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**Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
For England  
Report No. 215**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 215.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND**

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**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 DL**

**Sir Andrew Wheatley CBE**

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

PROPOSALS FOR REVISED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE  
CITY OF OXFORD IN THE COUNTY OF OXFORDSHIRE

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the City of Oxford 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 city.
2. In accordance with the procedure laid down in section 60(1) and (2) of the 1972 Act, notice was given on 25 April 1975 that we were to undertake this review. This was incorporated in a consultation letter addressed to the Oxford City Council, copies of which were circulated to Oxfordshire County Council, the Member of Parliament for the constituency concerned and the headquarters of the main political parties. Copies were also sent to the editors of 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. Oxford City 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. In accordance with section 7(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the

Council have exercised an option for a system of elections by thirds.

5. On 28 October 1975 Oxford City Council presented their draft scheme of representation. The City Council proposed to divide the area into 15 wards each returning 3 members to form a council of 45, the same as at present.

6. We considered the draft scheme together with the comments which we had received and those which had been transmitted to us by the City Council.

7. Among the letters received were submissions from 2 local political associations and a local political party which took the form of alternative schemes. The alternative schemes from one of the local political associations and the political party were based on 15 three-member wards to produce a council of 45 members while the other local political association's alternative scheme was based on 13 three-member wards and 2 four-member wards to make a council of 47 members. Letters were received from members of the public supporting the various alternative schemes while other letters were received objecting to some of the proposed wards in the City Council's draft scheme. One member of the public suggested that the existing warding arrangements should be retained.

8. A further alternative scheme based on 15 three-member wards was submitted on behalf of a number of members of the University. Marston Parish Council wrote to object to the name of the proposed Marston ward on the grounds that it would cause confusion with the parish of Marston.

9. We considered the draft scheme together with the alternative schemes and all the comments which had been submitted. We concluded that the proposals embodied in the alternative scheme submitted by the members of the University were superior to the draft scheme submitted by the City Council and the other alternative schemes because it provided better equality of representation and, accordingly, we decided to adopt that scheme as the basis of our draft proposals.

10. In consultation with Ordnance Survey, we made a number of minor adjustments to the alignment of some of the boundaries in order to secure boundary lines which were more readily identifiable on the ground. We then formulated our draft proposals accordingly.

11. 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 City Council's draft scheme. The City Council were asked to make these draft proposals and the accompanying map, 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 18 June 1976.

12. Oxford City Council informed us that they accepted our draft proposals, as did the Oxfordshire County Council, although the latter Council pointed out that there was some disparity between the elector/councillor ratios. Members of the University wrote in support of our draft proposals.

13. The local political party which had written to us previously objected to our draft proposals and urged that the City Council's draft scheme should be adopted while one of the local political associations, which had previously written to us, made some observations on our proposed Central ward and the alignment of boundaries in the draft proposals. Marston Parish Council reaffirmed their objection to the name of Marston proposed for one of the wards.

14. 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 J Whatley was appointed as an Assistant Commissioner to hold a local meeting and to report to us.

15. The Assistant Commissioner held a meeting at the Council Chamber, Oxford, on 21 October 1976. A copy (without enclosures) of his report to us of the meeting is attached at Schedule 1 to this report.

16. The Assistant Commissioner recommended that our draft proposals should be adopted subject to modifications which he specified in his report. Three of these modifications related to adjustments designed to secure better ward boundaries. The other recommendation related to a major boundary alteration in the St Ebbe's area transferring electorate from the proposed Central ward to the proposed South ward and so improving the standard of equality of representation between the two wards.

17. We reviewed our draft proposals in the light of the comments which we had received and of the Assistant Commissioner's report. We concluded that the alterations recommended by the Assistant Commissioner should be adopted and, subject to those amendments, we decided that our draft proposals should be confirmed as our final proposals.

18. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedule 2 to this report and on the attached map. Schedule 2 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 map.

#### PUBLICATION

19. 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 Oxford City Council and will be available for public inspection at the City 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. A detailed description

of the boundaries of the proposed wards, as defined on the map, is set out in  
Schedule 3 to this report.

L.S.

Signed:

EDMUND COMPTON (CHAIRMAN)

JOHN M RANKIN (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN)

PHYLLIS BOWDEN

J T BROCKBANK

MICHAEL CHISHOLM

R R THORNTON

ANDREW WHEATLEY

N DIGNEY (Secretary)

17 March 1977

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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REPORT ON ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

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CITY OF OXFORD

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J. Whatley

November, 1976

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TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

REPORT of a local meeting held at The Council Chamber, St. Aldates, Oxford at 10.30 a.m. on Monday, 21st October, 1976 to consider the Commission's draft proposals concerning the electoral arrangements for the City of Oxford

PRESENT:

Name	Organisation Represented
A. P. M. Nixson	Oxford City Council
F. A. Garside	Oxford City Councillor
Mrs. M. N. E. Tiffany	Oxford City Councillor
D. E. Phillips	Cherwell & Wolvercote Wards
Mary Miller	Unattached
D. J. Roaf	Oxford City Liberal Association
N. Buttler )	Oxfordshire County Council
J. E. Clarke )	
J. W. Parker	Oxford City Labour Party & Oxford & Swindon Co-operative Party
H. Brooks	Oxford City Labour Party (Donnington Ward)
L. Cook	Oxford City Labour Party (Donnington Ward)
A. Williamson	Oxford City Councillor
L. M. Garner	Marston Parish Clerk
Norman C. Jones	Marston Parish Councillor
S. Hayward	City Architect and Planning Officer's Department
A. D. Clark	City Secretary and Solicitor's Department

COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS

The Commission's draft proposals were issued on 13th April, 1976 and are as follows:-

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS</u>
Blackbird Leys	3
Central	3
Cherwell	3
East	3
Headington	3
Iffley	3
Marston	3
North	3
Quarry	3
St. Clements	3
South	3
Temple Cowley	3
West	3
Wolvercote	3
Wood Farm	3

A description of the boundaries of the wards proposed by the Commission is attached as Annex A.

OBJECTIONS TO THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS

Oxford City Labour Party

The City Labour Party objected to the draft proposals and suggested that the City Council's original draft scheme be adopted instead.

Oxford City Liberal Association

The Liberal Association raised the following objections:-

- (a) Ward boundaries in some instances should follow the backs of houses rather than the middle of roads.
- (b) The proposed Central Ward is too large; the boundary between Central and St. Clement's Ward should run along the centre of the River Cherwell.
- (c) There should be a better balance, in terms of electorate, between the proposed East and St. Clement's Wards.

Marston Parish Council

The Parish Council objected to the naming of Marston Ward.

Prior to the meeting, support for the Commission's proposals had been received from Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council and a group of senior members of the University.

PROPOSALS ADVANCED AT THE MEETING

In opening the meeting, I had invited those present to address me on any aspect of the draft proposals to which they wished to draw my attention. I stated, however, that having read the papers it seemed to me that there were some matters to which the meeting should direct particular attention. These were, first, the boundaries between the proposed Central, St. Clements and East Wards and also the proposed Central and South Wards. We should look at these to see whether any improvements might be effected. I also invited comments on a suggestion that ward boundaries should follow the line of garden fences at the backs of houses and expressions of opinion on the name of the proposed Marston Ward. Finally, I said I would welcome comments on a suggestion that the City Council's draft scheme should be preferred to the Commission's proposals.

MR. NIXSON appearing for the City Council, began his statement by outlining the sequence of events in connection with the electoral arrangements, starting with the review in 1969 which abolished the previous arrangement of 7 wards each returning 6 members and created 15 wards, each returning 3 members.

He observed that a major factor since 1969 which had led to imbalance in the electorate of the existing wards had been the Court of Appeal's decision that students are eligible for registration at their university address, whether in college, in a hall of residence, or in lodgings. As a result the electorate of North Ward was now 9,975 against an average of 5,403.

He stated that the City Council had opted for a system of election by thirds. The Oxfordshire County Council were of the opinion that the City's representation on the County Council should remain at 15 out of a total of 70 members. This meant that there would be a convenience to the electorate if the number of wards remains at 15, each ward returning 3 members.

If this limitation were accepted, Mr. Nixon drew my attention to a number of problems which would arise. They are :-

1. The geographical division of the City by the north/south line of the Rivers Cherwell and Thames, most of which is a proposed green belt of land liable to flooding.
2. The proportions of the electorate east and west of this line are such that unless at least one ward straddles the river line, the average number of electors per councillor in the five wards west of the line must be higher than on the opposite side.

Before the City Council submitted its draft scheme of representation in 1975, it considered several alternative methods of overcoming these difficulties.

It ruled out the possibility of increasing the number of wards to 16 on account of the decision of the Oxfordshire County Council referred to above. It considered a scheme involving a ward straddling the river at Magdalen Bridge and stretching from the Redcliffe Infirmary to the top of Headington Hill, and another involving a ward straddling the Thames at Donnington Bridge and adding part of South Ward to Donnington Ward. It ruled out both these alternatives on the grounds that they each ignored local ties and loyalties.

The City Council then considered four alternative schemes, all of which were designed:

- (a) to make as little change as possible to the existing boundaries;
- (b) to retain the present 5 wards to the west and 10 wards to the east of Magdalen Bridge; and
- (c) to retain the natural boundary formed by the north/south river line.

The scheme finally submitted by the City Council to the Commission contained the following noteworthy features:

- (1) 2 new wards, named Barton-Quarry and Headington respectively were created, mainly out of the existing Headington and Quarry Wards.
- (2) The boundaries of Blackbird Leys Ward remained unaltered, as indeed they do under the Commission's own proposals.

- (3) Changes were proposed to the boundaries of 13 of the present 15 wards.
- (4) The extremes of variation in 1976 electorates of the Council's proposed wards were 4,465 (Wood Farm) to 6,346 (West). The projection to 1980 showed variations from 5,015 (Iffley) to 5,991 (Cherwell), with Blackbird Leys at 7,240 remaining a special case.
- (5) The average electorate (existing and projected) of the five wards west of Magdalen Bridge and the north/south river line was greater than the 10 wards to the east.

The Council's proposals were adopted after a motion to substitute an alternative scheme incorporating a ward straddling the Thames at Donnington Bridge had been defeated by 25 votes to 9.

Mr. Nixon then dealt with the Commission's draft proposals. He observed that the number of wards remained at 15, each returning 3 councillors and that Blackbird Leys remained a special case. The problem of the North Ward imbalance had been resolved by creating a new Central Ward out of parts of the existing North and South Wards, and South Ward had been compensated by adding to it part of Donnington Ward lying on the opposite side of the river. To maintain the number of wards at 15, Donnington Ward had been abolished by dividing its territory between Iffley and East Wards. This addition to East Ward has necessitated a corresponding transfer of part of East Ward, in the Hilltop Road area, to St. Clements Ward. Headington and Quarry Wards

remain unchanged, as also do Temple Cowley, Blackbird Leys, Wood Farm and Marston (all east of the river) and Cherwell and West (west of the river).

Mr. Nixon observed that as regards variations in ward electorates under the Commission's proposals, the 1976 extremes were 4,447 (South) and 6,144 (Iffley) - a smaller variation than in the Council's draft scheme. On the basis of the 1980 projection, the extremes were 4,500 (South) and 6,550 (Central), a greater variation than the Council's proposals.

At its meeting on 28th June, 1976 the Council adopted a recommendation to accept the Commission's proposals as a whole after the defeat of two amendments. The first, defeated by 18 votes to 6, was to the effect that the Council should tell the Commission that it considered its previous proposals to be superior to the Boundary Commission's proposals for the following reasons :-

- (1) Better numerical balance between wards;
- (2) Local ties in Donnington would be broken by the Commission's proposals.

The second amendment, defeated by 27 votes to 7, was to the effect that an additional ward be created, that the City Council should have 48 members and be represented on the County Council by 16 County Councillors.

Before inviting other persons present to address me, I asked Mr. Nixon if he wished to make some comments on the various matters which I had indicated, in opening the meeting, as being worthy of special attention. This he very kindly consented to do, at the same time pointing out that his remarks would be expressions of personal opinion only and that he

had no specific instructions from the City Council on the points in question.

Mr. Nixon stated that in his opinion if the part of the proposed new Central Ward lying generally to the west of St. Aldates, but including the buildings between St. Aldate's and Christ Church Meadows, and bounded on the south, west and north by the boundary of the proposed new ward, were transferred to the proposed South Ward the result would be that the electorates for the two wards would be as follows:-

	<u>1976</u>	<u>1980</u>
Central	5572	5562
South	4888	5488

The area in question contained Pembroke College.

In connection with the proposed boundary between the Central and St. Clements Wards, Mr. Nixon observed that if it were to run along the line of the River Cherwell, thus bringing St. Hilda's College within the area of St. Clements, the figures for St. Clements would be increased to 6192 on the 1976 basis and 6200 on the 1980 basis. However, this would increase the disparity between St. Clements and the East Wards, the next adjoining ward to St. Clements on the South side, the figures for which are as follows:-

	<u>1976</u>	<u>1980</u>
East	5450	5700

Therefore to increase the electorate in St. Clements Ward might raise the question of a consequential adjustment to the boundary between St. Clements and East Wards.

Mr. Nixon then drew my attention to two other wards with large electorates. Iffley and Headington, both with 1980 figures of 6,100. The electorate in the former could be reduced by transferring to Temple Cowley Ward, which has a 1980 electorate of 5,500, an area comprising 120 electors by making the boundary between the two wards a continuation of the line of Barns Road in a direction northwesterly and then westerly until it rejoins the boundary between the two wards. The figures for the two wards would then be respectively:

	<u>1976</u>	<u>1980</u>
Iffley	6024	5980
Temple Cowley	5376	5620

A further variation to include Cowley Shopping Centre in Temple Cowley would, in his opinion, have little result on the 1980 projection figures for the two wards.

These observations appeared to meet with general approval.

As regards any possibility of reducing the electorate in Headington by a transfer of part of the Ward to Quarry, the line of the A40 is the obvious boundary between the two and would appear to preclude any such step.

Mr. Nixon made some comments on the suggestion by the Labour Party that the City Council's Scheme should be preferred to the Commission's proposals.

He stated that the part of Donnington Ward proposed to be transferred to South Ward was a City Council Housing Estate, separated from Florence Park by the Iffley Road. He also observed that ward boundaries do not always coincide with school catchment areas, the two serving different purposes.

The new South Ward would straddle the river, but this was the best point at which to effect such a crossing. The Headington Ward is admittedly very long, but is composed of many different communities, having little in common with each other. On the suggestion that the proposed Central Ward was in effect a University Ward, and would perpetuate the distinction between town and gown, he observed that in the past members representing the University had been elected on a different basis, not that of universal suffrage.

On the question of boundaries following the line of garden fences, he thought it unwise to adopt a hard and fast rule, and to institute as little change as possible.

On the question of the naming of Marston Ward, Mr. Nixon stated that the arguments were set out in the correspondence, and that members representing the ward felt strongly that the name should be retained.

MR. GARNER Clerk to Marston Parish Council stated that his authority wished to achieve accuracy, to avoid confusion and to retain identity. There was no such place as "Old Marston". Part of the ward was in Marston Parish and was commonly known as New Marston. There were two Marston areas, two Marston Associations and two ecclesiastical parishes. He accepted that the boundaries between communities were not clearly defined. He suggested that the ward be called North East Ward.

MR. N. JONES Vice Chairman of Marston Parish Council, and local District Councillor, stated that he gets enquiries daily relating to matters in New Marston.

MR. WILLIAMSON, representing the Labour Party, commented that there was strong feeling in the area in favour of retaining the name of Marston Ward.

MR. PHILIPS stated that he represented the inhabitants of Cherwell and Wolvercote Wards. He supported the proposal to leave Cherwell and Wolvercote Wards as they are. He also supported the proposed Central Ward. Part of the North Ward was entirely collegiate. Undergraduates were birds of passage and their connection with the City was different from that of permanent residents. He asked the Commission not to consider figures which might prove incorrect, but to consider communities.

MR. PARKER representing the Co-operative Society, the Co-operative Party and the City Labour Party asked Mr. Nixon if he could make a comment on the movement of people out of Oxford.

MR. NIXSON replied that Oxford has a large mobile population of people connected with the Colleges, Hospitals and other institutions. These could not be taken into account in making arrangements for warding.

MR. WILLIAMSON representing the Labour Party said the main feeling was in connection with Donnington Ward.

MR. H. BROOKES, Oxford City Labour Party (Donnington Ward) said he lived in Arnold Road on the Donnington Estate. The area was always known as Cowley and Iffley. To transfer part of it to South Ward was alien. It was like going into a foreign land. The River was a boundary not only for Oxford,

but in parts for Berkshire. He raised no objection to increasing the electorate of South Ward, but it should not be extended across the river.

MR. PARKER said he lived in Glanvil Road and had been connected with the Cowley and Iffley Area for 50 years. He had been resident for 36 years in Donnington and Florence Park with many sporting associations. The area had strong community feelings. He did not agree with the proposed boundary between South and East Wards.

MR. WILLIAMSON stated that the previous points were relatively minor issues. We would all like wards left as they are. It is difficult to get a numerical balance without altering every ward. Local ties and natural boundaries should be respected. The second amendment referred to by Mr. Nixon had been moved by the second councillor for Donnington Park. The Conservative Councillors do not want the ward torn apart.

The City Council's scheme was mostly minor alteration apart from Headington and Quarry Wards, and there the alteration met with approval apart from those in Headington Quarry.

Regarding the University Ward, Mr. Nixon's suggestion that the St. Ebbe's area might be included in South Ward instead of Central meant taking half the family homes from Central Ward and putting them in the South. The result would be that nearly all the voters in Central Ward would be undergraduates.

Mr. Williamson said that he agreed with Mr. Nixon that there should be no hard and fast rule as to whether boundaries should run along the centre lines of roads or along the backs of houses. He hoped that there would not be a repetition of the state of affairs in 1968, where all boundaries had to go down the middle of the roads.

MR. ROAF, appearing for the Oxford City Liberal Association, said that his Association did not intend to suggest that all ward boundaries should follow the line of the backs of houses, but should only do so when an improvement was thereby effected. As an example he cited Polstead Road, where the boundary between North and Wolvercote Wards should be adjusted so as to run along the backs of the houses on the south side of the road. This suggestion appeared to meet with the approval of many present at the meeting. Mr. Roaf then suggested that the boundary between the proposed Central and North Wards should be adjusted so as to include the houses on the south side of Norham Gardens and the buildings of Lady Margaret Hall in the North Ward. MR. GARSIDE observed that he would not accept the inclusion of Lady Margaret Hall in the North Ward. MR. ROAF then stated that he would support a transfer in the St. Ebbes area to the South Ward and consequently did not now press for a transfer of St. Hilda's College to St. Clement's Ward. He thought there should be four councillors for the Blackbird Leys Ward, and voting should be by single transferable vote. Generally he preferred the Commission's proposals to those put forward last year by the City Council, but thought that

the question of re-warding should be postponed until a review of the City boundaries is instituted.

MR. TIFFANY an Oxford City Councillor, said that he wished to refute all that Mr. Williamson had said, particularly with regard to Headington and Quarry Wards. The present boundary between them is the radial road and is effective. It was true that superficially there appeared to be little in common between the communities in Headington but the church and the schools are unifying influences. There is no middle school in Headington and Barton is part of Headington.

MR. GARSIDE an Oxford City Councillor, said he wished to reply to the remarks made on behalf of the Labour Party. The previous decision not to cross the river was wrong. The result would have been 5 wards of almost 5,900 electors each, to the west of the river, and it would have perpetuated the division of the City Centre by the High Street. He agreed that the best place to cross the river is at Donnington Bridge. Donnington Ward is not a natural area but the natural area of the University goes back to the year 800. The river is a link as well as a dividing influence. It forms a link between Hinksey and Iffley. No school catchment area is designed to fit ward boundaries. Some of the City's schools draw pupils from wide areas of the City. The Central Ward as proposed is not undemocratic and is a natural ward for the City. All other proposals show the central area split by the High Street. He agreed with the proposal to add 300 electors to the Central Ward by taking them from the South Ward. He thinks that St. Hilda's should be in the Central Ward, as also should be Pembroke and Lady Margaret Hall. He was not opposed to the other suggestions which had been made.

MRS. MILLER said she spoke as an individual concerned for democracy. She lived in the North Ward and wanted to speak about the Central Ward. Students are privileged; they can choose where they vote. The contribution to the City's life made by students was very great. She asked what safeguards were built in: could they appear on as many electoral lists as they wanted. During vacation, not many will be up. Mrs. Miller asked whether the electoral registration officer could be expected to discuss whether they are on two lists. MR. NIXSON explained the position regarding the registration of students. Mrs. Miller concluded by observing that the three members for the proposed Central Ward, although possibly of different parties, would all be University men.

#### INSPECTION

Prior to the meeting, I had inspected the areas of the proposed North, Central, St. Clements, East and South Wards.

#### ARGUMENTS ADVANCED AT THE MEETING

None of the arguments advanced at the meeting appeared to be directed against the totality of the Commission's proposals. Those who spoke on behalf of the Labour Party were critical of the proposals in the Donnington Bridge area, and stated that the City Council's scheme proposed only minor alterations to the existing wards, with the exception of the Headington and Barton Quarry Wards.

I considered carefully the objections to the straddling of the river in the Donnington Bridge area, but considered that in this one instance it appeared justifiable to disregard the principle that the River Thames should be a barrier between one ward and another. I can see

no other practicable way of securing equality of representation in this part of the City.

The representative of the Liberal Association stated that he preferred the Commission's proposals, but suggested some modifications which might make for improvement.

The City Council representative informed me that the City Council had approved the Commission's proposals as a whole, and also suggested some minor improvements. None of the other speakers objected to the Commission's proposals.

I was therefore left with the impression that no effective arguments had been levelled against those proposals as a whole, but that a case had been made for four modifications. Three of these are of minor consequence, and there was a general agreement upon their desirability. They are those affecting the Polstead Road, Downs Road and Norham Gardens areas. The fourth modification, that concerning the alteration of the boundary between the proposed Central and South Wards in the St. Ebbe's area, is of greater consequence. It was objected to on the grounds that it would tend to emphasise the relationship between the Central Ward and the University and to strengthen a divisive influence within the City. In my view, however, the arguments in support of it, which drew attention to its effect in reducing the disparity between the numbers of electors in the two wards, carry greater weight. Later in this report I recommend favourably in respect of all four.

There were some objections in principle against the creation of the Central Ward on the grounds that it would tend to perpetuate the ancient enmity between town and gown, or that it would be undemocratic. The fact that the City Council welcomes the suggestion appears to dispose of the argument under the former head, and the fact that elections in the Central Ward will be conducted on the basis of universal suffrage appears to dispose of the argument under the latter.

Any argument in favour of varying the boundary between Headington and Quarry Wards seems to founder upon the line of the A4, which is an effective line of separation between the two.

At one stage of the meeting, I was of the opinion that the St. Hilda's area should be transferred from the proposed Central Ward to St. Clements Ward. However, if the Commission accepts my recommendation that the St. Ebbes area should be transferred from the proposed Central Ward to the South Ward, then I can see no reason to recommend any change in the boundary proposed between the Central and St. Clements Wards.

The representative of the Marston Parish Council put forward strong arguments in favour of renaming the Marston Ward of the City and I can well understand that some confusion may be caused from time to time by the proximity of the village of Marston to the Marston Ward. This may be due to the fact that the City boundary cuts



## CITY OF OXFORD : NAMES PROPOSED WARDS AND NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO. OF COUNCILLORS</u>
BLACKBOARD LEYS	3
CENTRAL	3
CHERWELL	3
EAST	3
HEADINGTON	3
IFFLEY	3
MARSTON	3
NORTH	3
QUARRY	3
ST CLEMENTS	3
SOUTH	3
TEMPLE COWLEY	3
WEST	3
WOLVERCOTE	3
WOOD FARM	3

## CITY OF OXFORD

## DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARIES

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.

## WEST WARD

Commencing at a point where the Oxford to Didcot railway meets the southwestern boundary of the City, thence generally northwestwards along said City boundary to the drain forming the northwestern boundary of Parcel No 4776 as shown on Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plan SP 48/4908 Edition of 1966, thence northeastwards along said northwestern boundary to the River Thames, thence northwards along said river and northeastwards along the eastern arm of the River Thames to Godstow Road, thence northeastwards along said road to a point opposite the northern boundary of Port Meadow, thence eastwards to and along said boundary and generally southeastwards along the northeastern boundary of said meadow to Aristotle Lane, thence eastwards along said lane to the Oxford to Banbury railway, thence southwards along said railway to Walton Bridge, thence southeastwards along said bridge and Walton Well Road to Walton Street, thence continuing southeastwards along said street to Little Clarendon Street, thence northeastwards along said street to the road known as St Giles, thence southeastwards along said road, Magdalen Street and Cornmarket Street to Queen Street, thence southwestwards along said street to New Road, thence northwestwards along said road and continuing along Park End Street to the River Thames at Pacey's Bridge, thence generally southwards and northwestwards along said river to the Oxford to Didcot railway, thence southeastwards along said railway to the point of commencement.

## WOLVERCOTE WARD

Commencing at a point where the northwestern boundary of West Ward meets the western boundary of the City, thence northwards along said City boundary

and northeastwards along the northwestern boundary of the City to the Northern By Pass Road, thence eastwards along said road and North Way to Banbury Road, thence southwards along said road to Staverton Road, thence generally southwestwards along said road to Woodstock Road, thence southwards along said road to Polstead Road, thence southwestwards along said road to a point opposite the eastern boundary of No 1 Polstead Road, thence southeastwards to and along said boundary to the rear boundary of the Convent of Notre Dame, thence continuing southeastwards, southwestwards and southeastwards along said boundary to the rear boundary of No 5 Polstead Road, thence southwestwards along said boundary and the rear boundaries of Nos 7-27 Polstead Road to the western boundary of last mentioned property, thence northwestwards along said boundary to the rear boundary of No 29 Polstead Road, thence southwestwards along said boundary and the rear boundary of No 31 Polstead Road to the western boundary of last mentioned property, thence northwestwards along said boundary to Polstead Road, thence southwestwards along said road to Kingston Road, thence northwards along said road to Aristotle Lane, thence southwestwards along said lane to the northeastern boundary of West Ward, thence northwestwards along said boundary and southwestwards along the northwestern boundary of said ward to the point of commencement.

#### CHERWELL WARD

Commencing at a point where the northern boundary of Wolvercote Ward meets the northwestern boundary of the City, thence generally northeastwards along said City boundary and southeastwards along the northeastern boundary of the City to Marston Ferry Road, thence westwards along said road to a point opposite the eastern boundary of Summertown Middle School, thence southwards to and along said boundary and the eastern boundary of Saint Gregory's RC Middle School to the southern boundary of the last

mentioned school, thence southwestwards along said boundary and continuing along the southernmost boundary of Oxford High School for Girls to Charlbury Road, thence southwards along said road to Belbroughton Road, thence southwestwards along said road to Banbury Road, thence northwards along said road and the eastern boundary of Wolvercote Ward to the northern boundary of said ward, thence westwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

#### NORTH WARD

Commencing at a point where the southern boundary of Cherwell Ward meets the northeastern boundary of the City, thence generally southwards along said City boundary to a point opposite the path connecting Benson Place and the Isle of Rhea, thence southwestwards to and southwestwards, southeastwards and southwestwards along said path to said place, thence southeastwards along said place to a point, being the prolongation northeastwards of the southeastern boundaries of No 8 Benson Place and the garages to the northeast, thence southwestwards along said prolongation and boundaries to the rear boundary of No 7 Fyfield Road, thence southeastwards along said boundary and continuing along the rear boundaries of Nos 6-1 said road to the southeastern boundary of No 1 Fyfield Road, thence southwestwards along said boundary to a point opposite the northeastern boundary of No 19 Norham Gardens, thence southeastwards to and along said boundary to the northwestern boundary of University Parks, thence southwestwards along said boundary and the northwestern boundary of the Lodge to the road known as Norham Gardens, thence southwestwards along said road to Banbury Road, thence southwards along said road to the access way between Banbury Road and Woodstock Road to the south of St Giles's Church, thence westwards along said access way to Woodstock Road, thence southwards along said road to the eastern boundary of West Ward, thence southwestwards and generally

northwestwards along said boundary to the southern boundary of Wolvercote Ward, thence generally northeastwards along said boundary and the southern boundary of Cherwell Ward to the point of commencement.

#### CENTRAL WARD

Commencing at a point where the southeastern boundary of North Ward meets the northeastern boundary of the City, thence generally southeastwards along said City boundary and continuing southeastwards and southwestwards along the eastern arm of the River Cherwell to Magdalen Bridge, thence southeastwards along said bridge and continuing along The Plain (road) to Cowley Place, thence southwestwards along said place to the northeastern boundary of St Hilda's College, thence southeastwards along said boundary, southwestwards and northwestwards along the southeastern and southwestern boundaries of said college and continuing northwestwards along the northern boundary of the path leading to the River Cherwell, thence southeastwards along said river and generally westwards along the western arm of the River Cherwell, which is south of Christ Church Meadow, to the River Thames, thence generally northwestwards along said river to the Mill Stream, thence generally northwards along said stream to the footbridge in the Memorial Garden, thence westwards along said footbridge and the path in said Memorial Garden to the road known as St Aldate's, thence northwards along said road to the eastern boundary of West Ward, thence generally northwards along said boundary to the southeastern boundary of North Ward, thence generally northeastwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

#### SOUTH WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of West Ward meets the western boundary of Central Ward, thence generally southeastwards along

said western boundary and generally eastwards along the southern boundary of said ward to the River Cherwell (eastern arm), thence southwards along said river to Shire Lake Ditch, thence generally southeastwards, southwestwards and southwards along said ditch to the River Thames, thence due south crossing the River Thames to the western boundary of said river, thence generally southeastwards along said boundary to a point being the prolongation southwestwards of the rear boundaries of Nos 117-45 Fairacres Road, thence northeastwards along said prolongation and the rear boundaries of Nos 117-1 Fairacres Road and continuing to and along the southeastern boundary of No 292 Iffley Road to Iffley Road, thence southeastwards along said road to Howard Street, thence northeastwards along said street to a point opposite the rear boundaries of Nos 297 and 299a, b, c Iffley Road, thence southeastwards to and along said boundaries and the rear boundaries of Nos 303-379 said road crossing two openings, to the path connecting Iffley Road and Cricket Road, thence northeastwards along said path to a point opposite the western boundary of Donnington County Primary School, thence generally southwards along said boundary to Cornwallis Road, thence westwards along said road to Iffley Turn (road), thence southwards along said road to a point opposite the southern boundary of No 12 Iffley Turn, thence westwards to and along said boundary and continuing westwards along the rear boundaries of Nos 3 - 27 Cavell Road to the western boundary of No 27 Cavell Road, thence northwards along said boundary to the southern boundary of Donnington Sports Ground, thence southwestwards along said boundary to Meadow Lane, thence northwestwards along said lane to the unnamed stream to the north of Donnington Sports Ground, thence southwestwards along said stream to the River Thames, thence due southwestwards to the southwestern boundary of the City, thence northwestwards, generally southwestwards and again northwestwards along said City boundary to the eastern boundary of West Ward, thence continuing generally northwestwards and generally southeastwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

## MARSTON WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of Central Ward meets the northeastern boundary of the City, thence generally northeastwards along said City boundary to the Northern By Pass Road (North Way), thence southeastwards along said road to National Grid Reference SP 5428108148 being a point opposite the track to the east of Foxwell Drive, thence generally southwestwards to and along said track to its end, thence northwestwards along said end and the southeastern boundary of the Recreation Ground, thence generally southwestwards along said boundary to Dunstan Road, thence southeastwards along said road to a point opposite the northern boundary of the Cemetery, thence northwestwards to and along said boundary and southwestwards along the northwestern boundary of said cemetery to the northern boundary of Parcel No 7971 as shown on Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plan SP 5307, Edition of 1956, thence generally northwestwards along said boundary and the northern boundary of Parcel No 6878 to and southwards along the western boundary of the last mentioned parcel and the rear boundaries of Nos 46-6 Ambleside Drive, thence westwards along the rear boundaries of Nos 6-2 said drive to the eastern boundary of No 18 Eden Drive, thence southwards along said boundary and continuing along the eastern boundaries of No 16 Eden Drive, Rayson House and The Catholic Church of St Antony to the service road which leads to Headley Way (road), thence westwards along said service road to Headley Way, thence southeastwards along said road to Staunton Road, thence generally westwards along said road and continuing along Jack Straw's Lane to a point opposite the eastern boundary of Milham Ford School (Sec Gram), thence southwards to and along said boundary, crossing Harberton Mead (road) and continuing along the eastern boundaries of Nos 1 - 15 Prichard Road, No 67 William Street to the northern boundary of No 70 William Street, thence eastwards, southwards, westwards and northwards around said property boundary to the southern boundaries of Nos 70-34 William Street,

thence westwards along said boundaries to the eastern boundary of the Playing Field, thence southwards along said boundary to the northern boundary of the Government Buildings, thence eastwards along said boundary and southwards along the eastern boundary of said buildings to Cuckoo Lane (path), thence generally westwards along said path to Marston Road, thence northwards along said road to King's Mill Lane, thence westwards along said lane to the eastern boundary of Central Ward, thence generally north-westwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

#### HEADINGTON WARD

Commencing at a point where the northeastern boundary of Marston Ward meets the northeastern boundary of the City, thence generally southeastwards along said City boundary to London Road, thence generally southwestwards along said road and Headington Road to a point opposite the western boundary of Headington Hill Hall, thence generally northwards to and along said boundary to Cuckoo Lane (path), thence southwestwards along said path to the southeastern boundary of Marston Ward, thence generally northwards and northeastwards along said boundary and northwestwards along the northeastern boundary of said ward to the point of commencement.

#### ST CLEMENT'S WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of Central Ward meets the southern boundary of Marston Ward, thence eastwards along said southern boundary to the western boundary of Headington Ward, thence eastwards and southwards along said boundary to Headington Road, thence southwestwards along said road to Cheney Lane, thence southeastwards along said lane to Warneford Lane, thence southwestwards along said lane

to a point opposite the southwestern boundary of Warneford Hospital and Clinic, thence southeastward to and along said boundary and continuing along the rear boundaries of Nos 51 - 69 Hill Top Road to the southeastern boundary of No 69 Hill Top Road, thence southwestwards along said boundary, crossing Hill Top Road to and continuing southwestwards along the southeastern boundary of No 82 Hill Top Road to the rear boundaries of Nos 82-56 Hill Top Road, thence northwestwards along said boundaries to the southeastern boundary of No 46 Hill Top Road, thence southwestwards along said boundary to the northeastern boundary of Oriel College Sports Ground, thence northwestwards along said boundary and continuing southwestwards, northwestwards and southwestwards along the northwestern boundary of said sports field and continuing southwestwards along the northwestern boundaries of Bartlemas Nursery School and the access road to said school to Cowley Road, thence northwestwards along said road to Leopold Street, thence southwestwards along said street to Hurst Street, thence northwestwards along said street to Aston Street, thence southwestwards along said street to Iffley Road, thence northwestwards along said road to Jackdaw Lane, thence southwestwards along said lane to the eastern boundary of South Ward, thence northwestwards along said boundary and generally northeastwards along the eastern boundary of Central Ward to the point of commencement.

#### QUARRY WARD

Commencing at a point where the southern boundary of Headington Ward meets the eastern boundary of the City, thence southwestwards along said City boundary to the southwestern boundary of No 24 Trinity Road, thence generally westwards along said boundary and the southern boundaries of Nos 26 and 44 said road to the eastern boundary of Holy Trinity Church (C of E), thence northwards along said eastern boundary and westwards and generally southwards along the northern and western boundaries of said

church to the main path leading from said church to Quarry Road, thence southwestwards along said path to a point opposite the northeastern boundary of No 50 Quarry Road, thence northwestwards to and along said boundary to the northwestern boundary of said property, thence generally southwestwards along said boundary and the northwestern boundaries of Nos 58 and 60 Quarry Road to Quarry Road, thence northwards along said road to a point opposite the northern boundary of No 65 Quarry Road, thence southwestwards to and along said boundary to the eastern boundary of No 76 Margaret Road, thence southwards along said boundary to and southwestwards along the rear boundaries of Nos 76-14 Margaret Road to the western boundary of No 14 Margaret Road, thence generally northwestwards along said boundary to Margaret Road, thence southwestwards along said road to a point opposite the northeastern boundary of No 10 Margaret Road, thence southeastwards to and along said boundary, southwestwards along the rear boundaries of Nos 10-2 Margaret Road and northwestwards along the southwestern boundary of No 2 Margaret Road to Margaret Road, thence southwestwards along said road to Windmill Road, thence southeastwards along said road to Old Road, thence westwards along said road to a drain being a continuation southwards of Moor Ditch, thence southwards along said drain to the northwestern boundary of Southfield Golf Course, thence southwestwards along said boundary to the northeastern boundary of Chiltern House, thence northwestwards along said boundary to the northwestern boundary of said house, thence southwestwards along said boundary to the eastern boundary of St Clement's Ward, thence generally northwestwards along said boundary to the southern boundary of Headington Ward, thence northeastwards and eastwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

#### EAST WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of South Ward meets the southern

boundary of St Clement's Ward, thence generally northeastwards along said southern boundary to the southwestern boundary of Quarry Ward, thence southeastwards and northeastwards along said boundary to Boundary Errok (drain), thence generally southeastwards along said drain to an unnamed stream that is to the west of Lye Valley (road), thence southeastwards and southwestwards along said stream to Barracks Lane, thence northwestwards along said lane to a point opposite the eastern boundary of the Recreation Ground (Cowley Marsh), thence southwestwards to and along said boundary to Marsh Road, thence westwards along said road, crossing Oxford Road, to a footpath from Oxford Road to Cricket Road, thence southwestwards along said path, crossing Cricket Road and continuing southwestwards along the path between Cricket Road and Iffley Road to the eastern boundary of South Ward, thence northwestwards, southwestwards and generally northwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

#### WOOD FARM WARD

Commencing at a point where the northeastern boundary of East Ward meets the southern boundary of Quarry Ward, thence generally northeastwards along said southern boundary to the eastern boundary of the City, thence generally southwards along said City boundary to a point opposite the northern boundary of the Motor Vehicle Distribution Depot, thence westwards/<sup>to and</sup> along said boundary and continuing westwards along the northern boundary of Pony Road to the eastern boundary of the Furniture Factory, thence northwards along said boundary and continuing generally westwards along the northern boundary of said factory to the Eastern By Pass Road to a point being the prolongation northeastwards of Brasenose Driftway (path), thence southwestwards along said prolongation, said path and Brasenose Driftway (road) to Cranmer Road, thence northwestwards along said road to a Hollow Way (road), thence southwestwards along said road to Barracks Lane, thence northwestwards along said lane to the southeastern boundary of East Ward, thence northeastwards along

said southeastern boundary and northwestwards along the northeastern boundary of said ward to the point of commencement.

#### IFFLEY WARD

Commencing at a point where the southern boundary of East Ward meets Rymers Lane, thence southeastwards along said lane to Between Towns Road, thence eastwards along said road to Barn's Road, thence southwards and southeastwards along said road to its junction with Boswell Road, thence due east to the southwestern boundary of the Motor Works, thence southeastwards along said boundary to the Eastern By Pass Road, thence southwestwards along said road to the southern boundary of the City, thence northwards, generally westwards and northwards along said City boundary to the southern boundary of South Ward, thence generally northeastwards along said boundary and the southern boundary of East Ward to the point of commencement.

#### TEMPLE COWLEY WARD

Commencing at a point where the southern boundary of Wood Farm Ward meets the eastern boundary of the City, thence generally southwards along said City boundary to Watlington Road, thence northwestwards along said road and Garsington Road to the Eastern By Pass Road, thence southwestwards along said road to the eastern boundary of Iffley Ward, thence northwestwards along said eastern boundary to the southern boundary of East Ward, thence generally northeastwards along said boundary to the southern boundary of Wood Farm Ward, thence generally eastwards along said boundary to the point of commencement.

#### BLACKBIRD LEYS WARD

Commencing at a point where the southern boundary of the City meets the

southeastern boundary of Iffley Ward, thence northeastwards along said ward boundary and continuing northeastwards and southeastwards along the southern boundary of Temple Cowley Ward to the eastern boundary of the City, thence southeastwards and southwards along said boundary and westwards and generally northwestwards along the southern boundary of the City to the point of commencement.