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NORTH TYNESIDE CONSERVATIVES

# 2022 BOUNDARY PROPOSALS





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# FOREWORD

I am pleased to write this foreword to the proposals by North Tyneside Conservative Federation to the Boundary Commission.

Our proposals are the result of wide-ranging consultation with our residents, discussions with Councillors and reflection on what communities offer currently. We have attempted to be responsive to the historic and natural aspects of our area, with our proposals seeking to re-design North Tyneside to be more reflective of who we are.

Currently, North Tyneside Council's ward boundaries can cause residents confusion or a sense of not belonging to a specific electoral ward, with some areas being split mid-road or pavement. This is clearly an anomaly and our proposals attempt to redress this and promote a stronger sense of community, area and people.

I hope that the Commission accepts our proposals as a means of bringing together communities across North Tyneside in an equitable, effective and efficient way, so we can get on with the job of moving North Tyneside forward.

**SEAN BROCKBANK**

Chairman of North Tyneside Conservative Federation



# OUR APPROACH

## PRINCIPLES

Our approach has put equality and community ties at its heart. We have started from a blank canvass: wherever possible we have tried to unite actual communities, instead of using existing electoral boundaries. This has meant that communities which have historically been split across multiple wards, polling districts or constituencies are united wherever possible.

Electoral equality is the starting point for this review. The LGBCE require that as far as possible each ward in North Tyneside should have an equal number of electors in it so that there is equality of representation across the Borough. North Tyneside's electorate forecast of 165,332 electors resident in the Borough by 2028, and the councillor numbers decision already made by the LGBCE (60 councillors across 20 wards, with three councillors per ward), means that as far as possible any warding pattern proposed should therefore aim to have circa 8,268 electors in each ward.

There have been instances during this process where it would make more sense to keep whole communities together, to foster effective local government; however this would have meant wards above the  $\pm 10\%$  threshold, which would not have met the test for electoral equality. We have therefore taken the decision throughout to prioritise equality over the other two criteria.

When making our decisions we have also concentrated on important local issues which unite communities within North Tyneside, from major planning issues to anti-social behaviour and proposals for new infrastructure like cycle-paths. These are



issues that will shape the very makeup of our Borough over the coming decade and by grouping ward boundaries around common issues we can deliver on the Commission's third and final criteria of effective and convenient local government.

There have been several historic anomalies in the existing warding pattern which we are seeking to rectify with this proposal. North Shields town centre was previously split over four separate wards while Killingworth and Monkseaton have previously both been split over two wards - our proposals unites all of these communities into their own distinct ward.

This has been our approach with each ward proposal. Where we have given precedence to one of the Commission's criteria over another we will make clear the reasons for doing so.

## METHODOLOGY

Our figures were generated from the Commission's published elector figures. Where we have split existing polling districts this has been done initially based on current electorate figures. The figures have then been cross checked by North Tyneside Council's planning department to give their view on how the proposed ward boundaries would reflect in projected electorate figures for 2028.

Our work has included online surveys, door-to-door surveys and email campaigns to establish where strong community ties exist. We have also asked questions about local issues and used this data in the sections around effective and convenient local government.

The ward names have been suggested by residents and then selected based on suitability of the names to the final boundaries drawn. An example of this exists in the Wallsend North proposed ward which was initially suggested as 'High Farm' but it was felt that this was not inclusive to the other communities within the suggested ward.



# PROPOSED NEW WARDING ARRANGEMENTS

The driving force behind this electoral review is the current variance in populations as a result of current ward boundaries being almost two decades old. There has been a seismic change across our Borough in that time with many new developments linking communities and historical boundaries becoming less relevant.

The current makeup of North Tyneside Council is 60 members across 20 three-member wards. These wards vary wildly in terms of population and in some cases new developments and communities have been split in half because of these boundaries. The existing wards with current electorate figures, projected figures for 2028 and the variance from the perfect elector number can be seen opposite.



Existing ward	Existing Ward Electorate (2028 Forecast)	Existing Ward Variance
Preston	6,644	-20%
Monkseaton North	6,947	-16%
St Mary's	7,110	-14%
Whitley Bay	7,339	-11%
Wallsend	7,618	-8%
Cullercoats	7,634	-8%
Monkseaton South	7,765	-6%
Camperdown	7,852	-5%
Howdon	7,869	-5%
Battle Hill	7,982	-3%
Benton	7,992	-3%
Northumberland	8,005	-3%
Chirton	8,146	-2%
Weetslade	8,180	-1%
Longbenton	8,442	2%
Tynemouth	8,543	3%
Riverside	9,010	9%
Valley	10,263	24%
Collingwood	10,770	30%
Killingworth	11,220	36%

Under our proposals all twenty wards would be within the recommended  $\pm 10\%$  variance of electors using the projected 2028 figures. With regard to ward names we have tried to make these reflective of the communities that are contained in each ward, rather than having symbolic names which have been commonplace previously in North Tyneside such as 'Valley', 'Collingwood' and 'Northumberland' wards. We would welcome the Commission taking the same approach to ward names when putting together their proposals as symbolic names can make it difficult for Councillors to easily explain their remit to residents.

The proposed electorate figures (below) have been provided by Council officers based on maps sent to them. They reflect our intention to stick rigidly to the recommended  $\pm 10\%$  variance of electors under the projected 2028 figures.

Proposed New Ward	Proposed Electorate (2028 Forecast)	Proposed Ward Variance
<b>Annitsford, Burradon and Backworth</b>	7,717	-7%
<b>Battle Hill</b>	7,939	-4%
<b>Benton</b>	7,545	-9%
<b>Chirton and Percy Main</b>	8,834	7%
<b>Cullercoats and Whitley Bay South</b>	8,891	8%
<b>Dudley, Seaton Burn and Wideopen</b>	7,508	-10%
<b>Holystone</b>	7,635	-8%
<b>Howdon</b>	9,063	10%
<b>Killingworth</b>	7,695	-7%
<b>Longbenton</b>	8,032	-3%
<b>Monkseaton</b>	9,065	10%
<b>New York and Murton</b>	8,534	3%
<b>North Shields</b>	8,745	6%
<b>Preston with Preston Grange</b>	7,491	-9%
<b>Shiremoor</b>	7,932	-4%
<b>St Mary's</b>	8,215	-1%
<b>Tynemouth</b>	8,197	-1%
<b>Wallsend Central</b>	8,567	4%
<b>Wallsend North</b>	9,027	10%
<b>Whitley Bay North</b>	8,700	5%

In developing this proposed warding pattern, we have closely considered and sought to apply the LGBCE's criteria. We have also been mindful of the LGBCE's acknowledgment that it will never be possible to achieve exact electoral equality across every ward (i.e. precisely 8,268 electors in every ward).



The proposed warding arrangements are therefore considered to represent the best fit against the LGBCs criteria, and a fair and appropriate balance where those criteria compete. Electoral equality is much improved in the proposed arrangements. Where variances remain, they are overall much smaller than currently and in every proposal these are within  $\pm 10\%$  of the ideal elector numbers per ward.

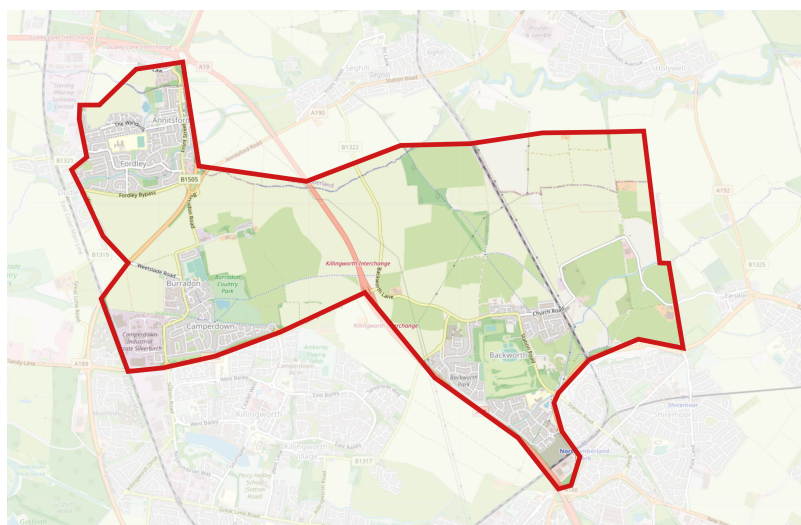
# ANNITSFORD, BACKWORTH AND BURRADON

## NEAREST CURRENT WARD - VALLEY / CAMPERDOWN ELECTORATE - 10,263 / 7,852

Currently, the ward is a combination of the old Valley Ward and parts of Camperdown Ward which include a collection of smaller villages. Camperdown Ward's current neighbours are Weetslade (NW), Longbenton (SW), Killingworth (SE), and Valley (NE). Valley Ward currently includes Backworth, West Allotment, Northumberland Park, and Shiremoor. Its neighbours are Camperdown (NW), Killingworth (W), Battle Hill (SW), Collingwood (SE), St Marys (E), and Monkseaton South (E)

## PROPOSED WARD MAP

Full size ward maps shown in Appendix 1



## PROJECTED WARD ELECTORATE - 7,717

## PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE PROPOSAL

These proposed boundary changes contain many of the smaller villages in the North West of the Borough including Annitsford, Backworth, Burradon, and Camperdown which are south of the Northumberland boundary line. This proposal also relinquished some of the old Camperdown Ward to Killingworth Ward, thereby uniting the town of Killingworth in one ward.

Furthermore, the proposal also relinquishes some of the old Valley ward to Shiremoor Ward. However, these proposed boundary changes will bridge communities that have strong links to Annitsford, Backworth, Burradon, Camperdown as well as communities involved in local events, clubs, schools, parishes, scouts etc.

The proposal for this rural ward in the North West also allows for the proposed Shiremoor Ward to take in the entirety of Shiremoor Village and similarly for the proposed Killingworth Ward to take in the entirety of Killingworth Town which has previously been split in two.

When proposing this ward there was some discussion about crossing the A19 which acts as an obvious barrier through the centre of the Borough, however crossing it to unite two rural communities seemed the most sensible option rather than artificially combining two completely separate urban communities without good cause.

## WARD OVERVIEW

Annitsford, Backworth and Burradon Ward is a collection of small villages approximately 3.5 miles west of Whitley Bay and 5 miles north east on Newcastle

The proposed ward will include schools, care homes, community spaces, parks, a golf club, a cricket club, farms and natural beauty spots like ponds and wooded areas that provide outdoor spaces for the local residents to enjoy picnics, dog walks or outdoor exercise or games.



## PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded by the area of Weetslade to the west, with a natural boundary to the north where the ward meets Northumberland. St Mary's Ward borders the east by the A186 with the new ward of Shiremoor to the south east. The A19 acts as a natural border to Holystone Ward to the south west; Killingworth Way acts a clear divide to the south of the ward which meets the new Killingworth Ward with no apparent division of communities.

The proposals have closely considered how best to split Dudley between wards which is necessary in order to achieve electoral equality. The current boundaries artificially split Dudley through the middle of a housing estate which splits one community between two wards. Instead, we have opted to move the boundary west to the Weetslade Road line which allows more of Dudley to be included in this ward.

Similarly the Greenhills estate was the subject of much discussion as from a distance it looks to be part of Killingworth town over Camperdown; however based on conversations with residents who pointed to numerous connecting footpaths between the estate and Camperdown we have opted to use Killingworth Way as an obvious boundary between the two.

## COMMUNITY

There are small libraries across the ward providing hubs of information for the local communities helping to improving life chances; there is also a community centre in Burradon which encourages local people to socialise. A large part of the ward is rural in nature with farms, cottages, and B&B businesses which bring tourism to the area.

Other amenities in the ward include various children's groups, social clubs, pubs, and various shops including Chemists. There are also a number of churches in the area and a golf/cricket club in Backworth. Backworth Hall is a hub for events such as weddings, tribute acts and food festivals, as well as community celebrations.

There is also a rural community of farmers within this ward who can often be overlooked by the local authority when combined with comparatively urban areas.

## TRANSPORT

The main bus route through the ward that connects to other areas of the Borough is the number 53 which links to North Shields and Cramlington and to Shiremoor Metro - this provides access to Newcastle and the coast.

Public transport is a major issue in this area given the limited options due to the rural nature of the proposed ward; councillors would undoubtedly pick this up as a key issue for them to address.

## SCHOOLS

Early Years Education is provided for the children of the ward, Fordley Primary School, Burradon Community Primary School, and Backworth Park Primary School as well as Parkside House School which specialises in teaching pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs with other associated learning difficulties. The nearest High Schools are in the neighbouring wards which are accessible by buses that run term time.

## EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

The rurality of this ward will allow for effective and efficient local governance, rather than having single rural villages or farms split across multiple urban wards which often results in their being overlooked.



# BATTLE HILL

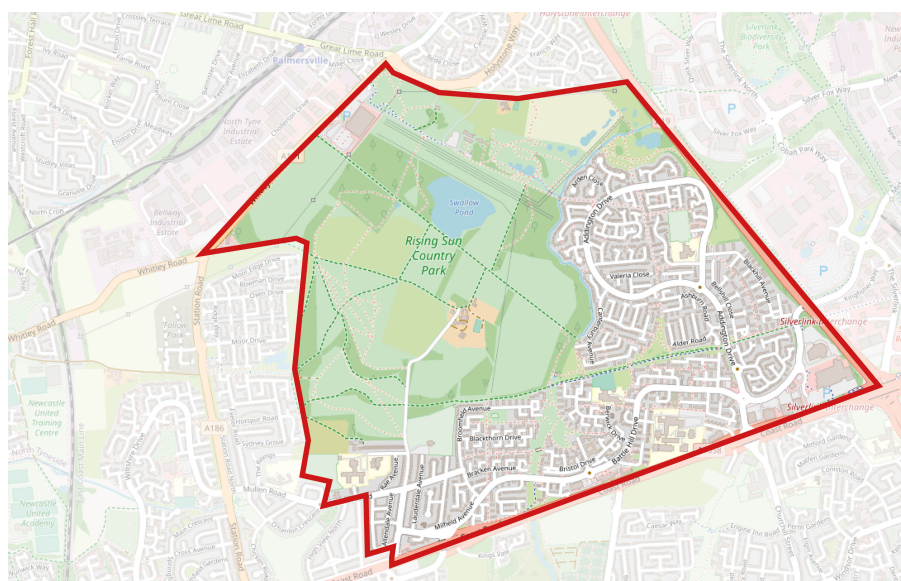
## NEAREST CURRENT WARD - BATTLE HILL ELECTORATE - 7,982

The ward comprises the modern estates of Battle Hill and Hadrian Park together with the more established residential area of Kings Estate. To the north is the open expanse of The Rising Sun Country Park. The ward forms a well-knit cohesive unit.

The ward is primarily residential in nature, but there are several large retail outlets including B&Q, Wickes, Smyths Toys, Lidl Supermarket and Asda (Benton). Northumbria Police have an area station located on Middle Engine Lane. As is to be expected in a ward of this nature there are several health care facilities, the most significant being the Battle Hill Health Centre.

## PROPOSED WARD MAP

Full size ward maps shown in Appendix 1



## PROJECTED WARD ELECTORATE - 7,717



## PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE PROPOSAL

The current Battle Hill ward fits within the recommended  $\pm 10\%$  variance of electors under the projected 2028 figures. There are also two very obvious boundaries in the form of the Coast Road to the south and the A19 to the east. We therefore approached Battle Hill Ward with a look to minimal change.

Our proposal keeps all of the residential areas that are in the current Battle Hill Ward but extends to the north west in order to take in the Rising Sun Country Park in its entirety. This helps with effective government as previously the park has been split between three wards.

As detailed below, the ward boundaries form a convenient geographical demarcation and serve to enhance the strong community links. The Rising Sun Country Park has been included because of its close proximity: it is the 'back garden' for many of the residents of these three estates.

## PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

The proposed Battle Hill Ward is situated to the north of the Coast Road. Its northern boundary is the Rising Sun Country Park. The western boundary begins at the BP Petrol Station located on the Coast Road and then behind the Rising Sun Public House, up Tynedale Avenue to its most westerly point which is east of Beacon Hill School; then up to the Rising Sun Country Park. The eastern boundary is the A19 and the boundary to the south is the A1058 Coast Road.

## COMMUNITY

Each of the three estates has its own character and yet the three blend together seamlessly and generate an overall sense of community. The ward appears to have a collective allegiance to Wallsend, a strong historical link that seems to permeate throughout the ward, be it shipbuilding or football.

## TRANSPORT

Battle Hill Drive serves as a main arterial link with the surrounding major roads (A1058 and A19). From Battle Hill Drive, which runs for almost the length of the ward, there is easy access to the residential estates. This further enhances the sense of integration and cohesion.

## SCHOOLS

Battle Hill Primary, Hadrian Park Primary, St Bernadette's Catholic Primary. Tyne Metropolitan College (Post 16). Beacon Hill School (a school for young peoples with severe learning difficulties aged 2 to 19) Each of these represents its own community but, like all schools (and especially primary schools) they help to unite the wider community.

## EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

Although there is a variation between the estates in some of the demographics (for example education and unemployment) these are not significant. The ward demonstrates all three LGBCE criteria in terms of electoral equality, interests and identities of local communities, and effective and convenient local government.

Additionally in uniting the Rising Sun Country Park into one ward improves governance arrangements when working with the many community groups within the Park.



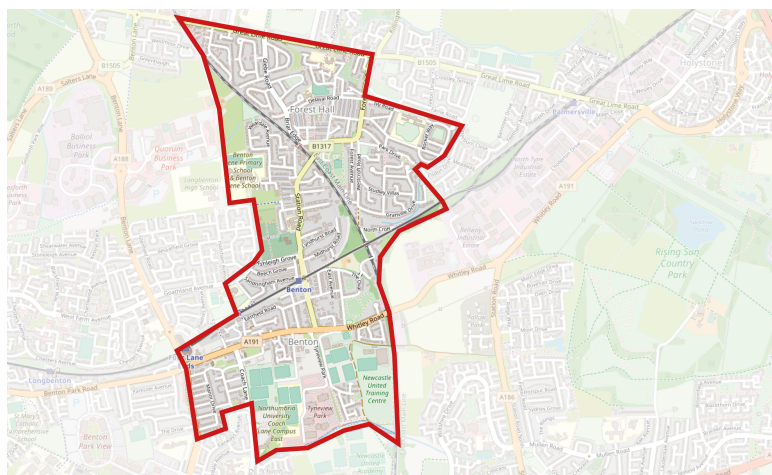
# BENTON

## NEAREST CURRENT WARD - BENTON ELECTORATE -7,992

The current Benton Ward includes the areas of Benton, Forest Hall, and the 'Manors' estate adjacent to Coach Lane. The northern boundary is Great Lime Road with the southern boundary being Northumbria University (Coach Lane Campus) and Tyne View Park. The eastern boundary heads north up past Darsley Park, across Whitley Road and behind (but not including) the Bellway Industrial Estate, with its final point along Bamburgh Road and proceeds onto Great Lime Road. The western boundary runs along Fir Tree Farm and past Benton Dene Primary School - it continues to Benton Metro Station (including St Bartholomew's, but not St Andrew's, church). It proceeds down Station Road to the Metro line to Four Lane Ends and then continues down Benton Road as far as Manor Road where it carries onto Coach Lane. Benton Ward's neighbours are Longbenton (W), Northumberland (SE), Killingworth (NE) and Camperdown (NW)

## PROPOSED WARD MAP

Full size ward maps shown in Appendix 1



## PROJECTED WARD ELECTORATE - 7,717

## PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE PROPOSAL

Benton Ward has strong links with Longbenton to its West but is viewed by residents in all areas as a distinct and separate community. This proposal aims to keep the Benton community identity distinct and protected. These proposed boundaries provide clearer and more natural boundaries, especially on the border with Longbenton ward which provides the advantages of maintaining coherent communities and creating clearer and more sensible natural boundaries.

When looking at the proposed Benton Ward we were conscious that due to the recommended  $\pm 10\%$  variance of electors under the projected 2028 figures, we had to take in some of the Forest Hall estate but not in its entirety. Ideally we would have kept the Forest Hall estate intact in the same ward but unfortunately that has not been possible within the recommended  $\pm 10\%$  variance.

### WARD OVERVIEW

Benton Ward is situated near the western part of the Borough and is one of the less culturally diverse areas in the North East. Nearly a quarter of the ward has no educational qualification with approximately a quarter to one half of school students receiving free school meals. The ward centres around Front Street with its mix of cafes, bars and shops.

## PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

### ROAD BOUNDARIES

Benton Ward's southern boundary follows the boundary of the Borough with the eastern boundary predominantly following the rail and Metro line. The boundary moves north to include Ivy Road Primary school and the neighbourhood just east of it. The boundary moves North up Forest Hall Road and then West along Great Lime Road which forms the northern boundary of the ward. The boundary moves South along the rail line and then skirts East of the Quorum Business Park and continues South between Longbenton High School and Briar Dene Schools, with the former being outside the ward boundary and the latter within.



The boundary moves South along the western edge of the Benton Cemetery and then moves along Goathland Avenue. It then moves South to the Metro line and excludes the St Batholemew's and St. Stephen's Primary Schools. The boundary moves along the Metro line until Four Lane Ends station where it ties in with the Borough boundary again.

### COMMUNITY

This proposal takes the important decision to put Benton Metro Station into the Benton Ward from the Longbenton Ward. Benton has a strong community identity with the Metro station at its heart and Station Road and Whitley Road running through the ward. The Benton and Forest Hall communities have strong links both geographically and socially and much of Forest Hall is in this ward. Both Benton and Forest Hall have residents' groups and the Benton Community Centre is used by both groups. Benton has a community choir, an action group, Community Foundation and a number of children's groups.

### TRANSPORT

Benton and Four Lane Ends Metro stations lie along the southern part of the ward and ensure connections across the Borough. The ward is serviced by all major bus companies allowing for easy access to Newcastle city centre and also access to all other areas of the Borough, including the award-winning coastline. The Four Lane Ends interchange is a major transport hub for the east of Newcastle.

### SCHOOLS

Forest Hall Primary School and Ivy Road Primary School are the only two schools in the ward. Some children from the ward attend the Briar Dene Primary School or Briar Dene School in Longbenton Ward.

### EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

The proposed Benton Ward combines the historic village centre with newer housing developments. The ward is primarily residential which will mean residents have similar issues to raise with the local authority; additionally the compact geographical nature of the ward will make it easy for elected members to travel around.

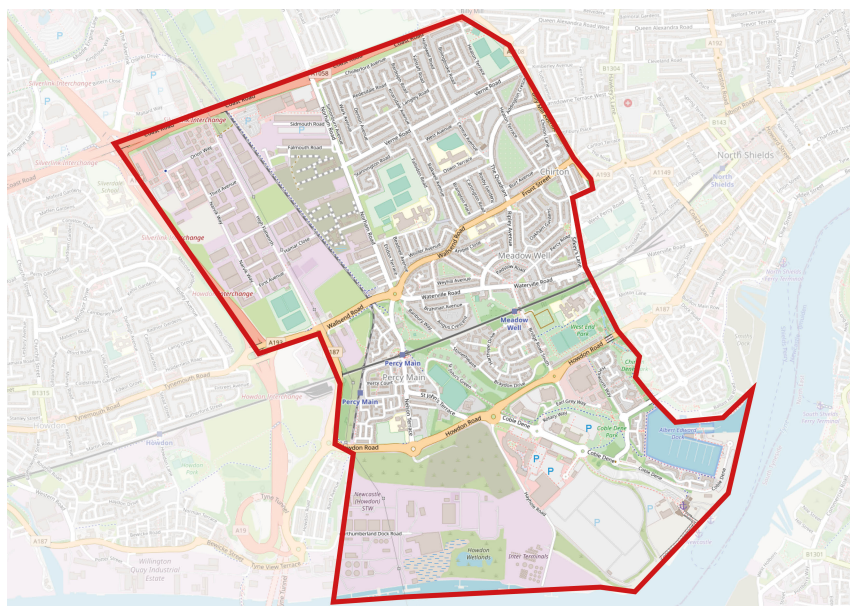
# CHIRTON AND PERCY MAIN

## NEAREST CURRENT WARD - CHIRTON ELECTORATE - 8,146

The current ward is bounded to the North by the A1058 Coast Road and to the West by the A19. The current ward splits the communities of Percy Main, Meadowell and Chirton who share transport, community and school links. The Southern boundary follows the Metro line and contains both the Meadowell and Percy Main stations. To the East the ward follows the A1108 Billy Mill avenue and then illogically takes in a section of North Shields with North Shields town centre and Metro station being only around 50 meters from the eastern boundary.

## PROPOSED WARD MAP

Full size ward maps shown in Appendix 1



## PROJECTED WARD ELECTORATE - 8,334

## PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE PROPOSAL

The new boundaries reunite the communities of Meadowell, Chirton and Percy Main, which run into each other and share many of the same facilities. The new proposal uses the strong natural boundaries of the A1058 Coast Road and A19 that separate these communities from others and continues the ward to the South down to the River Tyne.

These proposed boundaries remove those parts of the current ward which are clearly in North Shields, creating a new North Shields Ward which the commission have talked about in their initial briefings. The proposals also take in the ward south to the river including areas of Royal Quays which are closely linked to Percy Main. This proposal has the advantages of re-uniting previously divided communities and creating clearer and more sensible natural boundaries.

### WARD OVERVIEW

The new Ward contains Chirton, West Chirton, Meadowell, Percy Main and the marina area of Royal Quays. It is primarily a residential ward but also has a number of community high streets, shops and businesses. The ward also has strong industrial links with the Tyne Tunnel Trading Estate, Ferry terminal and the commercial and industrial centres along the Tyne as well as shopping outlets.

## PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

### NATURAL BOUNDARIES

The new proposed boundaries take advantage of strong natural boundaries on all sides. The A1058 Coast Road to the North, the A19 to the West, the river Tyne to the South and Chirton Dene to the Southeast. All of these are natural population boundaries that form a clear and distinct community.

The boundary at Chirton Dene follows the stream through West End and Linear Parks to North Shields Harbour which acts as a natural dividing line between this ward and the new proposed North Shields Ward.

### ROAD BOUNDARIES

The Chirton Dene boundary links naturally onto Silkeys Lane, which offers a logical community boundary between North Shields and Chirton. Residents on these communities would consider this the limit of North Shields. This also has the added benefit of uniting both sides of the Meadowell estate which have previously been split between wards at the point of the Metro line.

### COMMUNITY

Whilst there are links between the former fishing community of North Shields, the communities of Chirton, Percy Main and Meadowell are distinct with strong links to the river and shipbuilding. These were primarily areas where ship and colliery workers lived and still have a strong sense of identity.

The three areas flow into each other with no clear boundaries, whilst Meadowell straddles the Metro line. These areas share shopping facilities, community centres and schools with a great deal of overlap. Despite the Metro line there are strong transport links within the ward with the A187, Burdon Street and Waterville Road crossing the tracks. The new ward boundary would put North Shields Football Club back into the new North Shields Ward whilst maintaining the Percy Main Football Club and Cricket Club. The new ward has two large outlet centres at Norham Road and Royal Quays and a number of industrial estates and industrial areas that represent the ward's industrial heritage.

## TRANSPORT

The Metro stations of Percy Main and Meadowell run through the community and link this area to North Shields, the coast and Newcastle. There are strong bus links with the new ward to areas around the Borough. The number 1 bus connects the new ward to Gateshead and Whitley Bay. The number 10 runs from Chirton to South Shields whilst the 310 runs to Newcastle. The 53 connect the new ward to communities in the North and NSEC.

## SCHOOLS

Riverside Primary, Percy Main Primary and Waterville Primary have a catchment across the new ward and act as feeders for Norham High School. There are effective transport routes to these schools across the new ward.

## EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

The proposed ward would have a strong sense of history and community and shares many of the same socioeconomic issues between the three communities.

The area has a strong industrial heritage that are maintained with links back to the river and industrial centres. The ward has clear boundaries and does not split communities or areas unnecessarily.





# CULLERCOATS AND WHITLEY BAY SOUTH

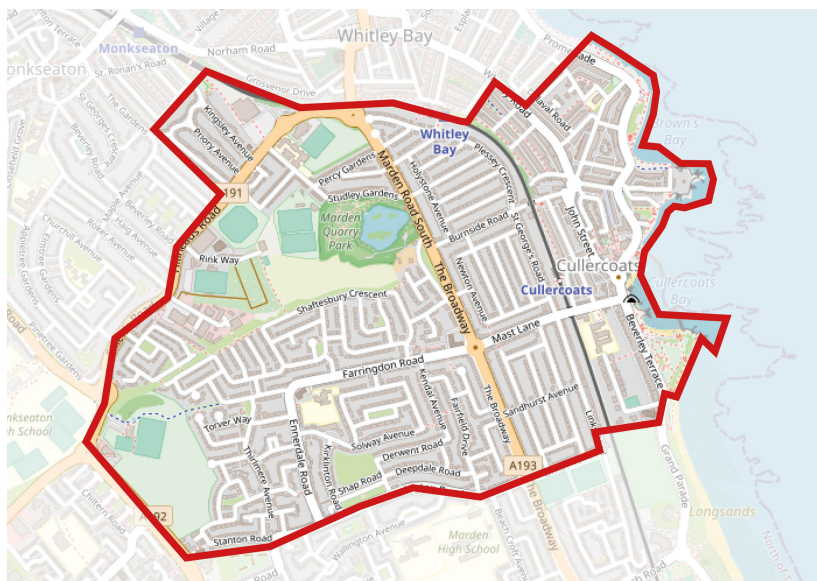
## NEAREST CURRENT WARD - CULLERCOATS ELECTORATE - 7,634

Cullercoats and Whitley Bay are coastal settlements where there are semi-circular sandy beaches with inlets along them. Cullercoats and Whitley Bay have a long history, originally in the county of Northumberland but latterly having been absorbed into North Tyneside Council when it became a Metropolitan Borough.

The two towns are hubs for social life and act as an attractive dormitory location for Newcastle upon Tyne, as well as having various historical links to the Life Brigade and marine research projects, with Newcastle University.

## PROPOSED WARD MAP

Full size ward maps shown in Appendix 1



## PROJECTED WARD ELECTORATE - 8,891

## PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE PROPOSAL

The new boundaries recognise that the two communities of Cullercoats and Whitley have historically been linked by shared heritage, industries (particularly fishing) and tourist attractions. These two towns share common facilities including shops, a road infrastructure and similar housing stock.

These proposed boundaries remove those parts of the current wards which identify with more inland communities. This proposal has the advantages of re-uniting previously divided communities and creating clearer and more sensible natural boundaries, which keep both areas as distinctly coastal in nature.

Historically the boundary line between Cullercoats Village and Whitley Bay has been difficult to define precisely. Instead we have sought to recognise that the areas around Whitley Road may identify with either community. Additionally, other proposals would have split Cullercoats Bay from the rest of Cullercoats - this would have split communities entirely in the pursuit of electoral equality.

Additionally, community groups in Whitley Bay and Cullercoats often collaborate on issues and many issues such as the water quality in Cullercoats Bay extend well into neighbouring estates.

## WARD OVERVIEW

The new ward contains Cullercoats and Whitley Bay. It is primarily a residential ward but also has a number of community high streets, shops and businesses. The ward also has strong industrial links with the coast and is reflective of how those communities identify themselves.

The ward includes the iconic Cullercoats Bay along with Marden Quarry which has previously been located in the Whitley Bay Ward but has always been more aligned to the Marden Estate in Cullercoats Ward. This proposal also unites both sides of the Broadway through Cullercoats and Whitley Bay which has previously been split across three wards.

We have also sought to include the Morrisons store which has historically been within the Monkseaton Ward but is very clearly part of Whitley Bay, along with Whitley Bay Ice

Rink, Whitley Bay Football Club and the streets around Dowling Avenue which have always looked towards Whitley Bay rather than Monkseaton.

In utilising the obvious boundary of Shields Road we have placed the Zetland Drive estate into the new Whitley Bay ward. This is another instance where we would have preferred this to remain in Monkseaton but, in order to achieve electoral equality, we have instead used the clear boundary of Shields Road. The Zetland Drive estate is part of the Foxhunters area which has always crossed into Cullercoats with the sporting pavilion and pub sitting in the current Cullercoats Ward. This move is therefore an inconsequential decision.

The ward also has been designed to include the iconic St George's Church at Cullercoats. This decision has created a slightly zigzagged boundary but this was felt to be acceptable as it meant uniting Longsands beach within the one ward (Tynemouth) which is helpful in terms of effective governance.

## PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

### NATURAL BOUNDARIES

The sea forms a sensible boundary to the east of the ward uniting Cullercoats Bay with Cullercoats village, the Broadway and the areas around the Marden Quarry. The Quarry itself is of great significance to the ward with major issues around flood prevention and water quality as work begins on the development of 3,000 houses at the Murton Gap site.

## ROAD BOUNDARIES

To the north west the ward is bounded by Shields Road, a major link road between Whitley Bay and Newcastle. This has the added benefits of including Whitley Bay Football Club, Whitley Bay Ice Rink and Whitley Bay Cricket Club which have all previously been located in the Monkseaton Ward. To the west the ward is bounded by Preston North Road, another major dual carriageway. To the south the ward is bounded by Hartington Road and Links Avenue which are both the historic dividing lines between Tynemouth and Cullercoats: this is demonstrated by the placement of the 'Welcome to Tynemouth' sign on the junction of Links Avenue and The Broadway. To the north the boundary follows the Metro line which has been used as an obvious dividing line between Whitley Bay South and Whitley Bay North.

## COMMUNITY

Whilst there are links with adjoining wards (such as Tynemouth), Cullercoats and Whitley Bay South has a strong and distinct sense of identity. This has been fostered by a shared cultural and industrial heritage, which is firmly rooted in the coastal and sea activities.

The two areas flow into each other naturally and are served by an efficient Metro service as well as buses which run around the residential areas of the proposed ward. The proposed boundary changes would recognise that there are shared amenities and public facilities which residents already enjoy including football and rugby clubs. The ward includes the more residential areas of Whitley Bay with the centre of the town included in the proposed Whitley Bay North Ward.

## TRANSPORT

The Metro stations of Cullercoats and Whitley Bay run through the community and link this area to North Shields, the coast and Newcastle upon Tyne. There are strong bus links with the new ward to areas around the Borough. The number 1 bus connects the new ward to Gateshead and Whitley Bay. The number 310 runs from Whitley Bay to Newcastle upon Tyne, with the number 53 offering access to NSEC.

## SCHOOLS

There are several schools across the ward which cater to a diverse educational population. Cullercoats and Whitley Bay South have Cullercoats Primary and Rockcliffe First School, as well as St.Mary's Roman Catholic Primary, which serves this faith community specifically.

### **EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE**

The new ward helps to bring together communities with a shared interest in important local issues. As already mentioned water quality in Cullercoats Bay is a major issue and the solutions seem to be held within the Marden Quarry site which acts as a reservoir. This will only grow in significance with the development of 3,000 houses at Murton where runoff water is to be diverted to the quarry and then the sea.

Additionally by ensuring that this ward is primarily residential it would be expected that councillors would be dealing with similar issues across the ward, saving town centre issues for neighbouring councillors in Whitley Bay North.





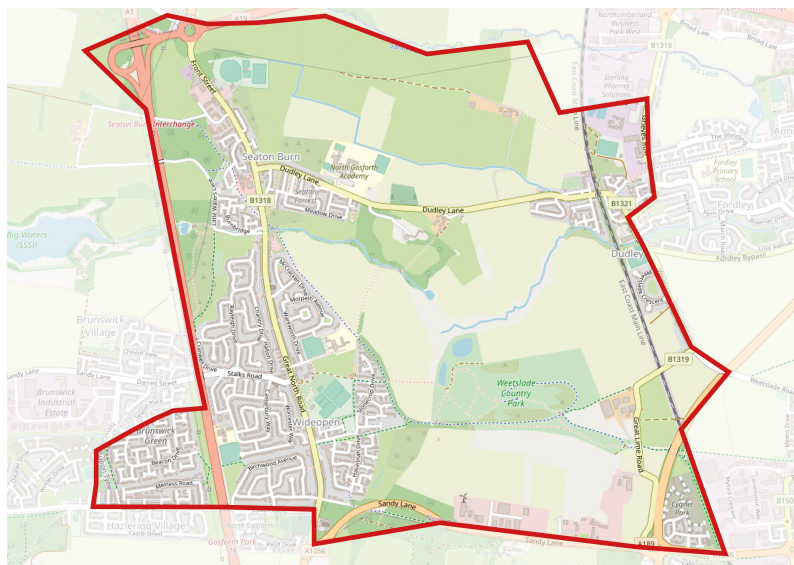
# DUDLEY, SEATON BURN AND WIDEOPEN

## NEAREST CURRENT WARD - WEETSLADE ELECTORATE - 8,180

The current ward of Weetslade is bounded to the north by Northumberland and to the south and west by Newcastle City Council. Within the ward there are the defined villages of Wideopen, Seaton Burn and part of Dudley. The ward also brings in the large housing estate of Brunswick Green and certain areas of Hazelrigg which is a village shared with Newcastle. The existing ward looks more to Newcastle and Northumberland than North Tyneside based on geography and transport links; so must be treated with care when thinking about community identity to ensure it does not become easily overlooked by the Council.

## PROPOSED WARD MAP

Full size ward maps shown in Appendix 1



## PROJECTED WARD ELECTORATE - 7,508

## PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE PROPOSAL

The proposed boundaries seek to replicate the existing Weetslade ward boundaries with some minor changes. Due to the nature of the external Borough Boundaries, options when trying to redraw this ward are limited.

It makes sense to try to unite the village of Dudley into one ward to keep communities together; however based on the limited options for change, this has not been possible within the recommended  $\pm 10\%$  variance of electors under the projected 2028 figures.

We have kept in mind the principle that this part of the Borough looks towards Newcastle rather than Killingworth and Wallsend. With this in mind we have retained the new Cygnet Park in the South East of the ward. These homes look squarely towards Newcastle through Gosforth Park and the A1 - it would be illogical to include this estate with either Killingworth or Longbenton.

Regarding the naming of this ward, while it does centre on Weetslade Country Park the ward is made up of three distinct villages. With this in mind we have suggested the new name of 'Dudley, Seaton Burn and Wideopen' which would allow councillors to clearly define the area they cover, particularly when the external Borough boundary is as confusing as it is in parts of this ward.

## WARD OVERVIEW

Dudley, Seaton Burn and Wideopen ward is situated at the north west corner of the Borough and is one of the most rural wards within North Tyneside. The urban parts of the ward are predominantly residential housing but also includes green open space with two working farms. The ward's two main centres are Wideopen and Dudley which include multiple retail establishments, post office and several public houses.

Wideopen straddles the historic Great North Road, formerly the A1 trunk road, but is now bypassed by a new alignment of the A1 immediately to the west. Wideopen lies in an area with a strong mining history and originally had its own colliery. Weetslade Country Park, to the east of the village, is reclaimed from an extensive area of coal mining activity.

In 2012 work commenced on the building of a new housing estate by Bellway homes, called Five Mile Park. It is located to the east of the Great North Road, between Lockey Park and Weetslade Country Park. The name refers to the distance from the centre of

Newcastle – similarly there is a Three Mile Inn to the south, and a Six Mile Bridge to the north. To the south of the village is the 19th-century Sacred Heart RC Church, a Grade II listed building notable for its stained glass windows, which bear designs by Pre-Raphaelite artists.

Seaton Burn is adjacent to Wideopen which is just south of it. The A1 used to pass through the village but now bypasses the village to the west, where it meets the A19 which provides a link road to the Tyne Tunnel.

Dudley is a former mining village and formerly part of Northumberland. Dudley Colliery was situated in the village from 1856 until its closure in 1977.

## PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

The proposed new ward includes the entire communities of Seaton Burn and Wideopen together with part of Dudley. The villages of Dudley and Annitsford are interlinked with a clear connection to other nearby mining villages such as Camperdown and Burradon. Ideally we would have united Dudley in either this ward or the neighbouring ward, however this was not possible due to our strict adherence to the  $\pm 10\%$  variance of electors under the projected 2028 figures.

We have therefore opted to use Great Lime Road as an obvious cut off point rather than splitting estates down the middle as other proposals have done. This seeks to use main roads as clear boundaries. Additionally, the industrial units to the north of Dudley which are included in the proposed ward are very similar to the units in the Sandy Lane industrial area.

## COMMUNITY

The proposed ward has a strong community identity with groups including the Brunswick Green Residents Association, Friends of Lockey Park, Friends of Weetslade Country Park, Wideopen Juniors Football Club, Seaton Burn Cricket Club and Dudley & Weetslade Football Club. The ward also contains community facilities including John Willie Sams Centre, Woodlands Hall Community Centre and Davison Hall.

## TRANSPORT

The ward is served by the A1 which is used as the main gateway to Newcastle, equally the Great North Road runs through the ward which runs through Gosforth and into Newcastle City Centre. There is no Metro line in this area leaving residents with just an increasingly unreliable bus service. This is one of the issues which ward councillors will want to work on and by grouping these three villages together that task will be made easier.

## SCHOOLS

The proposed ward contains Greenfields Community Primary School and Hazlewood Community Primary School. The ward also contains North Gosforth Academy. The catchment for all of these schools is primarily the area of the ward however this does occasionally cross Borough boundaries given the proximity to Newcastle.

## EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

The ward's three villages can often feel disconnected from the work of North Tyneside Council, particularly as some neighbours will be in a different local authority area. By grouping these villages together the local Councillors will be able to reflect this feeling at a Council level.

Similarly issues like the inability of residents in the area to use the Brunswick Tip as it is in Newcastle City Council area will be better reflected by keeping these villages together under the same ward.



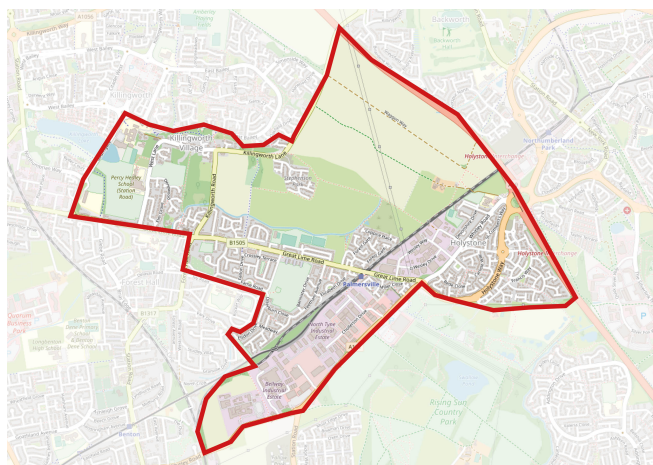
# HOLYSTONE

## NEAREST CURRENT WARD - KILLINGWORTH ELECTORATE - 10,332

The new Holystone Ward most closely follows the current Killingworth Ward boundaries that currently includes the area of Palmersville and Holystone. Its eastern boundary is the A19 and its western boundary is Northgate and Southgate. The current Killingworth Ward Boundary, despite its name, actually splits Killingworth, its lake and its major shopping centre in two. The East of Killingworth is in the Killingworth ward whilst the West is in Camperdown. The northern boundary is currently the A1056 Killingworth Way whilst its southern boundary is the A191 Whitley Road Road and the northern parts of the rising sun Country Park near Benton Asda. The Killingworth Ward will be too large in 2028 due to the development of the Killingworth Moor site. The site covers around 190 hectares to the Southwest of the A19 and around 3000 homes are expected to be built on this site.

## PROPOSED WARD MAP

Full size ward maps shown in Appendix 1



## PROJECTED WARD ELECTORATE - 7,635



## PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE PROPOSAL

The proposed boundaries reunite Killingworth town, which has a strong local identity, and is currently split between two wards. The aim is also to create the new Holystone Ward which will connect the new housing development at Holystone with the new Killingworth Moor development and Killingworth Village. This proposal has the advantages of re-uniting a previously divided community and creating clearer and more sensible natural boundaries.

The scale of the new development at the Killingworth Moor site along with the existing new developments at Holystone will link the historic villages of Killingworth and Holystone in one block of housing. The proposed Holystone Ward reflects the proposed development and the shared interests and communities that it will create. The proposed ward also looks to keep the historic villages in the same ward as with the current boundaries. This has then allowed the unification of both halves of Killingworth town centre into one unified ward to the north west of the proposed Holystone Ward.

There have been several conversations around splitting Killingworth village from Killingworth town centre. This was deemed to be appropriate as while the village and the town centre share a name the connected history between Holystone village and Killingworth village is a stronger community tie.

## WARD OVERVIEW

The new Ward will contain Killingworth village, Palmersville, Killingworth Moor and Holystone. We have altered the southern boundary to unite the Rising Sun Country Park into one ward (Battle Hill), in order to enhance effective local government. The ward will primarily contain new housing developments with similar styles and many of the same community issues along with the two small historic villages of Killingworth and Holystone.

The ward also includes a large trading estate which does give the ward something of a dogs-leg shape, however we felt it was important for the entire trading estate to be in the same ward and the most logical ward in terms of access is the Holystone ward.

## PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

### NATURAL BOUNDARIES

The new proposed boundaries take advantage of strong natural boundaries to the east and south of the A19 and the northern edge of the Rising Sun Country Park.

### ROAD BOUNDARIES

The new ward follows the same southern boundary and most of the same eastern boundary as the existing Killingworth ward. The northern boundary has been moved to allow Killingworth to be reunited. This is achieved by moving the boundary to East Bailey and connecting this with the B1317 which connects to the A19. This takes in the Killingworth Moor strategic development site which will also improve the effectiveness of local government by ensuring all of the issues relating to the the proposed development can be covered by councillors in the same ward.

### COMMUNITY

Holystone was a medieval site but is now the location of major new housing developments with a Premier Inn and a community pub. Palmersville is directly connected to Holystone and is dominated by a large industrial estate with major outlets including Asda. The new Killingworth Moor development will connect these new developments with Killingworth Village over an area that is currently farmland. The new ward is looking to the future communities of this area that will be joined by new developments. Despite being primarily modern housing the ward will centre around a major industrial area and shopping centre that will be used by all of the new ward. The ward also has a number of children's and family activity centres that will be used by families in the new developments at Holystone and Killingworth Moor.

### TRANSPORT

Palmersville Metro station is situated at the centre of the ward which allows excellent links to Newcastle, the coast and South Tyneside. The ward also links directly on to the A19 which leads to the Tyne Tunnel and the A1.

## SCHOOLS

The ward contains Holystone and Westmoor Primary School whilst Ivy, St. Marys and Backworth primaries are just outside the ward but have strong transport links. These are feeder schools for Percy Hedley School which will have the new housing and the existing areas as their catchment.

## EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

The new ward will become a cohesive community as the new housing is designed to fill the ward and unite Holystone and Palmersville with Killingworth village. The advantages with respect to governance is that the ward will be predominantly new modern housing, which will attract many of the same socio-economic groups, as well as young families who will have similar community issues.



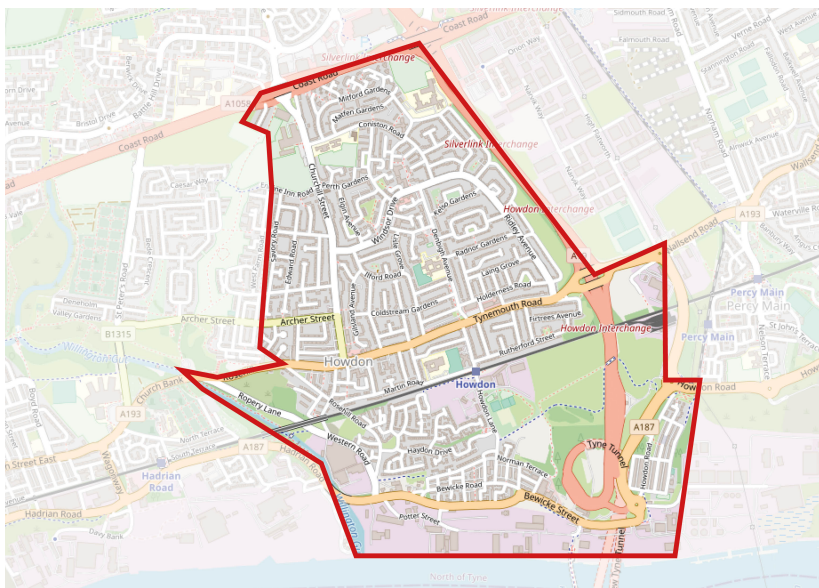
# HOWDON

## NEAREST CURRENT WARD - HOWDON ELECTORATE - 7,869

Howdon Ward currently includes the communities of Holy Cross, Willington Square and Howdon. Its westerly boundary is Wallsend Dene which runs behind Holy Cross Cemetery and down to the Wallsend Burn. Wallsend Burn provides the southern boundary and continues onto Rosehill and Tynemouth Road as far as the A19. The A19 provides the eastern boundary and the Coast Road as the northern boundary. Churchill Street runs almost centrally down the ward from North to South. The current boundary artificially splits the centre of Howdon between Howdon and Riverside Wards while East Howdon is completely detached, despite sharing a name and heritage.

## PROPOSED WARD MAP

Full size ward maps shown in Appendix 1



## PROJECTED WARD ELECTORATE - 9,063

## PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE PROPOSAL

Howdon is a largely residential area in the eastern part of Wallsend. These proposed boundary changes encompass parts of the old Riverside Ward, which run south of Tynemouth Road down to Willington Quay where the residents have strong links to the Howdon community in local events, clubs, schools, scouts etc. This proposal has the advantages of uniting divided communities, and creating a sensible boundary line for the residents.

Currently most of the amenities in the ward are situated north of Tynemouth Road which is why it is sensible to incorporate residents south of Tynemouth Road down to Willington Quay and across to East Howdon. These areas were previously included in Riverside Ward and they are an integral part of the community identity and therefore deserve to be able to have a say in what goes on in the ward. Likewise there is also an over 55's Sheltered Accommodation, an NHS dentist and doctor's surgery, Howdon Metro/pedestrian Tyne Tunnel as well as a care home that currently sit in Riverside Ward but are used by the residents of Howdon. This is another reason to unite the areas within the same ward.

We have also made a conscious effort to include East Howdon which has been somewhat cut off by the existing Riverside Ward. The East Howdon community obviously has strong links to both Willington Quay and Howdon itself with which it will now share a ward.

## WARD OVERVIEW

Howdon Ward was an industrial settlement on the north bank of the River Tyne. In the mid-nineteenth century it consisted of Old Howdon Pit on what is now the northern toll area of the Tyne Tunnel. The proposed Howdon Ward will have three primary schools and one high school, two dentists, two doctor's surgeries, two sheltered accommodation for the over 55's, two nursing homes, two social clubs and a community hub. This is a central community centre to the ward providing activities, events, and opportunities for local residents.



## PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

The area is bordered by the area of Rosehill and Holy Cross to the west, Hadrian Park to the north with the Coast Road (A1058) as a natural boundary with no division of communities. North Shields and Percy Main to the east with a natural boundary of the River Tyne to the south.

The proposed Howdon Ward is made up of existing polling districts JA, JB, JC, FA, FB, FC. We would have liked to have also included polling district JE but this would have taken the ward above the recommended  $\pm 10\%$  variance of electors under the projected 2028 figures. We have therefore taken the difficult decision to prioritise electoral equality over community cohesion in this case.

Additionally the ward does appear to cross the natural boundary of the A19, however this is done with good reason: to unite the community of East Howdon with its namesake rather than bolting it on to a Chirton and Percy Main Ward to which it has little affiliation.

## COMMUNITY

A Community Centre is situated on Denbigh Avenue which is a central hub for residents from all parts of Howdon and Willington Quay. The community hub encourages local people to socialise, have fun and in some cases link to Family Gateways for improving life chances for disadvantaged children and families. Other amenities in the Howdon Ward include Sheltered Accommodation, a small library, children's groups, social clubs, pubs, and various shops including chemists. There are private nurseries in the ward which provide pre-school childcare as well as after school pick up. Across Howdon there are many chain shops/supermarkets which including Heron foods, Aldi, and a Spar. There are also several churches in the area.

## TRANSPORT

Howdon Metro Station lies at the centre of the of the ward which connects residents to the whole of North Tyneside. There are also numerous bus routes available to residents to connect within the community and beyond including the number 1 (to Whitley Bay/Newcastle), 22 (to Silverlink and to Newcastle), 41/41A (connecting neighbouring communities Battle Hill/Wallsend wards), 317 (connecting neighbouring communities from Wallsend through to Whitley Bay calling at North Tyneside Hospital).

There are also various buses that run term time to St Thomas More RC Academy. Within the new boundary the pedestrian Tyne Tunnel linking north of the Tyne (Willington Quay) to South of the Tyne (Jarrow) will also be located in the ward.

## SCHOOLS

Early Education is provided for the children of Howdon by Stephenson Memorial Primary School, Denbigh Community Primary School and St Aidan's RC Primary School (formerly known as Holy Cross RC Primary School.) The local high school is Churchill Community College.

## EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

The new ward would unite Howdon, along with Willington Quay and East Howdon into one ward making governance more effective. These communities have several long term issues in common which will make it easier for one single set of Councillors to address.

# KILLINGWORTH

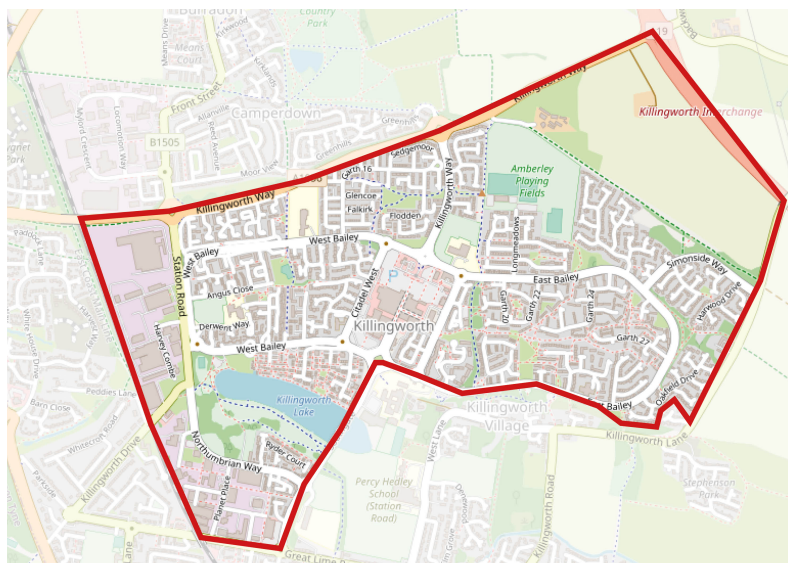
## NEAREST CURRENT WARD - KILLINGWORTH ELECTORATE - 11,220

Currently the ward includes half of Killingworth Town, Killingworth Village, Holystone and Palmersville. The eastern boundary is the A19 and the western boundary is Northgate and Southgate. This ward includes the eastern side of Killingworth Lake and the eastern side of the Killingworth Shopping Centre.

To the north, the A1056 is the boundary and the A191 Whitley Road is the southern boundary together with the northern section of the Rising Sun Country Park, near the Asda Store at Benton. The ward adjoins Camperdown at the north west edge, Longbenton at the southwest, Valley to the east and Battle Hill and Northumberland wards to the south.

## PROPOSED WARD MAP

Full size ward maps shown in Appendix 1



## PROJECTED WARD ELECTORATE - 7,695

## PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE PROPOSAL

This proposal creates more sensible boundaries round an area of modern housing, focussed on the Killingworth Centre and including much of the Lake. There will therefore be a much more cohesive community, mindful of the huge expansion in new housing planned for the next decade nearby on Killingworth Moor.

One of the main aims of the Commission's review is to unite communities and create wards which offer effective local government. Under the previous arrangement half of Killingworth was in the Camperdown Ward and the other in Killingworth Ward. The main shopping centre in Killingworth is the clear centre of the ward and that has been reflected in our proposals.

## PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

Killingworth was built as a planned 'new town' in the 1960s (at a similar time as nearby Cramlington in Northumberland and Washington in Tyne and Wear) and was initially known as Killingworth Township. Killingworth Village, by contrast, is of an entirely different character being much older which is why we have put it in the new Holystone Ward, uniting two historic villages.

The traditional industry in the area, historically, was coal mining. Other nearby towns and villages include Forest Hall, West Moor and Backworth. Many of Killingworth's residents commute to Newcastle as the main shopping city, or to its surrounding area. Killingworth has also developed a sizeable commercial centre.

Killingworth includes a lot of rural land, mostly at its eastern edge, running parallel to the A19 dual carriageway. The Local Plan, adopted by North Tyneside Council in 2017, includes provision for the building of a further 3000 new homes on the Killingworth Moor site. These homes will create new communities with no link to Killingworth town, instead they will look towards similar new developments in Holystone.

## COMMUNITY

Community groups include the Friends of Killingworth Lake which promotes particular events at the Killingworth Lakeside Park. The Park is part of a heritage project which aims to promote the local connection with the engineer George Stephenson (1781 - 1848).

Local groups and schools are involved in planting and management of wildflower areas at the Park, and with creating areas for feeding wild birds, habitat for wildlife and making bird feeders. The Lake can be used by fishermen, canoes and kayaks, subject to permits.

St John's Church, built 1869, is in the Killingworth Village Conservation Area which was established in 1974. Remembrance Day ceremonies take place at the White Swan Centre.

## TRANSPORT

The area is served by buses, with bus links to the rest of Tyne and Wear. The town is not on the Tyne and Wear Metro network; its nearest station is Palmersville providing access to Newcastle City to the west and the coast to the east. The nearest mainline station is Newcastle Central, on the East Coast line. The majority of people drive to work.

## SCHOOLS

Local schools are the Percy Hedley School, which supports children with additional needs; George Stephenson High School and several Primary schools: Amberley, Holystone and Westmoor. These catchment areas all coalesce around Killingworth town itself and would therefore contribute to effective local governance if these boundaries were implemented.



## EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

In proposing a Killingworth Ward which is made up of the Killingworth Ring road around the town - plus some additional new building and industrial areas to the south - we are able to ensure that any issues that impact on the town could be fully understood and addressed by just one set of Councillors.

Additionally there is an electoral administration advantage to this proposal. Currently the two polling districts which make up the proposed Killingworth Ward share a polling station. This adds an element of complication as electors from two separate wards arrive at the same station to collect different ballot papers. Our proposals would solve this issue and therefore make electoral administration more efficient.

Finally, many Council services are delivered to the North West through the Council's White Swan Centre. By basing this in the heart of one unified ward the Council's focus in the area will be well reflected in all areas of the ward.



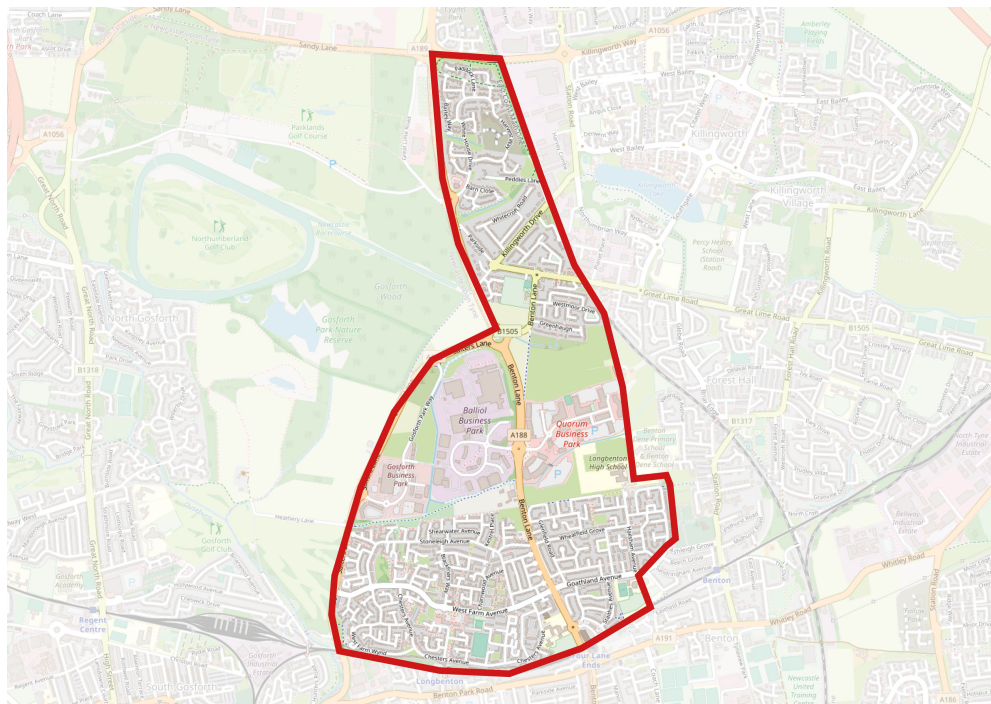
# LONGBENTON

## NEAREST CURRENT WARD - LONGBENTON ELECTORATE - 8,442

This ward is at the western edge of the Borough, Salters Lane being the western boundary for both. This borders Newcastle City Council and therefore is not a border we are able to change in this review. The southern boundary is the Metro line which is also at the edge of the Borough. The eastern Boundary follows the contours of the houses to the west of Station Road, but does bring in a number of the streets in the immediate vicinity of Benton Metro.

## PROPOSED WARD MAP

Full size ward maps shown in Appendix 1



## PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE PROPOSAL

Longbenton has strong links with Benton and Killingworth, all of which are distinct communities with identities, centres, and amenities of their own. This proposal suggests only minor changes to the current Longbenton boundaries, removing the streets to the south-east of Goathland Avenue which naturally fit with their neighbours in the area around Benton Metro station and St Bartholomew's Church.

Goathland Avenue is the more logical border, as residents on it and to its north west are far more likely to use the amenities on Longbenton estate than those in the centre of Benton/Forest Hall.

### WARD OVERVIEW

Longbenton Ward is situated at the western edge of the Borough. The centre, once known primarily for its tower blocks, has seen significant investment and housing development in the last three decades and is considered an up-and-coming area with excellent links to Newcastle City Centre, as well as the rest of the Borough of North Tyneside.

The ward is home to the Quorum and Balliol Business Parks, which comprise a significant centre of industry and innovation in the Borough. They collectively boast tenants such as Sitel, BT, and a Greggs production site. The sites are well appointed with facilities such as a Nuffield Gym and excellent transport links.

Longbenton ward also includes the town of West Moor to the north.

### PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

The ward is bounded to the west by Salter's Lane, which is also the western boundary of the Borough. Similarly, its southern perimeter is the Metro Line which is part of North Tyneside's southern boundary.

The eastern boundary runs west of Station Road, following the non-residential land that naturally separates Longbenton and Benton Wards. An advantage of the proposed change is that it will include residents south east of Goathland Avenue in Benton Ward, with their neighbours in the area around Benton Metro and St Bartholomew's Church, which most residents see as the natural divide.

## COMMUNITY

Longbenton is served by the Oxford Centre, which is the site of the Longbenton Library and Medical Centre as well as providing space to hire for community activities. In addition, regular sports and well-being activities as well as activities suitable for young children are available.

West Moor has its own community centre which is the home of the West Moor Residents' Association, which offers regular fitness, crafts, and children's activities. In addition the sports courts are available for residents to hire.

## TRANSPORT

Longbenton Metro station is at the southwest of the ward, with connections across the Borough and a short commute into Newcastle City Centre. Slightly to the east is the Four Lane Ends Metro and Bus terminal which provides bus connections right across Newcastle and North Tyneside, and a shuttle bus to Quorum.

## SCHOOLS

Longbenton has three primary schools - St Stephens, Balliol, and St Bartholomews, the latter having replaced both the earlier St Bartholomews site on Whitley Road and Goathland in Longbenton itself.

Longbenton High is the only High School in the ward, the catchment area for which includes Longbenton and the Benton/Forest Hall areas.

## EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

Longbenton has issues with anti-social behaviour on the former estate and particularly around the Metro Stations, which see significant footfall from both of the nearby high schools (Longbenton itself and St Marys RC). By keeping both the school and Metro station in the ward we have aimed to ensure that Antisocial Behaviour issues are contained within the same ward.

The ward admittedly is a peculiar shape but this is due to the Borough boundary with Newcastle City Council which encompasses the western and southern edges of the ward. This somewhat restricts the options available however the current arrangement of Longbenton and West Moor seem to work well so we have been reluctant to change these.





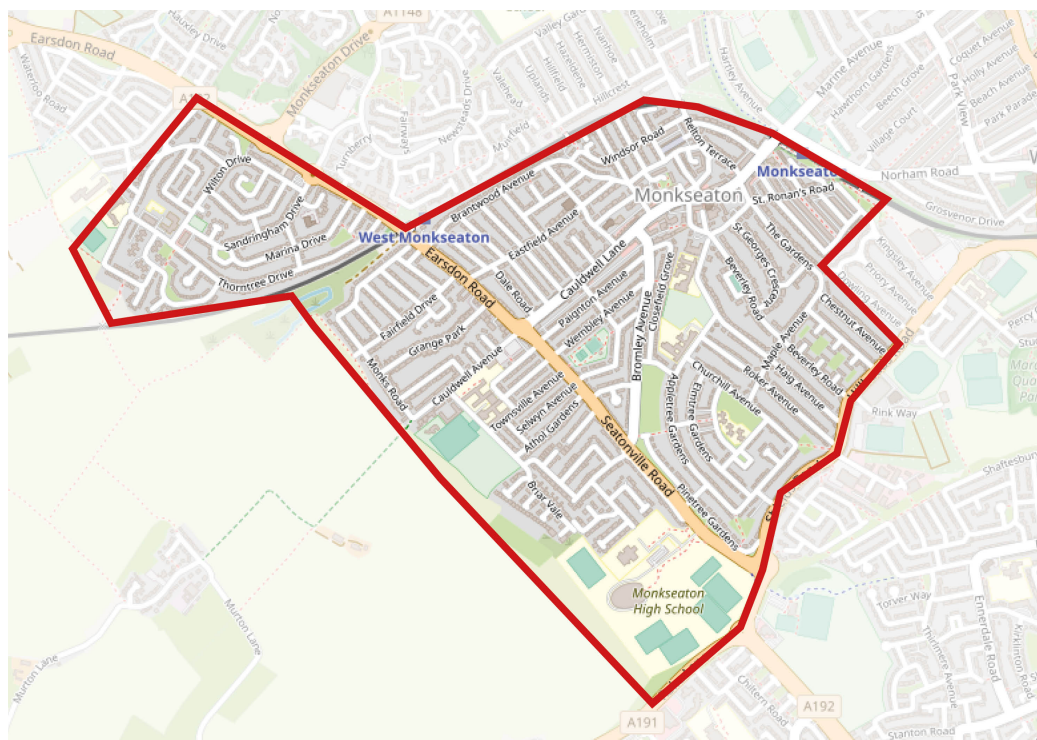
# MONKSEATON

## NEAREST CURRENT WARD - MONKSEATON SOUTH ELECTORATE - 7,765

Monkseaton South is a slightly irregular shape compared to the other wards as it appears to be almost 'V' shaped, thus describing the boundaries is somewhat difficult. The north west boundary of the 'V' is Earsdon Road and the north east boundary is Cauldwell Lane leading onto Front Street. The western boundary starts at Monkseaton Metro station. The current ward takes in half of Monkseaton Front Street and splits an estate in half down Earsdon Road.

## PROPOSED WARD MAP

Full size ward maps shown in Appendix 1



## PROJECTED WARD ELECTORATE - 9,065

## PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE PROPOSAL

The new boundaries recognise that Monkseaton has long been associated with neighbouring Whitley Bay, although having a strong sense of its own heritage and environment.

When setting out to create a new Monkseaton Ward, uniting the village was our primary focus. The village has previously been split down the middle of Front Street between Monkseaton North and Monkseaton South: this has resulted in ineffective governance arrangements, particularly as Front Street itself continues to modernise.

Monkseaton pre-dates the Whitley Bay settlement and has a history as a village dating back hundreds of years, when it was established as a manor linked to Tynemouth Priory. It was very much a village community until the earlier part of the twentieth century, when urban development needs saw it subsumed into housing and other amenities.

### WARD OVERVIEW

The new ward unites Monkseaton Village into the one ward, using the Metro line as an obvious boundary to the north. The ward closely represents the existing Monkseaton South Ward while also taking in the other side of Front street from the old Monkseaton North Ward. This unites both sides of the historic Monkseaton Village.

The ward also includes the QD polling district from the current Monkseaton South Ward. This may look like an anomaly as this crosses the Metro line however this has always been part of the Monkseaton community, the Metro station at West Monkseaton is also in this area. Additionally, it makes sense to unite this with Monkseaton with the aim of electoral equality in mind.

The QD polling district will be significantly affected by the proposed development of 3,000 houses on the Murton Gap site, in an almost identical way to polling districts QA and QE which are also in the proposed Monkseaton Ward. By keeping these polling districts together councillors for the proposed new ward will be able to best reflect residents' views and concerns about the new development.



## PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

### NATURAL BOUNDARIES

The ward is bounded to the west by the Murton Gap strategic development site which currently acts as a natural boundary, although this will change over time as housing development commences.

### ROAD BOUNDARIES

To the north the ward is bounded by the Metro line, with the exception of the polling district QD which has historically been part of Monkseaton. This is often described as the West Monkseaton area. To the south we have streamlined the border to the main road artery of Shields Road which acts as an obvious boundary between Monkseaton and Cullercoats.

### COMMUNITY

Whilst there are links with adjoining wards, Monkseaton has long been classed as an offshoot of Whitley Bay. However, Monkseaton has a long history, which includes links to the Priory in Tynemouth, it is therefore important that it is recognised as a stand-alone area.

The area is bounded on all sides by coastal communities and so shares a great deal of the amenities and resources available to other wards.

### TRANSPORT

The Metro stations of Monkseaton and West Monkseaton run through the community and link this area to North Shields, the coast and Newcastle upon Tyne. There are strong bus links with the new ward to areas around the Borough. The number 310 runs from Whitley Bay to Newcastle upon Tyne, with the number 53 offering access to NSEC.

## SCHOOLS

There are several schools across the ward which cater to a diverse educational audience including Wellfield First School, Langley First School, Woodlawn School (SEN), Monkseaton High School and Monkseaton Middle School. These educational facilities are all well-regarded by local residents, with most being rated by Ofsted as 'Good' or 'Outstanding'. There may be issues in future with these schools as the significant population increase due to the proposed development at Murton begins to make an impact.

## EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

The new ward would have a strong sense of history and community and share many of the same socio-economic issues. The ward is essentially transformed from a small rural village, to a larger residential urbanisation. The inclusion of both sides of Monkseaton Front Street will allow councillors to better understand the issues impacting on the village, including licensing and planning issues.

The naming of the ward also makes clear to residents who their representatives are. Previously the split of Monkseaton North and Monkseaton South has confused residents as Monkseaton is not a large village, instead these old wards have taken in parts of Whitley Bay and Foxhunters.



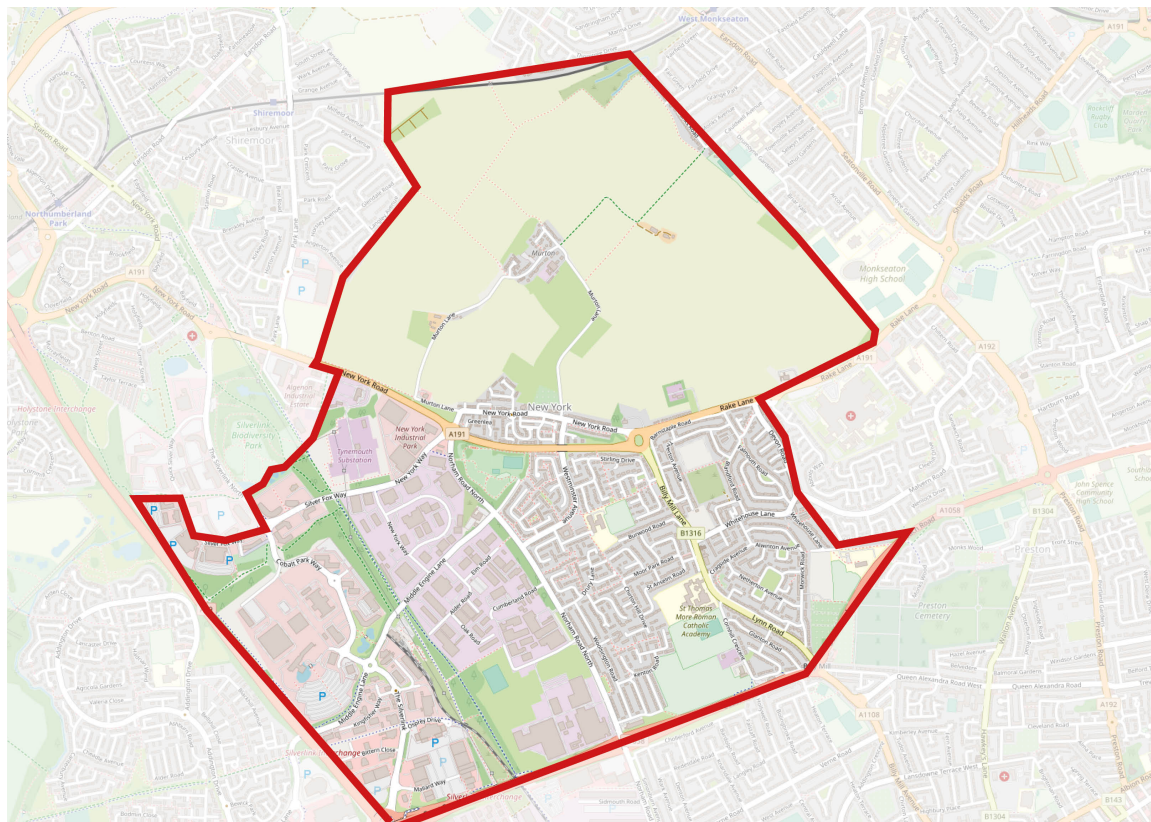
# NEW YORK AND MURTON

## NEAREST CURRENT WARD - COLLINGWOOD ELECTORATE - 10,770

The current ward is bounded by the A19 and Shiremoor to the west, and Coast Road and Beach Road to the south. The current ward is bounded by the Metro line between Shiremoor and West Monkseaton stations to the north, and Monkseaton and Preston Road North to the east.

## PROPOSED WARD MAP

Full size ward maps shown in Appendix 1



## PROJECTED WARD ELECTORATE - 8,533

## PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE PROPOSAL

The projected 2028 figures show that the current Collingwood will be the second biggest in the borough in terms of population. This proposal aims to keep the distinct communities of Chirton Grange, New York and Murton intact with a keen mind to the proposed development of 3,000 additional houses around Murton. These proposed boundaries remove the community of Preston Grange, which is a distinct community that was at one point fenced off from the rest of the existing ward.

When considering the proposed development of 3,000 houses and the knock-on impact on the 2028 population projections we wanted to ensure that the entire proposed development is contained in the same ward. This will allow any issues which come up as part of the development to be handled by the same group of Councillors, allowing them to familiarise themselves with the issue.

With this in mind we also wanted the communities of New York and Murton to be in the same ward as they are likely to feel the most significant effects of the development. This is not to mention the proposed link road which is part of the development and will act as a major road artery from Rake Lane to the other side of the Murton Gap.

### WARD OVERVIEW

The new New York & Murton Ward will include Chirton Grange, the Lynn estate, the Scotch estate along with New York and Murton in the same ward. The ward contains many community assets that join these communities, for example the New York & Murton Social Club, Hill Top Park and St. Aidan's Church.

The Chirton Grange estate, the Lynn estate and the Scotch estate straddle Lynn Road from Rake Lane to Billy Mill; these areas are all considered to be part of the wider North Shields area in the same way as New York. New York village is relatively small on paper however the community stretches all of the way down Norham Road and well into the Chirton Grange estate.

The inclusion of Murton village is a conscious choice within this ward: not only are Murton and New York linked due to their proximity (there is a joint Facebook group for the area) but they are also facing similar issues at a local authority level relating to overdevelopment, traffic congestion and the provision of public services.

## PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

### BOUNDARIES

The ward is bounded to the east by Devon Road, which separates the distinct communities of Chirton Grange and Preston Grange and Monkseaton. At one point, there was a physical barrier here stopping people driving from Chirton Grange into Preston Grange.

To the south, the Coast Road provides a distinct boundary as it is a main road which runs through most of North Tyneside. This southern boundary is the same as in the current Collingwood Ward.

On the western edge of the ward, the A19 and Shiremoor provide a sensible border with no division of communities. It is very similar to the current Collingwood ward western boundary.

The northern boundary is the Metro line between Shiremoor and West Monkseaton, which allows the entirety of the new 3,000 houses development off Rake Lane (at Murton Gap) to fall into this ward with no division of communities.

### COMMUNITY

New York & Murton has a strong community identity, with the New York & Murton Social Club, New York Primary School, the New York & Murton Cross and a well-established New York & Murton Facebook group (with over 1,600 users). In the centre of the ward is Hill Top Park, a green open space, which has access from Norham Road, the New York Bypass and the New York estate.

### TRANSPORT

The 53 bus route stops at New York and travels down the middle of the ward, stopping at Hedgely Road in the ward and connects the ward to North Shields town centre. The number 310 bus route connects Norham Road North, which is accessible from many parts of the ward, to Newcastle.

## SCHOOLS

There are several schools in the ward. St Thomas More, a Catholic secondary school, lies at the centre of the ward which educates children from age 11 to Sixth Form. The ward also contains Whitehouse Primary School and New York Primary School. The catchment for all of these schools is primarily the New York & Murton area.

## EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

Collingwood Ward currently has three councillors. The major issues in the area are currently the development of 3000 new houses off Rake Lane and the effects this will have on the local community, and anti-social behaviour. It is therefore a sensible option to keep these communities intact so that councillors and residents can campaign and work on these issues without having to split them across multiple wards.

The local plan also includes provision of a new Metro station between West Monkseaton and Shiremoor which would sit within the proposed ward. This is likely to be a significant challenge to get up and running: therefore having this in the same ward as all of the other proposed development will make management of development issues more efficient.

Overall the residential areas of the ward are geographically small and easy to travel between; this however will expand over time with the new development but the effective governance should remain as new forms of public transport are introduced in the new estates.





# NORTH SHIELDS

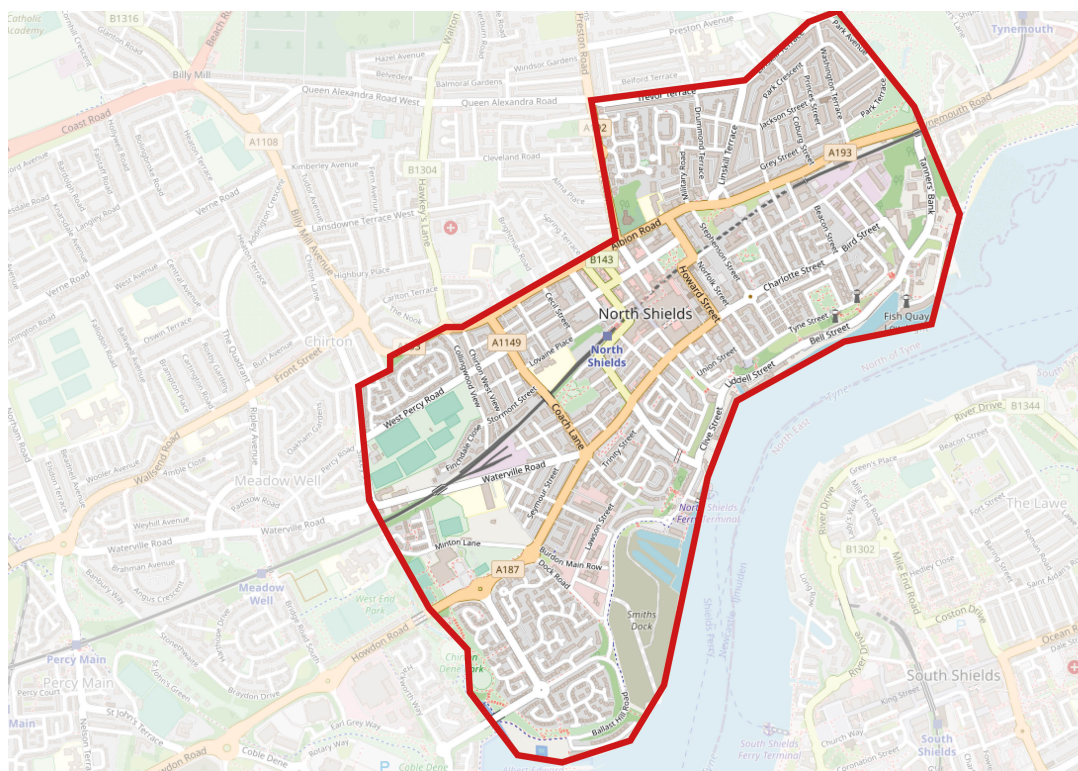
## NEAREST CURRENT WARD - RIVERSIDE / CHIRTON / TYNEMOUTH / PRESTON

**ELECTORATE - 9,010 / 8,100 / 8,543 / 6,644**

North Shields town centre is currently split across four wards; these wards also extend some miles out of the town centre, as far as Longsands beach and Wallsend. This situation has meant the town centre of North Shields has not had an effective governance structure for decades.

## PROPOSED WARD MAP

Full size ward maps shown in Appendix 1



**PROJECTED WARD ELECTORATE - 8,745**

## PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE PROPOSAL

North Shields originated on a narrow strip of land alongside the river Tyne (around the present-day Clive Street) because of the steep bank which hemmed it in. Eventually becoming overcrowded, in the 18th century buildings began to be erected on the plateau 60 feet (20 m) above the old insanitary dwellings alongside the river. Prosperous businessmen and shipowners occupied the new town whereas working people remained in the lower part of town.

Today, the low, riverside part of the town is characterised by the Fish Quay, by its associated industries, by the hospitality industry and by a gradual influx of residential developments. Above is the commercial area (around Howard Street) and the town centre where North Tyneside Council is currently undertaking a major redevelopment. To the north, east and west of this town there is extensive residential property, mostly dating from the 18th Century with the solitary exception of Haswell Gardens.

The central area of North Shields obviously has strong historical associations with the Fish Quay and the residents of both areas represent a single close-knit community. However, under the existing arrangements, North Shields (including the Fish Quay) is divided between four Wards which makes for ineffective governance. Ideally, residents with such close links – both historical and contemporary - should be part of a single ward.

When approaching the boundary review one of our main priorities was to create a North Shields ward which truly reflected the vibrant nature of the town. We set out to identify the obvious natural and major road boundaries around the town centre.

We also wanted to ensure that sub-communities within North Shields were not split up and that future change to the town, including development on the Fish Quay and Smiths Dock, would not be impacted by arbitrary dividing lines.

We have tried where possible to use natural and road boundaries, this has resulted in obvious boundaries right around the ward.

## PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

North Shields is currently divided into four Wards: Riverside, Tynemouth, Preston and Chirton. The new proposed ward would incorporate elements of each of these but would be a cohesive unit with strong community and geographical links.

The River Tyne obviously forms the southern boundary. To the East there is a natural boundary heading up from the Fish Quay (Tanners Bank) to the west of Northumberland Park and Tynemouth Golf Course. Linskill Terrace and Trevor Terrace form the boundary to the north. These are all easily identifiable major roads which clearly act as natural boundaries between communities.

To the west, Silkeys Lane and its extension follows the path of the stream into North Shields Marina and then the River Tyne. This boundary includes the entire Smiths Dock proposed development site along with the Royal Quays estate.

## COMMUNITY

The plans for regeneration of the town centre - these include developing a distinctive route to the Fish Quay, pedestrianisation of key streets, consolidation of retail units, creation of a town square, renovation of Northumberland Square and the establishment of a Transport Hub - will help significantly to promote a wide, yet cohesive community focussed upon the old town.

These regeneration plans include a riverbank walkway which will more closely link the town centre in the north of the proposed ward to the Fish Quay and Smiths Dock. The Smiths Dock development itself will directly link the Royal Quays estate with the Fish Quay, with the link road for this already operational.

The proposed ward also includes North Shields Football Club which sits just outside of the town centre along with The Parks Sports Centre which is a major leisure centre for the surrounding areas.

The town is culturally rich and as part of the regeneration there are plans for a new cultural quarter in the town centre; these plans will be enhanced by having the Fish Quay which is home to lots of independent bars and restaurants (and thereby home to

a lot of up and coming local music talent) in the same ward as the new cultural quarter. This is not currently the case.

The area of North Shields around the Linskill Centre (polling district OB) has always thought of itself as an extension of the town centre, but has previously been put into Tynemouth Ward. The boundary of Northumberland Park seems to be a much clearer natural boundary between North Shields and Tynemouth.

In including the industrial estate on Tanners Bank and the area behind the law courts which is also industrial - we have tried to create a nod to the heritage of the town, not to mention the inclusion of the working Fish Quay. These areas are reinventing themselves and are a huge asset to the town centre which seems to be developing continuously.

### TRANSPORT

The new Transport Hub situated in North Shields provides an ideal focal point from which Bus and Metro links can radiate throughout the Ward. Planned cycle routes will also converge here and there is an established route to the North Shields Ferry as part of the integrated travel system. The A183 and A187 provide good transport links through the ward.

### SCHOOLS

Waterville Primary, Percy Main Primary, Riverside Primary, St Cuthberts Catholic Primary, Christ Church Primary: each represents its own community but, like all schools (and especially primary schools) they help to unite the wider community.

### EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

The previous organisation of four wards with specific communities and markedly differing needs is eliminated by this proposal. The new ward would deliver all three LGBCE criteria: electoral equality for local electors, local community interests and identities, and effective local government.

The simplicity of boundaries also helps more clearly define a ward which is compact and urban far removed from its sprawling predecessors.



# PRESTON WITH PRESTON GRANGE

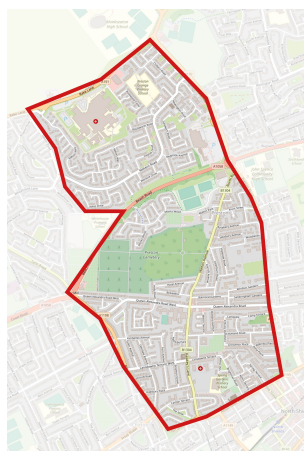
## NEAREST CURRENT WARD - PRESTON ELECTORATE - 6,644

The current Preston Ward's northern boundary is Beach Road, its western boundary is Regent Terrace/ Billy Mill Avenue (B1304), and its eastern boundary runs behind John Spence Community High School and alongside but not including Tynemouth Golf Course. The boundary then takes an unusual route through North Shields which splits Trevor Terrace in the middle and cuts three houses out of Haswell Gardens estate and puts these into Tynemouth. The southern boundary is Albion Road (A193). Preston Ward is the smallest both in area and population in the Borough.

The ward contains Tynemouth Swimming Pool, Preston Cemetery and Queen Alexandra College. The current ward includes Preston village and parts of Tynemouth but excludes the Preston Grange estate.

## PROPOSED WARD MAP

Full size ward maps shown in Appendix 1



## PROJECTED WARD ELECTORATE - 7,491

## PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE PROPOSAL

The new Preston with Preston Grange has followed three primary principles. Firstly, to reunite the previously divided communities of Preston and Preston Grange across either side of Beach Road. Secondly, by moving the boundary to the A192 Preston Road and Preston Road North it gives estates such as the Wynd and West Dene Drive back into Tynemouth Ward with whom they have close connections via Harbottle Path. The proposal also reunites the Haswell Gardens Estate and puts this and Christ Church back into North Shields. Thirdly, the new ward follows strong natural road boundaries which creates a clear distinct community.

With this ward we have worked to ensure that the new North Shields Ward could be formed, as previously the town centre has been split across four different wards. In doing this we have also tried to retain the identity and sense of community of Preston which currently sits to the north of North Shields.

The community of Preston Grange is a relatively new one in North Tyneside terms but its distinct character means the entire community looks towards its namesake in Preston Village. While Beach Road may seem to be an obvious dividing line between two communities it actually serves to unite them around shared issues such as speeding, dangerous driving and traveller incursions which are all too common.

Similarly the Monkswood Estate which backs onto Beach Road shares the same style of housing and direct footpath links to Preston Grange across Beach Road.

## PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

The southern boundary is the same as the current Preston Ward boundary along Albion Road however at its western end the boundary has moved to Preston North Road from its current path which runs between Christ Church and through housing estates.

The eastern boundary follows Preston North Road from Albion Road past the Beach Road roundabout and to the Foxhunters Roundabout.

The northern boundary is Rake Lane past North Tyneside General Hospital. The western boundary runs between Devon Road on the Lynn Estate and Abbots Way on Preston Grange. These two estates were built at separate times and up until the 1990's



had a wall dividing the two estates. The boundary then follows a small section of Malvern Road in order to ensure that Dawlish Close is retained in the Lynn Estate from where it is accessed.

The boundary then continues south between the houses on Whitehouse Lane and the houses on Kelso Drive. This reflects the fact these are part of separate estates with separate entrances. The boundary then runs along Whitehouse Lane, excluding the Whitehouse Primary School and connects to the A1058 Coast Road westwards to Billy Mill roundabout where it meets the western boundary of Regents Terrace and Billy Mill Avenue.

### COMMUNITY

Preston and Preston Grange have strong community links both individually but also collaboratively. The Preston Grange Community Centre which is run by local volunteers organises a number of events and is increasingly working with the Preston Village Association.

There have recently been a number of community clean-ups across both areas and Councillors have worked together with local police to tackle Antisocial Behaviour. These are strong geographical connections between Monkswood and Preston Grange and residents pass regularly between them. The North Shields Methodist Church also provides a community resource which is used by residents across the ward. The new ward has a Lidl, Aldi, Morrisons, Co-op and Tesco Express and also houses the main local hospital.

### TRANSPORT

The ward is well serviced by buses as it contains the main local hospital, cemetery, supermarkets and schools. The 306 bus runs through the centre of the ward and provides excellent links to Newcastle and the coast. The 308 bus connects Preston with Preston Grange Ward to a number of coastal communities as far as Blyth, while the A57 links to Ashington and Cramlington. The Council currently has plans to build a cycle path along Preston Road North to connect Tynemouth, North Shields Metro Station and continue the route along Rake Lane to the Cobalt Business Park. This would provide the new ward with excellent cycling routes.

## SCHOOLS

The ward contains Spring Gardens Primary and Preston Grange Primary and has excellent transport links to John Spence, St. Thomas Moore, Marden and Monkseaton High Schools, all of which are within walking distance of the ward.

## EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

The unification of these communities would allow the Councillors to work effectively with communities as they are on the ground rather than the current boundary drawn on a map.

The two communities have many issues in common including Anti-social Behaviour, building on green space and NHS services at Rake Lane hospital which is within the proposed ward.

Additionally new cycle path developments which have been controversial thus far will run the length of the ward from Albion Road to Rake Lane Hospital. These will serve to unite communities across Preston and Preston Grange.

The small and compact geographical size of the ward will help ensure Councillors can understand the issues and be highly visible within the ward.



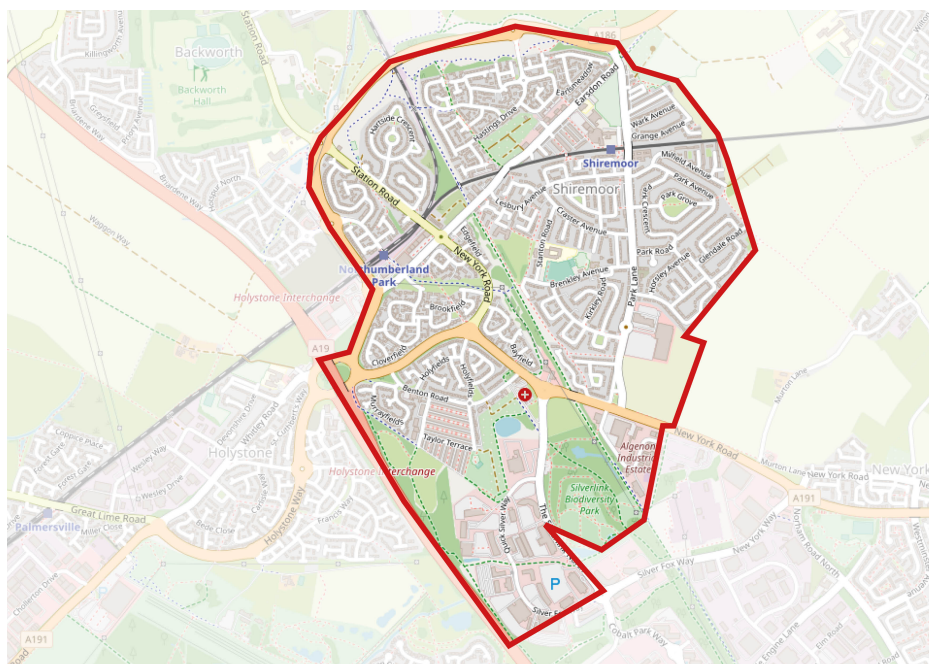
# SHIREMOOR

## NEAREST CURRENT WARD - VALLEY ELECTORATE - 10,263

The current Valley Ward includes Backworth, West Allotment, Northumberland Park and Shiremoor. Its western boundary is the A19. Its northern boundary follows Seaton Burn (the natural boundary and not the area) as far as the Mineral Railway where it drops south and crosses to Holywell Grange Farm. Its eastern boundary begins here and travels south across the A186, along the metro line and behind Bywell Grove and along the housing estate. It then travels along New York Road, around (and including) the bio-diversity park then loops around the south part of Cobalt Business Park where it joins the A19.

## PROPOSED WARD MAP

Full size ward maps shown in Appendix 1



## PROJECTED WARD ELECTORATE - 7,932

## PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE PROPOSAL

Shiremoor Ward is a stand-alone community on its own and was the natural centre of the currently established Valley Ward. At the outset keeping communities together was one of our main priorities, second only to electoral equality. This proposal aims to keep the Shiremoor community identity distinct and protected from the greater and more rural areas surrounding it.

The proposed boundaries provide a clear and more natural boundary, especially on the northern border of the newly proposed ward which provides the advantages of maintaining coherent communities and creating clearer and more sensible natural boundaries.

The creation of the Annitsford, Burradon and Backworth Ward as a new rural ward to the north has made the creation of a standalone Shiremoor ward sensible. This is one large urban village which has been the subject of significant expansion in recent decades. The ward borders the new Murton Gap development site but the impact of the site should be relatively minor as a result of the promised link road between the Shiremoor Bypass and Rake Lane.

### WARD OVERVIEW

The ward is situated on the northern part of the Borough and is one of the less culturally diverse areas in the North East. Nearly a quarter of the ward has no educational qualification with approximately a 35% of school students receiving free school meals. The ward centres around the Metro line including both Shiremoor and Northumberland Park stations. The southern part of the ward includes the Cobalt Business Park representing a hub for commercial businesses and also the offices of the North Tyneside Council.

## PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

### BOUNDARIES

On the southwestern boundary of the proposed ward, the A19 acts as a natural barrier. This is followed by an easterly movement along the A186 which moves around the north end of the proposed ward. The boundary then moves south along the interface between the residential areas of Shiremoor and the agricultural land to its East. This continues until the A193 is reached at the South-East corner of the proposed ward. The boundary passes just West of the National Powergrid Tynemouth Substation and incorporates the West Allotment County Park and the Cobalt Business park where the boundary ties-in with the A19 again.

### COMMUNITY

It is clear from looking at the map that Shiremoor and West Allotment are a distinct community with the A19 at its west and the A189 forming a clear boundary along the northern portions of the ward and the housing is mostly surrounded by green belt. The two communities are clearly closely linked with the Metro stations of Shiremoor and Northumberland Park servicing the east and west of the ward. Shiremoor itself has a community centre and action group. Shiremoor was originally called Tynemouthshire Moor and was predominantly a coal mining area. Every year the residents of Shiremoor hold a "treat" for the children of Shiremoor and surrounding villages. This tradition dates back to 1907 and has been held every year since. It was started by a group of men from the local pit and today is run by a committee of local people.

### TRANSPORT

Shiremoor is serviced by the Metro system with two stations located within the ward, being Shiremoor and Northumberland Park passing through the northern part of the ward and ensures connections across the Borough and region. The ward is serviced by all major bus companies allowing for easy access to Newcastle city centre and also access to all other areas of the Borough.

### SCHOOLS

Shiremoor Primary School is the only school in the ward - it has an Outstanding OFSTED rating. North Tyneside Council's Pupil Referral Unit is located in Shiremoor. It is called Moorbridge and was opened in 2010. It caters for KS3 and KS4 children with Behavioural, Emotional and Social difficulties. Most of Shiremoor falls into the

catchment area of George Stephenson High School, in Killingworth. However, the most southern estate, opposite Boundary Mills, is actual in the catchment area for John Spence Community High School, in North Shields.

### EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

By uniting the entire community of Shiremoor in one densely populated urban ward issues from the various estates should be expected to be relatively similar. Additionally the socio-economic breakdown of the ward shows huge similarities across the piece, which should help with effective governance.





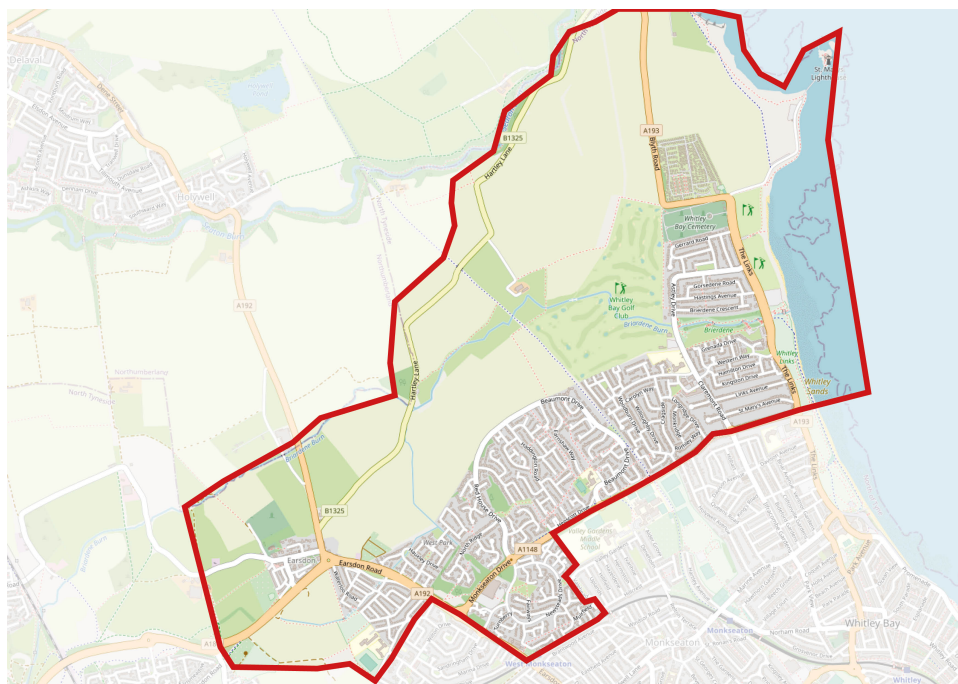
# ST MARY'S

## NEAREST CURRENT WARD - ST MARY'S ELECTORATE - 7,110

The current ward is bounded by the North Sea to the east and Northumberland County Council to the north and includes a large number of the residential areas of Whitley Bay. These areas are known as Brierdene, Whitley Lodge, Beaumont Park, Red House Farm and West Park. The ward also includes the village of Earsdon and approximately 50% of the residential area known as Wellfield. The current ward is bounded south by Monkseaton Drive and the west by fields at Murton.

## PROPOSED WARD MAP

Full size ward maps shown in Appendix 1



## PROJECTED WARD ELECTORATE - 8,215

## PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE PROPOSAL

St Mary's ward has strong links with Whitley Bay. This proposal aims to maintain the strong links and association with Whitley Bay by keeping a strong community identity with the coastal strip and the seaside. The proposed boundaries are overall very similar to the existing St Mary's Ward but in order to meet the forecast 2028 electorate figures we have included an entire polling district (SB) from the current Monkseaton North Ward. This proposal has the advantage that the age and type of housing are similar to St Mary's ward. The SB polling district uses the Beaumont Park Medical Practice which is located in St Mary's Ward and a large number of children attend Southridge First School, also within the current St Mary's Ward boundaries.

The addition of the SB polling district seems to be the most sensible option when expanding St Mary's Ward; any expansion to the west would have meant splitting up Shiremoor which is one homogeneous block.

## WARD OVERVIEW

St Mary's Ward is situated at the north east corner of the Borough and is one of the most rural wards within North Tyneside. The ward is predominantly residential housing or protected green open space which includes two working farms.

The ward centres around Whitley Lodge shopping centre which include several retail establishments, a post office and two public houses. The most iconic site in the ward is St Mary's Lighthouse - the current lighthouse and adjacent keepers' cottages were built in 1898. St Mary's was by then the last Trinity House Lighthouse lit by oil. The lighthouse was decommissioned in 1984. In 1986 a blue plaque was created to record its early history. A few years later, St Mary's was opened as a visitor attraction by the local council. Since 2012 St Mary's Lighthouse has been Grade II listed. While it no longer functions as a working lighthouse, it is easily accessible (when the tide is out) and regularly open to visitors; in addition to the lighthouse itself there is a small museum, a visitor's centre, and a café.

The ward also includes the St Mary's Island Wetland Conservation Area and the St. Mary's Island Wildlife Conservation Area. Additionally Whitley Bay Cemetery is located in the ward along with Whitley Bay Caravan Park - again this highlights the wards close ties to the coast.

Earsdon Village, sits on the border of Northumberland, to which it is historically linked, and is situated approximately two miles from Whitley Bay. The graveyard of St Alban's Church is home to a memorial to the 204 men and boys killed in the Hartley Pit Disaster of 1862. There is also a war memorial in the village, which is quite unique as it is of a sailor and not the usual subject matter of a soldier.

## BOUNDARIES

### NATURAL BOUNDARIES

The ward is bounded to the East by the long sweeping and popular stretches of beaches from Whitley Bay up to St Mary's Island. The northern border is the County border of Northumberland. These natural boundaries mean that changes to the existing ward must be focussed on moving south or west.

### ROAD BOUNDARIES

On the southern edge of the ward is the A1148 Monkseaton Drive which provides a natural border with no division of communities. The proposals will take in the Newstead's Drive estate which is entirely separate from the other parts of Monkseaton given that it shares no access roads. Additionally the inclusion of the Sainsbury's Supermarket links the parts of the ward to the north of Monkseaton Drive to the new area as residents from both areas will make use of the shopping facility.

### COMMUNITY

St Mary's Ward has a strong community identity with many groups including: The West Park Residents, The Red House Ramble, Friends of Brierdene Whitley Lodge Spirit, The Wellfield Defib Group, Blooming Earsdon, The St Mary's Island Conservation Society, The St Mary's Wetland Association, St Albans Earsdon Graveyard Group and The Earsdon & Wellfield Community Centre. The ward also contains community facilities including Whitley Bay Golf Club.

These groups have been set up to work primarily within existing ward boundaries and splitting the ward would be detrimental to community cohesion and potentially the future of these groups.

## SCHOOLS

The ward contains Southridge First School, Whitley Lodge First School, South Wellfield First School and Wellfield Middle School. The catchment for all of these schools is primarily the St Mary's Ward area.

Additionally there is work underway to build a new secondary school on Monkseaton Drive which has been divisive with residents. This new school could cause issues for residents the length of Monkseaton Drive and therefore keeping these communities united in one ward would contribute to the most effective governance.

## EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

Major issues of Anti-social Behaviour at the coast have spread throughout the ward including to South Wellfield and Earsdon. These issues are being dealt with by the Whitley Bay PSCO's; by splitting the ward so parts of it do not look towards the coast would have a negative effect on the ability of local councillors to effectively work with Northumbria Police.

Additionally a major issue in St Mary's Ward at present is the provision of GP services. The current GP Practice which is situated in Beaumont Park is too small and has applied for permission to build a larger surgery over Monkseaton Drive in the current SD polling district, which under these proposals would become part of St Mary's Ward. If this proposed development gets the go ahead having the new GP Practice in the same ward as the old Practice and the same ward as where most of their patients live would be beneficial for effective governance. The proposals also go to show the strong community ties between the existing St Mary's Ward and the Newstead's Drive Estate.





# TYNEMOUTH

## NEAREST CURRENT WARD - TYNEMOUTH ELECTORATE - 8,543

The current ward is bounded by the North sea to the East and river Tyne to the south and takes in a large part of North Shields. The current ward is bounded by Beach road and Links Avenue to the north whilst the Eastern boundary takes an unusual route, splitting three houses from the Haswell Gardens estate and an irrational line through the eastern part of North Shields Town Centre which again splits the community and makes effective local governance in this area extremely difficult.

## PROPOSED WARD MAP

Full size ward maps shown in Appendix 1



## PROJECTED WARD ELECTORATE - 8,197



## PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE PROPOSAL

Tynemouth Ward has strong links with North Shields and the fishing communities to the West and with Cullercoats to the North; nevertheless it is viewed by residents in all areas as a distinct and separate community. This proposal aims to keep the Tynemouth Village community identity distinct and protected. These proposed boundaries remove those parts of the current ward which are clearly in North Shields, including North Shields Fish Quay and parts of North Shields town centre and now include more of the northern and western communities which are currently split between Cullercoats and Preston. This proposal has the advantages of re-uniting previously divided communities like those to the east and west of the Broadway and creating clearer and more sensible natural boundaries.

Our proposal actively worked to include Tynemouth Golf Course and Percy Park Rugby Club and Tynemouth Cricket Club in their entirety. The proposal has utilised existing natural boundaries like Preston Road North to the west. While some streets like The Wynd, West Dene Drive and the terraces off Preston Avenue may on the surface look as though they do not naturally fit as part of the Tynemouth community they in fact have very strong links to Percy Park Rugby Club and Tynemouth Cricket Club linked by the Harbottle Path to Preston Avenue. Similarly, there has been some discussion around the northern boundary on Hartington Road: while it may on the surface look to be splitting the Marden Estate in two it actually serves to unite the community both sides of Beach Road where the style and age of the housing is similar and community issues are identical.

## WARD OVERVIEW

Tynemouth Ward is situated at the south east corner of the Borough and is one of the most diverse and culturally rich areas in the North East. The ward centres around Front Street with its mix of cafes, bars and shops watched over by the statue of Queen Victoria by Alfred Turner, unveiled on 25 October 1902 and situated at the edge of the Village Green. The green is also home to the War Memorials for the residents of Tynemouth lost during the Second Boer War of 1899–1902 unveiled and a larger central memorial which holds the honour roll for those lost during both World Wars. The village has a strong maritime history: the Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade was the first of its kind in the world and its unique story is told in a small museum; the magnificent monument to Lord Collingwood looking across the river is in honour of the local born Admiral who took over from Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar.

## PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

### NATURAL BOUNDARIES

The ward is bounded to the East by the award winning beaches of Tynemouth Longsands and King Edward's Bay which since the 18th century have been popular with locals and tourists alike. Prior's Haven is a small beach within the mouth of the Tyne, sheltered between the Priory and the Spanish Battery, with the pier access on its north side. It was popular with Victorian bathers and is now home to Tynemouth Rowing Club and Tynemouth Sailing Club.

To the south the River Tyne provides a natural boundary which, under the current ward layout, extends past North Shields Fish Quay. Under our proposals, a new North Shields ward has been created which has moved the eastern boundary from the western end of the North Shields Fish Quay to the start. This entire area is now located in the newly created North Shields Ward.

An advantage of this change is the use of Northumberland Park as the natural boundary between Tynemouth and North Shields, which most residents see as the natural divide.

### ROAD BOUNDARIES

On the western edge of the ward the A192 Preston Road provides a natural border with no division of communities. The ward then uses Trevor Terrace and Linskill Terrace as a natural link to the Northumberland Park boundary.

The northern boundary is moved to create a straight line along Hartington Road and Links Road rather than the current dog-leg which divides the communities either side of Beach Road and the Broadway. It is worth noting that the 'Welcome to Tynemouth' street signs are situated on the Broadway at the point of the new proposed northern boundary at the junction with Links Road.

### COMMUNITY

Tynemouth has a strong community identity with groups including the Tynemouth Village Association, the Tynemouth Business Forum, Totally Tynemouth and Tynemouth Action Group. The ward also contains community facilities including Tynemouth Golf Club, Tynemouth Cricket Club, Percy Park Rugby Club and Priory

Theatre. The village is designated as a Conservation Area due to the numerous heritage assets which include the English Heritage site - Tynemouth Castle and Priory.

The village also hosts the Mouth of the Tyne Festival and the Tynemouth Pageant and has a strong community identity and pride in its heritage and history.

### TRANSPORT

Tynemouth Metro station lies at the centre of the ward with connections across the Borough. The 306 bus route connects the coast with Newcastle whilst the 392 connects Tynemouth to Wallsend and Benton. The Number 1 bus route connects the Tynemouth community with our communities along the river. Tynemouth is also the end point for the 140-mile Coast to Coast Cycle Route from Whitehaven or Workington in Cumbria.

### SCHOOLS

Kings Priory lies at the centre of the ward which educates children from Reception to Sixth Form. The ward also contains King Edward's Primary and Christ Church Primary as well as Southlands School for SEN pupils aged between 11 and 16. The catchment for all of these schools is primarily the Tynemouth area. Under the new proposals, Tynemouth would take in Marden High School and Monkhouse Primary which currently take in pupils from Tynemouth and Cullercoats and sits on the border. The new ward would also take in John Spence Community High School which has a catchment area predominately made up of Tynemouth and North Shields, much of which is taken in by the new ward.

### EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

Tynemouth currently has three Councillors who work closely with community groups, schools and residents' groups. The two major issues in Tynemouth are currently the redevelopment of Tynemouth Library and the new housing development at Tynemouth Metro station. The new ward would be directly affected by these developments.

The new ward also includes several of the major coastal secondary schools which would allow Councillors to become experts in this particular field, this would be enhanced by the inclusion of Southlands School which is a SEN specialist school.



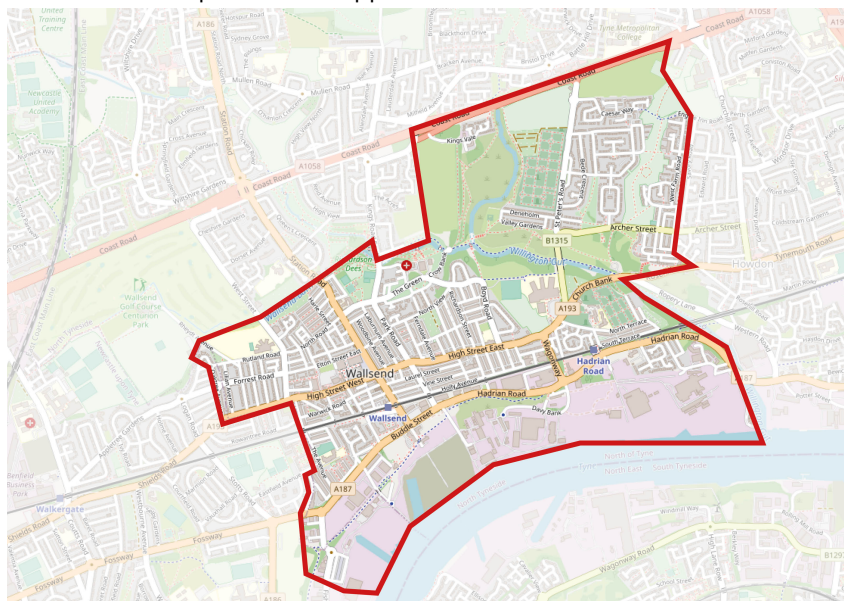
# WALLSEND CENTRAL

## NEAREST CURRENT WARD - WALLSEND ELECTORATE - 7,618

Currently, the Wallsend wWard includes the areas of Wallsend and Point Pleasant. Its southern border is the River Tyne and its famous shipyards as far as Neptune Road where Wallsend meets Newcastle's Walker area. The westerly border follows The Avenue, along the High Street up Lilian Avenue onto Rheydt Avenue. The northern border of Wallsend Ward travels along Wallsend Burn to Richardson Dees Park and then up towards and along the Coast Road. The easterly border is Wallsend Dene and Wallsend Burn, down to Willington Gut and Point Pleasant. Wallsend ward's neighbouring wards are Riverside and Howdon to the east, Battle Hill to the north and Northumberland to the northwest.

## PROPOSED WARD MAP

Full size ward maps shown in Appendix 1



**PROJECTED WARD ELECTORATE - 8,567**

## PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE PROPOSAL

Wallsend is a largely residential town at the eastern end of Hadrian's Wall. These proposed boundary changes encompass parts of the old Howdon Ward, which run parallel to Churchill Street as well as relinquishing some of the old ward to Howdon. In doing this we aim to link communities within Howdon and Wallsend who jointly participate in local events, clubs, schools, scouts etc. This proposal has the advantages of creating a sensible boundary line for residents and encourage their involvement in community issues.

The proposal has worked to include key historic parts of Wallsend within the Wallsend Central Ward such as Wallsend Green, the old village centre and Wallsend Boys Club. This clearly helps to shape the central Wallsend community.

As mentioned in our Howdon submission we would prefer if the most easterly parts of this ward were included in the proposed Howdon Ward but this has not been possible due to our strict adherence to the  $\pm 10\%$  variance of electors under the projected 2028 figures.

## WARD OVERVIEW

Wallsend is a town in North Tyneside and lies 3.5 miles west of Newcastle at the eastern end of Hadrian's Wall and holds the historical site of Segedunum in its boundaries.

The proposed Wallsend ward will have five primary schools and one high school, three dentists, three doctors surgeries, various nursing homes/sheltered accommodation, six various social clubs and community hubs which include a community centre, a park, and a sports centre to the ward which provides activities, events and opportunities for local residents.

## PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

### NATURAL BOUNDARIES

The proposed ward is bounded by the River Tyne to the south which also acts as the Borough boundary; to the north we proposed to use Wallsend Burn as a natural boundary between Wallsend Central and Wallsend North. The eastern boundary of the ward also follows the path of the Burn down to the river, only deviating from this boundary to include the Holy Cross area of Wallsend which would otherwise be isolated.

### ROAD BOUNDARIES

The proposed ward is also bounded by the coast road (A1058) to the North which acts as a clear physical boundary between Wallsend and Battle Hill. To the north west the boundary as previously described is not ideal but does reflect the best possible way of ensuring both Wallsend Central and Howdon Wards are within the  $\pm 10\%$  variance of electors under the projected 2028 figures.

### COMMUNITY

The Wallsend Memorial Hall is located centrally within the ward; surrounded by parkland, it is a much loved asset for the community. The Library in Wallsend Town Centre is also a well used community asset.

Other amenities in the Wallsend ward include various children's groups, social clubs, pubs, and various shops along the high street and in The Forum. There are private nurseries in the ward which provide pre-school childcare as well as after school pick up. Across Wallsend there are many chain supermarkets and food outlets which include: Burger King, KFC, Heron foods, Aldi and a Spar. There are also a number of churches in the area and a sports centre with a pool which is a hub for sporting clubs and events.



## TRANSPORT

There are two Metro Station within the ward (Wallsend and Hadrian Road) which connect residents to the whole of North Tyneside. Wallsend Metro is also a bus interchange where there are numerous buses for linking to communities in North Tyneside and beyond including the number 1 (to Whitley Bay/Newcastle), 22 (to Silverlink to Newcastle), 41/41A (connecting neighbouring communities Battle Hill/Wallsend wards), 317 (connecting neighbouring communities from Wallsend through to Whitley Bay with a stop off at North Tyneside Hospital). There are also various buses that run term time to schools in the Borough.

## SCHOOLS

Early Years Education is provided for the children of Wallsend by Wallsend C of E Primary School, Carville Primary School, St Columba's RC Primary School, Western Community Primary School and Richardson Dees Primary School. The local High School is Burnside College. This local school network works across the Wallsend area but it is beneficial to have all major schools within the central ward so schooling issues can be effectively addressed.

## EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

Wallsend is the general name given to all areas from the River Tyne up to Benton. In renaming the ward Wallsend Central we have looked to give the name a clearly defined area. Similarly this also allows the former Northumberland Ward to be renamed Wallsend North which is a much more suitable name and again makes it clear to residents where in the Borough the ward is situated. This follows our naming principles which are set out in the early section of this document.

In terms of effective governance the inclusion of all of the green space around Holy Cross, including Wallsend RFC, is complementary to the idea of effective governance as several contentious planning applications are currently being considered for this area, including building artificial playing fields on some of the green space. By having all of these areas collectively in one ward it will allow ward members to specialise on licensing and planning applications in order to best serve their residents.



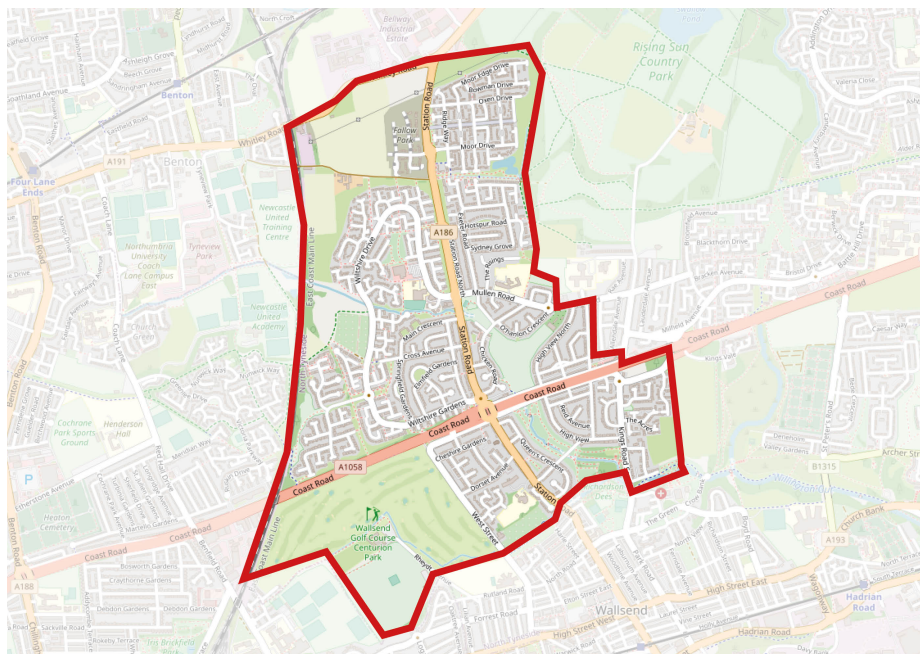
# WALLSEND NORTH

## NEAREST CURRENT WARD - NORTHUMBERLAND ELECTORATE - 8,005

Wallsend North replaces the Northumberland Ward the current western border for which is the railway line. The southern border follows the perimeter of the cricket ground and Wallsend Burn. The Eastern border takes a complicated non-linear route that splits the Prince Road Arboretum, traverses the Coast Road eastward, and splits the Rising Sun Nature Reserve. It finally meets the northern border, which runs back to Whitley Road. The ward sits on the border with Newcastle City Council which makes the options in this area limited.

## PROPOSED WARD MAP

Full size ward maps shown in Appendix 1



## PROJECTED WARD ELECTORATE - 9,027

## PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE PROPOSAL

The wider town of Wallsend spans several wards and has a strong, distinct identity in the Borough with a rich industrial tradition and a history that dates back to Roman times. The new name of this ward reflects its place in that broad community.

The boundary changes are not significant but they primarily aim to avoid splitting neighbourhoods and outdoor spaces across wards for ease of representation. Specifically, whilst the Rising Sun reserve now sits entirely within Battle Hill, the Prince Road Arboretum now sits entirely within Wallsend North. The Selby Gardens area adjacent to the Coast Road is proposed to move into Wallsend North to join their neighbours and local amenities in High Farm north of the Coast Road.

While this ward does, as the existing ward does, cross the Coast Road this is seen as a sensible option given the strong community ties between High Farm and Wallsend itself - all of these communities think of themselves as part of the greater Wallsend area.

Additionally the Coast Road in this proposed ward acts as a unifier with both the areas north and south of the dual carriageway looking more towards Newcastle than central North Tyneside and the coast.

## WARD OVERVIEW

Wallsend North is at the southwest of the Borough and incorporates much of the once sparse area in between Benton and Wallsend. It has seen major housing development in recent years with the Benton Rise estate in the north of the ward.

Residents consider Wallsend Central their town centre, and this relationship is reflected in the proposed naming for both of those wards.

There are a number of outdoor spaces in the ward: the area to the east of Wiltshire Drive is very popular with locals, and the Prince Road Arboretum is popular with visitors and locals alike.

The ward contains the Wallsend Boys Club football ground as well as the Centurion Park Golf course, both significant in the local sporting community.

## PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

### NATURAL BOUNDARIES

The ward is bounded to the west by the main east coast train line, the southern part of which is also part of the western border to the Borough. The Southern border runs along the Golf and Football clubs, then along the natural border of Wallsend Burn.

The new eastern border runs through the non-residential land to the east of Selby Gardens and the meadows, so that the ward now incorporates that estate and the Prince Road Arboretum in its entirety. It crosses the Coast Road and incorporates the small shopping strip near Malton Gardens, before heading North to the western edge of the Rising Sun which forms a natural eastern border for its remainder.

### ROAD BOUNDARIES

To the north, Whitley Road bounds the ward from the Benton industrial estate on the other side. The remainder of the northern border runs through the non-residential land north of Benton Rise.

### COMMUNITY

Wallsend Boys Club is a focal point for the community, running sporting activities year round as a way of nurturing talent and bringing local residents together. They have ambitious plans to build a new Community Hub to expand their role in the community and focus on Health and Wellbeing.

The Westholme Farm Social club is known for its regular bingo nights and live music. St Bernadette's Church provides a regular senior citizens group.

Despite being sparse in terms of its own facilities, the ward is well served by those in the nearby wider Wallsend area such as the recently opened hub at the Wallsend Community First Centre which aims to provide flexible spaces to the voluntary and community sectors. The centre itself already provides services such as Citizens Advice and outreach by the Wallsend Neighbourhood Policing Team.

## TRANSPORT

The ward has close road links to the A19 and the Coast Road, making it popular with commuters who require access to the City, the south of the river, and the wider Borough. It is part of a number of cycle routes and benefits greatly from the recent cycle path improvements along the Coast Road, making access to areas like the Silverlink and the Coast quick and safe. The Wagonway Network is accessible at several points providing convenient routes across the Borough to pedestrians and cyclists alike.

The 306 and 308 buses connect Wallsend with both the coast and the city centre, bus stops conveniently located on the Coast Road sliproads. The 553 connects to Gosforth, and several routes provide quick passage to Battle Hill, Howdon, and the wider Wallsend area. The nearest Metro station is Wallsend, in the town centre.

## SCHOOLS

Wallsend Jubilee School and Redesdale School provide Primary Education to the ward, although several other primaries are in the immediate vicinity in Battle Hill and Wallsend Central Wards. Beacon Hill is just across the Battle Hill boundary, providing SEN to the area.

The ward is in the catchment areas for both Churchill and Burnside Colleges which provide secondary schooling. Tyne Metropolitan College is conveniently situated for Further Education needs.

## EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

The existing ward has three Councillors whose responsibility it is to represent residents on matters of local concern. The most significant issue in the ward is that of traffic, particularly in light of recent housing developments which have put significant pressure on the main road routes. Roads near the Whitley Road/A186 roundabout can become near-impassable at busy times. Speeding is also a major concern, with a view of the residents that some of the signalling and traffic measures aren't sufficiently effective.

The name of the ward also helps to clearly identify which communities are included within its boundaries, in the past the 'Northumberland' ward has been difficult to define. This fits with our principle of using place names as ward names wherever possible.



# WHITLEY BAY NORTH

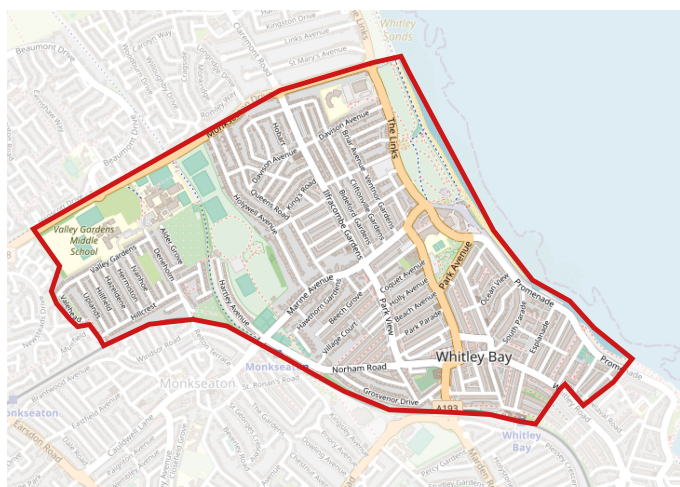
## NEAREST CURRENT WARD - WHITLEY BAY ELECTORATE - 6,947

Whitley Bay is an historic coastal settlement with interlinked beaches. Whitley Bay has a long history and was located in the county of Northumberland, latterly being absorbed into North Tyneside Council, when it became a Metropolitan Borough. The current ward that most closely matches the proposed Whitley Bay North is a mixture of Monkseaton North and Whitley Bay.

The area is characterised by a vibrant town centre, with a mix of community resources and residential areas. It is an attractive dormitory location for Newcastle upon Tyne, as well as having various historical links with tourism and other seaside locations. The existing wards include a significant stretch of seafront, including the Spanish City.

## PROPOSED WARD MAP

Full size ward maps shown in Appendix 1



## PROJECTED WARD ELECTORATE - 8,700



## PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE PROPOSAL

The new boundaries recognise that the community of Whitley has historically been rooted in a colourful, vibrant tourist industry. The town centre is at the heart of these proposals and is a popular area for shoppers and socialising. In recent years, the town has seen a growth in new pubs and eating venues, as well as boutique shops and other community resources. It is fast becoming the 'go-to' place along the coast and has its own distinct identity.

These proposed boundaries remove those parts of the current wards which identify with more inland and other distinct coastal communities. This proposal has the advantages of re-uniting previously divided communities and creating clearer and more sensible natural boundaries, which keep areas as distinctly coastal in nature whilst recognising the residential areas that are central to Whitley Bay.

In creating a Whitley Bay North Ward along with the proposed Cullercoats and Whitley Bay South we have sought to reflect the scale of Whitley Bay itself which has been previously spit amongst five different wards. This Whitley Bay North includes the seafront from High Point to the iconic Rendezvous Cafe. We have also worked to include all of the town centre within the one ward to ensure that as more planning and licensing applications are made they can be dealt with by one set of ward Councillors.

We have also taken the decision to include the Valley Gardens estate within Whitley Bay North. This estate is home to Whitley Bay High School and to Churchill Playing Fields which is Whitley Bay's main outdoor exercise area. By including Valley Gardens within the Whitley Bay North Ward we have also respected the natural boundary of the Metro Line which acts as a barrier between the communities of Monkseaton and Whitley Bay.

## NEW WARD OVERVIEW

The new ward contains Whitley Bay town centre, residential streets and community resources, as well as locating the coastal offer at the heart of the proposals. It is primarily a residential ward but also has a number of community high streets, shops and businesses. The ward also has strong tourist links with the coast and is reflective of how those communities identify themselves.

## BOUNDARIES

### NATURAL BOUNDARIES

The new proposed boundaries take advantage of strong natural boundary of the North Sea to the east. This forms the basis for the ward which has seen huge investment in this stretch of coastline in recent years.

### ROAD BOUNDARIES

To the North the ward is bounded by Monkseaton Drive which is a major artery to the coast. To the west the Metro line acts as a clear boundary between Whitley Bay and Monkseaton. We have sought to use the Metro line to clearly define the different areas. To the south the boundary with Cullercoats and Whitley Bay South has been chosen as it offers the best chance of electoral equality within both wards. We would have preferred to move the boundary to a main road such as Margaret Road but this has not been possible with a mind to the  $\pm 10\%$  variance of electors under the projected 2028 figures.

### COMMUNITY

Whitley Bay is an historic area which traces its past to 1100 and moved from being dependent on the patronage of Tynemouth Priory to its own distinct identity as a heartland of fishing and coal mining. The 19th and 20th century saw the movement away from these industries towards tourism and the town became a very popular holiday destination.

Whilst there are links with adjoining wards including tourist attractions and coastal industries, Whitley Bay North has a distinct and strong sense of identity. These wards share a cultural and industrial heritage, which is firmly rooted in the coast and sea

activities, albeit with Whitley Bay North having an historic and recovering tourist offering which sets it aside from other local areas.

The proposed boundary changes would recognise that there are amenities and public facilities which residents already enjoy including football and rugby clubs, social venues and community resources. Also, the ward would present an attractive holiday destination and use much the same resources, as well as present a very similar tourist offering.

### TRANSPORT

The Metro station of Whitley Bay runs through the community and links this area to North Shields, the coast and Newcastle upon Tyne. There are strong bus links with the new ward to areas around the Borough. The number 1 bus connects the new ward to Gateshead and Whitley Bay. The number 310 runs from Whitley Bay to Newcastle upon Tyne, with the number 53 offering access to NSEC.

The ward is replete with a number of attractive walk routes allowing cyclists and pedestrians to access all parts of Whitley Bay North, with stunning scenic views on offer.

### SCHOOLS

There are several schools across the ward, which cater to a diverse educational audience. These are all rated as 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted and local residents use these facilities for generations of the same family. The inclusion of Whitley Bay High School, which is currently undergoing major building work, seeks to firmly identify this ward as central to Whitley Bay town, with 'Cullercoats and Whitley Bay South' and "St Mary's" playing host to some of the more residential parts of the town.

## EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

The new ward would have a strong sense of history and community and share many of the same socio-economic issues. The area has strong industrial links that are founded upon the river and sea. The ward has clear boundaries and does not split communities or areas unnecessarily, with a re-aligning of social identities to reflect more accurately the historical linkage between the two towns and their suburbs. The regeneration of Whitley Bay has so far been concentrated in the area within Whitley Bay North, which has led to the development of entire new communities particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The identity of Whitley Bay as a brand is also core to this proposal with the inclusion of the trendy Park View along with the traditional seafront and Spanish City development. The regeneration of Whitley Bay will continue over the next decade and in uniting the town centre and nearby residential areas in one ward we have sought to ensure effective and efficient governance arrangements.

# RESPONSE TO THE NORTH TYNESIDE COUNCIL SUBMISSION

North Tyneside Conservative Federation (NTCF) has reviewed the proposals made by North Tyneside Council and would like to use this opportunity to respond to each of their proposed wards. The Council's proposal came out of a cross-party working group consisting of one Conservative Councillor and three Labour Councillors. It was clear throughout the process that the Labour Councillors were seeking to use the process in a partisan way: prioritising the creation of a minimum number of safe Conservative wards and fewer marginal wards in order to maximise their chances of success at the 2024 elections and beyond, over community cohesion and electoral equality. The Conservative representative on the cross-party group is supporting the proposals put forward by NTCF instead of these one-sided Council proposals. Additionally, the entire Conservative Group voted against these proposals which are purely representative of the Labour Group within the Council.

It is clear from the Labour Council submission that they have not properly followed the guidance set out by the Local Government Boundary Commission as they have not prioritised electoral equality, the interests and identities of local communities or effective governance. In particular we are concerned that despite the clear guidelines, the electoral variance ranges from 13.5% to -11.8% with three wards being outside the range without sufficient rationale. We are also concerned that the shapes of many wards fail to keep communities together and fail to follow obvious natural and community lines.



It is our contention that the Labour Councils proposals are a blatant attempt to gerrymander the process for political advantage at the expense of the communities whom they serve. This critique aims to express the views of residents and Councillors and highlight some clear anomalies in the proposals that are causing genuine concern.

### **WEETSLADE**

The proposal in relation to Weetslade only makes small changes to the boundaries but all the changes seem irrational. The proposal moves Cygnet Park into Camperdown which does not recognise that this area is more closely connected to Newcastle as is much of the Weetslade Ward. We are also concerned by the absurd split through Dudley and the resulting annexation of Annitsford. This makes the governance of these communities around Dudley challenging to say the least and engenders geographical, social and community fracture.

### **CAMPERDOWN**

The current Camperdown Ward boundary cuts the town of Killingworth in half and marks a confused approach to ensuring the cohesion of local communities. The current boundary review offered an ideal opportunity to correct this but under these proposals the problematic eastern boundary remains the same. The unusual shape of the new proposed ward also creates an orphaned area of Annitsford and part of Dudley. The new ward also incorporates Cygnet Park which is more closely connected both geographically and politically with Newcastle. This mirrors the Weetslade Ward in general which looks towards sharing many links with Newcastle rather than North Tyneside. Our proposal solves a long standing problem by reuniting Killingworth town into its own Killingworth Ward.

## BRIERDENE

The Council proposal represents a significant risk to social and community cohesion with the geographically enlarged boundaries making the ward nearly 7km wide, with some areas being closer to Newcastle than the coast, despite this being an apparent coastal ward. This is neither tenable nor sensitive to the distinct communities in this coastal area.

There are serious anomalies in terms of the community identity of specific areas. For example, Shiremoor has effectively been split into three parts without any justification. To suggest that Backworth is in the same ward as Whitley Lodge is absurd as it would take around 25 minutes to drive between these area across this new proposed ward. The removal of a section of houses from the southeast portion of the ward also requires residents to leave the ward in order to travel from the northeast of the ward to other parts of their own ward.

Residents will be dismayed that the proposals even go as far as to split streets such as St. Mary's Avenue and Links Avenue in two, with erstwhile neighbours being hived off to new communities and wards. This ward would be virtually impossible to be effectively governed by 3 Councillors and does nothing to recognise the actual views of residents. Our proposal recognises the strong links which already exist and tries to make minimal changes to the ward. The ward has to be increased to maintain electoral equality: we achieve this by the addition of a small estate with strong existing links.

This ward would be virtually impossible to be effectively governed by 3 Councillors as a councillor is elected to be a local representative who is seen frequently out and about in the street sorting local issues. A large ward makes that significantly more difficult.

## KILLINGWORTH

As noted in the Camperdown analysis, the proposals would continue to split Killingworth town in two and risks permanently alienating one half of this community from the other. This review was an ideal opportunity to reunite Killingworth which is currently split through the middle of a large shopping centre. These proposals fail to address this long-standing issue. Additionally, in relation to Miller Close, residents are required to cross a Metro line and actually leave the ward to access it: hardly a sense of cohesion with the rest of the ward.

The proposals for Killingworth fail to consider the impact of proposed housing development; indeed the Killingworth Moor site would entirely be within this ward albeit such a development would surely have more in common with the more recent housing built in Holystone. Our proposal reunites Killingworth and gives the whole area a strong community identity.

## VALLEY

The proposal for Valley Ward is reflective of problems outlined elsewhere in this document, with Shiremoor being split in three despite being a distinct entity with its own socio-cultural heritage. The proposed ward splits off a number of estates which have clear links, particularly around Benton and West Allotment.

## WHITLEY SANDS

The proposal for this ward is poorly conceived because the proposal to remove the current Whitley Lodge estate into Whitley Sands ignores the current linkage between this area and other parts of the current St. Mary's Ward. Historically, this particular area has been a natural extension of more in-land residential areas and represents one of the coastal aspects of the St. Mary's Ward. The proposed ward almost exactly mirrors the current Monkseaton North Ward and ironically contains West Monkseaton Metro station. It is also unusual that it is not possible to pass across the ward from East to West without using the ward boundaries.

The new proposal also splits both Links Avenue and St. Marys Avenue with no explanation. The unusual dividing line on the south-east portion of the ward also makes little sense as there is a clear natural boundary in the form of Monkseaton Drive which would keep this community together. Our proposal for this ward is far more compatible with current community identities and allows for a developing sense of social cohesion and good governance.

## MONKSEATON

The proposed ward of Monkseaton retains the current boundaries of the Labour held ward of Monkseaton South. It has long been the position of residents across this ward that the community of Monkseaton straddles Front Street: it is therefore our contention that the removal of some streets near Whitley Bay Morrisons into a Whitley Bay based ward would be far more appropriate and reflect the self-identified communities already in existence. This historic split has always been problematic as it has run down the middle of Monkseaton Front Street which is the major shopping street in Monkseaton. This boundary review was an ideal opportunity to correct this anomaly which has been addressed by our proposal but is retained in the Council's.

## WHITLEY BAY

Whilst North Tyneside Council believes that the proposal for this ward meets the LGBCE tests, it is evident that they have not paid attention to the communities and current governance arrangements which are required. Nor have they considered the very diverse needs of various parts of the ward, as they claim. The new proposal essentially follows the existing Whitley Bay Ward with the exception of the northern portion which has been added from the new Whitley Sands Ward. It should be noted that Whitley Bay is a developing tourist and social venue, with its own needs and has always been difficult to effectively balance the competing demands. The fact that this is a safe Labour ward is why the Council have not taken this opportunity to address these issues.

Our proposal has the advantage of not splitting the Broadway and also linking the new housing with Marden Quarry and Cullercoats Harbour which follows a natural water course.



## **TYNEMOUTH AND CULLERCOATS**

The Council proposal for a merged ward of Tynemouth and Cullercoats unequivocally demonstrates the political motivation behind these proposals. Both Tynemouth and Cullercoats are Conservative held wards and the only rationale for combining these entirely distinct areas would be to reduce Conservative representation. This is highlighted by the ludicrous shape of the proposed ward which excludes large parts of Cullercoats and has an illogical cut out around the Broadway. We can also see no reason why the electoral equality for this ward is lower than the 10% variance other than an attempt to create one Conservative ward out of two.

Tynemouth and Cullercoats are two very distinct communities with distinct identities. Tynemouth and Cullercoats do share a coast line, yet what the proposal fails to recognise is the historical self-identification of residences in slightly more in-land streets. Residents living in the area north of Marden High School would (and do) identify as being part of Cullercoats, and have done so for decades.

Tynemouth has a vibrant nightlife economy, which Cullercoats does not - and Cullercoats has a more residential feel to its current identity. Our proposal also fixes the difficult western boundary along the Tynemouth Golf Course which splits the Haswell Gardens estate.

## **Longbenton**

The current Council proposals keep the Longbenton Ward unchanged. This proposal is largely in line with our own views but our proposal addresses the issues around Benton Metro which we have moved back into the Benton Ward.

## **BENTON AND FOREST HALL**

The new proposal follows much of the current Benton boundary but includes the North Tyne Industrial Estate. This is illogical as the estate is entirely cut off from the ward by train line on the northern and western side. Our proposals would follow the current boundary through Forest Hall; ideally we would reunite this small community but this could not be achieved whilst retaining electoral equality.

## MARDEN

The Council proposal suggests the dismembering of several parts of Cullercoats and Tynemouth and adding these into the Marden Estate. Particularly confusing is the addition of a small section of Tynemouth across the Broadway. The only rationale for this is the blatant gerrymandering of the adjacent Tynemouth and Cullercoats Ward. The Council's approach is to connect Marden with Preston Grange across the A192 dual carriageway. This approach also excludes Marden Quarry from the new Marden Estate. These are two distinct communities and we cannot see the logic in bringing these together. Our approach keeps the Marden Estate complete and as part of Cullercoats as it has traditionally been. We connect Preston Grange with Preston Village which recognises not only obvious natural boundaries but acknowledges the community links which already exist.

Put simply this is a clumsy re-allocation of streets to fit a ward design which fails, dramatically, to consider the needs of residences, the issues they face and the socio-geographical realities of communities.

The Council proposal also includes Dawlish Close, a single street in Chirton Grange only accessible from Whitehouse Lane (in their proposed Collingwood ward). Residents would have to leave the ward to get to this street.

## BATTLE HILL

Our proposal offer no significant counter-proposals to those set out by the Council. We agree with the reunification of the Rising Sun Country Park into this ward.

## WALLSEND NORTH / WALLSEND CENTRAL

The proposed Wallsend North and Wallsend Central Wards almost exactly mirror the current Northumberland and Wallsend Wards. Our proposals differ at the boundary between the two wards which offers a more obvious boundary following clearer roads than the unusual shape around the park.

## HOWDON

The proposed Howdon Ward prioritises the use of the natural boundaries over electoral equality. Unfortunately this results in a ward that is 3.5% over the maximum variance of 10%. Our proposal has many of the same boundaries but has moved the northwest boundary to ensure the ward stays within the required 10%. The northern Coast Road, eastern A19 and souther River Tyne boundaries are difficult or impossible to move so options are limited for this ward.

## RIVERSIDE

The Council has chosen to retain a Riverside Ward in name despite there being no corresponding area and has retained much of the current ward. The western part is now in Howdon and the new ward takes in half of Chirton. Again the council have not prioritised electoral equality with a ward predicted to be above the 10% variance by 1.8%. Our proposal reflects the two major communities of Percy Main and Chirton. It keeps Chirton together and also places all of the Smith's Dock and Fish Quay area into North Shields.

## CHIRTON AND PRESTON

The Council has chosen to join Chirton with Preston which were traditionally in different wards and with two distinct identities. We are concerned firstly that the council has chosen to split Chirton between this ward and Riverside and artificially create a new community with no obvious links. Chirton and Percy Main share a similar heritage around the shipyards and have always been distinct from the fishing communities of North Shields. Similarly the Council's proposal purposely takes what is a strong Conservative area and combines it with a completely unrelated strong Labour area in the form of Chirton.

## **COLLINGWOOD**

The Council's proposed Collingwood Ward follows many of the same boundaries as the current Collingwood Ward. The major changes are to add a slice of Shiremoor into the ward and remove Preston Grange. We can see no reason to take this slice from Shiremoor which appears to have been sacrificed as a community by splitting it across three wards in order to make other areas fit. Our proposal renames the ward to represent the communities and takes out the Preston Grange estate. We have also taken out West Allotment Park from the Collingwood Ward and moved it to the Shiremoor Ward uniting it with the village of West Allotment. Our proposals keep Shiremoor unified.

Whilst both proposals remove Preston Grange ours puts it back with Preston Village rather than trying to absorb it into Marden.

## **NORTH SHIELDS**

Both proposals have identified the necessity to create a new North Shields ward but have taken slightly different approaches. The Council's proposal recommends that on the western side the new ward cuts back in to exclude Royal Quays and Smiths Dock.

Bizarrely it divided Smokehouse One from Smokehouse Two on the Quay with a divide through the car park of these matching residential developments. Residents around Smiths Docks and Royal Quays would always consider themselves part of North Shields. Our proposal also recognises the identity of Preston distinct from North Shields.

# SIGNATORIES

**THIS PROPOSAL HAS BEEN PREPARED BY: NORTH TYNESIDE  
CONSERVATIVE FEDERATION AND IS ENDORSED, APPROVED AND  
RECOMMENDED BY:**

## **NORTH TYNESIDE CONSERVATIVE COUNCIL GROUP**

Cllr. Linda Arkley OBE (former mayor of North Tyneside) -Cullercoats Councillor

Cllr. Ken Barrie - Cullercoats Councillor

Cllr. Lewis Bartoli - Tynemouth Councillor

Cllr. Liam Bones - Preston Councillor

Cllr Chris Johnston - Tynemouth Councillor

Cllr. Pamela McIntyre - St Marys Councillor

Cllr. Olly Scargill - Collingwood Councillor

Cllr. Judith Wallace - St Marys Councillor

Cllr. George Westwater - St Marys Councillor & Group Leader

## NORTH TYNESIDE CONSERVATIVE FEDERATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

George Partis - President

Sean Brockbank - Chairman (former Cllr. for Monkseaton south)

Cllr. Liam Bones - Deputy chair political

Cllr. Lewis Bartoli - Deputy chair membership

Cllr. Olly Scargill - North Tyneside constituency officer

Dr Neil Graham - Tynemouth constituency officer

Patricia Gargett - CWO officer

Cllr. George Westwater - Battle Hill ward representative

Dave Lilly - Camperdown ward representative (former Cllr. for Tynemouth)

Cllr. Linda Arkley OBE - Cullercoats ward Councillor and representative

Michael McIntyre - Monkseaton North ward representative

Stewart Hay - Monkseaton south ward representative

Dr Neil Graham - Preston ward representative

Cllr. Pamela McIntyre - St Marys Councillor & representative

Cllr. Judith Wallace - St Marys Councillor & representative

Jay Bartoli - Tynemouth ward representative

Ian McAlpine - Tynemouth ward representative

Paul Cope- Valley ward representative

Stephen Robinson - Wallsend ward representative

Cllr. Chris Johnston - Co-opted Exec member & Tynemouth Councillor

Brian Steward - Co-opted Exec member & former Tynemouth Councillor



# NOTES

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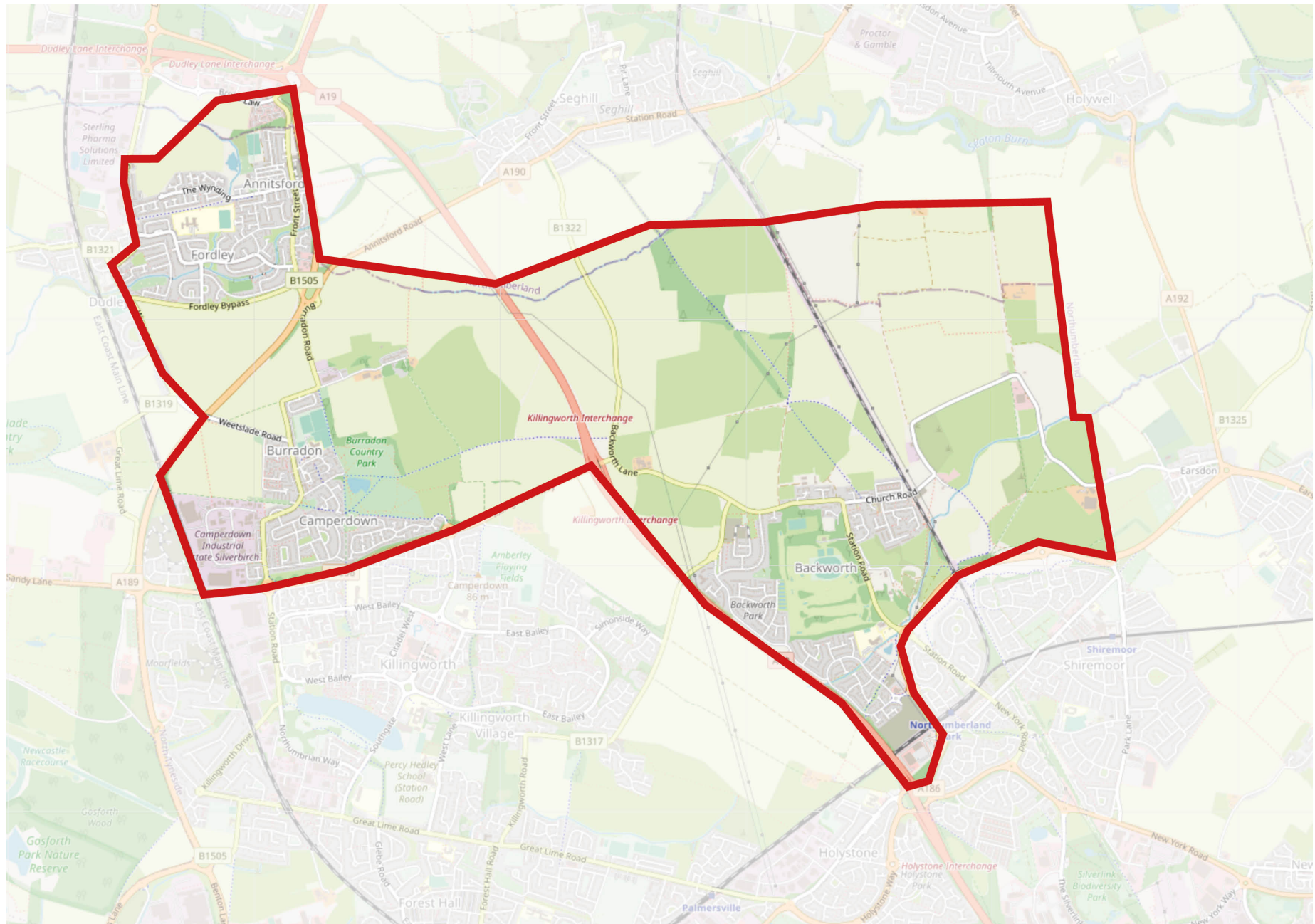




## 2022 BOUNDARY PROPOSALS

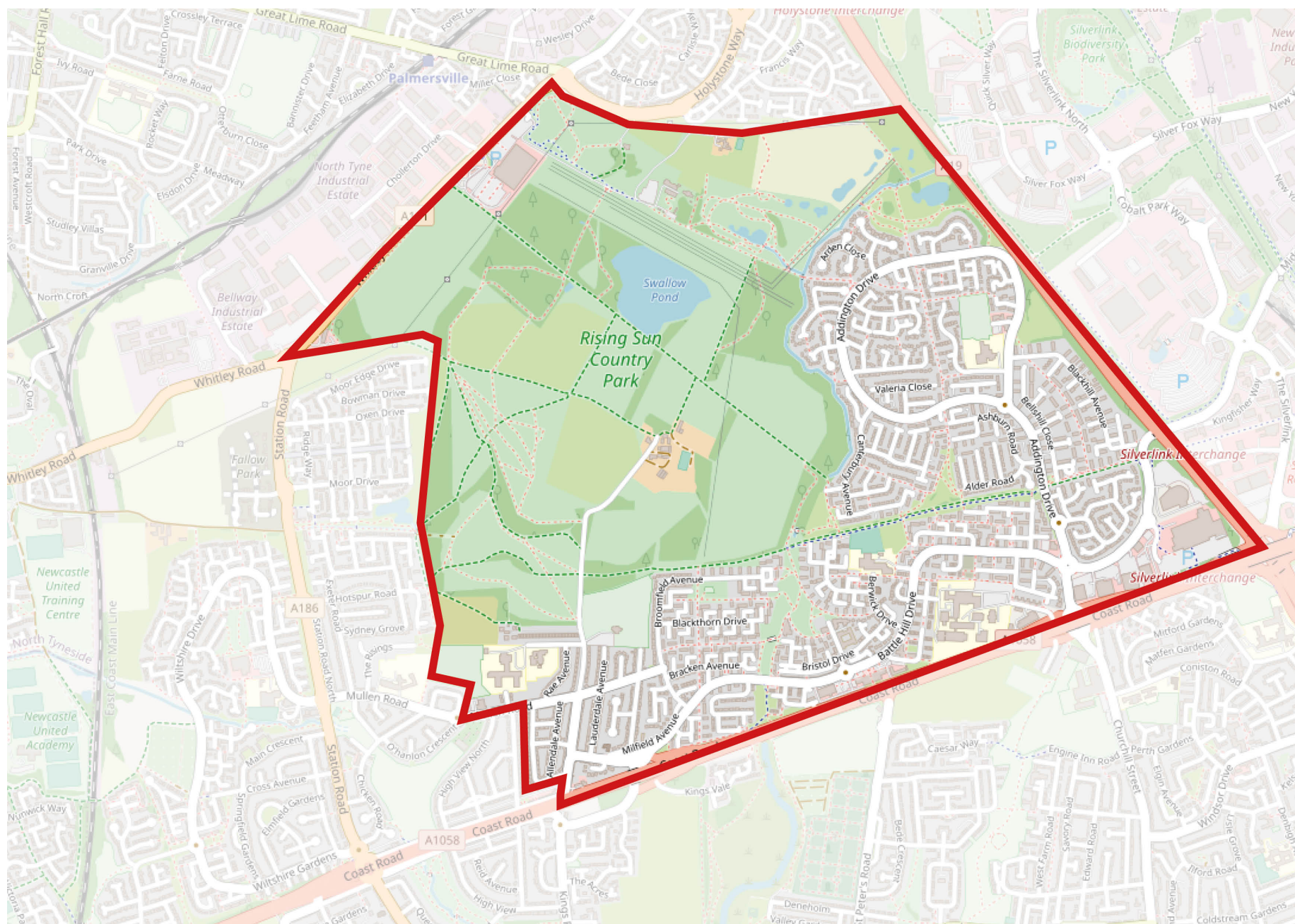


## PROPOSED ANNITSFORD, BURRADON AND BACKWORTH WARD



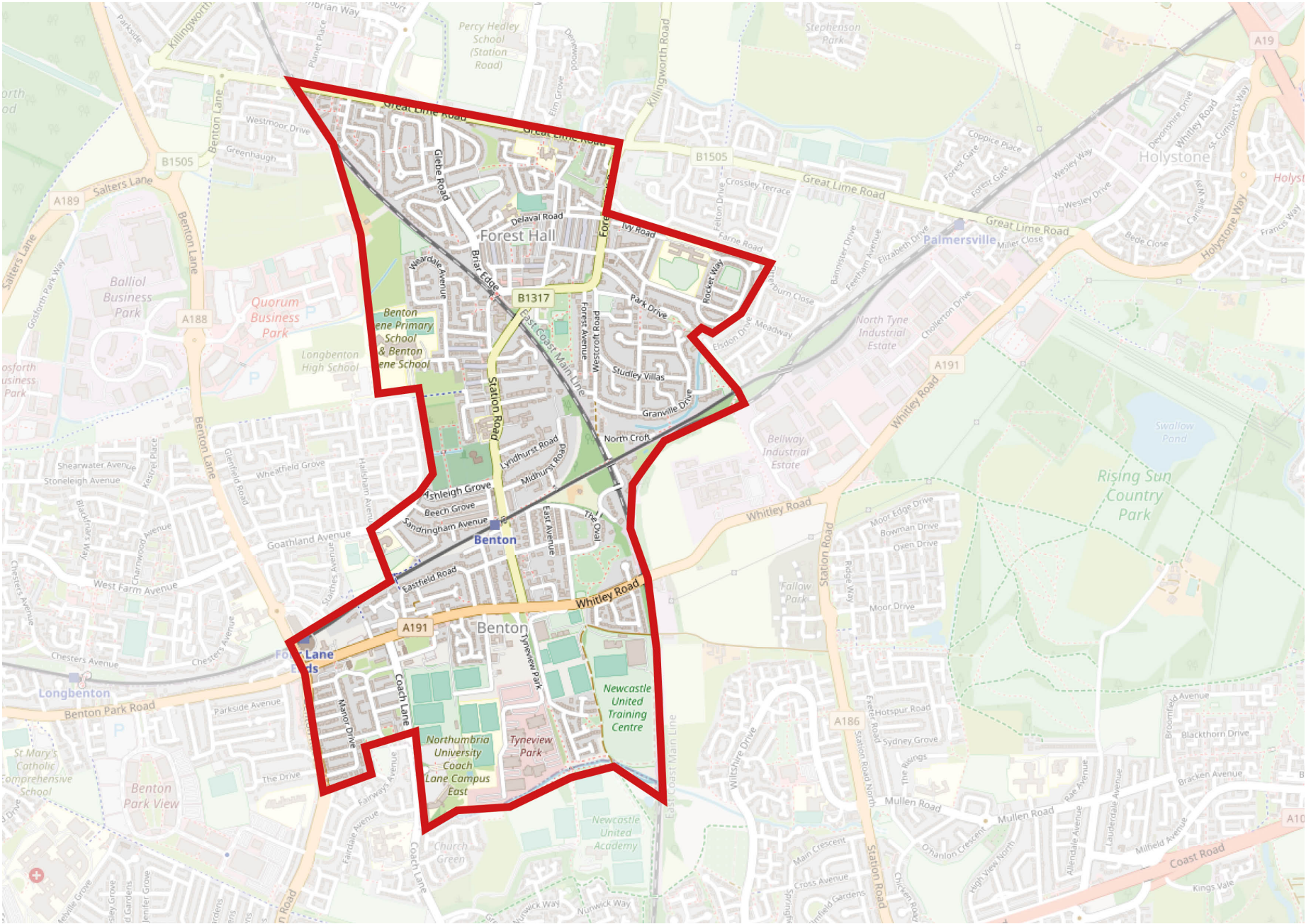


## PROPOSED BATTLE HILL WARD



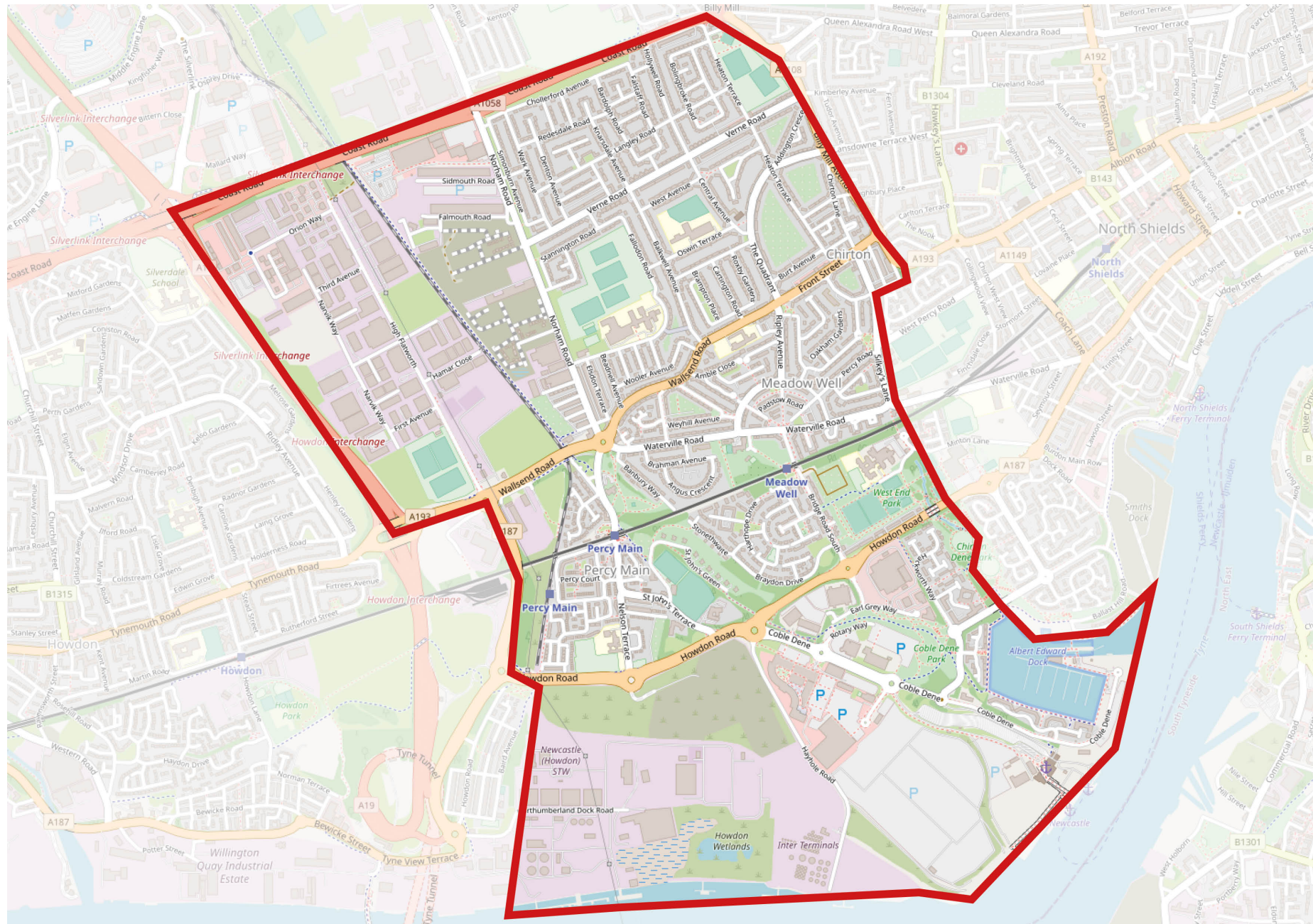


PROPOSED BENTON WARD



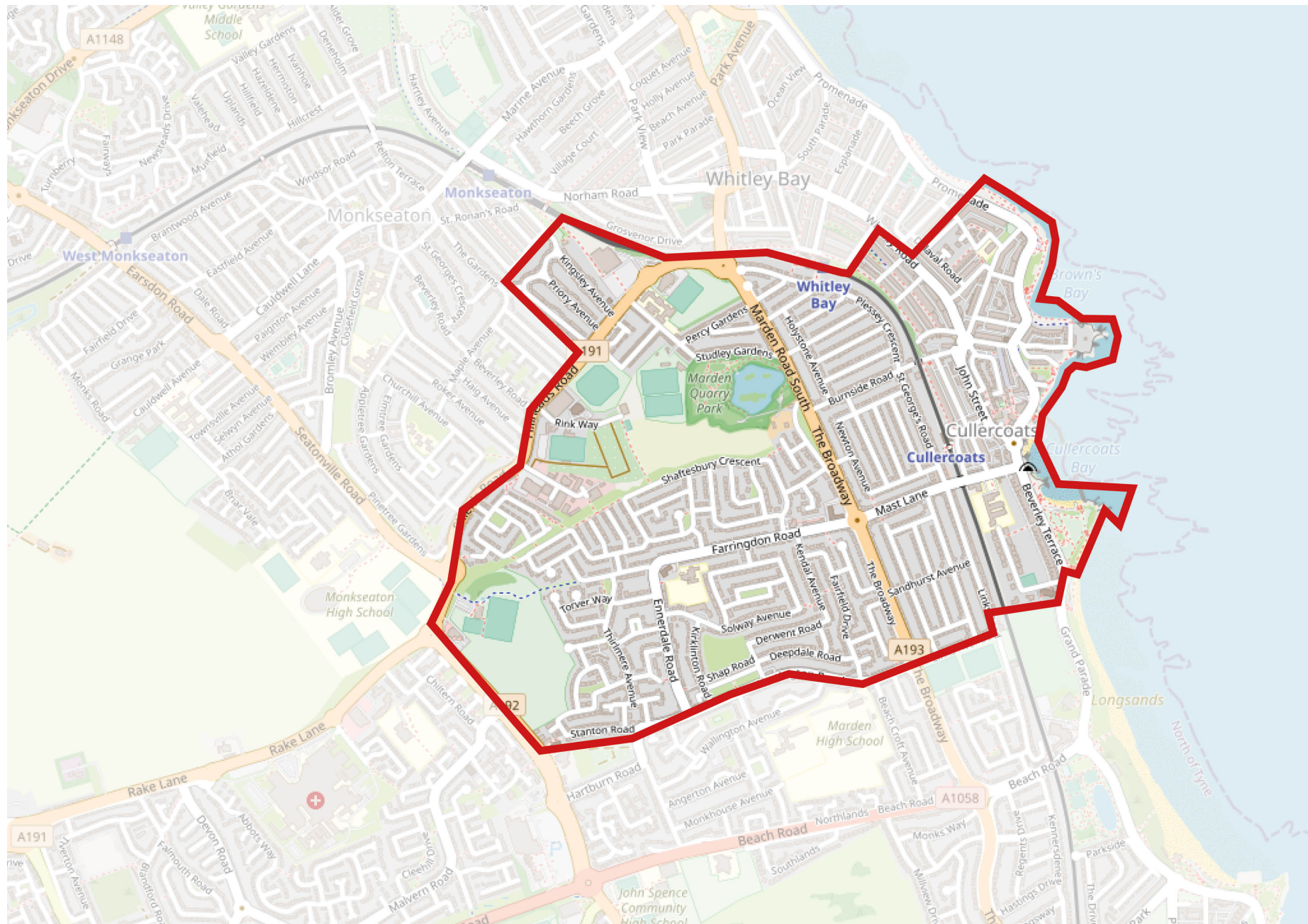


# PROPOSED CHIRTON AND PERCY MAIN WARD



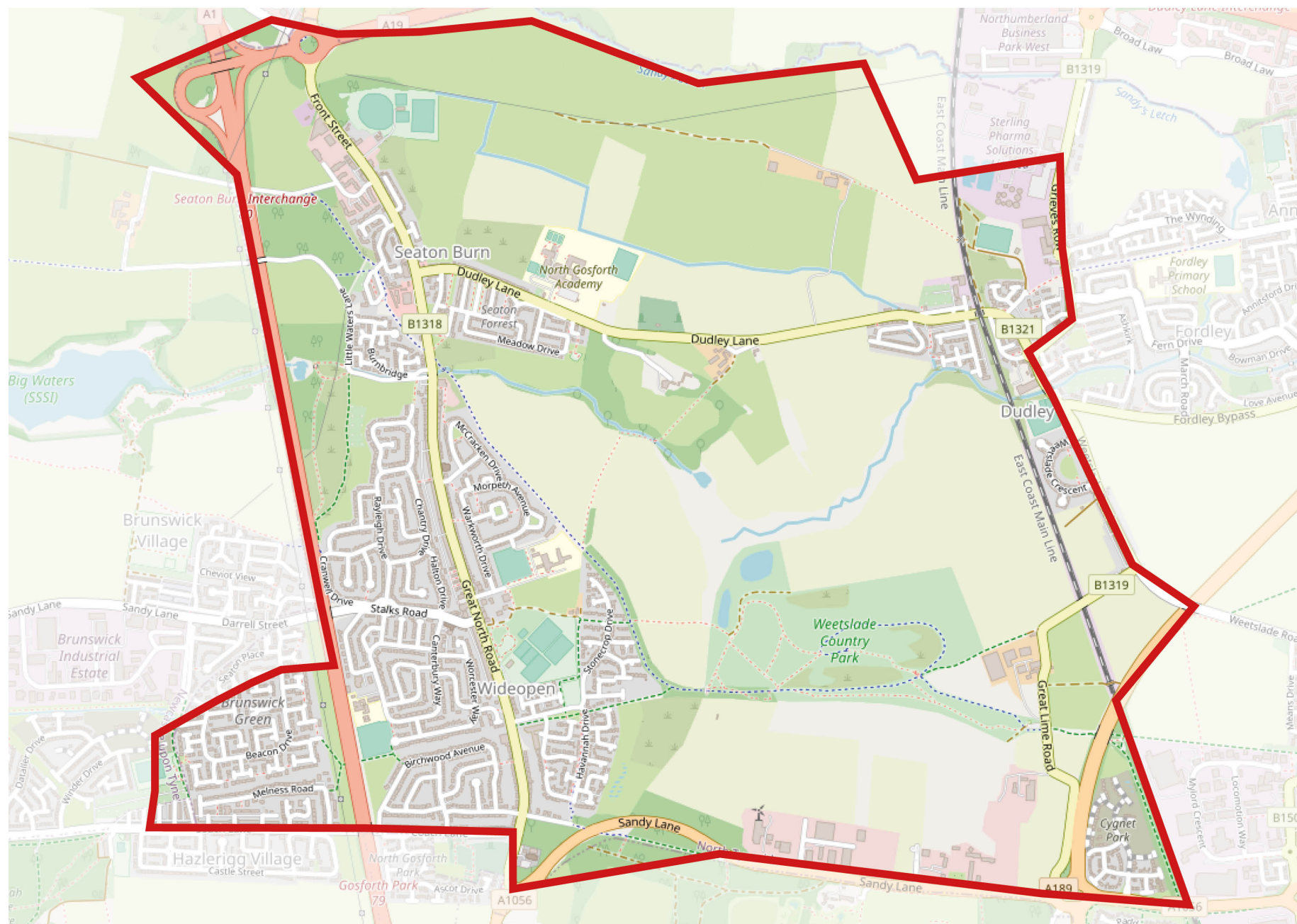


## PROPOSED CULLERCOATS AND WHITLEY BAY SOUTH WARD



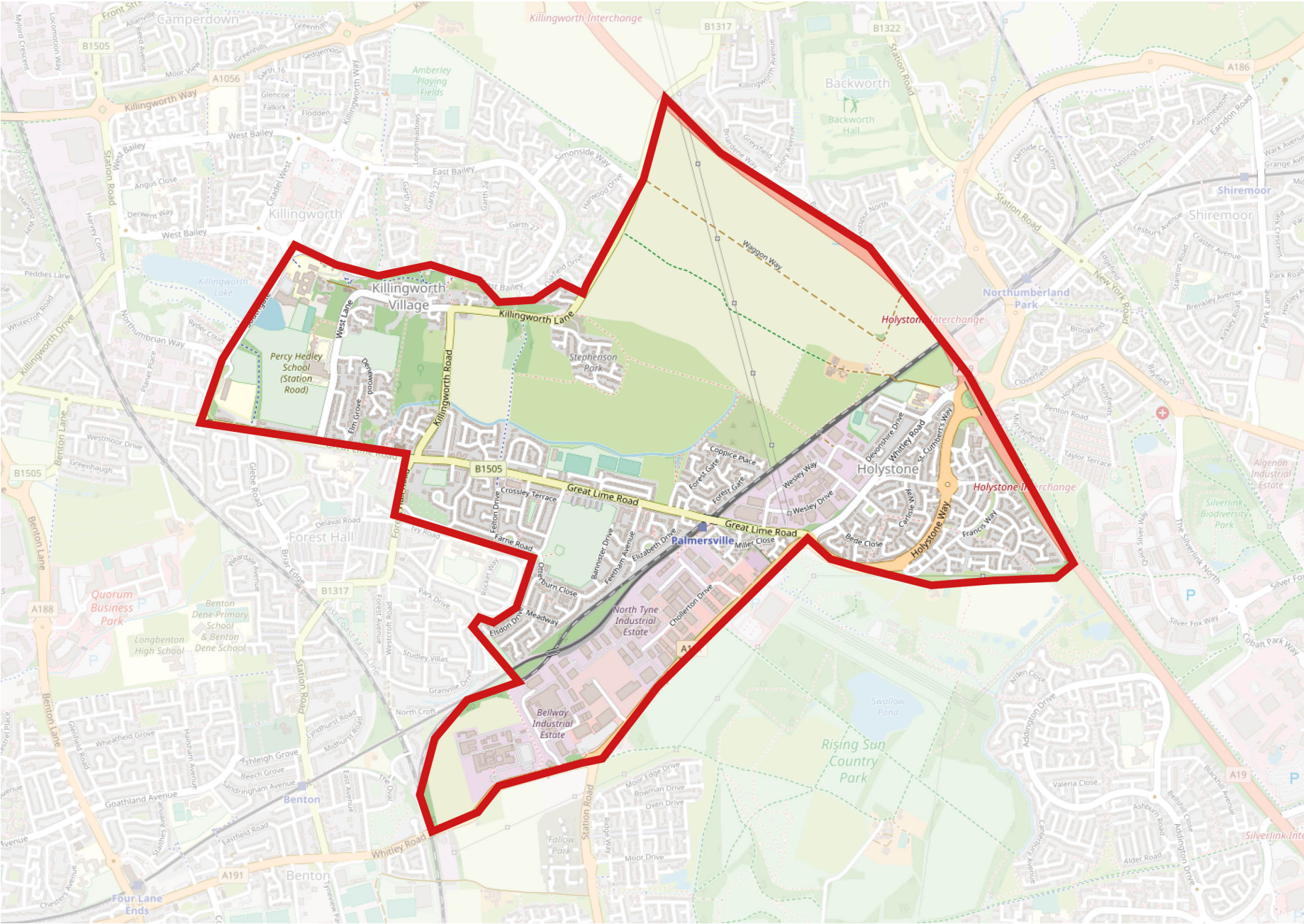


## PROPOSED DUDLEY, SEATON BURN AND WIDEOPEN WARD



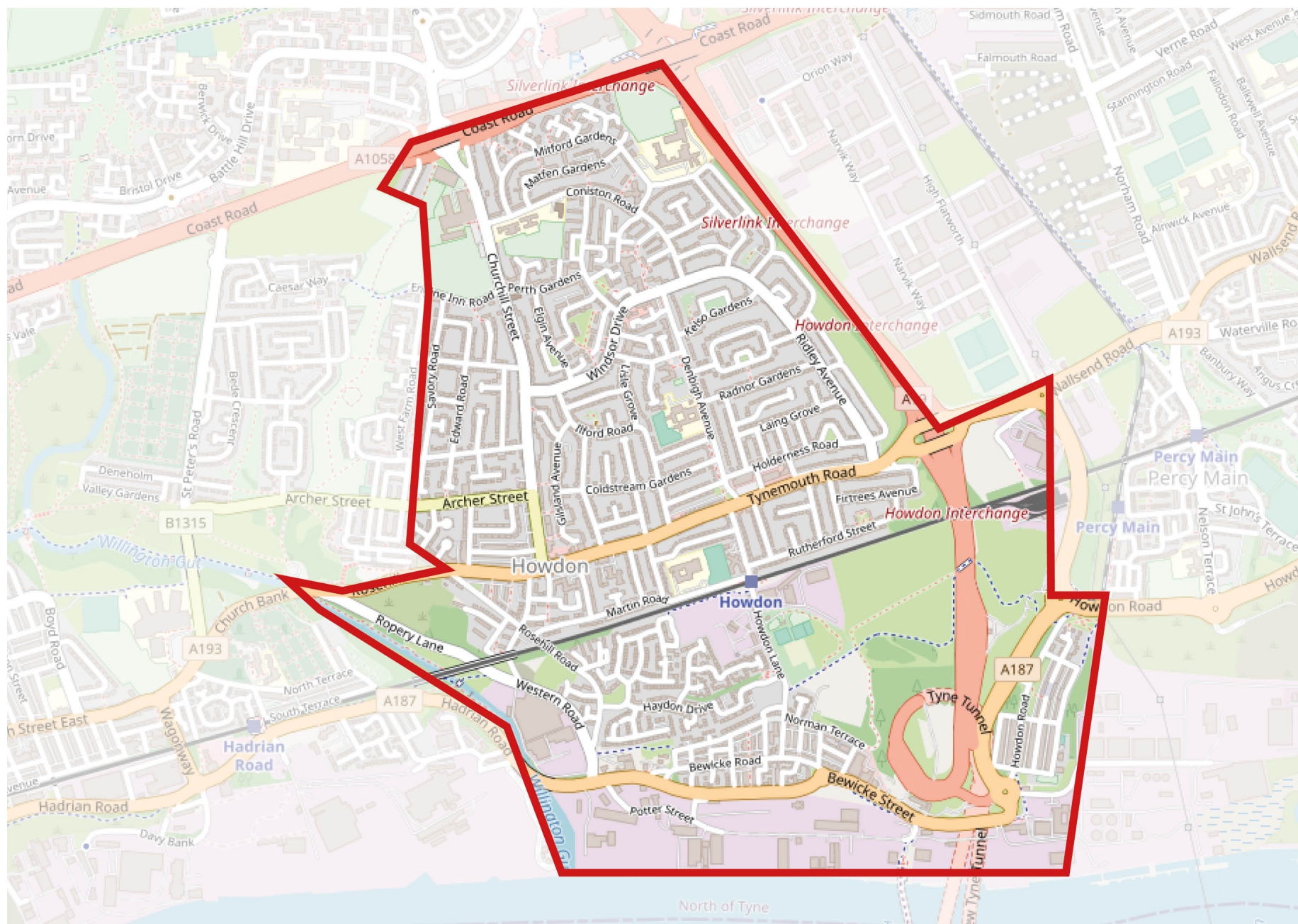


PROPOSED HOLYSTONE WARD



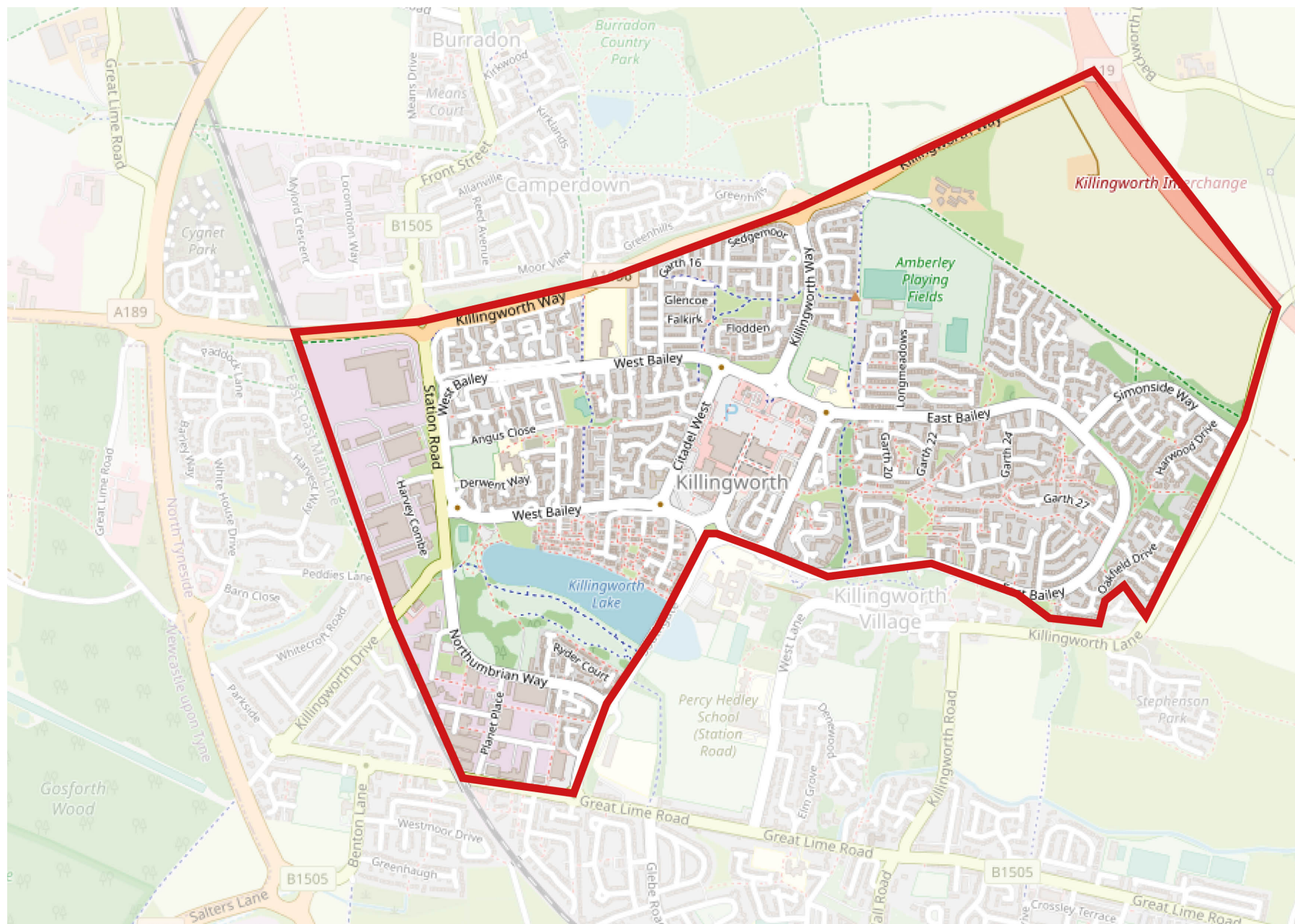


## PROPOSED HOWDON WARD



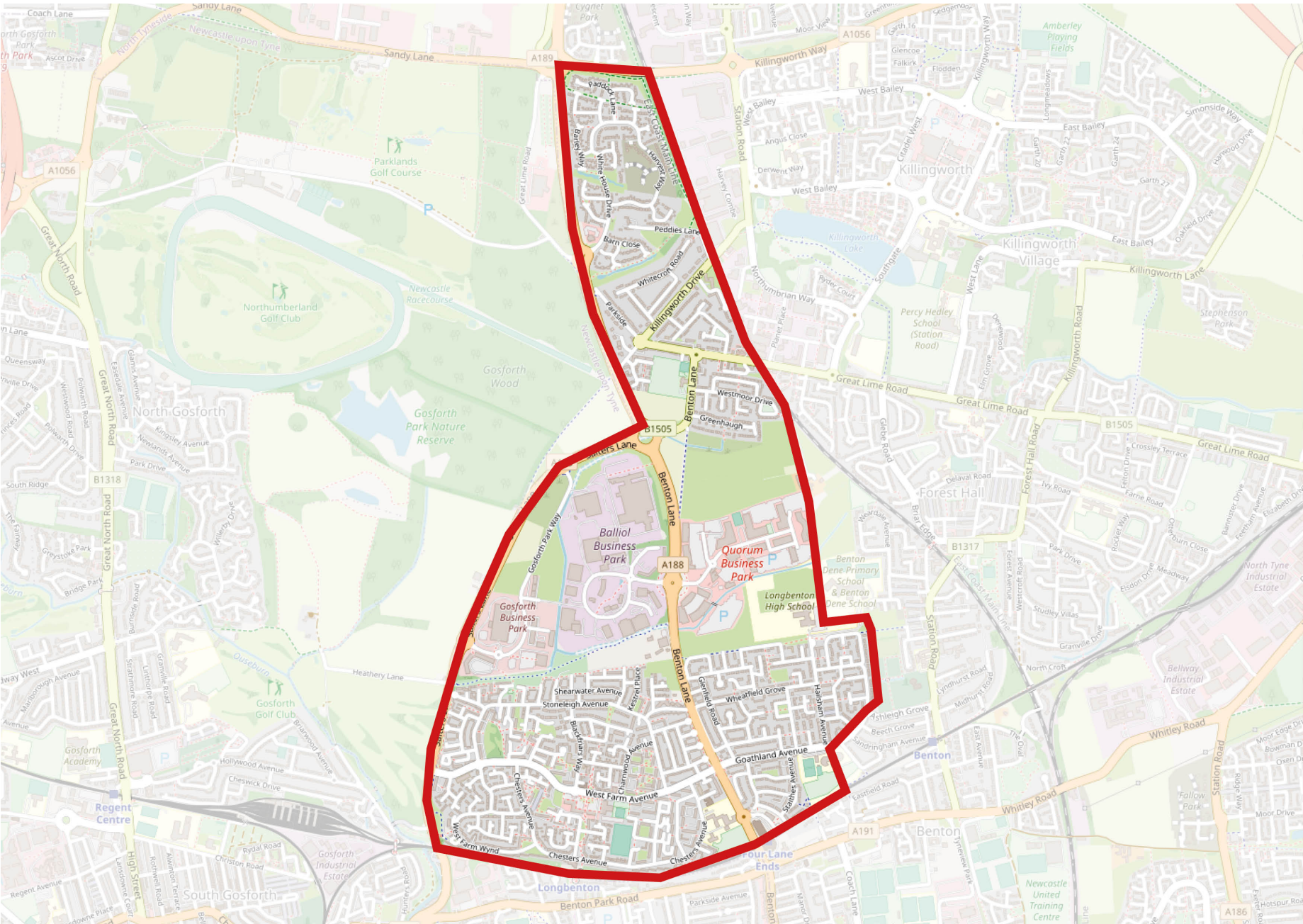


## PROPOSED KILLINGWORTH WARD



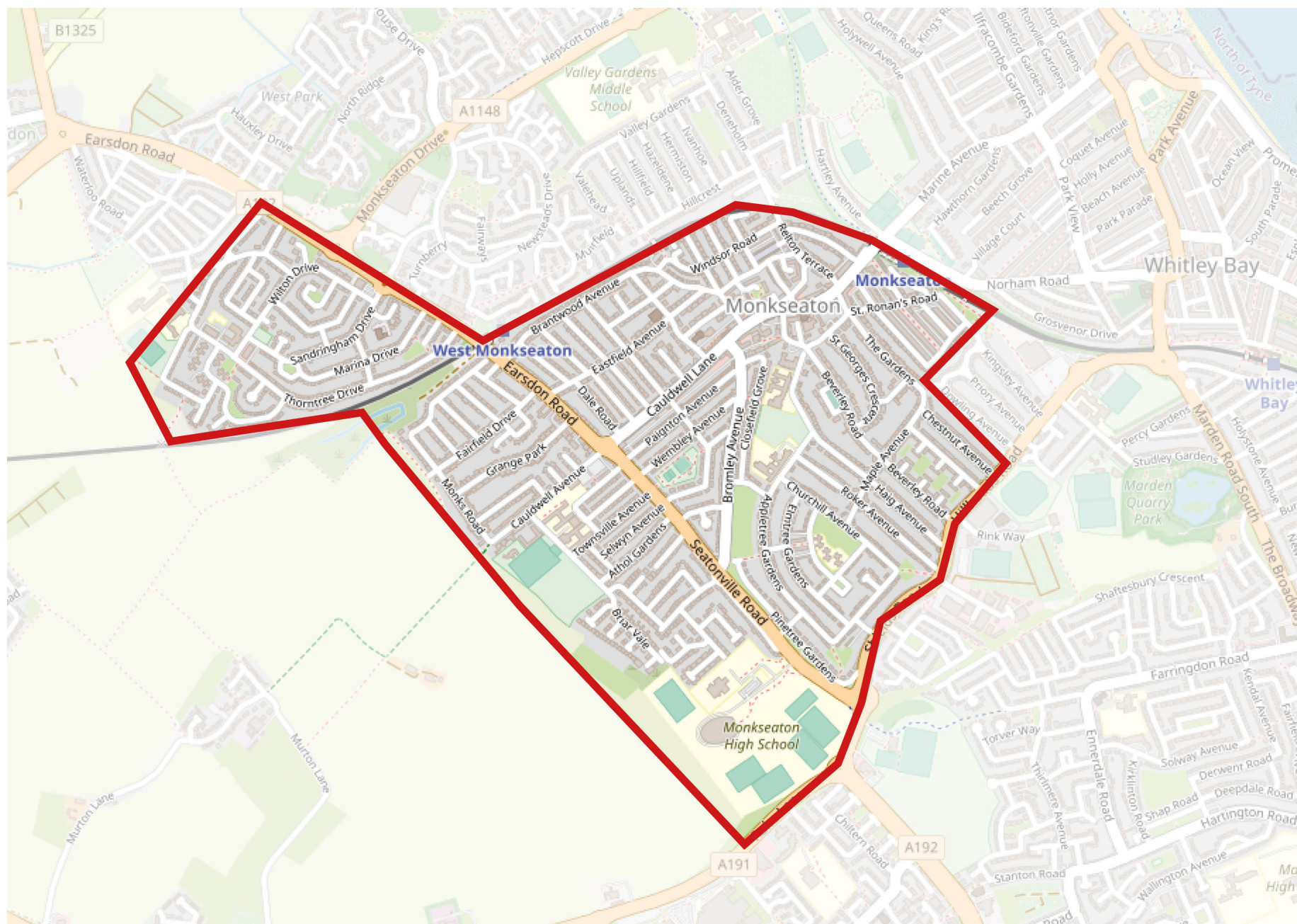


PROPOSED LONGBENTON WARD



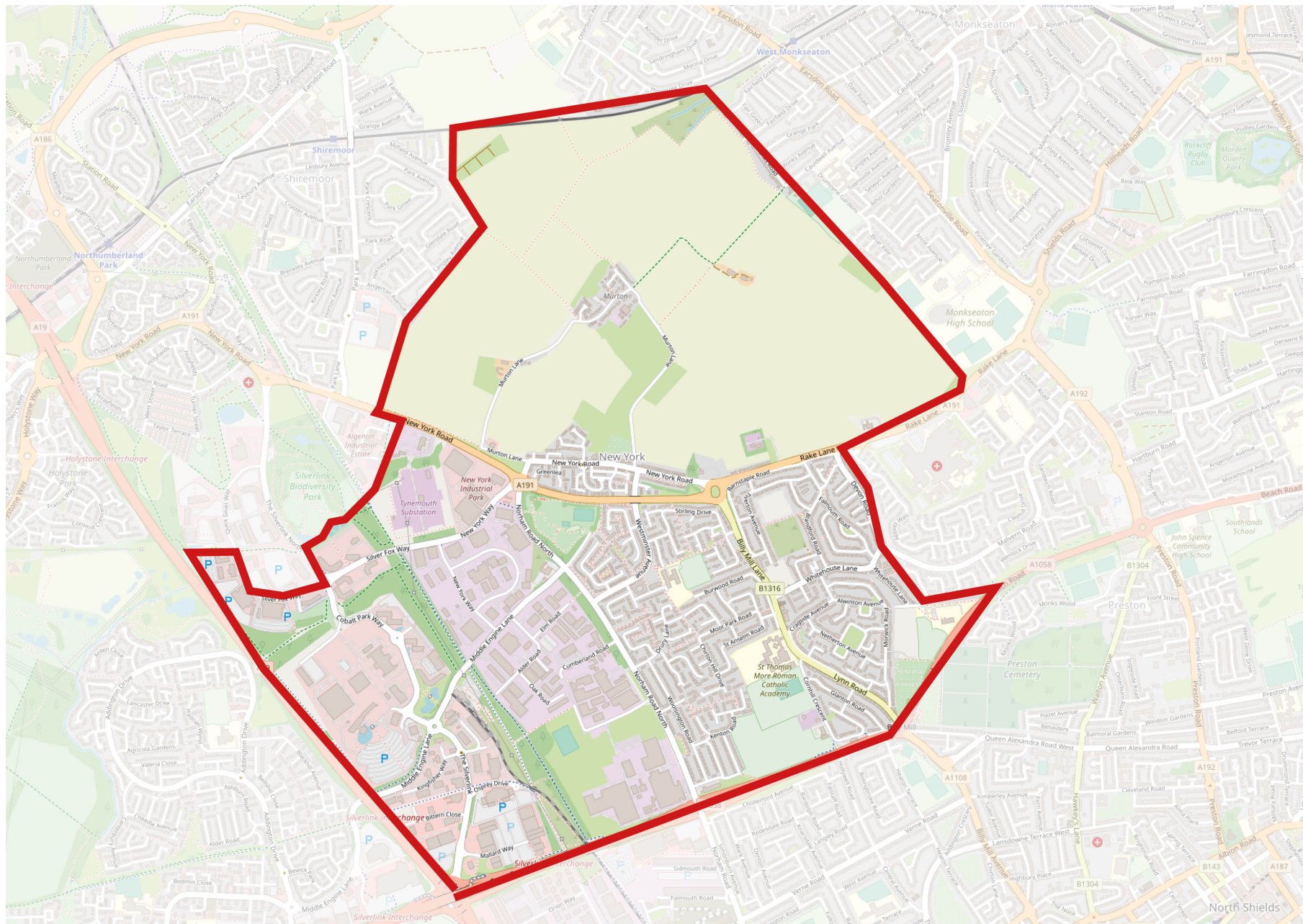


## PROPOSED MONKSEATON WARD



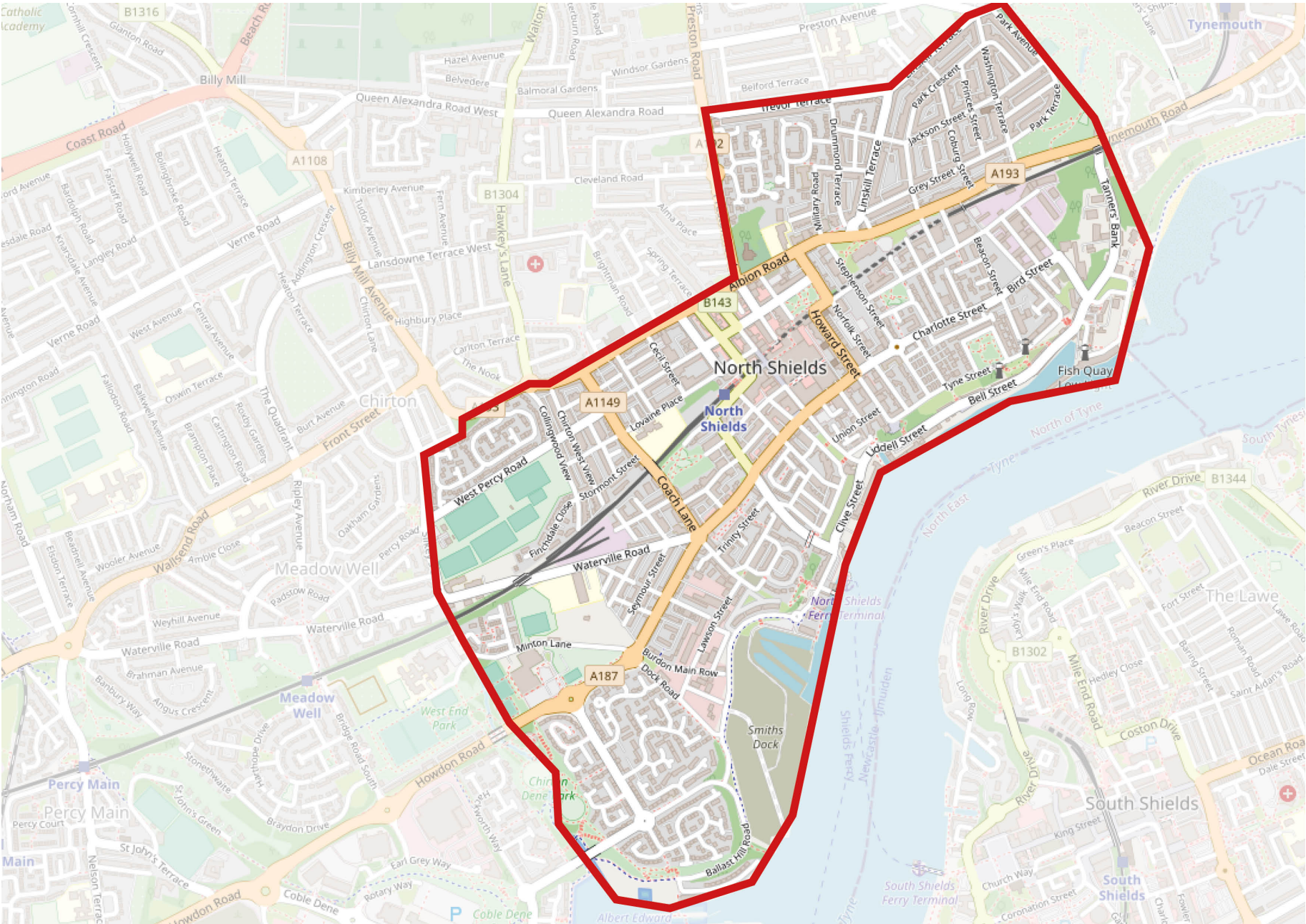


## PROPOSED NEW YORK AND MURTON WARD



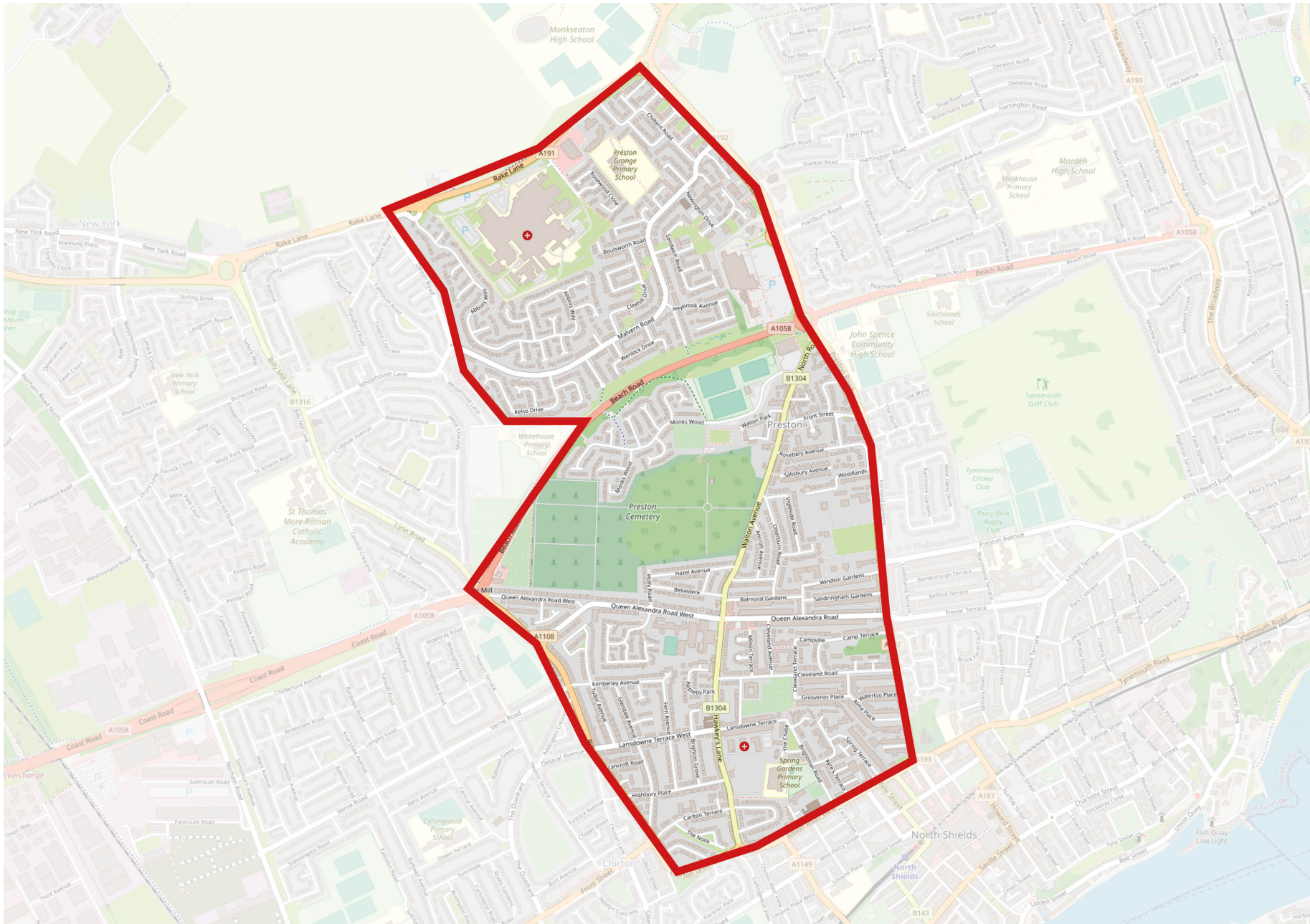


PROPOSED NORTH SHIELDS WARD



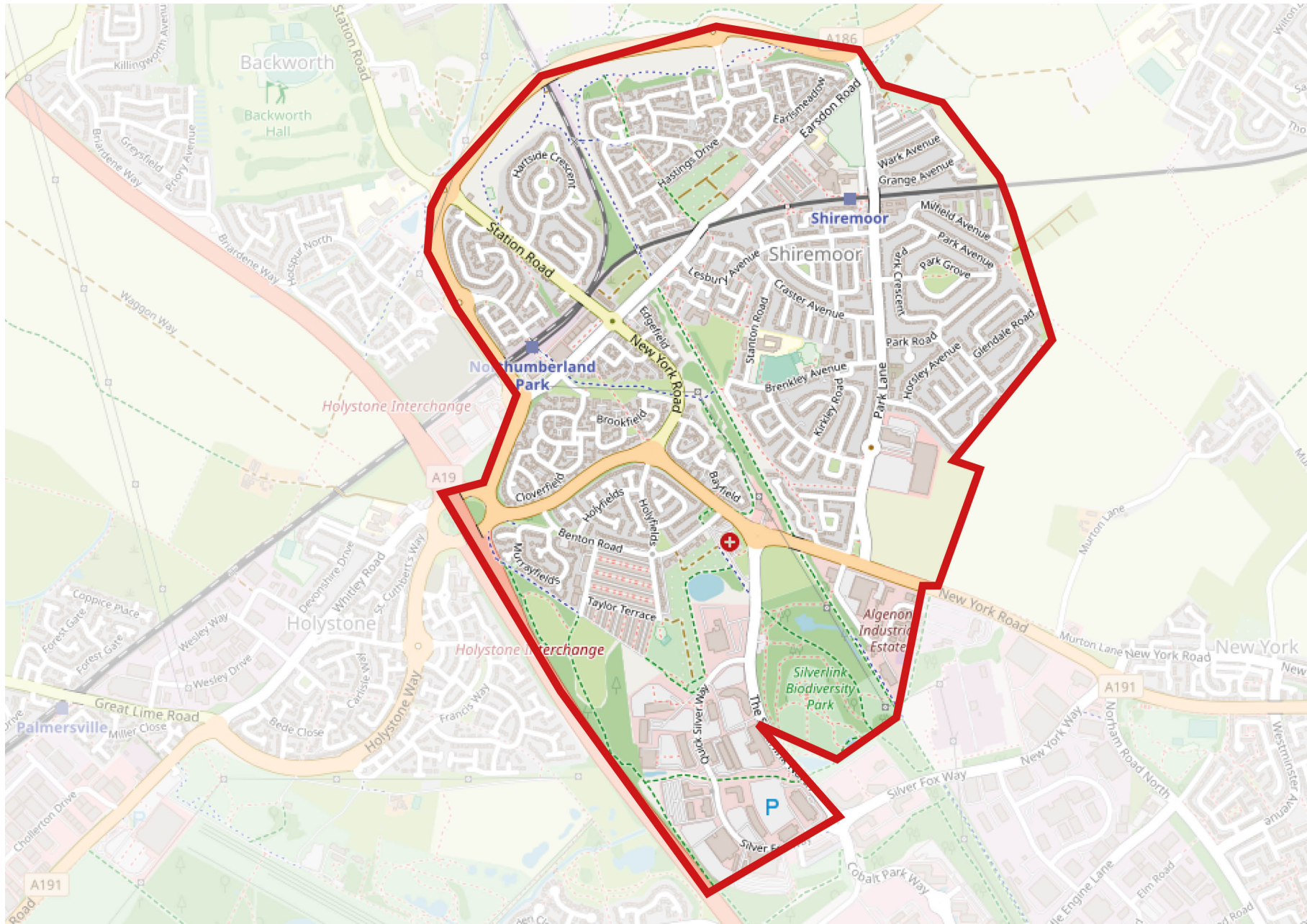


## PROPOSED PRESTON WITH PRESTON GRANGE WARD



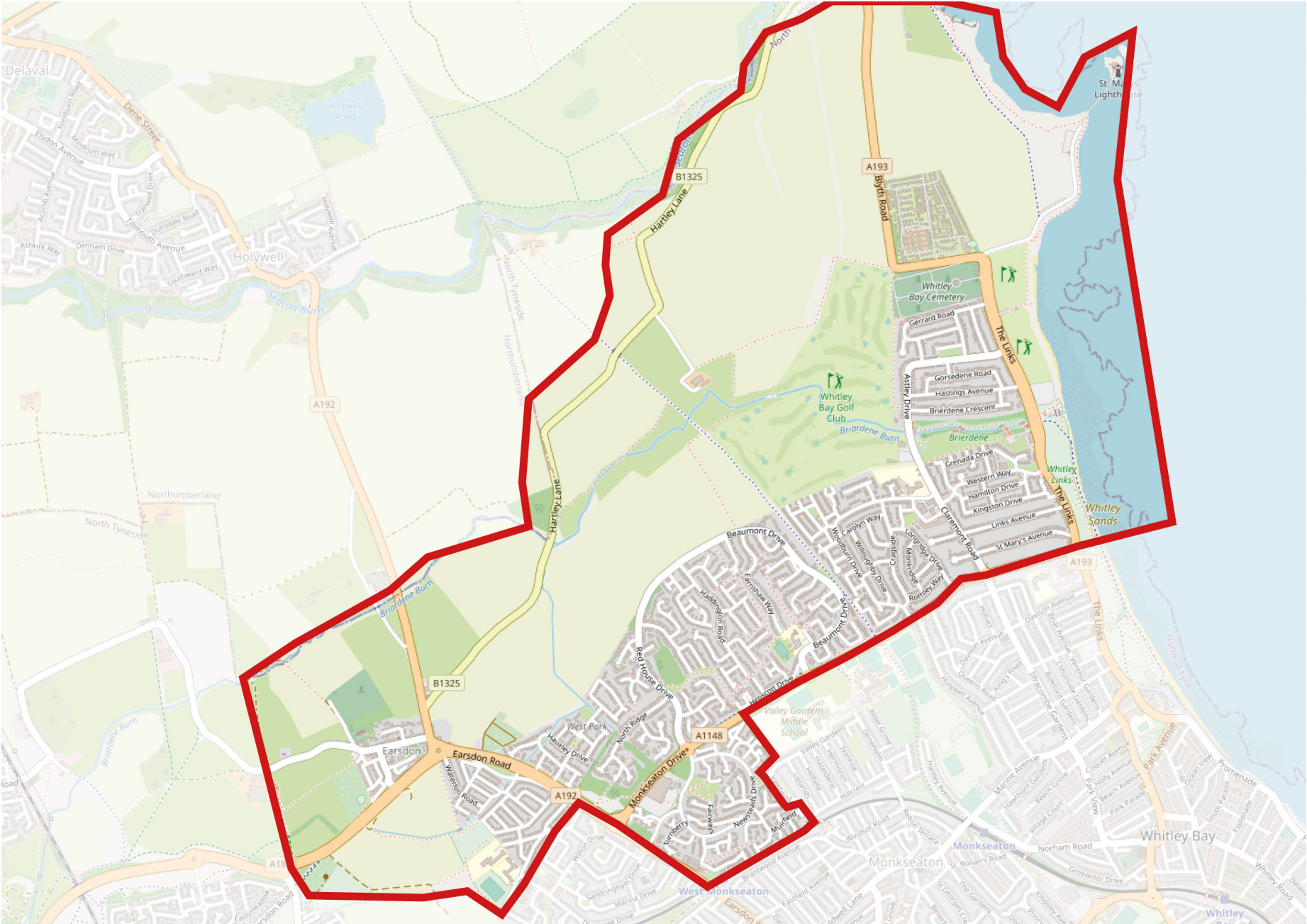


## PROPOSED SHIREMOOR WARD





PROPOSED ST MARY'S WARD



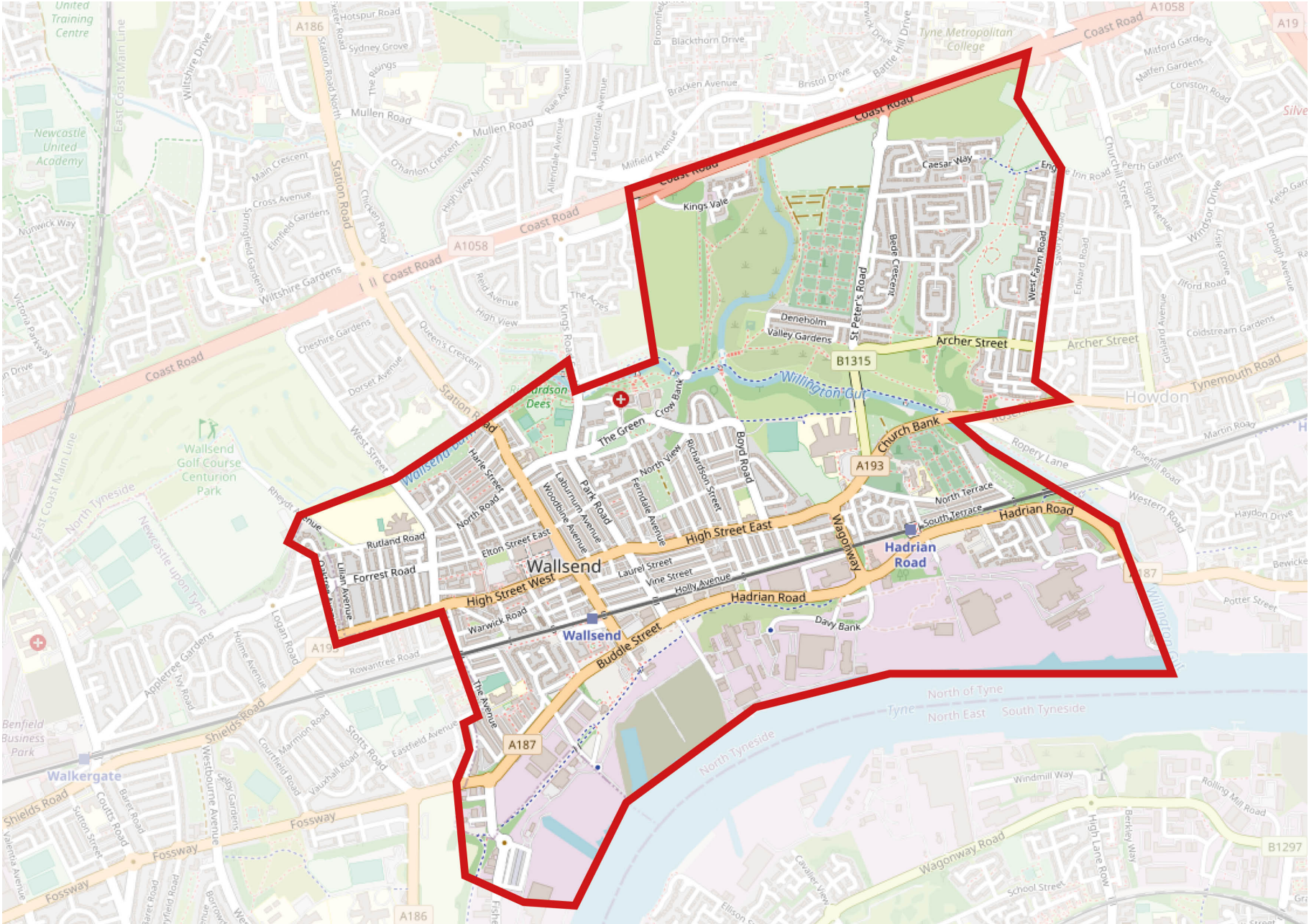


# PROPOSED TYNEMOUTH WARD



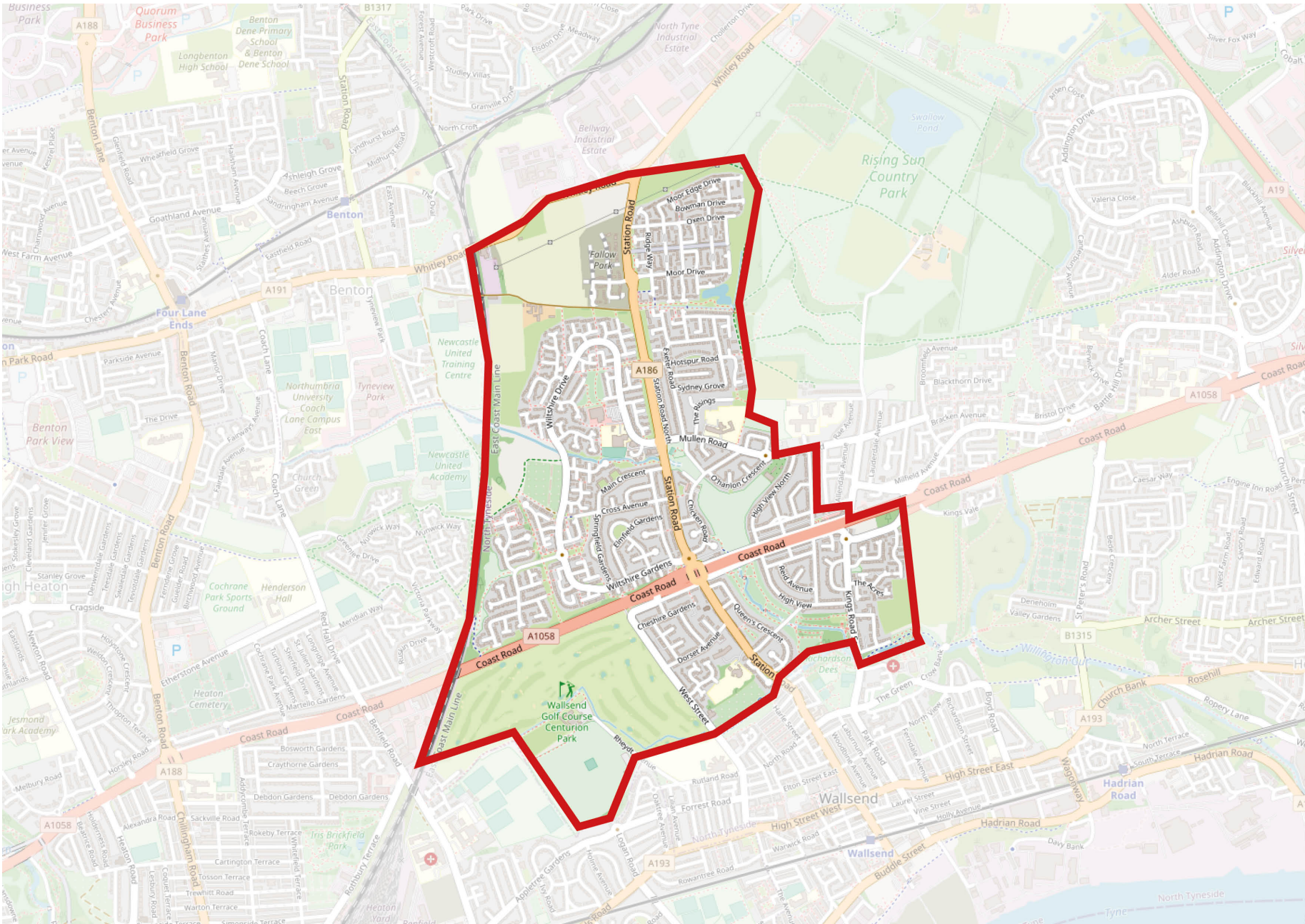


PROPOSED WALLSEND CENTRAL WARD





PROPOSED WALLSEND NORTH WARD





## PROPOSED WHITLEY BAY NORTH WARD

