



It is difficult to make any cohesive geopolitical sense of Fig.1; it resembles a cartographic accident. In discussing south west Wychavon in its document 1 (*vide supra*) the Commission places great, and one may be tempted to argue, undue emphasis on 'electoral representativeness' ward by ward, yet the Commission's document 2 (*vide supra*) makes the following quite clear observations, *viz.*

"4.35 However, in practice we do not see reviews resulting in wards of mathematically equal size. This is because the approach to electoral equality must be tempered by other considerations which generally reflect the particular characteristics of an area under review, and its communities. This recognises that council members represent individual electors and collective communities.

4.36 We will therefore look for some rationale explaining why, in community or other terms, a particular pattern or set of boundaries is being proposed. We will take account of geographic considerations if they impede our ability to achieve good levels of representation in a certain area, although the presence of barriers to movement such as rivers with no crossing points or other strong geographical features are likely to be reflected in patterns of community identity and interaction and so taken into account for those reasons.

4.37 Community identity and interest is harder to define than electoral equality for which there is a simple mathematical test. Often, it cannot easily be measured, and can mean different things to different people. It is essential, therefore, that those taking part in a review who make a case on the basis of community identities and interests can explain to us exactly what the community is and, more importantly, what defines it and marks it out as distinct from others.

In my initial observations (page 1 here) I attempted to emphasise the homogeneity of the traditional settlements fringing Bredon Hill. Whilst accepting that the spatial scaling may have been a touch optimistic, Fig. 1 suggests that Commission has here accorded limited focus to the content of its technical guidance (document 2) abstracted here above. Document 1 places (?undue) weight on the observations of individual parish councils which has certain limitations given that the 'Further ward boundary proposals' (of the Commission) straddle multiple parishes. My approach here is much more holistic, although I accept that this can generate attendant consequential issues.

#### **Key identifiable issues are:**

**1. Nomenclatural.** There is a proposed south Bredon Hill ward and a Bredon ward. Where therefore is the North Bredon Hill ward, the designation of which may have permitted a clear simplification of these evident socio-geographic and physiographic anomalies? I have indicated in Fig. 2 (below) how this matter might be tidied up with attendant 'tweaking' here and there.

**2. Socio-geographic.** As I endeavoured to explain previously, Bredon Hill is a clearly circumscribed island of land with nine principal satellite settlements intimately connected to it: Bredon, Bredon's Norton, Great Comberton, Little Comberton, Elmley Castle, Ashton-under-Hill, Beckford, Conderton, Overbury and Kemerton. Figure 2 may provide a mechanism whereby the Commission's overall objectives (*vide p. 2* here) could be integrated, given improved credence and more to the point much greater clarity of purpose.

