

**Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
For England  
Report No. 552**

Reviews of Non-Metropolitan Counties

THE COUNTY OF  
LANCASHIRE AND ITS  
BOUNDARY WITH CUMBRIA

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO.

552

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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THE RT. HON. NICHOLAS RIDLEY MP  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT  
REVIEW OF NON-METROPOLITAN COUNTIES  
THE COUNTY OF LANCASHIRE AND ITS BOUNDARY WITH CUMBRIA  
COMMISSION'S FINAL REPORT AND PROPOSALS

INTRODUCTION

1. On 2 September 1986 we wrote to Lancashire 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 Lancashire and in the surrounding counties of Cumbria and North Yorkshire. Copies were also sent to the Members of Parliament with constituency interests, the headquarters of the main political parties, government departments which might have an interest, the North Western Regional Health Authority, British Telecom, the Merseyside, North Wales, North Western and Yorkshire Electricity Boards, the North Western Gas Board, the North West Water Authority, the English Tourist Board, Port Authorities in the counties, the and Local Government Press and local television and radio stations serving the area, and the National and County Associations of Local Councils.

2. The County Councils were requested, in co-operation as necessary with other local authorities concerned, 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 issue of the consultation letter was drawn to the attention of those concerned with services such as the administration of justice and police, 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 submit to 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 SUBMISSIONS MADE TO US

4. In response to our letter we received representations from the County Councils of Cumbria, Lancashire and North Yorkshire, the District Councils of Blackburn, Burnley, Pendle, South Lakeland and South Ribble, the Parish Councils of Arnside, Penwortham, Silverdale and Tatham and other interested bodies and individuals.

5. We also received suggestions for changes to Lancashire's boundary with Cumbria under the review of that county. We considered that it would be appropriate to deal with the Lancashire/Cumbria boundary as a whole and have decided to include these suggestions in this report.

6. Suggestions for change to Lancashire's boundary with North Yorkshire have also been put to us and are being considered under the review of that county, which is still in progress. Lancashire's boundaries with Merseyside, Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire will be considered separately as part of the review of the Metropolitan Counties.

#### THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE COUNTIES OF LANCASHIRE AND CUMBRIA

##### ARNSIDE

7. Arnside Parish Council suggested that the parish should be transferred from Cumbria to Lancashire. Silverdale Parish Council in Lancashire supported this suggestion. The main arguments advanced by the two parish councils, residents

and by the Morecambe Bay Scientific Society in support of the transfer were that it would be beneficial to unite the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), which is split between the two counties, under one administration, preferably Lancashire, which they saw as the more concerned and effective county; that the River Kent provides a natural boundary and that the services and shops in Lancashire are more accessible than those in Cumbria. Many residents expressed concern that Arnside was classified as an "urban area" for development purposes by Cumbria Council Council whereas Lancashire County Council's planning policy was seen as preserving its part of the AONB by limiting future development. Others referred to lower rates and a superior quality of services in Lancashire. One resident pointed out what he saw as the area's existing links with Lancashire: Silverdale is only two miles away, bus and postal services to Lancashire are superior and most people go to Lancaster for their health-care and shopping.

8. Lancashire County Council wanted no change to the existing boundary whilst Cumbria County Council opposed the suggested transfer on the grounds that Arnside has always been part of either Westmorland or Cumbria and that Kendal provides substantial services for, and has an affinity with the area, which is borne out by transport and journey to work patterns. The suggested transfer would cause problems with emergency services which would continue to be provided from or through Cumbria. Education would also be affected because of the differing systems of the two counties. Cumbria County Council emphasised that the AONB has always been split and was not unique in that regard. The County Council said that any development in Arnside would be small and not detrimental to the AONB landscape. South Lakeland District Council opposed the transfer on similar grounds. The Countryside Commission could see little advantage in adjusting the boundary to include the AONB in one local government unit. The Arnside National School P.T.A. forwarded a petition with 346 names opposing the transfer because of the disruption it would cause to education. Similar views were expressed by residents opposed to the transfer.

## ROADS ISOLATED WITHIN CUMBRIA

9. Cumbria County Council suggested an amendment to the boundary between Lancashire and Cumbria to transfer into Lancashire part of Cinderbarrow Lane and the A6070, Keer Holme Lane, and small sections of the A683 and A65(T), which are at present isolated in Cumbria. We received no objections to this suggestions.

## OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS AND INTERIM DECISION

### ARNSIDE

10. We noted that the suggestion to transfer Arnside had not been raised previously either as a reason for a separate principal area boundary review or under the mandatory county review of Cumbria. We felt that this rather implied that some of the residents had only become concerned as a result of Cumbria County Council designating the village as an urban area for planning purposes. We also noted that neither the Countryside Commission nor the principal authorities which commented could see much advantage in placing the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in a single authority.

11. We considered that any case for transfer must be based on community ties, geography and the provision of services. We noted that, apart from two parish councils, the suggestion was not supported by any of the authorities involved and that those residents who had written were more or less equally divided. We acknowledged that rail communication with Lancashire was superior but noted that Cumbria was more accessible by road. We also noted that there was a distinct break in development, and in the nature of the terrain, between Arnside and Silverdale to the south. We concluded that a sufficiently convincing case had not been made for transferring Arnside to Lancashire, in terms of effective and convenient local government, and took an interim decision to make no proposals.

## ROADS ISOLATED WITHIN CUMBRIA

12. We considered the suggestion to transfer those small stretches of roads now isolated within Cumbria to Lancashire to be uncontroversial and decided to issue a draft proposal accordingly.

13. The letter announcing our interim decision to make no proposals for the County of Lancashire was published on 4 December 1987 while our draft proposals to transfer those roads isolated in Cumbria to Lancashire was published in the Cumbria draft proposals letter on 26 September 1986. Copies were sent to the local authorities concerned and to those who had made representations to us. Lancashire and Cumbria County Councils were asked to publish a notice giving details of our decisions and to post copies of them at places where public notices are customarily displayed. They were also asked to place copies of our letters on deposit for inspection at their main offices for a period of eight weeks. Comments were invited by 29 January 1988 and 24 November 1986 respectively.

## RESPONSE TO OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS AND INTERIM DECISION

14. We received representations from 12 sources in response to our interim decision letter on the Arnside issue. We also received comments concerning the small stretches of isolated roads in response to our draft proposals letter on Cumbria. Taken together they included comments from the County Councils of Cumbria and Lancashire, South Lakeland District Council, Arkholme with Cawood and Arnside Parish Councils, the South Cumbria Health Authority and seven members of the public.

## ARNSIDE

15. Cumbria County Council and South Lakeland District Council supported our decision to make no proposals for Arnside. Arnside Parish Council accepted the decision whilst Lancashire County Council had no comment to make. The South Cumbria Health Authority and three individuals also supported our decision.

16. Three residents of Arnside objected to our decision and claimed that the designation of Arnside as an urban area by Cumbria County Council would lead to a deterioration in the environment. They also cited what they saw as Lancashire's superior services, better education facilities and transport links as well as its lower rates, as reasons for the transfer of the area.

#### ROADS ISOLATED WITHIN CUMBRIA AND KEER HOLME LANE

17. Cumbria County Council supported our draft proposal to transfer those small stretches of road. We also received a representation from Mr Blades (of Hill Top Farm at Keer Holme Lane) via Arkholme with Cawood Parish Council in Lancashire. He stated that his family are frequently "torn" between authorities in North Lancashire and Cumbria and that he wanted to be part of Lancashire, not Cumbria. His reasons were his closer proximity to neighbours and services in Lancashire and isolation from the rest of Cumbria. He also believed that Lancashire County Council would improve upon the services he presently received.

Cumbria and Lancashire County Councils and South Lakeland District Council all considered that an amendment to place the farm in Lancashire would produce an ill-defined and illogical boundary. However after consultation with Ordnance Survey we established that the proposed amendment would follow acceptable ground features. Lancashire County Council subsequently raised no further objection to Mr Blades' suggestion.

#### OUR FINAL DECISIONS

18. As required by section 60(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 we have carefully considered all the representations made to us.

#### ARNSIDE

19. We observed that no new arguments had come to light since we made our interim decision. We noted that none of the local authorities who had responded objected to our decision and that only three residents had written to express their opposition. We also noted that Arnside Parish Council, which had

originally suggested that the parish should be transferred to Lancashire, now accepted the Commission's decision. We have concluded that a sufficiently convincing case, in terms of effective and convenient local government, has not been made for the transfer of Arnside from Cumbria to Lancashire and we therefore confirm our interim decision as final.

#### ROADS ISOLATED WITHIN CUMBRIA

20. We have decided, in the absence of any contrary view, to confirm as final our draft proposals to transfer those stretches of road isolated in Cumbria into Lancashire.

#### KEER HOLME LANE

21. We have concluded that Mr Blades' suggestion to transfer his farm from Cumbria would result in the more efficient provision of local authority services to this area. We have also noted that both county councils had informally remarked that they would not object to the proposed transfer. We have decided in view of Ordnance Survey's comments - to incorporate this suggestion into our final proposal.

#### PUBLICATION

22. A separate letter enclosing copies of this report is being sent to the County Councils of Cumbria, Lancashire and North Yorkshire 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 proposal if you think fit, though not earlier than six weeks from the date it is submitted to you. Copies of this report, which also includes small maps illustrating the changes are also being

sent to everyone who received our interim decision letter, and to those who made comments.

G J ELLERTON (Chairman)

J G POWELL (Deputy Chairman)

K F J ENNALS

G R PRENTICE

G E CHERRY

H R V SARKANY

BRIAN SCHOLES

S T GARRISH  
Secretary

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

COUNTY BOUNDARY REVIEW

LANCASHIRE

AFFECTING CUMBRIA

FINAL PROPOSALS

Existing County Boundary



Proposed County Boundary



LOCATION DIAGRAM

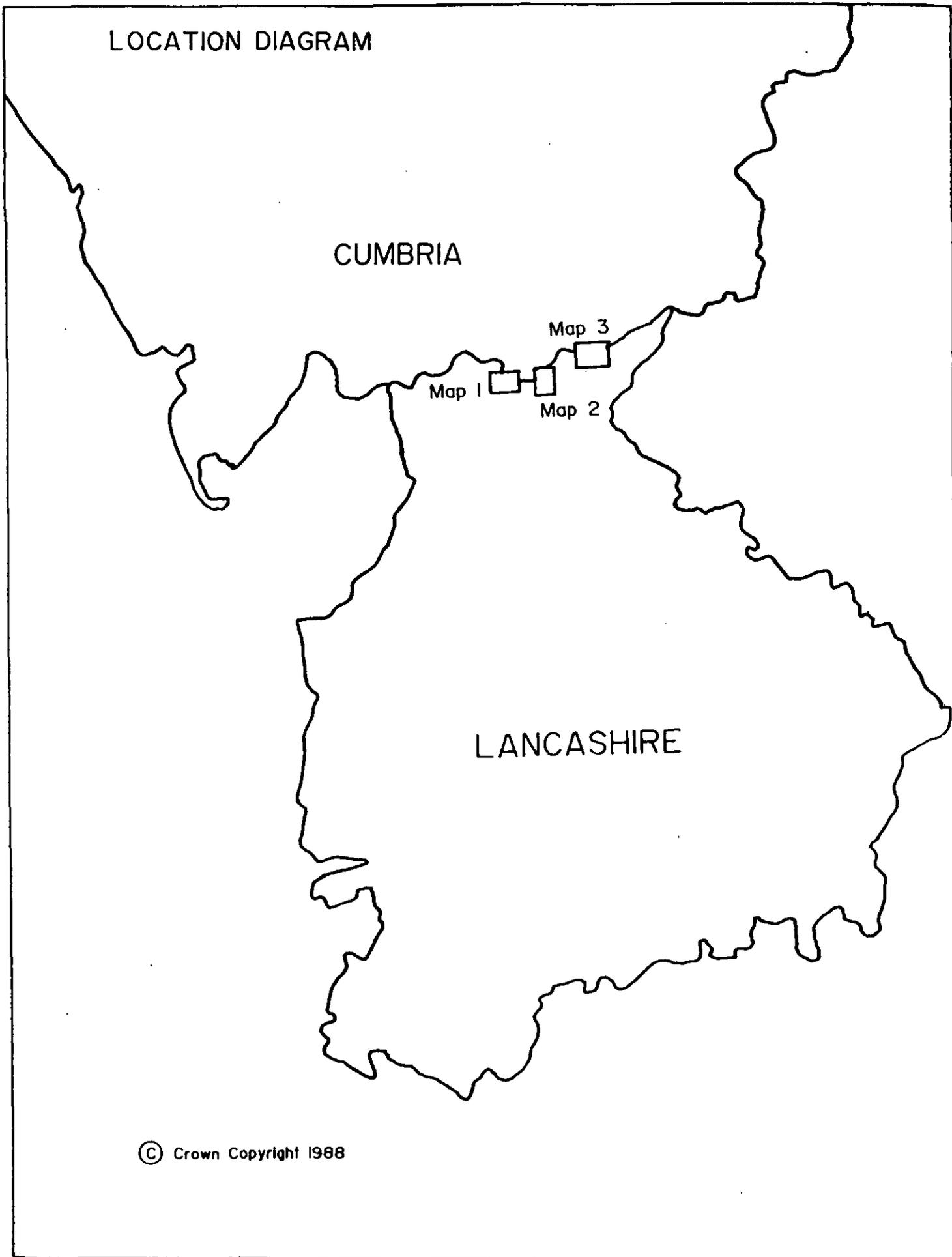
CUMBRIA

Map 3

Map 1

Map 2

LANCASHIRE



## CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES

MAP NO.	AREA REF.	FROM	TO
1	A	Cumbria South Lakeland District Burton-in-Kendal CP Burton and Holme Ward Crooklands ED	Lancashire City of Lancaster Priest Hutton CP Kellet Ward Lancaster Rural ED
	B	Lancashire City of Lancaster Priest Hutton CP Kellet Ward Lancaster Rural North ED	Cumbria South Lakeland District Burton-in-Kendal CP Burton and Holme Ward Crooklands ED
2	A	Cumbria South Lakeland District Burton-in-Kendal CP Burton and Holme Ward Crooklands ED	Lancashire City of Lancaster Priest Hutton CP Kellet Ward Lancaster Rural ED
3	A	Cumbria South Lakeland District Casterton CP Kirkby Lonsdale Ward Sedburgh and Kirkby Lonsdale Ed	Lancashire City of Lancaster Burrow-with-Burrow CP Arkholme Ward Lancaster Rural North ED
	B	Lancashire City of Lancaster Burrow-with-Burrow CP Arkholme Ward Lancaster Rural North ED	Cumbria South Lakeland District Casterton CP Kirkby Lonsdale Ward Sedbergh and Kirkby Lonsdale ED





