

Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No.597.

Principal Area Boundary Review

ELECTORAL CONSEQUENTIALS:

CITY OF GLOUCESTER

BOROUGH OF CHELTENHAM

DISTRICT OF COTSWOLD

DISTRICT OF STROUD

BOROUGH OF TEWKESBURY

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 597.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

CHAIRMAN

MR. G J ELLERTON, CMG, MBE

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS

MR K F J ENNALS, CB

MR G R PRENTICE

MRS H R V SARKANY

MR C. W. SMITH

PROFESSOR K YOUNG

THE RT HON MICHAEL HESELTINE MP.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

PRINCIPAL AREA BOUNDARY REVIEW : CITY OF GLOUCESTER/BOROUGH OF
CHELTENHAM/DISTRICT OF STROUD/BOROUGH OF TEWKESBURY/DISTRICT OF
COTSWOLD

FINAL PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES TO ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS
CONSEQUENTIAL TO PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGES

INTRODUCTION

1. This Report deals with the electoral consequences of recently announced changes to district boundaries in the vicinity of Leckhampton, Up Hatherley, Prestbury and Swindon, in the Boroughs of Cheltenham and Tewkesbury.

BACKGROUND

2. On 25 March 1988, we submitted to your predecessor our Report No. 547, which contained our final proposals for changes to the administrative boundaries of the city of Gloucester ; the Boroughs of Cheltenham and Tewkesbury ; and the Districts of Cotswold and Stroud.

3. In that Report, we stated that we had made no proposals for the electoral consequences of the proposed boundary changes, and that our final proposals for such consequences would be the subject of a separate report. In view of the nature and extent of the electoral consequences, we had decided that they ought to be advertised separately in order to give all those affected by them a full opportunity to comment.

4. In your Department's letter of 13 June 1989, we were informed of the then Minister for Local Government's decision, on behalf of the Secretary of State, to modify our boundary proposals. We noted that his decisions in respect of the boundary between the Boroughs of Cheltenham and Tewkesbury in the Leckhampton Up Hatherley, Prestbury and Swindon areas would be provisional and subject to any comments received by him during a period of three months from the date of his letter. In your Department's subsequent letter of 26 June 1989, we were asked to submit our final proposals for consequential changes to electoral arrangements by Christmas 1989, so that the order giving effect to the boundary changes could take effect on 1 April 1991.

PROPOSALS FOR CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES TO ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

5. Our Report No. 581, published in February 1990, therefore dealt with the consequential changes to electoral arrangements for the areas where the district boundaries had been finally determined in your Department's letter of 13 June 1989. We undertook to publish a separate report in respect of the electoral

consequences of any boundary changes subsequently determined in respect of the areas of Up Hatherley, Leckhampton, Prestbury and Swindon.

6. On 25 September 1990, your predecessor published his final decisions on the administrative boundaries in these areas. We note that, apart from some minor and electorally insignificant alterations, the final decisions are the same as the provisional decisions published in the letter of 13 June 1989.

7. To minimise delay we again decided to publish our own proposals for consequential electoral changes in these areas and to invite comments, rather than follow our usual procedure of inviting local authorities concerned to submit draft schemes. We accordingly published draft proposals on 10 December 1990, by means of a letter addressed to the County Council of Gloucestershire and the Boroughs of Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. A copy of that letter is attached. Copies were sent at that time to those listed in paragraph 17 of the letter. The county and borough councils were asked to publish a notice giving information about our draft proposals and to put copies of this on display at places where public notices are customarily displayed. They were also asked to place copies of our draft proposals on deposit for inspection at their main offices. Comments were invited by 10 January 1991.

8. Our latest draft proposals were as follows:

BOROUGH OF CHELTENHAM

LECKHAMPTON WITH UP HATHERLEY

The parts of the parishes of Leckhampton and Up Hatherley to be transferred to the borough of Cheltenham should form a new two-member ward of Leckhampton and Up Hatherley. (In this connection, we had regard to representations previously received from the Parish Councils of Leckhampton and Up Hatherley. Up Hatherley Parish Council proposed two single-member wards, but we concluded that this request could not be met. As Leckhampton has a considerably greater number of electors than Up Hatherley, a single-member Leckhampton ward would be substantially under-represented).

At county level, the areas of Leckhampton and Up Hatherley to be transferred to Cheltenham should form a new county electoral division of Cotswold Edge.

PRESTBURY

The area of the parish of Prestbury to be transferred to Cheltenham should form a new three-member ward of Prestbury. At county level, this area should constitute a new electoral division of Prestbury.

SWINDON

The part of the parish of Swindon to be transferred to Cheltenham should form a new, single-member ward of Swindon. At county level, this area should become part of the electoral division of St Peter's.

BOROUGH OF TEWKESBURY

LECKHAMPTON WITH UP HATHERLEY

The areas of the parishes of Leckhampton and Up Hatherley which are to remain in Tewkesbury (and are being transferred to the parish of Shurdington) should become part of the district ward of Shurdington. At county level, they should become part of the electoral division of Mid-Tewkesbury, together with the parish of Great Witcombe, the remainder of the parish of Badgeworth (within the existing Crickley ward) and the parish of Shurdington.

PRESTBURY

The area of the parish of Prestbury which is to remain in Tewkesbury (and is being transferred to the parish of Southam) should become part of the district ward of Cleeve Hill. At county level, it should form part of the electoral division of Winchcombe.

SWINDON

The area of the parish of Swindon which is to remain in Tewkesbury (and is being transferred to the parish of Bishop's Cleeve) should become part of the district ward of Bishop's Cleeve South. At county level, it should form part of Bishop's Cleeve and Swindon electoral division.

9. We have received nine representations. Tewkesbury Borough Council has no comments and will not be seeking a further electoral review of the borough before the mandatory cycle of electoral reviews due to start in 1996. Cheltenham Borough Council suggests that the proposed new ward of Leckhampton with Up Hatherley (in Cheltenham) should have three members rather than two as we proposed, given the recent rapid growth in its population. Both parish councils involved, Leckhampton and Up Hatherley, have made a similar suggestion, for the same reason. Up Hatherley Parish Council has also suggested an early further electoral review of the Borough of Cheltenham. The three District Councillors for the present ward of Leckhampton with Up Hatherley (in Tewkesbury) and a Leckhampton parish councillor also believe that the new ward should have three members, to ensure proper representation, and suggest that Cheltenham Borough Council should have 41 members, instead of 40 as we proposed. Swindon Parish Council, a Tewkesbury borough councillor and a Swindon parish councillor all suggest that the parish of Swindon should become

part of the (mainly rural) county electoral division of Prestbury rather than (as we proposed) of the (urban) electoral division of St Peter's. The borough councillor believes that this would provide a more balanced solution for the area.

OUR FINAL PROPOSALS

10. As required by Section 60 (2)(d) of the Local Government Act 1972, we have considered the representations made to us in response to our draft proposals. We note the suggestions that the new Leckhampton with Up Hatherley ward should have three councillors rather than two, with a consequential increase in the size of Cheltenham Borough Council from 40 members to 41. Whilst we recognise that rapid development is occurring in this area, we are also aware that there are likely to be electoral imbalances in other areas which are not directly consequential upon changes to the administrative boundaries arising from the principal area boundary review. This suggests that there could well be a need for a further electoral review of the borough of Cheltenham as a whole (which we have already indicated our willingness to consider), when the question of the size of the borough Council and of particular wards would be matters for consideration. In our view it is preferable to review the electoral arrangements of areas as a whole, rather than to attempt to adjust imbalances piecemeal and within the constraints imposed by a review undertaken for other purposes.

11. We recognise that a further electoral review of the borough would take time. However, it would be in the best interests of the local authorities concerned, and of their electorates, if in the meantime your decisions arising from the principal area boundary review were to be implemented as soon as possible. We have therefore decided to confirm as final our draft proposal in respect of the Leckhampton and Up Hatherley ward. We accept that the population in this area is growing rapidly and that there is merit in the case which has been made to us for a three-member ward. We recognise that it is open to you to modify our proposal should you conclude that in this particular case weight should be given at this time to the representations in favour of a three-member ward.

12. We also note the representations in response to our proposal for Swindon. We have however concluded that the electoral balance would not be improved significantly if Swindon was to become part of Prestbury county electoral division. This is our main concern, in line with the requirements of Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972, although we have of course had regard as far as possible to local community ties. We have therefore decided to confirm as final our proposal for this area.

13. No representations were received on our other proposals, as set out in paragraphs 9-10 and 12 of our letter of 10 December 1990. We therefore confirm these draft proposals as final. A display map illustrating all our final proposals is enclosed.

PUBLICATION

14. A copy of this report will be sent to the Home Office. Separate letters are being sent, with copies of this report, to Gloucestershire County Council and to the Borough Councils of Cheltenham and Tewkesbury, asking them to place copies of the report on display at their main offices, and to put notices to that effect on public notice boards. The Commission will itself place notices in the local press. The text of the notice will explain that the Commission has fulfilled its statutory role in the matter and that it is now open to you to make an Order implementing the proposals, if you think fit, though not earlier than six weeks from the day on which they are submitted to you. Copies of this report, which includes small scale maps, are also being sent to those who received a draft proposal letter and to all who made comments to us.

LS

Signed

G J ELLERTON (Chairman)

K F J ENNALS

G R PRENTICE

HELEN SARKANY

C W SMITH

PROFESSOR K YOUNG

R D COMPTON

Secretary

24 January 1991

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

PRINCIPAL AREA BOUNDARY REVIEW

CITY OF GLOUCESTER/CHEL TENHAM BOROUGH/
STROUD DISTRICT/TEWKESBURY BOROUGH/
COTSWOLD DISTRICT

FINAL PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER CONSEQUENTIALS

Existing Boundary
Proposed Boundary
Other existing Boundary



Produced by the Ordnance Survey for the
Local Government Boundary Commission for England

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH

BISHOP'S CLEEVE CP

Area D

Area C

LUCKINGTON CP

Elmstone Hardwicke

Area B

SWINDON CP

Brockhampton

CP

Area A

Swindon

PRESTBURY CP

Area E

CHELTENHAM BOROUGH

Marle Hill



Area D.

BISHOP'S CLEEVE CP

Bishop's Cleeve

SOUTHAM CP

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH

Inset 1

See Inset 1

Area L

Area E

Area F
PRESTBURY CP

Prestbury

Area M

Inset 2

See Inset 2

CHELTENHAM BOROUGH

Cleeve Common

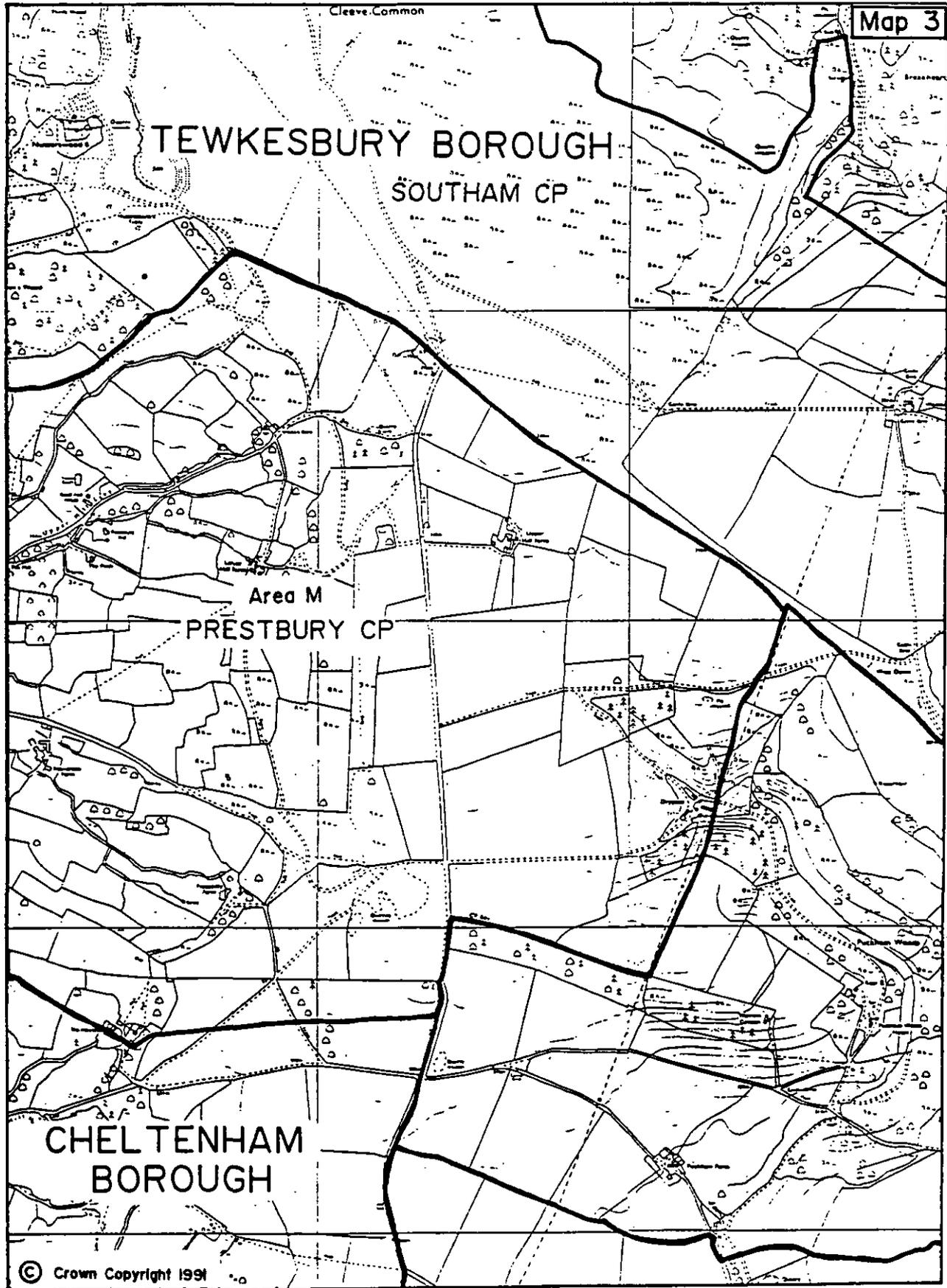
Map 3

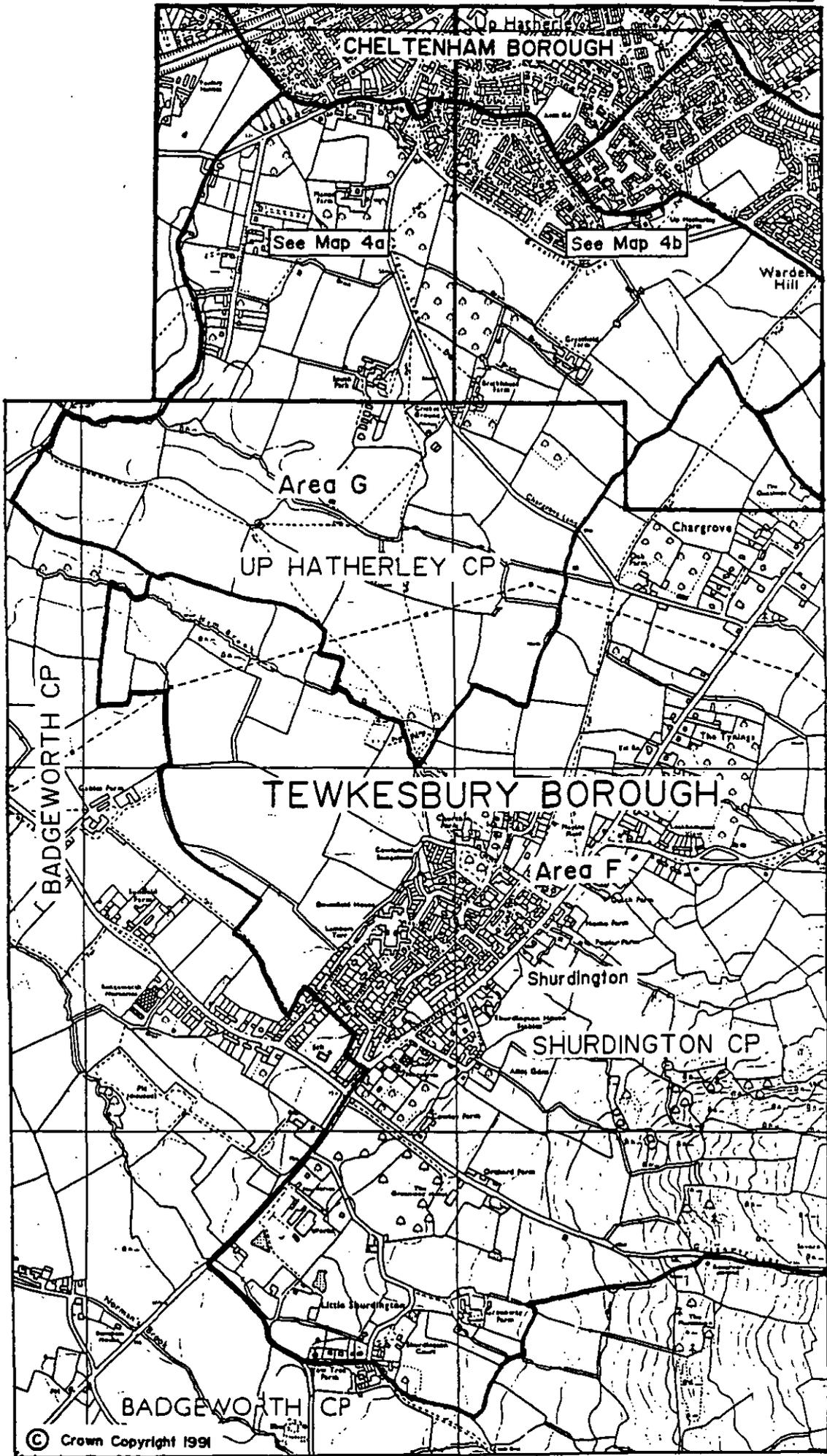
TEWKESBURY BOROUGH
SOUTHAM CP

Area M
PRESTBURY CP

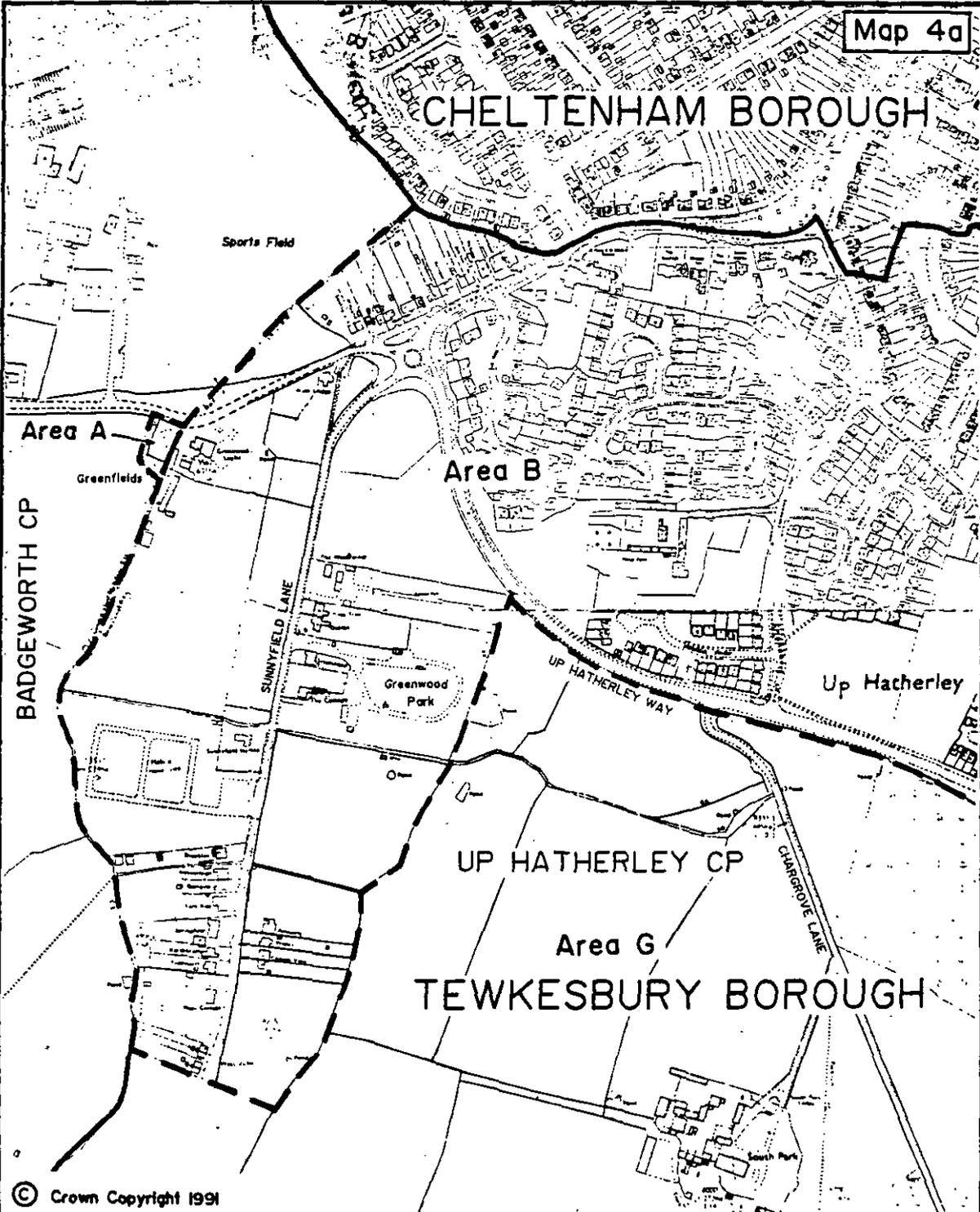
CHEL TENHAM
BOROUGH

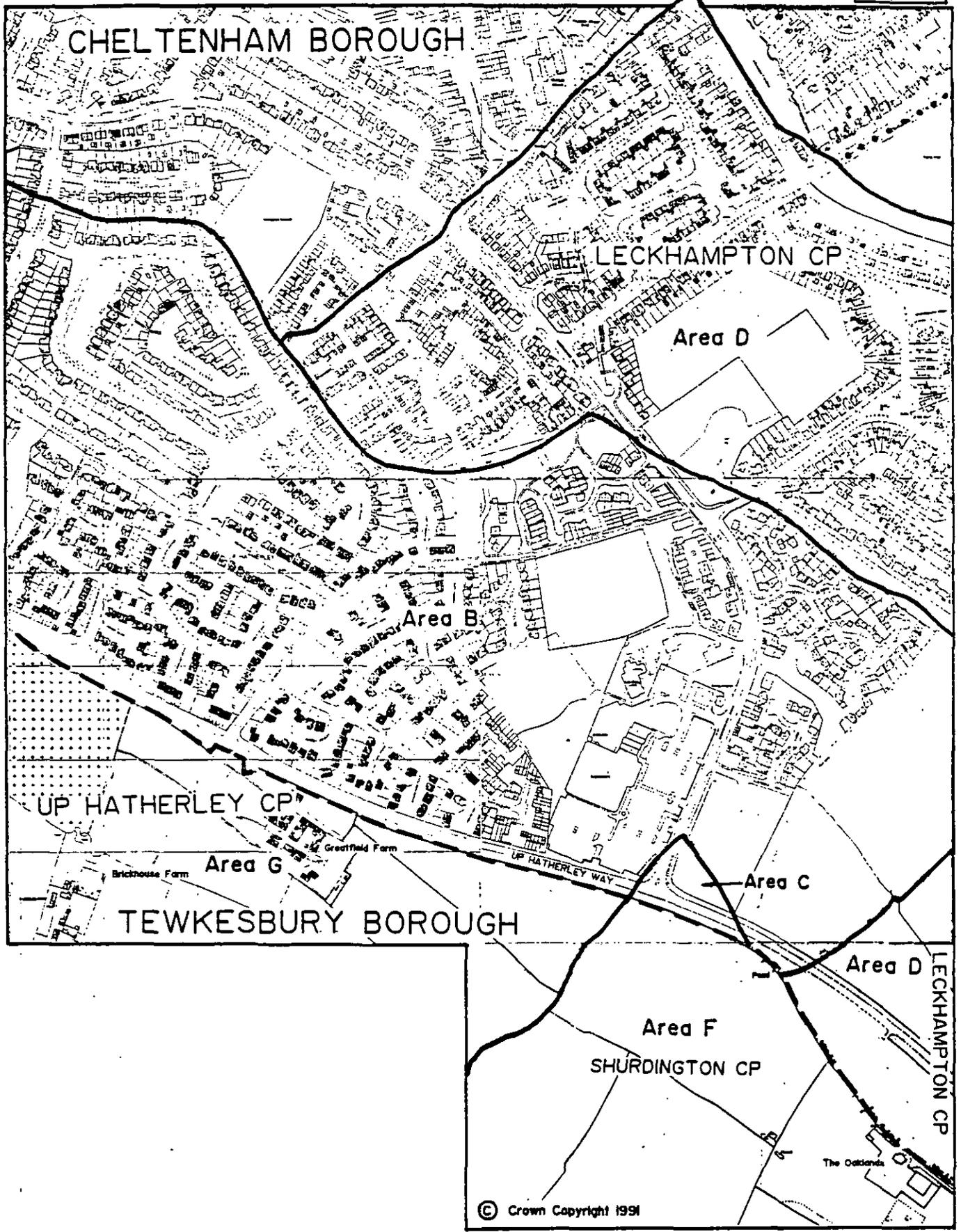
© Crown Copyright 1991

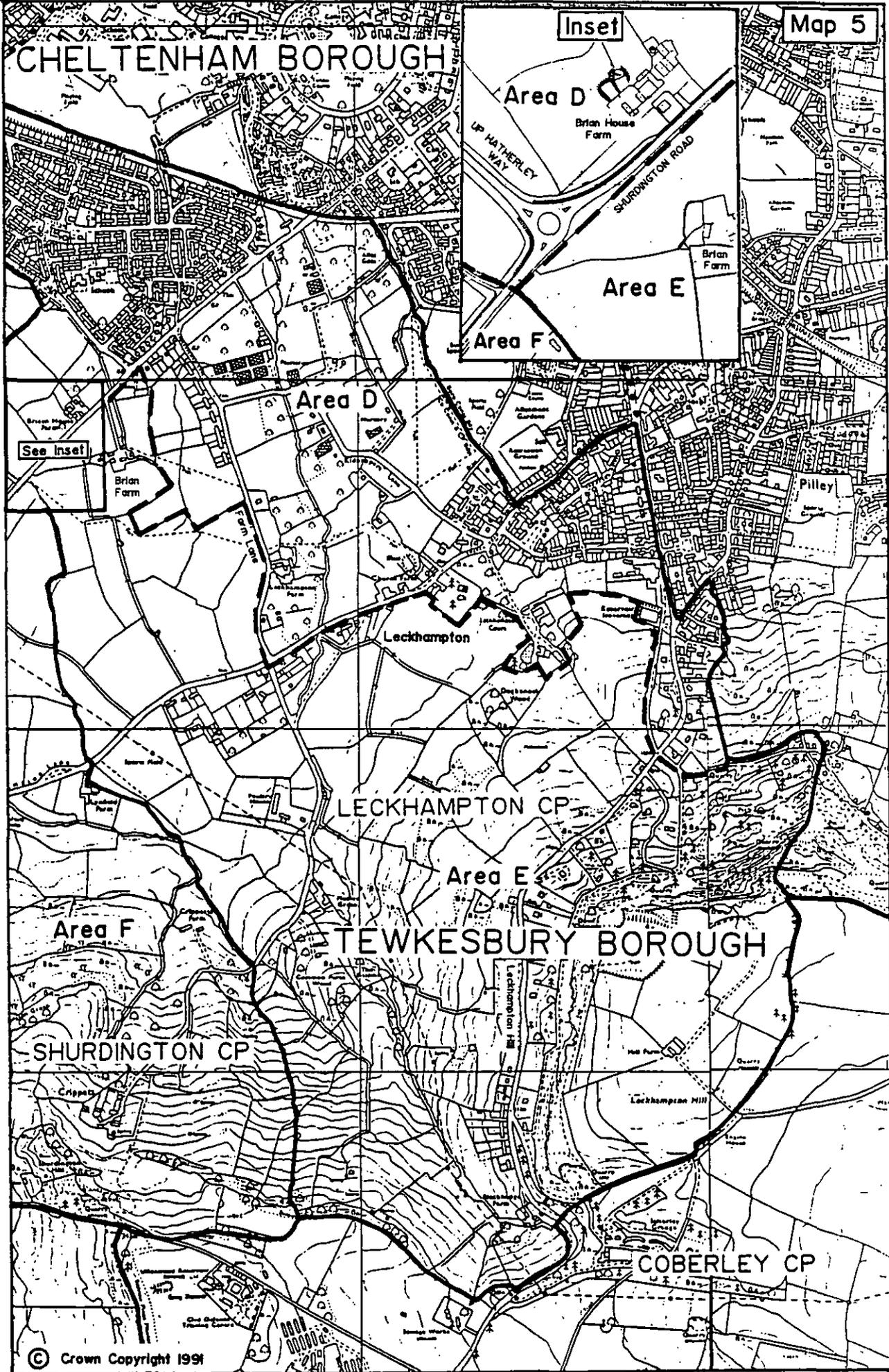




CHEL TENHAM BOROUGH







CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES

MAP NO.	AREA REF.	FROM	TO
1	A	Tewkesbury Borough Swindon CP Swindon Ward Bishop's Cleeve and Swindon ED	Cheltenham Borough Proposed Swindon CP Proposed Swindon Ward St Peter's ED
	B	Tewkesbury Borough Uckington CP Coombe Hill Ward Mid-Tewkesbury ED	Cheltenham Borough Proposed Swindon CP Proposed Swindon Ward St Peter's ED
	C	Swindon CP Swindon Ward Bishop's Cleeve and Swindon ED	Uckington CP Coombe Hill Ward Mid-Tewkesbury ED
	D	Swindon CP Swindon Ward Bishop's Cleeve and Swindon ED	Bishop's Cleeve CP Bishop's Cleeve South Ward Proposed Bishop's Cleeve and Swindon ED
	E	Tewkesbury Borough Prestbury CP Prestbury St Nicholas Ward Prestbury ED	Cheltenham Borough Proposed Prestbury CP Proposed Prestbury Ward Proposed Prestbury ED
2	D	Swindon CP Swindon Ward Bishop's Cleeve and Swindon ED	Bishop's Cleeve CP Bishop's Cleeve South Ward Proposed Bishop's Cleeve and Swindon ED
	E	Tewkesbury Borough Prestbury CP Prestbury St Nicholas Ward Prestbury ED	Cheltenham Borough Proposed Prestbury CP Proposed Prestbury Ward Proposed Prestbury ED
	F	Tewkesbury Borough Prestbury CP Prestbury St Mary's Ward Prestbury ED	Cheltenham Borough Proposed Prestbury CP Proposed Prestbury Ward Proposed Prestbury ED
	G J L	Tewkesbury Borough Southam CP Cleeve Hill Ward Winchcombe ED	Cheltenham Borough Proposed Prestbury CP Proposed Prestbury Ward Proposed Prestbury ED
	H K M	Prestbury CP Prestbury St Mary's Ward Prestbury ED	Southam CP Cleeve Hill Ward Winchcombe ED
3	M	Prestbury CP Prestbury St Mary's Ward Prestbury ED	Southam CP Cleeve Hill Ward Winchcombe ED

CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGE

Map No.	Area Ref	From	To
4	F	Shurdington CP Shurdington Ward Cotswold Edge ED	No change No change Mid-Tewkesbury ED
	G	Up Hatherley CP Leckhampton with Up Hatherley Ward Cotswold Edge ED	Shurdington CP Shurdington Ward Mid-Tewkesbury ED
4a	A	Tewkesbury Borough Badgeworth CP Crickley Ward Cotswold Edge ED	Cheltenham Borough Proposed Up Hatherley CP Proposed Leckhampton with Up Hatherley Ward Proposed Cotswold Edge ED
	B	Tewkesbury Borough Up Hatherley CP Leckhampton with Up Hatherley Ward Cotswold Edge ED	Cheltenham Borough Proposed Up Hatherley CP Proposed Leckhampton with Up Hatherley Ward Proposed Cotswold Edge ED
	G	Up Hatherley CP Leckhampton with Up Hatherley Ward Cotswold Edge ED	Shurdington CP Shurdington Ward Mid-Tewkesbury ED
4b	B	Tewkesbury Borough Up Hatherley CP Leckhampton with Up Hatherley Ward Cotswold Edge ED	Cheltenham Borough Proposed Up Hatherley CP Proposed Leckhampton with Up Hatherley Ward Proposed Cotswold Edge ED
	C	Tewkesbury Borough Shurdington CP Shurdington Ward Cotswold Edge ED	Cheltenham Borough Proposed Up Hatherley CP Proposed Leckhampton with Up Hatherley Ward Proposed Cotswold Edge ED
	D	Tewkesbury Borough Leckhampton CP Leckhampton with Up Hatherley Ward Cotswold Edge ED	Cheltenham Borough Proposed Leckhampton CP Proposed Leckhampton with Up Hatherley Ward Proposed Cotswold Edge ED
	F	Shurdington CP Shurdington Ward Cotswold Edge ED	No change No change Mid-Tewkesbury ED
	G	Up Hatherley CP Leckhampton with Up Hatherley Ward Cotswold Edge ED	Shurdington CP Shurdington Ward Mid-Tewkesbury ED
5	D	Tewkesbury Borough Leckhampton CP Leckhampton with Up Hatherley Ward Cotswold Edge ED	Cheltenham Borough Proposed Leckhampton CP Proposed Leckhampton with Up Hatherley Ward Proposed Cotswold Edge ED
	E	Leckhampton CP Leckhampton with Up Hatherley Ward Cotswold Edge ED	Shurdington CP Shurdington Ward Mid-Tewkesbury ED
	F	Shurdington CP Shurdington Ward Cotswold Edge ED	No change No change Mid-Tewkesbury ED