

**Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
For England  
Report No. 130**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 130

To the Rt Hon Roy Jenkins, MP  
Secretary of State for the Home Department

PROPOSALS FOR REVISED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW FOREST  
IN THE COUNTY OF HAMPSHIRE

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the district of New Forest 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 17 January 1974 that we were to undertake this review. This was incorporated in a consultation letter addressed to New Forest District Council, copies of which were circulated to Hampshire County Council, Parish Councils 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. New Forest 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 elections of all district councillors will be held simultaneously.
5. On 2 August 1974, New Forest District Council presented their draft scheme of representation. The Council proposed to divide the area of the district into 32 wards each returning 1, 2 or 3 councillors to form a Council of 60 members. However, the Council informed us that discussions were proceeding with several interested parties including a Town Council, to see whether a more satisfactory solution might be devised in certain parts of the district. We decided to await the outcome of these discussions before we considered the scheme.
6. On 1 November 1974 the District Council notified us of modifications to their proposals for the town of Totton and Eling and for the parishes of Bramshaw, Minstead, Lyndhurst and Denny Lodge. There would now be 35 wards returning a total of sixty councillors.
7. We considered the draft scheme together with the comments which we had received and the proposals which had been made to the District Council but which they had been unable to accept and incorporate in the draft scheme. We noted that, on the basis of the present electorate of the proposed wards, the scheme showed an uneven standard of representation. We had strong reservations about the District Council's forecasts of the electorate of the wards in five years time, but even if the forecasts were realistic, we noted that the standard of representation would remain very uneven. We thought there was scope for redrawing boundaries to secure a higher standard and we decided to ask the District Council to review their proposals accordingly. In writing to the District Council we drew particular attention to the proposed arrangements for Lymington and Totton and Eling where we thought substantial improvements could be achieved by better warding arrangements. We also asked the Council to consider whether it would be advantageous to exercise their powers in section 50(4)

of the Act to ward some of the rural parishes so that in drawing up wards for the district it would be possible to link population on the periphery of those parishes with adjacent areas of which they appeared to form a part. We mentioned, as an example, the parish of Denny Lodge where it seemed that the population on the eastern fringes of the parish look towards Marchwood, Dibden and other areas to the east.

8. On 25 April 1975, the District Council submitted a revised scheme in which they proposed to divide the district into 33 wards each returning 1, 2 or 3 councillors to form a council of 60 members. The Council had published details of their revised proposals a month earlier and invited comments upon them.

9. We studied the revised scheme, together with the comments which we had received and those of the proposals which had been submitted to the District Council and which they had been unable to accept and incorporate in their new proposals. The comments included representations from the Totton and Eling Town Council, a local political association and a ratepayers' association about the proposed wards in Totton and Eling. A local political party suggested that the present Buckland and Waterford wards of Lyminster should not be amalgamated as the District Council had proposed and that the Waterford ward might be strengthened by adjusting its boundary with the neighbouring Pennington ward. The Fawley Parish Council asked that the Hardley Holbury and Fawley areas of the parish should be established as separate district wards, Ringwood Town Council objected to the proposed ward comprising the Bisterne and Hangersley wards of Ringwood and the parish of Burley. They thought that the parish of Burley should be established as a district ward on its own and in this they were supported by the Burley Parish Council. We noted that Lyndhurst Parish Council had accepted the proposal to establish the parish as a single member ward although they had expressed concern about the councillor/elector ratio. We noted also that the District Council had not felt able to accept a proposal

put forward by a local political association and a neighbourhood council that the whole of Barton Court Avenue in Lymington should be included in the proposed Barton Ward.

10. We considered whether there were any changes which should be made to the revised scheme in response to the comments which had been submitted. A number of possibilities were examined but in each case we concluded that the District Council's proposals were, on balance, superior and we resolved, therefore, that no changes should be made.

11. We noted that the revised scheme offered a much better overall standard of equality of representation than the earlier proposals. In one or two instances there were wards with councillor/elector ratios which disturbed the generally even picture. We considered whether there were boundary alterations which might be made to improve the situation but we concluded, having regard to the geography of the district and the pattern of local ties, that there were no changes which could sensibly be made. However, in the case of the proposed Bransgore & Sopley and Brockenhurst & Rhinefield wards we concluded that it was unlikely that within five years the electorate would grow sufficiently to warrant representation by 2 councillors and we resolved in each case that only one councillor should be allocated.

12. We looked at the names proposed by the District Council and decided that they were acceptable, except in the case of the proposed Totton East and Calmore and Totton West & Central wards which we thought should be renamed "Totton North" and "Totton Central" respectively.

13. After consultation with Ordnance Survey, we made some minor adjustments to the alignment of the boundaries in Lymington in order to secure boundary lines which were more readily identifiable on the ground.

14. Subject to the changes referred to in paragraphs 11, 12 and 13 above, we decided that the District Council's draft scheme provided a reasonable basis 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 29 September 1975, we issued our draft proposals and these were sent to all who had received our consultation letter or had commented on either of the Council's draft schemes. The Council were asked to make these draft proposals and the accompanying maps, which defined 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 that any comments should reach us by 10 November 1975.

16. The District Council informed us that they had no objections to the changes which we had made and we received a letter from the Boldre Parish Council in support of our proposals.

17. The Woodgreen Parish Council suggested that the proposed Fordingbridge North East ward should be renamed "Forest North West". The District Council advised us that they had no objection to this change and forwarded a letter from the Fordingbridge Parish Council who said that they had agreed to the suggested change. We decided that the suggested name was more appropriate and that we should modify our draft proposals accordingly.

18. We heard also from Denny Lodge Parish Council who objected to the division of the parish among five district wards. At first they asked that the parish should have a district councillor of its own or that the whole of the parish should be included with others in a single district ward. Later, however, the Parish Council submitted proposals for the parish to be divided into two parish wards which would be grouped with the proposed Brockenhurst & Rhinefield and Forest South wards for district electoral purposes. It was suggested also that the parish of Marchwood should be included in the proposed Totton South ward

which would then return 3 members and that the parish of Exbury & Lepe should be included in the proposed Blackfield & Langley ward.

19. The Parish Council had sent copies of their representations to the District Council who reconsidered their position and informed us that they were now of the view that the whole of the parish should be included in the proposed Forest South ward. The Parish Council informed us that this would be acceptable to them. We studied the position again and noted that the parish had too few electors to warrant its establishment as a single member district ward. In our draft proposals the five proposed wards of Denny Lodge would each be grouped, for district electoral purposes, with a neighbouring area outside the parish where the electors of that proposed ward now go to vote. Thus, our proposals recognised present voting patterns which in turn lent support to our view that the population in the different parts of Denny Lodge look outwards towards different neighbouring centres. However, in view of the strong feelings which had been expressed by the parish council, and the effect which our proposals would have in parish electoral terms (some of the proposed parish wards would have rather small electorates), we resolved to accept the District Council's suggestion that the parish be included in the proposed Forest South ward.

20. Subject, therefore, to the modifications mentioned in paragraphs 17 and 19 above, we decided to confirm our draft proposals as our final proposals.

21. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedule 1 to this report & on the attached maps. Schedule 1 gives the names of the wards and the number of councillors to be returned by each. The boundaries of the new wards are defined on the maps.

PUBLICATION

22. In accordance with section 60(5)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 a copy of this report and a copy of the maps are being sent to New Forest District Council and will be made available for public inspection at the Council's main offices. Copies of this report (without maps) are being sent to those who made comments. A detailed description of the boundaries of the proposed wards as defined on the maps, is set out in Schedule 2 to this report.

L.S.

Signed

EDMUND COMPTON (CHAIRMAN)

JOHN M RANKIN (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN)

DIANA ALBEMARLE

T C BENFIELD

MICHAEL CHISHOLM

ANDREW WHEATLEY

F B YOUNG

DAVID R SMITH (Secretary)

11 December 1975

SCHEDULE 1

NEW FOREST DISTRICT - NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS AND NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO. OF COUNCILLORS</u>
BARTON	2
BASHLEY	2
BECTON	2
BLACKFIELD & LANGLEY	2
BRANSGORE & SOPLEY	1
BROCKENHURST & RHINEFIELD	1
BOLDRE	1
COLBURY	1
COPYTHORNE SOUTH	1
DOWNLANDS	1
DIBDEN & HYTHE NORTH	3
DIBDEN PURLIEU	1
FAWLEY HOLBURY	3
FORDINGBRIDGE	2
FOREST NORTH WEST	1
FOREST NORTH	1
FOREST SOUTH	1
FOREST WEST	2
HORDLE	2
HYTHE SOUTH	3
LYMINGTON TOWN	3
LYNDHURST	1
MARCHWOOD	1
MILFORD	2
MILTON	2
NETLEY MARSH	1
PENNINGTON	2
RINGWOOD NORTH	2
RINGWOOD SOUTH	2
SWAY	1
TOTTON NORTH	3
TOTTON CENTRAL	3
TOTTON SOUTH	2

DISTRICT OF NEW FOREST - DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WARDS

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

BLACKFIELD AND LANGLEY

The Blackfield and Langley ward of the parish of Fawley.

BRANSGORE AND SOPLEY

The parishes of Bransgore and Sopley.

BROCKENHURST AND RHINEFIELD

The parishes of Brockenhurst and Rhinefield.

BOLDRE

The parish of Boldre.

COLBURY

The Colbury ward of the parish of Totton and Eling.

COPYTHORNE SOUTH

The Copythorne South ward of the parish of Copythorne.

DOWNLANDS

The parishes of Martin, Damerham, Rockbourne, Whitsbury and Breamore.

DIBDEN AND HYTHE NORTH

The Dibden and Hythe North ward of the parish of Dibden.

DIBDEN PURLIEU

The Dibden Purlieu ward of the parish of Dibden.

FAWLEY HOLBURY

The Fawley and the Hardley and Holbury wards of the parish of Fawley.

FORDINGBRIDGE

The Fordingbridge ward of the parish of Fordingbridge.

FOREST NORTH WEST

The parishes of Woodgreen and Hale and the Godshill and Hyde wards of the parish of Fordingbridge.

FOREST NORTH

The parishes of Bramshaw and Minstead and the Copythorne North ward of the parish of Copythorne.

FOREST SOUTH

The parishes of Denny Lodge, East Boldre, Beaulieu and Exbury and Lepe.

FOREST WEST

The parish of Burley and the Bisterne and Hangersley wards of the parish of Ringwood.

HYTHE SOUTH

The Hythe South and Butts Ash wards of the parish of Dibden.

LYNDHURST

The parish of Lyndhurst.

MARCHWOOD

The parish of Marchwood.

NETLEY MARSH

The parish of Netley Marsh.

RINGWOOD NORTH

The parishes of Harbridge and Ibsley and Ellingham and the North ward of the parish of Ringwood.

RINGWOOD SOUTH

The South ward of the parish of Ringwood.

SWAY

The parish of Sway.

TOTTEN NORTH

The Totton North ward of the parish of Totton and Eling.

TOTTEN CENTRAL

The Totton Central ward of the parish of Totton and Eling.

TOTTEN SOUTH

The Totton South ward of the parish of Totton and Eling.

#### BARTON WARD

Commencing at a point where the western boundary of the District crosses Christchurch Road, thence southeastwards and northeastwards along said road, eastwards along Old Milton Green and southeastwards along Lymington Road to Barton Court Avenue, thence southwestwards and southeastwards along said avenue to Marine Drive East, thence southeastwards along said drive to a point opposite the path known as Fisherman's Walk, thence southeastwards to and along said walk and in prolongation thereof to the low water mark, (being the southern boundary of the District) thence northwestwards along said district boundary to the western boundary of the district, thence northwestwards and northeastwards along said district boundary to the point of commencement.

#### MILTON WARD

Commencing at a point where the northern boundary of Barton Ward meets the western boundary of the District, thence northeastwards along said district boundary to the railway, thence northeastwards along said railway to the unnamed stream which runs between Nos 47 and 49 Oak Road, thence southeastwards and following said stream to the eastern boundary of parcel no 1678 on Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plan SZ 2594 Edition of 1959, thence southwestwards along said boundary to the northern boundary of Parcel No 2868, thence southeastwards along said boundary and southwestwards along the southeastern boundaries of said parcel and Parcel No 0065 to the southern boundary of Parcel No 1050, thence southwestwards and northwestwards along said boundary to the eastern boundary of Parcel No 0049, thence southwestwards along said boundary and generally westwards along the southern boundary of said parcel and the drain to the eastern boundary of No 11 Newlands Road, thence northwestwards along said boundary to Newlands Road, thence westwards along said road to Station Road, thence northwestwards along said road to Barton Court Road, thence southwestwards along said road to the northern boundary of Barton Ward, thence northwestwards, southwestwards and northwestwards along said northern boundary to the point of commencement.

#### BASHLEY WARD

Commencing at a point where the northern boundary of Milton Ward meets the eastern boundary of Bransgore CP thence northeastwards and following said CP boundary and southeastwards along the southern boundary of Rhinefield CP to the eastern boundary of parcel No 2934 on OS 1:2500 plan SZ 24-2598 Edition 1961, thence southeastwards along said parcel, southwards along the eastern boundary of parcel No 3119, to Danes Stream, thence southeastwards and following said stream to the railway, thence southwestwards along said railway and northern boundary of Milton Ward to the point of commencement.

#### BECTON WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of Milton Ward meets the southern boundary of Bashley Ward, thence northeastwards along said southern boundary to Danes Stream, thence southeastwards along said stream to the A337 (Lymington-Christchurch road), thence southeastwards along said road to a point opposite the western boundary of parcel No 8945 on OS 1:2500 plan SZ 26-2793 Edition 1970, thence southeastwards to and along said parcel and the western boundaries of parcel Nos 8941 and 9134 to Downton Lane, thence southeastwards and southwestwards along said lane to Danes Stream, thence southwestwards along said stream to the unnamed stream flowing southwestwards to the northwest of Sandpit Copse, thence southwestwards along said unnamed stream to the northern boundary of parcel No 2947, thence southeastwards and southwestwards along the northern and eastern boundary of said parcel and in prolongation thereof to the low water mark (being the southern boundary of the District) thence northwestwards along said district boundary to the eastern boundary of Barton Ward, thence northeastwards along said eastern boundary and northeastwards and following the eastern boundary of Milton Ward to the point of commencement.

#### HORDLE WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of Bashley Ward meets the southern boundary of Rhinefield CP, thence eastwards along said CP boundary and southeastwards and northeastwards along the western and southern boundaries of Sway CP to the Avon Water, thence southeastwards and following said water to a point opposite the pond that is situated at the northernmost end of the stream that forms the eastern boundary of Great Newbridge Copse, thence westwards to said pond and southwestwards and following said stream to the northwestern boundary of parcel No 5369 on OS 1:2500 plan SZ 28-2993 Edition 1970, thence southwestwards along said northwestern boundary and westwards along the northern boundaries of parcel Nos 3967 and 2965 to the eastern boundary of the property known as Badgers Wood, thence northwards along said eastern boundary and westwards and southwestwards along the northern boundary of said property to Lymore Lane, thence northwestwards along said lane, Lymington Road and Wainsford Road to the A337 (Christchurch-Lymington Road) thence westwards and southwestwards along said road to the eastern boundary of Becton Ward, thence northwestwards along said eastern boundary to the point of commencement.

#### MILFORD WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of Becton Ward meets the southern boundary of Hordle Ward, thence northeastwards and southeastwards along said southern boundary to the Avon Water, thence southeastwards along said water to a point opposite the northern boundary of parcel No 0005 on OS 1:2500 plan SZ 30-3192 Edition 1970, thence eastwards to and along said northern boundary to the northeastern corner of said parcel, thence southwards in a straight line from said point to the northernmost point of parcel No 1700, thence southeastwards along the northeastern boundary of said parcel and the northern boundary of parcel No 2400 and southeastwards and southwestwards along the eastern boundary of parcel No 2400 and 2400 on OS 1:2500 plan SZ 30-3191

Edition 1970 to grid reference SZ 3137591784, thence southeastwards in a straight line from said grid reference through grid reference SZ 3152591634 to the low water mark, being the southern boundary of the District, thence southwestwards and northwestwards along said district boundary to the eastern boundary of Becton Ward, thence northeastwards and following said ward boundary to the point of commencement.

#### PENNINGTON WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of Hordle Ward meets the southern boundary of Sway CP, thence northeastwards along said CP boundary to the eastern boundary of parcel number 2379 on OS Plan 1:2500 SZ 30/3196 Edition 1965, thence southeastwards along said eastern boundary and crossing the Sway Road to the northeastern boundary of parcel number 2964, thence southeastwards to and along said eastern boundary and the eastern boundary of parcel No 4044 to the unnamed stream on the southern boundary of parcel No 4044, thence southeastwards and following said stream to Milford Road, thence southwestwards along said road and southwards along Pennington Cross and Lower Pennington Lane to a point opposite the northern boundary of the property known as Ridgcroft, thence eastwards to and along said northern boundary and southeastwards along the eastern boundary of said property and the western boundaries of Longford Nurseries and the property known as Longford to the western boundary of parcel No 8419 on OS 1:2500 plan SZ 30-3194 Edition 1971, thence southeastwards along said western boundary, the western boundaries of parcel Nos 9100 and 9100, 0087, 0062 and 0044 on OS 1:2500 plan SZ 30-3193 Edition 1964, and the western boundaries of parcel Nos 0044, and 1736 on OS 1:2500 plan SZ 32-3393 Edition 1965 to the southern boundary of parcel No 1626, thence southeastwards along said southern boundary crossing the track and continuing eastwards and northwards along the southern and eastern boundaries of parcel No 2124 to the northern boundary of parcel No 3500, thence

eastwards along said northern boundary and the northern boundary of parcel number 4700 to the eastern boundary of 4700, thence southwestwards along said eastern boundary and southeastwards along the northeastern boundaries of parcel No 6200 and 6200 and 6688 on OS 1:2500 plan SZ 32-3392 Edition 1970 to grid reference SZ 3275592964 thence southeastwards from said reference through grid reference SZ 3286892859 in a straight line to the low water mark, being the southern boundary of the district, thence southwestwards along said district boundary to the eastern boundary of Milford Ward, thence northwestwards along said ward boundary and the eastern boundary of Hordle Ward to the point of commencement.

#### LYMINGTON TOWN WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of Pennington Ward meets the southern boundary of Sway CP, thence northeastwards along said CP boundary and southeastwards along the western boundary of Boldre CP to the low water mark being the southern boundary of the District, thence southwestwards along said district boundary to the eastern boundary of Pennington Ward, thence northwestwards and following said ward boundary to the point of commencement.