

**Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
For England  
Report No. 447**

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FOR ENGLAND  
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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TO THE RT HON TOM KING MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

REVIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE DISTRICTS OF DACORUM AND THREE RIVERS

1. In a letter dated 11 January 1980 Dacorum District Council requested us to make proposals to re-align the boundary between the districts of Dacorum and Three Rivers with a view to transferring an area of land containing residential properties and industrial premises from Three Rivers District to Dacorum District. The case put forward was that the proposed change would be in the best interests of the local inhabitants in that it reflected the pattern of community life and was conducive to the effective operation of local government and associated services.
2. We considered the Council's request as required by Section 48(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 having regard to Department of the Environment Circular 33/78 and to our Report No 287.
3. We noted that the electors in the affected area had not been consulted and that the current views of Hertfordshire County Council were not reported although, about 5 years earlier, they had suggested the possibility of such a review to Dacorum District Council.
4. We decided that we should undertake a review and on 18 April 1980 we issued a consultation letter which invited Dacorum District Council to submit a detailed scheme. The letter included a request that the District Councils jointly conduct an opinion poll to ascertain local wishes. The consultation letter was addressed to Dacorum District Council, Three Rivers District Council, Hertfordshire County Council, clerks of the parish councils in Dacorum and Three Rivers Districts, the MPs of the constituencies concerned, the headquarters of the main political parties, editors of local newspapers and the local government press. The District Councils were asked to put copies of a notice announcing the start of the review and the invitation to submit a detailed scheme on display at places where public notices were customarily displayed and notices were inserted in the local press. A period of eight weeks after the publication of the District Council's scheme was allowed for comments.
5. The District Council published their scheme on 28 August 1981 in the local press and by public notices. The scheme proposed that the boundary between the districts of Dacorum and Three Rivers should be re-aligned so that there would no longer be a tongue of land belonging to Three Rivers projecting into Dacorum. The affected area included 90 houses and some industrial premises.

6. The two District Councils conducted a survey of local opinion and received replies from 78 persons including the managers of the paper mills and an engineering works. Sixty one per cent of the respondents were in favour of Dacorum District Council's draft scheme and 39% were against.

#### RESPONSE TO THE SCHEME

7. Hertfordshire County Council had no observations to make on the draft scheme.

Three Rivers District Council objected to the draft scheme on the grounds that there had been no change in the circumstances or character of the area since the 1974 re-organisation of local government and that there would be a considerable loss in rate revenue which would have an adverse effect on the district and Abbots Langley parish. They did not consider that a boundary which followed a road presented any great difficulty and they had no evidence to suggest that the residents or the industrialists in the area suffered any disadvantage. They noted that the majority of residents in favour of the draft scheme lived closest to Nash Mills parish. They put forward an alternative scheme which transferred some of the industrial premises and properties to Dacorum district and transferred school premises and open land to Three Rivers district as well as leaving the remainder of the affected properties in that district. Abbots Langley Parish Council supported the views of Three Rivers District Council.

Osborne Clarke (Solicitors) objected to the draft scheme on behalf of their clients who own Dickinson's paper Mill. Their clients were satisfied with the services provided by Three Rivers District Council and could see no advantage in a change.

8. We considered the District Council's draft scheme and all the representations that had been made to us about it.

9. We considered that Dacorum District Council had not developed their case for the transfer of the affected area very well and in particular had given no reasons why they considered the alterations would be in the interests of effective and convenient local government. We considered that in this case there were some grounds for taking account of Three Rivers District Council's arguments about rateable value and decided to publish draft proposals on the basis of their alternative scheme.

10. Our draft proposals were published on 27 August 1982. Copies were sent to all those who had received our initial consultation letter or who had made representations to us, to the headquarters of the main political parties, the MP's for the constituencies concerned, editors of local newspapers circulating in the area and of the local government press and local radio stations. Comments on our draft proposals were invited from those to whom details had been sent and by public notices from other members of the public and interested bodies.

## RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT PROPOSALS

11. Hertfordshire County Council did not wish to make any comments. Three Rivers District Council supported our draft proposals. Dacorum District Council were extremely disappointed by our draft proposals in view of the favourable response from the majority of residents to their draft scheme. They considered that their draft scheme met the wishes of the local inhabitants, reflected the pattern of community life and was conducive to the effective operation of local government and associated services. They urged us to implement their draft scheme. Abbots Langley Parish Council supported our draft proposals. Nash Mills Parish Council said that both the Council and the residents were very disappointed by our draft proposals. Nash Mills Village Hall Committee supported Dacorum District Council's scheme. They pointed out that 90% of the people who use the hall, which is in the Three Rivers area, reside in Nash Mills parish. Chorleywood Parish Council had no comments to make on the draft proposals. Osborne Clarke (Solicitors) said that their clients Dickinson's had reconsidered their position and now wanted their industrial premises to come within Dacorum district. Two private individuals supported Dacorum District Council's draft scheme because they believed that that District Council would take more interest in the welfare of the area. Two private individuals did not want the parish of Nash Mills changed.

12. We have reviewed our draft proposals in the light of the written representations which we received and have come to the conclusion that they would not lead to a satisfactory re-alignment of the boundary. There is no evidence that transferring the area of open land containing the school premises from Dacorum district to Three Rivers district would be in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

13. When formulating our draft proposals we were influenced by Three Rivers District Council's argument that the adoption of the draft scheme proposed by Dacorum District Council would involve a considerable loss of rateable value to their district. At that time the owner of the largest industrial premises in the area had expressed a wish to remain in Three Rivers district. For all practical purposes the centre of operations of this industrial concern is now in Dacorum district and the owners have indicated that they would like their property included within that district.

14. We can see no reason why the residential properties at the southern end of the affected area should be included in Dacorum district. The properties are near or adjacent to other development in Abbots Langley parish and to divide the two areas would not, in our view, be in the interests of effective and convenient local government. We therefore propose that the boundary between the two districts be re-aligned so that all the industrial premises, the properties in Belswains Lane and Lower Road to the northern boundary of Shafford Cottages be transferred to the district of Dacorum.

15. We are satisfied that in the interests of effective and convenient local government the boundary between the districts of Dacorum and Three Rivers should be re-aligned as described in paragraph 14.

16. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedules 1 and 2 to this report. Schedule 1 specifies the proposed changes in local authority areas and Schedule 2 specifies the consequential adjustments to the existing electoral arrangements. The proposed boundaries are shown on the attached map.

#### PUBLICATION

17. Separate letters are being sent with copies of the report to Dacorum District Council and Three Rivers District Council asking them to place copies of this report on deposit at their main offices and to put notices to this effect on public notice boards and in the local press. The text of the notices will refer to your power 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; it will suggest that any comments on the proposals should therefore be addressed to you, in writing, preferably within six weeks of the date of the letter. Copies of this report which includes a small scale map are also being sent to those who received the consultation letter and to those who made comments.

L.S.

Signed: G J ELLERTON (CHAIRMAN)

WILFRED BURNS (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN)

JOAN ACKNER

TYRRELL BROCKBANK

G E CHERRY

D P HARRISON

L B GRIMSHAW  
Secretary

March 1983

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

PRINCIPAL AREAS REVIEW - DACORUM DISTRICT/THREE RIVERS DISTRICT

FINAL PROPOSAL

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

SCHEDULE 1

Description of an area of land to be transferred from Abbots Langley CP in Three Rivers District to Nash Mills CP in Dacorum District.

That area bounded by a line commencing on the existing District boundary on the eastern side of Lower Road at a point due east of the northernmost corner of No 1 Shafford Cottages, thence due west, across Lower Road, to and southwestwards along the northwestern curtilage of said property and its continuation southwestwards as a field boundary to its southernmost point, thence due west from said point to the existing District boundary in the River Gade (Grand Union Canal), thence northwestwards, northeastwards and southeastwards along said existing District boundary to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE 2

Revised District electoral arrangements, consequent upon the proposal described in Schedule 1.

It is proposed that the District Wards, as defined in the District of Three Rivers (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1975 and the District of Dacorum (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976, shall be altered as described below.

The area of land described in Schedule 1, shall be transferred from the Bedmond Ward of Three Rivers District to the Nash Mills Ward of Dacorum District.

Revised County electoral arrangements, consequent upon the proposal described in Schedule 1.

It is proposed that the County Electoral Divisions, as defined in the County of Hertfordshire (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1980, shall be altered as described below.

The area of land described in Schedule 1, shall be transferred from the Abbots Langley ED to the Hemel Hempstead South East ED.

# PRINCIPAL AREA REVIEW



