

**Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No. 429**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Mr R R Thornton CBE, DL

MEMBERS

Lady J M Ackner

Mr J T Brockbank DL

Mr D P Harrison

Professor G E Cherry

To the Rt. Hon. William Whitelaw, CH., MC., MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department

PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

1. The last Order under section 51 of the Local Government Act 1972 in relation to the electoral arrangements for districts in the County of Suffolk was made on 9 June 1980. As required by section 63 and Schedule 9 of the Act, we have now reviewed the electoral arrangements for that county, using the procedures we had set out in our Report No.6.
2. We informed the Suffolk County Council in a consultation letter dated 10 December 1980 that we proposed to conduct the review, and sent copies of the letter to all district councils, parish councils and parish meetings in the county, to the Members of Parliament representing the constituencies concerned, to the headquarters of the main political parties and to the editors both of local newspapers circulating in the county and of the local government press. Notices in the local press announced the start of the review and invited comments from members of the public and from interested bodies.
3. On 20 March 1981 the County Council submitted to us a draft scheme in which they suggested 79 electoral divisions for the county, each returning one member in accordance with section 6(2)(a) of the Act.
4. We considered this scheme together with the views expressed by local interests. We noted in particular that the proposed Stowmarket electoral division would be greatly under-represented, and we thought that it might be possible to achieve better representation there, either by dividing Stowmarket into two divisions or in some other way; we also wondered whether the electoral balance of some of the proposed divisions in Babergh District could be improved, and whether the County Council saw any case for adjustments in Waveney District as a result of comments by the District Council. We accordingly asked for the County Council's observations on these points. In reply the County Council stated that they had examined other possible arrangements for Babergh, but considered that the arrangement in the draft scheme was the best that could be achieved; they explained that attempting to divide Stowmarket by combining any one of the Stowmarket district wards with neighbouring parishes would necessitate recasting the scheme for the entire district of Mid Suffolk, but they forwarded details of an alternative arrangement based on two whole electoral divisions within the town; and they did not see any case for adjustments in Waveney district.
5. Having considered the County Council's reply, on 11 December 1981 we issued draft proposals, which we sent to all those who had received our consultation letter, or commented on the County Council's draft scheme. Notices were inserted in the local

press announcing that the draft proposals had been issued and could be inspected at the County Council's offices.

6. We based our draft proposals on the County Council's draft scheme, though we made certain modifications, designed to improve the standard of representation or to take account either of comments on the scheme or of our normal practices with regard to naming electoral divisions.

7. The modifications we made were as follows:

(a) We deleted all parentheses from the names of electoral divisions;

(b) Forest Heath District

We altered the name of the proposed Rowheath division to 'Abbott Baldwin', and deleted the word 'Newmarket' from the name of the proposed Newmarket (Exning) division.

(c) Ipswich Borough

We prefixed the word 'Ipswich' to the proposed Town and St Margaret's divisions.

(d) Mid Suffolk District

We divided the town of Stowmarket into two divisions, using the line which Suffolk County Council had suggested to us for this purpose, and we named the two resulting divisions 'Stowmarket North' and 'Stowmarket South'. We thereby increased the proposed number of divisions for the district from 9 to 10.

(e) Suffolk Coastal District

We altered the name of the proposed Minsmere division to 'Clay Hills', and deleted the word 'Felixstowe' from the proposed Felixstowe (Ferry), Felixstowe (Walton), and Felixstowe (Landguard) divisions.

(f) Waveney District

We deleted the word 'Lowestoft' from all the proposed divisions in the town, with the exception of Lowestoft (Central) and Lowestoft (St Margaret's).

The effect of our modifications was to increase the proposed county council size from 79 to 80.

8. The map and written description of our draft proposals incorporated two minor adjustments to the proposed electoral division boundaries in the Lowestoft area which the Ordnance Survey had suggested for technical reasons. Neither involved the transfer of any electors.

9. We received comments in response to our draft proposals from the county council, three district councils, three parish councils, three town councils, one county councillor, two political associations, and one individual. A list of those who wrote to us is given in the Appendix to this Report.

10. Suffolk County Council raised no objections to the majority of the draft proposals, but wished that the proposed Abbott Baldwin division in Forest Heath District be named 'Rowheath', as in their draft scheme, and that the proposed Stowmarket North and Stowmarket South divisions be renamed Stowmarket St Peter and Stowmarket St Mary respectively, in order to reflect local custom and parlance.

11. The other comments we received can be summarised as follows:-

(a) Forest Heath

Lakenheath Parish Council, like the County Council, wished the name of the proposed Abbott Baldwin division to be changed back to 'Rowheath'. Forest Heath District Council, who had previously suggested the name 'Abbott Baldwin' to the Commission, now favoured a reversion to 'Rowheath' in view of Lakenheath Parish Council's objection.

(b) Mid Suffolk

Mid Suffolk District Council supported our draft proposals for Stowmarket, and asked about the possibility of altering the town's electoral arrangements at district and parish level, to make the wards therein co-terminous with our proposed electoral divisions. County Councillor P Oldfield also supported our draft proposals for Stowmarket, and suggested that for parish electoral purposes the town should have two wards, returning eight town councillors each. Stowmarket Town Council supported the composition of our proposed divisions for the town, but wished their names to be changed from 'Stowmarket North' and 'Stowmarket South' to 'Stowmarket St Peter's' and 'Stowmarket St Mary's' respectively, on grounds of ecclesiastical and historical significance.

(c) St Edmundsbury

Mr Colin Jones, Chairman of the Haverhill and District Liberal Party, put forward his own alternative to our proposed Haverhill North and Haverhill South divisions; his suggestion involved the combination of the Cangle and Chalkstone wards to form one division, on the grounds of local ties, and the combination of the Castle, Clements, and St Mary's and Helions wards to form another division. Withersfield Parish Council had no objections to our draft proposals as far as their parish was concerned.

(d) Suffolk Coastal

Leiston Town Council objected to both the composition and the name of our proposed Clay Hills electoral division, which included their town. They initially reiterated their earlier suggestion that Leiston should form a division on its own as at present, having regard to the proposed construction of a second nuclear power station at Sizewell; if, however, it were decided that it should form only part of a division, they wished any such division to be named 'Leiston and District' - they strongly disliked the name 'Clay Hills', claiming that it could refer to many areas of Suffolk. They subsequently put forward an alternative

suggestion that the parishes of Leiston and Knodishall be amalgamated (in the context of the current parish review of the district) and that the resulting parish form a whole electoral division, which, they claimed, would be easily defined and administered and would be of benefit to the residents of Knodishall. The Eye Constituency Labour Party wished Leiston to form a division on its own. Felixstowe Town Council objected to our proposed deletion of the word 'Felixstowe' from the names of the divisions in their town, claiming that it could lead to confusion.

(e) Waveney

Waveney District Council considered that Lowestoft should have nine electoral divisions, which should be co-terminous with the new district wards in the town, in order to facilitate the administration of elections and make matters clearer to voters; they also considered that the Wainford/Bungay electoral division boundary should follow the Wainford/South Elmham district ward boundary, in order to take account of local ties. They had no objection to the minor adjustments suggested by the Ordnance Survey. The Lowestoft Constituency Labour Party also wished the county electoral divisions and district wards in Lowestoft to be co-terminous, and they objected to the division name 'Lowestoft Central' but did not suggest any alternative.

Suffolk County Council pointed out, with regard to Waveney District Council's comments, that making the county electoral divisions and district wards in Lowestoft co-terminous would upset the balance of electoral divisions, both between Waveney District and the rest of the county, and between Lowestoft and the remainder of Waveney District.

12. In reassessing our draft proposals, we have taken account of all the comments we have received and have come to the following conclusions:-

(a) Forest Heath

We have decided to revert to the name 'Rowheath' for the Abbott Baldwin division of our draft proposals, in view of the agreement that has now been reached between the county council, Forest Heath District Council, and Lakenheath Parish Council on the matter.

(b) Mid Suffolk

Having considered the arguments put forward by Stowmarket Town Council, we have decided to change the names of the Stowmarket North and Stowmarket South divisions of our draft proposals to Stowmarket St Peter's and Stowmarket St Mary's respectively. We have otherwise decided to adhere to our draft proposals for the district.

We have had regard to the fact that the boundary between our two proposed Stowmarket divisions would, under the existing parish electoral arrangements, split the Central

ward of the parish of Stowmarket, contrary to the rules set out in paragraph 1(2)(c) of Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972. However, the parish wards in Stowmarket are currently coterminous with the district wards for the town, and unless the latter could be altered as a result of a further full electoral review of the district, to re-ward the parish now so as to correspond with the electoral divisions would simply mean that the parish wards were split by district ward boundaries - something which the rules in Schedule 11 also require us to avoid in our electoral reviews. We accordingly do not consider that it is reasonably practicable to comply with paragraph 1(2)(c) of Schedule 11 in this instance. We would be ready, however, to consider at an appropriate time carrying out a second electoral review of the district both to deal with this anomaly and with any other revisions that might be necessary.

(c) St Edmundsbury

The alternative scheme for Haverhill put forward by Mr Jones seems likely to produce an electoral balance inferior to that of our draft proposals. In any event, we do not consider Mr Jones's arguments sufficiently compelling to warrant the adoption of his scheme in the absence of any other objections to our draft proposals. We have therefore concluded that we should adhere to the draft proposals for this borough.

(d) Suffolk Coastal

The suggestions by Leiston Town Council, that Leiston should form an electoral division on its own or be combined with Knodishall, would result in an uncomfortably small division. We have considered Leiston Town Council's argument about the proposed new Sizewell power station, but we are not satisfied that this constitutes sufficient reason for treating Leiston as a special case at the present time. We have also considered the Town Council's suggestion that the name 'Leiston and District' be adopted instead of 'Clay Hills'; but, in view of the fact that no other objections have been received on this point, we have decided to retain the latter name. We accept the Felixstowe Town Council's arguments about the names of the proposed divisions in Felixstowe, and have therefore decided to reinstate the town name in those divisions. Subject to this change we have adhered to our draft proposals.

(e) Waveney

To make the electoral divisions in Lowestoft co-terminous with the new district wards would, as the County Council recognise, upset the electoral balance to an unacceptable degree. Waveney District Council's suggested alteration of the Wainford/Bungay division boundary would also have a detrimental effect on electoral balance. We do not share the view of the Lowestoft Constituency Labour Party that the proposed division name 'Lowestoft Central' would cause confusion to any significant extent. We have therefore decided to adhere to our draft proposals for this district.

13. We accordingly confirm our draft proposals as our final proposals for all the districts in the county, subject only to the changes of name in Forest Heath, Mid Suffolk and Suffolk Coastal Districts referred to in paragraph 12(a), (b) and (d) respectively.

14. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedules 1 and 2 to this report and on the attached map. Schedule 1 gives the names of the electoral divisions. A detailed description of the boundaries of the proposed divisions as defined on the map is set out in Schedule 2.

PUBLICATION

15. 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 Suffolk County Council and will be available for inspection at the Council's main offices. Copies of this report (without the map) are being sent to all those who received our draft proposals letter or who commented on the draft proposals.

L.S.

Signed: R R THORNTON (Deputy Chairman)

J M ACKNER

TYRRELL BROCKBANK

G E CHERRY

D P HARRISON

LESLIE GRIMSHAW (Secretary)

20 May 1982

LIST OF THOSE WHO COMMENTED ON THE DRAFT PROPOSALS

		<u>Area Concerned</u>
Suffolk County Council	-	Abbott Baldwin division (Forest Heath District); Stowmarket (Mid Suffolk District); Lowestoft (Waveney District)
<u>FOREST HEATH DISTRICT</u>		
Forest Heath District Council	-	Abbott Baldwin division
Lakenheath Parish Council	-	" " "
<u>MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT</u>		
Mid Suffolk District Council	-	Stowmarket
County Councillor P Oldfield	-	"
Stowmarket Town Council	-	"
<u>ST EDMUNDSBURY BOROUGH</u>		
Mr Colin Jones (Chairman of Haverhill and District Liberal Party)	-	Haverhill
Withersfield Parish Council	-	Clare division
<u>SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT</u>		
Leiston Town Council	-	Clay Hills division
Eye Constituency Labour Party	-	" " "
Felixstowe Town Council	-	Felixstowe
<u>WAVENEY DISTRICT</u>		
Waveney District Council	-	Lowestoft; Wainford and Bungay divisions
Lowestoft Constituency Labour Party	-	Lowestoft

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

NAMES OF PROPOSED ELECTORAL DIVISIONS (EACH RETURNING ONE COUNTY COUNCILOR)

PROPOSED COUNTY ELECTORAL DIVISIONS WITHIN DISTRICTS

DISTRICT OF BABERGH

Belstead Brook
Brett
Cosford
Great Cornard
Hadleigh
Melford
Peninsula
Samford
Stour Valley
Sudbury

DISTRICT OF FOREST HEATH

Brandon
Exning
Icknield
Mildenhall
Newmarket Town
Rowheath

BROUGH OF IPSWICH

Bixley
Bridge
Broom Hill
Castle Hill
Chantry
Gainsborough
Ipswich St Margaret's
Ipswich Town
Priory Heath
Rushmere
St Clement's
St John's

BOROUGH OF IPSWICH (contd...)

Sprites
Stoke Park
White House
Whitton

DISTRICT OF MID SUFFOLK

Bosmere
Gipping Valley
Hartismere
Hoxne
Stowmarket St Mary's
Stowmarket St Peter's
Thedwastre North
Thedwastre South
Thredling
Upper Gipping

BOROUGH OF ST EDMUNDSBURY

Abbeygate and Eastgate
Blackbourn
Clare
Haverhill North
Haverhill South
Northgate and St Olave's
Risbridge
Risbygate and Sexton's
Southgate and Westgate
Thingoe North
Thingoe South

DISTRICT OF SUFFOLK COASTAL

Blything
Carlford
Clay Hills
Colneis
Felixstowe Ferry
Felixstowe Landguard
Felixstowe Walton
Framlingham

DISTRICT OF SUFFOLK COASTAL (contd...)

Kesgrave and Martlesham

Plomesgate

Wickham

Wilford

Woodbridge

DISTRICT OF WAVENEY

Beccles

Bungay

Gunton

Halesworth

Lothingland North

Lothingland South

Lowestoft Central

Lowestoft St Margaret's

Normanston

Oulton Broad

Pakefield

Southwold

Wainford

Whittington

The proposed electoral divisions are shown on a map which can be inspected at the Council's offices. A description of the boundaries of the proposed electoral divisions shown on the map is attached at Schedule 2.

HADLEIGH ED

The Babergh District Ward of Hadleigh

MELFORD ED

The Babergh District Wards of Chadacre
Glemsford
Long Melford

PENINSULA ED

The Babergh District Wards of Alton
Berners
Holbrook
Shotley

SAMFORD ED

The Babergh District Wards of Brantham
Dodnash
West Samford

STOUR VALLEY ED

The Babergh District Wards of Bures St Mary
Leavenheath
Nayland
Waldingfield

SUDBURY ED

The Babergh District Wards of Sudbury East
Sudbury North
Sudbury South

BOROUGH OF IPSWICH

BIXLEY ED

The Ipswich Borough Ward of Bixley

BRIDGE ED

The Ipswich Borough Ward of Bridge

BROOM HILL ED

The Ipswich Borough Ward of Broom Hill

CASTLE HILL ED

The Ipswich Borough Ward of Castle Hill

CHANTRY ED

The Ipswich Borough Ward of Chantry

GAINSBOROUGH ED

The Ipswich Borough Ward of Gainsborough

IPSWICH ST MARGARET'S ED

The Ipswich Borough Ward of St Margaret's

IPSWICH TOWN ED

The Ipswich Borough Ward of Town

PRIORY HEATH ED

The Ipswich Borough Ward of Priory Heath

RUSHMERE ED

The Ipswich Borough Ward of Rushmere

ST CLEMENT'S ED

The Ipswich Borough Ward of St Clement's

ST JOHN'S ED

The Ipswich Borough Ward of St John's

SPRITES ED

The Ipswich Borough Ward of Sprites

STOKE PARK ED

The Ipswich Borough Ward of Stoke Park

WHITE HOUSE ED

The Ipswich Borough Ward of White House

WHITTON ED

The Ipswich Borough Ward of Whitton

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT

BOSMERE ED

The Mid Suffolk District Wards of Barking
Needham Market
Ringshall

GIPPING VALLEY ED

The Mid Suffolk District Wards of Barham
Bramford
Claydon

HARTISMERE ED

The Mid Suffolk District Wards of Eye

Gislingham

Palgrave

Rickinghall

HOXNE ED

The Mid Suffolk District Wards of Fressingfield

Hoxne

Stradbroke

Weybread

Worlingworth

STOWMARKET ST PETER'S ED

The Mid Suffolk District Ward of Stowmarket North

and that part of the Mid Suffolk District Ward of Stowmarket Central bounded by a line commencing at the point where Finborough Road meets the western boundary of said Ward, thence generally northeastwards along said ward boundary to the northern boundary of said ward, thence generally eastwards along said northern boundary and southeastwards and southwestwards along the eastern boundary of said Ward to Finborough Road, thence southwestwards and westwards along said road to the point of commencement.

STOWMARKET ST MARY'S ED

The Mid Suffolk District Ward of Stowmarket South

and that part of the Mid Suffolk District Ward of Stowmarket Central not included in Stowmarket **St. Peter's ED.**

THEDWASTRE NORTH ED

The Mid Suffolk District Wards of	Badwell Ash
	Norton
	Thurston
	Walsham-le-Willows

THEDWASTRE SOUTH ED

The Mid Suffolk District Wards of	Elmswell
	Onehouse
	Rattlesden
	Woolpit

THREDLING ED

The Mid Suffolk District Wards of	Creeting
	Debenham
	Helmingham
	Stonham
	Wetheringsett

UPPER GIPPING ED

The Mid Suffolk District Wards of	Haughley and Wetherden
	Mendlesham
	Stowupland

BOROUGH OF ST EDMUNDSBURY

ABBEYGATE AND EASTGATE ED

The St Edmundsbury Borough Wards of	Abbeygate
	Eastgate

NORTHGATE AND ST OLAVE'S ED

The St Edmundsbury Borough Wards of	Northgate
	St Olaves

RISBRIDGE ED

The St Edmundsbury Borough Wards of	Barrow
	Cavendish
	Chevington
	Wickhambrook

RISBYGATE AND SEXTON'S ED

The St Edmundsbury Borough Wards of	Risbygate
	Sextons

SOUTHGATE AND WESTGATE ED

The St Edmundsbury Borough Wards of	Southgate
	Westgate

THINGOE NORTH ED

The St Edmundsbury Borough Wards of	Fornham
	Great Barton
	Pakenham
	Risby

THINGOE SOUTH ED

The St Edmundsbury Borough Wards of	Horringer
	Rougham
	Whelnetnam

SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT

The Suffolk Coastal District Wards used in this description are those listed in SI (1980) No 739 : the District of Suffolk Coastal (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1980 (which will come into operation for District election purposes on 5 5 83).

BLYTHING ED

The Suffolk Coastal District Wards of Bramfield and Cratfield
 Walberswick
 Westleton
 Yoxford

CARLFORD ED

The Suffolk Coastal District Wards of Bealings
 Grundisburgh and Winesham
 Rushmere

CLAY HILLS ED

The Suffolk Coastal District Wards of Kelsale
 Leiston
 Saxmundham

COLNEIS ED

The Suffolk Coastal District Wards of Kirton
 Nacton
 Trimleys

FELIXSTOWE FERRY ED

The Suffolk Coastal District Wards of Felixstowe East
 Felixstowe South East

FELIXSTOWE LANDGUARD ED

The Suffolk Coastal District Wards of Felixstowe South
Felixstowe West

FELIXSTOWE WALTON ED

The Suffolk Coastal District Wards of Felixstowe Central
Felixstowe North

FRAMLINGHAM ED

The Suffolk Coastal District Wards of Dennington
Earl Soham
Framlingham
Glemham

KESGRAVE AND MARTLESHAM ED

The Suffolk Coastal District Wards of Kesgrave
Martlesham

PLOMESGATE ED

The Suffolk Coastal District Wards of Aldeburgh
Buxlow
Snape

WICKHAM ED

The Suffolk Coastal District Wards of Hasketon
Melton
Otley
Wickham Market

WILFORD ED

The Suffolk Coastal District Wards of Alderton and Sutton
 Hollesley
 Orford
 Tunstall
 Ufford

WOODBIDGE ED

The Suffolk Coastal District Wards of Woodbridge Centre
 Woodbridge Farlingaye
 Woodbridge Kyson
 Woodbridge Riverside
 Woodbridge Seckford

WAVENEY DISTRICT

The Waveney District Wards used in this description are those listed in SI (1980) No 795; the District of Waveney (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1980 (which will come into operation for District election purposes on 5 5 83).

BECCLES ED

The Waveney District Ward of Beccles Town

BUNGAY ED

The Waveney District Wards of Bungay
 South Elmham
 and the parishes of Barsham
 Redisham
 Ringsfield
 Shipmeadow
 St Andrew, Ilketshall

western boundary of Kirkley Ward, thence generally northeastwards along said ward boundary to the northern boundary of said Ward, thence eastwards along said northern boundary to the eastern boundary of the District, thence southwestwards along said District boundary to the point of commencement.

That part of the Waveney District Ward of Whitton bounded by a line commencing at the point where the eastern boundary of said Ward meets the road known as Kirkley Run, thence northwestwards along said road to Waveney Drive, thence northeastwards and eastwards along said drive to a point opposite the eastern boundary of the Joinery Works, thence northeastwards to and along said eastern boundary to the point at which it meets MHW, thence due north from said point to the northern boundary of Kirkley Ward, thence eastwards along said ward boundary to the eastern boundary of said Ward, thence southwards and generally southwestwards along said eastern boundary to the point of commencement.

LOWESTOFT ST MARGARET'S ED

The Waveney District Ward of St Margarets

NORMANSTON ED

The Waveney District Ward of Normanston

and that part of the Waveney District Ward of Harbour not included in Lowestoft Central ED.

OULTON BROAD ED

That part of the Waveney District Ward of Oulton Broad not included in Lothingland North ED

and that part of the Waveney District Ward of Carlton bounded by a line commencing at the point where Cotmer Road meets the southern boundary of

Carlton Ward, thence northwestwards and generally southwestwards along said ward boundary and generally northwards along the western boundary of said Ward to the northern boundary of said Ward, thence generally eastwards along said northern boundary to the eastern boundary of said ward, thence generally southwards and southwestwards along said eastern boundary and continuing southwestwards along Colville Road to Cotmer Road, thence southwards and southwestwards along said road to the point of commencement.

PAKEFIELD ED

The Waveney District Ward of Pakefield
and that part of the Waveney District Ward of Kirkley not included in
Lowestoft Central ED.

SOUTHWOLD ED

The Waveney District Ward of Southwold

WAINFORD ED

The Waveney District Wards of Beccles Worlingham
Mutford
and the parishes of Ellough
Shadingfield
Sotterley
Weston
Willingham St Mary

WHITTINGTON ED

That part of the Waveney District Ward of Carlton not included in Oulton
Broad ED
and that part of the Waveney District Ward of Whitton not included in
Lowestoft Central ED.