

Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
For England  
Report No. 621

Review of Electoral Arrangements

DISTRICT OF  
PURIBECK

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
BOUNDARY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND  
REPORT NUMBER 621**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND**

**CHAIRMAN**                    **MR K F J ENNALS    CB**

**MEMBERS**                    **MR G R PRENTICE .**

**MRS H R V SARKANY**

**MR C W SMITH**

**PROFESSOR K YOUNG**

THE RT HON KENNETH CLARKE QC MP  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT

PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE TO THE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE  
DISTRICT OF PURBECK IN THE COUNTY OF DORSET

INTRODUCTION

1. The present electoral arrangements for the District of Purbeck date from May 1979 when the District of Purbeck (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1977 came into force. The Order provides for twelve wards, three represented by three members, four represented by two members and five by one member, giving an overall council size of 22.

2. In July 1985, Purbeck District Council sought our comments on a proposed review of the electoral arrangements in two of its wards. We advised the Council that, although we agreed that the electoral representation in the district had deteriorated to the point where a review was justified, the 1972 Act precluded us from considering an electoral review of only part of a district.

3. In October 1986, the Council wrote to us to say that it wished to conduct a review of the electoral arrangements of the whole district. We decided to conduct a further review of the district's electoral arrangements in accordance with the provisions of Section 50(3) of the Local Government Act 1972.

4. The start of the review was announced in a letter dated 31 August 1989 which also invited the District Council or any other interested party, having regard to the requirements of Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972, to submit to us a draft scheme for revised electoral arrangements for the district. Copies of the letter were sent to Dorset County Council, the local Members of Parliament, local newspapers, and the local government press. The start of the review was also announced by press and public notice.

## **THE DISTRICT COUNCIL'S DRAFT SCHEME**

4. On 22 February 1990 the District Council submitted to us a scheme which took account of the 1990 electorate and that forecast for 1995. This recommended an increase in the number of wards from 12 to 14 and an increase in the number of councillors from 22 to 25. It proposed that the number of three-member wards remain at three, that the number of two-member wards be increased to five and that the number of one-member wards be increased to six. The scheme provided a much improved standard of electoral representation. Under the present arrangements, six of the twelve wards would have entitlements varying from the district average by more than 10% by the forecast year (1995), of which four would have entitlements varying by more than 20%. Under the District Council's proposals only four wards would have standards of representation that varied by more than ten per cent from the district average by the forecast year.

## **ALTERNATIVE SCHEME**

5. The only comment received on the Council's draft scheme was submitted by the Purbeck District Labour Party in the form of an alternative scheme. This scheme provided for the same number of wards as the Council's scheme (14) but required 26 councillors - one more than the Council's scheme. The standard of representation was similar to that provided by the Council's scheme (four wards varying from the district average by more than ten per cent).

## **OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS**

6. There appeared to be little difference between Purbeck District Council's scheme and the Purbeck District Labour Party's scheme in terms of representation, and we decided to adopt the District Council's scheme as our draft proposals.

7. Our draft proposals were issued on 29 November 1991. Copies were sent to Purbeck District Council, Dorset County Council and all those who had received our consultation letter of 31 August

1989. Notices were also inserted in the local press, announcing that the draft proposals had been published and that they could be inspected at the District Council's offices. Comments were invited by 31 January 1992.

#### **RESPONSE TO OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS**

8. We received three comments following our letter of 29 November 1991. Purbeck District Council supported our draft proposals but suggested a small modification to the ward names of Upton and Lytchett Minster East and Upton and Lytchett Minster West. It also pointed out two minor errors in our description of the parishes which make up the new district wards.

9. Morden Parish Council and the Morden Society both opposed the inclusion of Morden in the Lytchett Matravers ward on the grounds that Morden was different in character to Lytchett Matravers and had more in common with Bere Regis and Bloxworth which make up the neighbouring ward. We noted, however, that to retain the parish of Morden in Bere Regis ward would produce an inferior standard of representation.

#### **OUR FINAL PROPOSALS**

10. Having considered all the representations made to us, and bearing in mind the requirements of Section 78 and Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972, we have concluded that our draft proposals offer a slightly better standard of representation in the district of Purbeck than any of the alternative suggestions. We have therefore confirmed them, subject to two minor amendments to modify the names of the wards of Upton and Lytchett Minster East and Upton and Lytchett Minster West to Lytchett Minster and Upton East and Lytchett Minster and Upton West, and commend them to you as our final proposals.

11. Details of our final proposals are set out in Schedule 1 to this report. A small-scale map illustrating the proposed ward boundaries is also included.

## PUBLICATION

12. In accordance with Section 60(5)(b) of the 1972 Act, a copy of this report, together with maps suitable for display, is being sent to Purbeck District Council. This will be available for inspection at the Council's main offices. Copies of this report are also being sent to all those persons or bodies who received our consultation letter or who have expressed an interest in the review at any subsequent stage.

Signed: K F J ENNALS (Chairman)

G R PRENTICE

HELEN SARKANY

C W SMITH

K YOUNG

R D COMPTON  
Commission Secretary  
30 July 1992



SCHEDULE 1

DISTRICT OF PURBECK

COMMISSION'S PROPOSED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

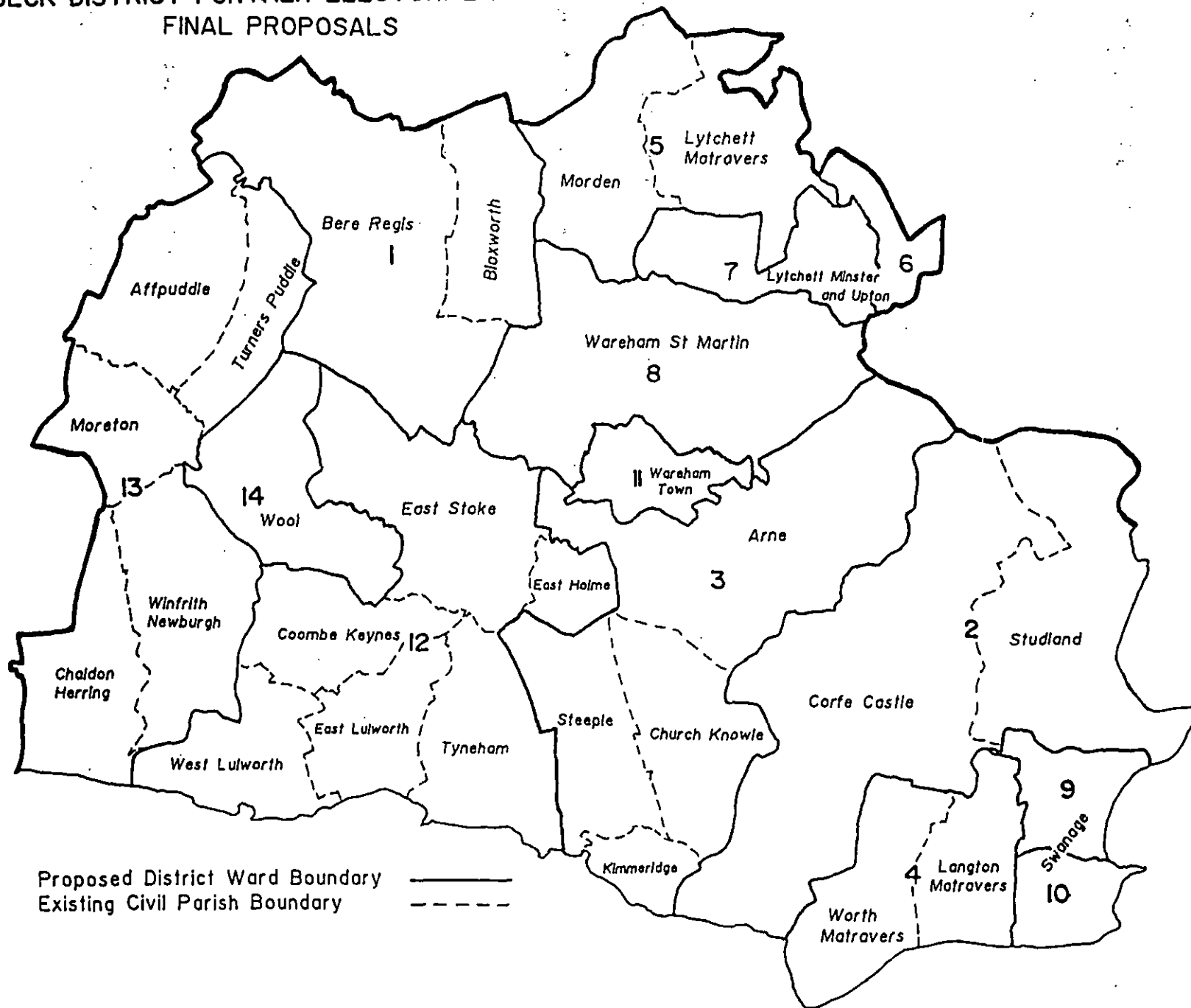
<u>Name of Ward</u>	<u>Constituent Parishes/ Parish Wards</u>	<u>No of Cllrs</u>
Bere Regis	Bere Regis Bloxworth	1
Castle	Corfe Castle Studland	1
Creech Barrow	Arne Church Knowle Kimmeridge Steeple	1
Langton	Langton Matravers Worth Matravers	1
Lytchett Matravers	Lytchett Matravers Morden	2
Lytchett Minster and Upton East	East Ward of Lytchett Minster and Upton	2
Lytchett Minster and Upton West	West Ward of Lytchett Minster and Upton	2
St Martin	Wareham St Martin	3
Swanage North	North Ward of Swanage	2
Swanage South	South Ward of Swanage	3
Wareham	Wareham Town	3
West Purbeck	Coombe Keynes East Holme East Lulworth East Stoke Tyneham West Lulworth	1
Winfrith	Affpuddle Chaldon Herring Moreton Turners Puddle Winfrith Newburgh	1
Wool	Wool	2
<hr/> 14 Wards		<hr/> 25

PURBECK DISTRICT  
FURTHER ELECTORAL REVIEW  
FINAL PROPOSALS

- 1 BERE REGIS
- 2 CASTLE
- 3 CREECH BARROW
- 4 LANGTON
- 5 LYTCHETT MATRAVERS
- 6 LYTCHETT MINSTER AND UPTON EAST
- 7 LYTCHETT MINSTER AND UPTON WEST
- 8 ST MARTIN
- 9 SWANAGE NORTH
- 10 SWANAGE SOUTH
- 11 WAREHAM
- 12 WEST PURBECK
- 13 WINFRITH
- 14 WOOL

PURBECK DISTRICT FURTHER ELECTORAL REVIEW  
FINAL PROPOSALS

INDEX MAP



INDEX MAP