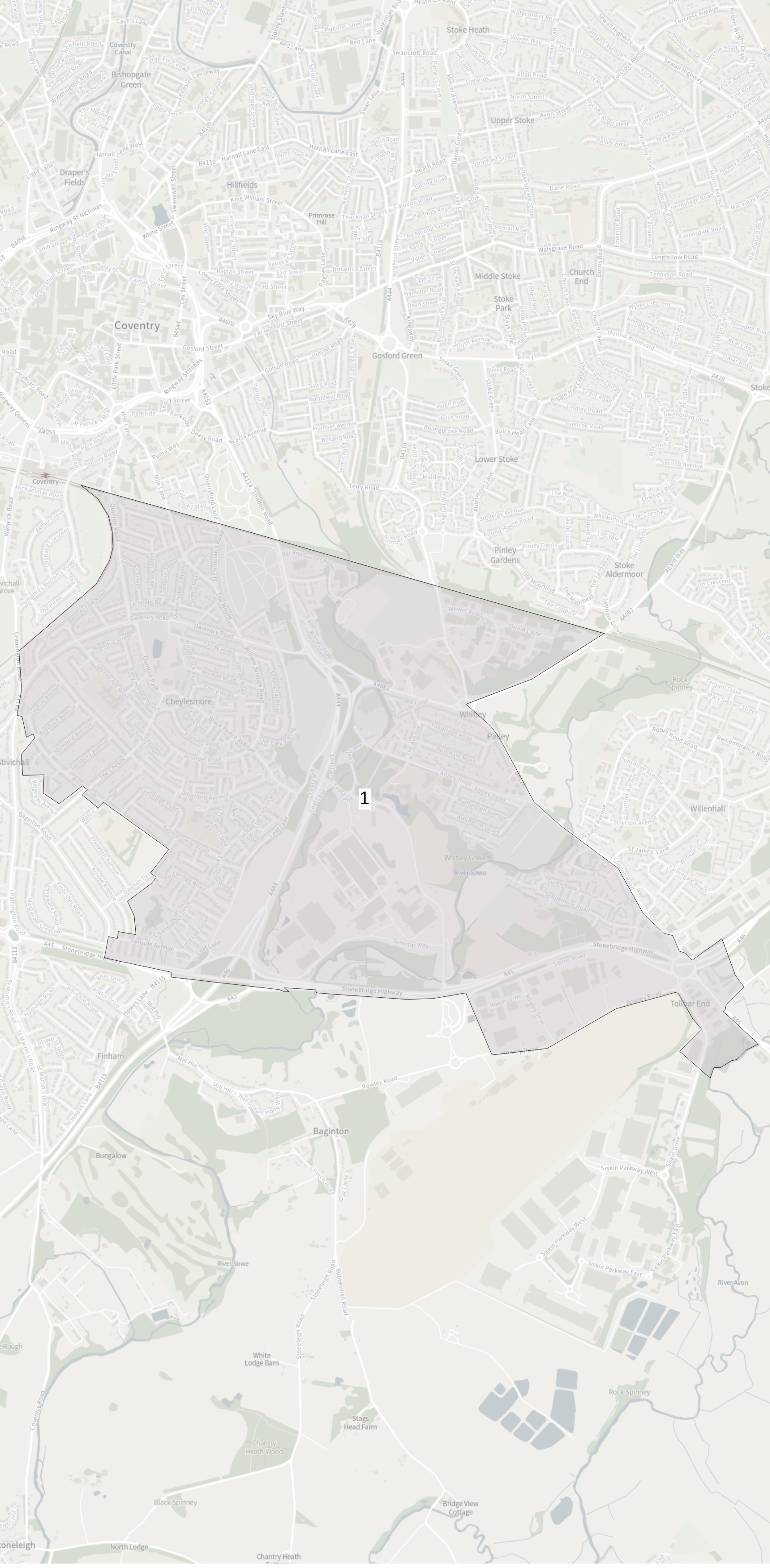
Cllr electorate: 4177

Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

Date/Time 4154 - 5078

Submitted: 28/07/2023 12:08





Coundon

Councillors: 3

Property count: 7385

Total Electorate: 12912

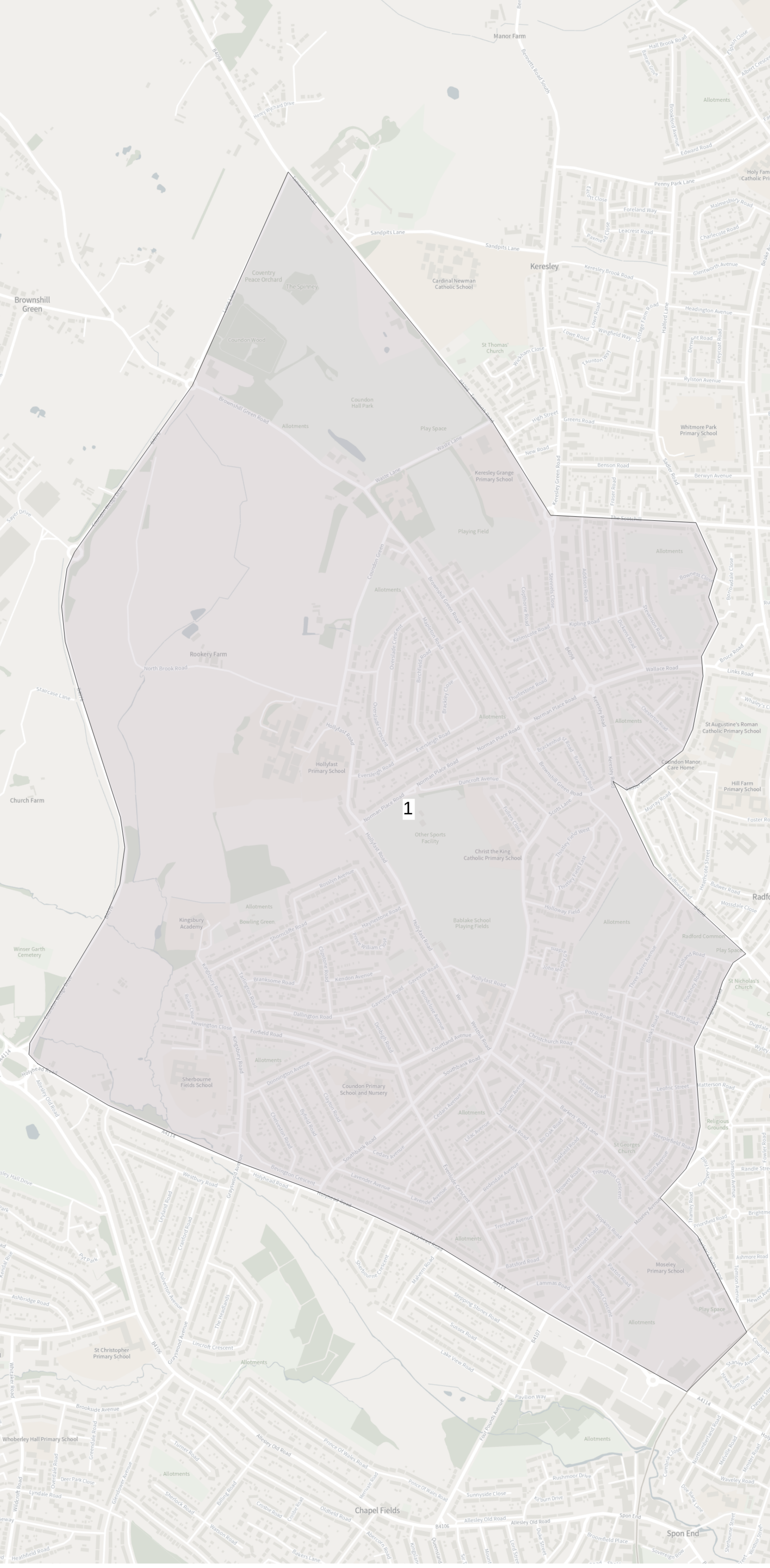
Cllr electorate: 4304

Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

Date/Time 4154 - 5078

Submitted: 28/07/2023 12:08





Foleshill

Councillors: 3

Property count: 8776

Total Electorate: 14076

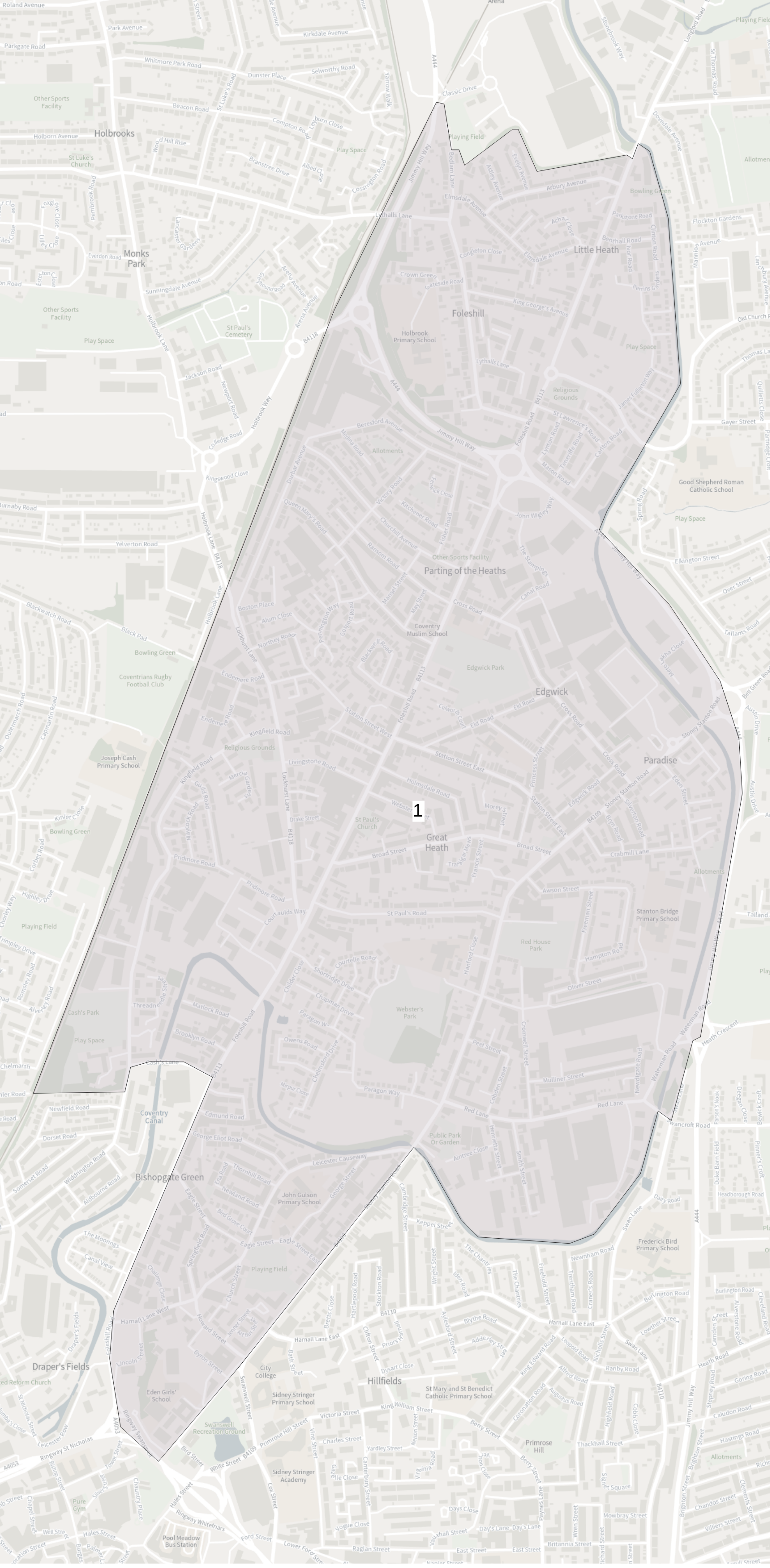
Cllr electorate: 4692

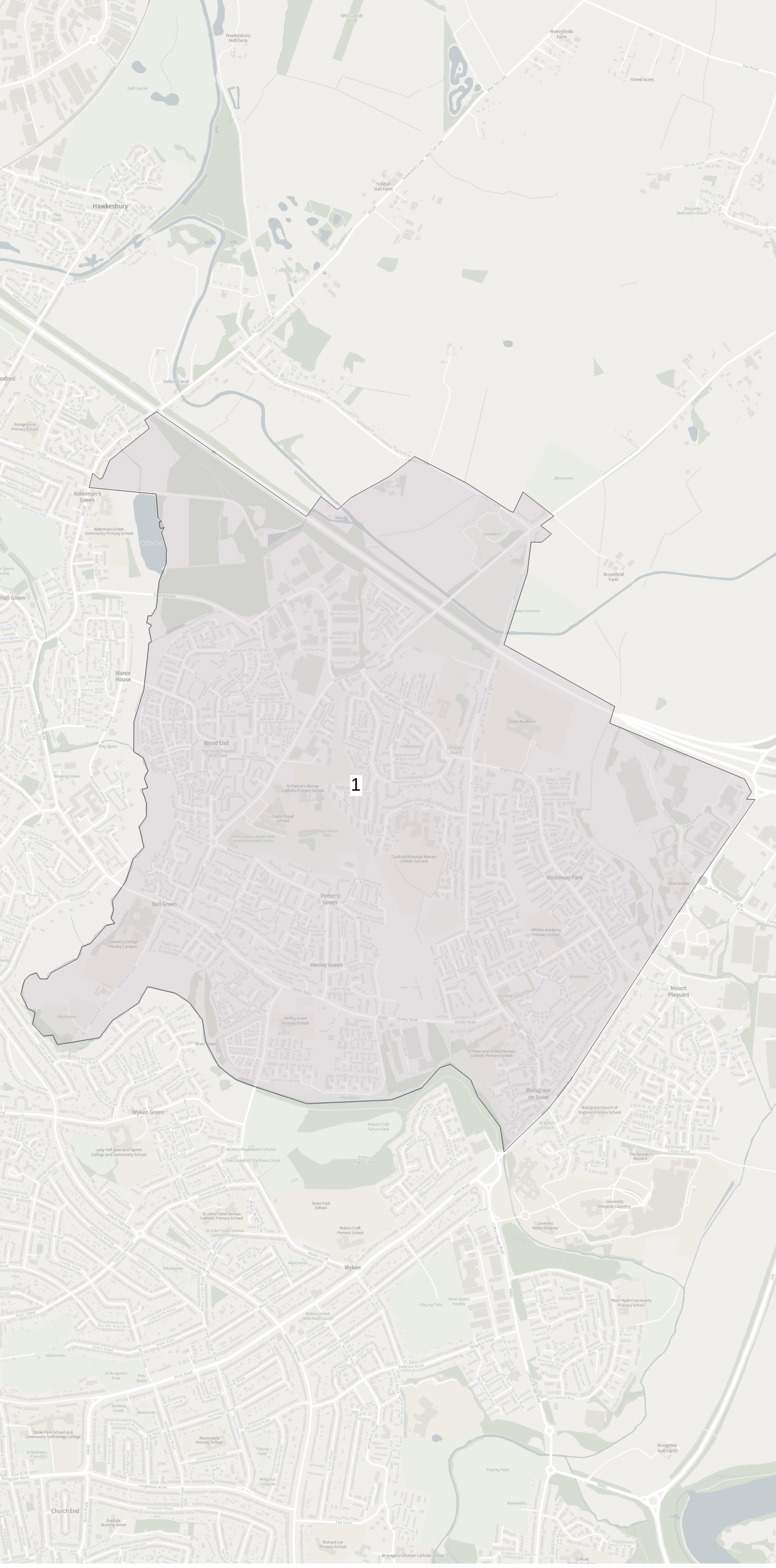
Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

Date/Time 4154 - 5078

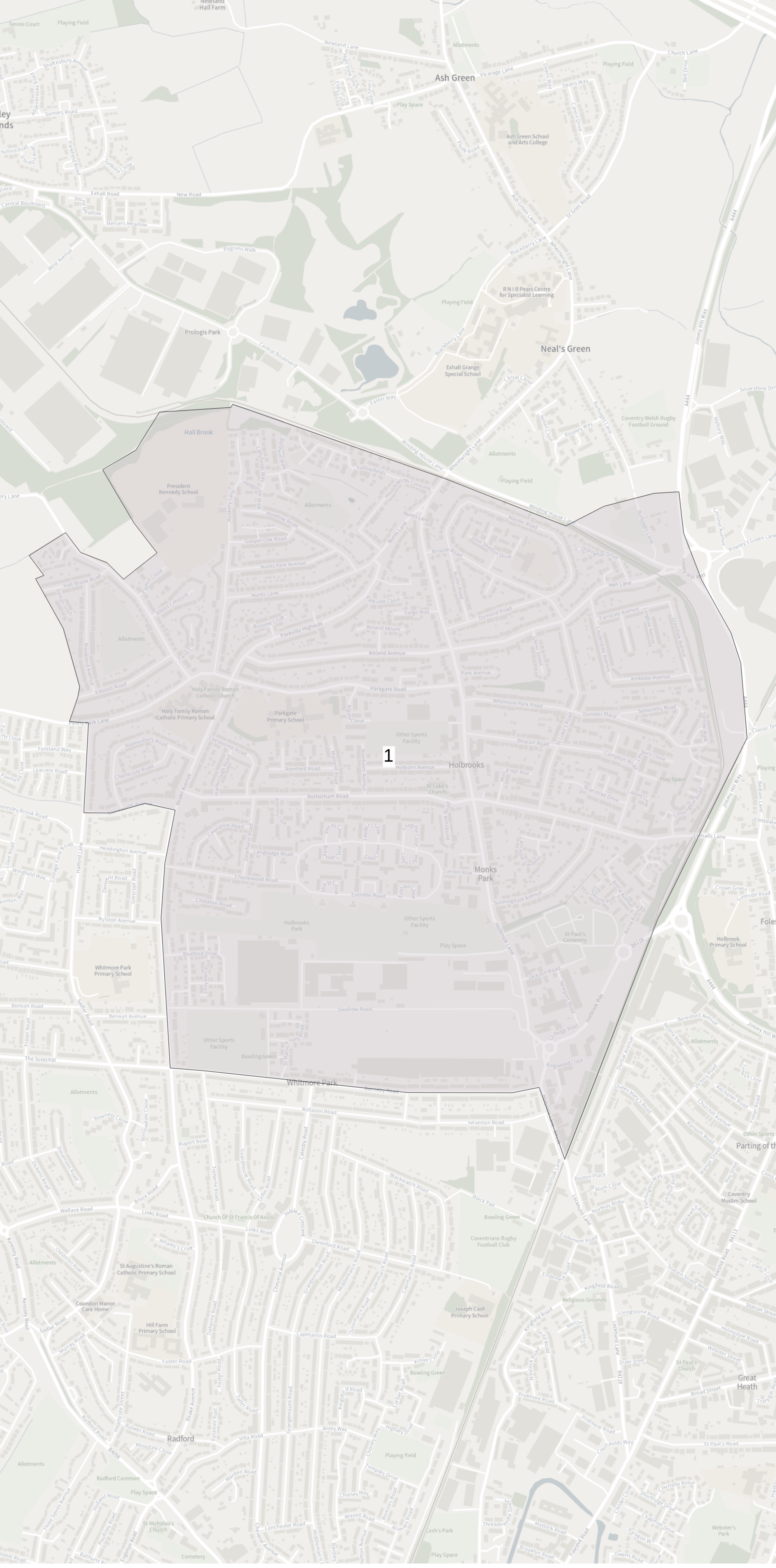
Submitted: 28/07/2023 12:08





Henley

Councillors:	3
Property count:	8094
Total Electorate:	13416
Cllr electorate:	4472
Electorate Status:	Balanced
Electorate Target:	
Date/Time	4154 - 5078
Submitted:	28/07/2023 12:08



Coventry City Council

Holbrooks

Councillors: 3

Property count: 6982

Total Electorate: 13182

Cllr electorate: 4394

Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

Date/Time 4154 - 5078

Submitted: 28/07/2023 12:08



Radford

Councillors: **3**

Property count: **8155**

Total Electorate: **13122**

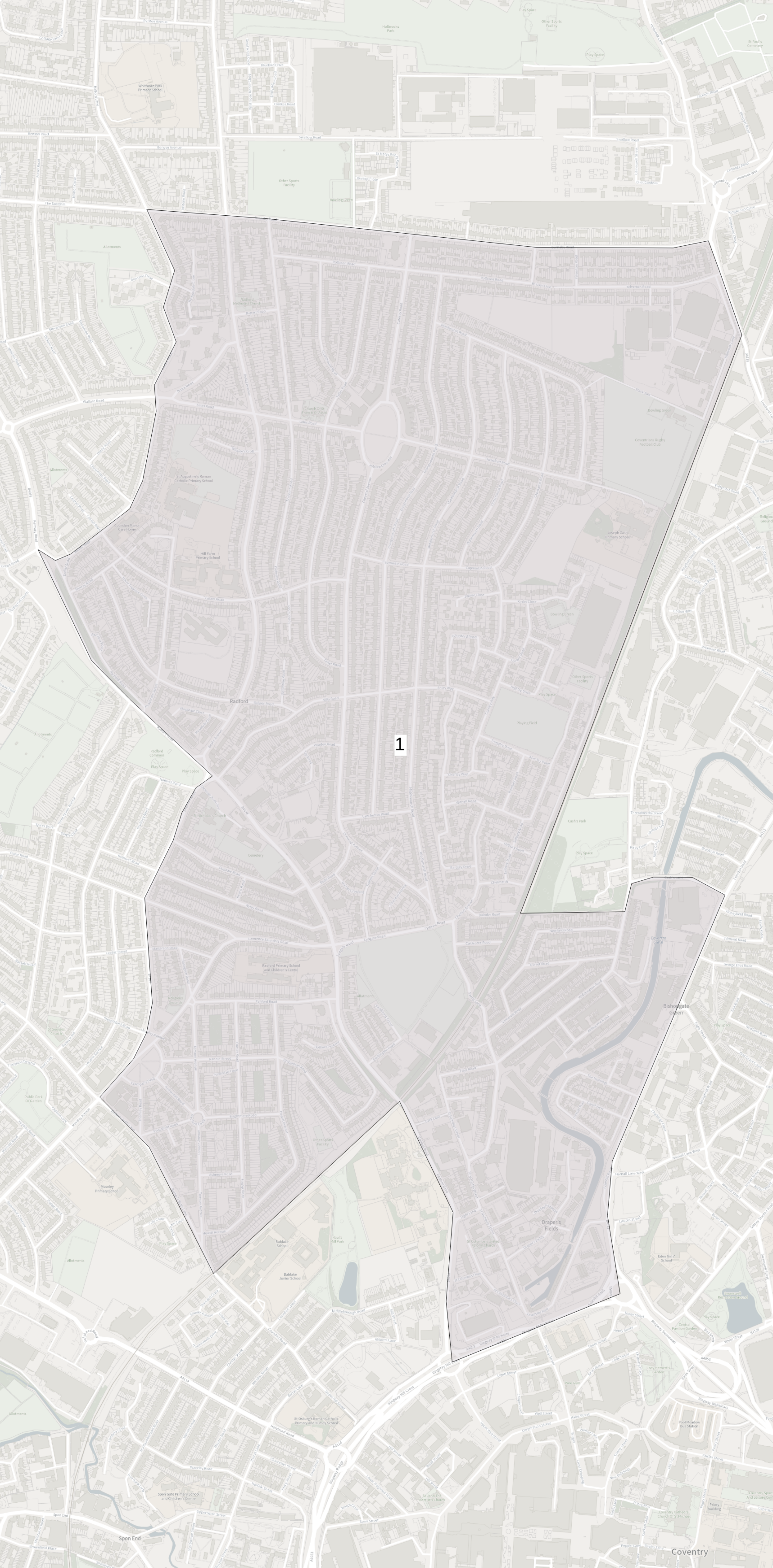
Cllr electorate: **4374**

Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

Date/Time **4154 - 5078**

Submitted: **28/07/2023 12:08**





Sowe

Councillors: 3

Property count: 8607

Total Electorate: 14895

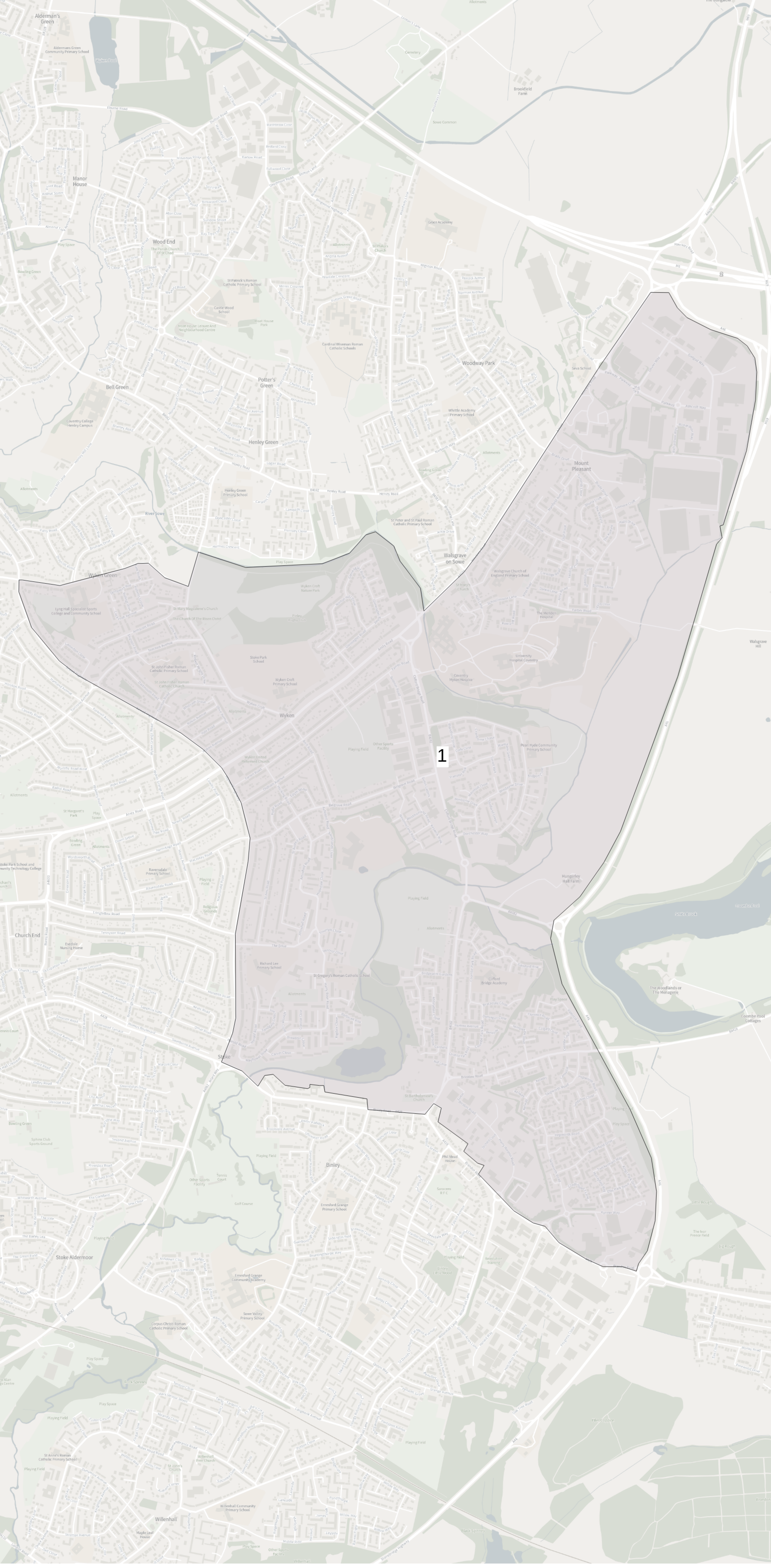
Cllr electorate: 4965

Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

Date/Time 4154 - 5078

Submitted: 28/07/2023 12:08





Westwood

Councillors: 3

Property count: 8548

Total Electorate: 15210

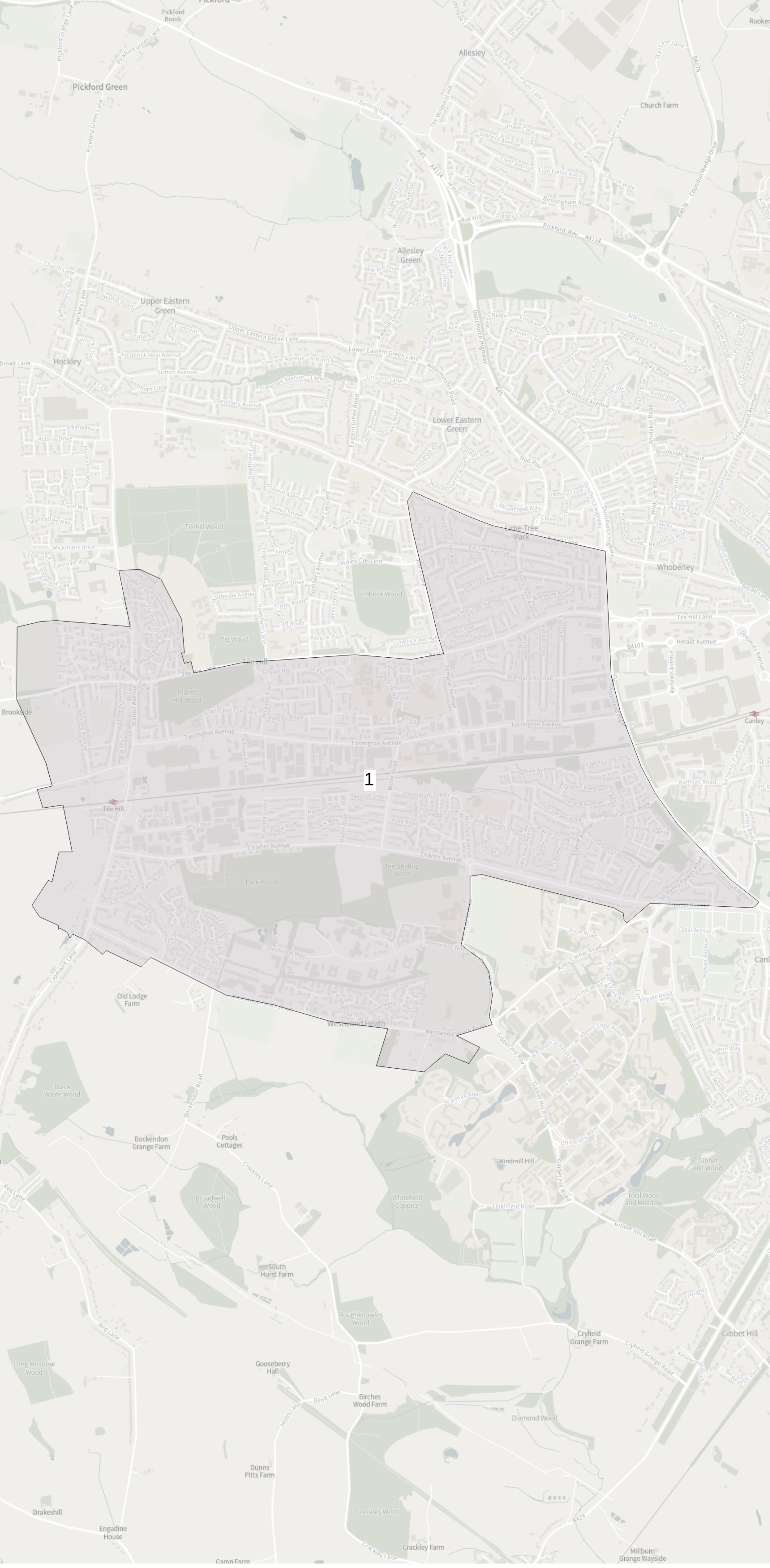
CLlr electorate: 5070

Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

Date/Time 4154 - 5078

Submitted: 28/07/2023 12:08





Earlsdon

Councillors: 3

Property count: 9181

Total Electorate: 13404

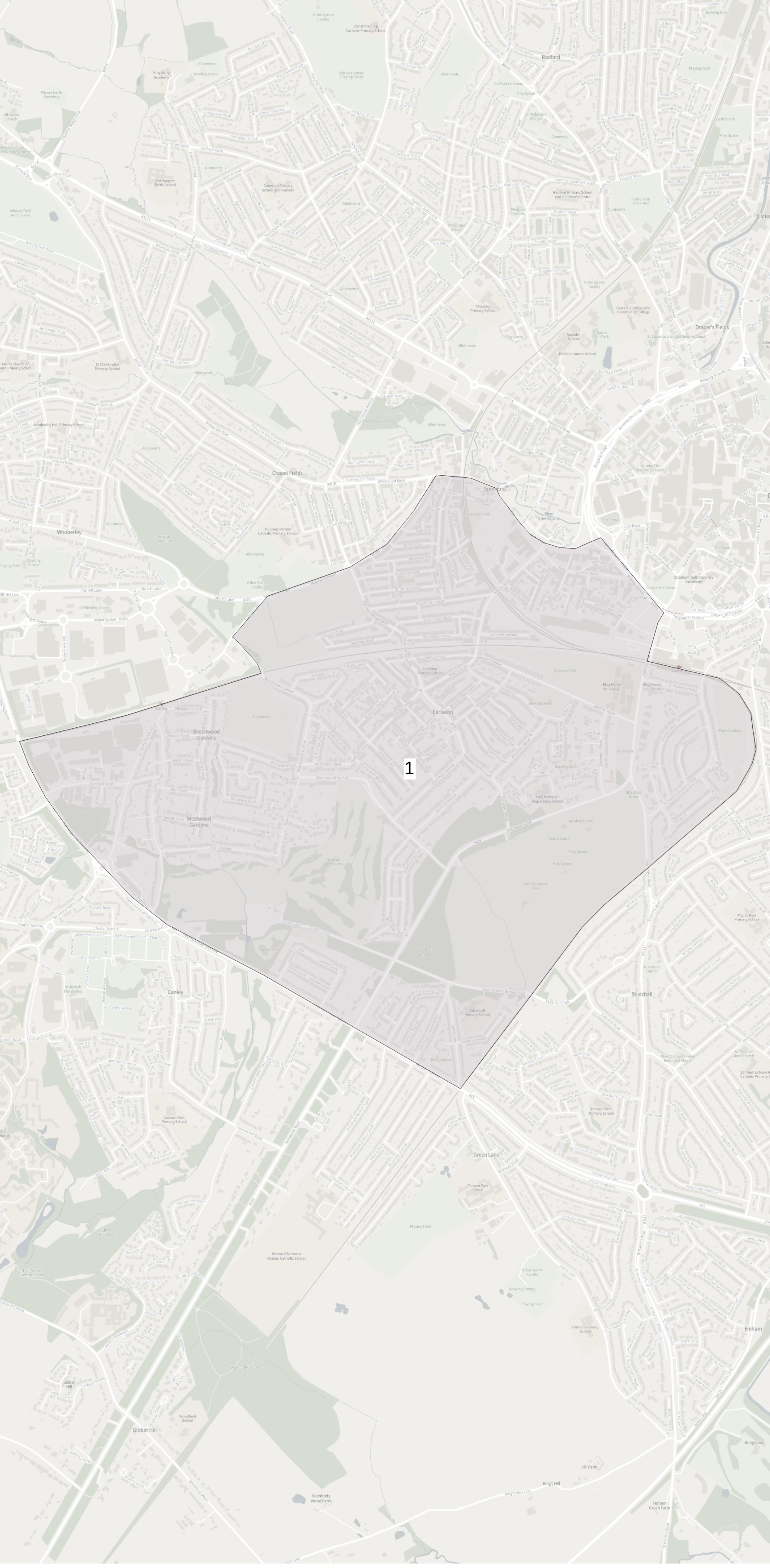
Cllr electorate: 4468

Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

Date/Time 4154 - 5078

Submitted: 28/07/2023 12:08



Longford

Councillors: **3**

Property count: **8899**

Total Electorate: **14631**

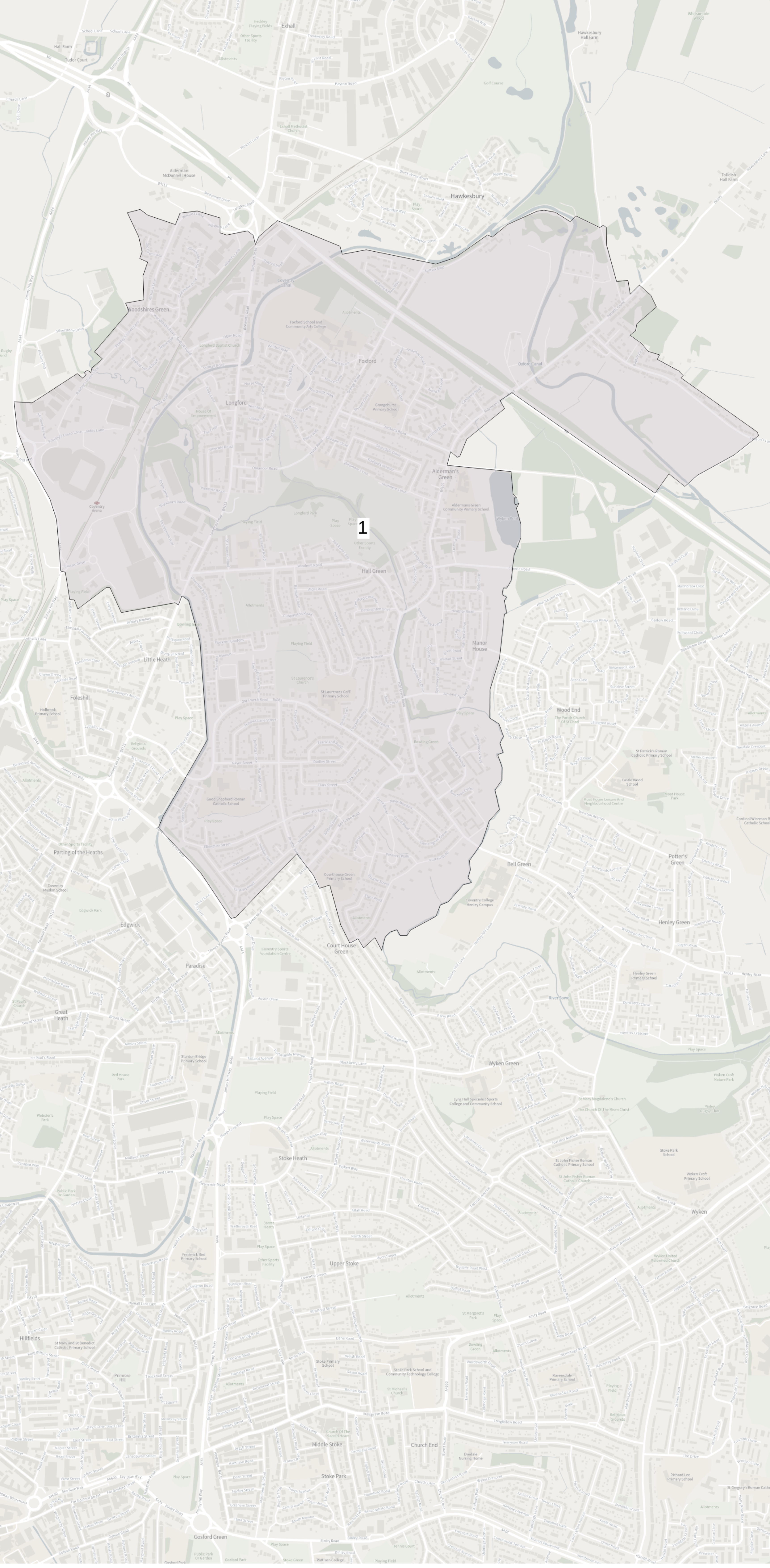
Cllr electorate: **4877**

Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

Date/Time **4154 - 5078**

Submitted: **28/07/2023 12:08**



Lower Stoke

Councillors: 3

Property count: 8702

Total Electorate: 14286

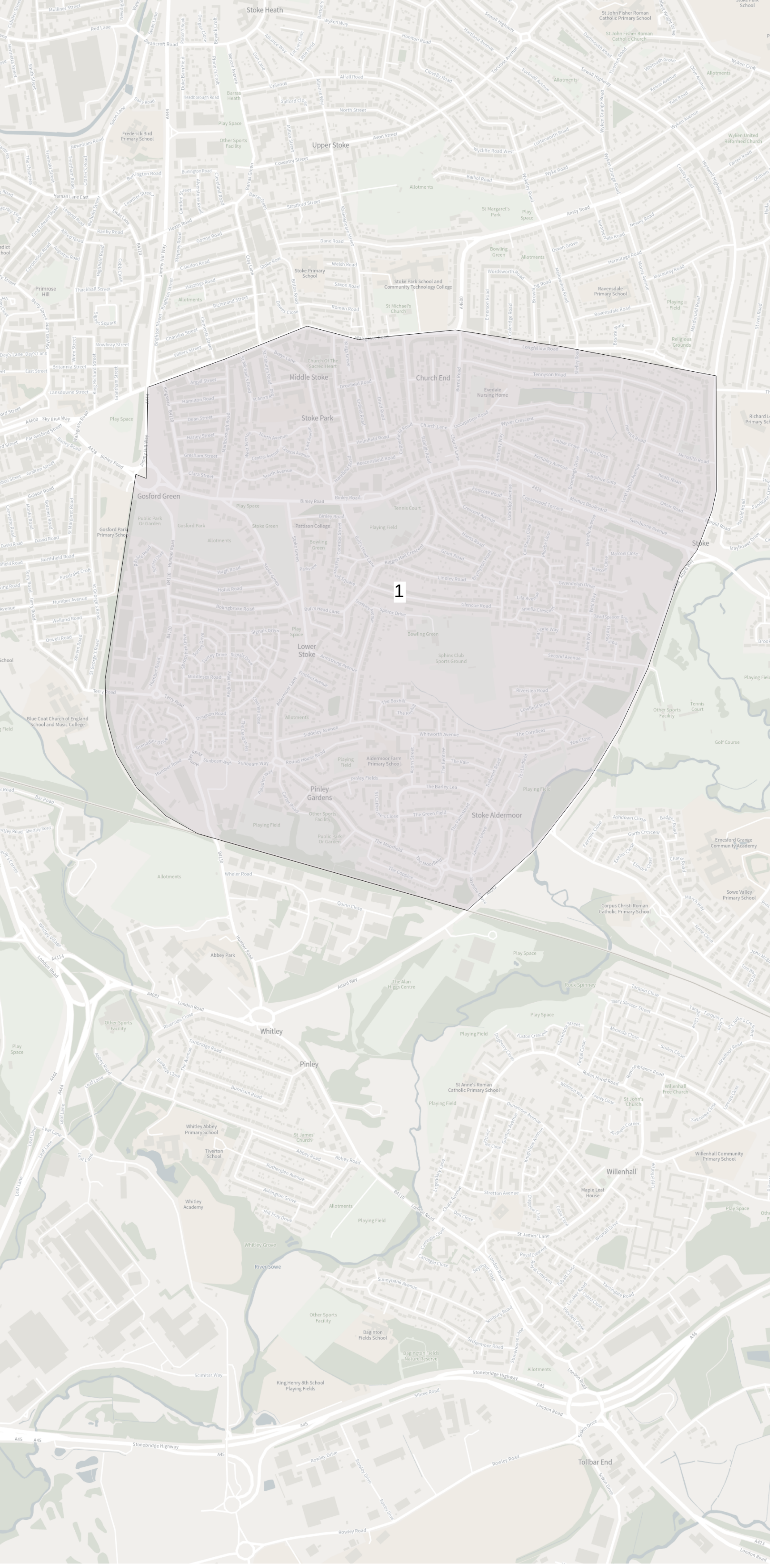
Cllr electorate: 4762

Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

Date/Time 4154 - 5078

Submitted: 28/07/2023 12:08





Coventry City Council

St Michael's

Councillors: 3

Property count: 22122

Total Electorate: 14526

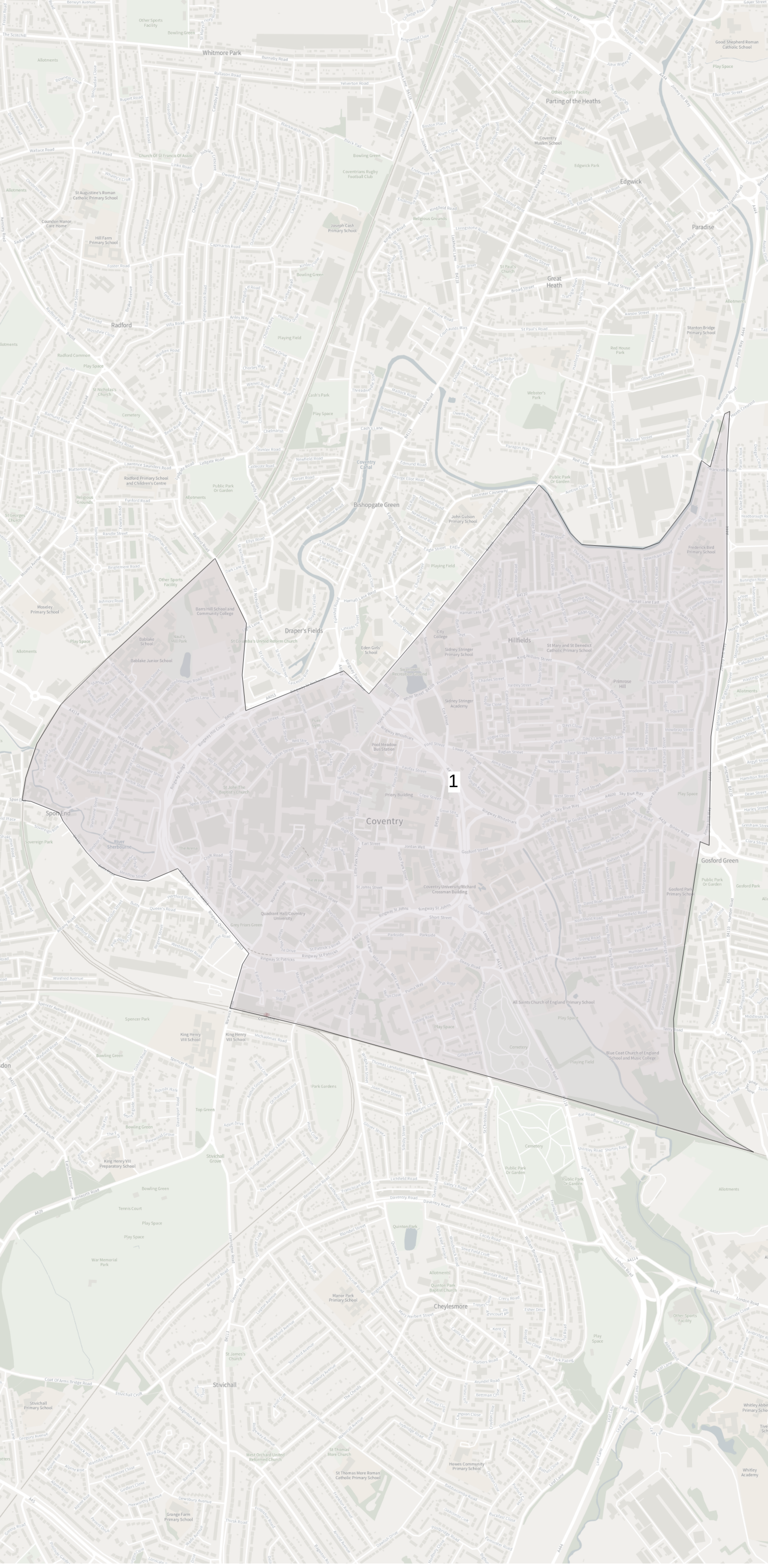
Cllr electorate: 4842

Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

Date/Time 4154 - 5078

Submitted: 28/07/2023 12:08





Upper Stoke

Councillors: 3

Property count: 8983

Total Electorate: 14901

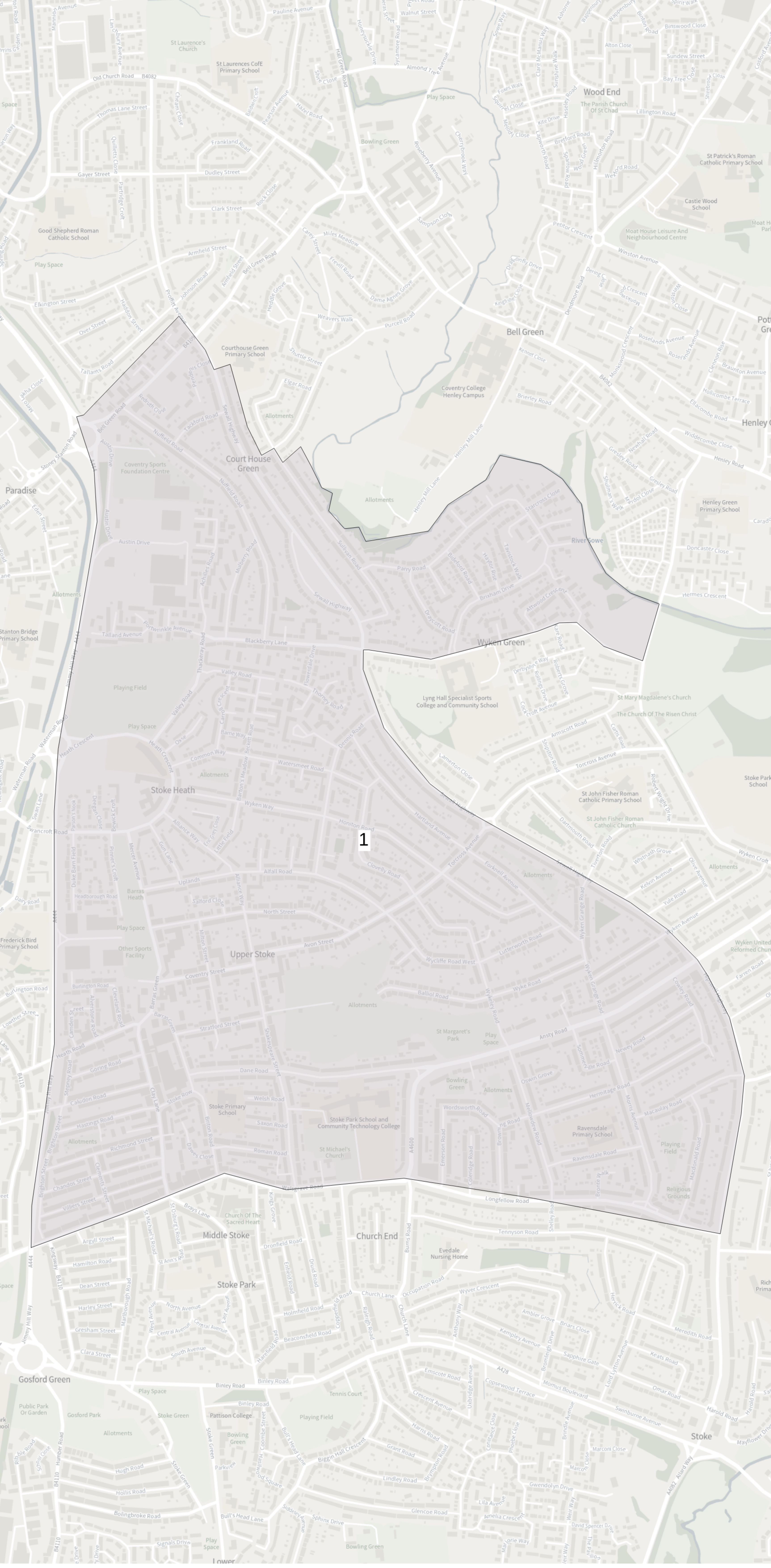
Cllr electorate: 4967

Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

Date/Time 4154 - 5078

Submitted: 28/07/2023 12:08





Wainbody

Councillors: 3

Property count: 11423

Total Electorate: 13359

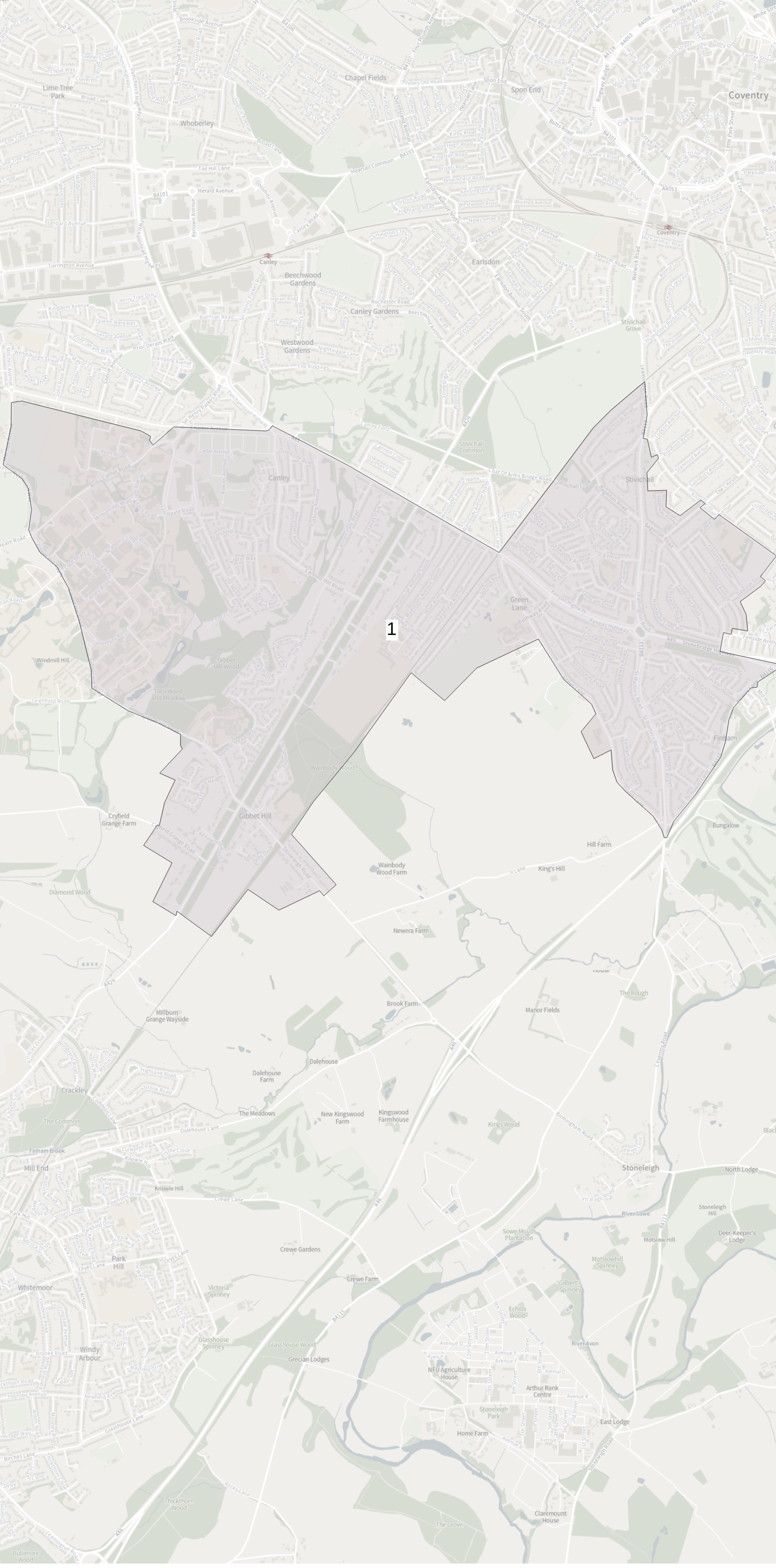
Cllr electorate: 4453

Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

Date/Time 4154 - 5078

Submitted: 28/07/2023 12:08





Whoberley

Councillors: **3**

Property count: **7849**

Total Electorate: **13107**

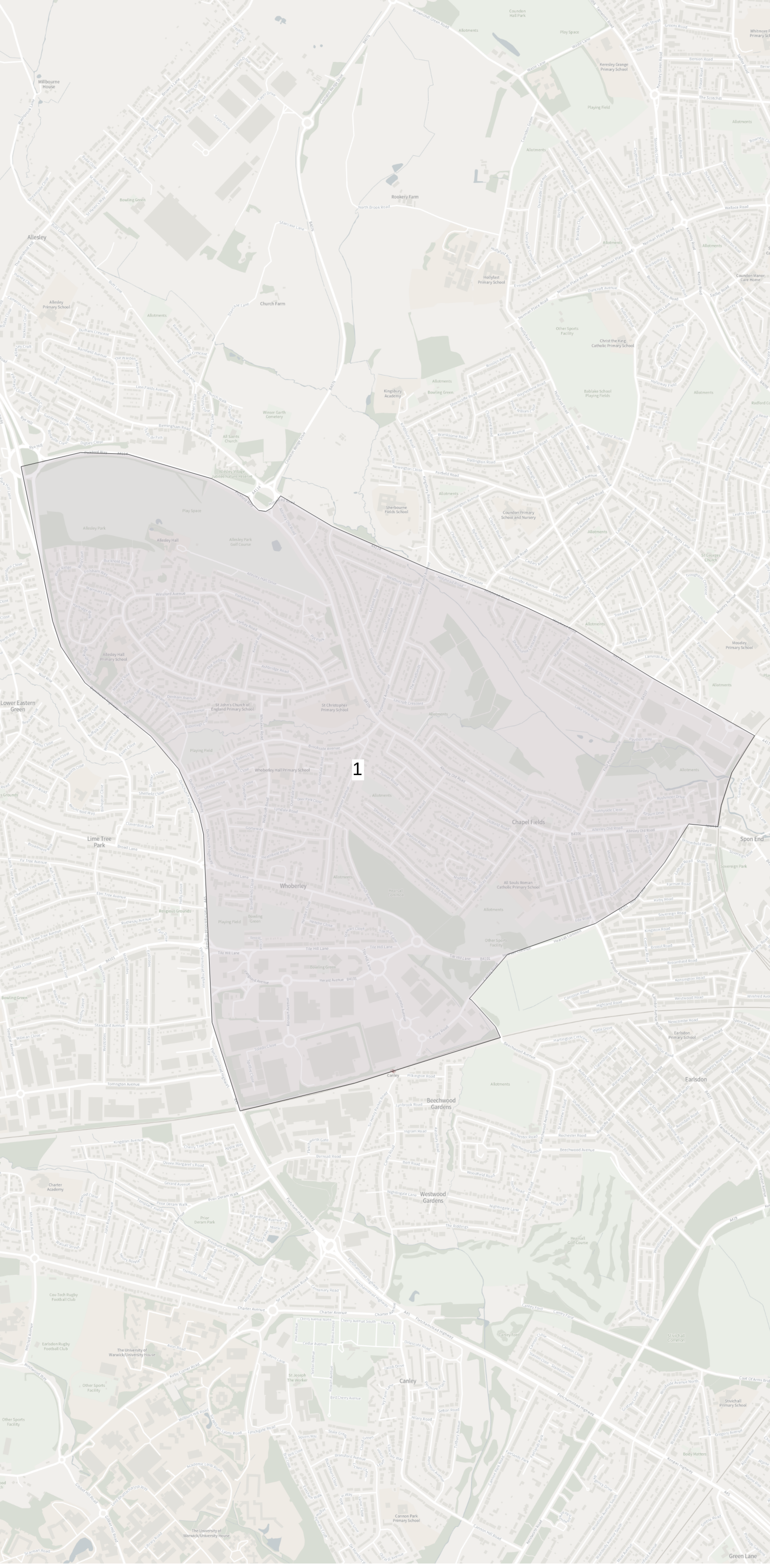
Cllr electorate: **4369**

Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

Date/Time **4154 - 5078**

Submitted: **28/07/2023 12:08**





Woodlands

Councillors: 3

Property count: 8857

Total Electorate: 14526

CLlr electorate: 4842

Electorate Status: **Balanced**

Electorate Target:

Date/Time 4154 - 5078

Submitted: 28/07/2023 12:08

