

Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No. 414

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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Sir Nicholas Morrison KCE

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Lady Bowden

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Mr R R Thornton CBE DL

Mr D P Harrison

Professor G E Cherry

The Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine MP
Secretary of State for the Environment

1. In a letter dated 6 July 1979, Swale Borough Council requested us to review the boundary between the Boroughs of Swale and Gillingham, with a view to the transfer of a small area of land in the vicinity of Otterham Quay Lane from the Borough of Swale to the Borough of Gillingham in order to create a more satisfactory administrative boundary. The existing boundary in this area passes through a number of houses and other property; under the suggestion put forward by the Swale Borough Council it would have mainly followed roads and a footpath. The land affected by the suggested boundary change is currently in the Parish of Upchurch, whilst the area to which it would be transferred is unparished. Both Gillingham Borough Council and Upchurch Parish Council supported Swale Borough Council's request.

2. Ordnance Survey were asked for their comments on the proposed new boundary line and they suggested a minor modification for technical reasons.

3. We considered the Borough Council's request, as required by Section 48(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, having regard to Department of the Environment Circular 33/78 and to our own Report No. 287.

4. We noted that the change was minor and that the proposals met the criteria set out in paragraph 14 of Department of the Environment Circular 33/78.

5. As a result we decided that we should undertake a review, and that the circumstances were sufficiently exceptional to enable us to shorten our normal procedure by publishing draft proposals at the same time as we formally announced our intention to carry out a review. We based our draft proposals on Swale Borough Council's letter, but incorporated the modification suggested by Ordnance Survey.

6. On 2 September 1980 we issued a consultation letter announcing the start of the review and giving details of our draft proposals. The letter was addressed jointly to Swale Borough Council and Gillingham Borough Council. Copies were sent to Kent County Council, Upchurch Parish Council, the Members of Parliament for the constituencies concerned, the headquarters of the main political parties, the Kent Area Health Authority, the Southern Water Authority, the South East Regional Office of the Department of the Environment, and the editors of local newspapers circulating in the area and of the local government press. Again, in view of the minor nature of the proposed change, we dispensed with our normal practice of asking the councils concerned to arrange for

the publication of notices in the local press; instead we sent copies of the consultation letter to all the occupiers and/or owners of property or land which would be directly affected by the change. The two district authorities were asked to place copies of the draft proposals on deposit at their main offices for a period of six weeks. Comments on the draft proposals were invited by 28 October 1980.

7. Swale Borough Council initially supported our draft proposals; Gillingham Borough Council informed us that they had no observations to make.

8. Upchurch Parish Council's initial comment on the draft proposals was basically a reiteration of their earlier position; they opposed Ordnance Survey's modification of Swale Borough Council's original suggestion, on the grounds that it would involve their surrendering more land than would otherwise be the case. Subsequently Upchurch Parish Council put forward a revised suggestion, which further reduced the amount of land that would be transferred to Gillingham Borough.

9. Kent County Council pointed out that they owned land through which both the existing and proposed boundaries ran, and suggested a third possible line for the new boundary. Of all the suggestions which had been made, that of Kent County Council was the only one under which all of the area of land owned by the County Council would be contained in one district (Gillingham). The County Council stated that there was the prospect of industrial development on this land, and their suggested district boundary line, which ran along the northern boundary of their land, would consequently make for easier local government, as all the County Council land would then fall into one planning authority, and would be more clearly defined than an indistinct footpath which would be extinguished with the industrial development. The additional land in question is not inhabited.

10. All the local authorities concerned received copies of one another's comments on our draft proposals. On learning of Kent County Council's suggestion, and the revised suggestion put forward by Upchurch Parish Council, Swale Borough Council indicated support for the latter, although considering that each of the alternatives had some merit, and emphasised the desirability of an early decision. Gillingham Borough Council raised no objection to any particular suggestion. Upchurch Parish Council opposed both our draft proposals and Kent County Council's suggested alternative.

11. After considering the response to our draft proposals, we came to the conclusion that, despite the fact that Upchurch Parish Council were strongly opposed to it, and that Swale Borough Council slightly preferred the Parish Council's suggestion, the alternative boundary line put forward by Kent County Council was, for the reasons given by the County Council, clearly the most conducive to the operation of effective and convenient local government. We have consequently adopted it as our final proposals.

12. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedules 1 and 2 to this report. Schedule 1 gives a written description of the revised boundary proposed; the boundary is also illustrated on the attached map. Schedule 2 specifies the consequential adjustments to the existing district electoral arrangements, and to the new county electoral arrangements laid down in the County of Kent (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1981.

13. Copies of this report and of the map are being sent to Swale Borough Council and Gillingham Borough Council, and will be made available for public inspection at the Councils' main offices. Copies of this report, which includes a small sketch plan, are being sent, without the map, to those who received the consultation letter.

L.S.

Signed: NICHOLAS MORRISON (CHAIRMAN)

PHYLLIS BOWDEN

TYRRELL BROCKBANK

G E CHERRY

D P HARRISON

R R THORNTON

LESLIE GRIMSHAW
Secretary

30 April 1981

DESCRIPTION OF THE SECTION OF PROPOSED NEW ALIGNMENT OF THE BOUNDARY
BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE AND THE BOROUGH OF GILLINGHAM

NOTE: Where the boundary is described as following a road, railway, river, canal or similar feature it should be deemed to follow the centre of the feature unless otherwise stated.

Commencing at a point where the northwestern boundary of Swale Borough meets the northwestern boundary of the Brick Works in Otterham Quay Lane, thence southwestwards along said northwestern boundary to the southwestern boundary of said Brick Works, thence southeastwards along said southwestern boundary to the southeastern boundary of said Brick Works, thence northeastwards along said southeastern boundary to NG ref 8291766525 as shown on OS 1:1250 microfilm (A) TQ 8266 NE date of publication 1970, thence southeastwards to and northeastwards along Otterham Quay Lane to Canterbury Lane, thence southeastwards along said lane to the northwestern boundary of Swale Borough.

PROPOSALS FOR REVISED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

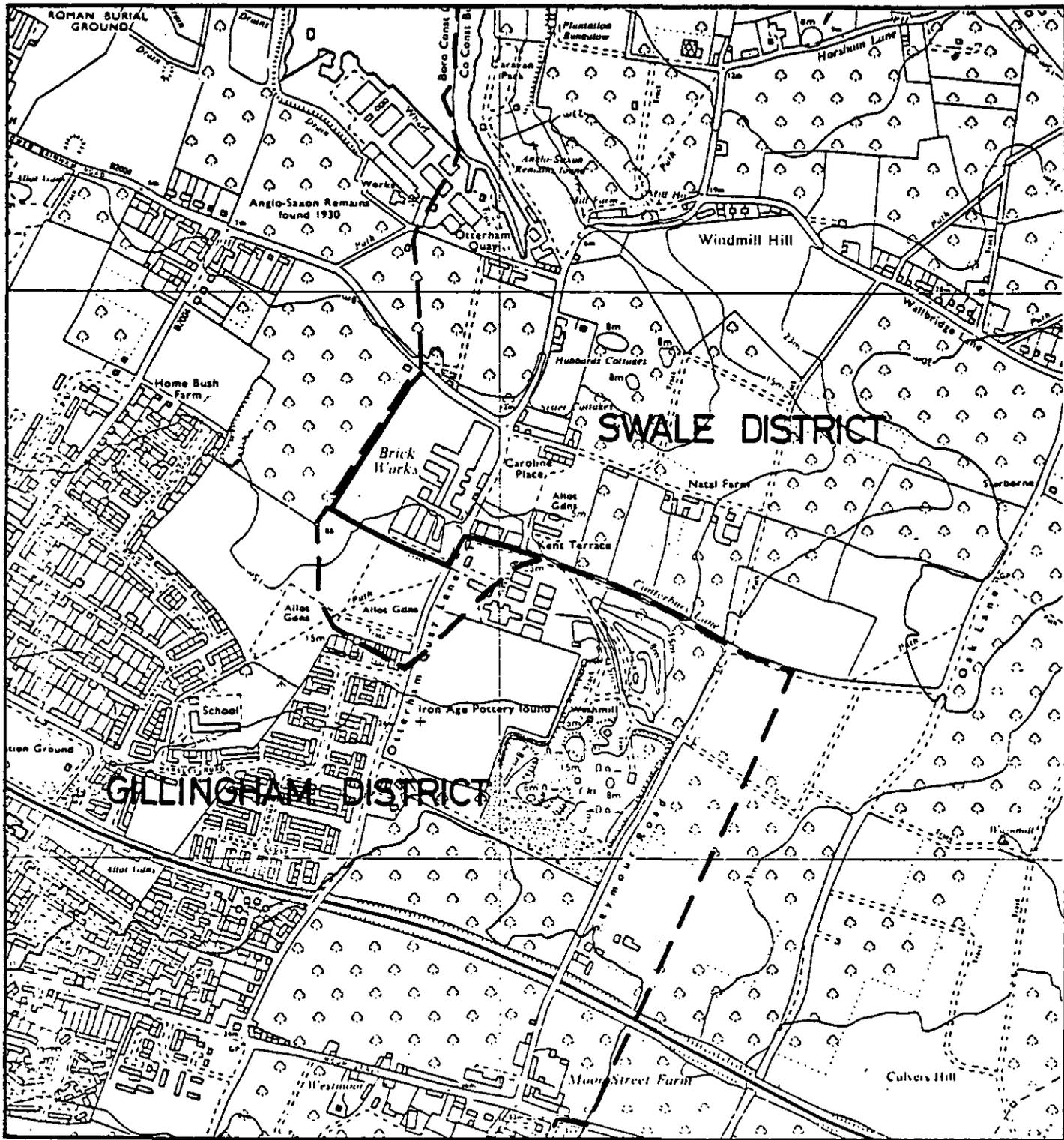
CONSEQUENT UPON THE PROPOSED REALIGNMENT OF THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE AND THE BOROUGH OF GILLINGHAM

It is proposed:-

1. that the Gillingham North East electoral division as defined in the County of Kent (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1981, and the Riverside ward of the Borough of Gillingham as defined in the Borough of Gillingham (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976, shall be altered by the addition of that part of the Borough of Swale which is within the realigned boundary of the Borough of Gillingham as defined in Schedule 1, and that the number of councillors for the said electoral division and the said ward shall be unchanged;

2. that the Swale West electoral division as defined in the County of Kent (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1981, and the Hartlip and Upchurch ward of the Borough of Swale as defined in the District of Swale (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976, shall be altered by the separation of that part of the Borough of Swale which is within the realigned boundary of the Borough of Gillingham as defined in Schedule 1, and that the number of councillors representing the said electoral division and the said ward shall be unchanged.

PRINCIPAL AREA REVIEW



Extract from
PLAN TQ 86 NW

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND
FINAL PROPOSAL

EXISTING DISTRICT BOUNDARY
PROPOSED DISTRICT BOUNDARY



