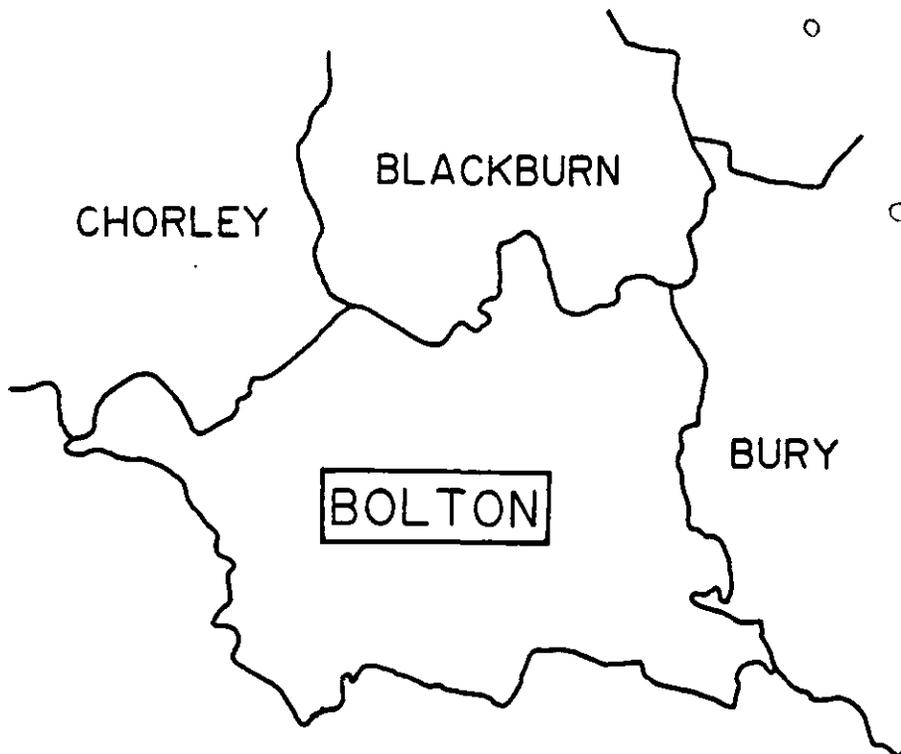


LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

Review of GREATER MANCHESTER

BOLTON

Boundaries with:- BURY,
BLACKBURN and CHORLEY (Lancs)



Report No. 591

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
BOUNDARY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND
REPORT NO 591

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

CHAIRMAN

G J Ellerton

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

J G Powell

Members

K F J Ennals

G R Prentice

Mrs H R V Sarkany

Professor K Young

BBURN.PMD

THE RT HON CHRIS PATTEN MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
REVIEW OF METROPOLITAN COUNTIES AND DISTRICTS
THE BOROUGH OF BOLTON AND ITS BOUNDARIES WITH BURY AND WITH CHORLEY AND
BLACKBURN IN LANCASHIRE

COMMISSION'S FINAL REPORT AND PROPOSALS

INTRODUCTION

1. On 1 September 1987 we wrote to Bolton Borough Council announcing our intention to undertake a review of Bolton as part of our review of the Metropolitan County of Greater Manchester and its Metropolitan Districts under section 48(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. Copies of the letter were sent to the adjoining Metropolitan District Councils, the County and District Councils bordering the Metropolitan County and to parish councils in Bolton and the adjoining districts; to the Local Authority Associations; the Members of Parliament with constituency interests; and the headquarters of the main political parties. In addition, copies were sent to those government departments, regional health authorities, and statutory undertakers which might have an interest, as well as to British Telecom, the English Tourist Board, the local government press, and the local television and radio stations serving the area.

2. The Metropolitan District Councils were requested, in co-operation as necessary with the other principal authorities, to assist us in publishing 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 Councils were also asked to ensure that the consultation letter was drawn to the attention of those involved with services such as the police and the administration of justice, in respect of which they have a statutory function.

3. A period of seven months from the date of the letter was allowed for all local authorities, including those in the surrounding districts, and any person or body interested in the review, to send us their views on whether changes to the borough 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 criterion laid down in the Act.

THE SUBMISSIONS MADE TO US AND OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS/INTERIM DECISION

4. In response to our letter we received representations from the Metropolitan Boroughs of Bolton and Bury, the Boroughs of Chorley and Blackburn and Lancashire County Council. We also received representations from North Turton Parish Council, other interested bodies and residents of the districts concerned.

5. The submissions put to us concerned suggestions for relatively minor changes to the borough boundary apart from those affecting the entire parishes of North Turton and Rivington. We have decided not to make any proposals for radical change, and consider that, taken as a whole, the area of Bolton Borough Council is apt for securing effective and convenient local government. Our proposals therefore relate to minor realignments to the boundaries described in this report.

6. We also received submissions suggesting changes to Bolton's boundaries with Salford and Wigan. These will be considered separately as part of the review of those districts.

DRAFT PROPOSALS

The boundary between Bolton and Bury

(a) Stopes Road

7. Bury Borough Council had suggested realigning its boundary with Bolton so as to unite a stretch of Stopes Road in Bury. Ordnance Survey had suggested two minor amendments to the proposed boundary, one to remove a stretch of defaced boundary and the other to ensure the transfer of the whole length of road to Bury.

8. As Bury already maintains a large part of Stopes Road we felt that it would be better to have the whole of this section of road within Bury. We decided to endorse Bury's suggestion as our draft proposal and to take into account the Ordnance Survey suggestion.

(b) Watling Street

9. Bury Borough Council had suggested amending the boundary so as to transfer land and premises to the south west of Watling Street from Bolton to Bury. The reason given was that the properties had a community of interest with Bury.

10. We agreed that the community of interest of the properties would appear to be with Bury rather than Bolton and decided therefore to endorse Bury's suggestion as our draft proposal.

The boundary between Bolton and Chorley

(c) The Parish of Rivington

11. A member of the public had suggested the transfer of the Parish of Rivington from Chorley to Bolton. It was claimed that Rivington had strong historical and educational links with Bolton.

12. We noted that Rivington was not linked by development to either Chorley or Bolton. We felt, however, that the residents were likely to have more affinity with Chorley and decided therefore to take an interim decision to make no proposal in respect of the Parish of Rivington.

The boundaries between Bolton and Blackburn and between Bury and Blackburn

(d) The Parish of North Turton

13. Five members of the public had suggested the transfer of the Parish of North Turton from Blackburn to Bolton. They had claimed that the residents of North Turton had a greater affinity with Bolton than with Blackburn. The North Turton Parish Council and the North Turton Conservative Association argued, however, that the boundaries of North Turton should remain unchanged.

14. Bury Borough Council had suggested amending their boundary with Blackburn so as to transfer to Bury the premises in the Parish of North Turton, immediately adjacent to the north and south sides of Ramsbottom Road. Lancashire County Council had suggested the transfer of a small area of land, including that part of the A676 at present in Blackburn, to Bury.

15. We noted that the Parish was isolated from Blackburn by some miles of high moorland; that it had been split at re-organisation, and seemed to look more naturally to Bolton. We therefore decided to adopt in general as our draft proposal the suggestion for the transfer of the Parish of North Turton to Bolton but also to endorse Bury's suggestion. This would mean that a small area of the parish would transfer to Bury, rather than Bolton.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS/INTERIM DECISION

16. The letter announcing our draft proposals and interim decision was published on 31 May 1989. Copies were sent to the local authorities concerned and to all those who had made representations to us. The Boroughs of Bolton, Bury, Blackburn and Chorley were asked to publish a notice giving details of our decisions and to post copies of it at places where public notices are customarily displayed. They were also asked to place copies of our letter on deposit for inspection at their main offices for a period of eight weeks. Comments were invited by 26 July 1989.

RESPONSE TO OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS/INTERIM DECISION: OUR FINAL PROPOSALS

17. We received representations from 141 sources in response to our draft proposals. These included comments from Bolton, Bury, Blackburn and Chorley Borough Councils and Lancashire County Council. We also received comments from North Turton Parish Council, Mr Peter Thurnham MP, Mr David Trippier MP, three Bolton Councillors, other interested bodies and one hundred and twenty five individuals.

18. As required by section 60(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, we have carefully considered all the representations made to us and set out below our final proposals.

The boundary between Bolton and Bury

(a) Stopes Road

19. Bolton Borough Council and the Bolton West Conservative Association both supported our draft proposal. Bury Borough Council requested that we revert to their original suggestion and drop the Ordnance Survey suggestion as the additional area outlined by Ordnance Survey did not in fact form part of the Stopes Road.

20. We accepted Bury's arguments and decided to confirm our draft proposal without the suggested Ordnance Survey modifications.

(b) Watling Street

21. Bolton and Bury Borough Councils and the Bolton West Conservative Association supported our draft proposal. A late representation was received from the owners of Old Ned's Farm claiming that the draft proposal split their property and asking for it to be omitted from the transfer. They were supported by Bolton Borough Council and the three councillors for the Bradshaw Ward on Bolton Borough Council. In view of this we decided to amend our draft proposal so as to leave the whole farm in Bolton.

The boundary between Bolton and Chorley

(c) The Parish of Rivington

22. Bolton and Chorley Borough Councils and the Bolton West Conservative Association supported our interim decision. Two members of the public objected to our interim decision on the grounds that they considered Rivington to have more affinity with Bolton than Chorley.

23. We did not feel that any new evidence had been produced to make us alter our view that Rivington's affinity would appear to be with Chorley. We decided therefore to confirm our interim decision as final.

The boundaries between Bolton and Blackburn and between Bury and Blackburn

(d) The Parish of North Turton

24. Our draft proposal was supported by Mr Peter Thurnham MP and nine residents. We also received a petition containing one hundred and three signatures supporting it. Objections to the draft proposal were received from Lancashire County Council, Blackburn and Bolton Borough Councils, North Turton Parish Council, the Trustees of Turton Tower, Mr David Trippier MP, Blackburn Conservative Association, Rossendale and Darwen Conservative Association, Edgeworth CE Methodist School, Belmont County Primary School and one hundred and fourteen residents together with a petition containing one thousand and seventy seven signatures. All the objections claimed a strong affinity with Blackburn and indicated a strong desire not to transfer to Bolton.

25. We noted the very strong feeling that North Turton as a rural area should not be administered by a metropolitan authority such as Bolton (though it would not of course be unique in that) and more importantly we were impressed by the loyalty shown to Blackburn by the majority of the residents of North Turton. The majority of the representations we received suggested that local services provided by both Lancashire County Council and Blackburn Borough Council were perceived as being effective and convenient though we noted that because of a special arrangement many secondary school children in North Turton already attend Bolton High School. Bolton Borough Council has not however sought to incorporate the area nor have we any evidence other than proximity and ease of access, to persuade us that effective and convenient local government would necessarily be enhanced by such a transfer. In view of this we have decided to withdraw our draft proposal. We shall be reporting to you further on the boundary between Bury and the Parish of North Turton in Blackburn referred to in paragraph 14 when we report to you on Bury's boundaries.

26. We would therefore commend to you our final proposals, as detailed in paragraphs 19-25, as being in the interests of effective and convenient local government in the area.

PUBLICATION

27. A separate letter is being sent to the Boroughs of Bolton, Bury, Blackburn and Chorley and Lancashire County Council 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 proposals, if you think fit, though not earlier than six weeks from the date it is submitted to you. Copies of this report, to which are attached maps illustrating the proposed changes, are also being sent to all those who received our draft proposals and interim decision letter, and to those who made written representations.

Signed

G J ELLERTON (Chairman)

J G POWELL (Deputy Chairman)

K F J ENNALS

G R PRENTICE

HELEN SARKANY

K YOUNG

S T GARRISH
Secretary

12 July 1990

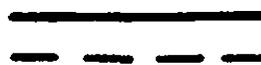
LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

METROPOLITAN BOUNDARY REVIEW

BOLTON MB
AFFECTING
BURY MB IN GREATER MANCHESTER

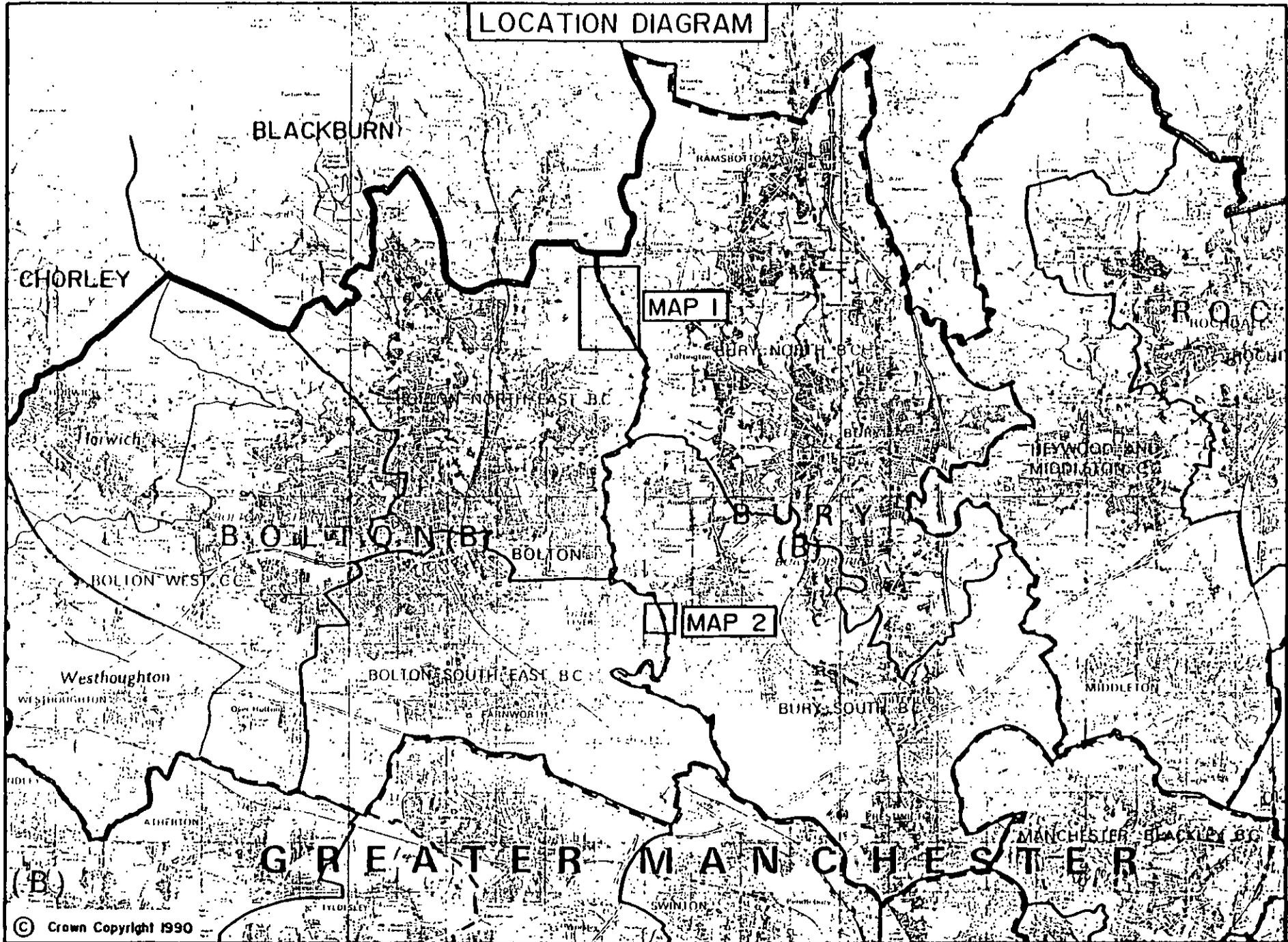
FINAL PROPOSALS

Existing Boundary
Proposed Boundary

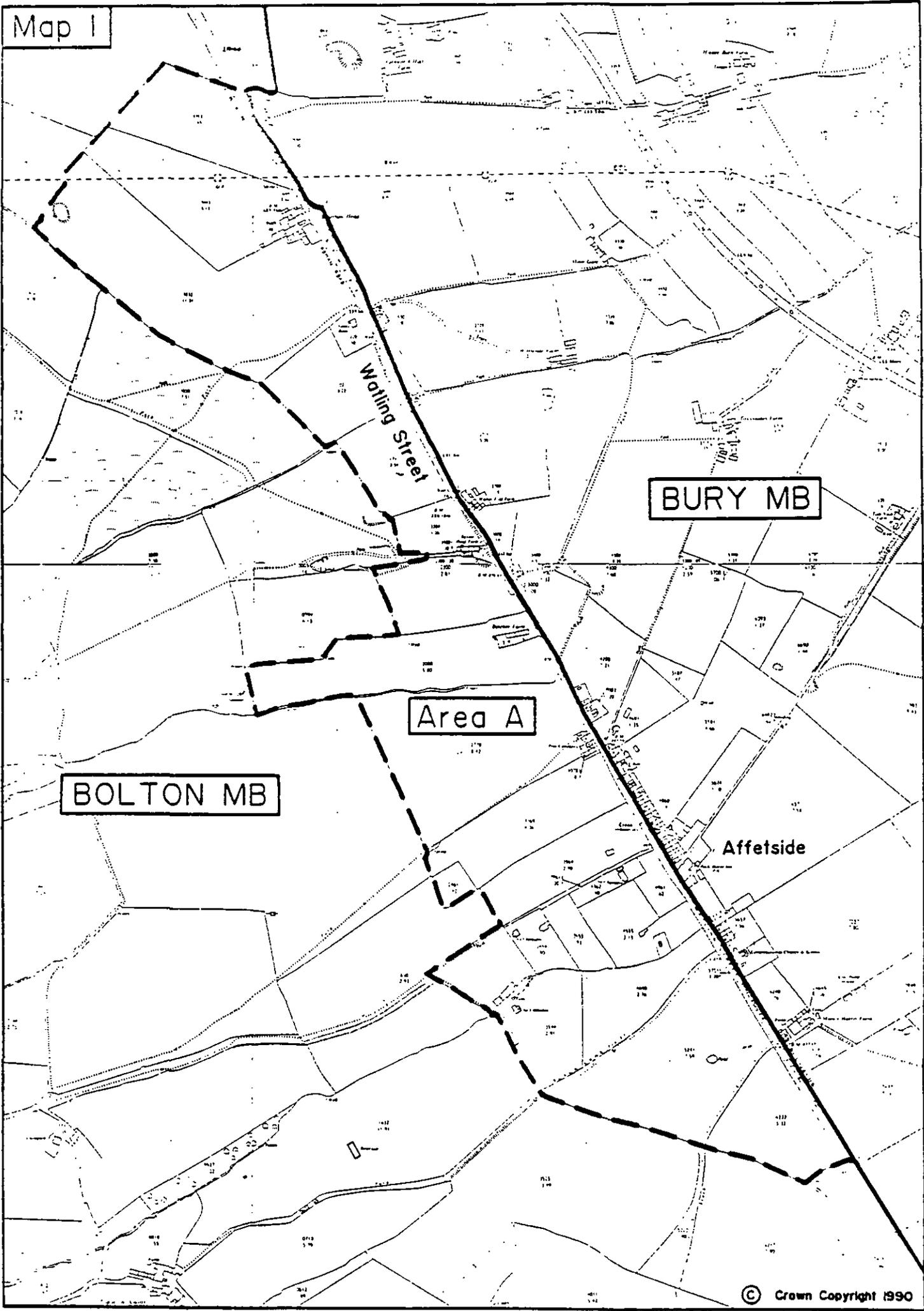


Produced by Ordnance Survey for the
Local Government Boundary Commission for England

LOCATION DIAGRAM



Map 1

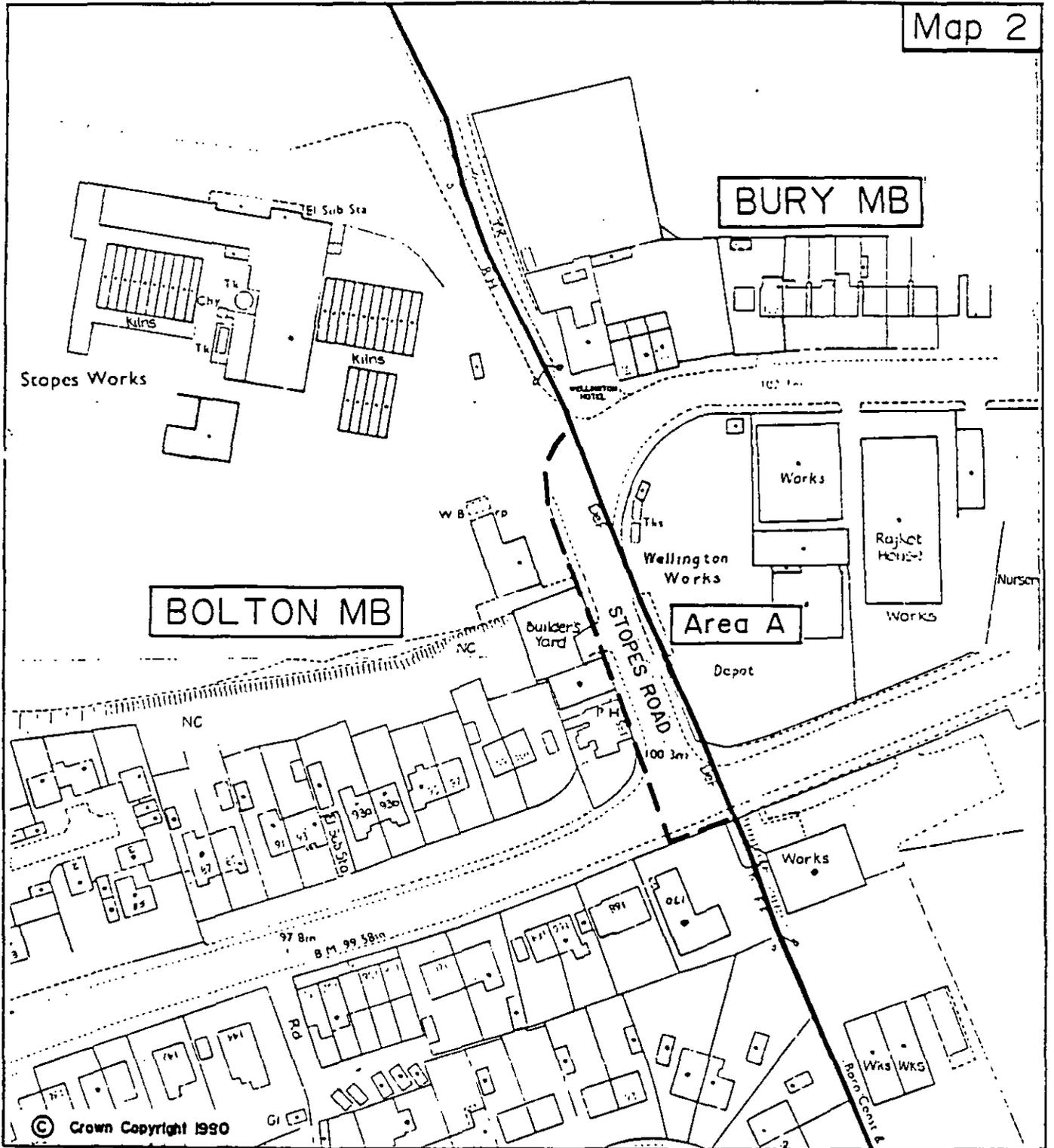


BOLTON MB

Area A

BURY MB

Affetside



CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES

Map No.	Area Ref.	From	To
1	A	Bolton MB Bradshaw Ward	Bury MB Tottington Ward
2	A	Bolton MB Little Lever Ward	Bury MB Redcliffe Central Ward

