

**Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No. 437**

Wansdyke with Woodspring,
Bristol City and Mendip
(Dec '82)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 437

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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THE RT. HON. MICHAEL HESELTINE MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

1. As a consequence of suggestions which had arisen in the course of the review of their internal parish boundaries, the District Council of Wansdyke, in the non-metropolitan County of Avon wrote on 31 March 1980 requesting us to carry out a review of parts of their district's boundaries with the City of Bristol, and the District of Woodspring (both also in Avon) and with the District of Mendip (in the county of Somerset). In a subsequent letter, dated 30 April 1980, Wansdyke District Council forwarded details of the amendments sought: they consisted of a minor change to the City of Bristol/Wansdyke district boundary, a larger change to the Woodspring/Wansdyke district boundary, and three minor changes to the Mendip/Wansdyke district boundary. In addition, they also submitted details of a fourth change to their boundary with Mendip which they had considered but had decided not to pursue.
2. We noted that Wansdyke District Council had not obtained the views of all the local authorities affected upon their suggested changes. We therefore circulated details of the suggestions to those authorities on 14 May 1981 and invited their views.
3. Avon County Council were in favour of the amendments which affected their county boundary with Somerset; but although they decided initially not to comment upon the boundary changes which were internal to the county they subsequently indicated their agreement. Somerset County Council opposed the suggested changes which affected their area as a matter of principle.
4. The views of the Somerset County Council were echoed by the other tiers of local authorities within that county, with both Mendip District Council and Kilmersdon Parish Council opposing Wansdyke District Council's suggestions for the Wansdyke/Mendip boundary. Kilmersdon Parish Council forwarded details of a survey which they had carried out amongst the residents of those properties affected by the suggestions, which showed that only one person could see any merit in the changes sought. The only support for the suggested Wansdyke/Mendip boundary changes came from Norton-Radstock Town Council, in Wansdyke district, to whose area it was suggested that the parts of Kilmersdon being transferred should be added.
5. The suggested realignment of the Wansdyke/Woodspring boundary was supported by all the local authorities concerned. However, Nempnett Thrubwell Parish Council, in Wansdyke district, wrote to us suggesting that the land being transferred would be better served by its inclusion in their parish rather than in Chew Stoke parish, as envisaged by Wansdyke District Council. A survey of the three residents affected which

the Parish Council had carried out, showed that two would prefer to be in Nempnett Thrubwell parish rather than in Chew Stoke parish, while the third apparently wanted to remain in Winford parish in the District of Woodspring.

6. All the local authorities affected by the suggested change to the Wansdyke/Bristol boundary were in favour of the idea.

7. Having obtained these views we proceeded to consider the District Council's request, as required by section 48(4) of the Local Government Act 1972. In doing so, we had regard to the guidelines contained in the Department of the Environment Circular 33/78 and to our own Report No. 287.

8. We noted that the suggestions which affected the county boundary had met with firm opposition from some of the local authorities concerned. No strong arguments had been advanced to demonstrate that the suggested changes were so urgent as to merit attention before the mandatory review of county boundaries which we must undertake between 1984 and 1989. We therefore decided not to make any proposals for this section of the Wansdyke district boundary at this time.

9. We were favourably inclined towards the alternative suggested by Nempnett Thrubwell Parish Council, who had put forward a well reasoned case for the inclusion in their parish of the area to be transferred from Woodspring District. But we noted that they did not appear to have sought the views of the other local authorities involved. We therefore decided to obtain this information before formulating our draft proposals for this area.

10. The suggestion affecting the boundary between Wansdyke District and the City of Bristol was supported by all those affected. We were satisfied that the realignment sought would be in the interests of effective and convenient local government. We therefore adopted the suggestion as our draft proposal.

11. On 28 September 1981, we wrote to the District Councils of Wansdyke and Woodspring and to the Parish Councils of Chew Stoke, Nempnett Thrubwell and Winsford asking for their reaction to the alternative suggestion put forward by Nempnett Thrubwell Parish Council. Wansdyke District Council and Chew Stoke Parish Council both replied that they still wished the land in question to be incorporated into Chew Stoke parish but did not give any reasons. The authorities from whose area the land would be transferred - Woodspring District Council and Winford Parish Council - indicated that they had no objection to it going to Nempnett Thrubwell instead of to Chew Stoke.

12. We considered the matter further in the light of these replies, and decided to adopt the Nempnett Thrubwell Parish Council's suggestion as part of our draft proposals.

13. Our draft proposals for changes to the boundary between Wansdyke District and the District of Woodspring and the City of Bristol were announced on 12 May 1982 in a letter to the councils of the principal areas concerned. In that letter we also announced our decision not to make any proposals for the suggested changes which affected the Avon/Somerset county boundary. Copies of the letter were sent to the County Councils of Avon and Somerset, the parish councils concerned, the Members of Parliament for the constituencies concerned, the headquarters of the main political parties, the South Western Regional Health Authority, the Wessex Water Authority, the Bristol Water Company, local radio stations and local newspapers circulating in the area and the local government press. Our draft proposals were also advertised by public notice and in the local press, and copies were deposited at the main offices of the three addressees of our letter for inspection. Comments were invited by 23 June 1982.

RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT PROPOSALS

14. We received replies from the Avon County Council, from Bristol City and Woodspring District Councils, from Whitchurch Parish Council and from the Bristol Water Company. The only comments on our proposals for the Wansdyke/Woodspring boundary came from the County Council and Woodspring District Council both of whom supported our proposals. Bristol City Council reaffirmed their support for the proposal which affected their boundary and the Bristol Water Company advised us that our proposals did not affect their operations. However, Avon County Council and Whitchurch Parish Council both expressed the fear that the transfer of part of Whitchurch into the City of Bristol might result in a change to its current Green Belt status and withdrew their earlier support for the re-alignment. The County Council also suggested that residents in the area of Bristol adjoining the land in question objected to the proposal.

15. Subsequently Bristol City Council have given an undertaking about the future use of the land in question and Whitchurch Parish Council have advised us that they no longer have any objection to our draft proposals.

16. We have re-assessed our draft proposals in the light of the representations which we received.

17. We noted that none of the residents of the Hengrove area of Bristol had expressed any opinion on our draft proposals to us directly, although our consultation process gave them the opportunity of doing so.

18. The area which we had proposed should be transferred from Wansdyke to Bristol

is small, about one and a quarter acres in all. Part of it is occupied by a section of road, the rest of which is in the City of Bristol and which is an access road to an estate in Bristol. The remainder is an amenity area, which we are told is entirely associated with development in the city. Bristol City Council already maintain the area; and we consider that it would be in the interests of effective and convenient local government for the land in question to be brought within the City of Bristol's boundaries. We therefore confirm our draft proposals as our final proposals for this section of Wansdyke district's boundary.

19. We received no objections to our draft proposals concerning the boundary between the districts of Wansdyke and Woodspring. We have nevertheless re-examined our proposals. Having done so we see no reason for departing from them; we therefore confirm our draft proposals as our final proposals for this area as well.

20. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedule 1 - 3 to this report. Schedule 1 specifies the proposed changes in local authority areas and Schedules 2 and 3 specify the consequential adjustments to the existing electoral arrangements. The proposed boundaries are shown on the attached map.

PUBLICATION

21. Separate letters are being sent with copies of the report and of the map to Bristol City Council, Wansdyke District Council and Woodspring District Council asking them to place copies of this report on deposit at their main offices, and to put notices to this effect on public notice boards and in the local press. The text of the notices will refer to your power to make an Order implementing the proposals, if you think fit, after the expiry of six weeks from the date they are submitted to you; it will suggest that any comments on the proposals should therefore be addressed to you, in writing, preferably within six weeks of the date of the letter. Copies of this report which includes a

small scale map are also being sent to those who received the consultation letter which includes all those who made comments.

L.S.

Signed: R R THORNTON (Deputy Chairman)

J M ACKNER

TYRRELL BROCKBANK

WILFRED BURNS

G E CHERRY

D P HARRISON

L B GRIMSHAW

Secretary

14 October 1982

SCHEDULE ONE

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED DISTRICT BOUNDARY CHANGES BETWEEN WANSDYKE DISTRICT AND THE CITY OF BRISTOL AND WANSDYKE DISTRICT AND WOODSPRING DISTRICT

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 that feature unless otherwise stated.

Area A: Description of area of land proposed to be transferred from Whitchurch CP in Wansdyke District to the City of Bristol.

That area of land bounded by a line commencing at a point on the existing boundary between Wansdyke District and the City of Bristol where it crosses Stoneberry Road, thence northwestwards and northeastwards along the said existing boundary to the point where the field boundary that runs southeastwards joins the rear boundary of No 4 Staunbury Cottages, thence southeastwards and southwestwards along said field boundary to and in prolongation across the northeastern boundary of No 1 Stoneberry Road to the existing district boundary, thence northwestwards along the existing boundary between Wansdyke District and the City of Bristol to the point of commencement.

Area B: Description of area of land to be transferred from Winford CP in Woodspring District to Nempnett Thrubwell CP in Wansdyke District.

That area of land bounded by a line commencing at a point on the existing boundary between Wansdyke District and Woodspring District where it crosses Nempnett Street, thence northwards along the existing district boundary to a point opposite the unnamed stream (known locally as Babylon Brook) to the southeast of Plasters Green which runs eastwards from Pit Lane, thence eastwards to and generally eastwards and southwards along the said stream, passing to the west of the property known as Babylon, to the existing district boundary between Wansdyke District and Woodspring District, thence generally southwestwards and northwestwards along the said boundary to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE TWO

Proposed revised district electoral arrangements consequent upon the proposals described in Schedule One.

It is proposed that the District Wards as defined in the District of Wansdyke (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1975 and the City of Bristol (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1980 shall be altered as described below.

That Area A as described in Schedule One shall be transferred from the Compton Dando Ward in Wansdyke District to the Hengrove Ward in the City of Bristol.

It is proposed that the District Wards as defined in the District of Wansdyke (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1975 and the District of Woodspring (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1977 shall be altered as described below.

That Area B as described in Schedule One shall be transferred from the Winford Ward in Woodspring District to the Chew Stoke Ward in Wansdyke District.

SCHEDULE THREE

Proposed revised county electoral arrangements consequent upon the proposals described in Schedule One.

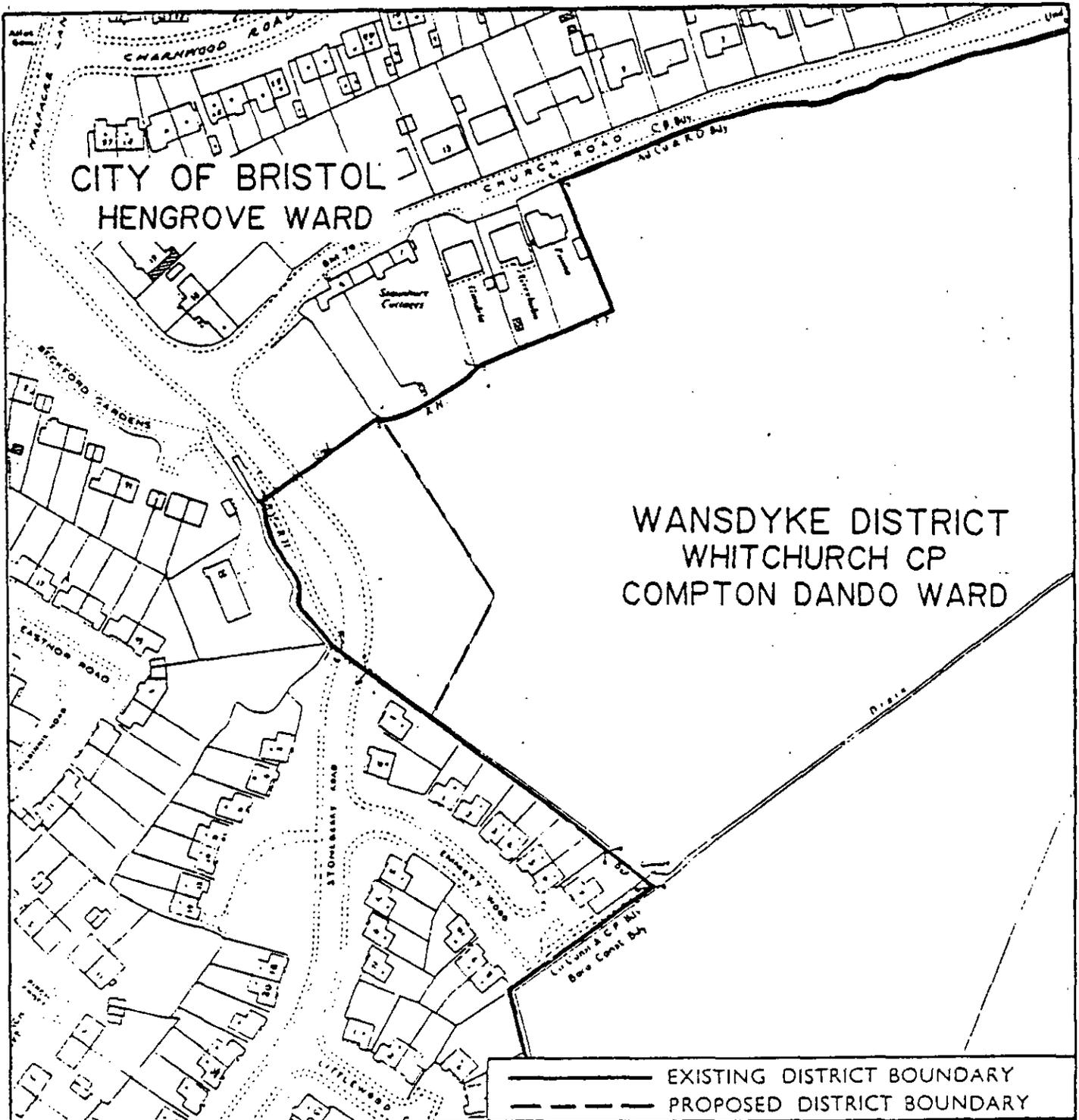
It is proposed that the County Electoral Divisions as defined in the County of Avon (Electoral arrangements) Order 1981 shall be altered as described below.

Area A shall be transferred from Keynsham West ED to Hengrove ED.

Area B shall be transferred from The Combe ED to Chew Valley ED.

PRINCIPAL AREA REVIEW

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND
FINAL PROPOSAL



PRINCIPAL AREA REVIEW

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND
FINAL PROPOSAL

