

Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
For England  
Report No.563

Review of Non-Metropolitan Counties.

THE COUNTY OF HUMBERSIDE  
AND ITS BOUNDARIES WITH  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
NORTH YORKSHIRE  
AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 563

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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REVIEW OF NON-METROPOLITAN COUNTIES  
THE COUNTY OF HUMBERSIDE AND ITS BOUNDARIES WITH LINCOLNSHIRE, NORTH YORKSHIRE  
AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

COMMISSION'S FINAL REPORT AND PROPOSALS

INTRODUCTION

1. On 26 July 1985 we wrote to Humberside County Council announcing our intention to undertake a review of the county under section 48(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. Copies of the letter were sent to the principal local authorities, and parishes, in Humberside and in the surrounding counties of Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire, to the National and County Associations of Local Councils, to the Members of Parliament with constituency interests and to the headquarters of the main political parties. In addition, copies were sent to government departments, regional health authorities, water and port authorities, electricity and gas boards, that might have an interest, as well as to British Telecom, the English Tourist Board, the local government press, and to local television and radio stations serving the area.

2. The County Councils were requested, in co-operation as necessary with the other local authorities, to assist us in publicising the start of the review by inserting a notice for two successive weeks in local newspapers so as to give a wide coverage in the areas concerned. The County Councils were also asked to ensure that the consultation letter was drawn to the attention of those involved with services such as the police and the administration of justice, in respect of which they have a statutory function.

3. A period of six months from the date of the letter was allowed for all local authorities, including those in the surrounding counties, and any person or body interested in the review, to send us their views in detail on whether changes to the county boundary were desirable and, if so, what those changes should be and how they would serve the interests of effective and convenient local government, the criterion laid down in the Act.

4. In response to our letter we received representations from the County Councils of Humberside, Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire, the City Councils of Hull and Lincoln, the Borough Councils of Beverley, Boothferry, Cleethorpes, East Yorkshire, Glanford, Great Grimsby and Scunthorpe, and the District Councils of Bassetlaw, East Lindsey, Holderness, Selby and Ryedale. We also received representations from various parish and town councils, other interested bodies, Mr Richard Hickmet MP and residents of the counties concerned.

#### THE QUESTION OF RADICAL CHANGE

5. Most of the submissions put to us raised the radical question of whether the County of Humberside should continue to exist in its present form. Others concerned suggestions for relatively minor changes to the county boundary.

6. The North Lincolnshire Association claimed that the part of the county south of the Humber had been neglected and suggested that it should be replaced with a new County of North Lincolnshire. It forwarded a petition with 45,000 names and a paper by Dr R J Waller, Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, in support of this suggestion. The paper, which had been commissioned in 1983 by Glanford and Great Grimsby Borough Councils, made a detailed case for abolishing Humberside and rearranging the county pattern. Varying degrees of support for the creation

of a new county on the south side of the Humber, or for the absorption of that area within the existing County of Lincolnshire, were expressed by the Borough Councils of Glanford and Great Grimsby, the Parish Councils of Cadney-Cum-Howsham, New Waltham, North Kelsey, Scampton, Swanland, Swineshead, Tattershall-with-Thorpe and Washingborough, Spilsby Town Council, Mr Richard Hickmet MP, the Conservative Group on Great Grimsby Borough Council, and Mr P Robinson, a Lincolnshire County Councillor. The Yorkshire Ridings Society also wrote in favour of the abolition of Humberside, its aim being the restoration of the Ridings. Most of the 48 members of the public who wrote to us calling for an end to the present county pattern wanted to see Humberside north of the Humber reabsorbed into Yorkshire.

7. Opposition to major change was expressed by Humberside County Council, the Borough Councils of Beverley, Boothferry, Cleethorpes, East Yorkshire and Scunthorpe, the City Councils of Hull and Lincoln, the District Councils of East Lindsey and Selby, the Parish Councils of Hemingbrough, North Thoresby, Grainsby and Waithe, and Immingham Town Council. In addition, the Yorkshire Regional Health Authority, the Health Authorities of East Yorkshire and Hull, the Yorkshire Electricity Board and the Yorkshire and Humberside Tourist Board did not consider that a case had been made for abolition of the existing arrangements. Lincolnshire County Council and Holderness District Council stated that they had no comment to make on the issue.

8. We considered the submissions and comments made to us and noted with concern the extent and intensity of local feelings expressed against the continued existence of the County of Humberside. We did not gain the impression from the representations we had received that the existence of the toll bridge had as yet succeeded in binding the two sides of the county together. Whilst acknowledging those feelings we considered, nevertheless, that we had to have regard to the guidelines for the reviews of non-metropolitan counties, issued by your Department in Circular 12/84 which state that ..... "abolition or creation of a principal area will be appropriate only in very exceptional circumstances, where present arrangements clearly fail to provide effective and convenient local government".

9. We judged that much of the local feeling against Humberside reflected the strong loyalties held by residents to their former counties, which we felt was understandable given the relatively short existence of the county. It may also have reflected the widely expressed view that the southern part of the county has received less than its proper share of resources. We did not consider, however, that such feelings were sufficient evidence that the present arrangements "clearly fail to provide effective and convenient local government."

10. Nevertheless in view of the strength of the representations proposing radical change, we examined carefully the alternative proposals put to us. These options included:-

- the formation of a new county, comprising the four districts of Humberside south of the Humber (with the possible addition of East and West Lindsey, currently in Lincolnshire);
- the incorporation of these four districts into the existing county of Lincolnshire;
- the constitution of a new county of East Yorkshire, comprising the districts of Humberside north of the Humber (with the possible addition of York and Selby, currently in North Yorkshire);
- the restoration of the former Yorkshire Ridings.

11. We were not persuaded that any one alternative arrangement, amongst the several widely differing options put forward, would bring about an overall improvement in effective and convenient local government. All the options put forward appeared to us to suffer from clear disadvantages, particularly in their repercussions on neighbouring counties.

For example, the suggestion to form a new county by amalgamating East and West Lindsey with the districts of Humberside south of the Humber, would not only remove large areas from Humberside; it would also drastically reduce the size of the County of Lincolnshire, which might then in turn raise questions about the future of that county. Similarly, the suggestion to transfer those districts of Humberside north of the Humber into North Yorkshire, would remove approximately two thirds of Humberside's population and it would be inappropriate to enlarge North Yorkshire, already the largest county in England. Indeed, it appeared to us that any radical change of the kind suggested would cause great disruption and have consequences reaching far beyond the present boundaries of Humberside. We therefore decided not to propose any major change to the county. We considered that those who had advocated such change had not shown how the present arrangements had failed, or how the particular alternatives they favoured would substantially improve effective and convenient local government in the area.

12. We would like to add that our provisional conclusion was reached with some reluctance in view of the intensity of feeling against the county expressed in the representations made to us. We observed that the test outlined in your guidelines is a formidable one. We were of the view that there must come a point at which longstanding and strongly held feelings of alienation towards an authority on the part of large numbers of its residents must in themselves call for a re-examination of the justification for its existence. We did not want to suggest that that stage had yet been reached in the case of Humberside, but we felt it right to make the point in the letter announcing our draft proposals for minor changes, details of which are set out below.

## DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR MINOR REALIGNMENTS

### The boundary between Humberside and Lincolnshire

#### (a) River Ancholme

13. Lincolnshire County Council had endorsed a suggestion from North Kelsey Parish Council that the Humberside/Lincolnshire boundary in the vicinity of North Kelsey should be realigned to follow the centre line of the new River Ancholme. Humberside County Council did not consider this suggestion to be justified. However, Lincolnshire County Council pointed out that the small areas involved would then be located in the counties from which access to them could readily be gained, and that the new water-course would make a technically better boundary. Glanford Borough Council indicated that the suggestion was possibly one it could support, pending further consideration (though no further comment was in fact received).

14. We accepted Lincolnshire County Council's suggestion as sensible and agreed that it would provide a technically superior boundary. We therefore decided to issue a draft proposal on that basis.

### The boundary between Humberside and Nottinghamshire

#### (b) Haxey and Misson

15. Boothferry and Bassetlaw District Councils had suggested a realignment of the county boundary in this area, in order to provide a clearly defined boundary along Tindale Bank Road, Idle Bank and the B1396, and to facilitate highway maintenance. Humberside County Council was not aware of any difficulties in maintenance in the area and saw no reason to change the county boundary, while Nottinghamshire County Council had no objection, in principle, to the suggestion but proposed a slight amendment to avoid being made

responsible for maintaining a stretch of road to which it would have no direct access.

16. We noted that three of the four local authorities concerned had agreed with the suggestion, and that major roads are criss-crossed by the present county boundary. We therefore decided that the suggested change, with the modification put forward by Nottinghamshire County Council, would be sensible, and decided to issue a draft proposal to that effect.

#### The boundary between Humberside and North Yorkshire

##### (c) Stamford Bridge

17. Ryedale District Council had suggested that the Humberside/North Yorkshire county boundary was unsatisfactory at Stamford Bridge, and that it should be changed between where it departs from and where it rejoins the River Derwent so as to follow the river throughout. This would transfer a small area from Humberside to North Yorkshire. East Yorkshire Borough Council agreed that the present boundary was unsatisfactory but was not impressed with Ryedale District Council's suggestion, because it would split the community of Stamford Bridge. It therefore suggested a boundary which would depart from the River Derwent to a greater extent and which would transfer to East Yorkshire and Humberside areas of the North Yorkshire Districts of Selby and Ryedale. Selby District Council did not object to East Yorkshire's suggestion.

18. North Yorkshire County Council did not want any change to the present boundary. Humberside County Council considered that, while boundaries had to be drawn somewhere, neither district council had put forward convincing arguments for change. Stamford Bridge Parish Council objected to Ryedale District Council's suggestion, because it would split the community, nor did it fully support East Yorkshire Borough Council's suggestion. It considered that a smaller area, at present in the North Yorkshire districts of Ryedale and Selby,

should be incorporated into its parish. It informed us of a parish opinion poll held in 1984 in which the majority of residents voted to remain in Humberside. A Stamford Bridge Parish Councillor argued that the whole of the parish should be transferred to North Yorkshire.

19. We considered all the proposals for Stamford Bridge. We concluded that the transfer of the smaller area suggested by Stamford Bridge Parish Council, from Ryedale and Selby in North Yorkshire, to East Yorkshire in Humberside, would best meet the interests of effective and convenient local government. The area so transferred would contain a sewage works and stretch of railway embankment. The boundary would then run eastwards to the rear of premises it currently divides. We decided to issue a draft proposal based on this alignment.

(d) Balne and Heck

20. A resident of Great Heck, in the Selby District of North Yorkshire, suggested that the Humberside/North Yorkshire county boundary between the rivers Aire and Went should follow the Doncaster to Selby railway. He gave as reasons the need to emphasise what he saw as a separation between communities by splitting Highgate from Balne and placing them in different counties, and to provide a more straightforward boundary to alleviate difficulties in the provision of emergency services. Humberside County Council and Selby District Council opposed this suggestion. We noted that there was no evidence of support for it, and that none of the local authorities concerned mentioned problems arising from the existing boundary. We also noted that the suggested boundary would itself split existing communities. We therefore took an interim decision to make no proposals for change in this area.

(e) Drifffield

21. Drifffield Town Council, in the Borough of East Yorkshire, suggested that Bridlington and the parishes of Bempton and Flamborough should be transferred

from Humberside to North Yorkshire. It felt that Bridlington would benefit by being with similar resorts in that county. In order to compensate the Borough of East Yorkshire the Town Council proposed that the Parishes of Atwick, Brandesburton and Hornsea - presently in the district of Holderness in Humberside - and the parishes of Foxholes, Kirkby Grindalythe, Luttons, Thixendale, Weaverthorpe and Wharram - presently in the district of Ryedale in North Yorkshire - should be transferred into the Borough of East Yorkshire.

22. We considered Driffield Town Council's suggestion but concluded that no case had been made in terms of effective and convenient local government for such widespread changes and decided to make no proposals for this area.

23. The letter announcing our draft proposals and interim decisions was published on 15 June 1987. Copies were sent to the local authorities concerned, and to those who had made representations to us. The County Councils of Humberside, Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire were asked to publish a notice giving details of our decisions and to post copies of it at places where public notices are customarily displayed. They were also asked to place copies of our letter on deposit for inspection at their main offices for a period of eight weeks. Comments were invited by 10 August 1987, but this period was subsequently extended to 30 September 1987 at the request of Humberside County Council.

#### RESPONSE TO OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS/INTERIM DECISIONS: OUR FINAL PROPOSALS

24. We received representations from 35 sources in the period we allowed for response to our draft proposals letter. They included comments from the County Councils of Humberside and Nottinghamshire, the Borough Councils of Beverley and Cleethorpes, the District Councils of Ryedale and West Lindsey, Holme Parish Meeting, the Humberside Association of Parish and Town Councils, the Yorkshire

Ridings Society and other interested bodies and individuals. Most of the representations received concerned our interim decision to make no proposals for radical change to the county.

25. As required by section 60(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, we have carefully considered all the representations made to us and set out below our final proposals.

#### THE QUESTION OF RADICAL CHANGE

26. Humberside County Council welcomed our conclusion that no radical change should be made to Humberside. However, it objected to what it saw as "ill-founded comments on the future of the county" contained in our draft proposals letter (see paragraph 12). It considered that we had chosen to neglect the wishes of the silent majority by placing disproportionate weight on the views of the "small number" of bodies and individuals who want to see Humberside disappear. Beverley Borough Council wished to see a continued examination of the existence of the county and also suggested that the name of Humberside should be replaced with a more acceptable alternative, such as "East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire". The Humberside Association of Parish and Town Councils opposed any change which would result in the abolition of the county and also expressed concern about our comments on the future of Humberside. The Association pointed out that it had been successful in creating a new loyalty which it did not wish to see compromised.

27. Our interim decision was opposed by Holme Parish Meeting, which regretted that there has been no acceptance of the wide-ranging desire, as they saw it, to return South Humberside to the county of Lincolnshire and by the Yorkshire Ridings Society, which reiterated that the Yorkshire Ridings should be restored. The Society found encouragement in our comments in our draft proposals letter and suggested that we should question you in respect of your guidelines. Eighteen residents, most of whom expressed strong feelings of alienation from the county, were also opposed to our decision though some of them indicated

that they would be satisfied if the name Humberside were to be changed. The remainder of those who responded either stated that they were not affected by the review or had no comments to make.

28. We noted that only two of the principal authorities concerned had commented and that both supported our interim decision, although by contrast the majority of residents responding still maintained that they had lost their identity and continued to express a wish to return to their pre-1974 counties.

29. We took account of all the representations we received in favour of radical change to the county of Humberside, including 350 late representations received up to the time of signing this report. While we remained concerned over the strength of local feeling against the county, we have received no new evidence to dissuade us from our earlier conclusions, namely that Humberside could not be shown to have failed to provide effective and convenient local government, and that no more satisfactory alternative pattern of county boundaries had been identified which would both be consistent with your guidelines and would not have such far-reaching consequences that the pattern of local government would be profoundly disturbed over a very wide area. In these circumstances we have sympathy with what we understand to be the view of the County Council: that it should now be given an undisturbed opportunity to build up the necessary long-term loyalty to the new county, on both sides of the Humber. It is possible that a change of name might help in this task, but this is a matter for the County Council itself to consider under section 74(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. We therefore confirm our interim decision to make no radical proposals as final.

#### MINOR REALIGNMENTS

##### The boundary between Humberside and Lincolnshire

###### (a) River Ancholme

30. West Lindsey District Council supported our draft proposal, whilst

Humberside County Council maintained that there was no justification for suggesting that the new course of the river would provide a better boundary. We considered that no new evidence had come to light and remained of the view that the new watercourse would provide for a technically better boundary. We therefore decided to confirm our draft proposal as final.

The boundary between Humberside and Nottinghamshire

(b) Haxey and Misson

31. Nottinghamshire County Council supported our draft proposal, whilst Humberside County Council maintained that it was unaware of any problems in this area. We noted that neither Bassetlaw District Council nor Boothferry District Council, which had both made the original suggestion, had commented on our draft proposal. We remained of the view that the present boundary was unsatisfactory and in the absence of a better alternative having been suggested we decided to confirm our draft proposal as final.

The boundary between Humberside and North Yorkshire

(c) Stamford Bridge

32. Ryedale District Council supported our draft proposal to realign the boundary in this area. Humberside County Council considered that in many ways the proposed boundary was sensible, because all properties would be contained within one county. It stated, however, that drawing the line so tightly around properties, particularly in the locality of the plastics factory, would not allow for any possible future expansion to the north without creating a similar problem in the future. We noted, however, that there were no immediate plans for development in this area and therefore decided to confirm our draft proposal as final.

(d) Balne and Heck

33. The individual referred to in paragraph 20 above objected to our interim

decision to make no proposals in this area. He felt that we had missed the point and that it would be the electrification of the railway line which would create two separate communities. He also referred to some difficulties which he believed that this would cause for the provision of emergency services. We considered this objection but did not believe it brought out any new evidence to alter our preliminary view. We therefore decided to confirm our interim decision as final.

(e) Driffield

34. One individual objected to our interim decision and argued that Bridlington had suffered since it has been under the control of Humberside County Council. He felt that the area would benefit if it were transferred to North Yorkshire. Humberside County Council rejected this argument and forwarded to us detailed comments on the issue, from its economic development officer who emphasised that the County Council worked very closely with East Yorkshire Borough Council on industrial development, employment and support for small businesses.

35. We considered this representation in support of Driffield Town Council's earlier proposal and also took account of Humberside County Council's comments. We did not consider that it added any sufficient evidence of likely real improvement in effective and convenient local government to justify such a major change as the transfer of Bridlington. We therefore decided to confirm our interim decision to make no proposals as final.

PUBLICATION

36. A separate letter is being sent to the County Councils of Humberside, Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire asking them to deposit copies of this report at their main offices for inspection for six months. They are also asked to put notices to this effect on public notice boards and in the local press. The text of the notice will explain that the Commission has fulfilled its statutory role in this matter, and that it now falls to you to make an Order implementing the proposals, if you think fit, though not earlier

than six weeks from the date it is submitted to you. Copies of this report, to which are attached maps illustrating the proposed changes, are also being sent to all those who received our draft proposals and interim decision letter, and to those who made written representations.

G J ELLERTON (Chairman)

J G POWELL (Deputy Chairman)

G E CHERRY

K F J ENNALS

G R PRENTICE

HELEN SARKANY

BRIAN SCHOLES

S T GARRISH

Secretary

July 1988

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

COUNTY BOUNDARY REVIEW

HUMBERSIDE

AFFECTING  
LINCOLNSHIRE, NORTH YORKSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

FINAL PROPOSALS

Existing County Boundary	
Proposed County Boundary	
Existing District Boundary	
Existing CP/District Ward Boundary	
Proposed CP/District Ward Boundary	
Existing CP Boundary	

LOCATION DIAGRAM

NORTH YORKSHIRE

Map 3

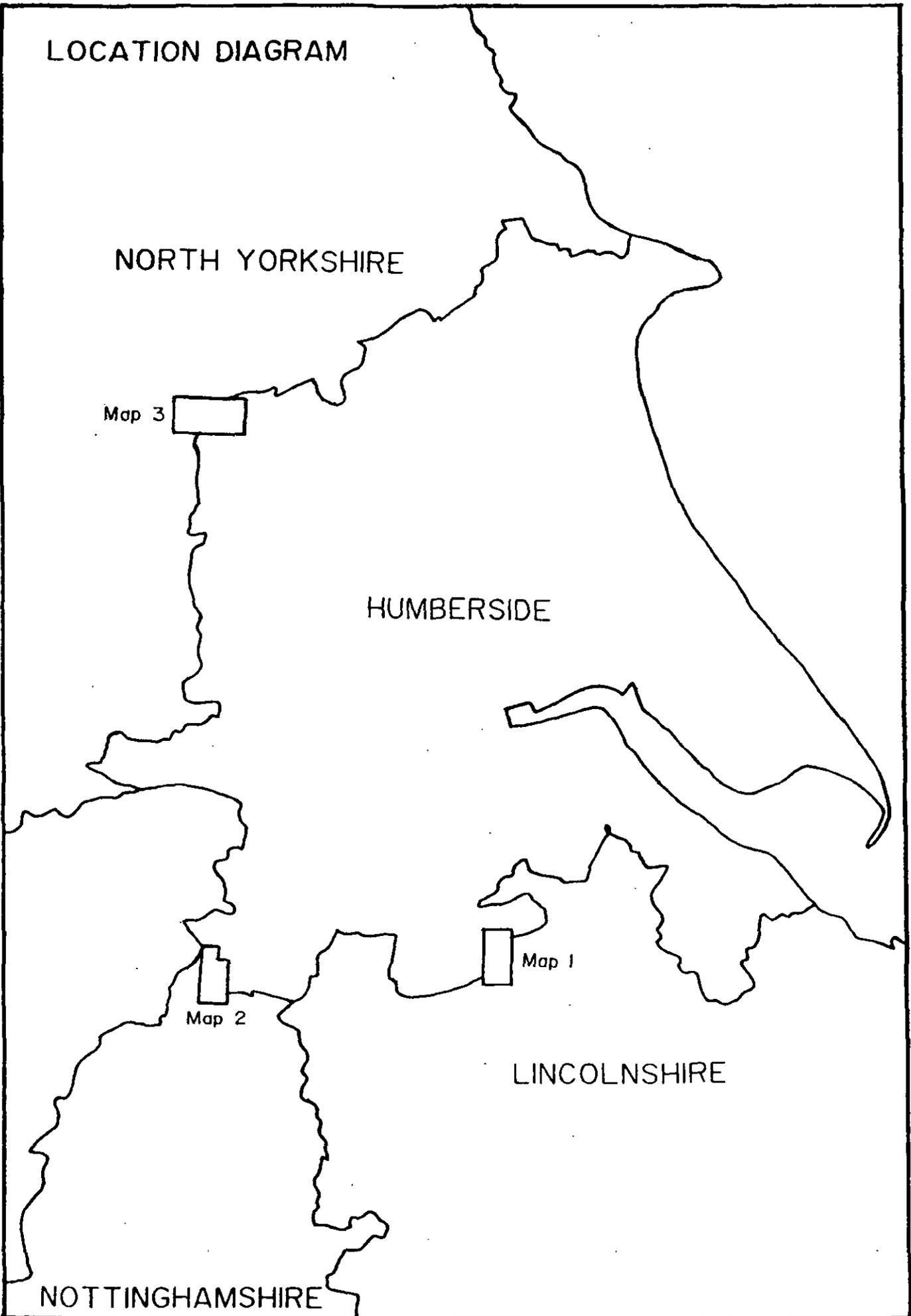
HUMBERSIDE

Map 1

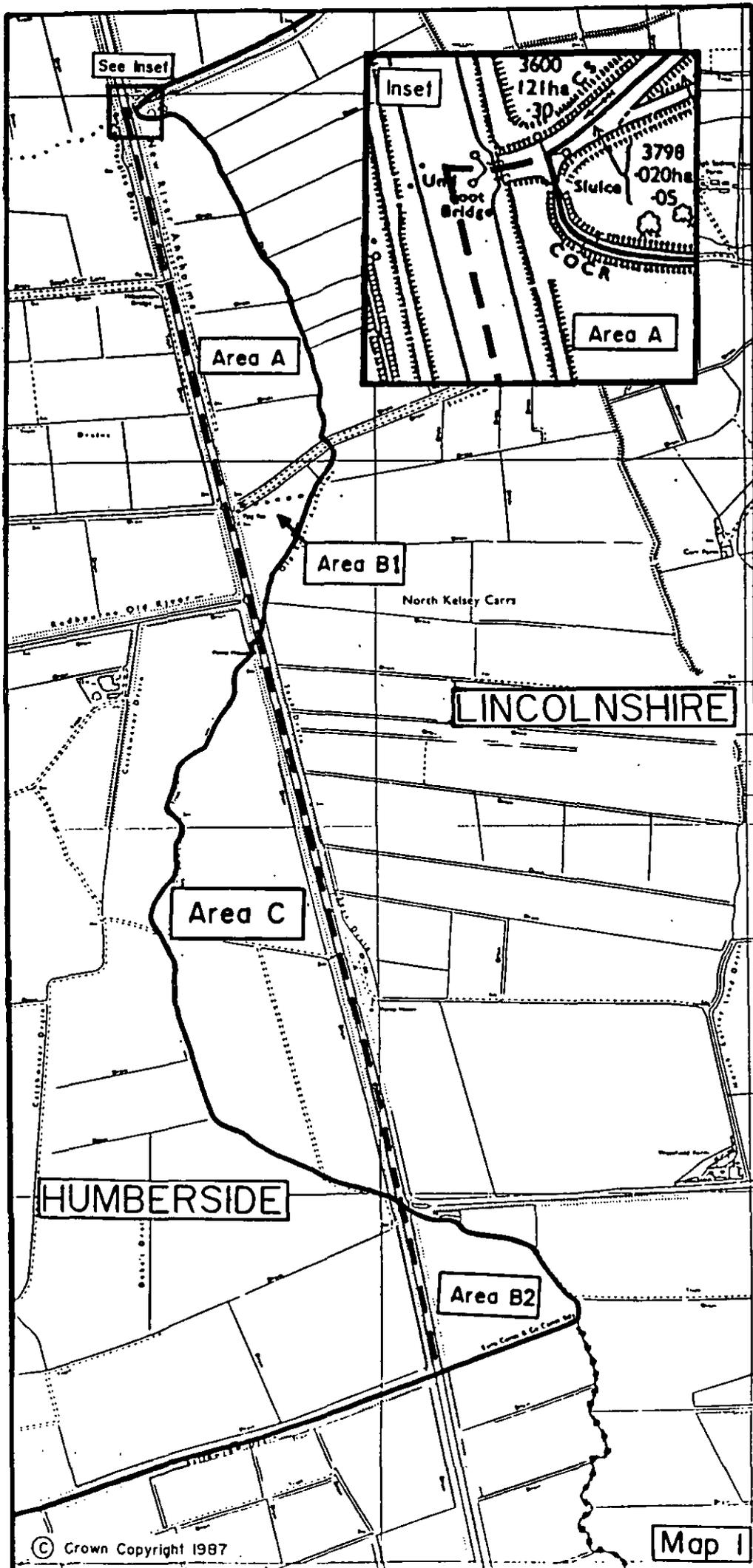
Map 2

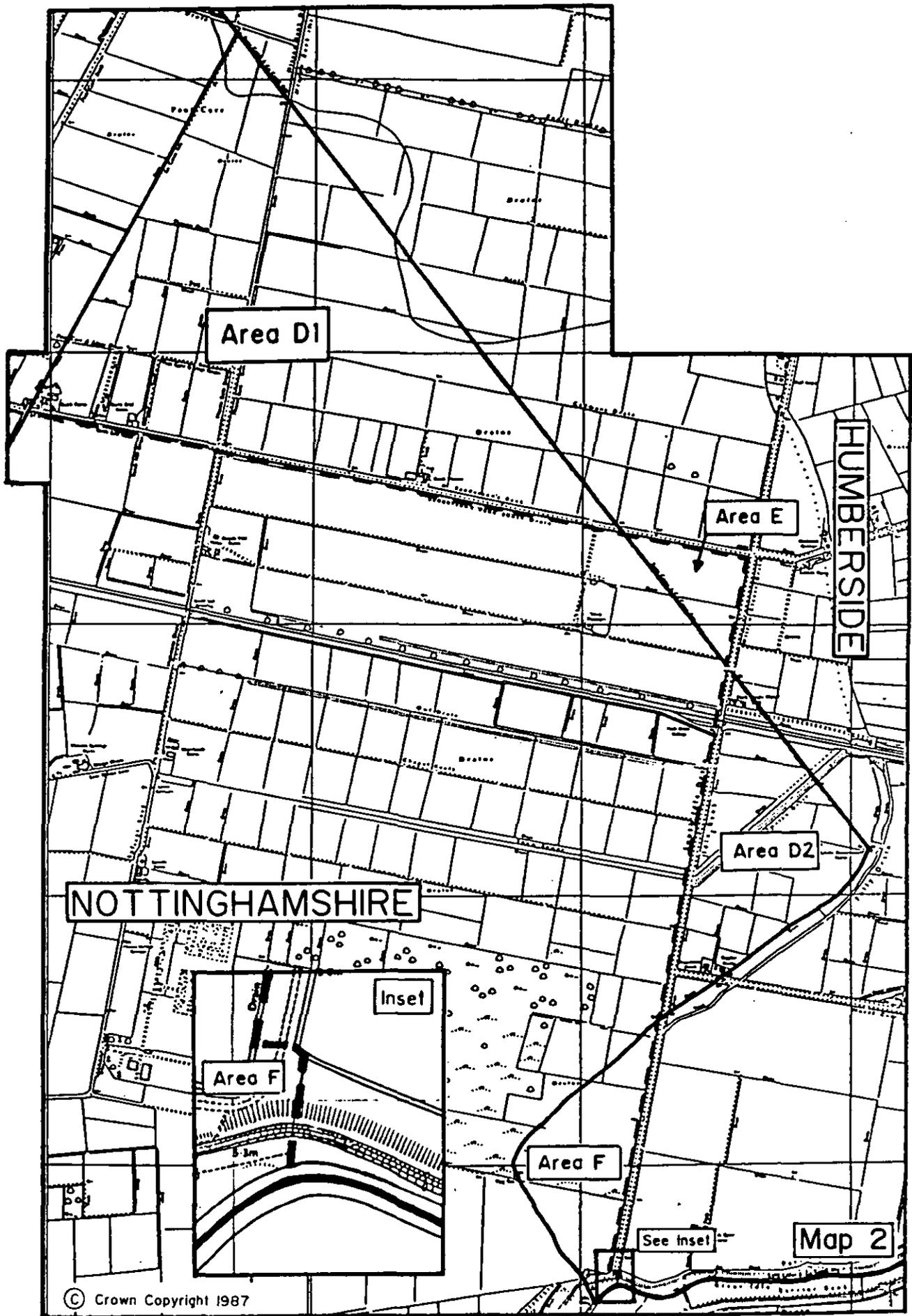
LINCOLNSHIRE

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



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NORTH YORKSHIRE

Area K

Area L

Area M

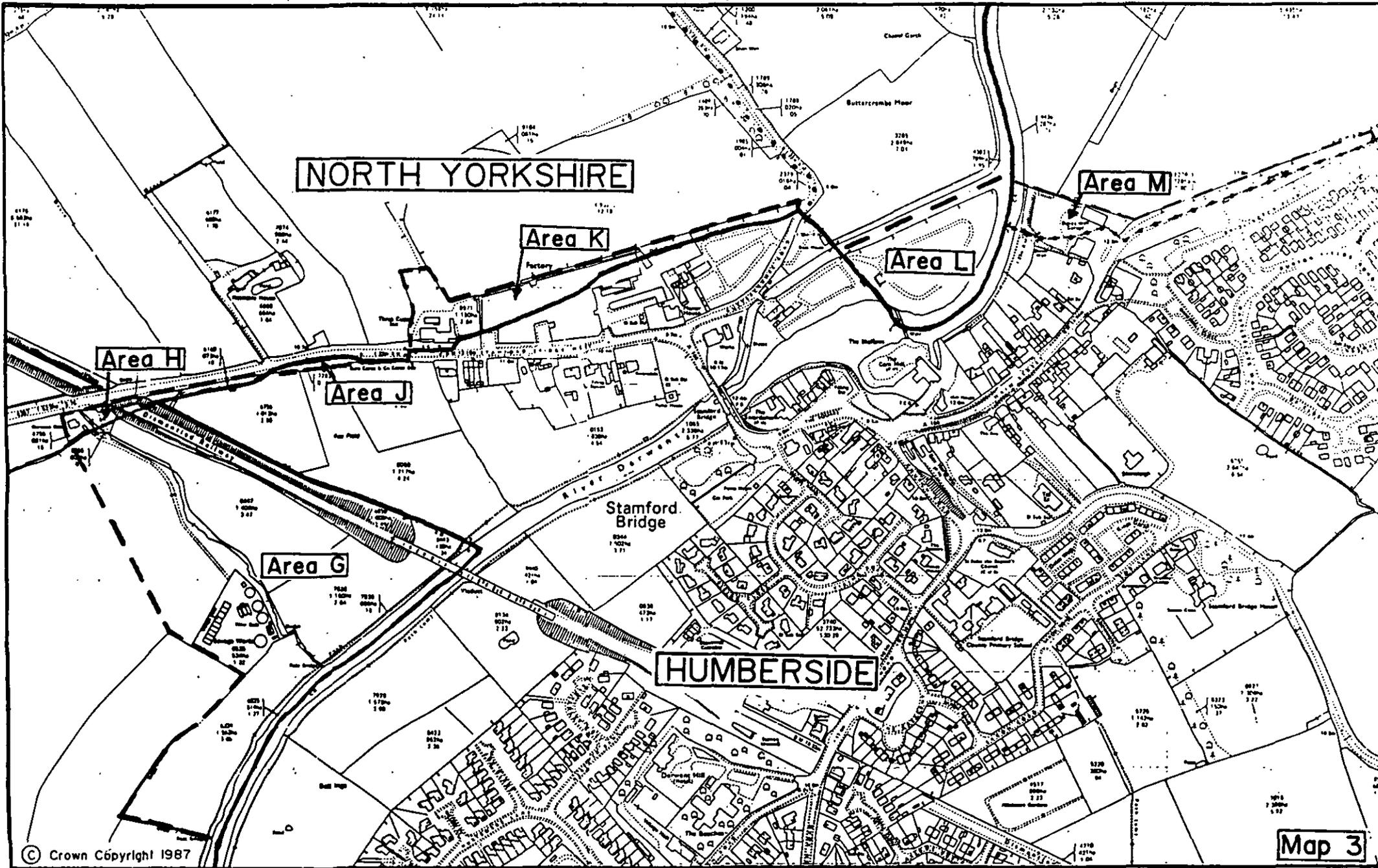
Area H

Area J

Area G

Stamford Bridge

HUMBERSIDE



# CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES

No.	AREA	FROM	TO
1	A	Humberside Borough of Glanford Hibaldstow CP South Ancholme Ward Ridge ED	Lincolnshire West Lindsey District North Kelsey CP Kelsey Ward North Wolds ED
	BI	Humberside Borough of Glanford Redbourne CP South Ancholme Ward Ridge ED	Lincolnshire West Lindsey District North Kelsey CP Kelsey Ward North Wolds ED
	B2	Humberside Borough of Glanford Redbourne CP South Ancholme Ward Ridge ED	Lincolnshire West Lindsey District South Kelsey CP Kelsey Ward North Wolds ED
	C	Lincolnshire West Lindsey District North Kelsey CP Kelsey Ward North Wolds ED	Humberside Borough of Glanford Redbourne CP South Ancholme Ward Ridge ED
2	DI D2	Nottinghamshire Bassetlaw District Misson CP Everton Ward Misterton ED	Humberside Borough of Boothferry Wroot CP Haxey Ward South Axholme ED
	E	Humberside Borough of Boothferry Wroot CP Haxey Ward South Axholme ED	Nottinghamshire Bassetlaw District Misson CP Everton Ward Misterton ED
	F	Humberside Borough of Boothferry Haxey CP Haxey Ward South Axholme ED	Nottinghamshire Bassetlaw District Misson CP Everton Ward Misterton ED
3	G	North Yorkshire Selby District Kexby CP Dunnington Ward Dunnington ED	Humberside Borough of East Yorkshire Stamford Bridge CP Stamford Bridge Ward Pocklington Provincial ED
	H K	North Yorkshire Ryedale District Gate Helmsley CP Stockton and Bossall Ward Huntington North ED	Humberside Borough of East Yorkshire Stamford Bridge CP Stamford Bridge Ward Pocklington Provincial ED
	J	Humberside Borough of East Yorkshire Stamford Bridge CP Stamford Bridge Ward Pocklington Provincial ED	North Yorkshire Ryedale District Gate Helmsley CP Stockton and Bossall Ward Huntington North ED
	L	North Yorkshire Ryedale District Buttercrambe with Bossall CP Stockton and Bossall Ward Huntington North ED	Humberside Borough of East Yorkshire Stamford Bridge CP Stamford Bridge Ward Pocklington Provincial ED
	M	Skirpenbeck CP Garrowby Ward	Stamford Bridge CP Stamford Bridge Ward

