

Bradford

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Comment text:

Please find attached the Local Government Boundary Review Submission from the Conservative Group on Bradford Council with our proposal for the District's Ward Boundaries. There is a narrative attached and separate appendices document.

Regards

Rebecca

Cllr Rebecca Poulsen

Worth Valley Ward Councillor
Leader Conservative Group Bradford MDC

Attached Documents:

- LGBCE Submission on Bradford Council Warding Patterns.docx
- Maps.pdf

Bradford Metropolitan District Council Conservative Group submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission Review of the Bradford Metropolitan District Ward Boundaries

1. Introduction

1.1 This submission has been compiled by the Conservative Group of elected members on Bradford MDC, in response to the consultation on new ward boundaries for The City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, further to the LGBCE's determination that the total number of councillors to be elected to the council in the future should remain at ninety.

1.2 In compiling the submission, the Conservative Group has noted that the LGBCE starts with a blank sheet and attention has been given at all times to the statutory criteria, the things which are and are not given consideration and the need for evidence in support of the submission.

1.3 During the Council Size phase of the ongoing review of Bradford MDC, the LGBCE was provided with outline descriptions of the physical geography and population density particularities of the district, some of which are inevitably pertinent during the process of setting new ward boundaries.

1.4 The wider Bradford District covers an area of 366 square kilometres, with two thirds of the area, predominantly to the north, being rural with large expanses of moorland, woodland and agricultural land, much of it characterised by steep hills and river valleys, often forming natural boundaries between communities.

1.5 By contrast, the urban areas centred around Bradford City Centre are very densely populated and more homogeneous in character, with less distinct boundaries between identifiable settlements with strong individual interests.

1.6 Whilst in an ideal world these proposals would deliver absolute electoral equality for local electors, the geography described above makes this impossible if all wards are to be represented effectively by their elected representatives.

1.7 Whilst the Council Executive predicts an average district wide population increase of 3.79% by 2029, the population of Worth Valley Ward is predicted to reduce in size by 1.79%, whilst at the other extreme Heaton Ward is predicted to increase by 14.39%.

1.8 At present Worth Valley Ward has a population density of 238 people per square kilometre – the lowest in the District, somewhat contrasting with Toller's 9,288 people per sq km.

1.9 City Ward has the current highest ward population (23,665 approximately) whilst Wharfedale Ward (a rural ward) at only 11,994 approximately, has less than a half of that and is the lowest ward population, despite Wharfedale Ward covering more than three times as much ground as City Ward.

1.10 Thus, very large variations between ward populations are extant and it is recognised that these will increase further unless action is taken regarding ward boundaries and whilst there is no option but to change existing ward boundaries in the interests of electoral equality, it would be wholly unrealistic to believe that perfect numerical electoral equality could be delivered unless that was the only stipulation at play.

1.11 The delivery of anything near perfect numerical electoral equality in Bradford District, would require a target headcount per ward, coupled with the use of a ruler and pencil in a manner exemplified in the setting of state borders in the United States and Sovereign State borders in parts of the Middle East and Africa, with no consideration given to the interests and identities of local communities when deciding where to place the ruled lines.

1.12 A prime example of the difficulties which geography contributes to electoral equality is the Worth Valley Ward, projected to have a negative variance of 13% in 2029, if no boundary changes are made, despite the ward covering nearly twice as many square kilometres as the entire Bradford West Constituency, with a number of other rural wards also being geographically larger than the urban constituencies in the district.

Appendix 1

1.13 Thus, the three Worth Valley Ward Councillors in serving their electors, have to cover many more square kilometres than the 18 councillors who represent the entire Bradford West Constituency, so trying to create parity by significantly increasing electors in some of the larger wards by expanding them geographically, would be wholly impractical in effective representation terms. Numerical electoral equality could be achieved, but the practical difficulties of covering even larger wards would leave some elected members unable to represent their constituents as effectively as the much higher number of members per square kilometre in the densely packed urban areas. Balancing the need for geographical realism with the desire to not split local ties has also been a challenge.

1.14 A number of alternative proposals have been considered by the group and details of those which were not chosen to proceed and the reasons for this are included.

1.15 It is often inevitable when considering changes to ward boundaries that any proposed changes will have a knock-on effect for wards neighbouring the ones immediately affected by the initial changes and it is thus very difficult to decide where best to begin.

1.16 In light of the various difficulties of achieving electoral equality for the residents of the collection of rural settlements that make up the Worth Valley Ward, it was decided that this should be the starting point, as there is naturally more flexibility in creating numerically comparable wards, which are practical to represent, in the urban areas further down the line than vice versa.

2. Worth Valley

2.1 The Worth Valley Ward is home to the villages of Haworth, Oakworth, Cross Roads and Oxenhope and smaller settlements of Stanbury and Oldfield.

2.2 Approximately two thirds of the ward (the North West, West and South) are bounded by areas which are not a part of the Bradford Metropolitan District, which rules out changes to the boundaries to the North and North Easterly side of the ward, with the relevant neighbouring wards being Keighley West, Keighley East and Bingley Rural.

2.3 As mentioned previously, Worth Valley is projected to have an electoral variance of -13%, but covers the largest geographical footprint of any Bradford Metropolitan District Ward at nearly 59km².

2.4 Two of the early suggestions put forward to alleviate the low electorate figure in Worth Valley Ward, were to incorporate the Denholme element of Bingley Rural included in Polling Districts 3H & 3G, or Polling District 3H and the part of Polling District 3G to the West of the A58.

2.5 Bingley Rural has a projected electoral variance of 18% and in an ideal world needs to shed a significant number of electors. The transfer of a projected 2579 (3G) and 363 (3H) voters to a ward which is projected to be approximately 1,700 below ideal in 2029, creates an electorate 1,242 above ideal, an improvement from -13% to +9.5%, which in itself is a numerical improvement.

2.6 However, there would also be the addition of a geographical area in itself larger than some wards, to what is already geographically the largest ward in Bradford District and it is unrealistic to expect three elected members to be able to effectively represent such a large electorate in such an oversized ward. This is unfortunate as it would provide Bingley Rural with an electoral variance of just -4%.

Appendix 2

2.7 Whilst the transfer of Polling District 3H and the part of Polling District 3G to the West of the A629 provides good numerical equality for Worth Valley (variance 1.6%) and Bingley Rural (variance 4%), it still involves adding a significant land mass, again larger than some entire wards, to be covered by the Ward Members and brings electors covered by another Town Council - Denholme Town Council.

2.8 Further, the proposal would split the distinct settlement of Denholme right down the middle. Denholme is separated from the nearest settlements of Cullingworth, Wilsden, Oxenhope and Thornton, by large expanses of open fields.

2.9 Denholme Mechanics Institute is the home to Denholme Town Council and in its own words is “the key local community venue, right at the heart of the village, accommodating both services and leisure opportunities. Its central location places it within a few minutes walking distance for 90% of the village”. Any split of the village along the A629 would place the building, in a ward where that part of Denholme was an out of place rump.

2.10 It is difficult to argue that the numerical merits of proposals to include the whole of Polling Districts 3G & 3H, or part of 3G and the whole of 3H in a revised Worth Valley Ward outweigh the negative effects on effective representation for the whole ward and the community identity and interests of Denholme.

2.11 The possibility of encroaching into Bingley Rural Ward in the direction of the village of Cullingworth is unattractive due to similar geographical impracticalities in the delivery of effective representation and the inappropriate splitting of distinct local communities.

2.12 Absorbing Polling district 3A, which is in effect the taking of Cullingworth Village onto Worth Valley Ward, would transfer a projected 2900 electors, taking the projected electorate for any ward effectively replacing the current Worth Valley Ward, to 14,325, a variance of approximately 9%, whilst improving the existing Bingley Rural Ward's variance to less than -4%.

2.13 Again, the revised Worth Valley Ward would be greatly geographically oversized and also electorally oversized, to an extent detrimenting effective and convenient representation.

2.14 As with any proposal to transfer a part of Denholme into Worth Valley Ward, any proposal to transfer a part of Cullingworth into the ward would also require the splitting of a distinct community with a very clear identity and collective interests, to an extent outweighing the numerical benefits.

Appendix 3

2.15 There has been discussion of the possibility of the transfer of the projected 1108 electors of Polling District 9F, to Worth Valley from Craven Ward, which currently has a projected variance of 15% in 2029. However, this would require the creation of a land bridge between the two wards and whilst the proposal would improve electoral equality, like the Denholme and Cullingworth suggestions, it would require significant additional travel for elected members, whilst dividing a distinct community with shared interests and natural borders. Thus the positives of including Polling District 9F in Worth Valley Ward would again be outweighed by the negatives.

2.16 Encroaching into urban Keighley could ultimately be engineered to create electoral equality but the interests and identities of the local communities would have to be completely cast aside. The villages which make up the existing Worth Valley Ward are dissimilar to the densely populated town of Keighley and the Conservative Group has chosen not to go down this avenue.

2.17 Another proposal for improving the electoral equality of the Worth Valley Ward is the transfer into the Ward of Polling District 17C Bogthorn (electorate 733) & or 17J Laycock (electorate 344) from Keighley West.

Appendix 4

2.18 The electors of Bogthorn (17C) have already experienced representation from Worth Valley elected members when they successfully worked with Keighley West members to prevent development in the green belt and the rural character of these areas is far more in keeping with that of Worth Valley than they are with the densely populated town of Keighley. The inclusion of 17J would also remove the main division of Goose Eye, part of which already falls within the existing Worth Valley Ward.

2.19 The inclusion of Laycock (17J) would create a Worth Valley Ward with a variance of -11% without increasing the geographical footprint greatly and the bulk of this Polling District's

electors are clustered, so serving them would not significantly increase the travel time aspect of the members' workload.

2.20 Bogthorn (17C) sits close to the rural village of Oakworth which is already within Worth Valley Ward and like Laycock there is much greenery around it. Representing this additional cluster of electors would like Laycock, have nominal impact on elected member travel time and the additional workload would be far more manageable than the alternatives. As aforementioned, elected members from Worth Valley have already represented the interests of the residents of Bogthorn. A revised Worth Valley Ward incorporating Bogthorn would have a variance of approximately -7.5%.

2.21 The amendment of the Worth Valley to incorporate both Laycock (17J) and Bogthorn (17C) Polling Districts would result in an electorate of approximately 12,502 and thus a variance of approximately -5%.

2.22 Having considered a variety of options for the Worth Valley Ward, the Conservative Group has decided to recommend the inclusion of Polling District 17C Bogthorn (electorate 733) & or 17J Laycock (electorate 344) from Keighley West.

3. Keighley Central, East and West Wards

3.1 Keighley is the second largest settlement in the Bradford Metropolitan District, after Bradford itself. It is eight miles north-west of Bradford City Centre, and nearly four miles north-west of Bingley, close to Bradford District's borders with North Yorkshire & Lancashire.

3.2 The Town, is virtually surrounded by expanses of undeveloped land separating it from other settlements within the district and has its own distinct identity, with a significant town centre, which is home to its Town Council, Leisure Centre, College, many shops and bars etc.

3.3 Having looked at the existing Central, East and West Ward boundaries for the town, there is an argument for largely retaining these, if Worth Valley Ward takes only Polling District 17J - Laycock from Keighley West and if the following proposal for Craven, Ilkley & Wharfedale wards were pursued, as the existing Keighley Wards would be projected to have variances of -2%, -1% & -8% respectively and they already effectively represent the interests and identity of the local community.

3.4 In the interests of numerical tidiness, the boundary between Keighley East and Keighley West, which currently runs along the river through Polling District 16J, be changed to run along the A629 Halifax Road, with electors to the West of the road moving into Keighley West.

3.5 This would provide good electoral equality without damaging community interest and identity or the convenient provision of effective representation.

3.6 Should Bogthorn also be moved from Keighley West to Worth Valley, the adjustments across the urban Keighley Wards could be increased accordingly.

3.7 Although this would work for these three wards it does not work when you try to balance electoral numbers and communities in other parts of neighbouring wards. Therefore, a

substantive proposal is put forward in section 6 to provide better balance across all the neighbouring wards.

4. Craven, Ilkley and Wharfedale

4.1 The three wards to the north of Bradford District are again rural wards which are home to a number of small distinct settlements. The geography of the area is such that like the spread of the settlements in Worth Valley Ward, it is always going to be difficult to group them in a manner that satisfies the needs for electoral equality, community identities and interests and effective and convenient local government.

4.2 One suggestion put forward by a Conservative Group Councillor is intended to improve the electoral equality across the three wards, insofar is permitted by the geography of the area. The proposal does not conflict with the aforementioned Conservative Group proposals relating to Worth Valley and the Keighley Wards.

4.3 Craven Ward is to the North-West of Bradford District, adjacent to the Craven District of North Yorkshire and encompasses the villages of Steeton with Eastburn in the south, Silsden in the centre and Addingham in the north. The Ward is projected to have a variance of 15% in 2029.

4.4 Ilkley Ward includes the spa town of Ilkley and the attached village of Ben Rhydding and is approximately 12 miles North of Bradford City.

4.5 Ilkley's spa town heritage and surrounding countryside make tourism an important local industry. The town centre is characterised by Victorian Architecture, wide streets and floral displays.

4.6 Ilkley is famous for its Outdoor Pool and Lido and also Ilkely Moor, to the south of the town, which was the inspiration for the folk song, "On Ilkla Moor Baht 'at". The Ward is projected to have a variance of -4% in 2029.

4.7 Wharfedale Ward is in the north-east of Bradford District and is made up of Wharfedale, one of the Yorkshire Dales and the settlements of Burley-in-Wharfedale, Burley Woodhead and Menston, each surrounded by moorland. The Ward is projected to have a variance of -14% in 2029.

4.8 The proposal would involve pretty much the creation of three new wards, one retaining the name Craven, with the others named Ilkley West & Addingham and the other Ilkley East and Wharfedale

4.9 The Craven Ward would consist of the existing ward, minus the 9A Polling District (3282 projected electors), containing the remote, distinct settlement of Addingham, which would join Ilkley in the new Ilkley West and Addingham.

Appendix 5

5. This would leave the new Craven Ward with a projected variance of -10%, which whilst not ideal, is a significant improvement on the 15% that would result from no action being taken. The negative variance would be in a still geographically large ward.

5.1 Whilst Addingham has good connectivity to the rest of the Craven Ward via the A6034, it also has good connectivity to the closer spa town of Ilkley via the A65 and other less prominent highways.

Appendix 6

5.2 The current Wharfedale Ward would remain intact and have a share of Ilkley, which would include the parts of 14E East of Wheatley Lane and 14C East of Craigmere Drive and Wyvil Crescent.

Appendix 7

5.3 The division of the very distinct town and town council area of Ilkley would be a significant downside, which is one of the key reasons why the Conservative Group has decided not to recommend the proposal. Further, whilst adopting the proposals provides good outcomes for seven wards, they would seriously hinder the provision of electoral equality for the voters of some of the district's other wards such as Bingley Ward which neighbours Wharfedale Ward. Ilkley has a well-established Town Council representing the whole Town so splitting the town up would not be inclusive for an established community in the Town of Ilkley.

5.4 Notably, the creation of an Ilkley East and Wharfedale Ward would prevent the implementation of some possible solutions to the problems resulting from the large variances projected for the existing Bingley & Bingley Rural Wards in 2029, at 20% and 18% respectively. The below proposals provide a more equitable ward boundary balance across these wards

6. Substantive Conservative Group Proposals

6.1 The following set of proposals covering the entire Bradford District is proposed by the Conservative Group for the consideration of the Local Government Boundary Commission.

6.2 As in the first set of partial proposals for boundary changes, this set of proposals includes Worth Valley Ward merely taking in Polling District 17C and possibly 17J.

6.3 There are no proposed changes to Ilkley Ward.

6.4 The Craven Ward would be subject the removal of the electors residing in Steeton & Eastburn, currently Polling Districts 9F (1057) & 9G (2952) and the acquisition of the electors residing in Riddlesden & West Morton, Polling District 16A (1673).

Appendix 8

6.5 West Morton is to the north of Keighley and is separated from the town by a watercourse and to an extent Airevalley Road. It is bordered by a large expanse of open fields and has good connectivity with the settlement of Silsden and from there, the rest of the Craven Ward.

6.6 There would be no detriment to the character or interests of Craven Ward caused by the inclusion of Polling District 16A and there would be no harm to the effective representation of the affected residents in the scenario described, as the removal of the 4009 electors residing in Steeton and Eastburn (9F & 9G) will make the effective representation of Craven's residents easier than it is at present. (no appendix map attached for this)

6.7 These proposals include more significant changes to the boundaries of the urban Keighley Wards, than the previous group of proposals.

6.8 Keighley West Ward is quite dramatically altered by the addition of the 4009 electors residing in Steeton and Eastburn (9F & 9G), the 1798 in High Uttley 15H and the knock-on movement of the electors of Bracken Bank and Bracken Mount, Polling Districts 17A (1777) and 17B (2172) to Keighley East.

Appendix 9

6.9 The movement of Laycock 17J and the possible movement of Bogthorn 17C to Worth Valley would have a truly negligible effect on Keighley West.

6.10 The addition of 15H to Keighley West facilitates the addition of Steeton and Eastburn to the ward, providing geographical connectivity and good highway connectivity. The geographical connectivity could be improved further by redrawing the boundary of Polling District 17J through the open area of Copy Hill, which would affect no electors.

6.11 These proposed changes to Keighley West would provide very good electoral equality, with a new electorate of 13272 and thus variance of 1%. Whilst Steeton and Eastburn are to the West of Keighley, they are distinct in character from the Town and separated from it by open fields, so if this ward came to be, it may be worth a name change to reflect this, possibly Keighley West & Steeton or Keighley Rural.

6.12 **Keighley Central Ward** would, as mentioned in reference to Keighley West Ward, lose High Uttley 15H (1798) and it is proposed that its only other change would be to gain Polling District 16E (projected 1501 electors), which is to the north-east outskirts of Keighley Town Centre. As such, the changes to Keighley Central have little bearing on the urban town character or connectivity of the new ward, with residents retaining existing community links etc.

Appendix 10.

6.13 The electoral equality of the new ward is not quite as good as the projected electorate of 12,822 (variance-2%) resulting from no changes, with projections of 12,469 (-5%), but still worthy of consideration in light of the bigger picture to which it could contribute.

6.14 As mentioned in relation to proposals for a possible renamed Keighley West & Steeton Ward or Keighley Rural Ward. Keighley East would lose the electors of 16A to that ward, with those currently in 16E moving into Keighley Central, whilst gaining 17A (1870 electors) & 17B (2279) from Keighley West.

Appendix 11

6.15 The proposed removals and additions do not affect the character or shared interests of the ward in which the existing or newly joining electors currently experience, as the proposed changes could be considered to be merely administrative changes in the grouping of wards which make up the town of Keighley.

6.16 The projected electoral equality (13,825) variance 5% is not as good as the -1% projected if no action is taken, but again, this has to be seen in the context of the wider improvements which these proposals are intended to provide.

6.17 The second set of proposals, not having included Wharfedale in a new Ilkley East and **Wharfedale Ward** requires action to react to the problem of the ward's projected -14% variance.

6.18 In a numerical sense there is no barrier to this, with the **Bingley Ward**, which adjoins the southern boundary of Wharfedale, having an even worse projected variance of 20%.

6.19 Bingley Ward includes the market town from which it takes its name on the River Aire and the Leeds and Liverpool Canal in the Airedale Valley, along with the surrounding villages of Cottingley, Crossflatts, Eldwick, Gilstead and Micklethwaite.

6.20 However, the northernmost settlement in Bingley is Eldwick, which is separated from the settlements of Burley in Wharfedale and Menston, which are in the northernmost and northeastern most tips of Wharfedale, by swathes of open fields in each of the existing wards.

Appendix 12A and 12B

6.21 Further, Eldwick area (2B & 2C) is projected to be home to 5358 electors in 2029 and it would be necessary to split the community and include a part of it as the southern-most tip of a ward where the other settlements are at the northernmost tip. As the crow flies, the quickest way to travel from Eldwick to Menston or Burley-in-Wharfedale is to fly over a part of the Leeds City Council area, though that is primarily due to a less than ideal part of the boundary between the two council districts.

6.22 This inconvenient municipal boundary prevents any consideration of improving the electoral variance in Wharfedale via alterations to the northernmost boundary of Baildon etc.

6.23 Whilst the Conservative Group is not entirely satisfied with suggesting that the projected 2557 electors of Polling District 2C be transferred into a new ward also containing the whole of the existing Wharfedale Ward, it is one of the only options available and to an extent, one of the "least poor options".

6.24 It is felt that the acute requirements for electoral equality for Wharfedale and Bingley Wards outweighs the ideal of not splitting a community and damaging its identity and whilst the provision of effective representation for the residents of the current Polling District 2C will be more difficult than at present, there are other significant distances between distinct communities within rural wards. The revised Wharfedale Ward would have an electoral variance of 6%

6.25 The neighbouring **Bingley Rural Ward** which encompasses Harden, Wilsden, Cottingley, Cullingworth and Denholme, also has a large projected variance in 2029 of 18%

6.26 Whilst as aforementioned, it is not considered practical to move any part of the ward into the neighbouring Worth Valley Ward, an idea examined at an early stage of drawing up proposals for new ward boundaries looked at the creation of a ward formed around the settlements of Denholme & Thornton, but despite trying several variations, it was not possible to come up with an idea which came close to satisfying the criteria.

6.27 In light of the proposals suggested for Bingley Ward, it is inappropriate / impractical to suggest amending the boundary between Bingley and Bingley Rural and the most sensible

option appears to be adjusting the eastern boundary of the Bingley Rural Ward towards Shipley, which along with some of its neighbouring wards has a negative projected variance. As such, it is proposed that consideration be given to the transfer of the projected 3,361 electors of Polling District 3D from Bingley Rural to Shipley Ward, which will in turn pass on the projected electors of Polling Districts 22A (1234) to the existing Baildon Ward and the section of 22E (1691) to the east of Bingley Road, to Windhill & Wrose.

Appendix 13

6.28 These changes make good sense for the existing Baildon Ward, which takes the name of the largely stone built town 3 miles north of Bradford City Centre and forms a semi-rural area, contiguous with Shipley.

6.29 A cursory glance at a map of the town's existing Polling Districts with 22A added shows the change provides for good community identity, bringing in the only Polling District, currently included in Shipley Ward, which is located to the north of the river, adjoining Baildon. The case is strengthened in terms of effective governance, in that 22A already falls within the Parish of Baildon and is, consequently, governed at lower tier level by Baildon Town (formerly Parish) Council. The electoral variance of 7.5% seems acceptable, when viewed as part of the wider proposals.

6.30 It is proposed that Bingley Rural having lost 3D to Shipley, gains 2A (projected 706 electors) from Bingley Ward. 2A is the only Bingley Polling District to the south of the Airevalley Road and abuts 3B of Bingley Rural, making a natural geographical fit which has no detriment to community identity or the provision of effective representation, whilst providing good electoral equality, with a variance of -2%.

6.31 As aforementioned, the movement of the existing Polling District 22A from Shipley Ward to Baildon Ward and the part of Polling District 22E to the east of Bradford Road (1691) to Windhill & Wrose Ward do not detriment the effective delivery of representation, to the residents thereof, or those of their current wards.

Appendix 14 & 15

6.32 The inclusion of Cottingley within Shipley Ward should not harm the former's identity, as it is a distinct community bounded by open ground and as it is further from Wilsden, the nearest settlement in its current host ward, than it is from Shipley, its proposed new host ward, there should be no problems providing effective representation. These changes to Shipley Ward provide good electoral equality, with a variance of <1%.

6.33 The proposed changes to Windhill & Wrose Ward would consist only of the aforementioned absorbing of the element of 22E to the east of the A650 Bradford Road which provides an electoral variance of 4%. There is good connectivity between Polling District 22E and its potential new ward, though debatably there could be an erosion of the distinction between Shipley and Windhill. Again, whilst this suggestion is not considered ideal, in the greater scheme of things it could well be a compromise worth making for the greater need for electoral equality.

Appendix 16

6.34 **Idle & Thackley Ward.** Idle is a residential suburban area which used to be a separate village, though it is now loosely bordered by the areas of Eccleshill, Wrose, Thackley, Apperley Bridge, and Greengates, in the north-east of the city. Previously, the Manor of Idle contained the villages of Idle and Windhill and hamlets

of Thackley, Thorpe-Green, Parkhill, Cross-Keys, Buckmill, and Wrose. Like its neighbouring Eccleshill Ward 7%, Idle & Thackley Ward 8% has a projected positive variance. Bradford Moor Ward to the south of Eccleshill is also expected to have a positive variance of 10% and subsequently it is difficult to find proposals to reduce these, without significant changes to existing boundaries.

6.35 It is to an extent inevitable that the boundaries of wards in the easterly side of Bradford District are to concertina in a generally southerly direction until the electoral imbalance is minimised and having examined the projected Polling District figures, the movement of Polling District 13F (1141 projected electors) into Eccleshill Ward seems sensible. The proposal would result in a variance of 1% in Idle & Thackley, whilst having no detriment on effective representation or community identities, as the border between the involved wards is already loose.

Appendix 17

6.36 The moving of 13F would create a projected electorate of 15,150 and a variance of 15% in Eccleshill Ward if not offset, but this is not the intention. The neighbouring Bolton and Undercliffe Ward is projected to have a variance of -5% without action and it seems appropriate to direct some of the Eccleshill excess electors in this direction. To this end consideration could be given to transferring the part of Polling District 10D to the west of Moorside Road and its projected 532 electors, with the remaining 1865 to join Bradford Moor in the first instance.

Appendix 18

6.37 The westerly part of Polling District 10D borders with Bolton & Undercliffe and the small number of electors joining the ward, coupled with the urban nature of the area ensures that there will be no problems caused to community identities or effective representation, whilst the electoral variance would be -1%.

Appendix 19 and 20

6.38 As stated at the beginning of this submission, it is considered easier to adjust boundaries whilst meeting the required criteria in the urban areas than in rural wards. The suggestions so far have gradually edged from rural, through semi-rural, towards the City of Bradford in a clockwise direction and at this point it seems appropriate to look at the remaining semi-rural areas at the other side of the district.

6.39 Thornton & Allerton Ward and Clayton & Fairweather Green Ward

6.40 Whilst the projected variations for these two existing wards are reasonable at 4% and -4% respectively, the make up of the wards seems illogical and untidy.

6.41 Thornton is a village which lies 6 miles to the west of the Bradford City Centre, the preserved centre of the village retains the character of a typical Pennine village, with stone built houses with stone flagged roofs. The surrounding areas consist of more modern housing, still isolated from the nearest other settlements and the city of Bradford by green fields. It retains its village character and has little in common with Allerton, which consists of more modern buildings and is distinctly more urban in character, with there being no open fields separating it from the built-up area between it and the City Centre.

6.42 Thornton is however similar in many ways to Clayton, a village situated 3 miles to the west of Bradford City Centre. Clayton Lane, the main street of the village, like Thornton, has stone-built houses with stone flagged roofs, runs alongside the park, includes several shops and traditional pubs. There are also churches, a nearby golf club a designated Country Park, with views of the city of Bradford and the neighbouring village Thornton across the valley. Clayton has little in common with the bulk of Lower Grange and Fairweather Green, which adjoin and are similar in character to Allerton, being served by the same bus routes and shops etc.

6.43 The Conservative Group propose that two new wards be formed to serve the electors of the current Thornton & Allerton Ward and the Clayton & Fairweather Green Ward and named the Thornton & Clayton Ward and the Allerton & Fairweather Green Ward, with the former consisting of the current Polling Districts 8D, 8E, 8F, 8G, 23C, 23D, 23E and the parts of 8B & 8C to the South of the B6345 Thornton Road.

6.44 The Allerton & Fairweather Green Ward would consist of Polling Districts 23A, 23B, 23F, 8A and the parts of 8B & 8C to the North of Thornton Road.

Appendix 21

6.45 The proposed Thornton & Clayton Ward would have an electorate estimated at 13,201, an electoral variance of less than 1% in 2029, whilst Allerton & Fairweather Green is estimated to have an electorate of 12,821 in 2029, a variance of less than -2%.

Appendix 22

6.46 **Queensbury Ward** named after the large village at its centre is one of the highest parishes in England, perched on a vantage point above Halifax, Clayton and Thornton and overlooking Bradford itself, with views beyond the West Yorkshire conurbation to the hills of Bronte Country and the Yorkshire Dales to the north and north-west. The Ward also includes the villages of Clayton Heights and Horton Bank Top, as well as several hamlets: Ambler Thorn, Calder Banks, Catherine Slack, Hazel Hirst, Hunger Hill, Little Moor, Mountain, Old Dolphin, Scarlet Heights, Shibden Head and West Scholes. Much of the ward is bounded by steep hillside and open fields maintaining its distinct identity, something which a significant number of the residents take pride in.

6.47 In light of the location and geography of the ward, the fact that its existing electoral equality figure is projected to be good and it already effectively represents the interests and identity as a local community, it seems appropriate to again adopt a policy of “its not broken, so why try to mend it”, when considering the ward boundaries and the Conservative Group proposes no changes.

6.48 The aforementioned proposals could facilitate the retention of the existing boundaries for the Toller, Heaton and Manningham Wards, which are well established, have no reported representation problems and are predicted to have electoral equality variances of 3%, 4% and -3% respectively. A variety of minor changes could be made to reduce the variances even further and the Conservative Group has not identified a standout preference and makes no recommendation on this point and they are all clearly within tolerance levels.

6.49 Returning to Bradford Moor Ward and Bolton & Undercliffe, the addition of the 1865 electors from the part of Polling District 10D to the East of Moorside Road to Bradford Moor,

would create a total electorate of 15,283 and thus a variance of 16%, if no follow-on action were to be taken.

6.50 As Bradford Moor is landlocked by Bowling and Barkerend Ward and a boundary with the neighbouring Leeds City Council, there is no option but to transfer electors to Bowling and Barkerend Ward, which is already projected to have a variance of 10% in 2029. This is however not the disaster that it may initially appear, as there are still nearby wards with large negative variances to be rectified.

6.51 It is proposed that Polling District 6E be transferred to Bowling and Barkerend, along with the part of 6C to the south of Leeds Road. Both of these sections, due to their urban nature and that of the ward that they would be joining, should not cause any degradation of shared community interests and should by their eventual, down the line contribution to electoral equality in an urban area, improve effective representation. The electoral variance for Bowling and Barkerend would be an unacceptable 25% if no further action were to be taken.

6.52 However, it is proposed that a land bridge be created connecting Bowling & Barkerend Ward and its oversized electorate, to connect with the Wards of Wibsey and Wyke, which both have large projected negative variances in 2029, at -15% and -13% respectively.

Appendix 23

6.53 It could be argued that it would be simpler to continue to push boundaries along, completely changing City Ward, Little Horton Ward and Great Horton Ward, but having considered the overall picture, an alternative proposal for those wards is to be put forward. The Conservative Group notes that the combined electorate of these wards is projected to be approximately 39,715 in 2029, which if divided equally into three wards would provide and electorate of 13,238 per ward, a variance of 1%, though it is recognised that this outcome, despite the near homogenous, urban nature of the three wards, would be highly unlikely.

Appendix 24

6.54 The three wards have much in common, with the name City Ward providing a clear description of the area covered by the Ward. Little and Great Horton are adjoining the City Centre to the south and west respectively. Both Horton Wards are near indistinguishable in nature and have no difference in community identity or interests.

6.55 As well as border, they share with City Ward which is home to both the University of Bradford and also Bradford College. The mixture of the large student and numerous other communities (many individuals temporarily) resident to the area, whilst transcending ward boundaries, do provide a distinct character covering the three wards collectively.

6.56 It therefore seems appropriate to resolve the electoral inequalities within this area, within this area and the Conservative Group proposes that the existing Polling District 7E, located where all three wards meet, be divided in a manner that leaves the section to the North of the A6177 within City Ward, with the section to the South East of Great Horton Road transferring to Little Horton and the section to the North West of Great Horton Road moving to Great Horton Ward.

6.57 For the aforementioned reasons, this change would cause no detriment to community links, connectivity or effective representation, whilst providing near electoral equality, with variances of City Ward 1%, Great Horton 1% and Little Horton 5%.

6.58 It is proposed that the aforementioned land bridge joining Bowling and Barkerend Ward largely with the existing **Wibsey Ward**, but also Wyke, could be used to create a new ward, possibly named Wibsey and Bowling South, containing the existing Wibsey Ward, minus the 1301 electors of Polling District 27J, who would transfer to Wyke but with the addition of the electors residing in Polling Districts 5H (914), 5G (1231) and the part of 5F to the West of the A6177, which would provide a variance of -7.5%. The land bridge utilises the park side element of polling district 18J.

Appendix 25

6.59 It is conceded that this proposed ward is less than ideal in the sense of community identity, but in the sense of effective representation and electoral equality, it is an improvement on the current situation.

6.60 The transfer of Polling District 27J from Wibsey to Wyke Ward should not affect community ties or effective representation, as the relevant Polling District is currently the only Wibsey Polling District south of Rooley Lane, located in between Polling Districts in Wyke and it creates an electoral equality variance in Wyke of only -3%, a significant improvement on the current projection.

7 Conclusion

7.1 As stated in the introduction the mixture of rural and urban areas and the physical geography make equitable ward sizes very difficult to achieve without splitting communities and making some large rural wards excessively so, to navigate reasonably in the interest of Elected Members workloads.

7.2 The Conservative Group have spoken to many people across the Bradford District, have considered many options for ward boundaries and feel our proposals are a great fit for the District and would bring ward sizes within tolerance levels. We hope you will now consider our proposals as you formulate your initial plans.

7.3 We hope that the contents of this submission allow the Local Government Boundary Commission to give them serious consideration.

R Poulsen

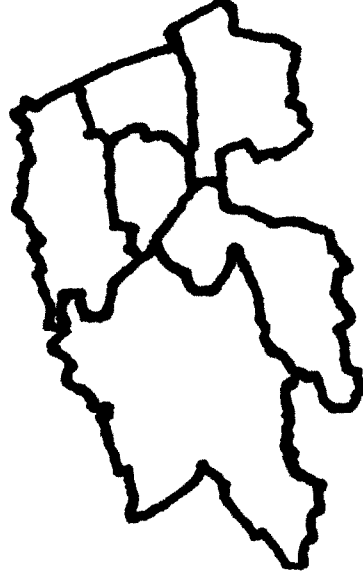
Councillor Rebecca Poulsen.

Leader of the Bradford Metropolitan District Council Conservative Group and signed on behalf the members of the Bradford Metropolitan District Council Conservative Group.

APPENDIX 1

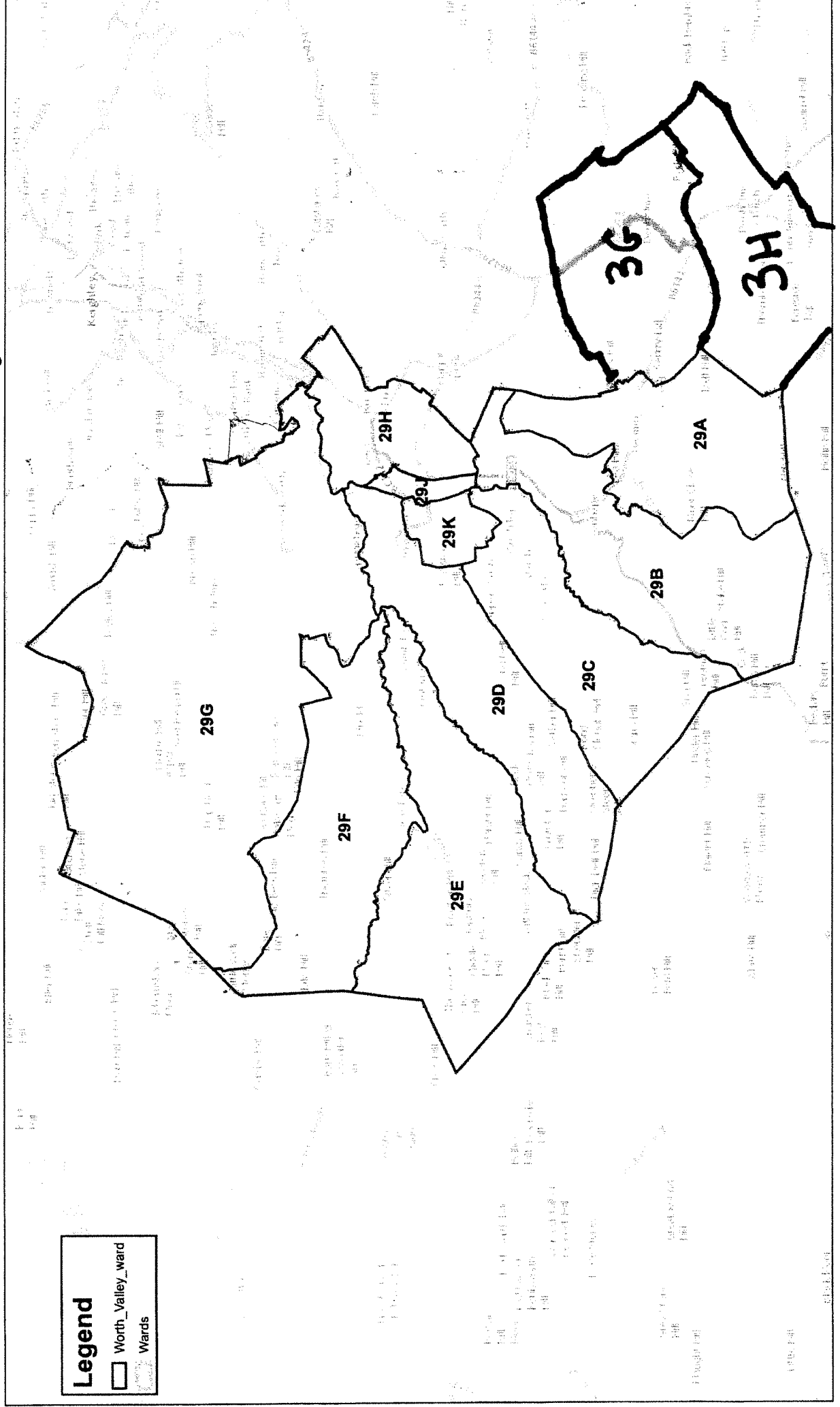


BRADFORD
WEST
CONSTITUENCY.



APPENDIX 2

3G + 3H CBMDC Worth Valley Ward Polling Districts + Polling Districts



APPENDIX 3

+9F CRAVEN

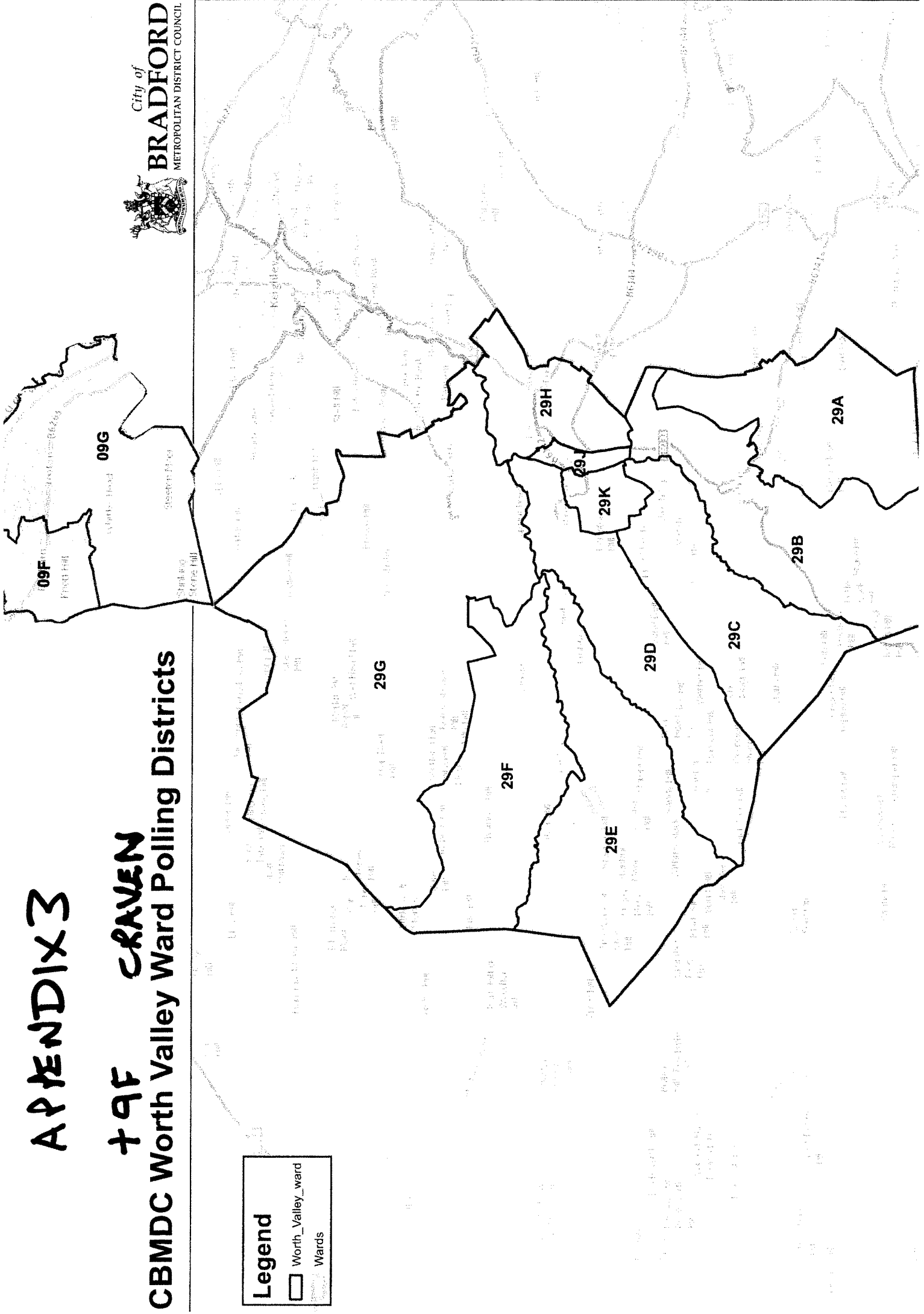
CBMDC Worth Valley Ward Polling Districts



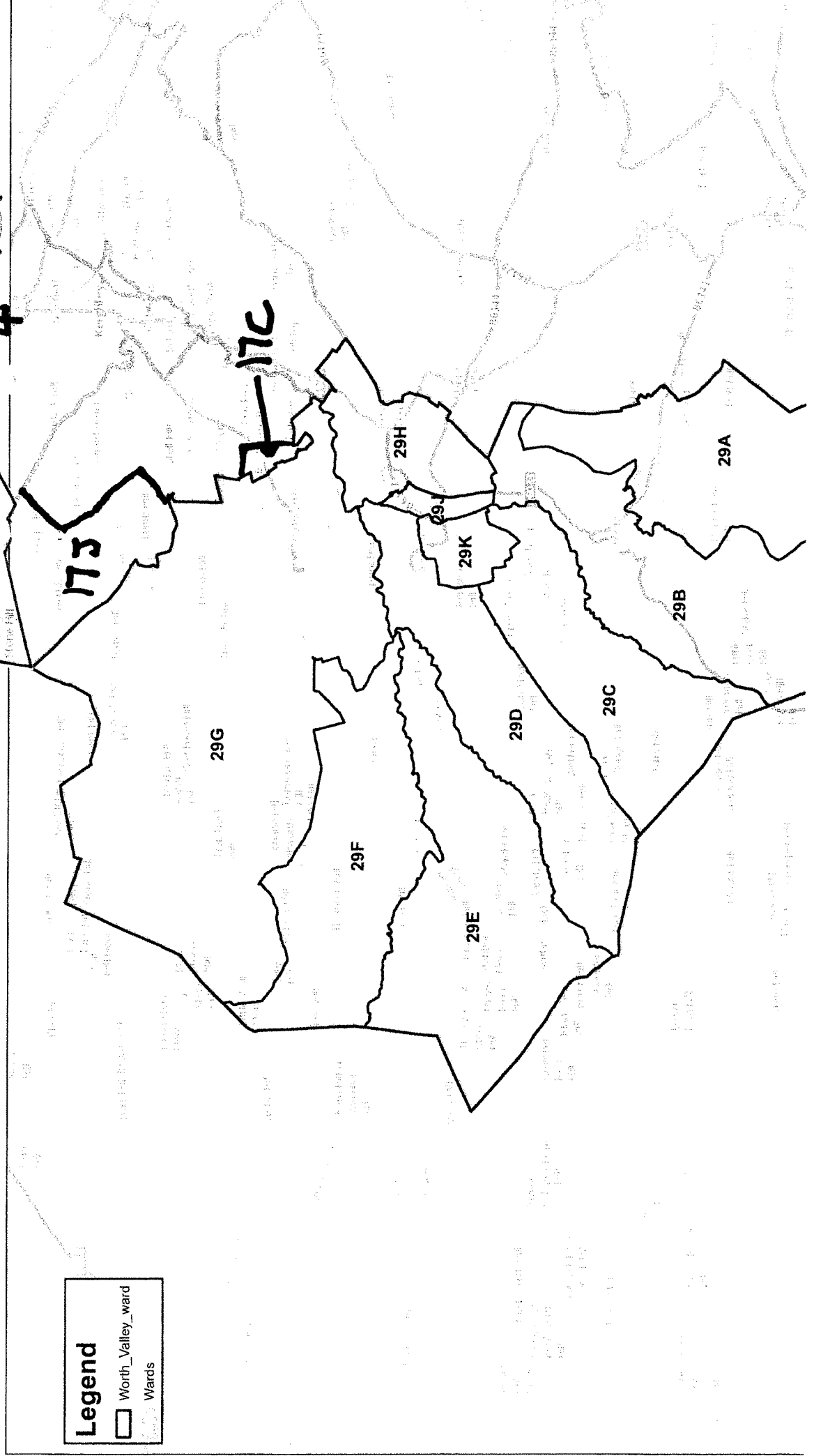
Legend

☐ Worth_Valley_ward

☐ Wards



+ 17C + 17J **CBMDC Worth Valley Ward Polling Districts**

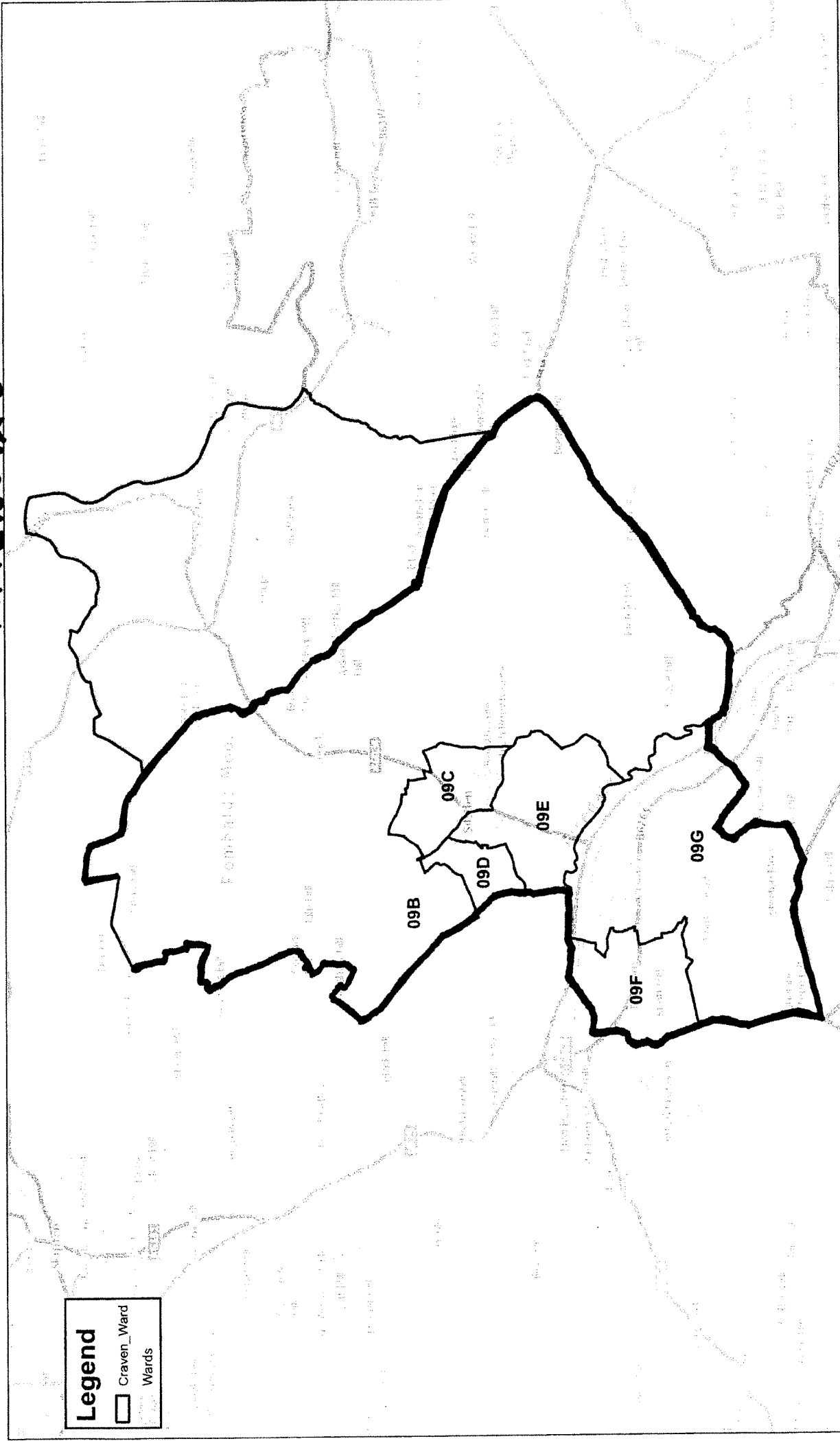


REVISED

CBMDC Craven Ward Polling Districts



APPENDIX 5



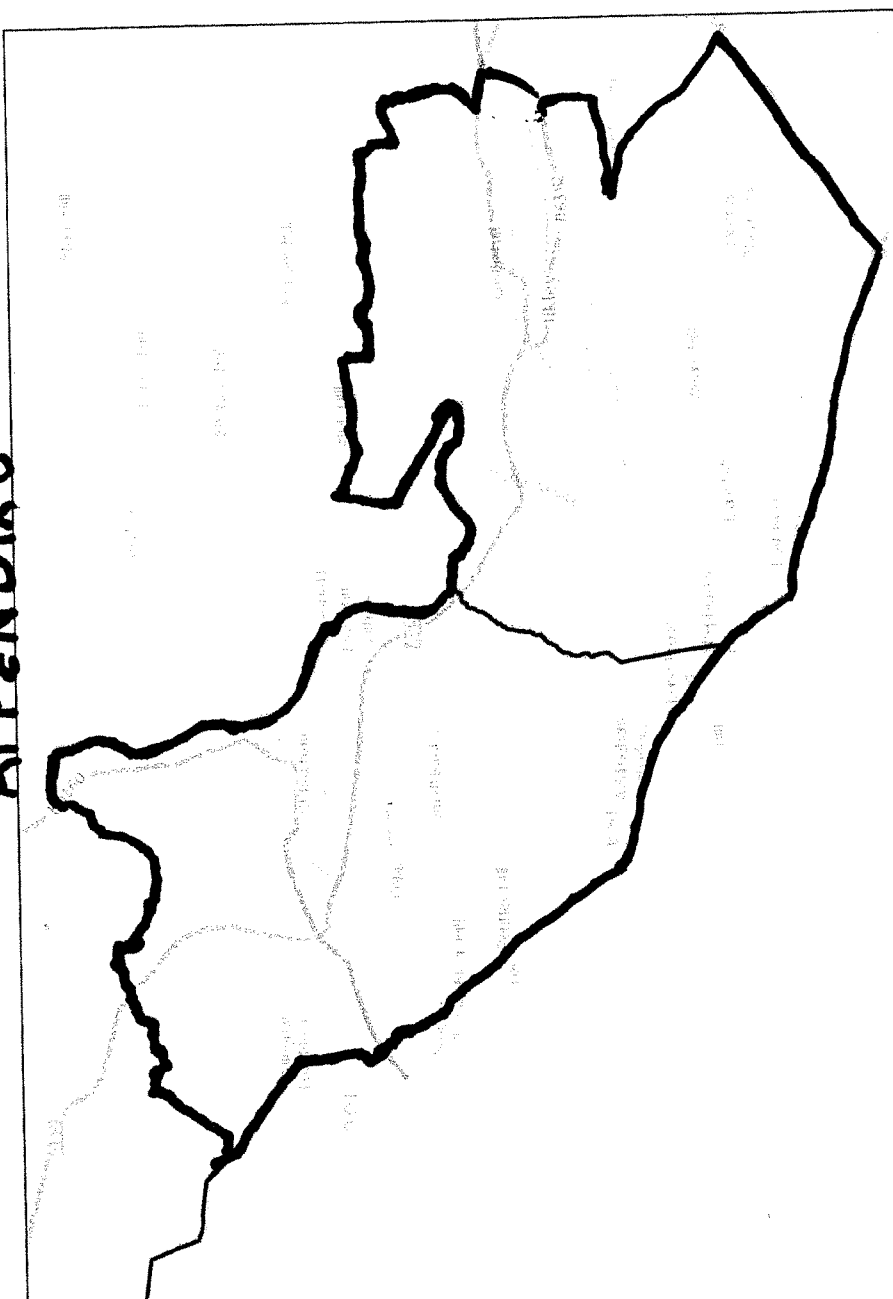
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- Craven_Ward
- Wards

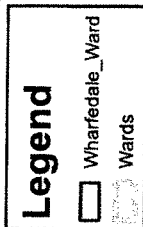


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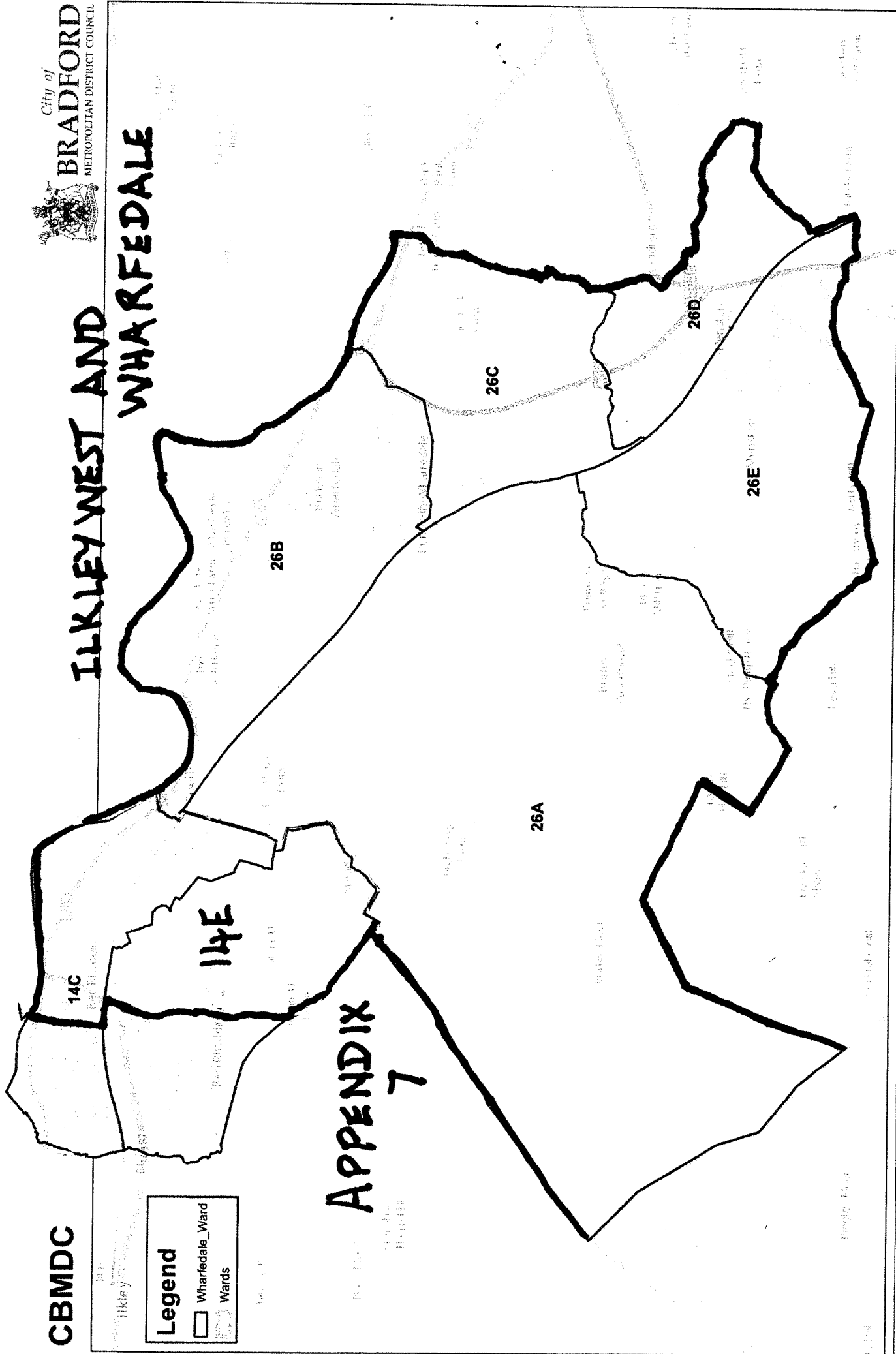
APPENDIX 6



ILKLEY WEST AND WHARFEDALE



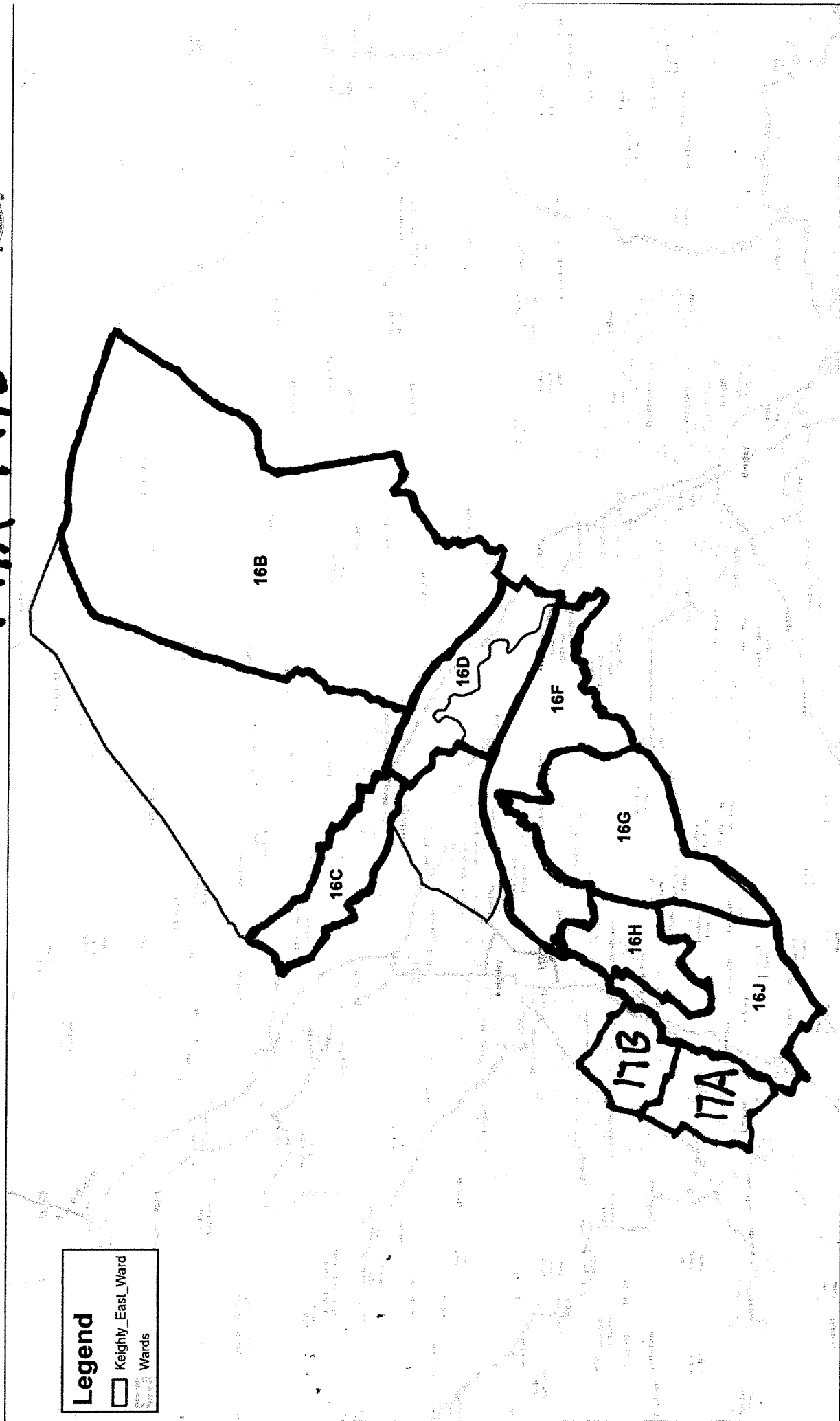
APPENDIX 7



APPENDIX 8

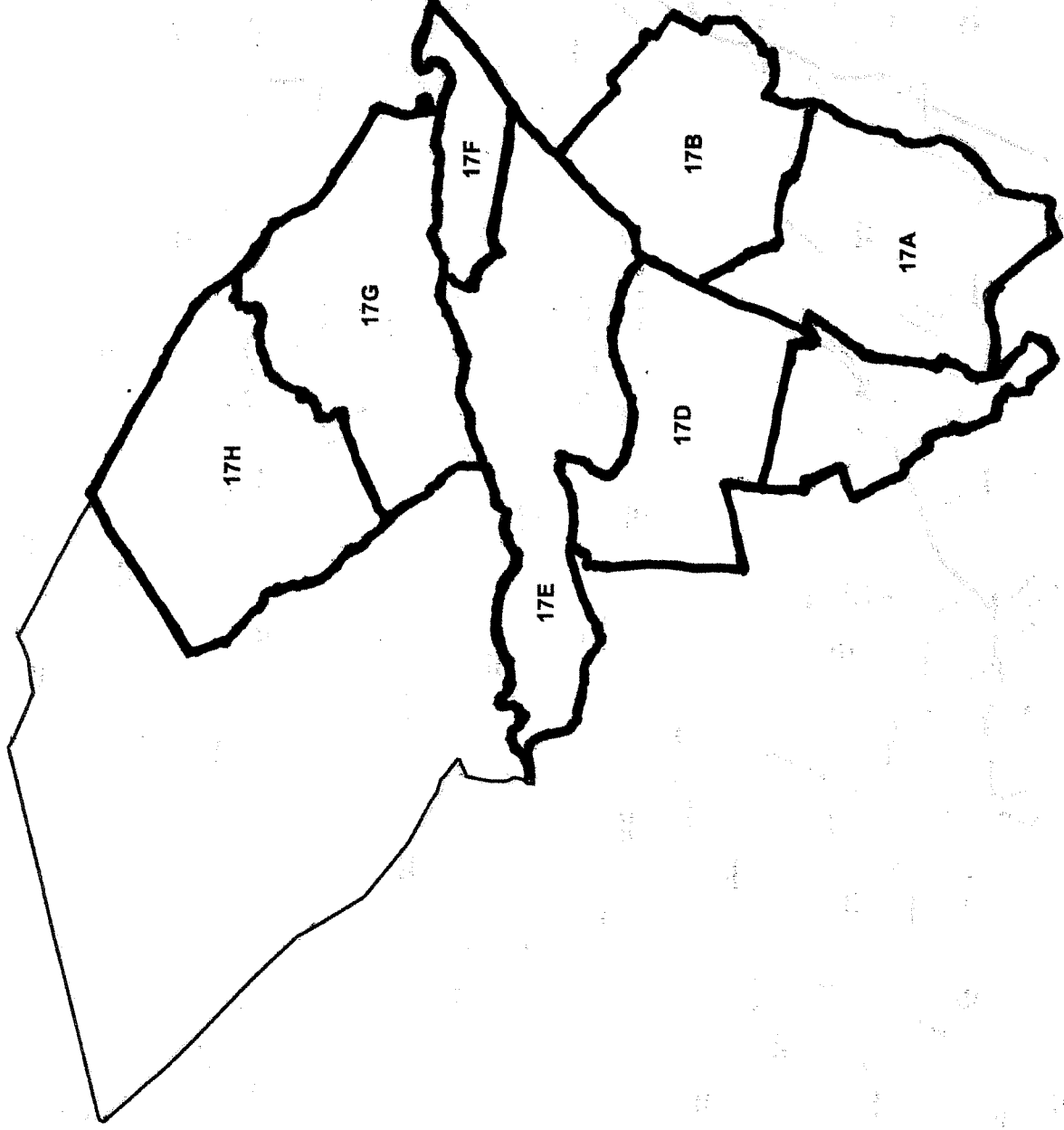
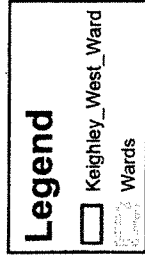
CBMDC Keighley East Ward Polling Districts

-16A -16E
+17A +17B



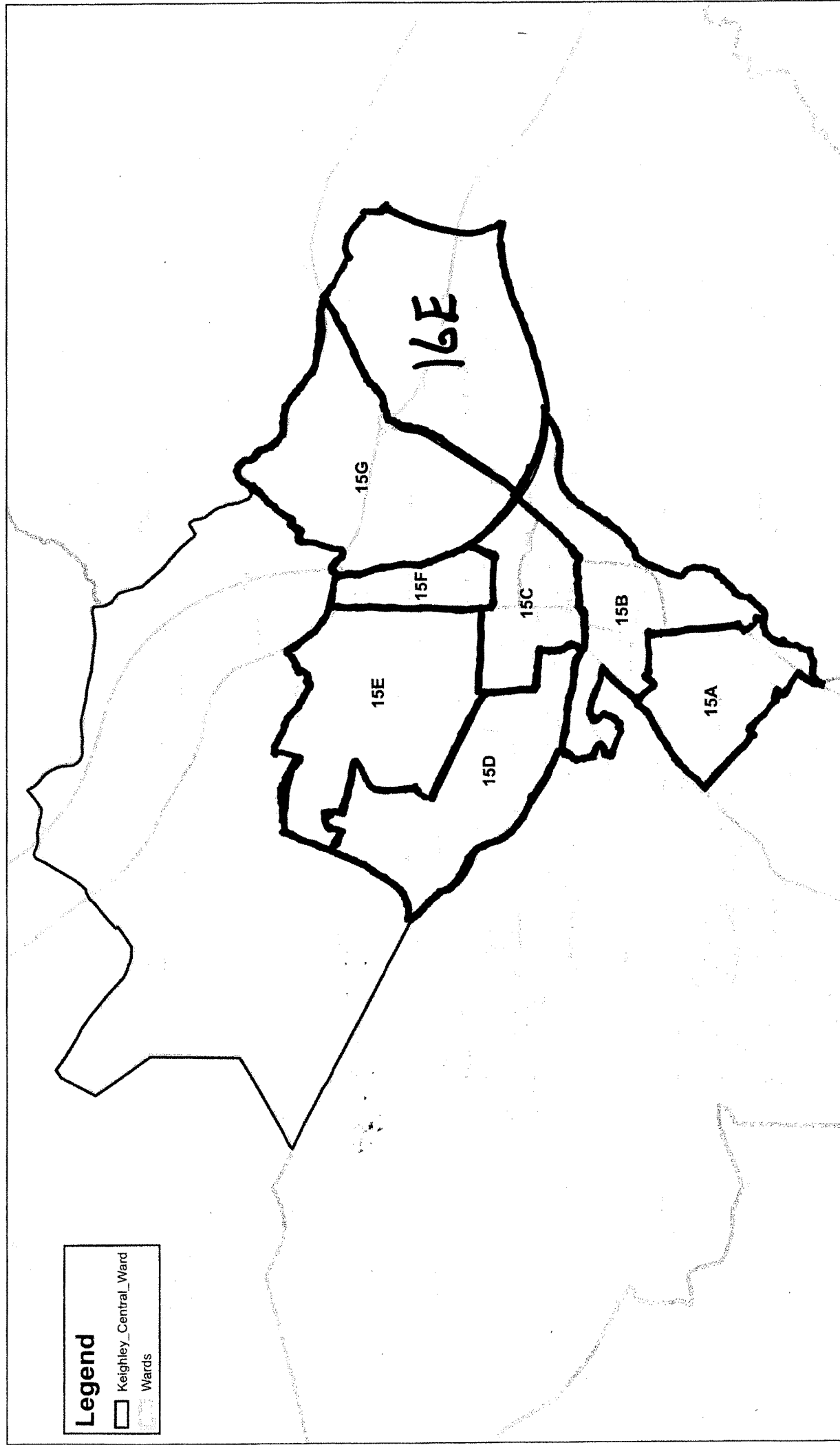
PROPOSED CBMDC Keighley West AND STEETON

APPENDIX A



REVISED

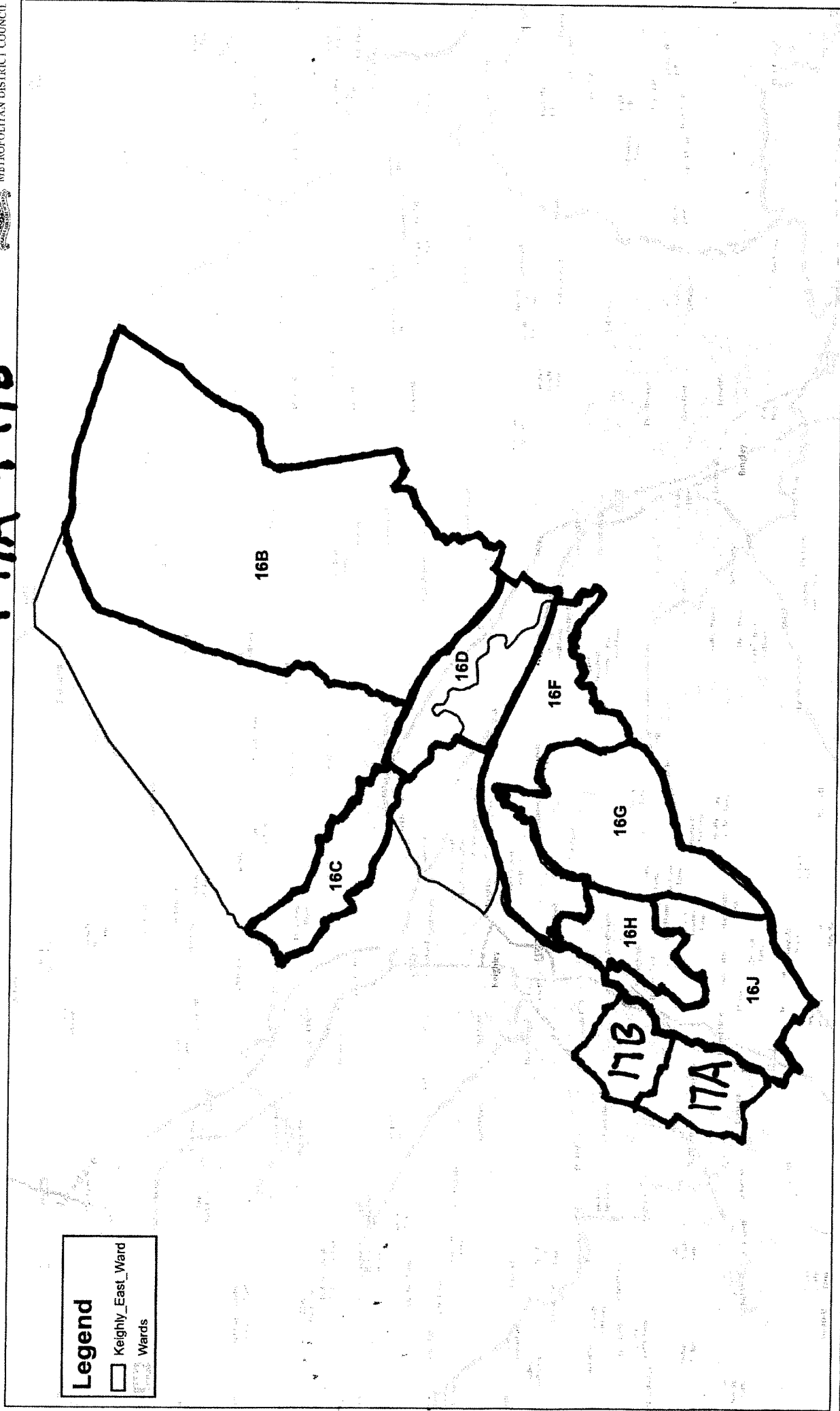
CBMDC Keighley Central Ward Polling Districts **APPENDIX 1D**





APPENDIX 11

CBMDC Keighley East Ward Polling Districts

-16A -11E
+17A +17B

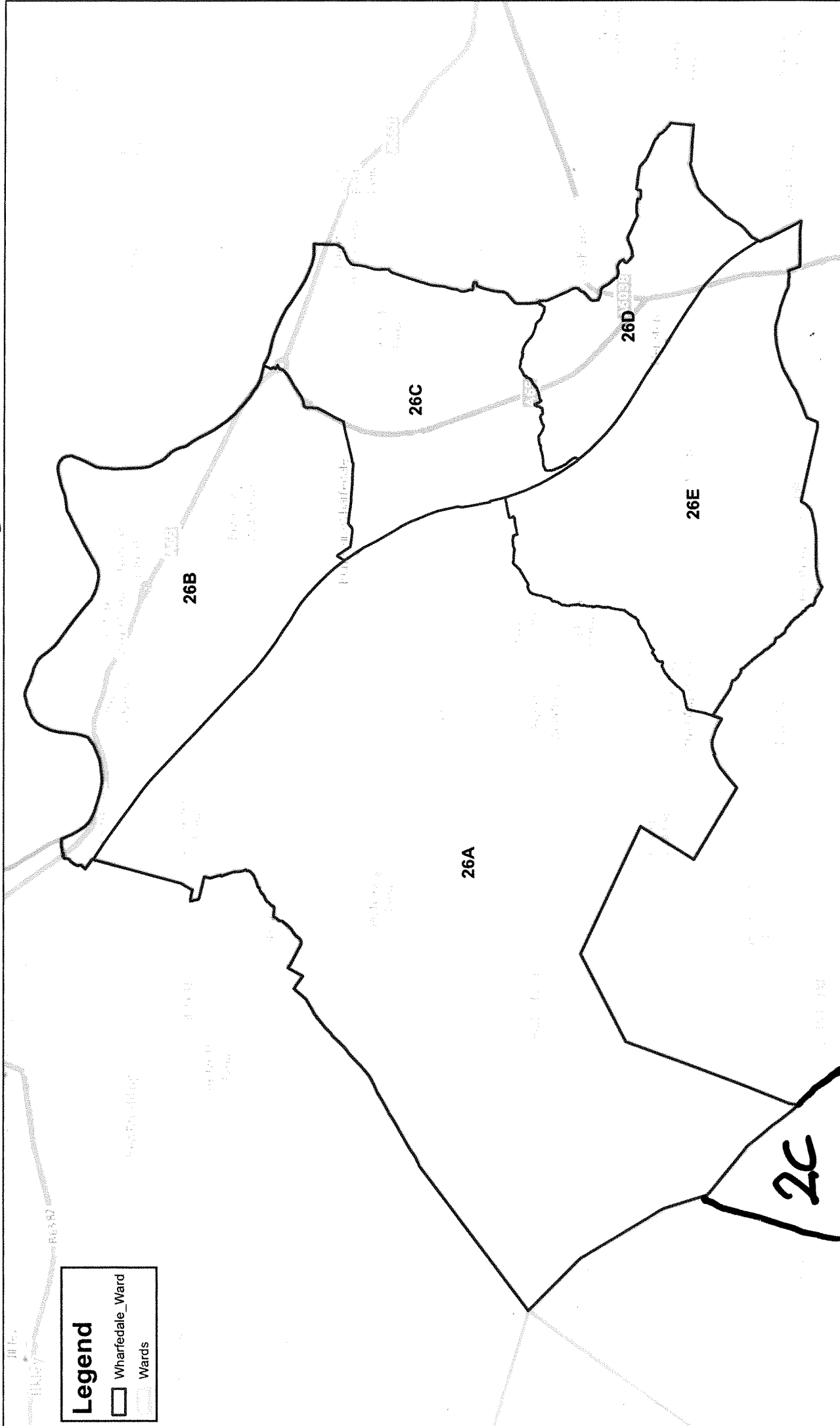


Legend

 Keighly_East_Ward
 Wards

APPENDIX 12A

CBMDC Wharfedale Ward Polling Districts




Legend

- Wharfedale_Ward
- Wards

APPENDIX 12B

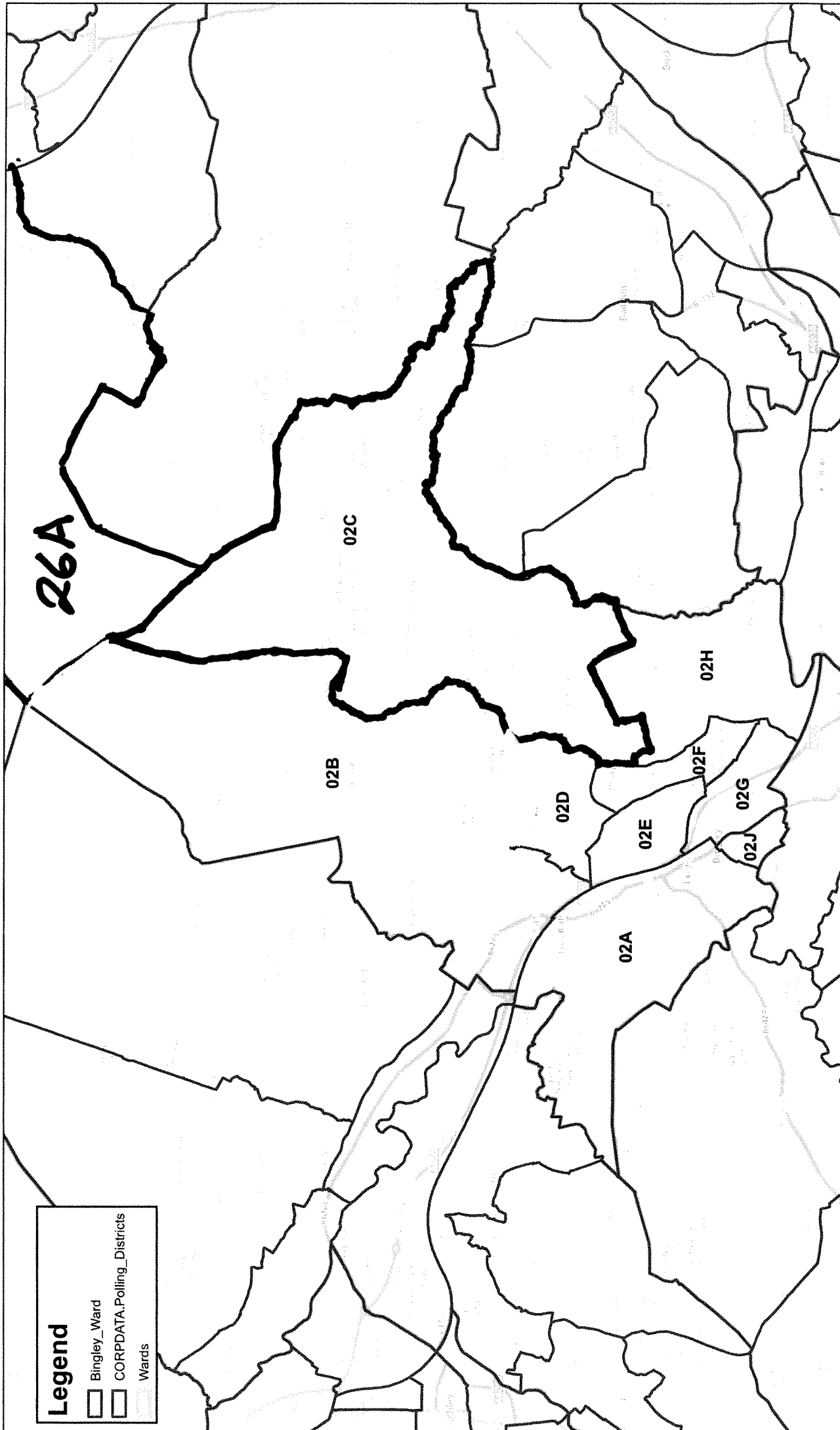
26A

Legend

 Bingley_Ward

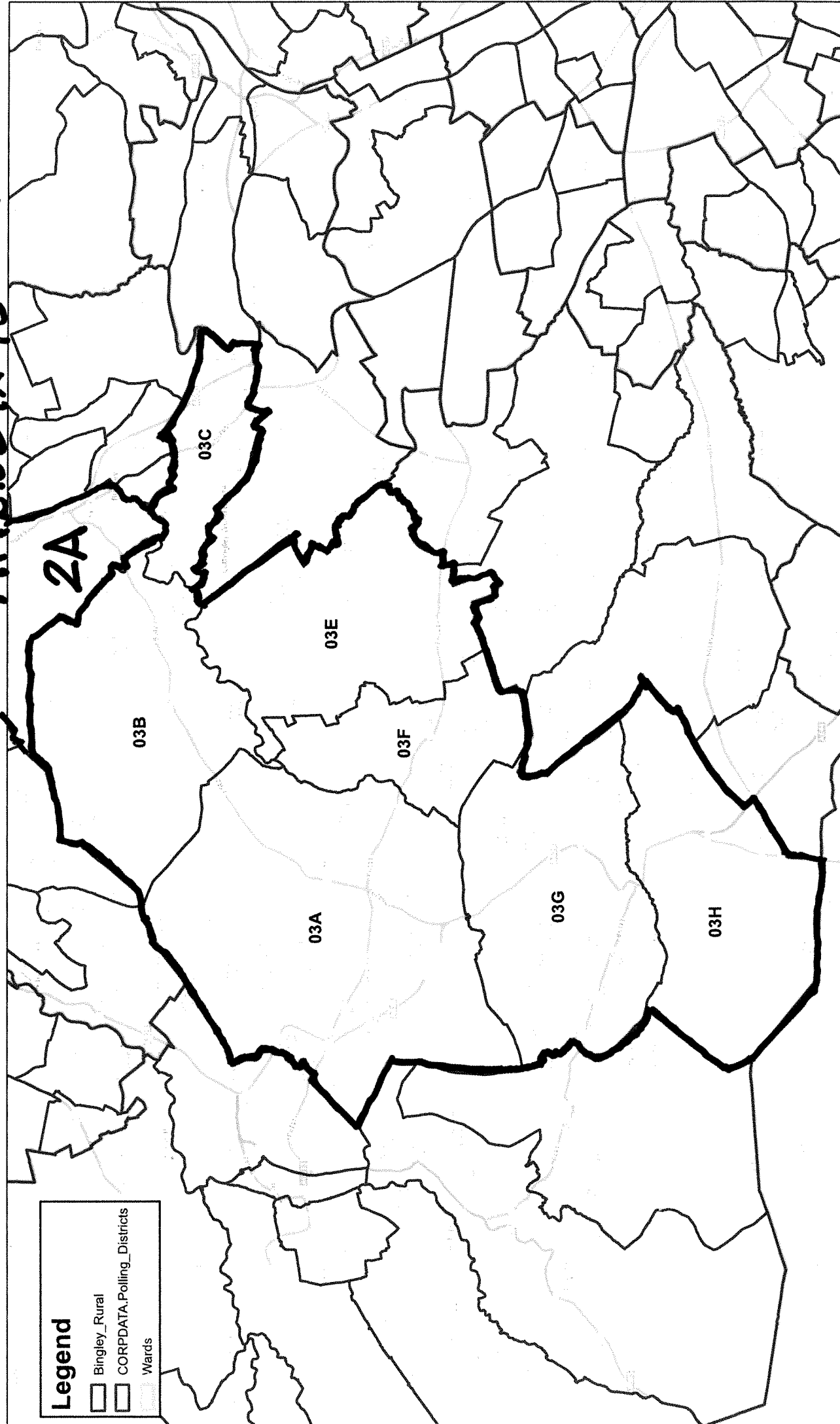
 CORPDATA.Polling_Districts

 Wards

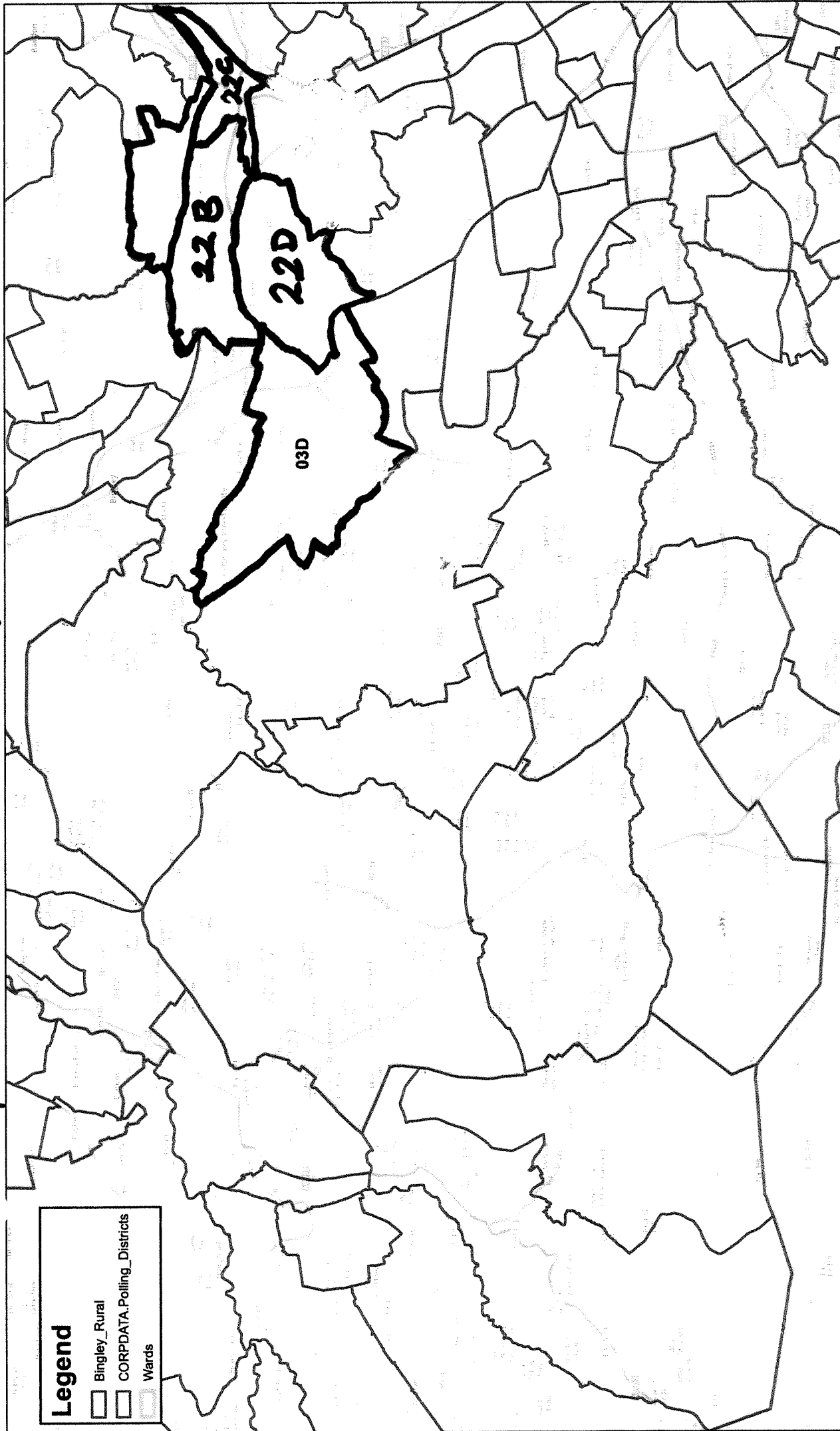


APPENDIX 13

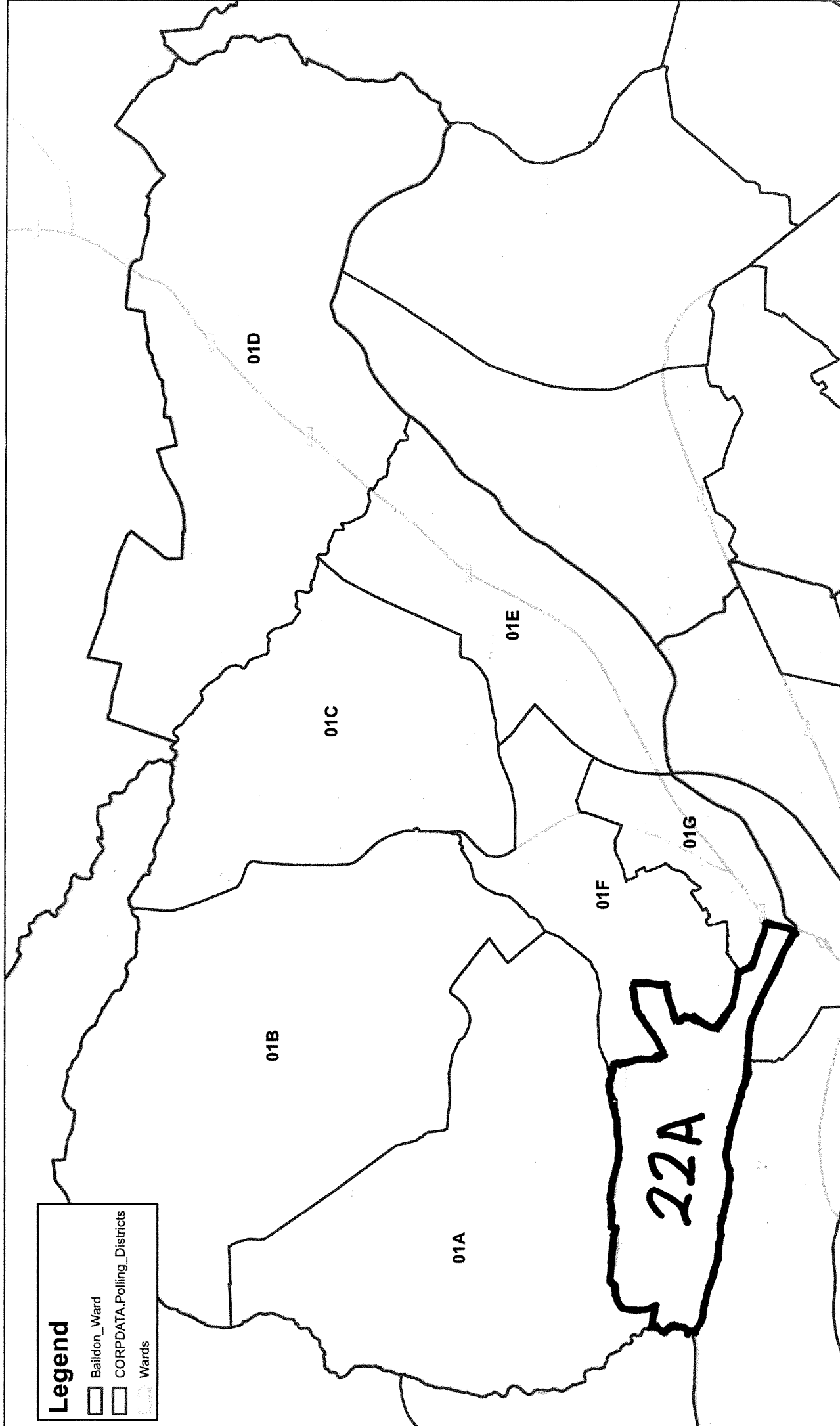
CBMDC Bingley Rural Ward Polling Districts



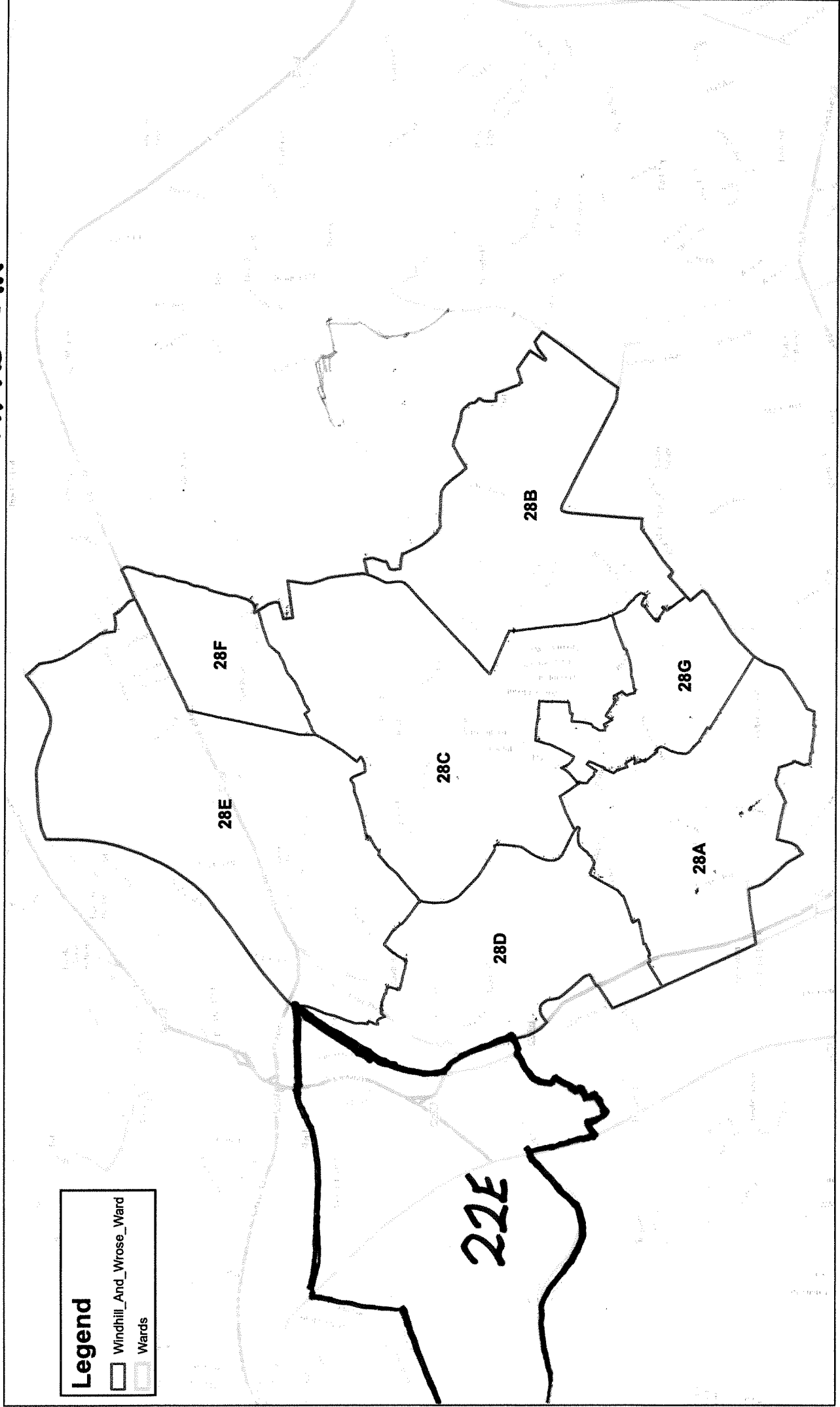
CBMDC SHIPLEY Ward Polling Districts **APPENDIX 14**



CBMDC Baildon Ward Polling Districts **APPENDIX 15**

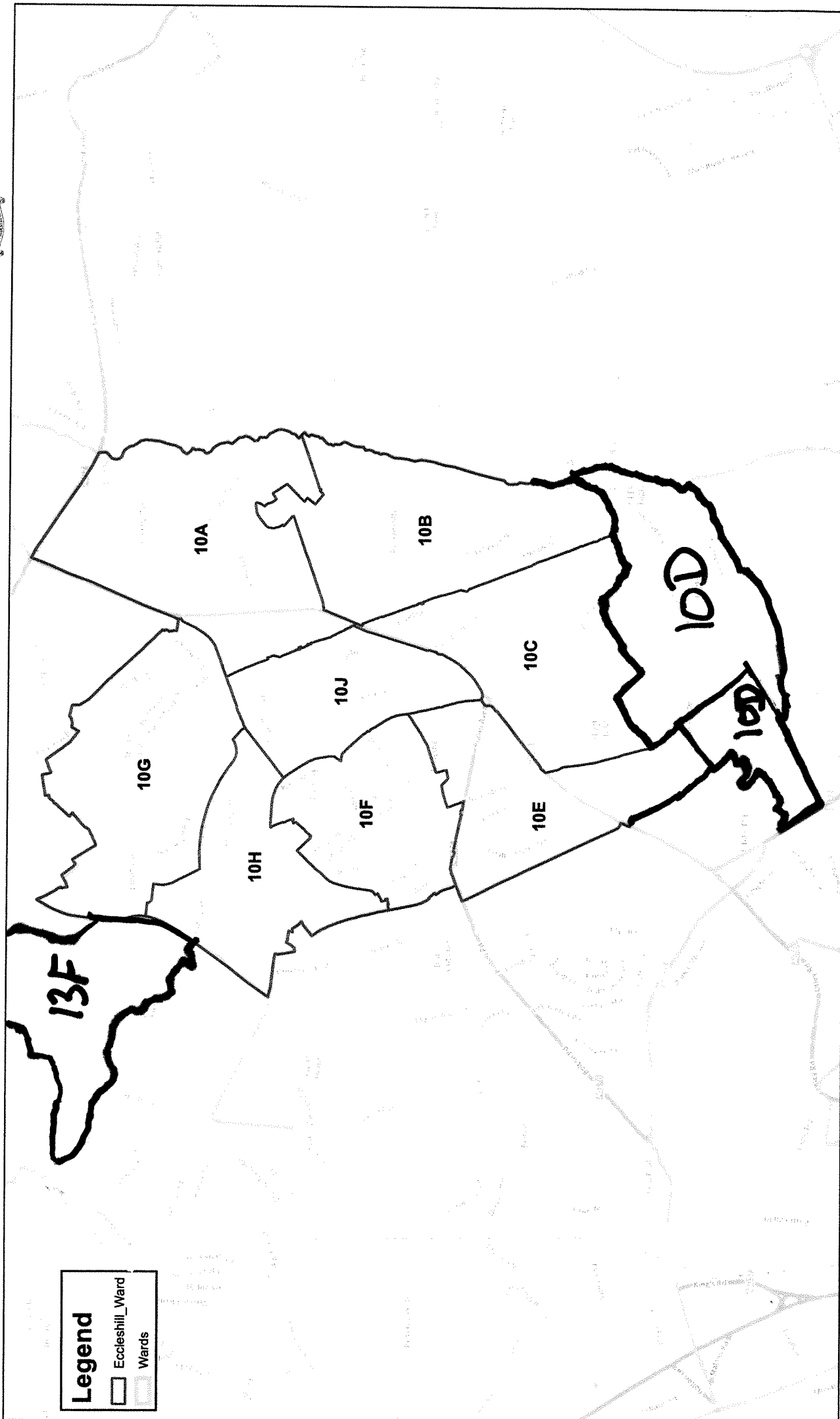


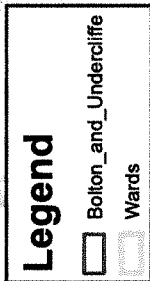
16 CBMDC Windhill and Wrose Ward Polling Districts + 22 APPENDIX



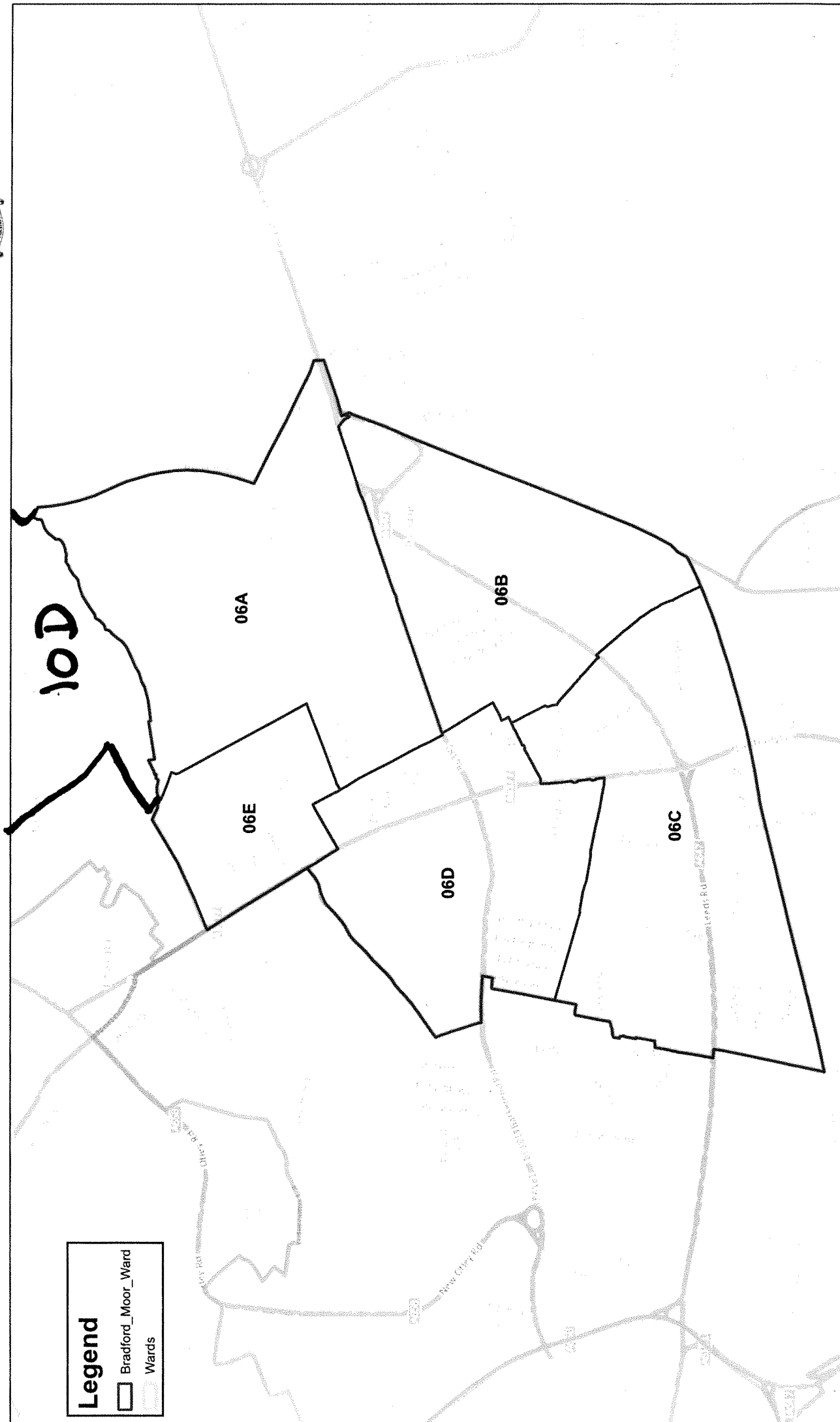
CBMDC Idle and Thackley Ward Polling Districts





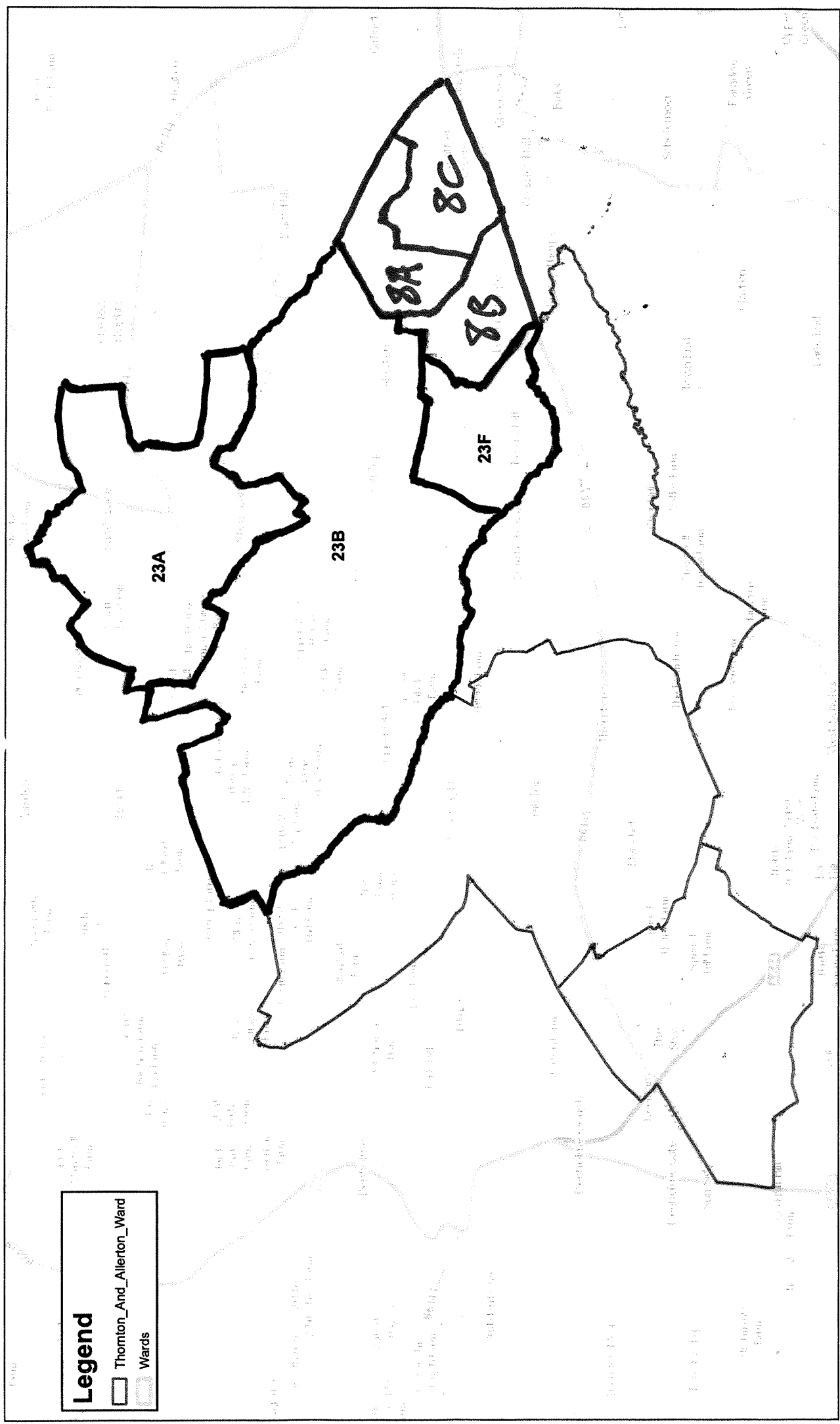


CBMDC Bradford Moor Ward Polling Districts **APPENDIX 20**



FAIRWEATHER CBMDC GREEN and Allerton Ward

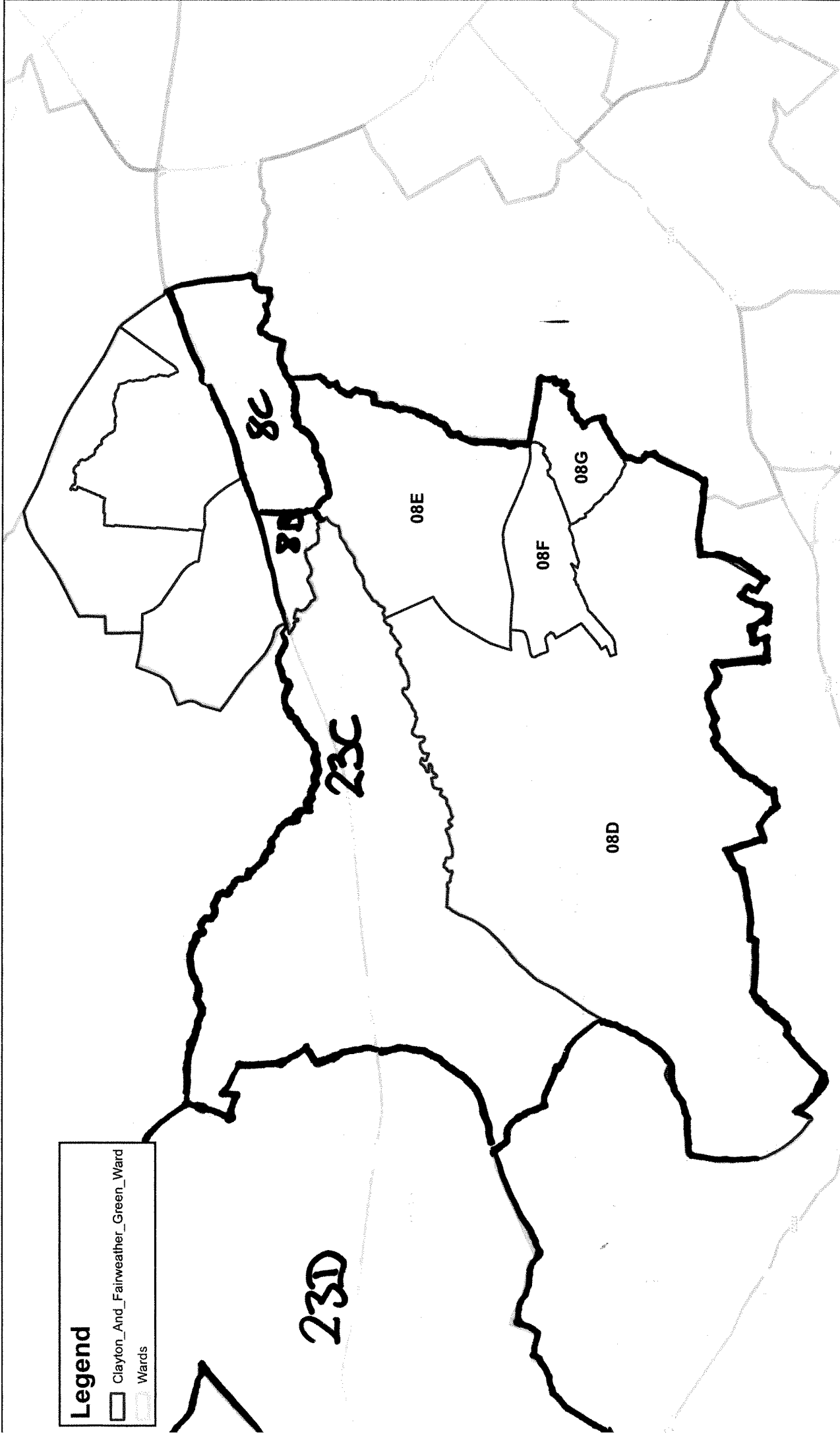
Appendix 21



Legend

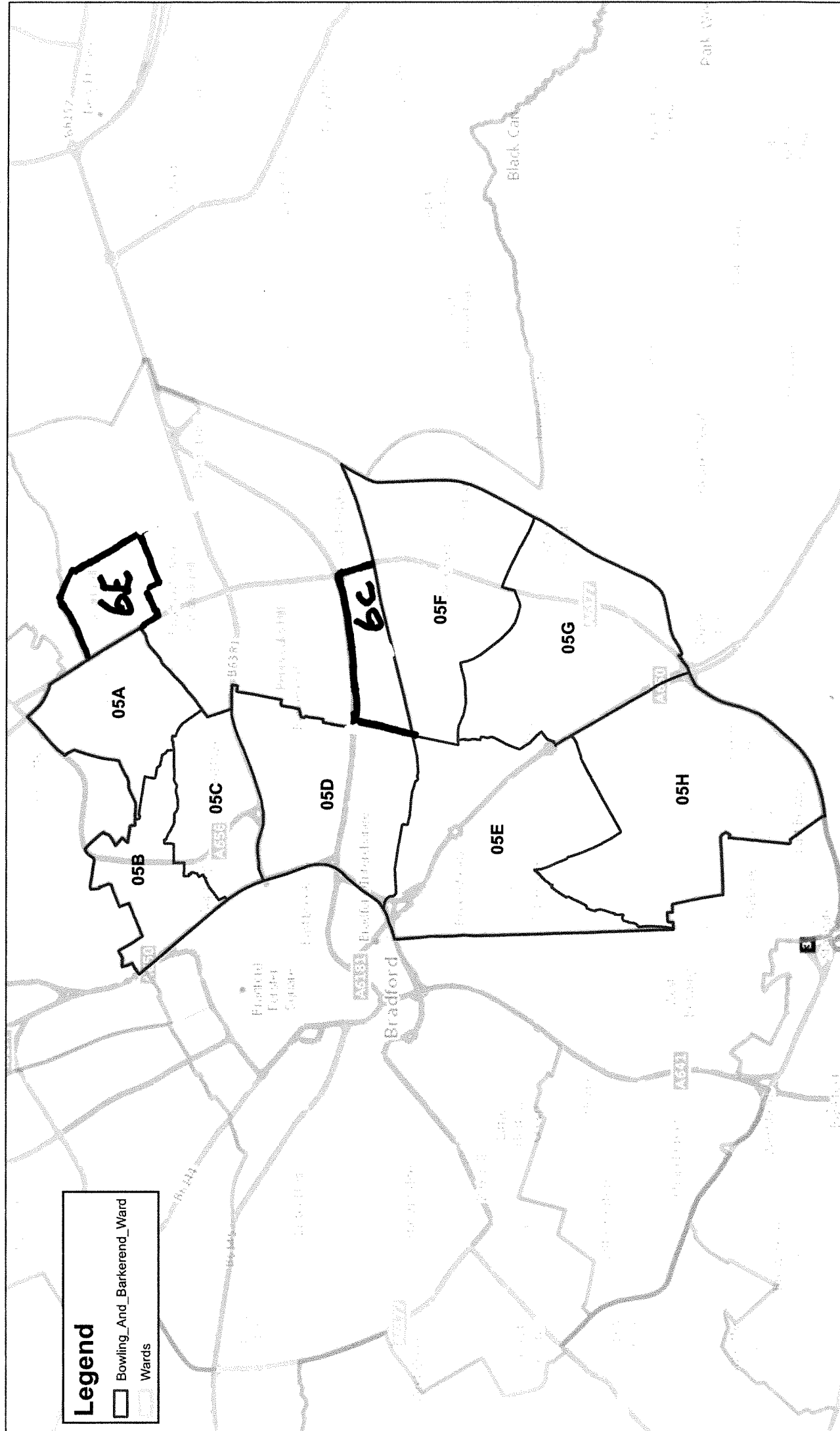
☐ Clayton_And_Fairweather_Green_Ward

☐ Wards

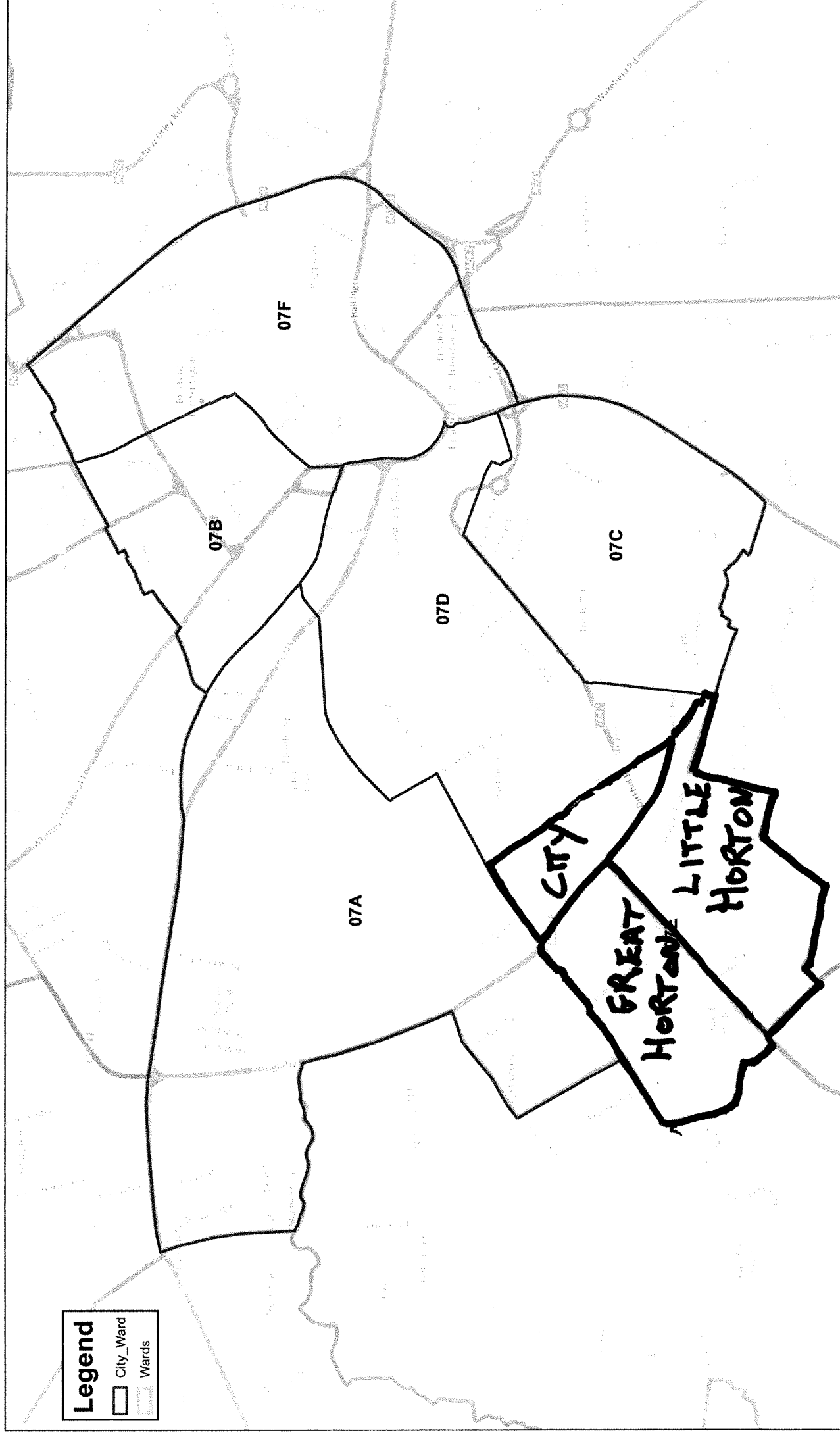


APPENDIX 23

CBMDC Bowling and Barkerend Ward Polling Districts



CBMDC City Ward Polling Districts **APPENDIX 24**



APPENDIX 25 LAND BRIDGE



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