

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 395

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

CHAIRMAN

Sir Nicholas Morrison KCB

MEMBERS

Lady Bowden

Mr J T Brockbank

Mr R R Thornton CBE DL

Mr D P Harrison

Professor G E Cherry

To the Rt Hon William Whitelaw CH MC MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department

PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

1. The last Order under Section 51 of the Local Government Act 1972 in relation to electoral arrangements for districts in the County of Somerset was made on 2 March 1977. As required by Section 63 and Schedule 9 of the Act we have now reviewed the electoral arrangements for that county, using the procedures we had set out in our Report No. 6.
2. We informed the Somerset County Council in a consultation letter dated 29 April 1977 that we proposed to conduct the review, and sent copies of the letter to the district and borough councils, town and parish councils and parish meetings in the county, to the Members of Parliament representing the constituencies concerned, to the headquarters of the main political parties and to the editors both of local papers circulating in the county and of the local government press. Notices in the local press announced the start of the review and invited comments from members of the public and from interested bodies.
3. On 4 January 1978 the County Council submitted to us a draft scheme in which they suggested 56 electoral divisions for the county, each returning one member in accordance with Section 6(2)(a) of the Act.
4. We considered this scheme together with the views expressed by local interests. On 19 December 1979 we issued draft proposals which we sent to all those who had received our consultation letter or commented on the county council's draft scheme. Notices were inserted in the local press announcing that the draft proposals had been issued and could be inspected at the county council's offices.
5. We incorporated the county council's draft scheme in our draft proposals, subject to the points relating to two districts dealt with in paragraphs 6 and 7 below.

6. We had reservations about the balance between divisions in Taunton Deane Borough and the Sedgemoor District. We noted that although Sedgemoor District had a higher electorate than Taunton Deane Borough, it had been allocated only 11 county representatives in comparison with 12 for Taunton Deane. Although Sedgemoor District had apparently not objected to their allocation, we invited the views of the County Council and Sedgemoor District Council on this. If they accepted, as we did, that there appeared to be a case for an additional division in the Sedgemoor District we asked them to submit for our consideration a suitable revised scheme to provide the additional representation.
7. The modifications we made to the County Council's draft scheme were in Taunton Deane Borough. Whilst we acknowledged that the essential problem was the wider one of reviewing parish boundaries to take account of peripheral development around Taunton, we proposed the inclusion of Bishop's Hull parish and part of the Holway area within the proposed adjoining electoral divisions of Taunton to meet local wishes expressed in comments on the County Council's draft scheme; we made consequential changes in other proposed electoral divisions in Taunton to maintain a balance. The change in the Holway area raised the question of a warding order for the parish of Stoke St Mary; the County Council and Taunton Deane Borough Council were requested, if they agreed with our proposals, to proceed with the preparation of the warding order as soon as possible. In order to produce a better standard of representation we also divided the proposed Wellington electoral division into two, with two of its district wards (Wellington North and Rockwell Green) forming one division and the third district ward (Wellington South) being included in that part of the proposed Tone Dale electoral division which remained following the transfer of the parish of Bishop's Hull.
8. We received comments in response to our draft proposals from the Somerset County Council, one borough council, three district councils, one town council, fifteen parish councils, two parish meetings, one political organization, a county councillor and three private individuals. A list of those who wrote to us is given at Appendix 1 to this report.
9. The Somerset County Council supported the comments made by Sedgemoor and

Yeovil District Councils and the Taunton Deane Borough Council and had no other comments to make apart from suggesting that 'Mid Tone' should be substituted for the name of our proposed Tone Dale electoral division to avoid possible confusion with an area of that name in Wellington Town.

10. The other comments we received can be summarised as follows:

(a) Mendip District

Glastonbury Town Council objected to the Commission's proposals as they affected their town and suggested an alternative grouping of wards. Great Elm Parish Council objected to the inclusion of their parish in the proposed North Mendip electoral division and suggested an alternative grouping. Hemington, Hardington and Foxcote Parish Council expressed the wish that their parish should not be included in the proposed East Mendip electoral division, preferring that the existing arrangements should continue. Mells Parish Council objected to their inclusion in the proposed North Mendip electoral division, suggesting that their parish be included in either the proposed East Mendip or East Shepton electoral division. Norton St Philip Parish Council objected to the proposed East Mendip electoral division on the grounds that largely rural parishes were linked with more urban district wards. Whatley Parish Council objected to their inclusion in the proposed North Mendip electoral division and suggested a new grouping of wards, and part wards, for the proposed North Mendip and East Shepton electoral divisions.

(b) Sedgemoor District

In response to our invitation the District Council submitted a revised scheme for the district, based on 12 electoral divisions, and the County Council supported it.

(c) Taunton Deane Borough

The Borough Council raised a number of objections to our draft proposals. They declined to accept our suggestion regarding the making of a warding

order for the parish of Stoke St Mary, even though the parish council appeared to be agreeable in principle. They also suggested changes to three of the five proposed electoral divisions within Taunton. Taunton Conservative Association expressed reservations about the size of the proposed Taunton West electoral division and suggested alternative arrangements. Bishop's Hull Parish Council agreed with the draft proposals as they affected their parish. A private individual suggested that the proposed Tone Dale electoral division should be renamed Buckland after a locality in the area.

(d) West Somerset District

West Somerset District Council did not raise any objections to our draft proposals for the district.

(e) Yeovil District

Yeovil District Council had no objections to our draft proposals but suggested a change in the name of the proposed Staverdale electoral division to Blackmoor Vale to avoid confusion with the locality of Stavordale in the adjoining Wincanton electoral division. Chard Parish Council suggested that the name of the proposed Dowlish Wake electoral division should be changed to Axe but there was support for the retention of the name Dowlish Wake from a county councillor, eight parish councils, two parish meetings and two private individuals.

10. When we came to reassess our draft proposals we took account of all the comments we had received on them and came to the following conclusions:

(a) Mendip District

We could see no alternatives that would meet the objections of Glastonbury Town Council, Great Elm, Mells, Norton St Philip, and Hemington, Hardington and Foxcote Parish Councils without unacceptable disadvantages. Whatley Parish Council's suggestion for the regrouping of the district wards in the proposed North Mendip and East Shepton electoral divisions would have upset the balance

of other electoral divisions and did not improve numerically on our draft proposals.

(b) Sedgemoor District

Sedgemoor District Council's alternative 12 division scheme for the district, which was supported by the County Council, met our views on the desirability of an extra member for the District and produced a standard of representation which we could accept. We therefore decided to adopt it.

(c) Taunton Deane Borough

After careful consideration of the representations made to us, we decided to accept Taunton Deane Borough Council's alternative scheme for the proposed Taunton East, West, and South electoral divisions which was supported by the County Council. This involved the return of Polling District CJ to the proposed North Curry electoral division as a direct consequence of the borough council's unwillingness to ward the parish of Stoke St Mary as we had suggested. Although we acquiesced in the Borough Council's view on this point in recognition of the undesirability of splitting the parish of Stoke St Mary at this stage, we noted that it did not produce an altogether satisfactory standard of representation. We would hope that as a consequence of the Council's review of the parish boundaries in the borough it will be possible to produce more balanced electoral arrangements. We accepted the change in the name of the proposed Tone Dale electoral division to Mid Tone suggested by Somerset County Council.

(d) Yeovil District

We accepted the suggestion from Yeovil District Council that the name of the proposed Staverdale electoral division should be changed to Blackmoor Vale. In view of the strength of local support for the retention of the name Dowlish Wake, we rejected the alternative suggested by Chard Parish Council.

11. Subject to the amendments referred to in paragraph 10 above as regards Sedgemoor, Taunton Deane and Yeovil Districts, we decided to confirm our draft proposals as our final proposals for the County.

12. Details of these final proposals are set out in schedules 1 and 2 to this

report and on the attached map. Schedule 1 gives the names of the electoral divisions. A detailed description of the boundaries of the proposed electoral divisions, as defined on the map, is set out in Schedule 2.

PUBLICATION

13. 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 Somerset County Council and will be available for inspection at the Council's main offices. Copies of this report (without map) are being sent to those who received the consultation letter and to those who made comments.

L.S.

Signed:

NICHOLAS MORRISON (CHAIRMAN)

JOHN M RANKIN (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN)

PHYLLIS BOWDEN

TYRRELL BROCKBANK

G E CHERRY

D P HARRISON

R R THORNTON

LESLIE GRIMSHAW (Secretary)

24 July 1980

	<u>AREA CONCERNED</u>
Somerset County Council	Whole county
MENDIP DISTRICT	
Glastonbury Town Council	Glastonbury
Great Elm Parish Council	North Mendip
Hemington, Hardington and Foxcote Parish Council	East Mendip
Mells Parish Council	North Mendip
Norton St Philip Parish Council	East Mendip
Whatley Parish Council	North Mendip
SEDGEMOOR DISTRICT	
Sedgemoor District Council	Whole district
TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH	
Taunton Deane Borough Council	Whole borough
Taunton Conservative Association	Taunton West
Bishop's Hull Parish Council	Taunton West
One private individual	Tone Dale
WEST SOMERSET DISTRICT	
West Somerset District Council	Whole district
YEOVIL DISTRICT	
Yeovil District Council	Whole district
County Councillor D V Jesseman	Dowlish Wake
Chaffcombe Parish Council	"
Chard Parish Council	"
Chillington Parish Meeting	"
Dowlish Wake Parish Council	"
Hinton St George Parish Council	"
Knowle St Giles Parish Meeting	"
Misterton Parish Council	"
Seavinston Parish Council	"

AREA CONCERNED

YEOVIL DISTRICT (contd.)

Wayford Parish Council	Dowlish Wake
West Crewkerne Parish Council	"
Winsham Parish Council	"
Two private individuals	"

COUNTY OF SOMERSET

NAMES OF PROPOSED ELECTORAL DIVISIONS
(EACH RETURNING ONE COUNTY COUNCILLOR)

PROPOSED COUNTY ELECTORAL DIVISIONS WITHIN DISTRICTS

DISTRICT OF MENDIP

East Mendip
East Shepton
Frome North
Frome South
Glastonbury
Mendip South West
Mendip West
North Mendip
Shepton Mallet
Street
Wells

DISTRICT OF SEDGEMOOR

Brent
Bridgwater East
Bridgwater North
Bridgwater South
Bridgwater West
Burnham-on-Sea
Cannington
Cheddar
Highbridge
Huntspill
North Petherton
Poldens

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON DEANE

Lydeard
Mid Tone
North Curry
Pitminster
Staplegrove
Taunton East
Taunton Fairwater
Taunton North
Taunton South
Taunton West

Upper Tone

Wellington

DISTRICT OF WEST SOMERSET

Dulverton

Dunster

Minehead

Quantock

Williton

DISTRICT OF YEOVIL

Blackmoor Vale

Castle Cary

Chard Town

Coker

Crewkerne

Curry Rivel

Dowlish Wake

Houndstone

Ilchester

Ilminster

Langport

Martock

Somerton

Wincanton

Yeovil North and East

Yeovil South and Central

Yeovil West and Preston

The proposed electoral divisions are shown on a map which can be inspected at the county council's offices. A description of the boundaries of the proposed electoral divisions shown on the map is attached at Schedule 2 .

COUNTY OF SOMERSET - DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED COUNTY ELECTORAL DIVISION BOUNDARIES

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

MENDIP DISTRICT

EAST MENDIP ED

The Mendip District Wards of Beckington and Rode
Nordinton
Selwood and Berkley

EAST SHEPTON ED

The Mendip District Wards of Ashwick
Beacon
Creech
Postlebury

FROME NORTH ED

The Mendip District Ward of Frome Fromefield

FROME SOUTH ED

The Mendip District Wards of Frome Badcox
Frome Keyford

GLASTONBURY ED

The Mendip District Wards of Glastonbury St Benedict's
Glastonbury St Edmund's
Glastonbury St John's
Glastonbury St Mary's

MENDIP SOUTH WEST ED

The Mendip District Wards of Avalon
 Moor
 Pylcombe
 Vale

MENDIP WEST ED

The Mendip District Wards of Ebbor
 Nedge
 Rodney
 Sheppey

NORTH MENDIP ED

The Mendip District Wards of Chilcompton and Ston Easton
 Coleford
 Mells
 Stratton

SHEPTON MALLET ED

The Mendip District Ward of Shepton Mallet

STREET ED

The Mendip District Wards of Street North
 Street South

WELLS ED

The Mendip District Wards of Wells Central
 Wells St Cuthbert's
 Wells St Thomas

SEDGEMOOR DISTRICT

BURNHAM-ON-SEA ED

The Sedgemoor District Wards of Burnham North
 Burnham South

BRENT ED

The Sedgemoor District Wards of Axbridge
 Axe Vale
 Berrow
 Brent

BRIDGWATER EAST ED

The Sedgemoor District Ward of Sydenham
 and that part of the Sedgemoor District Ward of Central bounded by a line commencing at the point where the southern boundary of Sydenham Ward meets the southeastern boundary of Central Ward, thence generally southwestwards along said southeastern boundary and northwestwards along the southwestern boundary of Central Ward, and continuing northwestwards along the River Parrett to the northern boundary of said ward, thence generally northeastwards and generally eastwards along said northern boundary to the point of commencement.

BRIDGWATER NORTH ED

The Sedgemoor District Wards of Eastover
 Victoria
 and the Parish of Chilton Trinity

BRIDGWATER SOUTH ED

The Sedgemoor District Ward of Hamp
 and that part of the Sedgemoor District Ward of Central not included in Bridgwater East ED.

BRIDGWATER WEST ED

The Sedgemoor District Ward of Quantock
 and the Parish of Wembdon

CANNINGTON ED

The Sedgemoor District Wards of Cannington and Combwich
 Dowsborough
 Eastern Quantocks

CHEDDAR ED

The Sedgemoor District Wards of Cheddar

Shipham

Wedmore

HIGHBRIDGE ED

The Sedgemoor District Wards of Highbridge

Mark

HUNTSPILL ED

The Sedgemoor District Wards of Huntspill

Pawlett and Puriton

Woolavington

NORTH PETHERTON ED

The Sedgemoor District Wards of Newton Green

North Petherton

Sowey

Westonzoyland

POLDENS ED

The Sedgemoor District Wards of East Poldens

Parchey

West Poldens

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON DEANE

LYDEARD ED

The Taunton Deane Borough Wards of Bishop's Lydeard

North Deane

Norton Fitzwarren

MID TONE ED

The Taunton Deane Borough Wards of Bradford-on-Tone
 Monument
 Wellington South

NORTH CURRY ED

The Taunton Deane Borough Wards of Creech St Michael
 North Curry
 Ruishton and Stoke
 Stoke St Gregory

PITMINSTER ED

The Taunton Deane Borough Wards of Blackdown
 Neroche
 Trull

STAPLEGROVE ED

The Taunton Deane Borough Wards of Cheddon Fitzpaine
 Kingston and Staplegrove
 West Monkton

TAUNTON EAST ED

The Taunton Deane Borough Ward of Halcon

and that part of the Taunton Deane Borough Ward of Lyngford bounded by a line commencing at the point of where the northern boundary of Castle and Wilton Ward meets the western boundary of Lyngford Ward, thence northwards and northeastwards along said western boundary and the northwestern boundary of Lyngford Ward to a point opposite the southwestern boundary of the building known as No 40 Cheddon Road, thence southeastwards to and southeastwards, northeastwards and southeastwards along said southwestern boundary and in prolongation thereof to and southeastwards along the southwestern boundary of the building to the southeast of No 40 Cheddon Road, to the northwestern boundary of No 1 Wellesley Street, thence southwestwards along said northwestern boundary to and southeastwards along the southwestern

boundaries of No's 1 - 5, 12, 16 and 18 Wellesley Street to the northwestern boundary of No 1 The Triangle, thence northeastwards along said northwestern boundary and eastwards along the northern boundary of No 2 The Triangle to the western boundary of No 3 The Triangle, thence northwards along said western boundary and the western boundaries of No's 4 - 12 The Triangle to the northwestern boundary of the last mentioned property, thence northeastwards along said northwestern boundary and in prolongation thereof to and continuing northeastwards along the northwestern boundary of No 13 The Triangle to the northern boundary of said property, thence eastwards along said northern boundary and the northern boundaries of No's 14 - 17 and their continuation to Grange Walk (Path), thence southeastwards along said walk to Grange Drive, thence southwards and southeastwards along said drive to the unnamed road on the northwestern side of No's 65 - 103 Priorswood Road, thence northeastwards along said unnamed road to a point opposite the southwestern boundary of No 1 Lyngford Road, thence southeastwards to and along said southwestern boundary to Lyngford Road, thence southwards along said road, crossing Priorswood Road in a straight line, to and southeastwards along Obridge Road to the service road to No's 76 - 120 Priorswood Road, thence northeastwards along said service road to a point opposite the southwestern boundary of No 76 Priorswood Road, thence southeastwards along said southwestern boundary and eastwards along the southern boundary of said property to the eastern boundary of No 22 Obridge Road, thence southwards, westwards and southwards along said eastern boundary and southwards along the eastern boundaries of No's 21 - 19 Obridge Road, crossing Lansdowne Road in a straight line to and continuing southwards along the eastern boundaries of No's 18 - 14 Obridge Road to the northern boundary of No 11 Obridge Road, thence northeastwards along said northern boundary and the northern boundaries of No's 10 and 9 Obridge Road to and southeastwards along the northeastern boundaries of No's 8 - 1 Obridge Road to the southeastern boundary of No 16 Bowood Road, thence northeastwards along said boundary to the southern boundary of No 18 Bowood Road thence eastwards along said southern boundary and the southern boundary of No 20 Bowood Road to the western boundary of Obridge Allotments, thence generally southwards along said western boundary to the southeastern boundary of the accessway to the southwest

of No's 11 - 14 Obridge Crescent, thence southwestwards along said southeastern boundary to the unnamed road running southeastwards from Obridge Road to the Bridgwater & Taunton Canal, thence southeastwards along said unnamed road, to and across the footbridge crossing said canal and eastwards along the unnamed road running eastwards to Priory Way, to the eastern boundary of Halcon Ward, thence southwards and southwestwards along said ward boundary and westwards along the northern boundary of Castle and Wilton Ward to the point of commencement,

and that part of the Taunton Deane Borough Ward of Castle and Wilton bounded by a line commencing at the point where the southern boundary of Halcon Ward meets the northwestern boundary of Holway Ward thence southwestwards along said northwestern boundary to Stockwell Stream, thence northwestwards and northeastwards along said stream to the accessway to No 42 Silver Street, thence westwards along said accessway to the path east of No 1 Mansfield Road thence northwards along said path to and eastwards along Mansfield Road to Silver Street, thence northwards along said street to East Street, thence westwards along said street and the southern part of Fore Street to the western part of Fore Street, thence northwards along said street and northwards and northwestwards along North Street, the road known as The Bridge and Bridge Street to the northwestern boundary of Castle and Wilton Ward, thence northwestwards and northeastwards along said ward boundary to the northern boundary of said ward, thence southeastwards along said ward boundary and southwestwards, southeastwards, northeastwards and southwards along the eastern boundary of said ward to the point of commencement.

TAUNTON FAIRWATER ED

The Taunton Deane Borough Ward of Fairwater

and that part of the Taunton Deane Borough Ward of Rowbarton bounded by a line commencing at a point where the northwestern boundary of Fairwater Ward meets the western boundary of Rowbarton Ward, thence northwards and eastwards along the western and northern boundaries of Rowbarton Ward to a point being due north of

the northeastern corner of No 90 Quantock Road, thence due south to said corner and southwards along the eastern boundaries of No's 88-2 Quantock Road to the northeastern boundary of Broomfield House thence southeastwards along said northeastern boundary and southwestwards along the southeastern boundary of said property to Wellsprings Road, thence southeastwards along said road to Kingston Stream, thence southwards and southeastwards along said stream to the northwestern boundary of the Allotment Gardens, thence southwestwards along said northwestern boundary and southeastwards along the southwestern boundary of said Allotment Gardens to the northwestern boundary of No 116 Kingston Road, thence southwestwards along said northwestern boundary and continuing southwestwards along the northern boundary of Fairwater Ward to the point of commencement.

TAUNTON NORTH ED

That part of the Taunton Deane Borough Ward of Lyngford not included in Taunton East Ed,

and that part of the Taunton Deane Borough Ward of Rowbarton not included in Taunton Fairwater ED.

TAUNTON SOUTH ED

The Taunton Deane Borough Ward of Holway

and that part of the Taunton Dean Borough Ward of Castle and Wilton not included in Taunton East ED.

TAUNTON WEST ED

The Taunton Deane Borough Ward of Galminton
and the Parish of Bishop's Hull.

UPPER TONE ED

The Taunton Deane Borough Wards of Milverton
Wiveliscombe
West Deane

WELLINGTON ED

The Taunton Deane Borough Wards of Rockwell Green
Wellington North

WEST SOMERSET DISTRICT

DULVERTON ED

The West Somerset District Wards of Dulverton and Brushford

Exmoor

Haddon

and the Parishes of

Exton

Winsford

DUNSTER ED

The West Somerset District Wards of Aville Vale

Carhampton and Withycombe

Dunster

Holnicote

and the Parish of

Cutcombe

MINEHEAD ED

The West Somerset District Wards of Minehead Alcombe

Minehead North

Minehead South

QUANTOCK ED

The West Somerset District Wards of Crowcombe and Stogumber

East Brendon

Quantock Vale

and the Parishes of

Bicknoller

East Quantoxhead

West Quantoxhead

WILLITON ED

The West Somerset District Wards of Old Cleeve

Watchet

Williton

and the Parish of

Sampford Brett

YEOVIL DISTRICT

BLACKMOOR VALE ED

The Yeovil District Wards of Blackmoor Vale

Milborne Port

CASTLE CARY ED

The Yeovil District Wards of Camelot

Cary

CHARD TOWN ED

The Yeovil District Wards of Chard North East

Chard North West

Chard South East

Chard South West

COKER ED

The Yeovil District Wards of Chinnock

Coker

Hazelbury

CREWKERNE ED

The Yeovil District Wards of Crewkerne Town

Egwood

CURRY RIVEL ED

The Yeovil District Wards of Curry Rivel

Islemoor

Lynches

DOWLISH WAKE ED

The Yeovil District Wards of Chard Parish

Dowlish

Windwhistle

HOUNDSTONE ED

The Yeovil District Ward of Houndstone

ILCHESTER ED

The Yeovil District Wards of Ivelchester

Mudford

St Michael's

ILMINSTER ED

The Yeovil District Wards of Blackdown

Ilminster Town

Neroche

LANGPORT ED

The Yeovil District Wards of Burrow Hill

Langport and Huish

Turn Hill

MARTOCK ED

The Yeovil District Wards of Martock

South Petherton

Stoke

SOMERTON ED

The Yeovil District Wards of Northstone

Wessex

WINCANTON ED

The Yeovil District Wards of Brue

Wincanton

YEOVIL NORTH AND EAST ED

The Yeovil District Wards of Yeovil East

Yeovil North

YEOVIL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ED

The Yeovil District Wards of Yeovil Central

Yeovil South

YEOVIL WEST AND PRESTON ED

The Yeovil District Wards of Yeovil Preston

Yeovil West