

**Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No.198**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 198.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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To: The Rt Hon Merlyn Rees MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department

PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SOUTH HAMS
DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF DEVON

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the District of South Hams in accordance with the requirements of section 63 of, and Schedule 9 to, the Local Government Act 1972, present our proposals for the future electoral arrangements for that district.
2. In accordance with the procedure laid down in section 60(1) and (2) of the 1972 Act, notice was given on 13 May 1974 that we were to undertake this review. This was incorporated in a consultation letter addressed to the South Hams District Council, copies of which were circulated to the Parish Councils and Parish Meetings in the district, the Devon County Council, the Members of Parliament for the constituencies concerned and the headquarters of the main political parties. Copies were also sent to the editors of the local newspapers circulating in the area and to the local government press. Notices inserted in the local press announced the start of the review and invited comments from members of the public and from any interested bodies.
3. South Hams District Council were invited to prepare a draft scheme of representation for our consideration. In doing so, they were asked to observe the rules laid down in Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972 and the guidelines which we set out in our Report No 6 about the proposed size of the council and the proposed number of councillors for each ward. They were also asked to take into account any views expressed to them following their consultation with local interests. We therefore asked that they should publish details of their provisional proposals about a month before they submitted their draft scheme to us, thus allowing an opportunity for local comment.

4. In accordance with Section 7(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972, South Hams District Council have opted for a system of whole council elections.

5. On 28 October 1975 South Hams District Council presented their draft scheme of representation. The Council proposed to divide the area of the district into 34 wards each returning 1, 2 or 3 members to form a council of 44, three more than at present.

6. Few comments were received by the Council in response to the publication of their draft scheme, which proposed no change in the composition of 30 of the existing wards. The Town Councils of Dartmouth and Totnes expressed approval of the changed warding arrangements proposed for those towns. Wembury Parish Council, while approving the proposed representation by 2 district councillors, requested the division of the parish into two single-member wards, instead of the two-member ward proposed by the Council. The parish councils of Strete and Stoke Fleming requested that the proposed Start ward should be called "Skerries".

7. We received letters from Wembury Parish Council requesting warding as stated above; from Ermington Parish Council requesting that no change be made in the present arrangements grouping them with the parish of Holbeton, in the existing ward 18, and from a parish councillor suggesting the name "Bidwell Brook" for the proposed Dartington ward.

8. We studied the draft scheme and noted that, in terms of equality of representation, there was some unevenness. We looked at possible improvements affecting the proposed Cornwood and Harford, Ivybridge, Sparkwell, Kingsbridge and Thurlestone wards.

9. We decided there would be some advantage, in terms of equality of representation, if the parish of Harford were to be transferred to the proposed ward comprising the parish of Ivybridge, and if the parish of Cornwood were to be transferred to the proposed ward comprising the parish of Sparkwell, and we resolved to modify the draft scheme accordingly.

10. In the case of the Kingsbridge and Thurlestone wards we noted that the Kingsbridge ward should, if possible, be strengthened in terms of equality of representation. To achieve this we proposed that the parish of West Alvington should be transferred from the proposed Thurlestone ward to the proposed Kingsbridge ward.

11. We considered the request by Wembury Parish Council for the division of the parish into two parish wards which should be single-member district wards. We noted that the resulting wards would not be satisfactorily represented by one councillor each. The proposed Wembury ward would be under-represented and the proposed Down Thomas ward over-represented. We also noted the District Council's view that the development expected in that area would be slower than supposed by the Parish Council, and that the imbalance produced by the proposed warding would therefore last for some years. We decided not to accept the submission of Wembury Parish Council.

12. We noted that the request of Ermington to remain grouped with Holbeton had been met by the Council's scheme.

13. In relation to ward names we noted that the proposal of the Parish Councils of Strete and Stoke Fleming, that the proposed Start ward be named "Skerries", had the support of the District Council, and we incorporated this suggestion in our draft proposals. We decided not to accept the proposal to change the name of the proposed Dartington ward to "Bidwell Brook", in view of the absence of any other objections to the name "Dartington" proposed by the District Council.

14. Subject to the changes referred to in paragraphs 9, 10 and 13 above we decided that the District Council's draft scheme provided a reasonable basis for the future electoral arrangements for the district in compliance with the rules in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act and our guidelines and we formulated our draft proposals accordingly.

15. On 27 February 1976 we issued our draft proposals and these were sent to all who had received our consultation letter or had commented on the Council's draft scheme. The Council were asked to make these draft proposals, and the accompanying map which defined the proposed ward boundaries, available for inspection at their main office. Representations on our draft proposals were invited from those to whom they were circulated and, by public notices, from other members of the public and interested bodies. We asked for comments to reach us by 23 April 1976.

16. In response to the draft proposals Devon County Council drew attention to the difficulty they foresaw in forming 6 county electoral divisions from the proposed 34 wards.

17. South Hams District Council objected to the Sparkwell, Ivybridge and Kingsbridge wards proposed by the Commission. The Council stated that the proposed re-groupings disregarded local affinities and wishes, produced unduly extensive electoral wards and would not significantly improve the standard of equality of representation. These points were also made by Kingsbridge Town Council, the parish councils of Ivybridge, Cornwood, Sparkwell, Thurlestone and West Alvington, and Harford Parish Meeting in their comments on the draft proposals. They reiterated the requests which they had made in response to the District Council's draft scheme. These objections to the draft proposals were supported by the Avon Group of Parish Councils and by two of the district councillors representing the present wards 15 and 16, which include between them the parishes of Cornwood, Harford and Sparkwell.

18. Wembury Parish Council also objected to the Commission's draft proposals and reiterated their submission that the proposed two-member Wembury district ward be divided into 2 single-member wards. South Huish Parish Council requested that the proposed Malborough ward should be named "Malborough and South Huish" or "Malborough with South Huish". Dartmouth Town Council drew attention to an error on the map showing the Commission's draft proposals.

19. We reviewed our draft proposals in the light of these comments and decided that there was scope for responding to the strong views expressed on the importance of maintaining local affinities and avoiding wards unduly large in area. Accordingly we reverted to the Council's original scheme for their proposed Thurlestone, Kingsbridge, Cornwood and Harford, Ivybridge and Sparkwell wards, and arrived at the following arrangements:-

- i. a single-member Thurlestone ward comprising the parishes of Thurlestone, South Milton and West Alvington;
- ii. a 3-member Kingsbridge ward comprising the parish of Kingsbridge;
- iii. a single-member Cornwood and Harford ward comprising the parishes of Cornwood and Harford;
- iv. a 3-member Ivybridge ward comprising the parish of Ivybridge;
- v. a single-member Sparkwell ward comprising the parish of Sparkwell.

20. We decided, however, to confirm our draft proposals in respect of the Wembury ward and also to retain the name "Malborough" in accordance with our practice of avoiding the use of composite ward names.

21. We noted the comments of Devon County Council on the relationship between the proposed district wards and the electoral divisions yet to be proposed by the County Council. We took the view that it would be possible, in this predominantly rural area, to achieve compatibility by splitting a district ward, where necessary, between two county electoral divisions.

22. Subject to the modifications referred to in paragraph 19 we decided that our draft proposals should be confirmed and that we should formulate our final proposals accordingly.

23. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedules 1 and 2 to this report and on the attached map. Schedule 1 gives the names of the wards and the number of councillors to be returned by each ward. The area of each of the proposed wards is defined in Schedule 2. The boundaries of the proposed new wards, as defined in Schedule 2, are illustrated on the map.

PUBLICATION

24. In accordance with Section 60(5)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 a copy of this report and a copy of the map are being sent to South Hams District Council and will be available for public inspection at the Council offices at Totnes. Copies of this report (without the map) are also being sent to those who received the consultation letter and to those who made comments.

L.S.

Signed:

EDMUND COMPTON (Chairman)

JOHN M RANKIN (Deputy Chairman)

PHYLLIS BOWDEN

J T BROCKBANK

MICHAEL CHISHOLM

R R THORNTON

ANDREW WHEATLEY

NEIL DIGNEY
(Secretary)

17 March 1977

DISTRICT OF SOUTH HAMS: NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS
AND NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO. OF COUNCILLORS</u>
AVON & HARBOURNE	1
AVONLEIGH	1
BICKLEIGH & SHAUGH	1
BRIXTON	1
CHARTERLANDS	1
CORNWOOD & HARFORD	1
DART VALLEY	1
DARTINGTON	1
DARTMOUTH CLIFTON	2
DARTMOUTH HARDNESS	2
EASTMOOR	1
ERME VALLEY	1
GARABROOK	1
IVYBRIDGE	3
KINGSBRIDGE	3
KINGSWEAR	1
MALBOROUGH	1
MARLDON	1
MODBURY	1
NEWTON & NOSS	1
SALCOMBE	2
SALTSTONE	1
SKERRIES	1
SOUTH BRENT	1
SPARKWELL	1
STOKE GABRIEL	1
STOKENHAM	1
THURLESTONE	1
TOTNES	2
TOTNES BRIDGETOWN	2
UGBOROUGH	1
WEST DART	1
WEMBURY	2
YEALMPTON	1

SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT: DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARIES

WEMBURY WARD

The Parish of Wembury

NEWTON AND NOSS WARD

The Parish of Newton and Noss

BRIXTON WARD

The Parish of Brixton

YEALMPTON WARD

The Parish of Yealmpton

SPARKWELL WARD

The Parish of Sparkwell

BICKLEIGH AND SHAUGH WARD

The Parishes of Bickleigh and Shaugh Prior

CORNWOOD & HARFORD WARD

The Parishes of Cornwood and Harford

IVYBRIDGE WARD

The Parish of Ivybridge

ERME VALLEY

The Parishes of Ermington and Holbeton

CHARTERLANDS WARD

The Parishes of Kingston, Ringmore, Bigbury and Aveton Gifford

MODBURY WARD

The Parish of Modbury

UGBOROUGH WARD

The Parish of Ugborough

SOUTH BRENT WARD

The Parish of South Brent

EASTMOOR WARD

The Parishes of Holne, West Buckfastleigh, Dean Prior and Rattery

AVON AND HARBOURNE WARD

The Parishes of North Huish, Diptford and Harberton

AVONLEIGH WARD

The Parishes of Loddiswell, Woodleigh, Churchstow and Buckland-tout-Saints

KINGSBRIDGE WARD

The Parish of Kingsbridge

THURLESTONE WARD

The Parishes of Thurlestone, South Milton and West Alvington

MALBOROUGH WARD

The Parishes of Malborough and South Huish

SALCOMBE WARD

The Parish of Salcombe

SALTSTONE WARD

The Parishes of Sherford, Charleton, South Pool, East Portlemouth and Chivelstone

STOKENHAM WARD

The Parish of Stokenham

GARABROOK WARD

The Parishes of East Allington, Blackawton and Slapton 416

SKERRIES WARD

The Parishes of Stoke Fleming and Strete

DARTMOUTH HARDNESS WARD

The Dartmouth Hardness Ward of the Parish of Dartmouth

DARTMOUTH CLIFTON WARD

The Dartmouth Clifton Ward of the Parish of Dartmouth

KINGSWEAR WARD

The Parish of Kingswear

WEST DART WARD

The Parishes of Moreleigh, Halwell, Ashprington, Cornworthy and Dittisham

STOKE GABRIEL WARD

The Parish of Stoke Gabriel

TOTNES WARD

The Totnes Ward of the Parish of Totnes

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TOTNES BRIDGETOWN WARD

The Totnes Bridgetown Ward of the Parish of Totnes

DARTINGTON WARD

The Parish of Dartington

DART VALLEY WARD

The Parishes of Staverton, Littlehempston and Berry Pomeroy

MARLDON WARD

The Parish of Marldon