

Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No. 684

Review of Non-Metropolitan Counties

COUNTY OF EAST SUSSEX
AND ITS BOUNDARY
WITH KENT AT
BAYHAM LAKE

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT
BOUNDARY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND**

REPORT NO 684

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

CHAIRMAN MR K F J ENNALS CB

MEMBERS MR G R PRENTICE

MRS H R V SARKANY

MR C W SMITH

PROFESSOR K YOUNG

**THE RT HON MICHAEL HOWARD QC MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

REVIEW OF NON-METROPOLITAN COUNTIES

**FURTHER REVIEW OF THE COUNTY BOUNDARY BETWEEN EAST SUSSEX AND
KENT IN THE VICINITY OF BAYHAM LAKE**

COMMISSION'S FINAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

1. On 27 January 1986, as part of our mandatory cycle of reviews of non-metropolitan county boundaries, we commenced a review of the County of East Sussex and its boundaries with Kent, Surrey and West Sussex, in accordance with Section 48(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. Our recommendations in respect of the review were contained in Report no. 602 which was submitted to your predecessor on 27 March 1991.

2. In a letter dated 3 April 1992, we were directed by the Secretary of State to conduct a further review of the boundary between East Sussex and Kent in the vicinity of Bayham Lake and to report to you with our conclusions by 31 August 1992.

3. The direction followed a representation received by the Secretary of State from the owner of Bayham Lake, Mr J Parkman, regarding our proposal to align the boundary to the northern bank of the Lake, thus transferring one large area from Kent to East Sussex and two smaller areas from East Sussex to Kent. Mr Parkman pointed out that he also owned a house and land on the northern side of Bayham Lake and an effect of our proposal would be to split his property. Mr Parkman had not made any representation to us during the course of our review and his objection could not therefore have been taken into account. The Secretary of State concluded that the proposal should be reconsidered, taking into account the owner's views.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE START OF THE FURTHER REVIEW

4. We announced the start of the further review on 28 April 1992 in letters addressed to East Sussex County Council and Kent County Council. A copy of the letter was also sent to Wealden District Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, the parish councils of Frant and Lamberhurst, Members of Parliament with a constituency interest, the National Rivers Authority, Southern Water plc, Kent and Sussex Police, Mr Parkman, the local government press, and local newspapers, television and radio stations. Comments were invited by 2 June 1992.

THE SUBMISSIONS MADE TO US

5. In response to our letter of 28 April 1992 we received representations from East Sussex and Kent County Councils, Wealden District Council, Mr Parkman, Sussex Police and the National Rivers Authority.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGE AND OUR INITIAL CONCLUSION

6. Both Kent County Council and Mr Parkman suggested uniting Bayham Lake within Kent. Kent County Council suggested that the maps submitted with our Report no. 602 were out of date as they did not contain information about changes made to the lake and surrounding land since 1979. Changes included land reclamation and the diversion of the River Teise at the lake's western end, the creation of an additional island to the east of the lake, and the development of the lake as a major stillwater trout fishery in association with other outdoor corporate entertainment and leisure activities. Kent County Council also said that our original proposal would divide a boathouse, which was situated on the northern bank but which extended 37 feet into the lake. The Council said that our proposal would create difficulties in connection with licences for corporate entertainment which took place in the boathouse. Mr Parkman made similar comments in respect of the geography of the area.

7. East Sussex County Council and Wealden District Council supported our original proposal that the lake should be united in East Sussex, saying that it was in the interests of effective and convenient local government. They also argued that land ownership was an unreasonable basis for defining boundaries.

8. Both Sussex Police and the National Rivers Authority indicated that implementation of our proposal would not result in operational implications for them.

9. After considering the information about the development in and around the lake provided by Kent County Council and Mr Parkman, we decided that there were now more compelling reasons to align the boundary to the southern bank of the lake than to the northern bank, and decided to adopt this as our draft proposal.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR DRAFT PROPOSAL

10. The letter announcing our draft proposal was published on 3 July 1992. Copies were sent to the local authorities concerned and to the recipients of our letter of 28 April 1992. Notices were inserted in the local press and placed on local notice boards announcing that the draft proposal had been issued and that it could be inspected at the council offices or that copies could be obtained by writing to the Commission. Comments were invited by 31 July 1992.

RESPONSE TO OUR DRAFT PROPOSAL AND FINAL PROPOSAL

11. In response to our draft proposal we received representations from East Sussex and Kent County Councils and Kent County Constabulary. As required by Section 60(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, we have considered the representations made to us and set out below our final proposal.

12. East Sussex County Council expressed disappointment at our draft proposal and re-iterated its view that effective and

convenient local government would best be served by aligning the boundary to the northern bank.

13. Kent County Council supported our draft proposal but suggested a minor amendment to the east of the dam which separates the lake from the River Teise. It suggested that our proposal to move the boundary to the middle of the river at the first weir after the dam would cause difficulties as the water between the first weir and the last weir had been extensively developed with, among other things, an artificial island. Instead, it suggested that the boundary should remain on the southern bank of the River Teise until after the last weir and only then move to the middle of the river.

14. Kent County Constabulary said that implementation of the draft proposal would present no significant operational implications.

15. Having considered all the representations, we remain of the opinion that to unite Bayham Lake in Kent, together with the land based facilities provided in connection with its use as a leisure and corporate entertainment facility, would be in the interests of effective and convenient local government. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft proposal as final, subject to the small amendment suggested by Kent County Council.

ELECTORAL CONSEQUENCES AND MAPS

16. The map at annex A illustrates the proposed new boundary, and the schedule at Annex B explains the consequential changes to borough, county and district electoral arrangements.

PUBLICATION

17. A separate letter, enclosing copies of this Report, is being sent to East Sussex County Council, Kent County Council, Wealden District Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, asking them to deposit copies of the Report at their main offices for

inspection for six months and to put notices to this effect on public notice boards. Arrangements have been made for similar notices to be inserted 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 our final proposals are submitted to you. Copies of this Report, which contains small scale maps of our proposal, are also being sent to those who received our consultation letter.

LS

Signed: K F J ENNALS (Chairman)

G R PRENTICE

HELEN SARKANY

C W SMITH

K YOUNG

R D COMPTON
Secretary

13 August 1992

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

FURTHER REVIEW

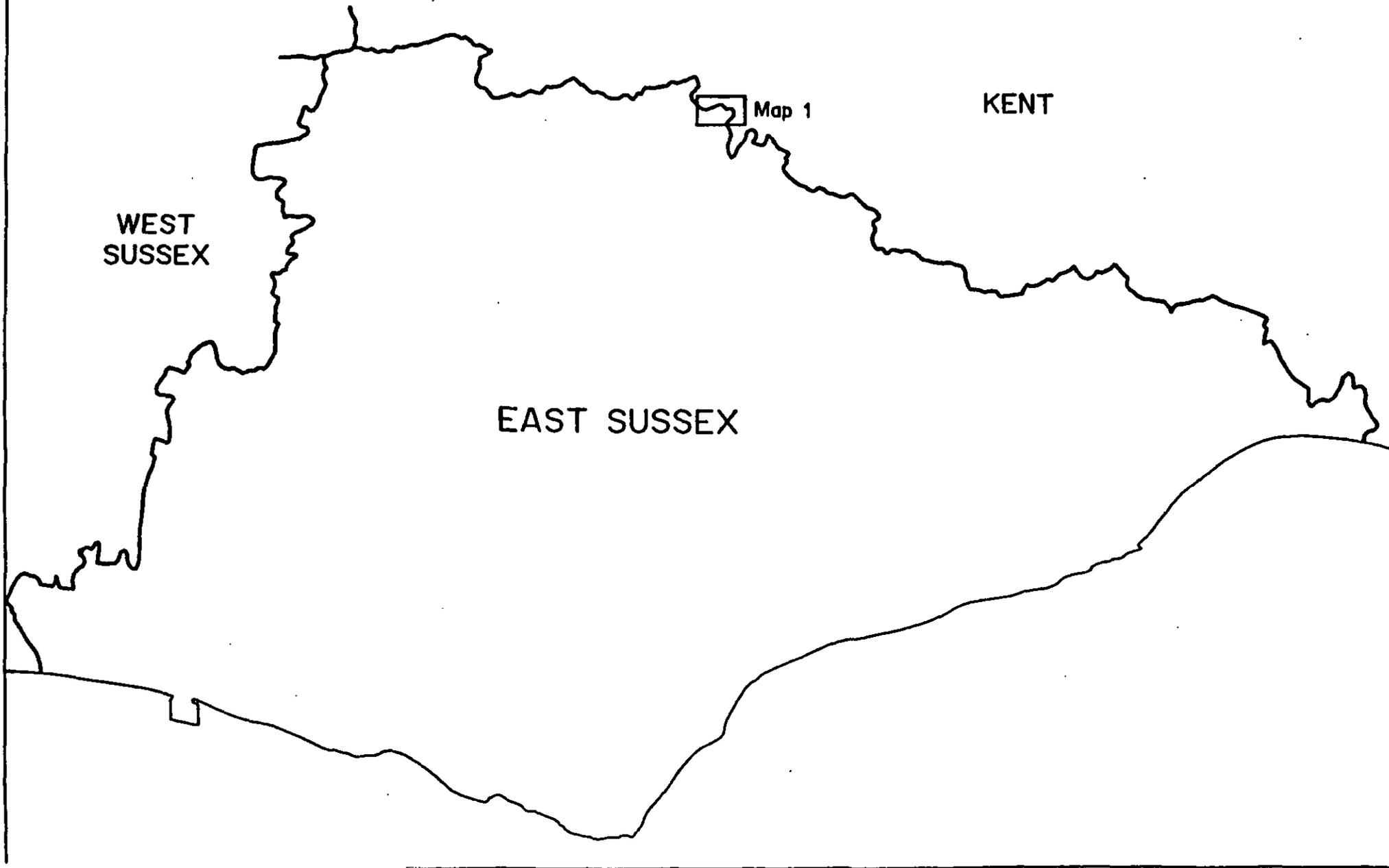
EAST SUSSEX

BOUNDARY WITH KENT IN THE VICINITY OF BAYHAM LAKE

FINAL PROPOSAL

Existing County Boundary	————
Proposed County Boundary	- - - -

LOCATION DIAGRAM

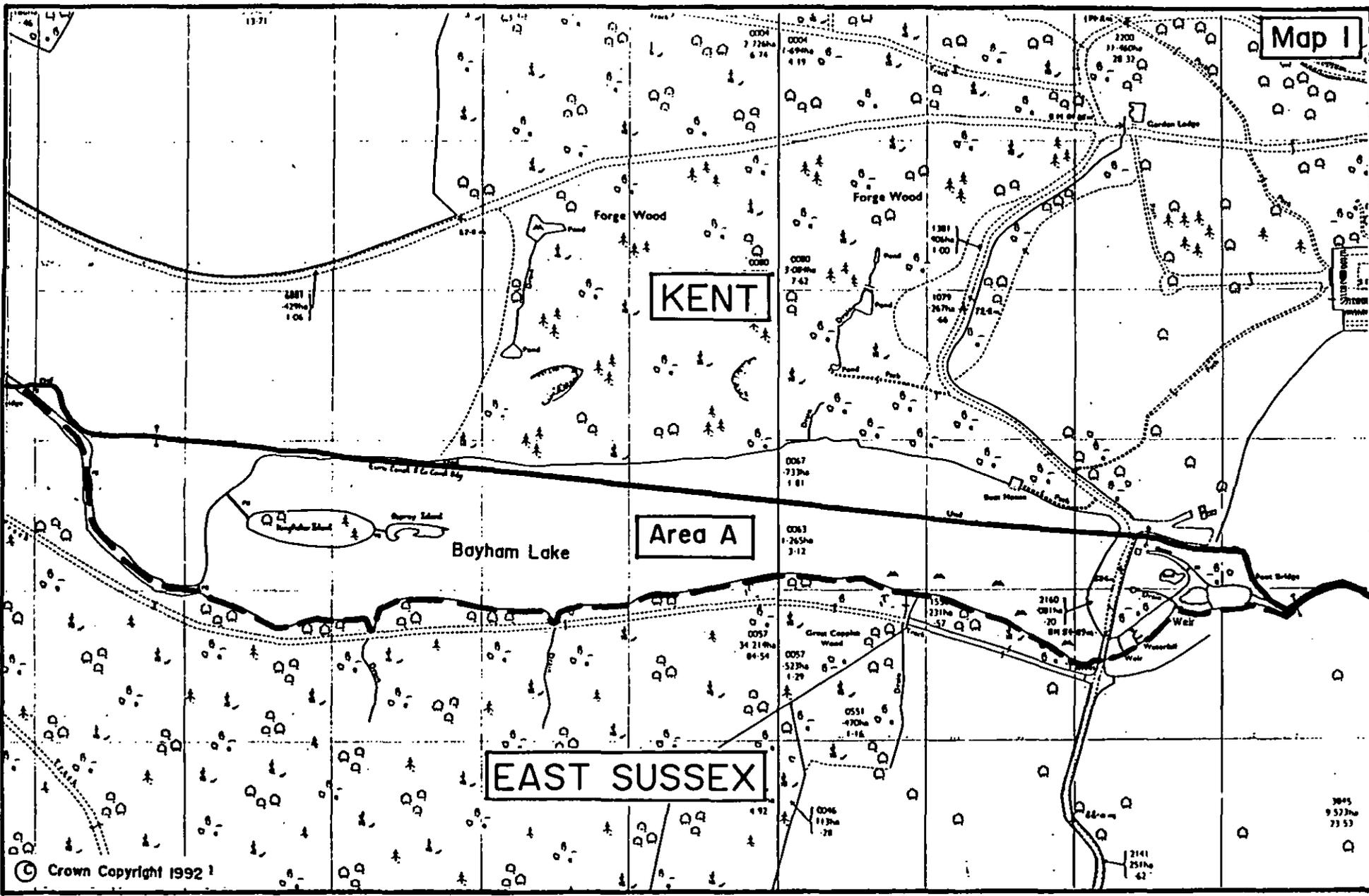


Map 1

KENT

Area A

EAST SUSSEX



CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES			
MAP NO.	AREA REF.	FROM	TO
1	A	East Sussex Wealden District Frant CP Frant Ward Wadhurst ED	Kent Tunbridge Wells Borough Lamberhurst CP Lamberhurst Ward Tunbridge Wells Rural East ED

