

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION**  
**2023 REVIEW OF SHROPSHIRE DIVISIONS**  
**CONSULTATION ON DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**Final Submission by [REDACTED]**

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# Public Consultation On LGBCE Draft Recommendations

Final Submission between: 2 May 2023 and 10 July 2023

## Introduction

This is a follow-up to my submission 1006056 of 7 June 2023. There are a few additions to the proposals, and possible alternatives to some of the previous comments made therein.

This response to the Draft Recommendations follows the order presented by the LGBCE in seven sections: North-Eastern Shropshire; North-Western Shropshire; Oswestry; Western & Central Shropshire; Shrewsbury; Southern Shropshire; and Eastern Shropshire.

### ***Cheswardine, Hodnet and Shawbury (paragraphs 38 to 41)***

The proposals for Cheswardine, Hodnet and Shawbury are supported, with no change to the former two, and just Hadnall parish moved to Tern ED from Shawbury.

### ***Market Drayton East & Rural, Market Drayton North, and South (paragraphs 42 to 46)***

The addition of the Western Way Parish Ward to Market Drayton East & Rural is accepted and this keeps the Prees ED in range with +6%. The other two Market Drayton divisions are supported, and do not need any further adjustment. It was not viable to try and bring other rural parishes into the Market Drayton area despite requests from other respondents.

### ***Prees, Whitchurch N, Whitchurch South & Rural, and Whitchurch W (paras. 47 to 49)***

This area has worked out well, and is supported in its entirety. Transferring Ightfield Parish to Whitchurch South & Rural solves the forecast Prees ED excess and allows the transfer of electors to Whitchurch N and the small adjustment to the boundary with Whitchurch W.

### ***Wem Rural & Whixall and Wem Town (paragraphs 50 to 53)***

Wem is currently a 2-member division, and the LGBCE proposed a split of the town along the railway line and south of the River Roden, as a compromise for making two 1-member divisions, which left the rest of the town at +10% and the rural area at -10%. The general opinion seems to be in favour of retaining the 2-member ED at 0%, avoiding the need to split the town at all. This has worked well for the last 15 years and should now continue.

### ***Ellesmere Urban, Selattyn & Gobowen, St Martin's and The Meres (paras. 54 to 60)***

Ellesmere Urban should remain as a compact urban division with the average electorate, although it has been suggested that its boundary should conform with revised LG wards.

Selattyn & Gobowen is supported as a single-member ED at the county average. But the **St Martin's name should include Weston Rhyn** which has a similar electorate. It is part of the name of the current 2-member Selattyn, Gobowen & Weston Rhyn, and should be retained with St Martin's as the new 2-member ED. This solution works well. A balance is achieved between the different communities by 2028: Weston Rhyn to the west with 2,377 electors, St Martin's in the middle with 2,732 electors, and the four parishes of Ellesmere Rural to the east with 2,323 electors. Any attempt to create two 1-member divisions would have to split St Martin's and would be faced with strong opposition. Suggestions that the current arrangement should continue are not viable in providing good electoral equality.

### ***Llanymynech, Ruyton & Baschurch, St Oswald & Whittington (paragraphs 61 to 64)***

A change is proposed to the LGBCE's extension of Ruyton & Baschurch to unite Walford Heath within a single division, but this split Old Woods. The alternative is to move the southern boundary northwards to unite Walford Heath in the Tern ED (Appendix A maps).

The revised boundary is shown on the Parish Warding map for Pimhill. The LGBCE map follows various water courses to create a square addition which leaves a narrow gap between it and the loop of the River Severn, with the Fitz parish ward somewhat isolated to the west of the Tern ED from Bomere Heath. The OS Election Map shows the revised boundary in purple. After leaving the River Perry, the existing boundary does not follow any road, railway or water course, but does split Walford Heath, the reason for the requested adjustment. This alternative unites Walford Heath in a single division, but this time in Tern, and also includes the small group of electors in the Greenacres area. This improvement will reduce the electorate of Ruyton & Baschurch below 9% and increase the electorate of Tern from -1% giving a better boundary and balance between the two divisions. It also avoids splitting Old Woods nor requires an adjustment to the railway boundary to the NE.

Llanymynech and Whittington remain unchanged, and St Oswald now unites Oswestry Rural Parish Council with its Rhydygroesau with Llanforda Ward. All remain acceptable.

### ***Oswestry (paragraphs 65 to 68)***

No change is needed from the LGBCE's proposals for the boundary changes in Oswestry. It was suggested in my initial submission (page 34) that it might be more logical to call Oswestry West Oswestry North. This was not taken up in the draft recommendations, but paragraph 68 welcomed further evidence on the proposed names. This request for the change of name to Oswestry North was repeated on page 5 of submission 1006056, both from a geographical point of view, and to complement Oswestry South beneath it. It was noted in the LGBCE Review of Wolverhampton wards that the long-standing Bilston East was changed to Bilston South to complement the existing Bilston North, and it is to be hoped that this logic will be followed in the Final Recommendations for Oswestry!

### ***Bishop's Castle, Burnell & Bayston Hill and Strettondale (paragraphs 69 to 75)***

As stated previously, the demand for a single-member Bayston Hill division with an excessive electorate has not abated in the 15 years since a 3-member division was created with Sutton & Column. It seems that the majority are not in favour of combining Bayston Hill with Burnell for three reasons: one is that the BCE has now confirmed the transfer of Burnell and Severn Valley EDs from Shrewsbury to the new South Shropshire constituency (but not with Bayston Hill); second is that the Burnell parishes will raise strong objections again; the third is to try and persuade the LGBCE to accept an excessive single-member Bayston Hill with an electorate of +22.3%, when an alternative 2-member ED with (Oteley &) Reabrook would meet the need of good electoral equality perfectly. A further advantage is that a 2-member Bayston Hill would not be overwhelmed by a higher number of Shrewsbury electors as they are with a 3-member division now. Reabrook (drop the Oteley as it is not part of Shrewsbury) currently has an electorate of -22% which, when combined with Bayston Hill's +22% gives a total of 0% now and +6.5% in 2028. It seems to be the best solution for an otherwise intractable situation, and is likely to be accepted if the LGBCE rejects the stand-alone Bayston Hill ED as being outside the norms of equality.

Church Pulverbatch Parish Council and others have opposed its proposed move into the Bishop's Castle ED. It would prefer to remain in Burnell where it has connections, rather than being moved somewhere else, or as some have suggested into Longden. The main arguments against Bishop's Castle are: it is 14 miles away and there is no public transport between them; there are no church or diocese links between the two; nor any school catchment links either; and no community of interest to justify its inclusion. An 1840 map shows no historical links with either Bayston Hill or Bishop's Castle! There is a physical barrier between the south of the parish and Bishop's Castle in the form of Cothecott Hill. The road rises 420ft from Pulverbatch and gives a strong sense of division between them.

If Church Pulverbatch is to remain in Burnell, then an alternative has been suggested that Hopesay be moved into Bishop's Castle to compensate. In the previous Review, Hopesay asked to move into Clun ED as it claimed it was part of the Clun Valley with Aston on Clun, and a range of hills separated it from Craven Arms with which it felt it had less connection. At that time it was turned down by the Boundary Committee for electoral reasons, but it might be looked at again from the point of the current Review. Hopesay has more electors than Church Pulverbatch, so would not need Smethcott, Woolstaston and All Stretton from Burnell, only off-loaded into Bishop's Castle to compensate for the addition of Bayston Hill.

To partially compensate Craven Arms for the loss of Hopesay, it would gain Little Stretton ward in the north (In my initial submission I had suggested splitting this to keep Church Stretton below 10%). Little Stretton is of course currently in the 2-member ED with Craven Arms, and this would leave Craven Arms just under the County average by 2028. Church Stretton would gain the All Stretton parish from Burnell to complement its All Stretton ward in the north of the town; and this would bring its electorate down from over 10% to 6%. It is important that the Church Stretton name is kept, rather than Strettondale or The Strettons. Appendix B has the listing for Bishop's Castle, Craven Arms, Church Stretton and Burnell.

### ***Chirbury & Worthen, Longden, Loton, Rea Valley and Tern (paragraphs 76 to 80)***

There now seems to be general support for adding Westbury ward from Loton to bring Chirbury & Worthen within range. It seems Yockleton wants to remain with Loton. Other suggestions include Bicton Rural with Ford in Loton, but that would affect the Longden total, now that Bicton Urban Parish Ward has joined Bowbrook, hence the proposal to call the division Bicton Heath which seems to have general approval. No change to Rea Valley, as Pontesbury Parish Council is happy with the current arrangement. Tern in 2028 is just under the County average, but would increase with the alternative shown in Appendix A. That gives a much more 'streamlined' boundary between Tern and Ruyton & Baschurch.

### ***Introduction to the Shrewsbury parishes (paragraphs 81 & 82)***

Initial submissions based their proposals on the existing divisions, and the LGBCE has based its draft recommendations on these. Most of the proposals in the draft proposals are supported, but one or two changes are suggested, some of which have support elsewhere.

### ***Bagley, Battlefield, Castlefields & Ditherington, Harlescott, Quarry & Coton Hill, and Sundorne (paragraphs 83 to 86)***

All submissions agreed on keeping the River Severn as a boundary for these six divisions. Keeping most of these unchanged is supported, but a small adjustment to Sundorne was suggested in submission 1006056 page 8 which would create a clearer boundary for it.

### ***Abbey, Column & Sutton, Monkmoor and Underdale (paragraphs 87 to 92)***

Most of these are accepted, but there was a suggestion that the LGBCE had not taken account of the Weir Hill development in Abbey which would take it over the top limit. If that is so, maybe an adjustment could be made to its boundary with Monkmoor (-10% in 2028) or add some electors to Column and Sutton if the railway line is an impregnable barrier !

### ***Belle Vue, Meole and Oteley (note spelling) & Reabrook (paragraphs 93 to 95)***

It is noted that the LGBCE has mainly adopted the Council's proposals for these divisions. The minor revisions in these are accepted, but a further suggestion (see Radbrook) has a small number of electors around the Nuffield Health Hospital move from the south-east of Radbrook to Meole to keep Radbrook below 10% (p.9 in submission 1006056). Another submission has a similar proposal, including the houses on the north of Mousecroft Lane to Meole. It is also proposed that Bayston Hill combines with Reabrook in a 2-member ED.



### ***Bicton Heath, Copthorne, Porthill and Radbrook (paragraphs 96 to 101)***

The adjustment between Belle Vue and Porthill is supported, involving Roman Close; and the move of the Ridgebourne Road area into Porthill from Radbrook. However, the Council is now considering a change to the LGBCE boundary between Radbrook and Copthorne, which is similar to page 29 of my initial submission. Their map is shown at Appendix C. It includes adding the Falcons Way area into Copthorne in addition to the Rad Valley Road area, and retaining the Sandway and Rylands area in Radbrook. Paragraph 101 of the draft recommendations stated that my similar proposal “involved residents of Falcons Way being cut off from the remainder of Radbrook division.” Moving it to Copthorne solves this problem and keeps the Rad brook as the clear southern boundary of the Copthorne ED.

The other addition in submission 1006056 page 9 was to move ~120 electors from Bank Drive, Bank Drive West, Bank Farm Road and Mousecroft Lane area, less than half the number in the Six Acres estate, which the LGBCE considered was the most plausible, but transferred the Radbrook excess to Meole. This alternative balances the two electorates.

### ***Broseley, Much Wenlock and Severn Valley (Paragraphs 102 to 109)***

The retention of Church Pulverbatch, Smethcott and Woolstaston almost restores Burnell to its existing boundary, except for All Stretton (SGB) with Church Stretton and Cardington (SGC) with Corvedale. So it only needs Church Preen (SSD) and Cound (SSE) to give it an electorate of +8% very similar to the LGBCE's +7% with Bayston Hill. Church Preen is the most remote SW parish in Severn Valley and fits better in Burnell than the others. The LGBCE transferred ~250 electors north of the A5 from Atcham to Reabrook by creating a Hendrick Crescent Parish Ward, which helps to keep Severn Valley below 10% even when Harley (SSG), Hughley (SSH), and Kenley (SSI) are returned to it with 319 electors.

Broseley will remain as a division, and after careful consideration the LGBCE has opted to retain the existing division with Broseley Wood in the neighbouring Much Wenlock division, giving it an electorate of 9.5%. Adding Broseley Wood to Broseley would take it to 16.5%. The LGBCE suggestion that Jackfield might be substituted for Broseley Wood would still leave Broseley over 11% and leave it isolated between Barrow Parish, which wants to stay in Much Wenlock, and the boundary with Telford. Broseley Wood has survived in the Much Wenlock ED for the last 15 years, and although not ideal, the LGBCE did right to retain it.

Much Wenlock can now remain exactly as it is, regaining the three parishes of Easthope, Shipton and Stanton Long from Brown Clee, leaving Much Wenlock with an electorate of +6%. The listings for these three can be seen on the right hand side of Appendix B.

### ***Brown Clee, Cleobury Mortimer, Highley and Stottesdon (paragraphs 110 to 113)***

It is good that the town of Cleobury Mortimer has not been split to create 2 single-member divisions, and has its own division to the south of the pair, just under the county average. Some people say it should remain as a 2-member division, but it would still need parishes from Clee and Brown Clee to come within range, and is not in accord with the Council's ask for single member EDs wherever possible. It has also been suggested that Stottesdon should be renamed Cleobury Mortimer Rural, so as not to link it to any particular parish if it did become two 1-member divisions.

Brown Clee gains Astley Abbots (LCA) from Bridgnorth, and loses Aston Botterell (LFB), Billingsley (LFD) and Middleton Scriven (LFM); leaving it with -2.5% in 2028 which is appropriate for a large rural area, and the listing is on the right hand side of Appendix B. Highley only needed the adjacent Billingsley to bring it within range at -9% and is agreed by their Shropshire Councillor, as Chelmarsh and Eardington look towards Bridgnorth and are needed in Brown Clee, now that Easthope, Shipton and Stanton Long have returned.

### ***Clee, Clun, Corvedale and Craven Arms (paragraphs 114 to 116)***

I understand that Clee is not happy about donating some of its electors to Cleobury Mortimer but with changing demographics it is inevitable that some parishes will have to move to an adjacent division in order to create good electoral equality thereby. Clun ED only needed a small addition to bring it in range, and Mainstone fits both geographically and electorally, despite Bishop's Castle trying to claim it back when it has more electors in Hopesay which it wanted (if agreed) than Church Pulverbatch than it lost with Mainstone.

Craven Arms was dealt with in conjunction with Church Stretton where they are currently paired, so the grouping seems a bit odd by separating them. Corvedale is supported with Cardington, as its links with Rushbury have been determined.

### ***Ludlow East, Ludlow North and Ludlow South (paragraphs 117 to 120)***

It was agreed to keep Ludlow North unchanged. The different options were to do with the transfer of part of Ludlow South to Ludlow East to even up their electorates within range. The LGBCE has extended the area of Dahn Drive with three of the adjacent Closes as a transfer from Ludlow South to Ludlow East, leaving them both equal with -5% electorates by 2028. This is a logical solution without straying north of the A49 and is supported.

### ***Albrighton, Shifnal North, Cosford Rural and Shifnal South (paragraphs 121 to 127)***

Albrighton should remain as a single-member ED but its SW boundary should be curtailed along the A464. This was shown as option A in the previous submission, and is preferable to option B. Paragraph 19 of the draft recommendations ends with, "*We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our divisions.*" In Albrighton's case the A464 represents a strong, clearly identifiable boundary compared to the existing one. Appendix D shows the area in orange which would join the Cosford Rural ED. This area has 29 properties and 46 electors. If these are removed from the Albrighton total, it brings its electorate down to exactly 10% from over 11% - a double advantage for the division.

As noted previously, the Cosford name is well-known and doesn't include the names of any of the 10 parishes in the division. The area covered is no greater than Brown Clee, Corvedale or Clun. Most rural parishes claim that they do not want to be linked with market towns or other urban areas, so their Council representative can address exclusive rural needs to the benefit of their constituents, public transport being one of the issues.

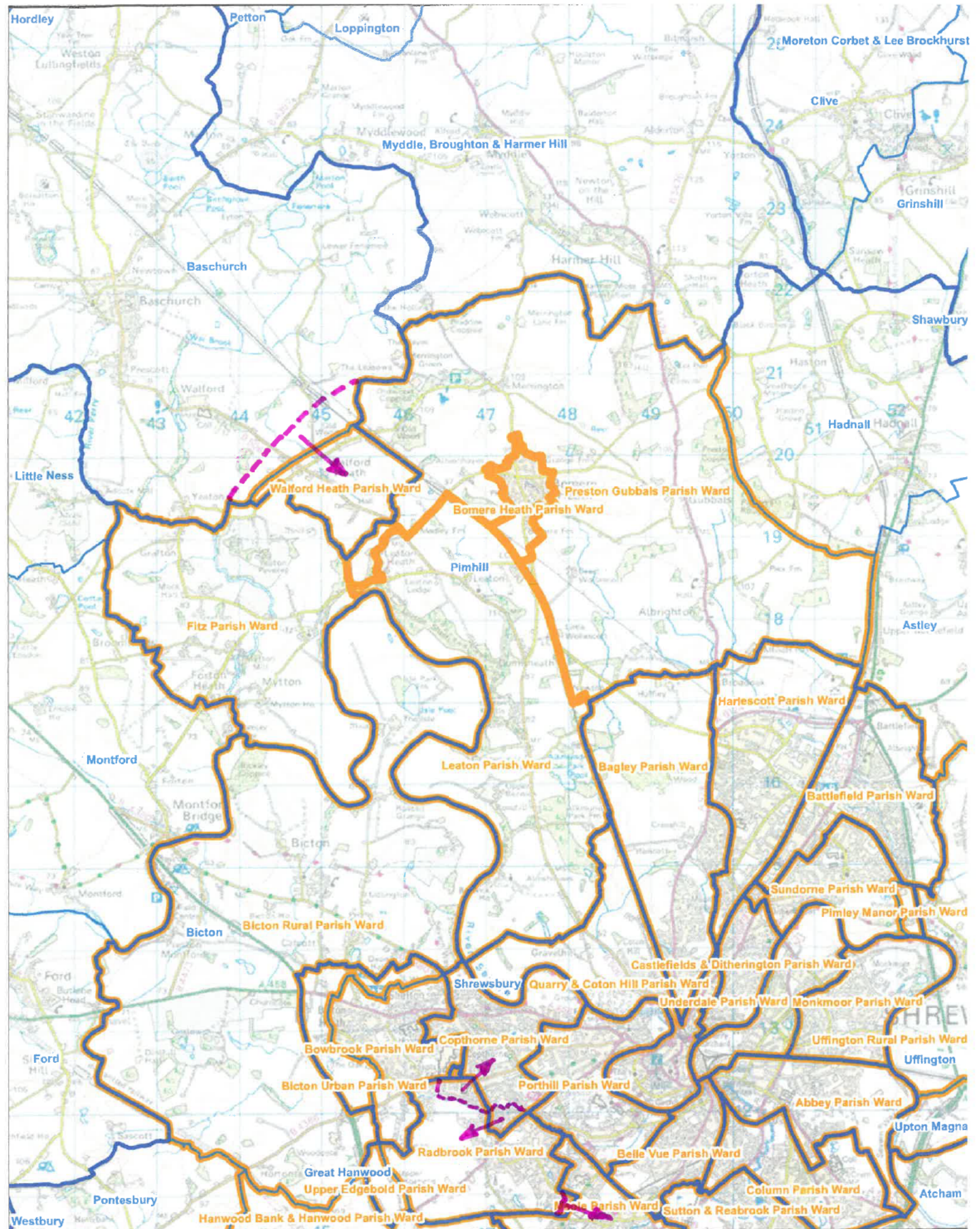
In practice it has worked well with the proposal to have Shifnal town split into North and South divisions. The LGBCE has adopted this suggestion to put forward their own proposal and test the response. The boundary between and around the two will need adjusting as per the maps in submission 1006056 on pages 13 and 14. These are based again on paragraph 19 of the draft recommendations to provide logical boundaries that are strong, and clearly identifiable. In the NE of Shifnal South that is far from the case. Upton Lane and Stanton Road are recognisable, unlike the draft boundary going cross-country.

### ***Bridgnorth Castle, Bridgnorth East, Bridgnorth Rural, Bridgnorth West & Tasley and Claverley & Worfield (paragraphs 128 to 135)***

The revised boundaries now work out well, and most of these five divisions are supported. One small change would be to add isolated St James' Drive and Priory Close (66 electors) to Bridgnorth Rural, making East & Rural equal at -8%. Astley Abbots will join Brown Clee with other rural parishes, not tacked onto Bridgnorth East to boost its electoral numbers.

This concludes the final submission during the public consultation on Shropshire divisions.





The Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
for England

## Parish Warding

Pimhill

- County
- Draft Recommendations
- Parishes
- Parish Ward

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Kilometers

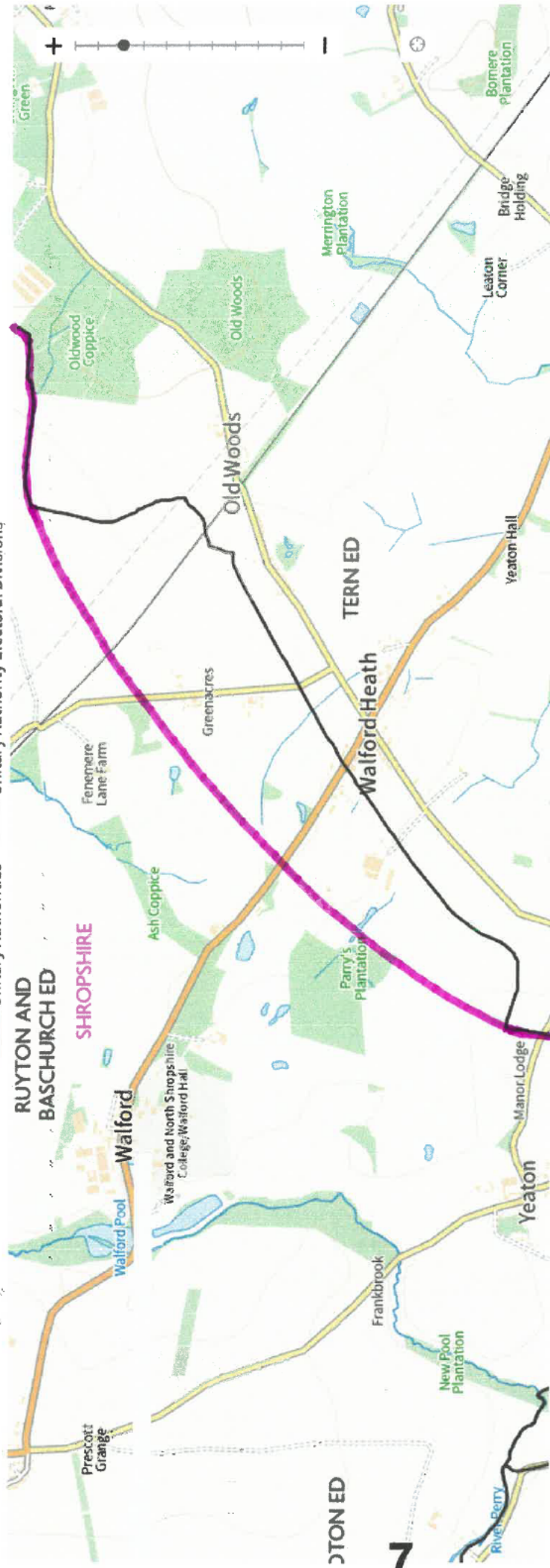
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# Appendix A1



## ELECTION MAPS

CLICK INSIDE A BOUNDARY FOR MORE INFO  
 — Unitary Authorities — Unitary Authority Electoral Divisions



# Appendix B

| <b>Bishop's Castle ED</b> | <b>2022</b>      | <b>2028</b>      |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| LBA Bishop's Castle PC    | 1,500            | 1,538            |
| LBB Colebatch PC          | 76               | 76               |
| LBC Edgton Parish         | 88               | 93               |
| LBD Lydbury North PC      | 435              | 458              |
| LBE Lydham & More PM      | 160              | 166              |
| LBG Lydham & More PM      | 81               | 82               |
| LBH Myndtown PC           | 65               | 66               |
| LBH Norbury PC            | 112              | 117              |
| LBJ Ratlinghope PC        | 117              | 119              |
| LBK Wentnor PC            | 210              | 212              |
| LHG Hopesay PC            | 429              | 452              |
| <b>Total:</b>             | <b>3,273 -3%</b> | <b>3,379 -6%</b> |

| <b>Craven Arms ED</b>    | <b>2022</b>      | <b>2028</b>      |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| LHD Little Stretton ward | 291              | 289              |
| LHE Craven Arms TC       | 73               | 72               |
| LHF Craven Arms TC       | 1,859            | 2,195            |
| LHH Onibury PC           | 253              | 268              |
| LHI Sibdon Carwood PM    | 95               | 58               |
| LHJ Wistanstow PC        | 642              | 664              |
| <b>Total:</b>            | <b>3,213 -5%</b> | <b>3,546 -1%</b> |

| <b>Church Stretton ED</b> | <b>2022</b>       | <b>2028</b>      |
|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| LHA Church Stretton AS    | 403               | 375              |
| LHB Church Stretton N     | 1,614             | 1,686            |
| LHC Church Stretton S     | 1,648             | 1,639            |
| SGB All Stretton PC       | 112               | 112              |
| <b>Total:</b>             | <b>3,777 +12%</b> | <b>3,812 +6%</b> |

| <b>Burnell ED</b>      | <b>2022</b>      | <b>2028</b>      |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| SGA Acton Burnell PC   | 236              | 295              |
| SGD Church Pulverbatch | 319              | 325              |
| SGE Condoover Ward     | 708              | 720              |
| SGF Dorrington Ward    | 566              | 657              |
| SGG Ryton Ward         | 211              | 227              |
| SGH Stapleton Ward     | 218              | 230              |
| SGI Frodesley PC       | 135              | 139              |
| SGJ Leebotwood PC      | 196              | 206              |
| SGK Longnor PC         | 223              | 228              |
| SGL Pitchford PC       | 85               | 90               |
| SGM Ruckley & Langley  | 61               | 75               |
| SGN Smethcott PC       | 166              | 166              |
| SGO Woolstaston        | 52               | 60               |
| SSD Church Preen PC    | 75               | 78               |
| SSE Cound PC           | 389              | 398              |
| <b>Total:</b>          | <b>3,640 +8%</b> | <b>3,894 +8%</b> |

| <b>Severn Valley ED</b>  | <b>2022</b>      | <b>2028</b>      |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| SSA Atcham PC            | 189              | 195              |
| SSB Berrington PC        | 952              | 1,117            |
| SSC Buildwas PC          | 251              | 712              |
| SSF Cressage + PC        | 617              | 729              |
| SSG Harley + PC          | 152              | 155              |
| SSH Hughley PC           | 48               | 49               |
| SSI Kenley PC            | 103              | 115              |
| SSJ Leighton etc PC      | 378              | 382              |
| SSK Sheinton + PC        | 87               | 87               |
| SSL Wroxeter & Uppington | 307              | 307              |
| <b>Total:</b>            | <b>3,084 -8%</b> | <b>3,848 +7%</b> |

| <b>Much Wenlock ED</b> | <b>2022</b>      | <b>2028</b>      |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| LQA Barrow PC          | 133              | 133              |
| LQB Barrow PC          | 425              | 431              |
| LQC Broseley Wood      | 248              | 253              |
| LQD Easthope PC        | 73               | 78               |
| LQE Much Wenlock       | 1,118            | 1,421            |
| LQF Much Wenlock       | 1,175            | 1,202            |
| LQG Shipton PC         | 100              | 112              |
| LQH Stanton Long PC    | 175              | 180              |
| <b>Total:</b>          | <b>3,517 +4%</b> | <b>3,810 +6%</b> |

| <b>Broseley ED</b>   | <b>2022</b>       | <b>2028</b>        |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| LEA Broseley TC East | 928               | 972                |
| LEB Broseley TC East | 1,303             | 1,361              |
| LEC Broseley TC East | 163               | 186                |
| LED Broseley TC West | 1,398             | 1,418              |
| <b>Total:</b>        | <b>3,792 +13%</b> | <b>3,937 +9.5%</b> |

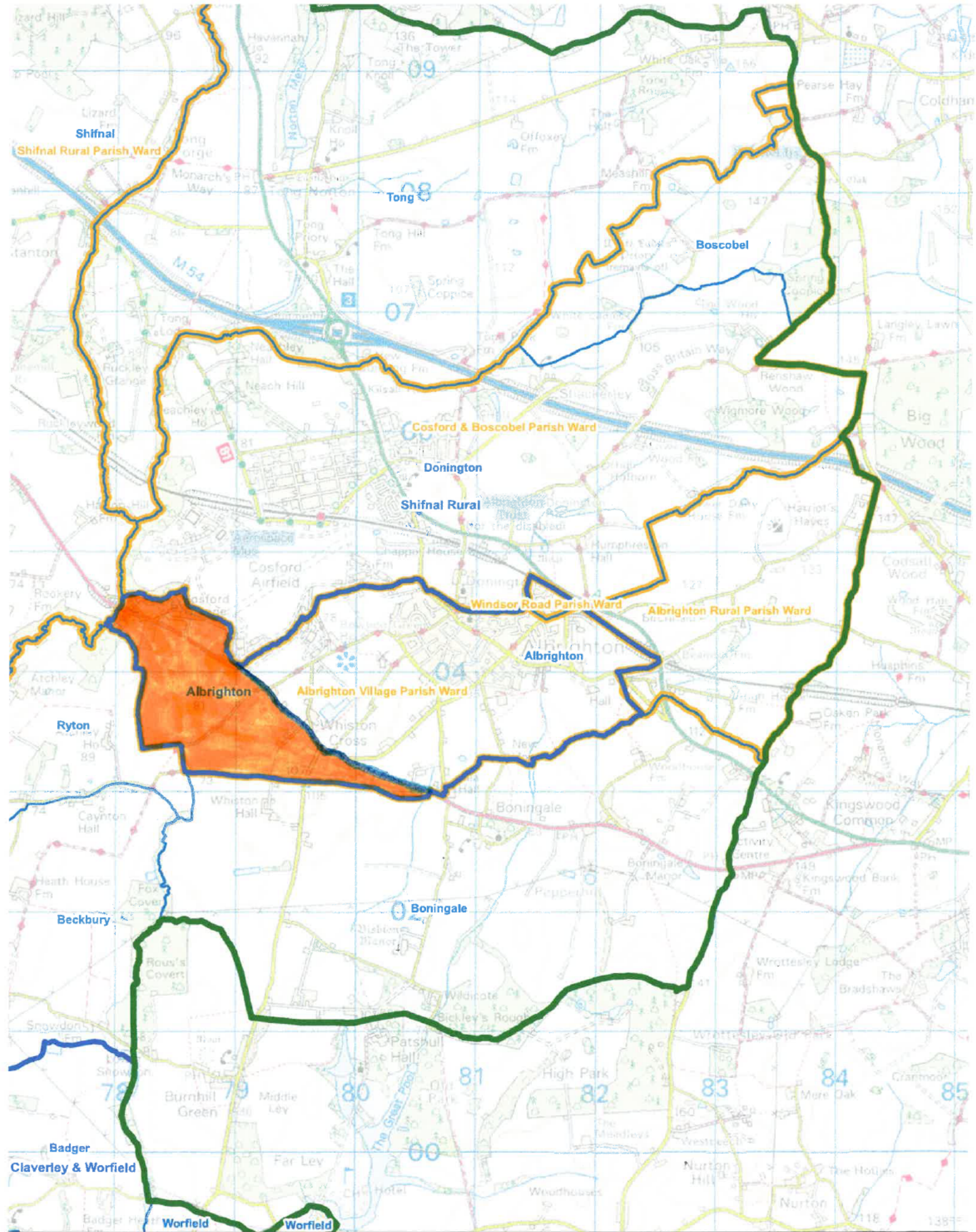
| <b>Brown Clee ED</b>  | <b>2022</b>      | <b>2028</b>        |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| LCA Astley Abbots     | 397              | 390                |
| LFA Acton Round PC    | 105              | 105                |
| LFC Aston Eyre PC     | 59               | 59                 |
| LFE Burwarton PC      | 93               | 101                |
| LFF Chelmarsh PC      | 432              | 445                |
| LFG Chetton PC        | 286              | 371                |
| LFH Cleobury North PC | 86               | 86                 |
| LFI Deuxhill PC       | 21               | 21                 |
| LFJ Ditton Priors PC  | 659              | 707                |
| LFK Eardington PC     | 497              | 499                |
| LFL Glazeley PC       | 39               | 39                 |
| LFN Monkhopton PC     | 162              | 197                |
| LFO Morville PC       | 322              | 336                |
| LFP Neenton PM        | 106              | 108                |
| LFQ Upton Cressett    | 40               | 40                 |
| <b>Total:</b>         | <b>3,304 -2%</b> | <b>3,504 -2.5%</b> |

(requires acceptance of Bayston Hill & Reabrook ED)









The Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Parish Warding  
Albrighton

- District
- Draft Recommendations
- Parishes
- Parish Ward

# Appendix D