

**Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No. 451**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 451

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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THE RT. HON TOM KING M.P. SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

1. In a letter dated 26 March 1980 East Hertfordshire District Council requested us to make proposals for alterations to the boundary between the districts of East Hertfordshire and Welwyn Hatfield with a view to transferring three small areas of open land - two from Welwyn Hatfield to East Hertfordshire and one from East Hertfordshire to Welwyn Hatfield.
2. The case put forward was that the alterations would rationalise the existing boundary so that it followed natural features. One of the alterations would rectify the anomaly where the grounds of a school were bisected by the district boundary.
3. We considered the Council's request as required by Section 48(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 having regard to Department of the Environment Circular 33/78 and to our Report No. 287.
4. We noted that the changes were minor and that there was agreement among the local authorities. We concluded that as the District Council's request met the criteria set out in paragraph 14 of Department of the Environment Circular 33/78 and as the circumstances were sufficiently exceptional to enable us to shorten the normal procedure, we would publish our draft proposals based on East Hertfordshire District Council's submission at the same time as we announced our intention to carry out a review.
5. On 17 July 1981 we issued a consultation letter announcing the start of the review and giving details of our draft proposals. The letter was addressed to East Hertfordshire and Welwyn Hatfield District Councils and copies were sent to Hertfordshire County Council, Datchworth, Tewin and Welwyn Parish Councils, the residents of the affected properties, clerks to other parish councils in East Hertfordshire and Welwyn Hatfield, MP's of the constituencies concerned, headquarters of the main political parties and the editors of the local government press. The two district councils were asked to put copies of a notice announcing the start of the review and the publication of our draft proposals on display at places where public notices were customarily displayed. The Councils were also asked to place copies of our draft proposals on deposit at their main offices for a period of six weeks. Comments on the review and on the draft proposals were invited by 11 September 1981.
6. Our draft proposals letter asked, inter alia, for specific comments on whether an amendment would be desirable to the proposed Tewin/Welwyn boundary so that a tennis court belonging to Tewin Water School would be included in the same district as the remainder of the school grounds.

WELWYN/TEWIN

7. Welwyn Hatfield District Council did not oppose our draft proposals. Welwyn Parish Council had no comments to make. Tewin Parish Council agreed with our draft proposals and considered that the question of the tennis court was of little consequence and that the adjacent footpath would be a better boundary. Hertfordshire County Council and East Hertfordshire District Council requested a modification to the proposed boundary so that the tennis court belonging to Tewin Water School would be in the same district as the remainder of the school grounds.

DATCHWORTH/WELWYN

8. Datchworth Parish Council originally supported the realignment to the boundary. They were subsequently told that the existing boundary to the west of White Horse Lane followed the ditch of an important Iron Age settlement. Some excavation had been carried out on the site which, the Parish Council claimed, had been listed as an Ancient Monument. For these reasons they considered that it was important that the boundary remained unchanged. They still supported, however, the alteration to the boundary east of White Horse Lane as they considered the realignment would provide a more logical boundary.

9. All the Councils had responded to our draft proposals before they were aware of Datchworth Parish Council's change of mind on one of the alterations. Further comments were therefore sought. At first Welwyn Hatfield District Council did not oppose our draft proposals; after they had received Datchworth Parish Council's letter they considered that no alterations should be made to the Welwyn/Datchworth boundary. East Hertfordshire District Council supported Datchworth Parish Council's case. Hertfordshire County Council did not wish to submit comments. After they had received Datchworth Parish Council's letter they were, however, advised that although it seemed likely that there was a substantial Iron Age settlement in the area, there was little evidence available that suggested that any part of the Welwyn/Datchworth boundary clearly followed any part of the enclosure of that settlement. Furthermore the site was not scheduled as an Ancient Monument. Nonetheless, the current parish boundary was at least medieval and probably older and that it might therefore constitute a piece of history itself. Welwyn Parish Council initially had no comments to make; after they had received Datchworth Parish Council's letter they decided that no alterations should be made to the boundary.

CONCLUSION

10. We consider that the request to include the tennis court belonging to Tewin Water School in the same district as the remainder of the school premises to be a reasonable one and we have therefore decided to make an amendment to our draft proposals in this respect

11. We note that there is a disagreement between the Councils concerned over the proposed alterations to the Datchworth/Welwyn boundary. We also note that the existing boundary west of White Horse Lane could be of some historic significance. We consider, however, that White Horse Lane will form a better boundary and we therefore adhere to our draft proposals. We are satisfied that in the interests of effective and convenient local government the boundary between the districts of East Hertfordshire and Welwyn Hatfield should be re-aligned as indicated in our draft proposals. We therefore confirm these as our final proposals.

12. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedules 1 and 2 to this report. Schedule 1 specifies the proposed changes in local authority areas; the proposed boundary is illustrated on the attached maps. Schedule 2 specifies the consequential adjustments to the existing electoral arrangements.

13. Separate letters are being sent with copies of the report and of the maps to East Hertfordshire and Welwyn Hatfield District Councils 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. The text of the notices will refer to your powers 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 include a sketch plan are being sent to those who received the consultation letter.

L.S.

Signed: G J ELLERTON (Chairman)

 WILFRED BURNS (Deputy Chairman)

 JOAN ACKNER

 TYRRELL BROCKBANK

 C E CHERRY

 D P HARRISON

LESLIE GRIMSHAW
(SECRETARY)

1983

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

PRINCIPAL AREA REVIEW - FINAL PROPOSALS

DISTRICT OF WELWYN HATFIELD/DISTRICT OF EAST HERTFORDSHIRE

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

SCHEDULE 1

Area A : description of area of land proposed to be transferred from Welwyn CP in Welwyn Hatfield District to Datchworth CP in East Hertfordshire District.

That area bounded by a line commencing at the point where the existing District boundary crosses White Horse Lane, east of Welches Farm, thence northwards along said lane to Coltsfoot Lane, thence northeastwards along said lane to the existing District boundary, thence southeastwards and southwestwards along said District boundary to the point of commencement.

Area B : description of area of land proposed to be transferred from Datchworth CP in East Hertfordshire District to Welwyn CP in Welwyn Hatfield District.

That area bounded by a line commencing on the existing District boundary at the northernmost corner of Parcel No 0091 as shown on OS 1:2500 Microfilm (A) TL 2617, date of publication 1972, thence northwards, generally westwards, northwestwards, northeastwards, generally southeastwards and northeastwards along said District boundary to where it crosses White Horse Lane, thence southwestwards along said lane to a point opposite the northernmost corner of Parcel No 0091, thence southwestwards to said northernmost corner, being the point of commencement.

Area C : description of area of land proposed to be transferred from Welwyn CP in Welwyn Hatfield District to Tewin CP in East Hertfordshire District.

That area bounded by a line commencing at the point where the existing District boundary meets the southwestern boundary of Welwyn CP, thence northwestwards along said CP boundary to a point opposite the eastern boundary of Parcel No 1467 as shown on OS 1:2500 Microfilm (A) TL 2514, date of publication 1973, thence northeastwards to and along said parcel boundary, northeastwards along the western boundary of the Path (um) leading northeastwards from Hertford Road across the River Mimram and northwestwards and northeastwards along the eastern boundary of Parcel No 2077 to the unnamed road leading southeastwards to Tewin Water School, thence southeastwards along said unnamed road to the existing District boundary, thence southwestwards, southeastwards and southwestwards along the said District boundary to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE 2

Revised District electoral arrangements, consequent upon the proposals described in Schedule 1.

It is proposed that the District Wards, as defined in the District of Welwyn Hatfield (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976 and the District of East Hertfordshire (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976, shall be altered as described below.

1. Area A, as described in Schedule 1, shall be transferred from the Welwyn East Ward of Welwyn Hatfield District to the Datchworth Ward of East Hertfordshire District.

2. Area B, as described in Schedule 1, shall be transferred from the Datchworth Ward of East Hertfordshire District to the Welwyn East Ward of Welwyn Hatfield District.

3. Area C, as described in Schedule 1, shall be transferred from the Welwyn East Ward of Welwyn Hatfield District to the Tewin Ward of East Hertfordshire District.

Revised County electoral arrangements, consequent upon the proposals described in Schedule 1.

It is proposed that the County Electoral Divisions, as defined in the County of Hertfordshire (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1980, shall be altered as described below.

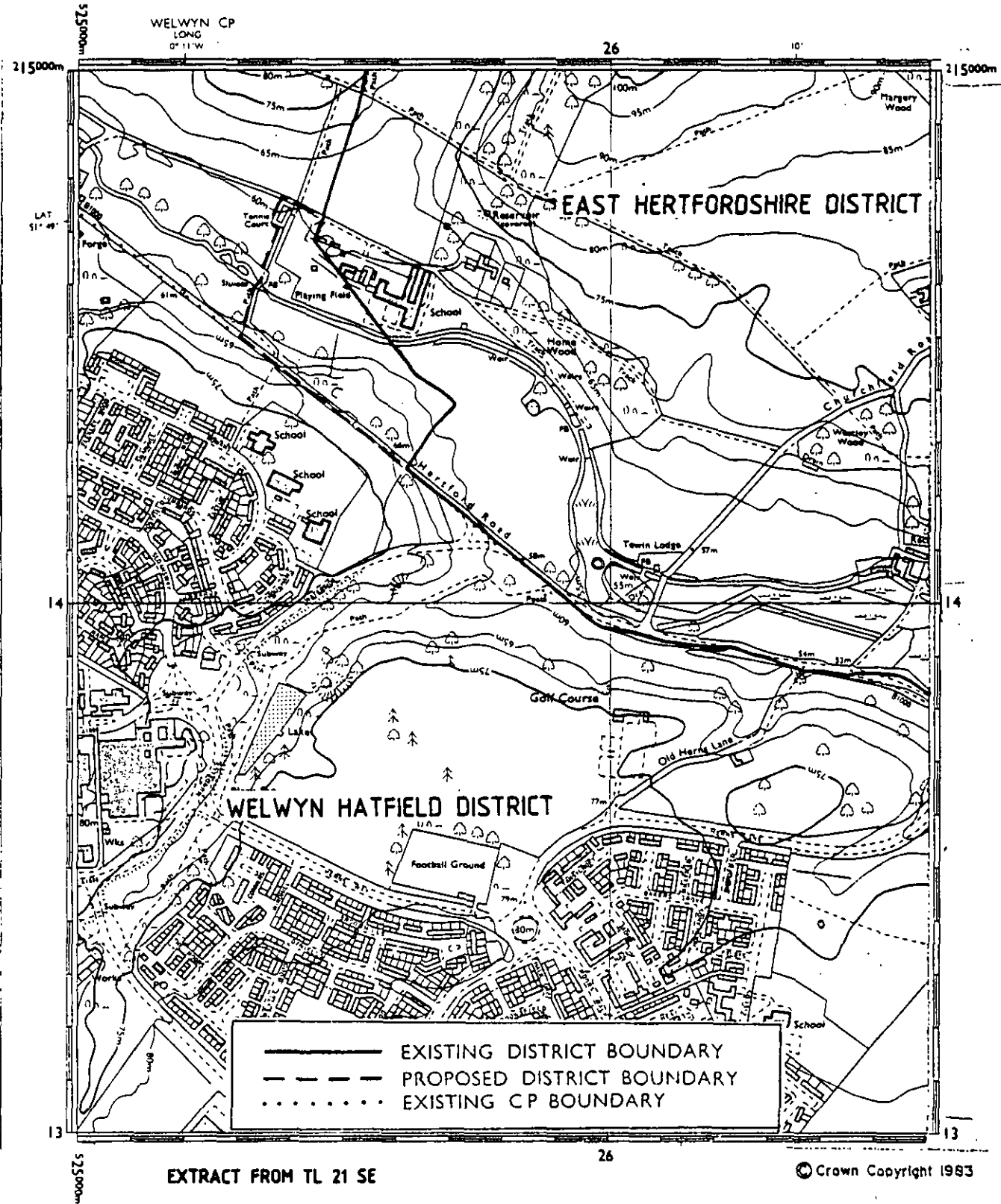
1. Area A and Area C, as described in Schedule 1, shall be transferred from the Welwyn ED of Hertfordshire County to the Hertford Rural ED of Hertfordshire County.

2. Area B, as described in Schedule 1, shall be transferred from the Hertford Rural ED of Hertfordshire County to the Welwyn ED of Hertfordshire County.

PRINCIPAL AREA REVIEW

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND
FINAL PROPOSAL

SCALE 1:10 000



PRINCIPAL AREA REVIEW

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND
FINAL PROPOSAL

SCALE 1:10 000

WELWYN HATFIELD DISTRICT

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT

EXTRACT FROM TL 21 NE

- EXISTING DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- - - PROPOSED DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- EXISTING CP BOUNDARY

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