

Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No.295

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 295

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

CHAIRMAN

Sir Edmund Compton GCB KBE

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Mr J M Rankin QC

MEMBERS

Lady Bowden

Mr J T Brockbank

Professor Michael Chisholm

Mr R R Thornton CB LL

Mr D P Harrison

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

PROPOSALS FOR REVISED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR
THE DISTRICT OF TORRIDGE IN 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 Torridge 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 23 April 1975 that we were to undertake this review. This was incorporated in a consultation letter addressed to the Torridge District Council, copies of which were circulated to the Devon County Council, Parish Councils and Parish Meetings in the District, the members of Parliament for the constituencies concerned and the headquarters of the main political parties. Copies were also sent to the editors of local newspapers circulating in the area and of 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. Torridge 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 asked also 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. The Council have not passed a resolution under Section 7(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972. The provisions of section 7(6) will therefore apply and the election of all district councillors will be held simultaneously.
5. On 9 January 1976 Torrridge District Council presented their draft scheme of representation. The Council proposed to divide the area of the district into 27 wards each returning 1, 2 or 3 councillors to form a Council of 36 members.
6. We considered the draft scheme, together with the comments and objections sent to us and to the District Council. We noted that the District Council had found difficulties in preparing a scheme which conformed to the statutory rules and to our guidelines, and was also acceptable locally.
7. Hartland Parish Council opposed the District Council scheme to divide the parish of Hartland between the proposed wards of Hartland Point and Clovelly Bay. Little Torrington Parish Council likewise objected to part of their parish being included in the proposed Torrington ward and thus split from the rest of the parish which would be in Heanton ward. We considered that insufficient regard might have been given to local ties in both instances and resolved that the proposed Hartland Point ward should include the whole of the parish of Hartland; and that the proposed Heanton ward should include the whole of the parish of Little Torrington.
8. We concurred with a suggestion from a local political party that it would make for clarity if the proposed Bideford West (North) and Bideford West (South) wards were renamed Bideford North and Bideford West respectively.
9. Subject to the changes referred to in paragraphs 7 and 8 above we decided that the District Council's draft scheme provided a reasonable basis for our draft proposals, in compliance with the rules in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act and our guidelines, and we formulated our draft proposals accordingly.

10. On 13 April 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 illustrated the proposed ward boundaries, available for inspection at their main offices. 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 18 June 1976.

11. Devon County Council and Torrington District Council both advised us that they had no comment to make on our draft proposals.

12. Ashreigney Parish Council objected to being separated from the parish of Winkleigh and to being included with the parishes of High Bickington and Roborough in our proposed Highreigney ward.

13. Newton St Petrock Parish Council objected to our proposed Waldon ward which would group that parish with parishes to the south and west, namely, Abbots Bickington, Bradford, Cookbury, Thornbury and Milton Damerel. They would prefer to preserve the present ward no 9 which groups Newton St Petrock with parishes to the north, namely, Buckland Brewer, Bulkworthy, East Pubford and Parkham. Alternatively they would wish to be included in the same ward as the parish of Shebbear which, together with the parishes of Black Torrington and Sheepwash, would constitute our proposed Coham Bridge ward.

14. A political association suggested changes in certain ward names in the parishes of Bideford and Northam. They submitted that our proposed Bideford West ward should be re-named Bideford South ward, so as to avoid confusion with the present Bideford West ward, which is itself only part of the area of the town west of the River Torrington.

15. The association also suggested that the proposed Northam Westward ward

should be re-named Northam North West or Northam West. They submitted that Northam Westward would be confused with the proposed adjacent ward, Westward Ho!, if the name "Northam" came to be omitted in common usage.

16. In view of these comments, we decided that we needed further information to enable us to reach a conclusion. Therefore, in accordance with section 65(2) of the 1972 Act and at our request, Mr L P Wallen was appointed as an Assistant Commissioner to hold a local meeting and to report to us.

17. After the announcement of the local meeting we received and forwarded to the Assistant Commissioner a letter from Buckland Filleigh Parish Council expressing support for our draft proposals.

18. The Assistant Commissioner held a meeting at Bideford on 14 October 1976. A copy (without enclosures) of his report to us of the meeting is attached at Schedule 1 to this report.

19. In the light of the discussion at the meeting and of his inspection of those areas concerned, the Assistant Commissioner recommended the adoption of our draft proposals subject to the following modifications:

- i. the parishes constituting the proposed Highreigney, Stafford and Winkleigh wards should be re-grouped to form three district wards, namely:
 - Winkleigh ward, comprising the parishes of Ashreigney and Winkleigh and returning one councillor;
 - Great Wood ward: comprising the parishes of Beaford, High Bickington and Roborough and returning one councillor;
 - Stafford ward, comprising the parishes of Dolton, Dowland, Huish and Merton and returning one councillor.
- ii. the proposed Bideford West ward should be re-named Bideford South.
- iii. the proposed Northam Westward ward should be re-named Northam West.

20. We reviewed our draft proposals in the light of the comments which we

had received and of the Assistant Commissioner's Report, and we decided that, subject to the modifications recommended by the Assistant Commissioner and described at paragraph 19 above, our draft proposals should be confirmed as our final proposals.

21. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedules 2 and 3 of this report. Schedule 2 gives the names of the wards and the number of councillors to be returned by each. Schedule 3 defines the areas of the new wards. The boundaries of the new wards are illustrated on the attached map.

22. 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 Torridge District Council and will be available for public inspection at the Council's main offices. 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

T BROCKBANK

MICHAEL CHISHOLM

D P HARRISON

R R THORNTON

N DIGNEY (Secretary)

21 September 1978

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

REPORT of the Assistant Commissioner appointed to hold a local meeting to inquire into the future electoral arrangements for the District of Torrridge in the County of Devon

1. I was appointed an Assistant Commissioner of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to hold a local meeting to hear representations relating to the following proposed electoral Wards of the District of Torrridge:-

Highreigney
Winkleigh
Stafford
Waldon
Kenwith
Heanton
Coham Bridge
Melbury
Morice
Northam Westward
Bideford West

2. I held the meeting at the Town Hall, Bideford, Devon on Thursday, 14th October, 1976 at 10.30 a.m. The following persons attended:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office or Status</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Mr. D.E.J. Veale	Principal Administrative Officer	Torrridge District Council
Mr. G.J. Partridge	Chairman	Ashreigney Parish Council
Mr. W.J. Pengelly	Vice Chairman	Ashreigney Parish Council
Mr. F. Harris	Member	Ashreigney Parish Council
Mr. J. Cowle	Vice Chairman Member of Torrridge District Council for existing Ward 17 (Parishes of Ashreigney and Winkleigh)	Winkleigh Parish Council
Mr. J. Cole	School Manager Winkleigh School	Parish of Ashreigney
Mrs. P. Middleton	Member	Ashreigney Womens Institute
Mrs. J.W. Smith	Member	Ashreigney Womens Institute
Mr. S.E. Hiscock	Vice Chairman Member of Torrridge District Council for existing Ward 18 (Parishes of Dolton, Dowland, Huish and Merton)	Dolton Parish Council
Mr. P.J. Carter	Chairman	Milton Damerel Parish Council
Mr. C.R. Heard	Member	Milton Damerel Parish Council
Mr. R.J. Cleverdon	Member	Buckland Brewer Parish Council
Mr. A. Pickersgill	Conservative Agent	North Devon Parliamentary Constituency

3. The proposals of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England relating to the future electoral arrangements for the District of Torrridge were published on 13th April, 1976. Neither the District Council nor the Devon County Council objected to the proposals as published but objections were submitted by other interested bodies as follows:-

- (1) by the Ashreigney Parish Council to the inclusion of that parish in the proposed Highreigney Ward;
- (2) by the Newton St. Petrock Parish Council to the inclusion of that parish in the proposed Waldon Ward;
- (3) by the North Devon Conservative Association to the names of the proposed Bideford West and Northam Westward Wards.

These were the only objections to the draft proposals raised at the local meeting and each is dealt with separately below.

4. Highreigney Ward

4.1 The Commission's Draft Proposals for the future electoral arrangements for the Torrridge District as a whole are based, on 1976 figures, on a ratio of the councillor per 985 electors and, on 1980 figures, ~~the one~~ councillor per 1041 electors. They therefore propose, as did the District Council in their Draft Scheme, the establishment in the east of the District of the following three Wards:-

<u>Ward</u>	<u>Constituent Parishes</u>	<u>No. of Councillors</u>	<u>1976</u>		<u>1980</u>	
			<u>Elect-orate</u>	<u>Entitle-ment</u>	<u>Elect-orate</u>	<u>Entitle-ment</u>
Highreigney	Ashreigney High Bickington Roborough	1	836	0.85	880	0.85
Stafford	Beaford Dolton Dowland Huish Merton	1	992	1.01	1010	0.97
Winkleigh	Winkleigh	1	826	0.84	920	0.88

4.2 The principal objection to this proposal comes from the Parish of Ashreigney and as will be seen from the list of persons attending the local meeting, that parish was strongly represented. The substance of the Ashreigney objection to the proposal to link the parish with the parishes of High Bickington and Roborough to form the Highreigney Ward is that Ashreigney has close ties with the parish of Winkleigh and virtually none with either High Bickington or Roborough. Ashreigney therefore wishes to be linked for electoral purposes with Winkleigh and not with High Bickington and Roborough.

4.3 The ties between Ashreigney and Winkleigh to which my attention was drawn are as follows:-

- (a) The ecclesiastical parishes of Ashreigney and Winkleigh share a Rector.
 - (b) Primary school children for Ashreigney all go to Winkleigh School and Secondary school children from both parishes go to Chulmleigh. There is an active parent/teacher association at Winkleigh School in which parents from both parishes are represented.
 - (c) Road communications between Ashreigney and Winkleigh are good, resulting in many family ties between the two villages. There is a daily bus service (one journey in each direction) between the villages.
 - (d) The Ashreigney Womens Institute is affiliated to that of Winkleigh.
 - (e) The parish of Ashreigney is at present linked with the parish of Winkleigh for electoral purposes to form the existing Ward 17. Both parishes wish to see that link preserved.
- 4.4 In addition to the foregoing objections in the proposed Highreigney Ward, the Roborough Parish Council wrote the Chief Executive of the Torrridge District Council on 6th October, 1976 (marking their letter for my attention) objecting to the linking of their parish with the parish of Ashreigney to form the proposed new Ward. By implication their letter denies any association of Roborough with Ashreigney in that it asserts that Roborough is strongly associated with the adjoining parish of Beaford for the following reasons:-
- (a) the Roborough and Beaford churches share a common Minister;
 - (b) the majority of the Roborough children receive their education at Beaford School;
 - (c) Roborough and Beaford farms overlap the inter-parish boundary;
 - (d) Roborough and Beaford are constituent parishes of existing electoral Ward 21, an association which the Roborough Parish Council wish to see preserved.
- 4.5 Although the parishes of Beaford and High Bickington have been kept informed of the progress of the review of electoral arrangements in the District and, in particular, received notice of the local meeting, neither parish was represented at the meeting nor has either parish, at any stage in the review, submitted written observations. As both the District Council's Draft Scheme and the Commission's Draft Proposals affected the present Warding arrangements of both parishes and as the notice of the local meeting indicated that the Warding arrangements in the Commission's Draft Proposals were open to discussion, I can only assume that by their absence from the local meeting the Beaford and High Bickington Parish Councils take the view that the final arrangements, whatever they may be, will not seriously affect their local interests.
- 4.6 The area of the Torrridge District covered by the proposed Highreigney and Winkleigh Wards is about 11 miles from north to south. The two principal villages in the area are High Bickington and Winkleigh each

of which has a reasonable range of village shops catering for day to day requirements. The village of High Bickington lies about a half a mile inside the northern boundary of the area and Winkleigh some two miles inside the southern boundary. In a straight line Ashreigney is $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Winkleigh and about 5 miles south of High Bickington but in each case the distance by road would be somewhat greater. The other villages in the area are considerably smaller and in general have no more than a post office cum general store. This is the situation at Ashreigney and having regard to the distances involved, the road system and the bus service, I have no doubt that people living in the parish of Ashreigney look towards Winkleigh as their village centre rather than High Bickington. This fact, coupled with the ecclesiastical, scholastic and social associations between the two villages, point, in my opinion, to local ties to which the Commission should have regard in framing the electoral arrangements of the area. In principle I am therefore disposed to accept the Ashreigney case for the inclusion of the parish in the Winkleigh Ward if (a) the councillor/elector ratio for the Ward can be considered satisfactory and (b) suitable electoral arrangements can be made for the parishes of High Bickington and Roborough.

- 4.7 A Ward consisting of the parishes of Winkleigh and Ashreigney would have a 1976 electorate of 1146 and an arithmetical entitlement of 1.16 councillors. By 1980 the electorate is expected to increase to 1260 giving an entitlement of 1.21 councillors. As, on these figures, the Ward would clearly have only a single councillor, the degree of under-representation as compared with the Commission's proposals was pointed out to the Ashreigney and Winkleigh representatives at the local meeting but was readily accepted by them if in that way they could get the Ward they wanted. The figures themselves are not out of line with those already accepted by the Commission in other parts of the District, notably in the Hartland Point and Heanton Wards, and the proposed new Ward would not on that ground alone appear to be unacceptable.
- 4.8 If Winkleigh and Ashreigney are to be made a single Ward the question of what to do with the parishes of High Bickington and Roborough poses something of a problem and one which could not be settled by agreement at the local meeting as neither parish was represented, nor was the adjoining parish of Beaford.

Under present electoral arrangements the parishes of Beaford, High Bickington, Roborough and Yarnscombe form Ward 21 electing a single councillor against an entitlement of 0.97 on 1975 figures. In the Draft Proposals Yarnscombe is joined with the parishes of Alverdiscott, Huntshaw, St. Giles in the Wood and Weare Giffard to form the new Rolle Ward electing a single councillor against an entitlement of 1.02 on 1975 and 1980 figures. There is no suggestion that this arrangement should be varied in any way. Beaford forms part of the new Stafford Ward, together with the parishes of Dolton, Dowland, Huish and Merton. This Ward will elect a single councillor against an entitlement on 1975 figures of 1.01 and of 0.97 in 1980.

In asking that their present association with the parish of Beaford should be preserved, the Roborough Parish Council in their written observations of 6th October suggested that their parish, together with the parish of High Bickington be added to the proposed Stafford Ward and that such enlarged Ward should return two councillors.

The effect of this suggestion would, on 1980 figures, be to create a Ward with an electorate of 1550 and an entitlement of 1.49 councillors. At the request of the Roborough Parish Council, I read their letter of 6th October to the local meeting but their suggestion for an enlarged 2-member Stafford Ward met with no approval. Those present took the view that if, as they hoped, I would be able to recommend that Ashreigney and Winkleigh should form a single Ward, the parishes of High Bickington and Roborough together with the five parishes in the proposed Stafford Ward should be re-divided to form two single member wards. With this view I agree although it does not alter the basic fact that however one divides these seven parishes, the two Wards, when taken together must result in a degree of over-representation of the order of 25%.

- 4.9 The only feasible division of these seven parishes to form two Wards is to include in the first Ward the parishes of Beaford, High Bickington and Roborough (thereby meeting the wishes of the Roborough Parish Council) and in the second the remaining four parishes of the proposed Stafford Ward, namely, Dolton, Dowlands, Huish and Merton. The consensus of opinion at the local meeting was that the first of these Wards should be named "Great Wood" after a well known local feature near Roborough and that the second should retain the name of "Stafford".

The numerical effect of the foregoing division would be as follows:-

<u>Ward</u>	<u>Constituent Parishes</u>	<u>No. of Councillors</u>	<u>1976</u>		<u>1980</u>	
			<u>Elect- orate</u>	<u>Entitle- ment</u>	<u>Elect- orate</u>	<u>Entitle- ment</u>
Great Wood	Beaford High Bickington Roborough	1	780	0.79	810	0.78
Stafford	Dolton Dowland Huish Merton	1	728	0.74	740	0.71

These figures are appreciably less satisfactory than those resulting from the Commission's Draft Proposals, particularly in the case of the suggested new Stafford Ward. At the local meeting it was however mentioned that the estimated electorate for the area of that Ward (which is shown as increasing by only 12 between 1976 and 1980) may have been underestimated for 1980 by making insufficient allowance for anticipated developments in the parish of Dolton. Despite the figures the local meeting supported the suggested re-Warding and I was also given to understand that it would be likely to receive the approval of the Torridge District Council.

- 4.10 On the issues arising in connection with the Highreigney Ward I therefore recommend as follows:-

- (a) that in framing their proposals for the future electoral arrangements in the District of Torridge the Commission have regard and give effect to the local ties between the parishes of Ashreigney and Winkleigh and the parishes of Beaford and Roborough;

(b) that the Commission's Draft Proposals for warding that part of the Torridge District covered by the proposed Highreigney, Stafford and Winkleigh Wards be amended to constitute the following three wards:-

- (i) Winkleigh Ward, consisting of the parishes of Ashreigney and Winkleigh and returning 1 councillor,
- (ii) Great Wood Ward, consisting of the parishes of Beaford, High Bickington and Roborough and returning 1 councillor and
- (iii) Stafford Ward, consisting of the parishes of Dolton, Dowland, Huish and Merton and returning 1 councillor.

5.

Waldon Ward

5.1 Both the Torridge District Council in their Draft Scheme and the Commission in their Draft Proposals provide for a new Ward, to be known as Waldon, covering the parishes of Abbots Bickington, Bradford, Cookbury, Milton Damerel, Newton St. Petrock and Thornbury and returning a single councillor against a 1976 entitlement of 0.94, estimated to reduce to 0.88 in 1980. The Newton St. Petrock Parish Council, by letter to the Commission dated 14th June, 1976, object to this proposal for the following reasons:-

- (a) they can see no point "in changes to the representation or reorganisation of the Ward";
- (b) if reorganisation were accepted "it would mean that this parish whose constituency is North Devon would have to join parishes that were in West Devon constituency and this could only lead to confusion at Election time";
- (c) "formerly the parish was administered by the Bideford R.D.C. and was therefore associated with the parishes of the existing Ward, whereas in the proposed Ward we would be joining parishes which were formerly administered by Holsworthy R.D.C."

The Parish Council went on to say that if changes were absolutely necessary they "would wish to be included in the Ward with the parish of Shebbear".

Although given notice of the local meeting to discuss the Commission's Draft Proposals, the Newton St. Petrock Parish Council were not represented to develop their objections to the proposed new arrangements.

5.2 The existing arrangements, which the Newton St. Petrock Parish Council see no point in changing, place the parish in Ward 9 with the parishes of Buckland Brewer, Bulkworthy, East Putford and Parkham. Unfortunately, in the Draft Scheme of the District Council, which has been embodied in the Commission's Draft Proposals, Ward 9 has been split three ways. The parishes of Buckland Brewer and Parkham form the major part of the proposed Melbury Ward, the parishes of East Putford and Bulkworthy form part of the proposed Morice Ward and the parish of Newton St. Petrock has been included in the proposed Waldon Ward. The preservation of the existing Ward 9 would therefore involve a substantial re-casting of the proposed new arrangements over a wide area and would produce problems some of which would be difficult to resolve. Bearing in mind that the proposed Melbury,

Morice and Waldon Wards, with a total electorate of 3000, are acceptable to everyone other than the Newton St. Petrock Parish Council (parish electorate 120), I cannot recommend a substantial re-casting of the proposals in relation to those three Wards because the Parish Council are opposed to change.

- 5.3 The second objection of the Newton St. Petrock Parish Council to the inclusion of the parish in the Waldon Ward is based upon the fact that the parish lies in the North Devon Parliamentary Constituency whereas all the other parishes in the proposed Ward lie in the West Devon Constituency, a situation which the parish council consider likely to lead to confusion "at Election time". It is difficult to attach much weight to this ground of objection save to agree that unless a polling station is established in the parish for both parliamentary and local government elections which, on the size of the parish electorate, seems unlikely, the electorate of the parish could expect to have to go to different places to vote in parliamentary and local government elections. There is no reason, however, if they follow the instructions on their poll cards, why they should be confused by this fact. In any event this particular ground of objection is likely to disappear when the Parliamentary Boundary Commission next look at the boundaries of the parliamentary constituencies in the area in three or four years' time.
- 5.4 The third objection of the Parish Council to the inclusion of Newton St. Petrock in the proposed Waldon Ward is that prior to local government reorganisation on 1st April, 1974, Newton St. Petrock was in the Bideford Rural District and accustomed to associating with the parishes in that District while all the other parishes proposed to be included in Waldon Ward were in the Holsworthy Rural District.

Had the Newton St. Petrock Parish Council been represented at the local meeting and established that local ties existed with the parishes which prior to local government reorganisation had been with them in the Bideford Rural District, this ground of objection might have carried weight. As it was, the information which I received at the local meeting in their absence pointed in the other direction, namely, to an association between the parishes of Newton St. Petrock and Milton Damerel even when they lay on opposite sides of an old inter-rural district boundary. For example, I was told by the representatives of the Milton Damerel Parish Council that the two parishes share a vicar and that the children from both parishes go to the same schools. They therefore supported the inclusion of Newton St. Petrock in the proposed Waldon Ward, as did the Principal Administrative Officer of the Torridge District Council, who prior to reorganisation was in the employ of the Holsworthy Rural District Council and who spoke of ties between Newton St. Petrock and Milton Damerel even when they were in different rural districts. I do not therefore accept the contention of the Newton St. Petrock Parish Council that placing the parish in the proposed Waldon Ward would involve the severance of any significant ties with parishes in other wards.

- 5.5 Finally, the Newton St. Petrock Parish Council ask that if a change in the electoral arrangements for the parish is necessary, the parish be included in the same Ward (the proposed Coham Bridge Ward) as the parish of Shebbear. No reasons are given for this request, the effect of which would be to adversely affect the balance of representation between the proposed Waldon and Coham Bridge Wards. Having regard to

the local ties already referred to between Newton St. Petrock and Milton Damerel and in the absence of any information as to ties between Newton St. Petrock and Shebbear, I am unable to recommend the transfer of the parish of Newton St. Petrock ~~from~~^{to} the proposed Waldon Ward to the proposed Coham Bridge Ward.

- 5.6 On this issue generally I therefore recommend that the Commission's Draft Proposal in regard to the Waldon Ward of the Torridge District should stand.

6. Bideford West Ward

- 6.1 The Parish of Bideford (the old non-county Borough) is divided on a north/south line by the River Torridge. The majority of the urban area lies on the west bank of the river.

Under present electoral arrangements the parish is divided into two Wards, Bideford East, with a 1975 electorate of 3634, returning 4 councillors and Bideford West - 5438 electors - returning 5 councillors. The name of the present Bideford East Ward is not entirely appropriate in that it overlaps into an area on the west bank of the river. Consequently, some electors living west of the river find themselves in the East Ward, which the North Devon Conservative Association maintains, with some justification, is a source of confusion.

- 6.2 In their Draft Scheme for new electoral arrangements, the Torridge District Council proposed the division of the Parish of Bideford into three new Wards each returning three councillors. Bideford East Ward was to be confined to that part of the parish lying east of the river. This Ward was adopted by the Commission in their Draft Proposals and no issue arises in connection with it. As regards the area of the parish lying west of the river, the District Council proposed the creation of two new Wards divided by a line running generally in an east/west direction. These two new Wards consist in the main of the area in the existing West Ward but also include that part of the present East Ward lying on the West bank of the river. For these two Wards the District Council proposed the somewhat cumbersome names of "Bideford West (North)" and "Bideford West (South)". The word "West" in each name was no doubt included because each proposed new Ward covered part of the existing West Ward but once that fact becomes a matter of history only, the word becomes mere surplusage in the names of the two new Wards.

- 6.3 In their Draft Proposals the Commission accept the District Council's Scheme for dividing that part of the Parish of Bideford which lies on the west bank of the river into two new Wards, but propose renaming the Wards "Bideford North" and "Bideford West". The North Devon Conservative Association ask that because the present Bideford West Ward is somewhat confusing to electors that the Ward name should be dropped entirely for the new arrangements and that the Ward which the Commission propose as "Bideford West" should be renamed "Bideford South". I understand that this request is unlikely to be opposed by the Torridge District Council whose representative at the local meeting pointed out that once the names of the two Wards in question are reduced from three words to two the operative words in the District Council's own Scheme were "North" and "South".

- 6.4 I see some merit in the request of the Conservative Association and as it is unlikely to meet with any local opposition I recommend that the proposed new Ward named "Bideford West" in the Commission's Draft Proposals be renamed "Bideford South".

7.

Northam Westward Ward

- 7.1 Immediately to the north of Bideford is the parish of Northam (formerly the Northam Urban District). Under present electoral arrangements this parish is divided into three Wards returning a total of seven councillors. Under the Torridge District Council's Draft Scheme, which has been adopted by the Commission in their Draft Proposals, this area is divided into seven single-member Wards. In the District Council's Draft Scheme and in the Commission's Draft Proposals two adjoining Wards are named "Northam Westward" and "Westward Ho!". The North Devon Conservative Association point out that the word "Northam" also appears in the names of the Northam North and Northam Central Wards and it might therefore become local habit to drop the word "Northam" and to refer to the three Northam Wards as "North", "Central" and "Westward". Should this happen confusion could arise between Northam Westward, miscalled "Westward", and the adjoining Ward of Westward Ho! They therefore ask that the Northam Westward Ward be renamed "Northam West". I understand that this request is unlikely to meet with any opposition from the Torridge District Council.
- 7.2 I again see merit in the point raised by the Conservative Association and it further appears to be that the name "Northam West" would be more in accord with the general pattern of Ward names in this part of the District than "Northam Westward". I therefore recommend that the Ward named "Northam Westward" in the Commission's Draft Proposals be renamed "Northam West".



Assistant Commissioner

30th October, 1976.

SCHEDULE 2

DISTRICT OF TORRIDGE : NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS AND
NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO OF COUNCILLORS</u>
APPLEDORE EAST	1
APPLEDORE WEST	1
BIDEFORD EAST	3
BIDEFORD NORTH	3
BIDEFORD SOUTH	3
BROADHEATH	1
CLOVELLY BAY	1
COHAM BRIDGE	1
FOREST	1
GREAT WOOD	1
HARTLAND POINT	1
HEANTON	1
HOLSWORTHY	2
KENWITH	1
MELBURY	1
MORICE	1
NORTHAM CENTRAL	1
NORTHAM NORTH	1
NORTHAM WEST	1
ORCHARD HILL	1
ROLLE	1
STAFFORD	1
TAMARSIDE	1
TORRINGTON	3
WALDON	1
WESTWARD HO !	1
WINKLEIGH	1

TORRIDGE DISTRICT - DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARIES

APPLEDORE EAST WARD

The Appledore East Ward of the parish of Northam.

APPLEDORE WEST WARD

The Appledore West Ward of the parish of Northam.

BIDEFORD EAST WARD

The Bideford East Ward of the parish of Bideford.

BIDEFORD SOUTH WARD

The Bideford West (South) Ward of the parish of Bideford.

BIDEFORD NORTH WARD

The Bideford West (North) Ward of the parish of Bideford.

BROADHEATH WARD

The parishes of Broadwoodwidge
Luffincott
Northcott
St Giles on the Heath
Tetcott
Virginstow

CLOVELLY BAY WARD

The parishes of Clovelly
Woolfardisworthy
and Lundy Island

COHAM BRIDGE WARD

The parishes of Black Torrington
Shebbear
Sheepwash

FOREST WARD

The parishes of Ashwater
Clawton
Halwill

GREAT WOOD WARD

The parishes of Beaford

High Bickington

Roborough

HARTLAND POINT WARD

The parishes of Hartland

Welcombe

HEANTON WARD

The parishes of Buckland Filleigh

Langtree

Little Torrington

Peters Marland

Petrockstow

HOLSWORTHY WARD

The parishes of Hollacombe

Holsworthy

Holsworthy Hamlets

KENWITH WARD

The parishes of Abbotsham

Alwington

Landcross

Littleham

Monkleigh

MELBURY WARD

The parishes of Buckland Brewer

Frithelstock

Parkham

MORICE WARD

The parishes of Bradworthy

Bulkworthy

East Putford

Sutcombe

West Putford

NORTHAM CENTRAL WARD

The Central Ward of the parish of Northam.

NORTHAM NORTH WARD

The North Ward of the parish of Northam.

NORTHAM WEST WARD

The Northam West ward of the parish of Northam

ORCHARD HILL WARD

The Orchard Hill Ward of the parish of Northam.

KOLLE WARD

The parishes of Alverdiscott

Huntshaw

St Giles in the Wood

Weare Giffard

Yarnscombe

STAFFORD WARD

The parishes of Dolton

Dowland

Huish

Merton

TAMARSIDE WARD

The parishes of Bridgerule

Pancrasweek

Pyworthy

TORRINGTON WARD

The parish of Great Torrington

WALDON WARD

The parishes of Abbots Bickington

Bradford

Cookbury

Milton Damarel

Newton St Petrock

Thornbury

WESTWARD HO! WARD

The Westward Ho! Ward of the parish of Northam.

WINKLEIGH WARD

The parishes of Ashreigney

Winkleigh

