

Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
For England  
Report No.671

Parish Review

DISTRICT OF ROCHEFORD

**THE RT HON MICHAEL HOWARD QC MP  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

**DISTRICT OF ROCHFORD IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX  
PARTIAL PARISH REVIEW CONDUCTED UNDER SECTION 48(9) OF THE LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**COMMISSION'S FINAL REPORT AND PROPOSALS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. On 5 August 1991, following consideration of the report of a parish review conducted by Rochford District Council, we wrote to your predecessor to say that we had endorsed the District Council's recommendations, with one modification, and were commending them to him. However, we felt that three suggestions, from Hockley Parish Council and Hockley Ratepayers Association for changes to Hockley's boundaries with the parishes of Ashingdon and Hawkwell, and from Ashingdon Parish Council for changes to its boundary with Hawkwell, which the District Council did not endorse, had merit and warranted further consideration. We therefore decided to conduct our own partial parish review under Section 48(9) of the Local Government Act 1972, and at the same time, to publish draft proposals.

### **PUBLICATION OF OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS**

2. Our draft proposals were published on 5 August 1991 in a letter to the Chief Executive of Rochford District Council. Copies were sent to Essex County Council; to the Parish Councils of Ashingdon, Hawkwell, Hockley and Rochford; to the Member of Parliament for Rochford; to the headquarters of the main political parties; to local newspapers and television and radio stations; to the local government press; and to persons and bodies who had expressed an interest in the areas concerned. We arranged for notices announcing our draft proposals to be

inserted in local newspapers and we asked Rochford District Council to place copies of the notice on public notice boards. Comments were invited by 30 September 1991.

## **RESPONSE TO OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS**

3. In response to our draft proposals, we received representations from Rochford District Council, the Parish Councils of Ashingdon, Hawkwell and Hockley, District Councillors Mrs H Glynn and Mr J M Roden, Parish Councillors Mr K Saunders and Mrs C A Warren, and 16 members of the public.

4. As required by Section 60(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, we have carefully considered all the representations made to us at each stage of the review and set out below our final proposals.

### **(i) Ashingdon/Hockley**

#### **Draft Proposal**

5. Hockley Parish Council and Hockley Ratepayers Association both suggested transferring the Broadlands Estate and housing in the vicinity of Malvern Road and Harrogate Road from Ashingdon to Hockley. The Parish Council enclosed a petition from 92 local residents in support of the suggestion. Ashingdon Parish Council objected to Hockley's suggestion but its reasons were based upon concern over its own parish's viability rather than on the affinities of residents living there. We concluded that both areas were continuations of development from Hockley and decided to issue a draft proposal based upon the suggestion.

#### **Final Proposal**

6. Hockley Parish Council supported our draft proposal. Ashingdon Parish Council opposed it, arguing that our proposal was more extensive than the original suggestion by Hockley Parish

Council and Hockley Ratepayers Association which had not proposed the transfer of Church View Crescent or Harrogate Drive to Hockley.

7. We accepted that Church View Crescent, which is detached from the main developed area of Hockley, had not been recommended for transfer by either Hockley Parish Council or the Ratepayers Association, and we decided therefore to withdraw this part of our draft proposal. However, we were satisfied that their original submissions had recommended the transfer of Harrogate Drive. Furthermore, we considered that Harrogate Drive was part of Hockley and concluded that, in the absence of opposition from residents of this area, the remainder of our draft proposal was justified. We have therefore confirmed this part of our draft proposal as final.

(ii) Hawkwell/Ashingdon

**Draft Proposal**

8. Hawkwell Parish Council suggested the transfer from Ashingdon to Hawkwell of an area of land at the northern end of Rectory Avenue, scheduled for future development. Ashingdon Parish Council suggested the transfer to its parish of the built-up area north of Central Avenue and Lascelles Gardens, arguing that people there considered themselves to be residents of Ashingdon.

9. We considered that the boundaries between the parishes of Hawkwell, Ashingdon and Rochford did not reflect current community ties or patterns of development. However, we felt that we had insufficient information to reach any firm conclusions on appropriate boundaries in the area. We decided, therefore, to obtain the views of Rochford District Council to assist us in establishing boundaries which would better reflect community ties and patterns of development.

10. In response to our enquiry, neither the District Council nor

Rochford Parish Council were prepared to recommend any change. Ashingdon Parish Council proposed the transfer of the built-up area north of Rectory Road to its own parish. Hawkwell Parish Council preferred no change; however, as an alternative, it sought either the creation of a new parish for the built-up area north of Rochford or its incorporation into Hawkwell. Three local residents suggested transferring various parts of the area west of Ashingdon Road into Ashingdon, on the basis that the residents looked to that parish rather than to Hawkwell.

11. We concluded that, although the built-up area to the north of Rochford appeared to be continuous development with no clear breaks, there seemed to be a distinction between older developments south of Rectory Road towards Rochford and more recent development to the north of Rectory Road. We considered that Ashingdon Parish Council's original submission in October 1987 best reflected this pattern of development and decided to use it as the basis of our draft proposal for the Hawkwell/Ashingdon boundary in this area. We also considered whether to recommend changes to both Ashingdon's and Hawkwell's boundaries with the parish of Rochford. However, we concluded that residents appeared to be satisfied with the existing arrangements, and it did not seem to us that changes would produce any significant benefits in terms of effective and convenient local government. We therefore decided not to recommend any changes to either Ashingdon's or Hawkwell's boundaries with Rochford.

### **Final Proposal**

12. Our draft proposal was supported by Ashingdon Parish Council and one local resident but was opposed by Hawkwell Parish Council and 16 local residents. Hawkwell considered that our draft proposal had been based upon out of date maps and an inaccurate assessment of the area and argued that it was better suited than Ashingdon to be responsible for the predominantly urban area because Ashingdon was a mainly rural parish. Similar views were

expressed by several local residents. Hawkwell argued that, if change had to be made, the built-up area on the eastern side of Ashingdon Road should be transferred to Hawkwell.

13. Councillors Mrs Glynn and Mr Saunders and a local resident all suggested using a footpath running from Ashingdon Road to White Hart Lane, Hockley as the boundary between Ashingdon and Hawkwell. It was argued that the footpath would provide a more identifiable boundary than our draft proposal and would best reflect the affinities both of residents of Albert Road northwards, who looked more towards Ashingdon for services and facilities such as education, and of residents of the area to the south, whose affinities appeared to be with Hawkwell. The local resident also suggested transferring the built-up area on the eastern side of Ashingdon Road up to Canewdon View Road to Hawkwell.

14. We felt that, although the existing parish boundaries north of Rochford might not fully reflect the patterns of development, they were easily identifiable and appeared to relate to the affinities of people who lived there. We concluded that there would be no advantage in changing these boundaries. We have therefore decided to withdraw our draft proposal and make no recommendations for change.

(iii) Hawkwell/Hockley

**Draft Proposal**

15. Hockley Parish Council and Hockley Ratepayers Association both proposed a realignment of the parish boundary with Hawkwell along White Hart Lane from the junction of Hockley Rise and Belchamps Way to White Hart Lane's junction with Highams Road. Much of the existing boundary is defaced and divides properties in White Hart Lane. We were satisfied that the proposal would remove these anomalies and decided, therefore, to issue a draft proposal based on the joint suggestion.

## **Final Proposal**

16. Hockley Parish Council supported our draft proposal and Hawkwell Parish Councillor Mr Saunders had no objection. However, Hawkwell Parish Council itself opposed our draft proposal, arguing that the use of a centre-of-road alignment along White Hart Lane was inconsistent with our approach on our draft proposal for the Ashingdon/Hawkwell boundary (where the rear curtilages of properties had been used). The Parish Council also argued that residents in White Hart Lane would be placed in a different parish to their near neighbours. We concluded, however, that, in such an extensive suburban area, almost any parish boundary could result in neighbouring properties being in different parishes; we remained of the opinion that the centre-of-road alignment along White Hart Lane provided a more permanent and readily identifiable boundary than presently exists. Furthermore, we have also withdrawn our draft proposal for the Hawkwell/Ashingdon boundary and this boundary will continue to follow a centre-of-road alignment. We have therefore confirmed our draft proposal as final.

## **ELECTORAL CONSEQUENCES**

17. A memorandum showing the electoral changes which we recommend as consequential to our proposals is enclosed at Annex B to this report. We estimate that about 850 electors will be transferred from Ashingdon ward to Hockley East ward of Rochford District Council and expect there to be some deterioration in its standard of electoral representation, when measured against the average for the District. However, we do not expect that the electoral divisions for Essex County Council will be significantly affected.

## **PUBLICATION**

18. A separate letter, enclosing copies of this report, is being sent to Rochford District Council asking it to deposit copies of

the report at its main offices for inspection for six months, and to put notices to this effect on public notice boards. We will also insert a notice in the local press. The text of the notice will explain that we have fulfilled our statutory role in the matter and that it now falls to you to make Order implementing the proposal, if you see fit, though not before six weeks from the date it is submitted to you. Copies of this report, with the maps enclosed at Annex A illustrating the proposed changes, are also being sent to all those persons and bodies who received our draft proposals letter of 5 August 1991, and to those who subsequently made written representations to us.

LS

Signed: K F J ENNALS (Chairman)

G R PRENTICE

HELEN SARKANY

C W SMITH

K YOUNG

R D COMPTON  
Commission Secretary  
16 July 1992

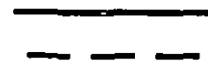
PARISH REVIEW

DISTRICT OF ROCHFORD

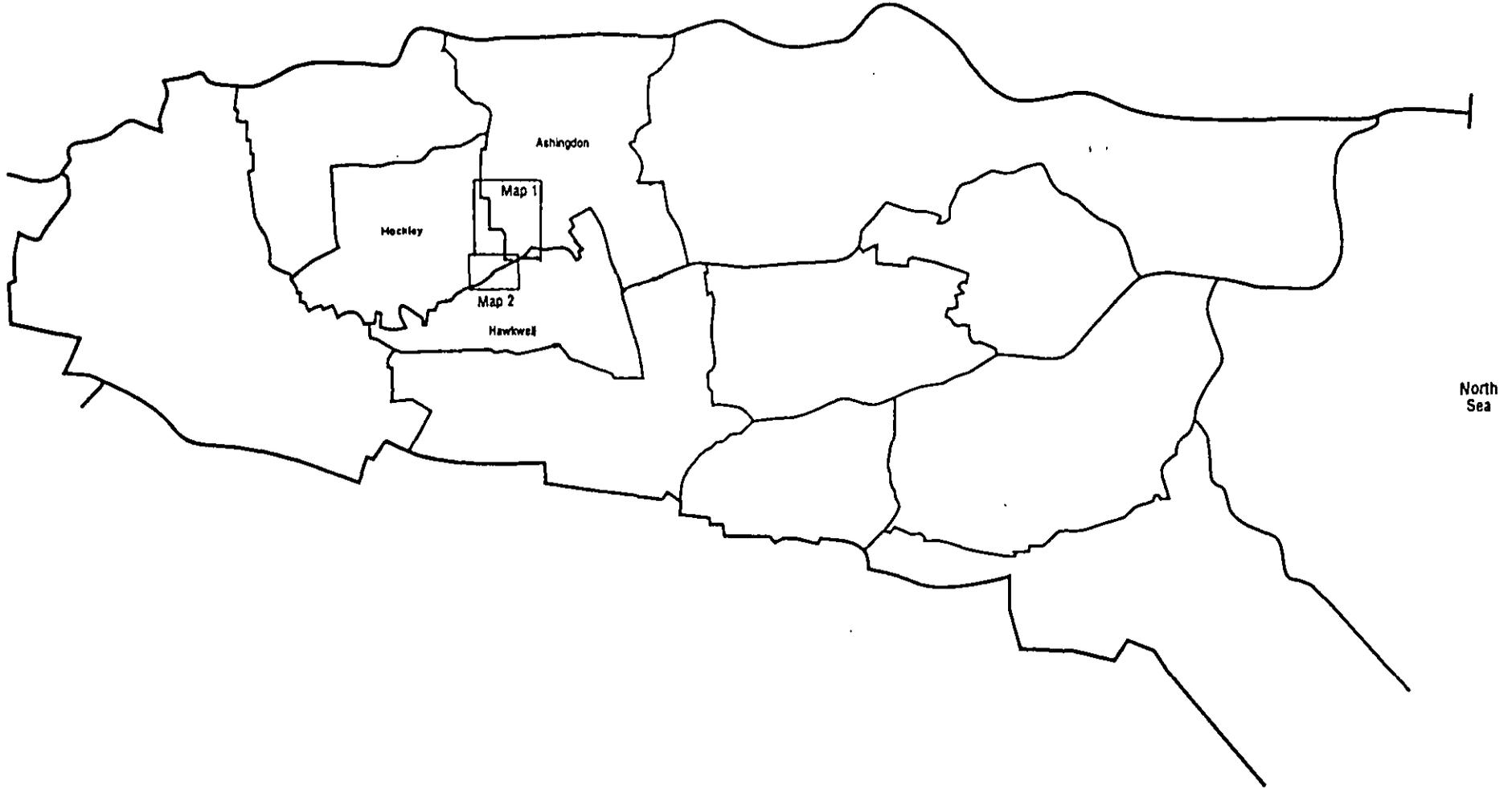
LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

FINAL PROPOSALS

Existing Boundary  
Proposed Boundary



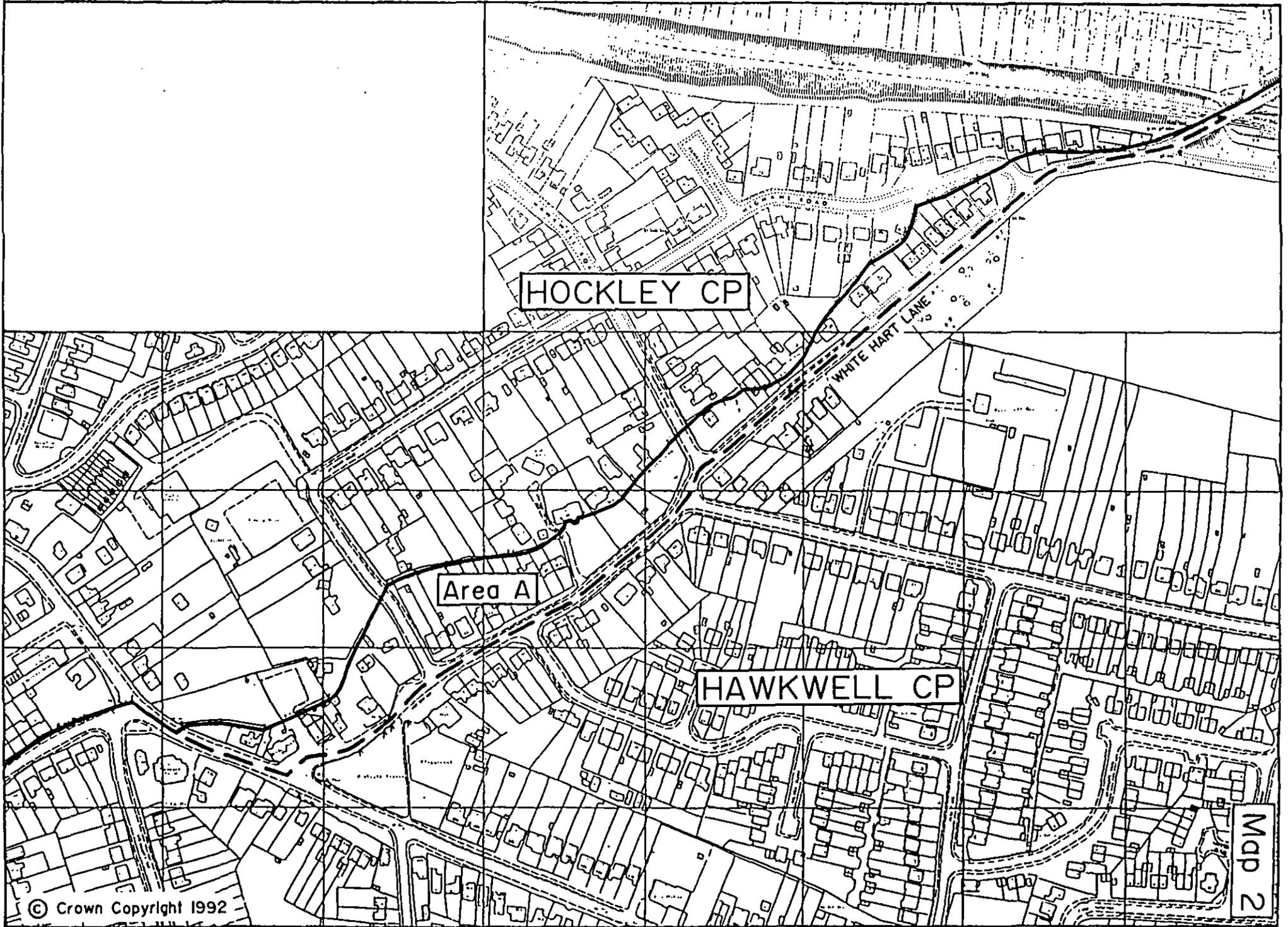
DISTRICT OF ROCHFORD  
PARISH REVIEW



LOCATION DIAGRAM

Map 1





HOCKLEY CP

WHITE HART LANE

Area A

HAWKWELL CP

Map 2

# CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES

ANNEX B .

Map No.	Area Ref.	From	To
1	A	Ashington CP Ashington Ward Rochford North ED	Hockley CP Hockley East Ward Rochford West ED
2	A	Hawkwell CP Hawkwell West Ward Rochford North ED	Hockley CP Hockley Central Ward Rochford West ED