

**Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
For England  
Report No. 90**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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To the Rt Hon Roy Jenkins MP  
Secretary of State for the Home Department

PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ALNWICK  
DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the district of Alnwick 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 of that district.
2. In accordance with the procedure prescribed in section 60(1) and (2) of the 1972 Act, notice was given on 13 May 1974 that we were to undertake this review. This was incorporated in a consultation letter addressed to the Alnwick District Council, copies of which were circulated to the Parish Councils and Parish Meetings in the district, the Northumberland 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 the local newspapers circulating in the area and of 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. The Alnwick District Council were invited to prepare a draft scheme of representation for our consideration. When 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 also asked 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. The Council have not passed a resolution under section 7(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972. The provisions of section 7(6) will therefore apply and the elections of all district councillors will be held simultaneously.
5. On 21 February 1975, the Alnwick District Council presented their draft scheme of representation. The Council proposed to divide the area of the district into 15 wards, each returning 1, 2 or 3 members, to form a council of 29.
6. We considered the draft scheme submitted by the Council. We noted that, in general, the scheme complied with the rules in Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972 and our own guidelines. We further noted that it had been advertised locally and had received a large measure of approval. We accepted that a council below the minimum of our recommended range of 30-60 councillors would be appropriate for the district, which, on the basis of 1971 census figures, has the fourth smallest population of all non-metropolitan districts. We examined the proposed 2-member Longframlington ward,

comprising the parishes of Longframlington, Brinkburn, Elsdon, Hesleyhurst, Hollinghill, Nunnykirk and Rothley, and noted that it could be divided to provide two single member wards. We decided to propose that the parishes of Longframlington and Brinkburn should form one ward, to be named the Longframlington ward, while the parishes of Elsdon, Hesleyhurst, Hollinghill, Nunnykirk and Rothley should together form a second ward, to be named the Elsdon ward. We then formulated our draft proposals accordingly.

7. On 10 April 1975 we issued our draft proposals and these were sent to all who had received our consultation letter or had commented on the Council's draft scheme. The Council were asked to make those 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 members of the public and interested bodies. We asked that any comments should reach us by 5 June 1975.

8. Representations against the draft proposals were submitted by a political association, supported by the Member of Parliament for the constituency concerned, expressing the view that in a rural area each distinct village community should be separately represented wherever possible. Detailed suggestions were made for breaking down the proposed 2 and 3 member Lesbury, Longhoughton, Rothbury, Shilbottle and Warkworth wards into smaller units. We very carefully considered all the proposals. We ourselves favour single member wards in rural areas provided this does not create too great an imbalance in the standard of representation. We examined each proposal in this light, and with one exception we considered that the resultant deviation in elector/councillor ratios would not meet the requirements of Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972.

9. The one exception was a suggestion that the proposed 2 member Longhoughton ward, comprising the parishes of Longhoughton, Craster and Rennington, should be divided to provide separate representation for the parish of Longhoughton. In this instance, we considered the standards of representation created would not be too disparate. We therefore propose that the parish of Longhoughton should form one ward, to be named the Longhoughton ward, represented by 1 councillor, leaving the parishes of Craster and Rennington to form a second ward, to be named the Craster and Rennington ward, represented by 1 councillor.

10. We received representations that the Whittingham ward was too large in area. We examined the possibilities of re-grouping the parishes in this part of the district but failed to find a more satisfactory grouping which would not have an adverse effect on neighbouring wards. We therefore decided to confirm our draft proposals for the Whittingham ward. We received one objection to the name "Whittingham" and a suggestion that the ward should be renamed "Upper Aln". It is our usual practice to take the name of the constituent parish with the largest electorate, in this case Whittingham, as the name of the ward and we found no reason to depart from this practice.

11. Subject to the modification set out in paragraph 9 above, we hereby confirm our draft proposals as our final proposals.

12. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedule 1 to this report and on the attached map. Schedule 1 gives the names of the wards and the number of councillors to be returned by each ward. The boundaries of the new wards are defined on the map.

#### 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 Alnwick District Council and will be made available for public inspection at the 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 2 to this report.

L.S.

Signed:

EDMUND COMPTON (Chairman)

JOHN RANKIN (Deputy Chairman)

DIANA ALBEMARLE

T C BENFIELD

MICHAEL CHISHOLM

ANDREW WHEATLEY

F B YOUNG

DAVID R SMITH (Secretary)

18 September 1975.

## DISTRICT OF ALNWICK: NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS AND NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO OF COUNCILLORS</u>
ALNWICK CASTLE	3
ALNWICK CLAYPORT	2
ALNWICK HOTSPUR	2
AMBLE EAST	3
AMBLE WEST	2
CRASTER AND RENNINGTON	1
ELSDON	1
EMBLETON	1
HARBOTTLE	1
HEDGELEY	1
LESBURY	2
LONGFRAMLINGTON	1
LONGHOUGHTON	1
ROTHBURY	2
SHILBOTTLE	3
WARKWORTH	2
WHITTINGHAM	1

ALNWICK DISTRICT: 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.

ALNWICK CASTLE WARD

The Alnwick Castle ward of the parish of Alnwick.

ALNWICK CLAYPORT WARD

The Alnwick Clayport ward of the parish of Alnwick.

ALNWICK HOTSPUR WARD

The Alnwick Hotspur ward of the parish of Alnwick.

AMBLE EAST WARD

The Amble East ward of the parish of Amble and the parish of Hauxley.

AMBLE WEST WARD

The Amble West ward of the parish of Amble.

CRASTER AND RENNINGTON WARD

The parishes of Craster and Rennington.

ELSDON WARD

The parishes of Elsdon, Hesleyhurst, Hollinghill, Nunnykirk and Rothley.

EMBLETON WARD

The parishes of Embleton and Newton-by-the-Sea.

HARBOTTLE WARD

The parishes of Alwinton, Biddlestone, Harbottle, Hepple and Netherton.



HEDGELEY WARD

The parishes of Edlingham, Eglingham and Hedgeley.

LESBURY WARD

The parishes of Alnmouth, Denwick and Lesbury.

LONGFRAMLINGTON WARD

The parishes of Brinkburn and Longframlington.

LONGHOUGHTON WARD

The parish of Longhoughton.

ROTHBURY WARD

The parishes of Rothbury, Snitter, Thropton and Tosson.

SHILBOTTLE WARD

The parishes of Felton, Newton-on-the-Moor and Shilbottle.

WARKWORTH WARD

The parishes of Acklington, Togston and Warkworth.

WHITTINGHAM WARD

The parishes of Alnham, Callaly, Cartingham, Glanton and Whittingham.