

SHINFIELD NORTH WARD

If there are 18 wards in Wokingham Borough, each represented by three councillors, Shinfield North ward will have to be combined either with wards in Earley or with Shinfield village. I wish to make the case why part of Shinfield North, that which lies to the east of the Shinfield Road, should be combined with part of Earley to form a ward. The part that lies to the west of Shinfield Road could, in my opinion, be combined **either** with Earley or Shinfield, depending on the numbers.

Introduction

Shinfield North ward is separated from the rest of Shinfield Parish by the M4 and is really an amalgamation of four areas (**Map 1**): Whitley Wood, Shinfield Rise, Lower Earley and some new development in Cirrus Drive and Ducketts Mead at the southern end of Shinfield Road. The majority of Whitley Wood lies in Reading Borough but just a few roads, rather anomalously, are in Wokingham Borough. The Lower Earley part, off Ryhill way, has no direct road allowing vehicular access to the Shinfield Road, only footpaths between the two. It was built as part of the Lower Earley development and only the vagaries of Parish boundaries separates it from the rest of Lower Earley. The Shinfield Rise estate lies directly behind a row of shops on Shinfield Road and is adjacent to Whiteknights Primary School in Earley.

School catchment areas

The Shinfield Road (A327), which runs through the middle of the ward, is the principal dividing line for school catchment areas. All of the area to the east of the road comes within the catchment areas of schools in Earley - Maiden Erlegh secondary school, and Whiteknights and Hillside primary schools. The area to the west of Shinfield Road falls outside the catchment areas of Earley schools. Instead, it is covered by Bohunt secondary school in Arborfield and Shinfield Infant and Shinfield St Mary's Junior primary schools (**Maps 2 & 3**). A very small part to the south of the area, around Old Whitley Wood Lane and Drewett Close, also comes within the catchment area for Oakbank secondary school in Ryeish Green.

Shops

There are no shops in Shinfield North, but there is a row of shops on Shinfield Road between the junction with Whitley Wood Road and the junction with Elm Road. This area is in Reading Borough and contains four convenience stores (Tesco Express, Sainsbury Local, Londis and Shinfield Local), Take-Away venues, Fast-food restaurants, Specsavers and some other shops. Significantly, however, there is no large supermarket either here or in the village of Shinfield itself, which lies to the south of the M4. The nearest large supermarket is the Asda store in Chalfont Way, Lower Earley. On the opposite side of Chalfont Way there is also an Iceland supermarket and a M&S Simply Food store. For shopping, residents of Shinfield North will predominantly use the above stores. In other words, they use shops in either Reading Borough or in Lower Earley.

Footpaths and roads

There are several footpaths that connect the Shinfield Rise estate to Earley, one that runs from Fairlawn Green past Whiteknights School into Elm Road, another that connects to both Cinnamon Close and Rushey Way and then on to Chalfont Park, and another that comes from Halls Lane via Valentine's Close into Rushey Way.

There are a further three footpaths that connect the Shinfield Road to Earley: one into Wilsford Close, another into Ryhill Way, and a third from Pearman's Glade into Melksham Close.

These paths clearly make for easy access between Shinfield North and Earley, thus facilitating a whole range of activities, whether that's going to the schools in Earley, recreation in Chalfont Park, using the swimming pool and leisure centre at Loddon Valley, shopping at Asda or visiting the Chalfont Surgery for a doctor's appointment.

There are two roads connecting Shinfield North to Earley; the B3270 Lower Earley Way and the B3350 Elm Road. Both roads provide quick and easy access to the Shopping and Leisure Centre in Earley, which is approximately 1.5 miles from the Shinfield Road.

Division of Shinfield North into two polling districts

The most sensible and easily understood way to divide Shinfield North is to use the Shinfield Road as the boundary between the two polling districts.

The eastern half should, for reasons of schooling, leisure and community interest, be combined with part of Earley to form a new ward.

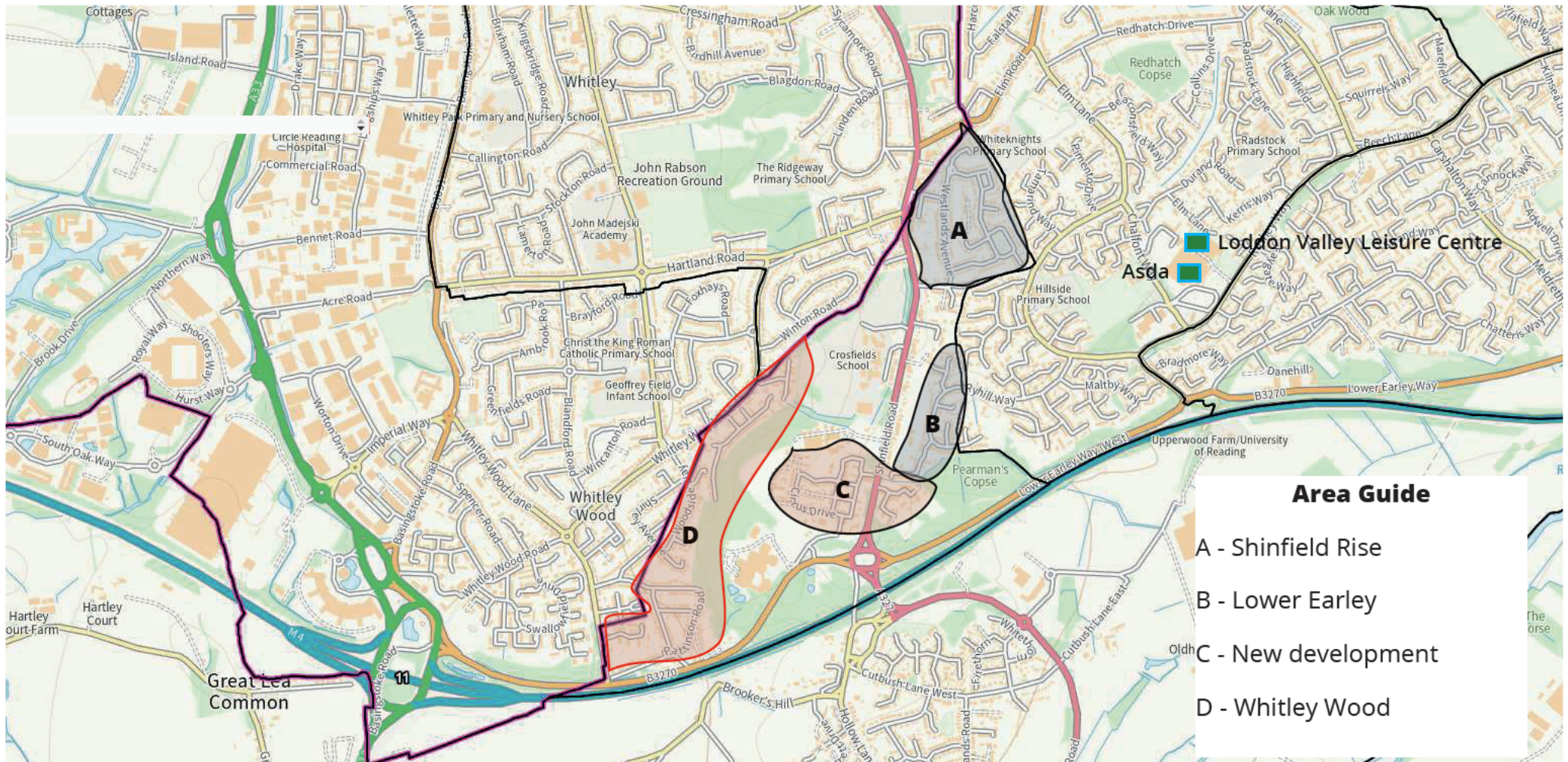
For the western half, the picture is more mixed. For schools, there is a clear link with Shinfield, but for shopping and leisure there is a clear link with Earley. In other words, this part could be combined with **either** Earley **or** Shinfield to form a new ward.

PAGE 3 - Map 1

PAGE 4 - Map 2

PAGE 5 - Map 3

SHINFIELD NORTH WARD



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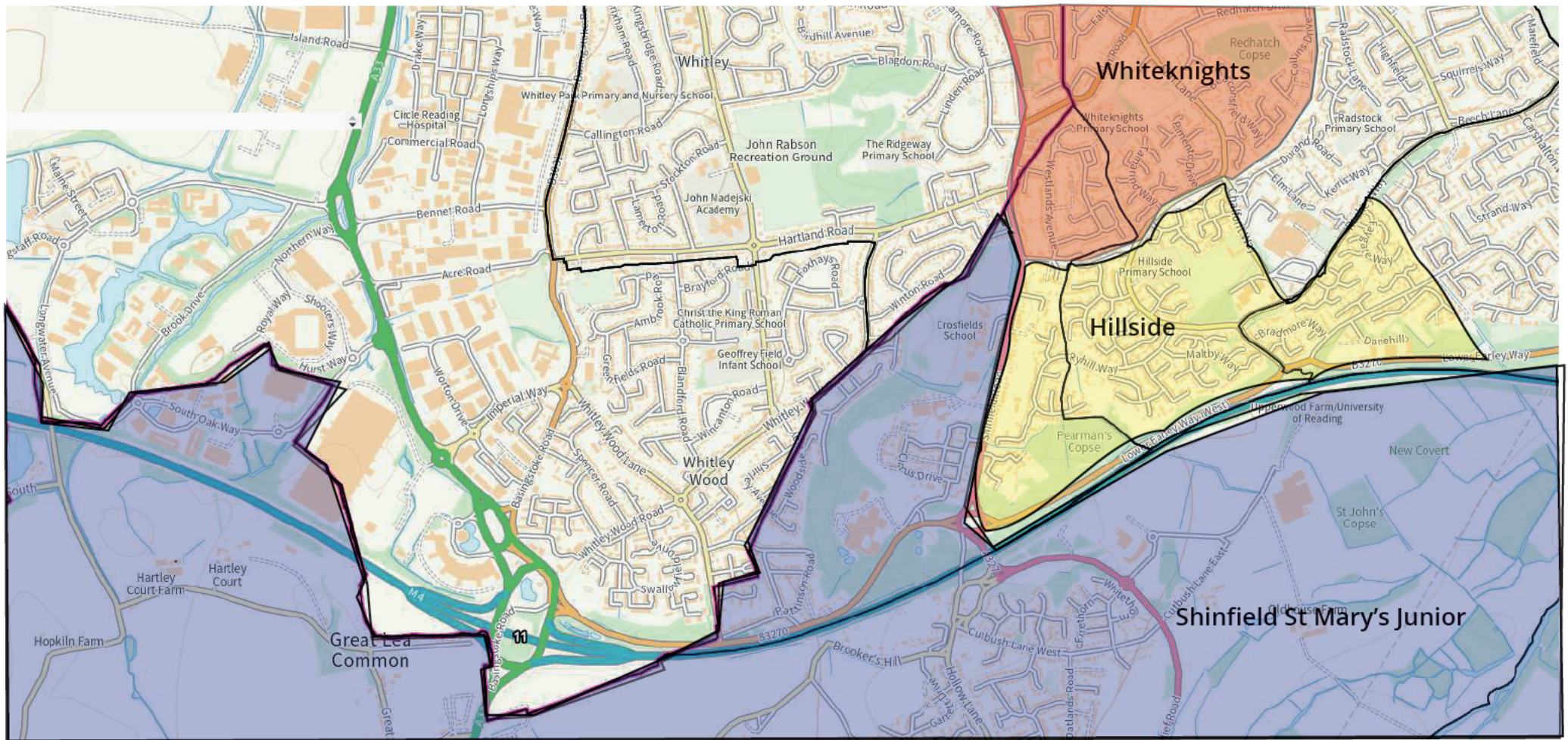
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SHINFIELD NORTH WARD

Primary School catchment areas



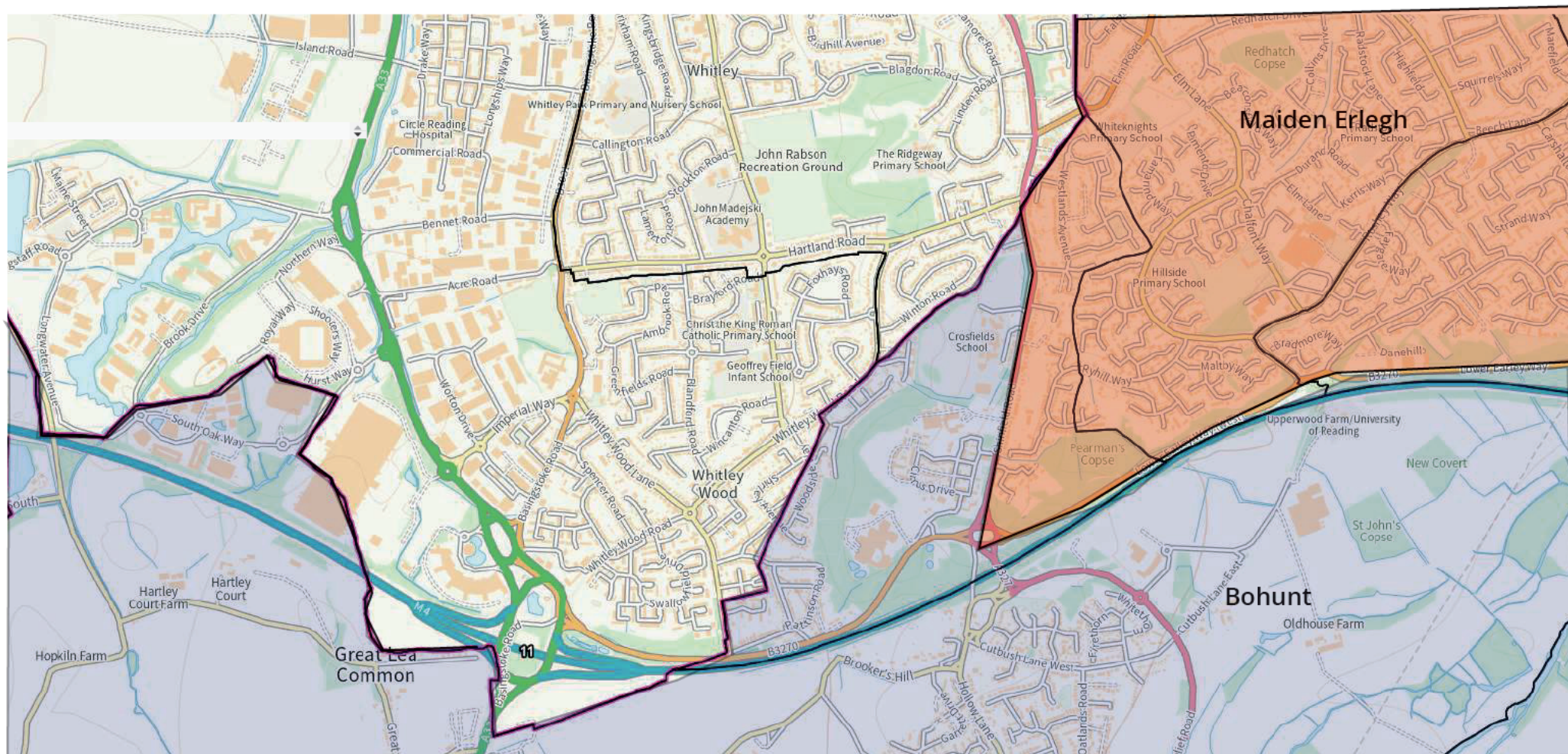
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Secondary School catchment areas



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REDHATCH WARD

I would ask the Commission to urgently review the electorate figures for the Redhatch ward of the Parish of Earley (polling district EFW). This ward covers over half of Reading University campus and includes four halls of residence: Bridges Hall, Wessex Hall, Childs Hall and Stenton Hall. Bridges and Wessex are both wholly within Wokingham Borough, and Childs and Stenton are largely within it. The borough boundary cuts through Childs and Stenton halls, but it is clear from the Ordnance Survey election map that most students in these halls will live within Wokingham borough and thus be in Redhatch ward.

Reading University student accommodation guide for 2022-23* shows the number of places available at each hall to be:

Bridges Hall - 645

Wessex Hall - 202

Childs Hall - 584

Stenton Hall - 702

According to Wokingham Borough Council's street index property count in September 2018*, there were 386 residential properties in Redhatch ward. The street index shows an additional 118 properties on Shinfield Road and a further 76 properties on Whiteknights Road, but these buildings are all on the university campus and I have not included them in my count of residential properties.

Redhatch ward thus includes four large halls of residence and 386 residential properties. There are spaces for 2,133 students in the four halls and the vast majority of these live in Redhatch ward. It is simply unbelievable to suggest, as Wokingham Borough Council does, that the electorate for this ward in 2021 is 917. Incredibly, this number is forecast to decline to 664 in 2028. This projected decline of 27% in seven years is utterly ludicrous. No other ward or polling district in the borough shows a decline of anything like this amount. These figures have to be wrong, and it is vital that the Commission finds out the true figures before it commences its work.

PAGE 2 - OS ELECTION MAP FOR MAIDEN ERLEGH WARD

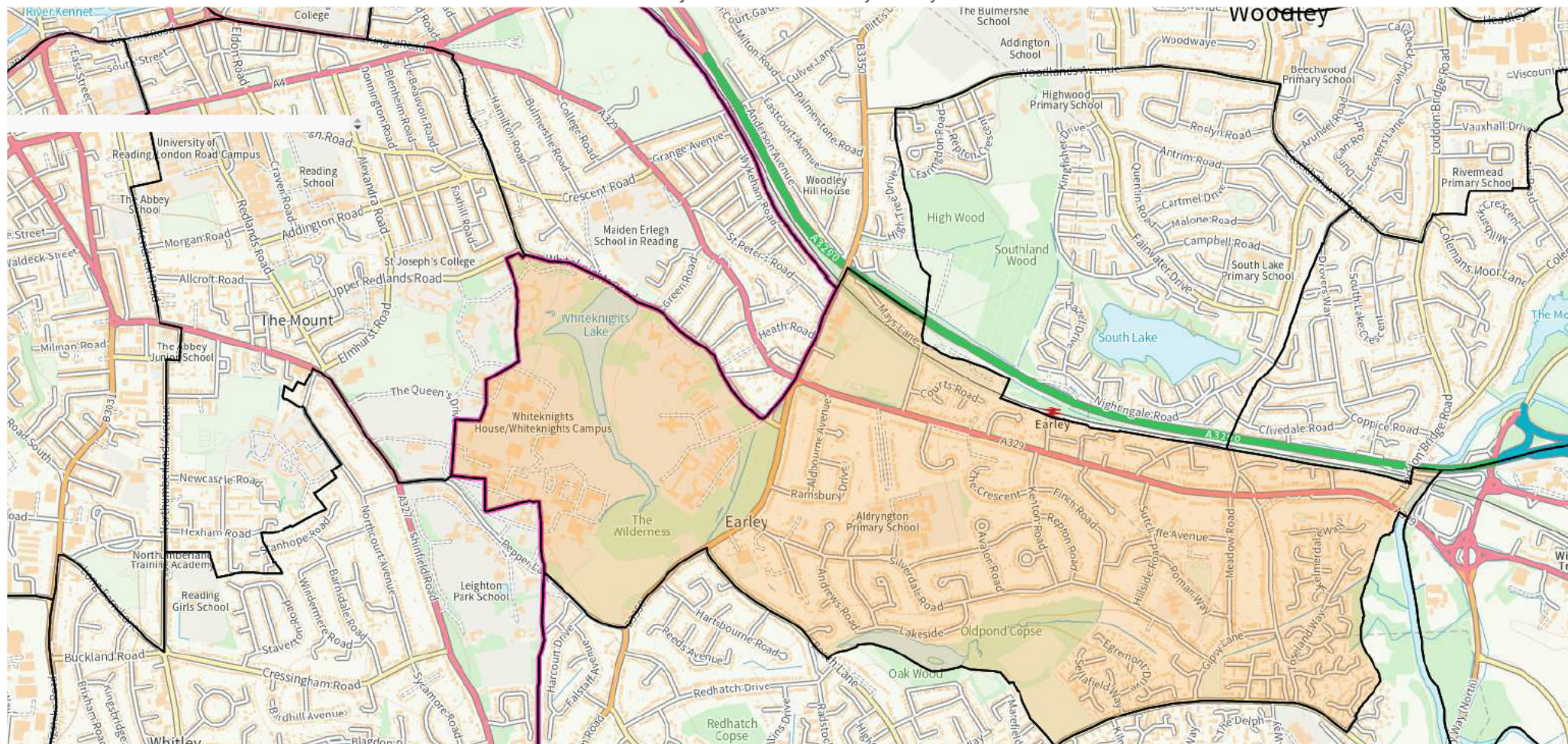
PAGE 3 - EXTRACT FROM READING UNIVERSITY ACCOMMODATION GUIDE 2022-23 (page 16)*

PAGE 4 - EXTRACT FROM WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL'S STREET INDEX 2018

ELECTION MAPS

MAIDEN ERLUGH WARD

Unitary Authorities Unitary Authority Wards



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SUMMARY

Room	Benyon Hall	Bridges Hall	Childs Hall	Creighton	Dunsden Crescent	Greenow & McCombie	Mackinder Hall	Northcourt Houses	Sherfield Hall	St George's Hall	St Patrick's Hall	Stenton Hall	Wantage Hall	Wessex Hall	
CATERED					4						4		4		4
SELF-CATERED	4	4	4	4		4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4		
NUMBER OF ROOMS AVAILABLE															
ROOM (SHARED BATHROOM FACILITIES)															
Standard									4		7		78		
Standard with double bed								5							
Upgraded with single bed															11
Upgraded with larger bed															35
Premium		394													
Townhouse		192										300			
ROOM WITH WASHBASIN (SHARED BATHROOM FACILITIES)															
Standard								7		296			153		
Upgraded									102				9	201	
Standard with double bed								7							
Upgraded with single bed															14
Upgraded with double bed									3						173
ROOM WITH EN-SUITE SHOWER															
En-suite	362				130	130			336	291					
Premium en-suite	16	59	584				563					402			
Premium en-suite (double occupancy)	5														
STUDIO ROOM AND STUDY SUITE															
Studio room								1		26					1
Study suite								3							
Study set											4				
ACCOMMODATION SUITABLE FOR FAMILIES AND COUPLES															
Room with double bed (shared bathroom)								6			2				
Studio with double bed	2							4							
One-bed flat				17				2	5	6			1		
Two-bed flat				7		1				1					
SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS															
Quieter Lifestyle: Quieter lifestyle areas available in Sherfield and St George's Halls whilst Childs Hall is a designated Quieter Lifestyle hall			QL						QL	QL					
Single-sex accommodation available within these halls	SS	SS	SS				SS		SS	SS					

Wokingham Borough Council

Street Index with Statistics by Street Order

Street	Property Count	Elector Count
EFW -		
Aldbourn Avenue	36	80
Andrews Road	16	29
Beech Lane	38	89
Betchworth Avenue	38	91
Bramley Close	9	14
Buckhurst Way	6	13
Dene Close	19	43
Kennedy Gardens	15	31
Lancaster Gardens	23	45
Luckmore Drive	37	75
Maiden Erlegh Drive	18	43
Ramsbury Drive	49	106
Shinfield Road	118	2
Silverdale Road	16	22
The Knapp	10	29
Whiteknights	0	0
Whiteknights Road	76	37
Wilderness Road	46	101
Wokingham Road	10	23
Total : 19 Streets	580	873

Wokingham Borough Council

Personal Details:

Name:

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

If there are 18 wards in Wokingham Borough, each represented by three councillors, Shinfield North ward will have to be combined either with wards in Earley or with Shinfield village.

Uploaded Documents:

[Download \(https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1667778683_Shinfield+North+LGBC.pdf\)](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1667778683_Shinfield+North+LGBC.pdf)

Wokingham Borough Council

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