

LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND

FINAL
RECOMMENDATIONS
ON THE
FUTURE ELECTORAL
ARRANGEMENTS
FOR
SOUTH KESTEVEN
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 South Kesteven in Lincolnshire.

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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 South Kesteven 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 made a minor modification to one of its initial warding proposals in the Stamford area, 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 South Kesteven should be served by 58 councillors representing 34 wards, and that some changes should be made to ward boundaries in order to improve electoral equality, having regard to the Commission's statutory criteria. It is recommended that the whole Council should continue to be elected together every four years.

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 South Kesteven 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 South Kesteven because:

- **in 24 of the 34 wards, the number of electors represented by each councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the average for the district;**
- **in 13 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 vary by more than 10 per cent from the average in 26 of the wards.**

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

- **South Kesteven District Council should be served by 58 councillors, compared with 57 at present;**
- **there should continue to be 34 wards as at present, but on modified boundaries;**
- **the ward boundaries of 27 of the existing wards should be modified, while seven 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 29 of the 34 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 average in 32 wards.**

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

- **they provide for changes to the ward boundaries of Stamford Town Council and Bourne Town Council;**
- **they provide for changes to the number of parish and town councillors in Baston, Colsterworth, Deeping St James, Haydor, Morton and Stamford parish and town councils.**

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	Map reference
1 All Saints (Stamford Town)	2	All Saints district and parish ward; St Mary's district and parish ward (part)	Map A2
2 Aveland	1	Aveland ward (part - the parishes of Pointon, Aslackby, Dowsby and Rippingale); Ringstone ward (part - the parishes of Kirkby Underwood and Dunsby)	Map 2
3 Barrowby	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (Barrowby parish)	Map 2
4 Belmont	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (Londonthorpe and Harrowby Without parish)	Map 2
5 Bourne East (Bourne Town)	3	Bourne East district and parish ward; Bourne West district and parish ward (part)	Map A3
6 Bourne West (Bourne Town)	3	Bourne West district and parish ward (part)	Map A3
7 Deeping St James	3	<i>Unchanged</i> (Deeping St James parish)	Map 2
8 Earlesfield (Grantham Town)	3	Earlesfield ward (part); Greyfriars ward (part); Grantham St John's ward (part)	Large map
9 Ermine	1	Ermine ward (part - Ancaster parish); Witham Valley ward (part - the parishes of Barkston and Syston); Peascliffe ward (part - Belton and Manthorpe parish)	Map 2
10 Forest	1	Forest ward (part - the parishes of Little Ponton and Great Ponton); Devon ward (part - the parishes of Woolsthorpe, Denton, Harlaxton and Wyville)	Map 2
11 Glen Eden	1	Glen Eden ward (part - the parishes of Corby Glen, Irnham, Swayfield, Swinstead and Edenham); Forest ward (part - the parishes of Boothby Pagnell, Bitchfield and Burton Coggles)	Map 2
12 Grantham St John's (Grantham Town)	2	Grantham St John's ward (part); Earlesfield ward (part)	Large map
13 Green Hill (Grantham Town)	2	Greyfriars ward (part)	Large map
14 Greyfriars (Grantham Town)	2	Grantham St John's ward (part); Greyfriars ward (part); St Wulfram's ward (part)	Large map

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

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas	Map reference
15	Harrowby (Grantham Town)	3	Harrowby ward; St Anne's ward (part)	Large map
16	Heath	1	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Fulbeck and Caythorpe)	Map 2
17	Hillsides	1	Hillsides ward (part - the parishes of Witham-on-the-Hill and Toft); Casewick ward (part - the parishes of Greatford, Carlby and Braceborough); Morkery ward (part - the parishes of Couthorpe and Creeton, Little Bytham, and Careby, Aunby and Holywell)	Map 2
18	Isaac Newton	1	Isaac Newton ward (part - the parishes of Skillington, Colsterworth and Gunby); Forest ward (part - the parishes of Stoke Rochford and Easton)	Map 2
19	Lincrest	1	Lincrest ward (the parishes of Welby, Haydor, Ropsley, Braceby, Pickworth, Ingoldsby and Lenton); Forest ward (part - Old Somerby parish)	Map 2
20	Loveden	1	Loveden ward (part - the parishes of Claypole, Fenton, Stubton and Hough-on-the-Hill); Ermine ward (part - the parishes of Normanton, Carlton Scroop and Honington)	Map 2
21	Market and West Deeping	3	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Market Deeping and West Deeping)	Map 2
22	Morkery	1	Morkery ward (part - the parishes of North Witham, South Witham and Castle Bytham)	Map 2
23	Peascliffe	1	Peascliffe ward (part - Great Gonerby parish)	Map 2
24	Ringstone	1	Ringstone ward (part - the parishes of Haconby and Morton)	Map 2
25	Saxonwell	1	Saxonwell ward (part - Long Bennington parish); Loveden ward (part - Westborough and Dry Doddington parish)	Map 2
26	St Anne's (Grantham Town)	2	St Anne's ward (part)	Large map
27	St George's (Stamford Town)	2	<i>Unchanged</i> (St George's district and parish ward)	Map A2

Continued overleaf

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

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Constituent areas	Map reference
28	St Mary's (Stamford Town)	2	St Mary's district and parish ward (part)	Map A2
29	St Wulfram's (Grantham Town)	2	St Wulfram's ward (part)	Large map
30	Stamford St John's (Stamford Town)	3	<i>Unchanged</i> (Stamford St John's district and parish ward)	Map A2
31	Thurlby	1	Hillsides ward (part - Thurlby parish)	Map 2
32	Toller	1	Toller ward (the parishes of Horbling and Billingborough); Aveland ward (part - Folkingham parish)	Map 2
33	Truesdale	2	Truesdale ward (the parishes of Baston and Langtoft); Casewick ward (part - the parishes of Barholm, Tallington and Uffington)	Map 2
34	Witham Valley	1	Witham Valley ward (part - the parishes of Hougham, Marston, and Foston); Devon ward (part - Sedgebrook parish); Saxonwell ward (part - Allington parish)	Map 2

Note: The large map inserted at the back of the report illustrates the proposed ward boundaries in Grantham.

1. INTRODUCTION

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

2 The Commission has now reviewed all 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 such review for South Kesteven. 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 May 1977 (Report No. 197). 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 was 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 South Kesteven was in four stages (Figure 2).

6 Stage One commenced on 19 March 1996. The Commission wrote to South Kesteven District Council inviting it to make proposals for its future electoral arrangements. Copies of that letter were circulated to Lincolnshire County Council, the other borough and district councils in Lincolnshire, the Lincolnshire Police Authority, the local authority associations, the Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils, parish and town councils in the district, Members of Parliament and Members of the European Parliament with constituency interests in the district, and the headquarters of the main political parties. The Commission also placed a notice in the local press, issued a press release and invited the District Council itself to publicise the review.

7 At Stage Two the Commission considered all the representations received during Stage One and formulated its draft recommendations.

8 Stage Three began on 31 October 1996 with the publication of the Commission's report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for South Kesteven in Lincolnshire*. Copies were sent to all those to whom the Commission wrote at the start of the review as well as to those who had written to the Commission during Stage One inviting comments on the Commission's preliminary conclusions. Again, the Commission placed a notice in the local press, issued a press release and invited the District Council to publicise the report more widely.

9 Finally, during Stage Four, the Commission reconsidered its draft recommendations in the light of the Stage Three consultation.

*Figure 2:
Stages of the Review*

Stage	Description
One	Submission of proposals to the Commission
Two	The Commission's analysis and deliberation
Three	Publication of draft recommendations and consultation
Four	Final deliberation and report to the Secretary of State for the Environment

2. CURRENT ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

10 South Kesteven district is situated in the south-west of Lincolnshire, and covers 94,600 hectares of largely rural landscape. The majority of the electorate live within the three historic towns of Bourne, Grantham and Stamford. Grantham, with an electorate of 25,400, is the second largest town in the county, and is the district's administrative centre; it has a Royal Charter dating back to 1463. Stamford gained a Royal Charter in 1461 and is a town of major architectural and historic interest. Bourne is the smallest of the three, and acts as a thriving market centre for the surrounding area. The district is well served by communication links, with Grantham and Stamford located next to the A1, and Grantham located on the main London to Edinburgh railway line.

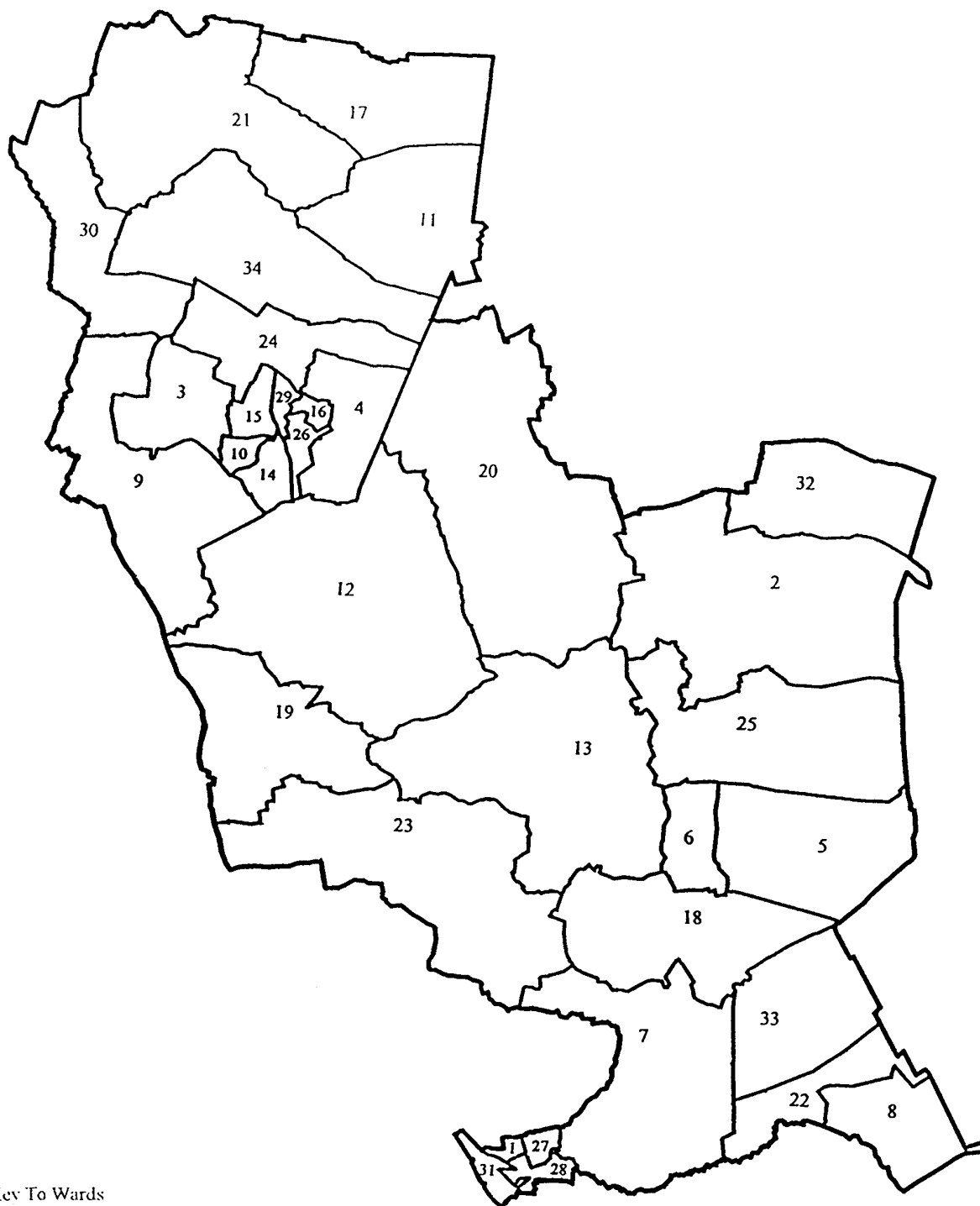
11 The District Council has 57 councillors elected from 34 wards (Map 1 and Figure 3). Nine wards are represented by three councillors, five wards by two councillors and 20 wards by a single councillor. South Kesteven currently holds whole-council elections every four years, with the next district council elections due in 1999. The current electorate of the district is 91,408 (February 1996) and each councillor represents an average of 1,604 electors. The District Council forecasts that the electorate will increase to 95,972 by the year 2001, which would change the average number of electors per councillor to 1,684 (Figure 3).

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

13 Since the last electoral review by the LGBC in 1977, 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 a majority of the wards. In 24 of the 34 wards the variation is more

than 10 per cent from the district average, and in 13 wards more than 20 per cent. Currently, Belmont ward has 82 per cent more electors per councillor than the average; in other words, the single councillor for Belmont ward represents 2,914 electors, compared to the district average of 1,604.

Map 1:
Existing Wards in South Kesteven



Key To Wards

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 All Saints | 13 Glen Eden | 24 Peascliffe |
| 2 Aveland | 14 Grantham St John's | 25 Ringstone |
| 3 Barrowby | 15 Greyfriars | 26 St Anne's |
| 4 Belmont | 16 Harrowby | 27 St George's |
| 5 Bourne East | 17 Heath | 28 St Mary's |
| 6 Bourne West | 18 Hillside | 29 St Wulfram's |
| 7 Casewick | 19 Isaac Newton | 30 Saxonwell |
| 8 Deeping St James | 20 Lincroft | 31 Stamford St John's |
| 9 Devon | 21 Loveden | 32 Toller |
| 10 Earlesfield | 22 Market And West Deeping | 33 Truesdale |
| 11 Ermine | 23 Morkery | 34 Witham Valley |
| 12 Forest | | |

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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 All Saints	2	2,774	1,387	-14	2,858	1,429	-15
2 Aveland	1	1,651	1,651	3	1,716	1,716	2
3 Barrowby	1	1,694	1,694	6	1,694	1,694	1
4 Belmont	1	2,914	2,914	82	3,480	3,480	107
5 Bourne East	3	4,157	1,386	-14	4,043	1,348	-20
6 Bourne West	2	4,537	2,269	41	5,995	2,998	78
7 Casewick	1	1,477	1,477	-8	1,599	1,599	-5
8 Deeping St James	3	5,161	1,720	7	5,594	1,865	11
9 Devon	1	1,502	1,502	-6	1,482	1,482	-12
10 Earlesfield	3	3,798	1,266	-21	3,934	1,311	-22
11 Ermine	1	1,304	1,304	-19	1,298	1,298	-23
12 Forest	1	999	999	-38	969	969	-42
13 Glen Eden	1	1,367	1,367	-15	1,319	1,319	-22
14 Grantham St John's	3	3,318	1,106	-31	3,324	1,108	-34
15 Greyfriars	3	6,469	2,156	34	7,472	2,491	48
16 Harrowby	3	4,043	1,348	-16	4,172	1,391	-17
17 Heath	1	1,708	1,708	7	1,708	1,708	1
18 Hillsides	1	1,792	1,792	12	1,906	1,906	13
19 Isaac Newton	1	1,518	1,518	-5	1,454	1,454	-14
20 Lincrest	1	1,416	1,416	-12	1,372	1,372	-19
21 Loveden	1	1,399	1,399	-13	1,498	1,498	-11
22 Market and West Deeping	3	4,776	1,592	-1	5,058	1,686	0
23 Morkery	1	2,018	2,018	26	2,074	2,074	23

Continued overleaf

Figure 3 (continued):
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 %
24 Peascliffe	1	1,637	1,637	2	1,689	1,689	0
25 Ringstone	1	1,967	1,967	23	2,083	2,083	24
26 St Anne's	3	4,065	1,355	-16	4,085	1,362	-19
27 St George's	2	3,236	1,618	1	3,037	1,519	-10
28 St Mary's	2	4,187	2,094	31	3,997	1,999	19
29 St Wulfram's	3	3,685	1,228	-23	3,844	1,281	-24
30 Saxonwell	1	1,942	1,942	21	1,980	1,980	18
31 Stamford St John's	2	4,522	2,261	41	4,584	2,292	36
32 Toller	1	1,145	1,145	-29	1,142	1,142	-32
33 Truesdale	1	1,929	1,929	20	2,259	2,259	34
34 Witham Valley	1	1,301	1,301	-19	1,253	1,253	-26
Totals	57	91,408	—	—	95,972	—	—
Averages	—	—	1,604	—	—	1,684	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on South Kesteven 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, in 1996, electors in Morkery ward are relatively under-represented by 26 per cent, while electors in Forest ward are relatively over-represented by 38 per cent. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

3. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

14 During Stage One, the Commission received submissions from South Kesteven District Council and ten parish and town councils and parish meetings. It also received submissions from a local councillor and from the Grantham & Stamford Conservative Association. In the light of these representations, the Commission formulated its preliminary conclusions which were set out in its report, *Draft Recommendations on the Future Electoral Arrangements for South Kesteven in Lincolnshire*. The Commission proposed that South Kesteven District should be represented by 58 councillors, instead of the current 57, and that there should continue to be 34 wards on modified boundaries. It also proposed that:

- (a) Grantham town should have seven district wards, with a new Green Hill ward created from part of the existing Greyfriars ward, and should be represented by 16 district councillors rather than the present 18;
- (b) Stamford town should continue to have four district wards, but there should be a boundary modification between All Saints and St Mary's wards, and an additional district councillor for Stamford St John's ward;
- (c) Bourne town should continue to be divided into two wards, but the boundary between Bourne East and Bourne West wards should be modified and there should be an additional district councillor for Bourne West ward;
- (d) there should be alternative warding arrangements for the existing wards of Loveden, Ermine, Witham Valley, Peascliffe, Saxonwell, Lincrest, Forest, Isaac Newton, Glen Eden, Toller, Aveland, Ringstone, Morkery, Hillside and Truesdale;
- (e) the existing wards of Devon and Casewick should be abolished;
- (f) there should be no change to the existing arrangements for the wards of Barrowby, Belmont, Deeping St James, Heath and Market and West Deeping, other than an increase of one in the number of district councillors for Belmont ward.

Draft Recommendation

South Kesteven District Council should comprise 58 councillors, serving 34 wards. The whole Council should continue to be elected together every four years.

15 The Commission's proposals would have resulted in significant improvements in electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in all but five wards varying by no more than 10 per cent from the district average. By 2001, the number of electors per councillor was projected to vary by no more than 10 per cent from the average in all but two 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, 24 submissions were received. A list of all respondents is available on request from the Commission.

South Kesteven District Council

18 The District Council welcomed the Commission's draft recommendations for 58 councillors serving 34 wards, which largely reflected the proposals made by the Council at Stage One.

19 In relation to parish and town council electoral arrangements, the District Council agreed that Bourne Town Council should continue to return 15 town councillors, and that there should continue to be two wards. However, it contended that, in future, Bourne East ward should return seven town councillors, and that Bourne West ward should return eight town councillors. It accepted the Commission's draft recommendations for changes to the electoral arrangements of Baston, Colsterworth, Deeping St James and Morton parish councils. However, it opposed the Commission's draft recommendation to increase the number of parish councillors representing Haydor Parish Council from five to six. It argued that the number of parish councillors that currently represented Haydor parish had been fixed in accordance with the District Council's "scale", and expressed concern that an increase could lead to similar requests from other parish councils.

Lincolnshire County Council

20 Lincolnshire County Council made no specific comments on the Commission's draft recommendations for South Kesteven. However, it 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".

Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils

21 The Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils commented on the reviews of the Lincolnshire districts as a whole. It considered that the views of parish and town councils should be paramount when evaluating any proposal for change to electoral arrangements, as they are the foundation of the electoral system. The Association expressed concern over any large village being merged with one or more much smaller villages within the same district ward, as it considered that the concerns of the larger community would dominate. It also advised that the Commission should have regard to road communications as well as numbers of electors when considering ward boundaries.

Grantham & Stamford Conservative Association

22 The Grantham & Stamford Conservative Association supported the Commission's draft recommendations. It stated that the Commission's proposals for Grantham and Bourne offered "the best solution taking into account the current and future populations of the towns and also makes good use of natural boundaries such as railways, main roads and rivers".

Parish and Town Councils

23 Representations were received from three parish and town councils during the Stage Three consultation period. Stamford Town Council supported the Commission's draft recommendations for the town. Castle Bytham and Little Bytham parish councils objected to the proposed changes for Morkery ward and, in particular, to Castle Bytham parish being separated from Little Bytham, Careby, Aunby and Holywell, and Couthorpe and Creton parishes for district warding purposes. Both submissions reiterated concerns previously expressed in respect of the close ties between these parishes that would be lost as a result of the Commission's draft recommendations.

Other Representations

²⁴ The Commission received a letter from a local resident, and a further 12 proforma letters that objected to the Commission's proposed changes for Morkery and Hillside wards and, in particular, to the proposed separation of Castle Bytham parish from Little Bytham, Careby, Aunby and Holywell, and Couthorpe and Creeton parishes. It was contended that these parishes had long social and historical associations, and were currently connected in a number of ways, including sharing the same primary school, church, medical practice, and fund-raising activities.

²⁵ The Commission also received four representations in respect of the electoral arrangements for Bourne. Support for the Commission's draft recommendations was expressed by Councillor Mrs Neal and two local residents. However, Councillor Kirkman expressed his opposition to the proposed warding changes, and maintained that Bourne should consist of three wards, each returning two district councillors. While he acknowledged that this electoral scheme would lead to inequalities in the number of electors per councillor between wards in the short term, he contended that as a result of ongoing development, a good standard of electoral representation would be achieved by 2003.

²⁶ Councillors Kirkman and Neal and a local resident also commented on the town warding arrangement for Bourne. All expressed the view that Bourne East ward should return seven town councillors and that Bourne West ward should return eight town councillors.

5. ANALYSIS AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

27 As indicated previously, the Commission's prime objective in considering the most appropriate electoral arrangements for South Kesteven 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".

28 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.

29 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.

30 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.

31 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 the minimum, such equality should be the starting point in any electoral review".

Electorate Projections

32 The District Council submitted electorate forecasts for the year 2001, projecting an increase in its electorate of 5 per cent over the five-year period, from 91,408 to 95,972. The Council 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. Lincolnshire County Council were content with the five-year projections made by the District Council. The Commission accepts that this is an inexact science and, having given consideration to projected electorates, is content that they represent the best estimates that can reasonably be made at this time.

Council Size

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

34 South Kesteven District Council is at present served by 57 councillors. The Council did not propose any change to the council size during Stage One of the review. However, the Commission concluded in its draft recommendations report that, having considered the size and distribution of the electorate, the geography and other characteristics of the area, together with the representations received, the statutory criteria and the achievement of electoral equality would be best served by an increase in council size to 58 members. During Stage Three, the Commission received support for the proposed council size from the District Council and the Grantham & Stamford Conservative Association. No other representations were received on this issue. Accordingly, the Commission confirms its draft recommendation as final.

Electoral Arrangements

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

- (a) Loveden, Heath, Ermine, Witham Valley, Peascliffe, Belmont, Devon, Barrowby and Saxonwell wards;
- (b) Lincrest, Forest, Isaac Newton and Glen Eden wards;
- (c) Toller, Aveland and Ringstone wards;
- (d) Morkery, Casewick, Hillsides and Truesdale wards;
- (e) Deeping St James and Market and West Deeping wards;
- (f) the six wards of Grantham Town;
- (g) the four wards of Stamford Town;
- (h) the two wards of Bourne Town.

Loveden, Heath, Ermine, Witham Valley, Peascliffe, Belmont, Devon, Barrowby and Saxonwell

36 Under current arrangements, the number of electors per councillor varies by more than 10 per cent from the district average in most of these wards. The number of electors per councillor in Belmont, Ermine, Loveden, Saxonwell and Witham Valley wards is 82 per cent above, 19 per cent below, 13 per cent below, 21 per cent above and 19 per cent below the district average

respectively. Belmont ward is projected to increase to 107 per cent above the average by the year 2001. In its draft recommendations report, the Commission adopted the warding arrangements proposed by the District Council. This involved a substantial regrouping of the parishes contained within the existing district wards, the abolition of Devon ward and an additional district councillor for Belmont ward. It would result in a much improved standard of electoral equality, with the number of electors per councillor in all of the proposed wards varying by less than 10 per cent from the district average, a level of electoral representation that is projected to remain constant by the year 2001. The number of electors per councillor in Belmont, Ermine, Loveden, Saxonwell and Witham Valley wards would improve to 8 per cent below, 5 per cent above, 6 per cent below, 3 per cent above and 3 per cent above the district average respectively.

37 The Commission's draft recommendations were supported by the District Council and by the Grantham & Stamford Conservative Association. No other comments were received during the Stage Three consultation period. Accordingly, the Commission has decided to confirm its draft recommendations that there should be new warding arrangements for Loveden, Ermine, Witham Valley, Peascliffe and Saxonwell wards, with the existing Devon ward being abolished. The Commission also confirms its draft recommendations for no change to the existing electoral arrangements of Heath and Barrowby wards, and that Belmont ward should have an additional district councillor.

Lincrest, Forest, Isaac Newton and Glen Eden

38 Currently, the number of electors per councillor in Lincrest, Forest and Glen Eden wards varies by more than 10 per cent from the district average. Forest ward, in particular, has 38 per cent fewer electors per councillor than the average currently, and is projected to have 42 per cent fewer than average by 2001. In its draft recommendations report, the Commission agreed that the District Council's proposals for alterations to existing ward boundaries had significant merit, and adopted them as its draft recommendations. This would result in a much improved level of electoral equality, with all wards having an electoral variance within 10 per cent of the district average on current and projected electorates.

39 During Stage Three, the District Council and the Grantham & Stamford Conservative Association expressed their support for the Commission's draft recommendations. No other comments were received. The Commission remains satisfied that its draft recommendations for the proposed ward boundaries of Lincrest, Forest and Glen Eden would achieve reasonable electoral equality, having regard to local circumstances. It has therefore decided to confirm them as final recommendations.

Toller, Aveland and Ringstone

40 In its draft recommendations report, the Commission proposed alterations to the boundaries of Toller, Aveland and Ringstone wards, in line with the proposals submitted by the District Council. It noted that Toller and Ringstone wards currently have high levels of electoral inequality, with electoral variances of 29 per cent and 23 per cent respectively, but that the draft recommendations would result in all wards being within 11 per cent of the district average on current and projected electorates.

41 During Stage Three, the Commission's draft recommendations were supported by the District Council and the Grantham & Stamford Conservative Association. Having given careful consideration to the warding arrangements for the area, the Commission remains satisfied that its scheme would appear to strike the best balance between securing a level of electoral equality of representation and the need to reflect community identities. Accordingly, the Commission has decided to confirm as final its draft recommendations for Toller, Aveland and Ringstone wards.

Morkery, Casewick, Hillsides and Truesdale

42 Currently, while Casewick ward provides a good level of electoral equality, Hillsides, Morkery and Truesdale wards are significantly under-represented. In its draft recommendations report, the Commission considered that a better level of electoral representation for the area covered by these wards could be achieved through a substantial reconfiguration of the existing wards, as proposed by the District Council. This involved abolishing Casewick ward, creating a new Thurlby ward and modifying Morkery, Hillsides and Truesdale wards. The Commission noted that there

was significant local opposition to the proposed changes, in particular from the parish councils which had argued that strong community ties would be severed by the proposals. However, the Commission noted that its draft recommendations would result in a much improved level of electoral representation, with Morkery ward having an electoral variance of 2 per cent from the average, while the proposed Hillsides and Truesdale wards would have electoral variances of 10 per cent and 12 per cent from the average respectively. Further, having regard to projected electorates, representation in all three wards was forecast to be within 10 per cent of the district average by 2001.

43 During Stage Three, the Commission's draft recommendations were supported by the District Council and the Grantham & Stamford Conservative Association. However, opposition continued to be expressed by Castle Bytham and Little Bytham parish councils. In addition, opposition was expressed by 13 local residents, 12 of whom submitted standard proforma letters. Concern continued to be expressed in relation to the proposed changes to Morkery ward and, in particular, in respect of the proposal to place Castle Bytham parish in a separate ward to Little Bytham, Careby, Aunby and Hollywell and Couthorpe and Creeton parishes. It was argued that these areas shared a long social and historical association, and had strong common interests which would be eroded if the Commission's draft recommendations were confirmed.

44 The Commission has considered the responses received, and accepts that any proposal to change the warding arrangements in this area is likely to prove contentious. Nevertheless, it remains of the view that the current levels of electoral inequality that exist in Morkery, Hillsides and Truesdale wards should be addressed. As indicated in its draft recommendations report, the Commission recognises the difficulty of reconciling the achievement of electoral equality with the need to reflect community identity and interests. This is particularly true in rural areas, which are sparsely populated and consist of many individual settlements with strong local ties. On balance, having regard to all the representations received, and having explored other possible warding arrangements, the Commission considers its objective of securing electoral equality while having regard to local circumstances would best be served by confirming its draft recommendations. Accordingly, the Commission's final recommendation is that Morkery ward should comprise the parishes of North Witham, South

Witham and Castle Bytham; Hillside ward should comprise the parishes of Greatford, Couthorpe and Creton, Little Bytham, Careby, Aunby and Hollywell, Witham-on-the-Hill, Toft, Carlby and Braceborough; and Truesdale ward should comprise the parishes of Baston, Langtoft, Barholm, Tallington and Uffington.

Deeping St James and Market and West Deeping

45 In its draft recommendations report, the Commission proposed no change to the two wards of Deeping St James and Market and West Deeping. This resulted in Deeping St James ward having 9 per cent more electors per councillor than the district average at present, rising to 13 per cent in 2001, while Market and West Deeping ward would remain nearly equal to the district average with variances of 1 and 2 per cent in 1996 and 2001 respectively. In putting forward this electoral scheme for consultation, the Commission noted that Deeping St James was a three-member ward which was situated on the edge of the district. It further noted that its communication links ran east to west, and that further improvements in electoral equality could not be achieved without adversely affecting community identities.

46 During Stage Three, the District Council and the Grantham & Stamford Conservative Association supported the Commission's draft recommendation. No other comments were received. The Commission has therefore decided to confirm its draft recommendations in this area as final.

Grantham

47 Currently, all six of the Grantham wards (Earlesfield, Greyfriars, Harrowby, St Anne's, Grantham St John's and St Wulfram's) have electoral variances in excess of 15 per cent from the district average; two (Greyfriars and Grantham St John's) exceed 30 per cent. The levels of electoral inequality are projected to worsen by the year 2001.

48 In its draft recommendations report, the Commission adopted the District Council's proposals to increase the number of district wards in Grantham from six to seven, with a new Green Hill ward created from the existing Greyfriars

ward, and reduce the number of district councillors serving the town from 18 to 16. The Commission noted that this scheme would result in a much improved level of electoral equality throughout Grantham, with only two of the proposed seven wards having a number of electors per councillor that would vary by more than 10 per cent from the district average. Nevertheless, while the Commission welcomed the improvement in the standard of electoral representation under this scheme, it expressed reservations over some of the proposed boundaries, in particular those for Greyfriars, Green Hill and St Wulfram's wards.

49 At Stage Three, the Commission's draft recommendation was supported by the District Council and the Grantham & Stamford Conservative Association. The Conservative Association maintained that the Commission's proposed warding arrangements offered the best solution for the area, taking into account the current and future electorates of the town. No alternative proposals were received during the Stage Three consultation period. Having given further consideration to its proposed warding arrangements, the Commission considers that its draft recommendations would appear to strike the best balance between securing equality of representation and serving the statutory criteria. The Commission has therefore decided to confirm its draft recommendations as final.

Stamford

50 Stamford comprises the wards of All Saints, St George's, Stamford St John's and St Mary's. Growth in the southern and western parts of the town has led to three of the four wards having electoral variances exceeding 10 per cent from the district average. In its draft recommendations report, the Commission contended that a better level of electoral equality could be achieved by increasing the number of district councillors representing the town from eight to nine, with an additional district councillor for Stamford St John's ward. Also, in order to correct the current high levels of electoral inequality existing in All Saints and St Mary's wards, the Commission proposed to modify the boundary between the two wards, transferring part of the present St Mary's ward to All Saints ward. This electoral scheme would result in a far better standard of electoral representation, and provide for the number of electors per councillor in all wards in Stamford to be within 10

per cent of the district average, with the exception of All Saints ward, which would have 14 per cent more electors per councillor than the district average.

51 During Stage Three, support for the Commission's proposed warding arrangements for Stamford was received from the District Council, the Grantham & Stamford Conservative Association and Stamford Town Council. No other submissions on the matter were received.

52 However, having given further consideration to its proposed ward boundaries in the town, the Commission would wish to recommend a minor boundary modification to the boundary between All Saints and St Mary's wards in its draft recommendations report. The Commission proposes to transfer all the properties in Redcot Gardens to All Saints ward rather than come down the middle of the road, resulting in a further 88 electors being transferred from St Mary's ward to All Saints, as illustrated in Map A2 at Appendix A. This would provide for the more recent housing development situated in Redcot Gardens being contained within the same ward, which would secure a boundary that better reflects community identities than the boundary used in the draft recommendations report. While this proposed boundary modification would impact upon the level of electoral representation in All Saints ward, which would have 14 per cent more electors per councillor than the district average, this would improve to 11 per cent by the year 2001. Accordingly, the Commission confirms its draft recommendation for Stamford town as final, subject to a minor boundary modification between All Saints ward and St Mary's ward.

Bourne

53 During Stage One, the Commission received alternative schemes from the District Council and Bourne Town Council on the most appropriate warding arrangements for the town. The District Council sought to address the existing level of electoral inequality by proposing an alteration of the boundary between Bourne East and Bourne West wards, and increasing the number of district councillors for Bourne West ward by one. Bourne Town Council, supported by a local district councillor, proposed to create a third district and town council ward, with each of the three wards

returning two district councillors and five town councillors. It was argued that by creating a new Bourne South ward, expected development could be contained within a single ward. Of the two schemes, the Commission considered that the District Council's scheme appeared to secure the better level of electoral equality on the basis of current electorates, although it noted that the Town Council's scheme was forecast to provide only one ward where the number of electors per councillor would vary by more than 10 per cent from the district average by 2001.

54 Having considered the various merits of the two schemes, the Commission recognised that a key issue was the large residential development expected to take place in the area to the south of West Road and to the west of the A15. The Commission was aware that there were site difficulties which made the timing of the proposed development uncertain. While the Commission acknowledged the view that it was sensible to seek to contain the planned development within a single electoral ward, it had significant reservations over proposing a draft recommendation which would result in high levels of electoral inequality, particularly not having been fully persuaded of expected development taking place within the next five years. Accordingly, the Commission recommended that Bourne town should continue to be covered by two district wards, but on the revised ward boundaries proposed by the District Council. Further, in order to correct electoral inequalities, the Commission endorsed the proposal from the District Council and the Grantham & Stamford Conservative Association that Bourne West ward should in future be represented by three district councillors rather than the present two.

55 At Stage Three, the Commission's proposed warding arrangements drew the support of the District Council, Councillor Mrs Neal and two local residents. The Grantham & Stamford Conservative Association also stated that it believed the Commission's draft recommendation offered the better solution. However, opposition was expressed by Councillor Kirkman. He maintained that Bourne town should be covered by three wards, each returning two district councillors. While he acknowledged that there would be electoral inequality in the short term, he contended that the situation would be resolved by the elections due to take place in 2003.

56 Having considered the representations submitted during Stage Three, the Commission remains of the view that its draft recommendation for the warding arrangements for the Bourne area would appear to strike the best balance between the need for securing equality of representation and serving its statutory criteria. It therefore confirms its draft recommendations for Bourne.

Electoral Cycle

57 In its draft recommendations report, the Commission proposed that the present system of whole-council elections be retained. At Stage Three, no representations were received on the issue of electoral cycles. Accordingly, the Commission has decided to confirm its draft recommendation as final.

Conclusions

58 Having considered all the evidence and representations it has received on its draft recommendations, the Commission has concluded that there should be an increase in council size from 57 to 58; that there should continue to be 34 wards as at present; that elections should remain on a

whole-council basis; and that the boundaries of 27 of the existing district wards should be modified. It confirms the changes put forward in its draft recommendations report for 25 wards, but amends the proposed district and town ward boundary between All Saints ward and St Mary's ward on which it consulted. 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.

59 As Figure 4 shows, the Commission's recommendations would result in a significant improvement in the standard of electoral equality when compared to the existing electoral arrangements, with a reduction in the number of wards which vary by more than 10 per cent from the district average from 24 wards to five. Under these proposals, the average number of electors per councillor would fall marginally from 1,604 to 1,576. Having regard to the Council's projected electorates, only two wards would have an electoral variance greater than 10 per cent from the district average by 2001. Appendix A shows the proposed ward boundaries in Stamford and Bourne, while the map at the back of the report illustrates the proposed ward boundaries for Grantham.

*Figure 4:
Comparison of Current and Recommended Arrangements*

	1996 electorate		2001 projected electorate	
	Current arrangements	Final recommendations	Current arrangements	Final recommendations
Number of councillors	57	58	57	58
Number of wards	34	34	34	34
Average number of electors per councillor	1,604	1,576	1,684	1,655
Number of wards with a variance more than 10 per cent from the average	24	5	26	2
Number of wards with a variance more than 20 per cent from the average	13	0	15	0

Final Recommendation

South Kesteven District Council should comprise 58 councillors serving 34 wards, as detailed and named in Figures 1 and 5, Map 2, Appendix A and the large map at the back of the report. The whole Council should continue to be elected every four years.

60 As indicated earlier, the Commission recommends a number of changes to the electoral arrangements of parish and town councils.

61 In the Stamford Town Council area, the Commission recommends the number of town councillors should be increased to 21, but that the warding arrangements of the All Saints and St Mary's wards should be modified from its draft recommendation, as described in paragraph 52 and illustrated in Map A2. Further, in order to reflect recent development in the town, the Commission proposes that there should be an additional town councillor for Stamford St John's ward.

Final Recommendation

Stamford Town Council should comprise 21 town councillors. The warding arrangements should be modified to provide for the four town wards to be coterminous with the boundaries of the four proposed district wards, as illustrated in Maps 2 and A2. While St Mary's, All Saints and St George's wards should continue to be represented by five town councillors, Stamford St John's ward should in future be represented by six town councillors.

62 In its draft recommendations report, the Commission proposed that Bourne Town Council should continue to comprise 15 town councillors, but that the warding arrangements should be altered to follow the new district wards, as described earlier and illustrated in Map A3 at Appendix A. The Commission proposed that the distribution of town councillors for the two wards should not be changed: Bourne East ward returning six town councillors and Bourne West ward returning nine town councillors. The District

Council, Councillors Kirkman and Neal and one local resident opposed the draft recommendation, and contended that Bourne East should return seven town councillors and Bourne West should return eight town councillors. Having considered the representations received during Stage Three, and having regard to projected growth for the area, the Commission is content to recommend that Bourne East ward should return seven town councillors and Bourne West ward should return eight town councillors.

Final Recommendation

Bourne Town Council should continue to comprise 15 town councillors. The warding arrangements should be modified to provide for the two town wards to be coterminous with the boundaries of the two district wards of the same name, as illustrated in Map A3 at Appendix A. Bourne East ward should return seven town councillors and Bourne West ward should return eight town councillors.

63 In its draft recommendations report, the Commission recommended that Haydor Parish Council should have an additional parish councillor, increasing its parish representation from five to six. The Commission has carefully considered the views put to it during its consultation period and has noted opposition to its draft recommendation for Haydor from the District Council. Nevertheless, the Commission notes that there does not appear to be a problem in attracting prospective candidates for the parish council and remains of the view that Haydor Parish Council should comprise six parish councillors. It has therefore decided to confirm its draft recommendation as final.

64 In its draft recommendations report, the Commission also proposed to regularise a number of changes to parish council arrangements made by the District Council since the Local Government Act concerning the parish councils of Baston, Colsterworth, Deeping St James and Morton. The Commission confirms its draft recommendations for the electoral arrangements of Baston, Colsterworth, Deeping St James and Morton parish councils.

Final Recommendation

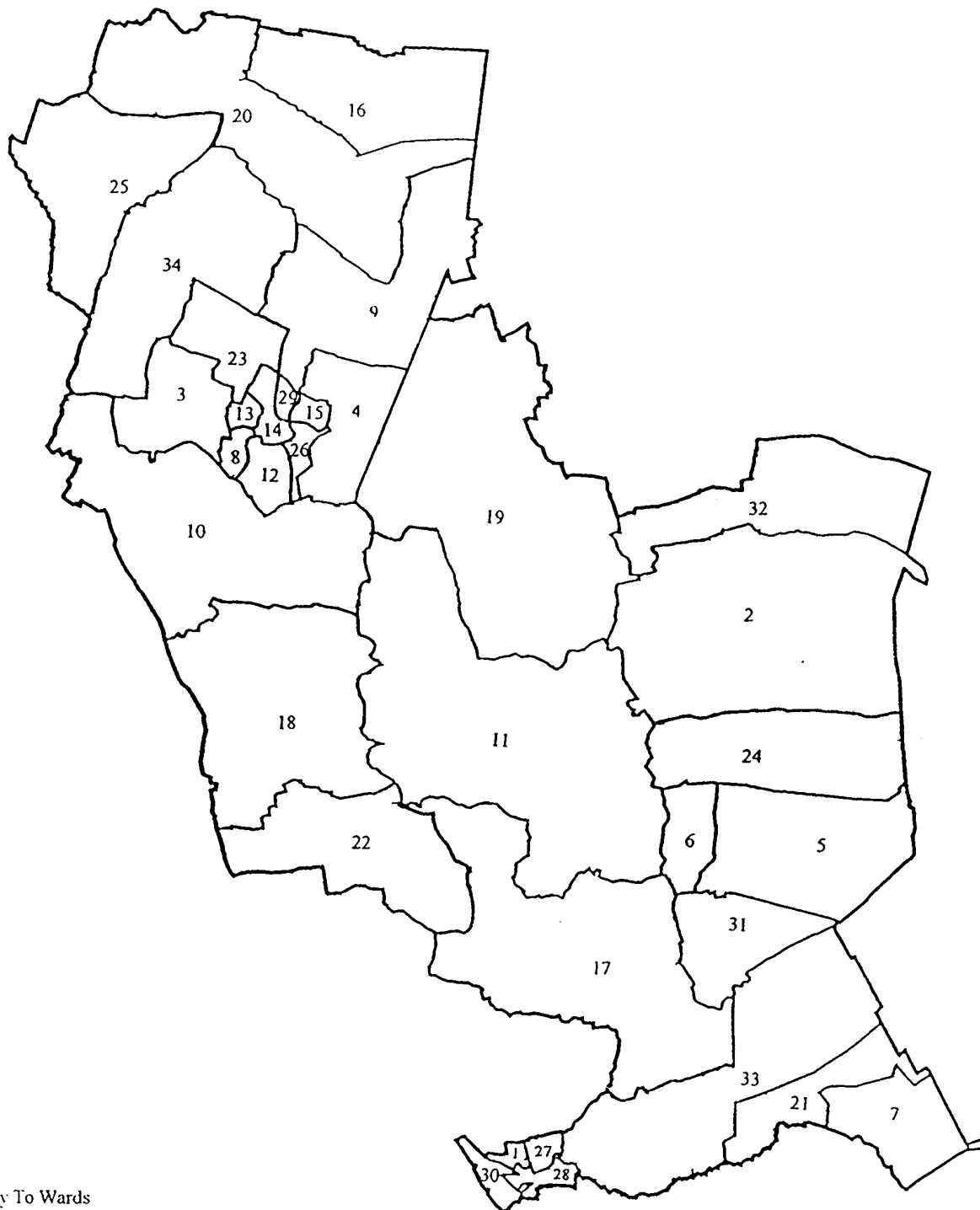
- (a) Haydor Parish Council should comprise six parish councillors;
- (b) Baston Parish Council should comprise nine parish councillors;
- (c) Colsterworth Parish Council should comprise 11 parish councillors;
- (d) Deeping St James Parish Council should comprise 15 parish councillors;
- (e) Morton Parish Council should comprise 11 parish councillors.

⁶⁵ 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 cycle as that of the District Council.

Map 2:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for South Kesteven



Key To Wards

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 All Saints | 13 Green Hill | 24 Ringstone |
| 2 Aveland | 14 Greyfriars | 25 Saxonwell |
| 3 Barrowby | 15 Harrowby | 26 St Anne's |
| 4 Belmont | 16 Heath | 27 St George's |
| 5 Bourne East | 17 Hillside | 28 St Mary's |
| 6 Bourne West | 18 Isaac Newton | 29 St Wulfram's |
| 7 Deeping St James | 19 Lincrest | 30 Stamford St John's |
| 8 Earlesfield | 20 Loveden | 31 Thurlby |
| 9 Ermine | 21 Market and West Deeping | 32 Toller |
| 10 Forest | 22 Morkery | 33 Truesdale |
| 11 Glen Eden | 23 Peascliffe | 34 Witham Valley |
| 12 Grantham St John's | | |

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Figure 5:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for South Kesteven

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 All Saints	2	3,587	1,794	14	3,676	1,838	11
2 Aveland	1	1,488	1,488	-6	1,570	1,570	-5
3 Barrowby	1	1,694	1,694	7	1,694	1,694	2
4 Belmont	2	2,914	1,457	-8	3,480	1,740	5
5 Bourne East	3	4,205	1,402	-11	4,735	1,578	-5
6 Bourne West	3	4,489	1,496	-5	5,303	1,768	7
7 Deeping St James	3	5,161	1,720	9	5,594	1,865	13
8 Earlesfield	3	5,099	1,700	8	5,282	1,761	6
9 Ermine	1	1,649	1,649	5	1,629	1,629	-2
10 Forest	1	1,601	1,601	2	1,572	1,572	-5
11 Glen Eden	1	1,629	1,629	3	1,572	1,572	-5
12 Grantham St John's	2	3,308	1,654	5	3,397	1,699	3
13 Green Hill	2	2,834	1,417	-10	3,340	1,670	1
14 Greyfriars	2	2,714	1,357	-14	3,075	1,538	-7
15 Harrowby	3	4,566	1,522	-3	4,701	1,567	-5
16 Heath	1	1,708	1,708	8	1,708	1,708	3
17 Hillsides	1	1,411	1,411	-10	1,511	1,511	-9
18 Isaac Newton	1	1,703	1,703	8	1,634	1,634	-1
19 Lincrest	1	1,615	1,615	2	1,568	1,568	-5
20 Loveden	1	1,480	1,480	-6	1,563	1,563	-6
21 Market and West Deeping	3	4,776	1,592	1	5,058	1,686	2
22 Morkery	1	1,611	1,611	2	1,651	1,651	0
23 Peascliffe	1	1,460	1,460	-7	1,512	1,512	-9
24 Ringstone	1	1,736	1,736	10	1,815	1,815	10

Figure 5 (continued):
The Commission's Final Recommendations for South Kesteven

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 %
25 Saxonwell	1	1,627	1,627	3	1,662	1,662	0
26 St Anne's	2	3,542	1,771	12	3,538	1,769	7
27 St George's	2	3,236	1,618	3	3,037	1,519	-8
28 St Mary's	2	3,374	1,687	7	3,179	1,590	-4
29 St Wulfram's	2	3,315	1,658	5	3,498	1,749	6
30 Stamford St John's	3	4,522	1,507	-4	4,584	1,528	-8
31 Thurlby	1	1,425	1,425	-10	1,535	1,535	-7
32 Toller	1	1,539	1,539	-2	1,556	1,556	-6
33 Truesdale	2	2,769	1,385	-12	3,141	1,571	-5
34 Witham Valley	1	1,621	1,621	3	1,602	1,602	-3
Totals	58	91,408	—	—	95,972	—	—
Averages	—	—	1,576	—	—	1,655	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on South Kesteven 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. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

6. NEXT STEPS

⁶⁶ Having completed its review of the electoral arrangements in South Kesteven and submitted its final recommendations to the Secretary of State, the Commission has fulfilled its statutory role under the Local Government Act 1992.

⁶⁷ 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.

⁶⁸ 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 Environment
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU

APPENDIX A

Final Recommendations for South Kesteven: Detailed Mapping

The following maps illustrate the Commission's proposed ward boundaries for the Grantham, Stamford and Bourne wards. The proposed wards for the district as a whole are illustrated in Map 2 in Chapter 5.

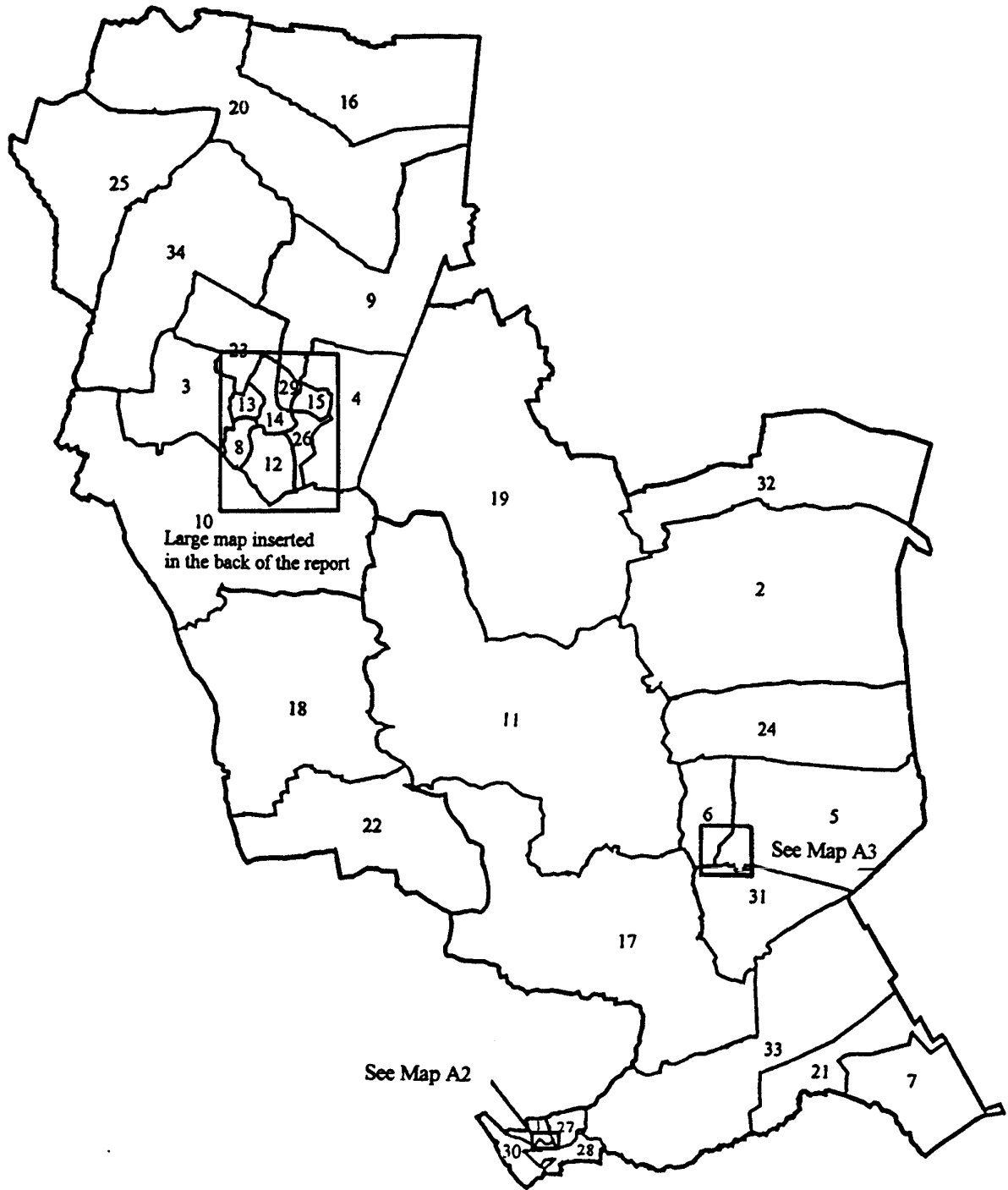
Map A1 illustrates in outline form the proposed ward boundaries within the district and indicates the areas which are shown in more detail in the Maps A2, A3 and the large map inserted at the back of the report.

Map A2 illustrates the Commission's proposal for the district and town ward boundary change between All Saints ward and St Mary's ward in Stamford.

Map A3 illustrates the Commission's proposed boundaries for the new district and town wards of Bourne.

The **large map** inserted at the back of the report illustrates the proposed district ward boundaries in Grantham.

Map A1:
The Commission's Final Recommendations for South Kesteven: Key Map

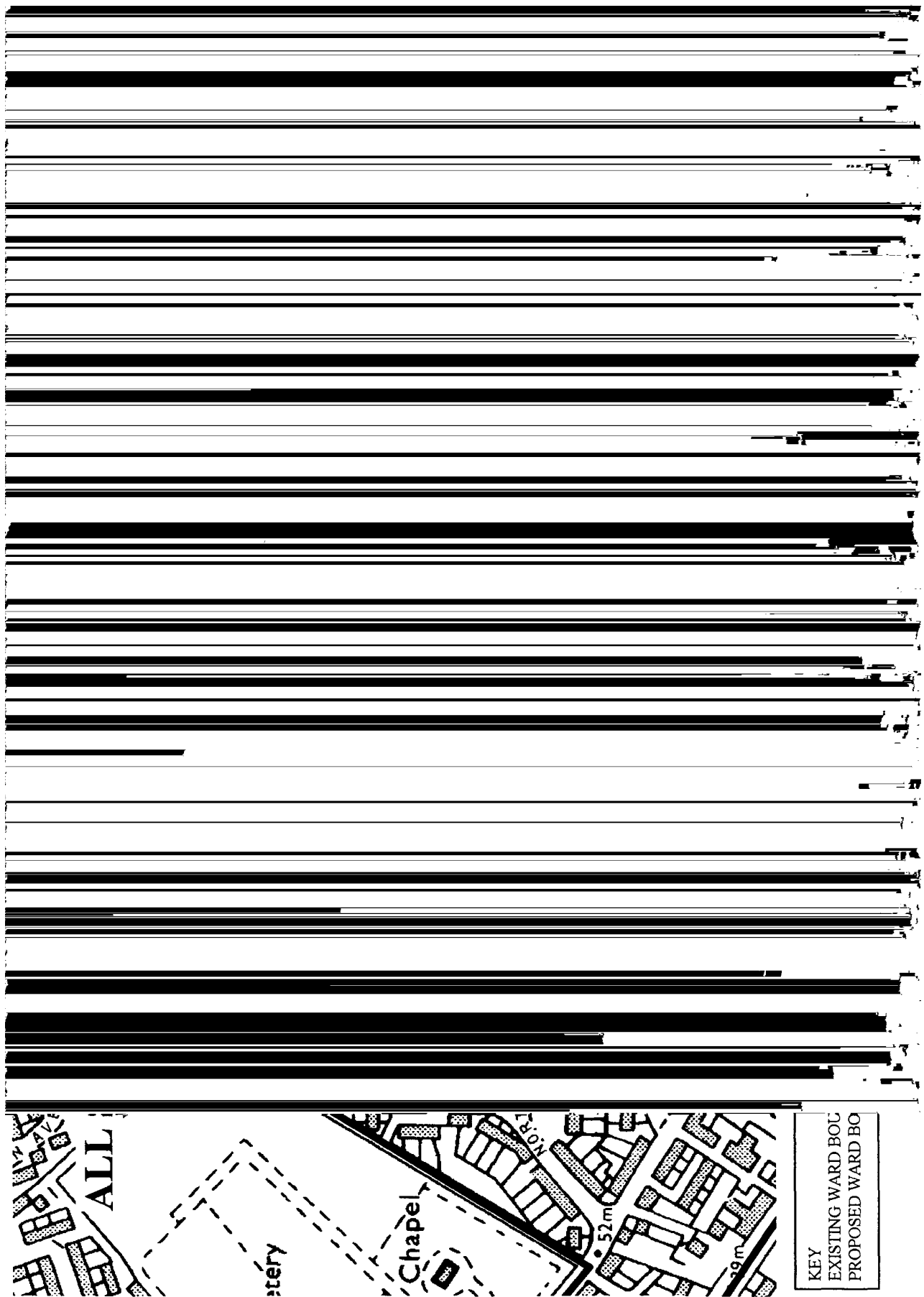


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Key To Wards

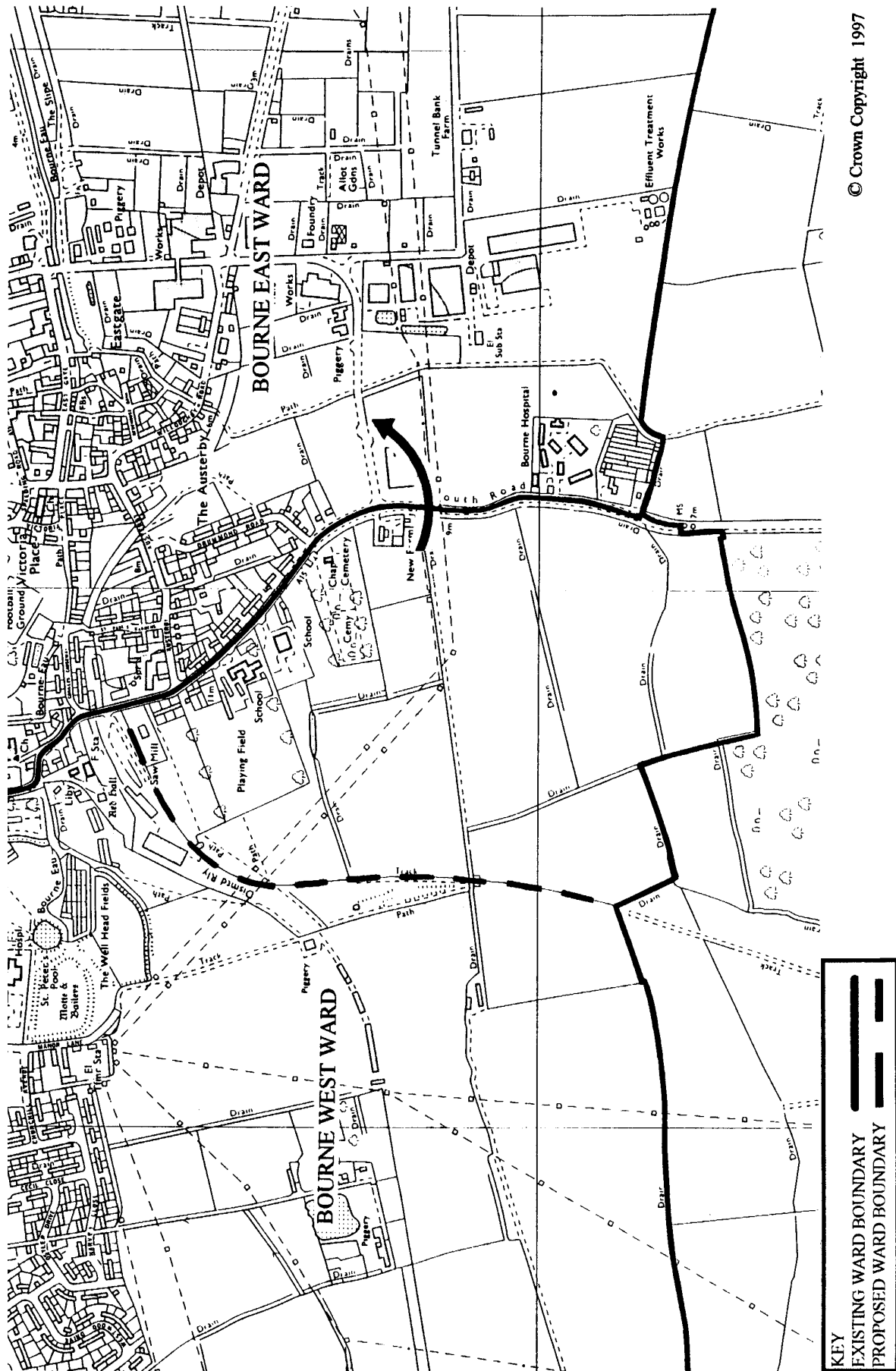
- | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 All Saints | 10 Forest | 19 Lincrest | 28 St Mary's |
| 2 Aveland | 11 Glen Eden | 20 Lovedon | 29 St Wulfram's |
| 3 Barrowby | 12 Grantham St John's | 21 Market and West Deeping | 30 Stamford St John's |
| 4 Belmont | 13 Green Hill | 22 Morkery | 31 Thurlby |
| 5 Bourne East | 14 Greyfriars | 23 Peascliffe | 32 Toller |
| 6 Bourne West | 15 Harrowby | 24 Ringstone | 33 Truesdale |
| 7 Deepings St James | 16 Heath | 25 Saxonwell | 34 Witham Valley |
| 8 Earlesfield | 17 Hillsides | 26 St Anne's | |
| 9 Ermine | 18 Isaac Newton | 27 St George's | |

Map A2:
Proposed Boundary Changes Between All Saints and St Mary's Wards in Stamford



Map A3:

Proposed Boundary Changes Between Bourne East and Bourne West Wards



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APPENDIX B

Draft Recommendations for South Kesteven

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

Ward name	Constituent areas
1 All Saints (Stamford Town)	All Saints district and parish ward; St Mary's district and parish ward (part)
2 Aveland	Aveland ward (part - the parishes of Pointon, Aslackby, Dowsby and Rippingale); Ringstone ward (part - the parishes of Kirkby Underwood and Dunsby)
3 Barrowby	<i>Unchanged</i> (Barrowby parish)
4 Belmont	<i>Unchanged</i> (Londonthorpe and Harrowby Without parish)
5 Bourne East (Bourne Town)	Bourne East district and parish ward; Bourne West district and parish ward (part)
6 Bourne West (Bourne Town)	Bourne West district and parish ward (part)
7 Deeping St James	<i>Unchanged</i> (Deeping St James parish)
8 Earlesfield (Grantham Town)	Earlesfield ward (part); Greyfriars ward (part); Grantham St John's ward (part)
9 Ermine	Ermine ward (part - Ancaster parish); Witham Valley ward (part - the parishes of Barkston and Syston); Peascliffe ward (part - Belton and Manthorpe parish)
10 Forest	Forest ward (part - the parishes of Little Ponton and Great Ponton); Devon ward (part - the parishes of Woolsthorpe, Denton, Harlaxton and Wyville)
11 Glen Eden	Glen Eden ward (part - the parishes of Corby Glen, Irnham, Swayfield, Swinstead and Edenham); Forest ward (part - the parishes of Boothby Pagnell, Birchfield and Burton Coggles)
12 Grantham St John's (Grantham Town)	Grantham St John's ward (part); Earlesfield ward (part)

Continued overleaf

Figure B1 (continued):

The Commission's Draft Recommendations: Constituent Areas

Ward name	Constituent areas
13 Green Hill (Grantham Town)	Greyfriars ward (part)
14 Greyfriars (Grantham Town)	Grantham St John's ward (part); Greyfriars ward (part); St Wulfram's ward (part)
15 Harrowby (Grantham Town)	Harrowby ward; St Anne's ward (part)
16 Heath	<i>Unchanged</i> (the parishes of Fulbeck and Caythorpe)
17 Hillsides	Hillsides ward (part - the parishes of Witham-on-the-Hill and Toft); Casewick ward (part - the parishes of Greatford, Carlby and Braceborough); Morkery ward (part - the parishes of Couthorpe and Creeton, Little Bytham and Careby, Aunby and Holywell)
18 Isaac Newton	Isaac Newton ward (part - the parishes of Skillington, Colsterworth and Gunby); Forest ward (part - the parishes of Stoke Rochford and Easton)
19 Lincrest	Lincrest ward (the parishes of Welby, Haydor, Ropsley, Braceby, Pickworth, Ingoldsby and Lenton); Forest ward (part - Old Somerby parish)
20 Loveden	Loveden ward (part - the parishes of Claypole, Fenton, Stubton and Hough-on-the-Hill); Ermine ward (part - the parishes of Normanton, Carlton Scroop and Honington)
21 Market and West Deeping	<i>Unchanged</i> (Market Deeping and West Deeping parish)
22 Morkery	Morkery ward (part - the parishes of North Witham, South Witham and Castle Bytham)
23 Peascliffe	Peascliffe ward (part - Great Gonerby parish)
24 Ringstone	Ringstone ward (part - the parishes of Haconby and Morton)
25 Saxonwell	Saxonwell ward (part - Long Bennington parish); Loveden ward (part - the parishes of Westborough and Dry Doddington)
26 St Anne's (Grantham Town)	St Anne's ward (part)
27 St George's (Stamford Town)	<i>Unchanged</i> (St George's district and parish ward)
28 St Mary's (Stamford Town)	St Mary's district and parish ward (part)
29 St Wulfram's (Grantham Town)	St Wulfram's ward (part)

Figure B1 (continued):

The Commission's Draft Recommendations: Constituent Areas

Ward name	Constituent areas
30 Stamford St John's (Stamford Town)	<i>Unchanged</i> (Stamford St John's district and parish ward)
31 Thurlby	Hillsides ward (part - Thurlby parish)
32 Toller	Toller ward (the parishes of Horbling and Billingborough); Aveland ward (part - Folkingham parish)
33 Truesdale	Truesdale ward (the parishes of Baston and Langtoft); Casewick ward (part - the parishes of Barholm, Tallington and Uffington)
34 Witham Valley	Witham Valley ward (part - the parishes of Hougham, Marston and Foston); Devon ward (part - Sedgebrook parish); Saxonwell ward (part - Allington parish)

Figure B2:
The Commission's Draft Recommendations for South Kesteven

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 All Saints	2	3,499	1,750	11	3,591	1,796	9
2 Aveland	1	1,488	1,488	-6	1,570	1,570	-5
3 Barrowby	1	1,694	1,694	7	1,694	1,694	2
4 Belmont	2	2,914	1,457	-8	3,480	1,740	-5
5 Bourne East	3	4,205	1,402	-11	4,735	1,578	-5
6 Bourne West	3	4,489	1,496	-5	5,303	1,768	7
7 Deeping St James	3	5,161	1,720	9	5,594	1,865	13
8 Earlesfield	3	5,099	1,700	8	5,282	1,761	6
9 Ermine	1	1,649	1,649	5	1,629	1,629	-2
10 Forest	1	1,601	1,601	2	1,572	1,572	-5
11 Glen Eden	1	1,629	1,629	3	1,572	1,572	-5
12 Grantham St John's	2	3,308	1,654	5	3,397	1,699	3
13 Green Hill	2	2,834	1,417	-10	3,340	1,670	1
14 Greyfriars	2	2,714	1,357	-14	3,075	1,538	-7
15 Harrowby	3	4,566	1,522	-3	4,701	1,567	-5
16 Heath	1	1,708	1,708	8	1,708	1,708	3
17 Hillsides	1	1,411	1,411	-10	1,511	1,511	-9
18 Isaac Newton	1	1,703	1,703	8	1,634	1,634	-1
19 Lincrest	1	1,615	1,615	2	1,568	1,568	-5
20 Loveden	1	1,480	1,480	-6	1,563	1,563	-5
21 Market and West Deeping	3	4,776	1,592	1	5,058	1,686	2
22 Morkery	1	1,611	1,611	2	1,651	1,651	0
23 Peascliffe	1	1,460	1,460	-7	1,512	1,512	-9

Figure B2 (continued):
The Commission's Draft Recommendations for South Kesteven

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 %
25 Saxonwell	1	1,627	1,627	3	1,662	1,662	0
26 St Anne's	2	3,542	1,771	12	3,538	1,769	7
27 St George's	2	3,236	1,618	3	3,037	1,519	-8
28 St Mary's	2	3,462	1,731	10	3,264	1,632	-1
29 St Wulfram's	2	3,315	1,658	5	3,498	1,749	6
30 Stamford St John's	3	4,522	1,507	-4	4,584	1,528	-8
31 Thurlby	1	1,425	1,425	-10	1,535	1,535	-7
32 Toller	1	1,539	1,539	-2	1,556	1,556	-6
33 Truesdale	2	2,769	1,385	-12	3,141	1,571	-5
34 Witham Valley	1	1,621	1,621	3	1,602	1,602	-3
Totals	58	91,408	—	—	95,972	—	—
Averages	—	—	1,576	—	—	1,655	—

Source: Electorate figures are based on South Kesteven 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. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

