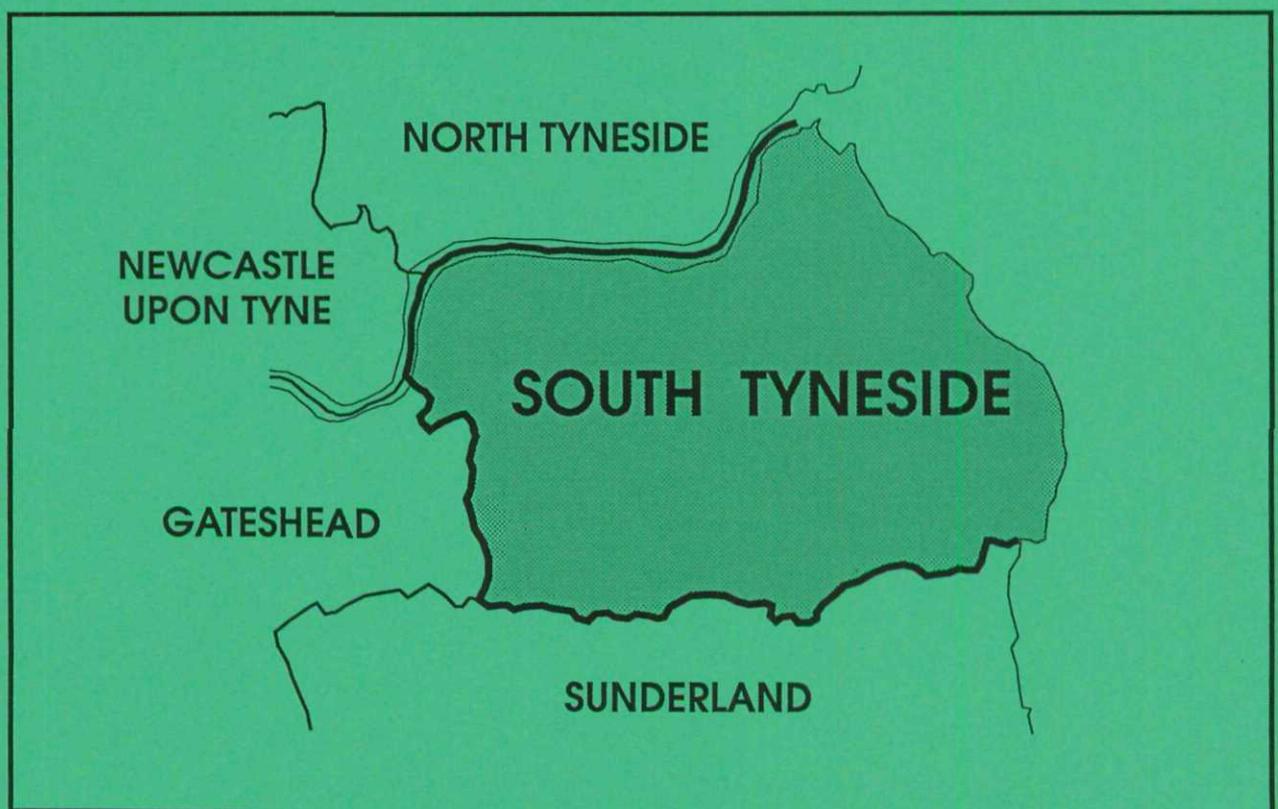


LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

REVIEW OF TYNE AND WEAR

THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SOUTH TYNESIDE

Boundaries with:- NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
NORTH TYNESIDE
GATESHEAD
SUNDERLAND



REPORT NO. 643

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT
BOUNDARY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND
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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 MICHAEL HOWARD QC MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

REVIEW OF TYNE AND WEAR

THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SOUTH TYNESIDE AND ITS BOUNDARIES
WITH GATESHEAD, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, NORTH TYNESIDE, AND
SUNDERLAND IN TYNE AND WEAR

COMMISSION'S FINAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1. This is one of a series of five reports dealing with the metropolitan districts of Tyne and Wear. In each of these reports we firstly set out our analysis of those proposals put to us for radical change to the County as a whole, and then our consideration of the boundaries of the particular metropolitan district under review.

2. The five reports are as follows:-

(i) Gateshead, and its boundaries with Castle Morpeth and Tynedale in Northumberland and Derwentside and Chester-le-Street in County Durham.

(ii) Newcastle upon Tyne, and its boundaries with Gateshead and with Castle Morpeth in Northumberland.

(iii) North Tyneside, and its boundaries with Newcastle upon Tyne and with Blyth Valley and Castle Morpeth in Northumberland.

(iv) South Tyneside, and its boundaries with Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside and Sunderland.

(v) Sunderland, and its boundaries with Gateshead, and with the City of Durham, Chester-le-Street and Easington in County Durham.

3. This Report contains our final proposals for South Tyneside's boundaries with Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Gateshead and Sunderland. We are making a series of minor proposals to these boundaries to make them more clearly identifiable, but we are not suggesting any radical changes to the pattern of local government boundaries in Tyne and Wear.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF START OF THE REVIEW

4. On 1 February 1988 we wrote to all the districts in the Metropolitan County of Tyne and Wear announcing the start of a review of the County and its Metropolitan Districts under section 48(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

5. Copies of our letter were sent to the county and district councils bordering the Metropolitan County; parish councils in the adjoining districts; to the local authority associations; to Members of Parliament with constituency interests; to the headquarters of the main political parties; the local press, television and radio stations; and a number of other interested persons and organisations.

6. The Metropolitan District Councils were requested, in co-operation as necessary with the other principal authorities, to assist us in publicising the start of the review by inserting a notice for two successive weeks in local newspapers, so as to give a wide coverage in the areas concerned.

7. A period of seven months from the date of the letter was allowed for all local authorities, and any person or body interested in the review, to send us their views on whether changes to the district boundary were desirable, and if so, what those changes should be and how they would best serve the interests of effective and convenient local government, the

criterion laid down in the Act.

SUGGESTIONS FOR RADICAL CHANGE

Our initial consideration

8. The response to our letter of 1 February 1988, announcing the review, included about one thousand letters and postcards, the majority of which expressed their lack of identification with the metropolitan county. Most of the comments received from individuals gave little specific information, but we recognised some common strands of complaint and the following paragraphs outline our consideration of the grievances identified and the changes suggested.

(a) Abolition of the Metropolitan County

9. Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering Committee and four members of the public suggested the abolition of the Metropolitan County of Tyne and Wear; the return of North Tyneside and Newcastle to Northumberland; and Gateshead, Sunderland and South Tyneside to County Durham. The Committee had made these suggestions on historical grounds and to reverse the creation of what it considered to be an artificial county. It was not entirely clear from these representations whether the transformation of the metropolitan districts into shire districts within a two-tier system was being firmly recommended. Three letters were received from individuals who said that they identified with the County of Tyne and Wear and were against its abolition.

10. We considered the representations made to us and noted that, although under Section 47(1)(d) of the Local Government Act 1972 it would have been possible for us to propose the abolition of a metropolitan county, Schedule 17 of the Local Government Act 1985 repealed that provision and we could no longer act on any representations to that effect.

11. Apart from the legal position, we noted that, while there had been considerable change in the area over recent years, Newcastle has maintained its position as the regional centre. We recognised the County's distinctiveness as a region. We also recognised the close social and economic links, and the area's strong cultural identity, especially across the Tyne.

12. We concluded that the two parts of the County, north and south of the Tyne, had more in common with each other than with the counties of Northumberland and Durham; and that to retain the metropolitan district form of government in the area would be in the best interests of effective and convenient local government.

(b) Restructuring of the Metropolitan County

13. We received other suggestions for radical change to be made to parts of Tyne and Wear, particularly around Washington New Town. A local resident favoured the retention of the Metropolitan County but suggested the abolition of North Tyneside, South Tyneside and Gateshead, and the enlargement of Newcastle upon Tyne and Sunderland, to embrace these areas. In addition, we examined on our own initiative areas where the boundary appeared to be overlain by development or poorly related to the pattern of community life. We recognised, also, that some settlements that are presently outside the Metropolitan County, such as Cramlington and Chester-le-Street, had strong attachments to it in socio-economic terms.

14. Several proposals were made to us for radical changes to the pattern of authorities south of the River Tyne. The common issues in these proposals were the status of Washington New Town and the unsatisfactory boundary between Tyne and Wear and County Durham in the light of the present pattern of development. We concluded however that although Washington had a separate character from Sunderland, it lacked the necessary population and resources to become a separate Metropolitan District. While it might be viable as a shire district in County Durham its affinity lay with the Metropolitan County and we considered that it should

remain an integral part of Tyne and Wear.

15. We noted that there was continuous development between Birtley (in Tyne and Wear) and Chester-le-Street (in County Durham) and felt that these areas, and Washington, might share a community of interest. However, while some proposals had been made for a new metropolitan district incorporating the three settlements, there was little evidence that the current pattern of districts failed to provide effective and convenient local government.

16. The guidelines set down for us stipulate that radical change is only appropriate where we consider that present arrangements clearly fail to provide effective and convenient local government. We did not consider that this was the case in Tyne and Wear and felt that it was therefore inappropriate for this review to propose radical changes that would affect the pattern of local authorities in the area. We recognised, also, that any proposals to include within Tyne and Wear areas which were at present outside it might affect the viability of neighbouring authorities and would be likely to give rise to considerable opposition from the areas concerned. For all these reasons, therefore, we decided to confine our draft proposals to those places where specific boundary anomalies required rectification.

(c) Change of the County's Name

17. We received a small number of representations from individuals who suggested that we remove or change the name of Tyne and Wear. We do not have the power to change the name; moreover, the number of representations did not indicate widespread dissatisfaction and we are unconvinced that a change of name would be likely to improve the provision of effective and convenient local government.

(d) Change of the postal addresses of the County

18. We received a number of letters from individuals who were dissatisfied with the current postal addresses of the area. However, we have no authority in this area of administration, which is entirely a matter for the Post Office. Accordingly, it is inappropriate for us to make any proposal based on these representations.

Response to interim decisions

19. As part of our publication of draft proposals and interim decisions on specific boundary changes for each of the metropolitan districts, we announced our intention to make no proposals for radical change to the County of Tyne and Wear. We received only a small number of responses on this issue. Feelings were again expressed that Tyne and Wear should be broken up and divided between Northumberland and County Durham. An alternative suggestion was that Whitley Bay, Tynemouth and Wallsend should be transferred to the Borough of Blyth Valley in Northumberland. Birtley Town Council suggested that in the long term a new metropolitan district should be created from Birtley, Chester-le-Street and Washington, but that the status quo should continue in the meantime.

Our conclusions

20. Throughout this review, there has been little interest in radical change, which for the most part called for a reversion to a more historic pattern of local government. We understand the strength of local feeling in support of historic counties. However, we do not have power either to propose the abolition of the metropolitan county or to propose the incorporation of the metropolitan districts into their former counties.

21. We do have the power to propose changes in the pattern of metropolitan districts. However, our guidelines state that such radical change would be appropriate only where the Commission

considers that present arrangements clearly fail to provide effective and convenient local government. We do not consider that the present pattern of local government in Tyne and Wear has failed in this way, and radical change would not be in the interests of effective and convenient local government. We have therefore confirmed as final our interim decisions not to propose any radical change in Tyne and Wear.

22. Nevertheless, the issues that we have considered suggest that, were there to be a wider review of Tyne and Wear in the future, it would be necessary to examine the size of the local authorities in the area (both within and outside the metropolitan county); the extent of the metropolitan area; and the pattern of authorities in the Washington area.

PROPOSED MINOR CHANGES TO SOUTH TYNESIDE'S BOUNDARIES

The submissions made to us

23. As already explained in Paragraph 8, we received about approximately one thousand responses to our letter of 1 February 1988. However, only two of these, from South Tyneside and Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Councils, made specific recommendations for minor changes to South Tyneside's boundaries.

Announcement of our draft proposals/interim decisions

24. After considering these representations we published a further consultation letter on 20 July 1990 announcing our draft proposals and interim decisions for South Tyneside. Copies were sent to the local authorities concerned and to all those who had made representations to us. The Metropolitan Borough Councils of South Tyneside, Gateshead, North Tyneside and Sunderland and Newcastle City Council were asked to publish a notice giving details of our draft proposals and interim decisions, and to post copies of it at places where public notices are customarily displayed. They were also asked to place copies of our letter

on deposit for inspection at their main offices for a period of three months. Comments were invited by 19 October 1990

Response to our draft proposals/interim decisions

25. In response to our draft proposals we received representations from the Metropolitan Borough Councils of South Tyneside and Gateshead and one member of the public.

26. As required by Section 60(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, we have carefully considered the representations made to us and set out below our final proposals.

THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN SOUTH TYNESIDE AND GATESHEAD

Pelaw Main

Draft Proposal

27. We noted an area of defaced boundary at Pelaw Main and decided to issue a draft proposal for a more easily identifiable boundary based on the line of a track running through Pelaw Main to the north of the existing boundary.

Final Decision

28. Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council supported our draft proposal. South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council opposed it, suggesting that the boundary should remain unchanged until improved access to the area, which both Councils were seeking under their transport policy programmes, had been constructed. We concluded that South Tyneside's request was reasonable, especially as the only existing access to the area is from the north, via South Tyneside. We have therefore decided to withdraw our draft proposal.

St Joseph's School, Hebburn to White Mare Pool

Draft Proposal

29. South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council suggested that the boundary should be realigned to follow more readily identifiable features, including the centre of the railway line. This would remove anomalies whereby the Victoria Industrial Estate, a residential area, and St Joseph's School are all split by the current boundary. Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council made a similar suggestion, but preferred the use of the eastern side of the railway.

30. We agreed that the realignments proposed would unite the areas currently divided and provide a more clearly defined boundary. We decided to adopt Gateshead's suggestion as our draft proposal but with an additional adjustment to the boundary along a section of Mill Lane in order to unite within Gateshead the property and land of Monkton Mill Farm.

Final Proposal

31. Both Gateshead and South Tyneside supported our draft proposal, except for that part of it which affected the Mill Lane area. Both Councils stated that this area was due to become part of a major reclamation scheme and should therefore remain in one authority. We accepted the arguments put forward and have decided to confirm our draft proposal as final, with the exclusion of that part relating to the Mill Lane area.

Follingsby

Draft Proposal

32. South Tyneside Borough Council suggested an amendment in the Follingsby area to remove a length of unidentifiable boundary. The Council stated that the centre line of a mineral railway track would provide a better boundary and would unite in its authority the Wardley Colliery coal tip where a land re-forming

scheme was in operation.

33. However, after considering the situation of the Freightliner Terminal, we concluded that the eastern side of the A194(M) would provide a more durable, logical boundary and would also be consistent with our draft proposal to use the same motorway further south to improve the boundary between Sunderland and Gateshead. We therefore decided to issue a draft proposal to realign the boundary to the eastern side of the A194(M) and thereby transfer Follingsby into South Tyneside.

Final Proposal

34. South Tyneside supported our draft proposal. However, Gateshead indicated that Follingsby played an important part in its economic regeneration strategy. Follingsby's importance in this strategy had recently been emphasised in Gateshead's draft Unitary Development Plan. A member of the public suggested that a new waste incinerator might be located at Follingsby and argued that, as Gateshead was the lead authority in Tyne and Wear for waste disposal, the village should remain in Gateshead.

35. Although planning permission for the waste incinerator had not yet been granted, we recognised, in the light of the information provided by Gateshead, the importance of the area to its economic regeneration strategy. Furthermore, we had subsequently withdrawn our draft proposal for using the A194(M) as the boundary further south between Sunderland and Gateshead. We therefore decided to confirm as final a more limited transfer of land (based on South Tyneside's original suggestion), which realigns the boundary to the east side of the mineral railway from the point where it is crossed by the A194(M) southwards as far as South Tyneside's present boundary with Gateshead.

**THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN SOUTH TYNESIDE AND NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE AT
THE RIVER TYNE**

Interim Decision

36. We considered the boundary between the two authorities but decided that no change was necessary, as it already followed the centre course of the River Tyne and was therefore in keeping with Ordnance Survey's normal approach on river boundaries. (This decision, which appeared in our letter of 20 July 1990 as a draft proposal to redefine the boundary along the centre of the River Tyne, should have appeared as an interim decision for no change.)

Final Decision

37. We received no representations in response to our interim decision to retain the existing boundary and have decided to confirm this decision as final.

**THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN SOUTH TYNESIDE AND NORTH TYNESIDE AT THE
RIVER TYNE**

Draft Proposal

38. We noted that the river boundary between the two authorities was not in keeping with Ordnance Survey's normal approach of defining local authority jurisdiction in areas of tidal water, which relates to the shape of the river at low water. We decided therefore to issue a draft proposal defining the boundary as being at the centre of the channel of the River Tyne at low water.

Final Proposal

39. South Tyneside supported our draft proposal. We received no other representations and have decided to confirm our draft proposal as final.

THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN SOUTH TYNESIDE AND SUNDERLAND

Cut Throat Dene

Draft Proposal

40. In order to rectify a section of defaced and unidentifiable boundary to the south west of South Bents, we decided to issue a draft proposal to follow a more recognisable line along Cut Throat Dene.

Final Proposal

41. South Tyneside supported our draft proposal for this area. We received no other representations and have decided to confirm our draft proposal as final.

Nanny Cow Hill

Draft Proposal

42. We noted that the boundary here was also defaced and decided, therefore, to issue a draft proposal to provide a clearer boundary based on ground features.

Final Proposal

43. South Tyneside supported our draft proposal for this area. We received no other representations and have decided to confirm our draft proposal as final.

Hylton Red House School

Interim Decision

44. We considered the merits of amending the existing boundary near Hylton Red House School. We decided that a change would be

unlikely to be conducive to more effective or convenient local government. We took an interim decision therefore to make no proposal.

Final Decision

45. We received no representations in respect of our interim decision. We have decided therefore to confirm this decision as final.

ELECTORAL CONSEQUENCES

46. A table showing the electoral changes which we recommend as consequential to our proposals is attached at Annex B to this report. Only a minimal number of electors is affected by the changes and we do not anticipate any adverse effect on electoral representation at either district or county level.

CONCLUSIONS

47. We believe that our final proposals, which are summarised in Annex C to this report, are in the interests of effective and convenient local government and we commend them to you.

PUBLICATION

48. A separate letter is being sent to the Boroughs of South Tyneside, Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, and Sunderland asking them to deposit copies of this report at their main offices for inspection for a period of six months. They are also being asked to put notices to that effect on public notice boards. Arrangements have been made for similar notices to be inserted in the local press. The text of the notice will explain that the Commission has fulfilled its statutory role in this

matter and that it now falls to you to make an Order implementing the proposals, if you think fit, though not earlier than six weeks from the date our final proposals are submitted to you. Copies of this report, with the attached maps at Annex A, illustrating the proposed changes, are being sent to all those who received our draft proposals letter of 20 July 1990, and to those who made written representations to us.

Signed: K F J ENNALS (Chairman)

G R PRENTICE

HELEN SARKANY

C W SMITH

K YOUNG

R D COMPTON
Commission Secretary

23 April 1992

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND
METROPOLITAN BOUNDARY REVIEW

SOUTH TYNESIDE MB

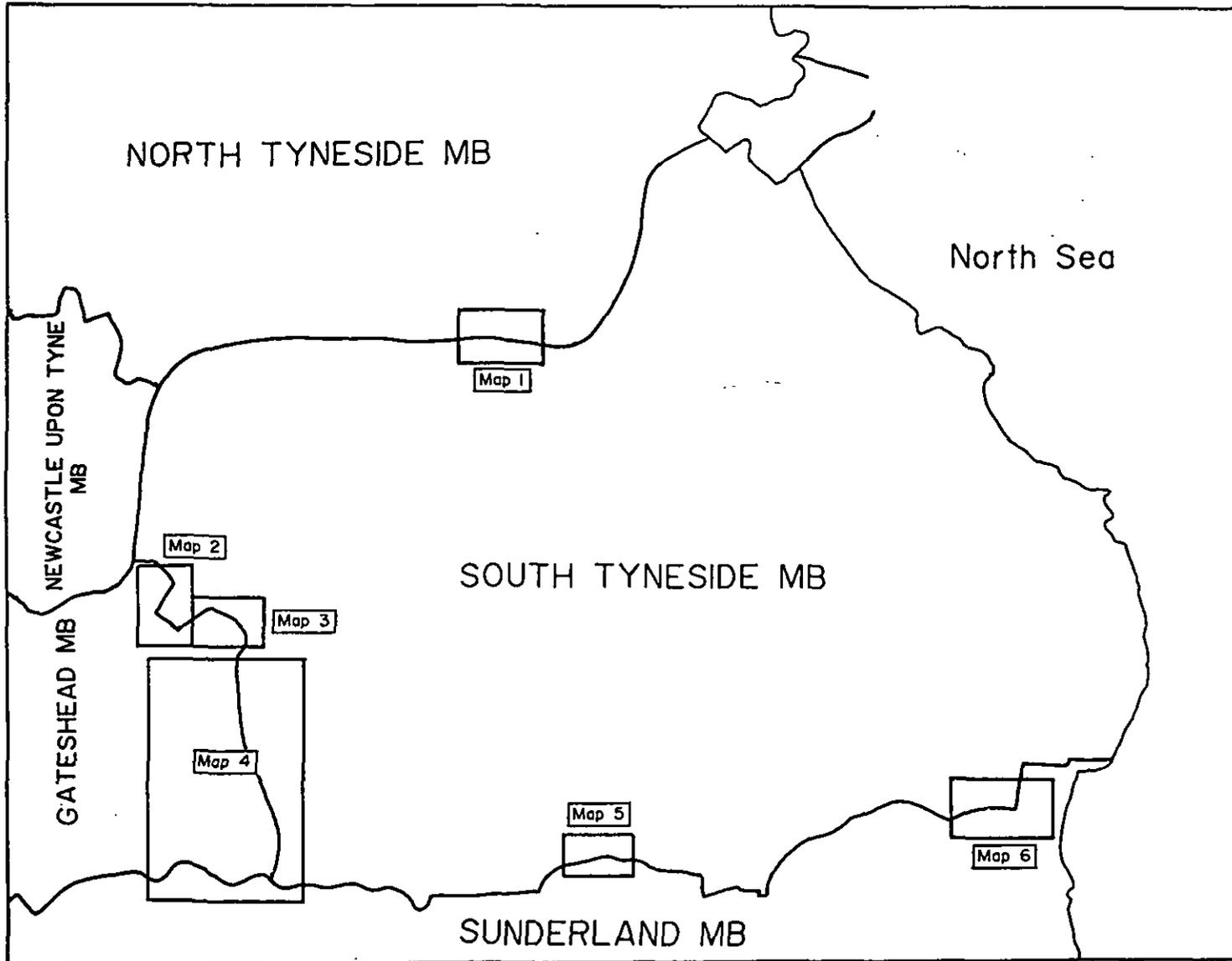
AFFECTING THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE,
THE CITY OF SUNDERLAND, GATESHEAD MB, AND
NORTH TYNESIDE MB IN TYNE AND WEAR COUNTY.

FINAL PROPOSALS

Existing Boundary	—————
Proposed Boundary	- - - - -
Other boundary divisions

Produced by Ordnance Survey for the
Local Government Boundary Commission for England

LOCATION DIAGRAM



Map I

Northumberland Dock

NORTH TYNESIDE MB

Area A

Area B

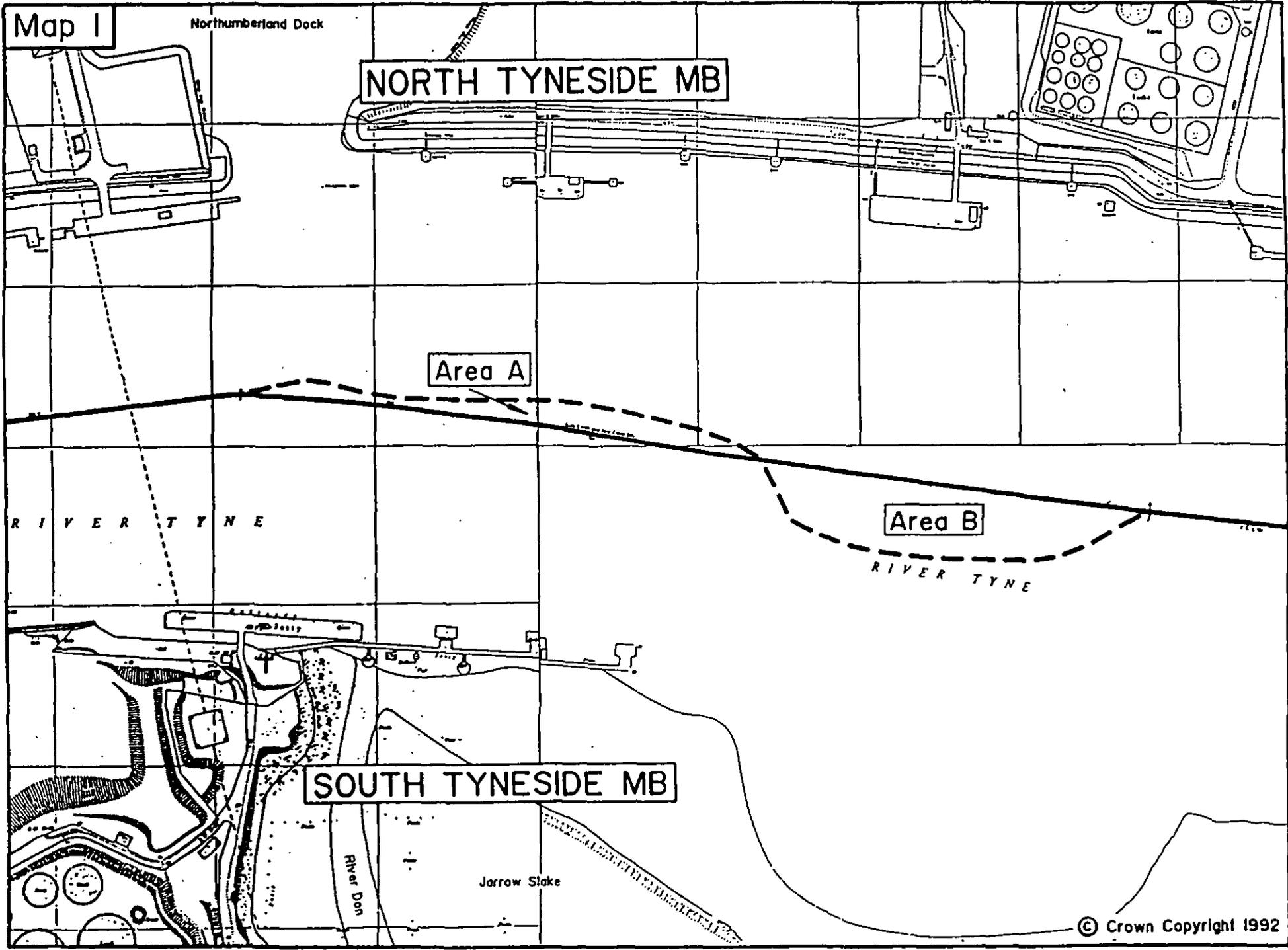
R I V E R T Y N E

R I V E R T Y N E

SOUTH TYNESIDE MB

River Don

Jarrow Slake



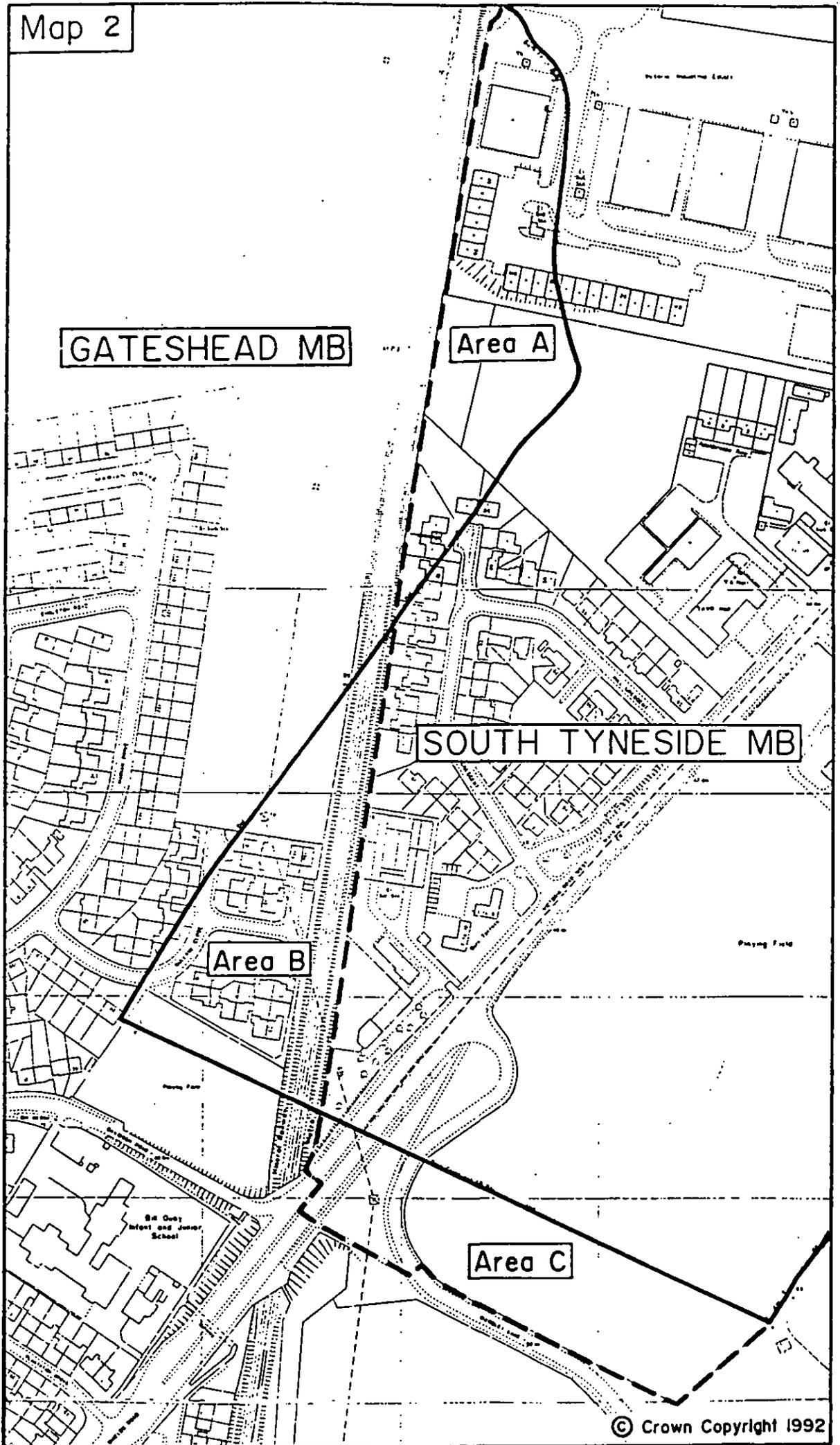
GATESHEAD MB

Area A

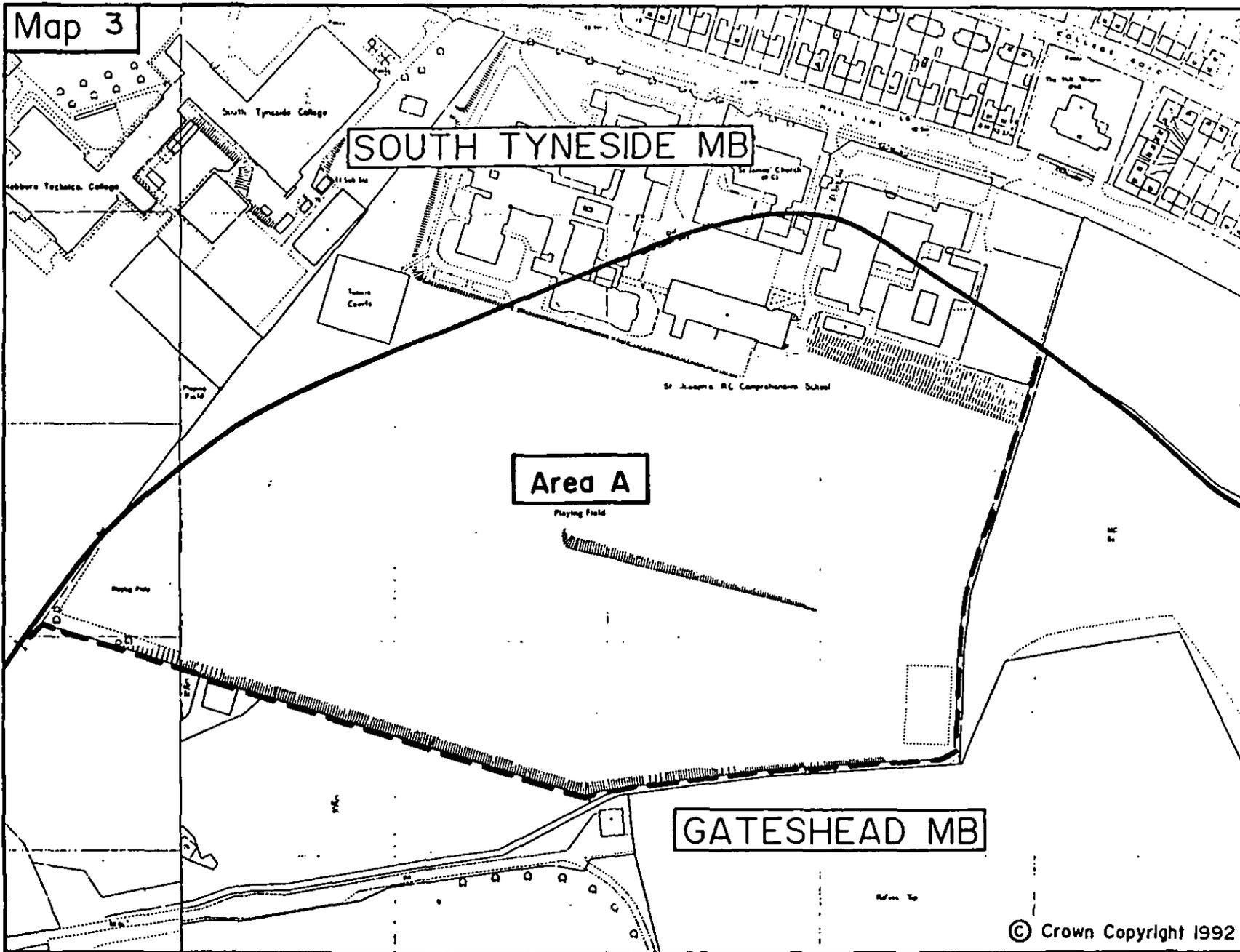
SOUTH TYNESIDE MB

Area B

Area C



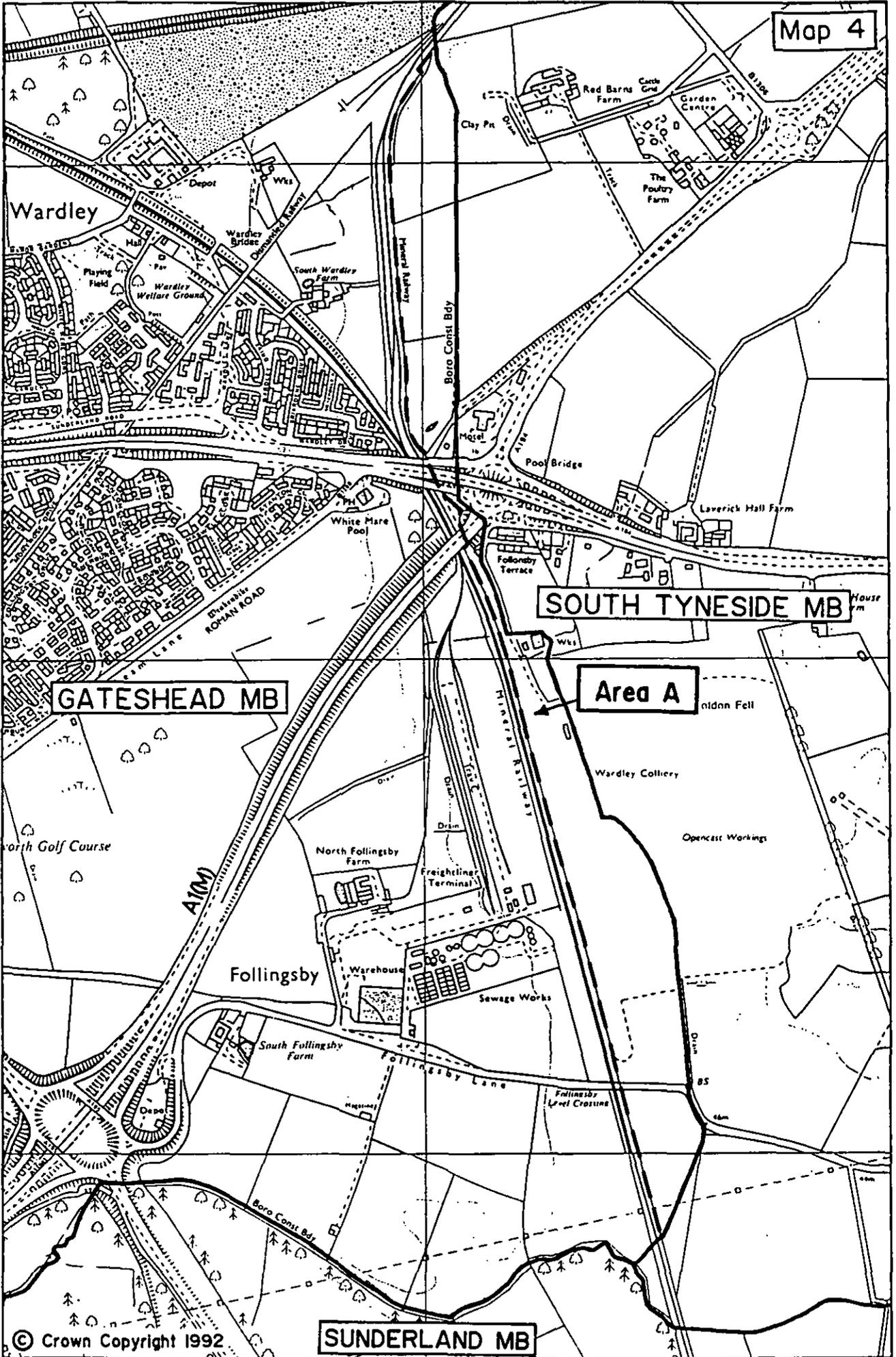
Map 3



SOUTH TYNESIDE MB

Area A
Playing Field

GATESHEAD MB



Golf Course

SOUTH TYNESIDE MB

Nanny Cow Hill

Downhill Reservoirs
(Sunderland & South Shields Water Co)

HYLTON LANE

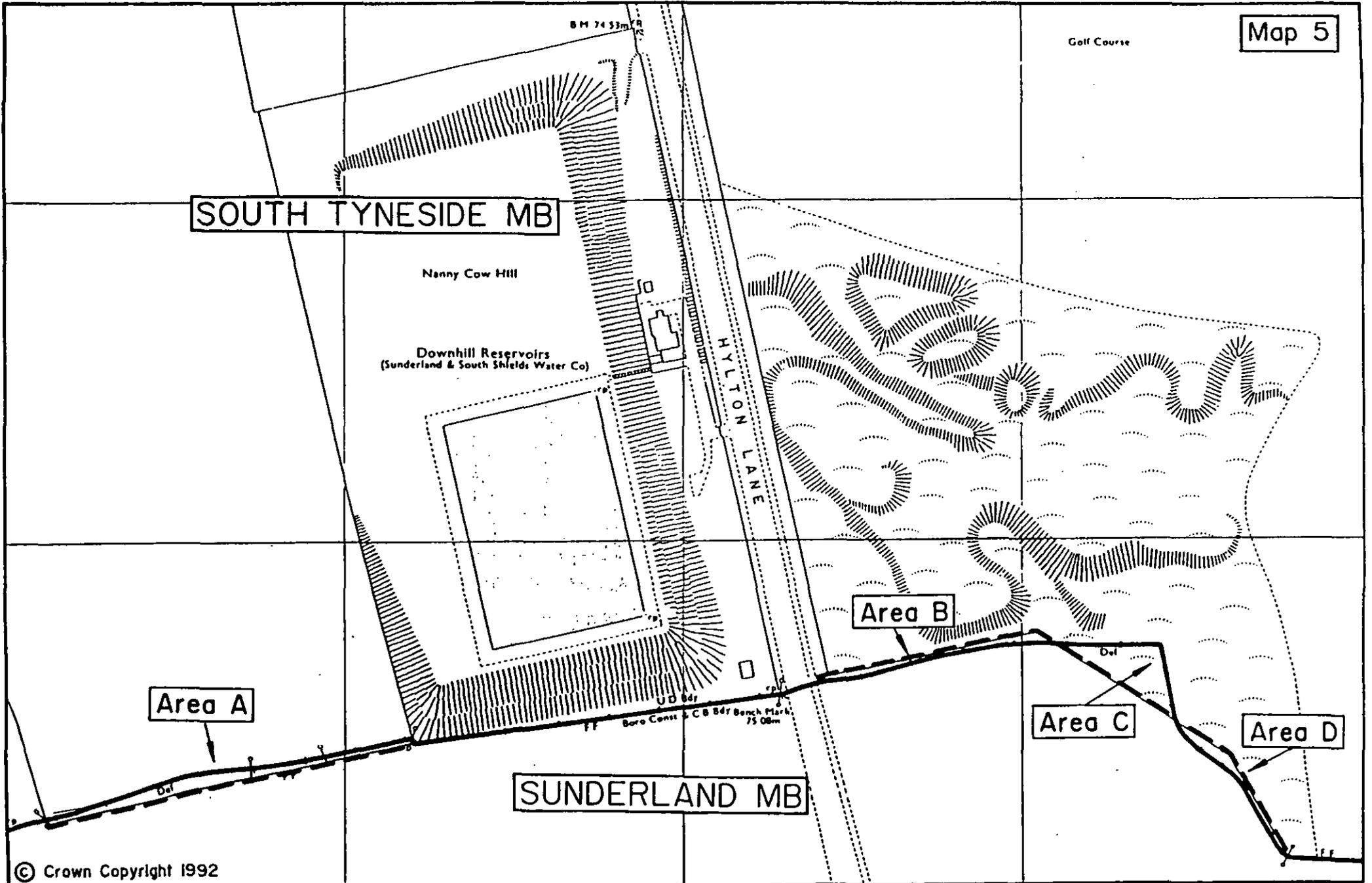
Area A

Area B

Area C

Area D

SUNDERLAND MB



SOUTH TYNESIDE MB

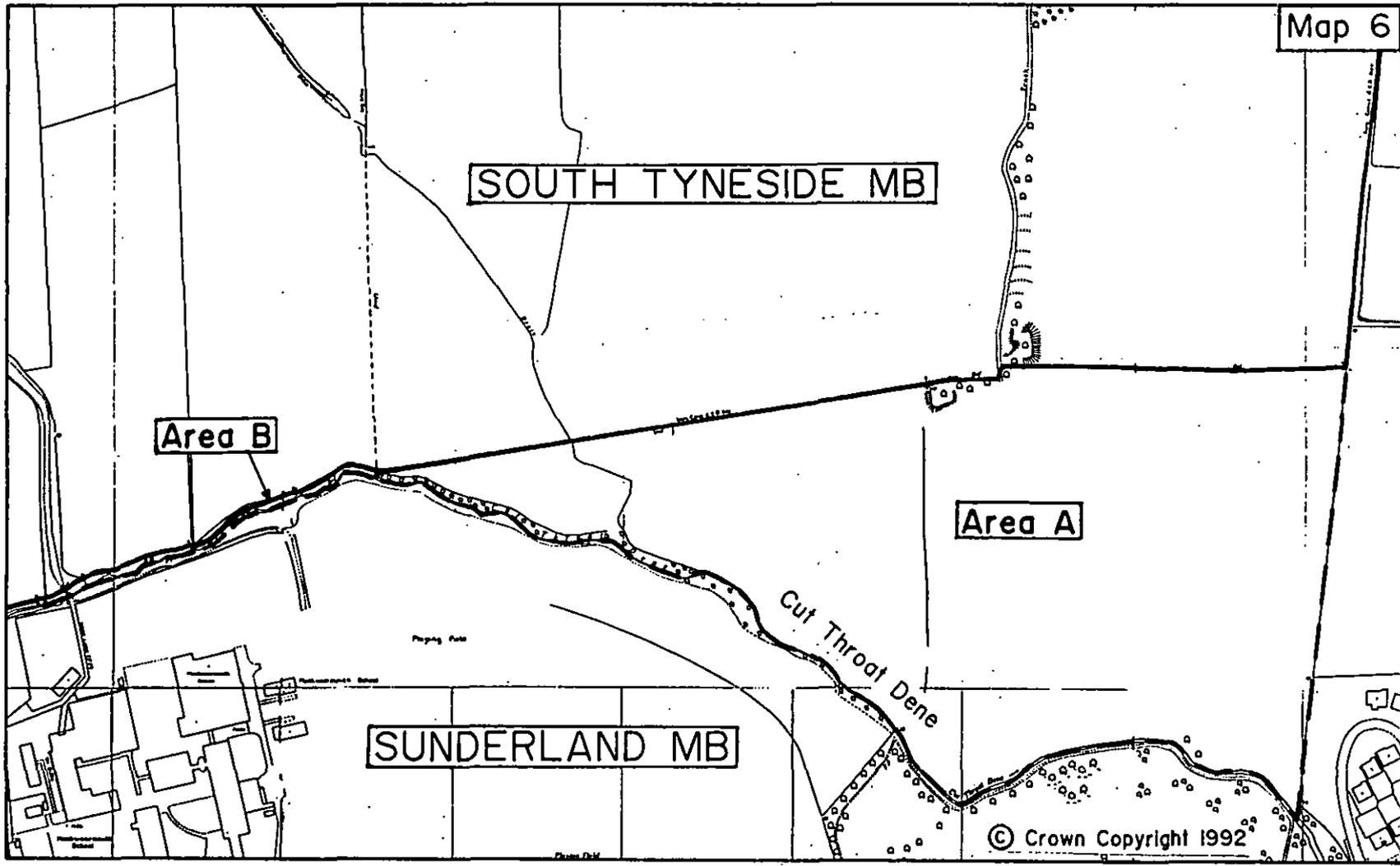
Area B

Area A

SUNDERLAND MB

Cut Throat Dene

Paving Path



SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES BETWEEN THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SOUTH TYNESIDE AND GATESHEAD, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, NORTH TYNESIDE AND SUNDERLAND IN TYNE AND WEAR

St Joseph's School, Hebburn to White Mare Pool	Minor realignment of the boundary to the eastern side of the railway from the Victoria Industrial Estate to Victoria Road West, along the northern edge of Wardley Lane and along the southern edge of the playing fields of St Joseph's School.	Paragraph 31 Maps 2 and 3
Follingsby	Minor realignment of the boundary to the eastern side of the mineral railway	Paragraph 35 Map 4
River Tyne	Minor realignment of the boundary to the centre of the River Tyne at low water mark	Paragraph 39 Map 1
Cut Throat Dene	Minor realignment of the boundary to Cut Throat Dene and a field boundary	Paragraph 41 Map 6
Nanny Cow Hill	Minor realignment of the boundary to the ground features south of Downhill Reservoirs	Paragraph 43 Map 5