

LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND

FINAL
RECOMMENDATIONS
ON THE FUTURE
ELECTORAL
ARRANGEMENTS FOR
EAST LINDSEY IN
LINCOLNSHIRE

*Report to the Secretary of State for
the Environment*

March 1997

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

This report sets out the Commission's final recommendations on the electoral arrangements for East Lindsey in Lincolnshire.

Members of the Commission are:

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Helena Shovelton (Deputy Chairman)

Peter Brokenshire

Professor Michael Clarke

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Local Government Commission for England

25 March 1997

Dear Secretary of State

On 19 March 1996 the Commission commenced a periodic electoral review of the district of East Lindsey under the Local Government Act 1992. It published its draft recommendations in October 1996 and undertook a nine-week period of consultation.

The Commission has now formulated its final recommendations in the light of the consultation. It has, for the most part, confirmed its draft recommendations, although it has modified some of its initial warding proposals in the light of further evidence. This report sets out the Commission's final recommendations for changes to electoral arrangements in the area.

The Commission is therefore recommending to you that East Lindsey should be served by 60 councillors, and that there should continue to be 48 wards as at present, but that some changes should be made to ward boundaries to improve electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria. It is recommended that the whole Council should be elected together every four years.

Finally, I would like to thank members and officers of the District Council and other local people who have contributed to the review. Their co-operation and assistance have been very much appreciated by Commissioners and staff.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Malcolm Grant'.

PROFESSOR MALCOLM GRANT
Chairman

SUMMARY

The Commission began a review of East Lindsey on 19 March 1996. It published its draft recommendations on electoral arrangements on 31 October 1996, after which it undertook a nine-week period of consultation.

- **This report summarises the submissions received by the Commission during consultation on its draft recommendations, and offers its final recommendations to the Secretary of State.**

The Commission found that the existing electoral arrangements provide unequal representation of electors in East Lindsey because:

- **in 30 of the 48 wards, the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the average for the district;**
- **in 12 of these wards, the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 20 per cent from the average;**
- **by 2001, the number of electors per councillor is likely to continue to vary by more than 10 per cent from the average in 30 wards.**

The Commission's final recommendations for the District Council's electoral arrangements (Figure 1) are that:

- **East Lindsey should continue to be served by 60 councillors;**
- **there should continue to be 48 wards as at present, but that some of them should have modified boundaries;**
- **the ward boundaries of 35 of the existing wards should be modified, while 13 wards should retain their existing boundaries;**
- **elections should continue to take place every four years, with the next elections taking place in 1999.**

These recommendations seek to ensure that the number of electors represented by each district councillor is as nearly as possible the same, having regard to local circumstances.

- **In 39 of the 48 wards the number of electors per councillor would vary by no more than 10 per cent from the district average.**
- **By 2001, the number of electors per councillor would vary by no more than 10 per cent from the district average in 44 wards.**

Recommendations are also made for changes to town and parish council electoral arrangements.

- **They provide for changes to the ward boundaries of Louth Town Council, Mablethorpe and Sutton Town Council and Skegness Town Council.**
- **They provide for an increase in the number of parish councillors for Belchford and Fulleby Parish Council.**

All further correspondence on these recommendations and the matters discussed in this report should be addressed to the Secretary of State for the Environment, who will not make an Order implementing the Commission's recommendations before 5 May 1997.

Figure 1:
The Commission's Final Recommendations: Summary

Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas (parts of existing wards/parishes)	Map reference
1 Alford	2	Alford ward (part - the parishes of Alford, Bilsby, Farlesthorpe, Markby, Rigsby with Ailby), Hogsthorpe ward (part - the parish of Huttoft)	Map 2
2 Binbrook	1	Binbrook ward (part - the parishes of Binbrook and Calcethorpe with Kelstern), Fotherby ward (part - the parishes of Brackenborough with Little Grimsby, Fotherby, North Ormsby, Utterby and Wyham cum Cadeby)	Map 2
3 Burgh le Marsh	1	Burgh le Marsh (part - the parish of Burgh le Marsh)	Map 2
4 Chapel St Leonards	2	Chapel St Leonards ward (part - the parish of Chapel St Leonards), Hogsthorpe ward (part - the parishes of Anderby and Hogsthorpe)	Map 2
5 Coningsby and Tattershall	2	Coningsby ward (the parish of Coningsby), Tattershall ward (the parishes of Tattershall and Tattershall-with-Thorpe)	Map 2
6 Croft	1	Croft ward (part - the parish of Croft), Halton Holegate ward (part - the parishes of Bratoft, Firsby, Great Steeping, Irby in the Marsh, Little Steeping and Thorpe St Peter)	Map 2
7 Frithville	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Carrington, Frithville, Langrville, Thornton le Fen, West Fen and Westville)	Map 2
8 Grimoldby	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Grimoldby, Manby, North Cockerington and South Cockerington)	Map 2
9 Halton Holegate	1	Hundleby ward (part - the parishes of Bolingbroke, East Keal, East Kirby and West Keal), Halton Holegate ward (part - the parish of Halton Holegate), New Leake ward (part - the parishes of Toynton All Saints and Toynton St Peter)	Map 2
10 Holton le Clay	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parish of Holton le Clay)	Map 2
11 Horncastle	3	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Horncastle and Thimbleby)	Map 2

Figure 1 (continued):
The Commission's Final Recommendations: Summary

Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas (parts of existing wards/parishes)	Map reference
12 Hundleby	1	Hundleby ward (part - the parishes of Mavis Enderby and Raithby), Partney ward (part - the parishes of Ashby with Scremby, Aswardby, Brinkhill, Dalby, Harrington, Haugh, Hundleby, Lanton by Spilsby, Partney, Sausthorpe, South Ormsby, South Thoresby and Swaby), Willoughby with Sloothby ward (part - the parishes of Skendleby and Ulceby with Fordington)	Map 2
13 Ingoldmells	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Addlethorpe and Ingoldmells)	Map 2
14 Legbourne	1	Legbourne ward (part - the parishes of Burwell, Hallington, Haugham, Legbourne, Little Cawthorpe, Maidenwell, Muckton, Raithby cum Maltby, Stewton, Tathwell, Walmsgate, Welton le Wold and Withcall), Fotherby ward (part - the parishes of Elkington and Keddington)	Map 2
15 Ludford	1	Donington on Bain ward (part - the parishes of Asterby, Benniworth, Donnington on Bain, Gayton le Wold, Goulceby, Market Stainton, Ranby, Scamblesby, Sotby and Stenigot), Binbrook ward (part - the parishes of Burgh on Bain, Hainton, Ludford and South Willingham)	Map 2
16 Mablethorpe Central	1	Mablethorpe North district and parish ward (part)	Map A1 and large map
17 Mablethorpe East	1	Mablethorpe North district and parish ward (part), Mablethorpe South district and parish ward (part)	Map A1 and large map
18 Mablethorpe North	1	Mablethorpe North district and parish ward (part)	Map A1 and large map
19 Mareham le Fen	1	Tetford ward (part - the parishes of Claxby with Moorby and Wood Enderby), Mareham le Fen ward (the parishes of Mareham le Fen, Revesby, Tumby and Wildmore)	Map 2
20 Marshchapel	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Alvingham, Conisholme, Covenham St Bartholomew, Covenham St Mary, Grainthorpe, Marshchapel and Yarburgh)	Map 2

Continued overleaf

Figure 1 (continued):

The Commission's Final Recommendations: Summary

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas (parts of existing wards/parishes)	Map reference
21	North Holme (Louth)	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (North Holme district and parish ward)	Map 2
22	North Somercotes	1	North Somercotes ward (part - the parishes of North Somercotes and South Somercotes)	Map 2
23	North Thoresby	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Fulstow, Grainsby, Ludborough, North Thoresby and Waithe)	Map 2
24	Priory (Louth)	1	Priory district and parish ward (part)	Map A2
25	Roughton	1	Donington on Bain ward (part - the parishes of Baumber and Great Sturton), Wragby ward (part - the parishes of Gautby and Minting), Roughton ward (part - the parishes of Bucknall, Edlington with Wispington, Haltham, Horsington, Langton, Roughton, Stixwould and Woodhall, Tupholme, Waddingworth)	Map 2
26	St Clement's (Skegness)	2	St Clement's district and parish ward (part), Winthorpe district and parish ward (part)	Map A5
27	St James' (Louth)	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (St James' district and parish ward)	Map 2
28	St Margaret's (Louth)	1	St Margaret's district and parish ward (part)	Map A3
29	St Mary's (Louth)	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (St Mary's district and parish ward)	Map 2
30	St Michael's (Louth)	1	St Michael's district and parish ward (part), Trinity district and parish ward (part)	Map A2
31	Scarborough (Skegness)	2	Scarborough district and parish ward (part), Seacroft district and parish ward (part)	Map A4
32	Seacroft (Skegness)	2	Seacroft district and parish ward (part)	Map A4
33	Sibsey	1	Sibsey ward (part - the parish of Sibsey)	Map 2
34	Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven	1	Theddlethorpe St Helen ward (part - the parishes of Great Carlton, Little Carlton, Saltfleetby All Saints, Saltfleetby St Clement, Saltfleetby St Peter, Theddlethorpe All Saints and Theddlethorpe St Helen), North Somercotes ward (part - the parish of Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven)	Map 2

Figure 1 (continued):

The Commission's Final Recommendations: Summary

Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas (parts of existing wards/parishes)	Map reference
35 Spilsby	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parish of Spilsby)	Map 2
36 Stickney	1	New Leake ward (part - the parishes of Eastville, Midville, New Leake and Stickford), Sibsey ward (part - the parish of Stickney)	Map 2
37 Sutton-on-Sea North	1	Sutton-on-Sea district and parish ward (part), Trusthorpe district and parish ward (part)	Map A1 and large map
38 Sutton-on-Sea-South	1	Sutton-on-Sea district and parish ward (part), Trusthorpe district and parish ward (part)	Map A1 and large map
39 Tetford	1	Tetford ward (part - the parishes of Belchford, Fulleby, Greetham with Somersby, Hagworthingham, Hameringham, High Toynton, Low Toynton, Lusby with Winceby, Mareham on the Hill, Scrivelsby and Tetford), Donington on Bain ward (part - the parishes of Hemingby and West Ashby)	Map 2
40 Tetney	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of North Cotes and Tetney)	Map 2
41 Trinity (Louth)	1	Trinity district and parish ward (part), St Margaret's district and parish ward (part)	Maps A2 and A3
42 Trusthorpe and Mablethorpe South	1	Sutton-on-Sea district and parish ward (part), Trusthorpe district and parish ward (part)	Map A1 and large map
43 Wainfleet and Friskney	2	Wainfleet ward (parishes of Wainfleet All Saints and Wainfleet St Mary), Friskney ward (parish of Friskney)	Map 2
44 Willoughby with Sloothby	1	Willoughby with Sloothby ward (part - the parishes of Claxby St Andrew, Orby, Well, Welton le Marsh and Willoughby with Sloothby), Partney ward (part - the parish of Candlesby with Gunby), Hogsthorpe ward (part - the parishes of Cumberworth and Mumby)	Map 2
45 Winthorpe (Skegness)	2	Winthorpe district and parish ward (part)	Map A6
46 Withern with Stain	1	Withern with Stain ward (the parishes of Aby with Greenfield, Authorpe, Beesby with Saleby, Belleau, Claythorpe, Hannah cum Hagnaby, Maltby le Marsh, Reston, Scrubby with Woodthorpe and Withern with Stain), Theddlethorpe St Helen ward (part - the parish of Gayton le Marsh)	Map 2

Continued overleaf

Figure 1 (continued):

The Commission's Final Recommendations: Summary

Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas (parts of existing wards/parishes)	Map reference
47 Woodhall Spa	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Kirkby on Bain and Woodhall Spa)	Map 2
48 Wragby	1	Wragby ward (part - the parishes of East Barkwith, Hatton, Langton by Wragby, West Barkwith, West Torrington and Wragby)	Map 2

1. INTRODUCTION

1 This report contains the Commission's final recommendations on the electoral arrangements for the district of East Lindsey in Lincolnshire.

2 The Commission has now reviewed the districts in Lincolnshire as part of its programme of periodic electoral reviews of all principal local authority areas in England. This is the Commission's first review of the electoral arrangements for East Lindsey. The last such review was undertaken by the Commission's predecessor, the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC), which reported to the Secretary of State in February 1979 (Report No. 352). The electoral arrangements of Lincolnshire County Council were last reviewed in September 1980 (Report No. 396). It is intended that a review of the County Council's electoral arrangements will follow in due course.

3 In undertaking these reviews, the Commission is required to have regard to:

- the statutory criteria contained in section 13(5) of the Local Government Act 1992:
 - (a) to reflect the identities and interests of local communities; and
 - (b) to secure effective and convenient local government.
- the *Rules to be Observed in Considering Electoral Arrangements* contained in Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972.

4 The Commission has also had regard to its own *Guidance and Procedural Advice for Local Authorities and Other Interested Parties* (published in March 1996 and supplemented in September 1996). This sets out its approach to the reviews.

5 The review of East Lindsey was in four stages (Figure 2).

6 Stage One commenced on 19 March 1996.

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2. CURRENT ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

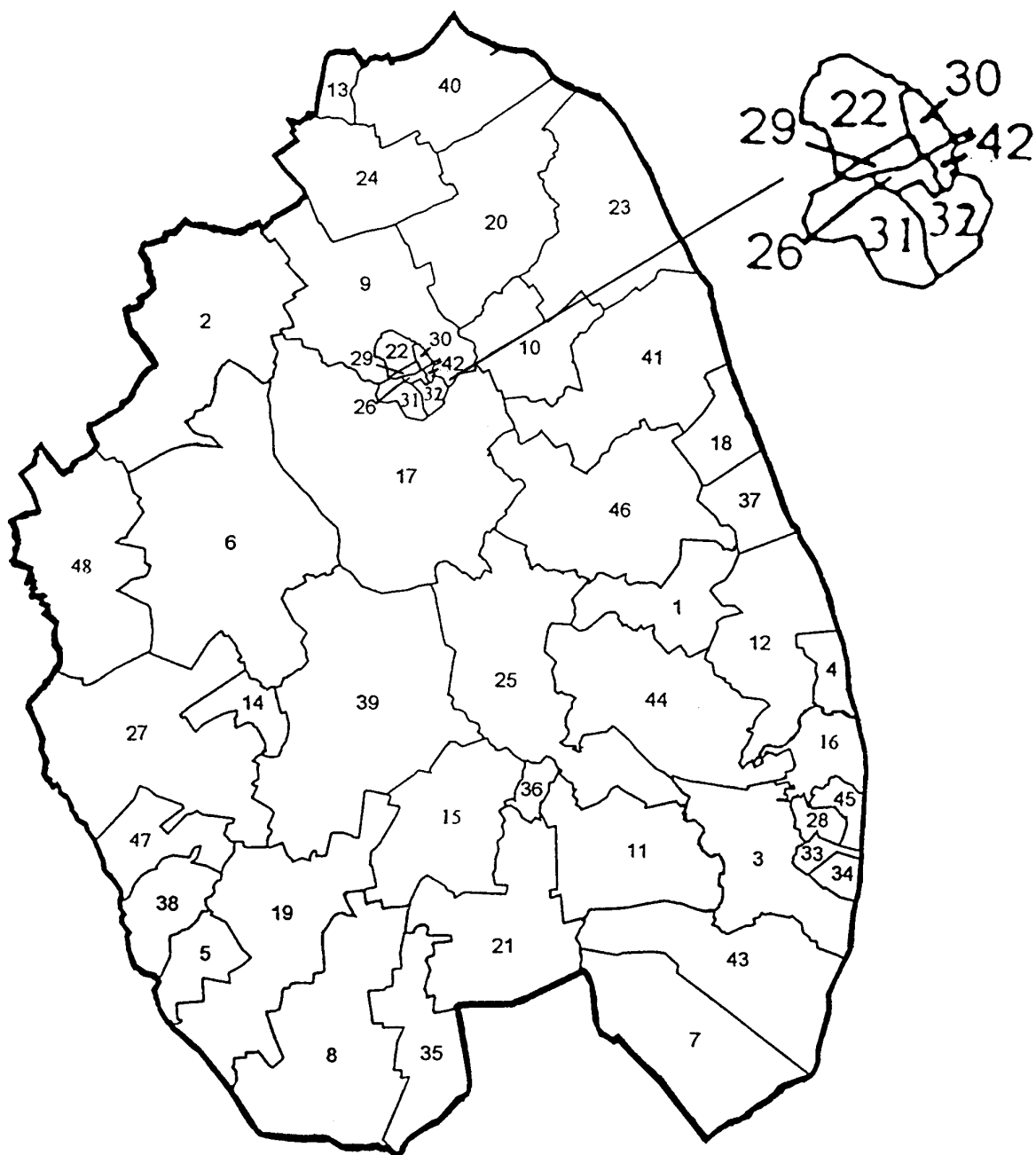
10 East Lindsey district is a predominantly rural area, focused on the towns of Louth and Horncastle towards the centre of the district, and the coastal towns and villages of Skegness, Mablethorpe, Sutton-on-Sea and Chapel St Leonards. The district as a whole has experienced a 29 per cent increase in electorate over the last 20 years, mostly concentrated in the coastal towns, with the inland market towns of Louth, Horncastle and Alford also experiencing some growth. Additionally, the villages of Holton le Clay in the north of the district and Sibsey in the south have expanded, largely due to their proximity to Grimsby and Boston respectively. The district is fully parished with a total of 191 parishes.

11 The District Council has 60 councillors elected from 48 wards (Map 1 and Figure 3). Of these, 38 wards are represented by a single councillor; eight wards are represented by two councillors; and two wards are represented by three councillors. In the main, the urban wards are represented by two or three councillors and the rural wards by one councillor. The whole Council is elected every four years with the next district council elections due in May 1999. The total electorate of the district is 97,342 (February 1996), and this is projected by the District Council to increase by just over four per cent to 101,514 by the year 2001. At present, each councillor represents an average of 1,622 electors. The District Council forecasts that this will increase to 1,692 electors per councillor by the year 2001.

12 In order to compare levels of electoral inequality between wards, the Commission calculated the extent to which the number of electors per councillor in each ward (the councillor:elector ratio) varies from the average for the area in percentage terms. In the text which follows this calculation may also be described using the shorthand term 'electoral variance'.

13 Since the last review by the LGBC in 1979, changes in population and electorate have not been evenly spread across the district. As a result, the number of electors per councillor varies significantly from the average in many wards. In particular, there are currently 30 wards in which the number of electors per councillor varies from the average by more than 10 per cent, and 12 which vary by more than 20 per cent. Currently, Chapel St Leonards ward has 51 per cent more electors per councillor than the average so that the councillor for this ward represents 2,449 electors compared to the average of 1,622 electors.

Map 1:
Existing Wards in East Lindsey



Key To Wards

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1 Alford	17 Legbourne	33 Scarbrough
2 Binbrook	18 Mablethorpe	34 Seacroft
3 Burgh le Marsh	19 Marcham le Fen	35 Sibsey
4 Chapel St Leonard's	20 Marsh Chapel	36 Spilsby
5 Coningsby	21 New Leake	37 Sutton and Trusthorpe
6 Donington on Bain	22 North Holme	38 Tattershall
7 Friskney	23 North Somercotes	39 Tetford
8 Frithville	24 North Thoresby	40 Tetney
9 Fotherby	25 Partney	41 Theddlethorpe St Helen
10 Grimoldby	26 Priory	42 Trinity
11 Halton Holegate	27 Roughton	43 Wainfleet
12 Hogsthorpe	28 St Clement's	44 Willoughby with Sloothby
13 Holton le Clay	29 St James'	45 Winthorpe
14 Horncastle	30 St Margaret's	46 Withern with Stain
15 Hundley	31 St Mary's	47 Woodhall Spa
16 Ingoldmells	32 St Michael's	48 Wragby

Figure 3:
Existing Electoral Arrangements

Ward name	1996				2001 (Projected)		
	Number of councillors	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Alford	2	2,901	1,451	-11	2,959	1,480	-13
2 Binbrook	1	1,377	1,377	-15	1,437	1,437	-15
3 Burgh le Marsh	1	2,396	2,396	48	2,479	2,479	47
4 Chapel St Leonards	1	2,449	2,449	51	2,570	2,570	52
5 Coningsby	1	1,974	1,974	22	2,000	2,000	18
6 Donington on Bain	1	1,538	1,538	-5	1,563	1,563	-8
7 Fotherby	1	1,029	1,029	-37	1,047	1,047	-38
8 Friskney	1	1,177	1,177	-27	1,219	1,219	-28
9 Frithville	1	1,576	1,576	-3	1,640	1,640	-3
10 Grimoldby	1	1,676	1,676	3	1,730	1,730	2
11 Halton Holegate	1	1,449	1,449	-11	1,530	1,530	-10
12 Hogsthorpe	1	1,742	1,742	7	1,788	1,788	6
13 Holton le Clay	2	3,049	1,525	-6	3,216	1,608	-5
14 Horncastle	3	4,610	1,537	-5	4,920	1,640	-3
15 Hundleby	1	1,491	1,491	-8	1,521	1,521	-10
16 Ingoldmells	1	1,601	1,601	-1	1,646	1,646	-3
17 Legbourne	1	1,254	1,254	-23	1,284	1,284	-24
18 Mablethorpe	3	5,431	1,810	12	5,634	1,878	11
19 Mareham le Fen	1	1,445	1,445	-11	1,480	1,480	-13
20 Marshchapel	1	1,719	1,719	6	1,769	1,769	5
21 New Leake	1	1,321	1,321	-19	1,341	1,341	-21
22 North Holme (Louth)	1	1,739	1,739	7	1,759	1,759	4
23 North Somercotes	1	1,855	1,855	14	1,945	1,945	15
24 North Thoresby	1	1,649	1,649	2	1,704	1,704	1

Continued overleaf

Figure 3 (continued):
Existing Electoral Arrangements

Ward name	Number of councillors	1996			2001 (Projected)		
		Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
25 Partney	1	1,048	1,048	-35	1,063	1,063	-37
26 Priory (Louth)	1	1,401	1,401	-14	1,401	1,401	-17
27 Roughton	1	1,284	1,284	-21	1,326	1,326	-22
28 St Clement's (Skegness)	2	4,009	2,005	24	4,174	2,087	23
29 St James' (Louth)	1	1,707	1,707	5	1,747	1,747	3
30 St Margaret's (Louth)	1	2,065	2,065	27	2,183	2,183	29
31 St Mary's (Louth)	1	1,655	1,655	2	1,740	1,740	3
32 St Michael's (Louth)	1	1,767	1,767	9	1,934	1,934	14
33 Scarbrough (Skegness)	2	2,969	1,485	-9	3,254	1,627	-4
34 Seacroft (Skegness)	2	3,854	1,927	19	3,969	1,985	17
35 Sibsey	1	2,085	2,085	29	2,340	2,340	38
36 Spilsby	1	1,663	1,663	3	1,743	1,743	3
37 Sutton and Trusthorpe	2	3,655	1,828	13	3,985	1,993	18
38 Tattershall	1	1,345	1,345	-17	1,345	1,345	-21
39 Tetford	1	1,433	1,433	-12	1,443	1,443	-15
40 Tetney	1	1,770	1,770	9	1,825	1,825	8
41 Theddlethorpe St Helen	1	1,301	1,301	-20	1,366	1,366	-19
42 Trinity (Louth)	1	1,349	1,349	-17	1,384	1,384	-18
43 Wainfleet	1	1,901	1,901	17	2,034	2,034	20
44 Willoughby	1	1,254	1,254	-23	1,306	1,306	-23
45 Winthorpe (Skegness)	2	3,400	1,700	5	3,525	1,763	4
46 Withern with Stain	1	1,368	1,368	-16	1,404	1,404	-17
47 Woodhall Spa	2	2,805	1,403	-14	2,951	1,476	-13

Figure 3 (continued):
Existing Electoral Arrangements

		1996			2001 (Projected)		
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
48 Wragby	1	1,806	1,806	11	1,891	1,891	12
Totals	60	97,342	—	—	101,514	—	—
Averages	—	—	1,622	—	—	1,692	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on East Lindsey District Council's submission.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor varies from the average for the district. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. For example, electors in Sibsey ward are relatively under-represented by 29 per cent, while electors in Trinity ward are relatively over-represented by 17 per cent. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

3. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

14 During Stage One, the Commission received a submission from East Lindsey District Council on electoral arrangements in the district. It also received 23 submissions from parish councils, local organisations and residents. In the light of those representations, the Commission formulated its preliminary conclusions which were set out in its report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for East Lindsey in Lincolnshire*. The Commission proposed that East Lindsey should continue to be represented by 60 councillors, but that there should be 47 wards rather than 48 as at present. It also proposed that:

- (a) in the town of Louth the boundaries of Priory, St Michael's, St Margaret's and Trinity wards should be modified;
- (b) in Skegness, the boundaries of all its four wards should be modified in order to achieve a better level of electoral equality;
- (c) in Mablethorpe and Sutton-on-Sea, the four existing wards should be replaced by six single-member wards, and the number of district councillors increased from five to six;
- (d) there should be modifications to the boundaries of Alford, Binbrook, Burgh le Marsh, Chapel St Leonards, Coningsby, Friskney, Halton Hologate, Hundleby, Legbourne, Mareham le Fen, North Somercotes, Roughton, Sibsey, Tattershall, Tetford, Wainfleet, Willoughby with Sloothby, Withern with Stain and Wragby wards;
- (e) the following wards should be merged: Coningsby with Tattershall and Wainfleet with Friskney;
- (f) the existing wards of Donnington on Bain, Fotherby, Hogsthorpe, New Leake, Partney and Theddlethorpe St Helen should be abolished;
- (g) there should be no changes to the existing arrangements for the wards of Frithville, Grimoldby, Holton le Clay, Horncastle, Ingoldmells, Marshchapel, North Holme, North Thoresby, St James', St Mary's, Spilsby, Tetney and Woodhall Spa.

Draft Recommendation

East Lindsey District Council should comprise 60 councillors, serving 47 wards. The whole Council should continue to be elected together every four years, as at present.

15 The Commission's proposals would have resulted in significant improvements in electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in 39 of the 47 wards varying by no more than 10 per cent from the average. By 2001, it was projected that the number of electors per councillor would be no more than 10 per cent from the average in 44 wards.

16 The Commission's draft recommendations are summarised in Appendix B.

4. RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

17 During the consultation on the Commission's draft recommendations report, 17 submissions were received. A list of all respondents is available on request from the Commission.

East Lindsey District Council

18 In its Stage Three submission, the District Council commented that it was pleased the Commission had adopted the majority of the Council's initial proposals as its draft recommendations. However, the Council also stated that it continued to believe that special circumstances exist in East Lindsey, and that these circumstances had implications for those wards where the Commission's draft recommendations differed from the District Council's original proposals.

19 As part of its submission, the District Council dealt in turn with each of the areas where the Commission had not accepted its proposals. The Council considered that the strong local preference for the retention of single-member wards for Coningsby and Tattershall provided sufficient justification to outweigh the level of electoral imbalance that currently exists in both of these wards. After having consulted the relevant parish councils, the District Council reiterated its view that the local perception is one of two separate communities, albeit with some ties, but divided geographically by the River Bain. The Council also commented that the future of RAF Coningsby was secure, and that the sale of married quarters housing at the base to the private sector would lead to an increase in electors in both wards as empty housing stock became occupied.

20 The Council argued that the Commission's draft recommendation to merge the existing single-member wards of Wainfleet and Friskney into a two-member ward was impractical. It emphasised that its preference for two separate wards was based on the views expressed by Wainfleet All Saints and Friskney parish councils. In addition, it brought to the Commission's attention the fact that, in geographic terms, Friskney is the largest parish in East Lindsey, that it is larger than several London

boroughs, and has no readily identifiable centre of community. In contrast, it argued, Wainfleet ward is centred on the villages of Wainfleet All Saints and Wainfleet St Mary and is different in character to Friskney.

21 The Council resubmitted its proposal that the parish of Sibsey become a single-member ward in its own right rather than be merged with the neighbouring parishes of Eastville, Midville, New Leake, Stickford and Stickney. The Council argued that Sibsey has a distinctive identity and that it is much larger than its neighbours, with a large proportion of its inhabitants working in Boston to the south. In contrast, the neighbouring parishes which would constitute the Council's proposed ward of Stickney, are wholly rural and agricultural in nature. Although Sibsey ward would initially contain 21 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the average, because of the growth that is forecast for the village this would fall to 11 per cent by 2001. It also argued that preliminary indications showed a higher growth rate in the parish than it had originally estimated.

22 The Council also restated its wish for the boundary between the wards of Priory and St Michael's in Louth to reflect its original submission, in order to retain the community ties in the Mount Pleasant Avenue area.

Parish and Town Councils

23 Representations were received from seven parish and town councils during Stage Three. The parish councils of Coningsby, Tattershall-with-Thorpe, Wainfleet All Saints and Friskney opposed the Commission's draft recommendations for two-member wards for their areas. Stickford Parish Council expressed its support for the District Council's proposal to place it with several other rural parishes in a single-member ward, rather than with its neighbours and the larger parish of Sibsey in a two-member ward as proposed by the Commission. Horncastle Town Council expressed its support for the Commission's draft recommendations for its area.

Lincolnshire County Council

24 The County Council commented on “areas where the draft recommendations differ from the original District Council submission... based on the premise that the County Council, in general terms and notwithstanding the issue of electoral equality, is minded to support the District Council where the Council considers that such arrangements can be justified on community identity/interest grounds”.

25 The County Council expressed concern over the Commission’s draft recommendations for two-member wards for Wainfleet and Friskney, Coningsby and Tattershall and Sibsey and Stickney. In these areas the County Council supported the District Council’s proposals for single-member wards, stating that the District Council’s proposals were likely to provide a fairer representation for communities and that “in terms of the forthcoming county review, would provide us [the County Council] with a little more flexibility in ‘building’ electoral divisions”.

The Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils

26 The Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils commented on the reviews of the Lincolnshire districts as a whole. It considered that the views of parishes should be paramount when evaluating any proposal for change to electoral arrangements, as they were the foundation for the entire electoral system. The Association expressed concern over proposals involving one large village being merged with one or more much smaller village(s) within the same District Council ward, on the grounds that it was almost inevitable that the concerns of the larger community would dominate. It also advised that the Commission should have regard to road communications as well as to numbers of electors when considering ward boundaries.

Louth and Horncastle Liberal Democrats

27 The Louth and Horncastle Liberal Democrats (“the Liberal Democrats”) also commented on the Commission’s draft recommendations for the wards of Wainfleet and Friskney, Coningsby and Tattershall and Sibsey and Stickney. The Liberal Democrats argued that single-member wards provided better local representation and accountability, and that where the Commission had proposed a merger of two such wards to form two-member wards, it was possible that both councillors may live in the same village, which would lead to problems of accessibility. Accordingly, it supported the District Council’s proposals for these wards. The Liberal Democrats also stated a preference for the District Council’s proposed boundary between Priory and St Michael’s wards in Louth.

Other Representations

28 The Commission received a further seven submissions in relation to the review. Five respondents, including the local district and county councillors, stated their opposition to the Commission’s recommendation that the wards of Coningsby and Tattershall should merge to form a two-member ward. It was also argued that the large RAF base meant that there may be significant electoral under-representation of the service personnel living at the base, thus increasing the workload of the district councillor. All five respondents supported the retention of existing arrangements for the area. One individual wrote to support the retention of Wainfleet and Friskney wards as single-member wards, while the county councillor for Mablethorpe and Sutton-on-Sea wrote to support the introduction of six single-member wards for the area.

5. ANALYSIS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

29 As indicated previously, the Commission's prime objective in considering the most appropriate electoral arrangements for East Lindsey District was to achieve electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria and to Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972, which refers to the ratio of electors to councillors being "as nearly as may be, the same in every ward of the district or borough".

30 However, the Commission's function is not merely arithmetical, for three reasons. First, its recommendations are not intended to be based solely on existing electorate figures, but also on assumptions as to changes in the number and distribution of local government electors likely to take place within the ensuing five years. Second, it must have regard to the desirability of fixing identifiable boundaries, and to maintaining local ties which might otherwise be broken. Third, the Commission has had to consider the desirability of servicing effective and convenient local government, and reflecting the interests and identities of local communities.

31 It is therefore impractical to design an electoral scheme which provides for exactly the same number of electors per councillor in every ward of an authority. There must be a degree of flexibility. In conducting its electoral reviews, the Commission's predecessor, the LGBC, considered that variations from the average number of electors per councillor for an authority as a whole should be kept to the absolute minimum: a variation of up to plus or minus 10 per cent in a particular ward may be regarded as "acceptable", but variations in excess of plus or minus 20 per cent were generally accepted only in very exceptional circumstances.

32 The Commission's view is that the LGBC's approach to this issue had merit insofar as it combined a clearly defined tolerance threshold with the degree of flexibility necessary to achieve reasonable levels of electoral equality across a local authority's area. Accordingly, the Commission has decided to adopt this approach for the purposes of its reviews.

33 In its March 1996 *Guidance*, the Commission expressed the view that "proposals for changes in electoral arrangements should therefore be based on variations in each ward of no more than plus or minus 10 per cent from the average councillor:elector ratio for the authority, having regard to five-year forecasts of changes in electorates. Imbalances in excess of plus or minus 20 per cent may be acceptable, but only in highly exceptional circumstances...and will have to be justified in full". However, as the Commission emphasised in its September 1996 supplement to the *Guidance*: "While the Commission accepts that absolute equality of representation is likely to be unattainable, it considers that, if electoral imbalances are to be kept to a minimum, such equality should be the starting point in any electoral review".

Electorate Projections

34 East Lindsey District Council submitted electorate forecasts for the year 2001, projecting an increase of just over 4 per cent in the electorate of the district over the five-year period from 1996, from 97,342 to 101,514. The District Council has estimated rates and locations of housing development with regard to structure and local plans, and the expected rate of building over the five-year period. Reasonable estimates have been made of the changes in electorate that will arise, and advice from the District Council on the likely effect on electorates of ward boundary changes has been obtained. At Stage Three, the County Council broadly supported the District Council's five-year electorate projections. The Commission accepts that this is an inexact science, and having given consideration to the District Council's projections and to the views of the County Council, is content that they represent the best estimates that can reasonably be made at this time.

Council Size

35 The Commission indicated in its March 1996 *Guidance* that it would normally expect the number of councillors serving on a district council to be in the range of 30 to 60.

36 East Lindsey District Council is at present served by 60 councillors. The Council did not propose any change in council size during either Stage One or Stage Three of the review. In its draft recommendations report, the Commission considered the size and distribution of the electorate, the geography and other characteristics of the area, together with the representations received. The Commission concluded that the statutory criteria and the achievement of electoral equality would best be served by a council of 60 members, as at present. The Commission has not received any evidence during Stage Three to persuade it to move away from this view.

Electoral Arrangements

37 Having considered all representations received during both Stage One and Stage Three of the review, the Commission has further considered its draft recommendations. The following areas are covered in turn:

- (a) Wainfleet and Friskney wards;
- (b) Coningsby and Tattershall wards;
- (c) Sibsey and Stickney wards;
- (d) the wards of Mablethorpe and Sutton-on-Sea;
- (e) the wards of Louth;
- (f) the wards of Skegness;
- (g) The Wolds area;
- (h) The Fens area;
- (i) The Coastal area.

Wainfleet and Friskney

38 Under current arrangements, the number of electors per councillor in the wards of Wainfleet and Friskney are 17 per cent above and 27 per cent below the district average respectively. In its draft recommendations report, the Commission recommended that these two wards should be merged to form a two-member ward in which the number of electors per councillor would be 5 per cent below the average, and projected to fall to 4 per cent below by 2001.

39 The Commission's draft recommendations were opposed by the District Council, Wainfleet All Saints Parish Council, Friskney Parish Council, the Liberal Democrats, the County Council and a local resident. They contended that the differing nature of the two areas, the large geographic size of the proposed ward, and the possibility that the larger village of Wainfleet All Saints may come to dominate the proposed ward, together justified an exception to the Commission's aim of achieving high levels of electoral equality in every ward of the district.

40 As it indicated in its consultation report, the Commission acknowledges the concerns expressed to it regarding the large geographic size of the proposed ward. Additionally, it is clear that there are differences in the characteristics of the wards of Wainfleet and Friskney. However, notwithstanding these differences in characteristics, it is also clear that there are certain similarities between the two areas, particularly between the parishes of Friskney and Wainfleet St Mary, while the ward is of a comparable size to several of the other proposed wards in the centre of the district.

41 Additionally, the Commission is still concerned at the high level of electoral inequality that would result if it were to recommend two separate wards for these areas. There could be disadvantages for the councillor for Wainfleet ward when representing 20 per cent more electors than the average by 2001. Similarly, were the Commission to maintain two wards, it would be in the knowledge that Friskney ward currently has 27 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the average, and that this level of inequality is likely to continue to worsen over time.

42 It is this factor which has led the Commission to analyse closely all the evidence available concerning its proposed ward of Wainfleet and Friskney. While local opinion would appear to point towards the retention of two separate wards, the level of electoral inequality is such that the Commission continues to have serious reservations as to this proposal. Although maintaining two wards of Wainfleet and Friskney may better reflect the community identity of the areas, the Commission considers this advantage, on the basis of the evidence available to it, to be outweighed by the potentially negative effect of the continued electoral imbalance within both of the District Council's proposed wards.

43 The Commission acknowledges the concerns expressed to it during Stage Three as to the proposed Wainfleet and Friskney ward, and has

given them full consideration. However, in this instance, it considers that the desirability of achieving improvements in electoral equality is greater than the need to continue to reflect the differing natures of Wainfleet and Friskney wards. It has therefore decided to confirm its draft recommendation as final.

Coningsby and Tattershall

44 In its consultation report, the Commission recommended the combination of the existing wards of Coningsby and Tattershall, to form a two-member ward in which the number of electors per councillor would be 2 per cent above the average on the basis of the 1996 electoral register, and 1 per cent below by 2001. At Stage Three, the Commission's draft recommendation was opposed by the District Council, Coningsby and Tattershall-with-Thorpe parish councils, and by four local councillors and individuals. Lincolnshire County Council and the Liberal Democrats also expressed their support for the District Council's original proposal to leave the existing wards of Coningsby and Tattershall unchanged.

45 At Stage Three, the District Council reiterated its proposal to retain the current arrangements in Coningsby and Tattershall, commenting that there was strong local opposition to the Commission's draft recommendation. The Council contended that the local perception of the area was of two separate communities with some ties, but clearly demarcated by the River Bain. The Council also noted, as did three other respondents, that the Ministry of Defence housing stock in the area had now been sold to the private sector and argued that, as a result, the number of unoccupied properties was expected to decline. This would lead to an increase in the electorate of the area, particularly in the current Tattershall ward where the majority of these properties are located. Several respondents also argued that as a result of the presence of a large number of service personnel in the area who may be registered elsewhere, there is currently a degree of under-representation within the Tattershall area.

46 The Commission recognises that there is a strong local feeling that the two communities of Coningsby and Tattershall are distinct, and that this should be reflected in the warding arrangements for the area. In addition, it recognises the concerns expressed that Tattershall may be dominated by Coningsby were the two areas to be merged. However, the Commission considers that there are some community ties and a degree of shared

community identity, not least in the large numbers of service personnel and their families living in both wards while serving at RAF Coningsby. The Commission notes the recent sale of married quarters to the private sector, and considers that there may be some increase in electors as a result. However, it also notes that the newly privatised properties are located in both Coningsby and Tattershall wards. Accordingly, any increase in electoral registration, while reducing the level of over-representation in Tattershall, may as a consequence further exacerbate the level of under-representation in Coningsby ward.

47 With regard to the possible under-registration of service personnel, in the absence of any firm evidence on this issue and on measures intended to address it, the Commission considers that it can only take into account the electorate figures (and 2001 projections) as provided by the District Council.

48 Were the Commission to recommend the retention of the current wards, the councillor for Coningsby ward would represent 22 per cent more electors than the average for the district. Although the Commission acknowledges that these two areas are distinct, it considers that they are no more different from each other than many other communities across East Lindsey which have been gathered together for electoral purposes. Indeed, the proposed ward contains many shared characteristics, and would cover a reasonably compact area. Accordingly, having weighed all the evidence submitted, the Commission has decided to confirm its draft recommendation for a two-member ward for Coningsby and Tattershall as final.

Sibsey and Stickney

49 During Stage One of the review, the District Council proposed a new ward of Stickney, consisting of the parishes of Eastville, Midville, New Leake, Stickford and Stickney, leaving the parish of Sibsey to form a single-member ward in its own right. These proposals would have meant that, on the basis of the 1996 electoral register, Sibsey ward would contain 21 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the district average, although this would fall to 11 per cent below average by 2001. The Commission noted that the two proposed wards were well linked by road, while the District Council's proposed Sibsey ward would lead to a significant level of electoral inequality. Therefore, the Commission recommended the merger of these two wards to

form a two-member ward which would contain 9 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the average.

50 At Stage Three, the District Council resubmitted its proposals for two separate wards. Stickford Parish Council, Lincolnshire County Council and the Louth and Horncastle Liberal Democrats supported the District Council's position. The District Council argued that these five parishes it had proposed should form the ward to the north of Sibsey shared a large degree of common identity and interests, being almost wholly agricultural and sparsely populated in nature, while Sibsey was of a very different character. That village, the Council contended, looked toward Boston in many ways, with many of its inhabitants working there, whilst in other ways it is a self-contained unit with all the local services to be expected in a village of its size. Additionally, it argued, there was significant growth forecast for the village, with the number of electors projected to increase by 225 over the next five years, and that more recent evidence suggested that this projection may be an under-estimate.

51 The Commission has considered in detail the circumstances relating to this area, and accepts that there is some evidence to suggest that the parish of Sibsey has less similarity with those parishes to the north than it had initially considered. In recent years, the pattern of everyday community life has undoubtedly meant that Sibsey has developed greater ties with the town of Boston, while the parishes of Eastville, Midville, New Leake, Stickford and Stickney remain typical of the rural and farming communities prevalent in this part of the county. In addition, there are a significant number of outstanding planning approvals for the area, and evidence that the electorate of the parish of Sibsey is increasing significantly. Accordingly, the Commission considers that, on balance, its final recommendations should be for two single-member wards, to be known as Sibsey and Stickney. Sibsey ward will comprise the parish of Sibsey, while Stickney ward will comprise the parishes of Eastville, Midville, New Leake, Stickford and Stickney.

Mablethorpe and Sutton-on-Sea

52 In its draft recommendations report, the Commission adopted the District Council's proposed electoral arrangements for Mablethorpe and Sutton-on-Sea. The proposed warding marked a significant departure from current practice, and

replaced the two present wards (which have three and two councillors respectively) with six single-member wards. At Stage Three, the Commission received support for this proposal from the District Council and from Councillor Elford, the county councillor for the area.

53 As indicated in its draft recommendations report, the Commission acknowledges that the significant growth in the electorate that has occurred in the town since the last electoral review of the district justifies an extra councillor for the area, although it did express some concern as to the detail of the proposed ward boundaries. The District Council stated that its proposals were fully supported by the Town Council and confirmed its support for these proposed boundaries. The Commission also notes that the proposals have been supported by the county councillor for the area. In view of the local support for these recommendations, the Commission proposes to confirm its draft recommendations for Mablethorpe and Sutton-on-Sea as final.

Louth

54 In relation to Louth, the Commission recommended modifications to the boundaries of four of the seven district wards in the town (Priory, St Margaret's, St Michael's and Trinity). These alterations, which varied slightly from those originally proposed by the District Council, would have ensured that all seven wards provided representation within 10 per cent of the average. The District Council supported the Commission's draft recommendations for Louth, with the exception of the proposed boundary between Priory and St Michael's wards in the vicinity of Mount Pleasant Avenue. The Council contended that the boundary should run down the backs of the houses on the western side of the street, as proposed by Louth Town Council in its original consultation with the District Council, thereby ensuring that the whole of the street remained in the same ward.

55 This modification to the Commission's draft recommendations would have a negligible effect on the level of electoral equality in both wards, would respect the preference of Louth Town Council, while preserving the community ties that are said to have been established over time in the area. The Commission has therefore decided to confirm its draft recommendation, subject to this one modification.

Skegness

56 The Commission also recommended boundary modifications to the four two-member district wards in Skegness: St Clement's, Scarbrough, Seacroft and Winthorpe. Although these modifications largely corrected the electoral imbalances that exist in the town, the modified St Clement's, Seacroft and Winthorpe wards would all still contain marginally greater than 10 per cent more electors per councillor than the district average. Additionally, the Commission indicated in its draft recommendations report that it wished to hear from interested parties as to the suitability of the boundaries proposed.

57 At Stage Three, other than the District Council's support for these proposals, no other comments have been received in relation to Skegness. The Commission has therefore decided to confirm its draft recommendations as final.

The Wolds

58 All the district wards within this part of the district share a degree of common identity, characterised by rolling farmland, with numerous small villages and hamlets spread throughout the area. The proposed single-member wards of Ludford, Roughton and Wragby in the extreme west of the district are all of this nature. The Commission's draft recommendations provided for an unchanged Roughton ward, a modified Wragby ward and a new ward of Ludford. In addition to the community links that exist throughout the area, the level of electoral inequality that would exist in these proposed wards is minimal.

59 At Stage Three, the District Council supported the Commission's draft recommendations, while no other submissions were received. The Commission has therefore decided to confirm its draft recommendations for the wards of Ludford, Roughton and Wragby as final.

60 At Stage One, the District Council proposed retaining the existing wards of Horncastle, Spilsby and Woodhall Spa. In contrast to the larger, predominantly rural wards that make up the majority of the wards in this area, these wards are relatively small and focused on small market towns. Although Woodhall Spa ward contains 14 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the district average, the Commission noted the local preference for the retention of existing arrangements, and therefore put this proposal forward as its draft recommendations.

61 At Stage Three, the District Council supported the Commission's draft recommendations. No other submissions were received. The Commission has therefore decided to confirm its draft recommendations for these wards as final.

62 In its consultation report, the Commission adopted as its draft recommendations the District Council's proposals for minor modifications to the boundaries of the wards of Hundleby, Legbourne and Tetford, towards the centre of the district. While these wards are large geographically, they also share characteristics with other wards in the Wolds area. All three are single-member wards that include several sparsely populated and entirely rural parishes.

63 During Stage Three, the District Council indicated that it accepted the draft recommendations. No other comments were received during Stage Three and the Commission therefore confirms its draft recommendations for the wards of Hundleby, Legbourne and Tetford as final.

64 At Stage One, the District Council proposed no change to the existing two-member ward of Holton le Clay in the north of the district, which consists solely of the parish of that name. The Commission adopted the proposal as its draft recommendation, noting that the parish has a community identity distinct from that of the surrounding area, with many of its community ties being towards Grimsby to the north. The proposed ward would have a relatively low level of electoral inequality, with the number of electors per councillor some 6 per cent below the district average in 1996, and 5 per cent below in 2001.

65 At Stage Three, the District Council supported the Commission's draft recommendation and, as no other submissions were received, the Commission has decided to confirm its draft recommendation for this ward as final.

66 Similarly, the Commission recommended no change to the existing single-member ward of North Thoresby. As with Holton le Clay ward, the Commission considered that the retention of the current arrangements would provide a low level of electoral inequality and would best meet its statutory criteria.

67 At Stage Three, the District Council supported the Commission's draft recommendation. No other submissions were received. The Commission has therefore decided to confirm as final its draft recommendation for the North Thoresby ward,

which would have just 2 per cent from the average number of electors per councillor on the basis of the 1996 electoral register (1 per cent in 2001).

68 At Stage One, the Council proposed modifications to the existing single-member ward of Binbrook. It considered that by adding several parishes to the east of the existing ward, the electoral imbalance would be largely corrected; it would have only 6 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the district average, both now and in 2001. In its consultation report, the Commission indicated that, given the community ties that appeared to exist in the area, and the good level of electoral equality that would be achieved, it had decided to adopt the Council's proposal as its draft recommendation.

69 At Stage Three, the draft recommendation was supported by the District Council. No other comments were received during Stage Three. The Commission has therefore decided to confirm its draft recommendation as final.

The Fens

70 As with the Wolds area of the district, the district wards and parishes in the Fens share a degree of common identity. The parishes are generally sparsely populated and low-lying, with development being linear in nature. There are no large settlements to be found in this part of the district.

71 At Stage One of the review, the District Council proposed adding the parishes of Wood Enderby and Claxby with Moorby to the single-member Mareham le Fen ward in order to secure a better level of electoral equality. This would create a ward in which the number of electors per councillor would be only 1 per cent below the district average in 1996, and projected to be some 3 per cent below average by 2001. Although the proposed ward would cover a relatively large area, its constituent parishes are all entirely rural and share a common character. In its consultation report, the Commission indicated that it considered this proposal would reflect the statutory criteria, and adopted it as its draft recommendation.

72 At Stage Three, the District Council supported the Commission's draft recommendations. No other submissions were received. The Commission has therefore decided to confirm its draft recommendations for this ward.

73 The Commission viewed the Council's proposal to retain the existing single-member ward of Frithville in a similar light, and adopted it as its draft recommendation. There is no large settlement to act as a focus within the ward, and the six constituent parishes share a common character to a large extent, being almost entirely given over to agriculture. The number of electors per councillor of the proposed ward would be 3 per cent below the district average both currently and in 2001.

74 At Stage Three, the District Council supported the Commission's draft recommendation for the Frithville ward. No other submissions were received. The Commission has therefore decided to confirm its draft recommendation for this ward.

75 As part of its draft recommendations, the Commission put forward the District Council's proposal for a revised ward of Halton Holegate. This would provide for a single-member ward where the number of electors per councillor would be 10 per cent above the district average in 1996, and projected to be 8 per cent above average by 2001. While the Commission would ideally liked to have seen an improved level of electoral balance in this ward, given the projected decline in the level of electoral inequality and the community ties between these parishes, it considered that the proposal best fulfilled its statutory criteria.

76 At Stage Three, the District Council supported the Commission's draft recommendation. No other submissions were received. The Commission has therefore decided to confirm its draft recommendation for this ward as final.

77 The Commission has also decided to confirm its draft recommendation, based on a proposal by the District Council, for a new single-member Croft ward. The Commission considers that the ward would properly reflect the pattern of community links that exist in the area. Additionally, the number of electors per councillor in the proposed ward is only 4 per cent above the district average in 1996, projected to be 5 per cent above average by 2001. The draft recommendation was supported by the District Council at Stage Three. No other comments were received.

The Coastal Area

78 At Stage One, the District Council proposed that the parish of Burgh le Marsh should form a district ward in its own right, as the present ward

of that name is substantially under-represented on the District Council. The Commission adopted the proposal as its draft recommendation. Although the number of electors per councillor in this proposed ward would be some 12 per cent above the district average on the basis of the 1996 electoral register, the level of inequality is projected to decline to 9 per cent by 2001. Also, the parish appears to have a distinct community identity quite separate from the Fens parishes which lie to the south, and the town of Skegness to the east. There would also appear to be few community links with the adjacent proposed ward of Willoughby with Sloothby, particularly those parishes which are in its northern corner.

79 At Stage Three, the District Council supported the Commission's draft recommendation. No other comments were received. Accordingly, the Commission has decided to confirm as final its draft recommendation for the parish of Burgh le Marsh to form a single-member ward in its own right.

80 The Commission has also decided to confirm its draft recommendation, based on a proposal by the District Council, for the ward of Willoughby with Sloothby. This single-member ward would contain eight rural parishes, set slightly inland and with no large settlement. The parishes appear to share a number of community ties, and the ward would provide a good level of electoral equality - 6 per cent from the average in 1996 and 7 per cent in 2001. The proposal was supported by the District Council during Stage Three, while no other comments were received.

81 At Stage One, the Council proposed no change to the existing ward of Ingoldmells, which currently has 1 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the district average. The Commission considered the community identity of the parishes of Ingoldmells and Addlethorpe, which constitute the existing ward, to be distinct from the majority of those parishes surrounding them, and to be more akin to the town of Skegness to the south. It therefore adopted the District Council's proposal as its draft recommendation.

82 During Stage Three, the District Council supported the draft recommendation. No other comments were received. The Commission has therefore decided to confirm its draft recommendation as final.

83 Under the scheme proposed by the Council, and subsequently adopted by the Commission as its draft recommendation, the high level of electoral inequality that exists in the single-member Chapel St Leonards ward (more than 50 per cent) would be corrected by incorporating the neighbouring parishes of Anderby and Hogsthorpe. This would create a two-member ward with 5 per cent more electors per councillor than the average, both in 1996 and 2001.

84 The draft recommendation was supported by the District Council during Stage Three. No other comments were received. The Commission has therefore decided to confirm its draft recommendation as final.

85 At Stage One, the District Council proposed modifications to the existing two-member ward of Alford and the existing single-member Withern with Stain ward, to the north of Chapel St Leonards. By adding the parish of Gayton le Marsh to Withern with Stain ward and the parish of Huttoft to Alford ward, the imbalances that currently exist would largely be corrected, without breaking any community ties in the area. Accordingly, the Commission adopted the District Council's proposals as its draft recommendations for these wards, in which the number of electors per councillor would be 2 per cent above and 8 per cent below the district average respectively. The draft recommendations were supported by the District Council. No further representations were received on this subject during Stage Three, and accordingly the Commission has decided to adopt these proposals as its final recommendations.

86 The Commission also adopted as its draft recommendations the District Council's proposals for the existing single-member wards of Theddlethorpe St Helen and North Somercotes, including a change of name for the former to Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven. The number of electors per councillor for the new Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven ward would be approximately equal to the district average in 1996 and 1 per cent above average in 2001, although the number of electors per councillor in North Somercotes ward would be 13 per cent below the average currently and 12 per cent below in 2001.

87 The Commission considered that this level of electoral equality was acceptable given these circumstances, as the proposal appeared to reflect community ties well while fitting in with the Commission's overall scheme for this part of the district.

88 The Commission also put forward the District Council's proposal for no change to the existing single-member wards of Grimoldby, Marshchapel and Tetney in the north of the district.

89 At Stage Three, the District Council supported the draft recommendations in respect of all these wards. No other comments were received. The Commission has therefore decided to confirm its draft recommendations for the wards of North Somercotes, Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven, Grimoldby, Marshchapel and Tetney as final.

Electoral Cycle

90 In its draft recommendations report, the Commission proposed that the present system of whole-council elections be retained. No submissions were received on this issue during Stage Three. The Commission has therefore decided to confirm its draft recommendation as final.

Parish Council Electoral Arrangements

91 The Commission recommends that the warding arrangements of Louth Town Council, Mablethorpe and Sutton Town Council and Skegness Town Council be altered to reflect the new district warding arrangements in those areas, and also that there should be an increase in Council.

Conclusions

92 Having considered all the evidence and representations it has received on its draft recommendations, the Commission has concluded that East Lindsey District should continue to be Terved by a council size of 60 members; that the district should continue to comprise 48 wards as at present; that the boundaries of 35 of the existing district wards should be modified; and that elections should remain on a whole-council basis. Figure 4 shows the impact of the Commission's final recommendations on electoral equality, comparing them with the current arrangements, as based on 1996 electorate figures, and with projected electorates in the year 2001.

93 As Figure 4 shows, the Commission's recommendations represent a significant improvement to the existing electoral arrangements, with the number of wards varying by more than 10 per cent from the district average number of electors per c10 0 0378 reduced from 30 wards to nine, with a further reduction to four by 2001. Under these proposals, the average number of electors per c10 0 0378 would remain at 1,622. The Commission concludes that its recommendations would best meet the need for electoral equality, having regard to the statutory criteria.

Figure 4:
Comparison of Current and Recommended Arrangements

	1996 electorate		2001 projected electorate	
	Current arrangements	Final recommendations	Current arrangements	Final recommendations
Number of 10 0 03787	60	60	60	60
Number of wards	48	48	48	48
Average number of electors per c10 0 0378	1,622	1,622	1,692	1,692
Number of wards with a variance more than 10 per cent from the average	30	9	31	4
Number of wards with a variance more than 20 per cent from the average	12	1	14	0

Final Recommendation

East Lindsey District Council should comprise 60 councillors serving 48 wards, as detailed and named in Figures 1 and 5, Map 2 and Appendix A. The whole Council should continue to be elected every four years.

94 As indicated above, the Commission recommends a number of changes to the electoral arrangements and boundaries to parish councils.

95 In the Louth Town Council area, the Commission confirms its draft recommendations subject to the modification to the boundary between Priory and St Michael's wards, as shown in Appendix A.

Final Recommendation

Louth Town Council should continue to comprise 21 town councillors representing seven wards, with each ward represented by three members. The ward boundaries should be modified to reflect the proposed District Council wards illustrated in Maps A2 and A3 in Appendix A.

96 In the Mablethorpe and Sutton Town Council area, the Commission confirms its draft recommendations.

Final Recommendation

Mablethorpe and Sutton Town Council should continue to comprise 18 town councillors. However, the number of wards should be increased from four to six, with each ward represented by three councillors, to reflect the proposed District Council wards illustrated in the large map at the rear of the report.

97 In the Skegness Town Council area, the Commission confirms its draft recommendations.

Final Recommendation

Skegness Town Council should continue to comprise 18 town councillors representing the four wards of St Clements, Seacroft, Scarborough and Winthorpe, each represented by four, five, four and five councillors respectively. The ward boundaries should be modified to reflect the proposed District Council wards illustrated in Maps A4, A5 and A6 at Appendix A.

98 The Commission also confirms its draft recommendation regarding an increase in the number of parish councillors for Belchford and Fulletby Parish Council.

Final Recommendation

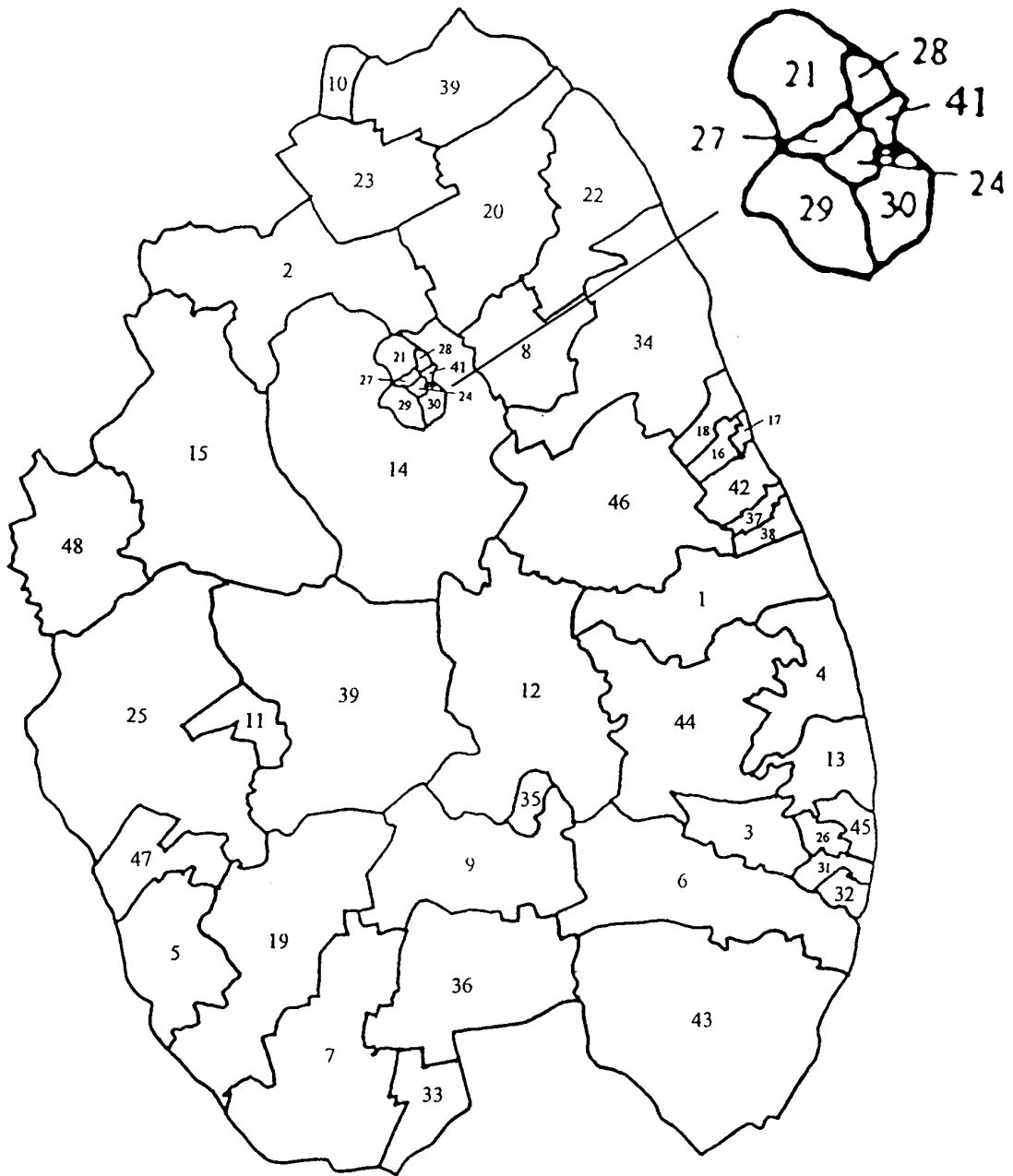
Belchford and Fulletby (Group) Parish Council should comprise seven councillors for Belchford ward, and three councillors for Fulletby ward.

99 The Commission also proposes that there should be no change to the electoral cycle of town and parish councils in the district.

Final Recommendation

For town and parish councils, whole-council elections should continue to take place every four years, on the same electoral cycle as that of the District Council.

Map 2:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for East Lindsey



Key to Wards

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1 Alford	17 Mablethorpe East	33 Sibsey
2 Binbrook	18 Mablethorpe North	34 Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven
3 Burgh le Marsh	19 Mareham le Fen	35 Spilsby
4 Chapel St Leonard's	20 Marsh Chapel	36 Stickney
5 Coningsby and Tattershall	21 North Holme	37 Sutton on Sea North
6 Croft	22 North Somercotes	38 Sutton on Sea South
7 Frithville	23 North Thoresby	39 Tetford
8 Grimoldby	24 Priory	40 Tetney
9 Halton Hologate	25 Roughton	41 Trinity
10 Holton le Clay	26 St Clement's	42 Trusthorpe and Mablethorpe South
11 Horncastle	27 St James'	43 Wainfleet and Friskney
12 Hundley	28 St Margaret's	44 Willoughby with Sloothby
13 Ingoldmells	29 St Mary's	45 Winthorpe
14 Legbourne	30 St Michael's	46 Withern with Stain
15 Ludford	31 Scarbrough	47 Woodhall Spa
16 Mablethorpe Central	32 Seacroft	48 Wragby

Figure 5:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for East Lindsey

Ward name	1996				2001 (Projected)		
	Number of councillors	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Alford	2	3,306	1,653	2	3,380	1,690	0
2 Binbrook	1	1,521	1,521	-6	1,584	1,584	-6
3 Burgh le Marsh	1	1,809	1,809	12	1,850	1,850	9
4 Chapel St Leonards	2	3,402	1,701	5	3,553	1,777	5
5 Coningsby and Tattershall	2	3,319	1,660	2	3,345	1,673	-1
6 Croft	1	1,680	1,680	4	1,777	1,777	5
7 Frithville	1	1,576	1,576	-3	1,640	1,640	-3
8 Grimoldby	1	1,676	1,676	3	1,730	1,730	2
9 Halton Hologate	1	1,782	1,782	10	1,828	1,828	8
10 Holton le Clay	2	3,049	1,525	-6	3,216	1,608	-5
11 Horncastle	3	4,610	1,537	-5	4,920	1,640	-3
12 Hundley	1	1,679	1,679	3	1,719	1,719	2
13 Ingoldmells	1	1,601	1,601	-1	1,646	1,646	-3
14 Legbourne	1	1,526	1,526	-6	1,556	1,556	-8
15 Ludford	1	1,582	1,582	-2	1,622	1,622	-4
16 Mablethorpe Central	1	1,539	1,539	-5	1,610	1,610	-5
17 Mablethorpe East	1	1,570	1,570	-3	1,610	1,610	-5
18 Mablethorpe North	1	1,498	1,498	-8	1,583	1,583	-6
19 Mareham le Fen	1	1,600	1,600	-1	1,635	1,635	-3
20 Marshchapel	1	1,719	1,719	6	1,769	1,769	5
21 North Holme (Louth)	1	1,739	1,739	7	1,759	1,759	4
22 North Somercotes	1	1,413	1,413	-13	1,483	1,483	-12
23 North Thoresby	1	1,649	1,649	2	1,704	1,704	1

Continued overleaf

Figure 5 (continued):
The Commission's Final Recommendations for East Lindsey

Ward name	1996				2001 (Projected)		
	Number of councillors	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
24 Priory (Louth)	1	1,640	1,640	1	1,727	1,727	2
25 Roughton	1	1,687	1,687	4	1,729	1,729	2
26 St Clement's (Skegness)	2	3,639	1,820	12	3,744	1,872	11
27 St James' (Louth)	1	1,707	1,707	5	1,747	1,747	3
28 St Margaret's (Louth)	1	1,732	1,732	7	1,868	1,868	10
29 St Mary's (Louth)	1	1,655	1,655	2	1,740	1,740	3
30 St Michael's (Louth)	1	1,648	1,648	2	1,728	1,728	2
31 Scarbrough (Skegness)	2	3,383	1,692	4	3,728	1,864	10
32 Seacroft (Skegness)	2	3,608	1,804	11	3,723	1,862	10
33 Sibsey	1	1,277	1,277	-21	1,502	1,502	-11
34 Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven	1	1,619	1,619	0	1,704	1,704	1
35 Spilsby	1	1,663	1,663	3	1,743	1,743	3
36 Stickney	1	1,678	1,678	3	1,718	1,718	2
37 Sutton-on-Sea North	1	1,594	1,594	-2	1,624	1,624	-4
38 Sutton-on-Sea South	1	1,433	1,433	-12	1,615	1,615	-5
39 Tetford	1	1,664	1,664	3	1,674	1,674	-1
40 Tetney	1	1,770	1,770	9	1,825	1,825	8
41 Trinity	1	1,562	1,562	-4	1,579	1,579	-7
42 Trusthorpe and Mablethorpe South	1	1,452	1,452	-11	1,577	1,577	-7
43 Wainfleet and Friskney	2	3,078	1,539	-5	3,253	1,627	-4
44 Willoughby with Sloothby	1	1,523	1,523	-6	1,570	1,570	-7
45 Winthorpe (Skegness)	2	3,602	1,801	11	3,727	1,864	10

Figure 5 (continued):
The Commission's Final Recommendations for East Lindsey

Ward name	1996				2001 (Projected)		
	Number of councillors	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
46 Withern with Stain	1	1,492	1,492	-8	1,528	1,528	-10
47 Woodhall Spa	2	2,805	1,403	-14	2,951	1,476	-13
48 Wragby	1	1,586	1,586	-2	1,671	1,671	-1
Totals	60	97,342	—	—	101,514	—	—
Averages	—	—	1,622	—	—	1,692	—

Source: Electorate figures based on East Lindsey District Council's submission.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far the number of electors per councillor varies from the average for the district, in percentage terms. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures in this column have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

6. NEXT STEPS

100 Having completed its review of electoral arrangements in East Lindsey and submitted its final recommendations to the Secretary of State, the Commission has fulfilled its statutory role under the Local Government Act 1992.

101 It now falls to the Secretary of State to decide whether to give effect to the Commission's recommendations, with or without modification, and to implement them by means of an Order. Such an Order will not be made earlier than six weeks from the date that the Commission's recommendations are submitted to the Secretary of State.

102 All further correspondence concerning the Commission's recommendations and the matters discussed in this report should be addressed to the Secretary of State at the following address:

The Secretary of State for the Environment
Local Government Review
Department of the Environment
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

APPENDIX A

Final Recommendations for East Lindsey: Detailed Mapping

The following maps illustrate the Commission's proposed ward boundaries for the East Lindsey area.

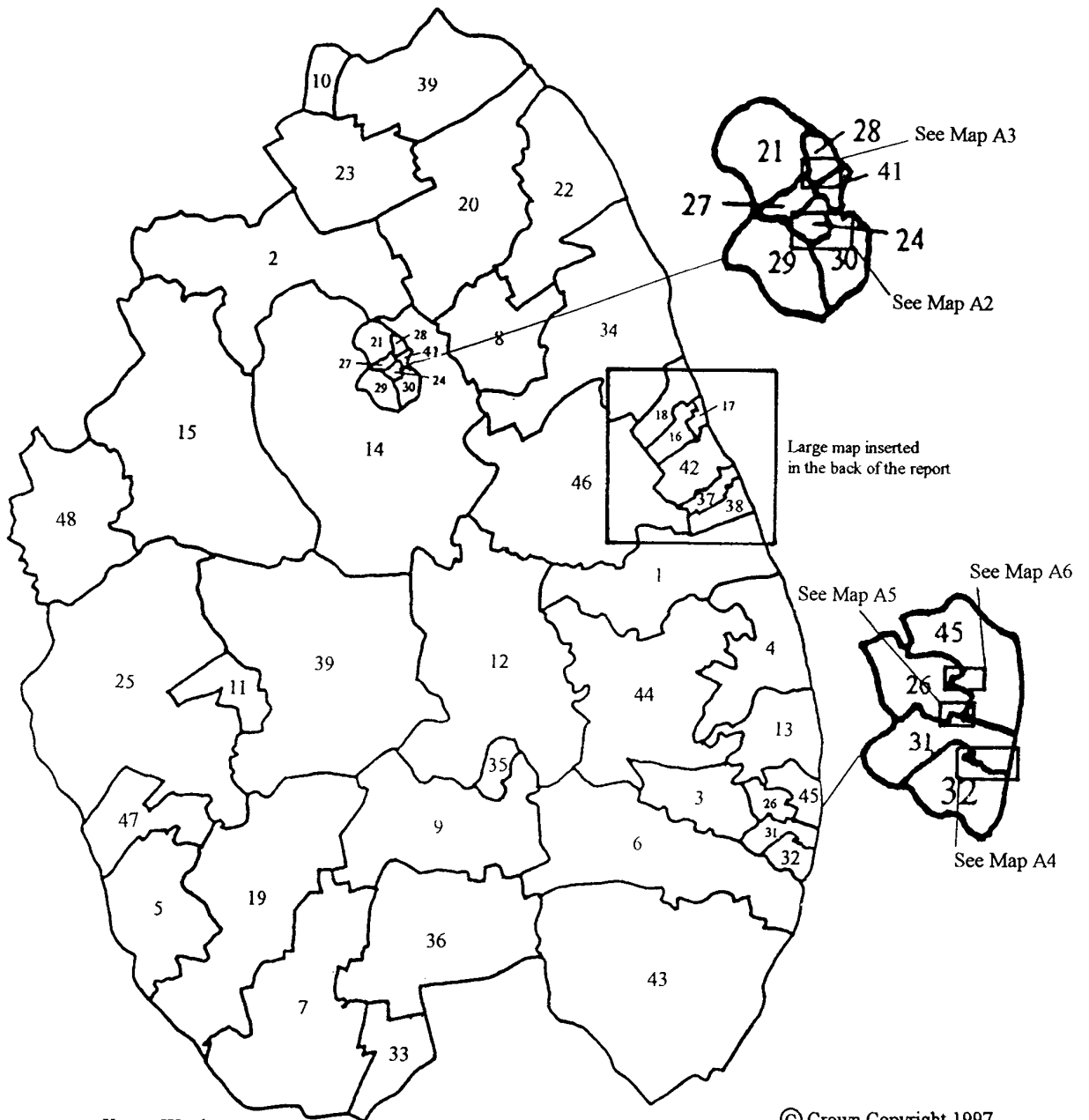
Map A1 illustrates in outline form the areas which are shown in more detail in Maps A2, A3, A4, A5 and A6 and the map at the rear of the report.

Maps A2 and A3 illustrate the proposed boundaries of the new District Council and Town Council wards in Louth.

Maps A4, A5 and A6 illustrate the proposed boundaries of the new District Council and Town Council wards in Skegness.

The **large map** at the rear of this report illustrates the proposed district and parish ward boundaries in Mablethorpe and Sutton-on-Sea.

Map A1:
 The Commission's Final Recommendations for East Lindsey: Key Map



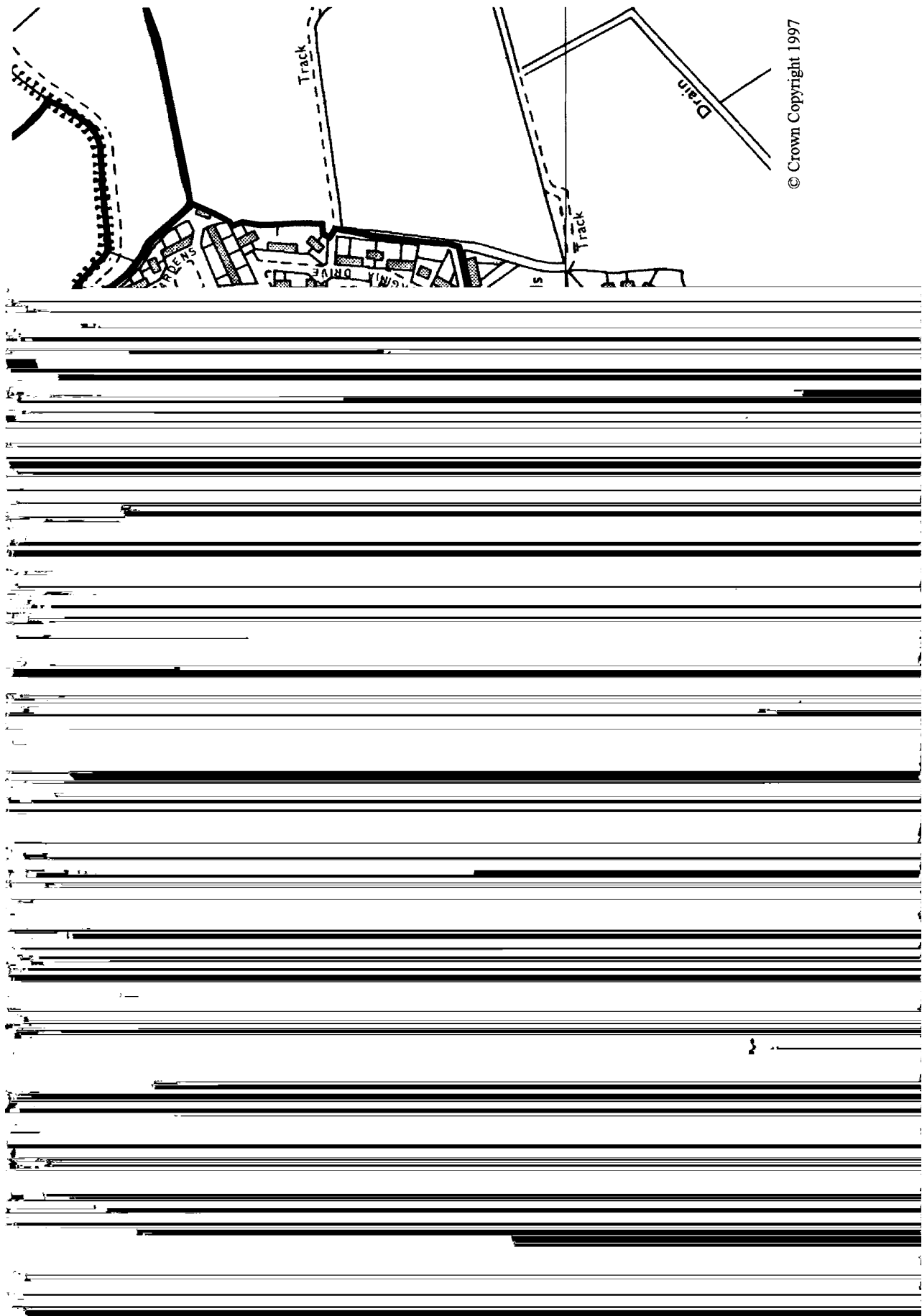
Key to Wards

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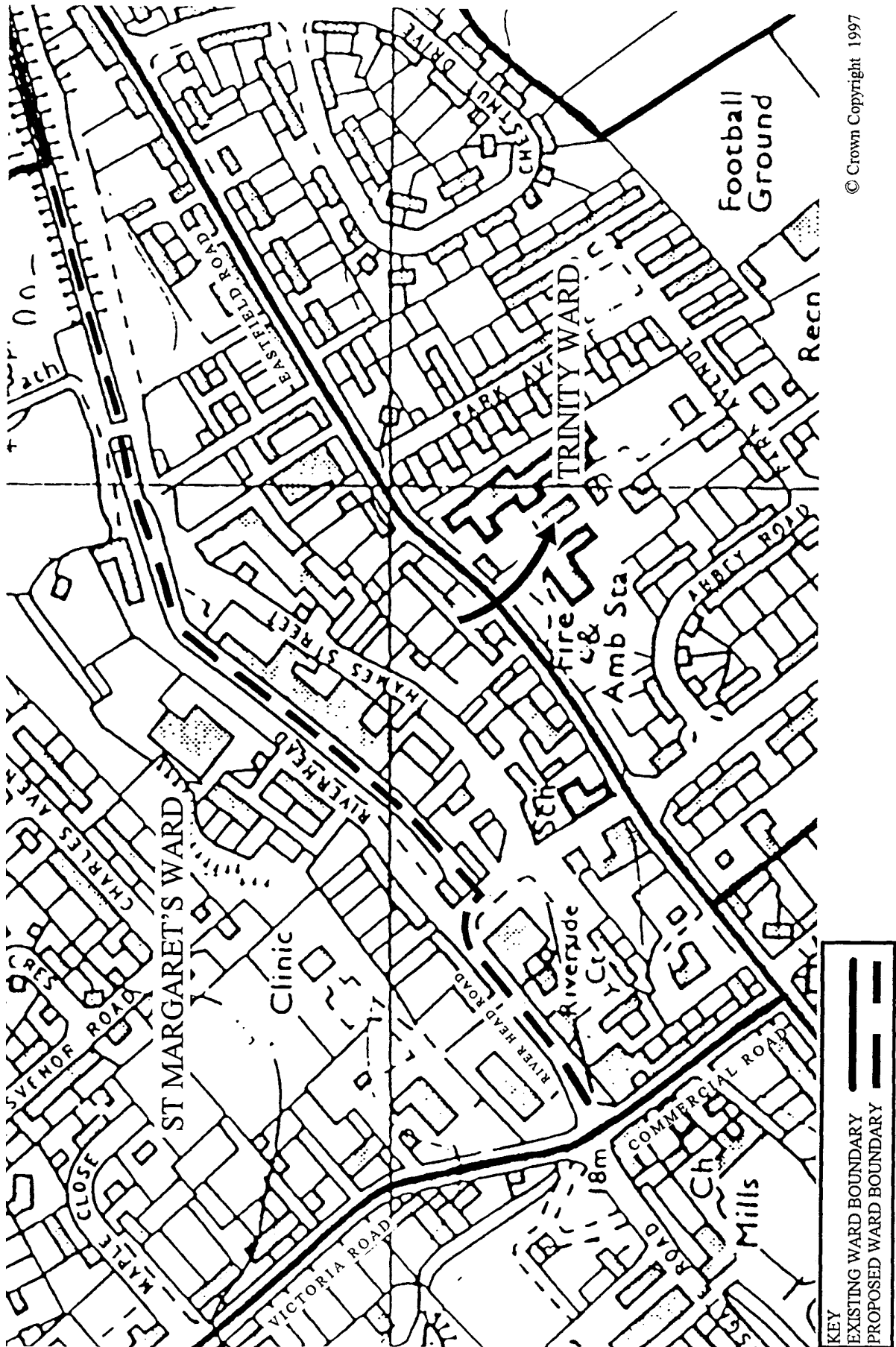
1 Alford	17 Mablethorpe East	33 Sibsey
2 Binbrook	18 Mablethorpe North	34 Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven
3 Burgh le Marsh	19 Mareham le Fen	35 Spilsby
4 Chapel St Leonard's	20 Marsh Chapel	36 Stickney
5 Coningsby and Tattershall	21 North Holme	37 Sutton on Sea North
6 Croft	22 North Somercotes	38 Sutton on Sea South
7 Frithville	23 North Thoresby	39 Tetford
8 Grimoldby	24 Priors	40 Tetney
9 Halton Holegate	25 Roughton	41 Trinity
10 Holton le Clay	26 St Clement's	42 Trusthorpe and Mablethorpe South
11 Horncastle	27 St James'	43 Wainfleet and Friskney
12 Hundleby	28 St Margaret's	44 Willoughby with Sloothby
13 Ingoldmells	29 St Mary's	45 Winthorpe
14 Legbourne	30 St Michael's	46 Witherm with Stain
15 Ludford	31 Scarbrough	47 Woodhall Spa
16 Mablethorpe Central	32 Seacroft	48 Wragby

Map A2:

Proposed Boundary Changes between St Michael's, Trinity and Priory Wards (Louth)

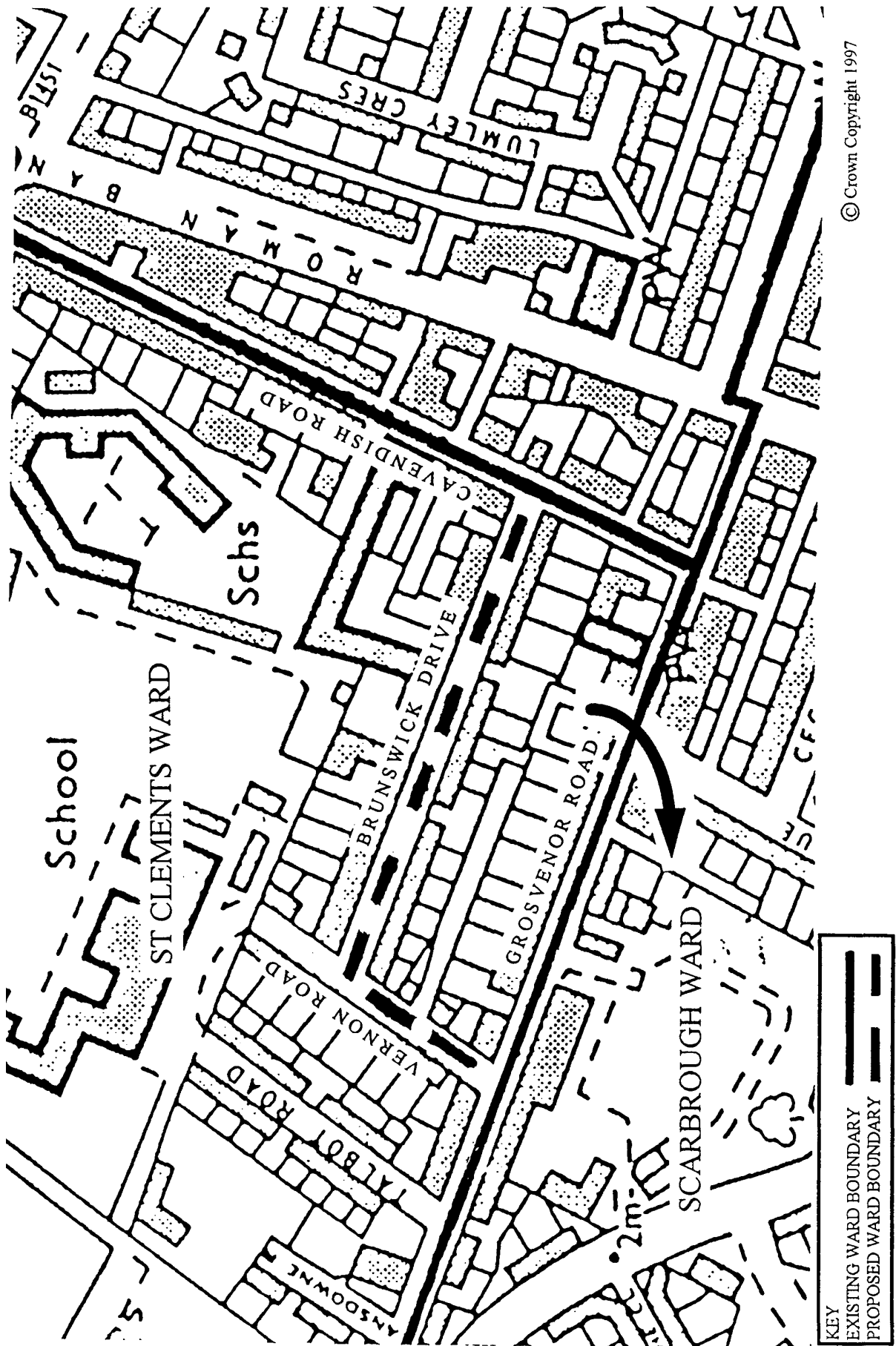


Map A3:
 Proposed Boundary Change between St Margaret's and Trinity wards (Louth)

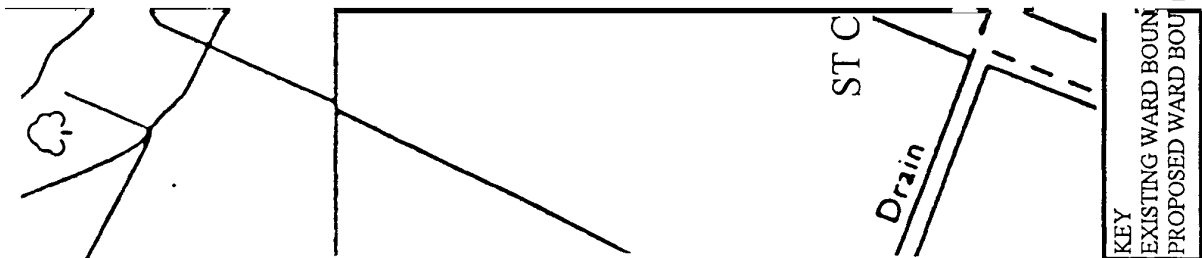
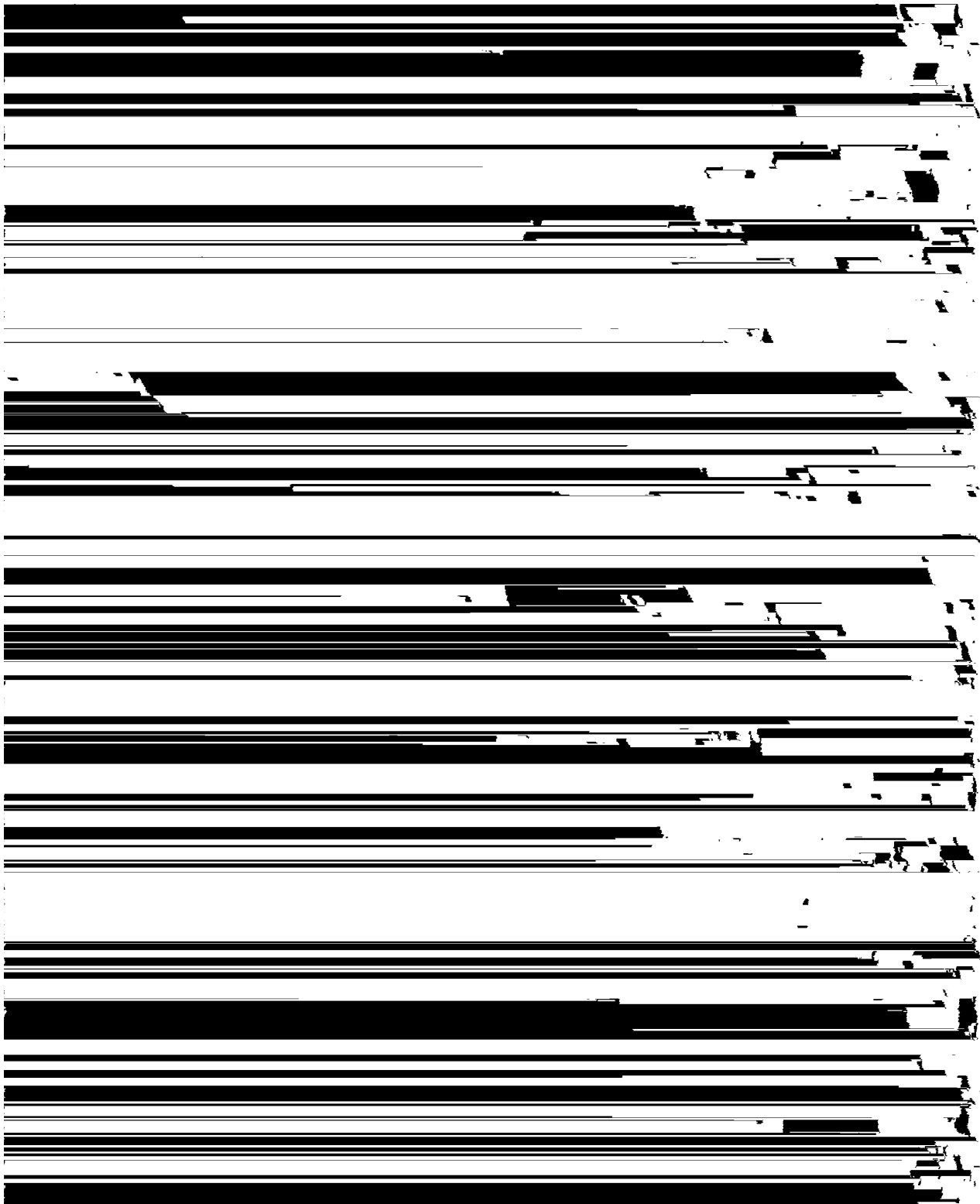


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Map A5:
Proposed Boundary Change between Scarborough and St Clement's wards (Skegness)



Map A6:
Proposed Boundary Change between Winthorpe and St Clement's wards (Skegness)



APPENDIX B

Draft Recommendations for East Lindsey

Figure B1:
The Commission's Draft Recommendations: Constituent Areas

Ward name	Constituent areas
1 Alford	Alford ward (part - the parishes of Alford, Bilsby, Farlesthorpe, Markby, Rigsby with Ailby), Hogsthorpe ward (part - the parish of Huttoft)
2 Binbrook	Binbrook ward (part - the parishes of Binbrook and Calcethorpe with Kelstern) Fotherby ward (part - the parishes of Brackenborough with Little Grimsby, Fotherby, North Ormsby, Utterby and Wyham cum Cadeby parishes)
3 Burgh le Marsh	Burgh le Marsh (the parish of Burgh le Marsh)
4 Chapel St Leonards	Chapel St Leonards ward (part - the parish of Chapel St Leonards), Hogsthorpe ward (part - the parishes of Anderby and Hogsthorpe)
5 Coningsby and Tattershall	Coningsby ward (the parish of Coningsby), Tattershall ward (the parishes of Tattershall and Tattershall Thorpe)
6 Croft	Croft ward (part - the parish of Croft), Halton Hologate ward (part - the parishes of Bratoft, Firsby, Great Steeping, Irby in the Marsh, Little Steeping and Thorpe St Peter)
7 Frithville	Frithville ward (the parishes of Carrington, Frithville, Langrville, Thornton le Fen, West Fen and Westville)
8 Grimoldby	Grimoldby (the parishes of Grimoldby, Manby, North Cockerington and South Cockerington)
9 Halton Hologate	Hundleby ward (part - the parishes of Bolingbroke, East Keal, East Kirby and West Keal), Halton Hologate ward (part - the parish of Halton Hologate), New Leake ward (part - the parishes of Tonyton All Saints and Toynton St Peter)
10 Holton le Clay	Holton le Clay ward (the parish of Holton le Clay)
11 Horncastle	Horncastle ward (the parishes of Horncastle and Thimbleby)
12 Hundleby	Hundleby ward (part - the parishes of Mavis Enderby and Raithby), Partney ward (part - the parishes of Ashby with Scremby, Aswardby, Brinkhill, Dalby, Harrington, Haugh, Hundleby, Lanton by Spilsby, Partney, Sausthorpe, South Ormsby, South Thoresby and Swaby), Willoughby with Sloothby ward (part - the parishes of Skendleby and Ulceby with Fordington)

Continued overleaf

Figure B1 (continued):

The Commission's Draft Recommendations: Constituent Areas

Ward name	Constituent areas
13 Ingoldmells	Ingoldmells ward (the parishes of Addlethorpe and Ingoldmells)
14 Legbourne	Legbourne ward (part - the parishes of Burwell, Hallington, Haugham, Legbourne, Little Cawthorpe, Maidenwell, Muckton, Raithby cum Maltby, Stewton, Tathwell, Walmsgate, Welton le Wold and Withcall), Fotherby ward (part - the parishes of Elkington and Keddington)
15 Ludford	Donington on Bain ward (part - the parishes of Asterby, Benniworth, Donnington on Bain, Gayton le Wold, Goulceby, Market Stainton, Ranby, Scamblesby, Sotby and Stenigot), Binbrook ward (part - the parishes of Burgh on Bain, Hainton, Ludford and South Willingham)
16 Mablethorpe Central	The parish of Mablethorpe North ward of Mablethorpe and Sutton Town Council (part)
17 Mablethorpe East	Mablethorpe North ward of Mablethorpe and Sutton Town Council (part) Mablethorpe South ward of Mablethorpe and Sutton Town Council (part)
18 Mablethorpe North	Mablethorpe North ward of Mablethorpe and Sutton Town Council (part)
19 Mareham le Fen	Tetford ward (part - the parishes of Claxby with Moorby and Wood Enderby), Mareham le Fen ward (part - the parishes of Mareham le Fen, Revesby, Tumby and Wildmore)
20 Marshchapel	Marshchapel ward (the parishes of Alvingham, Conisholme, Covenham St Bartholomew, Covenham St Mary, Grainthorpe, Marshchapel and Yarburgh)
21 North Holme (Louth)	The parish of North Holme ward of Louth Town Council
22 North Somercotes	North Somercotes ward (the parishes of North Somercotes and South Somercotes)
23 North Thoresby	North Thoresby ward (the parishes of Fulstow, Grainsby, Ludborough, North Thoresby and Waithe)
24 Priory (Louth)	Priory ward of Louth Town Council (part)
25 Roughton	Donington on Bain ward (part - the parishes of Bamber and Great Sturton), Wragby ward (part - the parishes of Gautby and Minting), Roughton ward (part - the parishes of Bucknall, Edlington with Wispington, Haltham, Horsington, Langton, Roughton, Stixwold and Woodhall, Tupholme, Waddingworth)
26 St Clement's (Skegness)	St Clement's ward of Skegness Town Council (part), Winthorpe ward of Skegness Town Council (part)

Figure B1 (continued):

The Commission's Draft Recommendations: Constituent Areas

Ward name	Constituent areas
27 St James' (Louth)	St James' ward of Louth Town Council
28 St Margaret's (Louth)	St Margaret's ward of Louth Town Council (part)
29 St Mary's (Louth)	St Mary's ward of Louth Town Council
30 St Michael's (Louth)	St Michael's ward of Louth Town Council (part), Trinity ward of Louth Town Council (part)
31 Scarborough (Skegness)	Scarborough ward of Skegness Town Council (part), Seacroft ward of Skegness Town Council (part)
32 Seacroft (Skegness)	Seacroft ward of Skegness Town Council (part)
33 Sibsey and Stickney	Sibsey ward (the parishes of Sibsey and Stickney), New Leake ward (part - the parishes of Eastville, Midville, New Leake and Stickford)
34 Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven	Theddlethorpe St Helen ward (part - the parishes of Great Carlton, Little Carlton, Saltfleetby All Saints, Saltfleetby St Clement, Saltfleetby St Peter, Theddlethorpe All Saints and Theddlethorpe St Helen), North Somercotes ward (part - the parish of Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven)
35 Spilsby	Spilsby ward (the parish of Spilsby)
36 Sutton-on-Sea North	Sutton-on-Sea ward of Sutton and Mablethorpe Town Council (part), Trusthorpe ward of Sutton and Mablethorpe Town Council (part)
37 Sutton-on-Sea South	Sutton-on-Sea ward of Sutton and Mablethorpe Town Council (part), Trusthorpe ward of Sutton and Mablethorpe Town Council (part)
38 Tetford	Tetford ward (part - the parishes of Belchford, Fulletby, Greetham with Somersby, Hagworthingham, Hameringham, High Toynton, Low Toynton, Lusby with Winceby, Mareham on the Hill, Scrivelsby and Tetford), Donington on Bain ward (part - the parishes of Hemingby and West Ashby)
39 Tetney	Tetney ward (the parishes of North Cotes and Tetney)
40 Trinity (Louth)	Trinity ward of Louth Town Council (part), St Margaret's ward (part - the parish of St Margaret's ward of Louth Town Council (part))
41 Trusthorpe and Mablethorpe South	Sutton and Trusthorpe ward (part - the parishes of Sutton-on-Sea ward of Sutton and Mablethorpe Town Council (part) and Trusthorpe ward of Sutton and Mablethorpe Town Council (part))
42 Wainfleet and Friskney	Wainfleet ward (the parishes of Wainfleet All Saints and Wainfleet St Mary) Friskney ward (the parish of Friskney)

Continued overleaf

Figure B1 (continued):

The Commission's Draft Recommendations: Constituent Areas

Ward name	Constituent areas
43 Willoughby with Sloothby	Willoughby with Sloothby ward (part - the parishes of Claxby St Andrew, Orby, Well, Welton le Marsh and Willoughby with Sloothby), Partney ward (part - the parish of Candlesby with Gunby, Hogsthorpe ward (part - the parishes of Cumberworth and Mumby)
44 Winthorpe (Skegness)	Winthorpe ward of Skegness Town Council (part))
45 Withern with Stain	Withern with Stain ward (part - the parishes of Aby with Greenfield, Authorpe, Beesby with Saleby, Belleau, Claythorpe, Hannah cum Hagnaby, Maltby le Marsh, Reston, Scrubby with Woodthorpe and Withern with Stain), Theddlethorpe St Helen ward (part - the parish of Gayton le Marsh)
46 Woodhall Spa	Woodhall Spa ward (the parishes of Kirkby on Bain and Woodhall Spa)
47 Wragby	Wragby ward (the parishes of East Barkwith, Hatton, Langton by Wragby, West Barkwith, West Torrington and Wragby)

Figure B2:
The Commission's Draft Recommendations for East Lindsey

Ward name	1996				2001 (Projected)		
	Number of councillors	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1 Alford	2	3,306	1,653	2	3,380	1,690	0
2 Binbrook	1	1,521	1,521	-6	1,584	1,584	-6
3 Burgh le Marsh	1	1,809	1,809	12	1,850	1,850	9
4 Chapel St Leonards	2	3,402	1,701	5	3,553	1,777	5
5 Coningsby and Tattershall	2	3,319	1,660	2	3,345	1,673	-1
6 Croft	1	1,680	1,680	4	1,777	1,777	5
7 Frithville	1	1,576	1,576	-3	1,640	1,640	-3
8 Grimoldby	1	1,676	1,676	3	1,730	1,730	2
9 Halton Hologate	1	1,782	1,782	10	1,828	1,828	8
10 Holton le Clay	2	3,049	1,525	-6	3,216	1,608	-5
11 Horncastle	3	4,610	1,537	-5	4,920	1,640	-3
12 Hundley	1	1,679	1,679	3	1,719	1,719	2
13 Ingoldmells	1	1,601	1,601	-1	1,646	1,646	-3
14 Legbourne	1	1,526	1,526	-6	1,556	1,556	-8
15 Ludford	1	1,582	1,582	-3	1,622	1,622	-4
16 Mablethorpe Central	1	1,539	1,539	-5	1,610	1,610	-5
17 Mablethorpe East	1	1,570	1,570	-3	1,610	1,610	-5
18 Mablethorpe North	1	1,498	1,498	-8	1,583	1,583	-6
19 Mareham le Fen	1	1,600	1,600	-1	1,635	1,635	-3
20 Marshchapel	1	1,719	1,719	6	1,769	1,769	5
21 North Holme (Louth)	1	1,739	1,739	7	1,759	1,759	4
22 North Somercotes	1	1,413	1,413	-13	1,483	1,483	-12
23 North Thoresby	1	1,649	1,649	2	1,704	1,704	1

Continued overleaf

Figure B2 (continued):
The Commission's Draft Recommendations for East Lindsey

Ward name	1996				2001 (Projected)		
	Number of councillors	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
24 Priory (Louth)	1	1,699	1,699	5	1,786	1,786	6
25 Roughton	1	1,687	1,687	4	1,729	1,729	2
26 St Clement's (Skegness)	2	3,639	1,820	12	3,744	1,872	11
27 St James' (Louth)	1	1,707	1,707	5.2	1,747	1,747	3
28 St Margaret's (Louth)	1	1,732	1,732	7	1,868	1,868	10
29 St Mary's (Louth)	1	1,655	1,655	2	1,740	1,740	3
30 St Michael's (Louth)	1	1,589	1,589	-2	1,669	1,669	-1
31 Scarborough (Skegness)	2	3,383	1,692	4	3,728	1,864	10
32 Seacroft (Skegness)	2	3,608	1,804	11	3,723	1,862	10
33 Sibsey and Stickney	2	2,955	2,955	-9	3,220	3,220	-5
34 Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven	1	1,619	1,619	0	1,704	1,704	1
35 Spilsby	1	1,663	1,663	3	1,743	1,743	3
36 Sutton-on-Sea North	1	1,594	1,594	-2	1,624	1,624	-4
37 Sutton-on-Sea South	1	1,433	1,433	-12	1,615	1,615	-5
38 Tetford	1	1,664	1,664	3	1,674	1,674	-1
39 Tetney	1	1,770	1,770	9	1,825	1,825	8
40 Trinity	1	1,562	1,562	-4	1,579	1,579	-7
41 Trusthorpe and Mablethorpe South	1	1,452	1,452	-11	1,577	1,577	-7
42 Wainfleet and Friskney	2	3,078	1,539	-5	3,253	1,627	-4
43 Willoughby with Sloothby	1	1,523	1,523	-6	1,570	1,570	-7
44 Winthorpe (Skegness)	2	3,602	1,801	11	3,727	1,864	10
45 Withern with Stain	1	1,492	1,492	-8	1,528	1,528	-10

Figure B2 (continued):
The Commission's Draft Recommendations for East Lindsey

Ward name	1996				2001 (Projected)		
	Number of councillors	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
46 Woodhall Spa	2	2,805	1,403	-14	2,951	1,476	-13
47 Wragby	1	1,586	1,586	-2	1,671	1,671	-1
Totals	60	97,342	—	—	101,514	—	—
Average	—	—	1,622	—	—	1,692	—

Source: Based on East Lindsey District Council's submissions.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor varies from the average for the borough. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

