

**Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No.524**

Principal Area Boundary Review

CITY of BIRMINGHAM and
the METROPOLITAN BOROUGH
of SOLIHULL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 524

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION

1. In a letter dated 31 December 1979, Birmingham City Council requested us to undertake a review of their boundary with Solihull Metropolitan Borough in the vicinity of Kingsleigh Drive, Castle Bromwich. The request resulted from a petition to the City Council from residents of the Birmingham part of Kingsleigh Drive requesting the Council to apply to us to move the Birmingham boundary to the A452, thereby bringing the whole of Kingsleigh Drive into Solihull.
2. We ascertained that the West Midlands County Council supported Birmingham City Council's request for a review in this area. Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council fully supported the review and felt that the boundary should be moved to the M6 Motorway, the north-bound exit road at Junction 5 and the Newport Road, which they considered was the most obvious boundary between the two districts.
3. We examined the City Council's request in the light of section 48(5) of the Local Government Act 1972. We concluded that although all three councils had agreed upon the need for a review it was desirable to have an agreed scheme from the two district authorities, if possible. We decided, therefore, to inform Birmingham City Council that we were prepared in principle to conduct a review but before announcing this publicly we would like the two authorities to put forward an agreed boundary change, so that we could then proceed directly to the issue of draft proposals at the same time as we announced the start of the review.
4. We wrote to this effect to Birmingham City Council on 30 April 1981. Copies of the letter were sent to the West Midlands County Council and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council.

DRAFT PROPOSALS

5. After lengthy consultations between the three local authorities and the West Midlands Police broad agreement was reached on three boundary realignments in July 1983. We considered the agreed scheme and decided to carry out the review and, at the same time, to issue draft proposals based on the realignments suggested by the two Councils. These entailed:

- (a) the transfer of some 35 properties in Kingsleigh Drive, Castle Bromwich from Birmingham to Solihull with the whole of the slip road to the M6 Motorway lying in the Metropolitan Borough of Solihull, in order to bring it within the police division which covered the rest of the slip road;
- (b) the transfer of six properties in 'the Glade' from the Borough of Solihull to the City of Birmingham;
- (c) the transfer of properties in the Tile Cross Road area from the City of Birmingham to the Borough of Solihull using the Solihull side of the road as the boundary and incorporating an adjustment suggested by Ordnance Survey to the southern end of the agreed boundary.

6. Our draft proposals for changes to the boundary between the City of Birmingham and the Metropolitan Borough of Solihull were announced on 1 February 1984 in a letter addressed jointly to the two Councils. Copies of the letter were sent to the West Midlands County Council, the parish councils concerned, the Members of Parliament for the constituencies concerned, the headquarters of the main political parties, the Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Parish Councils, the West Midlands Regional Health Authority, the Severn-Trent Water Authority, the West Midlands Regional Office of your Department, local newspapers circulating in the area, local radio and television stations serving the area and the local government press. The two district councils were asked to publish a notice giving details of the draft proposals and to place copies of it on

display at places where public notices are customarily displayed. They were also asked to place copies of the draft proposals on deposit for inspection at their main offices for a period of six weeks. Comments were invited by 28 March 1984.

RESPONSE TO OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS

7. In response to our draft proposals we received letters from eight sources. The West Midlands County Council, Birmingham City Council and Fordbridge Parish Council all supported our proposals. The Severn-Trent Water Authority wrote to point out the necessity for transfer of administrative control in respect of sewage facilities between the two authorities, in the event of the draft proposals being confirmed as final proposals. A private individual wrote to enquire about the likely timescale of the review. We also received two petitions - one sent direct and one via Mr Terry Davis MP - from sixty-five residents of Cross Key Close, Barnes Close, Bosworth Drive and Tile Cross Road, protesting at the proposal to transfer their homes from the City of Birmingham to the Metropolitan Borough of Solihull.

8. As required by section 60(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, we re-assessed our draft proposals in the light of the representations made to us. We noted that the main objection of the 65 residents in the Tile Cross Road area who had signed the petition, was that the changes had been proposed without their having been consulted by either of the two District Councils, so that they were unaware of the advantages or disadvantages which might result. We also realised that these objectors represented only about 20% of the total electorate of the area, and that nothing had been heard from anyone who might support the changes. We therefore decided that, while we were convinced of the merits of our draft proposals, a letter should be sent to both Councils, asking them to ascertain the views of the residents in the affected areas.

FURTHER CONSULTATIONS

9. We accordingly wrote to both Councils on 13 February 1985, asking that they jointly arrange to inform the residents of the properties affected by the proposed changes of the detailed reasons that had led the authorities to make the request to us for the transfer of the land, and to report back to us any comments the residents would then wish to make. We were content to leave the two Councils to determine the means by which this consultation should be carried out. We asked the Councils to let us have their responses within eight weeks.

RESPONSE TO FURTHER CONSULTATIONS.

10. Birmingham City Council replied to our letter on 4 April 1985 and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council on 8 May 1985. Both Councils had decided to invite all the residents to attend a meeting of the Hodge Hill Area Sub-Committee, so that they could be informed of the details of the proposals and air their views. At the meeting, which was held on 11 March 1985, various objections were raised by the residents, the main reasons being:-

- a. educational facilities, services and other amenities were of a higher standard in Birmingham than Solihull;
- b. if the boundary was changed, the residents would have to pay increased rates;
- c. a clear sense of separation from Chelmsley Wood, Solihull.

11. After further discussions, Birmingham City Council, in the light of the views expressed by the Hodge Hill Area Sub-Committee and the objections made by the residents, decided that they no longer wished to support our draft proposals insofar as they related to the Tile Cross Road area and the Kingsleigh Drive area. However, they continued to support the remainder of our draft proposals. Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council agreed with Birmingham City Council in no longer supporting our draft proposals for the Tile Cross Road area, which they wanted to be withdrawn, but they did not agree with the City Council over the Kingsleigh

Drive area. They continued to support our draft proposals here and in the other areas.

12. Although we had not asked for further representations to be submitted, eight residents of the Tile Cross Road area wrote objecting to our draft proposals for that area. Their objections were similar to those expressed at the Hodge Hill Area Sub-Committee meeting.

13. We re-assessed our draft proposals in the light of the responses to our further consultations. We noted the unusual withdrawal of support for changes in the Tile Cross Road area, but we still considered the present situation there to be unsatisfactory as the boundary passed through a number of properties. We therefore decided to request the Ordnance Survey to look at the boundary and suggest an alternative line which would remove these anomalies, without any major change. The two Councils would then be asked for their views on it.

14. As far as our draft proposals in the Kingsleigh Drive area were concerned, we considered that, in the absence of any reasoned opposition from Birmingham City Council, the lack of opposition from residents and the continued support from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, we should confirm our draft proposals for this area and in the other undisputed areas as our final proposals. We also decided to postpone publication of these final proposals, until the alignment of the boundary in the Tile Cross Road area had been determined.

15. Ordnance Survey suggested two alternative boundaries in the Tile Cross Road area. In a letter dated 22 October 1985, both Councils were asked to consider these alternatives, or combinations of them, and respond within the next eight weeks. Both Councils preferred the same alternative boundary. However, both pointed out that this alignment would result in the front garden of one property being within Solihull whilst the remainder of the property would be within Birmingham. Both Councils also stated that they would support the slight

amendment necessary so as to place the whole property within Birmingham. We considered that this was the best way forward and decided to publish the chosen alternative alignment as a further draft proposal, incorporating an amendment providing for the inclusion of the divided property in Birmingham.

16. We also noted from Birmingham City Council's reply that the City Council were negotiating for the purchase of an area of land at Castle Bromwich Hall gardens and adjoining green land. We did not consider however that that should affect our judgement. We concluded therefore that, since the situation had essentially not altered since we had last considered the review, we should abide by our earlier decision to confirm this draft proposal as our final proposal.

OUR FURTHER DRAFT PROPOSAL

17. Our further draft proposal was published on 17 June 1986 in a letter addressed jointly to Birmingham City Council and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council. Copies of the letter were sent to the parish councils concerned, the Members of Parliament for the constituencies concerned, the headquarters of the main political parties, the Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Parish Councils, the West Midlands Regional Health Authority, the Severn-Trent Water Authority, the West Midlands Regional Office of your Department, local newspapers circulating in the area, local radio and television stations serving the area and the local government press. The two district councils were asked to publish a notice giving details of the further draft proposal and to place copies of it on display at places where public notices are customarily displayed. They were also asked to place a copy of the further draft proposal on deposit for inspection at their main offices for a period of eight weeks. Comments were invited by 12 August 1986.

RESPONSE TO OUR FURTHER DRAFT PROPOSAL

18. In response to our further draft proposal we received representations from Birmingham City Council, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and Fordbridge Parish

Council. Birmingham City Council and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council supported our further draft proposal. Fordbridge Parish Council expressed their disappointment at the withdrawal of the original proposal, and were of the firm opinion that it should be implemented as soon as possible.

OUR FINAL PROPOSALS

19. We have re-assessed our further draft proposal in the light of the representations made to us. We noted that Fordbridge Parish Council had made some valid points in their representation, particularly that our alternative realignment would not create a readily identifiable boundary. Nevertheless, we recalled that we had decided not to pursue our original draft proposal for this area because both Birmingham City Council and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council had withdrawn their support for it, and there had been substantial opposition to it from residents. As our further draft proposal has the support of the two principal authorities, we are now satisfied that it would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government for the boundary between Birmingham and Solihull to be realigned as indicated in our draft proposals. We therefore confirm our draft proposals as our final proposals.

20. Our proposals will involve the transfer of 101 electors from Birmingham to Solihull and 18 electors from Solihull to Birmingham, which will have a minimal effect on the electoral arrangements for both districts and the county.

21. Details of our final proposals are set out in Schedules 1, 2 and 3 of this report. Schedule 1 specifies the proposed changes in local authority areas and Schedules 2 and 3 specify the consequential adjustments to the existing electoral arrangements. The proposed boundaries are shown on large scale maps which are being sent separately to your Department.

PUBLICATION

22. Separate letters are being sent with copies of the report to Birmingham City Council and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council asking them to place copies of this report on deposit at their main offices, and to put notices to this effect on public notice boards and in the local press. The text of the notice will explain that the Commission have fulfilled their statutory role in the matter, and that it now falls to you to make an Order implementing the proposals, if you think fit, after the expiry of six weeks from the date they are submitted to you. Copies of this report, which includes small scale maps, are also being sent to those who received the consultation letter and to those who made comments.

LS

Signed: G J ELLERTON (Chairman)

J G POWELL (Deputy Chairman)

JOAN ACKNER

G E CHERRY

K J L NEWELL

G R PRENTICE

BRIAN SHOLES

S T GARRISH

Secretary

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM/BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL : PRINCIPAL AREA REVIEW

FINAL PROPOSALS

NOTE: Where a boundary is described as following a road, railway, river, canal or similar feature, it should be deemed to follow the centre of that feature unless otherwise stated.

SCHEDULE 1

Area A: description of area of land proposed to be transferred from Castle Bromwich CP in the Borough at Solihull to the City of Birmingham.

That area bounded by a line commencing at the point where the existing City boundary meets the County boundary in Water Orton Lane, thence generally southwards along said County boundary to the M6 motorway, thence generally westwards along said motorway to the existing City boundary, thence generally northwards, northeastwards and eastwards along said City boundary to the point of commencement.

Area B: description of area of land proposed to be transferred from the City of Birmingham to Castle Bromwich CP in the Borough of Solihull.

That area bounded by a line commencing at the point where the existing City boundary meets the northwestern curtilage of No 330 Coleshill Road thence due northwest to a point on the northern boundary of Newport Road, thence generally westwards, northwestwards, northwards and eastwards along the northern, eastern and southern boundaries of said road to a point due south of National Grid reference 1405889930 as shown on OS 1:1250 Microfilm (C) SP 1489 NW Date of Publication Feb 1979 thence due north to said National

Grid reference, thence northwards and northwestwards along the eastern side of Newport Road to the eastern side of the western slip road to the M6 motorway, thence northeastwards along the eastern and southern side of said slip road to the M6 motorway, thence eastwards along said motorway to the existing City boundary, thence generally southwards, southwestwards and southeastwards along said City boundary to the point of commencement.

Area C: description of area of land proposed to be transferred from the
Borough of Solihull to the City of Birmingham.

That area bounded by a line commencing at the point where the existing City boundary meets the rear curtilage of No 21 The Glade, thence generally eastwards and southeastwards along said City boundary to the rear curtilage of No 16 The Glade at National Grid reference 1569183681 as shown on OS 1:1250 Microfilm (C) SP 1583 NE date of Publication June 1977 thence westwards along said rear curtilage and westwards and northwards along rear curtilages of Nos 18 to 22 and No 29 to 21 The Glade to the point of commencement.

Area D: description of area of land proposed to be transferred from the
Borough of Solihull to the City of Birmingham.

That area bounded by a line commencing on the existing City boundary at National Grid reference 1569983684 as shown on OS 1:1250 Microfilm (C) SP 1583 NE date of Publication June 1977 being a point on the rear curtilage of No 16 The Glade, thence generally northeastwards, southwestwards and southeastwards to the most southerly point of No 2435 Coventry Road, thence southeastwards in a straight line to the rear curtilage of No 16 The Glade, thence westwards along said curtilage to the point of commencement.

Area E: description of area of land proposed to be transferred from the City of Birmingham to the Borough of Solihull.

That area bounded by a line commencing at a point on the existing City boundary at the easternmost point of Area C as described, thence eastwards along the rear curtilage of No 16 The Glade to the westernmost point of Area D, as described being a point on the existing City Boundary, thence westwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

Description of proposed boundary realignment between the City of Birmingham and Fordbridge CP in the Borough of Solihull.

Commencing at the point where the existing City boundary meets the junction between the southern and rear curtilages of 16 Crosskey Close; then northwards along the rear curtilage of that property and the rear curtilages of 14 and 12 Crosskey Close, continuing northwards and northwestwards along the eastern curtilage of 15 Barnes Close to its northernmost point; then northeastwards along the northern perimeter of the Recreation Ground to a point in prolongation of the eastern curtilage of 24 Bosworth Drive; then northwestwards along that prolongation and the eastern curtilage of that property to its northern curtilage; then northwards in a straight line to the western curtilage of 49 Bosworth Drive; then northwards along that western curtilage, continuing northwards and northwestwards along the rear curtilages of 217 to 235 Tile Cross Road, to the southern perimeter of the Nursery; then eastwards and generally northwestwards along the southern and eastern perimeters of that Nursery and continuing northwestwards along the western curtilage of 12 Lambourne Grove, to its northern curtilage; then eastwards along that northern curtilage and the northern curtilages of 10 to 6 Lambourne Grove, to a point opposite the eastern curtilage of 22 Oak Croft; then northwards

to and along that eastern curtilage to the northern curtilage of that property; then westwards along that northern curtilage and the northern curtilages of 20 and 18 Oak Croft, to the western curtilage of the last mentioned property; then northwards to and along the eastern curtilage of 8 Oak Croft and generally northwards along the eastern curtilages of 6 to 2 Oak Croft, to a point opposite the path running northwards between 1 and 35 Oak Croft; then northwards to and continuing northwards and northwestwards along that path to a point opposite the western curtilage of 19 Oak Croft; then northwards to and along that western curtilage and continuing northwards in a straight line to the southern curtilage of 1 to 7 Loyns Close; then westwards, northwestwards and northwards along the southern and western curtilages of the last mentioned property and continuing northwards, and northeastwards along the western curtilage of 22 to 28 Craneberry Road; then crossing the path, leading from Craneberry Road to Lowerstack Croft and Loyns Close, and following the eastern perimeter of Craneberry Road to rejoin the existing City boundary.

SCHEDULE 2

Revised City/Borough electoral arrangements, consequent upon the proposals described in Schedule 1.

It is proposed that the City/Borough Wards, as defined in the City of Birmingham (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1980 and the Borough of Solihull (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1978, shall be altered as described below.

Area A, as described in Schedule 1 shall be transferred from the Castle Bromwich Ward of the Borough of Solihull to the Sutton New Hall Ward of the City of Birmingham.

Area B, as described in Schedule 1, shall be transferred from the Hodge Hill Ward of the City of Birmingham to the Castle Bromwich Ward of the Borough of Solihull.

Area C, as described in Schedule 1 shall be transferred from the Elmdon Ward of the Borough of Solihull to the Sheldon Ward of the City of Birmingham.

Area D, as described in Schedule 1, shall be transferred from the Elmdon Ward of the Borough of Solihull to the Sheldon Ward of the City of Birmingham.

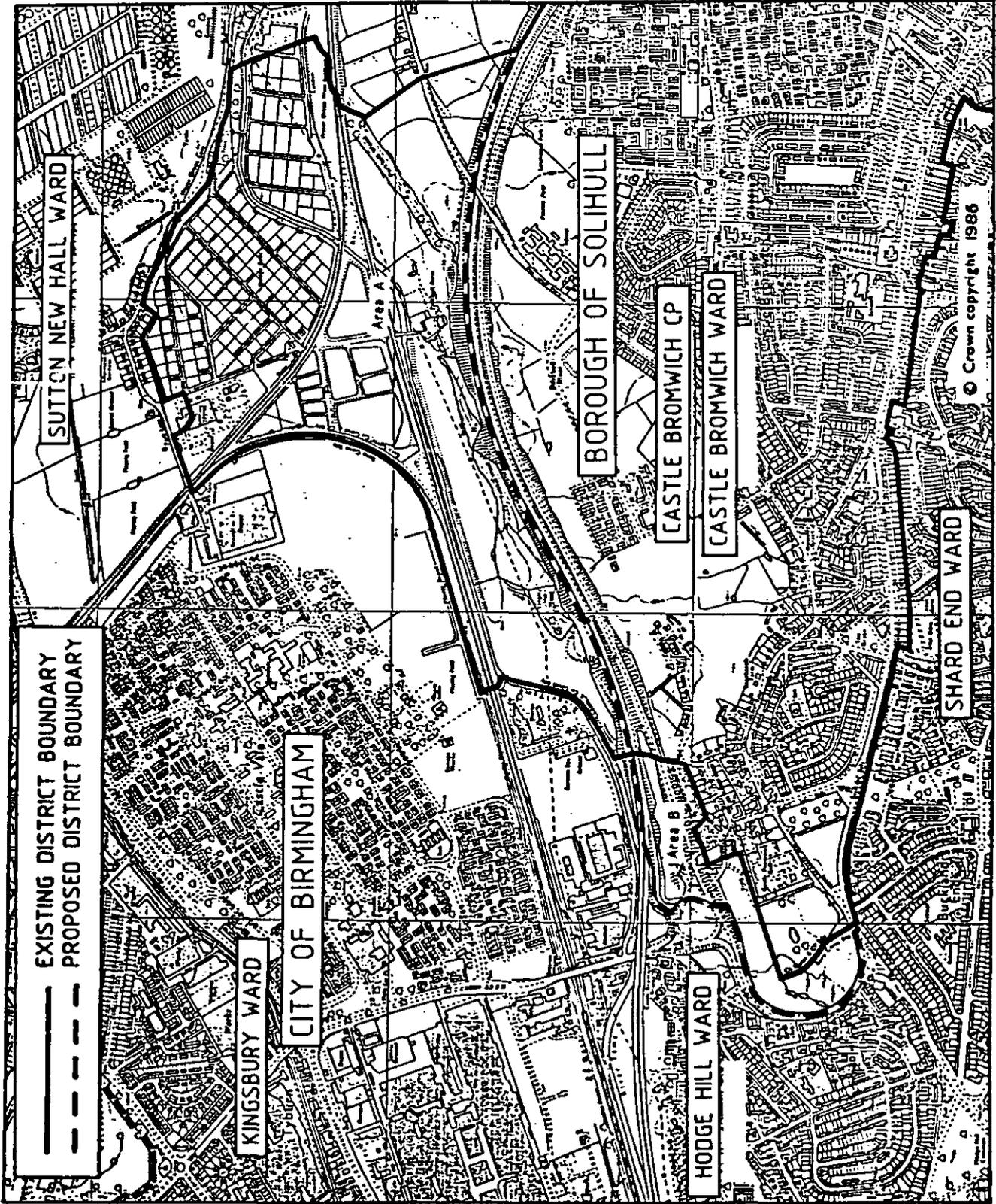
Area E, as described in Schedule 1, shall be transferred from the Sheldon Ward of the City of Birmingham to the Elmdon Ward of the Borough of Solihull.

The boundary between the Shard End Ward in the City of Birmingham and the Fordbridge Ward in the Borough of Solihull shall be realigned as described in Schedule 1.



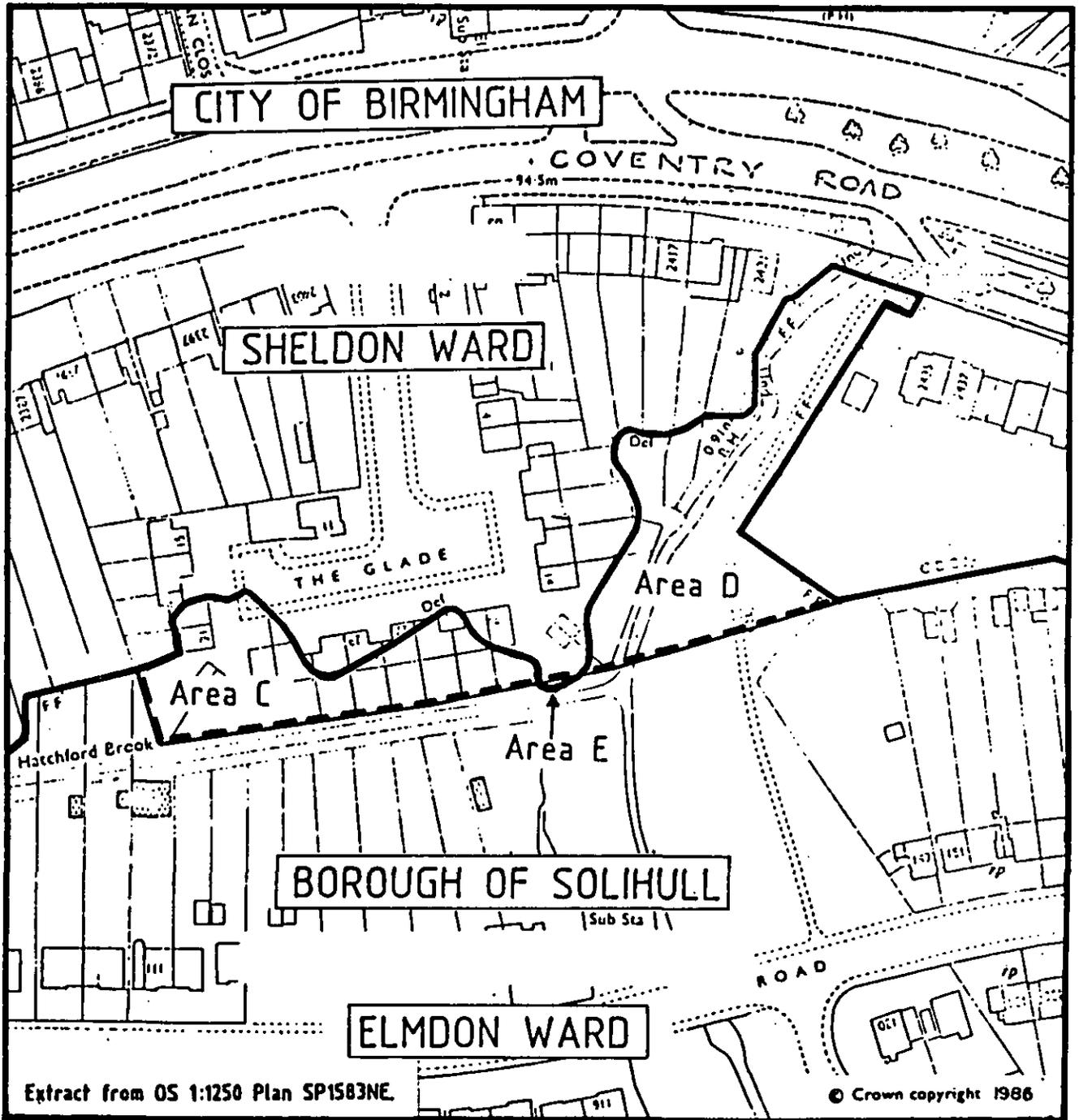
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————— EXISTING DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- - - - - PROPOSED DISTRICT BOUNDARY

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- - - - - PROPOSED DISTRICT BOUNDARY

