

Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No.565

Review of Non-Metropolitan Counties

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
BOUNDARY WITH:
ESSEX

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 565

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
REVIEW OF NON-METROPOLITAN COUNTIES
THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK: BOUNDARY WITH ESSEX
COMMISSION'S FINAL PROPOSALS

INTRODUCTION

1. On 27 January 1986 we wrote to Suffolk County Council announcing our intention to undertake a review of Suffolk under section 48(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. Copies of our letter were sent to all the local authorities in Suffolk and in the adjoining counties of Cambridgeshire, Essex and Norfolk, 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 those 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 cooperation as necessary with the other authorities, to assist us in publicising the start of the review by inserting a notice for two successive weeks in local newspapers in order to give a wide coverage in the area concerned. The County Councils were also asked to ensure that 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 adjoining counties and any other body or person interested in the review, to submit to us their views in detail on whether changes in the county boundary were desirable, and if so, what these changes should be and how they would serve the interests of effective and convenient local government, the criterion laid down in the Act.

THE SUBMISSIONS MADE TO US

4. We received responses from the County Councils of Suffolk and Essex; from the District Councils of Babergh, Braintree, South Cambridgeshire, North Norfolk and South Norfolk; from Ipswich Borough Council and from various town and parish councils. Suffolk County Council did not themselves put forward any proposals for change but reacted instead to the submissions made by other authorities. Essex County Council stated that it did not wish to make any major proposal for change but intended to comment on the submissions made by the other authorities at draft proposal stage. One private individual wrote concerning the boundary between Suffolk and Cambridgeshire at Newmarket. We considered, however, that the county boundary in this area warranted consideration as a separate issue; a report on our conclusions will be sent to you as soon as possible. Proposals affecting the boundary between Suffolk and Norfolk have been dealt with in our report number 554, concerning our review of Norfolk. This report, therefore, deals solely with the boundary between Suffolk and Essex.

THE SUGGESTIONS

STRATFORD ST MARY/DEDHAM (MAP 1)

5. Stratford St Mary Parish Council proposed that a small parcel of land adjacent to the Dedham Vale Hotel on the west bank of the River Stour should be transferred from the parish of Stratford St Mary in the district of Babergh, Suffolk, to the parish of Dedham in the borough of Colchester, Essex. This suggestion was made on the grounds that the remainder of that side of the river already lay in Essex, an anomaly resulting from an alteration in the course of the river during the construction of the A12 bypass. Suffolk County Council had no objection to this proposal. Babergh District Council would not support this suggestion on the grounds that, over many years, the Secretary of State had taken no action to change boundaries to conform with changes to the River Stour or its tributaries and also that Suffolk County Council had not taken any action in respect of similar anomalies in the River Waveney in the Suffolk/Norfolk boundary review.

GREAT CORNARD/MIDDLETON (Map 2)

6. Great Cornard Parish Council proposed that the county boundary on the edge of its parish should follow the centre line of the River Stour. The change suggested would involve the transfer of small areas of dry land from the parish of Great Cornard in the district of Babergh, Suffolk to the parish of Middleton in the district of Braintree, Essex in return for some small areas of river. Suffolk County Council stated that it had no objection to the proposal. Babergh District Council said that it did not support the suggestion from Great Cornard Parish Council on the same grounds as it had opposed the change at Stratford St Mary (see paragraph 5 above).

NAYLAND-WITH-WISSINGTON/GREAT HORKESLEY (Map 3)

7. Babergh District Council proposed that part of the parish of Great Horkesley in the Borough of Colchester, Essex should be transferred to the parish of Nayland-with-Wissington in the District of Babergh, Suffolk. The proposal would realign the existing boundary, from the line of the River Stour to the line of the flood relief channel. Suffolk County Council supported the change. Nayland-with-Wissington Parish Council stated that it had put the suggestion forward because, although the properties in the area concerned lay in Essex and were administered by that authority, they were in fact isolated from the remainder of Essex. It considered that, to all intents and purposes the properties were part of Nayland Parish and would benefit from coming into Suffolk. The Parish Council also pointed out that the A134 bypass is crossed by the county boundary and that its transfer to Suffolk would reduce the confusion which arises at present when emergencies occur.

SUDBURY/BULMER (Maps 4 and 5)

8. Babergh District Council proposed the transfer of part of the parish of Bulmer in the district of Braintree, Essex to the parish of Sudbury in the district of Babergh, Suffolk. This area contains a section of the Bush Grove Housing Estate and part of an oil depot (both of which are split by the present

boundary), three properties which lie just outside Sudbury town and a refuse dump which is owned by Suffolk County Council but lies wholly in Essex. The District Council felt that the boundary should be changed to unite all the properties on the Bush Grove Housing Estate within Sudbury; to put the three properties and the refuse tip into Sudbury with which they have more affinity and to remove the anomaly at the oil depot. Suffolk County Council supported Babergh District Council and agreed that the refuse dump should be transferred to Suffolk. Sudbury Town Council supported the unification of the housing estate within one county and expressed agreement with the District Council's proposal that the housing estate, related properties, the oil depot and the refuse dump should be transferred from Bulmer to Sudbury.

9. Braintree District Council had not themselves written to the Commission but had corresponded with Babergh District Council about the proposal. In effect, Braintree District Council supported the proposed transfer of the housing estate from Bulmer to Sudbury. However, it considered that the oil depot should be wholly within Braintree; it supported the transfer of only one of the three properties which lie just outside Sudbury and did not support the removal of the refuse dump from its district. The District Council itself proposed the transfer of a finger of land, containing two properties, in the Ballingdon Hill area from the parish of Sudbury to that of Bulmer. Bulmer Parish Council made no comment direct to the local authorities or the Commission, but it was clear that Braintree District Council's submission was based on a suggestion which had been made by Bulmer Parish Council in the first instance.

OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS

STRATFORD ST MARY/DEDHAM

10. We considered the suggestion from Stratford St Mary Parish Council described in paragraph 5 above was reasonable and would be in the interest of effective and convenient local government. We noted that Suffolk County Council had no objection and felt that the District Council's reasons for opposing it were not convincing. We decided, therefore, to issue a draft proposal based on Stratford St Mary Parish Council's suggestion.

GREAT CORNARD/MIDDLETON

11. We considered that the proposal from Great Cornard Parish Council (that the county boundary be tied to the line of the River Stour) should be supported. Again we were not persuaded by Babergh District Council's opposition to the suggestion. We also noted that Suffolk County Council had expressed no objection to the suggested line and that neither Braintree District Council nor Middleton Parish Council, in Essex, had commented on it. We concluded that although the change suggested was minor, a clearer boundary would result and we decided to issue a draft proposal based on Ordnance Survey's interpretation of the suggestion.

NAYLAND-WITH-WISSINGTON/GREAT HORKESELEY

12. We considered the suggested change to the boundary between the district of Babergh and the borough of Colchester, where it follows the River Stour between the parish of Great Horkesey and the parish of Nayland-with-Wissington. We agreed that the suggestion, which should facilitate service provision, seemed sensible and decided to issue a draft proposal. Our draft proposal also included a smaller area of uninhabited land to the east to be transferred from Great Horkesey to Nayland, to take account of a technical suggestion made by Ordnance Survey.

ELECTORAL CONSEQUENCES

13. We noted that our draft proposals would involve the transfer of three properties from the borough of Colchester to the district of Babergh and we recommended that the electors involved should be allocated to the ward and electoral divisions detailed in the annex to this report.

SUDBURY/BULMER/MIDDLETON

14. We considered the suggestion to transfer part of the parish of Bulmer in the district of Braintree, Essex to the parish of Sudbury in the district of

Babergh, Suffolk. We noted that Suffolk County Council and Sudbury Town Council had expressed support for Babergh District Council's suggestion, whilst Essex County Council had said it would comment at the draft proposal stage. We agreed that it appeared logical for the refuse dump to be transferred from Essex to Suffolk, and that the oil depot, since it appeared to form part of the Sudbury industrial area, should be united in Suffolk. We concluded that the housing estate and the three related properties should also be transferred from Braintree to Babergh, and decided to issue a draft proposal accordingly. We also considered Braintree District Council's suggested boundary which would involve transferring the finger of land containing two properties from Sudbury to Bulmer. We felt that an obvious anomaly would be eradicated so we decided to issue a draft proposal to transfer the area from Suffolk to Essex. However we felt that it would be more appropriate for this finger of land to be transferred to the parish of Middleton rather than Bulmer in order to provide a more suitable boundary between the two parishes along the A131 road; our draft proposal reflected this.

15. We also looked at the possibility of transferring some 20 properties in the hamlet of Kitchen Hill, which lies on the district/county boundary, from Bulmer to Sudbury. We noted however, that none of the principal authorities had raised the issue and Bulmer Parish Council, whose views had been canvassed on the possible transfer of the area expressed total opposition to the suggestion and emphasised the hamlet's close ties with the village of Bulmer. Whilst considering that some services might be more readily provided from Sudbury we did not feel that this small hamlet, set at a distance from Sudbury, could be so easily identified with that town as the other properties we had proposed for transfer. In view of this and the fact that there was no evidence of support for such a transfer we decided to issue no draft proposal for change in this area.

ELECTORAL CONSEQUENCES

16. We noted that our draft proposal would involve the transfer of eleven properties from the district of Braintree to the district of Babergh and we

concluded that the electors involved should be allocated to the wards and electoral divisions detailed in the annex to this report.

PUBLICATION OF DRAFT PROPOSALS

17. We issued our draft proposals in a letter to Suffolk County Council dated 21 July 1987. Comments were invited by 15 September 1987.

RESPONSE TO OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS

STRATFORD ST MARY/DEDHAM

18. The only comment on the draft proposal in this area was one of support by Dedham Parish Council.

GREAT CORNARD/MIDDLETON

19. No comments were received on the proposal to tie the boundary to the River Stour in this area.

NAYLAND-WITH-WISSINGTON/GREAT HORKESELEY

20. No comments were received on the proposals for change in this area.

SUDBURY/BULMER

21. Bulmer Parish Council and Essex County Council supported the proposed transfer to Suffolk of that part of Bush Grove currently in the parish of Bulmer but they were opposed to any other change in this area on the ground that the residents were against it. Three local residents wrote to oppose the change, one of whom enclosed a petition. The reason for their opposition was, principally, that undesirable development would follow a transfer. There also

appeared to be a fear that a boundary change would facilitate the construction of a by-pass for Sudbury to which our respondents were opposed. One member of the public suggested that a better solution would be to tie the boundary to the River Stour which would have the effect of transferring the Ballingdon section of Sudbury into Essex.

22. No comments were received relating to the 'finger of land' which we had suggested should be moved into Essex.

SUBMISSIONS AFFECTING SUFFOLK/ESSEX BOUNDARY RECEIVED DURING THE MANDATORY REVIEW OF ESSEX

23. Following the issue of our letter of 2 September 1986 announcing our intention to undertake a review of the county of Essex, a further suggestion was received affecting the Essex/Suffolk boundary.

STURMER/HAVERHILL (Map 6)

24. Essex County Council put forward a proposal, based on a suggestion made by St Edmundsbury Borough Council, to transfer the whole of the properties known as the 'The Coupals' and 'The Woodlands County Club' from the unparished area of Haverhill in the borough of St Edmundsbury, Suffolk, to the parish of Sturmer in the district of Braintree, Essex. The County Council stated that the existing boundary followed no physical features and divided both properties. Suffolk County Council expressed no opposition to the proposal.

25. Before giving detailed consideration to these proposals, we invited the local authorities concerned to comment on a stretch of boundary which divided a warehouse in Sturmer Road where we were minded to propose a change which would put the whole site into Suffolk. St Edmundsbury Council supported this suggestion as it considered that the warehouse was an integral part of the industrial estate on the outskirts of Haverhill.

26. Essex County Council opposed the suggestion, arguing that, as the larger part of the warehouse already lay in Essex, it was more appropriate that the boundary should be amended to site the whole of the building within that county. Braintree District Council endorsed this suggestion as its own counter-proposal, arguing that as planning consent had been granted for areas of land to the south and east of the warehouse in Essex to be developed for industrial and commercial use, served by the same access road as the warehouse, the whole complex should be sited in Braintree. The District Council reported that Sturmer Parish Council opposed the incorporation of the warehouse into Suffolk because this would reduce the parish's rateable value of £50,777 by £7,680.

OUR ADDITIONAL DRAFT PROPOSALS

STURMER/HAVERHILL

'The Coupals' and 'The Woodlands Country Club'

27. We considered the suggestion from Essex County Council. We felt that it would remove an obvious anomaly and decided to issue a draft proposal accordingly.

The Warehouse and development area, Sturmer Road

28. With regard to the warehouse in Sturmer Road, we noted the counter-proposal from Braintree District Council and Essex County Council. We were of the opinion, however, that the warehouse and the planned development were essentially part of the industrial area on the south east side of Haverhill without any correspondingly close ties with Sturmer Village which is some distance away. We considered that the planned development added more weight to the argument that the boundary here required adjustment in favour of Suffolk. We judged that, despite the loss of rateable value, the parish of Sturmer would remain viable.

29. We decided, therefore, to issue a draft proposal to amend the Essex/Suffolk boundary along the edge of the land for which planning consent had been granted,

so that the whole complex would be in the unparished area of Haverhill in the borough of St Edmundsbury in the county of Suffolk.

PUBLICATION OF ADDITIONAL DRAFT PROPOSALS

30. We published the above additional draft proposals in a letter to Suffolk County Council dated 22 February 1988. Comments were invited by 18 April 1988.

RESPONSE TO OUR ADDITIONAL DRAFT PROPOSALS

STURMER/HAVERHILL

'The Coupals' and 'The Woodlands Country Club'

31. Suffolk County Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council supported the additional draft proposal that the whole of these two properties should be incorporated into Braintree in Essex. Essex County Council said that it accorded with the views it had previously expressed. Braintree District Council said that it had previously agreed to these minor changes to transfer the two areas from Haverhill to Sturmer parish and did not object to the additional draft proposals. The only opposition came from Sturmer Parish Council which maintained that it could see no reason for the minor boundary changes affecting these two properties.

The warehouse and development area, Sturmer Road

32. Suffolk County Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council supported the Commission's draft proposal that this area should be transferred into Haverhill in Suffolk. The County Council, however, felt that a new boundary here should be looked at in the context of the forthcoming Haverhill by-pass road which, it suggested, the boundary should follow westward from the warehouse.

33. Essex County Council repeated its view that the boundary anomaly at the warehouse needed correction but that this should be done by incorporating the whole property into Essex, where most of it already lay. The Council considered that the additional draft proposal, including the development area to the south

and east, went considerably beyond the adjustment necessary to correct the anomaly. It also made the point that the access road to the warehouse and development site lay in Sturmer rather than Haverhill. The County Council strongly objected to the boundary change and requested the Commission to reconsider the draft proposal so that only the necessary minimum adjustment was made. Braintree District Council reiterated its objection, stressing that access to this building and the proposed development area was from Sturmer rather than Haverhill and arguing that the whole of the warehouse should be incorporated into Braintree. Sturmer Parish Council objected strongly to the whole industrial site being transferred to Suffolk. It expressed concern that the village would be deprived of considerable present and potential income and viewed the acquisition of this land by Suffolk as a step towards the proposed by-pass; a by-pass which the Parish Council feared would lead to traffic problems in Sturmer and damage the environment to the east of the village. It also saw the draft proposal as an encroachment by Haverhill's industrial and urban sprawl into the Essex countryside. The Parish Council argued that acceptance of these proposals would encourage further attempts by Suffolk County Council to redraw the county boundary.

OUR FINAL PROPOSALS

34. We noted that there have been no objections to our draft proposals in respect of Stratford St Mary/Dedham, Great Cornard/Middleton and Nayland with Wissington/Great Horkesley and we confirm them as final.

35. We have carefully considered the response to our draft proposal for change to the boundary near Sudbury. We understand that, while a western by-pass is under consideration, its line is not yet certain and so the project cannot be regarded as expected development in the terms of our guidelines in Circular 12/84. We remain of the view that the oil depot, refuse tip and three properties to the west of the present boundary are closely linked to Sudbury and should be incorporated in the town. There has been no opposition to our draft proposals relating to Bush Grove and the 'finger of land'. Accordingly we confirm our draft proposals for all this area as final.

36. With regard to the Haverhill/Sturmer area, we note Sturmer Parish Council's objection to the transfer of areas containing "The Coupals" and "The Woodlands Country Club", but we remain of the view that the properties should be united in a single county. Similarly we remain convinced, notwithstanding the opposition of the Essex local authorities, that the warehouse and associated development area in Sturmer Road are essentially part of Haverhill and that service provision would be easier from that direction. Under our proposals the access to the site will also be transferred. The by-pass, about which much concern has been expressed, is still at an early planning stage and cannot be described as 'expected development' as yet. Also, the transfer of a small part of a proposed route to Suffolk from Essex does not alter the fact that other parts of that route will remain under the control of Essex County Council. There is no evidence to suggest that the parish of Sturmer will not remain viable despite some reduction in its rateable value and the parish council's concern about "urban sprawl" is a matter for the appropriate planning authorities. We therefore confirm these draft proposals as final.

PUBLICATION

37. A separate letter is being sent to the County Councils of Suffolk and Essex asking them to deposit copies of this report at their main offices for inspection over a six-month period. The County Councils are also asked to cooperate in putting 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 the 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 they are submitted to you. Copies of this report and annex are also being sent to those who received our draft proposal letters and to those who made comments.

Signed G J ELLERTON (Chairman)

J G POWELL (Deputy Chairman)

G E CHERRY

K F J ENNALS

HELEN R V SARKANY

G R PRENTICE

BRIAN SCHOLES

S T GARRISH
Secretary

1988

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

COUNTY BOUNDARY REVIEW

SUFFOLK

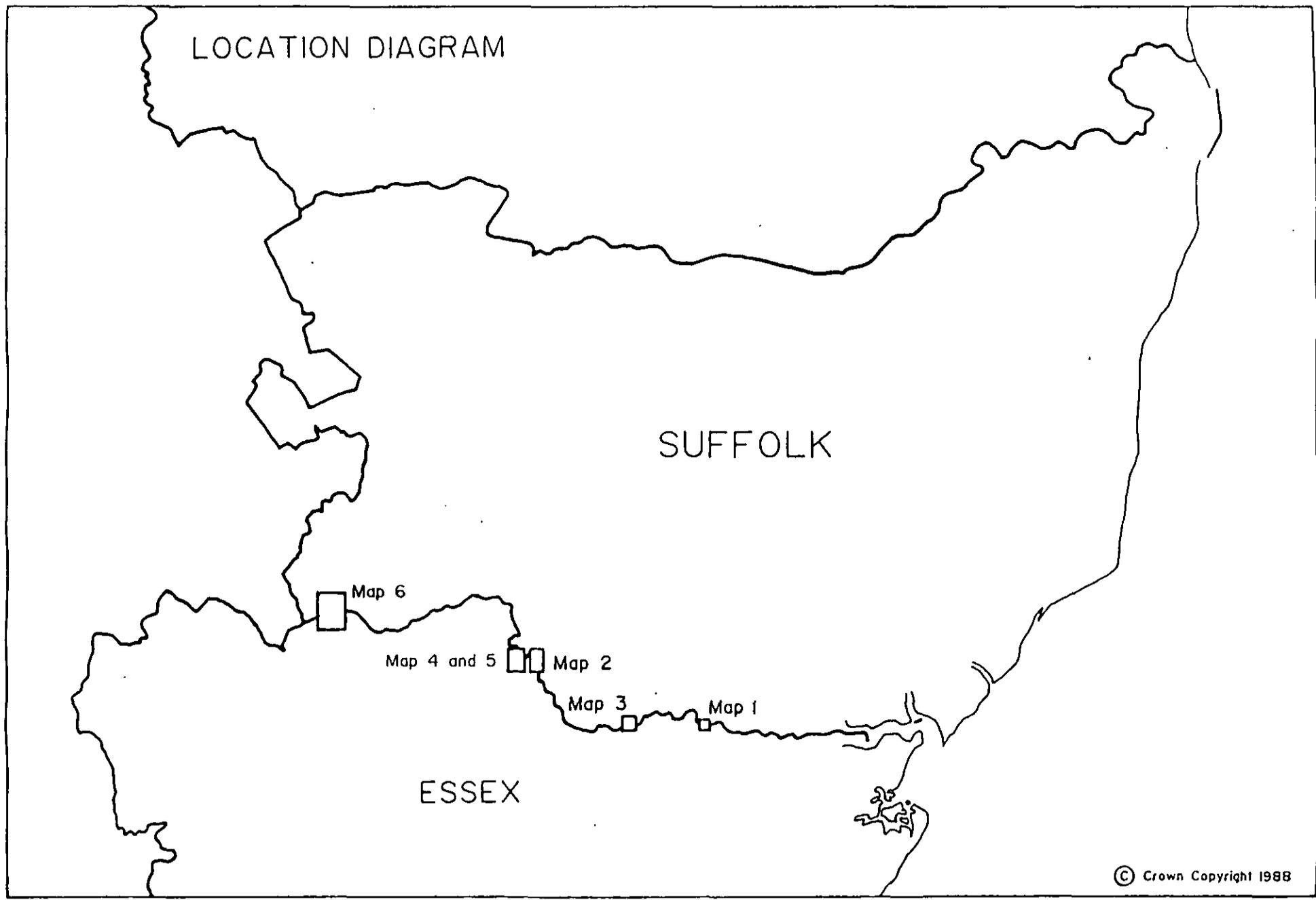
AFFECTING ESSEX

FINAL PROPOSALS

Existing County Boundary	—————
Proposed County Boundary	- - - - -
Existing CP Boundary	—————
Proposed CP Boundary	- - - - -
Existing Ward Boundary

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

LOCATION DIAGRAM



SUFFOLK

ESSEX

Map 6

Map 4 and 5

Map 2

Map 3

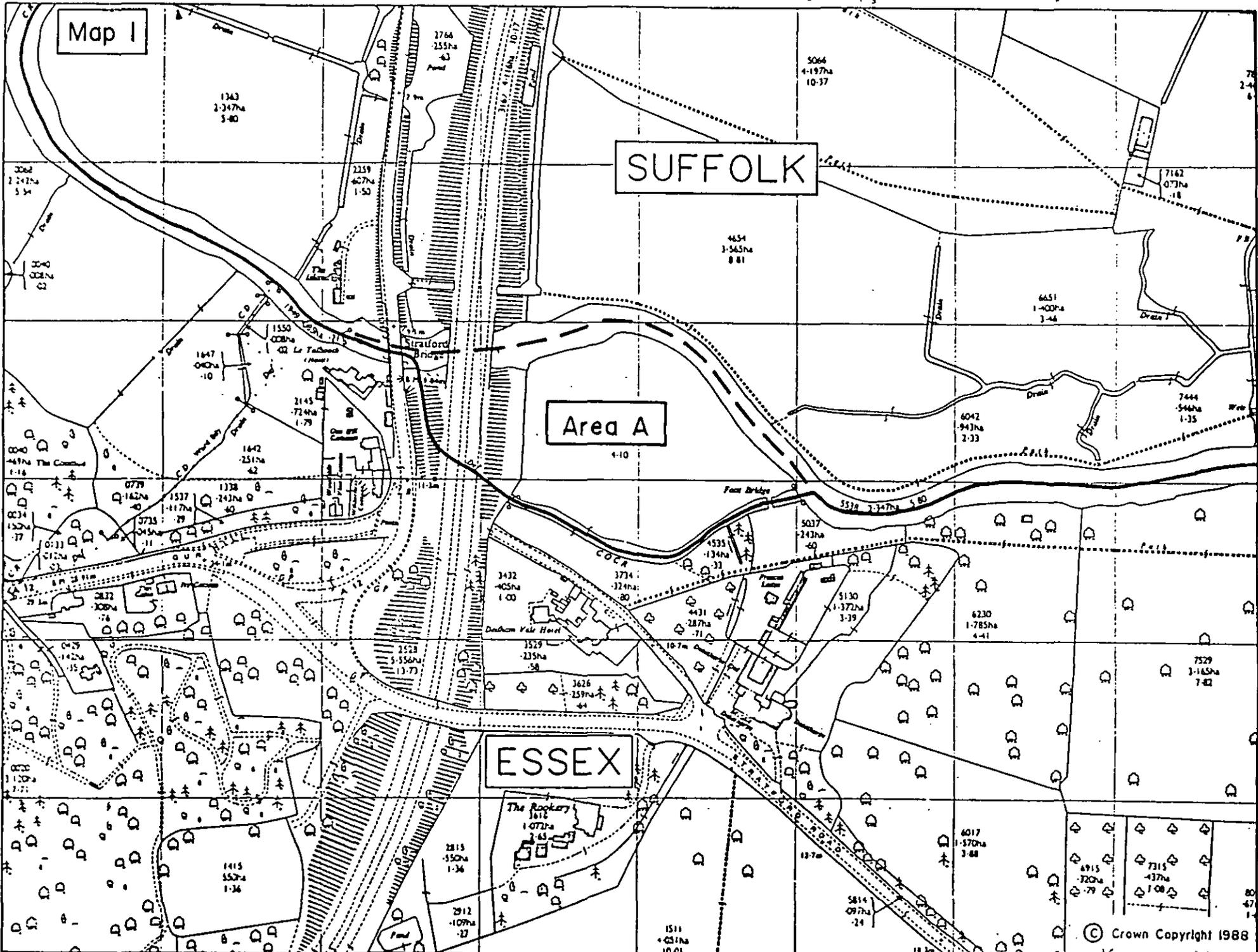
Map 1

Map 1

SUFFOLK

Area A
4-10

ESSEX



Area K

Area J

Area B

Area C

SUFFOLK

ESSEX

Area D

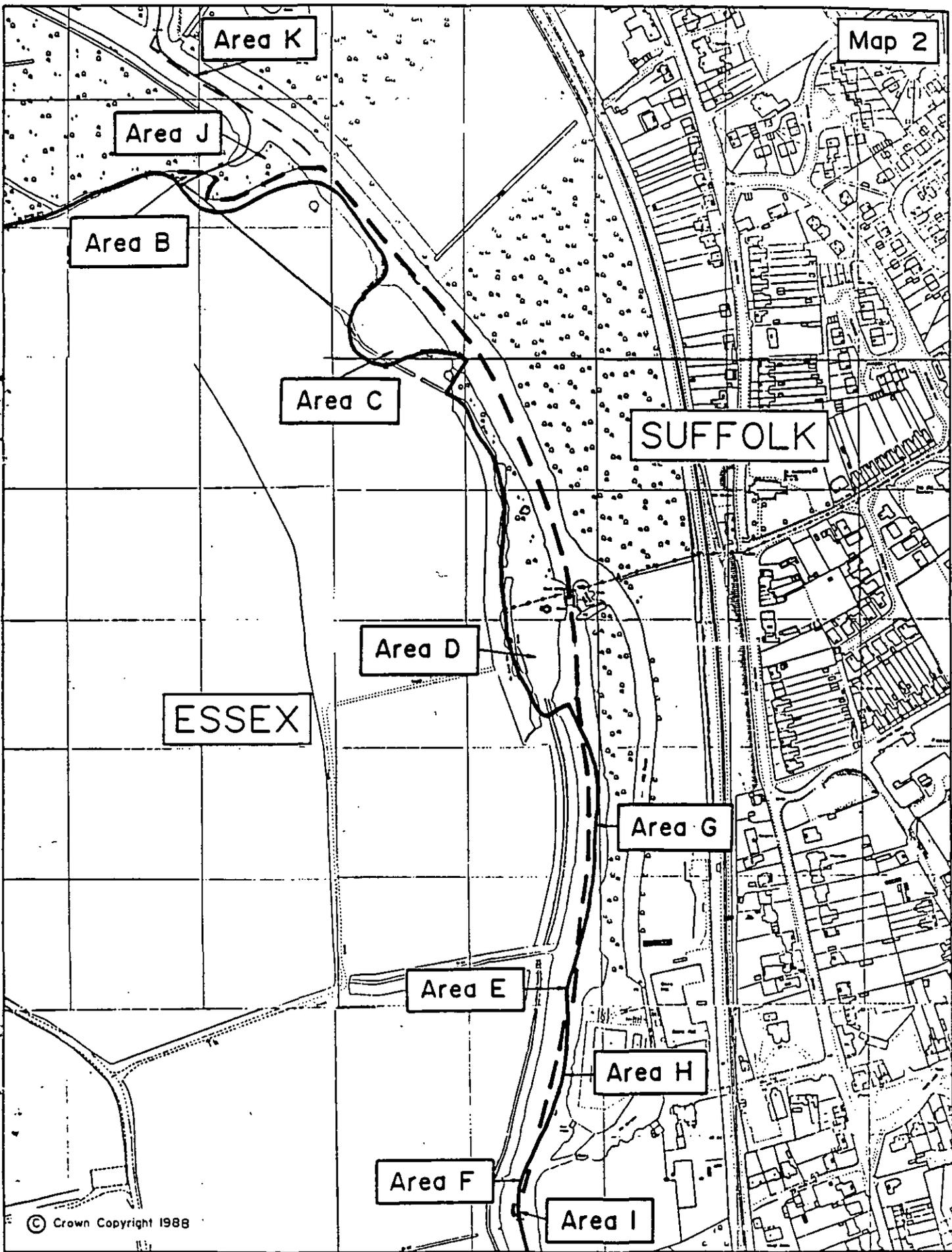
Area G

Area E

Area H

Area F

Area I



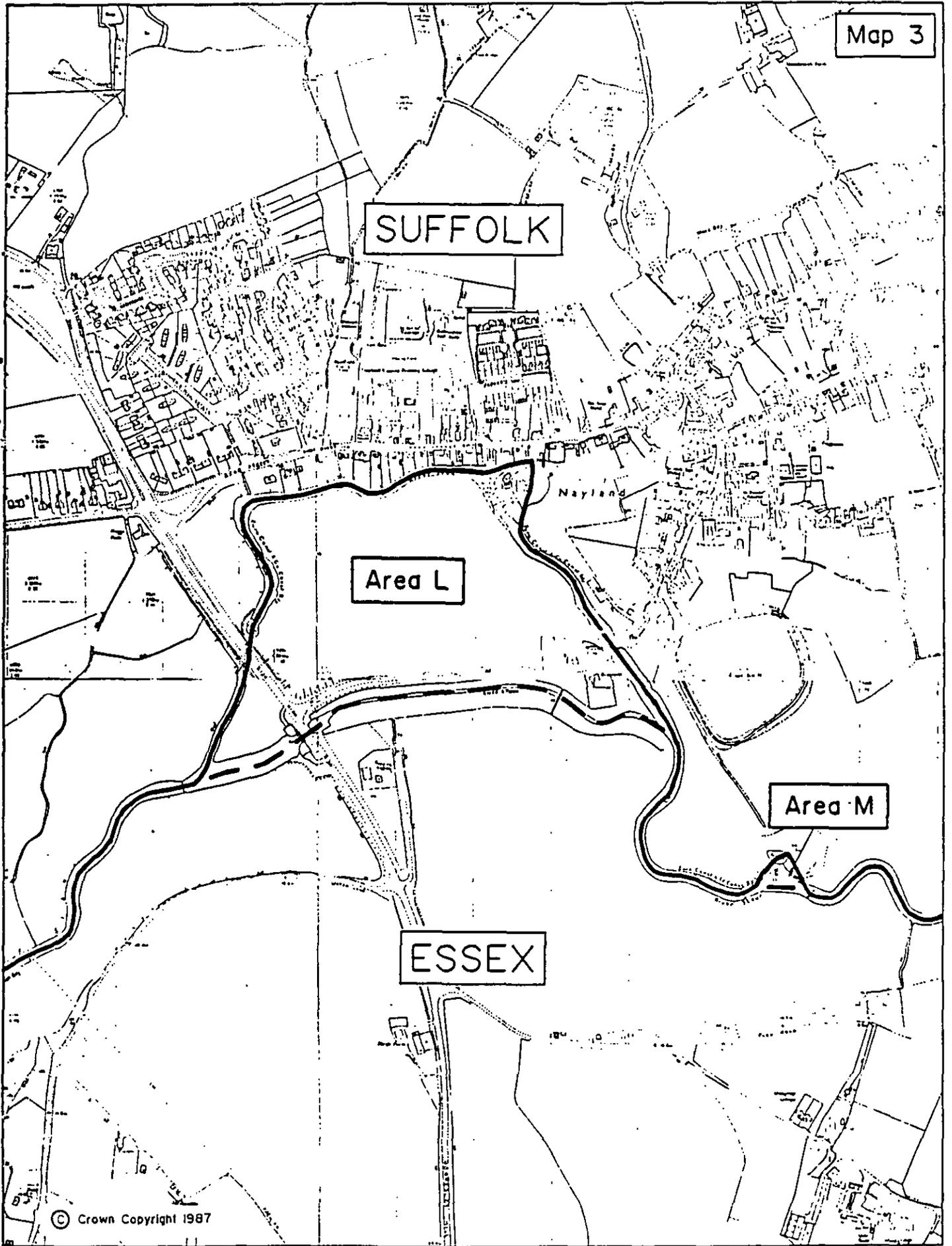
SUFFOLK

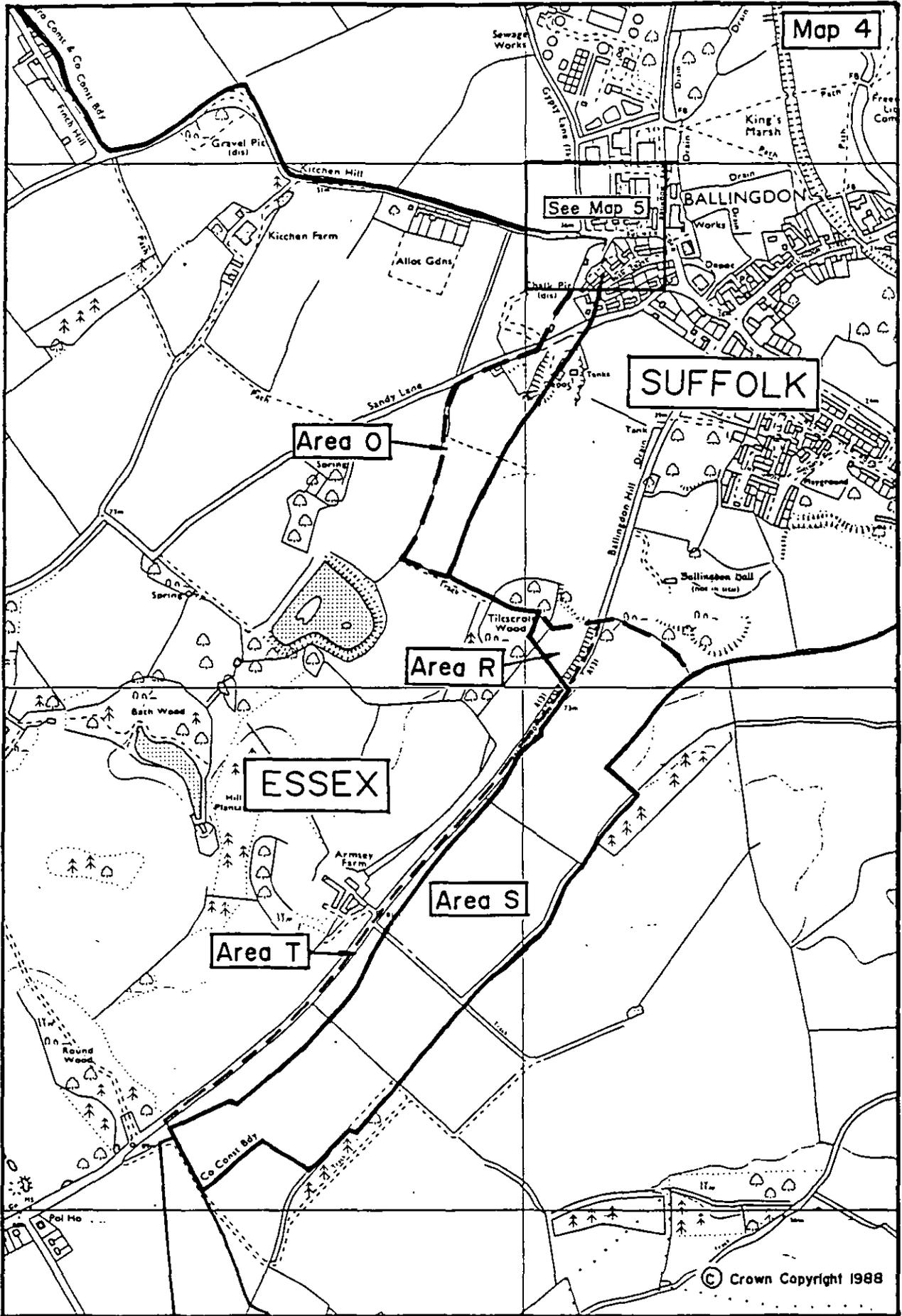
Area L

Area M

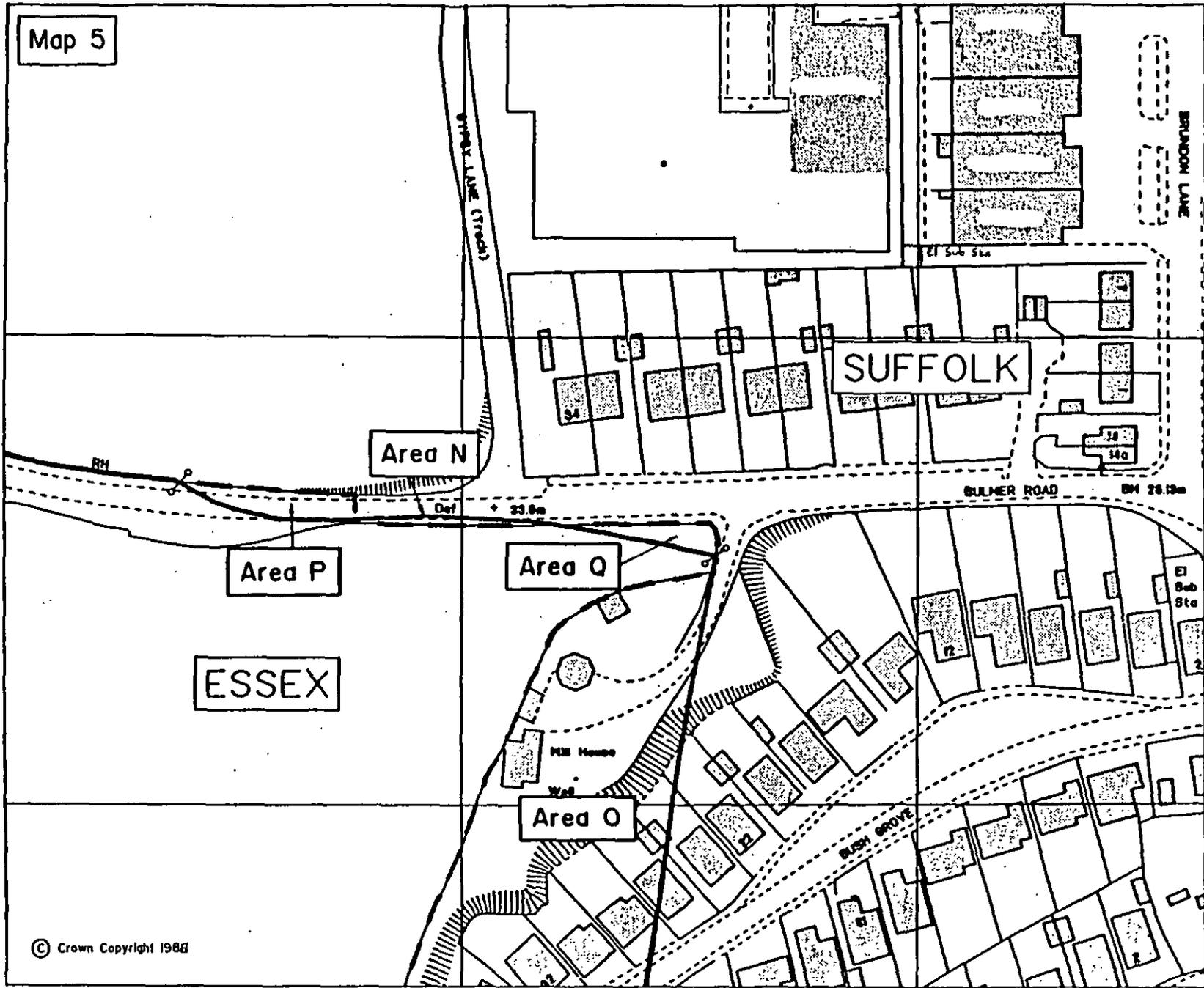
ESSEX

Nayland





Map 5



ESSEX

SUFFOLK

Area N

Area P

Area Q

Area O

GULMER ROAD

DM 28.19m

STROCK LANE (Track)

BRUNTON LANE

El Sub Sta

Def 23.8m

Mill House

El Sub Sta

BUSH GROVE

Map 6

SUFFOLK

Area U

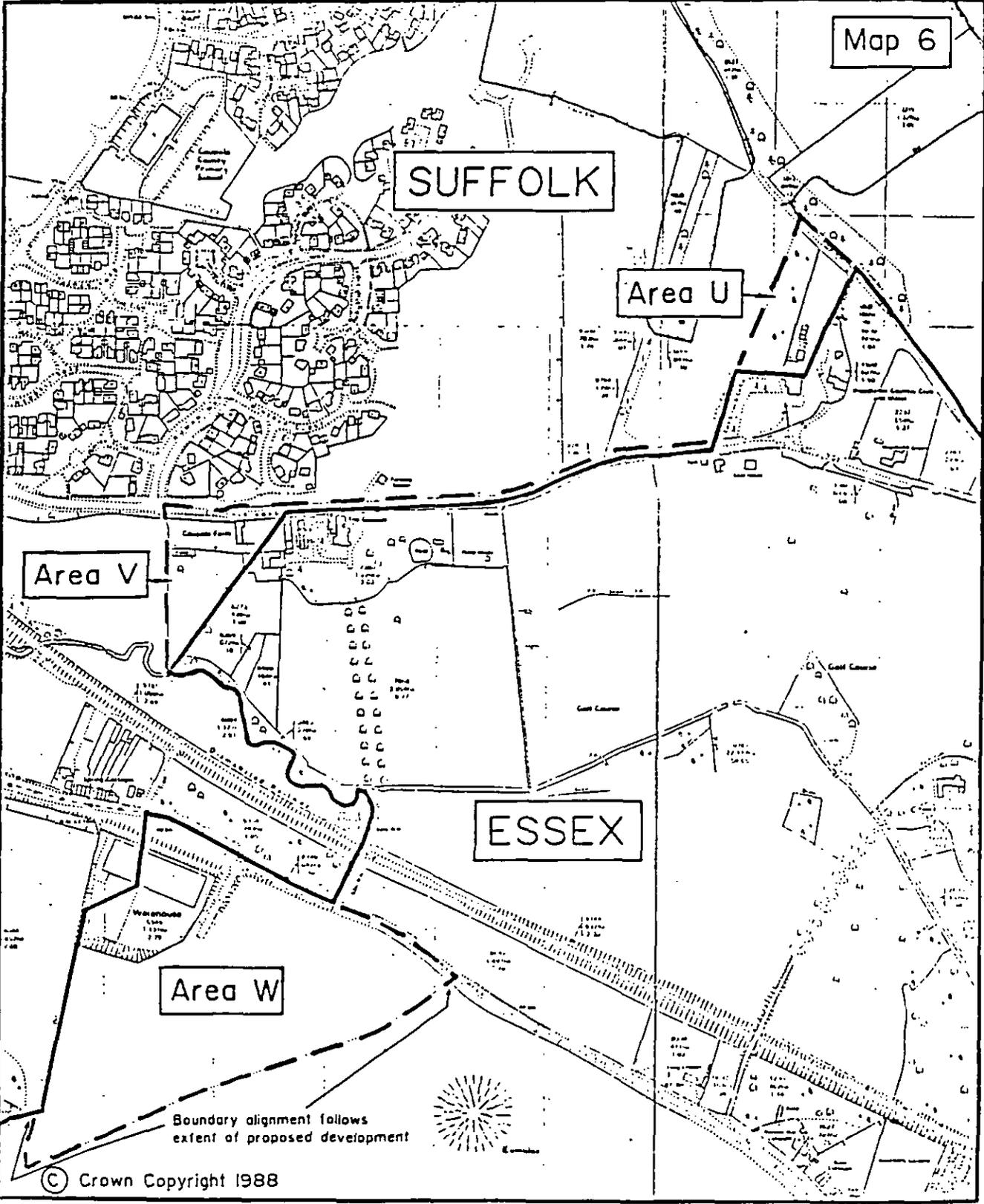
Area V

ESSEX

Area W

Boundary alignment follows
extent of proposed development

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CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES

MAP NO.	AREA REF.	FROM	TO	MAP NO.	AREA REF.	FROM	TO	
1	A	Suffolk Babergh District Stratford St Mary CP West Samford Ward Samford ED	Essex Borough of Colchester Dedham CP Dedham Ward Constable ED	3	L M	Essex Borough of Colchester Great Horkesley CP Great and Little Horkesley Ward Constable ED	Suffolk Babergh District Nayland-with-Wissington CP Nayland Ward Stour Valley ED	
2	B	Suffolk Babergh District Sudbury CP Sudbury (South) PW Sudbury South Ward Sudbury ED	Essex Braintree District Middleton CP Stour Valley South Ward Halstead ED	4 & 5	N O	Essex Braintree District Bulmer CP Stour Valley Ward Hedingham ED	Suffolk Babergh District Sudbury CP Sudbury (South) PW Sudbury South Ward Sudbury ED	
	C	Suffolk Babergh District Great Cornard CP Great Cornard North Ward Great Cornard ED	Essex Braintree District Middleton CP Stour Valley South Ward Halstead ED		P Q	Suffolk Babergh District Sudbury CP Sudbury (South) PW Sudbury South Ward Sudbury ED	Essex Braintree District Bulmer CP Stour Valley Central Ward Hedingham ED	
	D E F	Suffolk Babergh District Great Cornard CP Great Cornard South Ward Great Cornard ED	Essex Braintree District Middleton CP Stour Valley South Ward Halstead ED		R	Suffolk Babergh District Sudbury CP Sudbury (South) PW Sudbury South Ward Sudbury ED	Essex Braintree District Bulmer CP Stour Valley Central Ward Hedingham ED	
	G H I	Essex Braintree District Middleton CP Stour Valley South Ward Halstead ED	Suffolk Babergh District Great Cornard CP Great Cornard South Ward Great Cornard ED		S	Suffolk Babergh District Sudbury CP Sudbury (South) PW Sudbury South Ward Sudbury ED	Essex Braintree District Middleton CP Stour Valley South Ward Halstead ED	
	J	Great Cornard CP Great Cornard North Ward Great Cornard ED	Sudbury CP Sudbury (South) PW Sudbury South Ward Sudbury ED		T	Bulmer CP Stour Valley Central Ward Hedingham ED	Middleton CP Stour Valley South Ward Halstead ED	
	K	Sudbury CP Sudbury (South) PW Sudbury South Ward Sudbury ED	Great Cornard CP Great Cornard North Ward Great Cornard ED		6	U V	Suffolk St Edmundsbury District Non-parished area Chalkstone Ward Haverhill South ED	Essex Braintree District Sturmer CP Bumpstead Ward Hedingham ED
						W	Essex Braintree District Sturmer CP Bumpstead Ward Hedingham ED	Suffolk St Edmundsbury District Non-parished area St Mary's and Hellons Ward Haverhill South ED

