

Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No.331

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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Sir Nicholas Morrison KCB

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

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To the Rt Hon Merlyn Rees, MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department

PROPOSALS FOR REVISED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE
BOROUGH OF READING IN THE COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the borough of Reading in accordance with the requirements of section 63 of, and Schedule 9 to, the Local Government Act 1972, present our proposals for the future electoral arrangements for that borough.
2. In accordance with the procedure laid down in section 60(1) and (2) of the 1972 Act, notice was given on 1 April 1977 that we were to undertake this review. This was incorporated in a consultation letter addressed to the Reading Borough Council, copies of which were circulated to the Berkshire County Council, the Members of Parliament for the constituencies concerned, and the headquarters of the main political parties. Copies were also sent to the editors of local newspapers circulating in the area and of the local government press. Notices inserted in the local press announced the start of the review and invited comments from members of the public and from interested bodies.
3. Reading Borough Council were invited to prepare a draft scheme of representation for our consideration. In doing so, they were asked to observe the rules laid down in Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972 and the guidelines which we set out in our Report No 6 about the proposed size of the council and the proposed number of councillors for each ward. They were asked to take into account views expressed to them following their consultation with local interests. We therefore asked that they should publish details of their provisional proposals about a month before they submitted their draft scheme to us, thus allowing an opportunity for local comment.

4. The Borough Council have passed a resolution under section 7(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, requesting a system of elections by thirds.
5. On 25 August 1977, the Borough Council presented their draft scheme of representation. The Council proposed to divide the area of the district into 15 wards, each returning 3 members to form a council of 45 members.
6. We considered the draft scheme and noted that, on the basis of the present and future electorate of the proposed wards, it appeared to provide an acceptable standard of representation.
7. On the recommendation of Ordnance Survey we adopted some minor boundary alterations, in order to secure boundaries which were more readily identifiable on the ground.
8. Subject to the modifications referred to in paragraph 7 above we decided that the Borough Council's draft scheme provided a reasonable basis for the future electoral arrangements for the borough in compliance with the rules in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act and our guidelines, and we formulated our draft proposals accordingly.
9. On 9 November 1977 we issued our draft proposals and these were sent to all who had received our consultation letter. The Council were asked to make a copy of the draft proposals and the accompanying map, which defined the ward boundaries, available for inspection at their main offices. Representations on our draft proposals were invited from those to whom they were circulated and, by public notices, from other members of the public and interested bodies. We asked that comments should reach us by 4 January 1978.
10. Reading Borough Council accepted our draft proposals. However, they favoured some amendments to the textual descriptions of the ward boundaries and a minor adjustment to the boundary of the proposed Thames ward, which had been

suggested by Berkshire County Council. At our request, Ordnance Survey examined these suggestions and saw no technical objection.

11. Two local residents' associations submitted identical schemes for increasing the number of wards in the northern part of the borough. These submissions were supported by a local councillor. We considered the schemes but concluded that there were insufficient grounds for believing that the growth in electorate in that area would justify the increased representation which the associations had requested. We therefore decided that it was not possible to accept their submissions.

12. The other comments which we received in response to our draft proposals concerned primarily the names of four of the proposed wards.

13. Berkshire County Council, a local residents' association and a local councillor objected to the name of the proposed Peppard ward. The names 'Chiltern', 'Crawshay', and 'Emmer Green' were put forward as alternatives but the Borough Council felt that none of these was appropriate. We reconsidered the name 'Peppard'.

14. Two local political associations, two local councillors and a Member of Parliament for one of the constituencies concerned objected to the name 'Palmer'. They pointed out that the boundaries of the proposed ward were coterminous with those of the existing Park ward and requested that the name 'Park' should be retained. The Borough Council advised us that they supported this request. We therefore decided that we should modify our draft proposals accordingly.

15. Although we received letters from two local councillors expressing approval of the name 'Rabsons', another local councillor, two local political associations,

a Member of Parliament for one of the constituencies concerned, a local rate-payers' association and fifteen local residents were opposed to this name. Alternative names suggested were 'Christchurch', 'Church', 'Ridgeway' and 'Ridge'. In view of the local feeling on the matter we decided to recommend that the proposed Rabsons ward should be renamed 'Church', a change which the Borough Council themselves advocated.

16. The Borough Council and six local residents requested that the name 'Minster' should be submitted for 'Coley'. Since it appeared that our proposed Coley ward covered a large part of the area of an existing ward, known as Minster, we recommended that the proposed ward should be renamed.

17. Subject to the modifications referred to in paragraphs 10, 14, 15 and 16 above, we decided to confirm our draft proposals as our final proposals.

18. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedules 1 and 2 to this report. Schedule 1 gives the names of the wards and the number of councillors to be returned by each. Schedule 2 is a description of the area of the new wards. The boundaries of the new wards are shown on the attached map.

PUBLICATION

19. In accordance with section 60(5)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, a copy of this report and copies of the map are being sent to Reading Borough Council and will be available for public inspection at the Council's main offices.

Copies of this report (without the map) are being sent to those who received the consultation letter and to those who made comments.

L.S.

Signed:

NICHOLAS MORRISON (CHAIRMAN)

JOHN M RANKIN (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN)

PHYLLIS BOWDEN

TYRRELL BROCKBANK

D P HARRISON

R R THORNTON

LESLIE GRIMSHAW (Secretary)

January 1979

BOROUGH OF READING IN THE COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE

NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS AND NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO OF COUNCILLORS</u>
Abbey	3
Battle	3
Caversham	3
Church	3
Katesgrove	3
Kentwood	3
Minster	3
Norcot	3
Park	3
Chiltern	3
Redlands	3
Southcote	3
Thames	3
Tilehurst	3
Whitley	3

BOROUGH OF READING - DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARIES

NOTE: Where a boundary is described as following a road, railway, river, canal or similar feature it should be deemed to follow the centre line of the feature unless otherwise stated.

TILEHURST WARD

Commencing at the point where the western boundary of the Borough meets the prolongation westwards of the road known as Pierce's Hill, thence eastwards along said prolongation and said road to Westwood Road, thence northwards along said road to Armour Road, thence eastwards and southeastwards along said road to Norcot Road, thence southeastwards and north-eastwards along said road to a point due north of the northern end of the path known as Delaney Close, thence due south to said path, thence south-eastwards along said path to the road known as Delaney Close, thence westwards along said road to a point being the prolongation northwards of the rear boundary of No 8 Riley Road, thence southwards along said prolongation and said boundary and the rear boundary of No 6 Riley Road to its end, thence eastwards in a straight line to the northwestern corner of Compart's Plantation, thence southwards and southeastwards along the western boundary of said plantation to the northern boundary of No 36 Hardwick Road, thence westwards along said boundary to Hardwick Road, thence southeastwards and southwestwards along said road to Combe Road, thence southwestwards along said road to the road known as The Meadway, thence southeastwards along said road to a point opposite the western boundary of No 225 The Meadway, thence southwestwards to and along said boundary to the rear boundary of said property, thence southeastwards along said boundary and the rear boundaries of Nos 223 to 217 The Meadway, thence eastwards and southeastwards along the rear boundaries of Nos 215 to 193 The Meadway to a point opposite the western boundary of No 18 Wye Close, thence southwestwards to and along said boundary to the north-eastern boundary of No 17 Wye Close, thence northwestwards along said boundary to the rear boundary of said property, thence generally southwards

along said boundary, the rear boundaries of Nos 16 to 14 Wye Close, the western boundary of No 12 Wye Close and the rear boundaries of the garages serving Wye Close to the rear boundary of No 61 Usk Road, thence westwards and southwestwards along said boundary and the rear boundaries of Nos 59 to 37 Usk Road, thence southwestwards in a straight line across the access road to Churchend Primary School to the rear boundary of No 35 Usk Road, thence southwestwards along said boundary, the rear boundaries of Nos 33 to 17 Usk Road and the rear boundary of the Electricity Sub Station, to the southwestern boundary of said sub station, thence southeastwards along said boundary to Usk Road, thence southwestwards along said road to the road known as Cockney Hill, thence westwards along said road and in prolongation thereof to the southwestern boundary of the Borough, thence northwestwards and southwestwards along said boundary and generally northwards, northwestwards and northeastwards along the western boundary of the Borough to the point of commencement.

KENTWOOD WARD

Commencing at the point where the northern boundary of Tilehurst Ward meets the western boundary of the Borough, thence northeastwards along said Borough boundary and southeastwards along the northern boundary of the Borough to a point due north of the westernmost point of the property known as Riverside, thence due southwards, passing through said point to the Pangbourne to Reading railway, thence southeastwards along said railway to Scours Lane, thence southwestwards along said lane to Oxford Road, thence southeastwards along said road to Norcot Road, thence southwestwards along said road to the northern boundary of Tilehurst Ward, thence generally northwestwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

NORCOT WARD

Commencing at the point where the eastern boundary of Tilehurst Ward meets the southern boundary of Kentwood Ward, thence northeastwards along said southern boundary to Oxford Road, thence southeastwards along said road to Beecham Road, thence southwestwards along said road to Waverley Road, thence southeastwards along said road to Tilehurst Road, thence generally southwestwards along said road to its junction with Honey End Lane and The Meadway, thence generally southwards, southwestwards and southwards along Honey End Lane to the road known as Cockney Hill, thence westwards along said road to the eastern boundary of Tilehurst Ward, thence generally northwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

BATTLE WARD

Commencing at the point where the eastern boundary of Kentwood Ward meets the northern boundary of the Borough, thence northeastwards along said Borough boundary and continuing northeastwards and southeastwards along the River Thames to a point being the prolongation northwards of Cow Lane, thence southwards along said prolongation and said lane to the Pangbourne to Basingstoke railway, thence generally southwards along said railway to Tilehurst Road, thence westwards along said road to the eastern boundary of Norcot Ward, thence northwestwards and northeastwards along said boundary and northwestwards along the northern boundary of said ward to the eastern boundary of Kentwood Ward, thence generally northwards and northwestwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

THAMES WARD

Commencing at the point where the northern boundary of Battle Ward meets the northern boundary of the Borough south of the property known as Riverside, thence generally northeastwards and eastwards along said Borough boundary and continuing eastwards along Gravel Hill to a point opposite the northwestern boundary of No 14 Gravel Hill, thence southwest-

wards to and along said boundary to the rear boundary of said property, thence southeastwards along said rear boundary and the rear boundary of No 12 Gravel Hill to and generally southwards along the eastern boundary of the wood known as Furzeplat and the western end of Tredegar Road to the southern boundary of No 25 Tredegar Road, thence eastwards along said boundary and continuing eastwards along the southern boundaries of Nos 6-2 Penn Close and No 201 Surley Row to the road known as Surley Row, thence generally southeastwards along said road to a point, northeastwards of No 65 Surley Row, opposite the path that leads to the road known as Grove Hill, thence southwestwards to and along said path to Grove Hill, thence southwards along said road and southeastwards in a straight line across Rotherfield Way to the rear boundary of No 241 Hemdean Road, thence southeastwards along said boundary and southeastwards and southwestwards along the rear boundaries of Nos 239 to 203 Hemdean Road, the eastern boundaries of the parcels of land to the rear of Nos 199 to 185 Hemdean Road and the rear boundaries of Nos 169 to 155 in said road, thence in a straight line to the rear boundary of No 153 Hemdean Road, thence generally southwards and southeastwards along the rear boundaries of Nos 153 to 93 and Nos 89 to 61 in said road to the southern boundary of the last mentioned property, thence northwestwards along said boundary to Hemdean Road, thence southwestwards along said road to the road known as Priest Hill, thence northwestwards along said road to St Anne's Road, thence southwestwards along said road, crossing Church Road to the road known as Buck Side, thence southwestwards along said road and in prolongation thereof to the River Thames, thence northwestwards along said river to the northern boundary of Battle Ward, thence northwestwards and southwestwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

CHILTERN WARD

Commencing at the point where the northern boundary of Thames Ward meets the northern boundary of the Borough south of No 35 Gravel Hill, thence generally northwards and northeastwards along said Borough boundary and generally southeastwards and southwestwards along the eastern boundary of the Borough to the rear boundary of No 247 Henley Road, thence southwestwards along said boundary, the rear boundaries of Nos 245 to 177 Henley Road and the rear boundaries of Nos 102 to 88 Lower Henley Road to the western boundary of the last mentioned property, thence northwestwards along said boundary to Lower Henley Road, thence northeastwards

and northwards along said road to Henley Road, thence northeastwards along said road to a point opposite the eastern boundary of The Traveller's Rest (PH), thence northwestwards to and along said boundary and the eastern boundary of the Masonic Hall to the rear boundary of No 155 Mayfield Drive, thence northeastwards, northwestwards, southwestwards and northwestwards along said boundary and the rear boundaries of Nos 153 to 87 Mayfield Drive and in prolongation thereof to the rear boundary of No 10 Norman Road, thence northwestwards along said boundary, the rear boundaries of Nos 9 to 2 Norman Road, the rear boundaries of Nos 26 to 54 Valentine Crescent and the rear boundaries of Nos 70 to 92 Chiltern Road, thence southwestwards in a straight line to the northernmost corner of No 94 Chiltern Road, thence northwestwards along the rear boundaries of Nos 96 to 124 in said road and in prolongation thereof to the southeastern boundary of No 132 Chiltern Road, thence northeastwards, northwestwards and southwestwards along the southeastern, northeastern and northwestern boundaries of said property to the northeastern boundary of No 134 Chiltern Road, thence northwestwards along said boundary and the northeastern boundary of No 72 Peppard Road to Peppard Road, thence southwestwards along said road to the road known as Surley Row, thence northwestwards along said road to the eastern boundary of Thames Ward, thence generally northwestwards along said boundary and westwards along the northern boundary of said ward to the point of commencement.

CAVERSHAM WARD

Commencing at the point where the southeastern boundary of Chiltern Ward meets the eastern boundary of the Borough, thence generally southwards, westwards and southwards along said Borough boundary to the River Thames, thence generally westwards and northwestwards along said river to the eastern boundary of Thames Ward, thence generally northwards, eastwards and northwards along said boundary to the southwestern boundary of Chiltern Ward, thence generally southeastwards along said boundary and northeastwards along the southeastern boundary of said ward to the point of commencement.

ABBEY WARD

Commencing at the point where the southern boundary of Caversham Ward meets the eastern boundary of the Borough, thence southeastwards and southwards along said Borough boundary to the Wokingham to Reading railway, thence westwards along said railway to the River Kennet, thence southwestwards along said river to a point opposite the path adjacent to No 336 Kennet Side, thence southeastwards to and along said path to Cumberland Road, thence southeastwards along said road to London Road, thence southwestwards along said road to King's Road, thence northwestwards along said road to Eldon Road, thence southwards along said road to London Road, thence southwestwards along said road and Crown Street to Southampton Street, thence northwestwards along said street to the Inner Distribution Road, thence southwestwards and northwestwards along said road to Castle Street, thence southwestwards along said street and the road known as Castle Hill to Russell Street, thence northwestwards along said street to Tilehurst Road, thence northwestwards and southwestwards along said road to the eastern boundary of Battle Ward, thence generally northwards along said boundary to the southern boundary of Thames Ward, thence southeastwards along said boundary and generally southeastwards and eastwards along the southern boundary of Caversham Ward to the point of commencement.

PARK WARD

Commencing at the point where the eastern boundary of Abbey Ward meets the eastern boundary of the Borough, thence southeastwards, southwestwards and northwestwards along said Borough boundary to the access road to the property known as Fox Hill, thence northwestwards along said access road and Eastern Avenue to Wokingham Road, thence northwestwards along said road, crossing London Road to the southern boundary of Abbey Ward, thence northeastwards along said boundary to and generally northwestwards and northeastwards along the eastern boundary of said ward to the point of commencement.

REDLANDS WARD

Commencing at the point where the western boundary of Park Ward meets the eastern boundary of the Borough, thence generally southwards and south-westwards along said Borough boundary to the road known as The Chancellor's Way, thence westwards along said road to Shinfield Road, thence southeastwards along said road to Wellington Avenue, thence southwestwards along said avenue to and northwestwards in a straight line across Northcourt Avenue to the southern boundary of No 30 Northcourt Avenue, thence southwestwards along said boundary to the rear boundary of No 2 Stanhope Road, thence southwestwards along said boundary and the rear boundaries of Nos 4 to 60 Stanhope Road to the western boundary of the last mentioned property, thence southeastwards along said boundary, crossing Stanhope Road in a straight line to and continuing southeastwards along the western boundaries of Nos 59 and 57 Stanhope Road and the rear boundaries of Nos 36 to 42 Windermere Road to the rear boundary of No 112 Staverton Road, thence westwards along said boundary, the rear boundaries of Nos 114 to 160 Staverton Road and the rear boundaries of Nos 12 to 6 Cornwood Gardens to the eastern boundary of Southlands County Secondary School, thence southwestwards in a straight line to the northeastern corner of No 149 Northumberland Avenue, thence westwards along the northern boundary of said property to the rear boundary of No 147 Northumberland Avenue, thence northwards and westwards along the rear and northern boundaries of said property to Northumberland Avenue, thence northwards along said avenue to the road known as Christchurch Gardens, thence eastwards along said road to Vicarage Road, thence northwards along said road to Christchurch Road, thence westwards along said road to Kendrick Road, thence northwestwards along said road to the path adjacent to the southern boundary of No 15 Kendrick Road, thence northeastwards along said path to the access road known as Crown Place, thence northwestwards along said access road to the southern boundary of Abbey Ward, thence northeastwards, northwards and southeastwards along said boundary to the western boundary of Park Ward, thence southeastwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

KATESGROVE WARD

Commencing at the point where the southern boundary of Abbey Ward meets the western boundary of Redlands Ward, thence generally southwards along said western boundary and continuing southwards along Northumberland Avenue to Buckland Road, thence westwards along said road to Basingstoke Road, thence northwards along said road to Rose Kiln Lane, thence westwards along said lane to the River Kennet, thence generally northwards along said river to the southern boundary of Abbey Ward, thence northeastwards, southeastwards and northeastwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

MINSTER WARD

Commencing at the point where the southern boundary of Abbey Ward meets the western boundary of Katesgrove Ward, thence generally southwards along said western boundary and continuing generally westwards along the River Kennet to the Basingstoke to Reading railway, thence northeastwards along said railway to Bath Road, thence southwestwards along said road to Liebenrood Road, thence northwestwards along said road to the southern boundary of Battle Ward, thence eastwards along said boundary and continuing generally eastwards along the southern boundary of Abbey Ward to the point of commencement.

SOUTHCOTE WARD

Commencing at the point where the southwestern boundary of the Borough meets the southern boundary of Tilehurst Ward, thence eastwards along said ward boundary to the southern boundary of Norcot Ward, thence generally eastwards and northeastwards along said boundary and the southern boundary of Battle Ward to the western boundary of Minster Ward, thence southeastwards, northeastwards and southwestwards along said boundary and continuing southwestwards along the Reading to Basingstoke railway to the southwestern boundary of the Borough, thence generally northwestwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

WHITLEY WARD

Commencing at the point where the southwestern boundary of the Borough meets the eastern boundary of Southcote Ward, thence northwards along said ward boundary to the southern boundary of Minster Ward, thence generally eastwards along said boundary to the southern boundary of Katesgrove Ward, thence eastwards, southwards and eastwards along said boundary to Northumberland Avenue, thence southeastwards along said avenue to Whitley Wood Road, thence northeastwards along said road to its junction with Anson Crescent, opposite No 144 Whitley Wood Road, thence southeastwards in a straight line to the eastern boundary of the Borough, thence generally southwestwards along said boundary and generally northwestwards along the southwestern boundary of the Borough to the point of commencement.

CHURCH WARD

Commencing at the point where the eastern boundary of the Borough meets the eastern boundary of Whitley Ward, thence southwestwards and northwestwards along said ward boundary to the eastern boundary of Katesgrove Ward, thence northwards along said boundary to the southern boundary of Redlands Ward, thence generally northeastwards along said boundary to the eastern boundary of the Borough, thence generally southeastwards, southwards and southwestwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.