

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 93

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 REVISED ELECTORAL ARRANGMENTS FOR THE DISTRICT
OF KENNET IN THE COUNTY OF WILTSHIRE

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the district of Kennet 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 for that district.
2. In accordance with the procedure laid down 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 Kennet District Council, copies of which were circulated to the Wiltshire County Council, Parish Councils and Parish Meetings in the district, 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 to 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. Kennet District Council were invited to prepare a draft scheme of representation for our consideration. In 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 asked also to take into account any views expressed to them following their consultations 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. In accordance with section 7 (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council had exercised an option for a system of whole council elections.
5. On 27 September 1974 the Kennet District Council presented their draft scheme of representation. The Council proposed to divide the area into 30 wards each returning 1, 2, 3 or 4 members to form a Council of 40, three more than at present.
6. Before we considered the draft scheme in detail we pointed out to the District Council that, save only in the most exceptional circumstances, our guidelines, as set out in our Report No 6, did not permit district wards returning more than 3 members. The District Council thereupon agreed, pursuant to section 50 (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to conduct a review of the electoral arrangements of the successor parish of Marlborough which it had been proposed should form a single district ward returning 4 members. The objective was to establish two parish wards which would serve also as district wards each returning 2 district councillors.
7. Following publication by the District Council of their provisional proposals we received comments from a number of sources. The Wiltshire County Council wrote in support of the draft scheme but asked us to note that it might not in all cases be possible, when drawing up proposals for the electoral arrangements, to have regard to the boundaries of the proposed district wards. They also advised us that the District Council had been informed that it would ease their task in providing balanced electoral divisions in the Devizes area if the parish of Roundway were to be warded in such a way as to enable an appropriate ward adjoining the former Devizes borough area to be included in that area for county electoral purposes.

8. A local political party, having unsuccessfully pressed the District Council to modify the boundary between the proposed Devizes East and Devizes North wards in order to secure better equality of representation, wrote to us suggesting that the former ward should be allocated an additional councillor. On the basis of the District Council's forecast of the electorate by 1979 we considered that this amendment of the draft scheme was justified and we decided to adopt it.

9. Two parish councils, the chairmen of three parish meetings and a local councillor wrote to us suggesting that the name of the proposed ward comprising the parishes of Broad Hinton, Winterbourne Bassett, Berwick Bassett, Winterbourne Monkton and Avebury should be named 'West Selkey' instead of 'Avebury' as the District Council had proposed. We noted that the District Council had already considered this suggestion and rejected it on the grounds that the name would not be generally known to the electorate and would not be likely to become familiar to them with elections being held once every four years. We therefore decided that the suggested change of name should not be made.

10. We reviewed also the comment which a parish council had made earlier to the District Council that the proposed Burbage ward should be represented by two district councillors rather than one as the District Council had proposed. The District Council had decided that no increase in representation should be given and, on the basis of the electorate of the proposed ward both now and as forecast by the District Council for 1979, we agreed that this was an appropriate decision.

11. We noted that the draft scheme submitted by the District Council showed a certain amount of unevenness in the standard of representation but given the nature of the district - a wholly parished area - we concluded that some unevenness was unavoidable. We noted, however, that the proposed Roundway

ward would enjoy a very generous standard of representation on the basis of its present electorate and that the position was likely to become still worse by 1979 by which time it was likely to be over represented. Accordingly we concluded that it should be represented by only one councillor instead of two as the District Council had proposed. Subject to this modification and to those referred to in paragraphs 6 and 8 above we decided that the District Council's draft scheme should be adopted and we formulated our draft proposals accordingly.

12. On 27 November 1974 we issued our draft proposals and there 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 these draft proposals, and the accompanying maps 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 other members of the public and interested bodies. We asked that any comments should reach us by 31 January 1975.

13. The Kennet District Council indicated that they had no comment to offer on the draft proposals but arising from their review of the electoral arrangements for Marlborough there were a few small modifications to the boundaries of the proposed wards in that parish.

14. The Wiltshire County Council re-iterated their earlier comments and we noted that the District Council had not so far been able to see their way clear to ward the parish of Roundway on the basis the County Council had suggested.

15. One of the parish councils and the district councillor who had written to us earlier about the name of the proposed 'Avebury' ward wrote again requesting that we should reconsider our decision. We reviewed the matter and decided that in view of the apparent strength of local feeling on the issue it would be appropriate to re-name the proposed ward "West Selkley" as had been suggested.

16. Subject to this modification and to those mentioned at paragraph 13 above we decided to confirm our draft proposals as our final proposals and to report to you accordingly.

17. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedules 1 and 2 to this report. Schedule 1 defines the areas of the new wards and Schedule 2 gives the names of the wards and the number of councillors to be returned by each. The boundaries of the new wards are illustrated on the attached map.

PUBLICATION

18. 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 Kennet District Council and will be 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.

L.S.

Signed

EDMUND COMPTON (CHAIRMAN)
JOHN M RANKIN (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN)
DIANA ALBEMARLE
T C BENFIELD
MICHAEL CHISHOLM
ANDREW WHEATLEY
F B YOUNG

DAVID R SMITH (Secretary)

24 July 1975

DISTRICT OF KENNET - DEFINITION OF PROPOSED DISTRICT WARDS

ALDBOURNE

The parishes of Aldbourne and Baydon.

BEDWYN WARD

The parishes of Froxfield, Little Bedwyn and Great Bedwyn.

BROMHAM WARD

The parish of Bromham.

BURBAGE WARD

The parishes of Burbage and Grafton.

CANNINGS WARD

The parishes of Bishops Cannings, Allcannings and Etchilhampton.

CHEVERELL WARD

The parishes of Poulshot, Worton, Marston, Erlestoke, Cheverell Magna and Cheverell Parva.

COLLINGBOURNE WARD

The parishes of Collingbourne Kingston, Collingbourne Ducis and Everleigh.

DEVIZES EAST WARD

The East Ward of the parish of Devizes.

DEVIZES NORTH WARD

The North Ward of the parish of Devizes.

DEVIZES SOUTH WARD

The South Ward of the parish of Devizes.

LUDGERSHALL WARD

The parish of Ludgershall.

MARKET LAVINGTON WARD

The parishes of Market Lavington and Easterton.

MARLBOROUGH EAST

The East Ward of the parish of Marlborough.

MARLBOROUGH WEST

The West Ward of the parish of Marlborough.

MILTON LILBOURNE WARD

The parishes of Milton Lilbourne, Wootton Rivers and Easton.

NETHERAVON WARD

The parishes of Netheravon, Enford and Fittleton.

NORTH TIDWORTH WARD

The parish of North Tidworth.

OGBOURNE WARD

The parishes of Ogbourne St Andrew, Ogbourne St George and Mildenhall.

PEWSEY WARD

The parish of Pewsey.

POTTERNE WARD

The parish of Potterne.

RAMSBURY WARD

The parishes of Ramsbury and Chilton Foliat.

ROUNDWAY WARD

The parish of Roundway.

SEEND WARD

The parishes of Seend and Rowde.

SHALBOURNE WARD

The parishes of Shalbourne, Ham, Buttermere, Tidcombe and Fosbury, Chute and Chute Forest.

UPAVON WARD

The parishes of Upavon, Rushall, Charlton and Wilsford.

URCHFONT WARD

The parishes of Urchfont and Stert.

WEST LAVINGTON WARD

The parish of West Lavington.

WEST OVERTON WARD

The parishes of Preshute, Fyfield, West Overton, Savernake, and East Kennett,

WEST SELKLEY

The parishes of Broad Hinton, Winterbourne Bassett, Berwick Bassett, Winterbourne Monkton and Avebury.

WILCOT WARD

The parishes of Wilcot, Huish, North Newnton and Manningford.

WOODBOROUGH WARD

The parishes of Woodborough, Alton Stanton St Bernard, Beechingstoke, Patney,
Chirton, Marden.

DISTRICT OF KENNET: NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS AND NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS

NAME OF WARD	NO OF COUNCILLORS
ALDBOURNE	1
BEDWYN	1
BROMHAM	1
BURRAGE	1
CANNINGS	1
CHEVERELL	1
COLLINGBOURNE	1
DEVIZES EAST	3
DEVIZES NORTH	2
DEVIZES SOUTH	2
LUDGESHALL	2
MARKET LAVINGTON	1
MARLBOROUGH EAST	2
MARLBOROUGH WEST	2
MILTON LILBOURNE	1
NETHERAVON	1
NORTH TIDWORTH	2
OGBOURNE	1
PEWSEY	2
POTTERLEY	1
RAMSBURY	1
ROUNDWAY	1
SEEND	1
SHALBOURNE	1
UPAVON	1
URCHFONTE	1
WEST LAVINGTON	1
WEST OVERTON	1
WEST SELKLEY	1
WILCOT	1
WOODBOROUGH	1