

**Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
For England  
Report No. 538**

**Review of Non-Metropolitan Counties**

COUNTY OF

OXFORDSHIRE

BOUNDARY WITH

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
BOUNDARY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND  
REPORT NO. 538

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

CHAIRMAN

Mr G J Ellerton CMG MBE

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

Mr J G Powell FRICS FSVA

MEMBERS

Lady Ackner

Mr G R Prentice

Professor G E Cherry

Mr K J L Newell

Mr B Scholes OBE

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

REVIEW OF NON-METROPOLITAN COUNTIES

COUNTY OF OXFORDSHIRE: BOUNDARY WITH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

COMMISSION'S FINAL PROPOSALS

INTRODUCTION

1. This Report concerns the boundary between the Counties of Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire.
2. On 27 January 1986 we wrote to Oxfordshire County Council concerning our intention to undertake a review under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 for the purpose of considering whether to make proposals in relation to the county as authorised by Section 47 of the Act. Copies of the letter were sent to the principal local authorities and all the parishes in the County of Oxfordshire and the surrounding Counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Northamptonshire, Warwickshire and Wiltshire, the Members of Parliament with constituency interests, the headquarters of the main political parties, various Government Departments which might have an interest, Oxford Regional Health Authority, British Telecom, Southern Electricity and Gas Boards, and South-Western Gas Board, Anglian, Severn-Trent and Thames Water Authorities, the English Tourist Board, local TV and radio stations serving the area and the National and County Associations of Local Councils.

3. The County Councils were requested, in co-operation as necessary with other County Councils and with the District Councils concerned, to assist us in giving publicity to the start of the review by publishing a notice for two successive weeks in appropriate local newspapers so as to give the widest possible publicity to cover the areas concerned. The County Councils were asked, in particular, to use their best endeavours to ensure that the issue of the consultation letter was drawn to the attention of those concerned with services such as administration of justice and police, in respect of which they have a statutory function.

4. A period of six months from the date of the letter was allowed for all local authorities, including those in the surrounding counties, and anyone else interested in the review, to submit to us their views in detail on whether changes in the county boundary were desirable; if so, what those changes should be; and how they would serve the interests of effective and convenient local government.

#### THE SUBMISSIONS MADE TO US

5. In response to our letter we received representations from the County Council's of Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire, the District Councils of Aylesbury Vale, Newbury, South Oxfordshire, Stratford-on-Avon and Vale of White Horse, together with a number of representations from various parish councils, interested organisations and residents of the County of Oxfordshire. West Oxfordshire District Council stated it did not wish to submit any proposals

regarding the review of Oxfordshire.

6. The submissions made to us included various proposals for changes to Oxfordshire's boundaries with Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire. The changes put forward in respect of boundaries between Oxfordshire and Berkshire and between Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire are being dealt with under the reviews of Berkshire and Buckinghamshire respectively, which are still in progress.

#### BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE COUNTIES OF OXFORDSHIRE AND NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

7. Oxfordshire County Council recommended a realignment of the boundary between Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire to follow the centre line of the present course of the River Cherwell where it flows between the Parishes of Adderbury, Bodicote and Deddington in the District of Cherwell, and the Parishes of Aynho, Kings Sutton and Warkworth in the District of South Northamptonshire. The County Councils stated that the present boundary in that area meandered from one side of the river bank to the other, and considered that the centre of the river would provide a more clearly defined boundary following a physical and natural feature. The County Council also stated that Cherwell and South Northamptonshire District Councils would raise no objections to the proposal which also had the support of the Parishes of Aynho, Adderbury and Bodicote. Northamptonshire County Council confirmed that Oxfordshire County Council's proposal was desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government and that it had decided not to raise any objection to it.

## OUR CONSIDERATION OF THE SUBMISSIONS

8. We considered the submissions from the principal authorities and all the other representations we had received. We accepted that the existing boundary between the District of Cherwell (Oxfordshire) and the District of South Northamptonshire (Northamptonshire) was unsatisfactory in parts as it meandered from one bank to the River Cherwell to the other. We noted that Oxfordshire County Council's proposal to realign the county boundary in the area to follow the centre line of the River Cherwell did not involve the transfer of any properties or electors and that the proposal had been favoured by the local authorities involved. We considered that the proposed change was logical and that the centre of the river would provide a more clearly defined and natural boundary.

## OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS

9. We decided, therefore, that we would publish draft proposals based on Oxfordshire County Council's suggestion, but amended to reflect minor technical adjustments suggested by Ordnance Survey. Our proposals involved the transfer of parts of the Parishes of Adderbury, Bodicote and Deddington in the District of Cherwell to the District of South Northamptonshire, and the transfer of parts of the Parishes of Aynho, Kings Sutton and Warkworth in South Northamptonshire to Cherwell.

10. Our draft proposals were published on 16 January 1987. Copies were sent to all those who had received a copy of our letter of 27 January 1986 and those who had made representations to us. Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire County Councils were asked to arrange publication of a notice giving details of our draft proposals and to place copies of them on display at places where public notices are customarily displayed. They were also asked to place copies of our draft proposals letter on deposit for inspection at their main offices for a period of eight weeks. Comments were invited by 13 March 1987.

#### RESPONSE TO OUR DRAFT PROPOSALS

11. We received five representations in response to our draft proposals letter. Oxfordshire County Council supported our draft proposals and Northamptonshire County Council stated that it did not propose to make any objection to them. The West Midlands Regional Health Authority, Oxford Family Practitioner Committee and Thames Water all confirmed that they had no comments to make.

#### OUR FINAL PROPOSALS

12. As required by Section 60(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, we have considered the representations made to us. We noted that there was no opposition to our draft proposals for changes to the boundary between the Counties of Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire. In the interests of effective and convenient local government, we therefore, confirm our draft proposals as our final proposals.



## PUBLICATION

13. A separate letter enclosing copies of this report is being sent to the County Councils of Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire, asking them to deposit copies of this report at their main offices for inspection over a six month period and 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 the matter, and that it now falls to you to make an Order implementing the proposals, if you think fit, after the expiry of six weeks from the date they are submitted to you. Copies of this report, which includes small scale maps, are also being sent to those who received the consultation letter and to those who responded in writing.

LS

Signed: G J Ellerton (Chairman)

J G Powell (Deputy Chairman)

Joan Ackner

G E Cherry

K J L Newell

G R Prentice

Brian Scholes

S T GARRISH

Secretary

11 June 1987

8F






LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

COUNTY BOUNDARY REVIEW

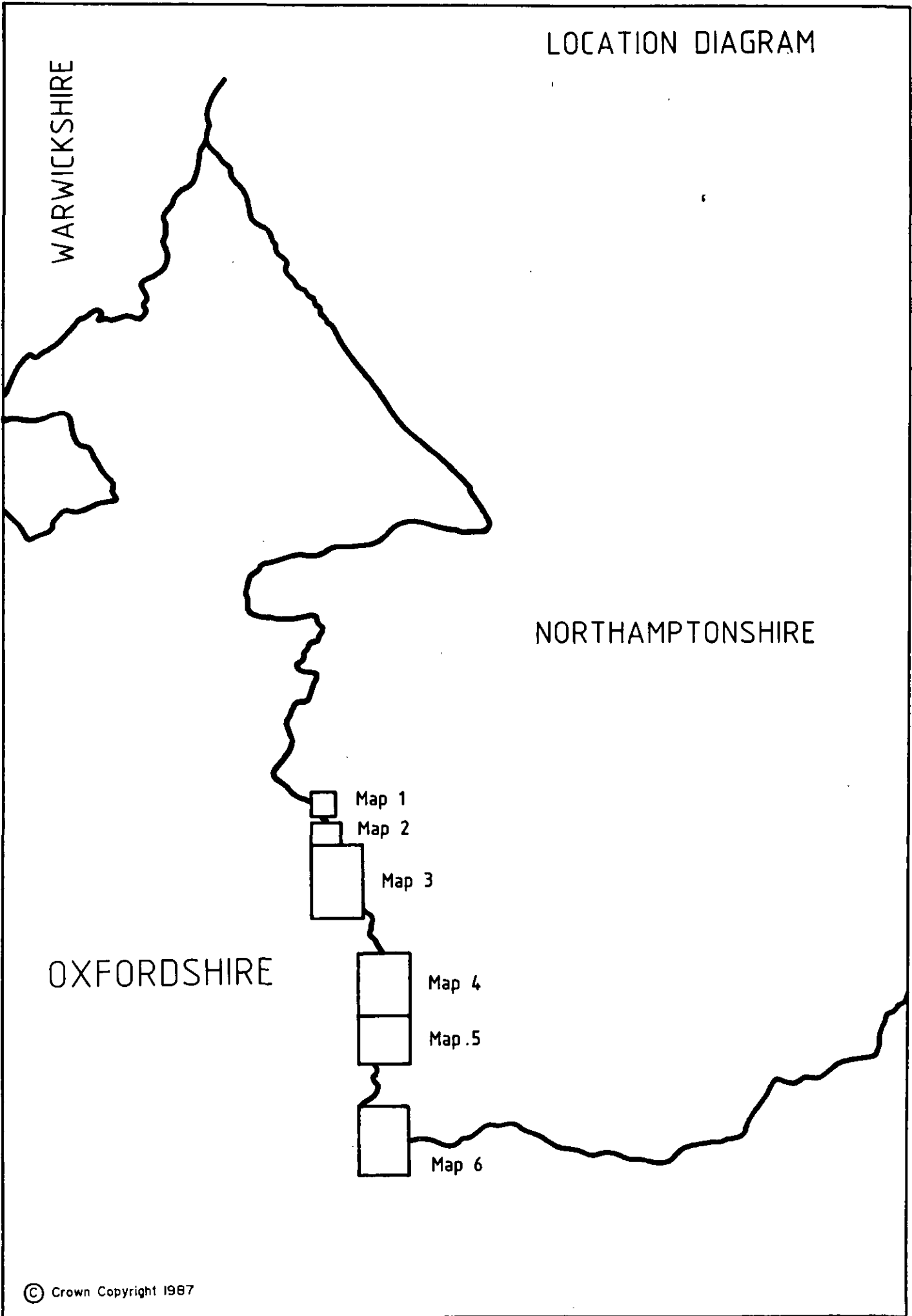
OXFORDSHIRE

AFFECTING NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

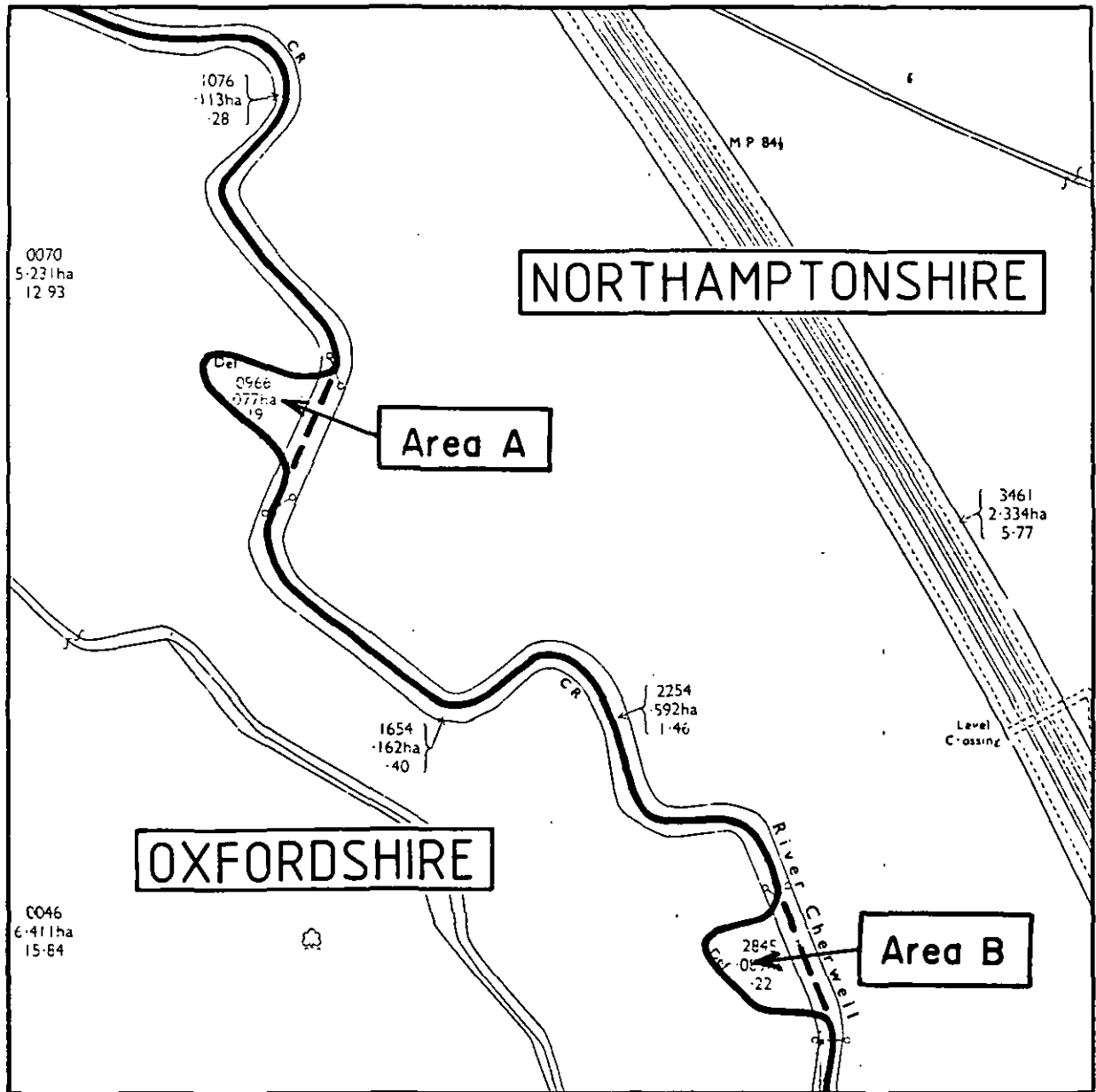
FINAL PROPOSALS

Existing County Boundary	
Proposed County Boundary	
Proposed CP Boundary	

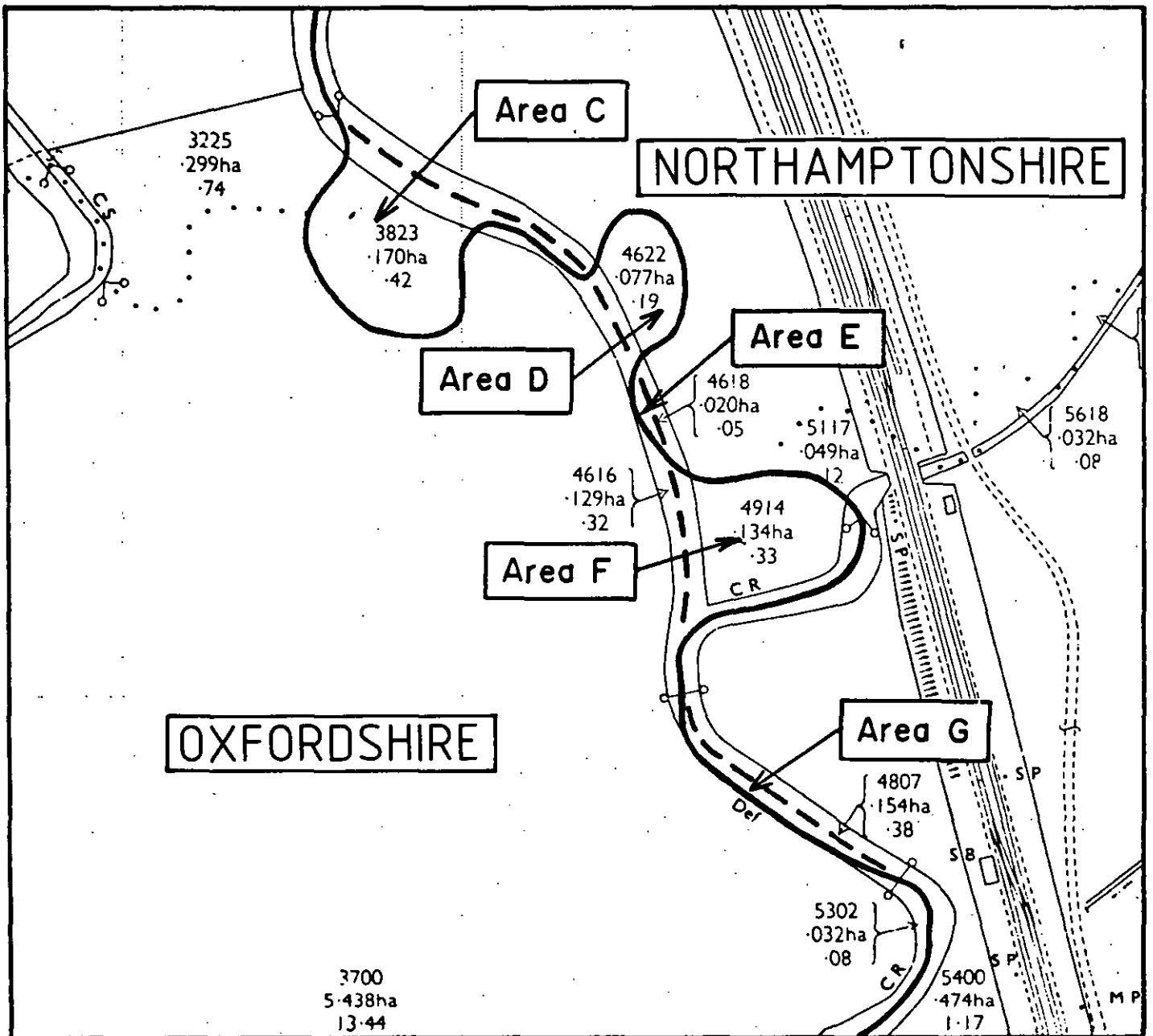
# LOCATION DIAGRAM



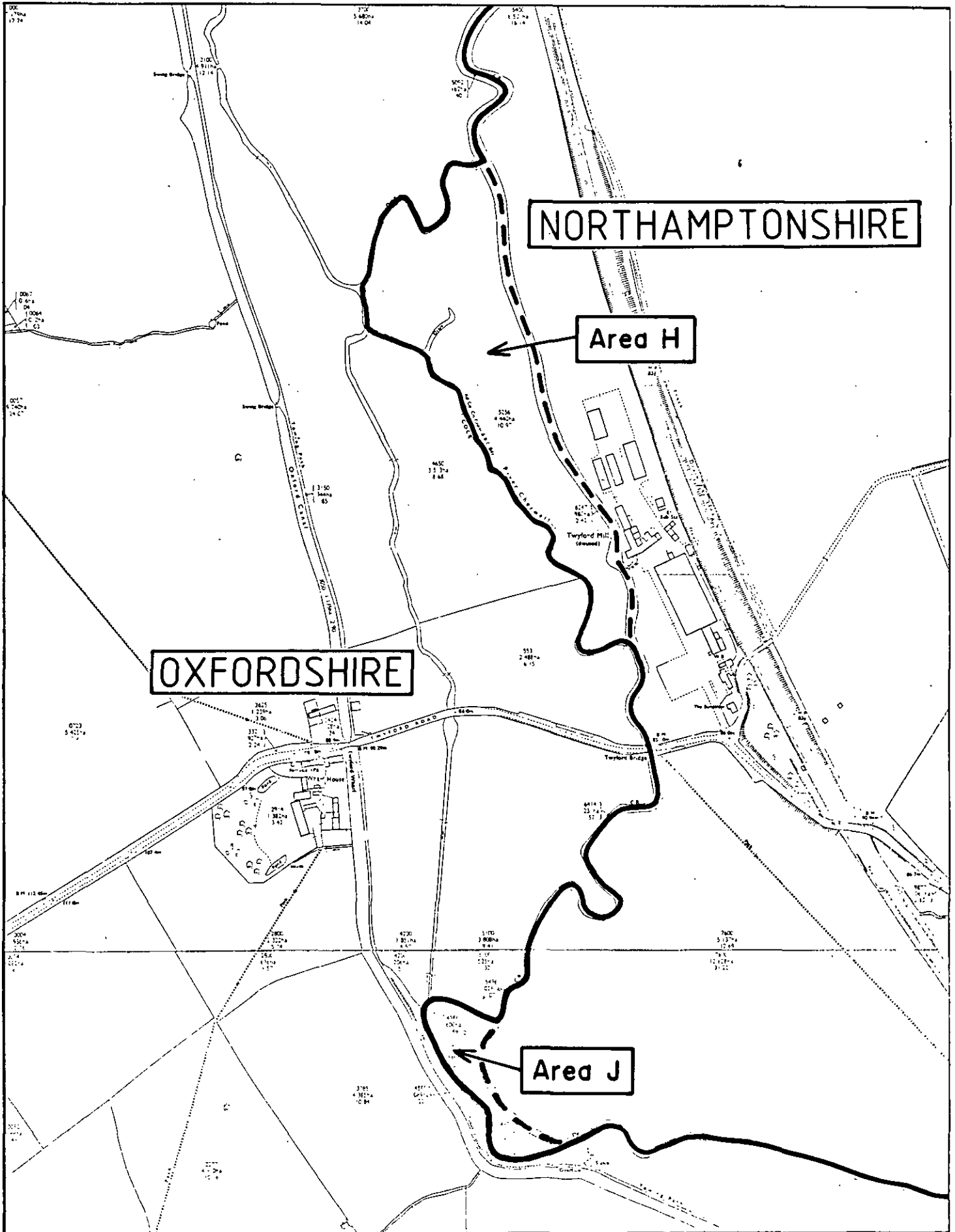
# Map 1



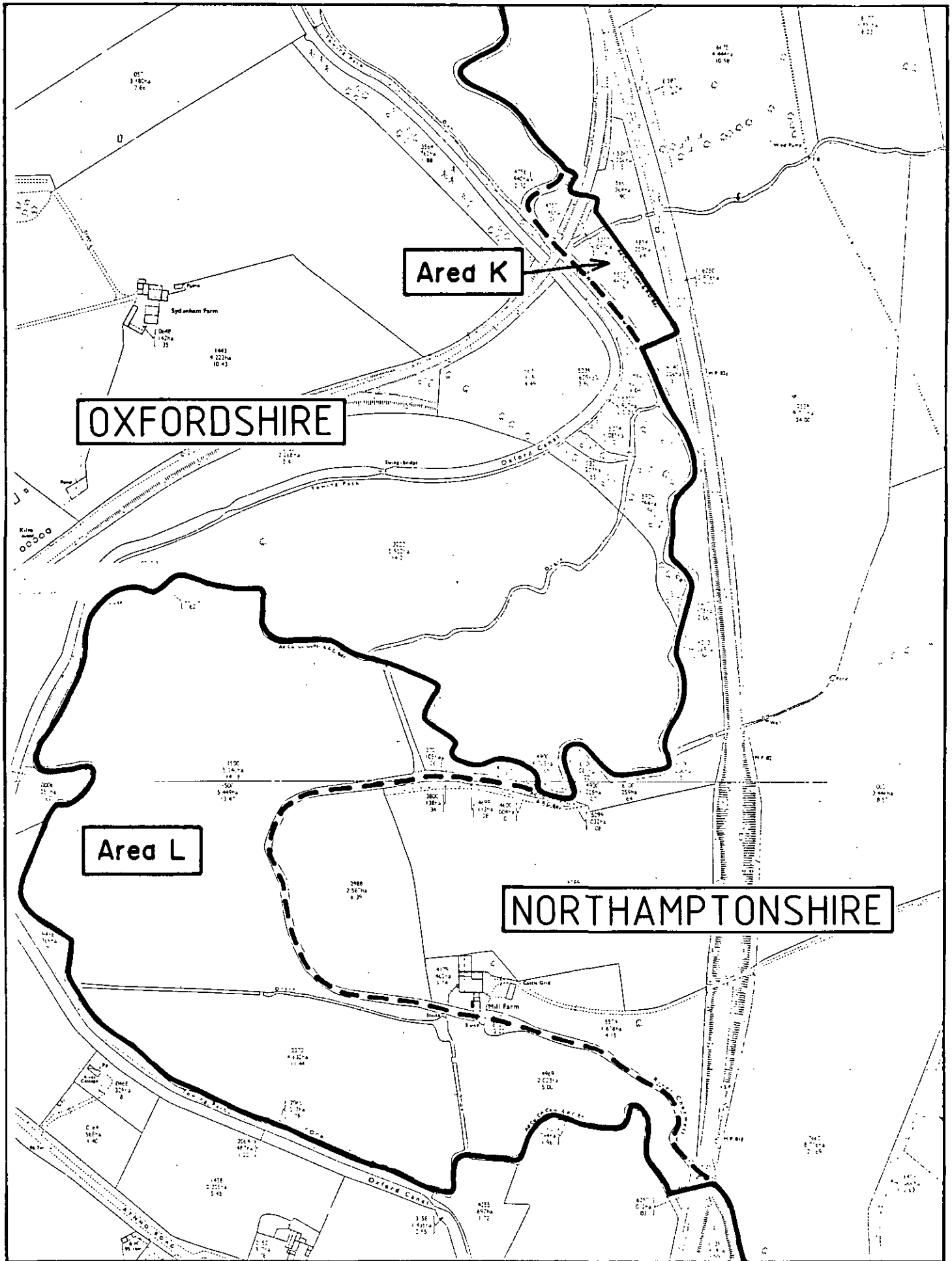
# Map 2



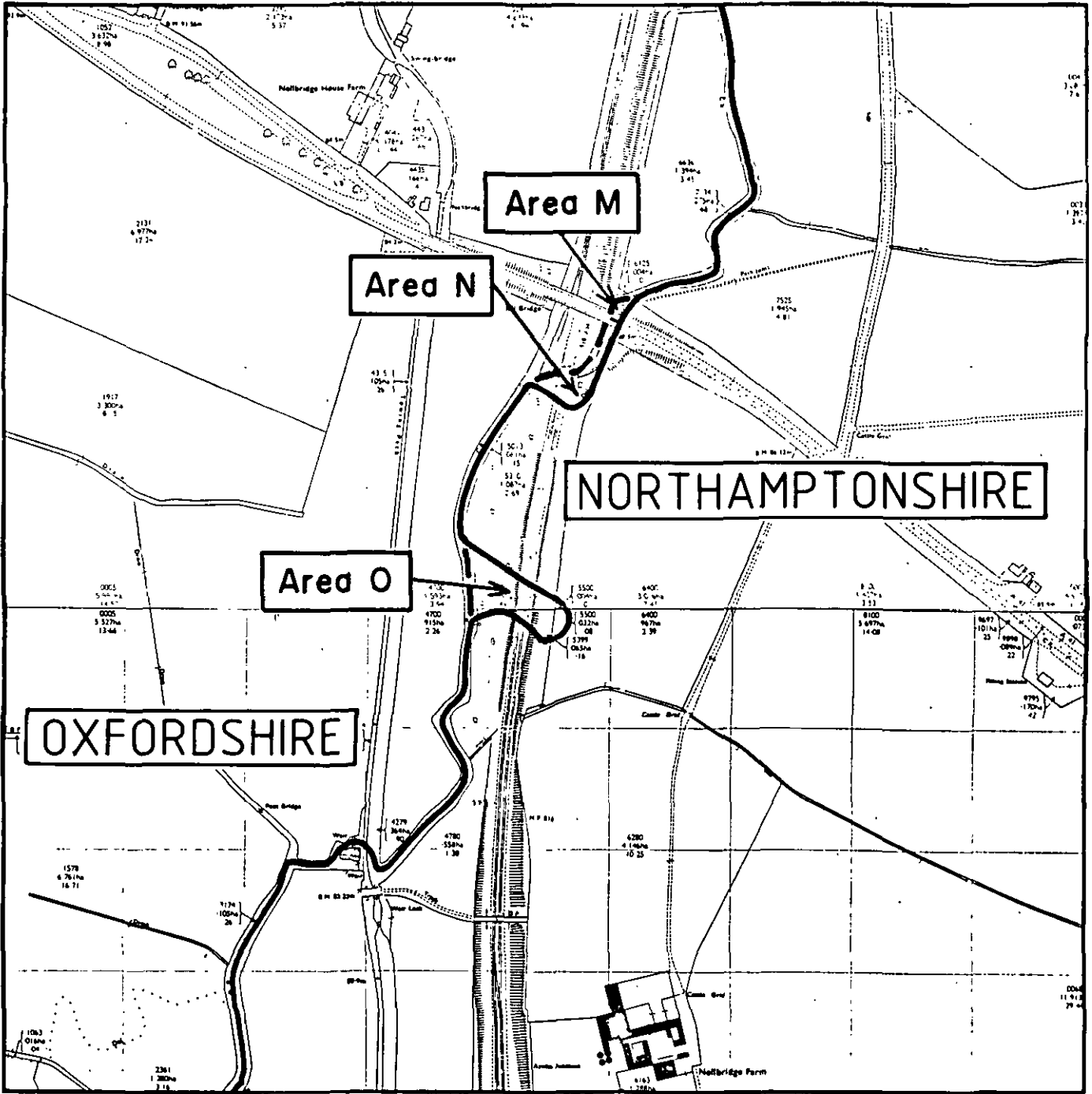
# Map 3



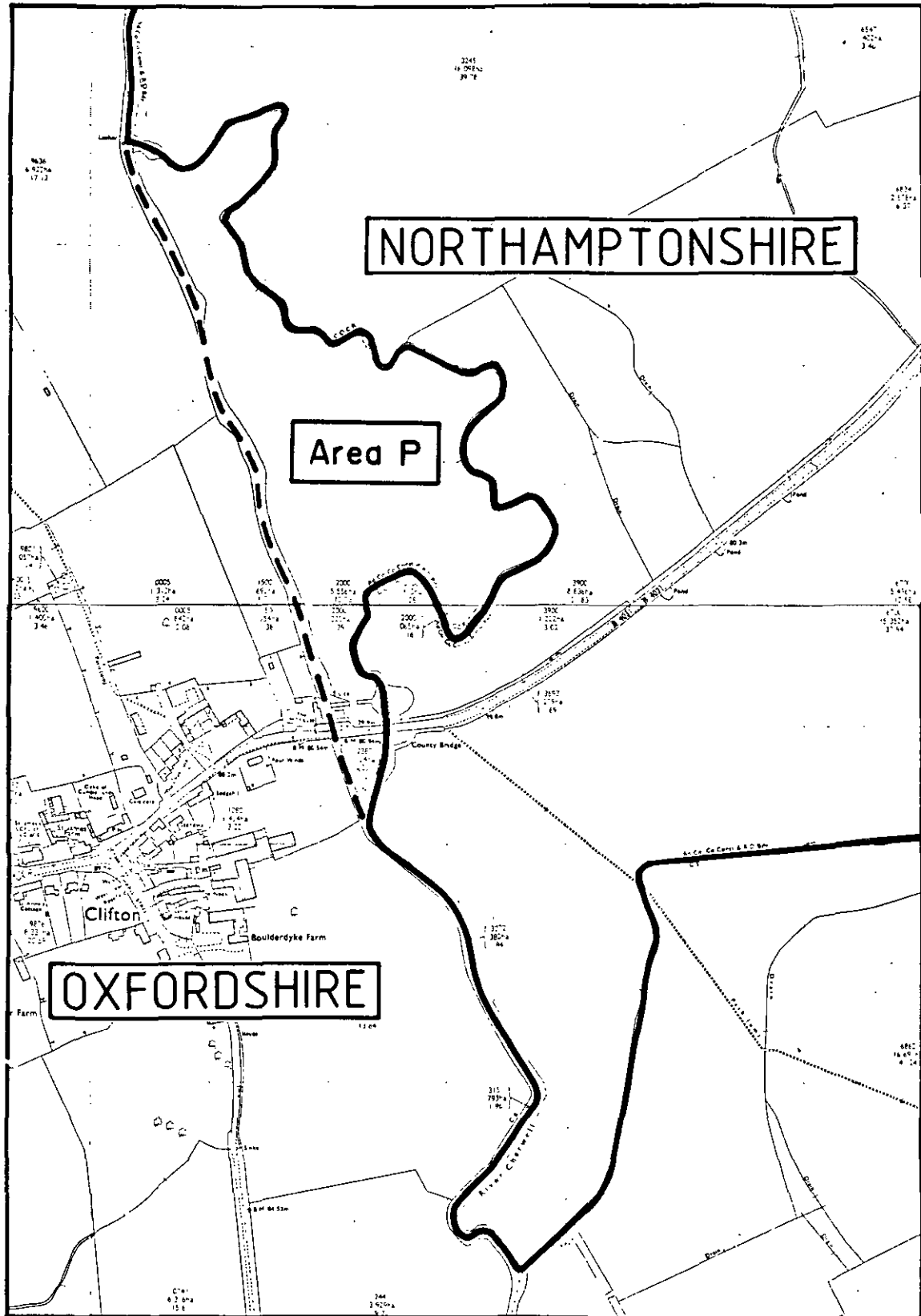




# Map 5



Map 6



# CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES

MAP NO.	AREA REF.	FROM	TO	MAP NO.	AREA REF.	FROM	TO
1	A B	Northamptonshire South Northamptonshire District Warkworth CP Middleton Cheney Ward Middleton Cheney ED	Oxfordshire Cherwell District Bodicote CP Bodicote Ward Bloxham ED	4	K	Oxfordshire Cherwell District Adderbury CP Adderbury Ward Bloxham ED	Northamptonshire South Northamptonshire District King's Sutton CP King's Sutton Ward Middleton Cheney ED
2	C E	Northamptonshire South Northamptonshire District Warkworth CP Middleton Cheney Ward Middleton Cheney ED	Oxfordshire Cherwell District Adderbury CP Adderbury Ward Bloxham ED	4	L	Northamptonshire South Northamptonshire District King's Sutton CP King's Sutton Ward Middleton Cheney ED	Oxfordshire Cherwell District Adderbury CP Adderbury Ward Bloxham ED
2	D	Oxfordshire Cherwell District Adderbury CP Adderbury Ward Bloxham ED	Northamptonshire South Northamptonshire District Warkworth CP Middleton Cheney Ward Middleton Cheney ED	5	M	Oxfordshire Cherwell District Adderbury CP Adderbury Ward Bloxham ED	Northamptonshire South Northamptonshire District King's Sutton CP King's Sutton Ward Middleton Cheney ED
2	F	Oxfordshire Cherwell District Adderbury CP Adderbury Ward Bloxham ED	Northamptonshire South Northamptonshire District King's Sutton CP King's Sutton Ward Middleton Cheney ED	5	N O	Oxfordshire Cherwell District Adderbury CP Adderbury Ward Bloxham ED	Northamptonshire South Northamptonshire District Aynho CP Rainsborough Ward Middleton Cheney ED
2	G	Northamptonshire South Northamptonshire District King's Sutton CP King's Sutton Ward Middleton Cheney ED	Oxfordshire Cherwell District Adderbury CP Adderbury Ward Bloxham ED	6	P	Oxfordshire Cherwell District Deddington CP Deddington Ward Deddington ED	Northamptonshire South Northamptonshire District Aynho CP Rainsborough Ward Middleton Cheney ED
3	H J	Northamptonshire South Northamptonshire District King's Sutton CP King's Sutton Ward Middleton Cheney ED	Oxfordshire Cherwell District Adderbury CP Adderbury Ward Bloxham ED				