

Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
For England  
Report No. **434**

Taunton Deane / Sedgemoor

(Sept '82)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 434

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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THE RT. HON. MICHAEL HESELTINE MP.  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

1. In a submission dated 10 December 1979, Taunton Deane Borough Council requested us to review the boundary between the Borough of Taunton Deane and the District of Sedgemoor in the County of Somerset. The request arose out of Taunton Deane Borough Council's parish boundary review and followed a proposal made by the Stoke St. Gregory Parish Council, in Taunton Deane Borough, who had undertaken a survey of local residents. The request was for the formation of a parish for the village of Burrowbridge, which at present is divided between five parishes: Stoke St. Gregory in Taunton Deane borough and North Petherton, Westonzoyland, Middlezoy and Othery in Sedgemoor district, and involved the transfer of parts of those parishes into Taunton Deane to form the new parish.
2. Somerset County Council supported the idea of a review. Taunton Deane Borough Council wanted the new parish to be included within their area but Sedgemoor District Council reserved their position at that stage.
3. We considered the Borough Council's request, as required by Section 48(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, having regard to the Department of the Environment Circular 33/78 and to our own Report No. 287. We decided to undertake the review and invited Taunton Deane Borough Council to submit a detailed draft scheme in accordance with the guidelines laid down in Report No. 287.
4. The start of the review was announced in a consultation letter to Taunton Deane Borough Council dated 14 July 1980. Copies were sent to Somerset County Council, Sedgemoor District Council, the clerks of the parish councils concerned, the Members of Parliament for the constituencies concerned, the headquarters of the main political parties, Somerset Area Health Authority, Wessex Water Authority, the South West Regional Office of the Department of the Environment and to the editors

both of local newspapers circulating in the area and of the local government press. Taunton Deane Borough Council were asked to arrange for the publication for two successive weeks in local newspapers of a notice announcing the start of the review and to place a copy of the notice on display at places where public notices were customarily displayed. The Borough Council were invited to prepare a detailed scheme for the boundary change they had proposed and to publish the scheme in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 6 of our Report No. 287.

5. On 19 January 1981 Taunton Deane Borough Council submitted their detailed scheme to us. All the comments we received supported the creation of a new parish: Somerset County Council, Stoke St. Gregory Parish Council, who were the original requesting authority, Mr Edward du Cann MP, the Burrowbridge branch of the Womens' Institute, and several private individuals all favoured placing the parish in Taunton Deane borough; Sedgemoor District Council, Othery and Middlezoy Parish Councils, one private individual and a petition signed by 64 Burrowbridge residents supported the idea of the new parish being in Sedgemoor. The Rt. Hon. Tom King MP., County Councillor Mr M L de V Hart, District Councillor Mr E Storey and Middlezoy Parish Council all thought that further evidence of local preferences for the siting of the parish should be obtained.

6. We considered all the representations we had received. Both district councils had laid claim to the proposed new parish, but on balance we favoured its inclusion within the borough of Taunton Deane. We were satisfied that our normal review procedures afforded sufficient opportunity for any electors who were concerned to express their opinions, and that these procedures themselves would have been given adequate publicity. We therefore saw no reason to make arrangements ourselves to conduct a special poll as had been suggested to us.

7. Taunton Deane Borough Council had not recommended any proposals for a new parish for Burrowbridge in their parish review report and we decided to initiate formally a

parish review for the appropriate part of Taunton Deane Borough under Section 48(9) of the Local Government Act 1972, proposing the establishment of a new parish of Burrowbridge, and at the same time to publish draft proposals for the parish and for a boundary alteration which would transfer part of Sedgemoor district to Taunton Deane where it would form part of the proposed new parish. The other recommendations in the parish review report would be dealt with separately in the normal way.

8. We noted that whichever district the new parish was placed in, the alterations to the district electoral arrangements consequential on the boundary changes would adversely affect the standard of representation. We were satisfied however, that amendments to the district and county electoral arrangements, to follow the revised parish and district boundaries arising from our draft proposals, were acceptable, and we decided to confirm in announcing our proposals that we intended to propose these amendments.

9. On 10 December 1981 we wrote to both district councils to initiate the parish review and publish our draft proposals for the new parish and the change to the district boundary. We sent copies to all those who had received our consultation letter or had commented on Taunton Deane Borough Council's scheme. Notices were inserted in the local press and displayed on public notice boards announcing the start of the review and publication of the draft proposals and giving details of the places where the latter could be inspected. Comments were invited by 11 February 1982.

10. We received eleven comments in response to our draft proposals. Somerset County Council, Taunton Deane Borough Council, Stoke St. Gregory Parish Council and the Labour Group of the Borough Council all supported the draft proposals. Sedgemoor District Council (who wrote twice), Othery and Middlezoy Parish Councils, County Councillor M L de V Hart and District Councillor E Storey all wanted the new

parish to be in Sedgemoor district. In fact, both parish councils said they would withdraw their support for the new parish and the boundary change if we confirmed our draft proposals as our final proposals. The Rt. Hon. King MP wrote in strong support of the view expressed by Sedgemoor District Council, Othery Parish Council, Middlezoy Parish Council and Councillor Storey, all except one of whom urged us to call for a formal referendum or seek the wishes of the electorate of Sedgemoor District who would be within the proposed new parish, or to consider holding a local inquiry. One private individual also opposed the transfer of the areas involved to Taunton Deane.

11. We have considered these further representations very carefully. Again we saw no reason to suppose that our procedure were in any way inadequate to the circumstances. We noted that of the electors who were directly affected by our proposals, only one (Councillor Storey) had written to us to object. This suggested to us that the remainder were basically content with what we had in mind. Although there are undoubtedly strong historical links between Burrowbridge and Sedgemoor, we are nonetheless satisfied that in the interests of effective and convenient local government the boundary between Taunton Deane borough and Sedgemoor district should be realigned as indicated in our draft proposals and that the new parish of Burrowbridge should be constituted in Taunton Deane borough. We therefore confirm our draft proposals as our final proposals.

12. The new parish will have a population of between 400 and 500. Guidelines prepared by the National Association of Local Councils suggest that a parish council of seven members would be appropriate for a parish of this size and we propose accordingly.

13. Details of these proposals are set out in Schedules 1 to 4 to this report. Schedules 1 and 2 specify the proposed changes in local authority areas and Schedules 3 and 4 specify the consequential adjustments to the existing electoral arrangements. The proposed boundaries are illustrated on the attached map.

14. Separate letters are being sent with copies of the report and of the map to Taunton Deane Borough Council and Sedgemoor 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; and will suggest that any comments on the proposals should be addressed to you, in writing, preferably within six weeks of the date of the letter. Copies of this report, which includes a small sketch plan, are also being sent to those who received the consultation letter or made comments on our draft proposals.

LS

Signed:

R R THORNTON (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN)

J M ACKNER

TYRRELL BROCKBANK

G E CHERRY

D P HARRISON

LESLIE GRIMSHAW (Secretary)

17 June 1982

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

PRINCIPAL AREAS BOUNDARY REVIEW

BOROUGH OF TAUNTON DEANE/SEDGEMOOR DISTRICT

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

Boundary realignments between the Borough of Taunton Deane and Sedgemoor District.

Proposal 1. It is proposed that the boundary between Lyng CP in Sedgemoor District and Stoke St Gregory CP in the Borough of Taunton Deane shall be realigned as described below.

Commencing at the point where the existing District boundary meets the western boundary of Parcel No 8208, as shown on OS 1:2500 Microfilm (A) ST 3329, date of publication 1973, thence northwards along said Parcel boundary and in prolongation thereof to Cuts Road, thence northeastwards along said road to the point at which it meets the existing District boundary, southeast of the property known as Moorside, thence northeastwards along said existing boundary to the northwestern boundary of Parcel No 0013, thence northwards along said northwestern boundary and southeastwards along the northeastern boundary of said Parcel and continuing southeastwards along the southwestern boundaries of Parcel No's 0015 and 1511, as shown on OS 1:2500 Microfilm (A) ST 3429, date of publication 1974, to the point where the southwestern and southern boundaries of the last-mentioned Parcel meet, thence due south from said point to Cuts Road, thence eastwards along said road to Athelney Bridge, thence southeastwards along said bridge to the River Tone, thence northeastwards along said river to the existing District boundary, thence northwestwards along said existing

boundary and in prolongation thereof to New Road, thence southwestwards along said road to rejoin the existing District boundary.

Proposal 2. It is proposed that the boundary between North Petherton CP, Middlezoy CP and Othery CP in Sedgemoor District and Stoke St Gregory CP in the Borough of Taunton Deane shall be realigned as described below.

Commencing on the existing District boundary at a point due south of NG Ref: 3366030960, as shown on OS 1:2500 Microfilm (A) ST 3330, date of publication 1972, thence due north to said reference, being a point on the unnamed road south of New House Farm, thence northeastwards and eastwards along said unnamed road to a point opposite the southwesternmost corner of Parcel No 5236, as shown on OS 1:2500 Microfilm (A) ST 3431, date of publication 1973, thence northwestwards in a straight line to said southwesternmost corner and northwestwards along the southwestern boundary of said Parcel to the northern boundary of Parcel No 4334, thence southwestwards along said northern boundary to the western boundary of Parcel No 5151, thence northwards along said Parcel boundary and the western boundary of Parcel No 5359 to the northern boundary of the last-mentioned Parcel, thence eastwards along said northern boundary to its easternmost point, thence due east from said point to the eastern boundary of North Petherton CP, thence northwards along said CP boundary to the northwestern boundary of Middlezoy CP, thence eastwards along said CP boundary to the Track known as Willake Drove, thence eastwards, southeastwards and northeastwards along said track to the road known as Shepherd's Drove, thence southeastwards along said road and continuing southeastwards and eastwards along the Track known as Broad Drove to the Track known as Little Burrow Drove, thence southeastwards along said Track, crossing the A361 road to Grove Bridge, thence southeastwards along said bridge to the drain known as Burrow Wall Rhyne, thence southeastwards along said Drain to rejoin the existing District boundary.

Proposal 3. Boundary realignment between Middlezoy CP and Othery CP in the Sedgemoor District.

Area A: description of area of land proposed to be transferred from Middlezoy CP to Othery CP.

Consequent upon Proposal 2 above it is further proposed that the area bounded by a line commencing at a point where the northwesternmost corner of Parcel No 7821, as shown on OS 1:2500 Microfilm (A) ST 3631, date of publication 1973, meets the northwestern boundary of Othery CP, thence southeastwards, northeastwards, southeastwards, southwestwards, southeastwards and southwestwards along said CP boundary to the proposed Borough of Taunton Deane and Sedgemoor District boundary, thence northwestwards along said proposed boundary to a point opposite the point of commencement, thence eastwards to the point of commencement shall be transferred from Middlezoy CP to Othery CP.

#### Schedule 2

The creation of a new Parish, consequent upon the proposals described in Schedule 1.

It is proposed that a new Burrowbridge CP shall be constituted, within the Borough of Taunton Deane, and shall comprise that area bounded by a line commencing at the point where the Frome-Taunton railway meets the existing boundary between the Borough of Taunton Deane and Sedgemoor District, south of East Lyng, thence generally northeastwards, generally northwestwards, generally northeastwards and southeastwards along the existing District boundary and the proposed boundary as described in Proposals 1 and 2 in Schedule 1 to the existing boundary between Sedgemoor District and Yeovil District, thence southwards along said District

boundary and the boundary between the Borough of Taunton Deane and Yeovil District to the Frome-Taunton railway, thence westwards along said railway to the point of commencement.

### Schedule 3

Revised District electoral arrangements, consequent upon the proposals described in Schedule 1 and Schedule 2.

It is proposed that the District Wards, as defined in the District of Sedgemoor (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1977 and the Borough of Taunton Deane (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976, shall be altered as described below.

That those parts of the Borough of Taunton Deane which are transferred to the District of Sedgemoor as a result of the realignments described in Schedule 1 shall become part of the Newton Green Ward of Sedgemoor District.

And that the proposed new parish of Burrowbridge as described in Schedule 2 shall form part of the Stoke St Gregory Ward of Taunton Deane Borough.

### Schedule 4

Revised County electoral arrangements, consequent upon the proposals described in Schedule 1 and Schedule 2.

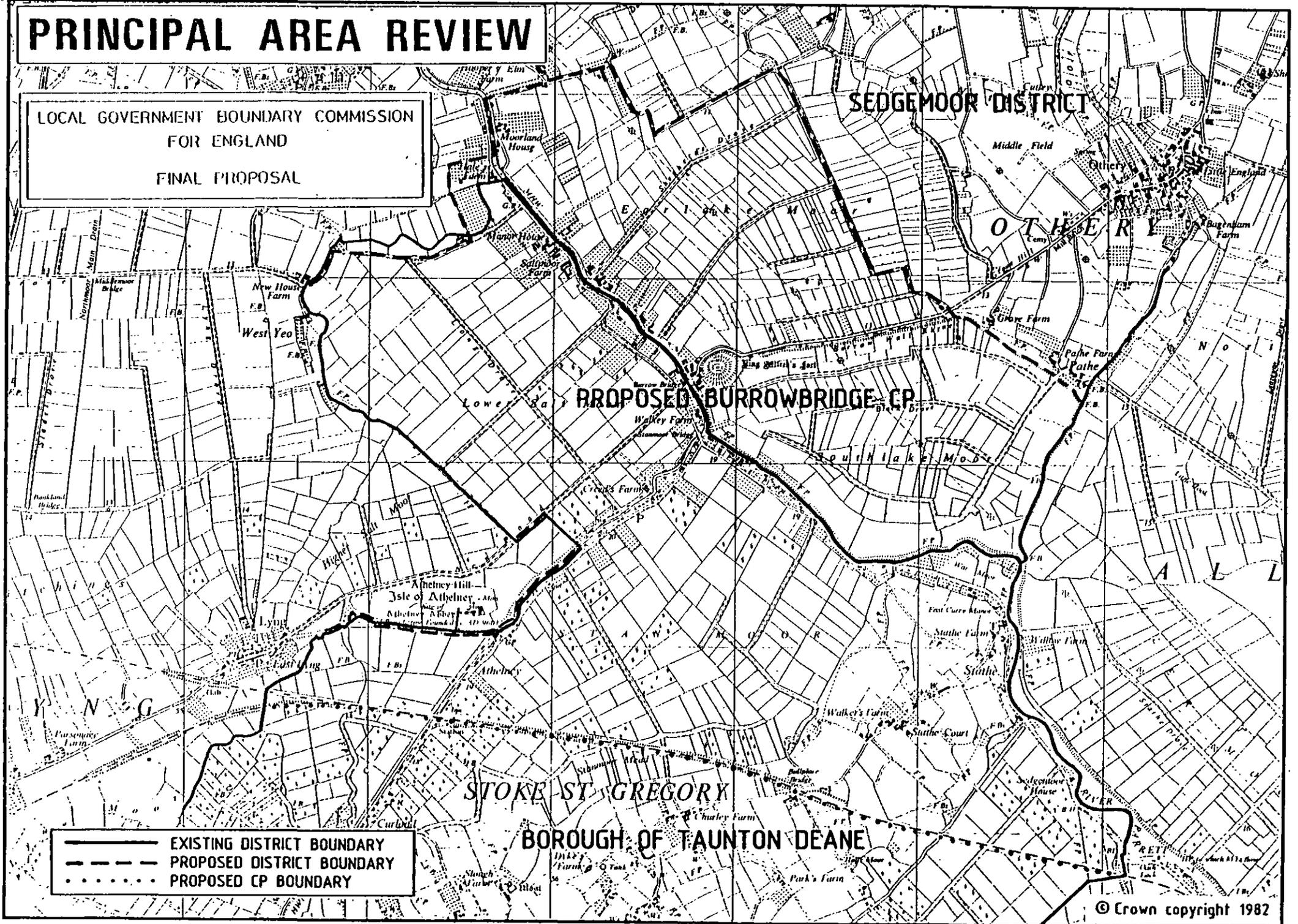
It is proposed that the County Electoral Divisions, as defined in the County of Somerset (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1980, shall be altered as described below.

That those parts of the Borough of Taunton Deane which are transferred to the District of Sedgemoor as a result of the realignments described in Schedule 1 shall become part of the North Netherton ED.

And that the proposed new Parish of Burrowbridge as described in Schedule 2 shall form part of the North Curry ED.

# PRINCIPAL AREA REVIEW

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND  
FINAL PROPOSAL



— EXISTING DISTRICT BOUNDARY  
- - - PROPOSED DISTRICT BOUNDARY  
..... PROPOSED CP BOUNDARY