

Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
For England  
Report No. 163

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

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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 ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DISTRICT  
OF SOUTH HEREFORDSHIRE IN THE COUNTY OF HEREFORD AND WORCESTER

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the district of South Herefordshire 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 31 December 1974 that we were to undertake this review. This was incorporated in a consultation letter addressed to the South Herefordshire District Council, copies of which were circulated to the Hereford and Worcester County Council, the Members of Parliament for the constituencies concerned, Parish Councils and Parish Meetings in the district and the headquarters of the main political parties. Copies were also sent to the editors of 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. South Herefordshire 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 consultation 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)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council have exercised an option for election by thirds.
5. On 28 May 1975, South Herefordshire District Council presented their draft scheme of representation. The Council proposed to divide the area into 33 wards each returning 1, 2 or 3 members to form a council of 36 members.
6. The Council's submission included copies of the correspondence received by them during their local consultations. So far as this correspondence was relevant to the present electoral review we noted a number of instances where the District Council had not been able to adopt the suggestions which had been made to them and incorporate them in their draft scheme. We reviewed all these suggestions during our examination of the Council's proposals together with a number of other comments which had been sent direct to us by local interests.
7. Among the comments were objections to the name of the proposed Sutton Walls ward comprising the parishes of Marden and Sutton. The councils of both these parishes said that the name had unsavoury connotations and alternatives were suggested. In accordance with the suggestion of the Sutton Parish Council, we resolved to change the name of the proposed ward to "Burmars". We could find no strong grounds for modifying the District Council's proposals in response to the other representations which had been made and we resolved to reject them.
8. We then examined the scheme to see whether there were any other modifications which could be made to improve the standard of equality of representation. To this end we resolved that the parish of Orcop should be included in the proposed Broad Oak ward and that the parish of Eaton Bishop should be transferred from the

proposed Gorsty ward to the proposed Stoney Street ward. The proposed Gorsty ward would then comprise only the parish of Clehonger and we decided that the ward should be renamed accordingly. Finally we decided to regroup the parishes in the proposed Fawley ward so that the parishes of Yatton and How Caple would be included in the proposed Old Gore ward, the parishes of Brockhampton and Sollers Hope in the proposed Fownhope ward and the parish of Kings Caple in the proposed Harewood End ward.

9. Subject to the changes referred to in paragraphs 7 and 8 above we decided that the draft scheme submitted by the District Council provided a reasonable basis for the future electoral arrangements of the district, in compliance with the rules in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act and our guidelines, and we formulated our draft proposals accordingly.

10. On 5 January 1976 we issued our draft proposals and these 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 map, 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 5 March 1976.

11. The South Herefordshire District Council informed us that they had no comments or representations to make on our draft proposals.

12. We received and noted comments from the Hereford and Worcester County Council who said that if the boundaries of the present district wards were to be changed then our draft proposals would not be compatible with their view of the future

county electoral arrangements for South Herefordshire and any variations could have repercussions throughout the whole of the district. In considering these comments we noted that, pending our county electoral review, there remained major uncertainties about the future shape of the county electoral arrangements. Thus, while as a matter of policy we regard it as important, wherever there is a local desire for it, to try to achieve compatibility between district and county electoral arrangements, we concluded that, in this case, there were now no steps which could reasonably be taken to that end.

13. The Eaton Bishop Parish Council asked that we should reconsider our proposal to include the parish in the proposed Stoney Street ward. It was said that Eaton Bishop had long-standing ties with the parish of Clehonger and it was requested that the two parishes should be grouped together in the same district ward. In the light of the parish council's comments we concluded that it would be appropriate to revert to the District Council's proposal which grouped the two parishes in a proposed "Gorsty" ward. We resolved to modify our draft proposals accordingly.

14. From the Credenhill Parish Council we received a letter asking that the proposed Magna ward, comprising the parishes of Credenhill and Kenchester, should be renamed "Credenhill". We noted that in proposing names for wards comprising more than one parish the District Council had, wherever possible, avoided using the name of one of the parishes and chosen a name related to a local geographical or historical feature. In this case we were advised that the ward had been named after a Roman Road which ran through the locality. We concluded that the District Council's general approach to the naming problem was appropriate and we decided not to respond to the parish council's request.

15. The name of the proposed Burmarsh ward was the subject of comment by a local resident who explained to us the background to the name "Sutton Walls" which had been proposed by the District Council and which we were now asked to reconsider. We reviewed the proposed name of the ward but in view of the objections which had been submitted earlier by the parish councils we concluded that our proposal should not be altered.

16. We then considered a letter from a resident of the Greytrees area of the parish of Ross Rural who reiterated earlier comments in which he had expressed concern that this predominantly rural area of Ross Rural was to be included with the rest of the parish in the proposed East Ross-on-Wye ward which would be predominantly urban in character. It was explained that the Greytrees area had ties with the parish of Brampton Abbots and that it should go with that parish for district warding purposes. We noted that the parish of Ross Rural was not warded for parish electoral purposes and that because of paragraph 3(2)(b) of Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act we were precluded from meeting this request unless the District Council were prepared to take appropriate parish warding action. Having regard to the size of the electorate of the parish we doubted whether such action would be appropriate. For this reason, and because the issue seemed to be more appropriate to a future review of parish administrative boundaries, we decided to take no action on this submission.

17. Finally in response to queries which had been raised by the District Council's Chief Executive concerning the introduction of the proposed scheme we decided to make some minor modifications to the scheme for the order of retirement of councillors. Subject to these adjustments and to the change referred to at paragraph 13 above, we decided that our draft proposals should be confirmed and we formulated our final proposals accordingly.

18. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedules 1, 2 and 3 to this report and on the attached map. Schedule 1 gives the names of the wards and defines their areas. Schedule 2 shows the number of councillors to be returned by each ward and Schedule 3 shows our proposals for the order of retirement of councillors. The boundaries of the new wards are illustrated on the map.

**PUBLICATION**

19. 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 South Herefordshire District Council and will be available for public inspection at the Council's main offices. Copies of this report are also being sent to those who received the consultation letter and to those who made comments.

**SIGNED**

**L.S.**

**EDMUND COMPTON (CHAIRMAN)**

**JOHN M RANKIN (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN)**

**DIANA ALBEMARLE**

**T C BENFIELD**

**MICHAEL CHISHOLM**

**ANDREW WHEATLEY**

**N DIGNEY (Secretary)**

**15 July 1976**

## DISTRICT OF SOUTH HEREFORDSHIRE : DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARIES

## MERBACH WARD

The parishes of:       Bredwardine  
                          Clifford  
                          Cusop  
                          Dorstone

## OLCHON WARD

The parishes of:       Crasswall  
                          Llanveynoe  
                          Longtown  
                          Michaelchurch Escley  
                          Newton  
                          Walterstone

## GOLDEN VALLEY WARD

The parishes of:       Abbey Dore  
                          Bacton  
                          Peterchurch  
                          St Margarets  
                          Turnastone  
                          Vowchurch

## PONTRILAS WARD

The parishes of:       Dulas  
                          Ewyas Harold  
                          Kenderchurch  
                          Kentchurch  
                          Kilpeck  
                          Llancillo  
                          Rowlstone

## STONE STREET WARD

The parishes of: Madley  
Tyberton

## WHITFIELD WARD

The parishes of: Kingstone  
St Devereux  
Thrupton  
Treville  
Wormbridge

## GORSTY WARD

The parishes of: Clehonger  
Eaton Bishop

## TRAM INN WARD

The parishes of: Allensmore  
Dewsall  
Haywood  
Much Dewchurch

## KINGSTHORNE WARD

The parishes of: Aconbury  
Callow  
Grafton  
Little Birch  
Much Birch

## HOLLINGTON WARD

The parishes of: Ballingham  
Bolstone

Holme Lacy

Little Dewchurch

DINEDOR HILL WARD

The parishes of: Dinedor  
Lower Bullingham

SWAINSHILL WARD

The parishes of: Breinton  
Stretton Sugwas

MAGNA WARD

The parishes of: Credenhill  
Kenchester

BURGHILL WARD

The parish of: Burghill

MUNSTONE WARD

The parishes of: Holmer  
Pipe and Lyde

DINMORE HILL WARD

The parishes of: Dinmore  
Moreton on Lugg  
Wellington

FOWNHOPE WARD

The parishes of Fownhope  
Brockhampton  
Sollers Hope

## BACKBURY WARD

The parishes of: Dormington  
Hampton Bishop  
Mordiford  
Stoke Edith

## HAGLEY WARD

The parishes of: Bartestree  
Lugwardine  
Weston Beggard

## THINGHILL WARD

The parishes of: Preston Wynne  
Westhide  
Withington

## BURMARSH WARD

The parishes of: Marden  
Sutton

## DOWARD WARD

The parishes of: Ganarew  
Goodrich  
Welsh Bicknor  
Whitchurch

## GARRON WARD

The parishes of: Llangarron  
Marstow

## BROAD OAK WARD

The parishes of: Garway

Llanrothal  
 St Weonards  
 Welsh Newton  
 Orcop

HAREWOOD END WARD

The parishes of: Harewood  
 Hentland  
 Llandinabo  
 Llanwarne  
 Pencoyd  
 Tretire with Michaelchurch  
 Kings Caple

OLD GORE WARD

The parishes of: Brampton Abbotts  
 Foy  
 Upton Bishop  
 Yatton  
 How Caple

WILTON WARD

The parishes of: Bridstow  
 Peterstow  
 Sellack

WEST ROSS-ON-WYE WARD

The West Ross-on-Wye ward of the parish of Ross-on-Wye

EAST ROSS-ON-WYE WARD

The East Ross-on-Wye ward of the parish of Ross-on-Wye  
 The parish of Ross Rural

PENYARD WARD

The parishes of:      Hope Mansell  
                              Lea  
                              Weston under Penyard

GORSLEY WARD

The parishes of:      Aston Ingham  
                              Linton

WALFORD WARD

The parish of:        Walford

DISTRICT OF SOUTH HEREFORDSHIRE: NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS AND  
NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO. OF COUNCILLORS</u>
BACKBURY	1
BROAD OAK	1
BURGHILL	1
BURMARSH	1
DINEDOR HILL	1
DINMORE HILL	1
DOWARD	1
EAST ROSS-ON-WYE	3
FOWNHOPE	1
GARRON	1
GOLDEN VALLEY	1
GORSLEY	1
GORSTY	1
HAGLEY	1
HAREWOOD END	1
HOLLINGTON	1
KINGSTHORNE	1
MAGNA	1
MERBACH	1
MUNSTONE	1
OLCHON	1
OLD GORE	1
PENYARD	1
PONTRILAS	1
STONE STREET	1
SWAINSHILL	1
THINGHILL	1
TRAM INN	1
WALFORD	1
WEST ROSS-ON-WYE	2
WHITFIELD	1
WILTON	1

DISTRICT OF SOUTH HEREFORDSHIRE: ORDER OF RETIREMENT OF COUNCILLORS

	NO. OF COUNCILLORS REPRESENTING WARD	1ST YEAR	2ND YEAR	3RD YEAR
BACKBURY	1	-	1 PE	-
BROAD OAK	1	1 PE	-	-
BURGHILL	1	-	1 PE	-
BURMARSH	1	-	1 PE	-
DINEDOR HILL	1	1 PE	-	-
DINMORE HILL	1	-	1 PE	-
DOWARD	1	-	-	1 PE
EAST ROSS-ON-WYE	3	1	1	1 PE
FOWNHOPE	1	-	-	1 PE
GARRON	1	-	-	1 PE
GOLDEN VALLEY	1	1 PE	-	-
GORSLEY	1	-	-	1 PE
GORSTY	1	1 PE	-	-
HAGLEY	1	-	1 PE	-
HAREWOOD END	1	-	-	1 PE
HOLLINGTON	1	-	1 PE	-
KINGSTHORNE	1	1 PE	-	-
MAGNA	1	-	1 PE	-
MERBACH	1	1 PE	-	-
MUNSTONE	1	-	1 PE	-
OLCHON	1	1 PE	-	-
OLD GORE	1	-	-	1 PE
PENYARD	1	-	-	1 PE
PONTRILAS	1	1 PE	-	-
STONE STREET	1	1 PE	-	-
SWAINSHILL	1	-	1 PE	-
THINGHILL	1	-	1 PE	-
TRAM INN	1	1 PE	-	-
WALFORD	1	-	-	1 PE
WEST ROSS-ON-RYE	2	-	1	1 PE
WHITFIELD	1	1 PE	-	-
WILTON	1	-	-	1 PE
		12	12	11

